

The President's Daily Brief

1 May 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

1 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Cambodian situation is discussed on *Page 1*.

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(*Page 3*)

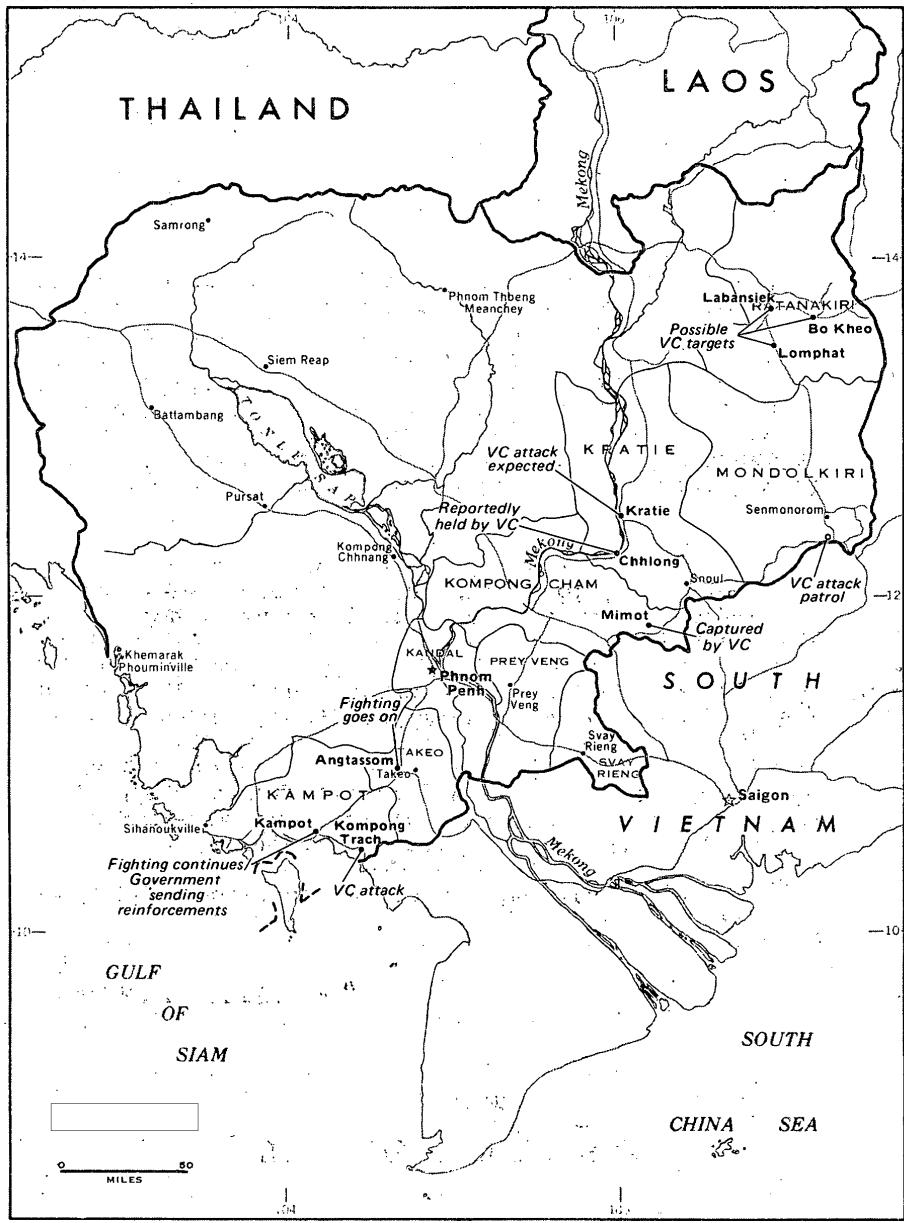
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In southern Laos, the Communists remain in control of Attopeu town. The government is planning counter-actions. (*Page 4*)

The Malaysian Government is bracing for possible disturbances as the anniversary of last year's communal riots approaches. (*Page 5*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

According to a fragmentary Cambodian Army message, Communist forces are now holding the Mekong River town of Chhlong, which has been contested for the past week. The loss of Chhlong and Communist interdiction of roads from Phnom Penh to the north-east provinces have spurred concern in the provincial capital of Kratie, where government forces are expecting an attack in the near future. Military and popular morale in the adjacent province of Kompong Cham also appears to have deteriorated following the Communists' capture of Mimot.

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Phnom Penh has also disclosed that the Communists recently attacked several army outposts and patrols in Mondolkiri Province.

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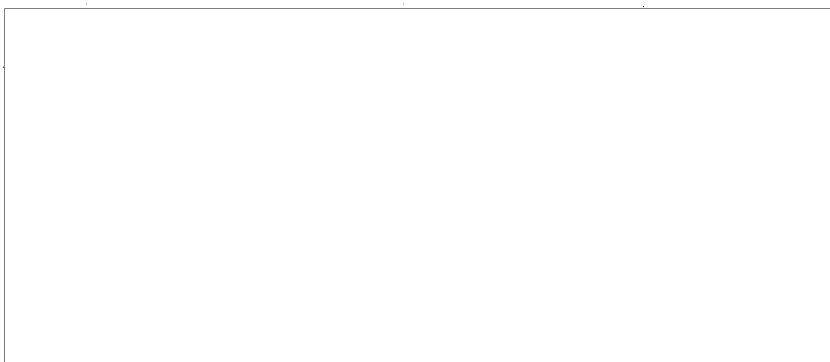
In the south, fighting continues around Kampot; the Communists also attacked a government battalion at Kompong Trach, to the east of Kampot, on 29 April. Three additional government battalions are being sent from Phnom Penh to the Kampot area to reinforce government defenses. The military situation at Angtassom in Takeo Province remains obscure. Press reports indicate that the Viet Cong have pinned down several paratroop battalions occupying the center of the town.

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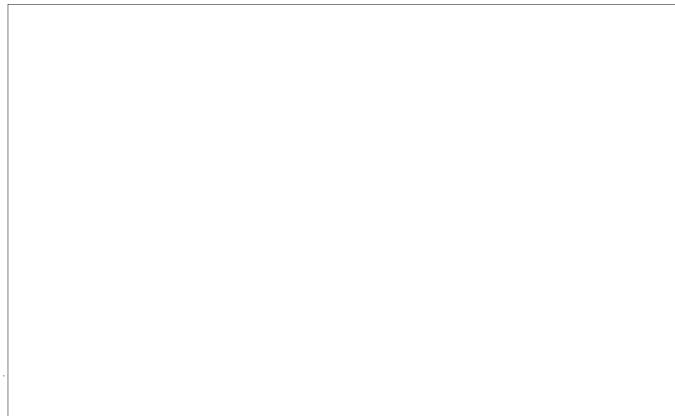
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On the international front, there has been some slippage in the date for the planned Asian conference on Cambodia. Although there has been no official announcement, Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik has told the press that the meeting will be postponed to mid-May from the originally announced 11 May. Yesterday the Indian Government made public its decision not to attend the conference.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SOUTH VIETNAM



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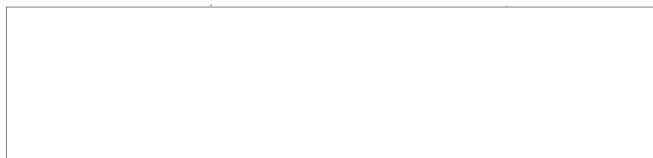
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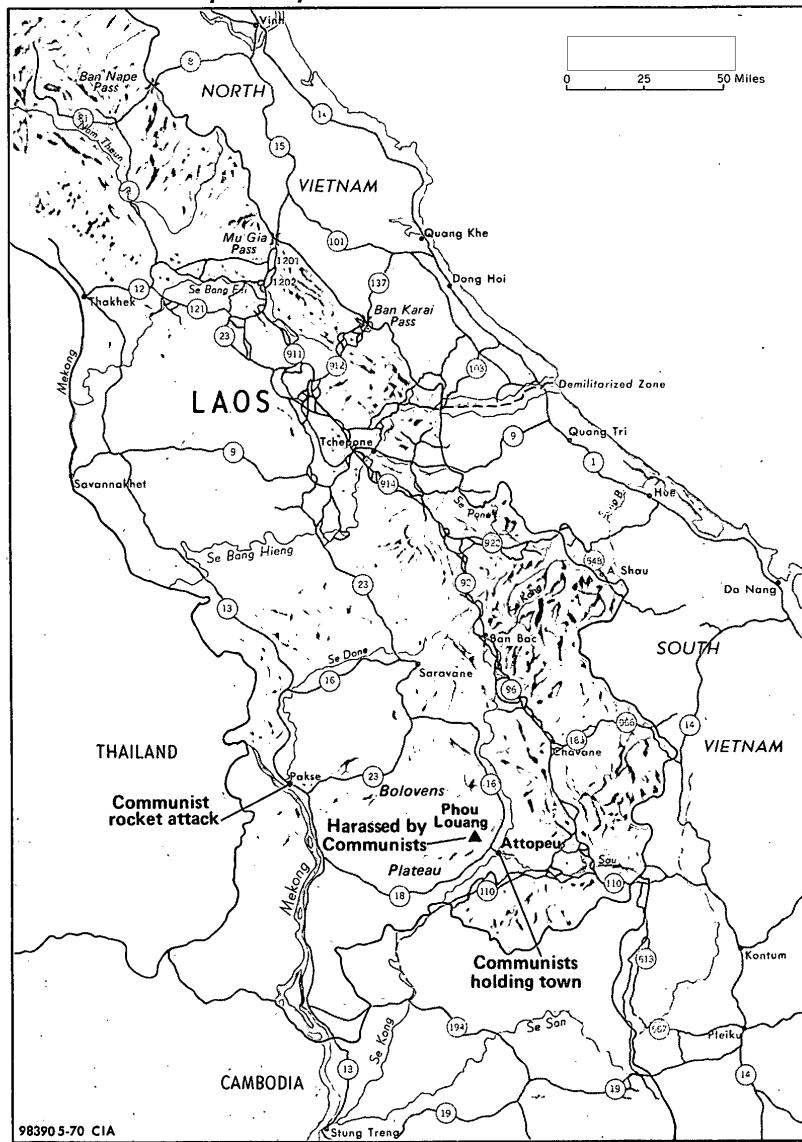
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Communist Military Activity



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The Attopeu garrison commander, who abandoned the town in the early hours of 30 April, apparently has escaped with some 490 of the provincial capital's original 600-man defense force. General Phasouk, commander of the southern military region, has ordered air strikes against munitions dumps inside the town, which may result in additional civilian casualties. A government relief column is trying to re-take a fire base overlooking Attopeu. Meanwhile, a neutralist army position some ten miles west of Attopeu was being harassed by the Communists on 30 April, according to an intercept. The Communists also made a rocket attack last night against the town of Pakse, on the Mekong River; the targets apparently were the regional military headquarters and a nearby airstrip, but there was no damage.

The identity and number of the enemy forces that attacked Attopeu are still not known. It is likely that both North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao units were involved, but in less than the regimental-size force claimed [redacted]. General Phasouk believes that substantial new enemy forces moved into the Bolovens area in recent weeks, but communications intelligence shows the addition of only one small North Vietnamese detachment.

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Phasouk is also claiming to his military colleagues that the attack on Attopeu was the first step in a new Communist offensive in southern Laos designed to secure the Se Kong River, Route 16, and sanctuaries in support of future enemy operations against Cambodia and South Vietnam. The Communists may want to use the Se Kong River more than they have in the past, but it would be more vulnerable to harassment than the already established supply channels toward Cambodia and South Vietnam via Routes 96 and 110.

Phasouk has used the Attopeu attack to urge the return of southern forces sent to bolster the Meo units in the north, where there has been an extended lull in the fighting. General Ouan, the Lao Armed Forces chief, supports this request and will recommend it to the prime minister,

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Malaysia: As the 13 May anniversary of last year's postelection communal riots approaches, the government is casting a nervous eye on the Chinese and Malay communities. Premier Tunku Abdul Rahman and other officials, while trying hard to damp down inflammatory rumors of impending violence, are also drawing up contingency security measures. The organizational ability demonstrated by the Chinese-dominated Malayan Communist Party last month, when booby traps and pamphlets appeared throughout West Malaysia to mark the party's 40th anniversary, is adding to the government's apprehension.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

2 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Military activity in the interior of Cambodia has slackened. (Page 1)

In South Vietnam, the increase in Communist attacks in the past two days may represent the beginning of the second phase of the enemy's spring campaign. (Page 3)

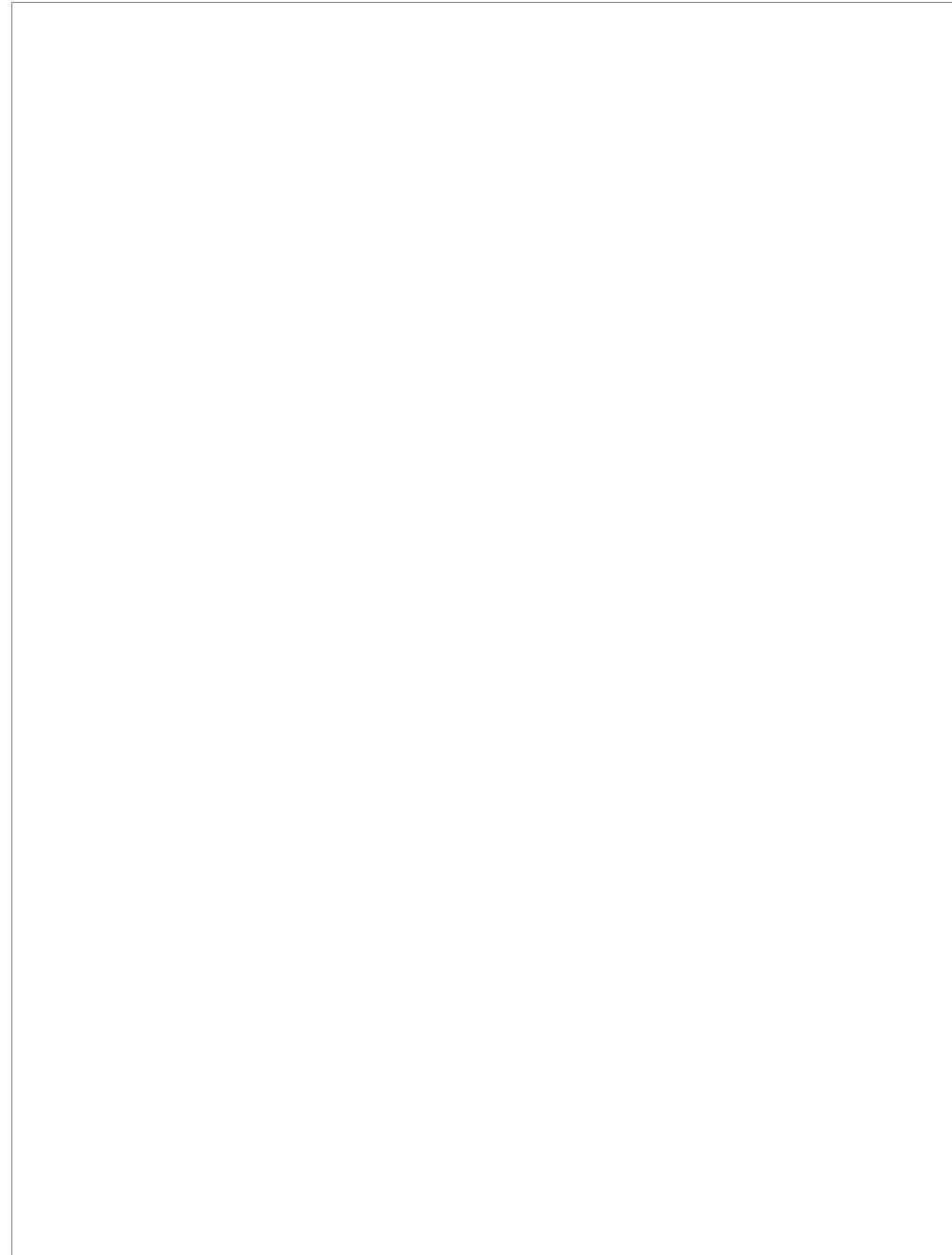
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British and French officials are optimistic about the Concorde SST despite its technical problems. (Page 5)

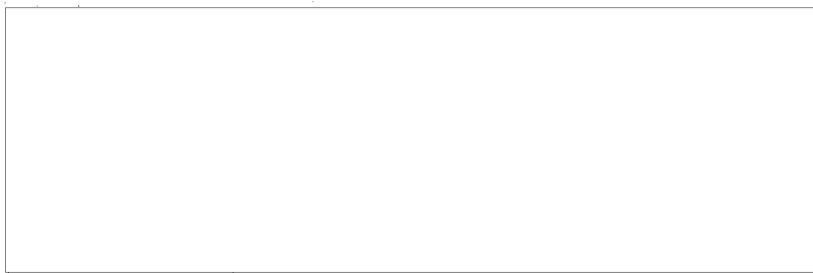
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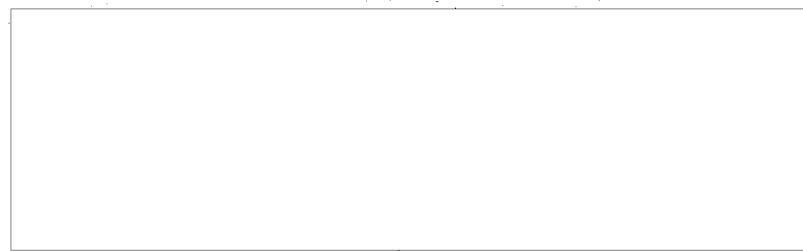
CAMBODIA - SOUTH VIETNAM



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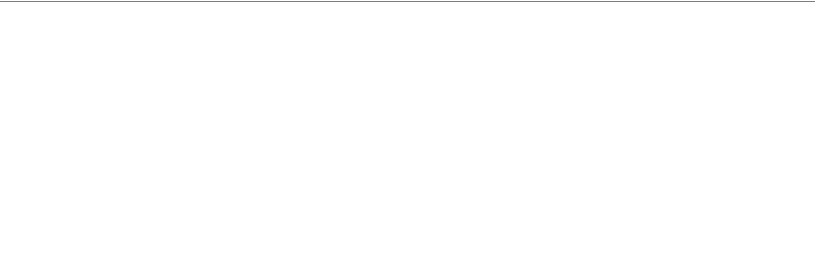
In the Cambodian interior, some limited fighting continues in the south, but military activity elsewhere seems to have fallen off temporarily. The government claims that it has regained firm control over the southern port city of Kampot, after the Viet Cong had occupied most of the commercial district for two days. The government has also confirmed, however, that the Communists now control the river town of Chhlong in Kratie Province.

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In Peking yesterday, Sihanouk was received by the Chinese politburo's standing committee including Mao Tse-tung and Lin Piao and was the featured foreign guest at evening festivities celebrating May Day. Chinese press reports did not give any details of the talks Sihanouk had with Mao, but their meeting is another demonstration of Chinese support for Sihanouk's cause.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SOUTH VIETNAM

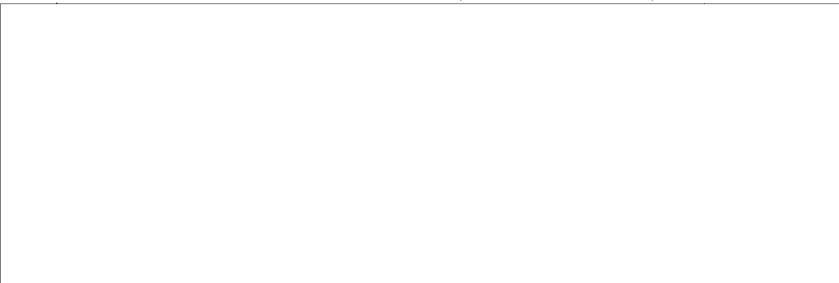
Communist forces in South Vietnam appear to have launched the anticipated May phase of their 1970 spring campaign. Following a series of shellings of allied military targets in the four northernmost provinces early on 30 April, the enemy initiated some 61 incidents in IV Corps during the night of 30 April.

While this total is considerably lower than the number which opened the 31 March - 1 April phase in the delta provinces, the targets struck were about the same as before. Remote military outposts accounted for about 75 percent and district towns for 10 percent.

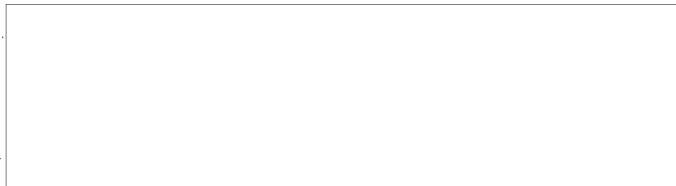


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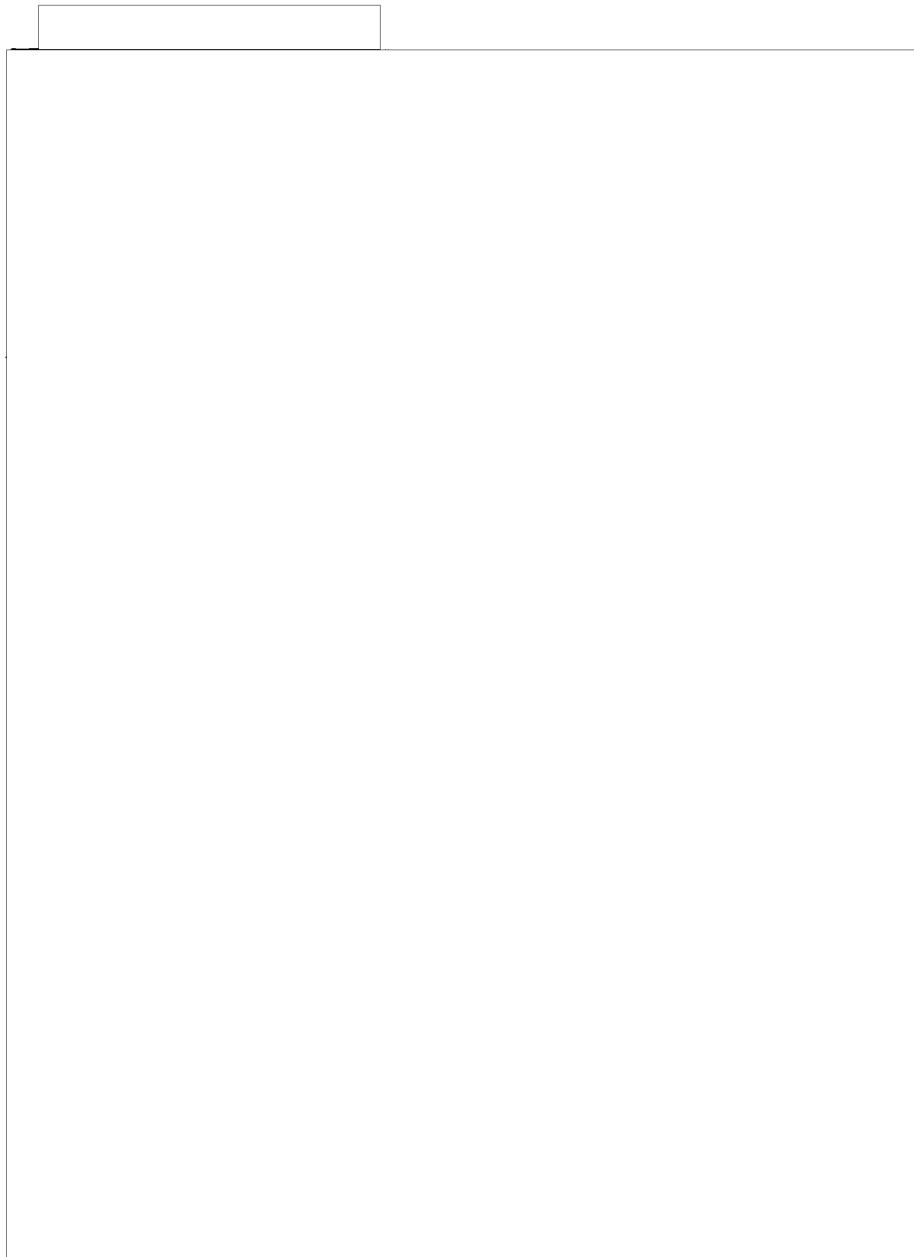
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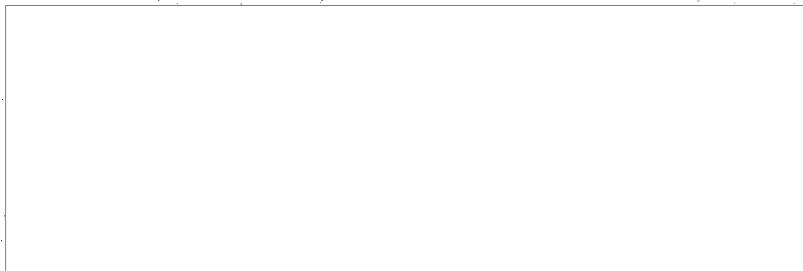
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USSR-EGYPT



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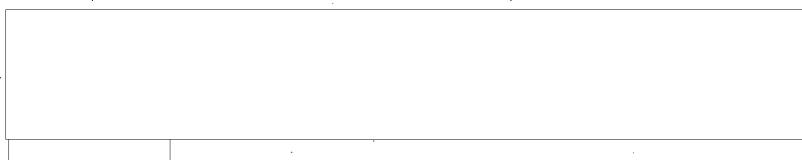


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FRANCE-UK

British and French officials are pleased with the progress of the Concorde SST flight test program. The British are now installing new, more powerful engines on the UK-produced Concorde prototype and plan to begin Mach 2 flight tests later this month. The French plan to begin Mach 2 testing within the next two months.

These tests are expected to answer many of the questions crucial to the Concorde's economic success.

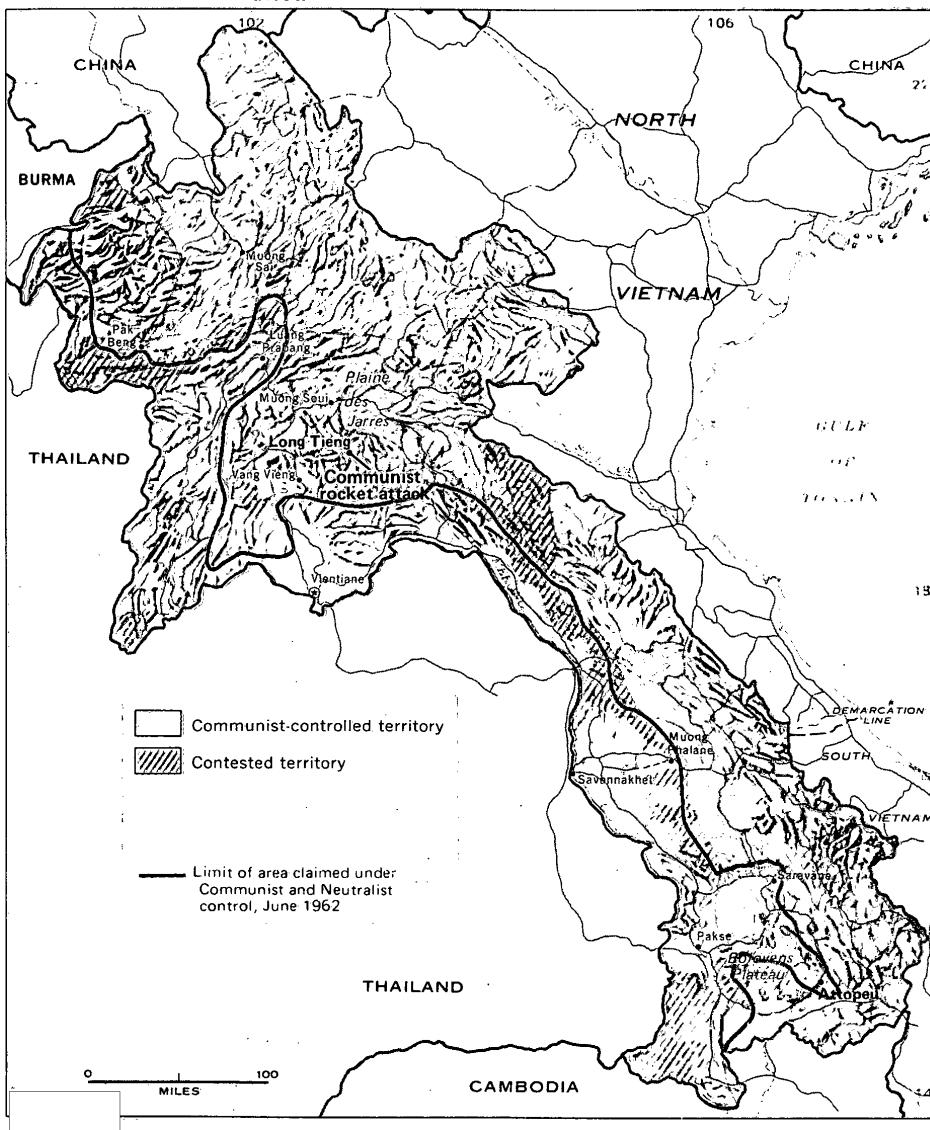
The two governments have spent about \$975 million on the Concorde project to date and probably will spend an additional \$800 million before the production stage is reached. The French and British manufacturers presently estimate the unit price of the Concorde at \$19.5 million. The two companies point out, however, that the price may be higher when contract negotiations with the airlines begin this summer. Some 16 airlines hold options to purchase 74 Concordes, more than one-half of which are US carriers.

Excessive weight and excessive noise are the most intractable of the problems remaining.

Official attitudes in France and Britain tend to accentuate the positive. While it may never be an economic success, the Concorde probably will go into production and enter at least limited service, now scheduled to begin in 1973.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos: Current Situation



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Laos: Communist forces harassed government bases with rocket fire in both northern and southern sections of the country on 1 May, but no major fighting was reported. The Meo stronghold at Long Tieng was attacked with six 122-mm. rockets, and seven 140-mm. rockets were fired at the Pakse airstrip in the south. No loss of life or major damage occurred from either attack. Meanwhile, government forces have had some success in the past two days consolidating their hold on high ground about seven miles to the north of Long Tieng, where the Communists launch their rocket attacks. On the Bolovens Plateau overlooking Attopeu, a small Communist force continued to resist government efforts to recapture the key fire base lost on 29 April. No effort has been made to retake the town of Attopeu.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

4 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Vietnamese Communists in Cambodia have managed to avoid a major confrontation with the advancing allies. (Page 1)

Cambodia

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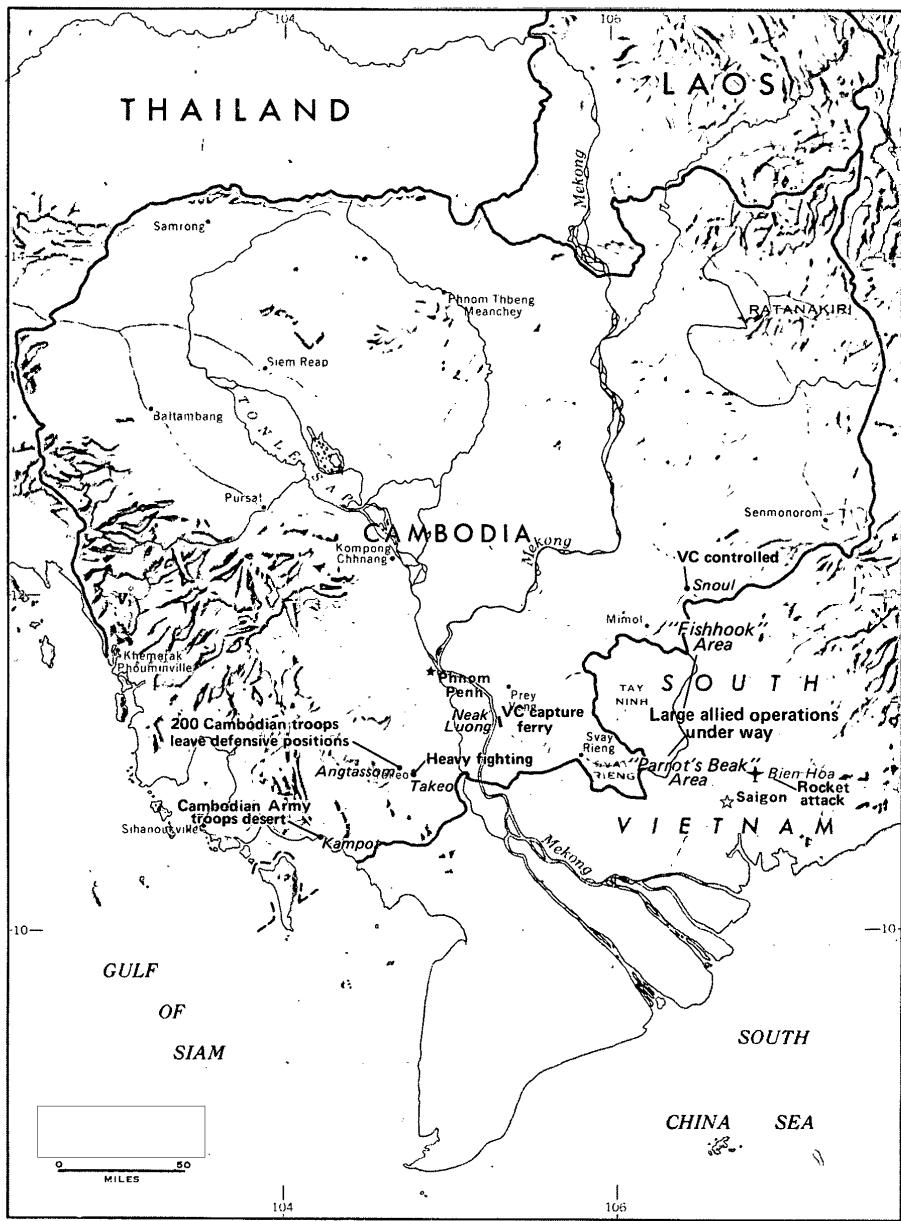
(Page 2)

Hanoi's propagandists swing into action. (Page 4)

The USSR is sending its top leaders to Prague to sign the new friendship treaty. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia-South Vietnam: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA - SOUTH VIETNAM

Enemy forces continue to avoid major combat with allied soldiers operating against their Cambodian base areas, but their casualties are mounting. Contacts in both the "Fishhook" and "Parrot's Beak" areas have been sporadic and generally light thus far. Enemy losses of both materiel and personnel have risen over the weekend, however, largely because of successful allied air strikes.

The COSVN radio stations that went off the air abruptly on 1 May--shortly before allied forces moved across the border--now have resumed communicating. However, the number of messages being passed is less than one-quarter of the former daily total. There is tenuous evidence that some of these radio terminals have begun dispersing throughout the Mimot area.

Despite their lack of heavy resistance to the allied sweeps to date, some enemy forces have been deploying within the operational area, according to communications intelligence, and could be planning counteractions. Two regiments of the North Vietnamese 7th Division and the division headquarters have converged on an area along the northeast Tay Ninh Province - Cambodian border that places them behind allied units participating in the Mimot operation. A third regiment which has been monitoring allied moves near the border appears to be preparing for some tactical activity in western Tay Ninh Province.

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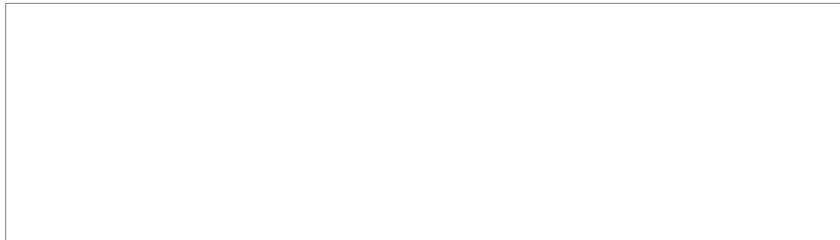
Within South Vietnam, the Communists are carrying on with their current offensive phase. The night of 2-3 May was one of the most active periods since 1 April. Most of the action was in the III and IV Corps areas covering the southern half of the country. Mortar or rocket fire struck two US air installations, including Bien Hoa air base. In the delta, rural outposts manned by local security forces seemed to have been particularly singled out for harassment.

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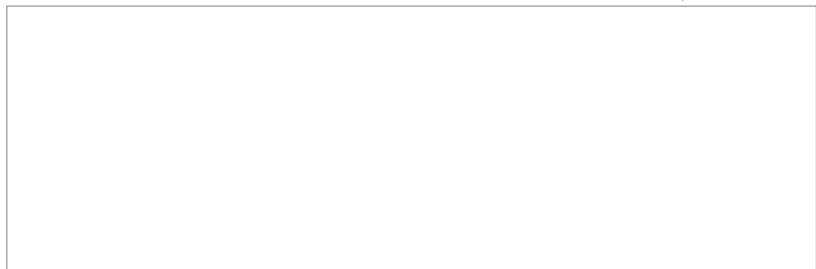
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

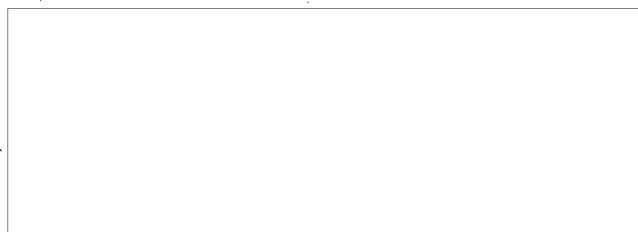
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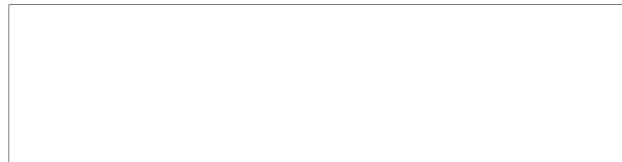
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In military action this weekend, Vietnamese Communists apparently have captured the Neak Luong ferry, thereby cutting Phnom Penh's access to Svay Rieng Province. The government is launching an operation to retake the position. Heavy fighting has also flared again in Takeo town, which has been under sporadic harassment for several weeks. According to an intercepted Cambodian message, the Communists occupied the town of Snoul, northeast of the Fishhook area, on 1 May.

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The fresh emergence of the Cambodian left was also revealed in an anti-US statement of the Pracheachon ("People's Group") recently broadcast by Hanoi. Long considered to be a front of the Cambodian Communist Party, the Pracheachon has been either underground or moribund for almost a decade.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NORTH VIETNAM

The Vietnamese Communists have begun to denounce the US action in Cambodia with sharp and sometimes vitriolic words, but they have given little indication of what their next move will be. The Communists accuse Washington of open aggression, escalation of the war, and violation of the 1954 Geneva accords, and contend that the US is now committed to seeking a military victory rather than a political settlement.

Aside from leaving an impression that an even deeper freeze in Paris is in store, the rhetoric of the Communists so far suggests that a holding operation is under way. By issuing these hard hitting but noncommittal statements, Hanoi is able to gain time for its decision-makers to reflect on the new situation and perhaps consult with its allies.

* * *

Various Radio Hanoi broadcasts charged that waves of aircraft attacked several populated areas in two provinces of southern North Vietnam. Intercepted North Vietnamese civil communications listed nearly 30 civilians killed by air strikes at a state farm and water conservation project on 1 and 2 May.

A Foreign Ministry communiqué issued on 2 May declared that the air strikes were "intolerable... calculated acts" in violation of the US "pledge" in November 1968 to halt all bombing of the North and that they "will seriously affect" the Paris talks. Although threatening no specific retaliatory action, the statement hinted that Hanoi may no longer consider itself under constraints regarding military use of the DMZ or attacks on South Vietnamese cities.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CZECHOSLOVAKIA-USSR

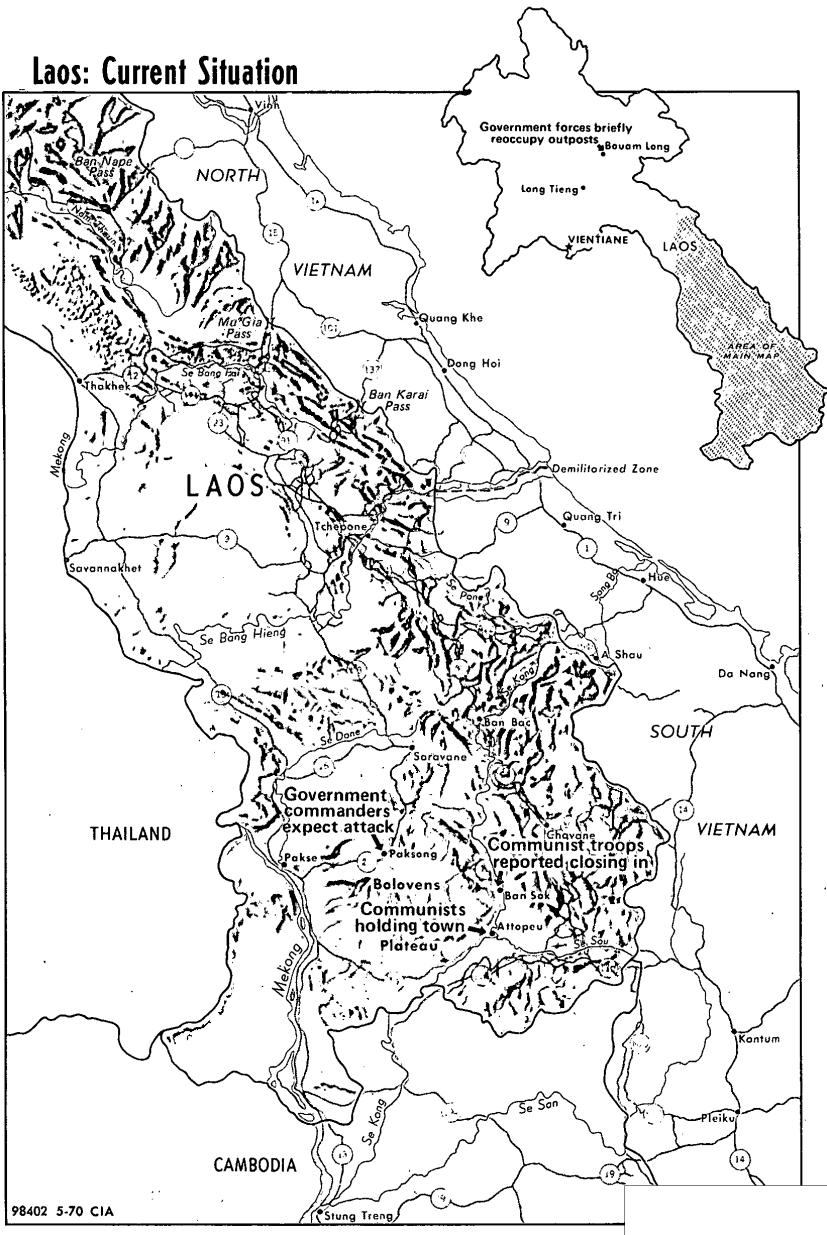
A high level delegation, including Brezhnev, Kosygin, and Gromyko, is expected in Prague this week to sign a new bilateral friendship treaty. East Germany's Ulbricht and Poland's Gomulka may also be there for the ceremony.

The treaty might become a model for future treaties between the USSR and the other East European countries. Some East Europeans fear that it will include a statement stressing the need for joint Czechoslovak-Soviet defense of Czechoslovakia's western border, which would be a step toward closer military integration within the Warsaw Pact. No one expects the treaty to give permanent status to the Soviet troops now stationed in Czechoslovakia.

The treaty and the visit will tend to reinforce Husak's position. It could be the occasion for Brezhnev to endorse Husak more warmly than he yet has.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Laos: Maintaining moderate pressure on government positions in southern Laos, Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese troops overran a small post near the Se Kong River on 1 May. Communist forces may also be closing in on the government position at Ban Sok, a few miles to the north.

[redacted], additional enemy troops have moved onto the Bolovens Plateau, and three of the government's guerrilla outposts on the plateau are threatened. Lao military officers are also expecting an attack against Paksong, a village on the main road from Pakse.

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In northern Laos, there have been some clashes in the Bouam Long and Long Tieng areas, but no severe fighting has developed there in the last few days.

Egypt: Foreign Minister Mahmud Riyad summoned Donald Bergus to his office Saturday evening to state that Nasir's May Day speech actually was an "appeal for peace directed at President Nixon." Riyad explicitly denied that a threat was intended. He characterized the speech as a statement of Egyptian policy and claimed it was not just "propaganda for local consumption."

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5 May 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

5 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Cambodia, the Communists continue their efforts to sever Phnom Penh's road links with the southern and eastern provinces. (Page 1)

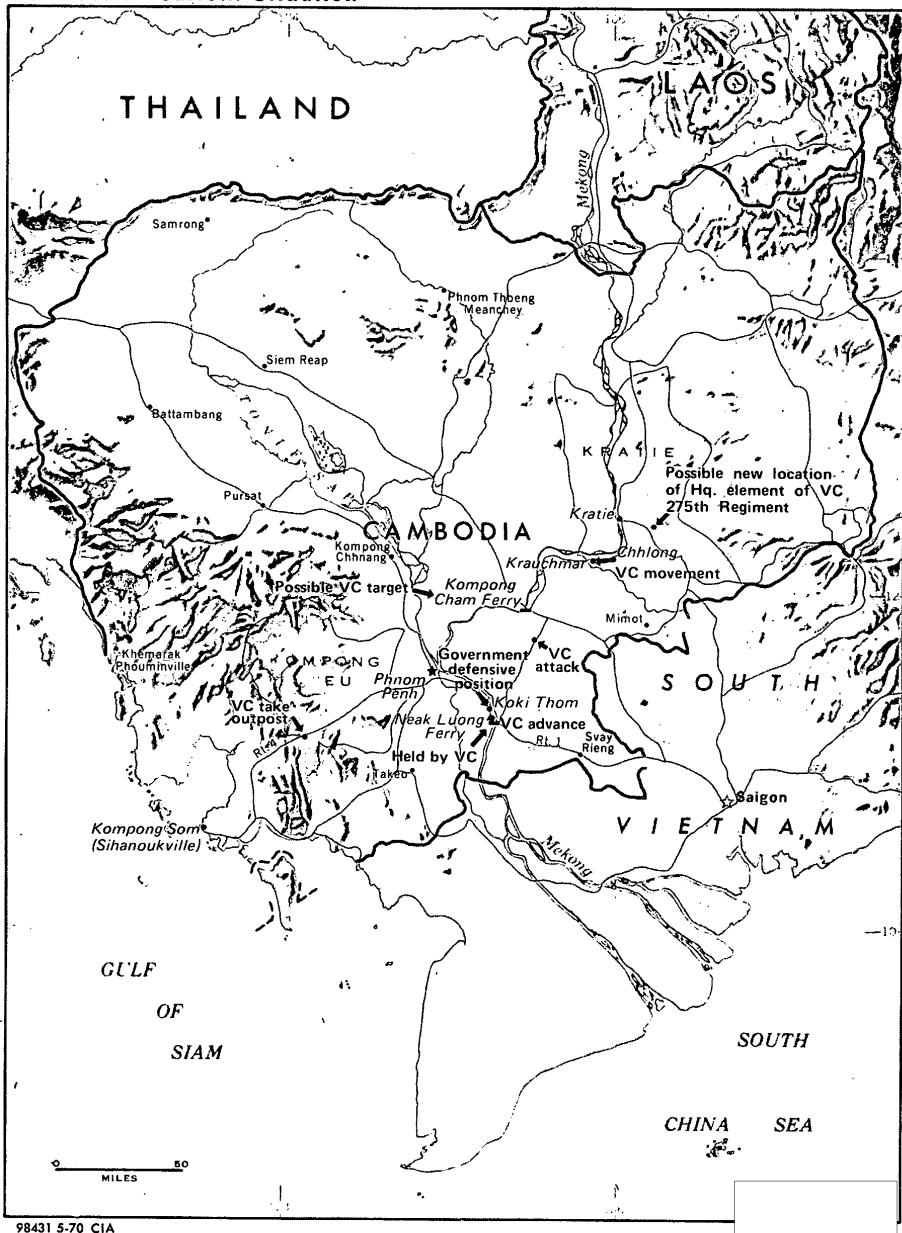
The current upsurge of enemy activity in South Vietnam could last at least through this week. (Page 3)

Both Moscow and Peking issued official statements yesterday on current US activity in Indochina. (Page 4)

The military situation in Laos is noted on Page 5.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

By their latest moves the Communists have put themselves in a position to cut Phnom Penh's overland access to the southern and eastern provinces. An estimated 500 to 800 Communist troops who captured the important Mekong River ferry landing at Neak Luong, some 30 miles southeast of the capital, have now crossed to the west bank of the river. Cambodian troops evidently gave way without offering much resistance. A two-battalion government blocking force is located at the village of Koki Thom on Route 1, and an additional two battalions are moving to drive the Communists back across the river.

There are press reports, meanwhile, that the Communists may be preparing to attack another key Mekong crossing, this one near the city of Kompong Cham, 50 miles northeast of Phnom Penh. There is no reliable evidence of any major buildup in the area, but a government post ten miles south of Kompong Cham was attacked several days ago. This is the most westerly Communist penetration in this area to date. Farther up the river, intercepted Cambodian Army messages state that several truckloads of Communist troops have left the town of Chhlong and headed west for the town of Krauchmar, which is defended by a battalion of raw recruits.

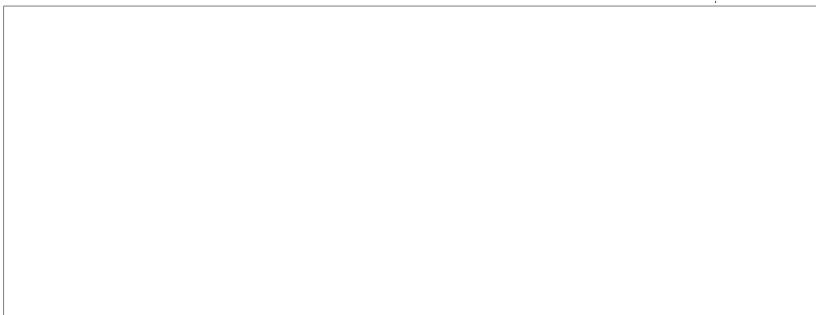
Southwest of Phnom Penh, an army outpost has been lost near Route 4, the main road connecting Phnom Penh with the principal port at Kompong Som (Sihanoukville). If Route 4 is cut, the government would be faced with a critical logistic problem.

Yesterday, communications intelligence tentatively located the headquarters element of the Viet Cong 275th Regiment some 25 miles east of the town of Kratie. If confirmed, this relocation would mark the deepest penetration into Cambodia by a Communist main force unit since Sihanouk's ouster. It is not clear whether such a move would be a prelude to an attack on Kratie or an attempt to evade allied border operations.

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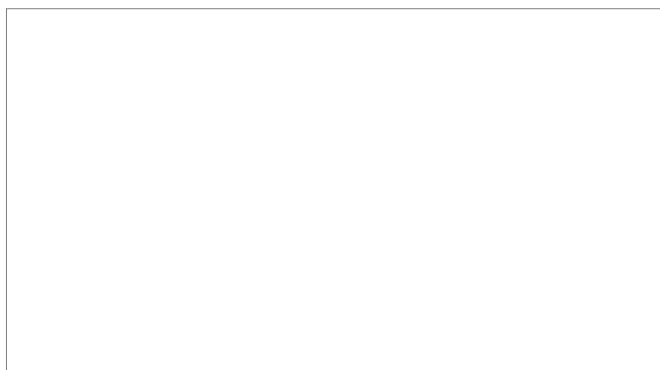
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Allied Military Facilities Hit by Rocket and Mortar Fire, 3-4 May



VC/NVA base area along Cambodian border

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

The second phase of the Communists' spring campaign continued to gain momentum on 3-4 May. Allied military facilities, including US airbases at Chu Lai, Phan Rang, and Bien Hoa and the South Vietnamese training center at Chi Lang in the delta, were struck by rocket and mortar fire. Casualties and damage were generally light. Scattered South Vietnamese outposts also were targets of enemy shellings and small-scale ground attacks. The village of Que Son northwest of Chu Lai and four other district towns in the delta were hit by mortar rounds.

Enemy messages mention 7 and 8 May as dates for increased activity in I Corps, and at least two long-inactive North Vietnamese regiments there have shifted from secure mountain bases toward target areas in the populated lowlands. Numerous indications that some enemy units are still completing their combat preparations suggest that the present upsurge of activity--which has not been as intense as that of early April--could last at least through this week.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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USSR - COMMUNIST CHINA - INDOCHINA

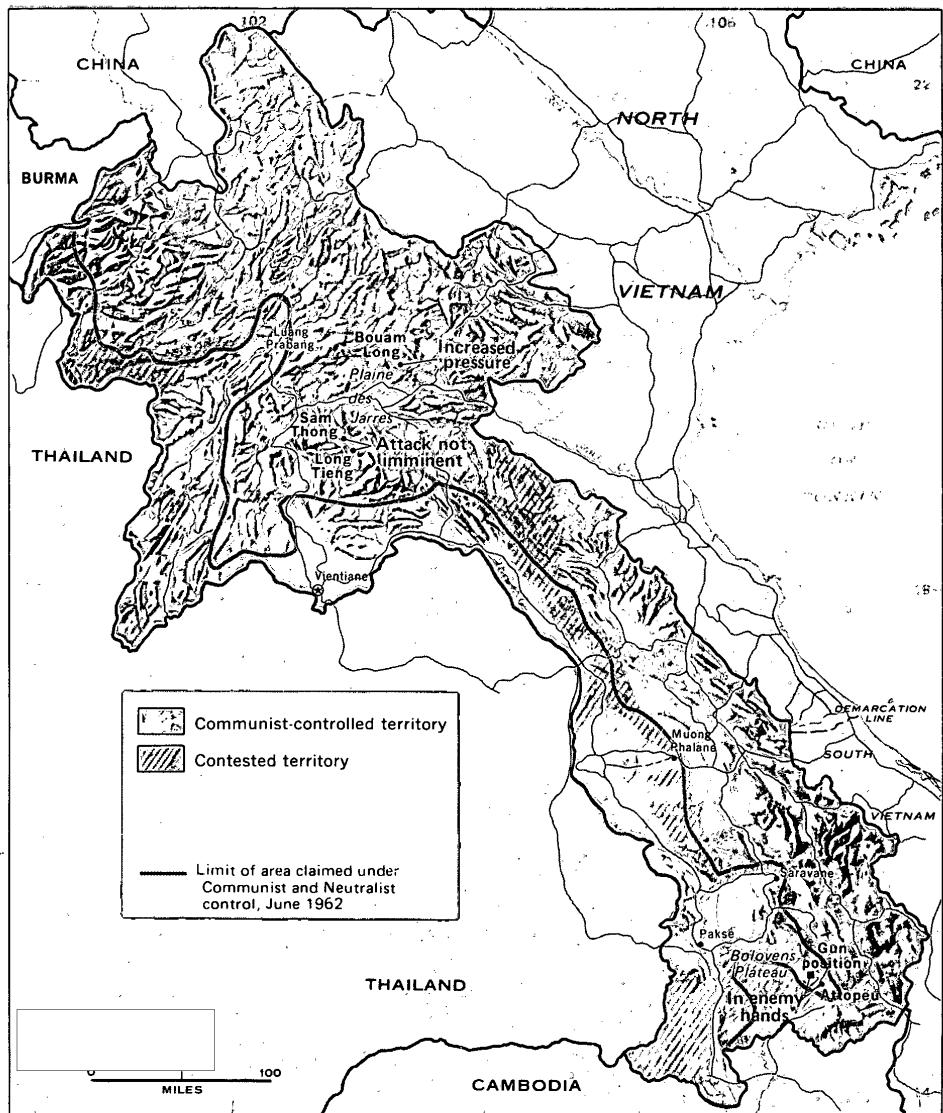
At his news conference in Moscow yesterday, Premier Kosygin claimed that a "new hotbed of war" had been created in Southeast Asia and accused President Nixon of "threats" against Hanoi and its allies. He denounced the US for "grossly violating" the agreement that led to the bombing halt, condemned US "intervention" in Cambodia, and suggested that these actions could have repercussions outside of Southeast Asia. Kosygin elaborated during the question and answer period by implying that US activity could jeopardize the strategic arms talks in Vienna. As for diplomatic means of solving Indochina problems, Kosygin said "this is not the time for meetings but for actions."

Peking's official statement yesterday contained a "stern warning" against US provocations and reiterated China's vague pledge to provide "powerful backing" for the Indochinese people in their "struggle" against the US.

Other than Moscow's reference to possible wider implications of US actions, neither statement goes beyond previous pledges of support for Hanoi or criticism of US policy. In answer to a question on Soviet military assistance, Kosygin replied merely that the USSR was already giving Hanoi "all-around" aid. Moreover, he refused to be drawn out on the question of the legitimacy of Cambodia's present government. Despite the bombast, the tenor of Peking's remarks was mild by Chinese standards.

Now that Moscow and Peking have issued authoritative statements, they probably will wait to see how the situation develops before considering a more active role in Indochina.

Laos: Current Situation



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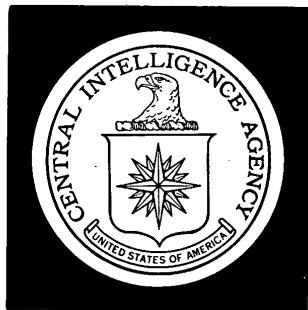
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Laos: Intercepted messages show some increase in routine enemy maneuvering in the Long Tieng and Sam Thong area, but a new major attack does not appear imminent. The Communists also are increasing their pressure on Bouam Long, an isolated base north of the Plaine des Jarres, but the airstrip is still open. In the south, Attopeu and a nearby artillery position on the Bolovens Plateau remain in enemy hands. However, government forces have regained some observation posts in the area that fell to the enemy over the weekend.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

6 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Allied cross-border operations into Cambodia have met only limited enemy resistance. In Saigon, a dispute between two Buddhist factions and an increase in militant student activity could result in serious civil disturbances. (Page 1)

Sihanouk's government-in-exile and the military situation within Cambodia are discussed on Page 3.

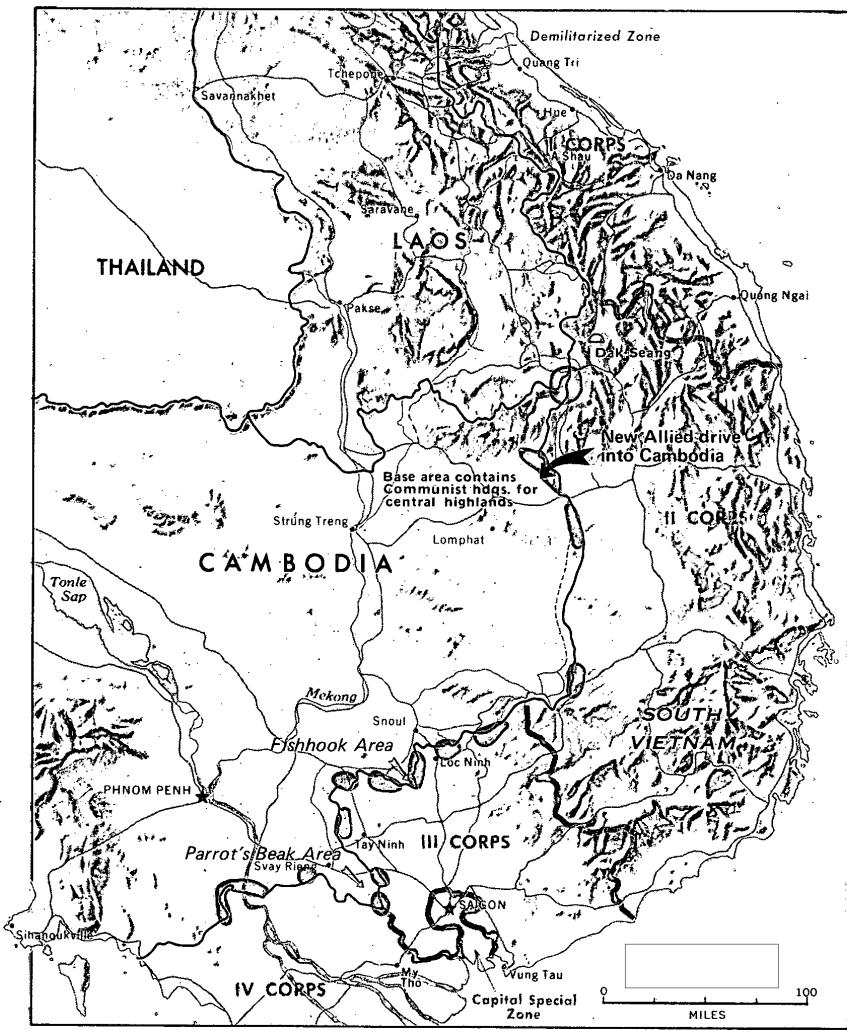
In Laos, the southern provincial capital of Saravane may be the next Communist target. (Page 5)

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Page 6.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

New Allied Drive Meets Little Communist Resistance



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VC/NVA base area along
Cambodian border

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

The allied drive from the central highlands into Cambodia has not yet encountered any major enemy combat units. The regional Communist headquarters complex in this area contains extensive support facilities and houses command elements responsible for enemy operations throughout the central highlands.

US and South Vietnamese sweeps through enemy sanctuaries farther south appear to be closing in on fairly large Communist military complexes including a base in the Fishhook area which may be one of the dispersed components of COSVN. In the Parrot's Beak, allied units are moving into what appears to be an extensive enemy training and logistics base.

American armored forces operating out of the Fishhook area ran into some of the stiffest enemy resistance to date yesterday at the border town of Snuol. The allies have reported killing some 2,500 enemy troops in the Fishhook and Parrot's Beak operations, with air strikes and in scattered small clashes. Some 2,200 enemy weapons, 230 vehicles, and about 450 tons of rice, have been captured or destroyed.

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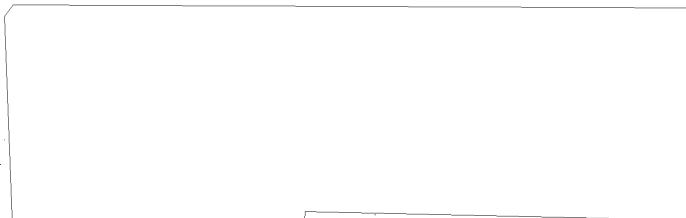
The South Vietnam Government's internal problems have been complicated by a conflict between rival Buddhist factions over who shall occupy a pagoda in Saigon. Each faction has forcibly evicted the other from the pagoda this week and more serious armed clashes between the two major sects are possible.

The An Quang Buddhists have long resented the fact that the Quoc Tu faction is recognized by the government as the official Buddhist church in South Vietnam. Sporadic attempts at reconciliation--the most recent was last month--seem merely to have furthered hostility between the two factions.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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[the present confrontation between the groups poses a new and potentially explosive problem for the Thieu government. If the government uses undue force to maintain control, it will be vulnerable to fresh charges of heavy-handedness.]

The government may also soon face more trouble with the students. Control seems to be slipping from fairly moderate student leaders to a more militant group.]

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[The government, clearly concerned, has ordered all schools and universities in South Vietnam closed indefinitely.]

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

The government unveiled by Sihanouk in Peking yesterday is a mixed bag of veteran politicians and younger, more energetic leftists. Penn Nouth, a well-known Cambodian politician who has served as prime minister in past Sihanouk governments, has been picked to head the "Royal Government of National Union."

Nouth's long loyalty to Sihanouk and his political prestige made him the logical choice for the position, but because of his age and his poor health, he probably will be only a figurehead. Government leaders in Phnom Penh who had hopes that Nouth might be persuaded to return will be disappointed that he has lent his name to Sihanouk's cause.

As anticipated, a number of prominent Cambodian leftists were given key portfolios in the cabinet, including national defense, interior, and information. These individuals, three of whom were leading members of the National Assembly until Sihanouk's 1967 purge forced them to flee the capital, are young, capable, and at one time had some following among the youth and intellectuals in Cambodia.

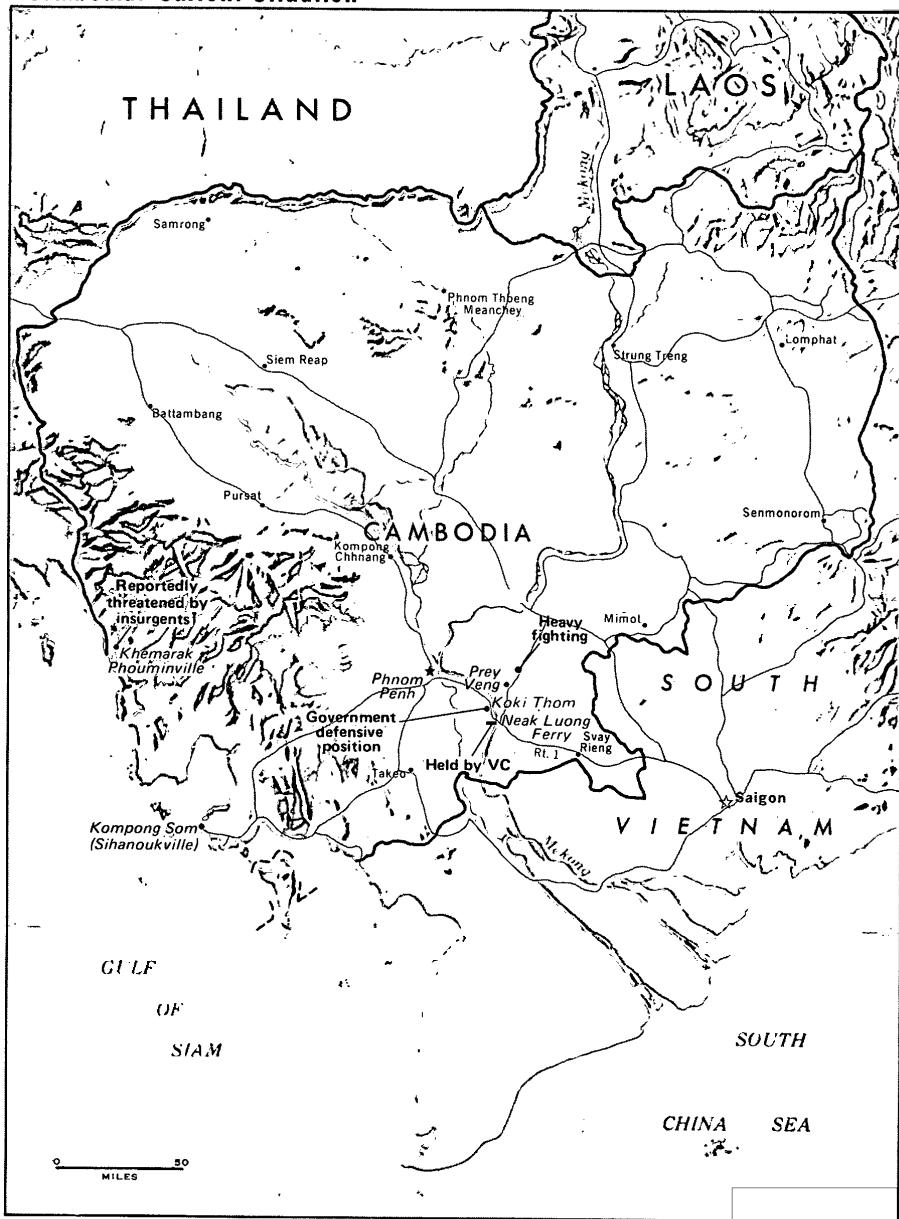
The new government is nominally under the direction of the "National United Front of Cambodia," whose chairmanship is held by Sihanouk and probably will continue to function in the Chinese capital. The announcement did not make any further mention of Sihanouk's own plans to return to Cambodia.

The Chinese quickly endorsed the new government, and broke diplomatic relations with the Lon Nol government--the first time Peking has taken the initiative in breaking relations with another state. It was almost certainly first coordinated with Hanoi, which probably will issue a similar announcement shortly. Formation of the government-in-exile probably was in train for some time and flows logically from previous Communist actions and pronouncements. Its timing, however, may have been finally fixed by US military moves in Cambodia.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



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* * *

In military action in Cambodia, Communist troops still hold both banks of the Mekong River at the Neak Luong ferry crossing. No significant fighting has developed as yet between government defense forces dug in at the village of Koki Thom, several miles north on Route 1, and Communist elements said to be advancing toward them. To the north, heavy fighting has been reported near the town of Prey Veng, which has been cut off from possible reinforcement by Communist blocking forces on the major road into the area.

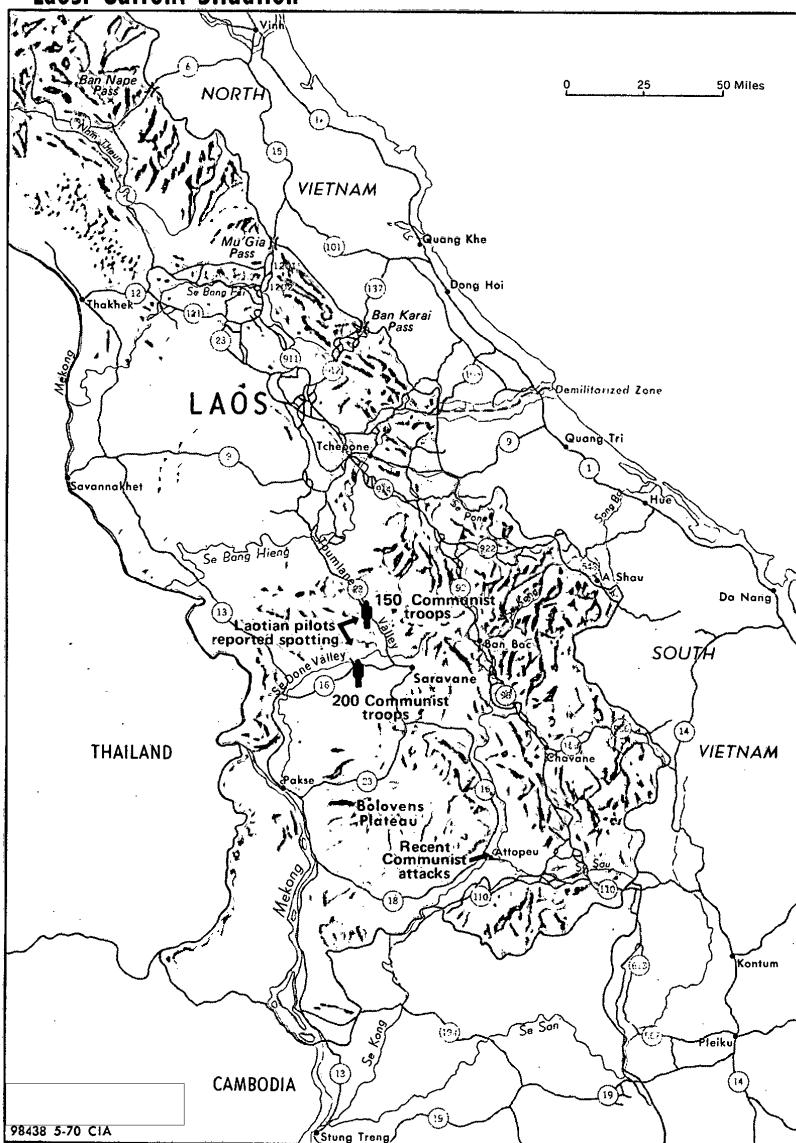
In the southwest, a fragmentary army message indicates that the gulf town of Khemarak Phouminville may be in danger of falling to the Communists. In late March the town was attacked by Cambodian insurgents.

* * *

The government is continuing to blame Vietnamese residents of Cambodia for many of the recent military reverses. It has ordered a daily 20-hour curfew for all Vietnamese in Phnom Penh. This course runs some danger of stimulating a blood bath against the Vietnamese Communists in the capital despite the government's cooperation with Saigon in setting up a repatriation program.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**LAOS**

[redacted] company-size enemy forces north and west of Saravane have increased apprehensions that the Communists may soon attack Saravane. Although these units were still some distance from the town, their presence tends to support earlier reports from villagers that a movement of new Communist units into the region is under way. [redacted]
 [redacted] enemy troop movements of regimental size are moving toward the Toumlane area.

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The Communists apparently are capitalizing on this uneasiness by spreading leaflets in Saravane that the town will be attacked on 20 May. Persons recently escaping from Attopeu reported that similar warnings were posted there shortly before the town was seized.

Saravane is a provincial capital which, despite enemy control of much of the surrounding countryside, has remained free from attack. It is possible, however, that the Communists are looking for another relatively cheap victory in southern Laos to help compensate for their continuing frustrations in the north.

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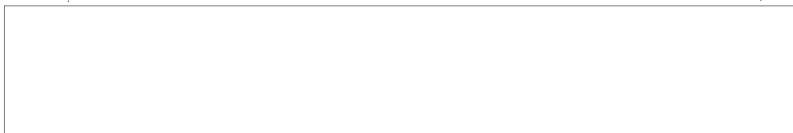
USSR



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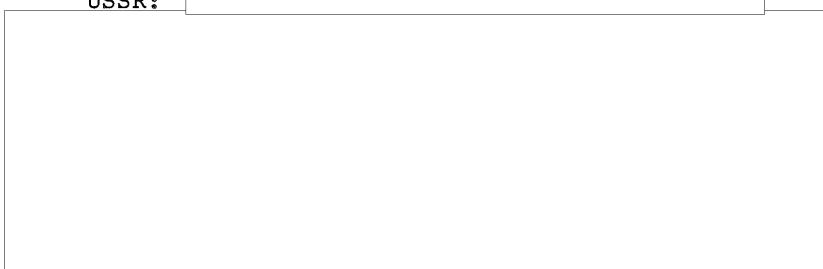
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NOTE

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Allied military operations have forced COSVN to curtail sharply its radio communications. (Page 1)

For their part, Cambodian troops reportedly took heavy losses yesterday when they tried to push Communist forces from the west bank of the Mekong near the Neak Luong ferry. (Page 3)

The Communists' promise to return to the Paris talks next week, after boycotting them yesterday, is one more sign that they are treading warily in these times of uncertainty in Indochina. (Page 4)

Recent satellite photography shows that the Soviets are continuing work on the J-Bird, their largest space booster. (Page 5)

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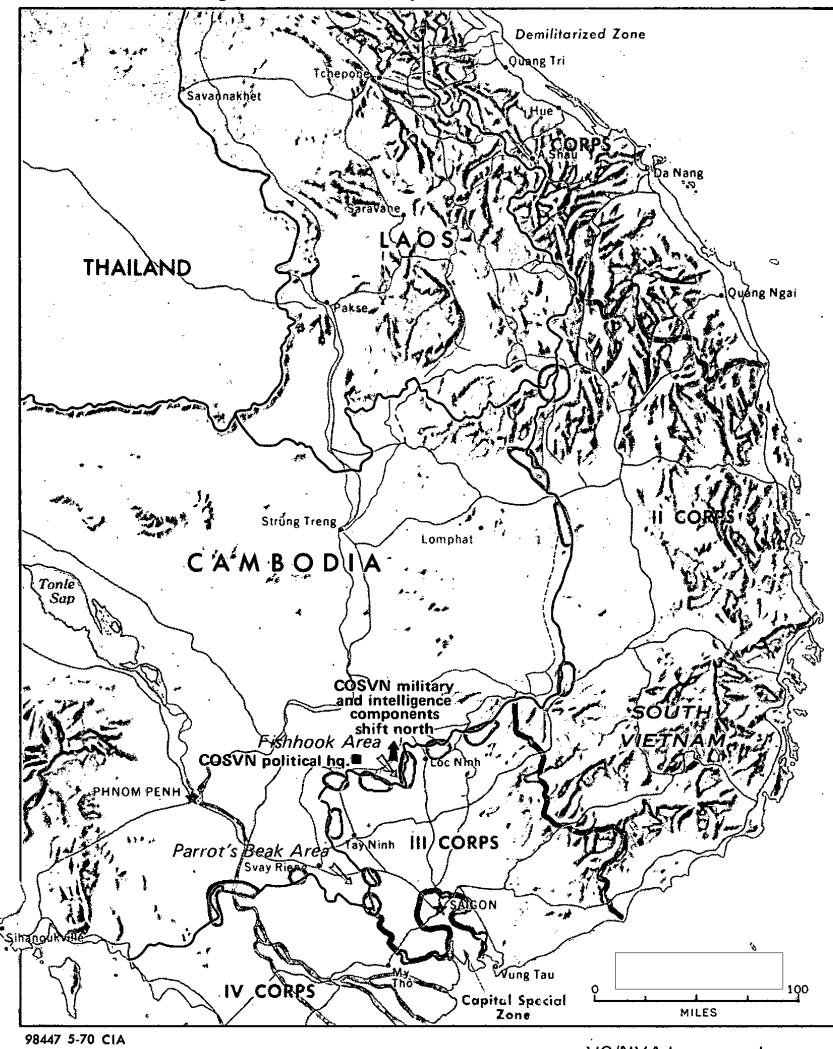
Soviet officials, meanwhile, are putting out further signals of impending high-level personnel changes. (Page 7)

France's annual nuclear test series will begin about the middle of the month in the Pacific. (Page 8)

Some of the political problems besetting the Saigon regime are outlined in an Annex today.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COSVN Staff Moving to Avoid Allied Operations



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VC/NVA base area along
Cambodian border

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

The top military and intelligence components of COSVN have shifted about ten miles to the north in the Fishhook sector and have cut back communications, limiting them mainly to the hours of darkness. The only exception has been the COSVN element that controls the various subregional headquarters in South Vietnam's III Corps. This station appears to be resuming some of its normal activity. Communications between the COSVN's military command and its political headquarters, which has been moving to evade allied actions in the area west of Mimot, also appear to have been affected.

These communication anomalies resemble those occurring during earlier allied attacks on Communist headquarters areas in South Vietnam. In these earlier operations, enemy communications were curtailed as long as allied forces were nearby, but they usually returned to normal when allied forces moved away. Headquarters staffs managed to survive, apparently because of their compactness and mobility in terrain that provides ready concealment.

Elements of only one North Vietnamese combat regiment have been contacted in the Fishhook region so far, but intercepted messages reveal that COSVN has ordered another regiment to attack allied forces in the area soon. Early reports on the other operations along the Cambodian border indicate that some allied units have come under heavy enemy fire, but no sustained ground battles have developed.

* * *

The Thieu government fears that Viet Cong agents may be able to foment major disorders in Saigon during the next few weeks, in coordination with increased military activity in the countryside.

The subject was discussed at an emergency cabinet meeting on 4 May [redacted]. Security officials warned that many Communist agents have infiltrated Saigon and are attempting to inspire disorders which would peak on or about 19 May. Buddha's birthday will be celebrated this year on that date, which also happens to be Ho Chi Minh's birthday.

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(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Adding [] concern is the diversion for
the Cambodian operations of many units which normally
operate in the Saigon area. []
that the police are not taking their usual precau-
tions because of poor morale. The police have been
reported to be discouraged by the government's fail-
ure to back them up in their handling of student and
veteran demonstrators.

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*The government is taking some steps to rem-
edy the situation. Four battalions have
been moved into the capital and the curfew
has been extended. The government has also
followed up its order closing all schools
and universities in the Saigon area by
banning all strikes, demonstrations, and
meetings prejudicial to public security
and order.*

* * *

At Annex we discuss some of the other political
problems currently besetting Thieu.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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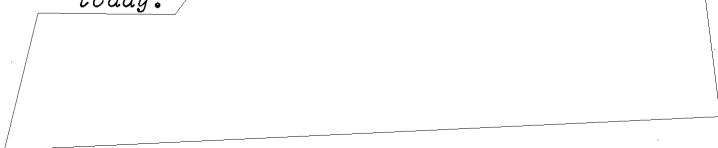
CAMBODIA

[redacted] several army battalions made an unsuccessful effort yesterday to push Communist forces from the west bank of the Mekong River near the Neak Luong ferry, south of Phnom Penh. Cambodian troops reportedly took heavy losses. No other significant engagements or Communist attacks were reported elsewhere in the country.

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The government's evident determination to have a military showdown with the Communists is illustrated by its apparent intention to break diplomatic relations with the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government and resume closer relations with Saigon. These decisions may be announced today.

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VIETNAM

More significant than the Communists' refusal to show at yesterday's session of the Paris talks was their announcement that they would be back next week. The failure to break off the talks definitively, after months of threatening to do so, is the best example to date of Hanoi's unwillingness to close off any political options. The propaganda treatment of recent US military actions--condemning them in strong terms but carefully not committing Hanoi to forceful retaliation--is also illustrative of the recent caution of the North Vietnamese.

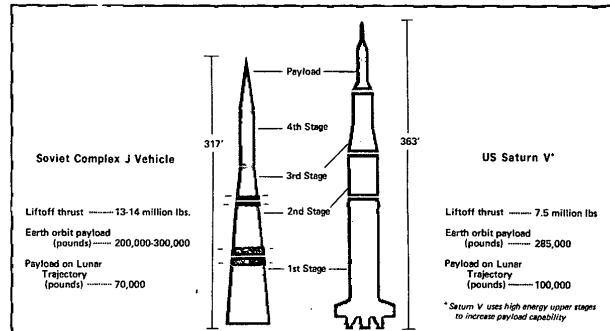
Hanoi's slowness in recognizing Sihanouk's "government-in-exile" may have been caused by the same urge to temporize. It extended recognition yesterday only after Peking, Budapest, Pyongyang, and Tirana had already done so. Moreover, the North Vietnamese did not say initially, as the Chinese had, that they were pulling their remaining diplomats out of Phnom Penh. This suggests that even now the Vietnamese Communists are reluctant to foreclose completely the possibility of dealing with the Lon Nol government.

One of the reasons for Hanoi's caution may be its inability to get Moscow and Peking to agree on a common line. Party First Secretary Le Duan has been away from home almost three weeks. His absence at such a critical time strongly suggests that the Vietnamese are being pulled in different directions by their two principal allies, with Peking pressing a militant line and Moscow advising moderation.

Such problems may delay long-range decisions involving the commitment of political and military assets in Indochina. They should not, however, get in the way of Hanoi's day-to-day tactical decisions on the battlefield.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Soviets Continue Work on Complex J Vehicle



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USSR

The latest photography from a satellite over Tyuratam shows that the Soviets are still working on their largest space booster--assembled on one of the pads at Complex J and therefore dubbed "the J-Bird" by US observers of Soviet rocketry. The first booster of this type to be tested blew up on the other pad at Complex J last July during an attempt to launch a payload to the moon. The extensive damage to that pad is still being repaired.

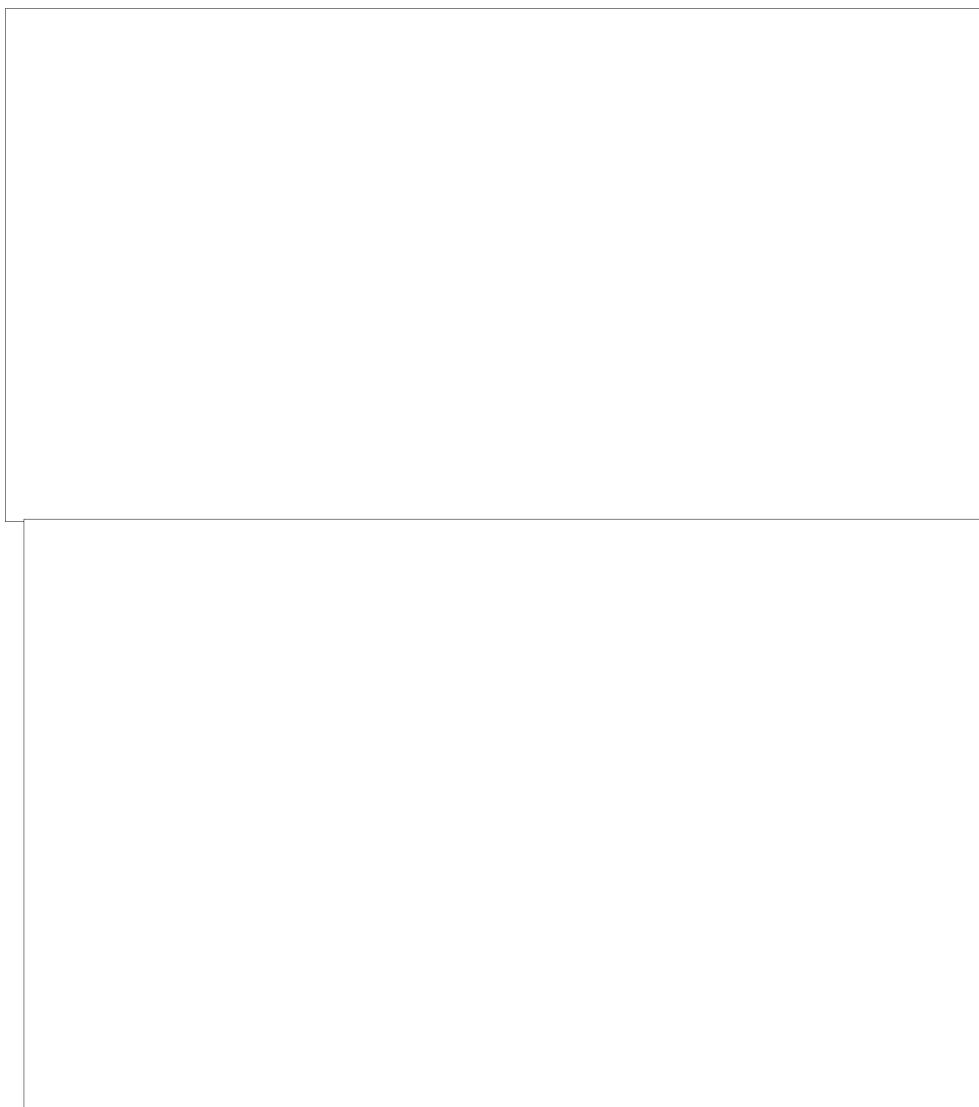
The J-Bird is the Soviet counterpart of the Saturn V, but [redacted] it cannot deliver as large a payload to the moon. The difference in performance is in the high-energy propellants in the upper stages of the Saturn.

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The Soviets would have to use two J-Birds to put a man on the moon--a rendezvous would be necessary. Thus, both launch pads at Complex J would be needed. Interplanetary probes and circumlunar missions can be handled by one J-Bird, which could also be used to orbit a permanent space station weighing 100 to 150 tons. An unmanned lunar landing and return mission could also be launched.

Because of the problems the Soviets have been having with their large space boosters, the intelligence community has estimated that they probably will not be able to make a lunar landing before 1973.

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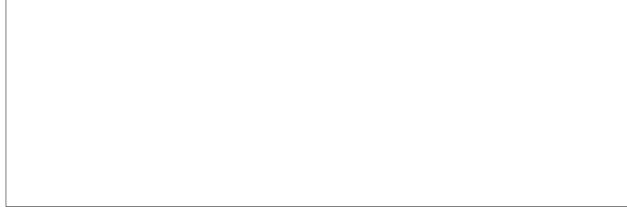
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USSR

Recent comments of two Soviet officials posted abroad to a US official tend to add weight to other reports we have had of impending changes in the Soviet leadership. A. A. Agronov, an adviser to the Soviet SALT delegation, on 16 April volunteered that Premier Kosygin will probably soon go into honorable retirement. General Major Stolnik, Soviet military attaché in Washington, responding to a query on the reported illnesses of several Soviet leaders, said that Kosygin, President Podgorny, and Politburo member Suslov are all in poor health. He added that their advanced ages (66, 67, and 67 respectively) make it difficult for the three to execute their responsibilities. Consequently he believes that they are likely to be replaced by younger men in the near future.

It is unlikely that two such responsible Soviet officials would speak in this way without instructions. It would seem that the USSR is preparing foreign opinion for some high-level resignations and wishes them to appear as normal retirements. The interesting thing will be who moves up.

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NOTES

USSR - Communist China: The Soviet leadership was clearly rankled by Peking's stinging attack last month marking the Lenin centennial and accusing Brezhnev of betraying Leninism.

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The Soviets have recently stepped up their personal criticism of Mao including his family life.

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France: This year's nuclear test series is slated to begin on 15 May at the Pacific test center near Tahiti. The program will extend into August

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USSR-Czechoslovakia: The most interesting feature of the friendship treaty signed yesterday is the assumption by the signatories of mutual defense obligations not confined to Europe. The Warsaw Pact treaty and earlier Soviet bilateral treaties with East European allies explicitly limit defense obligations to Europe. East Europeans anxious to stay out of a Sino-Soviet war will read this provision as confirmation of their worst fears.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SAIGON UNREST BECOMING CRITICAL

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The Thieu government has become overloaded with problems of political discontent and is finding itself unable to deal effectively with all of them at once. During recent months the regime has tried a combination of firmness and conciliation as it has dealt with each protesting group in turn. No sooner has the government at least temporarily alleviated one source of unrest, however, than it has been confronted by another.

These troubles began late last October, when new austerity taxes were announced, immediately sparking higher prices. Salaried people, including the military and government officials, Thieu's two most important constituencies, were particularly hard hit. Deep and widespread antigovernment resentment developed. A variety of interest groups in Saigon, sensing that the government was on the defensive, began agitating against the government in subsequent weeks.

President Thieu has tried to be flexible in handling dissenters. To some, in particular the ethnic Cambodians and veterans, government policy has been relatively conciliatory--and to some degree the pressures generated by these groups were relieved at least temporarily. But as Thieu dealt lightly with some he was coming down hard on others. Government handling of the Chau trial intimidated the opposition during much of the winter. Moreover, student prisoners were reportedly tortured and particular issues of newspapers were seized wholesale.

In any event, neither tough nor soft policies seemed to work; the number of opposition groups grew and as they grew gained confidence. The feeling is now abroad that the government is on the defensive and critics can safely get away with actions which once would have been dangerous.

In this atmosphere previously taboo subjects have been raised to embarrass the government. Thus, although many South Vietnamese generals have been notoriously corrupt for years, a Senator has just come forward to make public charges of corruption against III Corps Commander Tri, and President Thieu's intelligence adviser, General Quang. The potential for serious political scarring is almost unlimited, since corruption is widespread and it will be extremely difficult for Thieu to weed out all the targets for scandal when he must have the support of

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

the general officer corps to remain in office. All that is required to keep the pressure on the government is for the Senator and other enemies of corruption or enemies of the regime to have enough courage to make the charges. In the past, such courage has been rare, but more such charges may be made if the government remains on the defensive.

Meanwhile, militant Buddhists with long memories of earlier struggles against some of the present military men in the regime, have begun to take off the wraps. Activists from the An Quang faction have forced an armed clash with a rival, government-backed Buddhist sect and reportedly with some government forces. If this clash has produced some new An Quang martyrs, as some reports claim, and further clashes develop between the militant Buddhists and government forces, it is possible that significant military strength might have to be diverted from the war for domestic purposes. This happened during the so-called Buddhist Struggle Movement in 1966.

While the Saigon leadership tries to keep the lid on domestic discontent, tries to make Vietnamization work, and tries to adjust to the developing situation in Cambodia, it has suddenly been confronted with an unfavorable decision from the Supreme Court. The court has declared the politically-sensitive conviction of Deputy Tran Ngoc Chau to be unconstitutional and the economically important austerity taxes to be invalid.

There have been a variety of indications that those at the center of power in Saigon are becoming progressively more discouraged over the regime's inability to deal effectively with the many problems confronting it. Both President Thieu and Prime Minister Khiem have on occasion hinted that they might leave office sooner than they had once expected. There appears to be some loss of mutual confidence between Thieu and some of his key lieutenants, as well as a tendency toward greater secretiveness within the inner circles of government, suggesting that some important officials are becoming less sure of themselves and where they stand.

Alarmed by accumulating pressures, President Thieu held the special cabinet meeting [redacted] and ordered a crackdown, particularly against dissident students. A crackdown will probably not help the government deal more effectively

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

with its difficult economic problems, particularly the rising cost of living. Nor will it gain the respect of the many cliques in Saigon who see the regime primarily as an obstacle to a share of power at the center. The government, however, will probably be tempted to resort to increasingly repressive measures to suppress the rising tide of criticism, thereby hoping to reduce the developing air of crisis, at least for the time being.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] Indochinese [redacted]

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(Page 1)

Communists continue their move westward into Cambodia. (Page 2)

Communists are keeping the corridor open in Laos.
(Page 4)

The Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship treaty spells out the "Brezhnev doctrine." (Page 5)

[redacted]

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(Page 6)

More trouble is expected on the Israel-Lebanon border. (Page 7)

Guatemalan [redacted]

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[redacted]

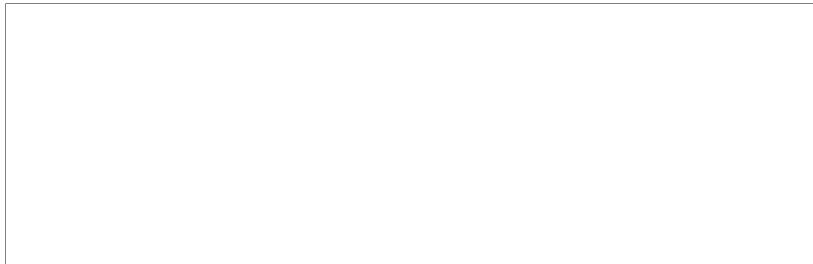
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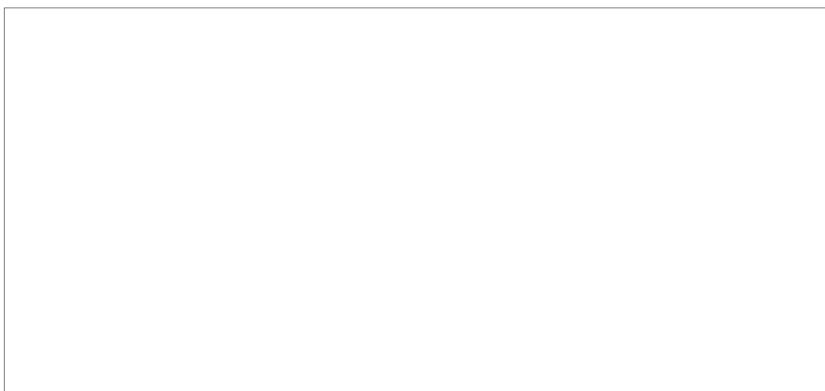
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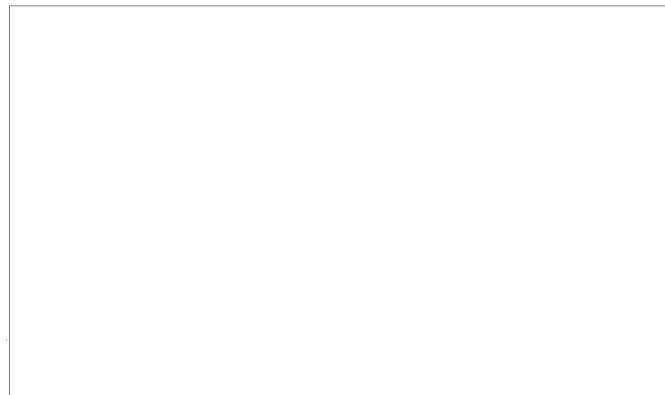
INDOCHINA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Yesterday's attack against Kratie may have been carried out by elements of the 275th Viet Cong Regiment previously identified as being about 15 miles from the town. If so, this would be the first confirmed use of Communist main force units in the Cambodian campaign. Recent reports from refugees from Mondolkiri Province indicated that virtually the entire province was under effective enemy domination even before the fall of its capital, Senmonorom.

The adjacent northern province of Stung Treng also may fall soon to the Communists. Intercepted army messages indicate that government troops are abandoning outposts near the Laos border and are pulling back to the town of Siem Pang. Messages state the Communists, who had established a viable insurgent force in this area even before Sihanouk's fall, are propagandizing Lao villagers near Siem Pang and are predicting attacks on Siem Pang and the provincial capital in the near future.

Although Cambodian military leaders have all but written off the northeast area, which has never been under firm government control, the loss of Kratie and Senmonorom will be a hard blow to morale in Phnom Penh. Continuing Communist inroads in the northeast and elsewhere suggest that allied operations along the South Vietnam border will not necessarily lead to an early end of Communist pressure in the interior.

Recent messages indicate that military leaders are also jumpy about a threat developing in areas west of the capital, which have been surprisingly quiet.

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The Communists have a rudimentary apparatus in the west, but it does not appear to have been very active during the past month.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

South of Phnom Penh, meanwhile, government forces still have not launched a serious drive to regain control of the west bank of the Mekong River at the Neak Luong ferry crossing. Press accounts say that government artillery is shelling the area, however. Ethnic Cambodian troops recently airlifted to Phnom Penh from South Vietnam reportedly will take part in the government's offensive in this area.

* * *

There is new evidence that the Communists are making a substantial effort to build a Communist infrastructure in Cambodian villages along the South Vietnam border.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Communist forces have recaptured the key artillery site overlooking Attopeu town from which they withdrew only the day before.

This action suggests that the enemy intends to maintain a foothold in the southern portion of the Bolovens Plateau. Reports from persons who escaped from Attopeu indicate that the attacking force consisted of two North Vietnamese battalions, but that the town is now being held by Pathet Lao units. The government commander responsible for the defense of Attopeu is said to have accepted an enemy offer to abandon the provincial capital without a fight.



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The Communists succeeded in moving some supplies through the Laotian panhandle during the rainy season last year [redacted]

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[redacted] Logistics units in the panhandle recently were reorganized. They have begun to improve the roads to stave off floods [redacted]

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[redacted] They are also storing up food.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-CZECHOSLOVAKIA

CIA Kremlinologists have had time to study more thoroughly the Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship treaty signed in Prague on 6 May, and have the following preliminary comments:

The treaty represents the fullest endorsement yet of the "Brezhnev doctrine," by which Moscow claims the right to intervene in any country where Communist rule is threatened. The signatories agree to take "the necessary measures" to protect the gains of socialism--a formulation the Soviet leaders hope will justify once and for all the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

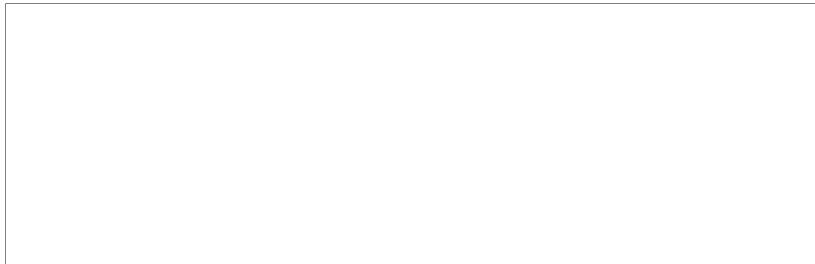
The treaty also commits the two states to work towards "socialist economic integration" within CEMA, marking the first time this Soviet project has been explicitly incorporated in an agreement of this kind. In one other innovation, it obliges the Czechoslovaks to facilitate "direct ties" between the "state organs" of Prague and Moscow, which will serve to solidify the hold the Soviets now have over Czechoslovakia.

The new treaty implicitly commits Czechoslovakia to fight on the side of the USSR in any conflict with Communist China. In this respect it is similar to the treaties the USSR has with Hungary and Bulgaria. This mutual defense clause, plus the reaffirmation of the "Brezhnev doctrine," will add to the apprehensions of other East European countries over the subordination of their interests to those of Moscow.

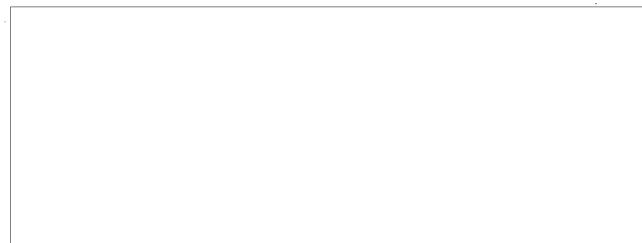
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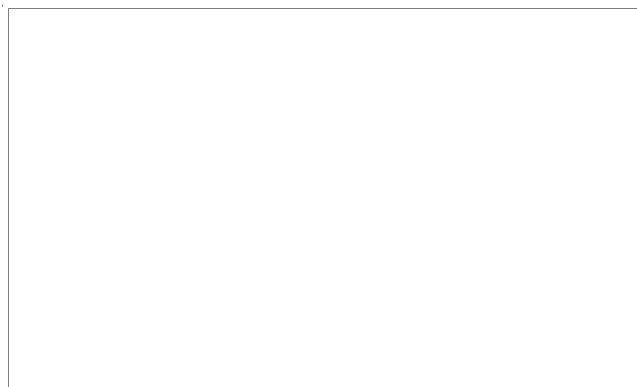
EGYPT-USSR



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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ISRAEL-LEBANON

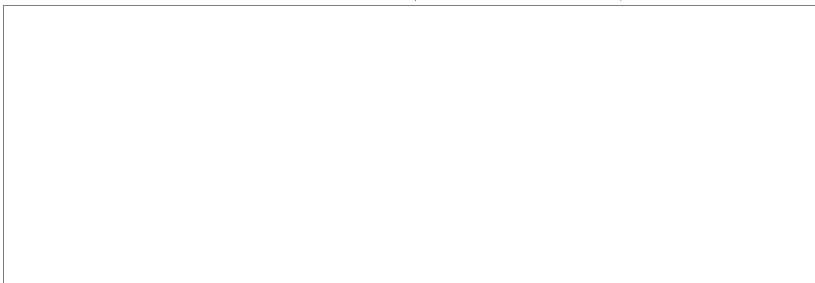
Arab guerrillas attacking across the Lebanese border seem almost certain to provoke a strong military response from Israel. Fedayeen strikes this week have killed several Israeli civilians and soldiers, and have wounded a number of others. The Israeli public is more than ordinarily wrought up over these incidents.

The nervous Beirut government has attempted to maintain some control over the guerrillas based in its territory in order to obviate Israeli countermeasures. Nevertheless, the Arab commandos have managed to carry out a steady, if not spectacular, series of attacks against Israeli settlements in this sensitive area.

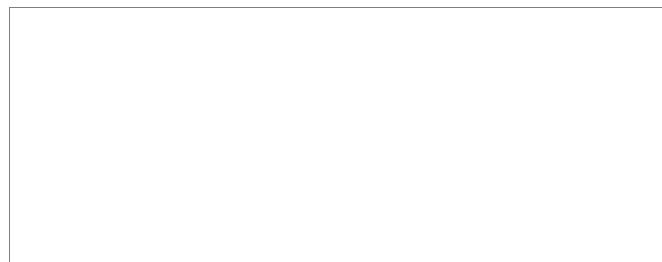
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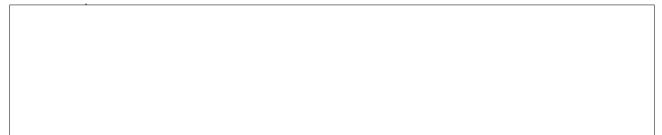
GUATEMALA



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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

There is more evidence pointing to the involvement
of Vietnamese Communist main force units in military
actions in the Cambodian interior. (Page 1)

Laotian Government leaders are growing more nervous
over Communist military aims in the south. (Page 2) 50X1

In South Vietnam [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] (Page 3) 50X1

Egypt seems eager for a US response to President
Nasir's May Day "appeal for peace." (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

According to a Communist message intercepted on 7 May, elements of the 174th North Vietnamese Army Regiment reported that they had attacked and completely occupied the provincial capital of Kratie. They apparently joined elements of the 275th Viet Cong Regiment which was located within 15 miles of Kratie two days before it fell. Both the 174th and 275th Regiments are subordinate to the 5th Viet Cong Division, which operates along the northern Phuoc Long Province - Cambodian border area.

The destruction of two bridges north of Kratie on Wednesday further reduces the government's overland access to the northern provinces. The capital of Stung Treng Province and the town of Lomhat in Ratanakiri Province are now isolated and running short of food and fuel, according to an intercepted Cambodian Army message. They are requesting aerial resupply.

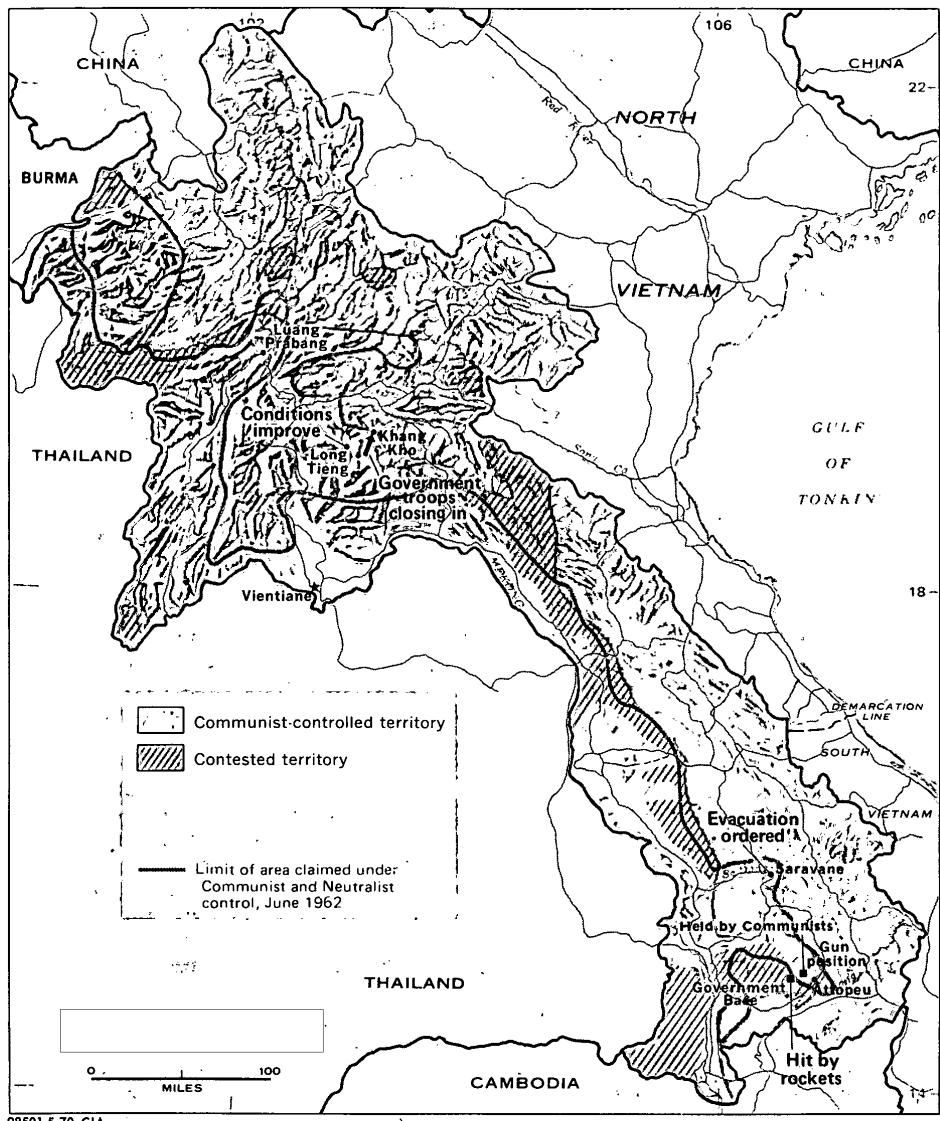
In Phnom Penh, meanwhile, a government spokesman claims that all telephone and telegraph communications with 20 major cities and towns, including all towns east of the Mekong River, are suspended because of enemy occupation or line cutting. South of the capital, however, government forces are edging toward the Neak Luong ferry following re-capture of Koki Thom several miles west of the ferry. No new major Communist attacks have been reported.

[redacted] the oil refinery at Kompong Som ceased operations on 6 May because military actions had cut transportation from the port. In addition, no commercial ships have traveled up the Mekong River since mid-April, largely because its banks are occupied by Communist troops for a distance of about 20 miles upstream from the Vietnamese border. Oil shortages may soon be felt in Phnom Penh, where storage capacity is limited to a 30-day supply.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Government leaders are growing increasingly nervous over the military situation in the southern half of the country. This apprehension is evident in a speech prepared by the prime minister [redacted]

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[redacted] Souvanna claims that the loss of Attopeu means the Communists have abandoned traditional restraints. One purpose of the seizure of Attopeu may have been to prompt just such a reaction in Vientiane. The government announced on 8 May that enemy forces threatening the provincial capital of Saravane necessitated its immediate evacuation.

There are no indications in communications intelligence of unusual enemy activity in or around Saravane, but Laotian troops defending the town are reported to have received an offer of safe passage from unspecified North Vietnamese units if they abandon it.

On the southeastern edge of the Bolovens Plateau, Communist forces this morning gained control of the principal government guerrilla base in the vicinity of Attopeu. Early reports indicate that the defenders withdrew after only minimal pressure. Attopeu town and a key fire base overlooking the immediate area also remain in enemy hands.

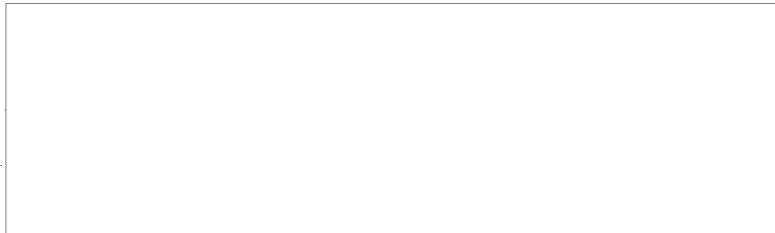
Military spokesmen are also claiming that there is a major threat to the royal capital of Luang Prabang and have gone so far as to state that its evacuation is under active consideration.

It is not clear whether such exaggerated stories reflect genuine concern or are only an indirect expression of the dissatisfaction of some military leaders at the attention that has been given to the Meo fight for Long Tieng.

At Long Tieng, the absence of a serious Communist assault on the Meo stronghold apparently has raised the morale of its defenders. Civilians have begun to filter back into the Long Tieng Valley, the base hospital has reopened, and several small markets are back in business. Government troops are reported to be closing in on Khang Kho, a guerrilla base seized by the enemy last month.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

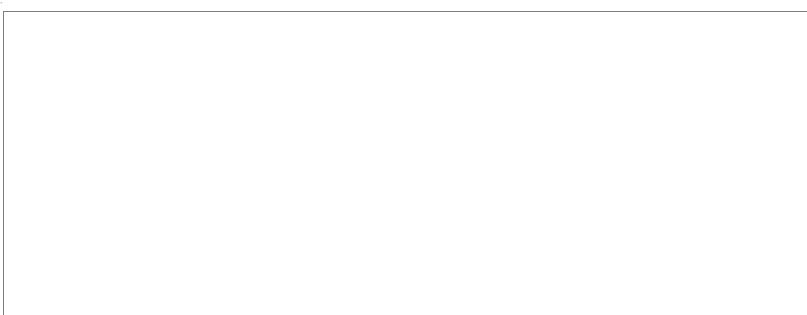


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT

Cairo appears eager for a US response to President Nasir's May Day "appeal for peace." Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmud Riyad, talking with Donald Bergus on 7 May, expressed the fear that the US would ignore Nasir's plea to keep the door open for peace in the Middle East. He also was interested in any new implications for peace that might be behind Foreign Minister Eban's assertion that Israel would make "surprising" concessions in any peace talks with the Arabs.

Although Nasir probably does still hold some slight hope for a peaceful settlement, this approach seems more an attempt to draw new, more pro-Arab, proposals from the US than a reflection of any give in the Egyptian position.

An additional incentive for the Egyptian initiative may be a desire to maintain at least some ties and residual influence with the US. Nasir no doubt realizes that a US announcement of additional military aid to Israel would seriously damage the US position in the Arab world and force him to adopt an even more militant anti-US stance.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists are keeping up the pressure on Cambodian Government forces in a number of areas.

(Page 1)

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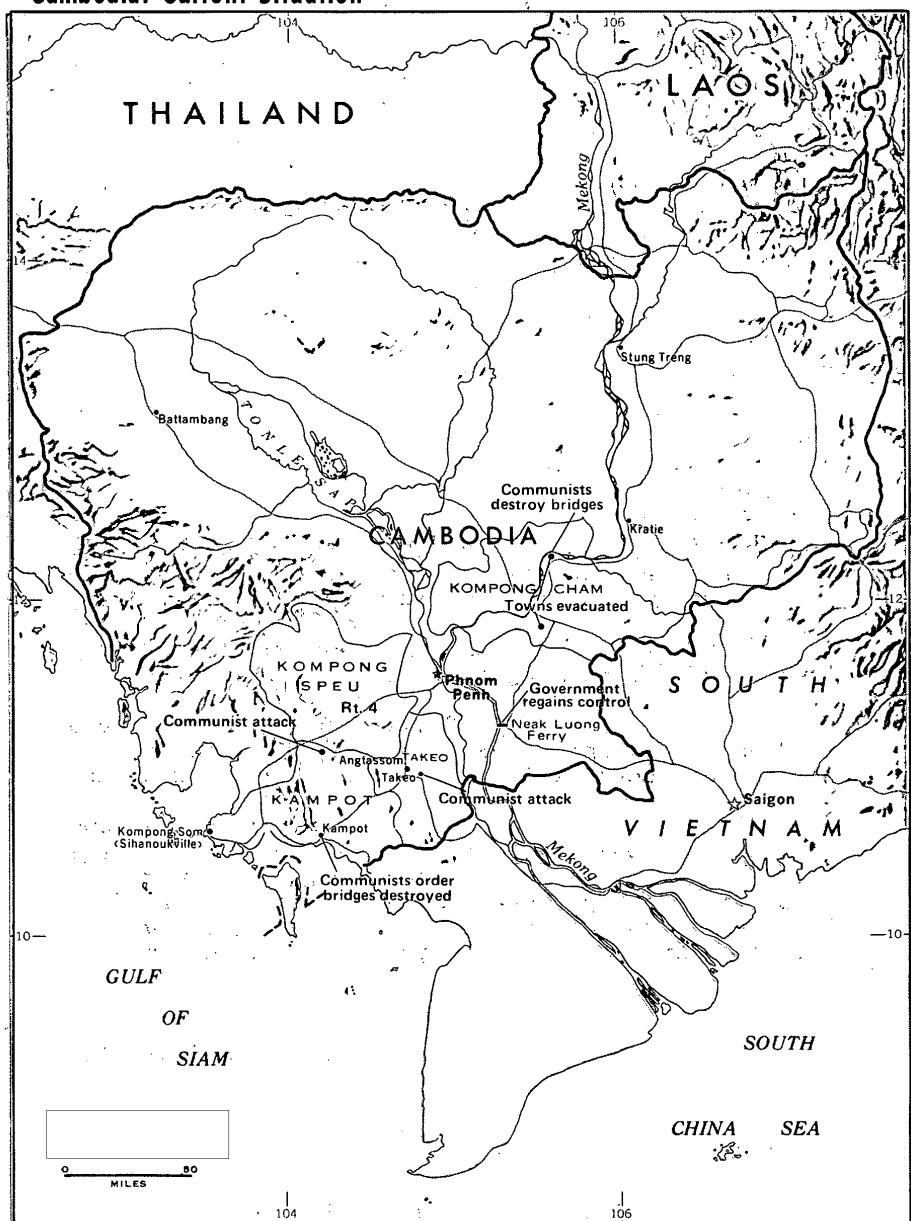
The weekend saw little fighting in Laos, but this respite did little to ease the government's bad case of the jitters. (Page 3)

North Vietnamese Party First Secretary Le Duan has finally left Moscow for home. (Page 4)

The chiefs of government and perhaps the defense ministers of the Warsaw Pact states are likely to assemble in Warsaw on 15 May. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

An intercepted Cambodian Army message reports that the provincial capital in Takeo Province came under an all-night attack on 10 May. Government forces in Takeo town and in the nearby town of Ang-tassom have been harassed by enemy elements for over a week, and recent reports have indicated that both towns are surrounded. On 9 May an estimated 500 Communist troops were reported to be regrouping just south of Takeo in order to cut main roads leading to the town.

There has also been a rise in Communist activity in Kompong Cham Province. In the past few days the Communists have destroyed several bridges and engaged in a series of skirmishes with government units. Moreover, local reports of increased Communist infiltration in the province apparently caused government forces to abandon two more towns on 8 May.

In the southwest, the Communists are becoming more active in Kompong Speu Province. On 9 May a force of several hundred attacked a road-work camp near Route 4, destroying several pieces of road-maintenance equipment. In addition, communications intelligence indicates that unidentified elements of the North Vietnamese 95th Regiment recently were ordered to destroy bridges around the capital of Kampot Province. This is the first sign of any military activity by a Communist main force unit in this area.

Communist forces suffered a setback of their own, however, when South Vietnamese Marines regained control over the Neak Luong ferry south of Phnom Penh yesterday in the face of light enemy resistance.

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In Peking, Sihanouk has hinted that his return to Cambodia is being postponed. During a television interview Friday, he said that his "resistance fighters" had told him to wait for "better political and diplomatic conditions" before he joins them.

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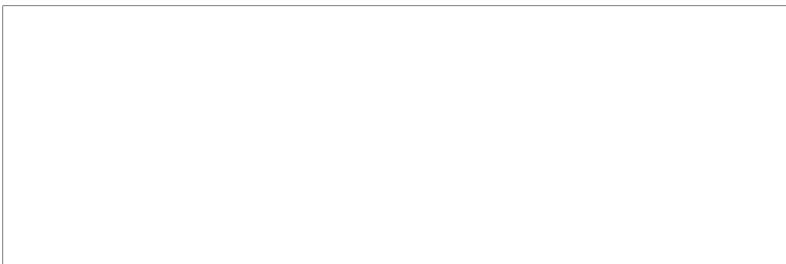
SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA



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The communications of the various staffs under COSVN still reflect some disarray, but they are becoming more active and are resuming some routine functions.

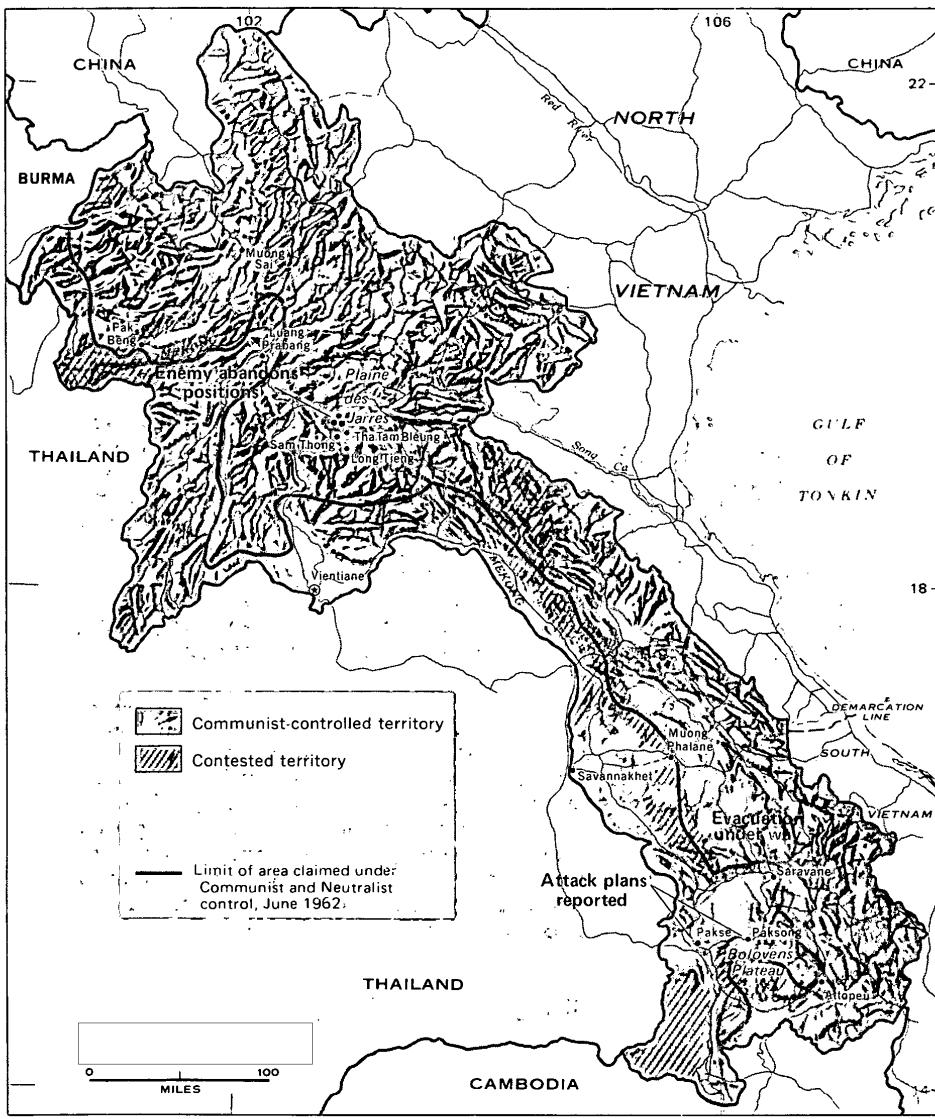
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

There was little military activity over the weekend, but Lao officials are still extremely nervous about the possibility of enemy attacks on Saravane and other key points in the south. Prime Minister Souvanna has asked in writing for US assistance in evacuating about 4,000 Lao dependents from Saravane. An initial batch of 500 was flown out yesterday.

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[redacted]
it is estimated that the Communists do have upwards of 1,000 troops in the area. The government garrison at Saravane numbers less than 600.

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[redacted] Pakse [redacted] will be hit again soon. The most recent attack on 1 May did little physical damage, but it certainly contributed to the government's bad case of the jitters about enemy military intentions in the south. Government irregular troops have reoccupied the main guerrilla base near Attopeu, but the regular army battalion that decamped, allowing the Communists to take the base on Saturday, is still to be heard from.

In the north, the position around Long Tieng continues to improve. Government forces have found two unoccupied company-sized bivouac sites north of Sam Thong and what appears to be a battalion headquarters northwest of Tha Tam Bleung.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

Party First Secretary Le Duan is on his way home from Moscow after three weeks of consultations. He received no new public gestures of support from his hosts, and TASS referred to conferences with Brezhnev as "an exchange of opinions." That phrase is frequently used as a euphemism for talks that produce no results.

Hanoi must have considered the mission very important--Le Duan is the Party's top man, and no ordinary errand could have kept him away during the past three hectic weeks. The minimal treatment TASS gave Le Duan's departure suggests that the consultations may not have produced results satisfactory to both parties.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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WARSAW PACT

At a dinner in Warsaw on Friday night, the [redacted]

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[redacted] that the chiefs of government of the Pact countries would meet in Warsaw on 15 May to celebrate the Pact's 15th anniversary. The Pact countries may also send their defense ministers, and "important developments" can be expected.

[redacted] We believe such a meeting is a logical sequel to the meeting of CEMA, the Bloc's economic organization. It will be held in Warsaw three days earlier, and will be attended by the chiefs of government. We can only speculate about what could be done at the Pact meeting. The anniversary commemoration is expected, of course, but the leaders might also issue a statement on the proposed Conference on European Security. The defense ministers in particular might attempt to upstage the NATO ministers who are to meet later this month.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

12 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Cambodia	(Page 1)
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In Laos, government and Communist forces continue to jockey for position. (Page 3)

Iran	
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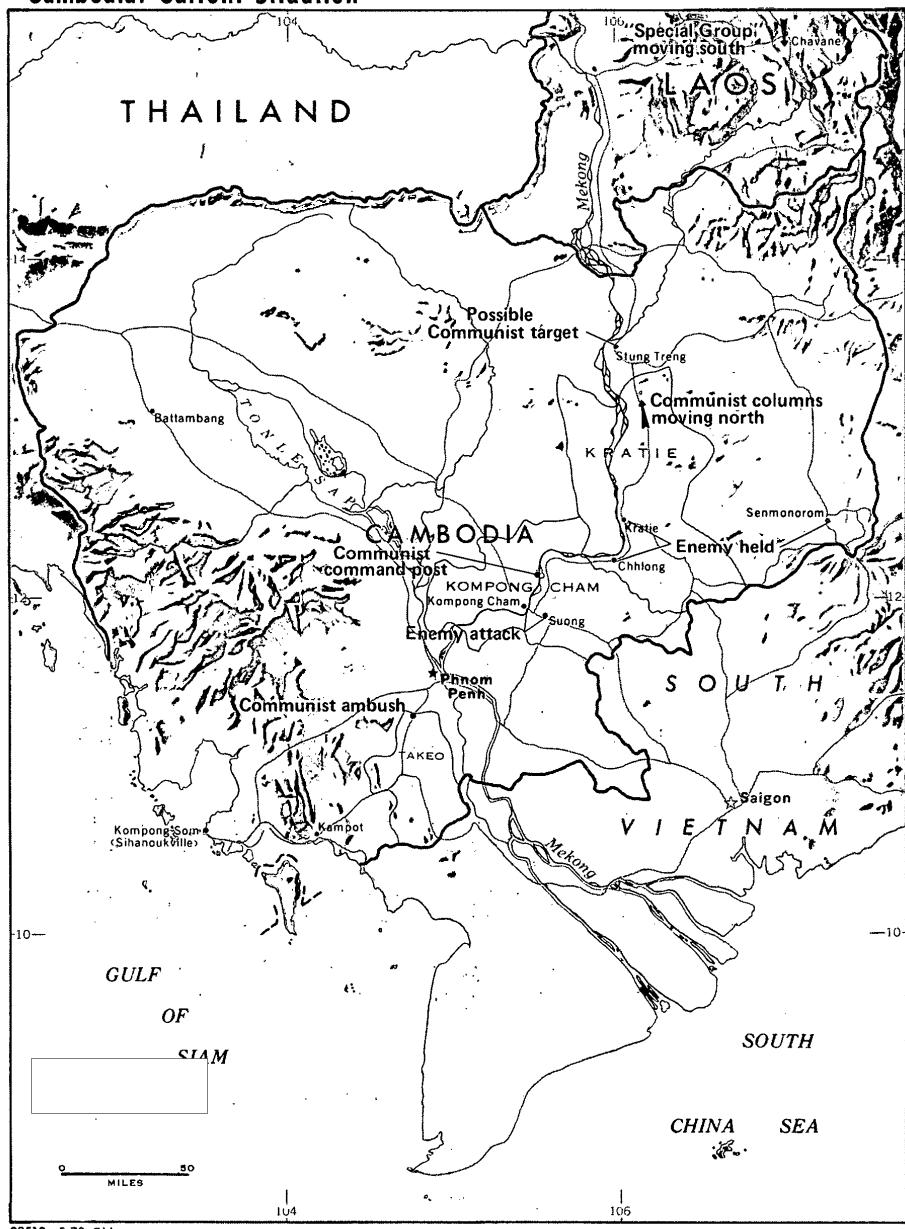
(Page 4)

The French propose to smooth the way toward European detente. (Page 5)

Israel sends troops into Lebanon to punish guerrillas. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

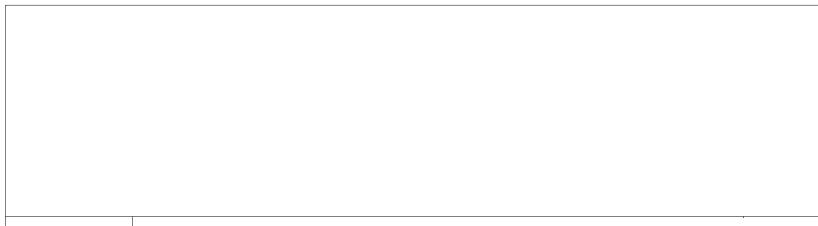
Cambodia: Current Situation



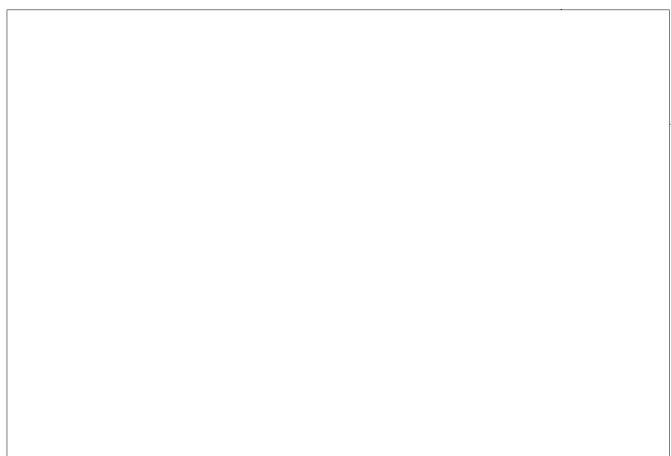
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

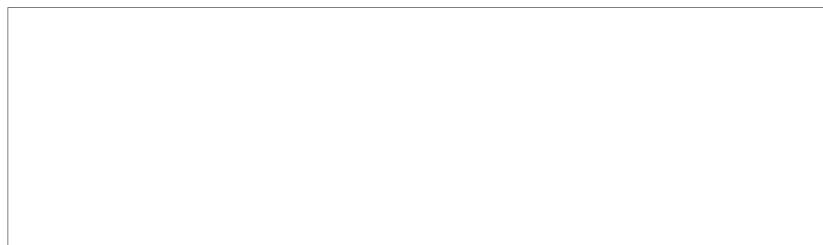


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On the military front, the Communists ambushed a government army munitions convoy in northern Takeo Province yesterday, routing elements of a newly formed battalion and capturing at least one truck-load of munitions.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The Communists have been capturing substantial quantities of Cambodian arms and ammunition during the past month.

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Cambodian troops had lost more than 5,000 weapons. This figure does not include the substantial losses that probably were suffered as a consequence of the fall of Kratie and Senmonorom.

In Kompong Cham Province, the government's base at Suong was attacked yesterday, and the town of Kompong Cham reportedly was hit by Communist artillery fire. Some Communist forces may have established a command post in this province on the west side of the Mekong River.

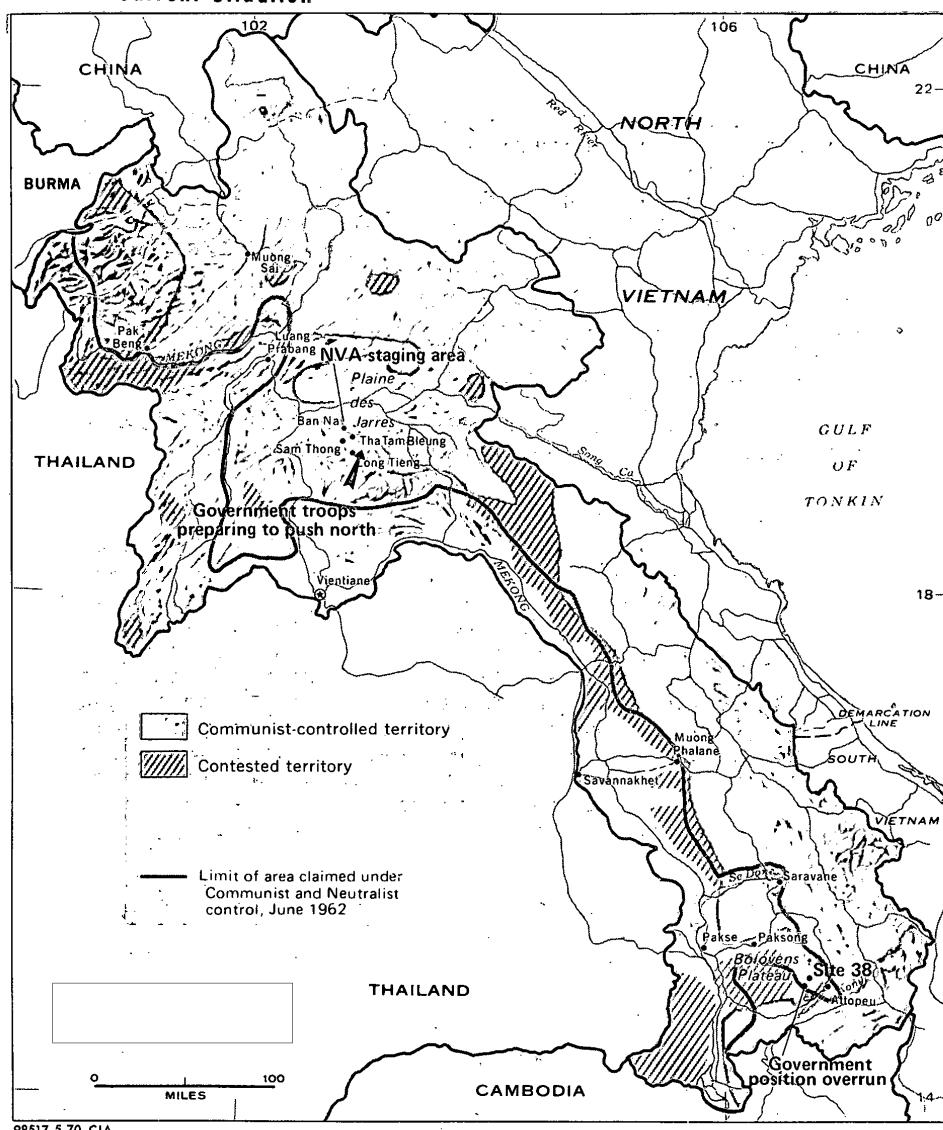
In the adjacent province of Kratie, two columns of Communist troops are reported moving north, and local commanders think they may be preparing to attack government forces holding the northern provincial capital of Stung Treng. Several government battalions have been ordered to block the enemy columns. Panicky government forces are reporting Chinese Communist and Pathet Lao troops near Chhlong, but there is no evidence to support the use of such troops in Cambodia. Communications intelligence indicates that elements of two Viet Cong regiments have been operating in and north of this area.

* * *

Communications intelligence also discloses that a group of "very special persons" has been moving southward through the Communist infiltration corridor in Laos since early April. Unusual security precautions have been taken, and unusual administrative arrangements have been made for this group. On 30 April, the group was near Chavane and heading toward the Laos - Cambodia - South Vietnam tri-border area. References to "guests" and "friends" suggest the group is not composed of North Vietnamese personnel. It appears to include three persons of particularly high rank, and it is possible they are the leading leftist cabinet ministers of Sihanouk's new government. Sihanouk recently claimed they were in "liberated areas."

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos: Current Situation



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Communist forces took another step yesterday toward clearing government guerrillas from the southeastern edge of the Bolovens Plateau by capturing a lightly defended position there. The enemy also probed site 38--the main government base in the area. Elements of the regular Lao Army battalion that bolted from their positions defending the guerrilla base overlooking Attopeu have straggled into the village of Paksong.

The situation at Saravane is somewhat brighter following visits there by southern leader Sisouk na Champassak and regional military commander General Phasouk. They were able to quiet, at least temporarily, the panic that was leading to the wholesale evacuation of the town despite the apparent absence of any immediate Communist threat.

In the north, General Vang Pao's forces are continuing to push the enemy back toward the Plaine des Jarres. With some 1,300 government troops now occupying the hills immediately north of Tha Tam Bleung, Vang Pao plans to strike an enemy staging area near Ban Na.

The guerrillas may run into considerable enemy opposition if they push into this area, however. The North Vietnamese have been rotating fresh troops into forward positions near Ban Na, and there are indications in communications intelligence that the enemy recently has moved 85-mm. artillery pieces into the area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

IRAN

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FRANCE-EUROPE

In an apparent effort to reverse the seeming decline of their influence in the process of European detente, the French have surfaced a scheme that will facilitate Willy Brandt's talks with East Europeans--especially the Poles. Under the French proposal, the occupying powers would announce that, if a West German - Polish border agreement is concluded, they will confirm it in any future peace treaty. This announcement would satisfy the Polish desire for a binding recognition of their border and also would meet the West German position that, under the Potsdam agreement and other agreements, German borders must be endorsed in a general peace treaty.

The French last week outlined their idea to visiting Polish Foreign Minister Jedrychowski. In a speech last Saturday, Polish party leader Gomulka asked in effect that the four powers publicly declare their support for a Bonn-Warsaw accord, thus implicitly endorsing the French suggestion. Paris plans to present this proposal to the US and UK in Bonn this week.

German opposition critics of Brandt's policies have been hoping that France and perhaps the US would impose restraints on his negotiations with the East. The French proposal, especially if supported by the US, seems likely to throw cold water on such hopes.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Israel-Lebanon: After repeated warnings, Israel sent an armored force into Lebanon to neutralize the guerrilla positions on Mount Hermon. Early this morning, reports from press sources and radio broadcasts indicated the Israeli units had fought with regular Lebanese forces. The most important long-term effect of this invasion may be its disruptive influence on Lebanese politics.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists continue to press Cambodian Government forces in border provinces. (Page 1)

Moscow's gesture of support for Sihanouk yesterday fell short of diplomatic recognition of his newly formed government. (Page 2)

Allied operations in Cambodia are delaying North Vietnamese infiltration groups heading for the South. (Page 3)

Some enemy units in South Vietnam plan additional activity in areas where allied units have been diverted to the Cambodian front. (Page 4)

Tel Aviv's thrust into southern Lebanon may temporarily deter fedayeen activity but in the longer run is likely to lead to a further deterioration of the situation. (Page 5)

An installation under construction in northeastern China may be a surface-to-surface missile site. (Page 6)

The military situation in Laos is noted on Page 6.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

[redacted]

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An estimated 100 Vietnamese Communist troops have attacked a government force across the river from the town and have destroyed a nearby bridge. The Communists have also blocked a section of a road in the area on the east bank of the Mekong.

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In the south, Communist forces are still besieging the capital of Takeo Province. An estimated 700 enemy troops ambushed a four-truck government convoy on Route 3 just north of Takeo on 11 May. In addition, communications intelligence discloses that a radio station associated with the military arm of COSVN is now located about 15 miles southwest of Takeo.

This is the deepest penetration of such a facility into this province to date. The station was located in the Takeo Province - South Vietnam border area on 1 May.

Along the eastern part of the border, top-level Communist command authorities and some main force combat units continue to pull back farther into Cambodia. Many are nearing the announced 21-mile limit of US penetration and could be heading for temporary sanctuary deeper within the country.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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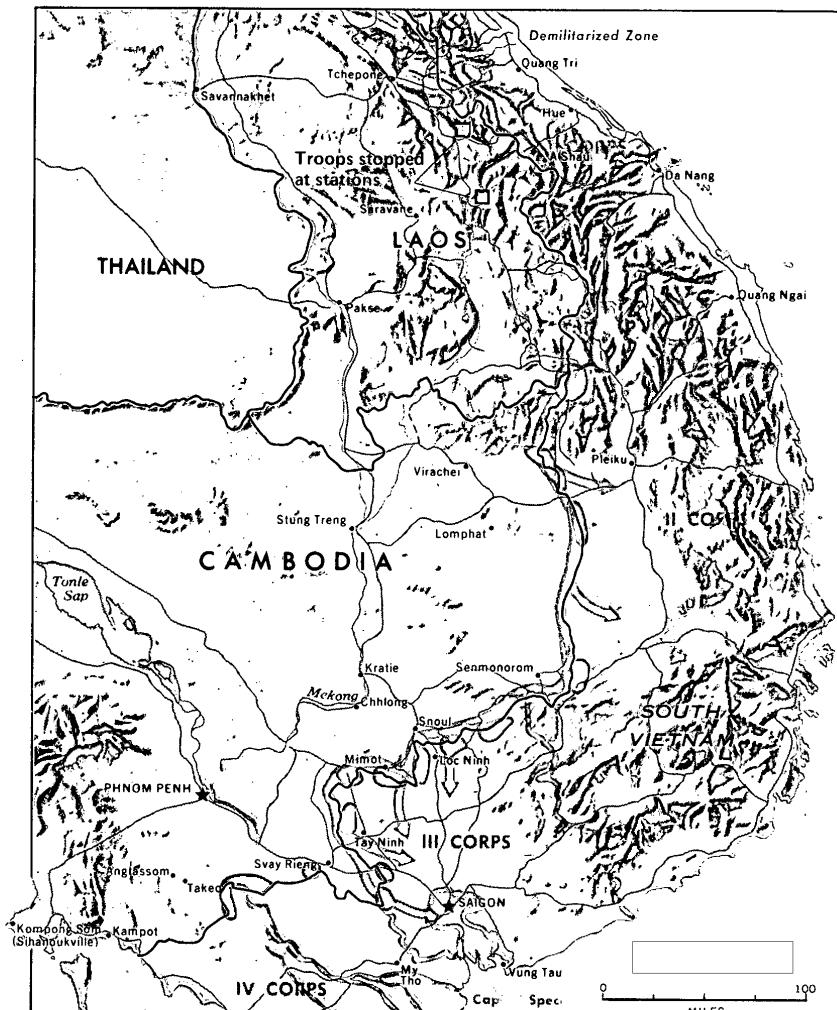
USSR-CAMBODIA

Premier Kosygin's telegram yesterday to Sihanouk is the first direct gesture of support that the Prince has received from the USSR. It falls well short, however, of the full diplomatic recognition already extended by Hanoi and Peking to Sihanouk's "Royal Government of National Union." Kosygin's message was addressed to "Mr." Norodom Sihanouk, and it congratulates him not on the formation of his government-in-exile, but on the "United Front" which he established soon after his ouster.

Moscow's failure to recognize Sihanouk's "government" reflects Soviet caution and uncertainty about the orientation and prospects for success of a Sihanouk-led liberation movement. Moscow probably felt compelled to make this demonstration of support for Sihanouk to counter Chinese influence on Indochina developments. Kosygin's telegram bears the mark of a holding operation while the Soviets sort out all the implications of the Indochina situation, but it will be difficult for the USSR to stay out of step with Hanoi for long on a policy matter of this importance. Sihanouk quickly accepted the sign of Soviet support but made it clear in a telegram to Kosygin that he was formally requesting official recognition of his government-in-exile.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NVA Infiltration Troops Temporarily Halted



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VC/NVA base area along
Cambodian border

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

Allied operations in Cambodia are plugging the infiltration pipeline to South Vietnam. In intercepted messages of 8 and 9 May, Hanoi ordered at least 19 infiltration groups, currently located at two major stopover stations in the Lao panhandle, not to continue south. The groups are small, and the total number of personnel involved is around 500. Infiltration authorities at the stations are being told to guarantee security for the groups and to keep them fit and ready to move out when ordered.

The delay unquestionably is due to allied operations in Cambodia. All the halted groups are slated for assignment in either the III or the IV corps areas of South Vietnam. Their route normally would take them through the area of allied operations in Cambodia.

Other infiltration groups headed for southern South Vietnam probably are also being affected, although there is no evidence of this as yet in intercepts. About 12,000 North Vietnamese replacement troops were scheduled to arrive in the III and IV corps areas during May, June, and July. Heavy losses of equipment in Cambodian base areas are likely to give the enemy further reason to delay the arrival of substantial numbers of new troops.

* * *

Hanoi is moving some of its MIG jet fighters now stationed in China back to North Vietnam. Thus far, eight MIG-21s and six MIG-19s have arrived at Yen Bai airfield northwest of Hanoi. These deployments may reflect Hanoi's apprehension over the possibility of renewed US bombing of the North. They will augment an already substantial fighter force--some 60 MIG-21s and ten MIG-19s--based in North Vietnam.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Some Communist units within South Vietnam are planning offensive operations to take advantage of the diversion of allied forces to the Cambodian front. Numerous references to the deployment of allied forces to the Cambodian border have cropped up in recent intercepts and documents. In many cases, enemy units were directed to try to strike in areas where allied strength has been cut back.

We cannot judge how great an effort the Communists can put together in the immediate future, as this will depend on the readiness of various units and other local conditions. The Communists nevertheless are probably anxious to get an operation of some sort going, if not one severe enough to force the early withdrawal of US or South Vietnamese troops from the border regions, then at least one strong enough to score some tactical success against lightly defended areas.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON-ISRAEL

In contrast to fedayeen claims of heavy fighting and high casualties, Israeli officials seem to be trying to depict their day-long "combing operation" in southern Lebanon as limited. They describe it as a "screening" action designed to capture fedayeen and to destroy their bases. Tel Aviv has given no figures of guerrillas killed and says only that Israeli forces took 11 prisoners and destroyed some 40 buildings and ten vehicles, while suffering 11 wounded themselves. It also warns that much stronger ripostes are in the offing if fedayeen attacks from Lebanon continue.

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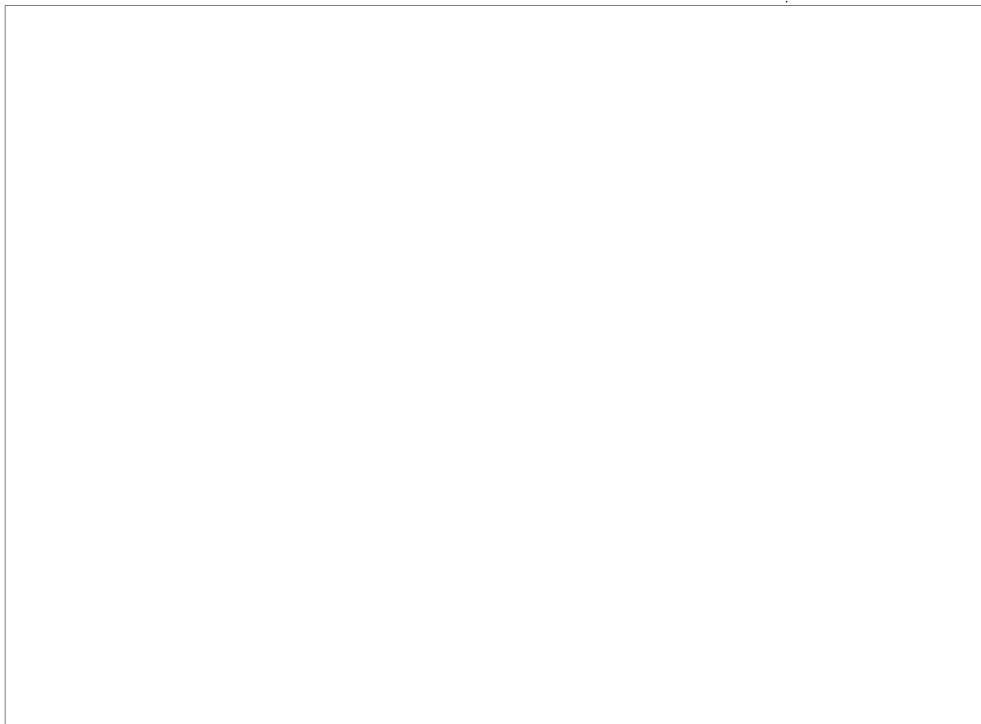
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With the Lebanese cabinet delicately balanced between pro- and anti-fedayeen factions, the Lebanese Army's communiqués may have been an attempt to head off public criticism of the government for not acting forcefully enough against the Israelis. It is possible, however, that a fedayeen-led outcry may still bring down the cabinet. Ambassador Porter believes that in any case the Lebanese public is likely to blame the US for not stopping the attack and that some groups may even accuse the US of complicity with Tel Aviv.

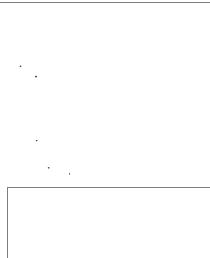
Over the longer term, events in Lebanon are likely to parallel the developments of the past few years in Jordan. The Israeli attack is unlikely to deter further fedayeen incursions into Israel for long. Fearful of initiating yet another government-fedayeen confrontation with its accompanying political problems, Beirut probably will not attempt any strong measures of its own to control the fedayeen. This in turn is likely to lead to further Israeli air and ground strikes against fedayeen concentrations in Lebanon.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

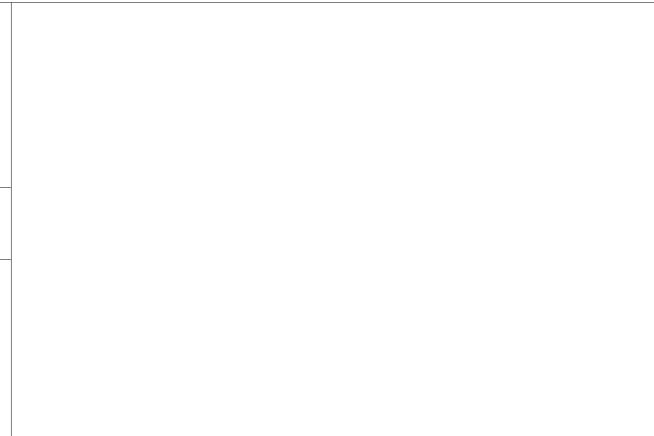
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Communist China: Satellite photography shows that an installation under construction since 1967 at I-cho-mao in northeastern China may be a surface-to-surface missile site. [redacted]

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Laos: Communist military activity continues to focus on the Bolovens Plateau. The enemy has succeeded in dispersing government guerrillas from a key position located some ten miles northwest of the provincial capital of Attopeu. The guerrillas are now regrouping in an effort to retake it. In the north, there have been only a few minor clashes in the Long Tieng area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnam

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(Page 1)

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on Page 2.

There are signs that the Communists are planning an above normal level of logistic operations in the Laotian Panhandle during the rainy season. (Page 4)

Pre-conference activity suggests that the Djakarta meeting on Cambodia will be a bland affair. (Page 5)

Speculation about the ouster of Prime Minister Khiem continues in Saigon circles. (Page 6)

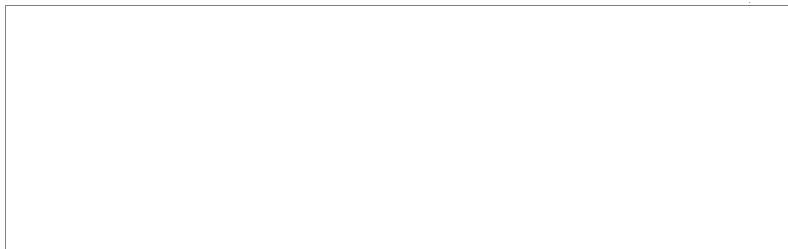
Chancellor Brandt may meet many of East Germany's demands during his next meeting with Premier Stoph. (Page 7)

The Israelis appear satisfied with the results of their raid into southern Lebanon. In Beirut, the attack has increased the pressures on the government to build up its military might. (Page 8)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM



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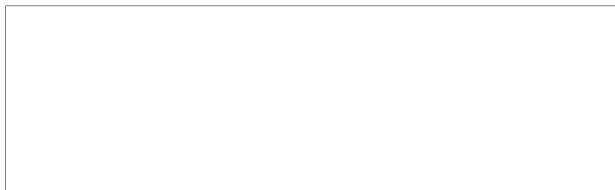
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

The government continues to give ground under steady Communist pressure. Much of the province of Kompong Cham east of the Mekong River is now under Communist control.

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"thousands" of well-armed Vietnamese Communists have occupied the vast rubber plantation at Chup, not far from Kompong Cham city. Government troops who had moved onto the east bank of the Mekong during the loading of Vietnamese repatriates on South Vietnamese vessels at Kompong Cham were chased back across the river by heavy enemy assaults. Two government battalions north of the city have also been in trouble in recent days, and the Communists also appear to be closing in from the south. The government blocking position at Suong has also been overrun.

Farther north, an intercepted army message claims a large enemy force is moving into the Kratie - Kompong Thom provinces border area, in what would be the westernmost extension of Communist activity. In the northeastern province of Ratanakiri, the local commander of the town of Labansiek claims that the recent withdrawal of two battalions has critically weakened government defenses there.

In the south, street fighting is reported in Takeo town, and government troops have received South Vietnamese air support. The provincial capital of Kampot is under continuing pressure and fire from the Communists, who still hold the high ground around the town. Elsewhere, in Kompong Speu Province, an estimated 600 Communist troops attacked and burned a sector command post on 11 May.

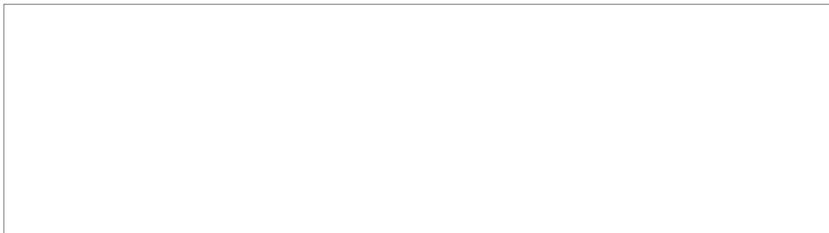
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A government sweep operation southwest of the town has been hard hit by presumably indigenous Communist elements.

On the diplomatic side, both Hanoi and the Viet Cong have served notice on Phnom Penh that they are withdrawing their few remaining diplomats from the Cambodian capital. Unlike Peking, however, Hanoi still has not announced a formal rupture of diplomatic relations. It is not clear why the North Vietnamese are reluctant to take the last step. The Lon Nol regime's closer relationship with Saigon has already been subjected to some minor strains.

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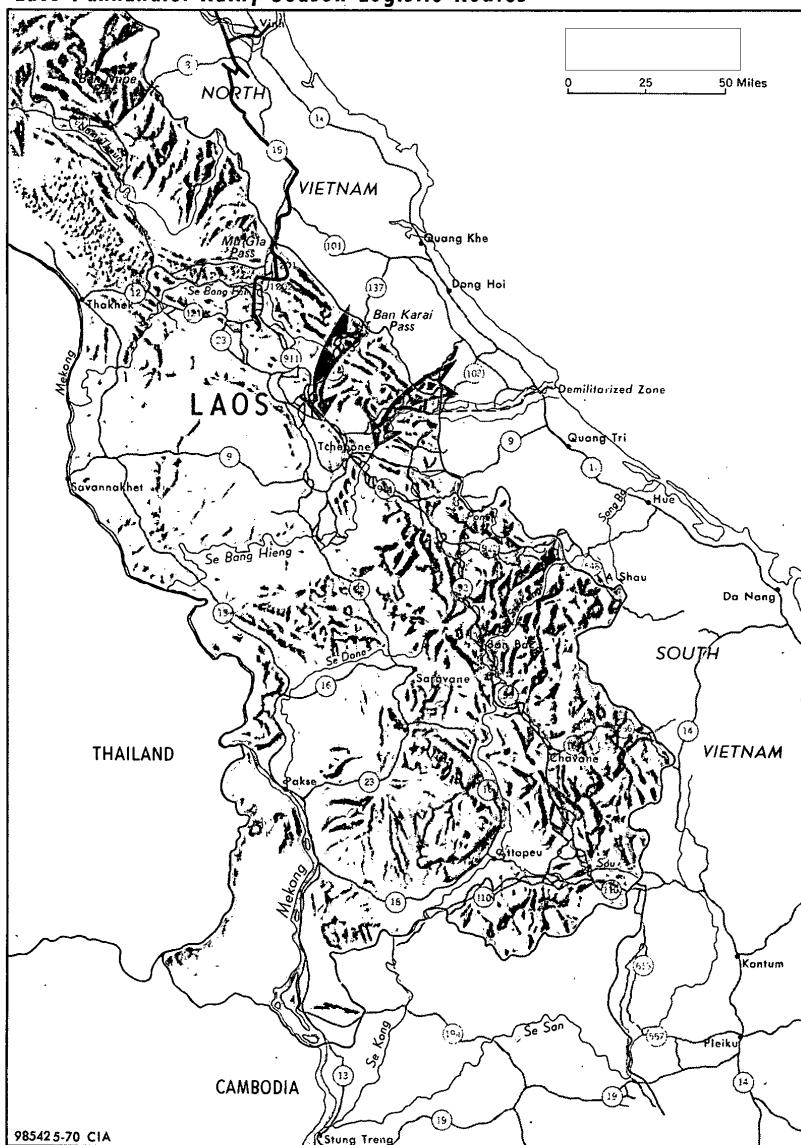
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos Panhandle: Rainy Season Logistic Routes



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS - SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communists now seem prepared to maintain a higher level of logistic operations in the Laotian Panhandle this rainy season than was indicated earlier. A recent intercept from a panhandle logistic authority--probably operating along Route 914--states that "the 559th Transportation Group is determined to continue transporting in the rainy season." The reasons given were the Allied incursion into Cambodia, the recent bombing of North Vietnam, and the uncompleted dry season mission.

Other messages from units operating along Routes 911 and 912 have discussed "the mission of remaining during the rainy season." The messages urge completion by 19 May of a petroleum pipeline to the Tchepone area. They mention an "urgent" need for gasoline.

In recent weeks intercepts had suggested the Communists would follow the practice of last year, confining their limited summer logistic activity to the western DMZ - central panhandle area. It now looks as though operations may be broadened to include two routes of entry from North Vietnam.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA-ASIA

Next weekend's Djakarta conference on Cambodia promises to be a fairly tame affair. It will, however, give the Lon Nol government a needed psychological boost, which is really about all its sponsors intended.

The twelve states attending, except for Indonesia and Singapore, are avowedly pro-West, and even these two countries have important links with the West. Of the ten nations that declined to participate, four are Communist China, North Vietnam, North Korea, and Mongolia. The other six--Afghanistan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Burma--are relatively far from the scene of the conflict and are strongly nonaligned.

In view of the one-sided complexion of the conference, most participants seem to favor working either for a mild set of resolutions to which the Communists cannot take reasonable exception or simply for a referral of the Cambodian problem to the United Nations. Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik has been thinking in terms of a package, urging restoration of peace in Cambodia, maintenance of Cambodian neutrality and independence, and reactivation of the International Control Commission. Several powers have suggested considering some kind of follow-up action, such as sending an observer team to Cambodia, or additional meetings to deal with later developments.

Reinforcing the tendency toward a bland, low-keyed meeting are internal pressures in Indonesia and Japan, two of the prime movers of the conference. Malik has come under criticism for compromising Indonesia's nonaligned policy not only by becoming involved but by actually sponsoring an essentially pro-Western meeting. In Japan, Prime Minister Sato and Foreign Minister Aichi have been criticized for tacit approval of US actions.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Rumors that Prime Minister Khiem may be replaced continue to circulate in Saigon. The press has added to the speculation by publishing a report that Professor Nguyen Van Bong of the Progressive Nationalist Movement (PNM), a moderate opposition party, is being considered as a replacement for Khiem.

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These and other rumors take on added weight in view of the recent indications of discouragement and indecisiveness at the top levels of the Saigon government. A similar drawn out, rumor-ridden period preceded former Prime Minister Huong's removal from office last summer.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY - EAST GERMANY

Bonn may present a draft treaty that goes a long way toward formal recognition of East Germany at the meeting between Chancellor Brandt and Premier Stoph in Kassel on 21 May. A text of the draft "position paper" was given the Western Allies on 11 May with an explanation that it is one of several approaches to the Kassel talks now under consideration.

In the paper, Bonn proposes that West and East Germany conclude a treaty that "regulates the relationship between the two states in Germany," improves communications between their populations, and aids in the removal of existing discriminations. Under the treaty, each side would pledge to respect the "independence and sovereignty," territorial integrity, and frontiers of the other. Furthermore, the paper proposes formally to set aside Bonn's long-standing claim to be the sole representative of the German people.

Other key points include a provision for the exchange of plenipotentiaries with the rank of minister, and the admission of both Germanies to the United Nations. Finally, both states would pledge to respect the existing agreements by the wartime Allies regarding Berlin and Germany as a whole.

The major points contained in the German paper have been surfaced before, but this is the first time they have all been incorporated into a draft treaty to have full standing under international law. Such a treaty would go a long way toward meeting East German conditions, although the provision regarding reaffirmation of Allied rights in Berlin would be hard for Pankow to accept.

It is not yet clear whether Brandt will adopt this approach at Kassel. Bonn did not explicitly ask for Allied comments but obviously is interested in obtaining reactions before deciding upon what course to take.

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Israeli Forces Withdraw from Lebanon



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-LEBANON

In a conversation with the American DCM yesterday, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official characterized Israel's raid into southern Lebanon as "limited" and "more or less successful." He said Israel's purpose in mounting the attack was to dislocate the fedayeen units and interfere with their logistical support. The official expressed some surprise over the degree of fedayeen resistance, but he reiterated that Lebanese Army intervention was minimal.

[Redacted]

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Except for Syria's abortive air strike into southern Lebanon, and for some Syrian and Iraqi shelling of an Israeli position, there was no indication that the Eastern Arab Command was able to mount an intervention operation.

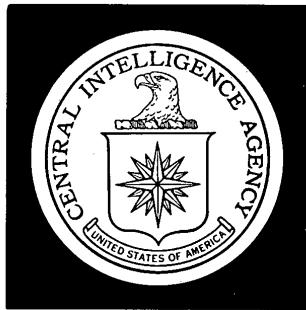
[Redacted]

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As a result of Tel Aviv's action, Lebanon may still come under pressure from other Arab states to allow the stationing of their troops on its territory as a defense measure against Israel. Lebanon also may build up its military establishment and concentrate even more of its men along the border with Israel.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

15 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Libyan Government and US oil companies appear to be on a collision course in negotiations over oil prices. (Page 1)

In London, two polls show a dramatic swing to Labor. This may be all that is needed to persuade Prime Minister Wilson to call national elections for next month. (Page 2)

President Balaguer meanwhile still looks like the winner in tomorrow's election in the Dominican Republic, although the opposition may be gaining. (Page 3)

The Communists have brought the capital of the Cambodian border province of Stung Treng under heavy attack. (Page 5)

President Hihu's problem of keeping the fedayeen in southern Lebanon under control has been compounded by the entry of a mixed force of Syrian Army regulars and commandos. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LIBYA

The government and the US oil companies appear to be on a collision course on Libyan oil prices. The Libyans are demanding a 79-cent increase in the posted price (now \$2.23) per barrel of crude oil.

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Negotiations began early this month with two of the leading producers, Esso and Occidental, but by 10 May the government broke off talks with Occidental, threatening to take unspecified unilateral action. Negotiations with Esso are continuing, although Esso has not yet made any concession to the government's demands. In the meantime, the government has taken a threatening line on other petroleum matters; six companies have been warned they must commence work within 30 days on inactive concessions.

Neither our embassy in Tripoli nor the companies are taking the tough Libyan negotiating position lightly. Although there may be a bargaining element in the Libyans' stiff initial terms, the Americans fear the Libyans might actually impose some form of production control or even resort to nationalization. They fear the government might take unilateral action against one company--such as Occidental, with which Libya has a history of disputes--before settling down to serious negotiations.

Although the companies previously have argued successfully against increased price demands, they are now indicating [redacted] that some of them might be able to absorb up to a 20-cent increase. But on present form, this hardly seems enough to satisfy Libya's new rulers. Moreover, previous resistance by the companies may have damaged their credibility to the point where the inexperienced Libyans will be tempted to press for unattainable price increases in order to score a political victory. In that event, both sides may find it very difficult to extricate themselves from their dilemma without precipitate and irreversible actions.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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UNITED KINGDOM

Prime Minister Wilson seems almost certain to call national elections for next month. A Gallup poll published Wednesday showed Labor leading the Conservatives by 7.5 percent. This is a spectacular swing from the 4.5 percent lead the Tories enjoyed just three weeks ago. It puts Labor's popularity at about the same level as it was at the time of the 1966 elections. In addition to the Gallup findings, the well-regarded National Opinion Poll has just given Labor a 3.2 percent edge. Defense Minister Healey recently told our embassy that if both polls showed Labor with a lead of 3 percent or more, the pressure on Wilson for June elections would be "almost irresistible."

The Tories had been braced for a swing toward Labor in this week's polls, but not one of these proportions. It has, no doubt, had a devastating effect on their morale. The rapidity of Labor's recovery in recent weeks astonished even its top leaders, with the possible exception of Wilson himself.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

President Balaguer remains the front runner in the election tomorrow, although the opposition is picking up strength. Increased activity by the four opposition candidates, especially Vice-President Lora and former general Wessin y Wessin, contrasts with their earlier desultory efforts and could result in last-minute shifts by voters.

Violence continues to mar the closing days of the campaign. Three more deaths were reported on Wednesday in the capital, and student disorders and shooting incidents are a daily occurrence in the major cities. The Communists will continue their terrorist activities on election day, but heavy patrols will guard polling places and should be able to prevent major disorders.

Balaguer needs only a plurality to win, and the probable split of the opposition vote between Lora and Wessin should ensure his re-election.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

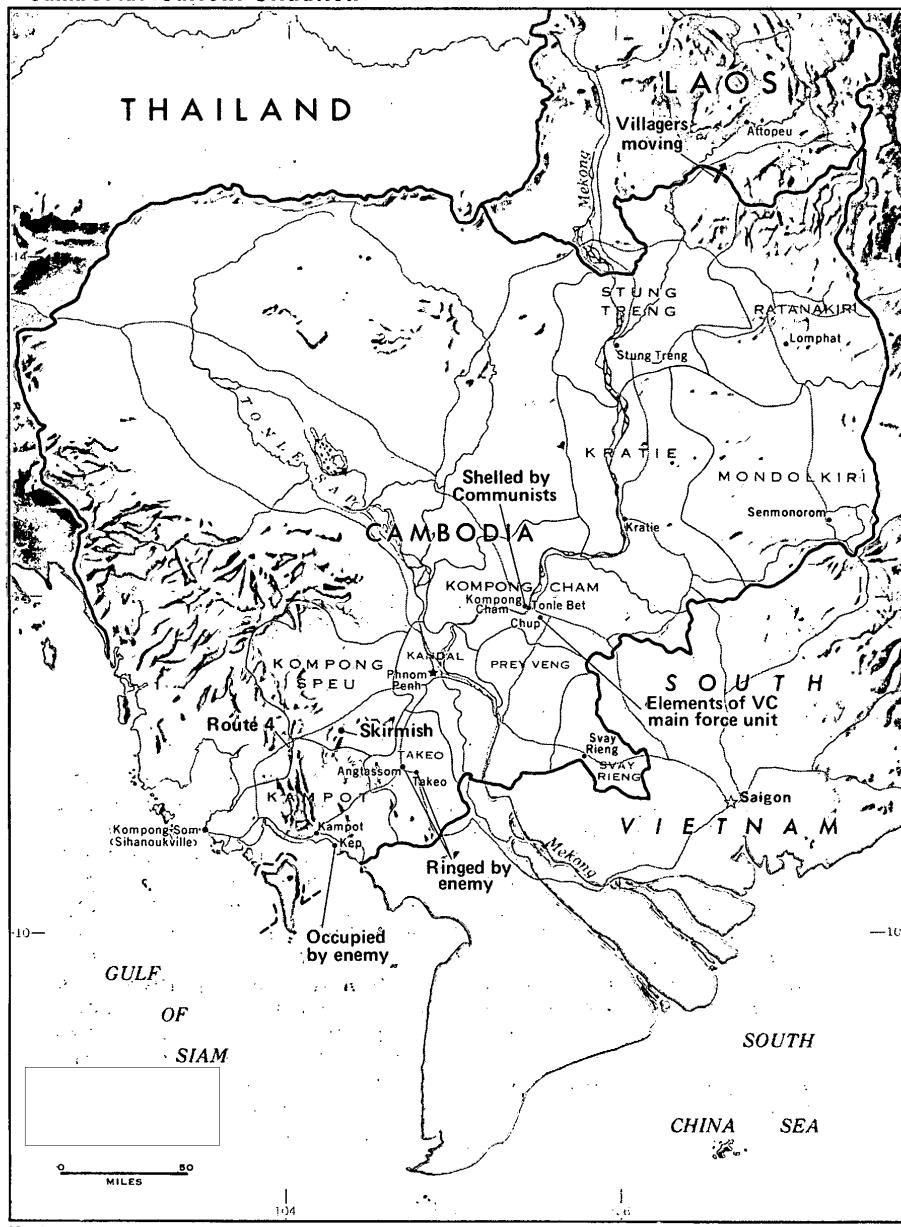
COLOMBIA

Yesterday the Colombian Government rescinded the curfew imposed almost a month ago in the aftermath of the elections. The government's candidate, Misael Pastrana, is assured of victory by a slim margin in the official counting--carefully scrutinized by representatives of all parties, factions, and candidates. Former dictator Rojas Pinilla and his disgruntled followers were unable to overturn the results with their early charges of fraud, and the riots and turmoil they unleashed were quickly and firmly put down. Some of Rojas Pinilla's lieutenants are in prison, and the government has stationed guards around his home in Bogota. Although the security forces deny that he is under house arrest, he has remained indoors.

Pastrana will be declared "President-elect" on or about the first of June, and his inauguration will be on Independence Day--? August. His first problem probably will be the organization of congress. He lacks three votes for control of the 118-member senate and 15 votes for control of the 210-member house.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Cambodia: The provincial capital of the northern border province of Stung Treng is under heavy Communist attack, according to intercepts from the local Cambodian commander there. Kompong Cham may also soon come under attack, while in the south the Communists still have Takeo town surrounded. The town is being resupplied by air. The government has confirmed that the coastal resort town of Kep has been occupied by several hundred Communists.

On the plus side, [redacted] as of last Monday, the road from Kompong Som (Sihanoukville) to Phnom Penh had been reopened; fuel supplies were moving to the capital in sufficient quantity.

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Arab States - Israel: Fedayeen groups in the Mount Hermon area rocketed Israeli border settlements yesterday, only 12 hours after the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. More fedayeen from other parts of Lebanon are moving into the area, and as if President Hili did not have his hands filled trying to keep them under control, he now has to deal with some unwelcome Syrian troops. A mixed force of between 2,000 and 3,000 Syrian Army elements and Syrian-backed Saiga commandos crossed into southern Lebanon yesterday. If Hili sets the army against the Syrians, he risks provoking a severe national crisis, but if he allows them to remain, the Israelis will find added excuse to hit Lebanon hard again.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

16 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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[redacted] Israel [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 1)

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Economic reform in South Vietnam seems as far away as ever. (Page 2)

[redacted] (Page 3)

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Communist troops consolidate their gains in north-eastern Cambodia. (Page 4)

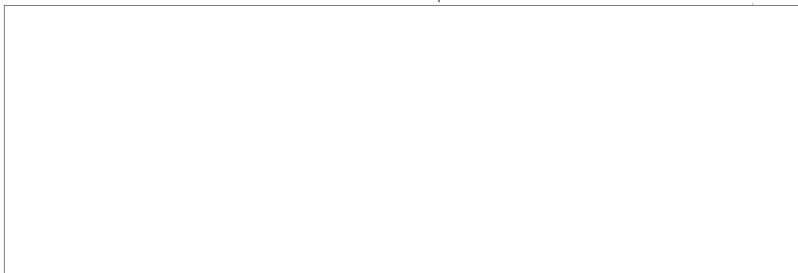
The USSR is pushing for at least token aid from its European allies in its dispute with China. (Page 5)

The Lebanese Government is badly shaken by the suspected presence of Syrian troops in southern Lebanon. (Page 6)

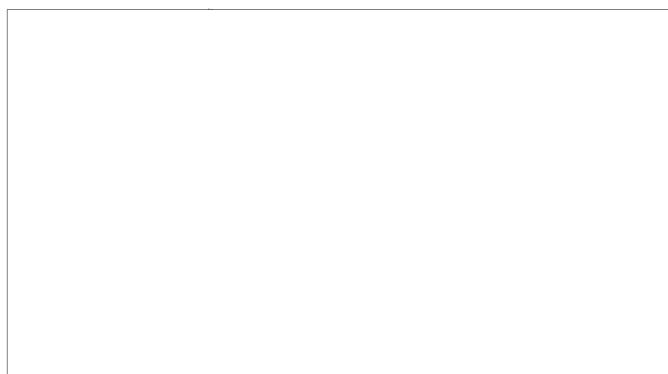
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Sensitive messages from the US Embassy in Saigon indicate that President Thieu and his economic ministers have tried to sound forthcoming about plans for urgently needed economic reforms to fight inflation and increase revenues. It seems likely, however, that they see the political costs of some of the needed measures as almost prohibitive; they may not have spoken frankly to US officials about their anxieties.

Saigon policy makers claim they are ready to increase domestic tax collection very substantially to prepare the way for further US economic aid. They have based much of their planning on getting special decree powers for President Thieu to increase taxes and on keeping the unpopular austerity taxes on the books. Now, however, South Vietnamese officials believe that the austerity taxes are likely to lapse soon because of opposition in the National Assembly. These officials are also beginning to waver about pressing for special decree powers, the keystone of their entire program, presumably because any request for such powers is likely to encounter very rough sledding in the assembly.

Thieu is well aware that the present wave of dissent, which is based on a variety of grievances, began in the days following his sudden announcement last fall of new austerity taxes. He almost certainly anticipates that serious efforts to enforce new taxation would alienate each affected population group and would compound the discontent already existing in the military establishment, the bureaucracy, and other salaried groups.

The feeling that it is politically impossible to take necessary economic measures has probably contributed significantly to the general discouragement that appears to be deepening among many of Thieu's top aides. If Thieu does not take such measures, however, the economy is probably in for deep trouble.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

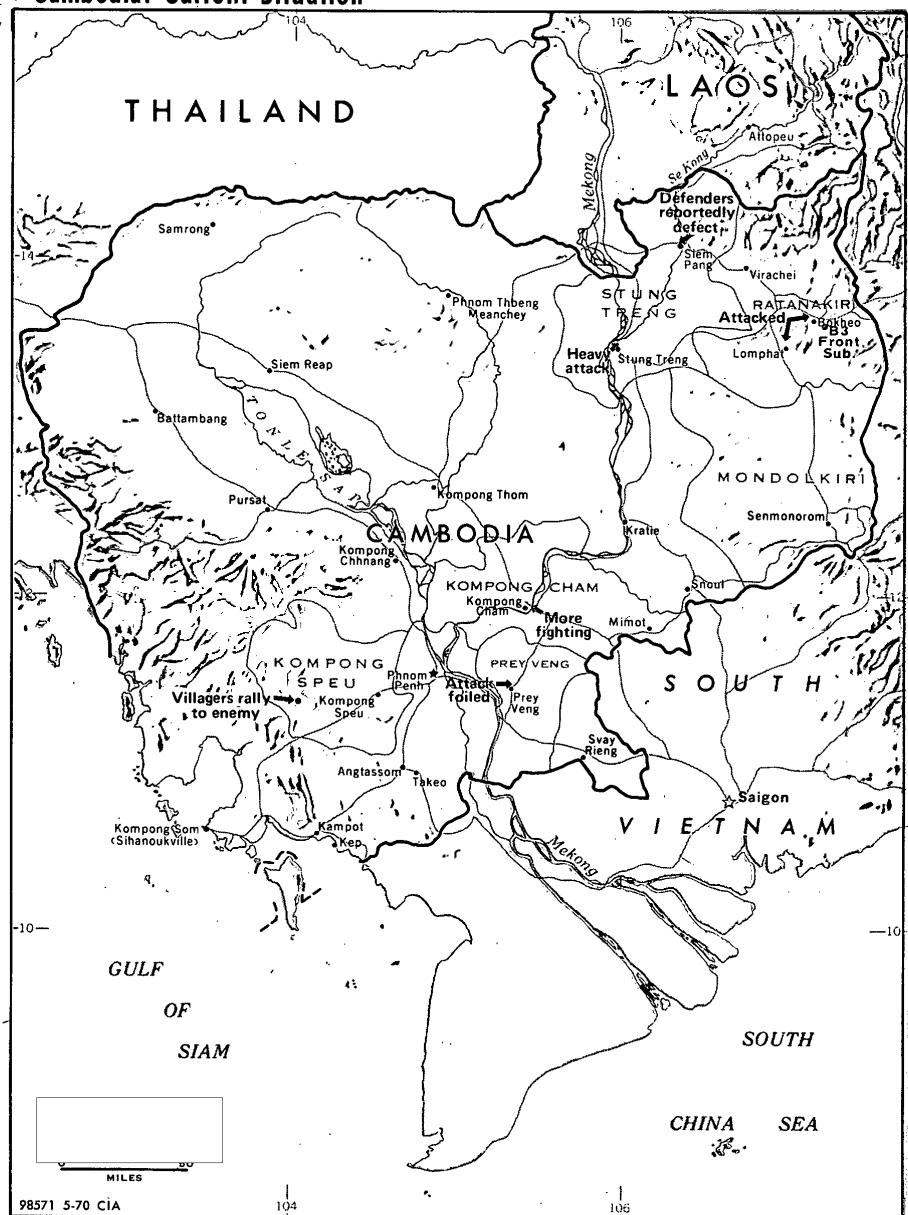
Stations serving the main political headquarters of COSVN and a number of military and operational subordinates are congregating in an area about 25 miles north of the Tay Ninh Province border--a good bit beyond the 21.7-mile limit set for US forces.

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Furthermore, the North Vietnamese 7th Division headquarters moved into a position just to the south of this new base, suggesting that elements of the division could have a security mission for these COSVN elements.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

The Communists are driving the government out of the northeastern provinces. The capital of Stung Treng Province apparently fell yesterday before a sharp attack by about 2,000 Communist troops supported by mortar and rocket fire.

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Additional enemy attacks against the isolated government positions in the northeast are almost a certainty, and it is probably only a matter of time before the government's presence there is eliminated. The current Communist drive probably is designed to ensure the maintenance of already existing supply routes from Laos and to open up other routes farther inland.

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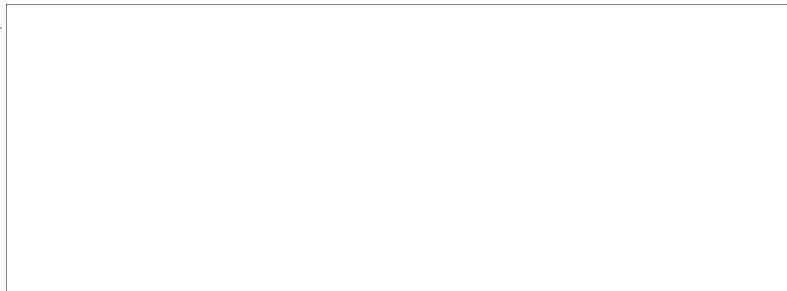
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR - EASTERN EUROPE - COMMUNIST CHINA

The USSR seems to be placing increased stress on spelling out the "internationalist" responsibility of its allies to support Moscow in its conflict with China. An editorial in the Soviet Defense Ministry journal Red Star on 14 May is the most recent of a series of articles playing up the alleged determination of Warsaw Pact states to rebuff aggression "anywhere," a tenet implicitly incorporated into the Soviet-Czechoslovak treaty signed and published last week.



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LEBANON

The government is embroiled in a dispute over the movement of armed commandos from Syria into Lebanese territory. The cabinet disagrees on how many Syrian troops are involved, and President Hilu

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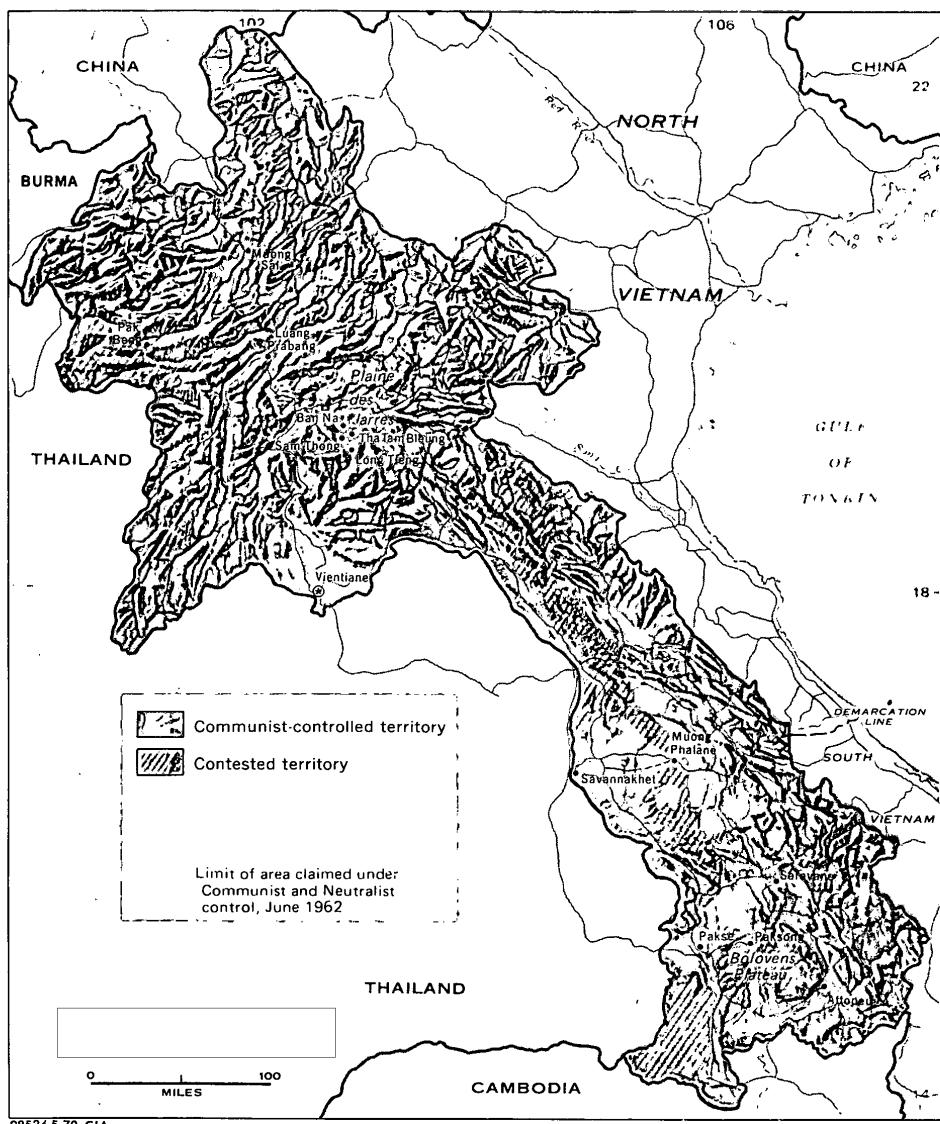
[redacted] and a majority of the cabinet maintain that there are large numbers of regular Syrian Army troops in Lebanon.

Interior Minister Jumblatt and fedayeen spokesmen, however, claim that the incursion is a normal rotation of guerrillas into the area and that there are no Syrian troops present.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Laos: Enemy forces are continuing their war of nerves against Saravane. Two rockets landed within the provincial capital early on 15 May, but there were no casualties or damage. An unspecified number of Communist troops are reported to be within two miles of the town, but no fighting has developed. In the north, the situation remains quiet. Two government irregular battalions are being transferred from Long Tieng to the southern military region to help maintain the government's control of the eastern edge of the Bolovens Plateau.

Iran: Over the past year or so, the Iranian Government has solicited terms for a surface-to-air missile system from various foreign manufacturers and governments. This week an Iranian official expressed his government's desire to receive a US proposal on the Hawk missile system prior to making a final decision. The Iranians had made earlier approaches regarding this system, but found it too expensive. Nevertheless, they would probably prefer the Hawk because of its compatibility with their US-supplied air defense system.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on *Page 1*.

Moscow [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 3)

In South Vietnam, the Communists are trying to muster up another highpoint of military activity towards the end of May. Meanwhile, the progovernment Buddhist faction, Quoc Tu, is threatening to disband because of lack of government support in its dispute with the An Quang sect. (Page 4)

President Balaguer's impressive showing in the Dominican Republic's elections pre-empts any legal attempt to discredit his victory. (Page 5)

In Barbados, the government is having second thoughts about hosting the Black Power Conference. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Kompong Cham city is still in government hands, but the situation remains bleak in the remainder of the northeast. According to press accounts, armored units and Khmer Krom mercenaries pushed through Communist roadblocks south of Kompong Cham yesterday and with the help of three government battalions already in the city forced Communist elements to withdraw. The Khmer Krom, who were sent into Cambodia from South Vietnam several weeks ago, had previously played an instrumental role in clearing Communists from the Neak Luong area.

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Farther north, Stung Treng is still under Communist control, although government remnants are holding the airstrip.

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Beleaguered government forces are holding on in Lomphat, Labansiek, and Bokheo, but Virachei town on the Se San River is being abandoned.

No new fighting has been reported in the south. In an attempt to recapture some of the initiative Cambodian units are pressing south on Routes 2 and 3 to relieve the pressure around Takeo town.

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(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

* * *

The 12-nation Djakarta conference on Cambodia concluded yesterday with a call for a broader international gathering at a future date. The communiqué designated the foreign ministers of Japan, Malaysia, and Indonesia to begin "urgent consultations" toward the convening of such a conference along lines suggested by the UN Secretary General and others. They are to approach the participants of the 1954 Geneva conference and all other interested parties. The communiqué followed anticipated lines in calling for cessation of hostilities in Cambodia forthwith and withdrawal of all foreign forces, respect for Cambodia's sovereignty and neutrality, and reactivation of the International Control Commission. A suggestion by the Thai foreign minister that the conference form its own observer team to investigate and report on developments in threatened countries such as Cambodia was unacceptable to most conference participants.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-FRANCE-CAMBODIA

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who also said that conversations between the Soviet and French ambassadors in Phnom Penh last week virtually confirm that the Soviets will not break relations with the Lon Nol government.

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All the Soviet officials involved in these talks are senior Far Eastern specialists in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Although they do not make policy they would not engage in these conversations without instructions from high level policy makers.

The fact that some Communist states, including China, have recognized Sihanouk's government and broken with Phnom Penh clearly has made Moscow's position of leadership in the Communist world awkward. If a western power, such as France, were to break with Phnom Penh, Moscow's position would be even more embarrassing.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Intercepted messages and other reports indicate that the Communists are apparently aiming for a more intense period of military activity towards the end of May. This surge would be similar to past enemy "highpoints," and probably will be directed at the pacification and Vietnamization programs. The brunt of these attacks will probably come in the I and IV corps. The Communists can be expected to take advantage of the 24-hour allied cease-fire on 19 May, a date which this year coincides with the birthday of both Buddha and Ho Chi Minh, to move closer to target areas.

In III Corps the enemy appears to be in a state of disarray as a result of allied operations in Cambodia, and the enemy highpoint in this area may not get under way. Enemy units around Saigon, for example, have not shown signs of preparation for attacks.

* * *

[redacted], the leadership of the progovernment Buddhist faction, Quoc Tu, is annoyed by the lack of government support they have received in their dispute with the militant An Quang Buddhist faction. The Quoc Tu hierarchy is particularly disturbed by the continued presence of a number of An Quang monks on its pagoda grounds and by its inability to oust them. The government has refused to remove the monks and has cautioned the Quoc Tu leaders not to use force against them. As a result, the Quoc Tu claims it will turn its national pagoda over to the government, disband its organizational structure, and return its leading monks to their local pagodas.

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By threatening to disband, the Quoc Tu leadership probably hopes to force the government to resolve the problem in its favor. Additionally, they may believe the government would be loath to allow the Quoc Tu--which is the official, regime-sanctioned Buddhist church of South Vietnam--to disband, leaving the militantly antigovernment An Quang sect practically unchallenged to influence the country's largely Buddhist population. The government can ill afford to lose the allegiance of any proregime organization, even such an ineffectual one as the Quoc Tu Buddhists, at a time when it is under fire from a wide variety of opposition elements.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Nearly complete returns indicate that Balaguer received about 56 percent of the total vote, trouncing his closest competitor Vice-President Lora by about 350,000 votes. Balaguer ran well throughout the country, even amassing a surprising plurality in the capital, where he was badly beaten in 1966.

Juan Bosch's major opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), which abstained, probably will say that the small turnout of 1.2 million votes out of a possible 1.8 million eligible voters demonstrates its continued strength. Although the PRD's abstention certainly helped the president, Balaguer's strong showing in Santo Domingo undercuts such a stand.

Between now and the inauguration on 16 August, Balaguer may bring some opposition figures into the government, as he has done in the past, and further isolate the PRD. Balaguer's popular mandate, added to his already strong military support, makes it unlikely that the left will have much success should it try to oust him. The center and right, as evidenced by the voting, are generally satisfied with the president's performance.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

BARBADOS

We have a report that the government plans to bar the Second Regional Black Power Conference scheduled for July. Prime Minister Barrow, evidently spurred by the recent disorders in Trinidad, has taken a strong stand against the violence that has been associated with black power activities. He has proposed legislation that would make it a criminal offense to preach violence or racial hatred.

A growing number of Caribbean leaders are ready to risk political attack from radicals and are appealing to broader political sentiment and the public's desire for tranquility. This new attitude toward the radicals could make it difficult for the Black Power Conference to find a meeting place.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Laos: Communist units continue to deploy for additional attacks in the Bolovens Plateau area. In the north, Communist troops drove Meo guerrillas from positions a few miles north of Sam Thong in the first significant counterattack in weeks. The enemy is once again in a position to launch rockets at Long Tieng.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A large-scale South Vietnamese cross-border operation into southern Cambodia is helping to relieve enemy pressure on two provincial capitals. (Page 1)

Some of the background to Peking's postponement of tomorrow's Sino-US meeting in Warsaw is given on Page 2.

Through the medium of a Pravda editorial yesterday, the Soviets lashed back at the Chinese for their polemical attacks on the Moscow leadership at the time of the Lenin centennial last month. (Page 3)

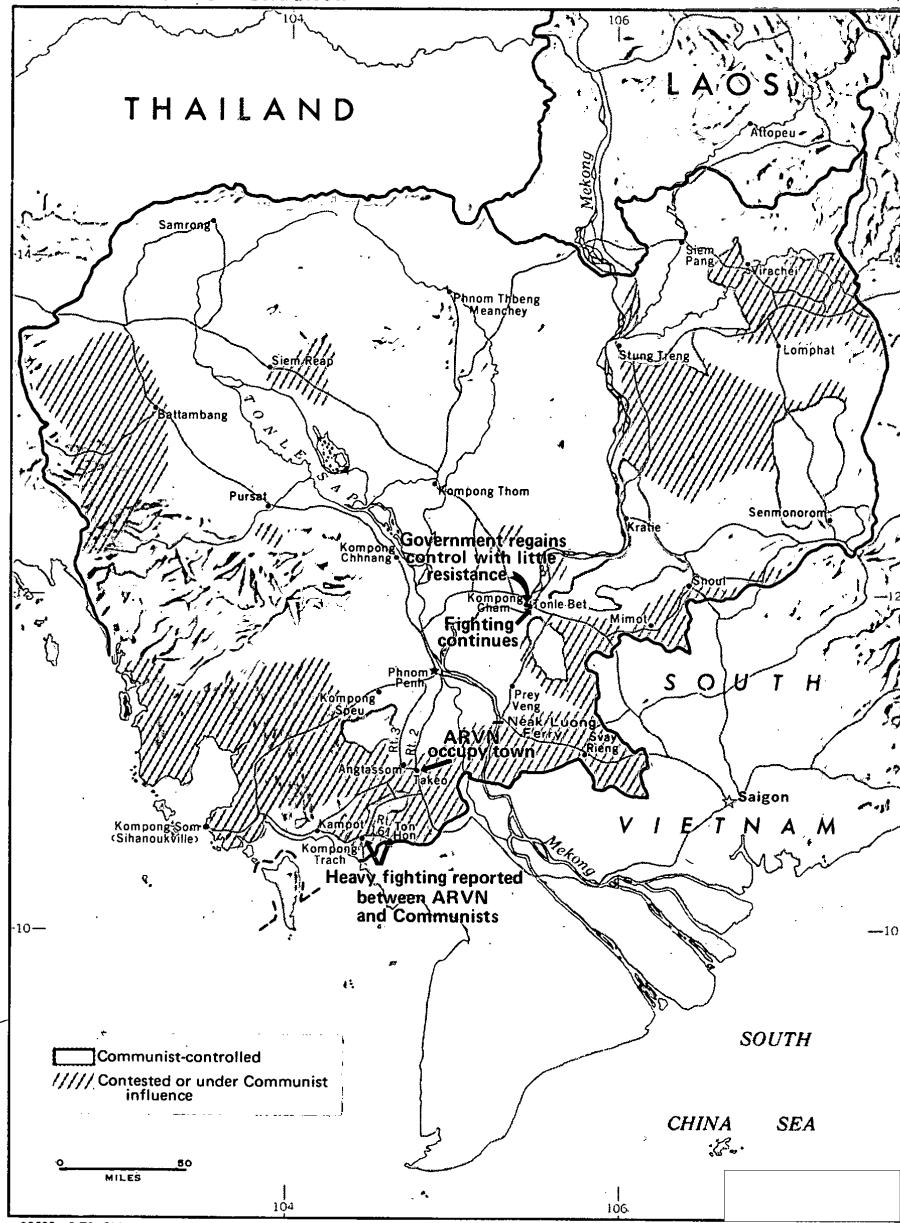
Romanian party chief Ceausescu left unexpectedly for Moscow yesterday, taking with him some of his principal associates. (Page 4)

The Soviets yesterday carried out a fourth test of what is thought to be a modified version of the SS-13 ICBM. (Page 5)

Laos is momentarily quiet, but new attacks in the south may be coming up soon. (Page 6).

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



98592 5-70 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**CAMBODIA**

The latest South Vietnamese operation along the southern border has helped reduce Communist military pressure. South Vietnamese troops moved into the nearly deserted town of Takeo yesterday, meeting little resistance. Some of the enemy troops that have besieged Takeo for the past few weeks apparently fled north toward Phnom Penh, where they may soon encounter Cambodian Army elements headed for Takeo on Routes 2 and 3. In Kampot Province, heavy fighting was reported between South Vietnamese troops and the Communists near several towns on Route 161.

Northeast of Phnom Penh, government forces are consolidating their control over Kompong Cham city and are now fighting in the town of Tonle Bet, on the east bank of the Mekong. The Communists apparently did not put up any stiff resistance at Kompong Cham, but they may be regrouping nearby. Government losses in regaining Kompong Cham were light, and most of the casualties seem to have been caused by South Vietnamese air strikes on the city.

The morale of government security forces is still very low, in spite of recent allied military assistance.

[redacted] recently that poor morale was in part a result of the near annihilation of a battalion of raw Cambodian Army recruits near the Neak Luong ferry before the ferry was recaptured by South Vietnamese troops. [redacted] the Cambodians are having trouble with the Khmer Krom mercenary troops. [redacted] they were well trained and aggressive, but [redacted] they were refusing to serve under Cambodian Army command.

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The Communists are organizing Sihanouk's apparatus in "liberated areas" of Cambodia. An intercepted Viet Cong message indicates that a "conference of delegates" of Sihanouk's "National United Front of Cambodia" was held early this month in an unspecified area of Cambodia. The three leading leftist members of Sihanouk's cabinet were said to be present, as were a number of other obscure individuals who purportedly were representatives of various elements of Cambodian society. [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA - US

Although the Chinese waited until the last minute to announce postponement of tomorrow's meeting in Warsaw, the move almost certainly had been under debate from the time US troops entered Cambodia.

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The final decision to postpone the talks may not have been reached until 17 May, however.

The Chinese apparently felt that to meet while US troops were engaged in ground operations in Cambodia would prove embarrassing and tend to undercut the image of militance and resolution Peking has adopted in response to developments in Indochina. In particular, the Chinese probably believe that signs they were "treating with the enemy" on a business-as-usual basis would raise questions in Hanoi at a moment when relations with the North Vietnamese were improving. It would, moreover, tend to blur the distinction the Chinese have been at pains to cultivate between their reaction to the Indochina crisis and that of Moscow, which has been equivocating on the Cambodian issue.

The Chinese are clearly prepared to resume bilateral meetings once US troops have withdrawn from Cambodia. They have said that a new date can be arranged through the normal diplomatic mechanism in Warsaw on 20 June and their public announcement of the postponement was couched in much milder language than their similar statement of February 1969. In effect the postponement is a costless "escalatory" reaction to Cambodian events, suggesting that the US cannot expect either a dialogue or an improvement of relations while Peking is under the "threat" of expanding conflict in Indochina. It nevertheless leaves the door open for renewed contacts when the current situation is relieved. Moreover, the Chinese continue to view the negotiations as an important source of much-needed political leverage in their dispute with the USSR.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR - COMMUNIST CHINA

The USSR's most sweeping and authoritative condemnation of China to appear since the Sino-Soviet border talks began last fall ran as an editorial in Pravda yesterday. It is Moscow's response to the full-dress anti-Soviet blast which Peking fired off for the Lenin centennial last month and which clearly hit raw nerves in the Kremlin.

Among other things, the Pravda editorial contained:

- personal invective against the cult of Mao;
- charges ranging from Mao's irresponsible views on the inevitability of war to his forcible assimilation of national minorities in border areas;
- charges that Mao is to blame for "the latest events in Indochina";
- claims that the Chinese are trying to undermine relations between members of the Warsaw Pact.

The last cited charge, whether true or false, reflects Moscow's extreme sensitivity to any design Peking may have to intrude into the USSR's European preserve. It is a particularly sore spot just now, for the Soviets are working to create the impression of bloc solidarity against China.

The statement avoided any implication that the Sino-Soviet border dispute is heating up. It reiterated the necessity for reaching some agreement in the talks in Peking.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ROMANIA-USSR

Party chief Ceausescu departed unexpectedly for Moscow yesterday, presumably for further argument with the Soviets over basic policy differences. The announcement of his departure at the head of a ranking delegation stated only that the Romanian and Soviet leaderships had agreed to hold "talks," suggesting that the trip was at Moscow's behest.

Judging from the composition of the group, the Romanians are prepared to discuss ideology, economics, and military affairs. According to the announcement, the delegation was seen off by most national leaders and "many Bucharest citizens." A sendoff of these dimensions indicates that Ceausescu expects to have difficult talks with the Soviets, and that he intends to give little ground.

Romanian actions in recent months have done little to improve the normally cool relations between Bucharest and Moscow:

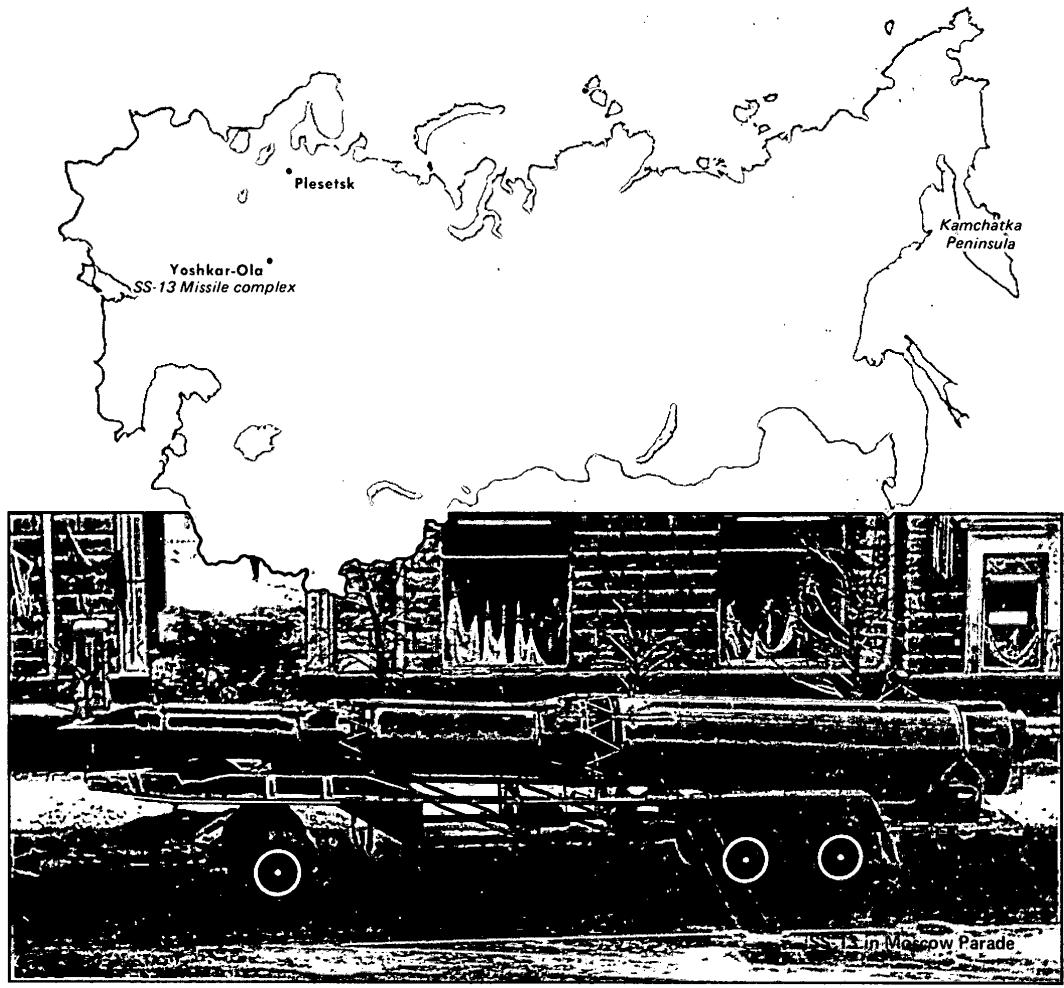
--Earlier this year Romania tabled proposals of its own on European security and disarmament which were deliberately at cross purposes with Soviet policy.

--More recently, Bucharest followed China's lead in recognizing Sihanouk's government-in-exile rather than playing the USSR's wait-and-see game.

--Last week at the CEMA meeting in Warsaw, Romania did not join the new CEMA investment bank, presumably because the bank would tie the Romanians too closely to the Communist states and would inhibit Bucharest from expanding ties with the West.

The central issue in Moscow's view is Romania's "obstructionism" within the Warsaw Pact, including its continuing resistance to holding Warsaw Pact maneuvers on Romanian territory. Other politically touchy subjects to be discussed are Romania's good relations with both of Moscow's main antagonists, the US and Communist China.

Soviets Probably Modifying SS-13



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

- USSR

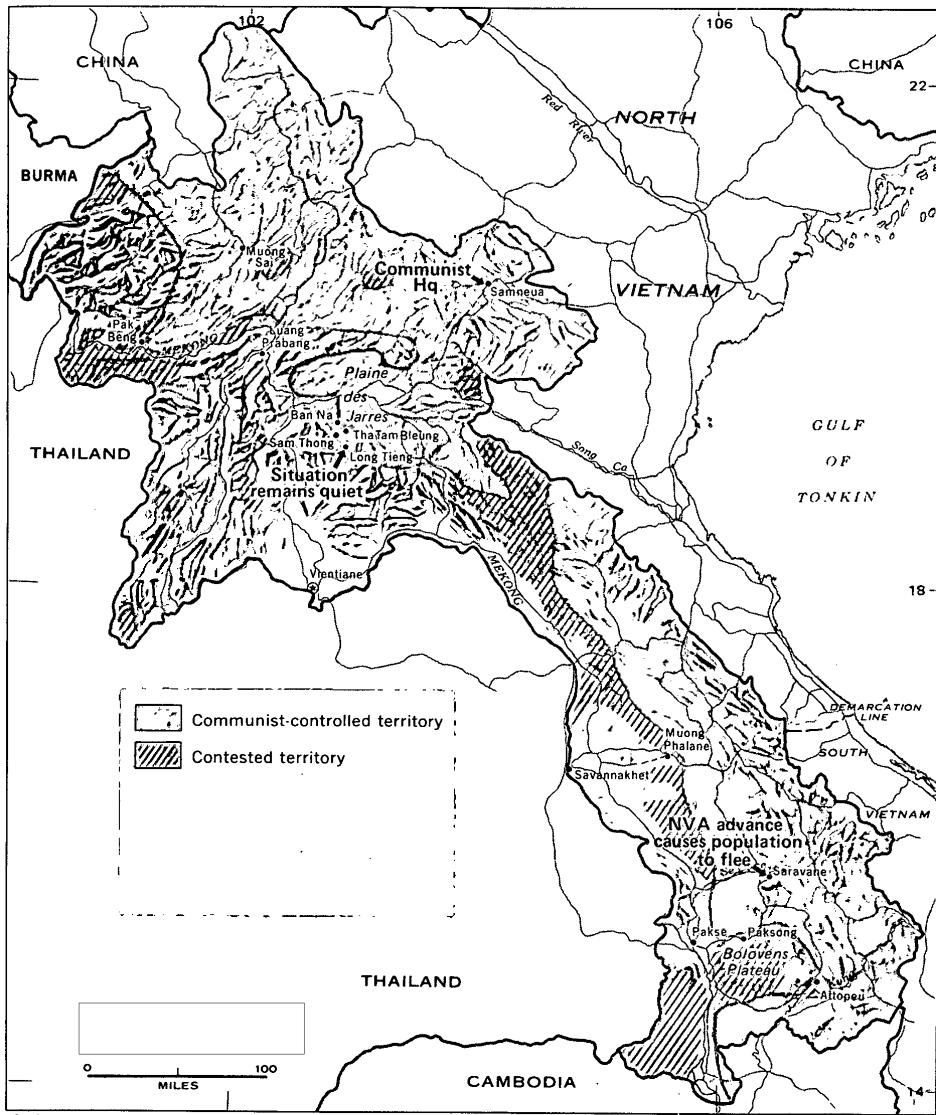
The Soviets yesterday conducted the fourth flight test of what is believed to be a modified version of the SS-13 ICBM. The missile was launched from the Plesetsk test center to Kamchatka. There is not enough data yet to determine the exact nature of the modifications. They appear to include a new re-entry vehicle and possibly alterations to the launch vehicle. There is no indication of penetration aids or multiple re-entry vehicles.

The SS-13, which is akin to the US Minuteman I, is the Soviets' only solid-fuel ICBM. It has been flight tested to a range of 4,700 miles, but probably has a maximum range somewhat in excess of that. From Yoshkar-ola, the only missile complex where SS-13s are deployed, a missile with a 5,000 mile range could not reach a number of important targets in the US. Increased range, therefore, may be one of the objectives of the modification program.

Twenty SS-13s at Yoshkar-ola are operational and four additional groups of ten silos each are under construction.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Laos: There has been no significant ground action in the south over the past few days, but an unusually brisk exchange of messages between local Pathet Lao units there and the Communists' headquarters in Samneua suggests a new round of attacks may be imminent. Lao commanders are bracing themselves for an early attack on Saravane; rumors that three North Vietnamese battalions are moving on the town has caused a general exodus of civilians to a nearby government outpost. In the north the Long Tieng area is quiet.

West Germany - East Germany: [redacted]

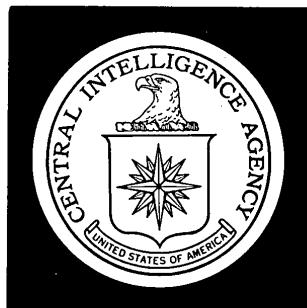
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[redacted]
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Bolivia: The army is putting more heat on President Ovando to remove leftists from the cabinet. This renewed pressure has already produced the resignation of Minister of Energy Quiroga, but Ovando may have to jettison others if he is to keep his own job. At last report the cabinet was still in marathon session to consider the armed forces' demands.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

20 May 1970

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Cambodia

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Communications of COSVN units continue to reflect considerable disarray. (Page 3)

Communist forces in Northern Laos have been holding back, but they are still a considerable threat. (Page 4)

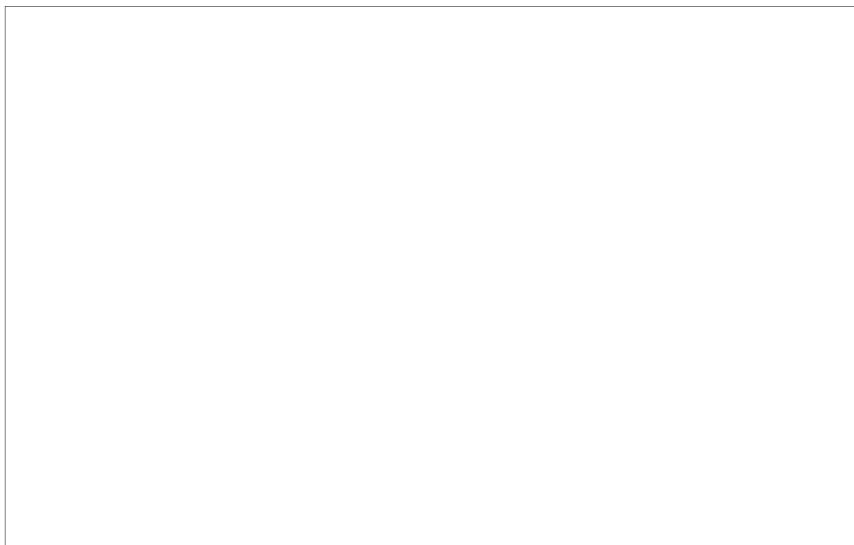
Some highlights from Fidel Castro's latest speech are on Page 6.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

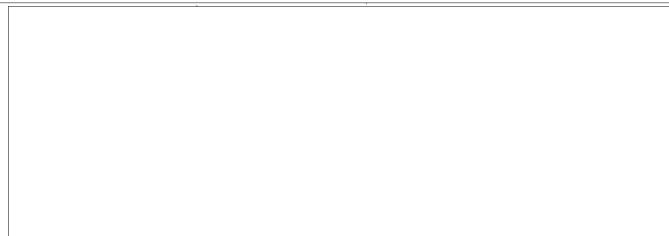
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

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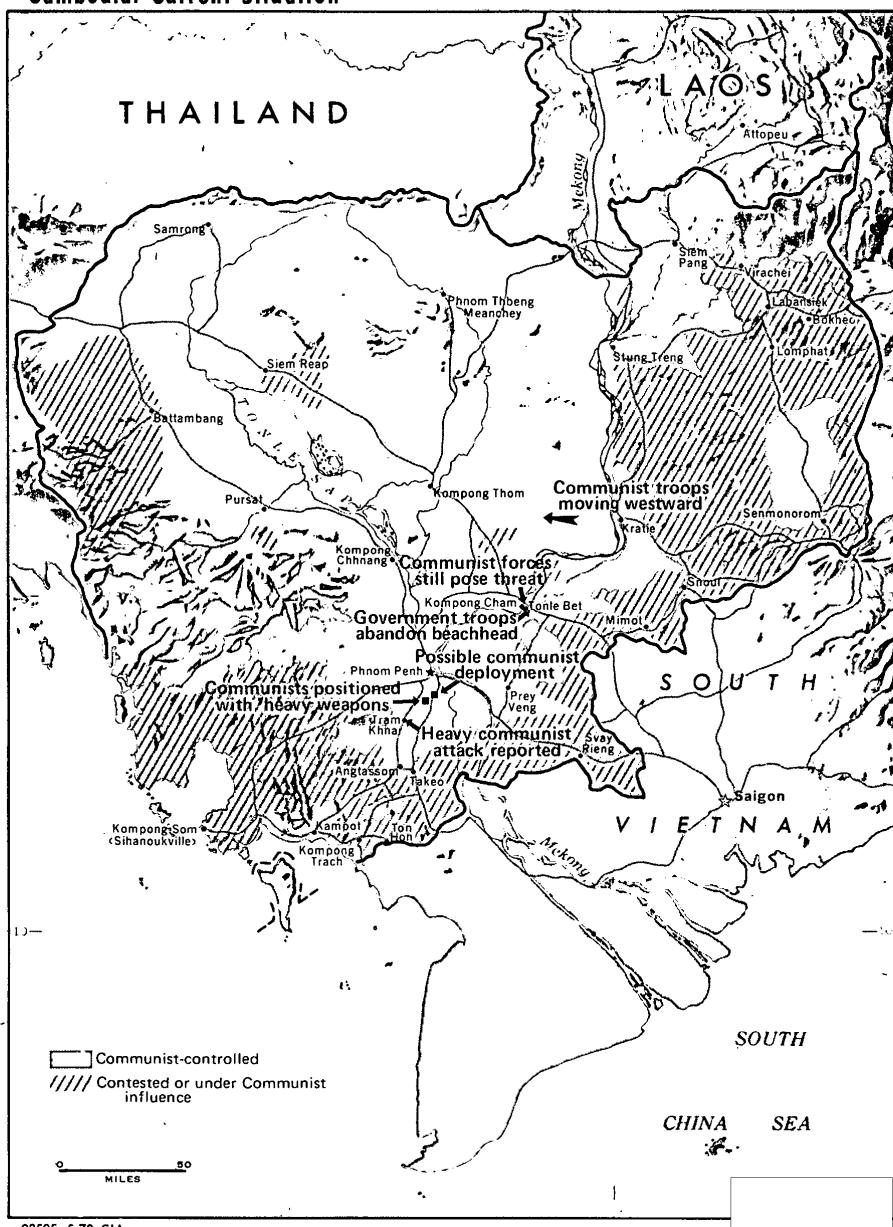


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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On the military side, the Communists apparently are becoming more active again south of Phnom Penh. An army message reports that some Communist forces intend to move from Prey Veng to an area just south of the capital, where another enemy unit with heavy weapons is already installed in a Vietnamese temple. According to press reports, however, the only actual fighting south of Phnom Penh is at the crossroads town of Tram Khnar, 25 miles from the capital.

The military situation in the city of Kompong Cham is still tense. Some enemy elements apparently are threatening the city from entrenched positions on its outskirts, and yesterday all government forces pulled back across the Mekong River to Kompong Cham when Communist pressure made their beachhead at Tonle Bet untenable.

[redacted] many Vietnamese residents in the northern provinces of Kratie and Stung Treng are rallying to Communist forces.

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[redacted] a number of young Chinese from Kompong Cham and other population centers also are joining the enemy.

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The Communists apparently are becoming increasingly active on the west bank of the Mekong. Intercepted messages also indicate that some Communist troops are moving westward into Kompong Thom Province, and an army supply truck has been seized by the Communists in that province. A Cambodian battalion is moving into the area to try and block further Communist inroads.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

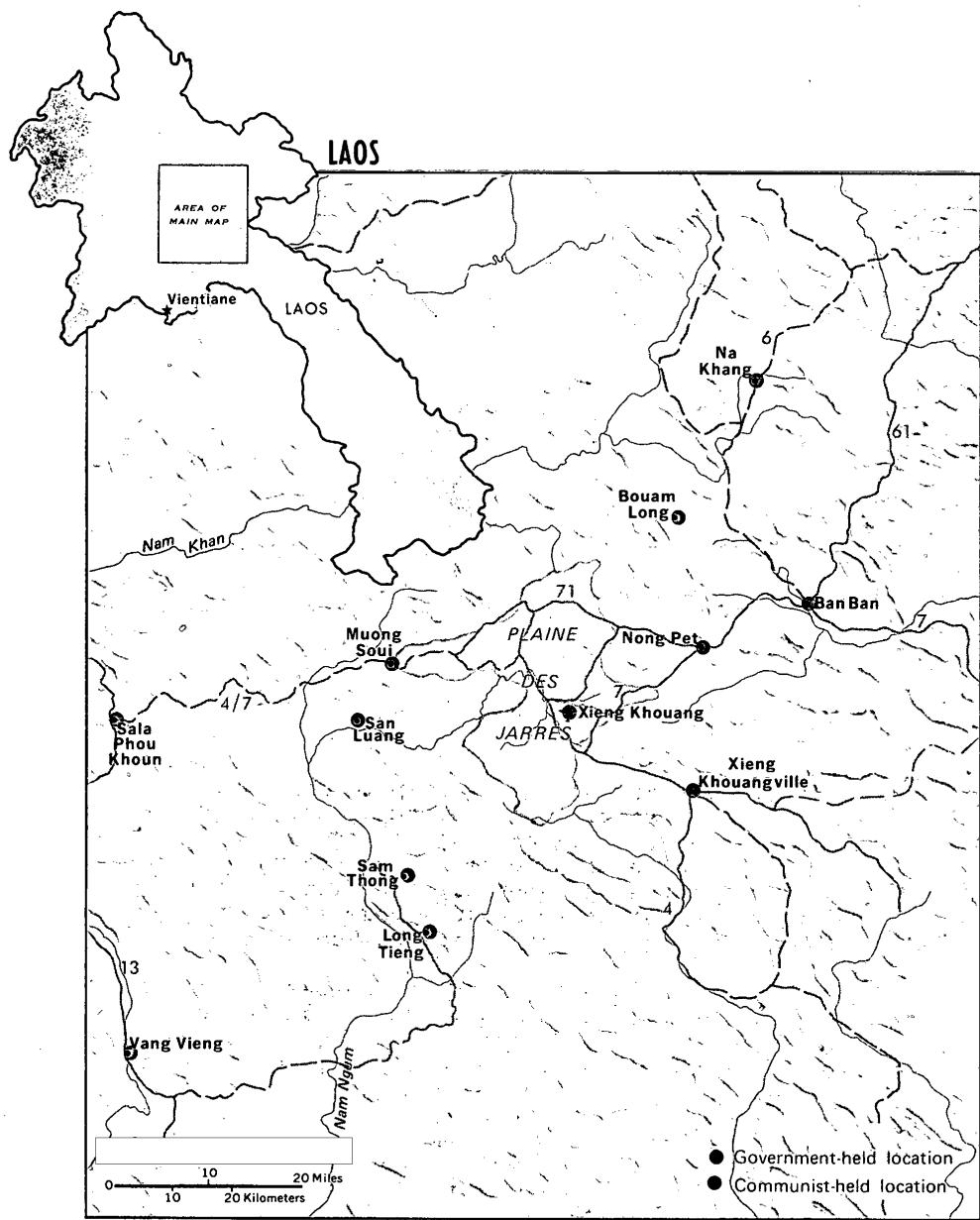
The northward movement of important elements of COSVN to a site in Cambodia about 20 miles north of the border, which we reported in The President's Daily Brief on 16 May, has been confirmed

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Communications of [redacted] COSVN units continue to reflect considerable disarray caused by allied cross-border operations. Messages exchanged between intelligence units, for example, have alluded to "insurmountable problems" and orders to "set up adequate defenses" and "conserve food stocks." Some units have been directed to avoid contact with allied forces.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**LAOS**

In recent weeks General Vang Pao's guerrillas have secured Long Tieng Valley from all but minor enemy harassment, and substantial numbers of civilians have begun returning to the area. For the most part, North Vietnamese troops have been reacting to ground actions rather than initiating them. Intercepted enemy messages have shown that casualties have been heavy in some North Vietnamese units. The Communists' extended supply lines into the Long Tieng area are vulnerable to ground harassment, and heavy rains are only a few weeks away.

The redeployment of several front-line units of the North Vietnamese 316th Division back onto the Plaine des Jarres suggests the Communists are already shifting to a defensive posture. These deployments and the continuing presence of the 312th Division suggest that the Communists are hoping to avoid a repetition of last year's debacle, when Vang Pao's offensive took the Plaine des Jarres almost without a fight.

Vang Pao still faces a considerable threat. Recently the Communists seized several government positions within rocket range of Long Tieng--demonstrating that they still retain an offensive capability. Some 1,500 men have been sent to southern Laos to meet the upsurge in Communist military activity there, and Vang Pao's positions remain vulnerable to sapper attacks.

If Vang Pao succeeds in clearing the area south of the Plaine, he can sit tight, consolidate his hold around Long Tieng, and give his troops a much needed respite. This strategy might include an effort to recapture bases north of the Plaine and some harassment of the enemy's rear areas, but it would avoid a major wet season offensive. Such a course could conceivably return the fighting in the north to the pre-1969 ground rules, when the Plaine was more or less a Communist sanctuary and the Communists refrained from driving toward Long Tieng and the Meo heartland.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

This course runs the risk of allowing the Communists to maintain forward positions on the Plaine from which they could mount a fresh offensive toward Long Tieng in the fall. An offensive to push the Communists from the Plaine once again or to interdict Route 7 might set back Communist plans, but it would probably be more costly than last year's effort.

Either way, it seems doubtful that the Meo guerrillas can extricate themselves from the war of attrition in which they have been locked with the Communists for the past decade.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CUBA

In a two-hour speech last night, Fidel Castro ranged over a great variety of topics. Some of the highlights:

--A blast at the British because Cuban exile groups use the Bahamas. "Cuba is not going to adopt a policy of standing by with folded arms."

--An admission that the sugar harvest will be less than the goal of ten million tons. "This is something hard to take."

--A statement that Cuba "should withdraw from the Swiss Embassy its status as representative of the United States' interests in Cuba."

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

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21 May 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted] Communist troops meanwhile continue to press government forces. (Page 1)

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The Communists apparently intend to keep important elements of their logistic apparatus in the Laotian panhandle during the rainy season. (Page 3)

Soviet [Redacted]
[Redacted] (Page 4)

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Prime Minister Sato is concerned that the textile export issue may damage broader US-Japanese relations. (Page 5)

The position of moderates in the Bolivian cabinet has been strengthened by the resignation of a radical leftist minister. (Page 6)

Peking's statement yesterday on Cambodia broke no new ground but did lend Mao Tse-tung's personal prestige to established Chinese positions. (Page 7)

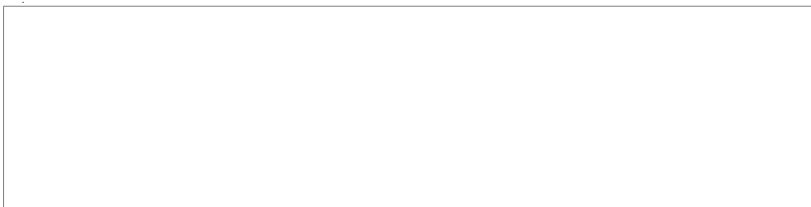
The southward movement of some North Vietnamese infiltration groups apparently is still being delayed. (Page 7)

In South Vietnam, North Vietnamese divisional elements in northern III Corps may soon become more active. (Page 7)

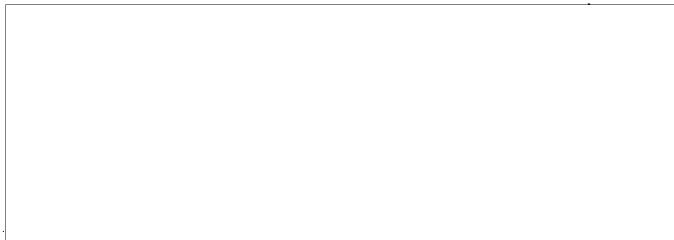
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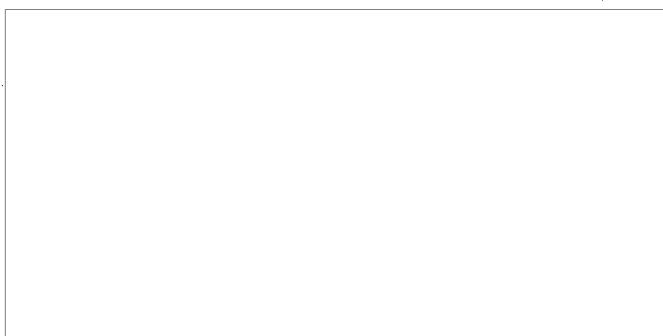
CAMBODIA



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The Lon Nol regime [redacted] must be disturbed about
the country's declining economic position. [redacted]

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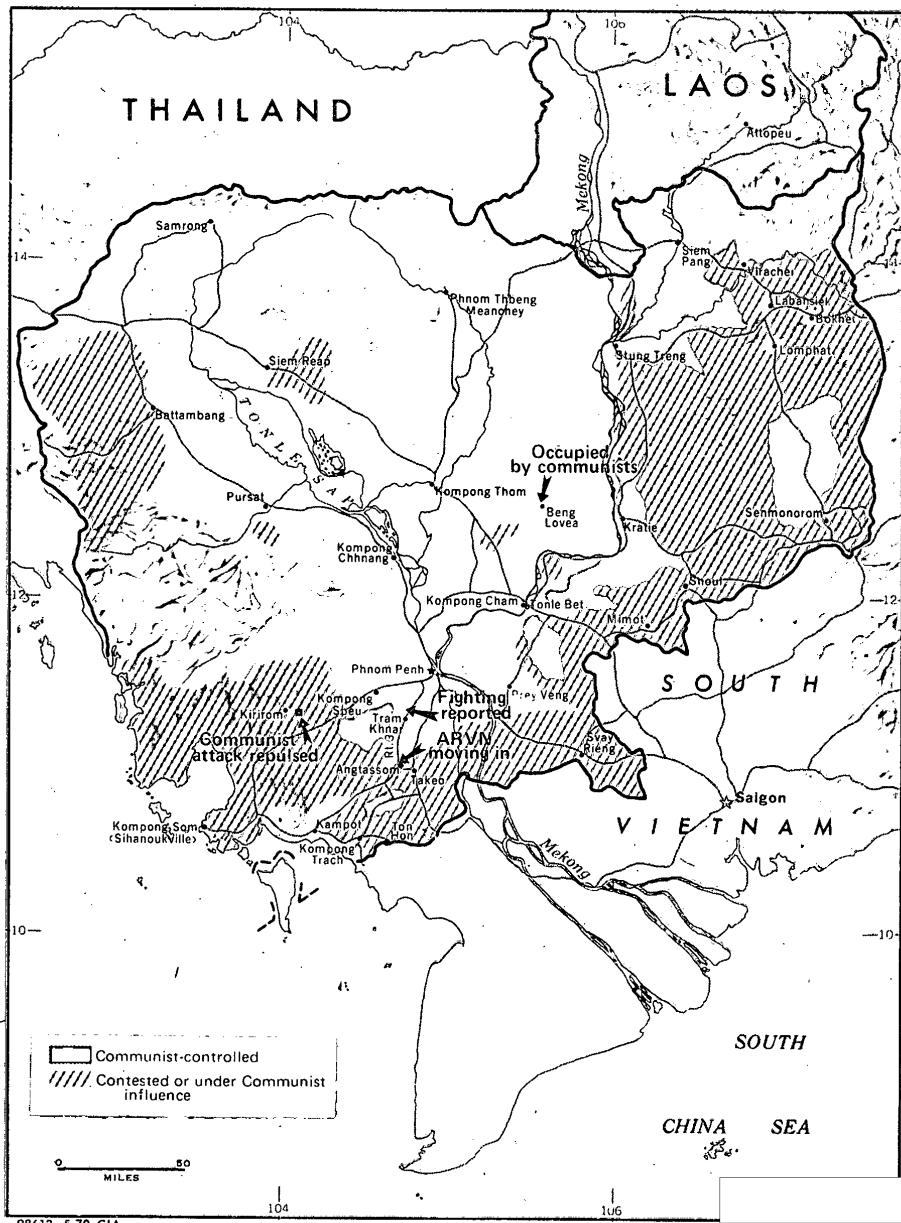
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[redacted]
the national treasury is almost empty, civil servants
and soldiers are not being paid, and the government
is making no large purchases or placing orders of
any kind. In addition, the mass exodus of Vietnamese
blue-collar workers from Phnom Penh has forced
many businesses to close. Businessmen are generally
reluctant to make capital investments, and wealthy
Chinese in Phnom Penh are sending their families
abroad and trying to convert their Cambodian currency
into hard currencies.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



3.5(c)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

* * *

The government post at Beng Lovea, in Kompong Thom Province, was occupied on Tuesday by an estimated 1,000 Communist troops. This is the deepest westerly penetration by major enemy forces in this area to date; it is likely that Communist forces recently detected moving west from Kratie were involved in this action. Small bands of Communists are now operating farther westward in the province, and they are telling villagers that they will attack the provincial capital.

In Kompong Speu Province, government forces beat off an attack by about 250 Communist troops against a munitions depot near Kirirom. According to press reports, some fighting is still going on about 24 miles south of Phnom Penh, where a government battalion is battling several hundred Communist troops dug in along Route 3. South Vietnamese troops apparently have reached the embattled town of Angtassom, farther south on the same road.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS - NORTH VIETNAM

In The President's Daily Brief of 14 May, we reported the first indications that the Communists were preparing to maintain an above-normal level of logistic operations in the Laotian panhandle during the rainy season. Intercepted enemy messages of 16 and 17 May now disclose that antiaircraft artillery units defending three major supply groups in the panhandle probably will stay in place for the entire rainy season.

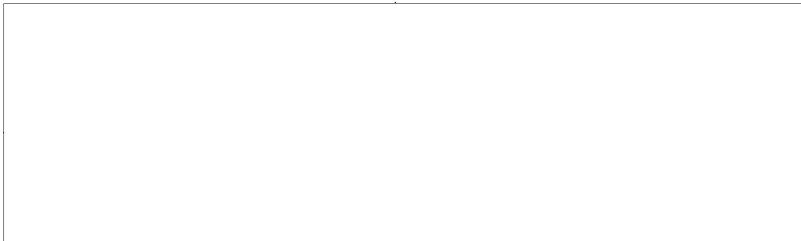
There is still not enough evidence to conclude that the entire logistic system in Laos will be active this summer. Normally, the major logistic components withdraw to North Vietnam, although limited activity continues in the summer in the western DMZ - central panhandle area. It now appears, however, that the Communists have decided to keep a significant portion of their panhandle supply assets available for major logistic operations during the rainy season.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

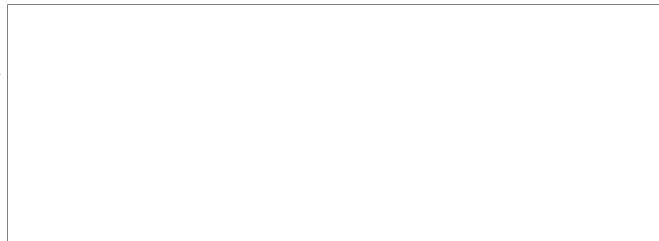
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR 

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN-US

The impasse with the US over textile exports has become an important domestic political issue in Japan. At a recent press conference, Prime Minister Sato claimed that the US had adopted a more flexible attitude, and suggested that the Japanese should be willing to accept a two- or three-year arrangement on voluntary restraints. Japanese textile industry leaders have publicly criticized Sato for his conciliatory approach, and the textile problem has received heavy coverage in the Japanese press in recent months to the delight of Sato's political opponents.

The prime minister is worried that the textile issue may damage broader US-Japanese relations. He also is concerned that the US Congress might pass protectionist legislation if an agreement on voluntary export quotas is not reached soon.

Sato seems determined to use the full weight of his office to help resolve the impasse. Given the delicacy of the issue and its political overtones, however, he has been moving cautiously and indirectly. For example, Sato waited until the Diet session ended before making his latest and strongest appeal to the Japanese textile industry to compromise.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

BOLIVIA

The forced resignation of radical leftist Minister of Energy Quiroga (see The President's Daily Brief of 19 May) appears to have tipped the balance of power in President Ovando's cabinet to the moderates. In particular, Minister of Interior Ayoroa, who oversees police and security forces, is now indisputably the most important cabinet figure. The considerable power he wields officially is enhanced by his cordial relations with army commander Miranda and other military leaders.

Quiroga's exit could mean the eventual departure of the remaining leftists in the government, prominent among whom are Information Minister Bailey and Planning Minister Ortiz. These radicals, with Quiroga as their recognized ideological leader, are blamed by the military for the government's leftward drift. Ovando has been under great pressure from the armed forces to replace them and other civilians in the cabinet.

Volatile student and labor groups have so far not reacted violently to Quiroga's departure. These groups could easily be aroused, however, if Quiroga decides to test public support of the administration.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Communist China: Yesterday's Chinese statement on Cambodia, attributed to Mao Tse-tung, did not break any new ground and was quite mild compared to previous Chinese commentary on Indochina. It probably was designed to lend Mao's prestige to China's position on Indochina, and further enhance China's position in Hanoi at the expense of Moscow. Mao made no commitment on Chinese action in Cambodia--not even the vague promise of material support in the struggle--and simply repeated the standard theme that the danger of a new world war "still exists." The tone of the statement meshes fairly neatly with the attitude taken by Peking in connection with the postponement of the Warsaw talks.

North Vietnam: An intercept indicates that as of 18 May, the movement of some southbound infiltration groups destined for southern South Vietnam and adjacent areas of Cambodia was still suspended. The troops that had been halted were numerous enough to have made serious inroads into the rainy season supplies of a major staging area in the Laotian pan-handle. Other infiltration groups apparently are still moving inside the system, but this could reflect the need to avoid overloading any one station. No new infiltration groups have been noted entering the system since 8 April.

South Vietnam: There are signs that elements of two North Vietnamese divisions may be planning diversionary actions in northern III Corps in an effort to relieve the pressure of allied cross-border operations. Some units of the 5th Division have been ordered to attack selected targets and have increased their reconnaissance activities. One regiment of the 7th Division has shifted back into Tay Ninh Province from Cambodia and is now near several allied targets, including artillery bases and a Special Forces camp.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Israelis

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(Page 1)

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Communist insurgency is increasing in western Cambodia. In Phnom Penh, Cambodian students are incensed over the alleged misbehavior of ARVN troops.
(Page 3)

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China. (Page 5)

Romania's serious flood damage has gone unnoticed in the USSR. (Page 5)

East German Premier Stoph relied on old formulas during his meeting with Chancellor Brandt yesterday.
(Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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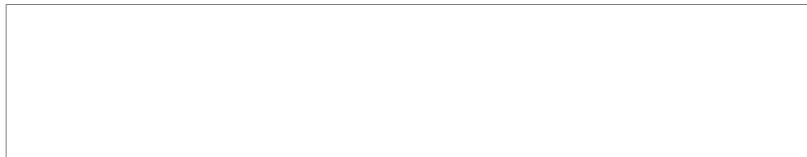
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-ISRAEL

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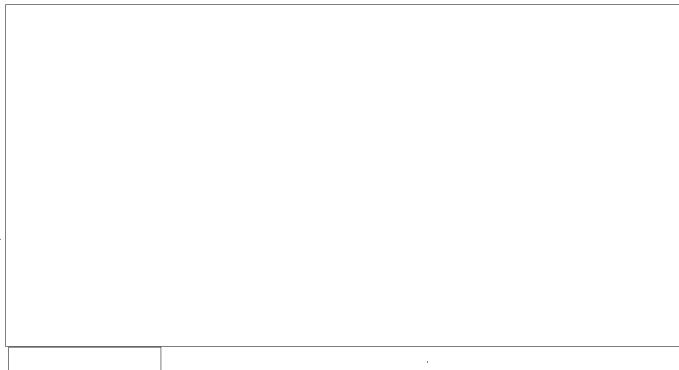


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

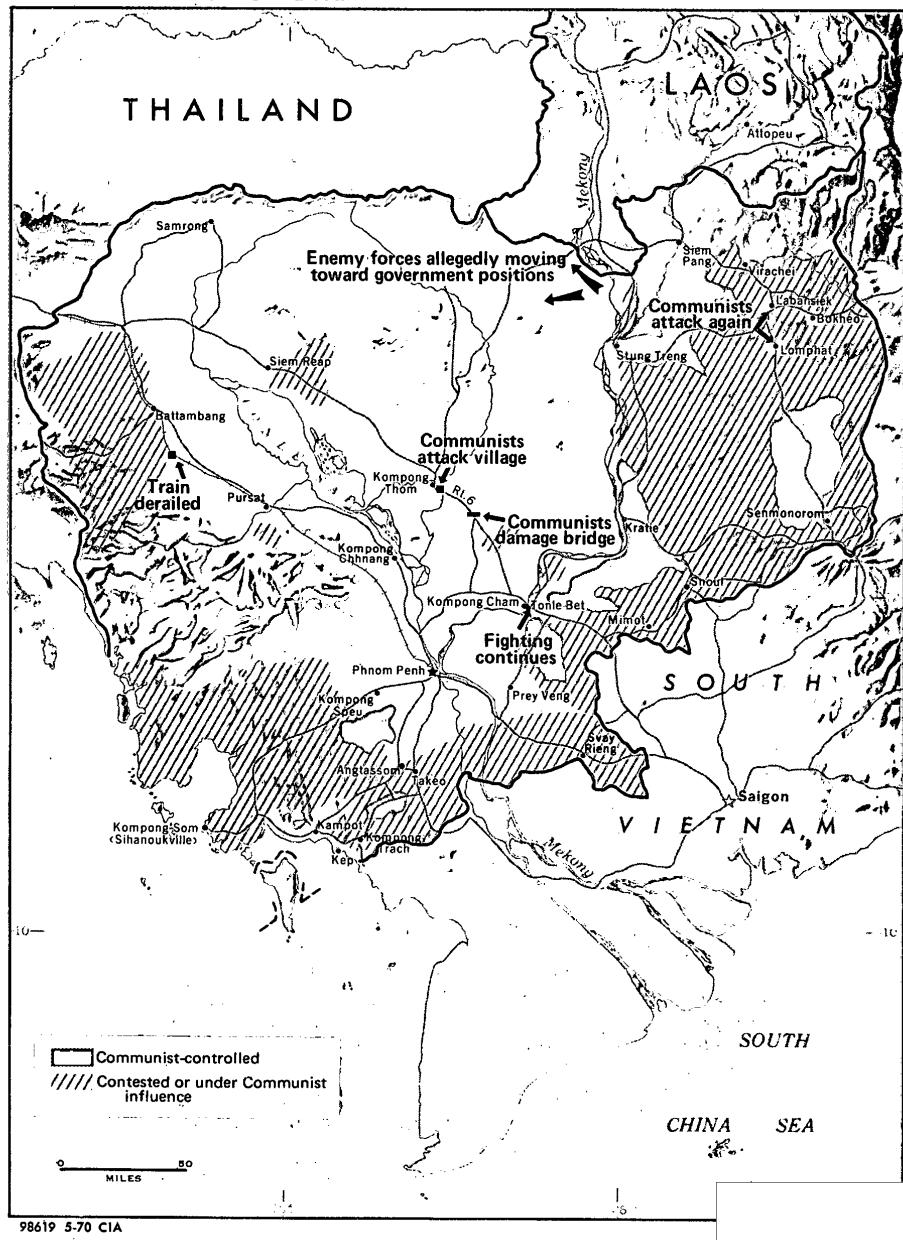


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



3.5(c)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

The Communists are becoming more active in western Cambodia. Service was interrupted for the first time on the rail link between Battambang and Phnom Penh when a train was derailed on 20 May. The Communists also damaged a bridge on Route 6, which connects the Cambodian capital with Siem Reap city. Both actions probably were carried out by indigenous Cambodian Communist insurgents.

Small insurgent groups have been asking plantation owners in Battambang Province to stop planting rice, implying that they would take measures to enforce such a ban. Some of the smaller land-holders have stopped planting operations, but the larger planters claim they will not be intimidated by the insurgents. Battambang is Cambodia's major rice producing area, and disruption there would place additional strains on the economy.

In Kompong Cham Province, the government has again attacked the town of Tonle Bet on the east bank of the Mekong. The brunt of the fighting is being borne by a battalion of Cambodian mercenary troops. South Vietnamese army officers have been highly critical of the Cambodian Army's inept efforts in Kompong Cham. They blame Lon Nol for failing to give regional Cambodian forces any clear and comprehensive defense directives, particularly in this province, and they are pessimistic over the eventual military outcome in Cambodia.

To the north of Kompong Cham Province, an army message reported that an enemy force attacked a village several miles east of the provincial capital of Kompong Thom, and destroyed a bridge. Large Communist troop movements have also been reported farther north. In Ratanakiri Province, the towns of Lomphat and Labansiek were attacked again on 20 May, but details on the fighting are not available. Government defenders at Labansiek reportedly have exhausted their food supplies.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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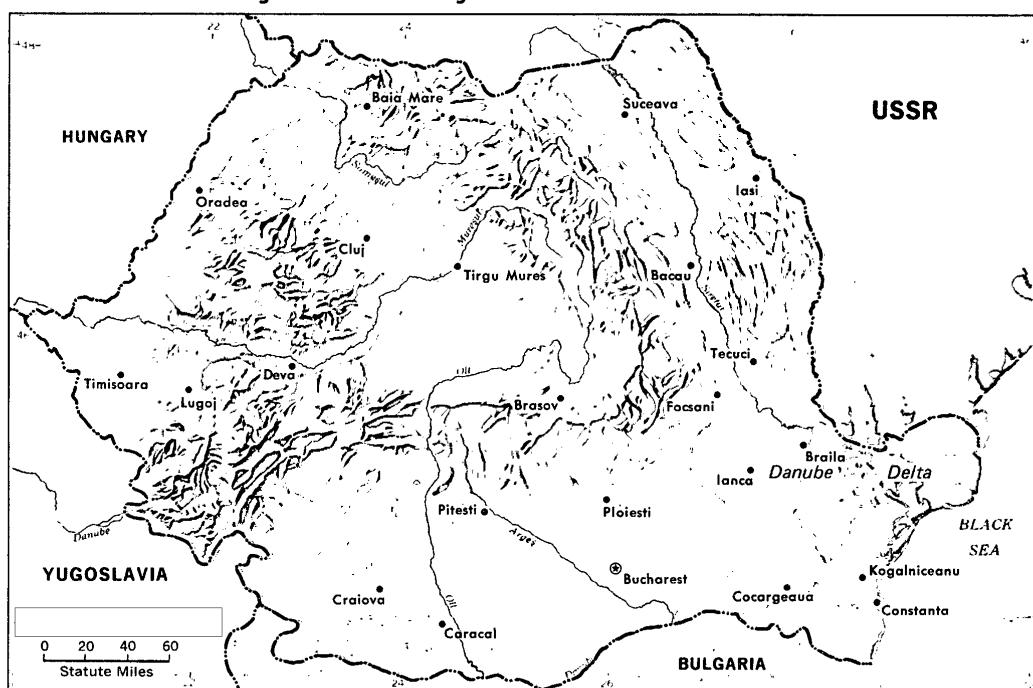
Reports circulating in Phnom Penh about South Vietnamese troops looting and raping in Cambodian villages are complicating matters for the Lon Nol government. An army unit in Svay Rieng Province on 19 May asked for Phnom Penh's intervention to stop these activities, and the Cambodian National Assembly discussed the problem on 20 May.

Cambodian students reacted to these reports yesterday by displaying signs which hold the US responsible for the "barbarous" behavior of South Vietnamese troops and ask for additional Cambodian mercenaries to help chase out South as well as North Vietnamese invaders.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Recent Floods Causing Extensive Damage in ROMANIA

General area of major flooding



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Communist China: [Redacted]

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Romania: Nearly one-half of Romania has suffered serious flood damage, and rains are continuing in many parts of the country. The death toll is over 100, with approximately 120,000 homeless and over a million acres of farm land under water. Flood waters have subsided slightly in the north, but southern Romania is in grave danger from the Danube and its tributaries. East Germany and Yugoslavia are the only Communist countries to offer relief thus far. The USSR, which is also affected by the floods, has not offered to help, although the Soviets had ample opportunity during President Ceausescu's visit to Moscow early this week.

East Germany - West Germany: Preliminary reports from the Kassel summit talks yesterday indicate that Premier Stoph simply repeated familiar demands and avoided a substantive exchange on the 20 points in Chancellor Brandt's treaty proposal. Brandt upheld the idea that the two states belong to a single nation, but he did not offer full recognition under international law as Pankow insists. In view of the complexity of these negotiations, East Germany will need time to digest Brandt's proposals, and the possibility of holding additional discussions to reach a modus vivendi remains open.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Saigon, President Thieu is trying to shift some of the onus for the country's economic troubles to the National Assembly. (Page 1)

The military situation in Laos is brought up to date on Page 2.

West German negotiator Bahr returns to Bonn today to report on the latest round of his talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. (Page 3)

Turkey

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In Cambodia the fighting centers on the government's continuing effort to retake Tonle Bet in Kompong Cham Province. (Page 5)

The Israelis almost certainly plan a new attack into Lebanon in retaliation for the attack on the school bus. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**SOUTH VIETNAM**

President Thieu is trying to shift some of the onus for the country's economic difficulties to the National Assembly. In requesting immediate Assembly action to give him certain limited tax decree powers, Thieu threatened that it might otherwise be necessary to devalue the piaster. Thieu had informed the cabinet on 16 May of his intent to take such an approach.

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Thieu also told the cabinet that he is actually against devaluation because he fears that resulting price rises would spark a new wave of political unrest worse than the discontent arising from last fall's austerity taxes. He warned his cabinet that a crisis might develop that could become severe enough to bring down the regime.

Thieu surfaced the idea of special economic decree powers earlier this year. He obviously anticipates considerable legislative resistance to granting him decree powers of any kind, and he apparently has settled on the threat of devaluation as one way to force the Assembly to give him what he wants. If this fails, he probably hopes to blame the legislators for devaluation or any other unpopular economic measures that the government may take.

It seems likely that Thieu's attempts to divert popular reaction against additional tax measures away from his regime will fail. Some measures must be found to limit South Vietnam's inflation, particularly its impact on the military and officialdom, and these measures will generate new discontent among whatever groups must bear the cost. Moreover, it will be extremely difficult for Thieu, as the man in charge, to avoid the blame, no matter how he stage-manages the new measures.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Taking advantage of the first clear weather in six days, government forces in the Long Tieng - Sam Thong region yesterday resumed operations to extend their defensive perimeters. No major contacts with Communist forces developed, although four rockets hit the base at Sam Thong.

The situation at the isolated Bouam Long outpost remains stable, but the North Vietnamese are moving in additional forces. A unit, possibly a regiment of the North Vietnamese 312th Division that was located 16 miles southeast of Bouam Long in early March, has now moved to within three miles of the base.

In the south, intercepted messages have provided the first good information on the major Communist units threatening Saravane. Since 3 May, one North Vietnamese battalion apparently has moved southeast from the Savannakhet area to join with another battalion already known to be in the vicinity of Saravane. Its arrival lends some credibility to the Laotian estimate that as many as three battalions of Communist troops may be within striking distance of Saravane.

On the southeastern edge of the Bolovens Plateau, government forces are attempting to retake PS-38, the guerrilla base abandoned to the enemy on 9 May. Laotian irregular units had reached the perimeter of the base on 21 May, but were pausing until a break in the weather permitted supporting air strikes.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY - USSR

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West German negotiator Egon Bahr reports that the Soviets are now concentrating on the European border question in the Bonn-Moscow talks. On 15 May, Gromyko gave Bahr what the latter calls a "non-paper" spelling out Soviet requirements on the issue. As in the past, the Soviets said they want irrevocable West German recognition of all postwar boundaries, most specifically the Oder-Neisse and the East - West German borders. But the Soviets also indicated this time that they would not let other issues get in the way of progress on the central issue of the borders.

Bahr told Gromyko that a number of Soviet formulations were still not acceptable to Bonn--especially the demand for formal recognition of specific borders. As the Germans have told the Poles, Bahr said, Bonn is willing to "respect" the Oder-Neisse frontier "now and in the future." Final confirmation, however, must await conclusion of a peace treaty.

Bahr told reporters yesterday that it is his personal view the two sides are now theoretically in a position to enter formal negotiations. He returns to Bonn today for consultations.

There is still a wide gap between the two sides on the frontiers issue, and due allowance must always be made for Bahr's tendency to take an upbeat line on these talks. The two sides, nevertheless, met almost daily this week. The Soviets, perhaps encouraged by Bonn's flexibility in talks with the Poles and East Germans, are working hard to find common ground with the Germans.

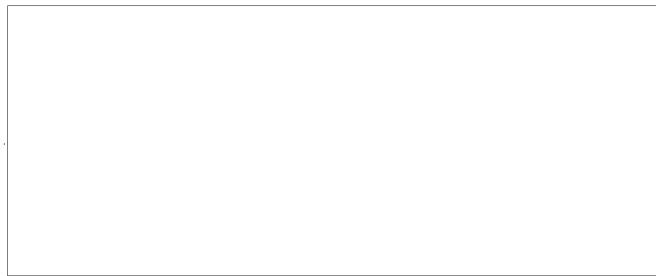
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

TURKEY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

Cambodia: The government's continuing effort to recapture the Mekong River town of Tonle Bet in Kompong Cham Province dominates the military scene today. Western journalists report that four Khmer Krom battalions are enveloping the town, held by one Communist battalion. Despite Communist troop movements in several other provinces, no other significant fighting has been reported.

Israel-Lebanon: Yesterday's fedayeen attack on an Israeli school bus almost certainly will provoke a new Israeli attack into Lebanon. The poor results of Tel Aviv's search and destroy operation on 12 May are an added incentive to the Israelis to go back and do a more thorough job.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Cambodian developments are discussed on *Page 1*.

Allied actions in Cambodia have seriously disrupted Communist forces that normally operate just west of Saigon. (*Page 3*)

Reports of an Israeli buildup on the Lebanon border are feeding Beirut's apprehensions over further Israeli reprisals. (*Page 4*)

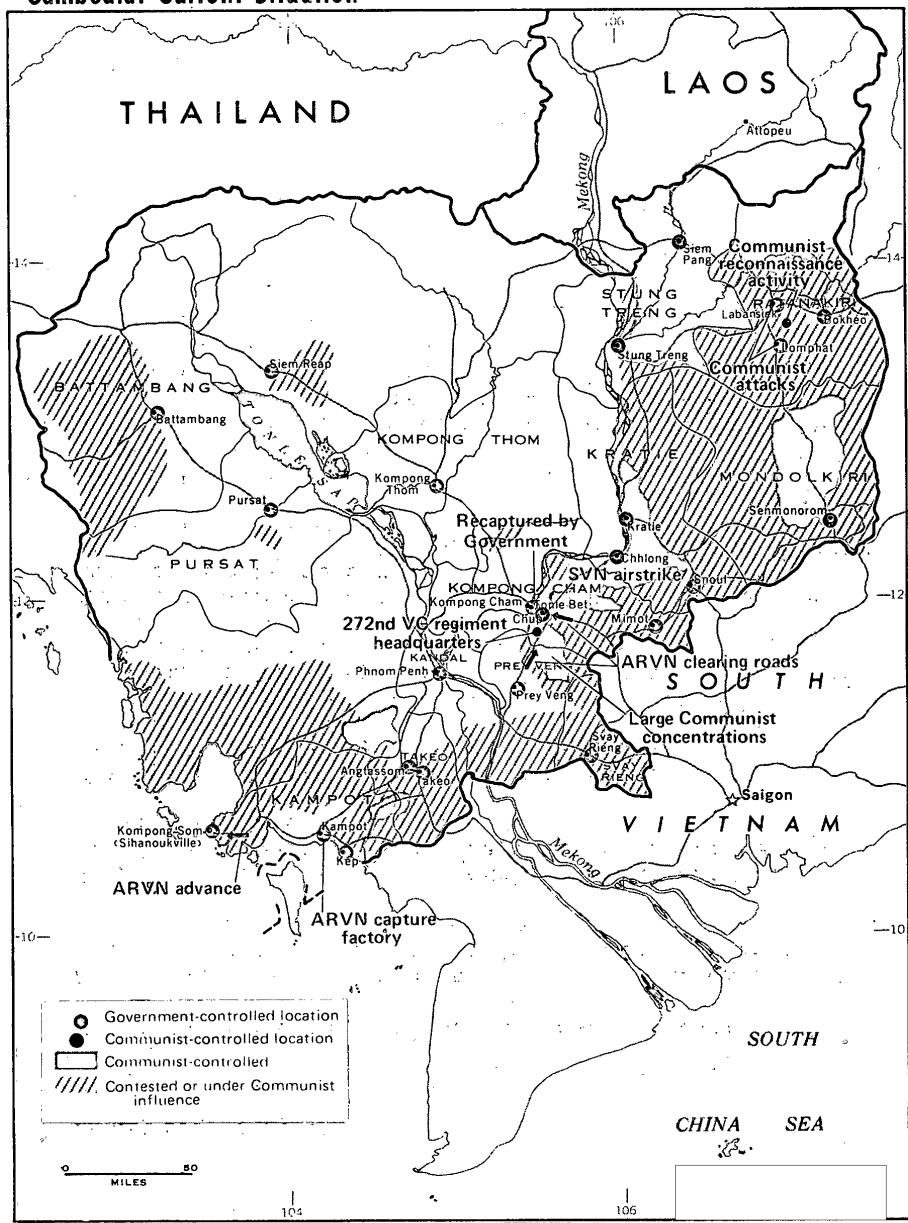
The Cyprus Government has reacted swiftly to the latest upsurge of violence in the Greek Cypriot community. (*Page 5*)

In southern Laos, government forces have retaken an important guerrilla base. (*Page 6*)

The situation in Argentina is touchy following recent student demonstrations. (*Page 6*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

South Vietnamese troops, in their deepest move into Cambodia to date, continue to clear main roads in Kompong Cham Province. They also are searching the southern edge of the country's major rubber plantation at Chup for elements of the 272nd Viet Cong Regiment; intercepts indicate that the regiment's headquarters moved southward from Chup on 22 May. The US Embassy in Phnom Penh reports that an apparently uncoordinated South Vietnamese air strike on Saturday against the Chup plantation may have caused the loss of almost half of Cambodia's rubber production; in addition, 5,000 workers probably will lose their jobs. West of Chup, Khmer Krom troops are reported to have recaptured the town of Tonle Bet against stiff enemy resistance.

In the northeastern province of Ratanakiri, the Communists again attacked the capital, Lomphat, on 23 May. Reinforcements and supplies for the town must be airdropped because overland access routes have been cut. Intercepts indicate that some enemy forces subordinate to the North Vietnamese B-3 Front--the Communist command authority in the central highlands of South Vietnam--recently have moved deeper into Ratanakiri, and enemy elements have been reconnoitering in areas north of Lomphat. Farther north, government troops at the Labansiek regional command post repulsed an attack by an enemy force of unknown size on 23-24 May. Labansiek, Lomphat and Bokheo have been under steady Communist pressure in recent weeks.

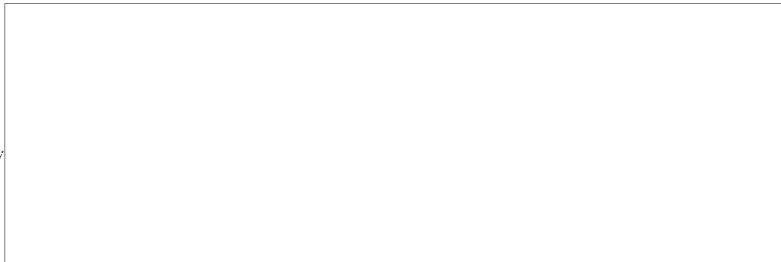
Allied sweep operations in the south have reduced enemy attacks there, but large enemy troop concentrations are reported in Prey Veng Province. On the coast, press reports say that South Vietnamese forces have pushed close to the port of Kompong Som (Sihanoukville) and have captured a cement factory near Kampot.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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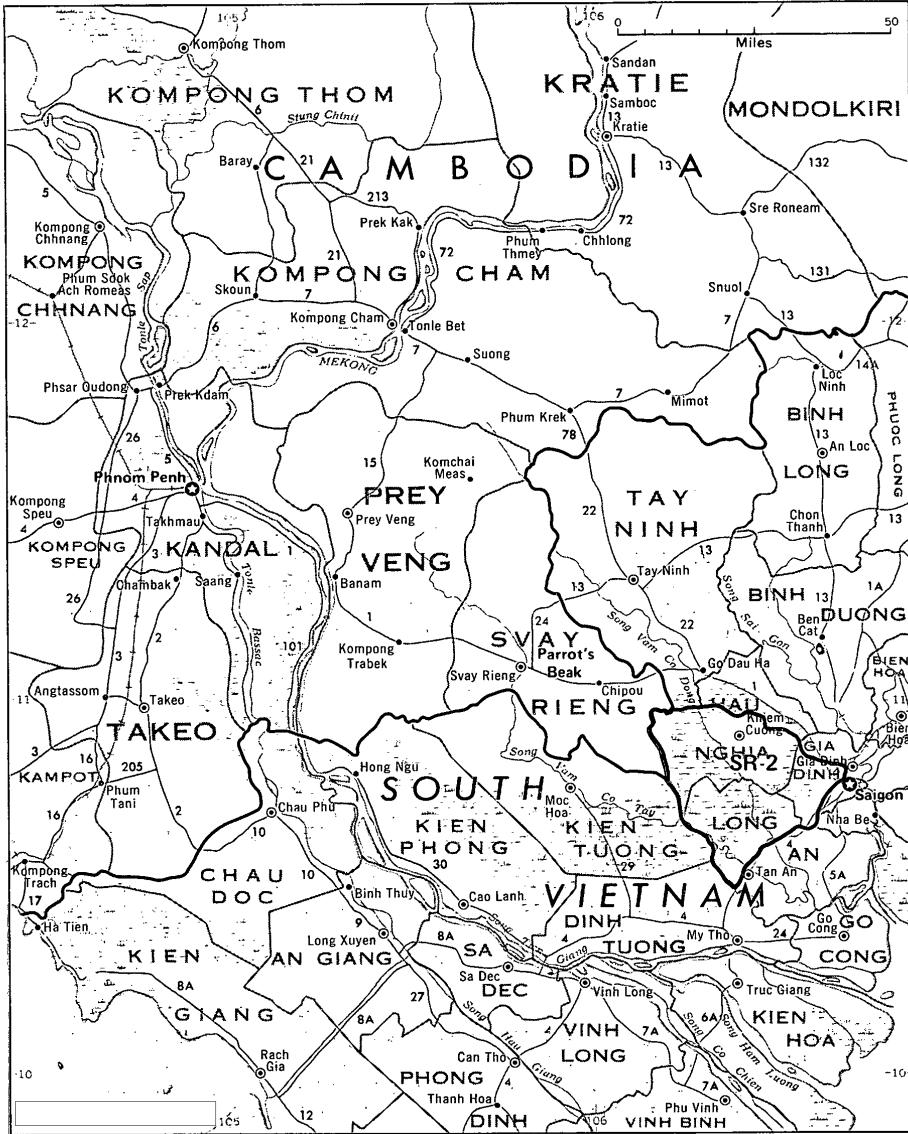
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Hanoi announced today that Prince Sihanouk will visit North Vietnam in the near future. The Foreign Ministry's communique gave no details on the length of the planned visit or its purpose.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist forces that normally operate in one region just west of Saigon have been severely disrupted by allied operations into Cambodia. Reports from prisoners and defectors captured in this area indicate that allied attacks caused heavy enemy losses and left enemy forces in a state of disarray. One defector claimed several units, including Communist Sub-Region (SR-2) headquarters--at that time located in Cambodia--were largely destroyed by the initial South Vietnamese thrust across the border on 29 April.

Intercepted messages from units in SR-2 confirm that the enemy's political and military apparatus has been hit hard. One message estimated that 80 percent of the Communist guerrilla forces in that area had surrendered.

These losses cannot be made up quickly, and they almost certainly will put a crimp in Communist plans to harass allied units and to counter pacification efforts in the area west of Saigon. Meanwhile, SR-2 appears to be realigning its forces on a makeshift basis. Intercepts show that three understrength battalions have been dissolved and their personnel assigned to two remaining main force battalions. Several other units of battalion size have been broken up to reinforce Communist local forces.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-LEBANON

The Lebanese Government is nervously awaiting further Israeli military action. Beirut officials are alleging that concentrations of Israeli troops have appeared on Lebanon's frontier. Mordechai Gazit, an Israeli Foreign Ministry official, yesterday denied that there was any "buildup," although he admitted there had been some "reinforcement" following recent incidents.

It is highly unlikely that the shelling of Lebanese villages will constitute Israel's sole response to Friday's fedayeen attack on the Israeli school bus. More retaliation, rather than inducing the Lebanese to crack down on the fedayeen, would only erode further the government's ability to oppose the fedayeen.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CYPRUS

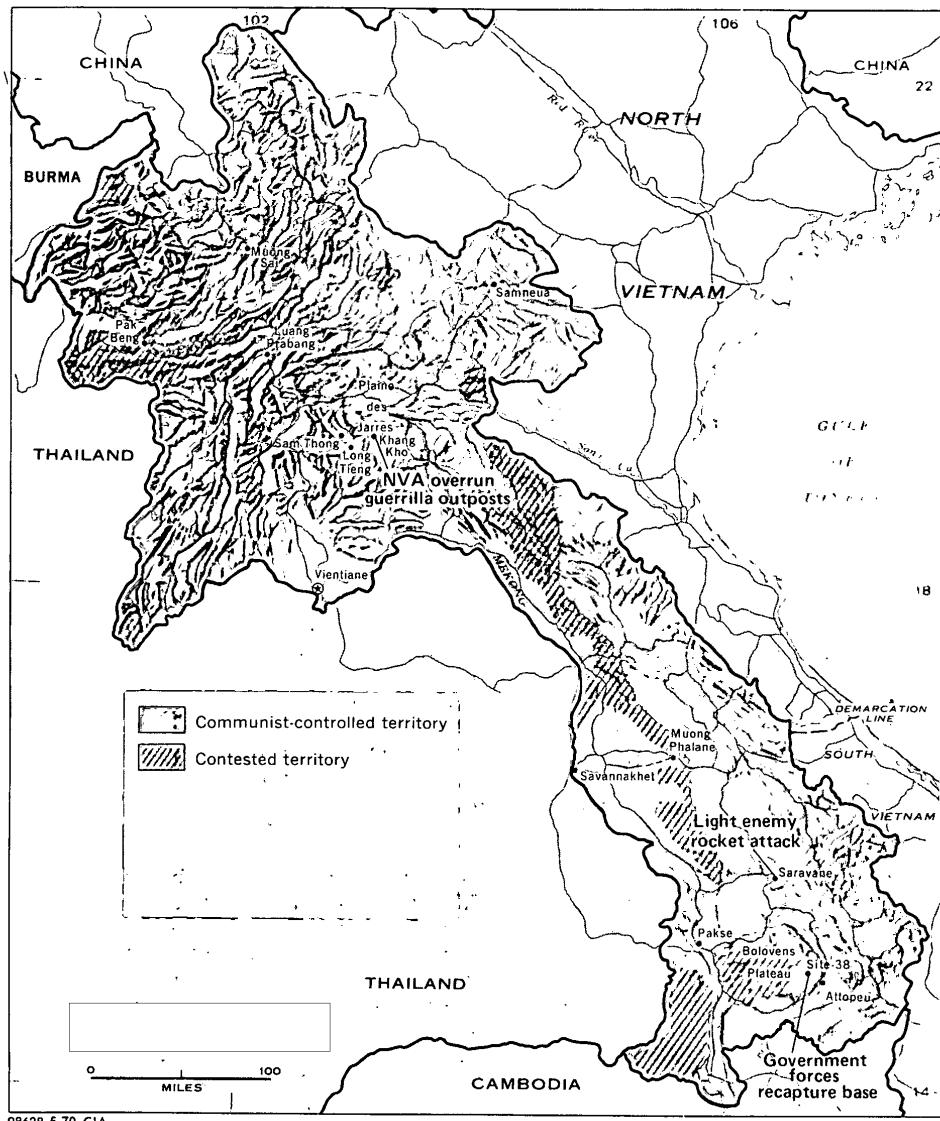
The government has arrested more than 30 Greek Cypriots who took part in a raid against a Limassol police station in the early hours of 23 May. Several members of the police and an army sergeant were among those arrested. The raiders are members of the National Front, an underground, anti-Communist group favoring union with Greece. This organization is responsible for earlier acts of antigovernment terrorism

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Despite the government's apparently effective response to the most recent incident, the potential for renewed violence remains high as the Greek Cypriot community moves closer to parliamentary elections scheduled for 3 July. So far the Turkish Cypriot community has not been involved in the squabbles among the rival Greek Cypriot militant groups.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Laos: Three companies of Laotian irregulars have recaptured Site 38, an important guerrilla base on the southeastern rim of the Bolovens Plateau that had been abandoned to Communist forces two weeks ago. Elsewhere in the south, the provincial capital of Saravane came under a light rocket attack, but no ground fighting has developed in the area. In the north, North Vietnamese forces overran the remaining guerrilla outposts near Khang Kho, thus diminishing the government's threat to enemy positions immediately south of the Plaine des Jarres.

Argentina: The police, using tear gas and water cannon, late last week put down violent student demonstrations in Rosario and Cordoba commemorating last year's riots. One labor group in Cordoba subsequently declared a "week of resistance" to culminate in an "active strike" on 29 May. If other labor groups join the movement, there could be a replay of last year's serious disturbances that occurred when students and labor joined forces.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A review of the situation in Cambodia appears on
Page 1.

Israel plans to continue sending patrols across the
Lebanese border against Arab terrorists. (*Page 4*)

The first enemy infiltration groups in nearly six
weeks are beginning to move down the Laotian pan-
handle. (*Page 5*)

Laos may make a formal request for Thai military
assistance to defend its southern provinces. (*Page 6*)

[redacted] Egypt [redacted] USSR [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] (Page 7) [redacted] 50X1

Secretary General Thant is indignant over Egyptian
harassment of UN observer posts along the Suez Canal.
(*Page 8*)

[redacted] Germans [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] (Page 9) [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] 50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

The first round in the struggle for Cambodia is over. The Lon Nol government has weathered a stormy first two months. Whatever hopes the Communists may have had of forcing it to seek a new accommodation or, failing that, to bring the government down, have been thwarted by US and South Vietnamese operations. Before US and South Vietnamese troops crossed into Cambodia, the Communists had made considerable progress in efforts to expand their border bases, to develop new infiltration routes from the Gulf of Siam, and to cut Phnom Penh's access to the south and east. Most of these gains have now been lost.

In the south, South Vietnamese forces have cleared the Communists from the towns they had either captured or were threatening. The enemy is now confined to a narrow belt of territory between the South Vietnamese and the Cambodians.

Two of the major roads leading south from Phnom Penh are still not completely free of enemy harassment, but the road to Kompong Som (Sihanoukville) is open. Harassed from the rear and facing a number of the better Cambodian units, as well as one well-trained Khmer Krom battalion, it seems unlikely that the Communists can at this time develop a threat to Phnom Penh from this direction.

To the east of Phnom Penh, Route 1 is open to the South Vietnamese border and the threat to the Svay Rieng and Prey Veng provincial capitals has been substantially reduced. The Communists have been driven from Kompong Cham city and what is left of the Chup rubber plantation. The road to the border has been opened by the South Vietnamese.

Only in the sparsely populated and rugged northeast have the Communists had their own way. Almost all of the major population centers are in their hands, as is the Sekong-Mekong waterway. The Communists undoubtedly hope to develop this area into a redoubt serviced by an extension of the Laotian infiltration corridor.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Although the military outlook for the Lon Nol government has greatly improved, the Cambodians are a long way from being able to deal with the Communists on their own. If South Vietnamese troops are withdrawn, it is highly unlikely that the Cambodians could at any early date effectively take their place. US and South Vietnamese troops have given Phnom Penh a much needed respite, and have created havoc with Communist plans, but the situation will still retrogress if the Cambodians do not continue to get outside support.

The political struggle is also most difficult for Lon Nol and Sirik Matak. The war, with all of its mistakes and brutalities, is now coursing through Cambodian villages and towns. The Lon Nol government came into power on a wave of anti-Sihanouk and anti-Vietnamese feeling. Sihanouk is gone, but in addition to the 20,000-30,000 Vietnamese Communist troops on its territory, Phnom Penh now has some 30,000 South Vietnamese troops to cope with. The Cambodians despise the Vietnamese and the ARVN's depredations in the Cambodian countryside have done nothing to heal old wounds.

Lon Nol has worked himself into a tight box and he knows it. He and Matak evidently are still convinced that the US will keep Cambodia from going under--even if this means only acting as a restraining influence on Saigon. In their eyes, the alternative to faith in the US is a Cambodia fought over and divided up by the Vietnamese and the Thai. This is an old Cambodian nightmare which could become reality in short order.

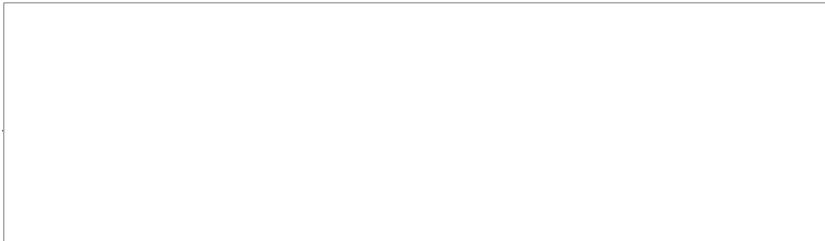
The magnitude of the problems facing Cambodia apparently are only now beginning to sink in, and the support which Lon Nol and Matak enjoy in Phnom Penh and elsewhere has not yet been seriously eroded. The grumbling that has already appeared in Phnom Penh, however, will probably get louder as the country begins to realize how deep is its involvement with the war and the Vietnamese.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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According to a press item from Hanoi, Sihanouk arrived in the North Vietnamese capital yesterday. This trip had been scheduled but its purposes are not known. Both sides will use the occasion for propaganda and possibly will discuss concrete measures for supporting Sihanouk's program to overthrow the Lon Nol regime.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-LEBANON

Israeli forces made three shallow penetrations into Lebanese territory yesterday and plan to continue this type of activity until Arab terrorists are driven back from the border. The largest Israeli patrol in yesterday's action included four tanks and 30 infantrymen. Gideon Rafael, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, told Ambassador Barbour yesterday that the Israeli patrols will continue until Lebanese authorities are able to protect Israel's border settlements from fedayeen attacks.

Meanwhile, yesterday's action probably has added to the estimated 25,000 Lebanese citizens who had evacuated their villages in southern Lebanon. These refugees are demanding protection from Beirut and their leaders are proposing a general strike to expose the government's failure to provide adequate defense.

Recent events and the general disenchantment with the Lebanese Army has encouraged greater freedom of movement among the fedayeen. They are now moving into villages vacated by the refugees and many of these areas are adjacent to Lebanese military installations. As the Israelis continue to seek out fedayeen strongholds, this proximity will increase the chance of a clash between the Israeli and Lebanese armies, a confrontation that Beirut has been at some pains to avoid.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

An intercepted message of 23 May indicates that five groups will be moving into the infiltration system between 25 May and 1 June. Three are of battalion size; the other two are small and probably contain special purpose personnel.

The numerical designator of one of the smaller groups indicates that it is headed for COSVN. Recent intercepts show that all COSVN-bound groups have been halted in the Laotian panhandle, but Hanoi may reason that some small movement toward the area is still possible.

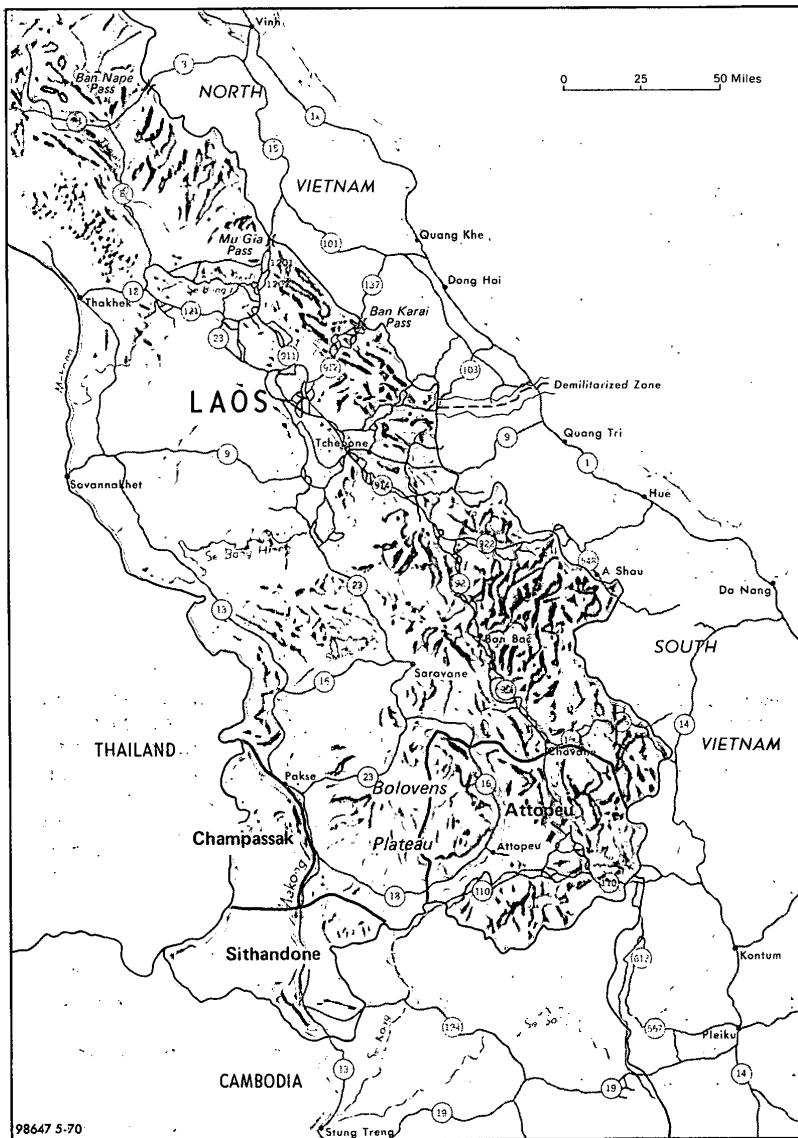
One of the battalion-sized groups has a designator suggesting assignment to southern Laos. This destination is seldom seen, and it is not known whether this group is a combat or support unit. Several recent messages disclose that infiltration stations in the panhandle have been ordered to take precautions against a large-scale ground attack, presumably from US and ARVN forces; this new battalion may have been dispatched with such a contingency in mind.

These enemy units represent the first inputs into the infiltration system detected in nearly six weeks, but their movement does not necessarily mean that Hanoi intends to renew a heavier troop flow to the south. The May count for infiltration now stands at about 2,000, which equates with the level last year for this period.

* * *

Recent heavy rains and bombings meanwhile are complicating Communist logistic efforts in the Laotian panhandle. Barring unusually severe weather, however, the Communists probably will be able to keep some routes open, at least for a while. They are giving special attention to the central panhandle. At least one AAA, two transportation, and five engineering battalions have been moved there from the northern part of the panhandle.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The government evidently intends to request
Thai military assistance to help defend south Laos.

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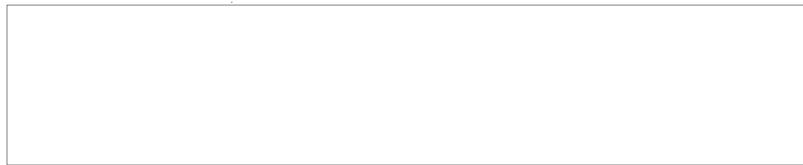
A Laotian request for Thai troops would come at a time when Bangkok is preoccupied with the situation in Cambodia, and is considering the possibility of sending advisers or medical teams to help the Lon Nol government. The Thai Army is spread thin, and it would be hard put to send troops into Laos in the near future without drawing on the full division now serving in South Vietnam.

Although the Thai have long had some interest in taking a direct role in the defense of Laos, it is not likely that they will act without some guarantee of US logistic and political support.

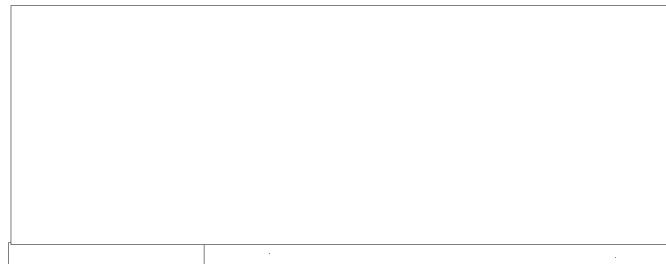
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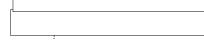
EGYPT-USSR



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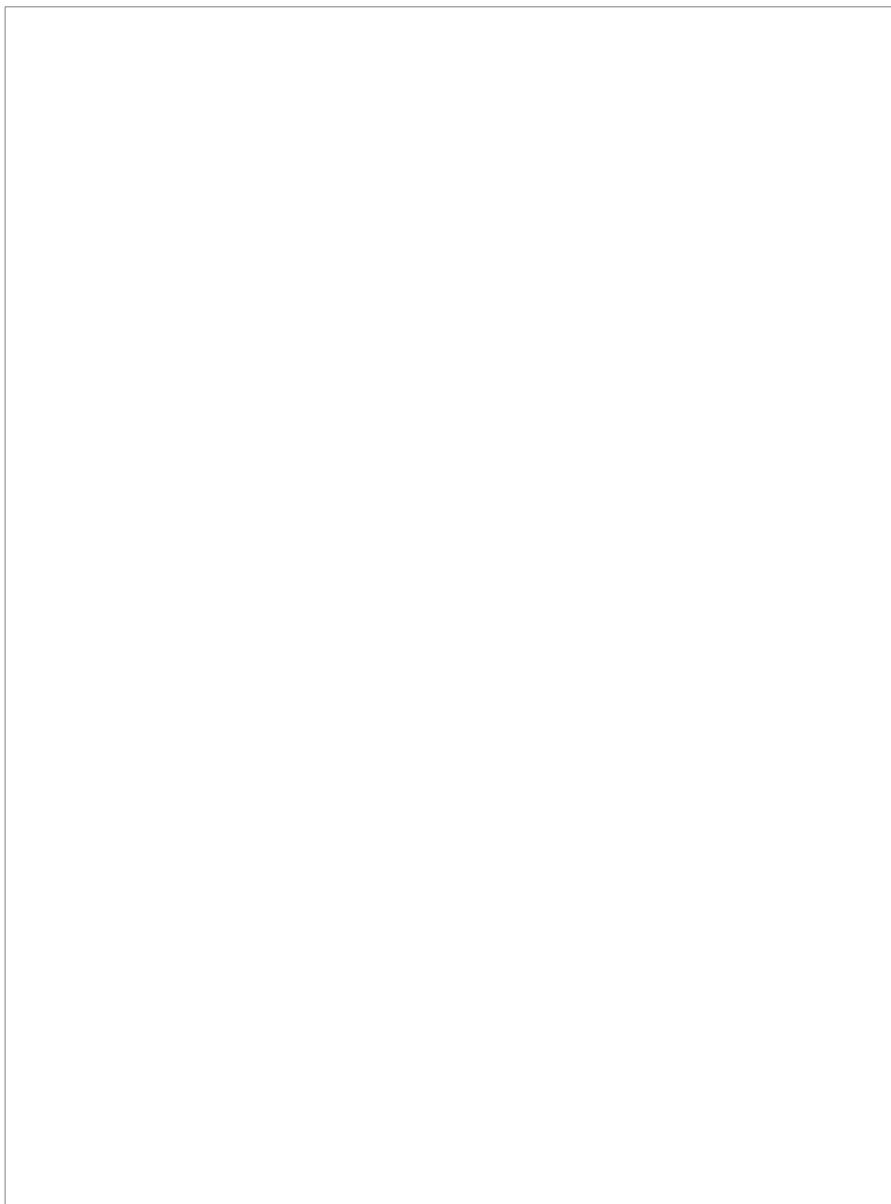
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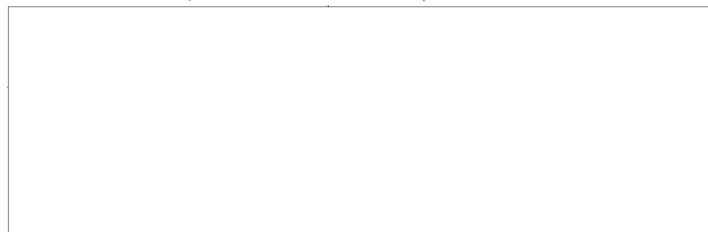
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

UN-SUEZ

Egyptian air and artillery harassment of remaining UN observer posts along the Suez prompted Secretary General Thant last week to send a sharply worded protest note to Cairo. He warned that if these attacks persisted, he would have to close the affected posts. The American consulate in Jerusalem has learned that one has already been shut down--the seventh of the 18 posts along the canal to be closed in the past year.



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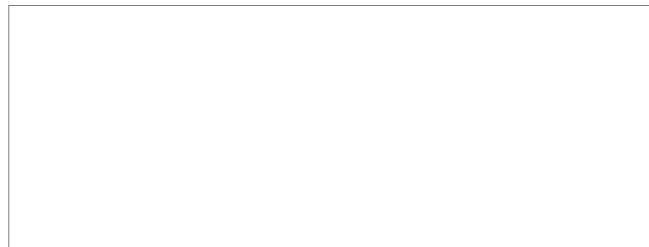
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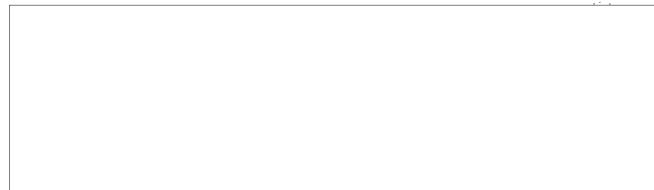
WEST GERMANY - EAST GERMANY



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The latest military developments in Cambodia are outlined on *Page 1*.

50X1

The Israelis carried out another "preventive patrol" into Lebanon yesterday. (*Page 3*)

French policy in the Mediterranean [redacted]

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Page 4.

In Saigon [redacted]

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[redacted] (*Page 5*)

50X6

North Vietnamese infiltrators have been ordered to resume their march to the COSVN region after having been held up in the Laos panhandle. (*Page 6*)

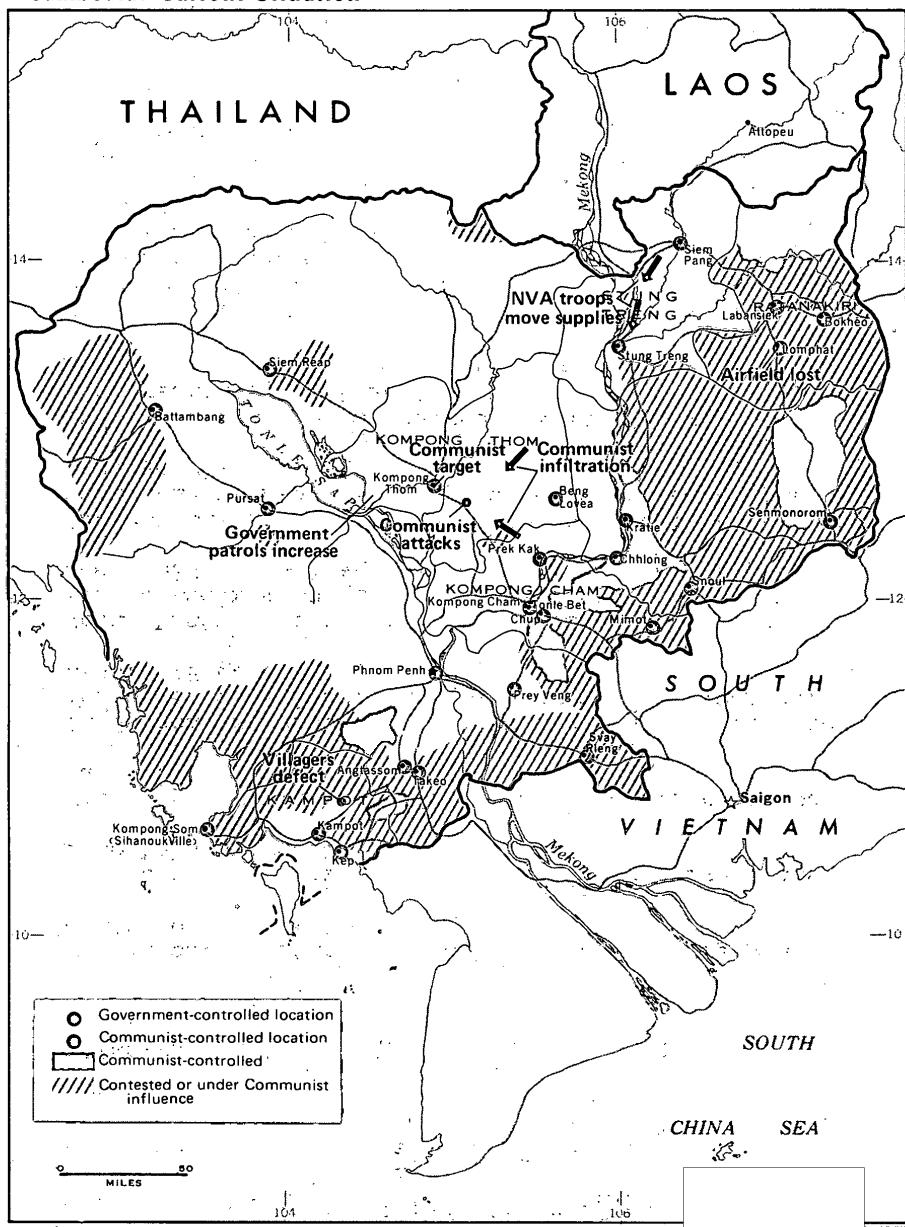
The new Chinese aid agreement announced by Hanoi yesterday probably will not be much different than last year's. (*Page 6*)

The Soviets [redacted]

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[redacted] (*Page 6*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

A recent intercept indicates Communist forces are preparing to attack another provincial capital, this time Kompong Thom, an important town between the Mekong River and the rice growing areas to the west. An unidentified Vietnamese Communist unit informed a subordinate unit in the message that two battalions, including a sapper unit, will reconnoiter and then attack the town. Although no exact date is given for the attack, the message's recipient is to join the sapper unit in the southeastern corner of the province on 28 May.

The Communists have been increasingly active in this area over the past two weeks, attacking a district headquarters some ten miles from Kompong Thom on 24 and 25 May. Government reinforcements are moving into the area.

The Communists' thrust toward Kompong Thom is being mounted from an area near the Prek Kak rubber plantation in northern Kompong Cham Province. [redacted] businessmen who visited the plantation yesterday reported seeing a large number of Vietnamese troops there.

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Cambodian Army messages continue to express concern over Communist infiltration in Kompong Thom. The government is increasing its patrol activities on the edge of the Tonle Sap Lake, probably in order to prevent infiltrators from contacting large numbers of Vietnamese villagers there.

* * *

In the northeast, the Communists continue to work toward development of a secure base area. Elements of a North Vietnamese regiment are now engaged in supply operations in Stung Treng Province. One message indicated that Communist troops were driving supply trucks between Siem Pang and Stung Treng towns. In Ratanakiri Province, government defenders at Lomphat reported on 25 May that the local airfield "is no longer in friendly hands," as the Communists continue to close in.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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In the countryside southeast of Phnom Penh, Communist forces are reported to be regrouping in villages in the center of Kampot Province, in order to avoid South Vietnamese border operations. Cambodian messages assert that villagers have been defecting to the Communists and are performing supply and intelligence-gathering tasks for them.

Earlier reports had suggested that the Communists were making considerable progress among the population in this area; thus far, there has been little military action.

There have been reports that Cambodian villagers in other areas were also helping the Communists or joining hastily organized guerrilla bands. It is not clear how widespread such defections have been or whether they represent more than the accommodation of villagers to the presence of Communist troops.

the Vietnamese Communists are placing considerable emphasis on building an indigenous Cambodian guerrilla apparatus.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-LEBANON

Israeli troops carried out another "preventive patrol" into Lebanon yesterday. General Gur, the Israeli commander in this sector, made public Israel's intention to carry out these patrols indefinitely. Gur said this new policing policy not only would protect Israeli settlements along the border, but might stop the exodus of Lebanese villagers on the other side of the frontier.

In Tel Aviv, Israeli officials are taking the line with our embassy that the patrols will make only "shallow" penetrations across the border to observe and to seek out and destroy fedayeen concentrations. Israeli forces will not seek clashes with the Lebanese Army, nor will they interfere with Lebanese villagers.

In Lebanon, labor, religious, political, and Palestinian leaders led a nationwide strike demanding stronger military measures against Israel. The strike, proclaimed "98 percent effective" by its leaders, closed schools and shops, and forced a three-hour shutdown of Beirut International Airport.

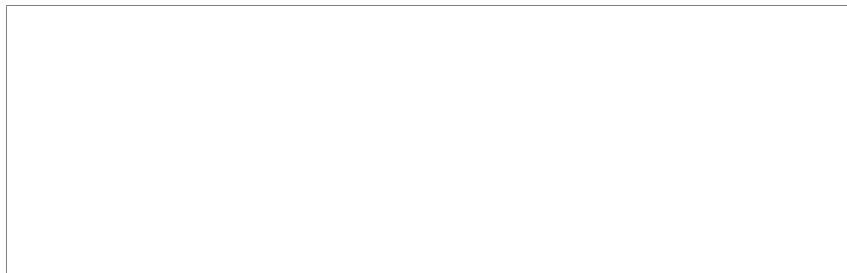
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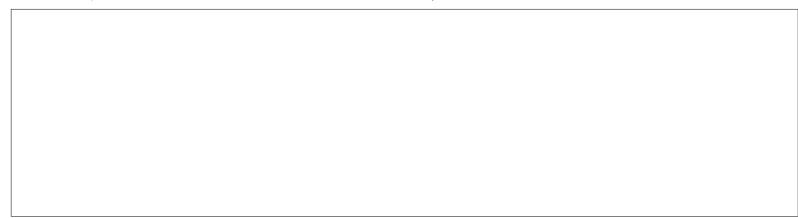
FRANCE

The French continue to devote considerable attention to the Mediterranean, but they are showing little of their hand to the US. They rarely discuss the subject with American officials.

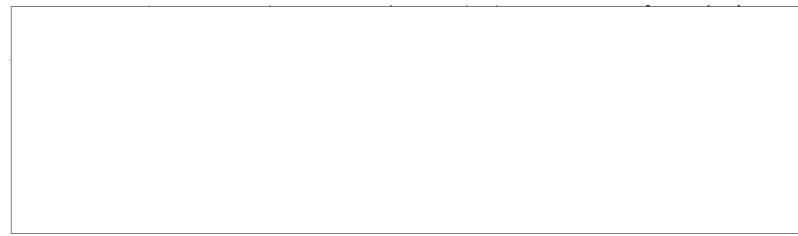
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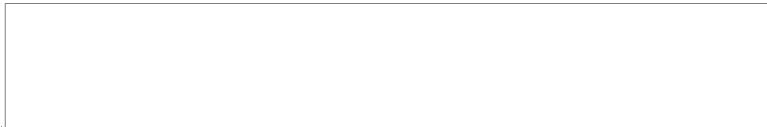


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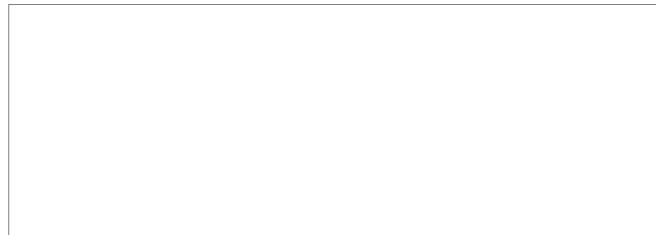
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SOUTH VIETNAM



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

North Vietnam: On 25 May, a major infiltration station in the Lao panhandle passed a message stating that "according to orders from headquarters, all groups going to the COSVN region are to be sent out immediately." These orders end a two-week holdup of groups already in the pipeline, caused by allied cross-border operations. This delay has affected to some degree all of the 12,000 North Vietnamese expected to arrive in the COSVN region during the months of May, June, and July.

Communist China - North Vietnam: Hanoi announced a new Chinese aid program yesterday which probably will not be much different from last year's \$105 million worth of military aid and \$90 million worth of economic aid. The announcement gave no details, and we are aware of only one new factor: in the past, the Chinese have satisfied only short-range economic needs, but recent visits by Chinese technicians to North Vietnam suggest that Peking might be offering assistance in rebuilding some large industrial projects.

USSR: [redacted]

50X1

Japan-Okinawa: The left is exploiting the apparent delay in removing chemical weapons from Okinawa in an effort to revive its flagging campaign against renewal of the US-Japan mutual security treaty. The issue is apt to embarrass the Sato government if further delays are encountered.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The action in Cambodia has boosted the morale of South Vietnamese troops. (Page 1)

There has been no major military activity in Laos, but Vang Pao is preparing to retake Ban Na. (Page 2)

Communist activity is increasing in Cambodia, particularly in the southern region. (Page 3)

Ceylon's leftists win the parliamentary election. (Page 4)

The Lebanese Government is trying to curb the fed-ayeen. (Page 5)

West Germany's negotiations with the USSR seem to be satisfactory from Bonn's point of view. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Several high-level South Vietnamese Army officers have commented recently that the morale of their troops has improved as a result of their operations into Cambodia, and that the units involved in Cambodia have shown greater aggressiveness than ever before against the Communists. For example, II Corps commander General Lan recently told [redacted] [redacted] these operations have given South Vietnam's 47th Regiment a needed shot in the arm.

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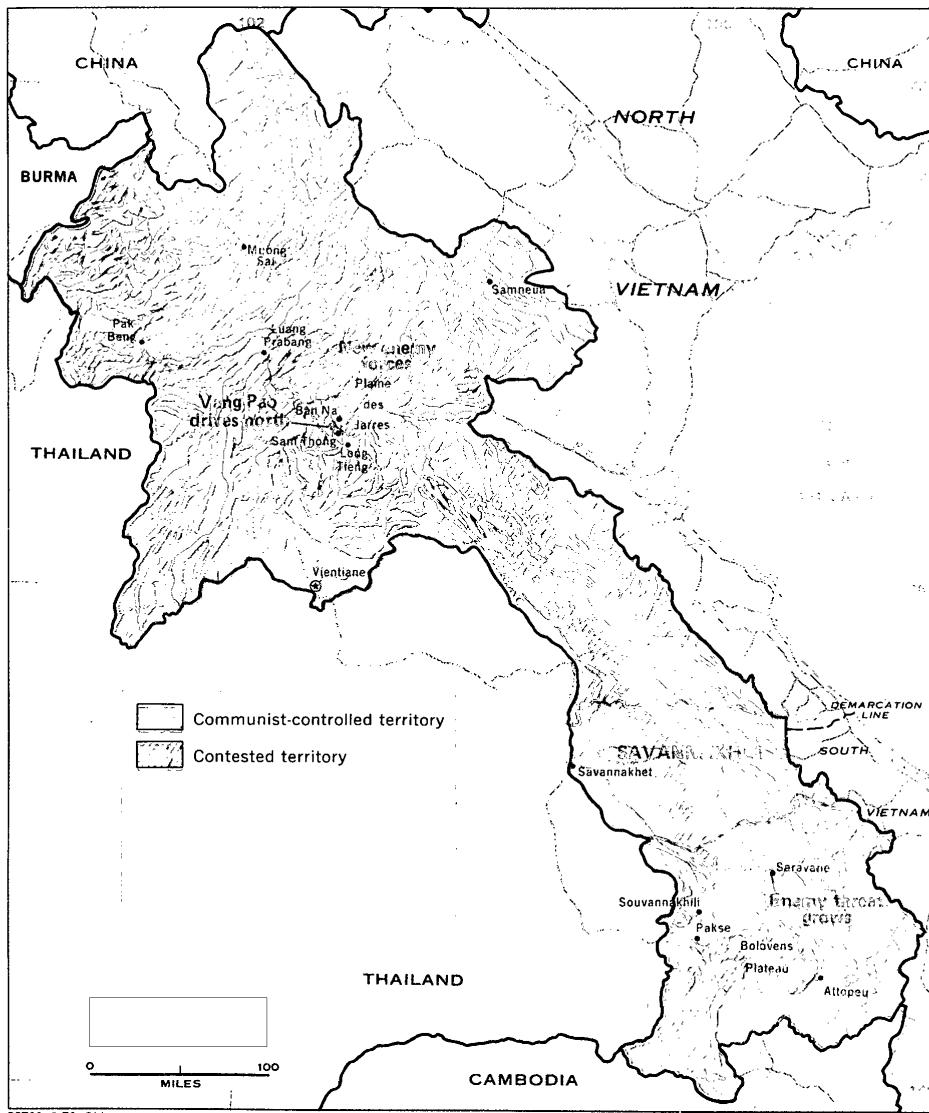
More than 30,000 South Vietnamese have been assembled, transported, and resupplied in simultaneous and coordinated action. They have derived some pride from their ability to organize such large operations, even with US help. Previously, some of the units involved returned to their base camps regularly each night when conducting their usual operations in South Vietnam. Whether they can maintain their new martial spirit after they return to more routine missions at home is open to question.

Meanwhile, according to General Lan, security conditions have been deteriorating in most II Corps provinces. He hopes operations in Cambodia, especially the disruption of Communist logistics, will help him improve pacification in his own corps area. He is particularly disappointed in the performance of the Regional and Popular Forces, which have primary responsibility for improving territorial security and containing enemy local and guerrilla forces. The Communists have made inroads especially in Kontum and Pleiku provinces, Lan says, since Vietnamization and the withdrawal of elements of the US 4th Division, which had provided important support to pacification there.

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[redacted] has been attributed largely to the enemy's new emphasis on rebuilding his local control structures and on reasserting influence over the rural population.

Laos: Current Situation



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

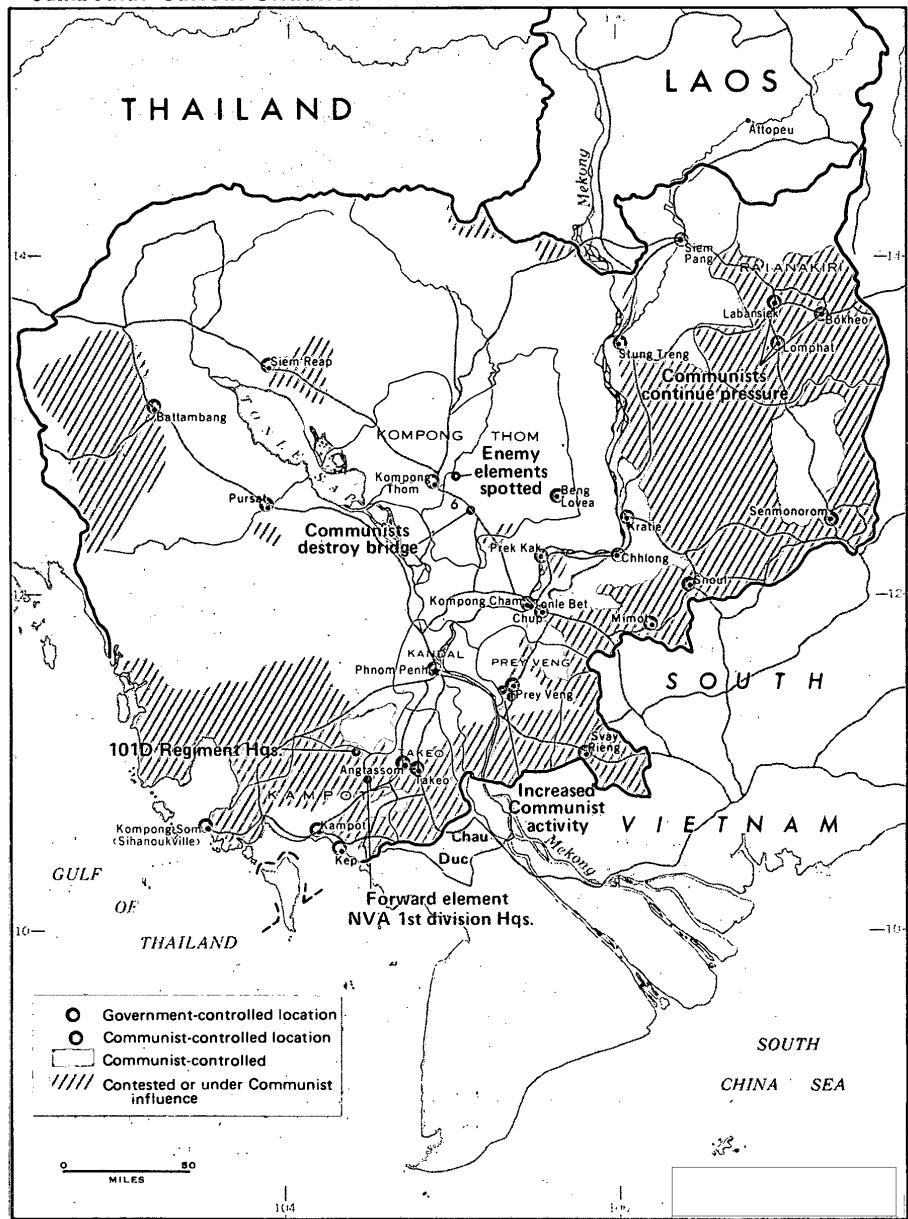
Vang Pao has returned to the offensive with a three-battalion drive to retake the guerrilla base of Ban Na. By yesterday evening, irregular units had moved to high ground within about four miles of their objective. Initial enemy resistance to the drive was light, but apparently stiffened as the Meo forces moved northward.

An unidentified unit of the North Vietnamese 312th Division, possibly a regiment, has moved about 35 miles southwest from the Plaine des Jarres during the last three days to within three miles of Sam Thong. One battalion of the 316th Division also has moved to within striking distance of Sam Thong. The concentration of forces in the area and the pace and nature of their activities suggest that a major attack is possible in the near future.

In southern Laos, two headquarters elements of the North Vietnamese 565th group left Savannakhet Province some time after 13 May, and have now joined the recently arrived 4th battalion of the 565th group on the western outskirts of Saravane. Intercepts have referred to an "N Day" on 31 May, possibly indicating an attack on the provincial capital. On 26 May the southern region military commander, General Phasouk, ordered the evacuation of all civilians still in Saravane. Phasouk has also placed the Pakse and Souvannakhili garrisons on full alert as a result of unconfirmed reports of impending harassment.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Elements of a Communist main force unit have moved deep into southern Cambodia, according to communications intercepted in the past ten days. These troops may be attempting to evade ARVN operations, but it is also possible that their movement may be associated with Communist plans to organize a special combat unit for anti-Cambodian operations in the southern provinces.

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The Communists are still active in areas east of Kompong Thom city, although no major new attacks have been reported. Small enemy elements have been spotted on the outskirts of the city. Perhaps they were responding to a recent Communist message that ordered the city be reconnoitered before an attack against it is launched.

In the south, increasing Communist military activity is increasing along the border between Prey Veng and Kandal provinces. One government unit stated there were no more Cambodians located in these areas, and requested an air strike on 26 May against a Communist battalion south of Prey Veng.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CEYLON

In yesterday's parliamentary elections, the left-wing coalition led by Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, prime minister from 1960-65, unexpectedly crushed the moderately pro-Western United National Party of Prime Minister Senanayake. Mrs. Bandaranaike's partners in the coalition, the Trotskyite Lanka Sama Samaja Party and the pro-Moscow wing of the Communist Party of Ceylon, will participate in the new government. Causes of the UNP defeat are not yet clear but widespread unemployment, a rapidly rising cost of living, Senanayake's action in cutting the subsidized rice ration, and coalition charges that the UNP was becoming subservient to the West presumably were factors.

An election manifesto described the new government's projected policies. They include establishing "people's committees" to supervise the workings of the bureaucracy, nationalizing remaining private banks, and increasing state control over the import-export trade.

The manifesto indicated there will be an anti-Western bias in Ceylon's future "non-aligned" foreign policy. It promised recognition of East Germany, North Korea, North Vietnam, and the Provisional Republic of South Vietnam, as well as suspension of relations with Israel.

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LEBANON

Following three days of Israeli patrols into southern Lebanon, Interior Minister Jumblatt announced yesterday that the cabinet had decided to attempt to prevent the fedayeen from firing into Israel from Lebanon. Press sources also report that beginning on 15 June, the army will be empowered to fire on fedayeen carrying weapons in any town or village. President Hili has asked Arab leaders to convince the fedayeen that their activities against Israel are doing more harm to the Lebanese and Arab cause than they are to Israel.

In a sensitive conversation, President Hili's confidant, Michel Khoury, told Ambassador Porter that Jumblatt will seek fedayeen agreement to cease all operations outside the Mount Hermon area. For its part, Fatah may have already decided unilaterally to restrict its activities to areas adjacent to Mount Hermon. According to Khoury, Fatah has also concluded that cross-border firing has been a tactical and strategic error. Although Fatah is the largest fedayeen organization in Lebanon, its actions would not necessarily be followed by the other groups.

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WEST GERMANY - USSR

In a briefing for the three Western Allied foreign ministers on the results of the talks between Foreign Minister Gromyko and Egon Bahr, Foreign Minister Scheel said in Rome on 25 May that the two sides have agreed "to regard...the borders of all states in Europe as inviolable" as they exist on the day an agreement is signed. This includes the Oder-Neisse line and the East German - West German border. At the same time, both parties would stipulate that the agreement does not affect "treaties and agreements concluded earlier by both sides."

Under this draft formulation, the West Germans may maintain that they have held to their basic position by avoiding the use of the word "recognition" demanded by the Soviets, by preserving postwar treaty obligations, and by protecting Allied rights pending a final settlement.

In addition, Scheel said Bonn has hitched its acceptance of European borders to Soviet agreement to accept a letter describing the West German right to pursue reunification by peaceful means. With regard to Bonn's hopes for improving the status of West Berlin, Scheel said the Soviets had been told that a Soviet - West German agreement as well as any agreements that Bonn may negotiate with East Germany and with Poland would form a single package with the Four-Power talks on Berlin. He added that West Germany would not ratify the agreements until the parties concerned reached a Berlin settlement satisfactory to both Bonn and the Allies.

The West German cabinet is expected to approve formal negotiations, and Scheel will be appointed to go to Moscow perhaps as early as June, according to informed observers.

Moscow probably views the text as bringing the USSR quite close to its central objective in the talks--gaining unequivocal and binding West German recognition of European borders and the postwar status quo. Since the draft text is still somewhat ambiguous in this respect, the Soviets will probably

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haggle further in an effort to close some loopholes in the language. They may push for an explicit reference to the East German state and will probably insist on a clarification of the relationship between this agreement and other treaties and agreements in a final draft.

The essence of Scheel's message is that Bonn has not given away anything vital in the preliminary round and is studiously looking out for Western Allied rights. Opposition Christian Democratic spokesmen disagree strenuously, of course. A popular test of the government line will take place on 14 June in state elections in North Rhine - Westphalia, the Saar, and Lower Saxony.

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NOTES

USSR-Egypt: [redacted]

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UN-Seabeds: The President's proposal last week that all nations renounce claims to natural resources on the ocean floor beyond a depth of 200 meters has generated great interest and generally favorable comment. Chile and Peru have already stated their opposition, however, and other Latin American nations with narrow geologic continental margins may soon join them. The majority of the delegates at the UN believe the US initiative has given a boost to hopes that the UN General Assembly's seabeds committee will make substantial progress at its August session. The USSR has made no response yet, but it is unlikely to change its opposition to having any international regime set up to govern peaceful uses of the seabeds.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on *Page 1*.

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South Vietnam
(*Page 3*)

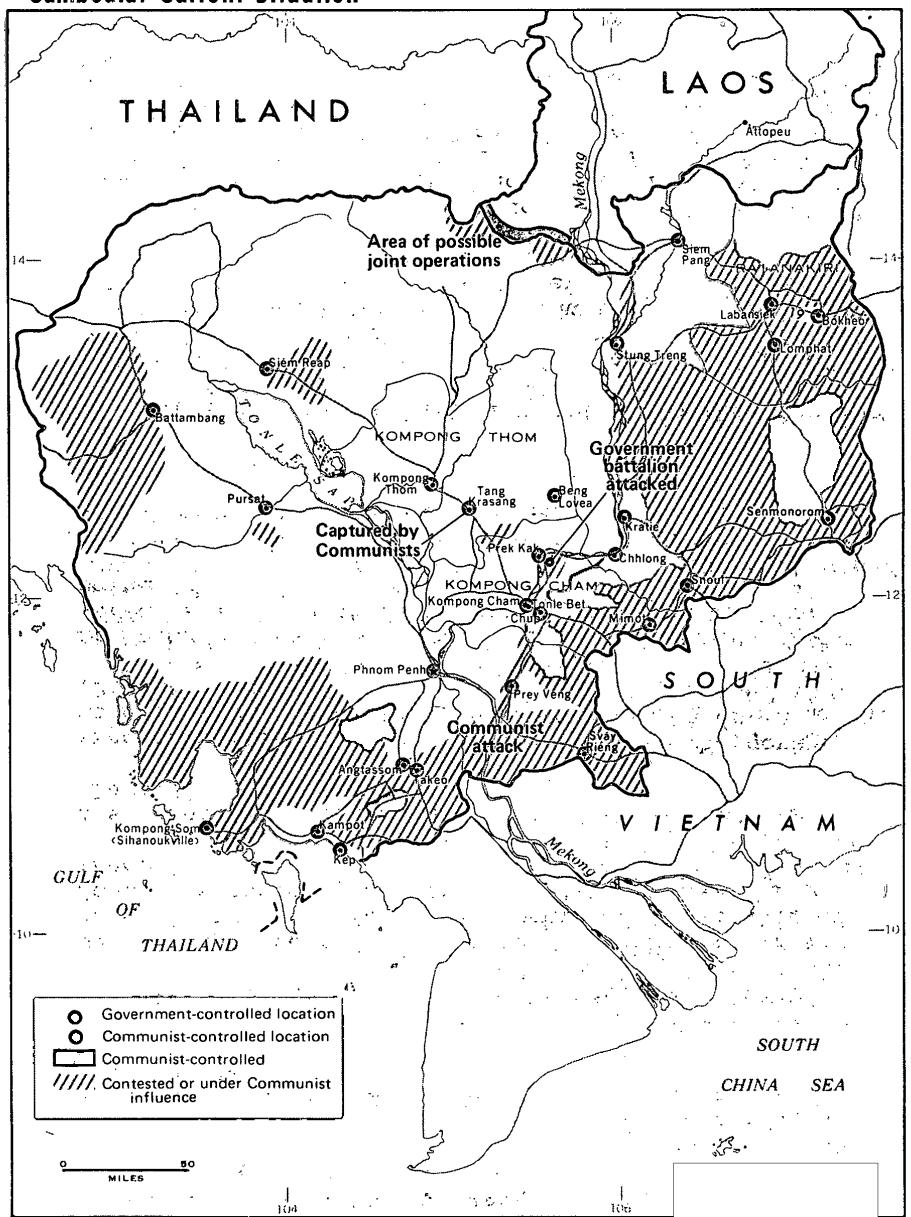
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Insurgents in Thailand are becoming more active.
(*Page 4*)

Arab countries in conflict with Israel are planning
to hold a summit conference in Cairo early next month.
(*Page 5*)

At Annex we submit our views on how the Communist
world is looking at the current situation in Indo-
china.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Current Situation

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**CAMBODIA**

Prime Minister Lon Nol told the US Defense Attaché on 28 May that the Thais have agreed to participate in military operations along a portion of Cambodia's northern border. According to Lon Nol, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Praphat during his two-day visit to Phnom Penh agreed to help defend the area between the Thai-Lao-Cambodian border and the Mekong River. Lon Nol did not provide any operational details but did indicate that Lao forces also would participate.

Lon Nol may have been exaggerating the extent of the commitment made by the Thai delegation. In subsequent remarks to the press, Praphat indicated that Thai troops would not be sent into Cambodia, although he referred to the possibility of operations similar to those along the Malaysian border. In these, Thai troops cooperate with the Malaysian security forces but stay in Thailand.

[redacted] that the government must retain what little ground it holds in Ratanakiri Province. Although he acknowledged that Communist pressure may force the evacuation of the capital at Lomphat, he said he intended to hold the neighboring town of Labansiek at all costs. Moreover, he wanted to hold the town of Bo Kheo. His objective is to secure as much of Route 19 as possible in order to insure overland access to Pleiku in the South Vietnamese central highlands.

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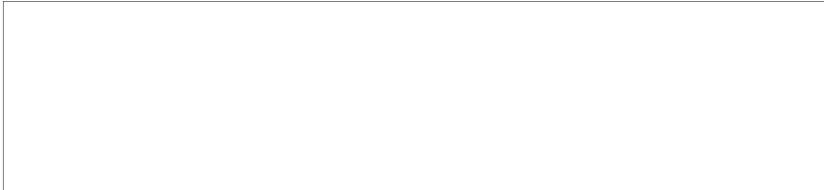
In their most significant attack in the past two weeks, Communist troops, preceded by an artillery barrage, moved into Prey Veng city on the night of 27-28 May. The city, which is 35 miles east of Phnom Penh, has been under steady Communist harassment recently, and such an attack was expected. At last report the town was back under government control.

The Communists also struck hard in Kompong Thom Province on 27 May, capturing the town of Tang Krasang, 15 miles southeast of the provincial capital. They also overran several smaller government positions just east of Tang Krasang. This activity probably is a prelude to an enemy attack on Kompong Thom city.

(continued)

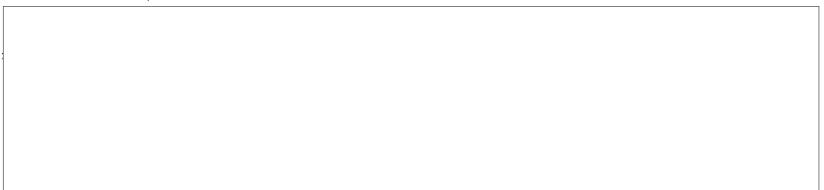
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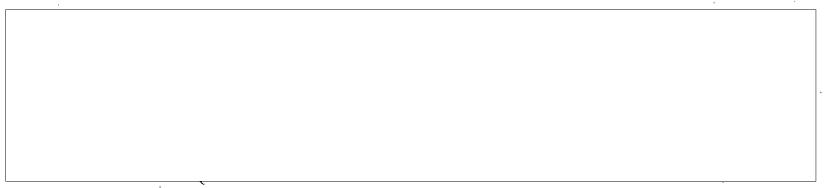


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At Annex we submit our views on how the Communist world is looking at the current situation in Indochina.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

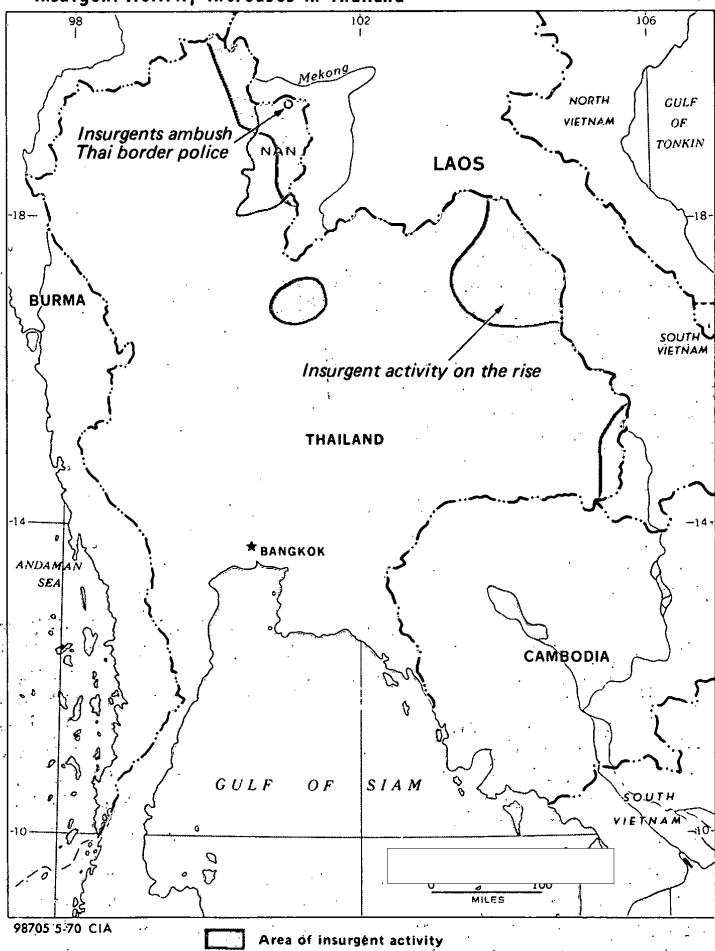


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Insurgent Activity Increases in Thailand



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THAILAND

Government forces are being hit hard by tribal insurgents in the north. The insurgents ambushed a road construction crew operating in Nan Province near the Lao border on 22 May, killing five workers as well as five members of a border police platoon providing security for the operation. The action occurred in the general area where the government suffered sizable casualties during an unsuccessful sweep operation in early April.

The insurgents also are having greater operational success in the northeast, where the Communists appear to be strengthening their village support base. Assassinations, armed propaganda meetings, and other indicators of insurgent activity rose substantially last month in the northeast.

The insurgents' strong resistance to government efforts to re-establish a presence in these areas demonstrates the high value the Communists place on holding this "liberated" border territory. The Thais have not met this challenge directly and continue to underestimate Communist strength. Bangkok appears to be preoccupied with fighting the Communists on the Lao side of the border in joint operations with the Lao Army and is reluctant to commit the necessary resources to cope with the trouble spots on its own side of the border.

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ARAB STATES

King Husayn has informed Chargé Odell that an Arab summit conference of states involved in the conflict with Israel has been proposed for 5 June in Cairo.

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The conference was originally scheduled for August, but apparently the UAR wants to move it up to coincide with the third anniversary of the war. The sudden change in the timing of the conference may be related to Nasir's campaign to deter the US from promising further military aid to Israel. Husayn does not like the new scheduling and has already requested a different date. Husayn wants to be in Amman during the anniversary activities, which could be touchy because of the participation of various fedayeen organizations.

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THE COMMUNISTS AND INDOCHINA

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The Communist world has clearly been in turmoil about Indochina, but what this signifies--particularly in terms of specific Communist intentions on the ground in Southeast Asia--is hard to discern. We do know that the Soviets are upset and the Chinese Communists are elated, and that Le Duan had a long and unproductive stay in Moscow and a short, pleasant one in Peking.

We also know that Hanoi has been putting out a tough propaganda line and has redirected some of its military assets to Cambodia. The bulk of Hanoi's forces there, however, are still operating in support of the main war effort in Vietnam. Moreover, on the eve of Sihanouk's visit to North Vietnam, Radio Hanoi was emphasizing that the "liberation" of each country is primarily a job for the people of that country.

At the same time, activity on the Ho Chi Minh trail is resuming after a two-week partial standdown that was clearly caused by allied actions in Cambodia, and there have been some new inputs to the infiltration pipeline after we thought the rainy season pause had begun.

No radical change of policy is apparent in these bits and pieces. Leaving aside the propaganda atmospherics, we are actually struck by how little has changed in the Communist attitude. Hanoi does seem to have closed off the option of negotiations for the time being, and this by itself may go a long way toward explaining Moscow's unhappiness. But with this major exception, Hanoi's tactics and priorities seem to be about what they have been for the last year or so: the Communists are still avoiding the commitment of most of their troops; they are still sending substantial but not massive numbers of North Vietnamese soldiers south; and they still attach the highest priority to making up their losses in Cambodia and protecting, consolidating, and gradually building up their assets in South Vietnam. Under present circumstances this inevitably involves more activity in both Cambodia and southern Laos than the Communists had planned on, but all this activity is almost certainly geared to the long-term war in South Vietnam.

The Communists probably will try to retain control of much larger areas of Cambodia than they had before, particularly in the northeast, and we believe they are fairly confident they can cope with whatever allied forces remain in Cambodia after 30 June. It is doubtful, however, that the North Vietnamese Army intends

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to try to take over Cambodia as the US moves out. Although we do not accept the idea that the North Vietnamese are at the end of their tether and that their leadership is on the verge of a split, they appear to be stretched fairly thin and therefore will be reluctant to divert many more of their resources to Cambodia. Because of the risks and political liabilities of such a course, the Communists will probably rely on the long haul insurgency route against Lon Nol and Sirik Matak.

The prospect of an increase, albeit circumscribed, in Hanoi's efforts in Cambodia may help explain Moscow's gloom and Peking's pleasure. Another reason on the Soviet side probably can be found in Moscow's low estimate of Vietnamese Communist capabilities, coupled with a fear that an uncompromising line in Hanoi will require another increase in Soviet support.

In the final analysis, however, recent developments in Indochina are important for both the Soviets and the Chinese, primarily because of their larger implications. The depth of the USSR's concern can best be explained in terms of the effect of recent events on its position vis-a-vis the other great powers. We suspect that the Soviets may have spent much of Le Duan's visit arguing that Hanoi was underestimating US combativeness, and they may have considered this gloomy view vindicated by US action in Cambodia. The same developments, of course, also left them holding an empty negotiations bag and enhanced Communist China's posture at their expense. For their part, the Chinese found the North Vietnamese moving closer to their own views on the war, and this, coupled with Sihanouk's availability in Peking, gave them their strongest hand in years in Indochina.

The turmoil thus seems to reflect the changes in Moscow's and Peking's relationships with each other (and with the US) that resulted from the events in Cambodia. We therefore can expect more: the Chinese will keep trying to score points against both the Soviets and the US, and the Soviets will remain on the defensive. At the same time, Hanoi will probably continue to make clear that its views are now closer to those of Peking than to Moscow's, but it certainly will not cut itself off from the Soviets and will do its utmost to keep the dispute between its two patrons from interfering with the war.

As for the war itself, we do not anticipate radically new developments. Peking seems as reluctant as ever to involve itself directly in the conflict, and its aim essentially is still to keep the war going rather

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than to step it up. The North Vietnamese show every sign of determination to cope with the new dangers allied operations in Cambodia have posed to their long-term effort in South Vietnam. What this requires will depend on Hanoi's estimate of the damage that has been done up to now, as well as its view of how much more the South Vietnamese Army will be doing. In general, however, we see no indication that the Communists are thinking of compromise or giving up the struggle, but at this stage neither do we see them preparing to alter their priorities or greatly to enlarge the war.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

30 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Cambodia

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In Laos, the enemy is offering stiff resistance to General Vang Pao's drive to the north. (Page 2)

Hungarian [redacted] (Page 3)

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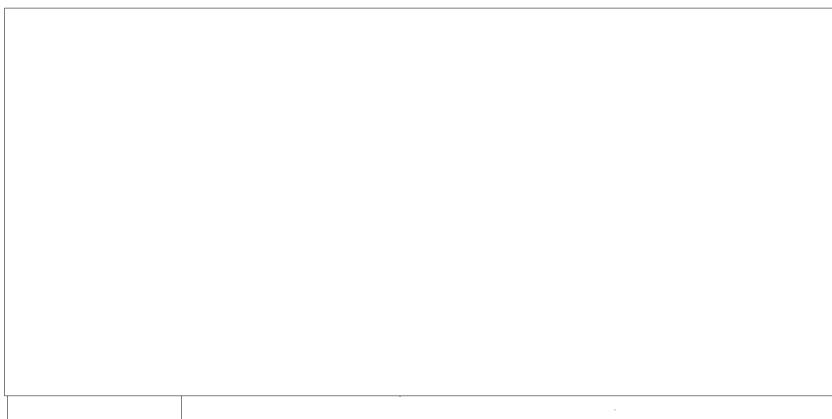
Chinese road builders in Laos are trying to complete some routes before the rainy season. (Page 4)

The Soviets are preparing a major space event.
(Page 4)

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SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA



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Heavy fighting continues in Prey Veng city, about 30 miles east of Phnom Penh. Communist troops are well entrenched in some parts of the city but a late report indicates that a South Vietnamese relief column has arrived in the city to engage the enemy.

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LAOS

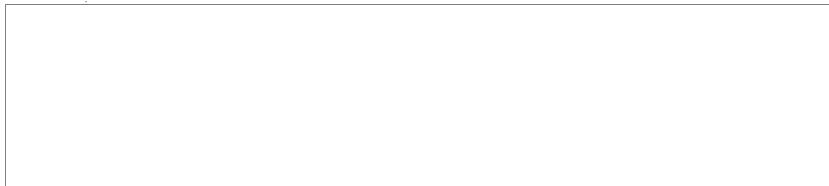
Communications intelligence indicates that the Communists anticipated General Vang Pao's northern thrust against Ban Na and have assembled strong blocking forces in his path. At last report, the guerrillas were still well short of their objective and were having difficulty driving the Communists from the high ground.

The enemy may also launch diversionary attacks in the vicinity of Sam Thong in order to force Vang Pao to break off the Ban Na offensive. The Communists appear determined to forestall any government attempt to repeat last year's rainy season offensive when enemy forces were largely cleared from the Plaine des Jarres. This may prove difficult because Communist units south of the Plaine are increasingly preoccupied with supply problems aggravated by bad weather.

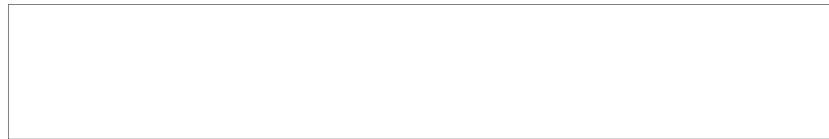
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HUNGARY



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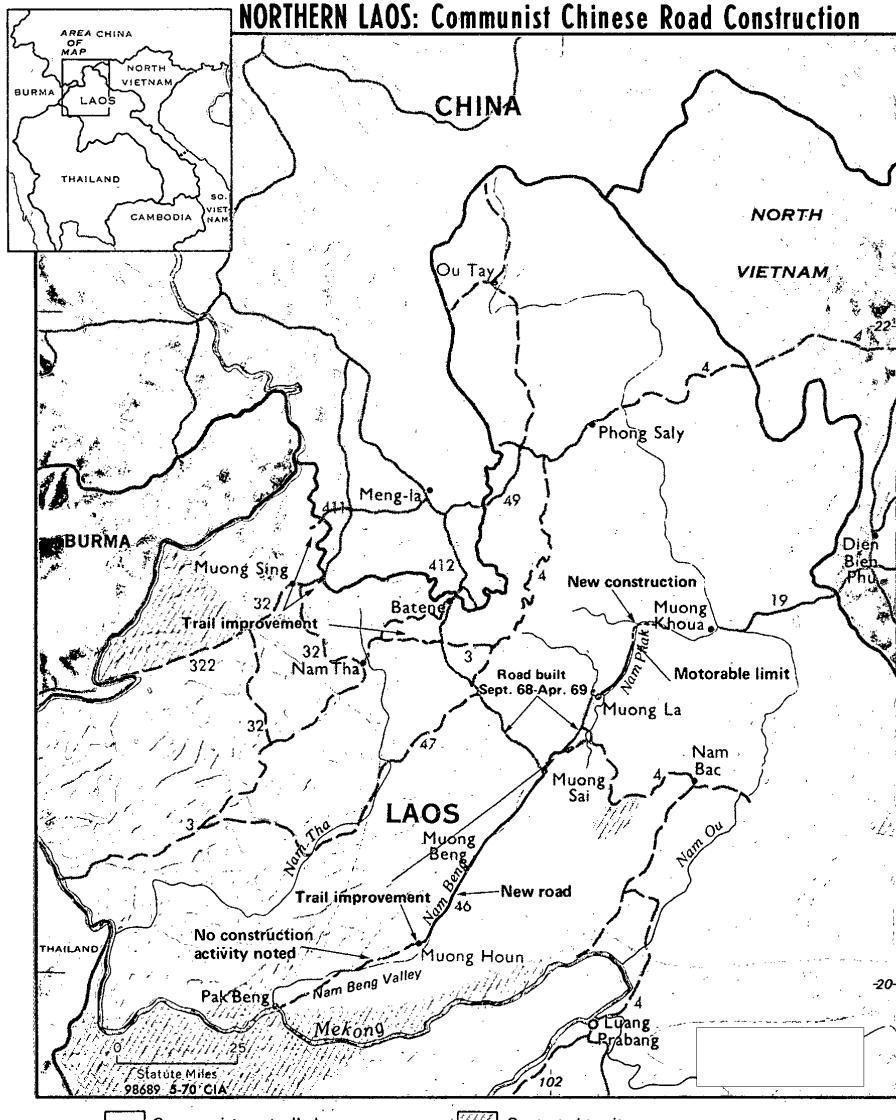
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTHERN LAOS: Communist Chinese Road Construction



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Communist China - Laos: Recent good quality photography of the entire Chinese road building effort in northern Laos reveals continued effort to wind up work on roads already under way before the start of the rainy season. There is no indication that the Chinese will attempt to complete the road southwest to the Mekong before the onset of heavy summer rains. Road construction in northeast Laos, however, may connect with a motorable road from Dien Bien Phu before rains halt work. Elsewhere, Chinese road construction and improvements near the Sino-Laotian border and in north central Laos show little or no progress.

USSR: Preparations apparently are under way for a major space event some time within the next two weeks. [redacted]

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[redacted] The last Soviet manned space flight was in October 1969, when three manned Soyuz spacecraft were launched as part of a program to develop a manned space station.

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Cable, 31 May 70

CAMBODIA

The government has decided to evacuate the town of Lomphat, one of its three remaining major outposts in the northeast. Two battalions there will be sent a few miles north to Labansiek, which lies astride the principal road to the South Vietnamese border. Lomphat was under heavy attack last night, and the Cambodian battalions there may have difficulty getting out.

In the south, South Vietnamese and Cambodian forces have chased the Viet Cong from Prey Veng town. [redacted]

The Communists [redacted] are harassing Svay Rieng town, and they have destroyed a large bridge on the route connecting Svay Rieng with South Vietnam. *(Close)* actions point up the fact that, despite ARVN operations, the Communists are still [redacted] capable of harassing Cambodian and ARVN-defended positions.

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ILLEGIB

ILLEGIB

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PDB CABLE, 31 MAY 70

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MIDDLE EAST

Military actions along the Arab-Israeli cease-fire lines are continuing this weekend, with the heaviest activity on the Israeli-Egyptian front. Israeli planes hit again at the port of Safaga in the Gulf of Suez, and an Egyptian raiding party crossed the Suez Canal in the north to strike at Israeli positions there.

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A meeting in Khartoum late last week of Libyan, Egyptian, and Sudanese leaders appears to have produced nothing but rhetoric and another Arab call for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories. Nasir in his speech noted that any moves of the three countries toward greater unity would have to be approved by their people. Libyan chief Qadhafi has begun a tour of the Arab states apparently to encourage greater unity of action against Israel. Qadhafi's tour and the Khartoum meeting are forerunners of a new meeting in Cairo of the "confrontation" states -- Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt -- planned for 5 June.

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[Redacted]

SOUTH VIETNAM

The central highlands city of Dalat was hit yesterday by a Communist force believed to be a reinforced local battalion. Small groups of enemy soldiers attacked a number of South Vietnamese military positions in and around the city and shelled several others. Other enemy bands at the same time occupied a small portion of the residential area of the city and took over a Catholic seminary and a school.

The attacks against the military targets were repulsed without great difficulty. As of last night, however, there still were pockets of enemy resistance [Redacted]

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On Friday

In Saigon, anti-government agitation still simmers. More than 1,600 students, using the occasion of the funeral of former chief of state Phan Khac Sun, ~~on Friday~~, passed out anti-Thieu leaflets and shouted anti-government slogans. Police finally dispersed them with tear gas. On the same day there was also a considerably smaller demonstration by disabled veterans.

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A number of militant An Quang Buddhists have begun a hunger strike that is to culminate in a march ~~on~~ [Redacted] the presidential palace on 2 June.

ILLEGIB

The militants intend their demonstration both as an anti-war protest and a demand that the government charter recognizing the rival Quoc Tu faction as the official Buddhist church be revoked. The An Quang leadership, however, is not united behind the demonstration; [Redacted] some fear [Redacted] that the march on the palace could result in violence.

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