

The President's Daily Brief

2 January 1970

49

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

2 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Moscow has told Bonn it is willing to talk with the Western powers on Berlin. (Page 1)

There is evidence that the North Vietnamese are moving heavier artillery into north Laos. (Page 2)

Communist terrorism in Thailand has increased in recent weeks. (Page 3)

The Chinese, in an authoritative editorial, have directly denounced Brezhnev for the first time since the Chou-Kosygin meeting of last September. (Page 4) 50X1

The Soviets are constructing a division-size installation in Mongolia. (Page 5)

Peking

Italian and Canadian

(Page 6) 50X1

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USSR-BERLIN

Moscow has expressed its willingness to talk with the Western powers on West Berlin in an oral demarche delivered by the Soviet chargé in Bonn on 29 December. The Soviet diplomat also reaffirmed Soviet opposition to Bundestag committee meetings in West Berlin. He noted that such meetings were planned for this month but did not threaten any counteraction.

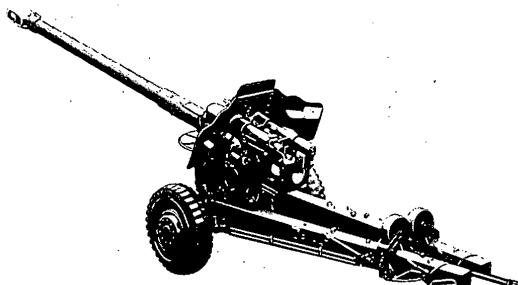
This is the first direct Soviet comment on the Allied proposal for four-power talks on Berlin since the formal Soviet reply on 12 September. Moscow apparently felt it necessary to impress upon the Western powers its continuing interest in discussing the Berlin problem without committing itself on the specifics of the proposed talks.

In an effort to create a favorable climate for give and take with the Soviets, Chancellor Brandt decided early last month not to hold the customary January Bundestag work week in West Berlin. Bonn will not make any further concessions, however, and individual committees and party groups will continue to hold frequent sessions in West Berlin.

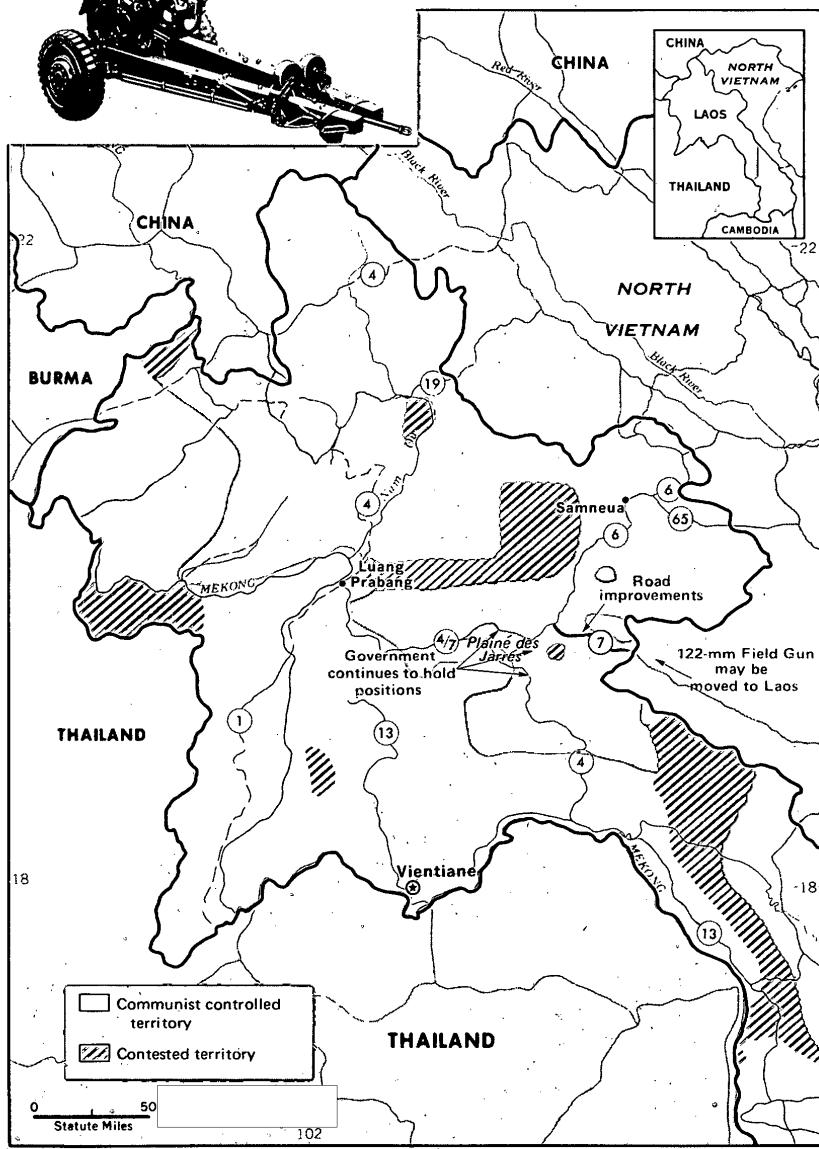
Moscow seems interested in continuing a dialogue with the West on various issues, and the Soviets are not likely to provoke a crisis over these meetings.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

122-mm Field Gun D-74 (type captured by US in A Shau Valley)



Northern Laos: Current Situation



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LAOS

The North Vietnamese appear to be moving medium artillery into north Laos. According to an intercepted message of 30 December, North Vietnamese engineers along Route 7 were pushing to complete road improvements by 1 January in order to support the movement of a convoy towing 122-mm. "long-barreled artillery pieces."

This would be the first time that Communist forces have employed such a weapon in Laos. A weapon of similar caliber was captured by US forces in the Au Shau Valley of South Vietnam last February.

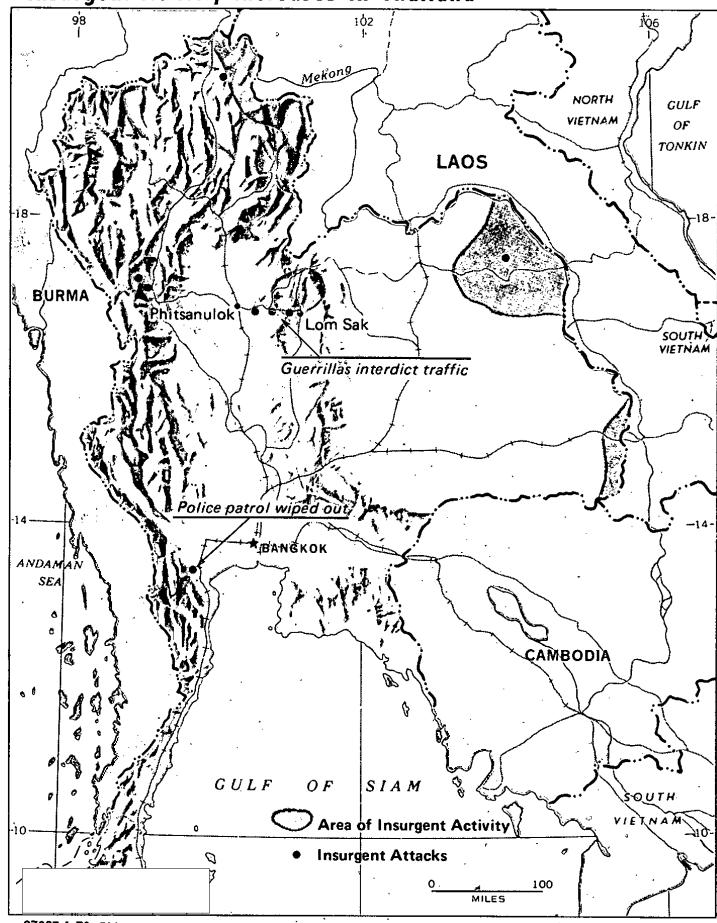
The surprising degree of success that government guerrillas have had in holding strategic highpoints near the Plaine des Jarres, despite repeated North Vietnamese ground attacks, may be responsible for the decision to introduce heavier artillery into north Laos at this time.

Another intercept of mid-December suggests that the North Vietnamese are also increasing sharply the flow of arms and ammunition into north Laos.

These shipments, and the movement of artillery--at a time when the Communists normally take the offensive--are further indications that the long-anticipated Communist counteroffensive against the Plaine des Jarres may soon begin.

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Insurgent Activity Increases in Thailand



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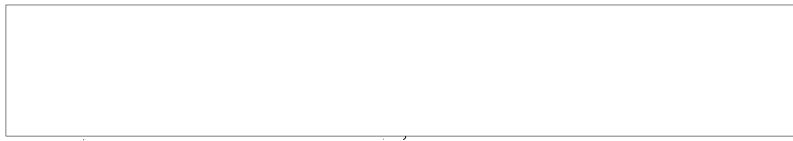
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THAILAND

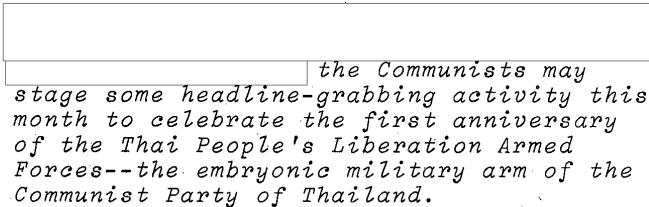
Communist insurgents have mounted several ambushes in recent weeks, causing a number of casualties among government security officials. In the most serious attack, a police patrol was wiped out in an area west of Bangkok that heretofore has been largely free of insurgent activity. There has also been a marked rise in guerrilla activity in the northeast and north-central areas of the country.



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[redacted] the Communists may stage some headline-grabbing activity this month to celebrate the first anniversary of the Thai People's Liberation Armed Forces--the embryonic military arm of the Communist Party of Thailand.

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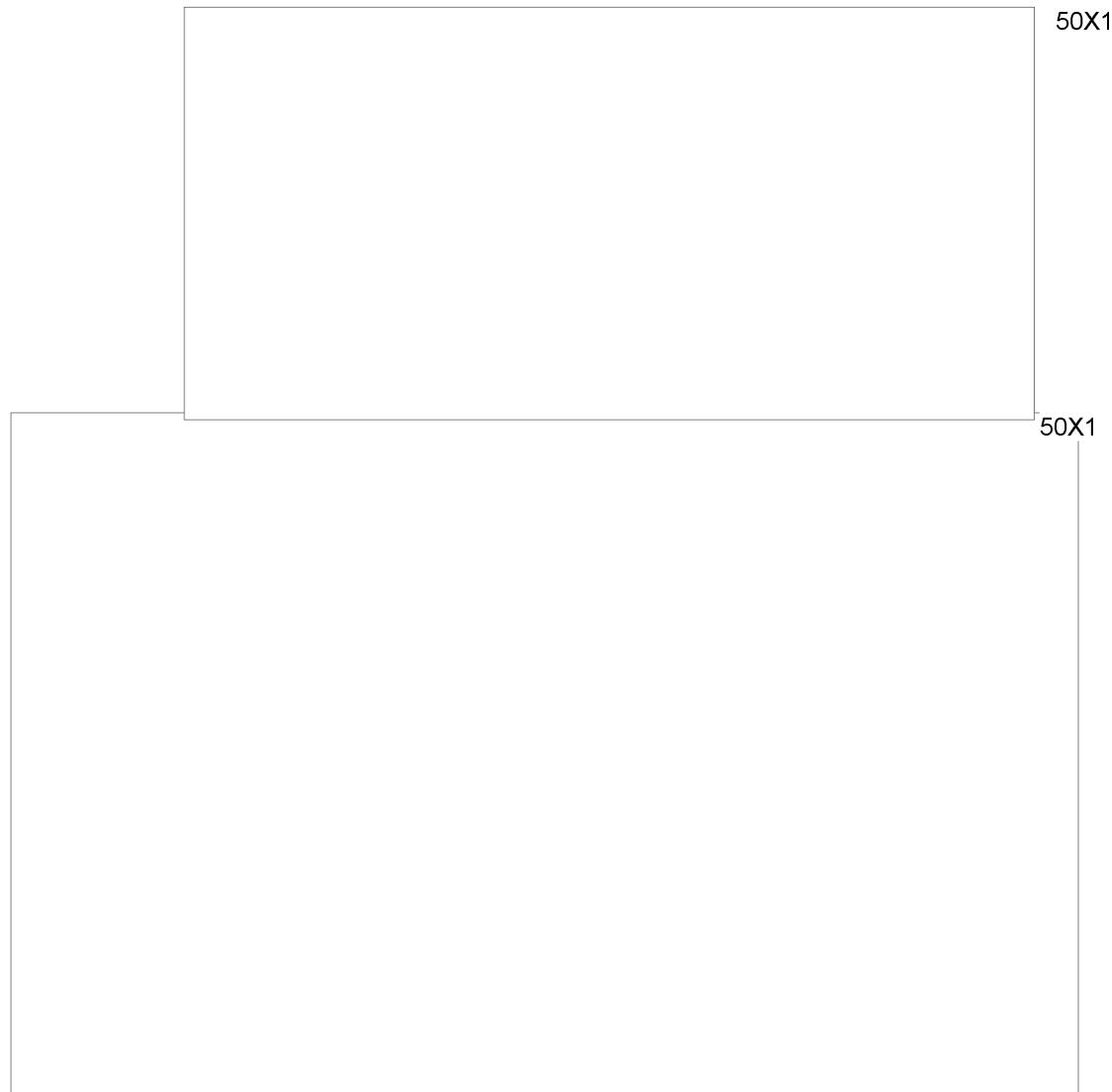
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COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR

In an authoritative editorial on 31 December the Chinese directly denounced Soviet party leader Brezhnev by name for the first time since the Chou-Kosygin meeting last September. The article also underscored China's determination to defend its frontiers from attack by either the US or the Soviets.

The Chinese commentary is consistent with the more strident tone China's anti-Soviet polemics have adopted in recent weeks, and is intended to put Moscow on notice that the Chinese will continue to be tough negotiators when the border talks resume. Moscow this morning announced that its delegation chief, First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov, returned to Peking today.

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USSR-MONGOLIA

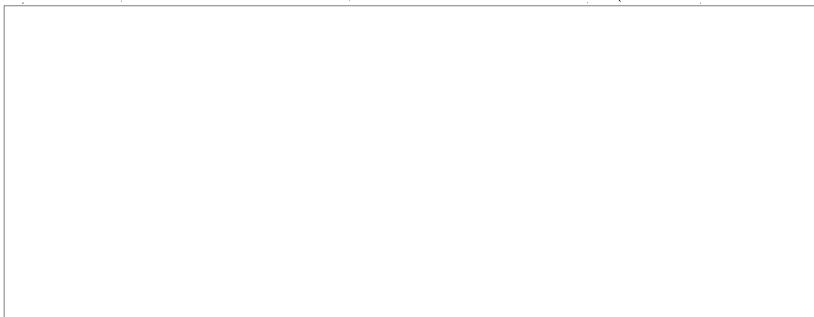
Recent satellite photography shows a division-size installation under construction at Sumber Suma, Mongolia. Only a few vehicles were observed at the new installation, which was begun sometime after November 1968, suggesting that it is not yet fully occupied.

The Soviets probably are forming a high-level headquarters to control at least three divisions in Mongolia. There are now two Soviet divisions there--one at Ulan Bator and one at Sayn Shanda. Another smaller ground force unit at Choybalsan may eventually be brought up to division strength.

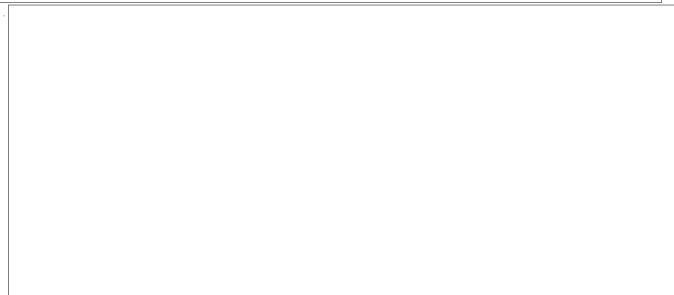
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COMMUNIST CHINA - ITALY - CANADA



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NOTE

Chile: The impasse over the selection of a presidential candidate is widening the divisions within the Communist-leftist electoral front. The six parties of the Popular Unity Movement finally agreed on a program last week after months of wrangling, but have been unable to settle on a candidate. Opposition to the leading contender, Socialist Senator Salvador Allende, on grounds that he is over-exposed after three unsuccessful tries at the presidency, has led him to withdraw his name [redacted]

[redacted] There is growing talk that Senator Rafael Gumucio, who recently broke away from the governing Christian Democratic Party, will be the compromise candidate.

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The President's Daily Brief

3 January 1970

48

50X1

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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The Chinese road building project in northwestern Laos has been bombed by Lao Government aircraft for the first time. (Page 1)

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[] Nationalist Chinese []

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[] (Page 2) []

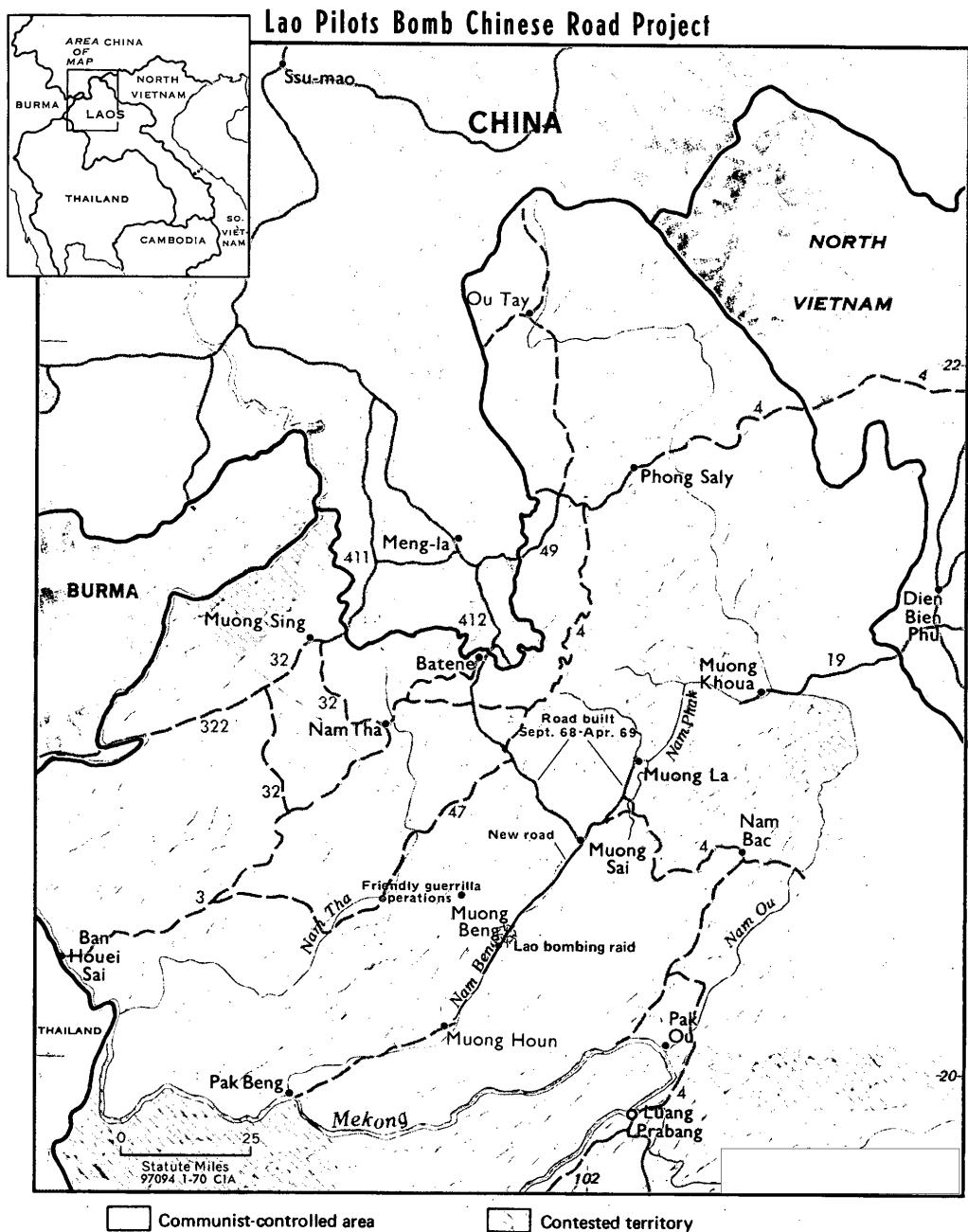
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Thai Foreign Minister Thanat is voicing Bangkok's apprehensions over the future US role in Southeast Asia and questioning the future value of SEATO.
(Page 3)

Israel's raid into Lebanon last night will put strong pressure on the Lebanese cabinet to remove what restraints remain on fedayeen activity in the country. (Page 4)

Some thoughts on a recent theoretical Soviet policy document released on the occasion of Lenin's 100th birthday. (Page 5)

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LAOS

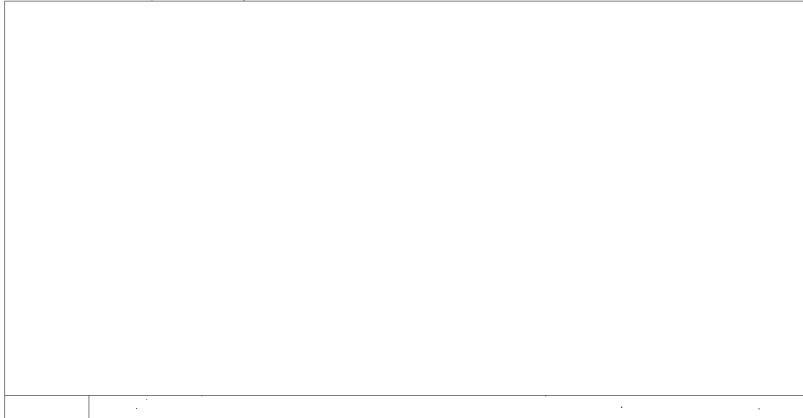
The Chinese road building project in northwest-
ern Laos has been bombed for the first time. Ambas-
sador Godley reports that two Laotian fighters bombed
a group of trucks yesterday while providing close air
support for Lao Government guerrillas operating near
the construction activity. The Lao pilots claim they
attacked in retaliation after coming under heavy anti-
aircraft fire. They reported leaving ten trucks burn-
ing.

*Prime Minister Souvanna is well aware of
the US opposition to any military operation
against the road building project at this
time; his government and the King have en-
dorsed the US position, but some Lao mili-
tary leaders have been unhappy over this
hands-off policy and may have been respon-
sible for the attack. Up to now Chinese
diplomats have consistently denied any Chi-
nese involvement in the current road con-
struction--a position which will make a
public protest by Peking difficult.*

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NATIONALIST CHINA



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THAILAND

Foreign Minister Thanat has implied to a number of Asian and US diplomats that he interprets the recent passage of the Church Amendment to the Defense Appropriation Bill as virtually the final blow to Thailand's reliance on SEATO.

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Although some other leaders share Thanat's pessimism, there apparently is little serious consideration given to reducing Bangkok's participation in SEATO.

Whatever doubts Thai leaders may have over the dependability of Washington's reassurances on mutual defense matters, SEATO provides the only legal basis for the US-Thai military relationship in Southeast Asia that Bangkok wants to preserve.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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ISRAEL-LEBANON

Israel's raid into Lebanon last night and the taking of 21 Lebanese Army and civilian prisoners came in the wake of stern new Israeli warnings of retaliation against Beirut for Lebanon-based fedayeen activity. The number of incidents along the border has been increasing despite the Lebanese Government's efforts to restrain the fedayeen, and Tel Aviv was particularly incensed by the kidnaping of an Israeli civilian on 31 December.

Israel's taking of Lebanese rather than fedayeen prisoners is in line with Tel Aviv's long-standing policy of holding the host government responsible for acts occurring on its territory, a policy that may have legal merit but which has proved ineffective in curbing fedayeen activity. The public outcry in Lebanon resulting from Israel's action will put strong pressure on the Lebanese cabinet to remove what restraints remain on fedayeen activity. Moreover, the Lebanese Army, the main instrument for keeping the fedayeen in check, may now find it has a common cause with them.

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USSR

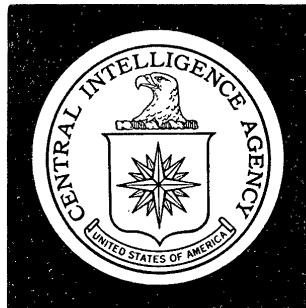
Next April marks the 100th birthday of Lenin and Soviet party theorists are busy preparing the groundwork for a major celebration. The Centennial was officially launched on 23 December with the publication of Soviet party theses that reaffirmed all Soviet policies since 1917 and reasserted Moscow's claim to leadership of the world Communist movement. The document condemned "liberalized socialism" and nationalism and warned that these deviations from Communist orthodoxy threaten the basic principles of Communism. The theses repeated the now standard formulation that Soviet economic achievements would have been even greater but for the need "to allocate great resources for defense." Other domestic concerns were referred to in vaguely optimistic tones but with little sense of future direction.

Except for brief jabs at "US imperialism" and "West German revanchism," the theses did not criticize any country by name. Implicitly, however, they attacked various trends in other Communist countries, including Yugoslavia's more liberal form of socialism and China's Maoist policies. On the other hand, benefits to be derived from increasing "political and economic cohesion" of Communist countries are heavily emphasized.

The authors of the theses are anonymous, but it is obviously an ex cathedra performance. The document offers the orthodoxy of the past as a guideline to the future and is intended to provide the ideological setting for the Centennial.

The implicit criticism of other Communist parties should not in itself trigger new polemic exchanges. Moscow's insistence that all must follow the Soviet pattern, however, will cause uneasiness in Eastern Europe and among some of the Western European Communist parties.

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The President's Daily Brief

5 January 1970

47



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

5 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Phnom Penh is again making major rice deliveries to the Vietnamese Communists. (Page 1)

Nigerian federal forces have advanced farther into Biafran territory. (Page 2)

President Suharto continues his campaign to purge Indonesia's military services of subversive elements. (Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh is again making major rice deliveries
to the Vietnamese Communists.

[redacted] shipments totaling 2,000 tons were
delivered during December to Communist forces along
the Laotian and South Vietnamese borders.

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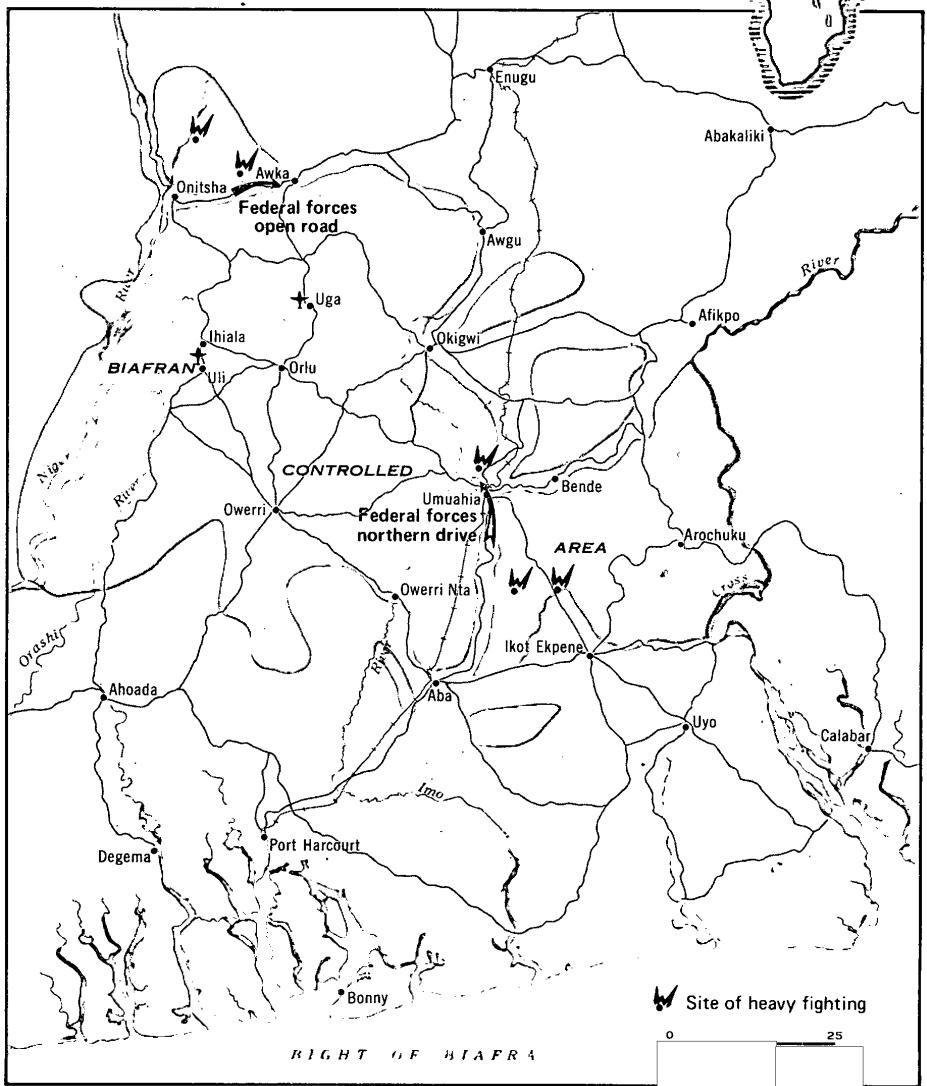
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[redacted] Mainly
because of temporary rice shortages in
Cambodia, Phnom Penh had delayed the full
reactivation of the Communists' food sup-
ply channel. Communist China, however,
subsequently delivered considerable ton-
nages of rice to Cambodia.

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Nigerian Federal Forces Maintain Pressure



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NIGERIA

The southeastern part of the Biafran enclave, roughly one quarter of its total area, has been severed by federal forces. The Nigerians also are maintaining pressure on Biafran units in the northern portion of the enclave.

So far the Biafrans have managed to prevent any inroads into territory where their two main airstrips and major population centers are located. In the past two weeks the Biafrans have received large airlifts of munitions, and secessionist leader General Ojukwu still shows no signs of giving up the fight.

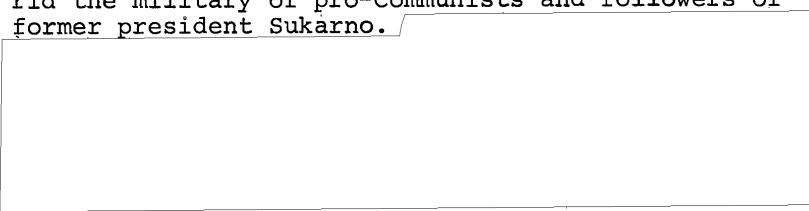
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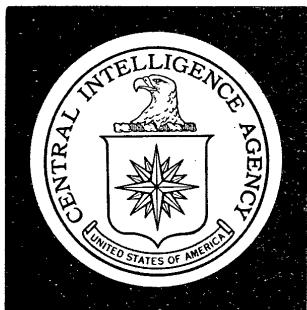
Indonesia: Several senior army and navy officers were arrested and interrogated recently as part of President Suharto's continuing campaign to rid the military of pro-Communists and followers of former president Sukarno.

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The President's Daily Brief

6 January 1970

26

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

6 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Jordan will suffer major crop losses if Israel continues to prevent the repair of the East Ghor irrigation canal. (Page 1)

Chinese roadbuilders in Laos are close to their southern terminal objective and there are no signs they intend to go further during the current dry season. (Page 2)

[redacted] the anti-Western sentiment in Somalia. (Page 3) 50X1

Upcoming negotiations on oil revenues between Iran and the oil consortium promise to be difficult. (Page 4)

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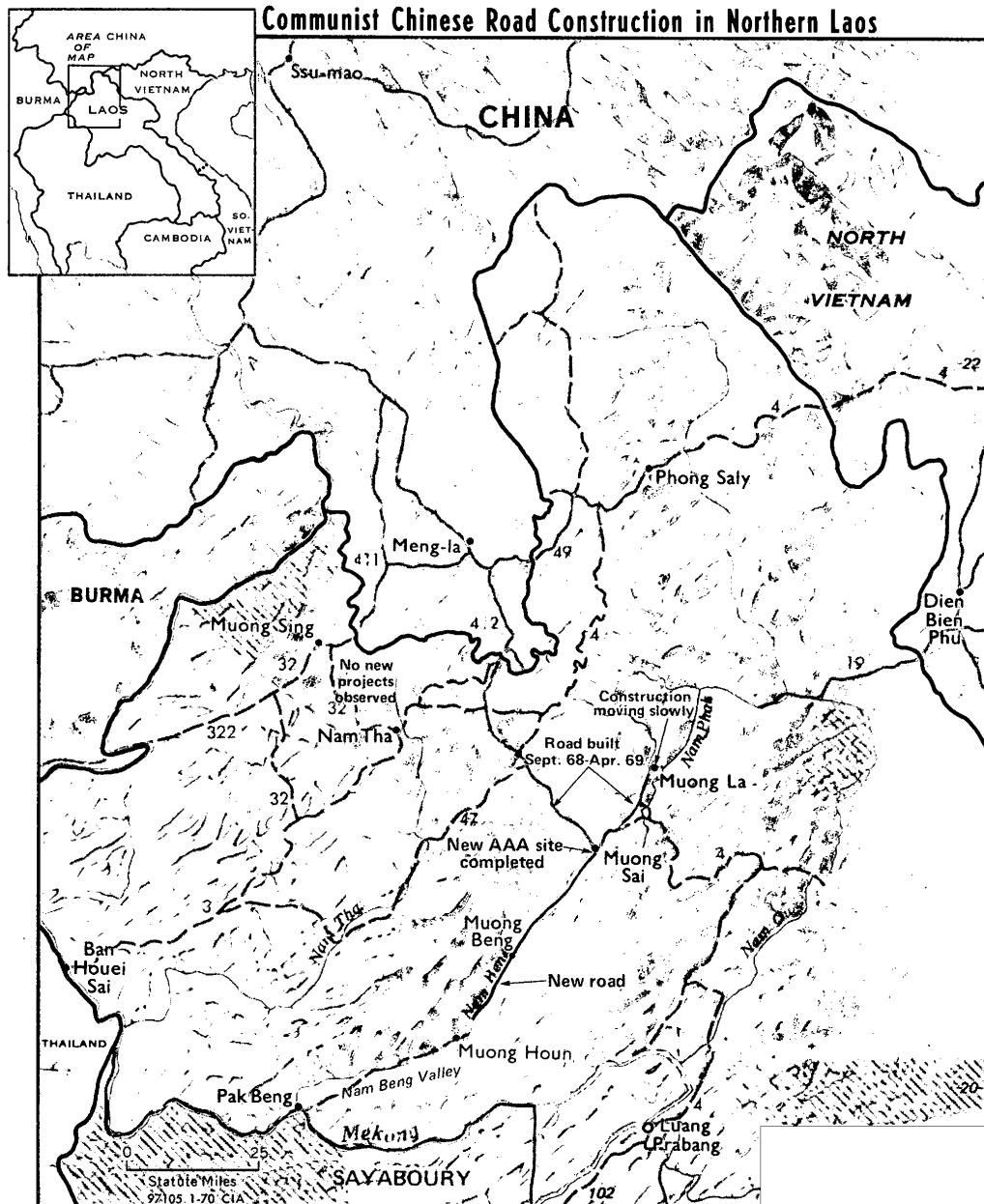
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-JORDAN

Israel is preventing the repair of the East Ghor irrigation canal by firing on Jordanian workers as they approach areas damaged by an Israeli air attack on 1 January. Damage to the canal is not extensive and could be repaired in a few days if the Israelis allow it.

After a similar attack in August the Israelis kept the Jordanians away from the canal for almost two months, causing an estimated \$2 million loss. The situation is even more critical now because the growing season has begun in Jordan and water supplies are crucial. Jordan could lose one third of its 1970 agricultural output (\$25 million) if the canal remains unrepai red for as long as three months.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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LAOS

[redacted] the 50X1
road the Chinese have been building southwest of Muong Sai is now within five miles of Muong Houn, some 50 miles down the Nam Beng Valley from the road-head at Muong Sai. The valley is an established Communist infiltration corridor for men and supplies destined for north Thailand.

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The apparent lack of activity south of Muong Houn adds some weight to the claims

[redacted] they would concentrate on the Muong Sai - Muong Houn road for the present. Muong Houn was the high-water mark of the Pathet Lao advance in 1962.

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SOMALIA

A distinct nationalistic and anti-Western sentiment is apparent within the ruling Supreme Revolutionary Council.

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The recent expulsion of the Peace Corps and the eviction order given to five members of the UN technical mission, however, are clear indications of the anti-Western atmosphere in Somalia.

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IRAN-CONSORTIUM

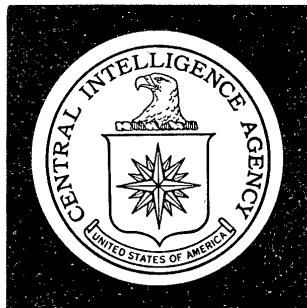
Negotiations on oil revenues for the Iranian year that begins in March may be even more difficult this year than last. In preliminary skirmishing, the Iranians are asking for \$150 million over the \$1 billion which the consortium estimates its operations will generate. Iran is also pressing the US to accept more of its oil on the American market. Prime Minister Hoveyda has already warned of unpleasant consequences if Iranian demands are not met.

If the Iranians follow their usual game plan, Hoveyda's opening salvo will be followed by gradually increasing pressure not only on the companies in the consortium, but also on their governments.

The Shah badly needs additional foreign exchange if he is to carry out a pet project--strengthening his forces in the Persian Gulf--without cutting into Iran's economic development program.

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The President's Daily Brief

7 January 1970

49

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Moscow seems to be lifting its restraints in the polemical battle with Peking as the second round of border talks gets under way. (Page 1)

In the Middle East, clashes on the cease-fire lines continue at a high level. (Page 2)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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USSR - COMMUNIST CHINA

As the second round of border talks gets under way, the Soviet press has begun criticizing China more openly and directly than it has since the Peking talks began in October. In addition, our Embassy in Moscow reports that some of the more vicious anti-Mao propaganda tracts, which had disappeared after the Kosygin-Chou En-lai meeting in September, are reappearing in Moscow bookstores.

The renewal of Soviet criticism follows especially harsh Chinese polemical attacks. Moscow may hope that Peking interprets the shift as a sign that its patience is wearing thin, and will accordingly adopt a more forthcoming attitude.

The resumption of polemics, even with a less strident tone than before the talks began, could also be intended to help prepare the Soviet domestic audience in case the negotiations do not reach an acceptable conclusion.

[redacted] Soviet diplomats [redacted] have been taken aback by the virulence of recent Chinese polemics. They appear less sanguine than before about prospects for early progress in the talks.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL - ARAB STATES

Israel is lashing out harder at Jordan and Lebanon in response to the increase in incidents along its borders with the two. The principal issue with Jordan is the continued harassment of Israeli settlements in northern Israel. The Israelis suspect King Husayn's strictures against Jordanian Army support of the fedayeen are not being obeyed. In consequence, Israel recently has shelled the large city of Irbid, knocked out Jordan's only operating radar station, and, as reported yesterday, has again blown out a section of the East Ghor Canal.

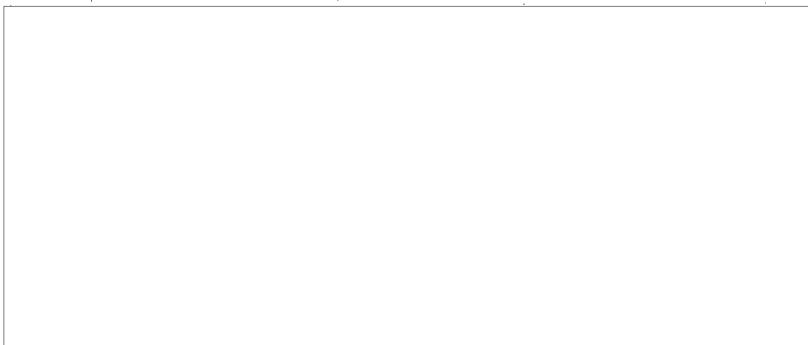
Israeli aircraft yesterday struck again at fedayeen bases in Lebanon. Beirut meanwhile is trying to work out with Fatah the return of the Israeli watchman captured by the fedayeen on 1 January. Fatah, however, wants Israel to deal directly with it, and has suggested a swap of the watchman for an Arab guerrilla held by the Israelis since 1967. Israel has released four Lebanese prisoners captured during the recent commando raid, but is holding on to 17 others.

Although there are no indications that Israel intends to "gain more security," by seizing more Arab territory, the patience of some Israeli leaders, particularly in the military, may be wearing thin. Some of them have from time to time hinted that such a solution might eventually be necessary not only against Jordan, but also Lebanon. Defense Minister Dayan last week caused considerable consternation by implying publicly that Israel might have to take more territory east of the Jordan River.

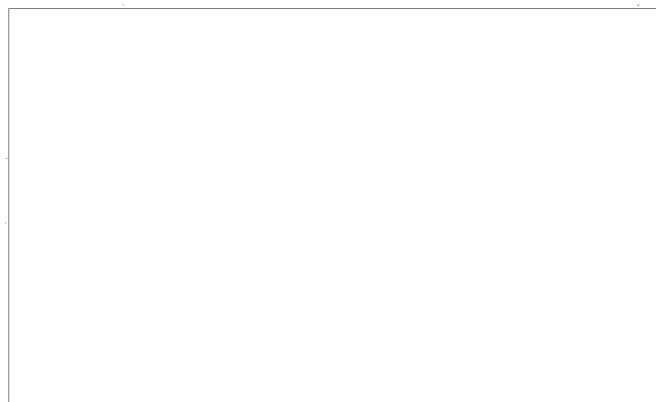
The Suez Canal front is also active. The Egyptians, after losing two or three MIG-21s Sunday, yesterday sent jets against Israeli positions along the canal for the first time since November. Egyptian commandos also carried out an apparently unsuccessful commando raid yesterday, losing nine killed, according to Israeli claims.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FRANCE-LIBYA



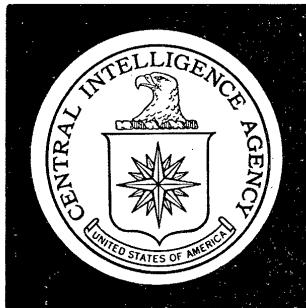
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The President's Daily Brief

8 January 1970

27

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Relatively few new North Vietnamese troops have entered the infiltration pipeline during the past week. Meanwhile, the heavy fighting currently under way throughout much of South Vietnam probably foreshadows the kind of tactics the enemy will emphasize over the short term. (Page 1)

The one-day general strike held in Saigon does not appear to have caused any serious disruption. (Page 3)

The French Foreign Ministry claims that any eventual arms contract with Libya will provide for a long lead-time on the delivery of military supplies and strict controls on their use. (Page 4)

Cambodian chief of state Sihanouk has left for an extended stay in France, turning his back on a mounting political challenge from opposition elements in the government. (Page 5)

[redacted] Sudan. (Page 6)

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VIETNAM

Relatively few new North Vietnamese troops have entered the infiltration pipeline during the past week. Seven new groups have been detected on the move in North Vietnam. Only one group was of the usual battalion strength; the rest were small, with less than 100 in each group. Altogether the input over the week amounted to about 1,000 troops.

Several more battalion-sized infiltration groups, and a variety of very small groups containing fewer than ten people, have been noted in Laos. At least some of the larger units are assumed to have started south in November.

The small groups do not add substantially to infiltration estimates, but their size may belie their importance to the Communists. [redacted] captured documents have indicated that small groups often contain specialists such as sappers, rocketeers, doctors, political action teams, and other key additions to the Communist apparatus in the South.

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The infiltration estimate since late October, when the flow began to quicken, is now fairly firm at roughly 21,000 men.

This figure is only half that noted during the same period in 1968, but the difference becomes less important when the destinations of the infiltrators are considered. For example, infiltration figures for November and December 1968 included over 10,000 men believed to be in regular North Vietnamese units that moved into the Demilitarized Zone area but were not committed to action for several more months. Only about 4,000 men in this category have been noted in the past two and a half months. During the 1968 period, about 14,000 enemy personnel earmarked for the Saigon area entered the infiltration pipeline. This is only slightly larger than the number of troops dispatched over the past two months to the same area--some 12,000. Some of these replacements probably will be used to strengthen North Vietnamese regiments that recently moved farther south into IV Corps, as well as to replace in part the losses sustained during the period in 1969 when infiltration reached unusually low levels.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Heavy fighting continues throughout much of South Vietnam as the second phase of the Communists' winter-spring campaign, which apparently got under way on 3-4 January, gathers momentum.

The latest actions probably foreshadow the kind of tactics that the Communists will emphasize over the near term. The enemy has relied on small groups of sappers or commandos to carry out some of the heaviest assaults in recent days, inflicting significant casualties on allied forces. Enemy harassing fire has been most effective against remote outposts and towns. There have been reports of heavier action planned for later in the campaign, including the commitment of more main force units.

The Communists continue to augment their forces in the delta provinces of IV Corps with North Vietnamese regulars. There is fresh evidence in intercepts that the North Vietnamese 95th Regiment has relocated from III Corps.

Other Communist main force units that recently moved to the delta include the 273rd, 18B, and 101D regiments. The addition of the 95th Regiment would raise enemy main force strength in the delta almost to the equivalent of two regular divisions.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

The one-day general strike held in Saigon yesterday does not appear to have caused any serious disruption. The strike had been called by local elements of the Vietnamese Confederation of Labor after they had been unable to persuade the government to get the city's bus company back in operation after several months' idleness. Although the local leadership had voted to extend the strike, the confederation's national chairman, Tran Quoc Buu, got them to call it off and resume parleys with the government.

The decision by local leaders to order a strike is a further sign of widespread disgruntlement with the recent rise in the cost of living. The confederation under Buu has provided important political support to President Thieu, and this open challenge to the government by the Saigon local union may create strains in the relations between the government and the confederations. In view of Buu's action to limit the strike, however, it could prove to be a relatively isolated and transitory event.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FRANCE-LIBYA

The French Foreign Ministry is clarifying its intentions regarding arms negotiations with Tripoli. In a recent conversation with Ambassador Shriver, Foreign Minister Schumann stressed that when an arms contract with Libya is signed, a long lead-time on deliveries will be an important part of the deal. Schumann also said there would be strict and precise clauses in the contract forbidding the transfer of the weapons to other powers, or their use in "other theaters of operation." He reiterated previous French denials that France planned to occupy bases evacuated by the US and UK, but said that it was possible that a "few" French technicians and instructors might be sent to these installations. Another high Foreign Ministry official said that France intended to maintain the option of suspending delivery of the equipment under certain circumstances--such as Libya coming under the control of the UAR.

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it appears
that the Foreign Minister, by stringing
out delivery time tables, hopes to vitiate
the impact of the deal on the Middle East
military balance of power. Schumann re-
gards the next year as a critical period
for successful peace efforts in the Mid-
dle East.

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CAMBODIA

Prince Sihanouk abruptly departed for France on 6 January, turning his back on a mounting political challenge from opposition elements in the government. The Cambodian chief of state is expected to be gone for two or three months on a medical retreat.

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Sihanouk's inability to bring his determined opponents to heel during the recent National Congress in Phnom Penh also influenced his decision to go abroad at this time. Prime Minister Lon Nol's post-congress acceptance of the resignations of four pro-Sihanouk cabinet members has added to the Prince's political battle fatigue. His extended absence should give the government the opportunity it has long been seeking to manage its own affairs, free from Sihanouk's obstructive interference. Nevertheless it is unlikely to take any strikingly new initiatives while he is away. As has been the case in the past, Sihanouk probably will return to Cambodia revitalized and ready to make fresh efforts to reassert his political supremacy.

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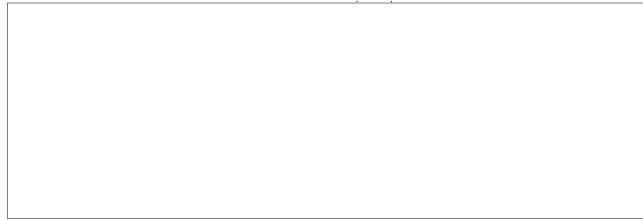
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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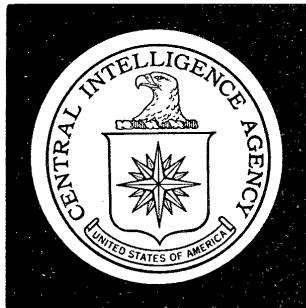
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

9 January 1970

48

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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North Vietnamese troops are moving into position to launch a major counterattack against the Plaine des Jarres. In southern Laos, the Communists have hit the town of Pakse with rockets. (Page 3)

In a talk with Ambassador Beam on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Gromyko relayed the Kremlin's views on several matters of joint concern. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA

The atmosphere at yesterday's meeting in Warsaw was brisk and businesslike. The Chinese chargé made a pro forma declaration that responsibility for the frigid state of Sino-US relations rested with Washington, but there were no polemics. The Chinese accepted US proposals that subsequent meetings alternate between the embassies of the two countries and that discussions be conducted in English and Chinese exclusively.

Yesterday's meeting was somewhat more formal than that of 11 December, but the Chinese apparently are remaining flexible and are clearly interested in hearing what the US will have to say on 20 January. [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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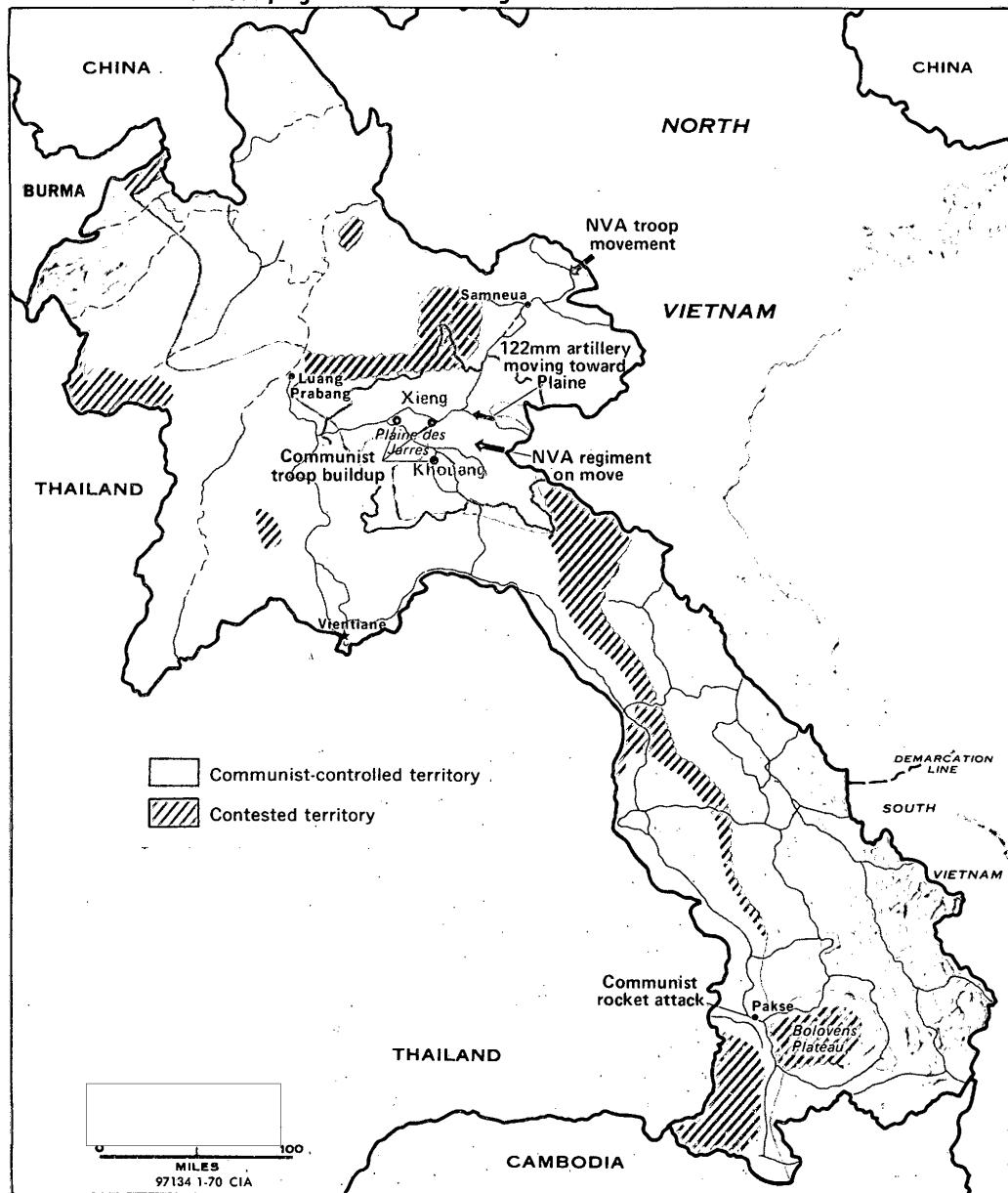
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

North Vietnamese Readying Counterattack Against the Plaine des Jarres



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The North Vietnamese are moving into position to launch a major counterattack against government forces in the Plaine des Jarres. There are reports of widespread enemy troop deployments along the periphery of the Plaine, including a regiment of the 312th Division, which has been safeguarding supply trails in eastern Xieng Khouang Province. There are also indications that a convoy of long-range artillery is moving toward a forward staging area. A North Vietnamese command operating near the Plaine has increased its tactical readiness, suggesting a higher level of combat in the near future.

The North Vietnamese may have recently infiltrated another combat regiment into north Laos. A village official in northeast Laos near the North Vietnam border claims large numbers of troops crossed the border on foot in late December headed for the Plaine des Jarres.

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The enemy soon will have the capacity to launch concerted ground assaults on several fronts, possibly at the same time. The fate of the outmanned government guerrillas under such circumstances would depend heavily on the level and timeliness of air support.

In southern Laos, Communist forces yesterday launched a limited rocket attack against the town of Pakse. There were no US casualties.

The fact that the shelling was not followed by a ground assault suggests that the Communists, smarting from their losses in the north, were more interested in a psychological blow than further territorial inroads at this time.

The attack also serves as a reminder to Vientiane of the enemy's ability to stir up the military situation with little notice. The Communists may hope that this incident will deter the government from moving additional troops from this area to augment the defense of the Plaine des Jarres.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOVIET UNION

In a conversation with Ambassador Beam in Moscow on 7 January, Foreign Minister Gromyko relayed the Kremlin's views on several matters of joint concern. On the question of a European security conference, Gromyko said that US and Canadian participation was "clear" provided that both German states would also be included. He implied that the US was opposing the conference by insisting that the proposed agenda include issues, such as balanced force reductions, that have long been in dispute.

On the Middle East, Gromyko said that Moscow was prepared to continue bilateral and four-power talks, but implied that progress toward a settlement depended on a change of attitudes and policies in Washington and Tel Aviv, not in Moscow. He said recent US proposals were one-sided and claimed that it was "hard to understand" US encouragement of the Israelis since the situation might again get out of hand.

Touching briefly on the recent strategic arms limitation talks, Gromyko said that Moscow has not yet drawn any firm conclusions regarding the US position and that the next phase of SALT would presumably deal with some of the more basic issues.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Peru: The Velasco government promulgated a law last week limiting participation in the information media to native-born Peruvians residing in the country and restricting press freedom where state security or the honor or privacy of individuals is concerned. Opposition has been quick in coming from both pro and antigovernment publishers and politicians; the fight, in fact, is being led by Lima's foremost newspaper, normally a strong backer of the government. The tone of a government communiqué issued Wednesday, which denounced this opposition as a "counterrevolutionary maneuver" and a "conspiracy," suggests that continued criticism may result in arrests based on a provision in the law establishing a one-year prison term for media offenses "pre-judicial to state security."

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

10 January 1970

49



Top Secret

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

10 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Sharp propaganda exchanges between Moscow and Peking have created a hostile atmosphere for the resumption of the Sino-Soviet border talks. (Page 1)

The Biafrans continue to lose ground as federal forces apply pressure on several fronts. (Page 2)

The Yugoslav press has published an interview with a Hungarian Marxist which is highly critical of Soviet distortions of Marxism. (Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR

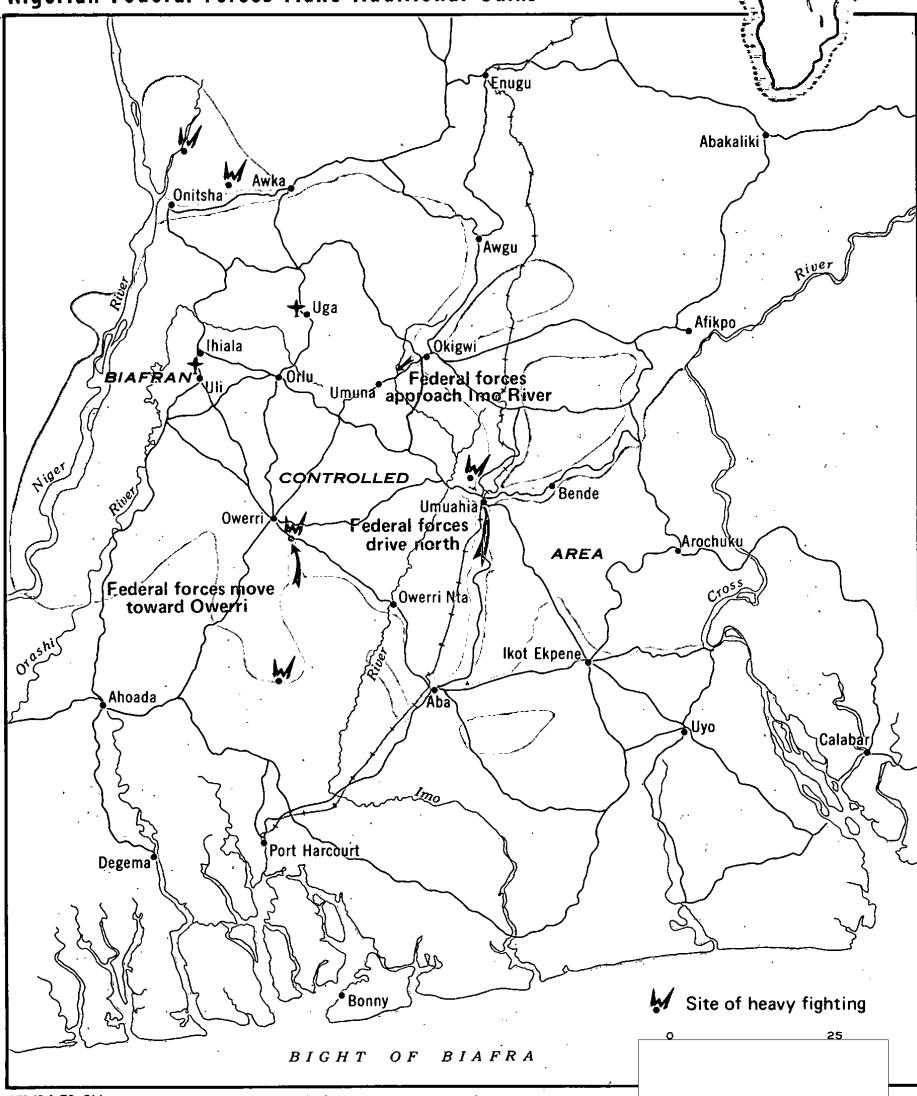
The Chinese used a Hong Kong Communist newspaper article on 8 January to lay full responsibility on Moscow for lack of progress in the first two months of the border talks. The article charged that the Soviets are attempting to apply military pressure along the Chinese border in order to gain advantage in the talks, and added that this behavior is opposed to an understanding Kosygin and Chou reached on 11 September.

The Chinese have consistently maintained that a mutual agreement to withdraw military forces along the border must precede negotiations on other substantive border issues. Peking would certainly want to show it is sticking to its guns, now that the second round of talks is under way. Moreover, Peking almost certainly judges that Moscow, as the obviously stronger party in the dispute, is vulnerable to charges of heavy-handed pressure tactics.

Yesterday Moscow issued a 900-word blast, accusing Chinese leaders of "artificially whipping up military psychosis" and increasing "anti-Soviet slander." The attack centers on China's "war preparations" campaign, which Tass claims was really aimed at distracting attention from China's domestic ills and at overcoming "splits and quarrels" among Peking's leaders.

Such sharp propaganda exchanges are a good indication that the border talks will remain at an impasse. We still doubt, however, that the Chinese and Russians would see anything to gain by breaking off the discussions. Both appear to be prepared for a protracted stalemate.

Nigerian Federal Forces Make Additional Gains



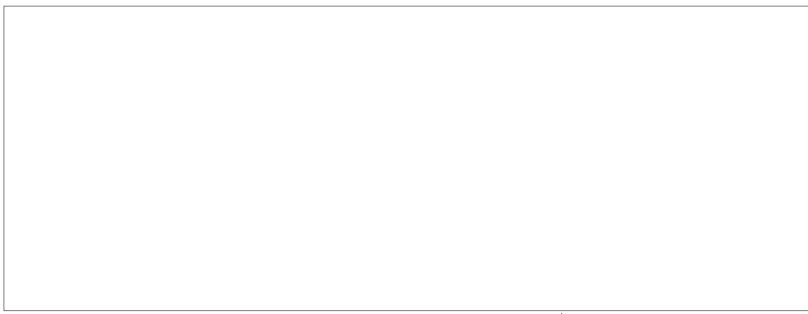
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NIGERIA

Federal forces entered the outskirts of Owerri after shelling this strategically located city yesterday. Owerri is on the main road to the crucial Ihiala airstrip, where supplies destined for the secessionists are landed. A number of Biafran civil and military administrative centers are also located in the Owerri area.

The Biafrans are also under intense military pressure on other fronts. The federal First Division has gained some ground along the road from Okigwi to Umuna, but has not yet crossed to the west side of the Imo River. Heavy fighting continues in the Onitsha area, but the Nigerians still have not made any inroads southeast into the main enclave.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-HUNGARY-YUGOSLAVIA

Gyorgy Lukacs, a veteran Hungarian Marxist philosopher, has publicly condemned Soviet distortions of Marxism in a recent interview with a Yugoslav correspondent in Budapest. Last week Borba, one of Yugoslavia's main dailies, published the interview in three installments. In it Lukacs forcefully explains the need for a Marxist renewal to avoid a crisis in the socialist world. Lukacs boldly criticized the Soviet leadership for losing common cause with European socialists and characterized the theories of Stalin and his predecessors as "tactical maneuverings which are largely irrelevant." Lukacs expanded his heresy by citing Tito and the Yugoslav self-management system as a major contribution to Marxist renewal.

The 85-year-old Lukacs is a party member but does not hold a party position. This is the first time he has linked current Soviet policies in his tirades on Stalin's errors. His remarks will complicate the position of Hungarian party leader Kadar who is attempting to introduce liberal measures within the bounds posed by Soviet conservatism.

Lukacs' article appeared a few days after the Lenin Centennial theses which implicitly criticized the Yugoslav system, and this may have swayed Borba's editors to cooperate with the Hungarian philosopher.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

12 January 1970

25

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

12 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

General Ojukwu's departure from Biafra will probably speed up what now appears to be the inevitable federal occupation of the secessionist enclave. Organized Biafran resistance, however, appears to be continuing. (Page 1)

Communist forces in Laos have taken some important steps toward erasing government rainy season gains. (Page 2)

The Lebanese Government is facing a new crisis over fedayeen operations in southern Lebanon and Israeli reprisals. (Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NIGERIA

General Ojukwu left Biafra yesterday morning, possibly for Ivory Coast, after announcing on the radio that he was going in quest of peace. He evidently had concluded that the Biafrans could not stop an eventual federal drive into the enclave, although military messages prior to his departure did not indicate a general collapse of organized resistance.

The Nigerians may have taken Owerri by now, but it appears doubtful that they could have pushed on to Ihiala airstrip, some 30 road miles away. Biafran messages over the weekend indicated that the secessionists--although hard pressed--were holding near Onitsha and east of Umuna, two critical areas with road access to Ihiala airstrip. The Biafrans have another airstrip at Uga, which could receive arms supply aircraft, provided pilots remain willing to fly into the enclave. There are no signs that Uga is as yet under federal attack.

There are still large numbers of Biafran troops in organized military units within the enclave. Some of these troops may give up organized resistance in the wake of Ojukwu's departure, but they cannot be expected to surrender in large numbers. Most Biafrans, especially the soldiers, probably still genuinely fear that federal troops are bent on massacring them.

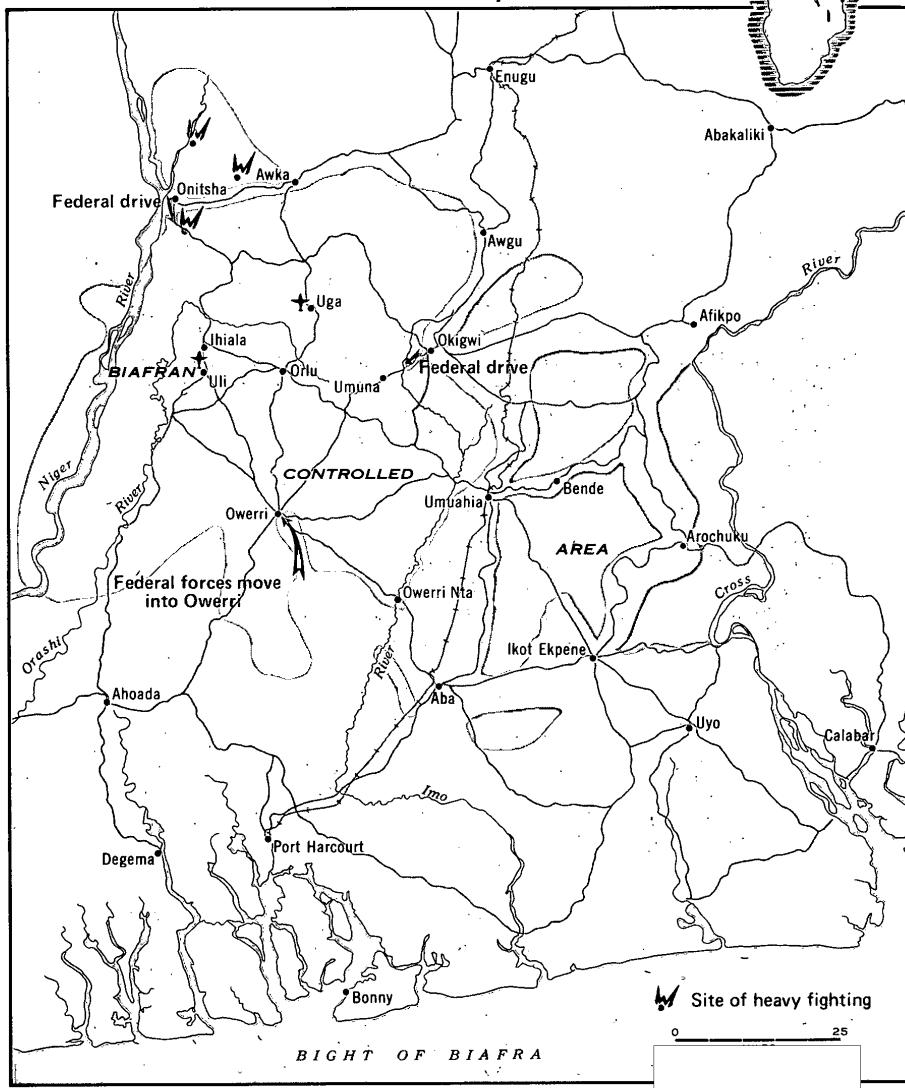
Ojukwu probably will try to get some kind of "peace" that the Biafrans can claim is not a surrender. The Nigerians probably will continue fighting at least until Biafra's airstrips are overrun, however, and may refuse to deal with Ojukwu at all.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



NIGERIA: Federal Overrun of Biafra Likely



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Communist forces have taken some important steps toward erasing government rainy season gains. On 9 January a multibattalion North Vietnamese force overran two of the three government outposts atop Phou Nok Kok, a highpoint northeast of the Plaine des Jarres.

Weather conditions, which ruled out any close air support, probably contributed heavily to the government's inability to hold these key outposts.

The enemy failed to capture the remaining position on a follow-up attack the next day but its fall appears to be only a matter of time.

Communist forces also appear to be preparing a move against government defensive positions along the northern edge of the Plaine. Intercepted messages and reports from government patrols indicate fresh enemy troops are now moving into this area.

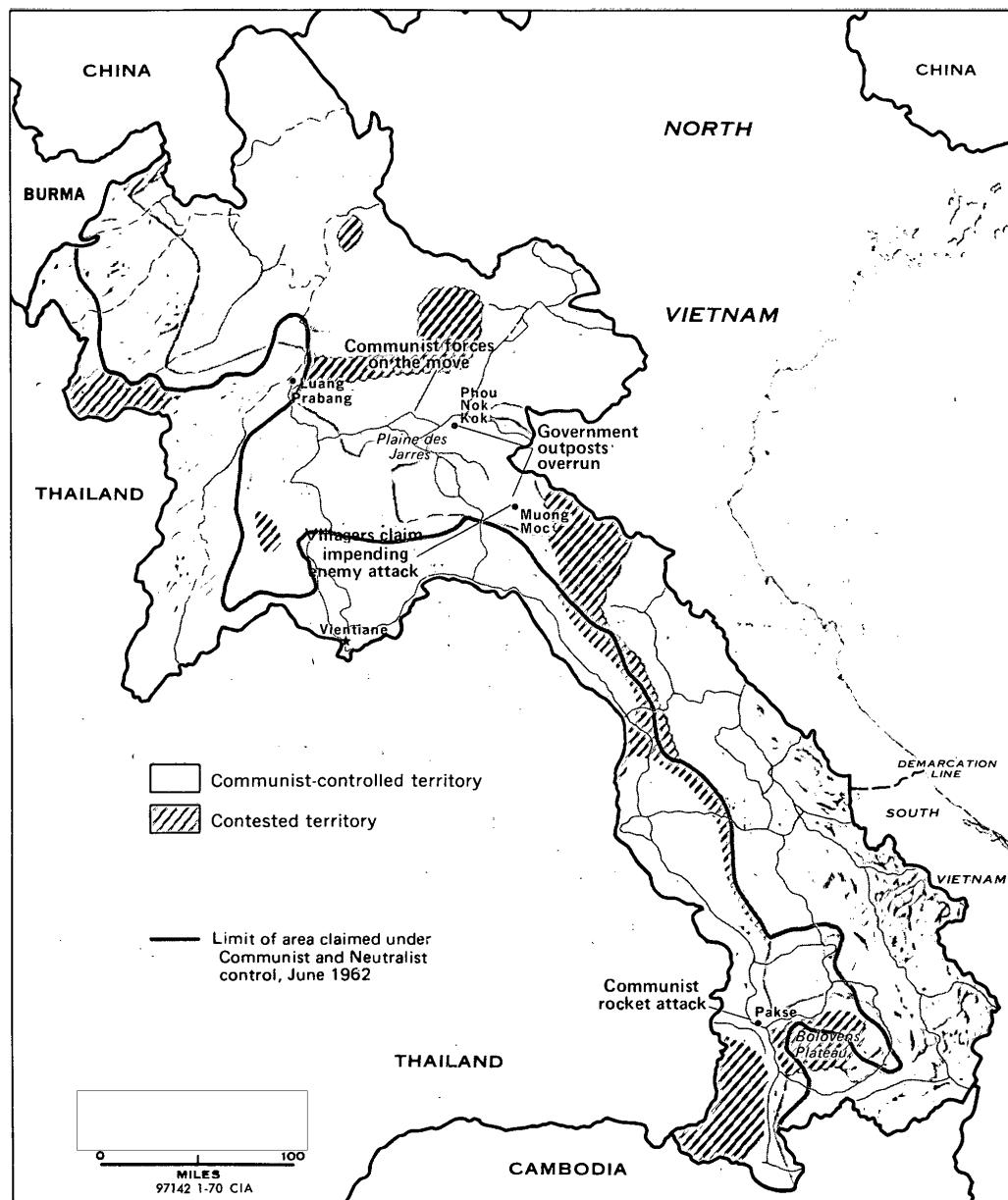
Further south, there has been little significant military activity following the rocket attack against Pakse on 9 January. New activity may be in the offing, however.

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Last year Communist forces destroyed a large government weapons depot on the outskirts of the city.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: Communist Forces Score Gains in the North



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON

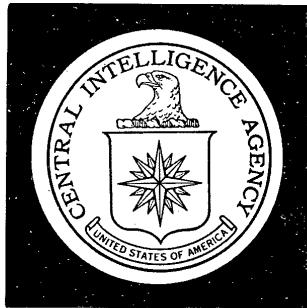
Beirut's announcement on 8 January that the Palestinian guerrillas had agreed to new restrictions on their operations in Lebanon has brought a sharp denial from a group of fedayeen organizations. The government statement claimed that the fedayeen had agreed not to fire at Israeli targets from Lebanese territory and had also agreed not to train terrorists inside Lebanese refugee camps. The Palestinian answer, as quoted by Damascus Radio, denounced any such restrictions on fedayeen activities and called for continued Lebanese popular support of fedayeen efforts against Israel.

Both President Hilu and Foreign Minister Majdalani told Ambassador Porter on Saturday that Israeli air attacks were continuing even though there had been no fedayeen attacks from Lebanon over the last few days. These Israeli actions, they said, were hampering efforts to control the guerrillas; moreover, the air attacks also had led them to believe that Israel was planning ultimately to occupy parts of southern Lebanon.

The replacement of army commander in chief Bustani by the tough former commander of the southern district, General Jean Nujaym, may indicate the government's resolve to take a firmer line with the fedayeen. If the government attempts to force its new restrictions on the fedayeen, civil disturbances will be the likely result, bringing on a crisis of more serious proportions.

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The President's Daily Brief

13 January 1970

26

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

General Gowon has accepted an appeal for an armistice
by General Effiong

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Japan

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Cambodia

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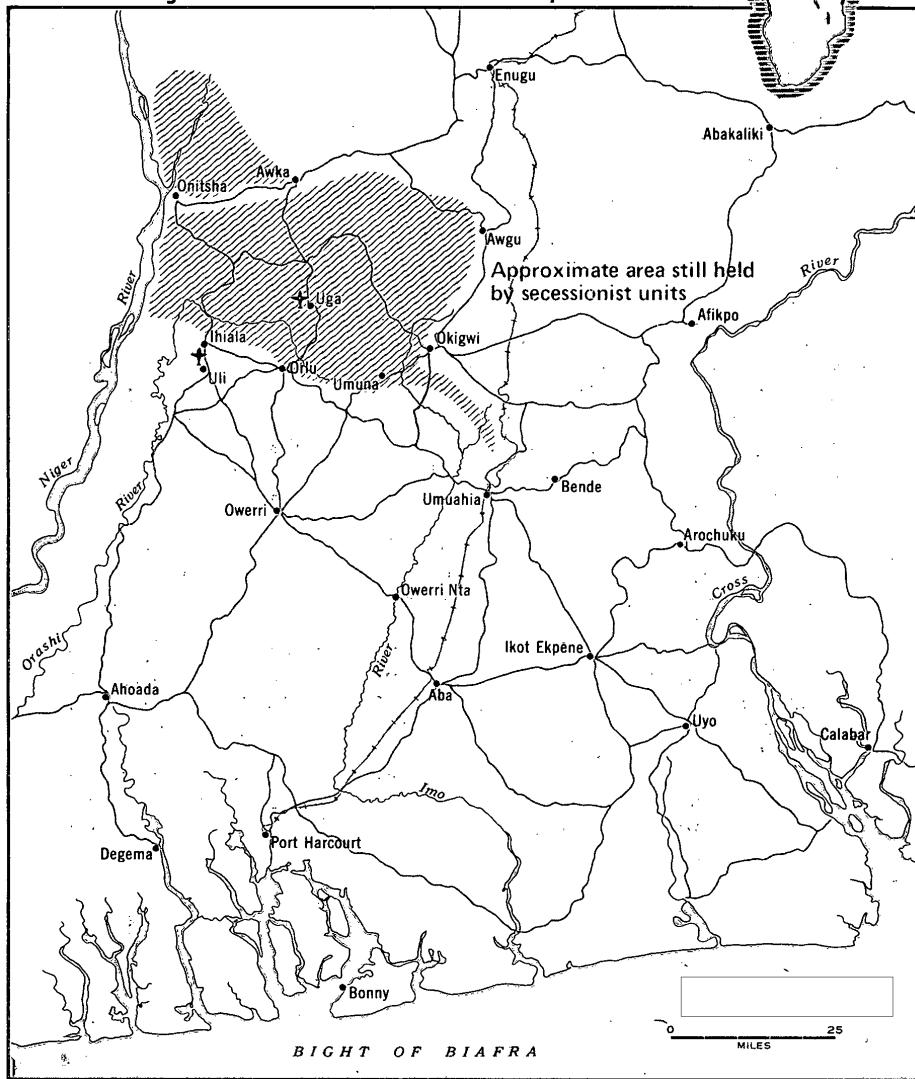
(Page 5)

There has been another small-scale Communist guerilla raid against the Ubon airbase in northeastern Thailand. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



NIGERIA: Organized Biafran Resistance Nearly at End



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NIGERIA

General Gowon has accepted an appeal for an armistice by General Effiong, Biafra's administrator since Ojukwu's departure.

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The federal government, which is dominated by minority tribesmen, is willing to deal with Effiong, who is from a small Eastern tribe. Effiong promised there would be no government in exile, signaling a break with Ojukwu's stand.

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Although not an Ibo, Effiong probably has the support of most Biafran senior officers. Nevertheless, some secessionist units may continue to fight, particularly those that have held their ground against federal attacks in the north. A breakdown in Biafra's logistics system and a shortage of ammunition probably will prevent them from maintaining organized resistance for more than a few days, however.

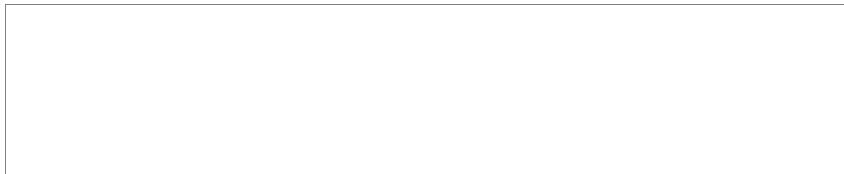
There is little information on the fast-moving military situation on Biafra's southern front, but it appears that federal troops have occupied at least part of Ihiala airstrip. There have been no reports of atrocities by the federal division in the south.

We have no definitive word on conditions in the northern area, but it is there that we would expect atrocities if there are to be any at all. Fighting in this sector has been intense and bitter, with heavy casualties on both sides. The federal unit involved is comprised primarily of northerners who were responsible for the massacres of the Ibos in 1966.

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WEST GERMANY



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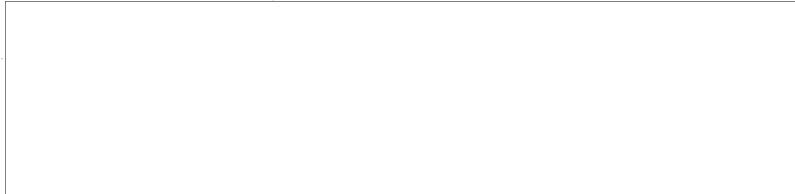


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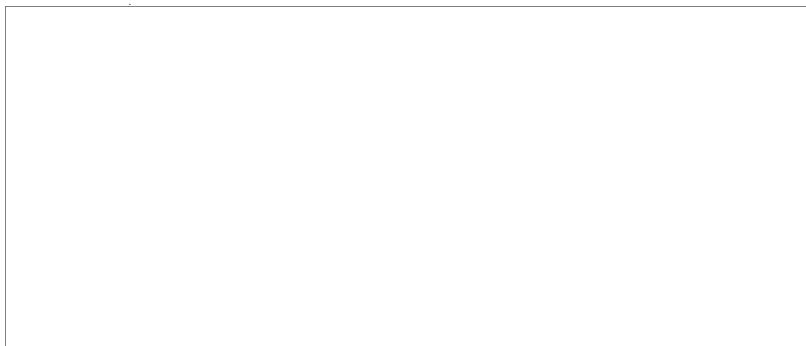
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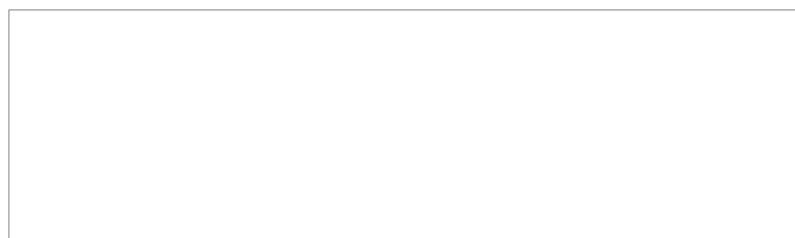
COMMUNIST CHINA - JAPAN



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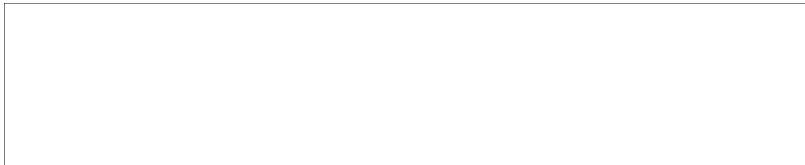
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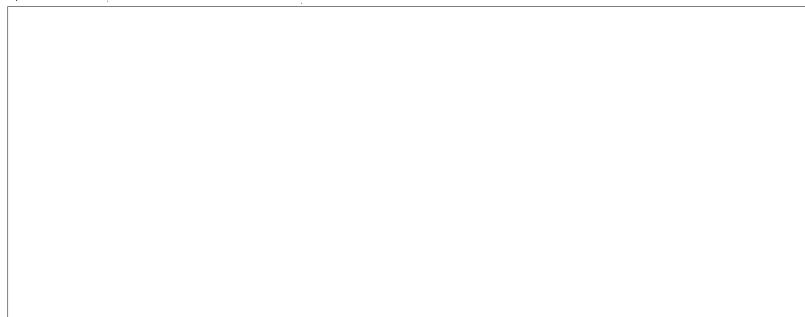
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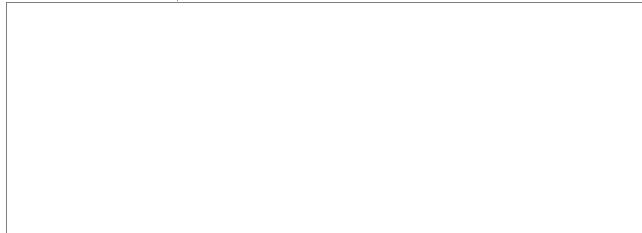
CAMBODIA



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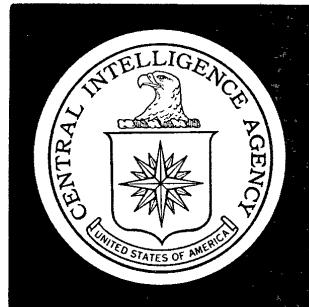
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Thailand: Communist guerrillas yesterday carried out their second small-scale sapper raid in the last six months against the Ubon airbase in northeastern Thailand. Five insurgents were killed and one US sentry wounded; there was no damage to US aircraft or facilities. This first repeat performance by the guerrillas against a major military target in the northeast suggests a determination on their part to present a more credible military threat. The Communists for a long time have been capable of such nuisance raids against the well-defended bases, but they have demonstrated no ability to mount a larger attack.

Venezuela: In recent weeks Caracas has been making increasingly urgent representations in anticipation of an early US decision on oil import policy. Last Friday, President Caldera took the unusual step of using a diplomatic reception at which he was host to engage the US chargé in a lengthy discussion of the matter. Caldera said that Washington's intentions toward Venezuela would be judged by the decision taken on Venezuela's share of the US oil market. He emphasized that Venezuela would be "less than satisfied" with a policy that did not accord it equal treatment with Canada.

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The President's Daily Brief

14 January 1970

15

Top Secret

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

General Gowon seems dedicated to the peaceful reconstruction of Nigeria

50X1

(Page 1)

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Hanoi may be preparing for special air operations in the southern part of North Vietnam. (Page 3)

Recent Israeli air strikes near Cairo seem designed to make Nasir's domestic position uncomfortable. (Page 4)

Communist China's first major rail construction in over a decade is under way. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NIGERIA

General Gowon is determined to disarm all the secessionist soldiers and to establish a federal presence throughout Biafra [redacted]

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[redacted]
Most, if not all, of Biafra's major towns have already been captured. Any remaining Biafran troops in the field should soon run out of ammunition or possibly just dissolve into the bush.

Gowon has so far ignored Biafran leader Effiong's offer to send an emissary to negotiate Biafra's return to the federation. Gowon probably wishes to avoid giving any hint that Biafrans will be given special status in the federation. Effiong yesterday made a second appeal to Gowon to stop the federal advance.

The Nigerian Government has directed that all foreign relief be channeled through federal authorities. The Nigerians are clearly sensitive about foreign concern over the relief problem. In an effort to capitalize on this Nigerian sensitivity, the Soviets have charged that Western relief aid is interference in Nigeria's affairs.

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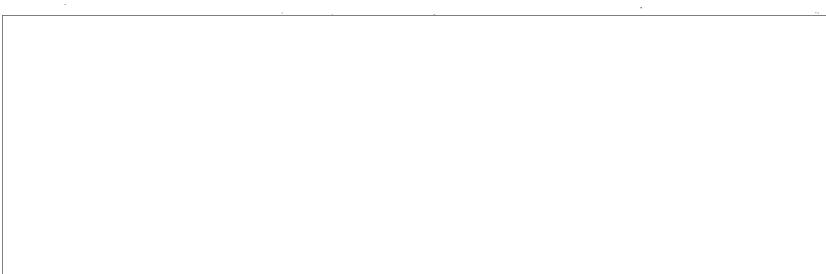
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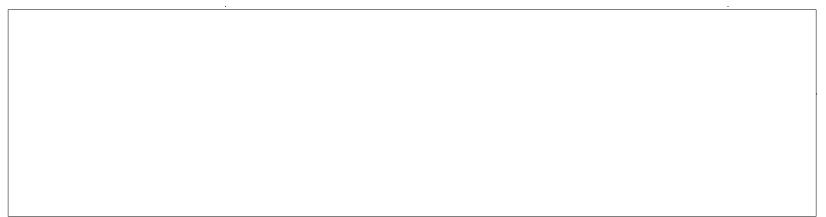
SOUTH VIETNAM



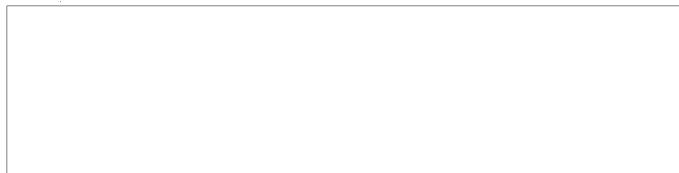
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NORTH VIETNAM

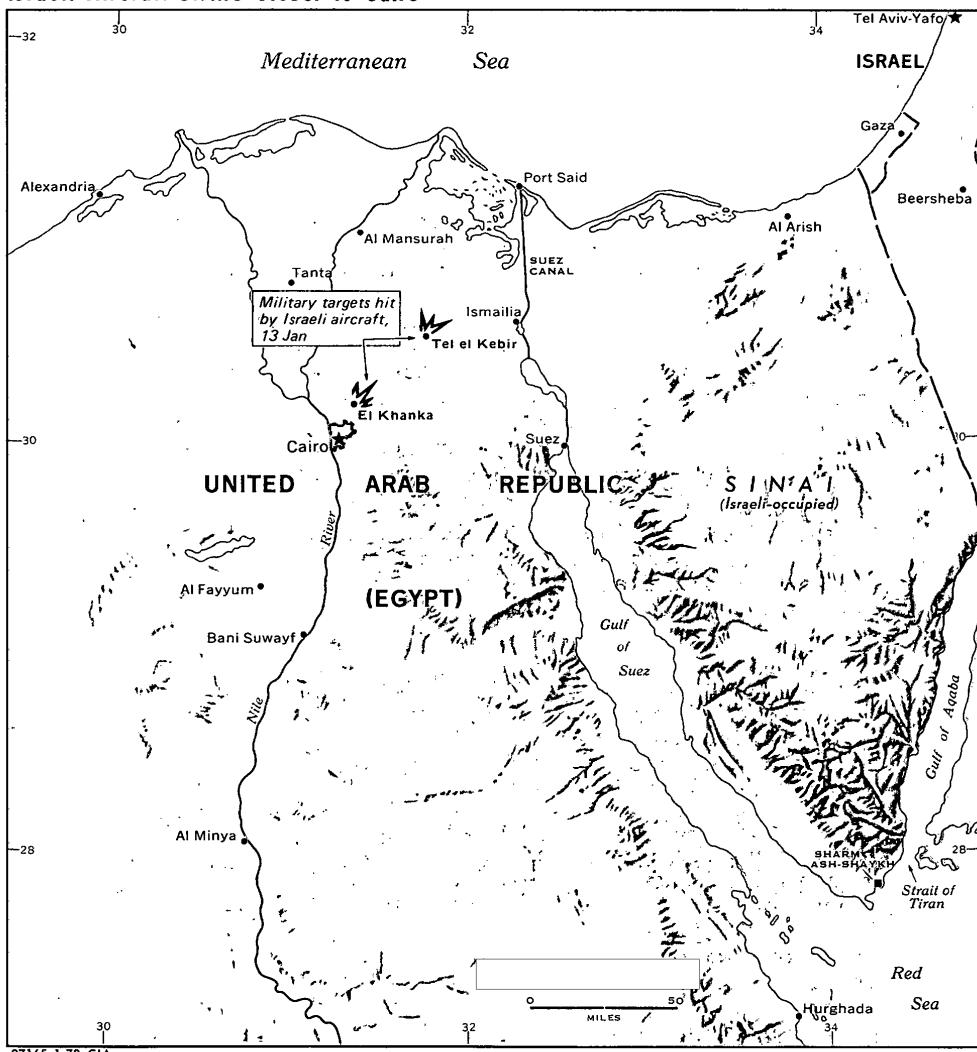
The North Vietnamese appear to be preparing for special air operations and improving their air defenses in the southern part of their country. Communications intelligence indicates that fighter aircraft--perhaps including nine MIG-19s--will soon be redeployed. They seem to be destined for Vinh airfield in the southern panhandle of North Vietnam. Two late-model MIG-21s and a high-level ground control intercept team recently arrived at the same airfield. These moves coincide with the positioning of some heavy antiaircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles in the panhandle near the Laotian border.

If the additional aircraft do indeed arrive at Vinh airfield, it could mean that Hanoi is planning hit and run attacks against US aircraft, including B-52s operating over Laos.

* * *

Since our last report on infiltration (The President's Daily Brief of 8 January), only one clearly identifiable battalion-size replacement group has been noted on the move in North Vietnam. Its numerical designator suggests, however, that two others are also moving south. During the same period, three units of battalion size were detected in communications intelligence, but their numerical designators were not intercepted. Thus it is not clear whether these units include the two mentioned above. If there are six units, they would number about 3,600 troops. This would not be out of line with the trends of the past two months, which show infiltration at a level well below that for the same time frame in 1968 and 1969.

Israeli Aircraft Strike Closer to Cairo



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

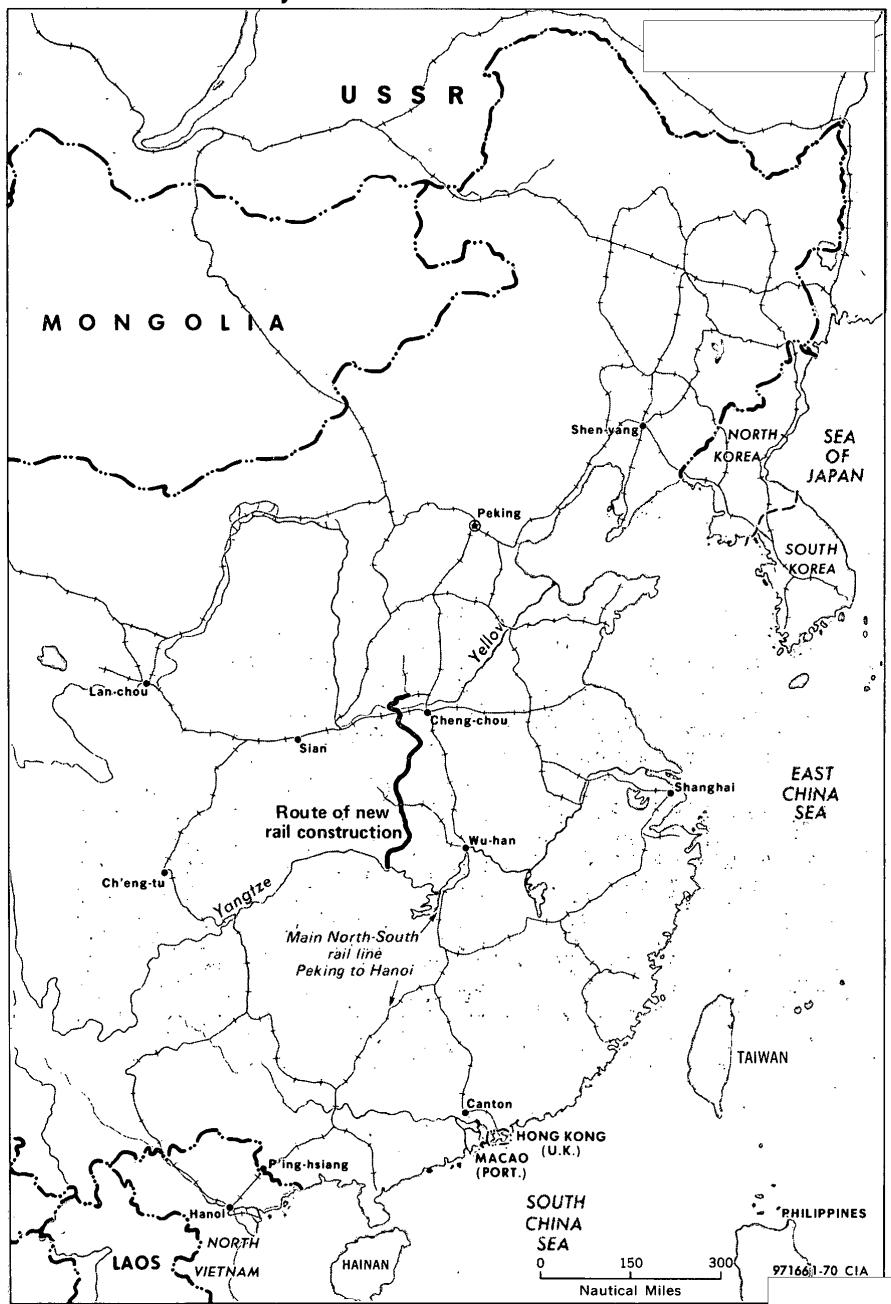
ISRAEL-EGYPT

Recent Israeli air strikes near Cairo appear to be part of a campaign to create serious domestic problems for Nasir, which Tel Aviv hopes will eventually result in his downfall. The air strikes are intended to demonstrate Israel's ability to fly almost unmolested over Egyptian territory. It will be difficult for Nasir to minimize these Israeli military actions--as he has done others--because they are visible to Cairo's populace. The Israelis are also anxious to lure the Egyptian Air Force into combat.

Most Israeli leaders apparently are convinced that Nasir is the primary obstacle to a satisfactory peace settlement and the main instigator of Arab hostility toward Israel. Whether this is true or not, Israeli conviction that it is so governs their policy.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Communist China: Major New Rail Construction



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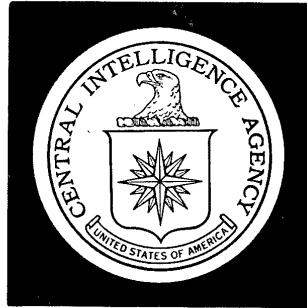
COMMUNIST CHINA

Satellite photography of December 1969 has revealed the first major new rail construction in more than a decade. When completed, the 400-mile line will traverse one of the China's most densely populated but least developed regions between the Yellow and Yangtze rivers.

The new line parallels China's main north-south line, which has ample capacity to handle national traffic and rail borne supplies transiting to the North Vietnam border. Its construction probably indicates that China is returning to long-term economic planning after the upheavals of the Cultural Revolution.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

15 January 1970

26

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

15 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

With federal troops now in control of nearly all of the Biafran enclave, the prospect of any significant military counteraction by the Ibos has almost disappeared. (Page 1)

On Page 2 [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] Sino-Soviet [redacted] 50X1
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Vietnam. (Page 4)
[redacted] 50X1
[redacted] Germany. (Page 5) 50X1

In Brandt's state of the nation speech yesterday, he sought to exploit this growing isolation of the East Germans. (Page 6)

A recent Pravda editorial reflects indecision among Soviet leaders on how to rescue the economy from the difficulties they admit are plaguing it. (Page 7)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NIGERIA

Federal troops now control nearly all of the Biafran enclave, and the prospect of any significant military counteraction by the Ibos has about disappeared.

Ojukwu, helped perhaps by his French and Portuguese backers, has generated a good many conflicting rumors about his whereabouts and intentions. The most persistent of these, that he is in Portugal, was denied yesterday by the Portuguese themselves.

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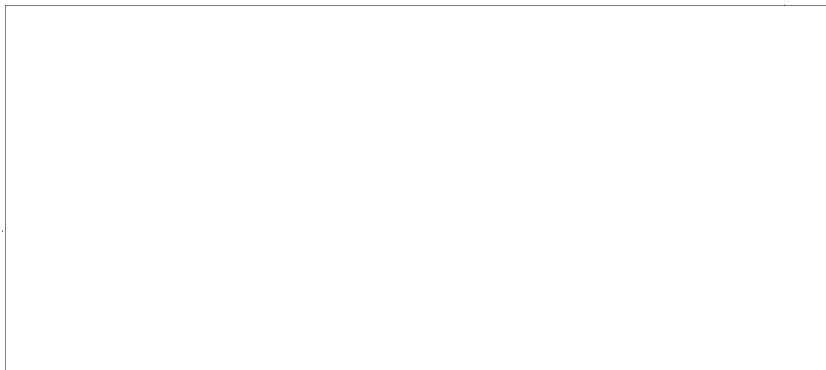
Even if Ojukwu got substantial support from outside he would probably find it impossible to rekindle the war

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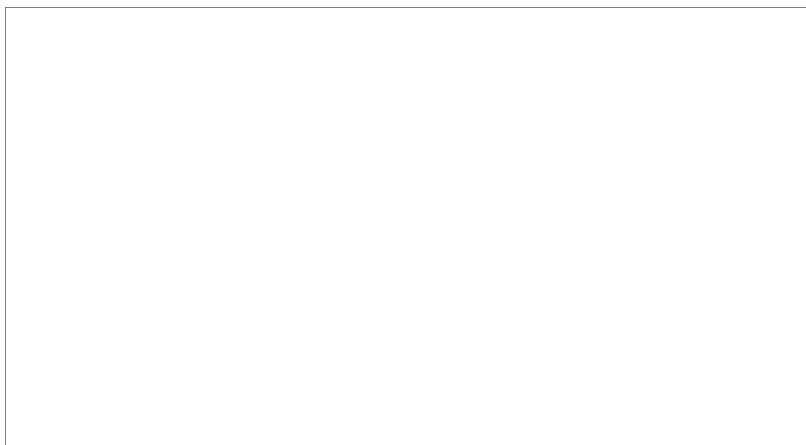
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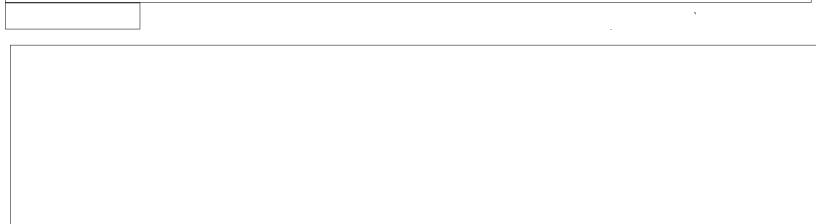
COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR



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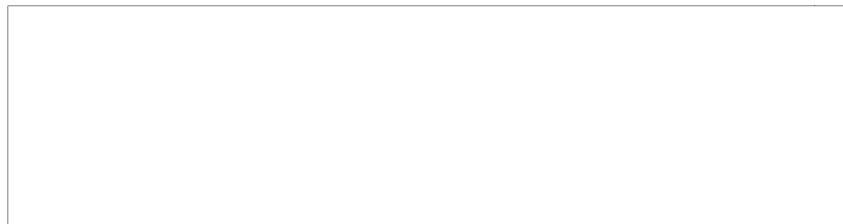
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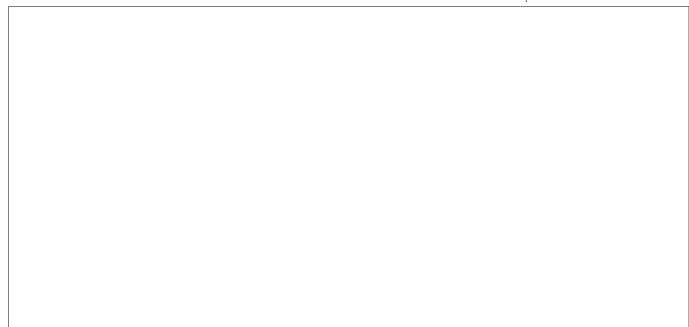
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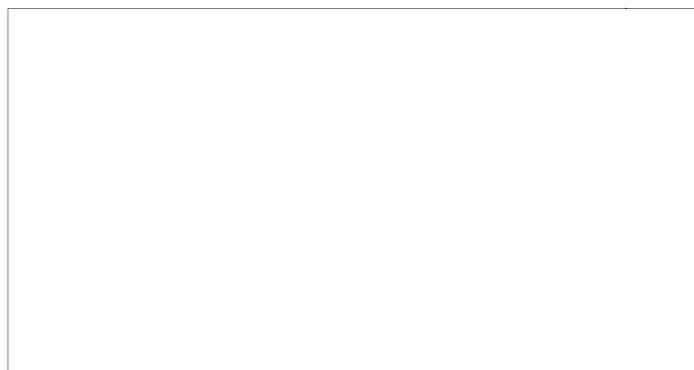
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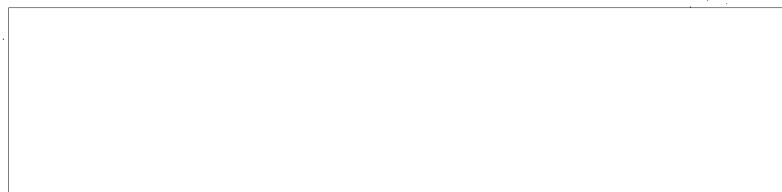
NORTH VIETNAM



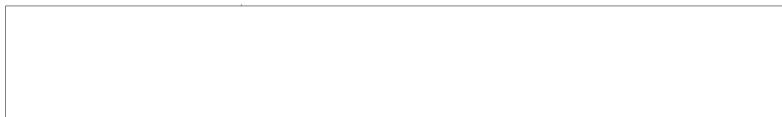
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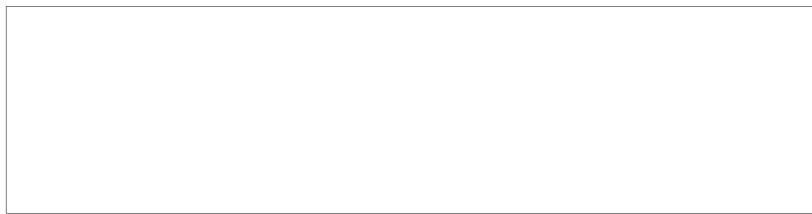
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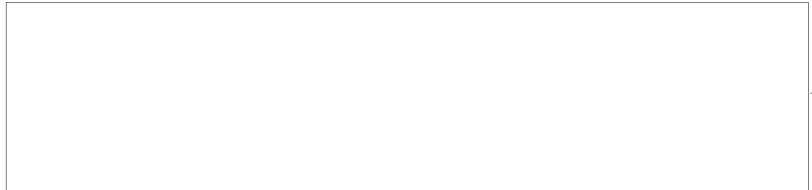
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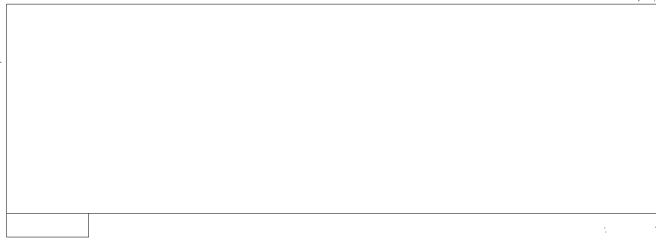
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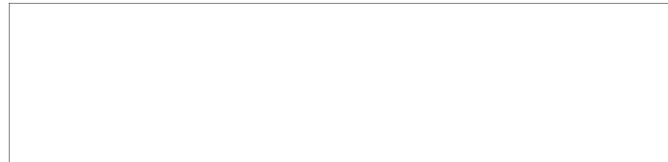
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

Chancellor Brandt, in his state of the nation speech yesterday, gave the Warsaw Pact states--minus East Germany--good marks for having "understood the good will of the federal government, even though with some reservations." In a seeming bid to these states to put pressure on Pankow, he stressed that they had been more flexible than East Germany.

Brandt said that the East Germans' draft treaty is unacceptable, and that recognition of East Germany "is for us out of the question." Germany, he insisted, is one nation. Brandt did, nevertheless, admit the validity of the principles of international law for East-West German relations, giving as examples equal treatment, respect for territorial integrity, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. He invited Pankow to enter talks on the renunciation of force and other matters.

The Chancellor broke West German precedent by making clear that the reunification of Germany is a remote goal. He came close to recognizing, de facto, the status quo. To head off criticism from opposition Christian Democrats, Brandt reconfirmed a number of long-standing German positions, among them loyalty to NATO, support for West European unity, and four power responsibility for Berlin.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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USSR

An editorial in Pravda on 13 January gives a somber account of the economy in discussing the plenum and last month's session of the Supreme Soviet. Pravda notes the slow growth in labor productivity and lists ministries that failed to fulfill their tasks. It reports the plenum's criticism of the development of agriculture, and it traces the problems of the food supply in major cities to declines in livestock.

Soviet leaders' efforts to deal with current economic problems and formulate a new five-year plan seem to be marked by indecision. On the five-year plan, which is to start next year, the editorial said only that the December plenum of the Central Committee examined "certain important problems." A planning official recently admitted that the government has still not decided what areas to emphasize during the new plan period.

One cause of the difficulties, according to Pravda, is the fact that the USSR has attained a new economic stage, with "new requirements." Development, which formerly depended on quantitative factors, now is keyed to efficiency, Pravda says.

Pravda seems to have diagnosed the problem succinctly, but offers no cure for economic ills. Its skimpy reference to economic reform indicates the party is not prepared to risk much reforming to achieve efficiency. In fact, the State Planning Committee's journal recently attacked the "market socialism" of Ota Sik, the Czechoslovak economist. Such statements in that prestigious journal are ample evidence of official opposition to a new, liberal direction in economics.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

IRAN - SAUDI ARABIA

The Shah appears to be edging close to a commitment to come to King Faysal's aid if Saudi Arabia is attacked. He told Ambassador MacArthur as much last Sunday, adding that Iran's own security needs dictate a favorable response to Faysal's request for support. To help advance this policy, the Shah is asking the US to lease or sell him aerial tankers so that Iranian fighter aircraft or ground support crews need not be stationed in Saudi Arabia itself.

A firm commitment to Faysal would certainly not be a surprising step for the Shah to take. He has for some time been obsessed with the future security of the Persian Gulf, and in recent months has been especially worried about the stability of the Saudi monarchy.

Iran has also proposed a mutual defense arrangement between Iran, Saudi Arabia, and other moderate principalities on the Gulf as a bar to radical Arab and Soviet influence once the British pull out in 1971.

The Iranians clearly think they should fill the shoes of the British as "protectors" of the Gulf. We can expect increasing pressure from the Shah to make available military equipment he thinks necessary to play this role.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN

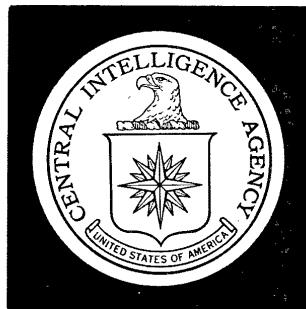
Prime Minister Sato, formally elected to a third term yesterday, has put together a new cabinet that reflects his increased strength and confidence resulting from the recent conservative electoral victory. He retained key members of his winning team, and most of the new appointees are party veterans who have served in previous cabinets.

The most controversial appointment is the new agricultural and forestry minister, who was forced to quit the same post in 1968 because of public outcry over an injudicious remark that Japanese nuclear rearmament might have some merit. The new director of the Japan Defense Agency, Nakasone, is a leader of the party's "new right" wing. He also advocates a more independent defense posture for Japan.

The new cabinet lineup does not indicate any immediate shifts in domestic or foreign policy, although a number of the new appointees are relatively nationalistic. Nor does it offer any evidence to support pre-election speculation that Sato might step down, having achieved his major goal of Okinawan reversion. The impressive electoral performance of Sato's party last month doubtless will encourage him to stay in office.

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The President's Daily Brief

16 January 1970

48

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

16 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Reconstruction begins in Nigeria. (Page 1)

[redacted] Lebanon hopes to curb the fedayeen; and Britain brushes off Arab protests about sending tanks to Israel. (Page 2)

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Soviet [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 4)

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The Chinese Communists may not really expect much to come out of talks with the US, but Peking is sure the Warsaw meetings will irritate the USSR. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NIGERIA

Ojukwu's successor, General Effiong, met yesterday with General Gowon and formally renounced secession. Gowon then declared a general amnesty for all those who had been "misled" into secession. Several secessionist civilian leaders, including Ibos, accompanied Effiong, but had no public part in the ceremony.

Gowon's major concern now seems to be to reassure Eastern tribesmen that there will be an equitable reconstruction. He is also keeping a close watch on foreign aid to the former Biafran region, restricting it to relief from the US, the UK, West Germany, and the USSR. Moscow must be asked, Nigerian officials have said, because of Soviet help during the war.

Meanwhile, there are conflicting reports on Ojukwu's whereabouts, with Gabon being at present the most likely haven. Wherever Ojukwu is, his statement yesterday--claiming Biafra will survive and calling for an international presence to prevent genocide--indicates he can still embarrass Gowon and may yet cause serious trouble.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MIDDLE EAST



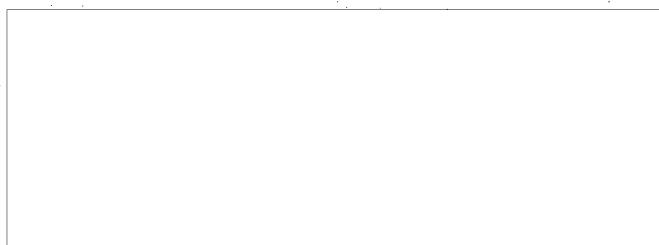
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In Lebanon, the government is seeking a way to control the Arab commandos. Minister Jumblatt is insisting the fedayeen evacuate all inhabited areas in southern Lebanon, and is threatening "punitive action" if they do not comply.

(continued)

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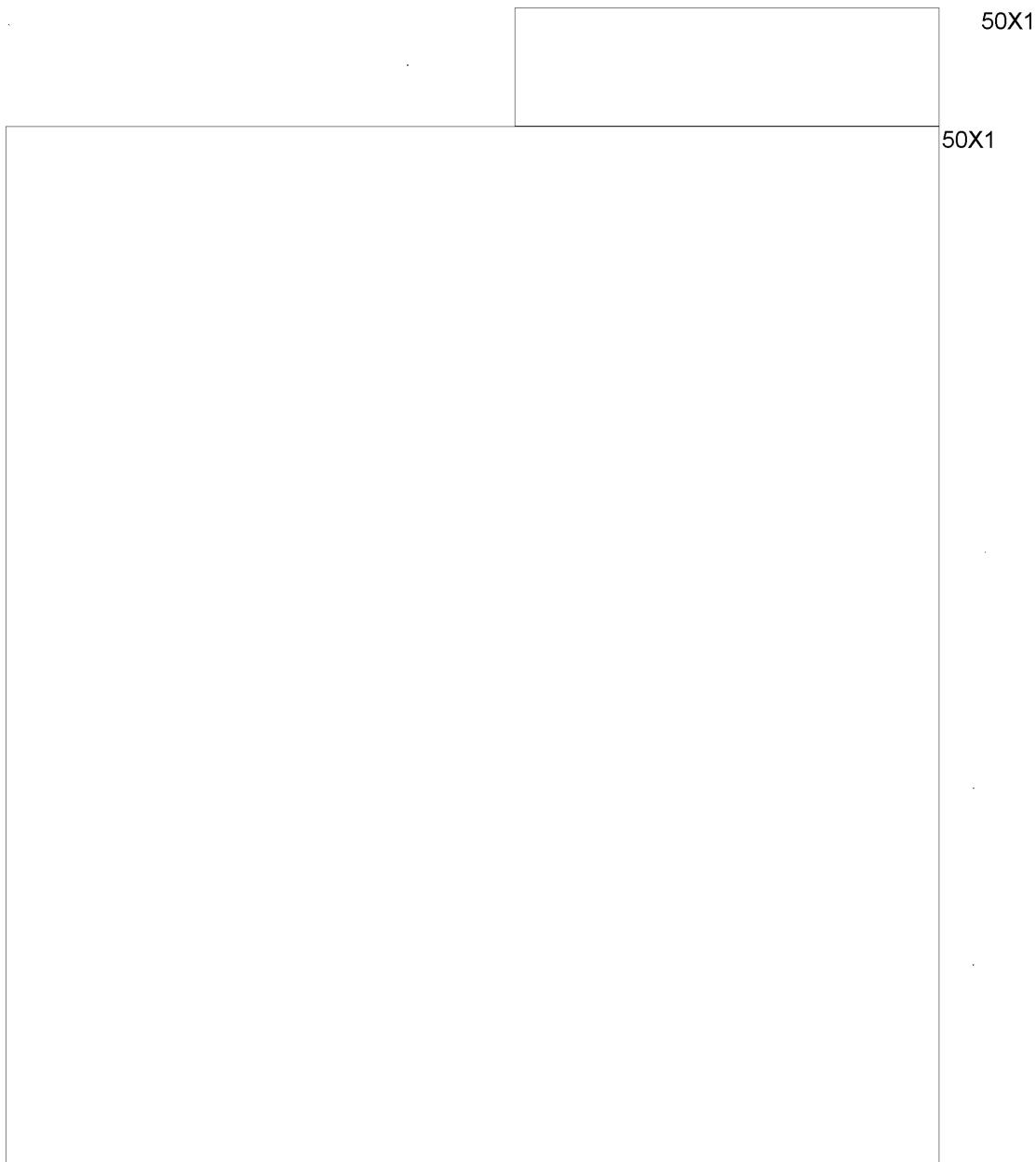
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

* * *

The British are selling at least 100 Centurion tanks to Israel to augment the 480 now in the Israeli inventory. Arab spokesmen have objected, of course, but the Foreign Office is replying, to the UAR at least, that Centurions have been going to Israel for the past five years on the basis of firm contracts and that the UK has no intention of applying an arms embargo in the Middle East.

The Arab outcry at this late date probably stems from Arab belief that Arab pressure caused the British refusal to sell the more formidable Chieftain tanks and the Arab hope that sufficient additional protest may cause a cancellation of the present arrangement.

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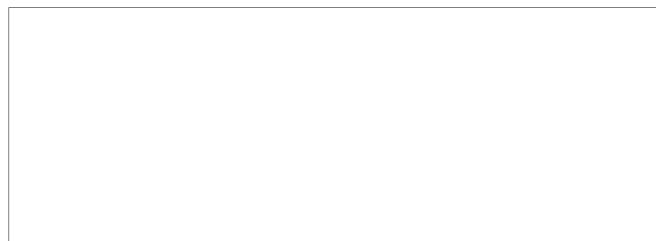


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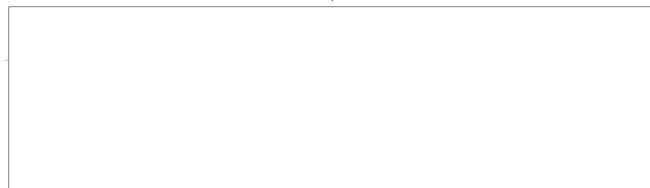
SOVIET UNION



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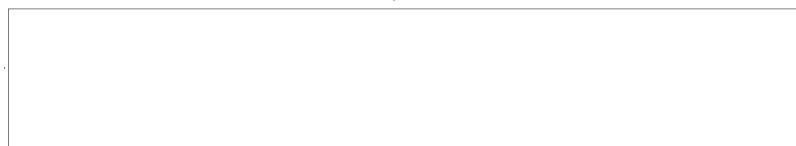
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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COMMUNIST CHINA

Peking is setting the stage for the Sino-US talks in Warsaw scheduled for 20 January.

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Peking was particularly pleased with the resumption of the talks in Warsaw because they would have a "discomfiting effect" on the Soviets.

the Chinese probably do view the forthcoming Warsaw talks primarily as another aspect of the war of nerves with the Soviets. Nevertheless, Peking is also interested in assessing at closer range future US intentions in China.

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LAOS



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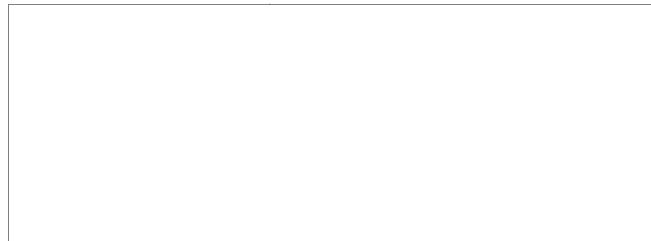


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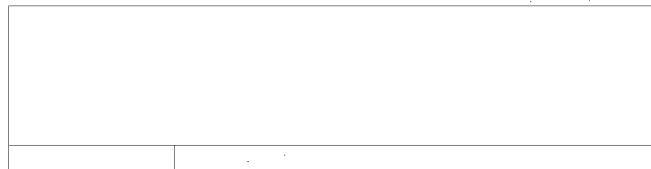


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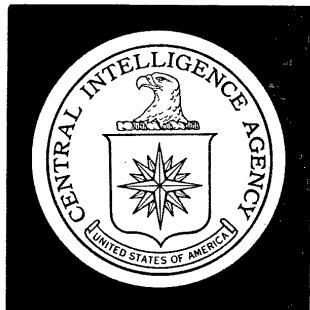
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NOTE

East Germany - West Germany: The first "unofficial" reaction of the East Germans to Chancellor Brandt's state of the nation address was predictably negative. The Bonn correspondent of East Germany's official news agency criticized Brandt both for what he said and for what he did not say. The Chancellor's statement that he will propose talks on a renunciation of force agreement was "unsatisfactory," according to the correspondent. In general, Brandt was scored for not discussing the draft treaty Ulbricht sent to Bonn in December. The East German party's politburo is scheduled to meet on Saturday in an extraordinary session, and presumably then will prepare Pankow's official reply for Ulbricht to announce in his press conference on Monday.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

17 January 1970

50
Top Secret

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are more signs pointing to a major North Vietnamese offensive in northern Laos in the near future.
(Page 1)

Some opponents of the Thieu government are again trying to organize an antiregime coalition. 50X1
(Page 2)

Ethiopia 50X1

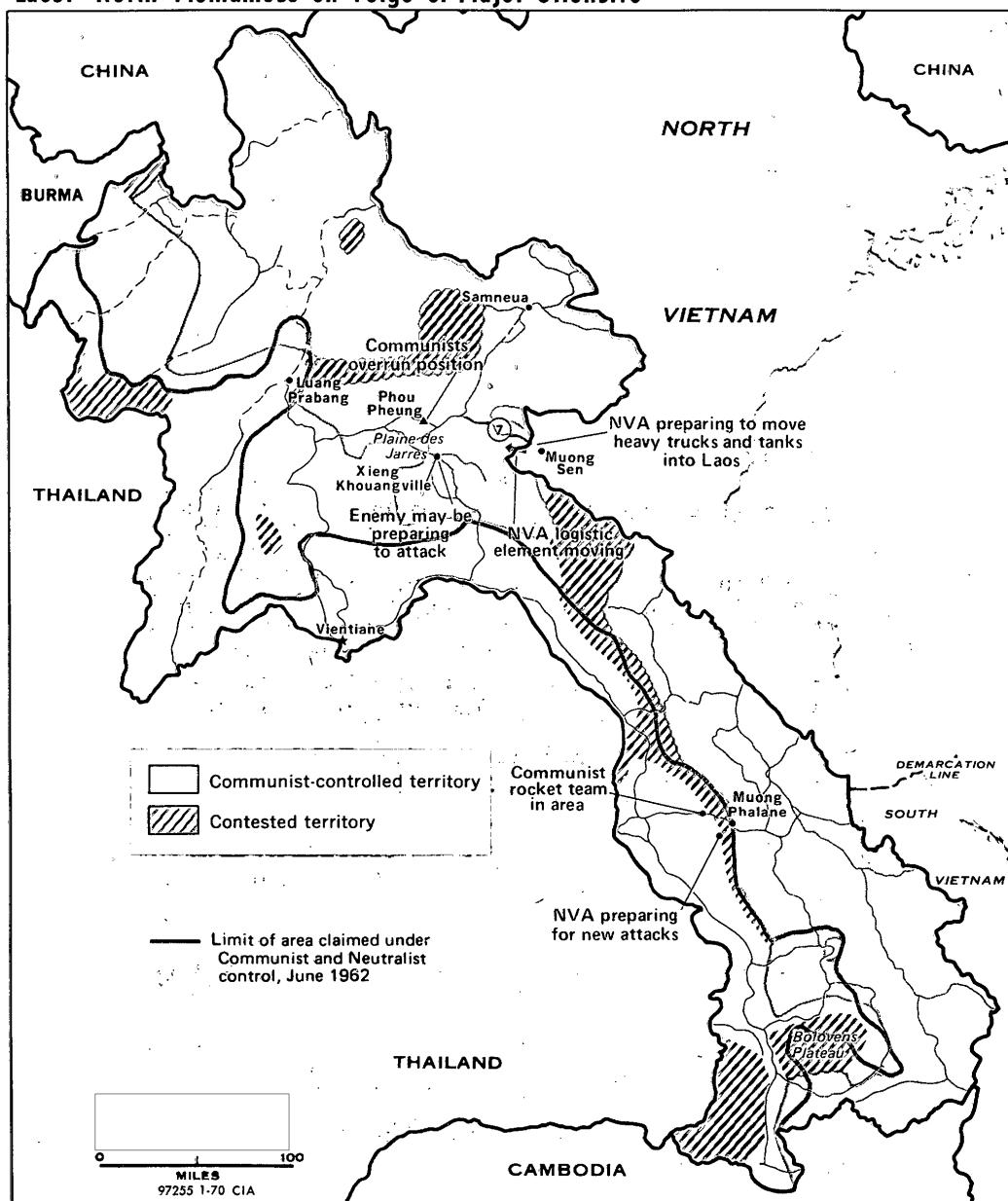
(Page 3)

Tensions between Venezuela and Guyana may grow again as Venezuela builds up its forces at the border.
(Page 4)

Peking is moving to take advantage of liberalized US trade controls. *(Page 4)*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos: North Vietnamese on Verge of Major Offensive



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

There are more signs pointing to a major North Vietnamese offensive in northern Laos in the near future. Analysis of communications intelligence indicates that four major North Vietnamese tactical headquarters merged recently to form a more comprehensive command known as Military Region Xieng Khouang. The North Vietnamese have also moved a forward logistic headquarters into Laos and are preparing to send in additional heavy trucks and tanks.

The Communists probably decided that a consolidated command was necessary to coordinate the movement of the large number of North Vietnamese--upward of 17,000 combat and support troops--now operating in the northeast. The logistic move suggests that the North Vietnamese, confident that they have adequate stockpiles in Laos, are now concerned with moving these supplies to front line troops.

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The enemy's prime objective appears to be the attrition of government troops rather than the seizure of new territory. We also expect further rocketing of government installations in this area.

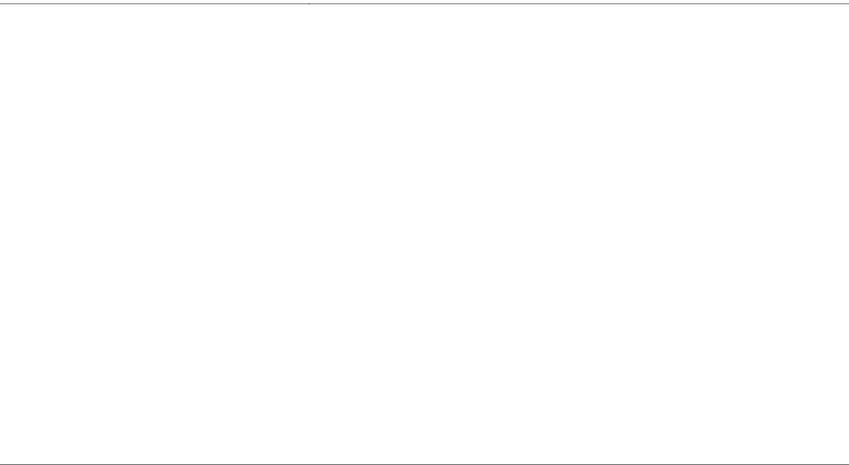
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Senator Tran Van Don, one of the government's most prominent and persistent critics, has announced the creation of a voting bloc in the National Assembly that he probably hopes will serve as the basis for a large political movement committed to support his own political ambitions. Don must run for re-election to the Upper House this fall, and he is probably looking toward the presidential elections next year.

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More effective political opposition to President Thieu has been prevented so far by the chronic failure of South Vietnam's numerous rival groups to subordinate parochial interests and rally around a leader acceptable to all. Don's initiative will only be successful to the degree that he can persuade the other opposition leaders that they can achieve power through cooperation, and that he has the best qualifications for providing the necessary leadership.

These traditional political jealousies will be most difficult to overcome. Don's efforts also seem timed to give the appearance that he is the acknowledged leader of South Vietnam's loyal opposition prior to his scheduled visit to the US next month. Don is convinced that he can play this role; we think his chances are poor at best.

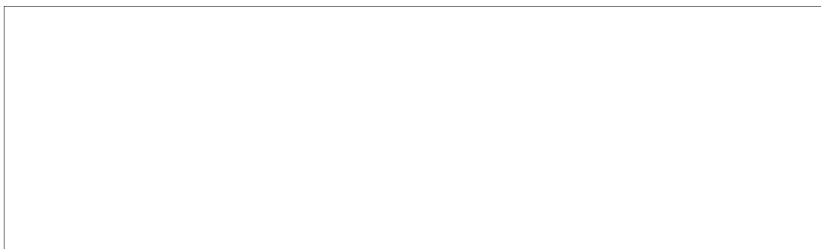
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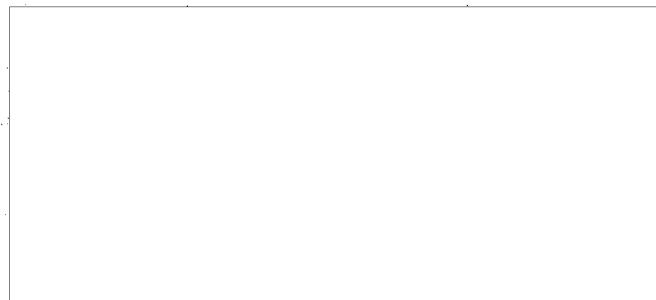
ETHIOPIA



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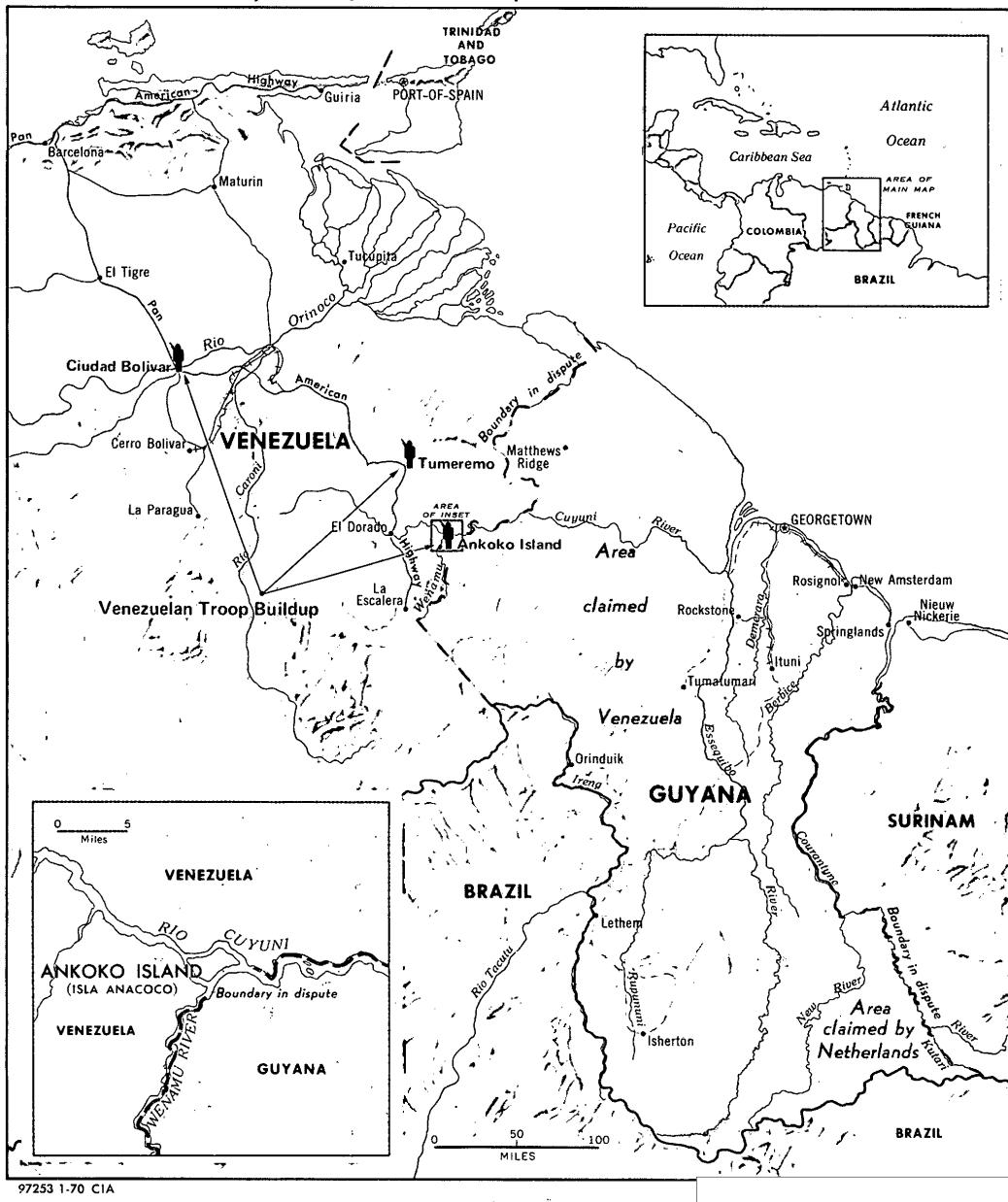
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Venezuela Builds Up Military Forces on Guyanese Border



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Venezuela-Guyana: Tensions between the two countries may again increase as Venezuela builds up its forces at the border.

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the troop buildup could give rise to border incidents, a development to which the more jingoistic Venezuelans might not be averse.

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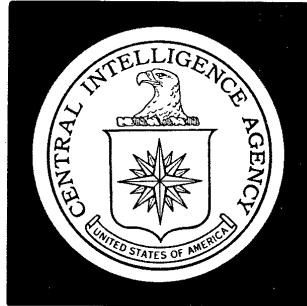
Communist China - US: Peking is moving to take advantage of liberalized US trade controls.

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Chinese attempts to increase sales to American tourists in Hong Kong have met with some success. Peking also has expanded its English language advertising aimed at US tourists in Japan.

Libya: The military Revolutionary Command Council is tightening its control of the government. Junta leader Qaddafi yesterday was named prime minister, replacing a civilian. Qaddafi also assumed the defense portfolio and named four other council members to key cabinet posts, including the Ministry of Interior. The remainder of the posts are held by civilians, some of whom were members of the previous government. By assuming control of government operations as well as policy, Qaddafi and his associates have removed what opposition there was to a pro-Egyptian policy.

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The President's Daily Brief

19 January 1970

48

Top Secret

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Communist supply shipments through the Laos Panhandle toward South Vietnam are increasing rapidly. (Page 1)

North Vietnam's economic plan for 1970 differs little from last year's, except that there is more emphasis on the civilian sectors. (Page 2)

The Libyans are in the process of sending military forces to Egypt. (Page 3)

Despite Peking's recent public attacks on the Sato government, the Chinese seem ready to renew their annual trade arrangement with certain favored Japanese firms. (Page 4)

The Soviet guided-missile helicopter cruiser Moskva is operating in the Atlantic for the first time. (Page 5)

Nigerian police seem to be having little trouble extending the Lagos government's presence in former Biafran territory. (Page 6)

In Sudan

(Page 6)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS - SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communists are putting heavy emphasis during this winter dry season on the shipment of supplies to South Vietnam through the Laos Panhandle. Increased logistic activity began early in December--about a month earlier than last year--and Communist rear-service messages have been calling for a "general offensive" in the movement of supplies this month.

The level of activity is well ahead of last year's. In fact, one important Communist logistics unit reported four times as much traffic last month as during December 1968.

The Communists have to move more supplies this year and move them faster because they did not maintain their stockpiles during the past rainy season. In addition, of course, any new military offensive in the south would require intensified logistic activity to build up stockpiles.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NORTH VIETNAM

In a series of public announcements, Hanoi has revealed its economic plan for 1970. The new plan is basically the same as that of 1969, a year of only modest achievements, with some additional emphasis on the civilian sectors of the economy.

One notable difference between the 1970 plan and last year's is that there is less provision for expanding communication and transportation facilities. Substantial improvements since the bombing restrictions were introduced in March of 1968 have presumably permitted a reduction in the priority for this sector. Hanoi's pronouncements suggest that pre-bombing levels of output in some other sectors will not be regained soon, however.

The need to support the war effort has been a recurring theme in speeches on the plan by Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi, who is also Hanoi's chief aid negotiator. For the first time in years, however, national defense is not specifically cited as North Vietnam's major goal. The continuing uncertainties of war seem to preclude long-range planning, as before, and Hanoi has said nothing about the direction the economy is expected to take after 1970.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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LIBYA

The Qaddafi government is assembling a "Libyan brigade" for duty in Egypt. [redacted] troops from artillery, armor, infantry, antiaircraft, and associated support units were ordered to be ready for the move by the 21st.

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The new regime in Libya has been anxious to participate more directly in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Nasir, who is taking a daily battering from the Israelis, may have called for help. Some of the military are known to be unhappy with Qaddafi's strong pro-Egyptian posture, which suggests that he may also take this opportunity to remove potentially disloyal troops from the country.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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COMMUNIST CHINA - JAPAN

[redacted]
Chinese officials and Japanese trade representatives have begun to discuss arrangements for the annual round of trade talks in Peking.

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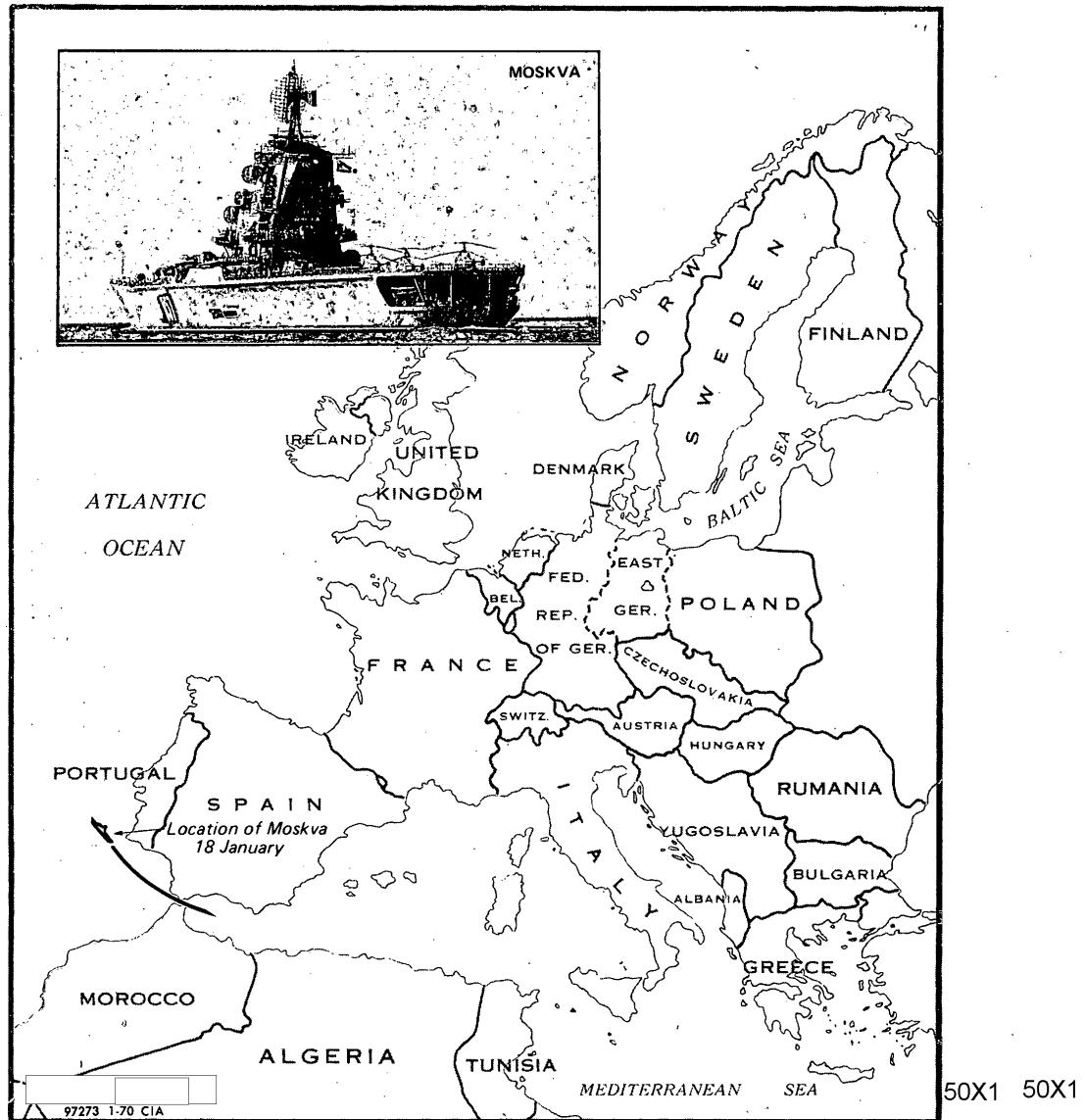
[redacted]
This is the first solid evidence we have seen that the Chinese are prepared to renew the annual trade. Earlier, some Japanese had feared that Peking might call it off as a follow-up to its strongly negative public reaction to the Nixon-Sato communique of last November.

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[redacted]
There have been other recent signs that China's policy toward Japan is not completely frozen. The Chinese recently indicated they were willing to accept another Japanese newsman in Peking. They have also released another Japanese detainee since the Nixon-Sato communique was issued.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MOSKVA Enters Atlantic



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

The Soviet guided-missile helicopter cruiser Moskva, accompanied by two Kashin-class guided-missile ships, passed through the Straits of Gibraltar early on 17 January. This is the first time the Moskva has been in the Atlantic, and the little fleet is now heading northwest off the coast of Portugal.

We have no evidence describing the mission of the Moskva and its escorts, nor do we know their destination. Our best guess is that they will test their equipment and conduct antisubmarine exercises while in the Atlantic.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Nigeria: [redacted] the federal police are having little trouble as they move into the former Biafran territory, with minor resistance in only one isolated area disrupting the general calm. Gowon has sent the Biafran surrender team back to the enclave to help set up an administrative apparatus. This move is one of several by Gowon intended to reassure the Ibo people that they will not be mistreated.

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Sudan: [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



The President's Daily Brief

20 January 1970

49

~~Top Secret~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

20 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists seem about ready to step up the pace
in South Vietnam. (Page 1)

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The Chinese road in Laos [redacted] 50X1
(Page 2)

Testing of Soviet missiles continues. (Page 3)

East Germany's Walter Ulbricht uses a rare press conference to reiterate his terms for negotiating with Willy Brandt. (Page 4)

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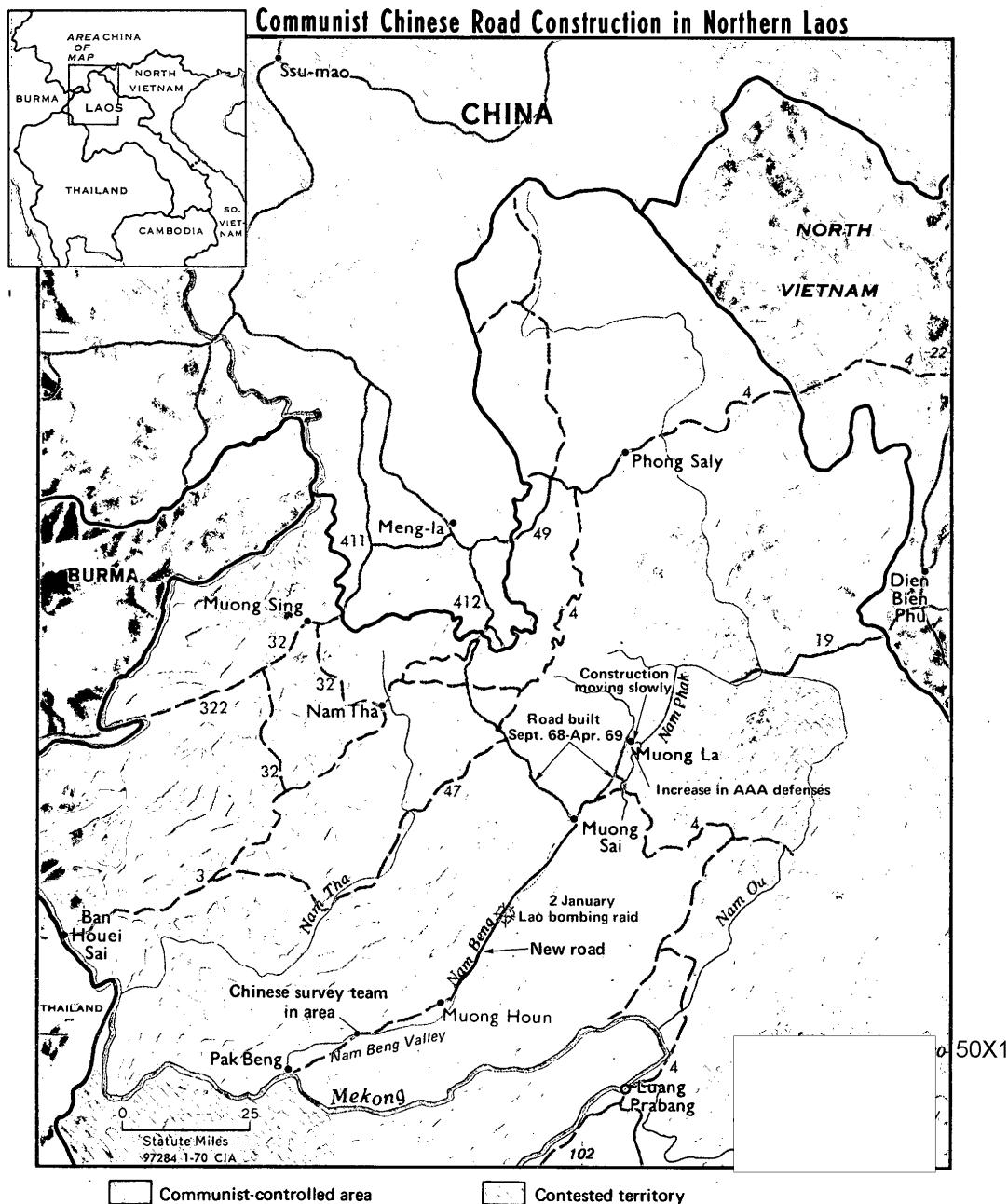
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

We have ample evidence that a widespread intensification of Communist military activity is likely, probably at or before the Tet holidays--6-8 February. Some enemy units have been ordered to make attacks no later than 6 February, and an unusually explicit document found near Hue states that "we are ready for the Tet offensive." The reporting suggests the new effort will be more highly coordinated than past "highpoints."

Our analysis indicates much of the action will be aimed against South Vietnamese forces. Two recent Liberation Radio broadcasts strongly hinted that Saigon's pacification program was damaging the enemy's ability to control important segments of the population, and they called for renewed military vigor to counter it.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

[redacted] a Communist survey team was placing surveying markers some 17 miles south of Muong Houn on 8 January. Local villagers claim that the Pathet Lao have stated the road will be completed to Pak Beng "some time in 1970." In addition, Pathet Lao officials are rounding up villagers who have fled the Muong Houn area over the past year, possibly to draft them for further road construction.

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This is the first evidence that the Communists are actively planning to extend the road beyond Muong Houn this year.

[redacted] 50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

On 18 January the Soviets conducted the ninth test of the modified SS-11 ICBM since July--a rate of testing that suggests a priority development program. As in previous tests, the missile flew some 3,400 miles from Tyuratam to Kamchatka.

The modifications involve both the missile and the payload, but their purpose is not yet clear.

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Furthermore, the re-entry vehicle has a higher velocity during re-entry than does the standard SS-11 re-entry vehicle, and this would be less vulnerable to ABM defenses.

If the development of penetration aids is the goal of this program, and if testing continues at the present rate, operational status could be achieved by late this year.

* * *

An unidentified missile was launched from Plesetsk to Kamchatka on 16 January.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EAST GERMANY

East German leader Ulbricht said yesterday in a press conference in East Berlin that Pankow is willing to negotiate with Bonn. He stressed, however, that East Germany will continue to press its "minimum demands," including diplomatic recognition. Moreover, Ulbricht indicated he is in no hurry to begin talks. He said the East Germans will await the outcome of the Moscow-Bonn negotiations on the renunciation of force agreement.

The major practical effect of Ulbricht's temporizing may be that the Poles will find it easier to deal with the West Germans when their general political negotiations begin early in February, simply because Ulbricht will be unable to interject his demands into the negotiating process.

The East Germans had indicated earlier that they wished to engage Bonn in talks before the Poles and other Eastern Europeans did so. The switch in tactics now suggests that Ulbricht has failed to persuade his allies to put East German interests ahead of their own.

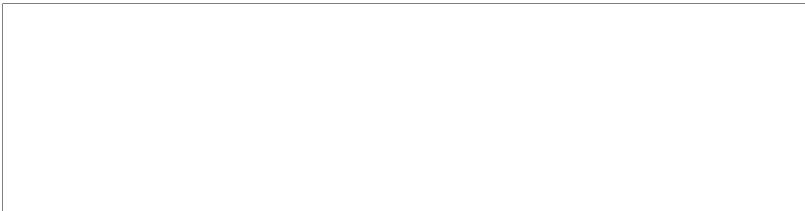
There is evidence that Ulbricht cleared his remarks with Moscow, and the Soviets may have exerted some pressure on him to switch tactics.

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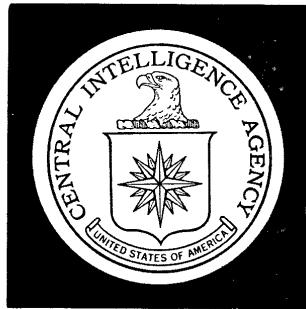
Dominican Republic: [redacted]

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Panama: Pressure is increasing for the resumption of talks with the US about revising the 1903 Canal Treaty. On Friday, Foreign Minister Tack asked Ambassador Sayre when the US would be ready for such discussions. He said his government wants to announce the date to the public. Strongman Torrijos is aware that the Provisional Junta Government has not accomplished much in its 15 months in power, and he may wish to use his commitment to revision of the treaty in a bid for sustained public support.

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Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

21 January 1970

49

50X1

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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The level of North Vietnamese infiltration rose sharply during the past ten days. (Page 2)

President Thieu has made several significant changes in military command personnel

(Page 3)

50X1

Recent Soviet press articles that suggest increased tension and politicking within the Kremlin leadership are discussed on Page 4 and at Annex.

The Israelis last night made a retaliatory attack across the Jordanian border, south of the Dead Sea. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

The level of infiltration has risen sharply during the past ten days. Analysis of new infiltration group designators strongly suggests that at least 13 battalion-size units entered the infiltration pipeline in North Vietnam during that period. This rate is much above that noted during the first ten days of January and represents an input of about 7,500 troops.

The continued appearance of infiltration numbers in rough sequential order further strengthens our belief that communications intelligence is providing a reliable basis for measuring infiltration. Altogether, the number of North Vietnamese combat troops believed to have entered the pipeline since late October now stands at more than 28,000. Over roughly the same time frame (November, December, and January) in 1968-69, there were 55,000 in the pipeline; for the same period in 1967-68, there were 42,000.

The Communists are continuing to assign the bulk of their new infiltrators to the southern portions of South Vietnam, probably including the Mekong Delta region. Most of these troops will be arriving at their destinations during February, March, and April.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

President Thieu has embarked on a significant shake-up of key military commands. The chief of the best division in the delta is taking over command of the area around Saigon. His predecessor there, who has done a creditable job of protecting the capital, apparently is in line to be the new II Corps commander. The chronically weak 7th Division, which is now solely responsible for the upper delta since the departure of US forces from that area, will be taken over by an effective airborne brigade commander.

[redacted] 50X1

The needs of the Vietnamization program probably lie behind these changes. Rather than being politically motivated, they seem to reflect a desire for more aggressive and dynamic military leadership.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOVIET UNION

For the past several weeks, curious editorials and articles discussing problems of leadership and decision-making have been appearing in the Soviet central press. No single article provides more than an ambiguous hint of these problems. Cumulatively, however, they suggest increased tension and politicking in the leadership. The targets and critics are still hard to identify, but the Soviet leadership will bear especially close watching for the next few weeks. A more detailed discussion of these articles appears at Annex.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

GREECE

King Constantine wants to return to Greece and is willing to do so without setting conditions on the ruling junta.

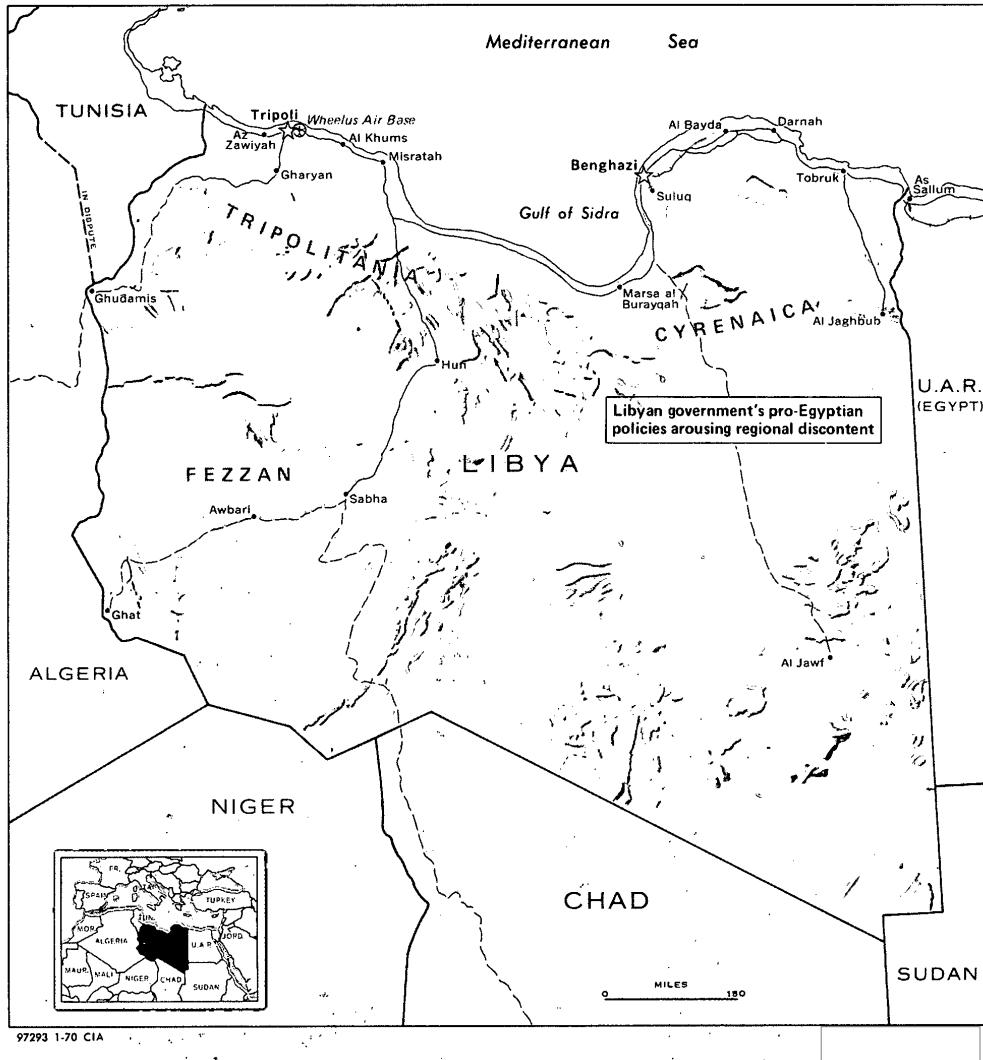
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Constantine also said he would like to meet with someone from the Greek Government prior to his return. Foreign Minister Pipinelis, a royalist holdover, told Ambassador Tasca on 19 January that he favors the King's return and has repeatedly urged Premier Papadopoulos to begin a dialogue with Constantine.

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Papadopoulos may also favor the end of Constantine's exile, but some members of the regime do not. As a result, Papadopoulos will be reluctant to act on this contentious issue without the full backing of his associates.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Libya: Junta leader Qaddafi's moves to draw closer to Cairo are generating growing resentment in the former royalist province of Cyrenaica. Some Cyrenaican troops recently mutinied when told they were being assigned to Suez Canal duty.

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Israel-Jordan: Last night a small Israeli force including armor crossed the cease-fire line south of the Dead Sea and fought for several hours with fedayeen, Jordanian regulars, and Saudi troops, according to military spokesmen in Amman. Tel Aviv has confirmed the attack but has not yet given details. The raid was in retaliation for recent fedayeen attacks against the Israeli potash plant at Sedom, one of the more sensitive points along the Israeli-Jordanian border.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SOVIET UNION

Recent Soviet press articles have been critical of several aspects of leadership, but one recurring theme is a leader's obligation to listen to the opinion of others. One article warned strongly against leaders who fail to learn at their jobs and to keep up with the times. Another commented sharply that collective leadership is no excuse for indecision. Still another warned that discussion of unsettled issues should not be allowed to leak into public propaganda.

This is the time of year when annual figures on the economy are usually available in Moscow. Traditionally, it is a time for taking stock and reviewing problems. The 1969 plan fulfillment figures probably do not present a very cheering picture. Seasonal or not, there is something very close to impatience in the tone of these articles. We suspect that the debate within the leadership is heating up considerably, under the impact of gloomy news about the economy, and that these articles are symptoms of recriminations behind the scenes.

Debate over economic matters could be especially intense this year because the five-year plan and the economic reform adopted in 1965 are drawing to a close. Those hostile to the reform seem to be suggesting that present economic difficulties are the result of the reform. Those partial to the reform complain that it has been poorly implemented. Still others use current problems to argue for developing the reform further and adopting new measures. The result is that a program which the leadership agreed to five years ago is becoming increasingly a matter of dissension.

The regime this month publicly admitted for the first time that there had been recent difficulties in food supplies in major industrial cities. Provincial leaders who must cope with these difficulties are undoubtedly adding to the pressures already being exerted on the top leadership, which still cannot seem to agree on a course of action.

In summary, it appears that there is a good deal of jockeying for position going on within the Kremlin as the leadership prepares for the Party Congress due to be held sometime later this year.

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The President's Daily Brief

22 January 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

President Pompidou apparently has decided that the best interests of France lie in a strong pro-Arab policy. (Page 1)

President Ovando has met with Bolivian military leaders to discuss the generals' disenchantment with some cabinet ministers. (Page 2)

[redacted] Iraq [redacted]
[redacted] and Iran [redacted]

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[redacted] Cambodia [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FRANCE - MIDDLE EAST

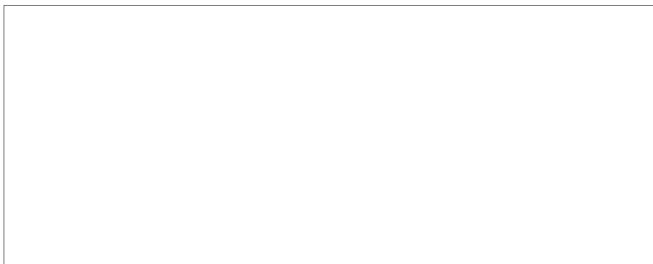
Defense Minister Debre's disclosure yesterday that France intends to sell as many as 100 aircraft to Libya was a closely held secret within the French Government. Foreign Minister Schumann's remarks to Ambassador Shriver yesterday make it clear that Schumann did not play a major role in the decision-making process and was not fully briefed on all aspects of the case.

The decision of course came from Pompidou who seems intent on enhancing the strategic and commercial role of France in the Mediterranean. He was also motivated by the need to reassure the Arab world following the Israeli gunboat affair, the lagging exports of France's aircraft industry and a desire to participate more actively in the Libyan petroleum industry. The affair also has the side effects of demonstrating French independence from the US and the USSR and Pompidou's authority over Schumann, who opposed the deal.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

BOLIVIA

The military high command met with President Ovando on 20 January and presented their views on the need for a cabinet shakeup. These senior military officers have become alarmed by public statements by Ovando and certain cabinet ministers which hint at collaboration with Cuba, withdrawal from the Organization of American States, and the nationalization of all property. Ovando reportedly told the generals that he would prefer to delay the dismissal of the radical ministers until they became mired in their own mistakes.

Ovando seems to be buying more time to assess his first real crisis. He probably will try to further ingratiate himself with the military by promising to take whatever action is necessary to restore the flow of US military aid--one of the main concerns of the generals.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

IRAN-IRAQ

The Iraqis squelched an Iran-backed coup Tuesday night. Some 29 of the conspirators were summarily executed.



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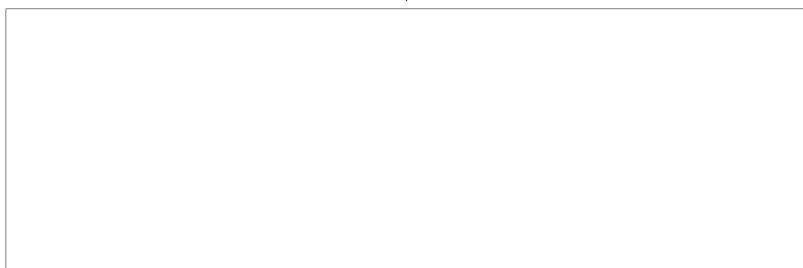
Early today Iraq requested the Iranian ambassador and four other diplomats to leave the country within 24 hours. Radio Baghdad accused the Iranians of cooperating with US and Zionist forces in the abortive coup.

These public denunciations of Iran's role in the coup will seriously delay the settlement of the border dispute between the two countries over the Shatt al-Arab River. It will also complicate Baghdad's efforts to negotiate with the Kurdish dissidents in northern Iraq because of the strong Iranian influence with the Kurds.

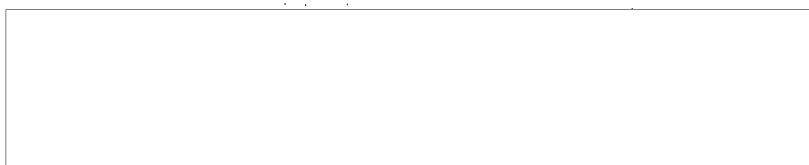
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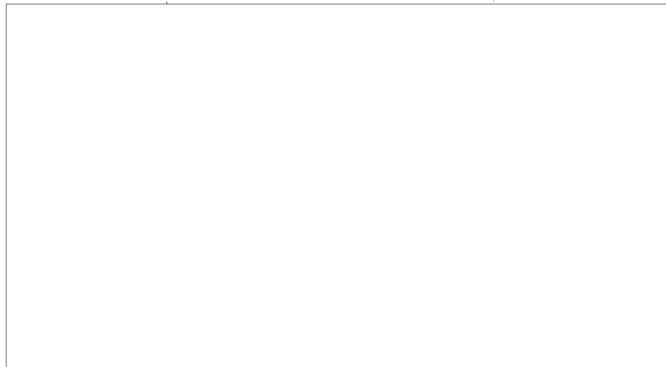
CAMBODIA



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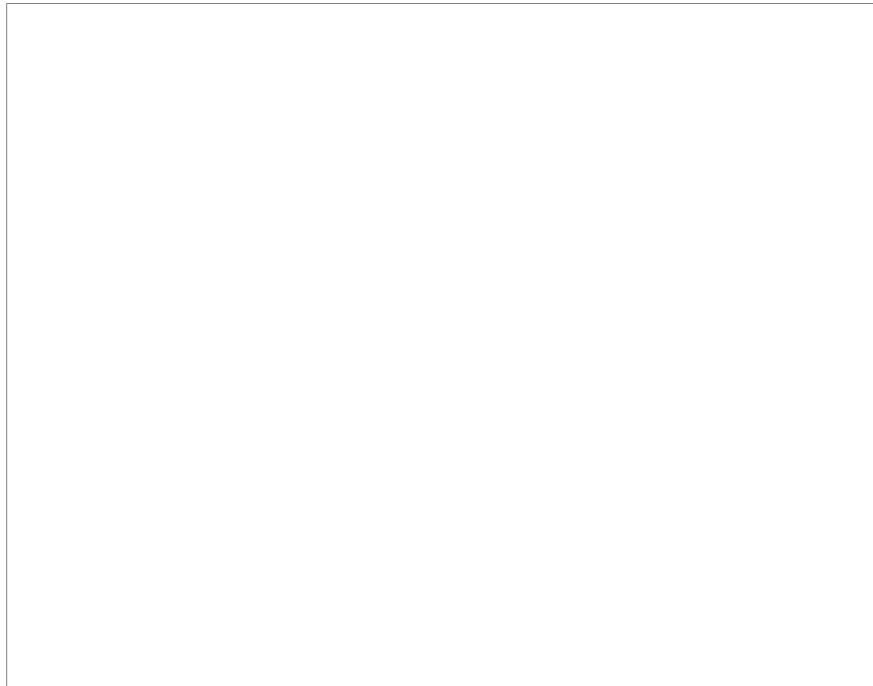
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR: [redacted]

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Italy: Last year Italy incurred a balance-of-payments deficit of \$1.4 billion, the largest in well over a decade. The deficit is in sharp contrast with the \$627 million surplus in 1968 and is due entirely to a capital outflow which reached about \$4 billion in 1969. The money drain may have been accelerated by the current tax laws, labor unrest, and the unsettled political situation, and is likely to continue this year. Italy's official net reserves remain very strong, however.

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The President's Daily Brief

23 January 1970

26

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Sino-Soviet

(Page 1)

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Fighting in Laos intensifies as the enemy's seasonal counterattack begins. (Page 2)

West Germany continues its overtures toward the east, in spite of Berlin troubles. (Page 3)

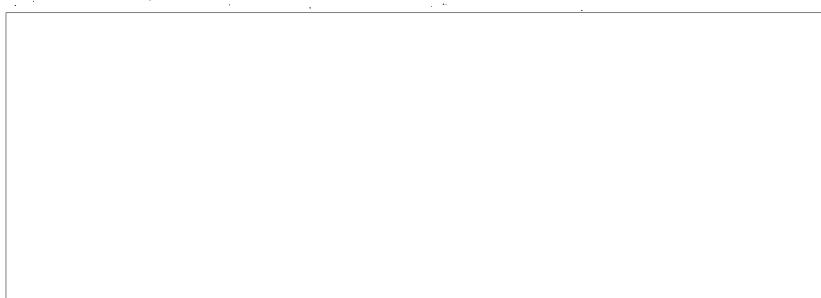
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USSR - COMMUNIST CHINA



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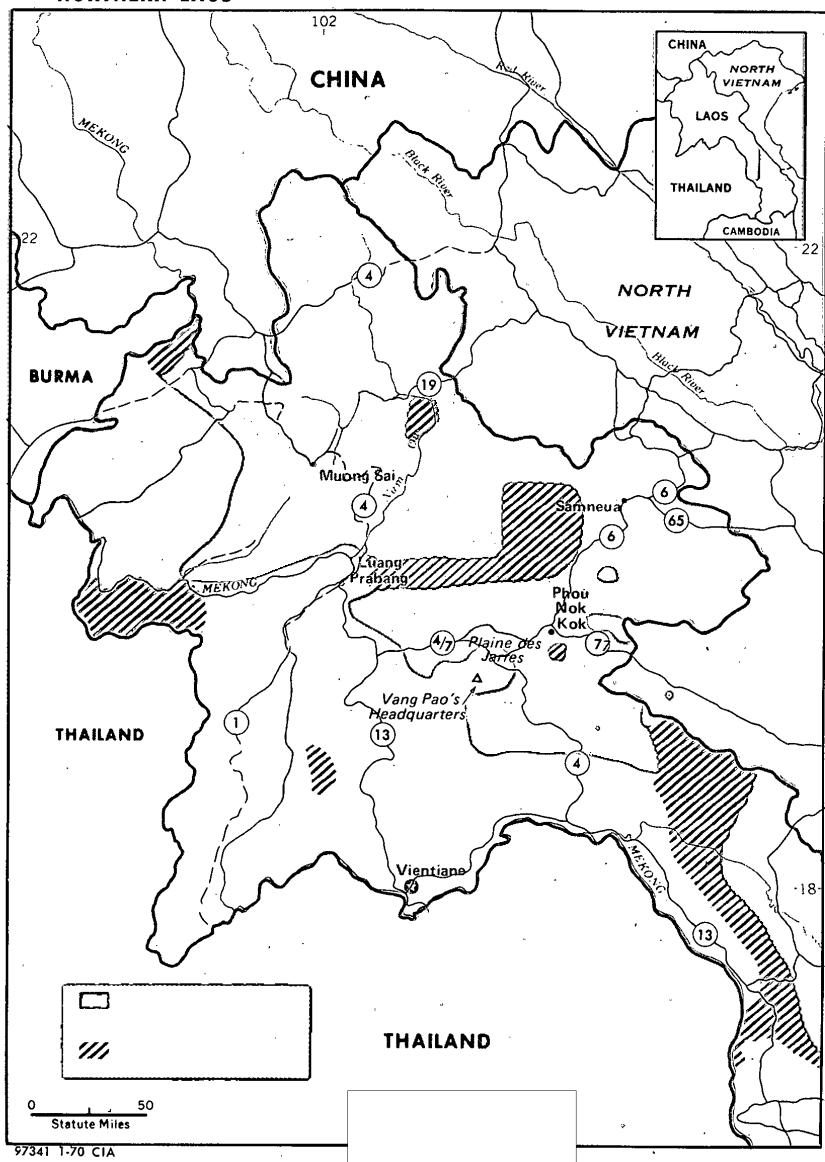
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTHERN LAOS



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The latest [redacted] from Vientiane indicates that enemy forces, mainly North Vietnamese, have seized the initiative east and north of the Plaine des Jarres and now threaten Lao government forces with a multipronged offensive. Enemy strength for this expected drive could be as many as 14,000 North Vietnamese troops and 8,000 Lao Communist and pro-Communist neutralist forces. Against this force General Vang Pao has only about 6,000 widely scattered and battle weary troops.

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So far the Communists have limited themselves to mopping up pockets of government troops on the extreme approaches to the Plaine; major attacks could commence, however, before Tet begins on 6 February. By then the Communists will have had time to replace their heavy losses taken earlier this month while capturing Phou Nok Kok, the government hill position which had barred Communist progress toward the Plaine from the east along Route 7.

The resistance of government units to determined North Vietnamese attacks will, according to observers in the field, probably be shortlived. The speed of enemy progress will depend to a considerable degree on the amount of air support government forces receive. An important key to slowing down the offensive lies in destroying the enemy's supply depots and headquarters units from the air; rarely do the North Vietnamese launch major attacks before a more adequate supply base has been established.

To this [redacted] we would only add that the government never expected to hold the Plaine des Jarres. In that area, as in the rest of Laos, there is a definite seasonal pattern to the ebb and flow of territorial control by the opposing forces. This year, however, there is a danger that the Communists might not stop at the Plaine. They might be tempted to push southward against Vang Pao's main headquarters. His Meos have become formidable antagonists to whom the North Vietnamese might hope to administer a decisive defeat.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

In the face of Soviet criticism aimed at the Bundestag committee meetings in Berlin, the West Germans are adopting a conciliatory attitude. Although contending the present level of political activities is not provocative, they remain willing to negotiate with the Communists on the problem.

Persistent difficulties in Berlin notwithstanding, Chancellor Brandt sent off a letter to East German Premier Stoph yesterday proposing formal talks on the renunciation of force. Brandt's state-of-the-nation address last week had included an announcement of his intention to send such a message. The letter suggests that the foundation for an all-German agreement be the series of principles in Brandt's speech instead of Ulbricht's draft treaty of last December or a West German "countertreaty."

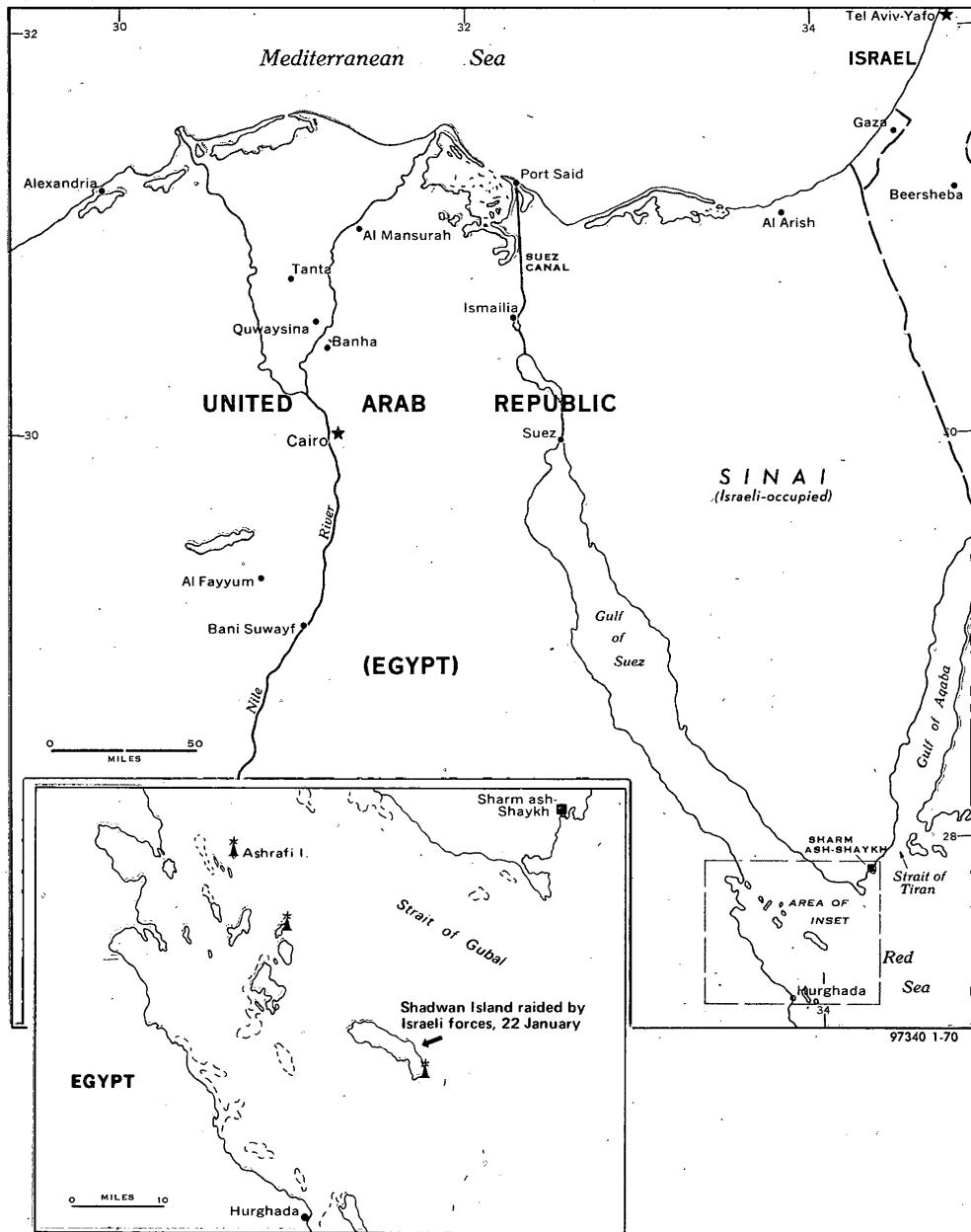
Meanwhile, East German officials have continued to harass West German travelers on the autobahn to West Berlin. Rail traffic has not yet been disrupted, and allied travelers have not been disturbed.

The harassment on the highway has been fairly mild thus far, but it could be stepped up--to include, for instance, a complete stoppage of traffic--during Brandt's visit to Berlin on 25 and 26 January.

The West Germans are convinced that the Communists do not want any really serious trouble over Berlin right now, however. Brandt's letter to Stoph--sent earlier than expected--is partly a sign that Bonn is ready for talks in spite of all the transitory difficulties.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAELIS RAID EGYPTIAN RED SEA ISLAND



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Israel-Egypt: Conflicting claims by spokesmen for both sides have obscured the details of the Israeli invasion of Shadwan Island. During the night the Egyptians made no serious effort to retake the island, and the Israeli troops set about to remove or destroy whatever military items they found there. The Israeli force does not seem adequate to occupy the island for a prolonged period.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

24 January 1970

47

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 January 1970

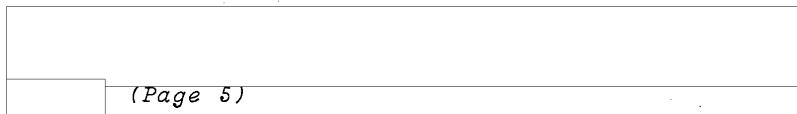
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The dispatch of 4,000-5,000 Libyan troops to Egypt is to be completed this weekend. (Page 1)

In South Vietnam, the Communists may be getting set for an attack on a provincial capital in the delta. (Page 2)

The leftist front in Chile has put forward Socialist Senator Salvador Allende as its candidate in the presidential elections next September. (Page 3)

In Moscow, a Russian translation of John Kenneth Galbraith's The New Industrial State has enjoyed a brisk sale. (Page 4)



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

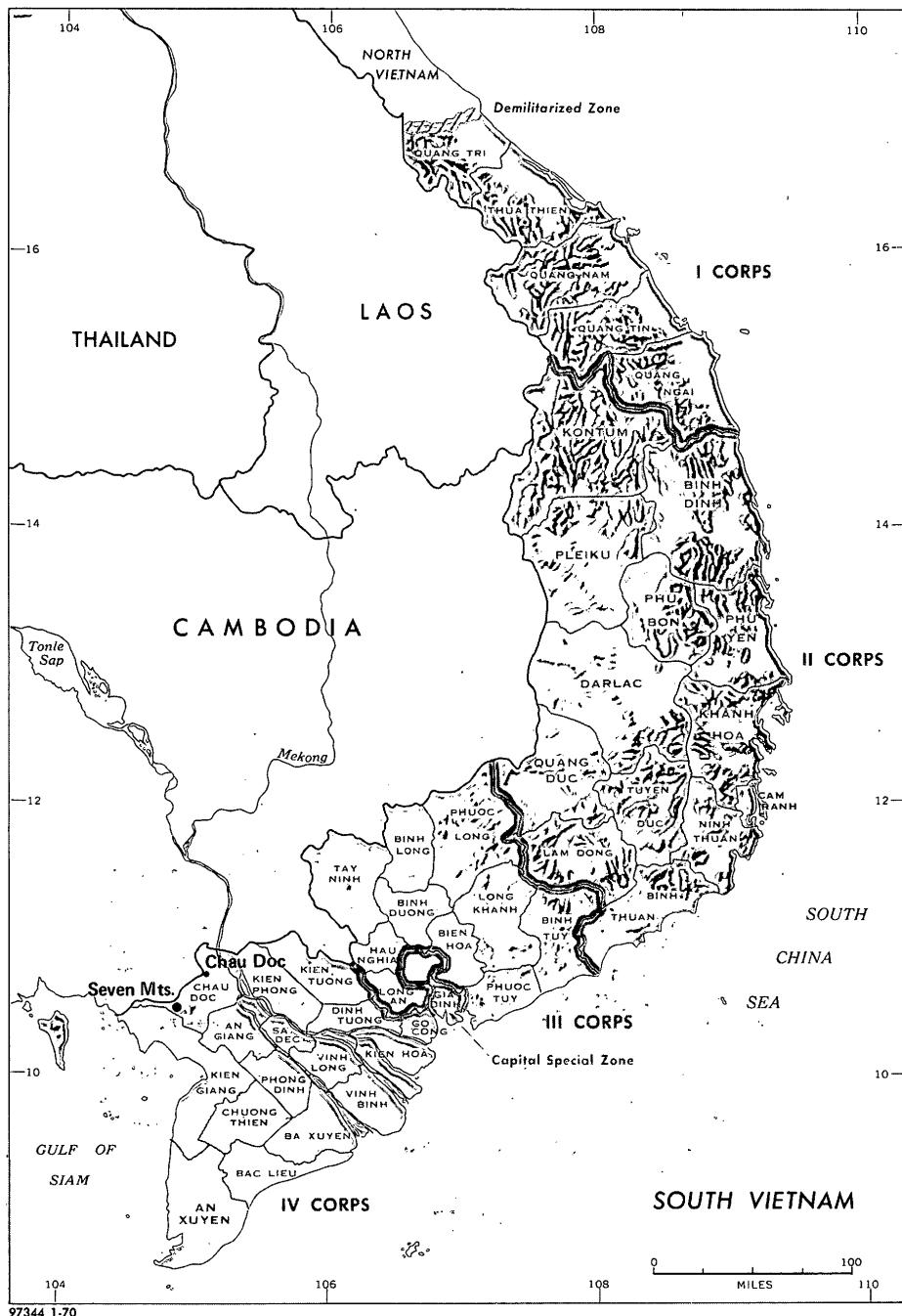
LIBYA

The transfer of between 4,000 and 5,000 Libyan troops to Egypt for duty along the Suez Canal is to be completed this weekend. This force includes some units of the Cyrenaican police.

The junta also has launched a large-scale recruitment program to enlist young Libyans between the ages of 17 and 25. Members of the provincial police forces who are not needed for basic police functions will be formed into regular army units. In addition, the Libyans have submitted a shopping list to the US officials for large quantities of bombs, rockets, and smaller ammunition.

The materiel requested could be used by both Mirage and MIG aircraft.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communists may be preparing to attack the provincial capital of Chau Doc in the delta. Radio stations serving the headquarters of two North Vietnamese regiments have been heard within seven miles of the town. Another regiment remains in the Seven Mountains area less than 20 miles to the south. A variety of reports from agents and ralliers claim the Communists will try to seize and temporarily hold Chau Doc.

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There is a chance that the three North Vietnamese units may merely be pausing before moving further south into IV Corps. We think it more likely, however, that the Communists view Chau Doc as a tempting target for a quick hit-and-run show of strength.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CHILE

The leftist front has chosen Socialist Senator Salvador Allende to be its candidate in the presidential elections next September. Allende's candidacy was proclaimed officially at a rally in Santiago Thursday. His position had been strengthened earlier this week when the candidates of the Radical and Communist parties withdrew.

The September election is shaping up more and more as a three-way race between Allende, former president Jorge Alessandri--an independent conservative--and Christian Democrat Radomiro Tomic.

The pro-Castro Allende is a bit shop-worn, having run and lost three times before. In each case, however, he showed considerable vote-getting ability. If the leftist parties can submerge their differences, he might be in a strong position to win the presidency. His main rival is likely to be Alessandri; even President Frei does not give his party colleague, Tomic, much chance.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

A Russian translation of John Kenneth Galbraith's book, The New Industrial State, has unexpectedly appeared in Moscow bookstores. The Soviet edition has a lengthy introduction which characterizes Galbraith as a more dangerous enemy of socialism than his conservative colleagues and warns readers not to underestimate the antisocialist theme of his book. It calls particular attention to Galbraith's convergence theory which is said to "proclaim the absorption of socialism by a slightly altered and improved capitalism."

The Soviets apparently permitted publication of this limited edition so that their scholarly propagandists could refute the book's arguments more effectively. This tactic may boomerang. The book has been a big hit in Moscow, selling out within a few days of its appearance. We suspect that many of the purchasers agree with Galbraith's theory and will not be swayed by the introduction.

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NOTES

USSR-Egypt:

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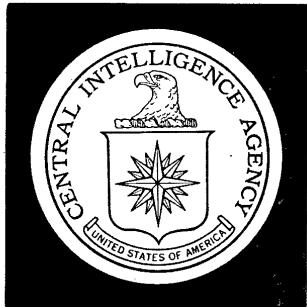
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Iran-Iraq: Iranian armed forces are on the alert following the coup debacle in Baghdad and its aftermath. [redacted] substantial numbers of Iranian troops are being moved into defensive positions closer to the border area, opposite apparently reinforced Iraqi forces. Trouble could erupt inadvertently, although it appears unlikely that either side intends to provoke it.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

26 January 1970

25

Top Secret

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] Vietnam
[redacted]

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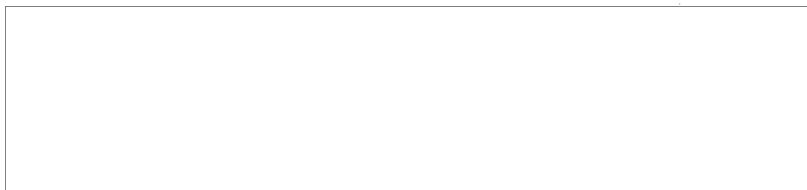
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Hanoi departed from the norm in a recent broadcast by praising the wisdom of past policies that led to a cease-fire with the French. We review the content and possible motivations behind this unusual broadcast in an annex.

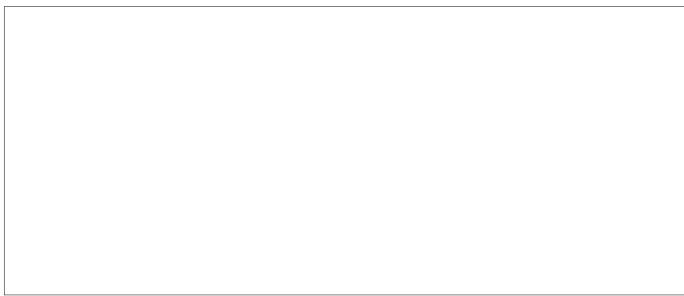
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM



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* * *

A North Vietnamese broadcast last week contained some of the most intriguing hints yet of policy and leadership trends in Hanoi since Ho Chi Minh's death. Our preliminary views on the significance of the broadcast are treated in today's annex.

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NORTH VIETNAM

Hanoi has issued a variety of statements to mark the 40th anniversary on 3 February of the Indo-chinese Communist Party (now the Vietnam Workers' Party). A North Vietnamese broadcast on 20 January seems particularly significant, however, because it contains an oblique suggestion that the Communists might try to use the Paris talks to obtain a respite in the fighting. The broadcast summarizes a recent pamphlet commemorating the anniversary.

The passage with the most important implications of Hanoi's intentions is one which calls the signing of a compromise "preliminary" agreement with France in March 1946 a "very correct and clear sighted undertaking of our party." That agreement provided, among other things, for a cease-fire, for the return of French forces to north and central Vietnam, and for the opening of political negotiations between the Viet Minh and France. It fell far short of what Ho Chi Minh and his colleagues wanted at that time, but they accepted the terms because they did not believe they were in a position to fight. The Hanoi broadcast last week asserts that the March 1946 agreement allowed the Communists to get rid of one enemy (the Chinese Nationalist troops then occupying part of North Vietnam), and to concentrate on the struggle against "the immediate and most dangerous enemy... at the time" (i.e., the French). The agreement, said the broadcast, enabled the Communists to prepare their forces for a protracted resistance war, which broke out later when negotiations with the French failed.

It is highly unusual for Hanoi to cite the efficacy of negotiating a compromise agreement as a means to gain time. To do so at present suggests that the leadership believes there are opportunities for applying similar tactics now, presumably in the context of the Paris talks. [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The broadcast on 20 January is also noteworthy for its suggestions of current Communist tactics in the war and for changes in the North Vietnamese leadership which probably have accompanied the adoption of these tactics. The broadcast specifically cites the so-called "August Revolution" of 1945 as a "model" of how a revolutionary war should be conducted. Hanoi has stressed this theme heavily in recent months. The lessons it seems to want drawn from that earlier period are that long military and political preparations must precede any successful seizure of power, and that in South Vietnam the Communists must now concentrate on such preparations if they are to be in a position to exploit favorable openings in the future.

Truong Chinh is the North Vietnamese figure most associated with the August Revolution, and this stress seems to reflect his rise to special prominence in the party hierarchy. The broadcast underscored this conclusion by linking Ho Chi Minh and Truong Chinh with the "perfection" of party policies for fighting a revolutionary war.

The broadcast also strengthens the impression that Hanoi has been trying to restore a better balance between the efforts designed to build up the regime in the North and those devoted to fighting the war in the South. The relative priority of these two tasks has been the touchstone of debate within the leadership for the past decade. Since late 1968, the regime has swung toward re-emphasizing "building socialism" in the North and trying to fight the war in less costly ways that cannot be expected to produce quick results.

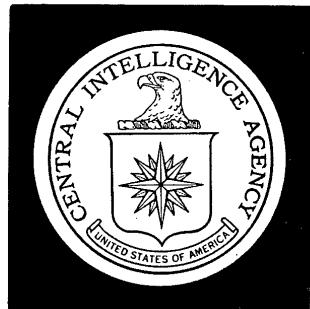
The broadcast treats this shift quite pointedly by citing a party policy report delivered by first secretary Le Duan in 1960. The broadcast asserts that the report "made clear that the task of socialist construction in the north is the most decisive task for the development of the revolution in our country as a whole and for the cause of national reunification of our people." The 1960 report indeed contained such a formulation, but it was artfully balanced by another sentence which stressed that the war in the south has a "direct and decisive effect" upon the achievement of reunification.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

and party objectives throughout Vietnam. It thus gave equal weight to the party's "two strategic tasks," which the recent broadcast does not.

Moreover, in associating Le Duan with such a one-sided view, the broadcast neatly obscured the fact that in the past he has always been one of the foremost spokesmen in underscoring that the task of "building socialism" in North Vietnam must not be used to put limits on the war effort in South Vietnam. Indeed, Le Duan can be more readily identified with those in the leadership who were willing to push the war effort forward with less regard for its impact on the north, and whose views generally carried the day through mid-1968. There is no reason, of course, why Le Duan's position on this subject could not have shifted in recent years, along with the rest of the leadership. The broadcast is one more reason to believe, however, that regardless of where individuals stand in the post-Ho hierarchy, the new regime recognizes that the policies pursued through most of the 1960s have not paid off and that it is committed to going back to some of the fundamentals of fighting a "people's war" which eventually allowed the Communists to prevail against the French.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

27 January 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In northern Laos Communist preparations for an offensive in the Plaine des Jarres area appear to be nearing completion. (Page 1)

The movement of supplies through the Laos panhandle for Communist forces in South Vietnam is in high gear. (Page 2)

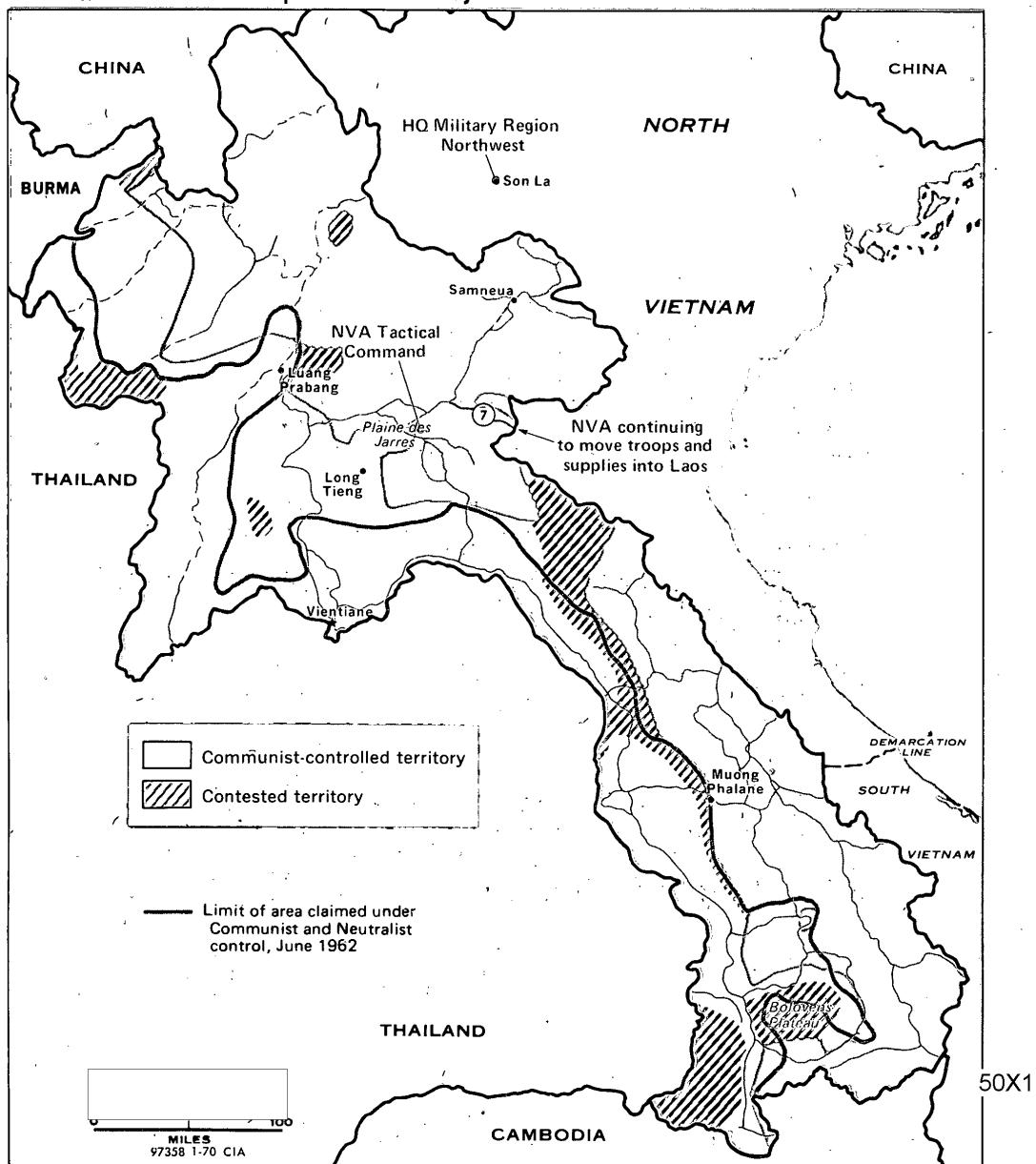
The absence of Brezhnev and Chief of State Podgorny from public view for 37 days has set the Moscow rumor mill in motion. (Page 3)

Japan will probably sign the Nonproliferation Treaty within the week. (Page 4)

In the former Biafran enclave federal officers are trying to restore discipline among their troops. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos: NVA Continues Preparations for Major Counteroffensive



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Communist preparations for a major offensive in the Plaine des Jarres appear to be nearing completion.

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[redacted] messages have been passed between the North Vietnamese tactical command near the Plaine and a senior military command inside North Vietnam at Son La. This is almost certainly concerned with final planning for a major ground thrust against the Plaine.

The North Vietnamese also continue to pour troops and supplies into northern Laos. According to a message of 17 January, highest priority was to be given to ammunition and explosives--a strong indication that preparations for the offensive are in their final stage. Apparently to insure the rapid movement of high priority cargo, Hanoi is bringing 1,150 more combat engineers into Laos. Also, intercepts indicate that an important vehicle convoy, possibly including tanks, is nearing the Plaine des Jarres area.

The scope of present enemy preparations, the largest ever detected in northern Laos, may cause the Souvanna Phouma government to question seriously the wisdom of holding the Plaine "at all costs." A high toll in Meo casualties would undermine the government's only effective fighting force. The Meo units are needed to defend politically more sensitive areas closer to the capital, especially General Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng.

There is no evidence of a comparable Communist build-up in the south. The Communists apparently intend to limit their military activity in the panhandle to hit and run raids and rocket attacks this dry season. Such tactics would effectively tie down government troops, precluding their possible use in the north.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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LAOS - SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communist logistics drive in the Laos Pan-handle has been in high gear since early December. By now, significant quantities of supplies should be reaching South Vietnam.

Although no overall figure for supplies moved south is available, one key logistics unit received, during a ten-day period this month, four times as much as it did in all of January 1969. Foodstuffs make up the bulk of identified supplies, but arms and ammunition account for about 18 percent of identified shipments so far this month, as compared with 12 percent for the same period last year.

Intercepted messages frequently mention destruction of trucks and death of personnel from US bombings in the panhandle. Units of the 559th Transport Group this year are again being told to use false lights, dummy trucks, and other deceptive measures to reduce the effectiveness of air strikes. The Communists have recently deployed surface-to-air missiles to southern North Vietnam close to main pan-handle logistic routes.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SOVIET UNION

Rumors of instability within the Soviet leadership are circulating in Moscow. Soviet party boss Brezhnev and Chief of State Podgorny have been out of sight for 37 days. Brezhnev, however, continues to be mentioned in the press, and both he and Podgorny have been listed as signatories of ceremonial messages.

We are now checking [redacted] on the whereabouts of these two Soviet leaders.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN

Prime Minister Sato is finally getting around to signing the Nonproliferation Treaty. He could have approval from the cabinet and all others concerned by the end of this week--in plenty of time to have the treaty signed before it goes into force early in February.

Sato will have no trouble getting approval for signing the treaty. Formal ratification by the Diet is another thing entirely and could take a long time. Major problems must yet be resolved at high levels of Sato's government.

Sato's sudden burst of speed seems to stem from his desire to be in step with the major powers and to demonstrate Japan's agreement in principle before Somalia deposits its instruments of ratification, the act which will bring the treaty into effect.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

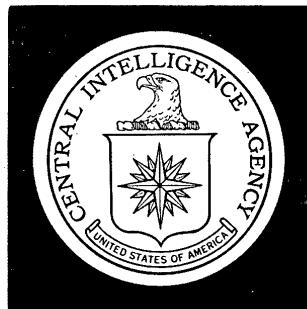
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Nigeria: Federal officers are trying to prevent further deterioration in discipline among the troops occupying the former Biafran enclave. Looters have been executed, and some improvement in discipline can already be seen. Lagos is also moving more federal policemen into the occupied area, but it will probably be some time before the Nigerians feel able to return troops to garrisons or withdraw them altogether. Meanwhile, federal authorities are working harder to move in relief supplies; serious food distribution problems persist.

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The President's Daily Brief

28 January 1970

25

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Soviet leaders reappear after their long absence.
(Page 1)

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The Soviets [redacted] Berlin.
(Page 3)

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The Chinese road in Laos is getting longer. (Page 5)

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The southward movement of North Vietnamese is the
heaviest in nearly a year. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

Brezhnev and Podgorny reappeared in public yesterday, putting to rest rumors generated by their prolonged absence. Both Soviet leaders had been out of sight since 19 December.

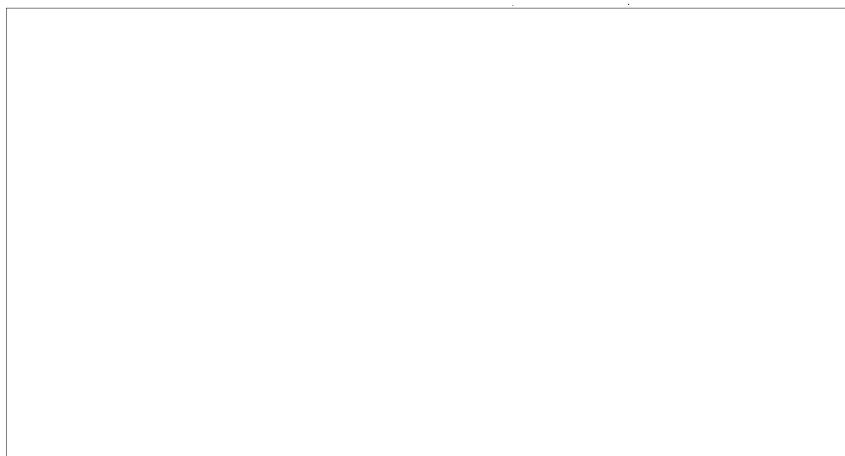
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In the past, the senior members of the Politburo have frequently taken vacations in January; they apparently spent some time at Barvikha at this time last year. It is possible, however, that they deliberately cut themselves off from all official functions in order to grapple with some urgent problem. Current economic difficulties, for example, are pressing and have wide ramifications for both foreign and domestic affairs.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR - ARAB STATES



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* * *

Yasir Arafat, leader of Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Organization, will visit Moscow some time this week.

Arafat no doubt has more Soviet military and economic assistance on his mind, and he would be unlikely to put his prestige on the line without some assurance that he will not return empty-handed. [redacted]

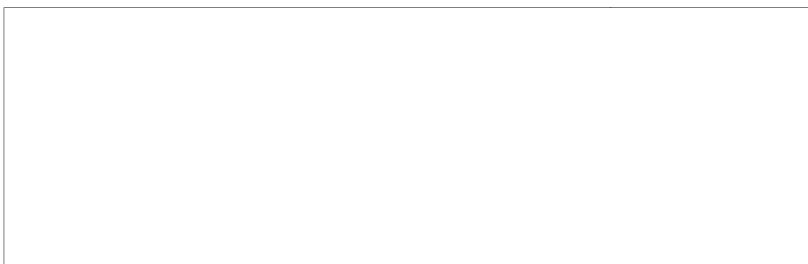
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[redacted] Military aid, however, probably will still be limited to light arms, channeled through Arab governments.

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USSR-BERLIN



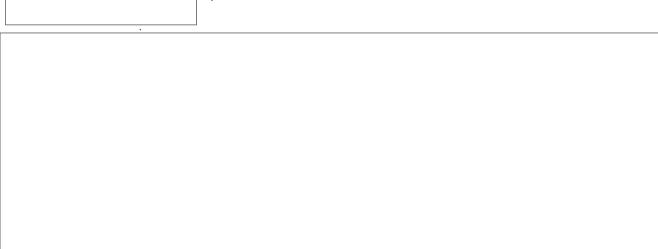
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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WEST GERMANY - USSR - EASTERN EUROPE

Chancellor Brandt is sending Egon Bahr, his closest foreign policy adviser, to confer with Foreign Minister Gromyko in Moscow. Bahr will take over the negotiations that began in early December on an agreement renouncing the use of force. The new talks are to begin on Friday.

Brandt believes that his Eastern policies have reached a critical point because Pankow is bending every effort to discourage other Warsaw Pact states from negotiating with Bonn. Bahr is to investigate whether there is a real prospect of long-range success for these policies. Beyond this, his instructions have not yet been disclosed to Bonn's allies.

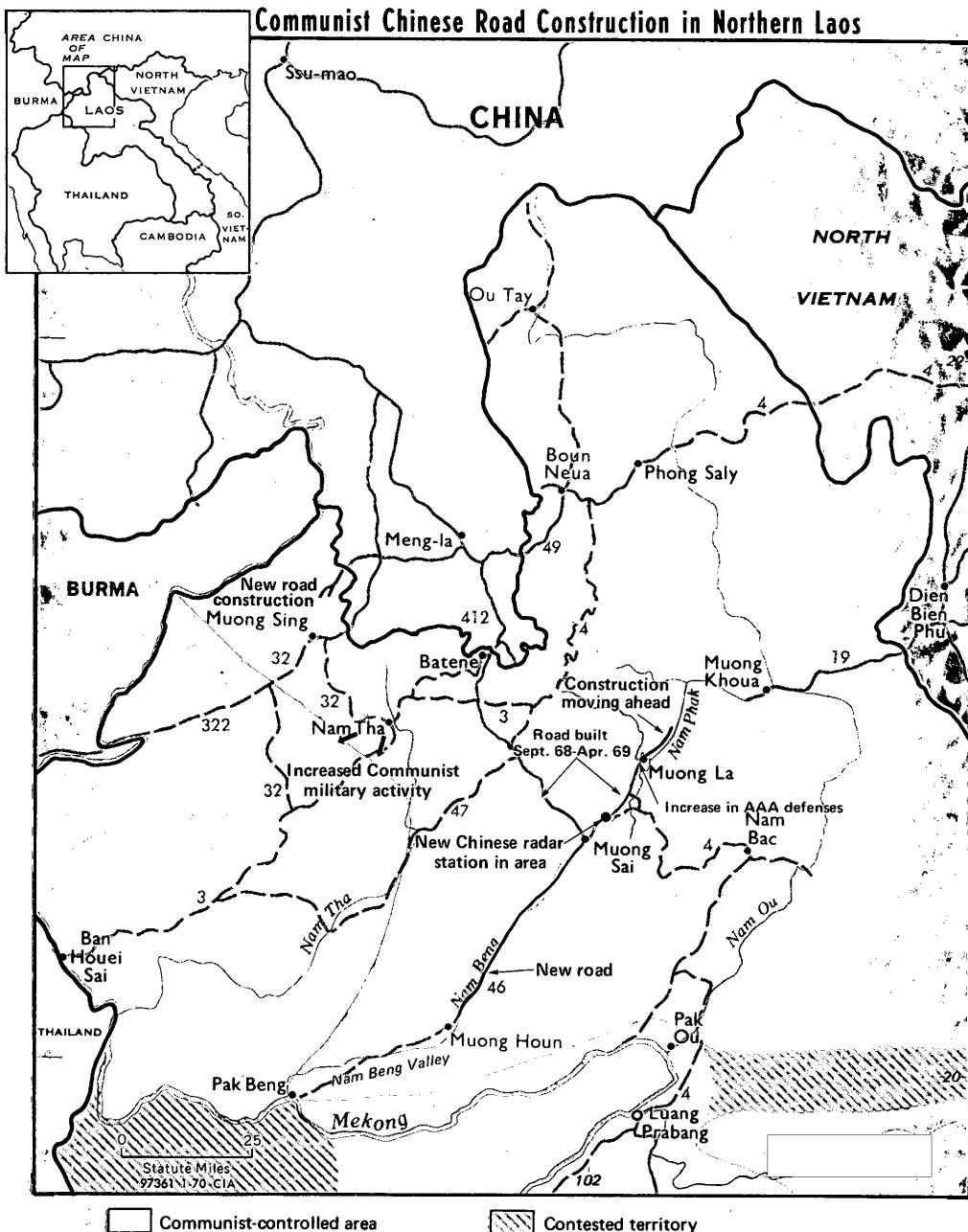
Bahr's mission apparently is intended to undercut Pankow's efforts by reaching an authoritative agreement with the Soviets themselves. Moscow can be expected to hold out for a West German acceptance of the East European status quo. Bonn doubtless hopes, however, that the Soviets will not demand full de jure recognition of East Germany, and Brandt almost certainly would not agree to such a demand.

Bonn is also pursuing its Eastern policies on other fronts. Negotiations with Pankow on postal matters, recessed since November, will be resumed on 30 January. The Poles and West Germans are currently engaged in economic talks in Bonn.

Political talks with Poland are scheduled to open in Warsaw on 5 February. West German recognition of Poland's Oder-Neisse border will be on the agenda as will a renunciation-of-force agreement.

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LAOS - COMMUNIST CHINA

The road that presumably will link Muong Sai with Route 19 has been extended some seven miles to the northeast since the first of the year. The rate of progress on this stretch of the road network still remains well below the mile-a-day rate achieved on the southwestern leg to Muong Houn, however. We have nothing new on the southwestern leg at this time.

A recent increase in antiaircraft defenses near Muong La, including a new Chinese radar tracking station, suggests that the Chinese may be pressing harder to complete the Muong La segment before the monsoon in May. The present rate of construction is adequate for such a timetable.

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[redacted]
in the extreme northwest corner of Laos, the Chinese have constructed a limited-weather road across the Laotian border. The new road appears to be designed to support Pathet Lao efforts to consolidate control in this area, where the people are generally hostile to them.

The Pathet Lao's dry season activities in the northwest, however, appear to be focused south and west of Nam Tha, where a number of government outposts have been under increased enemy pressure since late December. For the moment, government troops in this area, backed by Lao aircraft, seem capable of meeting this threat.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

New battalion-size groups have been entering the infiltration system at the rate of at least one a day during the past week. So far this month 23 infiltration groups, representing about 10,600 troops, have been detected on the move in communications intelligence.

Analysis of infiltration designators suggests that nine additional groups entered the pipeline for a probable total of 32. This would bring the number of men sent south thus far in January to approximately 14,000.

The activity of the past three weeks is the heaviest in nearly a year, and month-end totals could approach those of January 1969, when over 19,000 men started South.

For the first time in several months, replacements are headed for the western highlands, while others are going to the Communist military areas in lower I Corps and coastal II Corps. More than 31,000 troops are believed to have started south since late October, and most of them have been destined for the southern part of the country, including the Mekong Delta.

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The President's Daily Brief

29 January 1970

49

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

29 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Le Duc Tho is on his way back to Paris. (Page 1)

King Savang is pressing hard for an aerial attack on Chinese road construction in Laos. (Page 2)

Peking [redacted] Russian [redacted] 50X1
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China [redacted] [redacted] 50X1
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

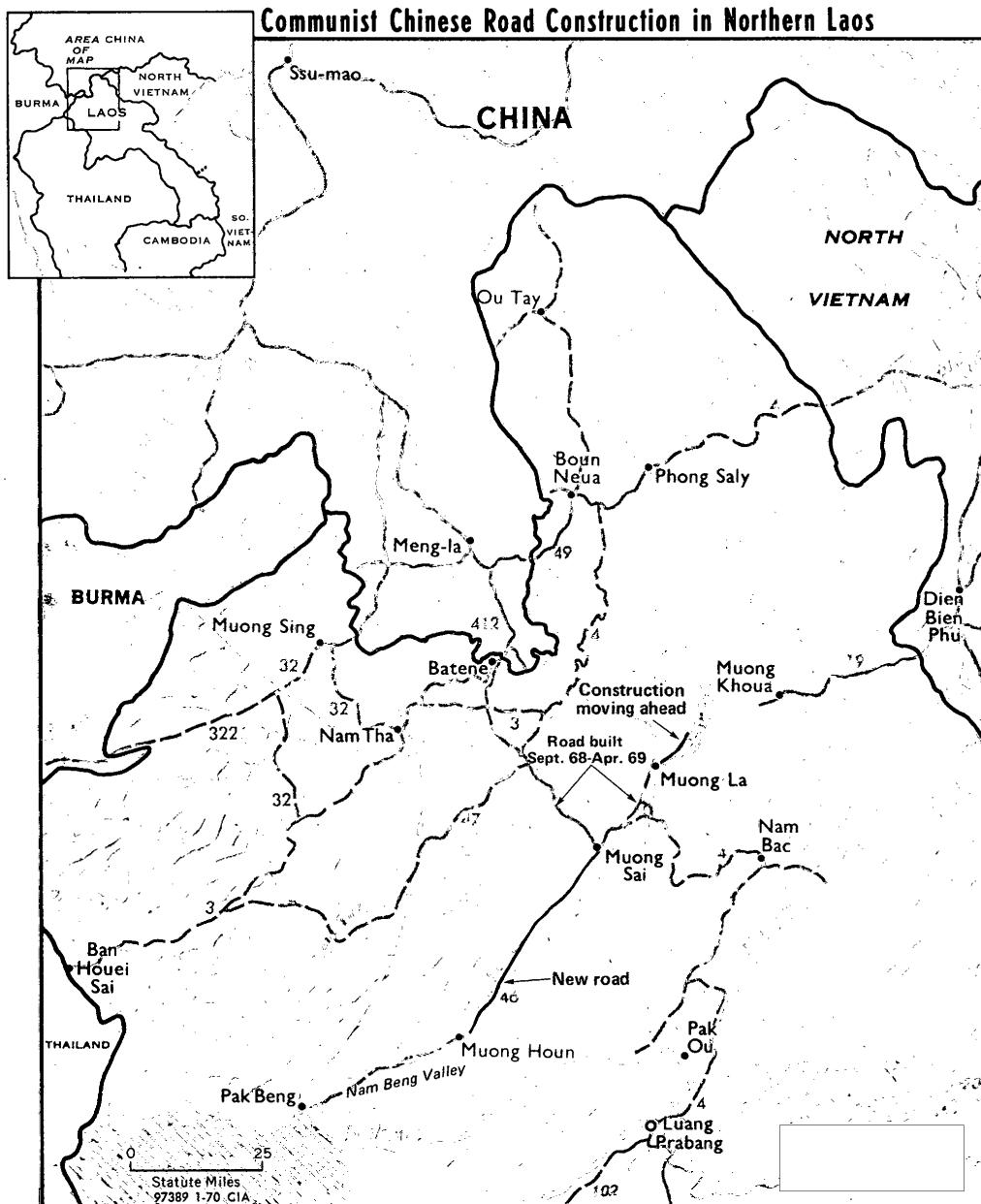
NORTH VIETNAM

A French official informed the US delegation in Paris last week that Le Duc Tho would be on hand for the French Communist Party Congress scheduled for 4 to 8 February. Moscow radio has now announced he is on the way.

There are no persuasive reasons why Hanoi would send Le Duc Tho to Paris solely for the French party congress. His presence inevitably will generate press speculation that it is connected with the talks, and this may be more what the Communists have in mind. Any significant Communist initiative in the talks is unlikely at this stage, but Hanoi might calculate that keeping Tho on tap in Paris for a while would generate more interest in--and pressure for--the naming of a successor to Ambassador Lodge.

The Communists do not wish to abandon the Paris forum, and they are unhappy over what they regard as US efforts to "downgrade" the importance of the talks. More importantly, they probably are chagrined that the US has been able to soft pedal the talks without generating much adverse public reaction. Indeed, in view of the importance Hanoi has always attached to the public relations aspect of its policies, we suspect the Communists want to get out from under a propaganda disadvantage. Their intransigence in recent months has facilitated US and GVN efforts to show that progress in the negotiations is only possible if the Communists are willing to loosen up. Sending Le Duc Tho back to Paris now might be a way to get the ball back in our court.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

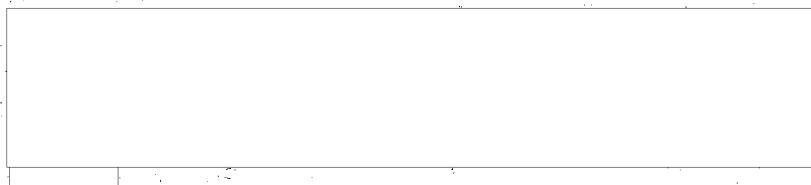
King Savang is pressing hard for a concerted aerial bombardment of the Chinese road south of Muong Sai. On returning from Luang Prabang yesterday, Prime Minister Souvanna called in Ambassador Godley to inform him of the King's orders to hit the road "forthwith," including the Pathet Lao headquarters at Muong Sai. Souvanna said that he did not want to go as far as the King on this matter, but would bomb targets southwest of the present terminus of active construction near Muong Houn. Souvanna added that he considered it "absolutely essential" that a ground blocking position be established between Pak Beng and Muong Houn.

Souvanna said the King dismissed out of hand a suggestion that the government make a demarche to Peking on the road building activity prior to any military moves. The King continues to believe that in light of Peking's refusal to admit to any activity in Laos, the government could safely take any action deemed necessary for its own defense.

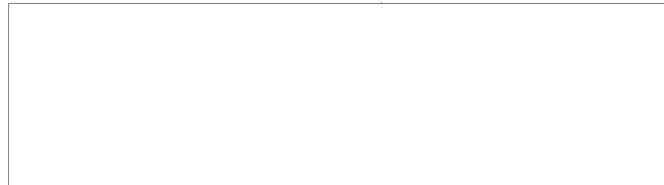
Although Ambassador Godley was able to forestall any Lao military initiative for 48 hours in order to notify Washington, the Lao Government appears to be moving rapidly toward the point of taking some type of military action against the Chinese road builders, either with or without US concurrence.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR

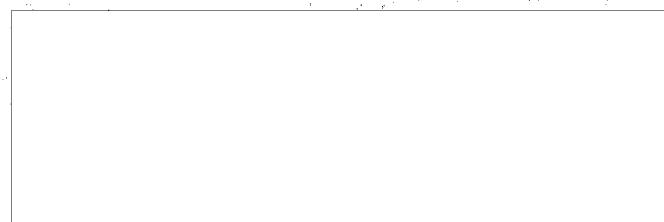


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

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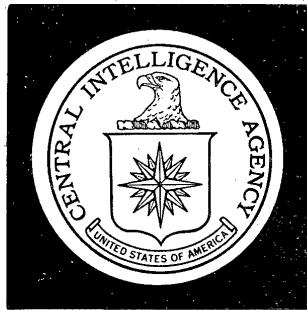
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The President's Daily Brief

30 January 1970

49

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

30 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Moscow's arms offer has placed King Husayn in a dilemma. (Page 1)

Husak handled himself well during the Czechoslovak plenum but his personal power may yet be challenged on several fronts. (Page 2)

The Egyptians are in dire need of qualified combat pilots; Americans living in the Cairo area have become increasingly unpopular because of the Israeli air attacks. (Page 3)

The Italians are inching toward the formation of a new government. (Page 4)

South Vietnam	(Page 5)	50X1	50X50X1
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-JORDAN

The USSR has finally responded to King Husayn's long-standing request for arms aid. In a message to Ambassador Symmes, Husayn said the Soviet chargé in Amman offered to provide a sizable number of anti-aircraft and long-range artillery pieces, and assorted equipment in a conversation with the King on 28 January. The chargé said the total price would come to around \$20 million, with 90 percent of the materiel to be delivered by the end of 1970. The Soviets also offered to train Jordanians on the equipment in the USSR and send Russians to Jordan to help in the transfer of the materiel. Husayn, whose military advisers are discussing the purchase of similar equipment with a US mission now visiting Amman, said he had told the chargé that he would need "a few days" to decide.

After a six-month delay, the timing of the Soviet offer is suspiciously opportune from Moscow's point of view. The Soviets have put Husayn on the spot at a time when he is under growing domestic pressure to take some action to counter daily Israeli air attacks. If Husayn refuses Moscow's proposal the Soviets can play the role of the disabused salesman who has made a generous offer. If he accepts, they have a foot in the door, as they have wanted for some time.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Czechoslovak party plenum took another step this week to purify the ranks of the party. In addition to approving leadership changes, the plenum created a 12-member party commission, dominated by pro-Soviet conservatives, to oversee the revalidation of each party member's credentials. Yesterday's party press assured the rank and file that this action is being taken to reunify the party and should not be misconstrued as revenge.

The widespread overhaul of the party rank and file will be crucial for the future of the party and its leaders. Although the revalidation commission is dominated by conservatives, the program will be administered for the most part by local party officials who are generally under Husak's control. Thus the replacement this week of the Slovak and Czech regional party bosses takes on added significance.

Lubomir Strougal, a conservative rival of Husak, was removed as head of the powerful Czech party apparatus in favor of the more moderate Josef Kempny who is now indebted to Husak for his promotion. In Slovakia, Husak did not fare as well, with Lenart replacing the more moderate Sadovsky. Lenart, however, has a reputation of being malleable and may prove responsive to Husak's will.

The leadership reshuffle and other topics at the plenum gave Husak another opportunity to display his considerable skills as a counterpuncher. So far, however, Husak's "victory" can only be measured in terms of his success in warding off a complete takeover by conservative elements of the party leadership. Next week's Slovak party plenum may provide further clues on the extent of Husak's real authority.

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EGYPT

The Egyptians are having trouble developing qualified combat pilots to man their estimated inventory of 200 supersonic aircraft. Combat losses and training accidents have reduced the number of well-qualified MIG-21 and SU-7 pilots to about 110.

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Pilot losses from all causes have averaged 20 per year since 1967. This attrition is likely to increase as the air war intensifies.

* * *

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Egyptian irritation over the Israeli air attacks is building up to the point where anti-American incidents may occur. Wednesday afternoon, for example, American children returning home from school were mildly harassed by Egyptian children blaming the US for supplying planes to Israel. The school is only about a block away from the Egyptian army camp, just outside Cairo, which the Israelis bombed that morning. Egyptian household servants, sensing this growing mood, are advising their American employers to stay out of the bazaar area. The US Interests section in Cairo also has sensed a gradual rise in anti-American sentiment in the Cairo area.

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ITALY

The last negotiating session between the secretaries of the four center-left parties ended on 28 January, and if their recommendations are approved by the party directorates the way will be clear for the formation of a new coalition government. The Christian Democrat directorate met yesterday and the other three parties will meet today to consider the general principles of the new government mediated by the party secretaries.

It is not likely the directorates will disavow their own secretaries, and Prime Minister Rumor may be able to resign as early as 31 January. Some parties may convoke their central committees to ratify the decision, however, and delay Rumor's resignation several days. This will be followed by further negotiations on government posts prior to the installation of a new coalition. Rumor is the likely candidate to succeed himself.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS - SOUTH VIETNAM



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

El Salvador - Honduras: Troops from both countries exchanged fire across the border yesterday in the most serious incident since last summer's five-day war. Each country has publicly accused the other of sending troops and aircraft across the border. Yesterday's clash will deter efforts to normalize relations, and the delicate bilateral negotiations which began last Monday in Costa Rica will now be on an even shakier footing.

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The President's Daily Brief

31 January 1970

27

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

31 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In northwestern Laos, the Communist Pathet Lao threaten soon to be in control of the entire Nam Beng Valley. (Page 1)

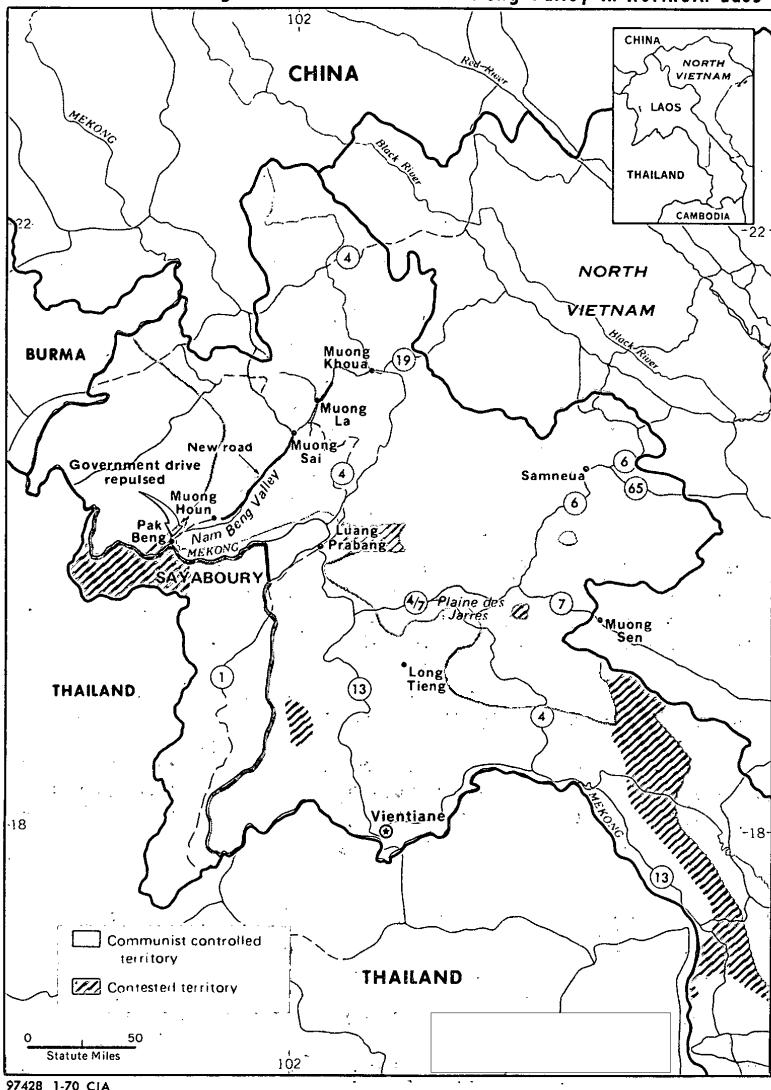
The West Germans [redacted] 50X50X1
(Page 2)

The Soviets [redacted] Cuba [redacted] 550X1
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(Page 3)

There was serious rioting yesterday in the Philippines and India. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Communists Increasing Efforts to Control Nam Beng Valley in Northern Laos



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The Pathet Lao, who have been moving troops into the Nam Beng Valley since last summer, threaten soon to be in control of the entire area. The government's presence has been reduced to one major outpost about eight miles west of the Mekong River village of Pak Beng. The recent efforts of government troops to improve their position have been hampered by the large influx of refugees fleeing the enemy forces.

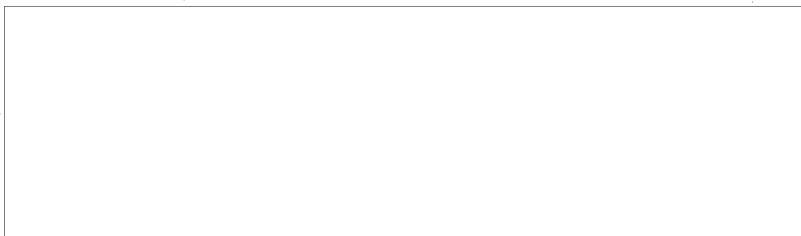
The timing of the Communist campaign, which has been gaining momentum since the capture of Pak Beng in April 1969, suggests that it was undertaken at least in part to facilitate the Chinese road building project. Pathet Lao propagandists have been saying that the road will reach Pak Beng before the rainy season begins next summer. As of 8 January, the road was motorable to the outskirts of Muong Houn, less than 30 miles from the Mekong River.

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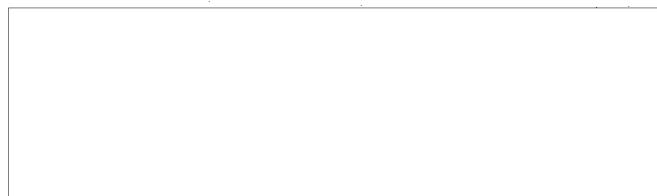
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

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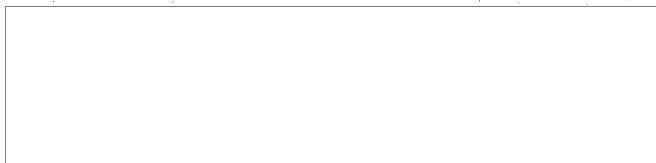
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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USSR-CUBA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Riots: Severe riots broke out yesterday in the Philippines and India. As many as 20,000 Manila students protested what they believe is a plan by President Marcos to lift the constitutional ban on a third term. In northwestern India, Mrs. Gandhi's announcement that the disputed city of Chandigarh will be given to the Punjab set off widespread demonstrations in Haryana State, the other claimant.

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