

The President's Daily Brief

1 April 1972



14
Top Secret

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

1 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnamese forces remained under heavy attack today. (Page 1)

In Laos, the seesaw battle for Skyline Ridge may go on for some days. (Page 2)

Chile's President Allende is being pre-empted by Socialists in his government who wish to capitalize on radical agrarian reforms for their own political benefit. (Page 5)

The Soviet press has played down air defense chief Batitskiy's recent trip to North Vietnam. (Page 6)

Pakistan. (Page 6)

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

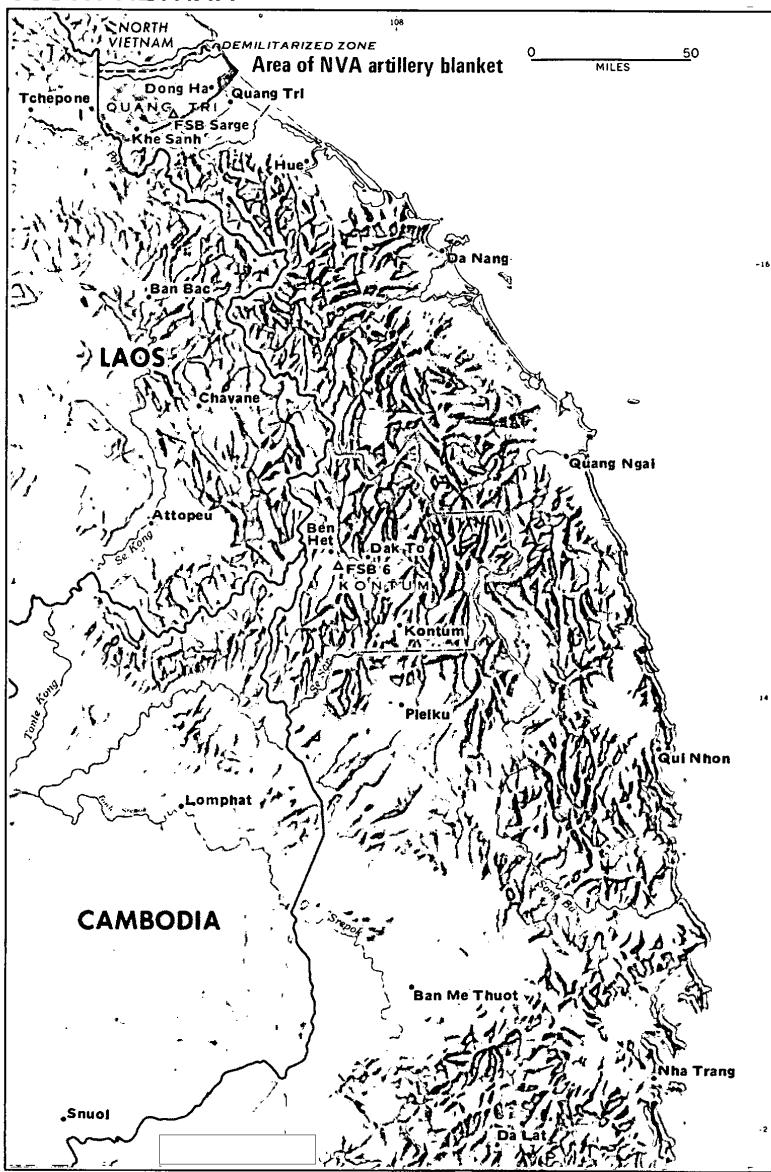
25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM



552759 4-72 CIA

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

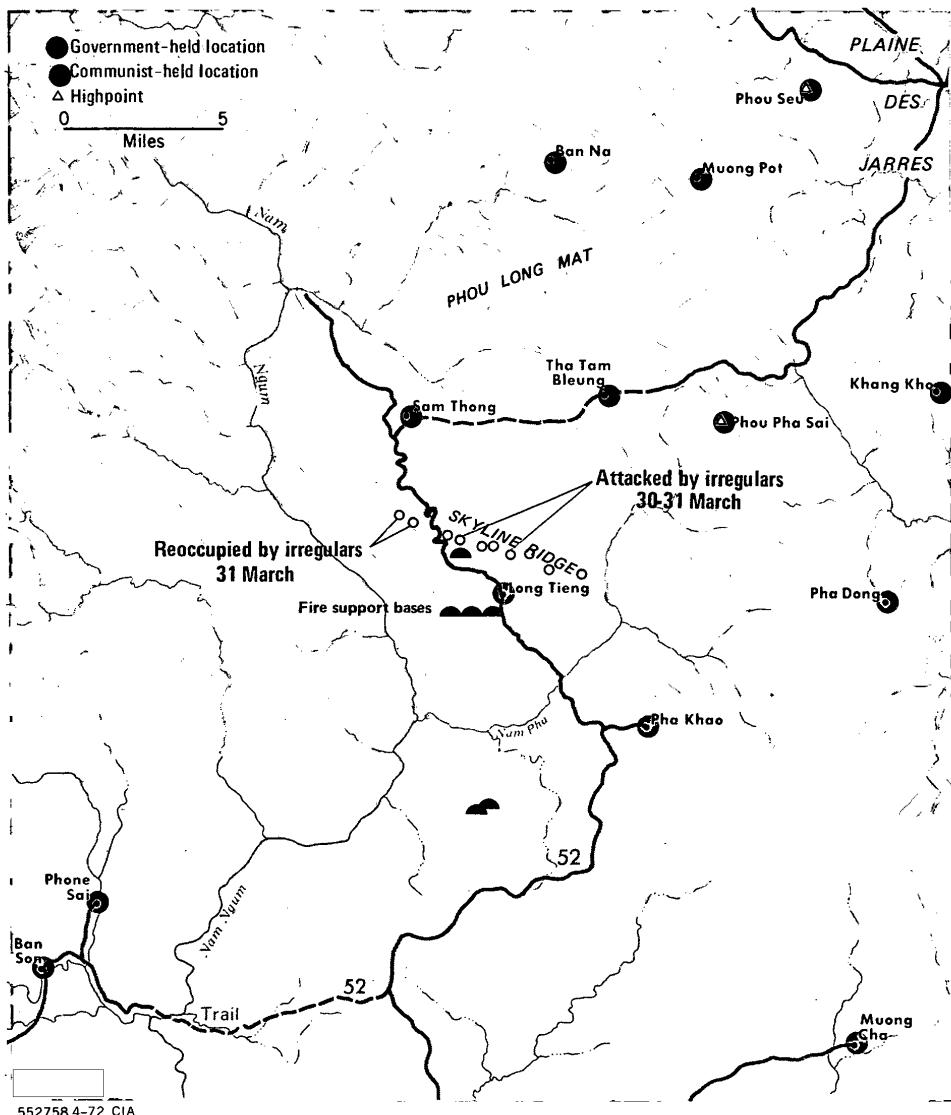
Heavy attacks south of the DMZ in northeastern Quang Tri Province continued today. Enemy attacks have been directed against military and civilian targets, including villages and refugee camps. Some South Vietnamese positions have been abandoned, but field reports indicate that the defenders' casualties are light so far.

At least three North Vietnamese infantry and two artillery regiments are participating in this action. Heavy enemy artillery in Quang Tri Province, combined with batteries north of the DMZ, blanket most of the South Vietnamese positions in the northern half of the province. Intercepts reveal that sufficient munitions and supplies are available for extensive attacks.

In the western highlands, messages passed yesterday call for attacks today against a South Vietnamese brigade south of Fire Support Base 6 in Kon-tum Province. We expect additional attacks in this area in the near future.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LONG TIENG AREA



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Government forces yesterday recaptured two strongpoints on the western end of Skyline Ridge that had been in North Vietnamese hands for nearly two weeks. They are pressing attacks against two other positions, one of which had fallen to the enemy within the last 48 hours. The North Vietnamese still hold three positions on the ridge. While giving ground on Skyline, the North Vietnamese have kept up artillery fire on irregular positions on the ridge as well as in the Long Tieng Valley. They have not, however, launched any major ground action since irregulars turned back a tank and infantry assault on the western sector of the ridge on 29 March. As of this morning, there were still enemy tanks in this sector.

North Vietnamese intercepts give no indication that the Communists are ready to give up their attempt to capture the base. Neither side has been able to throw a decisive blow, and the current round of punch and counterpunch seems likely to continue for at least some days to come.

To the north and northeast of the Plaine des Jarres, Vang Pao's two irregular task forces remain stalled near enemy supply lines. The 2,600 troops have not inflicted any significant damage nor have they succeeded in diverting troops from Long Tieng.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-CHINA

Soviet negotiator Ilichev

[redacted] will revive several proposals made in earlier rounds of the negotiations on frontier delineation. One, first tabled last year, called for an agreement on nonaggression. Ilichev will also restate Soviet willingness to accept minor territorial adjustments in the interest of settling the border dispute and make other "concrete" offers for increased trade and bilateral exchanges.

25X1

[redacted] the USSR was "fed up" with China's intransigence and will make the Soviet position in the talks public if the Chinese reject Ilichev's proposals.

25X1

Moscow probably does not expect a positive response to the proposals since the Chinese have rejected similar ones in the past.

25X1

[redacted] It is likely, however, that the Soviets want to avoid disrupting the talks, at least prior to President Nixon's visit to Moscow.

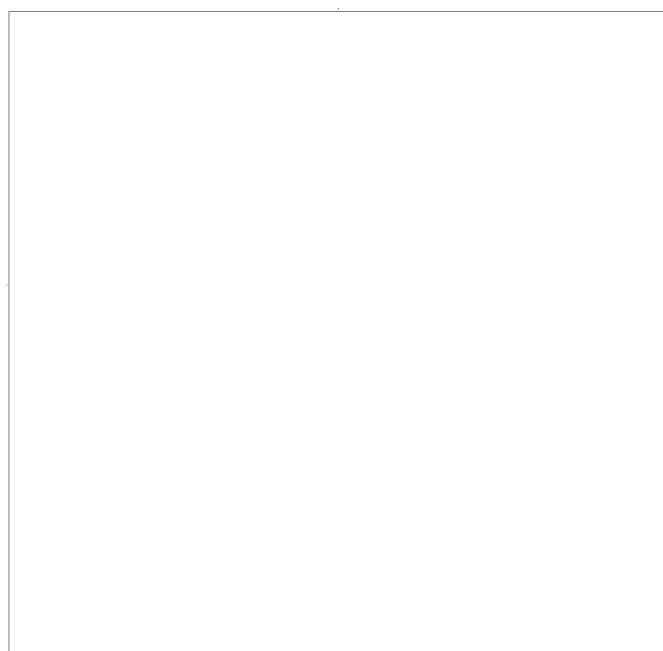
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

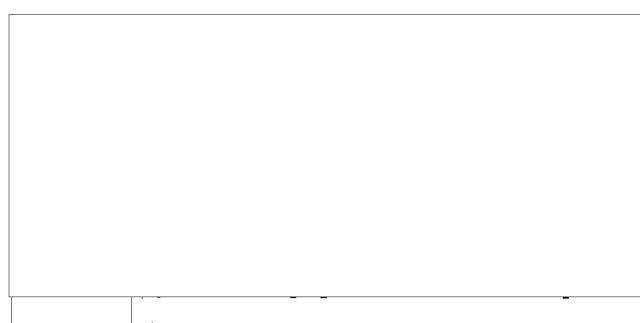
KOREA



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE

The Socialist Party, [redacted]
[redacted] has created a "revolutionary command" in
Nuble Province, 150 miles south of Santiago. The
command boasts of encouraging land seizures and
claims to have obtained arms from the extremist
Movement of the Revolutionary Left. The Socialists'
objective is to speed agrarian reform and to create
a mass peasant organization under their control.

25X1
25X1

*The government has not yet found a formula
whereby it can carry out its agrarian re-
form plans fast enough to satisfy its own
hotheads. It also has not convinced land-
owners that it will respect their residual
rights. President Allende objects not
only to the Socialists' refusal to await
action by the government of which they
are a part, but to their establishment of
another independent organizational base.
He has sent cabinet ministers to the area
to investigate and plans to visit the
province himself next week to cool tempers.*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR - North Vietnam: Moscow, in contrast to Hanoi, gave little publicity to Air Defense Chief Batitskiy's recent visit to North Vietnam

25X1

Soviet media merely noted the marshal's presence in Hanoi and made no mention of the substantial delegation of air defense experts who accompanied him. Moscow thus bypassed an opportunity to play up Soviet backing and make points against Peking. In playing down Batitskiy's visit, Moscow may be making a deliberate effort to underplay its military support of North Vietnam lest this become a troublesome issue before President Nixon's visit to Moscow.

India-Pakistan: Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh may meet with a Pakistani representative during Singh's current visit to Kabul en route to Moscow. New Delhi is puzzled by frequent shifts and inconsistencies in Bhutto's public position--such as his insistence that he wants to meet with Mrs. Gandhi while also demanding the return of some 94,000 Pakistani prisoners in advance of negotiations--and may feel the time has come for exploratory talks.

25X1
25X1

West Germany:

25X1

25X1

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-Iraq-Syria: The USSR and Iraq are likely to conclude a friendship treaty this month.

[redacted] the two sides were then putting finishing touches on the document. In neighboring Syria, meanwhile, Soviet politburo member Kirill Mazurov hinted broadly during a visit in February that Moscow wants a friendship treaty with Damascus.

Mazurov did not actually propose a treaty but noted that such an agreement could facilitate a favorable Soviet response to Syrian aid requests. The Soviet ambassador in Damascus [redacted]

that Syria eventually will sign a treaty with the USSR, although at this time a majority of the Syrian leaders are opposed to the idea.

25X1

25X1

USSR: [redacted]

25X1

USSR: The Soviets failed on 30 March in an attempt to send a space probe toward Venus. It was to be a follow-up to another Venus probe--designated Venus 8--launched from Tyuratam on 26 March, which is expected to reach the planet in late July and, according to the Soviets, will attempt to make a soft landing. Favorable opportunities for launches to Venus will exist until late April, and the Soviets may attempt a third probe.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

3 April 1972



Top Secret

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists have shattered most of the South Vietnamese Army's forward positions in northernmost Quang Tri Province and are increasing their activity in some other parts of the country. (Page 1)

North Vietnamese forces continue to exert pressure on Lao Government irregulars defending Long Tieng, but there has been no major change in the situation there. (Page 3)

North Vietnamese leaders have expounded a harsh line on the war before their national assembly. (Page 4)

The Soviets are reported to be urging the Kurds to settle their differences with the Iraqi Government. (Page 5)

[Redacted] 25X125X1

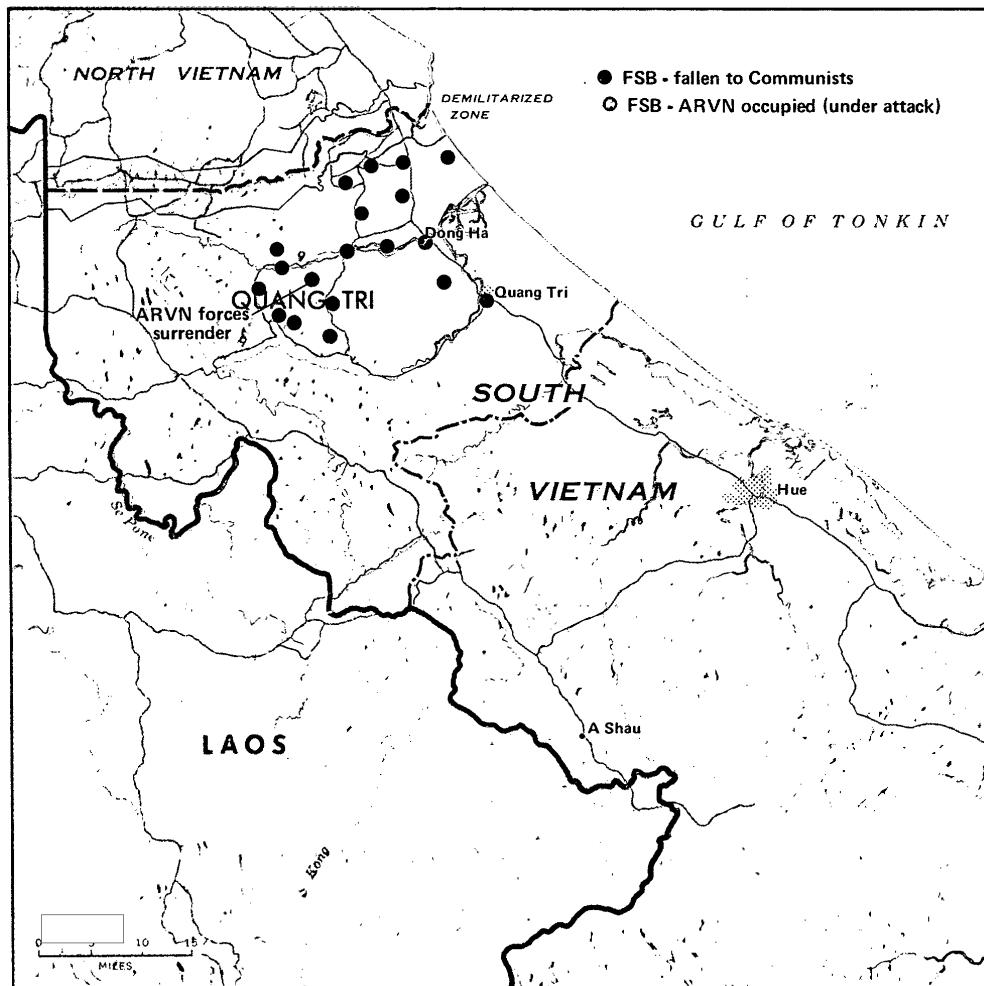
[Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

With the collapse of another government base last night, the Communists have now forced the abandonment or surrender of at least 15 South Vietnamese outposts in northern and central Quang Tri Province since they began their drive there on Thursday. Other bases in the area remain under pressure and the provincial capital now appears directly threatened. Yesterday, a North Vietnamese tank column tried to break through South Vietnamese Army positions near Dong Ha. Government tanks, with US air support, engaged the column and destroyed two North Vietnamese tanks.

Infantry and artillery regiments operating under the senior Communist military command in the Demilitarized Zone, together with about two regiments of the North Vietnamese 304th Division, seem to have done most of the enemy's fighting so far. Intercepts suggest that the rest of the 304th as well as the 308th Division may now be preparing to join the attack. The headquarters of the 308th, previously well inside North Vietnam, has moved south to within a few miles of the DMZ. Should both divisions now be fully committed to this area, Communist strength would nearly double. Such an increase would indicate that the Communists intend to do much more than overrun a number of South Vietnamese outposts.

Heavier fighting may also be in store just to the south of Quang Tri Province near the Hue area. Recent intercepts suggest that the North Vietnamese 324B Division, which has been probing government defenses west of Hue for about two weeks, is preparing for heavier combat.

In the central highlands, Communist attacks have increased somewhat in the past few days, and more apparently are planned. According to several intercepts, Communist artillery units have targeted their weapons against South Vietnamese fire support bases and outposts between Dak To and Kontum city. One message stated that all of the bases will be brought under fire as soon as orders are received.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

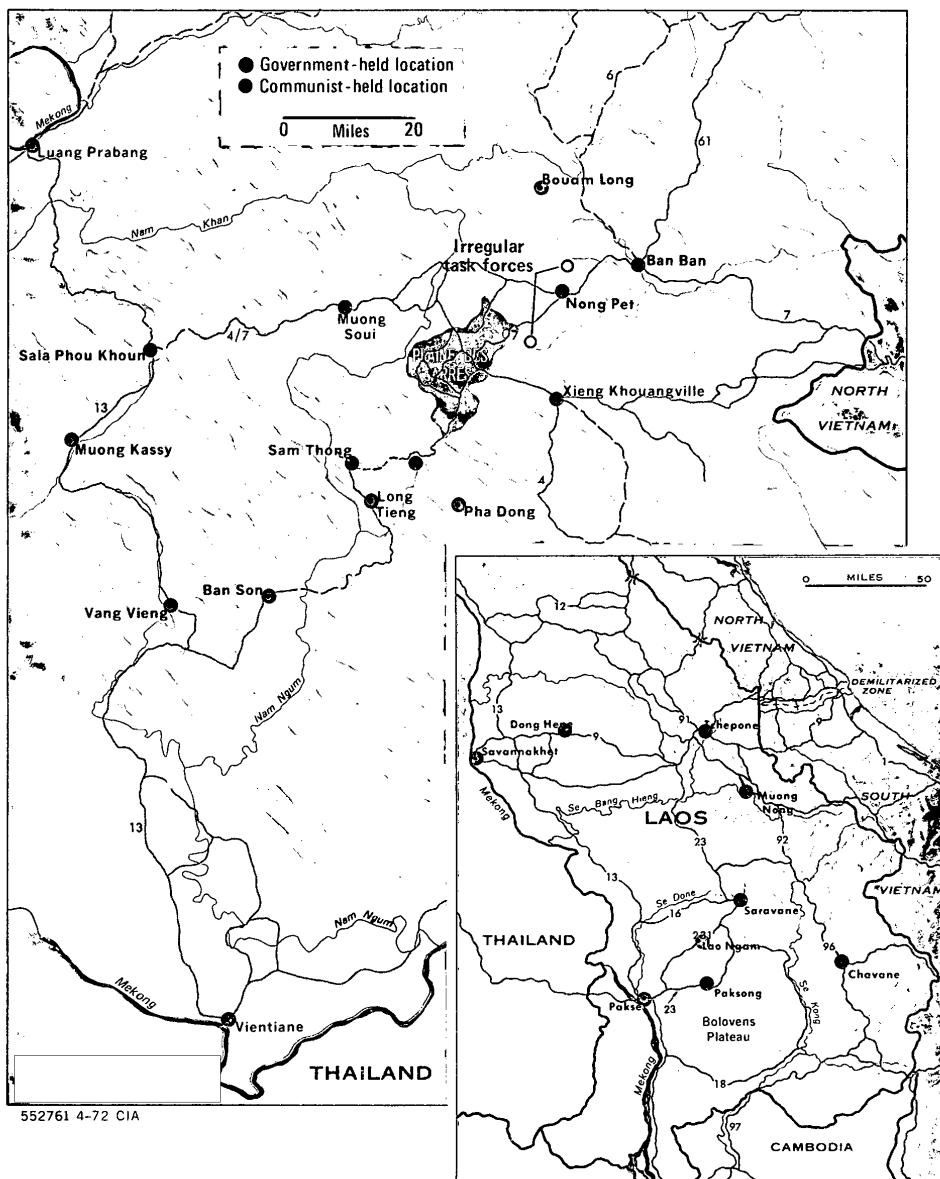
Farther south, Communist forces--reported to
be using tanks and armored personnel carriers--over-
ran a South Vietnamese base at Lac Long in Tay Ninh
Province. [redacted]

25X1
25X1

[redacted]
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Communist forces kept up their pressure on government irregulars in the Long Tieng area over the weekend, but launched no new drives to break the stalemate. Several positions on Skyline Ridge have changed hands during the past two days, but neither side appears to have made significant headway. The North Vietnamese are still pounding the ridge and the Long Tieng Valley with artillery and mortar fire, causing some casualties among the irregulars.

The Communists may be taking losses themselves from government air strikes and heavy weapons fire, but they show no signs so far of revising their tactics or the disposition of their forces.

The government's diversionary task forces north and east of the Plaine des Jarres reported some clashes on 1 April with enemy units. There is no indication, however, that the Communists have moved any of their forces away from the Long Tieng area in order to engage these irregulars.

In south Laos, the government launched a large operation on 1 April to regain a foothold on the western edge of the Bolovens Plateau. Elements of 11 irregular, Lao Army, and neutralist battalions staged from the vicinity of Lao Ngam and are now advancing eastward along Route 23. No significant enemy contact has yet been reported, although light resistance was encountered yesterday.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

The convening of Hanoi's rubber-stamp national assembly last week provided an occasion for the regime's leaders to weigh in with some further harsh rhetoric on the war. Premier Pham Vang Dong, in a long keynote speech, asserted that military strength was the principal asset of the North and reiterated the recent propaganda claim that the balance of forces in the war is rapidly shifting in favor of the Communists. He made it clear that the Communists intend to use all the forces at their disposal to win "ever greater victories" and that this will entail even greater sacrifices on the home front.

The speeches of both Dong and Foreign Minister Trinh gave short shrift to prospects for negotiations. Dong implied at one point that any attempt to meet the allies half-way would be tantamount to temporizing with evil. There were no echoes of Hanoi's ambiguous line of last summer and last fall that suggested it might be willing to separate the political and military aspects of a settlement. Dong, in fact, specifically characterized the Communist negotiating proposals as "an over-all solution, an integral, indivisible whole."

We consider it likely that North Vietnam's leaders fairly recently reviewed their policy toward the war and reconfirmed the tough line enunciated last week by Dong and his colleagues. There were passing references by Dong and another speaker to a central committee meeting held earlier this year.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-IRAQ

In late February, a Soviet delegation visited Kurdish leader Barzani in order to urge the Kurds to resolve their differences with the Iraqi Government and join a national front coalition, [redacted]

25X1
25X1

[redacted]
[redacted]
25X1

Moscow is pressuring both sides to come to terms. Its interest in fostering Iraqi stability stems from a desire to tie up any loose ends that affect its relations with Arab countries prior to President Nixon's visit to the USSR next month. The Soviets may also be hedging against a possible setback in Egypt.

Although Baghdad has given lip service to the idea of a national front government, Barzani most likely sees no need to go along. He is not dependent upon Moscow for arms or financial support/ [redacted]

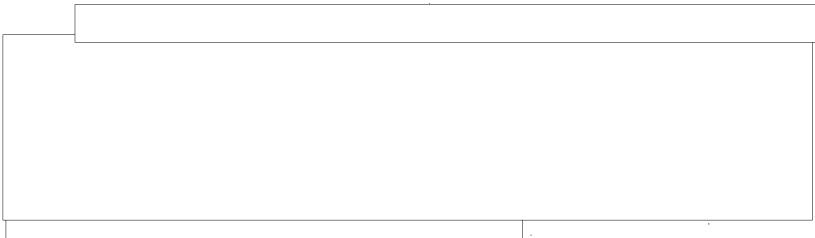
25X1

Barzani's difficulties with Baghdad stem from the Iraqi Government's failure to implement a 1970 agreement ending the intermittent civil war the Kurds have waged against Iraqi regimes since the late 1950s.

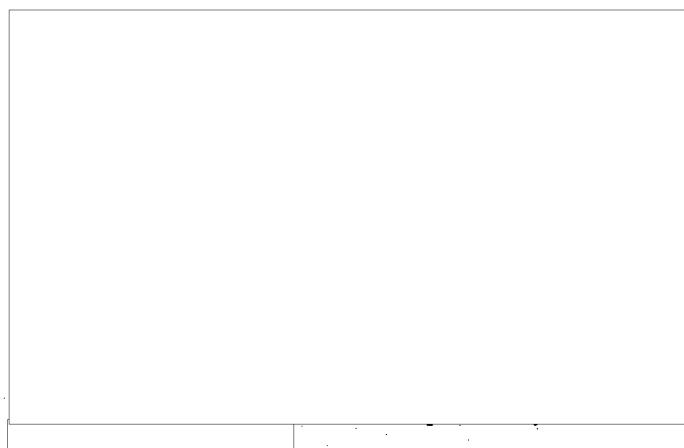
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ROMANIA - WARSAW PACT



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

UGANDA - ARAB STATES



25X1

25X1

25X1

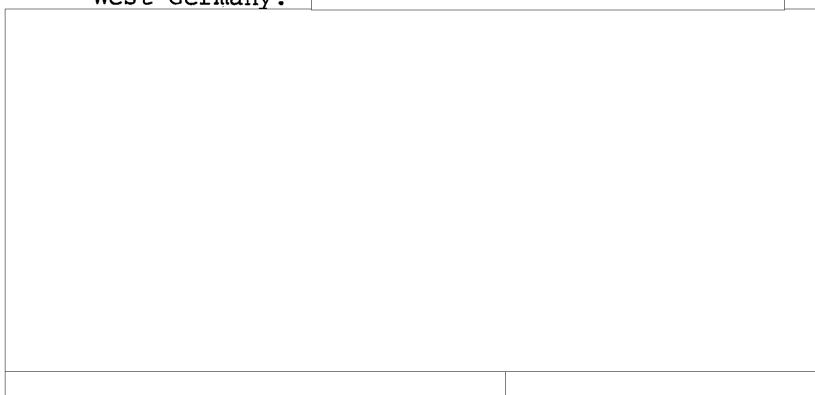
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

West Germany:



**25X1
25X1**

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

4 April 1972

46



Top Secret

25X1

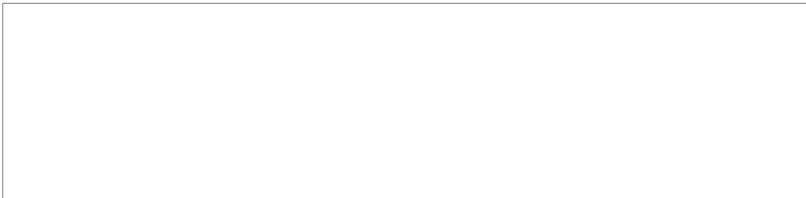
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

4 April 1972

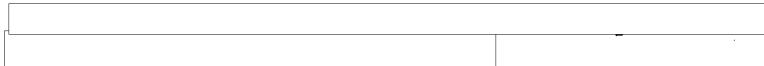
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnamese forces in Quang Tri Province are regrouping to defend the provincial capital. (Page 1)



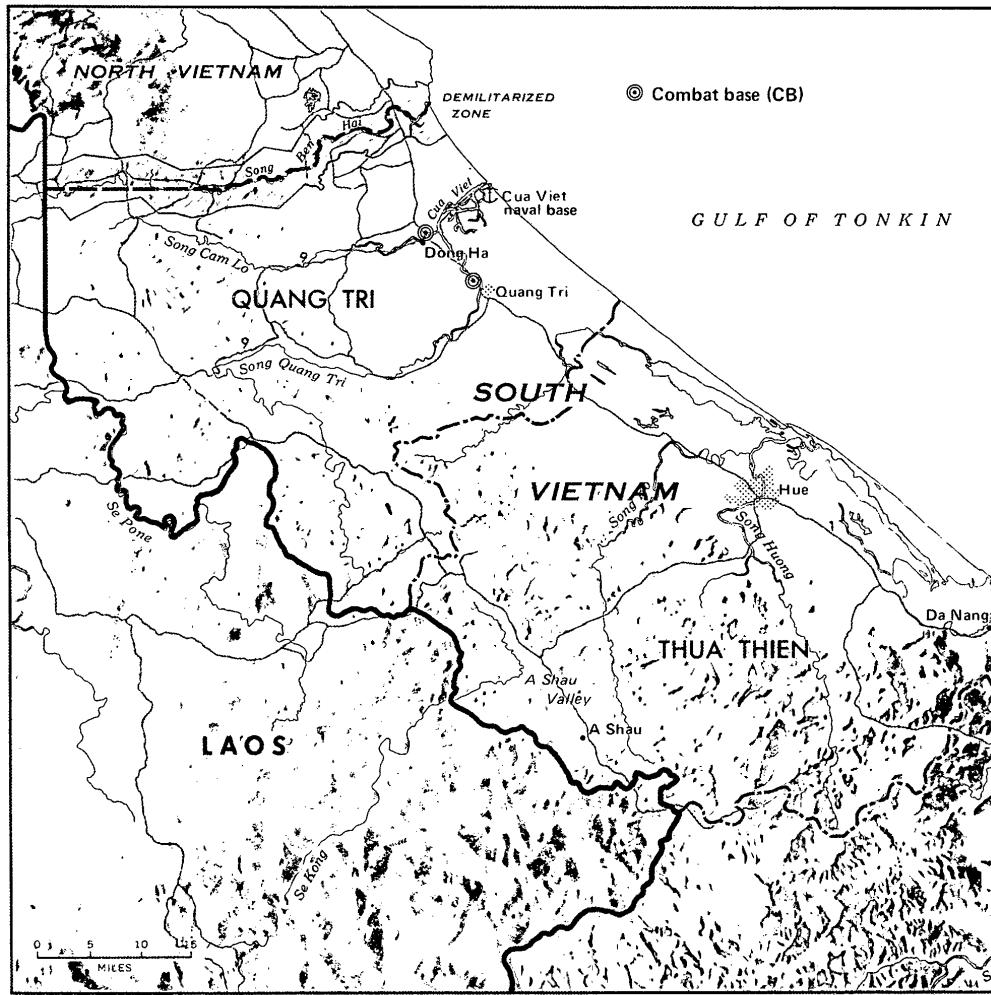
25X1

Inadequate food distribution and labor unrest are causing serious difficulties in Bangladesh. (Page 5)



25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



552767 4-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

South Vietnamese forces in Quang Tri Province are regrouping to defend the provincial capital. The South Vietnamese are apparently counting on elements of their 3rd Division to coordinate the defense with reinforcements reported to be en route from the south. Dong Ha and Quang Tri combat bases are the only remaining allied strongpoints north of Quang Tri city, and Dong Ha has been hit hard by enemy artillery. The eastern flank of the city has been exposed by the evacuation of the South Vietnamese Navy base at Cua Viet.

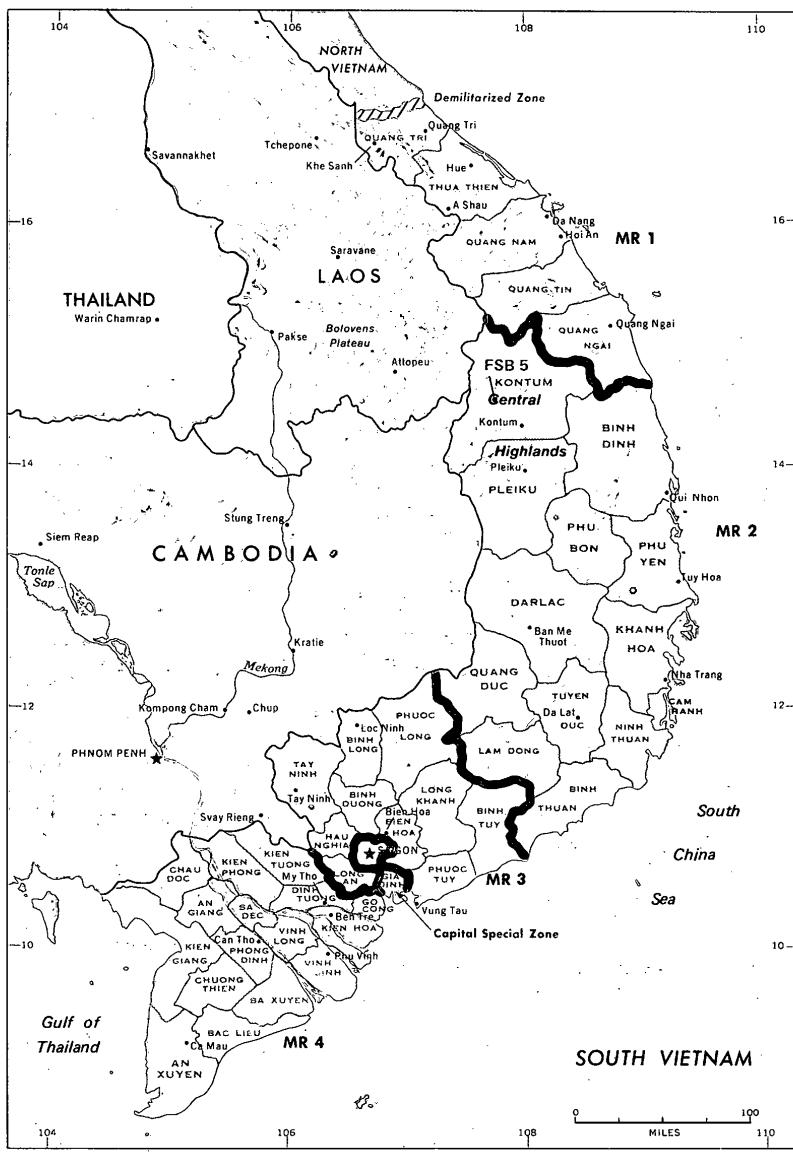
There are indications in communications intelligence that the North Vietnamese 308th Division has moved into the battle zone. This would raise the number of North Vietnamese regiments in the area to 13. North Vietnamese tanks are reported to have crossed the Ben Hai River over a newly constructed bridge, and a few have been sighted south of the Cua Viet River.

The weather over Quang Tri Province has improved enough to allow some allied air strikes, but the damage inflicted is not yet known. The North Vietnamese have markedly increased the strength of their air defenses along the borders of northern South Vietnam. Allied aircraft have encountered intense antiaircraft artillery fire over Quang Tri Province, and the enemy has fired some 50 to 60 surface-to-air missiles from positions north and west of the DMZ.

The enemy is shelling South Vietnamese positions in the foothills west of Hue in Thua Thien Province, and there have been several small ground engagements with enemy forces edging closer to the coastal lowlands. Communist communications reflect enemy intentions to attack Hue. One unit radioed on 3 April that "our tanks have moved out and will surround the city of Hue."

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



552768 4-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

In the highlands, a South Vietnamese artillery base on Rocket Ridge, some five miles southwest of Fire Support Base 5, withstood an attack

25X1

The Communists are continuing to build up their forces in this area.

25X1

25X1

The South Vietnamese generally have reacted calmly to the invasion thus far. On 3 April, there was little sign of panic in Quang Tri city, although the streets were choked with refugees from the DMZ area. Saigon is taking the news of the fighting and the loss of bases near the DMZ quietly. The press is generally restrained, but the government has confiscated some newspapers to prevent dissemination of lurid accounts of the fighting, and Saigon is censoring battlefield reports.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR



25X1
25X1

25X1



25X1



25X1

25X1



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

25X1

PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

BANGLADESH

Inadequate food distribution and labor unrest are causing serious difficulties for Prime Minister Mujib's government. Several violent clashes have occurred, and opposition elements are beginning to speak out against the regime. Maulana Bhashani, leader of the small but active National Awami Party/Left, has denounced the government for failing to preserve law and order and for corruption and favoritism among members of Mujib's ruling Awami League. Bhashani also objected to Mujib's warning that troublemakers will be shot, saying this could be used as a pretext to suppress all political opposition. Other, more moderate politicians have also criticized the lack of law and order.

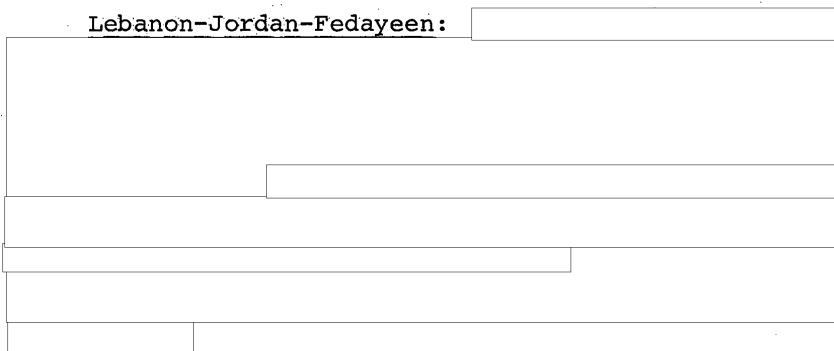
Mujib has embarked on a trip to several district capitals, his first such tour since his return in January. As the country's revered and dominant figure, he apparently is counting on his personal charisma to override the opposition as he attempts to cope with his country's enormous problems. No real challenge to his continuation in power has yet materialized.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Lebanon-Jordan-Fedayeen:



25X1

25X1

25X1

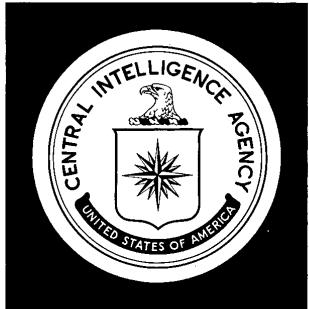
25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

5 April 1972

50



~~Top Secret~~

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

5 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The battle in northern South Vietnam has stabilized for the moment along the Cua Viet River, but farther south there are new enemy attacks. (Page 1)

[Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

President Lon Nol's political moves have mollified unruly Cambodian students, but at the price of alienating former prime minister Sirik Matak. (Page 4)

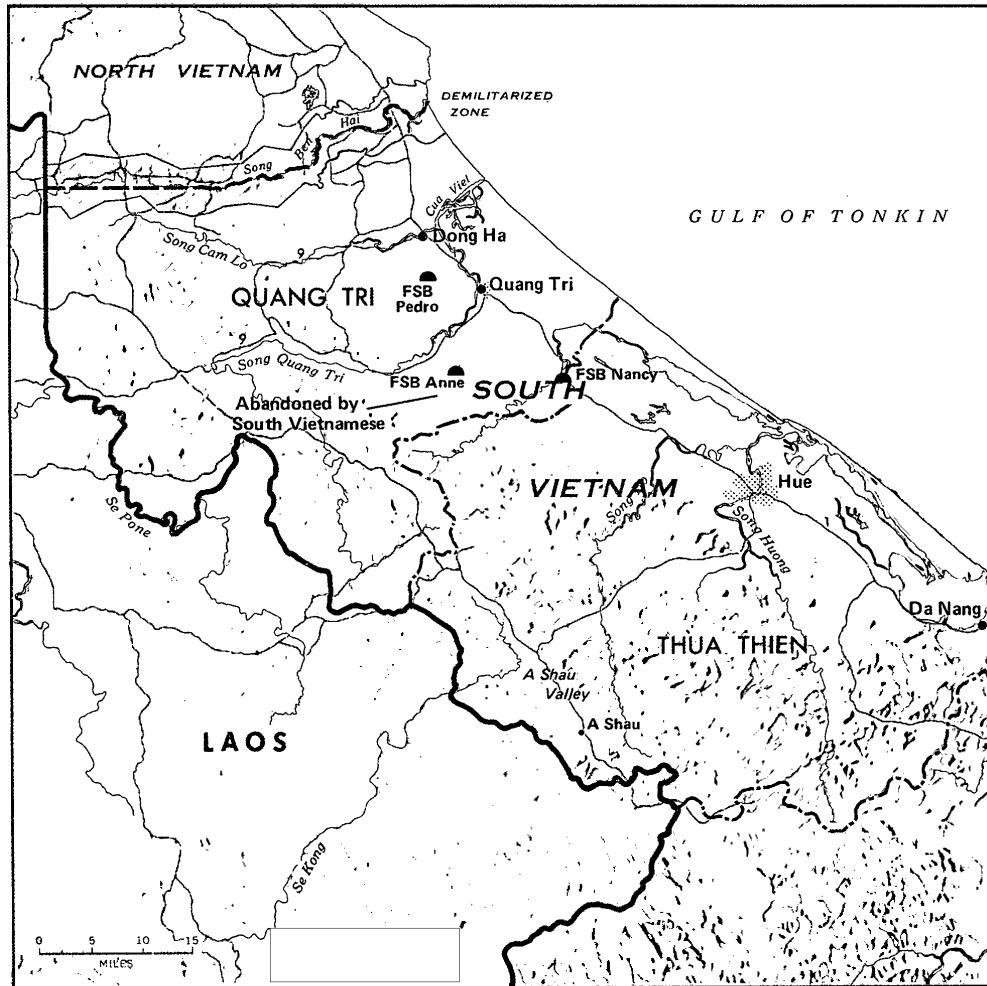
[Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

[Redacted] 25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

552775 4-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The North Vietnamese continue to shell the South Vietnamese strongpoints south of the DMZ at Dong Ha, Quang Tri, and Fire Support Base Pedro. South Vietnamese reinforcements are beginning to arrive and are helping to maintain a defensive line roughly along the Cua Viet River. The seasoned reinforcements may have a stabilizing influence on the South Vietnamese 3rd Division, the newest of the government's divisions, which has borne the brunt of the fighting thus far. The Communists have been taking advantage of bad weather to ship large quantities of supplies south on Route 1 through the DMZ, but clouds are lifting today allowing more allied interdiction from the air.

The loss of Fire Base Anne yesterday has opened a corridor which the North Vietnamese may use to by-pass Quang Tri city and to move farther south toward Hue. Two North Vietnamese regiments are already planning attacks on Fire Base Nancy and other outposts between Quang Tri city and Hue, according to intercepted messages. Prisoners, and a map taken from the body of a North Vietnamese officer, indicate that the taking of Quang Tri and Hue cities are two goals of the current campaign.

[redacted] the Communists hope to cut off both Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces from the south and destroy South Vietnamese forces remaining there.

25X1

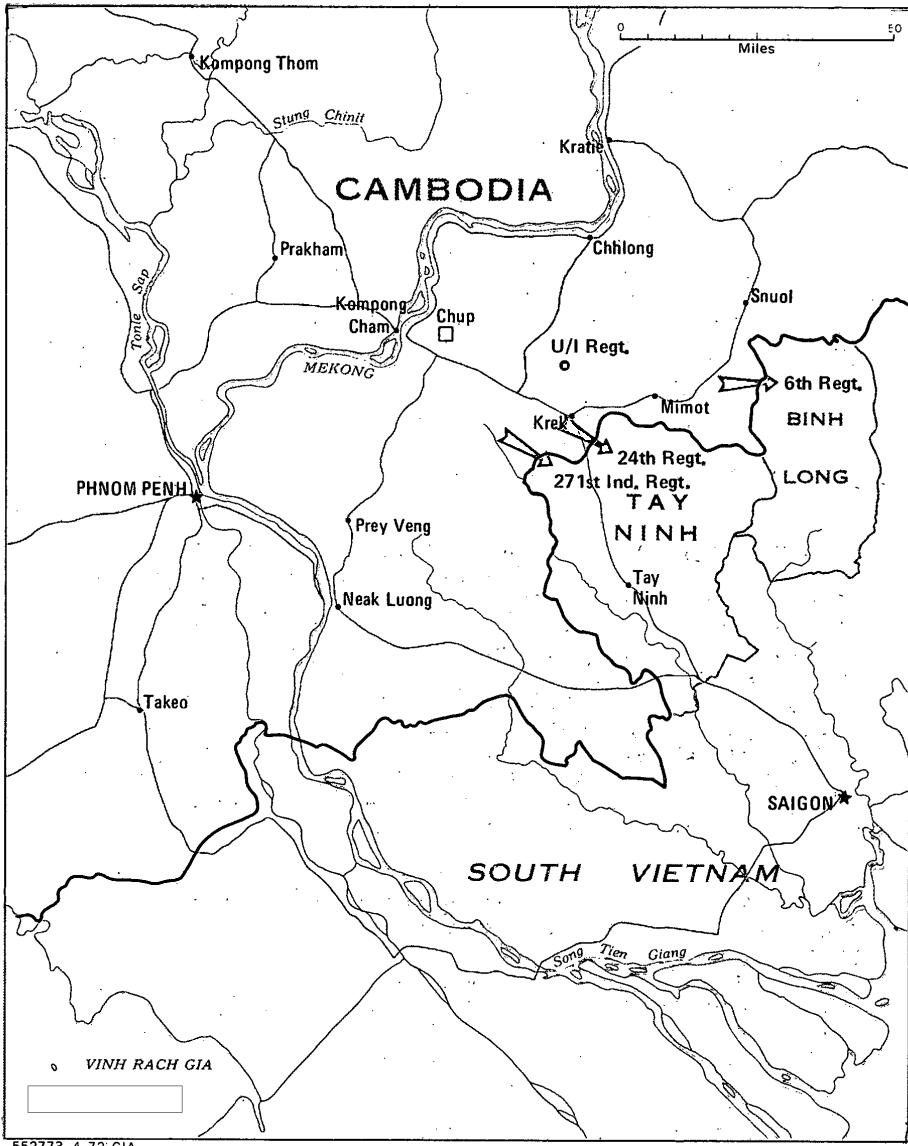
25X1

Farther south, two additional Communist regiments have moved from Cambodia into Tay Ninh Province. Moreover, the enemy's three-division force in Cambodia north of Tay Ninh Province may be augmented with another, as yet unidentified North Vietnamese division. Communications from this unit have been noted in Laos over the past few months, but radio direction finding now shows one of its regiments in eastern Cambodia opposite Tay Ninh Province.

Preliminary reports indicate that An Loc, the capital of Binh Long Province, and nearby Loc Ninh town are being assaulted by enemy ground forces today. An airstrip east of An Loc is said to be under enemy control, and the main route from Saigon to the An Loc - Loc Ninh area is believed to be blocked.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

* * *



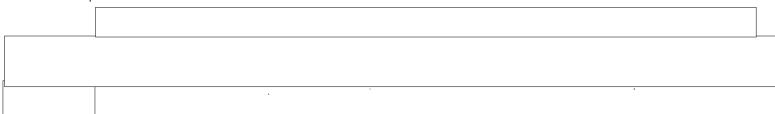
25X1
25X1



25X1



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

While North Vietnamese propagandists portray the current offensive in standard terms as a "people's war," Communist documents and briefings suggest there has been a major change in Hanoi's approach to the struggle.

Communist briefings in late March focused on using "main-force punches" to overextend the allies throughout South Vietnam while preparing for follow-up political agitation and local force activity. [redacted] cadre in MR-3 were told that the "city struggle" would come after control of the countryside had been assured.

25X1
25X1

A series of documents captured recently in the western highlands paints an even more specific picture of a phased buildup of main-force pressure, followed by a growth in political agitation and terrorism. There is a clear suggestion in the documents that the Communists intend to use main forces to establish territorial control in Kontum and Pleiku provinces by the end of the year. The scale of their attacks in northern South Vietnam suggests that they are following the same strategy in that area.

Such heavy reliance on main-force strength is a distinct departure from traditional Communist strategy and tactics. Moreover, the indications that regular enemy units may try to seize and hold certain stretches of territory conflict with the orthodox Communist line that territorial control must come through a people's revolution. Hanoi may have decided that North Vietnamese forces, fighting a purely conventional war with territorial control or siege of urban areas as occasional objectives, must play a bigger role from now on.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

President Lon Nol told Ambassador Swank yesterday that a new constitution providing for a strong executive will be submitted to a limited referendum about 20 April. Lon Nol intends to hold presidential elections in late May, after which a new government will be formed. He was evasive on whether a vice president would be elected, and said that legislative elections may take place in mid-summer.

There is already a report that the timing has slipped, but student leaders evidently have accepted Lon Nol's several promises and have suspended their strike. With Sirik Matak, their bete noir, out of the government and with Lon Nol committed to a new constitution, they can claim a significant, if limited, victory.



25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR



25X1
25X1



25X1



25X1
25X1



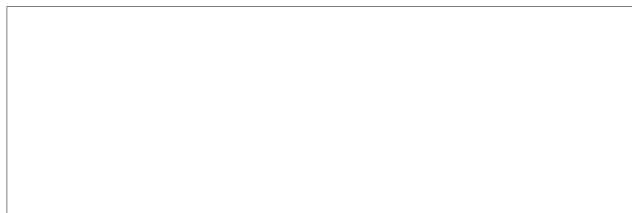
25X1
25X1
25X1



25X1



25X1



25X1

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

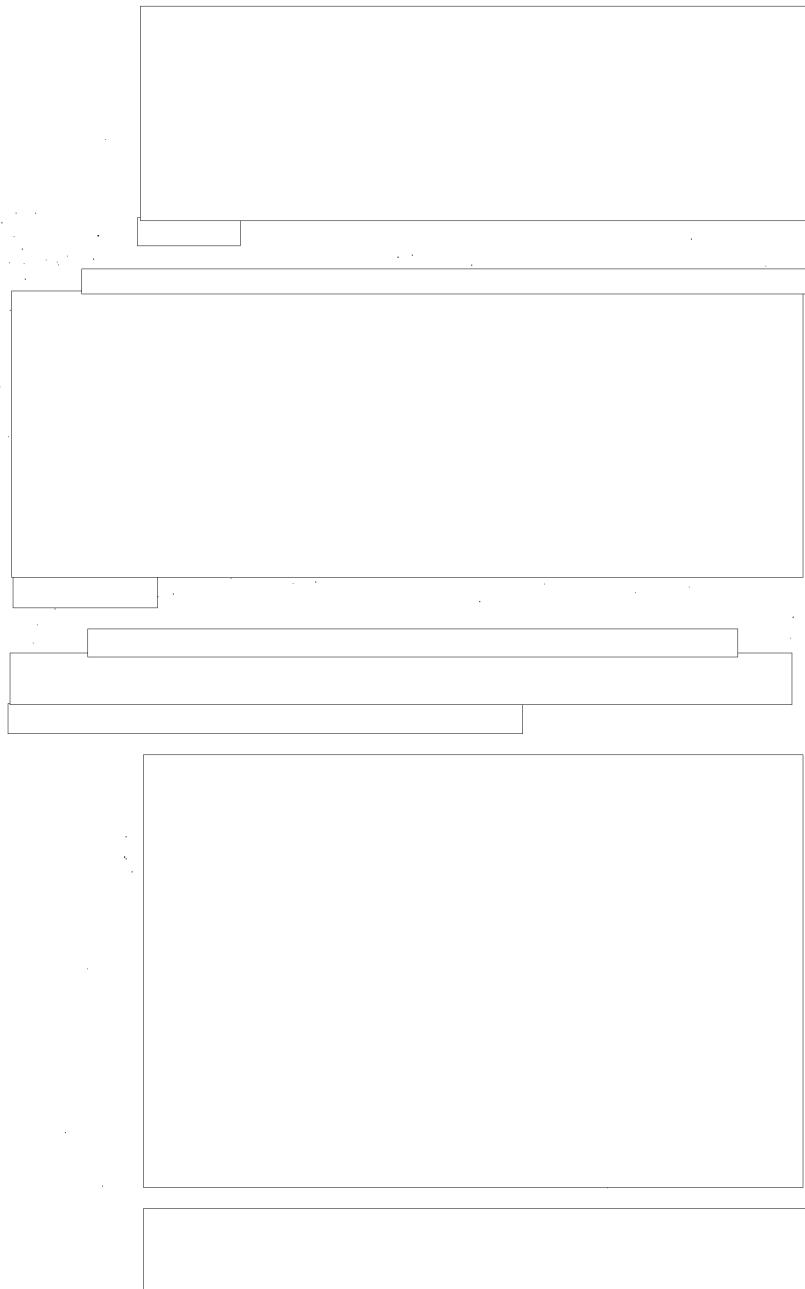
NOTE

Romania-Egypt: Presidents Ceausescu and Sadat talked past one another during an exchange of toasts in Cairo on Sunday, holding to their disparate views on the Middle East. By stressing the "integrity and sovereignty of all states," which by implication includes Israel, Ceausescu showed an unwillingness to curry favor with his Arab host. In his reply, Sadat scarcely mentioned Romania, referred flatteringly to the USSR as the "leader of the socialist states," and dwelt almost entirely on Egypt's view of the Middle East situation. Nevertheless, simply by being received in Cairo after a long tour of Africa, Ceausescu succeeded in underlining Romania's independent stance.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHINA



25X1

25X1

25X1
25X1

25X1

25X1
25X1

25X1

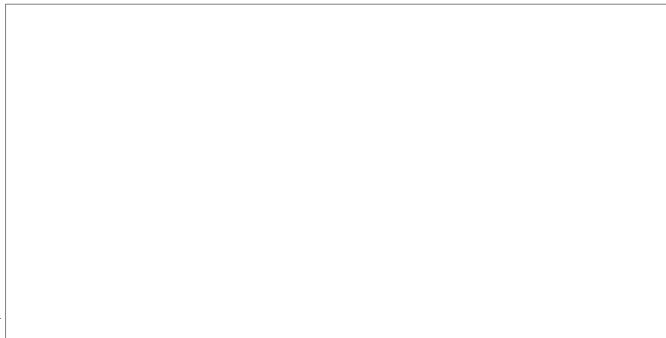
25X1

25X1

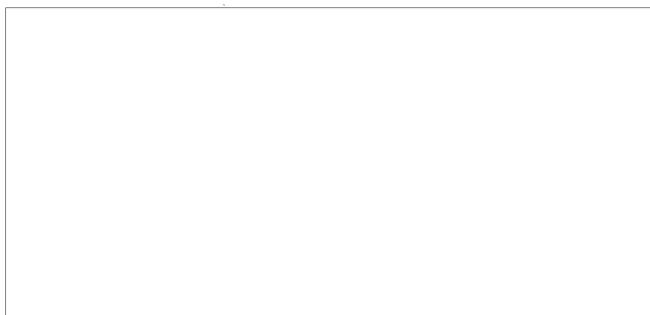
A1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



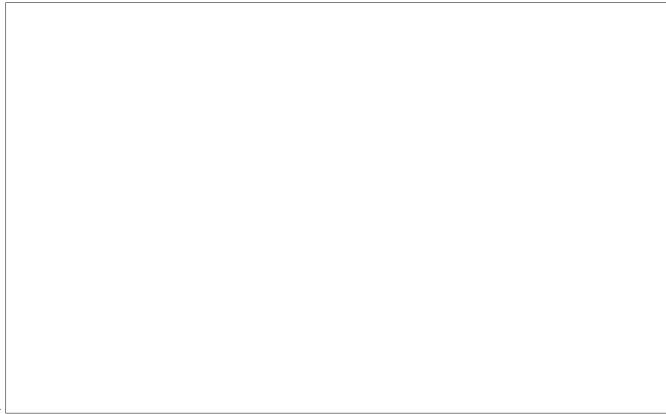
25X1



25X1



25X1

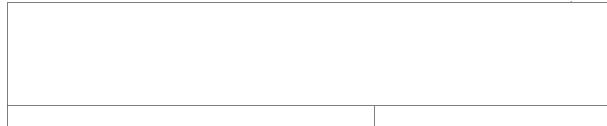


25X1

A2

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

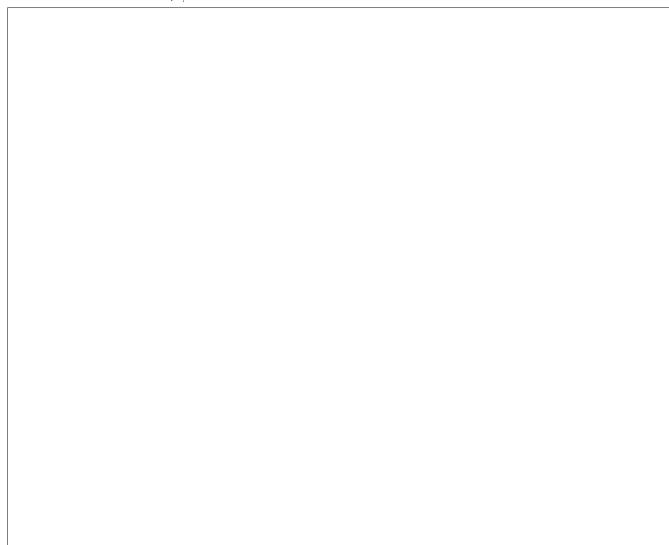


25X1



25X1

25X1



25X1

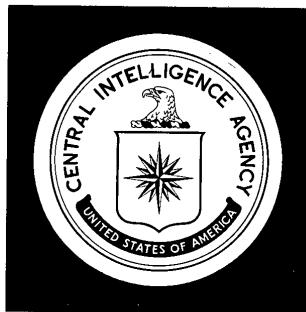
25X1

A3

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret

✓



The President's Daily Brief

6 April 1972

14



~~Top Secret~~

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

6 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

On *Page 1* we discuss the current military situation in South Vietnam.

A stinging diatribe against "counter-revolutionaries" published in Hanoi on the eve of the current offensive suggests that the recent policy decisions may produce an internal crackdown. (*Page 3*)

[redacted]

2525X1

[redacted]

25X1

25X1

[redacted]

25X1

East German party leader Honecker has arrived in Moscow

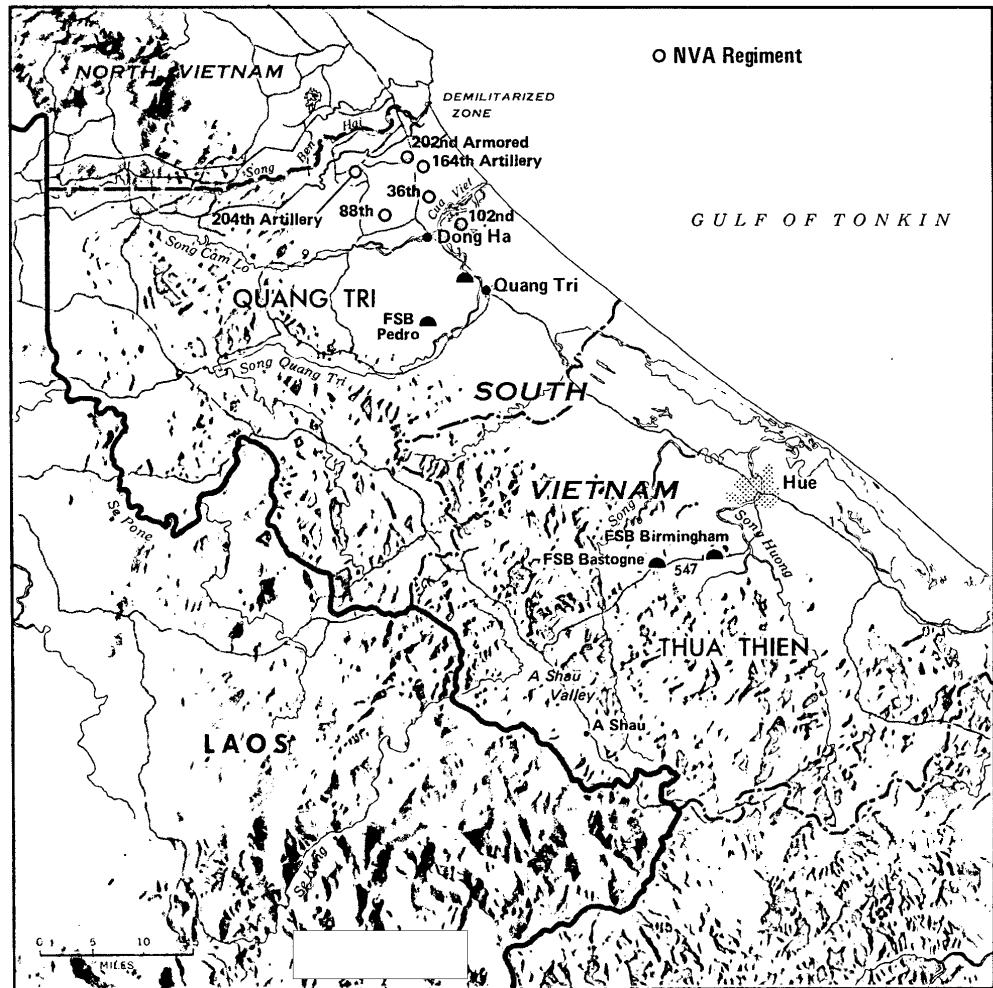
[redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

552780 4-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

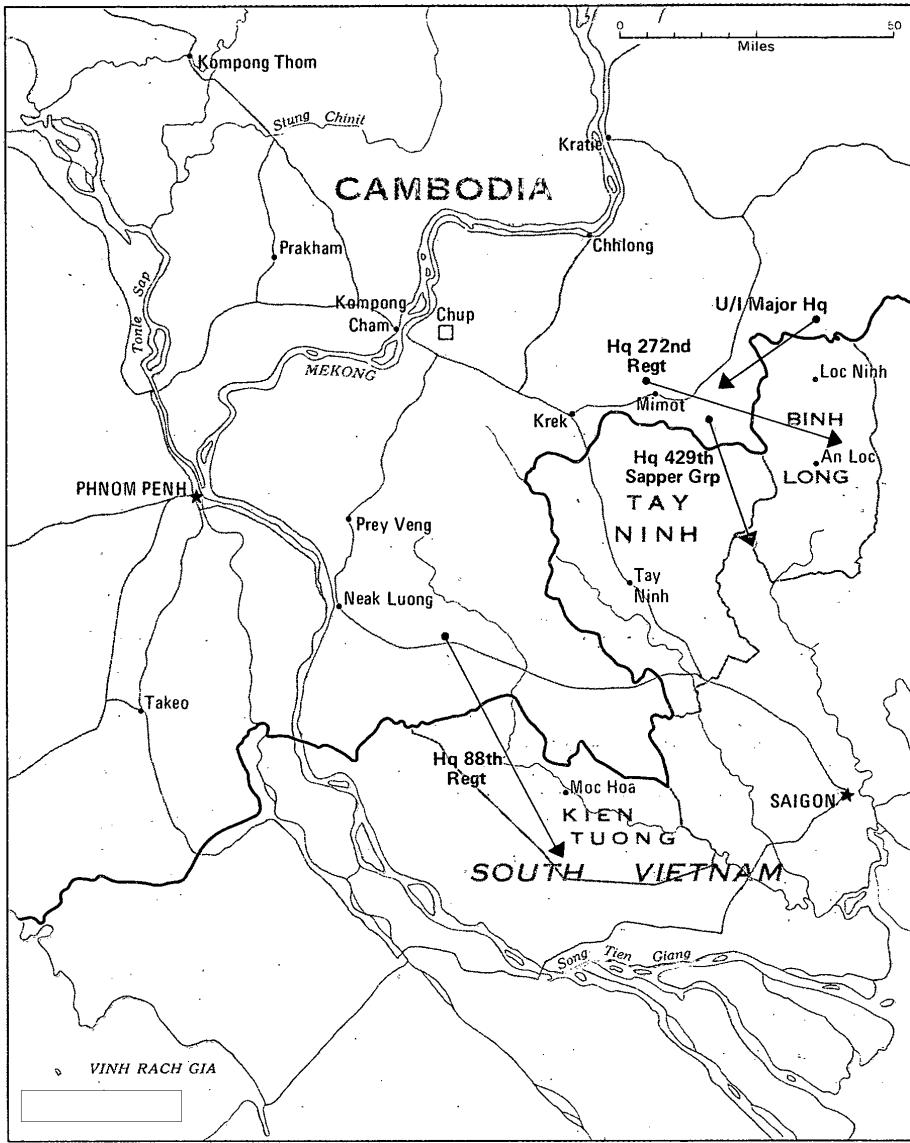
The North Vietnamese are maintaining heavy pressure against Fire Support Base Pedro west of Quang Tri city and are sporadically shelling Quang Tri Combat Base. Farther south, they have launched artillery and ground attacks against fire bases Bastogne and Birmingham astride Route 547, the natural avenue of attack on Hue from the west. An intercept reveals that an element of the North Vietnamese 324B Division has been urged to cut off any ARVN troops retreating from the bases.

There are indications that the Communists are preparing for a fresh round of attacks. Captured troops state that all four combat regiments of the North Vietnamese 308th Division are now south of the DMZ, while enemy communications indicate that they are being supported by an independent artillery regiment and an independent armored regiment. Prisoners state that the Communists hope to coordinate their attacks in northern Quang Tri with heavier action against Hue in order to spread government forces thin and capture both areas.

South Vietnamese units are getting ready to strike back at enemy units north of Dong Ha. General Lam, the government's commander in MR-1, plans to begin operations as soon as additional reinforcements are in position. Nine ranger battalions already have been airlifted to MR-1 from Tay Ninh Province, and an ARVN division from the delta is also to be sent to the area. In addition, regional and popular force troops and local militia units in Thua Thien Province are being reorganized to help strengthen local defenses around Hue.

Communist military activity in the central highlands has been largely limited to artillery attacks against government positions in Kontum and Pleiku provinces. The South Vietnamese Joint General Staff expects large-scale enemy attacks in the highlands very soon. Anticipated targets include the Kontum city - Dak To region, as well as the area along Highway 14 between Kontum and Pleiku cities and near Tan Can north of Kontum city.

(continued)



25X1

552781 4-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Farther south, three additional Communist formations have moved into South Vietnam from Cambodia. The Communist 9th Division's 272nd Regiment has been detected just northeast of An Loc, the capital of Binh Long Province, and was probably involved in the series of attacks against Loc Ninh and An Loc early yesterday. The 429th Sapper Group, which has at least three subordinate battalions, is now located east of Tay Ninh city. Meanwhile, a major Communist headquarters that may serve as the tactical control for the 5th, 7th, and 9th divisions in eastern Cambodia has moved close to the border.

The North Vietnamese 88th Regiment has moved to a position south of Moc Hoa, deep within the delta province of Kien Tuong. It poses a new threat in an area from which some ARVN units have recently been withdrawn.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

On the eve of the current military push Tran Quoc Hoan, who heads Hanoi's secret police, published a stinging diatribe against "counter-revolutionaries" both at home and abroad. Writing in the March issue of Hanoi's party journal, he argues in favor of using "revolutionary violence" more liberally to "repress" and "exterminate" all those who oppose the party line. The cutting edge of his article seems to be directed at the faint of heart in North Vietnam; he condemns those guilty of "timidity" and "lack of firmness" in the face of the US threat. He quotes party First Secretary Le Duan to the effect that any effort to coddle such types while the country is struggling against US imperialism would be "a dangerous rightist deviation and a crime against the revolution."

For such waverers, Hoan urges reindoctrination, penal measures, and the use of violence when necessary. He cites agrarian reform as one area of the economy that has benefited from previous party efforts to stamp out "counter-revolutionaries"--an unmistakeable allusion to the regime's liquidation of an estimated 50,000 recalcitrant peasants in the mid-1950s.

No North Vietnamese cadre who reads these words can doubt their seriousness. Other recent propaganda has hinted at such a crackdown as a consequence of the latest rounds of strategic decision-making in Hanoi. An authoritative "Commentator" article in December, which spelled out Hanoi's new preoccupation with main-force warfare, spoke of the problem of "subjective" attitudes in some quarters. More recently the Hanoi press has warned that some cadres would have to be expelled to ensure a proper party response to the regime's policies.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1



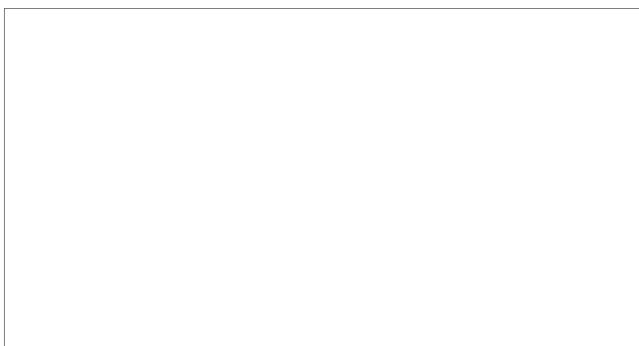
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR



25X1
25X1

25X1
25X1
25X1



25X1



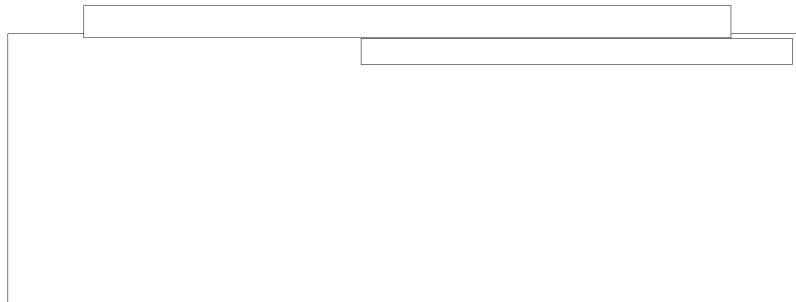
25X1

25X1

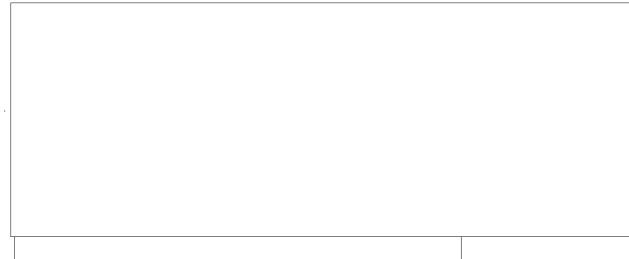
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR



25X1
25X1X1



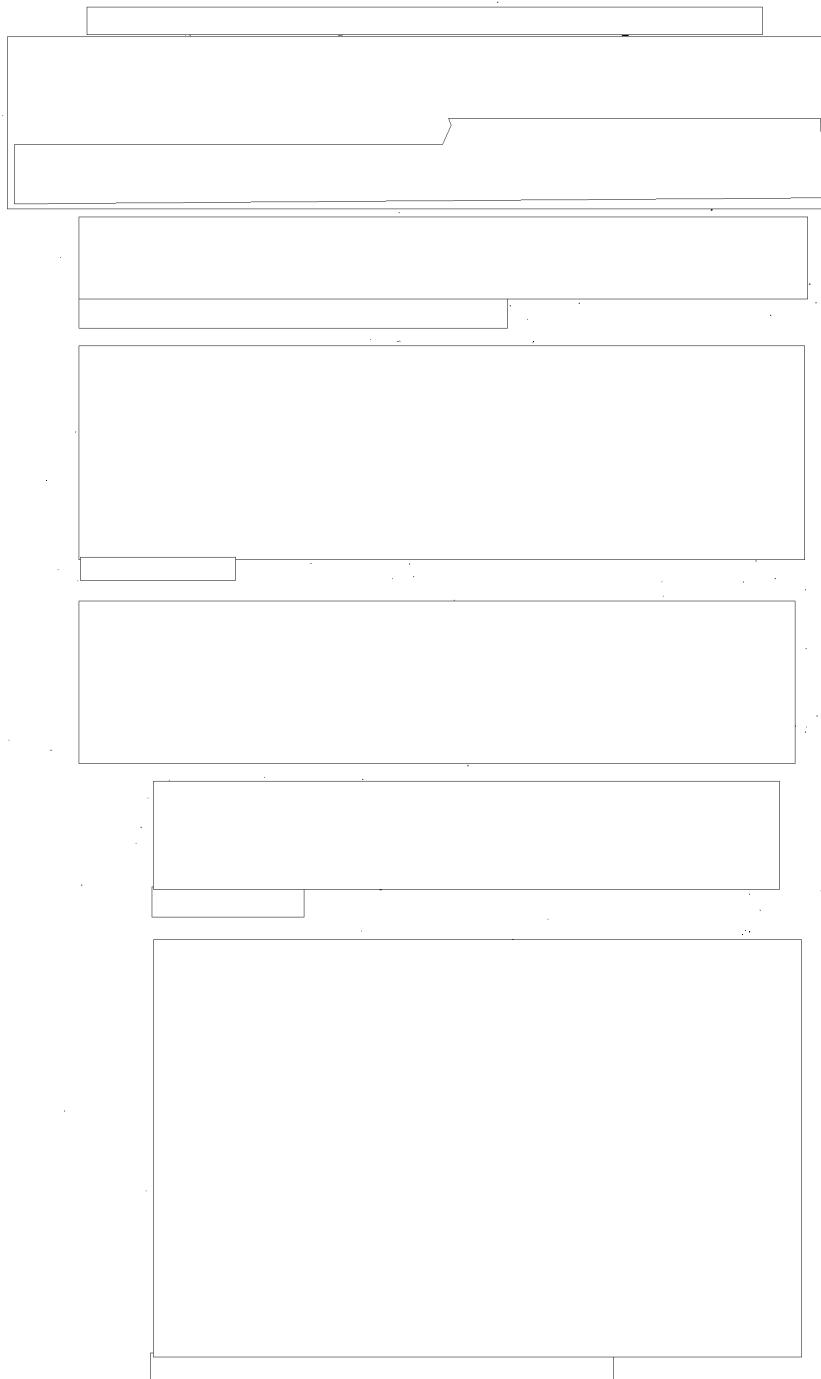
25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN



25X1
25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY

East German party leader Honecker arrived unexpectedly in Moscow on Tuesday, fueling speculation about Soviet - East German moves to facilitate West German ratification of the Eastern treaties.

25X1

Moscow presumably would wish Pankow's direct participation in any final decision on such concessions. Both Soviet and East German spokesmen have recently indicated that Pankow is anxious to settle its major differences with Bonn this year, prior to West Germany's national elections in 1973. Yesterday, however, East and West Germany began accelerated weekly negotiating sessions on a general traffic treaty without Pankow's showing any new flexibility.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

25X1



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Israel-Egypt:

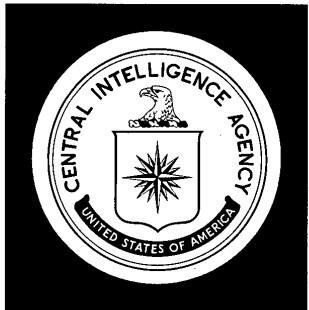
25X15X1

25X1

USSR-Iraq: Premier Kosygin is scheduled to arrive in Baghdad today, and we believe that a "treaty of friendship and cooperation" between the USSR and Iraq may be announced while he is there. The visit presumably was arranged in February when Iraqi strongman Saddam Tikriti spent a week in the USSR and began negotiations for a friendship treaty. Kosygin's visit will coincide with the beginning of production at an oil field that has received large amounts of Soviet assistance and with the anniversary of the constitution of Iraq's ruling Baath Party.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

7 April 1972

46

25X1

~~Top Secret~~

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The current military situation in South Vietnam is reported on *Page 1*.

A Soviet official of the UN Secretariat claims that Moscow is concerned that the North Vietnamese offensive could adversely affect President Nixon's trip.
(Page 2)

India is awaiting a Pakistani response to its proposed scenario for talks. *(Page 3)*

Egypt's announcement that it is breaking diplomatic ties with Jordan is another move to assert Cairo's primacy as spokesman of Arab nationalism. *(Page 4)*

25X1

25X1

At Annex we discuss the status of Soviet military activity in the Indian Ocean.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist activity in northernmost Quang Tri Province consisted principally of light artillery attacks yesterday, but enemy forces also probed the positions of a South Vietnamese tank battalion and a marine battalion located southwest of Dong Ha, guarding the approach to Quang Tri city. Communist units in the province appear to be regrouping for further ground action and strengthening their defenses against intensified allied air strikes. In neighboring Thua Thien Province, a South Vietnamese armored unit continued to fight a stubborn enemy force on Route 547 west of Hue for the third straight day.

No significant combat has been reported in the central highlands, but communications intelligence now confirms prisoner and defector reports that the North Vietnamese 28th Regiment is located only eight miles north of Kontum city. The North Vietnamese 2nd Division Headquarters and its 1st Regiment have been located in the central part of Kontum Province.

Nearer to Saigon in Military Region 3, the Communists this morning renewed their attack on the district town of Loc Ninh in northern Binh Long Province. The enemy infantry troops were reported to be attacking in waves, supported by up to ten tanks. A government fire base a few miles south of Loc Ninh was abandoned under Communist pressure. Additional Communist units--the headquarters of the 5th Division and the 7th Division's 165th Regiment--apparently have moved into Binh Long from across the Cambodian border. The Communists now have the equivalent of a full division in the province, including the 6th, 272nd, and 165th Regiments and the headquarters component.

There are other indications that the Communists plan expanded combat in the border provinces north of Saigon. The headquarters of their Artillery Command now appears to be located in northeastern Tay Ninh Province and its subordinate artillery regiments may also have crossed into South Vietnam from Cambodia. Another headquarters that controls Communist local units in the provinces of Binh Long, Phuoc Long and Quang Duc has also moved back into South Vietnam for the first time in several years.

The Communists have also launched a series of shelling and ground attacks in the delta provinces of Military Region 4. US air observers have spotted a large enemy force, estimated at 1,000 men, about 30 nm southwest of Saigon.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-VIETNAM-US

A senior Soviet official in the UN Secretariat told a former US diplomat on 4 April that the timing of the North Vietnamese offensive was "most unfortunate" and expressed the hope that it would not interfere with President Nixon's trip. The Soviet stressed that Moscow was in no way involved in the planning of the attack.

Such an approach, while clearly self-serving and through an unofficial channel, may reflect a genuine worry that the offensive might disturb the atmosphere of the summit. Moscow's press coverage of the attack seems slanted out of similar considerations. Thus far, Soviet media have not stressed the role of Soviet-supplied weapons.

Moscow may be unenthusiastic about the offensive because it fears it may be called on in some way to pick up the pieces if Hanoi finds itself overextended. The Soviet press has sought to convey the impression that Washington is on the verge of taking "dangerous" counteraction. The USSR has been chagrined and embarrassed throughout the Vietnam conflict by its inability to prevent the US from bombing, with relative impunity, a "fraternal Socialist state," and the Soviets naturally do not want a return to damaging air attacks inside North Vietnam.

[redacted] a North Vietnamese diplomat in Paris says that Moscow has invited party boss Le Duan to visit the USSR prior to the President's arrival.

25X1

Any such visit--either public or private--would probably be used to reassure Le Duan that Moscow stands by the public commitment made by Brezhnev on 20 March not to sell out the interests of its allies. Such a trip would also enable the Soviets to compare notes with Hanoi on the war shortly before the summit in May.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH ASIA

The Pakistani foreign secretary yesterday acknowledged India's written offer for a summit meeting, received earlier this week via the Swiss. He claimed President Bhutto's reply would be sent shortly. The Indian proposal calls for a preliminary meeting of emissaries before the top leaders convene.

Indian Foreign Minister Singh returned yesterday from Moscow, where he was able to persuade the Soviets to avoid any mediatory role.

Soviet officials have been urging New Delhi to be more conciliatory toward Pakistan, particularly on the Kashmir issue.

25X1

25X1

25X1

Although the Indians may be trying to improve the climate for negotiations, there is no indication that New Delhi has softened its basic positions in response to Soviet advice. The Indians presumably are in no hurry for formal peace negotiations, largely because they remain skeptical about Bhutto's ability to stay in power. While Bhutto is probably willing to engage in preliminary talks, he is likely to get little progress on the issue of greatest importance to him--repatriation of 94,000 POWs--until he recognizes Bangladesh.

25X1

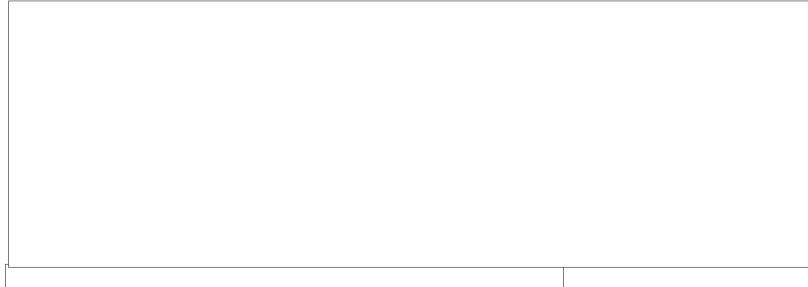
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT-JORDAN

Cairo's severing of diplomatic relations with Jordan is another move to maintain Egypt's primacy as spokesman of the Arab nationalist cause. Egypt has had no ambassador in Jordan since mid-1971, and relations have been cool for some time, with King Husayn's clampdown on fedayeen activity in Jordan and the assassination in Cairo of Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi Tal adding to the strains. Libya, which broke relations with Jordan last year, may have pressed Cairo to take this step as a way of underlining the rejection of Husayn's West Bank proposal. A report in Cairo's semi-official paper Al-Ahram this morning suggests that Egypt may add an economic sting to Sadat's announcement by closing its air space to Jordanian planes.

25X1



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN-SYRIA



25X1
25X1

25X1
25X1

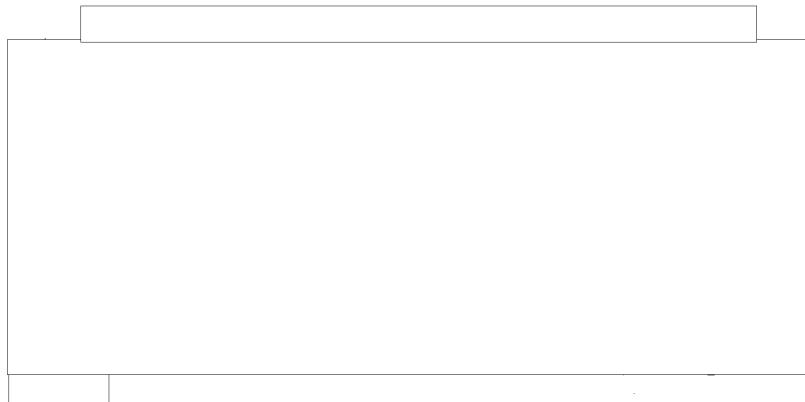


25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

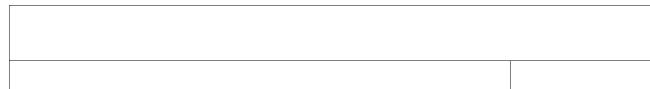
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN-FEDAYEEN



25X1

25X1



25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

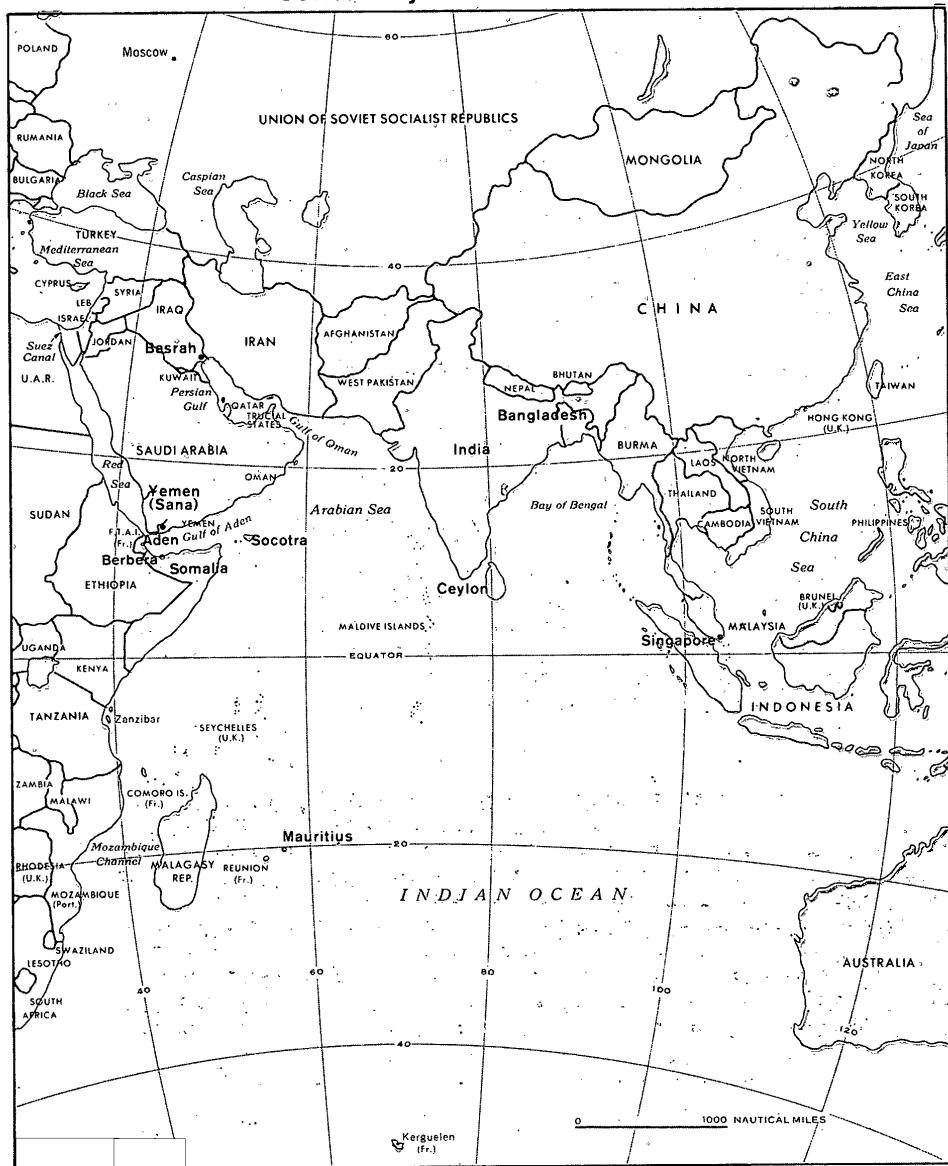
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Chile: The resignation of the moderate faction of the Radical Party from President Allende's government is a serious blow to his personal strategy. Allende had hoped to use the faction as the core of a non-Marxist political grouping that would make his administration seem more broadly based and strengthen his own position within his Popular Unity coalition. Allende may now have to face up to the major cabinet reorganization that he promised in March, but he is likely to find it more difficult than ever to overcome the internal divisions that have hamstrung so much of his administration.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Soviet Navy in the Indian Ocean



25X125X1

552755 4-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLYA
N
N
E

X**SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN**

In a conversation during the SALT talks at Helsinki last week, Vice Admiral Sinetsky discussed Soviet policy in the Indian Ocean. He said that because the Indian Ocean is in the Eastern Hemisphere and "much closer to the USSR than the US," the Soviet Navy will maintain a presence there at least equal to, if not greater than, that of the US Navy. Sinetsky noted that the present Soviet objective in these waters is to maintain a force adequate to counter moves such as that made by the US Navy during the Indo-Pakistani war.

Sinetsky's broad outline accords well with the pattern of Soviet naval activities in and around the Indian Ocean over the past year or so. We do not believe that Moscow has yet signed an agreement with any of the littoral states for the routine use of naval facilities

25X1

[redacted] It is clear,
[redacted] that the Soviet Navy intends to maintain
a permanent force in the Indian Ocean.

* * *

At the onset of the Indo-Pakistani war last December, the Soviet Navy had three surface combatants and one submarine in the Indian Ocean--the average force level of the past several years. (In addition, the Soviets had two space-related ships in the area--also the usual number.) Other ships were soon dispatched from distant Pacific ports to raise the Indian Ocean contingent to 11 combatants plus as many support ships.

[redacted] it appears that the Soviets may have decided on a force level of four surface combatant ships and two submarines on regular patrol, at least for the next few months.

25X1

To maintain their combatant ships on station in the Indian Ocean, the Soviets rely mainly upon the makeshift logistic techniques they developed in the Mediterranean. These include a roughly one-to-one ratio of logistic ships to combatant ships and extensive use of anchorages in international

A1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

waters for replenishment of supplies. The Soviets have found more ports willing to welcome them for short visits in the Indian Ocean than in the Mediterranean, but they have no Indian Ocean analogue to Alexandria, Port Said, and Mersa Matruh for routine and emergency support.

The Soviets could increase the average size of the force on station by gaining permission to station a repair ship or tender in any suitable port. A shore support structure would not be necessary, but access to an airport with civil or military transport links to the USSR would be desirable for quick replacement of spare parts. Their leisurely schedule of activity in the Indian Ocean has helped the Soviets to avoid major breakdowns, but naval planners probably see a need for nearby emergency repair facilities to support any heightened activity in the future.

Mauritius, Ceylon, and Singapore have significant naval support capabilities, but all have carefully limited Soviet naval access.

--Mauritius, which offers routine support to both Soviet fishing and space support fleets, was recently persuaded by the British to purchase refueling facilities being developed by a local firm for Soviet use.

25X1

--Ceylon has obtained military and economic aid from several sources, including the US, UK, USSR, and China, but has neither accepted aid from anyone to revitalize decaying naval facilities nor provided support to any warships. The Bandaranaike government is currently suspicious of Soviet intentions in the area and opposes any increased Soviet presence.

--Singapore's government-owned shipyard contracted last December to overhaul three Soviet whalers. This was the Soviets' first ship repair contract with Singapore. The first Soviet warship visited Singapore only last July. Singapore's proclaimed even-handed foreign policy might lead it to consider some form of support for Soviet naval ships, but the objections of the US and Singapore's Commonwealth partners, which use Singapore's extensive naval repair facilities, would constitute a major inhibition.

(continued)

A2

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

India has been expanding its own navy and naval support capabilities on the basis of extensive Soviet assistance. Soviet naval ships, however, have been accorded no more support than required for limited flag-showing visits. Moscow might acquire some leverage over the new and needy state of Bangladesh, but the Indians would almost certainly veto any special privileges for the Soviet Navy in the new nation's ports.

The Soviets frequently use Aden's long-established naval and air facilities for civil and military transport, although Moscow does not appear to have acquired naval privileges there. Nor have the Soviets continued their interest in the remote and inhospitable island of Socotra, where they apparently did some work in 1970 on an airfield abandoned by the British in 1947. In Yemen (Sana) to the north, the Soviets have not for over a year used air and sea ports they built, probably for fear of becoming embroiled in the volatile relations between the two Yemens.

This situation may add to the Soviets' reasons for continuing assistance to Somali air and sea port development on the Gulf of Aden.

[redacted] a recent agreement with Somalia [redacted] allow the Soviets to use the air and naval port improvements they have agreed to build, as well as to enjoy extended access to existing facilities. A possible major addition would be the use of the Somali airfield at Berbera by Soviet naval reconnaissance planes based in Egypt. Soviet warships have often visited Somali ports, especially during 1970 when the government feared Ethiopian incursions. Even the extended stay in 1970, however, did not result in a formal agreement for Soviet naval ships routinely or automatically to use Somali port facilities.

25X1
25X1
25X1

The Soviets are proceeding cautiously in developing their military position in the Persian Gulf. They are assisting Iraq in the expansion of port facilities

25X1

Soviet naval ships occasionally make port calls at Basrah, Iraq, but no pattern of visits has been established. Any step-up in Soviet naval activities in the Gulf would strain Moscow's improving relations with Tehran, and so the Soviets are unlikely to press for an agreement for regular naval support.

A3

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

8 April 1972

46



~~Top Secret~~

25x1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Communist military activity has increased sharply in the southern provinces, but continues at a reduced level in the north. (Page 1)

Moscow is expected to make a statement today on the Vietnam fighting. (Page 2)

On Page 3, we discuss the motives behind the USSR's avid courting of Iraq.

Satellite photography shows that Peking continues to make substantial progress in the construction of new jet airfields and underground facilities for aircraft storage and maintenance. (Page 5)

Panama has again shifted its tactics on canal treaty negotiations. (Page 6)

The Argentine Government is troubled by extensive rioting stemming from economic problems. (Page 7)

Lao Prime Minister Souvanna is seeking additional air support in the Long Tieng area. (Page 8)

Contrary to earlier indications, Chilean President Allende did not make a major issue of the ITT affair in his 6 April speech. (Page 8)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist military activity has increased sharply in the southern provinces, but continues at a reduced level in the north. In the delta, the Communists yesterday launched a widespread series of ground probes and shelling attacks on government positions in five provinces. These actions were coupled with sapper attacks on several key highway bridges. Communist forces are reported to have overrun Kien Thien district town in Chuong Thien Province, and several outposts farther north in the Vinh Long - Sa Dec area have come under heavy attack. Regimental-size Communist forces are reported moving northwest of My Tho and into Chau Doc Province from Cambodia.

The enemy is also maintaining heavy pressure on South Vietnamese positions in Military Region 3. In Binh Long Province, Communist forces captured the district town of Loc Ninh, and have conducted heavy shelling attacks against An Loc, the provincial capital. They are also hitting the major South Vietnamese artillery base near Quan Loi. Enemy sappers are said to have knocked out several bridges along Route 13, the key road link between An Loc and Saigon, and have cut Route 1 just west of Saigon. Communications intelligence and clandestine reports suggest that the Communists are preparing for further heavy attacks in Binh Long, as well as in Tay Ninh Province, where elements of the enemy's 7th Division may be headed.

In the north, communications intelligence suggests that Hue may soon be the target of a combined rocket-infantry assault. A prisoner claims the Communists are constructing access routes to enable armor, artillery, and infantry units to move on the city. An intercepted message of 7 April disclosed plans to overrun a key fire support base west of the city.

Some Communist antiaircraft artillery and surface-to-air missile units in the areas immediately north and south of the DMZ are relocating to new positions to reduce their vulnerability to air attack.

25X1
25X1

25X1

The North Vietnamese apparently are supplementing their forces in southern North Vietnam. There are signs in enemy communications that elements of the 325th Division--the only regular division remaining in North Vietnam--are moving from the Hanoi area to the southern panhandle.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR - NORTH VIETNAM

Moscow still has not commented authoritatively on recent developments in Vietnam. The Soviets are reporting routinely on the fighting in the South, but the bulk of their propaganda is directed against US bombing raids over the North. The Soviets quote extensively from third party condemnations of recent US actions, but do not directly link the increased bombing raids to the North Vietnamese offensive. According to a Radio Moscow commentator, Moscow will make a TASS statement today in support of the one issued by the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry on 6 April attacking the US bombing. The Soviets released a formal government statement endorsing North Vietnamese condemnations of the bombings last December.

Yesterday Pravda front-paged a 65th birthday message to North Vietnamese party boss Le Duan in which the Soviet leaders reiterated their support for the Vietnamese Communists in general terms. This is in keeping with usual Soviet practice. Le Duan received similar treatment on his 60th birthday when he was only number two man in the North Vietnamese hierarchy. Also yesterday, Premier Kosygin, in Iraq, expressed warm solidarity with the North Vietnamese people but did not specifically mention the current offensive.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-IRAQ

Soviet-Iraqi relations, which have blown hot and cold over the years, are now warming up considerably. There have been several high level visits recently, and a number of important military and economic agreements have been reached. Defense Minister Grechko visited Baghdad in December and Premier Kosygin is there now. The major agreements thus far include a Soviet promise of over \$200 million in military aid and the provision of extensive money, equipment, and expertise to help Iraq develop an oil producing capacity independent of the western oil companies. The next step may be the signing of a treaty of friendship, which Kosygin could announce during his current visit.

We believe the Soviets are moving quickly to take advantage of strongman Saddam Tikriti's eagerness to end Baghdad's isolation within the Arab world. Moscow sees an opportunity to establish a military and political position in the Middle East independent of the demands of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Soviet presence in Egypt. This would also serve to remind President Sadat that Moscow has other allies in the area besides Egypt.

In addition, Moscow most likely believes that a stronger position in Baghdad would facilitate Soviet efforts to prevent Iraqi-Iranian hostilities, which could sour its relations with Tehran and damage Moscow's long-term interests in the Persian Gulf. The Soviets would view a friendship treaty with Iraq much as they see their treaty with Egypt--that is, as a way of increasing Moscow's influence with the Arabs and of preventing uncontrollable military confrontations. Related to this is an effort to foster Iraqi internal stability. The Soviets are pressing the rebellious Kurds to enter a "national front" with the ruling Baath party.

(continued)

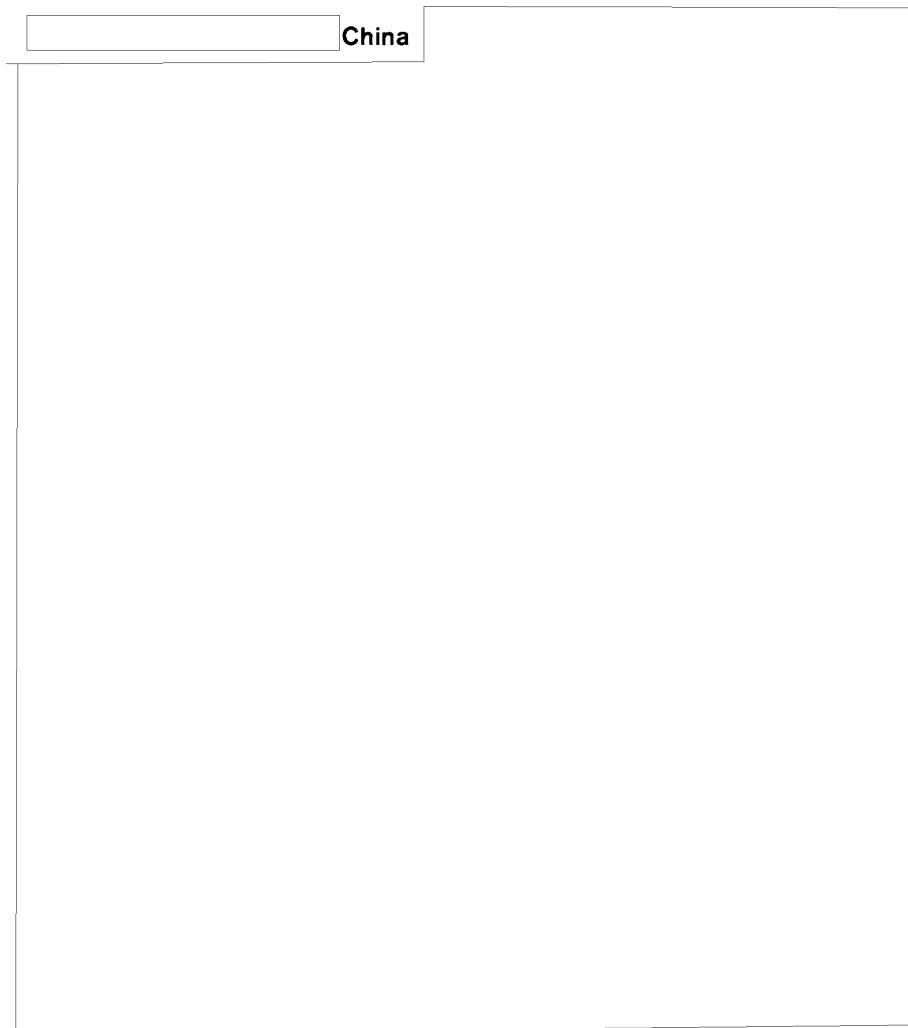
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Although Egypt remains central to Soviet policy in the Middle East, these recent activities show that Moscow is intent on strengthening its position in other "progressive" Arab states. This could involve treaty relations not only with Iraq but possibly with Syria.

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHINA

Satellite photography shows that Peking continues to make substantial progress in the construction of new jet airfields and underground facilities for aircraft storage and maintenance. More than 100 jet airfields have been newly constructed or extensively renovated throughout the country since 1964. China will soon have nearly 200 airfields suitable for combat operations, about one fourth of them able to support operations by TU-16 jet medium bombers.

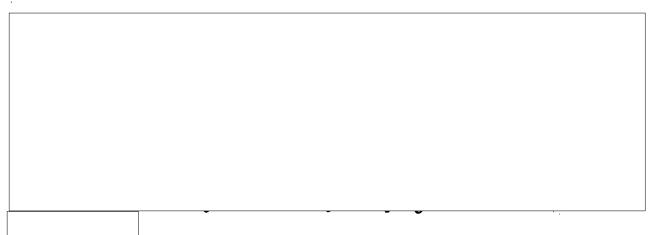


25X1



25X1

25X1



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PANAMA

General Torrijos informed Ambassador Sayre on Thursday that Panama would not bring up the canal issue at next week's OAS General Assembly session. Moreover, after consulting with a personal emissary he sent to Washington in late March to review treaty prospects, Torrijos has finally agreed to translate his negotiating objectives into specific treaty language so that the US and Panamanian drafts can be compared and negotiated point by point.

25X1

25X1

In the past Torrijos has only sporadically focused on the negotiations in any depth. He has, however, apparently become disenchanted with the advice of his own negotiators, and may now wish to participate personally in the drafting process.

We anticipate that the Panamanians will avoid polemics while writing their version of the treaty. If the US gives the draft a poor reception, however, Torrijos may quickly resume public saber-rattling and propaganda attacks on the US, especially if domestic difficulties increase.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ARGENTINA

The Lanusse government has been unable to control extensive violence in the normally peaceful provincial city of Mendoza. Last Tuesday a mass demonstration over rising utility rates turned into a riot. Since then large gangs of youths have continued to rampage through the city's outskirts and an almost total general strike paralyzed the city yesterday, despite the arrest of the leaders of the regional labor confederation. Some 2,000 army troops and police are patrolling the streets, and precautionary measures have been taken in other cities. Peronist political and labor leaders have accused the government of provoking the violence.

Similar violence contributed to the downfall of President Lanusse's two predecessors. Even if the current trouble is confined to Mendoza, the show of popular discontent will place Lanusse under heavy pressure to correct the underlying economic causes. In any event labor's movement into more direct opposition is likely seriously to impede Lanusse's effort to return Argentina to elected government next year.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Laos: Prime Minister Souvanna called in Ambassador Godley yesterday to request additional air support in the Long Tieng area. He said he had just talked with Vang Pao, who was "extremely discouraged" because of the diversion of US air support to South Vietnam. The Thai commander at Long Tieng, General Dhep, also has charged US personnel with letting him down and jeopardizing the Thai irregular program. The Thai commanders hope to have Marshal Thanom and Souvanna appeal directly to President Nixon, via Dr. Kissinger, for more air support.

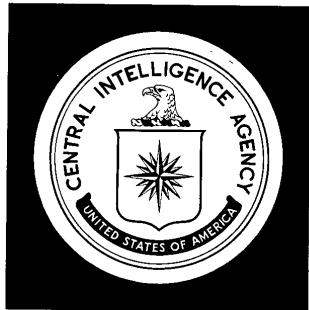
Chile: Contrary to earlier indications, President Allende did not make a major issue of the ITT affair in his speech on 6 April. [redacted]

[redacted] Allende decided that the ITT documents published last week in Chile are already serving his purposes. He apparently believes that the publicity of the ITT affair helps to deflect unrest in the armed forces and to strengthen Chile's position in debt renegotiations. Allende is said to believe that ITT's complicity in efforts to prevent his assumption of power is well-documented, but that official US involvement has not been proved.

25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

10 April 1972

46



Top Secret

25x1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

10 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

We report on the current military situation in South Vietnam on *Page 1*.

The deadlock continues around Long Tieng, but the Communists appear to be preparing for another assault on government positions. (*Page 2*)

On *Page 3* we discuss the 15-year Soviet-Iraqi friendship treaty signed yesterday.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

552811 4-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

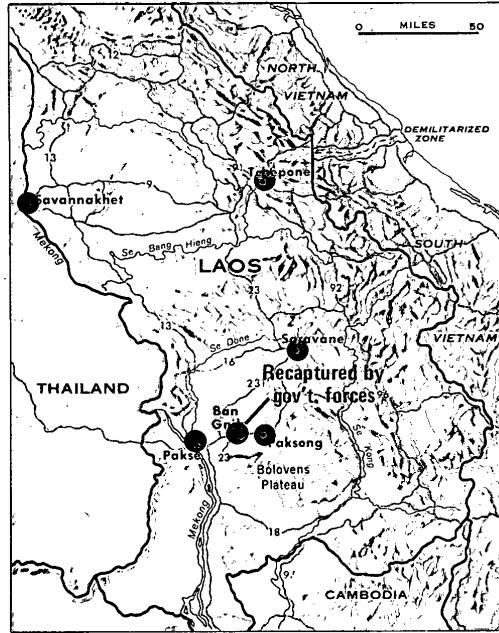
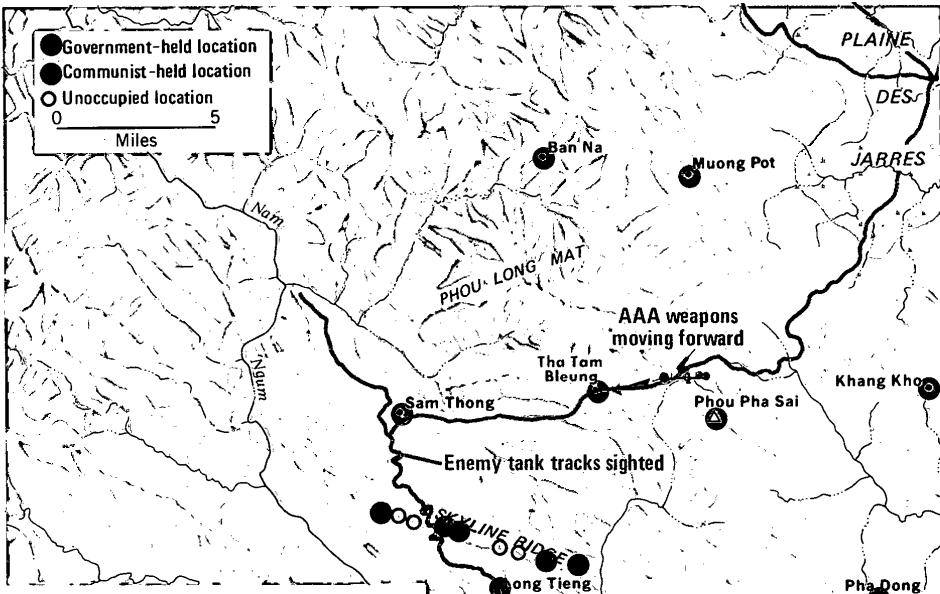
Communist forces, apparently including tanks, are continuing to advance on An Loc, the capital of Binh Long Province some 60 miles north of Saigon. US pilots have reported sighting at least nine battalion-sized formations which appear to be preparing for imminent assaults on the town. Communications intelligence confirms that one regiment of the Communist 9th Division and two regiments of the 7th Division are in Binh Long. In an effort to blunt the enemy drive, the South Vietnamese commander in Military Region 3, General Minh, has augmented his forces in Binh Long with an airborne unit from Saigon as well as the 21st Infantry Division from the delta.

In the far northern provinces, the Communists resumed their attacks over the weekend on the South Vietnamese lines defending Dong Ha, Quang Tri city, and Hue. The government troops are still holding against this pressure. The Communists have also shelled positions in southeastern Quang Tri Province, possibly to mask a movement by North Vietnamese forces that have been trying--thus far unsuccessfully--to get south of the provincial capital.

North Vietnamese Army units have mounted most of the attacks so far, but Communist local forces and sapper units are beginning to play an increased role, both in support of the main force assaults and in harassing South Vietnamese troop and supply movements. Further evidence of this is the number of bridges now being destroyed in many parts of the country as well as the increased ambushes of government convoys heading for battle zones. Guerrilla and sapper units are also responsible for much of the sharp rise in activity in the delta provinces south of Saigon.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LONG TIENG AREA



552809 4-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

North Vietnamese and government forces remain deadlocked at Long Tieng. For the past week enemy action has consisted largely of shelling attacks--directed principally at government fire support bases--and small probes. Irregular forces now control five of the nine major positions on Skyline Ridge, while the other four are unoccupied because neither side has been able to hold them in the face of heavy artillery fire.

The Communists' main force--composed of elements of seven infantry regiments with artillery, anti-aircraft, and armor units--remains dug in around Long Tieng, and intercepts continue to refer to plans for new attacks. US pilots report that the Communists are making heavy use of the new road from the Plaine des Jarres to Sam Thong and that they have sighted tank tracks along the road between Sam Thong and Long Tieng. The pilots also report that the North Vietnamese appear to be moving their anti-aircraft weapons closer to Long Tieng.

In preparing for another attack on Long Tieng, the North Vietnamese undoubtedly realize that time is beginning to run out and that they must either take the base in the next few weeks before the heavy rains or begin pulling back. Their failure so far to take advantage of the diversion of US air strikes to South Vietnam suggests, however, that they are encountering significant difficulties in readying their forces for the attack.

The two diversionary task forces that Vang Pao has had operating north and east of the Plaine for nearly a month are withdrawing. They did not succeed in disrupting North Vietnamese rear supply lines nor did they cause any enemy forces to pull back from the Long Tieng area.

In the south, government forces are making gains in their effort to clear North Vietnamese units from the western edge of the Bolovens Plateau. Irregular units east of Pakse on Route 23 recaptured Ban Gnik on Saturday against limited enemy resistance.

We expect that the North Vietnamese forces in the area--consisting of elements of two regiments--will stiffen their defenses if the government forces continue farther east toward Paksong.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-IRAQ

The signing of a 15-year Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation yesterday was a major step in Moscow's effort to establish a political position in the Middle East independent of the demands of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Soviet presence in Egypt.

The treaty's military aspect, providing for continued cooperation in "strengthening the defense capabilities" of each country, falls somewhere between Moscow's similar pacts with India and Egypt concluded last year. The Indian treaty had no defense commitment, but the Soviets and Egyptians agreed to develop military cooperation and the Soviets specifically agreed to "assist in training Egyptian military personnel." None of the treaties provides for mutual assistance or military coordination in the event of hostilities.

Although Egypt remains central to Soviet policy in the Middle East, the Iraqi treaty provides one more sign that Moscow is intent on cultivating additional assets in the area.

For Iraq, which receives nearly all its military equipment from the USSR, the treaty marks a further edging away from isolation within the Arab world as Baghdad seeks support against Iranian ambitions in the Persian Gulf.

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR-Vietnam: The Soviets are sticking to their gingerly approach in commenting on the current fighting, and are yet to issue a serious, authoritative statement. On Saturday TASS carried a low-key report on Secretary Laird's press conference of the previous day and avoided any mention of the Secretary's remarks concerning the Soviet role in the conflict. The dispatch routinely criticized US actions against North Vietnam. Also on Saturday a low-level article in Pravda criticized "the Pentagon" for increasing its "aggression" in Vietnam.

USSR: [redacted]

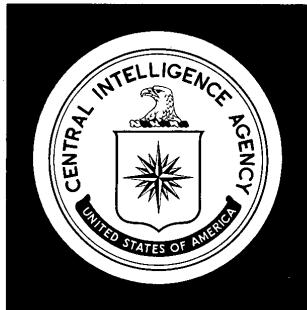
25X1

Pakistan: The rift between President Bhutto and his main political opposition is growing. Over the weekend a spokesman for Bhutto's party announced that last month's agreement between Bhutto and Wali Khan, leader of the opposition coalition in the two western border provinces, had broken down. Yesterday Wali rejected a new proposal on governing the provinces and extending martial law. When the National Assembly convenes this Friday Bhutto seems likely to have the votes he needs to extend martial law, but Wali is capable of fomenting considerable unrest in border areas if he wants to do so.

Tanzania: The assassination of Abeid Karume, Vice President of Tanzania and dictator of the autonomous off-shore island of Zanzibar, late Friday does not appear to have been part of a general coup attempt and Karume's Revolutionary Council remains in control. Karume's death will improve President Nyerere's chances of tightening Zanzibar's loose ties with the mainland, for the island's new rulers can scarcely be as obstinate as was Karume during the eight years of federation.

25X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

11 April 1972

18

Top Secret

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The military situation in South Vietnam is reported on *Page 1*.

The joint communique following East German party leader Honecker's visit to the USSR condemns increased US bombing of North Vietnam, but other Soviet commentary is still taking a positive line toward President Nixon's upcoming visit. (*Page 2*)

The two political murders in Argentina yesterday, together with evidence of growing economic unrest, may have significant repercussions on President Lanusse's support within the military. (*Page 3*)

North and South Korea have agreed to begin formal Red Cross discussions within the next month. (*Page 4*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

552816 4-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

South Vietnamese Rangers in Quang Tri Province thwarted an enemy sapper attack yesterday against a key bridge that links the province capital with the northern part of the province. This follows a string of government successes in blunting enemy attacks in the two northernmost provinces in the past few days. The government is now claiming significant victories, asserting that more than 1,000 North Vietnamese were killed and about three dozen enemy tanks destroyed in the weekend attacks around Dong Ha, on Fire Support Base Pedro west of Quang Tri city, and in lesser actions in both Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces.

Despite clearly heavy losses in recent engagements, Communist units still appear to be preparing for additional strong attacks.

25X1

There is evidence that the Communists have now committed all of their 202nd Tank Regiment, a force of some 140-160 tanks, south of the DMZ.

To the north of Saigon, the Communist assault against An Loc, the capital of Binh Long Province, has eased for the time being. South Vietnamese reinforcements have been delayed in trying to reach the city, however, by a Communist force blocking Route 13. Information from prisoners and documents taken in the recent fighting near An Loc indicates that the Communists may have moved their entire 9th Division into Binh Long Province, increasing their force there to five regiments.

Communist action elsewhere in the country yesterday remained largely confined to harassing attacks, but evidence continued to accumulate that the Communists are telling their forces that the current offensive is their biggest and most important to date. An enemy notebook captured in the fighting northwest of Saigon contained briefing notes stating that the campaign would exceed that of Tet 1968 and have "more decisive success than Dien Bien Phu." A North Vietnamese prisoner captured in the central highlands said his unit had been told that the new offensive would continue through June.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

In the communiqué issued at the end of East German party leader Honecker's visit to the USSR, Brezhnev and Honecker expressed solidarity with the Indochinese "patriots" and "decisively condemned" increased US bombing raids over North Vietnam. The two made no attempt to link the bombings to the Communist offensive and instead implied that they had resulted from the US decision to boycott the Paris peace talks.

This is Moscow's first elite reference to any phase of the current situation in Vietnam, although there have been routine statements of support for the Vietnamese Communists since the heavy fighting resumed. While the Soviets want to say something in support of their Vietnamese allies, they apparently do not want to go so far as to antagonize the US in advance of the upcoming summit.

At the same time, a Soviet radio commentary beamed to the domestic audience yesterday took a wholly positive line toward the forthcoming summit. The commentator cited the passage in the President's foreign policy report on improved US-USSR relations as expressing not only the attitude of the Administration but also the wish of "the widest possible circles of the American public." He also recalled Brezhnev's positive appraisal of the summit last month. The commentary omitted all mention of Vietnam and seemed to strike a defensive note in vowing that Moscow would not sell out its allies.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ARGENTINA

President Lanusse's already formidable task of finding solutions to Argentina's economic and political problems is getting more difficult by the day. Serious economic problems are breeding popular disaffection with his government, and political violence is threatening to undermine his position with the military.

Violence reached a new and dangerous level yesterday with the assassination of General Juan Carlos Sanchez and the murder of the Fiat executive kidnaped last month. The assassination of Sanchez--commander of the II Army Corps in Rosario, some 200 miles north of the capital--came just hours before Italian industrialist Oberdan Sallustro was shot when police closed in on a "people's prison" in a suburb of Buenos Aires. A communiqué from military headquarters denounced the terrorist assassins of General Sanchez--believed to be the same group that kidnaped Sallustro--and pledged continuing support for President Lanusse and his effort to move Argentina toward elections next year.

Despite this public showing of military support, President Lanusse is likely to come under considerable political pressure. His belated action in suspending the utility rate increase that touched off four days of violence in Mendoza last week does not get to the heart of the problem. Rapidly rising inflation and growing unemployment, particularly in the provinces, have created a situation made to order for left-wing terrorists and labor agitators.

All of the top army officers are publicly committed to Lanusse's announced intention of turning over the government to elected officials next year and have seemed genuinely interested in getting the military out of the direct business of government. The events of the past few weeks, however, are almost certain to prompt new thinking on this matter. Lanusse's policy of conciliation has so far resulted only in more trouble and his personal popularity has dropped to the point where many top military officers no longer consider him a potential candidate. If the economy and the security situation continue to deteriorate, many officers will begin to search for an alternative to Lanusse and his political and economic policies.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

KOREA

Seoul and Pyongyang have agreed to hold formal
Red Cross discussions within a month, [redacted]
[redacted] Pyongyang has accepted a se-
cret invitation to send Red Cross officials to Seoul
for the opening formal sessions, which will alter-
nate between Seoul and Pyongyang. The agreement
comes after almost eight months of preliminary hag-
gling at Panmunjom over the agenda for the formal
meetings, which will focus on reuniting divided
families.

25X1

[redacted] The Red Cross sessions
in the two capitals may well provide the
cover for continuing discussions on sensi-
tive political issues.

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR: Satellite photography shows that the Soviets have produced a new version of the TU-144 supersonic transport that is some 20 feet longer than the original prototype.

25X1
25X1

25X1

USSR-Turkey: Soviet President Podgorny starts a week-long visit to Turkey today, returning President Sunay's visit to the USSR in 1969. We expect the visit to be largely a routine affair. Ankara may agree to a "declaration of principles" expressing a desire for better relations, but it is likely to steer away from either a friendship or consultation agreement with the Soviets.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

12 April 1972

46



Top Secret

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

12 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The military situation in South Vietnam and an examination of the changing balance of forces in the delta are reported on *Page 1*.

Soviet party chief Brezhnev's reception of Secretary Butz is an unprecedented gesture of personal goodwill toward the US. (*Page 3*)

[Redacted]

25X1

25X1

Fidel Castro appears to be planning a visit to the USSR and Eastern Europe before President Nixon's visit to Moscow. (*Page 5*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Deployment of North Vietnamese Main Force Regiments in the Delta



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

North Vietnamese forces are maintaining pressure against South Vietnamese units in the north, the highlands, and along the Cambodian border north of Saigon. Although government defenses are stiffening, enemy deployments indicate that heavier attacks are in store for each of these regions and in parts of the Mekong Delta as well. Late reports indicate that the Communists on 11 April carried out a heavy attack against South Vietnamese forces operating in Kampot Province opposite the delta in extreme southeastern Cambodia. The South Vietnamese apparently held their ground and claim to have inflicted significant casualties.

The balance of opposing main force units in the delta (Military Region 4) has shifted significantly in recent weeks with the departure of Saigon's 21st Division and the arrival of several Communist main force regiments from Cambodia.

25X1

The two South Vietnamese divisions remaining in the region, the 7th and 9th, together with government territorial forces, are spreading out to cover the provinces in the southeastern part of the delta that are being vacated by the 21st Division.

The commander of MR-4, General Truong, is worried about the influx of enemy forces, especially in view of the departure of the 21st Division. The South Vietnamese have had considerable success during the past year in reducing Communist influence in areas of the delta that had long been enemy bastions. For example, operations in Communist sanctuaries such as the U Minh Forest and western Dinh Tuong Province had whittled down enemy capabilities to operate in much of the rest of the delta.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Since the upsurge of Communist activity, however, government operations in the delta provinces have been relatively unsuccessful, and Truong judges that the territorial forces are not capable of handling major Communist attacks. Furthermore, the rate of Communist-initiated incidents so far in April has jumped dramatically over previous months. Truong is also deeply concerned over the Communists' ability to lie dormant for long periods and then take rapid action that could, if not checked, have considerable adverse impact on the pacification program in the delta.

* * *

The North Vietnamese party central committee met recently and, according to press treatment, the party's elite gave a ringing endorsement to Hanoi's current war strategy. They also took a tough line on negotiations with the US and by implication excluded negotiations with the South Vietnamese until after Thieu and his government have been set aside through US intervention.

The plenum's public endorsement of the current war strategy suggests that any divisions over this strategy have been suppressed for now. While the press treatment may distort Hanoi's position vis-a-vis the South, it clearly indicates that the war has first place in North Vietnam's priorities. A similar party meeting took place last year, but the assignment at that time of first priority to the war was not publicized until much later. This year's more candid approach is intended to offer underpinning to the offensive now under way.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

US-USSR

Soviet party chief Brezhnev yesterday received Secretary Butz and, according to TASS, had an "informal, businesslike" talk with him. Ambassador Beam also participated in the meeting.

This meeting is an unprecedented gesture of personal good-will toward the US by Brezhnev. Secretary Butz is the first American official to be publicly received by Brezhnev since he replaced Khrushchev as party boss in 1964.

The Soviet leader's decision to receive Secretary Butz was apparently made at the last minute, forcing postponement on short notice of Brezhnev's meeting with a West German official.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CUBA-USSR-GUINEA

Fidel Castro plans to visit Guinea on 3 May,

[redacted] 25X1

The fact that Castro is going to Conakry suggests that there is something to reports that he is going further and plans a visit to the USSR and Eastern Europe before President Nixon's visit to Moscow.

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

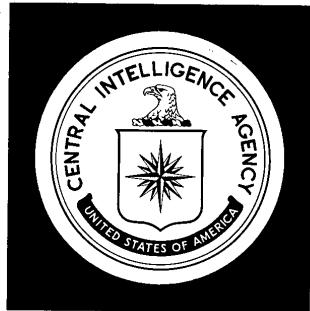
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Chile: President Allende has finally managed to get a military officer into his cabinet, but he made the appointment without consulting with the leaders of his coalition. This independence no doubt will further hurt Allende's relations with fractious leaders of the disparate coalition. On the other hand, the appointment of a military man could bring Allende the additional political support from the armed forces that he desires.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

13 April 1972

25



~~Top Secret~~

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

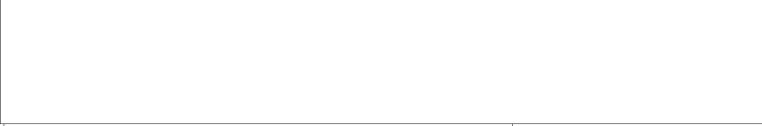
13 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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

Hanoi has called on its allies and friends to do more to help the North Vietnamese war effort; Brezhnev and Chou En-lai have responded. (*Page 2*)

25X1

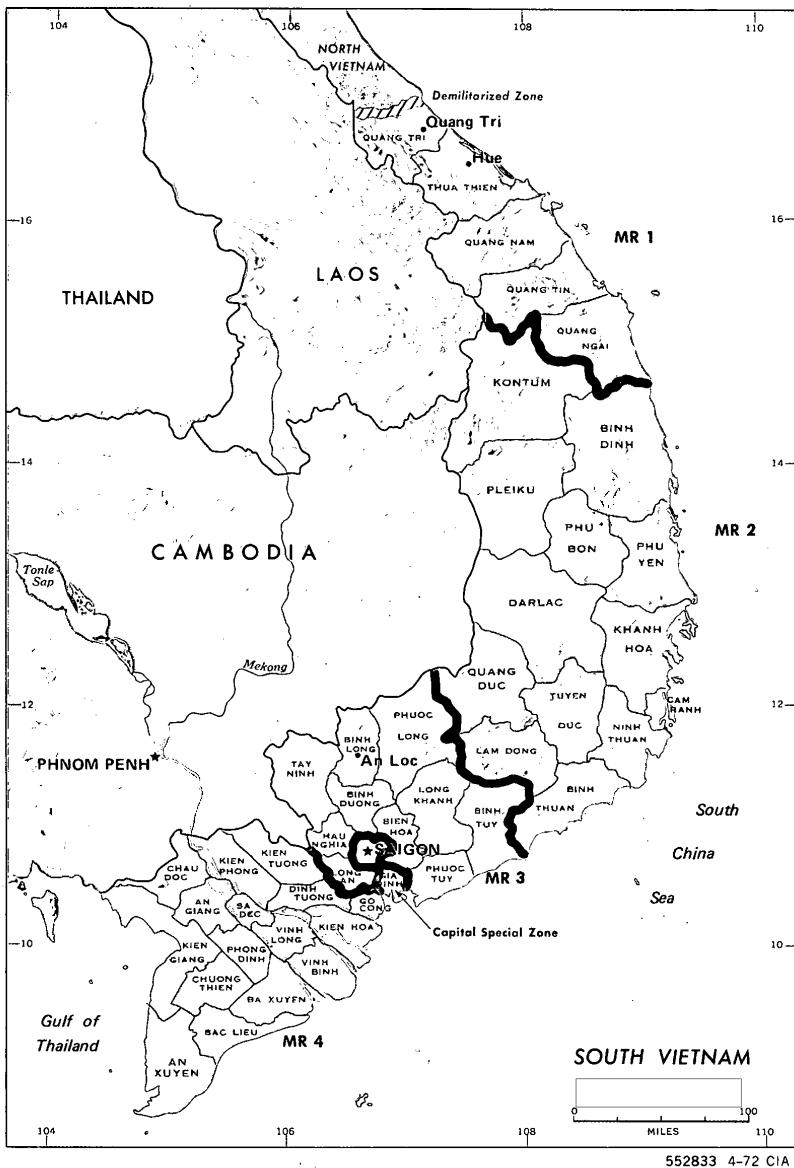


25X1

President Bhutto's draft interim constitution will not satisfy Pakistani opposition leaders. (*Page 5*)

A serious government crisis is brewing in Turkey.
(*Page 6*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The provincial capital of An Loc is under heavy attack. Pilots have seen as many as 25 enemy tanks in the vicinity of the town. Enemy ambushes along Route 13 are keeping some South Vietnamese reinforcements from reaching the town, although others have been airlifted into the defense perimeter. General Minh, commander of Military Region 3, believes that An Loc is the enemy's main objective in the region at this time. Communications intercepts suggest that a second enemy division is involved in the assault.

There is evidence, however, that Viet Cong units may be preparing to go into action deeper within Military Region 3. Cadre in a Communist command west of Saigon, for example, have been instructed to conduct mortar and sapper attacks in and near the capital as well as in nearby Gia Dinh Province.

In the north, intercepts and increasing artillery and infantry probes provide fresh indications that enemy forces are preparing for new attacks near Quang Tri city and Hue. Prisoner claims that there are now two North Vietnamese tank regiments in Quang Tri Province have been supported by visual sightings.

There was a marked upsurge of shellings and ground assaults against outposts in the central highlands yesterday, suggesting that larger assaults in Kontum Province may be imminent.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM - USSR - CHINA

The North Vietnamese have called on allies and friends to do more to help "fight US aggression." The appeal was issued Tuesday in the form of an open government communiqué. Although largely a propaganda tract designed to buttress Hanoi's view of its current offensive, the document also served to elicit responses from the Soviets and the Chinese, who had been somewhat reticent with their verbal support, partly because of their new relations with the US. Yesterday, the senior North Vietnamese diplomats in Moscow and Peking apparently delivered copies of their government's appeal to Brezhnev and Chou En-lai.

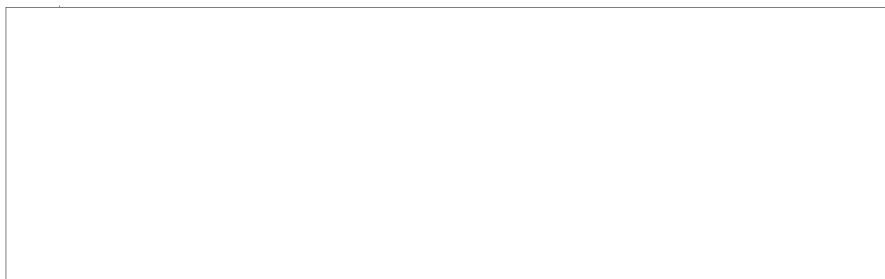
Prior to yesterday, the USSR had yet to respond officially to a similar request for support made by the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry on 6 April. Soviet media had reported the foreign ministry call for support, but only after deleting all of Hanoi's critical references to the US. Brezhnev, nevertheless, responded indirectly on 10 April in a communiqué he signed jointly with East German party chief Honecker that condemned US bombing of North Vietnam.

Moscow's press account of Brezhnev's meeting with the North Vietnamese ambassador failed to mention the latest appeal. According to Soviet domestic radio, Brezhnev "exchanged opinions" with his guest on Soviet - North Vietnamese cooperation. Later in the meeting, he demanded an "immediate end to the bombing," and made the first promise since Hanoi began its offensive of continued Soviet "support and assistance." Brezhnev made no threats, however, and said nothing about the fighting in South Vietnam.

As reported by Peking, Chou's statements to the North Vietnamese chargé d'affaires are the highest level of support China has yet offered for Hanoi's offensive. Chou went beyond the Chinese Foreign Ministry's response to Hanoi's earlier request, and said Peking was closely following the US attack on North Vietnam which constituted a "serious incident... expanding the war." He said China would give Hanoi "all-out support and assistance."

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

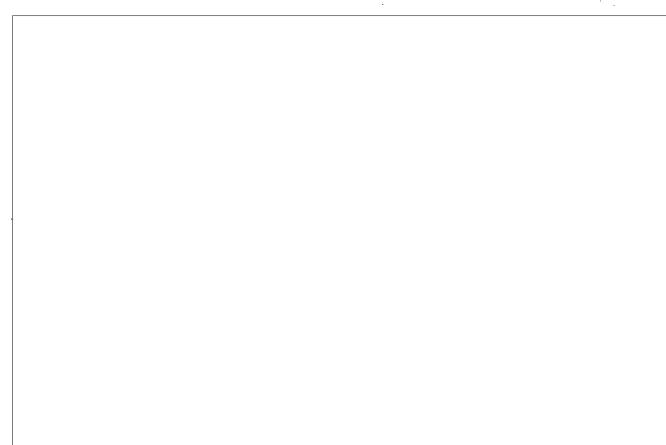
USSR



25X1



25X1



25X1

25X1



25X1

25X1

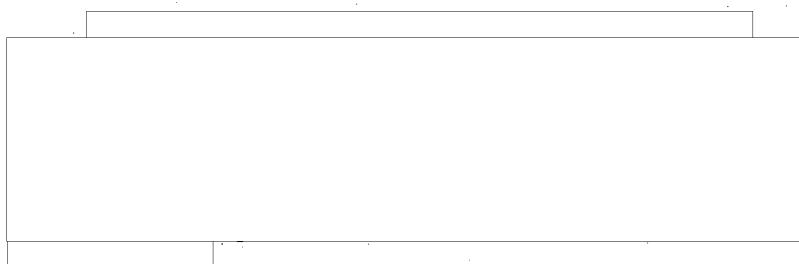


25X1

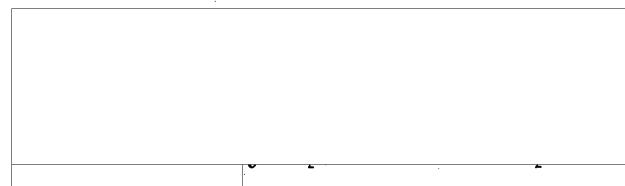
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PAKISTAN-INDIA

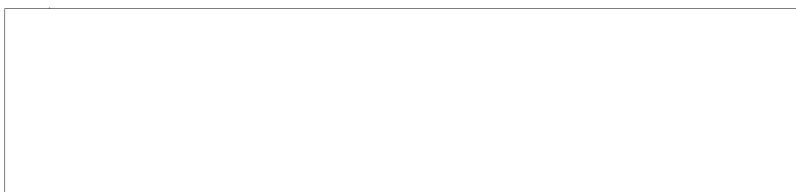
President Bhutto has given party leaders the text of a draft interim constitution that will be presented to the National Assembly when it convenes tomorrow. The constitution would give provincial administrations increased powers, but place the provinces in the hands of presidentially appointed governors. The US Embassy in Islamabad believes that unless Bhutto is willing to compromise and accord some real authority to the opposition forces, the National Awami Party and others may walk out of the National Assembly.

The draft fails to live up to the impression Bhutto had been giving that the provincial governments would have a considerable degree of autonomy. Most strikingly, there is no provision for provincial assemblies to choose chief ministers who would actually run the governments, as is the case in the Indian states.

Bhutto may yet compromise, however. Yesterday he told reporters that provincial power should indeed lie with chief ministers responsible to party majorities. He might also indicate a short duration for the interim constitution--perhaps running only until August when martial law is scheduled to end.

* * *

25X1



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

TURKEY

The Turkish Government appears to be approaching its most serious political crisis in over a year. Prime Minister Erim, increasingly frustrated over continuing leftist terrorism and his inability to push broad social, economic, and political reforms through Parliament, has again tendered his resignation. This time, President Sunay and the military have apparently accepted it.

25X1

Acting through Sunay and the military-dominated National Security Council, Erim had sought from Parliament both temporary authority to rule by executive decree and a temporary halt in partisan political activity. The major political parties, however, unanimously rejected both these requests, even though this raised the possibility that the military would assume direct authority.

There are no obvious candidates to succeed Erim--and he may be asked to serve again--but the search is under way to find a candidate acceptable to the political parties and the military. Unsuccessful in their aim of achieving a workable non-partisan government, military leaders may now accept a coalition government, which they hope would be more successful in working through normal parliamentary procedures.

To compound the problem, the military--traditionally the guardian of the republic and protector of the constitution--appears to be sharply split over how to deal with the current political crisis, and impatience and frustration could result in a military takeover regardless of parliamentary developments.

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Lebanon-Fedayeen-Israel: The number of fedayeen in the Arqub area of southern Lebanon has reached the level which existed just prior to the Israeli raids in late February, [redacted]

[redacted] Because the Lebanese Army has imposed strict controls on guerrilla activity, the fedayeen are planning new tactics for infiltrating into Israel. Even if no raids materialize, the mere presence of large numbers of fedayeen in southern Lebanon might cause the Israelis to strike at the guerrilla concentrations.

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

14 April 1972

46



~~Top Secret~~

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

We report the latest military developments in South Vietnam on *Page 1*.

Moscow has apparently decided to demonstrate more open support for the North Vietnamese. (*Page 2*)

25X1

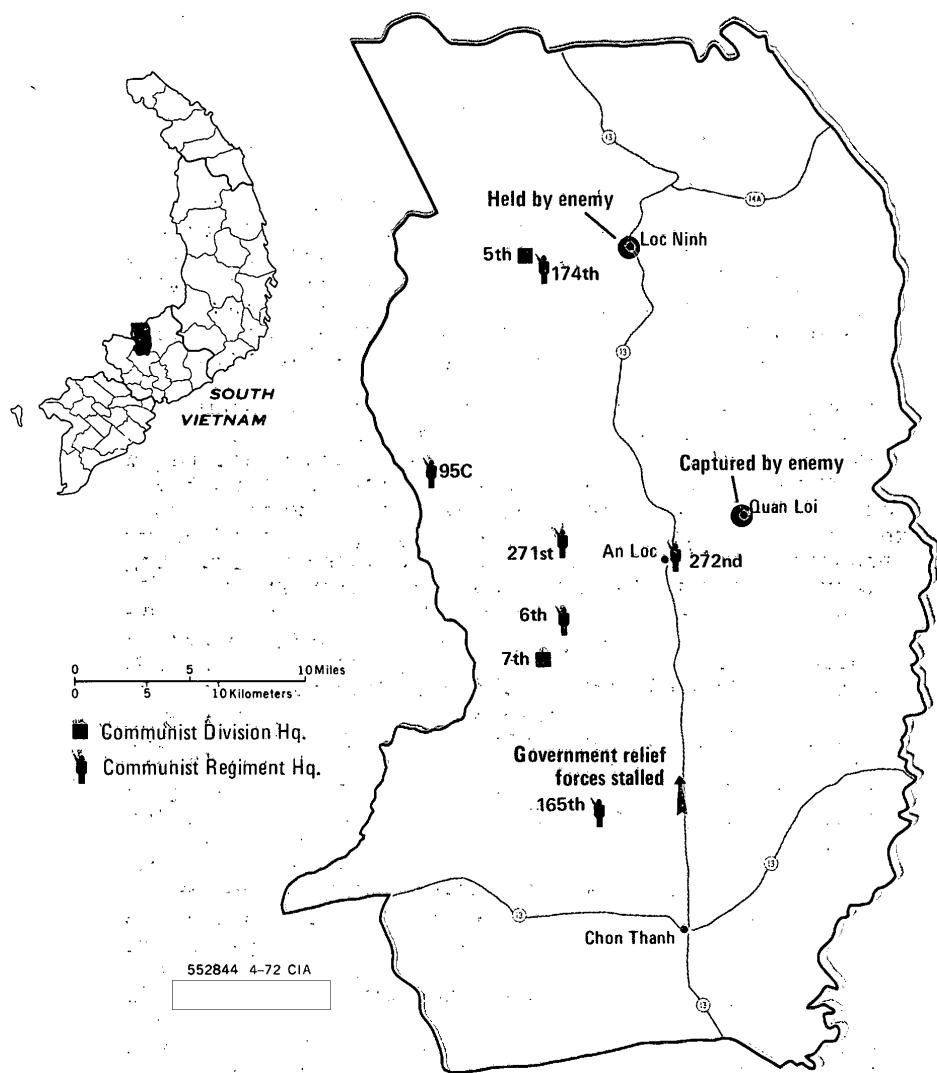
25X1

Sudanese President Numayri faces a threat from pro-Egyptian exiles, including the defense minister he ousted in February. (*Page 4*)

Chancellor Brandt is expressing confidence over the prospects for ratification of the Eastern treaties. (*Page 5*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

BINH LONG



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Heavy allied air strikes appear to have stalled the Communist push at An Loc, but the situation remains critical. Yesterday the Communists occupied most of the northern part of the Binh Long provincial capital. Government troops still hold the southern part, and reinforcements from the South Vietnamese 21st Infantry Division are being flown in by helicopter. A relief force that includes other elements of the 21st is still stalled on Route 13, some ten miles to the south.

Intercepts suggest the Communists are willing to commit virtually all their available main forces in northern MR-3. Two infantry division headquarters and six regiments have been detected in Binh Long, and two other regiments and another division headquarters could also be present. The infantry is being supported by large concentrations of artillery and armor, apparently including T-54 tanks--North Vietnam's heaviest armored weapon.

In the delta province of Kien Tuong, the North Vietnamese 88th Regiment is increasing the pressure on outposts. Clandestine sources indicate that four such outposts have been abandoned, four more are under siege, and many of the Viet Cong units in the delta are under orders to go on the offensive. Elements of the 88th, augmented by a Viet Cong unit, have moved within 12 miles of the provincial capital.

Military Region 1 remains relatively quiet. Allied air and artillery strikes are causing some enemy morale problems, and Communist anti-aircraft units in northern Quang Tri Province are suffering from localized shortages of ammunition. Captured documents and intercepts nevertheless suggest that further attacks are imminent.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-VIETNAM

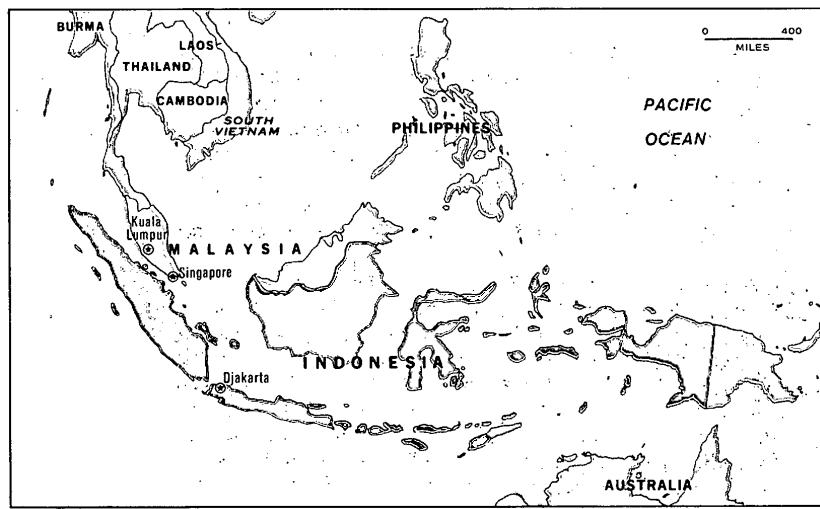
Moscow has apparently decided to demonstrate more open support for the North Vietnamese. TASS has announced that Soviet Defense Minister Grechko received North Vietnamese Ambassador Vo Thuc Dong yesterday to "exchange opinions on questions of Soviet - North Vietnamese cooperation." In talks which are described as having taken place in an atmosphere of "friendship and unanimity," Grechko is said to have conveyed to the Vietnamese Soviet wishes for "new successes in defending the freedom and independence of their motherland." TASS gives no indication that Grechko said anything about the offensive, the intensified US bombing raids over North Vietnam, or Hanoi's recent request for more support.

The publicly announced meeting was highly unusual and the North Vietnamese are undoubtedly pleased. The North Vietnamese probably also welcome Moscow's decision to put its propaganda apparatus into high gear in support of Vietnam. According to Radio Moscow, "massive rallies" were held yesterday in Moscow, Kiev, Minsk, and tens of other Soviet cities to "condemn the current expansion of American aggression in Vietnam" and demand its "immediate cessation.

* * *

The North Vietnamese, for their part, reacted sharply to yesterday's strikes by B-52s and other aircraft on Bai Thuong airfield in the northern part of the North Vietnamese panhandle. According to Hanoi Radio, a Foreign Ministry spokesman charged that the use of the aircraft "to pour bombs and shells wantonly onto populated areas" had proved that "the US aggressors are even more barbarous than the Hitlerite fascists in the past."

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

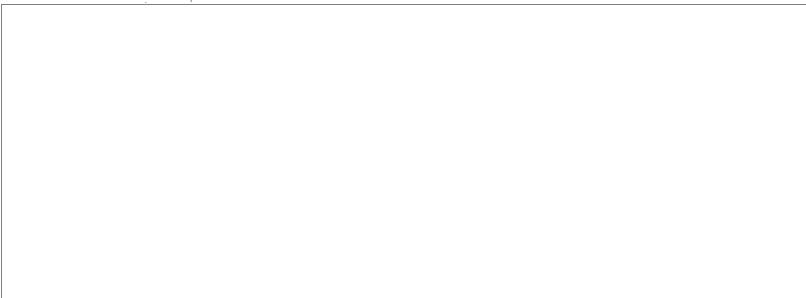


552843 4-72

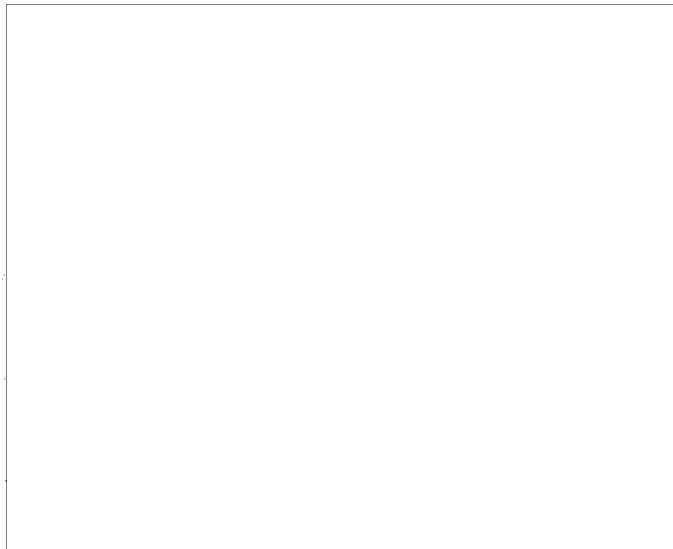
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1



25X1



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SUDAN

President Numayri is making a good start on carrying out last month's agreement to end the 17-year-old southern rebellion, but he still faces a threat from erstwhile domestic allies. Former defense minister Khalid Hassan Abbas, regarded as Egypt's man in Khartoum and once the second most powerful man in the regime, has been cooling his heels in Cairo since his ouster in mid-February.

25X1

25X1

At this point, the danger to Numayri does not seem acute. If, however, Numayri continues to shrug off Egyptian advice and appears to be taking the Sudan too far outside the Arab nationalist mainstream--or should he become more openly anti-Soviet--President Sadat will try to press him back in line.

25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

West Germany: Chancellor Brandt is now expressing confidence that parliament will ratify the Eastern treaties

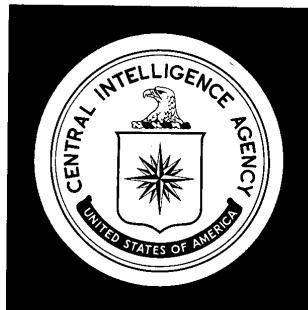
25X1

Following a month-long effort to reassert discipline in the two coalition parties, which have a nominal edge of 250-246 in the lower house, the government believes that only one parliamentarian is still wavering. The favorable public impact of the Easter visits to East Berlin and East Germany, along with other small concessions by Moscow and Pankow, may also have been a factor in reassuring waverers and contributing to the current optimism in Bonn.

Chile: The huge turnout for a peaceful opposition march on Wednesday exceeded the expectations of the four sponsoring political parties. The "democracy march," called to protest government encroachment on individual and economic liberties, drew mostly middle- and upper-class Chileans who strongly applauded former president Eduardo Frei's surprise appearance. The success of the demonstration should reinforce opposition efforts to take advantage of rising dissatisfaction with President Allende's Popular Unity government. Allende's supporters may be hard put to match the size of the crowd, as he has promised, in their own march next week.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

15 April 1972

47



~~Top Secret~~

25x1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

15 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The military situation in South Vietnam is reported on *Page 1*.

Strains within Thailand's top leadership are causing indecision and drift in the government. (*Page 2*)

West German opposition leader Barzel has reaffirmed his opposition to the Eastern treaties following his meeting with Chancellor Brandt. (*Page 3*)

The Soviets have been making more extended naval visits to Cuba since late 1971. (*Page 4*)

25X1

Uruguay's president is using the terrorist killings yesterday to reinforce his request for strong new security legislation. (*Page 5*)

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



552852.4-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communists have renewed their drive against An Loc in Binh Long Province north of Saigon. They have been moving in heavy equipment, and numerous tracked vehicles and trucks have been spotted near the southern end of the city. There was a sharp clash on the southwestern edge of the city yesterday, but government forces are still reported to be holding most of the city. Intense bombing of Communist positions has apparently inflicted heavy casualties and has accounted for a number of enemy tanks destroyed.

The government has succeeded in airlifting more than two battalions into An Loc and is now flying in all of the airborne brigade that has been spearheading the relief column stalled on Route 13. The 21st Division, which makes up the balance of the column, will now remain well to the south of the city where it is now digging in.

The convergence in Binh Long Province of over two Communist divisions, together with the appearance of substantial numbers of enemy tanks, leaves little doubt that the Communists mean to make the fight for An Loc one of the main battles of their current offensive. They apparently are willing to accept a showdown engagement in Binh Long in the hope that they can inflict sufficient punishment on South Vietnamese forces to shake ARVN morale and arouse new misgivings toward the Thieu government.

South Vietnamese commanders in the delta believe that the thinning out of their forces there following the 21st Division's withdrawal to Binh Long has encouraged the Communists to become more aggressive. With the addition of two regiments from Cambodia in the upper delta, heavy attacks are expected in Kien Hoa and Dinh Tuong provinces. Farther south, Communist units staging from the U Minh Forest have overrun 20 of 24 outposts in one district of Chuong Thien Province and there is concern for the provincial capital. On the Cambodian side of the border, the Communists have struck hard at South Vietnamese Rangers and armored troops operating near Kompong Trach. The South Vietnamese have sustained heavy casualties, their artillery has been knocked out, and they have so far been prevented from retreating.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THAILAND

General Praphat, number two man in the government, has been publicly at odds with his superior, Marshal Thanom, over the issue of when a new constitution should be promulgated.

25X1
25X1
25X1

Praphat and Thanom have frequently differed on policy issues during the almost eight years they have ruled Thailand, but now their cordial personal relationship appears to be breaking down. Praphat would like to stall on the new constitution until Thanom's term as supreme military commander expires at the end of September, a delay which would open the way for Praphat's assumption of the top military post.

The infighting at the top has already led to inefficiency and a sense of drift throughout the government. This indecisiveness and the worsening relations between Thanom and Praphat could stir up latent discontent among younger officers who are longing for a greater share of leadership.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

Following his meeting with Chancellor Brandt on Wednesday, opposition leader Barzel put the Christian Democratic Union and the Christian Social Union formally on the record as opposed to ratification of the Eastern treaties. Barzel said that recent Communist concessions and clarifications were not enough. He again urged the government to renegotiate with the Soviets, arguing that additional improvements, particularly affecting freedom of movement between the two Germanies, could be achieved. Barzel claimed that failure to ratify the treaties would not cause the Soviets to block the Four Power Berlin Accord because Moscow wishes thus to open the way for a Conference on European Security. Barzel's statement was unanimously approved by the CDU-CSU parliamentary deputies.



25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Soviet Naval Visits to Cuba

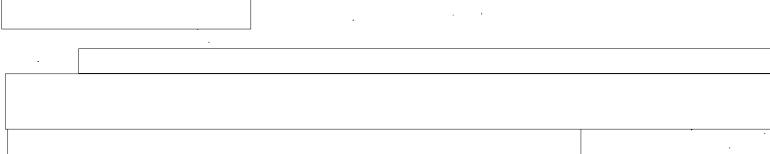
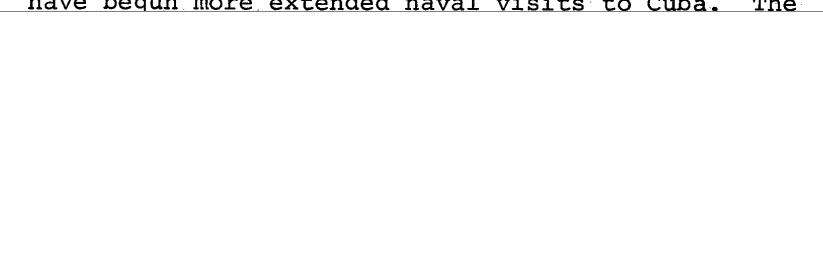
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-CUBA

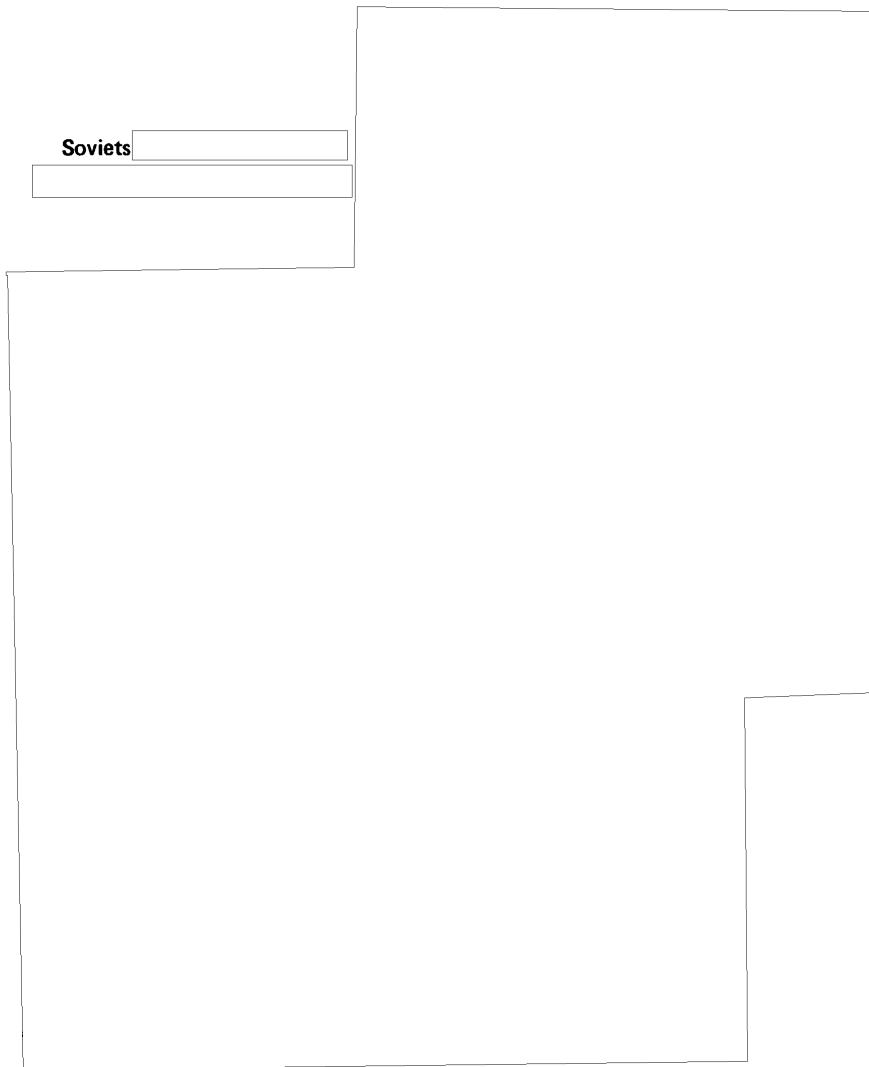
Beginning in late 1971, the Soviets appear to have begun more extended naval visits to Cuba. The

25X1



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1
25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR:

25X11



25X1

Uruguay: President Bordaberry is using the killing of four men by Tupamaro terrorists yesterday to bolster his requests for broad security legislation. Present emergency measures expire on 30 April, and his proposed new law--particularly a provision giving the military wide authority to deal with terrorism--has been encountering considerable congressional opposition. The latest outbreak of violence, which has now led to the death of at least eight Tupamaros and the capture of many more, seems to be eliciting support from some influential military and political quarters for Bordaberry's call for immediate congressional approval of his proposals.

(continued)

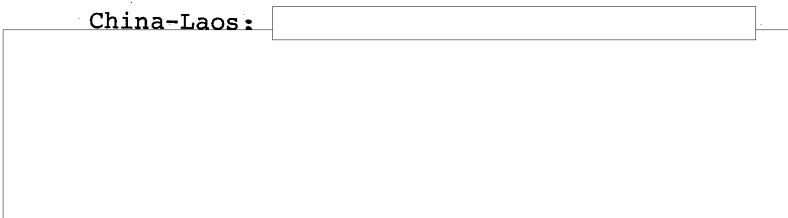
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Chinese 

25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

China-Laos:



25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

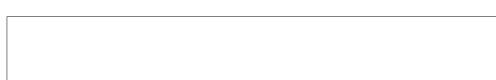
Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

17 April 1972

46



~~Top Secret~~

25x1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Initial Soviet and Chinese reactions to the bombings of Hanoi and Haiphong reflect an apparent desire not to antagonize the US. (Page 1)

In South Vietnam, meanwhile, fighting was heavy over the weekend. (Page 3)

Turkish Prime Minister Erim's resignation may be announced today. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR - CHINA - NORTH VIETNAM

Moscow has given its population only scant news of the US air strikes on Hanoi and Haiphong. Publicly, the Soviets have not acknowledged damage to their ships at Haiphong, even though they announced--without elaboration--that the foreign ministry had protested the bombings to the US Embassy. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kovalev indeed had presented a protest to Ambassador Beam yesterday that focused on the damage done to four Soviet ships at Haiphong. The demarche characterized the raids on Haiphong as a flagrant violation of international law and freedom of shipping. It referred to the "possible dangerous consequences" of the bombing and insisted that the US prevent "similar provocations" in the future.

The protest failed to mention the strikes on Hanoi or anywhere else in North Vietnam. Its concentration on the damage to Soviet ships, its failure to mention any injury to Soviet personnel, and its delivery at the relatively low level of deputy foreign minister indicates the Soviets did not want to overstress the implications of the air strikes on US-Soviet relations.

At roughly the same time Kovalev presented the protest, TASS issued a statement saying that "leading circles" in the USSR are closely following the situation in Vietnam. The TASS release made no mention of damage to Soviet ships and drew no connection between the raids and US-Soviet relations. Maintaining Moscow's recent public reticence about commitments to North Vietnam, the TASS statement merely noted that the USSR does its international duty by giving "necessary aid and support to all patriots of Indochina."

Chinese reaction thus far has been restrained; regular Peking broadcasts have all but ignored the air strikes. Premier Chou En-lai, according to the New China News Agency, met yesterday evening with a representative of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam and condemned "Washington's old track of escalation" but mentioned the bombings only in passing and without suggesting that the raids posed a threat to China or its interests.

Chou's remarks are little more than a compendium of clichés used by the Chinese over the past year to describe the war.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The NCNA account makes no mention of Chinese assistance, of President Nixon, or of the damage to the Soviet ships.

Hanoi's propagandists are trying to capitalize on the air strikes, emphasizing the intensity of the attacks on civilian areas. In an effort to bolster morale, they claimed the downing of 15 US jets, including a B-52. The party and government also issued a joint appeal to the population to intensify the fight yesterday. The document expressed the belief that Hanoi's "friends in the world" would strongly condemn "in time" the US.

This last appears to be yet another call for greater support from the USSR and China. In this connection, the North Vietnamese have been playing up the Soviet aspect of the raids on Haiphong, publicizing the damage to a Soviet ship and claiming that one of its officers had been wounded.

25X1

In Paris yesterday, Xuan Thuy said that the Communists would "reconsider" the question of resuming the talks. His statement is the closest the Vietnamese Communists have ever come to a threat to break off the talks. Late press reports indicate that Xuan Thuy has scheduled a news conference for today.



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Heavy fighting took place along the major battlefronts over the weekend. Government troops lost a fire support base in Kontum that had been under severe pressure for several days, and Tam Quan, a district headquarters in coastal Binh Dinh Province, was overrun. Airlifted reinforcements reached the besieged city of An Loc, however, and helped fend off repeated tank and infantry attacks by the North Vietnamese. At last report, the South Vietnamese held most of the city.

The South Vietnamese 3rd Division, which took substantial losses in Quang Tri Province during the opening days of the offensive, has begun limited counterattacks against the enemy. In the Hue area, however, North Vietnamese forces maintained pressure against South Vietnamese troops at Fire Support Base Bastogne, again preventing resupply of the base. The enemy also carried out rocket and mortar attacks against Da Nang and several other coastal towns and bases as far south as Khanh Hoa Province.

Local Viet Cong forces appear to be playing a more important role in the offensive. Such forces are credited with the destruction of the district capital in Binh Dinh, and they inflicted serious losses on government regional forces in other clashes in that province.

There is continuing evidence that heavy fighting is coming to many areas in the days ahead. On the Quang Tri front, intercepts indicate that the North Vietnamese are having problems getting organized because of allied air and ground operations, but they also appear determined to resume offensive thrusts in the near future. Although enemy pressure against An Loc has eased, prisoners and captured documents show that the North Vietnamese 7th Division has left Cambodia to join the battle. Other enemy units are getting into the battle for Route 13, the main access road to An Loc from the Saigon area. Farther south, two enemy regiments are attempting to move across the border into the Mekong Delta, but have been thwarted thus far by South Vietnamese forces operating in Cambodia.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Turkey: Public announcement of Prime Minister Erim's resignation is likely to come today following the end of President Podgorny's visit. Military leaders' dissatisfaction with the lack of any appreciable reform legislation lies behind Erim's departure.

25X1

[redacted] but they remain reluctant to assume direct control of the government. Within a few days President Sunay will probably name as new prime minister someone who is at least nominally independent. In the meantime [redacted]

25X1

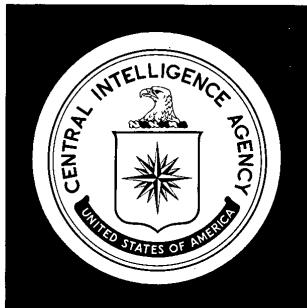
[redacted] Defense Minister Melen will serve on an acting basis.

25X1

Uruguay: Congress granted President Bordaberry's request for the temporary suspension of individual rights and the declaration of a limited "state of internal war" following the killing of four men by Tupamaro terrorists on Friday. Congress restricted the declaration to the zone affected by terrorism--principally the Montevideo area--and limited the duration of the measures to 30 days rather than the 90 requested by the President. The most important emergency measures give the military the main responsibility in the fight against the terrorists and authorize the extended detention of suspects without trial.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

18 April 1972

47



~~Top Secret~~

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted] On
Page 1 we discuss this order and other Soviet re-actions to events in Vietnam. On Page 3 we comment on Xuan Thuy's statement in Paris yesterday linking Hanoi's negotiating stance with the US bombing in North Vietnam. The latest military developments in South Vietnam appear on Page 4.

25X1

25X1

The Chinese are adding a port to their facilities in the Paracels, the southernmost territory under Peking's control. (Page 5)

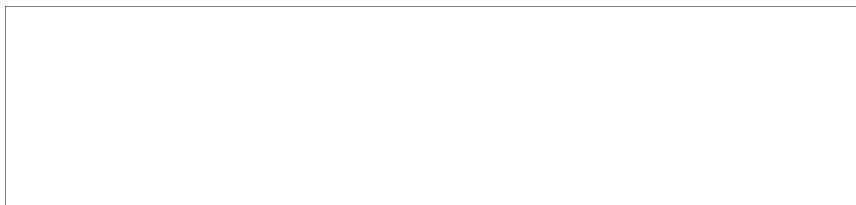
25X1

[Redacted]
The Pakistani National Assembly yesterday approved an interim constitution. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-VIETNAM



25X1



25X1

25X1

25X1

The Soviets yesterday published the full text of their protest note to the US and stated that Soviet ships in Haiphong had been damaged while unloading "civilian cargo." They took note of the casualties among Vietnamese dock workers but said nothing about the injury of a Soviet seaman [redacted].

25X1

25X1

According to TASS, the Soviet party official responsible for Moscow's relations with ruling Communist parties met with the North Vietnamese chargé in Moscow yesterday in an "atmosphere of cordiality, unity, and fraternal friendship."

The presence of the chargé at the talk suggests that North Vietnamese Ambassador Dong may have returned to Hanoi in the last few days. He was last noted in Moscow on 13 April. Most of Hanoi's senior envoys have been in Hanoi since the beginning of this month.

Developments in Indochina had their first direct impact on bilateral US-Soviet relations yesterday when the Soviets canceled the first meeting of the US-Soviet maritime talks in Washington. They specifically cited the "events of yesterday," meaning the

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

US bombing raids on 15-16 April. Soviet delegation chief Averin, expressing regret, told US representatives that neither the scheduled morning meeting of the delegation heads nor the succeeding formal session would take place. He then largely diluted the effect of his message, however, by inviting US officials to meet with him at noon and by proceeding with the talks after lunch.

Averin's apparent embarrassment at having the talks even slightly disrupted, his reluctance to mention Vietnam by name, and the limited nature of the protest itself suggest that the Soviets are anxious to make their display of displeasure as pro forma as possible, at least for the present, in ongoing bilateral relations.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

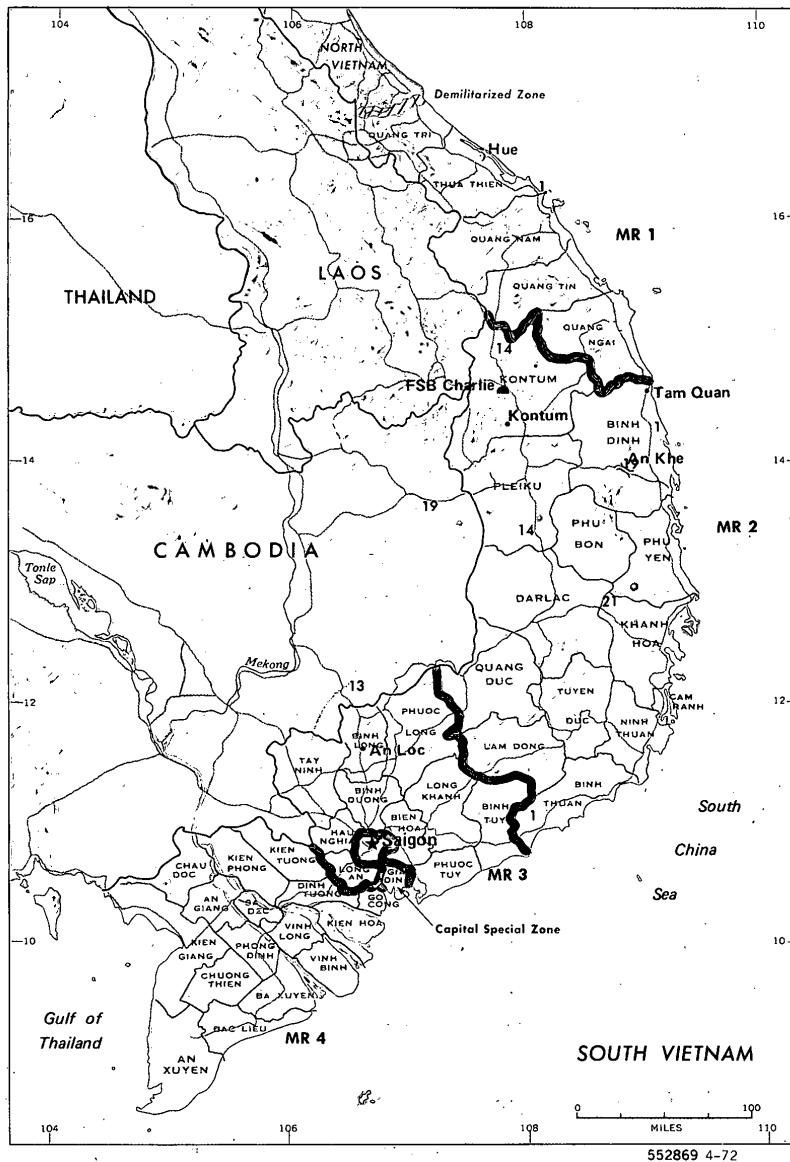
NORTH VIETNAM

Chief negotiator Xuan Thuy told the press yesterday that if the Paris negotiations were resumed "in the usual manner" and if the US stopped bombing North Vietnam, politburo member Le Duc Tho would return to Paris. Thuy also intimated that further secret talks might be possible if these two conditions were met.

Thuy's announcement would seem to signal a more flexible approach to negotiating tactics than has been implicit in Hanoi's recent public line. His statement, however, reveals nothing of the substance of current Communist negotiating demands. He said only that Hanoi continues to support the Viet Cong seven points and the two-point "elaboration" on them last February. But Thuy's ostensible interest in resuming the talks suggests that the Communists hope to create the impression that they have something new in mind.

This move clearly is in part a response to the bombing attacks over the weekend. At yesterday's press conference, Thuy quoted extensively from an emotional North Vietnamese government-party statement that struck a defensive tone in asserting that the bombing will have no long-range effect. The statement also seemed to betray Hanoi's discomfort over the current diplomatic situation, claiming that the US is "using crafty political and diplomatic ploys to cover up its wicked design of aggression." It also repeated the appeal for additional public support which Hanoi directed at the Soviet Union and China on 11 April.

Nothing, however, in either Thuy's remarks or the joint statement indicates that Hanoi is bending under the current strains. The new line may well be designed not only to put maximum public pressure on the US to halt the bombing but to provide ammunition to domestic opponents of Washington's entire Vietnam policy.



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

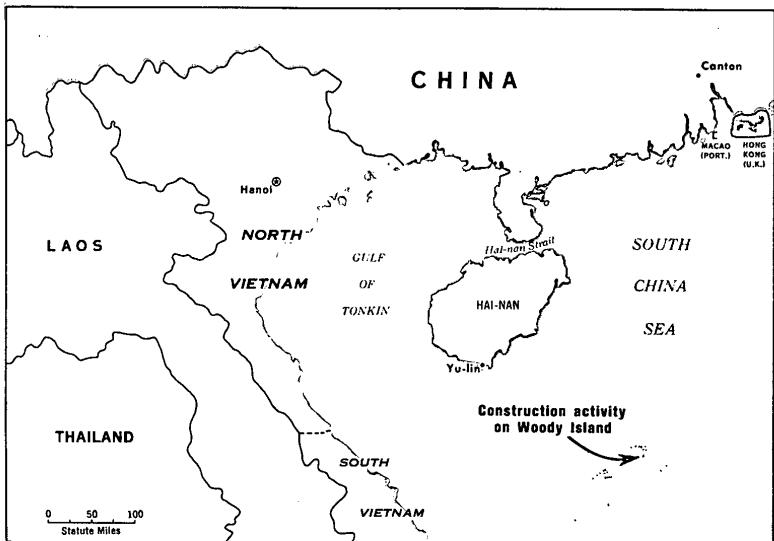
The relative lull in major Communist attacks continues throughout most of the country. Today the Communists increased their shelling of An Loc but they have mounted no new armored or infantry assaults against the town. The enemy buildup nearby and along Route 13 to the south now includes all three regiments of the 7th Division. With two regiments from both the 5th and 9th Divisions as well as one independent regiment there, the Communists now have a total of eight regiments deployed against about five South Vietnamese regiments.

In MR-2, Communist forces are showing new vigor, particularly in interdicting lines of communication. For over a week they have blocked Route 19 connecting the highlands to the coast. Local forces have knocked out bridges, mined roads, and ambushed convoys along Route 1 from Binh Dinh south through Phu Yen to Khanh Hoa Province. Traffic on Route 14 in the central highlands and on Route 21 in southern MR-2 is also being harassed, but so far to a lesser degree.

Enemy forces in MR-2 have scored three noteworthy successes in the past week. Elements of the Communist 320th Division drove government defenders out of Fire Base Charlie north of Kontum city late last week, as reported yesterday in The President's Daily Brief, and local Viet Cong units overran Tam Quan District headquarters in Binh Dinh Province over the weekend. In an engagement on Saturday not previously reported, elements of the Communist 3rd Division forced two battalions of South Vietnamese troops to break and run, although they regrouped a few hours later.

Some government forces are doing well, however. While the South Vietnamese continue to hold An Loc against a large enemy force, yesterday other units attacked the Communists in two engagements ten miles southwest of Hue. They report that they killed 370 of the enemy.

Chinese Continue Construction in Paracel Islands

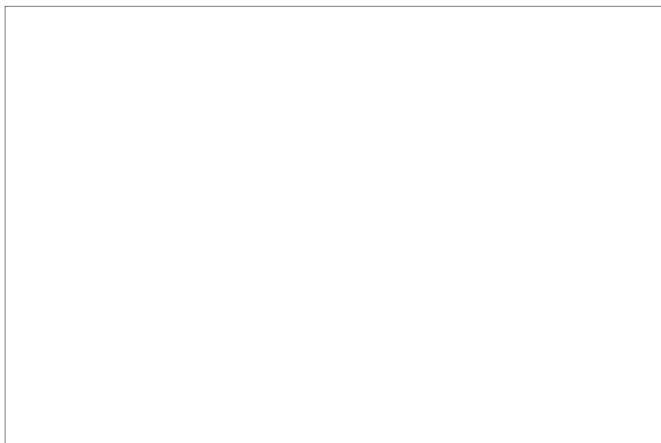


25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHINA

Recent satellite photography shows that the Chinese are adding a port to their facilities at Woody Island in the Paracels. They have completed about one third of a 1,500-foot quay, together with the necessary dredging to bring oceangoing ships alongside. Since last October they have also added more antiaircraft sites, a radar facility, and 12 buildings to the 130 structures previously there.



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR: [Redacted]

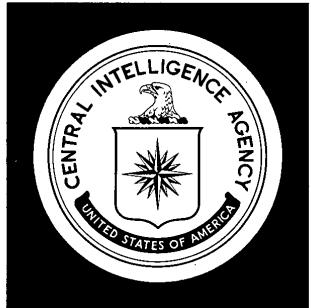
25X1
25X1

25X1

Pakistan: The National Assembly approved an interim constitution yesterday, President Bhutto's prerequisite for lifting martial law this coming Friday. The constitution leans toward a strong central presidency and contains other provisions that will have the effect of maintaining Bhutto in power. The autonomy-minded regional opposition parties abstained, fearing that a vote against the constitution would put them on record as obstructing the lifting of martial law. The intense rivalry between Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and the opposition could complicate the writing of the permanent constitution between now and August 1973.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

19 April 1972

47

~~Top Secret~~

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The ground situation remains relatively quiet throughout most of South Vietnam, while US naval ships operating off North Vietnam are encountering increased harassment. (Page 1)

The Soviets are emphasizing the need for the negotiations in Paris to resume

25X1

(Page 2)

In Laos, North Vietnamese units are continuing to harass irregular positions near Long Tieng

25X1

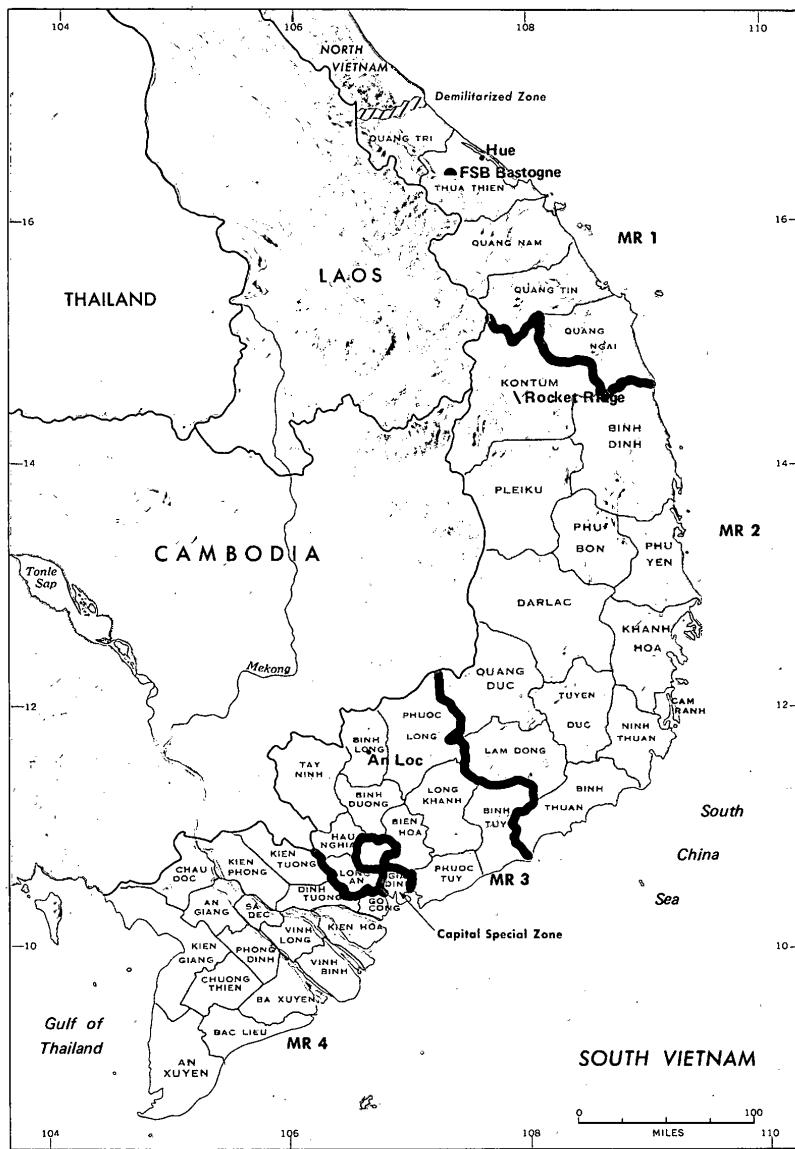
(Page 3)

A Syrian official claims his government is opposed to a friendship treaty with the USSR, but implies that pressure for such a treaty may be hard to resist. (Page 4)

Criticism of President Lanusse appears to have increased within the Argentine air force and navy.

(Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



552881 4-72

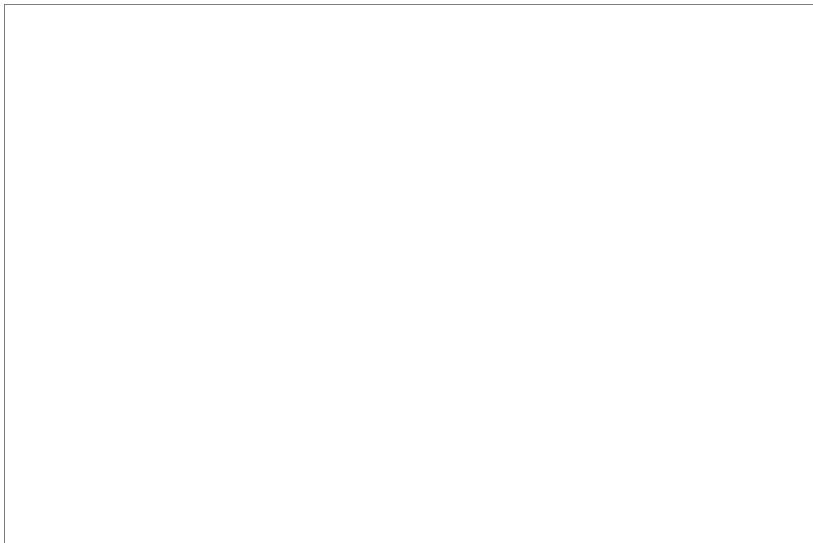
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Communist military activity remains light in nearly all parts of South Vietnam, but enemy forces are continuing to prepare for heavier fighting. In Quang Tri Province, photography supports other evidence that the North Vietnamese have moved additional tanks and artillery into forward positions. In adjacent Thua Thien, intercepts suggest that Communist units, while still keeping pressure on Fire Support Base Bastogne west of Hue, may be marking time until tanks that are currently being held up by fuel shortages can move in from the west. In the central highlands, refitting and resupply activity apparently has drawn one North Vietnamese regiment away from government positions on Rocket Ridge. Farther south, Communist units appear to be repositioning around An Loc, but fighting there and in the delta has stabilized for the time being.

In North Vietnam, Communist shore batteries and gunboats are becoming more aggressive in challenging US ships operating off their coast. Gunfire that hit the US destroyer Buchanan off Vinh earlier this week caused extensive damage and a number of casualties. Another destroyer in the same area has been the target of rocket fire, and on Monday a US destroyer sank a motor torpedo boat that approached it south of Vinh.

* * *



25X1



25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-VIETNAM-US



25X1
25X1

25X1

In fact, recent Soviet press coverage of Vietnam has stressed the necessity for a negotiated settlement. The TASS statement on 17 April that protested the bombings also asserted that the "only path for resolving the problems of Indochina was that of negotiations, without attempts at blackmail and dictation." The Soviets have also carried the New York Times editorial of 16 April which stated that the time had come to resume exploratory talks.

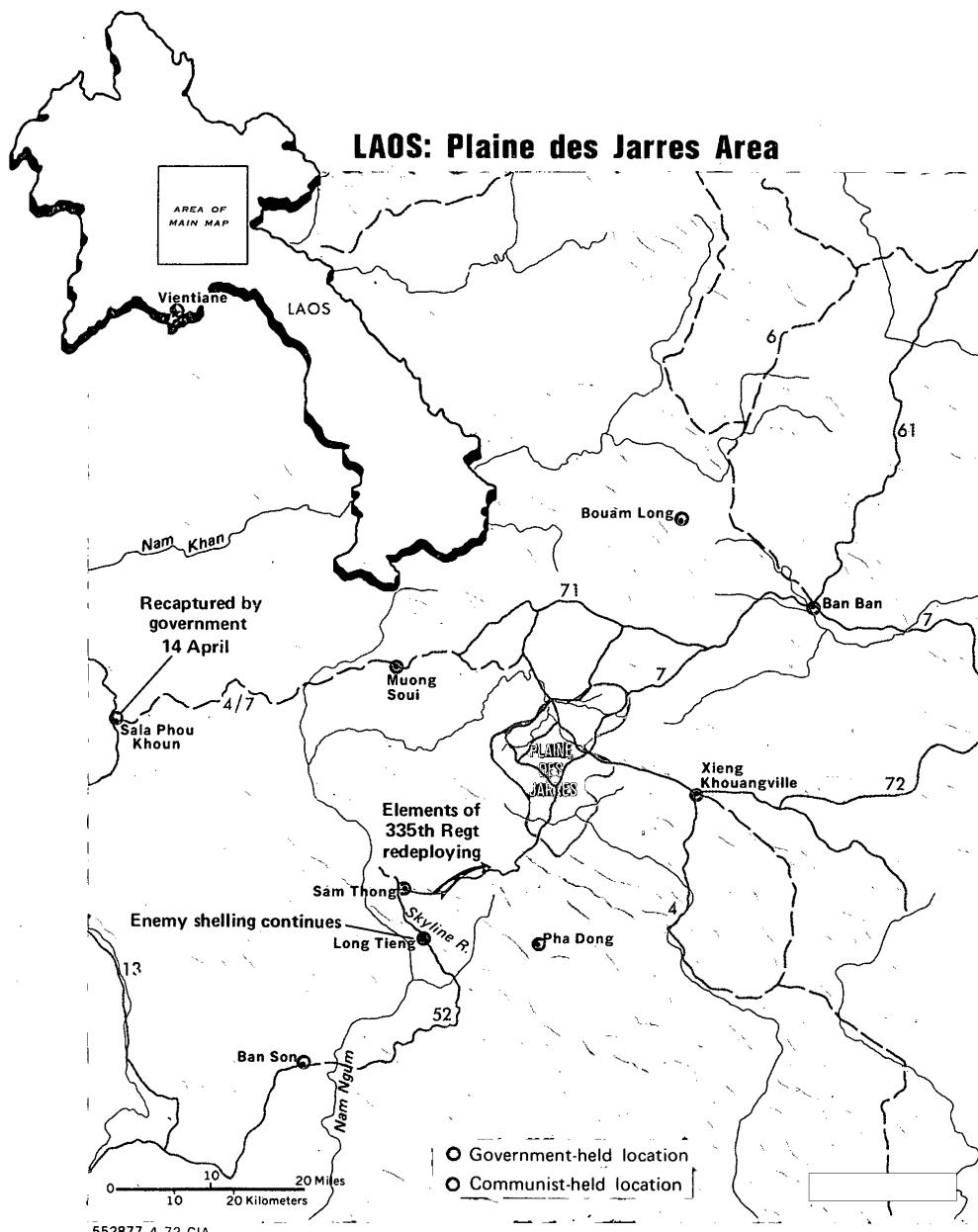
Not since the fall of 1970 have official Soviet statements on Vietnam contained such a forthright endorsement of negotiations.

In contrast to the low-key Soviet coverage of a meeting in Moscow with the North Vietnamese charge

Hanoi's version stressed the USSR's commitment to support the Vietnamese on all fronts. A similar difference was noted between Moscow's and Hanoi's coverage of the meetings the North Vietnamese ambassador had on 13 April with Premier Kosygin and Soviet Defense Minister Grechko.

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

552877 4-72 CIA

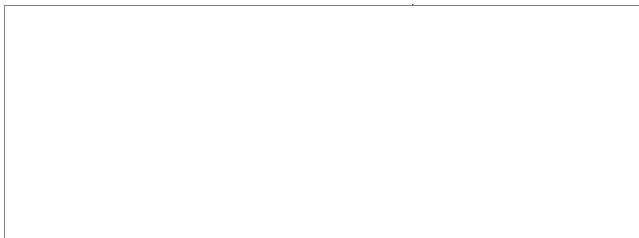
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The North Vietnamese are still harassing government positions on Skyline Ridge and in the Long Tieng valley, and they have thwarted recent government attempts to regain control of the three unoccupied strongpoints on the ridge. They have not, however, launched any major attacks in nearly three weeks, and communications intelligence suggests that they may be starting to pull some of their forces back into wet season defensive positions.

Elements of the 335th Regiment, which participated in the campaign against Long Tieng throughout the dry season, have recently moved back to the high ground southwest of the Plaine des Jarres. Headquarters elements of the 209th and 165th regiments have moved from Skyline Ridge to the Sam Thong area, although this could be only a tactical shift. The North Vietnamese have also pulled some heavy weapons, particularly antiaircraft guns, back to fortified positions on the southern periphery of the Plaine.

25X1



West of the Plaine des Jarres, Lao Army troops are strengthening their hold on Sala Phou Khoun, which they recaptured on 14 April. The Pathet Lao - "Patriotic Neutralist" forces that had previously controlled the town apparently are retreating eastward.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SYRIA-USSR

A Syrian Foreign Ministry official told the Italian diplomat who represents US interests in Damascus that the Syrian Government is opposed in principle to concluding a friendship treaty with Moscow. He claimed, however, that the recent USSR-Iraq agreement had strengthened the position of those within the Syrian Government who favored such a treaty and asked, somewhat cryptically, that the "West" do more to help. He said that the government would prefer to remain nonaligned and is highly critical of the Iraqi treaty on the grounds that it represents a further erosion of "Arab independence."

These statements may be little more than Damascus' way of saying that such a pact is inevitable. They also probably were meant to reassure the US that a friendship treaty with the USSR need not interfere with the currently improved relations between Washington and Damascus.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ARGENTINA

Criticism of President Lanusse [redacted]

25X1

faced [redacted] in both the air force
and navy in recent days. [redacted]

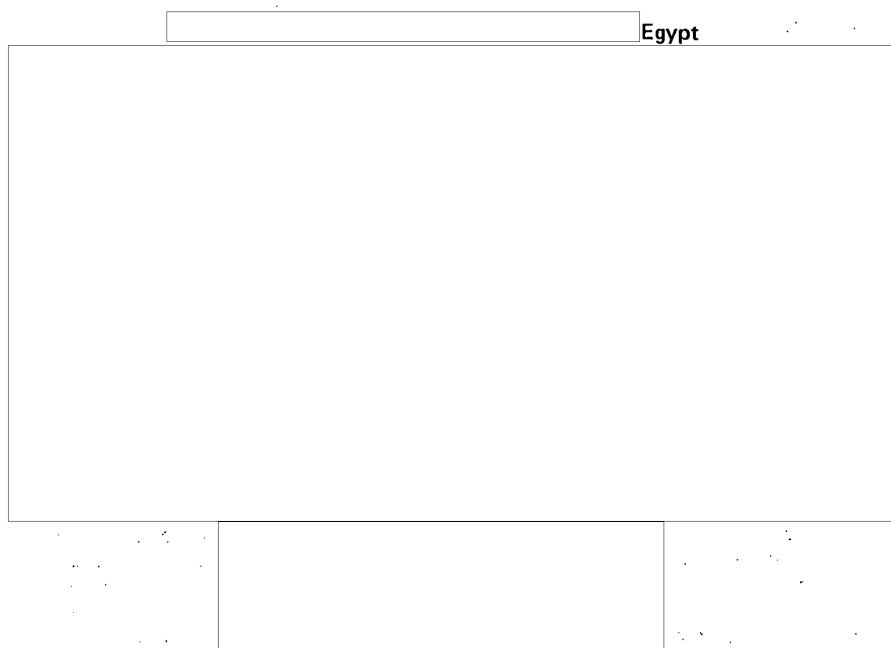
25X1

[redacted]

25X1

The dissension appears to result as much from Lanusse's potential candidacy in the 1973 elections as from the tense security situation. Most of the discontented officers still appear to favor elections, but they fear that Lanusse would do no better in dealing with Argentina's serious economic and social problems as an elected president than he is currently doing as a virtual dictator. Military rumblings are likely to continue, but for now senior army officers appear content to adopt a wait-and-see attitude and malcontents in the navy and air force can do little without army support.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1
25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

India-Pakistan:

[REDACTED] Prime Minister Gandhi has proposed to President Bhutto that preparatory talks begin in Islamabad on 25 April, with a view to a summit meeting in early May. The Indian team is to be headed by D. P. Dhar, chairman of the Policy Planning Commission, and Pakistani negotiators may be announced shortly. In view of Bhutto's receptivity so far, Indian officials seem optimistic over the prospects for a successful meeting and may now be prepared to accept some kind of tacit, rather than explicit, agreement by Bhutto to maintain the status quo in Kashmir.

25X1

USSR-Egypt:

25X1

25X1

Egypt-USSR:

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

20 April 1972

47



Top Secret

25x1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

20 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The North Vietnamese are continuing to harass US ships in the Gulf of Tonkin. In South Vietnam there has been little change on the three major battle-fronts, but the Communists are making gains at local levels in many parts of the country.

(Page 1)

25X1

25X1

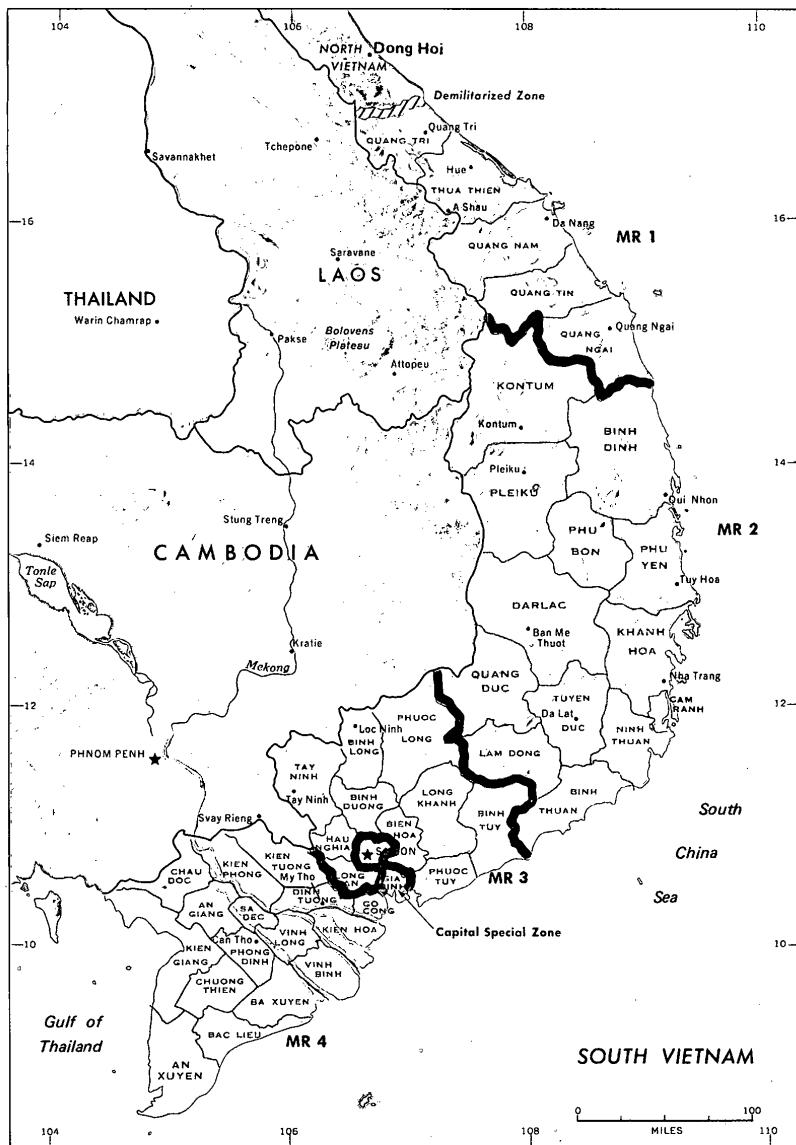
25X1

25X1

25X1

The Council for Economic Mutual Assistance is considering opening an office in Brussels to increase cooperation with the European Communities. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



552887 4-72.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

The North Vietnamese are continuing to harass US naval vessels off the coast of North Vietnam. Yesterday two MIG-17s and several motor torpedo boats attacked four US ships east of Dong Hoi. One of the MIGs bombed the destroyer Higbee, heavily damaging the ship and causing four casualties. One of the other US ships downed a MIG with a surface-to-air missile and also apparently sank two of the motor torpedo boats.

In South Vietnam there has been little change in the situation on any of the three major battle-fronts, but Communist gains at the local level in many parts of the country are becoming more apparent. Small Communist regular units and local forces throughout the country have been moving on vulnerable targets in populated areas, such as government outposts, refugee centers, and district towns. In Quang Ngai Province, although the provincial capital remains quiet, enemy units have made considerable inroads in at least two nearby districts. In neighboring Binh Dinh Province they have captured two district capitals in the past few days. The Communists have had similar successes in various other regions, including many parts of the Mekong Delta. Their efforts have been abetted in many cases by a lack of aggressiveness on the part of Saigon's provincial and militia forces.

Extending Communist influence at the local level and undermining Saigon's control in the countryside seem to be a major part of enemy plans. In many areas the Communists are following up their military efforts with attempts to establish civil administrations in newly seized territory. The North Vietnamese units that are assisting Viet Cong cadre apparently are under orders to treat the local populace well.

* * *



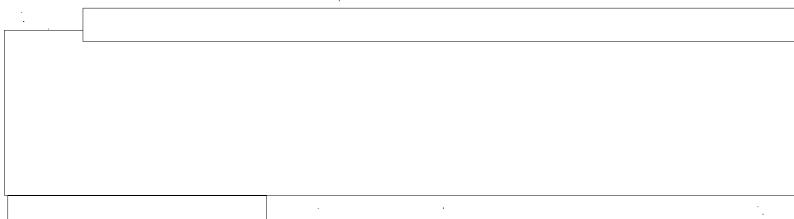
25X1
25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR



25X1
25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN-CHINA



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CEMA-EC

[redacted] the Council for Economic Mutual Assistance has under consideration the establishment of an office in Brussels to cooperate more closely with the European Communities.

25X1

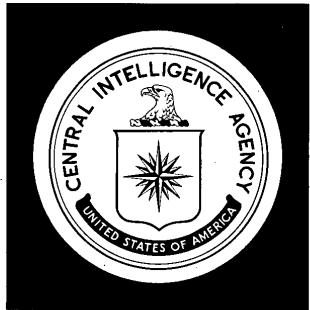
[redacted]
The opening of a CEMA office in Brussels would be a logical step following Brezhnev's public overture on 20 March for relations between CEMA and the Communities. In addition, the channeling of Eastern European ties to the Common Market through CEMA would help the Soviets to keep their partners under control.

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

21 April 1972

25

25X1

~~Top Secret~~

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Satellite photography shows that the Soviets are developing a large new ICBM. (Page 1)

In South Vietnam, critical situations are shaping on several fronts. (Page 2)

Enemy units have taken several towns along Route 1 in Cambodia. (Page 4)

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

The North Vietnamese are maintaining pressure on the USSR and their other allies for stronger public support of Hanoi's war effort. (Page 6)

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

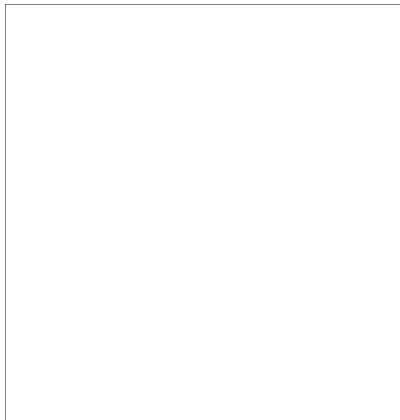
[Redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

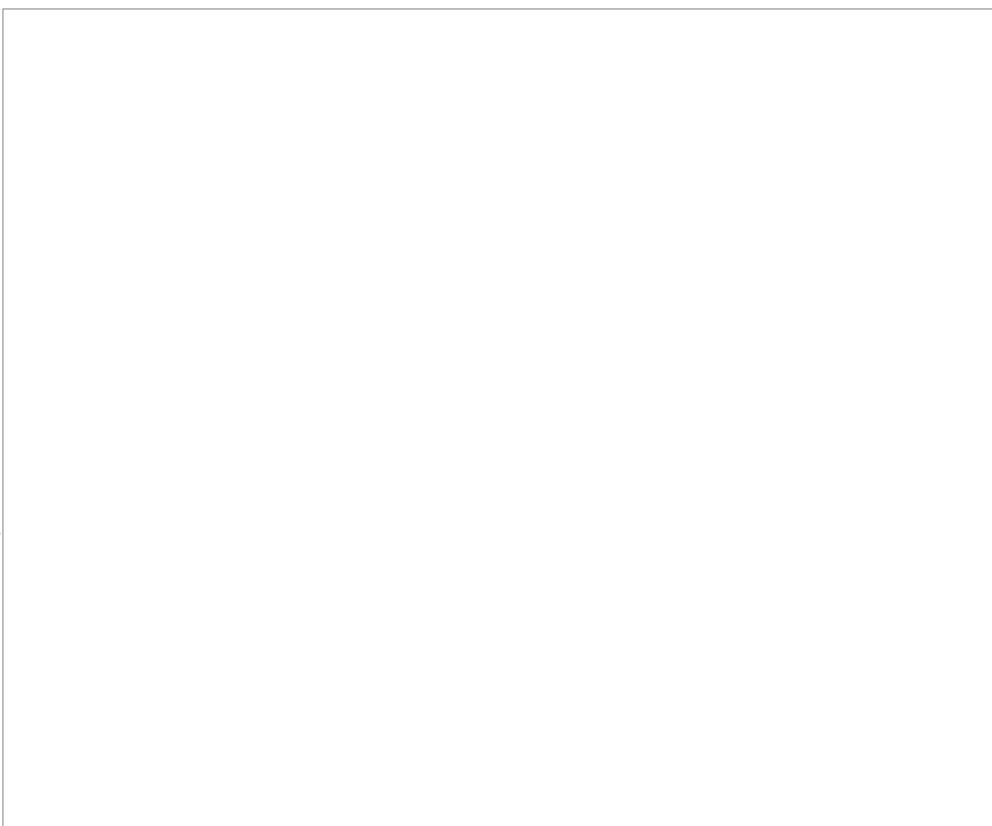
Soviets



25X1



25X1



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

The latest satellite photography of the Tyuratam missile test center indicates that the Soviets are developing a new large ICBM for deployment in the large silos which have been under construction at five of the six SS-9 complexes since the fall of 1970. The new missile appears to be at least as long as the SS-9 and one or two feet larger in diameter.

Two missile bodies on rail cars and a new missile transporter were seen at the support facility serving Launch Complex H--the part of the range used for the initial testing of all four variants of the SS-9 ICBM. On rail cars adjacent to each of the missile bodies is a cylindrical object with about the same diameter. This cylinder could be an additional section of the new ICBM and could extend its length well beyond that of the SS-9.

25X1



25X1



25X1

Near the two launch pads at Complex H there is a considerable amount of debris, including the remnants of a missile body with about the same diameter as those on the rail cars--12 feet.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Critical situations are shaping up on several fronts in South Vietnam.

Following another massive shelling, An Loc was again attacked by tanks and infantry which penetrated the northern part of town on 19 April. The defenders' ammunition and medical supplies are running low, [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

In Saigon, government leaders are becoming concerned about a new threat to the capital. They are evidently worried about the series of enemy attacks along Route 1 in Cambodia's "Parrot's Beak" region, a traditional launching point for enemy moves against Saigon. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

[redacted]

This possibility may be behind the South Vietnamese high command's reluctance to hurry more of the 21st Division to the relief of An Loc.

In the delta, intercepts suggest the Communists will soon try to exploit their recent successes in Chuong Thien Province. There are now three main force regiments controlled by a divisional headquarters in the province, and they have recently moved close to the provincial capital, Vi Thanh. Government forces throughout the delta are on full alert in anticipation of a general increase in enemy attacks.

In the central part of the country, South Korean forces are bogged down in their effort to clear the strategic An Khe Pass into the highlands. The enemy has kept the pass closed for more than a week and food and ammunition shortages in the Kontum-Pleiku area are becoming a significant problem.

[redacted]

25X1

[redacted]

25X1

In Military Region 1, stiff clashes continue west of Quang Tri city and Hue. In the three southernmost provinces of the region, Viet Cong and North Vietnamese units are continuing a damaging guerrilla

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

campaign along the coast. They are striking hard at refugee resettlement centers, provincial towns, roads, and regional defense units. The US consul general in Da Nang has reported that in Quang Ngai Province, following the departure of some regular South Vietnamese units for battlefields farther north, a Viet Cong main force battalion has been moving from one government-sponsored settlement to the next, systematically burning each to the ground.

25X1

[redacted] the Communists are setting up "revolutionary political administrations" in areas that they dominate militarily.

25X1

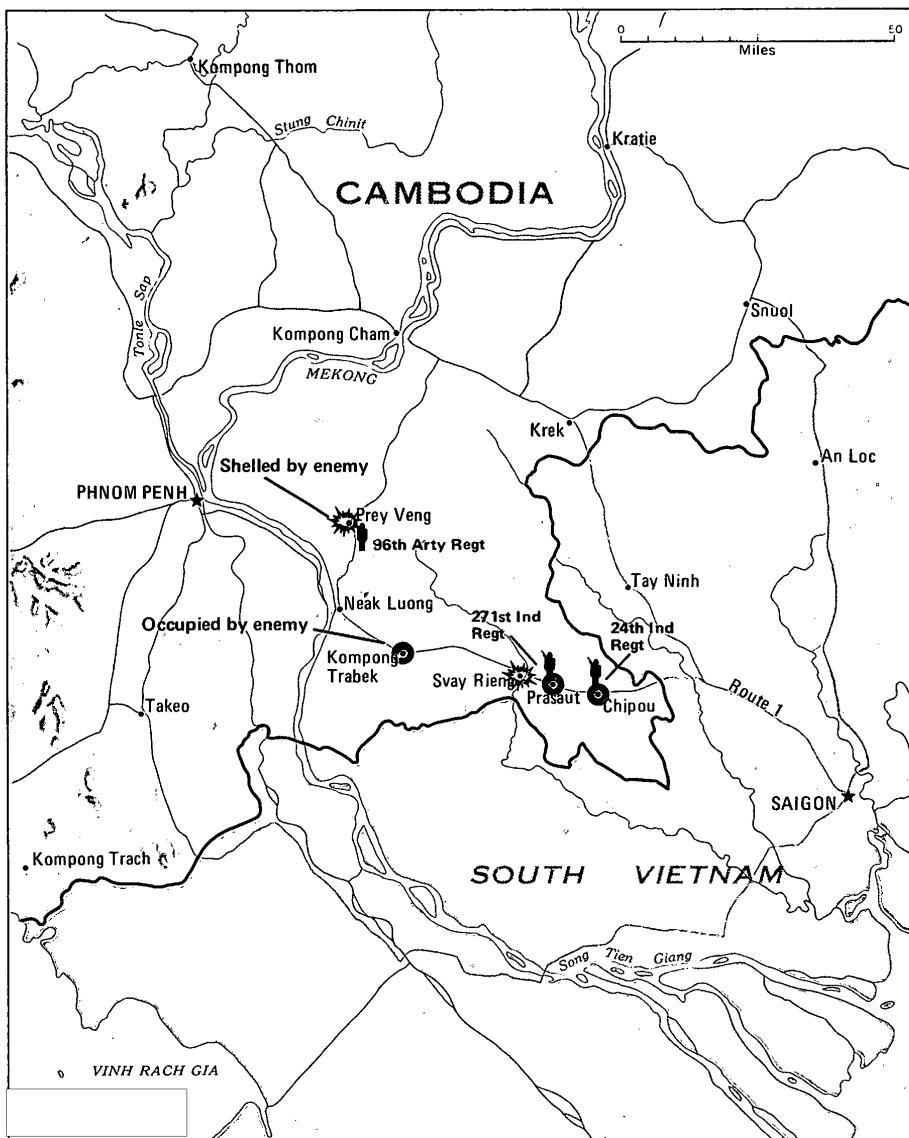
* * *

25X1



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

552894 4-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

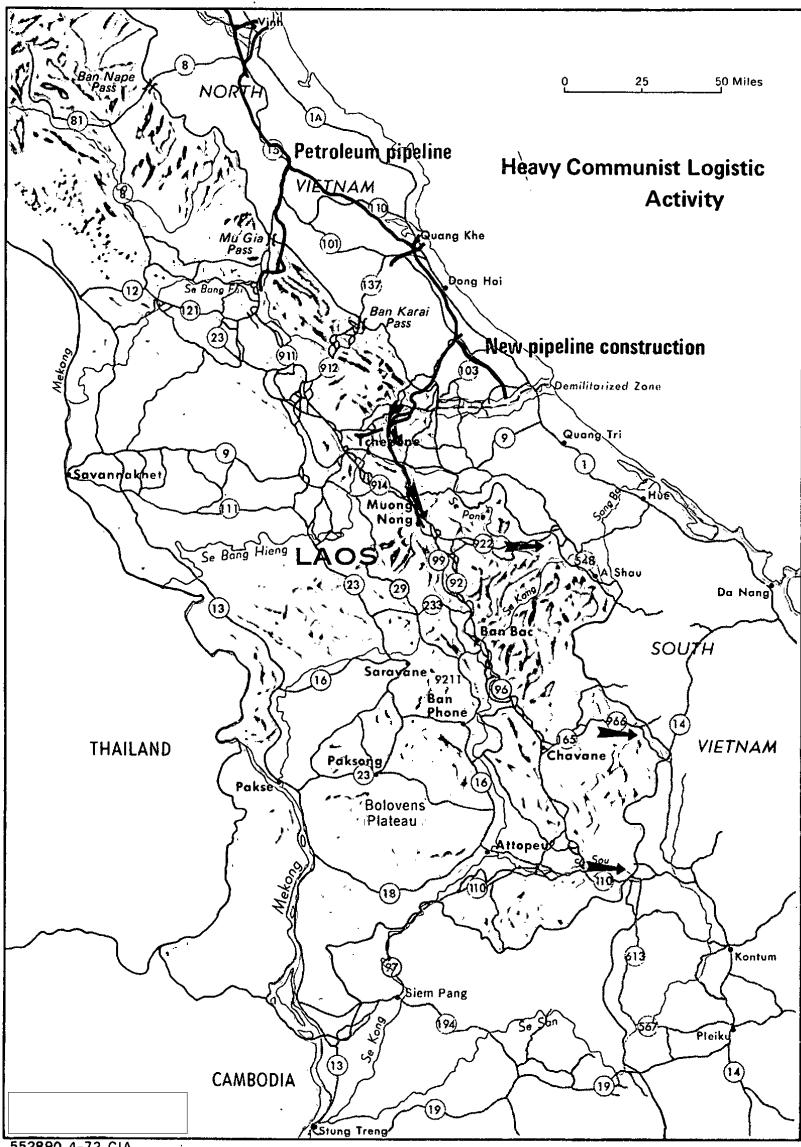
Enemy units have attacked a number of government positions along Route 1 between the Mekong River and the South Vietnamese border, closing the main road between Phnom Penh and Saigon. The enemy has taken the towns of Kompong Trabek, Prasaut, and Chipou. The Communists have also shelled the provincial capitals of Prey Veng and Svay Rieng, but have not followed with ground attacks.

Thus far the Cambodians have done little to reopen the highway. The regional Cambodian commander has claimed that he must have additional troops before a clearing operation can be launched along Route 1. For the moment, he plans only to expand and clear a large zone around the South Vietnamese base at Neak Luong, on the Mekong's east bank.

The Communists may have seized control of the eastern section of Route 1 in order to facilitate the flow of supplies through Cambodia to the South Vietnamese delta area; indeed the two enemy main force regiments involved in these attacks could be passing through Svay Rieng's "Parrot's Beak" region en route to southern South Vietnam.

Almost all of the enemy main force units in Cambodia are concentrated on the South Vietnamese border, and thus are not in a position to open a broader offensive throughout Cambodia, or to threaten Phnom Penh or other population centers west of the Mekong River. Nevertheless, the effect of the attacks on the Cambodian Government will be to heighten its nervousness that the heavy fighting in South Vietnam is now spilling over the border. There will also be some concern that the supply flow to Phnom Penh via Route 1 will be interrupted for a long period, although the Mekong River is the principal pipeline into the capital.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

INDOCHINA



25X1

25X1

25X1

A recent Communist message discussed plans to establish a new storage complex on Route 9 in South Vietnam and to stockpile supplies for use during the rainy season. In addition, aerial photography shows that between 7 and 14 April a pipeline from a petroleum storage area along Route 101 approximately 14 miles south of Dong Hoi has been extended 30 miles to a point just north of the Ben Hai River in the DMZ.



25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM - SOVIET UNION

On 20 April, the North Vietnamese Fatherland Front (a grouping of mass organizations under control of the Communist Party) voiced yet another appeal for more international support, the fourth time since the offensive began that the Vietnamese Communists have formally called on their allies to be more forthcoming. On the same day the party daily published an editorial that emphasized the value of Soviet aid to the current offensive. In discussing the notes exchanged by Moscow and Washington over the bombing of Haiphong last weekend, the editorial quoted approvingly the US assertion that Moscow and other socialist countries must "share the responsibility" with Hanoi for the recent attacks in South Vietnam. It strongly implied that Hanoi continues to expect its comrades in Moscow and elsewhere to render full support to the war effort.

By stressing the "valuable support" from the Soviets, Hanoi is making it as difficult as possible for the USSR to equivocate in its public support of North Vietnam.

The USSR probably resents Hanoi's efforts to extract stronger and more open backing of the current offensive. Moscow must regard the timing of the offensive as most unfortunate and must be concerned that matters of far more import to the USSR--i.e., the Soviet-US summit and its European policy--will be jeopardized.

Indeed, the Turks tell us that during President Podgorny's recent visit to Turkey, Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov professed ignorance about the actual situation on the ground in Indochina but said the USSR could not condone increased US bombing raids over North Vietnam. During the visit, which ended on 17 April, the Soviets stressed that the USSR attaches great importance to the forthcoming meeting with the President and has hopes of making substantial progress in Soviet-US relations.

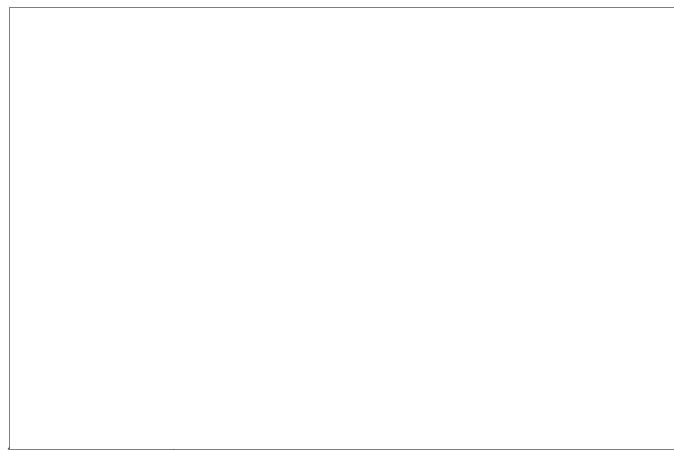
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHINA-US



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1



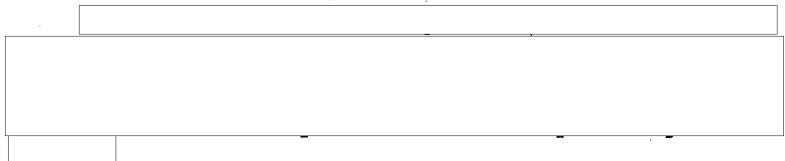
25X1
25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

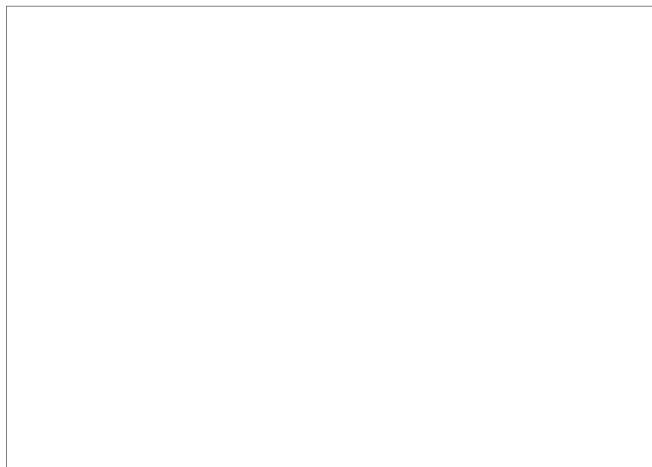


25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

22 April 1972

46

~~Top Secret~~

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

We report the latest military developments in South Vietnam on *Page 1*.

[Redacted]

25X1

25X1

In a Lenin birthday address yesterday a Soviet Politburo member was distinctly cool on Soviet-US relations. (*Page 3*)

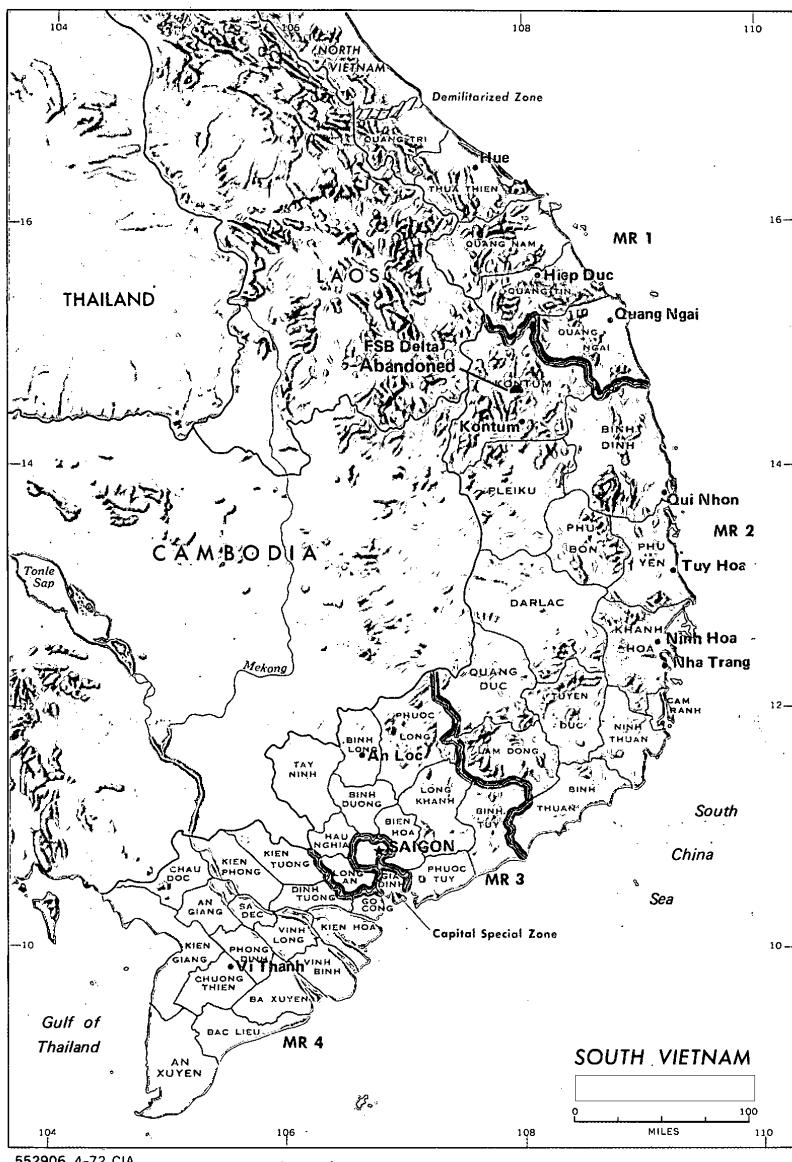
[Redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

552906 4-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

North of Saigon, An Loc remains under siege, and the heavy enemy shellings have become increasingly accurate. Allied air support has been severely hampered by poor weather and has not yet silenced Communist artillery positions. South Vietnamese resupply efforts have also been largely unsuccessful, and evacuation of wounded South Vietnamese troops remains a serious problem. The Communists currently control approximately 20 percent of An Loc.

In the northern portion of the country, the situation at the district town of Hiep Duc in Quang Tin Province remains critical, with the town's defenders withdrawn into the headquarters compound. The provincial capital of Quang Ngai was shelled early yesterday, and the Communists are trying to isolate the city by knocking out bridges along Route 1 south of town and by disrupting traffic to the north.

In MR-2, a tank-led attack forced the South Vietnamese to abandon a fire support base on Rocket Ridge in Kontum Province. There has been considerable movement of Communist units near Kontum city to the southeast, and an attack on the city remains a distinct possibility. Enemy movements near the coast suggest that ground attacks may be planned against the cities of Tuy Hoa, Ninh Hoa, Nha Trang, and Cam Ranh.

Communist mortar attacks and ground probes continue throughout the delta provinces. []
Communist regiments remain near the Chuong Thien

25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM



25X1

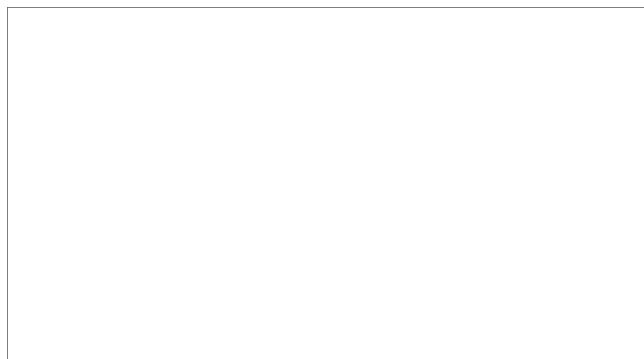
25X1



25X1

25X1

25X1



25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

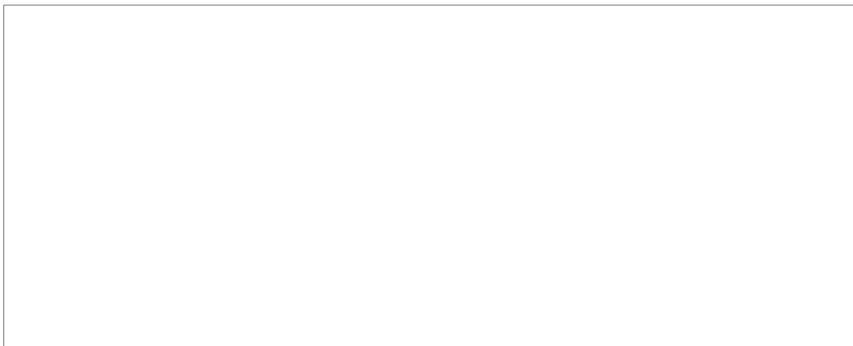
In an address celebrating the anniversary of Lenin's birth yesterday, Soviet politburo member Kulakov promised that the USSR "had been and would be on the side of Vietnam, of all the patriots of Indochina." Speaking in the presence of the Soviet triumvirate, Kulakov did not link Vietnam and Soviet-US relations, but judging from the TASS summary his remarks on bilateral Soviet-US relations were pointedly cool. Kulakov mentioned none of the positive aspects of Soviet-US bilateral ties which party leader Brezhnev had noted in his speech of 20 March.

The contents of the annual Lenin Day speech reflect the collective views of the leadership. Although a slightly more militant line than usual could be expected on this ideological occasion, Kulakov's remarks suggest that the Soviets see a need to be publicly less conciliatory toward the US.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHINA



25X1



25X1
25X1
25X1

25X1

25X1

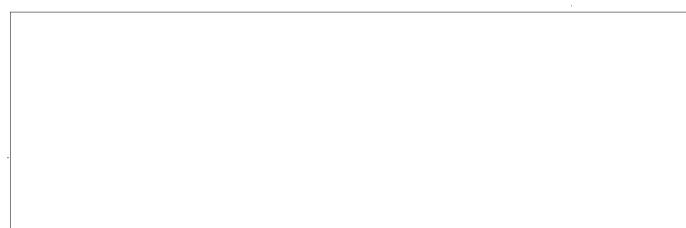
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

BANGLADESH



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Cyprus: President Makarios has agreed to strict UN control of the Czechoslovak arms imported last January, under conditions far tighter than he had accepted last month. Makarios apparently wants the arms issue resolved, even at the cost of accepting terms he considers less than satisfactory, in order to defuse Turkish charges that he is responsible for delaying the resumption of intercommunal talks. Resolving the arms issue also strengthens his hand against Athens' demands that he reshuffle his government and accept Greek direction on Cypriot affairs.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

24 April 1972

46



~~Top Secret~~ 25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, the Communists have eased their pressure against An Loc, but appear to have begun a major drive in the central highlands. (Page 1)

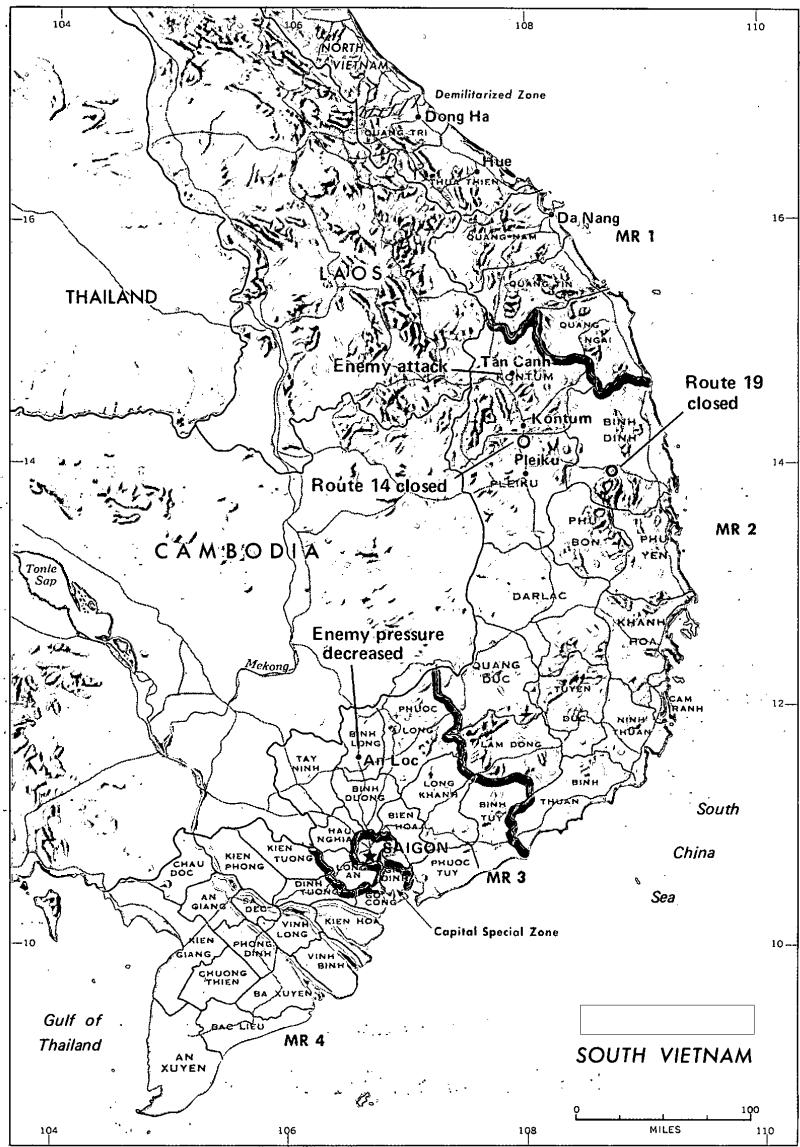
Political developments in West Germany over the weekend have done little to resolve the uncertainty surrounding prospects for ratification of the Eastern treaties. (Page 2)

Bonn has agreed to defer the conclusion of a general traffic agreement with Pankow until after ratification of the Eastern treaties. (Page 3)

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

552913 4-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The situation around An Loc north of Saigon eased somewhat over the weekend despite another round of Communist shellings and ground assaults around the town early on Sunday. Government units recaptured parts of the northern section of the town from the Communists. South Vietnamese helicopters were also able to fly supplies into An Loc on 22 and 23 April and to begin evacuating wounded. Government sweep operations south and east of the Binh Long provincial capital yesterday produced few contacts, strengthening indications that some of the Communist units involved in the recent fighting have pulled back to regroup or have begun shifting into adjacent provinces.

In the central highlands, Communist activity is increasing. On Saturday the Communists in Kontum Province began hitting the forward command post of the South Vietnamese 22nd Division at Tan Canh with heavy artillery and mortar fire. They followed up on Sunday with tank and infantry assaults, and they are now reported to have overrun the position. The Communists also succeeded in cutting Route 14 between Pleiku and Kontum cities, preventing further movement of a South Vietnamese resupply convoy toward Kontum.

Route 19, the primary artery into the highlands from the central coast, has been closed for two weeks, forcing South Vietnamese reinforcements and supplies to travel a long way around, using Route 14. With both roads out, and with a limited South Vietnamese resupply capability by air, the two principal provincial capitals in the highlands may soon start to run short of food and other provisions.

In the far north, the Communists shelled South Vietnamese artillery bases in both Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces yesterday, following up in some instances with ground probes. They also attempted another armor-led thrust into the Dong Ha area. In southern Military Region 1, a Communist rocket attack against Da Nang air base this morning injured at least eight American personnel. Elsewhere along the central coast and in the delta provinces south of Saigon, Communist activity during the weekend consisted mainly of local force attacks on government outposts, refugee centers, and land routes.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

Political developments during the weekend leave the prospects for ratification of the Eastern treaties precarious. In yesterday's state election in Baden-Wuerttemberg, all three major parties equaled or surpassed their goals and no other party won legislative representation. As expected, the opposition Christian Democrats won an absolute majority--53 percent and 65 of the 120 seats. The Social Democrats won 37.5 percent and 45 seats, an improvement on their showing in the 1969 federal election and in the last two state elections. Their coalition partners, the Free Democrats, who would have been satisfied with seven percent, won 8.9 percent and 10 seats.

In the Bundestag, a deputy unexpectedly resigned last night from the Free Democratic Party, leaving Chancellor Brandt's coalition with a bare majority of 249 of the 496 seats.

The deputy presumably will still support the Eastern treaties as an independent, and unless his move triggers a chain reaction, the good Free Democratic showing in the election should guarantee the coalition's slight edge on the treaties.

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

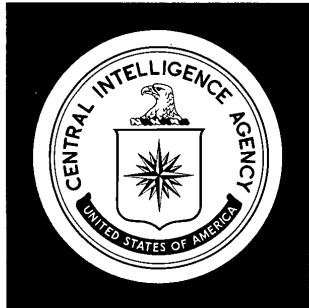
NOTES

West Germany - East Germany: West German negotiator Egon Bahr has told Allied representatives that Bonn has agreed with Pankow not to try to conclude a general traffic agreement until after ratification of the Eastern treaties. According to Bahr, Bonn feels that in the negotiations so far it has achieved its two major political objectives: Pankow has agreed in principle to discuss relations between the two Germanies and to improve inter-German travel. Bahr said that during his talks with East German negotiator Kohl on 19 and 20 April the two remained far apart on the key issue of Berlin travel, but that neither side was prepared to let this issue stand in the way of a treaty. Bahr and Kohl have two days of talks scheduled this week and then will break off until the second week of May.

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

25 April 1972

46



~~Top Secret~~

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communist drive in the central highlands of South Vietnam is reported on *Page 1*.

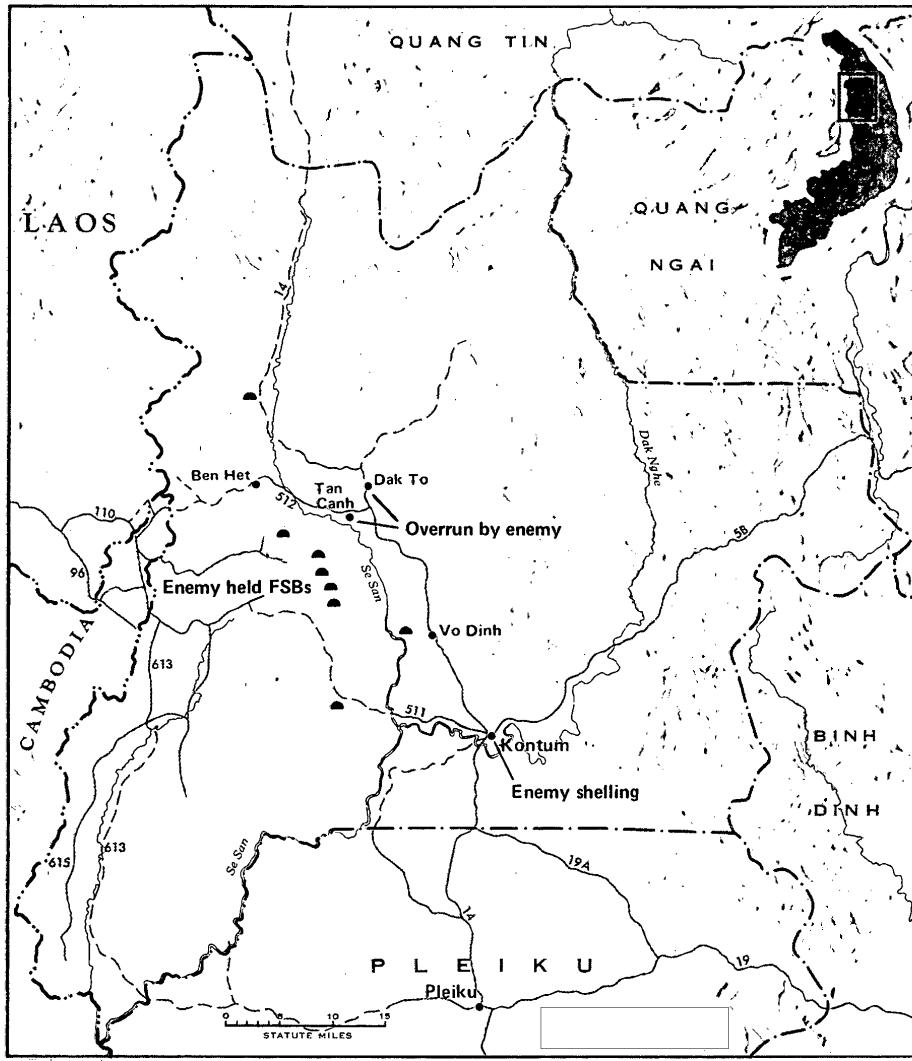
Student unrest has flared up in Cambodia where a draft constitution will be put to a referendum next Sunday. (*Page 2*)

[Redacted box] 25X1

[Redacted box] 25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

KONTUM PROVINCE



552920 4-72 CIA

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communists are maintaining heavy pressure on government forces in Kontum Province. Infantry and tank units yesterday overran government positions at Dak To as well as the command post of the South Vietnamese 22nd Division at Tan Canh. At last report these enemy forces were moving south along Route 14. The attacks scattered most of the division and breached the government's lines north of Kontum city. Enemy gunners shelled the city yesterday.

The South Vietnamese 23rd Division, which normally operates farther south in MR-2, has assumed control of government operations in Kontum Province. Several Ranger and airborne battalions are manning fallback positions south of Dak To. All remaining artillery support bases on Rocket Ridge have been abandoned and are now held by the North Vietnamese.

According to delayed reports, the Communists ambushed a large South Vietnamese convoy on Route 21 in the southern part of MR-2. This is the alternate route that has been used to resupply the highland provinces of Kontum and Pleiku since Route 19, the primary supply line, was blocked two weeks ago. Closure of Route 21 would effectively halt the overland movement of men and materiel to the highlands.

Meanwhile, the military situation in the provinces near the Demilitarized Zone and in the An Loc region north of Saigon remains relatively unchanged. No enemy ground attacks took place against An Loc yesterday, and clearing weather there late in the day permitted the allies to increase air strikes in support of a new effort by the South Vietnamese 21st Division to move north toward An Loc along Route 13.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Student unrest has flared up in Phnom Penh following an attempt by the government to muzzle criticism of the draft constitution that will be put to a referendum next Sunday. A small number of armed students have occupied part of the law school at Phnom Penh and refused to allow military police in to arrest an activist leader.

Student criticism will have very little effect on the vote on the constitution, which is likely to be endorsed by a majority. The recrudescence of student opposition, however, is politically embarrassing to President Lon Nol, whose decisions to produce a new constitution and to schedule presidential and legislative elections were substantially influenced by a desire to keep the students neutralized. Lon Nol does not seem inclined to get tough with the students in the present standoff. Should he cancel the arrest order, the students will have won another victory, and they will probably be more assertive in the future.

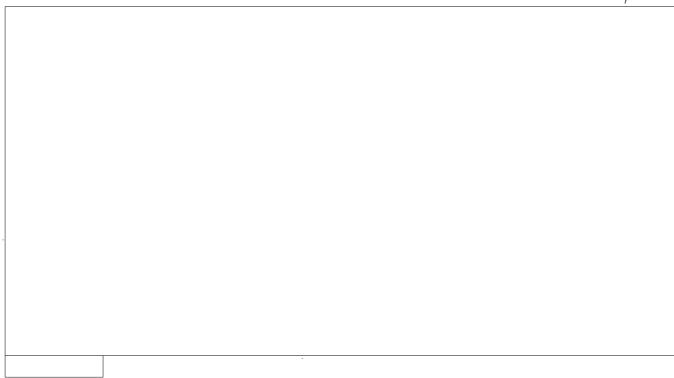
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

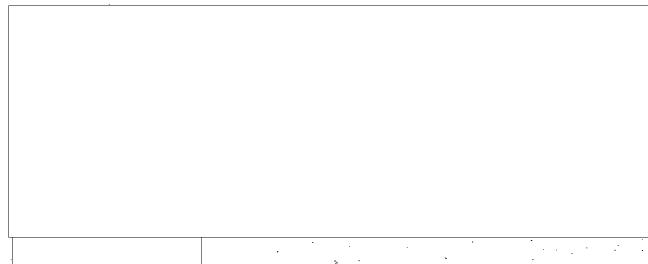
WEST GERMANY



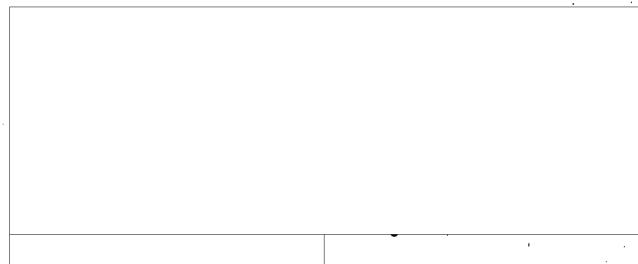
25X1
25X1



25X1



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Soviets

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR



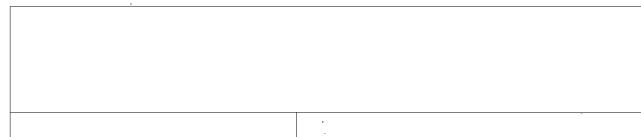
25X1
25X1

25X1

25X1



25X1



25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

26 April 1972

25

~~Top Secret~~

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

We report the latest military developments in Vietnam on *Page 1*.

In Laos, the North Vietnamese evidently intend to keep units southwest of the Plaine des Jarres to forestall the government's customary rainy season offensive. (*Page 2*)

President Sadat has been confronted with pointed questions reflecting public concern over the degree of Soviet support for Egypt. (*Page 3*)

25X1

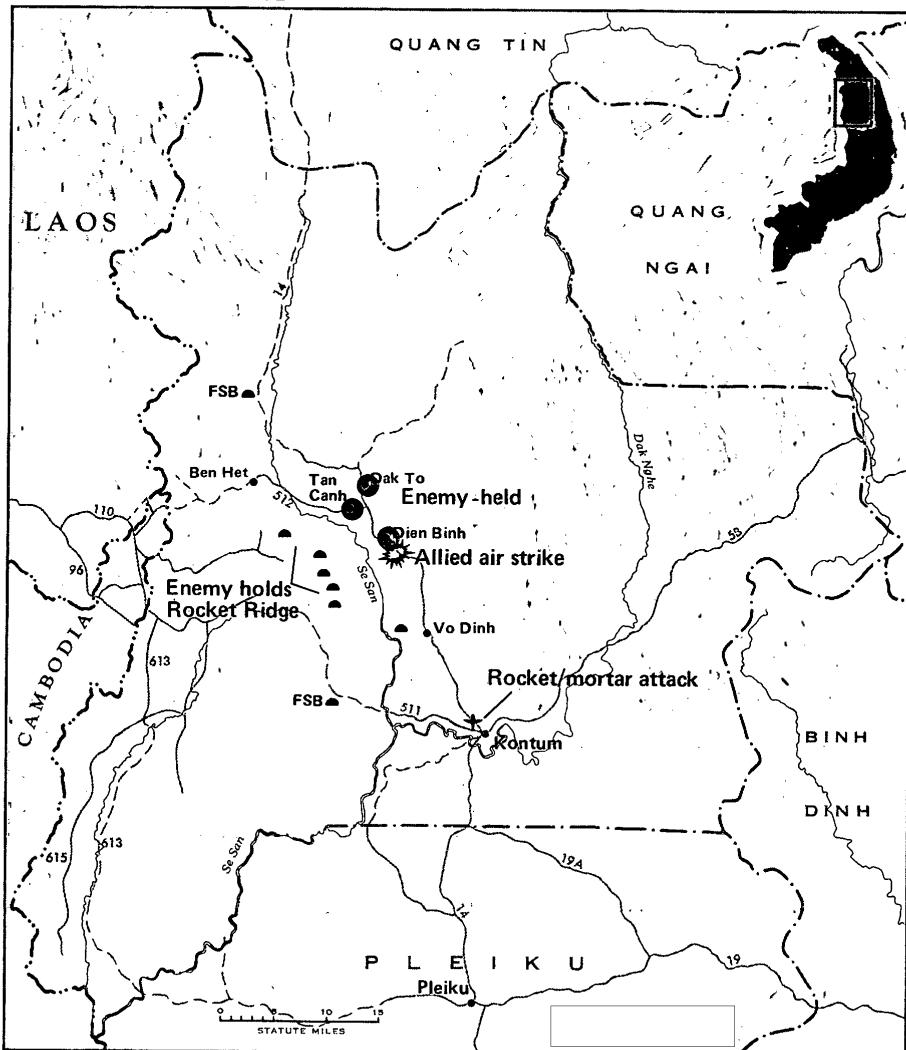
25X1

The Soviets are sending their first warships to Ceylon in three years in an effort to improve relations and counter Chinese and US influence. (*Page 5*)

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

KONTUM PROVINCE



552925 4-72 CIA

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

North Vietnamese forces continue to advance towards the capital of Kontum Province. Yesterday, enemy units moved down Route 14 as far as Dien Binh, but destruction of a key river bridge there by allied air strikes may have slowed their southward push. The Communists are also consolidating their positions in the Dak To area and are moving heavy artillery atop Rocket Ridge. Kontum city and the nearby airfield have been struck by rocket and mortar fire. Many of the refugees who have been streaming into the city are now heading south towards Pleiku. Remnants of the South Vietnamese 22nd Division continue to arrive at government-held positions [redacted]. [redacted] suggests that about half of those formerly in the Dak To - Tan Canh area may be regrouped into a fighting force.

25X1

25X1

In the northern provinces there are numerous signs of enemy preparations for further attacks. In the south, the situation at An Loc remains stable and the South Vietnamese have taken advantage of a decrease in enemy shellings to reinforce and resupply by air the troops still holding on to the provincial capital. Although enemy action remains fairly high in the delta provinces, no significant gains have been made by either side in the past several days.

25X1

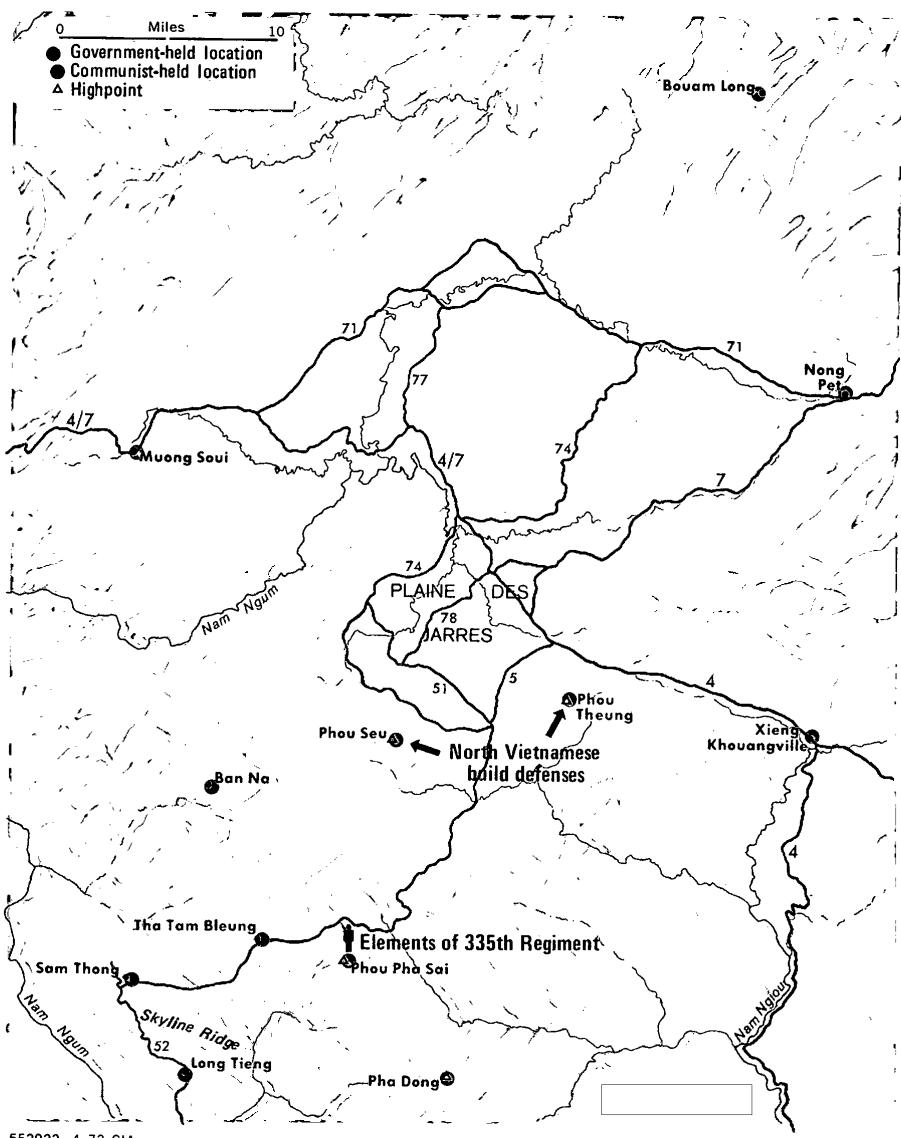
* * *



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Intercepts indicate the North Vietnamese are preparing to forestall the government's customary rainy season effort to regain lost territory and intend to keep units in the area southwest of the Plaine des Jarres. Elements of the 148th Regiment of the 316th Division are maintaining their positions on Skyline Ridge close to Long Tieng and could launch renewed local attacks at any time. The 335th Regiment, which recently moved to the Phou Pha Sai area, has been told to hold the "central line throughout the rainy season." Troops are to build bunkers and send out patrols "to discover enemy reconnaissance teams who may come to survey our area for their offensive later on." Other messages indicate that Communist artillery units are digging in along the periphery of the Plaine des Jarres.

Recent communications suggest that the 312th Division, which has been active in Laos since the beginning of the dry season offensive, is about to move. No units of the 312th have yet been detected leaving the Long Tieng - Sam Thong area, however.

The 312th presumably is returning to North Vietnam to rest and refit. Until it was introduced into north Laos in late 1969, the 312th Division had a garrison and training mission in the Hanoi area. Before its return to northern Laos last fall, it was stationed near Vinh.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT-USSR

During recent meetings with various Egyptian groups, President Sadat has been confronted with pointed questions reflecting public concern over the degree of Soviet support for Egypt. He has been asked to what extent Moscow is committed to supplying weapons to counter the delivery of US aircraft to Israel, and whether the Soviets in fact refused to supply Egypt with MIG-23s or their equivalent. Other queries reflected concern that Cairo was too closely aligned with Moscow and raised the possibility of obtaining offensive weapons from countries other than the Soviet Union.

For the most part, Sadat attempted to reassure his audience that Moscow was continuing to supply Egypt with needed military equipment. He added a frank description of the Egyptian-Soviet military relationship when he stated that he was willing to accept assistance from both the East and the West, but that if only the Soviet Union is willing to help, "I cannot say no." Sadat denied that there was any Soviet pressure for the establishment of military bases in Egypt, and repeatedly declared that he would not grant that privilege to anybody.

The public concern over this issue is not likely to force Sadat to alter the relationship between the two countries. It could, in fact, give him a further argument for future arms requests from the Soviet Union.

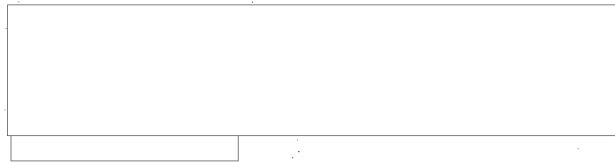
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY



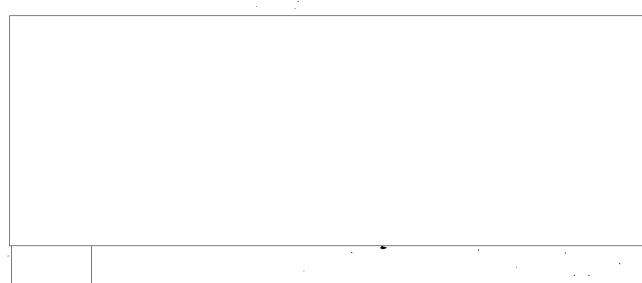
25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1

25X1



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CEYLON-USSR-CHINA

Two Soviet destroyers are scheduled to visit Ceylon for six days beginning on 28 April--the first such visit by Soviet naval combatants to Ceylon in three years.

25X1

In addition, Chargé Peterson reports that the Ceylonese have agreed to a high-level Soviet visit to take place no earlier than July.

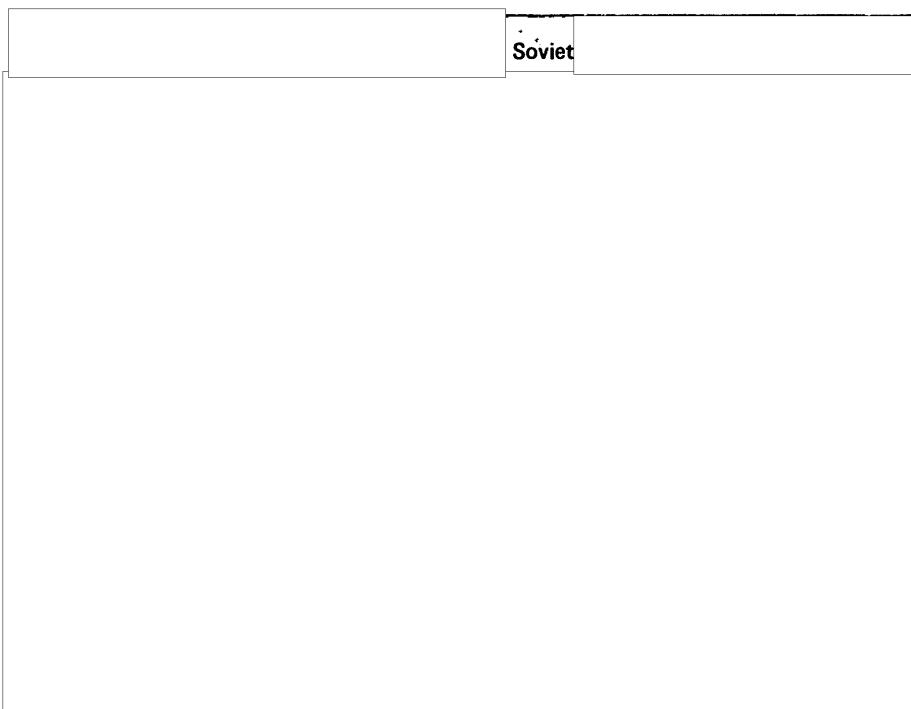
Soviet-Ceylonese relations have been under some strain during the past year, largely because of Ceylon's apparently unfounded suspicions that Moscow had something to do with the island-wide insurrection that wracked Ceylon a year ago. Moreover, Prime Minister Bandaranaike's party has been bickering lately with its Moscow-oriented Communist coalition partners. The Soviets may hope that a show of friendship will reduce the possibility that Colombo's irritation at the local Communists could encompass Moscow as well.

The Soviets may also want to test Ceylonese "nonalignment" in the wake of recent visits to Ceylon by US naval ships and Admiral McCain and to counter recent Chinese activity. Peking's recent moves include a \$1.5-million interest-free credit for purchasing ships to take part in a new joint shipping service between the two countries.

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR-Cuba:

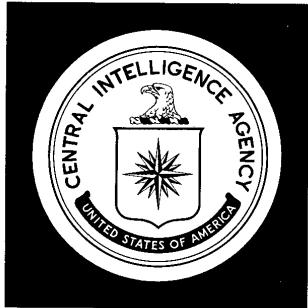
25X1X1

25X1

Thailand-China: General Praphat, the deputy chairman of the ruling military council, has told Ambassador Unger that Bangkok regards the prospective trip of a Thai sports team to Peking as a trial balloon. If it materializes, the trip would be an important step in Thailand's guarded effort to establish contacts with Peking in the wake of developments in US-Chinese relations. The Thai, however, remain suspicious of Chinese intentions, particularly with regard to support of Thai insurgents, and probably will continue for some time to ban private trade and other contacts with China.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

27 April 1972

7

25X1

Top Secret

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

The North Vietnamese are holding out the prospect of renewed secret talks and the return of politburo member Le Duc Tho to the Paris negotiations.

[REDACTED] 25X1

(Page 2)

Heavy fighting has broken out around Quang Tri City, and there are numerous signs that the North Vietnamese are preparing for new attacks on the other two major battlefronts. (Page 3)

Party chief Brezhnev has addressed a conclave of Soviet military leaders. (Page 4)

[REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY



25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

The North Vietnamese have responded publicly to the US decision to resume regular negotiating sessions in Paris by holding out the prospect of renewed secret talks. Press accounts state that chief Hanoi negotiator Xuan Thuy told the French foreign minister yesterday it was "highly possible" that Hanoi politburo member Le Duc Tho would come to Paris in the next few days, and that this could open the way for private negotiations. In making the announcement, Thuy apparently made no reference to the conditions he previously set for renewal of the secret sessions.

Hanoi's domestic news media have reported that the regular sessions will resume, but so far have avoided any reference to the possibility of Tho's returning. An editorial in the party's daily newspaper on 26 April claimed that setbacks on the battlefield and mounting public pressure had forced the US back to the negotiating table. Radio Hanoi went to some length to assure its domestic audience that North Vietnam had given up none of its basic demands to get the talks started again.

* * *

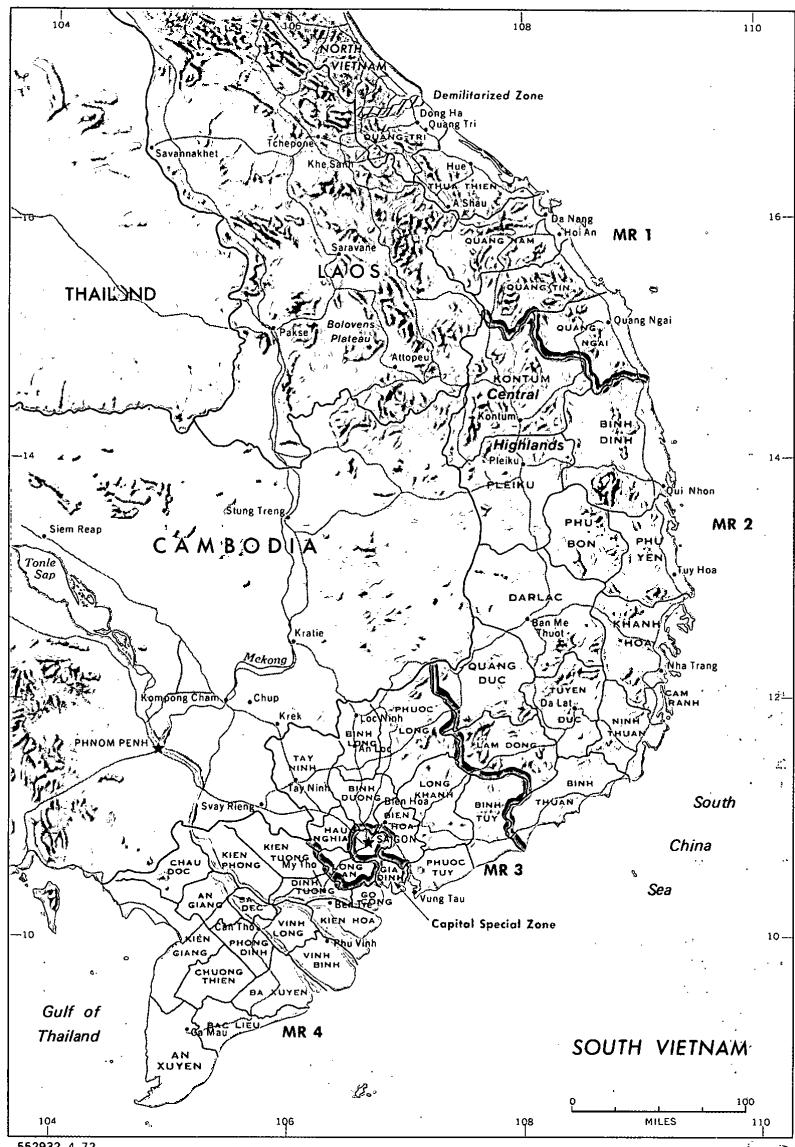
25X1



25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



552932 4-72

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Heavy fighting has broken out around Quang Tri City with fresh Communist artillery and ground assaults against South Vietnamese units in the city. In addition, there are numerous signs that the North Vietnamese are getting ready for new attacks on the other two major battlefronts. Intercepted communications reflect continuing enemy preparations for heavier fighting in both Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces. North Vietnamese advances have been slowed in Kontum Province north of the provincial capital, but Communist forces appear to be regrouping for a fresh round of attacks. The enemy has resumed heavy shellings of An Loc and apparently is concentrating large numbers of troops and armored vehicles to the north for a new push against the city.

An Khe Pass in Binh Dinh Province was cleared of enemy forces on 26 April by South Korean units, thereby reopening Route 19, the principal resupply route into the highland provinces of Kontum and Pleiku. The road had been closed for two weeks.

Smaller Viet Cong units are continuing to exact a heavy toll in the countryside. The Communists now control large sections of the eastern lowlands in the southern three provinces of Military Region 1, and local South Vietnamese officials are convinced that nothing short of a major military effort will succeed in restoring government authority to these formerly pacified areas. Viet Cong units are driving refugees away from hamlets and resettlement camps formerly controlled by the government and are attacking bridges and fortified compounds along many sections of Route 1, which runs along the coast.

In Chuong Thien Province, in the Mekong Delta, Vietnamese military officials admit that the Communists now have established almost complete control over all of the major communications routes there, largely without using their main force units.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

Party chief Brezhnev addressed a conclave in Moscow of Soviet military leaders gathered from across the country for a meeting last Monday and Tuesday. According to a domestic news broadcast, Brezhnev gave a "profound and thorough analysis" of the USSR's domestic and international situation, particularly as it affects the Soviet army and navy.

Brezhnev's purpose in addressing the meeting, which in other respects appeared to be routine, may have been to brief military leaders on defense-related issues to be discussed at the summit. Our records indicate it has been five years since Brezhnev addressed such a meeting. That was in April 1967, three days after the death of Marshal Malinovsky, when decisions were being made about the appointment of a new defense minister.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Soviet Naval Visits to Cuba

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1969							20-27 7 days					
1970					14-29 15 days				9-26 17 days		7-27 20 days	
1971		10-28 18 days			25-4 10 days					31-		
1972	-20		5-									

552927 4-72 CIA

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR-Cuba:25X1
25X1

25X1

Fedayeen:25X1
25X1

25X1

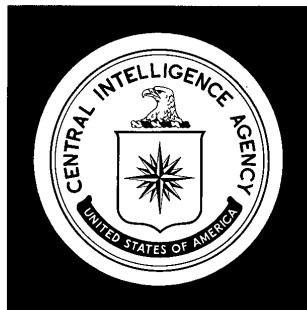
Chile: Communist Party leaders' irritation with President Allende, while hardly new, has recently reached serious proportions

The Communists resent Allende's failure to consult the UP before he appointed an army general to the cabinet, although they approve the general's qualifications. They are galled by the President's persistent overtures to the extremist Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) to join the coalition at the same time that the MIR is challenging coalition candidates and policies. The party is also impatient with Allende's delay in pushing the program for nationalization of industry, particularly because Communist strategy for extending the coalition's power puts primary stress on control of the economy.

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

28 April 1972

49



Top Secret

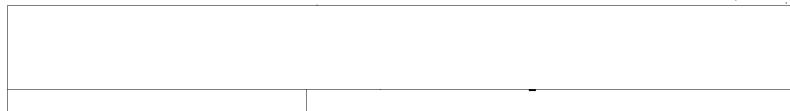
25x1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



25X1

25X1

In the Vietnam fighting, North Vietnamese infantry units have forced government defenders to withdraw from Dong Ha and the Cua Viet River defense line.
(Page 2)



25X1

The North Vietnamese are disappointed with the results of their recent trade mission to Japan, in particular their failure to secure credits. *(Page 5)*



25X1

25X1

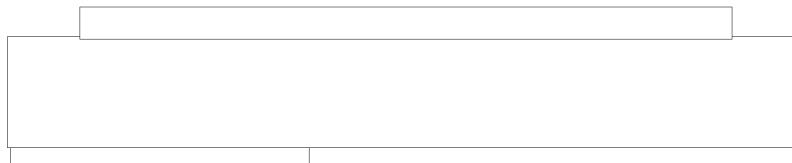
Despite West German Chancellor Brandt's success in defeating an opposition no-confidence motion, the outcome of next week's Bundestag vote on the Eastern treaties remains in doubt. *(Page 7)*

Student unrest in Cambodia has led to bloodshed and may force the government to accept demands for direct talks. *(Page 8)*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

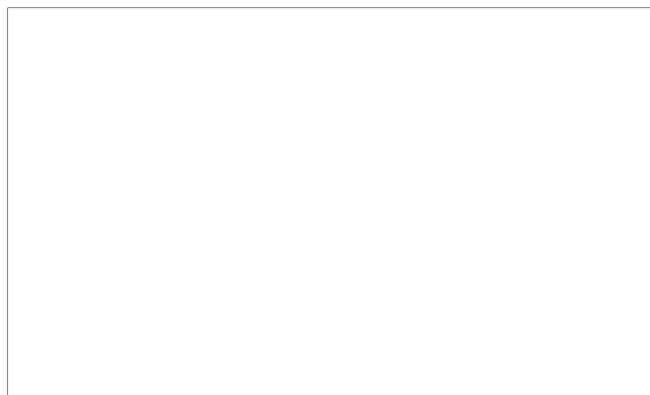
CHINA



25X1
25X1



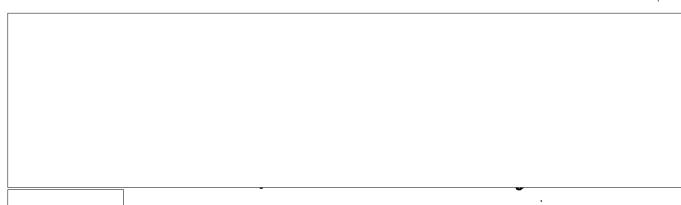
25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1

25X1

1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Early today tank-led North Vietnamese units forced government defenders to withdraw from Dong Ha and the Cua Viet River defense line. ARVN forces are now attempting to establish a new defense line several kilometers southeast of Dong Ha.

North Vietnamese infantry, supported by tanks and artillery, are continuing to attack the outer defenses of Quang Tri City. Enemy ground attacks were preceded during the night of 26-27 April by extensive shellings by 130-mm. guns and 122-mm. rockets. By midnight on the 27th, North Vietnamese forces were pressing hard against positions of the South Vietnamese 3rd Division southwest of the city. Intense artillery fire was being directed against the La Vang combat bases to the south. Government defenders had been pushed back to within two miles of the city. The extensive Communist build-up before the new assaults and the strong artillery support being given to North Vietnamese infantry units suggest that the fighting may be heavy and sustained.

Flying weather, which has been poor in the Quang Tri area, is now improving. Virtually all of the enemy's major drives during the current offensive have been timed to coincide with poor local weather conditions. This was true of the original thrust across the DMZ, the drive down toward An Loc, and the most recent assault in Kontum Province. It appears that the enemy may be deliberately holding up attacks, even after forces are in place and the battlefield is prepared, in order to wait for bad weather and the protection it affords from allied air attacks.

In the highlands, enemy progress down Route 14 toward Kontum City remains slowed by the destruction of a key bridge, and the government's newly organized defenses at Vo Dinh have not yet been tested. The badly mauled 42nd ARVN Regiment is being refitted in Kontum City, and the 47th has been flown to Pleiku Province where it will regroup. Yesterday, the first supply convoy moved through the re-opened An Khe Pass on Route 19 toward the highlands. If the pass can be kept open for a few days, it may be possible to relieve some of the shortages that have been developing in Kontum as a result of the enemy's systematic interdiction of the main roads leading into that province.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

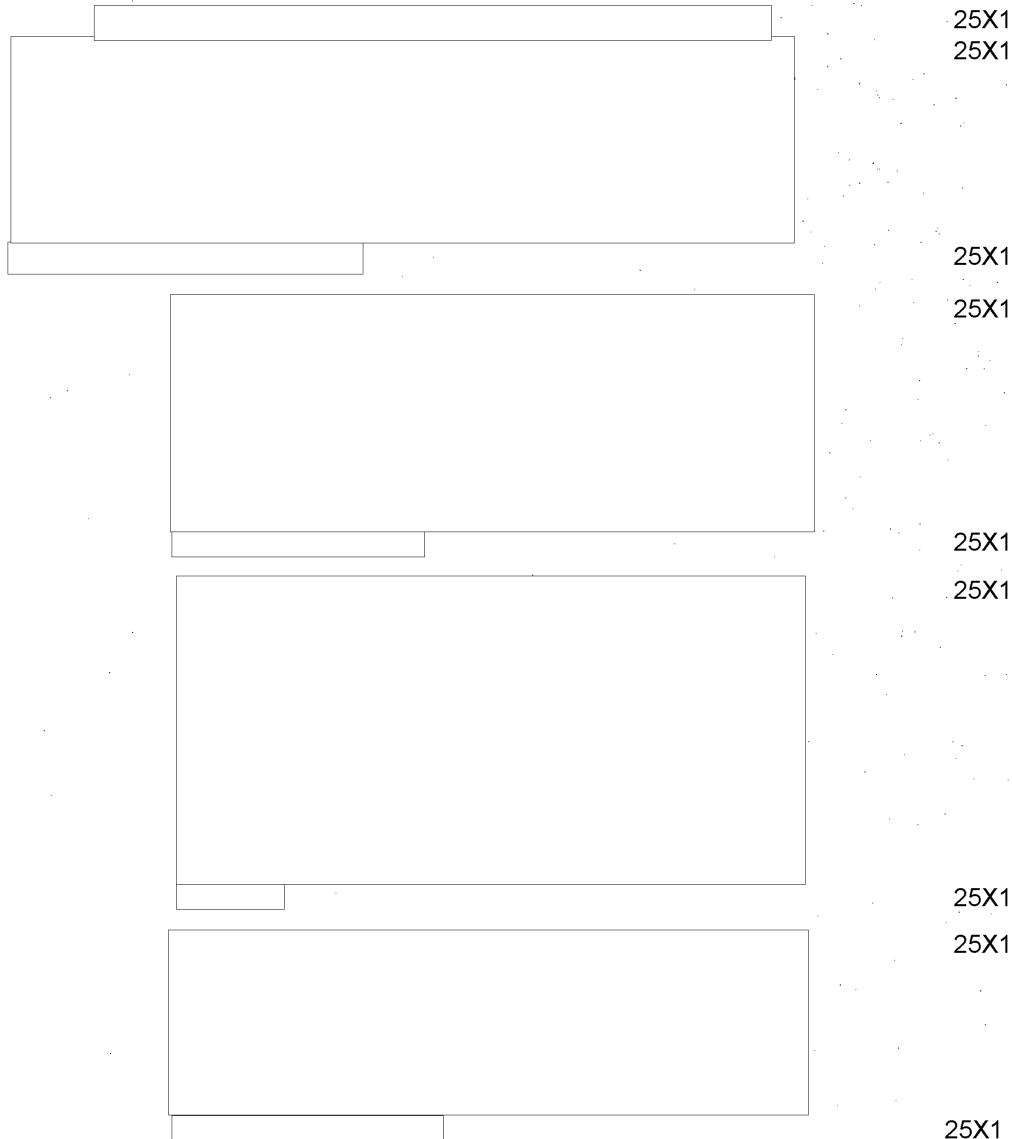
North of Saigon, there are some signs that the Communists may be shifting some forces from Binh Long to Phuoc Long Province.

25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-CHINA



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN - NORTH VIETNAM

The Vietnamese are disappointed with the results of their recent trade mission to Japan, in particular their failure to secure credits. As a result of talks with Japanese Foreign Ministry officials who visited Hanoi in February, the Vietnamese apparently came to Tokyo with the mistaken belief that Japan was prepared to grant a \$20-million low-interest, long-term loan.

25X1

25X1

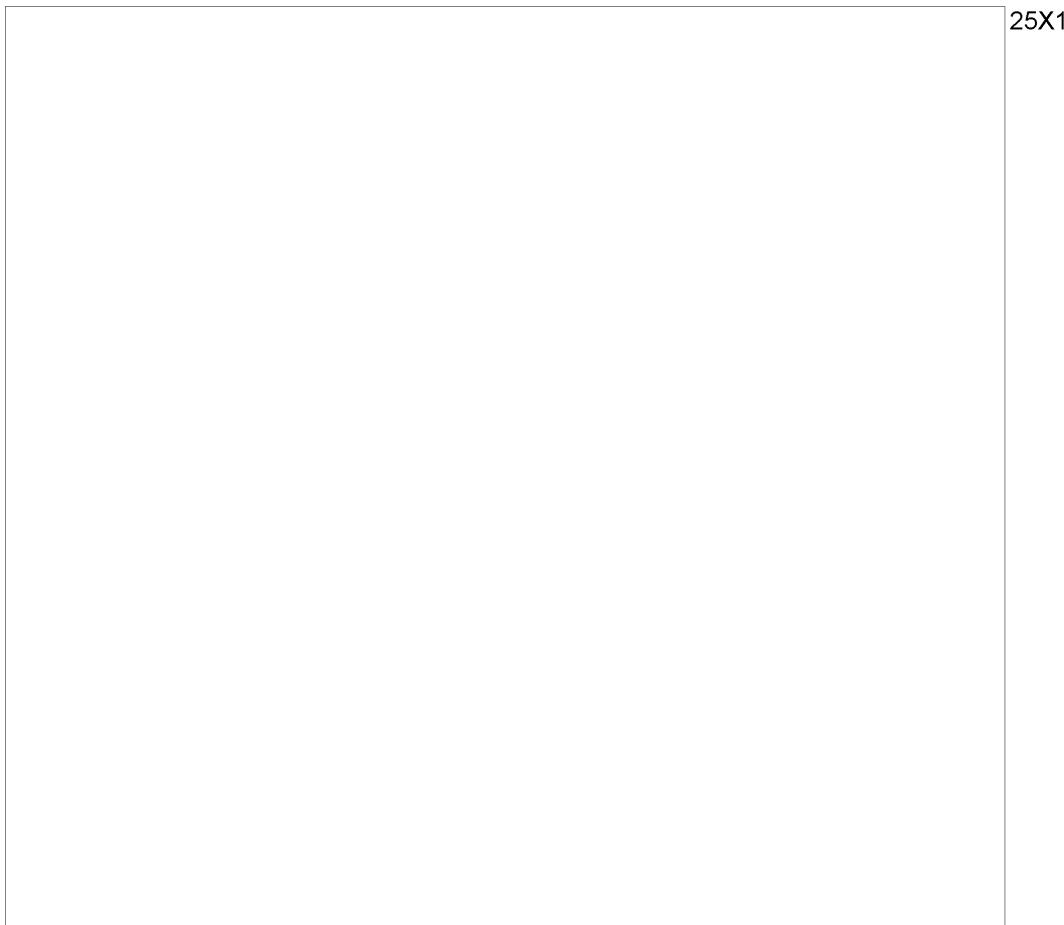
Hanoi also was prepared to post trade officers in Tokyo as a step toward the exchange of permanent trade missions. No loan was forthcoming, however, and the delegation left for home ten days early.

The coincidence of the visit and the North Vietnamese offensive probably caused the Japanese to be more cautious at this time and they are likely to maintain a conservative position on official aid to Hanoi until the end of the war is in sight.

Despite the mission's meager results, Hanoi remains anxious to upgrade its economic and diplomatic contacts with non-Communist countries and may give further consideration to establishing an informal trade office in Tokyo. The Vietnamese did agree to consider a Japanese proposal for regularized official contacts in Paris or Vientiane.

Tokyo too is interested in building a base for improved relations and is attempting to secure a major role in Vietnam's postwar reconstruction. The government has relaxed its entry restrictions for North Vietnamese in recent months and is reported to have agreed tentatively to the exchange of journalists and political leaders.

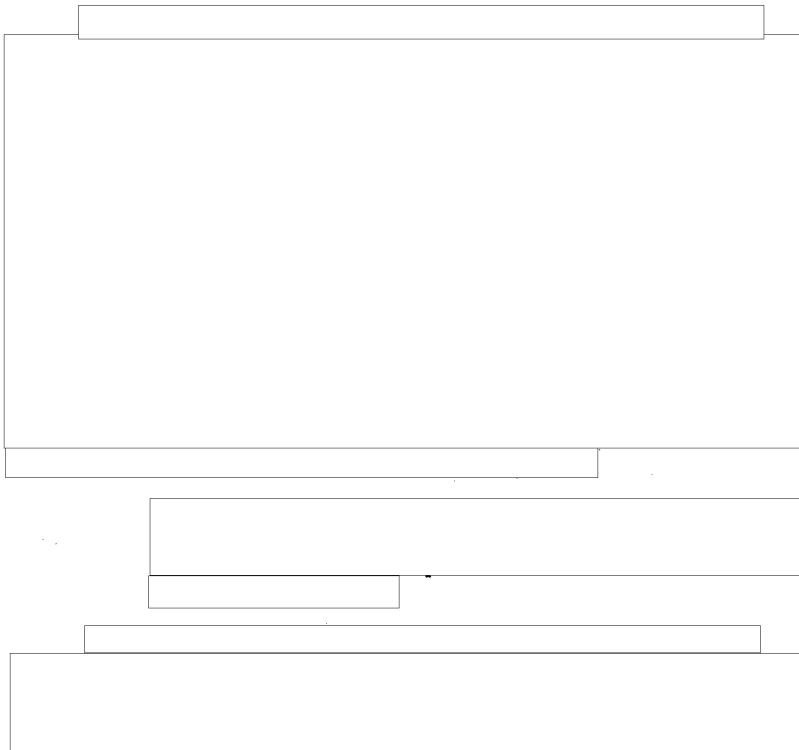
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-LEBANON



25X1
25X1

25X1
25X1

25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

Despite the government's success in defeating opposition leader Barzel's no-confidence motion, the outcome of next week's Bundestag vote on the Eastern treaties remains in doubt. Apparently half of the 26 coalition Free Democratic deputies chose to vote instead of abstaining along with their Social Democratic partners. Barzel obtained 247 votes--two short of the needed absolute majority--in his bid to oust Chancellor Brandt. An analysis of the voting suggests that at least one of the opposition deputies supported Brandt on this occasion. Ten ballots in all were cast against Barzel and three were blank.

This voting pattern will not necessarily be repeated in the Bundestag vote on the treaties. Nevertheless, Barzel's ability to muster 247 votes serves notice on Brandt that the government will have to marshal its forces carefully. Brandt will need only a simple majority on the first Bundestag vote on 4 or 5 May--248 deputies if Barzel can repeat his tally--but an absolute majority, or 249 votes, will be necessary later in a second vote if Brandt is to override the almost certain rejection of the treaties by the upper house Bundesrat in mid-month.

Brandt's cause was most likely aided significantly by the announcement on the eve of the vote that West German and East German negotiators had reached agreement on a general traffic treaty and that East Germany had agreed to permit East Germans to visit West Germany on "urgent family matters" without age limitation.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Military police fired on students at Phnom Penh's law school yesterday, killing one and wounding 20, thus marking the first time blood has been shed in the current controversy between the students and the government. As a result of the shooting, large numbers of students have congregated at Phnom Penh's Independence Monument and are demanding that government officials open direct talks with the students. The government has made no effort to disperse the students, and the military police appear to be under orders to avoid further use of force.

Lon Nol evidently is still trying to cope with the disturbances with a minimum of force. With the referendum on the new constitution coming up on Sunday, he may find it expedient to open talks with the students, or even to postpone the referendum until a compromise is worked out.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE INFORMATION OF

25X1

FOR THE INFORMATION OF

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR - North Vietnam: [redacted]

25X1
25X1

[redacted]
[redacted]
25X1

North Vietnam: Vietnamese Communist spokesmen in Paris have announced that Le Duc Tho of the Hanoi politburo will be returning to Paris soon. The French have issued Tho a visa, and, according to a New China News Agency report, he arrived in Peking yesterday, presumably for consultation with Chinese leaders before continuing on to Paris. He may stop over in Moscow as well.

USSR: [redacted]

25X1
25X1

[redacted]
[redacted]
25X1

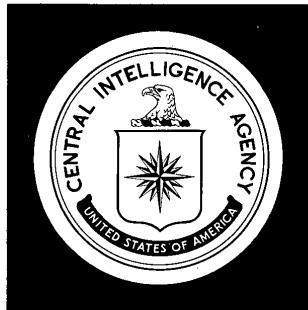
[redacted]
25X1

USSR: [redacted]

25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

25X1

46
29 April 1972

~~Top Secret~~

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

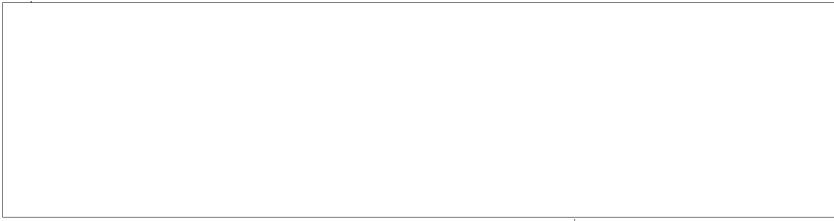
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

29 April 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Vietnamese forces have isolated Quang Tri City.
(Page 1)

25X1



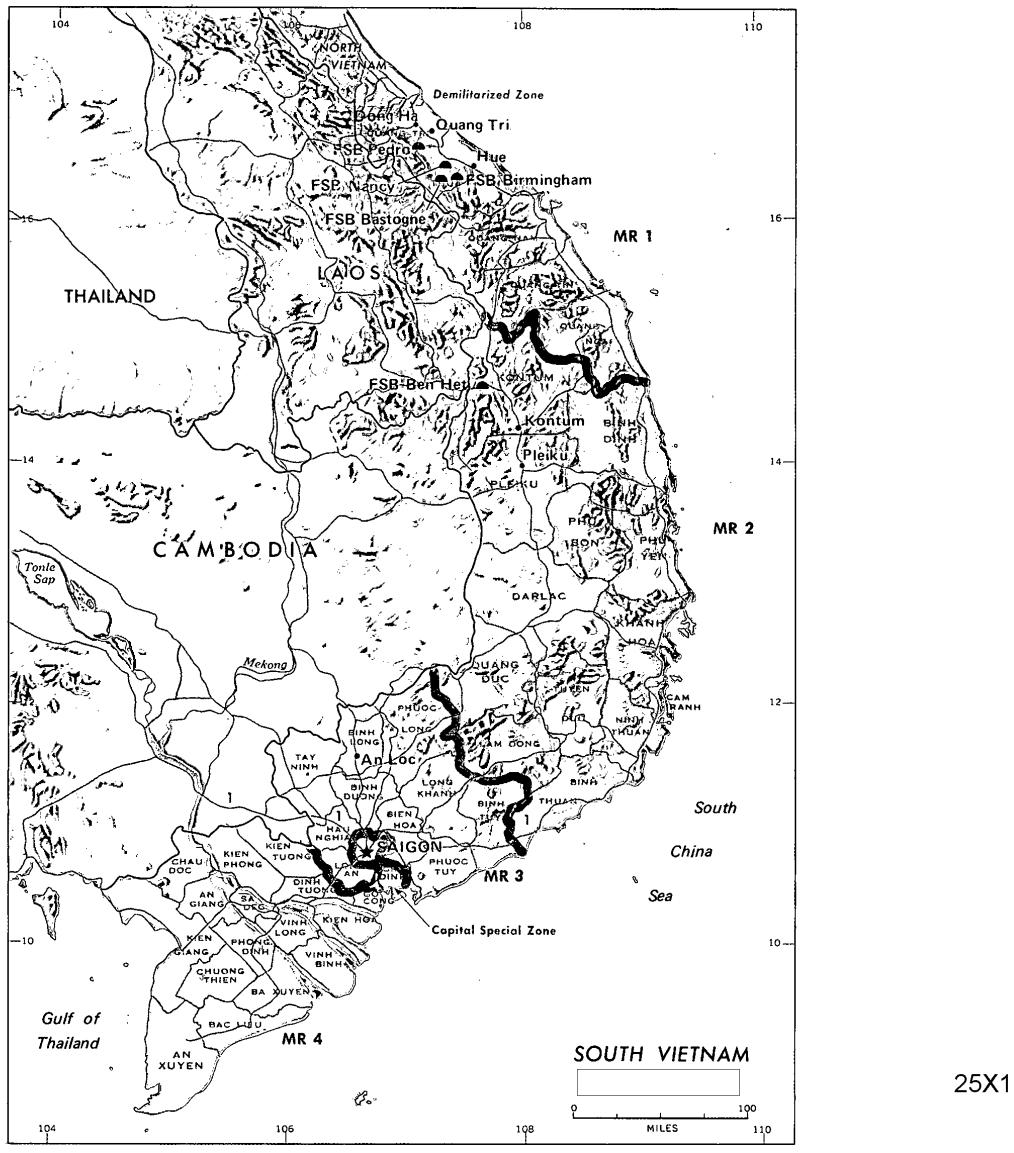
In West Germany, Chancellor Brandt is determined to go ahead with the Bundestag vote on the Eastern treaties next week. (Page 5)

Egyptian President Sadat is receiving domestic criticism of his foreign policies. (Page 6)

25X1



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



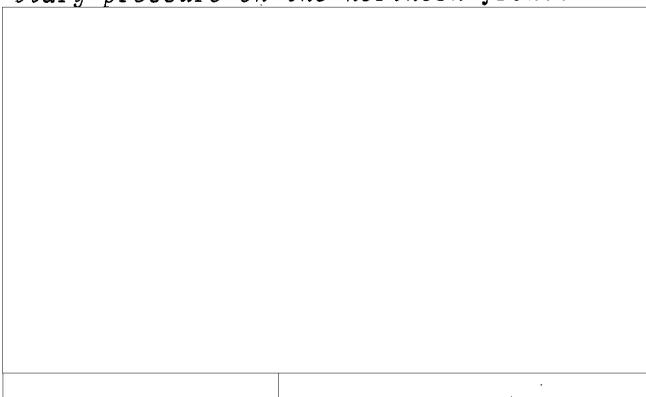
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**VIETNAM**

Strong elements of two North Vietnamese divisions, spearheaded by tanks and supported by heavy artillery, have isolated Quang Tri City. Some enemy troops are on the edge of the capital. The defense of the city now depends heavily on allied air support which recently has been facilitated by relatively good weather.

Farther south, Fire Support Base Bastogne has been evacuated, and only one other military strongpoint remains between the Communists and Hue. Enemy pressure in this area inhibits any shift of government reinforcements from Hue to Quang Tri.

The enemy evidently hopes to sustain military pressure on the northern front.

25X1



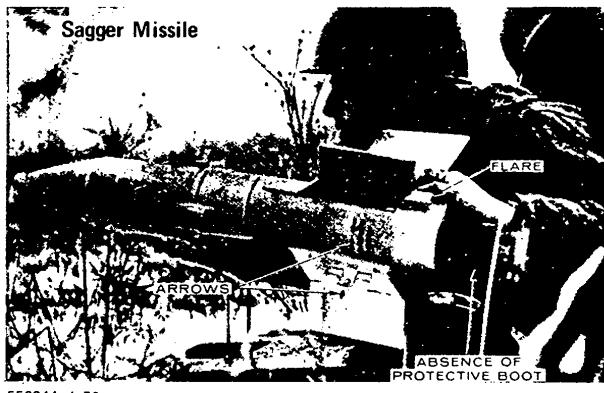
25X1

In the central highlands, there has been little enemy-initiated military action. The repositioning of Communist headquarters, the continued evidence of resupply movements, and enemy efforts at road interdiction leave little doubt, however, that a serious test of South Vietnamese defenses north of Kontum City is in the offing.

The Communists may be maneuvering to increase military pressure on the populated sectors surrounding Saigon. Intercepts reveal that preparations are being made for military operations along the Route 1 - Saigon River corridor west of the capital. This corridor has traditionally been a main avenue of enemy approach to Saigon. Communist artillery fire and light ground probes around An Loc during the last few days suggest that the enemy is trying to keep South Vietnamese forces pinned down in the town and along Route 13. Meanwhile, some enemy forces and equipment reportedly are being shifted farther south toward Route 1.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enough enemy weapons have been captured since the start of the offensive to indicate that both the Soviets and the Chinese are supplying up-to-date weaponry to Hanoi. Chinese copies of Soviet tanks, recoilless rifles, and grenade launchers are among the arms taken. The Soviet-made wire-guided "Sagger" missile, which is highly effective against armored vehicles and tanks, has been used on all three major battlefronts.

* * *

Communications from the harbor master in Haiphong were renewed on about 24 April. Messages are probably being passed over mobile facilities, since the harbor master communications building was destroyed during the bombing. Two communications outstations of the Directorate of Coastal Shipping resumed normal operations on 19 April.

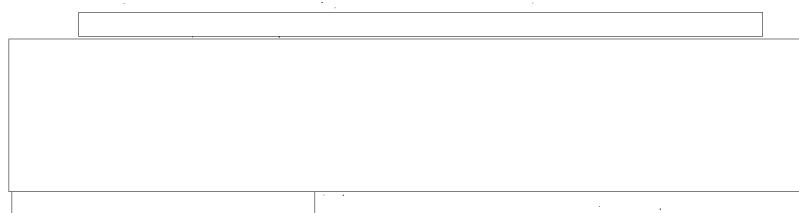
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1
25X1

25X1

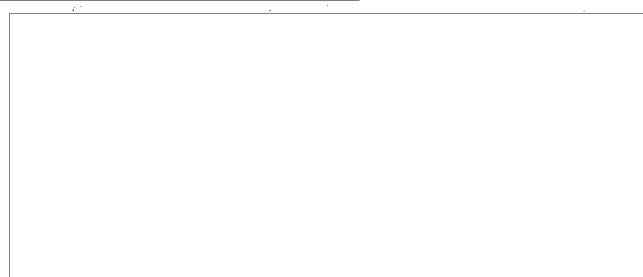
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM



25X1
25X1



25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

State Secretary Bahr has told the chiefs of mission of the US, UK, and France that Chancellor Brandt is determined to hold a vote on the Eastern treaties on 3 and 4 May as scheduled, despite the Bundestag's rejection by a tie vote yesterday of part of the budget bill. Bahr said Brandt had rejected a proposal by Christian Democratic leader Barzel to postpone the vote on the treaties for two to three weeks. Barzel subsequently told a US Embassy officer that he still is pressing for such a delay to allow time to elicit new Soviet and East German concessions.

The tie vote in the Bundestag resulted in calls for early elections from both sides of the aisle, but the leadership of both the coalition and the opposition prefers to avoid elections at this time. With the Bundestag adjourned until Tuesday, Brandt is trying to rally the three or four wavering coalition deputies. One Free Democrat who voted for Barzel in the no-confidence motion is believed to support Brandt on the treaties. Another has agreed to resign in favor of a loyal replacement, but has disappeared without handing in his letter of resignation. Brandt hopes that the weekend will bring the beginning of dissension in opposition ranks over Barzel's failure to unseat him.

The government crisis, capping an increasingly bitter debate over the treaties, appears to have sharpened divisions in the electorate. Government leaders are taking their case to the public at a rally today in West Berlin, but they have expressed concern that the normal May Day demonstrations may lead to disturbances.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT

An associate of former vice president Muhyeddin has told US officials in Cairo that incumbent Vice President Shafi recently took President Sadat to task for severing diplomatic relations with Jordan, accusing him of acting without prior consultation. Shafi dropped from sight for a week thereafter, but he reappeared after an apparent reconciliation with the President.

The source reported that similar criticism was expressed in a letter to Sadat from ten former cabinet members and retired senior military officers. The letter questioned Sadat's policies and was particularly critical of the President's failure to consult more widely among well-known Egyptians. Two former members of Nasir's Revolutionary Command Council were among the signers of the letter [redacted]

25X1
25X1

[redacted]
[redacted]
25X1

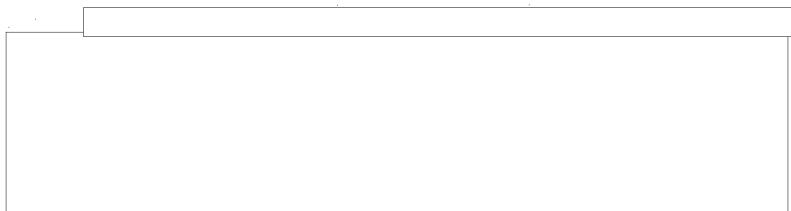
This dissatisfaction is symptomatic of widespread unhappiness among Egyptians. Sadat's failure to move the dispute with Israel off dead center is causing growing frustration, and his attempts to divert public attention from the impasse have only tended to confirm the impression that he is merely treading water.

This particular group of malcontents alone has little capability to threaten Sadat. Its members, however, represent potential rallying points. Muhyeddin in particular, who was frequently mentioned as a successor after Nasir's death, is one of the few civilian figures whose name reappears periodically as a possible candidate for the presidency. Any real challenge to Sadat would, of course, require the support of army leaders. Thus far there is no evidence linking them with these dissenters.

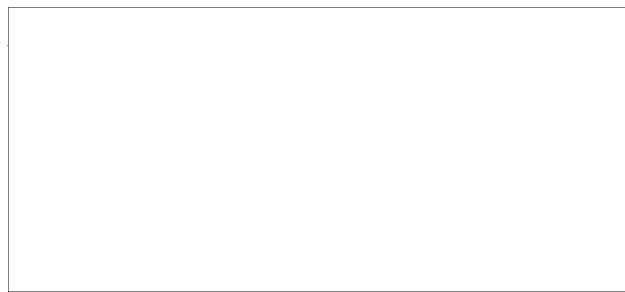
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-JORDAN

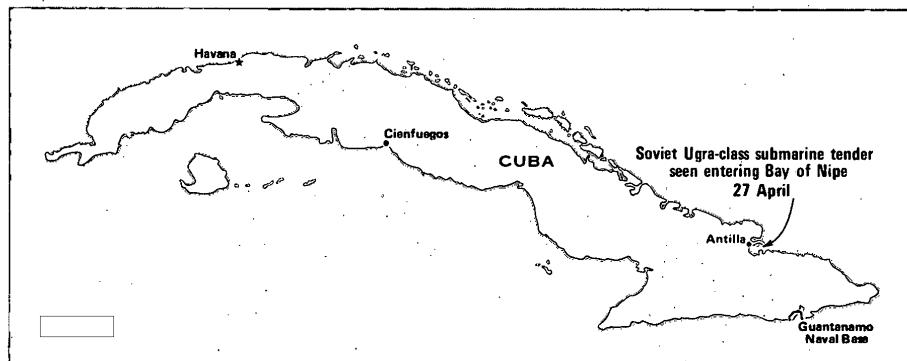


25X1
25X1



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

552947 4-72 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR-Syria:

25X1
25X1

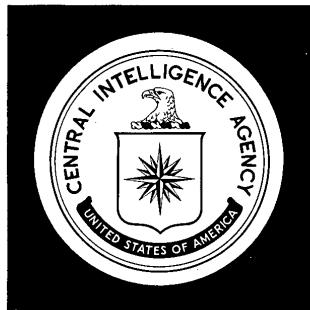
25X1
25X1

25X1

USSR-Cuba: The Soviet Ugra-class submarine tender that arrived in Cuban waters on Wednesday entered the Bay of Nipe on Thursday. It is the first Ugra from the Black Sea to operate in Cuban waters, although Soviet tenders from the Northern Fleet previously have visited Cuba on several occasions. The Kotlin-class destroyer that has been in Cuba since early March is currently in Antilla and may accompany the sub tender to Havana, possibly in time for May Day ceremonies.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

ILLEGIB



25

~~Top Secret~~^{25X1}

Sunday Date - 4/30/71

LUX

SECRET

25X1

25X1

PDB BRIEF
30/4/72

WEST GERMANY

Leaders of three main political parties met for four and a half hours on Friday night, but failed to resolve the government crisis. Spokesmen for both the government parties and the opposition characterized the talks as "sensible and solid," but admitted that the two sides were not close to agreement. Discussions are scheduled to resume again before noon on Wednesday.

The talks apparently focused primarily on the Moscow treaty, the crucial subjects of German self-determination and reunification, and further improvement of travel arrangements with the East Germans.

25X1

~~SECRET~~25X1
25X1

25X1

There could be a third vote on the budget bill on 2 May when the parliament is scheduled to reconvene. The government, however, most likely will try to delay this to avoid a possible defeat just prior to the voting on the Eastern treaties.



25X1



25X1

W. Germany-2

PDB BRIEF
30/4/72

SOUTH VIETNAM - NORTH VIETNAM

Government troops repulsed a North Vietnamese tank and infantry attack from the southern outskirts of Quang Tri City yesterday, but the situation there remains critical. The city, now reported to be isolated, continues under artillery and rocket fire. The North Vietnamese have [redacted] tanks in the surrounding area and may have brought in a third tank regiment. Additional forces have been skirting the provincial capital and heading south toward Hue. So far, however, the Communists in Thua Thien Province have not followed up their success at Fire Support Base Bastogne by attacking farther east.

The Communists are continuing their pressure on the provinces to the south along the central coast.

[redacted]
The Communists are now reported to control substantial portions of districts in Quang Tin Province to the west of Route 1, and they are continuing to attack refugee centers in the eastern areas

of adjacent Quang Ngai. With the fall of Bong Son this weekend, the Communists have gained control of almost all of the northernmost district of Binh Dinh Province.

The Communists may have resumed their drive on Kontum City in the central highlands. Enemy infantry forces probed a South Vietnamese artillery support base a few miles north of the city on 29 April and also ambushed a government resupply convoy in the same area. Several rocket rounds also hit the Kontum City airfield. The South Vietnamese reportedly have abandoned their defensive positions in the Vo Dinh area and are now regrouping about six miles north of the city. A second regiment of the Communist 320th Division has moved into position about ten miles north of Kontum City and intercepts suggest that other elements of the 320th are deploying in preparation to attack the city.

The threat to An Loc north of Saigon continues to ease, but the Communists appear to be taking advantage of the government forces pinned down in that area to increase action elsewhere. On the west, enemy forces launched a number of ground probes yesterday near Tay Ninh City and mounted an attack with tanks against a South Vietnamese post on Route 1 at the Cambodian border. Radio direction finding also shows that elements of the Communist 9th Division have shifted from An Loc into Phuoc Long Province

[Redacted]

on the east and that 5th Division elements have moved southward into Binh Duong Province.

Press reports state that North Vietnamese politburo member Le Duc Tho arrived in Moscow yesterday from Peking, presumably for another two-day stopover en route to Paris. The Soviets and North Vietnamese have also announced that a Soviet delegation, headed by party secretary Katushev and Deputy Foreign Minister Firyubin, visited Hanoi from 26 to 29 April. Both announcements describe the visit as an official one made "in accordance with a previous arrangement," and report that cordial meetings were held with North Vietnamese leaders to discuss "strengthening bilateral relations" and "questions of mutual interest."

Vietnam-3

PDB NOTE
30/4/72

NOTE

Laos: Government forces regained control of Skyline Ridge overlooking Long Tieng on 29 April. About 100 irregulars with air support cleared the two positions that had remained in enemy hands at the center of the ridge. North Vietnamese opposition was relatively light, strengthening indications in recent intercepts that the Communists are withdrawing some of their forces in the area in preparation for the coming rainy season. The situation elsewhere in Laos remains relatively quiet, with only scattered clashes being reported from points in the panhandle.

PDB NOTE
30/4/72

NOTE

Turkey: Senator Suat Hayri Urgupulu, appointed prime minister-designate on 29 April, is an independent with former ties to the Republican Peoples Party. He served for nine months as prime minister in 1965. Urgupulu has announced that he intends to form an "above parties" government of ministers chosen from the four principal parties represented in parliament. His attitude toward the US has been friendly although he was critical in 1970 of what he termed unwarranted US pressure to restrict opium poppy cultivation, a subject on which he has since been silent.

Top Secret