

The President's Daily Brief

1 November 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

1 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Australia, Prime Minister Gorton seems to be heading for a fight for the leadership of his party. (Page 1)

President Thieu's critics are having a field day lambasting his new austerity program, and he can expect rough treatment from the assembly. (Page 2)

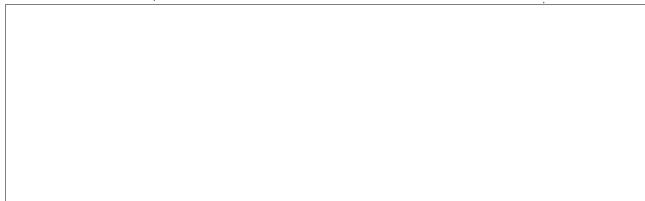
Ecuador's political, economic, and social problems may once again overwhelm President Velasco. (Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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AUSTRALIA

National Resources Minister Fairbairn announced on Friday that he will no longer serve under Prime Minister Gorton. He says he is going to decide next week whether to challenge Gorton for the leadership of the Liberal Party. Although a good many influential Liberals have come out in support of Fairbairn or have conspicuously failed to endorse Gorton, one knowledgeable party member told the US Embassy he believes Fairbairn lacks the strength to win a direct test with Gorton.



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Even if Gorton fails to challenge Fairbairn, the Liberal Party and the Liberal-Country Party coalition seem to be in for a testing time. Another election soon is a real possibility.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

President Thieu's new "austerity" taxes on most imported goods have provoked harsh criticism throughout the country. The decree, issued on 23 October, produced almost immediate public panic and extensive hoarding. As a result, prices of most basic consumer goods, domestic and imported, have soared. Sharply worded attacks on Thieu's decree have come from progovernment and opposition politicians, as well as the press.

According to a US Embassy survey, many Vietnamese believe that the measure hurts the poor far more than the rich, and that the government should have warned the public. In addition, some Vietnamese are saying that the new cabinet, which was to give first priority to solving the country's economic problems, now has actually worsened the situation.

The most violent reaction has come from the National Assembly. Both houses have passed a series of resolutions condemning the tax increases and accusing the Thieu administration of acting unconstitutionally in failing to consult the assembly. Some deputies are trying hard to have the decree annulled, but there seems little likelihood of this.

President Thieu devoted part of his National Day speech on 31 October to explaining the country's economic problems, and he threatened to resign if his austerity measures were not allowed to go into effect. The government is claiming that prices will go back down soon, and that then public furor will subside. For the moment, however, Thieu's relations with the assembly are at an all-time low, and his legislative programs may face rougher treatment in the future.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ECUADOR

After 14 months in office, President Jose Maria Velasco finds himself in the not-unfamiliar position of wondering how much longer he can hang on to his job. As the septuagenarian has discovered three times before in his long and colorful career, his personal charm and his popularity with the voters are far more useful in getting elected than in coping with Ecuador's many problems. His most immediate concerns this time are an outbreak of student disorders and a more than usually bad fiscal situation.

Student disorders that have plagued Guayaquil for two weeks now are spreading to other cities. The students have long been resentful, but things came to a head when an outraged Velasco ordered a high school closed after students had insulted him. This gave radical leaders a tailor-made issue. The security forces, acting under orders from Velasco, have not let the disorders get out of hand, but since mid-October four students have been killed in riots. Although there is reasonable doubt that the police were responsible, agitators use the students' deaths to support allegations of police brutality. The acrimonious atmosphere enhances the probability that student disorders will continue.

More fundamental perhaps are Ecuador's fiscal difficulties. Attempts by the government to secure foreign loans for budget support have come to naught, and exports, although rising, are still far below last year's level. Velasco got little help from the legislature, which passed a budget that has no relationship to revenue-raising capabilities. The President has also had only minimal success in wresting control from the myriad of autonomous agencies that hamstring his efforts to control revenue collection and expenditures.

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The cabinet, especially the ministers of defense and government, has been pressuring Velasco to assume extraordinary powers to resolve the economic crisis. The defense minister has warned that hungry soldiers whose salaries are now three months in arrears will not tolerate existing conditions much longer.

Memories of the political difficulties encountered by the military junta of 1963-1966 continue to haunt leaders of the armed forces, and we expect that they will continue supporting Velasco for now. But if Velasco loses what public support he now has by overreacting to or doing nothing about the current unrest, the military may overcome its reluctance to assume power.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WARSAW PACT

As expected, the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers issued a call for an East-West European security conference after their two-day meeting in Prague. Yesterday's communiqué makes broad and generally noncontroversial proposals for an agenda. Even US participation is not excluded; the issue is left open.

The proposal obviously is designed to elicit a positive response from the NATO foreign ministers, who will be meeting in December.

* * *

As the foreign ministers were finishing up, military representatives from all the Pact countries were gathering in Prague.

This meeting will probably review the past training year, define training tasks for 1970, and observe a joint Soviet-Czechoslovak training exercise now under way.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

Laos: The fighting in the north has slowed.

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Although the Communists have been able to bring in more supplies, they have been less successful in reducing government harassment. During the past week, elements of the North Vietnamese 312th Division have made many attempts to overrun government positions; all have failed. In the northern portion of the Plaine des Jarres, the enemy's difficulties appear to be more profound.

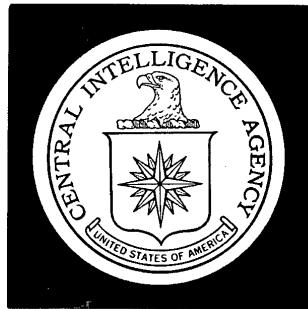
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Lebanon: Yasir Arafat, the Fatah leader, showed up in Cairo just as the Lebanese representatives were about to give up and go home. The Lebanese may be able to work out some kind of arrangement with Arafat--certainly they got nowhere at all without him. Caretaker Prime Minister Karami some days ago said he would go to Cairo to talk with Arafat, but we have no information about his plans now.

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3 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Some parts of a recent speech by party First Secretary Le Duan contain hints of policy differences among the North Vietnamese. (Page 1)

The Jordanians have asked Moscow for antiaircraft, medium, and long-range artillery. (Page 3)

India's Congress Party is again close to a formal split. (Page 4)

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NORTH VIETNAM

Some parts of a recent speech by party First Secretary Le Duan, given to district level cadre, contains hints of possible policy differences in the North Vietnamese leadership over both the war and domestic issues.

In an "abridged" version of the speech broadcast to domestic audiences Friday, Le Duan argues that the fighting in the South should continue to receive high priority because of the tremendous sacrifices already made. He uses Ho Chi Minh's authority to urge no compromise without "complete victory."

The dominant theme of the speech is a plea for party unity. This preoccupation could suggest that disunity has affected his own position as party first secretary. Le Duan says, for example, that "divergent views between two comrades in the party" are normal, but that discussion should produce "unanimity" or at least a "collective" view. It is inadvisable, Le Duan maintains, "to adopt the opinion of one person and force all others to follow it."

Although this could be read as another routine prescription for party consideration of all views before final decisions are taken, we think it more likely that Duan is protesting strong-arm tactics by some party leader powerful enough to act without taking other views into account.

Had Le Duan been merely explaining the party decision-making process to local cadres, he would probably have stressed local issues, problems of policy implementation in which there is some room for local interpretation. Instead, he concentrated on support for the war, an issue on which local officials have little control. Le Duan did not use party authority to buttress his remarks; he left an impression he may have been speaking for himself.

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It is difficult to draw hard conclusions about the leadership or the firmness of Le Duan's grasp on the party from this one speech. But it is suggestive of a serious contest for control. The other contestant could be Truong Chinh, the next ranking politburo member.

Assuming that there is a serious power and policy struggle, Le Duan's speech would put him in the role of a dissenter to current policy trends, both with respect to the war and certain domestic issues. The fact that his views have been broadcast, however, suggests that he retains considerable authority and that many policy and leadership questions remain to be decided.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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JORDAN

Husayn says he has approved the assignment of a Soviet military attaché in Amman. The Jordanians for the first time have also inquired into Soviet willingness to supply antiaircraft, medium, and long-range artillery.

There probably is a bit of gamesmanship in Husayn's informing US officials of these steps, but he has made it clear many times that he is indeed desperate for artillery. He also is in doubt at the moment about the merits of a British antiaircraft missile system currently on order.

The Soviets probably would be happy to fill some of Jordan's artillery needs.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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INDIA

The power struggle between Mrs. Gandhi and the Congress Party old guard came to a head this weekend. Her supporters claim they are making headway in their efforts to remove old-line party president Nijalingappa. Her opponents have responded by summarily dropping several of her supporters from the party's governing working committee and then calling a rump meeting of the group to declare her faction's activities "out of order."

Neither faction has acknowledged yet that the party is formally divided, and neither really wants a split that would wreck the party. If worst comes to worst, however, Mrs. Gandhi probably believes she could put together a new government backed by most of Congress and by assorted leftist parties. If the dispute is not papered over again, she might even prefer immediate elections to capitalize on her increasing popularity with the electorate.

Meanwhile, a group of state leaders is trying to mediate the dispute, but neither Mrs. Gandhi nor the old guard has shown any sign so far of backing down.

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NOTE

USSR:



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4 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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In Vietnam, intercepts suggest infiltration may again be on the upswing after having been down significantly for some months. (Page 2)

John Gorton's chances of being re-elected prime minister in Australia's Liberal Party caucus Friday may have received a fatal blow with veteran party stalwart William McMahon's announcement that he will be a candidate. (Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Soviets



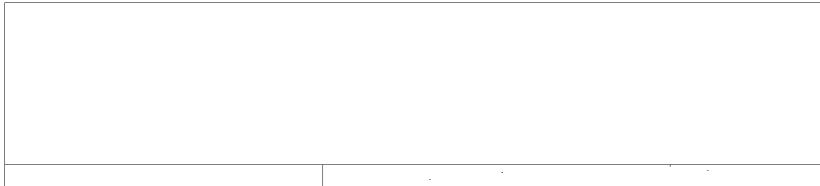
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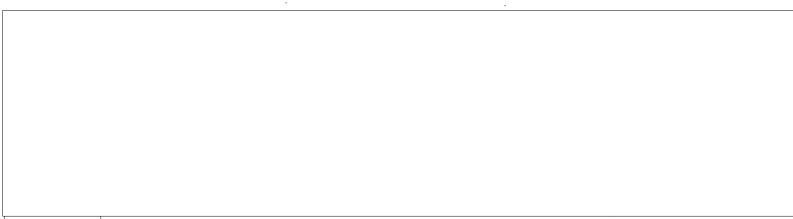
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SOVIET UNION

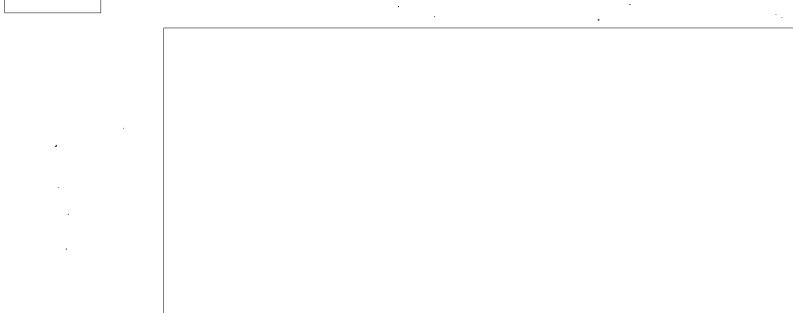


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NORTH VIETNAM

There are signs that infiltration of North Vietnamese regulars to the south may be on the up-swing. During the past ten days, communications intelligence has shown several large groups to be on the move. Some of these are elements of the 320th Division.

Others, from what we can tell so far, seem to be replacement fillers. One such group--of battalion size--was spotted moving south on 31 October. Analysis of communications suggests two other groups of unknown size and nature have recently entered the infiltration pipeline in North Vietnam.

The battalion-size (570 men) group is the first significant batch of replacements detected since last May.

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AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister Gorton's chances of surviving the leadership challenge in Friday's Liberal Party caucus have taken a sudden turn for the worse. William McMahon, Federal Treasurer and deputy party leader, threw his hat into the ring yesterday. He made his move after John McEwen, leader of the Country Party--the junior partner in the ruling coalition--indicated he would no longer object to McMahon's election as prime minister. McEwen vetoed McMahon's bid to succeed Harold Holt in early 1967.

McMahon presents a far more formidable challenge to Gorton than National Development Minister Fairbairn, who had earlier thrown down the gauntlet in opposition to Gorton.



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[Redacted] On domestic policy, McMahon on past form would take a conservative approach. The gains made by the opposition Labor Party in the recent elections might, however, incline McMahon to liberalize his domestic views.

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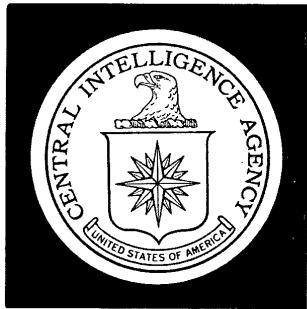
Cambodia: Prime Minister Lon Nol may be taking his leave of absence as much for political as for medical reasons. Chief of State Sihanouk and Lon Nol's cabinet are increasingly at loggerheads, mainly over the latter's economic reform program. Sihanouk is said to be especially irate over the government's decision to import rice for the first time in recent years. Lon Nol may have thought it prudent to get out of range, leaving his deputy--the principal author of the reform program--to bear the full weight of Sihanouk's wrath. [redacted]
[redacted], Lon Nol plans to spend as many as 45 days in France.

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Lebanon: The cease-fire is still holding as the Lebanese-fedayeen search for a modus vivendi shifts from Cairo to Beirut.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Some political opposition to Thieu is shaping up in South Vietnam. (Page 1)

Israel is ready to search for oil in the Gulf of Suez. (Page 2)

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The European Security Conference plan could let the Warsaw Pact nations expand their relations with the West but not weaken ties to the USSR. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SOUTH VIETNAM

Thieu's political rivals are showing signs of greater activity. General Duong Van "Big" Minh, who has avoided the limelight since his return from exile more than a year ago, has declared himself ready to serve the cause of national unity and has called for a national convention which might lead to a "truly representative government."

Minh's remarks can be linked to a speech last week by his long-time associate Senator Tran Van Don, who urged the creation of a neutral "third force" as a means of bringing an end to the war. Don has been increasingly critical of Thieu since last spring and has been hinting that he would like to be prime minister in a government headed by Minh.

At the same time, [redacted], some of the more militant religious and peace circles have increased their efforts to forge an antigovernment alliance, partly in the hope of being able to rally behind Minh.

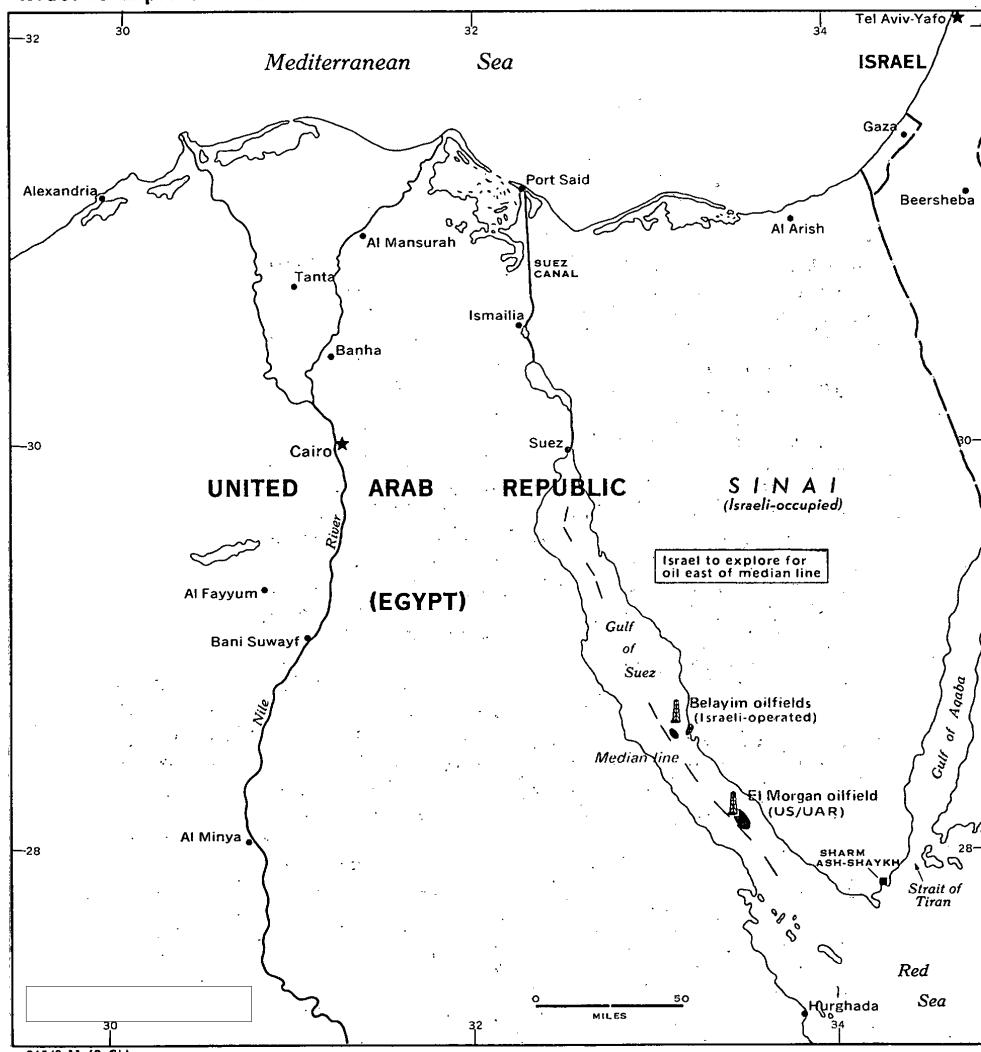
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Thieu has come under heavy domestic criticism because of his newest economic austerity measures. His opponents probably anticipate that continuing US troop withdrawals will weaken his authority and make him more vulnerable. As a result, men such as Minh and Don may have concluded that the time is ripe to begin putting themselves forward as an alternative to the present government. Don, in particular, seems to be suggesting that the Communists might be willing to negotiate an end to the war with a government in which Thieu and Ky play no role. The Communists sometimes have implied as much, but their primary aim in doing so probably is to undercut US support for Thieu.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Israel to Explore for Oil Offshore in Gulf of Suez



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ISRAEL

Tel Aviv is going ahead with its long-rumored plan to search for oil offshore near the southern end of the Gulf of Suez. It has arranged for a US company to conduct seismic exploration, and a Canadian-owned drilling rig for this purpose was to begin the 120-day trip from Quebec on 25 October. The proposed exploratory area, which is east of the median line, includes part of the concession now held jointly by the Egyptian state-owned oil company and Pan American Petroleum, a subsidiary of Indiana Standard.

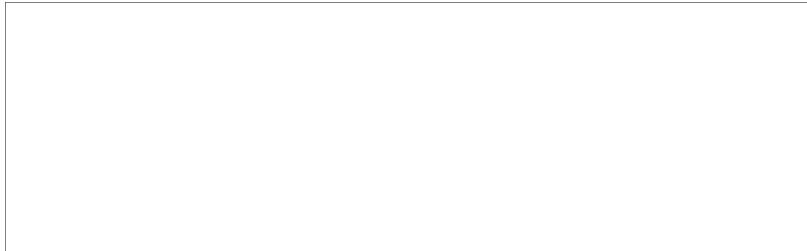
Disdaining the legal, political, and military implications of such a move, Israel argues that it has a right to exploit occupied territories. Moreover, it claims it will not interfere with Pan American's operations in the El Morgan oil field.

Forceful action by Egypt to prevent Israeli exploration in the area could bring Israeli reprisal against Cairo's revenue-producing operations at El Morgan. Egypt therefore might refrain from any action during the period--perhaps as long as two years--that it will take Israel to find and produce oil.

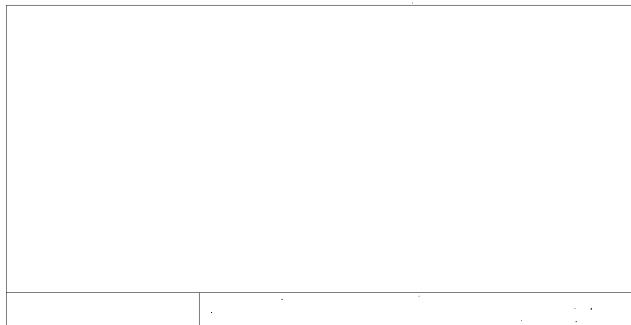
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EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY



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EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE

For the USSR, one of the lessons of the experience with Czechoslovakia was that bilateral dealings between East and West European states could get out of hand. A Soviet journalist, in a conversation with a US official in Moscow, said that the USSR will attempt to control future East-West contacts by channeling them through the European Security Conference.

Just how the system would work is hard to anticipate, and it may not yet be clear in the minds of the Soviet leaders. Their immediate concern is the East European response to initiatives from the Brandt government in West Germany. Perhaps the European Security Conference, if it takes place, will provide the Warsaw Pact countries with a framework for regulating such exchanges.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

India: The struggle for control of the ruling Congress Party is growing more bitter with the likelihood of a formal split looming larger. Yesterday, the mediation efforts of a group of state leaders failed. Mrs. Gandhi continues to weed out all cabinet officials who are not committed to her side. The next few weeks will bring the greatest danger yet to Congress' traditional one-party rule--the major source of political stability in India.

Brazil: Carlos Marighella, leader of the country's most effective terrorist organization, was killed by police last night in Sao Paulo. During the preceding two days, police had rounded up 23 members of his gang. Marighella's group had a primary role in the kidnaping of Ambassador Elbrick in September, the most notorious of their many terrorist activities. Although Marighella's death will leave the remaining leftist extremists without a real leader, they may attempt some spectacular action--partly for revenge and partly to restore their damaged morale.

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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A West German official has elaborated on his country's policy toward the East. (Page 2)

The Soviet leadership is looking to SALT for signs of US willingness to enter an era of negotiations. (Page 3)

The Lebanese Government and the fedayeen apparently reached an agreement only on broad principles in Cairo. (Page 4) Ambassador Barbour's views on possible Israeli actions against Lebanon, and our comments thereon, are offered on Page 4.

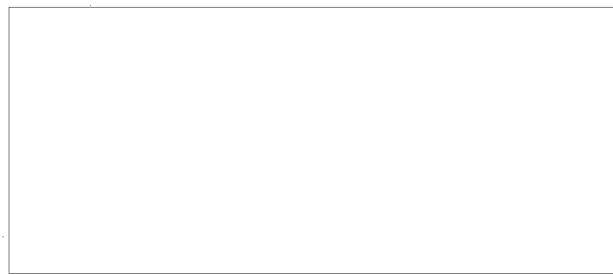
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NORTH VIETNAM



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An article in the North Vietnamese Army newspaper on 29 October describes a provincial recruitment campaign that may be part of a nationwide effort. The article is unusually explicit in linking the drive to the war in the South. It urges men to "join the army to fight the Americans" and mentions the duty of party authorities to contribute "human resources to the front line."

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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WEST GERMANY - EAST GERMANY

Egon Bahr, state secretary in the chancellery and a long-time confidant of Brandt, has told US officials that the new government will begin its Eastern policy offensive by attempting to negotiate agreements renouncing the use of force with the Soviet Union, Poland, and East Germany in that order. He said that West Germany would require completion of such agreements before it would participate in a European security conference. He thinks the Soviets have publicly engaged their prestige in convening a conference soon, thus giving Western countries an opportunity to put forth preconditions.

In pursuing a dialogue with East Germany, Bonn hopes ultimately to negotiate an "all-German treaty," according to Bahr. The treaty would provide for a modus vivendi on the basis of the existence of two German states. Bonn would not formally recognize East Germany, nor would Allied rights in Berlin be affected.

In return for East German guarantees of West German access to Berlin, Bonn would give up its opposition to recognition of East Germany by third countries. Bahr said the measures in Bonn's program would have to be taken rapidly--perhaps within a year--lest a flood of third country recognitions undermine Bonn's negotiating position.

In outlining Bonn's plans, Bahr was very careful to assure the Allies that their interests will be protected. As with previous West German governments, the leaders of the new one apparently recognize that Washington, Paris, and London expect to be kept fully informed on East-West German developments.

Bahr seems to be saying in effect that the West Germans recognize once and for all that the burden of moving toward closer ties with East Germany is pretty much theirs alone. He senses that Bonn has some leverage with East Germany, but will have to act rapidly in order to exploit its advantage.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-US

Valentin Berezhkov, the acting editor of a Soviet newsweekly, told a US Embassy official on 3 November that successful strategic arms limitations talks could lead to US-USSR cooperation in other areas. The Soviet leadership, he said, is looking to the talks for signs of US willingness to enter an era of negotiations.

Soviet diplomats at the UN have been taking this line recently in discussing the resolution on international security which Gromyko introduced in the General Assembly in September. They emphasize that Moscow expects the US attitude toward this resolution to be reflected at the arms talks.

This is an oft-tried gambit when the Soviets want the US to be more forthcoming. It often is backed up with the claim that the US will thereby strengthen the more Western-minded faction in the Kremlin. Nevertheless, these statements do mark Moscow's private acknowledgment that SALT cannot be dissociated from other matters--an acknowledgment the Soviets have been reluctant to make. Moscow in the past has often showed its annoyance at public US statements linking disarmament progress to other problems, probably in part because the Soviets are nervous about conveying the impression they are colluding with the US on matters outside the disarmament sphere. The Soviets may also believe that Washington is trying to make them appear responsible for any lack of progress on SALT.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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MIDDLE EAST

The Lebanese Government and the fedayeen apparently reached an agreement only on broad principles in Cairo, press reports to the contrary. Following a meeting with President Hilu on Tuesday, caretaker Prime Minister Karami announced that both parties will soon meet in Beirut to work out the details of the Cairo agreement. There may be even further delays in arriving at a comprehensive agreement.

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Ambassador Barbour in Tel Aviv states his belief that:

--Israel will exercise "maximum restraint" toward the fedayeen in Lebanon in order not to complicate Lebanese problems in controlling them.

--If the Lebanese Government loses control of the fedayeen, Israel would be opposed to anything more than retaliation in kind.

--Even "if direct Syrian military intervention results in the disappearance of Lebanon as a state," the odds are strongly against the seizure of Lebanese territory by the Israelis.

From our admittedly long-distance viewpoint, we find it difficult to concur in this prediction of Israeli restraint. Tel Aviv does have an interest in preserving and encouraging the Christians in Lebanon and might hesitate for this reason before retaliating. The most telling factors in Israeli calculations, however, are the incident and casualty rates along the frontier. The Israelis certainly view with great disfavor what amounts to an extension of their fighting fronts to include Lebanon, and we find it hard indeed to believe that they will treat this front any differently from the others when the going gets heavy.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Similarly, we do not think an Israeli seizure of Lebanese territory is as remote a possibility as Ambassador Barbour suggests. It would certainly take a major incident on the other side to trigger such a seizure, and we do not think the fedayeen by themselves could provoke it. A Syrian takeover, however, could very easily do so.

Moreover, it would not be beyond the capacity of the Lebanese Christians, if they thought their position in the country were deteriorating seriously, to try to stimulate an Israeli intervention by various direct and indirect means.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CHILE

General Rene Schneider, who was named commander of the Chilean Army after last month's uprising, [redacted] on Sunday that he thinks

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Senator Salvador Allende will win next year's presidential election. He says he would accept an Allende government. Schneider termed 73-year-old Jorge Alessandri, the candidate of the conservatives, a "has-been" and said there would be another military rebellion if he were elected. Nor, he asserted, would the army accept Jacques Chonchol, a radical leftist who is vying with Allende for leftist and Communist support. (Most observers agree that the main contenders will be Radomiro Tomic of President Frei's Christian Democrats and Alessandri, along with the candidate of the left.)

Allende belongs to the Socialist Party, the most extreme of Chile's major leftist groups. Among his Socialist colleagues he seems relatively respectable, but he is still a fervent admirer of Fidel Castro and a good friend of the Chilean Communist Party. He also is highly popular with the Chilean electorate; in 1958, in one of his three presidential campaigns, he came in a close second to Alessandri.

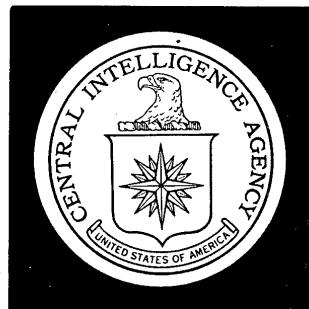
General Schneider's professed willingness to accept Allende is the first indication we have seen of the way political sentiment is running in the upper ranks of the Chilean military--and the military is taking a more active interest in politics in the wake of the uprising last month.

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Communist sappers struck two police posts on the outskirts of Saigon this morning. Enemy activity in the delta also increased. (Page 1)

The East German party daily has taken a hard line on East-West German relations. (Page 2)

Podgorny's speech yesterday contained nothing earthshaking. (Page 3)

Nasir yesterday made his most hawkish speech since the six-day war. (Page 4)

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine says it will not be bound by any agreement between Yasir Arafat and the Lebanese. (Page 5)

The Sino-Soviet border talks have not gotten anywhere. (Page 6)

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VIETNAM

Early this morning Communist sappers attacked two police posts on the southwestern outskirts of Saigon, killing two policemen and wounding five others, according to preliminary reports.

This action may represent increased enemy emphasis in the Saigon area, including stepped up sapper and terrorist incidents within the city itself.

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Fighting also increased in the delta, where there were some 72 enemy-initiated incidents the night of 6-7 November.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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EAST - WEST GERMANY

In its first authoritative commentary on East-West German relations since Brandt's statement last week, the East German party daily Neues Deutschland yesterday repudiated Brandt's concept that relations between the two must be of a "special character." Rather, the paper insisted, relations must be "only on the basis of international law," and Bonn must treat East Germany as a sovereign state.

These rigid formulations are similar to the ones used earlier in the year by Ulbricht, and on the surface they leave little room for compromise. [redacted]

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This latest commentary, however, is not an official government statement and probably does not represent Pankow's last word. It may be designed to pressure the Brandt government to be even more forthcoming. [redacted]

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[redacted] the government may be concerned about domestic popular reaction to Brandt's statement. The editorial thus could also be designed to persuade its East German readers that nothing has changed in Bonn.

At the least, this latest tactical shift underlines the caution with which the East Germans are handling Brandt's statement. We do not expect Brandt to be deterred by the public coolness in Pankow, and in fact we think the East Germans will continue to be more forthcoming in private. [redacted]

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SOVIET UNION

Yesterday's speech by Soviet President Podgorny marking the 52nd anniversary of the October Revolution was the kind of wide-ranging, non-specific survey that has generally been a fixture of the occasion. As the Soviets have frequently done recently, Podgorny said that a positive outcome on SALT could lead to Soviet-US progress in other fields. He warned, however, that the USSR "has never allowed and never will allow anybody to speak to it from a position of strength." His choice of words betrayed once again Moscow's sensitivity to US suggestions that the future of the arms talks is linked to other bilateral problems.

Podgorny professed interest in improving relations with the US, but went on with a comprehensive criticism of American foreign policies. Accusing the US of actions which contradict its official statements, Podgorny reiterated standard Soviet claims of Washington's responsibility for the war in Vietnam and tensions in the Middle East. He dismissed President Nixon's speech of 3 November for allegedly failing to show a "sober" approach to ending the war. On the Middle East Podgorny followed the tough line which has characterized Soviet commentary in recent weeks.

A good part of the speech was devoted to Europe and to presenting Moscow's case for the early convening of a security conference. Podgorny claimed that many European states had responded favorably to the idea. He followed this with a discussion of the "successful development" of Soviet relations with France. Podgorny was cautiously positive in his comments on West Germany. Although he said that the USSR would wait for the Brandt government to prove itself by its "practical deeds," he clearly implied that Moscow was hopeful that changes for the better were in prospect.

We see nothing in Podgorny's polemics that deviates significantly from the recent Soviet line, nor did he break any new ground on the positive side. All in all--and not surprisingly, given the occasion--the speech was pretty standard fare.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT

Nasir's speech yesterday opening the Egyptian National Assembly session is perhaps the most hawkish he has made since the June 1967 war. Adhering almost solely to the theme of the battle with Israel, he reasserted that "what has been taken by force can only be regained by force" and called on all Arabs to forgo their own rivalries to concentrate on the struggle with the enemy. In this connection he reiterated his call for an Arab summit meeting.

Nasir used the past tense when he talked of the chances for a political settlement, and the speech clearly indicated that he sees little hope for a peaceful solution. "Everything up to this moment has been a lost effort," he said; "there is no longer any way out except to open our own road toward what we want by force."

His remarks clearly named the USSR as the friend of the Arabs and the US as their enemy. He echoed recent charges current in the Middle East that US military personnel are fighting with the Israeli Army.

Nasir's language accurately reflects the pessimism rampant in the Arab world. His words will probably set the tone for the Joint Arab Defense Council meeting in Cairo tomorrow. They doubtless will also be loudly acclaimed by Arab nationalists throughout the Middle East.

In spite of this, Cairo will probably continue to cooperate with the efforts of the big powers and the UN in searching for a political settlement. Egypt's public line, however, will continue to be harsh, both as a reflection of genuine pessimism and as a way to put pressure on Tel Aviv.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON

Eric Pace of the New York Times, who talked recently in Amman with officials of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, says he was told that the PFLP does not consider itself bound by any agreement between Yasir Arafat and the Lebanese on fedayeen activity in Lebanon.

The PFLP has always been one of the most intransigent of the fedayeen groups, and its refusal to give Arafat carte blanche is not surprising. As far as we know, however, there are not many PFLP commandos in Lebanon; its militancy in this one case is somewhat academic.

A much more serious question is the attitude of Saiqa, the group associated with the Syrian Baathists. It has not been heard from yet, but it has never been noted for subservience to Arafat. Around half the fedayeen in Lebanon are Saiqa adherents.

Pace also told the US Embassy that the PFLP is planning more airliner hijackings. His contacts specifically mentioned TWA.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA - SOVIET UNION

The Soviet-Chinese border negotiations in Peking so far have gone nowhere. The Chinese, worried about the Soviet military buildup on their borders, are pressing hard for a firm preliminary agreement on military disengagement in disputed areas. The Russians, judging that they now hold the military and political advantage, seem reluctant to reach such a tactical accord without broader agreement on specific territorial differences.

The Soviets still profess optimism in their public commentary, but early this week several Russian journalists indicated to US officials that the Soviet delegation was finding the going difficult in Peking.

The Chinese are also beginning to release indirectly their version of the impasse. A Hong Kong newspaper yesterday blamed lack of progress on Moscow's desire to negotiate from a position of strength. The paper strongly reiterated the Chinese contention that an agreement to calm down the frontier must precede negotiations on substantive issues.

Despite these intimations of stalemate, neither side appears to want the talks to fail. Each continues to mute propaganda attacks against the other. According to diplomatic sources in Peking, the top two members of each delegation are meeting privately in an effort to overcome the deadlock.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR - Communist China: The Soviets are continuing to give priority treatment to their units on the Chinese border.

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USSR-Cuba: Havana radio announced yesterday that Defense Minister Grechko will "soon" be visiting Cuba at the request of the Cubans. Grechko will be the first high Soviet official to visit the island since Kosygin stopped off on his way home from the UN in 1967. Havana gave no reason for the visit, and there have been no recent reports of difficulties which might have prompted the Cubans to ask him to come. He will, however, doubtless check the Soviet military aid program while he is there.

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8 November 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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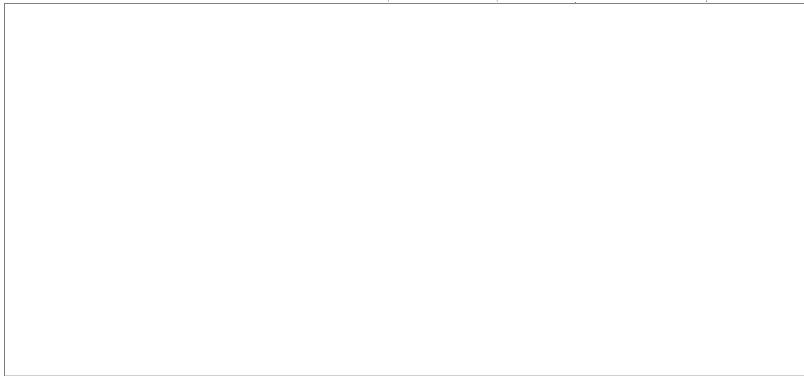
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Marcos still looks to be the winner in next Tuesday's Philippine presidential elections, but the separately contested vice presidential race may be closer. (Page 2)

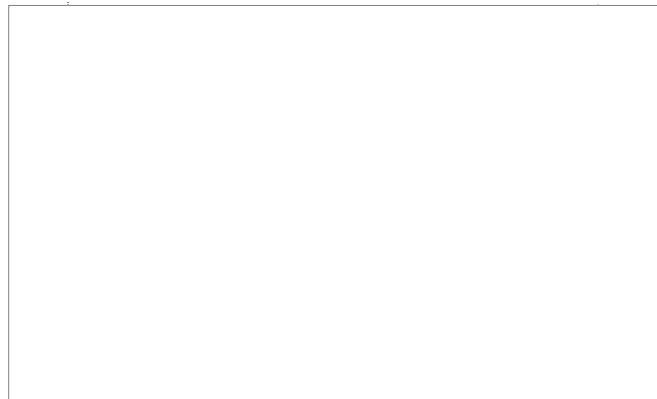
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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WEST GERMANY - SOVIET UNION



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PHILIPPINES

President Marcos still looks like the winner in next Tuesday's elections. His opponent, Liberal Party Senator Osmena, does not seem to have developed the last-minute head of steam most observers thought was necessary for him to overtake Marcos.

The separately contested vice presidential race, on the other hand, is rated a toss-up. Vice President Lopez, the candidate of Marcos' Nacion-alista Party, has projected considerable appeal as an honest and self-effacing man. The opposition candidate, Senator Magsaysay, has traded to good effect on the fact that he is the younger brother of the late and still much revered President Ramon Magsaysay.

As the incumbent, Marcos has exploited his control of government organizations to the fullest in his pursuit of a second term.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTE

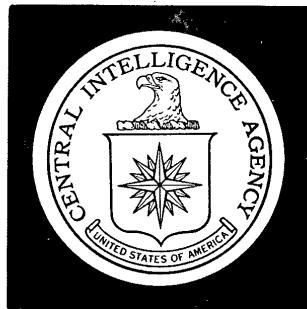
South Vietnam: Communist shellings and attacks fell off considerably overnight.

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Several Communist sappers captured in Saigon yesterday say that they, too, had been ordered to carry out attacks over a five-day period--in their case from 10 to 15 November.

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10 November 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

10 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Enemy activity in South Vietnam dropped slightly over the weekend, but there are numerous indications that the Communists plan further actions.
(Page 1)

Cairo is anticipating Israeli retaliation for its raid Saturday against installations in the Sinai Peninsula. *(Page 2)*

In northern Laos, the North Vietnamese are trying to overcome resupply problems caused by interdiction of roads. *(Page 3)*

Bonn is moving ahead swiftly on the nonproliferation treaty. *(Page 4)*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The intensity of the opening phase of the enemy's winter-spring campaign tapered off somewhat over the weekend.

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Captured documents and statements of prisoners indicate that the enemy plans heavier attacks in widely scattered areas of the country during November and December, including sapper actions against Saigon.

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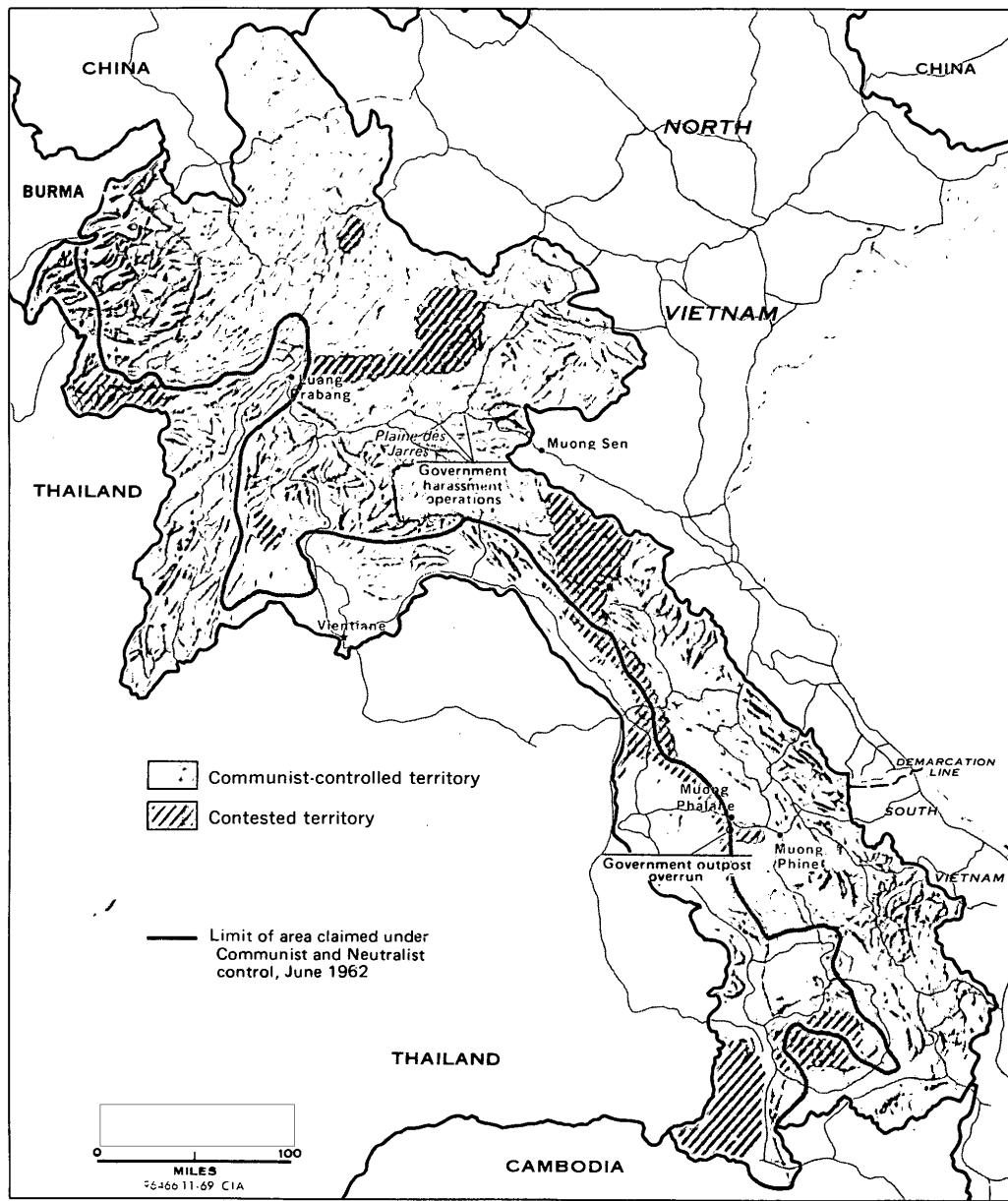
EGYPT-ISRAEL

Cairo has put its forces in the Suez Canal area in a high state of alert. This has been done in anticipation of an early retaliation for the Egyptian naval bombardment of Israeli installations in the Sinai Peninsula on Saturday.

The Egyptian operation probably was timed to coincide with the harsh public statements being issued by the Arab foreign and defense ministers now meeting in Cairo. Tel Aviv appears not to be overly concerned by the raid, which it claims did little or no damage, but we do not rule out some return action.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos: Current Situation



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS



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The fact that Communist military activity has been concentrated primarily against clearing Route 7 of government guerrillas suggests that, until resupply problems are ironed out, there is little likelihood of a large-scale Communist offensive.

In southern Laos, Communist forces have had some success in blocking further government forays into the infiltration corridor. There is a growing threat to the government base at Muong Phalane, and this has forced government commanders to pull back a column operating near Muong Phine.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

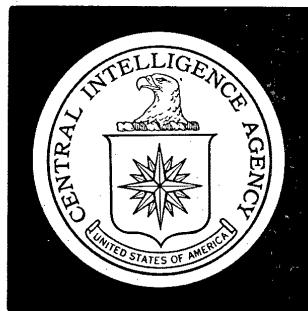
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

West Germany: Chancellor Brandt is moving forward rapidly on his commitment for early signature of the nonproliferation treaty. Present West German plans call for parliamentary debate on the treaty on 12 November, cabinet consideration the following day, and signature early next week, according to Disarmament Commissioner Hellmuth Roth.

India: Despite attempts to work out differences, Congress Party leadership remains badly split. Congress' governing Working Committee, which is dominated by Mrs. Gandhi's enemies, is scheduled to meet this week, and it may take disciplinary action against the Prime Minister and her supporters. Such action would further reduce the already slim chance for an eventual compromise between the quarreling factions.

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11 November 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Soviet leadership is seriously concerned about the lack of progress in the economy. (Page 1)

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Cambodia has received large rice shipments from China and North Vietnam which appear to be intended for Cambodian consumption and possibly for transshipment to the Viet Cong. (Page 3)

The Soviets have established a new military district opposite China's Sinkiang Province. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

President Podgorny's gloomy national day speech on 7 November reflected the Soviet leadership's concern over the lack of progress in the economy. Podgorny dampened the festiveness of the occasion by admitting that living standards are not rising "as fast as all of us would like" and that labor productivity is lagging.

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[redacted] statements reveal the Soviet leaders' considerable preoccupation with economic troubles and their impatience for better results. They do not, however, provide any indication on how the leadership intends to cope with the situation. As the deadlines for enacting the annual and next five-year plans approach, they will be compelled to make hard political decisions on whether they should adopt significant economic reforms.

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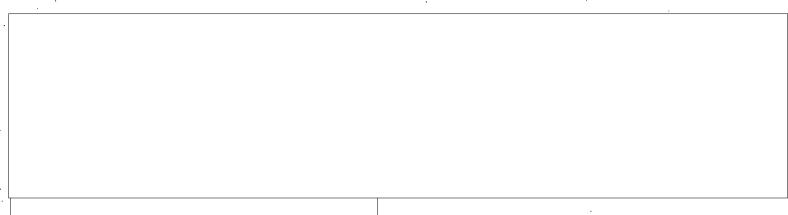
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON



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CAMBODIA-VIETNAM

[redacted] the arrival in Sihanoukville
of 4,000 tons of North Vietnamese rice on 28 October
and 10,000 tons of Chinese rice the next day. [redacted]
[redacted] the rice is destined for
the Viet Cong. [redacted] a second Chinese
shipment of 10,000 tons is due in late November.

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[redacted] the deliveries were
made under the terms of a trade agreement signed
on 25 September by Cambodia and the Viet Cong Pro-
visional Revolutionary Government. The agreement
among other things provides for the transshipment
through Cambodia of third-country goods destined
for the Viet Cong.

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We doubt that all of this rice is des-
tined for the Communists. For one thing,
the amounts said to be involved are high
in terms both of the Communists' current
need for external rice sources and of
their ability to move and store such
quantities in such a short time. It may
be, however, that the Communists intend
to set up larger stockpiles in Cambodia.

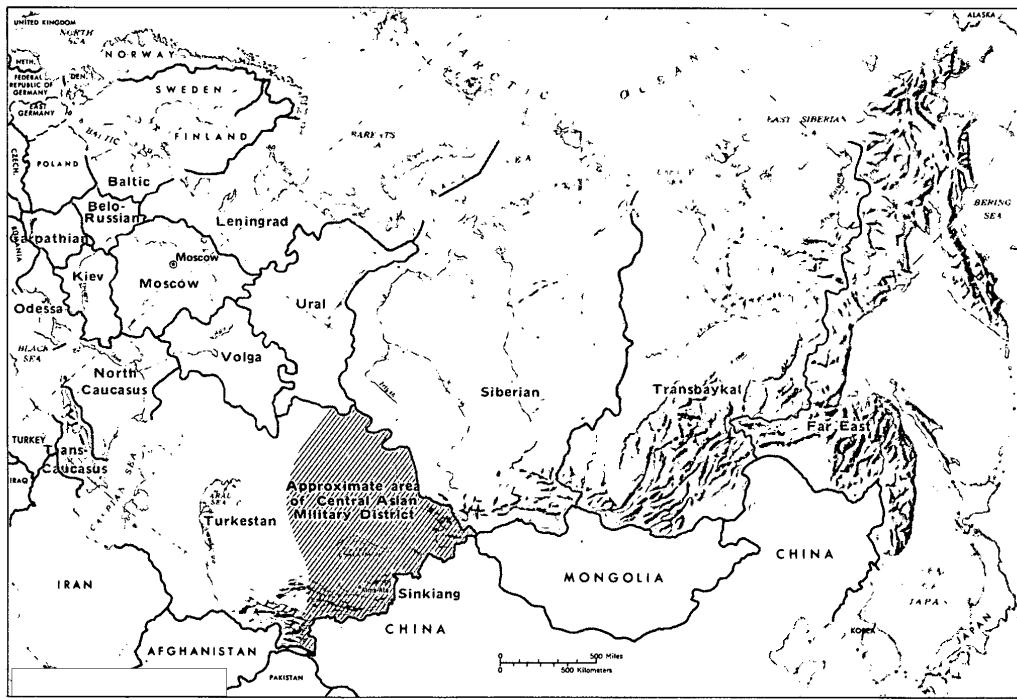
Whatever was not shipped to South Viet-
nam could easily be absorbed by the Cam-
bodian economy. For the first time in
recent history there is a rice shortage
in Cambodia.

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[redacted]

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Soviets Establish New Military District Along Chinese Border



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

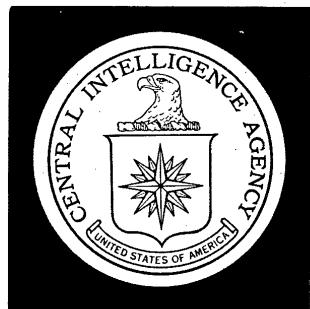
USSR

The Soviets have established a new military district opposite China's Sinkiang Province. Radio and press reports refer to it as the Central Asian Military District. It was carved out of the eastern part of the Turkestan Military District, and its headquarters probably is at Alma Ata.

This administrative restructuring of the Soviet military in the Far East is long overdue. The new district almost certainly was established to improve command and control in an area where the Soviets have more than doubled their forces in the past four years.

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12 November 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

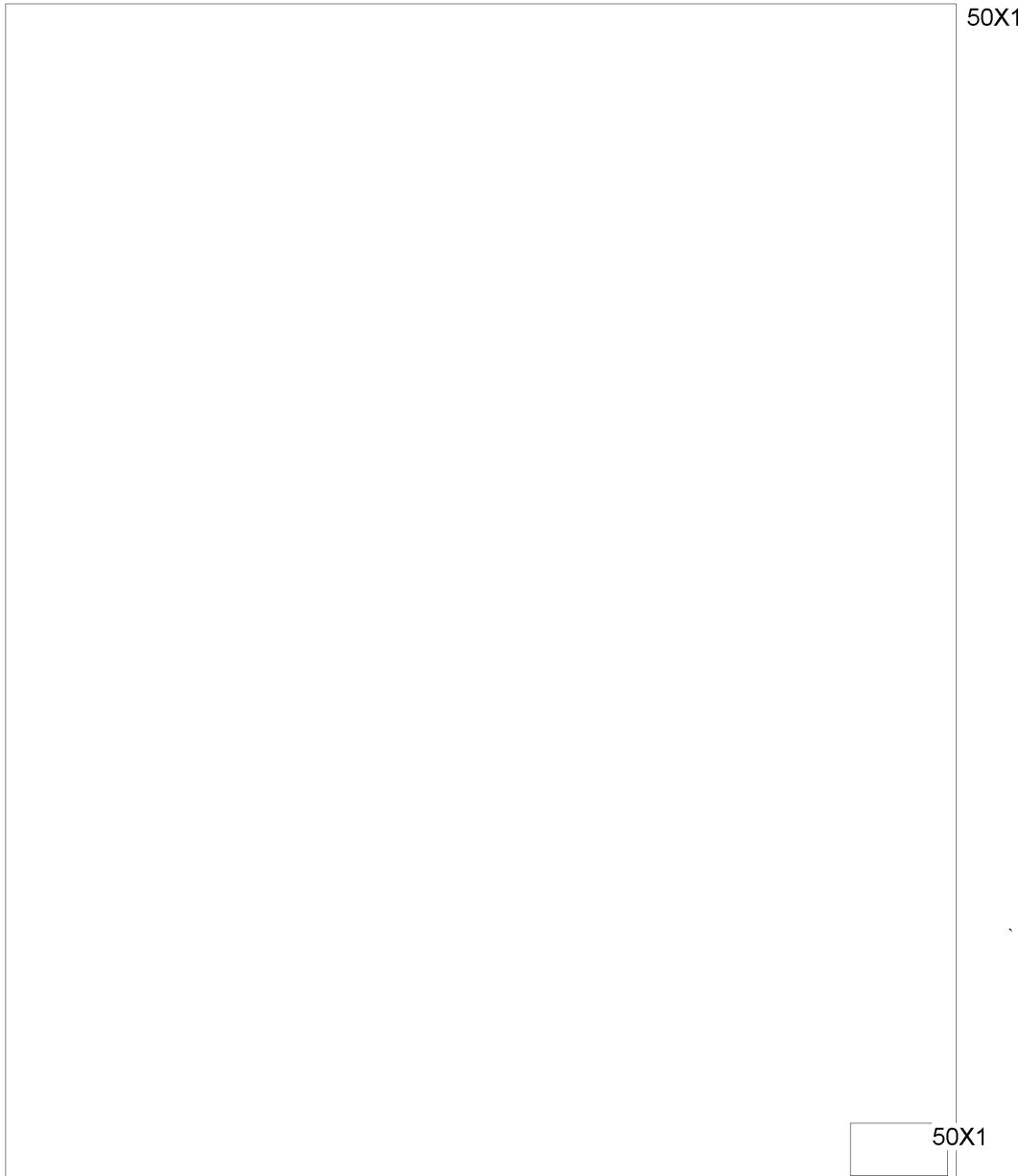
12 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Soviets are developing a new instrumentation ship that will significantly improve their ability to communicate with their spacecraft. (Page 1)

With the release of some long-detained overseas Chinese in Rangoon, the Burmese Government has removed a major irritant in relations with Communist China. (Page 2)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOVIET UNION

Recent satellite photography shows a new instrumentation ship under construction that will significantly increase the ability of Soviets to communicate with spacecraft. The ship, being built at Leningrad, is half again as big as the Vladimir Komarov, the largest Soviet instrumentation ship now in operation.

Analysis of the photography indicates that the new ship will carry four large antennas, two of which are 12 meters in diameter, and at least one of the other two 25 meters. (The largest shipborne antennas now in use, on both our Apollo support ships and on the Komarov, are nine meters.)

The new ship probably could not be ready for service before late 1970. It will most likely be stationed in the Western Hemisphere.

From this area, the new ship would significantly improve Moscow's round-the-clock communication with spacecraft. The USSR currently uses 25-meter antennas in the Crimea and the Far East for lunar and deep space missions, but these are not well enough located to provide 24-hour coverage.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

BURMA - COMMUNIST CHINA

The Burmese have acted to remove a major irritant in their relations with China. Last Sunday they released 27 overseas Chinese political detainees, some of whom had been held since the riots in Rangoon two years ago. These riots were provoked by the propaganda activities of Chinese Communist Embassy personnel.

For several weeks Burmese officials have professed to see signs of a thaw in Peking's attitude on mutual relations. Last week, Ne Win promised to try to improve relations in his annual policy address before the government party conference.

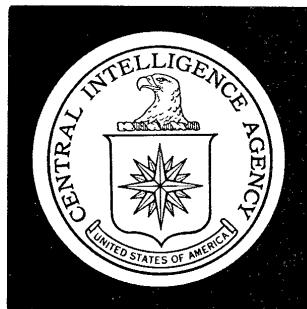
With the release of the overseas Chinese, Peking may now feel free to restore closer diplomatic relations.

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Any real Sino-Burmese rapprochement of course will require the Chinese to back away from their support of Burmese Communist insurgency, something Peking as yet has shown little interest in doing.

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13 November 1969



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

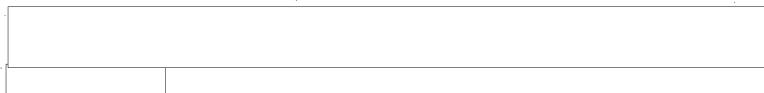
13 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Vietnamese Communists are setting up attacks to coincide with this week's antiwar demonstrations.
(Page 1)

A Pravda editor's remarks provide an insight into Soviet concern about US reaction to Nasir's belligerent speech. (Page 2)

Mrs. Gandhi's opponents' efforts to throw her out of the party may cause an irrevocable split.
(Page 3)



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communists are moving to make the most of
this week's antiwar demonstrations in the US.

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There are likely to be widespread shellings and some limited ground attacks.

The Viet Cong's Liberation Radio has called
for a major effort to encourage desertions from al-
lied forces, and reports from several provinces in-
dicate an attempt will also be made to stir up an-
tiwar demonstrations.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL - ARAB STATES

An Israeli Phantom--one of the eight delivered to Israel in the past two months--shot down a MIG-21 on 11 November. It was the first time the Israeli Air Force has used a Phantom in combat.

* * *

A Pravda editor, on his return to Moscow from Cairo, dropped in for a chat with a US Embassy official. He discounted Nasir's warlike speech on 6 November as "the usual rhetoric" to assuage Arab public opinion, and he urged the US to intensify its efforts for a peaceful settlement.

The editor's remarks appear to express genuine Soviet concern that the US might overreact to Nasir's speech. The semi-official approach suggests that Moscow does not want to see negotiations for a settlement break down.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

INDIA

Mrs. Gandhi was expelled yesterday from the Congress Party by her opponents in the party's working committee, but received an overwhelming vote of confidence from a meeting of the parliamentary party members today. All of the members present--330 out of 432--endorsed her leadership.

Mrs. Gandhi is also likely to be successful in her bid to remain prime minister when Parliament reconvenes on Monday. Even if as many as one third of Congress Party legislators defect, which now seems unlikely, she should still be able to arrange a vote of confidence with the help of opposition parties. She could thus continue to govern, however unsteadily, with patchwork support, and would not necessarily have to form a coalition.

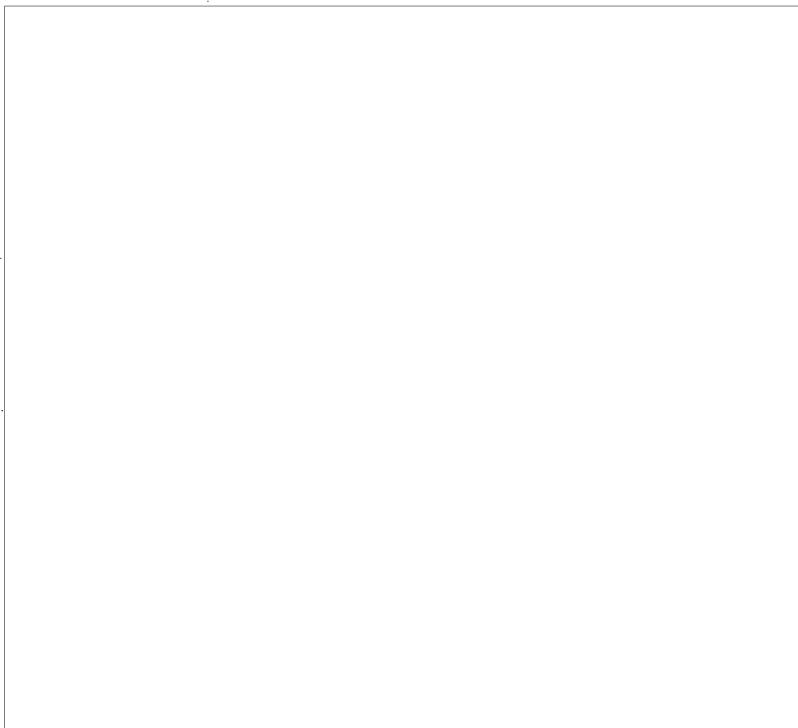
Mrs. Gandhi's supporters meanwhile continue to prepare for a meeting of the All India Congress Committee, which she has called for 22-23 November. Party President Nijalingappa, who presided over her ouster, in turn has termed this meeting illegal and expects to preside at his own faction's version of this assemblage in December.

It is too soon to forecast political events in India beyond the opening of Parliament. It is clear, however, that the Congress Party will lose its majority position. This has been coming for a long time, and means that Indian politics at the national level will be increasingly unstable and Indian policy more erratic.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY



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NOTES

Bolivia: There are now at least two factions in the military that oppose the President. A so-called radical faction believes Ovando is too timid and vacillating to carry out the "revolution" effectively. It apparently is led by armed forces commander in chief General Torres, who [redacted] is working closely with [redacted] the leftist extremist Minister of Mines Quiroga. The other faction, made up of more moderate officers, objects to having the armed forces associated with recent government actions. There is as yet no evidence that either faction is preparing to move against Ovando in the near future, but both groups undoubtedly will try to move their men into strategic positions.

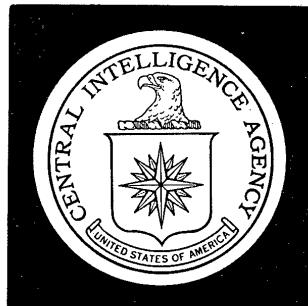
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Colombia: The failure of last week's party conventions to choose a National Front candidate for next year's presidential elections has touched off a political imbroglio that might go on for a month before a candidate is selected. The National Front system of government provides for alternating presidencies and equal sharing of political offices between the country's two major parties. Most politicians agree that if they do not get together, the National Front may end before its scheduled date in 1974 and result in further political disintegration.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Moscow's attempts to ease the quarrel with Peking have been motivated largely by its belief that the West will exploit the dispute to Moscow's disadvantage
(Page 1)

50X1

The USSR is becoming involved in supporting guerrilla organizations formed by Arab Communist parties.
(Page 2)

50X1

Australian Prime Minister Gorton has strengthened his political position. (Page 5)

President Marcos is preparing to reduce the Philippine presence in Vietnam. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

The USSR continues to be deeply worried that other countries, and particularly the US, will exploit the Sino-Soviet conflict to Moscow's disadvantage. This concern is a large part of the reason for current Soviet efforts to ease the confrontation with Peking.

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USSR - MIDDLE EAST

The USSR is becoming involved in supporting fledgling commando organizations formed by Arab Communist parties.

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Moscow's decision to become directly connected with guerrilla warfare in the Middle East represents a departure from its previous no-contact policy. The Soviets have extended aid to the fedayeen through Arab governments and other third parties but have scrupulously avoided close involvement.

Moscow may have decided to make an exception with commando groups sponsored by Communist parties because they will be more responsible to Soviet control than the fedayeen and will confine their operations to occupied territories. The USSR is unlikely to abandon the fedayeen, however, even though their wide-ranging terrorist tactics have been a source of concern for Moscow.

The new step by the Soviets does not necessarily indicate that Moscow's interest in a political settlement has faded. Moscow's action may be partially motivated by a concern for the future image of Arab Communist parties if they do not become more identified with the military action against Israel.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PAKISTAN-JORDAN



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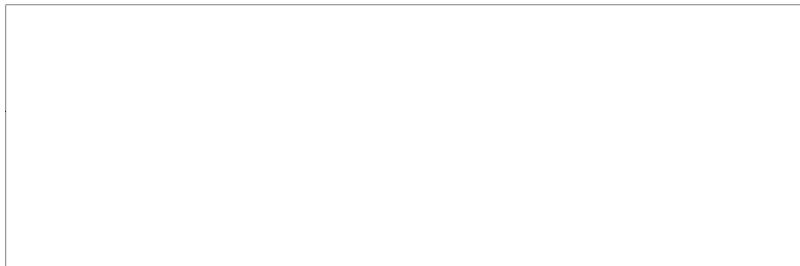


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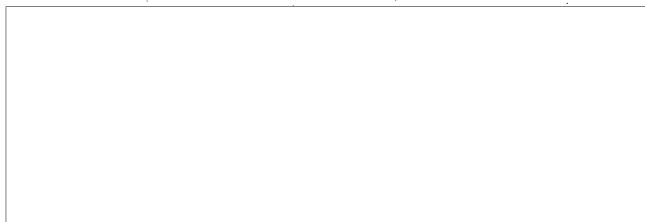
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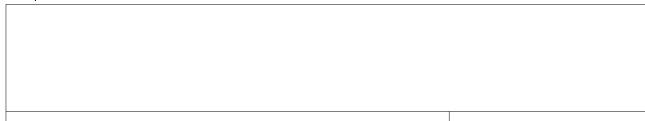
ISRAEL - WEST GERMANY



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AUSTRALIA

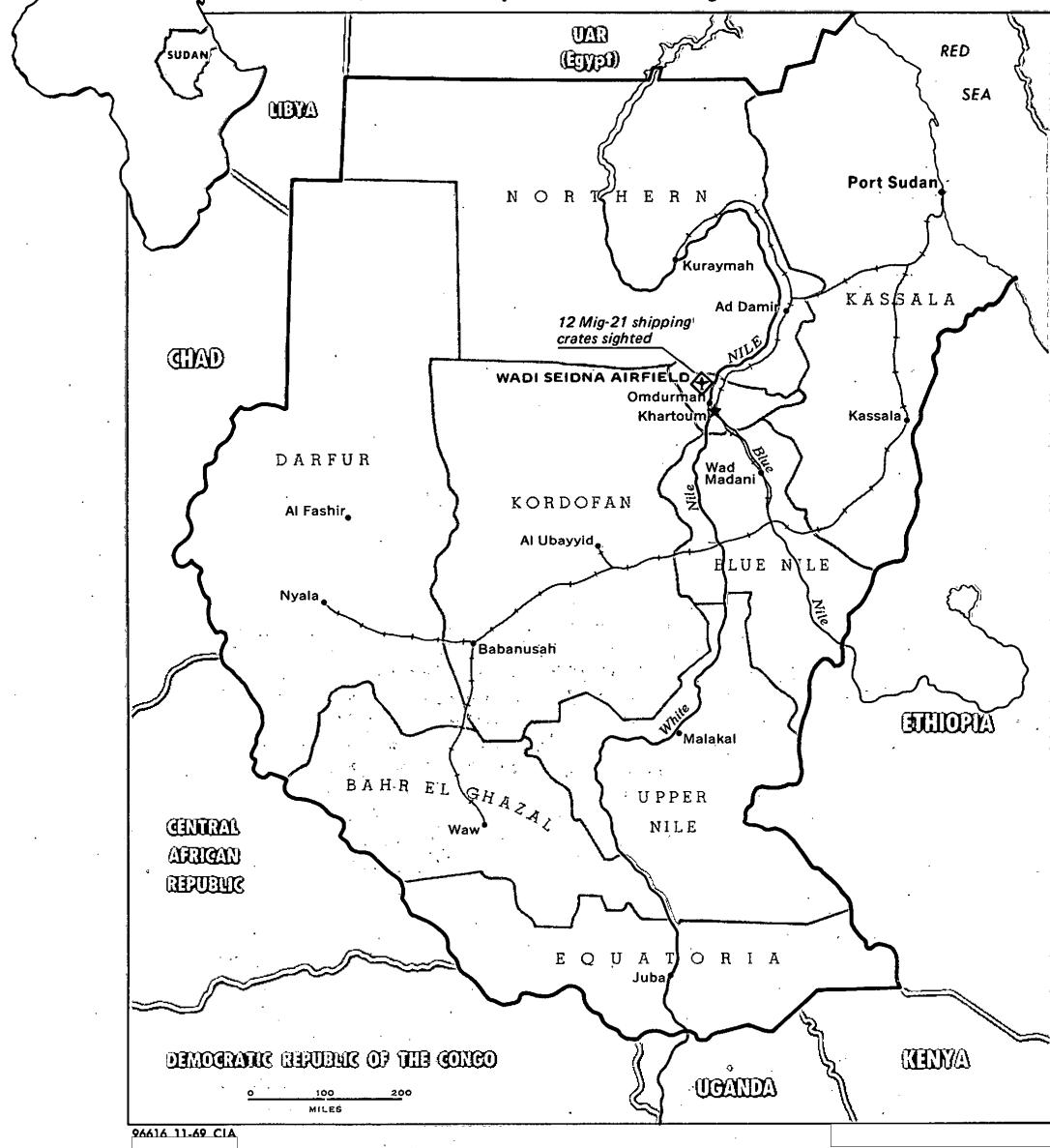
Prime Minister Gorton, having weathered the challenge to his leadership within his own party, moved further this week to strengthen his political position in naming a new cabinet. The two most influential members, Treasury Secretary Leslie Bury and Defense Minister Malcolm Fraser, are Gorton supporters. Gorton's strongest opponent, William McMahon, was shifted from the treasury to external affairs, a portfolio overshadowed by Gorton's own firm control of foreign policy.

Gorton may feel ready to work more closely with the cabinet now that he has a clear, if narrow, majority of personal supporters within it.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SUDAN Receives First Shipment of Soviet Fighter Aircraft



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

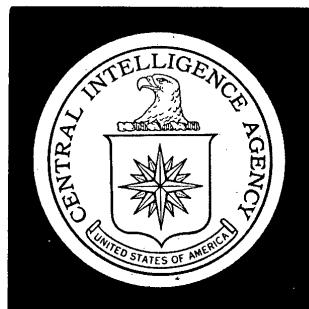
Sudan-USSR: [redacted]

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Vietnam-Philippines: President Marcos is preparing to reduce the Philippine presence in Vietnam. He has called a meeting of his cabinet to discuss a plan to withdraw most of the 1,500-man Philippine civic action team, leaving in place only a small medical contingent. Marcos probably calculates that such a compromise arrangement would satisfy congressional critics of Philippine involvement in Vietnam and boost his chances of getting favorable action on his legislative program. At the same time, he hopes that keeping even a small Philippine presence will give Manila a voice in future discussions on Vietnam.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

15 November 1969

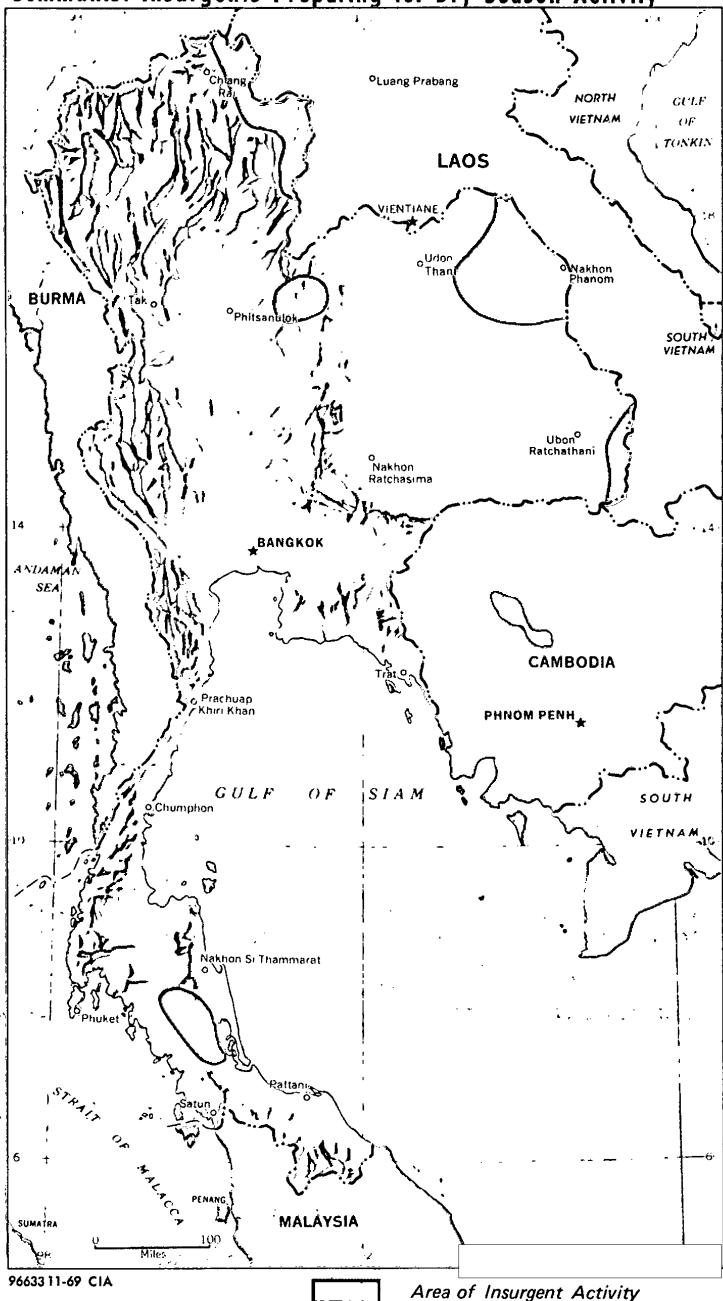
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Preparations for the annual dry season insurgency campaign in Thailand are under way. (Page 1)

The UN General Assembly is not likely to act decisively on the various chemical and biological warfare resolutions. (Page 2)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Communist Insurgents Preparing for Dry Season Activity



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THAILAND

The Communists appear to be preparing their annual dry season insurgency campaign in several parts of the country. Villagers and defectors report an increase in the number and size of tribal units in the north, many of which appear better armed than in the past. In the adjacent lowlands, tribal units have for the first time recruited some ethnic Thais. This may indicate the Communists intend to expand their efforts into the more civilized parts of the country.

In the northeast the insurgents are operating out of their traditional areas in what appears to be an attempt to popularize their movement in local villages. In addition, Communist terrorist tactics in the south in recent weeks mark the first serious challenge of the government presence on the peninsula that joins Thailand with Malaysia.

So far, the guerrillas have managed to dramatize their presence well beyond their actual strength. It does appear, however, that violence will spread to areas that were quiet in the past.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

UN - ARMS CONTROL

The Swedes have considerable nonaligned support in the lobbies of the General Assembly for their resolution banning the use of CBW (chemical and biological warfare) agents, including tear gas, as provided for under the Geneva protocol of 1925. Nothing definitive on the CBW issue is likely to emerge from this session of the General Assembly. Indeed, the various resolutions on this topic probably will be referred to the Geneva disarmament conference for further consideration.

Meanwhile, the Soviets have temporarily held back from promoting their draft convention. It prohibits the development, production, and stockpiling of CBW agents and requires signatories to destroy existing stocks or divert them to peaceful uses.

The Swedes have not been deterred in advancing their resolution even though they have been made aware that it might complicate the US decision to ratify the protocol. Although the Soviets are not pushing their own plan at this time, they can be expected to renew their efforts later this month when the UN formally discusses disarmament.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Bolivia-USSR: [redacted]

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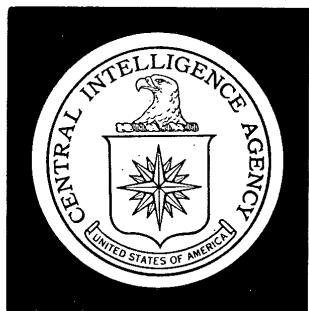
USSR: [redacted] recent movements by space support ships indicate that the Soviets plan soon to launch an unmanned lunar mission, but a precise lift-off date cannot yet be determined. The monitoring ships are only three or four days' sailing time from their support stations.

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The President's Daily Brief

17 November 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Lebanese President Hilu fears loss of control over
the military. (Page 1)

India's Congress Party takes another step toward a
final split. (Page 2)

Paraguayan church leaders are taking on the govern-
ment on several fronts. (Page 3)



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON

President Hilu believes General Bustani did a poor job of negotiating in Cairo. The President told Ambassador Porter that Bustani had fallen for flattery and agreed to several provisions he had not discussed with his government. Hilu did not specify which provisions, but said the most dangerous one concerned the status of the refugee camps.

Ambassador Porter points out that Hilu now has doubts about his control over the military. He quotes the President as saying, "What will happen to Lebanon if tomorrow we have a prime minister who is unwilling to use force to control the fedayeen and an army whose leadership may be similarly unwilling or unable?"

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

INDIA

The warring factions of the ruling Congress Party have moved closer to a final split. Yesterday, about 100 of the party's parliamentary delegation who are opposed to Prime Minister Gandhi elected their own leadership under former deputy prime minister Morarji Desai. Desai resigned from the cabinet last July during an intraparty fight over bank nationalization and the nomination of a presidential candidate.

Mrs. Gandhi probably has enough strength to win a vote of confidence in Parliament, which opens today. If her party remains divided, however, she would have to rely on the votes of the leftist opposition parties to stay in power.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

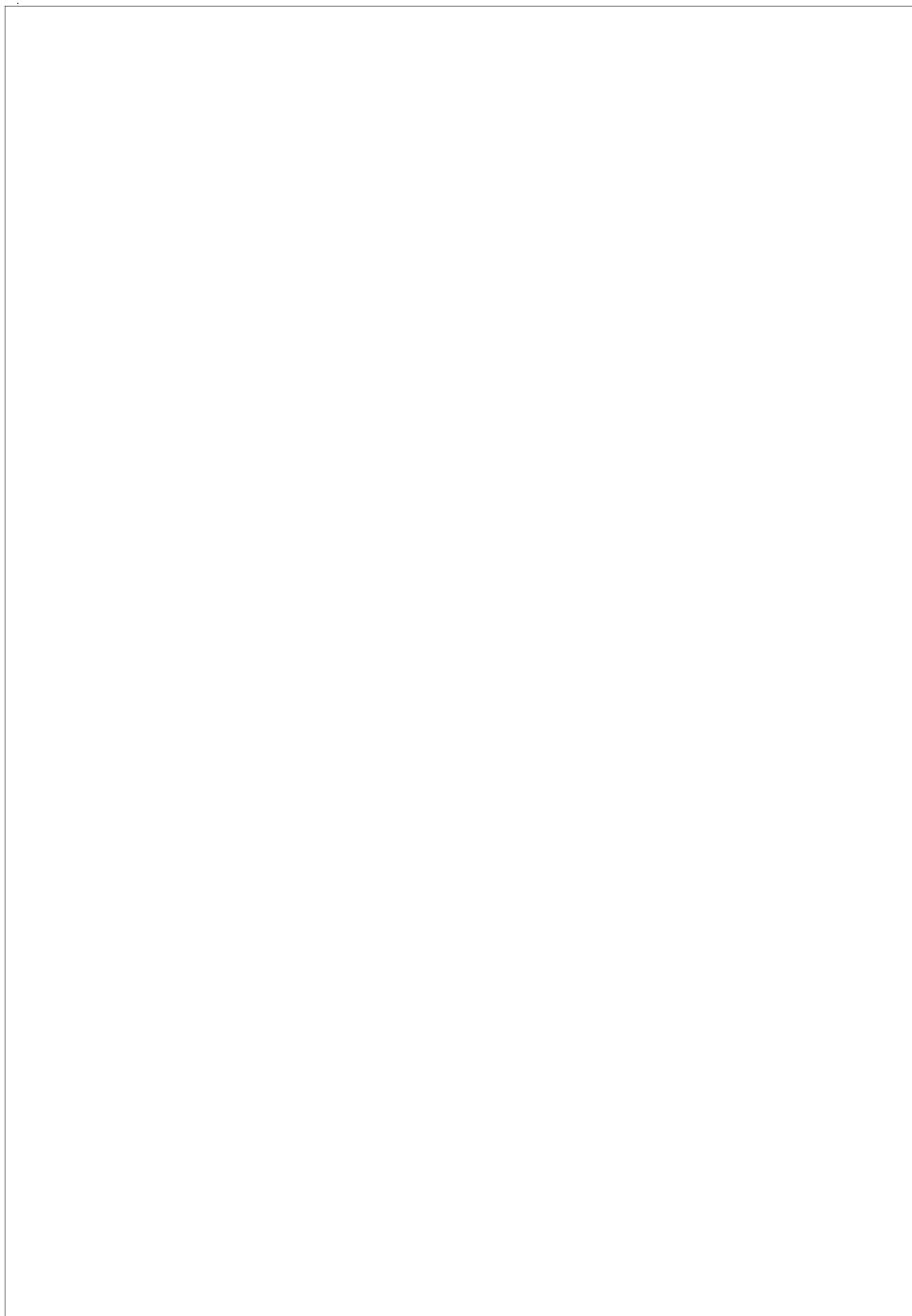
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PARAGUAY

General Stroessner's heavy-handed tactics against student demonstrations have brought on a new struggle with reform-minded members of the Catholic hierarchy. Some priests and nuns have joined students in protesting the continued detention of students arrested last June during Governor Rockefeller's visit. Late in October several priests were beaten by police who were breaking up a lay/clergy procession. The council of bishops retaliated by excommunicating the officials involved, and in turn the government closed the church's semi-official weekly newspaper. Behind-the-scenes efforts to mediate have so far proved fruitless. Church leaders and government officials, including Stroessner himself, continue to exchange recriminations.

The Paraguayan church is emerging rapidly from its former isolation, and an increasing number of bishops and priests are involving themselves in the political issues of economic and social reform. In a country where political compromise is rare, the dispute between church and state is likely to sputter on for a long time. It is not apt to cause a real crisis, but it could weaken the 15-year-old regime's position as sole arbiter of Paraguayan political life.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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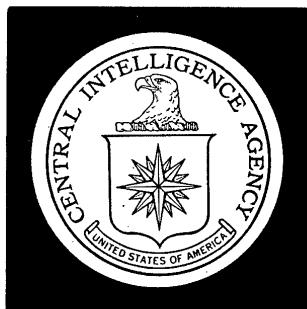
Vietnam:

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Israel - Arab States: The sabotaging of two Israeli ships in Eilat harbor early yesterday was carried out by Egyptian frogmen apparently from the nearby Jordanian port of Aqaba. The Israelis are extremely sensitive to any threat to the port, which is their only trade outlet to the Far East as well as the main supply route for Israel's oil imports. Terrorist attacks on Eilat have in the past brought Israeli reprisals on Aqaba, and yesterday's incident is not likely to be an exception.

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18 November 1969



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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An official of the Soviet Embassy in Washington has given his impressions of Moscow's thoughts on SALT.
(Page 2)

Prime Minister Gandhi has defeated a no-confidence motion in Parliament with the help of diverse supporters. (Page 3)

Recent satellite photography shows that the military build-up on both sides of the Sino-Soviet border is continuing. (Page 4)

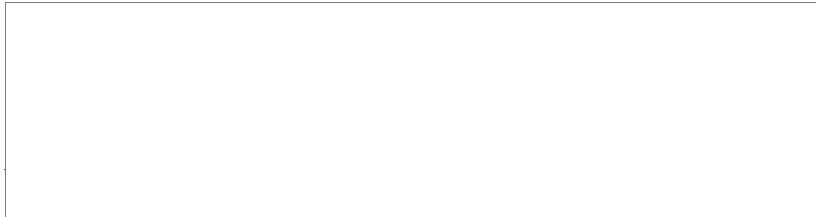


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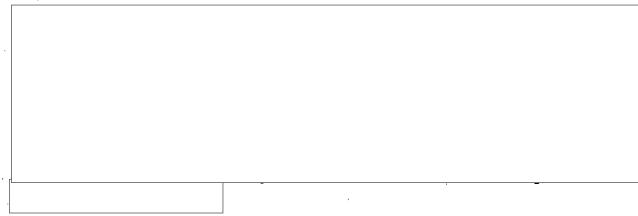
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM



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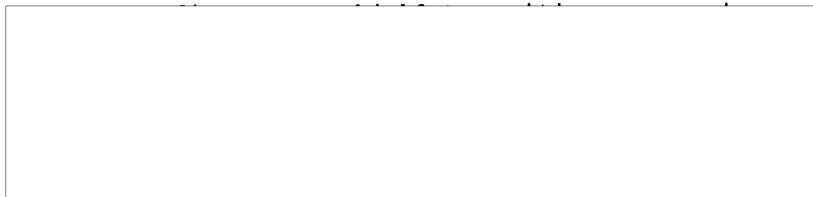


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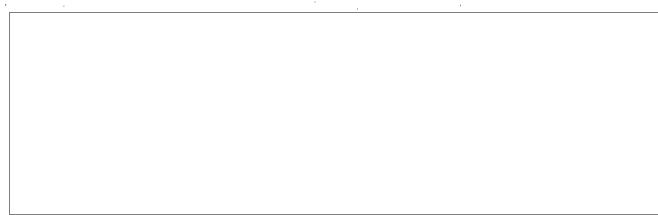
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOVIET UNION

The first secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, Anatoly Lebedev, told a Department of State official on 14 November that in his opinion the USSR would be willing to consider a moratorium on MIRV and ABM deployment. Lebedev also repeated Moscow's desire to include offensive and defensive strategic arms in the limitation talks. He added that the USSR would be willing to move the substantive talks to Vienna if the US so desires.

Lebedev was giving his impressions of "indications" from Moscow and was not relaying official instructions. In the past, casual remarks on priority topics from members of the Soviet diplomatic corps have not been a reliable gauge to the Kremlin's thinking.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

INDIA

Prime Minister Gandhi yesterday easily defeated a no-confidence motion in Parliament introduced by a right-wing opposition party. The opposition was joined by the 65 break-away Congress Party members, led by ex-deputy prime minister Morarji Desai. Support for Mrs. Gandhi from independents and regional, socialist, and Communist parties brought the vote to 306, well over the 262 needed to survive the challenge.

Although her victory was not dependent on the 43 Communists in Parliament, there is no assurance that she will not need them in the future as she tries to accommodate the often conflicting interests of her new allies.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-CHINA

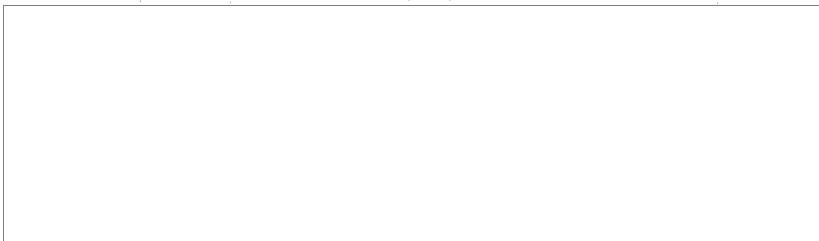
Satellite photography of early November shows that the military build-up along the Sino-Soviet border is continuing. Additional artillery and engineering equipment and fighter aircraft were observed on the Soviet side, while in China increased numbers of tanks were identified.

About half of the Soviets' 27 to 30 ground force divisions along the Sino-Soviet border are now combat ready. These forces are supported by two tactical air armies and nuclear-capable missiles.

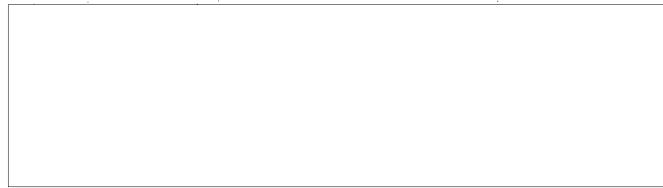
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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EGYPT



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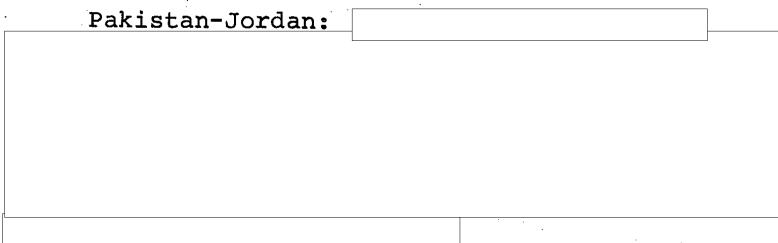
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

Pakistan-Jordan:



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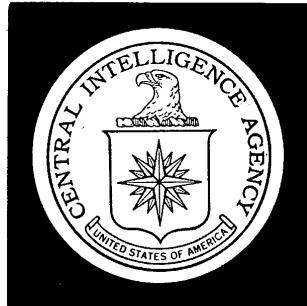
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The President's Daily Brief

19 November 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Enemy infiltration into South Vietnam will soon reach the level of last year if it continues at the present high rate. (Page 1)

Recent Arab military actions are building up pressures on the Israeli leadership to strike back harder. (Page 2)

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Military unrest continues to mount in Chile. (Page 5)

The Soviet ambassador in Cairo is annoyed with the Egyptian press for misreporting Soviet policy. (Page 6)

[Redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

The sharply increased rate of infiltration, noted in recent issues of The President's Daily Brief, will probably soon reach the level of last year. An intercepted message sent to a major infiltration station near Vinh stated that the Directorate of Rear Services has ordered two groups to move out every day beginning on 20 November. The message gave no indication as to how long this would continue. If, as in the past, each group is battalion size, over 1,000 men could enter the pipeline daily for as long as the flow continued.

A similar signal last year, stating that "from the 4th of December there will be two groups each day," led to major inputs into the pipeline. In December 1968 alone, nearly 28,000 troops were detected moving toward destinations in South Vietnam.

A manpower flow of this magnitude over the next few months would enable the Communists to rebuild their units in the South by early next year.

The travel time for infiltration groups has been shortened considerably. It is now possible for troops headed for provinces around Saigon, for example, to make the trip in less than three months. Last year, infiltrators starting out in December did not reach the III Corps area until March. Those troops were used to replace enemy forces lost during the 1969 Tet offensive.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL

Recent Arab military actions are building up pressures on the Israeli leadership to strike back harder. The Arabs still cannot challenge Israel's over-all superiority, but they have garnered credit in the past few days for inflicting a certain amount of damage on Israeli forces. Egyptian commando operations in Sinai, the activity of frogmen in the Israeli port of Eilat, and Monday's loss of a fighter-bomber to Egyptian antiaircraft fire in Jordan are three examples.

As usual under such circumstances, the hawks in Tel Aviv are said to be advocating drastic action.

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The Israeli cabinet is almost certain to reject most of the hawks' proposals. There will probably be a further increase in cross-border operations, however.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

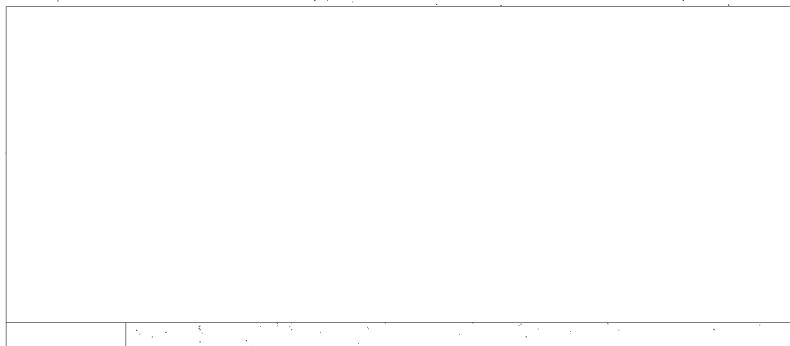
Southern Lebanon:



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON



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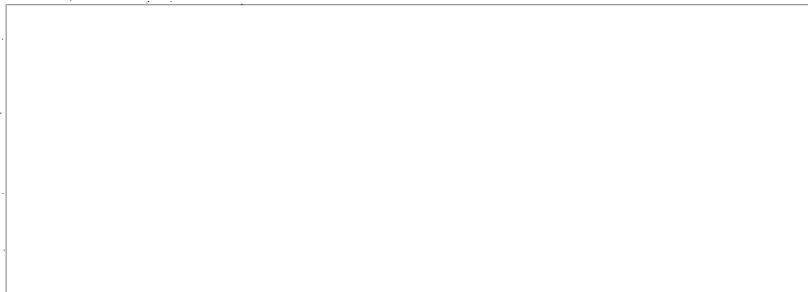
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE

Military unrest continues to mount in spite of government concessions since the army uprising last month. Various groups involved in coup plotting are not coordinating their efforts, however, and no clear plan of action has emerged. Some dissidents look for leadership from General Viaux, who led the revolt last month. Viaux insists, however, that the time is not propitious for revolt

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Viaux's trial will be delayed; he had an appendectomy on 17 November. Meanwhile, distrust between the military and government seems to be feeding on itself.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-UAR

[redacted] Ambassador Vinogradov vehemently denied he had called the latest US peace proposal an "American concoction biased in favor of Israel" as Al Ahram claimed. Vinogradov also dissociated the USSR from Egyptian press stories claiming Israeli forces had participated in US and British naval exercises.

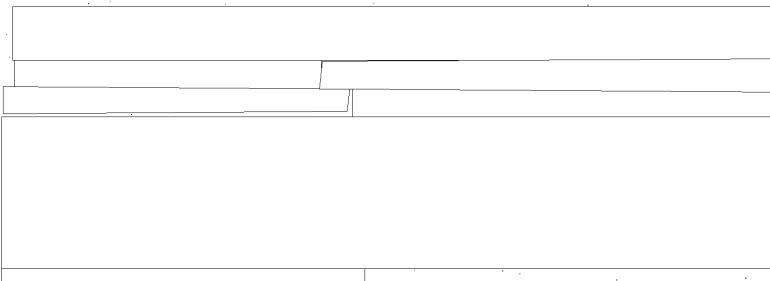
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Vinogradov's pique, though no doubt genuine, will not set back Soviet-Egyptian relations. Nevertheless, his comments do provide further evidence that the Arabs--and especially Cairo--are troublesome allies rather than Soviet puppets.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SPAIN - UNITED KINGDOM



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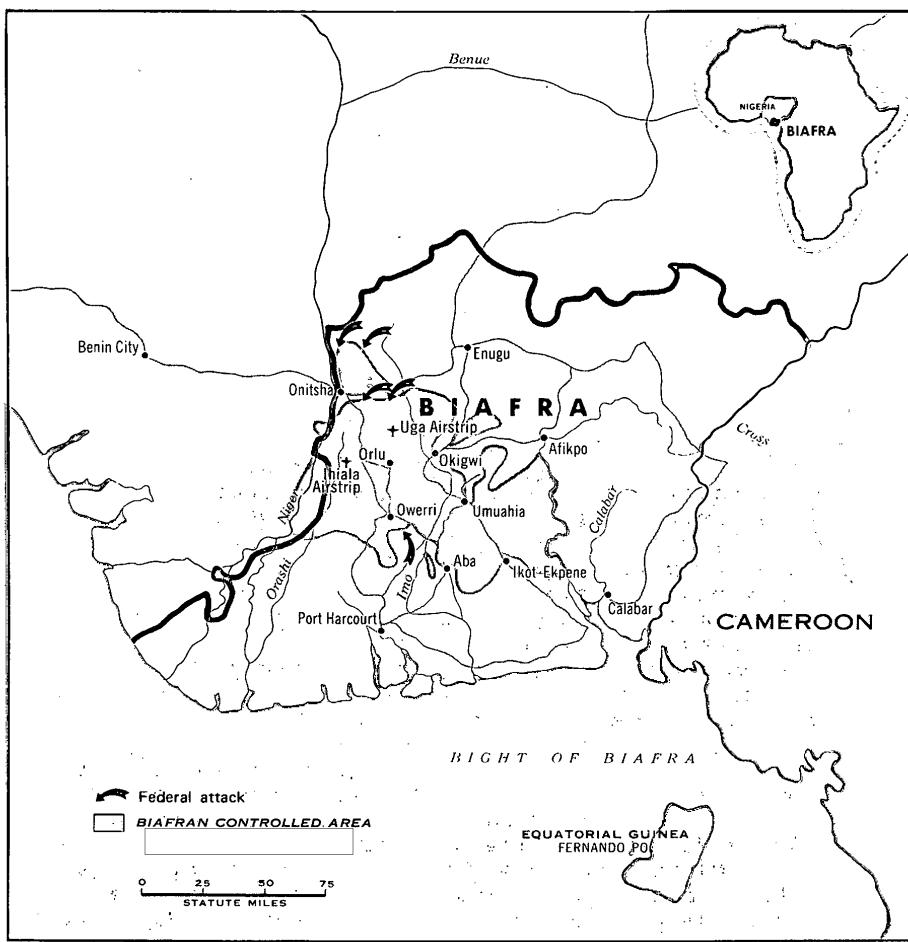
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Nigerian Federal Forces on the Attack

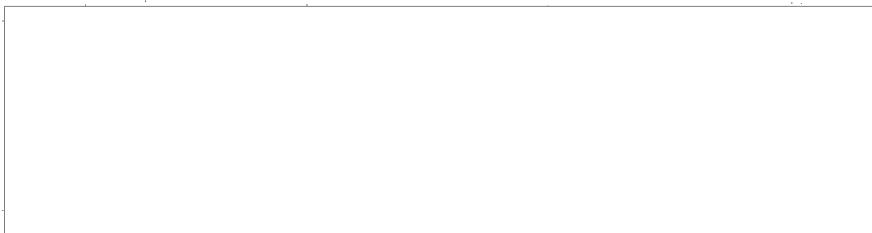


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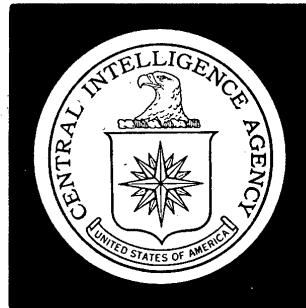
Nigeria: See-saw battles are raging along two fronts. Neither side appears to be making much progress, but federal forces may make some minor gains southeast of Owerri. Federal army units recently received troop reinforcements and are well supplied with munitions. The Biafrans are again short of ammunition.



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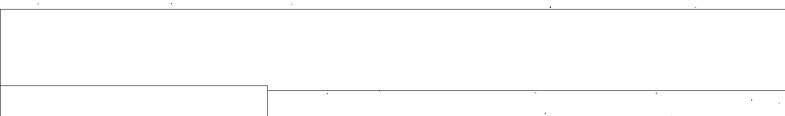
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

20 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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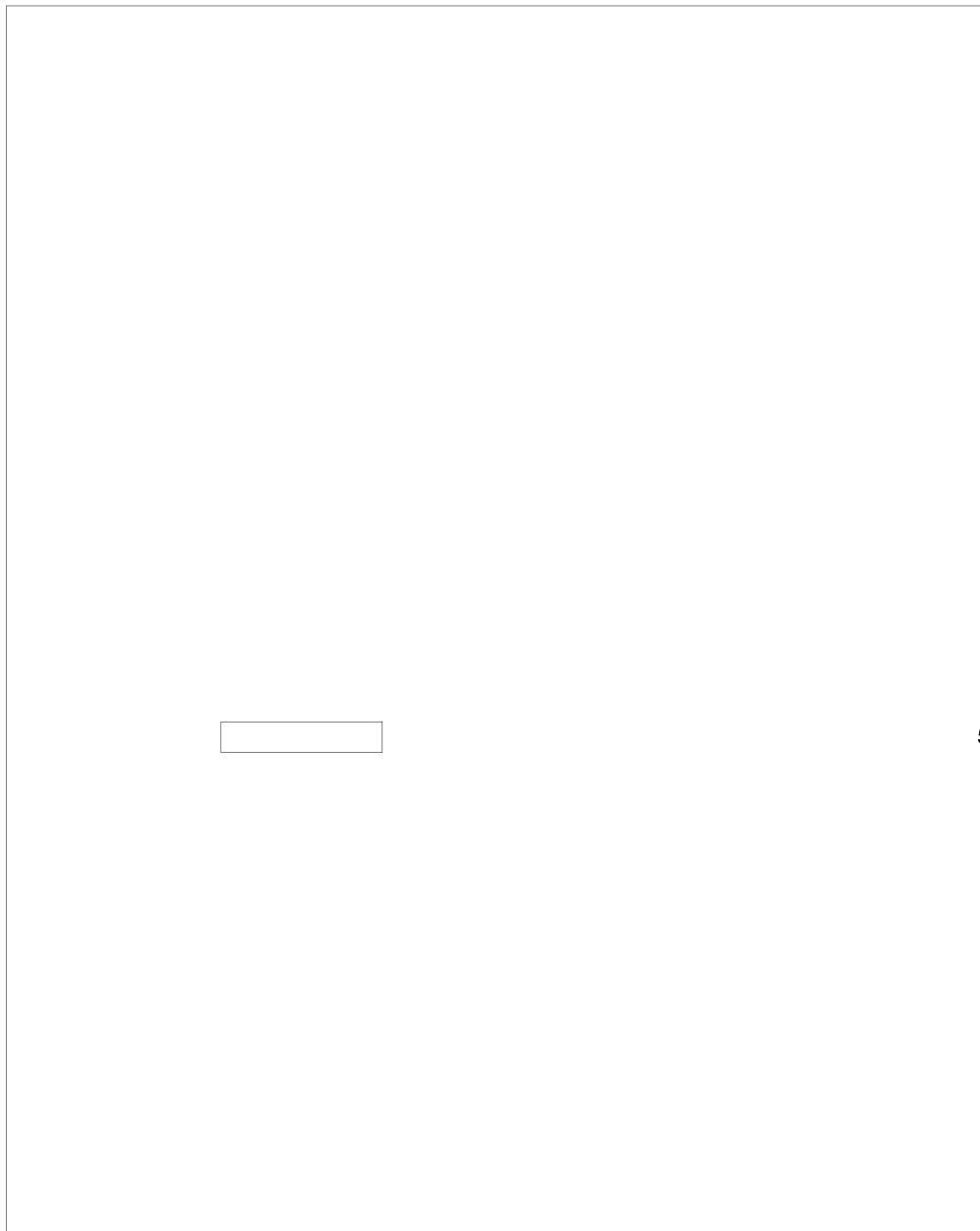
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In South Vietnam the Communists seem to be getting ready for heavier ground attacks against the Bu Prang and Duc Lap outposts, perhaps in conjunction with a greater enemy effort throughout the central highlands. (Page 3)

Communist forces in Laos also are more active, both in the Plaine des Jarres area and in the southern panhandle. (Page 4)

Ethiopian security authorities have quashed an assassination plot against the Emperor. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHINA

Recent satellite photography shows that personnel trenches are being dug throughout the country. Since September these trenches have been observed near worker housing areas, government centers, industrial areas, general storage facilities, and military installations. The largest concentrations are along the border in northern and eastern China, but the program appears to be nationwide, and trenches have been observed even in such remote places as Tibet.

This program is apparently another element of Peking's recent "war preparations" campaign ostensibly directed against the Soviet Union--a campaign that, as recent radiobroadcasts have hinted, is encountering apathy at local levels. The size and location of most of the trenches suggest that they are not military defensive preparations against a land invasion. At best they could provide modest protection in the event of an air raid. The trench-digging program--a crash project involving large numbers of laborers--has the effect of dramatizing Peking's exhortations to the populace on the need to prepare for "imminent" Soviet attack.

It also gives additional impetus to the regime's concurrent attempt to move vast numbers of people from the cities to outlying villages. This effort is motivated by economic and political considerations, but Peking has attempted to facilitate the mass movement by connecting it with the "war preparations" campaign.

* * *

At the same time the regime appears to be engaged in a limited readjustment of its military posture. As reported in The President's Daily Brief of 18 November, increased numbers of tanks have been observed in the northern border areas; these tanks are apparently being dispersed and dug into defensive positions. Some aircraft stationed at northern airfields have also been dispersed. Since 3 October, additional fighter aircraft have been redeployed to air fields in southern China in the general vicinity of the Vietnam border. Finally, elements of three armies are apparently being shifted to new locations in southeastern China.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The movement of tanks and aircraft in the north is part of a modest reinforcement effort that has been going on near the Soviet border for some time; dispersal of these forces seems a prudent precaution and probably does not reflect excessive fear of an imminent Soviet attack.

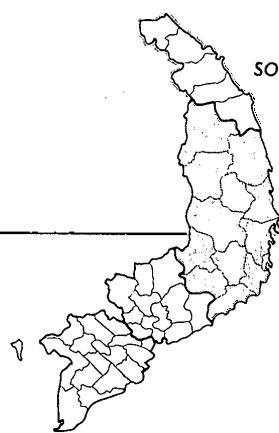
We are hard put to explain satisfactorily the military movements in southern China, however. Deployment of additional fighter aircraft to southern fields may represent contingency defensive measures on the part of Peking. At this time there is nothing to relate the movement of ground forces in the south to this redeployment of aircraft. The shift may be part of a routine rotation of forces similar to one that took place in this area a year ago. It may also be motivated by domestic political considerations of one sort or another. We cannot rule out the possibility that some of these troops may eventually be transferred to other areas of the country, however.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

II CORPS

North Vietnamese May Soon Attack Special Forces Camps



I CORPS

LAOS

Communist sapper-battalion
shifted toward camp

Enemy units to
"strike all bridge positions"

CAMBODIA

Headquarters of two NVA regiments
move to the immediate vicinity

SOUTH

CHINA

SEA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

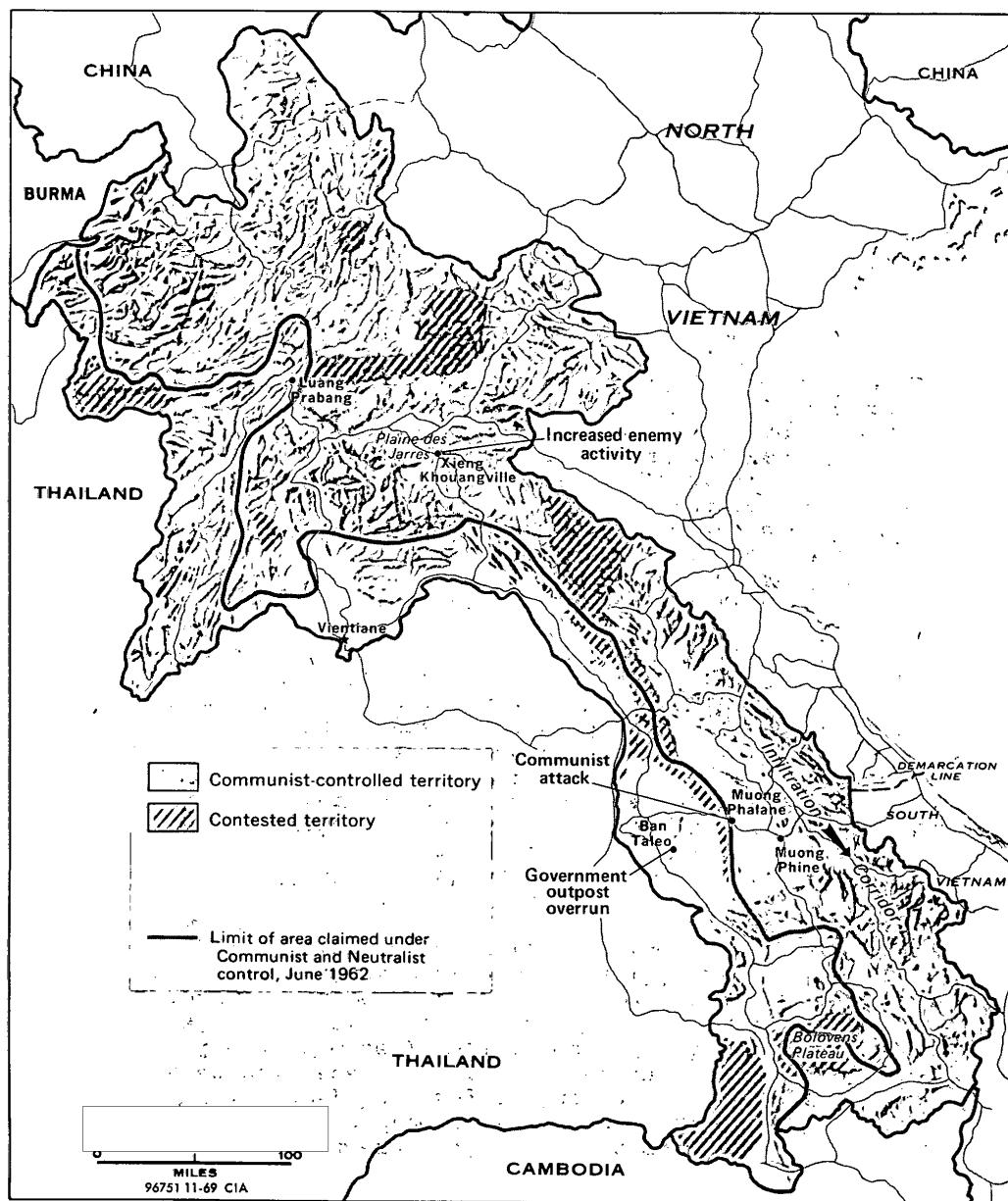
There are indications in communications intelligence and from other sources that the North Vietnamese may be readying themselves for sizable ground attacks against the Bu Prang and Duc Lap outposts. On 18 November, an intercept disclosed that the headquarters of two North Vietnamese infantry regiments had moved up close to the camps. The timing of any infantry attacks is still not clear. One prisoner claims they will not come until early December.

If the attacks come off, they may be part of a coordinated effort throughout the central highlands. A Communist sapper battalion has shifted toward the Dak To outpost and a recent message told other enemy units to "strike all the bridge positions," probably along Route 14 between Pleiku and Kontum towns. Other intercepts have asserted that the "de-Americanization scheme" already has been seriously frustrated by Communist victories in the highlands and that a "large offensive" is yet to come.

Despite these preparations, it seems unlikely the North Vietnamese will risk an all-out assault on Bu Prang and Duc Lap. We think they will increase pressure, however, on the South Vietnamese who have taken over defense of the area. The Communists committed considerably greater forces during the siege of Duc Lap last year and still could not take the camp, mainly because of allied air strikes.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Laos: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Several battalions of North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao troops yesterday attacked the government support base at Muong Phalane in the southern pan-handle. Preliminary reports indicate that, although the government has been able to hold off the attackers, heavy fighting is continuing on the outskirts of the village. Farther west the enemy had more success as local defenders retreated in the face of an attack on a small government outpost at Ban Taleo.

These attacks are probably intended to ensure the security of the infiltration corridor as the flow of men and supplies to South Vietnam begins to pick up. It is likely that the enemy move was prompted particularly by the temporary government occupation of Muong Phine in early September. That was the deepest government penetration into Communist supply lines in several years.

In the north, Communist forces have recently made several sharp attacks against government outposts around Xieng Khouangville. The heaviest fighting has been concentrated near the airstrip, which has changed hands several times. The Communists have thus far avoided large-unit operations, probably because of supply difficulties and vulnerability to air strikes, but attacks are taking an increasingly heavy toll of the government's already dangerously thin ranks.

The loss of some government positions near Xieng Khouangville does not immediately endanger the government's hold over the Plaine des Jarres, but it does appear to signal the opening round of the enemy's attempt to regain this politically important area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ETHIOPIA

Security authorities have quashed an apparent plot to assassinate the Emperor. [redacted]

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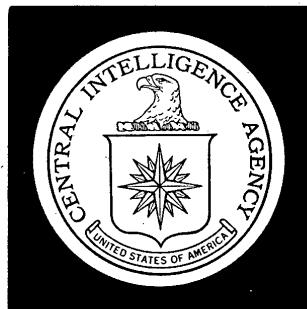
[redacted] the ringleader was Takele Wolde Hawariat. He is reported to have committed suicide last Sunday, rather than be taken into custody by the police. Investigation of the plot is said to have been touched off by the theft of weapons from army stores in Addis Ababa. Only one other conspirator has been identified, although some army officers may be involved.

In his seventies, Takele, a former high official of the Supreme Court, was an indefatigable plotter. He had been variously under surveillance and detention for several years. Takele escaped more severe punishment during these years only because the Emperor respected his record as a resistance fighter against the Italians.

The government of course has been sparing in its public commentary on the affair. So far it has announced only that Takele committed suicide after wounding a policeman who was trying to serve him a summons.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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21 November 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Chinese Communists are giving priority consideration to the southward extension of the road they are building in northern Laos, but are claiming that the road building is a Lao project. (Page 1)

Tokyo plans a review of its policies toward Communist China, but little change in current attitudes is expected. (Page 2)

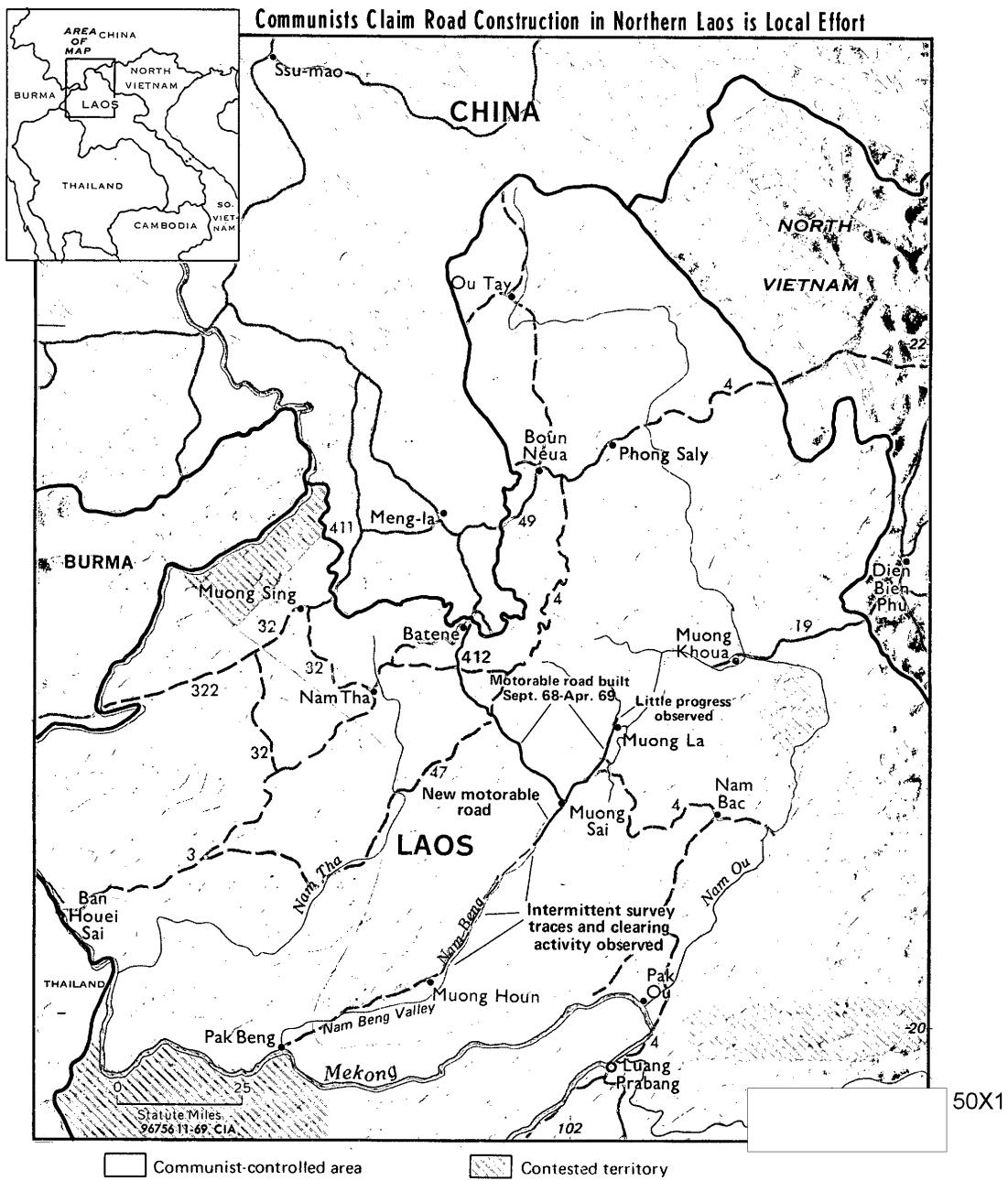
Recent enemy attacks in the South Vietnamese delta area, resulting in heavy ARVN losses, were probably a probe of the effectiveness of South Vietnamese fighting forces. (Page 3)

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[redacted] troubles in the Palestinian refugee camps mount. (Page 4)

The Soviets have sharply reduced air reconnaissance flights along the Chinese border. (Page 7)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

According to a Lao aerial observer, Communist construction crews had completed some 11 miles of motorable road southwest of Muong Sai by 18 November. Aerial photography shows that intermittent survey traces and clearing activity have now reached Muong Houn, some 50 miles south of Muong Sai.

The Communists are presenting their road construction in the northwest as a Pathet Lao program. Peking's chargé in Vientiane, when asked by a Lao Government official to explain the meaning of these activities, denied any knowledge of Chinese involvement. The Pathet Lao spokesman in Vientiane recently told a local reporter that the road building south of Muong Sai was entirely a Lao Communist effort.

There is tentative evidence, in fact, that the Chinese may have changed the composition of the construction crew working south of Muong Sai. A government patrol which recently operated south of Muong Sai claims that the work force, although under the direction of Chinese engineers, is composed of North Vietnamese and locally conscripted Lao laborers. A local resident has said the North Vietnamese are operating heavy equipment, while the villagers are clearing brush.

If confirmed, this would be the first known instance where local villagers have worked on the current round of Chinese road building in Laos.

The Communists could have a rough motorable road to Pak Beng within three or four months if they continue their present pace. Judging from the lack of progress on the road being built northeast of Muong Sai, the current effort toward Pak Beng has a higher priority.

Indications that the Chinese are pushing southward in their road building activities have caused considerable concern within the Laotian Government. Prime Minister Souvanna may very well choose to accept the road building in the Nam Beng Valley as Lao rather than Chinese in order to head off a diplomatic confrontation with China.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN

Once the issue of Okinawan reversion is out of the way, the Sato leadership plans a review of its policy toward Communist China.

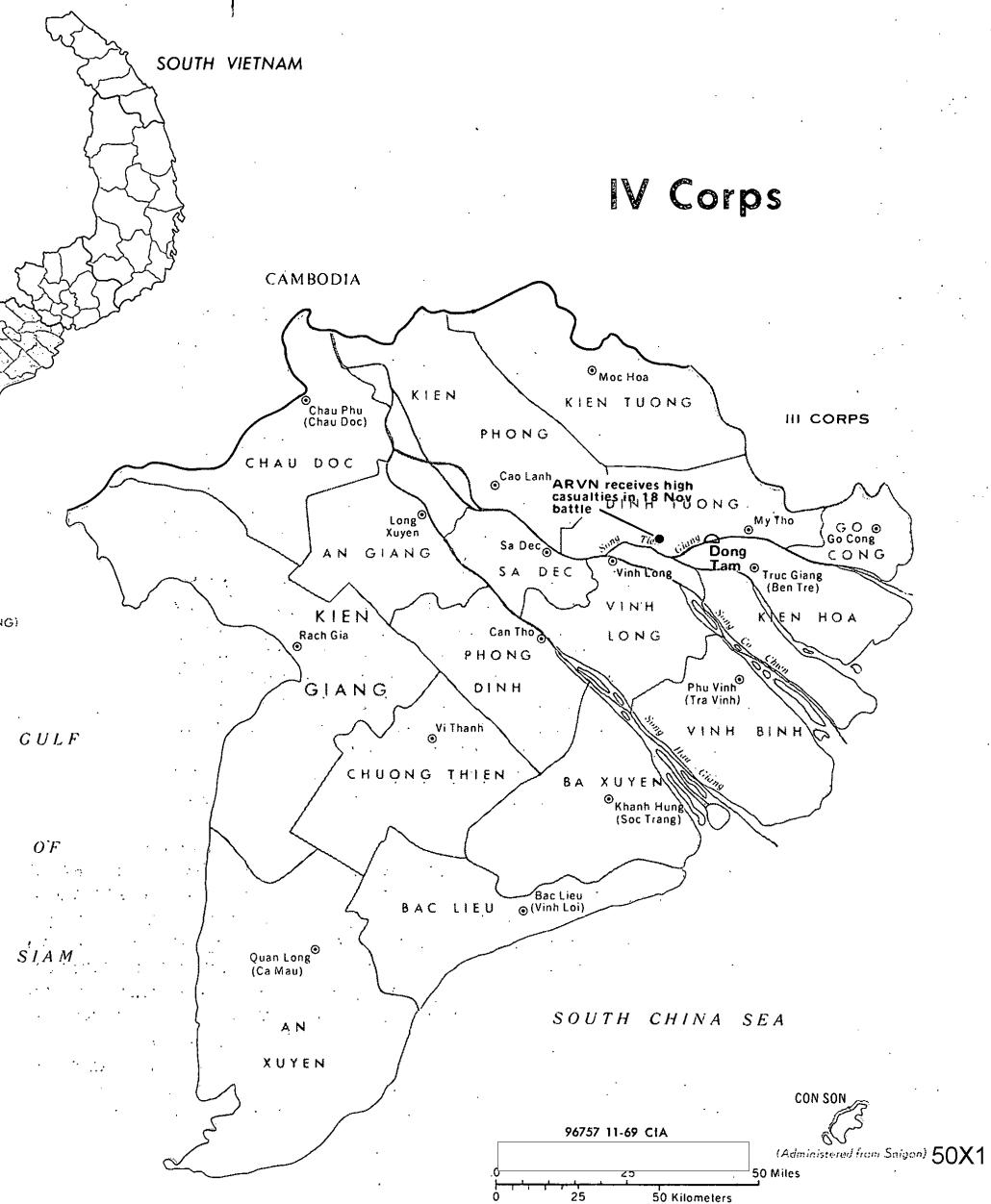
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[redacted] both Sato and Foreign Minister Aichi believe that a "two-China" policy is the most realistic course for Japan, with any expansion of contacts limited to unofficial trade and cultural exchanges.

This in effect would be a continuation of the status quo, a position supported by the top levels of the Foreign Ministry. This viewpoint will undoubtedly prevail as long as the US maintains its present policy toward China and Peking continues its hard-line posture toward Tokyo. Moreover, the government does not want to complicate its handling of the sensitive US-Japan mutual security issue next year by introducing controversial new policy initiatives, nor does it wish to disturb its present profitable relations with Taiwan.

At lower levels in the Foreign Ministry, however, many officials advocate a more flexible approach to mainland China--a position that is also supported in varying degrees by all the opposition parties, who wish to capitalize on sentiment among many Japanese for a "rapprochement" with Peking. Such sentiment has not crystallized to the extent that it is likely to cause the government undue trouble.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

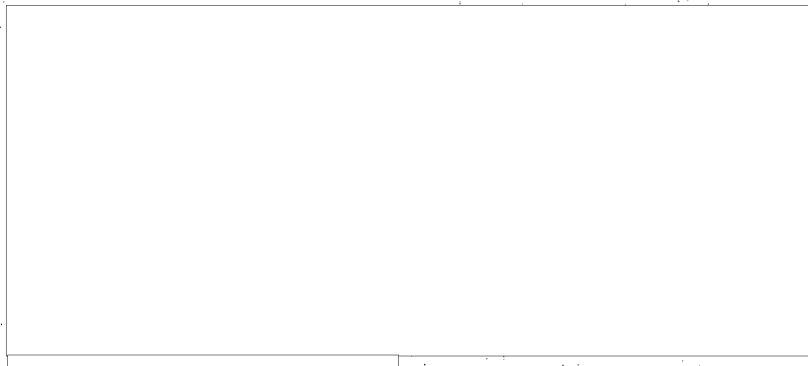
In a sharp battle in the delta province of Dinh Tuong, elements of three Viet Cong main-force battalions, strengthened by North Vietnamese fillers, killed 68 South Vietnamese while losing only 30 of their own men. Air support for the South Vietnamese, delayed by weather, was ineffective because the two US advisers had been killed by the time it arrived.

The action took place less than ten miles west of the US 9th Infantry Division's former headquarters at Dong Tam, recently turned over to the South Vietnamese. It is possible that this action was a probe to test the effectiveness of Saigon's fighting forces. A similar attack on a South Vietnamese naval headquarters in Kien Giang Province on 6 November also resulted in heavy South Vietnamese losses.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON



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Problems regarding the refugee camps are mounting on all sides. According to a sensitive State Department cable, various fedayeen groups have assumed de facto control of the camps, taking responsibility for patrolling, maintaining law and order, and controlling access to them since the withdrawal of Lebanese Government officials in late October. The fedayeen are also recruiting camp inhabitants and giving them basic military training. Fedayeen activity, however, has been uncoordinated, and within the camps rival commando organizations have fought. Camp residents have also been terrorized by a fedayeen witch hunt for those who allegedly collaborated with Lebanese security forces during the recent showdown.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

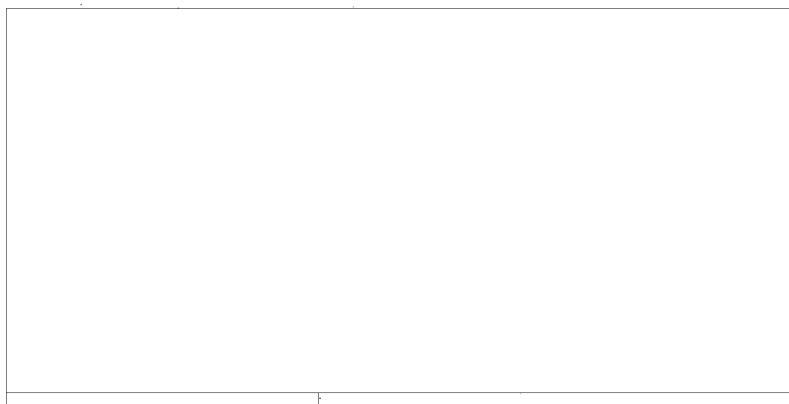
The government maintains that the Cairo agreement provides for Lebanese control of the camps and the coordination of fedayeen activity within them, but it is concerned that its position may be further eroded should the US cut off funds to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). Beirut claims that such action would provoke a violent Palestinian reaction, and that any publicity that the US might so act would doom the current negotiations with the fedayeen. Although UNRWA has thus far been able to continue its welfare assistance to all camps, its Palestinian employees, emboldened by fedayeen support, are demanding program changes for which funds are not available and which may create administrative chaos.

Meanwhile, UNRWA has been caught in a crossfire of polemical charges between Arab and Israeli representatives in the course of debate in the UN General Assembly's Special Political Committee.

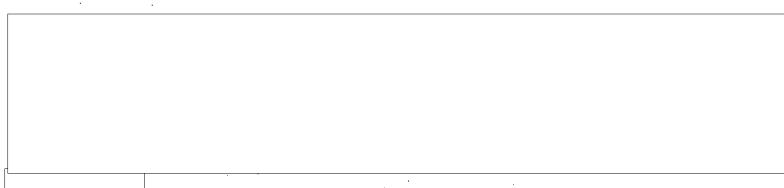
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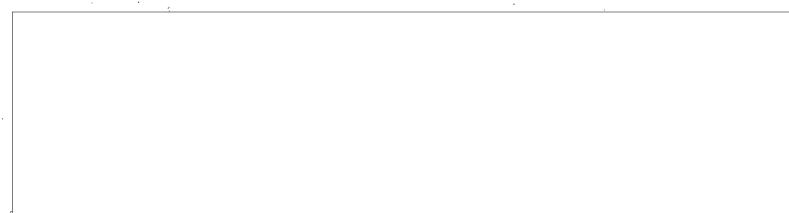
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

USSR-China: The Soviets seem to be making an effort to lessen tensions along the Sino-Soviet border.

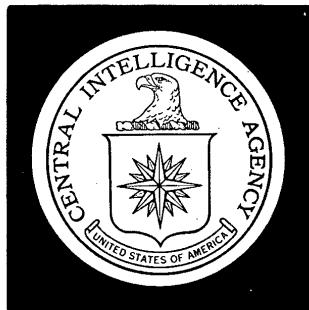
Soviet border reconnaissance flights are at the lowest level since the beginning of the year. Soviet reconnaissance flight activity along the border dropped off sharply after the September meeting in Peking between Kosygin and Chou En-lai. Neither side has reported a border clash since the fighting in August on the Sinkiang border.

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Chile: Talk of a coup attempt by military malcontents continues to grow in Santiago. President Frei on Wednesday put armed forces and police in Santiago and some other areas on alert and declared a state of emergency in the capital. These moves were sparked by reports that General Viaux's military supporters would refuse their pay this week because they consider a promised pay raise inadequate.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Leaders of the Warsaw Pact powers are expected to meet soon in Moscow, probably to discuss European security matters. (Page 1)

The Italian domestic situation is causing further difficulties for the Rumor government. (Page 2)

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Cambodian insurgents have renewed their activity in the countryside. (Page 4)

In Iraq, a struggle for power is developing. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WARSAW PACT

Leaders of the Warsaw Pact powers are expected to assemble in Moscow soon, probably to discuss European security matters. The exact timing is still not known.

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Ambassador Tsarapkin was suddenly recalled from Bonn to Moscow on 20 November to take part in preparations for the meeting.

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There are conflicting reports concerning the purposes of the meeting and its agenda. A West German official in Prague, citing statements by Eastern European diplomats, takes the view that the East Germans requested the meeting in order to discuss a common policy toward West Germany.

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the participants will treat Germany and Berlin only as part of a broader discussion of European security matters.

In any event, Pankow will certainly try to obtain agreement from its East European allies not to move too quickly in negotiating with Bonn or to ignore East German interests. The East Germans may already be too late, however, especially in the case of the Poles.

Unlike 1967, when Pankow joined forces with Moscow to block West Germany, this time the Soviets have been relatively forthcoming toward Bonn. They are reported to have told the other Eastern European states that they too may negotiate certain issues with the West Germans. Unless Moscow shifts tactics and supports the East Germans, it appears doubtful that Pankow will be able to dissuade its allies from following their own schedule for moving closer toward an accommodation with Bonn.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ITALY

There is uneasiness in government circles following police casualties at the hands of labor extremists in Milan during Wednesday's general strike. The police, worn by the strikes and demonstrations of the past two and one-half months, had earlier organized a complaint over their long hours of trying to maintain order. Following Wednesday's incidents, senior officials only with some difficulty dissuaded police retaliation, and two of the less tractable units were replaced by others from outside Milan.

The government of Prime Minister Rumor has come under new attacks from many quarters over the deterioration of the domestic situation. [redacted]

[redacted] President Saragat believes that a stronger government is required.

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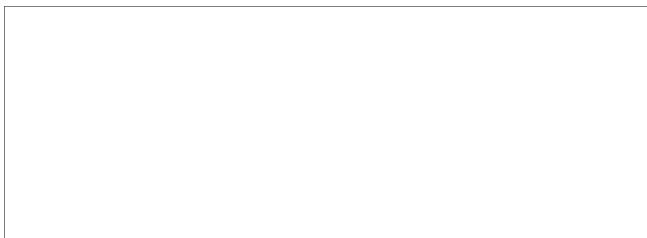
There is little doubt that the Rumor government is in difficulty, but how precarious its position may be is not clear. The government is making some progress toward new labor contracts that may ease the current unrest, and in the meantime efforts to maintain law and order are receiving support from both conservative and leftist politicians. Should the police fail to exercise their normal restraint or be otherwise insubordinate, however, the government would immediately be in serious trouble.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA



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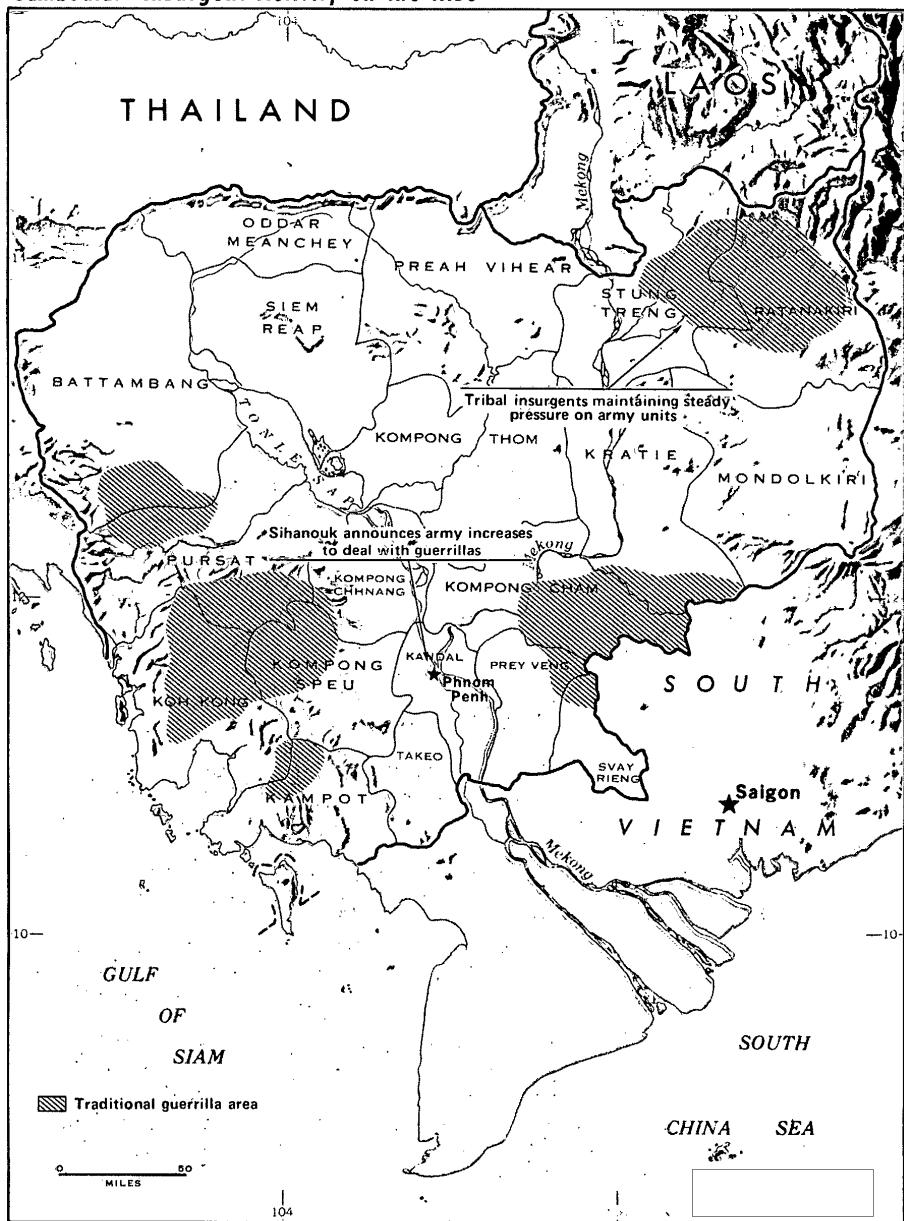
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Cambodia: Insurgent Activity on the Rise



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

With the coming of the dry season, leftist insurgents have renewed their activity in the countryside. Most of the incidents, as reflected in intercepts of Cambodian military messages, are occurring in traditional guerrilla areas in the western provinces and in the east, along the South Vietnamese border. In the latter sector, the insurgents get some logistic support from the Viet Cong and are able to dodge security forces by withdrawing into Viet Cong - controlled territory along the border. Insurgency is particularly acute in the northeast, where tribal rebels, backed by the Vietnamese Communists, have maintained steady pressure on Cambodian Army units. Away from the immediate border area, the Viet Cong do not appear to be supporting insurgent groups.

The guerrillas [redacted]

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[redacted] are a
perennial thorn in Sihanouk's side. [redacted]

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The insurgents' heavy-handed tactics of sending propaganda and extortion teams against villages in the outlying provinces suggest that they are making little progress in developing a popular base.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTE

Iraq: A struggle for power is developing. The civilian wing of the Baath party is threatening the present dominance of the party's military wing. Although the civilian faction does not exercise control over the military as such, it can count on the loyalty of many junior officers, the party militia, the civilian party apparatus, and perhaps a number of non-Baathists both in and out of the army. A successful coup by this group, however, would still leave Iraq in essentially the same political posture in its relationship with the West.

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24 November 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Libya [redacted] signed an agreement with France under which it will receive various kinds of military equipment and training. (Page 1)

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

After lengthy negotiations, Venezuela and the Soviet Union seem close to a resumption of diplomatic relations. (Page 4)

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[redacted]

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LIBYA

[redacted] Libya has signed an arms agreement with France. The agreement, signed in Paris on 15 November, calls for the provision of French aircraft, missiles, tanks, and radar equipment. Libyan pilots are to be trained in France, and French technicians will be sent to Libya. The agreement also contains a vague French offer of "military support" should Libya be attacked by its neighbors.

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At the same time, [redacted] Libya recently asked Bonn to broaden its training program for Libyan military personnel. West Germany is agreeable in principle, but it has not yet decided how much to increase its program.

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* * *

In Libya itself, rumors of antiregime activity are multiplying. The dissatisfaction is not directed against the new revolutionary state so much as it is against the inexperienced Revolutionary Command Council, which is said to be losing the support of labor, students, and parts of the army.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

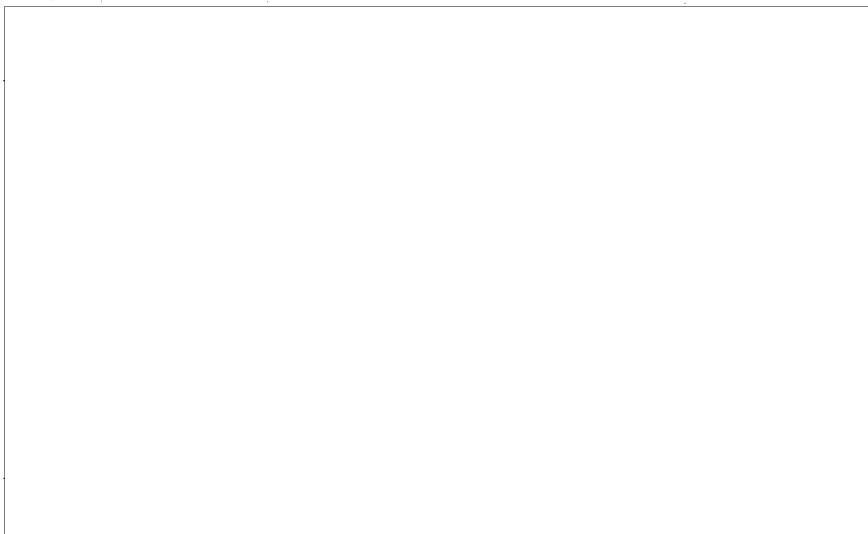
Most of the uneasiness seems still to be centered in the eastern province of Cyrenaica, formerly the main source of tribal support for the former regime of King Idris. Trouble may be spreading to the Tripoli area, however, where there are now reports of dissension within the army and some assassinations of army personnel.

Even were the present military regime to be overthrown or reorganized, it seems highly unlikely that the ancien regime under the old king could ever be restored.

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CAMBODIA



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VENEZUELA-USSR

Diplomatic relations between Venezuela and the USSR, broken shortly after World War II, will be resumed in January.

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[redacted] the Soviets will open an embassy in Caracas staffed by 30 people, and that funds for an embassy in Moscow have been requested in Venezuela's 1970 budget. In addition, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Calvani and his chief of protocol plan to visit Moscow in December to complete the arrangements.

Negotiating the deal has taken almost a year, with both sides moving slowly because the incentive is not especially great. The benefits will be mostly economic--some new markets for Venezuelan agricultural and mineral exports and a new outlet for Soviet manufactured goods--but the experience of the other Latin American nations that have taken this step indicates the expansion of trade will be neither great nor rapid.

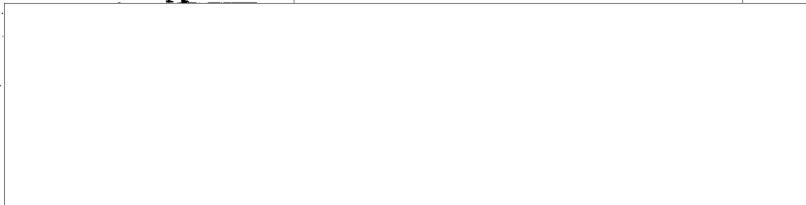
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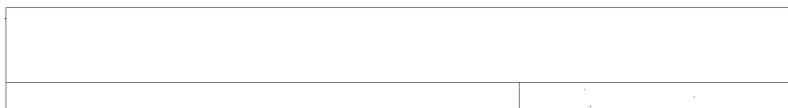
NOTES

Philippines: [redacted]

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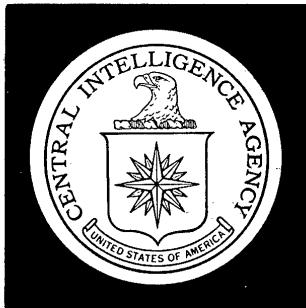


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Bolivia: In an effort to placate the unemployed oil workers of Santa Cruz, President Ovando pulled out all the emotional stops in a speech last week denouncing Gulf Oil. He claimed Gulf is "waging war" against Bolivia, and exhorted his listeners to bear their economic deprivation bravely for the good of the country. Ovando promised that Bolivia will soon have new markets for its oil, although he cited no specific buyer, and added that the gas pipeline to Argentina would be completed and would help replace lost revenues.

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25 November 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Japan, Sato may parlay public satisfaction with the Okinawa settlement into a general election.
(Page 1)

The Soviet government is preparing to commemorate Stalin's ninetieth birthday. (Page 2)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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JAPAN

Sato

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[redacted]
may dissolve the Diet in early December and call for general elections later in the month, if the debate in the Diet over the Okinawa agreement goes satisfactorily. This timetable would take maximum advantage of favorable public reaction to settlement as well as of the "law and order mood" prevalent in Japan following recent leftist student excesses.

Opposition elements, in an effort to cast doubts on the government's handling of the Okinawa issue, will probably subject Sato to close questioning during the extraordinary Diet session beginning on 29 November. Sato, however, is adept at handling opposition interpellations, and, with popular opinion generally behind him, he should have little difficulty deflecting criticism.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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USSR

Press reports from Moscow suggest that Stalin's birthday on 21 December will be officially commemorated this year for the first time since 1955. The celebration will be low-keyed, consisting mostly of a photographic display in Moscow and some press and TV coverage.

The intent seems to be less to honor Stalin than to warn the liberal intellectuals against persisting in their efforts to keep the anti-Stalin line going in literature and scholarship. The present government recently has emphasized the positive aspects of Stalin's regime, primarily his war record.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

India: The split in the Congress Party has been formalized, and Prime Minister Gandhi remains as strong as ever. Over the weekend, Mrs. Gandhi's faction deposed the old-guard party president, selected an interim president, and has begun to set up administrative units to oversee the party's activities. The old guard has adopted the name "Organization Congress Party," and probably will fight hard to continue its control of party funds, party records, and the vote-getting election symbol--two yoked oxen.

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The President's Daily Brief

26 November 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The high levels of North Vietnamese infiltration forecast in a recent intercept have not yet been detected. (Page 1)

In Laos, signs point toward greater enemy activity in coming weeks. (Page 2)

[Redacted] 50X1

[Redacted] 50X1

New Zealand's parliamentary elections on Saturday are expected to be close. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

The high levels of infiltration forecast in a recent intercepted message have not yet been detected. That message called for two groups a day to move through the Vinh area beginning on 20 November.

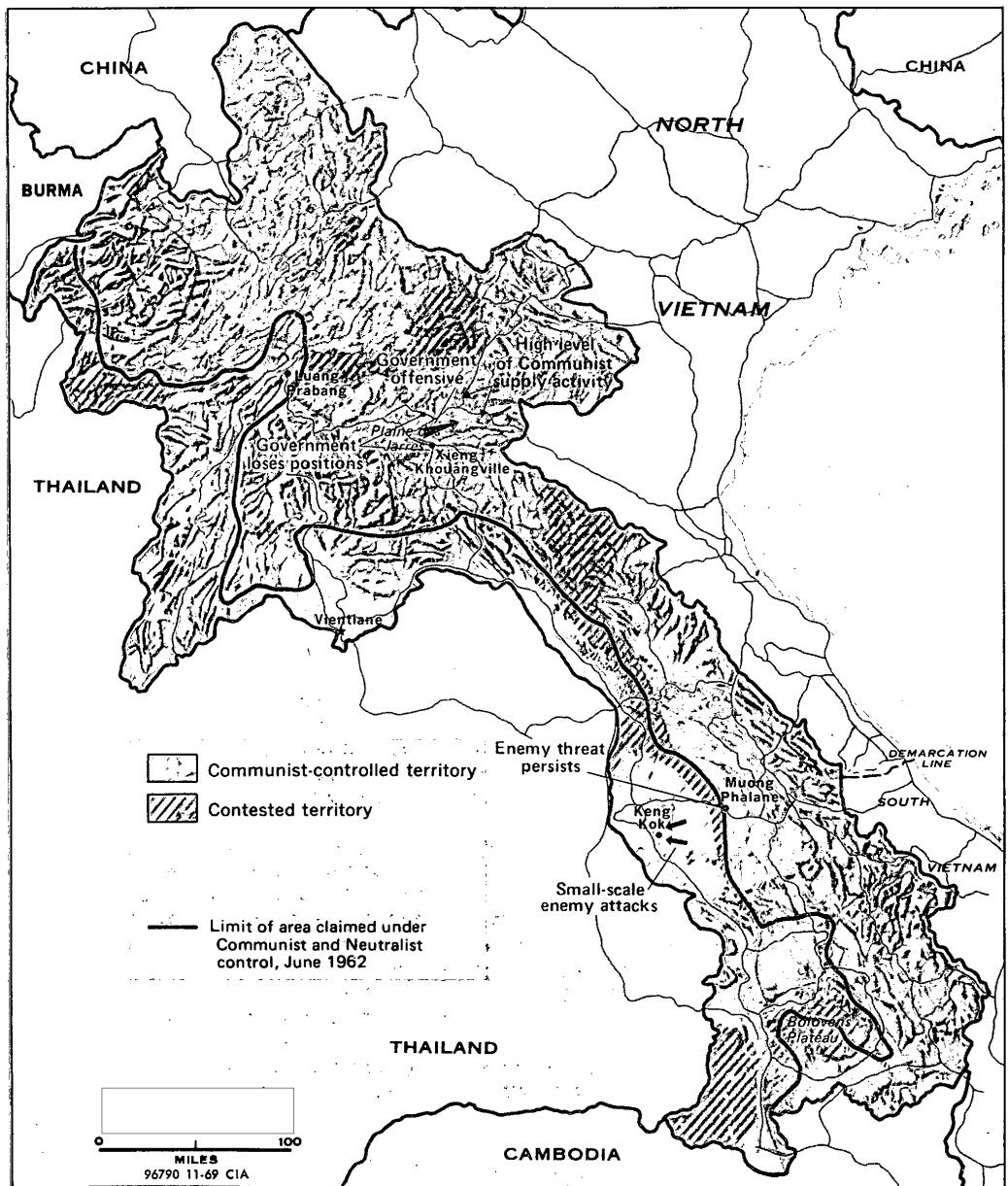
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Since late October, when the upswing in North Vietnamese infiltration became apparent, 16 groups totaling about 9,000 troops are believed to have begun their move south.

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Laos: Current Situation



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LAOS

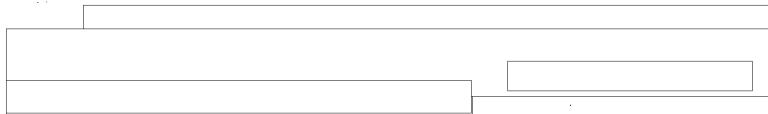
There are signs pointing toward a higher level of enemy activity in coming weeks. In the north, Communist forces recently overran a number of government positions scattered over the Plaine des Jarres. The North Vietnamese continue to move large quantities of supplies into northern Laos.

The current wave of enemy activity on the Plaine has been directed against the weakest elements of the government presence, and may be an effort to deflect a government offensive pushing into important enemy staging and supply areas farther to the east. In addition to buying time for the Communists, these attacks are causing a level of casualties that the government can ill afford.

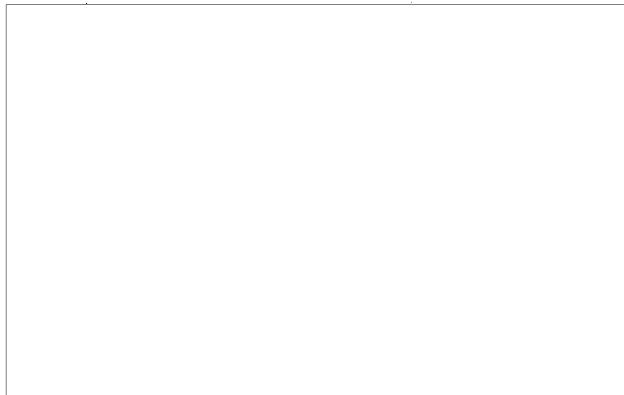
In the south, enemy troop movements indicate that the Communists are preparing for another round of attacks against government outposts near Muong Phalane. Recent small-scale enemy attacks farther west near Keng Kok may be designed to force government units to pull back from Muong Phalane in order to defend politically more sensitive positions in the Mekong Valley.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-MIDDLE EAST



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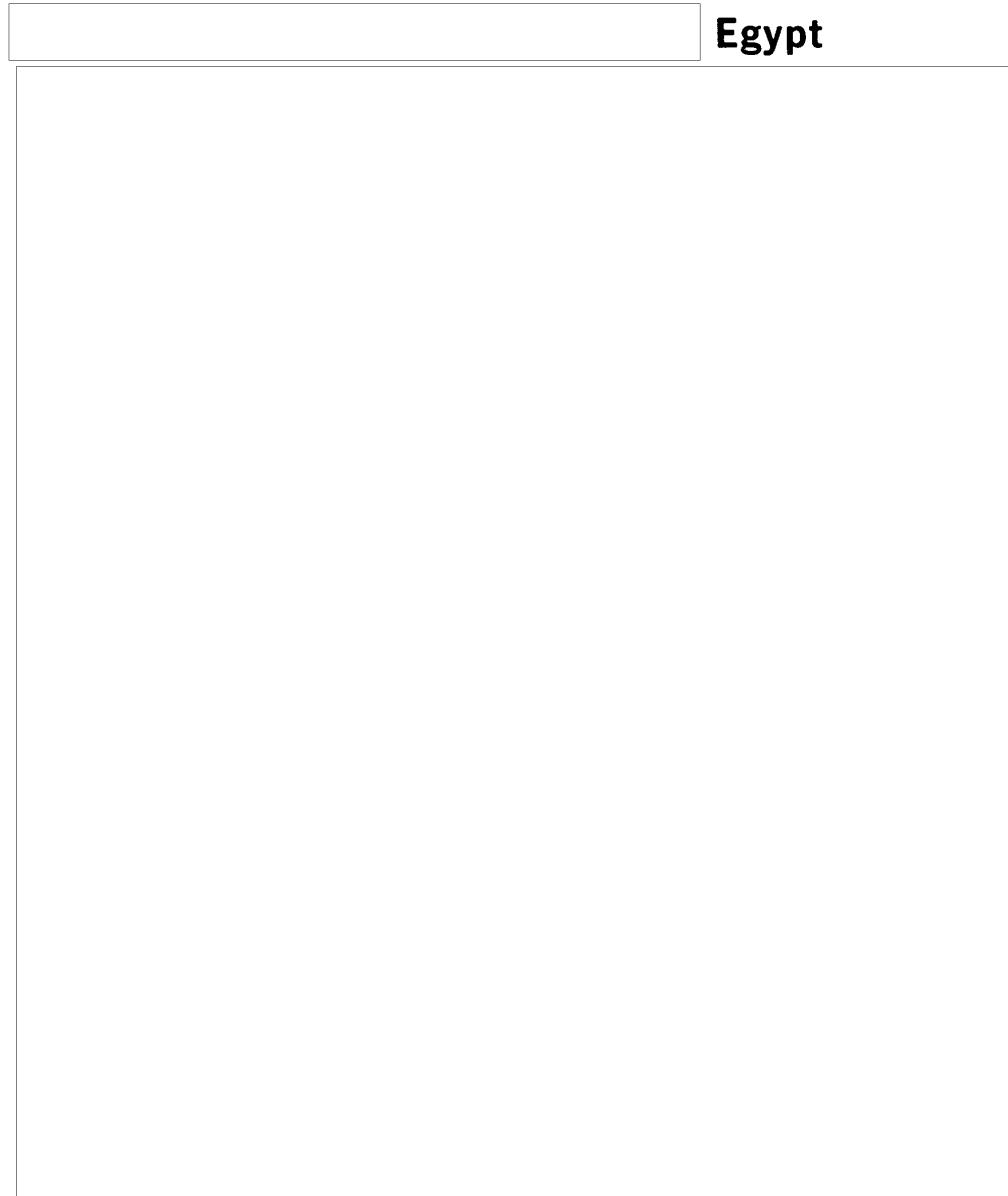
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Egypt

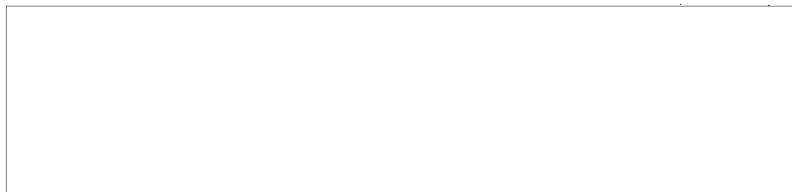
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT



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NEW ZEALAND

This Saturday's parliamentary elections are expected to be close. A national poll published last week indicates the opposition Labor Party is making impressive gains, with 43.2 percent of the vote against Prime Minister Holyoake's National Party's 43 percent; a poll in September gave the National Party an eight percent lead.

Labor apparently will pick up many immigrants and young people voting for the first time. In the absence of sharply defined issues, personalities are playing a major role. Labor leader Kirk's campaign performance has been more impressive than that of Prime Minister Holyoake, and the latter's appearances have occasionally been marred by hecklers in disagreement with Wellington's Vietnam policy. Labor's improved prospects could be undermined, however, if a limited shipping strike now going on becomes nationwide.

A Labor victory probably would not bring any drastic policy changes. The Labor leadership appears to be firmly in the hands of moderates. New Zealand forces in Vietnam would certainly come under review, but Kirk is on record as supporting President Nixon's policy of phased withdrawal.

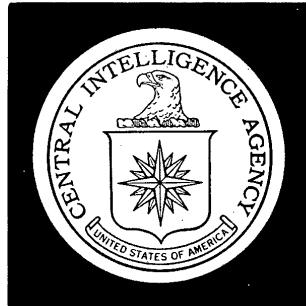
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NOTE

West Germany - East Germany: Talks between the East and West Germans on postal and telecommunications matters, which began in September, resumed on Monday after two postponements by the West Germans. Bonn doubtless hopes that success in these talks will be a prelude to a future discussion of political differences. The East Germans' willingness to talk suggests that their demand for recognition may not prove an obstacle to political talks, especially if they see some economic advantages.

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27 November 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

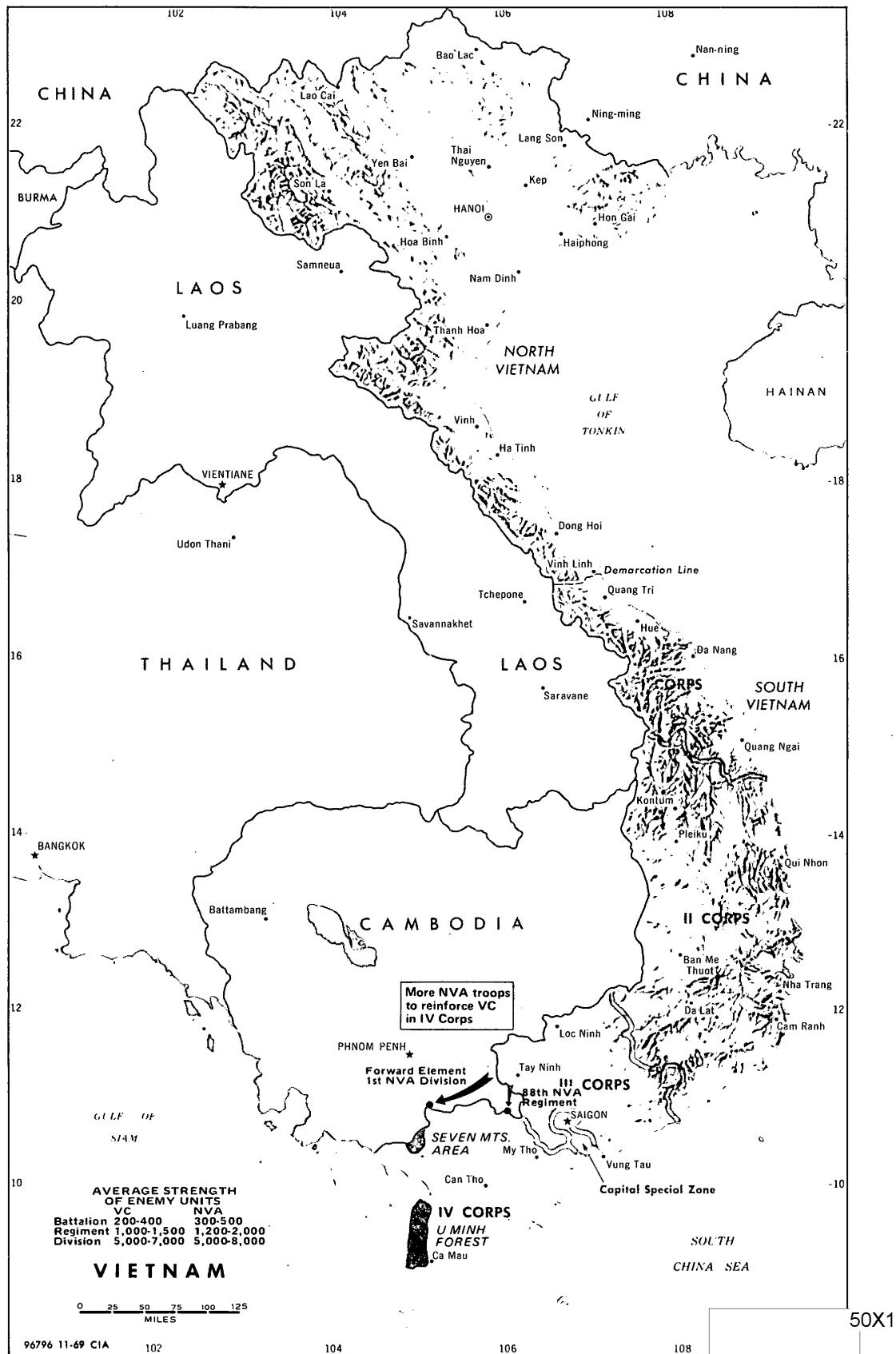
President Thieu's critics will use the Song My massacre incident to further their own political ambitions. There are more indications that the North Vietnamese are reinforcing the Viet Cong in IV Corps. (Page 1)

[Redacted]

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Bonn plans to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty tomorrow. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The South Vietnamese Government's casual handling of the Song My massacre case has left it extremely vulnerable to criticism by opposition elements. Official statements have minimized the likelihood that a massacre took place and have shown little interest in any further investigation of the incident. A spokesman for President Thieu has stated that the government "classified it as an act of war" and considers the case closed.

This apparent insensitivity has provided Senator Tran Van Don a ready-made issue to embarrass the government and to further his own political ambitions. In his capacity as chairman of the Senate Defense Committee, Don has announced his intention to organize an independent investigation of the case.

Don, a political opportunist, apparently hopes eventually to achieve power by providing a bridge between the allies and the Communists. Recognizing the delicacy of this strategy, he has denied that he wishes to furnish propaganda assistance to the Communists but insists that the government should not have taken any position until it had more facts. This same theme may be exploited by additional opposition elements amenable to the "Third Force" concept.

* * *

Evidence is accumulating that the North Vietnamese are sending more combat troops to reinforce weakened Viet Cong units in IV Corps. The North Vietnamese 88th Regiment has moved 18 miles south of its former position near Tay Ninh Province, and is now located along the border between Cambodia and western IV Corps. The shift makes it appear likely that the 88th will join two other regiments which during the summer were the first large North Vietnamese units ever sent into the delta.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

In addition, a forward element of the North Vietnamese 1st Division has been shifting south and west along the IV Corps - Cambodia border recently.

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If two more North Vietnamese regiments and a division headquarters are incorporated into the enemy force structure in the delta, it will mean still greater tests for the South Vietnamese units that have taken over main defense of that region. Increased enemy pressure has been evident in the area in recent weeks, but so far the South Vietnamese appear to have been generally effective in containing the major Communist threats in the U Minh Forest area in the far south and in a mountainous section along the Cambodian border in the west.

North Vietnam:



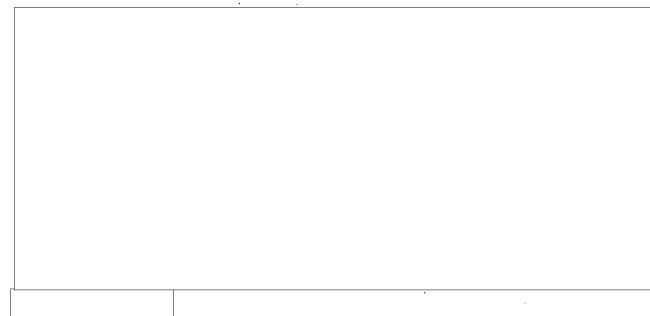
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA - NORTH VIETNAM



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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WEST GERMANY

Bonn has decided to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty without further delay, according to the West German disarmament commissioner. Assuming all goes well during today's final Bundestag committee debate, the way apparently will be clear for final cabinet approval and formal signature on Friday.

The decision to act promptly appears to be motivated by a desire on the part of Chancellor Brandt to attend the upcoming European Community summit and the NATO ministerial meetings with German signature an accomplished fact. Undoubtedly another important consideration is the favorable impact that German adherence is expected to have on Communist receptivity to Bonn's Eastern policy.

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NOTES

Japan:

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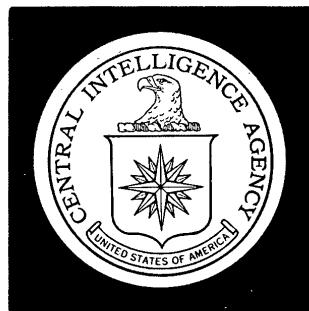
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Lebanon: A majority of the newly formed Karami cabinet is generally associated with a pro-fedayeen parliamentary bloc and can be expected to take a conciliatory position on the role of the fedayeen in Lebanon. The government may try to gloss over the fedayeen issue, however, in hopes of encouraging national unity and forestalling further disturbances. Meanwhile, control of Lebanese security matters will remain in the hands of the army, even though Kamal Jumblatt, a long-time fedayeen supporter, was appointed to the key post of Minister of Interior.

East Germany - West Germany: Trade between the two governments is expected to reach a record level of \$925 million this year. Additional sales that are not officially recorded would boost the total volume of trade even further, to about \$1 billion. This would represent a one-third increase above the 1968 level and is due largely to expanded East German purchases of West German commodities. Although East Germany admits an increase in inter-zonal trade, Pankow is reluctant to publish such data because it is trying to discourage its Warsaw Pact allies from expanding their relations with Bonn.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Xuan Thuy's recent comments to Western reporters do not seem to reflect a willingness to alter the inflexible approach the Communists have maintained in Paris, but he has, nonetheless, given the first sign in some time that Hanoi may not want to let the negotiations simply languish. (Page 1)

A statement by the Warsaw Pact powers yesterday on the Middle East was probably intended to set the stage for new Soviet pressures for a settlement. (Page 3)

The Romanians are being pressed by the Soviets to admit publicly that the invasion of Czechoslovakia was justified. (Page 4)

Some of the problems facing Venezuelan President Caldera are discussed on Page 5.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

North Vietnam's Xuan Thuy has used Western press and radio outlets on three occasions during the past week to counter US charges that the Communists are responsible for the impasse in the Paris talks. Each time Thuy expressed willingness to hold additional private talks with US officials, but with the proviso that all issues of the war be discussed.

This unusual effort to pin the blame on the US for the failure of private talks probably is aimed chiefly at regaining the propaganda initiative. The North Vietnamese obviously have been stung by what must strike them as a concerted US effort in recent weeks to show that the talks are stalled solely because of Communist intransigence. The announcement last week of Ambassador Lodge's resignation apparently led Hanoi to conclude that it must strike back.

Thuy's references to private talks are the first time that the North Vietnamese have acknowledged these meetings in public. This unusual step probably reflects real concern in Hanoi that the US may be downgrading the talks. It also suggests that the Communists believe they can strike a responsive chord among critics of US Vietnam policy by holding out some prospect that new private talks might be productive.

In our view, there are no real indications in Thuy's comments of a willingness to alter the inflexible approach the Communists have maintained in Paris for so long. Nonetheless, he has given the first sign in some time that Hanoi may not want to let the negotiations simply languish.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

By urging the US to discuss all issues bilaterally with North Vietnamese negotiators, Thuy in effect renewed the proposal made privately to Ambassador Lodge by Le Duc Tho last May.

Thuy apparently did not bring up Laos in his interview with CBS correspondent Peter Kalishcher on 24 November or in his press conference on 25 November. This suggests that whatever he said about Laos to Harrison Salisbury, who reported last Sunday that Thuy had raised the possibility of reconvening the signatories of the 1962 Geneva agreements, was not intended as a significant Communist initiative.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WARSAW PACT - MIDDLE EAST

The Warsaw Pact powers yesterday issued a new statement on the Arab-Israeli dispute. The declaration contained nothing really new, repeating the now familiar attacks on Israel and its "imperialist sponsors," and reaffirming support for the Arabs. Romania, which has consistently been at odds with its allies' pro-Arab policy, was not associated with the statement.

The Soviets probably intended the declaration as a backdrop to the resumption of four-power talks, now scheduled for 2 December. Moscow has for some time appeared to be writing off the chances for progress through bilateral talks with the US. Egypt has already indicated it considers the latest US proposals unacceptable, and Moscow can be expected to follow Cairo's lead.

The Russians may accompany their talks with the US, UK, and France with renewed efforts to enlist UN support for a settlement in line with the Security Council resolution of November 1967, calling for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory. Moscow probably believes that both forums offer better opportunities for gaining an agreement favorable to the Arabs than the two-power discussions.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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USSR-ROMANIA

A Romanian official has told our embassy in Bucharest that the Soviets are putting unremitting pressure on Romania to admit publicly that the invasion of Czechoslovakia was justified. The Romanian leadership, according to the source, is meeting to consider a response to the Soviets, and will make a decision soon.

The Romanian position on this issue has clearly weakened now that Moscow has forced the Czechoslovaks to acknowledge the validity of the invasion and has persuaded Belgrade to drop the subject. Romania has been silent on Czechoslovakia since early this year but has not renounced its condemnation.

We are inclined to doubt that Bucharest would agree that the invasion was justified. To do so would imply renunciation of Romania's basic policy against interference in the affairs of other states, which could in turn open the way to additional Soviet pressure. Still, some softening of Romanian adamancy on the Czechoslovak issue is possible.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VENEZUELA



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Discontent has been noted among junior officers
as well.

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Military discontent is only one of Caldera's problems. His popular support--never very great--has been eroded considerably because he has been unable to deliver on his promises of economic and social reform. An economic slowdown and Venezuela's first serious labor problem in years have also caused political pressures, as has a virtual breakdown of the administration of the universities.

Curiously enough, the student protest movement may provide Caldera with a lever to reduce the impact of some of his other problems. The recent use of troops to put down student riots, and the ensuing military occupation of the Central University in Caracas, helped boost military morale and also re-established some of Caldera's sagging popularity.

By itself, the occupation of the university will placate the public and the military for only a short time. It does seem, however, that calls for a military coup are highly premature. Most military officers are committed to support the democratically elected government, and no significant sector of the society is apt to accept, much less incite, an unconstitutional change unless the situation gets very much worse than it is.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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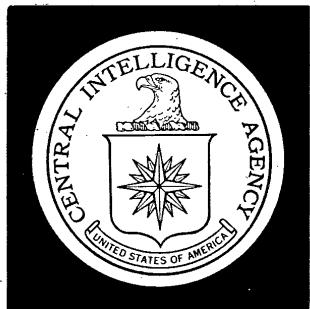
NOTE

Australia: The Liberal Party-Country Party coalition beat down a series of Labor Party censure motions by votes of 61-58 in the opening session of the newly elected Parliament. In the election for Speaker, the final tally showed one coalition member voted for the opposition Labor Party.

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The President's Daily Brief

29 November 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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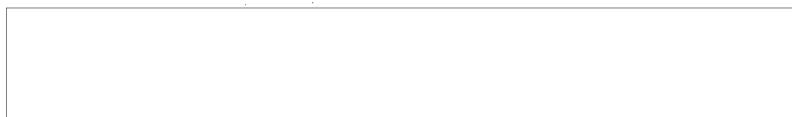
The European Communities are ready for their summit meeting, but eventual entry of the UK still depends on the French. (Page 2)

The UN may have its choice of CBW resolutions-- Swedish, Canadian, and Soviet. (Page 3)

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NORTH VIETNAM



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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The leaders of the member states of the European Communities open their long-awaited summit meeting Monday in The Hague. Among the topics to be discussed are the internal strengthening of the Communities, the possibility of their enlargement, and the relationship between the two.

The French have dropped their veto on UK entry, but are insisting on a "definitive" agricultural financing agreement, complete with provisions for vetoing changes, before the opening of negotiations with London. Other members may be unwilling to go along all the way with this French condition, but the French may demonstrate some flexibility.

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The governors of the central banks of the EC countries are proposing a mechanism whereby member states facing balance-of-payments difficulties would be able to obtain credits for a period of up to three months. The total credit line to be available--three billion dollars, plus additional back-up credits of the same amount--is far greater than most observers had expected.

This forward movement on the so-called Barre Plan comes in the wake of French devaluation and German revaluation, both of which emphasized the necessity for closer economic coordination.

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UN - ARMS CONTROL

Alva Myndal, the chief Swedish disarmament expert at the UN, told the US mission that her government will continue to push its draft resolution on chemical and biological warfare. The proposal would have the General Assembly condemn all CBW agents, including tear gas and herbicides. Sweden has been successful in securing backing on this issue from most of the other nonaligned nations represented at the Geneva disarmament talks.

The Canadians are considering a blending of their draft resolution on CBW with that of the USSR. The result would include a provision requesting the Geneva conferees to conduct urgent negotiations aimed at reaching agreement on a convention prohibiting the development, production, and stockpiling of CBW agents and requiring the destruction of existing weapons in that field. By approving such a provision, the Assembly would be supporting the CBW initiative Foreign Minister Gromyko sketched at the UN last September.

The several CBW resolutions will probably come up for voting in about two weeks and will cause acrimonious debate.

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NOTES

Pakistan: Suspicions that President Yahya Khan intends to retain power indefinitely may be reduced, at least temporarily, by his announcement yesterday that national elections will be held on 5 October 1970. Restrictions on normal political activity, in effect since martial law was imposed in March, are to be removed by the end of this year. West Pakistan, administered as a unified state in recent years, will be split into ethnic and linguistic provinces in response to minority demands for an end to Punjabi domination. Yahya's specific acceptance of the one man - one vote formula for elections meets a long-standing demand from more populous East Pakistan.

USSR - Far East: A new civil air agreement with Malaysia, which--according to Reuters--was signed on 27 November for implementation next year, adds Kuala Lumpur to the cities served by Aeroflot's Moscow - New Delhi - Singapore route. Djakarta and Colombo are also served by Aeroflot, and discussions for landing rights are now going on with Thailand and Cambodia.

USSR: [redacted]

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