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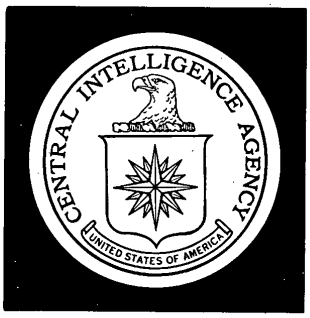

The President's Daily Brief

1 AUGUST 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

1 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Cambodian situation is discussed on *Page 1*.

Even if the right-wing Gahal leaves the coalition, Israeli resolve will remain strong and Mrs. Meir can govern with a comfortable majority. *(Page 3)*

Bolivia 50X1

The left-wing Tupamaros kidnap two diplomats. *(Page 5)*

Israel 50X1

A Pathet Lao envoy will see Souvanna today. *(Page 7)*

The Somali Government may tell the ambassador today of plans to release the Midnight Sun. *(Page 7)*

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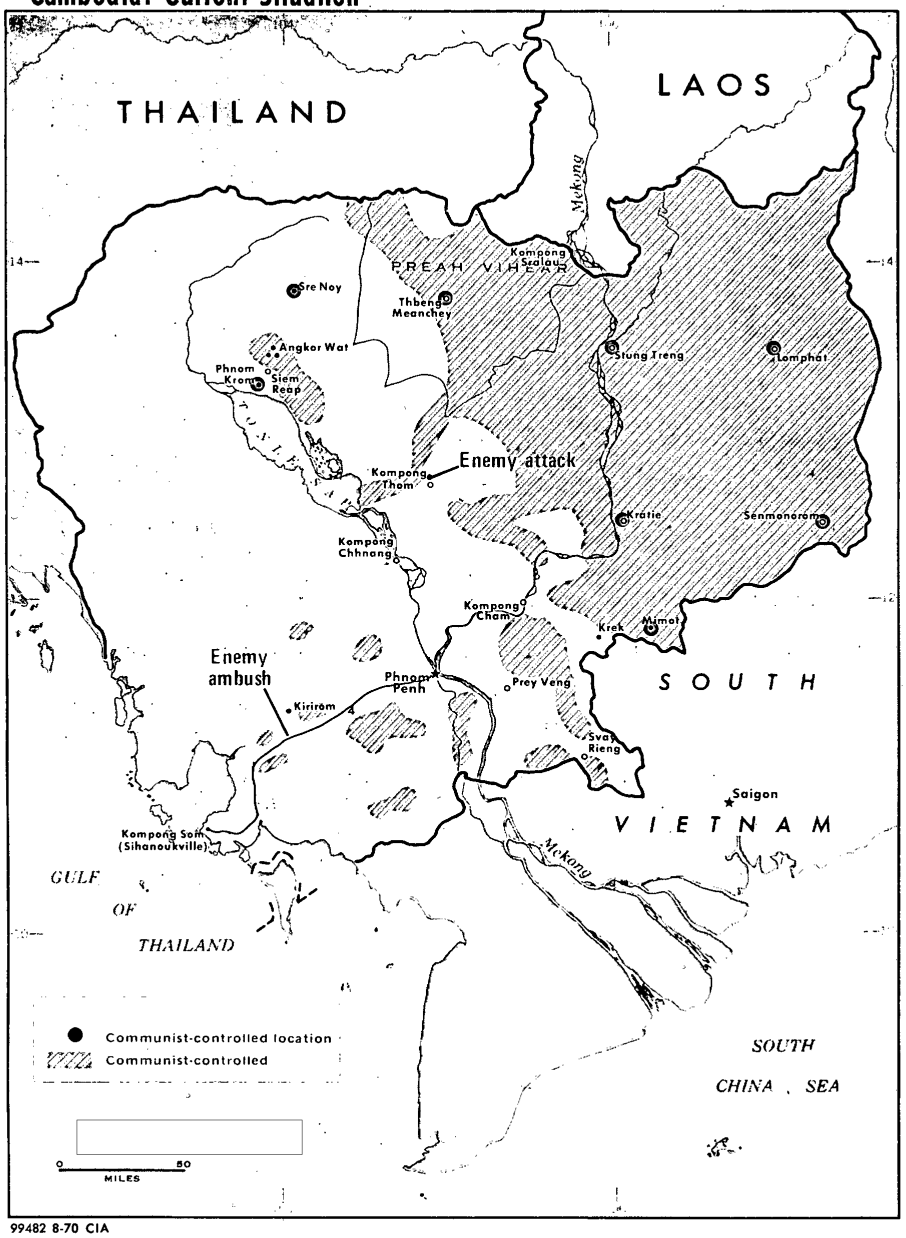
Cambodia: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

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* * *

Government forces pushing through the jungle toward Kirirom have been slowed by heavy monsoon rains. They are now midway between their staging areas on Route 4 and the town itself. A government battalion from Phnom Penh moving on Route 4 just south of Kirirom was overrun yesterday by the Communists, and air strikes were called on both sides of the road.

In the west, on 30 July two government battalions were attacked by Communist units three miles north of Kompong Thom city. Nine government troops were killed, including a battalion commander. According to an intercepted Cambodian Army message, substantial Communist reinforcements were moving south from Preah Vihear Province on 31 July to join numerous enemy elements already around the city in an attack.

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ISRAEL

Despite a week of domestic wrangling, Tel Aviv's acceptance of the US peace initiative contained no public qualifications, apparently an effort to appear as positive as Egypt and Jordan.

Prime Minister Meir is reported to have told her party that even if the right-wing Gahal leaves the coalition, her government will not be weaker or less resolute in defending Israel. The announcement specifically states that the cabinet "will remain faithful to the basic principles of the government's resolves and its official statements." Gahal apparently still has not made a final decision whether to leave the government. Most of the members of Gahal favor retention of all the conquered Arab territories.

The Gahalists are clearly split, however, with some holding out for doctrinal purity while others argue that to leave now is to give up influence prematurely--before the Arabs' intentions are really tested. Mrs. Meir, although still trying to keep Gahal in the coalition, can govern with a comfortable majority without them. If Gahal did leave, it would have little capability to organize any opposition that could threaten the government.

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BOLIVIA

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URUGUAY

A US and a Brazilian diplomat were kidnaped yesterday in coordinated attacks by the extreme leftist Tupamaros.

In their first abduction of foreigners, the Tupamaros have demanded the release of all political prisoners for the American and have threatened to kill the Brazilian unless a ransom of slightly more than $1 million is paid.

As recently as March, President Pacheco stated that if a foreign diplomat were kidnaped, the Uruguayan Government would not accede to terrorist demands. Earlier this week, following the kidnaping of a judge, Pacheco said that there would be no exchange of prisoners for the judge.

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PANAMA-ISRAEL

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NOTES

Laos: Souk Vangsok, the special envoy from Communist leader Souphanouvong, arrived in Vientiane yesterday and is expected to have private talks with Souvanna today. Souk is the most important contact between the Communists and Vientiane since 1964. 50X1

50X1

Somalia: Foreign Secretary Arteh told the that the American-owned geological survey ship, the Midnight Sun, which has been held by the Somalis for some five weeks, would be released, but he did not indicate when. Arteh did not reveal whether any conditions must be met before the ship can leave. The Somali Government has not directly informed US officials in Mogadiscio of its intentions but may do so today when the US ambassador is scheduled to meet with Arteh. 50X1

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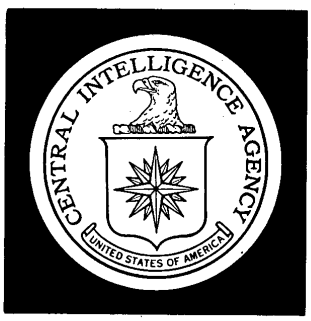

The President's Daily Brief

Sunday PDB

8 AUG 1970

~~7 August 1970~~

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[redacted] 50X1
50X1

[redacted]

CAMBODIA

The Communists have launched their heaviest ground and mortar attack on Kompong Thom city since early June. The city was attacked from three directions early ~~this~~ yesterday morning, and the US embassy in Phnom Penh reports that most of the [redacted] city's main installations have fallen, despite Cambodian and South Vietnamese air support. Government defenders are calling [redacted] for more air strikes, and for additional reinforcements. [redacted] 50X1 50X1 [redacted] The size of the enemy attacking force is unknown [redacted] 50X1

ILLEGIB ILLEGIB

The Communists simultaneously attacked [redacted] a government battalion at Skoun, at the junctions of Routes 6 and 7, between Kompong Thom and Kompong Cham city. [redacted] The embassy estimates Skoun will fall if [redacted] its defenders do not receive air support. If Skoun [redacted] falls the [redacted] Communists will have blocked overland access to Kompong Thom [redacted] AND ALSO WI[redacted] BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ATTACK KOMPONG CHAM.

ILLEGIB ILLEGIB ILLEGIB ILLEGIB ILLEGIB ILLEGIB

Meanwhile, [redacted] the government offensive to retake [redacted] Kirirom has halted, pending the arrival of five more battalions of reinforcements.

A government battalion south of Kirirom on Route 4, at Sre Khlong, fought a pitched battle with enemy forces ~~today~~ yesterday, and finally drove the Communists into the surrounding forest. Some action reportedly is continuing. [redacted] 50X1

2 AUG 1970

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Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2016/04/27 : CIA-RDP79T00936A008600020001-0 ILLEGIB

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3 AUGUST 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Cambodian situation is discussed on *Page 1*.

Nasir is trying to solidify Arab support for his acceptance of the US peace initiative. *(Page 3)*

The lull in the fighting in northern Laos is broken. *(Page 5)*

Thieu again indicates his willingness to consider accepting a standstill cease-fire prior to an overall political settlement, but stresses the need to negotiate the conditions for such a cease-fire. *(Page 6)*

50X6

The Soviets are unyielding on substantive matters in talks with the West Germans. *(Page 8)*

Uruguay has not yet responded to ransom demands for kidnaped foreigners. *(Page 9)*

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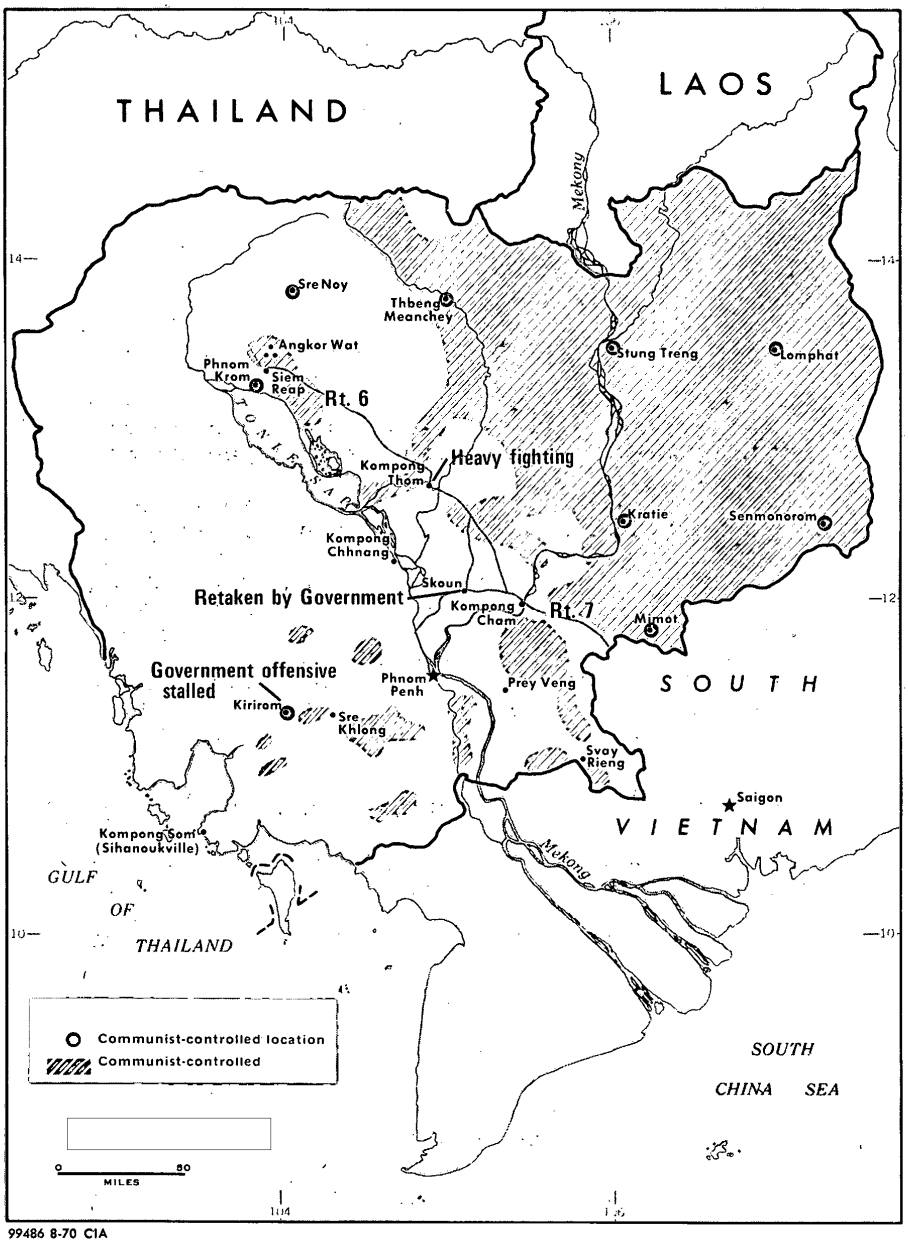
Cambodia: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Communist forces yesterday pressed their efforts to retake Kompong Thom. Government forces are said to have regained control of many of the city's buildings, but the Communists continued to make a strong ground and mortar assault on the city's southern portions. Two government battalions in the northern part of the city were pinned down by enemy fire, and efforts by another battalion to link up with them were unsuccessful.

50X1

The US defense attaché in Phnom Penh reported on 1 August that government troops at Kompong Thom were running low on food and ammunition and that their morale was declining. Continuous allied air strikes probably are the main reason the enemy has not been able to overrun the city. Phnom Penh has not yet made any plans to send reinforcements, despite urgent requests from the local commander.

In adjacent Kompong Cham Province, contrary to earlier reports, the Cambodians apparently have failed to retake the town of Skoun. The Communist occupation of Skoun may have been the first step in an enemy effort to increase pressure on Kompong Cham city. According to intercepted government messages, large numbers of enemy troops still are located east and west of the city.

In the west, the government offensive to retake Kirirom is still stalled pending the arrival of five more battalions of reinforcements from Phnom Penh. Elements of a brigade that was to spearhead the counterattack refused to participate in the operation, claiming they lack proper equipment. Southeast of Kirirom, an intercepted Cambodian Army message reported that the enemy ambushed several government vehicles near Sre Khlong on 1 August. Government clearing operations and air strikes in the Sre Khlong area apparently have not been effective, but the situation is reported to be calm.

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

Nasir is trying to solidify Arab support for his acceptance of the US peace initiative. The semi-official Al Ahram has reaffirmed Cairo's intention to explore the US proposal and has fired off volleys of criticism at Arab states not in support of Egypt's effort. Cairo, according to Al Ahram, accepted the US proposals because it thought there was a greater chance now of achieving total Israeli withdrawal. This line will presumably be pursued at today's meeting of representatives of the Arab states in Libya. Although Iraq and Algeria--strongly critical of Egypt's move--have formally declared they will not attend, Syria is sending a delegation, as are the fedayeen.

Moscow continues to manifest its strong political and military support for the UAR. Pravda minced few words on 1 August in condemning Iraq's "negative stand" with regard to Nasir's "peace initiative."

50X1

50X1

The US Embassy in Amman reports that those favoring peace now clearly have the initiative. It states that the fedayeen position is not arousing significant support, and describes the fedayeen anti-peace demonstration on 31 July as "unimpressive." The Beirut embassy reports in addition that pro-peace sentiment in Lebanon has induced a note of caution among fedayeen leaders there.

In Israel, a cabinet committee continued to work on a formal reply to the US proposals. The right-wing Gahal party makes its decision tonight on whether or not to quit the government. Its departure would leave Mrs. Meir with a governing majority of 76 out of 120, which would not require a cabinet shakeup.

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* * *

On the military front, Israeli aircraft continued to attack Egyptian targets along the Suez Canal. No further encounters with Soviet-piloted MIG-21s have occurred.

50X1

The dispatch of the commander of the Soviet Air Force, Marshal Kutakov, to Cairo on 1 August is probably intended to provide a new general assessment of Soviet military involvement in Egypt, particularly in view of last week's Soviet pilot losses to the Israelis. Kutakov's rank will lend authority to his mission, which seems also aimed at reassuring the Egyptians and underscoring Moscow's support for Nasir.

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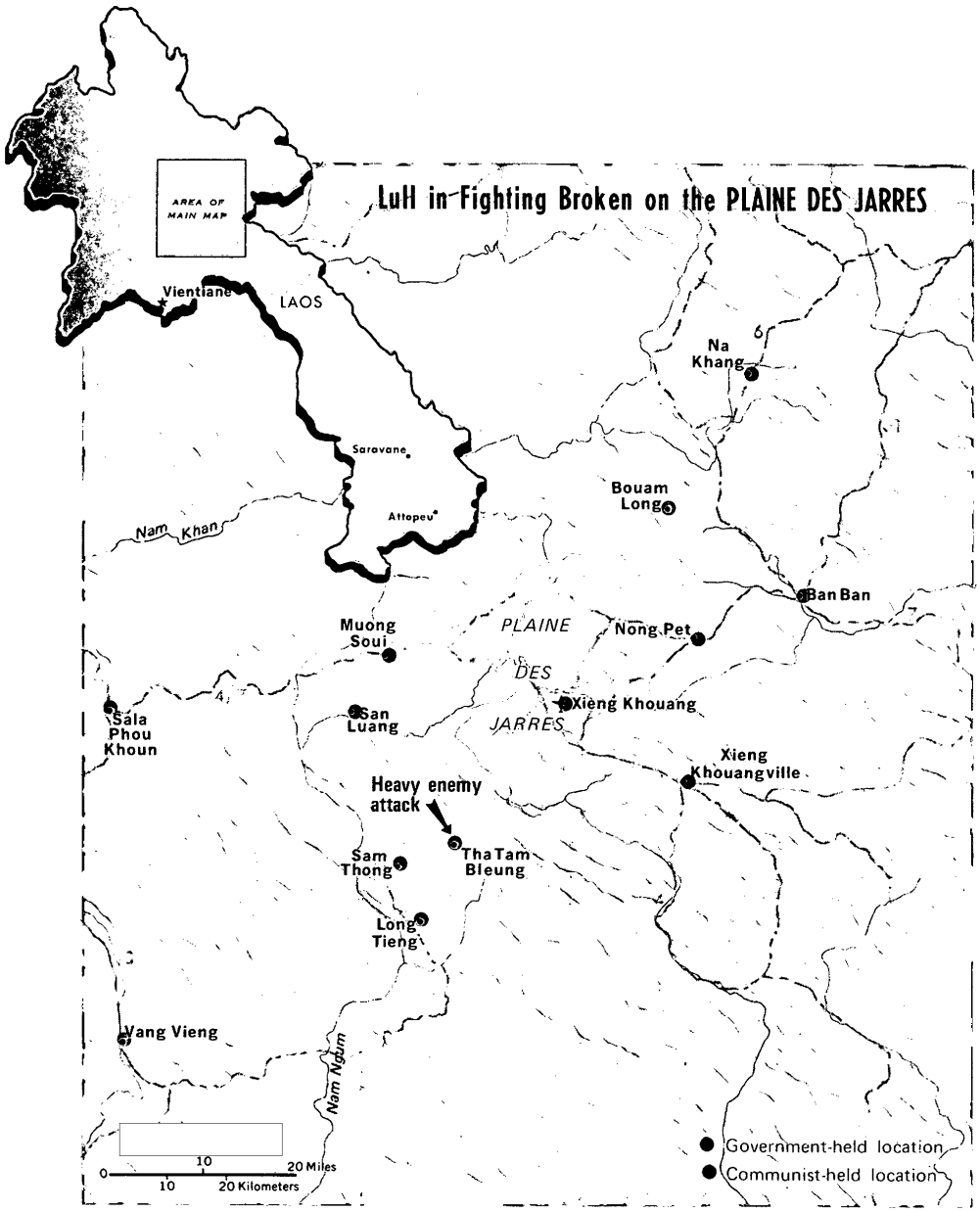

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LAOS

The communiqué released shortly after Souk Vongsak arrived in Vientiane Friday did not contain any of the usual polemics and made no reference to the customary demand for a US bombing halt as a precondition for talks. Souk only noted the "numerous efforts" of the Lao Patriotic Front to reach a peaceful settlement and expressed the hope that his mission would end in success.

Shortly after his arrival, however, the extended lull in the fighting in north Laos was abruptly broken by an assault by 200 to 300 North Vietnamese troops against a Lao guerrilla battalion manning the perimeter defenses at Tha Tam Bleung. The enemy force overran all of the battalion's positions, wounding 59 of the guerrillas and leaving an unknown number dead.

It is possible that the Communist attack near Tha Tam Bleung had no connection with the opening of preliminary talks between the Pathet Lao and the government. The Communists have periodically made a show of strength southwest of the Plaine des Jarres to forestall any effort by General Vang Pao's forces to return to the offensive in this critical area. But the severity, as well as the timing, of the Tha Tam Bleung raid suggests that this was more than a routine military maneuver precipitated by local tactical considerations.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

In his broadcast to the nation on Friday, President Thieu again indicated that he would be willing to consider accepting a standstill cease-fire before an over-all political settlement is negotiated. He strongly stressed the need to negotiate the conditions for such a cease-fire first, however, and again asserted that there must be a tight control apparatus to prevent the Communists from reinforcing and resupplying their forces and to prevent terrorist activity. Thieu also stressed that a standstill cease-fire would not involve ceding political control of areas where enemy forces might be strong, but would be a way to stop the killing until an over-all settlement is arranged that would allow the Communists to participate in internationally supervised elections. A cease-fire could only be justified, Thieu said, if there were real progress in the negotiations. He made it amply clear, however, that he expects no such progress soon.

Thieu clearly wished to reassure the armed forces and the people in general that his government is not about to drop its guard. He probably also wanted to head off any tendency among security forces to avoid battle with the enemy in the belief that a cease-fire was imminent. Some of his language seems to have been intended to caution political leaders, including candidates in the upcoming Senate elections, against playing to the war-weariness of the population by developing a peace campaign.

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USSR

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USSR - WEST GERMANY

Initial West German attempts to alter the Bahr-Gromyko draft agreements on a reconciliation treaty have run into a stone wall. [redacted] Gromyko specifically ruled out any mention in a Soviet - West German treaty of four-power rights, and rejected any attempt to link the German-Soviet talks and the four-power sessions on Berlin. The Soviets also voiced strong opposition to any changes in the paragraph which relates to the border question.

50X1

All these points were raised by Scheel in an effort to make the draft agreement more acceptable to domestic critics who feel German and Allied interests are not sufficiently protected. The Soviets were polite in tone and showed some flexibility on certain nonessential matters, such as including specific mention in the treaty of a desire to cooperate in economic and cultural areas. [redacted] *it might be necessary for the West German cabinet to take another look at Bonn's substantive approach some time this coming week.*

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NOTE

Uruguay: The government has not yet responded to demands by the extreme leftist Tupamaros for the release of all political prisoners as the price for freeing a wounded American AID official and a Brazilian diplomat abducted on 31 July. An impasse could easily develop if President Pacheco sticks to his position of "no negotiations with kidnapers." A legal obstacle to the release of the government's prisoners is the division of jurisdiction over them between the executive and judicial branches. Those already convicted are controlled by the judicial branch and [redacted] the Supreme Court is determined not to release prisoners in exchange for the kidnaped foreigners. 50X1

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4 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

4 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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

Developments in Israel are examined on *Page 3*.

Lao *(Page 4)* 50X1

The Shah of Iran has again expressed his frustration over US policy. *(Page 5)*

Bolivia *(Page 6)* 50X1

The Uruguayan Government has responded indirectly to the kidnapers' ransom demands. *(Page 7)*

Polish East Germany at Annex. 50X1

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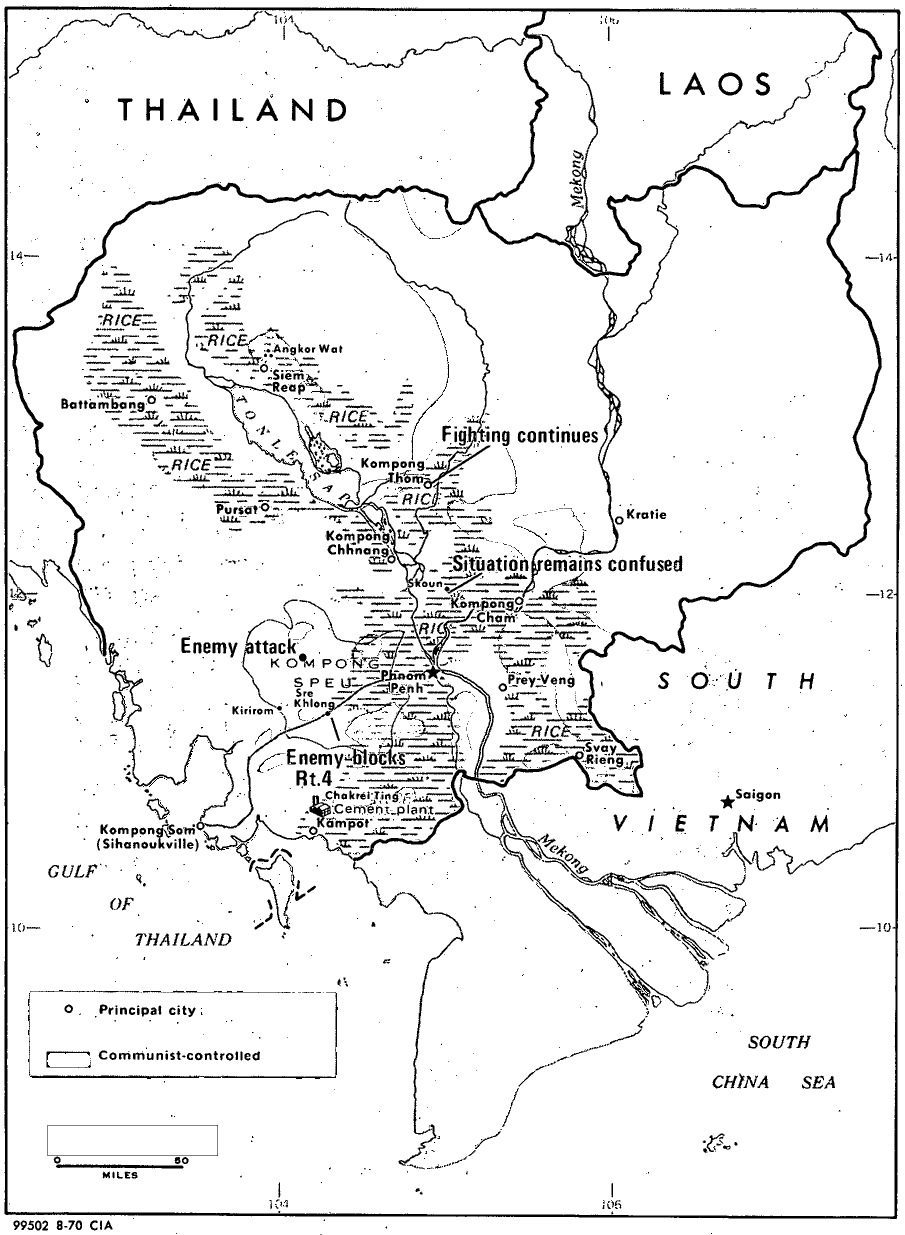

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CAMBODIA

The battle for Kompong Thom continues, but the Communist offensive appears to be losing some of its momentum. According to an intercepted Cambodian Army message, government defenders have reoccupied most of the key buildings in the city; urgently needed supplies of food and ammunition have been air-dropped to government forces.

The enemy still holds the town of Skoun. A relief column from Kompong Cham has been halted a short distance east of the city.

The planned offensive to retake Kirirom has encountered more delays. Press reports indicate that enemy harassing attacks near Sre Khlong have blocked Route 4, preventing the movement of supplies and reinforcements for government units already proceeding toward the resort town. A provincial official says that Communist troops around Sre Khlong must be dislodged before a full counterattack on Kirirom can be made. He also claims that the enemy is still sending reinforcements into the Kirirom area despite heavy allied air strikes.

In the only other significant military action, a government command post in northwestern Kompong Speu Province reported yesterday that it was surrounded and under attack by a large Communist force. The local commander said he had taken heavy losses, and asked for airborne reinforcements.

Meanwhile, there are signs that the Communists may be planning new attacks on Kampot city and on the Chakrei Ting cement factory in Kampot Province. An intercepted message has reported that "hundreds" of Communist troops are now in position north and east of both locations. The message also claims that these forces will attack when South Vietnamese troops are withdrawn.

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[redacted] 50X1

* * *

Prom Tep Savang, one of Cambodia's more able and articulate spokesmen, has been sent to Paris to open an information office. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

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ISRAEL

Mrs. Meir's government still retains a comfortable parliamentary majority and the support of the great majority of the people despite the departure of the right-wing Gahal party. Although the Gahal's vote to leave was very close, its departure hurt Mrs. Meir, who wanted to keep together the "wall-to-wall" coalition that had been in office since the eve of the 1967 war. The coalition was unwieldy and disparate, but it served as the symbol of Israeli unity.

Mrs. Meir's willingness to forgo the Gahal partnership at this early stage of the peace effort underscores the gap between her own views and the dogmatic nationalism of Gahal leader Menahem Begin. Mrs. Meir retains the backing of Minister of Defense Dayan, but only time will tell whether the cut-down cabinet will be better or less able to negotiate a settlement. Israeli requirements for a peace settlement remain high, and Mrs. Meir has pointed out before that her government without Gahal will be no less resolute in the defense of Israel's "vital security needs."

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LAOS

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there is additional evidence that the recent heavy attack on government positions near Tha Tam Bleung had a political as well as a military objective. The Communist troops that routed a government battalion in the attack on 31 July have abandoned the positions they seized, and the level of military activity has returned to the normal rainy season low.

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IRAN

The Shah has again expressed his frustration over US policy toward Iran, particularly on military sales and oil.

At the head of the list of items discussed with Ambassador MacArthur was the Shah's concern that the Foreign Military Sales Act, which would authorize a credit of $100 million for Iran to purchase US military equipment, still has not passed Congress. The delay, with no end in sight, causes him to wonder whether he can depend on the US to supply the military equipment he wants over the next five years. He continues to worry about the threat to the area from the USSR and radical Arab nations, and is determined to expand and modernize his armed forces. Although he would prefer to buy most of his sophisticated equipment from the US--particularly aircraft--he said there are others waiting in the wings to sell. He specifically mentioned the French Mirage.

In the past, the Shah has followed through on some threats to turn elsewhere for equipment--witness the arms agreement with Moscow in 1967.

He spoke "more in sadness than in anger" about the refusal of the US to give a special oil quota, which would have permitted Iran to sell oil in the US and helped to pay for military equipment.

The Shah was most bitter, however, about the failure of the Western oil consortium to increase oil exports from Iran rapidly enough. He singled out two US companies--Texaco and Socal (Standard of California)--as the main offenders. He suggested that they might be taken over by the government and replaced by German or Japanese companies that are more willing to cooperate.

Iran is approaching a foreign exchange "crunch," and oil revenues are more important to the Shah than ever. He had hoped that the cutback in Libyan production would be made up in Iran, but thus far this has not worked out. The Shah undoubtedly would prefer to avoid "nationalization." Nevertheless, he has obviously thought out the implications of such a move and the depth of his concern suggests that he might follow through on his threat if more oil revenues are not forthcoming. (Although Texaco and Socal own only 14 percent of the consortium, voting within the organization is such that the two companies could exercise a veto in many instances.)

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BOLIVIA

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URUGUAY

In a communiqué issued by the Ministry of Interior yesterday, the government said that it will not exchange all of the imprisoned Tupamaros for the kidnaped American AID official and the Brazilian diplomat.

President Pacheco evidently decided that the terrorists' demands provide no basis for negotiation or a direct reply, because they are impossibly high. He therefore decided to make an indirect reply through the Ministry of the Interior.

The government's response reflects both Pacheco's belief that he should not negotiate directly with the terrorists and military pressure against any action that might hint of weakness. The US defense attaché reports that the Uruguayan military will not tolerate a capitulation because this would represent an end of law and order in the country. Whether the Tupamaros will respond with less extreme demands remains to be seen.

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ANNEX

POLISH FEARS ABOUT EAST GERMANY

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

5 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

About 90 SAM firing battalions have now been identified in Egypt. *(Page 1)*

The tenuous truce between Jordanian King Husayn and the fedayeen may come apart. *(Page 2)*

The Cambodian situation is discussed on *Page 3*.

The Soviet Flogger swing-wing fighter will probably be operational this year. *(Page 4)*

Specially equipped Soviet AN-12 transports have appeared in Egypt. *(Page 5)*

Colombo will probably tell Saragat he can form a new Italian Government. *(Page 6)*

The Chinese [redacted] 50X1
(Page 7)

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EGYPT

The latest satellite photography provides us with this year's most extensive coverage of SAM facilities in Egypt. We have now identified about 90 SAM firing battalions in the country; some 70 are units that fire SA-2's and 20 specialize in the SA-3. These battalions can be moved, in short periods of time, to any of some 250 SAM sites. Most of these are positioned throughout an area that encompasses Cairo and a zone extending northeastward toward Suez and Ismailia. A number of these sites are within a five- to 15-mile band along the canal. At the time of photography, in late July, four firing battalions were occupying SA-2 positions within five miles of the waterway.

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JORDAN

The fedayeen strongly object to King Husayn's recent appointment of Zaid Bin Shakir as assistant chief of staff of the Jordanian Army. Shakir, formerly head of the Third Armored Division, was dismissed last June during the government's confrontation with the fedayeen. The King's acquiescence at that time was viewed as a major defeat.

Last Saturday, when Jordanian and fedayeen representatives met to work out implementation of the agreement reached in June, the fedayeen declared that they would attend no more meetings unless the appointment were canceled. The government's refusal to do so caused the fedayeen to walk out, although they did agree to continue low-level meetings to consider some internal security aspects of the agreement.

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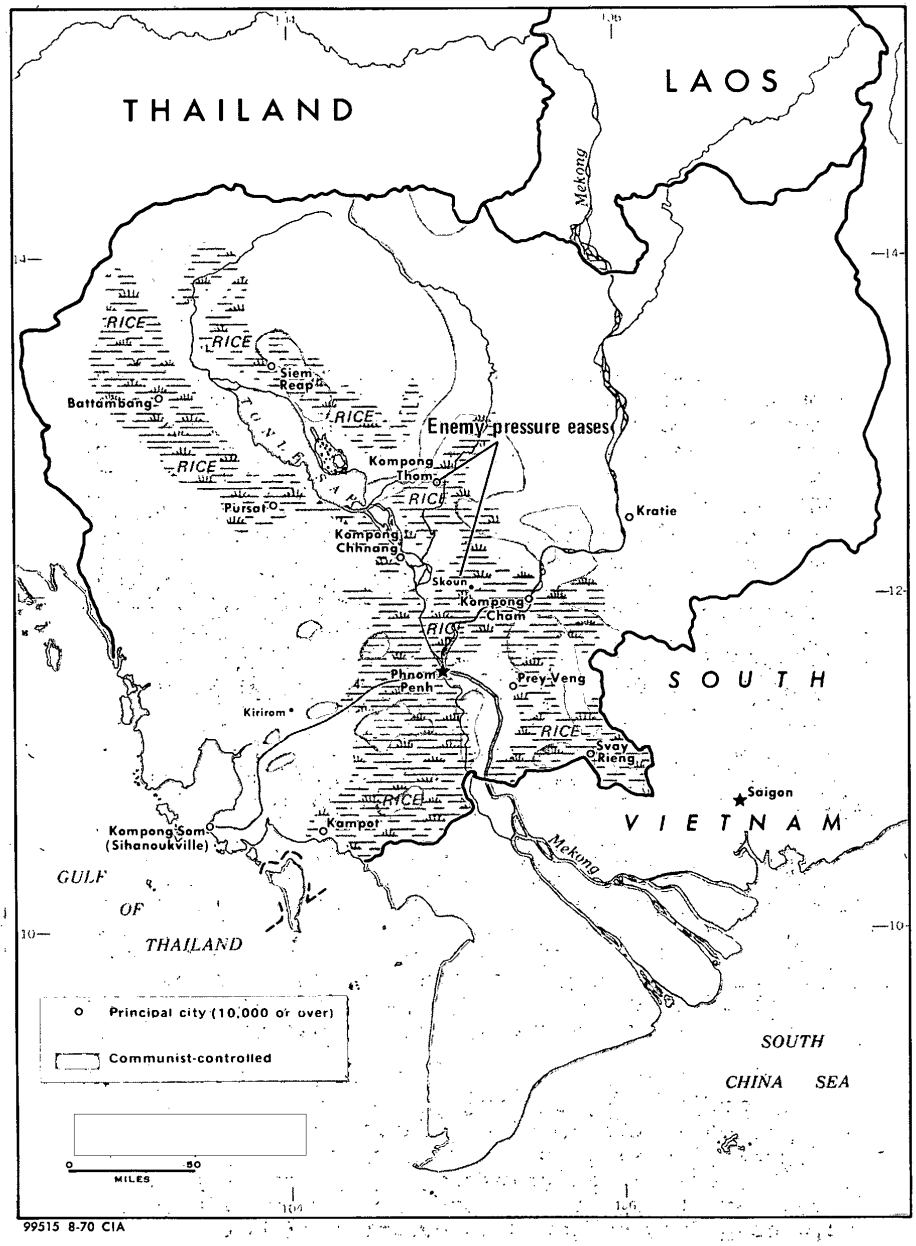

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CAMBODIA

The Cambodian Army deputy chief of staff said yesterday that Communist pressure on Kompong Thom has been relieved, and all enemy troops have been driven out of the city. He said air strikes had enabled the garrison to hold its ground. The second successful defense of the city should help boost morale throughout the army. The Communists are still directing some small arms and mortar fire on Kompong Thom from the north and east, and additional enemy attacks on the city may occur after the Communists have regrouped.

The Communists retain control of Skoun, but only a few enemy elements are still there; most of the Communist forces have moved north and west of the town. A small government relief column from Kompong Cham city was in contact with enemy forces east of Skoun yesterday. Three Khmer Krom battalions were proceeding from Phnom Penh on 4 August to retake Skoun and to counter a suspected Communist pincer movement north and west of Kompong Cham city.

Elsewhere, the government's sputtering counteroffensive to recapture Kirirom may be postponed indefinitely. Cambodian Army troops in the area are still beset by bad weather, supply shortages, and sickness. In addition, enemy harassing attacks on Route 4 continue to complicate the movement of supplies and fresh troops destined to support the planned offensive.

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USSR

Satellite photography of 28 July showed five of the new swing-wing Flogger fighter aircraft at Lipetsk airfield where the Soviets in the past have initially deployed new tactical fighters. [redacted] 50X1

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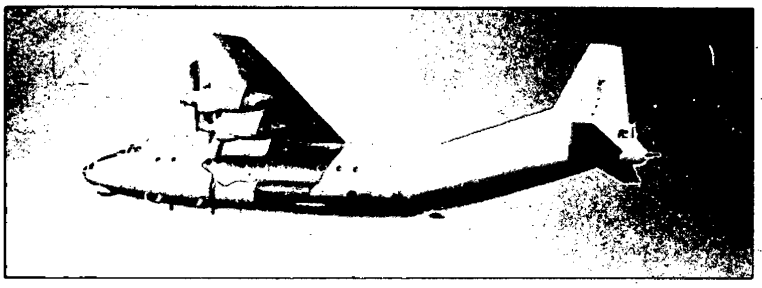
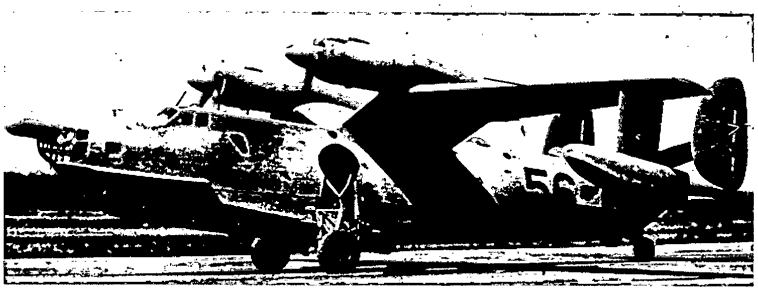
Soviet Reconnaissance Aircraft in Egypt

TU-16 (BADGER)

AN-12 (CUB)



BE-12 (MAIL)



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USSR-EGYPT

The Soviets appear to be broadening their maritime reconnaissance over the eastern Mediterranean with specially equipped AN-12 transport aircraft. Two AN-12s deployed to the Cairo West Airfield on 21 July [redacted] Visual observations of this aircraft indicate that it is equipped for electronic reconnaissance.

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ITALY

The press reports that the Unitary Socialist Party early today gave its approval for Premier-designate Emilio Colombo to form a new four-party center-left government. The other three parties--Christian Democrat, Republican, and Orthodox Socialist--had given their endorsement yesterday.

Colombo is expected to tell President Saragat later today that he can form a government, thus succeeding Mariano Rumor who resigned several weeks ago. Colombo is a respected economist and lawyer who has been minister of finance in eight previous Italian cabinets.

The "political-programmatic document," which forms the basis for Colombo's reconstitution of the center-left coalition, has five points. The main one concerns the composition of local administrations in the provinces following the June election. It was this issue that was a prime factor in the fall of the Rumor government. According to the document, no center-left party should be vetoed from participating in a center-left provincial coalition, and preference should be given to formation of such an administration where possible. However, Socialist participation in "leftist" coalitions with Communists in some provinces is not to be taken as a "step backward" toward "frontism."

The other points are fairly general to give Colombo latitude in formulating his program. The plank on local administration would give approval to the Socialists joining with the Communists in several provinces where the four center-left parties do not have the votes to form a coalition of their own.

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NOTE

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Communist China: [redacted]

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6 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

6 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Lao

50X1

(Page 1)

In Cambodia, fighting continues in the Kompong Thom area and the enemy may be preparing another assault on Kompong Cham city. *(Page 2)*

The North Vietnamese continue to take advantage of Laotian waterways to move supplies south. *(Page 3)*

Representatives of five Arab states are meeting in Tripoli amid signs of dissension within the Arab world over the prospective Middle East cease-fire. *(Page 4)*

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LAOS

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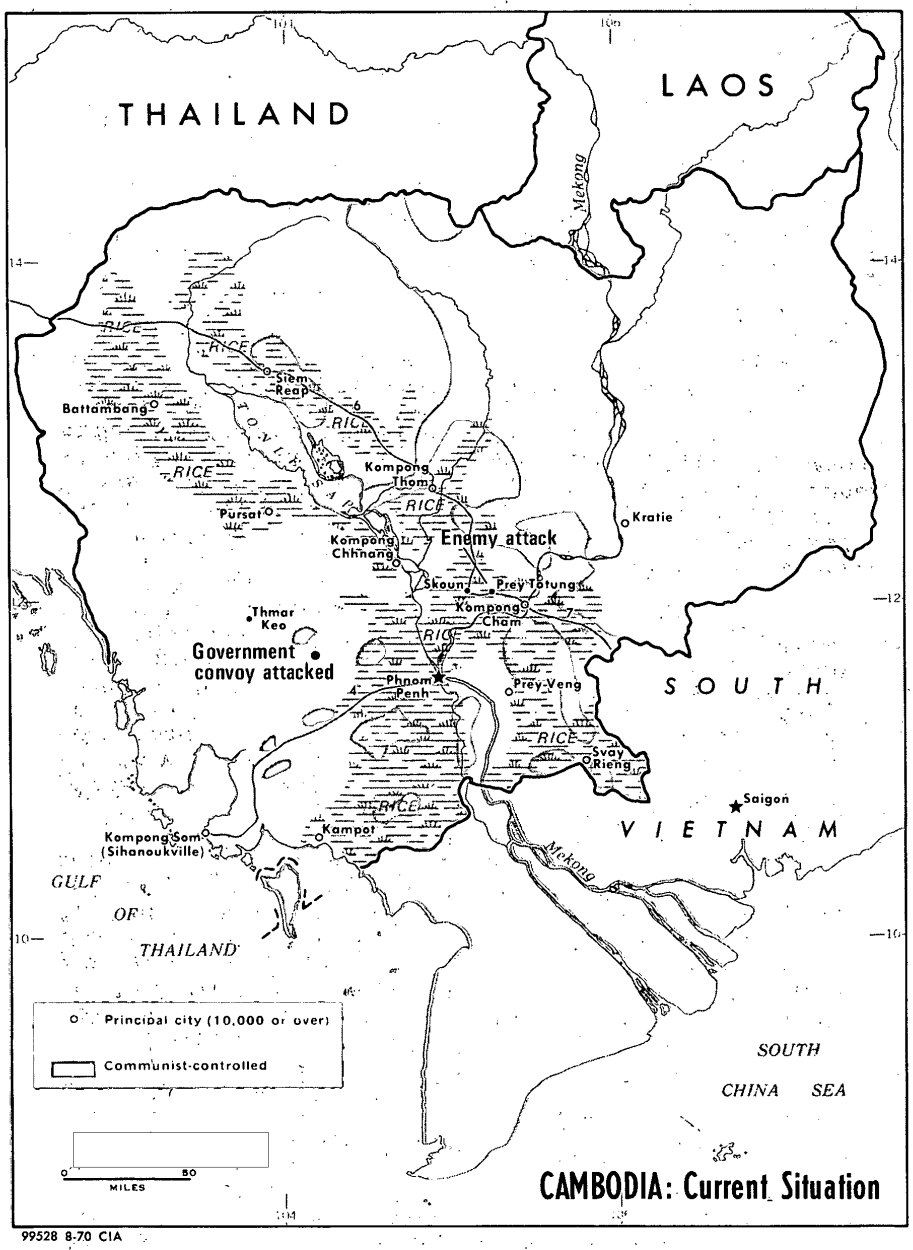

CAMBODIA: Current Situation

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CAMBODIA

The battle for control of Kompong Thom continues. Some enemy elements were still holding out in the northern sector of the city yesterday and a large concentration of enemy troops is reported to be south of Kompong Thom. All roads to the city have been blocked by the enemy, but Cambodian and South Vietnamese helicopters continue to shuttle supplies to the isolated city.

In Kompong Cham Province, Skoun remains in Communist hands. Government forces, supported by air strikes, were maneuvering east and west of the town yesterday amid signs of increased enemy strength in the area. East of Skoun, some enemy forces had infiltrated parts of the small town of Prey Totung, on Route 7, but a Cambodian Army spokesman announced early today that this town had been recaptured.

We have word that Kompong Cham city was subjected to harassing fire by 122-mm. rockets on 3 August without damage. Although this report has not been confirmed, a villager previously claimed there were nine launching positions for such weapons located north of the city. The Communists have not used this weapon before in Cambodia. There have been recent signs that the Communists are preparing for another assault on Kompong Cham city, which was last attacked in mid-May.

Elsewhere, a large government convoy from the recently abandoned post of Thmar Keo in northwest Kompong Speu Province continues its slow movement southward toward Route 4. Communist harassing attacks have destroyed 14 vehicles in the convoy. Government relief forces trying to move north from Route 4 to link up with the Thmar Keo evacuees also have been slowed by enemy attacks and muddy roads.

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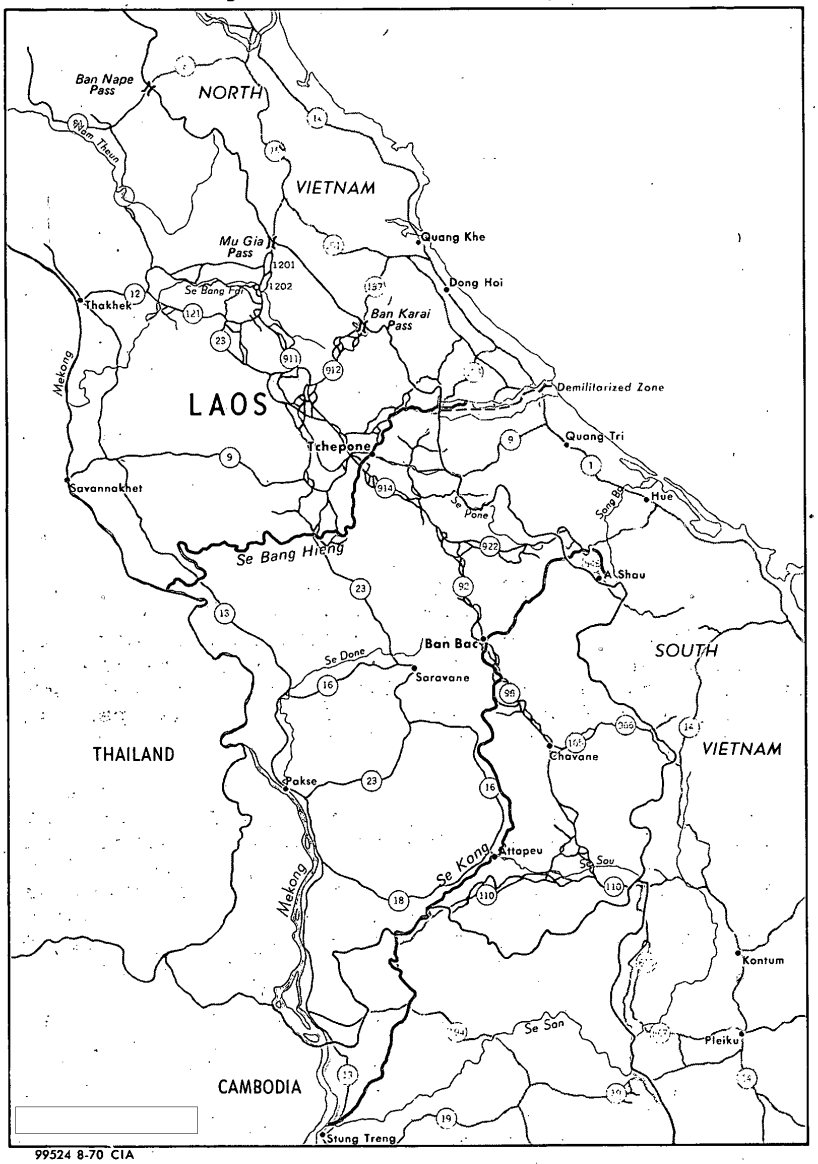
Communists Making Increased Use of Waterways



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LAOS - SOUTH VIETNAM

Enemy communications indicate that Communist supplies entering the Laotian panhandle by truck have shown a steady decline from 65 tons a day during May to about six tons a day during July. Instead the Communists are making increased use of Laotian waterways to move supplies south.

Between 1 and 24 July the Communists attempted to free-float 40-50 tons of rice and gasoline each day down the Se Bang Hieng River to Tchepone. Enemy messages indicate that three percent of the rice and 13 percent of the gasoline were destroyed during that period, mainly by air strikes, and the efforts have fallen short of the Communist goal of moving 55 tons a day.

Further south, the Communists are making increased use of the Se Kong River to bypass rain- and bomb-damaged roads between Ban Bac and the Cambodian border. Since 22 June, however, guerrilla teams have reported destroying 38 small boats carrying supplies and personnel along this river.

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ARAB STATES

A five-nation conference of Arab foreign and defense ministers finally convened in Tripoli yesterday despite the refusal of Iraq and Algeria to attend. Originally slated to open last Monday, the conference was postponed while Libyan Prime Minister Qaddafi unsuccessfully tried to persuade Iraq to participate.

> *Egypt's semiofficial newspaper Al Ahram has said that the talks would concern ways of bolstering the "eastern front" against Israel, and that the US peace plan would not be the primary topic. The participants--representatives from Libya, Egypt, the Sudan, Jordan, and Syria--will almost certainly attempt, however, to hammer out some kind of joint strategy regarding the prospective cease-fire and negotiations.*

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Soviet

(Page 1)

50X1

The Cambodian situation is discussed on *Page 2*.

Demonstrations by South Vietnamese war veterans pose the threat of serious unrest. *(Page 3)*

USSR

(Page 4)

50X1

The West Germans and Soviets are to initial their renunciation of force treaty today. *(Page 5)*

Soviet

(Page 6)

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Uruguay terrorists threaten to "pronounce sentence" on kidnaped foreigners unless the government meets their demands. *(Page 7)*

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USSR - MIDDLE EAST

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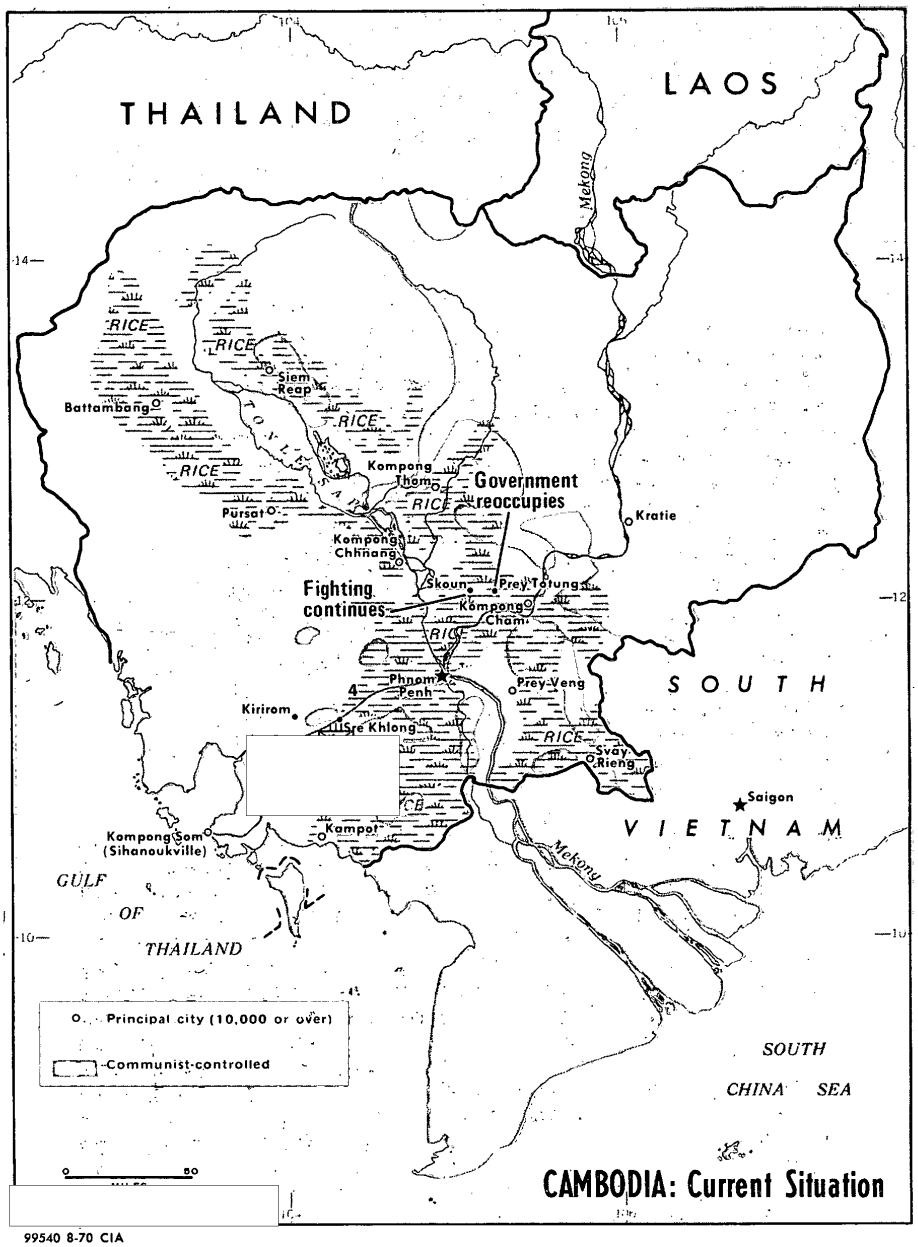

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CAMBODIA

Despite heavy air strikes, enemy forces in Skoun are still keeping government forces at bay. Three battalions of Khmer Krom troops from Phnom Penh had several sharp encounters with Communist elements less than two miles west of the town, but were initially unable to clear enemy roadblocks. On Wednesday, government forces fought their way back into the small town of Prey Totung on Route 7.

Communist pressure against Kompong Thom has subsided; the enemy directed only intermittent harassing fire on the city Wednesday night. Kompong Thom has had no electricity since its main power plant was destroyed on 31 July, and housing, food, and potable water are in short supply in that shattered city.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

War veterans went on a rampage in Saigon yesterday when they heard of government plans to tear down several thousand of their shanty-town dwellings. According to press reports, the veterans destroyed a provincial governor's office and held an all-day sit-in in front of the Presidential Palace. The demonstrators dispersed only after government officials promised to leave the veterans' shacks intact and to negotiate further with them. Even more violent veterans' demonstrations took place in Nha Trang city on Wednesday. The trouble there began when police demolished shacks being built by the veterans.

Unless the government cracks down on the veterans, the demonstrations could quickly deteriorate into the most serious unrest since early May. The government, however, is reluctant to use harsh tactics against the veterans because of the sympathy they enjoy in the army.

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USSR - EASTERN EUROPE

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WEST GERMANY - USSR

The West Germans and the Soviets are to initial today a treaty renouncing the use of force that is little changed from the earlier Bahr-Gromyko draft. Foreign Minister Scheel has informed the Western Allies that consultation will follow in Bonn. Scheel's initialing of the treaty will virtually commit West Germany to signature, however.

Although the Western Allies have been seeking a reaffirmation of four-power rights in West Berlin and West Germany in connection with this agreement, the Soviets declined to publish any written statement on this subject in their own name. Instead, a West German note to the three Western powers is to quote from oral statements on four-power rights by the West German and Soviet foreign ministers, thus providing only an indirect reaffirmation.

Despite assurances from Scheel that he would deal with the need to indicate that the present treaty is not a final peace treaty, the latest draft text says nothing explicit on this question. Scheel has nevertheless suggested that the reaffirmation of four-power rights in itself implies that no peace treaty has been concluded since any such treaty would do away with those rights.

In addition, the text of the treaty has been adjusted to make the commitment to "respect" postwar borders appear as an amplification and specific application of the renunciation of force. This is intended to make the de facto recognition of borders seem less like a new concession or an anticipation of an eventual peace treaty, and hence more palatable to the West German public.

As planned earlier, the West Germans will issue a letter asserting the German right to national unity. Scheel now expects Gromyko to reply to the letter without contradicting the West German claim. The treaty preamble now also contains a reference to the 1955 Soviet - West German agreement. As this agreement mentioned the right of the Germans to national unity, Bonn will argue that reference to it provides further confirmation of German national rights.

The Soviets have made no major concessions. Nevertheless, the minor improvements of concern to Bonn may help to dampen criticism of the treaty in West Germany. If some agreement can be worked out on Berlin, this treaty stands a good chance of being ratified by the Bundestag.

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USSR-EGYPT

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NOTE

Uruguay: The Tupamaros have threatened to "pronounce sentence" on the kidnaped USAID official and Brazilian diplomat unless the government agrees today to release all political prisoners. The ultimatum, issued by the terrorists yesterday, insists that the government must agree to free its prisoners no later than midnight Tuesday and allow them to leave the country. Presumably, the captives would be released when the government complies with these terms. So far, President Pacheco is still refusing to negotiate with the kidnapers.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Recent developments in Cambodia are discussed on *Page 1.*

50X1

Some Bonn officials are concerned that a large refugee rally to be held in West Berlin will complicate the four-power talks on Berlin. *(Page 3)*

The Soviets have deliberately raised a very sensitive issue in their territorial dispute with China. *(Page 4)*

The USSR may be planning a Venus probe for sometime in the next two weeks. *(Page 5)*

The Uruguayan Government has stuck by its decision not to negotiate for the release of the kidnaped foreigners. *(Page 6)*

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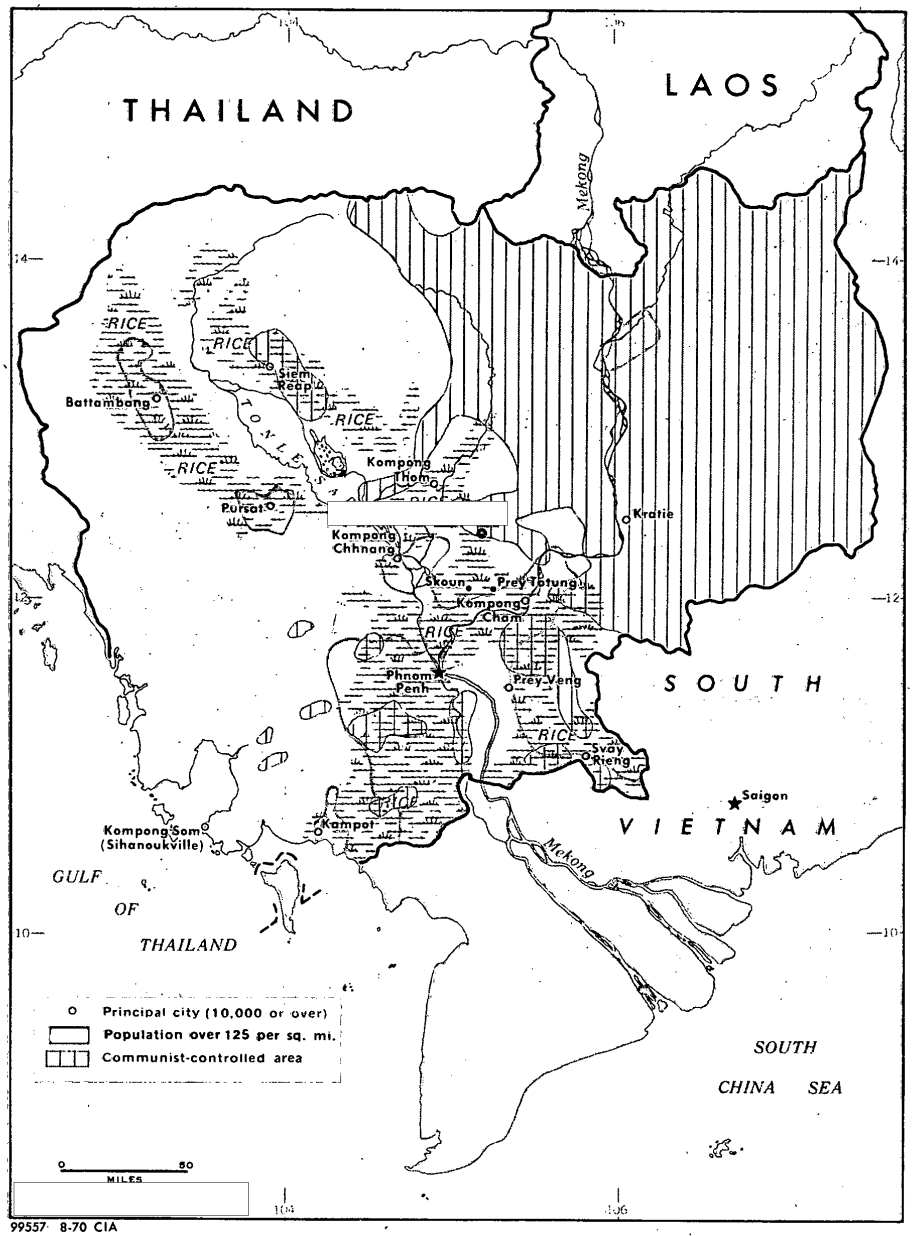
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Khmer Krom troops, supported by air strikes, finally succeeded in recapturing Skoun early today, according to press reports. No casualty figures were announced, but Cambodian losses apparently were light. East of Skoun, government defenders in the town of Prey Totung continued to stave off Communist harassing attacks. In the west, the enemy continues to harass Kompong Thom with intermittent mortar fire, but no new major ground actions have been reported.

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ARAB STATES

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WEST GERMANY

Some Bonn officials are concerned that the annual rally of German refugees from Eastern Europe (Tag Der Heimat) to be held in West Berlin on 6 September will complicate the next session of the four-power talks on Berlin. 50X1

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The West Germans have all but directly requested that the Western allies use their legal authority to ban the rally. Bonn wants to avoid being associated with such a move because of the political repercussions at home. Bonn nonetheless probably is genuinely concerned that the rally could unwind the delicate threads of its Eastern policy both at home and abroad.

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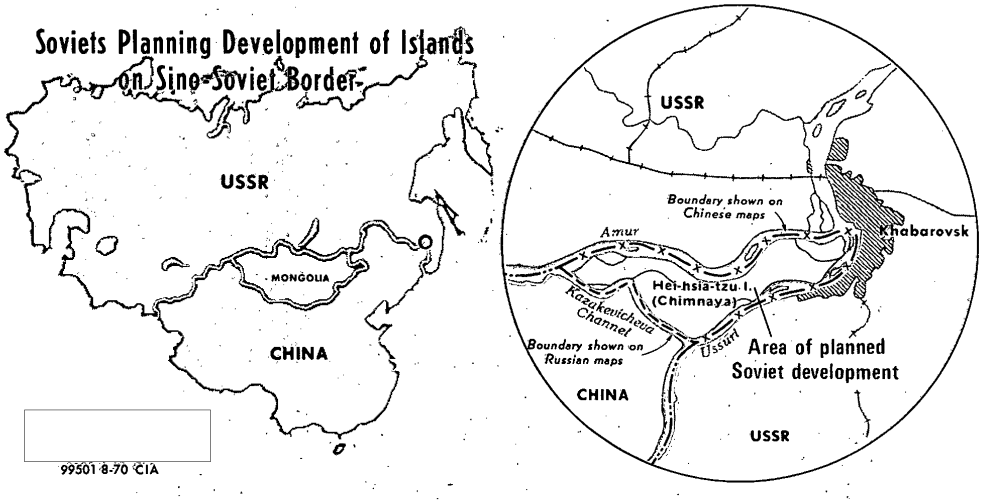
Soviets Planning Development of Islands on Sino-Soviet Border



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USSR - COMMUNIST CHINA

We have now received and analyzed the full text of that recent Soviet press article concerning plans for extensive agricultural development on an island area at the confluence of the Ussuri and Amur rivers opposite Khabarovsk--a key Soviet Far Eastern city and headquarters for the Far East Military District. The island area, by far the most important of the more than 700 islands in the Amur and Ussuri, is subject to conflicting claims by Moscow and Peking. The Chinese have a good legal case based on international law to support their claim to the area, and Moscow realizes this. Nevertheless, Soviet officials believe its continued control is essential because of its strategic location, just a stone's throw from Khabarovsk.

The Soviets were clearly aware that the appearance of these plans in an authoritative journal can only be interpreted by Peking as a direct challenge. Until the appearance of the article, both sides had carefully avoided public mention of the islands off Khabarovsk since the border talks got under way last October. Moscow is now clearly bent on enhancing its claim to the area, and wants the Chinese to get the message loud and clear that the Russians consider the islands Soviet territory and thus not subject to negotiation. Peking will see the move as a deliberate provocation, and may counter with a "development program" of its own for other disputed territories. Although the appearance of the article probably will not cause the collapse of the talks, it clearly underscores the lack of movement in the negotiations, and bodes ill for their future progress.

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USSR

There are indications that the launch of a Venus space probe is planned for sometime in the next two weeks. Support ships are nearing positions from which they could monitor the insertion of a space probe on a path to Venus, and the relative positions of Venus and the Earth are favorable. The next opportunity does not occur for 18 months.

Past Venus probes have been launched using a small booster based on the SS-6 ICBM. The next one, however, may be launched by the larger SL-12 space booster; at least [redacted] *The SL-12, however, has been completely successful in only six of 18 launch attempts to date.*

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NOTE

Uruguay: The government has stuck by its decision not to negotiate for the release of the kidnaped USAID official, the Brazilian diplomat, and the US agricultural specialist abducted yesterday. The Tupamaros had given the government until midnight last night to agree to release all political prisoners or they would "pronounce sentence" on all three. The deadline passed without any indication of the fate of the men.

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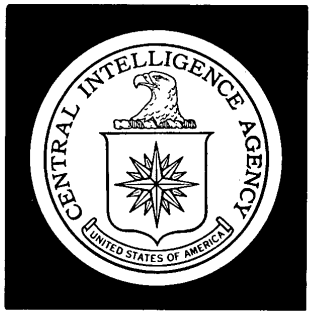

The President's Daily Brief

10 August 1970

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LATE ITEM -- URUGUAY

As we go to press the wire services are reporting from Montevideo that Mitrione has been found shot to death in a stolen car. The US Embassy has not yet commented on this report as of 0545 EDT.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

10 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The military situation in Cambodia is summarized on *Page 1*.

The Middle East cease-fire is being observed although there have been complaints from both sides. *(Page 2)*

There is no firm information on the fate of the kidnap victims in Uruguay. *(Page 3)*

Italy

(Page 4)

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Canada and China edged closer to agreement at the last session of the recognition talks. *(Page 5)*

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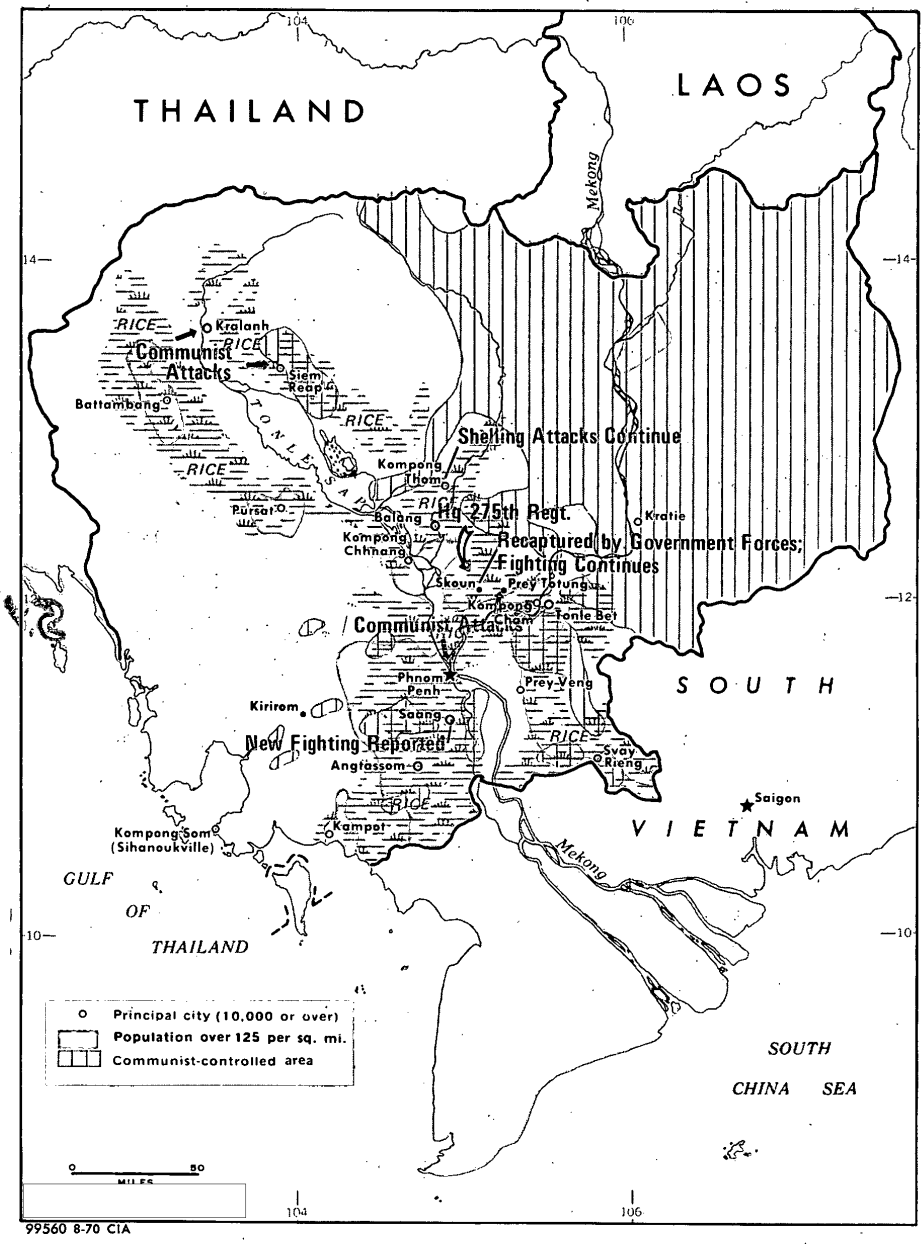
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Skoun remains in government hands following its recapture on 8 August. The town continues to receive intermittent mortar fire and the enemy may be regrouping for further attacks. Indeed, the recent southward movement of the Headquarters, Viet Cong 275th Regiment from Kompong Thom Province to within four miles of Skoun suggests that the battle for the town is far from over.

Just east of Skoun, hard-pressed government troops defending Prey Totung skirmished with enemy forces near the town's defensive perimeter and absorbed periodic shelling attacks throughout the weekend. The Communists also launched heavy mortar attacks against the airstrip at Kompong Cham city and against government positions at the district capital of Tonle Bet.

The three-battalion Khmer Krom relief force which recaptured Skoun is returning to Phnom Penh to counter possible enemy moves against the capital's outer defenses, according to press reports. Cambodian troops reportedly beat back small-scale enemy probes against several of their garrisons north of the capital this weekend. Unconfirmed press reports, moreover, indicate that Cambodian marines battled enemy infiltrators about two miles from Phnom Penh late yesterday.

South of Phnom Penh, a new battle--involving at least a battalion of Communist troops--has broken out at the district town of Saang. Recently intercepted Cambodian military messages have warned of a large enemy buildup of several thousand troops near the town, which was occupied by the enemy for several days in April and subjected to prolonged heavy fighting im mid-July.

In the west, the city of Kompong Thom continued to receive intermittent mortar, rocket, and recoilless rifle fire over the weekend, but no major new enemy ground attacks developed. Since early August, several major elements of the Viet Cong 9th Division have moved into the Kompong Thom area, and combat activity may soon intensify in this sector.

Elsewhere in western Cambodia, Communist forces renewed their pressure against the provincial capital of Siem Reap over the weekend. The city's airfield and military hospital came under mortar and automatic weapons fire, and Cambodian Army patrols engaged small bands of enemy troops along key approach routes to the city. Government positions at the important crossroads town of Kralanh, northwest of Siem Reap, also were attacked during the weekend.

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

The Egyptian-Israeli cease-fire along the Suez Canal appears to be holding. Although Cairo complained on 9 August of a violation involving an Israeli overflight of Suez city, the Egyptians described the flight as exploratory rather than offensive. No reports of aerial bombing have been received. 50X1

The Israelis are claiming that missiles have been moved into six SAM sites within 10-12 miles of the canal that had been unoccupied prior to the cease-fire. 50X1

As expected, fedayeen forces are defying the cease-fire and have mounted attacks against the eastern Israeli border. Israel has repelled these attacks with few casualties. One of the fedayeen assaults was against a potash plant near Sodom, south of the Dead Sea, an area usually excluded by tacit agreement. Heavy Israeli retaliation can be expected if serious damage was sustained in this area. 50X1

The fedayeen also are fighting with each other. In Jordan yesterday, a radical guerrilla organization fought two pitched battles with a pro-Nasir fedayeen group. Another extremist group, the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has stated that its attacks will also be directed toward American installations in the area. This could include the oil terminal facilities for the pipeline running from Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean or the producing facilities in Saudi Arabia.

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URUGUAY

No firm information has been received on the fate of the three captives of the Tupamaro terrorists. Montevideo radio stations received several contradictory phone calls yesterday from alleged terrorists. The last caller said the earlier announcement of Mitrione's death was untrue and added that the Tupamaros would issue a communiqué at noon today.

Last night President Pacheco asked congress for increased powers to deal with the terrorists amid signs that elements of the far right intend to retaliate against the Tupamaros. A group calling itself the "Squadron of Uruguayan Justice" notified the police yesterday that they would kill 50 Tupamaros for each political murder and five terrorists for every policeman killed.

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ITALY

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NODIS

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NOTE

Canada - Communist China: The recognition talks, which have been in suspense since last March, resumed in Stockholm on 1 August on Chinese initiative. A Canadian official said the session was "constructive," and that some progress was made on the thorny problem of China's sovereignty over Taiwan. Ottawa is now considering omitting this issue from the formal communiqué and clarifying its position in an oral statement before parliament.

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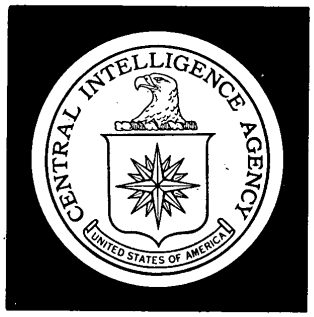

The President's Daily Brief

11 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Cambodian situation is discussed on *Page 1.*

The fedayeen remain openly hostile to the peace efforts while Egypt and its supporters are applying pressures to bring them into line. *(Page 3)*

Libya has received more military equipment from the USSR but claims that Soviet military advisers will be kept out of the country. *(Page 4)*

The purge of Bolivia's leftist Information Minister has bought President Ovando more time. *(Page 5)*

An intensive military and police search has failed to recover the two remaining hostages held by Uruguayan terrorists. *(Page 6)*

Soviet relief flights to Peru remain in abeyance. *(Page 7)*

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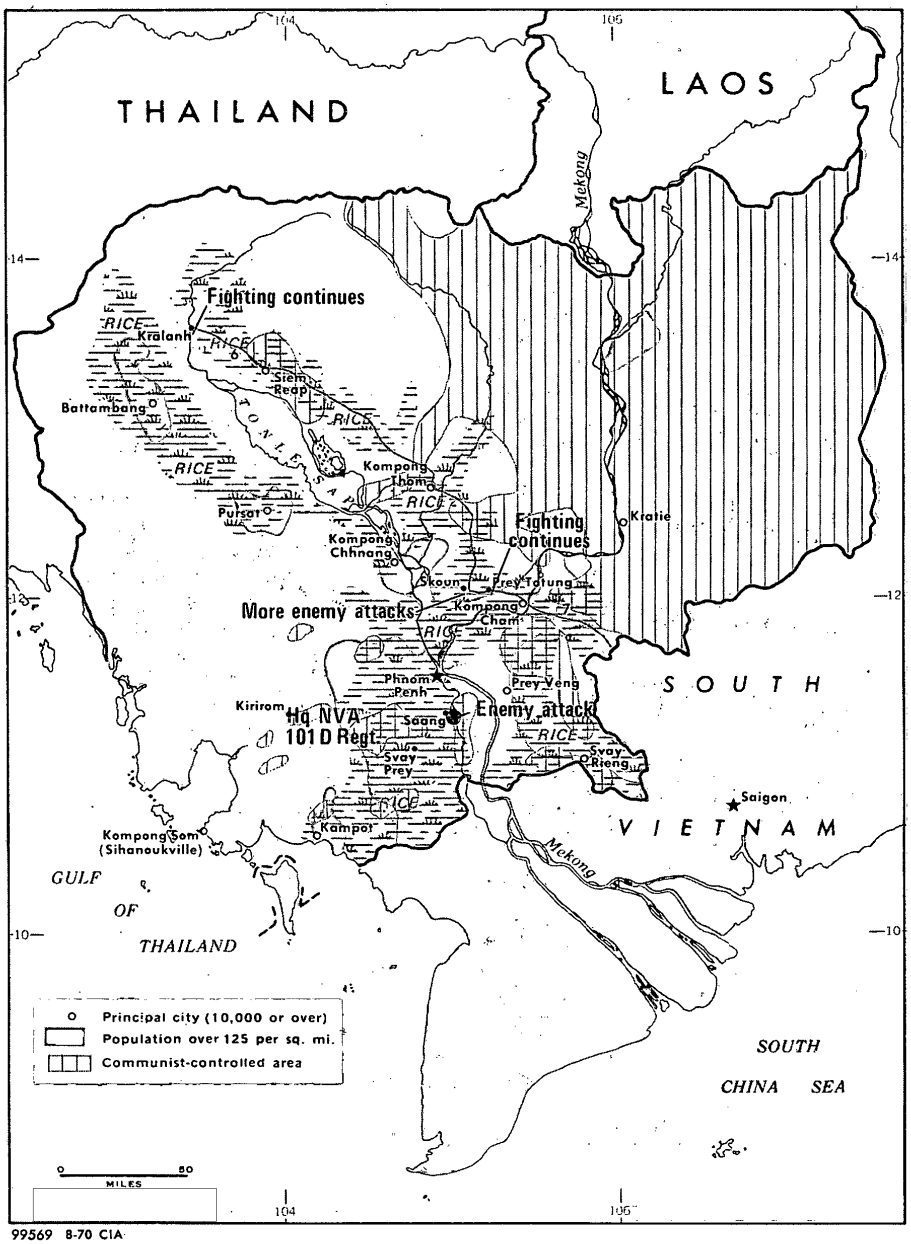
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

The Communists continue to harass government forces at scattered locations throughout the country. In Kompong Cham Province, the enemy again hit the town of Prey Totung; government defenders called for air support. Fifteen miles to the west, Cambodian troops at Skoun were also attacked again. These Communist attacks along Route 7 probably are designed to isolate Kompong Cham city.

Fighting also continued 20 miles south of Phnom Penh near Saang which has been harassed periodically by the enemy since April. At last report, Saang was still in government hands.

The US defense attaché in Phnom Penh reports that the attacks near the capital on the night of 9 August were exaggerated in press reporting. The actions were mounted by only small numbers of enemy troops. The recent flurry of enemy activity near the capital may, however, portend bolder raids in the near future.

Southwest of Phnom Penh, the enemy continues to dig in near Kirirom. A large government patrol met stiff resistance while probing enemy positions there on 8 August, and communications intelligence indicates that the headquarters of the North Vietnamese 101D Regiment moved back into the area the following day.

Considerable Communist activity is also reported in Siem Reap Province, where additional fighting occurred yesterday at the crossroads town of Kralanh. The Communists apparently are trying to sever overland access to Siem Reap by destroying bridges west of the city on Route 6. The Communists have been moving weapons and ammunition into position northeast of the city, and small enemy groups aided by Cambodian Communists have been infiltrating the city itself.

(continued)

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Lon Nol told US officials on 10 August that no more Cambodian troops will be sent to South Vietnam for training. This decision was largely prompted by the excessive costs being charged by the Vietnamese, according to Cambodian chief of staff General Saman. The US chargé in Phnom Penh, however, believes that one reason for the decision is that the Cambodians prefer to handle their own training now that a training camp based on South Vietnamese techniques is being prepared. Saman also claimed that Cambodian troops arriving in Vietnam for training were relieved of new M-79 grenade launchers and given used ones. Saman observed that although political relations between Phnom Penh and Saigon were "reasonably good," there is much tension between the military of both countries.

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MIDDLE EAST

The division between the Palestine guerrillas and the governments supporting the cease-fire is widening. Frustrated by their inability to be more than an irritant to Israel, the central committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization is now calling for a Vietnam-type war in the Middle East, and a fedayeen newspaper has warned the Jordanian Government that any attempts to curb guerrilla activities or to crush the movement will be met with force.

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Among the various pressures being put on the fedayeen is Libya's suspension of its subsidy to Fatah. Moreover, a weekly half-hour radio broadcast over Radio Benghazi has been canceled. Cairo has deported a number of fedayeen-sponsored Palestinians studying in local universities

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USSR-LIBYA

Libya is continuing to receive Soviet military equipment. A Soviet freighter arrived in Tripoli on 9 August, the third such shipment since deliveries began in mid-July. Tanks, artillery pieces, and tracked vehicles were seen being offloaded.

> *The two previous shipments consisted of at least 90 T-54/55 medium tanks, as well as armored personnel carriers, scout cars, artillery pieces, and large quantities of tank ammunition.*

Libyan officials claim that Soviet military advisers will be kept out of the country and that training will be provided by Arab experts.

> *In the longer run, however, problems arising from the use of Soviet equipment may dictate otherwise.*

The Libyans continue to assert a willingness to deal with all nations.

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BOLIVIA

President Ovando has reappointed all but one of the cabinet members who resigned last week. The one exception is the leftist Minister of Information who has been anathema to the military.

In dismissing the leftist, Ovando has met a major military demand and has bought himself some more time. Army commander General Miranda can be expected to continue to press for further moderation in government policy.

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URUGUAY

Intensive military and police search operations in Montevideo have thus far failed to recover the two remaining hostages held by the extreme leftist Tupamaros. According to an unverified communiqué from the terrorists, Brazilian Consul Gomide was to be killed last night, but as of 0500 EDT there was no confirmation of his death. Popular indignation over the killing of one of the two American hostages has resulted in unprecedented public support for the rescue efforts. Despite continued pressure from the Brazilian Government, President Pacheco remains firm in his refusal to negotiate with the kidnapers for the release of imprisoned Tupamaros. The near-dictatorial powers he requested to fight the terrorists have now been granted temporarily by the congress.

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USSR-PERU

There have been no Soviet relief flights to Lima in the past two weeks, probably because of equipment failures and bureaucratic mix-ups. The airlift was halted for a week following the loss of an aircraft over the Labrador Sea on 18 July, and only six flights have been made since that date.

About one third of the planned 65 flights have now been completed. Even if the airlift is completed as planned, the value of the total Soviet contribution will fall far short of that already provided by the US.

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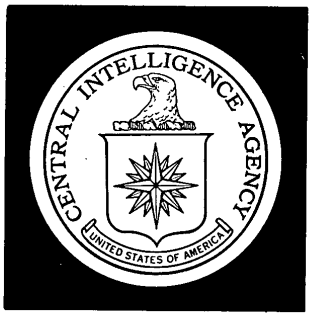

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12 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

12 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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

Laotian [redacted] *(Page 2)* 50X1

North Vietnam [redacted] *Page 3.* 50X1

West Germany [redacted] *(Page 4)* 50X1

The full extent of the outbreak of cholera in the USSR is not yet certain. *(Page 5)*

Cuba [redacted] Latin America [redacted] on *Page 6.* 50X1

The kidnap victims in Uruguay are still alive. *(Page 8)*

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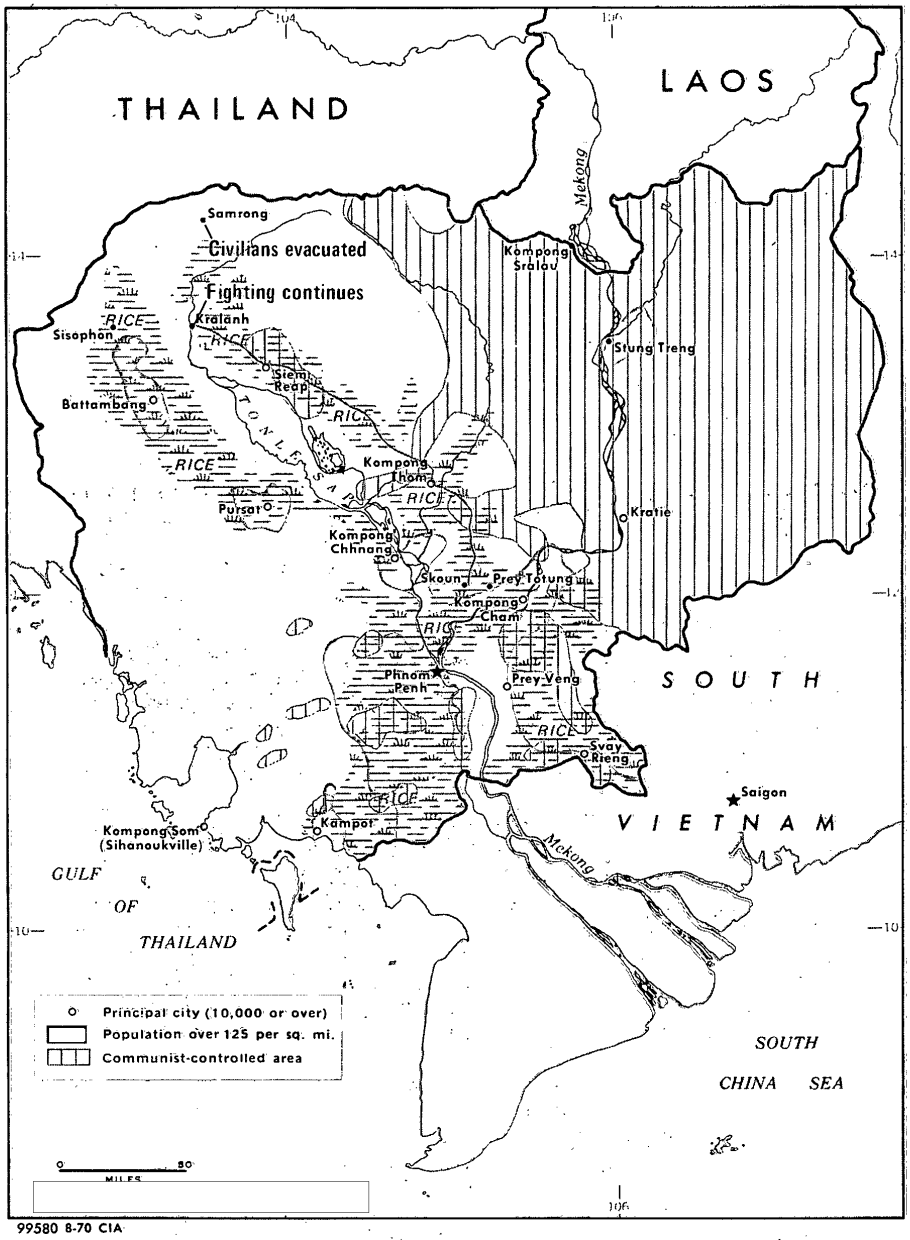
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Heavy fighting continues near the crossroads town of Kralanh west of Siem Reap city. An intercepted government message indicates that several company-sized enemy units are active in the area and that some intend to destroy a bridge on Route 6 to cut traffic between Kralanh and Sisophon. Two bridges have already been destroyed east of Kralanh.

The governor of Oddar Meanchey Province has ordered the evacuation of civilians from Samrong town following a report that a large enemy force is nearby. The town is defended by only 450 poorly armed recruits, and the governor believes they could not resist for long if attacked. Phnom Penh has concentrated on the defense of more densely populated areas nearer the capital, and remote locations such as Oddar Meanchey are vulnerable to Communist attack.

Communist forces initiated several more contacts with government units guarding the northern approaches to Phnom Penh on 10 August. A North Vietnamese captured on 9 August is reported to have said he was part of a 30-man squad assigned to create havoc at a naval base one mile north of the capital.

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LAOS

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NORTH VIETNAM - LAOS

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WEST GERMANY

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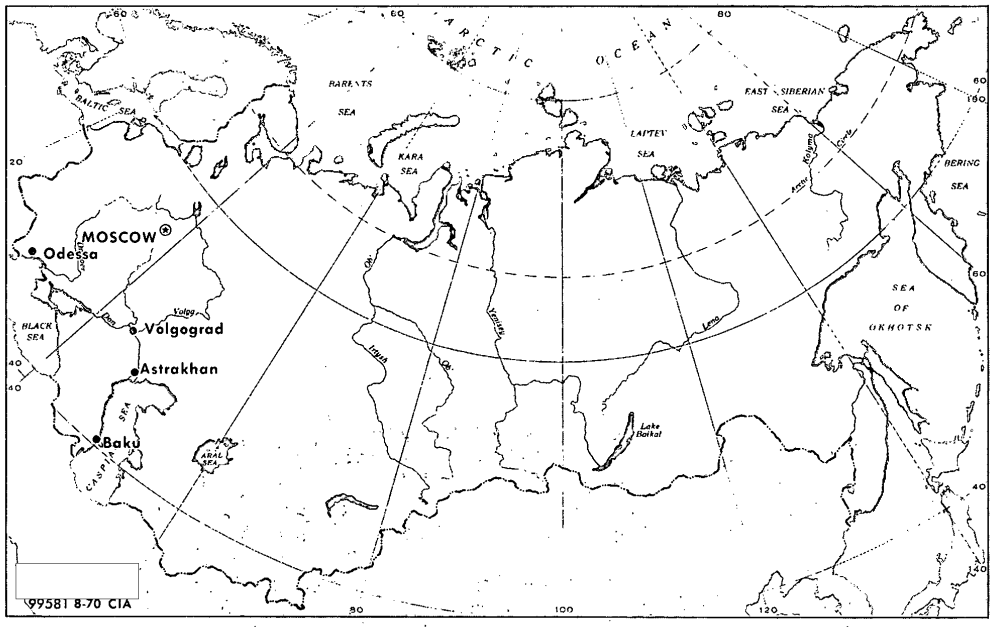
Outbreak of Cholera in USSR



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USSR

The full extent of the outbreak of cholera--the first reported in the USSR since 1965--is not yet certain. The Ministry of Health has announced that the disease has broken out in Astrakhan and Odessa, but has denied rumors of travel restrictions in the Crimea and Caucasus as well as reports that the cities of Baku and Volgograd are closed to travelers. Similar outbreaks have been noted recently in Egypt and Iran, and Soviet visitors to these countries may have carried the disease home with them.

In the past, over 40 percent of the outbreaks of infectious intestinal diseases in the Soviet Union have occurred in this same general area; almost all were traced to contaminated water and poor health practices. Soviet medical measures should be capable of insuring that the epidemic is of fairly short duration.

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CUBA - LATIN AMERICA

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NOTE

Uruguay: The Tupamaros announced in a communiqué late yesterday that the US agricultural specialist and the Brazilian diplomat are still alive and that they have not been "sentenced" as yet. Thousands of soldiers and policemen are combing Montevideo for the hostages, but have not turned up any trace of the two men. The Tupamaros say they will kill both if the hideout is discovered.

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The President's Daily Brief

13 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Israelis have sent aircraft over the Suez Canal and claim that the Egyptians flew a photo reconnaissance mission Tuesday. *(Page 1)*

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on *Page 2*.

In South Vietnam, enemy shellings increase at Support Base O'Reilly west of Hue. *(Page 3)*

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

UN observers saw several Israeli aircraft fly over the west bank of the Suez Canal yesterday. The observers said the planes were fired on by Egyptian SAMs, but no hits were seen. Intercepted Egyptian communications confirm that at least one Israeli aircraft was tracked on a southeasterly course some ten nautical miles west of the Great Bitter Lake. The Israelis, for their part, claim that on Tuesday an Egyptian IL-28 accompanied by four MIG-21s flew a photo reconnaissance mission along the west side of the canal.

The Israelis have charged numerous Egyptian violations of the cease-fire agreement and are probably carrying out reconnaissance flights to verify their claims.

* * *

Egypt and Jordan are continuing their efforts to clamp down on guerrilla activity against Israel and to dampen the fedayeen anti-peace movement.

Nasir, who had already denied Cairo's radio facilities to the fedayeen, now has put other restraints on the Palestinians in Egypt.

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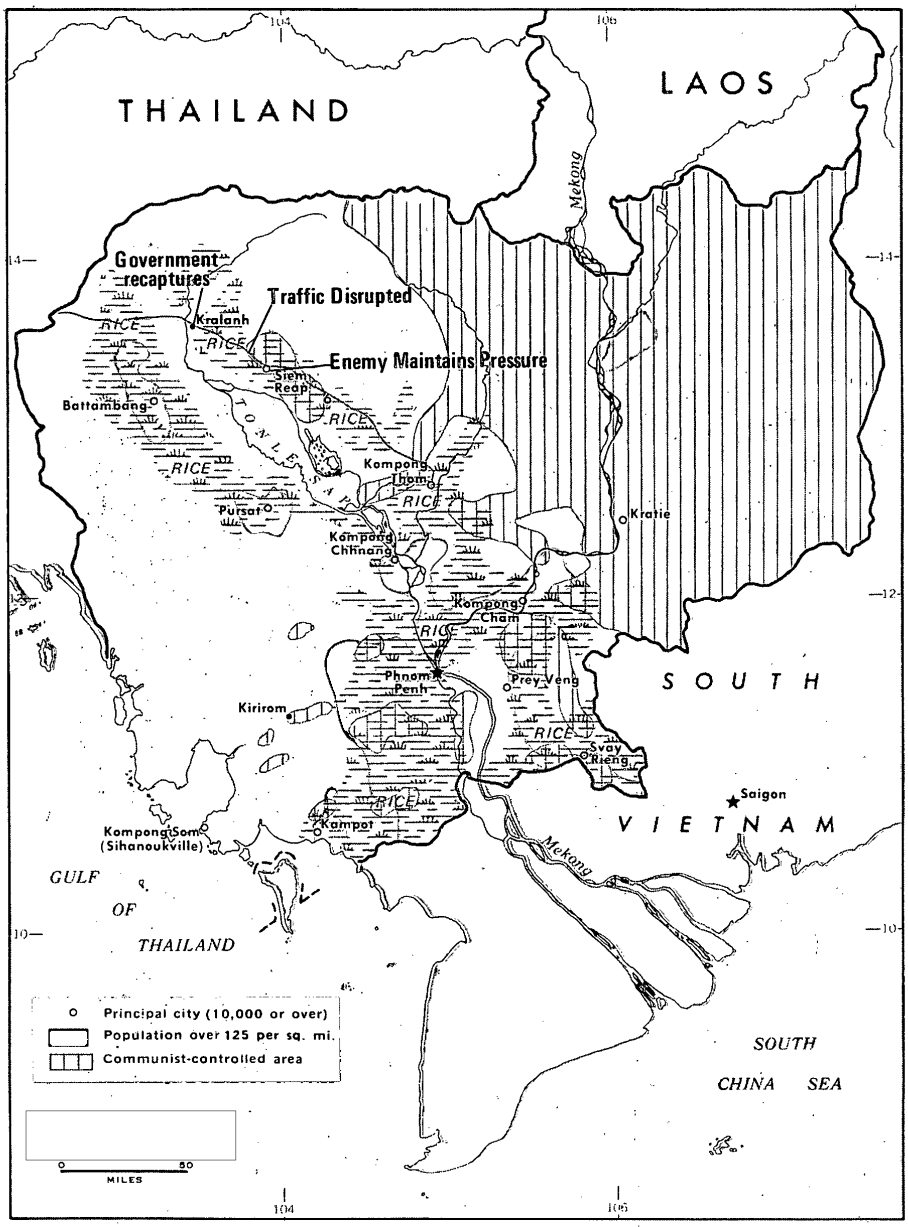
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Siem Reap was shelled again yesterday, and although government counterfire dispersed the enemy, the Communists persist in their efforts to isolate the city. According to an intercepted Cambodian Army message, the destruction of two bridges by the Communists has disrupted all traffic from Siem Reap westward on Route 6 to the crossroads town of Kralanh. Government troops, assisted by Thai air strikes, have recaptured Kralanh, however, which the enemy had occupied on 10 August after heavy fighting.

50X1

The enemy conducted some light probing attacks yesterday against Dang Kor, less than five miles from Phnom Penh. [redacted]

50X1

Elsewhere, [redacted] the enemy withdrew from several important positions in the resort town on 11 August. A few days earlier, however, government forces suffered 53 killed and 25 wounded near the Kirirom plateau when Communist troops disguised in Cambodian Army uniforms lured government soldiers into an ambush.

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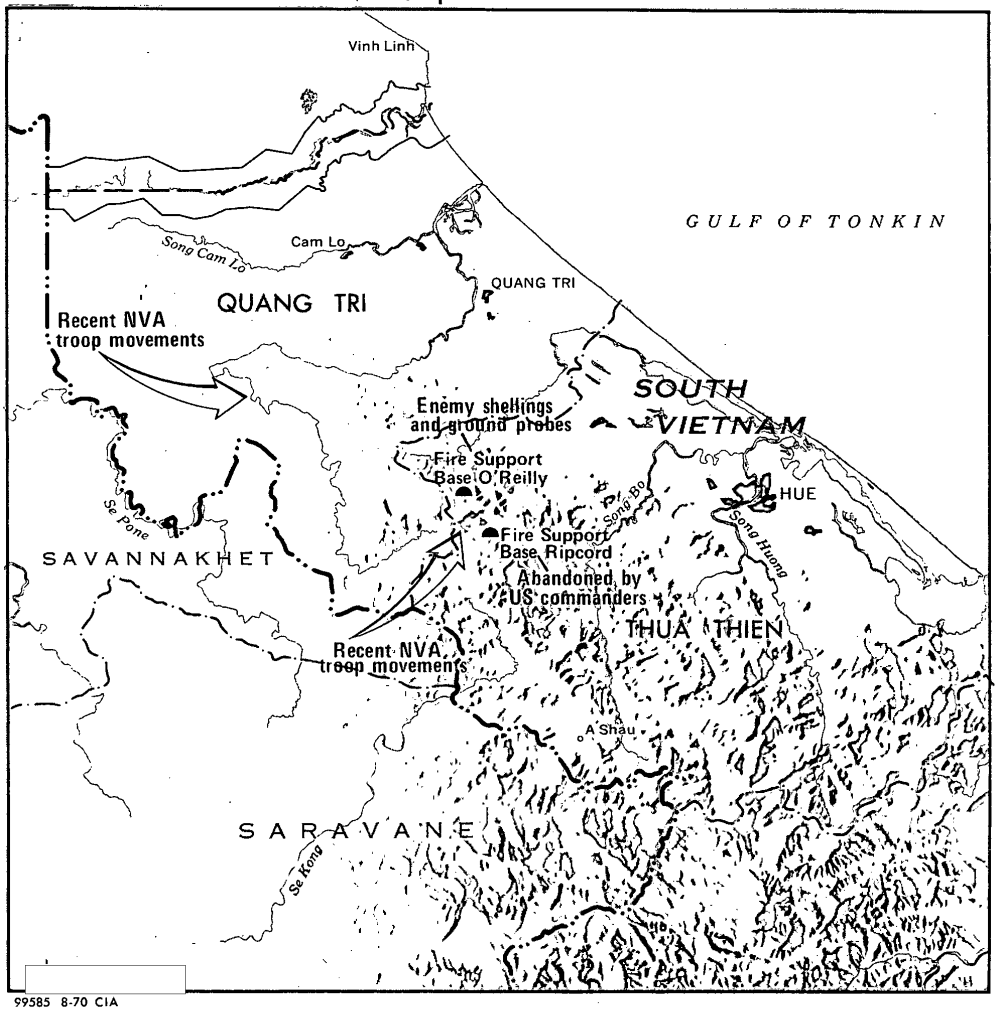
North Vietnamese Threaten Allied Outpost



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SOUTH VIETNAM

Enemy shellings and ground probes around Fire Support Base O'Reilly, in the remote mountains west of Hue, have increased steadily during the past week. Elements of two North Vietnamese regiments are located in the immediate vicinity of the base, and two other regiments are not far away. The reinforced South Vietnamese battalion defending O'Reilly has suffered relatively light casualties so far, but there is growing concern that the enemy may intend to repeat the same kind of sustained pressure that caused US commanders to abandon nearby Fire Support Base Ripcord last month. The commander of the South Vietnamese 1st Division has announced that his forces will not withdraw from O'Reilly.

The North Vietnamese probably see several advantages in attempts to put pressure on the allied defense screen in the mountains of western Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces. These include attrition of US and South Vietnamese units and their diversion from more populated areas, and the possible turning of South Vietnamese attention away from Communist logistic activities along the border and in Laos.

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NOTE

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ADDENDUM TO THE PDB
OF 14 AUGUST

MIDDLE EAST

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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

In South Vietnam, increased Communist military pressure in the northern portion of the country may be designed to disrupt the government's pacification program. On the domestic front, incidents of violence involving veterans' groups occurred in two more provincial capitals. *(Page 2)*

Soviet

50X1

(Page 4)

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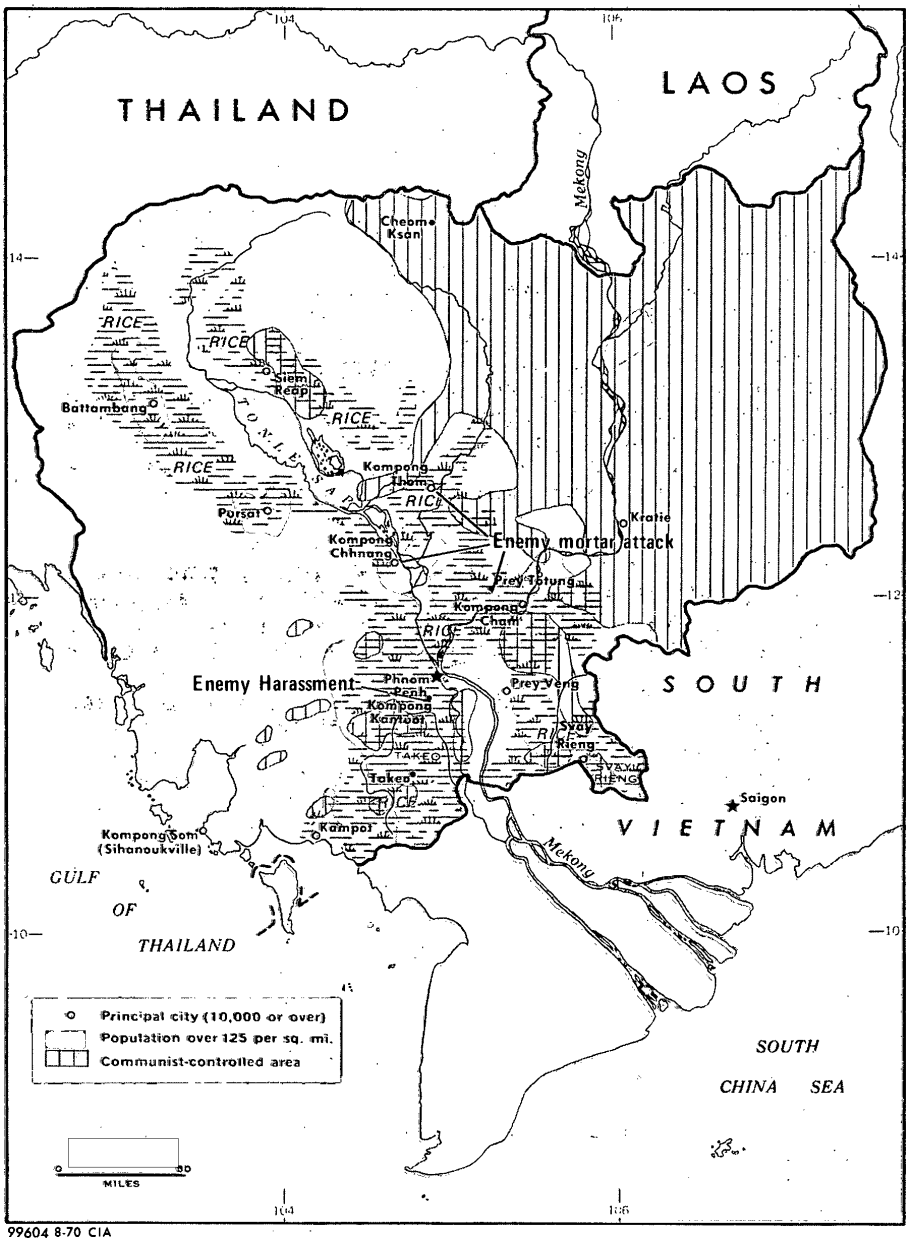
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Combat activity remained at a low level yesterday. In the west, Kompong Thom and Kompong Chhnang cities were shelled briefly, as was Prey Totung in Kompong Cham Province.

[redacted] large numbers of enemy troops were sighted moving southward toward Phnom Penh on 12 August along the east bank of the Mekong. On the same night, a government position at Kompong Kantuot, just south of the city, received light Communist harassing fire. One government message speculates that a large enemy force is planning to attack the Phnom Penh airport. 50X1

We are dubious that the Communists--in any substantial strength--are closing in on Phnom Penh. These reports may merely reflect the jitters of Cambodian commanders.

* * *

[redacted] provided us with an account of Communist organizational methods in the countryside which he claims have been successful in lining up peasant support in Svay Rieng Province. He attributes this success to Viet Cong advisory teams from Tay Ninh Province in South Vietnam. Their primary task is to establish pro-Sihanouk committees at village, district, and provincial levels. The advisers remain in the background but make all the important decisions. The positions of chairman and section chiefs are occupied exclusively by Cambodian Communist party members. 50X1

[redacted] the Viet Cong wanted to organize a battalion-sized combat unit at the province level, and company-sized units for the districts, but were having trouble in fleshing out these units. The general population also is being organized by the Communists into farmers', women's, or youth associations. Special emphasis is placed on recruiting Buddhist monks, whom the Communists view as potentially important propagandists. Money and rice is gathered by "voluntary donations," and each village must set aside two acres of rice land for cultivation by the Communists. 50X1

Parts of Svay Rieng Province, particularly the Parrot's Beak area, have long been used by the Communists as military sanctuaries, and this familiarity probably has made the Communists' organizational progress there easier than it would be in other areas.

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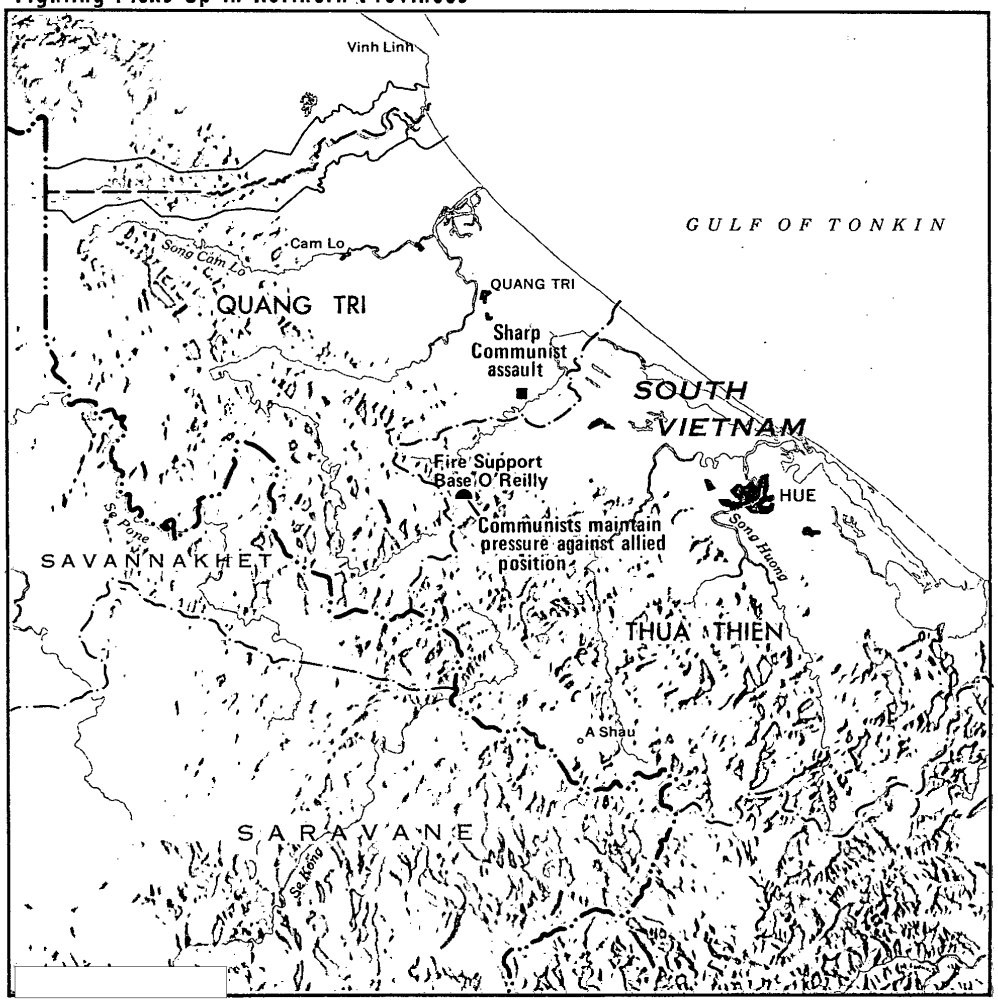
Fighting Picks Up in Northern Provinces



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SOUTH VIETNAM

Fighting continues in the northernmost part of South Vietnam. In one of their sharpest assaults in the lowlands in weeks, the Communists struck hard at a government Popular Forces unit south of Quang Tri city on 12 August, killing ten South Vietnamese and wounding 31. The South Vietnamese sent in reinforcements and, despite their losses, appear to have fought well. They are credited with killing more than 60 of the enemy. Several smaller battles and enemy shellings have taken place in the nearby lowlands area recently.

The Communists are also maintaining pressure against allied positions in the mountains of western Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces. A shelling of Fire Support Base O'Reilly on 12 August, the focus of much recent enemy attention, reportedly killed the South Vietnamese major commanding the outpost. Captured enemy documents have indicated that one of the enemy's primary motives in attacking O'Reilly and other nearby bases has been to divert allied force and thus create openings for thrusts into the populated coastal areas of Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces.

These Communist actions appear intended to undermine the government pacification program which has been relatively successful along the northern coast during the past two years. The Communists have not put a high military priority on this region since 1968, and tens of thousands of South Vietnamese civilians have been gathered behind a shield of territorial security forces. If the Communists keep up the pressure in the mountains, while at the same time making additional forays along the coast, government security gains could face quite a challenge.

* * *

Veterans' groups in two more provincial capitals have resorted to force since the clash between veterans and police in Nha Trang city last week. In Chau Doc, veterans seized hostages and fired on a South Vietnamese Army officer after an attempt to arrest two of their colleagues. This was followed by an armed clash by two rival veterans' factions in Bien Hoa city. One group subsequently seized the provincial headquarters without opposition from security officials.

(continued)

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Despite rumors attributing responsibility to Vice President Ky there is no firm evidence of any central direction of the veterans' agitation, and the causes of the incidents are dissimilar. Many veterans around the country, however, are concluding that they can use force with relative impunity to get what they want. The Saigon government remains reluctant to crack down on veteran protesters because of the sympathy they enjoy in the army. If the violence continues to spread, the government will be forced to adopt tougher measures to bring the situation under control.

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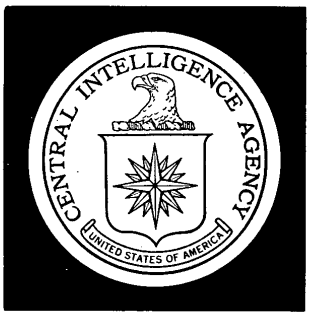

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ADDENDUM

14 August 1970

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OF 14 AUGUST

MIDDLE EAST

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15 August 1970

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 50X1

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

15 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Cambodian developments are discussed on *Page 1*.

A lull in the Laos fighting may reflect a desire to keep things quiet while the possibility of peace talks is explored. *(Page 2)*

Syria

(Page 4)

50X1

Panama says the US must vacate Rio Hato airfield by 23 August when the present agreement expires. *(Page 5)*

Korean President Pak takes the propaganda initiative on the reunification issue. *(Page 6)*

Chou En-lai's intention to visit Southern Yemen signals China's enhanced interest in the Middle East. *(Page 7)*

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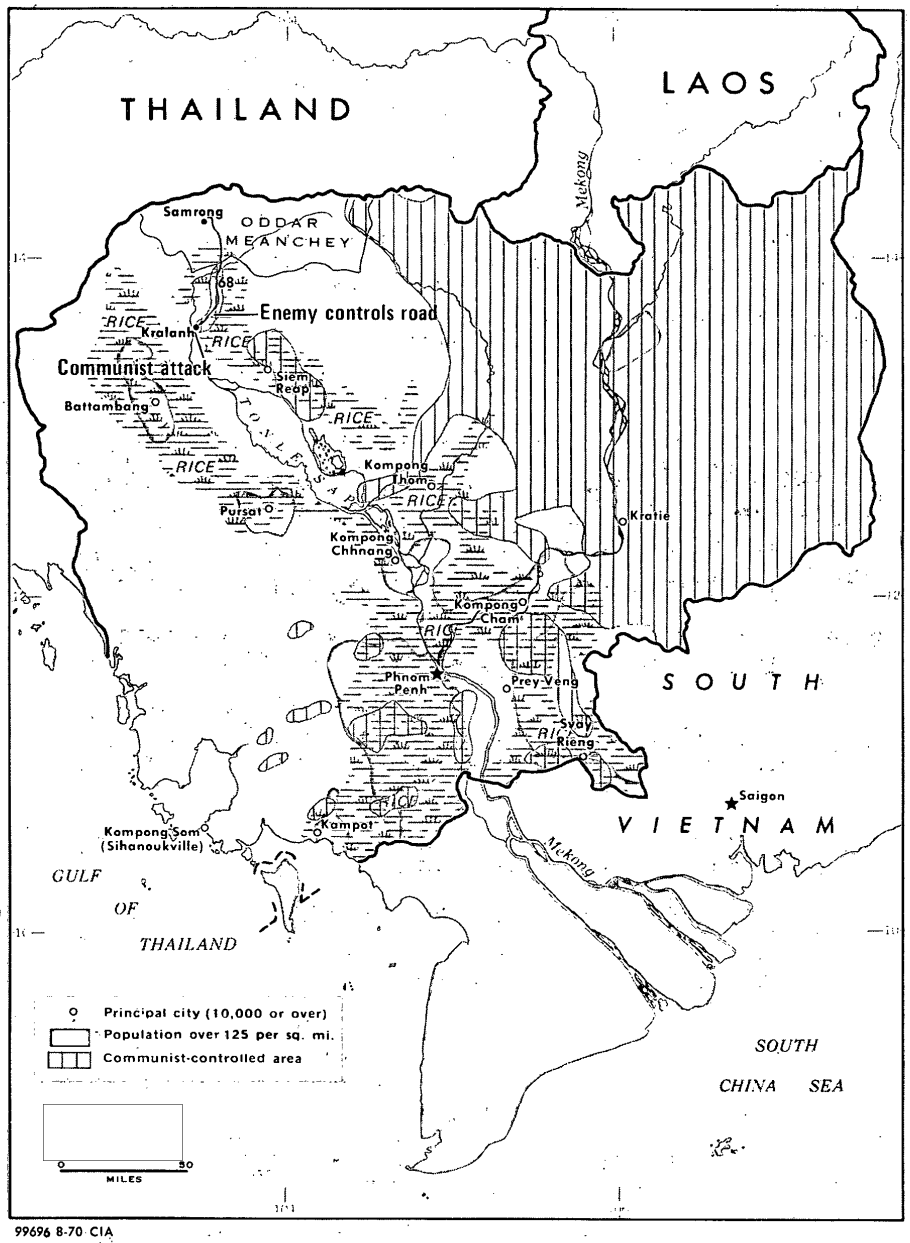
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Government troops attempting to clear a section of the road between Siem Reap city and its airport on 13 August clashed with a small enemy force. At last report the road was still blocked, and travelers were stranded at the airport. To the west, a government battalion was attacked near the town of Kralanh but no details on the fighting are available. Cambodian commanders continue to report that enemy troops are heading into the Kralanh area. Statements by a North Vietnamese prisoner indicate that some of the enemy troops deployed there have been newly infiltrated from North Vietnam.

The Cambodian regional military commander reported yesterday that the road between Kralanh and Oddar Meanchey Province is now controlled by the enemy. He added that government forces in Oddar Meanchey have only about a month's supplies on hand and will have to be resupplied from Thailand.

* * *

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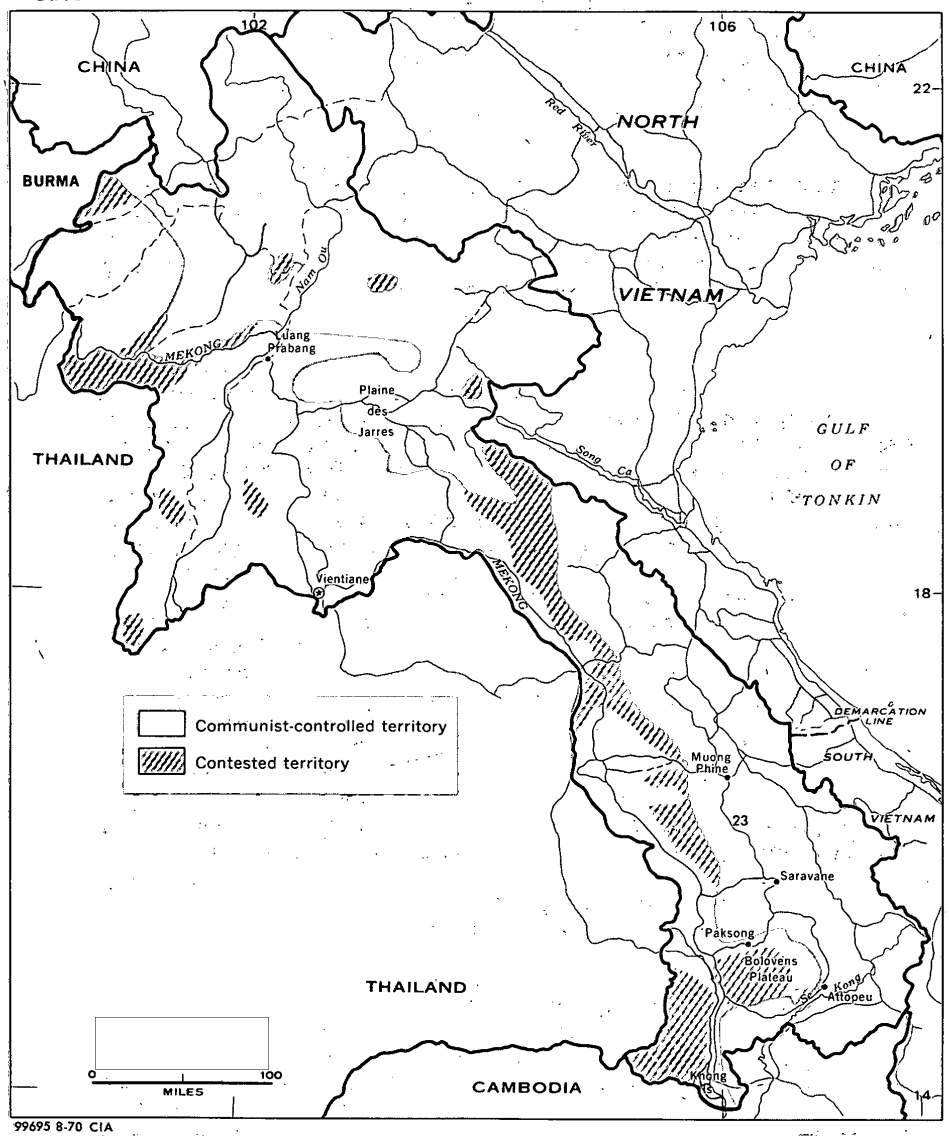
Laos



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LAOS

The relatively low level of recent North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao military activity may have been prompted in part by a desire to keep things quiet while the possibility of peace talks is being explored. Difficulty in mounting attacks and moving supplies in extremely poor weather are undoubtedly contributing factors. Government forces, which usually take the offensive during this time of year, have not been very active.

In the north, government forces sweeping areas to the north and west of the royal capital of Luang Prabang have had few contacts with the enemy. Southwest of the Plaine des Jarres, the Communists have staged several spoiling attacks on forward positions as they continue to frustrate government efforts to retake territory south of the Plaine. Government casualties have been high. The North Vietnamese forces involved, however, have not sought to occupy these positions, and enemy units in this sector are considerably under strength as a result of ground clashes and heavy bombing.

In the panhandle, last month's occasionally heavy fighting along Route 23 south of Muong Phine has been slowed by heavy rains. Farther south, Communist forces succeeded in eliminating the last government outpost near Saravane on 13 August, but otherwise this region has been relatively quiet for several weeks.

Along the eastern edge of the Bolovens Plateau, Communist units continue to launch mortar attacks and probe government positions. For the time being, however, the Communists appear satisfied to maintain their foothold on the plateau. They have not made extensive logistic use of the Se Kong River, strengthening earlier indications that Attopeu and Saravane were captured largely for their political impact.

(continued)

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In the far south, the Communists have yet to fulfill their propaganda threats against the towns along the road and river routes leading to Cambodia. Government patrols around Paksong have found no evidence of major enemy forces, and in the Khong Island area the Communist forces seem to have dispersed recently. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] *the Communists' chief activity in this region is to organize support bases in extreme southwestern Laos for Cambodian operations.* 50X1

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SYRIA

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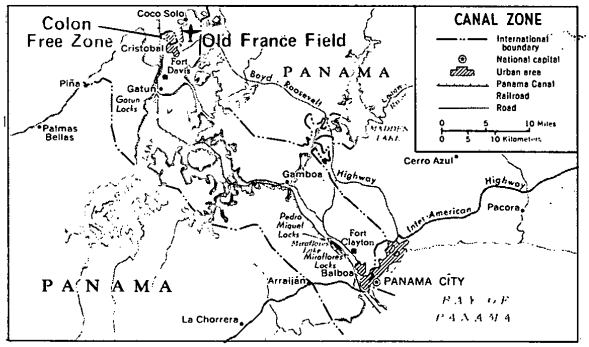
U S Asked to Leave Rio Hato



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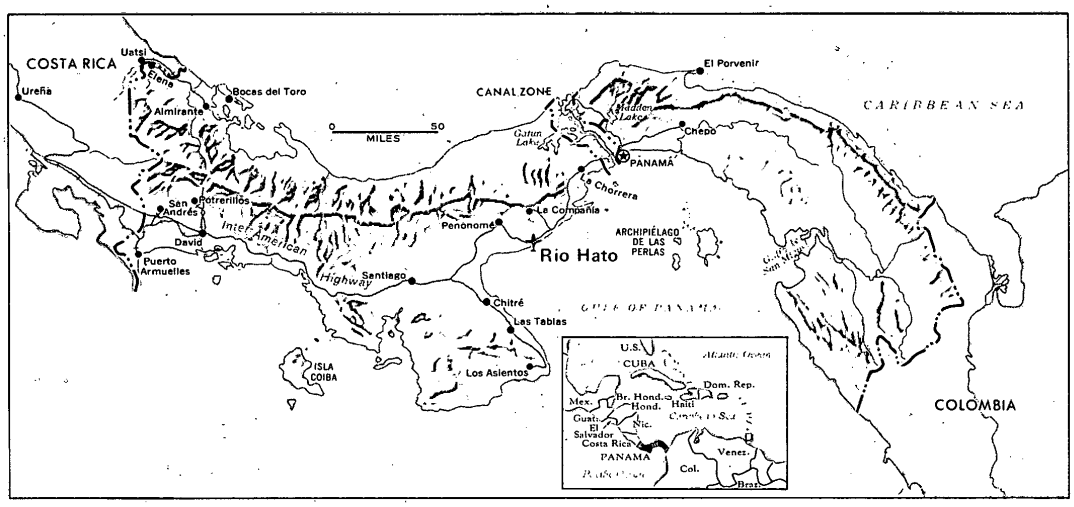

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PANAMA

The Panamanian ambassador advised State yesterday that the US would have to vacate the 19,120-acre Rio Hato airfield and training area by 23 August, when the present agreement expires. The ambassador indicated that a low-key announcement to this effect will be released in Panama shortly. He held out, however, the possibility of negotiating a new base agreement some time in the future.

Last year Torrijos promised General Westmoreland that the base agreement would be extended without conditions, but recently he has been demanding a quid pro quo.

> *Torrijos, convinced that he will not be able to obtain sufficient concessions from the US to protect his popular image, and looking ahead to possible Canal treaty negotiations in the future, seems to be using the base issue to test US resolve and at the same time demonstrate his toughness in dealing with the "gringos."*

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KOREA

South Korean President Pak, in his Independence Day speech yesterday, called on the North Koreans to renounce their policy of Communizing all of Korea by force so that the country can move toward reunification. In a departure from former South Korean policy, Pak said his government would no longer oppose North Korean participation in the UN debate of the Korean question providing Pyongyong accepted the competence of the UN to deal with the question.

Pak's condemnation of the North Korean leadership for causing the continued tension in Korea and his demand that it recognize the competence of the UN--something Pyongyang has never been willing to do--indicates that Pak's intention is to gain a propaganda advantage rather than to advance materially the cause of unification. Pak has been aware for some time that Seoul's intrasigent position on contact with the North has had less propaganda appeal than Pyongyang's ostensibly more flexible approach.

The North Koreans have been proposing a step-by-step program leading to eventual North-South elections and the creation of a single government. Their proposal is in line with Pyongyang's switch last year to less militant tactics after the guerrilla teams infiltrated into South Korea failed in their effort to foment insurgency. Basic to the North's proposals, of course, is the withdrawal of US forces from Korea.

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COMMUNIST CHINA

Chou En-lai's acceptance in principle of an invitation to visit Southern Yemen underlines the movement of Chinese diplomacy into a more active phase and emphasizes Peking's interest in the Middle East. This area has received increasing Chinese attention in recent weeks, largely in hopes of countering Soviet influence in the region. The visit--which would be Chou's first to a non-Communist country since the cultural revolution--will almost certainly not take place before the conclusion of the upcoming National People's Congress and the celebration of National Day on 1 October. Chou may combine visits to other countries, such as Pakistan, Nepal, and Romania, with this trip. The last Chinese leader to make a swing of several countries outside the Communist world was former head of state Liu Shao-chi in 1966, before the infamous cultural revolution.

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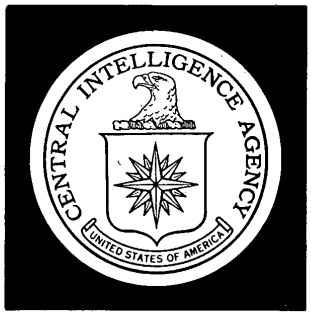

The President's Daily Brief

17 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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

A North Vietnamese intercept provides confirmation of the priority Hanoi attaches to the Cambodian campaign. *(Page 3)*

[redacted] 50X1

The Chinese have granted formal agrement to Soviet ambassadorial nominee Tolstikov. *(Page 6)*

Israeli attacks against military installations in Jordan will compound Husayn's problems with the fedayeen. *(Page 7)*

At Annex [redacted] Israel [redacted] Egypt [redacted] 50X1

Soviet airlift to Peru canceled. *(Page 8)*

[redacted] 50X1

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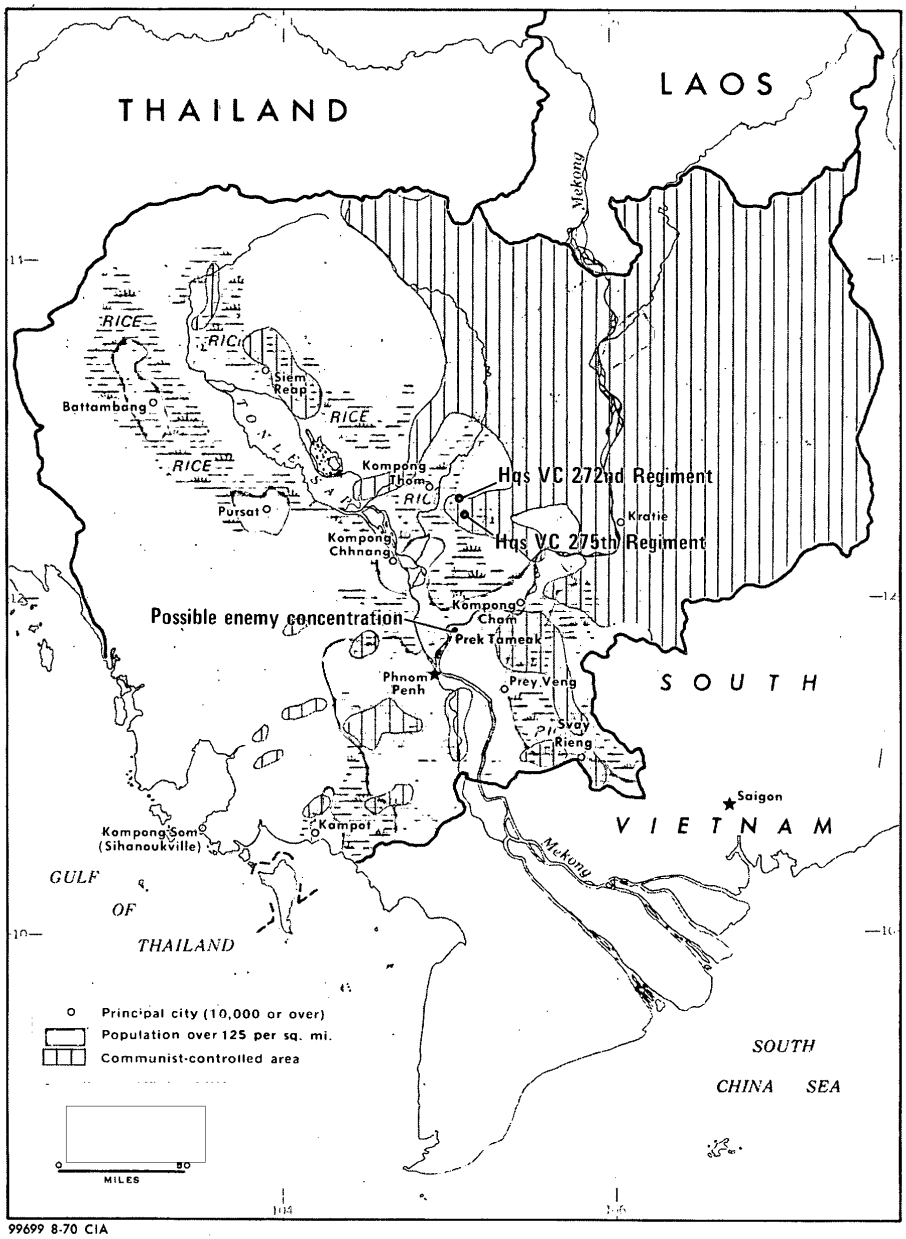
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

The general military situation remains quiet, but Cambodian officials continue to be apprehensive about enemy forces within striking distance of Phnom Penh. [redacted] there are approximately 8,000 enemy troops within a 20-mile radius of the city. 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

there may be sizable numbers of Cambodian and Vietnamese Communist troops in the Prek Tameak area, some 15 miles northeast of the capital.

> *The increasing fears of government officials over an expansion of enemy activity against Phnom Penh appear to be at least partially justified by a COSVN message of 13 August. This message did not suggest a massive attack was forthcoming but it did indicate that the Communists intend to continue reconnaissance activities and "oppressive" action around the city.*

Elsewhere, there are signs that the Communists may be moving to make fresh attacks on Kompong Thom. Recent communications intelligence indicates elements of enemy main force units, including the headquarters of the Viet Cong 275th Regiment, are converging south and southeast of that isolated city.

* * *

Lon Nol apparently has reconsidered his decision (reported in The President's Daily Brief of 11 August) to suspend the training of Cambodian troops in South Vietnam and Thailand. A Cambodian delegation recently visited South Vietnam to investigate charges of South Vietnamese Army exploitation of Cambodian troops being trained there. The delegation has advised Lon Nol that many of the alleged complaints were false, and were due to irresponsible reporting by Cambodian journalists. The advice has reassured Lon Nol, who now wants the Vietnamese training program continued.

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NORTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

An intercept of a recent directive from the senior logistic authority in the Lao panhandle to components of the Communist infiltration system provides further confirmation of the priority Hanoi currently attaches to the Cambodian campaign. In addition to the usual exhortations to greater effort, the directive urges the troops in the panhandle to "coordinate with our friends and...use the proper procedures within the strategic corridor and the liberated areas of central, southern, and northeastern Cambodia to bring about the success of the major offensive by our friends and our own forces." The message adds, "that is our basic, long-range strategic mission." The summary did not mention South Vietnam.

In this context, the directive's allusion to "friends" almost certainly means the Cambodian Communists. The emphasis on Cambodia, however, does not mean that South Vietnam has been displaced as the Communists' ultimate target. Indeed, northern South Vietnam--where the Communists are not particularly dependent on the infiltration system--is likely to see a further increase in military activity over the near term. The directive does leave a strong impression that Hanoi believes it must achieve success in Cambodia before it can profitably turn its attention back to other parts of South Vietnam.

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USSR

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COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR

The Chinese chargé in Moscow told foreign diplomats last week that formal agrement has been granted to the Soviet ambassadorial nominee, Vasily Tolstikov. Peking's decision ends China's four-month delay in responding to strong Soviet efforts to accredit an ambassador to Peking.

50X1

Peking's acceptance of Tolstikov almost certainly reflects no basic change in the status of either the deadlocked border talks or the frozen relations between the two states.

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Tolstikov is a long-time party official with no diplomatic experience. He has been the boss of the important Leningrad party apparatus.

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ISRAEL - ARAB STATES

The Israeli attacks against military installations in northwest Jordan will compound King Husayn's difficulties in reining in the fedayeen.

The military command in Tel Aviv has publicly admitted the strikes, claiming they were in retaliation for Jordanian Army assistance to the fedayeen during earlier attacks against Israeli border settlements. 50X1

50X1

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Husayn's visit to Cairo next Thursday is probably intended to play up the fact that Nasir took the initiative in accepting the US peace plan. Husayn presumably hopes to deflect fedayeen criticism of him for "selling out" the Arab cause onto Nasir, who is in a less vulnerable position.

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NOTES

USSR: The Soviets launched a space probe toward Venus early this morning using a launch vehicle based on the SS-6 ICBM. At this time it is not clear whether the probe will orbit, land on Venus, or pass close to that planet before proceeding toward Mercury. Additional interplanetary probes--possibly using the larger SL-12 booster vehicle--may be launched in the next week or so.

USSR-Peru: Late in getting started and delayed many times once it was under way, the Soviet relief airlift to Peru has finally been canceled after completing only 21 of the planned 65 flights. A Soviet official in Lima has announced that the promised aid will be delivered by sea. He gave no reason for the cancellation, but it represents a serious setback to whatever political capital Moscow had hoped to derive.

Panama:

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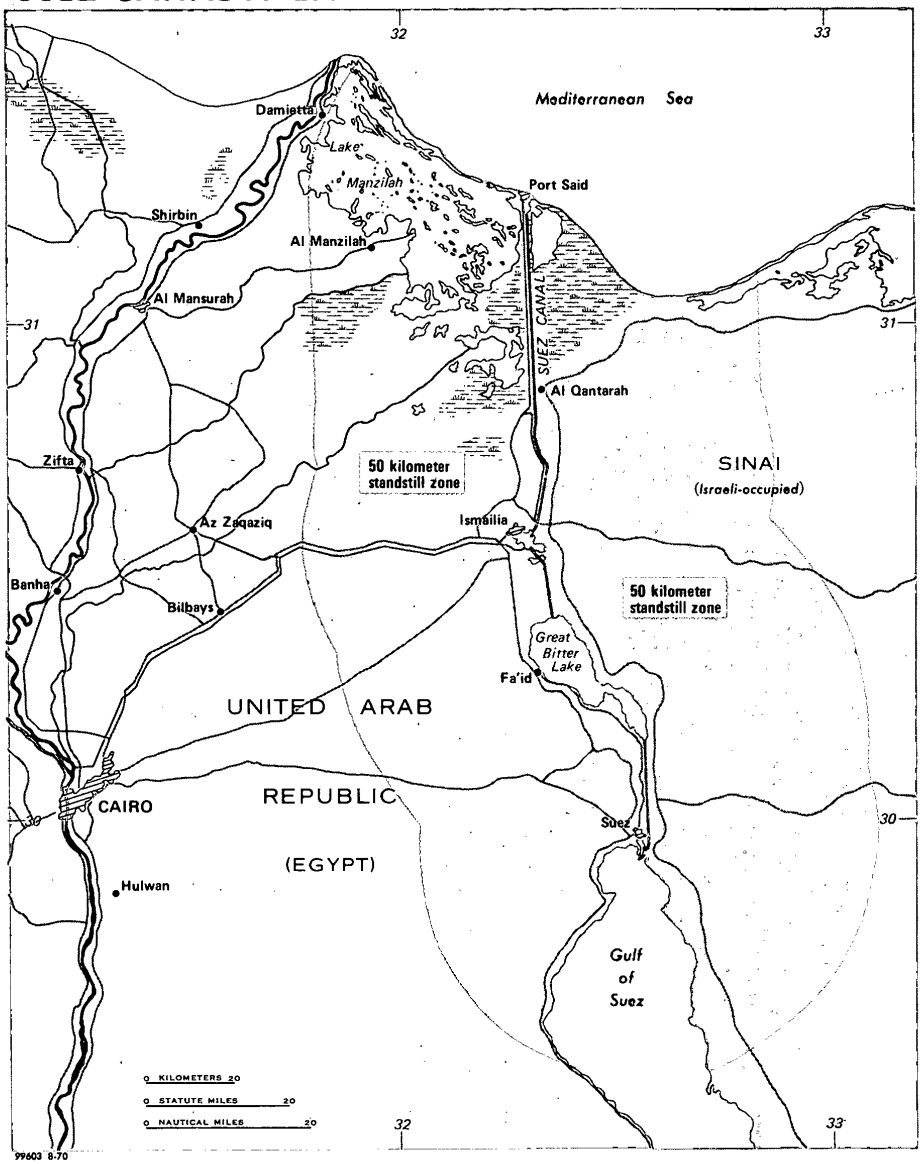
SUEZ CANAL AREA



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ANNEX

ISRAEL-EGYPT

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The President's Daily Brief

18 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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

Higher defense costs have forced the Israeli Government to ask for tougher fiscal measures. *(Page 3)*

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Lebanon's new President will be faced with old problems. *(Page 5)*

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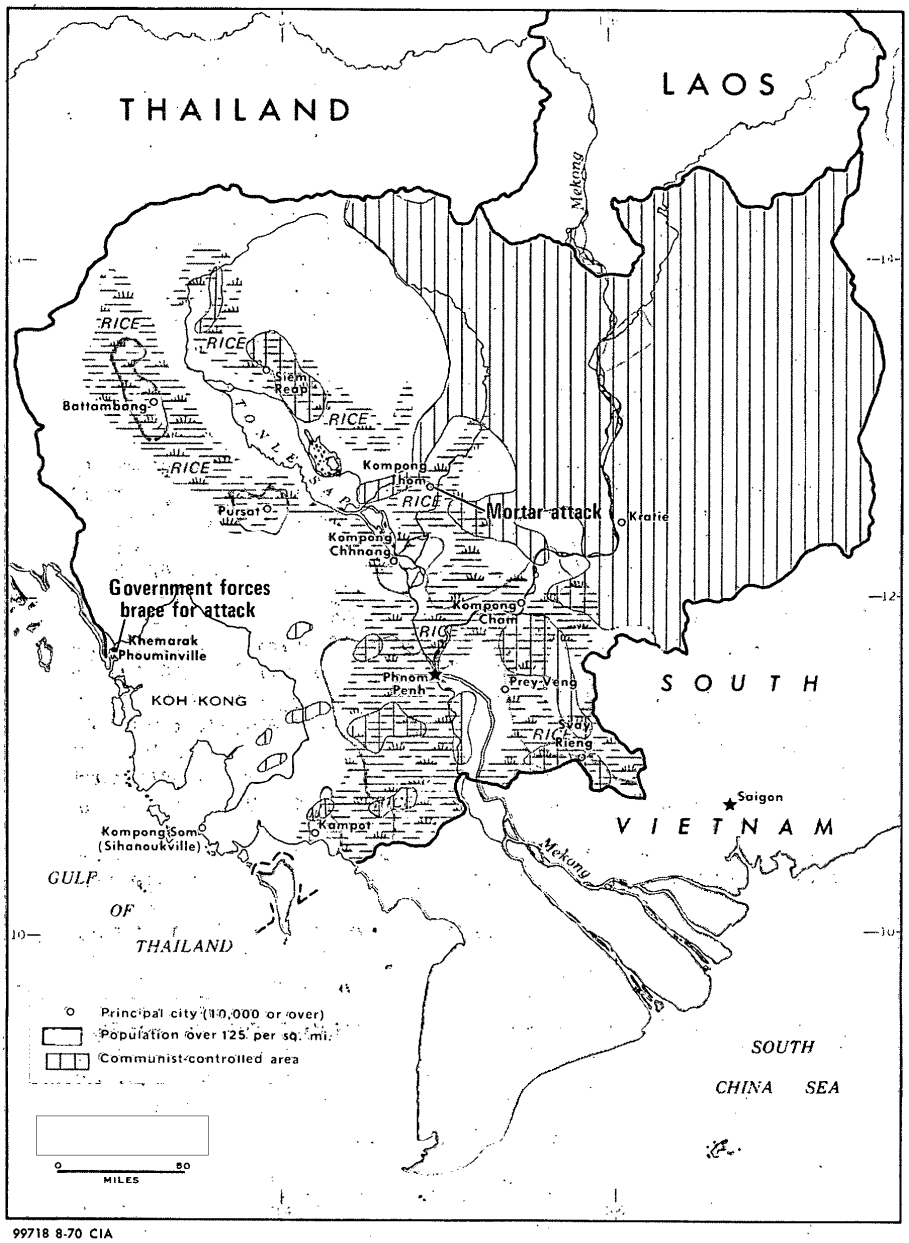
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Communist forces are continuing widespread efforts to harass government positions, but no significant new enemy ground attacks have developed.

* * *

The government is continuing its judicial campaign against Sihanouk and his followers. Seventeen members of Sihanouk's government-in-exile, including "prime minister" Penn Nouth, were sentenced to death in absentia by a Cambodian military tribunal on 17 August. According to a press report, Sihanouk's wife and her mother were sentenced to life at hard labor on charges of smuggling and selling weapons to the Viet Cong.

* * *

The government's new Ministry of Community Development is preparing to initiate its first project in the Phnom Penh area, but it must overcome such serious problems as uncertain financing, limited manpower and vague but ambitious goals. The ministry, whose main purpose is to improve life in the rural areas, has plans to dispatch teachers and advisers to the capital's outlying areas and to nearby villages by the end of this month. They will be tasked with carrying the government's message to the population. The ministry also is planning to maintain contact with people in contested and Communist-controlled areas, and it even hopes to create a guerrilla organization in Communist territory.

Preoccupied with the war and other more pressing problems, government leaders have had little time to devote to countering the Communist presence in the countryside. The establishment of a community development program is evidence that they are now beginning to think ahead to the longer-range Communist threat. The new programs should help stem Communist inroads in the countryside.

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ISRAEL

Sunday the government announced that it would ask the Knesset for an increase of over $335 million in the defense budget for the fiscal year ending in March 1971. The announcement specified that it would be necessary to raise taxes on capital gains, corporations, and purchases to help support this supplementary budget.

A tax boost of this type probably would raise the equivalent of $120 million and Israel apparently counts on foreign loans to finance the remainder of the defense increase. The additional expenditures will bring defense costs for the fiscal year to more than $1.5 billion, some 28 percent of the gross national product. A large portion of the new funds probably will be used to procure foreign arms and equipment.

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MEXICO

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LEBANON

Sulayman Franjiyah, a moderate Christian, was elected President yesterday by the Chamber of Deputies. During the final days of the campaign the new President--a long-time politician who somehow manages to be both pro-Western and pro-Egyptian--was mentioned as a compromise candidate acceptable to both the Christians and Muslims.

Upon assuming office on 23 September Franjiyah will face the problems that confronted his predecessor: how to control the fedayeen and how to avoid being dragged into a conflict with Israel by the Palestinians.

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The President's Daily Brief

19 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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The military situation in Cambodia is relatively quiet [redacted]

50X1

(Page 1)

Peking moves to bolster Sihanouk's exile regime by means of a new military aid pact. *(Page 3)*

[redacted] Panama [redacted]

50X1

(Page 4)

The East Germans and the Soviets plan a major increase in trade. *(Page 5)*

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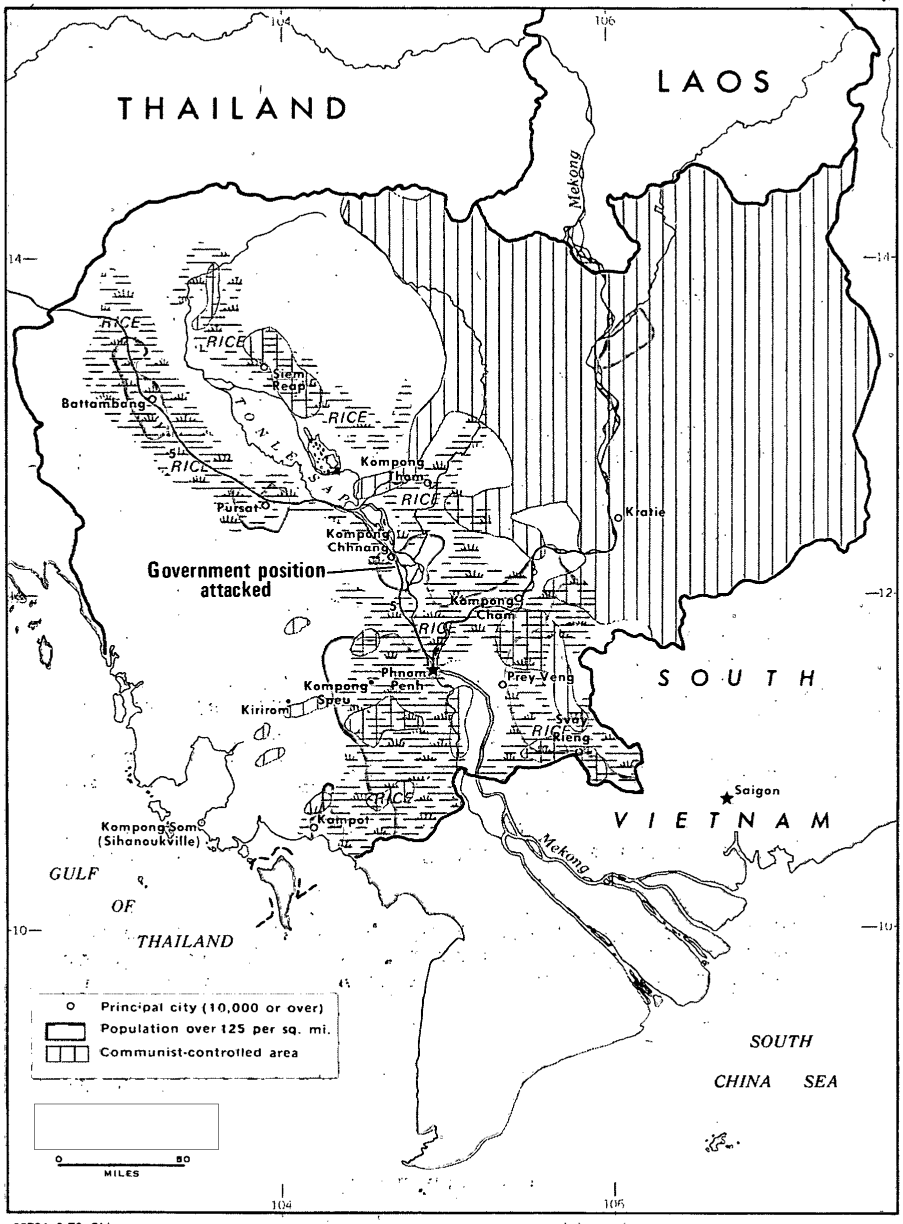
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

The military situation remains quiet, with Communist activity limited to harassing attacks. Lon Nol, who visited the city of Kompong Thom Monday to boost the morale of the defenders, found spirits there to be high and food in plentiful supply.

A Communist force 12 miles south of the city of Kompong Chhnang set up an ambush Monday and captured a government supply convoy carrying rice and fish. Intercepted messages indicate that Kompong Speu will be attacked on 20 August, and government forces there are getting ready. The Cambodian 7th Infantry Brigade has terminated its campaign in the Kirirom area, unsuccessful in its month-long effort to dislodge the Communists from that mountain resort town.

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COMMUNIST CHINA - CAMBODIA

The military aid agreement signed in Peking on 17 August is meant to underline continuing Chinese support for Sihanouk's government-in-exile and to boost the Prince's role as Hanoi's partner in the Indochina conflict. Although details are lacking, the agreement probably provides only for the supply of small arms and ammunition for pro-Sihanouk forces in Cambodia. The monetary worth of the arms aid was not disclosed. The Chinese provided military assistance to Sihanouk before his ouster and they have continued to supply financial and material aid since. The announcement, which also contained the first public reference to a loan agreement signed in May, does not signal any change from Peking's policy of avoiding direct military involvement in the Indochina fighting.

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PANAMA

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EAST GERMANY - USSR

The two countries have concluded a pact calling for a 55-percent increase in trade over the current five-year period to $24 billion during 1971-75.

The agreement reflects give and take on both sides. The East Germans reportedly had been pushing for an even larger increase, but probably will not be disappointed with the annual growth rate of more than ten percent. Pankow's agreement to expand deliveries of consumer goods apparently was a trade-off for Moscow's acceptance of more machinery and equipment, including electronics gear which East Germany has been anxious to sell to the USSR. Machinery and equipment deliveries will almost double during the coming five-year period to about $11 billion.

For their part, the East Germans obtained promises of a considerable increase in the volume of raw materials deliveries, particularly petroleum and natural gas. However, the GDR apparently was required to agree to provide investment funds to help the USSR cover the rising costs of raw material exploitation.

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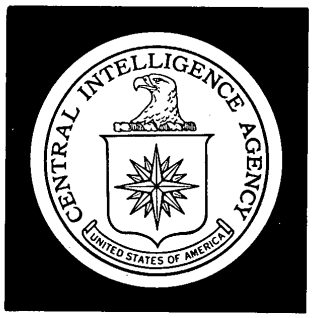

The President's Daily Brief

20 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

20 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Communist forces in Cambodia are probing government positions on the northern approaches to Phnom Penh; Sihanouk continues to broadcast from Peking. *(Page 1)*

Health officials in the USSR are increasingly worried about the outbreak of cholera. *(Page 2)*

Leaders from the countries of Eastern Europe are meeting in Moscow to coordinate their approaches to West Germany and to European security. *(Page 3)*

Government forces in Laos have renewed their efforts to retake Ban Na. *(Page 4)*

Czechoslovaks may mark the second anniversary of the invasion with a self-imposed curfew, but actual breaches of security are unlikely. *(Page 4)*

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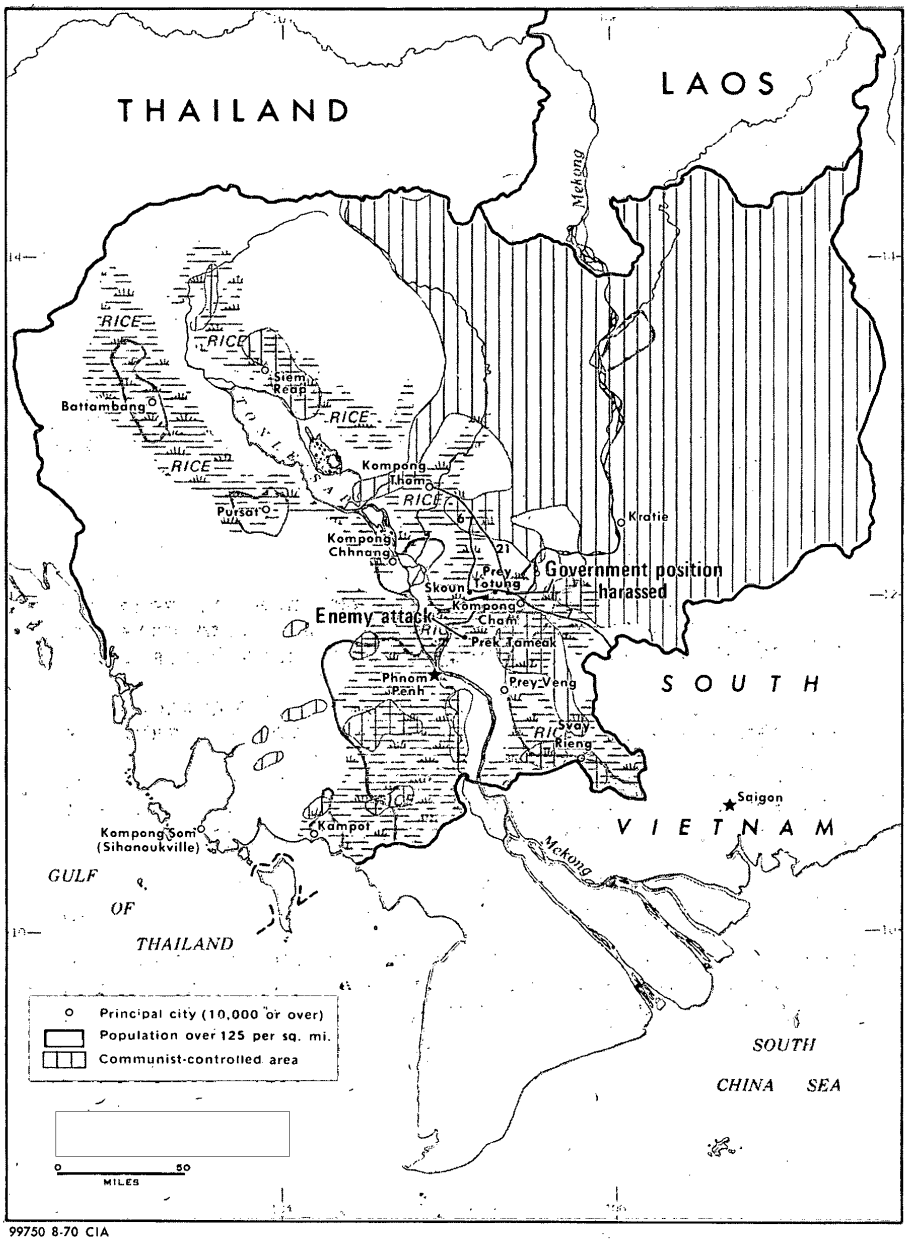
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

The Communists continue to apply pressure to Kompong Cham city, although there does not appear to be any serious immediate threat to the city itself. A government position at the junction of Routes 7 and 21, ten miles to the west, was harassed on 18 August, as it had been several weeks ago by enemy forces attempting to move overland to Kompong Cham.

The enemy also continues to probe government positions around Phnom Penh. Elements of a government battalion based at Prek Tameak, on the east bank of the Mekong 16 miles northeast of Phnom Penh, came under enemy attack Tuesday. South Vietnamese and Cambodian naval units and a South Vietnamese gunship provided fire support for the government forces. The battle, which lasted for three hours, cost the government forces but few casualties.

* * *

In another lengthy message beamed from Peking, Sihanouk has charged Cambodia's intellectual community with cowardice for its loyalty to the Lon Nol government, and has called upon its members to join his cause and serve as pro-Sihanouk cadre in the countryside. He quoted at length from reports by Western publications and journalists describing the deterioration of the situation in Phnom Penh and his continuing popular support. Sihanouk again vowed that he would return to Cambodia in the "near future," but he was no more specific than before on when that might be. In an interview earlier this week, Sihanouk told [redacted] he had been advised by the North Vietnamese to hold off until Cambodia became more secure. 50X1

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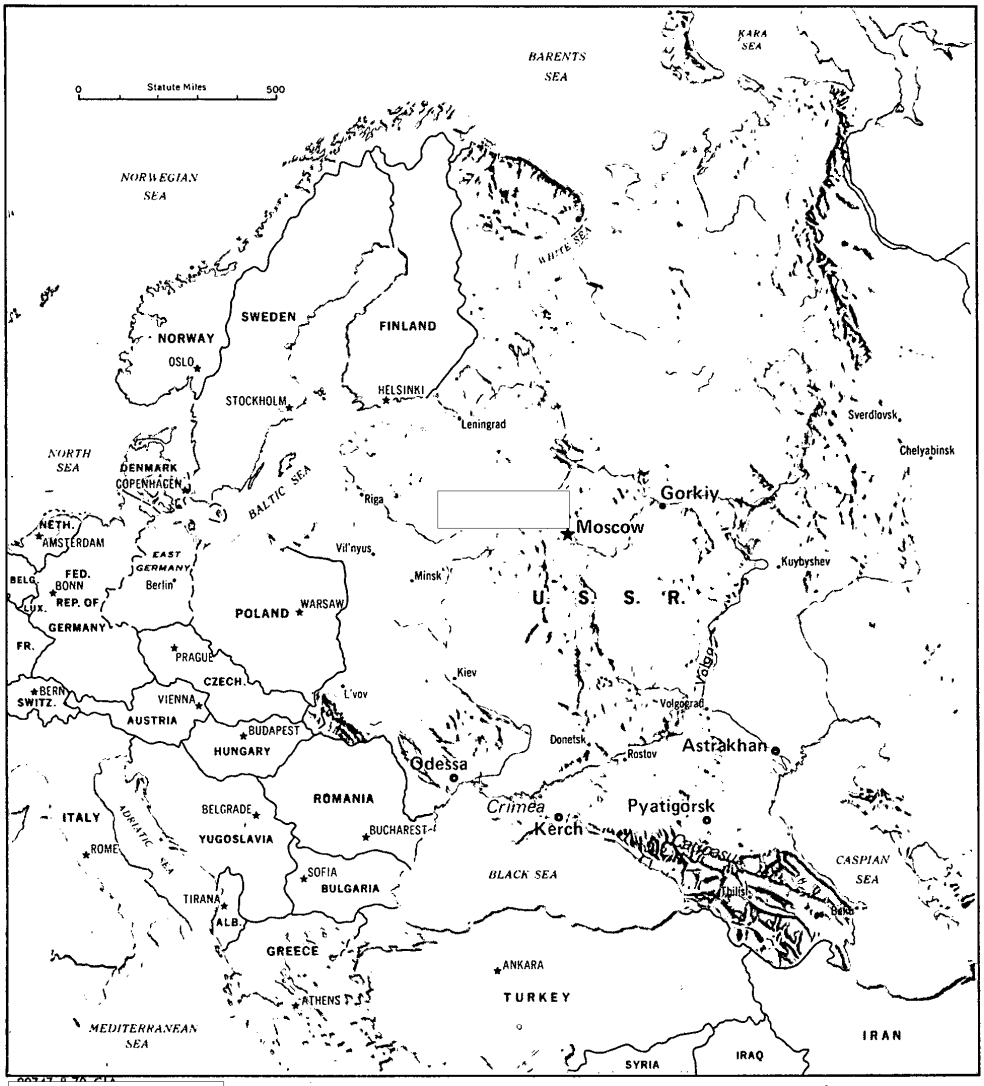
Cholera Outbreaks in the USSR



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USSR

That cholera outbreak in the Soviet Union appears to be more widespread than officially admitted by the Soviets. (See The President's Daily Brief of 12 August.)

Soviet Health Ministry officials have announced the closing of the cities of Odessa and Astrakhan, where the first cases of cholera were reported.

50X1

Travel restrictions are quite extensive, encompassing large areas in the Caucasus and the Crimea--cases have been reported in Pyatigorsk and in Kerch. The Black Sea coast is restricted, as is the corridor along the Volga River south of Gorkiy.

To cope with the epidemic, various precautions have been taken. Restaurant dining is being discouraged, swimming is prohibited in reservoirs in the Moscow area, and drinking water is to be either boiled or chlorinated. In addition, civil defense personnel are reported to have been mobilized.

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USSR - EASTERN EUROPE

East European delegations to a Warsaw Pact summit meeting arrived in Moscow yesterday and will probably begin formal talks today. Now that the Soviet - West German treaty has been signed, the Soviets probably want to coordinate future policy moves with their allies.

[redacted] the treaty cleared the way for the conclusion of similar treaties by the Poles, East Germans, and Czechoslovaks. The next round of Polish - West German negotiations--which are already far advanced--is scheduled for early September. Pankow, of course, has begun a dialogue with Bonn, and within the last few days Prague has hinted at its willingness to open talks. 50X1

The meeting will also give Moscow an opportunity to renew its efforts for a conference on European security. Moscow probably intends to use the treaty with Bonn to add impetus to its campaign for such a conference. The Soviet press has already argued that the treaty should satisfy Western demands that progress on specific security issues precede a conference, and the summit meeting may issue a formal statement to this effect.

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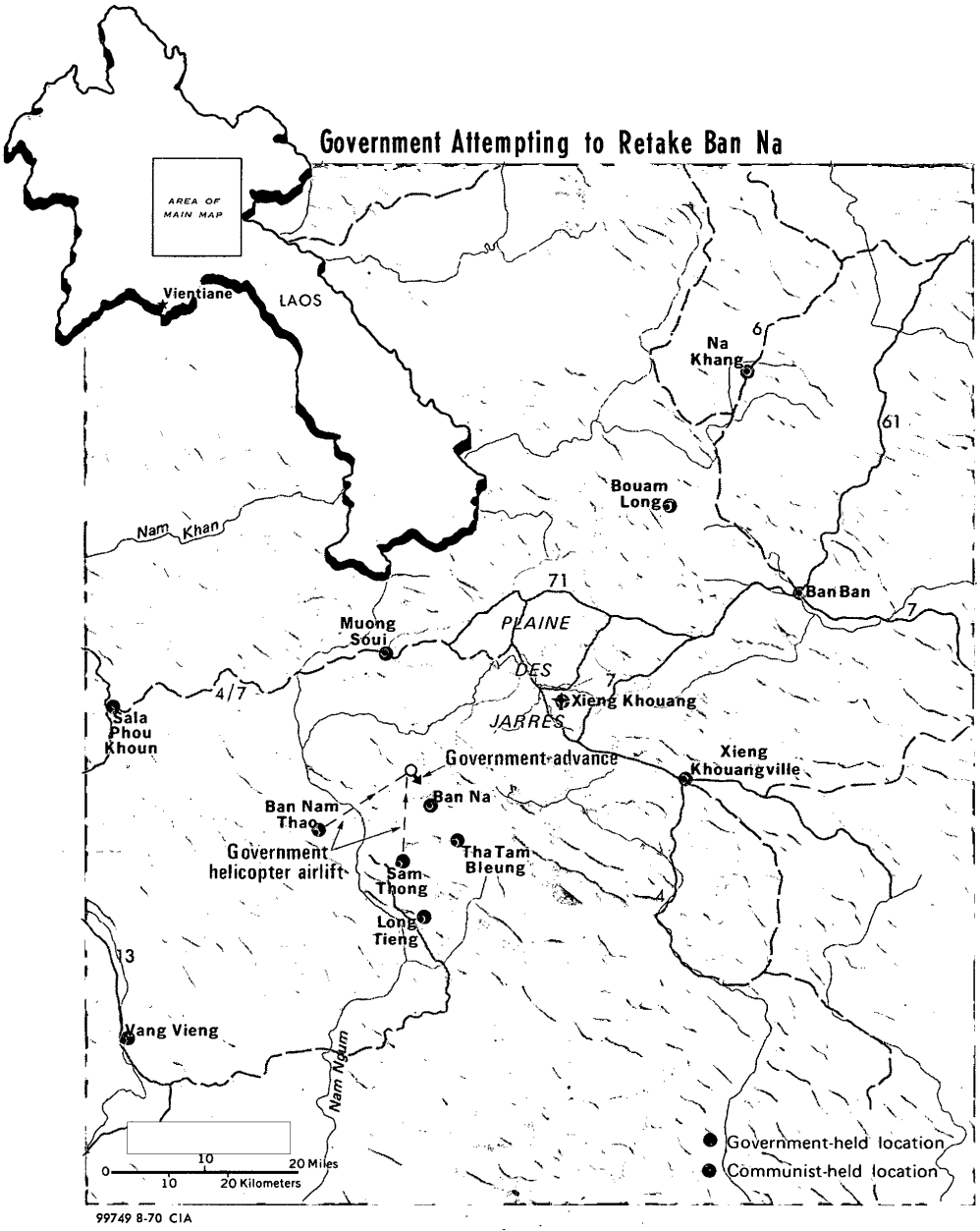

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NOTES

Laos: Government forces southwest of the Plaine des Jarres have renewed their effort to retake Ban Na, a small outpost located about 14 miles north of Long Tieng. General Vang Pao's previous drives toward Ban Na from the south over the past three months have been turned back by stubborn opposition and counterattacks by the North Vietnamese. This latest attempt, initiated on Tuesday, involved a helicopter airlift of over 500 men to positions five miles north of the enemy stronghold and so far it has met little resistance. The effort to retake Ban Na is the first step in a modest rainy season offensive designed to improve the defenses of the Long Tieng complex.

Czechoslovakia: Security forces have taken precautionary steps to prevent demonstrations tomorrow--the second anniversary of the Warsaw Pact invasion--but neither the regime nor the public expect anything serious to happen. Dissidents in Prague have distributed leaflets urging a quiet evening boycott of public establishments and a self-imposed curfew. Most Czechs are aware that breaches of security such as occurred last year would only weaken the Husak government, endangering its fragile truce with party conservatives who favor harsher repressive tactics.

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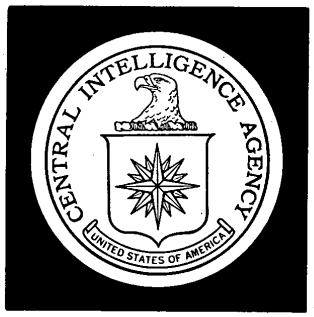

The President's Daily Brief

21 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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

Enabling legislation to improve the South Vietnamese economy may not pass in the National Assembly. *(Page 3)*

The first administrative changes foreseen in Castro's 26 July speech have been made. *(Page 4)*

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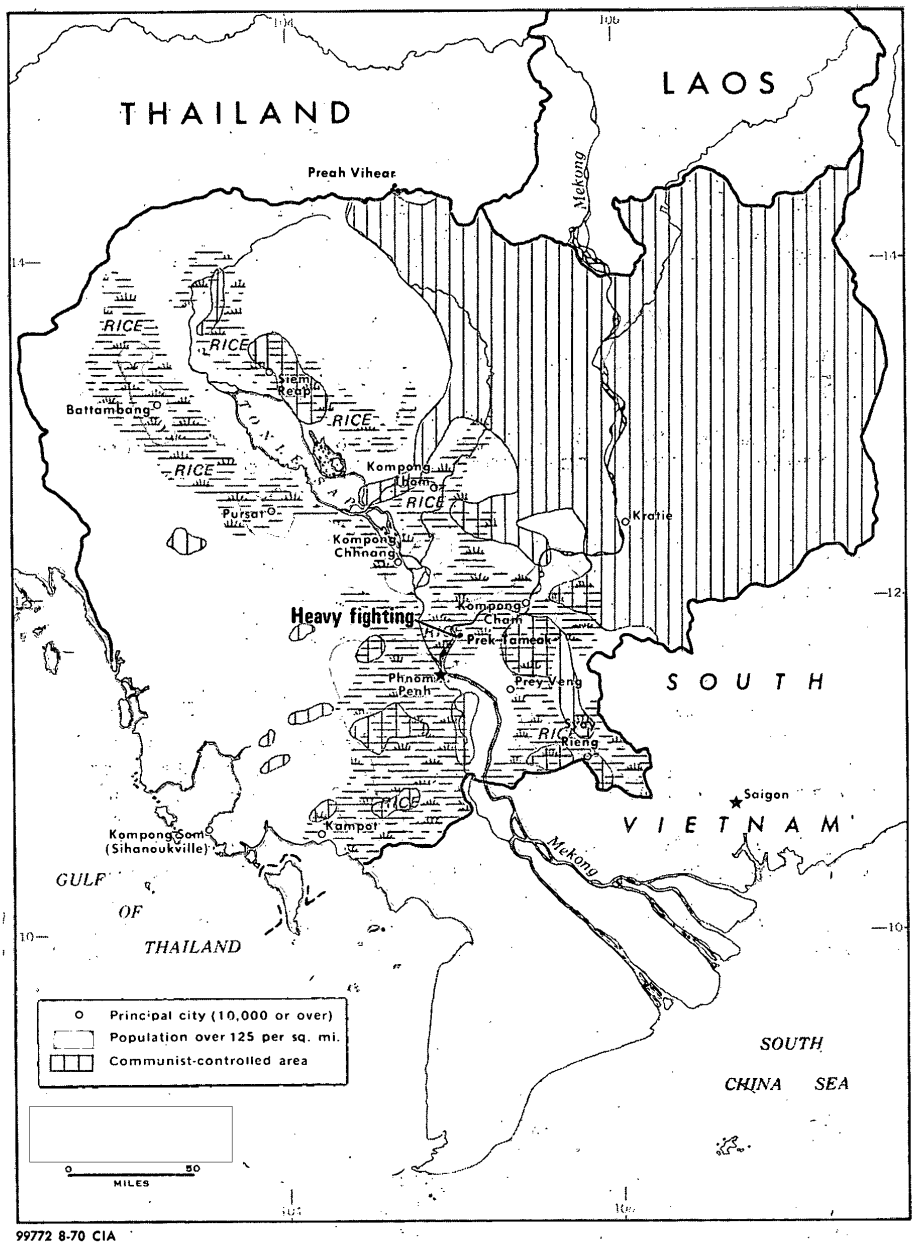
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Combat activity at Prek Tameak, some nine miles northeast of Phnom Penh, apparently continues apace with heavy casualties on both sides. The Cambodian Army sent reinforcements to the area yesterday after initial reports indicated that 60 Cambodians were killed and 200 wounded in the action.

If these figures are accurate the battle for Prek Tameak is one of the most costly of the war. Despite the fighting's proximity to Phnom Penh, [redacted] *the situation in the capital remains calm.*

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Sporadic fighting continues in other areas of the country. Prey Totung and Skoun in Kompong Cham Province received intermittent mortar fire on 19 August. In Kompong Chhnang Province, government forces have retaken a bridge on Route 5, 12 miles south of the provincial capital.

A government message claims that bands of Cambodian and Vietnamese Communists recently have occupied several posts in the Cordaman mountains in Pursat Province.

Cambodian guerrillas have been active in this area for several years but this is the first evidence that they have linked up with Vietnamese troops. The Communists probably hope to develop these foothills into a major redoubt area.

Thai commanders are concerned that the enemy will attack the Preah Vihear temple on the Thai-Cambodian border. The historic site is presently held by a battalion of Cambodian troops and is Cambodia's only remaining post in Preah Vihear Province.

* * *

[redacted]

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SOUTH VIETNAM

Enabling legislation for the government's economic program has become stalled in the National Assembly [redacted] The government intends to continue efforts to secure Assembly approval, but it is well aware of the seriousness of the economic situation and the need for some kind of early action against inflation. President Thieu says he will take anti-inflationary steps under his executive authority if legislation is not available by 1 September.

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Government officials, remembering the widespread adverse reaction to the austerity tax decree last fall, are clearly concerned about the consequences of resorting to decrees again and are seeking a sound legal basis for such action. An immediate effect of decrees would be a price rise that would hit hardest at civil servants and the poor. On the other hand, unless current economic problems are alleviated, more serious problems will arise later.

This dilemma may well cause Thieu, despite his statement about taking early action, to seek to postpone it as long as possible.

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NOTES

Cuba: The first changes in the administrative hierarchy promised by Castro in his speech on 26 July have been announced. An experienced military supply officer has been named minister of domestic trade, replacing an "old Communist" who was unable to cope with distribution problems. Two other military officers have been named as the chief and deputy of the Education Ministry.

These appointments conform to the current trend of relying on trusted military officers or technicians to take on key government assignments. The bleak character of Cuba's economy has forced Castro to make the changes. More such reshuffling is expected.

Communist China:

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--The Chinese have agreed to construct a 40-mile pipeline to conduct water between Endine and Nouakchott in Mauritania. Value: about $2.2 million.

--Peking has signed a contract with Japan to buy 5.3 million tons of fertilizer for $144 million.

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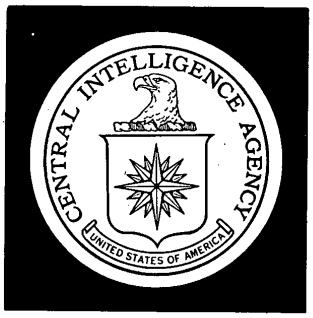

The President's Daily Brief

22 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The military situation in Cambodia is summarized on *Page 1.*

In Thailand, Prime Minister Thanom's recent parliamentary defeat over the new budget has underscored the widespread dissatisfaction with his leadership. *(Page 2)*

The Soviets apparently gave Ulbricht some last-minute assurances before the formal Warsaw Pact approval of the Soviet - West German treaty. *(Page 3)*

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Israel. *(Page 4)*

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A new Soviet space probe to Venus--the second this week--failed early this morning. *(Page 4)*

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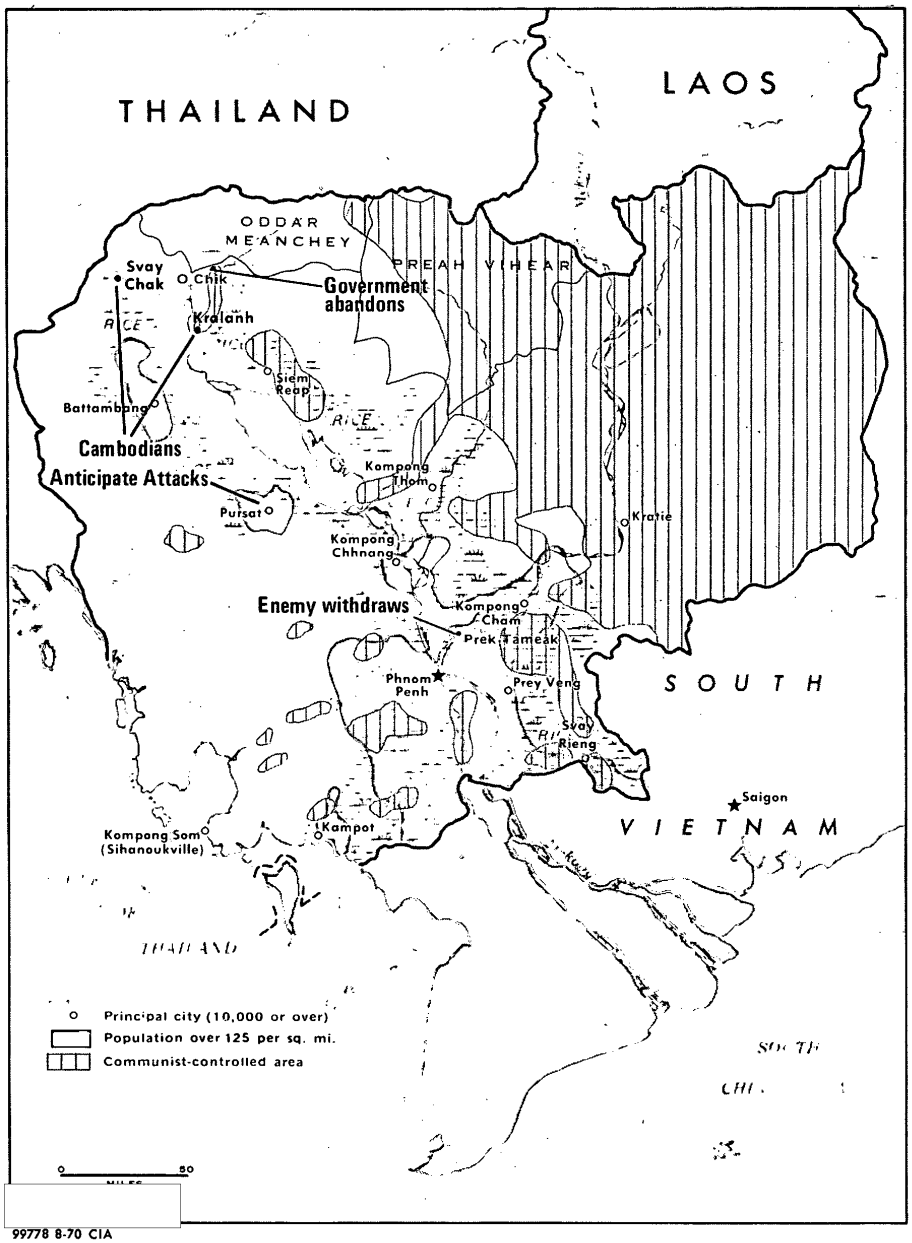
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Government forces have repulsed the Communist attack on Prek Tameak, and the enemy has withdrawn into the surrounding countryside. Other enemy units south of Prek Tameak succeeded in lobbing several mortar rounds into government positions on the east bank of the Mekong less than two miles from Phnom Penh.

Communist forces continue to be active in Oddar Meanchey Province. An intercepted military message indicated that government forces abandoned the village of O Chik on 21 August. The Cambodians are calling in air strikes on the village.

Since the fall of much of neighboring Preah Vihear Province to the Communists at the end of June, enemy activities have intensified in Oddar Meanchey, where ill-prepared government forces seem to be having difficulty countering the enemy thrusts.

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THAILAND

A group of dissidents in the government's Saha Pracha Thai (SPT) party recently joined opposition members in the parliament to defeat Prime Minister Thanom in the second round of the fight over the new budget. Opposition members now have a one-vote majority on the 37-man committee responsible for reviewing and amending the 1971 budget and are in position to alter it considerably if they vote as a bloc.

The rift over the budget has surfaced a widening breach within government ranks. Many members of the parliament, including members of the SPT, have been pressing Thanom for increased recognition and responsibilities, and for constitutional changes which will give the legislature more power. They are also urging Thanom to reshuffle the cabinet to reflect current Thai political realities.

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USSR - EASTERN EUROPE

That Moscow summit session with Eastern European leaders took only a few hours to wrap up views concerning the West German treaty and agreement on pressing ahead with a conference on European security.

The primary reason for the brevity is that no Eastern European nation with the exception of East Germany has any problem with the forthcoming Soviet reaction to Brandt's Ostpolitik. Moscow apparently took precautions to soothe Ulbricht in advance of the leadership meeting. Ulbricht flew in to Moscow on the 18th, two days before the summit session.

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NOTES

[redacted] 50X1

USSR: The Soviets apparently failed in an attempt to send a space probe toward Venus early this morning. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] Another Venus probe was launched successfully on 17 August and should reach its destination in mid-December. 50X1

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The President's Daily Brief

Sunday Aug 23, 1970

~~29 September 1970~~

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Cambodia :

The military situation is quiet. Communist troops have pulled back from the Prek Tameak area, and government forces are now sweeping the east bank of the Mekong. Apart from desultory shellings ~~in the~~ near ?Kompong Thom city, no enemy attacks have been reported in the countryside for the past 24 hours. [redacted]

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2099

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JOINT EMBASSY DAO MESSAGE

SUBJ: CAMBODIAN SIT REP - AUGUST 22

1. POLITICIZATION OF CAMBODIAN YOUTH.
AKP AUGUST 22 CARRIES SUMMARY OF WORKING SESSION OF EDUCATIONAL AND YOUTH OFFICIALS DISCUSSING NECESSITY OF REVAMPING EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO PREPARE YOUTH FOR THE ETERNAL CONFLICT OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BLOCS. CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING WERE THAT CAMBODIA MUST FORGET ITS ISOLATION AND PREPARE FOR ENTRY INTO INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NATIONS. MOREOVER, CAMBODIA MUST ADAPT ITSELF RAPIDLY TO THE REAL WORLD. "DELAY WOULD BE NOTHING LESS THAN AN ACT OF PURE SUICIDE". MEETING ALSO RECOMMENDED "PROGRESSIVE POLITICIZATION" OF CAMBODIAN YOUTH BY MODIFYING SCHOLASTIC COURSES WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING A NATIONAL CONSCIENCE AND SPIRIT. AIRGRAM TO DEPT FOLLOWS.

2. GRENADE INCIDENT IN PHNOM PENH.
EMBASSY INFORMED THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 9:15 P.M. IN PHNOM PENH'S DOWNTOWN "TENDERLOIN DISTRICT", SEVERAL KHMER KROM OR FANK SOLDIERS THREW A HAND GRENADE WOUNDING THREE PEOPLE. INCIDENT NOW UNDER INVESTIGATION BY POLICE WHO STATE SOLDIERS GOT INTO ARGUMENT OVER WOMEN AND IN NO WAY WAS TERRORIST ATTACK.

3. MISSING JOURNALISTS.
ON REPORT FROM PARIS THAT TWO FRENCH TELEVEISION MEN CAPTURED IN SIEM REAP AREA ARE NOW DEAD, JOURNALISTS' COMMITTEE NOW PLANS MEETING ON AUGUST 25 TO DRAFT NEW APPEAL TO LUSAKA NONALIGNED CONFERENCE FOR NEWS OF MISSING COLLEAGUES.

4. NEW GOVERNOR FOR KOMPONG SPEU.
AKP FOR AUGUST 22 CARRIES NOTE CONCERNING TRANSFER OF FUNCTION OF GOVERNOR OF KOMPONG SPEU FROM BRIGADIER GENERAL SAR HOR TO UNG THAN. SAR HOR, NEWLY PROMOTED FROM COLONEL TO BRIGADIER, IS ALSO SECOND IN COMMAND TO GENERAL SOSTHENEZ FERNANDEZ, COMMANDER OF SECOND MILITARY REGION WHICH INCLUDES KOMPONG SPEU. MR. UNG THAN, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY'S RECORDS, WAS MOST RECENTLY GOVERNOR OF THE AUTONOMOUS URBAN AREA OF KIRIROM. (BIO DATA WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN AVAILABLE.) CEREMONIES HELD IN KOMPONG SPEU TOWN AND ATTENDED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND DEPUTIES FROM REGION.

5. PRESS BRIEFING.
A. BRIEFER STATED THAT SITUATION COUNTRY WIDE WAS QUIET AND THAT ENEMY FORCES WHO ATTACKED PREK TAMERK HAVE NOW DISPERSED AND

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ARE BEING HARRIED BY FRIENDLY AIR AS THEY MAKE THEIR WAY THROUGH FLOODED COUNTRYSIDE. BRIEFER APOLOGIZED FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO TAKE JOURNALISTS ON TRIP TO PREK TAMERK AS PROMISED, BUT TRANSPORT WAS IN SHORT SUPPLY.

DAM BRIEFER SAID BATTALIONS WHO SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT AT PREK TAMERK HAVE BEEN RELIEVED BY FRESH TROOPS AND COMMANDER OF 65TH BATTALION, THOUGH WOUNDED IN LEGS, WAS EAGER TO REJOIN THE FRAY.

C. ONLY OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNED DAILY MORTAR HARASSMENT OF KOMPONG THOM.

D. COMMENT: ACTING BRITISH MILITARY ATTACHE TOLD EMBOFF AT BRIEFING THAT HE HAD VISITED 122 ARTILLERY UNIT ON PERIMETER OF PHNOM PENH THAT HAD SUPPORTED ACTION AT PREK TAMERK AND THAT HE, AS FORMER ARTILLERY OFFICER, WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH: CONDITION OF MEN, GUNS, AMMUNITION; ADEQUACY OF PERIMETER DEFENSE BY INFANTRY UNIT AND PROFESSIONALISM, USE OF PLOTTING BOARDS, GUN CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONESWITH GROUND FORWARD BSERVER. END COMMENT.

6. MILITARY (FROM FANK J-2/J3).

DURING PAST 24 HOURS THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT ATTACKS ALTHOUGH HARASSING ACTIONS CONTINUE. FANK BEGAN A CLEARING OPERATION IN PREK TAMERK AREA.

A. ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 22 FANK BEGAN SWEEP OPERATIONS TO COVER AREA ALONG EAST BANK OF MEKONG RIVER OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH AND NORTH TO THE PREK TAMERK AREA. AIR AND NAVY UNITS ARE SUPPORTING GROUND OPERATION. COMMENT: SOUTHERN LIMIT OF SWEEP IS AREA WHERE MORTAR ROUNDS LANDED TWO DAYS AGO WHICH LED TO PRESS STORIES UNDERLINING DISTANCE FROM CENTER OF PHNOM PENH. NONE OF PRESS REPORTS THAT EMBASSY HAS SEEN MENTION FACT THAT MEKONG RIVER IS APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE WIDE IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF CITY. END COMMENT.

B. ON AUGUST 19 ARMED VILLAGERS FOUGHT APPROXIMATELY 40 KHMER ROUGE IN VILLAGE 35 KILOMETERS WEST OF PHNOM PENH. THERE WERE NO VILLAGE CASUALTIES BUT THERE WERE SOME ENEMY WOUNDED.

RIVES

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Uruguay: Foreign Minister Peirano, in an interview in a pro-governemnt newspaper, [redacted] ILLEGIB

[redacted] ILLEGIB

[redacted] spelled out his government's policy on the efforts of third parties to [redacted] ILLEGIB

[redacted] ILLEGIB

secure the release of the kidnap victims. Emphasizing that the Uruguayan government will not "enter into deals with such low criminals," Dr. Peirano pointed out that Brazil [redacted] might find a way to make a deal on its own behalf that would not require any action by the Uruguayan government. [redacted] This statement, considering its source, seems to be almost an invitation to a foreign government or even a private organization to attempt to ransom [redacted] Gomide and Fly. ILLEGIB

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[redacted] GOU POSITION ON THIRD PARTY NEGOTIATIONS WITH KIDNAPPERS

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF INTERVIEW WITH FORMIN PEIRANO FACIO PUBLISHED TODAY (AUG. 21) IN PRO-GOVERNMENT "EL DIA". EMBOFF THIS MORNING CONFIRMED WITH FOREIGN OFFICE THAT ARTICLE ACCURATELY REFLECTS GOU VIEWS ON THIRD PARTY NEGOTIATIONS TO EFFECT RELEASE OF KIDNAP VICTIMS.

QUOTE Q. DR. PEIRANO... O'SULLIVAN PAPER HAS PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW OF ONE OF ITS REPORTERS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN POLICY DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY, IN WHICH HE MAKES STATEMENTS WHICH REPRESENT A CHANGE IN THE URUGUAYAN ATTITUDE.

"A. MR. COSTANZO'S STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MISINTERPRETED.

"Q. IS IT TRUE THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE STARTED WITH THE SEDITIOUS ELEMENTS ON EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS?

"A. THAT IS NOT TRUE NOR WAS IT STATED IN THAT MANNER BY

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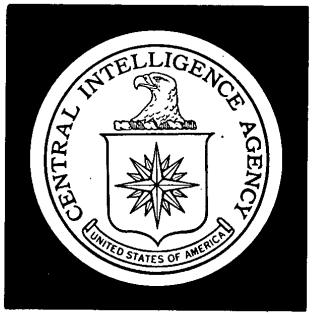

The President's Daily Brief

24 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Cambodia remains relatively quiet, but ARVN troops still cause trouble. *(Page 1)*

With aircraft grounded by bad weather, the Communists are pushing government forces away from Ban Na. *(Page 2)*

The way may be open for third parties to deal directly with the Tupamaros. *(Page 3)*

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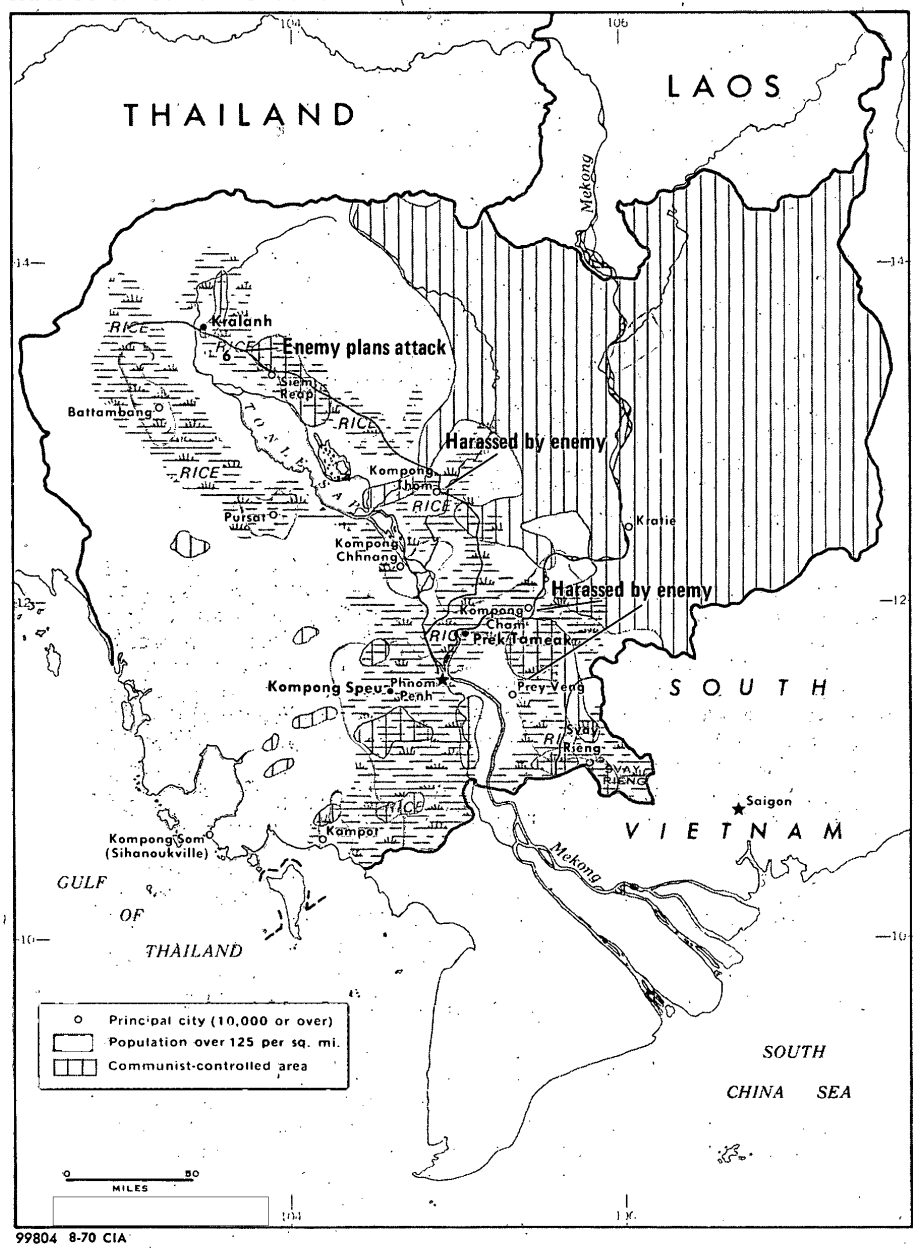
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

No major fighting was reported over the weekend, but the Communists continued to harass the provincial capital cities of Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham, and Prey Veng. No Communist action was directed against Kompong Speu, where a buildup in the nearby countryside was reported by Cambodian commanders last week. The town of Kralanh, where fighting was heavy two weeks ago, will again be attacked, according to intercepted messages. The Communists plan to cut Route 6, thus isolating the town.

* * *

The government is reacting strongly to the alleged misconduct of South Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. Three Cambodians, including two officers, were killed on 21 August when South Vietnamese troops ambushed a small Cambodian convoy in Svay Rieng Province.

Prime Minister Lon Nol sent two high-ranking officials to brief the US chargé about the incident. Stealing and smuggling occur daily, the chargé was told, and the South Vietnamese are contemptuous of Cambodian authority. The Cambodian officials stated that Lon Nol is "increasingly fed up" and is even considering sending an armored battalion into the area to "control ARVN." Although the Cambodians apparently did not request any US action, the briefing is evidence of the seriousness with which Lon Nol views the situation.

The continuing misbehavior of South Vietnamese troops is almost certainly becoming an important political liability for Lon Nol, who is held partly responsible for their presence in Cambodia. Even sophisticated Cambodian officials have been appalled by the contrast between the behavior of ARVN and the Vietnamese Communists, who with few exceptions have tried to ingratiate themselves with Cambodian villagers.

For its part, Saigon has taken steps to impose stricter discipline on its forces, who recently have been behaving better than in the early days of the Cambodian operation. The Cambodians are inclined to believe the worst of their allies, however, thus many of the stories reaching Phnom Penh probably are exaggerated in the telling.

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LAOS

The government offensive southwest of the Plaine des Jarres has run into stiff enemy opposition. Taking advantage of poor flying weather, elements of the North Vietnamese 174th Regiment have mounted a series of sharp counterattacks against government forces attempting to recapture the base at Ban Na. Additional guerrillas are now pushing into the Ban Na area from the south in an attempt to relieve the pressure.

On the political front, there has been no progress in efforts to get talks under way at Khang Khay. [redacted] the Pathet Lao are upset over the inclusion of prominent rightists in the government's delegation to Khang Khay, arguing that it violates an understanding with Prime Minister Souvanna that only neutralists and Communists would participate in the next round of talks. 50X1

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URUGUAY

In an interview in a progovernment newspaper last Friday, Foreign Minister Peirano said that the administration maintained its adamant refusal to deal with the Tupamaros. If a third party were to undertake negotiations within Uruguay's juridical framework, however, the Uruguayan Government could not legally interfere. As a precedent, Peirano cited the case of a prominent Uruguayan banker ransomed by friends last year. The foreign minister mentioned Brazil as a third party that might negotiate with the terrorists. 50X1

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The President's Daily Brief

25 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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

President Pak's recent call for peaceful reunification has struck a sensitive nerve in Pyongyang. *(Page 2)*

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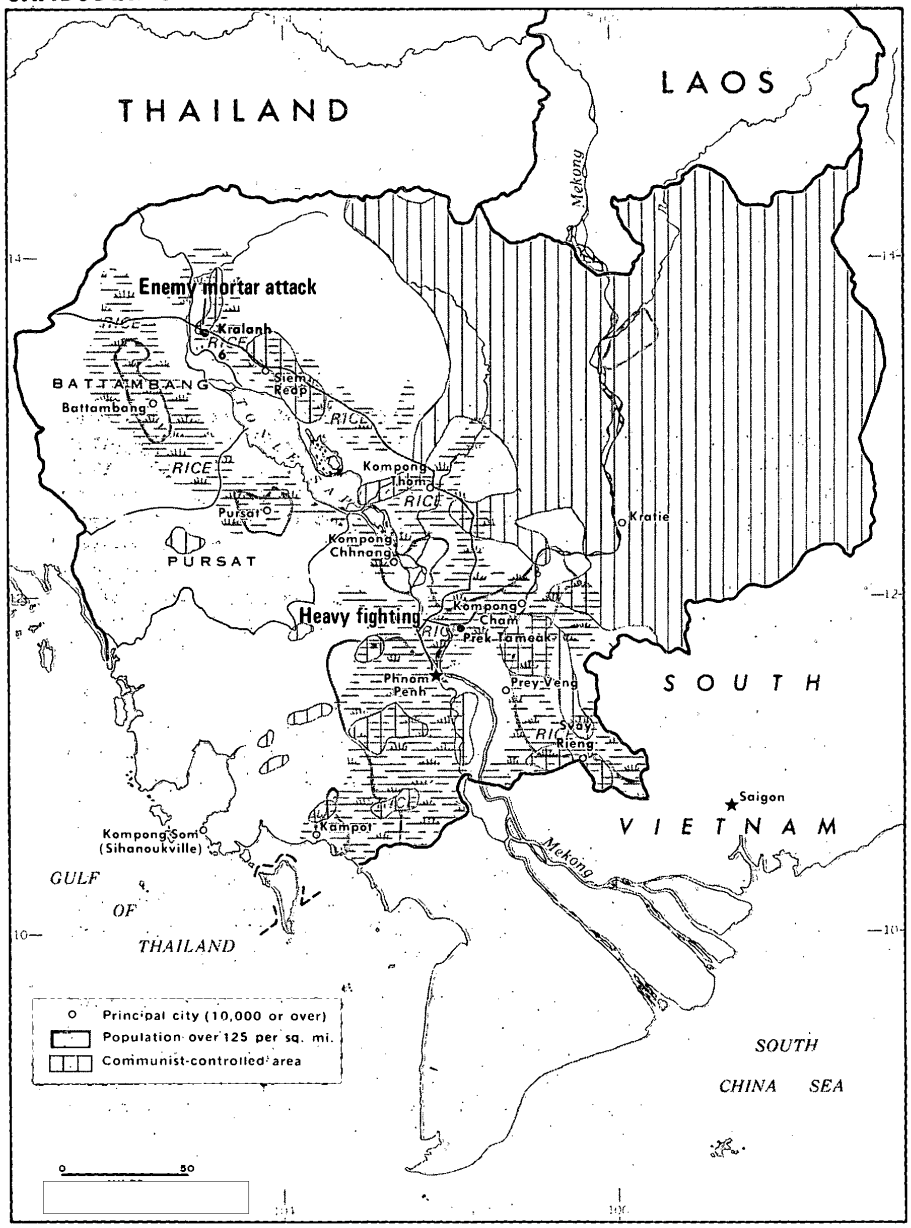
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Communist military activity continues in western Cambodia. Government battalions defending Kralanh town were hit by a mortar attack on 23 August. Route 6 on both sides of Siem Reap city is insecure; several civilian vehicles have been ambushed less than two miles west of the city in recent days.

To the south, Cambodian troops have captured several Vietnamese Communists in a sweep operation in Pursat Province. There were earlier indications that the enemy in the province may be attempting to link up with indigenous Communist elements in the west.

Enemy forces last evening again attacked the village of Prek Tameak. Government troops, supported by gunboats and aircraft, repulsed the attackers.

* * *

Sihanouk's exile government claims it plans to start operating soon in the "liberated areas" of Cambodia. According to a communiqué broadcast over radio Hanoi on 24 August, the "government's" central committee has decided on a gradual movement of a number of ministries from Peking into Cambodia. There have been a number of reports--unconfirmed--that Sihanouk's "ministers" of national defense, interior, and information are already in Cambodia.

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KOREA

Pyongyang has replied to Seoul's recent call for peaceful reunification (see The President's Daily Brief of 15 August) in a manner clearly reflecting North Korea's concern over this challenge to its own propaganda offensive. An editorial in the official government newspaper on 23 August called Pak's proposal a "vicious trick" designed to deceive the Korean people. The article repeated Pyongyang's two long-standing conditions for unification--withdrawal of all US forces from Korea and the overthrow of the Pak government. Pyongyang also flatly rejected any role for the UN in reunification.

The editorial also reflects North Korean concern over ties between Seoul and Tokyo. Lashing out at Pak for accepting "foreign monopoly capital," the editorial demanded that the Japanese also be expelled from South Korea as a precondition for reunification.

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NOTE

USSR-Iraq:

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ANNEX

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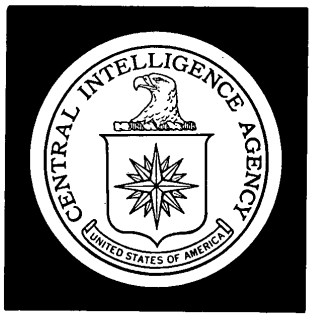

The President's Daily Brief

26 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] 50X1

Egypt Israel [redacted] *Page 1.*

In Cambodia, the enemy is maintaining pressure on Phnom Penh's eastern defense perimeter. *(Page 2)*

North Vietnam leaders are calling for greater manpower mobilization. *(Page 3)*

The Soviets are building a new deep water port on Egypt's Mediterranean coast. *(Page 4)*

Japan is leaning toward a more liberal trade policy with Cuba. *(Page 5)*

[redacted] 50X1

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EGYPT-ISRAEL

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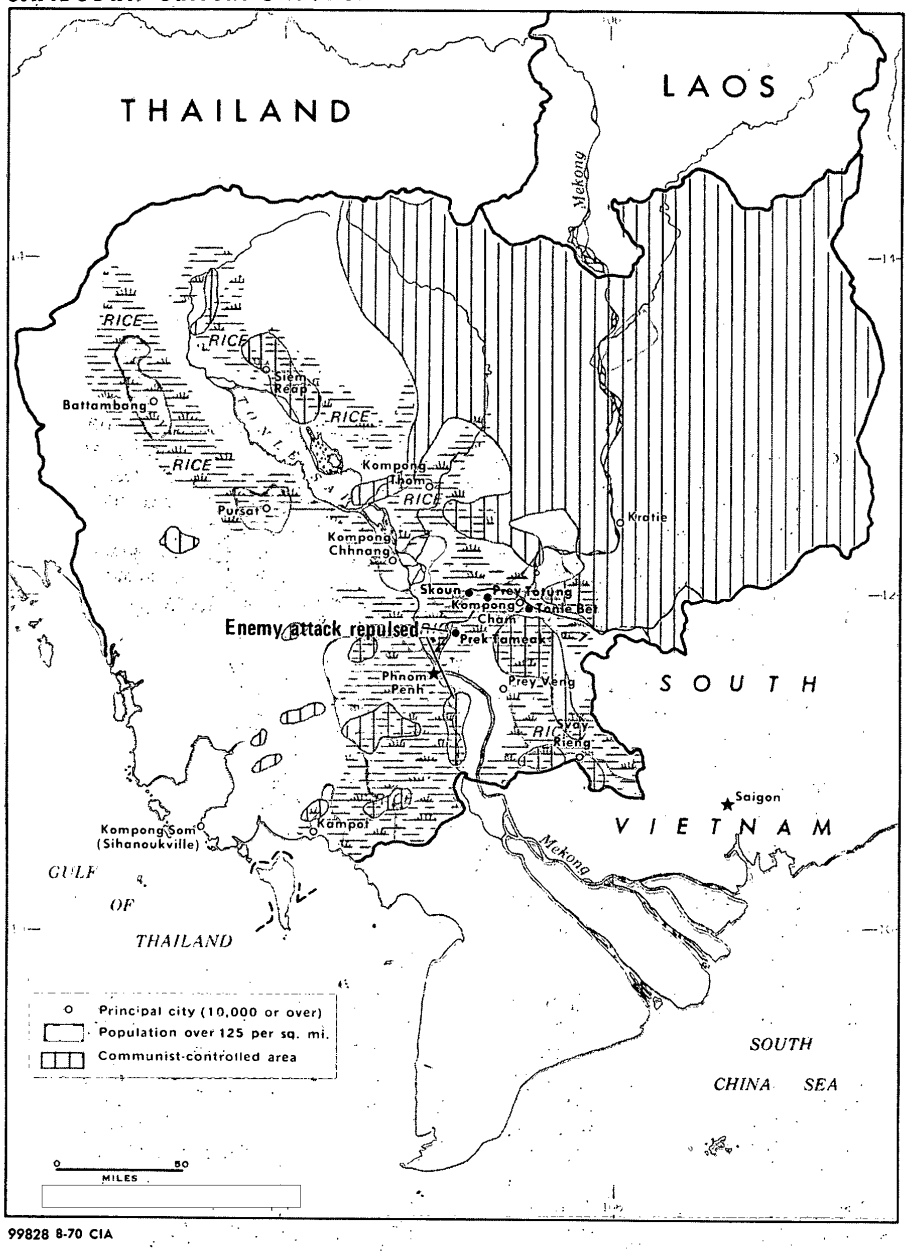
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

The second enemy attack in the past week against the village of Prek Tameak, some 12 miles northeast of Phnom Penh, was repelled by government forces during heavy fighting on 24-25 August. Late press reports indicate that scattered clashes occurred again today around the village, but according to a Cambodian Army spokesman, the fighting was on a smaller scale.

> *The recurring attacks on Prek Tameak underscore the importance the Communists attach to disrupting the government presence on the east bank of the Mekong across from the capital. The enemy's strategy appears to call for the piecemeal reduction of Phnom Penh's eastern defensive perimeter. At the same time they were hitting Prek Tameak, for example, other Communist units were attacking two government battalions dug-in along the Mekong River some 15 miles south of the capital. Large numbers of enemy troops have been reported in this area for the past several days.*

The military situation elsewhere in Cambodia continues to be relatively quiet. Government positions at Tonle Bet, across the Mekong from Kompong Cham city, came under mortar fire yesterday, but no losses were reported. The Cambodians have been anticipating a major attack on Kompong Cham for several weeks, but so far the only significant enemy actions have been at Skoun and Prey Totung, west of the city on Route 7.

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NORTH VIETNAM

Regime leaders are calling for greater manpower mobilization. Party First Secretary Le Duan told high-ranking army officers early this month to go "all out" to strengthen the armed forces in order to carry on and intensify the Indochina war, according to a Radio Hanoi report. In mid-August, Defense Minister Giap reminded party leaders at a conference on local military affairs that Hanoi's "people's war" strategy implies universal mobilization, i.e. that "all of the people" should belong to some kind of military organization. The conference report urged that the militia and reserves be enlarged and maintained in readiness even while their personnel continue to carry on their day-to-day civilian tasks. We have also noted increased propaganda in recent weeks urging young North Vietnamese from the provinces to join the regular army.

Recruitment drives of this kind are not new, but this one is receiving greater than usual attention. Although the North Vietnamese could be expanding their military manpower base in anticipation of a more intense level of fighting over the short run, it seems more likely that their concerns are longer-range. They probably expect that the personnel needs implicit in their commitment to a protracted struggle could become quite heavy at some point. By bringing more people into reserve organizations and the militia, they help insure the availability of suitable manpower for the military over the long haul without significantly reducing the present size of the civilian labor force.

The regime may also be counting on increased mobilization to benefit the civilian sector by producing a tighter and perhaps more efficient organization of the labor force. Hanoi frequently uses various military organizations to assist in economic projects, particularly in agriculture and public works. In July, the government called for more activity of this kind.

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USSR-EGYPT

A deep water port for Soviet use is under construction at Mersa Matruh west of Alexandria. Satellite photography since 1968 shows that gradual improvements have been made in the port, including dredging to permit the handling of deep draft ships. Since 17 August, ships of the Soviet Mediterranean squadron--including a missile supply ship--have been using the port. [redacted] 50X1

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The development of this harbor into a naval port capable of supporting cruiser-sized ships will permit the Soviets to carry out sensitive naval support functions away from the congested and more vulnerable facilities at Port Said and Alexandria.

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JAPAN-CUBA

The Japanese Government has approved an export license and deferred payments for a substantial sale of buses to Cuba.

Tokyo may soon permit major sales of other commodities under similar terms. It has been interested in liberalizing trade with Cuba in nonstrategic goods for some time, but had avoided such a move out of deference to the US. Japan recently polled its ambassadors in Latin America on the issue and they apparently recommended that these restrictions be lifted.

Current US-Japan trade problems have strengthened Tokyo's desire to diversify its export markets. In addition, Tokyo probably was influenced by the belief that sanctions against Cuba have lost support in some Latin American countries. Increased sales to Cuba will also offset large Japanese purchases of Cuban sugar.

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NOTE

Middle East:

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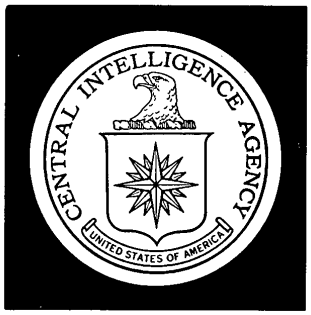

The President's Daily Brief

27 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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

Moscow has agreed to provide a $30-million economic assistance credit to Peru. *(Page 2)*

Bolivia is experiencing a new outbreak of student violence. *(Page 3)*

Heavy flooding in North Vietnam and the Laotian panhandle is temporarily causing serious dislocations in Communist supply movements. *(Page 4)*

Western trade unionists voice concern over the Senate stand on the ILO. *(Page 4)*

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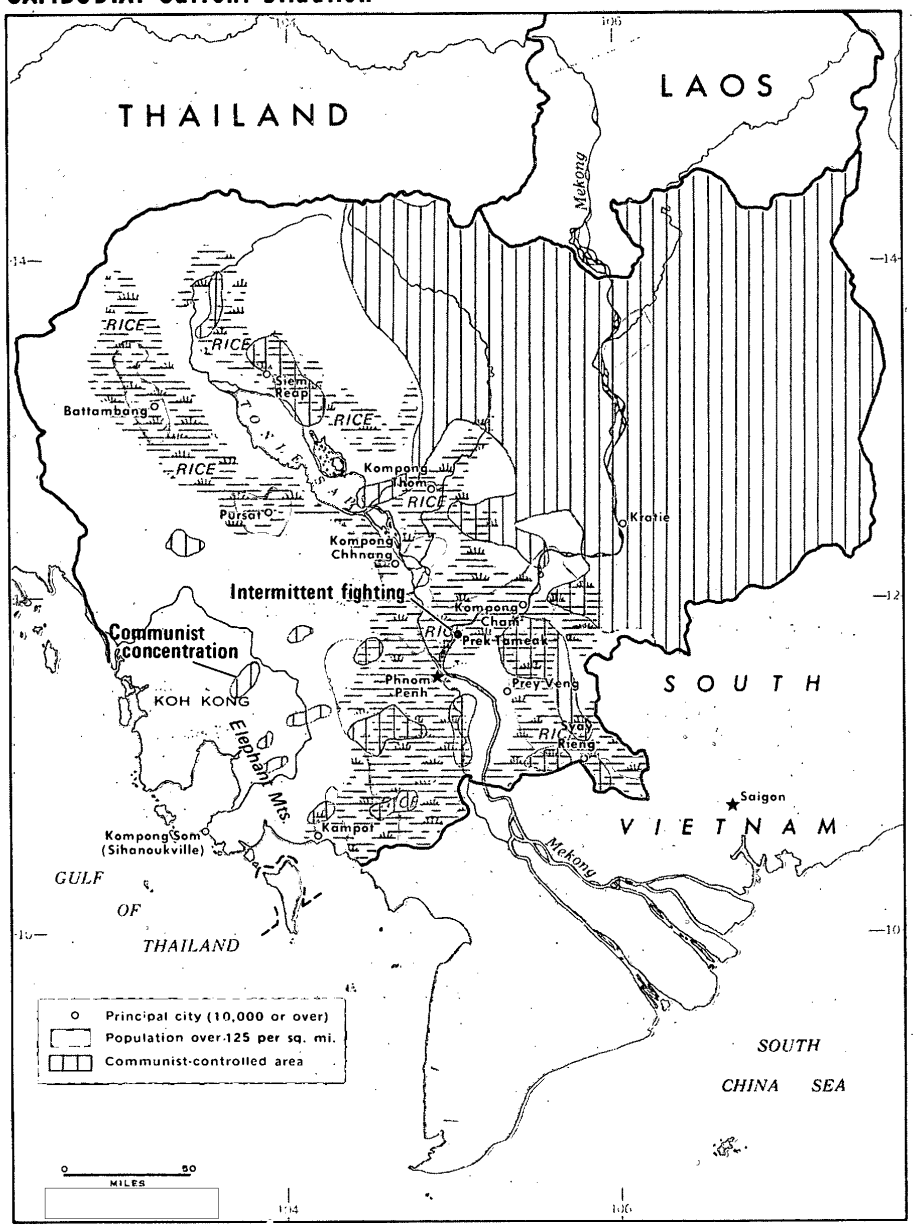
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Fighting around Prek Tameak continues. Early yesterday another Communist attack was repulsed by government defenders who suffered ten killed and 30 wounded. Three battalions of Cambodian paratroopers have been dispatched to reinforce the government defenses which were already being supported by aircraft, artillery, and naval gunboats.

Elsewhere, the Communists have apparently established themselves in northeastern Koh Kong Province. A government reconnaissance patrol ran into several hundred enemy troops holding three villages. According to an intercepted Cambodian message, 30 soldiers and 90 armed civilians have defected to the enemy from one of the local defense commands, and the district administrator and his family are being held prisoner.

This is the first indication of such a large enemy concentration in the area, although the Khmer Rouge have been utilizing the Elephant Mountains as a redoubt for some time.

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USSR-PERU

On 25 August, Moscow announced the extension of a $30-million credit to Peru for the purchase of Soviet agricultural machinery and other heavy equipment. The Soviet Union also will assist Lima in the development of its fishing industry

50X1

Although the Soviets have been cautious in responding to Peruvian requests for sizable economic commitments, they are providing help to specific Peruvian ministries where opportunities look good for expanding Soviet influence. Some 30 Peruvians are already studying farm management in the USSR, and Soviet technicians will advise the Ministry of Agriculture on the establishment of such training programs in Peru.

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BOLIVIA

On 21 August the military released the names of four students who were killed on 30 July while participating in guerrilla operations in the countryside. This official confirmation sparked demonstrations on 24 August by militant students in La Paz. The dead students have been declared "martyrs of national liberation" by the national student federation. Commemorative ceremonies are being held to honor them, and the students are making vague threats of retaliation. If the bodies are not released within a "few days," there may be more violence, perhaps even kidnaping attempts.

The armed forces have become increasingly concerned with the sanctuary the universities provide for radicals and terrorists and may soon launch a round-up of known student agitators.

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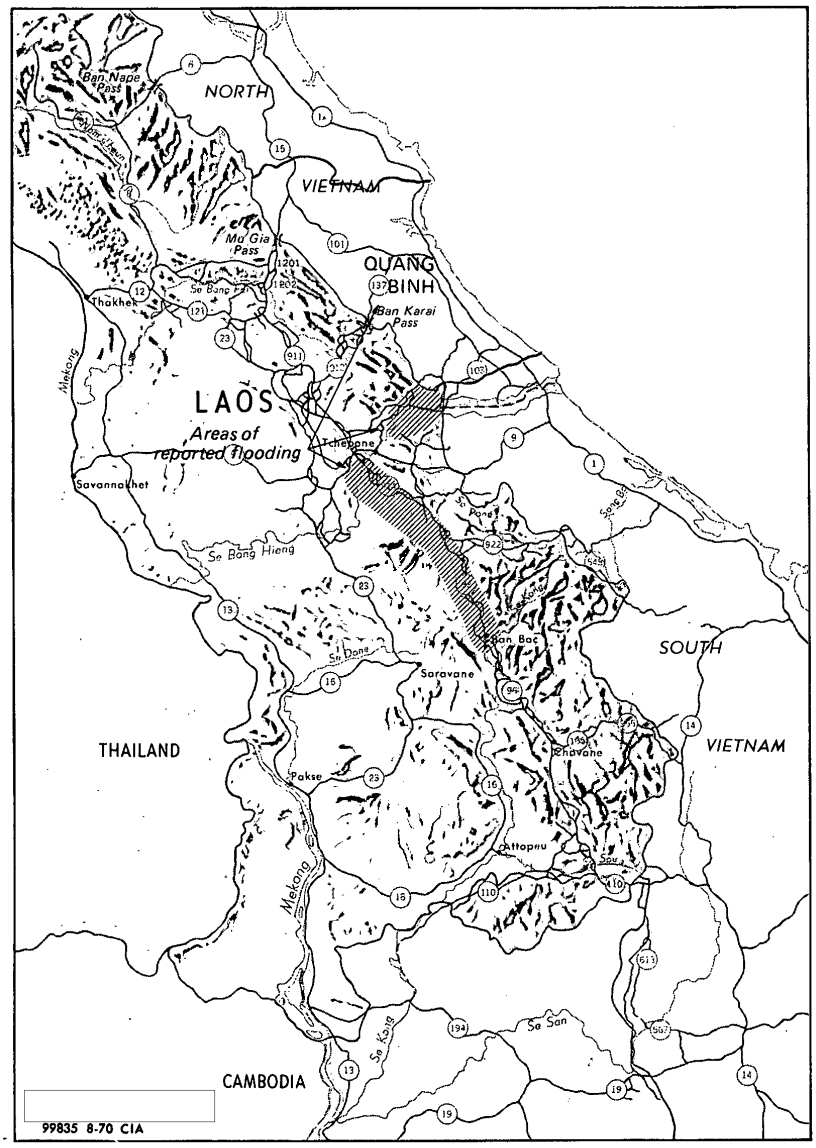
Flooding Temporarily Hinders Communist Supply Movements



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NOTES

Laos-Vietnam: Intercepted North Vietnamese messages indicate that unusually heavy rainfalls have damaged bridges and ferries and blocked roads in Quang Binh Province, where the supply and infiltration pipeline passes from North Vietnam into Laos. West of Quang Binh in Laos, roads in the central and southern Laotian panhandle have been flooded, causing a substantial reduction in transport flows. Large quantities of supplies, mostly rice and gasoline, have been destroyed or damaged by water.

International Labor Organization: Western free trade unionists are concerned over the US Senate's decision to halve the US contribution to the ILO in reaction to the appointment last month of a Soviet as one of the ILO's six assistant directors. The UK representative to the ILO called the cut "sudden and unwarranted," adding that if the USSR is to be a member of the ILO it cannot be kept from holding office. The French are also reportedly expressing "shocked surprise," and a Canadian spokesman said that the US fund cut creates a bad precedent, i.e. the withholding of contributions whenever nations disagree with the actions of an international organization.

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28 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists seem to be strengthening their control of the regions they occupy in Cambodia. *(Page 1)*

Some new SA-3 equipment has been seen moving into Cairo. *(Page 2)*

The fedayeen are trying to appear unified, but the facade cannot last. *(Page 3)*

50X1

Panamanian leaders seem determined to antagonize the US. *(Page 5)*

Libya again orders reductions in the production of petroleum. *(Page 6)*

50X1

Greece. *(Page 7)*

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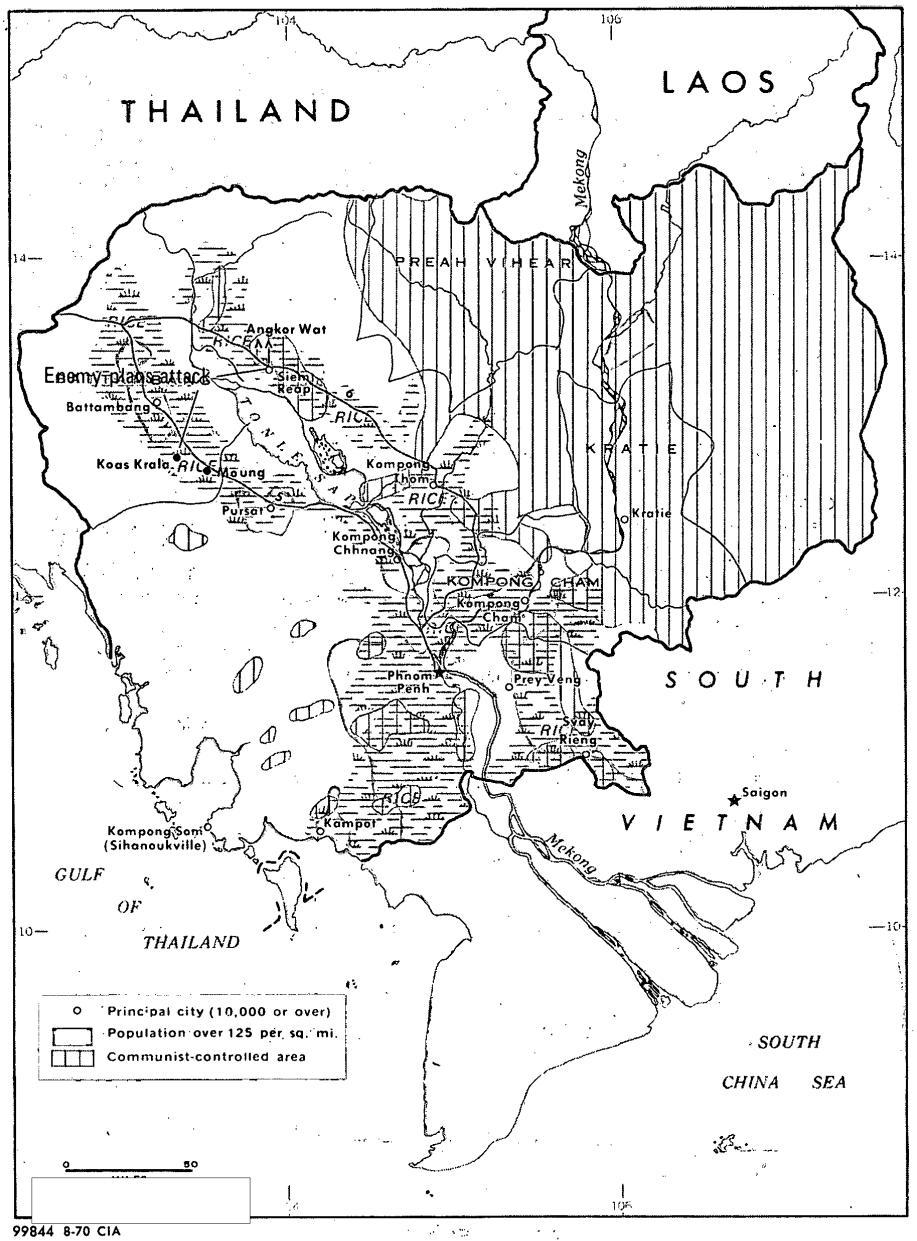
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] a large enemy force has 50X1
set up camp in the jungle just north of the Angkor Wat temple area and intends to attack Siem Reap city in the next few days. The Communist force moved into position from neighboring Preah Vihear Province.

> *The presence of any new major element in the area is not confirmed, but elements of the NVA 5th Division and the 275B Regiment are still near Siem Reap. The city was last attacked in early June, when it was partially overrun by enemy forces. Since then the city has been subjected to almost daily harassing fire as the Communists have systematically isolated it by interdicting Route 6. For its part, the government plans to launch a clearing operation along Route 6 from Kompong Thom city to Siem Reap, possibly next week.*

Communist forces may also be planning to attack the district town of Koas Krala in southern Battambang Province, according to an intercepted Cambodian Army message. Capture of this town would place the Communists within striking distance of the district capital of Moung, which sits astride both the Battambang - Phnom Penh rail line and Route 5. Thus far, Battambang has been free of Communist harassment, but there have been some signs that Communist troops are moving into the province.

* * *

The population in Communist-occupied areas of Kompong Cham and Kratie provinces appears to be reconciled to Communist control. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] Si- 50X1
hanouk supporters as well as members of the Khmer Rouge fill many important local government positions in these provinces and, despite past animosity between the pro- and anti-Sihanouk groups, appear to be cooperating in administering these areas.

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USSR-EGYPT

A trainload of new SA-3 equipment has been observed moving into Cairo, but it is too early to judge whether this materiel is for replacement or for new sites. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] train carried 38 SA-3 missile 50X1
transporters and other exclusively SA-3 related equipment.

This is the first shipment of SA-3 equipment identified since March, when [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] *ships were noted arriving* [redacted] 50X1
[redacted]. 50X1
[redacted] *We have not yet observed a sudden increase in shipping, which would be required if equipment were being delivered for a substantial number of new sites. Recent seaborne deliveries of other types of military materiel to Egypt have slowed, although they are still above the 1969 rate.*

* * *

A spurt of Soviet military aircraft arrivals to Egypt in the past week may have involved rotation or augmentation of Soviet personnel there. Six IL-18 passenger transports, which arrived from the USSR in two groups, could have carried as many as 500 persons.

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FEDAYEEN

Late yesterday, the 115-man Palestine National Council, the parliamentary body of the PLO, began an emergency meeting in Amman to discuss steps Palestinian fedayeen organizations could take to counter a negotiated Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

Sporadic shooting between individual fedayeen and Jordanian police had threatened to disrupt the meeting, but moderate commando leaders and government officers prevented any larger outbreaks.

The Council meeting will attempt to achieve greater fedayeen unity so as to present a common front in the campaign against the peace negotiations. However, it is unlikely that this display of unity will survive the inevitable efforts of individual fedayeen organizations to follow their own course of action.

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NATO

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PANAMA

We expect the Panamanians to put heavy pressure on the US to begin canal treaty negotiations.

50X1

The Panamanian press recently has been playing up alleged grievances with the zone. Torrijos has found a new opportunity to attack the US in the arrest of a Canal Zone policeman who is apparently implicated in the plot by deposed President Arias and former National Guard chief of staff Colonel Sanjur. The policeman is charged with acting as a link between Sanjur, now in Miami, and antigovernment elements in Panama.

Torrijos, who seems convinced that the US is trying to topple him, probably will try to extract maximum propaganda advantage from this incident. He may reckon that by publicizing the plot against him, he can forestall it. He may also believe that such a move will discourage any Guard officer from joining the plotters and cause the US to clamp down on Panamanian exile activity directed against him.

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LIBYA

The government has ordered Esso to cut back its oil production next week by 104,000 barrels per day (bpd). Overall production then will be roughly 20 percent of the peak of about 3.7 million bpd produced in April.

Faced with similar harassment, the Gulf Oil Company intends to relinquish its oil concessions in November. Gulf discovered oil in 1959 in one of its concessions but has not yet begun production. The government claims that the presence of oil in commercial quantities, whether or not produced, justifies an increase in the land rent tax. In Gulf's opinion, this action--as well as the uncertain economic and political climate in Libya--made further investments of almost $30 million unsound. Gulf now is prepared to write off investments of $30 million already made.

The consequences of these arbitrary actions by the government go beyond restrictions on the operations of US oil companies. They also aggravate the already tight tanker market and, in turn, the sensitive oil supply problem for Western Europe.

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GREECE

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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: Two Soviet guided missile ships, an amphibious landing ship, a submarine tender, and a tanker--currently west of the UK--probably are headed for operations in the Caribbean. Two other naval auxiliaries, now several hundred miles ahead of the group, probably will lend support. No submarines have as yet been identified en route. The last Soviet naval deployment to Cuba and the Caribbean was made in April and May by three submarines and two guided missile ships that had participated in the worldwide naval exercise OKEAN. During that deployment, three pairs of TU-95 Bear reconnaissance aircraft also flew to Havana for a short time.

Burma: [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] Communist insurgents 50X1 along the Chinese border are still able to maul Burmese military forces. An army column was ambushed on 14 August by a superior force of about 500 insurgents and forced to withdraw after sustaining heavy casualties. Follow-up government air strikes caused considerable damage to civilian property and triggered such strong resentment that it could further complicate government military efforts in the area.

South Vietnam: There are signs that Communist forces are planning a new phase of terrorist and military actions designed to disrupt the elections on 30 August and to mark next week's anniversaries of Ho's death and of the founding of the DRV. Significant activity is more likely in the northern provinces than in the southern, where many Communist units are still preoccupied with Cambodia or are short of supplies.

Italy [redacted] 50X1

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

29 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A Soviet oral protest against U-2 reconnaissance flights over Egyptian territory, and our comments thereon, are noted on *Page 1*.

[redacted] 50X1

West Germany [redacted] *(Page 2)*

The military situation in Cambodia is discussed on *Page 3*. 50X1

Libya [redacted] *(Page 4)* 50X1

The Laotian Government's campaign to retake Ban Na has suffered a severe setback. *(Page 5)*

Yesterday's policy speech by Soviet party chief Brezhnev is noted on *Page 5*.

At Annex we examine the impact of the Soviet presence in Latin America.

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USSR - MIDDLE EAST

The Soviets called in Ambassador Beam yesterday to deliver an oral protest against U-2 reconnaissance flights over Egyptian territory. Deputy Foreign Minister Vinogradov stated that these flights contradict the cease-fire agreement, are a violation of UAR sovereignty, and involve the risk of danger and "special surprises"--evidently an allusion to Gary Powers' flight. He said that, if the US did not cease, it would have to bear the possible consequences.

This is the first Soviet statement on the subject since Beam informed the USSR of our intentions on 8 August. On that occasion the Foreign Office official confined himself to the observation that this would be a "new element" and that he was "not sure this is a good element."

50X1

This protest probably reflects Cairo's annoyance over Israel's public accusations of cease-fire violations. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] *The Egyptians are probably also concerned to forestall claims by radical Arab states that Cairo is permitting US violation of its territorial sovereignty. Moscow may also be worried that these flights, which constitute the first physical US involvement in the area, could help to erode the inhibitions against further US involvement at some later stage.* 50X1

It is doubtful, however, that either the UAR or the USSR regards this problem as serious enough to justify a repudiation of the cease-fire or a boycott of Jarring's efforts. In the absence of other indications that they are moving in this direction, we see the protest to Beam as probably intended primarily for the record. Further, neither Vinogradov's protest nor the general Soviet posture on the Middle East suggest that a hostile attempt against the U-2 is likely at this stage.

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WEST GERMANY

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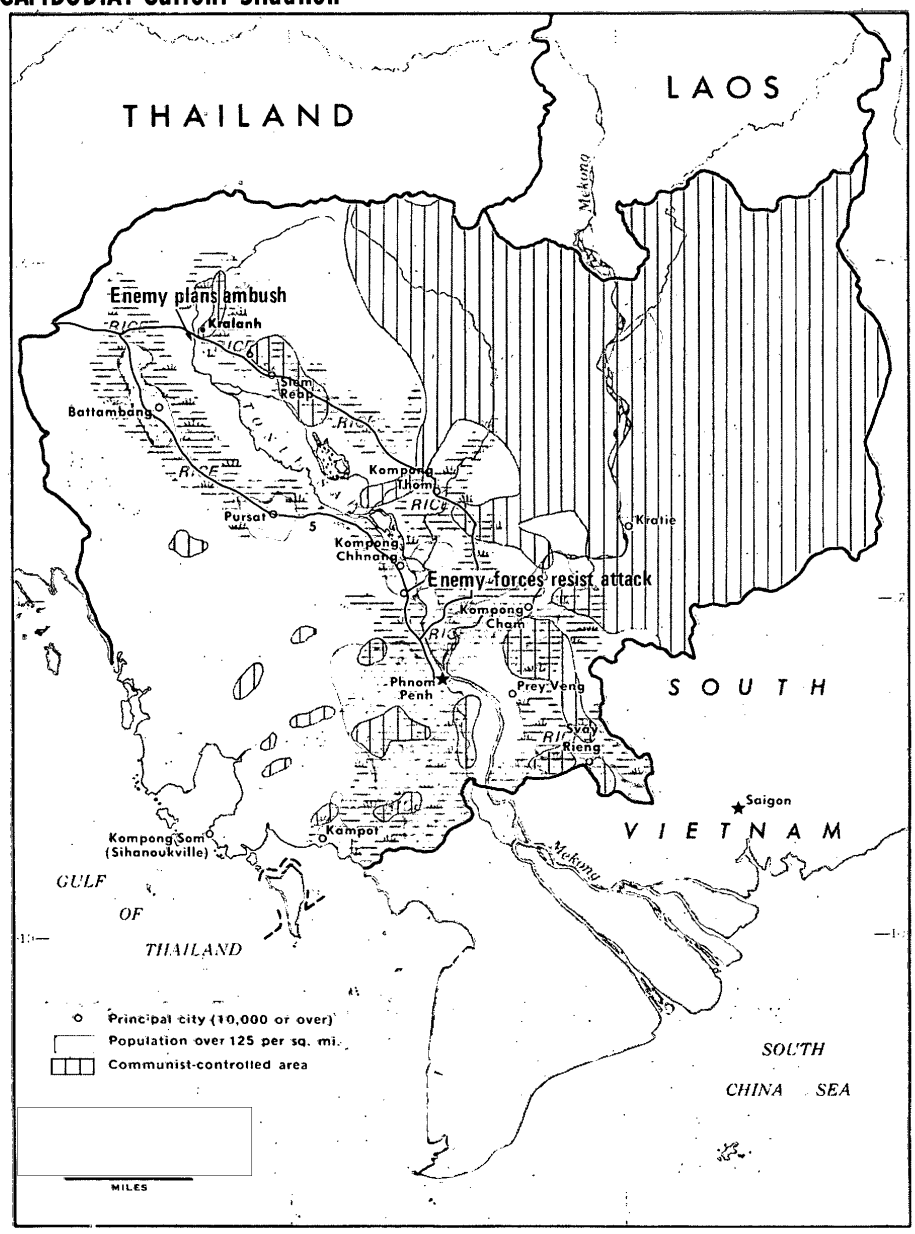
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

In Kompong Chhnang Province, a government battalion is meeting stubborn resistance from an enemy force dug in some 16 miles south of the provincial capital. Air strikes have also had little success in dislodging the Communists from their positions, according to intercepted Cambodian messages.

In northwestern Cambodia, there are enemy plans to ambush government troops conducting a sweep operation near Kralanh, the crossroads town some 30 miles west of Siem Reap city. Intercepts show that elements of the Viet Cong 275B Regiment hope to lure government forces away from Kralanh in order to attack them on a nearby road, probably Route 6 which is under heavy enemy interdiction.

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LIBYA

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* * *

CORRECTION

In the item on Libya in yesterday's Daily Brief, the first paragraph should read as follows:

"The government has ordered Esso to cut back its oil production next week by 104,000 barrels per day (bpd); only one of the six principal producers now has escaped a cutback. Total reductions amount to about 750,000 bpd, roughly 20 percent of the daily peak production in April of about 3.7 million barrels."

(Yesterday's piece said total production had been cut to 20 percent rather than by 20 percent.)

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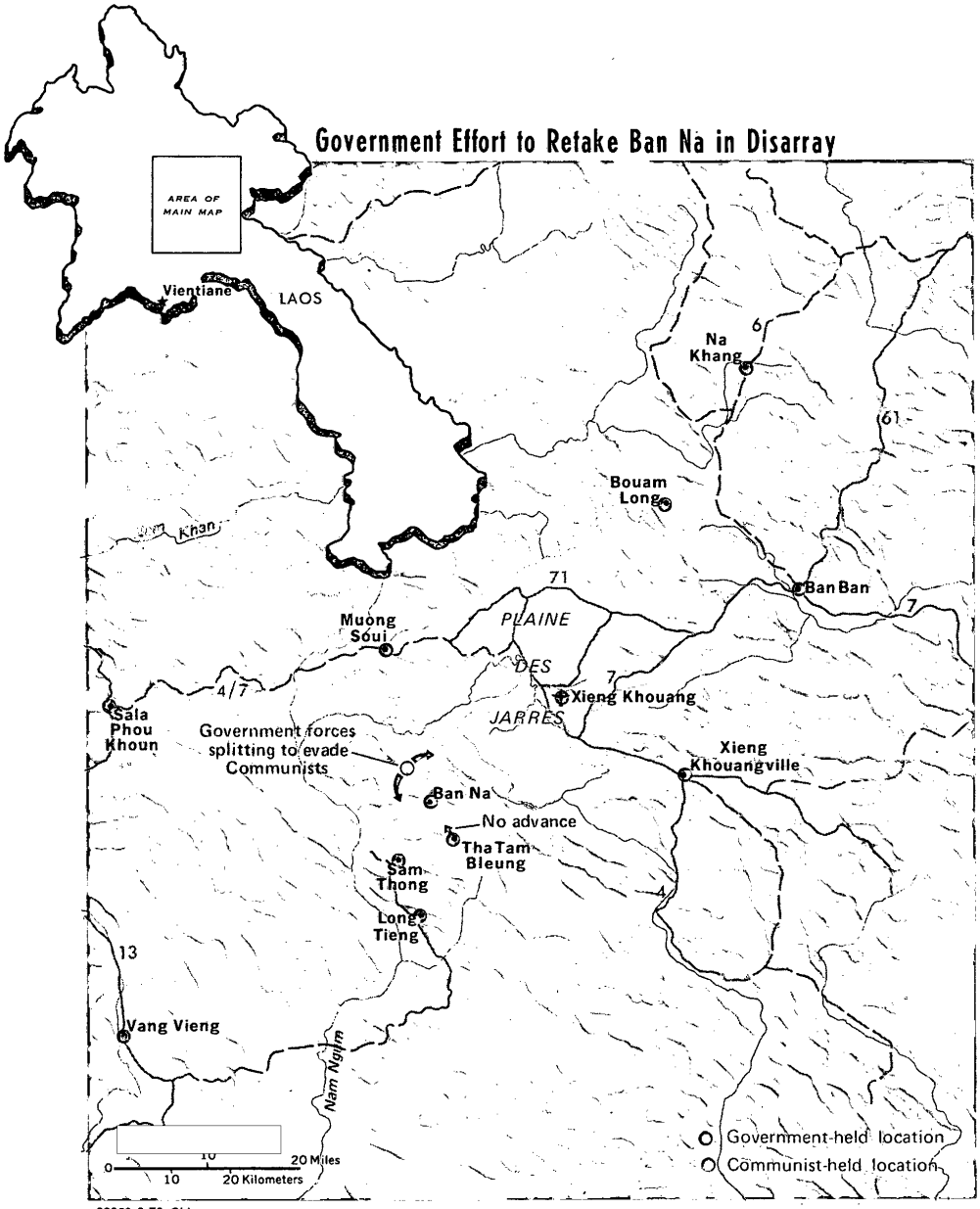
Government Effort to Retake Ban Na in Disarray



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NOTES

Laos: Faced with heavy enemy opposition, the government unit attempting to seize Ban Na has split into two groups. An operation intended to relieve these units by mounting an additional drive on Ban Na from the south has failed to make any headway. Thus the Communists appear so far to have succeeded in turning back the government's latest attempt to establish defensive positions closer to the Plaine des Jarres.

USSR: Soviet party chief Brezhnev gave strong personal endorsement to the Soviet - West German treaty and to the Middle East cease-fire in a speech yesterday in Alma Ata. He called the treaty with Bonn a "serious contribution" toward easing tension in Europe and praised Bonn's "realistic approach" in recognizing the "political realities of present-day Europe." He cautioned, however, that the opportunities created by the treaty can be fully realized only after its ratification. On the Middle East, Brezhnev criticized all those who have resisted the recent "small step toward peace." He called again for total Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories, but balanced this by expressing Soviet support for ensuring the national rights of all states of the area.

USSR-Indonesia: Moscow has agreed to the settlement of Indonesia's $800-million debt on 30-year terms similar to those accepted by Western creditors. The rescheduling reduces Indonesian debt payments to manageable proportions and will permit Djakarta to move ahead with planning for long-term economic development. Although neither country seems anxious to resume substantial Soviet military and economic aid, there may now be some token Soviet participation in development schemes.

USSR-Peru: Moscow, which canceled the airlift of relief supplies to Peru last week, has asked Iceland for landing rights for one additional flight on Monday. The Soviets, who may have found urgent delivery of certain supplies necessary to maintain their medical aid effort, indicated that other individual flights might also be made. Soviet officials announced earlier that aid not delivered by the 21 flights completed (65 were planned) would be shipped by sea.

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ANNEX

LATIN AMERICA - USSR

Soviet diplomatic representation in Latin America has grown considerably in the past few years, particularly since early 1969. Thirteen Latin American states, including Cuba, now have diplomatic relations with Moscow or are in the process of formalizing them. This includes every country in South America except Paraguay, and two of the seven Middle American republics--Mexico and Costa Rica.

CIA has recently completed a detailed study of the impact of Soviet representation in Latin America. The salient points of this study are as follows:

--The Soviet presence in Latin America has developed largely at the initiative of the Latin Americans, who are eager to expand their world economic ties and demonstrate their independence of the US.

--Moscow's overriding consideration is to have its presence accepted as "normal" and to avoid an incident that might raise suspicions or result in the expulsion of its diplomats. This low-key, low-risk approach has reassured new host governments who--for the most part--have accepted with equanimity large embassies and trade missions that are out of all proportion to the scope or need of the relationship.

50X1

--Soviet journalists are probably among the most effective Soviet representatives.

their task is less journalism than political appraisal of new opportunities for the government that employs them.

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(continued)

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--The presence of Soviet diplomatic representation has affected Latin American pro-Moscow Communist parties quite differently from country to country. For the most part, the effect is a boost for morale and probably finances, but the assistance tends to be indirect and the amount dependent on the caliber of the local party and its leaders.

--More and more Soviets are visiting Latin America. Many are trade union representatives who provide organizational advice and funding to local Communist parties and labor organizations in various obscure ways.

50X1

--Several countries, some with Soviet prodding, have decided that diplomatic relations would assist economic negotiations. The most notable example is the recent precipitate decision by President Figueres of Costa Rica to establish diplomatic ties with the USSR. Nevertheless, trade exchanges remain very small and probably will not increase significantly in the coming years.

--Total trade between Latin America and the USSR in 1969 amounted to less than $130 million, or less than two percent of Latin America's total world trade. In almost every case, the USSR had an unfavorable trade balance.

--Many Latin American countries have expected large amounts of Soviet economic aid for developmental programs, but these hopes have not been fulfilled in most cases because of a cutback in the worldwide Soviet assistance program.

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The President's Daily Brief

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~~18~~ 30 *August 1970*

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HEREWITH THE PDB OF 30 AUGUST.

MIDDLE EAST

THE EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL WHICH CONCLUDED IN AMMAN FRIDAY PRODUCED A FEW SURPRISES. AS EXPECTED, THE COUNCIL -- A PALESTINIAN PARLIAMENTARY BODY DOMINATED BY THE FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS -- FORMALLY REJECTED THE ROGER'S PEACE PROPOSALS. IN ITS MOST CONCRETE ACTION, THE COUNCIL CALLED UPON EGYPT AND SYRIA TO ALLOW UNITS OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ARMY NOW UNDER EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN COMMAND TO TRANSFER TO JORDAN. THESE TROOPS - 6000 IN ALL, DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA - WOULD NEARLY DOUBLE THE MANPOWER AVAILABLE TO THE FEDAYEEN. SINCE THE TROOPS WOULD CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO THE FEDAYEEN'S ABILITY TO MAKE TROUBLE DURING THE PEACE TALKS, N EITHER EGYPT NOR SYRIA IS EXPECTED TO AGREE TO THE COUNCIL'S REQUEST.

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THE FIGHTING IN CAMBODIA CONTINUED TO BE LIGHT, BUT ANOTHER CLASH HAS OCCURRED CLOSE TO PHNOM PENH. ON 28 AUGUST, A COMPANY-SIZED COMMUNIST UNIT ATTACKED TWO GOVERNMENT COMPANIES AT THE VILLAGE OF MOAT KRASAS, ONLY FOUR MILES EAST OF PHNOM PENH AND THE CLOSEST TO THE CAPITAL SUCH AN ENEMY FORCE HAS FOUGHT. THE ENEMY ASSAULT WAS DRIVEN BACK WITH THE AID OF INTENSIVE AIR SUPPORT. AT LAST REPORT THE COMMUNISTS HAD PULLED BACK TO THE EAST.H PRELIMINARY GOVERNMENT LOSSES ARE LISTED AS THREE KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED.

4

[redacted] THE ENEMY IS EMPLACING 122MM ROCKETS 12-13 MILES NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH, WHICH WOULD PLACE THE CAPITAL JUST OUTSIDE OF RANGE. [redacted] 50X1 50X1

[redacted] H PHNOM PENH HAS THUS FAR BEEN FREE OF ENEMY HARASSMENT, ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNISTS CLEARLY HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO MORTAR OR ROCKET IT WITH NO WARNING. 50X1

ELSEWHERE, THE ONLY MAJOR ACTION WAS AT THE GARRISON TOWN OF SRANG, 30 MILES SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, WHERE A GOVERNMENT BATTALION REPULSED AN ATTACK BY AN ESTIMATED 300 COMMUNIST TROOPS. SPORADIC HARASSING FIRE CONTINUES. MEANWHILE, THE COMMUNISTS AMBUSHED A GOVERNMENT PATROL NEAR THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF PREY VENG KILLING FOUR AND WOUNDING TH IRTEEN. 50X1

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL WEEKS THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF KOMPONG THOM RECEIVED NO HARASSING FIRE. [redacted]

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CABLE

MIDDLE EAST

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~~25 Aug 70~~

[redacted] 50X1

CAMBODIA: ~~The Military Situation~~

The fighting in Cambodia continued to be light, but another clash has occurred close to Phnom Penh. ~~increased only slightly over the unusually low level of activity reported the previous day.~~ On 28 August, A company-sized Communist unit ~~on 28 August~~ attacked two government companies at the village of Moat Krasas, only four miles east of Phnom Penh and the closest to the capital such an enemy force has fought. The enemy assault was driven back with the aid of intensive air support. [redacted] the Communists had pulled back to the east. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

Elsewhere, the only major action was at ~~reported occured at~~ the garrison town of Srang, 30 miles southwest of Phnom Penh, where a government battalion repulsed an attack by an estimated 300 Communist troops. Sporadic harassing fire continues. Meanwhile, the Communists ambushed a government patrol near

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[redacted] For the first time in several weeks the provincial capital of Kompong Thom 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

received no harassing fire. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

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31 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

31 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] Egypt *(Page 1)* 50X1

The fedayeen fear that the Jordanian Government is seeking to crush their movement. *(Page 2)*

In South Vietnam, an upsurge in military action has begun, marking the Communist anniversaries between 28 August and 4 September. *(Page 3)*

Fighting in Cambodia remained light, but the Communists continue to be active in the Phnom Penh area. *(Page 4)*

President Pompidou would like to visit Peking next year. *(Page 5)*

The most recent Soviet test of the modified SS-13 ICBM is noted on *Page 6*.

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EGYPT-ISRAEL

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JORDAN

Fedayeen leaders charged yesterday that the Jordanian Army had launched a widescale attack against fedayeen units with tanks and heavy artillery. An outburst of firing broke out in Amman again last evening, following the clashes on Friday and Saturday in which three commandos were killed. 50X1

50X1

50X1

In a hard-hitting radio speech before the incidents yesterday, King Husayn dismissed as unfounded commando charges that the movement of army units was part of a plan to crush the commandos. He claimed the transfers were necessary for the protection of the country. The King warned the fedayeen, however, that he would no longer tolerate their insults and accusations. He said that he had refrained from replying to past attacks because he did not want to move against others involved in the battle against Israel. Husayn warned that the situation had now changed and the country could not be diverted from the struggle to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli war.

Despite the harsh words, both the fedayeen and the Jordanian Government apparently still want to keep the situation from getting out of control. The government has announced it will meet with fedayeen leaders today to determine the cause of the incidents of the last few days. 50X1

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SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist forces are intensifying their military action in widely separated districts, with 60 shellings--the greatest number recorded in four months--occurring on 30 August. Most of the shellings were in the government's Military Region 2 and in the lower delta provinces of Military Region 4. According to press reports, more than 200 soldiers and civilians were killed or wounded.

The Communists have been planning for this upsurge for some time in order to mark several important Communist anniversaries that occur between 28 August and 4 September, including the first anniversary of the death of Ho Chi Minh.

In conjunction with the shellings, Communist terrorists and local forces increased their harassment of the civilian populace. Ground combat between military units remained at a relatively low level throughout the country, however. Major Communist forces were not committed, except for some artillery and sapper units.

* * *

The Senate elections were conducted quietly on 30 August, in spite of the increased Communist activity. The Communists made no concerted effort to disrupt the elections, although a few incidents were directed against polling places in various parts of the country.

Voter interest in this year's contest was relatively low. Still unofficial figures indicate about 65 percent of the registered voters went to the polls. In the Senate elections in 1967, 83 percent turned out.

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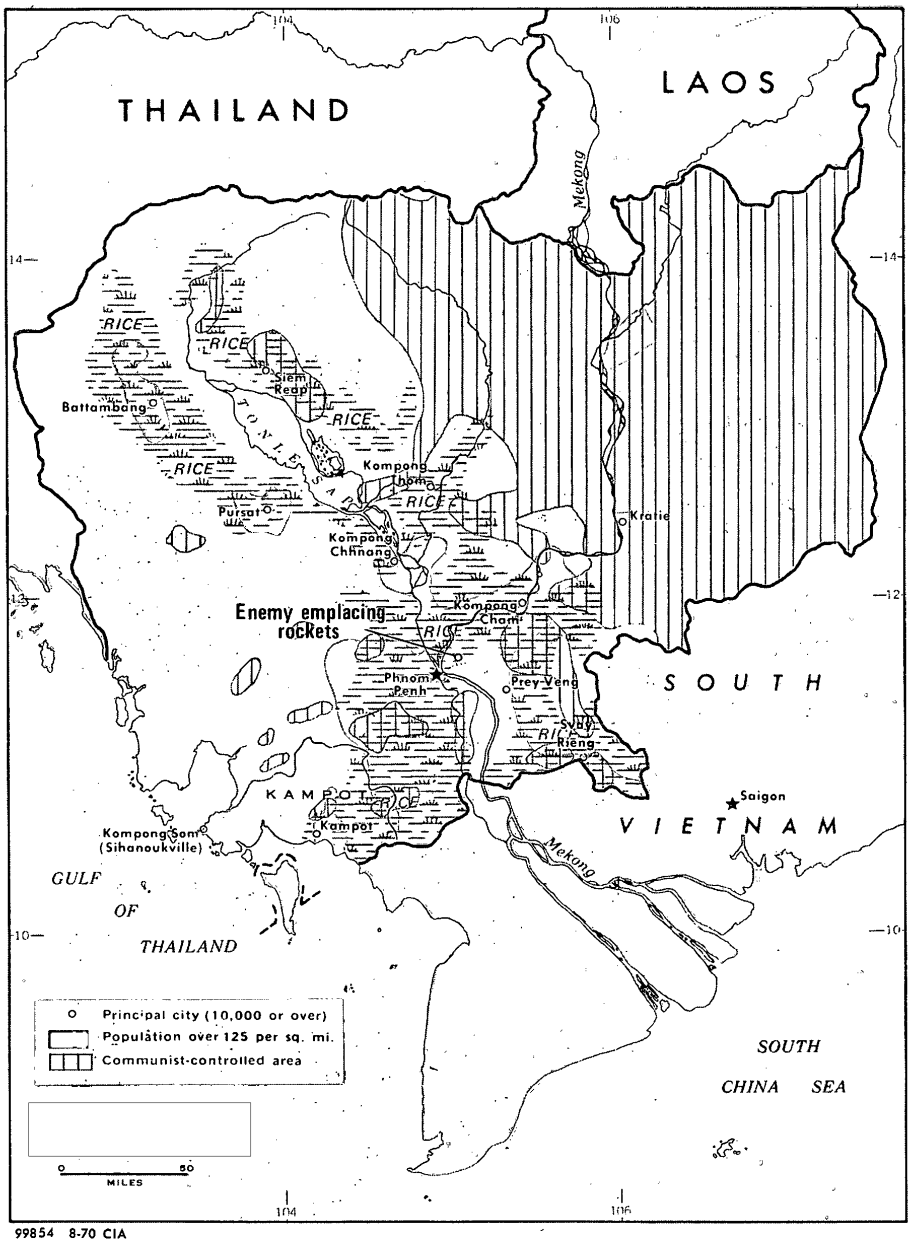
CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

The Communists have been increasing their activity in the Phnom Penh area over the past two weeks, but no additional fighting has been reported there since 29 August. [redacted] the Communists are emplacing Soviet-made 122-mm. rockets about 10-12 miles northeast of Phnom Penh, possibly within range of the city. Although Phnom Penh has been free from harassment so far, the Communists could probably hit it with rocket or mortar fire. 50X1 50X1

Communist forces--half of them ethnic Cambodians--are reportedly moving freely in the rural areas of Kampot Province propagandizing and recruiting villagers. [redacted] their success has been somewhat limited because of the peasants' fear of government reprisals should the Communists leave the area. In one instance, however, the Communists were able to overrun a village when its self-defense force refused to fight because its commander, a National Assembly deputy, had failed to pay them and had not provided promised weapons. 50X1

* * *

Prime Minister Lon Nol told an Asian journalist that the government can rely on the solid support of only about half of the Cambodian Army, because its rapid expansion brought in recruits who probably still admire and respect Prince Sihanouk. Lon Nol asserted that there has been no dissension within the army thus far, but suggested that trouble could break out if the troops were to suffer a major defeat.

In the past, government leaders have only grudgingly admitted that Sihanouk retained some support in the countryside. They have argued that his identification with the Communists has largely dissipated his once considerable popularity. Lon Nol's recent remarks indicate the government may be ready to admit it has a problem because of popular support for the Communists. [redacted] 50X1

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FRANCE - COMMUNIST CHINA

50X1

50X1

Pompidou may see the Far East and Southeast Asia as a promising sphere for action at this point. Paris has long coveted a role in the Far East and Southeast Asia as evidenced by its recognition of China in 1964 and its continuing efforts to participate in any Southeast Asian settlement. An active French role in European detente efforts has been challenged temporarily by Bonn and in the Middle East by the US cease-fire initiative. The French may have been encouraged to seek expanded Sino-French ties by the warm reception accorded Bettencourt during his July trip.

There is no indication yet that the Chinese have agreed to a Pompidou visit, but Peking probably sees value in warmer ties with Paris. The Chinese are currently attempting to better relations with a number of states as part of an effort to circumscribe the influence of the "superpowers." Moreover, both Peking and Paris are interested in expanding economic ties.

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USSR

The Soviets launched a modified SS-13 ICBM from Plesetsk on 29 August. As in a similar test conducted earlier this month, the missile flew a distance of only 1,100 miles in what was probably a reduced-range test of the system.

This was the eighth firing of the modified SS-13 since testing began in January 1970, and the second launch to a reduced range. We cannot be certain about the precise nature of the modifications currently being tested, but they probably involve a new re-entry vehicle and, possibly, alterations to the missile itself.

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