

The President's Daily Brief

2 MARCH 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

2 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Hanoi may be trying some "carrot and stick" tactics
in an attempt to move the Paris talks off dead center.
(Page 1)

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[redacted] Middle
East. *(Page 3)*

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In Laos, the pace of the Communist offensive in the
north has slowed. *(Page 4)*

The Guatemalan Government fears violence in the after-
math of yesterday's election. *(Page 5)*

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NORTH VIETNAM

Two developments during the weekend suggest that Hanoi may be trying some "carrot and stick" tactics in an attempt to move the Paris talks off dead center. The "stick" took the form of a blunt assertion by Soviet diplomats in Paris that the Vietnamese Communists intend to break off the talks. American newsman Robert Boyd reports that Soviet Embassy officials in Paris told Cyrus Eaton and himself on 28 February that the Communists will "soon break off the talks" in an attempt to show that the US is responsible for the lack of progress.

The Soviet statements probably are part of an evolving effort by the North Vietnamese to test the diplomatic climate in Paris. The Communists may calculate that the prospect of a rupture at this point would dramatize their contention that the US has "downgraded" the talks and would generate pressure on President Nixon to appoint a new permanent head of the US delegation. Hanoi probably has had this objective in mind ever since it sent its Politburo "adviser" to the talks, Le Duc Tho, back to Paris in early February to attend the French Communist Party Congress. Tho has stayed on in Paris, presumably to play some role in the developing scenario.

A move--or even a threat--to break off the talks would be risky for the Communists without some steps to dress up their own bargaining positions. They seem to recognize that their intransigence has facilitated US and GVN efforts to show that the Communists are not interested in negotiations. This may be why there were some hints of a "carrot" in an interview of North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Trinh which was surfaced this weekend by Daniel DeLuce of the Associated Press.

(continued)

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The North Vietnamese appear to have set up this interview with some care, presumably in hopes of getting a special message across in the Western press. DeLuce was notified out of the blue several weeks ago that he could make a visit to North Vietnam in the latter half of February.

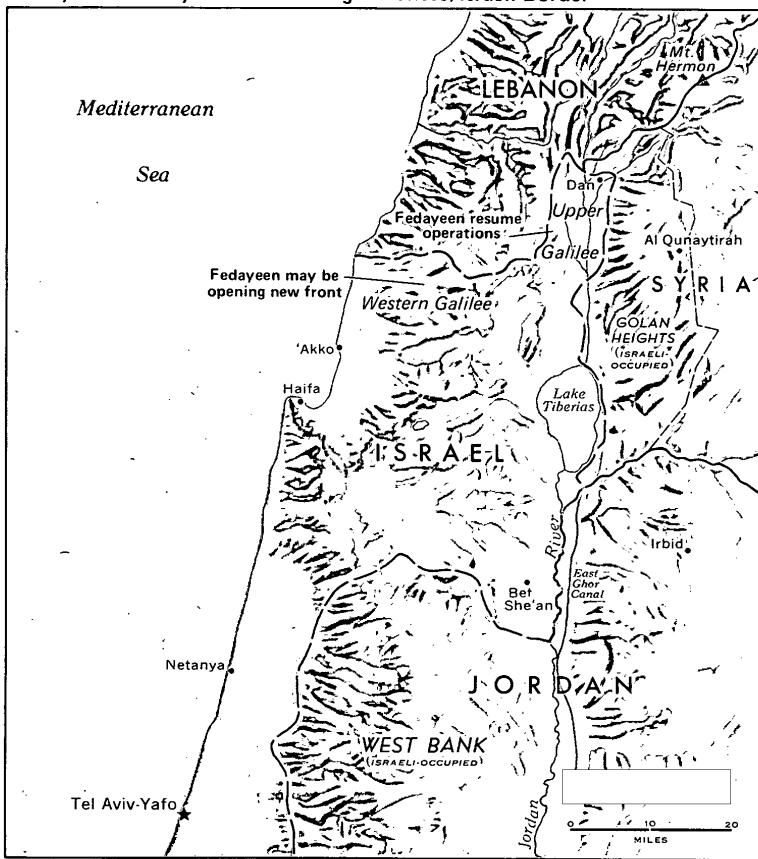
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DeLuce says that Trinh carefully elaborated for "a considerable time" in response to a question about the terms Hanoi might accept for a standstill cease-fire. At one point Trinh seems to have made agreement for such a cease-fire contingent only on the US accepting the principle of a total American troop withdrawal and the "right" of the South Vietnamese to settle their affairs themselves. At another point, however, he says that "genuine peace" could only be restored if the US commits itself to an unconditional troop withdrawal, elections, and the formation of a coalition government--all of which is standard Communist boilerplate.

It is conceivable that Trinh was trying to draw a distinction between a cease-fire and a political settlement, but this is not at all clear from DeLuce's account. If Hanoi intended Trinh's statement to have any special significance, the North Vietnamese are likely to broadcast their own version of the interview before long.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Fedayeen Activity Increases Along Lebanese/Israeli Border

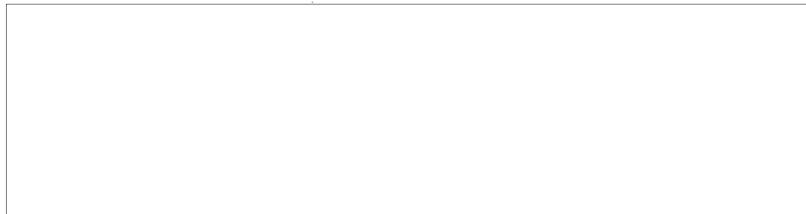


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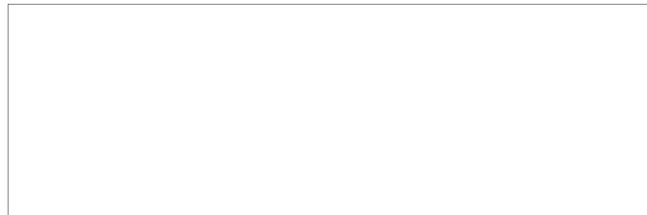
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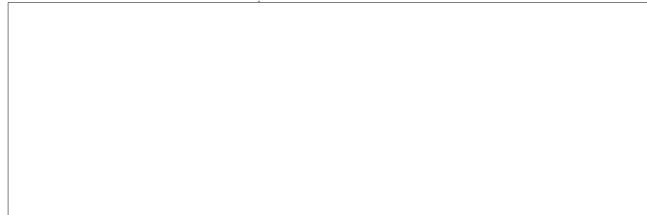
ARAB STATES - ISRAEL



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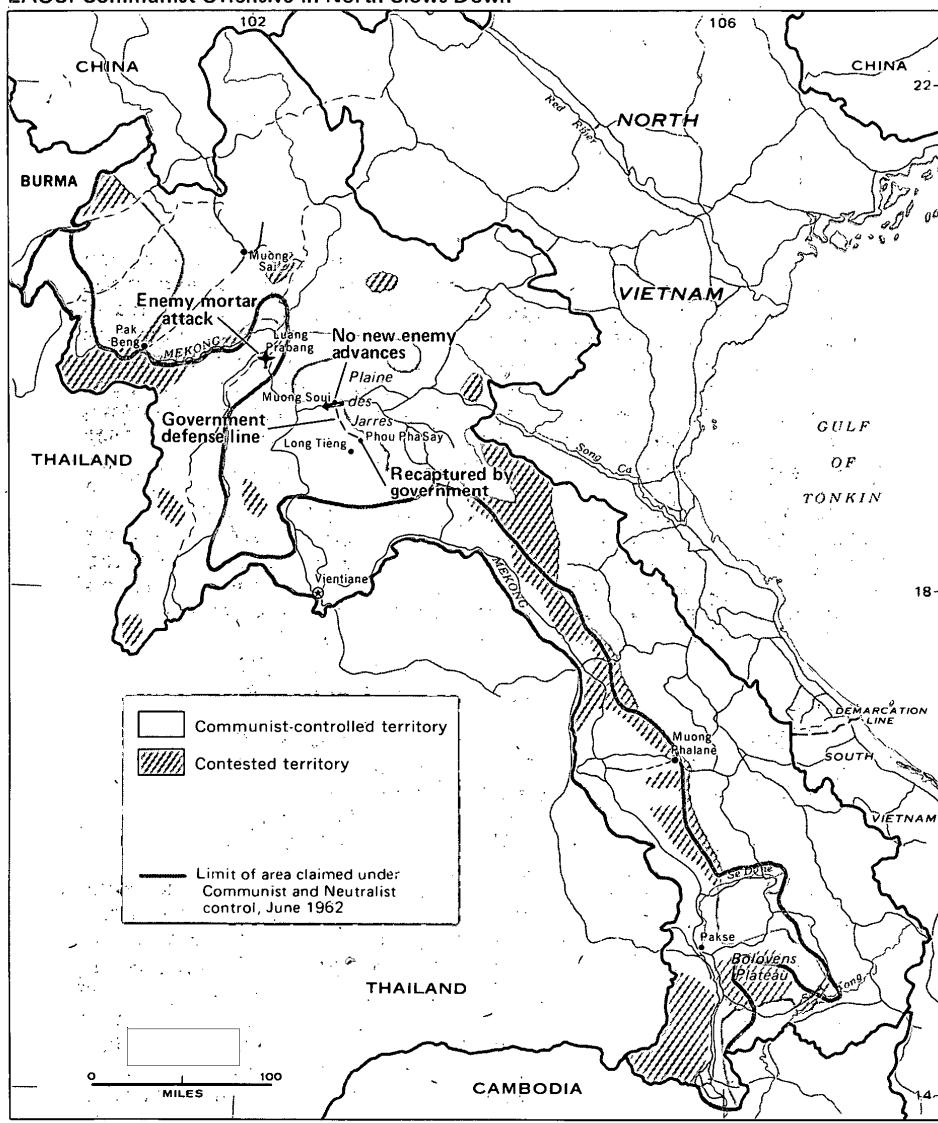
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[Redacted] Lebanon-based guerrillas are ignoring government restrictions and have resumed operations along the Israeli border. The fedayeen have violated the agreement reached with Beirut last November by moving several hundred men into southern Lebanon. They also have reconstituted full-scale paramilitary training in Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps despite public announcements that such training had ceased.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: Communist Offensive in North Slows Down



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LAOS

For the past few days enemy military action west and south of the Plaine des Jarres has remained at a relatively low level with only minor incidents reported.

Communist supply problems are probably behind the present lull. In addition to air-strikes, enemy efforts to move adequate supplies to forward positions probably have been hampered by the recent government evacuation of 15,000 refugees off the Plaine--an action which depleted the local coolie labor force.

Meanwhile, the Communists are attempting to play on government apprehension over the direction and extent of their offensive. In a press interview of 27 February, the Pathet Lao representative in Vientiane maintained that unless the bombing of Communist forces stops, the current campaign will go beyond the 1962 cease-fire line. He also said that if the bombing is halted the Communists might discontinue their attacks before reaching the 1962 line.

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GUATEMALA

Yesterday's general elections were free of violence, and voter turnout was heavy. There could be trouble, however, when the results of the balloting become clear. The government fears that die-hard rightists will take to the streets if rightist presidential candidate Colonel Carlos Arana loses and that Communist terrorists will exploit the situation. The government also believes it may be without an effective air arm in such a crisis because most of the first-line combat pilots are strong Arana supporters.

The early returns are inconclusive, but both Arana's party and the left-of-center opposition have already broadcast charges of government fraud. The reaction of Arana and his supporters within the military will indeed be pivotal to the election aftermath. Arana, himself, has pledged to keep any challenge of the results within legal channels.

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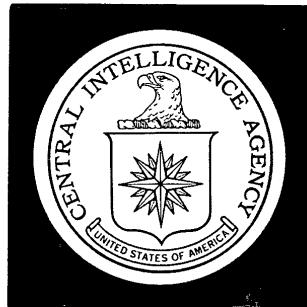
NOTES

Rhodesia: On 27 February Ethiopia's foreign minister warned Ambassador Hall that even moderate black African states will react sharply if the US consulate in Salisbury remains open. Specifically, the foreign minister said that failure to close the consulate would probably result in a resolution by the Organization of African Unity strongly condemning the US. Today, Rhodesia declared itself a republic--a move sure to prompt additional pressure on the US by both black African states and London.

Cuba: The seizure of a privately-owned US fishing boat by Cuba yesterday is probably the result of Havana's hypersensitivity to exile raids. Militant exile groups use both fishing boats and merchant ships for infiltration missions. Castro's security forces probably became suspicious of the American craft when it neared the north coast of Camaguey Province. The boat--which reportedly is outfitted for treasure-hunting rather than fishing--was boarded by two Cubans and escorted to the port of La Isabela for inspection. If it did not violate Cuba's three-mile limit, the boat will probably be released as soon as Havana is satisfied that it was not involved in exile activities.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Arana has a comfortable plurality in Guatemala's presidential elections, but it may be necessary for the legislature to select the next president. (Page 1)

Madrid plans to emphasize security guarantees during the negotiations on US bases in Spain. (Page 2)

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The Cambodian Government is concerned about Communist-led insurgency along its frontiers. (Page 4)

The East German politburo is divided over how to conduct the Brandt-Stoph talks. (Page 5)

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GUATEMALA

The returns from 313 of 325 municipalities indicate that rightist candidate Colonel Carlos Arana has a comfortable plurality but is short of a majority of the votes cast in the elections for President last Sunday. In the absence of a majority for any one candidate the constitution requires the congress to select the President from the two top vote-getters. The constitution does not, however, indicate when the unicameral legislature should elect the President or specify whether the incumbent or newly-elected legislature is responsible for the choice.

The congressional races show signs of independent vote splitting, and the final results are not yet available. The electoral registry, its performance handicapped by the shooting of the director last week, is in a state of confusion, and Arana is irritated by what he believes is a deliberate effort to stall the final tally.

Guatemala's electorate apparently was drawn to Arana's emphasis on the need for law and order. Acts of terrorism during the campaign, including the dramatic kidnaping of the foreign minister, underscored the government's inability to control violence and probably contributed to Arana's upset victory.

The presidential succession is not until 1 July and the intervening period will be delicate. If Arana does not receive a majority, the ill-defined provisions for the second-stage of the presidential elections will allow considerable room for disruptive political maneuvering.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SPAIN

Spain intends to use a new approach in renegotiating the agreement for US bases. The Spanish ambassador told Assistant Secretary Hillenbrand last week that Madrid "has completely abandoned the idea of granting bases for money." Instead the new Spanish Government wants the US to assist it in obtaining "multilateral arrangements" as a means of getting protection from the risk the bases entail for Spain. The ambassador claimed he had the impression that Washington sees a solution based on Spanish association with NATO or with some new western Mediterranean organization.

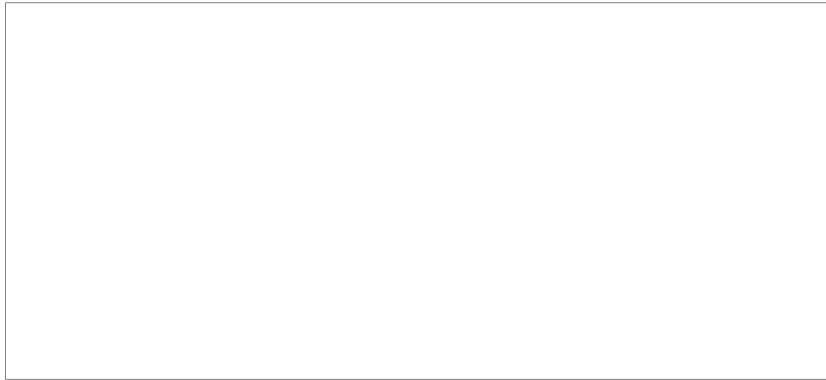
This new approach probably reflects Franco's instructions, which presumably will be spelled out later this month when Foreign Minister Bravo visits Washington.

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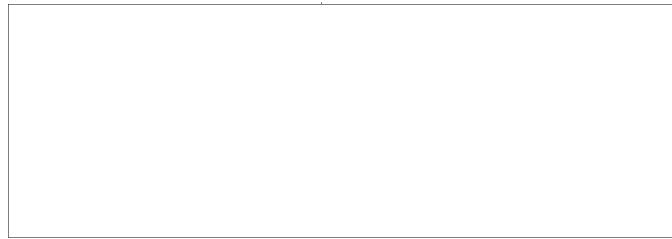
We know the Spaniards need additional financing for their armed forces, however, and despite the emphasis on a new approach, we expect the negotiations to be difficult.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MIDDLE EAST

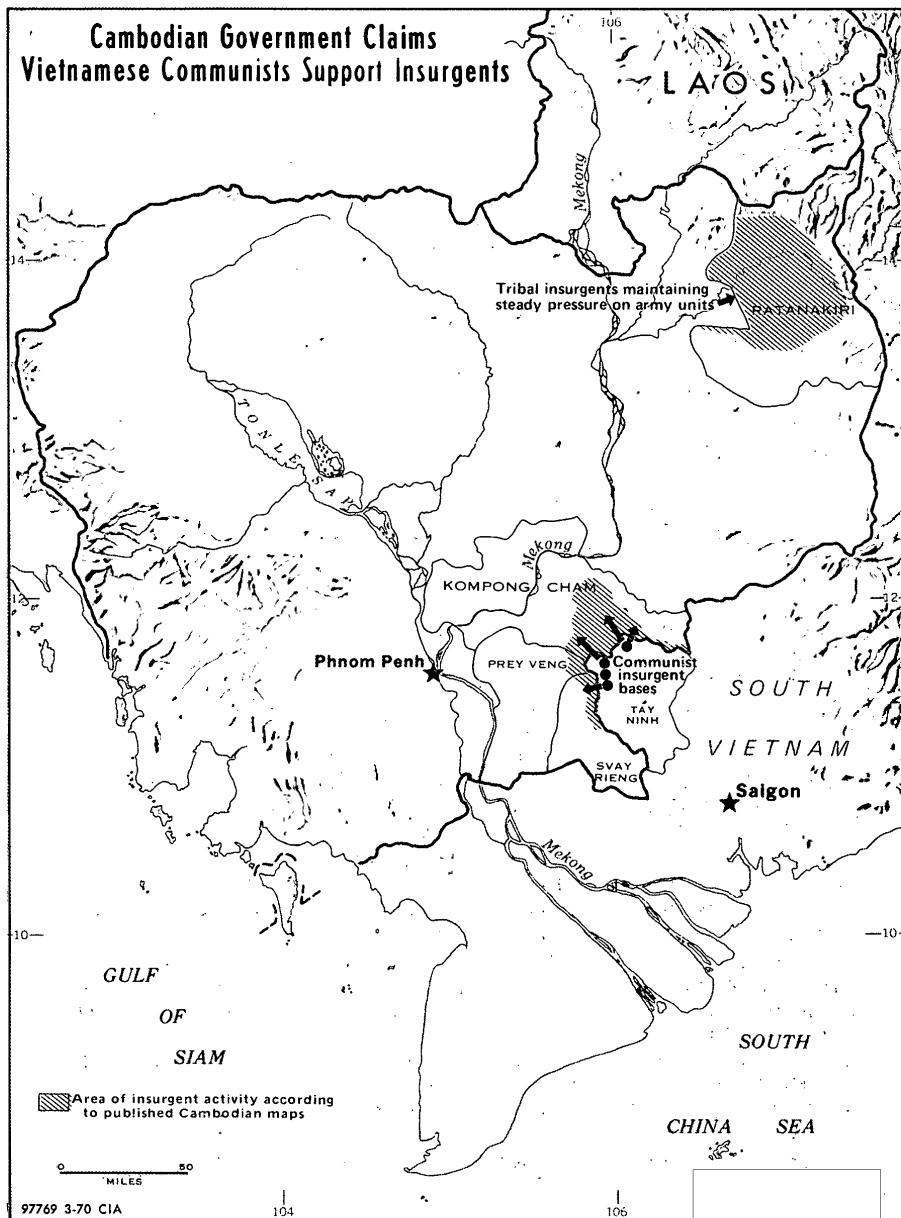


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CAMBODIA

The government, in an article published in an official journal and attributed to Prime Minister Lon Nol, has been unusually explicit on Vietnamese Communist promotion of insurgency. Lon Nol charges that in three southeastern border provinces at least five Khmer Rouge guerrilla bands, aggregating about 450 men, are operating out of Viet Cong - controlled areas in South Vietnam. He asserts that they plan to extend their influence westward.

These guerrilla bands, the article alleges, are led by long-time Cambodian Communist Party members, some of whom were trained in North Vietnam. Some of the guerrillas are described as native Cambodians but most are said to belong to the ethnic Cambodian minority in South Vietnam.

It is not possible to vouch for the authenticity of these claims, but it has not been Cambodian practice to publish such material without something to back it up.

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[redacted] the Cambodians have encountered some insurgents in this area for at least two years. If the Vietnamese are involved, it is likely that they are using the insurgents to help establish and protect secure base areas on Cambodian soil. Hanoi has consistently assured Phnom Penh that it is not supporting the insurgents.

Whatever the facts of the matter, Phnom Penh takes the insurgency threat seriously.

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EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY

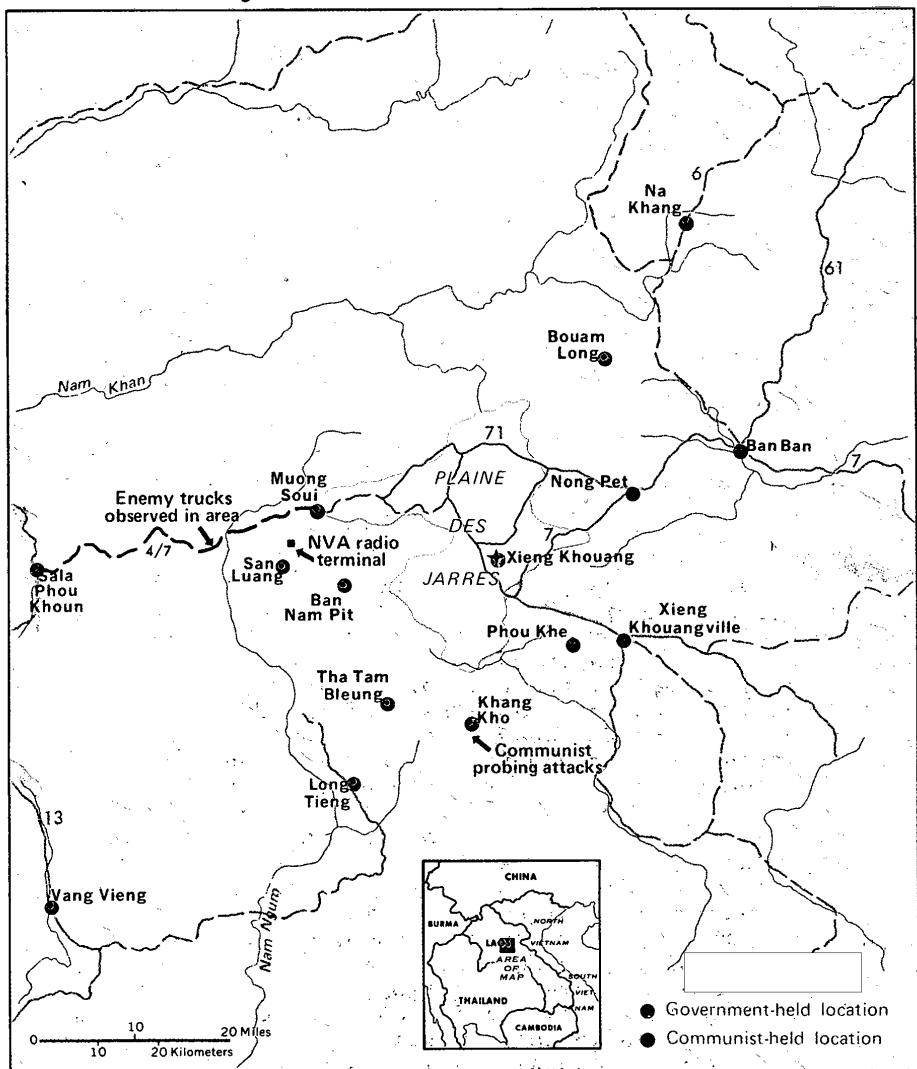
Horst Ehmke, a Minister in the West German Chancellery, told Ambassador Rush yesterday that a violent controversy had taken place within the East German politburo over the way the Brandt-Stoph talks should be handled. Politburo members Honecker and Norden, supported by a majority of the politburo, were adamantly opposed to Ulbricht's and Stoph's plan to conduct relatively businesslike talks with Brandt. The controversy was only resolved by Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko, who traveled to East Germany to oblige the opposition to accept Ulbricht's proposal.



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Communists Moving West of Plainé



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NOTES

Laos: Government patrols recently have sighted enemy movements some 12 miles west of the former government base at Muong Soui. In addition, a North Vietnamese radio terminal associated with the 316th Division has appeared five miles southwest of Muong Soui. This is the second terminal to move into this area in the past week and the enemy may be considering attacks against the newly-strengthened government positions at San Luang and Ban Nam Pit. South of the Plain the Communists continue to probe General Vang Pao's defenses in the Khang Kho area and may eventually strike the government outpost at Tha Tam Bleung.

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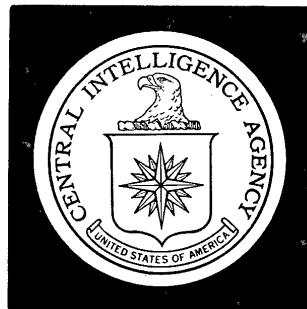
USSR-China: [redacted]

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Austria: Both Socialist leader Kreisky and out-going Chancellor Klaus have voiced support for reviving the "Grand Coalition," which governed from 1945 to 1966, in the wake of Sunday's election which gave the Socialists a plurality for the first time. President Jonas is expected momentarily to ask Kreisky to form a government, a task which may be completed before the weekend. Foreign policy is not an issue between the two parties, and differences on domestic questions should not prove insurmountable. We expect a smooth transition of power which should not affect the forthcoming SALT talks in Vienna.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Vietnam

(Page 1)

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Egyptian officers and their Soviet advisers is discussed on Page 2.

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The Soviets

(Page 3)

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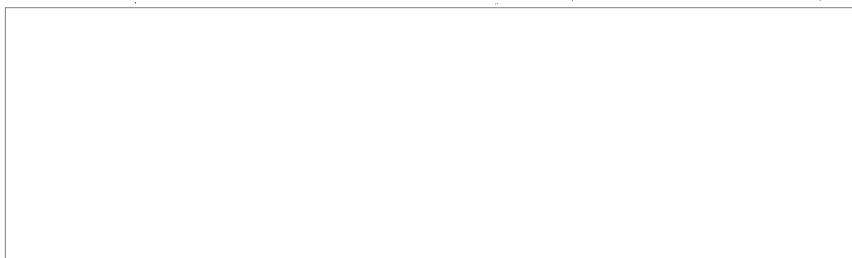
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Little new fighting has been reported in Laos.
(Page 3)

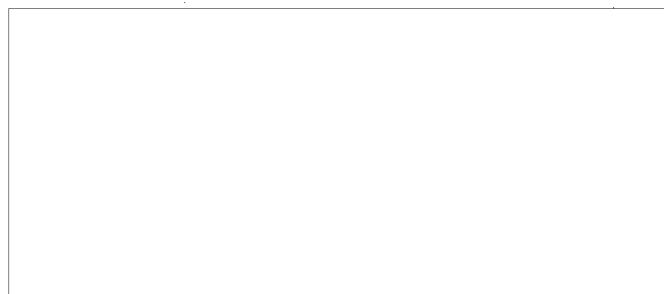
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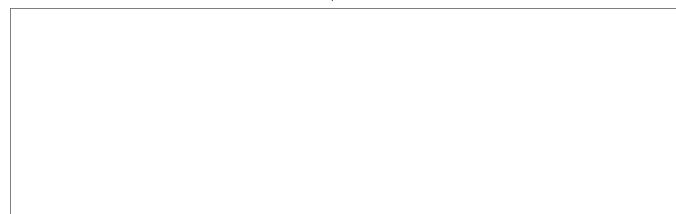
VIETNAM



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USSR-EGYPT

[redacted] fric-
tion between Egyptian military officers and their
Soviet advisers.

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[redacted] Egyptians are smarting
under "negative criticism" and that the Soviet of-
ficers denigrate the capabilities of Egyptian of-
ficers and men.

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[redacted] How-
ever unhappy, the Egyptians are not apt
to allow ill will at this level to inter-
fere with military operations or with in-
tergovernmental relations.

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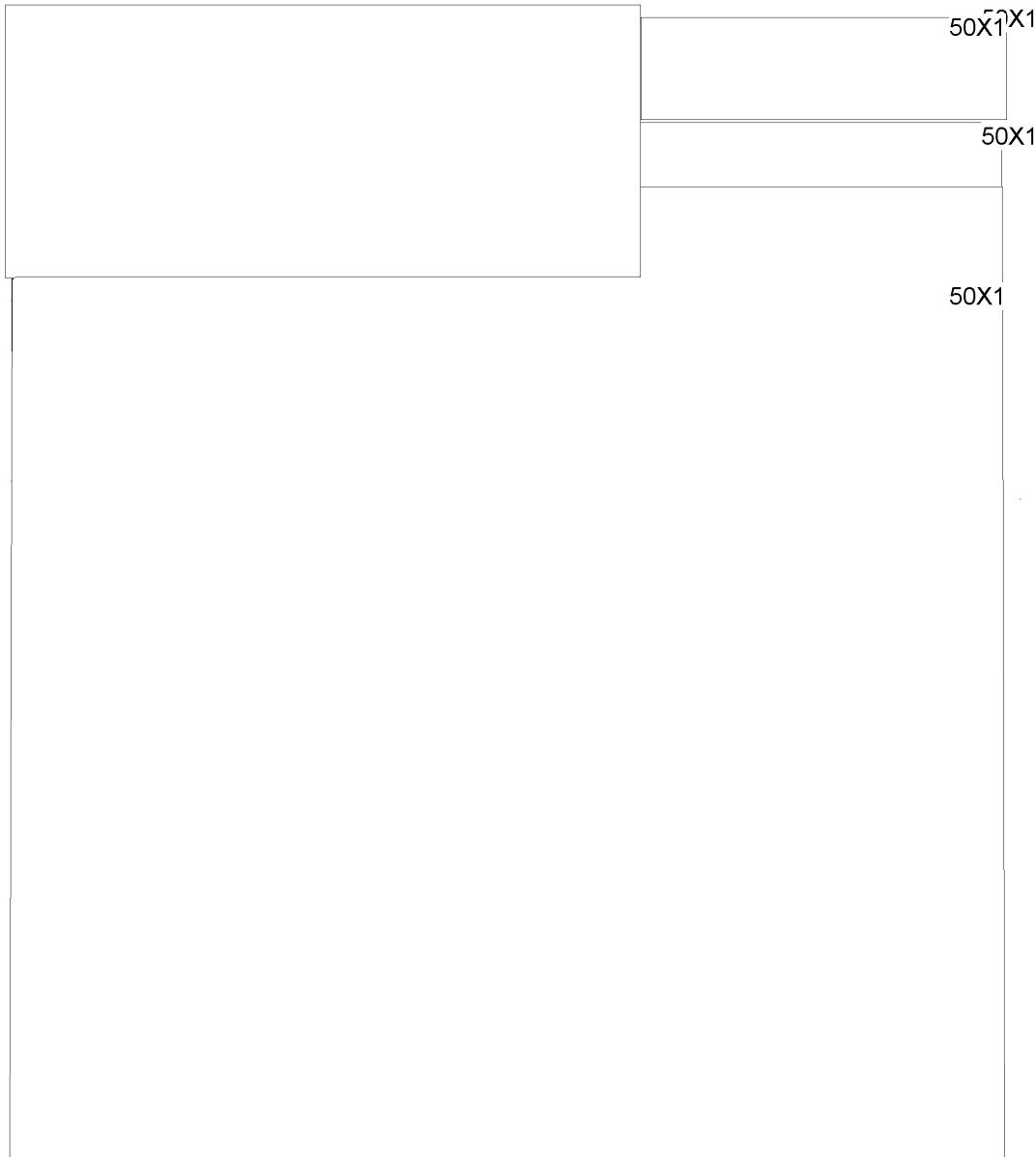
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Eight Soviet transport planes have arrived in Egypt since 25 February. This is the third series of such flights since November. Twelve aircraft flew in during the second half of that month, and 23 arrived between 18 and 28 January. At least three of the planes in the present series probably brought in Soviet technicians from the MIG-21 plant in Moscow.

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[redacted]
Details of the cargoes are unknown, but we suspect that aviation and air defense equipment made up a good part of them. The specialities of the technicians are also unknown, but Moscow may be planning to improve operational maintenance of the MIGs now in Egypt or even to modify the aircraft in light of combat experience.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**NOTES**

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Laos: The military situation around the Plaine des Jarres remains essentially unchanged. The Communists are limiting themselves to minor probing activity. It may be a matter of weeks before the enemy can bring up enough men and supplies to make a more concerted effort against government positions south and west of the Plaine.

Philippines: Philippine security forces had little difficulty breaking up the attempt yesterday by about 1,000 student radicals to converge on the US Embassy. The attempt on the embassy was the outgrowth of a march of up to 10,000 in protest against a police raid on a college campus last week. More agitation against both the government and the embassy can be expected.

Malaysia: Uncertainties in the leadership are contributing to the government's failure to grapple with the host of problems left in the backwash of last year's communal outbreaks.

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Rahman, who has been in the process of retiring for some years, is again talking of delaying his retirement, this time beyond the June date he had earlier led Razak to expect.

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So far no significant opposition has emerged, but if the drift continues, trouble could develop, particularly in the military, where senior officers already admit to muttering on the part of those they describe as "hotheads."

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(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

UN-Rhodesia: London's request for a Security Council meeting on Rhodesia is probably intended to head off more radical African initiatives. The Africans will be torn between a resolution all of the permanent members can support and a more extreme one urging the UK to use force and possibly extending the economic sanctions against Rhodesia to include South Africa and Portuguese-ruled Mozambique. The continued presence of the US consulate in Salisbury will likely also be a sore point with the Africans

[redacted] The Council meeting was to have taken place today, but the Africans obtained a delay, no doubt to get their tactics sorted out.

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Soviet Jews back the USSR's Middle East policy.
(Page 1)

[redacted] Jordan [redacted] 50X150X1
[redacted] (Page 2) [redacted] 50X1

Libyan troops are coming back from Egypt. (Page 3)

At Annex [redacted] Soviet [redacted] 50X150X1
[redacted]

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR - MIDDLE EAST

At a Soviet Foreign Ministry press conference yesterday, Deputy Premier Dymshits--the highest ranking Jew in the hierarchy--denied that Egypt has asked for "MIG-23s." He acknowledged the presence of Soviet advisers in Egypt but sidestepped a question on providing Soviet pilots.

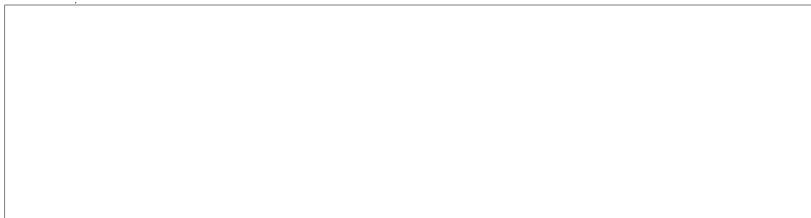
A number of prominent Soviet Jews participated in the conference, apparently to demonstrate that Soviet Jewry is united behind Moscow's policy. They had signed a statement castigating Israeli aggression which was read at the beginning of the conference.

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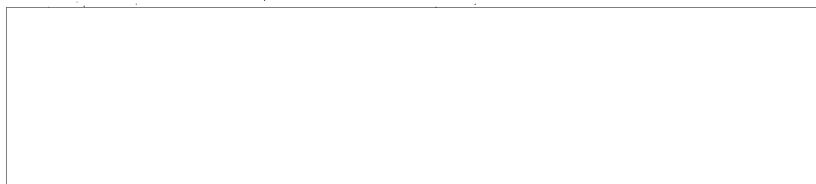
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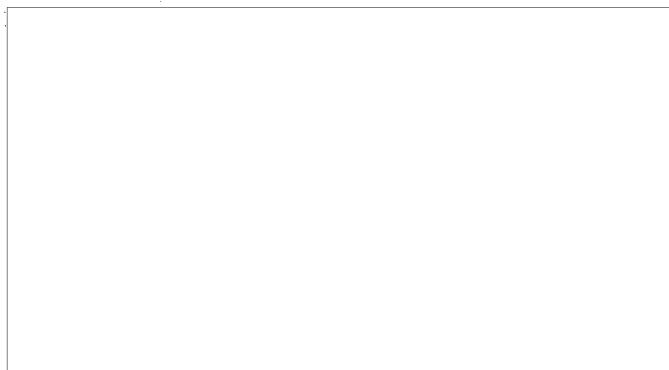
JORDAN



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LIBYA

The "Libya First" faction in the ruling Revolutionary Command Council has apparently won out, at least temporarily, over the pro-Egyptian faction.

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all the Libyan troops stationed in Egypt since January have already been brought home or soon will be. In recent months the troop issue has been a source of increasing dissension within the Council.

The decision to withdraw the troops reflects the unpopularity in Libya of the rigidly pro-Egyptian policies initially pursued by the new regime. Anti-Egyptian sentiment is particularly strong in Cyrenaica, where proximity to Egypt has resulted in traditional suspicion of Cairo.

The return of the troops probably will help to hold the Council together

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The issue of growing Egyptian influence in Libya remains, and the return of the troops does not mean that Libya will modify its strong Arab-nationalist, anti-Israeli, anti-Western policies in its diplomatic activities and propaganda output.

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NOTES

Guatemala: With the victory of rightist presidential candidate Colonel Arana, the possibility of an electoral crisis has receded. The government's defeat is testimony to the honesty of the vote count. Terrorism could erupt again at any time, however, partly because of Arana's promise to campaign against it. This promise, linked with his reputation as Guatemala's foremost anti-Communist, may incite a new wave of subversive activity before he takes office on 1 July.

Venezuela-Guyana: No cross-border shooting has been reported since the incidents of 23 February

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Venezuelan authorities maintain they have only peaceful intentions. Their respect for world opinion and their concern about possible reactions from Brazil would lend plausibility to such statements. Yet the breadth and intensity of their activities in the east are grossly out of proportion to any possible Guyanese threat.

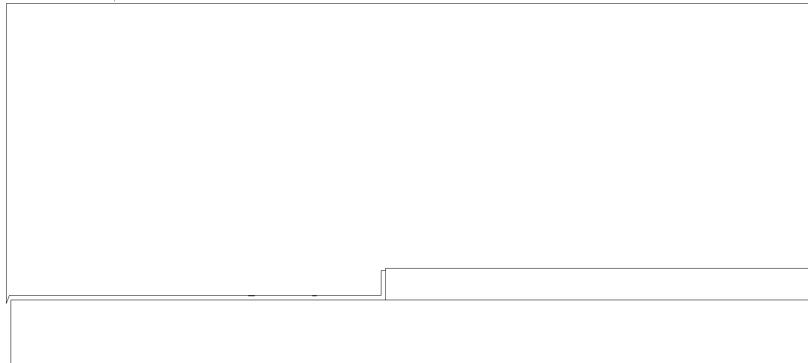
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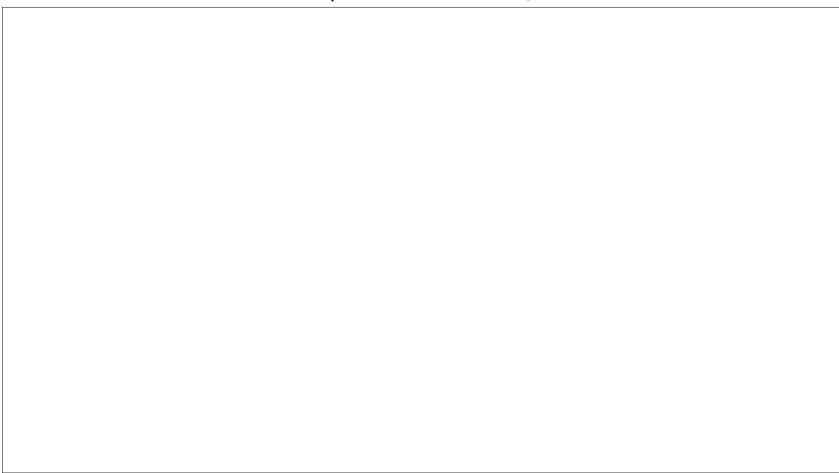
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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

There has been a new flare-up along the Lebanon-Israel border. (Page 1)

More on the running confrontation between Jordan and the fedayeen. (Page 2)

Moscow [redacted] Finnish [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] (Page 3) 50X1

A realignment of some Chinese military units in South China appears under way. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON

There has been a new flare-up along the Lebanon-Israel border.

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An Israeli spokesman also told the press that there had been a clash with fedayeen "near the Lebanese lines" in which one Israeli soldier was killed and two wounded.

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JORDAN

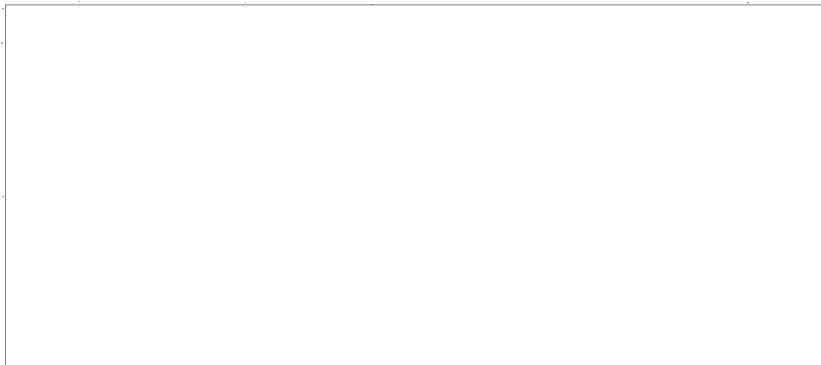
Negotiations between the regime and the United Fedayeen Command on the implementation of the compromise agreement of late February were scheduled to begin on 4 March. The talks will center on who controls the commandos in Jordan--a key point deliberately left vague in the compromise agreement. The fedayeen are insisting that they merely agreed to discipline themselves and should deal with all offenders in their own courts; the government, however, intended to allow the fedayeen to deal only with internal squabbles.

The confrontation between the regime and the fedayeen has now entered a new and crucial stage. If serious problems arise in the negotiations, more trouble is possible. The army is reportedly still bitter and resentful toward the fedayeen as a result of last month's clashes. Commando leader Yasir Arafat, for his part, seems convinced that the King intends to use the army to crush the fedayeen movement in Jordan. Arafat is said to be eager to avoid a showdown, but splits within the ranks of the fedayeen could give a louder voice to the more extreme factions.

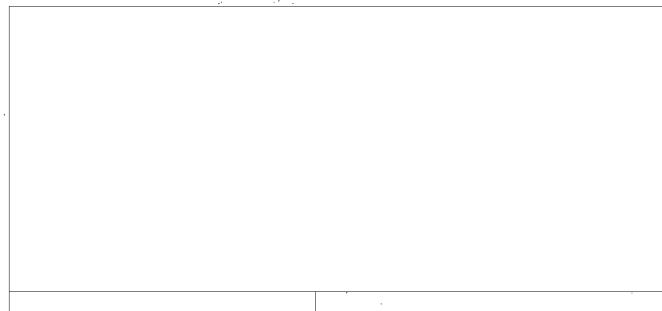
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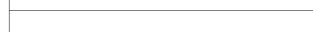
FINLAND-USSR



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COMMUNIST CHINA

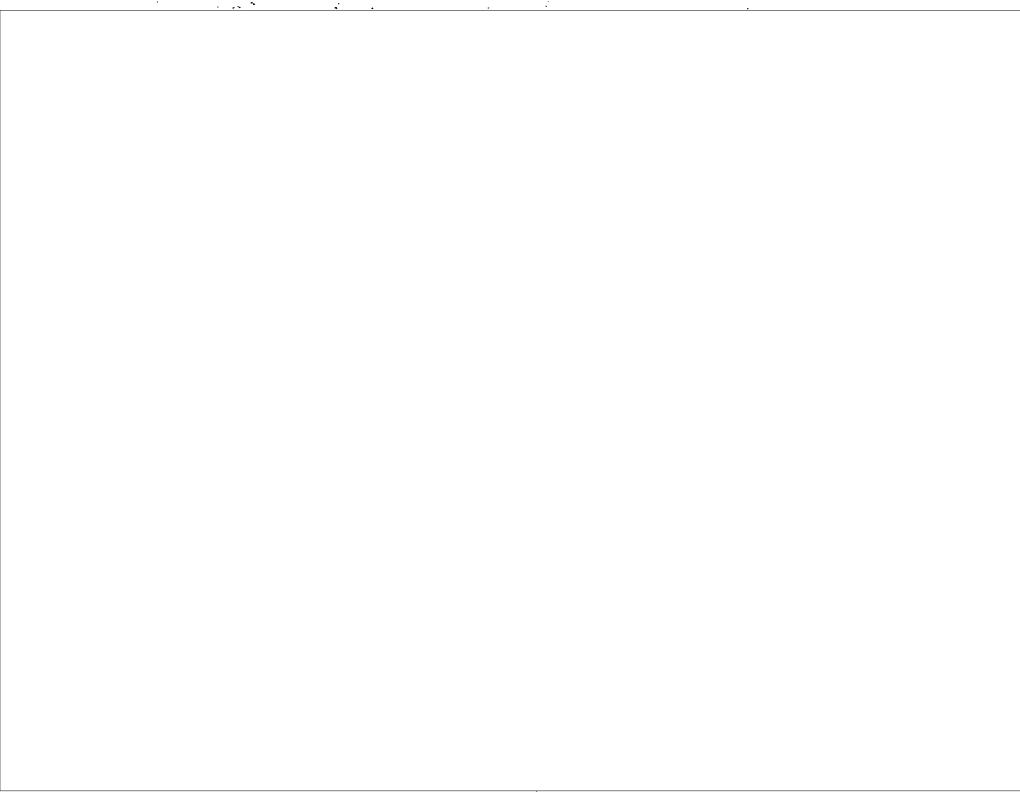
Peking appears to be realigning some of its military forces in south China. Since early February the communications of two Chinese armies in Yunnan Province have shown irregularities, including the passing of alert signals and standby operations.

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The purpose behind this ground force activity is unclear. It could reflect a state of heightened military preparedness in the area or could merely be part of a routine rotation of forces, similar to one that took place in south China a year ago. A troop realignment could even be dictated by the Chinese military's deep involvement in the domestic political situation.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR: The Soviets launched two ABM interceptors from Sary Shagan yesterday, probably modified versions of the Galosh missile.

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This was the second test of the modified Galosh in eight days and the 12th test detected since the test program began in August 1968.

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NATO: Secretary-General Brosio has called for an informal meeting of the senior Allied representatives on 24 March to discuss the implications for the Alliance of President Nixon's recent report on US foreign policy. Last month Brosio told the US representative that he regards the report as a signal to him personally and to the Europeans in general to start serious thinking about the need for Europeans to play a larger role in the future of the Alliance. Brosio's call for a meeting was favorably received and is an indication of the keen interest at NATO in assessing the impact of the report on Western European defense strategy.

USSR - West Germany: Neither side offered anything new during the opening session of the Bahr-Gromyko talks last Tuesday, according to West German Ambassador Allardt. Bonn had hoped the pause in the talks, which allowed the two negotiators to confer with their respective governments, might result in new Soviet proposals. Moscow apparently expected the same thing from the West Germans. There may not be any movement at the Moscow talks until both sides get a chance to assess the Brandt-Stoph meeting.

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A remarkably definitive peace proposal was outlined yesterday by a Pathet Lao spokesman in a broadcast from Hanoi. (Page 1)

The war of nerves continues on the Lebanese-Israeli border with Beirut unable to control the fedayeen and Israel determined to eliminate terrorist activity along its border. (Page 4)

The Soviets finally responded to US proposals to ease the Middle East conflict at the four-power talks yesterday. (Page 5)

The Soviets may press hard at the SALT talks for an agreement which would prevent the transfer of strategic weapons to third countries. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

A Pathet Lao spokesman issued a statement from Hanoi yesterday that outlines the most explicit Communist terms to date for ending the war. The statement asserts that as a precondition to a political settlement the US must "stop escalating the war, completely cease the bombing of Lao territory without conditions, and withdraw all US advisers and military personnel from Laos." These demands are not new but the statement then goes well beyond previous Pathet Lao pronouncements and spells out what the Communists are prepared to do to end hostilities.

Specifically, the Pathet Lao have indicated that once the bombing is halted, they are prepared to accept a cease-fire. During this period, the Pathet Lao propose that a "consultative political conference composed of representatives of all Lao parties...set up a provisional coalition government." The statement goes on to add that the conference would establish a "security zone" to protect the normal functioning of this coalition government from pressures within or outside of the country.

This security zone proposal reflects Communist sensitivity to their past experiences trying to participate in a government in rightist-controlled Vientiane. While the proposal for a cease-fire would be welcome news in Vientiane, it is not without a price.

The Communists also are insisting that once a stand-down in military operations has been achieved, the "pro-American forces" must withdraw from areas they have "illegally" occupied and resettle all the refugees who have fled Communist-controlled areas of Laos. Furthermore, the Pathet Lao state that once a provisional coalition government has been established, they are prepared to participate in new general elections aimed at creating a new national assembly and government which would be "truly representative of the Lao people of all nationalities."

Hanoi has made it clear that the statement carries North Vietnam's full endorsement and has underscored its importance by allowing the statement to be made from Hanoi and broadcast internationally over the official North Vietnamese news agency.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The timing of the statement may provide some clues as to its purpose. Issued after the retrieval of the Plaine des Jarres, which until Vang Pao's offensive last year had been in Communist hands since 1963, it comes before the Communists have pushed into sensitive government-held areas. The statement comes at a time when neither side can claim a distinct or clear-cut advantage. It had been widely assumed, for example, that the Communists would have wanted to reintroduce their presence into all areas under their control in 1962 before moving toward negotiations. They have not yet done so and on balance the Communists today control fewer people and no more strategic territory than they did in 1962 or 1963.

This lends some credibility to their offer to seek a "political solution" and it probably will increase its acceptability in Vientiane. At the same time, however, by issuing the statement now, the Communists provide themselves with a political justification for intensified military activity, particularly should Souvanna reject it out of hand. The Communists presumably felt that they had to make some positive sounding response to Souvanna's political offer, first to "neutralize" the Plaine des Jarres and then, more recently, to reconvene the signers of the 1962 declaration.

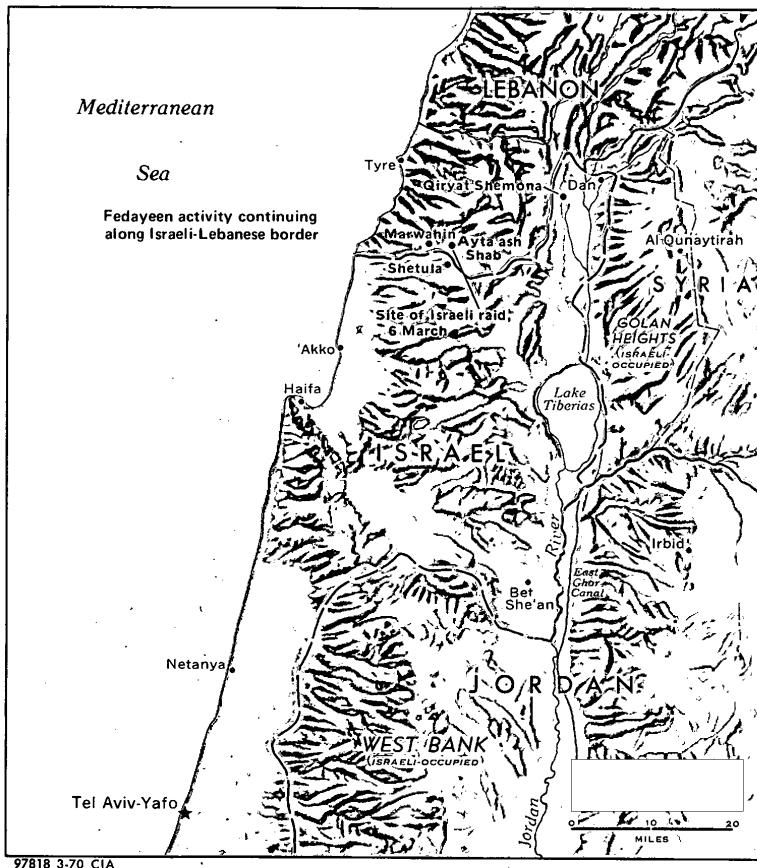
In making a "complete" cessation of US bombing in Laos--something which Hanoi must calculate would be unacceptable to Washington--a precondition to talks between the Lao factions, North Vietnam may hope to achieve a number of purposes. It is possible that in so doing they may hope to drive a wedge between Souvanna and the US, perhaps even causing Souvanna to publicly call for a cessation of US bombing. But Souvanna has made it clear both in statements to the North Vietnamese ambassador last year and in a press conference only yesterday, that what happens in the infiltration corridor is a subject for settlement between the United States and North Vietnam.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Even if Souvanna does not lend himself to such manipulation, the North Vietnamese hope the statement provides them with a decided political and propaganda advantage on the issue of Laos and its relation to the war in South Vietnam. The statement is clearly designed, at least in part, to play on growing fears in the US that the Laos war is getting out of hand.

The statement of 6 March may reflect more, however, than simply a North Vietnamese effort to embarrass the US or maneuver Washington into stopping the bombing in the infiltration corridor. It is conceivable, for example, that North Vietnam really wants to tamp down the fighting in North Laos. In the past two years the fighting has been extremely costly in lives and material and has demanded an ever growing number of front-line troops to achieve relatively limited gains.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON-ISRAEL

The possibility of fedayeen activity along the Israeli-Lebanese border continues to be a matter of intense concern in Tel Aviv and Beirut. Lebanese President Hilu's assertion to Ambassador Porter on 5 March that a large Israeli force had crossed into Lebanon (see The President's Daily Brief of 6 March) has proven to be unfounded. There was a skirmish in the same general area on that day, but apparently the story was blown out of proportion before it reached Hilu.

Last night Israel carried out what it described as a warning raid across the border into central-southern Lebanon. The Israelis destroyed five houses allegedly associated with fedayeen activity and two Lebanese military posts.

At the root of the Lebanese sensitivity are the Israelis' repeated warnings and their threat to establish a "no-man's land" north of the border if the Lebanese fail to curb fedayeen activity in the area. The Israelis claim there has been an increase in commando activity there in recent weeks, and are concerned by the discovery on 3 March of an explosives cache in a village, and by other isolated terrorist activities.

Israel apparently will not be satisfied until the attacks on its frontier communities cease entirely. Tel Aviv's announced intention to create a unilaterally demilitarized, uninhabited zone along this border eventually may be carried out if terrorism continues.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR - MIDDLE EAST

At the four-power session yesterday the Soviets responded to long-standing US requests to make their position more explicit on the critical issues of withdrawal of Israeli forces and declaration of peace. Soviet representative Malik detailed the Soviet reactions to US peace proposals and elaborated on the USSR's proposals for withdrawal.

Malik's remarks constitute only a slight movement in the USSR's position and have the earmarks of an effort to gain time for further diplomatic--and perhaps military--moves in the Middle East. The Soviet response probably is intended to arouse interest and to put Washington under diplomatic pressure to calm the situation. Malik's statements reinforce other Soviet efforts to persuade the US to withhold a decision on new Phantom jet fighters for Israel and to press Tel Aviv to reduce its level of military activity. This in turn would aid current Soviet efforts to improve Egyptian air defenses.

With respect to Egypt, Moscow may believe that signs of progress in New York will help to put off Egyptian demands for new kinds of military aid that would expose the Soviets to new risks. There is no evidence that any new Soviet weapons system has yet been delivered to the UAR.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-SALT

On two recent occasions, second secretary Kulikov of the Soviet Embassy in London has tried to elicit US views on an agreement to prevent the transfer of strategic weapons to third countries. Kulikov said that Moscow wants to discuss this topic when the SALT talks resume next month and asked particularly if the US would sell the Poseidon missile to the UK.

The Soviets presented a proposal to prohibit the transfer of delivery vehicles to third countries at the Helsinki talks. Kulikov's remarks suggest that Moscow may pursue the subject with some vigor in an effort to limit US arms sharing arrangements with NATO allies.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

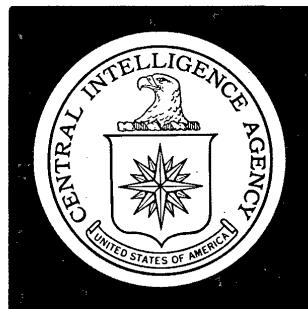
WEST GERMANY

The Bundesbank yesterday raised its discount rate from 6 to 7.5 percent, the highest rate in the postwar period. The cost-of-living index for January was 3.5 percent higher and the index of industrial prices 4.7 higher than those for January 1969.

This sharp rise in the discount rate, following immediately upon the reduction in the UK rate from 8 to 7.5 percent, demonstrates the impatience in West German banking circles with the government's failure to take stronger anti-inflationary measures. It also serves as a warning to business and labor to moderate their price and wage demands.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

9 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In a backgrounder for Gus Hall, a Soviet briefer describes a number of problems. (Page 1)

In Laos, the military situation remains static, and Communist leaders are still offering political settlement only on their own terms. (Page 3)

Pravda has printed the most authoritative commentary on SALT since the talks began. (Page 4)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

According to an FBI report, Soviet party officials have told Gus Hall, the head of the US Communist Party, that political maneuvering within the Soviet leadership may cause changes "at a very high level" in the Soviet hierarchy. These changes may take place at the next party congress, which will probably be held before the end of this year.

The Soviet leaders are said to be concerned that the Soviet Union and its allies are not keeping pace with the scientific and technological revolution. They feel that unless drastic steps are taken, the USSR will not catch up with the US. Some Soviet leaders reportedly fear that if the trend is not reversed soon, the USSR's political and military influence will suffer.

According to Hall's information, Brezhnev sharply criticized party and government officials by name at a party meeting in December. Some Soviet officials believe that he will attempt to find "scapegoats at a very high level." As additional divisive issues troubling the leadership, the report also cites some unspecified ideological problems at the prestigious Institute of Marxism-Leninism and also a continuing fight between factions within the Soviet party over Stalin's role in history. Despite policy rifts within the hierarchy, the "Brezhnev group" is described as "in firm command" and determined to permit no compromise of Communist principles.

We have had other indications of trouble in the leadership, brought to a head by the USSR's disappointing economic performance last year. The treatment of Brezhnev in this report has a partisan ring to it, however, and we suspect that it came from one of his Soviet supporters whose own hopes have colored the estimate of Brezhnev's political strength. We think it very likely that Brezhnev does hope to find "scapegoats" for the problems confronting the leadership, but we are not yet confident that he will succeed. Neither Brezhnev nor his possible challengers appear to have gained the upper hand in the three months since Brezhnev's December speech before the party, and the political jockeying probably will continue.

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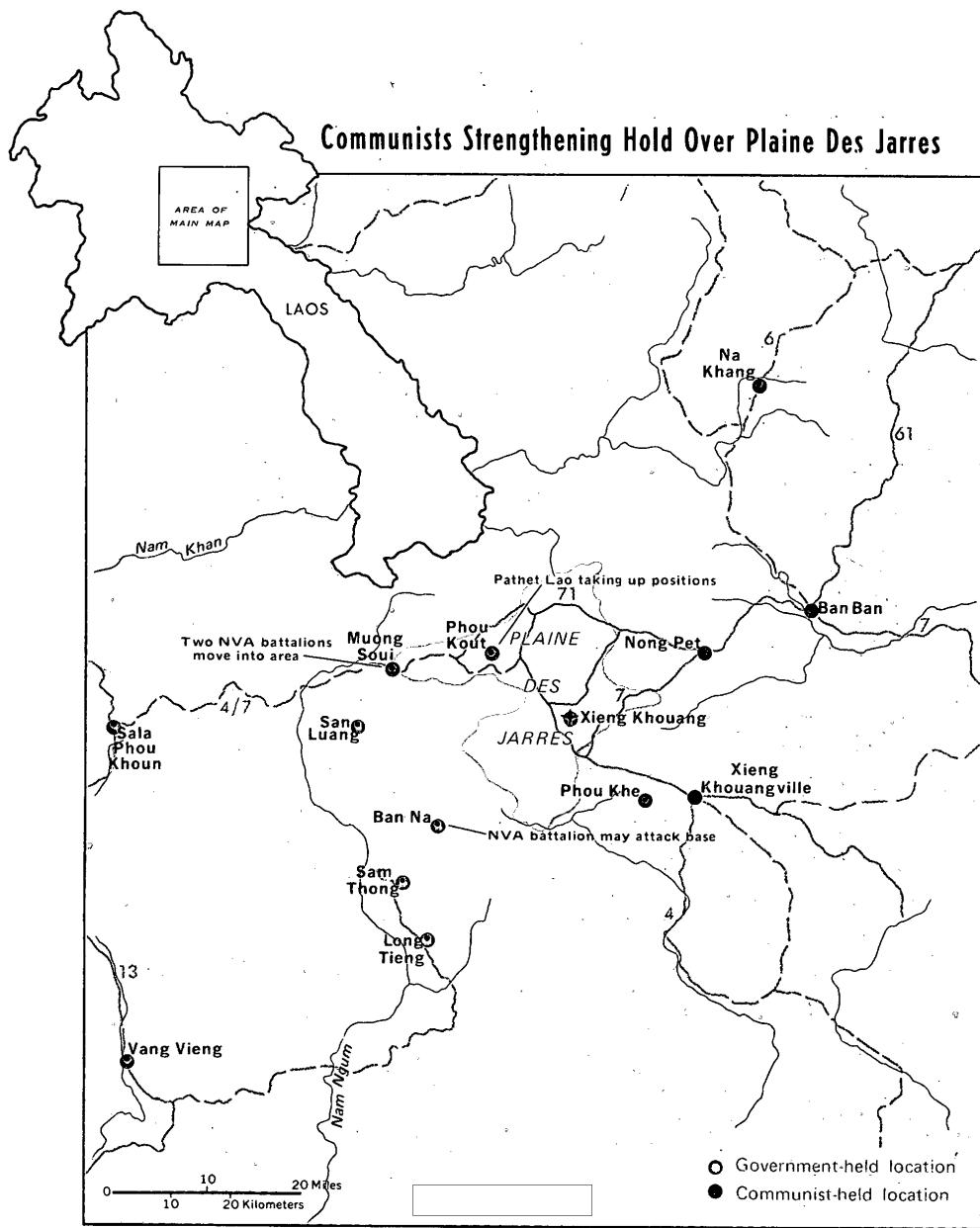
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The report also carries some remarks about foreign policy. Hall's Soviet sources claim that Soviet analysis of President Nixon's "State of the World" message has led Soviet leaders to fear a revival of US "cold war" policies. The Soviet Union is preparing for "negative relations" with the US, believing that the US will attempt to prolong negotiations with the Soviet Union while NATO becomes an armed camp. Soviet analysts believe that the US is allowing West Germany to seek detente with East Germany as a tactic to recoup influence lost in Eastern Europe with the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. Soviet officials also believe that the US is trying to exploit the Sino-Soviet rift and to use Communist China against the Soviet Union, despite US assurances to the contrary.

The report does not treat these as views on issues over which the Soviet leadership is divided. Nevertheless, we believe that they belong in that category along with the scientific-technological gap, "ideological problems," and Stalin's role in history. Given the pro-Brezhnev bias in the earlier part of the report, we suspect that these are Brezhnev's views, which are not necessarily shared by all the other Soviet leaders. In the past, both "ideological" discussions at the Institute of Marxism-Leninism and quarrels over Stalin's role in history have had important implications for Soviet foreign policy. We are confident that this is true today as well.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**LAOS**

In the north, Communist forces are continuing to consolidate their hold over the Plaine des Jarres. The North Vietnamese are placing antiaircraft artillery atop mountains surrounding the Plaine, according to intercepted messages. The enemy also is looking for locations north of the Plaine to emplace two of the 122-mm. field guns recently introduced from North Vietnam. The positioning of these artillery pieces in this relatively remote area suggests that at least some of these guns are meant to play a defensive rather than offensive role.

On the western side of the Plaine, the Pathet Lao are taking up positions on Phou Kout, the dominant terrain feature in this area. According to enemy communications, this will permit the North Vietnamese troops currently on the mountain to proceed farther west to Muong Soui.

As a result of the movement of as many as two North Vietnamese battalions into the Muong Soui area in recent days, the small number of government troops nearby have pulled back to the more strongly defended government outpost at San Luang.

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To the east, intercepts indicate that a North Vietnamese battalion may soon attack the government base at Ban Na.

On the political front, Communist reaction to President Nixon's statement on Laos has followed a standard line. Hanoi has emphasized those portions of the statement dealing with US activities in Laos. In addition, as a basis for a settlement, Hanoi cited the Lao Communists' statement of 6 March, which set forth their terms for ending the war. North Vietnam did not directly comment on President Nixon's statement regarding consultation among the signers of the 1962 Geneva accords on Laos. There has been no official Soviet reaction to President Nixon's statement, nor any public mention of his plea to the USSR to help restore peace in Laos. The unofficial commentary thus far available has, however, been negative.

Early this morning, the clandestine Pathet Lao News Agency released the text of a letter Prince Souphanouvong sent to Souvanna Phouma on Sunday suggesting an exchange of views between the Laotian leaders. Souphanouvong seems to intend an exchange of letters rather than a meeting, and, like Hanoi's spokesman, he wants to base a move toward peace on the Lao Communists' statement.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-SALT

A Pravda editorial of 7 March marked the most authoritative Soviet commentary on SALT since the talks began on 17 November. It was designed, in part at least, to build a case against the US if the talks should fail or become bogged down. It warned, for example, that the US should not revive its old concept of negotiating from a "position of strength," and stated that neither side should use the talks as a screen to cover up a new round in the arms race. However, the editorial concludes on a note of optimism, claiming an agreement can be reached in spite of difficulties if both sides conduct "honest" negotiations.

The editorial is consistent with recent
Soviet statements

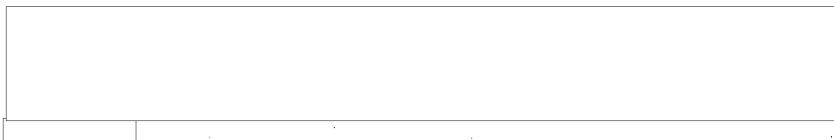
[redacted] which imply that Moscow's position in Vienna will be influenced by US actions between the talks. A major part of the Soviet propaganda effort has been a heavy dose of commentary inveighing against US plans for expanded deployment of an ABM system. This editorial is another yardstick by which to measure Moscow's concern about ABM plans in the US. It is also an attempt to refute US justification for an antimissile system.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FRANCE



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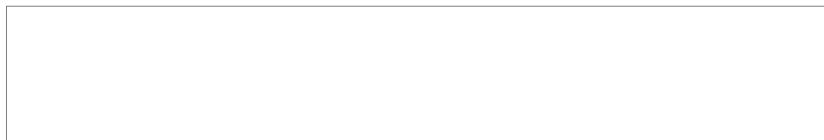
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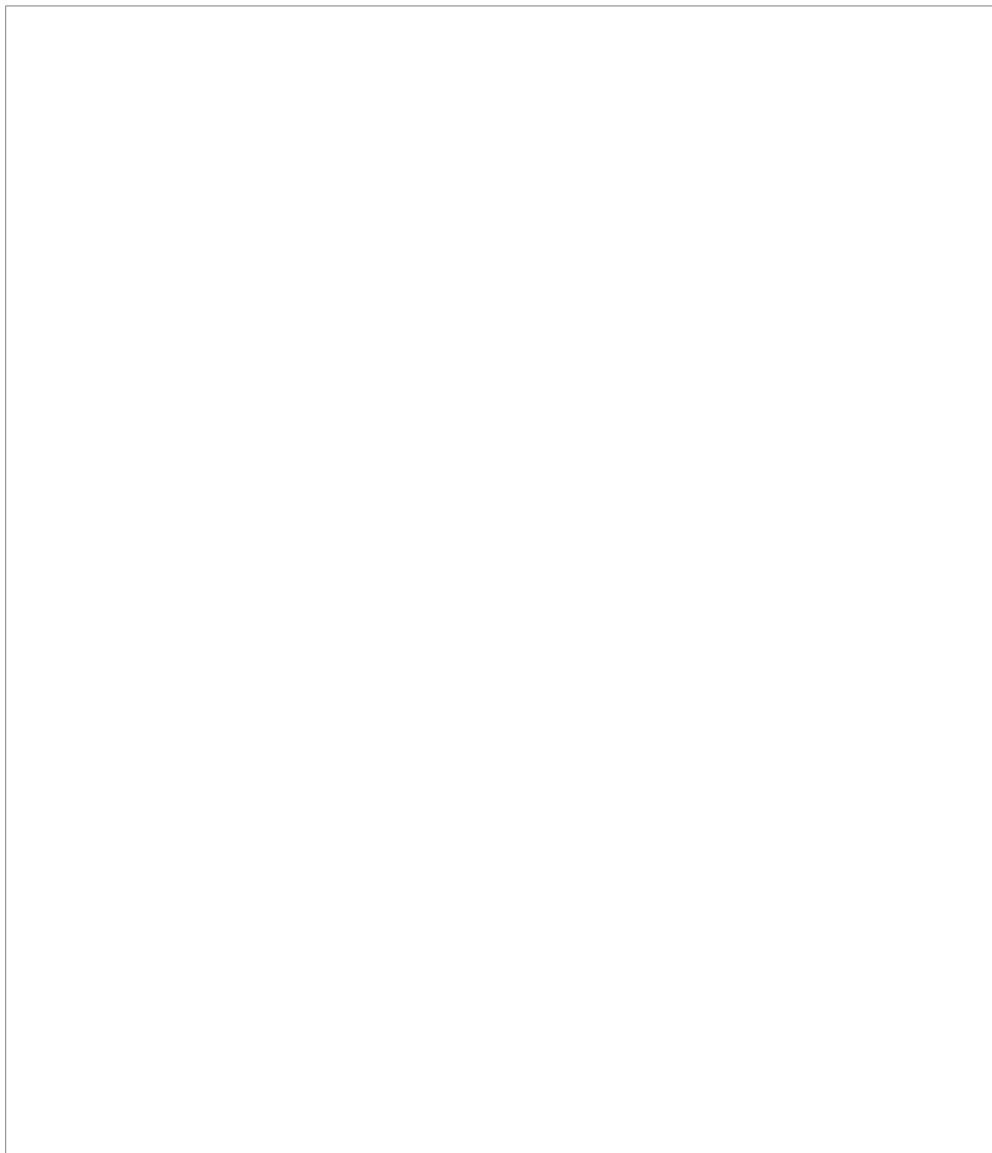


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

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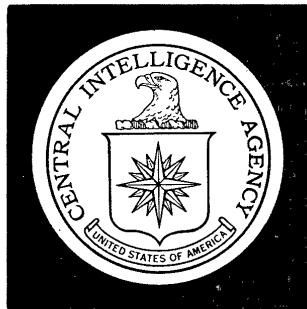
USSR:

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Cyprus: Security forces continue to round up suspects connected with the attempted assassination of President Makarios. The ultraconservative, pro-Enosis national front will come under suspicion because of its terrorist acts over the past several months, but any of several other extremist Greek-Cypriot groups could have been responsible. There appears to be no link with the Turkish-Cypriot community. Makarios may now be prompted to revive the energetic antiterrorist campaign that was begun last January by acting president Clerides while Makarios was away on an African tour.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

10 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

10 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Laos, an enemy buildup is threatening two government posts southwest of the Plaine des Jarres.
(Page 1)

[Redacted]

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(Page 3)

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The oil drilling rig that was en route to Israel has been sabotaged in an African port. (Page 4)

Honduras [Redacted] (Page 5)

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The Soviets [Redacted]
[Redacted] (Page 6)

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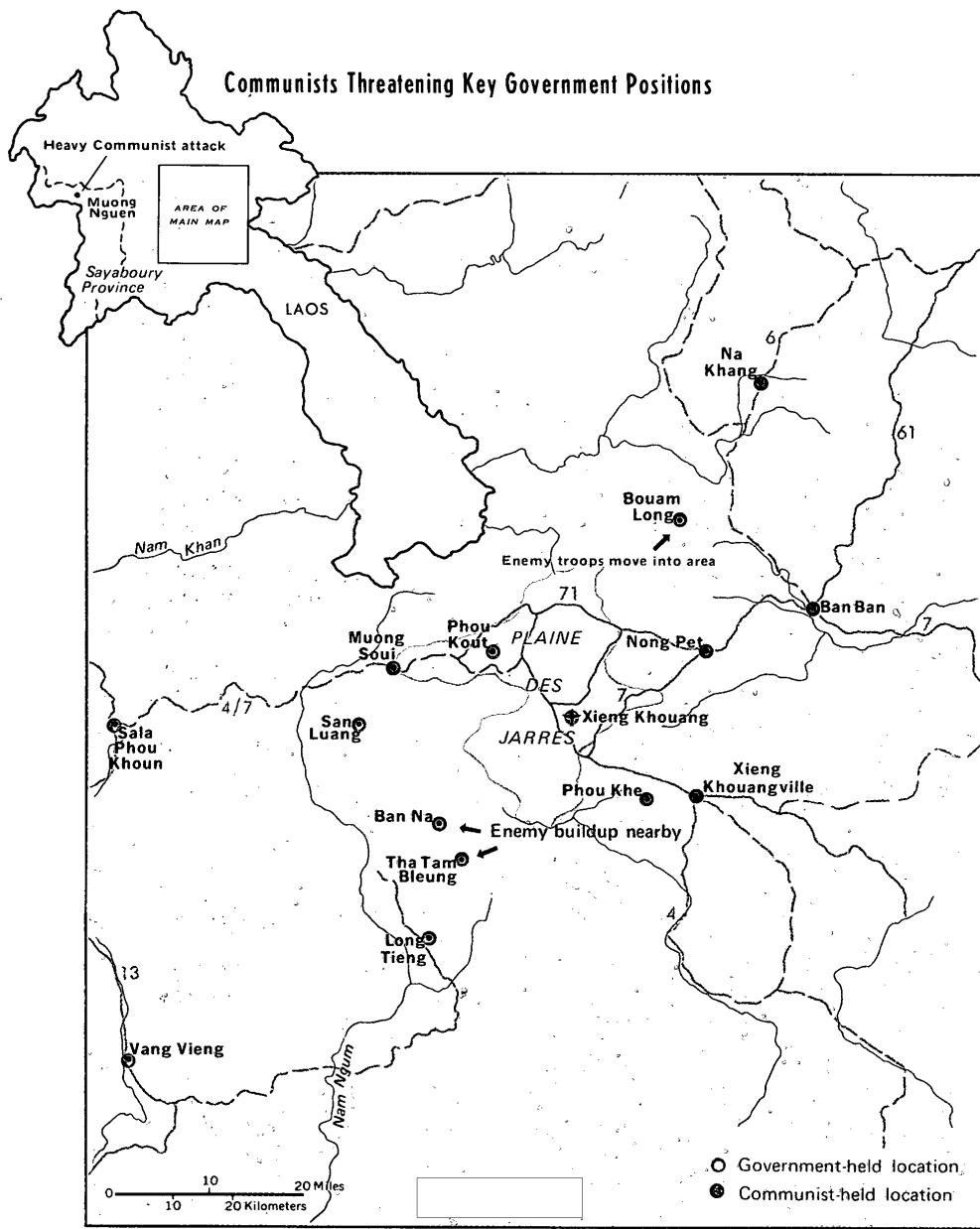
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Soviet [Redacted] Egypt [Redacted]
[Redacted] (Page 6)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Communist forces are moving into position to threaten two important government outposts southwest of the Plaine des Jarres. Intercepts point to a significant enemy buildup near Ban Na and Tha Tam Bleung. In addition, a government soldier who recently escaped from the Plaine has reported that a large North Vietnamese troop concentration was located about five miles east of Ban Na on 7 March.

There is as yet no clear indication of when the enemy intends to move in strength against these posts. Heavy air strikes in the area and aggressive patrolling by government forces no doubt are complicating the enemy's timing.

Northeast of the Plaine, Communist forces appear to be making preparations to attack the government staging base at Bouam Long.

The capture of this position would eliminate the last significant government presence north of the Plaine. Bouam Long has been supporting guerrilla operations against Communist supply convoys on Route 7.

In northern Sayaboury Province, enemy forces recently launched a heavy attack against the government base of Muong Nguen. Some outer defense positions were overrun, but government units are preparing a counterattack to reoccupy them within the next few days. This is the second government post of consequence near the Thai border to come under enemy attack within the past two weeks.

On the political scene, initial Lao Government reaction to the Communist peace proposal of 6 March has been carefully restrained. Special Assistant for Foreign Affairs Khampan Panya has characterized the Communist initiative as a "nasty sugarcoated pill." Khampan told Ambassador Godley, however, that he recognizes the political value of not appearing to slam the door on any aspect of the exchange.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The Pathet Lao representative in Vientiane yesterday met with Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma, apparently to confirm Prince Souphanouvong's suggestion of an exchange of views between the Laotian leaders (noted in yesterday's Daily Brief).

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CYPRUS



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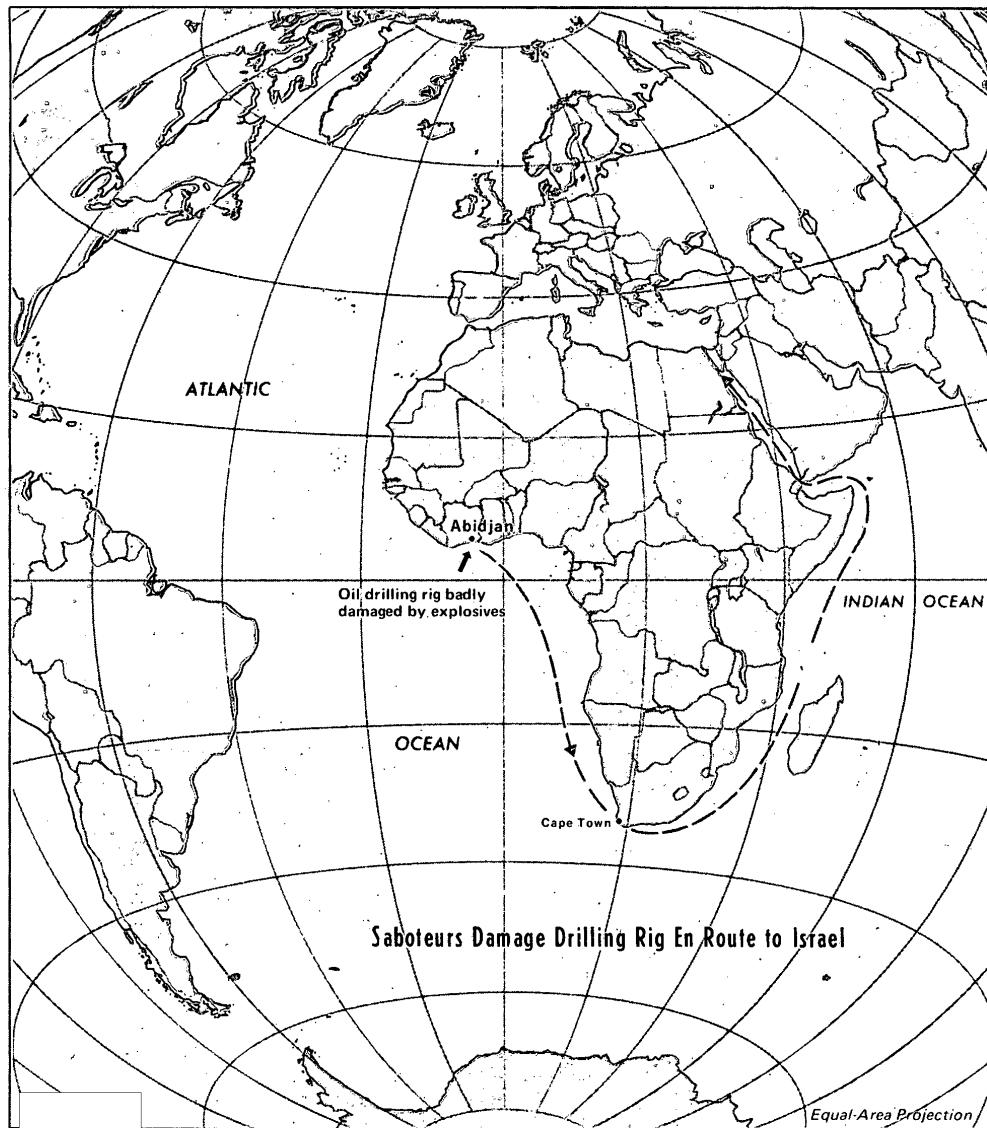


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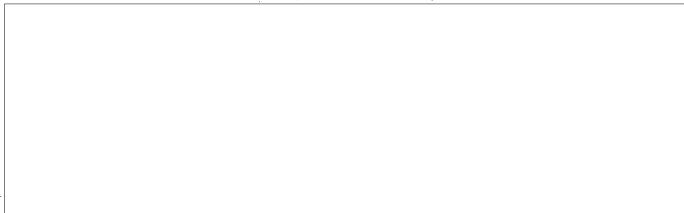
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-EGYPT

The Canadian oil drilling rig under contract to Tel Aviv has been sabotaged in Abidjan harbor. The US Embassy in Abidjan reports that the rig was severely damaged below the waterline by explosives said to have been set by three frogmen.



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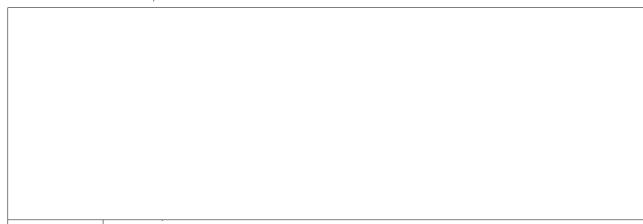
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HONDURAS



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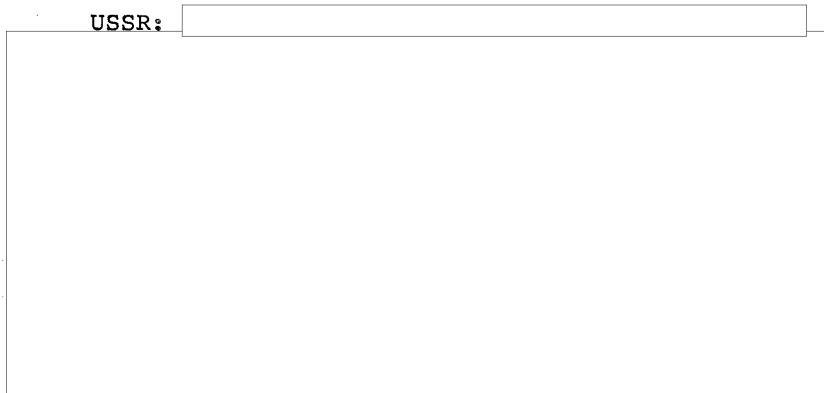
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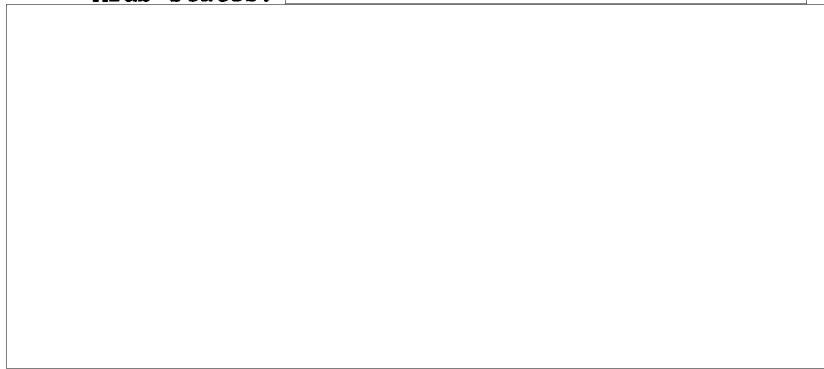
NOTES

USSR:



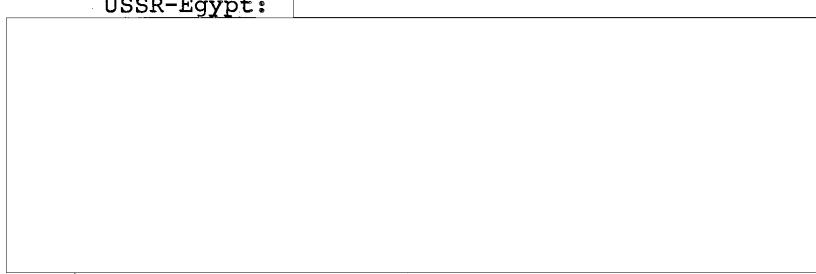
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USSR-Egypt:



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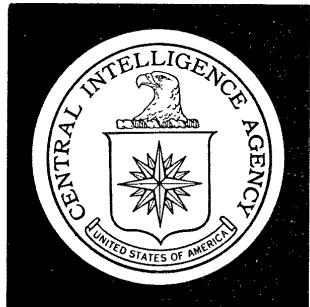
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Communist China: Chairman Mao and his designated heir Lin Piao have not been noted in public for five months. Infrequent appearances, however, have become characteristic of China's leadership style. Although Mao may well be slowing down, we have had no reports that his current period of absence has been caused by ill health.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

11 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Lao
(Page 1)

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Cambodian students attacked Vietnamese Communist embassies today to protest the presence of the Viet Cong on Cambodian soil and the forthcoming visit of North Vietnam's Premier. *(Page 3)*

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Soviet [Redacted]

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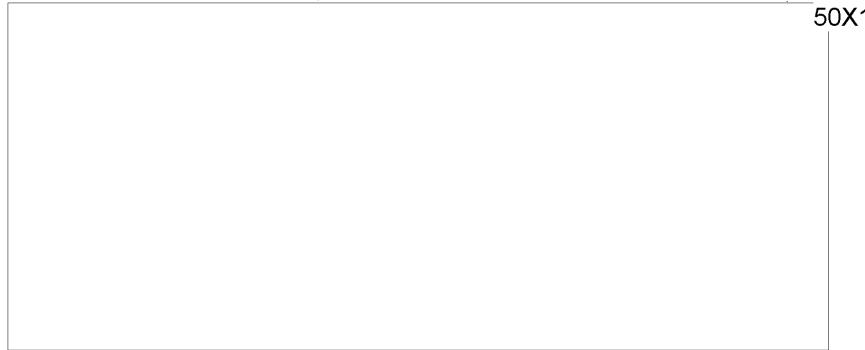
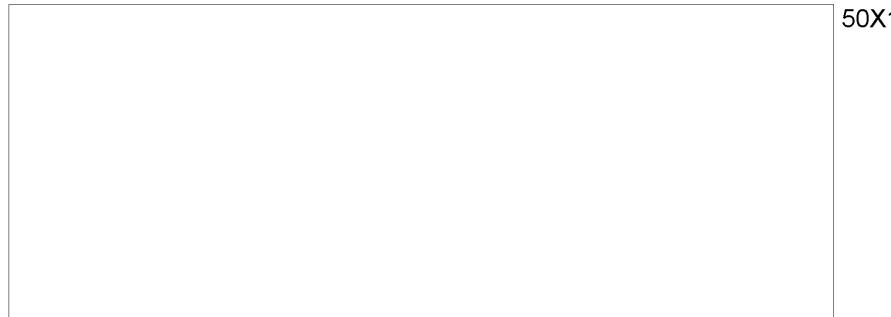
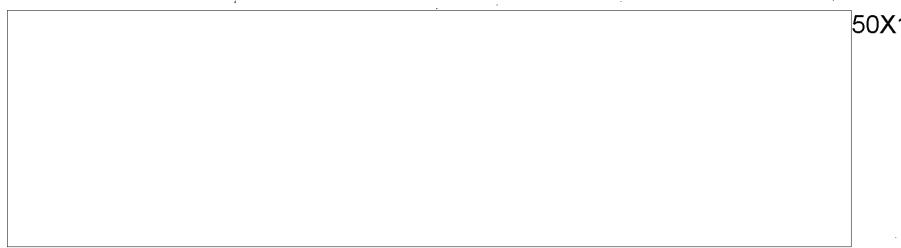
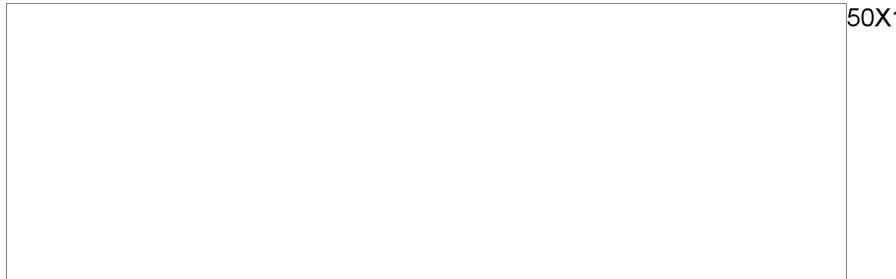
(Page 5)

The pacification program in South Vietnam may be frustrated in some local areas by isolated Communist attacks. *(Page 6)*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

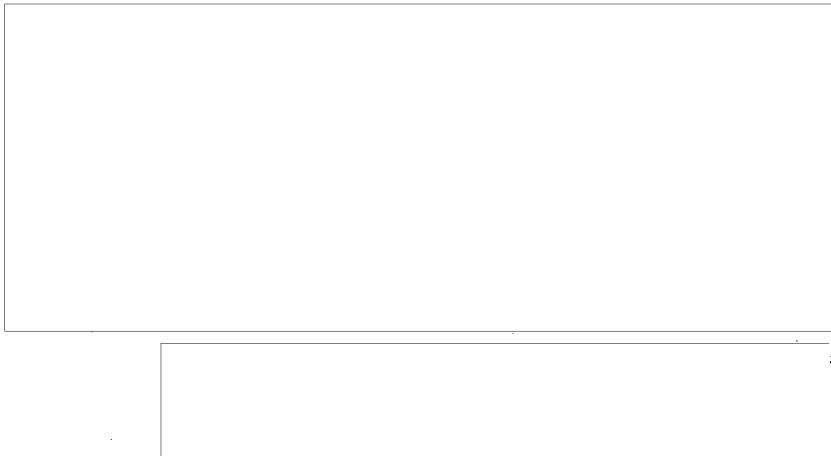
LAOS



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Cambodian students sacked and burned both the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong's embassies in Phnom Penh today. Before the attacks began, a representative from a quasi-official Cambodian political group told US Embassy officials that demonstrations were planned to protest the Viet Cong presence on Cambodian territory and the forthcoming visit of North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong.

The students may very well have had the blessing of some elements of the Cambodian Government, including Deputy Premier Matak. Matak has been aggressively anti-Communist during Prince Sihanouk's extended tour abroad.

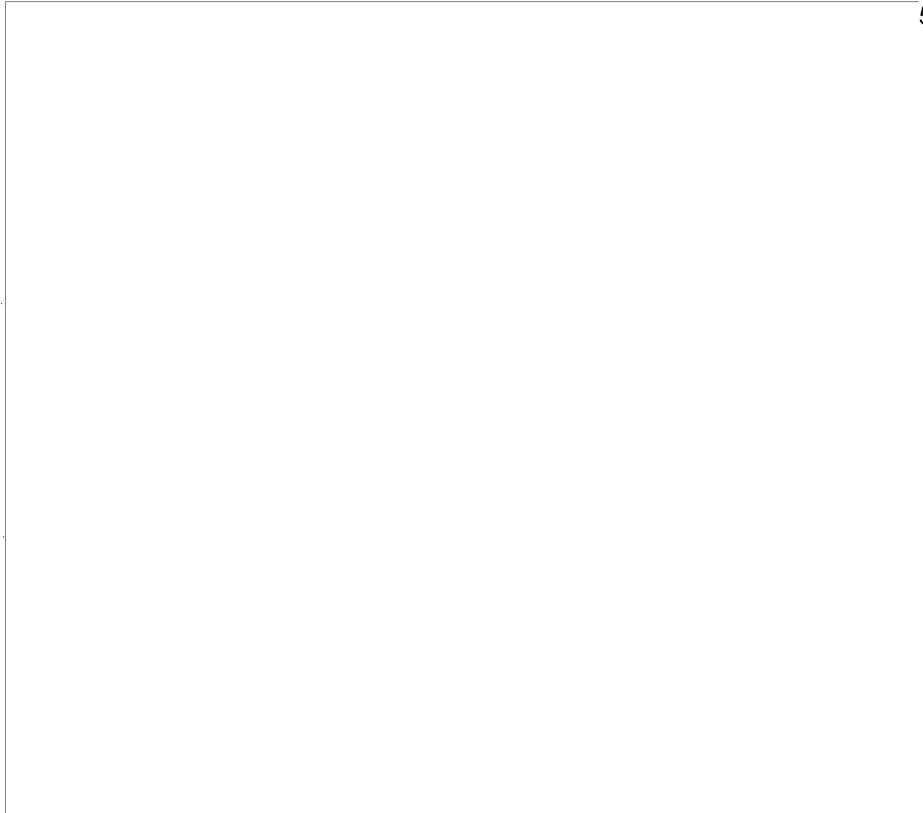
Sihanouk is now in Moscow and plans to visit Peking before returning to Phnom Penh. Earlier this week he publicly stated that most Viet Cong troops had departed Cambodia and there are no indications that Sihanouk gave his approval to the students' attacks.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

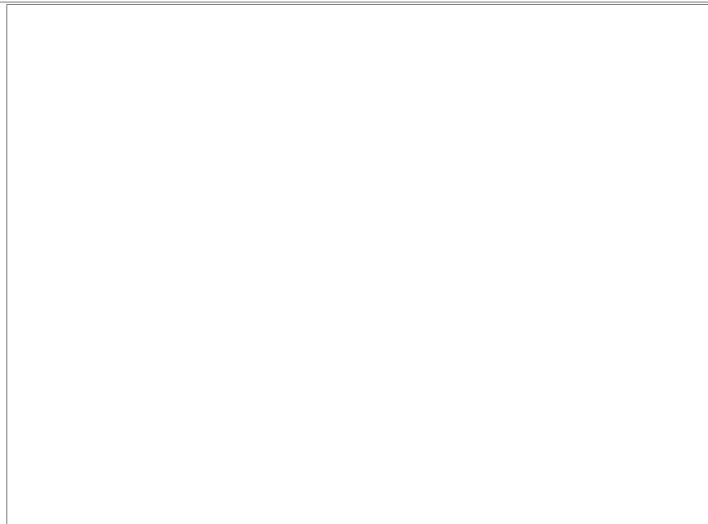
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USSR

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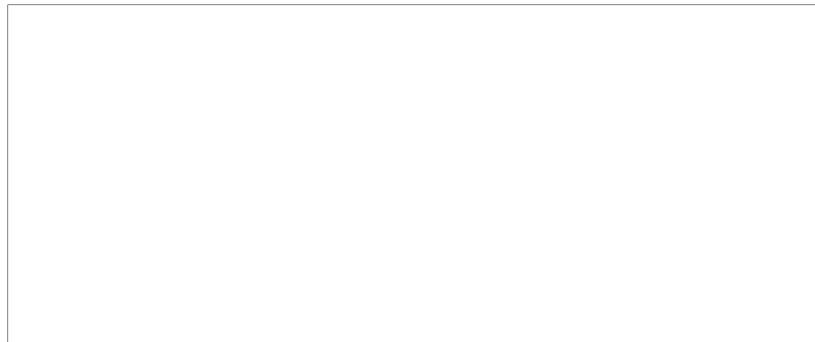
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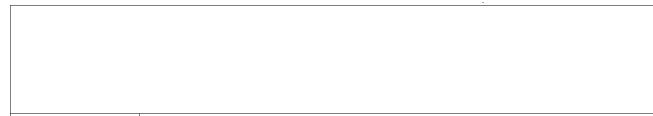
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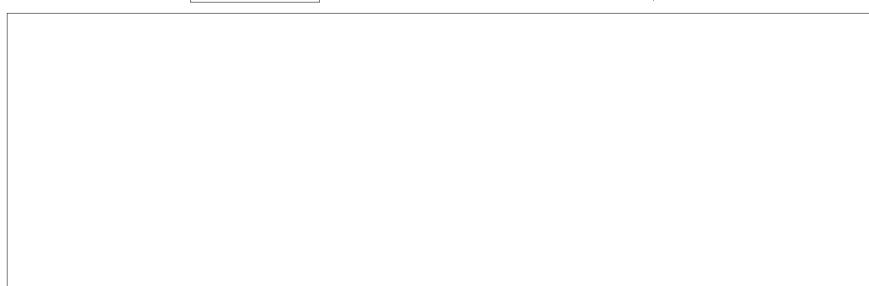
USSR-EGYPT



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communists struck hard at three government outposts on 9-10 March, overrunning one position in Phu Yen Province on the central coast and another near Can Tho in the delta. A second outpost in Phu Yen came under heavy Communist pressure but held out. The government's Territorial Forces lost 35 dead and 42 wounded in the action; there were no reports of any enemy losses. Last week a number of other government outposts in the delta and south of Da Nang in I Corps were also hit hard.

Attacks such as these cause local setbacks to the pacification program at a time when the general level of fighting countrywide remains low and most of the enemy's big units remain in rear base areas. This kind of activity also reminds a significant part of the rural population that the Communists, despite their many problems, are still a force to reckon with.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

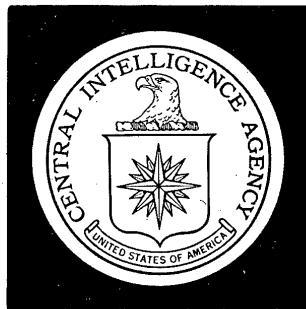
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

North Vietnam: Hanoi has sent about 3,400 troops into the infiltration system so far this month. This figure is made up of about 1,100 personnel in two groups identified in communications intelligence, and another 2,300 in four groups the existence of which is implied by the group numbering system. If a steady flow continues through the end of March, the number of enemy personnel starting south in the first quarter of 1970 will range between 35,000 and 40,000; during the same period last year, over 60,000 troops started south.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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12 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

12 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Prince Sihanouk has cut short his sojourn abroad following the anti-Vietnamese demonstrations in Phnom Penh. (Page 1)

The North Vietnamese [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 2)

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We have nothing to confirm press rumors of a challenge to the leadership of Brezhnev and Kosygin, although they doubtless must come in for their share of the blame for the economic ills that have been troubling the regime. (Page 3)

An important policy statement by Australian Defense Minister Fraser is assessed on Page 4.

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The Panamanians [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 6)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Prince Sihanouk is returning to Cambodia, presumably to reassert his authority in the wake of the anti-Vietnamese demonstrations in Phnom Penh. In announcing his decision to cut short his sojourn abroad, Sihanouk said he will call for a referendum asking the people and the army to choose between himself and "those personalities" who organized the attacks on the Vietnamese Communist embassies. He threatened to step down if he lost the referendum.

Sihanouk has used such threats before to quiet domestic criticism, but the decision to come home is a clear sign he interprets recent events as a strong challenge to his authority. The Prince and his cabinet have seemed to be working at cross purposes for some time. The anti-Vietnamese demonstrations, however, represent the first overt attempt on the government's part to undermine Sihanouk's foreign policy. Although Sihanouk has criticized Vietnamese Communist activities in Cambodia, he has taken some care not to push the Communists too far.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

The Communists continue the high priority shipment of supplies through the Laos panhandle.

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We still are inclined to believe that the Communists' main purpose is to replenish stockpiles, drawn down because of last summer's very limited shipments through the panhandle and because of Cambodia's embargo on supplies for Communist forces in South Vietnam. We would expect the Communists to get as much down to South Vietnam as they can before the heavy summer rains begin.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOVIET UNION

Reuters Vienna cites rumors out of Belgrade and Prague that Brezhnev and Kosygin have been accused by three Politburo colleagues--Suslov, Shelepin, and Mazurov--of failing to meet Russian economic needs in several key sectors. The accusation is said to be embodied in a document the three have circulated for discussion at a forthcoming central committee meeting.

We have no evidence to confirm or deny this story. There has clearly been no coup within the top leadership. Brezhnev still seems to be exercising the authority of General Secretary, although he has made few public appearances of late. At his most recent appearance on 4 March, he gave every indication of being in command. Kosygin has also been attending public functions and Suslov has apparently been on vacation since mid-February.

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While some of the details of this report present a rather unlikely scenario, there have been more than the usual signs of political tensions in the Kremlin recently. Recriminations over economic shortcomings appear to be on the rise and critical policy debates within the leadership are quite possible.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

AUSTRALIA

Defense Minister Malcolm Fraser, in a policy speech to parliament Tuesday, reconfirmed and broadened Australia's commitment to regional defense. Stressing Australia's responsibility and self-reliance, Fraser said that, within the limits of its resources, Australian military capability must be prepared both for direct defense of Australia and for deployment in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean.

Fraser described British withdrawal as "irreversible" and expressed understanding and acceptance of the Nixon doctrine.

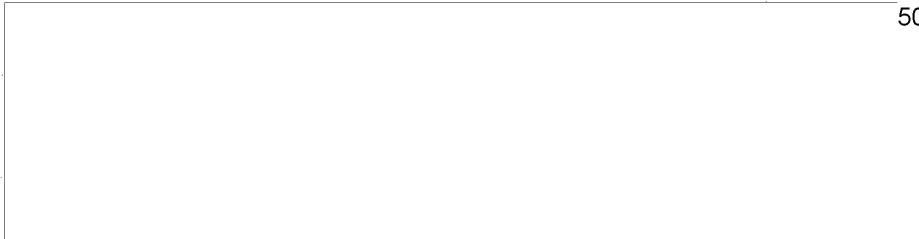
He said Australia would strive for compatibility of weapons and equipment with the US and New Zealand.

This is the most comprehensive defense policy statement the government has offered in recent years. In addition to the changing international scene, there are good domestic political reasons for the government to have taken the stand it has on defense policy. It faces elections later this year in the Senate where its majority depends on the small but strongly anti-Communist Democratic Labor Party, which has been advocating greater defense preparedness independent of the American alliance. Moreover, defense policy seems to be the one issue on which the government, with Democratic Labor support, may still be able to defeat the rejuvenated opposition Labor Party.

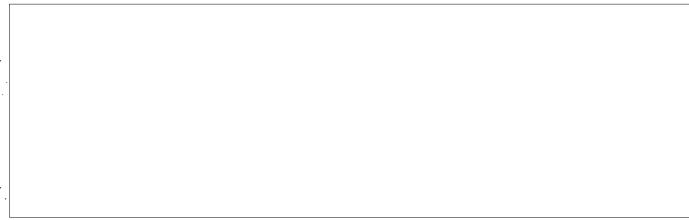
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT-ISRAEL



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Panama: General Torrijos is pressuring the US to obtain the extradition of Hildebrando Nicosia-- top aide of deposed president Arias. Nicosia sought asylum in the Canal Zone on 28 February after unsuccessfully trying to organize a coup on behalf of Arias.

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Torrijos purports to regard failure to extradite Nicosia as confirmation of his suspicion of US complicity in the plot.

Guatemala:

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Cyprus:

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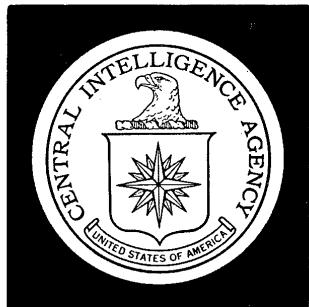
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Italy: Former premier Aldo Moro has told President Saragat that he has decided not to try forming a new government, and it now appears that Saragat will turn to another former premier, Amintore Fanfani. Fanfani would presumably try to form an all Christian Democratic government. His decision whether to accept such a mandate will probably be heavily influenced by his assessment of what effect this would have on his chances for the presidency next year.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

13 March 1970



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Top Secret

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A captured document offers some insight into the Communist program in the Mekong Delta. (Page 1)

In Laos, Vang Pao is still holding on, but Souvanna is ready to talk peace. (Page 2)

[redacted] Cambodia. (Page 4) 50X1

[redacted]

The Brazilian Government will ransom the Japanese consul [redacted]

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(Page 6)

Peking [redacted] 50X1

(Page 7)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

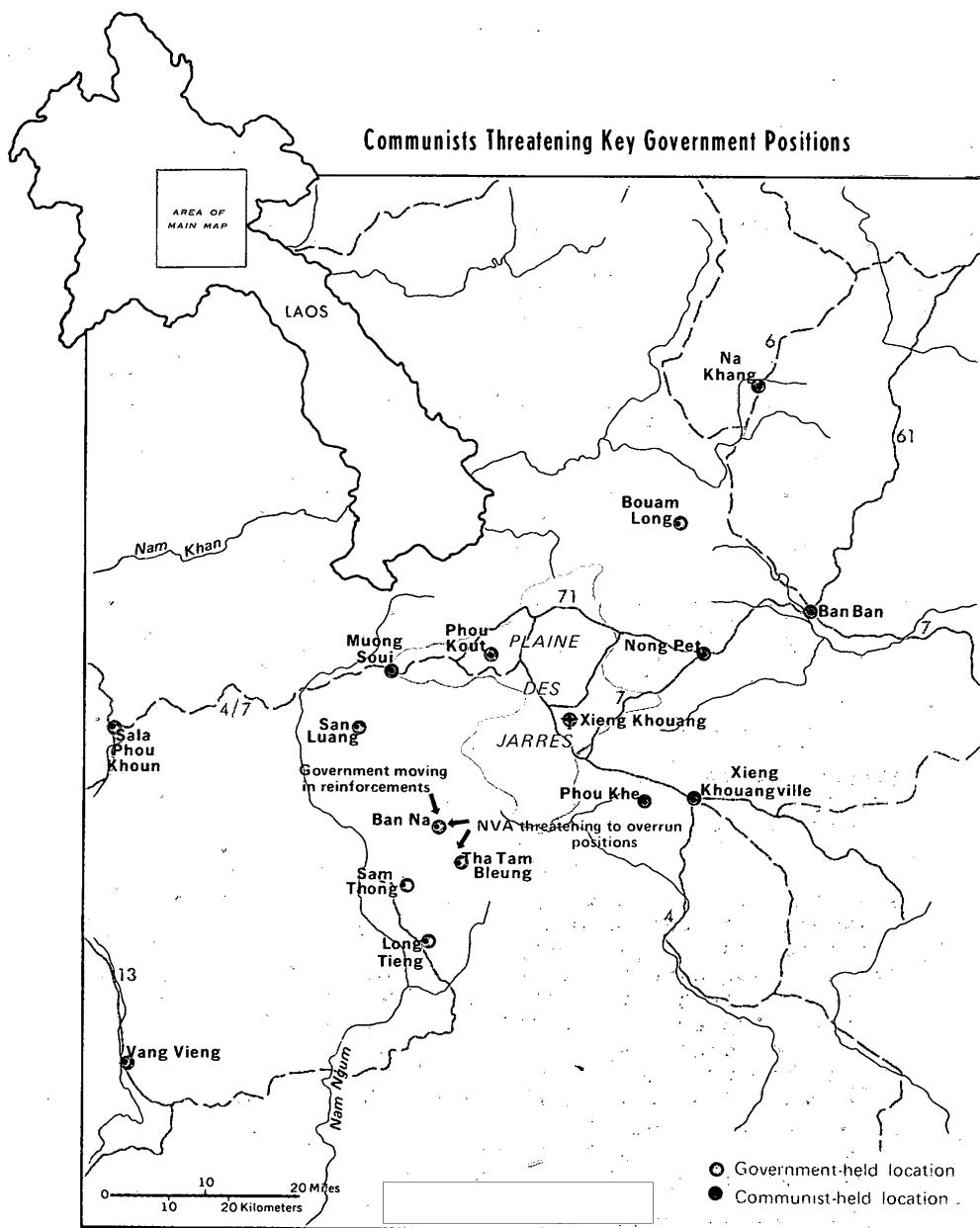
SOUTH VIETNAM

A recently captured document, sent in February by the top Communist headquarters in South Vietnam (COSVN) to the two major Viet Cong regional commands in the Mekong Delta, gives some insight into the long-range Communist program there. The document frankly acknowledges that the many problems encountered by the Viet Cong in IV Corps since the latter part of 1968 persuaded the Communist leadership to send regular North Vietnamese troops into the delta last year. These troops had orders to attack the government pacification program and also to help rebuild local Viet Cong units. In addition, the reinforcements were to prepare to take control of the civilian population in the delta in the event a political solution is found to the war.

The document urges local commanders to avoid large operations that might result in heavy losses. It does not, however, rule out sharp assaults against selected rural outposts and towns and occasional stiff opposition to South Vietnamese sweep operations, such as have occurred in the delta recently.

One of the directive's main purposes apparently is to remind the Viet Cong that North Vietnamese reinforcements are not cannon fodder to be expended quickly in a few impressive battles. The Communists apparently hope to rebuild their strength in the delta countryside gradually by scoring a series of successes in relatively small actions over a period of perhaps many months, keeping open a wide range of military and political options.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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LAOS

The most immediate threat from Communist forces appears to be directed at Ban Na, an important link in General Vang Pao's defense line. Early on 12 March, enemy forces overran a government defensive position less than a mile from the main outpost. Vang Pao's reaction was to airlift three more battalions into Ban Na. The government force there, thus augmented, is a little more than 700 troops.

We cannot be certain how many Communists have moved into the Ban Na area, but intercepted communications indicate that at least two battalions of the formidable North Vietnamese 316th Division are involved.

An intercepted enemy message indicated that an ammunition shipment probably destined for North Vietnamese forces in this area exploded recently while moving across the Plaine des Jarres. This may explain in part why the enemy has not yet launched an attack against the main outpost at Ban Na. Another message was a request for 122-mm. ammunition fuses, suggesting that the North Vietnamese may have moved some of their long-range artillery into position to support the Ban Na operation.

Another key outpost is threatened. Intercepted communications reveal that at least two companies of the 316th Division are moving into position to attack Tha Tam Bleung, about eight miles south of Ban Na. On 12 March a North Vietnamese reconnaissance element was in the area looking for locations to emplace rockets, presumably to support a coming attack.

Should the enemy break through at Ban Na and Tha Tam Bleung, the main blocking positions between the Plaine and Long Tieng, Vang Pao's headquarters would be under a significantly increased threat. Communists could move artillery and rockets within range of the Meo community between Sam Thong and Long Tieng. Such a development probably would prompt Meo leaders to begin thinking seriously about evacuating the civilians from the area--a move that would be a blow to the morale of Vang Pao's already tired Meo army.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

In a press interview yesterday, Prime Minister Souvanna stated that his government is prepared to agree to a cease-fire, but he said that there could be no bombing halt before North Vietnam withdraws its troops. Souvanna's position appears to have strong support within the government.

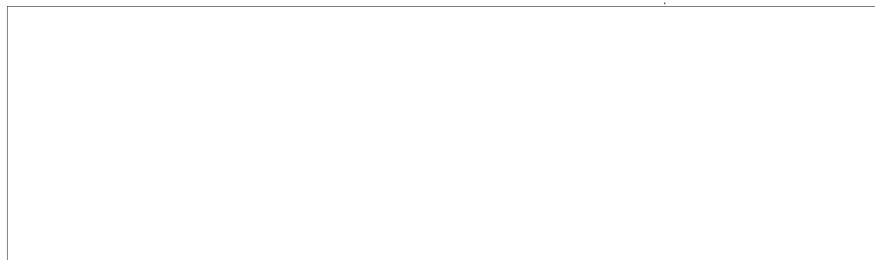
[redacted]
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In Moscow, meanwhile, the Soviets are working on a reply to President Nixon's proposal for consultations under the terms of the Geneva Accords.

[redacted]
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CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh is maintaining its tough attitude toward the Vietnamese Communists. Deputy Prime Minister Matak told a press conference yesterday that the government had expressed regret over the violent demonstrations against their embassies, but also had insisted that the Communists honor earlier assurances that they would withdraw their troops from Cambodia. Matak also said that until their troops departed his government was suspending its agreement to sell rice to the Viet Cong.



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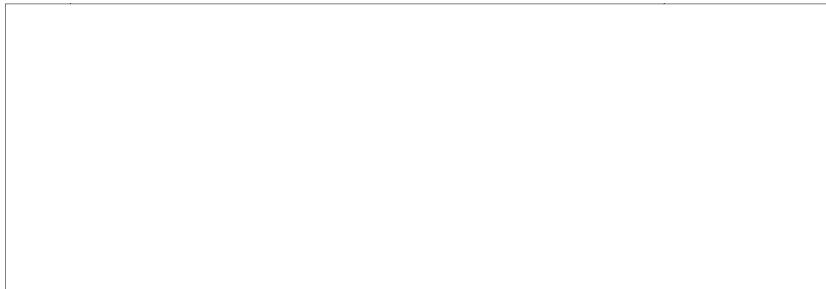


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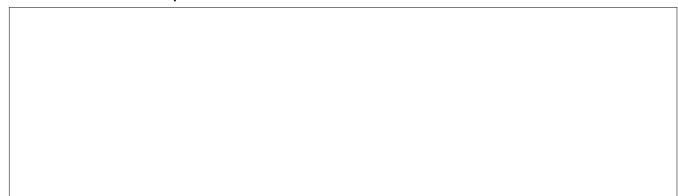
The first Vietnamese Communist reaction to the attacks was contained in an official Hanoi news agency statement of 12 March. In a relatively restrained protest, Hanoi attributed the attacks to "saboteurs" and sought assurances against any repetition of the violence.

The Communists probably are content for now with Sihanouk's initial sharp denunciation of the attacks and are hoping for opportunities to discuss developments with him directly in Moscow or Peking.

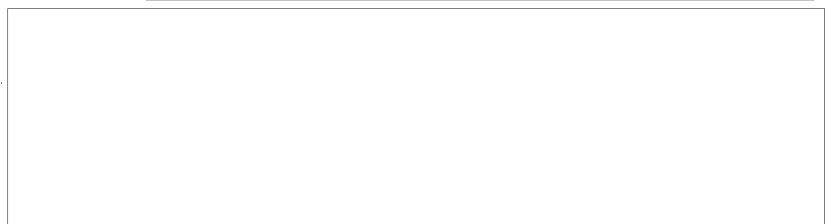
EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY



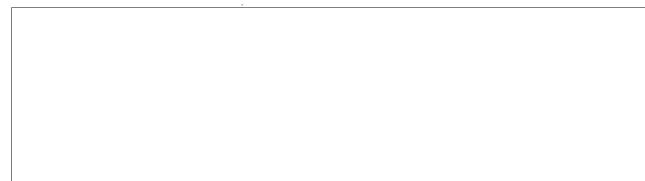
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

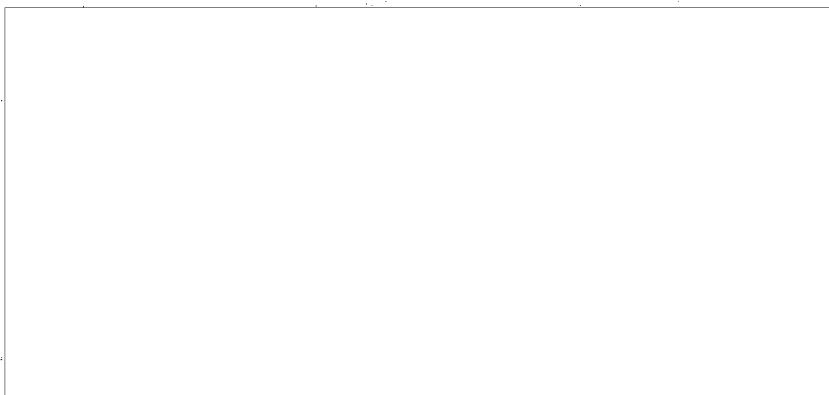
BRAZIL

Late press reports state the government will ransom the Japanese consul general, Nabuo Okuchi, by releasing five "political prisoners" and by not taking reprisals against terrorists who remain in Brazilian jails.

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COMMUNIST CHINA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR: [redacted]

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Israel-Lebanon: U Thant's suggestion last week that UN observers be stationed along the border between Lebanon and Israel found no favor with either nation. President Hili remains negative, but could go along if Israel would accept observers on its territory and if Israel would recognize the border as the line established by the armistice of 1949 rather than as a mere cease-fire frontier. Israeli leaders cannot swallow either condition.

Turkey: Prime Minister Demirel's attempt for a vote of confidence on Saturday could be a real cliff-hanger, but the chances appear slightly better than even that he will make it. Should he fail to get the 226 votes required for a bare majority, he will be faced with three options. He can go with a minority, he can form a coalition, or he can call for new elections. Although opposition parties do not favor them, elections would provide Demirel the only sure way to force dissidents in his Justice Party out of the National Assembly.

(continued)

Turkey: [redacted] a radi-
cal youth group in Ankara plans to march on a US in-
stallation following a major rally scheduled for Sat-
urday afternoon. An attack on the USIS building on
6 March followed a similar rally. The forthcoming
demonstration could also degenerate into harassment
of individual Americans or their property.

50X1

Trinidad: Yesterday's press reports about Black
Power demonstrators confronting the East Indian sugar
cane workers seem now to have been somewhat exag-
gerated [redacted]

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[redacted] the demonstration formed up with a minimum of
fuss early in the morning and was orderly and quiet.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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14 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Several outposts near the Laotian Government's defensive line west and south of the Plaine des Jarres are now in Communist hands. (Page 1)

France

[redacted]

(Page 2)

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[redacted]

(Page 3)

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(Page 4)

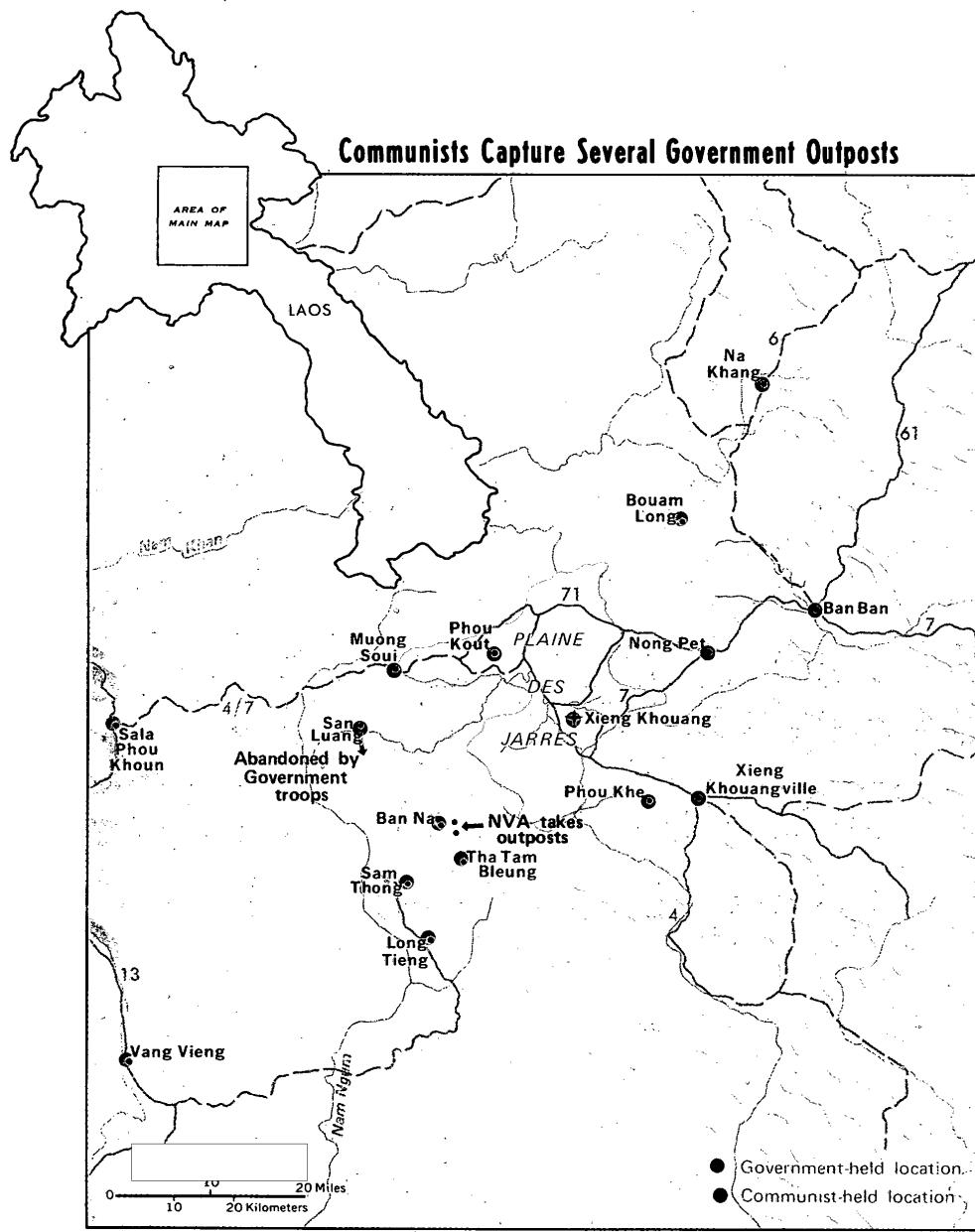
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Brazil

[redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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LAOS

The Communists have gained control of several outposts near the government's defensive line west and south of the Plaine des Jarres. Four small government units in the San Luang area withdrew on 12 March after receiving enemy mortar and recoilless rifle fire. Farther south, in the Ban Na sector, government troops have abandoned another small outpost, the second to fall to the Communists in this area in recent days.

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Enemy pressure in the Bouam Long area northeast of the Plaine has eased. Sustained air strikes and artillery fire on an enemy battalion south of Bouam Long forced it to withdraw.

The Communists are continuing their efforts to push more supplies into the Plaine. Several recent intercepted messages from logistical units in the Ban Ban area have reported preparations for a "new mission." The messages also disclosed that the Communists have been forced to make some administrative adjustments in the Route 7 supply system to lessen the strain on overburdened units.

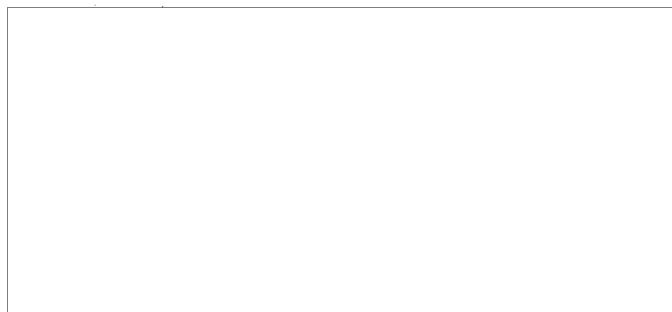
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FRANCE-SPAIN-MEDITERRANEAN

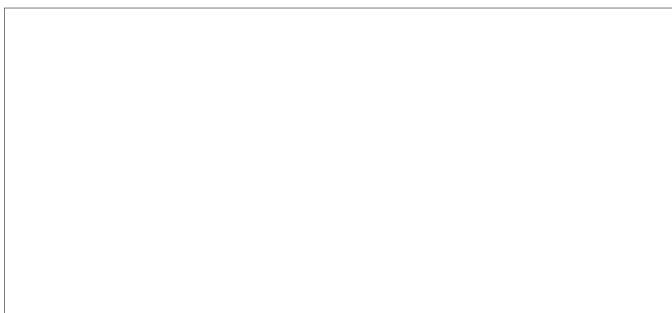


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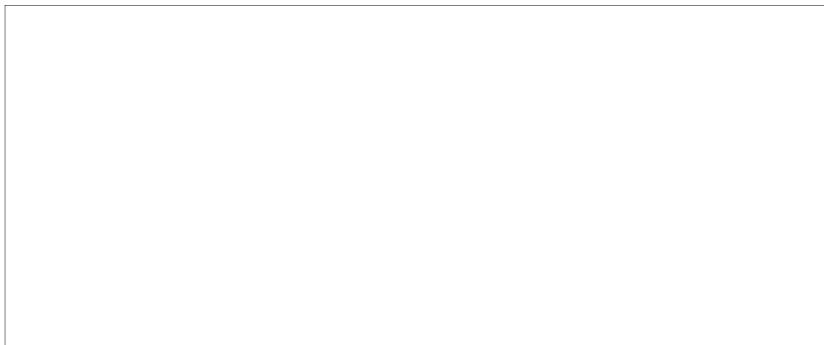


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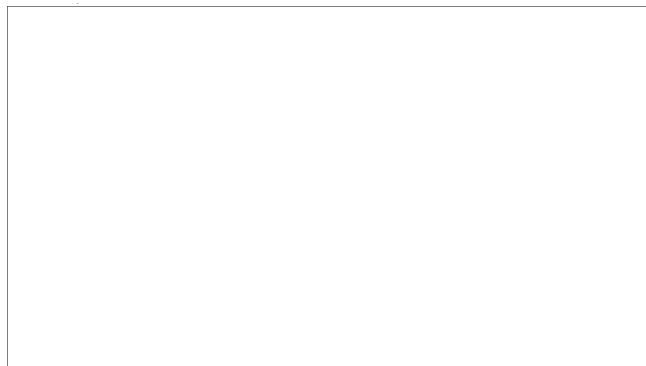
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN



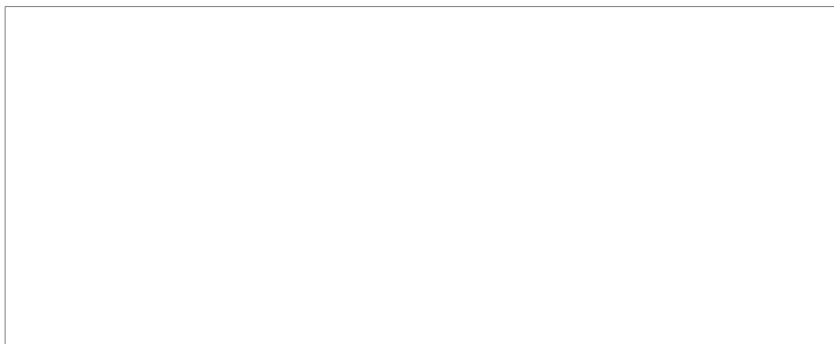
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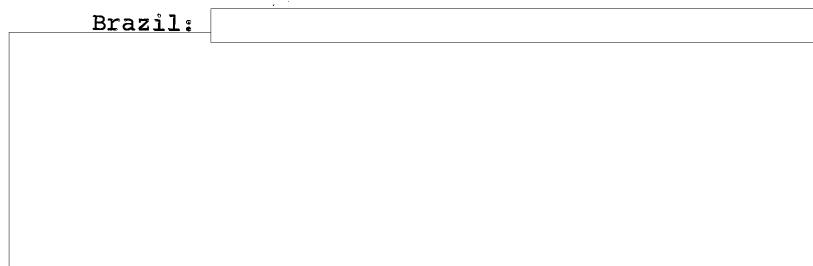
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

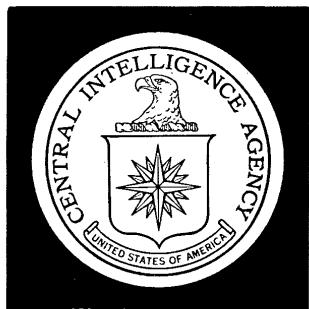


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Laos

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(Page 1)

Talks between the Cambodians and the Vietnamese Communists are to get under way in Phnom Penh today, but we doubt much will come of them, at least until Sihanouk returns. (Page 3)

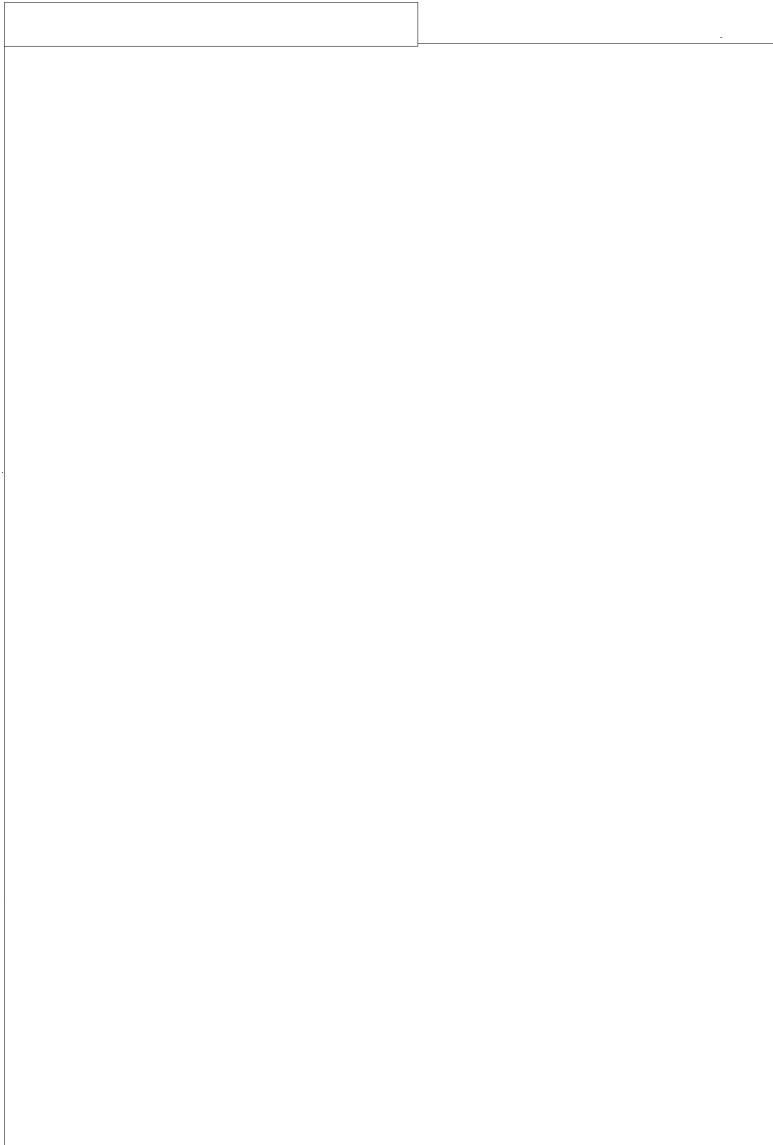
The West Germans are considering proposing that NATO sponsor a conference on European security to negotiate a mutual balanced force reduction in Europe. (Page 4)

Brazilian terrorists released the Japanese consul general yesterday, some ten hours after five political detainees were flown to Mexico City. (Page 5)

A preliminary review of the latest satellite photography shows one new group of ten SS-11 silos under construction in the USSR. (Page 6)

On Cyprus, former interior minister Georkatzis was murdered yesterday. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

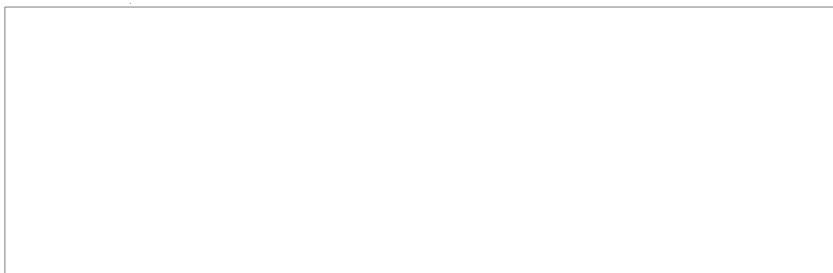


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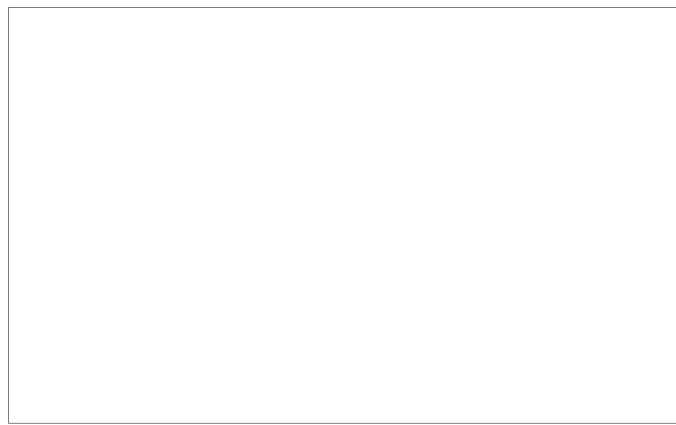
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

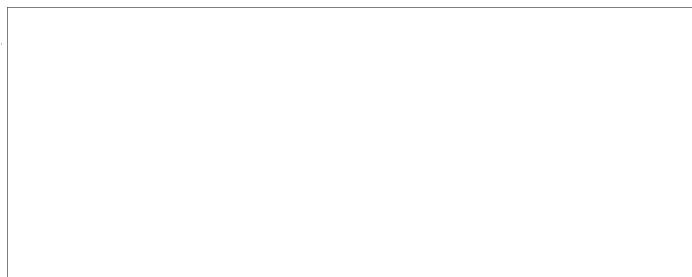


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Prime Minister Souvanna [redacted] eased his public position on a cease-fire agreement. He told reporters Friday that he would be willing to accept a cease-fire before a North Vietnamese troop withdrawal, provided the enemy stopped all military offensive activity and allowed the International Control Commission to send observers into Communist-controlled territory.



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(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

* * *

In the midst of all this, the Lao military seem to be moving quietly ahead with plans to bomb the Chinese road project southwest of Muong Sai in northwest Laos. According to a US Air Force representative in Luang Prabang, the local Lao commander received orders "from Vientiane" on 14 March to begin "unrestricted" bombing of the road and the Nam Beng Valley south to Pak Beng. The vagueness of the authority for the directive suggests that the Lao military may not have the concurrence of Souvanna for such action and are attempting to force his hand. There is no evidence at this time to indicate the Lao have in fact begun air operations against the road.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Nothing much is likely to come of talks beginning today in Phnom Penh between the Cambodian Government and the Vietnamese Communists, at least until Prince Sihanouk returns. The Communists will be represented by the North Vietnamese chargé pending the arrival of an official representative from Hanoi. It is not clear whether he will be the North Vietnamese ambassador to Cambodia or a special emissary.

The Communists no doubt view the talks as a useful first step in helping to damp down the situation. Their proposal for talks was contained in an official North Vietnamese protest delivered Saturday that was notable for its conciliatory tone.

The press this morning reports some fighting between Cambodian and Vietnamese Communist forces, but so far there is no official confirmation.

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According to late press reports, some 30,000 people staged another anti-Vietnamese demonstration today in front of the National Assembly building in Phnom Penh.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

Bonn is thinking about proposing a conference on European security--a project Chancellor Brandt may want to discuss during his visit in April. The conference, to be organized under NATO auspices and to be held about a year from now, would have as a goal a mutual balanced force reduction in Europe.

At this time, only the West Germans know if they really believe the USSR would be interested in such a conference. The West German proposal would be responsive, however, to a desire found in some West European states for a NATO initiative. For one thing, the proposal would deny Moscow some of the propaganda advantages it holds on the issue of European security.

The West Germans may believe a NATO proposal would serve to inhibit a US decision to reduce forces in Europe. Furthermore, it might remove some of the contentiousness surrounding the issue in the West German - Soviet talks by putting the whole thing into a multilateral context.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

BRAZIL

The terrorists released Consul General Okuchi yesterday after the government had flown the five prisoners into exile. Four of the five prisoners told reporters in Mexico City that they had been tortured by security agents and prison guards in Brazil. These accusations, particularly if widely publicized, will increase the dissatisfaction among many officers of the Brazilian Army.

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[Redacted]

One prisoner said in Mexico City that the kidnaping of a foreign diplomat is a legitimate way of rescuing comrades who face long prison terms. Such assertions strengthen the fears of security officials that success will lead to more such incidents. That thought has also impelled the dean of the Sao Paulo consular corps, Lebanese Consul General Joseph Naffah, to convene a meeting of the consular corps to discuss security and to authorize him to request additional protection by local security contingents.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR: A preliminary review of the latest satellite photography shows one new group of ten SS-11 silos under construction at the Teykovo ICBM complex. Three of the USSR's six SS-9 complexes and its one SS-13 complex were also seen, but no new groups of silos were identified. About 750 SS-11s are now considered to be operational. When construction is complete on all identified ICBM groups in late 1971, the Soviets will have 1,396 ICBM launchers, including 840 SS-11s. This total excludes the eight groups of SS-11s at MRBM-IRBM complexes that are considered part of the Soviet peripheral strike force.

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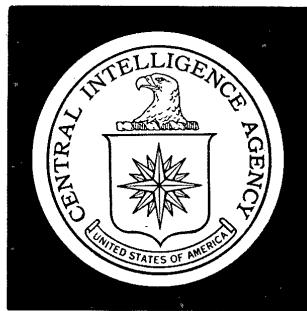
Philippines: [redacted]

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Cyprus: The assassination yesterday of former interior minister Georkatzis will further polarize the Greek Cypriot community into pro- and anti-Makarios factions. Georkatzis had been linked with the attempted assassination of President Makarios, but maintained his innocence. Although not arrested, he was fined for possession of weapons and was prevented from leaving the country last Thursday. Georkatzis' well-armed and devoted followers will probably blame Makarios for the murder and may seek revenge.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 March 1970

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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[Egypt]

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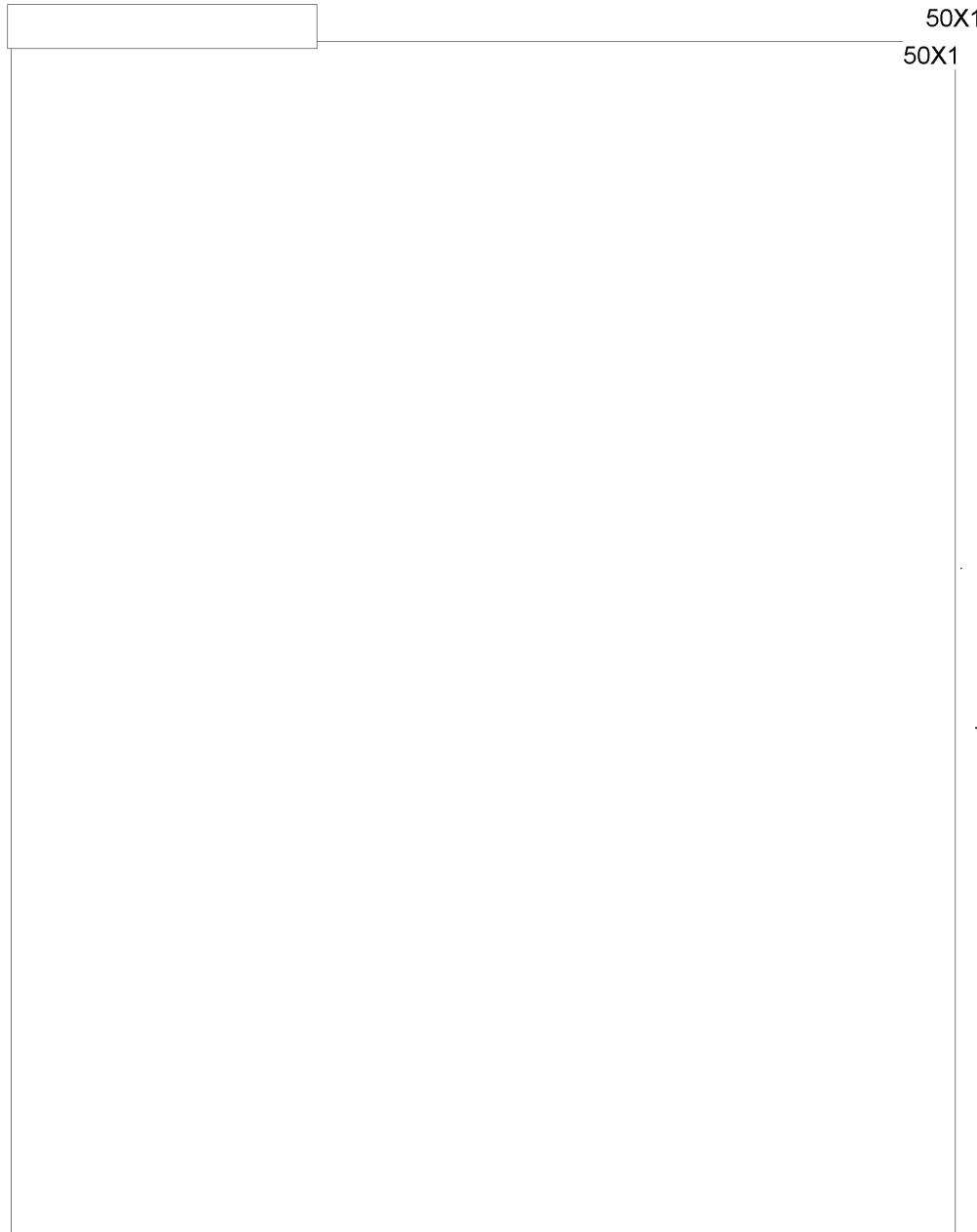
To forestall suspicions that he is somehow linked to the murder of former interior minister Georkatzis, Makarios may try to link up with parliamentary president Clerides, a political associate of Georkatzis.
(Page 2)

The Soviet [redacted]
(Page 3)

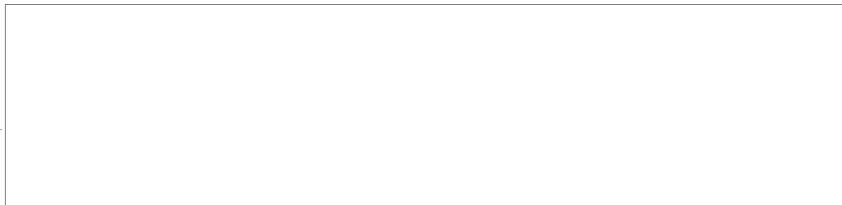
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The Communist advance continues in Laos. (Page 4)

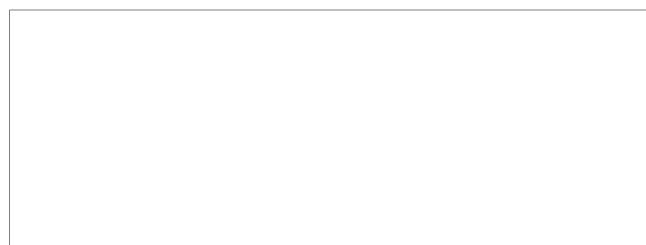
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



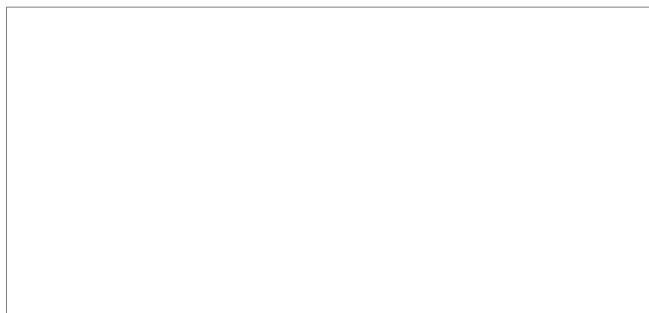
EGYPT



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CYPRUS

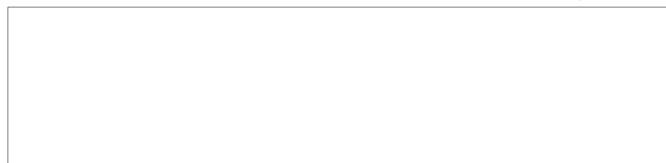
The assassin of former interior minister Georkatzis was a mainland Greek officer commanding Makarios' presidential guard, according to an eyewitness account reaching the US Embassy in Nicosia. Although the officer may have been acting independently, this allegation will reinforce public suspicion that both Athens and Makarios are somehow linked with the assassination.

We cannot yet say just what effect this will have on Makarios' leadership image among his people. One possibility is that he may now be more ready to resume a working relationship with Georkatzis' political associate, parliamentary president Clerides.

USSR

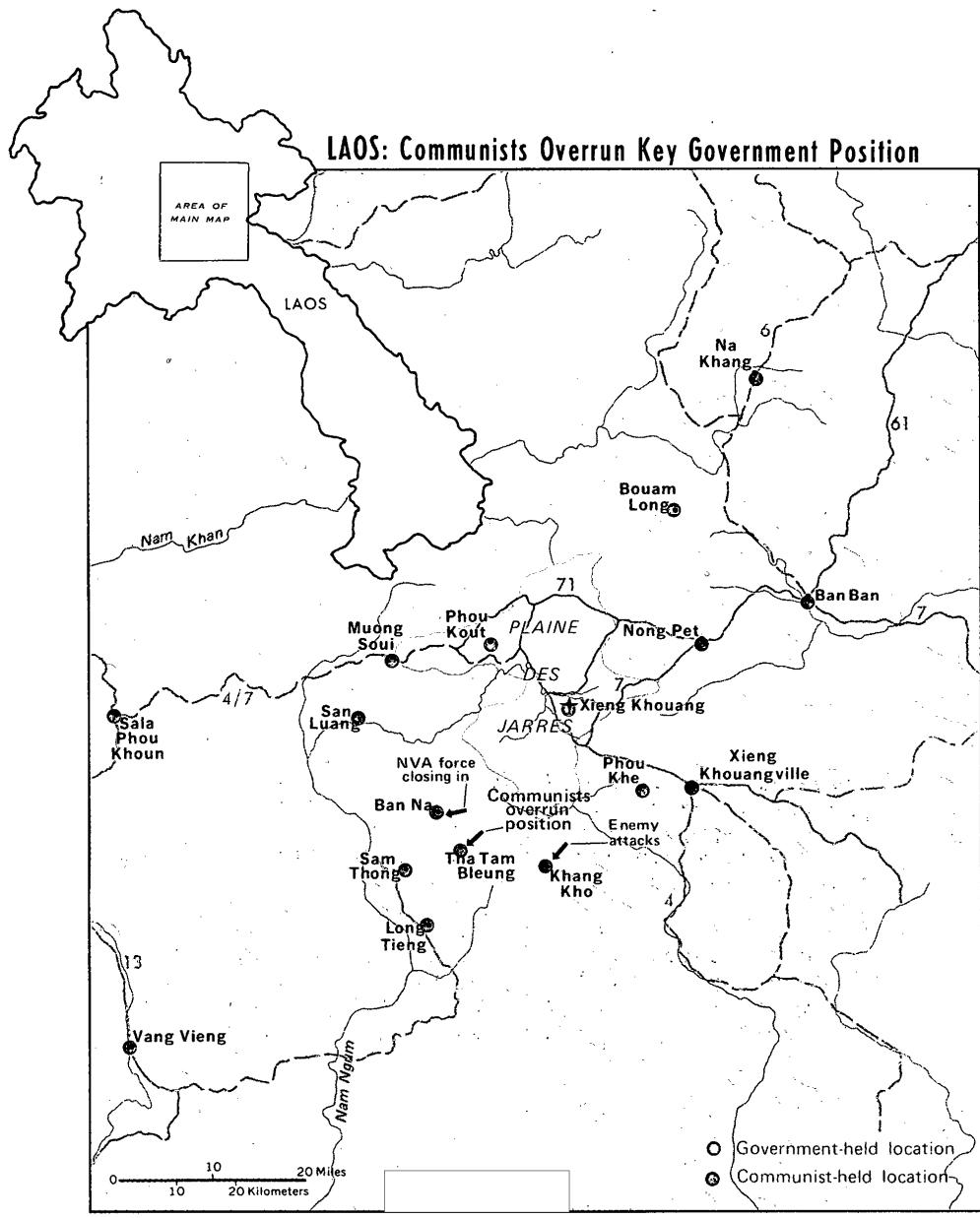


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

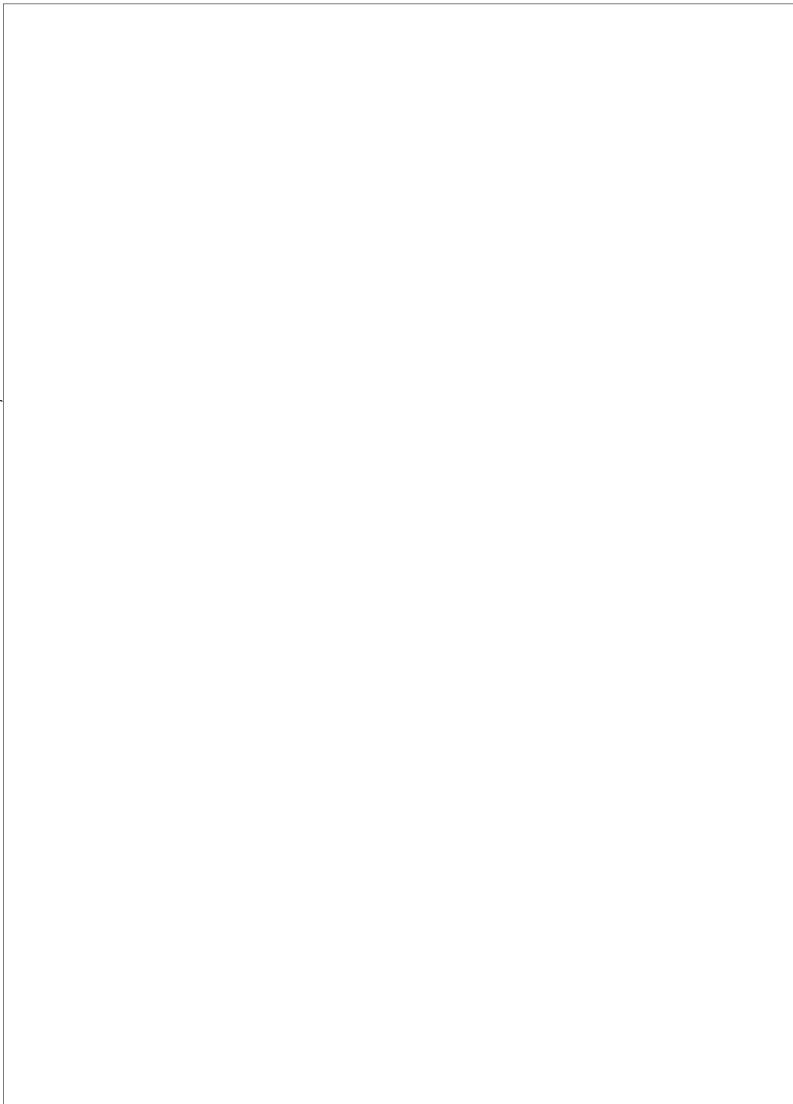


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LAOS

Early in the morning of 17 March--yesterday evening Washington time--a North Vietnamese force overran the government outpost of Tha Tam Bleung. The outpost was a key to the defense of Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng and to the security of the large Meo population nearby. Meo civilians have been pulling out of the area for some two weeks, and this new advance by the Communists will tend to increase the flow of refugees. The general exodus has virtually emptied all the villages northeast of Long Tieng, thus the Communists find it relatively easy to advance undetected.

We doubt that the Communists will advance on Long Tieng immediately. They probably will take the time they need to mop up government elements remaining in nearby outposts. A large force is closing in on Ban Na, and several isolated positions have been lost near Khang Kho recently.



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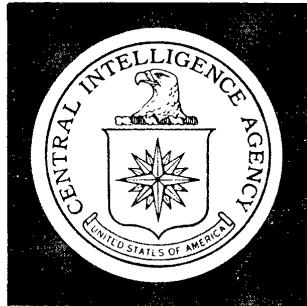
NOTES

USSR:

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Turkey: Prime Minister Demirel won his vote of confidence by a very narrow margin (see The President's Daily Brief of 13 March). The protracted political crisis has damaged his public image and weakened his position in military circles.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Laos, North Vietnamese units are closing in on General Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng.
(Page 1)

About 2,400 North Vietnamese troops entered the infiltration pipeline to the South during the past week. (Page 2)

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Yesterday's violence in Manila underscores the growing influence of radicals in the Philippine student protest movement. (Page 4)

The Soviets appear to be getting ready for a large naval exercise in the eastern Mediterranean. (Page 5)

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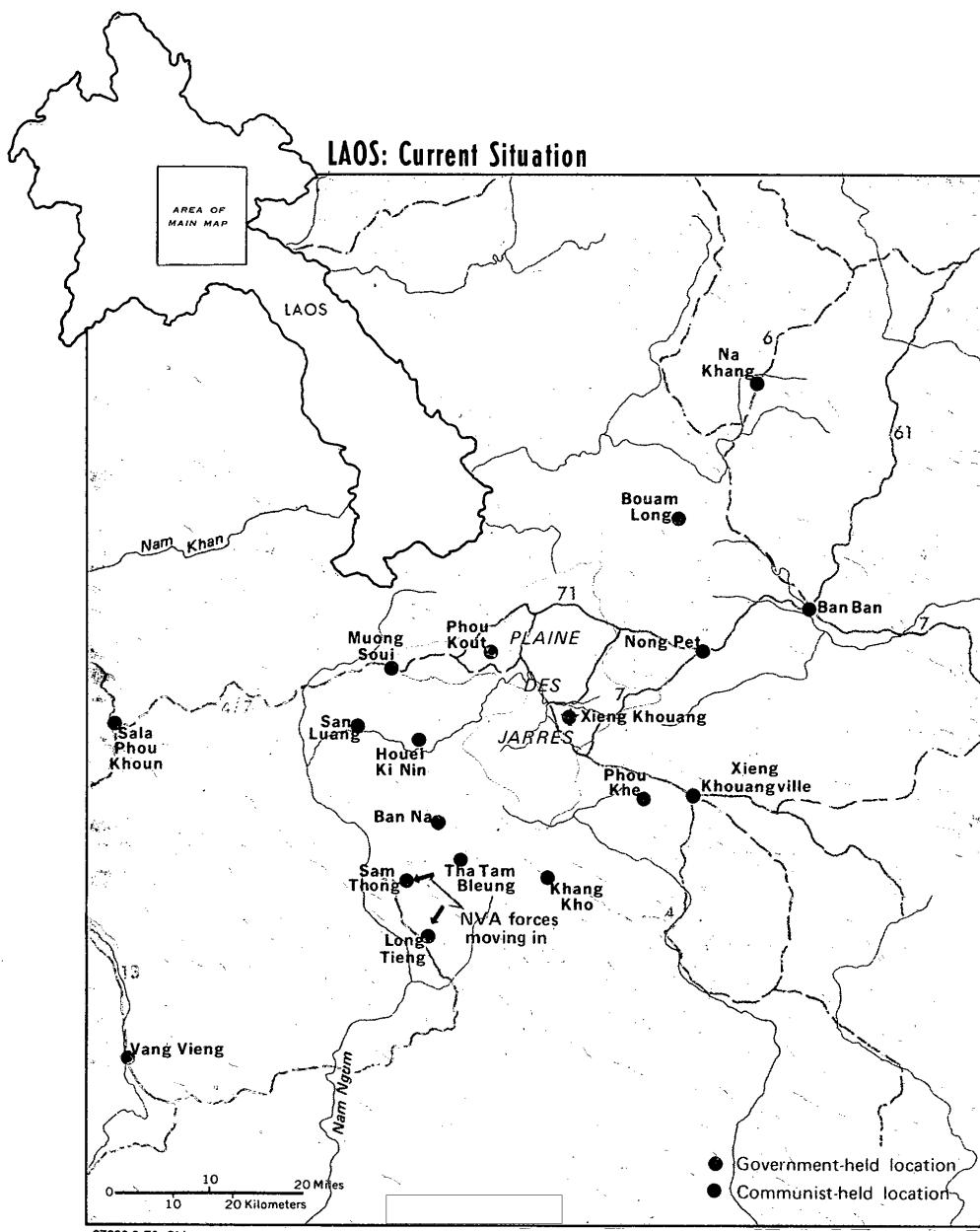
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Cyprus. (Page 6)

Greek

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



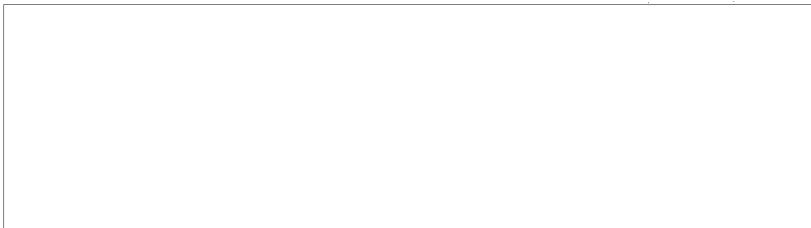
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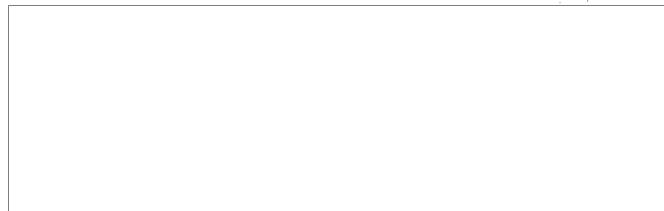
LAOS

The North Vietnamese units that overran Tha Tam Bleung on 16 March are now pushing south toward General Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng. Intercepts disclose that the enemy is establishing heavy weapons positions within four miles of the base. To the northwest, the refugee center of Sam Thong has been taken by the Communists, according to late reports; the civilian population there had been evacuated earlier.

Most of the 148th Regiment of the North Vietnamese 316th Division has been committed to the operation against Long Tieng. Communist communications indicate that the North Vietnamese campaign calls for eliminating as quickly as possible all government positions within striking distance of the Plaine des Jarres.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

About 2,400 troops in six groups were detected setting out on the infiltration route in the North during the past week, bringing the input thus far in March to about 5,200. This total includes eight groups containing 3,500 troops that were noted in intercepts, plus another three groups containing about 1,700 whose presence is presumed from analysis of the numbering system.

Personnel entering the pipeline since last October, when the dry season began, now stand at more than 48,000. This figure is somewhat more than half the number of troops that started out during the same period in the two previous years.

CAMBODIA

The government's chances for extracting significant concessions from the Vietnamese Communists appear slight.

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Cambodian units on the border remain on alert. The situation there is still tense, although thus far there has been little confirmed fighting between Cambodian and Communist units. Intercepts show that some Viet Cong troops have moved "toward" the South Vietnamese border, and some small units may actually have crossed over. Other Communist forces, however, are being reinforced and show no signs of withdrawing.

The Communists may be trying to stall in the talks until Sihanouk returns to Cambodia next week. If they appear too inflexible, however, the Cambodian Government may break off the discussions. The government is keeping up the pressure by encouraging large anti - Vietnamese Communist demonstrations in Phnom Penh.

The Cambodians, with their limited resources, are not likely to apply any significant military pressure against the Communists, but the possibility of an incident is strong as long as the Cambodians continue to press for the withdrawal of Communist units. Any such development would make the political resolution of the situation much more difficult.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PHILIPPINES

The growing influence of radicals in the Philippine student protest movement was underlined by the violence that occurred yesterday in Manila. Groups of militants marched on various targets following a downtown demonstration against the Marcos administration and US influence in the islands. One group that reached the US Embassy was dispersed by anti-riot police before doing any damage. A student at another location was killed by a private security guard; this may generate further disturbances.

The size of the demonstration--about 3,000 persons--fell short of its organizers' hopes. Radical and moderate student leaders are increasingly at odds over the need for violent tactics, and moderates apparently stayed away in anticipation of trouble. The split in the student movement will help Marcos to discredit it, but he clearly faces persistent student challenges that may force him to make further concessions.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

[redacted] the Russians may be preparing for a large-scale naval exercise in the eastern Mediterranean. Several Soviet warships now in the Mediterranean, including the command ship, [redacted]

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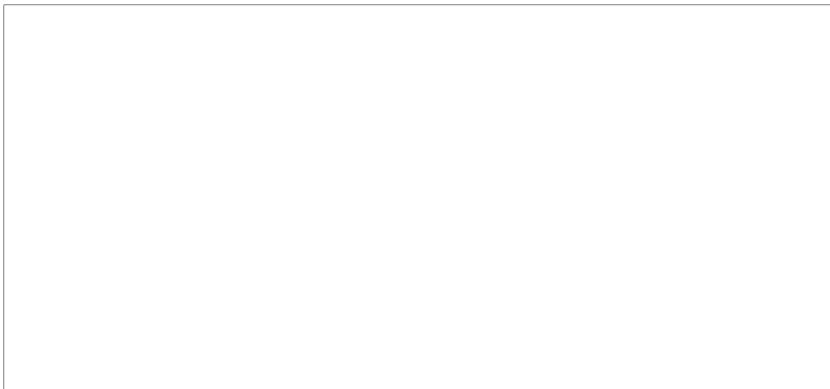
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In addition, the Soviets have notified the Turks that as many as 12 warships will exit the Black Sea in the next week.

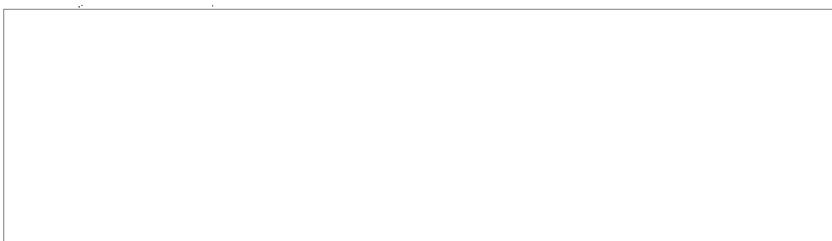
This type of communication activity resembles the preparations prior to the extensive naval maneuvers the Soviets conducted in the Mediterranean last August. If all the scheduled ship passages are made, the resulting force of 26 major surface combatants and 12 submarines will be the most powerful the Soviets have ever had in the Mediterranean. The Leningrad, the Soviets' second helicopter carrier, may make its maiden voyage outside the Black Sea and join its sister ship, the Moskva, for the exercise.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

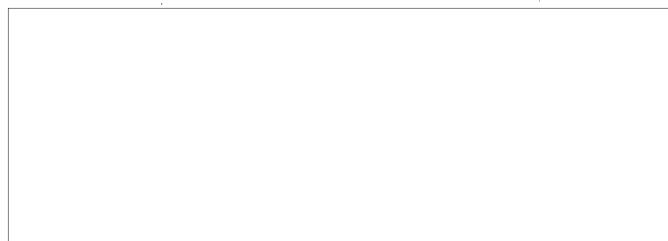
CYPRUS-GREECE



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FINLAND

The government's coalition parties won a majority of the parliamentary seats in this week's elections but their position has been weakened by a surprisingly good showing by the conservative parties. Latest returns indicate that the combined strength of the government center-left parties dropped from 165 to 136 seats.

The conservative National Coalition Party and the radical right Rural Party were the only parties to improve their positions. They increased their parliamentary representation by 11 and 17 seats respectively, and the Rural Party received 10.5 percent of the vote, the highest ever by a far-right group in Finland.

All parties participating in the center-left government lost ground, with the Center Party and the Communist-dominated People's Democratic League suffering the heaviest losses. The losses among Prime Minister Koivisto's Social Democrats were more moderate, and they remain the largest single element in parliament.

Although the election outcome would seem to point to a right-center or right-socialist coalition, Moscow, which has played a decisive role in the past, probably will insist on continuation of the present center-left coalition.

Buoyed by the election's pronounced swing to the right, conservative opposition leaders are not willing to accept another center-left lineup. They argue that it would constitute a government of losers and would not reflect the will of the electorate. In these circumstances, if Moscow applies additional pressure, the conservatives' position may be strengthened in the eyes of the public. A period of governmental instability could follow.

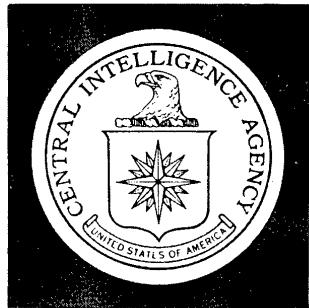
LATE ITEM: CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh's domestic radio service this morning broadcast an announcement that the National Assembly has "withdrawn all confidence from Prince Sihanouk as Chief of State" and has named Cheng Heng as acting chief of state pending elections. No further details were given. Cheng Heng has been president of the National Assembly since 1968 but has little political following.

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19 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Cambodian Government has reiterated its policy of neutrality as the deposed Sihanouk arrives in Peking. (Page 1)

In Laos [redacted] (Page 3)

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China's claim to Taiwan continues to be the major stumbling block in the Sino-Canadian talks. (Page 4)

[redacted] East German [redacted]

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(Page 5)

Latin American [redacted]

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(Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

There are no indications of opposition to Sihanouk's ouster in Cambodia, although some security precautions apparently have been taken in Phnom Penh by the government as an insurance measure. The government was careful to move within the limits of the constitution in deposing Sihanouk and stated that a popular election will be held to select a permanent successor to Sihanouk. Its intentions in this respect will remain in doubt, however, until an election date is set. Indeed, early this morning the French press reported that the Cambodian National Assembly has suspended all constitutional freedoms.

The government's sudden resoluteness represents a swift acceleration of its previous policy of gradually attacking Sihanouk's power.

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Both Lon Nol and Deputy Premier Matak, who appears to be the driving force behind recent events, probably calculated that their support within the National Assembly and the army might be chipped away by Sihanouk after he returned to Cambodia next week.

On foreign policy matters, the government announced it will maintain strict neutrality. This point was conveyed privately to the US chargé in Phnom Penh when he was summoned by a senior army officer several hours before the assembly's move against Sihanouk and again yesterday in a note from the Foreign Office.

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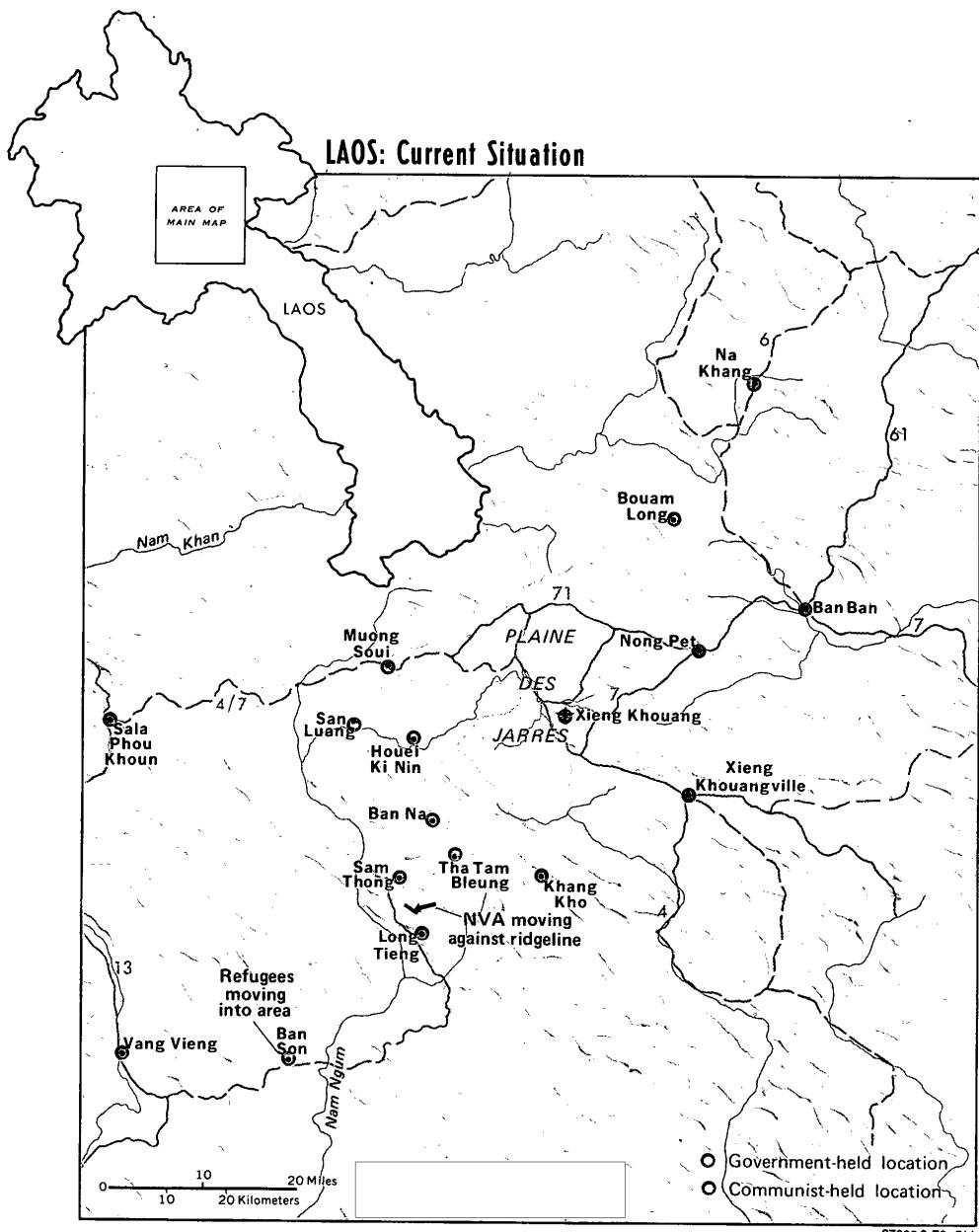
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Sihanouk long has claimed he would surrender his power if that is what the people wanted. In view of the current popular support for the government he does not appear to have any other option. Sihanouk probably will remain in the wings, hope the government falters, and then make himself available to return to Cambodia to restore national stability.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

General Vang Pao has taken advantage of a respite in enemy activity near his Long Tieng headquarters to strengthen the area's defenses with two battalions from outlying positions. In addition, a 300-man Thai artillery battalion was airlifted into the base yesterday and is now digging in near the airstrip.

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The government's defensive efforts have been complicated by the wholesale evacuation of the Meo community from the Long Tieng area. Many government soldiers have joined the refugee ranks, the bulk of which are moving to Ban Son, some 20 miles to the southwest.

Latest reports indicate that portions of the Sam Thong and Tha Tam Bleung areas and the outposts of Ban Na and Khang Kho were still in government hands. These positions are lightly defended, however, and are not likely to hold in the face of a stiff enemy assault.

The enemy may bypass these positions in favor of an all-out effort to overrun Vang Pao's headquarters in Long Tieng.

Enemy communications indicate 260 fresh troops are being brought in to reinforce North Vietnamese units now in the area. One intercepted message discloses that one of the enemy's immediate objectives will be the occupation of a prominent ridgeline situated halfway between Sam Thong and Long Tieng, which is presently defended by a small government artillery position. Loss of the ridgeline would bring the Long Tieng airstrip, vital for the movement of men and supplies into the area, within range of enemy mortars.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA - CANADA

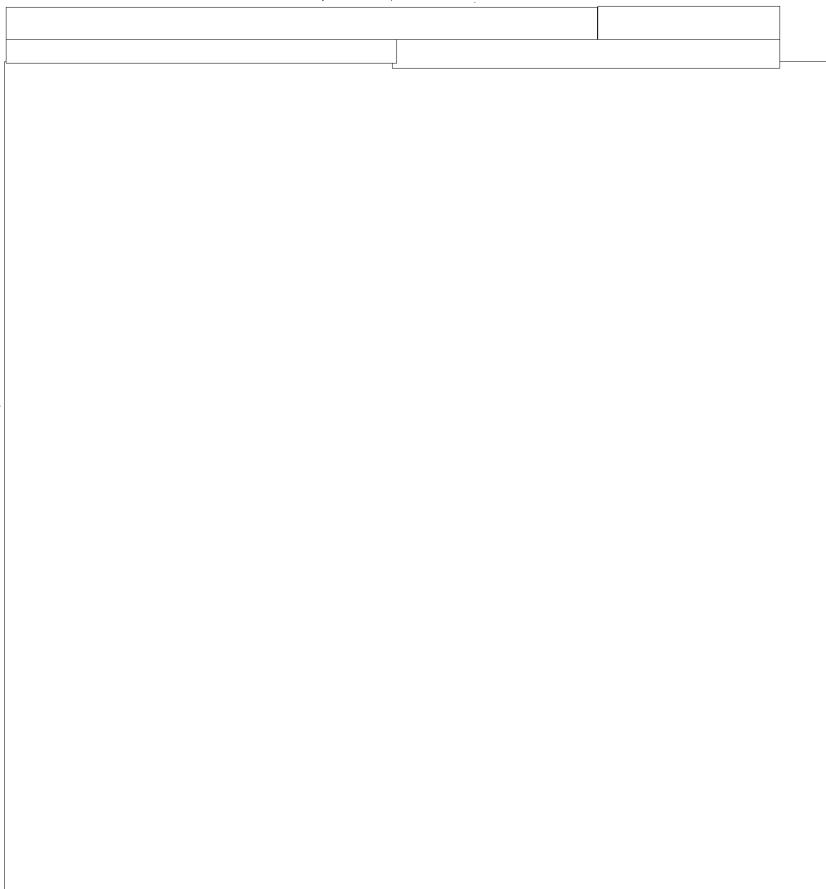
At the 13th session of the recognition talks held in Stockholm last week, Peking backed off a bit from its earlier extreme position. It proposed a new draft communiqué that for the first time omitted language explicitly acknowledging recognition by Ottawa of China's claim to sovereignty over Taiwan. It proposed instead that Canada recognize Peking as the sole legal government of the entire Chinese people. The Canadians consider unacceptable the new draft's strong implication of recognition of Peking's territorial claims and will probably offer a reformulation at the next meeting.

The Chinese have been stonewalling on the Taiwan question since the talks began. The new communiqué is designed to give the appearance of flexibility but in substance would still require Ottawa's acceptance of China's position on Taiwan. Although Peking still has given nothing away, the new draft is the first sign that the Chinese are willing to consider even verbal flexibility on this issue. It is likely that they had the Warsaw talks in mind in making their new proposal at this time.

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EAST GERMANY

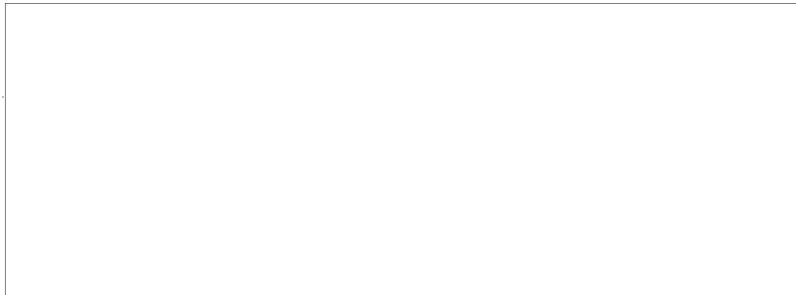


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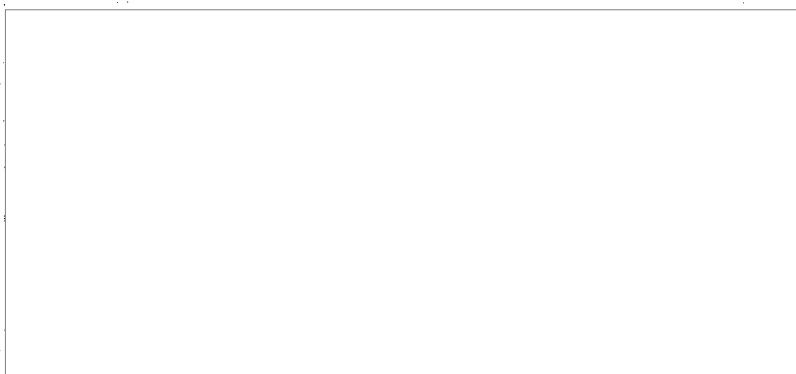
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LATIN AMERICA



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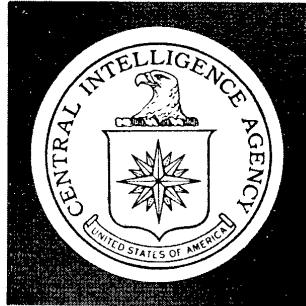
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Vietnam:

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

20 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The new Cambodian regime is consolidating its position and has launched a free-swinging campaign to discredit Sihanouk. (Page 1)

In Laos, the Communists have resumed their offensive against government forces blocking the approaches to Long Tieng. The government, for its part, is bringing in reinforcements to Long Tieng itself. (Page 2)

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Israeli aircraft meanwhile continue to bomb Egyptian targets elsewhere almost daily, but they have avoided strikes close to Cairo for over a month now. (Page 4)

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The Greek Government is going to considerable lengths to squash allegations that it was involved in the assassination of the former Cypriot interior minister. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

The new regime is moving quickly to consolidate its position. Yesterday the National Assembly granted "full power" to Prime Minister Lon Nol, declared a national emergency, and suspended a number of constitutional articles for six months. These last actions give the government broad powers of arrest and prohibit public assemblies. One of the few remaining pro-Sihanouk ministers in the cabinet has resigned; the foreign minister, who also is held to be a Sihanouk man, has been replaced as well.

The government also has launched a public campaign, led by Acting Chief of State Cheng Heng, to denigrate Sihanouk. The Prince has been charged with supplying arms to Cambodia's enemies and his entourage has been criticized for corruption. The armed forces have been notified that Sihanouk has been dismissed as commander in chief for betraying the constitution and the nation. The army was ordered to crush any possible subsequent action by Sihanouk to resume power.

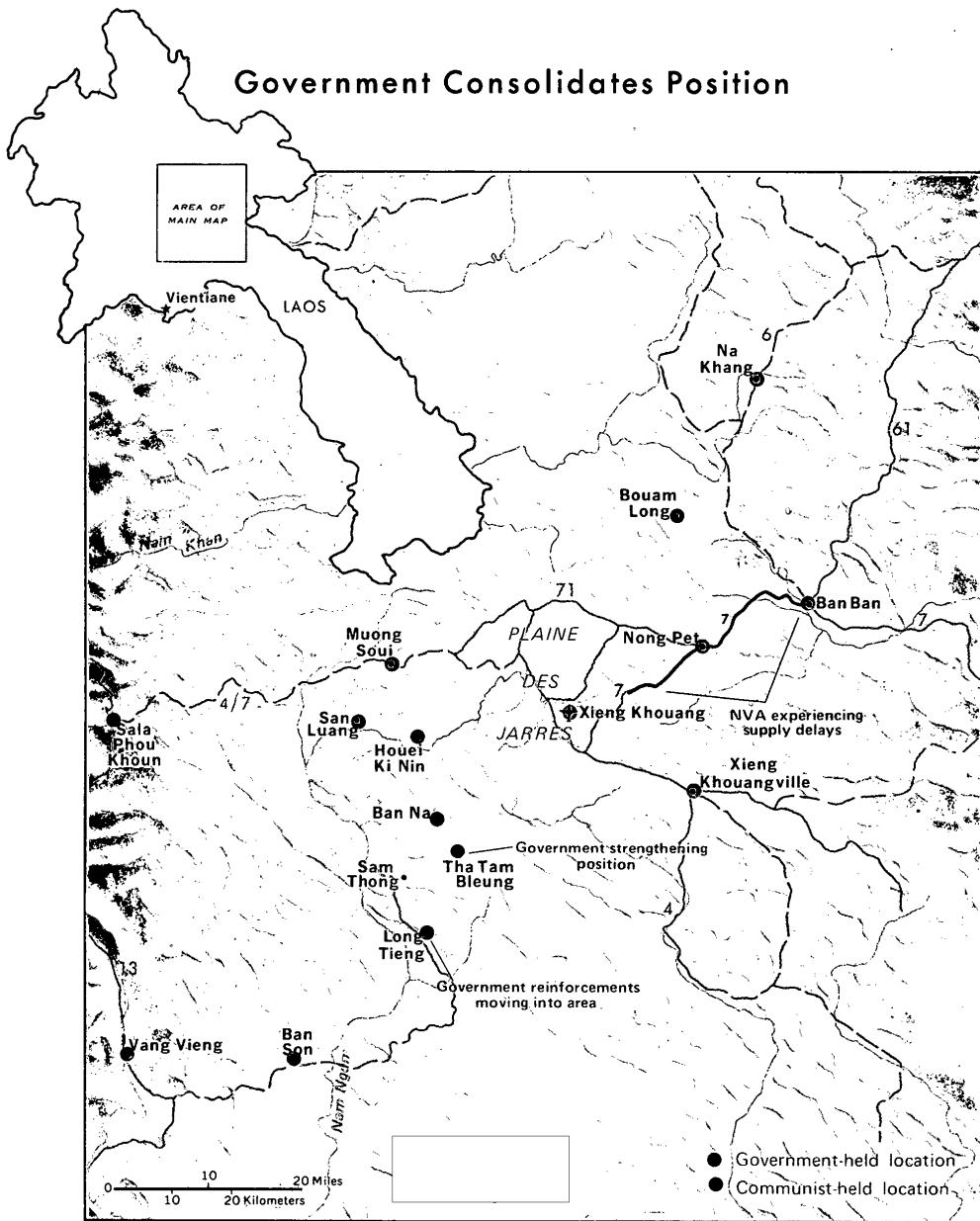
The country is generally quiet, although demonstrations against Vietnamese and Chinese communities have been reported in some provincial towns. Provincial officials are climbing on the bandwagon and sending in pledges of loyalty to the government. No significant military clashes have been reported between Cambodian and Vietnamese Communist units along the eastern border, nor is there any evidence of major withdrawals of Communist units.

Sihanouk remains in Peking, where he is being accorded full diplomatic honors as a chief of state. He still has made no comment on his ouster.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Government Consolidates Position



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The enemy has renewed its attempts to sweep government forces from areas blocking the approaches to Long Tieng. Late on 19 March the enemy launched a heavy attack south of Tha Tam Bleung, forcing government troops to withdraw from the area. Government forces have also evacuated Ban Na to the north.

At the same time, the government is attempting to strengthen its position in the immediate Long Tieng area. The airlift of three guerrilla battalions from south Laos is under way and advance elements have already taken up defensive positions midway between Sam Thong and Long Tieng. In addition, newly arrived long-range artillery pieces have been deployed in positions to destroy enemy rocket launching sites in the hills immediately north of the base.

The deteriorating military situation and Prime Minister Souvanna's apparent willingness to pursue the Communists' peace proposal of 6 March are contributing to political unrest in south Laos.

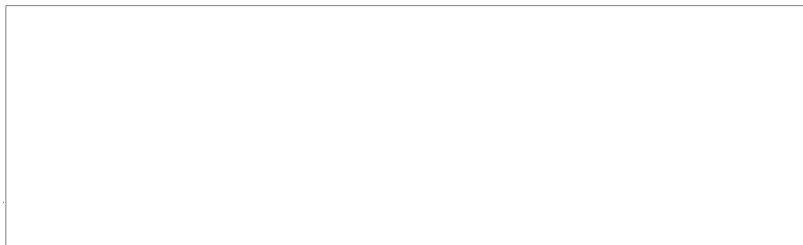
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These rightist malcontents seem to be maneuvering for the return of Phoumi Nosavan, who has been in Thai exile since an abortive coup in 1965. Discredited in most areas of the country, Phoumi's support appears to be limited to the south. Phoumi is anathema to the Vientiane-based Sananikone clan and the rightist military leaders in the capital.

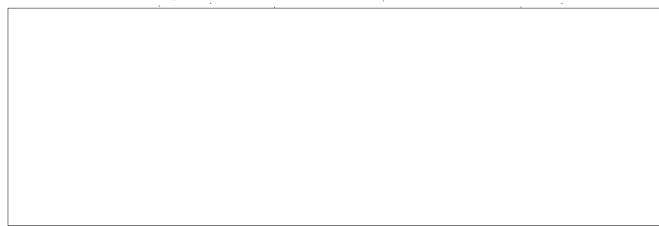
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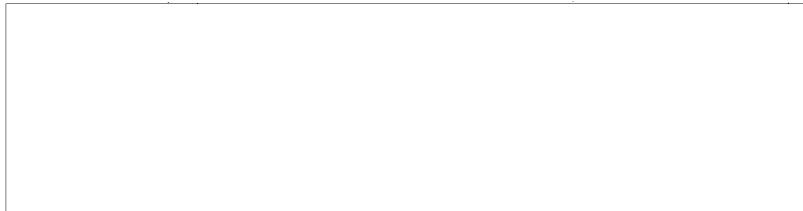
USSR-EGYPT



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL - ARAB STATES

Israeli aircraft continue to bomb Egyptian targets elsewhere almost daily, but they have avoided strikes close to Cairo for over a month now. The last strike near Cairo was the misdirected attack on a civilian factory on 12 February. The closest the Israelis have come since then was an attack on an SA-2 site 20 miles west of Cairo on 26 February.

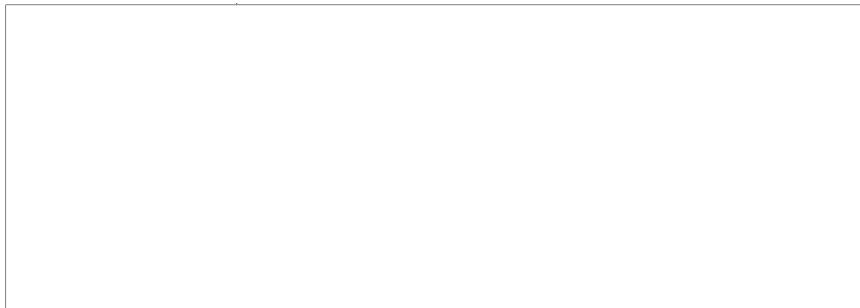
Israel's reasons for shying away from the Cairo area are not entirely clear. The repercussions from the bombing error may be a factor, and weather conditions have occasionally been poor. The Israelis could also be trying to conserve their aircraft and may be marking time pending a US decision on further sales.

These latter considerations may help explain why the Israelis are not using their aircraft on the other cease-fire lines. In response to increased Syrian harassment in the Golan Heights area, Israel is using helicopter-borne commando raids rather than air strikes. In Jordan and Lebanon it is retaliating for fedayeen attacks with artillery and cross-border ground raids.

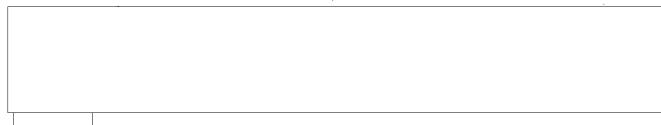
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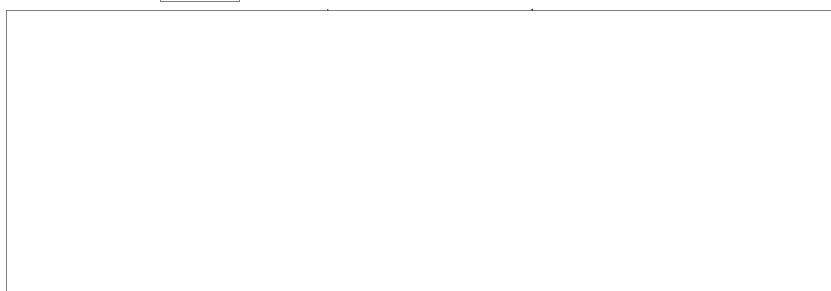
EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY



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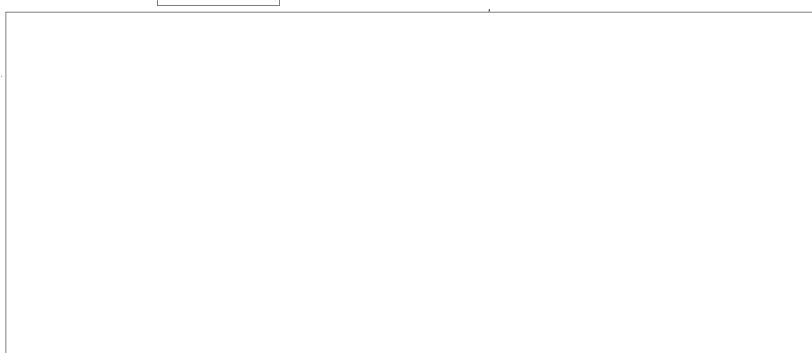


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Greece-Cyprus: Prime Minister Papadopoulos is going to considerable lengths to squash allegations that he and his government are involved in the assassination of former minister Georkatzis. Among other things, he is sending high-ranking army officers to Cyprus to assist in the investigation of the attempted murder of President Makarios and the death of Georkatzis. Also, he issued a public statement in the name of his government condemning violence in general and that in Cyprus in particular. It demanded that the criminals be caught and punished "in an exemplary way."

Libya: [redacted] the Grand Mufti of Libya, the most important religious leader in the country, has been under house arrest since 12 March. The Grand Mufti is one of the closest advisers to Prime Minister Qaddafi, and his detention may be part of a move by dissenters in the Revolutionary Command Council to curb Qaddafi--particularly his pro-Egyptian policies.

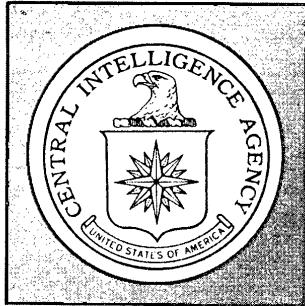
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Italy: Former premier Fanfani threw in the sponge yesterday, and now President Saragat may ask caretaker Premier Rumor to make another try at putting together a new coalition government.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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21 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LATE ITEM: CZECHOSLOVAKIA

A Reuters dispatch from Prague states that Alexander Dubcek has been suspended from the Communist Party. Reuters cited the Czech paper, Rude Pravo, as the source of the information, which we can neither confirm nor deny at this time (0500 EST).

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Communist forces continue to advance in Laos. (Page 1)

Lon Nol seems to be attracting grass-roots support in Cambodia, but international acceptance may be slow in coming. (Page 2)

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[redacted] South Vietnam. (Page 3)

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Many Canadians oppose the second voyage of the Manhattan. (Page 4)

Student violence in Turkey will meet stronger police action. (Page 5)

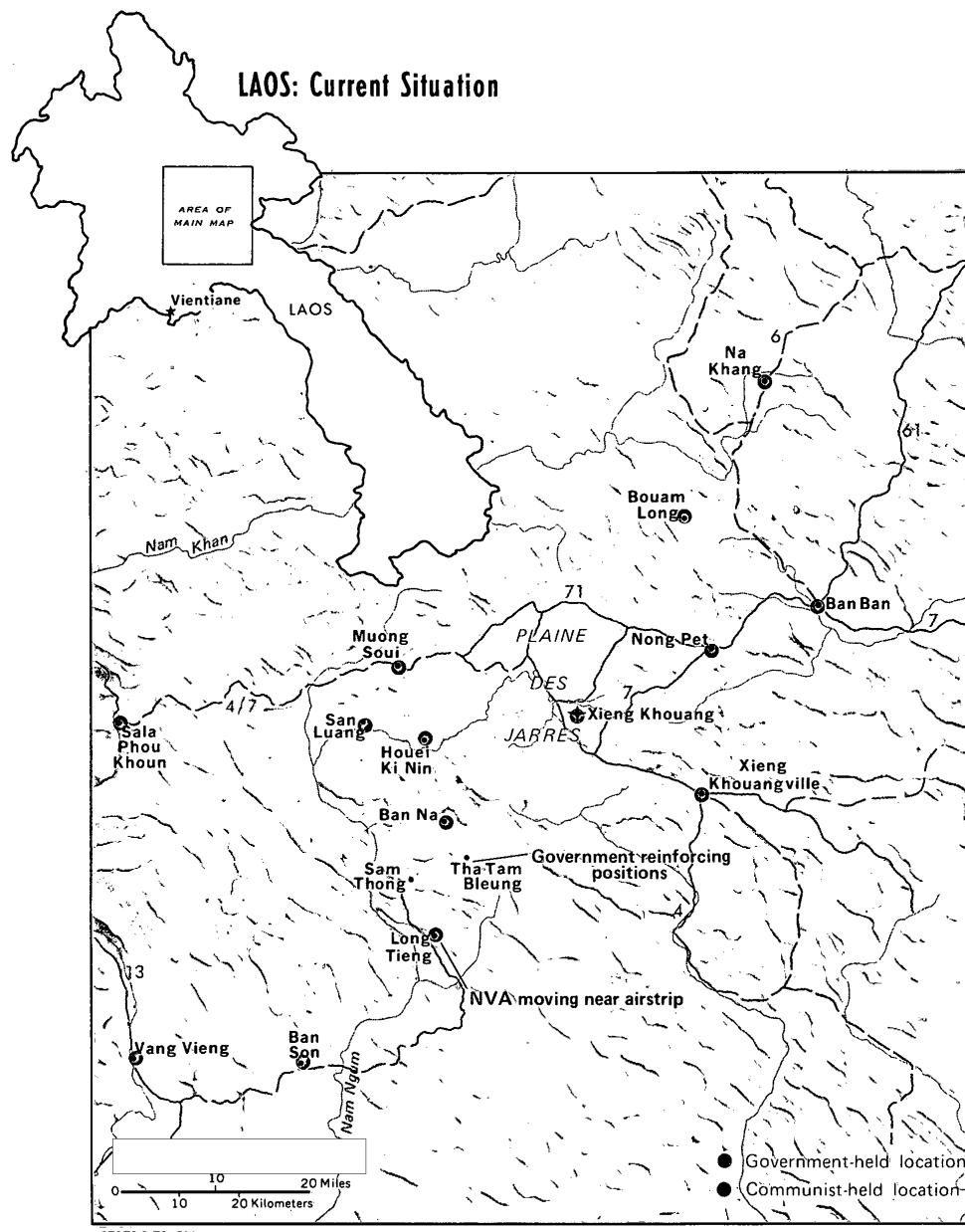
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[redacted] Libya [redacted]

(Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: Current Situation



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The government has moved additional reinforcements into Long Tieng, but the military situation continues to deteriorate. North Vietnamese troops have pushed to within one mile of the airstrip, even though new government troops have moved into the hills immediately north of the base. Vang Pao now has about 800 troops dug in around the headquarters complex. With enemy units closing in, however, there is a real danger that the government will lose the use of the airstrip.

It is not yet clear how many troops the Communists have in the immediate Long Tieng area. Enemy communications indicate the presence of at least two North Vietnamese battalions. Another radio terminal associated with the North Vietnamese 316th Division has moved into the area. An intercepted message indicating guides were directing elements of this division toward Long Tieng suggests the buildup is continuing.

In an attempt to block further enemy troop movements into the northern approaches to Long Tieng, Vang Pao is reinforcing positions immediately south of the heavily contested Tha Tam Bleung area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Sihanouk denounced the Lon Nol government's recent actions in a statement from Peking yesterday and called for a nationwide popular vote, to be administered by the International Control Commission. Sihanouk argued that recognition of the Lon Nol government would be an illegal act, but made no mention of returning to Cambodia or using force to regain his office.

Sihanouk's unrealistic appeal for a referendum will almost certainly fall on deaf ears in Phnom Penh. The government already has passed the point of no return in its relations with Sihanouk as its current campaign to discredit him indicates.

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The Cambodian ambassador in Moscow, meanwhile, has told US [redacted] officials there that the Soviets had indicated they would not accept a Western-oriented government in Cambodia.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS - SOUTH VIETNAM

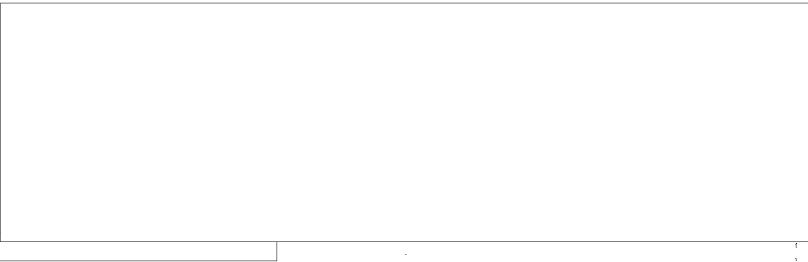


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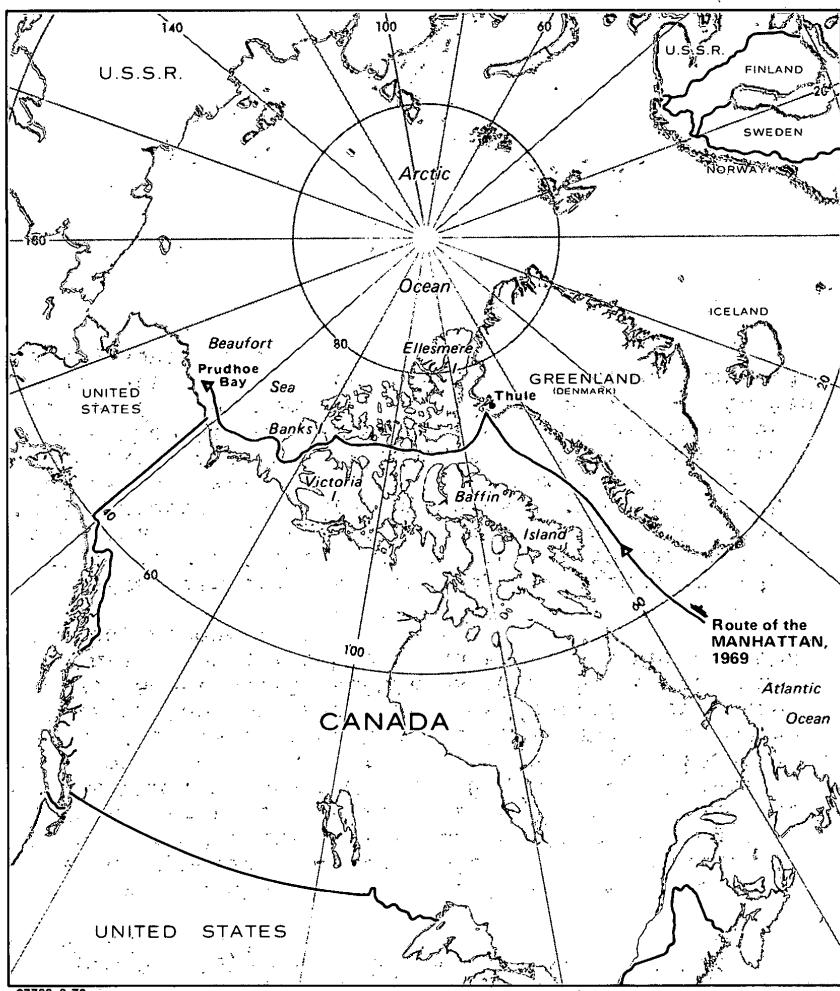


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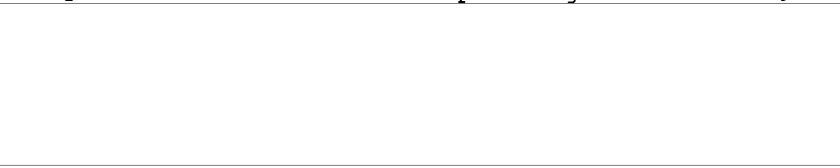
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CANADA

Opposition to the second voyage next month of the icebreaker-tanker Manhattan through the Northwest Passage has not subsided despite the government's announcement earlier this week of new safety measures for the vessel. The government has been attacked in the House of Commons and in the press for not taking a more forthright position on Canada's sovereignty over its Arctic water routes and on pollution controls for ships using these waters.

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TURKEY

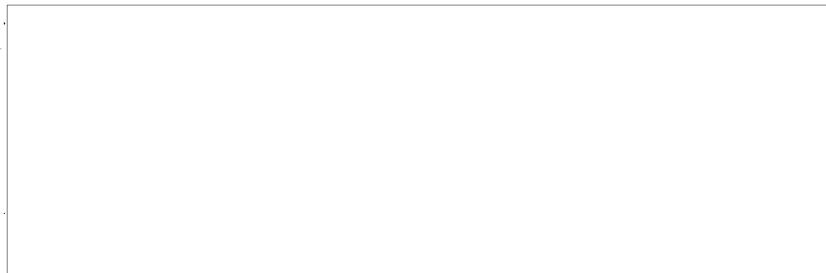
Senior Turkish authorities have decided to institute military control of Istanbul and Ankara in an attempt to curb continuing student violence, which has occurred repeatedly in at least five cities during the past three weeks. Observers are struck by the degree to which extremists have taken over the student movement and the extent to which political issues and anti-Americanism have replaced valid academic grievances.

The current rash of student unrest appears to be the most highly organized and widespread in several years. Because student extremism has alienated many of those who were previously sympathetic, stronger police action at this time probably would receive broad popular support.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

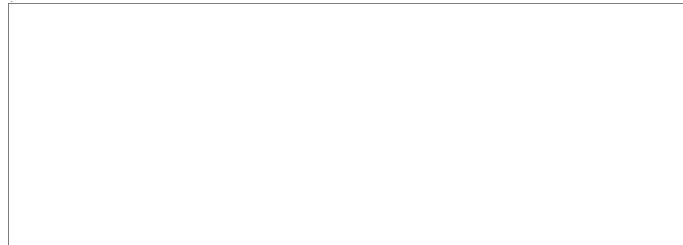
LIBYA



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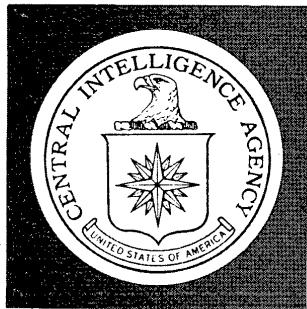
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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23 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] Soviet [redacted] (Page 1)

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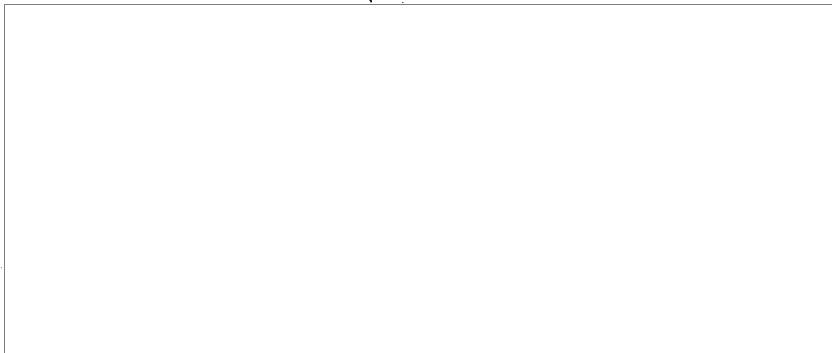
In Laos, the security of the government's base at Long Tieng continues to deteriorate. (Page 4)

North Vietnam and China continue to support Sihanouk.
(Page 5)

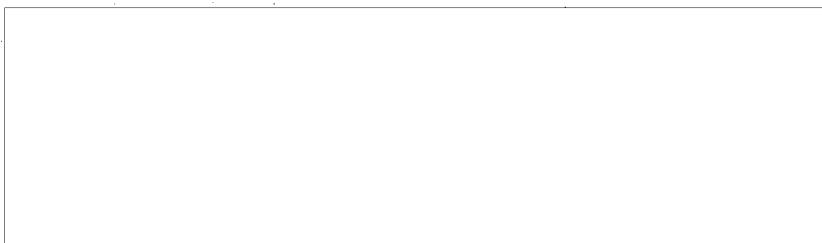
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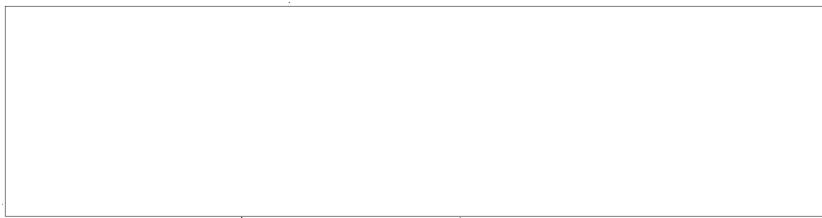
USSR



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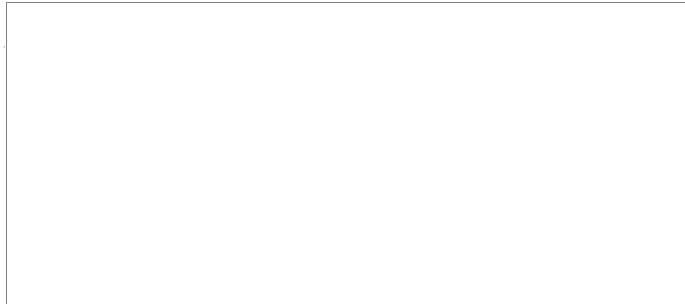
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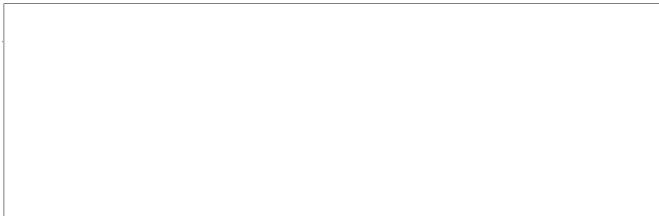
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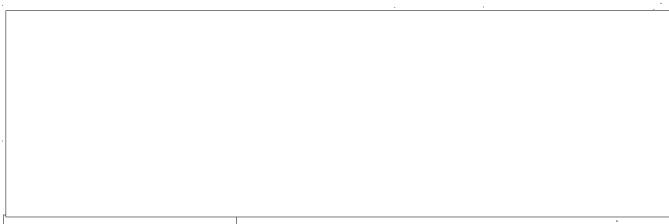
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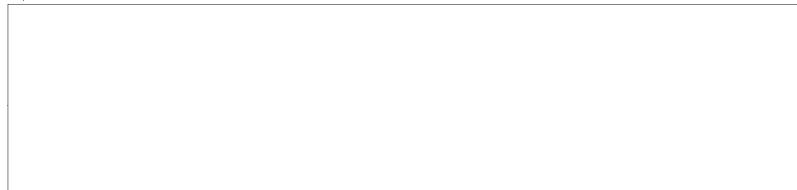
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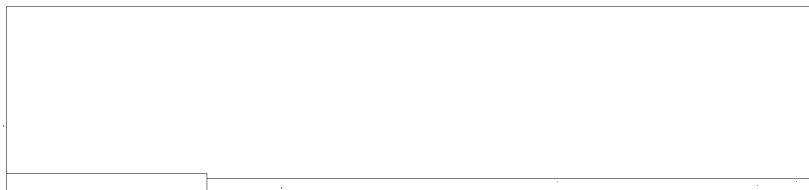
MIDDLE EAST



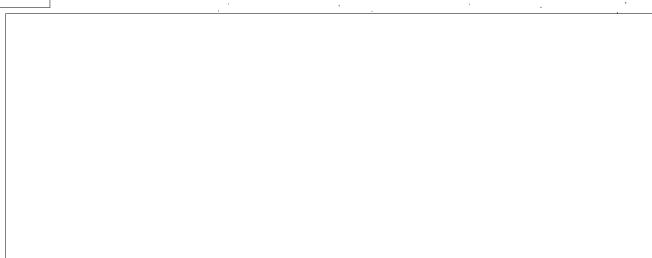
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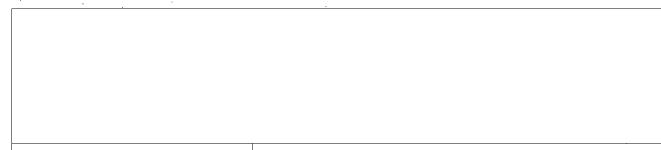


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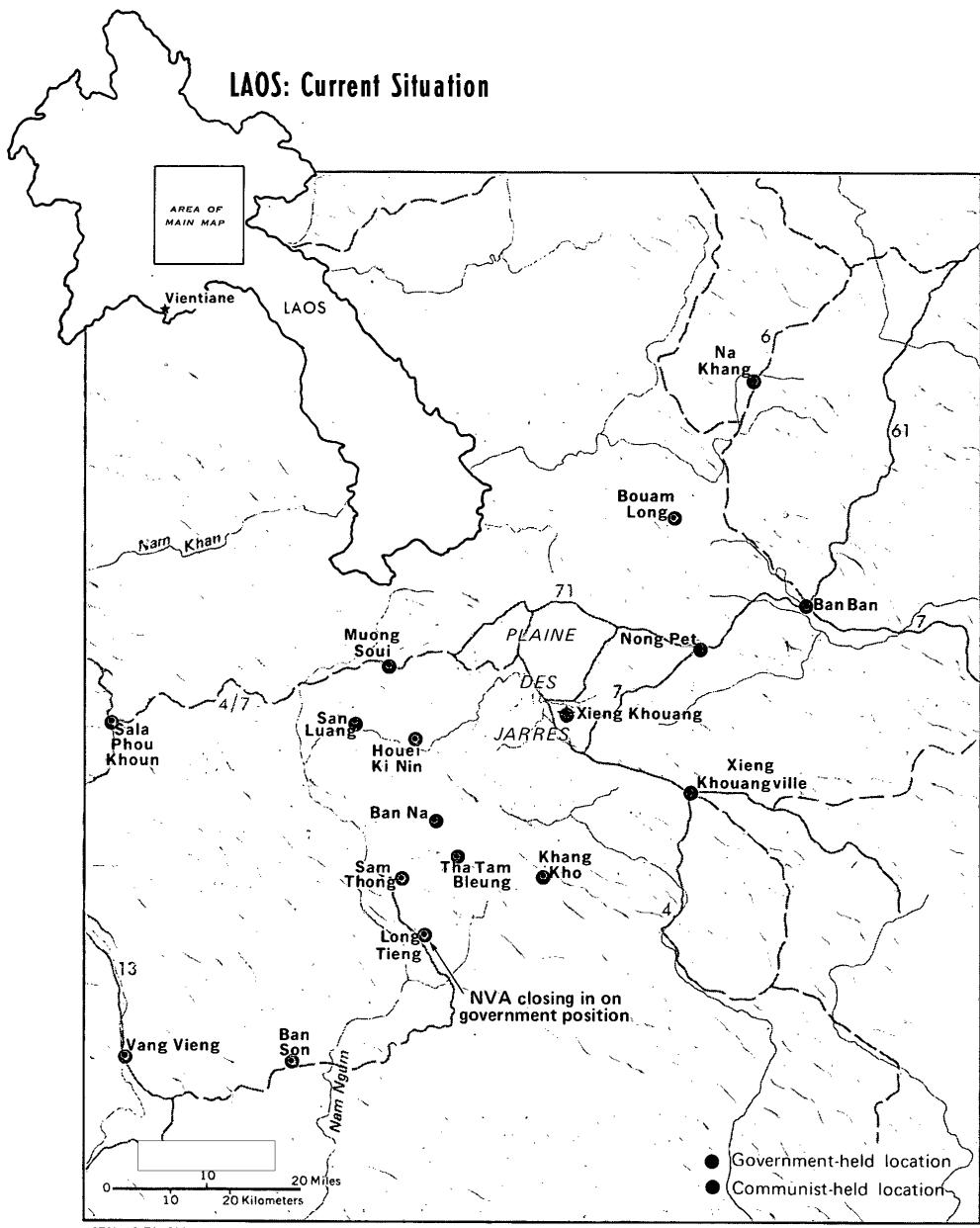


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

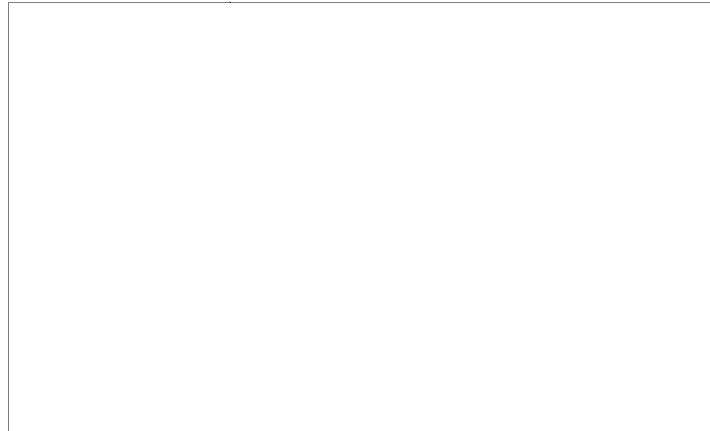
Communist forces are operating in strength just outside General Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng. In recent days the enemy has launched an increasing number of rocket attacks against the base and the government's ability to defend the area is being put to a severe test.

[redacted] there now may be as many as six enemy battalions threatening Long Tieng. We are able to place elements of the North Vietnamese 6th Battalion approximately one mile east of the airstrip from intercepted enemy communications which also disclose this battalion's plans to direct heavy weapons fire at the base. Although the government defense force now numbers over 2,000 troops, it will be difficult for them to prevent small enemy teams from penetrating the defense perimeter.

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In Bangkok, two Thai generals talked to a US Embassy official Saturday about the possibility of pulling two Thai battalions out of Vietnam to reinforce Long Tieng. The generals stressed that this would require a formal request from Vientiane and a favorable decision from the highest levels within the Thai Government. Souvanna was scheduled to pursue this matter yesterday with King Savang, who has long been opposed to the presence of Thai forces in Laos.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

After avoiding direct comment on events in Cambodia for three days, North Vietnam yesterday labeled Cambodia's new leaders as a "pro-American ultra-rightist group" in an authoritative Nhan Dan statement. Arguing that Sihanouk's ouster had been engineered by the US, Nhan Dan stated that "our people fully support" the struggle of the Cambodian people against the US and the new leadership.

This statement and a reference to "stepping up the fight" against the US "lackeys" may be meant as a warning to the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak government that the Communists are prepared to fight unless the new leaders are accommodating.

The Chinese Communists, for their part, continue to refer to Sihanouk as chief of state and they have broadcast his lengthy apologia and attack on the new regime.

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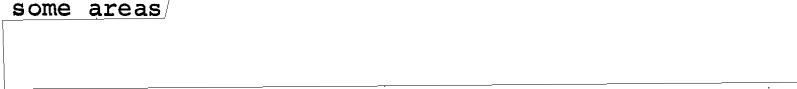
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Sihanouk's weekend statements in Peking suggest that, in his present state of mind, he is susceptible to whatever plans the Communists may have to overthrow the new Phnom Penh leadership. Although counting himself out as a prominent figure in Cambodia's future, Sihanouk stated that his "duty" was to aid the "struggle...from the inside and from the outside to erase this coup." He also announced that he would spend his exile alternately in Peking and Moscow. Sihanouk is not likely to play the role of a Communist stooge, however, and his statements may be partially designed to bluff jittery opponents in the Cambodian capital.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The government, meanwhile, has called on the Geneva co-chairmen to "reconstitute" the International Control Commission to meet the threat of foreign troops on Cambodian soil. It has also called for "official negotiations" with the Vietnamese Communists on the withdrawal of their troops. In addition to these diplomatic moves, Cambodian units on the border are maintaining contact with the Communists, although only a few light skirmishes have been reported. The Communists have given ground in some areas

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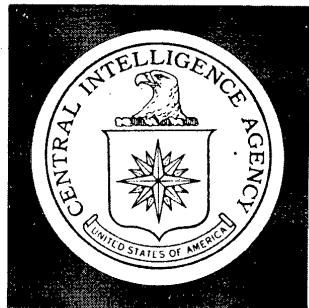
NOTE

Fedayeen-Venezuela:

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Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

24 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Speaking from Peking, Sihanouk has embarked on a campaign to shake the resolve of the Lon Nol government. (Page 1)

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] Lao [Redacted] (Page 2)

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[Redacted] (Page 5)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

From Peking yesterday, Sihanouk broadcast a message to the Cambodian people calling for the establishment of a "government of national unity" and a "national liberation army" to overthrow the "reactionary fascists." He promised arms and ammunition to his followers and claimed that a "military school" would be established to provide training. He stated that "formal support" from socialist countries would be forthcoming, and implied the struggle would be undertaken in cooperation with Communist forces.

Sihanouk's penchant for theatrics may account for some of the points in his statement, but it is also heavily larded with Communist jargon. This plus the fact that it was issued in Peking--probably with the blessing of the visiting North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong--strongly suggests that the Communists are backing Sihanouk's current maneuver. A Hanoi domestic broadcast on 23 March commenting on Sihanouk's earlier statement regarding the "illegality" of the Phnom Penh leadership, voiced support for the Prince's efforts to rid Cambodia of the "coup makers."

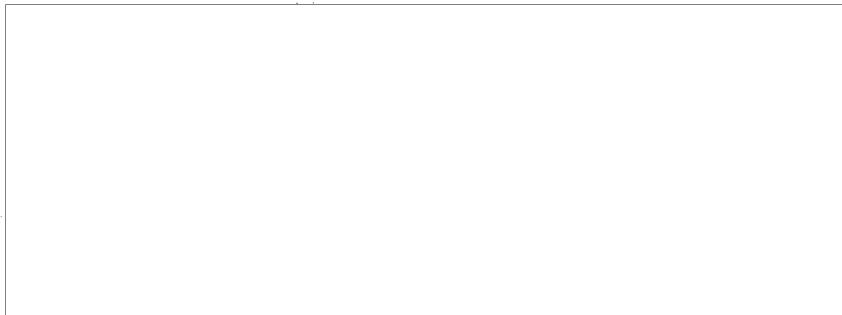
Despite the evidence of support, it is not clear how far Hanoi is willing to go at present to back Sihanouk against the new regime in Phnom Penh. The Communists may hope that Sihanouk's statements will create a climate of doubt and dissension among the new government's backers that could shake the resolve of Lon Nol and Sirik Matak.

Hanoi may also hope that the "support" already given Sihanouk will cause Lon Nol and Matak to accommodate Communist interests in Cambodia. Recent statements by Lon Nol suggest that Phnom Penh's anti-Vietnamese rhetoric is now giving way to a more sober appreciation of the problems Cambodia faces. If he and Matak do not give way, however, the existence of a Sihanouk-led "liberation movement" provides the Communists with the cover for more forceful measures.

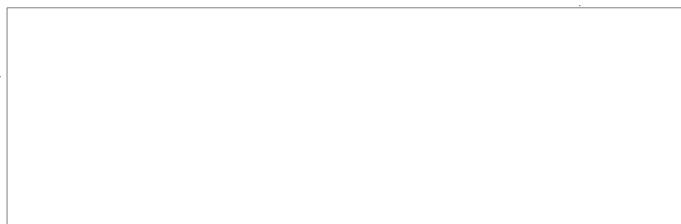
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

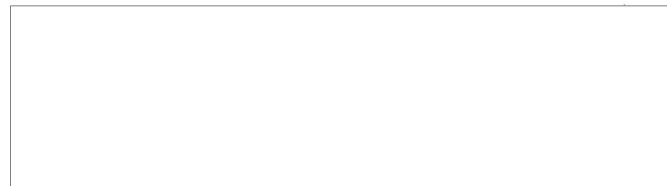
LAOS



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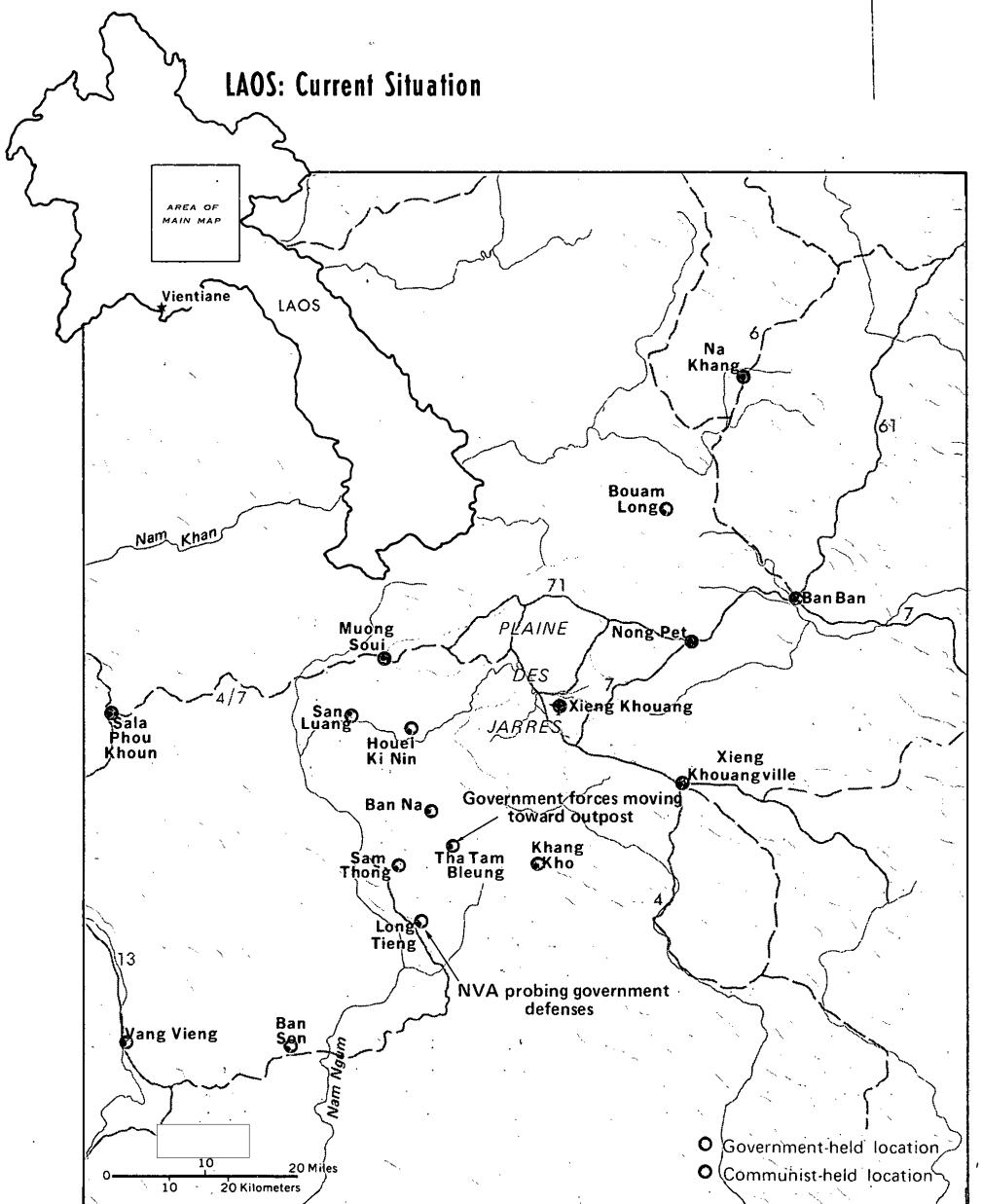


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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On the military front, North Vietnamese forces have carried out several heavy, but unsuccessful, probing attacks against the Long Tieng perimeter. According to a recently intercepted enemy message, North Vietnamese forces were urged to overcome these defenses at the "earliest possible time." North of the base, government guerrillas began moving back into the Tha Tam Bleung area and will attempt to regain the high ground overlooking this former government outpost within the next few days.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY - EAST GERMANY



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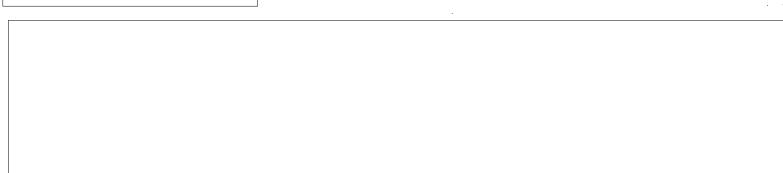


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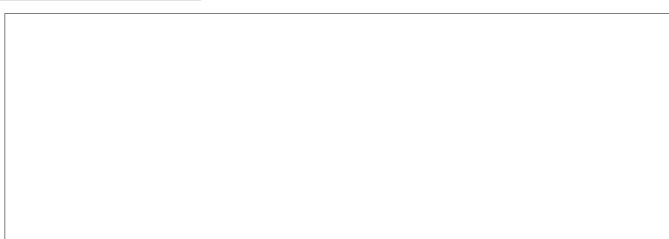
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

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Albania - Western Europe: Requests by Tirana for diplomatic and economic ties with Denmark, Belgium, Norway, Greece, and possibly the Netherlands, do not indicate strains in the Sino-Albanian axis or a change in Albania's ideological orientation. They are the result of Albania's growing self-confidence in its political stability and recognition that there can be economic and even political profits, at low cost, from such ties.

Initial responses to the Albanian overtures vary with the distance from Tirana. Copenhagen and Oslo were the most receptive, whereas a resumption of Greek-Albanian relations is only a long-range possibility. The Greek claim to southern Albania is a major stumbling block--the two states technically are still at war. Some progress in restoring economic ties is being made, however.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] Cambodia [redacted]

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(Page 1)

The opposing forces in Laos have made no major moves
in the past 24 hours. (Page 2)

The terrorists in the Dominican Republic and the gov-
ernment seem ready to negotiate. (Page 3)

The Soviet [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 4)

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[redacted] (Page 5)

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[redacted] South Vietnam. (Page 6)

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Willy Brandt may deny it, but his visit to Erfurt has
evoked demonstrations and vandalism by East German
youth. (Page 7)

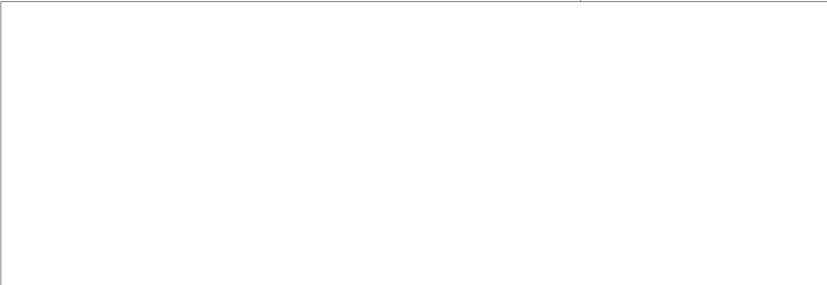
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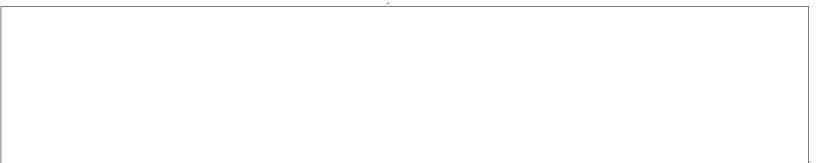
CAMBODIA

Intercepted Cambodian military messages report the continuing presence of sizable numbers of Communist troops in the southeastern border province of Svay Rieng. One message indicated that these troops are on alert and are being reinforced. Cambodian units claim that they are too weak to move against these concentrations.

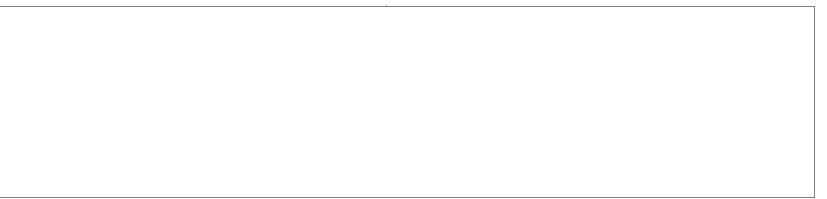
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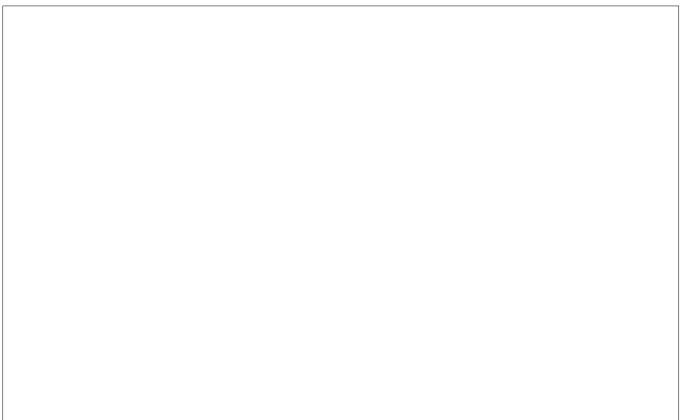
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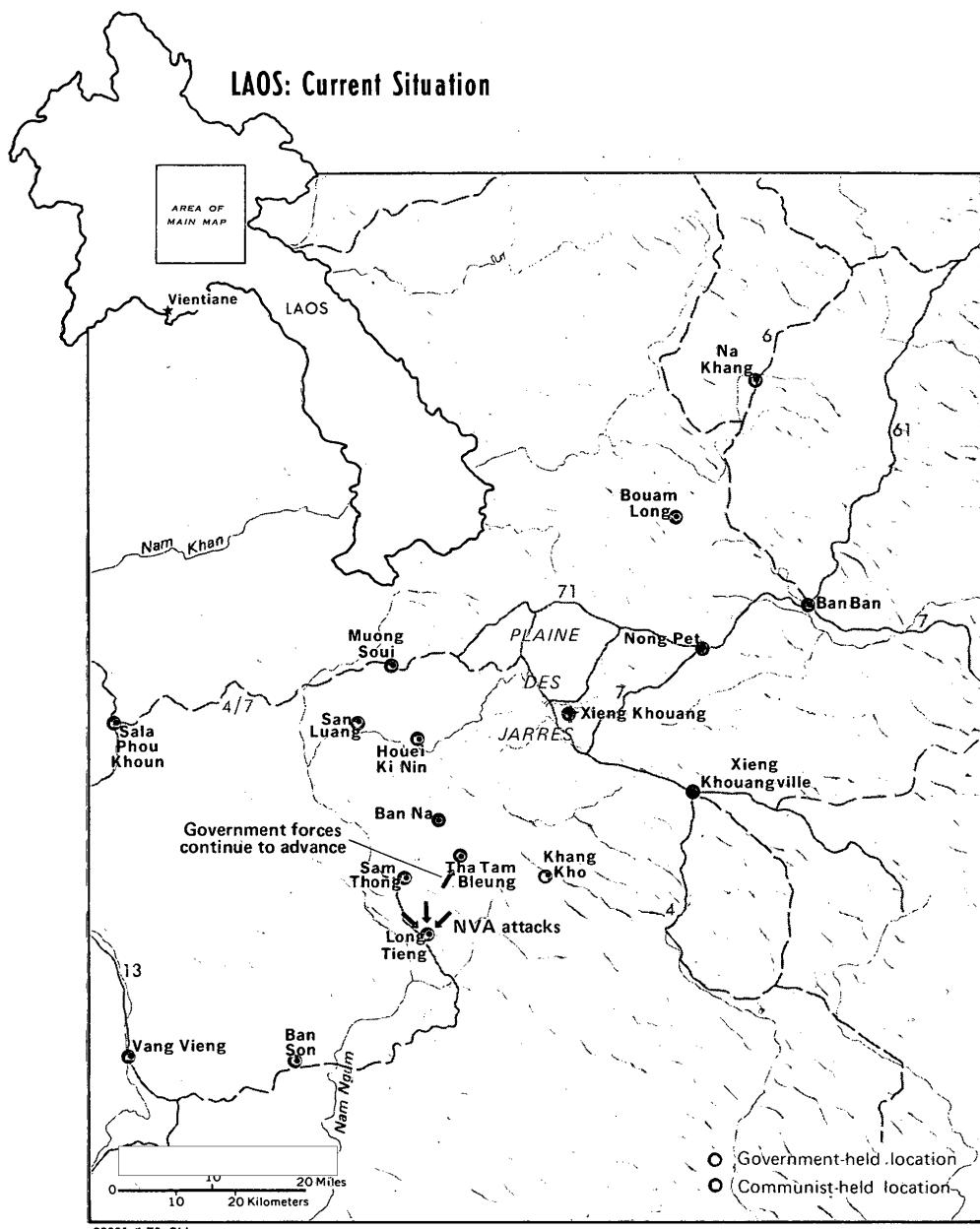


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The Communists continue to squeeze Long Tieng, but Vang Pao's forces have turned back most of the probes sent against the outpost positions on the high ground overlooking the base. One such outpost was overrun yesterday but recaptured.

Tha Tam Bleung was the target of some counter-moves by Vang Pao's troops yesterday. [redacted] government guerrillas are moving toward it in an effort to reduce the Communist pressure on Long Tieng.

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These seesaw movements are not really indicative of the relative strengths of the contending forces. The Communists are moving slowly because they lack a secure supply line into the Long Tieng region, and they probably will refrain from a direct assault on Long Tieng until such time as they believe they can achieve a quick victory. Vang Pao, for his part, is continuing his tested strategy of inflicting maximum casualties on the attackers while minimizing his losses.

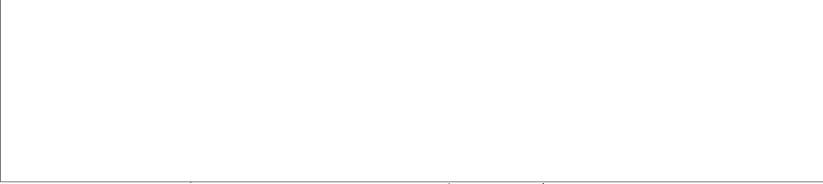
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Yesterday's kidnaping of Lt. Col. Donald J. Crowley, US air attaché, presumably was carried out by members of the Communist Dominican Popular Movement (MPD), the most terroristic of the several Communist factions. The kidnappers have demanded the release by 1000 today of the MPD secretary general, who was captured by the government in January, and more than 20 other prisoners.

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With elections coming up in May, the kidnaping will add further fuel to opposition charges that the government is unable to maintain order. Recent weeks have been marked by considerable violence on the part of both the Communists and the military, and continued clashes between civilians and police. The latest incident is likely to be particularly unsettling to President Balaguer, who must announce his candidacy this week if he is to run for re-election.

At press time we were informed that a meeting between spokesmen for the government and for the kidnappers was then in session.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

We noted in The President's Daily Brief of 18 March that [redacted] Soviet preparations for a large-scale naval exercise in the Mediterranean. Yesterday, the new helicopter carrier Leningrad made its first passage through the Bosporus, accompanied by two Kashin-class missile frigates. The Leningrad's sister ship, the Moskva, has been in the Mediterranean for several months. There are now 27 surface combat ships in the Mediterranean--most of them in the eastern portion--plus 13 submarines and assorted auxiliaries.

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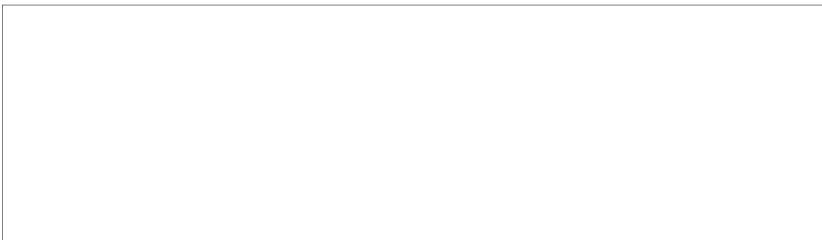
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Soviet naval strength in the Mediterranean normally reaches its highest level during the spring and summer months. The current buildup--the most powerful force ever assembled there by the Soviets--may also be intended as a show of strength timed to coincide with increased Soviet military deliveries to Egypt.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SOUTH VIETNAM



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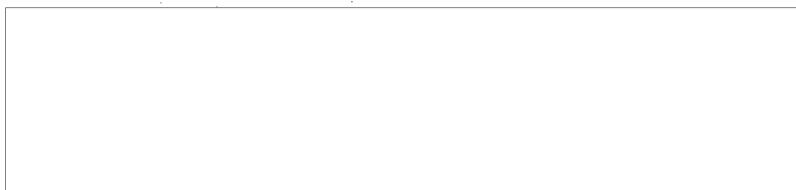
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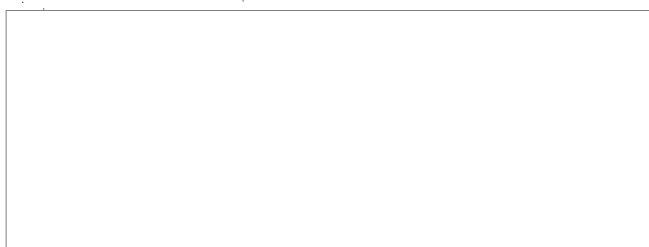
NORTH VIETNAM



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EAST GERMANY

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[redacted] Willy Brandt prefers to deny that his visit to Erfurt brought to the surface any animosity to Ulbricht's government among the East Germans. However, the trip to Erfurt has sparked demonstrations that continued throughout East Germany from 19 March--the date of his visit--until at least 22 March.

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More than 140 people have been arrested on political charges since Brandt and Stoph met. For Ulbricht's followers, the most disturbing factor may be that most of those arrested were young people from officially sponsored youth or labor organizations. Thus, they could not be shrugged off as "hooligans."

The party politburo met on 20 March in a special session to evaluate the "breakdown" in Erfurt; it was still deliberating on 23 March. As in the past, the East Germans probably will find political scapegoats and tighten security. In the longer run, with the many instances of public dissension in mind, the East German leaders could decide that it will be too risky for them to invite Brandt to return to East Germany.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

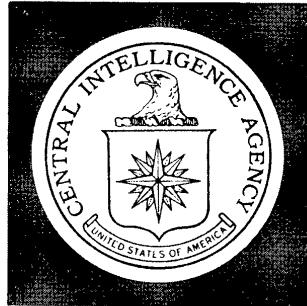
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Italy: Prime Minister - designate Mariano Rumor probably will be able to form a new center-left government. The four parties of his coalition are now bargaining over the allocation of ministerial and other posts. Having escaped the need to prepare for elections, parliament can continue work on a variety of partially enacted economic, administrative, and social reforms.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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26 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Hanoi has come out strongly in support of Sihanouk's call for an uprising against the new government in Phnom Penh. (Page 1)

In Laos, the government has sent significant numbers of reinforcements to Long Tieng in expectation of a major enemy assault. [redacted]

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(Page 2)

Numerous documents captured recently in South Vietnam emphasize directives to Communist forces there to concentrate on guerrilla warfare and political subversion, rather than on large combat actions.

(Page 3)

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[redacted] In Lebanon, there have been serious incidents between the fedayeen and elements of the security forces and the civilian population. (Page 4)

50X1

West German emissary Egon Bahr has briefed the Allied ambassadors in Bonn on his second round of talks in Moscow; meanwhile, Chancellor Brandt faces growing opposition to his Eastern policy. (Page 5)

In the Dominican Republic, negotiations for the release of the US air attaché, Lt. Col. Crowley, have temporarily broken down. (Page 6)

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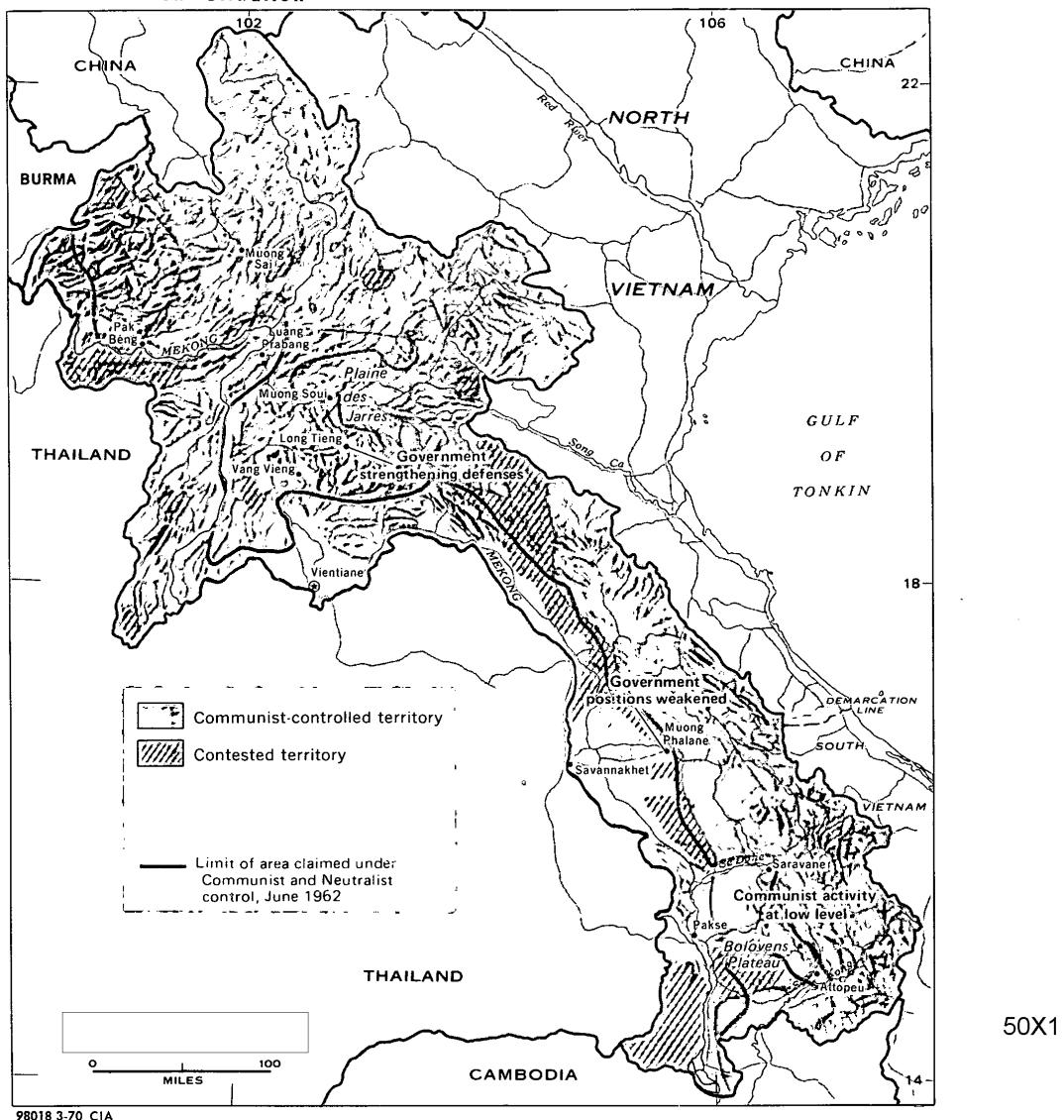
NORTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

A North Vietnamese Government communiqué yesterday declared "total support" for Sihanouk's call of 23 March for an uprising against the new government in Phnom Penh. In addition, both Hanoi and the South Vietnamese Communists apparently are proceeding with plans to withdraw most, if not all, of their diplomatic personnel from Phnom Penh.

These moves leave little doubt that Hanoi is relying on intimidation--by bluster if possible but by force if necessary--as the best way to handle the Cambodians. By their actions, the Communists have tightened the screws in the face of demands from Phnom Penh for a continuation of talks on Vietnamese-Cambodian issues.

Available evidence indicates that the Communists still hope to avoid a resort to force. They almost certainly are willing, however, to take military action, while concealing their activities under the guise of a "liberation movement," if they believe their vital interests in Cambodia are endangered.

Laos: Current Situation



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The Long Tieng defense force has been strengthened significantly in anticipation of a major assault. Continued reinforcement has raised to 3,400 the number of troops in the immediate area. Communications intelligence indicates that North Vietnamese units near the airstrip, having failed in their initial attempts to break through the defenses, are now working on improving the accuracy of their 122-mm. rockets.

The only significant ground action in the area yesterday occurred some six miles north of the base where a 300-man North Vietnamese force attacked a newly occupied government position. Government troops suffered relatively heavy casualties in the engagement, but the North Vietnamese were pushed back.

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In the central portion of the panhandle, meanwhile, Communist forces have not yet attempted to take advantage of the government's weakened forces near Muong Phalane. Two government battalions, which had been successful in keeping enemy forces in this area off balance, were recently airlifted to Long Tieng.

Farther south, in the Bolovens Plateau, Communist forces have been unusually inactive so far this dry season, possibly because of problems with their allies. A recently intercepted enemy message disclosed that North Vietnamese forces had withdrawn from their positions near Saravane because of friction with Pathet Lao units.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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SOUTH VIETNAM

A pattern has been emerging in enemy documents captured in the past several weeks which leads us to conclude that Communist forces in many areas of South Vietnam have been directed to concentrate on guerrilla warfare and political subversion, rather than on large combat actions. Numerous captured documents indicate that the aim is to avoid heavy losses, ease supply problems, build up weakened local forces, and provide greater protection for the Communist political apparatus.

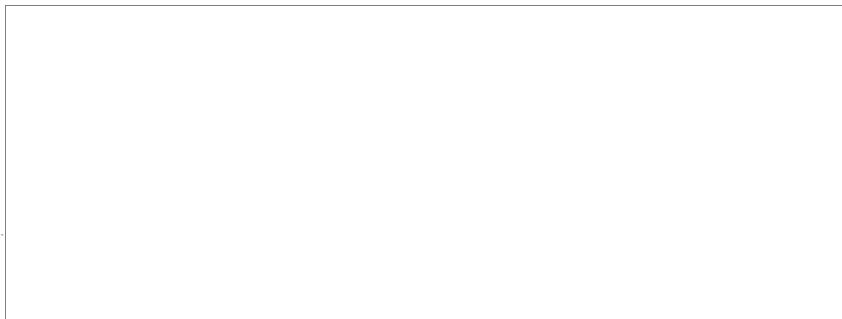
We noted the beginnings of this change in tactics in late 1969, when the enemy gave up coordinated but brief countrywide assaults and started to emphasize lesser campaigns.

The captured documents support other indications that the enemy plans to maintain such tactics for some time to come. In a strategic sense, the plan is designed to strengthen Communist capabilities for protracted military operations, and to keep Communist forces in South Vietnam in a condition which would permit them to take advantage of any favorable opportunities for large-scale actions.

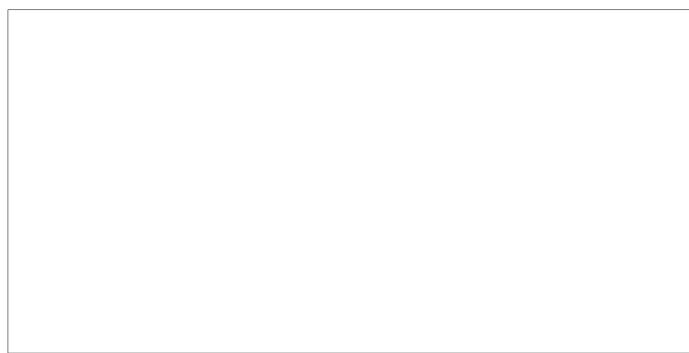
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MIDDLE EAST



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There were serious incidents yesterday between Palestinian commandos and Lebanese civilians and troops. The first clash involved residents of a Christian village five miles southeast of Beirut and fedayeen from a refugee camp. The Lebanese Army moved tanks into the area to stop the fighting. Another clash occurred at a refugee camp north of Beirut, where commandos seized the son of Pierre al-Jummayyil, leader of the far-right Christian Phalanges Party. Fighting broke out between fedayeen and Phalangists, and the latter are said to have mobilized their paramilitary forces.

The Lebanese cabinet met in emergency session to discuss ways to prevent a repetition of the violence that occurred last fall between the fedayeen and Lebanese security forces. A spread of belligerency could lead to a crisis between Lebanese Muslims, most of whom support the fedayeen strongly, and Lebanese Christians, who want the fedayeen restrained in order to prevent Israeli retaliation.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY - USSR

Egon Bahr, the West German special emissary to Moscow, has confirmed in a briefing of the three Allied ambassadors in Bonn that he made no significant progress on issues which divide the two sides during his second round of talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. The West German charge d'affaires in Moscow agreed, but in his briefing also told Ambassador Beam that both sides had recognized the possibility of rapprochement in the future on certain points.

Bahr said no documents had been exchanged with the Soviets concerning negotiations on renouncing the use of force, and neither side considered itself under any pressure. No date has been set for a resumption of the talks, but the West Germans want it to be prior to the Brandt-Stoph meeting in Kassel set for 21 May.

Bahr also commented on the opening today of the quadripartite talks on Berlin, saying he was most interested in aiming for agreements guaranteeing the viability of West Berlin and free access to the city, unhampered by the East Germans.

Bahr's comment about feeling no pressure seems somewhat disingenuous. Rainer Barzel, a leader of the opposition in Bonn, has indicated that his party, the Christian Democrats, will strongly oppose the continuation of these talks. In a conversation with Ambassador Rush in Bonn, Barzel predicted that if the government continued on its present course, his party would bring it down with charges of appeasement.

Barzel appealed for the Allies to draw the line on Chancellor Brandt's Eastern policy. He probably hopes that the US will express reservations during Brandt's forthcoming visit to Washington. Although he has advocated negotiation with the East in the past, he now professes fear that the government, in its desire for an agreement, will capitulate totally to the Soviet viewpoint.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

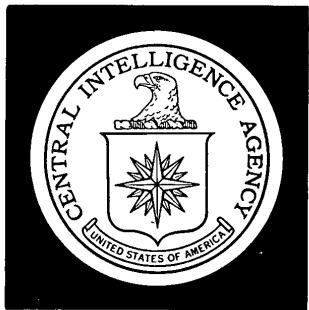
Negotiations for the release of Lt. Col. Crowley temporarily broke down last night. An agreement in substance for an exchange, achieved through the intermediary efforts of a three-member commission headed by the Santo Domingo archbishop, dissolved when the parties could not settle on details for the trade. The exact timing of the US air attaché's release appears to be the stumbling block, with the government insisting on a near-simultaneous exchange and the terrorists demanding that the prisoners depart before the attaché is freed.

The 20 political prisoners held by the government were scheduled to be flown to Mexico last night, but the plane departed without them. The kidnapers repeated their public warning that the government must bear the responsibility for its actions. The archbishop expects negotiations to resume today.

Despite the turmoil arising from the kidnapping, President Balaguer went ahead with his announcement that he will seek a second term in the elections of 16 May. In an attempt to head off opposition allegations that he will not provide free elections, Balaguer declared that he will hand over the presidency to the Supreme Court president during his campaign. Balaguer's long-awaited declaration is expected to generate protests. The military, however, as a result of the President's uncompromising refusal to bow to the original demands of the kidnapers and release the prisoners in the country, is probably more strongly united than ever behind Balaguer. Security forces can be expected to deal aggressively with any disturbances.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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(Page 1)

In Cambodia, the Communists have begun to organize pro-Sihanouk demonstrations. The government is apprehensive and is using troops to maintain order in affected areas. (Page 2)

[Redacted] Cambodian - South Vietnamese [Redacted] 50X1
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(Page 3)

[Redacted] North Vietnamese troops in the vicinity of Long Tieng appear to be experiencing difficulty in sustaining their offensive. (Page 4)

West German [Redacted] 50X1
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(Page 5)

Lebanon is still tense, with Christian opposition to fedayeen operations continuing. [Redacted]

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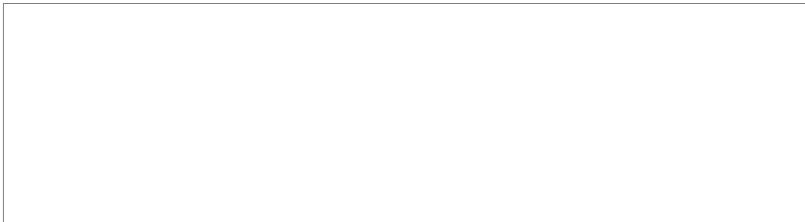
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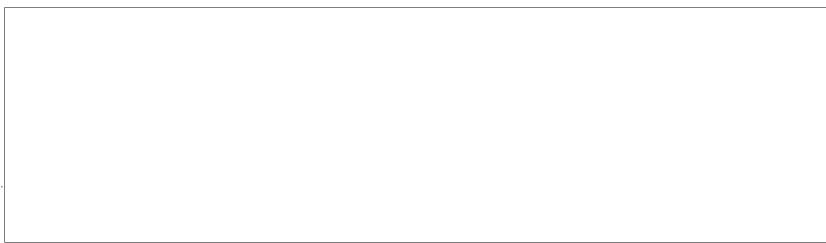
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-USSR-EGYPT



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

The first signs of organized pro-Sihanouk sentiment appeared yesterday when Communist elements stirred up anti-government demonstrations in four provinces to the east of Phnom Penh, all of which border on South Vietnam. Government apprehension about the situation is reflected in orders to withdraw some troops from the South Vietnamese frontier in order to defend affected provincial capitals. All military regions have been ordered to halt traffic headed for Phnom Penh. The national capital airport was closed again today, and two bridges spanning the Mekong connecting Phnom Penh with eastern provinces were sealed with tanks.

In the capital and other areas of the country the situation is still quiet as the new leaders tighten their control.

North Vietnamese and Viet Cong diplomatic representatives in Phnom Penh were called in by the new government for talks yesterday. Neither side has formally broken relations yet

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Despite the seemingly substantial degree of Communist Chinese inspiration for Sihanouk's recent pronouncements, Peking, unlike Hanoi, has not explicitly given public support for Sihanouk's return to power. The Chinese are thus in a position to support and perhaps help arrange a modus vivendi between the Vietnamese Communists and the new Cambodian Government. If this should prove impossible, the Chinese probably would back Hanoi and Sihanouk in more forceful measures.

The Soviets are clearly unhappy over the prospects of a wider Indo-Chinese war, as indicated by their failure even to acknowledge Sihanouk's recent inflammatory statements. They are also concerned lest China turn the situation in Cambodia to its advantage. Until the situation clarifies, Moscow will probably remain on the sidelines.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

There is increasing evidence of cooperation between South Vietnamese and Cambodian forces in cross-border operations against Communist base areas.

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Since last weekend's large South Vietnamese incursion into Cambodia, efforts have been made to seal the border where possible so that Communist units can be entrapped if they attempt to leave Cambodia.

The Communists, meanwhile, are apparently still adjusting to the uncertainties of the situation in Cambodia. The enemy headquarters in South Vietnam (COSVN) has reportedly ordered all Communist military units in border areas to remain stationary, avoid clashes with Cambodian troops, and help create an atmosphere conducive to negotiations with the new government in Phnom Penh. In some areas along the border, however, COSVN has called for the transfer of ordnance, foodstuffs, and medical facilities to South Vietnam to prevent critical supplies from falling into the hands of Cambodian military forces.

Although there has been no hard evidence to date of any significant enemy troop withdrawals from Cambodia into Vietnam, reports of COSVN's intention to relocate its headquarters facilities from Cambodia northward to the sanctuary of the Lao panhandle persist. In most areas along the border, however, the Communists appear to be adopting a wait-and-see attitude pending instructions from Hanoi on precisely how to cope with the new situation.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Prime Minister Souvanna is canvassing various political and regional factions in an attempt to develop a consensus on how best to deal officially with the Lao Communist peace proposal.

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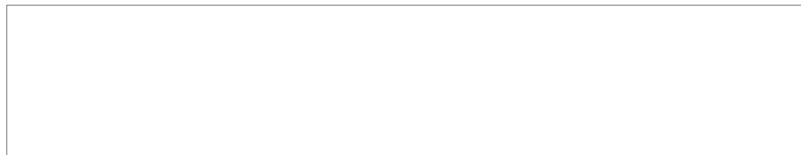
On the military front, the North Vietnamese appear to be experiencing some difficulty in sustaining operations in the vicinity of Long Tieng.

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WEST GERMANY



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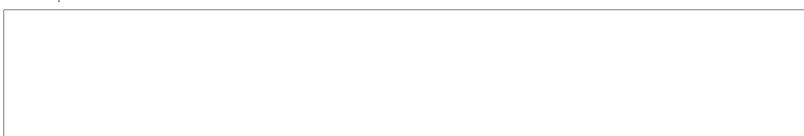


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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LEBANON

Tension remains high in Beirut. Sporadic firing continued yesterday around the headquarters of the Christian Phalanges Party, while the commandos were reported to be mobilizing Palestinian militia in various refugee camps.

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The President's Daily Brief

28 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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(Page 1)

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Peking's statement against use of Thai troops in Laos is the strongest Chinese pronouncement on the Laotian situation since the early 1960s. (Page 2)

Pro-Sihanouk demonstrations in southeastern Cambodia have abated, but they already seem to have served one Communist purpose by forcing the government to thin out its forces along the border in order to help police provincial capitals. (Page 3)

In Laos, General Vang Pao's reinforced garrison at Long Tieng is beginning to push out from the immediate environs of the base. (Page 5)

The latest information on silo construction for the SS-9 ICBM is provided on Page 6.

At Annex [Redacted] Soviet 50X1
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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COMMUNIST CHINA

Peking's statement of 26 March in support of the Lao Communists is the strongest Chinese pronouncement on the Laotian situation since the early 1960s. The Foreign Ministry release condemned the use of Thai troops in Laos as a grave military adventure and war escalation. It went on to pledge that China would not sit idle in the face of expanded warfare in Laos and was prepared to share losses with the Laotian people.

This warning is similar to Chinese statements of support to North Vietnam in 1965-- rhetoric which did not commit the Chinese to any course of action. The statement's principal purpose may be to play on Thai fears regarding Chinese intentions.

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In 1961, for example, the Chinese Foreign Minister specifically warned against introducing "SEATO forces" into Laos.

The Chinese continue to maintain some 10,000-11,000 men in northern Laos in connection with their road-building project. These forces are composed solely of engineering units and support elements, including antiaircraft battalions. There are no signs that Peking has begun preparations for the introduction of combat units into Laos. Recent communications alerts and possible troop movements in neighboring Yunnan Province appear to be related to the ongoing nationwide "war preparations" campaign rather than to events across the border.

Nevertheless, recent developments in Indochina may be causing Peking to reassess US intentions in Southeast Asia. The Chinese have been devoting increased propaganda attention to alleged US activities in the area in the past few weeks, and they have not yet replied to the US proposal to meet in Warsaw between 1 and 3 April. It appears likely that they will put off the meeting, and when it does take place the Chinese may wish to discuss the Indochina situation rather than concentrating exclusively on the bilateral issues that have thus far been under consideration.



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

A Cambodian intercept indicates that the situation in Kompong Cham Province, the scene of the most serious antigovernment demonstrations, has calmed down. But the message says Cambodian troops killed 22 and wounded over 70 when they fired into crowds yesterday morning.

Circumstances surrounding the antigovernment outbreaks of the past two days strongly suggest the Communists are putting some muscle behind their support for Sihanouk's "liberation" program. It is significant that the first pro-Sihanouk demonstrations originated in towns in Kompong Cham, long an area of heavy Viet Cong influence and infiltration. Moreover, the demonstrations did not erupt until after Hanoi had declared its total backing for Sihanouk. The departure of most Vietnamese Communist diplomatic personnel from Phnom Penh on 27 March is an additional sign that the Communists intended to play rough.

The Communists have already gained one important immediate benefit with the pullback to defend several provincial capitals of troops positioned along the southeastern border. This shift will relax considerably Cambodian military pressures on Viet Cong units in that key area. Additionally, the demonstrations probably will rattle the confidence of some of the government's lukewarm supporters and, at the same time, lend some needed credibility to Sihanouk's claims that the people are still with him.

The army should be able to control the current unrest and check its spread to other areas, provided the Communists do not use their own troops to support pro-Sihanouk elements. At a minimum, the Communists probably will encourage increased activity by Cambodian insurgents operating along the eastern border.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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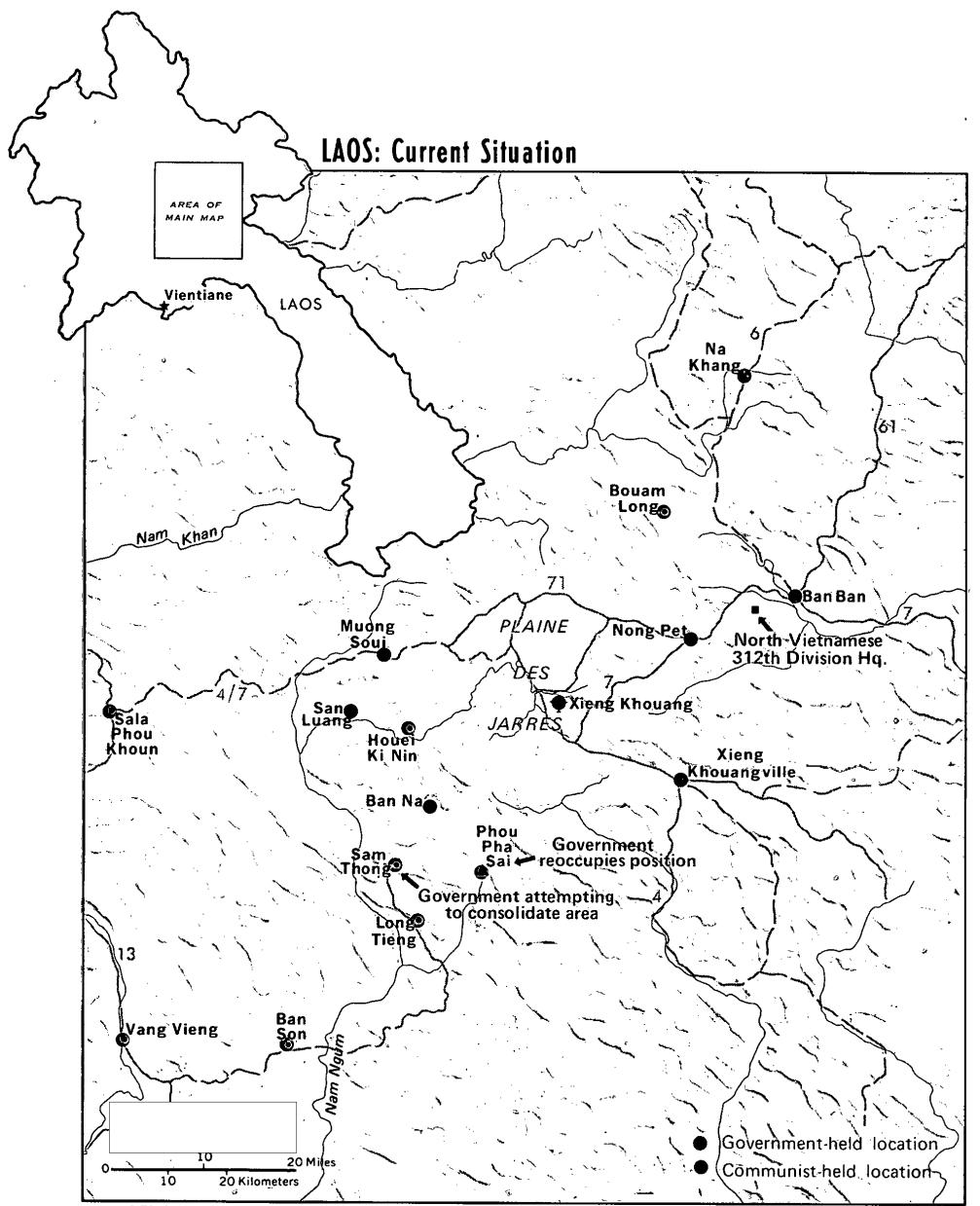
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South Vietnamese Army units have launched another sizable cross-border raid into Cambodia.

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The South Vietnamese no doubt hope that through these cross-border raids, they can blunt enemy capabilities for future moves into the delta.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Government forces are trying to win for themselves a little elbow room around Long Tieng. They have reoccupied Phou Pha Sai, some ten miles northeast of the base. They are also beginning to send out patrols beyond Long Tieng's immediate defense perimeter in an attempt to clear the area of North Vietnamese forces. General Vang Pao, moreover, has troops ready to move into Sam Thong. He hopes to secure this area within the next few days.

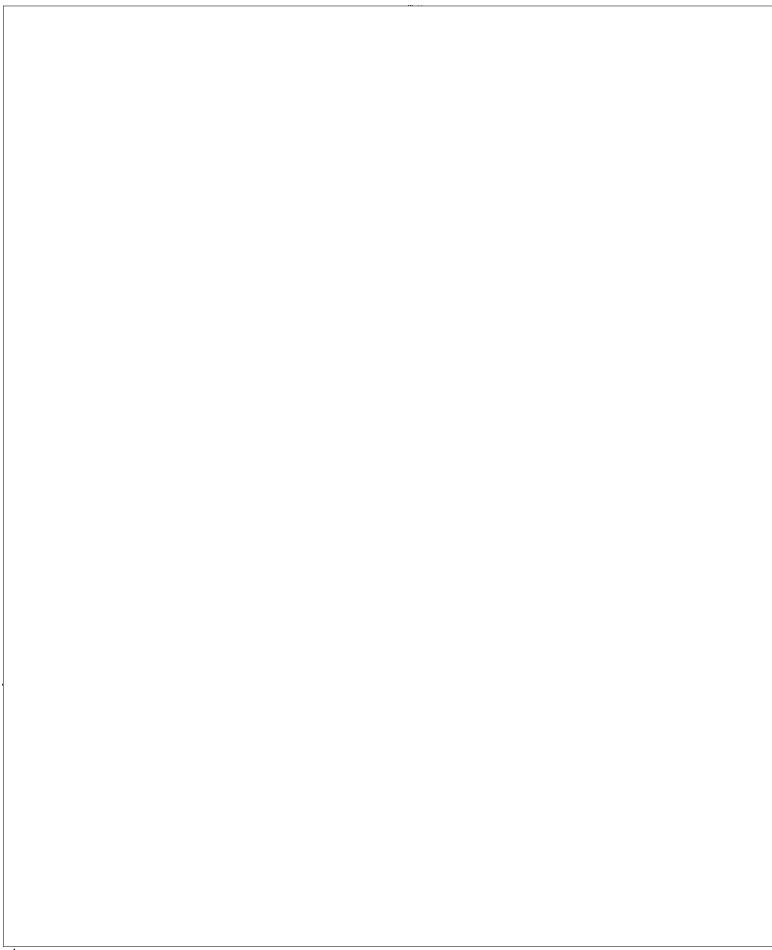
So far the Communists have not offered much resistance to these moves. This suggests they do not yet have enough troops in the area to deal with the freshly reinforced government garrison at Long Tieng.

Enemy communications indicate that only two North Vietnamese battalions are now within striking distance of Long Tieng, although four others are in the general area. With close to 4,000 government troops opposing the North Vietnamese, they will probably need to bring up more troops and supplies.

Two months of dry season weather remain; the Communists thus have plenty of time to reinforce with elements of the 312th Division. This unit, deployed generally to the east of the Plaine des Jarres, has not yet participated in the current offensive.

The improving situation seems to have convinced even the cautious Lao Army chief, General Ouan, that Long Tieng can be held. Consequently he has ordered the airlift of three regular Lao Army battalions; one battalion from south Laos is expected to be flown in Monday.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

Satellite photography has disclosed one new group of six silos under construction for the SS-9 ICBM. Comparison with earlier photography shows that construction began on the new group last summer, bringing the total number of SS-9 groups started during 1969 to nine.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Lebanon: There has been more shooting between right-wing Christians and Palestinian commandos. Interior Minister Jumblatt [redacted] has

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[redacted] been given the unenviable assignment of trying to restore peace. If he fails, it will probably be the army's turn next, which could lead to considerably heavier casualties.

South Korea: Prime Minister Chong Il-kwon may be forced to step down as a result of the scandal that has been developing since the recent murder of his mistress. As yet, there is no evidence available that Chong is personally involved in the murder, and the authorities appear to be trying to downplay the affair in order to protect him. The scandal threatens to become a major one, however, as the mistress apparently was involved with a number of other highly placed officials and political figures.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-EGYPT

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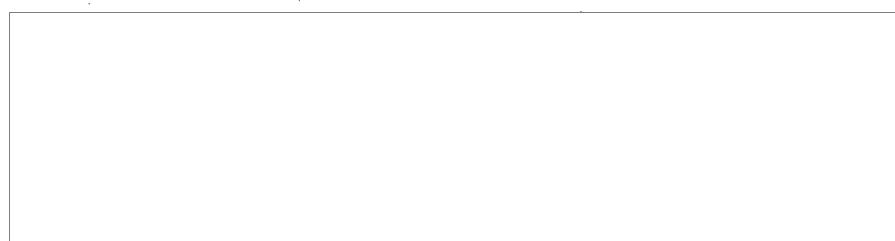
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

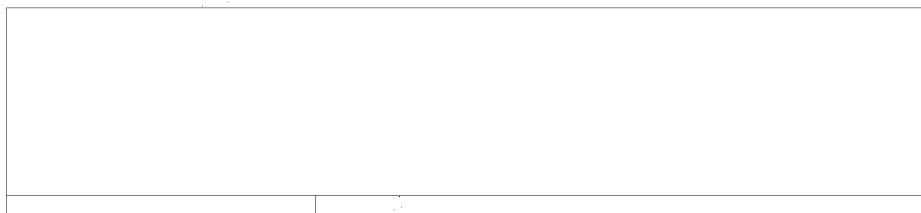


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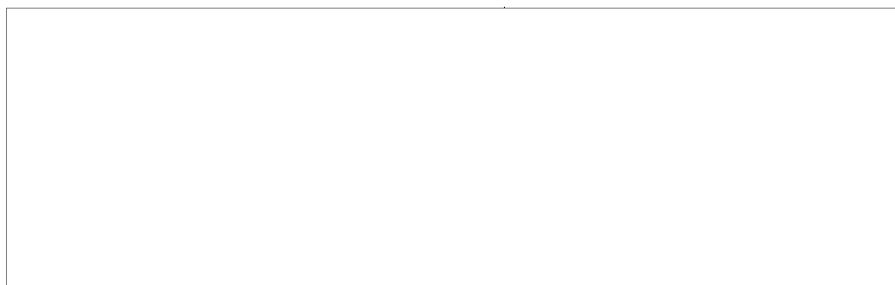


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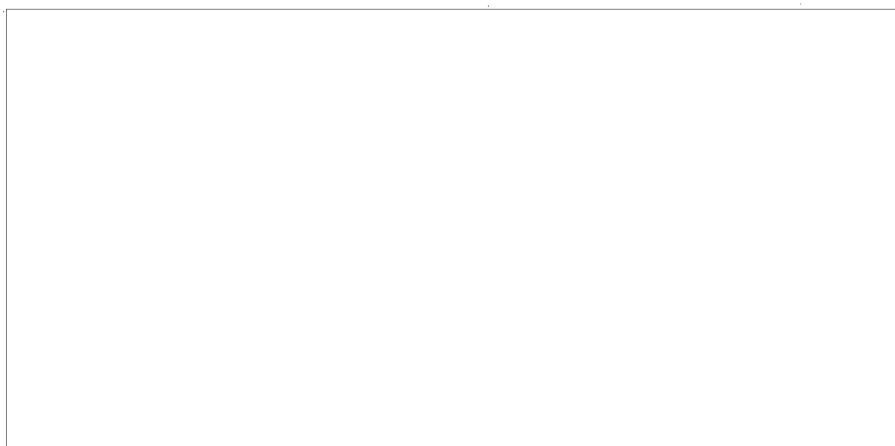


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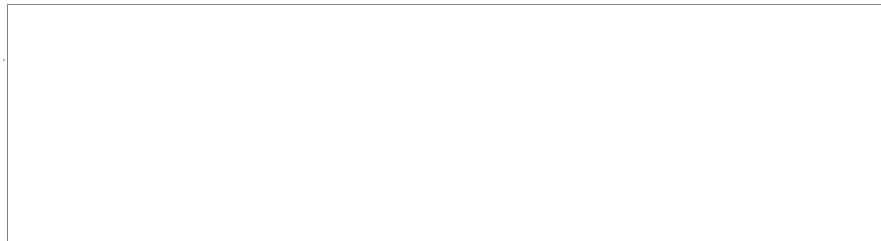
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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The President's Daily Brief

30 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

30 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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(Page 1)

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South Vietnamese forces have made another cross-border foray into Cambodia. (Page 2)

The situation in Cambodia's Kompong Cham Province remains tense, but there have been no further pro-Sihanouk demonstrations. (Page 4)

The North Vietnamese are strengthening their forces in the Long Tieng area of Laos; government forces there continue to harass the enemy with aggressive patrolling. (Page 5)

The Soviets [Redacted]

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(Page 6)

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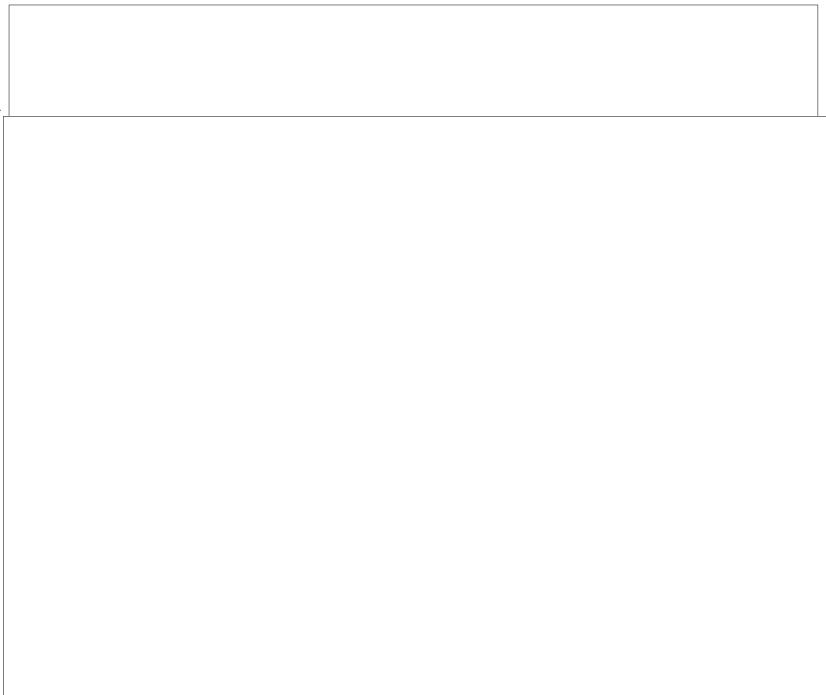
The Sudanese Government is moving, with some caution, against the dissident Ansar sect. (Page 7)

Notes on Lebanon and East Germany are provided on Page 8.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

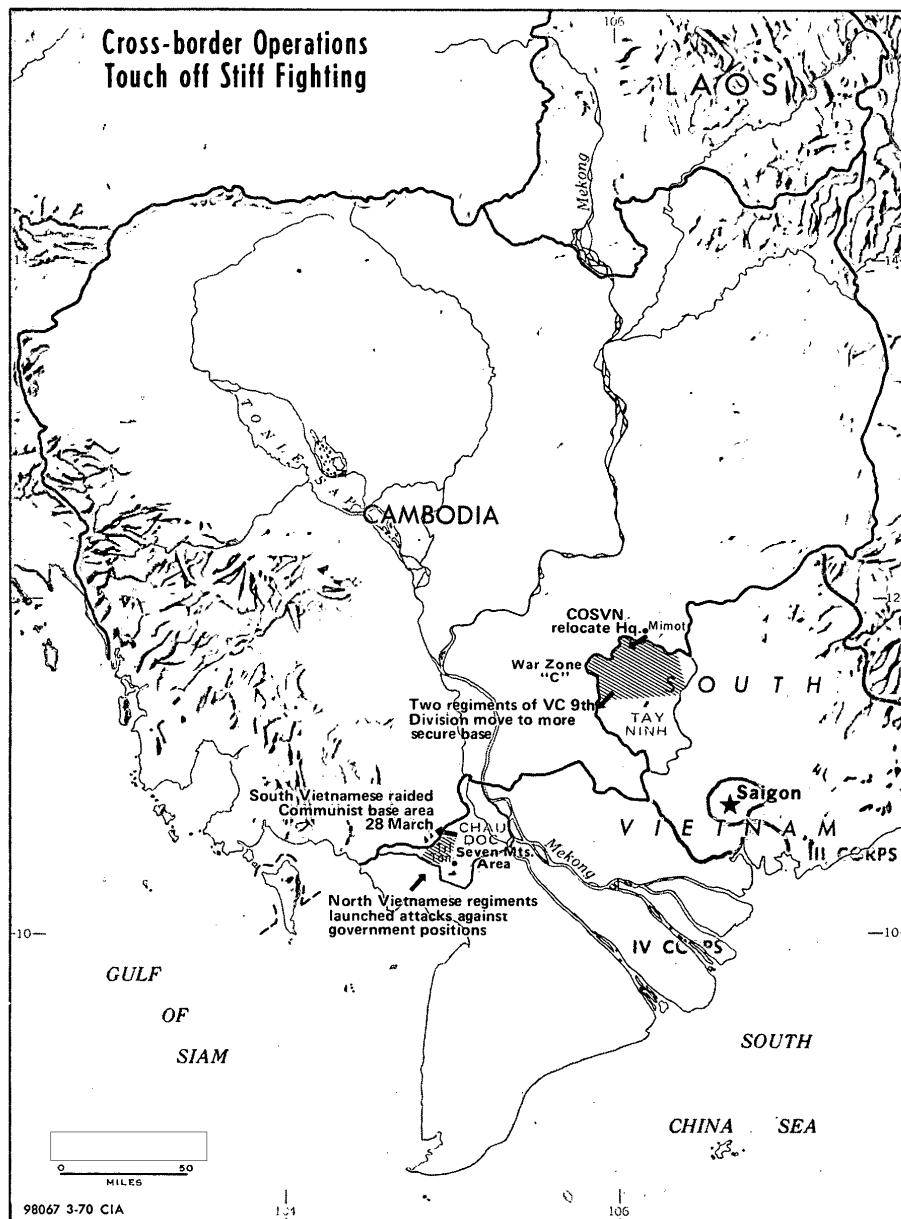
USSR-EGYPT



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

South Vietnamese ranger, armored, and air units on Saturday launched another raid from Chau Doc Province against a Communist base area in Cambodia. Forty-two enemy troops were killed in contrast to South Vietnamese losses of four killed and 35 wounded. This was the second strike in as many days against this particular Communist redoubt, and the third confirmed cross-border foray from the delta since the ouster of Sihanouk on 18 March.

In response, the Communists have become more aggressive in the border area and have made some precautionary moves to avoid entrapment. Over the weekend, elements of two North Vietnamese regiments launched a series of coordinated attacks against government positions in the Seven Mountains area of Chau Doc Province, including the district town of Tri Ton. A US combat base along the Cambodian border in northern III Corps also came under heavy attack this weekend.

Communications intelligence indicates that the senior Communist authority in South Vietnam (COSVN) relocated its headquarters complex and several supporting intelligence components last week from a main base area in the Mimot region of Cambodia to a secondary base in South Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province. In addition, elements of two regiments of the Viet Cong 9th Division recently moved from their Cambodian sanctuary in War Zone C along the Cambodian border to a more secure base area in western Tay Ninh Province.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Numerous indications point to enemy plans for a "highpoint" of activity throughout much of South Vietnam on the night of 31 March - 1 April. Any attacks that materialize probably will be spearheaded by local force units and consist mainly of shellings, sapper raids, and acts of terrorism against pacification and Vietnamization targets.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CAMBODIA

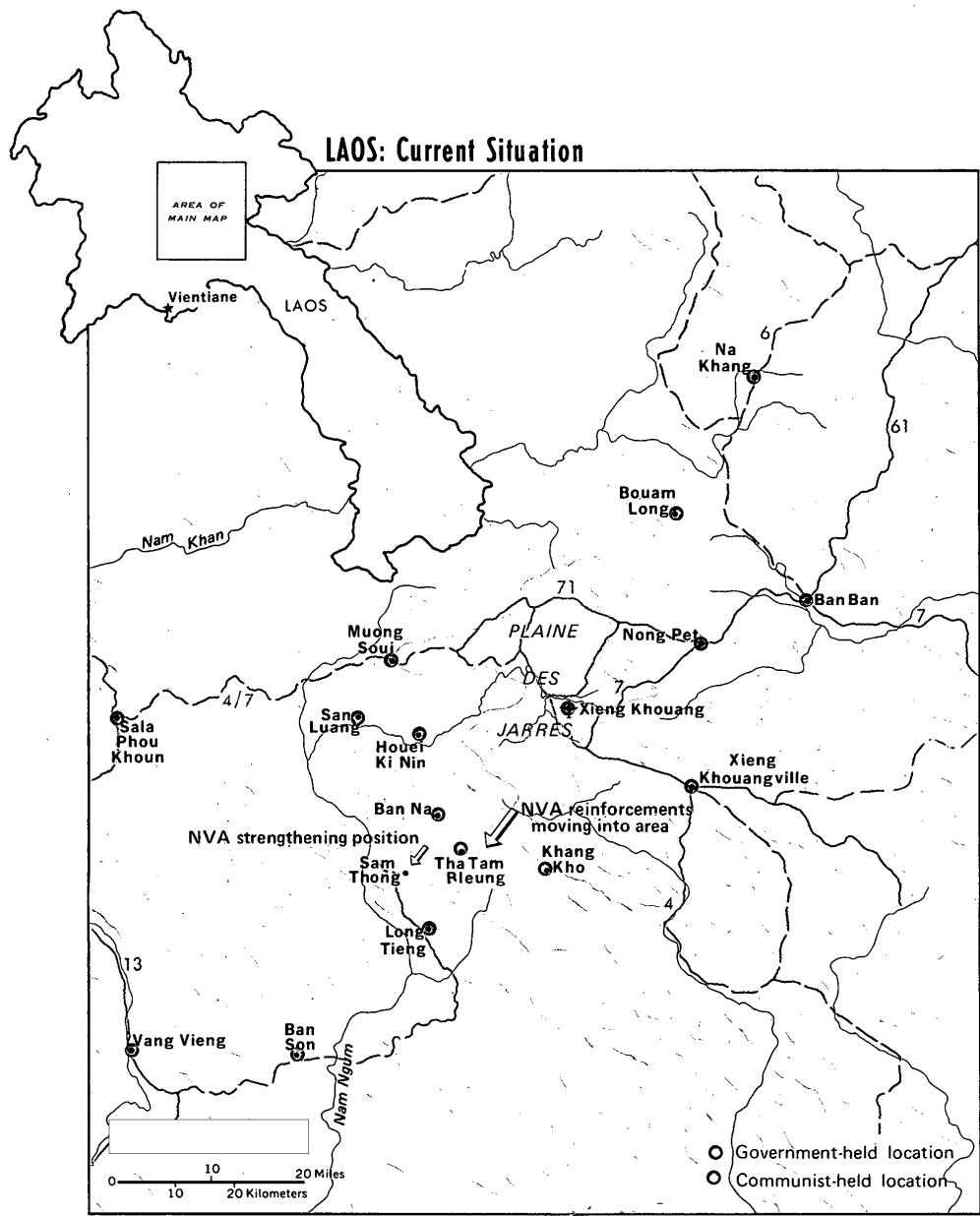
There have been no new pro-Sihanouk demonstrations in Kompong Cham Province, but an intercepted police message of 28 March said there is "strong rebellion" in almost every district there and that local officials had fled from their respective areas following last week's outbursts. The message also stated that demonstrators had seized large amounts of weapons and that some appeared to have received additional arms from the Viet Cong. Local French and British businessmen in the area also believe that more trouble lies ahead, even though the government still controls the town of Kompong Cham. One government official said that about 1,000 persons were arrested following the demonstrations last week, many of them Vietnamese.

In Phnom Penh, the government is keeping up a barrage of information and propaganda broadcasts to rally popular support and to counter Sihanouk's statements from Peking. Prime Minister Lon Nol has ordered all province and subprovince governors to stay close to local military commanders so that "each problem" can be handled rapidly and cooperatively. In a further effort to improve security in the countryside, the government has launched a program to create armed student commando battalions in each province.

There has been one serious clash between Cambodian and Vietnamese Communist military forces on the eastern border, but there is no reliable evidence to confirm government statements that sizable numbers of Viet Cong troops have attacked government forces some 30 miles southeast of Phnom Penh.

Meanwhile, North Vietnam has issued another official statement in support of Sihanouk. Hanoi's statement attempted to allay fears among Cambodians that to support Sihanouk now would be tantamount to a Communist takeover. It asserted that the "militant solidarity" among the people of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos would guarantee that they could all develop "in accordance with their own ways."

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

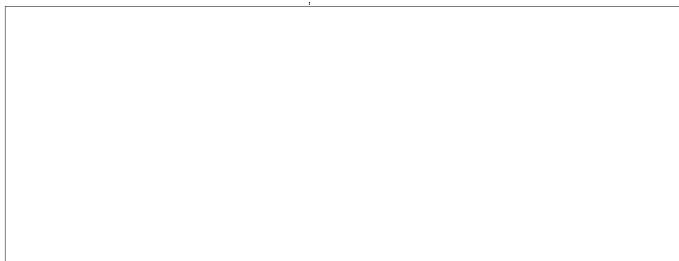
LAOS

Additional North Vietnamese troops are moving into the Long Tieng area. According to an intercept, elements of at least two battalions are being sent from the Plaine des Jarres to reinforce enemy units operating near Long Tieng. New North Vietnamese radio terminals have been identified in the area in recent days.

The government continues its aggressive patrolling, supported by air strikes and long-range artillery. On 28 March government troops pushed into an enemy staging area about three miles northeast of the Long Tieng airstrip and killed over 30 North Vietnamese troops.

Intercepts show that the enemy is also having difficulties in securing the Sam Thong area. One recent message revealed the movement of additional North Vietnamese troops into positions north of the village in an attempt to block advancing government forces.

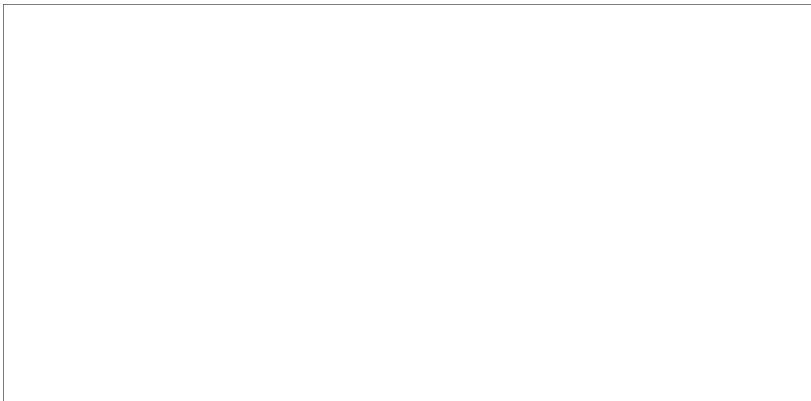
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR



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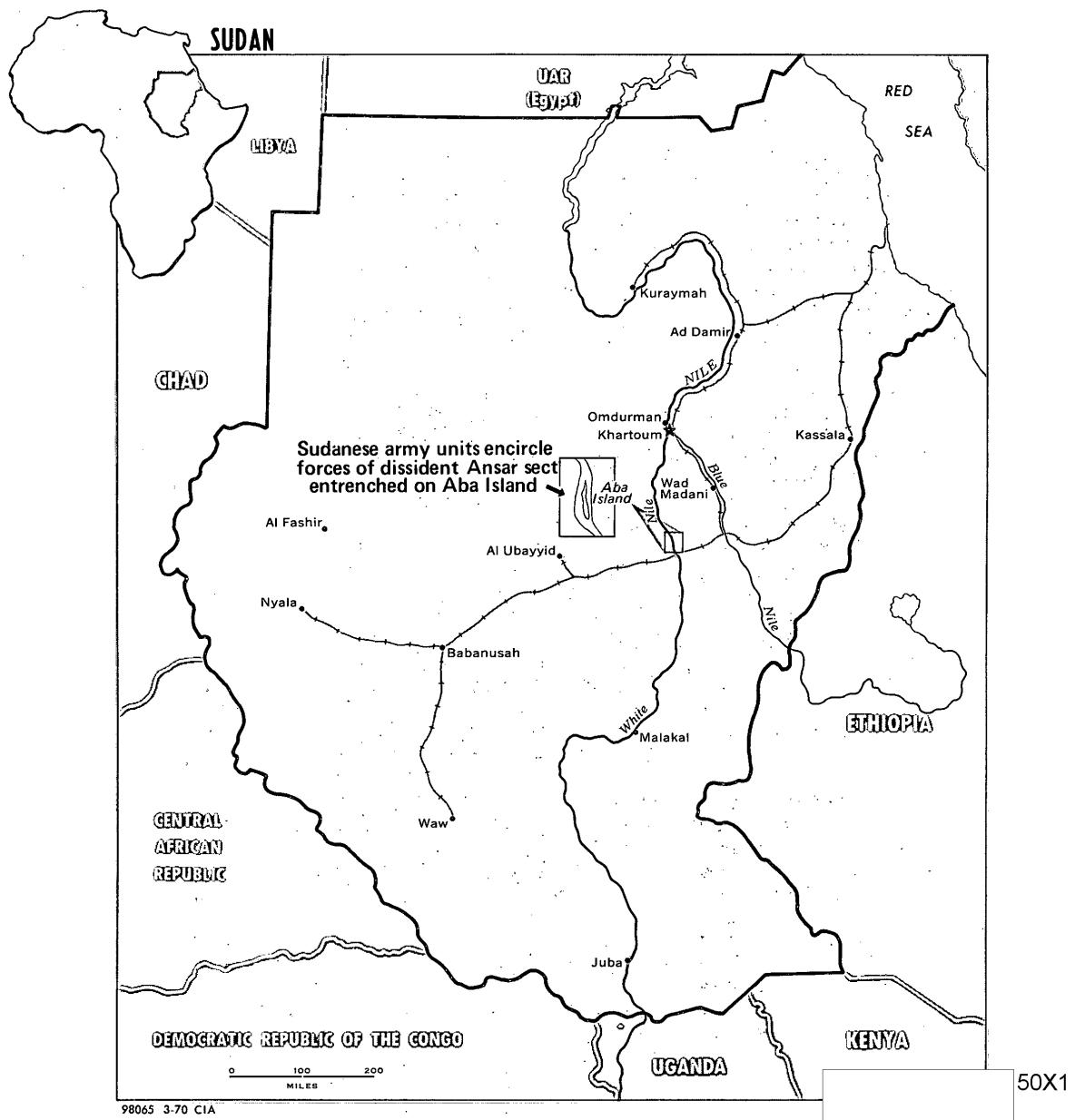


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SUDAN

Tribesmen of the dissident Ansar sect last week harassed President Numayri while he was touring the provinces, and one may have tried to kill him. The government's military leaders subsequently ordered a move against the Ansar stronghold on Aba Island, in the White Nile about 150 miles south of the capital, and the arrest of the sect's leader, the Imam al-Hadi al-Mahdi.

Army units have now surrounded the island, but the government apparently is hesitant to move against it in force. The fighting thus far has been limited largely to mortar and small arms fire, although there may have been one air strike against the island.

A government attack against the Ansar stronghold would pose formidable problems for the regime. At least one third of the Sudan's 26,000 ground forces currently are tied down in the southern provinces, where Negro tribal elements have been carrying out armed terrorism against the Arab-dominated Khartoum governments for the past 15 years. For their part, the 10-20,000 fairly well-armed Ansar tribesmen would put up stiff resistance to any attempt by the Sudanese forces to occupy the island. Numayri is also concerned about possible armed action by Ansar sympathizers throughout the country and the questionable loyalty of the Ansars among his own forces in operations against the Imam.

Since the coup of May 1969, the Imam has been actively opposed to the ruling Revolutionary Council despite government efforts at reconciliation. Among the Imam's principal conditions for an accommodation with the government are removal of Communists and pro-Nasirists from key official posts and the establishment of a more broadly based government including Ansar representation.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Lebanon: There have been no serious incidents since Friday, when a cease-fire was arranged at a meeting of government, Phalanges, and commando leaders. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine apparently was not included, however. It has claimed credit for the harmless explosion near the US Embassy on Saturday night, asserting that this action was in response to the embassy's attempt "to foment communal strife and to destroy the fedayeen movement" in Lebanon. Similar allegations have been made by Minister of Interior Jumblatt and the Lebanese left-wing press.

East Germany: The party secretariat met last week to hear testimony on the pro-Brandt demonstrations in Erfurt, and middle-level officials are concerned about the disciplinary action that may follow.

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31 March 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

31 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

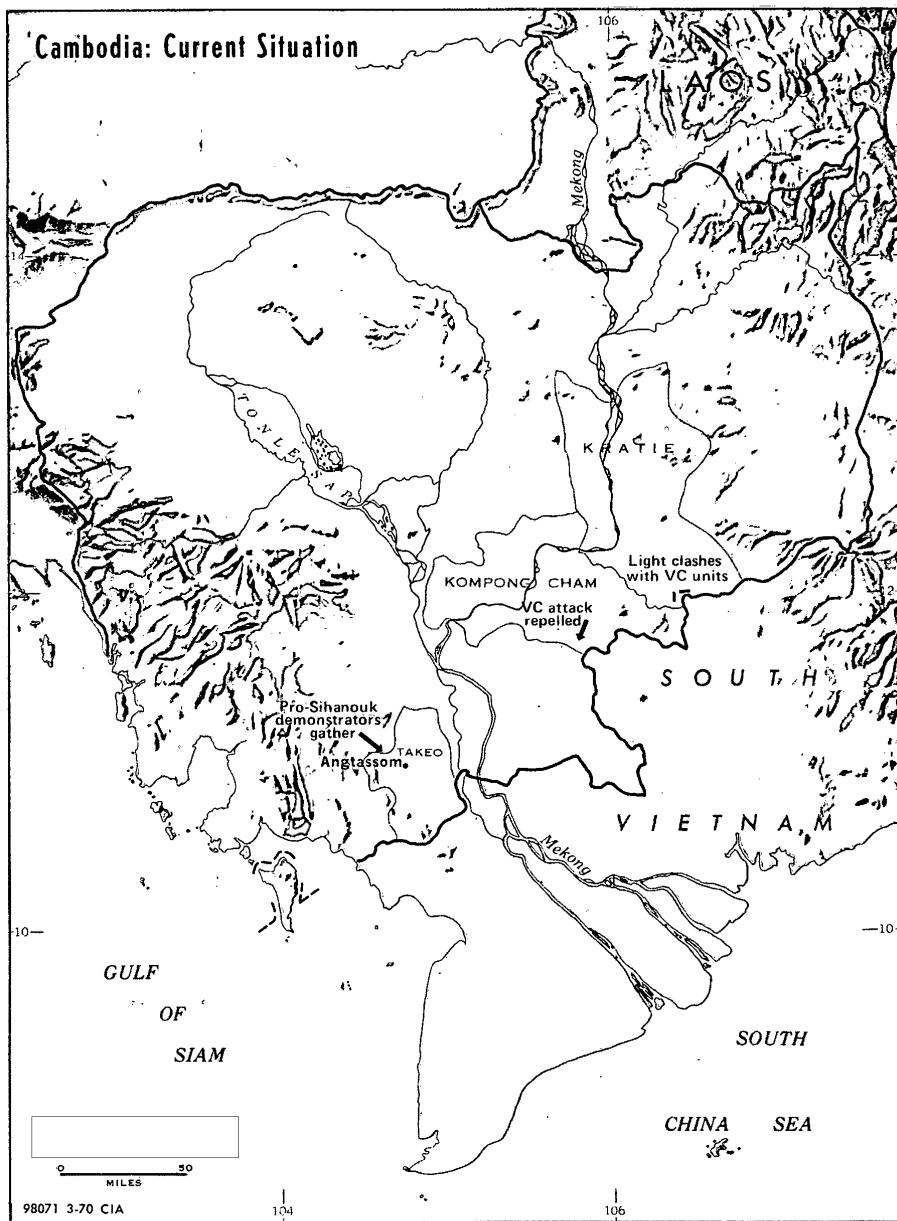
The new Cambodian Government has requested international support against external threats. (Page 1)

In Laos, government forces have made some progress in the seesaw battle for control of the Long Tieng area. (Page 2)

Recent satellite photography has uncovered a new surface-to-surface missile launch site in Communist China. (Page 3)

The Ansar sect's rebellion against the Sudanese Government is spreading. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



CAMBODIA

Yesterday Prime Minister Lon Nol publicly appealed to the United Nations for an observer team to verify Communist border violations. Nol also indicated that he may eventually ask friendly countries, including the US, for military materiel. On the same day the Philippine ambassador in Phnom Penh, acting as an intermediary for the Cambodian Government, asked Chargé Rives if the US would jam Communist radio broadcasts that relay Sihanouk's appeals for support, or provide Phnom Penh with the gear to do so itself.

The government seems anxious to enlist international support to meet what it considers a growing Communist threat. To dramatize its plight Phnom Penh claims that sizable numbers of Vietnamese Communist troops have made deep penetrations into Cambodian territory. There is no evidence that these incursions have taken place.

There are reports of Communist attacks against Cambodian border positions, but these raids merely reflect the Communists' interest in strengthening their hold over sanctuary areas. Some areas of the border are still quiet, with little or no Communist offensive activity reported.

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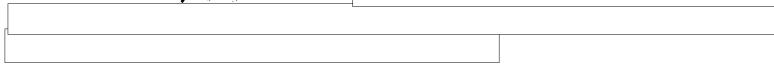
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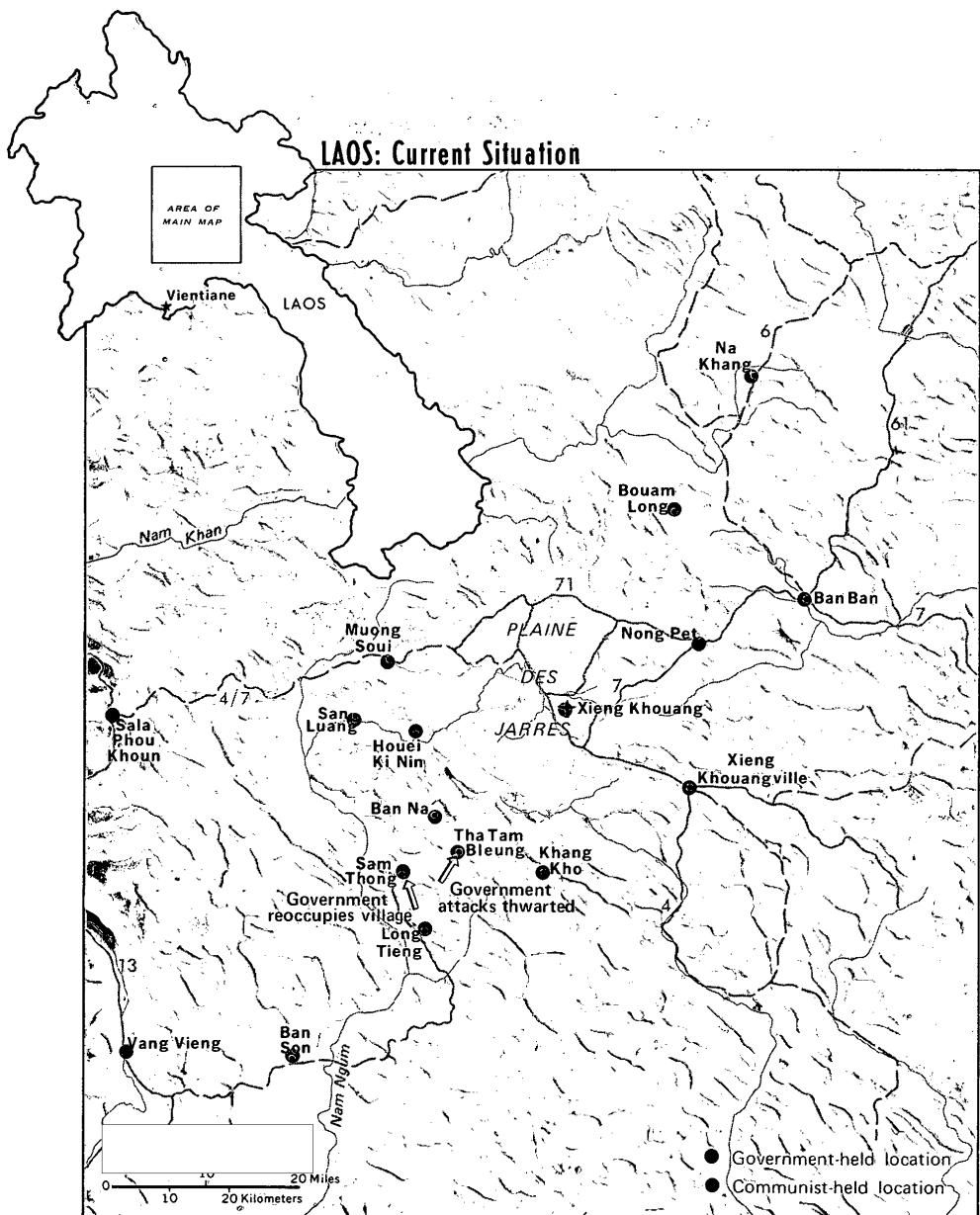
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There have been no new antigovernment demonstrations in major provincial towns. Western correspondents have encountered some bands of machete-wielding Sihanouk partisans on several main roads south of Phnom Penh, however.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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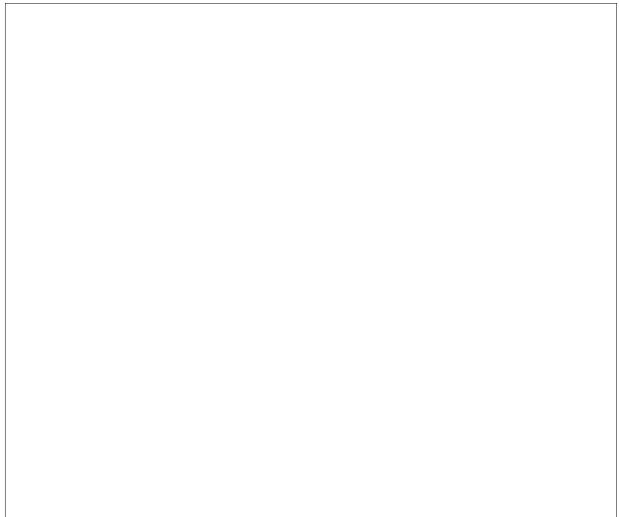
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LAOS

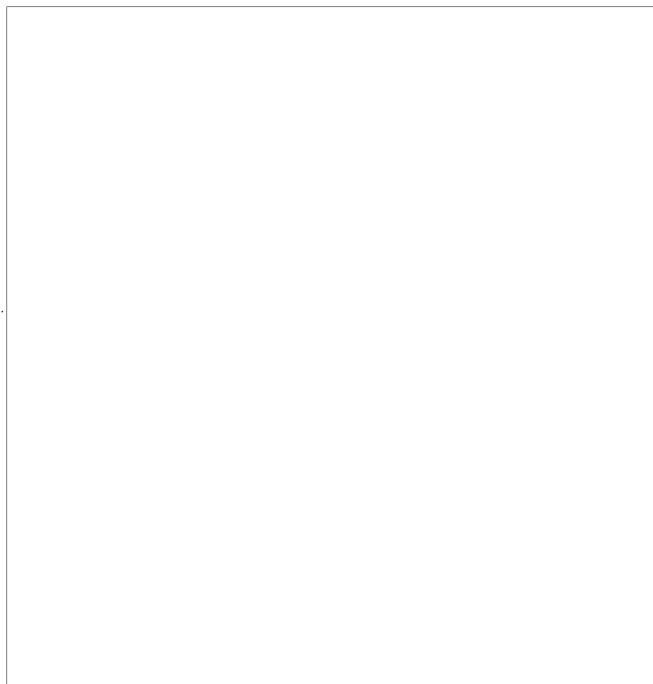
North Vietnamese troops just outside Sam Thong have withdrawn several miles to the northeast in the face of a government sweep operation. The village is now in the hands of the government, and its troops are moving against the last remaining enemy position in the Sam Thong area, about one mile to the east.

Recent government advances have boosted troop morale, but Vang Pao's forces still have a long way to go before the approaches to Long Tieng can be considered secure. There are some 3,000 North Vietnamese troops operating in the area, and additional enemy reinforcements should arrive in the area in the next few days.

Improving weather conditions have aided heavy air strikes against enemy positions, but so far government efforts to reoccupy territory northeast of Long Tieng have been strongly rebuffed. Yesterday, for example, government guerrillas again failed to push a well-entrenched North Vietnamese force off the high ground near Tha Tam Bleung.



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COMMUNIST CHINA

The first surface-to-surface missile launch site to be identified in China outside the Shuang-cheng-tzu missile test center has shown up in satellite photography [redacted]. The site is located near Wu-chai, about 225 miles southwest of Peking and approximately 600 miles east of the missile test center. It consists of a single soft launch pad with a small support area nearby and appears similar to the two MRBM launch complexes at Shuang-cheng-tzu.

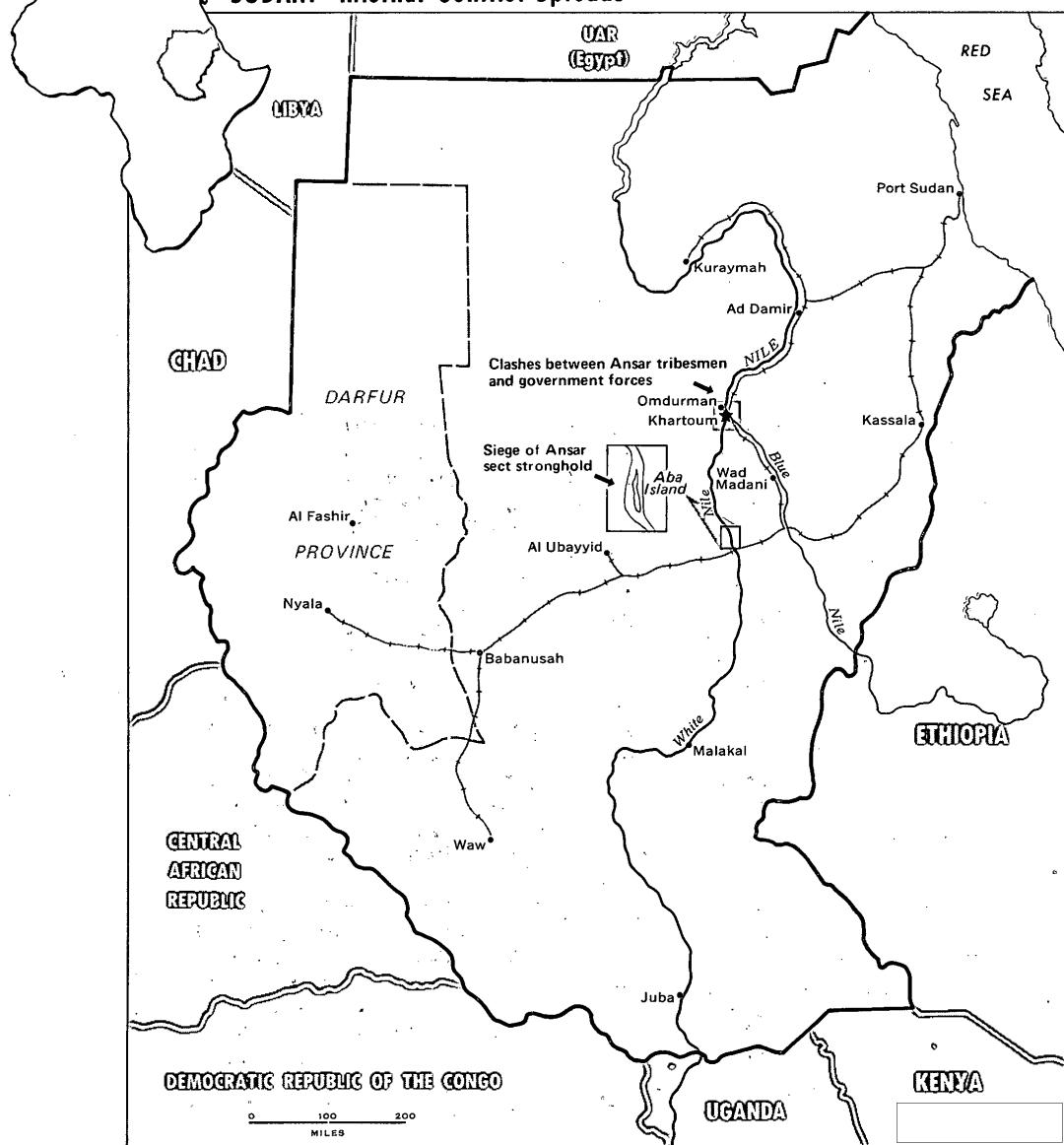
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The photography also disclosed several excavations within several miles of the site which may become new launch sites or support facilities for the existing site. No equipment was visible, but a search is being made of earlier photography for further evidence of the site's status.

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SUDAN: Internal Conflict Spreads



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SUDAN

The struggle between the Ansar sect and the government widened Easter morning with the eruption of civil strife in the Khartoum-Omdurman area. Around Omdurman Sunday, it took reinforced army units eight hours to subdue the Imam's supporters.

This sharp resistance may encourage Ansar sympathizers concentrated in central and western Sudan to move against local army units.

The Ansar Imam and his followers are still holding out against army units from their tribal redoubt at Aba Island, and this is where the government faces its severest test.

The Numayri regime is still pondering its next move against Aba Island. Government tanks and fighter aircraft are available, but Khartoum's uncertainty about the cost of taking the stronghold has thus far fore stalled decisive action. Numayri's latest public statement on the situation merely threatened the Imam with force if "warnings went unheeded."

Top Secret