

The President's Daily Brief

2 October 1972

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exemption category 5B(1), 2C(3)
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

2 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Vietnam, Communist forces in the Quang Tri area appear to be preparing for renewed activity against the provincial capital. We have details on a new directive issued by COSVN providing guidance to local cadre on Communist plans and intentions for the next month or so. (Page 1)

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Laotian [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 3)

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Diplomatic moves are under way in the Middle East with the apparent aim of effecting a reconciliation between Egypt and the USSR. (Page 4)

The Lebanese [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 5)

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Border fighting has erupted between the two Yemens. (Page 6)

In the USSR, the party boss of Soviet Georgia has resigned amid signs of trouble in the republic's party organization. (Page 7)

Yesterday's attack on the Ubon air base in Thailand appears to have been the work of North Vietnamese sappers. (Page 8)

The Guatemalan Communist party is still trying to determine what the government has done with its leaders. (Page 8)

Pro - European Communities forces in Denmark are given the edge in today's referendum on market membership. (Page 8)

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VIETNAM

North Vietnamese forces in the Quang Tri area appear to be preparing for renewed activity against the provincial capital. According to an intercepted message, an antiaircraft regiment stated that "the policy is to move all of our forces to a point outside the Quang Tri citadel." Earlier messages called for more effort to support vehicle convoys moving supplies for the "major campaign." Another indication of impending action is a recent surge of logistical activity, including the transshipment of substantial quantities of fuel and ammunition.

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[redacted] the Central Office for South Vietnam issued a new directive in mid-September providing additional guidance to local cadre on Communist plans and intentions for the next month or so. The directive amplifies instructions issued earlier by COSVN to its subordinates.

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The directive emphasizes that the mission of the local cadre remains the same. Communist forces are "to attack pacification, seize the bulk of the countryside, and expand the liberated areas, particularly those in the Mekong Delta." The enemy is to attack strongly in the northern half of the country, where its main forces are close to supply lines in the hope that such attacks will draw some of the government troops away from the provinces around Saigon and the delta, so that the Communists can attack successfully in these areas. The directive acknowledges that the Communists "cannot afford to use siege tactics in every province" and cites the battles of An Loc and Quang Tri where "we seized...rubber trees and bricks," but not the population.

The directive also indicates that the military highpoint scheduled for October may not be fully coordinated between main and local forces. While the main forces will try to launch increased attacks in many places, local forces have been told that they must attack on their own and not wait for the start of the highpoint. The directive emphasizes that "there can be no further delay. From now until the US presidential election we are determined to hit hard to force the enemies to accept a political settlement to end the war."

(continued)

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The COSVN directive informs lower echelons that the Communists intend to realize an on-the-spot cease-fire, and they envision negotiating with the Saigon government to determine the makeup of the third element in a new tripartite coalition government. In the expectation of a cease-fire and a political settlement, the Communists at the local level are directed to strengthen their forces so that each district would have at least one battalion.

[redacted] 25X1

The directive appears to draw a sharp distinction between local forces and main forces, ordering that "northerners" be kept in remote areas while the local armed forces wage political struggles with the enemy.

President Thieu evidently is also taking steps in anticipation of a cease-fire.

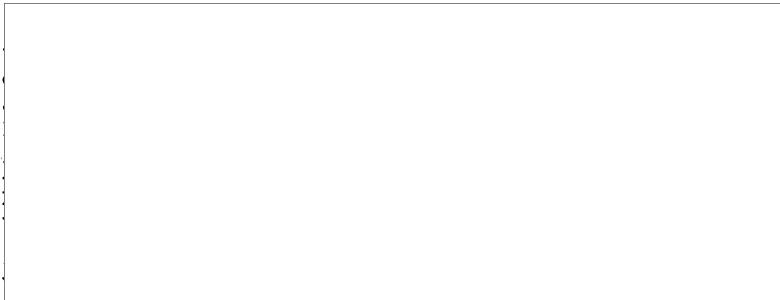
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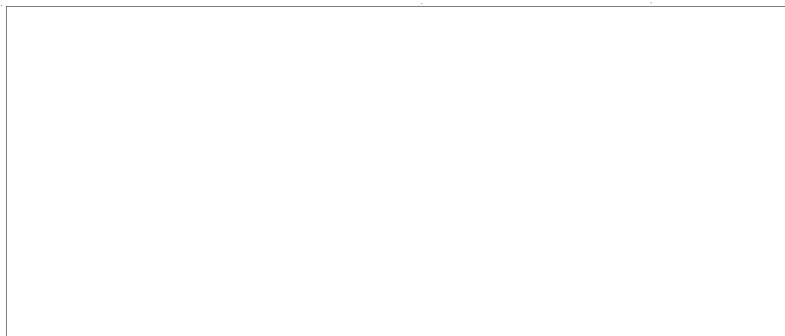
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USSR - MIDDLE EAST

The public disclosure that Syrian President Asad has been mediating between the USSR and Egypt seems designed to prepare the Middle Eastern and particularly the Egyptian public for a reconciliation at the summit.

[redacted] a Soviet Foreign Ministry official has said that one of the Soviet leaders will meet with Egyptian President Sadat in about two months, probably in Cairo, after appropriate preparations had been made at lower levels. According to the Soviet, the first of these working meetings is to take place this week when Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Hatim visits Moscow. A further step, Premier Sidqi's journey to the USSR on 16 October, was announced after Asad's stopover in Cairo.

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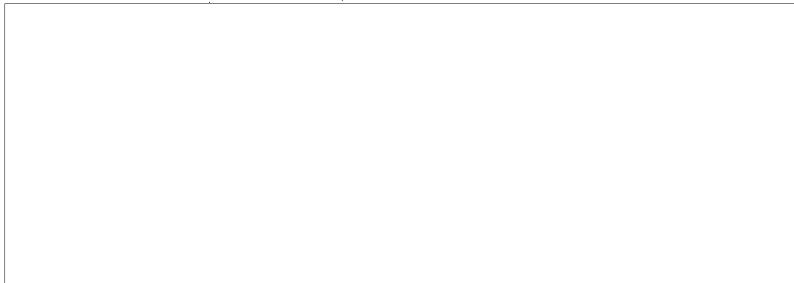
The Soviets, still smarting from their forced withdrawal from Egypt last July, have been working hard in recent weeks to recoup some of their lost prestige in the Middle East. Medical supplies were delivered with fanfare to fedayeen elements after the Israelis bombed guerrilla bases. Lebanon was offered a "defense package." Iraq has been offered observer status in CEMA and perhaps a market for its oil. Syria has been on the receiving end of a well-publicized military airlift, while at the same time highly visible units of the Soviet Mediterranean squadron have anchored in Syrian ports.

President Asad most likely saw his mediation effort as a small price to pay for the military and political support Syria is receiving from the USSR. His credibility in Egypt no doubt has been enhanced by his continued resistance to Soviet pressures for Syria's agreement to a friendship pact, similar to those signed by Egypt and Iraq before Sadat's expulsion of Soviet military advisers.

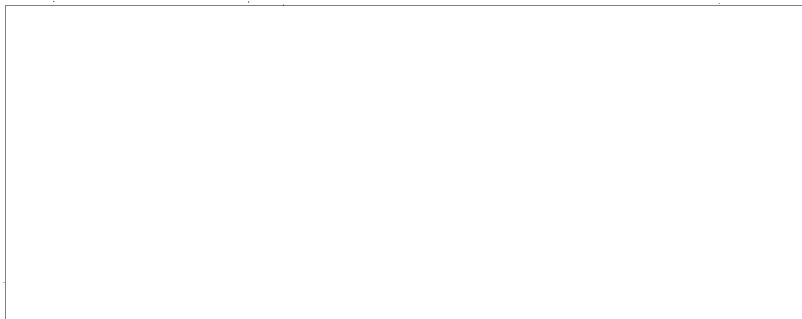
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LEBANON



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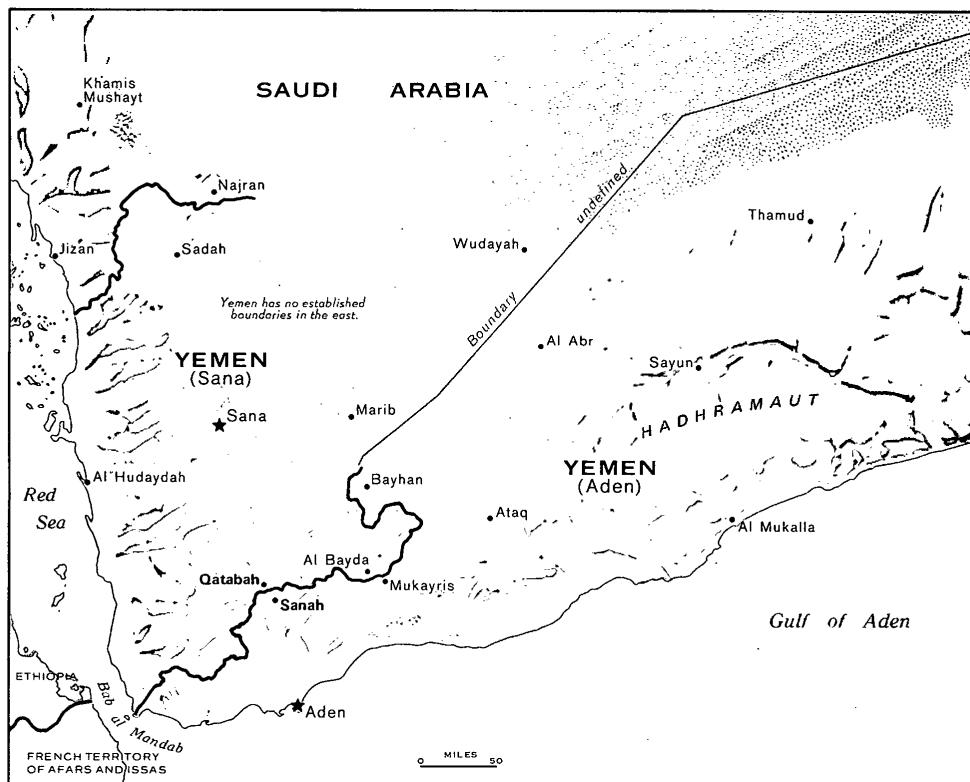


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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

YEMEN (SANA) - YEMEN (ADEN)

Border fighting between the two countries has intensified. Following forays in mid-September into Yemen (Aden) by exiles operating from sanctuaries in Yemen (Sana), Aden's regular forces began counter-attacking early last week with ground troops, air strikes, and shelling attacks. The key Sana border town of Qatabah fell to the Adeni forces yesterday. The Sana government has ordered its army to repel the invading Aden force.

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The Saudis have long been attempting to build an effective anti-Adeni force among the fractious dissidents.

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Both Sana's and Aden's representatives to the Arab League have asked the League's conciliation committee to intervene. The committee, established in early September to mediate the long-standing dispute between the two Yemens, is scheduled to visit both countries this week.

Efforts at conciliation may have been complicated by a Soviet airlift to Aden. Six Soviet AN-12 transports and a VIP IL-18 aircraft have arrived in Aden from Moscow since 28 September. The timing of the airlift could aggravate Sana's relations with the Soviets, who are the principal source of military supplies for both Yemens. Sana has claimed to have shot down three Soviet-built MIGs since the border fighting erupted, and a government spokesman has asserted that some of the planes are being flown by "foreign pilots."

Sana has already asked Moscow to recall more than two thirds of the estimated 250 Soviet advisers in the country because of its displeasure with Soviet support for Aden.

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USSR

Seventy-year-old Vasily Mzhavanadze, a candidate member of the politburo, resigned as party boss of Soviet Georgia last Friday, ostensibly because of his age. Mzhavanadze had headed the Georgian party organization for almost 20 years.

The explanation given for Mzhavanadze's resignation is not convincing. There have been indications of trouble in Georgia since March. At that time the CPSU central committee formally criticized the party organization in Tbilisi, the republic's capital city, for corruption and nationalism. In July, the party chief of Tbilisi was removed and--curiously enough, given the corruption charges--the chief of the Georgian Interior Ministry, E. A. Shevardnadze, was given the job.

Today, the 44-year-old Shevardnadze is the new first secretary of the Georgian Republic. His fast rise to prominence suggests good connections in Moscow. The most likely avenue of Shevardnadze's connection is through Nikolay Shchelokov, the national minister of interior, and a close associate of party boss Brezhnev.

We expect that Mzhavanadze will lose his politburo post at the next meeting of the party central committee.

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NOTES

Thailand: A small-scale attack against Ubon air base yesterday involving about 35 mortar rounds, destroyed some communications equipment but apparently caused no other damage; there were no US casualties. Minor attacks on US bases in northeastern Thailand have occurred occasionally in the past, including two others on Ubon. They appear to be staged by North Vietnamese teams that are infiltrated especially for such missions and are then withdrawn.

Guatemala: The Communists are still trying to get proof of the whereabouts of their leaders. The Guatemalan press is full of rumors that the missing Communists have been killed by the government and official denials that the men had been arrested apparently have convinced no one. If the Communists are unable to prove the death of their missing leaders, they might be tempted to take hostages and offer the government an exchange in an attempt to smoke out the fate of their comrades. Should they become convinced that the men were executed, they might resort to violence without much further ado.

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Denmark - European Communities: Three separate polls give pro-EC forces a substantial margin in today's referendum on market membership. Two of the polls show approximately 55 percent favoring EC entry, 38 percent against and seven percent undecided. The third poll reflects an even greater margin in favor of membership--an indication that last week's "no" vote in Norway may have had a positive effect on Danish voters. A large majority in parliament favors membership and many Danes realize that rejection would have a strong negative effect on the economy. Furthermore, the rules governing the referendum tend to favor pro-EC elements. Pro-EC forces could suffer from a small turnout, however, and if less than 75 percent of the electorate ballots the result could be close.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

China's National Day was celebrated in low key on Sunday, but in contrast to last year, a major editorial was published. (Page 1)

After a tour of southern Lebanon, the [redacted] [redacted] that the army is generally enforcing restrictions on the fedayeen. (Page 3)

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Another US air base was attacked in Thailand this morning. (Page 5)

At Annex, we discuss the motives of Philippine President Marcos for declaring martial law, and assess his prospects for success.

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CHINA

For the second year in a row there were no speeches, parade, or mammoth fireworks displays on National Day, 1 October. All of the active members of the ruling politburo normally residing in Peking turned out for the occasion, except for party chairman Mao Tse-tung.

It has now been over eight months since Mao publicly presided over an important domestic gathering, although his recently televised meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka clearly demonstrated that the aging party leader is mentally alert and reasonably healthy.

In contrast to 1971, this year a major editorial was published. It did not forecast an early resolution of China's domestic political problems nor did it provide any significant treatment of the sensitive issue of civil-military relations. It reaffirmed that the denunciation of Lin Piao is the primary task facing the nation, and repeatedly called on party cadre to intensify the examination of their own political attitudes in the light of Lin's perfidy.

Since early this year, cadre throughout China have been studying documents outlining Lin's unsuccessful coup attempt in September 1971. Greeted at first with shock and disbelief, the continuing anti-Lin campaign and the accompanying "rectification" movement have given rise to considerable anxiety and unrest in the provinces. Local political leaders--most of whom are military professionals--fear that they will be implicated.

Indeed, a number of military province chiefs have dropped out of sight in recent months, although no charges against them have been made public. To date no replacements have been named for the missing military provincial leaders, and it is possible that at least some of them will resurface in good standing. Given the army's dominant political role in the provinces, a centrally directed purge of province chiefs, even on a selective basis, runs a serious risk of undermining the relative order achieved in the three years since the tumultuous Cultural Revolution.

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The primary theme of the foreign policy portion of the National Day editorial was that Soviet efforts to encircle and isolate China are being effectively countered by China's flexible approach in foreign affairs. Both the US and the USSR were criticized for increasing international tension through their continuing rivalry, but the primary target of the editorial was clearly the Soviet Union.

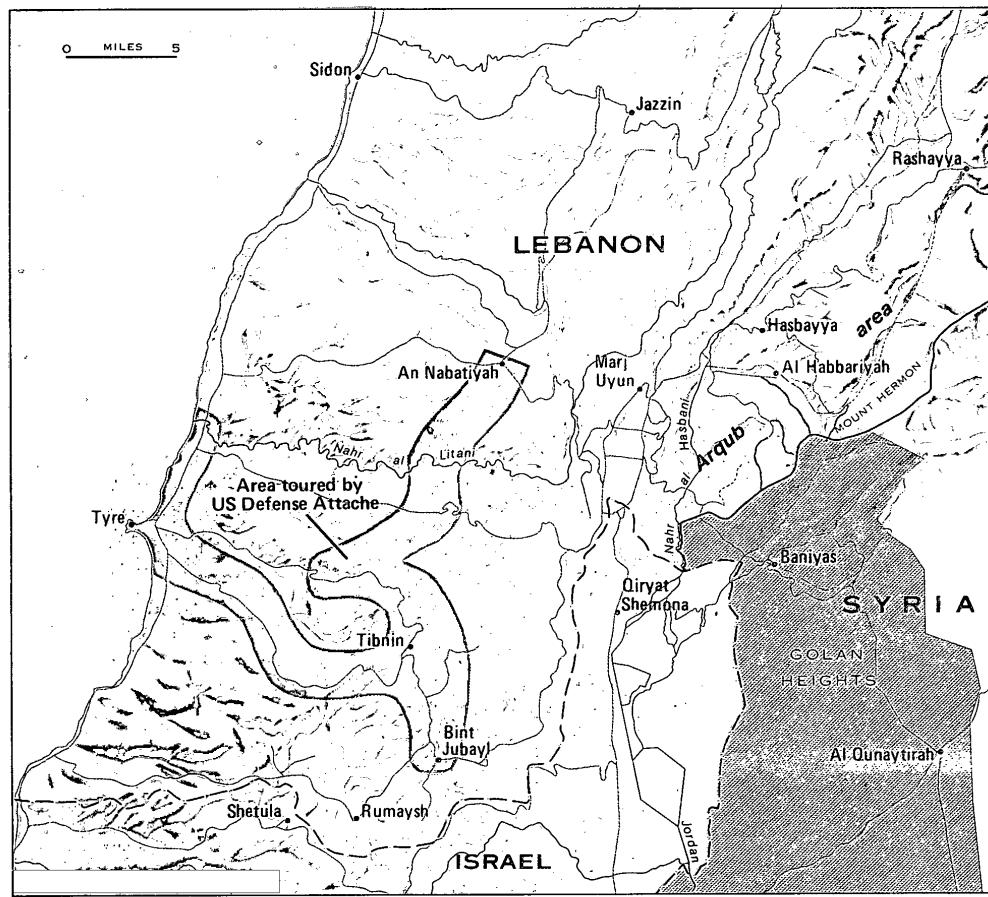


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China's tough editorial line appears to mirror its stand in the Sino-Soviet border talks. A TASS report on a reception on 29 September at the Chinese Embassy in Moscow indicated that both chief Soviet negotiator Ilichev and Soviet Ambassador to China Tolstikov are at present back in Moscow.

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LEBANON-FEDAYEEN

The army is generally enforcing government restrictions against fedayeen activity in southern Lebanon. After a recent tour of the villages attacked last month by Israeli forces, the US defense attaché reported that Lebanese Army checkpoints and security posts in the area were markedly improved as compared to a year ago. Lebanese officials claimed that no fedayeen groups are located south of the Litani River, and the [redacted] activity in the areas he visited. His tour, however, did not include the Arqub sector of southern Lebanon, where in the past there has also been considerable fedayeen activity.

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Despite its controls on the location of the fedayeen, the army seems to be relaxing some other restrictions in order to avoid a confrontation. [redacted]

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PHILIPPINES

President Marcos' actions since his declaration of martial law on 23 September have been directed more at restoring his popular political backing than at rooting out the Communist security threat. Marcos wants to continue as chief executive after his present--and constitutionally his last--term expires in December 1973, but without popular support he could not rule effectively, even with military assistance. He hopes that the "New Society" reforms, announced with great fanfare last week, will capture the favor of the disaffected rural masses and quiet his critics among the urban middle class.

At Annex we examine Marcos' actions and his prospects in greater detail.

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NOTES

Thailand: Another US air base was the target of a small-scale attack early this morning. Preliminary reports indicate that a force of eight to 12 sappers attempted to penetrate Udorn air base in northeastern Thailand. One sapper was killed and one captured; two American servicemen were wounded slightly. Satchel charges and grenades were exploded during the fray but there was no damage to facilities or aircraft. Yesterday, Ubon air base took 35 mortar rounds which damaged some communications equipment. This morning's prisoner may shed some light on the origin of the attackers and about the Communists' plans for future action against US bases in Thailand.

Yemen (Sana) - Yemen (Aden): Adeni forces withdrew on 2 October from the Yemen (Sana) border town of Qatabah. The withdrawal may help to defuse a situation that seemed to threaten heavy border fighting between the two Yemens.

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West Germany - East Germany: The latest round of negotiations on a basic political treaty made no progress toward solving the key political issues. Each side apparently is taking a tough stand in an effort to extract maximum concessions from the other. Nevertheless, we believe that Bonn--and also Pankow to some extent--wants to conclude an agreement prior to West Germany's Bundestag elections next month. The talks will continue on 10 October.

Denmark: Voters overwhelmingly approved Danish membership in the European Communities yesterday. The pro-Communities forces were aided by a record turnout of nearly 90 percent of the eligible voters, 63.5 percent of whom cast ballots in favor of entry.

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THE PHILIPPINES--THE POLITICS OF MARTIAL LAW

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[redacted] President

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Marcos had been considering martial law for some time as a tool for prolonging his hold on political power [redacted]

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[redacted] It is quite possible that the Luzon floods of July and August, with the attendant economic chaos and the prospect of resulting popular unrest, accelerated his timetable. At any rate, his actions since the imposition of martial law indicate that he is following a carefully thought out plan.

Martial Law

In the first few days under martial law, the Philippine constabulary, in a series of well-coordinated sweeps based on detailed arrest lists, seized Marcos' major critics--including politicians of both parties, proponents of social reform, activist priests (both Filipinos and foreigners), students, journalists, publishers and some elected officials. All mass media were immediately closed, and those subsequently allowed to reopen have been subjected to stringent censorship. After the initial series of political arrests, the constabulary began picking up notorious criminals and well-known political warlords and also began the difficult task of disarming the various private armies that abound in the Philippines. The president has said that military courts are being established to try the cases of those detained, but he has not spelled out the charges or punishments which will be sought.

None of this has really impinged on the daily affairs of the average citizen. Nor has the military presence been obvious or oppressive. The long-suffering man-in-the-street in Manila has, in fact, been gratified by improved conditions of law and order.

Marcos has been careful to stress the legality of his actions under the constitution and to emphasize that the country is still under civilian, not military, rule. The military is being used to assure law and order and to carry out specific tasks on behalf of the president, but otherwise most daily activities of the civil administration and the judiciary continue unaffected. To underscore his contention that martial law is a temporary solution, Marcos has directed the constitutional convention to speed its deliberations on a new draft. The next constitution will replace the presidential system

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with a parliamentary form of government--a change that could allow Marcos to maintain power indefinitely as prime minister.

Marcos as the Man of Destiny

The reform program announced under the rubric of the "New Society" is long overdue in the Philippines. There is, however, ample reason to question Marcos' credentials as a reformer as well as his ability to make significant headway against powerful political and economic interests defending the status quo. Although the tactics have changed, the president's current strategy is similar to the one he used in 1969 to overcome public disenchantment and win election to an unprecedented second term--dramatic calls for reform, charges that bureaucratic ineptness and entrenched interests were thwarting his programs, and some showcase public works projects. The rural countryside today is still crisscrossed by unfinished sections of concrete roads and half-built bridges begun during the 1969 campaign and abandoned soon after. The 1969 wave of "reform" brought the country to the point of bankruptcy but did nothing to alleviate endemic corruption, warlordism, and social injustice.

Early signs suggest that Marcos will not go much further this time in actually implementing basic reform. The highly touted land reform decree issued last week, when examined closely, seems to call only for implementation of the 1963 land reform code--a moderate reform which, even so, would be prohibitively expensive to carry out and which would require more government pressure on the landlord class than Marcos may be willing or able to employ. Marcos' past behavior makes us skeptical, too, that the purging of the civil service will do more than replace one set of inept and venal bureaucrats with another. The arms thus far confiscated are insignificant in number compared with total civilian weapons.

The public is generally skeptical that Marcos is willing or able to do what he says he will. Nonetheless, most Filipinos seem ready to give him the benefit of the doubt in the hope that he will carry out at least some of the reforms he has promised. Because Marcos now tightly controls the press, the public will find it hard to determine the actual progress of reform.

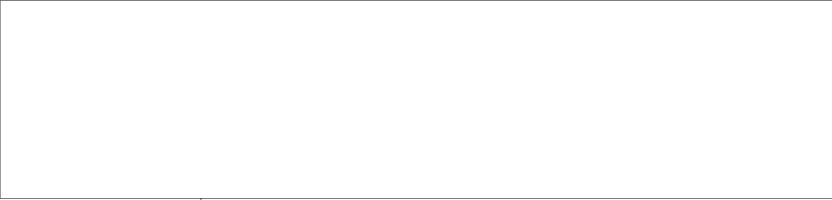
The Future

The president's tactics have so far kept the various anti-Marcos groups in disarray. Many opposition leaders are in jail or in hiding. The most

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likely sources of open opposition to Marcos in the near future are the left-wing student organizations, which are already discussing how best to challenge martial law. The rural Maoist New People's Army, already becoming a haven for many radicals on the arrest list, will doubtless try to step up its insurgent effort, especially now that security forces are partially tied down administering martial law. Some minor skirmishes have already taken place--on Luzon with the Communist insurgents and on Mindanao with Muslim rebels--but thus far these have not differed in form or size from the past insurgent practice of harassing the constabulary as opportunity arises. In the new situation, however, certain members of the anti-Marcos establishment might now be willing to support extremist challenges to the president.

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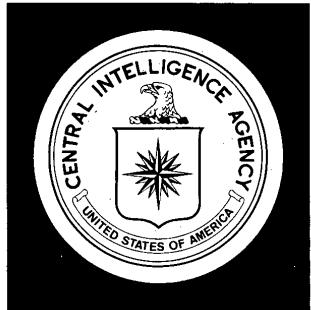
Over the short term, it seems more likely that Marcos, by making some surface reforms in Philippine society and maintaining public harassment of corrupt entrenched interests, will be able to improve his public image, retain the crucial loyalty of the military, and overcome any opposition that might develop. Under these circumstances, Marcos could reasonably expect to end martial law in a fairly short time--perhaps six months to a year--and return to constitutional government claiming a broad popular mandate.

Even assuming such smooth sailing, however, the imposition of martial law has permanently changed the political equation. Marcos apparently now sees himself as an indefinite strongman--whether as president, prime minister, or commander in chief--and in the future he will always be tempted to fall back on martial law again whenever his political control seems threatened. At the same time, Marcos' challengers--both within and outside the Filipino establishment--may be pushed to the conclusion that conspiracy and violence are the only means to achieve power. Communists and other extremists have long been advocating this line, and their credibility will now be enhanced.

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4 October 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

4 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Satellite photography shows that the Soviets have dismantled two ABM launchers at a launch site at Sary Shagan that had been used to test two new ABMs. (Page 1)

Chinese	(Page 2)	
Israel	Syria	(Page 3)

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Officials of the Monsanto Company's European operations suspect that Arab terrorists are trying to sabotage their installations. (Page 4)

In Cambodia, the Communists are keeping government forces off balance on several fronts. (Page 5)

Chilean army commander Prats has publicly defended his recent decision to retire the perennial coup plotter, General Canales. This is a further indication that he does not believe military action against the government is warranted. (Page 6)

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USSR

The Soviets have dismantled two ABM launchers at a launch site at Sary Shagan that had been used to test two new ABMs. Satellite photography showed the launch site intact [redacted] with an ABM canister in one of the two launchers. [redacted]
[redacted] the canister had been removed, both launchers had been dismantled, and the turntables and vehicle guide rails had been bulldozed over.

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Each of the two new ABMs had been tested from this site five times, but we have not detected any firings since last December.

Under the terms of the ABM treaty, the Soviets are allowed 15 ABM launchers at their R&D test facilities. The Soviets had 17 completed launchers at Sary Shagan. With these two dismantled, they are within the treaty limit.

The Soviets have been working on as many as five additional launchers at various times. None has been completed, and at least two may have been abandoned.

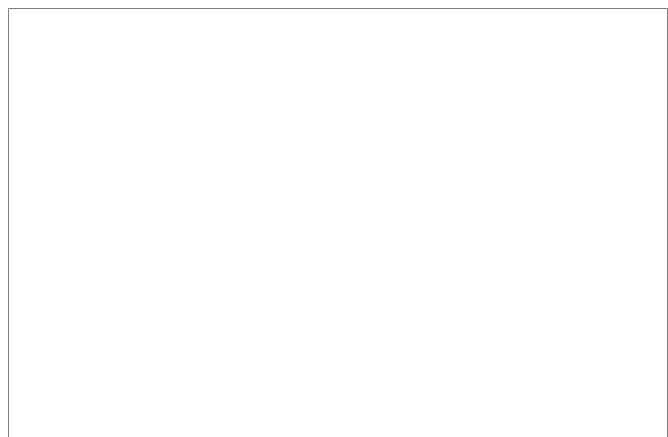
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CHINA



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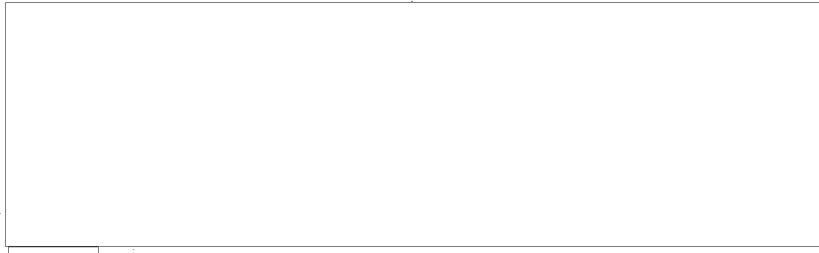


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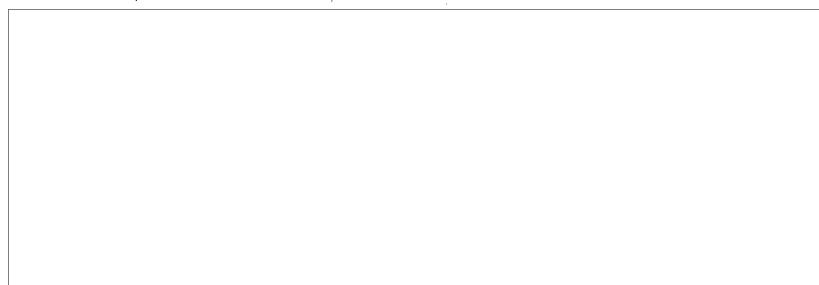
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ISRAEL-SYRIA



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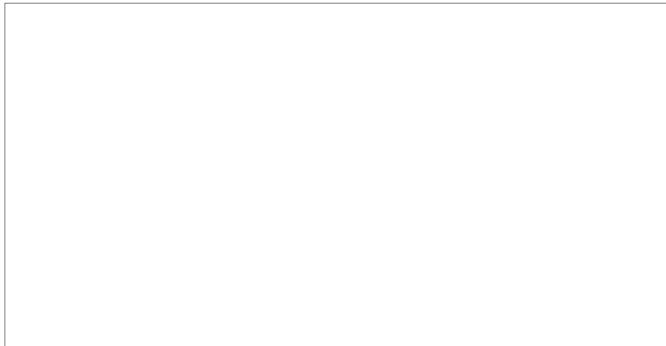
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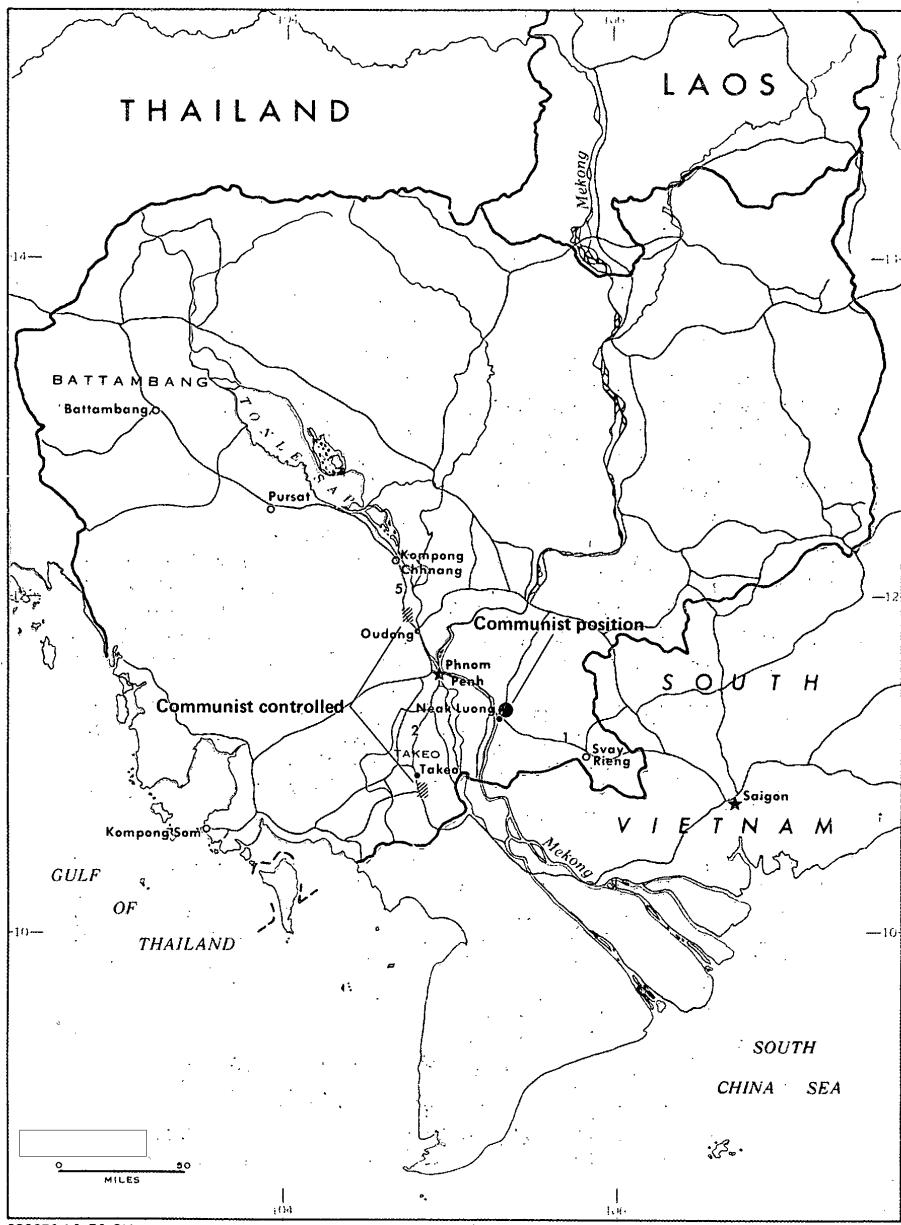
Officials of the Monsanto Company's European operations suspect that Arab terrorists are trying to sabotage their installations. The head of Monsanto Europe told our embassy in Brussels that two fires in Monsanto plants on Monday, one in Luxembourg and the other in Britain, were of suspicious origin. Yesterday a phone caller to the Monsanto Antwerp plant, identifying himself with "Black September," stated that there was an explosive in the plant, although subsequent investigation found none. Monsanto officials point to their "heavy and visible" involvement in Israel's industry as a reason for having been placed on the terrorists' target list.



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CAMBODIA



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CAMBODIA

Khmer Communist elements have dealt a setback to the government's efforts to reopen Route 5 to regular truck convoys carrying rice from Battambang Province to Phnom Penh. In recent days they have destroyed a bridge and gained control of a four-mile stretch of Route 5 some 33 miles northwest of the capital near Oudong. The Cambodians are now trying to organize an operation to clear the road, which they had hoped to open to traffic this week.

East of Phnom Penh, strong Communist ground attacks and shelling dispersed two battalions involved in a government effort to drive the enemy from a key high-ground position overlooking Neak Luong. This operation has been temporarily halted.

In Takeo Province, Cambodian forces have once again cleared Route 2 between Phnom Penh and the town of Takeo. Portions of the highway have been badly damaged by the recent fighting, however, and the Khmer Communists still hold a four-mile section of Route 2 south of the town.

Enemy intercepts indicate that the Communists intend to maintain their attacks on the government's main lines of communication. This, of course, will seriously complicate Cambodian efforts to keep Phnom Penh supplied with rice.

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CHILE

Army commander Prats wrote an open letter to the Chilean press on Friday defending his decision last month to retire the perennial coup plotter, General Canales. The letter charged that some newsmen had been trying to portray Canales as "a victim of intrigue or injustice." This diverts attention from the "real reason" for Canales' forced retirement, Prats went on, and contributes to a campaign to undermine military unity and subvert constitutional order. The Chilean Army is aware of its constitutional duties, Prats declared, and "we soldiers will not commit the crime of treason" by taking actions that would result in bloodshed of "thousands of fellow citizens."

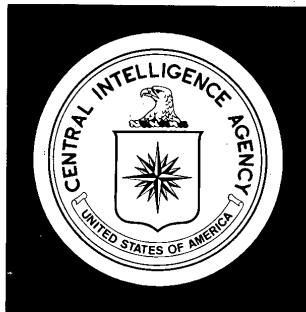
Prats' letter was published in all Santiago papers on Saturday and prompted effusive praise from the pro-government media. A sharply critical reply to Prats from the acting president of the national journalists' association was published in opposition papers.

Prats' statement amounts to public affirmation that constitutional order is not now being violated by the Allende government and, for this reason, military action against it is not warranted.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

5 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Japanese Foreign Minister Ohira has provided impressions and background details on the discussions in Peking last week. (Page 1)

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South Korean CIA Director Yi Hu-rak states that the increasingly negative North Korean attitude bodes ill for the future of the North-South talks. (Page 4)

Communist sappers and gunners are becoming more active in the southern half of South Vietnam. Preparations for the coming dry season supply push through the Laotian panhandle appear well under way. (Page 5)

Bonn's Egon Bahr plans to fly to Moscow on Sunday to seek Soviet aid in concluding the inter-German treaty negotiations. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN-CHINA

Japanese Foreign Minister Ohira has provided Ambassador Ingersoll with impressions and background details on the Sino-Japanese discussions in Peking last week. The Japanese found the Chinese leadership more open than they had expected. Ohira termed the Chinese "more democratic, disarming, and soft" than anticipated and noted that they did not give the Japanese side "a feeling that there is a great gap to bridge."

--Ohira said the Chinese made no effort to undermine or affect the US-Japan Security Treaty, noting merely that China "neither agrees nor objects to it." The Chinese also agreed with the Japanese statement that normalization of relations between Japan and China might benefit Sino-US relations.

--The Chinese did not make an issue of Japanese-Taiwanese trade and did not disagree with the Japanese view that normalization of relations with Peking should not affect Tokyo's economic ties to Taiwan. In further discussion the Chinese stated explicitly that it was "inconceivable that armed conflict would arise" over the Taiwan problem. They stated that for the time being "Japan and China should let the US take care of Taiwan" and agreed with a Japanese suggestion that a total US withdrawal might lead the Soviets to attempt to fill the vacuum. The Chinese also implied that they felt there might be a change in US policy toward Taiwan after the Indochina war had been ended.

--The Chinese took aboard with evident satisfaction the Japanese statement that there would be no peace treaty with Moscow unless all four northern islands were returned, commenting that Tokyo was in for "an arduous and strenuous time" in economic and diplomatic negotiations with the Soviets. They did not object, however, to Japanese statements on future economic cooperation with the USSR. They made the usual noises about the bad state of their own relations with the USSR.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

--The Chinese also made standard remarks about non-export of revolution (stating explicitly that Japan need not worry about revolution), about their support for the North/South Korean communiqué, and about China's backwardness. Such subjects as the Indochina war and insurgent movements in Southeast Asia were left virtually uncovered.

Ohira stated that he expected ambassadors to be exchanged between the two countries soon, adding that conclusion of a peace treaty was a long-term matter. He wished to visit the United States for top-level debriefings around 17 and 18 October, adding that he might then visit the USSR for the same purpose.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-EGYPT

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KOREA

South Korean CIA Director Yi Hu-rak told Ambassador Habib late last week that the increasingly negative North Korean statements and propaganda bode ill for the future of the North-South talks. Yi attributed this change of mood to Pyongyang's frustration over its recent failure to get the Korean question onto the agenda of the UN General Assembly, to the North's inability to make political inroads in the South, and to the hostile tone in the South Korean press during the visit of the North Korean Red Cross delegation to Seoul last month.

Yi's arguments have some foundation. Since the UN vote, Pyongyang has castigated Seoul in a manner it had avoided after the announcement of the joint communiqué on unification last July. In a recent interview with a Japanese paper, Premier Kim Il-sung accused the South of deliberately violating agreements to work toward unification and suggested that unless Seoul changed its policies, the talks could be in jeopardy.

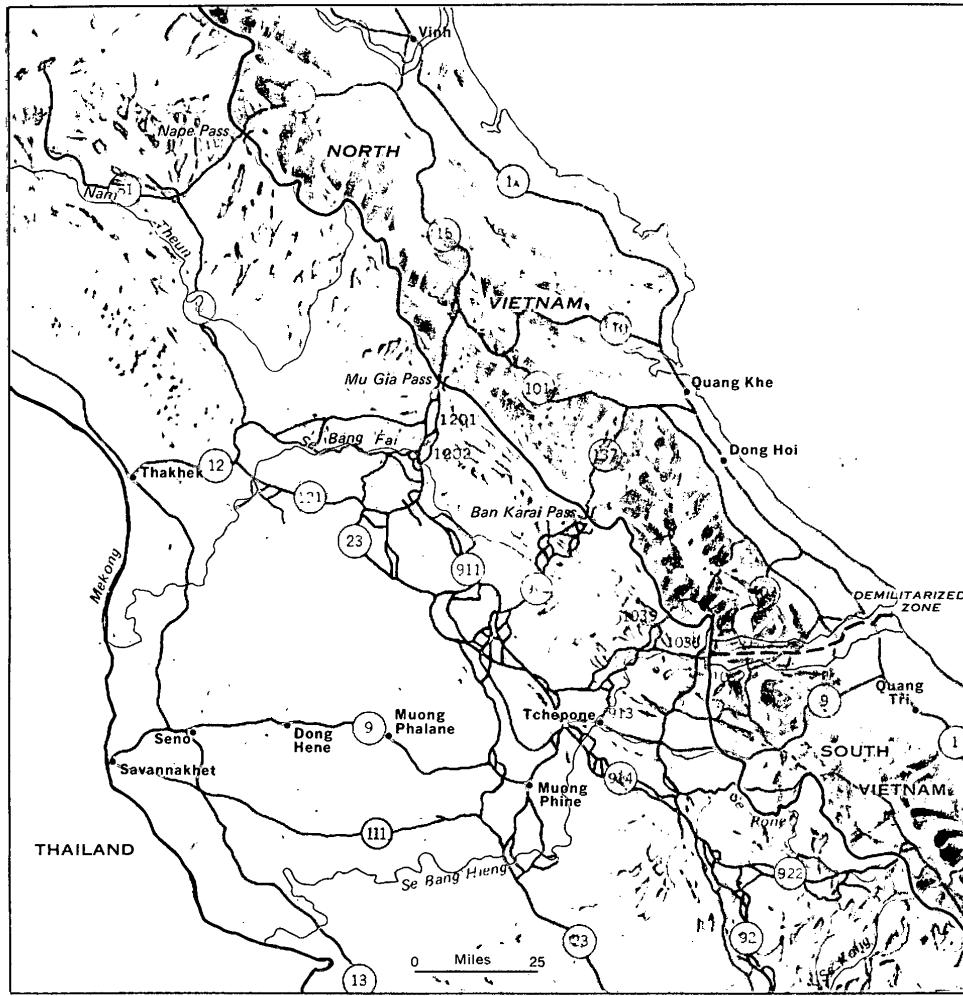
We doubt that Kim is prepared to precipitate a breakdown in negotiations. The Red Cross talks have not yet reached substantive matters, and the membership of the higher level coordinating committee is still being negotiated, so he may simply be intensifying pressure on Seoul to bend to his various demands.

Yi told Habib that Seoul is willing to make some small compromises to keep the talks on the track, but emphasized that his government needs to maintain a tight grip on domestic affairs as the talks proceed. He claimed that Pyongyang hopes to establish contact with opposition political forces, with an eye to their greater prospects as President Pak approaches the end of his third term in 1975.

In taking this line, Yi is signaling that Pak will use the issue of negotiations with the North as one more reason for taking steps to prolong his rule beyond 1975.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS:Central Panhandle



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Communist sappers and gunners are becoming more active in the southern half of South Vietnam. Harassing attacks in the provinces around Saigon and in the delta have been directed largely against major highways, remote outposts, and other lightly defended government positions. Several main roads leading to the capital city were temporarily cut.

Communications patterns and an apparent relocation of the headquarters of the North Vietnamese 325th Division north of the DMZ suggest that this may be the first combat unit to pull out of the Quang Tri area since the fighting began there early this year. We do not yet have any indications that the division's subordinate regiments are withdrawing.

* * *

The Communists appear to be preparing for the coming dry season supply push. An intercept of 29 September stated that 60 vehicles had recently been delivered to southern North Vietnam. The vehicles arrived loaded with cargo and were to be moved to transportation battalions both west of the DMZ and in the Ban Karai Pass area. Three additional transportation battalions also have recently been identified in the DMZ - Laos panhandle area. They came from the interior of Laos.

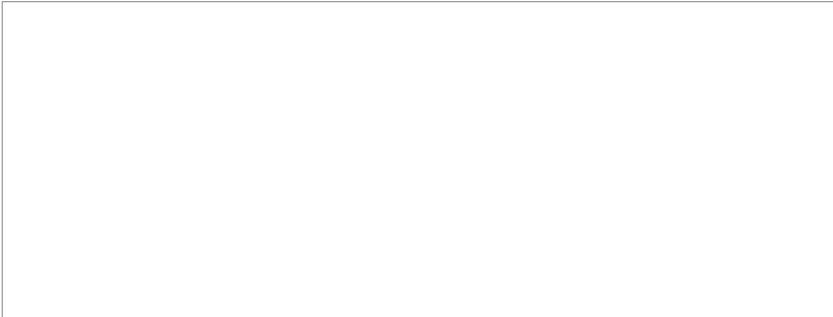
These developments suggest that when the dry season starts in November, emphasis will be placed on the supply corridors in the DMZ and Ban Karai areas. Some key routes crossing the Laotian border evidently have remained in good condition over the wet season, and moderate traffic has been observed on some of them. Communist resupply efforts in southern North Vietnam have continued at a high pace through the summer, and we believe that significant quantities of supplies are available there for shipment down the trail.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

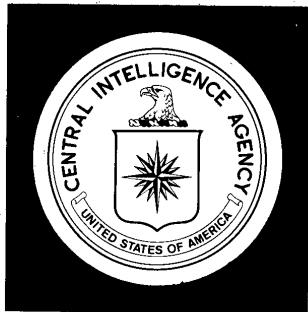
West Germany - USSR: State Secretary Egon Bahr plans to visit Moscow from 8 to 10 October in an effort to enlist Soviet aid in concluding the inter-German treaty negotiations before the West German elections next month. Bahr told Allied ambassadors yesterday that the negotiations had reached a "crisis" stage because of the lack of movement on major political issues, notably Bonn's need for some reference to the goal of national unification. He added that Chancellor Brandt may write to party leader Brezhnev stating Bonn's requirements for a general treaty.

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The President's Daily Brief

6 October 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

6 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted] the North Vietnamese are building a new petroleum pipeline along their northern coast. (Page 3)

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In Laos, the Communists are preparing to attack the government's remaining task force on the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 5)

Egyptian President Sadat's recent suggestion that a provisional Palestinian government be established has failed to generate any significant Arab interest. (Page 6)

In Chile, the Allende government is getting a political boost from the Kennecott Corporation's interference with a copper shipment to France. (Page 7)

The Soviet TU-95 naval reconnaissance aircraft that remains in Cuba evidently was damaged during a mission flown from the island. (Page 8)

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Guatemala [Redacted]

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[Redacted] (Page 8)

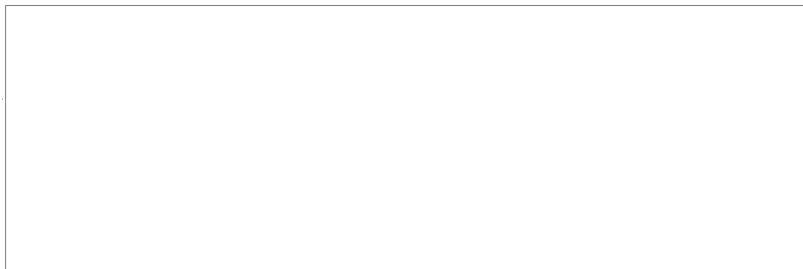
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India will announce today the establishment of diplomatic relations with East Germany. (Page 8)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

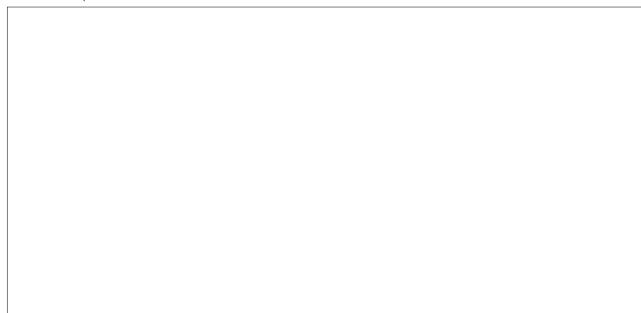
INDIA



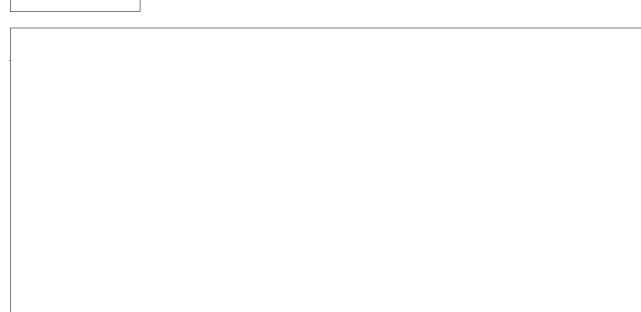
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Petroleum Pipeline in North Vietnam



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM



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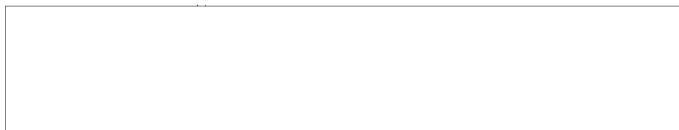
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* * *

Aerial photography [redacted] indicates that the North Vietnamese are building a new pipeline along their northern coast, most likely into China. Two miles of trenching and ten miles of intermittent traces were photographed, starting at a point five miles northwest of Hon Gai. The trenching is near the line that runs from Hon Gai to Hai Duong, where it joins the three pipelines running south from Ping-hsiang, China.

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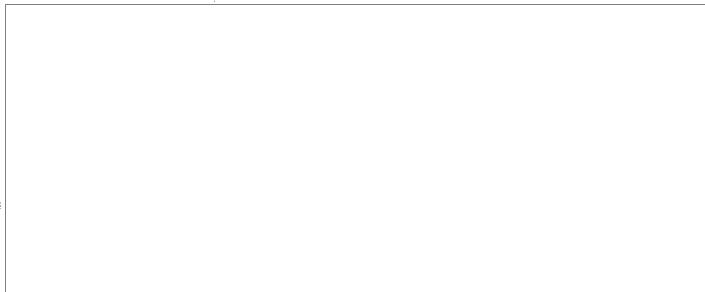


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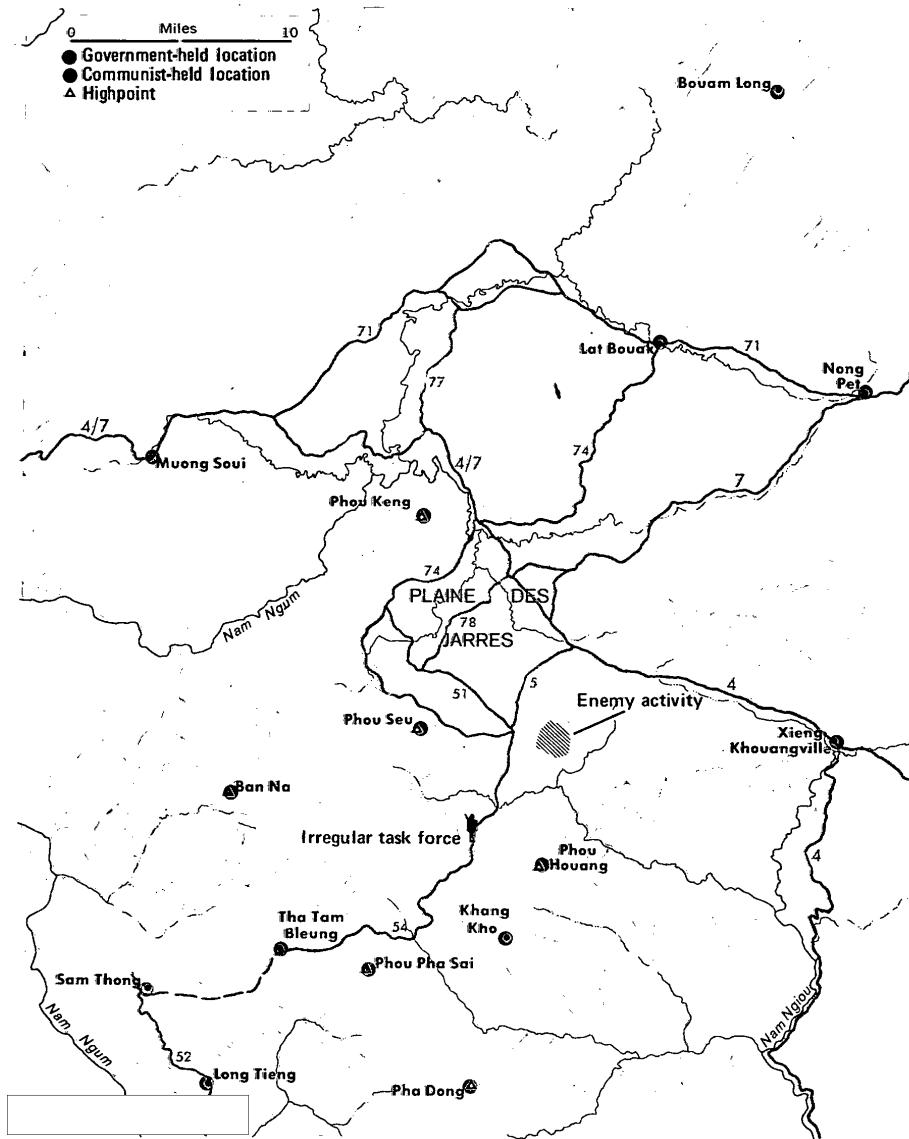
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There is additional evidence that the North Vietnamese are beginning their annual dry season supply push. Intercepted messages during the past ten days reflect the continuing delivery of large quantities of supplies through the North Vietnamese panhandle. Between 25 September and 3 October, well over 1,100 tons, much of it large-caliber ammunition, was moved south from Vinh both by road and waterway.

The heavy resupply activity will help to maintain stockpiles in northern South Vietnam, where the Communists have been expending large caliber ammunition at a rate of over 30 tons a day since the offensive began in late March. In addition, the North Vietnamese are now preparing for their annual dry-season effort--just a few weeks away--to move supplies to Cambodia and southern South Vietnam. This logistics effort will be launched from North Vietnam's panhandle.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Intercepted messages indicate that the Communists are preparing to attack the government's remaining task force on the Plaine des Jarres. Elements of three North Vietnamese regiments plus artillery units have moved near General Vang Pao's task force at the southern tip of the Plaine. US pilots report signs of heavy enemy activity and the presence of tanks in the general vicinity. One intercepted message discloses that the Communists intend to complete plans for an infantry and tank attack by this weekend.

Vang Pao now has some 2,500 troops in the southern Plaine area in preparation for a move against Phou Seu, a ridge overlooking the southwestern Plaine. With the aid of air strikes, his units have thus far managed to turn back several small Communist counter-attacks. Three other task forces operating near the Plaine have made no further progress.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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EGYPT

President Sadat's recent suggestion that a provisional Palestinian government be established has failed to generate any significant Arab interest. After deliberations last weekend in Beirut, the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) apparently rejected Sadat's proposal, asserting that it would only support "a Palestinian entity as embodied by the PLO and its institutions."

Sadat's announcement in late September appears to have caught the PLO leadership off guard and may have precluded a serious discussion of the subject. The formation of a government-in-exile has long been a contentious issue among fedayeen leaders, and there are serious differences among them about what form it should take.

PLO Chairman Arafat and other members of the Executive Committee are probably apprehensive about retaining what authority they now have over the fedayeen in any new Palestinian Organization. They also know that they would face a serious problem in gaining general Palestinian support for a PLO-sponsored provisional government. Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank of Jordan are antipathetic toward the fedayeen; and those on the East Bank, fearing repression from Amman, are reluctant to voice approval of a provisional government.

President Sadat's motives for publicly broaching this proposal appear to be rhetorical and tactical. The Munich incident and its aftermath generated great emotional support within the Arab world for the Palestinians, and Sadat apparently found it convenient to seize upon the idea of a provisional government in order to strengthen his claim to Arab leadership. Sadat's proposal may also have been aimed at undercutting King Husayn's plan for a United Arab Kingdom.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE

A French court has granted the Kennecott Corporation's request for attachment of a million dollar Chilean copper shipment due in France this weekend. Kennecott, claiming indemnity for its nationalized copper interests in Chile, had warned potential buyers that they risk such action. Yesterday a spokesman for Kennecott informed US officials that President Pompidou has personally intervened in the case and is attempting to get the French court to reverse its decision.

In Chile, opposition parties have joined government forces in cries of outrage over this "act of piracy." This rare national unanimity provides President Allende with an opportunity further to buttress his political position.

The embargo action does, however, have serious economic implications for Chile. The government will shortly begin negotiations for 1973 copper sales contracts with major European buyers; they may now be reluctant to contract for shipments that might later be embargoed.

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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: Photography of Havana's Jose Marti airfield shows a Soviet TU-95 naval reconnaissance aircraft in the grass some 60 feet off the runway in a remote part of the airfield. [redacted]
[redacted]
a pair of TU-95s had flown reconnaissance missions from Cuba along the east coast of the US and one of these aircraft apparently was damaged on its return landing. The other three TU-95s that flew to Cuba in early September were photographed at the airfield's maintenance area. These aircraft returned to the [redacted]

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Guatemala: [redacted]

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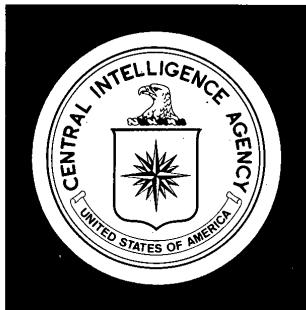
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India - East Germany: The US Embassy in New Delhi has learned that India will announce today the establishment of diplomatic relations with East Germany. The decision to take this step was made more than a year ago, but its implementation was held in abeyance in deference to West Germany's sensitivities. The Indians apparently believe that East-West German negotiations have proceeded far enough that Bonn's position would not be seriously undercut by New Delhi's move.

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The President's Daily Brief

7 October 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 October 1972

25X1

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnam	25X1
(Page 1)	25X1

The Communists have moved five main force infantry regiments and several sapper outfits to within a 25-mile radius of Saigon. (Page 2)

25X1

The enemy conducted a heavy commando raid on Cambodia's capital city this morning. Meanwhile, Lon Nol is still trying to form a "unity" cabinet.
(Page 4)

The Chinese seem to be moving to fill some of the numerous high-level vacancies in the government.
(Page 6)

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the Yemens	25X1
(Page 7)	

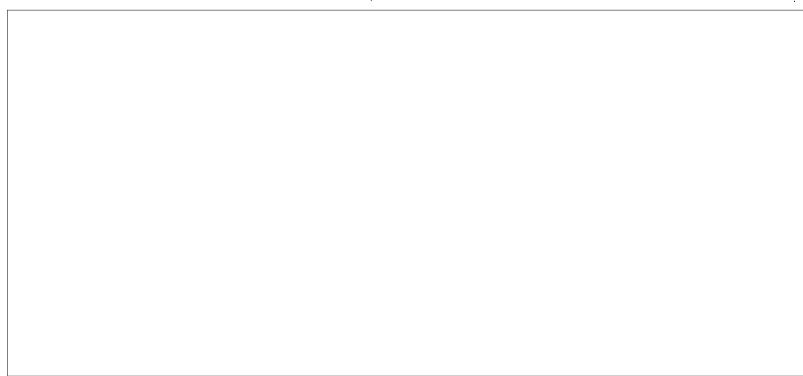
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SOUTH VIETNAM



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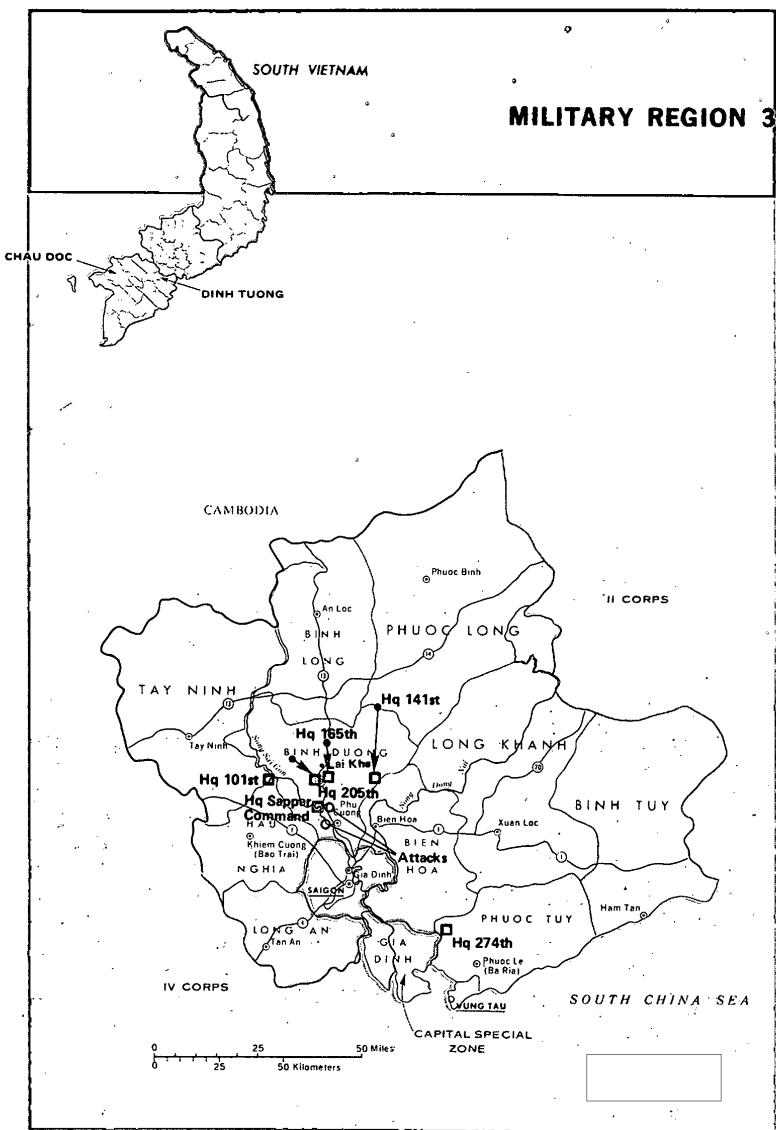
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

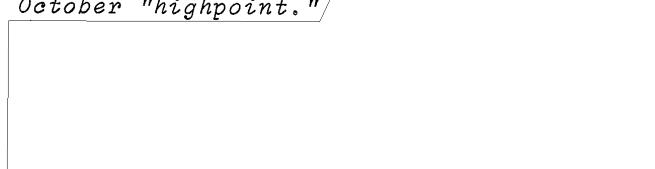
Sharp fighting erupted north of Saigon yesterday following a series of Communist attacks against government positions along Route 13 earlier in the day. Hardest hit were a number of outposts near the Saigon River a few miles northwest of the Binh Duong provincial capital. South Vietnamese forces turned back several enemy ground probes accompanied by heavy mortar fire. Government forces also kept aggressive search and ambush operations going throughout the day, engaging the enemy in at least nine locations.

The enemy attacks apparently were carried out by sapper units and designed to mask the movement of main force units and supplies closer to the capital. At least three Communist infantry regiments have shifted south around the government's main base at Lai Khe during the past few days. US pilots report extensive enemy activity along the Saigon River west of Lai Khe. The shelling of a government blocking base in Binh Long Province yesterday may also have been intended to screen the southward movement of Communist troops.

We believe that the Communists now have about five main force infantry regiments in addition to several sapper outfits within a 25-mile radius of the capital. The bulk of enemy troops apparently remains located north of Lai Khe. On the government side, a mixed force of more than four regiments of regular and territorial troops are available for the capital's defense.

The attacks could signal the start of another flurry of Communist actions expected throughout the country as part of an early October "highpoint."

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* * *

Aerial photography of Haiphong harbor--partially obscured by clouds--[redacted] shows that a Chinese minesweeper and one of its attendant buoy tenders

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have departed from their previous anchorage alongside Chinese merchant vessels. These craft were last observed in the harbor--together with a larger mine-sweeper and another buoy tender-- [redacted] after which bad weather precluded observation for a week. None of these vessels has been observed in the act sweeping mines since their arrival in late July.

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CAMBODIA

Perhaps as many as two battalions of Communist sappers raided Phnom Penh early this morning. They destroyed the bulk of one of the Cambodian Army's two companies of armored personnel carriers and dropped two spans of the key bridge across the Tonle Sap. Pochentong airport was subjected to a rocket barrage, which caused few casualties and little damage, however. The French Embassy was shot up during the fighting.

The armored personnel carrier company apparently was caught fast asleep. The enemy captured seven of the vehicles, all of which were abandoned or destroyed after government forces recovered from their initial surprise.

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The US Embassy reports that the attack resembled an earlier unsuccessful raid against Phnom Penh that was tried on 6 May. The embassy has no information which would indicate that large enemy forces are in the vicinity of Phnom Penh and does not expect a full-scale attack on the city.

* * *

Meanwhile, President Lon Nol and former deputy prime minister Sirik Matak have been trying to resolve their political differences. They met briefly on Thursday and agreed that the question of appointing a vice-president should be put off for now. The President claimed that if he named Matak to fill that post, it would cause some "spectacular resignations" from the cabinet. Lon Nol added, however, that Matak would remain as a special counselor to the President.

Lon Nol later told Chargé Enders that he had instructed officers of the pro-government Socio-Republican Party to make fresh efforts to reach an accommodation with Matak's Republican Party. In addition, Lon Nol indicated that he would be willing to appoint several of Matak's close associates to executive positions--including one cabinet post--in the new government he is trying to form.

The apparently amiable meeting between Lon Nol and Matak--their first private encounter in several weeks--may have checked the deterioration in their relations. Nevertheless, the impediments to

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a genuine rapprochement are formidable. Several key Socio-Republican leaders who are to be involved in the inter-party talks are hostile toward the Republican Party and even more so toward Matak. They will try to sabotage the talks to ensure that they will have a dominant position in whatever new government finally emerges. For his part, Matak will want a substantial grant of authority as the price of his participation.

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CHINA

The official Chinese news agency on 5 October identified Li Chen as Minister of Public Security in reporting an airport reception for a visiting foreign delegation. Li, until now a deputy minister in the same ministry, is the seventh military man among the nine new government ministers named since the Cultural Revolution.

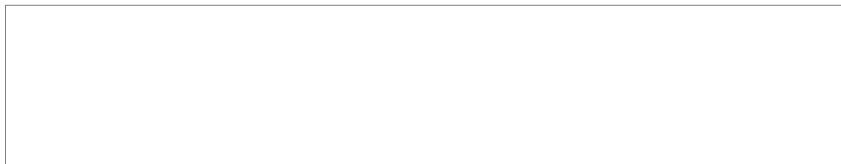
The sensitive security post is only the second ministerial vacancy to be filled this year. The appointment of Li comes amid other signs that Peking is now moving to fill high-level posts. Wang Hung-wen, a young radical from Shanghai, was called to Peking in mid-September and has appeared regularly with top party officials. He has been ranked just below the Politburo, suggesting that he has assumed an important party post. Late last month the press identified a new head of China's official news agency.

These developments suggest that other top jobs in the party and government may now be filled at a somewhat faster rate. Nevertheless, there is no sign yet that Peking is prepared to fill the important military posts that have been vacant since the Lin Piao affair last autumn.

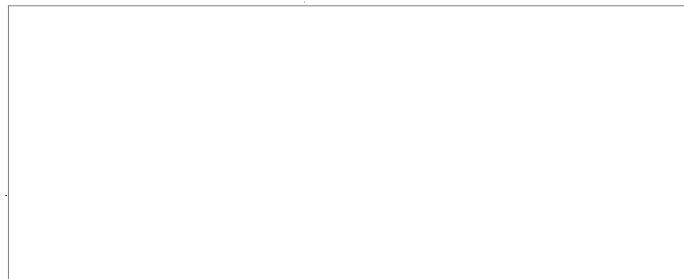
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THE YEMENS



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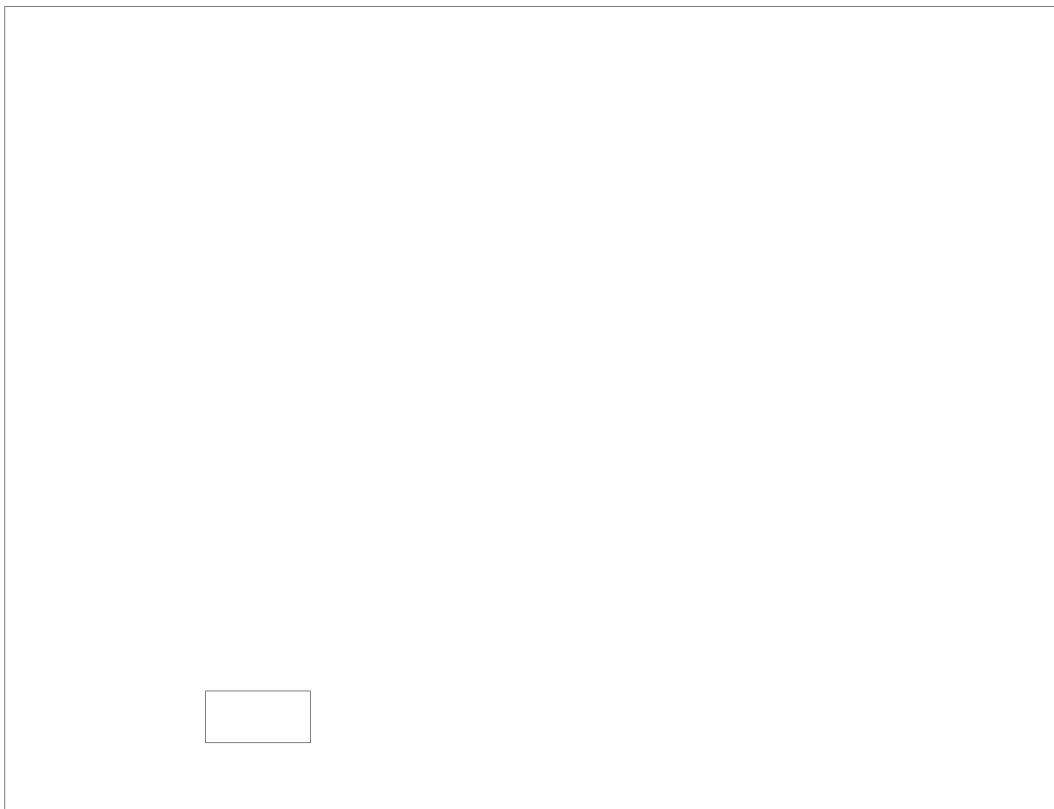
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NOTES

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India - East Germany: At the request of West German Chancellor Brandt, Prime Minister Gandhi yesterday agreed to delay India's announcement of diplomatic recognition of East Germany. The length of the postponement was not set, and the West German embassy in New Delhi surmises it may not be longer than a few days.

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The President's Daily Brief

9 October 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, sporadic fighting continues north of Saigon in Binh Dinh Province, and the Communists evidently intend to increase the pace of their activity in several other provinces near Saigon.

(Page 1)

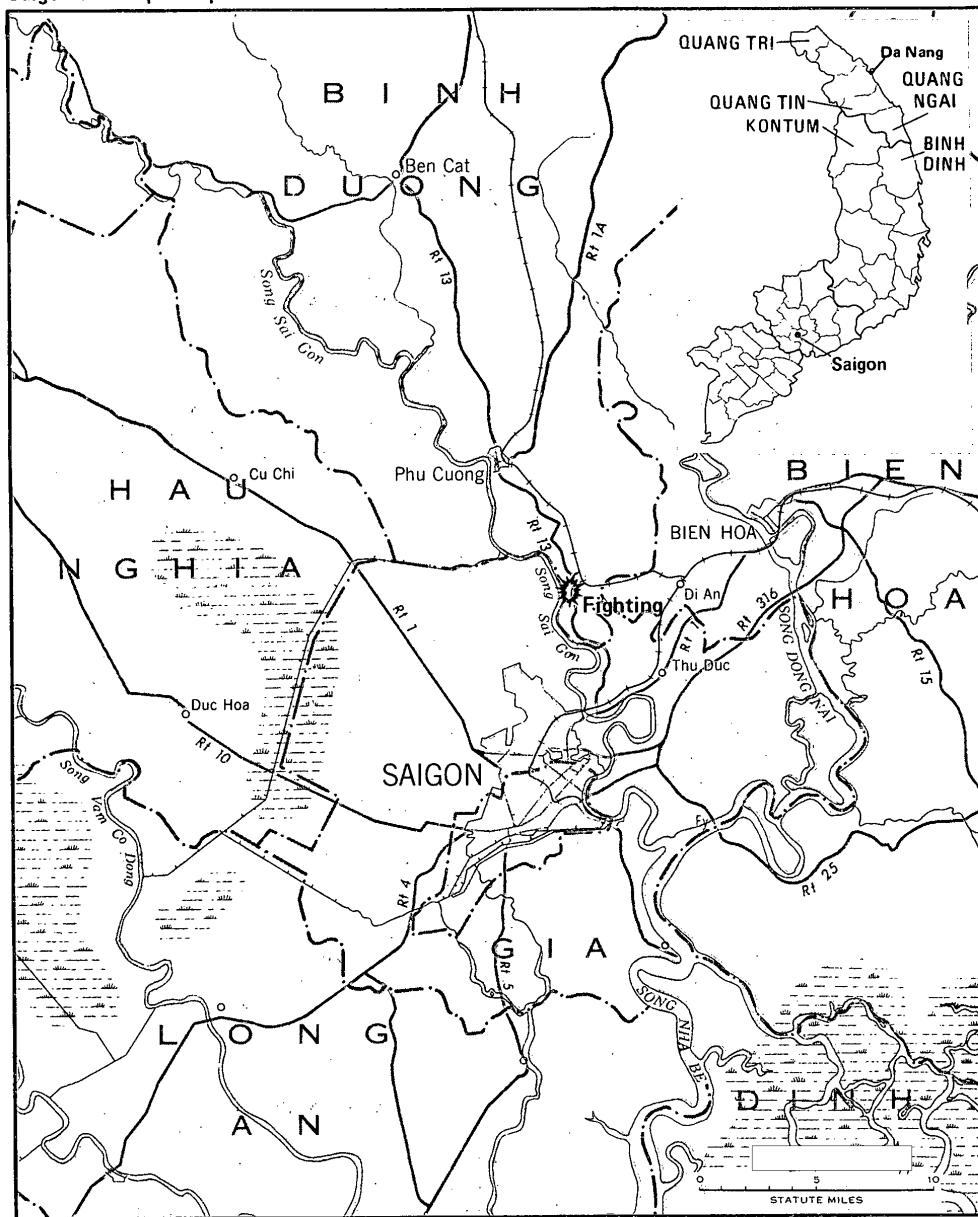
The sapper raid on Phnom Penh Saturday morning was less damaging than appeared at first, but it will further shake public confidence in the Lon Nol government. (Page 2)

Anti-Adeni dissidents have seized Aden's Kamaran Island in an action that may bring the Sana and Aden governments closer to direct conflict. (Page 3)

The peace agreement signed by Uganda and Tanzania only glosses over the sharp differences between presidents Amin and Nyerere. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Saigon and Capital Special Zone



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Sporadic sharp skirmishing continues north of Saigon along Route 13 in Binh Duong Province. Most of the fighting results from South Vietnamese defensive operations along the Saigon River corridor some ten to 15 miles north of the capital and involves small units from the North Vietnamese 7th Division as well as sapper elements.

The Communists hold several hamlets a few miles west of Phu Cuong, the provincial capital, and have infiltrated two battalions of the 7th into the southernmost district of Binh Duong, about ten miles from Saigon.

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The government has moved two regular battalions into blocking positions near Bien Hoa; additional Ranger battalions already had been deployed along Route 13. Numerous sources indicate that the Communists intend to increase the pace of the military activity in several other provinces around the capital as well as in the delta.

In other action, in Kontum Province in the central highlands three days of heavy Communist shellings as well as stiff resistance to government clearing operations near Kontum City resulted in heavy casualties to both sides. South Vietnamese forces in the coastal area, meanwhile, have recaptured several key positions in Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, and Quang Tin provinces.

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South Vietnamese Marines report some progress in a limited offensive launched on Saturday north of Quang Tri City.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CAMBODIA

A military assessment of the sapper raid on Phnom Penh Saturday morning shows that the damage was less extensive than was initially indicated. Of the army's armored personnel carriers caught napping, only seven were destroyed, considerably fewer than first reports indicated. The attack on Pocheh-tong Airfield caused no damage to the runways, buildings, or aircraft. The fallen spans of the Tonle Sap bridge, however, are blocking the shipping channel that leads to the city's POL docks.

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[redacted] that it will be impossible to repair the bridge quickly.

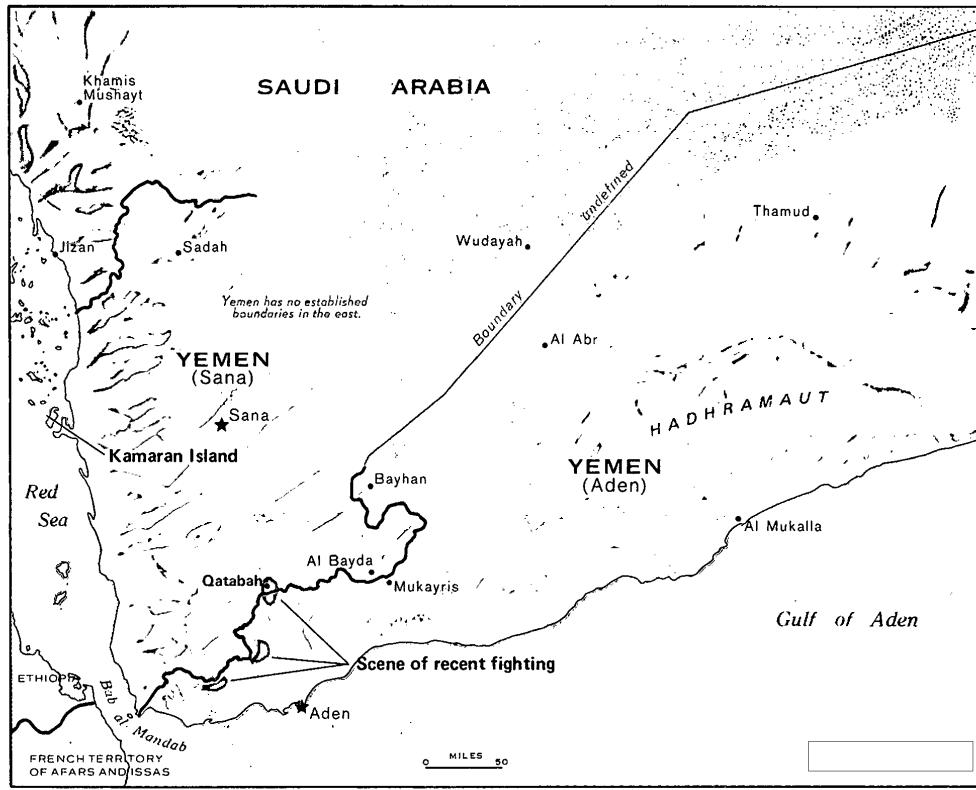
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More significant than the material damage, the complete surprise the attackers achieved will further shake public confidence in the government. The defenders' lack of preparedness also underscores how far Major General Sosthene Fernandez, the new chief of staff, has to go in organizing and disciplining the armed forces.

Meanwhile, Phnom Penh may soon face another rice crisis. No deliveries of foreign rice have yet been arranged for the last week of this month. The US Embassy estimates that the capital's stocks could then dip to a few days' supplies.

The closing of Route 5 for nearly two months has prevented the delivery of 20,000 tons awaiting shipment in Battambang Province and forced Phnom Penh to depend on supplies from abroad. Sosthene Fernandez is fully aware of the urgency of reopening the route, but the recent destruction of a second bridge north of Phnom Penh will further delay the road's availability.

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THE YEMENS

Anti-Adeni dissidents based in Yemen (Sana) on Friday seized the Red Sea island of Kamaran, a possession of Yemen (Aden), according to a dissident radio announcement yesterday.

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Kamaran, which has a population of only a few thousand, was administered by the British until Aden became independent in 1967. Its seizure may well bring Sana into a direct clash with the extreme leftist regime in Aden, which will not distinguish between the dissidents and Sana's regular army. Previously fighting had been limited primarily to border skirmishes between the dissidents and the Adeni army.

The occupation may be the first step of President Iryani's recent decision to take firmer action against Aden.

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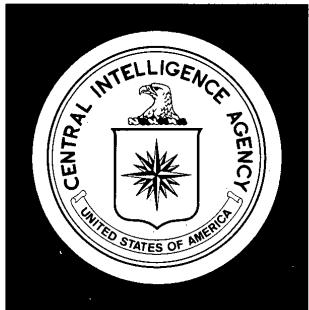
UGANDA-TANZANIA

The peace agreement signed by the two countries last week in Mogadiscio only glosses over their sharp differences. According to details announced on Saturday, both countries have pledged to cease all military operations against each other and to pull their forces back six miles from the frontier by 19 October. Somalia has agreed to provide a temporary observer force during the withdrawal period.

The detente is an uneasy one at best. Any lasting resolution of the dispute seems likely only if presidents Amin and Nyerere agree to negotiate directly. Nyerere does not recognize the Amin regime, refuses to meet with Amin, and continues to harbor Uganda's ex-president Obote and his followers who, with Tanzanian support, led the abortive invasion of Uganda last month. For his part, Amin continues to charge that Tanzania and other countries are still planning to invade his country.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

10 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Cambodian President Lon Nol is ready to announce the formation of a new government. (Page 1)

In Laos, a Communist Lao peace delegation is expected to arrive in Vientiane this weekend. Yesterday the Communists mounted a small air attack against a government stronghold north of the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 2)

Egypt has renewed its public criticism of the Soviet Union just a week before Prime Minister Sidqi's scheduled arrival in Moscow. (Page 3)

Tensions between the two Yemens continue to build [redacted]

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(Page 4)

The Japanese Government is working on final details of a trade program designed to forestall pressures for another revaluation of the yen. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

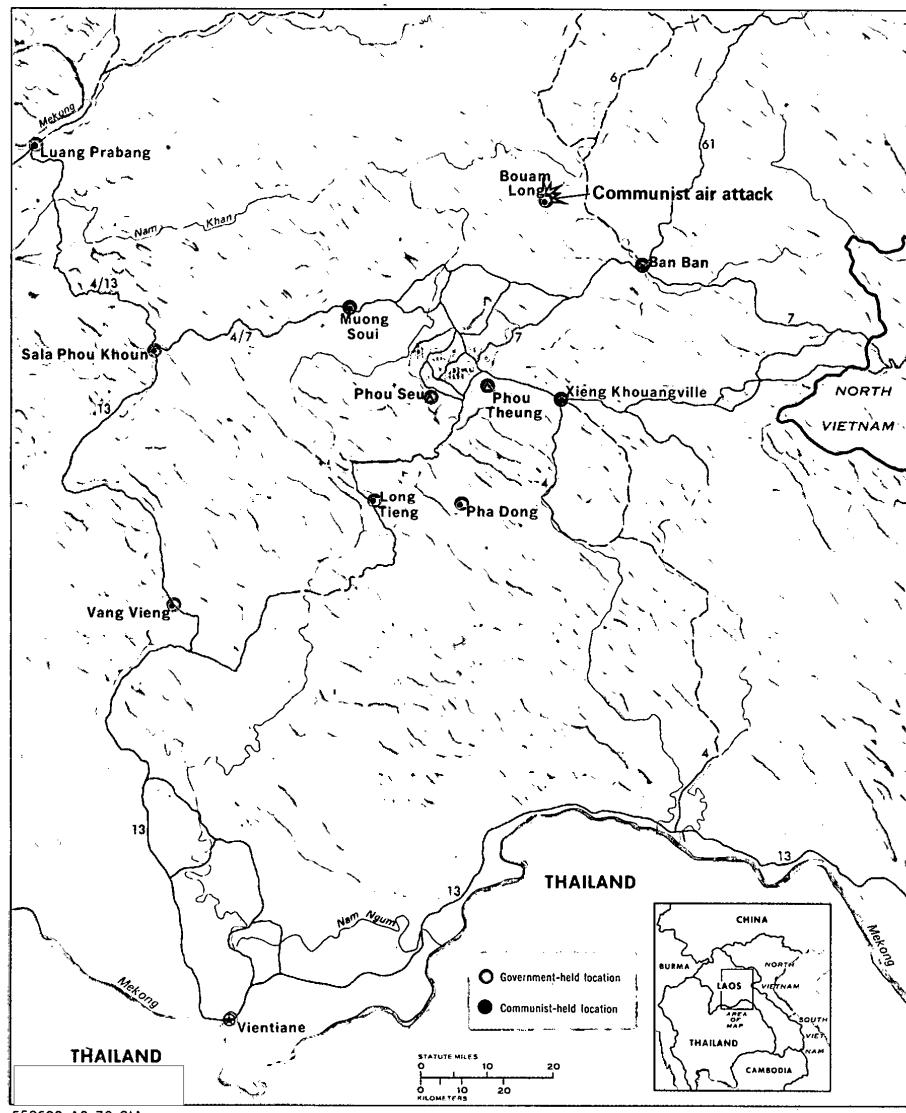
President Lon Nol is now ready to go ahead with the appointment of a new government. The incoming first minister, Hang Thun Hak, has informed Chargeé Enders that the announcement will come in the next few days. What is planned is essentially a reshuffling of old faces in the existing cabinet.

Such a reshuffle holds little prospect for improvement in government performance. Nevertheless, the proposed government does reflect at least marginal progress toward the muting of party hostilities and the creation of a government of national unity.

Hak is the secretary of Lon Nol's Socio-Republican Party and is generally regarded to be a more skillful but less courageous politician than the outgoing incumbent, Son Ngoc Than, whose political future is apparently left undecided. Lon Nol's formula includes the appointment of a supporter of Sirik Matak as minister of justice, thus giving the Republican Party at least symbolic participation in the government.

Lon Nol has failed, however, to come to grips with the key question of the vice-presidency. On Sunday, he told Enders that he would hold the post of the vice-president open for Matak pending a "more propitious time." This suggests that Lon Nol is still unwilling to meet Matak's demands that he be given the necessary authority to carry out meaningful government reforms.

LAOS



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LAOS

A Pathet Lao peace delegation is expected to arrive in Vientiane on Saturday. Government negotiator Pheng Phongsavan and Lao Communist representative Soth Phetrasy announced last Friday that they had reached agreement on such procedural matters as housing and a site for the talks in Vientiane. Security for the Communist delegation while it is in Vientiane will be provided by the local authorities.

* * *

Yesterday the Communists mounted a rare air attack against Bouam Long, an isolated government stronghold north of the Plaine des Jarres.

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[redacted] six persons were killed and ten were wounded. In addition, a small fuel storage area was set afire. After the air attack, the North Vietnamese began shelling Bouam Long.

Bouam Long, a staging area for operations against Communist lines of communications and supply depots north of the Plaine, has been a thorn in the side of the North Vietnamese for several years. The last air attack against a government outpost was in January 1968, and it also involved propeller-driven aircraft.

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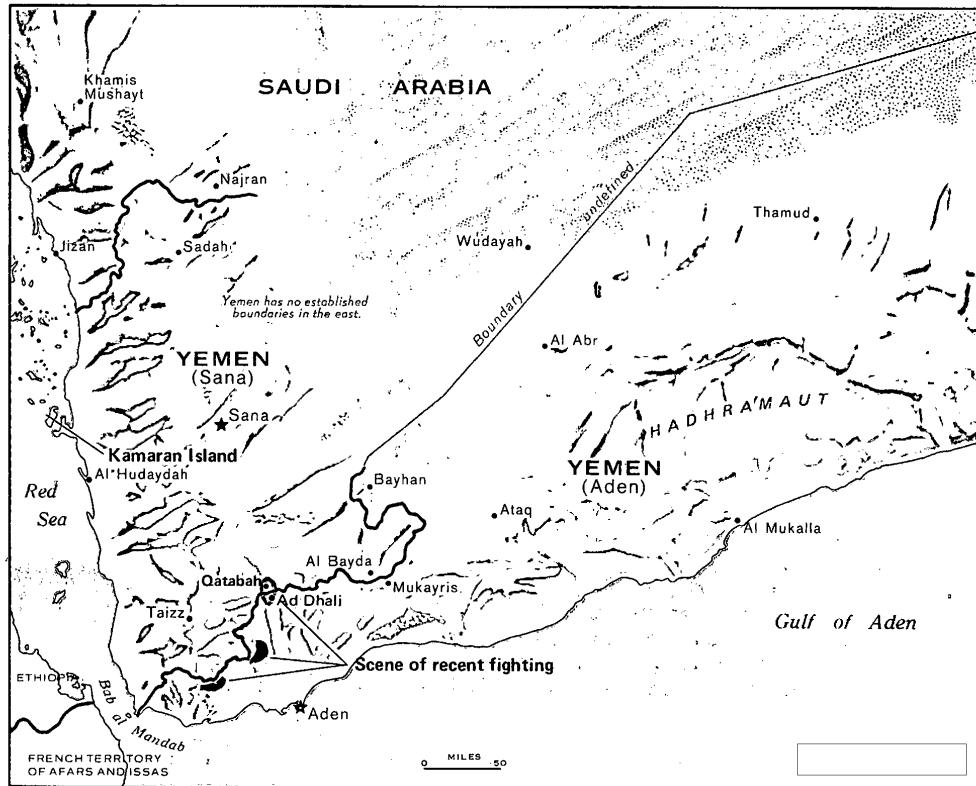
EGYPT-USSR

Egypt has renewed its public criticism of the Soviet Union. President Sadat was quoted in a Lebanese weekly published on 5 October as saying that he had ended the Soviet military presence in Egypt because the Soviets "would not fight" and had "become a burden." Sadat said his decision was intended to let the Kremlin know that Soviet strategy in the Middle East could not be fulfilled at Egyptian expense.

The editor of the Egyptian newspaper Akhbar al-Yawm, whose criticisms of the USSR in late August and early September riled the Soviets enough to respond in kind, also renewed his attacks over the weekend. He charged that the Soviets had failed to supply Egypt with necessary arms and belittled Soviet military aid as of no more use than "mere pieces of jewelry."

These attacks appear designed to delineate clearly Egypt's position prior to Prime Minister Sidqi's trip to Moscow beginning on 16 October. Both sides presumably are still interested in making up, but neither would wish to resume relations on the same terms as existed before the Soviets were expelled from Egypt.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE YEMENS

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Saudi Arabia is airlifting military supplies to Sana for distribution to the dissidents. One Libyan transport has also been seen at the Sana airport.

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Aden has now blamed Sana for the dissident's seizure of the Kamaran Island on Friday, and new dissident forays could spark a direct clash between the two countries. Aden's army is relatively effective and well-armed, and should be capable of dealing with the dissident forces unless fighting occurs simultaneously at several widely separated points.

Aden also has the support of the USSR, a matter that must be of great concern to Sana officials. In an interview published in a Beirut newspaper on Friday, Aden's prime minister said he was certain that "the Soviet Union will not stand with folded arms in the event of an invasion."

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTE

Japan: The government is working on final details of a trade program designed to forestall international pressures for another revaluation of the yen. It hopes to announce the plan by the end of the week. Essentially the program will reduce Japanese restrictions on imports. Prime Minister Tanaka has rejected a proposal for simultaneous steps to slow Japan's exports.

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The President's Daily Brief

11 October 1972

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LATE ITEM

Pierre Susini, France's delegate-general in Hanoi was reported buried in the wreckage of his mission early this morning when it was said to have been almost completely destroyed in an air raid. According to an initial report of a French Press Agency correspondent who was in the building at the time, Susini survived, and was seen talking to his rescuers. A TASS report from Hanoi indicated that Susini is presently in the hospital and that other personnel of the mission were injured.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

fedayeen

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(Page 1)

On Page 2, we assess the Shah of Iran's current visit to Moscow.

Soviet

25X1

(Page 3)

The Torrijos government may wait until next year to press its case on the canal treaty. (Page 5)

Soviet party boss Brezhnev appears to be playing down his pre-eminence in foreign policy. (Page 6)

North Vietnam

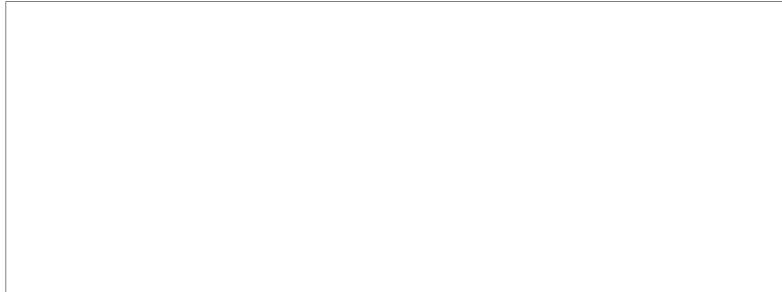
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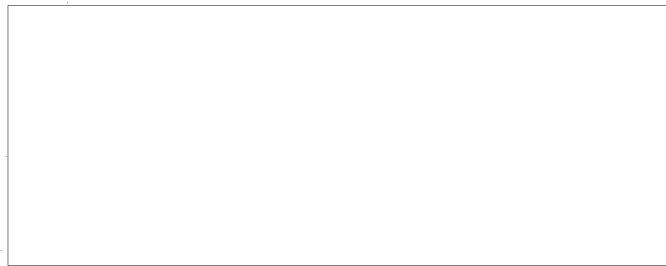
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FEDAYEEN-US



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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IRAN-USSR

The Shah of Iran arrived in Moscow yesterday on a visit he did not particularly wish to make. The Soviets had been urging him to come, pressing him hard after President Sadat forced the USSR's military advisers out of Egypt. The Shah acquiesced, but only after he pointedly sent Empress Farah on a visit to China.

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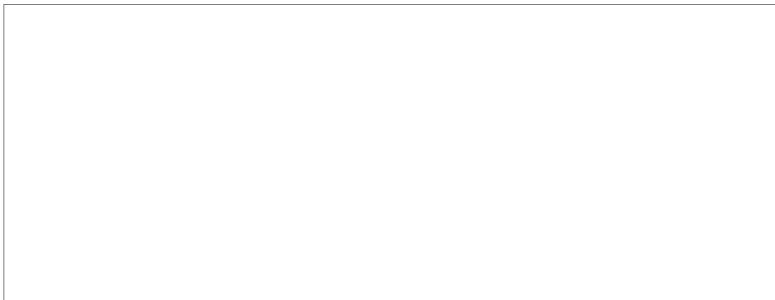
The Soviets will try to reassure the Shah again, but will also no doubt let him know of their annoyance over some aspects of Iran's foreign policy, especially the warming of ties with China. Moscow has always been chary of Iran's close ties with the West, but in recent times has been more realistic in its approach to this relationship.

Just six weeks ago, the Soviets and Iranians signed a protocol for utilization of \$125 million in credits to expand a steel mill and build a petrochemical plant. We do not believe, therefore, that a major economic pact is likely to result from this visit.

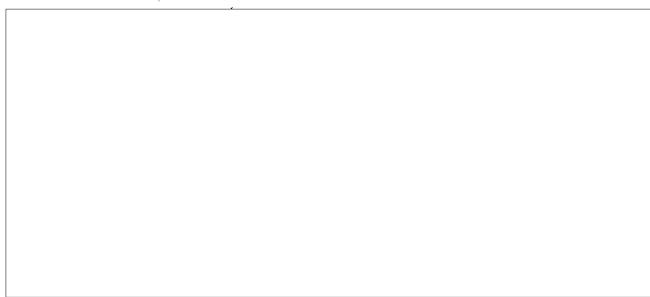
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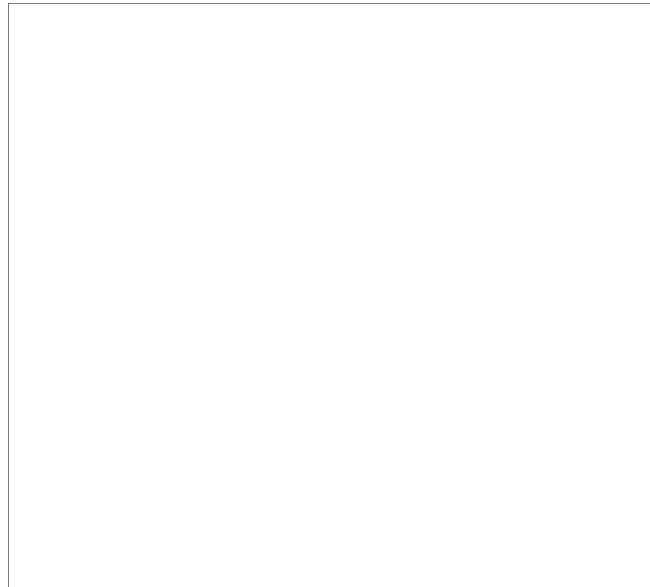
USSR



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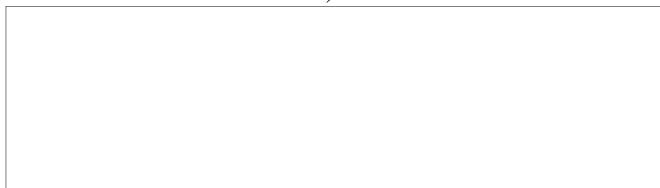


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PANAMA

The inauguration today of Demetrio Lakas as constitutional president does not change the equation of power in Panama. General Torrijos remains the dominant political figure and clearly intends to remain so for the indefinite future.

Torrijos evidently intends to go slowly for the next few months in his conduct of relations with the US. He is, however, building toward a new campaign to extract more concessions on the canal issue. We expect that in 1973 the long-stalled canal treaty negotiations may well become the central focus of his attention.

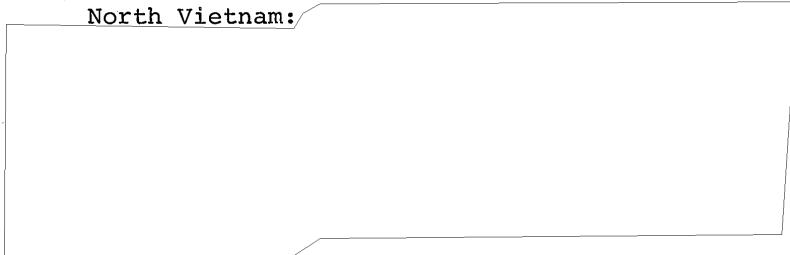
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NOTES

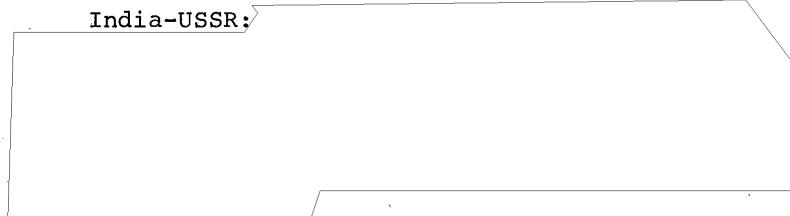
USSR: Party boss Brezhnev appears to be trying to down-play his personal identification with the Soviet Union's foreign policy. The most recent issue of Kommunist (the party's ideological journal), for example, contains an authoritative exposition of Soviet foreign policy which is interesting for its comparison of Khrushchev's "reckless and willful" approach to foreign affairs to today's "scientific" and "collective" decision-making, a point rarely made in recent years. The article's treatment suggests a conscious effort to counter the impression that Brezhnev makes foreign policy single-handedly. The same tendency was evident in the remarks of a public party lecturer in Leningrad on 24 September. The lecturer, while talking of the considerable importance of Dr. Kissinger's most recent visit to Moscow and of Brezhnev's key role in the talks, also noted that Foreign Minister Gromyko, Ambassador Dobrynin, and "responsible central committee official" Aleksandrov were "always present" during the discussions.

North Vietnam:



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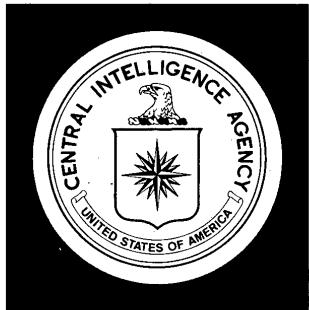
India-USSR:



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The President's Daily Brief

12 October 1972

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exemption category 5B(1)(2)(3)
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

12 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, heavy fighting continues in the provinces just north of Saigon amid indications that a "spectacular" enemy move against the capital may be imminent. (Page 1)

[redacted] the planned Communist strike south of Quang Tri City that was expected in late August was frustrated by a combination of poor coordination and allied pre-emption. (Page 2)

25X1

25X1

[redacted]
Japan [redacted] (Page 3)
Communist forces in Cambodia have occupied a number of government positions along Route 2, but government troops are making slow progress in their efforts to reopen Route 5. (Page 4)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Heavy fighting continues in the provinces just north of Saigon. South Vietnamese Rangers and local security forces engaged an element of a newly arrived sapper unit 12 miles north of downtown Saigon on 11 October, and at last report the battle was continuing. Another major enemy unit, the 205th Independent Regiment, also moved into the southern part of the province, and the forward command post of the Communists' sapper command has been located in Gia Dinh Province less than 15 miles northwest of the capital.

25X1

[Redacted]

Enemy units, including at least one of battalion size, have been seen in the southernmost districts of Binh Duong Province. These forces were said to be in uniform and well-armed and were under orders not to engage South Vietnamese forces unless attacked.

Noting this increased Communist activity, General Weyand expects that a "spectacular" enemy move against Saigon may be imminent and has ordered special security measures.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

We now [redacted] explain why the Communists failed to launch their expected major strike south of Quang Tri City in late August. The strike, designed to cut off and defeat South Vietnamese troops seeking to recapture Quang Tri City, apparently was frustrated by a combination of poor coordination and allied pre-emption. [redacted]

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[redacted] an "all-out offensive" had been planned for late August, following the arrival of two additional regiments in the area. Some of these forces arrived later than expected, however, causing indecision that resulted in attack orders being issued and canceled several times. [redacted] the offensive was finally rescheduled for 4 September. By then, however, the South Vietnamese buildup in the area just prior to the final government assault on Quang Tri City apparently caused additional delays and disruptions.

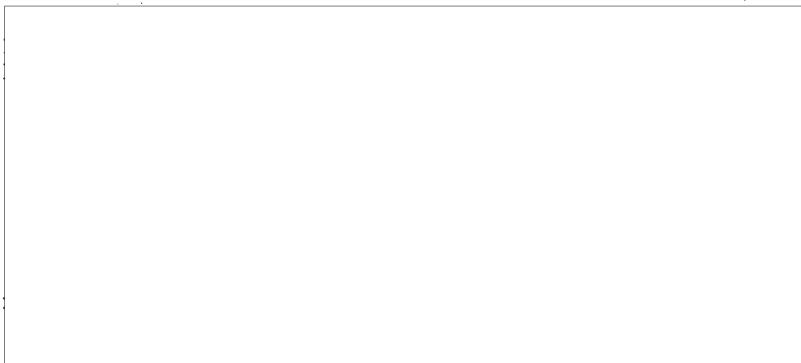
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JAPAN

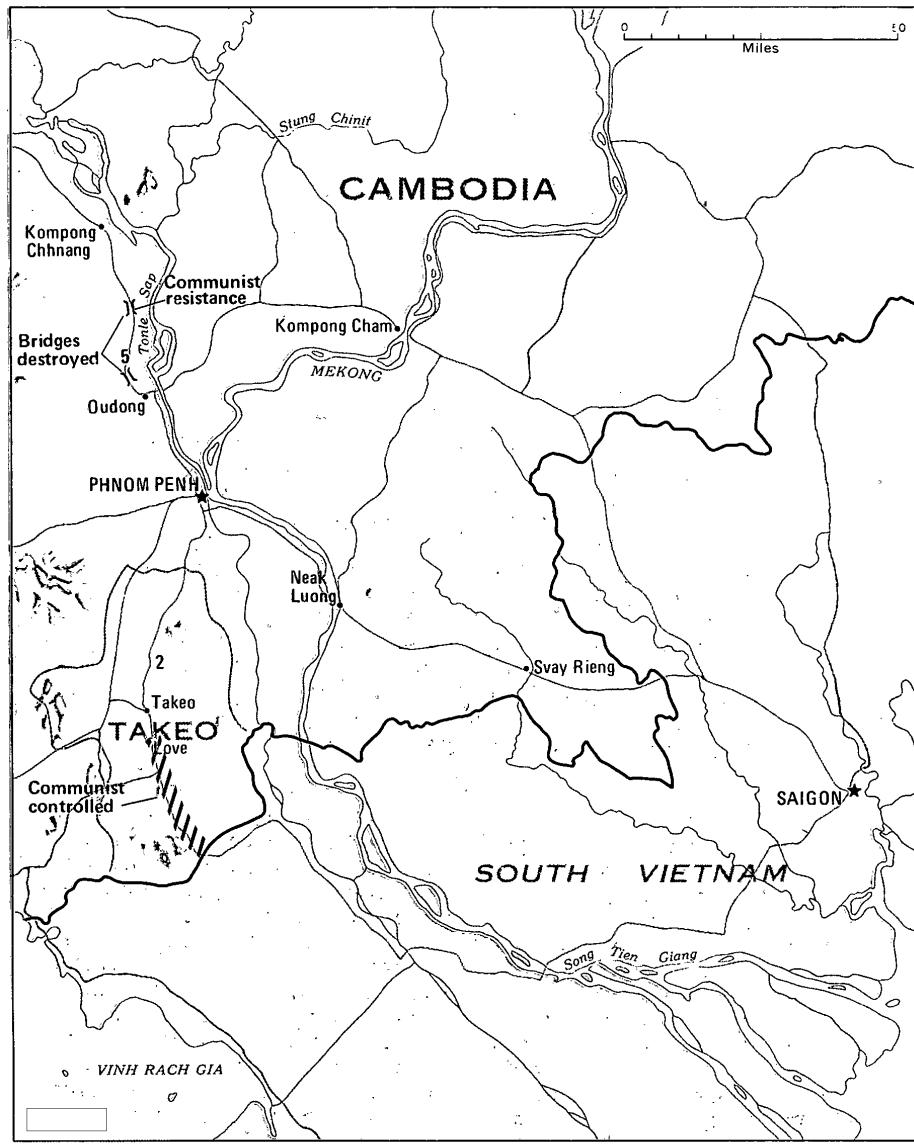


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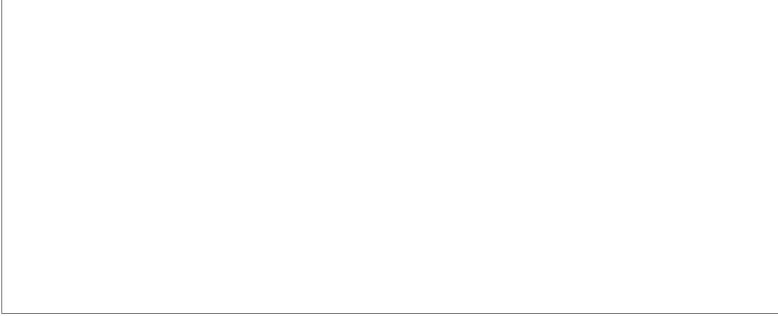
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Cambodia: In the past few days, Khmer and Vietnamese Communist forces have occupied a number of government positions along Route 2 and now control much of that highway between the town of Takeo and the South Vietnamese border. The Communists apparently are trying to expand their supply corridor that runs through southern Takeo Province into the South Vietnamese delta. Most Cambodian troops have now pulled back from the Route 2 area, and only occasional South Vietnamese cross-border operations present any impediment to Communist logistical activities in this area. Meanwhile, government troops in the northwest are still making slow progress in their efforts to reopen the short stretch of Route 5 recently seized by the Communists. Once the highway is cleared, it will still take several weeks to repair damaged bridges.

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North Vietnam - Laos: The two aircraft that bombed the Lao Government stronghold at Bouam Long on 9 October were North Vietnamese IL-28 jet light bombers. This is the third time Hanoi's aircraft have conducted raids outside North Vietnam. AN-2 biplanes bombed a navigational site in northeastern Laos in 1968, and a MIG-17 attacked a US destroyer last April.

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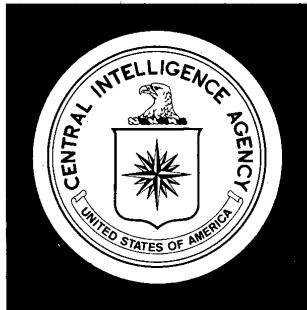
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Burma: According to a Burmese diplomat, a Burmese decision "to cooperate more" in combating the illicit narcotics trade will be communicated to Ambassador Martin in Rangoon soon. The embassy notes that recently the Burmese authorities have been trying to curtail opium traffic across the Thai-Burmese border and placed the principal traffickers under surveillance. The last two commanders of the military region that embraces the main poppy-growing area have been replaced because of their protection of the illicit opium trade. Although Rangoon may be renewing its own efforts to clamp down on the narcotics traffic, any move toward joint suppression efforts with the US still appears unlikely.

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The President's Daily Brief

13 October 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Bonn's State Secretary Bahr reports that in his visit to Moscow early this week he found no inclination on the part of the Soviet leaders to influence Pankow's position in the stalled inter-German talks. (Page 1)

[redacted] So-
viet [redacted]
(Page 2)

25X1

The ten-man Pathet Lao peace delegation that is to arrive in Vientiane this weekend has been given a broadly based appearance. In military action, the Communists have driven most of Vang Pao's task force from the southern tip of the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 4)

Bangladesh Prime Minister Mujib appears to have restored some public confidence in his government following his return from Europe. A few efforts are also being made to mend the rift with Pakistan, but he and President Bhutto remain poles apart. (Page 5)

Greek [redacted] (Page 6)

25X1

Several Chilean labor and business groups plan to close down today in sympathy to a truck owners' strike; the government has declared a state of emergency. (Page 7)

Last night the Soviets conducted their first extended range test of the SS-11 Mod 3, the version with three re-entry vehicles, in over two years. (Page 8)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR - WEST GERMANY

State Secretary Egon Bahr on Wednesday reported to Allied ambassadors on his visit to Moscow earlier this week. Bahr said that party chief Brezhnev and Foreign Minister Gromyko showed no inclination to influence Pankow's position in the inter-German talks. He said the Soviet leaders emphasized that decisions on the treaty negotiations could not be made in Moscow. The Soviets in fact asked Bonn to withdraw its demand that the inter-German treaty contain references to a single German nation and to the lack of a final peace treaty--the two principal issues now standing in the way of agreement.

The Soviets did, however, indicate willingness to consider Allied demands for a quadripartite declaration on Berlin. Brezhnev stated that Moscow was no longer opposed to the idea and Gromyko assured Bahr that contacts had already begun. (The Soviets did not, however, imply acceptance of Western requirements that the declaration be concluded prior to the inter-German treaty.)

The reserved attitude taken at this stage by Brezhnev and Gromyko on the inter-German talks was not unexpected. Their position was doubtless designed to counter any impression that Bahr had succeeded in going over the head of Pankow to gain concessions. We believe any Soviet willingness to pressure East Germany would be reflected only in the inter-German talks themselves. Moreover, both Moscow and Pankow would prefer to withhold significant concessions until the West German elections draw closer in the hope that electoral pressures on Brandt will result in at least some give in the West German position.

Bahr also told the Allied ambassadors that there has been no progress in the talks that he has held with East German negotiator Kohl since his return.

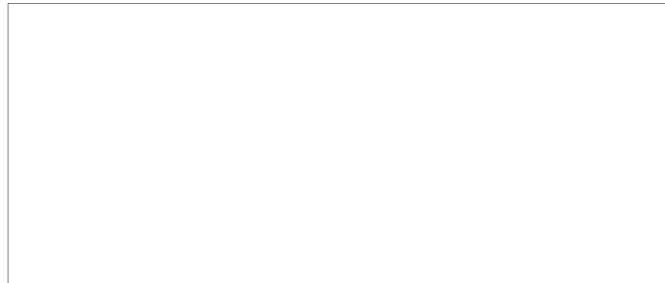
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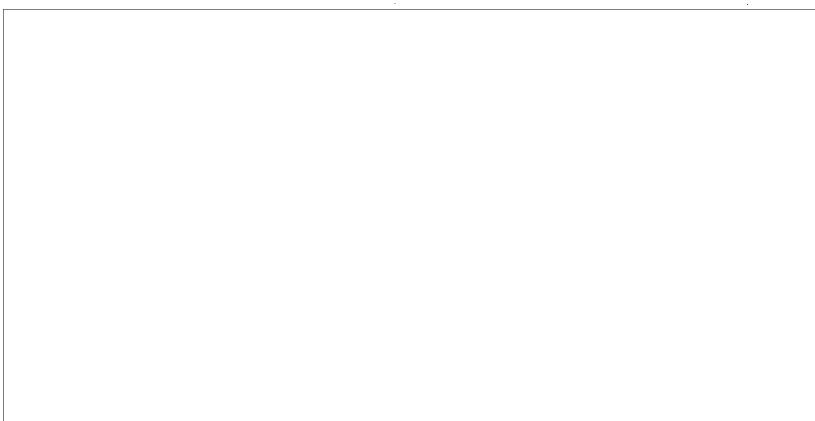
USSR



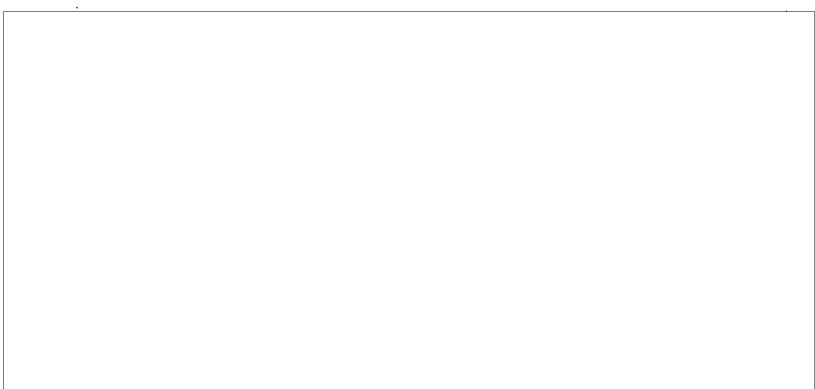
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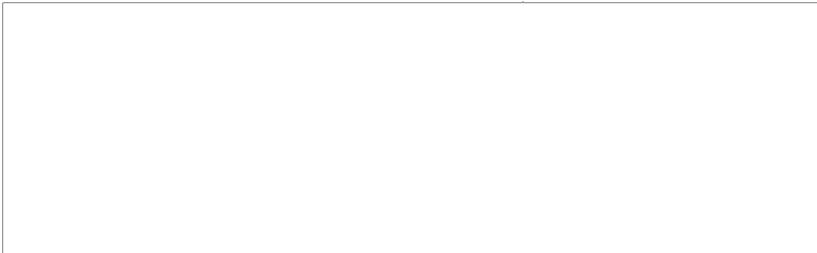


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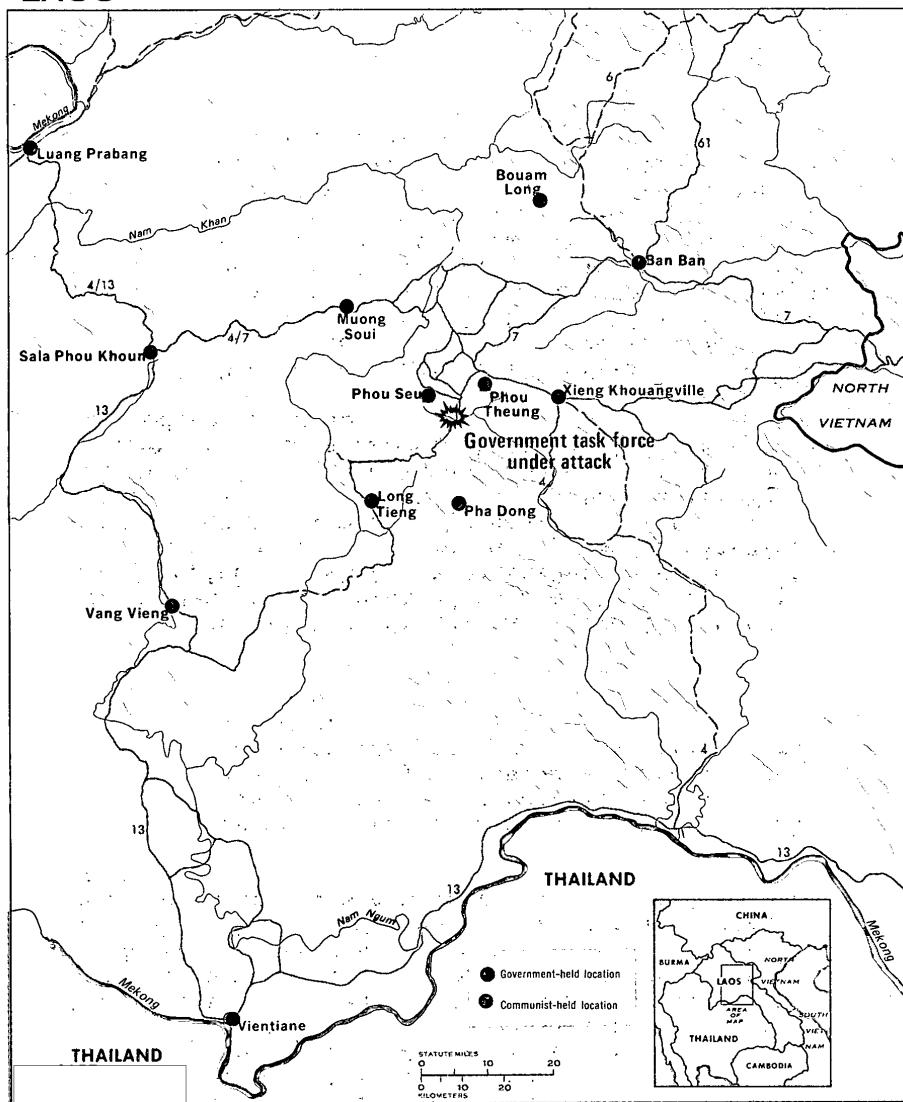
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Pathet Lao leader Souphanouvong has named Phoune Sipraseuth to head the ten-man Communist peace delegation that is to arrive in Vientiane this weekend. Three "Patriotic Neutralists"--members of the neutralist faction that defected to the Communists in the early 1960s--were included in the delegation to give it a broadly based appearance. No definite date has been set for the beginning of the talks, but the Communists are still holding to the line that talks can start without a US bombing halt.

Phoune, a relatively high-ranking Pathet Lao official, previously served as Souphanouvong's plenipotentiary during the abortive attempt to get talks started in 1970.

* * *

On the military front, the Communists have launched their anticipated counterattack against the government task force on the southern edge of the Plaine des Jarres. Yesterday, North Vietnamese ground troops, supported by tanks and artillery, attacked General Vang Pao's troops at the tip of the Plaine from the east and north. Most of the government units abandoned their positions and retreated to the south.

The North Vietnamese had spent at least two weeks preparing for this attack. Its aim is to push Vang Pao's force from its positions astride the Communist supply route to forces farther southwest toward Long Tieng.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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BANGLADESH-PAKISTAN

Recent actions of Prime Minister Mujib appear to have restored a measure of public confidence in the government, reports the US Embassy in Dacca. Mujib, when he returned home last month following an operation and seven weeks of convalescence in Europe, had found public restiveness mounting because of government corruption and maladministration. The prime minister responded quickly by firing a number of ranking bureaucrats and expelling 19 legislators from the ruling Awami League party, thereby automatically depriving them of their seats in the national legislature. He also closed several far-left opposition journals, announced that a draft constitution soon would be presented to the legislature, and speeded prosecution of persons accused last year of collaboration with Pakistan. In addition, he instituted new anti-smuggling measures and decreed a tough new policy to stem growing labor unrest.

Mujib remains strongly ensconced, and no opposition group poses a credible alternative. Official corruption and incompetence remain serious problems, however, and strong criticism is certain to surface again unless the government's performance improves further.

Officials of both Bangladesh and Pakistan meanwhile are floating new proposals for establishing relations.

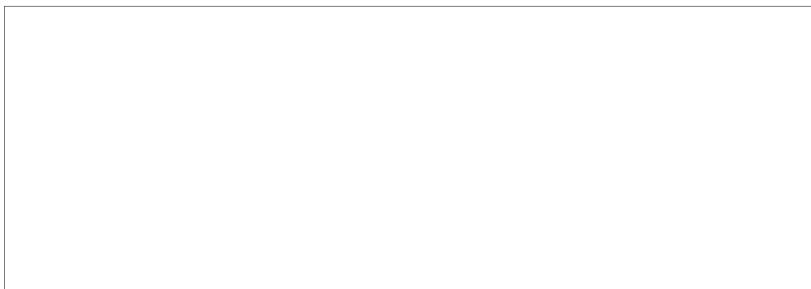
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Despite these efforts, Mujib and Bhutto remain poles apart regarding the sequence of events, with Bhutto demanding a summit meeting to deal with outstanding problems before recognition, and Mujib insisting on prior recognition. Moreover, it is highly unlikely that Bhutto would agree to trials of war criminals held in Bangladesh or accept any agreement that did not include the return of all Pakistani prisoners of war.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

GREECE



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CHILE

Several labor and business groups plan to close down today in sympathy to a widespread strike by truck owners. The government had already responded to the truckers' strike by declaring a state of emergency, by placing the army in charge of the central part of the country, and by threatening strikers with fines and confiscation of trucks.

If the government deploys the security forces against the strikers as it did during the shopowners' shutdown in August, the current tensions could result in violence.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR: Last night the Soviets fired the modified version of the SS-11 ICBM designated the Mod 3 some 4,700 nautical miles from Tyuratam to an impact area in the Pacific Ocean. This is the first extended range test of this missile, which carries three re-entry vehicles, since the summer of 1970. There have been three Mod 3 firings to Kamchatka this year, the most recent in July.

Chile:

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Iran: The government has decided to reduce the area authorized for poppy cultivation next year by 90 percent because available supplies are adequate for the needs of Iran's 100,000 registered addicts for about a year. Iran's four-year old cultivation program is designed to eliminate smuggling and to prevent the loss of foreign exchange while still meeting the needs of its large addict population. Tehran has a long-standing offer to cease poppy growing completely if neighboring countries agree to do the same.

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The President's Daily Brief

14 October 1972

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declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

On Page 1

Soviet

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nam

North Viet-

Communist forces have launched a series of attacks against South Vietnamese Ranger positions in the western highlands. The enemy is also apparently continuing to make preparations for the October countrywide "high point." (Page 2)

In Chile, the Allende government is attempting to cope with an extensive commercial and transportation strike, and food and fuel shortages are reported in some urban areas. (Page 3)

Morocco's foreign minister has informed US officials that King Hassan may insist on a reduction of the US military presence in his country. (Page 4)

The accommodation reached last month between the Lebanese Government and the fedayeen is still holding up, but a small extremist group may attempt to disrupt the delicate truce. (Page 5)

Full-scale hostilities between the two Yemens appear imminent, despite efforts of an Arab League mediation committee to resolve the differences between Sana and Aden. (Page 6)

Soviets

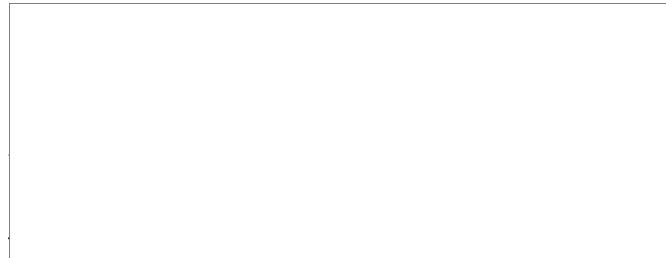
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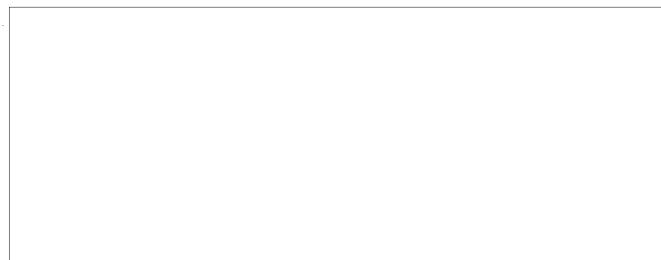
USSR - NORTH VIETNAM



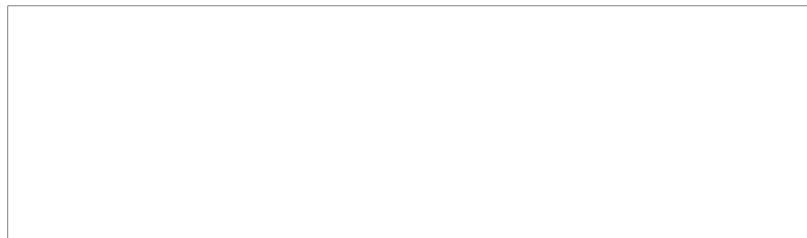
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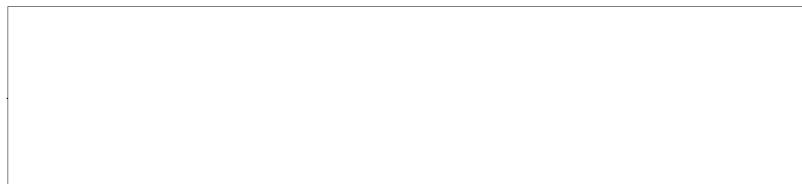
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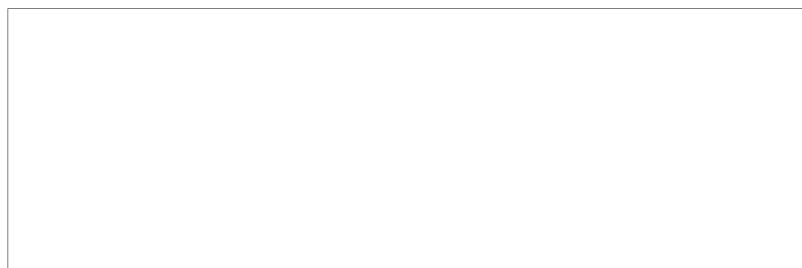
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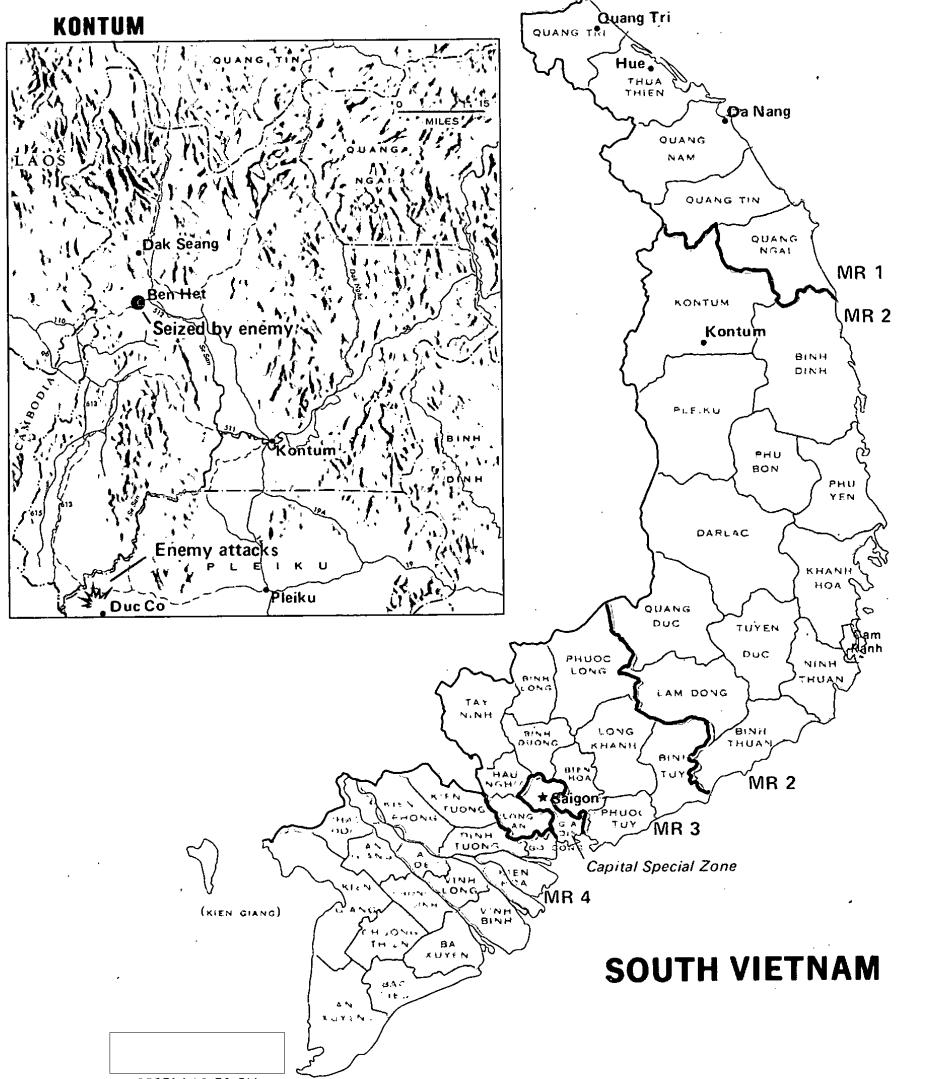


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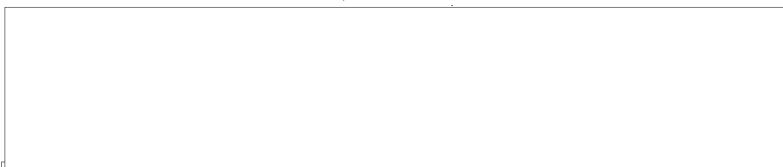
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist forces have launched a series of attacks against South Vietnamese Ranger positions in the western highlands. On Thursday the Communists overran the Ben Het border camp in northwest-ern Kontum Province following two days of intensive shelling. Two other border outposts are in im-mEDIATE danger. The Dak Seang camp north of Ben Het, has been the target of enemy mortar bombard-ments during the past several days and a ground attack could come at any time. In Pleiku Province, enemy pressure against the Duc Co camp has also sharply increased.

These attacks may be the beginning of the October countrywide "high point" for which the enemy has been preparing. Elsewhere in the country these prepara-tions continue.



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Communist rocket and sapper attacks against Da Nang are being planned, and enemy forces farther south of the city have been ordered to seize and hold as much territory as possible. The slow but deliberate movement of Communist units toward Saigon has prompted increased security measures around the capital in anticipa-tion of enemy shellings and sapper raids.



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In the delta, sev-eral Communist units have relocated closer to key urban centers and military bases.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE

Major retail businesses began their sympathy strike with truck owners yesterday, despite the government's tough response to the transportation strike. Supplies of food, fuel, and other necessities were reported becoming rapidly depleted in some urban areas, and the commercial strike appears to be particularly effective in southern and central Chile. President Allende told the nation yesterday that in the face of a "fascist effort to paralyze it" nothing would keep him from maintaining public order and implementing his program. In another nationwide speech early today, he threatened to crack down even harder on the strikers. He warned of government confiscation of all trucks "kept idle" by their owners and asserted that shopowners who refuse to open their stores will be taken to court.

Allende's hand has been strengthened by the government's strict enforcement of the state of emergency restrictions that were declared after the truckers' strike. The government has not hesitated to use intimidation measures against truck owners and other strike leaders in an effort to break the strike.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MOROCCO

Foreign Minister Benhima told Secretary Rogers on Wednesday that Morocco would like to "re-examine at an early opportunity" the question of US bases. Benhima added that it is not a question of closing all bases or removing all US technicians. He thought, however, that the three bases now in Morocco might be reduced to two.

King Hassan has not made much progress in broadening his domestic support, and he may well believe that reducing the US presence will bring him increased backing.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LEBANON-FEDAYEEN

The Lebanese Army continues to enforce its restrictions against fedayeen activity, and most of the larger fedayeen organizations are observing the agreement reached late last month between the government and the commandos. [redacted]

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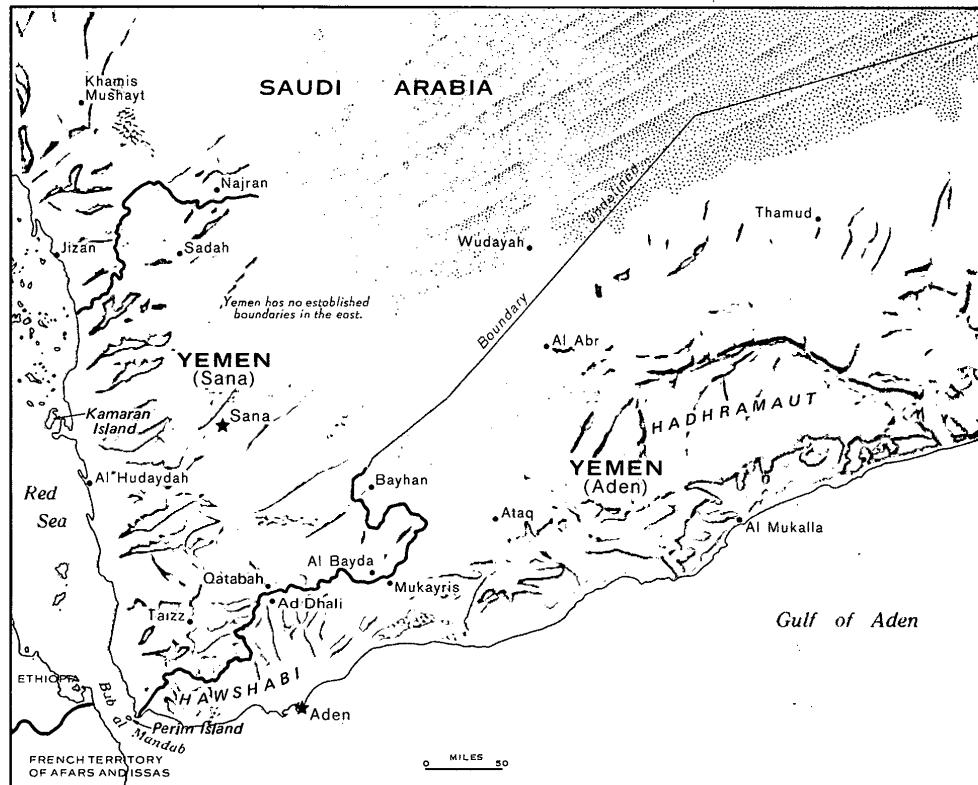
[redacted] the maverick "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command"--a small group that split from George Habbash's main PFLP organization in 1968-- may attempt to disrupt the delicate truce. [redacted]

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[redacted] this splinter group recently received a large amount of money and weapons from Libya.

The PFLP-GC was opposed to fedayeen accommodation with the Lebanese Government and has generally been unresponsive to other fedayeen leaders. The Qadhafi regime may be actively encouraging this group to resume operations into Israel in spite of the Lebanese ban on such actions.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

The Yemens: Full-scale hostilities between the two Yemens appear imminent, despite efforts of an Arab League mediation committee to resolve the differences between Sana and Aden.

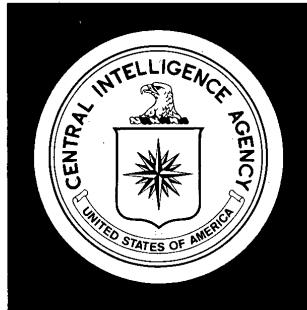
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The President's Daily Brief

16 October 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

16 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, the Communists appear to be preparing for a major effort against the Saigon area in the coming weeks. (Page 1)

Cambodian President Lon Nol has approved first minister-designate Hang Thun Hak's proposed cabinet. (Page 2)

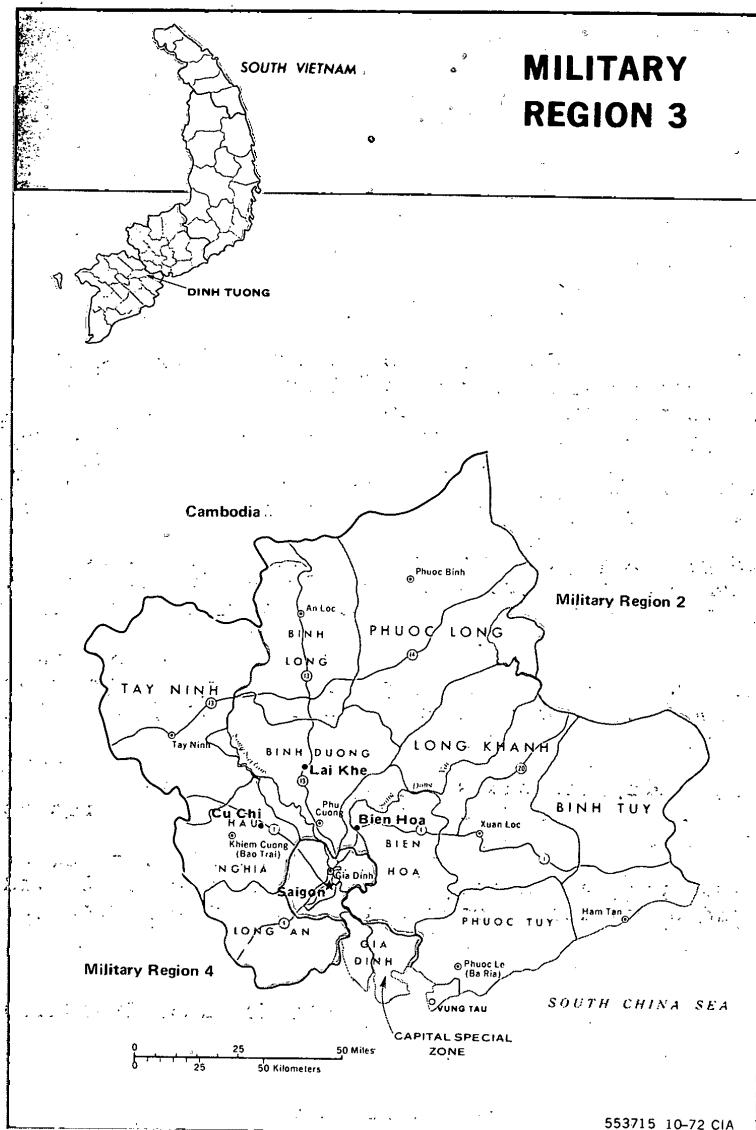
The opening round of peace talks between the Lao Government and the Communists will be held in Vientiane today. (Page 3)

Israel's bombing yesterday of fedayeen bases in Lebanon and Syria apparently is intended as a warning against a renewal of fedayeen activity. (Page 4)

In Moscow, Egyptian Prime Minister Sidqi begins talks aimed at a reconciliation with the Soviets. (Page 4)

The Chilean Government is moving firmly to end the transportation and commerce strike, but at last word the opposition Christian Democrats have called for still broader strike action. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist military activity near Saigon continues to increase. Over the weekend several roads north and east of the capital were cut. At least four large-caliber rockets have been discovered aimed at the city, and we have many intelligence reports of rockets and mortar shells being moved closer to Saigon.

The current disposition of enemy units in MRs 3 and 4 shows that they are expanding their operational areas to threaten not just strategic roadways and waterways, but some major towns and military installations. In a highly unusual move the headquarters of Communist forces in the northern delta provinces, which has been operating from Cambodia for the past two years, apparently has relocated into Dinh Tuong Province southwest of Saigon. A number of unidentified Communist radio stations have been detected in sensitive areas close to Bien Hoa, Lai Khe, and Cu Chi, as well as Saigon.

Among the Saigon government's countermeasures, MR 3 commander General Minh is deploying Rangers and regional forces in blocking positions north and east of the capital.

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The severing of key highways leading to the capital--the Communists' apparent objective--can be achieved without great numbers of troops and could seriously hamper defensive deployments. Despite government security measures, we believe that some sapper and terror units have infiltrated into Saigon and its suburbs.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

President Lon Nol has approved first minister-designate Hang Thun Hak's proposed cabinet list for his new government. The new cabinet consists chiefly of technicians carried over from the outgoing Son Ngoc Thanh government, plus a few new faces from the ranks of Lon Nol's Socio-Republican Party. Key appointments include the shift of General Thappana Nginn from Interior to Defense and the naming of the former commander of Military Region IV, General Sar Hor, to the Interior post. Lon Nol's unpopular younger brother, Colonel Lon Non, has been given his first cabinet-level job. He was named a "special minister," who will concern himself with pacification. Long Boret remains foreign minister.

Hang Thun Hak's government is not likely to be any more effective in dealing with the country's myriad problems than its predecessors. The 46-year-old Hak's governmental experience has been largely limited to his service for less than a year as third deputy prime minister in charge of community development programs. Thus, his decision to retain a majority of veteran ministers seems to be necessary and prudent.

The new government fails to include any members of the opposition Republican or Democratic parties. Lon Nol had sought to include them in a "government of national union," and to that end, had recently encouraged a political dialogue between Socio-Republican leaders and the chief of the Republican Party, Sirik Matak.

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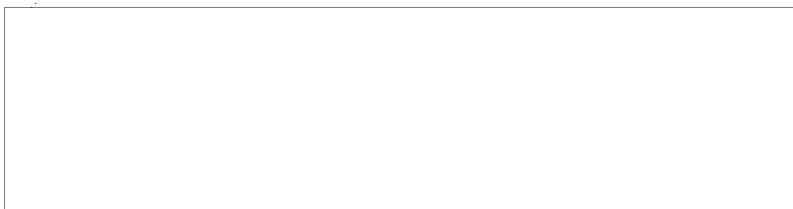
[Redacted]
The government did even less courting of the Democrats, whose former head, In Tam, had made it clear that he would not accept any position in a new government.

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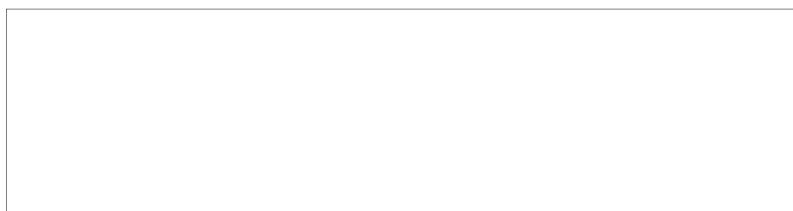
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

The opening round of peace talks between the government and the Lao Communists will be held in Vientiane today. Although the Communists have given no clues as to their negotiating tactics, their statements on arriving in Vientiane Saturday had a conciliatory tone.



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NOTES

Israel-Fedayeen: Israeli aircraft yesterday bombed four fedayeen bases in Lebanon and one in Syria. The air strikes seem intended mainly to remind the fedayeen and the Beirut and Damascus governments that Israel will not tolerate a renewal of fedayeen activity. There have been no incidents of any magnitude nor any Israeli casualties since 20 September. Tel Aviv is certainly aware, however, of the growing opposition in fedayeen ranks to Fatah leader Arafat's agreement with Beirut to limit guerrilla activity against Israel.

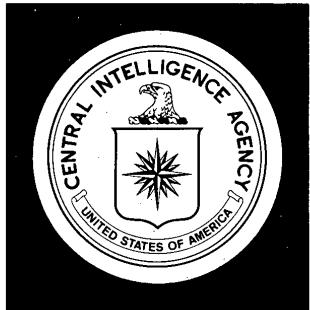
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Egypt-USSR: The first round of serious reconciliation talks begins today with the visit of Prime Minister Sidqi to Moscow. On the eve of his departure, Egypt's leading journalist, Muhammad Haykal, provided another reminder that the dialogue will be far from smooth. Haykal warned against "turning the page on this dispute without deep debate." If Sidqi believes he is making progress, we expect that final arrangements will be worked out for an early meeting involving President Sadat.

Chile: The truck owners' flat rejection of the government's terms for ending their strike frees President Allende to deal even more firmly with them. Police and army troops have greatly lessened the effect of the strike by keeping impounded trucks operating. The sympathy strike of small shopowners has had only limited effectiveness. Yesterday, the military commander of Santiago ordered that all transport and commerce must return to normal this morning and warned that military and police forces would ensure compliance. In response, the opposition Christian Democrats met early this morning and called for a new wave of strikes, to begin today, in all sectors where their party has influence.

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17 October 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The South Koreans plan to declare martial law this morning to set the stage for prolonging the rule of President Pak Chong-hui. (Page 1)

Lebanese cabinet sources say that Israel's latest air strikes have undercut the government's rationale for curbing guerrilla activities in southern Lebanon. (Page 3)

In Chile, the principal opposition parties have announced their backing of the strikes, but the government appears to have minimized the immediate effect of the stoppages. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH KOREA

Prime Minister Kim Chong-pil has told Ambassador Habib that martial law will be declared throughout the nation this morning. An accompanying proclamation will call for fundamental changes in the nation's governmental structure through amendment to the constitution and set the stage for President Pak Chong-hui to prolong his rule.

According to the US Embassy in Seoul, one amendment to be made public next week calls for a national referendum in mid-November and the choosing of an electoral group that will in turn elect a president for a six-year term. These electors will be chosen from the local administrative units, which can be expected to line up solidly behind President Pak.

Pak has been contemplating for some time ways to extend his term of office beyond 1975--the limit set by the constitution. His decision to move now may reflect an attempt to settle the matter before opposition and factional maneuvering can develop. Such problems surfaced in 1969, prior to passage of the constitutional referendum that permitted him to run for a third term last year. The President, moreover, appears to be convinced that the nation needs to reaffirm his leadership so that he can deal from a position of strength with the North Koreans in the sensitive negotiations ahead.

Pak is also confident that there will be little domestic opposition to this new move, since the nation is already tightly in his grip as a result of emergency measures taken last December. To ensure acquiescence, however, the announcement closes all universities for the time being, increases censorship, and forbids all political activity.

With an eye toward recent political events in Thailand and the Philippines, Pak very likely believes that South Korea's international standing and its relations with the US will not be seriously impaired by the new measures. The Embassy believes that the announcement is deliberately being made in the last stages of the US election campaign in order to minimize the attention it will receive in the US.

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(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Seoul has no major international objectives that could be jeopardized by the declaration now that the contentious Korean issue in the UN has been sidetracked for another year. Because of the timing of the referendum, Pak may feel compelled to put off his state visit to Japan next month--a decision the [redacted] Japanese would doubtless now prefer.

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Pak's action will be an unmistakable sign to the North Koreans that Seoul has no intention of lowering its guard in the talks as Pyongyang has hoped. Already frustrated by its lack of success in the negotiations, Pyongyang may seize upon the latest developments as additional examples of Seoul's perfidy and attempt to exploit them for major propaganda gains. The North could break off the negotiations at this juncture, but is more likely to wait out developments in the South before deciding how to proceed.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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LEBANON-ISRAEL

Lebanese cabinet sources have told the US Embassy in Beirut that Israel's air strikes on Sunday have undercut the government's rationale for imposing curbs on guerrilla activities in southern Lebanon. Critics are now certain to point to the absence of any clear fedayeen provocation for these strikes, the Embassy notes. They will argue that Israel will implement its post-Munich policy of "continuous war" against the fedayeen in any event, and that the army's role of policing the fedayeen therefore is more questionable than ever.

Within the fedayeen movement itself, the leadership has had difficulty in holding support for the suspension of forays into Israel. Extremist dissenters will now argue that the political climate is right for resuming cross-border operations.

The Israelis, for their part, evidently intend to press on with a campaign of pre-emptive attacks. In her statement to the Knesset yesterday, Prime Minister Meir reiterated that Israel's war against the terrorists could not be defensive only, but must be aimed at "stamping out" the terrorist organizations.

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CHILE

The opposition's effort to throttle economic activity is gaining some new support, but the Allende government's responses so far have largely offset the immediate effects of the strikes. Both the Christian Democratic and National parties have declared their backing of the strikes, and some of their partisans have stopped work.

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Many stores in downtown Santiago opened for business yesterday in response to police pressure and the government's threats to requisition their goods. With military protection, the government has taken almost complete charge of transportation and distribution of food and fuel. The dynamiting of a railroad from the main port serving Santiago yesterday triggered a further tightening of security for vital installations.

The growing bitterness on both sides will make the customary search for a negotiated solution more difficult than usual. The disruptions will also accelerate Chile's economic deterioration--Allende's gravest problem.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTE

Laos: The opening round of peace talks now is scheduled to begin today. Government spokesmen had earlier stated that the first session would be held yesterday, but the Communists spent the day making courtesy calls.

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18 October 1972

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exemption category 5B(1),(2),(3)
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Recent reporting suggests that relations between the two Communist delegations at the Paris peace talks have become strained. (Page 1)

On Page 2, we discuss Japanese Foreign Minister Ohira's impending visit to the Soviet Union.

The Japanese Government is still trying to put together a trade program to forestall growing international pressures on the yen. (Page 3)

fedayeen

(Page 4)

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In Yugoslavia, Tito is seeking a purge of top Serbian party leaders who have not heeded his demand for more obedience. (Page 5)

[redacted] the Lao Communists were unusually conciliatory during yesterday's initial round of peace talks in Vientiane. (Page 6)

25X1

Shutdowns and strikes of protest against the Chilean Government continue to spread, but most of the anti-government activity seems uncoordinated. (Page 6)

The East German parliament has enacted a law absolving from criminal prosecution those East Germans who fled to West Germany between 1961 and January 1972. (Page 6)

[redacted]

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The Chiang Kai-shek government has informed Japan that it is ready to begin negotiations on its future relations with Tokyo. (Page 7)

At Annex, we discuss difficulties that appear to have risen between the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong delegations in Paris.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM - VIET CONG

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[redacted]
there may be something amiss in the relationship between the two Communist delegations at the Paris peace talks. Ambassador Porter's report on the session last Thursday, moreover, points to an obvious lack of coordination between the two.

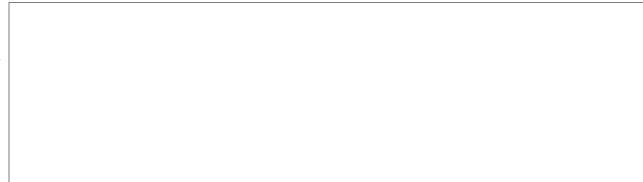
Signs of possible discord between the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong delegations are discussed in more detail at Annex.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN-USSR

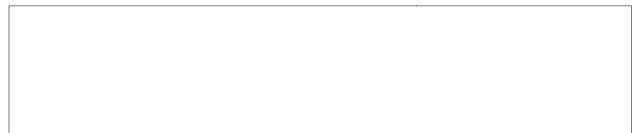
Japanese Foreign Minister Ohira will proceed from Washington to Moscow, arriving there on Saturday for four days of talks with Soviet leaders.



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JAPAN

The Japanese Government is still trying to put together a trade program to forestall growing international pressures on the yen. Essentially, the plan calls for a liberalization of import laws as well as simultaneous curbs on Japanese exports, including the imposition of an export surcharge, which as late as last week was rejected by Prime Minister Tanaka.

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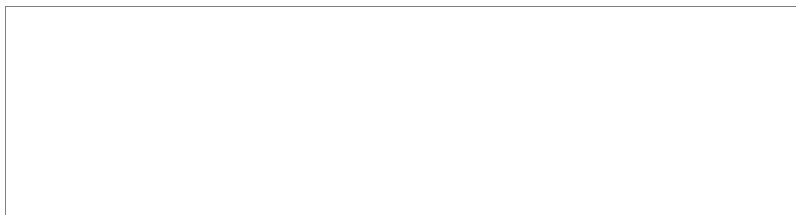
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The major factor influencing Japanese thinking on revaluation, of course, is the country's rapidly growing trade surplus with the United States. In September the surplus amounted to \$440 million--up almost 50 percent from the September 1971 level. So far this year the surplus with the US has totaled about \$2.9 billion and for 1972 as a whole will likely be about \$4 billion.

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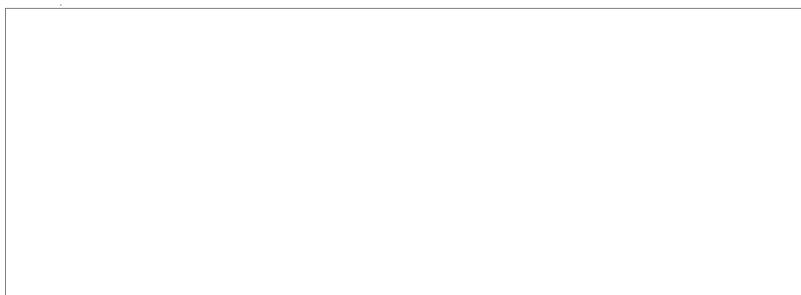
FEDAYEEN TERRORISTS



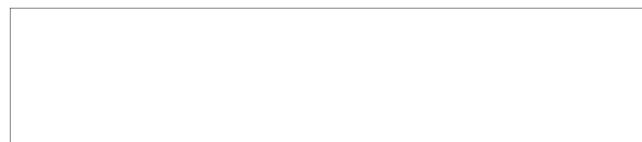
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

YUGOSLAVIA

Tito is locked in a dispute with Serbian party leaders that seems likely to result in a purge of the largest republic party organization in Yugoslavia. At issue is the conduct of Serbian party boss Marko Nikezic, who became party leader during the wave of liberal reforms in 1968. Nikezic has been a champion of republic party autonomy. Since last January, however, Tito has been trying hard to recentralize party authority at the federal level.

After four days of fruitless negotiations, Tito yesterday called on the Serbian central committee to throw out its leaders. Because Nikezic is so well entrenched, such a move will be difficult to accomplish, even though Tito will have the support of the more conservative rural central committee members.

Tito curbed similar republican "chauvinists" in Croatia last year and succeeded in purging its party. With the support of the armed forces and the security service, he can carry off a purge in Serbia as well. The long-term effects of his action, however, may be to damage badly the party and government structures which have been set up to replace Tito in an orderly fashion once he retires or dies.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

Laos: The Lao Communists were apparently unusually conciliatory during the initial round of peace talks held yesterday in Vientiane.

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[redacted] Pathet Lao chief negotiator Phoune Siprasseuth condemned US activities in Laos, but indicated that the Communists are willing to proceed with discussions even though the US is continuing its bombing.

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Chile: The shutdowns and strikes of protest against the Allende government continue to spread, but press reports of violence appear to be exaggerated. Most of the antigovernment activity is uncoordinated. This so far has made it less difficult for security forces to maintain control. At the same time, however, it increases the danger of unplanned outbreaks of violence.

East Germany: Pankow announced on Monday that the East German parliament has enacted a law that absolves from criminal prosecution those East Germans who fled to West Germany between 1961 and January 1972. This law also strips them of East German citizenship. By lifting Pankow's legal claims against them, the new law could pave the way for additional thousands of refugees to visit relatives in East Germany. The action is consistent with Pankow's efforts to appear conciliatory in practical matters with Bonn while holding firm in negotiations on key political issues.

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Commonwealth Caribbean: [redacted]

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Nationalist China - Japan: The Chiang Kai-shek government is ready to begin negotiations on future relations with Japan, reports the US Embassy in Taipei. The Japanese have been informed of the decision.

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[Redacted]
Nationalist officials are fully aware of Tokyo's economic importance to Taipei and have reacted with considerable restraint since Japan's recognition of Peking.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM - VIET CONG

Ambassador Porter has reported a strange bit of byplay at the session last Thursday that suggests a communications breakdown between the North Vietnamese and the PRG delegations. The issue was the French Government's request, delivered several weeks earlier, that the peace talks vacate the conference center at Avenue Kleber on 19 October to make room for the EC summit. Up until last week, both Communist delegations had insisted that the talks must be held at another location, but just before Thursday's meeting the North Vietnamese called to say they would agree to postpone the session of 19 October if the US delegation proposed it. No such call was received from the PRG delegation--a highly unusual occurrence.

A few hours later, when Ambassador Porter proposed the postponement at the formal session, Madame Binh was quite obviously taken aback. Even with the prompting of her aides she was able to muster only a few fairly ungracious sentences. The North Vietnamese delegate, on the other hand, read from a smoothly written prepared statement. He seemed highly embarrassed at his colleague's discomfiture.

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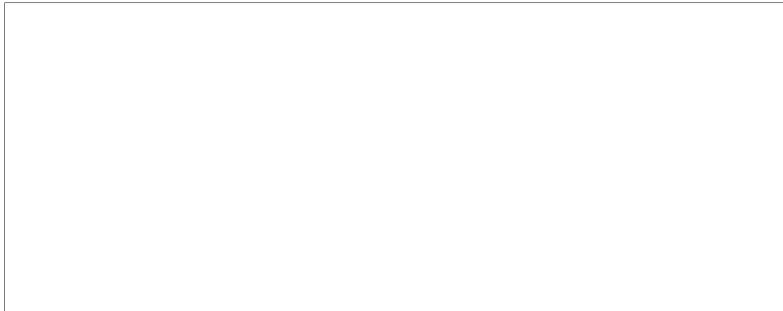


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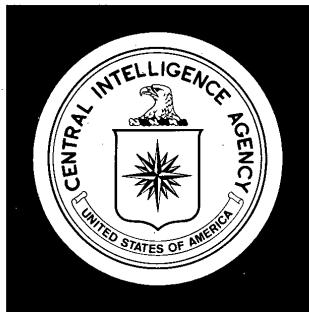


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The President's Daily Brief

19 October 1972

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exemption category 3(B)(1)(C), (3)
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Egyptian Premier Sidqi does not appear to have resolved any basic problems during his visit to Moscow. (Page 1)

Israel is determined to drive the fedayeen out of Lebanon. The guerrillas have fallen to fighting among themselves over whether or not to strike at Israel from Lebanese territory. (Page 2)

In Chile, the situation remains tense and neither the government nor opposition-led strikers have gained a decisive advantage. (Page 3)

Soviets

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(Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-EGYPT

Egyptian Premier Sidqi does not appear to have resolved any basic problems during his visit to Moscow. The main areas of agreement mentioned in the communiqué issued after his visit were condemnation of Israel and a willingness to continue further contacts between the leaders of both countries. The communiqué said that Sidqi and Premier Kosygin "exchanged views...in an atmosphere of frankness;" phrases that are ordinarily used by the Soviets to denote disagreement.

One point of contention could well have been Moscow's refusal to deliver the kinds of weapons that Cairo says it needs to launch a military offensive across the Suez Canal.

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In a speech at a Kremlin reception Monday night, Sidqi expressed Egypt's gratitude for the many examples of Soviet economic aid and noted that it is natural to discuss extending such cooperation to "other fields." Whether or not the Egyptians really believe they can reverse Soviet policy, they apparently intend--perhaps in part for domestic reasons--to press Moscow for new kinds of offensive weapons.

The communiqué indicates, however, that the Soviets will continue to withhold such weapons. Moscow may have been encouraged to maintain its position by the knowledge that the Egyptians have not had any success finding an alternative to Soviet arms.

The communiqué also said that the Arab states are entitled to liberate their land by "diverse means in accordance with the UN charter," a formula reflecting the Soviet view that terrorism is counterproductive. This is also a weaker formulation than was used during Sidqi's visit to Moscow in July, when "all" means were approved, and no reference was made to the UN charter.

Despite differences, both sides have clearly signaled their interest in preventing relations from getting worse. The Egyptians cannot afford to let Soviet political, economic, and military support sink below present levels, and at minimum Moscow does not want to jeopardize its use of Egyptian naval facilities. This attitude is reflected in the communiqué, which notes that Brezhnev, Podgorny, and Kosygin have accepted Sadat's invitation for a summit meeting in Cairo. No date is specified for this meeting, however, and further talks may be necessary before a summit meeting takes place.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ISRAEL-FEDAYEEN

Foreign Minister Eban has told Ambassador Barbour that the recent Israeli air strikes were aimed primarily at getting Lebanon to do more to halt fedayeen activities. Eban strongly suggested that Tel Aviv is trying to drive Lebanon into closing the fedayeen bases and expelling their occupants from the country. He admitted, however, he was not sure the Beirut government was able to do so.

Lebanon, Eban said, is the only place in close proximity to Israel where the fedayeen are free to train and prepare actions against Israel and its citizens abroad. In contrast, he said, Egypt and Syria encourage terrorist activity elsewhere, but tightly control the guerrillas in-country.

On this point, Eban is essentially correct. Egypt and Syria support the fedayeen but do not approve of raids on Israel from their territories.

In Lebanon, the government's restrictions on the fedayeen have led to a sharp acceleration of infighting within Fatah, the largest guerrilla organization. Two bloody clashes occurred earlier this month between rival Fatah factions and there has been more fighting this week. The most recent fighting was triggered by Yasir Arafat's efforts to force certain of the more radical elements to suspend cross-border operations, as provided by the agreement with the Lebanese Government.

The fighting within Fatah signals a diminution of Arafat's already tenuous control of his organization. Extremist factions unresponsive to his direction appear headed for more independent action, including increased terrorism and attempts to resume operations in Israel.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CHILE

The situation remains tense and neither the government nor strikers supported by opposition parties have gained the initiative.

On 18 October Allende made minor concessions, averting a bus drivers' strike that could have encouraged others to take antigovernment positions.

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There has been no serious violence yet, despite numerous sabotage attempts--probably by rightist extremists. Leftist extremists are spoiling for a fight, but have thus far been reined in by Allende and his more moderate advisers. The President is determined not to let the left provoke the armed forces but to make certain that the opposition gets all the blame for disturbances and economic dislocations.

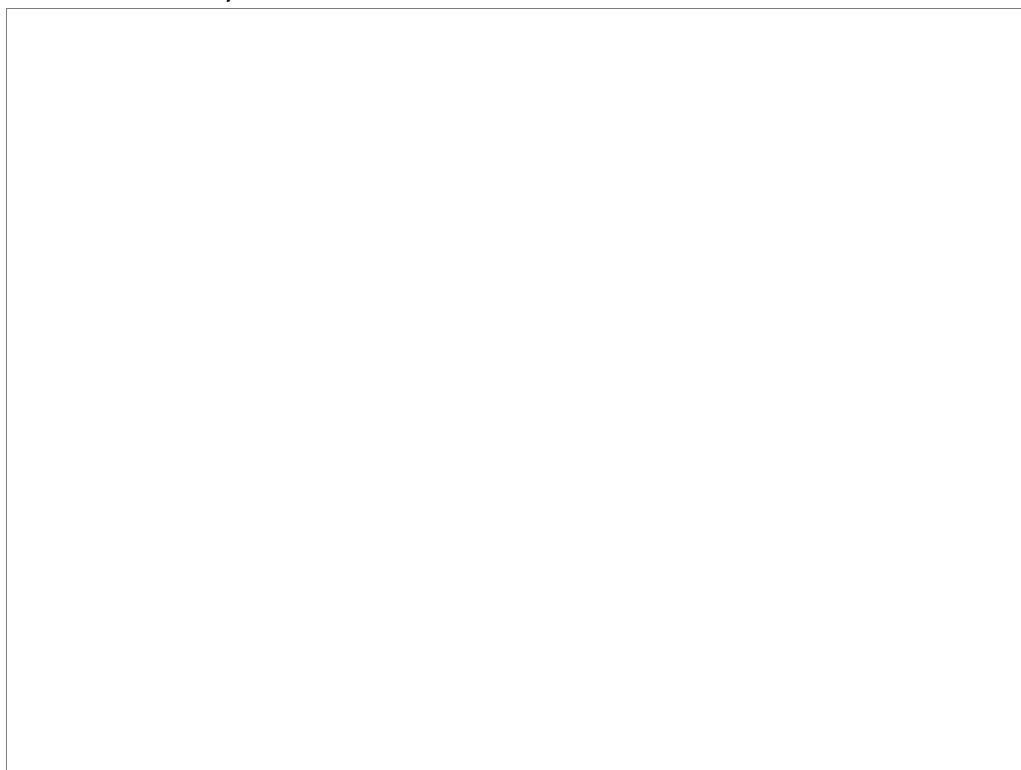
Strike leaders seem uncertain what to do next. They still hope that army chief General Prats will finally be driven by events to move against the government.

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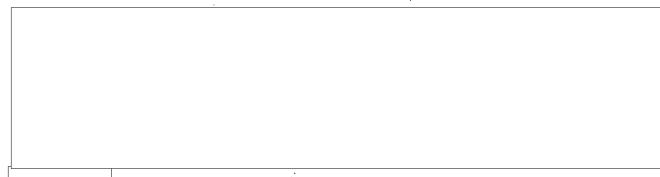


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The President's Daily Brief

20 October 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

20 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are new indications that the Communists intend to increase the level of military action in many areas of South Vietnam. (Page 1)

We now have the text of the Communist plan for ending the war in Laos--the most comprehensive and forthcoming ever--that was offered by the chief Communist negotiator on Tuesday. (Page 3)

Chinese

25X1

(Page 5)

The naming of George Macovescu as Romania's new foreign minister brings new verve to the post, but does not indicate a shift in foreign policy. (Page 6)

The Chilean Government is continuing its crackdown on striking business and professional groups, but some opposition leaders are seeking to keep the protests going. (Page 7)

Icelandic Foreign Minister Agustsson has told parliament that negotiations with Washington on the status of US forces in Iceland will begin in January. (Page 7)

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VIETNAM

There are new indications that the Communists intend to increase the level of military action in many sectors of South Vietnam in the immediate future.

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The evidence suggests that a new surge of attacks could be fairly well coordinated and include actions in the northern provinces, as well as a substantial effort near Saigon and in the delta. It appears that the primary objectives in the southern parts of the country will continue to be the major roads and waterways, as well as remote and lightly defended urban centers. It is also likely that rocket and sapper attacks against major cities, including Da Nang and Saigon, are included.

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Saigon is well aware of the reports of enemy intentions and is taking defensive precautions. Moreover, South Vietnamese units have been cautious about over-extending themselves in the event the Communists should try to cut them off and force a battle under undesirable conditions.

Some portions of the enemy plan have doubtless been pre-empted

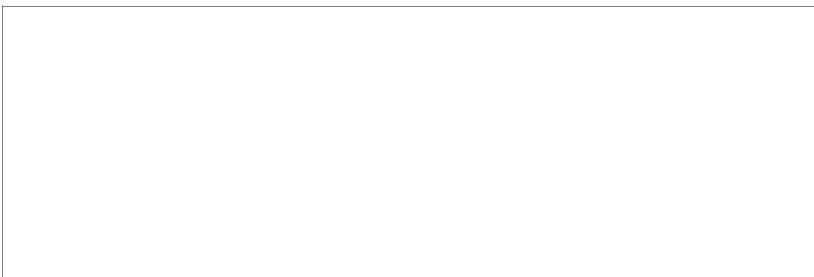
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Thus, a new Communist campaign would not be of the magnitude of the enemy's effort last spring. Rather, the enemy presumably plans a less intense attack that it hopes will have significant political impact on the South Vietnamese Government and on the peace talks.

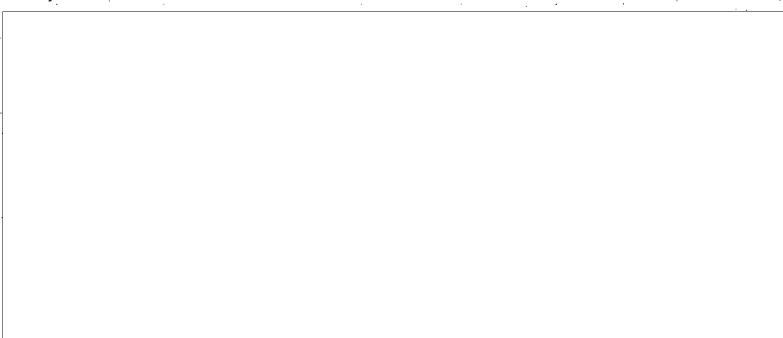
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LAOS

We now have the text of the Communist plan for ending the war in Laos--the most comprehensive and forthcoming ever offered by the Communists. Chief negotiator Phoune Sipraseuth on Tuesday discussed in detail the mechanics for proceeding with the Communist Five-Point Peace Proposals of March 1970. He indicated clearly for the first time that the Communists would expect a place for their Lao neutralist allies--as well as themselves--to join with pro-government elements in a "Provisional Government of National Coalition." This should be set up "in the immediate future." Phoune also called for the creation of a broadly based "council" to prepare for the election of a new national assembly and for the establishment of a permanent "Government of National Union."

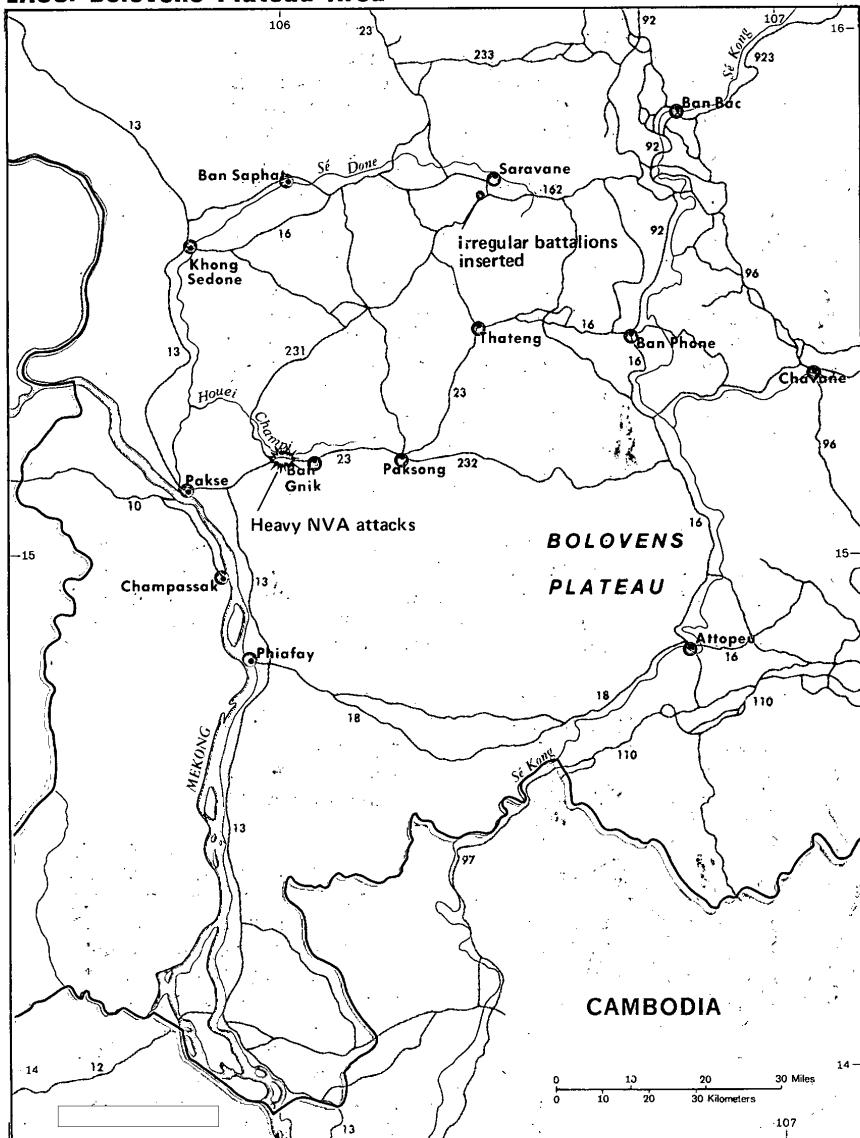
This scenario parallels Viet Cong demands for a greater share of political power in South Vietnam and presumably represents the current Communist estimate of how best to achieve that objective in both countries.

Phoune repeated Communist demands that, as a precondition to a settlement, the US must stop the bombing and end all other forms of military involvement. He added that a bombing halt must be accompanied by a simultaneous "cease-fire in place."

In contrast to previous statements, however, the Communists do not demand that these conditions be met before agreements can be reached on other matters, such as preparation for an interim government. Again, in keeping with the Vietnamese Communist approach, the statement also held out the possibility of an exchange of prisoners of war "of all nationalities." The Lao Communists have acknowledged that they hold some US prisoners.

The high rank and experience of the Lao Communist negotiating team and its businesslike attitude suggest a serious intent to move the talks forward. The Communists' apparent flexibility on the timing of a bombing halt and a cease-fire indicates that they will be content to focus first

LAOS: Bolovens Plateau Area



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on less contentious political questions. Even though they have raised some points that the government will find hard to accept, their latest proposals allow considerable room for discussion.

The Communists may see several advantages in trying to negotiate seriously. They have, thus far, repelled the government's efforts to regain vital lost territory. If Souvanna eventually rejects their demands and the talks collapse, they will, at least, have not lost anything militarily and could then choose to increase the pace of the war. If, on the other hand, some progress is made on political matters, the Communists may believe it will be harder for Souvanna to resist calling for a bombing halt. Souvanna's position is that any bombing halt must be accompanied by a supervised withdrawal of North Vietnamese forces from Laos--a key issue that was ignored in the Communist plan.

In any case, Souvanna is anxious to keep the talks going even though he is scheduled to depart at the end of this week on a three-week trip to France and the US.

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The next session is scheduled for 24 October.

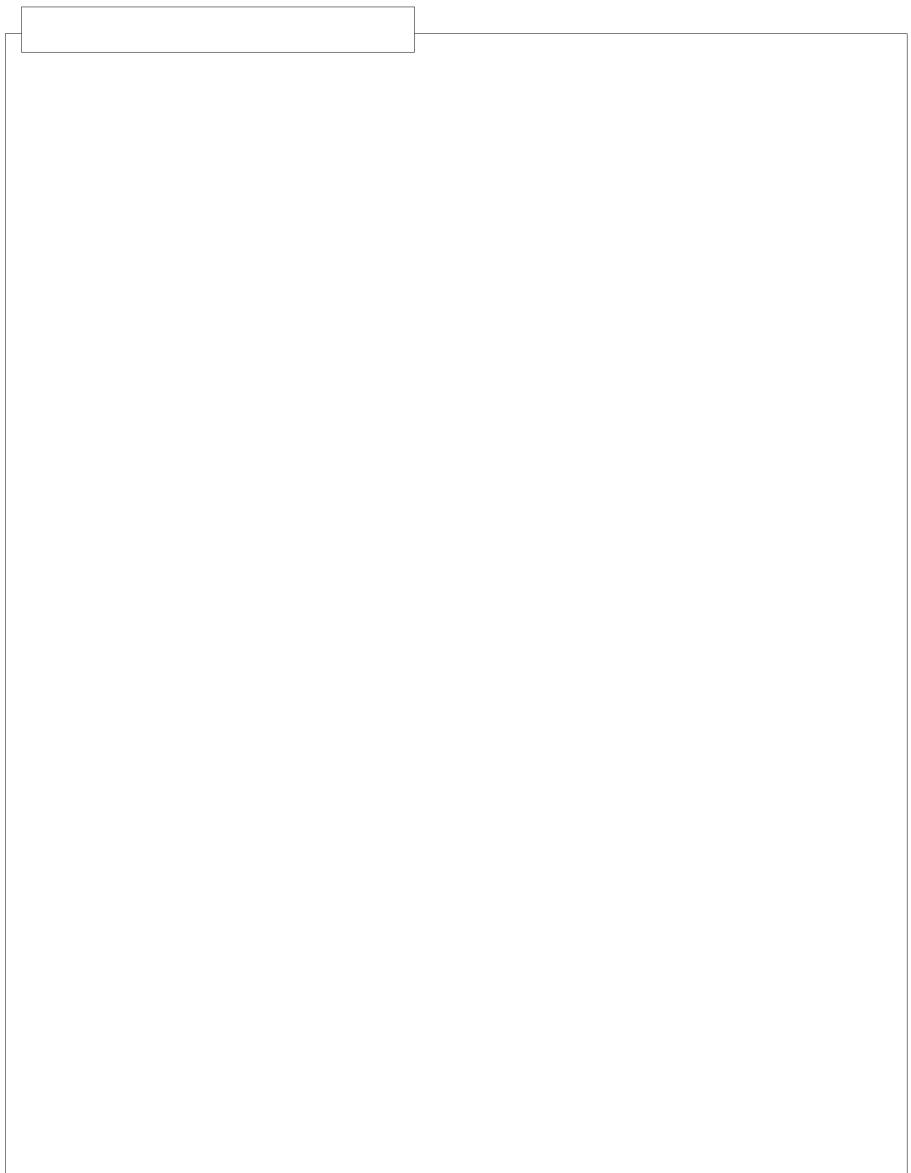
* * *

The government yesterday launched a major new offensive in the south. Advance elements of an eight-battalion irregular force were airlifted to positions just southwest of Saravane, which the Communists have controlled since late last year. The government objective is to take Saravane and push south to regain a foothold on the Bolovens Plateau. Meanwhile, at the western edge of the Bolovens, Communist forces, supported by tanks and heavy weapons, attacked irregular units near the junction of Routes 23 and 231.

The Communist attack appears designed to forestall any government push eastward toward Paksong, and possibly also to divert some government troops from the new offensive against Saravane.

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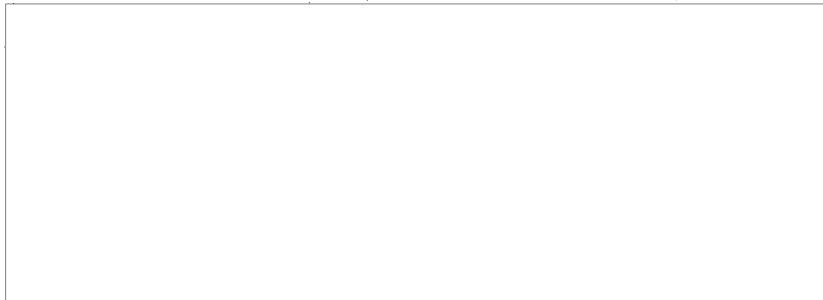
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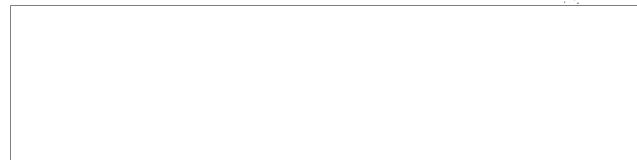
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CHINA



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ROMANIA

Corneliu Manescu has been replaced as foreign minister by his first deputy, George Macovescu.

We expect Manescu, after more than a decade as foreign minister, to retain an important advisory role in Bucharest. President Ceausescu may well name him a member of the Council of State.

Macovescu, a leading expert on European security matters, has promoted the coming Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in his frequent foreign travels. He will bring new verve to the post, but the change does not mean a shift in Romanian foreign policy.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

Chile: The government is continuing to crack down on striking business and professional groups. Many stores and schools are open, and food and fuel supplies are increasing. Police have replaced army troops guarding important installations, and street violence has diminished. Some opposition leaders are seeking to keep the protests going, however, and the bus companies have now voted to strike, reversing an earlier promise to stay on the job. Some white-collar unions also decided to join the strike today.

Iceland: Foreign Minister Agustsson has told parliament that negotiations with Washington on the status of US forces in Iceland will begin in January. In discussing this matter with Ambassador Irving, Agustsson claimed that he is under extreme domestic political pressure to get the talks started soon. Moreover, by announcing the intention to take up this issue, he presumably hopes to divert public attention from concessions that Iceland may have to make in its fishing dispute with the UK.

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21 October 1972

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exemption category 5B(1)j(2)(3)
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The North Koreans have been treating Seoul's declaration of martial law cautiously, and are prepared to continue the dialogue with the South. Within South Korea, virtually no resistance to the decree has been reported. (Page 1)

Some members of the Brandt government evidently are considering a limited inter-German treaty which would leave major issues unresolved. (Page 2)

25X1

Tokyo's newly announced trade and foreign investment program is not likely to remove pressures for another revaluation of the yen. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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KOREA

The North Koreans have been treating Seoul's declaration of martial law with circumspection, in sharp contrast to their propaganda immediately following Seoul's declaration of "national emergency" last December. They have avoided invective and made no direct reference to President Pak Chong-hui. A North Korean article published just after Seoul's announcement on Tuesday confirmed Pyongyang's willingness to go ahead with the dialogue with the South. The Red Cross delegations will meet in Pyongyang on 24 October as previously scheduled, according to a joint announcement, and the co-chairmen of the higher level coordinating committee will meet in Pyongyang on 2 November and in Seoul on 30 November.

Pyongyang may feel that this approach will enhance its position in the talks by pointing up its adherence to the portion of the joint communique of 4 July calling for an end to harsh propaganda.

Pyongyang may have had some advance warning of Seoul's action.

South Korean Red Cross official was instructed to provide his North Korean counterpart with prior notification along with assurances that the talks would not be affected. Such an action would explain the South Koreans' confidence that their decree would not disrupt the talks.

Within South Korea, virtually no resistance to the new decree has been reported. The regime has begun to ease restrictions on public assembly and the functioning of universities.

the presence of military equipment and armed personnel in the capital and major cities is being kept to a minimum. The political opposition and the press remain under tight restrictions, but no arrests have been reported.

The government is feeling its way gingerly and will maintain tight security until the process of amending the constitution is completed toward the end of the year. The amendments--designed to perpetuate Pak's rule--will be announced on 27 October and Seoul has already begun to leak the details, presumably to cushion their impact.

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WEST GERMANY - EAST GERMANY

With the Bahr-Kohl negotiations on a general inter-German political treaty still stalled, at least some members of the Brandt government evidently are considering a more limited treaty, leaving some major issues unresolved.

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Early this week West German State Secretary Frank discussed with Allied ambassadors the possibility of an agreement that would be limited to practical improvements in inter-German relations such as aligning judicial processes and increasing trade. He suggested that Bonn would signify that such a treaty warrants its approval of East Germany's entry to the UN. Another member of the Foreign Office, while downplaying Frank's remarks, admitted that the idea of a limited treaty had been discussed.

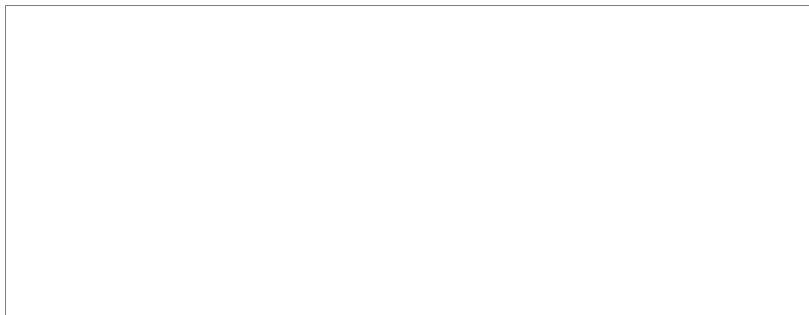
With West German elections now less than a month away, the issue is a source of sharp contention within Chancellor Brandt's coalition. Many Social Democratic Party leaders would be tempted by the idea of a "non-political" treaty which could be billed as another success in Brandt's foreign policy. The more cautious Free Democrats, on the other hand, might not go along; Interior Minister Genscher told Ambassador Hillenbrand on Wednesday that he tended to prefer no treaty at all before the elections.

A limited treaty followed by admission of both Germanies to the UN would deprive Bonn of most of its leverage in seeking Pankow's acceptance of the concepts of a single German nation and no final peace treaty. Pankow would still seek an exchange of ambassadors with Bonn, however.

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USSR - NORTH VIETNAM



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JAPAN

The government has finally announced its new program to reduce international pressure for revaluation of the yen. It calls for easing certain import quotas and tariffs, and simplification of import procedures. It also cuts restrictions on foreign investment in Japan and makes it easier for Japanese to invest abroad. In addition, limits will be set for the export of certain items.

These limited measures are not likely to remove pressures on Japan for revaluation. Even if much stronger measures were taken, it would be years before the Japanese could pare down their enormous trade surplus to levels acceptable to Japan's trade partners.

In fact, the program has been publicly described by officials of the Ministry of Finance as a "token step."

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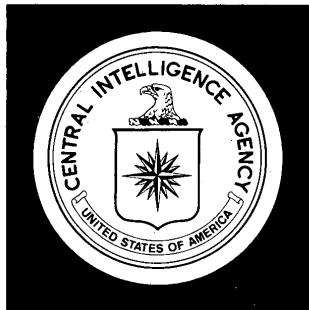
NOTES

Chile: New strikes yesterday prolonged the standoff between the Allende government and its opponents. Armed leftist groups appear to be getting increasingly impatient to take on their adversaries in the streets, but the military's broad role limits that possibility. The government's tactic of playing for time while taking selected economic reprisals and further extending the responsibilities of the armed services is still working to President Allende's advantage. A joint statement by the opposition parties assailing his actions suggests that their next tactic may be to initiate formal charges in Congress that he is violating the constitution. A ruling by the comptroller-general that an order for government control of all radiobroadcasting had been unconstitutional will support such an approach.

India-Pakistan: Technical agreement apparently has been reached on a slight modification of the 1949 cease-fire line in Kashmir, and the two governments are expected to announce their approval in a few days. Once troop positions are adjusted in Kashmir, military forces of both sides are to be withdrawn from territory farther south seized during the war last December. Completion of this withdrawal would remove the major obstacle to a second meeting between President Bhutto and Prime Minister Gandhi to negotiate on the two outstanding problems: Pakistan's nonrecognition of Bangladesh and India's retention of 91,000 Pakistani prisoners.

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23 October 1972

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exemption category 5B(1),(2),13
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Laotian Government has prepared a seven-point program to present tomorrow at the second round of talks with the Communists. Meanwhile, both sides are trying to expand the territory under their control. (Page 1)

President Marcos [redacted] an indefinite term as the leader of the Philippines. (Page 3) 25X1

The situation in Chile may be easing. (Page 4)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

[redacted] the government's initial position for the second round of talks with the Lao Communists, which resume on Tuesday in Vientiane. In response to the Communists' initial statement of 17 October, Pheng Phongsavan, the government's chief negotiator, intends to sidestep the question of the presence of Thai troops in Laos as well as the issue of US bombing. Instead, he will hit hard at the North Vietnamese occupation of Laotian territory, a matter the Communists chose to avoid in their presentation.

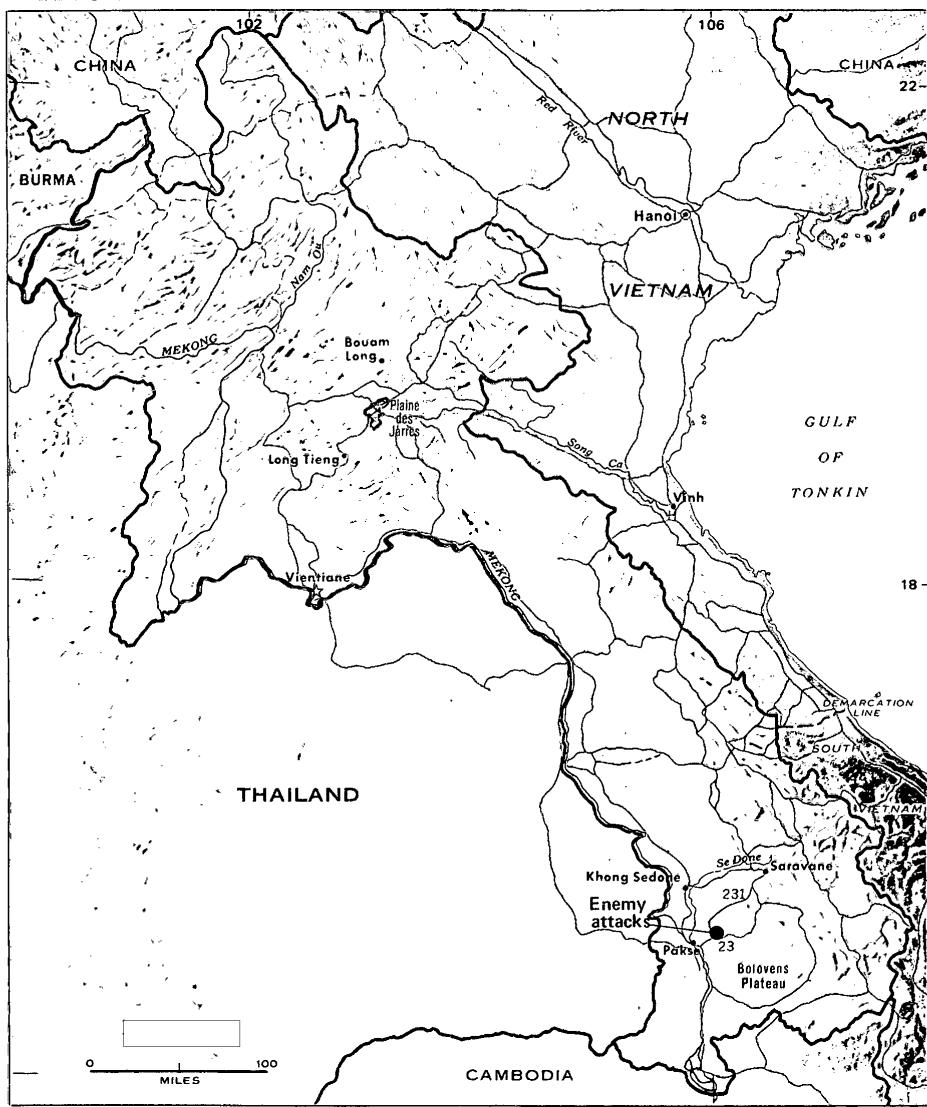
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Once this scene is set, Pheng will present the government's seven-point program for a settlement. It calls for:

- respect for the Geneva Accords, including an end to North Vietnamese aggression and a withdrawal of the Lao Communists from the so-called "Indochina Liberation Movement";
- a comprehensive cease-fire under supervision of the International Control Commission;
- total withdrawal of all foreign troops and a pulling back of Pathet Lao troops to lines existing in 1962;
- immediate negotiations on unifying the country, integrating the respective armed forces of all sides, and preparing for general elections of a national assembly and a new government;
- free travel after a cease-fire for all Laotian citizens;
- maintenance of a neutral foreign policy consistent with the 1954 and 1962 accords; and,
- freeing of all prisoners of war, regardless of nationality, as soon as possible after a cease-fire.

We expect the Lao Communists to rebuff the government statement, but not the seven points. Recently, a member of the Communist delegation told Deputy Chief of Mission Stearns that the negotiations would require compromise by all parties. At the moment, the government seems most interested in exploring the Communist proposal

LAOS



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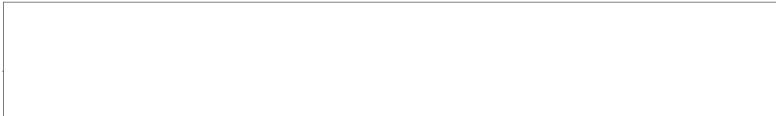
for establishing a provisional political council. For the future, the government negotiators are also thinking of recommending that the present cabinet be broadened to allow the Communists three portfolios in addition to the two they are already entitled to under the 1962 Geneva agreement. Both negotiating teams are operating against a background of fresh efforts to expand the territory under their control.

The Communists, for example, have thrust into the Mekong Valley after taking the town of Khong Sedone. They are also continuing their attacks near Pakse in an effort to keep government forces from returning to the Bolovens Plateau. In part, these moves may be in response to a government airlift of troops onto the plateau which resulted in the seizure of Saravane, a provincial capital long in Communist hands. The enemy's progress in the west could lead to abandonment of the Saravane operation. To the north, both sides are maneuvering for a new round of fighting around and on the Plaine des Jarres.

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PHILIPPINES



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[redacted] the Marcos-controlled constitutional convention is producing a document that will allow Marcos to continue indefinitely either as chief executive or prime minister. Marcos has told the convention to finish its draft by the end of next month.

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On Saturday, Marcos moved to strengthen his backing among the peasantry. He announced a land reform that would turn over rice and corn lands to tenants and sharecroppers.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTE

Chile: President Allende appears to be gradually gaining the upper hand in the transportation strike. More strikers have returned to work, and no significant new groups have joined the strike movement. Allende claims that the situation will be back to normal by early this week.

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24 October 1972

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exemption category 5B(1), (2)(i), (3)
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A source with access to the Egyptian Interior Ministry has told US officials that the reports earlier this month of a serious coup attempt against President Sadat's government are not correct. (Page 1)

[Yemen (Sana)]

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[Yemen (Aden)]

(Page 2)

Government irregulars in Laos have not yet fully secured the southern provincial capital of Saravane. (Page 3)

Strikes by various commercial and professional groups in Chile are continuing

25X1

(Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

EGYPT

A source with access to the Egyptian Interior Ministry has told US officials in Cairo that the reports earlier this month of a serious coup attempt are not correct. The official stated that the "incident" on 12 October was no more than a public harangue of crowds by members of an armored personnel carrier unit led by a "deranged captain." The dissidents criticized President Sadat for failing to press the war with Israel and attacked the proposed union with Libya. Several officers and men were subsequently arrested, including the unit's commanding general.

Although apparently not part of a well-planned move against Sadat, the episode reflects the frustration felt by some elements of the military with Egypt's dilemma and Sadat's inability to do anything about it.

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Reports periodically circulate in Cairo that Sadat is fed up and wants to resign. We have no evidence that he intends to do so in the near future, however. Nor do we see any sign of a concerted move to force his resignation. [redacted]

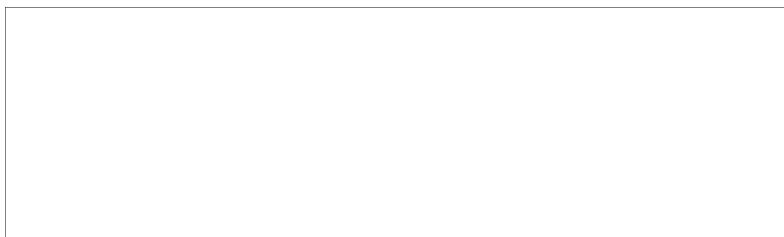
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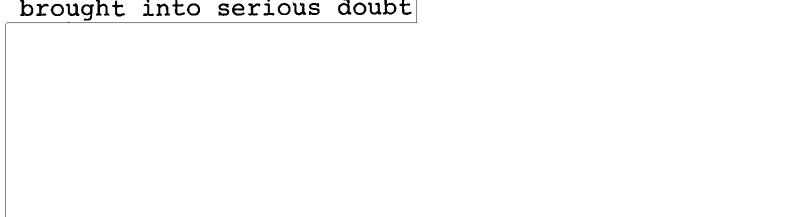
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THE YEMENS



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The commitment of Prime Minister al-Ayni to the overthrow of the leftist Aden regime--now being questioned by anti-Adeni dissidents--has been brought into serious doubt

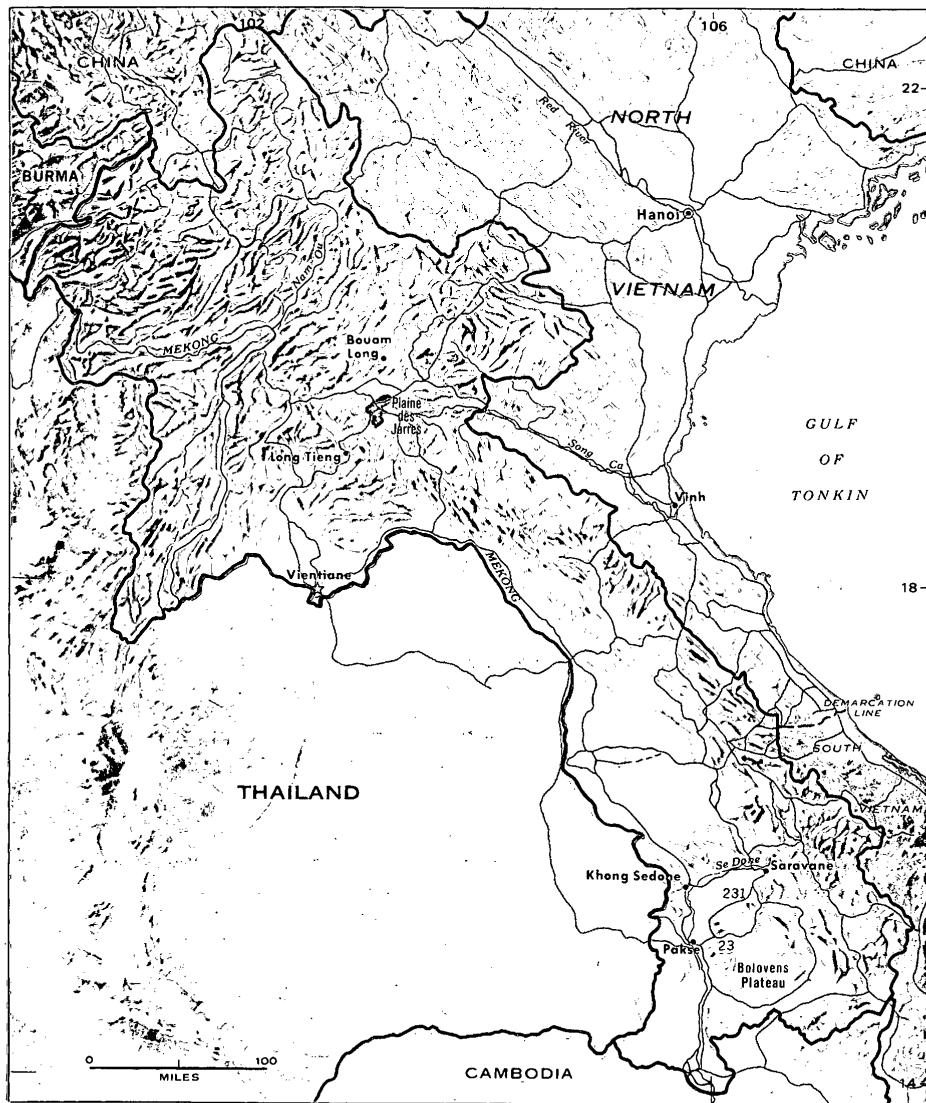


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Meanwhile, the Sana and Aden delegations, meeting in Cairo under Arab League auspices, reached agreement yesterday on broad terms for the eventual unity of the two countries, according to a press report.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

Laos: Government irregulars have not yet fully secured the southern provincial capital of Saravane, as house-to-house fighting continues. To the west of the Bolovens Plateau, the Mekong Valley town of Khong Sedone remains in enemy hands. Government forces are facing stiff resistance as they attempt to push back into the area.

Chile: Strikes by various commercial and professional groups are continuing. Although there have been no major demonstrations since 20 October, opposition party leaders have called for a "day of silence" today and have expressed their resolve to continue the protests until their demands are met. Communist and Socialist party leaders, for their

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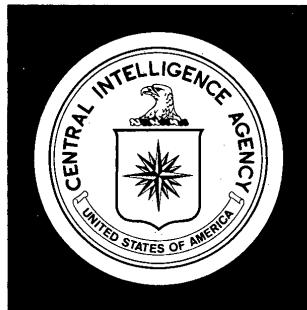
USSR - North Vietnam:

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25 October 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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In Vietnam, the Communists have increased their shellings and harassing ground attacks in recent days

25X1

(Page 1)

Bonn has proposed to Helsinki that negotiations to establish diplomatic relations begin early next month

25X1

(Page 2)

A last-minute hitch has held up an accord between India and Pakistan on an adjusted cease-fire line in Kashmir. (Page 2)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communists have increased their shellings and harassing ground attacks in recent days, particularly in the central highlands and near Saigon. The Bien Hoa Airbase northeast of the capital was hit by a 72-round rocket bombardment on Monday, and Da Nang Airbase was hit by some 15 rounds early today. The Communists continue to ambush convoys and destroy bridges along major highways.

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Widespread reports that a cease-fire may be imminent could also be influencing Communist tactics.

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An incomplete message sent yesterday by a senior Communist command in the Da Nang area contains the first reference we have yet noted to a possible date for fighting to stop: noon on 28 October.

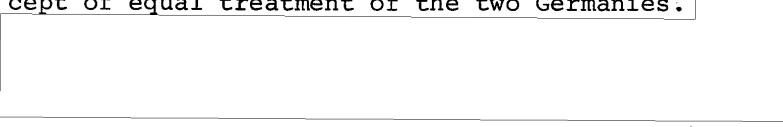
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

West Germany - Finland: Bonn has proposed to Helsinki that negotiations to establish diplomatic relations begin in early November. A Finnish - East German agreement to establish diplomatic relations was initiated on 6 September, but Helsinki has not yet put it into force, largely because of its concept of equal treatment of the two Germanies.

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India-Pakistan: A last-minute hitch has held up the agreement that had been expected on a slightly modified cease-fire line in Kashmir. The remaining question apparently concerns the status of less than one-and-one-half square miles of territory. No date is yet set for the next meeting of the senior military commanders doing the negotiating.

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The President's Daily Brief

26 October 1972

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exemption category SR(1)(2)(3)
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

One of the top three Lao Communist leaders has joined the Pathet Lao negotiating team, a further sign that the Lao Communists believe the time is right for serious peace negotiations. (Page 1)

Cuba

25X1

(Page 2)

Tito's purge of the Serbian party has begun with the "resignations" over the weekend of party chief Nikezic and his deputy. (Page 3)

Iraq Soviet

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(Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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LAOS

One of the top three Lao Communist leaders, Phoumi Vongvichit, has joined the Pathet Lao negotiating team.

His presence as "special adviser" on the delegation is a further sign that the Lao Communists believe the time is right for serious peace negotiations.

Both the government and the Communists have now assumed bargaining positions based on their well-known public views on political issues. At the second session of the talks on 24 October the chief Communist negotiator, although castigating the government for lack of "good will and realism," held out the hope of constructive dialogue by admitting that "certain points" in Vientiane's position are "capable of bringing us together."

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

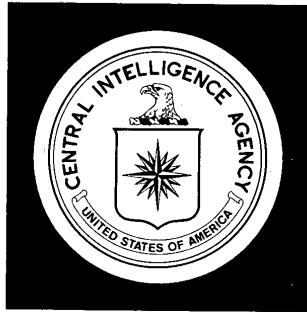
Yugoslavia: Tito's purge of the Serbian party has begun with the "resignations" over the weekend of party chief Nikezic and his deputy. A wider purge is in the offing in Serbia and may spread to the Vojvodina autonomous province--whose party is affiliated with the Serb organization--and where the party leadership is also under attack for failure to heed Tito's orders to recentralize party authority. Tito's plans for a radical tightening of party discipline from the federal level on down may also be leading to a growth of party factionalism on a local level in other sections of the country.

Iraq-USSR,

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The President's Daily Brief

27 October 1972

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exemption category 5B(1)(2), (3)
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

27 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Both President Thieu and the Communists are making preparations for a cease-fire in South Vietnam.
(Page 1)

North Vietnam is preparing to move unusually large amounts of supplies to the south. *(Page 3)*

Laotian irregulars may not have time to force their way onto the Plaine des Jarres before the Communists reinforce and resupply. *(Page 4)*

Soviet [redacted] 25X1
(Page 5)

Japanese Foreign Minister Ohira made little progress toward a peace treaty during his visit to Moscow.
(Page 6)

25X1

We discuss the resignation of Egyptian War Minister Sadiq on *Page 7*.

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Israel [redacted] (Page 8) 25X1
President Allende is negotiating a truce with strike leaders in Chile. *(Page 9)*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

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President Thieu issued orders on Monday concerning preparations for a cease-fire.

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[redacted]

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* * *

The Communists are also laying the groundwork for expanding their control during the earliest stages of a cease-fire.

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[redacted]

The COSVN directives acknowledge that Communist assets are limited and that procedures will vary from place to place. Cadre have been told to get out of their mountain and forest strongholds and to get into the villages and hamlets. Weak cadres have been told to take on only as many tasks as they can effectively handle and to effectively supervise new recruits. All areas have been charged with assessing how many people could be mustered quickly for antigovernment demonstrations.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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In early October, COSVN asked each province to assess prospects for Communist success in "seizing land, controlling people, and putting up flags." Other directives have ordered cadre to study experiences following the 1954 and 1962 Geneva Accords and to "learn from past mistakes."

Most of these reports have been vague on the timing of the cease-fire. Two recently captured documents, however, ordered preparations for a cease-fire on 28 October. The same date has appeared in intercepts. Given the time differential between South Vietnam and Paris, a cease-fire on the 28th would be very close to 30 October (our time).

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NORTH VIETNAM

The North Vietnamese are preparing to move unusually large quantities of military goods to the south as the new dry season resupply campaign gets under way. In the North Vietnamese panhandle, for

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On 23 October, a large-scale movement of vehicles into southern Laos was detected for the first time since the 1971-1972 dry season ended last spring.

The trucks arrived following several weeks of repair work on the rain-damaged roads into and through southern Laos. The present good condition of the Laotian roadnet and the availability of supplies in southern North Vietnam would enable an early start to the annual resupply effort in this area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

' FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

Vang Pao's task force on the southern tip of the Plaine des Jarres, recently augmented by 2,000 fresh troops, was hit yesterday by a strong North Vietnamese ground attack, supported by tanks and artillery. Preliminary reports indicate that most government units have abandoned their forward positions and may have suffered significant casualties.

The beginning of peace talks in Vientiane lends additional urgency to the government's efforts to re-establish a foothold on the Plaine. If Vang Pao's troops have been severely handled, it is unlikely that he will be able to organize another major push onto the Plaine before improving weather enables the Communists to reinforce and resupply. An intercepted Communist message indicates that one North Vietnamese infiltration group is already heading for north Laos.

' FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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USSR-JAPAN

Foreign Minister Ohira's visit in Moscow earlier this week brought no progress toward a peace treaty. The stumbling block remains Japan's effort to regain the four northern islands lost to the USSR after World War II. Ohira has stated publicly that the USSR is not prepared to go beyond its earlier offer to return the two southernmost islands. Although the Soviets expressed anew their willingness to discuss the territorial issue, neither side appears in any hurry.

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EGYPT

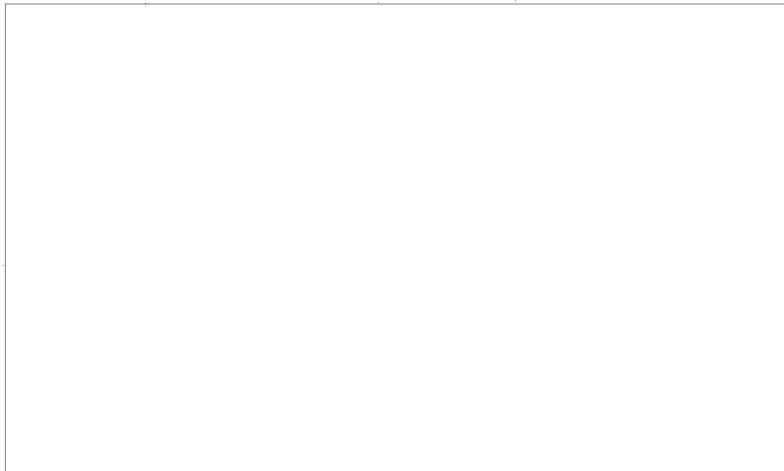
We consider the sudden resignation of War Minister Sadiq as another reflection of President Sadat's domestic troubles. Sadiq was believed by most Egyptians to be loyal to Sadat, and in addition to being a deputy premier, he held every key portfolio in the government concerning the armed forces and war production. Sadiq's feuds with other officials close to Sadat may well have figured in his resignation, but additional factors may also have come into play. For example, Sadiq quarreled frequently with Soviet officials, and he may have been an impediment to better relations with Moscow.

Whether Sadiq resigned voluntarily or was forced to do so, Sadat must have carefully weighed the consequences of alienating so formidable a figure. Sadiq undoubtedly has support in the armed forces, if only because of his outspoken attitude toward the Soviets.

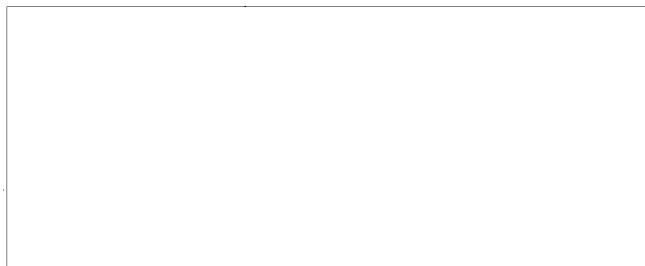
The new war minister and commander in chief of the armed forces is General Ahmad Ismail Ali, chief of Egypt's intelligence organization. Ali is one of Sadat's close advisers and has known him since they were classmates at military school. He is loyal to Sadat, and his intelligence ties will help them both to control Chief of Staff Shazli, a highly ambitious officer who may well resent not being given Sadiq's top posts.

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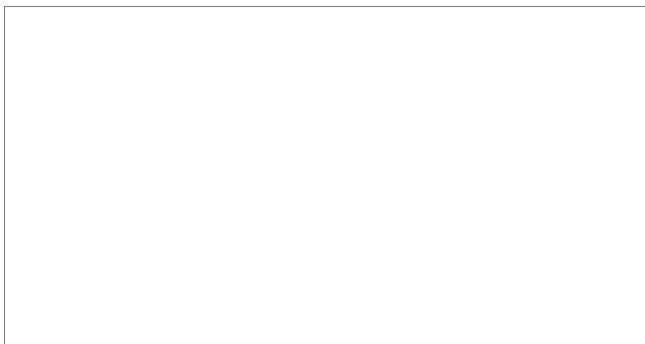
ISRAEL-FEDAYEEN



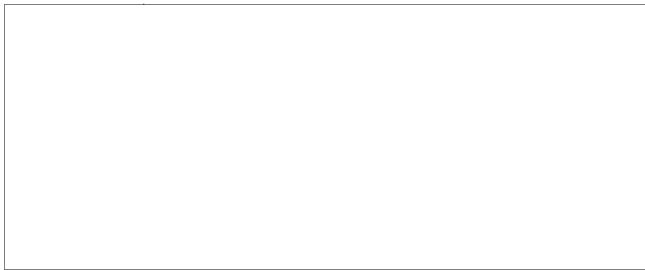
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CHILE

President Allende is negotiating a settlement with leaders of the waning protest movement. [] [] the talks are snagged over the opposition's desire for guarantees to be built into the agreement.

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We expect Allende to avoid punitive measures except against the most flagrant protesters. This would be consistent with his style of appearing to compromise. Actually, he has gained tactical advantages from his handling of the crisis. At least for now, he has strengthened his authority within his own fractious political coalition. Also, he has laid the groundwork for blaming his opposition for the damage to Chile's battered economy. Moreover, the prolonged shutdowns have allowed the government to take over a number of commercial, transport and industrial firms, some of which will be retained under government control.

A key to Allende's success was his confidence that he could rely on military support. The readiness of the armed services to carry out their responsibilities under the state of emergency reaffirms their commitment to support constitutional government. Although some officers were sympathetic to the protest movement, we have seen no evidence that any officers dragged their feet in taking measures to minimize its effects or in containing the attempts to incite violence.

Cabinet changes are expected soon and Allende is now in a stronger position to create the kind of cabinet he wants.

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The President's Daily Brief

28 October 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

28 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Vietnam

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(Page 1)

Egypt appears determined to pursue a limited reconciliation with the USSR despite continuing domestic opposition to this policy. (Page 2)

Italy's agreement to provide support privileges to US submarines at La Maddalena is being challenged by the Communist Party. (Page 3)

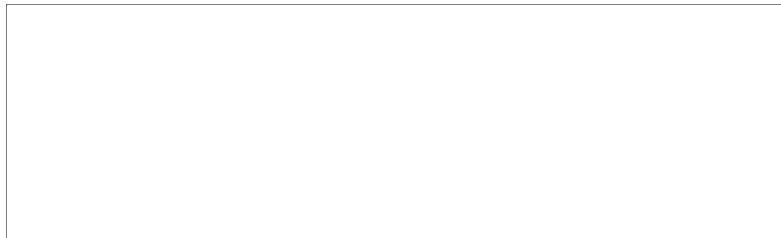
In Uruguay, military pressure has led to the arrest of a leading politician after he publicly criticized growing armed forces' involvement in the country's political life. (Page 4)

Heavy dollar selling has resumed in Tokyo, threatening the yen-dollar exchange rate. (Page 5)

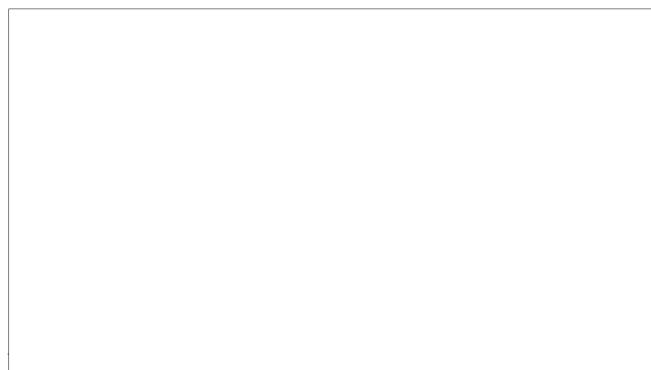
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NORTH VIETNAM



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EGYPT-USSR

Prime Minister Sidqi has told a joint meeting of legislators and party members that his discussions in Moscow earlier this month had "melted the ice in Egyptian-Soviet relations." He added that the "Soviet Union is fulfilling and will continue to fulfill all its pledges to consolidate our war potential." [redacted]

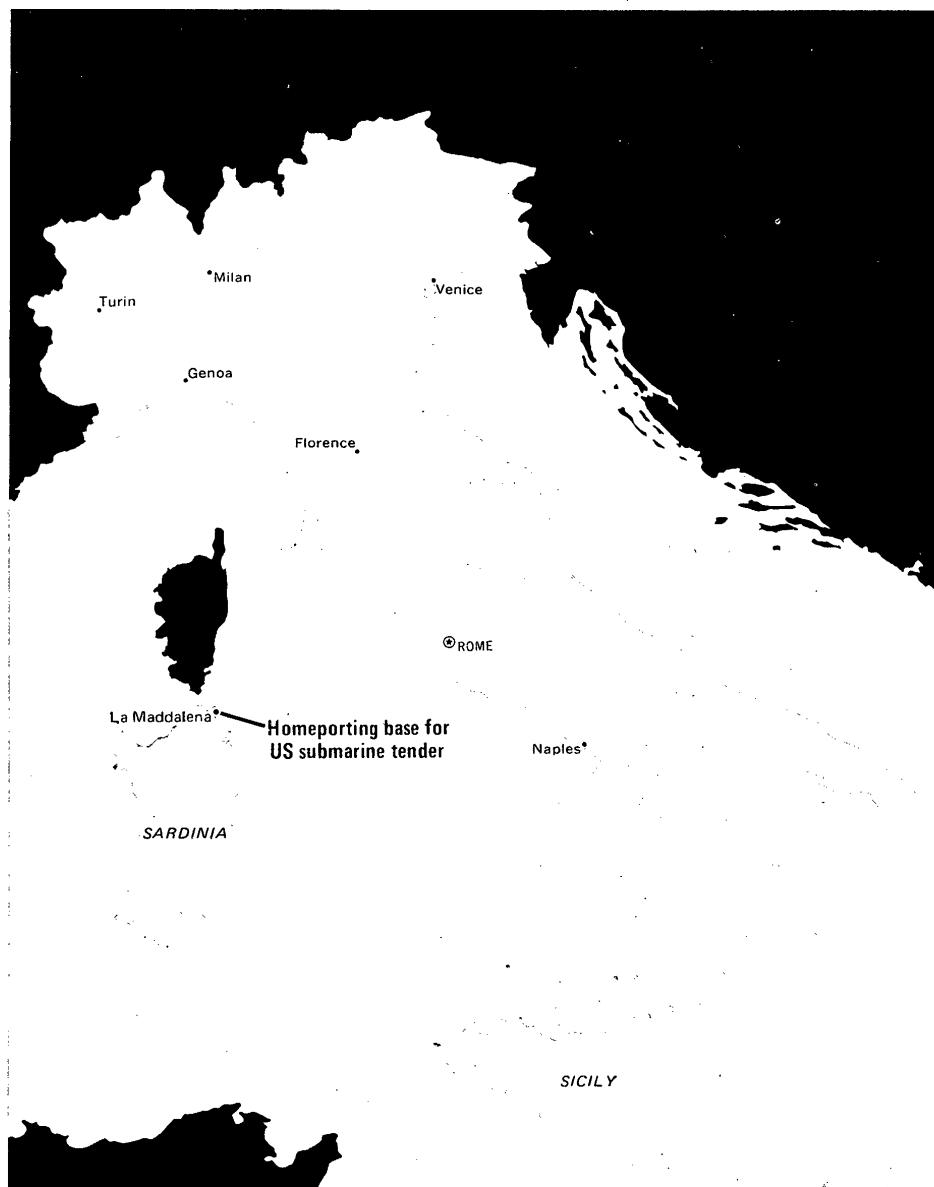
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[redacted]
[redacted] 25X1

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This tough interrogation suggests that there is still considerable opposition to Sadat's effort to reach a reconciliation with Moscow. Nevertheless, we expect this effort to continue. The removal on Thursday of War Minister Sadiq may help smooth the way, since his relations with the Soviets were frequently strained.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



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ITALY

The government's agreement to provide support privileges to US submarines at La Maddalena is being challenged by the Communist Party.

Under the agreement, mooring facilities for a US submarine tender and housing for families of US naval personnel would be offered on Maddalena, an island off Sardinia.

The government's majority in the Senate, where a vote is expected in early November, is both narrow and fragile. Although the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement may ensure government victory on this question, winning only through such support would alienate and might force the withdrawal of one or even two junior members of the coalition--the Social Democrats and the Republicans. The government could not survive the defection of either party.

The Soviets have sharply criticized the Italian Government over the submarine support issue twice this month--once in Rome during preparations for Prime Minister Andreotti's visit to Moscow and again this week during the visit itself.

Much of this criticism has been carried in the Italian press, and we believe it is largely intended to encourage the Italian Communist Party in its effort to challenge the government on this issue.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

URUGUAY

Military pressure led to the arrest yesterday of Senator Jorge Batlle, one of the country's leading politicians, after he had publicly criticized growing armed forces' involvement in Uruguayan political life.

This is the most serious development yet in a rapidly developing controversy over the military's role in Uruguay.

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Many politicians charge that military pressure to have the offenders brought to trial endangers Uruguay's traditional democratic system. A serious clash of wills is under way, but as yet we see no real danger of an outright military coup.

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NOTE

Japan: Heavy dollar selling has resumed in Tokyo, exceeding \$100 million in each of the last two days. The selling wave stems from the Tanaka government's failure to take strong enough measures to reduce Japan's huge trade surplus and from pessimism over Tokyo's ability to maintain the present yen-dollar exchange rate. If this trend gains momentum, it will severely undermine nearly any effort by Tokyo to hold off a revaluation until after the election of a new Diet in December.

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The President's Daily Brief

30 October 1972

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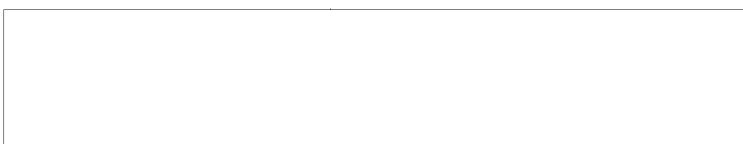
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

30 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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In Laos the Communists for the first time have occupied Keng Kok, an important town southeast of Savannakhet. (Page 2)

President Allende abruptly broke off negotiations with Chilean strike leaders on 27 October. (Page 3)

Two fundamental political questions continue to block completion of a draft treaty between East and West Germany. (Page 4)

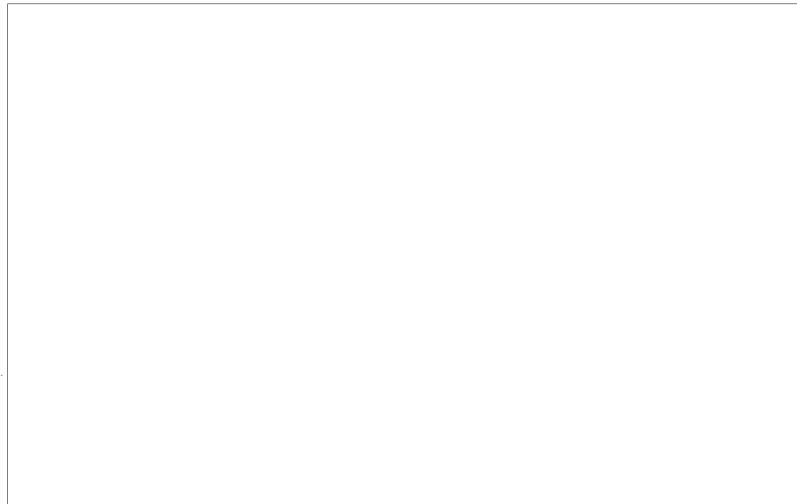
Israeli planes attacked four Arab guerrilla training bases within eight miles of Damascus early this morning. (Page 5)

Prime ministers of the two Yemens have announced an agreement to unite their countries and end the war, but there are obstacles to implementation. (Page 5)

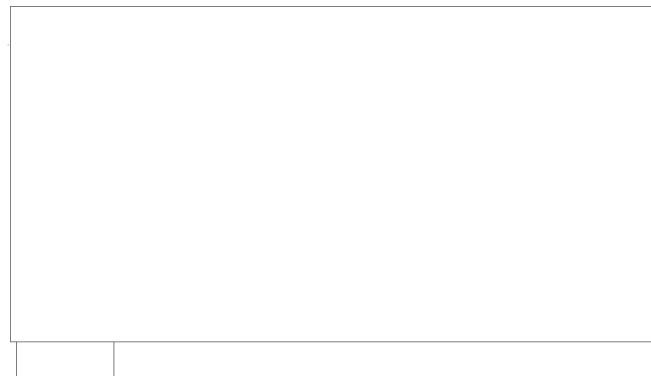
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SOUTH VIETNAM



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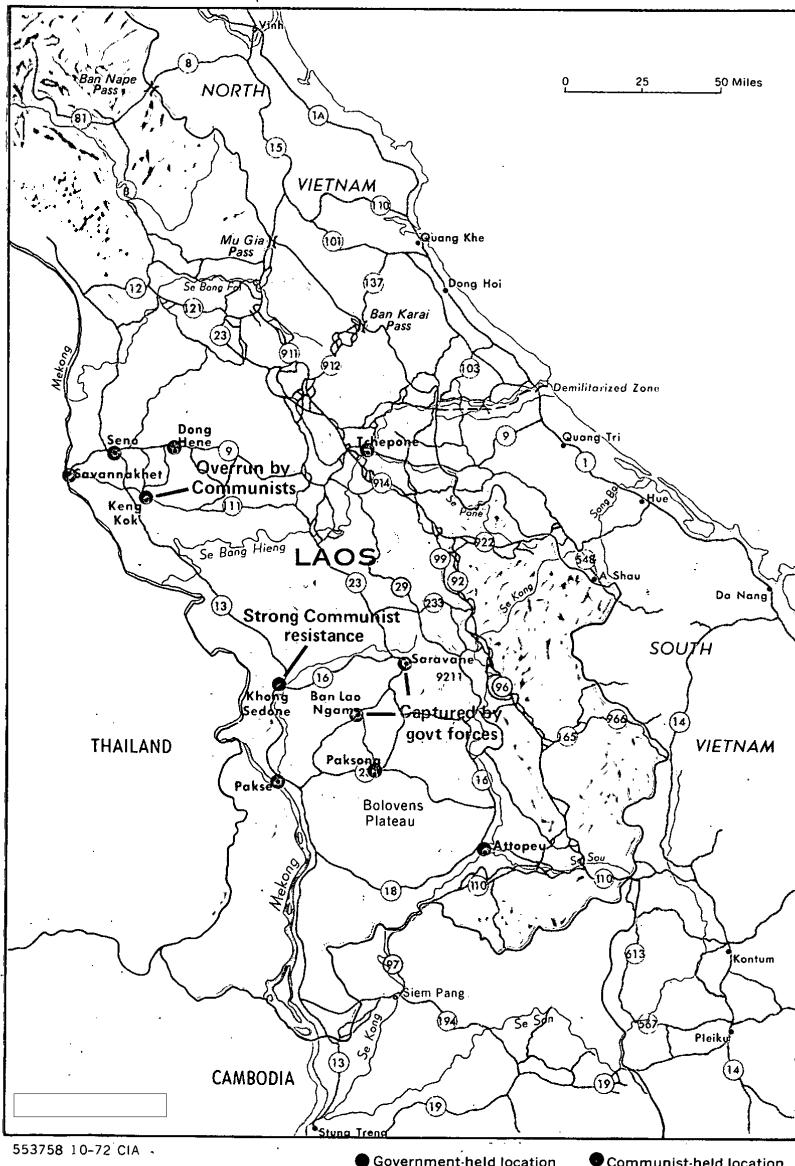
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LAOS

The Communists for the first time have occupied Keng Kok, an important town 30 miles southeast of Savannakhet in the Lao panhandle. They also appear to be preparing to attack Seno, a town to the north where major Lao Army training facilities are located.

This activity in the panhandle seems designed to obstruct any government push west to capture towns on Route 9.

Farther south the Communists are faring less well. Irregular troops drove the last North Vietnamese forces out of Saravane over the weekend and occupied Ban Lao Ngam, a small town just north of the Bolovens Plateau. Lao Army units have been unable, however, to retake Khong Sedone to the west.

In the north Vang Pao continues to regroup the task force which was driven off the southern Plaine des Jarres with heavy casualties on 26 October.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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CHILE

President Allende abruptly broke off negotiations with strike leaders on 27 October. After a meeting with leaders of his Popular Unity coalition, he abandoned his conciliatory position, stating that the protesters' latest proposals were "political" and directed at limiting presidential power.

The Socialist Party has consistently urged Allende to take a hard line. In addition, the army's firm support of the government may have convinced the coalition parties that they can afford to delay a settlement.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY

After three days of negotiations last week, the West Germans report that a treaty draft is "more or less" complete, except for two fundamental political questions. The East Germans continue to reject West German insistence on including references to common German nationhood and a statement that the accord is not a substitute for a World War II peace treaty. Leaders in Bonn are increasingly doubtful that Pan-kow will give in on these two issues. They regard the negotiating session this week as the last opportunity to reach agreement before the election of parliament on 19 November.

Some West German officials believe that Bonn should accept the treaty on East German terms--without the references mentioned above--if the three Western Allies succeed in obtaining Soviet consent to include acceptable statements on these issues in the Four Power document being negotiated to sponsor the entry of both German states into the UN. So far, however, the Soviets have rejected Western proposals for the kind of statements that Bonn wants.

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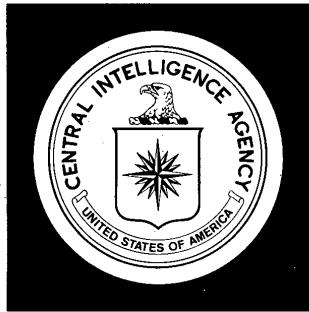
NOTES

Israel-Fedayeen: Israeli planes attacked four Arab guerrilla training bases within eight miles of Damascus early this morning. The strike occurred less than 12 hours after the hijacked Lufthansa plane arrived in Tripoli carrying the three Palestinian terrorists released by Bonn.

The Yemens: The prime ministers of Sana and Aden have announced an agreement to unify their countries and end the war. Their respective heads of state are scheduled to meet in Libya on 25 November to ratify the agreement, which would not go into effect for a year. We are not optimistic that this agreement will end the fighting, particularly because neither the anti-Adeni rebels in Sana nor their Saudi Arabian patrons support the accord. Furthermore, the Sana government does not have the support of many important military and tribal leaders either for an end to the fighting or for unification.

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The President's Daily Brief

31 October 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

31 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The North Vietnamese are making an unprecedented effort to move military supplies into South Vietnam. Yesterday, they received support from China for their contention that a peace settlement should be signed today. (Page 1)

The South Vietnamese are suspicious of the north's intentions concerning the role of an interim body to maintain a cease-fire and supervise new elections. (Page 2)

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The Soviets [redacted] 25X1
(Page 3)

Egypt [redacted] 25X1
USSR. (Page 4)

After losing his majority yesterday, Prime Minister Trudeau is undecided whether he will try to form a government. (Page 5)

President Bhutto is again preparing public opinion for recognition of Bangladesh. (Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

The North Vietnamese are making an unprecedented effort to move supplies into South Vietnam. According to an intercept of 29 October from the major North Vietnamese logistics authority near Vinh, in the first 25 days of October the authority sent south more than 5,400 vehicles, presumably carrying supplies as well as personnel. During the same period, it received some 4,300 vehicles from the north. The same message reported the transit of 92 tanks and 111 tracked vehicles. Other intercepts indicate that some of the tracked vehicles were pulling artillery pieces.

The 92 tanks could represent a North Vietnamese tank regiment deploying to South Vietnam. The heavy traffic has taken place despite muddy roads, indicating the importance of the resupply effort.

Within South Vietnam, the Communists are maintaining a fairly consistent pattern of small-scale attacks throughout the country, concentrating on major roads and waterways, as well as outposts and hamlets. We have noted some confusion among the enemy with respect to the imminence of a cease-fire.

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On 30 October the Chinese issued a government statement backing Hanoi's contention that an agreement between the US and North Vietnam is now ready for signature and blamed Washington for delays in signing.

This is Peking's strongest and most authoritative statement on the negotiations to date. It has publicly moved Peking closer to Hanoi on this issue than the Chinese have been for months. The Chinese position carefully distinguishes itself from the Soviet line on the subject. Soviet statements imply that Moscow--which has not put its propaganda machine into high gear--believes further negotiations between Washington and Hanoi may be necessary to wrap up the agreement, whereas the Chinese have aligned themselves with Hanoi in implying that further bargaining is unnecessary.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

South Vietnamese Foreign Minister Tran Van Lam said yesterday that his government is ready to sign a peace settlement if North Vietnam withdraws its troops and the interested parties can agree on the exact role of an interim body to maintain a cease-fire and supervise new elections. Lam said that Hanoi's Vietnamese-language draft describing the proposed National Council of Reconciliation and Concord clearly refers to a government structure, while the English-language version describes the council as an administrative structure, implying limited powers.

These issues have been troubling the South Vietnamese since the North released the text on 26 October.

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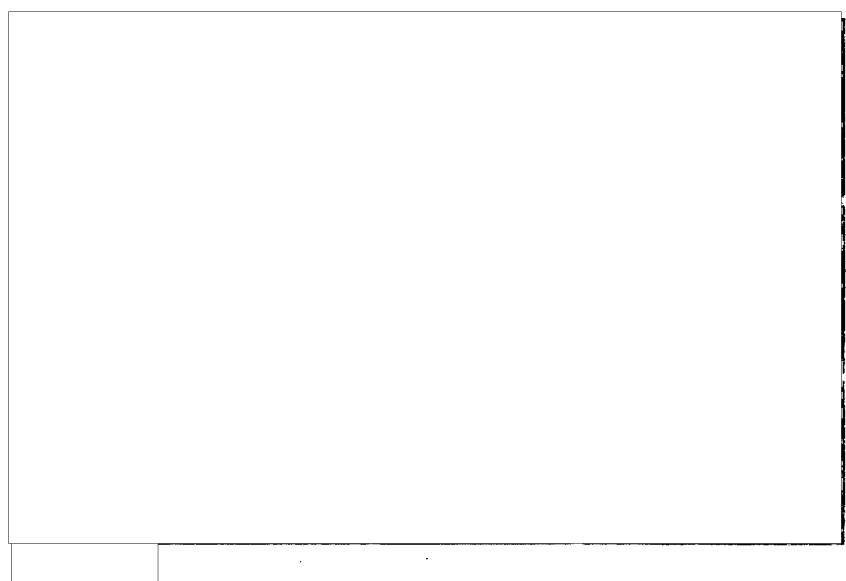
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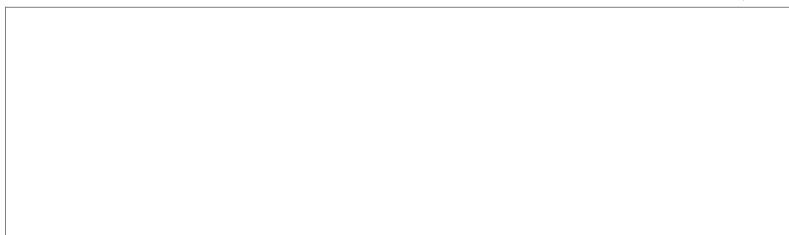
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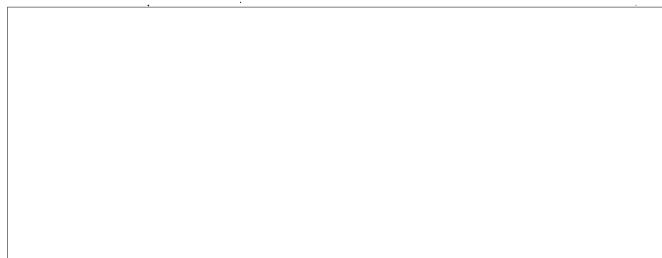
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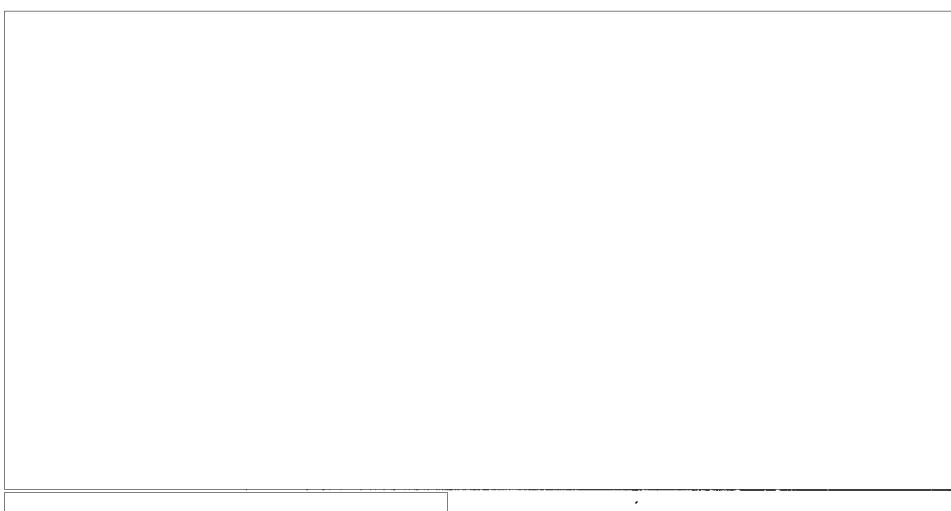
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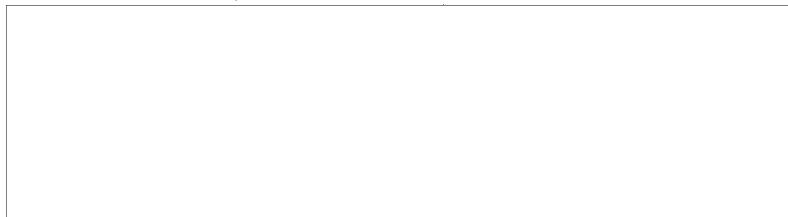


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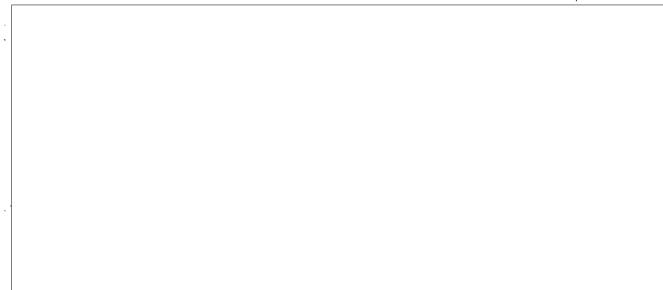
EGYPT-USSR



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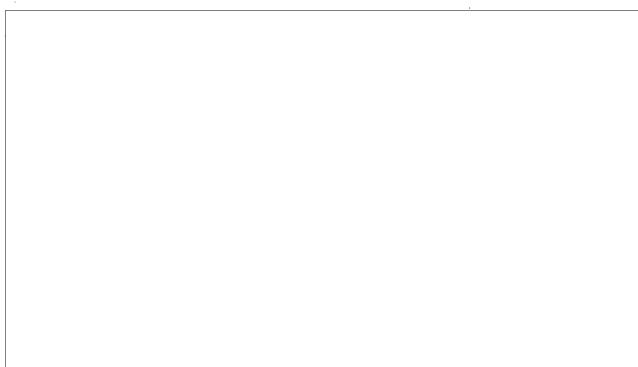
CANADA

With nearly complete returns from all election districts, Prime Minister Trudeau's Liberals won or were leading in 108, the Progressive Conservatives in 107, the New Democrats in 31, and the Social Credit Party in 16.

When Parliament was dissolved in late August, the Liberals held 147 seats, the Conservatives 73, the New Democrats 25, and the Social Credit Party 13. The Liberals held on to their power base in Quebec, but lost heavily to the Conservatives in Ontario and to a lesser extent in British Columbia, both provinces where they had expected to do much better.

Trudeau is undecided whether he will try to form a government.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH

Last week President Bhutto said in a speech that Pakistan would benefit in several ways from recognition of Bangladesh. He said he would tour Pakistan next month to put the issue to the people. Reaction from opposition parties in the Punjab was swift, and the US consul in Lahore believes that Bhutto faces a fight on this issue.

Bhutto's statement on recognition was more forthcoming than anything he has said in months. He seems to have spoken up in response to recent indications that Bangladesh is willing at least to talk over the issues with Pakistan.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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NOTES

Israel-Syria: Syria responded to Israeli air raids on fedayeen camps near Damascus with an artillery barrage on the Golan Heights yesterday morning. The Israelis retaliated with an air raid on a Syrian Army outpost. Yesterday's action against the Syrian military installation is a measure of Tel Aviv's post-Munich determination to punish the guerrillas and their hosts.

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West Germany - East Germany: [redacted]

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Bolivia: Widespread popular opposition has developed rapidly to Bolivia's devaluation of its currency by 40.6 percent. After bread prices went up by 50 percent, workers, who remember the runaway inflations that followed devaluations during the 1950s, have clashed with police and may do so again. Their protests, however, are not likely to get out of hand. Political leaders in President Banzer's coalition government are torn between retaining a share of power and fear of alienating their supporters, but so far they have publicly supported the devaluation program.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Morocco: King Hassan is planning to form a new government soon, including representatives of most political parties. After more than a month of negotiations, [redacted] has won over enough leading politicians to proceed. The King may have made some concessions to them, [redacted]

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[redacted] Ahmed Osman, to head the new government and make sure that the politicians do not seek too much political or economic power as the price for their cooperation. None of the parties involved has a broad popular following, but the announcement of their participation could help restore some public confidence in Hassan's rule.

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