

The President's Daily Brief

13 January 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 January 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

General Gowon has accepted an appeal for an armistice by General Effiong

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Page 3.

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[Redacted] Cambodia

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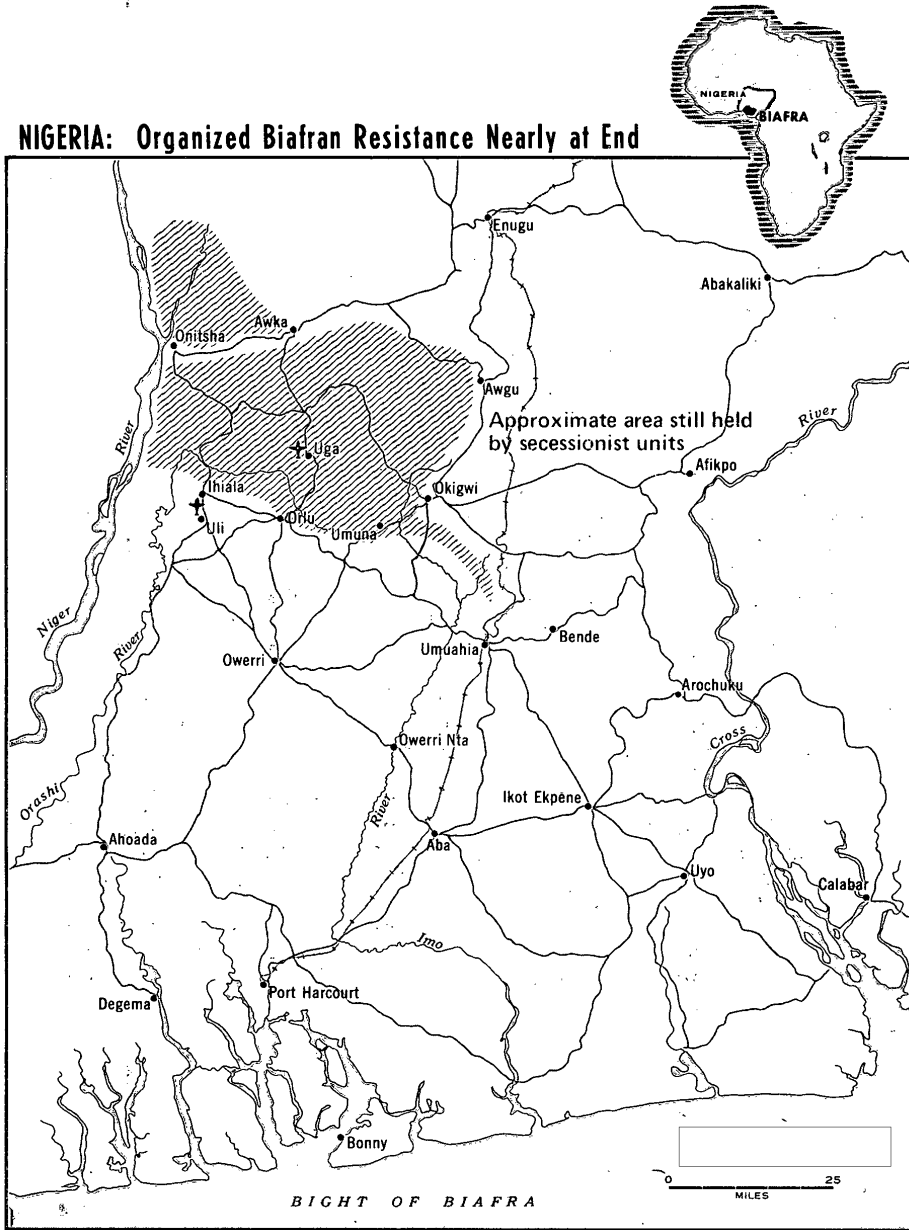
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There has been another small-scale Communist guerilla raid against the Ubon airbase in northeastern Thailand. (Page 6)

NIGERIA: Organized Biafran Resistance Nearly at End



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NIGERIA

General Gowon has accepted an appeal for an armistice by General Effiong, Biafra's administrator since Ojukwu's departure.

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The federal government, which is dominated by minority tribesmen, is willing to deal with Effiong, who is from a small Eastern tribe. Effiong promised there would be no government in exile, signaling a break with Ojukwu's stand.

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Although not an Ibo, Effiong probably has the support of most Biafran senior officers. Nevertheless, some secessionist units may continue to fight, particularly those that have held their ground against federal attacks in the north. A breakdown in Biafra's logistics system and a shortage of ammunition probably will prevent them from maintaining organized resistance for more than a few days, however.

There is little information on the fast-moving military situation on Biafra's southern front, but it appears that federal troops have occupied at least part of Ihiala airstrip. There have been no reports of atrocities by the federal division in the south.

We have no definitive word on conditions in the northern area, but it is there that we would expect atrocities if there are to be any at all. Fighting in this sector has been intense and bitter, with heavy casualties on both sides. The federal unit involved is comprised primarily of northerners who were responsible for the massacres of the Ibos in 1966.

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WEST GERMANY



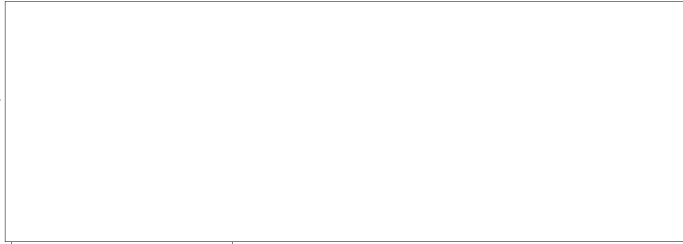
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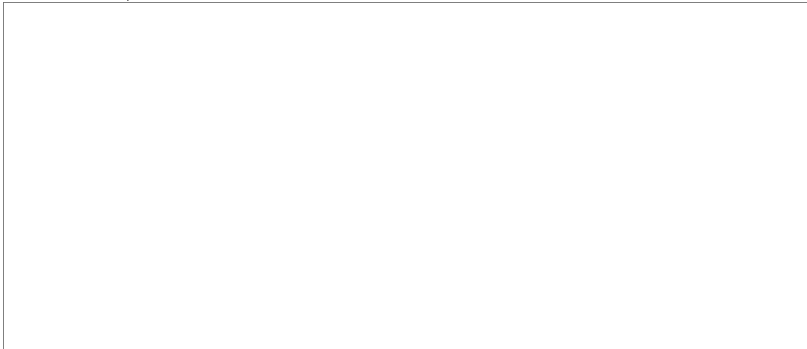
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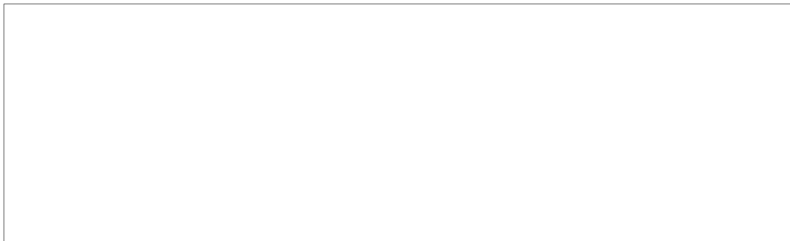
COMMUNIST CHINA - JAPAN



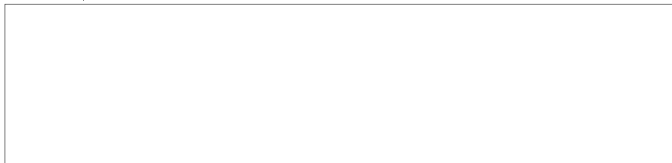
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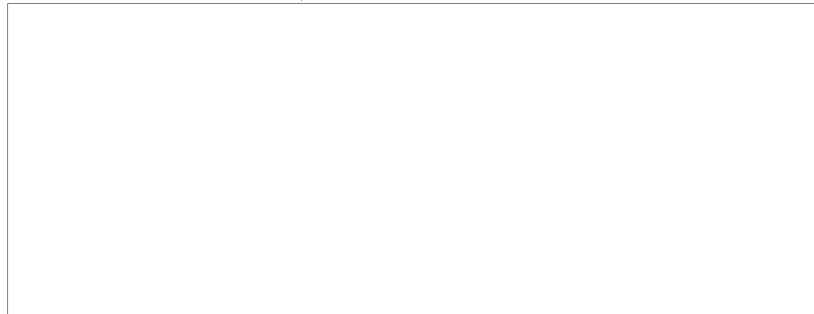
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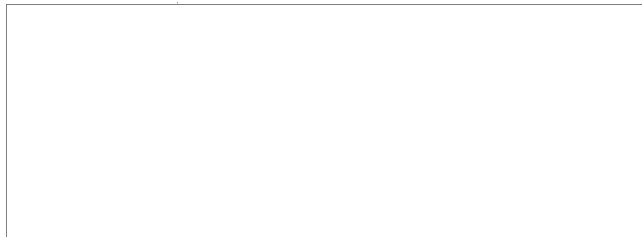
CAMBODIA



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NOTES

Thailand: Communist guerrillas yesterday carried out their second small-scale sapper raid in the last six months against the Ubon airbase in north-eastern Thailand. Five insurgents were killed and one US sentry wounded; there was no damage to US aircraft or facilities. This first repeat performance by the guerrillas against a major military target in the northeast suggests a determination on their part to present a more credible military threat. The Communists for a long time have been capable of such nuisance raids against the well-defended bases, but they have demonstrated no ability to mount a larger attack.

Venezuela: In recent weeks Caracas has been making increasingly urgent representations in anticipation of an early US decision on oil import policy. Last Friday, President Caldera took the unusual step of using a diplomatic reception at which he was host to engage the US chargé in a lengthy discussion of the matter. Caldera said that Washington's intentions toward Venezuela would be judged by the decision taken on Venezuela's share of the US oil market. He emphasized that Venezuela would be "less than satisfied" with a policy that did not accord it equal treatment with Canada.

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