

*The President's Daily Brief*

4 March 1970

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*Top Secret*



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

4 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]  
Vietnam [Redacted]  
[Redacted] (Page 1)

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[Redacted] friction between  
Egyptian officers and their Soviet advisers is dis-  
cussed on Page 2.

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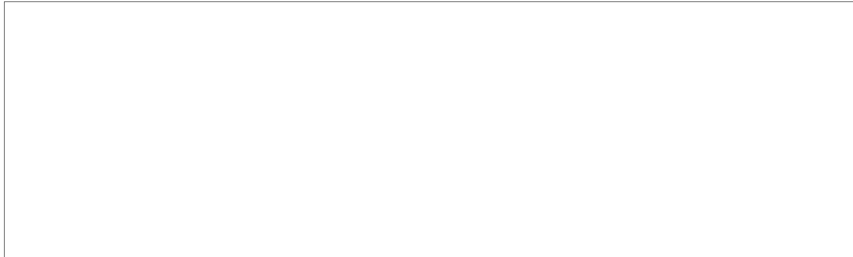
The Soviets [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
(Page 3)

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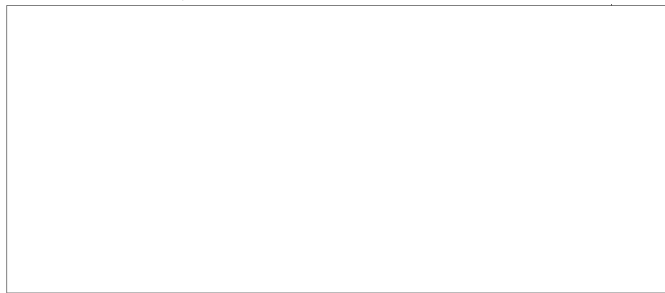
Little new fighting has been reported in Laos.  
(Page 3)

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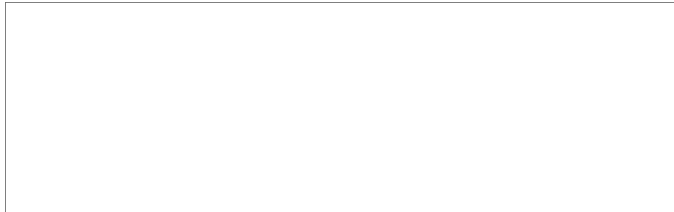
VIETNAM



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USSR-EGYPT

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

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

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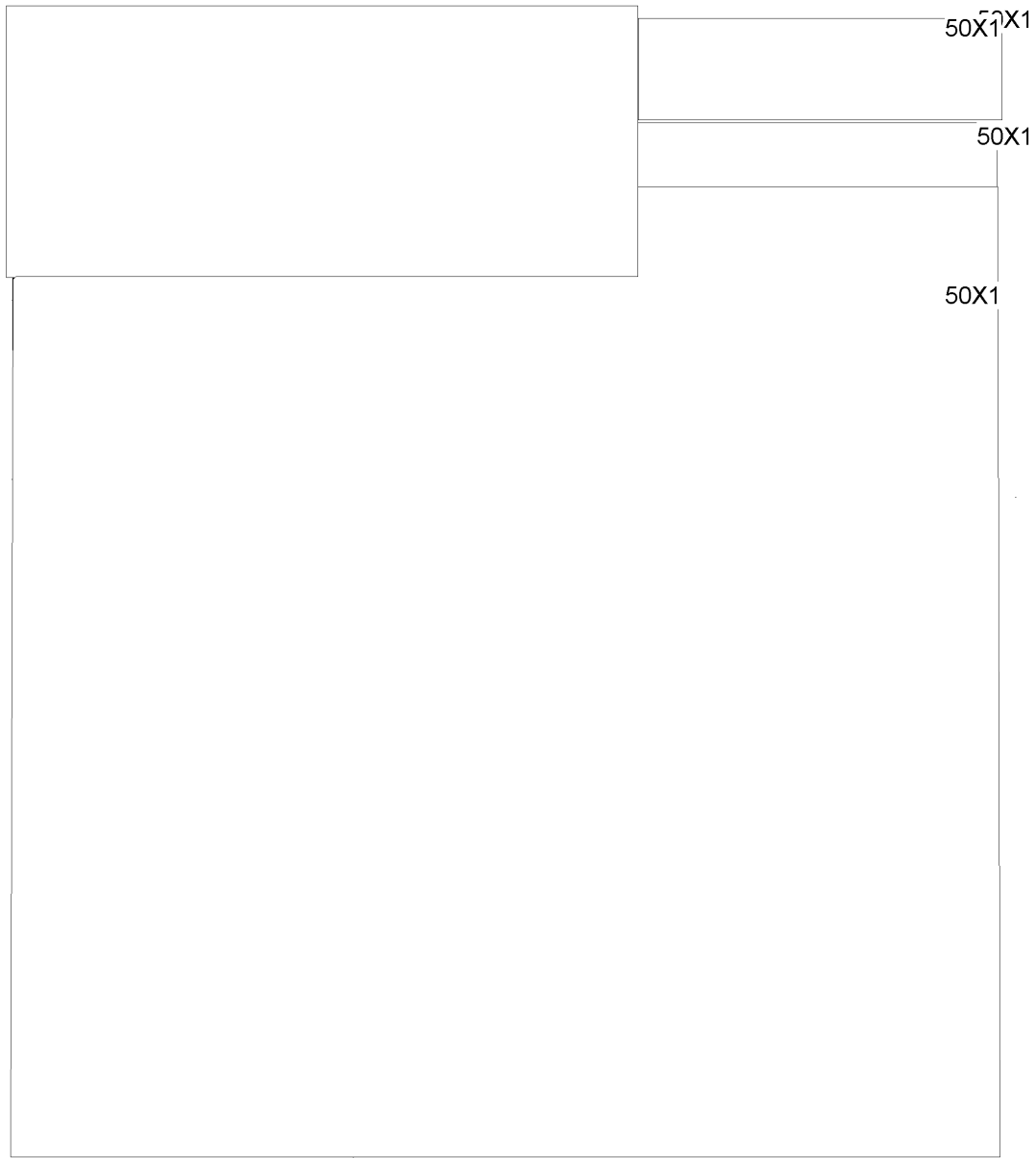
[redacted] How-  
ever unhappy, the Egyptians are not apt  
to allow ill will at this level to inter-  
fere with military operations or with in-  
tergovernmental relations.

\* \* \*

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

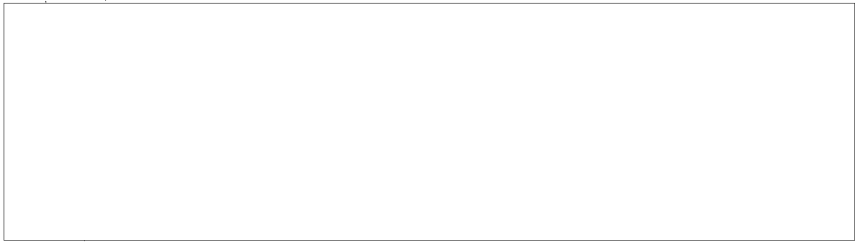
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*Details of the cargoes are unknown, but  
we suspect that aviation and air defense  
equipment made up a good part of them.  
The specialities of the technicians are  
also unknown, but Moscow may be planning  
to improve operational maintenance of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



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NOTES



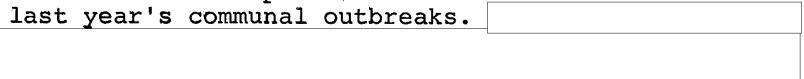
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Laos: The military situation around the Plaine des Jarres remains essentially unchanged. The Communists are limiting themselves to minor probing activity. It may be a matter of weeks before the enemy can bring up enough men and supplies to make a more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

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

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

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

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

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(continued)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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

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

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