

*The President's Daily Brief*

10 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

10 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] (Page 3)

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

Honduras [Redacted] (Page 5)

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The Soviets [Redacted] (Page 6)

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[Redacted] (Page 6)

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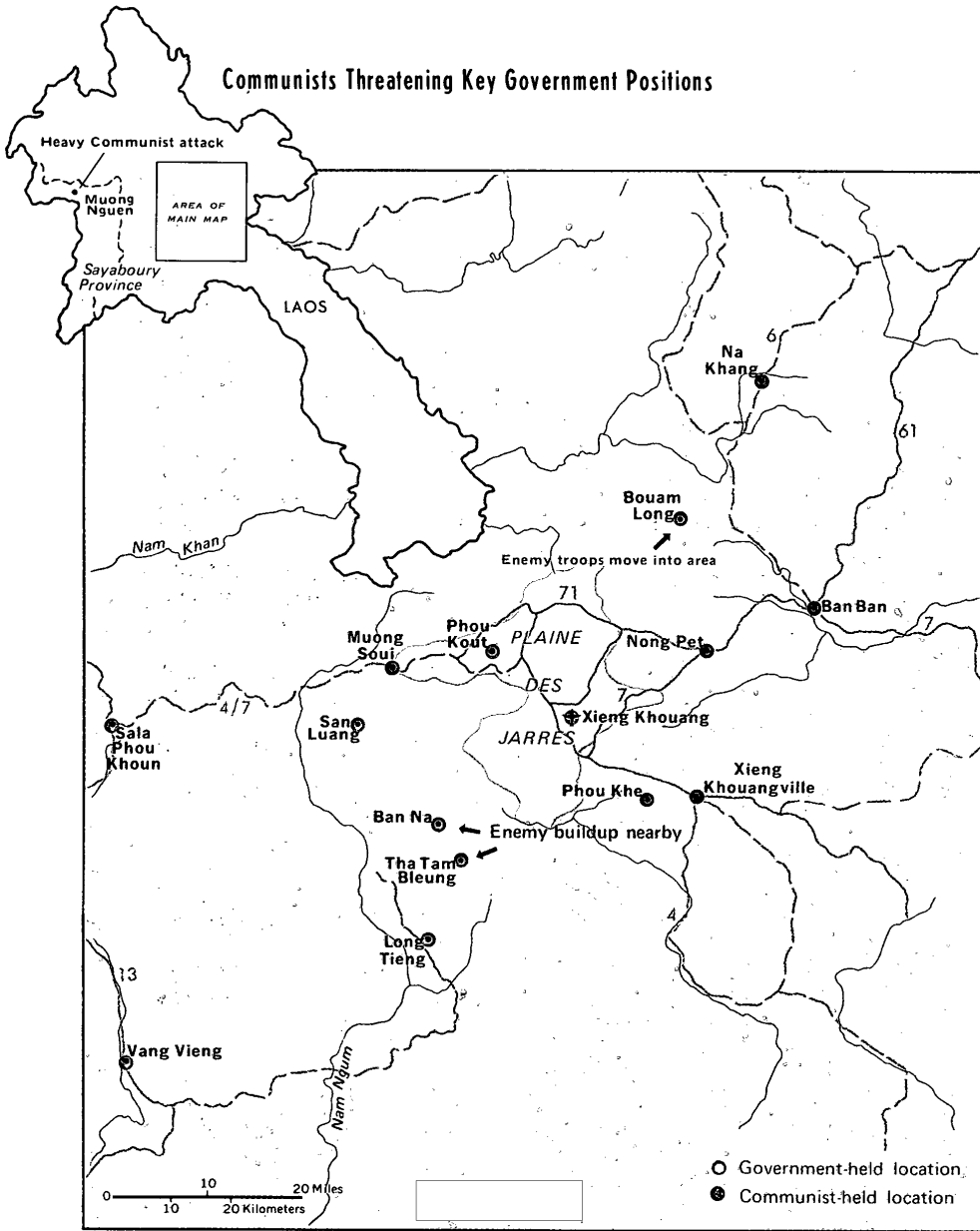
Soviet [Redacted] Egypt [Redacted]

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[Redacted] (Page 6)

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### Communists Threatening Key Government Positions



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## LAOS

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

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

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

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

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

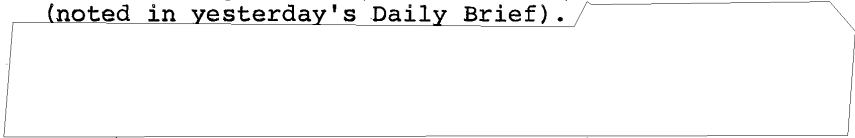
On the political scene, initial Lao Government reaction to the Communist peace proposal of 6 March has been carefully restrained. Special Assistant for Foreign Affairs Khampan Panya has characterized the Communist initiative as a "nasty sugarcoated pill." Khampan told Ambassador Godley, however, that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

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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

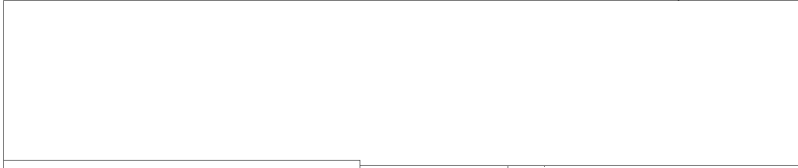


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CYPRUS



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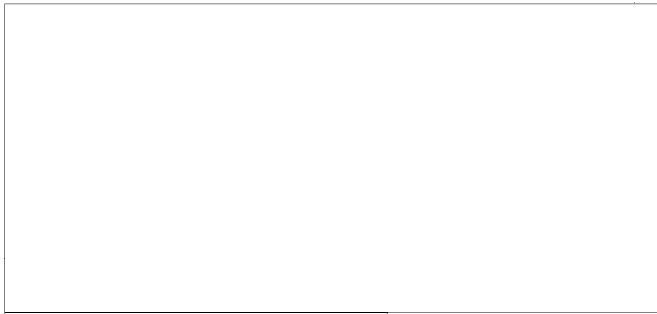
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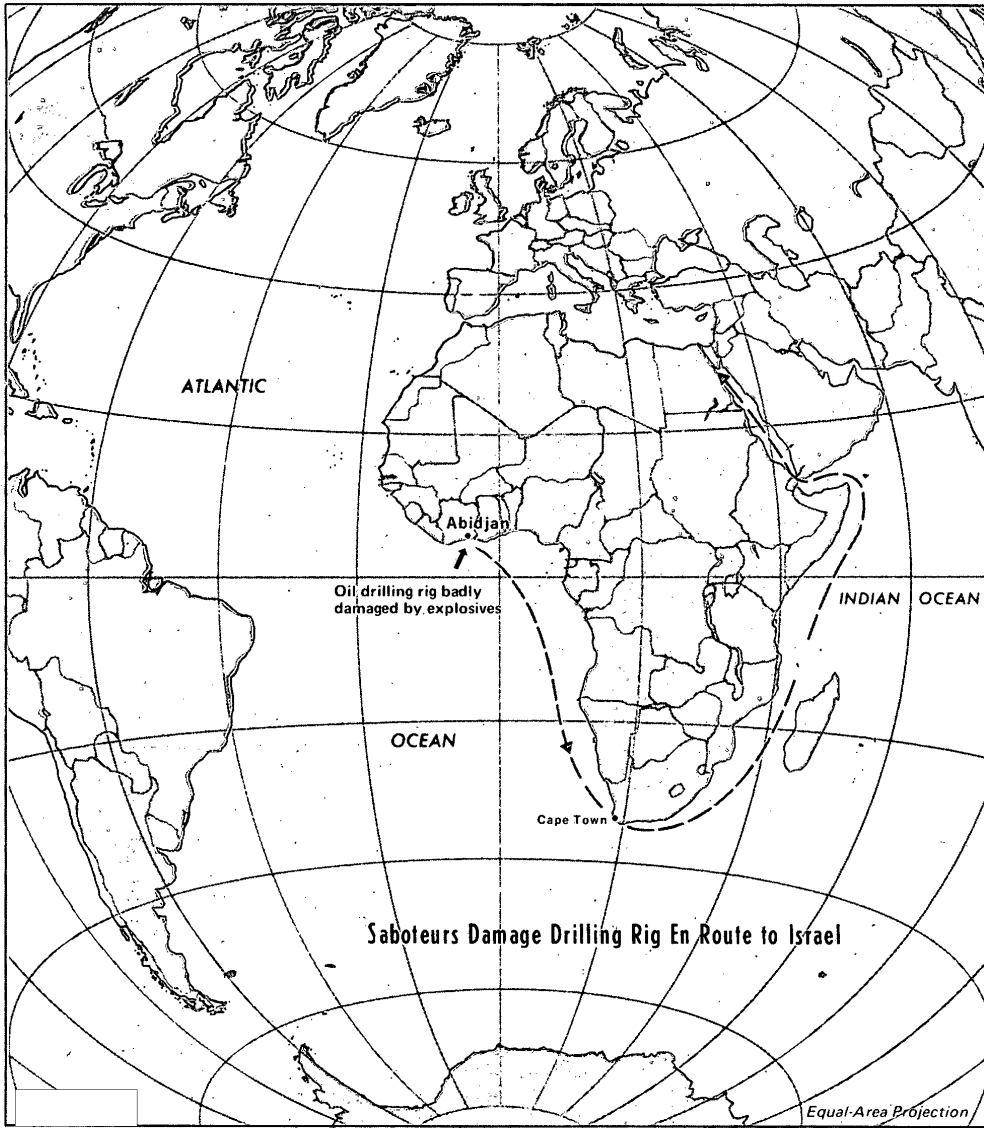
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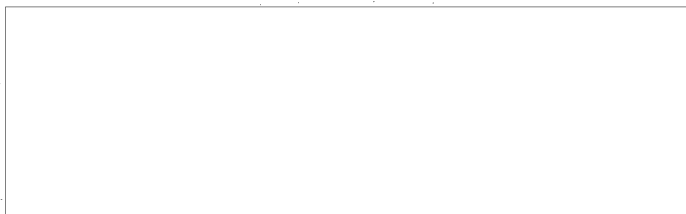


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ISRAEL-EGYPT

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



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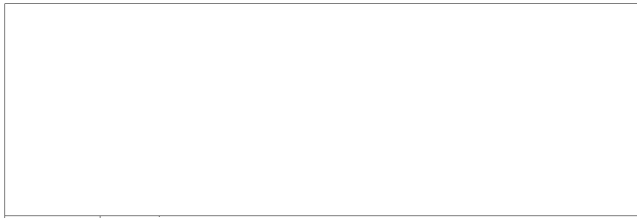


*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

HONDURAS



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NOTES

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Arab States:

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USSR-Egypt:

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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

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