



The President's Daily Brief

11 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 March 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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(Page 1)

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

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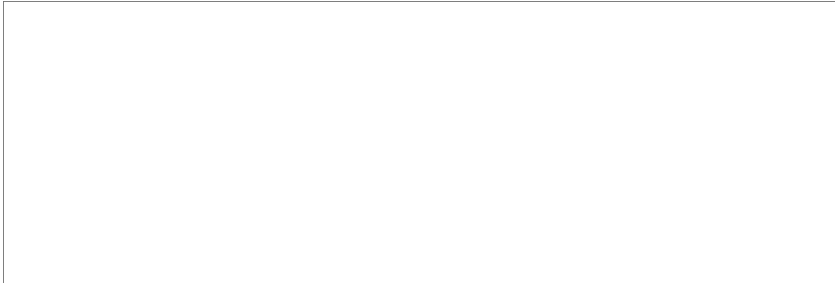
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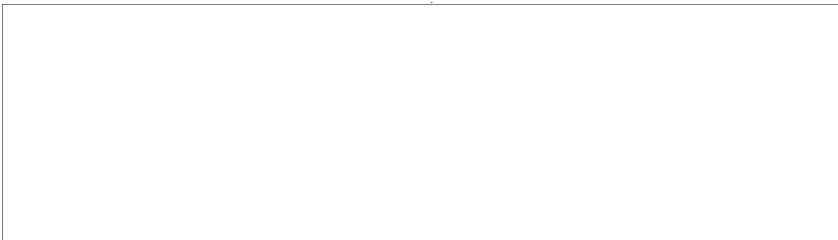
The pacification program in South Vietnam may be frustrated in some local areas by isolated Communist attacks. (Page 6)

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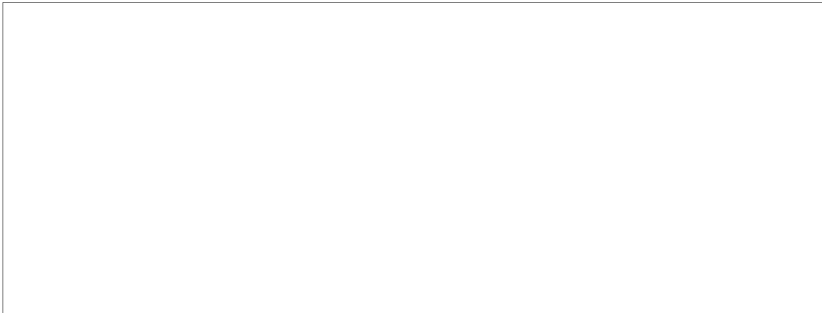
LAOS



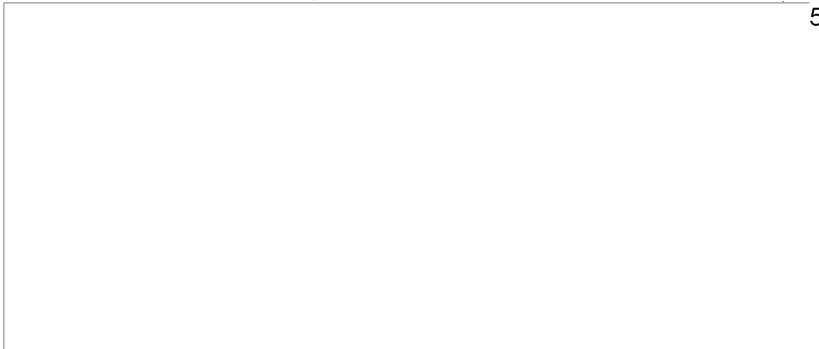
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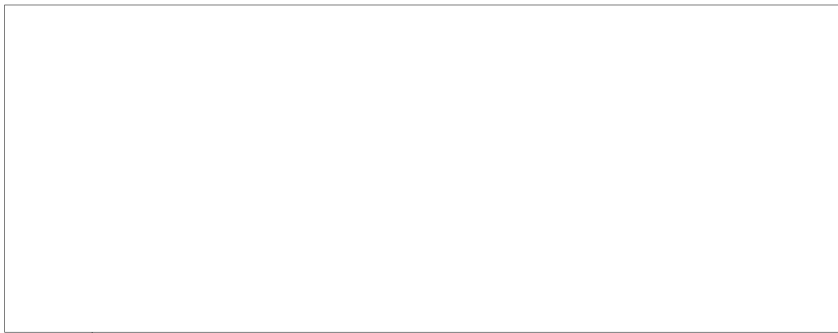


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CAMBODIA

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

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

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

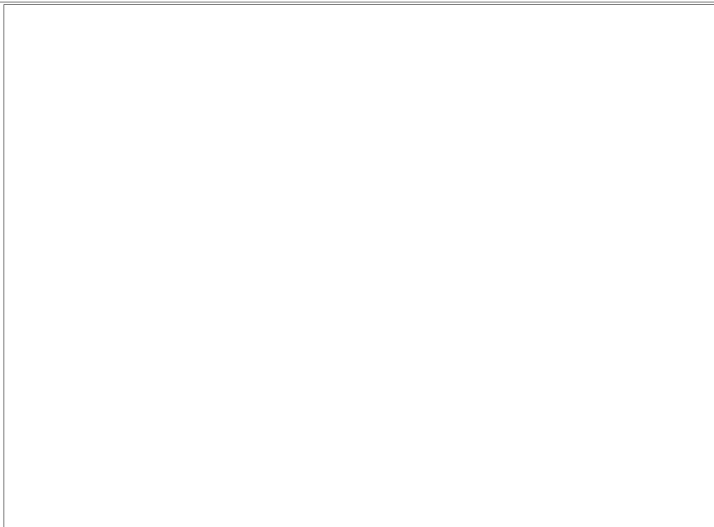
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USSR



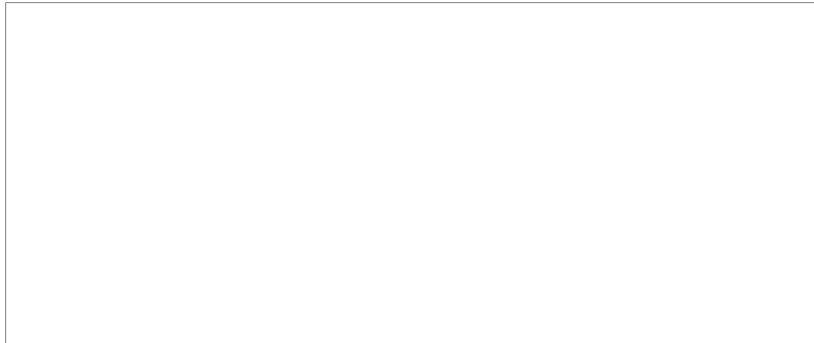
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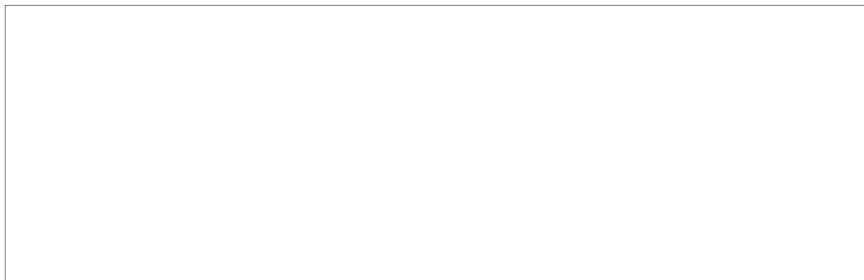
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SOUTH VIETNAM

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

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

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NOTE

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

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