



The President's Daily Brief

31 March 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

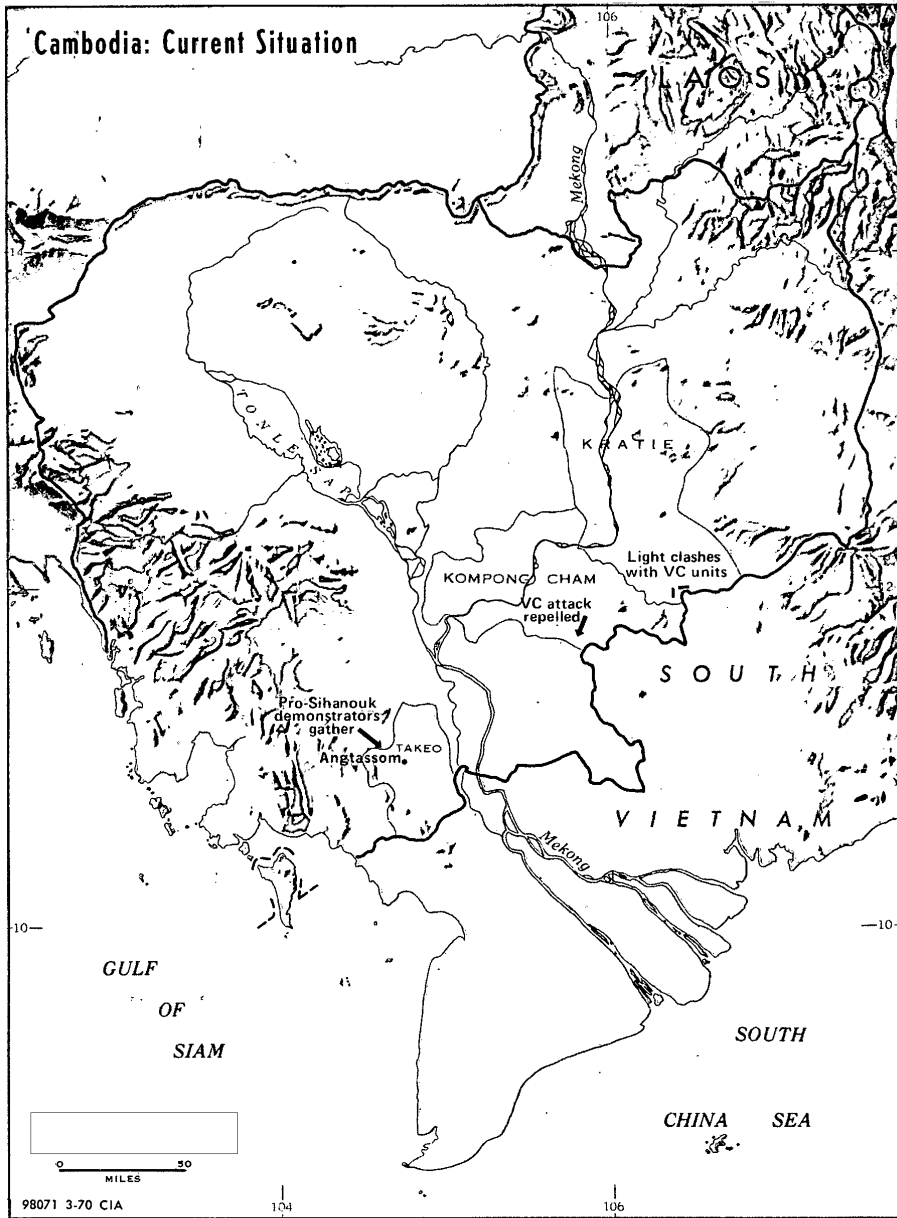
The new Cambodian Government has requested international support against external threats. *(Page 1)*

In Laos, government forces have made some progress in the seesaw battle for control of the Long Tieng area. *(Page 2)*

Recent satellite photography has uncovered a new surface-to-surface missile launch site in Communist China. *(Page 3)*

The Ansar sect's rebellion against the Sudanese Government is spreading. *(Page 4)*

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CAMBODIA

Yesterday Prime Minister Lon Nol publicly appealed to the United Nations for an observer team to verify Communist border violations. Nol also indicated that he may eventually ask friendly countries, including the US, for military materiel. On the same day the Philippine ambassador in Phnom Penh, acting as an intermediary for the Cambodian Government, asked Chargé Rives if the US would jam Communist radio broadcasts that relay Sihanouk's appeals for support, or provide Phnom Penh with the gear to do so itself.

The government seems anxious to enlist international support to meet what it considers a growing Communist threat. To dramatize its plight Phnom Penh claims that sizable numbers of Vietnamese Communist troops have made deep penetrations into Cambodian territory. There is no evidence that these incursions have taken place.

There are reports of Communist attacks against Cambodian border positions, but these raids merely reflect the Communists' interest in strengthening their hold over sanctuary areas. Some areas of the border are still quiet, with little or no Communist offensive activity reported.

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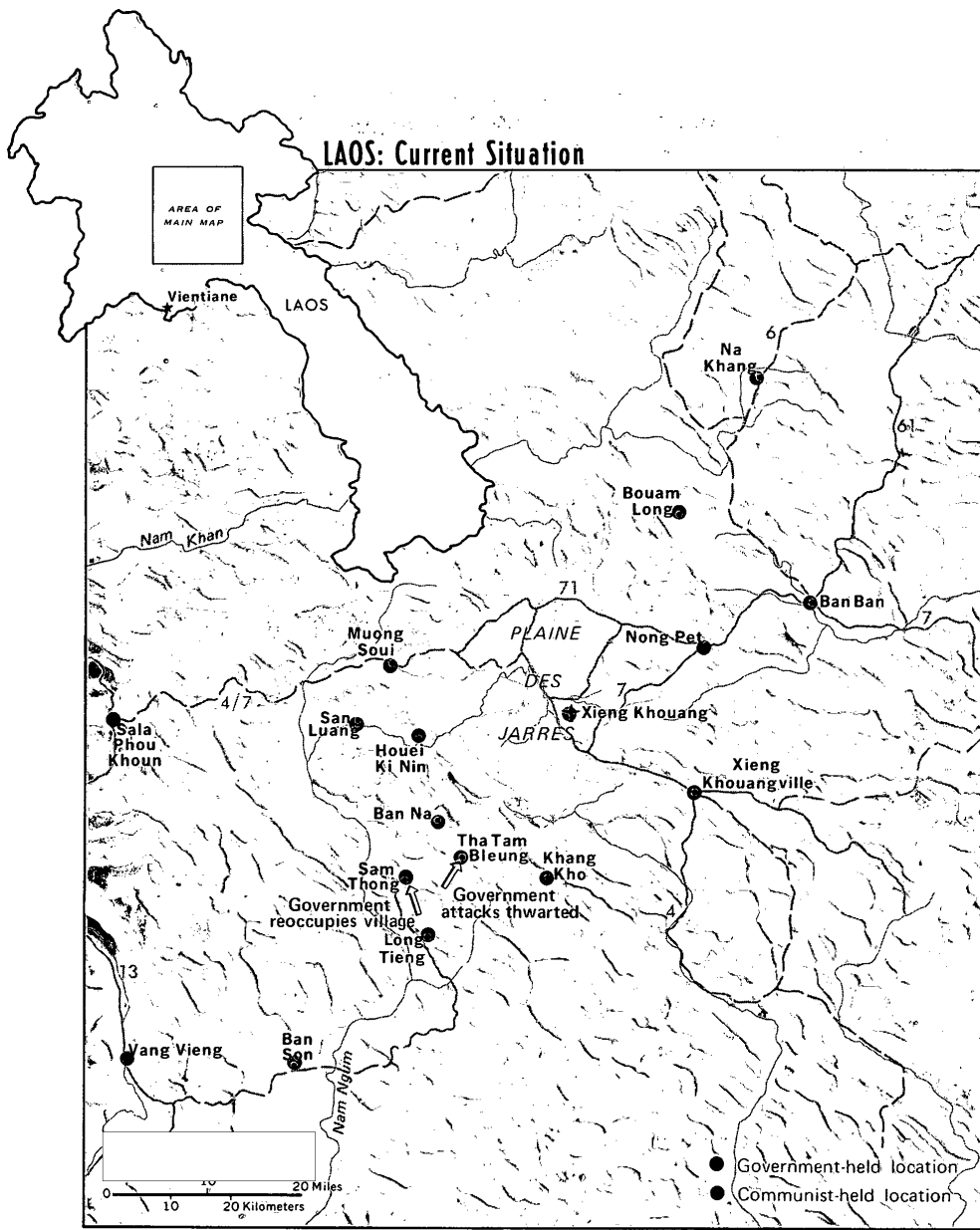
There have been no new antigovernment demonstrations in major provincial towns. Western correspondents have encountered some bands of machete-wielding Sihanouk partisans on several main roads south of Phnom Penh, however.

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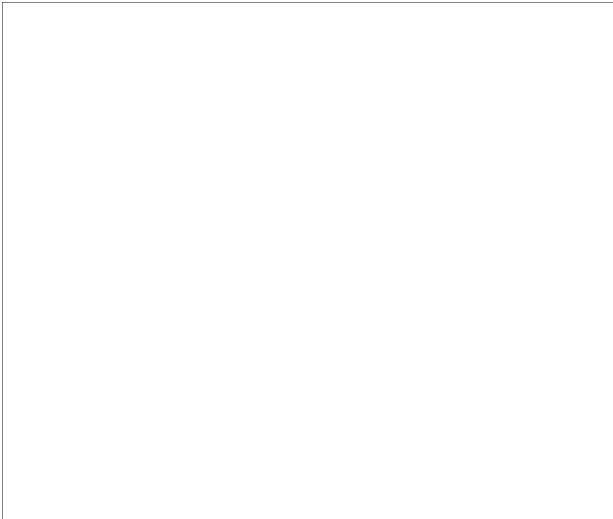
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LAOS

North Vietnamese troops just outside Sam Thong have withdrawn several miles to the northeast in the face of a government sweep operation. The village is now in the hands of the government, and its troops are moving against the last remaining enemy position in the Sam Thong area, about one mile to the east.

Recent government advances have boosted troop morale, but Vang Pao's forces still have a long way to go before the approaches to Long Tieng can be considered secure. There are some 3,000 North Vietnamese troops operating in the area, and additional enemy reinforcements should arrive in the area in the next few days.

Improving weather conditions have aided heavy air strikes against enemy positions, but so far government efforts to reoccupy territory northeast of Long Tieng have been strongly rebuffed. Yesterday, for example, government guerrillas again failed to push a well-entrenched North Vietnamese force off the high ground near Tha Tam Bleung.



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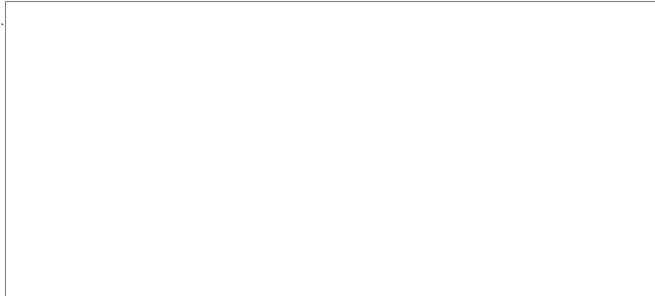
COMMUNIST CHINA

The first surface-to-surface missile launch site to be identified in China outside the Shuang-cheng-tzu missile test center has shown up in satellite photography [redacted] The site is located near Wu-chai, about 225 miles southwest of Peking and approximately 600 miles east of the missile test center. It consists of a single soft launch pad with a small support area nearby and appears similar to the two MRBM launch complexes at Shuang-cheng-tzu.

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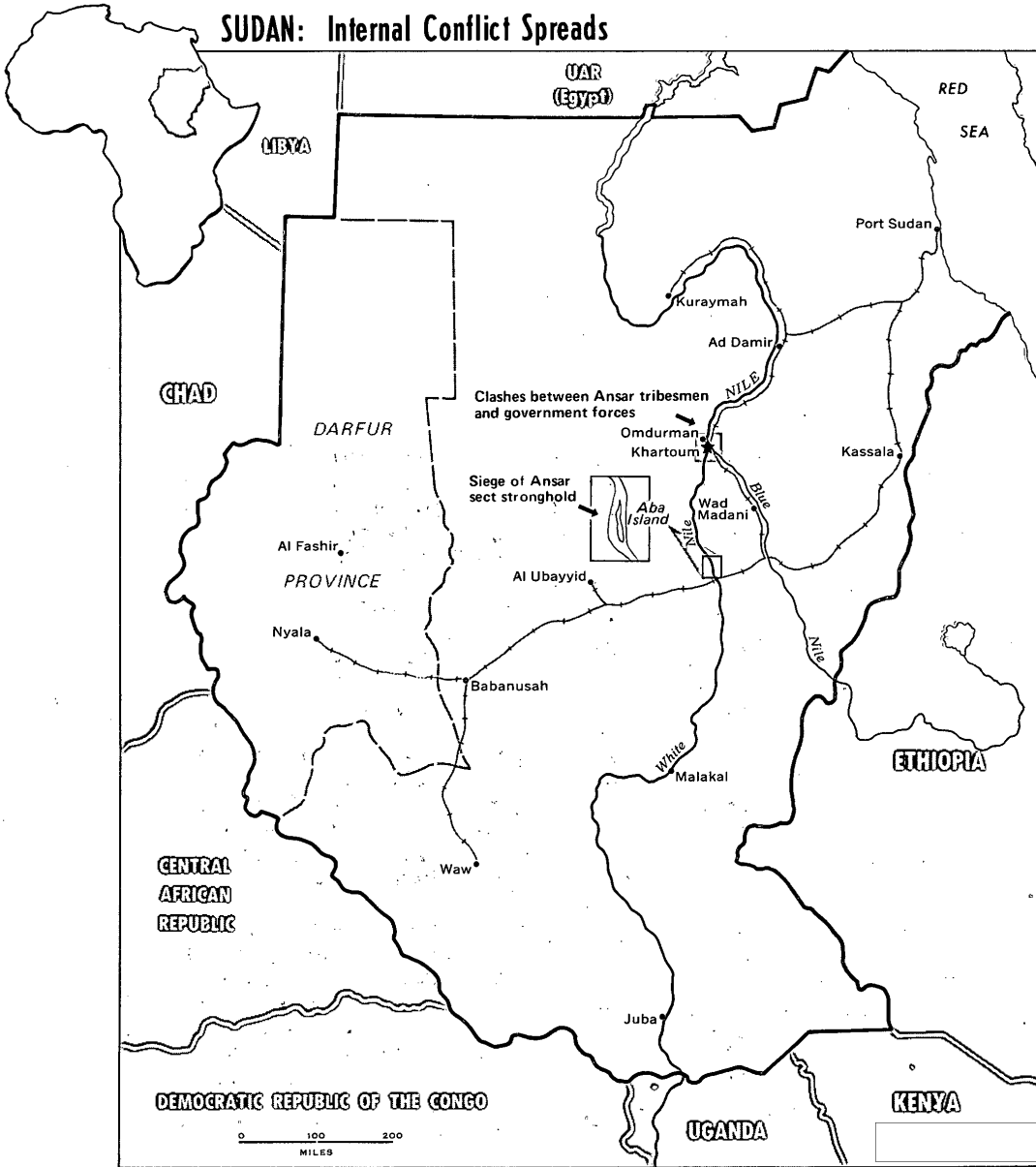
The photography also disclosed several excavations within several miles of the site which may become new launch sites or support facilities for the existing site. No equipment was visible, but a search is being made of earlier photography for further evidence of the site's status.

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SUDAN: Internal Conflict Spreads



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SUDAN

The struggle between the Ansar sect and the government widened Easter morning with the eruption of civil strife in the Khartoum-Omdurman area. Around Omdurman Sunday, it took reinforced army units eight hours to subdue the Imam's supporters.

This sharp resistance may encourage Ansar sympathizers concentrated in central and western Sudan to move against local army units.

The Ansar Imam and his followers are still holding out against army units from their tribal redoubt at Aba Island, and this is where the government faces its severest test.

The Numayri regime is still pondering its next move against Aba Island. Government tanks and fighter aircraft are available, but Khartoum's uncertainty about the cost of taking the stronghold has thus far forestalled decisive action. Numayri's latest public statement on the situation merely threatened the Imam with force if "warnings went unheeded."

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