

The President's Daily Brief

18 April 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 April 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted] Cambodia. (Page 1)

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In Laos, both sides are still holding back. (Page 4)

The fedayeen are capitalizing on the new squabble between Jordan and the United States. (Page 4)

Guatemala [Redacted] (Page 4)

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CAMBODIA

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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There are signs that the Vietnamese Communists along the border are suffering from temporary shortages, but once they adjust their logistics pipeline along the trails from Laos, they probably will be adequately supplied. The government's statements during the past week indicate that it now is taking a much more serious view of the military threat posed by the Communists.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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(continued)

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Both the French and the Japanese are treating Cambodia's appeal for military aid with considerable reserve. The French ambassador in Washington said on 16 April that Paris does not intend to increase military assistance to Cambodia over last year's program or to speed up deliveries already planned. In Tokyo, a foreign official has said that no decision would be made on aid to Cambodia until after mid-May.

[Redacted]

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(continued)

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Cambodian Army units have reported little new Communist offensive activity. According to press reports, Cambodian soldiers killed more than 100 Vietnamese civilians being held in a detention camp in Takeo Province. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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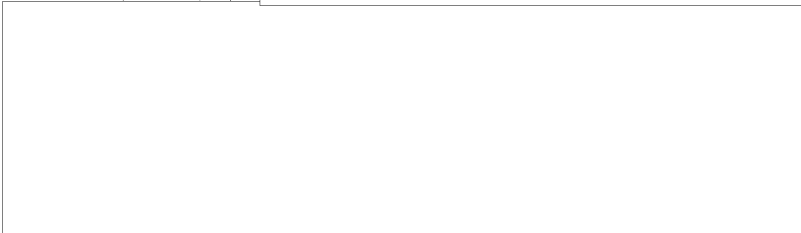
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NOTES

Laos: There was little significant ground action around the Long Tieng area yesterday, although a strategic highpoint some eight miles north of Vang Pao's headquarters changed hands several times before government forces finally took it and held it. Elements of the North Vietnamese 312th Division may be joining the battle for Long Tieng, perhaps as replacements for elements of the 316th. It is still too early to say if these developments portend a major shift southwestward in the division's area of operations.

Jordan-Lebanon: The fedayeen are using Assistant Secretary Sisco's Middle East tour as an occasion to challenge the authority of the governments of Jordan and Lebanon. The cancellation of Sisco's visit to Amman is generally regarded as a blow to the King's prestige, one which publicly calls into question his ability to control the fedayeen. In Lebanon, Interior Minister Jumblatt has decided not to interfere with Palestinian-organized demonstrations being staged in connection with Sisco's scheduled visit there. The precarious truce between the fedayeen and the Lebanese security forces could be ended by forceful government measures to prevent disorders similar to those in Amman.

Guatemala:



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Two more political assassinations occurred this week--the victims were both minor functionaries in President-elect Arana's party.

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