



The President's Daily Brief

28 April 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists continue to apply military pressure on the new Cambodian Government. (Page 1)

Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik's proposal for a conference on Cambodia has received encouraging support from several Asian nations. (Page 3)

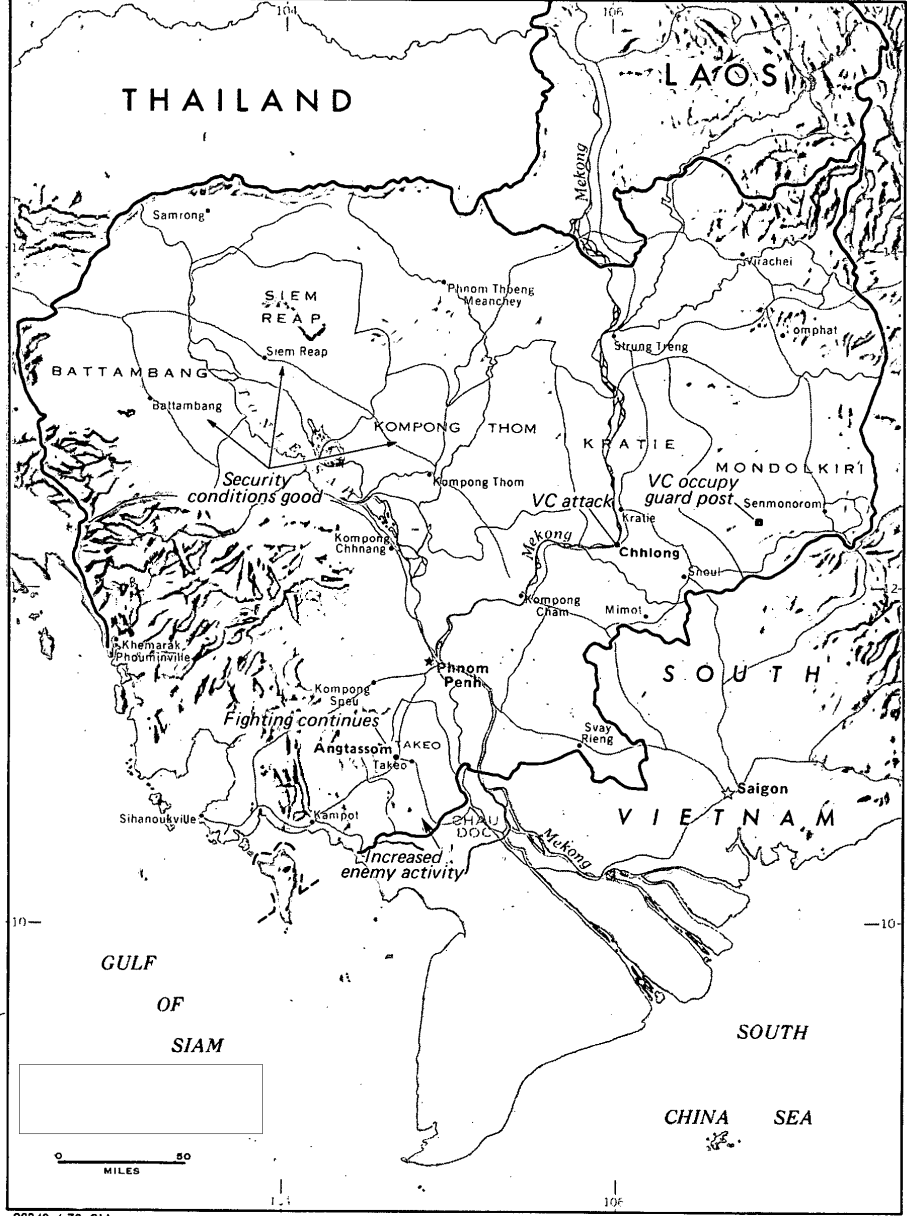
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CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Communist attacks continue. A Viet Cong force of undetermined size attacked the town of Chhlong in Kratie Province on the night of 27-28 April. Communist elements recently have been forcing government units out of their positions south of Chhlong, and this attack appears designed further to limit government activities east of the Mekong River. In adjacent Mondolkiri Province, 200 Communist troops occupied a government guard post well to the west of the provincial capital.

A senior Cambodian official claims that the town of Angtassom in Takeo Province is back under government control, but some fighting apparently is still going on around the town.

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The Communists gave Sihanouk star billing at last weekend's "summit conference" of Indochinese Communist luminaries. The conference was attended by delegations from North Vietnam's Fatherland Front, the Viet Cong's Liberation Front, the Pathet Lao, and Sihanouk's "Cambodian liberation movement."

(continued)

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North Vietnam Premier Pham Van Dong was one of the few government representatives at the meeting and the Communists may continue to use front organizations to deal with the problems of Indochina in the future. The conference concentrated on Cambodia, but concluded with pledges of solidarity and of mutual support in the respective wars in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam against the "common enemy."

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ASIAN CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIA

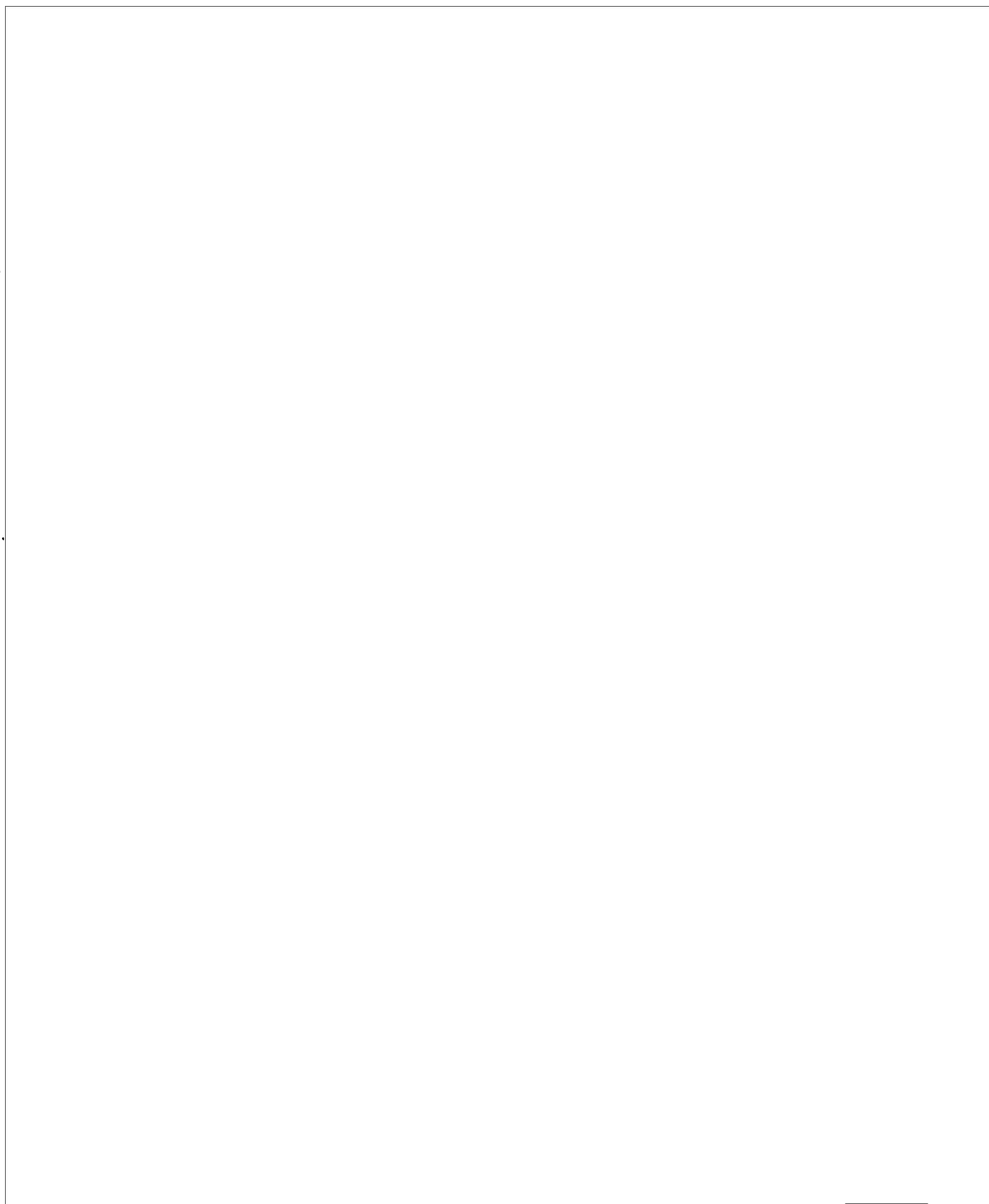
Indonesia's effort to organize an Asian conference on Cambodia is gathering momentum. Djakarta's principal backers in the enterprise--Australia, New Zealand, and Thailand--are encouraging Foreign Minister Adam Malik to stage the conference within two weeks or sooner. Japan has shelved its own proposal for a meeting in order to support Malik's initiative. According to the Indonesian press, Malik has invited 21 states.

As now conceived by Malik, the conference would focus on the immediate problem of Cambodia, rather than on all of Indochina. It would call for a guarantee of Cambodian neutrality, prevention of external interference in its affairs, and reactivation of the International Control Commission. North Vietnam and China have already stated their opposition. The Soviet Union was not invited, but its public disapproval of the conference might tend to give such countries as India pause.

A major stumbling block in organizing a conference has been Malik's penchant for discussing ideas with the press before the necessary approaches had been made to most of the potential invitees. The questions of where the conference is to be held and who is to foot the bill are also still unresolved.

Although a conference would probably have little practical effect on Communist activities or strategy in Cambodia, it would give the Phnom Penh government a measure of political support that has been lacking up to now. Those Asian officials who have commented on Malik's proposal feel that whatever the effect of the conference on Cambodia, the fact of Asian initiative and follow-through is in itself worthy of support.

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