



The President's Daily Brief

22 May 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 May 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Israelis

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Communist insurgency is increasing in western Cambodia. In Phnom Penh, Cambodian students are incensed over the alleged misbehavior of ARVN troops. (Page 3)

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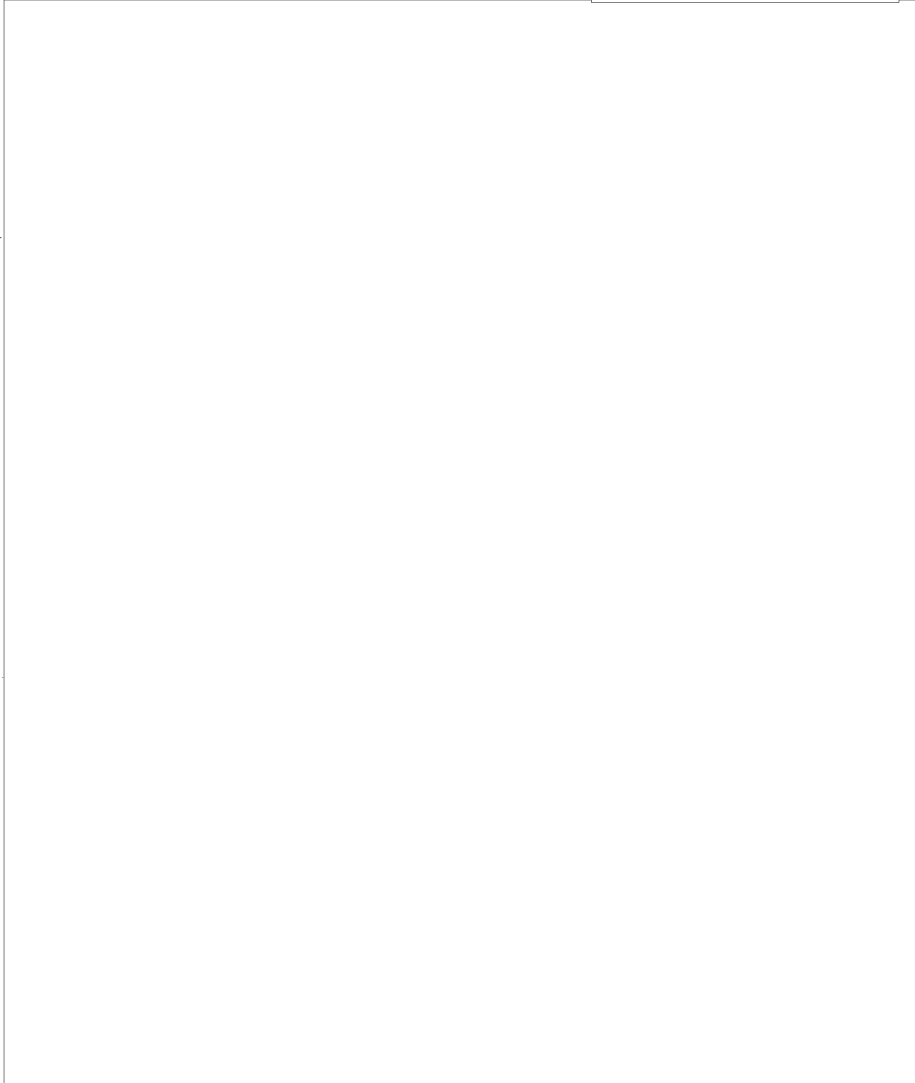
China. (Page 5)

Romania's serious flood damage has gone unnoticed in the USSR. (Page 5)

East German Premier Stoph relied on old formulas during his meeting with Chancellor Brandt yesterday. (Page 5)



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USSR-ISRAEL

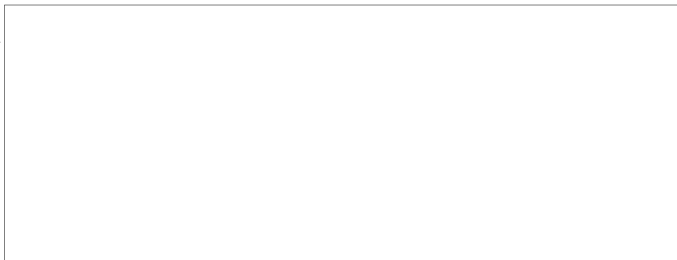
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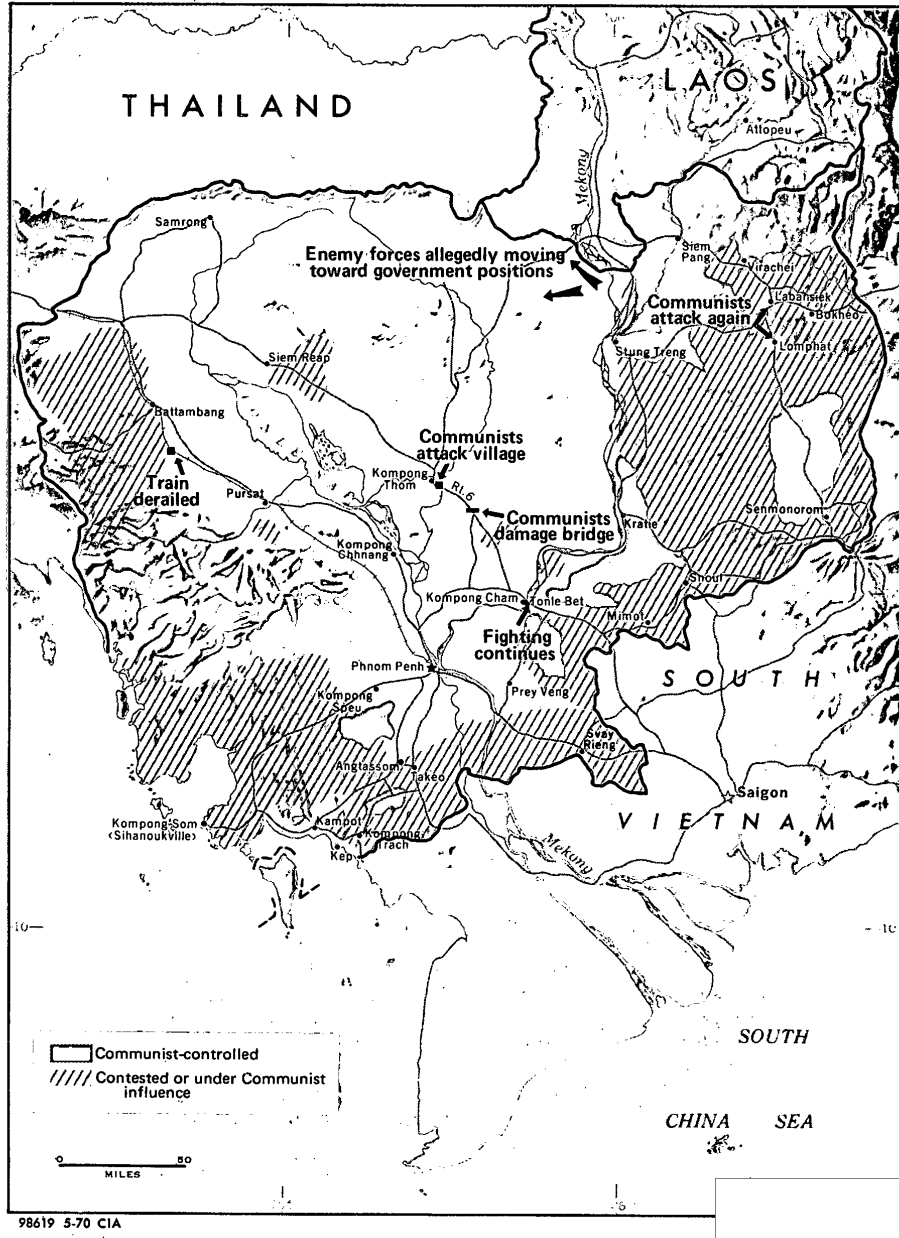


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Cambodia: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

The Communists are becoming more active in western Cambodia. Service was interrupted for the first time on the rail link between Battambang and Phnom Penh when a train was derailed on 20 May. The Communists also damaged a bridge on Route 6, which connects the Cambodian capital with Siem Reap city. Both actions probably were carried out by indigenous Cambodian Communist insurgents.

Small insurgent groups have been asking plantation owners in Battambang Province to stop planting rice, implying that they would take measures to enforce such a ban. Some of the smaller landholders have stopped planting operations, but the larger planters claim they will not be intimidated by the insurgents. Battambang is Cambodia's major rice producing area, and disruption there would place additional strains on the economy.

In Kompong Cham Province, the government has again attacked the town of Tonle Bet on the east bank of the Mekong. The brunt of the fighting is being borne by a battalion of Cambodian mercenary troops. South Vietnamese army officers have been highly critical of the Cambodian Army's inept efforts in Kompong Cham. They blame Lon Nol for failing to give regional Cambodian forces any clear and comprehensive defense directives, particularly in this province, and they are pessimistic over the eventual military outcome in Cambodia.

To the north of Kompong Cham Province, an army message reported that an enemy force attacked a village several miles east of the provincial capital of Kompong Thom, and destroyed a bridge. Large Communist troop movements have also been reported farther north. In Ratanakiri Province, the towns of Lomphat and Labansiek were attacked again on 20 May, but details on the fighting are not available. Government defenders at Labansiek reportedly have exhausted their food supplies.

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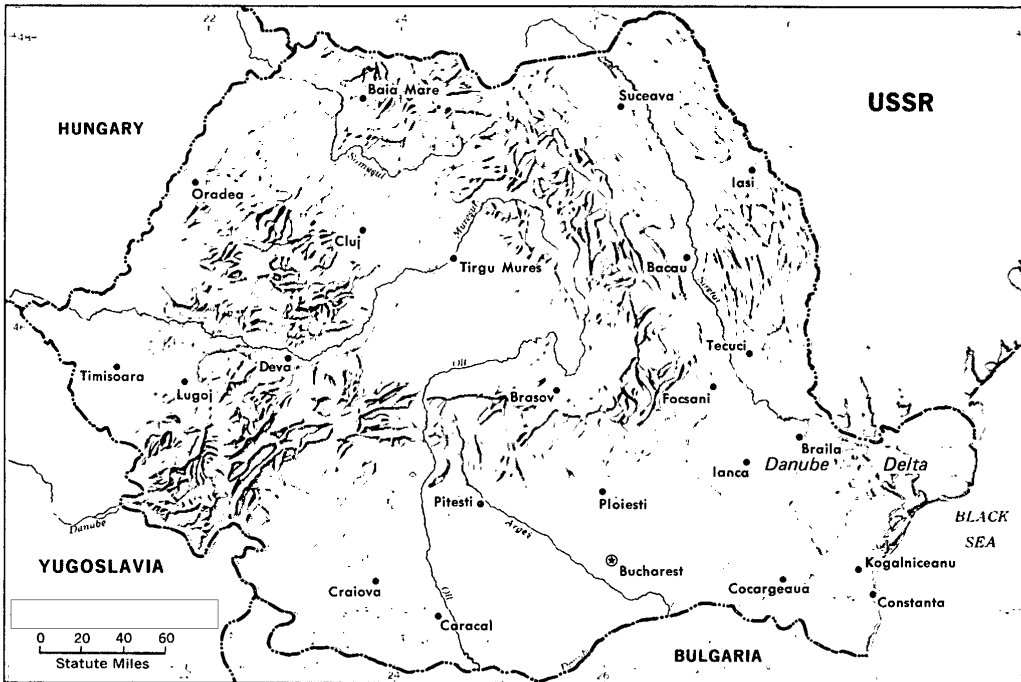
Reports circulating in Phnom Penh about South Vietnamese troops looting and raping in Cambodian villages are complicating matters for the Lon Nol government. An army unit in Svay Rieng Province on 19 May asked for Phnom Penh's intervention to stop these activities, and the Cambodian National Assembly discussed the problem on 20 May.

Cambodian students reacted to these reports yesterday by displaying signs which hold the US responsible for the "barbarous" behavior of South Vietnamese troops and ask for additional Cambodian mercenaries to help chase out South as well as North Vietnamese invaders.

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Recent Floods Causing Extensive Damage in ROMANIA

General area of major flooding



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NOTES

Communist China:

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Romania: Nearly one-half of Romania has suffered serious flood damage, and rains are continuing in many parts of the country. The death toll is over 100, with approximately 120,000 homeless and over a million acres of farm land under water. Flood waters have subsided slightly in the north, but southern Romania is in grave danger from the Danube and its tributaries. East Germany and Yugoslavia are the only Communist countries to offer relief thus far. The USSR, which is also affected by the floods, has not offered to help, although the Soviets had ample opportunity during President Ceausescu's visit to Moscow early this week.

East Germany - West Germany: Preliminary reports from the Kassel summit talks yesterday indicate that Premier Stoph simply repeated familiar demands and avoided a substantive exchange on the 20 points in Chancellor Brandt's treaty proposal. Brandt upheld the idea that the two states belong to a single nation, but he did not offer full recognition under international law as Pankow insists. In view of the complexity of these negotiations, East Germany will need time to digest Brandt's proposals, and the possibility of holding additional discussions to reach a modus vivendi remains open.

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