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*The President's Daily Brief*

*1 July 1970*

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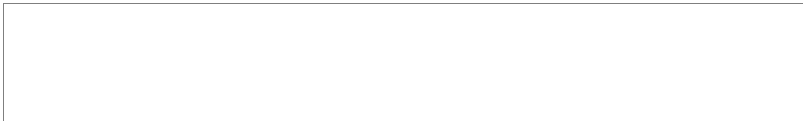
*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Enemy military pressure is increasing in western Cambodia. (Page 1)



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Peking's recent public attacks against the US seem designed to please its Asian allies at the expense of Moscow. (Page 5)

Anti-Americanism is on the rise in South Vietnam. (Page 6)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*



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CAMBODIA

Enemy forces continue to move through western Kompong Thom Province, propagandizing villagers and setting up administrations in villages they now occupy near Kompong Thom city. [redacted]

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[redacted] on 29 June that enemy troops are moving toward the town from the west and north; [redacted] The Communists have beaten back a government relief column which was headed toward Kompong Thom on Route 6. The government forces have been ordered to withdraw south toward Phnom Penh after running into heavy enemy pressure.

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On the night of 27 June, Communist troops in Siem Reap Province destroyed a bridge between the capital and the town of Phnom Krom, near the eastern shore of the Tonle Sap. [redacted] Phnom Krom is now held by the Communists, who have emplaced heavy weapons there. Siem Reap city was harassed again by light mortar fire during the night of 29 June, but there were no casualties.

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[redacted] the enemy plans to replace Vietnamese Communist forces now occupying the Angkor ruins area with Cambodian Communist elements. The object is to substantiate propaganda claims that Angkor is held by Sihanouk's "army." The Cambodians also allege that Lao Communist troops are in the Siem Reap - Kompong Thom area, but we have no confirmation of this.

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Enemy attacks on the besieged Lovek munitions depot in Kompong Chhnang Province continue. South Vietnamese reinforcements have reached Lovek. Some Communist troops were said to be concentrated just north of Kompong Chhnang city on 27 June, and an army message has indicated an enemy "heavy weapons battalion" is moving from western Kompong Cham Province toward the town.

One of the government's last remaining outposts in Preah Vihear Province was attacked yesterday [redacted]

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[redacted] About 300 Cambodian Army troops are defending the post at Ban Phai, near the Thai border. Several Thai border police platoons have moved into defensive positions on the Thai side of the border. Some Thai Army troops are also being moved from Ubon for duty along this sector.

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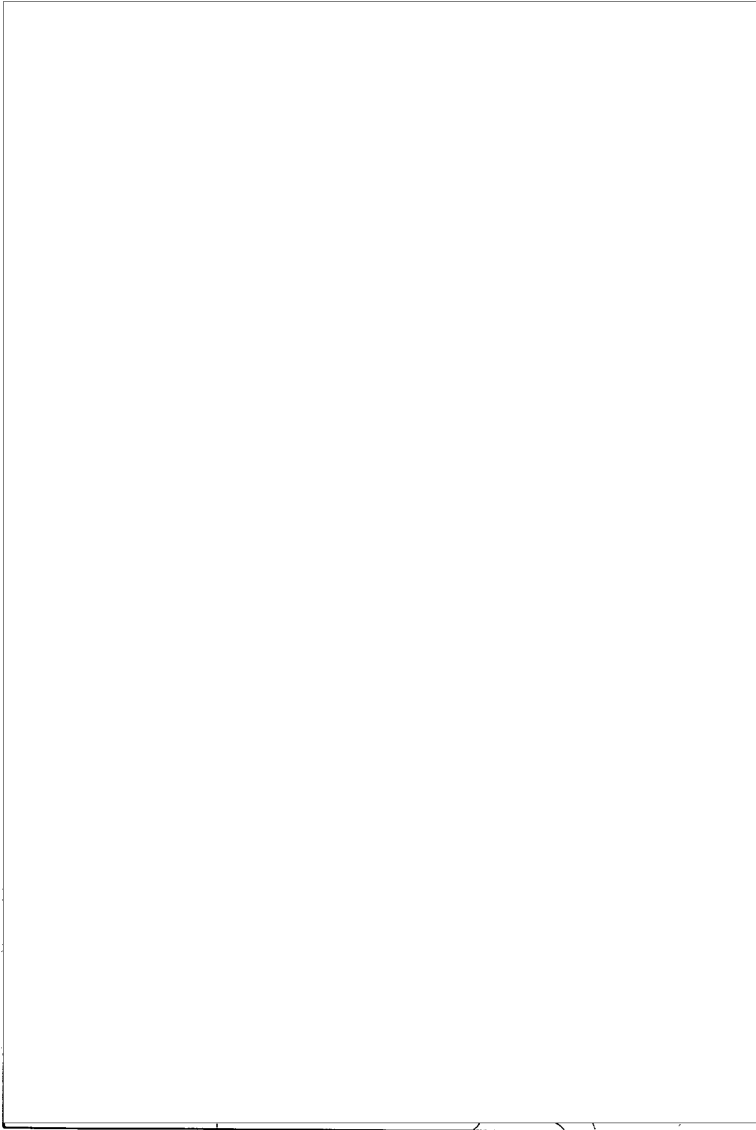
There are now eight battalions of the North Vietnamese B3 Front in northeastern Cambodia. This shows the importance the Communists attach to securing lines of communication and areas for resupply in this region.

\* \* \*

Sihanouk and the Communists

The Soviets for the first time have given Sihanouk's "Royal Government of National Union" a public measure of respectability. Yesterday Pravda identified Thiounn Munn, who is visiting Moscow, as the "minister of finance and economy" in Sihanouk's government. Earlier Soviet press treatment of Munn's visit was in a lower key, similar to the way Moscow treats various "liberation movements" that travel to the USSR. Pravda did not mention Sihanouk's ambassador in Moscow, however, and Soviet media still refer to "neutral" Cambodia, which suggests that the Soviets are still undecided about recognizing Sihanouk.

**SUEZ CANAL AREA**



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ISRAEL-UAR-USSR

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*Yesterday's action shatters the Israeli hope that its heavy bombing raids would prevent the emplacement of fully operational missile sites along the west bank of the canal. In addition, the loss of two Phantoms in one day compared to a total of 23 aircraft lost over the past three years may cause a tactical rethink. Nevertheless, Israel's strategic goal, the maintenance of air superiority over the canal, probably will not change.*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Israeli-Syrian

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

SYRIA-ISRAEL-USSR

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA

Chinese Communist tirades against the US are increasing in volume and virulence. Recent statements have charged Washington with continuing hostility and have belittled US efforts to improve relations with Peking. For the first time in over a year, a Chinese official has publicly declared that relaxation of tensions is "out of the question" while the US "occupies" Taiwan. Other commentaries have flailed at the US defense treaty with Taipei, alleged US support for Nationalist raids against the mainland, and intrusions into Chinese air and sea space by US military forces.



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*With their problems with Moscow unresolved, the Chinese have a long-term interest in a dialogue with Washington.*

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*Peking's militant line is primarily an attempt to exploit Moscow's cautious approach to developments in Indochina by playing heavily on anti-US themes, which are well received in both Hanoi and Pyongyang. The Chinese may also calculate that Washington, preoccupied with events in Indochina, has put the question of Sino-US relations on the back burner. One imponderable in the situation, however, is that the developments to the south may have for the moment strengthened the hand of those in the Peking leadership who have argued against talking to the "imperialists."*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Anti-Americanism has become politically fashionable in some Saigon circles. [redacted]

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[redacted] a number of deputies believe an anti-American stance will enhance their reelection prospects in 1971. As a result, open criticism of the US on the Assembly floor has become more common in the past two months.

A similar trend is evident in the Saigon press. One newspaper has increased its circulation by featuring anti-American policy, and two others are following the lead.

Student groups also are using anti-Americanism in an effort to advance their causes. [redacted]

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[redacted] anti-Americanism probably would be the main theme of the next student demonstration, a tactic the students did not dare use until recently.

*Anti-Americanism has been latent for some time in South Vietnam, but it has surfaced rather suddenly to become a convenient political instrument. By criticizing the US for the country's problems, opposition elements count on discrediting the Thieu administration.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTE

USSR-China: The chief Soviet negotiator at the deadlocked Peking talks, Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov, is ill and returned to the USSR yesterday, according to an official Hungarian news agency report from Peking. The press report states that both Soviet and Chinese doctors consulted on Kuznetsov's case, which suggests that it is not a diplomatic illness to facilitate Kuznetsov's long-sought exit from the negotiations. Kuznetsov's departure may further complicate the talks which probably will recess until Moscow and Peking agree on how to continue.

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