



The President's Daily Brief

10 July 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Recent satellite photography shows much activity at the missile test center in Communist China (Page 1)

[Redacted] (Page 2)

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The latest military developments in Cambodia are summarized on Page 3.

In Jordan, agreement between the fedayeen and the government [Redacted] (Page 4)

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Discontent in Nigeria's oversized army is said to be on the rise. (Page 5)

Satellite photography has pinpointed some more earthen revetments in Egypt big enough to accommodate TU-16 medium jet bombers. (Page 6)

The Soviet relief airlift to Peru is finally under way. (Page 6)

The situation in Bolivia remains unsettled. (Page 6)

China

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COMMUNIST CHINA

Satellite photography of late June shows much activity at the Shuang-cheng-tzu missile test center. Within the past two months the Chinese have built a 150-foot service tower at one of two large launch pads.

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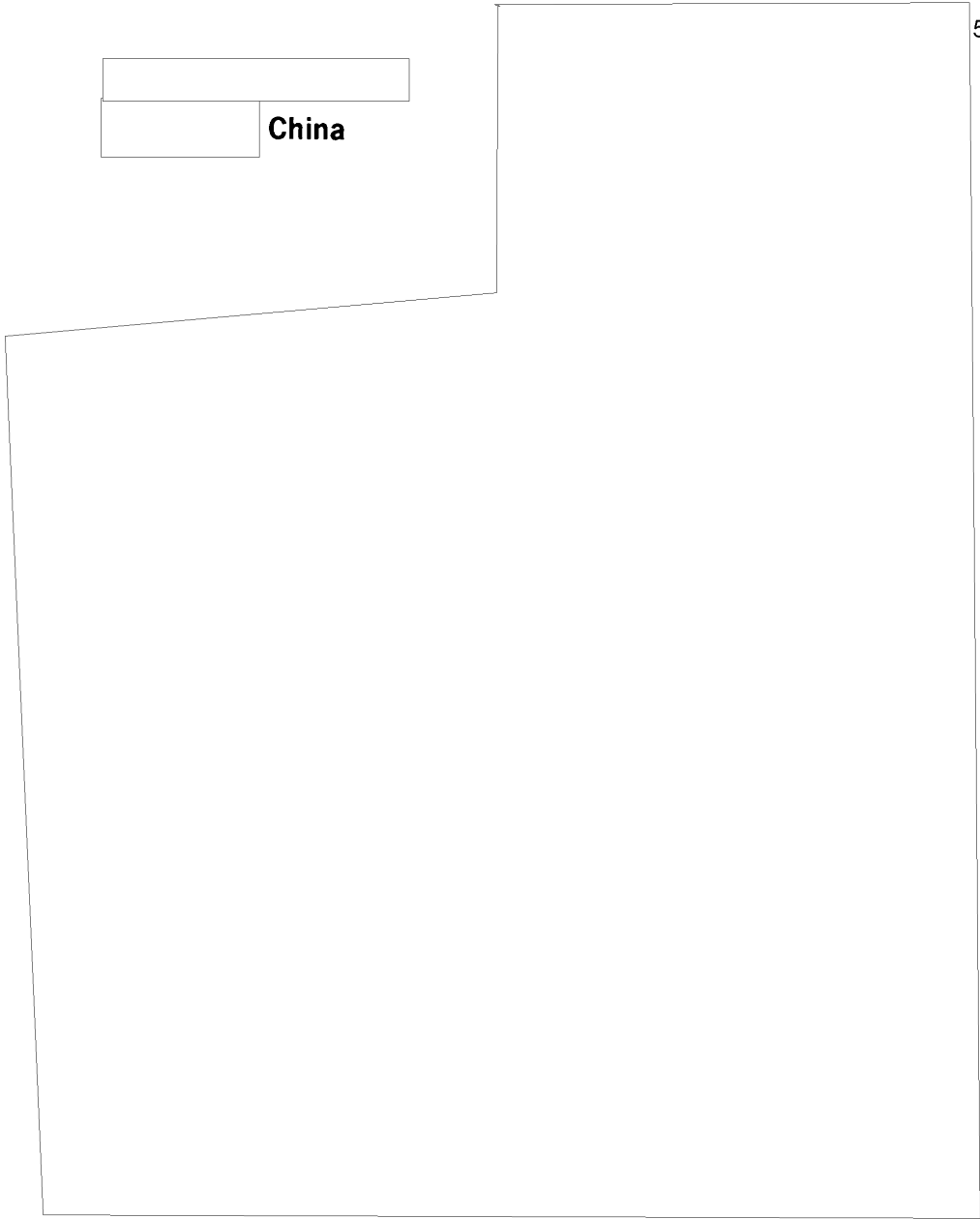
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[Redacted]
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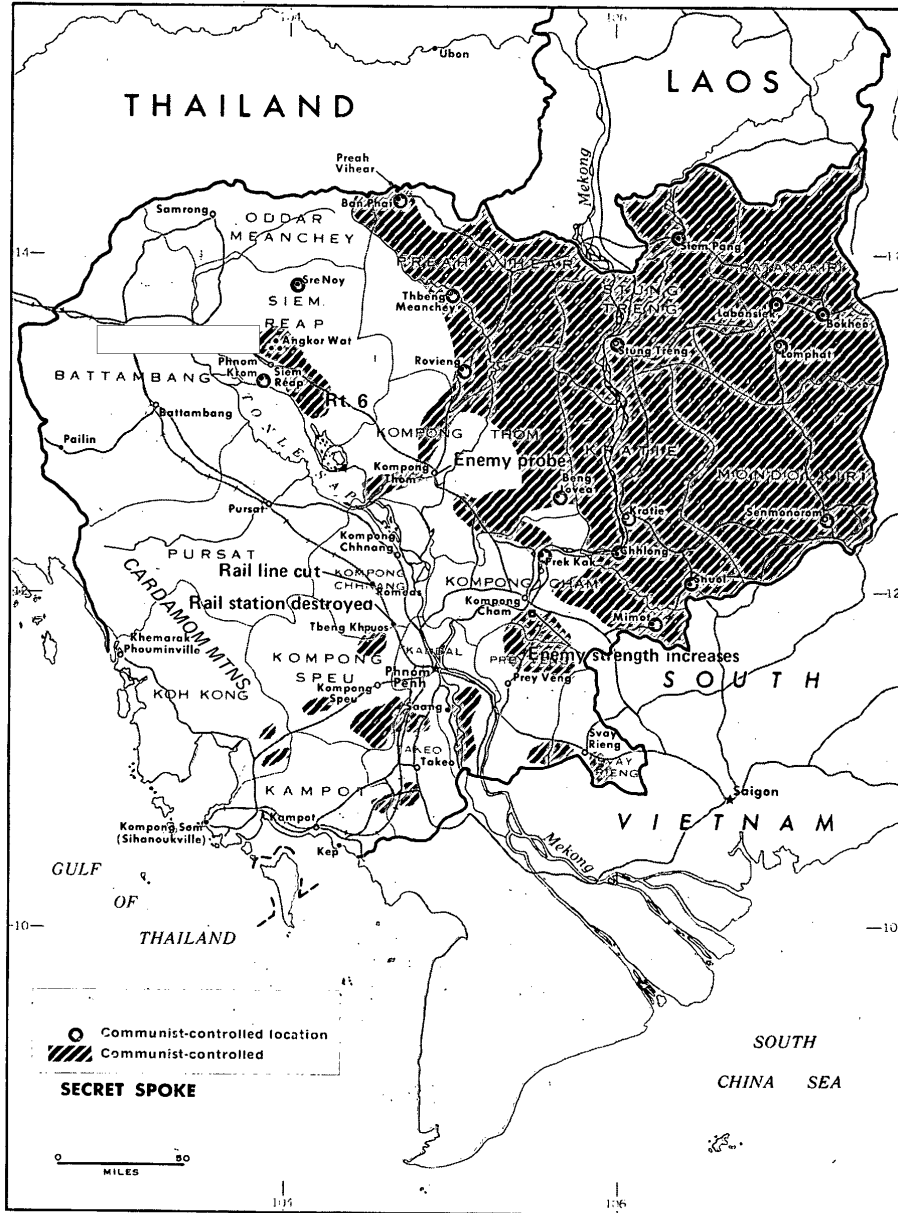
COMMUNIST CHINA

A missile launch complex has now been firmly identified near the Korean border at Lin-chiang, formerly called I-cho-mao [redacted]. Satellite photography in late June showed a missile transporter there which resembles transporters observed earlier at the guided missile production plant near Peking. A silo also appears to be under construction at the pad and a rail-mounted cover for a silo is located nearby.

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It is still unclear whether this will be a research and development launch facility or an operational site.

Cambodia: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Communist forces yesterday launched light ground attacks against the provincial capitals of Kompong Thom and Kompong Speu. Few details are available on the action at Kompong Speu. At Kompong Thom, enemy forces followed up their almost nightly mortar attacks on the city with a ground probe which was repulsed, apparently with no government casualties.

The probe may foreshadow heavier assaults; the Communists continue to maintain a significant presence in the area. There is no further information on the six-battalion Cambodian Army task force en route by river from Phnom Penh to reinforce the city.

Communist troop movements continue in Kompong Chhnang Province. In addition to enemy concentrations south of the provincial capital, other troops are reported to have moved out of the Cardamom Mountains toward the Cambodian Army's large training center at Romeas. Cambodian Communists cut the Phnom Penh - Battambang rail line some six miles northwest of Romeas on 7 July. The rail line to the south of Romeas was cut two weeks earlier, when the Communists destroyed a station and considerable equipment at Tbeng Khpuos.

Communist forces are also on the move in nearby Kompong Cham Province. The Viet Cong 271st Regiment recently moved from Prey Veng some 20 miles northward to link up with its parent unit--the Viet Cong 9th Division--at a position some 17 miles southwest of Kompong Cham city.

In western Cambodia, intercepted Cambodian messages indicate that Thai aircraft are inflicting sizable enemy losses in strafing Communist positions near Siem Reap city. The Thais are also flying interdiction missions against enemy traffic along Route 6 from Siem Reap to Kompong Thom. Most of this road is under Communist control.

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JORDAN

At a meeting on Monday between representatives of the fedayeen and the government, the fedayeen agreed to government proposals that would have drastically restricted their presence in urban areas, but they then added three conditions of their own. These conditions are that the army be withdrawn from Amman and its environs; that any government offices and agencies hostile to the fedayeen be disbanded; and that any government officials deemed to be working against the fedayeen movement be dismissed.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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The King [Redacted] already has accepted the mediation of representatives of other Arab states and has designated pro-fedayeen members of his cabinet as the major element in the government's negotiating team. At this stage it would be difficult for him to reject any terms agreed to by the mediators and his own ministers.

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[Redacted] the fedayeen believe that all or most of the new cabinet will resign if the King does not agree to the fedayeen's conditions. They seem confident that the army is not yet prepared to move against them. Nevertheless, the army appears determined not to accept further erosion of its power and authority. Such unpromising attitudes on both sides have put the King more on the spot than ever.

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NIGERIA

[REDACTED] that discontent in the lower reaches of the army is so intense that junior officers and NCOs are planning a coup. Their main grievance is that senior officers are preoccupied with getting rich and that many have succeeded. A further irritant is that many junior officers who received battlefield commissions during the war have recently been reduced in rank.

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General Gowon is probably aware of the dissatisfaction within the army, and quite possibly knows of the coup plotting. Key senior officers are loyal to Gowon and seem capable of suppressing any coup attempt by junior officers. There might well be a general deterioration of discipline within the largely idle 200,000-man army, however, and isolated mutinies could occur.



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NOTES

Egypt-Sudan-USSR: The most recent satellite photography shows 15 new earthen revetments large enough to accommodate TU-16 medium jet bombers at Wadi Natrun Northeast Airfield in Egypt. Forty-nine of these protective works have been built at airfields in Egypt and the Sudan since the first of this year, bringing the total in the two countries to 99. Egypt has 16 operational TU-16s and the Soviet naval reconnaissance squadron in Egypt has ten.

Bolivia: The fate of armed forces commander General Torres still has not been settled, and the political situation remains uncertain. The government has not given final approval to the reorganization of the military high command through which Torres' position would be abolished, and Torres continues to follow his normal routine. It is still quite likely that Torres will be removed from his post--the army commander, General Miranda, is demanding Torres' head and is backing up his demand with threats of force.

USSR-Peru: After several false starts, the Soviet relief airlift finally got under way yesterday with the departure of the lead aircraft from Moscow. It is scheduled to reach Lima on 11 July. Another batch of aircraft is to take off for Peru today.

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