



The President's Daily Brief

6 August 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Lao

(Page 1)

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In Cambodia, fighting continues in the Kompong Thom area and the enemy may be preparing another assault on Kompong Cham city. (Page 2)

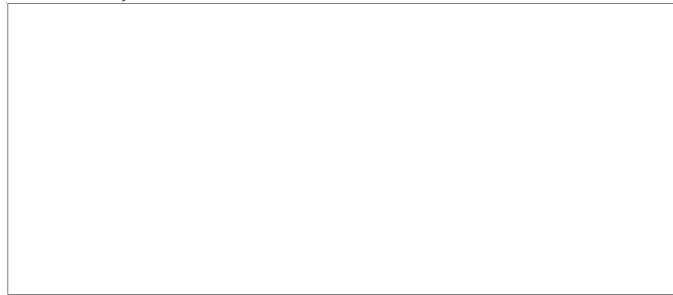
The North Vietnamese continue to take advantage of Laotian waterways to move supplies south. (Page 3)

Representatives of five Arab states are meeting in Tripoli amid signs of dissension within the Arab world over the prospective Middle East cease-fire. (Page 4)

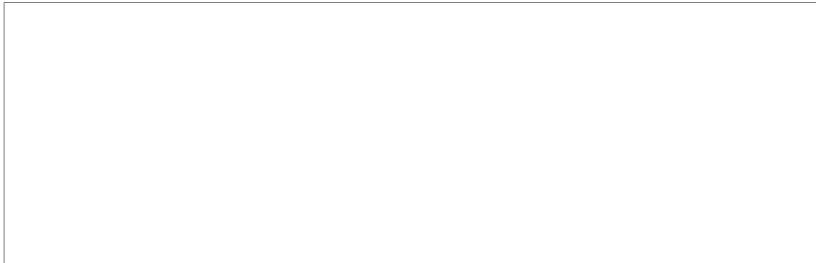
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LAOS



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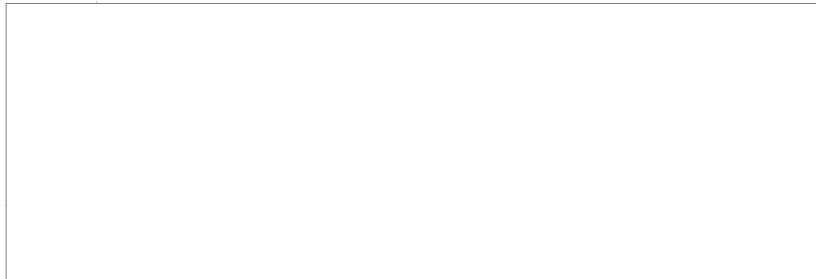
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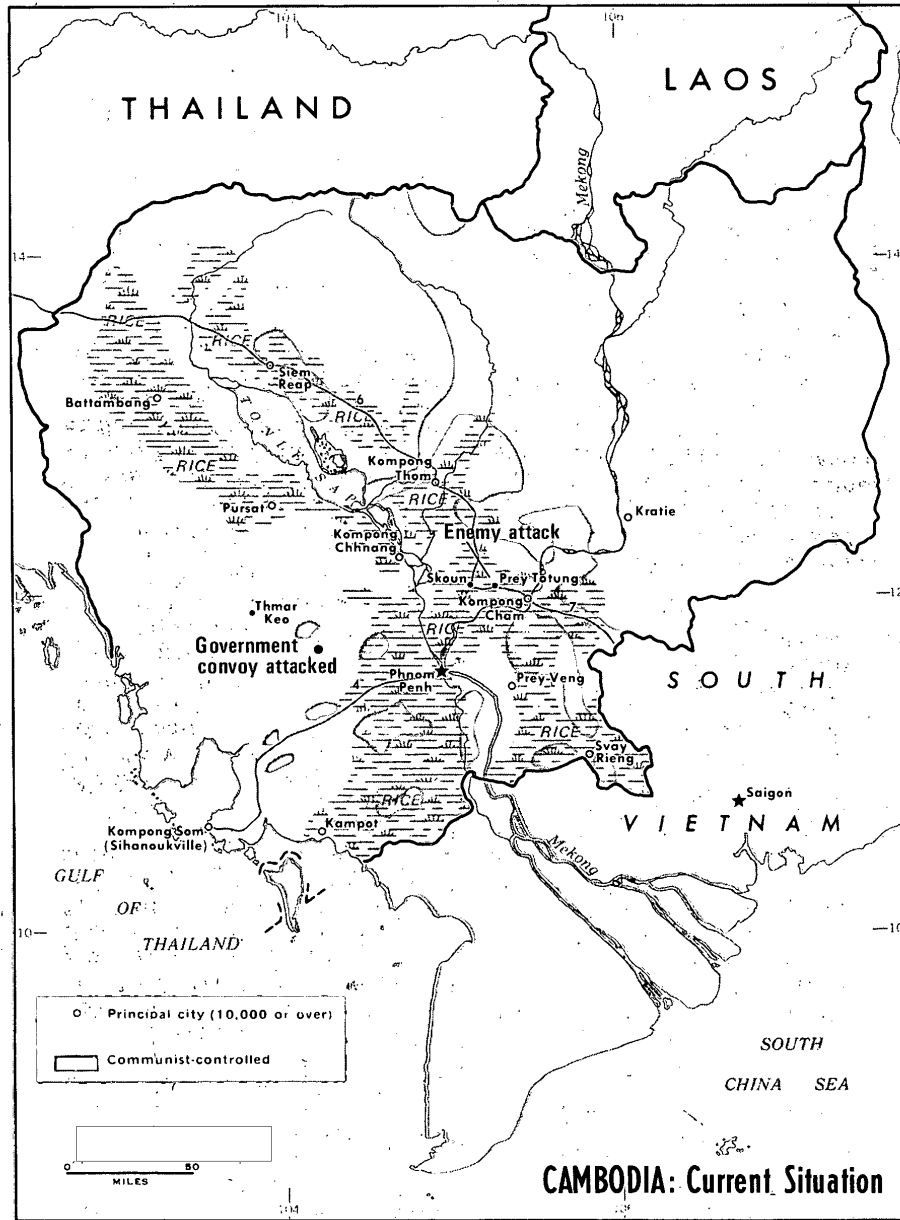
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CAMBODIA

The battle for control of Kompong Thom continues. Some enemy elements were still holding out in the northern sector of the city yesterday and a large concentration of enemy troops is reported to be south of Kompong Thom. All roads to the city have been blocked by the enemy, but Cambodian and South Vietnamese helicopters continue to shuttle supplies to the isolated city.

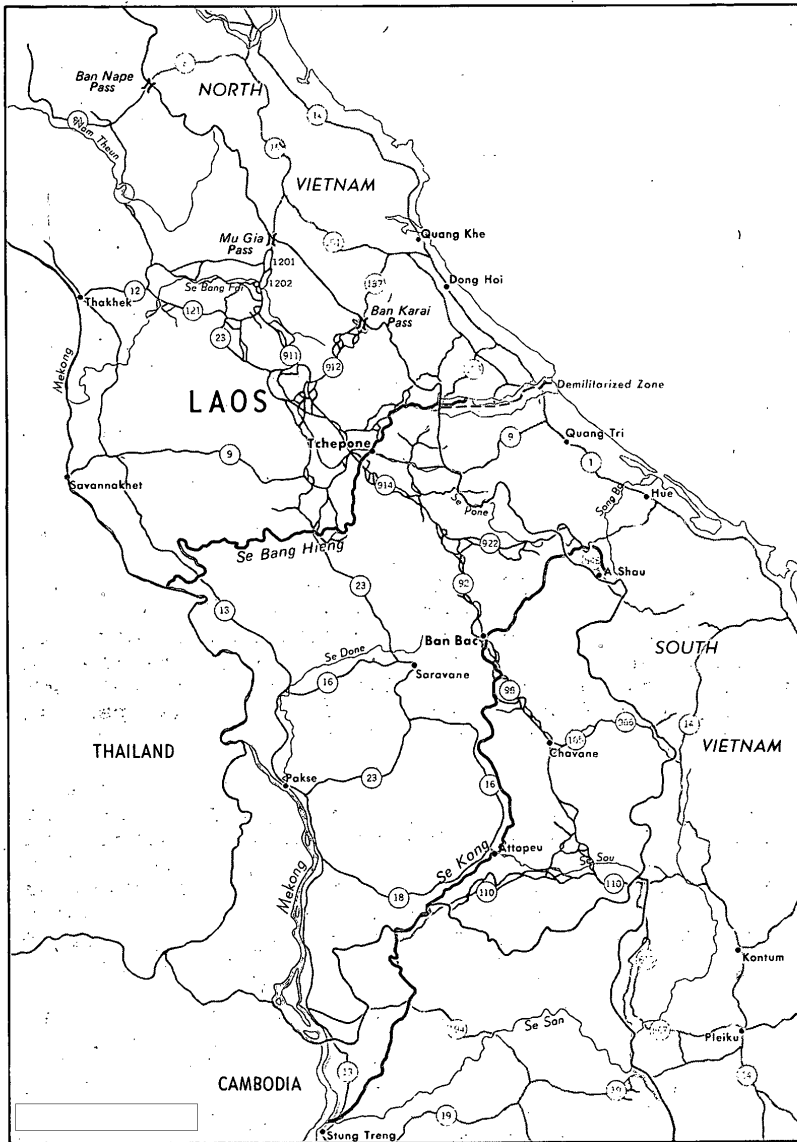
In Kompong Cham Province, Skoun remains in Communist hands. Government forces, supported by air strikes, were maneuvering east and west of the town yesterday amid signs of increased enemy strength in the area. East of Skoun, some enemy forces had infiltrated parts of the small town of Prey Totung, on Route 7, but a Cambodian Army spokesman announced early today that this town had been recaptured.

We have word that Kompong Cham city was subjected to harassing fire by 122-mm. rockets on 3 August without damage. Although this report has not been confirmed, a villager previously claimed there were nine launching positions for such weapons located north of the city. The Communists have not used this weapon before in Cambodia. There have been recent signs that the Communists are preparing for another assault on Kompong Cham city, which was last attacked in mid-May.

Elsewhere, a large government convoy from the recently abandoned post of Thmar Keo in northwest Kompong Speu Province continues its slow movement southward toward Route 4. Communist harassing attacks have destroyed 14 vehicles in the convoy. Government relief forces trying to move north from Route 4 to link up with the Thmar Keo evacuees also have been slowed by enemy attacks and muddy roads.

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Communists Making Increased Use of Waterways



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LAOS - SOUTH VIETNAM

Enemy communications indicate that Communist supplies entering the Laotian panhandle by truck have shown a steady decline from 65 tons a day during May to about six tons a day during July. Instead the Communists are making increased use of Laotian waterways to move supplies south.

Between 1 and 24 July the Communists attempted to free-float 40-50 tons of rice and gasoline each day down the Se Bang Hieng River to Tchepone. Enemy messages indicate that three percent of the rice and 13 percent of the gasoline were destroyed during that period, mainly by air strikes, and the efforts have fallen short of the Communist goal of moving 55 tons a day.

Further south, the Communists are making increased use of the Se Kong River to bypass rain- and bomb-damaged roads between Ban Bac and the Cambodian border. Since 22 June, however, guerrilla teams have reported destroying 38 small boats carrying supplies and personnel along this river.

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ARAB STATES:

A five-nation conference of Arab foreign and defense ministers finally convened in Tripoli yesterday despite the refusal of Iraq and Algeria to attend. Originally slated to open last Monday, the conference was postponed while Libyan Prime Minister Qaddafi unsuccessfully tried to persuade Iraq to participate.

Egypt's semiofficial newspaper Al Ahram has said that the talks would concern ways of bolstering the "eastern front" against Israel, and that the US peace plan would not be the primary topic. The participants--representatives from Libya, Egypt, the Sudan, Jordan, and Syria--will almost certainly attempt, however, to hammer out some kind of joint strategy regarding the prospective cease-fire and negotiations.

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