



The President's Daily Brief

10 August 1970

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LATE ITEM -- URUGUAY

As we go to press the wire services are reporting from Montevideo that Mitriane has been found shot to death in a stolen car. The US Embassy has not yet commented on this report as of 0545 EDT.

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The military situation in Cambodia is summarized on *Page 1*.

The Middle East cease-fire is being observed although there have been complaints from both sides. (*Page 2*)

There is no firm information on the fate of the kidnap victims in Uruguay. (*Page 3*)

Italy

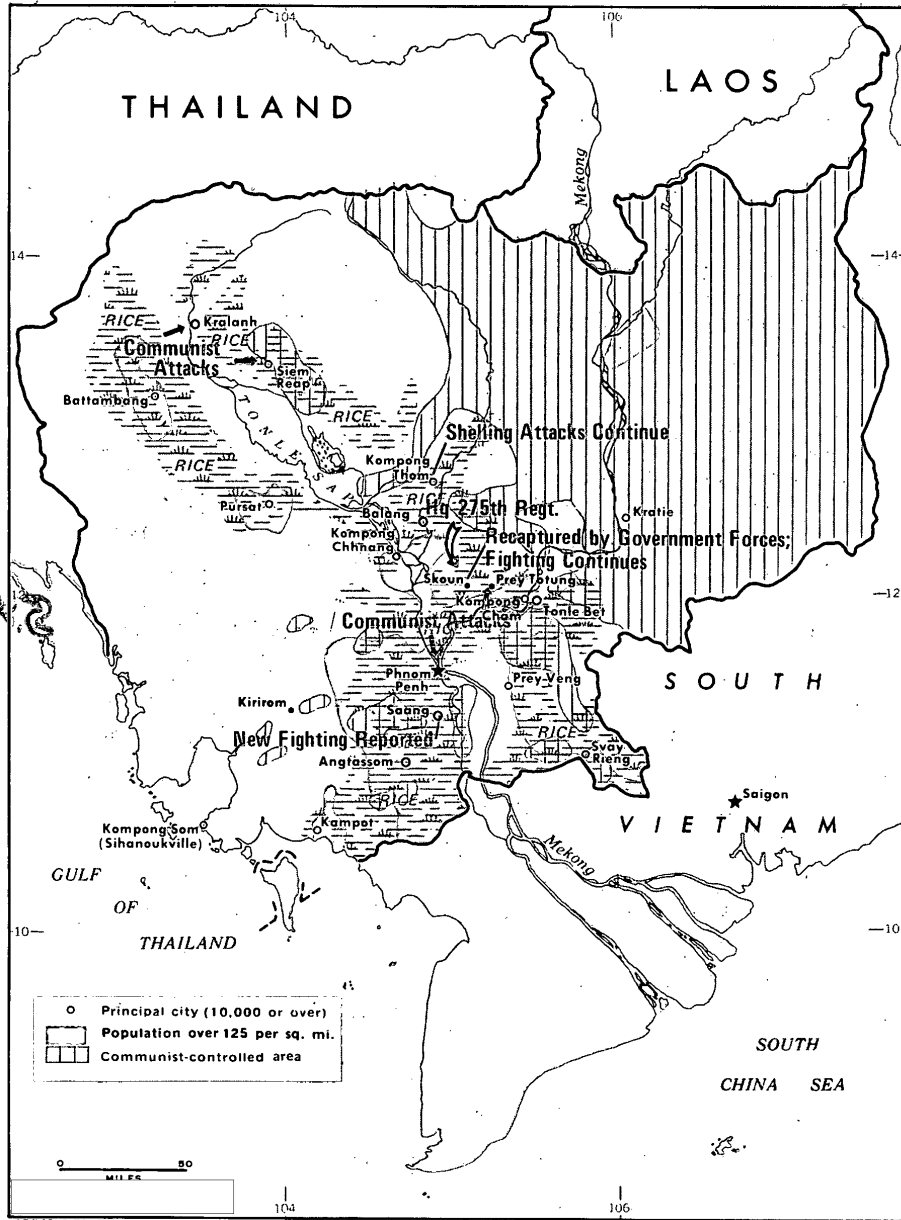
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Canada and China edged closer to agreement at the last session of the recognition talks. (*Page 5*)

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CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Skoun remains in government hands following its recapture on 8 August. The town continues to receive intermittent mortar fire and the enemy may be regrouping for further attacks. Indeed, the recent southward movement of the Headquarters, Viet Cong 275th Regiment from Kompong Thom Province to within four miles of Skoun suggests that the battle for the town is far from over.

Just east of Skoun, hard-pressed government troops defending Prey Totung skirmished with enemy forces near the town's defensive perimeter and absorbed periodic shelling attacks throughout the weekend. The Communists also launched heavy mortar attacks against the airstrip at Kompong Cham city and against government positions at the district capital of Tonle Bet.

The three-battalion Khmer Krom relief force which recaptured Skoun is returning to Phnom Penh to counter possible enemy moves against the capital's outer defenses, according to press reports. Cambodian troops reportedly beat back small-scale enemy probes against several of their garrisons north of the capital this weekend. Unconfirmed press reports, moreover, indicate that Cambodian marines battled enemy infiltrators about two miles from Phnom Penh late yesterday.

South of Phnom Penh, a new battle--involving at least a battalion of Communist troops--has broken out at the district town of Saang. Recently intercepted Cambodian military messages have warned of a large enemy buildup of several thousand troops near the town, which was occupied by the enemy for several days in April and subjected to prolonged heavy fighting in mid-July.

In the west, the city of Kompong Thom continued to receive intermittent mortar, rocket, and recoilless rifle fire over the weekend, but no major new enemy ground attacks developed. Since early August, several major elements of the Viet Cong 9th Division have moved into the Kompong Thom area, and combat activity may soon intensify in this sector.

Elsewhere in western Cambodia, Communist forces renewed their pressure against the provincial capital of Siem Reap over the weekend. The city's airfield and military hospital came under mortar and automatic weapons fire, and Cambodian Army patrols engaged small bands of enemy troops along key approach routes to the city. Government positions at the important crossroads town of Kralanh, northwest of Siem Reap, also were attacked during the weekend.

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

The Egyptian-Israeli cease-fire along the Suez Canal appears to be holding. Although Cairo complained on 9 August of a violation involving an Israeli overflight of Suez city, the Egyptians described the flight as exploratory rather than offensive. No reports of aerial bombing have been received.

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The Israelis are claiming that missiles have been moved into six SAM sites within 10-12 miles of the canal that had been unoccupied prior to the cease-fire.

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As expected, fedayeen forces are defying the cease-fire and have mounted attacks against the eastern Israeli border. Israel has repelled these attacks with few casualties. One of the fedayeen assaults was against a potash plant near Sodom, south of the Dead Sea, an area usually excluded by tacit agreement. Heavy Israeli retaliation can be expected if serious damage was sustained in this area.

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The fedayeen also are fighting with each other. In Jordan yesterday, a radical guerrilla organization fought two pitched battles with a pro-Nasir fedayeen group. Another extremist group, the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has stated that its attacks will also be directed toward American installations in the area. This could include the oil terminal facilities for the pipeline running from Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean or the producing facilities in Saudi Arabia.

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URUGUAY

No firm information has been received on the fate of the three captives of the Tupamaro terrorists. Montevideo radio stations received several contradictory phone calls yesterday from alleged terrorists. The last caller said the earlier announcement of Mitrione's death was untrue and added that the Tupamaros would issue a communiqué at noon today.

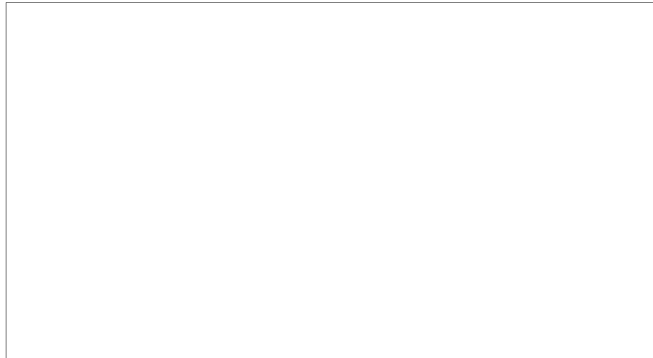
Last night President Pacheco asked congress for increased powers to deal with the terrorists amid signs that elements of the far right intend to retaliate against the Tupamaros. A group calling itself the "Squadron of Uruguayan Justice" notified the police yesterday that they would kill 50 Tupamaros for each political murder and five terrorists for every policeman killed.

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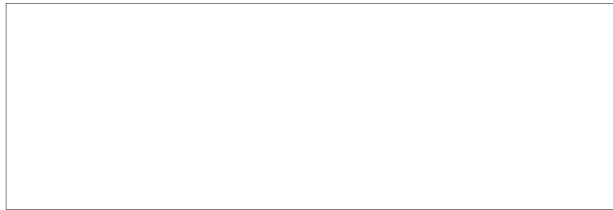
ITALY



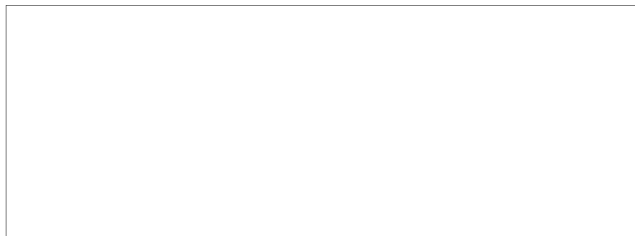
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NOTE

Canada - Communist China: The recognition talks, which have been in suspense since last March, resumed in Stockholm on 1 August on Chinese initiative. A Canadian official said the session was "constructive," and that some progress was made on the thorny problem of China's sovereignty over Taiwan. Ottawa is now considering omitting this issue from the formal communiqué and clarifying its position in an oral statement before parliament.

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