

The President's Daily Brief

13 August 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Israelis have sent aircraft over the Suez Canal and claim that the Egyptians flew a photo reconnaissance mission Tuesday. (Page 1)

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on Page 2.

In South Vietnam, enemy shellings increase at Support Base O'Reilly west of Hue. (Page 3)



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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

UN observers saw several Israeli aircraft fly over the west bank of the Suez Canal yesterday. The observers said the planes were fired on by Egyptian SAMs, but no hits were seen. Intercepted Egyptian communications confirm that at least one Israeli aircraft was tracked on a southeasterly course some ten nautical miles west of the Great Bitter Lake. The Israelis, for their part, claim that on Tuesday an Egyptian IL-28 accompanied by four MIG-21s flew a photo reconnaissance mission along the west side of the canal.

The Israelis have charged numerous Egyptian violations of the cease-fire agreement and are probably carrying out reconnaissance flights to verify their claims.

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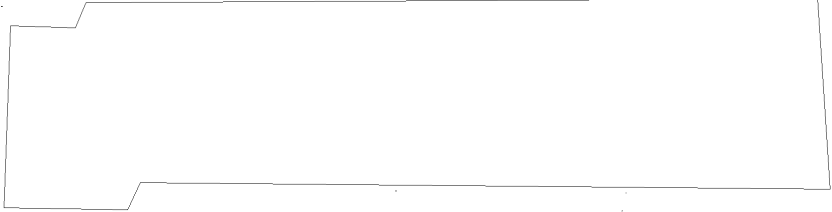
Egypt and Jordan are continuing their efforts to clamp down on guerrilla activity against Israel and to dampen the fedayeen anti-peace movement.

Nasir, who had already denied Cairo's radio facilities to the fedayeen, now has put other restraints on the Palestinians in Egypt.

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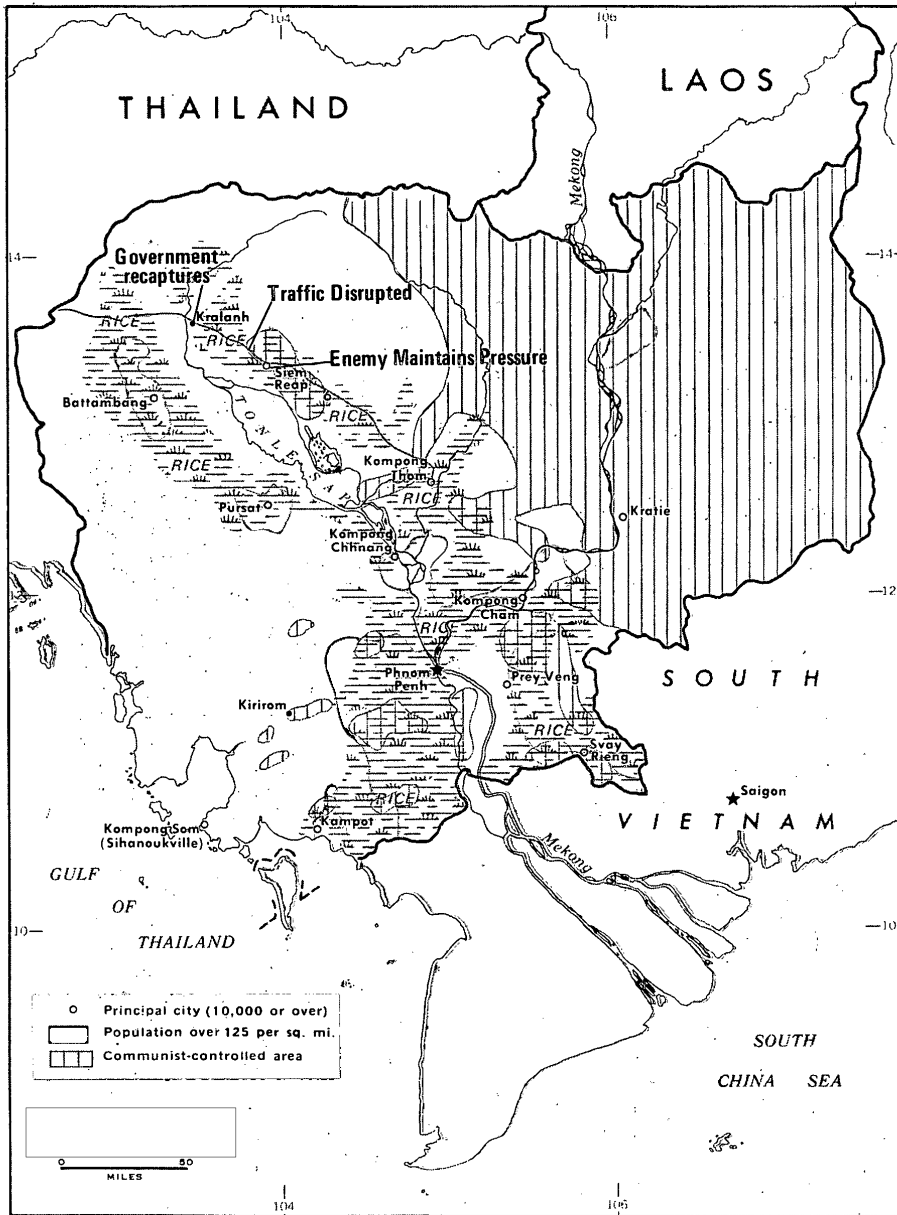


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CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Siem Reap was shelled again yesterday, and although government counterfire dispersed the enemy, the Communists persist in their efforts to isolate the city. According to an intercepted Cambodian Army message, the destruction of two bridges by the Communists has disrupted all traffic from Siem Reap westward on Route 6 to the crossroads town of Kralanh. Government troops, assisted by Thai air strikes, have recaptured Kralanh, however, which the enemy had occupied on 10 August after heavy fighting.

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The enemy conducted some light probing attacks yesterday against Dang Kor, less than five miles from Phnom Penh. [redacted]

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[redacted]

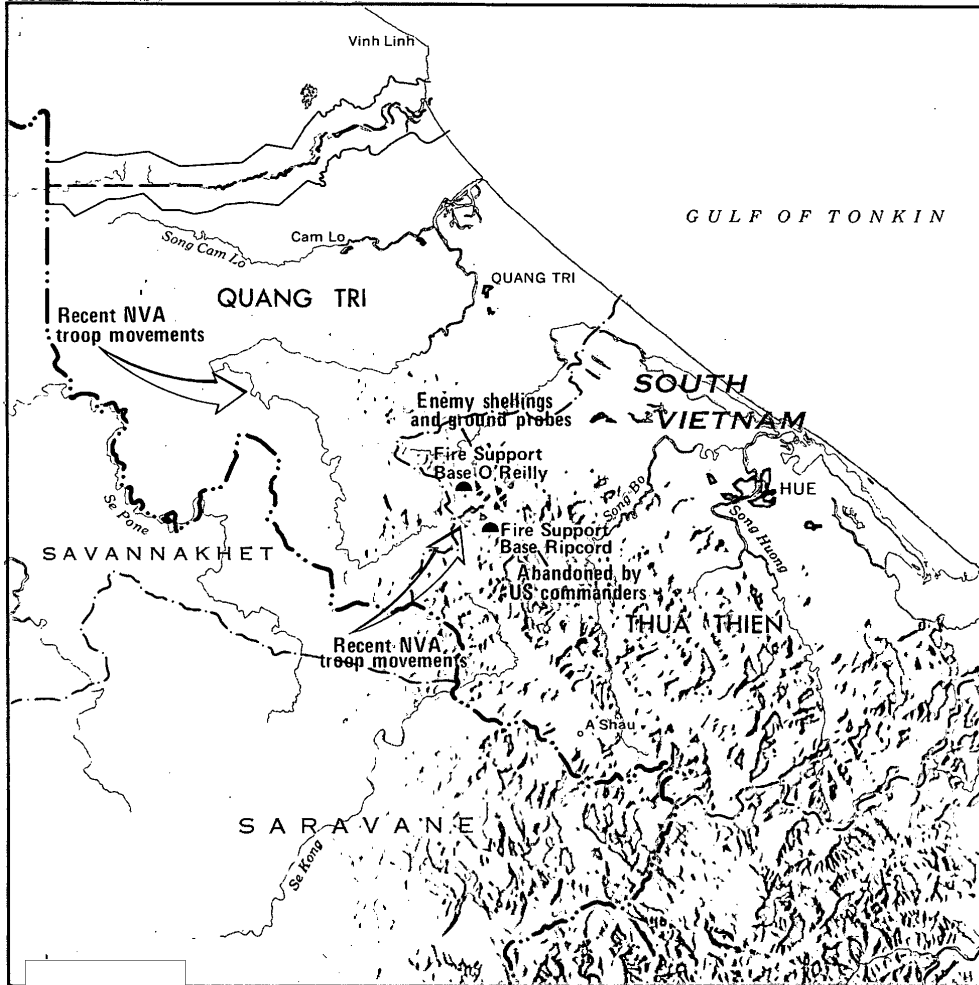
Elsewhere, [redacted]

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[redacted] the enemy withdrew from several important positions in the resort town on 11 August. A few days earlier, however, government forces suffered 53 killed and 25 wounded near the Kirirom plateau when Communist troops disguised in Cambodian Army uniforms lured government soldiers into an ambush.

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North Vietnamese Threaten Allied Outpost



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SOUTH VIETNAM

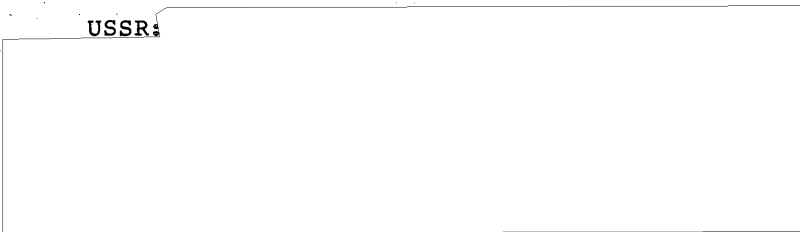
Enemy shellings and ground probes around Fire Support Base O'Reilly, in the remote mountains west of Hue, have increased steadily during the past week. Elements of two North Vietnamese regiments are located in the immediate vicinity of the base, and two other regiments are not far away. The reinforced South Vietnamese battalion defending O'Reilly has suffered relatively light casualties so far, but there is growing concern that the enemy may intend to repeat the same kind of sustained pressure that caused US commanders to abandon nearby Fire Support Base Ripcord last month. The commander of the South Vietnamese 1st Division has announced that his forces will not withdraw from O'Reilly.

The North Vietnamese probably see several advantages in attempts to put pressure on the allied defense screen in the mountains of western Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces. These include attrition of US and South Vietnamese units and their diversion from more populated areas, and the possible turning of South Vietnamese attention away from Communist logistic activities along the border and in Laos.

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