



The President's Daily Brief

9 September 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Middle East situation is discussed on *Page 1*.

The Cambodian Army continues its two-pronged operation to relieve Kompong Thom. (*Page 3*)

Scandinavian opposition to the Greek regime has eased off. (*Page 4*)

Some Soviet sailors are due for liberty in Havana and Cienfuegos. (*Page 5*)

Philippine [redacted]
[redacted] (*Page 5*)

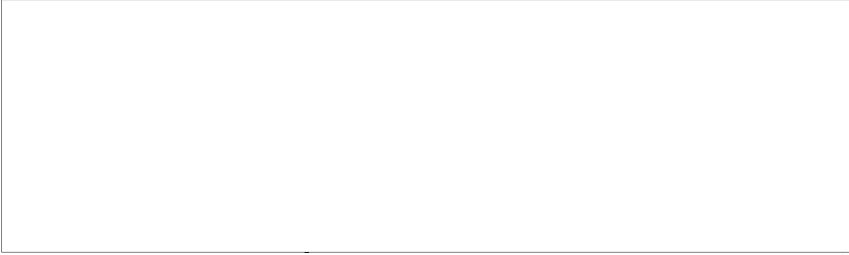
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MIDDLE EAST

Amman radio announced a cease-fire agreement between the government and the Palestine Liberation Organization central committee yesterday afternoon. Less than 12 hours later, however, the central committee announced its withdrawal from the truce, charging that Jordanian units had struck guerrilla positions without warning near Irbid, 45 miles north of Amman, killing 25 commandos and wounding 40. Efforts are now being made to renegotiate the cease-fire.

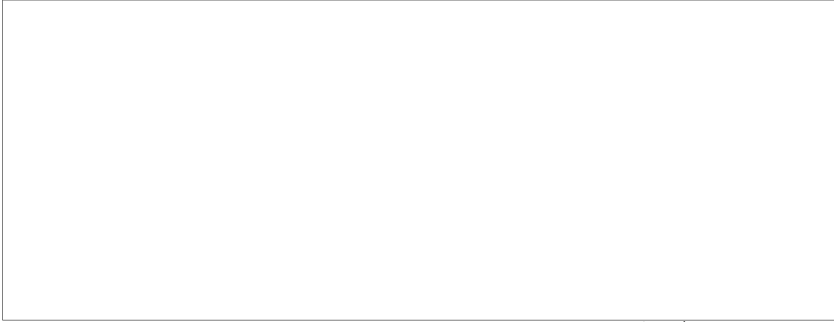


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According to the US Embassy, however, Amman last night was quieter than on any night of the past ten.

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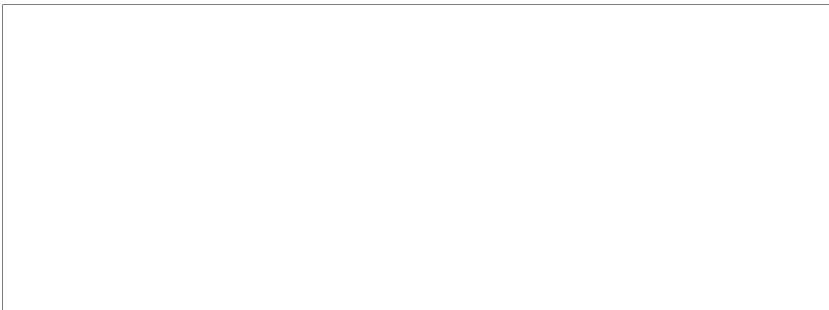
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King Husayn's ability to deal with the fedayeen has been hampered by the presence in Jordan of the airline passengers held hostage by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). International Red Cross representative Rochat met with PFLP leaders yesterday and commented that the situation is "extremely serious," although he is guardedly optimistic about the passengers' release if he continues to receive the united backing of the governments concerned.



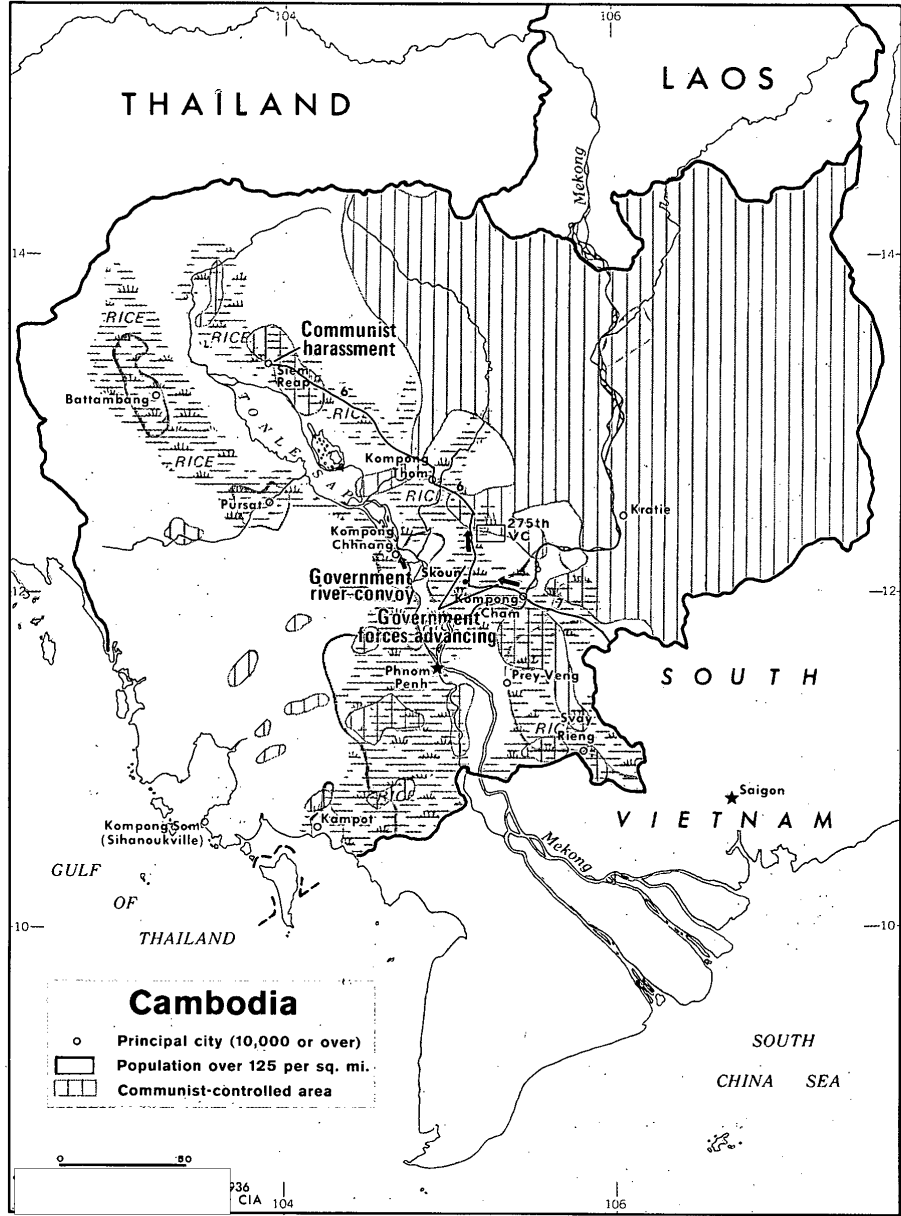
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In a conversation early on 7 September, Chargé Zurhellen in Tel Aviv asked Assistant Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Gazit if there was any way open for the restoration of talks. Gazit said that Dayan had said that the US should get the Egyptians to restore the situation to what it was at the time the cease-fire went into effect; if that cannot be done the original cease-fire is dead. In that case, however, Gazit thinks that the resumption of hostilities is not the only option. Another is the negotiation of a new cease-fire agreement that will provide a basis for political talks. Gazit urged the US to give thought to this "opening" provided by Dayan.

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Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Advanced elements of a Cambodian Army task force moving toward Kompong Thom city are now about 15 miles north of Skoun on Route 6. The operation is spearheaded by six infantry battalions recently returned from retraining in South Vietnam. Five other battalions are moving westward from Kompong Cham city in order to provide route security behind the advance elements.

The government's advance has been slowed by destroyed bridges along Route 6 and by many obstacles the enemy has placed across it. Thus far, elements of the Viet Cong 275th Regiment that are within striking distance of the road have not moved into action.

In a parallel operation to relieve Kompong Thom city, a force moving by river reached Kompong Chhnang city today, where it will pick up additional troops. Phnom Penh is assuming that the Communists will concentrate their attacks on the ground forces moving on Route 6, making the amphibious operation easier to execute. Once the river convoy reaches Kompong Thom, its elements are to move southward, clearing Route 6.

In the northwest, the Communists continue to harass government positions at Siem Reap city. An intercepted military message reported that government troops clashed twice yesterday with Communist units just north and northwest of the city. For the past few weeks the Cambodians have been expecting a major ground attack against Siem Reap, but thus far there has been only intermittent rocket and mortar fire.

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NATO-GREECE

The impasse over the report recommending Alliance support for the strengthening of Greek forces apparently has been broken. Danish Prime Minister Baunsgaard told Ambassador Dudley yesterday that his government will make only an oral statement on the issue at the meeting of the Defense Planning Committee on 18 September, when the report will be reviewed. Presumably, none of the NATO members will pose objections to its adoption.

This should ease the strains in US-Greek relations

Also, Papadopoulos now may be able to placate his military colleagues, who have been increasingly distressed about what they see as his use of political liberalization to appease foreign critics.

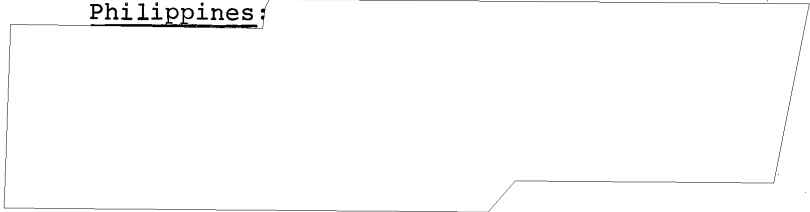
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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: Two guided missile ships and two support vessels entered the Caribbean over the weekend and are expected to make a port call at Cienfuegos, Cuba, later this week. Antisubmarine exercises by the Soviet ships and sonar contacts by US destroyers trailing the group indicate that at least one nuclear submarine is accompanying them. Two other Soviet support ships and an amphibious landing craft arrived in Havana on 6 September. Following the port calls the Soviets probably will conduct additional antisubmarine operations in the Caribbean.

Philippines:



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