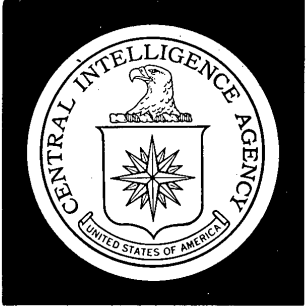


6



The President's Daily Brief

17 September 1970

26



50X1
~~Top Secret~~

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 September 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Jordan is discussed on *Page 1*.

Government reinforcements have reached the Cambodian Army task force along Route 6. (*Page 2*)



50X1

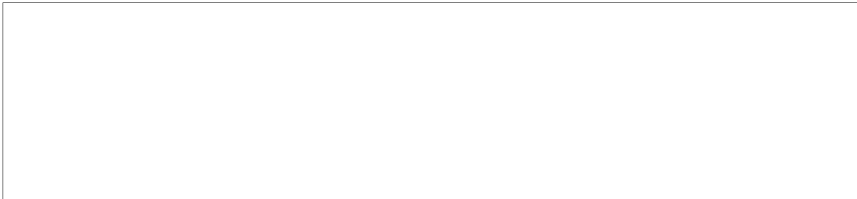
The cabinet shake-up in Libya strengthens military control of the regime but implies no policy changes. (*Page 4*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN

Heavy fighting began at dawn in Amman. According to an embassy eyewitness report, armored cars and small tanks, accompanied by a company of infantry, were moving into the city.



50X1

Amman radio, which had earlier this morning charged that Jordanian Army headquarters in Amman had been fired on by artillery, subsequently broadcast an appeal to the Jordanian Army not to fire on the Palestine Liberation Army unless fired on, calling it "a fraternal army which has closely cooperated with us in crises." This is presumably an attempt to limit the bloodshed and ensure that army operations are carried out in a disciplined manner.

It is still too early to tell whether the outbreak of fresh fighting is, in fact, a concerted move by the government against the fedayeen, or whether it reflects activity by unauthorized army elements, as has happened in the past.

Beirut press reports claim that the Jordanian ambassador was summoned to the Syrian Foreign Ministry today and warned that Syria cannot stand idly by while the commandos were "massacred" in Jordan. Yesterday, the Iraqi Baath Party stated that it was ready to fight side by side with the fedayeen in Jordan. The Iraqis did not specifically threaten the intervention of their 17,000 troops in Jordan. In previous clashes between the government and the fedayeen, Iraqi troops have carefully stood aside.

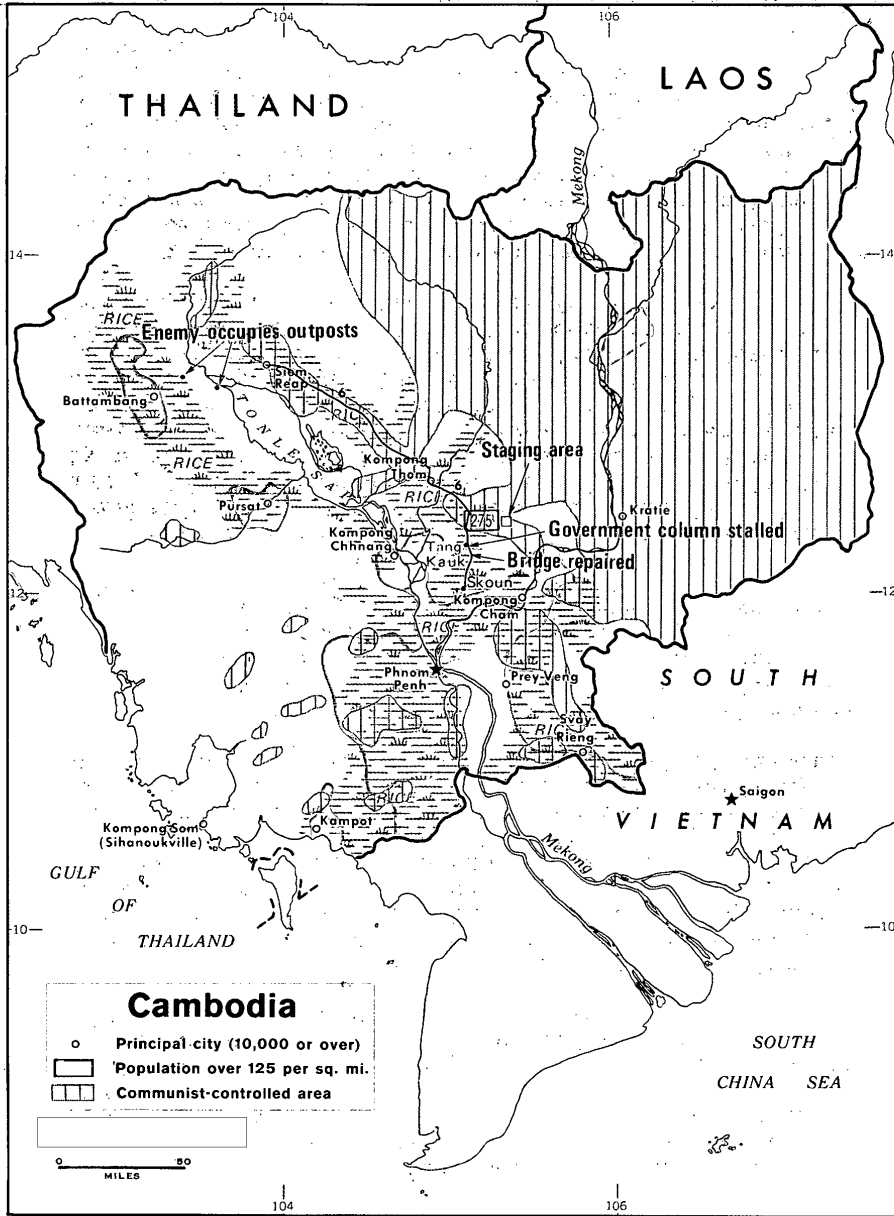
The Jordanian cabinet was meeting on the crisis last evening. Ambassador Brown was informed that King Husayn's inclination to take vigorous action against the fedayeen was tempered by concern over possible intervention by Syria or Iraq. The cabinet was discussing contingency plans, including the possibility of seeking air strike support from either the US or Israel should Jordan's Arab neighbors intervene.



50X1

There has been no break in the negotiations for the release of the hostages. The PFLP may now attempt to use the hostages as pawns in defending themselves against Jordanian forces.

Current Situation



50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Government reinforcements have reached the Cambodian Army task force along Route 6, but the Communists are maintaining the pressure.

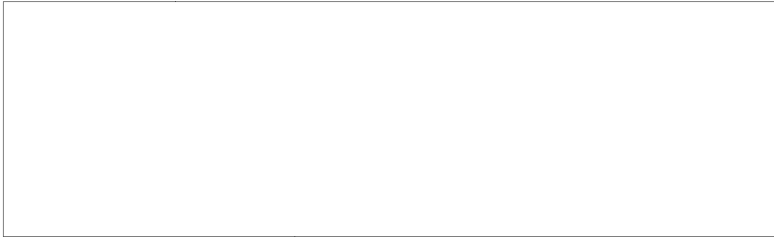
Latest reports indicate that two battalions joined the main column on 14 September and that the Cambodians repaired a key bridge to the south on 15 September. According to still unconfirmed press reports, however, the enemy has moved in behind the government column, occupying a village between Tang Kauk and Skoun.

There is mounting evidence that elements of the Viet Cong 275th Regiment are involved in the fighting. Documents to this effect were found on the bodies of enemy troops, and an intercepted Cambodian Army message reports that the Communists are trucking men and supplies westward toward Tang Kauk from a major staging area for the headquarters of the 275th.

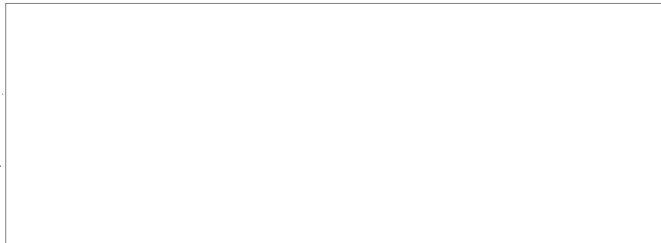
In the northwest, there are reports of Communist attacks in Battambang Province, which until recently was free of significant enemy activity. The Communists overran and occupied two government outposts between 20 and 30 miles northeast of Battambang city on 13 September. Reinforcements have been sent to conduct clearing operations around the outposts.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FRANCE - WEST GERMANY



50X1



50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LIBYA

Yesterday's cabinet changes have strengthened the control of the military men, who now have a majority in the cabinet. Major Jallud, number two man in Colonel Qaddafi's government, retains his title as deputy prime minister but no longer controls the internal security forces as minister of interior. That job has gone to Major Huni, who now also becomes a deputy prime minister and, in effect, the third most powerful figure in the regime.

The partial downgrading of Major Jallud could be significant if there is anything to the rumors that he has been Colonel Qaddafi's chief rival. The shuffle implies no basic change in the Libyan regime's policies.

Top Secret