



*The President's Daily Brief*

*19 October 1970*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 October 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Laotian Government irregulars have captured the air-strip at Ban Na near the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 1)

North Vietnamese diplomats in Vientiane have conveyed the impression that Hanoi [redacted] [redacted] desire for early negotiations [redacted] (Page 2)

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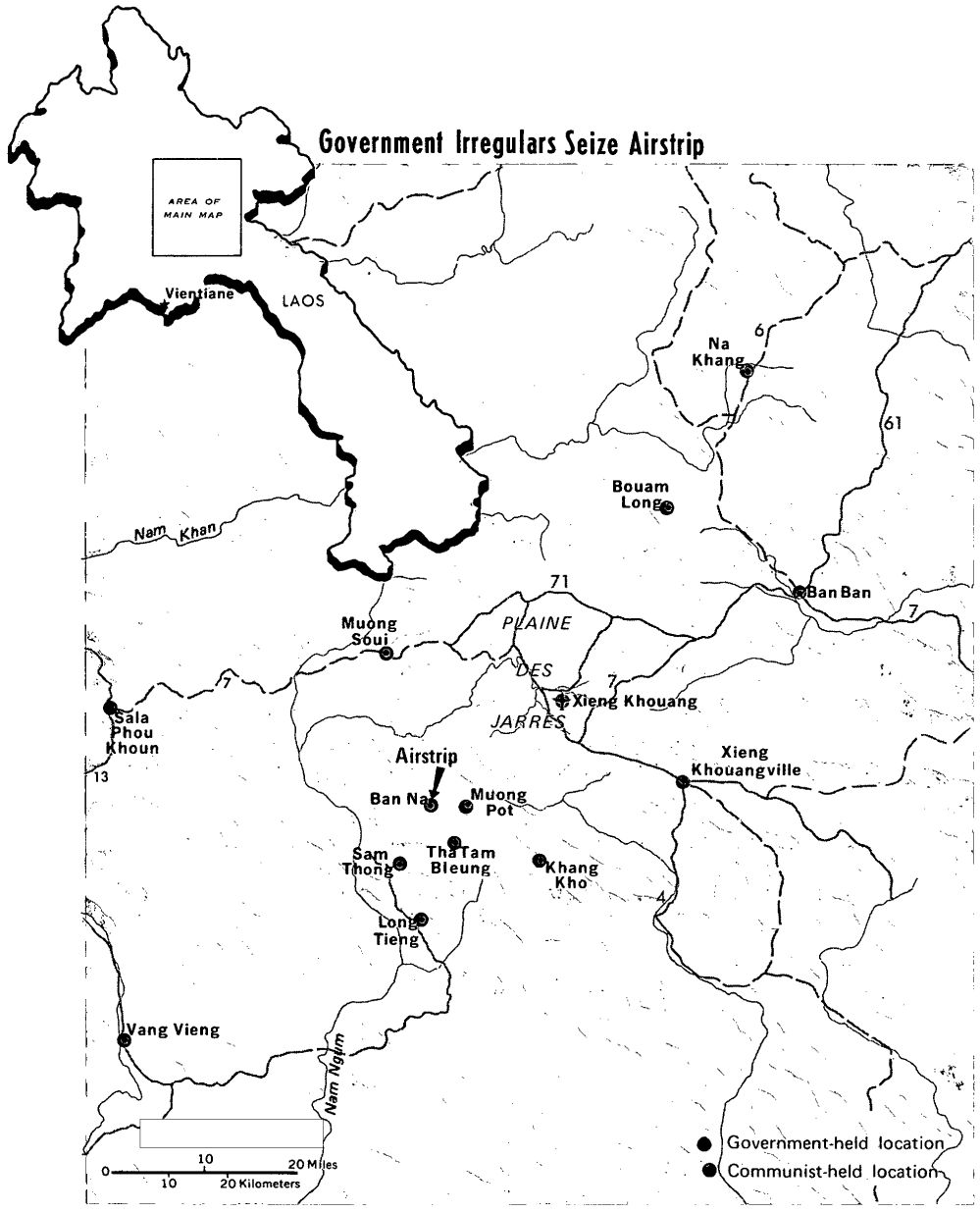
[redacted] Syria [redacted] Iraq [redacted] Jordan. (Page 3)

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A clash in northern Jordan over the weekend probably was the result of fedayeen resistance to an army re-deployment. (Page 4)

[redacted] pressure in Italy to vote for admission of Communist China to the UN. (Page 5)

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LAOS

Government irregular troops captured the airstrip at Ban Na near the Plaine des Jarres on 17 October, and are now consolidating their defenses around the strip. The irregulars had been pushing toward Ban Na for two months with the aim of blocking any Communist drive against their complex at Long Tieng, to the southwest, during the dry season.

*Some Communist counterattacks against the irregulars may be in the offing. Intercepted messages indicate that enemy forces had been ordered to hold this point "at all costs."*

In southern Laos, references to a new rear-service entity designated "470" have been noted in the communications of the senior Communist logistic authority in the panhandle and its associated military units. At least 1,000 personnel who have entered the infiltration pipeline since late September are destined for "470," probably in the extreme southern panhandle area. The new organization appears to have been established in order to provide support to Communist forces operating in Cambodia.

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NORTH VIETNAM

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The [redacted] ambassador to Laos has told Ambassador Godley, [redacted] about a dinner conversation [redacted] with two senior North Vietnamese diplomats in Vientiane [redacted]

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[redacted] According to the [redacted] Vietnamese Chargé [redacted] claimed that lack of progress [redacted] is due to President Nixon's ignoring the Viet Cong's eight-point proposal and criticized the President's proposals for failing to discuss the Vietnamese internal political problem, which he termed "essential" to Hanoi. [redacted] noted, however, that there were "obscurities in the President's proposal on which there could be further useful explanation."

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*We have speculated [redacted] that, despite their negative approach to the US proposals, the Communists would probably like to explore them further in private talks. [redacted] statement to the [redacted] who claimed to be quoting the charge's remarks as closely as he could remember them, goes farther in this direction than any we have noted.*

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On the subject of Laos, [redacted] said that "we" were disappointed in the President's failure to mention bilateral negotiations between the two sides in Laos. He added that Hanoi feared a rightist coup in Vientiane and that talks between the two princes were desirable "as soon as possible."

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*These are the strongest indications we have noted that North Vietnam is eager for such talks to get under way. Although we are not certain how reliably [redacted] speaks for the Hanoi leadership and although it is possible that the [redacted] account is somewhat biased, the latter reported that the North Vietnamese diplomats seemed to have carefully prepared their comments to him.*

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SYRIA-IRAQ

[redacted]  
the tumult besetting the Iraqi and Syrian govern-  
ments following the hostilities in Jordan. In Syria,  
the ineffectiveness of the intervention in Jordan  
has increased infighting between civilian and mili-  
tary wings of the ruling Baath party. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted] In Iraq, [redacted] Vice President Hardan  
Takriti was removed from all his positions on 15  
October [redacted]

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*Hardan's dismissal apparently was connected  
with his leading role in blocking Iraqi  
military intervention on the side of the  
fedayeen in Jordan. Controversy over the  
degree of support for the fedayeen may  
well soon trigger many more changes in  
both countries, where the power struggle  
between military and civilian elements is  
chronic.*

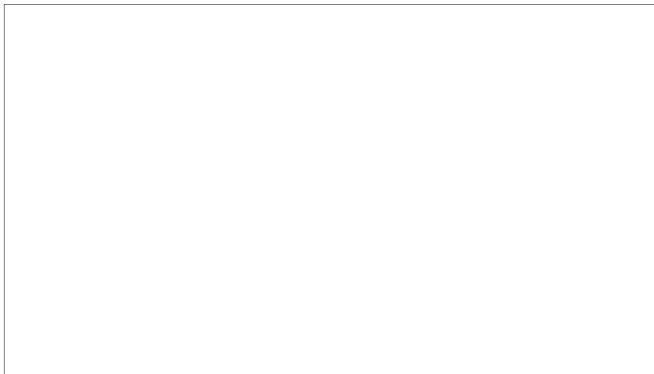
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JORDAN

Army and fedayeen forces clashed over the week-end near the Syrian border, apparently when the fedayeen attempted to force the army to withdraw from locations northwest of Ramtha to which it had moved on Saturday.



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ITALY - COMMUNIST CHINA

Italy may vote for the Albanian solution to seat Communist China when the UN General Assembly takes up the issue early next month, according to Foreign Minister Moro. A majority of parties at a recent Italian Senate committee meeting favored an affirmative vote even if the protracted Rome-Peking negotiations on recognition were still not completed. Moro explained that Canada's recognition of Peking had increased parliamentary pressure on this issue

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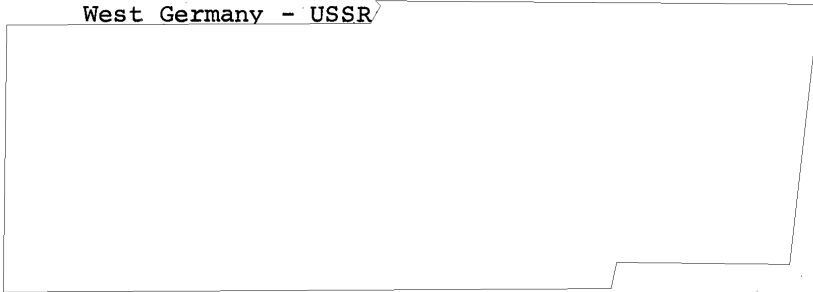
*A decision by Italy to support the Albanian resolution would influence the votes of several other nations, and increase the chances that for the first time a majority would vote for seating Peking. The issue will almost certainly still be declared an Important Question requiring a two-thirds vote, however, and that kind of margin is nowhere in sight this year.*



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NOTE

West Germany - USSR



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