

The President's Daily Brief

4 November 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Israel (Page 1)

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Jordanian Government forces and fedayeen clashed sharply in Amman yesterday in the most serious fighting in several weeks. (Page 2)

[Redacted]

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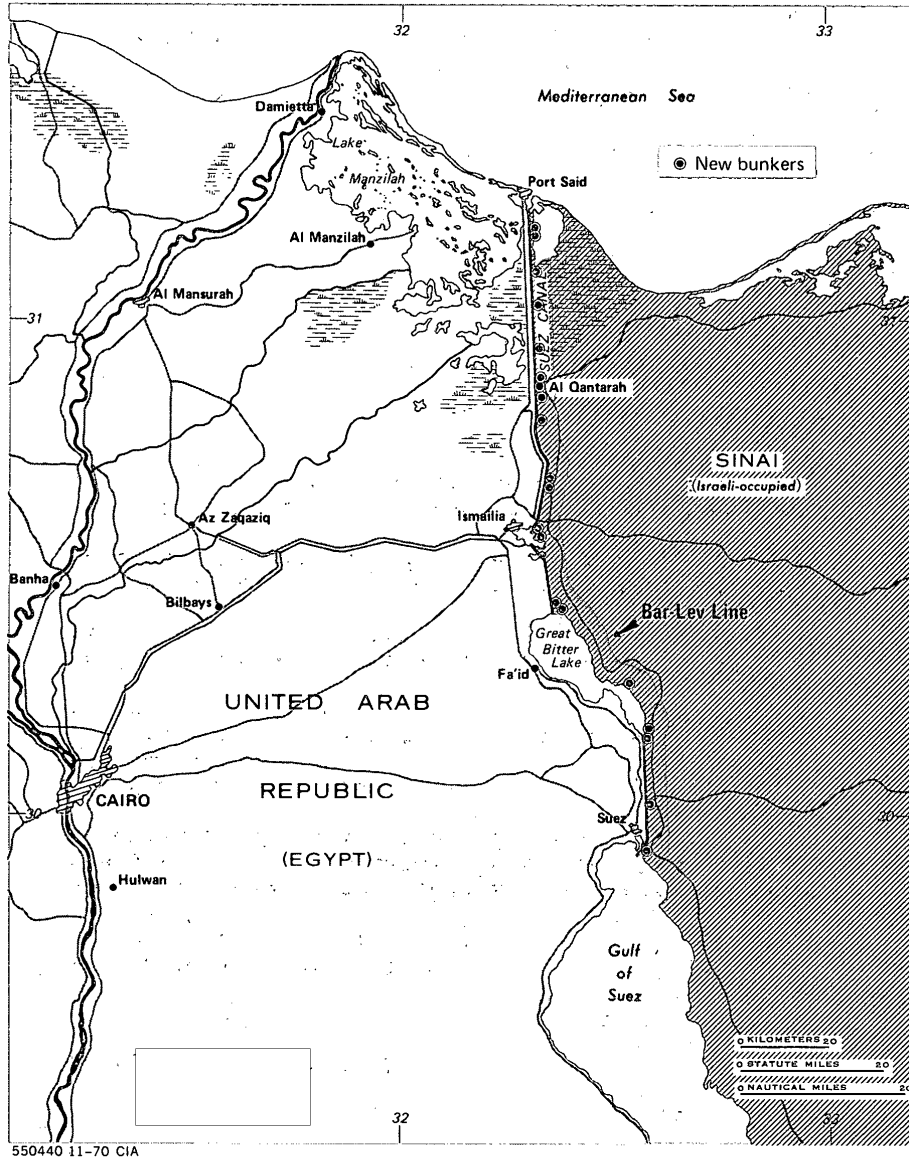
Page 4 North Vietnam

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In Chile, President Allende's new government is putting Marxists in additional posts. (Page 6)

A longtime confidant of Mao Tse-tung may have become the victim of another round of top-level factional quarreling. (Page 6)

Israelis Improving Positions Along Suez Canal



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ISRAEL

Since the cease-fire went into effect, the Israelis have constructed more than 20 new bunkers in their "Bar-Lev Line" along the Suez Canal--their trip wire against an Egyptian invasion of Sinai. The H-shaped bunkers, which measure nearly 50 by 50 feet, are formed from large pipe sections. The command and living areas are covered with about 15 feet of rock, steel netting, concrete blocks, sandbags, and earth.

The new bunkers are larger and stronger than the original positions that were completed in the spring of 1969. These held up well during Egyptian artillery barrages, and few casualties were reported among troops within them.

Egyptian spokesmen have protested Israeli construction work along the canal as a violation of cease-fire terms.

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JORDAN

Government forces and fedayeen clashed sharply yesterday in Amman, resulting in five dead and eight wounded, according to preliminary reports. [redacted]

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[redacted] the fighting began in the morning when a government patrol tried to pick up two armed fedayeen. The resulting exchange of fire spread throughout the capital during the day, but appeared to be falling off by nightfall. Just before midnight the government radio issued a low-key account of events, claiming that security forces had contained the crisis. [redacted]

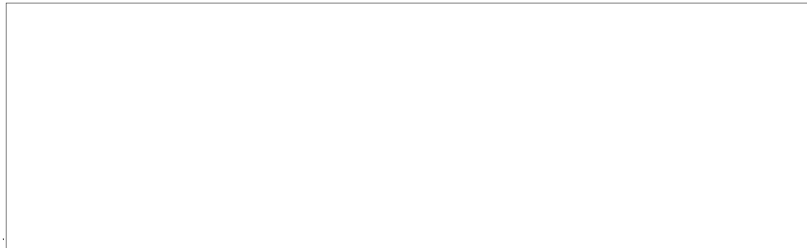
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Yesterday's fighting was the most serious in several weeks. The truce commission's efforts to prevent its continuation should be helped by the heavy program of religious and social events normally scheduled during the current holy month of Ramadan. So far this morning there are no reports of a resumption of fighting.

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ARAB STATES - FEDAYEEN



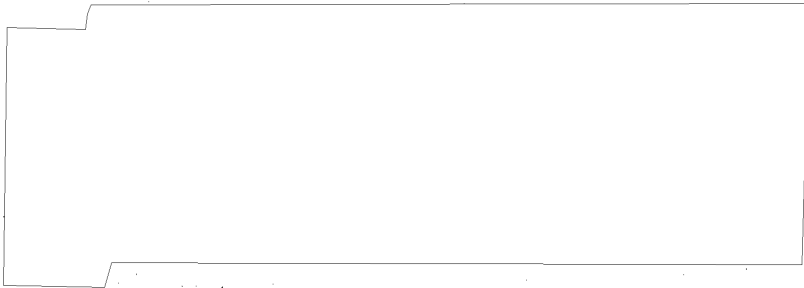
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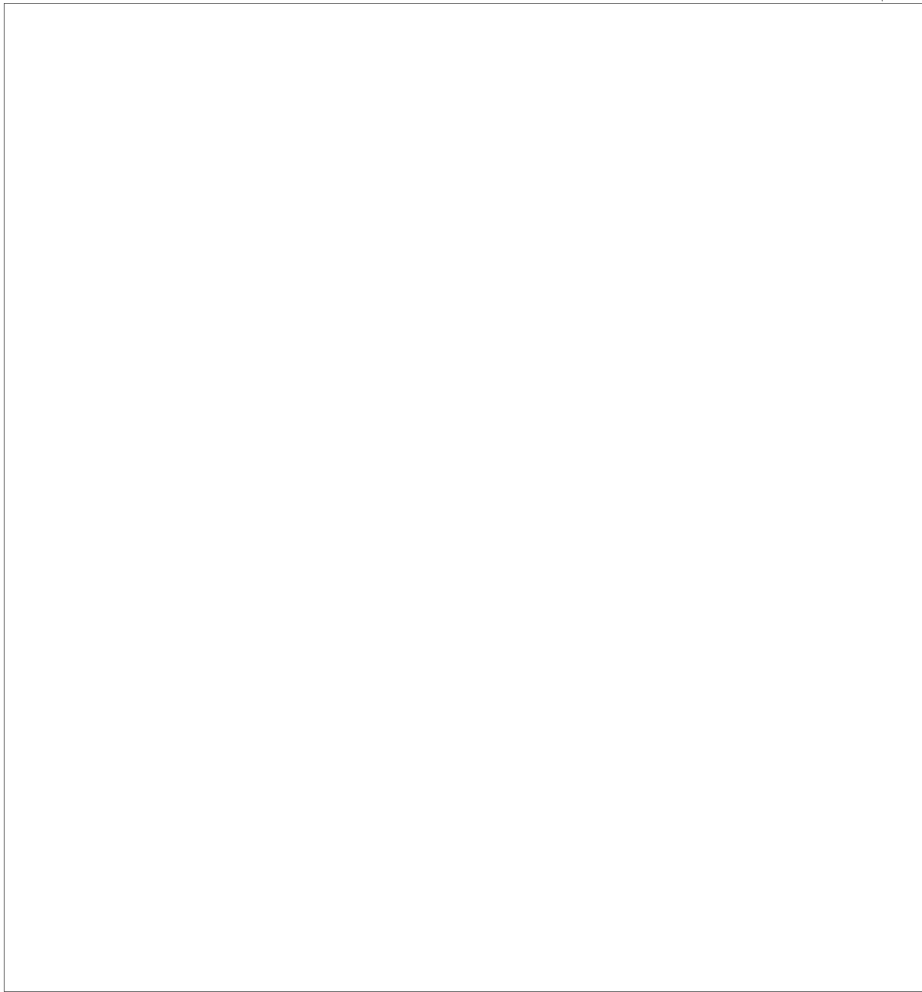


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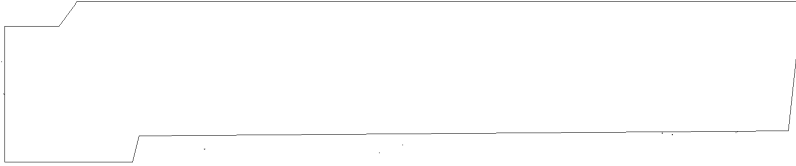
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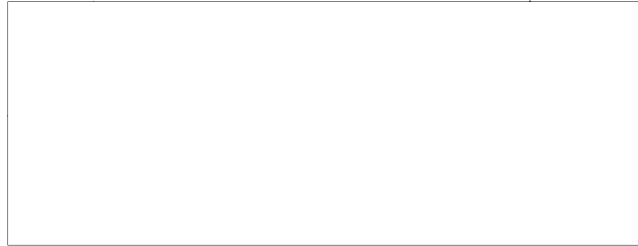


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NORTH VIETNAM



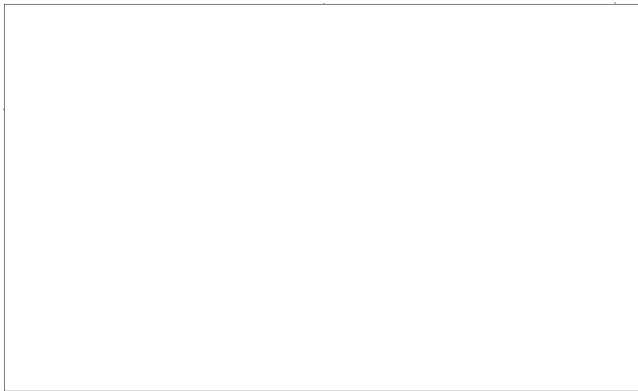
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Unusually heavy rains, however, have temporarily impeded the movement of both men and supplies through the Laotian panhandle. Recent severe storms, which inundated neighboring coastal regions of North and South Vietnam, have particularly disrupted road repairs and the resupply of logistic forces, according to messages from units in the central panhandle.

Now that rains are subsiding, movement should increase soon. Although last year the large-scale movement of supplies into South Vietnam was first noted in early December, the operations of an expanded logistic system in southern Laos and in Cambodia will require a greater effort this dry season.

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NOTES

Chile: Among Salvador Allende's first moves after assuming the presidency yesterday was to name a Communist as the second-ranking official in the vital Ministry of Interior, which is headed by Jose Toha, Allende's closest companion in his own Socialist Party. In naming new provincial governors, Toha has divided them in much the same proportion as the cabinet, with the choice posts going to the Communists and Socialists.

Communist China: Mao's longtime confidant and personal secretary, Chen Po-ta, has not appeared in public for three months, and the regime has given no explanation for his failure to show up with other ranking leaders on occasions when his presence would seem obligatory. This raises suspicions that Chen has become a victim of another round of factional quarreling at the top levels of the regime. In addition, Peking's refusal for over a year to provide an authoritative "pecking order" for the new politburo suggests that the regime is still unable to resolve the problems of power relationships within the present elite. Chen has been a member of the politburo's inner "standing committee," along with Mao, Lin Piao, Chou En-lai, and Kang Sheng, the political security chief.

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