

The President's Daily Brief

18 December 1970



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Poland, new disturbances have broken out in Szczecin on the East German border, and disorders resumed last night in Gdansk. (Page 1) 50X1

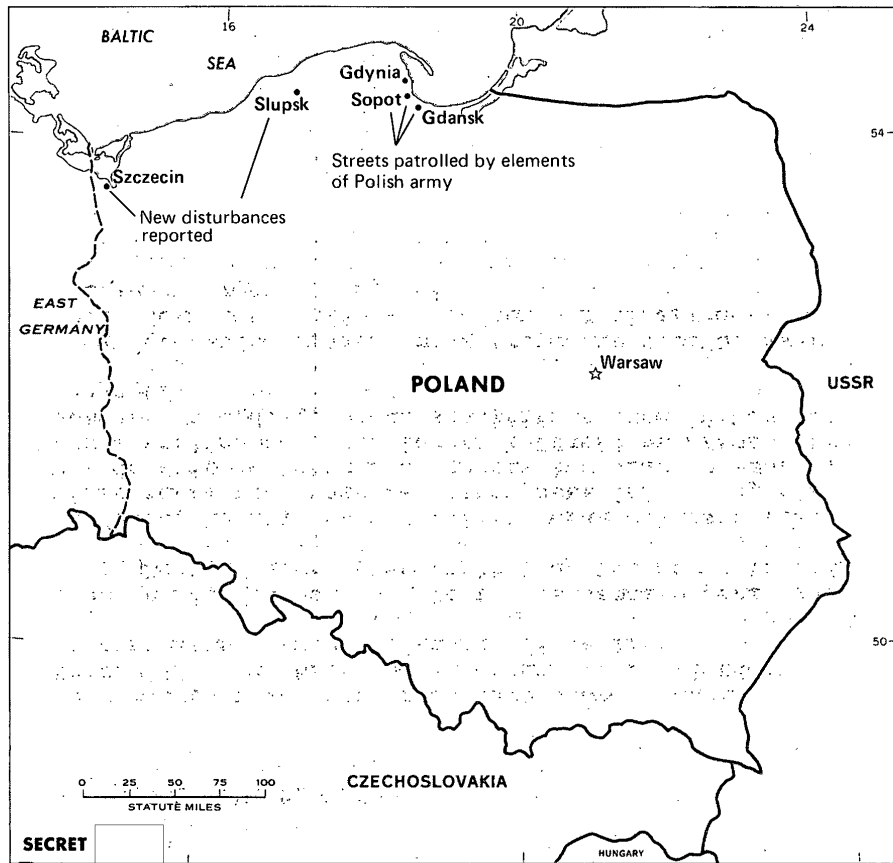
The combined Cambodian - South Vietnamese operation along Route 7 has linked up at Prey Totung. (Page 3) 50X1

South Vietnam 50X1

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POLAND

Street fighting and rioting broke out yesterday in the major port city of Szczecin (formerly Stettin) on the German border and according to press reports in Slupsk to the east. The Szczecin radio, in appealing for a restoration of order, stated that the city had "met with a great disaster." A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed and public meetings banned.

In the Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot area, workers are still on strike. Last night disorders led by youths resumed in Gdansk, where Polish army regulars have augmented police and security forces. Tactical air surveillance is also being provided. Warsaw appears to have escaped riots so far, although a bomb exploded behind the Soviet Embassy last night, according to press reports.

Yesterday Premier Cyrankiewicz, appealing for order in a nationwide television address, admitted that more than a dozen had been killed and hundreds wounded, including both militiamen and civilians. He warned that further outbursts might endanger the treaty just signed with West Germany and obliquely advised against antagonizing the Soviets.

Poland's Communist neighbors are alarmed and watchful. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] internal security forces of the Warsaw Pact states have instituted a 24-hour communications alert.

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Moscow apparently is intent on avoiding any direct involvement. There is no evidence yet that the two Soviet divisions stationed in Poland have reacted to the disturbances. Soviet news media, like those in other Communist countries, have published only the sparse initial Polish announcement of the riots and refrained

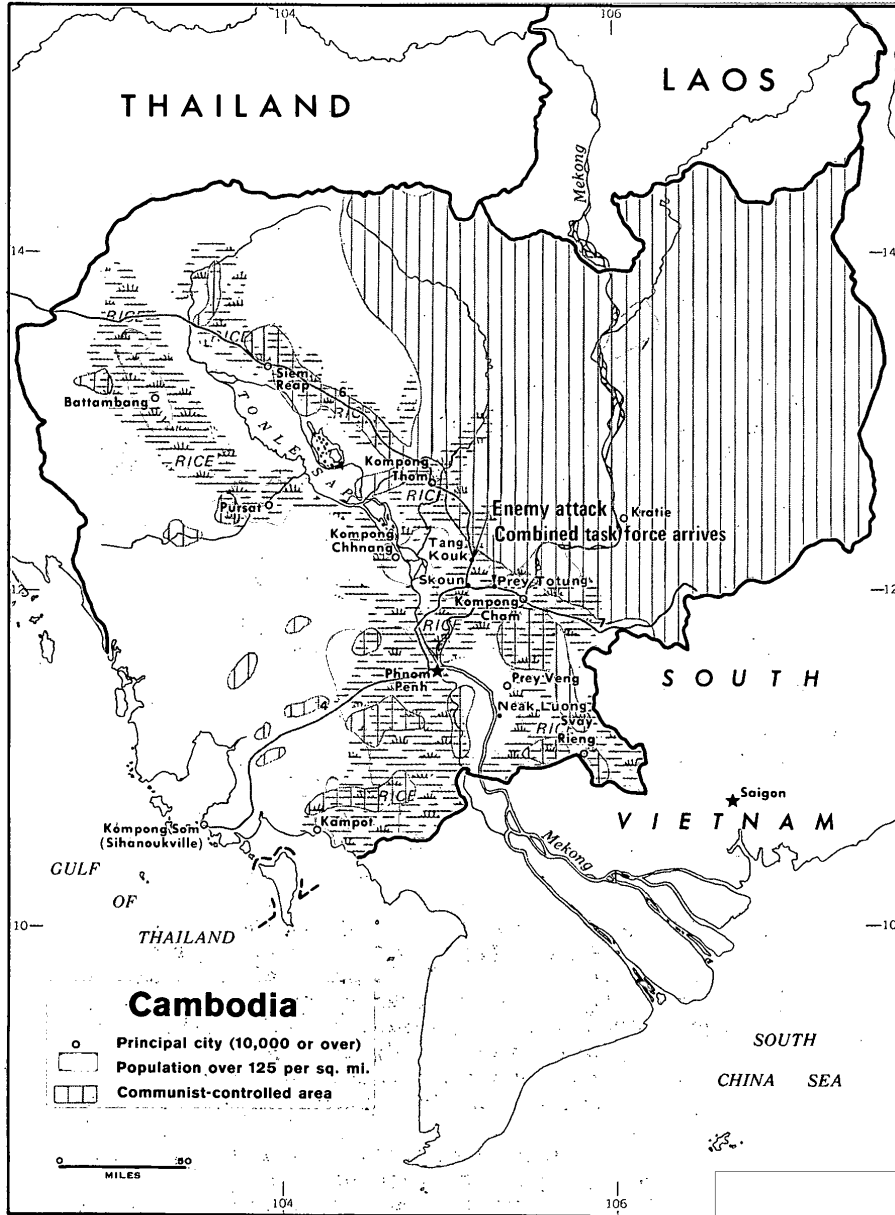
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from any comment. The Soviets almost certainly will continue to remain aloof unless events get completely beyond the control of the Polish security forces.

Although outbreaks of dissidence could continue for some time, the Polish Government apparently has enough cohesion and repressive apparatus to put down the workers, and it appears determined to do so. Large numbers of troops garrisoned in riot areas are available, and help is not likely to be sought from outsiders.

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Current Situation



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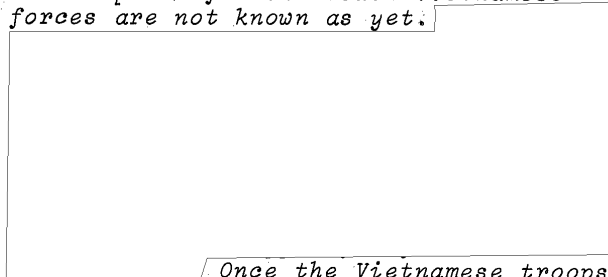
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CAMBODIA

The combined Cambodian - South Vietnamese task force moving west from Kompong Cham city reached the deserted village of Prey Totung yesterday without meeting any serious opposition. The six government battalions from Skoun have also arrived in Prey Totung, according to press reports. Contact has been re-established with elements of two of the Cambodian battalions that had been surrounded in the Prey Totung area. Three other government battalions that had also been boxed in are now moving toward the village. The Communists have made no attacks on Route 7 since the clearing operation began.

Future plans for the South Vietnamese forces are not known as yet.



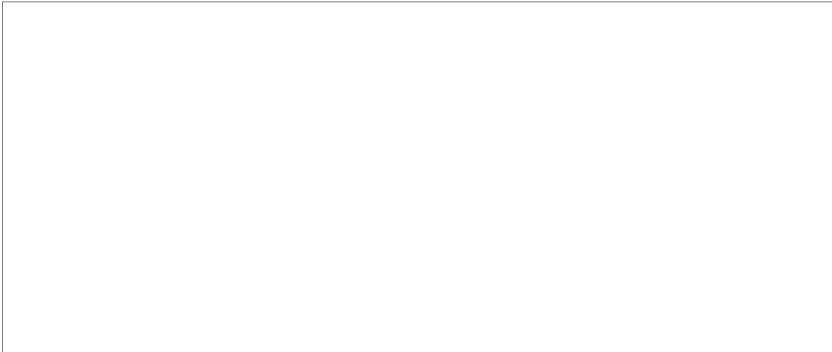
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Once the Vietnamese troops depart, the Cambodians will be hard pressed to keep Route 7 open by themselves.

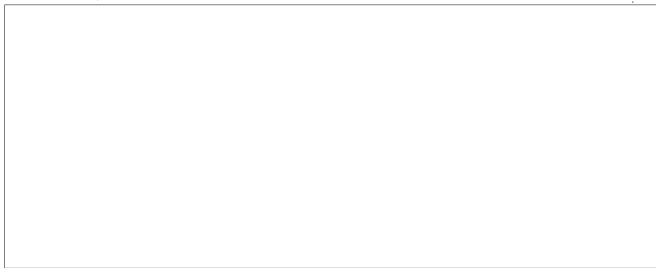
On Route 6, meanwhile, the Communists have stepped up their harassment of the Chenla column, which supplied some of the government forces for the Route 7 campaign. On 15 December, in one of their strongest attacks in the Tang Kouk area in several weeks, they killed 17 government soldiers.

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SOUTH VIETNAM



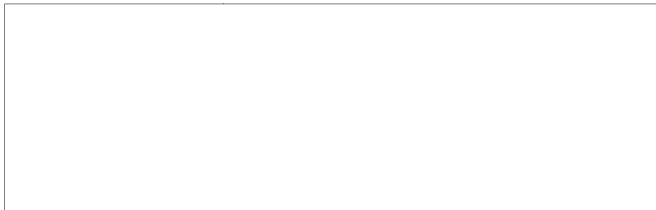
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The recent rash of terrorist incidents and scattered shellings in the southern half of South Vietnam apparently marks the beginning of the Communists' "winter" campaign. In addition to bombing attacks against allied billets in Saigon, there have been intensified mortar and rocket bombardments in the surrounding provinces and unusually heavy casualties from terrorist incidents in the delta. There are also indications that the Communists are completing preparations for action in the northern half of the country, where their units are in better shape than those in the south and could mount operations of somewhat greater magnitude.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

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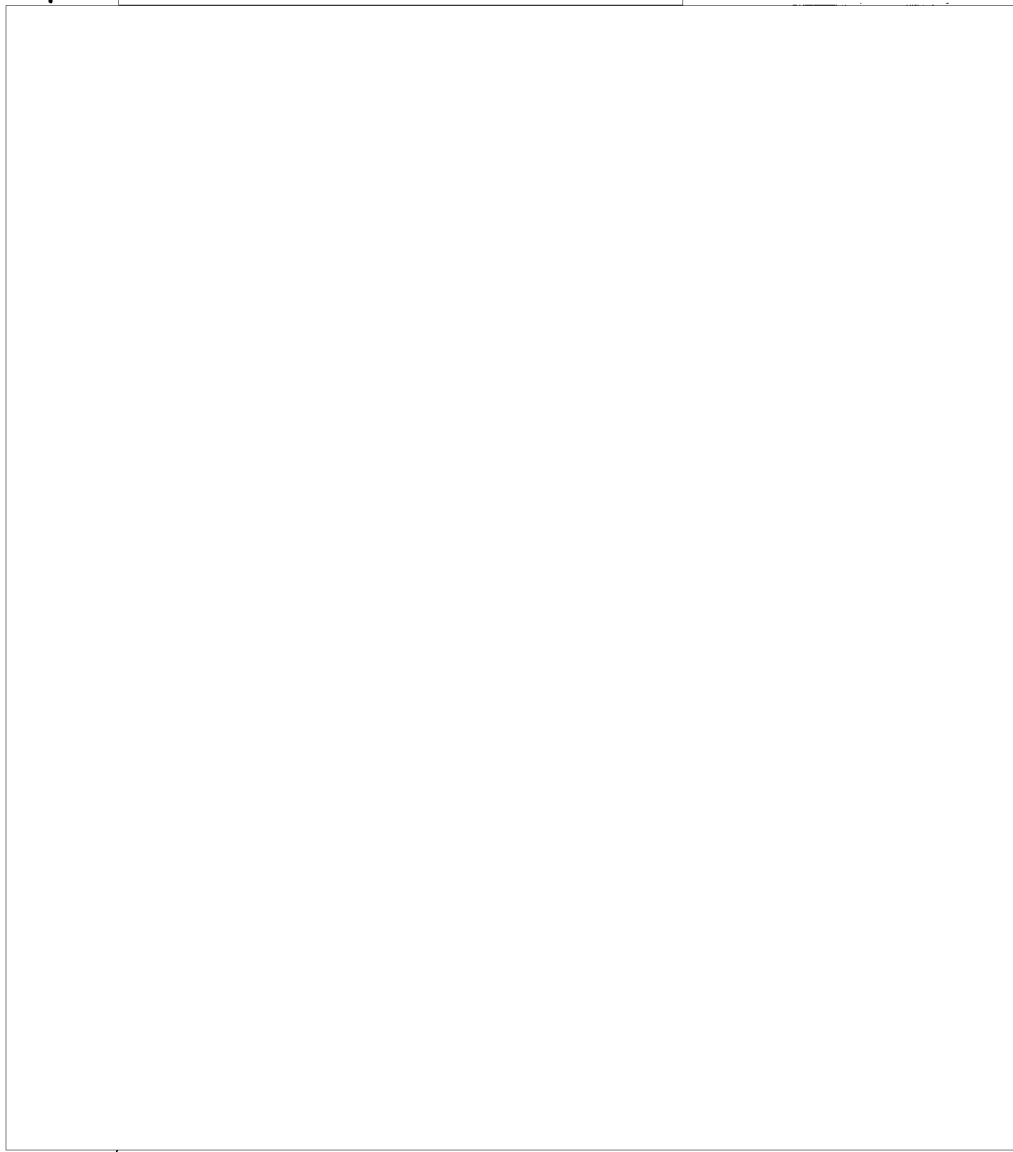
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