

The President's Daily Brief

6 January 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

6 January 1971

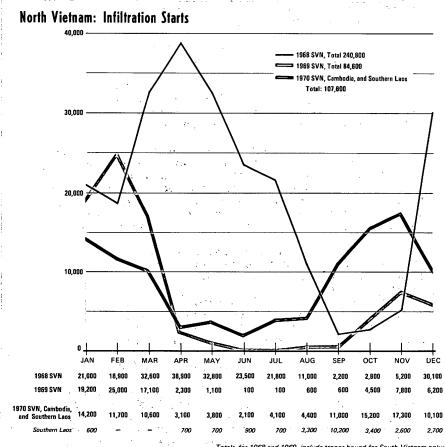
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Vietnam (Page 1)	50X1 50X1 50X
Vietnam (Page 2)	50X1 50X1
The Communists have opened a new road in the Laotian panhandle. (Page 3)	
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Soviet Guinea Page 5.	50X1 50X1
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SOUTH VIETNAM

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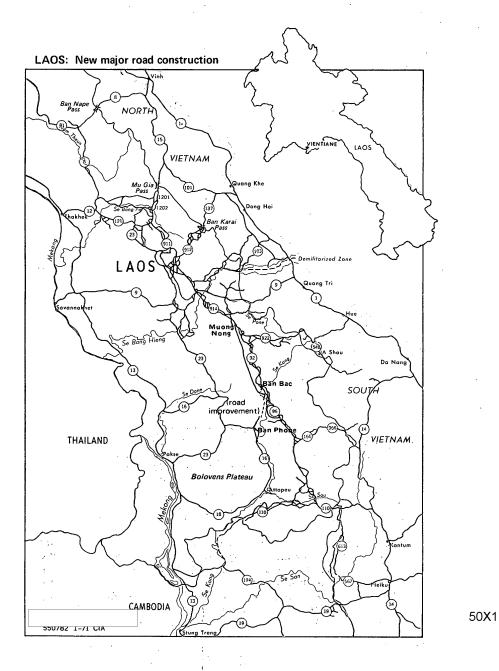


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Totals for 1968 and 1969 include troops bound for South Vietnam only; those for 1970 include troops bound for South Vietnam, Southern Laos, and Cambodia.

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LAOS

Recent photography indicate that the Communists have opened a new 70-mile road from Muong Nong to a point on the Se Kong River about 15 miles south of Ban Bac. It parallels a heavily bombed stretch of Routes 92 and 96, the main north-south road. According to intercepts, additional engineering units have been shifted to the new road, and air observers report that construction of AAA sites is under way. The Communists are also improving and constructing roads in the area between Ban Bac and Ban Phone close to the Bolovens Plateau.

The new road presumably is intended to lessen the effects of the US bombing program and to increase the flow of supplies to extreme southern Laos and Cambodia. The Communists have also taken steps to open a westerly alternate to the main north-south route via Routes 23 and 16, but it is unlikely that these routes will assume a heavy logistic burden unless government forces are driven from the Bolovens Plateau, the dominant strategic terrain in southwestern Laos.

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NOTES

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USSR-Cuba:	

USSR: Moscow has announced that last year's grain crop was 185 million tons, surpassing the previous high of 171 million tons harvested in 1966. The 1970 harvest should yield a usable output of about 150 million tons, approximately 15 percent above the average level achieved in 1966-69 and ample to meet domestic needs and foreign commitments. The harvest will increase feed supplies and eventually should alleviate the meat shortage of the past two years.

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