

The President's Daily Brief

18 January 1971

Top Secret

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Egyptian letter to Jarring is discussed on Page 1.

East and West Germany. 50X1
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Another enemy regiment has moved from Cambodia into Tay Ninh Province. (Page 3)

The situation in Cambodia is noted on Page 4.

Laotian irregulars are meeting increased resistance in their operation against the new road in the infiltration corridor. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

MIDDLE EAST

The Egyptian letter presented to Jarring on 15 January charges that Israel's proposal "adds no new element" to previous Israeli positions and that it ignores the question of Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories and the refugee problem. The letter calls for an end to "Israeli aggression," the withdrawal of all Israeli forces to their 5 June 1967 positions and a settlement of the refugee problem through Israeli respect for the rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with UN resolutions. The letter says that the Security Council could provide security to all states in the area by setting up a UN peace-keeping force composed of the Big Four powers and by establishing demilitarized zones astride the borders.

The letter concludes by stating that the Security Council "must exercise its responsibility for international peace and security" because the Israeli position impedes the achievement of a peaceful settlement and leads to continued escalation in the Middle East.

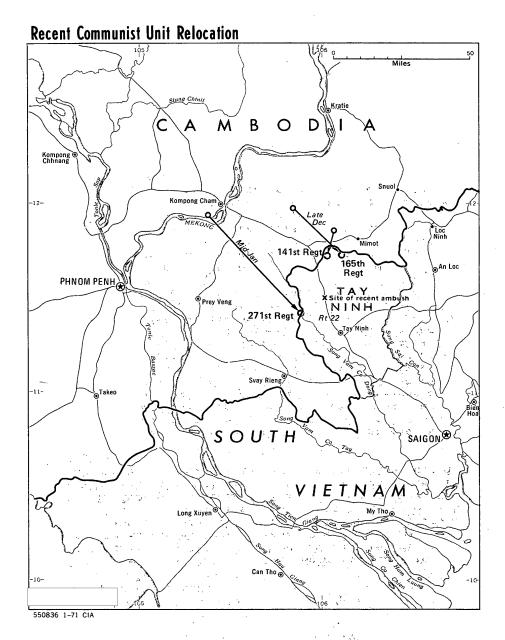
Jarring told Ambassador Yost that he is recasting the Egyptian letter in order to eliminate its "polemical" elements and to put it in a form resembling the Israelis' proposals. He plans to show this to Egyptian Ambassador Zayyat today and hopes to get his concurrence to the new draft without reference to Cairo.

It seems doubtful that Zayyat will accede to any major revisions without consulting Cairo. At any rate, even stripped of its polemics, Cairo's letter is uncompromising on Israeli withdrawal and the refugee question. The areas of disagreement seem as wide as ever.

It is unclear from the letter whether Cairo is calling for another Security Council meeting. Zayyat says he is seeking clarification from Cairo on the point but he told Ambassador Yost that his personal interpretation was that the language was intended neither to request a Security Council meeting nor to foreclose this option. In Cairo, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry summoned separately yesterday the ambassadors of non-permanent members of the Security Council, presumably to discuss what action the Council might take

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SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

The 271st Regiment of the Communist 9th Division, which participated in the campaign in the Kompong Cham area several weeks ago, has moved more than 40 miles to the southeast into the Tay Ninh Province border area of South Vietnam. Two enemy soldiers, who had taken part in an ambush of a South Vietnamese supply convoy on Route 22, claim that parts of the regiment returned to Tay Ninh during the first two weeks of January.

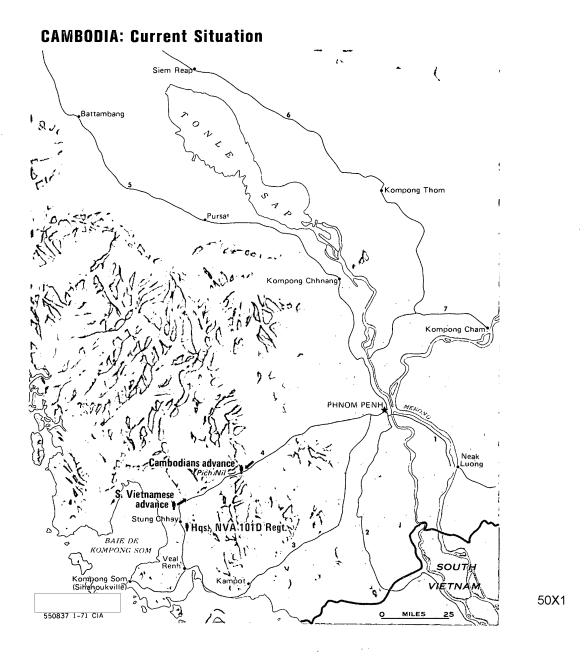
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Two regiments of the Communist 7th Division--the 141st and 165th--which moved into northern Tay Ninh Province late last month appear ready for action.

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The continuing movement of forces to northern Tay Ninh appears intended to discourage South Vietnamese operations into Cambodia. The two regiments of the 7th Division, as well as the 271st Regiment, are close to Route 22, and they may coordinate harassing action against this major supply route into Cambodia.

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CAMBOD I A

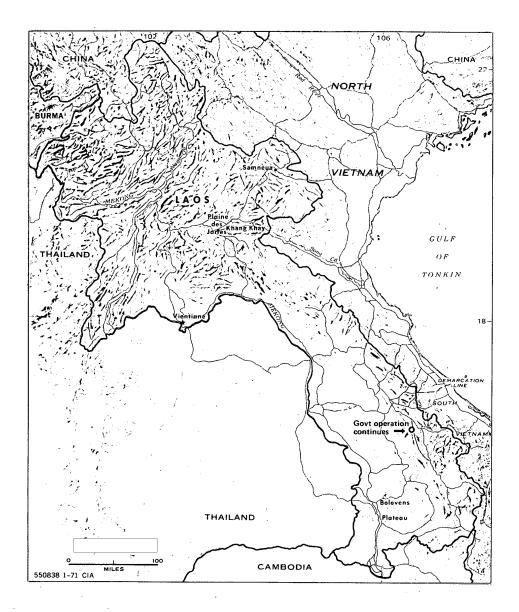
The South Vietnamese - Cambodian task force moving up from the south along Route 4 is still in the vicinity of Stung Chhay pass.

in spite of supply shortages, the North Vietnamese 101D Regiment remains in the area and is attempting to slow the advance of the task force. Cambodian officials announced today that the task force moving from the north has taken Pich Nil pass, according to late press reports.

but the Cambodian units of the pass earlier today. A spokesman in Phnom Penh claimed that the pass was occupied without enemy re-

The South Vietnamese Government has agreed to provide naval escorts and air cover for river convoys to and from Phnom Penh. The Cambodians will assign liaison officers to the South Vietnamese craft to coordinate fire support, and Cambodian troops will mount new operations to attempt to clear the river banks between Neak Luong and Phnom Penh. The first escorted convoy arrived in Phnom Penh yesterday without incident.

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NOTES

Laos: Government forces pushing toward the new Communist road in the infiltration corridor are encountering increased resistance.

the Communists are moving in forces to counter the government forays. In the north, the Communists' preoccupation with supply shortages west of the Plaine des Jarres, and indicate that elements of the North Vietnamese 312th Division are now in the border area, perhaps inside Laos. Meanwhile, Communist envoy Souk Vongsak has advised Souvanna that he plans to go to Samneua late this week for consultations, and assured him he will return to Vientiane to resume discussions on possible peace negotiations.

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International Oil: Libya has given Occidental and Bunker Hunt until today to respond to its demand for increased oil revenues and mandatory reinvestment of profits. The Libyans reject the companies' position that they will negotiate only on the basis of the industry-wide proposal presented on Saturday, and the US Embassy believes that reprisals can be expected if the companies stick to this stand. The meeting between oil company negotiators and the Gulf States negotiating committee is still scheduled for tomorrow in Tehran.

Jordan: The cease-fire continues to hold, with the movement of the fedayeen to bases outside of the cities scheduled to be completed today. PFLP leader Habbash's call for King Husayn's replacement by a "popular, progressive, and nonreactionary" regime points up the growing differences within the fedayeen ranks. A spokesman for the fedayeen central committee retorted that the PFLP's actions repeatedly provide the Jordanian Government with a pretext for not adhering to agreements.