



The President's Daily Brief

19 January 1971

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 January 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The North Vietnamese have moved two regimental headquarters westward from the Ban Ban area of Laos to within ten miles of Muong Soui. (Page 1)

The press leak of Tokyo's plans to expand aid to Indochina undermines prospects for carrying out this policy. (Page 2)

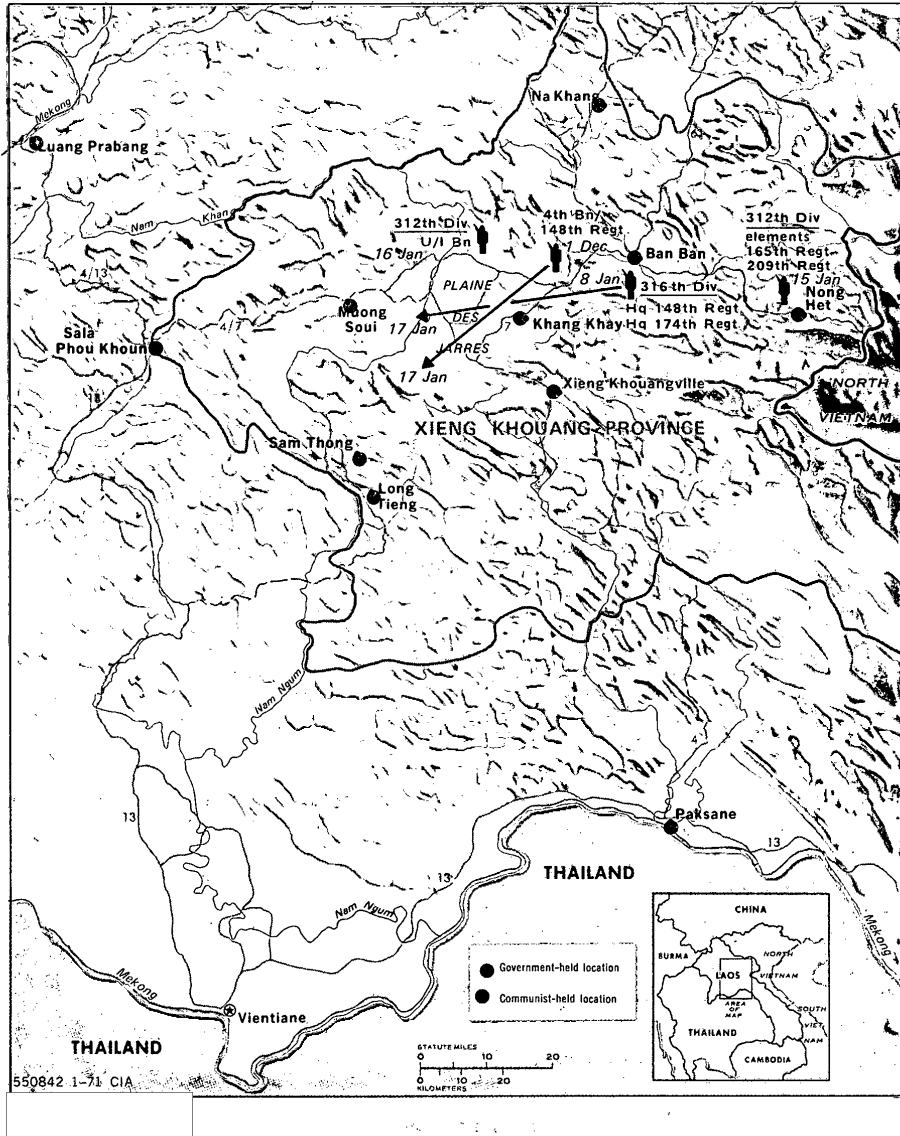
Further work stoppages in Gdansk may account for Gierek's delay in setting a date for a central committee plenum he has announced. (Page 3)

On Page 4 we report data on a new multipurpose Soviet destroyer.

[Redacted] Soviet [Redacted] Havana 50X1
(Page 5)

At Annex, [Redacted] North 50X1
Vietnam [Redacted] 50X1

LAOS/PLAINE DES JARRES: Relocation of NVA Units



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LAOS

The headquarters of two regiments from the North Vietnamese 316th Division--the 148th and the 174th--recently moved westward from the Ban Ban area to within ten miles of Muong Soui. In addition, a battalion of the 148th which had been located west of Ban Ban has moved about 25 miles southwestward and onto the Plaine.

This is the first time these regimental headquarters have been this far west in the Plaine; their subordinate battalions, however, have been active in the area for months, bearing the weight of the fighting in northern Laos.

Although the regimental headquarters may want merely to assume tighter control over their subordinates, their relocation could also be related to the return to Laos of the 312th Division from North Vietnam. Last year the 316th's headquarters and regiments shifted southward closer to the fighting when the 312th moved into Laos as a back-up force.

On 15 January the 209th Regiment of the 312th Division was tentatively located near Nong Het, close to the North Vietnamese border. There is evidence that elements of the division's 165th Regiment are in the same area. Direction finding has already located one unidentified battalion from the 312th north of the Plaine des Jarres.

At a time when these moves are being made to strengthen their military position in Laos, the Communists on 14 January called again for talks between the Pathet Lao and the government. In making the call, the Pathet Lao scaled down their conditions for starting talks at Khang Khay, citing the need to "de-escalate" bombing and air activity in Xieng Khouang Province but stopping short of demanding a complete cessation.

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JAPAN-INDOCHINA

Details of Tokyo's plan to expand aid to the countries of Indochina have been leaked to a major Japanese newspaper. Included in the story is information about a secret understanding between Foreign Minister Aichi and Finance Minister Fukuda to use government reserve funds rather than a budget appropriation for grants to Cambodia.

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Only recently, partly in response to US prodding and partly in the belief that the fighting is now on the wane, has there been growing sentiment in the Foreign Ministry and elsewhere in the government to expand aid to Indochina. Previously, Tokyo's policy had been to limit its assistance to small, "humanitarian" projects and to put off any significant increase until the hostilities end. The press leak, in addition to undermining the prospect of a shift in aid policy this year, may give the government's leftist critics a new opportunity to attack its association with US policy in Southeast Asia.

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POLAND

Shipyards workers in Gdansk staged work stoppages the past two days and are threatening more today in support of economic and political demands. The strikers again called for Gierk or Premier Jaroszewicz to come to Gdansk for face-to-face discussions. The workers are also reported to be demanding the ouster of two politburo members: Mieczyslaw Moczar, whom they believe to have been responsible for the initial harsh anti-riot measures last month; and Stanislaw Kociolek, a former Gdansk party leader whom Gierk has made responsible for economic affairs. Their economic complaints center on higher production targets which the workers say outweigh a rather limited range of benefits, including wage increases and free hot lunches during the winter.

The persistence of tension in Gdansk presumably is one reason why Gierk has so far failed to announce a firm date for the central committee plenum he has said would be held later this month. The plenum is slated to include a self-critical party appraisal of the "December events" and a program for future economic development. This agenda would be especially difficult without a settlement in Gdansk.

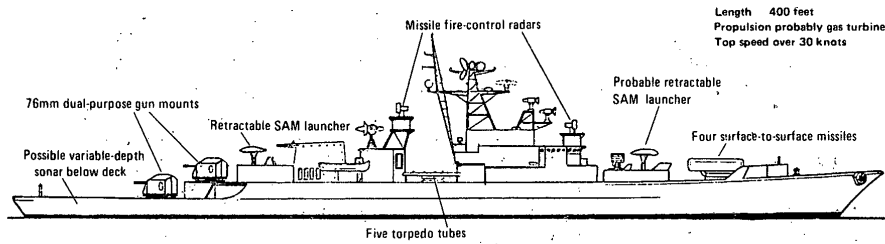
New Multipurpose Soviet Destroyer



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Krivak-class Guided Missile Destroyer



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USSR

A new multipurpose Soviet destroyer has been photographed while on sea trials in the Baltic. This Krivak-class ship is about 400 feet long and carries surface-to-air missiles, surface-to-surface missiles, antisubmarine rockets, torpedoes, and dual-purpose naval guns.

The new destroyer appears designed primarily for antisubmarine warfare, but it is capable of attacking other surface ships with cruise missiles and of defending itself against air attack.

Satellite photography revealed the first ship of this class under construction at Kaliningrad on the Baltic in the fall of 1968.

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The destroyer is also being built at Kerch on the Black Sea. Our information on this building program suggests that as many as 45 units could be completed during the 1970s. This would be the Soviets' largest construction program for naval surface ships since the Skoryy-class destroyers were built in the early 1950s.

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USSR-CUBA

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NOTES

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NORTH VIETNAMESE



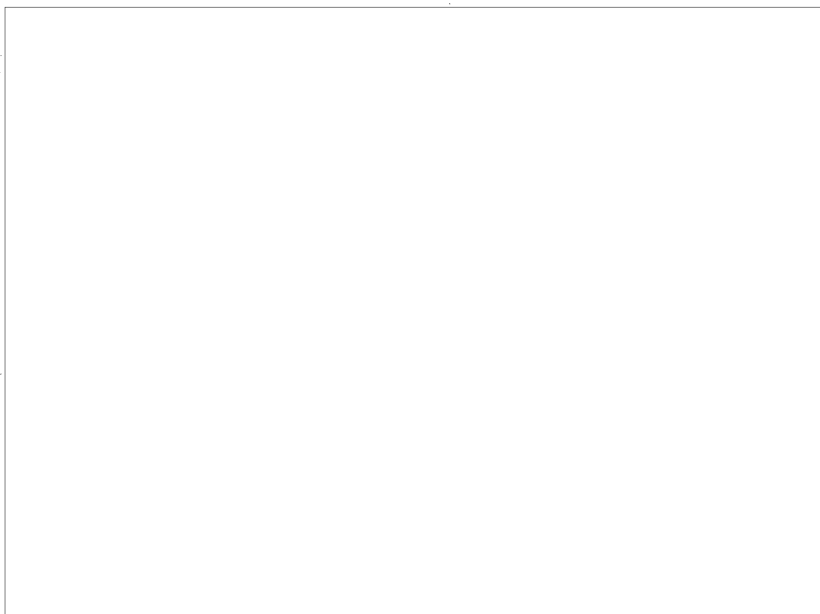
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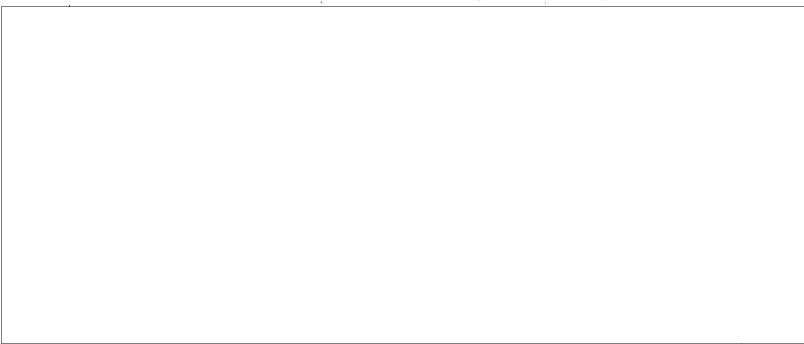
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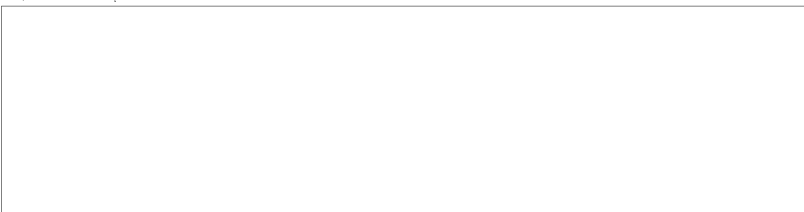
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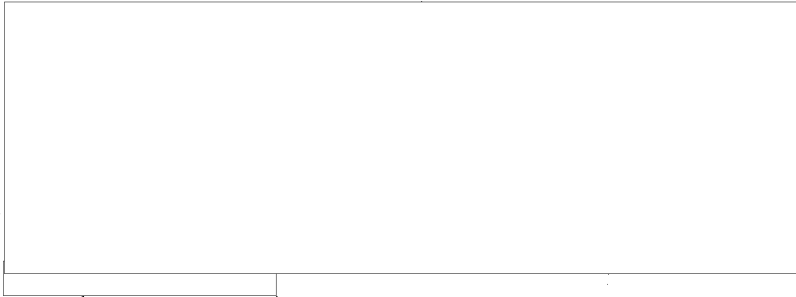
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