



The President's Daily Brief

3 February 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Hanoi has issued an open communiqué on the meeting Monday of the Communist Party central committee.
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In his talks with Pompidou, Brandt won support for the general purposes of Ostpolitik but received little encouragement on specific issues. (Page 2)

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In Laos, Communist forces overran Muong Soui yesterday but its loss will be of more psychological than strategic importance at this time. (Page 4)

Photography shows that Egyptian river-crossing equipment is still stacked at a depot near Cairo.
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NORTH VIETNAM

An unusual open communiqué issued Monday following a meeting of the Communist Party central committee has set the line that more will be required of the North Vietnamese people in the coming months to meet the needs of what is seen as a long war ahead. Concentrating on the home front, the communiqué--the first open one since 1964--leaves no doubt that the party leadership expects to call on the North Vietnamese for greater sacrifices than were anticipated just two years ago.

The party calls for better domestic performance in a way it has been urging for the past year, especially since Sihanouk's ouster. The government clearly intends to follow practical, expedient policies designed to induce maximum popular response to its directives. The communiqué pays lip service to the longer term goals of developing heavy industry, further collectivizing agriculture, and generally building a more orthodox Marxist state, but indicates that an all-out effort to support the war comes first.

At a similar central committee gathering held in the spring of 1969 to discuss the full range of war-related issues, the party established a new policy of fighting the war on a lower key so as to preserve its forces for the long haul. The guidelines for this policy did not begin to appear in the South, however, until after COSVN issued its Resolution Nine that summer.

Whatever the reasons for the current publicity, we expect that tactical advice, based as in the past on a secret resolution covering Communist prospects in the war, will soon be disseminated to party authorities down the line.

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FRANCE - WEST GERMANY

In his talks last week with Pompidou, Brandt won renewed statements of support for the general purposes of Ostpolitik, but received little encouragement on specific issues. Brandt agreed with Pompidou that inter-German discussions of Berlin must await four-power authorization, but found Pompidou unresponsive to his proposals for seeking means to hasten a settlement in the four-power forum.

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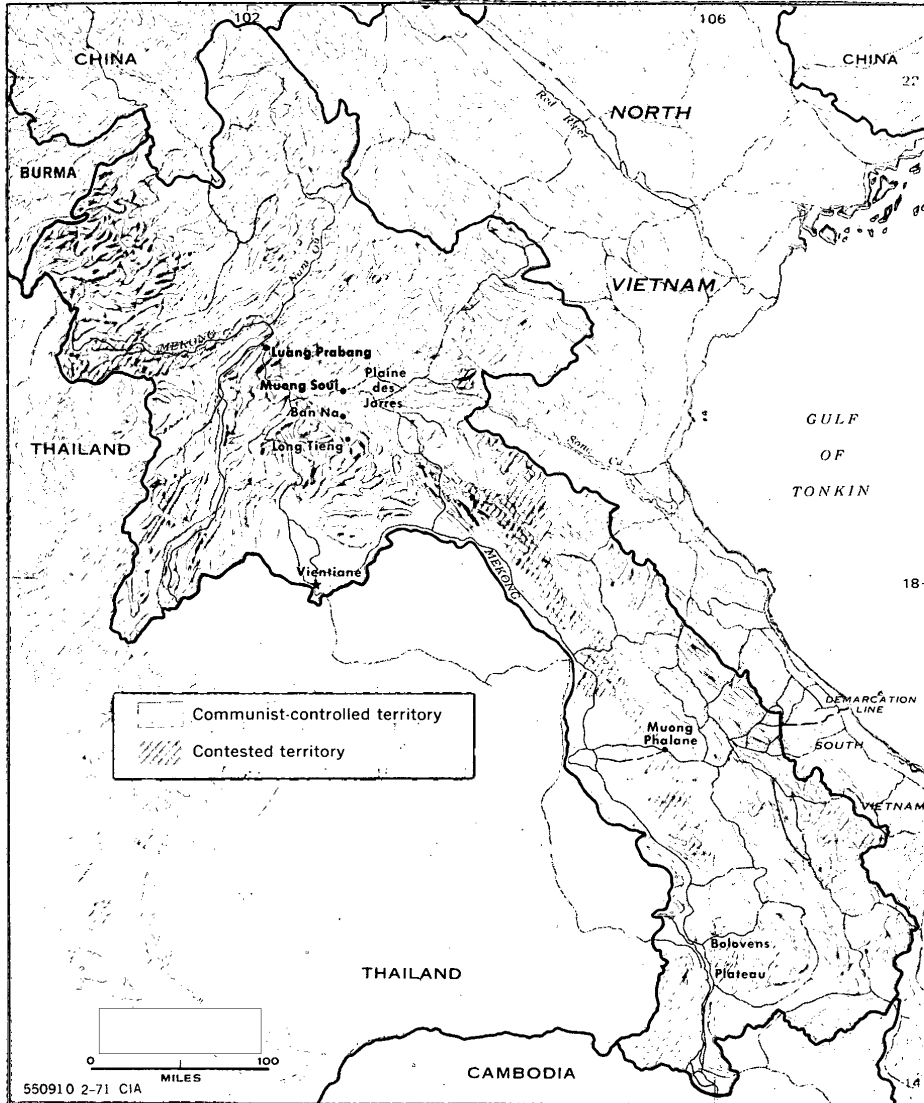
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LAOS



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LAOS

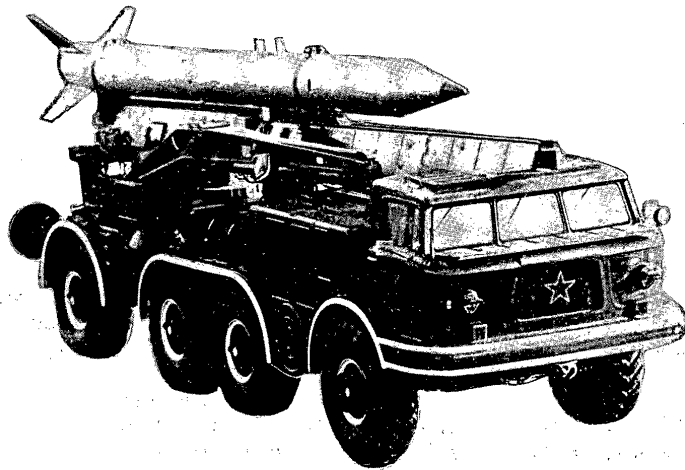
Communist forces yesterday overran a small government force defending Muong Soui northwest of the Plaine des Jarres on Route 7.

Muong Soui was recaptured by government irregulars under Vang Pao last October. It has been virtually deserted by its civilian inhabitants for several months, however, and was only lightly garrisoned by the government. Its fall will be of more psychological than strategic importance at this time.

The attack may have been carried out by elements of the 174th Regiment of the North Vietnamese 316th Division which has been massing west of the Plaine for several weeks in preparation for the expected dry season campaign.

There are also reports that three government outposts north and east of Luang Prabang have come under attack. The extent of the enemy thrust in this area is not clear.

Soviet Rocket Launcher Seen Near Cairo



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-FROG short range surface-to-surface missile and transporter-erector-launcher, seen here in a Soviet parade.

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- Range about 40 nautical miles
- CEP 500 meters at maximum range
- Warhead weight 1200 lbs (conventional)
- Warheads available —high explosive
- (in Warsaw Pact forces) —nuclear
- —chemical

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EGYPT

Satellite photography [redacted] shows no change in the amount of equipment at Egypt's major river-crossing equipment depot near Cairo. The pontoons, boats, and bridging equipment photographed at this installation in late October are still stacked throughout the area. At the FROG-7 missile storage depot, also near Cairo, 12 transporter-erector-launchers were identified, along with 13 resupply vehicles. Most of the FROG equipment was observed at this installation in late October.

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Before a major amphibious operation, the Egyptians would have to assemble and move most of the equipment at these installations into position near the Canal. It would take only a few days to ready the equipment, however, if the Egyptians were to decide to do so.

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NOTE

Ecuador: Rumors of a military take-over are increasing in frequency and intensity, according to the American Embassy. President Velasco appears to be alienating military figures by making all decisions unilaterally, including the recent one to request withdrawal of the US military assistance and advisory group. The ambitious cabinet rivals, Minister of Defense Acosta and Minister of Government Martinez, are ready to use any clear signs of military dissatisfaction to gather armed forces support for an attempt to succeed Velasco.

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