



*The President's Daily Brief*

*12 February 1971*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Soviets are conducting initial tests of new defensive system components at Sary Shagan. *(Page 1)*

In eastern Laos, enemy resistance remains modest, but strong counterattacks are being planned and additional North Vietnamese reinforcements have arrived. *(Page 2)*

Cambodia's difficulties in moving surplus rice for export are worsening. *(Page 3)*

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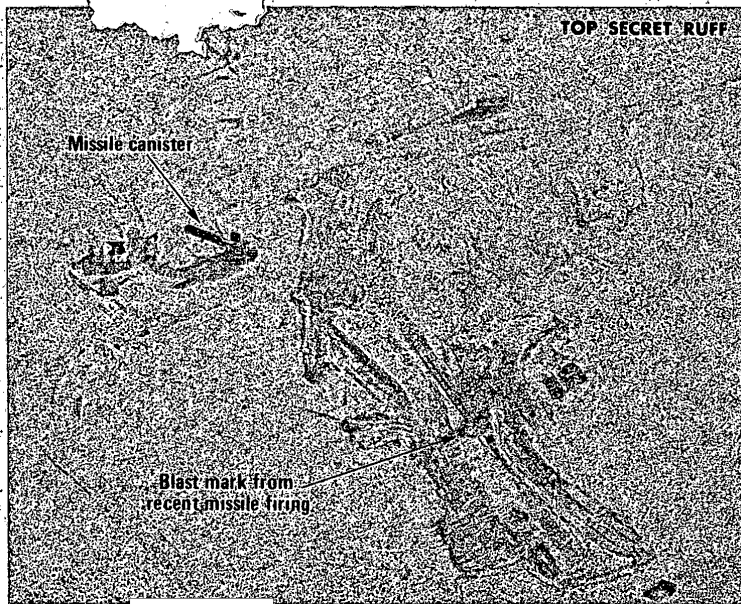
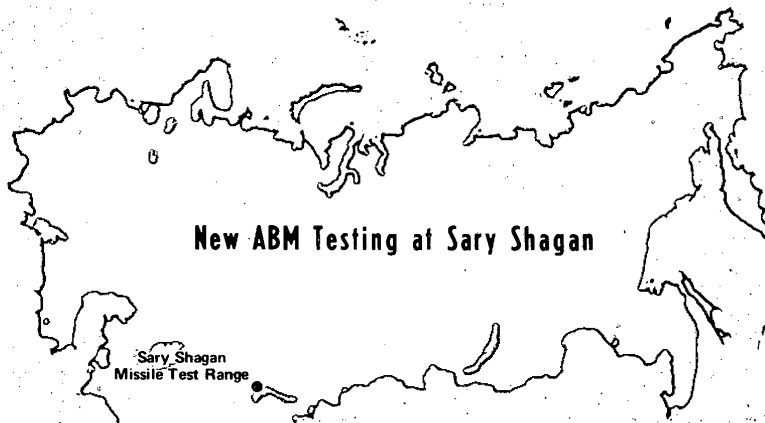
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The Laotian Government today announced a country-wide state of emergency. *(Page 5)*



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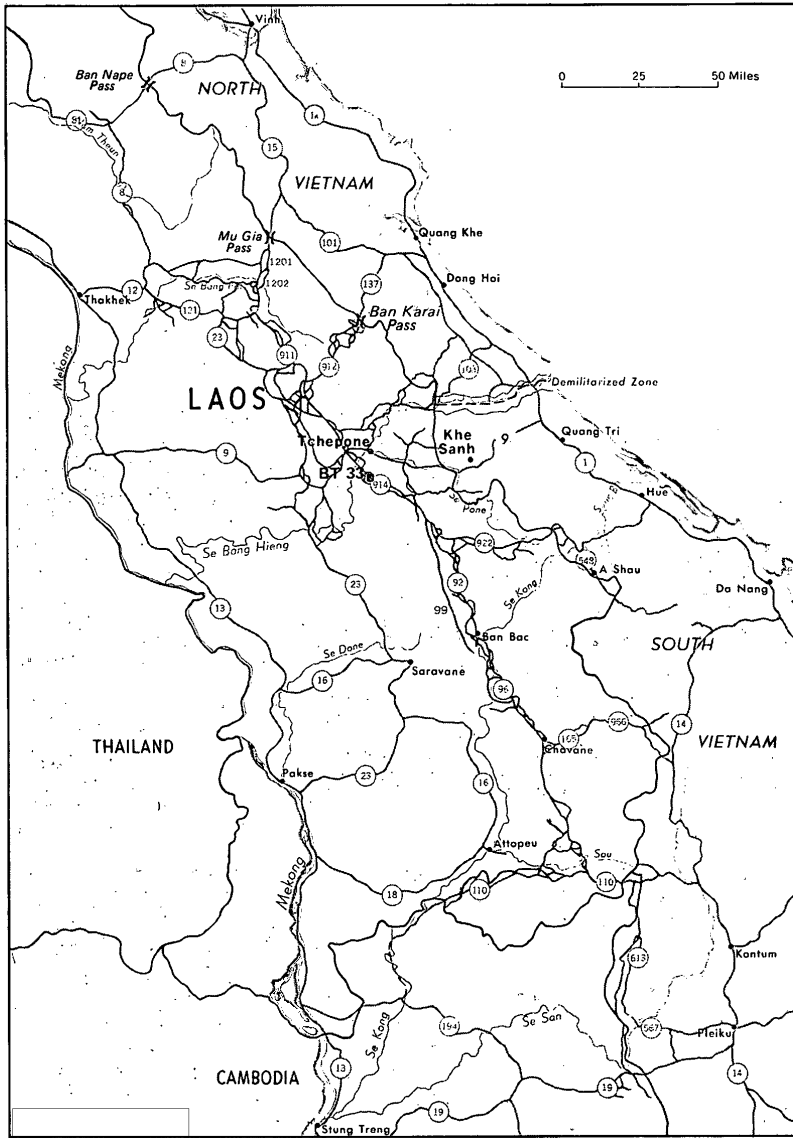
*The Soviets are conducting initial tests of new defensive system components at the Sary Shagan missile test range. Recent satellite photography of one of the two launch sites at a new ABM facility there showed burn scars at one launcher and a canister similar to the one used for the Galosh ABM at another launcher.*

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*New launchers, much smaller than those used for Galosh, have been emplaced at the second launch site, but are not yet in use.*

*Near the second launch site a new radar has been assembled some time during the last six months. The new radar has two antennas, and possibly a third, one of which may be a square phased array. Its size is sufficient to suggest that it could track incoming ballistic missile warheads and provide guidance for ABM interceptors during an engagement.*

*It is too early to say exactly what kind of system the Soviets are developing and what its capabilities will be. The Soviets may be developing a system having ABM capabilities that does not require large missile site radars which take years to construct. Whether these new radar and missile components will be able to function independently of large, long-range acquisition and tracking radars like Dog House or whether they will be integrated into the Moscow ABM system is not yet known.*



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VIETNAM-LAOS

*Enemy resistance in eastern Laos is still modest, but strong counterattacks appear imminent. According to an intercept the North Vietnamese 64th Regiment plans to mount a series of coordinated tank-infantry attacks on an ARVN concentration about midway between Tchepone and the border. Other Communist forces evidently will continue to harass ARVN columns and strongpoints.*

*Additional North Vietnamese troops have arrived on the scene. Wednesday the 88th Regiment of the 308th Division was located astride the South Vietnam - Laos border northwest of Khe Sanh; six days earlier it had been 35 miles to the northeast in North Vietnam. Enemy units also continue to strengthen their defenses to the west of Tchepone.*

*The Communists have continued to move large amounts of supplies south through the Laotian panhandle and to combat units in eastern Laos. A unit south of the Ban Karai Pass reported in mid-week that 75 vehicles, capable of carrying 300 tons of supplies, had passed through. Binh Tram 33 just south of Tchepone reported achieving 86 percent of its task--presumably the "crash" logistics effort that began in that sector on Sunday. Most resupply has involved munitions, sometimes double and triple the normal amount.*

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CAMBODIA

Cambodia's difficulties in trying to move its surplus rice to the ports of Phnom Penh and Kompong Som (Sihanoukville) are growing worse as the war continues. In the northern province of Battambang, which normally accounts for half of the country's rice exports, warehouses are overflowing with last year's crop even as a large new crop is being gathered. Transport costs from Battambang to Phnom Penh have increased fivefold since March, principally because of Communist harassment of road and rail lines, truck shortages, and general insecurity. Even when the rice reaches the capital, the availability of shipping has been reduced by Communist harassment along the Mekong.

*The Cambodian Government is especially eager to avoid defaulting on its export commitments abroad and thus forfeit badly needed foreign exchange, as happened last year. Rice exports in 1970 totaled only about 180,000 tons, or 40 percent of anticipated sales before the war intensified. Unless the security of transportation can be improved substantially, however, the war's impact on Cambodia's exports this year will be even more disastrous than in 1970.*

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SOUTH VIETNAM



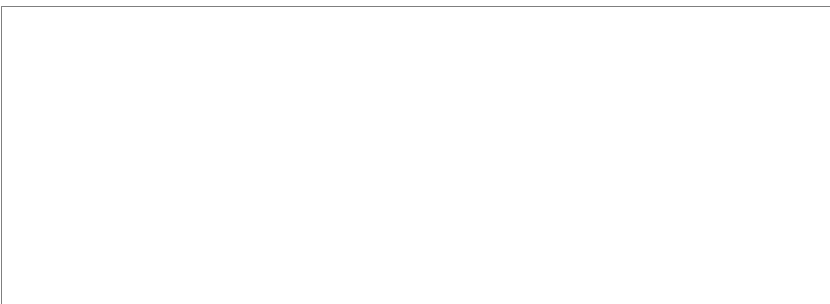
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NOTES

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Laos: The government today announced a state of emergency throughout the country. Its communiqué referred to the South Vietnamese penetration in southern Laos, but attributed this to continued North Vietnamese violations of the Geneva accords. No mention was made of any general mobilization order, which the Laotian National Security Council had also recommended to the cabinet as reported in yesterday's Daily Brief.

Jordan: Steady army pressure to clear Amman of fedayeen resulted yesterday in an armed clash near the city's airport and new fighting broke out today, according to press reports. In a house-to-house search for arms public security forces claim to have found large quantities of explosives and weapons, including rockets aimed at the airport. Because of yesterday's incident fedayeen leaders are said to have reissued weapons collected from their undisciplined militia following the truce last month, and gun battles may again occur frequently. The fedayeen nevertheless seem incapable of any sustained resistance to the army.

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