



The President's Daily Brief

9 March 1971



46

~~Top Secret~~

50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 March 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

On Page 1, we discuss recent developments in Communist Chinese - UK relations which reflect Peking's current efforts to project a conciliatory international posture.

The North Vietnamese have not yet made a serious attempt to dislodge South Vietnamese forces from positions overlooking the Tchepone Valley in Laos.
(Page 3)

Soviet

[Redacted] (Page 4)

50X1

[Redacted]

50X6

(Page 5)

The proposal by Japan's defense chief to inspect Okinawa for nuclear stocks may gain enough support to prove embarrassing to the Sato government.
(Page 6)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

COMMUNIST CHINA - UNITED KINGDOM

Recent developments in Sino-UK relations give some insight into the pace and progress of Peking's current campaign of international amiability. The patterns that can be seen in this area are likely to be repeated elsewhere as the Chinese seek to maintain the momentum of their diplomatic drive.

Both London and Peking have been moving cautiously toward some improvement in their mutual relations since at least last summer, but neither side initially seemed anxious to force the pace. Each retained deep suspicions of the other, reinforced on the British side by memories of the "storming" of the British Embassy in Peking by uncontrolled Red Guards in the summer of 1967. These suspicions were supplemented by specific grievances: on the British side by the fact that a number of British subjects were languishing in Chinese jails, and on the Chinese side by the fact that authorities in Hong Kong had jailed a considerable number of Chinese "activists" following the riots in the Crown Colony in 1967 and that London continued to maintain a consulate in Taipei.

British interest in an apparent change in atmosphere in Peking was evident by late last spring, and London attempted to "test the water" by releasing a number of Hong Kong prisoners before their jail terms expired; the Chinese responded in kind. After several such exchanges, all British subjects in Chinese jails have been released, and only a handful of "activists" remain in Hong Kong jails.

The turning point came when a Chinese official in London "informally" told the Foreign Office shortly before Chinese representation came to a vote in the United Nations last autumn that Peking was prepared to overlook the British consulate on Taiwan if London would vote against the Important Question resolution in the UN. This would permit raising diplomatic representation between the two countries to ambassadorial level--something London had sought in vain since recognizing Peking in 1950.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Although the Foreign Office did not further explore this feeler prior to the UN vote, the Chinese have since returned to the attack and are now pressing the British hard on this issue. The coupled questions of Chinese representation in the UN and a mutual exchange of ambassadors were a major ingredient in the conversation Chou En-lai had with the British chargé in Peking last week; Chinese officials in London are to take up the subject again shortly. The British, with a chance to take an important step forward in Sino-UK relations, are strongly inclined to seize the moment by the forelock, but are faced with the problem that US policy on the UN representation issue is still under review. As the head of the Far Eastern department in the Foreign Office remarked last week, London's "difficulties" in keeping in tune with the US on the representation issue increase with every step toward better UK-PRC relations.

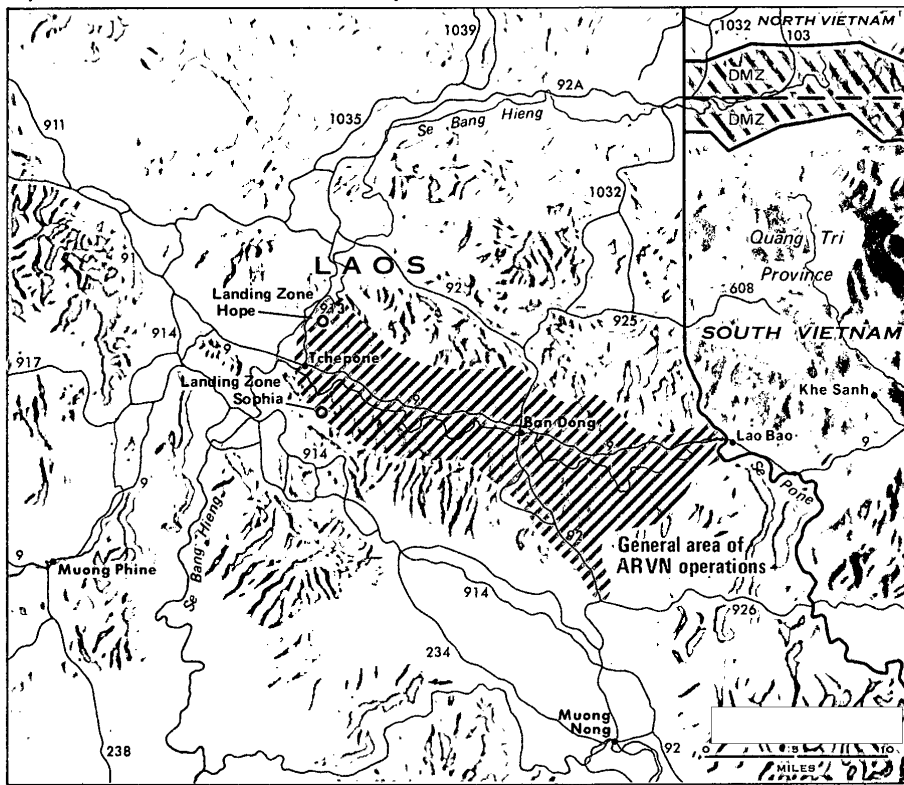
Lord Cromer told Undersecretary Irwin last Friday that the British would take no irrevocable step on the representation issue without first consulting with Washington, but pointed out that the Chinese were in a position to set the pace on improvement of relations--particularly on the question of ambassadorial exchange. Peking is certain to press its case hard and quickly, and the tone of Foreign Office comment suggests that London is hardly in any mood to resist.

50X1

50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Operation LAM SON 719 Situation Map



551113 3-71 CIA

50X1

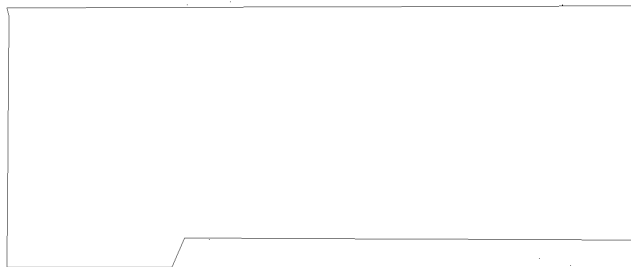
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM-LAOS

Enemy antiaircraft fire in the Lam Son 719 area remains intense, but Communist ground action in recent days has been limited largely to harassment of advancing South Vietnamese units and of allied rear areas. The enemy has not yet made a serious attempt to drive the South Vietnamese from their westernmost positions--landing zones Sophia and Hope--overlooking the Tchepone Valley.



50X1

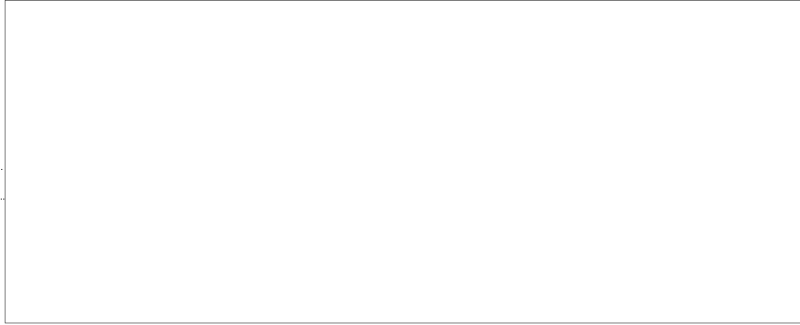


50X1

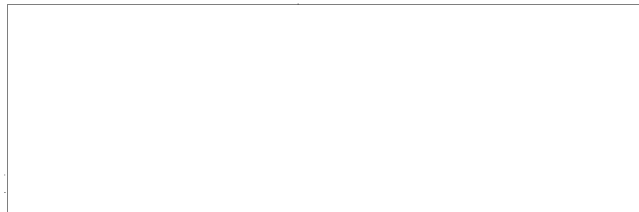
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

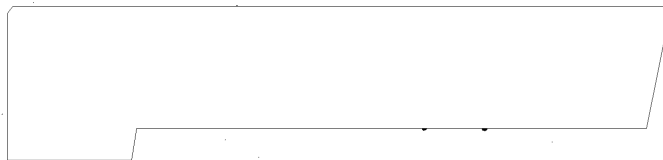
USSR



50X1



50X1



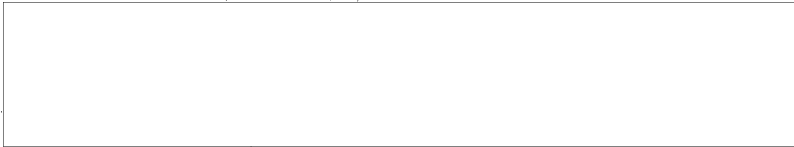
50X1



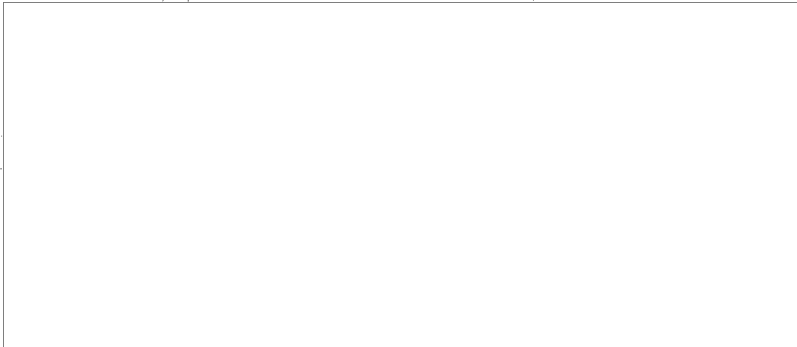
50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

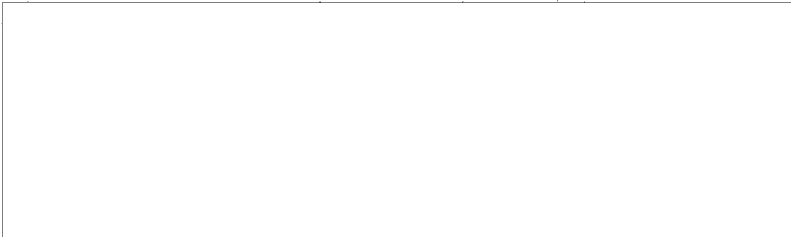
AUSTRALIA



50X6



50X6



50X6

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JAPAN

50X1

Defense chief Nakasone said in the Diet on 4 March that he planned to send Self-Defense Force personnel to Okinawa after reversion next year to make sure that nuclear weapons and poison gas had been removed.

50X1

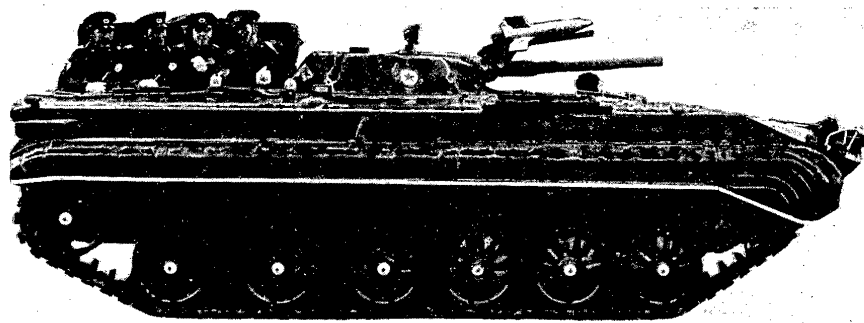
According to later press reports, Nakasone said he would attempt to obtain US approval of his plan shortly.

50X1

50X1

Nakasone's statements could be an officially sanctioned trial balloon, but more than likely they are designed simply to get himself back in the political limelight. In any case, the opposition parties and the media will probably pick up the theme since many Japanese doubt that nuclear weapons will not be kept on Okinawa after reversion, despite Prime Minister Sato's promises.

Soviet Infantry Combat Vehicle



Main armament..... 76mm gun
..... Sagger antitank guided missile
Weight..... about 15 tons
Capacity..... 3 vehicle crew, 8 man squad

551111 3-71 CIA

50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

USSR: A new Soviet infantry combat vehicle has been seen for the first time in East Germany.

50X1

Communist China - North Vietnam: Hanoi has reported on the delegation accompanying Chou En-lai on his trip to North Vietnam. In addition to the Chinese ambassador to Hanoi and Chou, five Chinese officials made the trip: a politburo member who has been reported to have wide responsibilities in organizing aid to North Vietnam; a politburo member who is also head of the armed forces "rear services department" (i.e., the military logistics arm); the officer in charge of the equipment section of the rear services department; and two civilians who have foreign affairs responsibilities in the party and government respectively. The composition of the delegation strongly suggests that an increase in military supply was high on the agenda of the Sino-Vietnamese talks over the weekend.

Arab States - Israel: No military clashes have been reported since the expiration of the formal cease-fire between Egypt and Israel on Sunday, although the armed forces of Israel and the surrounding Arab states remain in a high state of alert. Air reconnaissance activity continued yesterday, but no signs of preparations for imminent offensive action were apparent. As a follow-up to Sadat's warning on Sunday that his people should be prepared for "blows" from the enemy, Egyptian officials have put into effect various civil defense measures.

Top Secret