



The President's Daily Brief

6 April 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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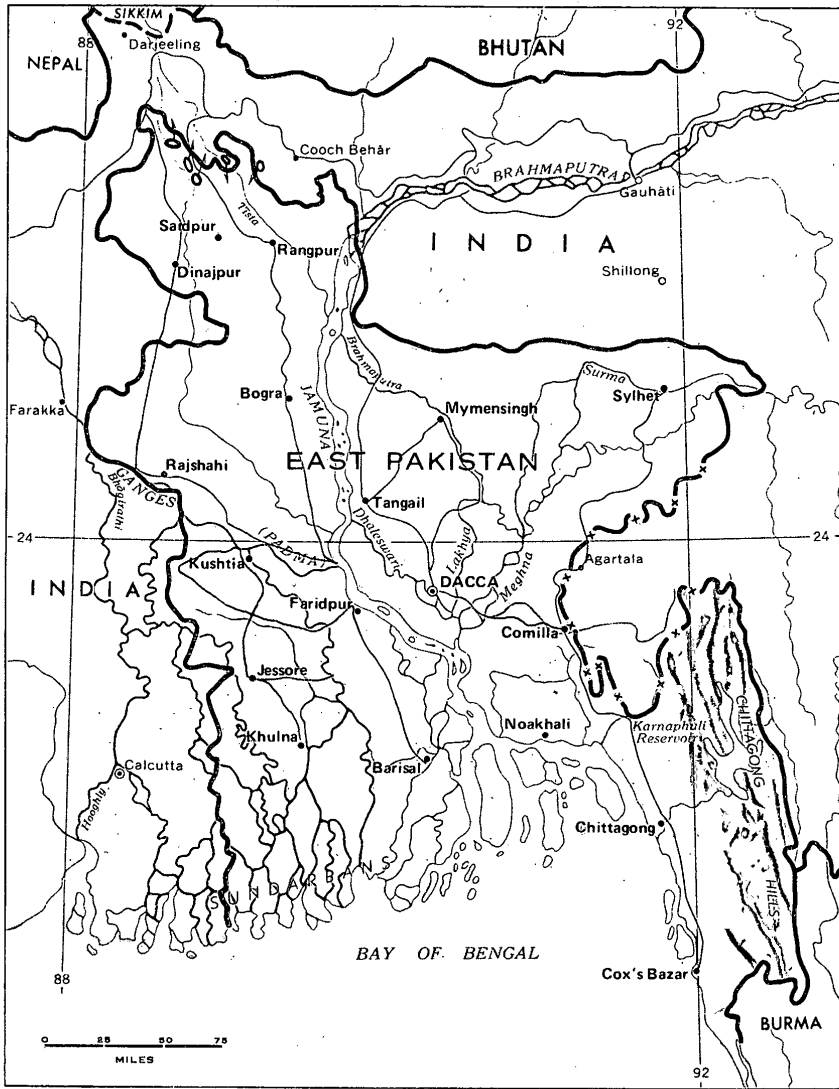
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Developments in Pakistan are reported on *Page 1*.

In Cambodia, the Communists yesterday mounted their first significant attacks in several months on government troops in the Kompong Cham area northeast of the capital. (*Page 2*).

On *Page 3*, we comment on Allende's gains in Sunday's municipal election in Chile.

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PAKISTAN

Pakistani troop reinforcements are arriving by air in Dacca at a rate of four or five flights--over 500 men--per day. The army continues to raid areas near the provincial capital and has commandeered a large number of trucks, possibly in order to move into the countryside on a larger scale.

Reports of the situation in East Pakistan outside Dacca remain fragmentary. The Indian press claims that government forces have lost control of Rangpur and are hard pressed at Sylhet, Kushtia, and Dinajpur.

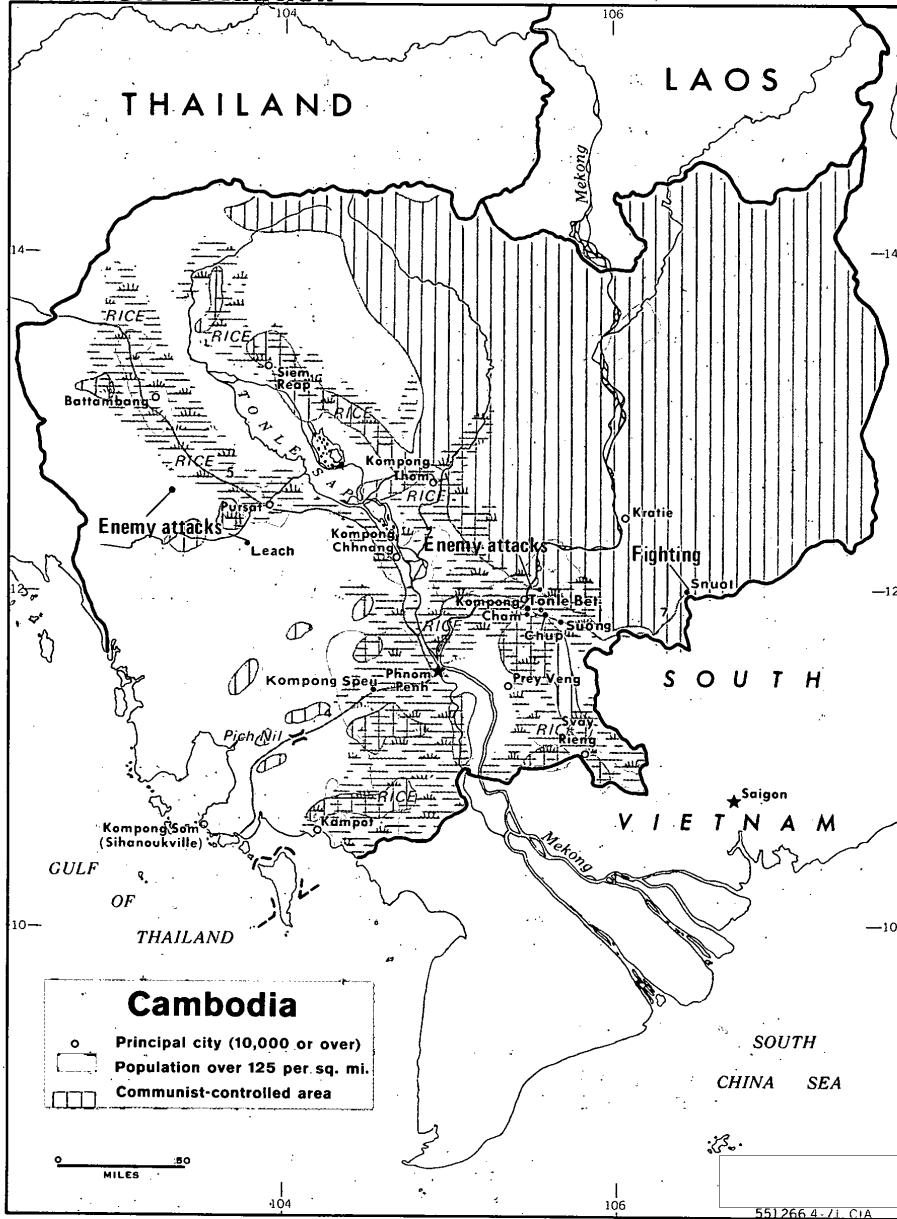
In Dacca the military government is trying to recruit what local political support it can and has received assurances of cooperation from a delegation of politicians from East Pakistani parties that lost badly to Mujib in the elections last December. Dacca radio has broadcast a purported statement by the leader of this delegation denouncing Indian interference in Pakistani internal affairs.

The Indian press is praising Soviet President Podgorny for asking President Yahya Khan to halt the bloodshed in East Pakistan. The Indian press is also criticizing the US--"which has a special moral responsibility because it supplied most of the military equipment."

The Ceylonese Government, responding to Indian and domestic pressures, has announced that Pakistani military flights are no longer landing in Ceylon. Although the statement is technically true, Pakistani civilian aircraft carrying troops in civilian clothing still appear to be refueling in Colombo. An impending shortage of fuel there and in Dacca--due in part to a refusal by Burma to supply additional fuel--could limit reinforcement flights in the future.

President Yahya has made public his reply to Podgorny's letter in which he urged the USSR to use its influence to restrict "open and unashamed" Indian interference in Pakistan's internal affairs. Yahya also claimed that his own actions are aimed at protecting the vast majority of the people of East Pakistan.

Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Early yesterday the Communists staged a series of coordinated mortar and ground attacks on four Cambodian Army positions on the east bank of the Mekong River, near the town of Tonle Bet. Only one of the positions fell to the Communists, however. Government efforts to support the four outposts with air and artillery support were hampered by bad weather.

[redacted] the attacks were facilitated by the recent departure of South Vietnamese troops from the area west and southwest of Suong, [redacted]

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These attacks are the first of any consequence directed at Cambodian units in this area in several months. The Communists for the most part have been preoccupied in countering South Vietnamese operations to the east along Route 7, between Chup and Snuol. Little fighting has been reported between the enemy and ARVN units over the past week, although one sharp engagement was fought near Snuol on 4 April.

Fighting has occurred also in the northwest, where a Cambodian battalion in Battambang lost five killed and 24 wounded during an enemy attack on 4 April. In the adjacent province of Pursat, however, government forces at the town of Leach successfully repulsed a Communist harassing attack on the same day without taking any casualties.

No major fighting has been reported in Pursat during the current dry season, but the Communists have maintained a steady level of harassment, apparently designed to thwart government efforts to move into the countryside.

In the southwest, most of the government task force that has been trying to reopen Route 4 east of the Pich Nil Pass has apparently returned to Kompong Speu city. The pullback evidently took place after a number of the officers directing the operation had been wounded in the past few days. Five battalions of reinforcements have arrived at Kompong Speu to spearhead a new drive on Pich Nil. This is scheduled for 6 April and supposedly will attempt to link up with another government drive on the pass from the west.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**CHILE**

Allende's Socialist Party can now claim pre-eminence in the ruling Popular Unity (UP) coalition by having outpolled its partners in Sunday's municipal election. It received 23 percent of the vote, and elected its candidate to the Senate seat vacated by President Allende. Its chief rival within the coalition, the orthodox Communist Party, polled around 17 percent, little better than its showing in the 1969 congressional election. The Radical Party dropped to 8 percent, thus further discrediting the only significant non-Marxist member of the UP.

Altogether, the UP parties won 49.7 percent, well above the 36.3-percent plurality they won in the presidential race in September. This achievement, and particularly the relative gains of the Socialists, will increase pressures to accelerate Allende's program for transforming Chile into a Socialist state. Before the election Allende indicated that a good showing might prompt early moves to change the nature of the national legislature through constitutional revisions.

The opposition Christian Democrats, with 26 percent, did better than many expected, at least partially because former president Frei finally spoke out on 2 April. Their effectiveness as an opposition force will continue to be hindered by serious internal divisions, however. The two conservative parties--the National Party and the small Democratic Radical Party--surprised observers by dropping substantially below the vote pulled by their presidential candidate last fall.

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NOTES

Jordan: Fighting continued yesterday near the northern city of Jarash between the Jordanian Army and about 200 guerrillas from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. This is in violation of the latest truce agreement approved by officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Amman, but the agreement evidently has been accepted by only a part of the PLO leadership. PLO chief Yasir Arafat, who has been out of the country, has declared that there is no new truce and that the fedayeen have no choice but to continue fighting.

Ceylon: A new rash of terrorist activity yesterday, including at least 25 attacks on police stations, patrols, and power and telephone installations has provoked an intense reaction in Colombo. A curfew imposed in the capital and some other districts last night has now been extended throughout the country, and Prime Minister Bandaranaike, despite initial claims to have thwarted an attempted takeover, has today ordered a callup of military reserves, the closure of government offices, schools and universities, and the proscription of at least one extreme leftist organization. Although the actual threat from insurgent groups remains unclear, the US Embassy reports that security seems to be deteriorating.

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