

The President's Daily Brief

21 June 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Indian-Pakistani relations have been further strained by recent border incidents. *(Page 1)*

On *Page 2*, we comment on U Thant's scheduled visit to Moscow this week.

Political tensions in Bolivia have increased with the approach of tomorrow's reconvening of the extreme left's "popular assembly." *(Page 3)*

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INDIA-PAKISTAN

On Friday a company of Indian security forces at a border outpost 115 miles north of Calcutta reported that Pakistani troops engaged in a clash with "Bangla Desh" guerrillas had fired shells near the Indian positions. The Indians responded by firing across the border with some of the heaviest caliber equipment they have used thus far.

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several Indian civilians were injured and 11 Pakistani soldiers killed in the actions. During the weekend Islamabad lodged a protest to New Delhi against India's "unprovoked" acts of aggression and its support for the guerrillas.

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On Saturday, Prime Minister Gandhi, who was on a tour of Kashmir, said that "India will give a fitting reply if attacked." Talking to Indian troops stationed near the border, she stated that "we are fully equipped to meet any aggression and will not be cowed by any threat from any quarter."

It is doubtful that the Indian Government will stop supporting the guerrillas, and cross-border incidents are likely to continue and may even intensify. The Pakistanis may add to Indian irritation by their plan to send a delegation of various East Pakistani leaders, who for one reason or another have agreed to cooperate with the regime, on a foreign tour to counter the activities of traveling Indian leaders.

Islamabad, in another step to rehabilitate its international image, has also announced that foreign correspondents now may move around East Pakistan without escort. In addition, President Yahya's latest statement on 18 June appealing to the refugees to return to East Pakistan marks the first time that he has indicated that Hindus and other minorities would be welcome. He addressed his appeal to all Pakistani nationals "irrespective of caste, creed or religion" and assured "members of the minority community" that as equal citizens they would receive full protection and nondiscrimination. Although the eventual return of more than a trickle of the now nearly six million refugees will depend upon more than Yahya's reassurances, he has at least now moved to put his government on record as against a policy of repression toward the Hindu minority.

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UN-USSR

In his talks with Soviet officials in Moscow this week U Thant is expected to discuss his availability for another term as secretary general and the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

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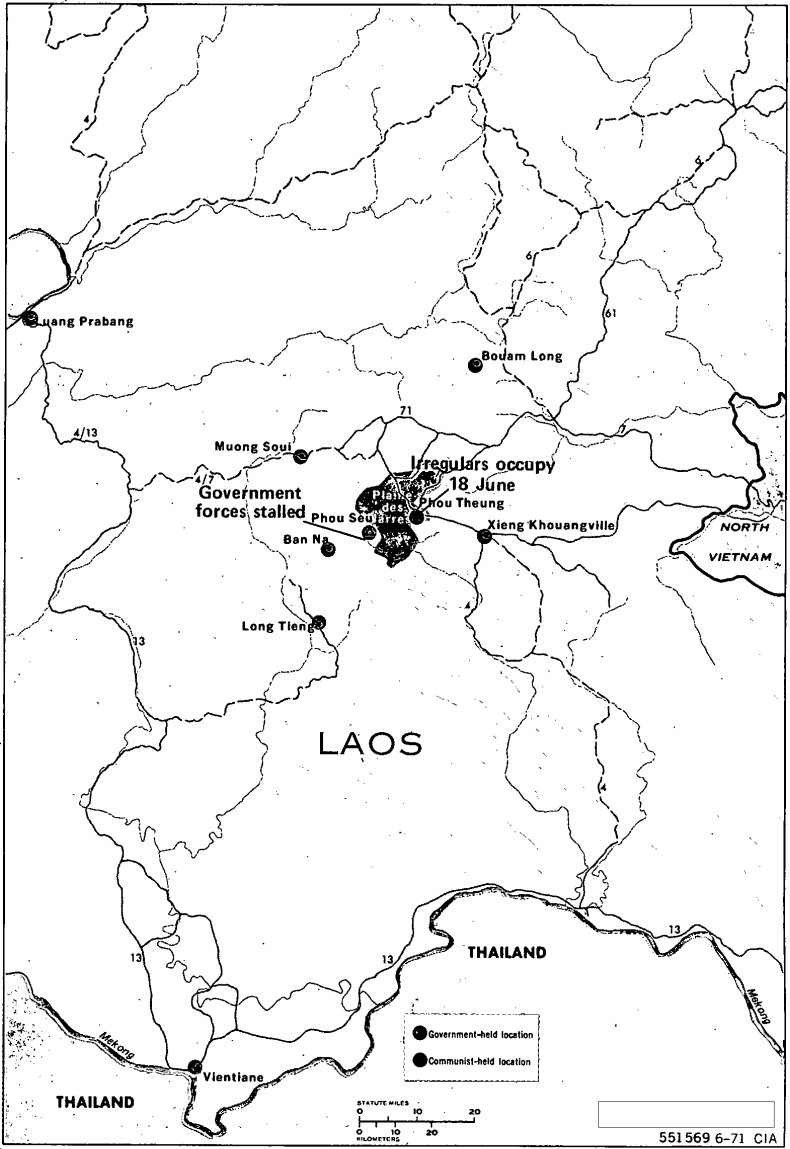
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Northern Laos



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NOTES

Bolivia: Political tensions have increased with the approach of tomorrow's scheduled reconvening of the extreme left's unofficial "popular assembly."

[redacted] the government has blamed rightist forces for the present unrest, charging that they have circulated rumors that the assembly will try to communize the country. Extreme leftist labor and student groups have told their followers to prepare to take up arms in defense of their assembly and to prevent a "reactionary coup."

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Chile: Thirty-three of the highest ranking officers of the national police are reported to have been retired by the government. Allende presumably thus would eliminate from the police much of its anti-Marxist element and clear the way for appointing more progovernment officers. This would be a logical step following Allende's recent unsuccessful attempt to increase the strength of the force by 8,000 to 10,000 men of his own choosing. A large-scale retirement of police officers can be accomplished legally, thanks to a police regulation--little used to date--calling for mandatory retirement after 30 years' service.

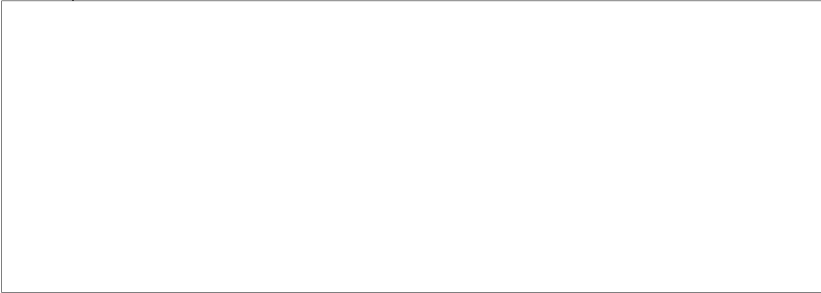
Laos: Military action during the weekend has been light, with the only significant fighting reported from the Plaine des Jarres area. Although Vang Pao's forces have made no further headway southwest of the Plaine in their drive to retake positions on Phou Seu mountain, two irregular battalions on 18 June seized the summit of Phou Theung mountain on the southeastern edge of the Plaine. From this position, the irregulars can direct air and artillery fire on Communist positions and supply lines in the area, particularly along Route 4 to Xieng Khouangville.

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East Germany: The just concluded East German party congress affirmed Honecker's smooth assumption of power from Ulbricht. Honecker's re-election as first secretary was unanimous; Ulbricht retained his politburo membership, his honorary post as party chairman, and his position as head of the state council. The former politburo was retained in its entirety, but three new members, all close associates of Honecker, were added.



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