

The President's Daily Brief

31 July 1971

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~~*Top Secret*~~



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

31 July 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In southern Laos, the government drive to retake Pak-song is making headway despite some stiff Communist resistance. (Page 1)

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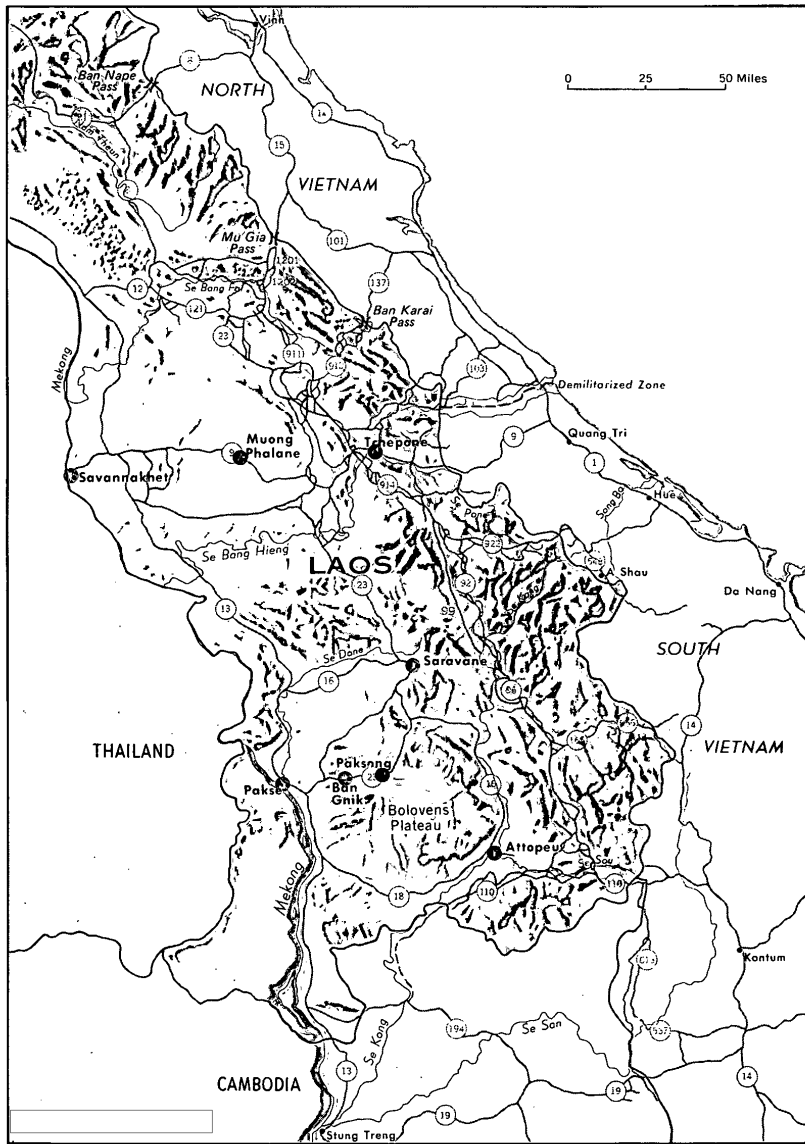
South Vietnam

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○ Government-held location ● Communist-held location

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LAOS

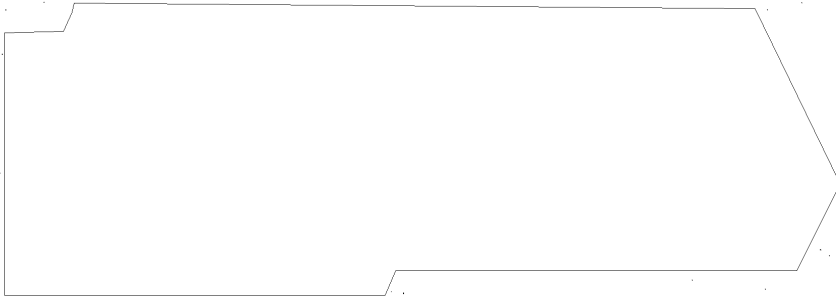
The three battalions that make up the government's 1,250-man main task force in the drive to retake Paksong were airlifted yesterday to positions north of Route 23 on the western edge of the Bolovens Plateau. This force has begun to push east, paralleling the road, and plans to attack Paksong from the north. Two other regular army battalions in the eastward drive on Route 23 have captured the village of Ban Gnik where they had been temporarily stalled by heavy rocket and mortar fire from elements of a North Vietnamese battalion entrenched in bunkers nearby. US air observers report that Communist troops are constructing bunkers and gun pits farther east along Route 23, as well as on high ground just west of Paksong.

Communist actions suggest they intend to put up a spirited defense of the central Bolovens. Intercepts indicate that elements of the North Vietnamese 9th Regiment are defending Paksong and the approach along Route 23.

To the north of the plateau, government units are still holding Saravane. Several small clashes have occurred in this area.

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SOUTH VIETNAM



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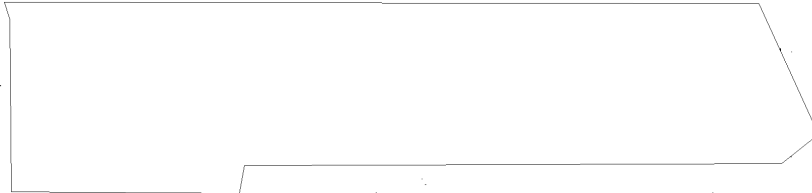
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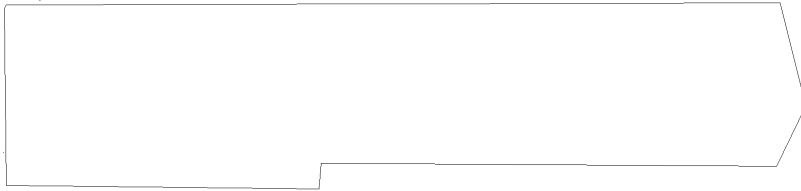
CONGO (KINSHASA)



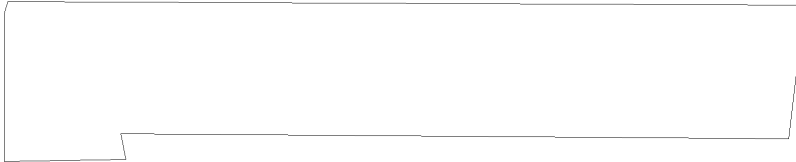
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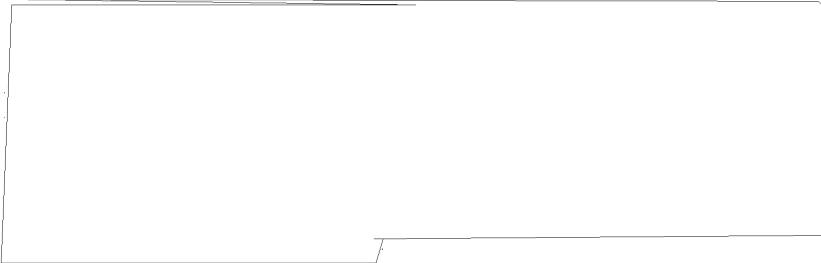


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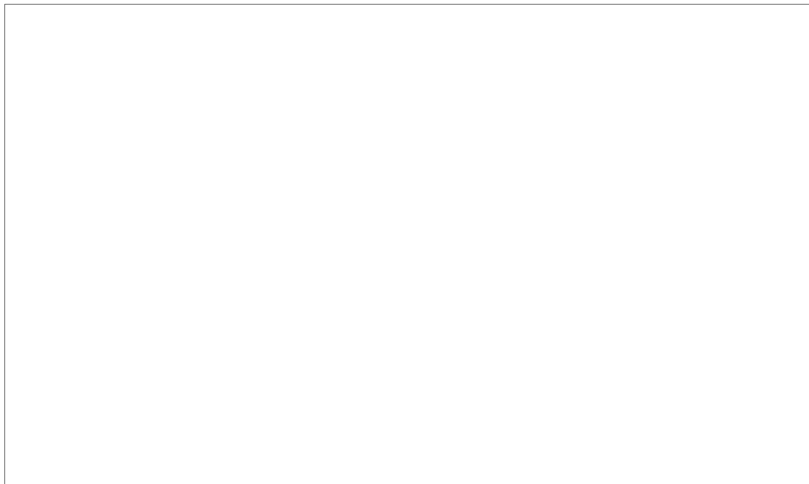
EGYPT-USSR

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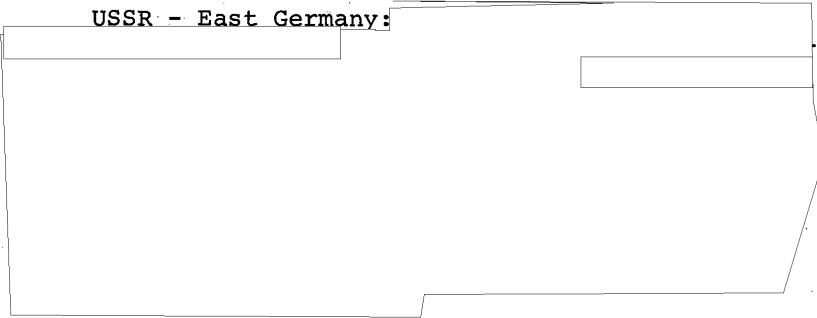
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NOTE

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USSR - East Germany:



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