



The President's Daily Brief

7 October 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Senior Pakistani officials are continuing to talk of a possible pre-emptive attack on India in the next few weeks. *(Page 1)*

In Cambodia, government troops have finally reopened Route 6, north of the capital, to Kompong Thom town. *(Page 2)*

South Vietnamese forces in Cambodia have ended the week-long enemy siege of an artillery base close to the border. *(Page 3)*

A new political crisis may be developing in Turkey. *(Page 4)*

On *Page 5*, we discuss the status of opium production in Turkey.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**CAMBODIA**

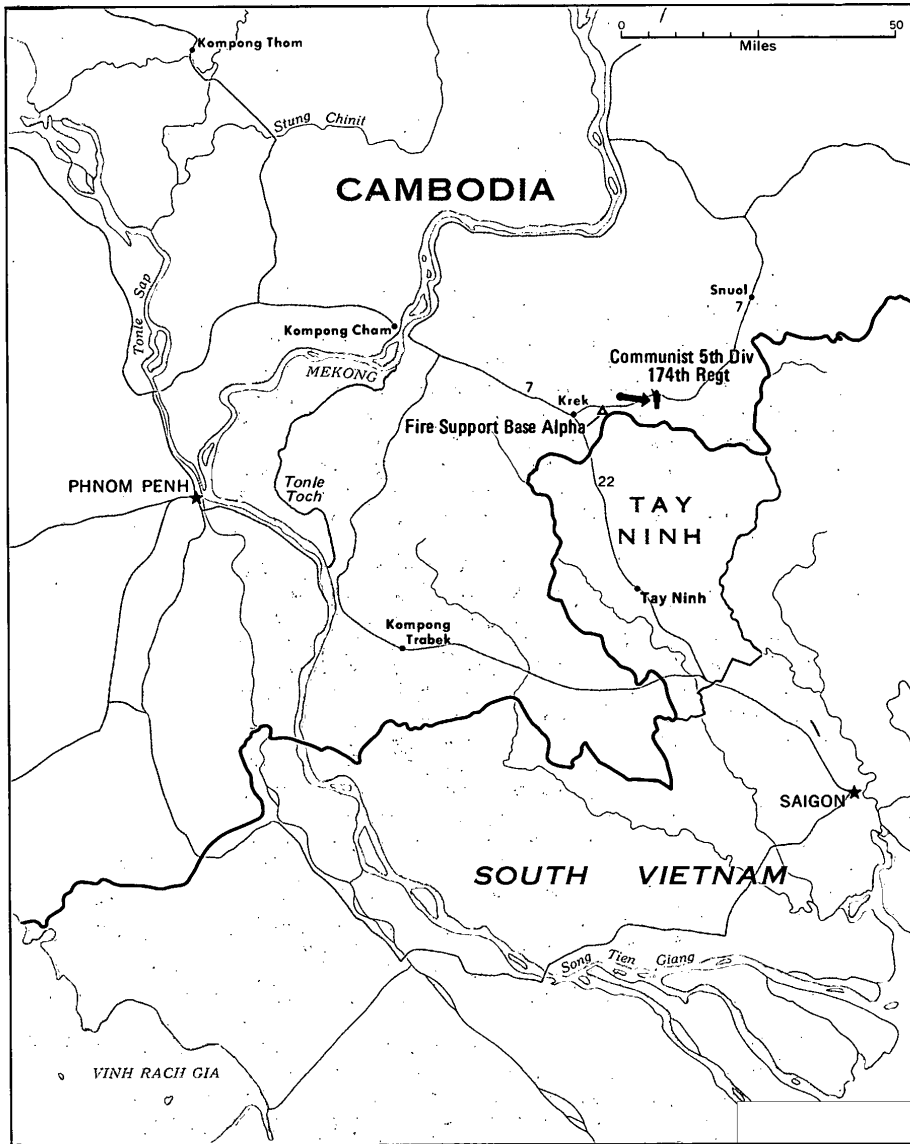
Government forces have finally reopened Route 6 up to Kompong Thom town. Following heavy air-strikes on Communist positions overlooking the road from the Santuc Mountain, elements of the government task force linked up with units from the Kompong Thom garrison on 5 October.

Government troops will next conduct sweep operations in the area in order to consolidate their control over Route 6, and probably will also help make extensive bridge and road repairs to the highway between Tang Kouk and Kompong Thom.

This operation has encountered far less resistance than did the campaigns of last May and June that reopened Route 4 and drove main force enemy elements out of the Tonle Toch area northeast of Phnom Penh. However, it has been far superior to those undertakings in terms of planning, coordination, and over-all support. More importantly, it has reflected the Cambodians' growing military confidence and corresponding willingness to take the war to the Communists.

For their part, the Communists evidently were unwilling to expend the resources to prevent the reopening of Route 6, particularly since the Cambodians have shown little disposition to move off the road against important Communist bases to the east. With better weather approaching, the Communists are still in position to harass or cut the road at a time and place of their choosing.

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INDIA-PAKISTAN

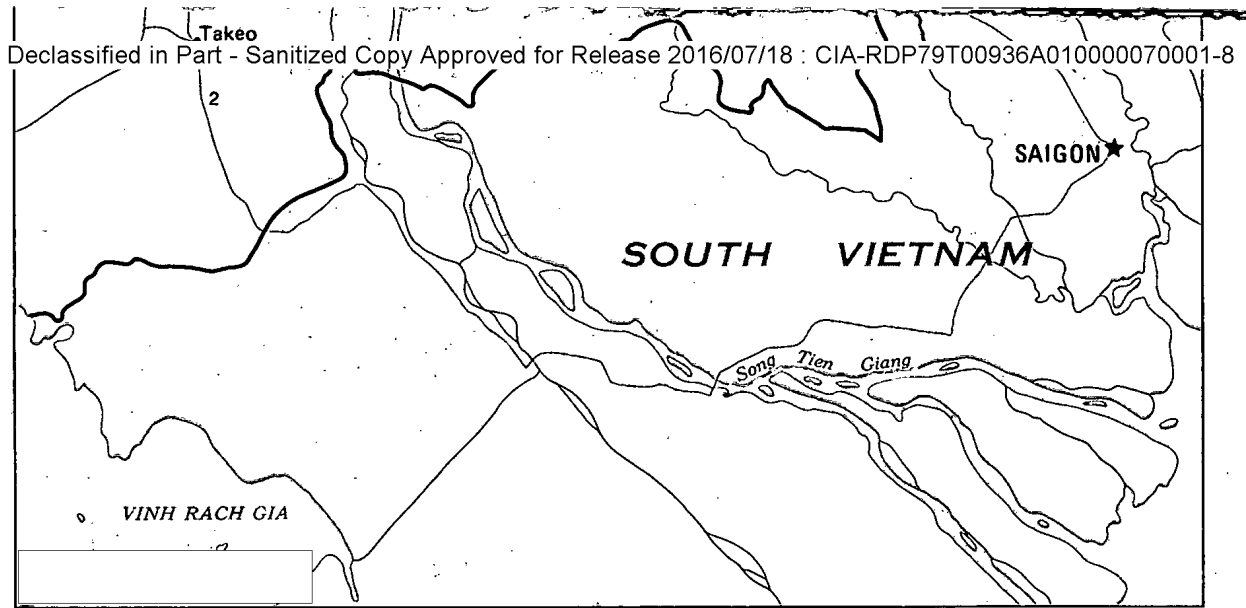
A general officer in the Pakistani ministry of defense, who is a Bengali, has told an officer of the US Embassy that he is convinced that Pakistan will attack India sometime during the second half of this month.

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SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

South Vietnamese forces, with strong support from air and artillery units, have ended a Communist siege of a fire support base just east of the Cambodian town of Krek. The base was under enemy attack for more than a week, and the major resupply road to it had been closed. A regiment of the Vietnamese Communist 5th Division, which was involved in the fighting around the base, has now withdrawn more than eight miles to the east, apparently after sustaining heavy casualties.

This success against the same enemy division that hurt them badly at Snuol last spring should boost the morale of the South Vietnamese troops operating inside Cambodia. The Communists, however, still have strong forces in this area bordering South Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province, including at least one infantry regiment, one artillery regiment, and a division headquarters. There have been almost daily shellings of South Vietnamese artillery and field positions along Route 22 since the latest round of enemy action began on 26 September.

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TURKEY

The Justice Party announced on Tuesday that it was pulling its members out of Prime Minister Erim's military-backed "nonpartisan" government. A government spokesman described the party's action as the "impulsive" result of "unnecessary touchiness" and questioned whether the withdrawal had the support of party rank and file. High-level meetings of the Justice Party are scheduled for today and tomorrow as the various factions try to decide what to do.

Erim has told the press that his government will decide by Friday what its next steps will be. He could seek a vote of confidence, and he is on record that he would resign if he were to lose parliamentary support. In this event, military leaders might be prompted to dissolve parliament and install a caretaker government.

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TURKEY

The government has not yet implemented its decree regulating opium production, pending a decision on the compensation for farmers barred from production. It has succeeded in buying more of the crop, and its purchases rose from 70 tons of opium gum in 1970 to 146 tons this year. This was achieved in part by a 58-percent increase in the purchase price. In response to this, however, more farmers are applying for permits to grow opium in 1972, even though the provinces in which poppies may legally be grown have been reduced from seven to four.

Despite the larger share of the crop bought by the government, the amount diverted into illegal channels was still significant. These diversions, and the illegal stocks of opium gum from previous years, ensure that Turkey will remain the main source of heroin for the US market.

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