



# *The President's Daily Brief*

11 October 1971

49



~~Top Secret~~

50X1

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

11 October 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Soviets may press for a friendship treaty with France during Brezhnev's forthcoming visit to Paris. (Page 1)

South Vietnamese forces in Cambodia were engaged in several sharp clashes around Krek during the weekend. (Page 2)

Anti-US incidents may erupt during Panama's anniversary ceremonies today. (Page 3)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

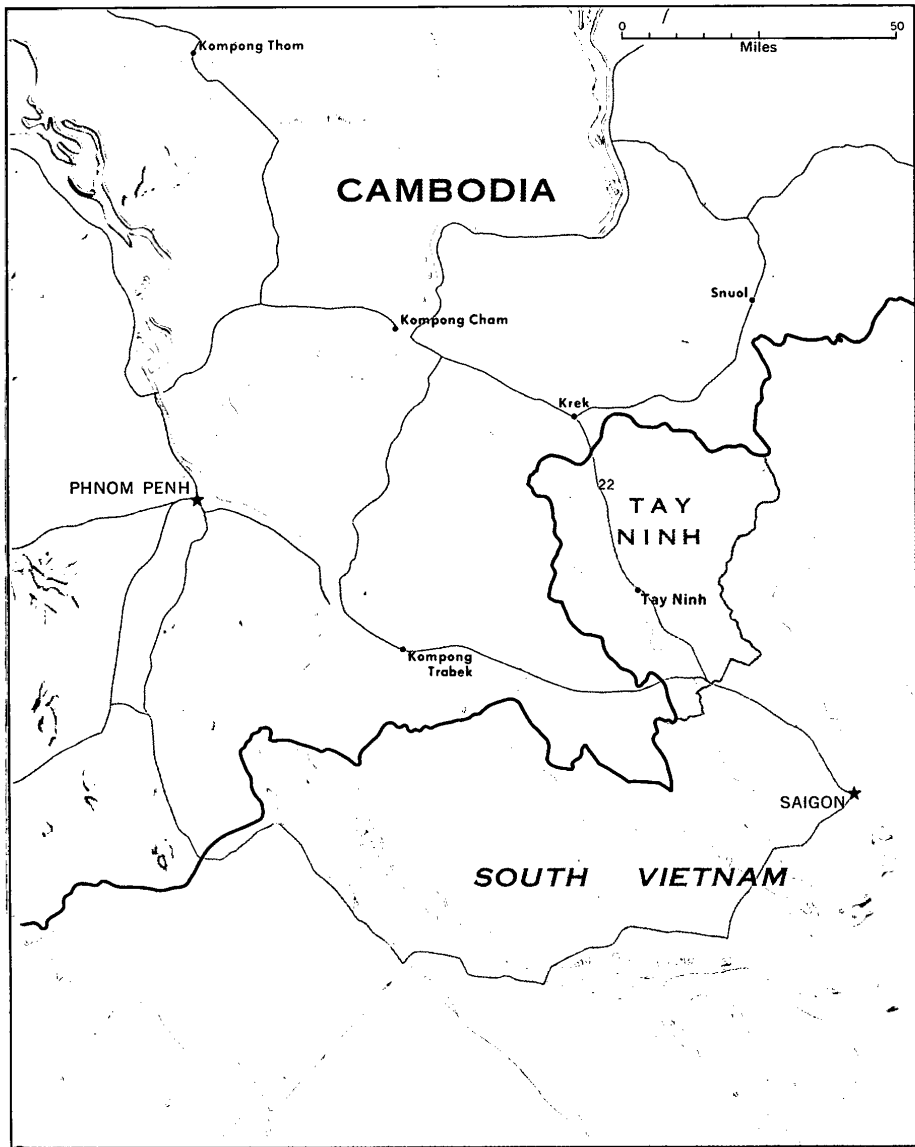
## FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

### USSR-FRANCE

Moscow wants to conclude a friendship treaty similar to the recent Soviet pact with India during Brezhnev's trip to France late this month, according to a high-level French foreign ministry official. The Soviets have raised the treaty issue on several occasions, and at one point hinted that Brezhnev would cancel his trip if the French did not agree to a treaty.

French officials see no possibility of concluding a treaty that--like the Indo-Soviet agreement--included mutual defense clauses since this would conflict with France's continuing obligations to the Atlantic Alliance. Paris might, however, agree to a strengthening of the 1970 Franco-Soviet protocol on consultation and economic cooperation.

*The Soviet penchant for concluding such treaties--they have also been offered to Canada and Indonesia--is one of the ways Moscow is responding to China's emergence from diplomatic isolation. The approach to France may also reflect a Soviet desire to offset the damage done to its Western policy by Britain's mass expulsion of Soviet spies. The Soviets may be assuming that France's concern over West Germany's Ostpolitik successes will help make it more receptive to closer ties with Moscow.*



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

South Vietnamese troops in Cambodia fought several sharp actions during the weekend near the town of Krek, allegedly causing heavy Communist casualties. There also was renewed weekend fighting on the South Vietnamese side of the border in northwestern Tay Ninh Province. [redacted]

[redacted] a third regiment of the North Vietnamese 7th Division recently returned to the area from Cambodia.

50X1

50X1

*Last week ARVN troops lifted an enemy siege of a base near Krek, forcing a regiment of the Vietnamese Communist 5th Division to withdraw eastward. It now appears that at least some element of the 5th is still in the Krek area keeping up pressure. In the meantime, the entire 7th Division has skirted the fighting around Krek to return to South Vietnam, and is now in a position to harass Route 22, the main supply route for the South Vietnamese troops across the border.*

*The recent enemy activity may be giving General Minh, the South Vietnamese commander in the region, second thoughts about maintaining a stronghold in Cambodia. Minh recently sent reinforcements to the border area to keep open Route 22, but [redacted]*

50X1

50X1

*[redacted], he regards Krek as significant chiefly as a staging base for larger offensives in Cambodia. With the return of some Vietnamese Communist units to South Vietnam and a continued thinning of allied forces in his region, Minh is now seeking general staff guidance concerning the priority and support to be given Cambodian operations during the coming dry season.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTES

Panama: The government is concerned over the possibility of anti-US disorders during today's ceremonies in Panama City marking the third anniversary of the ruling junta. [redacted]

[redacted] a number of anti-regime groups-- mostly students--may try to enter the canal zone and attempt a flag-raising designed to "reaffirm" Panamanian sovereignty. Heavy security precautions are in effect, but General Torrijos apparently is uncertain that violence can be averted if some incident occurs.

50X1

50X1

Argentina: The revolt of the colonels quickly collapsed on Saturday when rebel units in Azul and Olavarria were surrounded by loyal forces and surrendered. Radio stations briefly under the control of the rebels have resumed regular broadcasting and the situation appears to be returning to normal.

*Top Secret*