

The President's Daily Brief

15 October 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

On *Page 1*, we discuss the status of guerrilla activity in East Pakistan.

The first North Vietnamese infiltration group of battalion size since early last summer has been detected entering the pipeline. (*Page 2*)

Photography of Route 46 in northwest Laos shows that Chinese engineers have made intermittent survey traces between the southernmost point of road construction and Pak Beng on the Mekong. (*Page 3*)

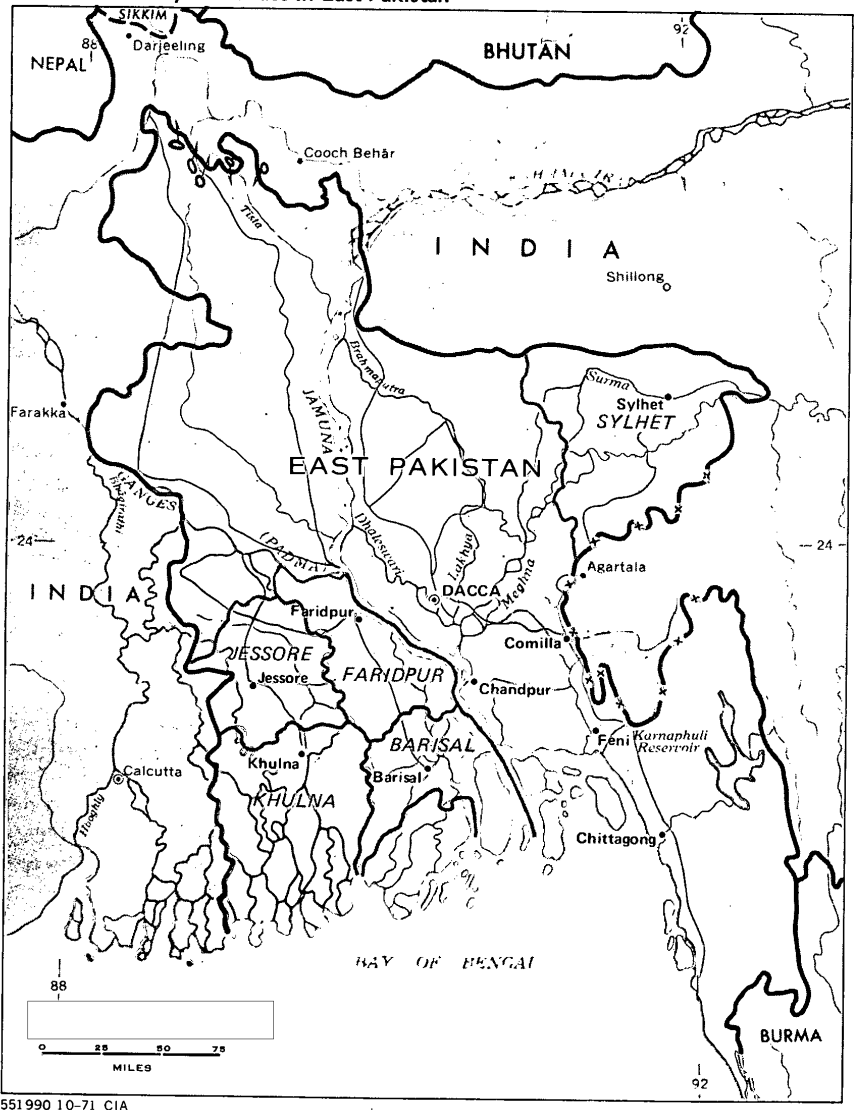
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Guerrilla Activity Continues in East Pakistan



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PAKISTAN

In the past two weeks guerrilla activity in the East has increased moderately. Although there is still no sign that the rebels have embarked on their post-monsoon offensive, they have shown new signs of vitality.

--In Dacca, where more stringent security measures had almost halted insurgent activity last month, bombings have resumed and gas lines to the city have again been sabotaged. Insurgents, using mortars in the city for the first time, failed to hit their apparent target--the airport.

--Bombings continue in Chittagong, where a power transformer was knocked out on 7 October.

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--In the eastern part of the province, near the town of Feni, [redacted] recently observed 30 to 40 dead Pakistani soldiers in a bus and two trucks that apparently had been machine-gunned. [redacted]

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[redacted] there has been heavy fighting near Chandpur and, according to a Voice of America stringer, 5,000 army troops have been sent to Comilla. Guerrilla activity has forced about a fifth of the tea plantations in Sylhet District to stop production, and transportation to the ports has become so risky that the military have authorized the shipment of tea on air force planes, [redacted]

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--Guerrillas are also active in Jessore and Khulna districts in the southwest and [redacted]

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[redacted] control most of the rural part of Barisal District.

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[redacted]

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NORTH VIETNAM

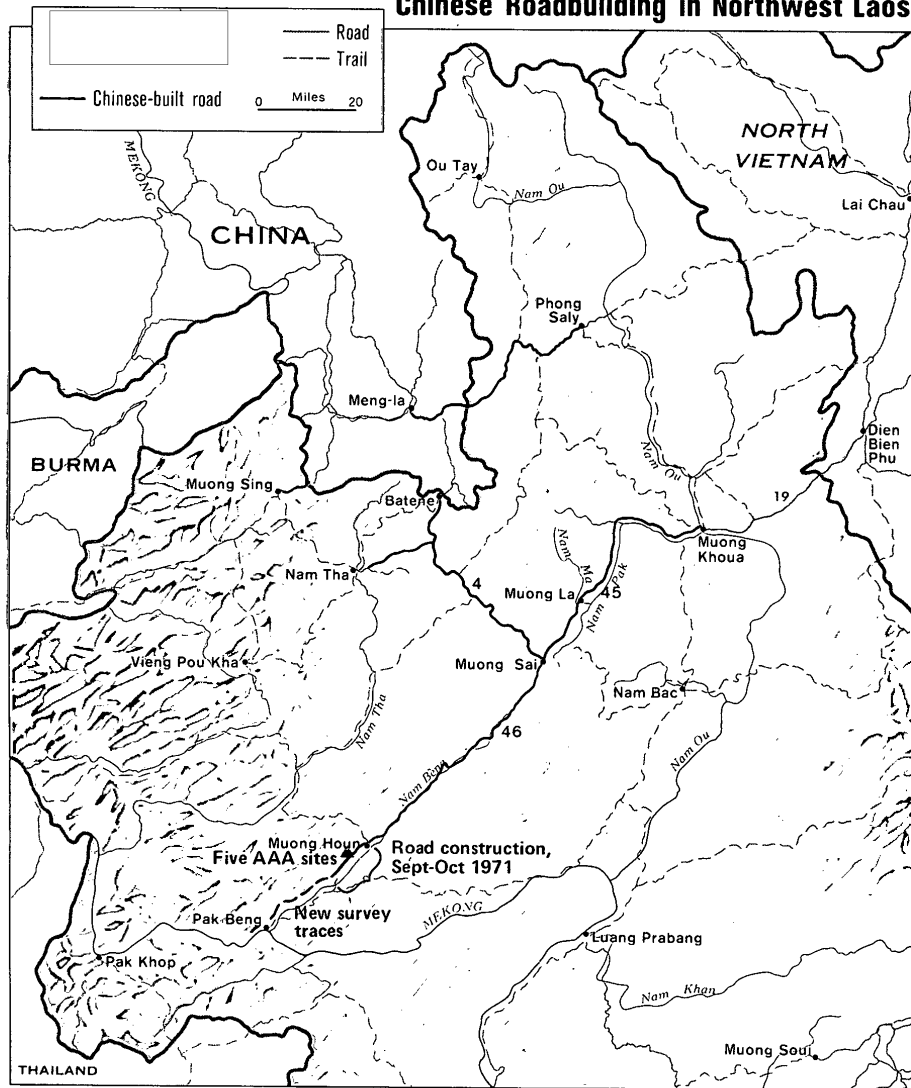
A recent North Vietnamese intercept indicated that an infiltration group of battalion strength was to move through a way station south of Vinh on 10 October.

This is the first group of battalion size noted moving through the pipeline since early last summer, when Hanoi completed its 1970-71 dry season effort. Its identification number suggests that nine other similar groups, or a total of several thousand troops, may already have started south or will do so shortly. The numbering system also indicates that these groups are replacement personnel destined for southern Laos or northeastern Cambodia, presumably to augment combat and logistic units stationed along the infiltration corridor. These units have been getting ready to support the annual infiltration and supply push, which usually begins during October and continues for about six months.

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Chinese Roadbuilding in Northwest Laos

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NOTES

Communist China - Laos: Photography of 5 October shows intermittent cleared areas extending from the head of construction on Route 46 to Pak Beng on the Mekong River. These mark the activities of Chinese survey crews. The road itself is now motorable to a point ten miles southwest of Muong Houn. Although new construction has been proceeding at a deliberate pace thus far, the Chinese have sufficient manpower and other resources in Laos to complete a motorable road to Pak Beng in two or three months. Several more months would be needed to make an all-weather road with permanent culverts and bridges.

USSR-Caribbean: An E-II class cruise-missile submarine which has been operating west of the Azores is now heading south.

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[REDACTED] An E-II nuclear submarine has operated twice before in the Caribbean and near Cuba.

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