



The President's Daily Brief

21 October 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 October 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

India

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Prime Minister Lon Nol's imposition of rule over Cambodia by decree will create additional problems for him at home and abroad. (Page 3)

USSR

Iran. (Page 4)

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The Japanese have been shocked by the way their emperor was treated in Europe. (Page 5)

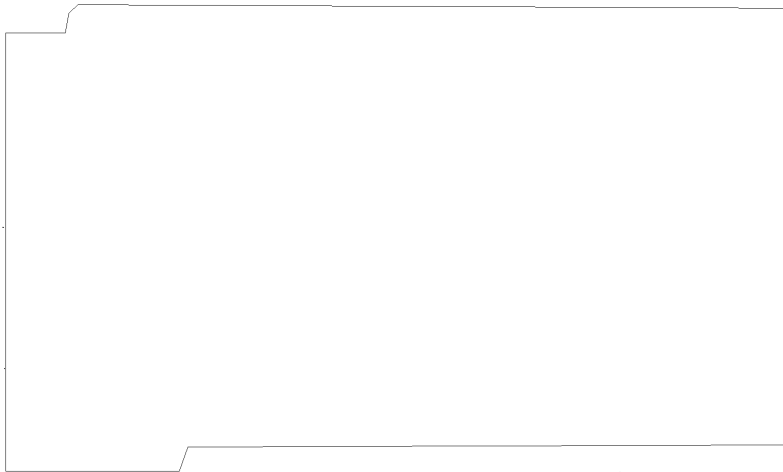
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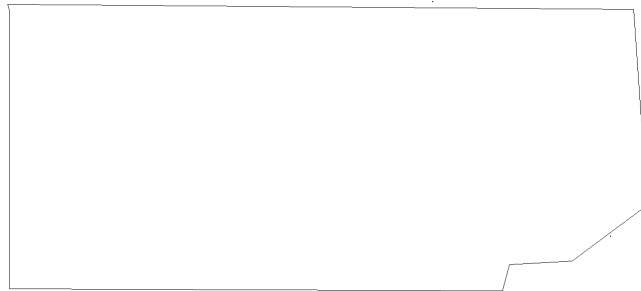
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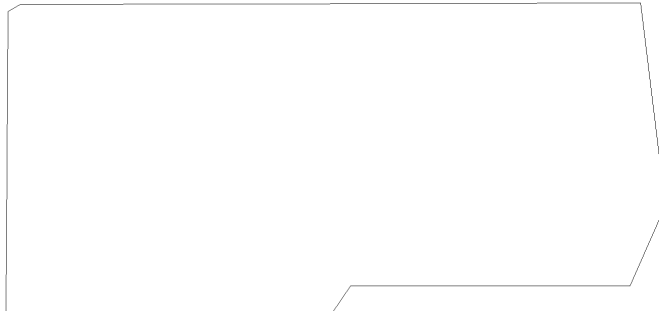
INDIA-PAKISTAN



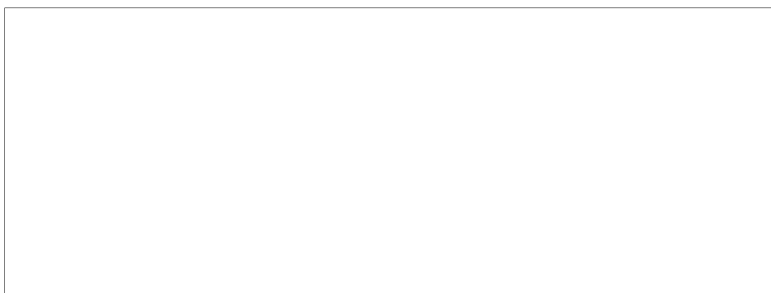
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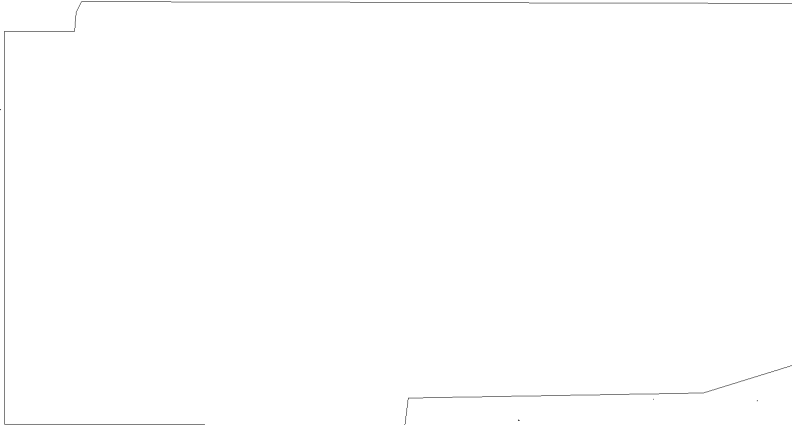


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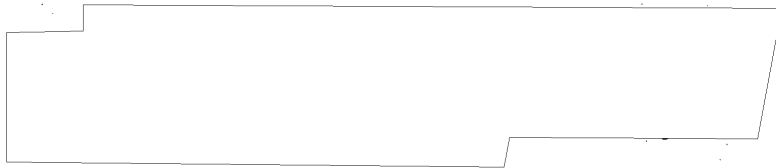


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CAMBODIA

In his nationwide address yesterday announcing that the government would henceforth rule by decree, Prime Minister Lon Nol made some ill-timed and inept remarks about the need to abandon democratic procedures in a wartime situation. In addition to domestic repercussions, his comments will also damage the regime's international standing and will give Sihanouk and the Communists a propaganda windfall.

Lon Nol's speech apparently was prompted by Buddhist demonstrations in Phnom Penh yesterday protesting the National Assembly's dismissal. The Buddhists, whose support heretofore has been one of the regime's most important assets, apparently have been in contact with some student dissenters and are also working closely with Son Ngoc Thanh, the former exile leader who has also strongly supported Lon Nol in the past.

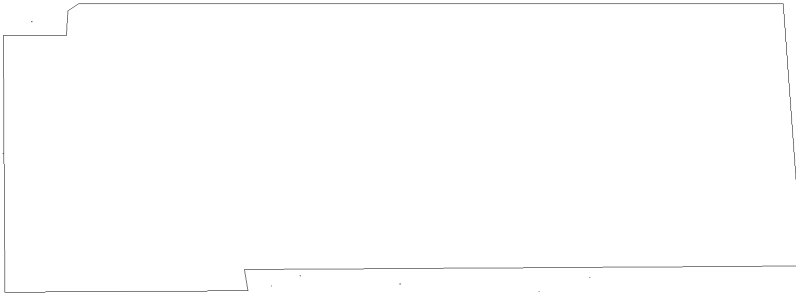
Thanh and several of the Buddhist leaders have met with Lon Nol and urged him to dismiss Chief of State Cheng Heng, who legally is saddled with the responsibility for dismissing the National Assembly. They may have been suggesting a face-saving way for Lon Nol to back down from the recent decisions to impose authoritarian rule.

Neither Lon Nol nor Prime Minister-Delegate Sirik Matak, who has been a major figure in the move against the National Assembly, appears inclined to give ground at the present time. There is renewed talk about the imposition of press censorship. In the process of filling several vacancies in the cabinet, Lon Nol has just appointed General Thappana Nginn to take over the important interior ministry from the ousted civilian leader In Tam. Nginn is the first military man to hold a cabinet post, and his appointment will increase fears that the army is taking over the government.

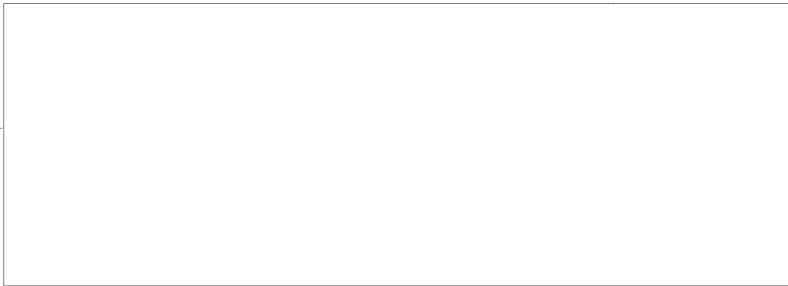
The power at the disposal of the regime's civilian opponents is slight, and the government should be able to have its way unless the Buddhists and the students--both of them now fragmented--can somehow create more disturbances than they have managed thus far. Moreover, Lon Nol, a devout Buddhist for whom such opposition must come as a personal blow, could still make some reassuring gesture to forestall a serious narrowing of the regime's base of support.

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IRAN-USSR



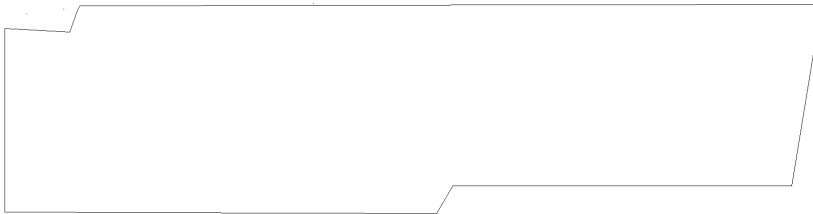
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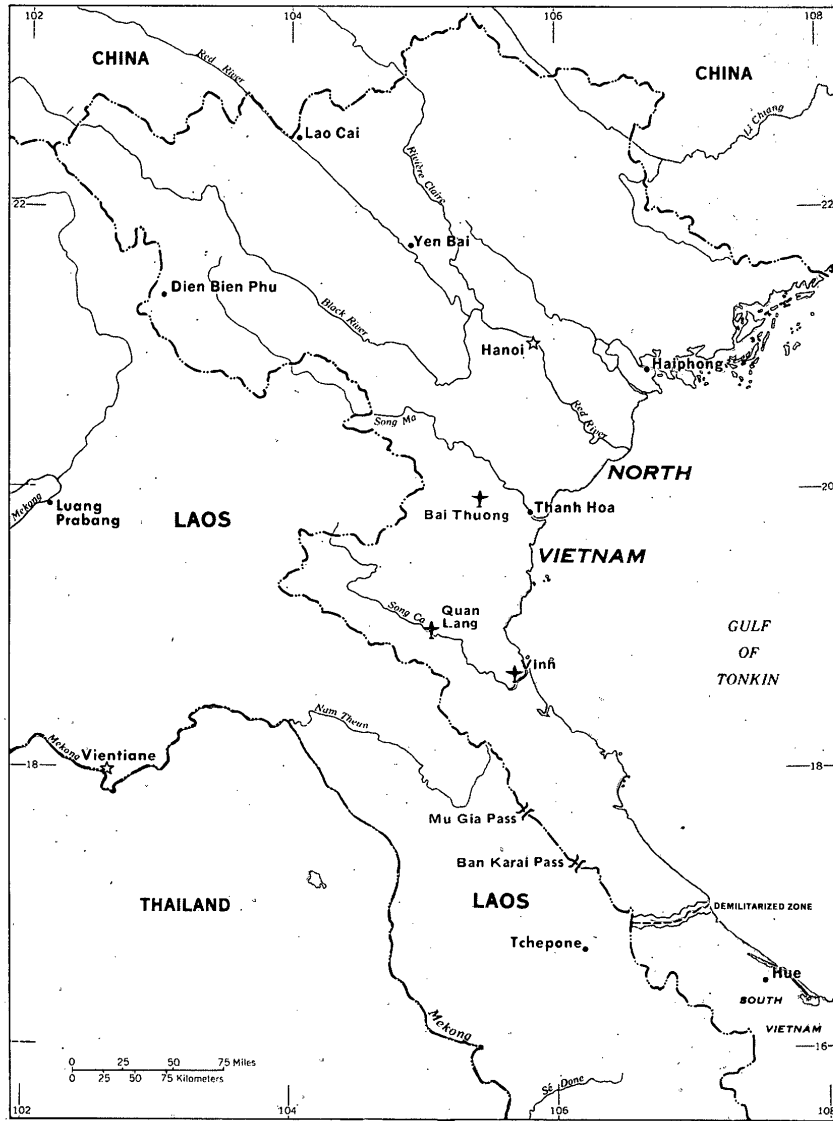
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JAPAN

Hostile reaction in Europe to the visit of Emperor Hirohito surprised many Japanese and could lead to some national stock-taking. Tokyo officials long have been concerned about the Japanese image in the US--and have invested heavily in a public relations campaign to improve the situation--but Hirohito's tour made clear that hostility toward Japan extends beyond American shores. Many Japanese press correspondents attributed the cool reception accorded the Emperor in Great Britain and the Netherlands to still unhealed World War II scars, but the influential Kyodo News Service claimed that the Europeans were expressing a more general reaction to Japan, particularly its economic and trade policies. The Emperor, who was informed of all incidents that occurred, noted on his return to Tokyo that "redoubled efforts are needed to obtain fruitful international good will."

Further resentment of restrictive Japanese trade policies will be voiced at the meeting of Japanese and European employers federations in Brussels on 29 October. Spokesmen for the Dutch and British federations have charged that Japan is not "playing the game" and that among their members there is apprehension that the Japanese might divert their export effort from the US market to Europe.



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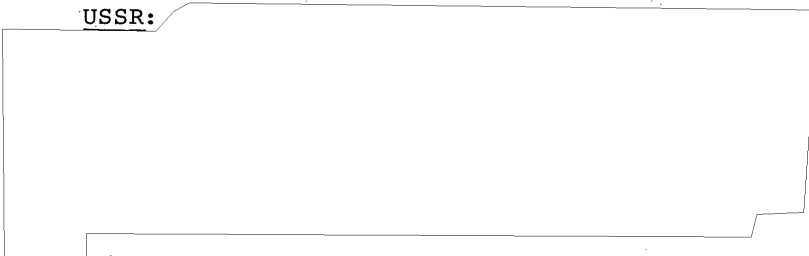
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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: Moscow announced late yesterday that two of its antisubmarine ships, two submarines, and a tanker currently on maneuvers in the Atlantic will make a ten-day visit to Cuba beginning on 31 October. The announcement describes accurately the naval task group currently some 200 miles south of Newfoundland, which consists of a Kresta-class guided missile cruiser, a Kashin-class guided missile destroyer, two F-class diesel attack submarines, and a tanker. This will have been the first time in five months that a Soviet naval group has visited Cuba.

North Vietnam: For the first time, there are two MIG-21s each at Bai Thuong, Quan Lang, and Vinh airfields in the North Vietnamese panhandle. The recent deployment of these six fighters suggests plans to engage US aircraft over southern North Vietnam or adjacent areas of Laos in the near future. The two fighters at Vinh are flown by highly qualified pilots, one of whom made an unsuccessful attempt on 4 October against a B-52 bomber near Tchepone.

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