



The President's Daily Brief

16 November 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

On *Page 1* we discuss the initial reaction noted in Hanoi radio broadcasts to the President's announcement of further US troop withdrawals.

Cambodian forces along Route 6 have been ordered to reorganize and consolidate positions they now hold. (*Page 2*)

The French are preparing to launch a third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine in early December. (*Page 3*)

Two more Soviet TU-16s have flown to Egypt and have been identified as missile configured. (*Page 4*)

The West Germans

(*Page 5*)

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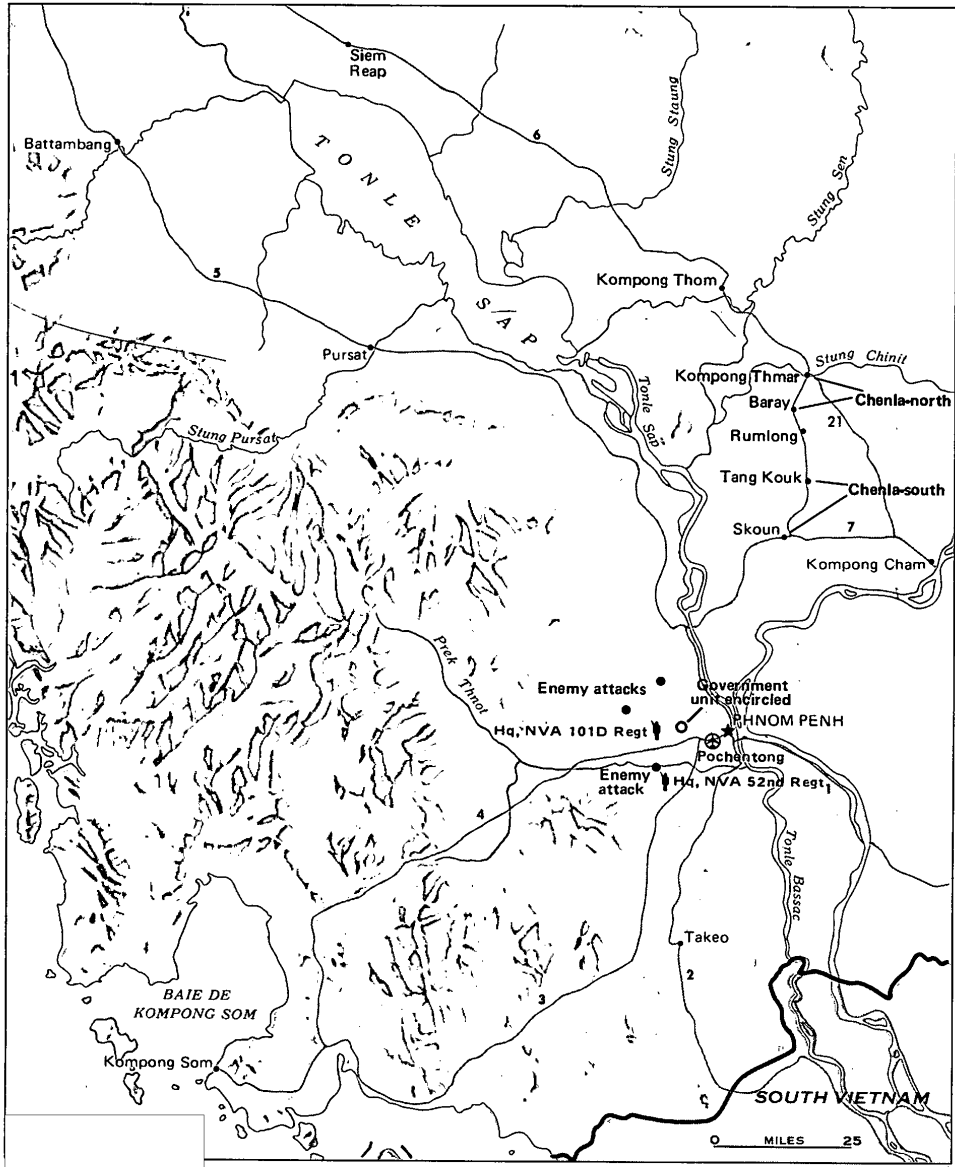
NORTH VIETNAM

Initial reaction from Hanoi radio broadcasts to the announcement of further US troop withdrawals suggests that the Communists may have expected the President to change US policy. There was a note of disappointment in the North Vietnamese broadcasts, which alleged that the President failed to offer any "decisive change...at all." The Communists charged that the US plans to continue indefinitely its Vietnamization program, its air war, and its support of the Thieu government. They implied that the US could not expect the Communists to agree to any restraint on the level of their military operations in South Vietnam in exchange for a further reduction of the US military effort.

The broadcasts emphasized that the Vietnamese Communists' seven-point proposal remains the cornerstone of their demands for a negotiated settlement. In an apparent reference to the President's plans to visit Peking and Moscow, they complained that the US planned to carry out the "dirty trick" of conducting "diplomatic activities" through other channels aside from Paris.

The Communists reiterated their contention that the US must agree to points one and two before a negotiated settlement is possible. As usual, the broadcasts were vague on the other five, however, implying they may be negotiable. Point one calls for the withdrawal of all US and allied military personnel and materiel from Vietnam and the cessation of military action by these forces within Vietnam. Point two demands an end to US military aid and political backing for Thieu so that a coalition regime can be established.

There was no hint in the Communists' broadcasts that they plan to make any concession on the matter of US prisoners of war. In fact, the broadcasts left the impression that Hanoi believes US prisoners may become even more important as a negotiating card in any future arrangement on ending the US role in Vietnam.



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CAMBODIA

Prime Minister Lon Nol, after meeting with his field commanders, has ordered the forces along Route 6 to reorganize and consolidate positions the government still controls. The two columns of the Chenla II task force--each with about 10,000 troops--will become two separate operational commands. Chenla-north is to hold and defend the towns of Baray and Kompong Thmar, and Chenla-south will be responsible for the security of Tang Kouk and Skoun. The commands have been authorized to take the offensive against the Communists if feasible.

Government losses have been heavy. The US defense attaché, who visited the area yesterday, estimates that total Cambodian casualties during the past three weeks may have been equivalent to four to six battalions (2-3,000 troops). The abandonment of Rumlong this weekend also appears to have been costly; one battalion left behind 40 wounded as well as radios, mortars and two 105-mm. howitzers.

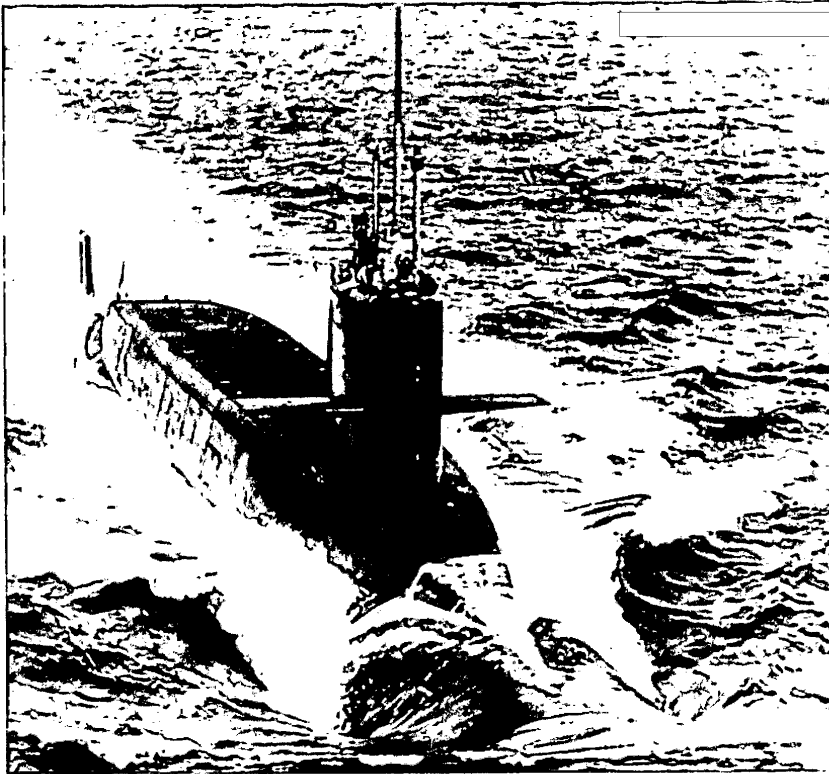
Although the government seems to be abandoning its efforts to reopen Route 6, Lon Nol is trying to salvage as much as possible from the Chenla II operation, which had achieved more than its initial objectives when the Communists launched a counteroffensive in late October. The division of command, however, will increase the vulnerability of the Chenla forces, particularly those in the northern command which remain dependent on aerial resupply.

In the Phnom Penh area, Communist elements are reported to have surrounded part of a Cambodian Army battalion about seven miles west of Pochentong Airfield. Several nearby outposts have been hit. The government forces that have been sweeping an area southwest of the airfield have suffered substantial casualties in sharp fighting in the past few days.

Intercepts show that two North Vietnamese regiments are within 15 miles of the airport. These units are closer to the city than any main force Communist regiments have been since the Cambodian war began.

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First French Nuclear-Powered Ballistic Missile Submarine



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FRANCE

The third French nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, Le Foudroyant, will be launched on 4 December. Scheduled to become operational in 1974, Le Foudroyant will be the first of the 16-tube French nuclear submarines to carry missiles with thermonuclear warheads

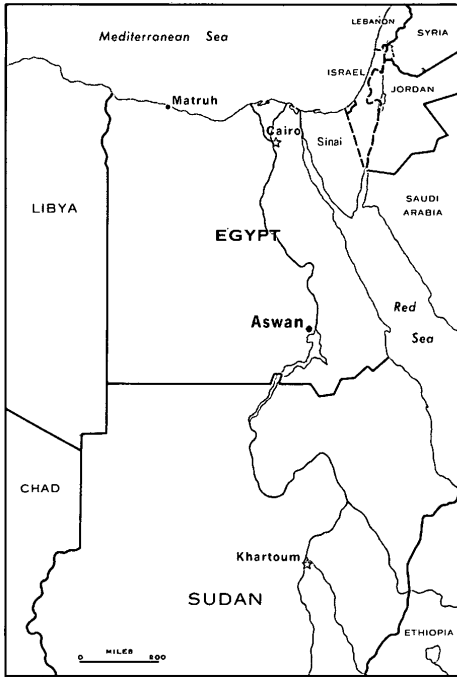


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Construction has already begun on a fourth submarine, and a fifth is planned. Thus, at the end of the 1970s, France is expected to have five submarines



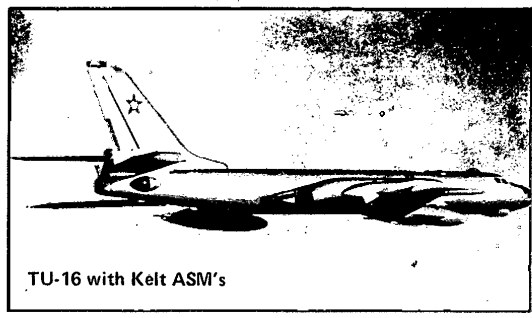
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Additional TU-16s at Aswan

AS-5 Kelt	
Length	30 ft
Maximum range	120 nm
Maximum speed	Mach 0.9-1.2
Warhead—HE or nuclear	1100 - 2200 lbs
Powerplant	rocket
Accuracy	
against land targets	1-2 nm CEP
against ships	75% hit probability

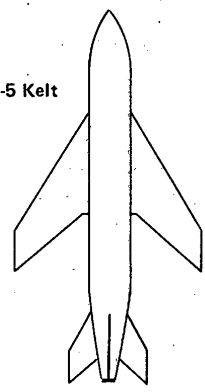
Carrying Aircraft TU-16 Badger G	
Combat radius unrefueled	1200 nm
One refueling	1900 nm
Missiles carried	2
Maximum launch speed	440 kts



TU-16 with Kelt ASM's

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AS-5 Kelt



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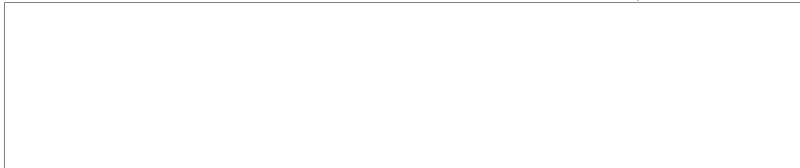
USSR-EGYPT

On Sunday two more Soviet TU-16s with Egyptian markings flew from Budapest to Aswan airfield. One of them was photographed by pilots from the USS Independence and determined to be configured to carry two AS-5 Kelt air-to-surface missiles.

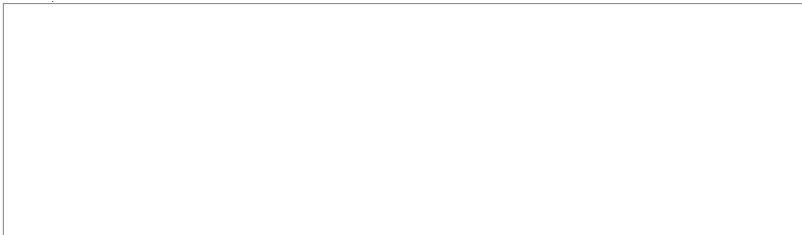
Five Soviet TU-16s, at least four of which have been identified as capable of carrying ASMs, have flown to Aswan since 5 November, and as many as five more are scheduled to make the flight before the end of the month.

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WEST GERMANY



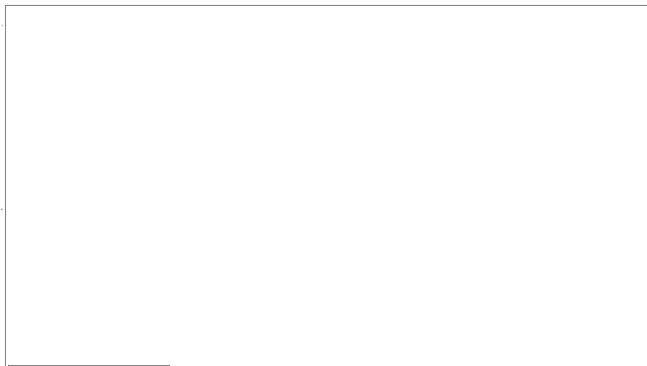
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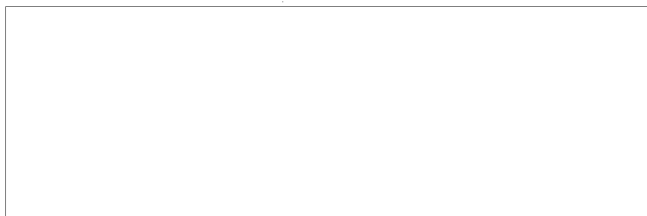
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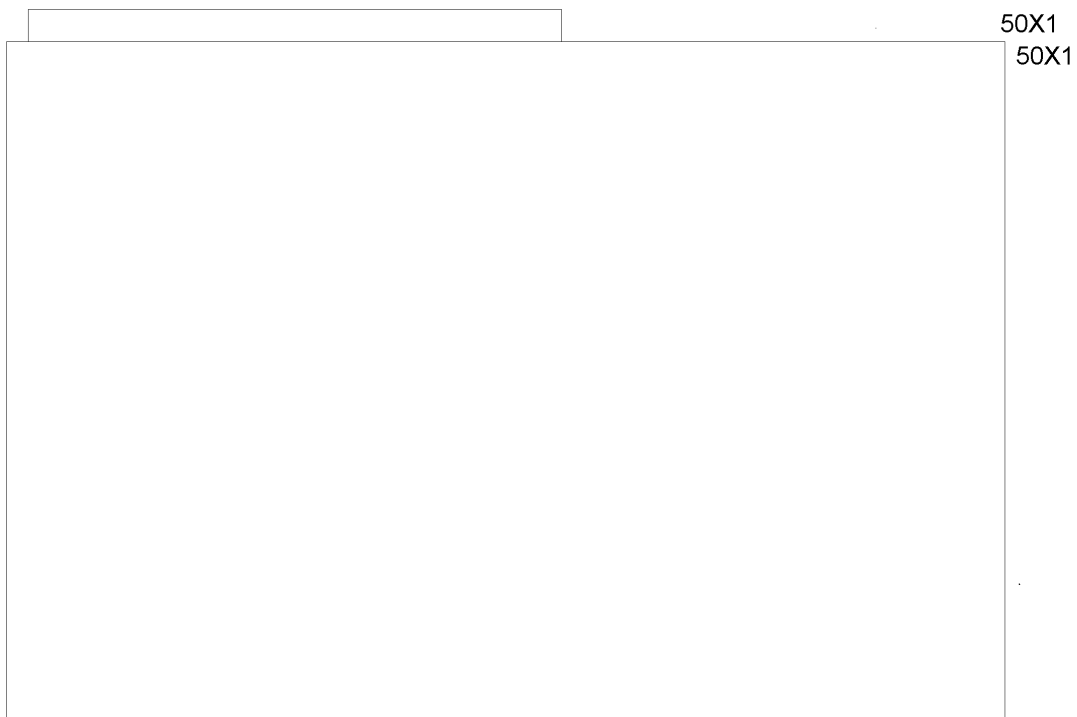
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NOTES

Communist China:

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India-Israel:

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