



The President's Daily Brief

7 January 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

7 January 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Vietnam has apparently scheduled a "summit" conference with its other Indochinese allies to coincide with the President's trip to China. (Page 1)

Brazil [redacted] (Page 2)

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[redacted] UN Secretary General Waldheim plans no major shake-up in the secretariat. (Page 3)

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At Annex [redacted]

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INDOCHINA

Sihanouk has told reporters in Peking that he will go to Hanoi in February to confer with Premier Pham Van Dong, Laotian Prince Souphanouvong, and National Liberation Front leaders from South Vietnam.



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This is the second meeting at the "summit" of leaders of North Vietnam and these various Indochinese front organizations. The first took place in April 1970, in the wake of Sihanouk's overthrow. The new meeting apparently has been timed by Hanoi to coincide with the President's visit to Peking.

The theme of Indochinese solidarity has persisted in North Vietnamese propaganda ever since the 1970 meeting, and recent Hanoi pronouncements have been giving unusual emphasis to the common goals of all three national revolutionary movements in Indochina. In addition to trying to offset the President's trip, Hanoi undoubtedly sees a new Indochina "summit" as a good forum for focusing attention on the extent of US involvement in Laos and Cambodia as well as in South Vietnam.

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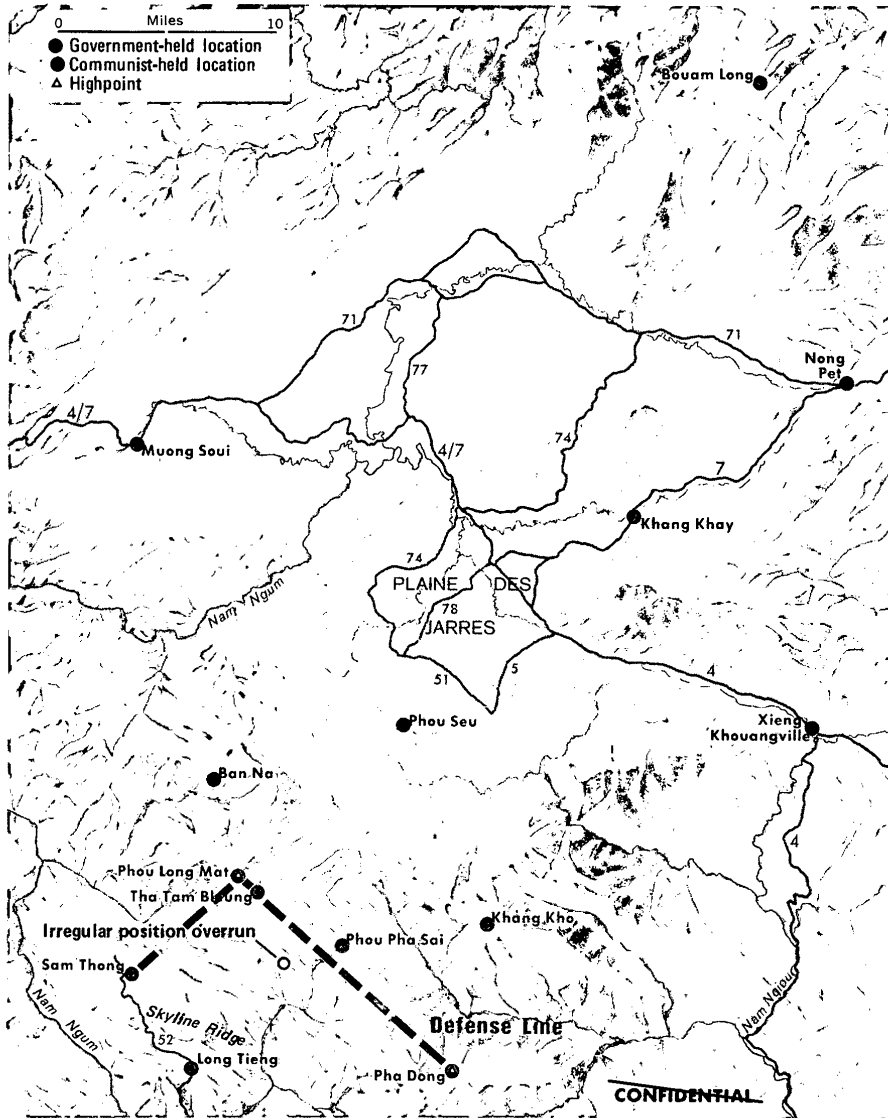
UNITED NATIONS

[redacted] reports from the US Mission in New York that Secretary General Waldheim does not plan a major overhaul of the secretariat he inherited from U Thant. In addition, Waldheim would prefer not to fill Ralph Bunche's post with a US citizen, on the grounds that no citizen of a superpower should hold this job, which involves sensitive areas such as peacekeeping.

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If Waldheim makes only a few changes, the chances are good that the "do-nothing" attitude which characterized Thant's secretariat will continue. It will also most likely mean the retention of C.V. Narasimhan, the Secretary General's chef de cabinet, who is a frequent thorn in the side of the US delegation.

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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NOTE

Laos: North Vietnamese 130-mm. field guns have continued their nighttime barrages against irregular positions on the ridge overlooking Long Tieng. There has been little damage, however, and no major ground attack has materialized. One of the government high points between Tha Tam Bleung and Long Tieng was overrun on 5 January by a North Vietnamese force in company strength. Irregular troops on Phou Long Mat also report being shelled by what they believe was a T-34 tank. At least one such tank was used in the recent enemy offensive on the Plaine des Jarres, but the rough terrain around Long Tieng would make it difficult for the North Vietnamese to maneuver tanks in the area.

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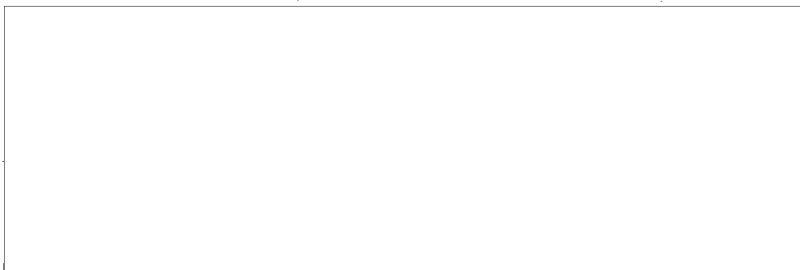
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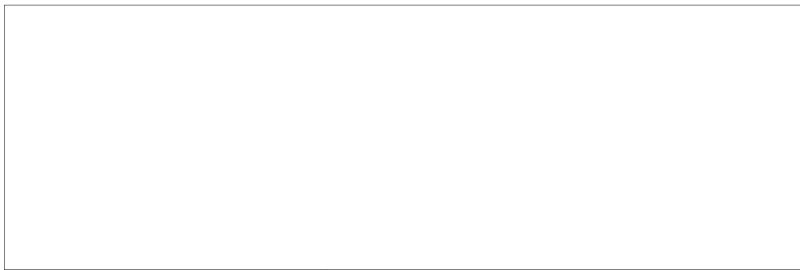
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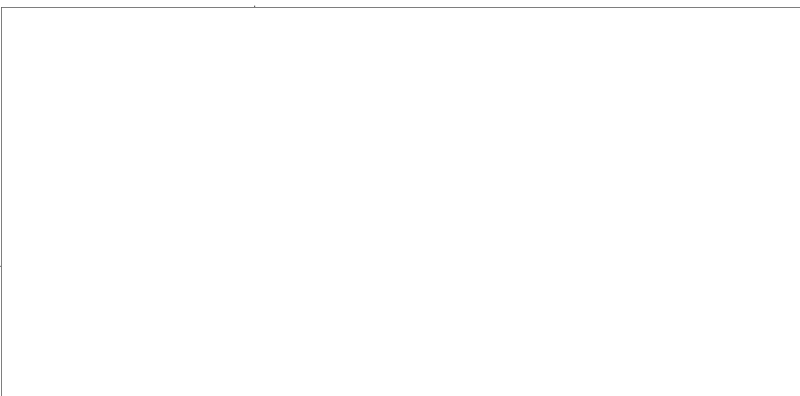
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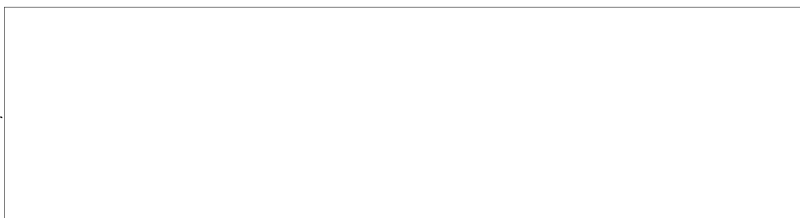
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