



The President's Daily Brief

Sensitive
25 March 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

25 March 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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Vang Pao is receiving fresh troops to help defend Long Tieng, while the Communists appear to be readying a new assault against positions near the western end of Skyline Ridge. (Page 3)

The North Vietnamese appear to be constructing a major new road system through the country's southern panhandle. (Page 4)

The Israelis have run into difficulties with regard to their activities in Uganda [Redacted] (Page 5)

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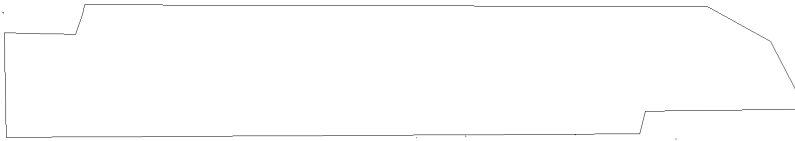
[Redacted] Ireland [Redacted] (Page 6)

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Prime Minister Mintoff is to fly to London today to review a draft UK-Malta agreement that would be signed on Sunday. (Page 8)

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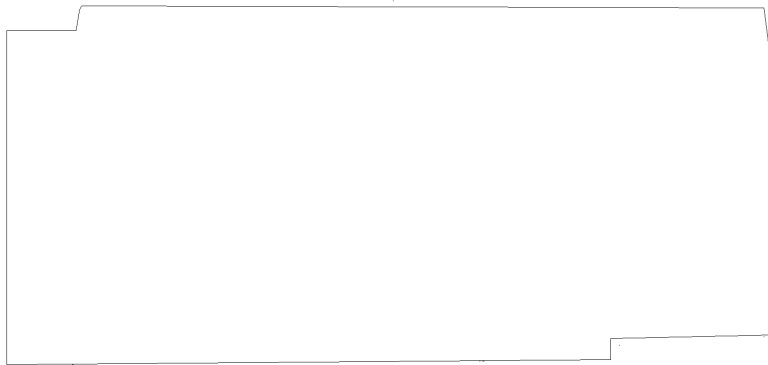
JORDAN



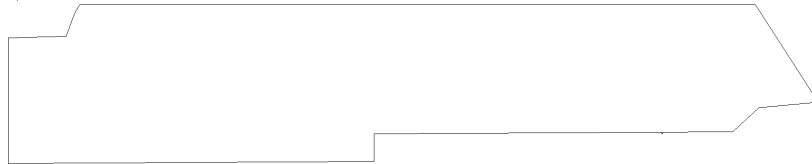
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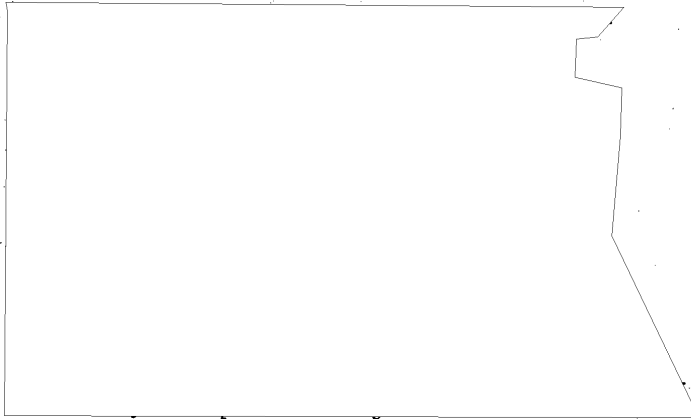
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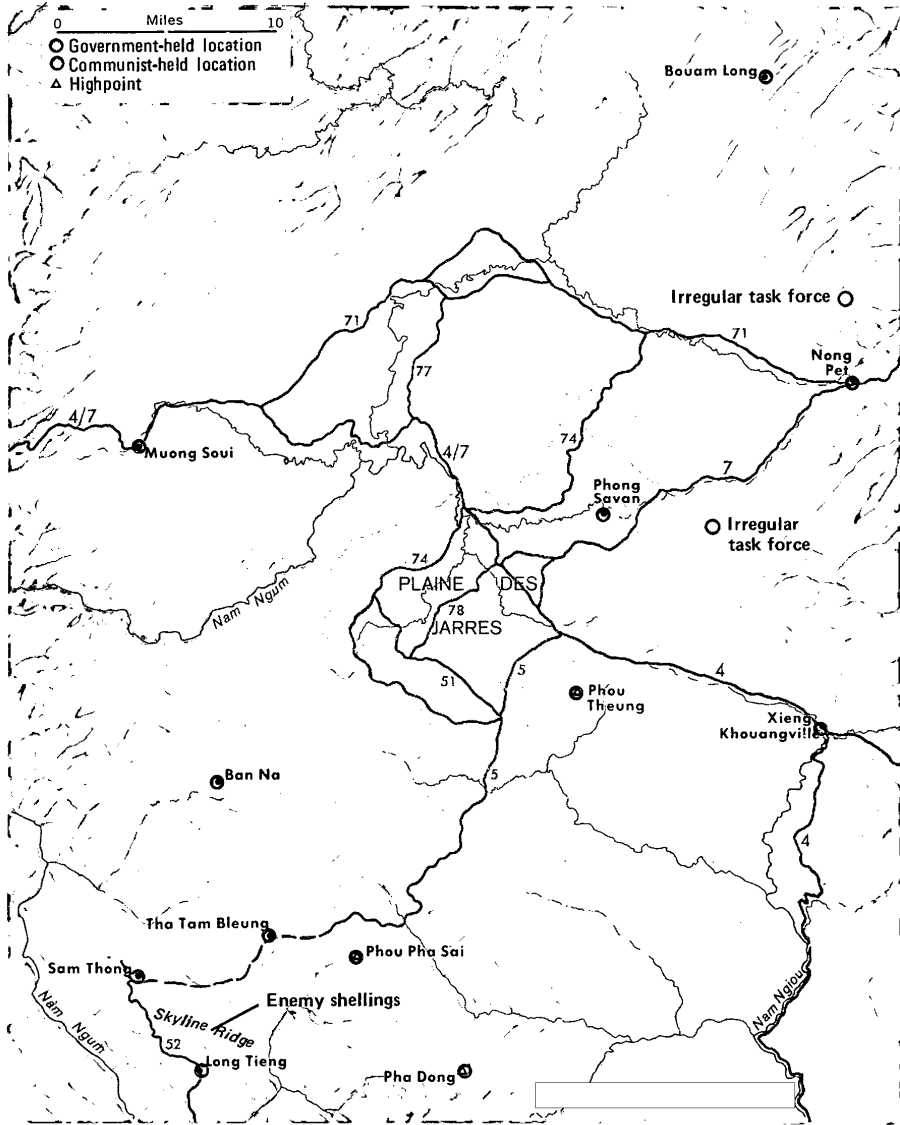
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LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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LAOS

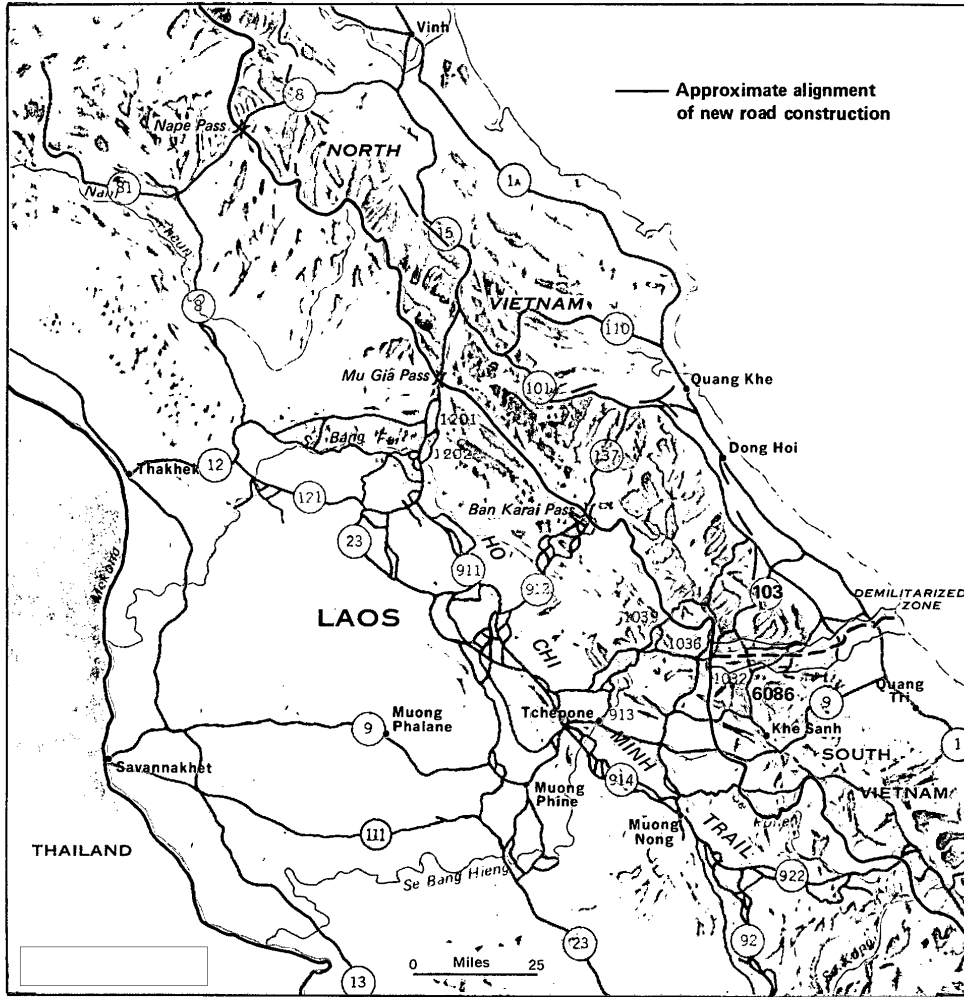
There was relatively little activity on Skyline Ridge yesterday. With the addition of reinforcements now flying into Long Tieng, Vang Pao will have over 1,100 fresh troops to assist in the defense of his stronghold.

The Communists may be preparing to launch their next major assault against positions that guard the road from Sam Thong. Elements of the North Vietnamese 312th Division have been ordered to retain a foothold on the western end of Skyline Ridge "at all costs," according to intercepted messages, and ground observers continue to report tank movements north of the ridge.

To the east of the Plaine des Jarres, irregular task forces near Phong Savan and Nong Pet are meeting increasing resistance. The Communists used 105-mm. howitzers yesterday

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North Vietnam Panhandle Road Construction



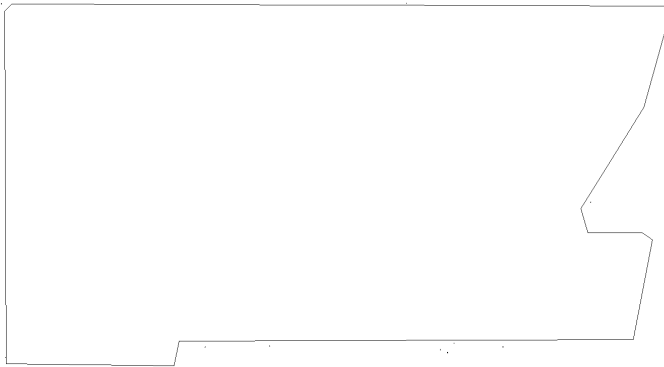
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NORTH VIETNAM

Photography of early March has revealed several north-south road segments in the early stages of construction in North Vietnam's panhandle. The construction is in high terrain paralleling the Laotian border and extends over 150 miles from northwest of Vinh to just 17 miles north of the DMZ. Some sections of existing roads along this general alignment are being improved at the same time. The North Vietnamese appear to be building the road segments as straight and level as possible.



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In a related development, photography of mid-March shows that Route 103/6086 through the DMZ has been completed and now can carry traffic as far south as Khe Sanh.



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ISRAEL-UGANDA [redacted]

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The Israelis have suffered reverses in [redacted] Uganda [redacted], where their agents have had some success in diverting the Muslims from the main Arab-Israeli conflict. Earlier this week Ugandan President Amin announced that he would not renew Uganda's military training agreements with Israel and ordered Israeli Army advisers and "intelligence agents" out of the country by 27 March. Although Amin exempted Israeli Air Force advisers, who make up at least half of the approximately 50-man contingent, the Israelis have decided to pull them out too. Kampala claimed yesterday that five Israeli nationals were arrested on "subversion" charges, and Amin has hinted at further measures against Israel.

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Relations between Uganda and Israel began to worsen earlier this year when Amin, a Muslim, moved to strengthen his contacts with Arab countries, notably Libya. [redacted]

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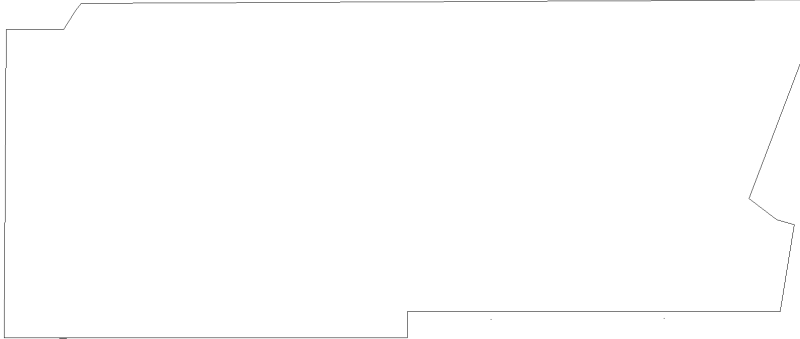
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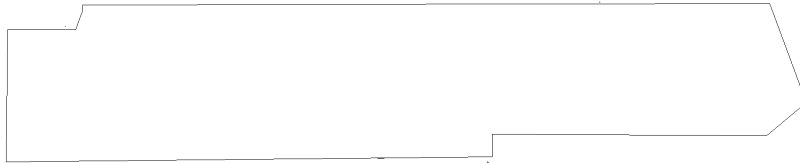
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IRELAND



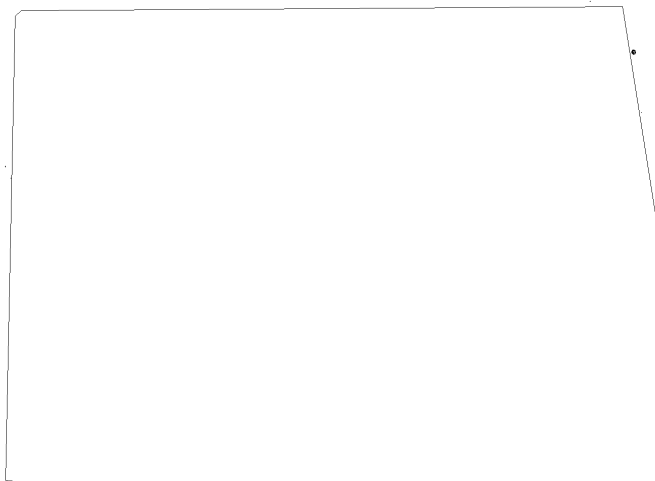
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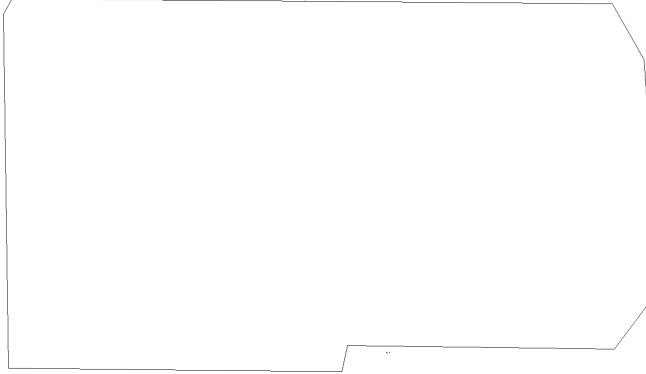


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NOTES

Malta-UK: Prime Minister Mintoff will fly to London today to review a draft Malta-UK agreement to be signed Sunday. He has dropped his demands that the US provide assurances of bilateral assistance and give a commitment that the 6th Fleet will not seek to use Maltese facilities leased to the British. The draft would give Malta about \$33 million upon signature, plus an additional payment of \$6.5 million from Italy, and \$36.4 million annually thereafter.

Chile



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