



The President's Daily Brief

6 June 1972

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The North Vietnamese are extending their petroleum pipeline toward China. [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 1)

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Lon Nol's margin of victory in the presidential election on Sunday was short of the clear-cut vote of confidence he sought. (Page 2)

Public unrest is again on the increase in Bangladesh. (Page 3)

A general lull continues on the South Vietnamese battlefields. (Page 4)

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NORTH VIETNAM

The North Vietnamese are extending their petroleum pipeline system toward China. Recent photography shows construction under way to extend the pipeline about 30 miles north, from the Hai Duong area to Kep. Kep lies on the Dong Dang railroad line about 50 miles from the Chinese border. A POL storage area is also under construction there.

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CAMBODIA

The results of the presidential election reflect widespread dissatisfaction with Lon Nol. Complete returns are not yet in, but it now appears certain that Lon Nol's margin of victory will fall short of the unequivocal vote of confidence he had hoped to obtain.

At last report, Lon Nol had 61 percent of the vote, In Tam 22 percent, and Keo An 17 percent. The respectable showing of Keo An, an unknown who attracted attention by pledging to permit Sihanouk to return to Cambodia, is embarrassing to the government since it will be interpreted as evidence of residual support for the former Cambodian leader.

In Tam actually ran ahead of Lon Nol in Phnom Penh, where he effectively exploited war-weariness and unhappiness over inflation and high-level corruption. Only energetic electioneering and some threats of a coup by the military enabled Lon Nol to get the national majority necessary to avoid a run-off election.

Although In Tam is claiming fraud, the election was reasonably honest by Khmer standards, and the closeness of the vote should help the government to portray the contest as a legitimate expression of the voters' will.

Lon Nol's next important political step will be to appoint a vice-president. He has not yet indicated who might be given the post or when the appointment will be made. Sirik Matak has repeatedly insisted that he does not want the job, and In Tam clearly is unacceptable to the military.

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BANGLADESH

Public unrest is again on the increase, and there have been disorders in some parts of the country. Food shortages and allegations of official corruption seem to be the main reasons. Prime Minister Mujib's Awami League Party is coming in for increased criticism.

Mujib himself is still widely popular, and opposition groups pose no threat now. He is concerned, however, over the longer term threat that continued deterioration of law and order would bring. Mujib has scheduled a major policy address for tomorrow and may announce new measures for dealing with dissident elements.

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NOTE

South Vietnam: The general lull in battlefield activity continues. In Kontum City, South Vietnamese forces have cleared the remaining Communist troops from the area south of the airfield, and only minor skirmishing is reported north of the field. In Binh Dinh Province, the fighting in and around Phu My District town has also lessened. Government forces have cleared the town of almost all the Communist troops that had infiltrated during the weekend fighting. To the north, the enemy continues re-supply and reconnaissance activities in preparation for heavier fighting in the Hue area, but poor weather may be hindering some of this preparatory work.

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