

*The President's Daily Brief*

*20 June 1972*

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*Top Secret*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The military situation in South Vietnam remains fairly quiet. *(Page 1)*

We expect the Soviets to conduct another Soyuz space mission in the next week or so. *(Page 2)*

Ground support equipment for China's medium range ballistic missile system has been photographed in south China. *(Page 3)*

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**VIETNAM**

In South Vietnam, the major battlefields are fairly quiet. North of Hue, the South Vietnamese operation into Quang Tri Province continues to meet only moderate resistance. In the central highlands, a Communist infantry regiment and an artillery regiment appear to be moving back toward Kontum City from nearby base areas where they have been refitting. A South Vietnamese force of 30 tanks and armored personnel carriers yesterday transited the recently constructed bypass west of the Kontum Pass with only light enemy resistance. This route should provide Kontum City with a sorely needed resupply link with Pleiku to the south, but it is also vulnerable to enemy interdiction.

Farther south, shelling of An Loc remains at a low level, and the South Vietnamese 1st Airborne Brigade is being withdrawn for reassignment elsewhere. Fairly heavy action continues in parts of Kien Tuong, Dinh Tuong, and Vinh Long provinces in the Mekong Delta.

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**USSR**

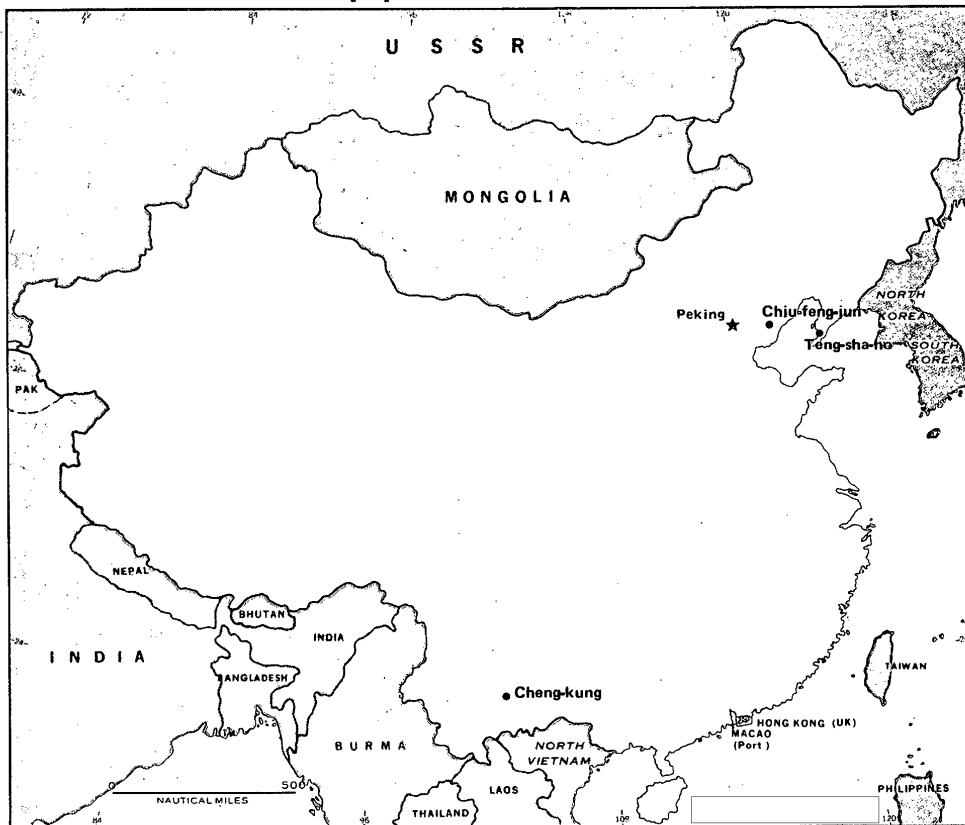
Preparations are under way for a Soyuz space mission which we expect to be conducted within the next week or so. Five space support ships in the Atlantic and one in the Pacific are moving into positions from which they could monitor a Soyuz flight. [redacted] two Soyuz spacecraft are being prepared at the Tyuratam Space Center, although both may not be intended for use in the mission.

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*We do not yet have enough evidence to determine whether this will be a manned mission. The Soviets' last manned effort, in June 1971, involved the docking of a Soyuz spacecraft with a Salyut space station and ended in the death of the crew during de-orbit. This mission presumably is intended to test engineering changes that were made as a result of that accident.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

### CHINA: CSS-1 Missile Equipment



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NOTE

China: Ground support equipment for China's 600-nm. ballistic missile system--the CSS-1--has been identified in satellite photography of a military installation at Cheng-kung in south China. An area about six miles away appears to have a prepared launch site. It also contains several buildings, including one long drive-in structure that could be intended for missile handling and storage. The Cheng-kung installation is the third facility identified this year that contains CSS-1 equipment, and the first with a prepared launch site. The other two are in northeastern China within range of South Korea and the Soviet border. From Cheng-kung, the CSS-1 could reach targets within an arc extending from northern South Vietnam to the eastern regions of India.

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