



*The President's Daily Brief*

*6 July 1972*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Additional South Vietnamese forces have entered Quang Tri City. Enemy messages, however, are continuing to call for the defense of "liberated" territory and for striking the rear areas of government forces. (Page 1)

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[redacted] Vietnam [redacted]  
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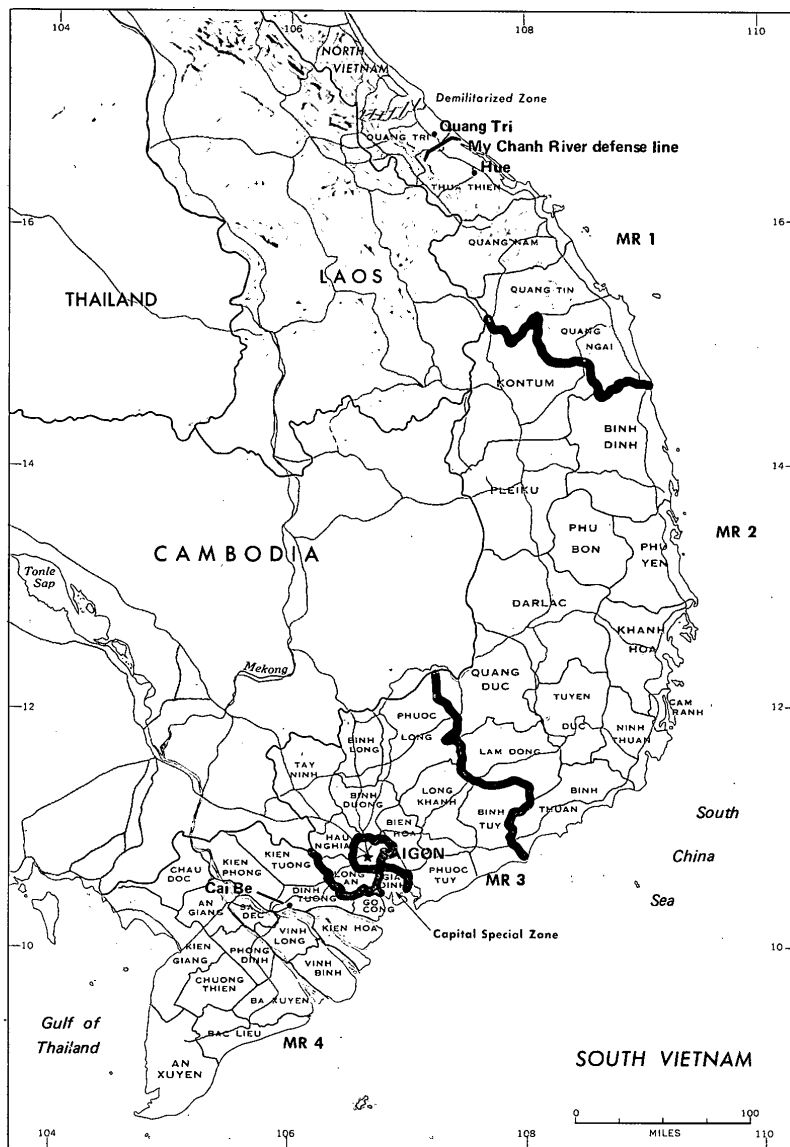
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[redacted] (Page 2)

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Japan's new prime minister is not likely to call for any radical departures in either foreign or domestic policies. (Page 3)

The new French cabinet, under Prime Minister Pierre Messmer, will be more Gaullist in character. (Page 4)



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VIETNAM

Additional government forces have entered Quang Tri City and are encountering little significant enemy opposition. The advance paratroop units that were airlifted into the town against only token resistance have been joined by additional airborne and armored elements moving up from the south. Marine forces are now closing in after beating off two enemy attacks less than five miles to the south and east of the town. Some Communist forces are believed still to be within the citadel area of Quang Tri, but the majority apparently have pulled back to the northwest where they may be regrouping.

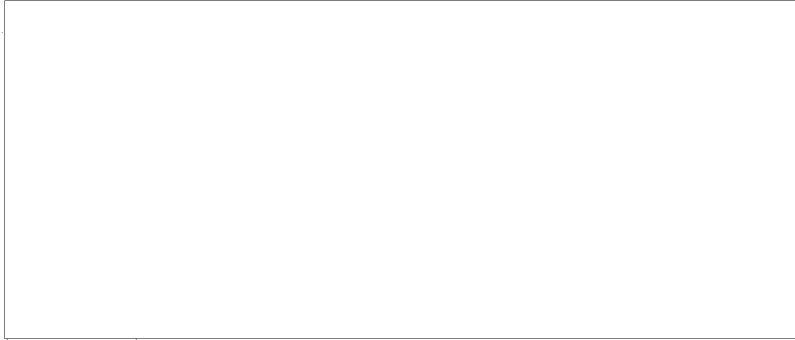
Despite the enemy's weak showing to date against the government drive, Communist messages continue to call for the defense of "liberated" territory and for striking the rear areas of government forces. The headquarters of both the North Vietnamese 304th and 308th divisions are in the foothills southwest of Quang Tri City, and elements of these divisions may strike either the advancing airborne units or South Vietnamese Army troops now manning the My Chanh defense line northwest of Hue. Yesterday government troops southwest of Hue recaptured Fire Support Base Checkmate, which had fallen on 30 June. Communist shelling of Hue and its western strongpoints has continued

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The most recent significant fighting elsewhere in the country involved a series of clashes in which South Vietnamese Army troops operating along an infiltration corridor near Cai Be district town in the northern delta took fairly heavy casualties.

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VIETNAM



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JAPAN

*Kakuei Tanaka, Japan's newly elected prime minister, is not likely to call for any radical departures in foreign or domestic policies. While Tanaka is dynamic and brings to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party a new image of youth and decisiveness, he is a moderate who is deeply rooted in the nation's postwar conservative political tradition.*

*His colorful and assertive style may nevertheless accelerate various changes already under way in Japan, including the move toward normalization of relations with Peking. The new prime minister clearly will maintain friendly relations with the US in the context of the US-Japan Mutual Security Treaty, and he also has expressed strong interest in promoting economic cooperation with the USSR. Tanaka's inexperience in foreign affairs may prompt him to delegate much of the responsibility in this area to the several former foreign ministers in the ruling party who were among his chief supporters.*

*It is in the fields of economic policy and domestic welfare programs that Tanaka is likely to be most active and decisive, having already served effectively as finance minister and as minister of international trade and industry. His long-standing expertise in domestic problems is in fact the basis for his unusually broad popularity. The new prime minister could have difficulty meeting the expectations of his youthful supporters, however, in view of the heavy reliance upon consensus in the Japanese decision-making process and the strong influence exerted by the powerful and conservative bureaucracy.*

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### FRANCE

*The choice of Pierre Messmer as Prime Minister Chaban-Delmas' successor is designed to placate old-line Gaullists and unite bickering factions before national parliamentary elections are held. The 56-year-old Messmer, minister of overseas territories and departments since February 1971, rallied to De Gaulle and the Free French in 1940. He served almost ten years as De Gaulle's defense minister and presided over France's withdrawal from NATO's integrated command structure and the buildup of France's nuclear force.*

*Messmer's attitude toward the US is highly colored by his traditional Gaullist views. He heads the "Presence of Gaullism" movement, created as a watchdog after De Gaulle's death to ensure that any successor did not stray too far from Gaullist principles. He is also prominent in the chauvinistic Movement for the Independence of Europe, which rejects the idea of a partnership between Europe and the US.*

*The new cabinet--which is likely to be named tomorrow--undoubtedly will be more Gaullist in character. Defense Minister Debre will remain in his present post, and Elysee sources say that Foreign Minister Schumann, who departed yesterday on an official visit to Peking, will also be retained.*



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