



The President's Daily Brief

8 July 1972

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~~Top Secret~~

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 July 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Communists are putting up the first strong resistance to the South Vietnamese offensive in Quang Tri Province; North Vietnamese units forced to retreat hastily may be killing American prisoners. (Page 1)

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The Lao

[Redacted]

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(Page 3)

In Japan

[Redacted]

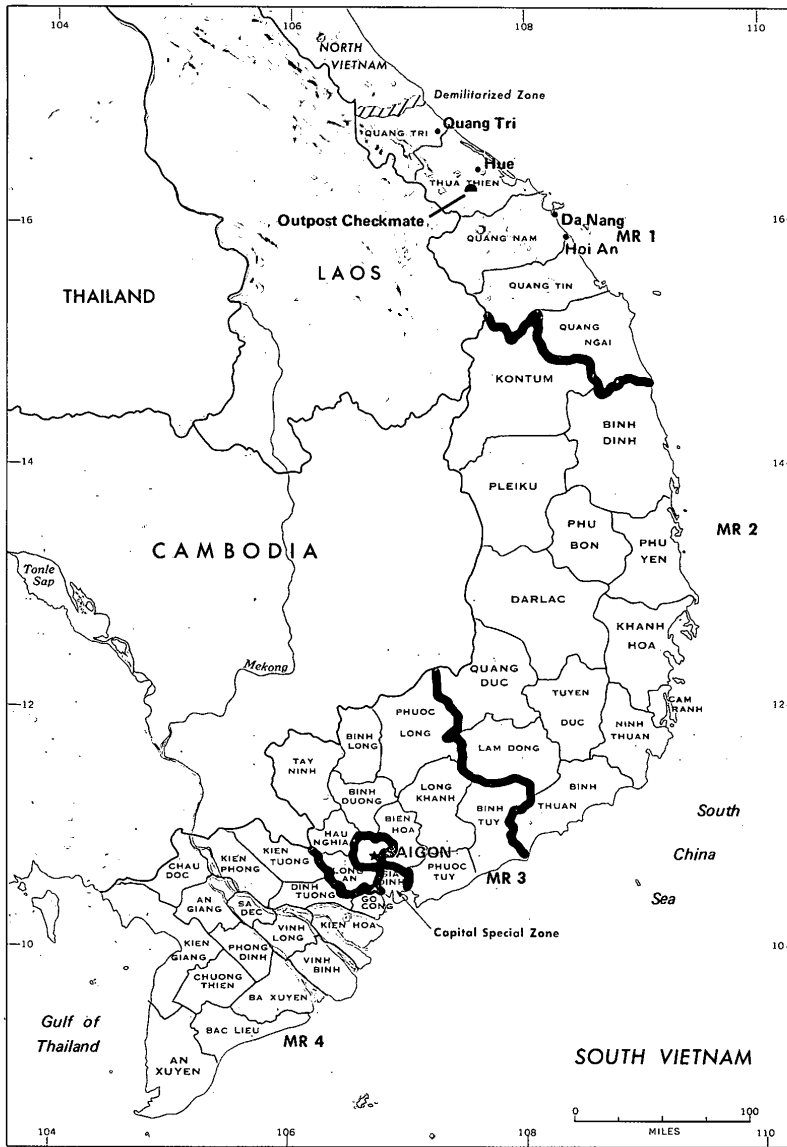
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(Page 4)

Lebanese Prime Minister Salam has provided some details of his latest agreement with the fedayeen. (Page 5)



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VIETNAM

The Communists are putting up the first strong resistance to the South Vietnamese offensive. Lead elements of the government force in Quang Tri Province are engaged in house-to-house fighting in the southeastern section of the provincial capital, and enemy tanks are battling marine units to the south of the city.

Farther south, the Communists are maintaining pressure on government defensive positions near Hue; fire support bases west of the city have again been heavily shelled, and Outpost Checkmate, abandoned to the Communists on 30 June and recaptured five days later, has again been overrun. In Quang Nam Province, increased Communist action may be in store for Da Nang and the provincial capital of Hoi An

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North Vietnamese units in Quang Tri Province forced to retreat hastily may be killing American prisoners. Two recent intercepted messages indicate that Communist units, one withdrawing from Quang Tri City, had killed or intended to kill Americans they were holding prisoner. A message of 6 July disclosed that an antiaircraft artillery unit was to leave cadre "behind to kill ten Americans."

Since Vietnamese Communist units have rarely executed American captives, this could be an isolated instance in which the necessity of quick withdrawal outweighed reasons for holding the prisoners.

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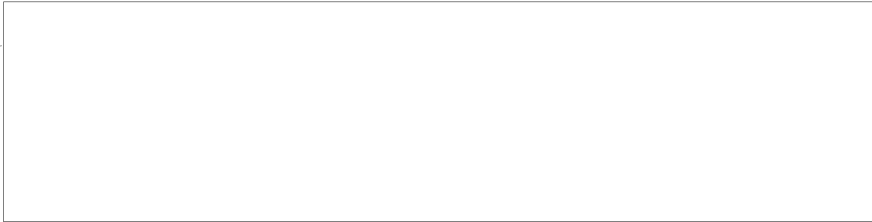
The pipeline North Vietnam has been constructing to carry petroleum products from China may be a dual one. Analysis of photography taken on 7 June of an area east of Kep in North Vietnam shows about one mile of open trench containing dual pipe, suggesting that a dual pipeline is being built from the Chinese border to Hai Duong. At Hai Duong the pipeline joins the existing dual system.

A dual pipeline would ease considerably Hanoi's POL supply problem by allowing the simultaneous movement of both motor gasoline and diesel fuel, the major fuel requirements.

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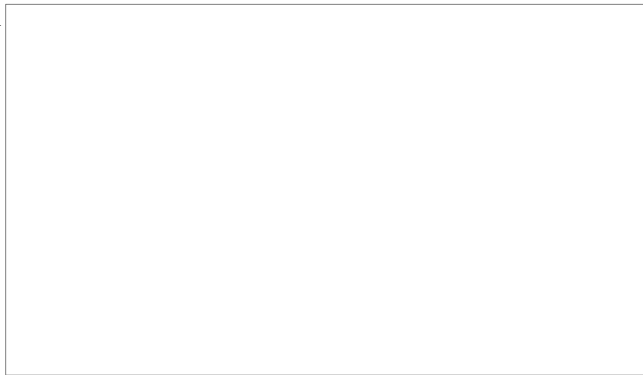
LAOS



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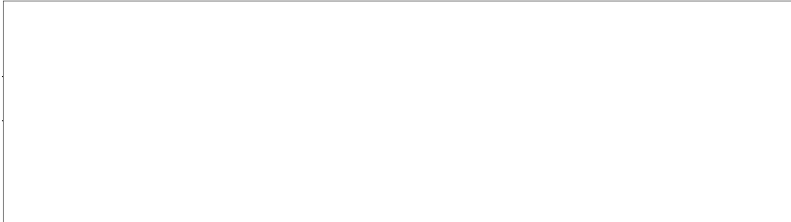
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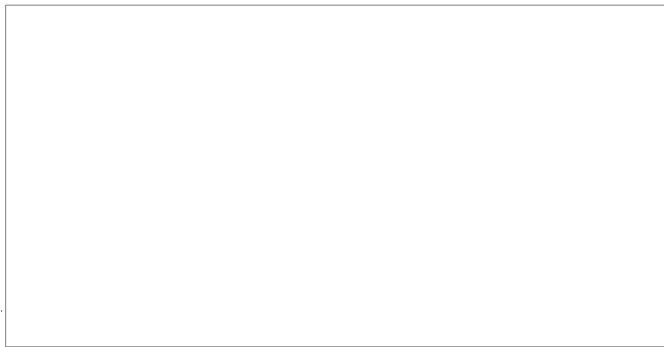
JAPAN



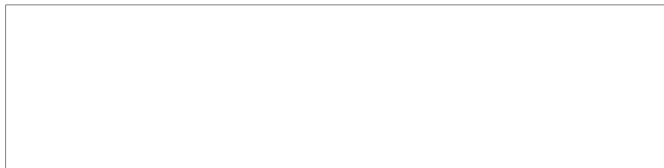
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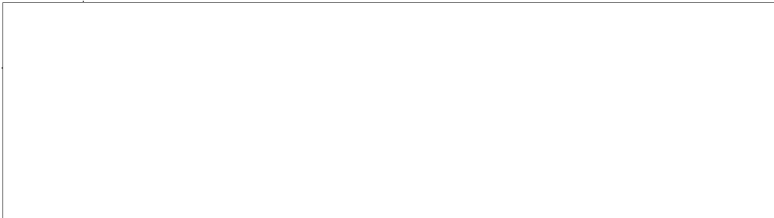


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LEBANON-FEDAYEEN

Prime Minister Salam has provided Ambassador Buffum with some details of his latest agreement with the Palestinian guerrillas. Earlier this week Salam said he had a specific commitment from Yasir Arafat to discontinue cross-border operations, withdraw fedayeen forces from the Argub area, and evacuate southern Lebanese villages. Salam also claimed that fedayeen commandos will no longer be allowed to appear in public in uniform or bearing arms. He voiced the hope that the fedayeen would hold to their agreement at least until November.



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We doubt that this accommodation will hold up any better than the one concluded in March. The guerrillas have nowhere to operate except in Lebanon, and prolonged inactivity would fracture the movement. Arafat also lacks the power to force the several major competitive fedayeen organizations to accept the agreement. Even Salam appears to doubt Arafat's intention or ability to enforce compliance.

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