



*The President's Daily Brief*

17 July 1972

25



25X1  
~~Top Secret~~

Exempt from general  
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652  
exemption category 58(1)(2), (3)  
declassified only on approval of  
the Director of Central Intelligence

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 July 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

25X1

The Communists maintain heavy pressure on South Vietnamese units in Quang Tri Province [redacted]

25X1

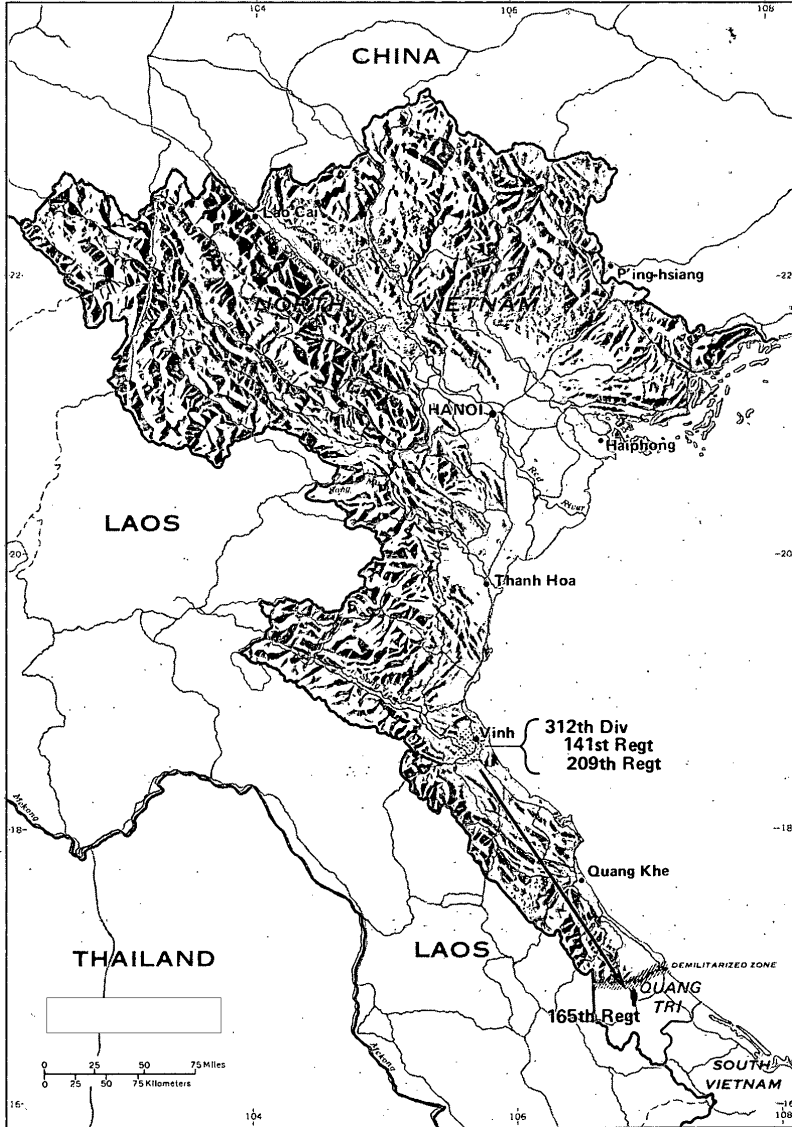
[redacted]  
(Page 1)

Libyan leader Qadhafi has survived another crisis, apparently with the help of Egyptian President Sadat.  
(Page 3)

On Page 4, [redacted]  
Cuba [redacted]  
[redacted] Latin America.

25X1  
15X1  
25X1

North Vietnamese 312th Division Preparing to Move



553349 7-72 CIA

25X1

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

VIETNAM

The Communists maintained heavy pressure over the weekend on South Vietnamese forces pushing toward Quang Tri City. According to intercepts, the Communists defending the city and the surrounding areas intend to continue fighting and are using all the firepower they can muster to repel the government troops. Communist units have been directed to concentrate heavy mortar and recoilless rifle fire on South Vietnamese helicopters as soon as they try to land. Even anti-aircraft artillery batteries have been ordered to use their guns against South Vietnamese tanks and infantry.

In Thua Thien Province, the city of Hue was again shelled, but damage and casualties were light. There was only sporadic fighting in the rest of the country.

\* \* \*

The 165th Regiment of the North Vietnamese 312th Division apparently has arrived in South Vietnam. Radio direction-finding of 15 July placed the regiment in central Quang Tri Province, approximately 50 miles south of its location on 11 July. The regiment's rapid deployment suggests that it will be committed to combat soon.

The rest of the 312th Division may also be preparing to move south. The division headquarters and its other two regiments have given indications in communications that they are about to move. The division has ceased communications with a senior military command in southern North Vietnam, which suggests that the division may be leaving the country.

*The 312th Division returned to North Vietnam from northern Laos in early May and has spent the past two months refitting near Vinh. The division has had adequate time to replace its combat losses, but it is doubtful if sufficient time has elapsed for it to have restored all of its units to full combat effectiveness.*

*The 312th is Hanoi's last remaining uncommitted line division, (the 316th Division is still in north Laos), but there are several training divisions in North*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*Vietnam that could be pressed into service if the leadership decided the need were sufficiently great. The deployment of the 312th to Quang Tri Province would bring to five the number of enemy divisions arrayed against government forces in that area. These divisions are supported by a number of independent infantry, artillery, and armor regiments. Most of these units have, however, taken heavy losses.*

There are signs that replacement personnel are moving toward northern South Vietnam. According to an intercept of 13 July, at least eight infiltration groups have moved into the North Vietnamese panhandle. No strength figures were given in the intercept, but if the groups are about the same size as others that moved south this year, (about 500 men each), they could total several thousand troops.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

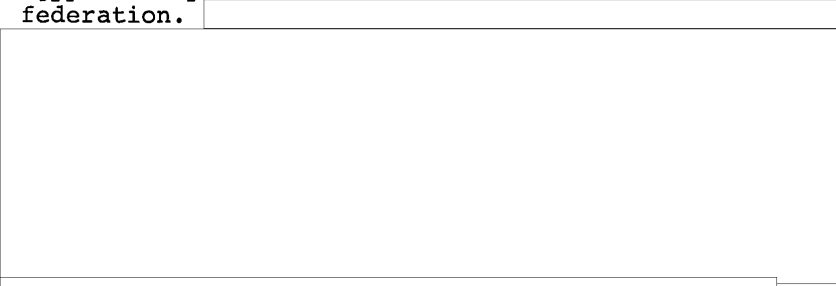
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LIBYA

A political crisis lasting two weeks has been resolved with the appointment of a cabinet composed mostly of civilians, but headed by Major Jallud, a leading member of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). The crisis arose because formation of the cabinet had been intended by Qadhafi as the first step toward the abolition of the RCC and the establishment of a Libyan political structure that would bring it into conformity with the governments of Egypt and Syria, its sister states of the Arab confederation.

25X1

25X1



25X1

A compromise was arranged, apparently by Egyptian President Sadat, by which the RCC remains as the major policy-making body, with the cabinet as its executive. As president, Qadhafi will stay in over-all command. There were apparently other concessions to the RCC; instead of an all-civilian cabinet, this body includes Major al-Huni as Minister of Interior, and Qadhafi once again as Minister of Defense. Like Jallud, they are expected to keep their military ranks.

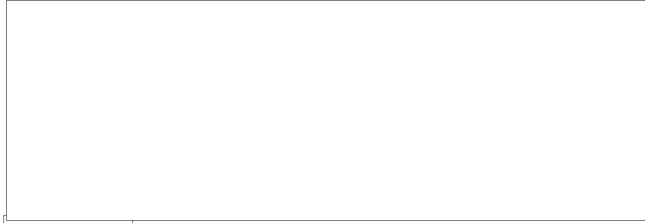
*Seven of the 16 civilian cabinet ministers announced so far have served in a previous cabinet. Two of the new ministers--foreign affairs and planning--are seasoned professionals in their respective fields, who are taking over newly created ministries. Qadhafi formerly had personally handled foreign affairs.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

CUBA - LATIN AMERICA



25X1



25X1



25X1



25X1



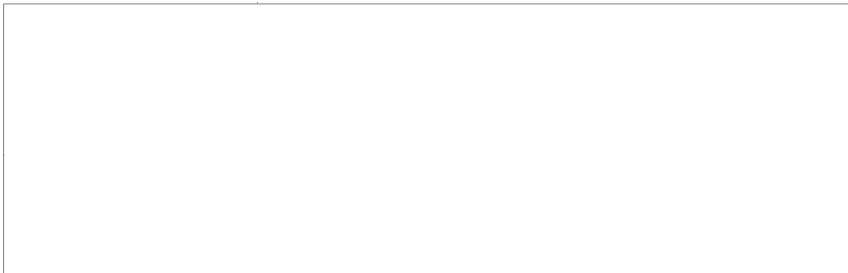
*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTES

USSR - North Vietnam: The Soviet official responsible for overseeing foreign aid programs, Deputy Premier Novikov, met with the North Vietnamese ambassador in Moscow on 13 July. It was the first publicly announced meeting between the two since mid-May, and it could presage the announcement of a new supplemental aid accord. The Chinese and the North Vietnamese signed such an agreement on 29 June. The Soviets may have wanted to discuss with the North Vietnamese some new approaches for dealing with the Chinese about the transshipment of Soviet supplies.

India-Pakistan: The Pakistani Army is reported to have begun withdrawing artillery and heavy equipment from the Wagah sector on the northeast portion of its border with India, and troops emplaced there are no longer camouflaged. The US Consulate General in Lahore believes this indicates the Pakistanis are beginning their withdrawal from Indian territory--as called for in the Simla Agreement--as well as pulling back troops within Pakistan from the border area. Wagah is on the main road from India to the important city of Lahore.

25X1



*Top Secret*