

The President's Daily Brief

9 August 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 August 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Vietnam, the enemy is increasing its pressure on government forces trying to retake Quang Tri City. Recent photography of rail transfer points along the Sino-Soviet border indicates that shipments to North Vietnam are continuing at a regular pace. (Page 1)

The Communists are continuing to disrupt government efforts to reopen Route 1 in Cambodia. (Page 3)

Soviet

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] (Page 4)

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Recent satellite photography of the USSR shows major elements of a new motorized rifle division in the Siberian Military District. (Page 5)

The Chinese

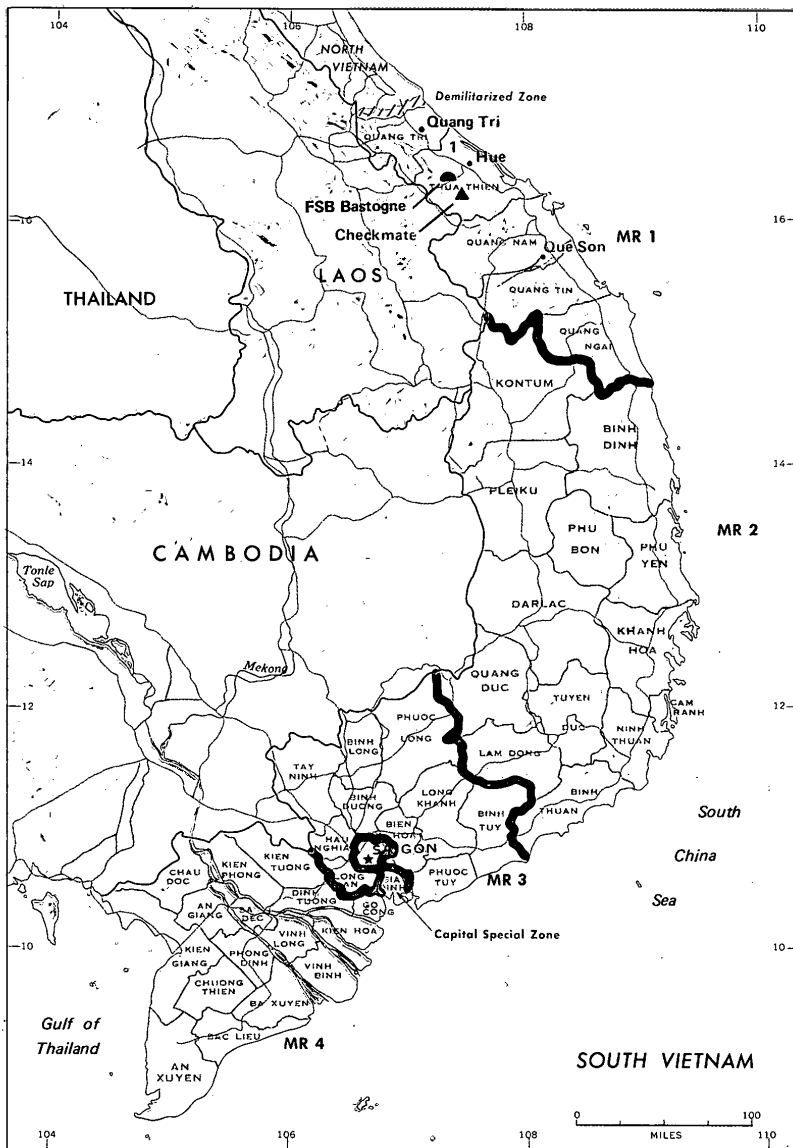
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VIETNAM

Late on 7 August, South Vietnamese paratroopers southwest of Quang Tri City were attacked by tank-led enemy forces, and marine positions inside the city were hit by heavy North Vietnamese infantry assaults. Aided by heavy allied air strikes and artillery fire, government forces are holding their ground.

North of the city, a third North Vietnamese regiment has been identified along the enemy's major supply line into the city. This buildup suggests that the Communists may be preparing to shift from primarily defensive to offensive operations in that sector.

West of Hue, South Vietnamese forces withstood several fairly heavy enemy ground attacks and artillery shellings in the Bastogne-Checkmate area during the past two days. Sporadic fighting continues near Que Son in Quang Nam Province and along the coast farther south in Quang Ngai Province.

* * *

Recent photography of rail transfer points along the Sino-Soviet border indicates that shipments to North Vietnam are continuing at a regular pace. Photography of the Man-chou-li rail yard on [redacted] showed some 490 rail cars and locomotives. The number dropped to 300 by the following day. There were 192 pieces of rolling stock at the Zabaykalsk transfer point [redacted] and 160 pieces [redacted]

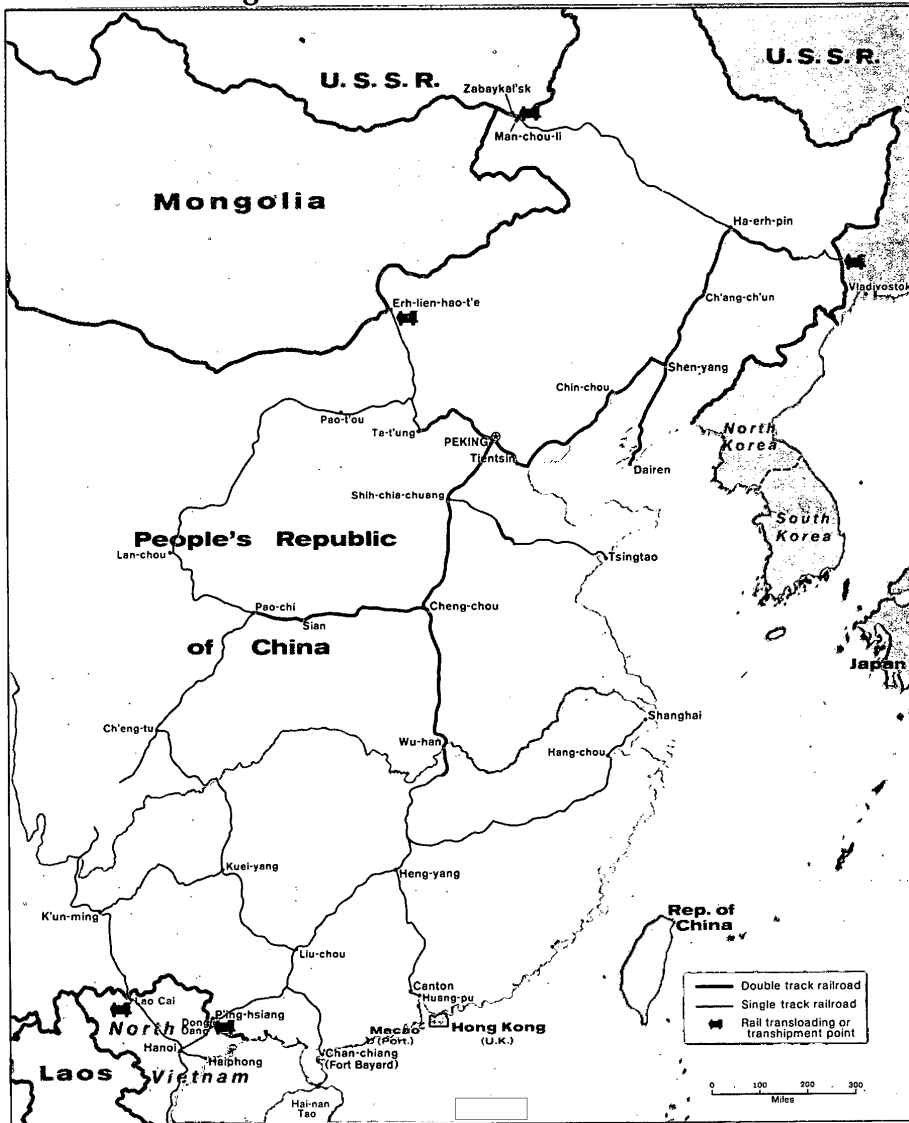
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Rail Routes through China to North Vietnam



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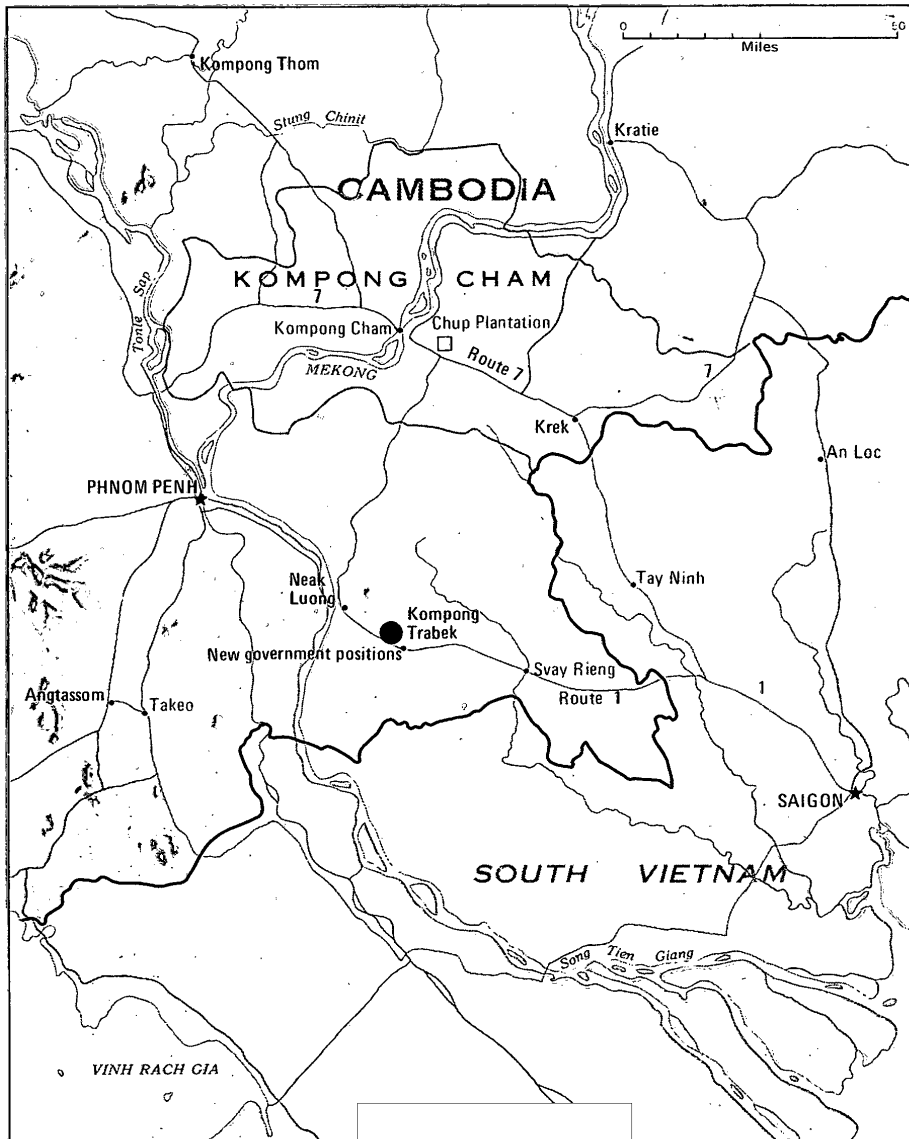
The photography showed that much of the cargo that recently passed through Man-chou-li consisted of trucks. [redacted] about 185 trucks were seen at this transfer point--more than five times the number observed there at any one time over the past several years. [redacted]

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CAMBODIA

The Communists are continuing to disrupt government efforts to reopen Route 1. After a series of sharp attacks, enemy troops--supported by T-54 tanks--forced the Cambodians to withdraw to new positions west of Kompong Trabek. Government forces, with South Vietnamese help, had captured the town on 24 July.

This is the first time that the enemy has used tanks in the Cambodian fighting. US pilots report that air strikes may have destroyed or damaged over a dozen tanks.

The government is rushing reinforcements to Neak Luong in preparation for another push toward Kompong Trabek. Phnom Penh also is again seeking help from Saigon. Most of the South Vietnamese troops that took part in the recent action along Route 1 have since returned to the border area.

The enemy pressure in the Kompong Trabek area appears designed to prevent the Cambodians from advancing eastward along Route 1 to the isolated town of Svay Rieng. Such an advance would jeopardize vital Communist supply lines into the delta region of South Vietnam.

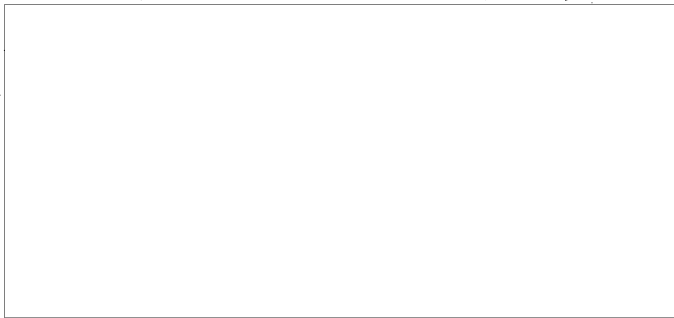
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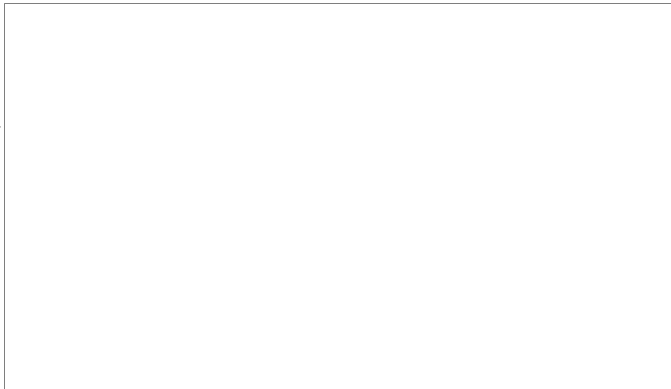
USSR



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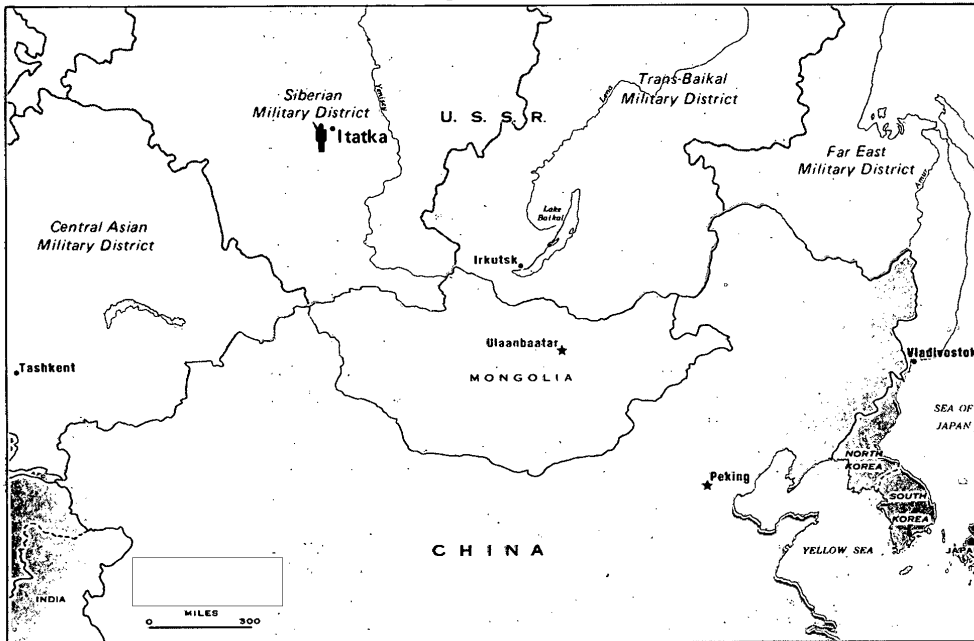


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New Division in the Siberian Military District



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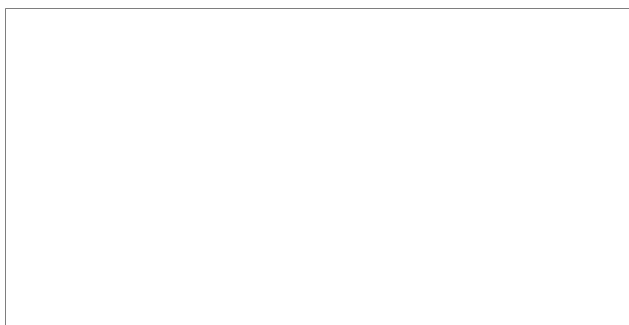
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USSR-CHINA

Recent satellite photography shows major elements of a new motorized rifle division at Itatka in the Siberian Military District. This is the second division which has moved into this district since the buildup opposite China began in 1965, bringing the total to five.

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NOTES

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Fedayeen-USSR:

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