

The President's Daily Brief

14 August 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

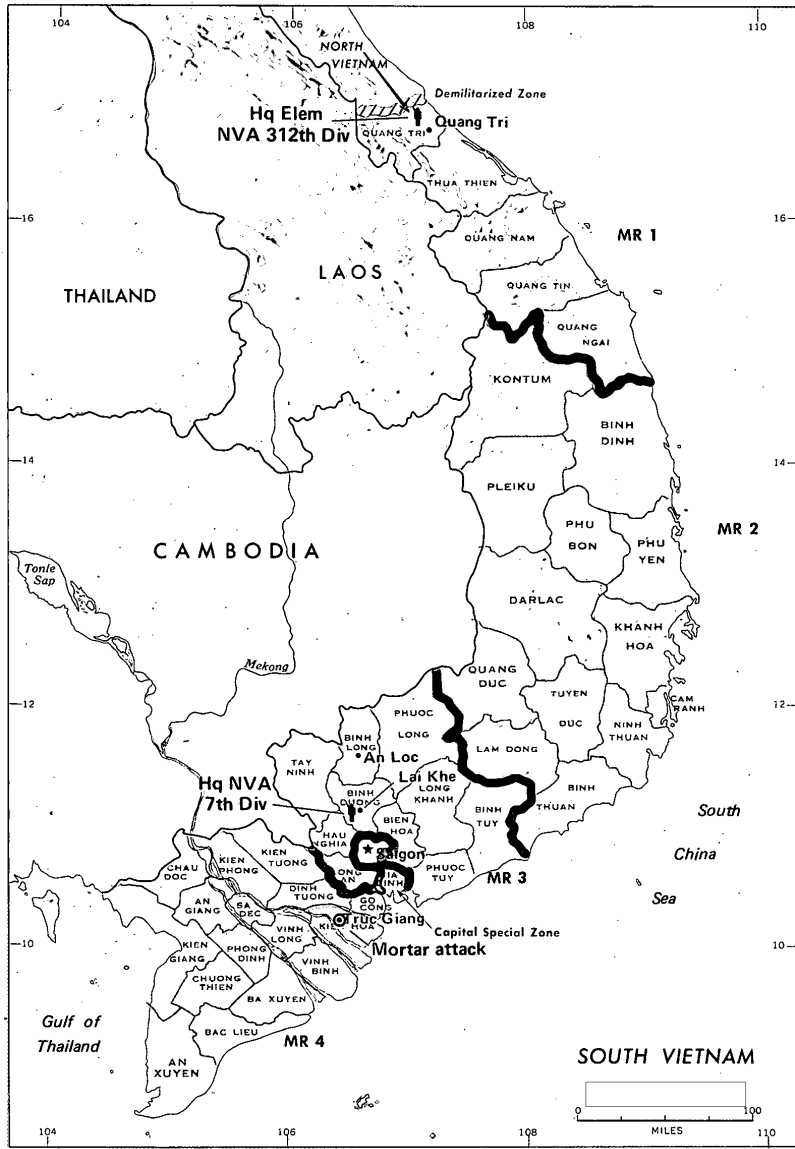
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communists have increased their pressure against government positions in several areas of the country, but South Vietnamese forces appear to have blunted most of the enemy's effort so far. Some of the sharpest action occurred in the southern provinces where, over the weekend, enemy forces raided two major supply depots near Saigon, shelled government positions in Tay Ninh, Hau Nghia, and Long An provinces, and directed mortar fire at the provincial capital of Kien Hoa in the northern delta. Heavy fighting around Lai Khe, the government staging base for An Loc, caused substantial government casualties. The headquarters of the North Vietnamese 7th Division was detected a few miles southwest of Lai Khe on Saturday along with reconnaissance elements of the Viet Cong 9th Division.

Both divisions participated in the siege of An Loc, but have not been in action for several weeks.

Farther south in the delta, air strikes and government attacks have inflicted heavy losses on Communist forces in Dinh Tuong Province. Enemy troops and supplies continue to move into the region, however, [redacted] elements of the Communist Phuoc Long Front may be preparing to move into the western delta from nearby Cambodia.

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On the northern battlefront, heavy Communist artillery fire continues to hamper government operations in Quang Tri City. Over the weekend South Vietnamese Marines fought several sharp engagements in the still uncleared southern section of the city. The Communists, although they are taking heavy losses, are still moving in reinforcements. A headquarters element of the North Vietnamese 312th Division is now a few miles northwest of the city, and one of its regiments is moving southward in North Vietnam toward the DMZ. One regiment of the 312th Division has been near Quang Tri City for several weeks.

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NOTE

Paraguay: The president of the Paraguayan Supreme Court has told Ambassador Ylitalo that the government has decided to permit the extradition to the US of accused narcotics smuggler Auguste Ricord. The decision is to be announced today, and extradition is likely to take place late this week.

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