

*The President's Daily Brief*

*19 September 1972*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 September 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnamese Marines are still fighting to eliminate pockets of resistance in the Quang Tri citadel, while farther south in Quang Ngai Province the Communists have overrun a district capital and are threatening two others. (Page 1)

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] (Page 2)

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In the wake of the Israeli incursion, Lebanon's balancing act includes both enforcement of new restrictions against the fedayeen and a public note of conciliation toward them. (Page 3)

The Ugandan Army has repulsed the attack by Tanzania-based opposition elements. (Page 4)

Peking has sharply reduced the scope of its program of sending urban youth to the countryside. (Page 5)

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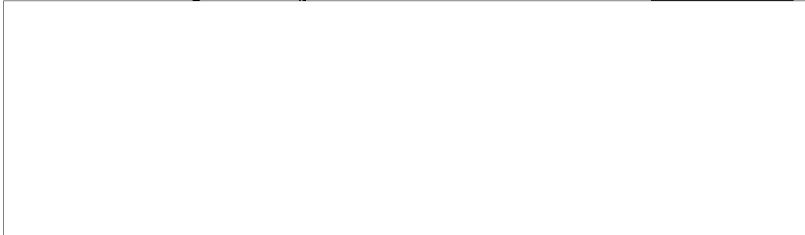
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VIETNAM

In Quang Tri City, South Vietnamese Marines continue their efforts to eliminate remaining pockets of enemy resistance in the citadel. Ranger and Airborne troops have captured several tons of Communist weapons and ammunition in the city. Intercepts show that the remaining North Vietnamese troops there are still being told to hold out at all costs.

There are additional indications that the Communists may be planning to attack government positions in neighboring Thua Thien Province.



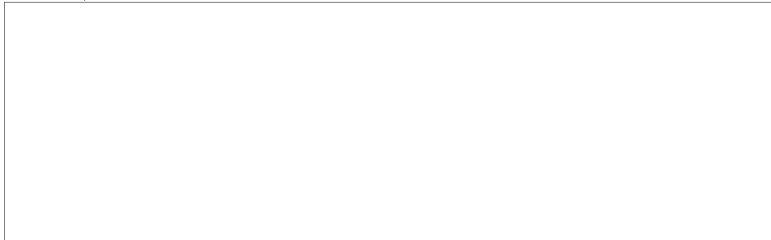
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Enemy troops in Quang Ngai Province have overrun the district capital of Ba To and are threatening two others, Mo Duc and Duc Pho. They are also readying additional forces for attacks in Son Tinh and Binh Son districts. South Vietnamese 2nd Division troops in the province so far have had little success in slowing the enemy's advance. General Truong, the MR-1 commander, is said to consider the situation critical. He plans to send reinforcements if further setbacks occur.

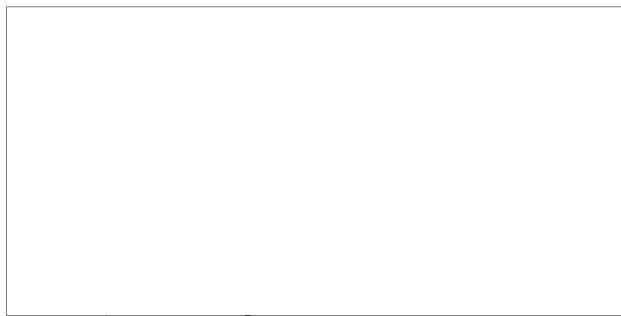
In the delta, Communist units have kept up their pressure against government outposts, hitting several of them in Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa provinces and farther south in Chuong Thien and Kien Giang.

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USSR - NORTH VIETNAM



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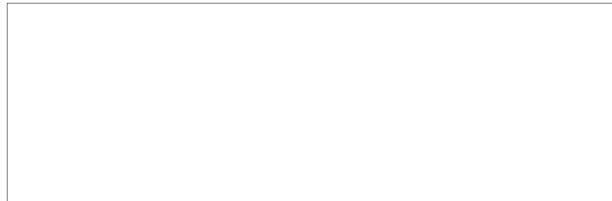
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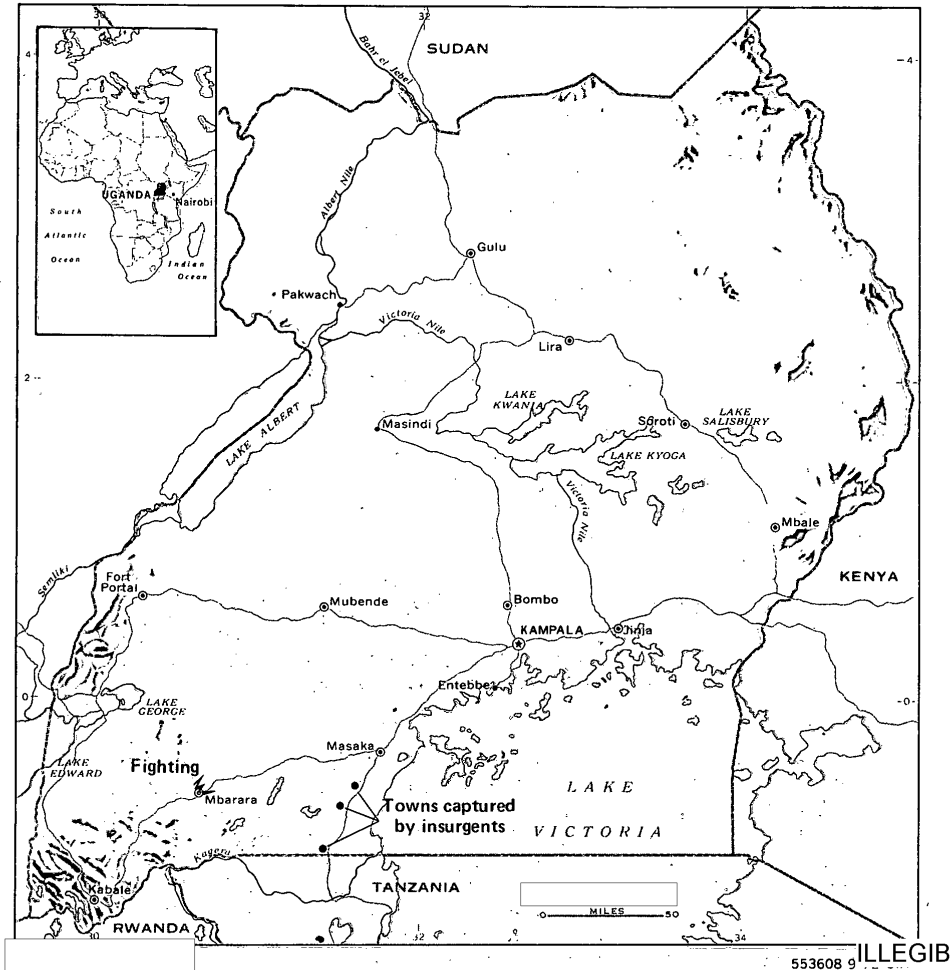
LEBANON-FEDAYEEN

According to the clandestine Voice of Palestine [redacted] the army is enforcing new restrictions in the wake of the Israeli incursion, including roadblocks to prevent the commandos from re-entering southern villages. At the same time, the Lebanese Government is striking a note of conciliation. Prime Minister Salam has met with Yasir Arafat and stated that no ultimatum was intended. The Palestine Liberation Organization had asserted that the army had only "requested" the fedayeen to evacuate their southern strongholds.

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*Incidents between army units and fedayeen could shake Lebanon's delicate political structure. Radical Sunni Muslims and leftists in Parliament are calling for complete freedom of action for the fedayeen. On the other hand, the Christians and the Shia Muslims of the south, who have borne the brunt of Israeli retaliation, support the army's efforts to keep the fedayeen out of the populated areas near the border. Disagreements over policy toward the fedayeen led to serious disturbances in 1969 and 1970; for seven months during 1969 the country was unable to bring together a formal government.*

# UGANDA



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ILLEGIB



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UGANDA

Uganda radio claims that government troops have repulsed an attack on the military garrison at Mbarara. Army troops are said to be preparing to recapture three towns seized by the Tanzanian-based Ugandans opposed to President Amin. After Ugandan planes bombed the invaders' base at Bukoba, on Lake Victoria some 20 miles inside Tanzania, the Tanzanians moved additional troops to the border with instructions not to provoke any incidents. This movement, however, increases the possibility of border clashes if Ugandan troops drive the invaders back to Tanzania.

Kampala is reported quiet, but tense. About 80 Europeans and eight Americans have been arrested. Amin's accusation of British and Israeli complicity in the invasion has increased the danger to British and Jewish residents.

*At this point, the Ugandan Army appears to have checked the attack. The insurgents may have hoped to set off a popular uprising that would allow the return to power of former president Milton Obote. Without such an uprising, the chances of overthrowing Amin would be slight.*

*Even so, Amin will continue to face serious problems. His policies have produced a heated political atmosphere, a stagnating economy, and a near-chaotic security situation. More intertribal fighting within the army seems likely. Army officers opposed to Amin could yet take advantage of the current crisis and attempt to oust him.*

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CHINA

*NCNA's announcement last week that 400,000 young people had been sent to the countryside so far this year indicates that Peking has sharply reduced the scope of its rustication program. This figure, which seems likely to be close to the total for all of 1972, contrasts sharply with the estimates of the last three years, when well over three million per year were assigned to live and work in rural areas.*

*The old program, originally designed to spur rural development, had been used in recent years to punish recalcitrant Red Guards, to maintain discipline over other rambunctious youths, and to alleviate urban unemployment. It apparently created more problems than it solved, however. Disgruntled youths have illegally returned to the cities and resorted to crime to support themselves--returnees contributed to a security breakdown in Canton this summer. Some rural authorities have refused to accept any more urban youth. The cutback is consistent with the moderating trend evident in other domestic policies this year.*

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NOTES

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USSR:

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USSR: The Soviets have canceled their planned launch of a manned Soyuz spacecraft.

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Calling off the event after extensive world-wide preparations suggests that the Soviets are experiencing serious problems with the spacecraft or its support systems. Preparations are still under way, however, for an unmanned lunar mission, which evidently will involve the "J-Vehicle," the Soviets' largest space booster.

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Chile:

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