



The President's Daily Brief

13 February 1973

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

13 February 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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France may conduct its last atmospheric nuclear tests this year and then shift its testing program underground, primarily in the hope of neutralizing protests in the Pacific area. (Page 4)

In Laos, government troops met little resistance yesterday as they reoccupied most of Paksong on the Bolovens Plateau. (Page 5)

President Bordaberry apparently has decided to remain in office subject to military direction to avoid the total collapse of constitutional government in Uruguay. (Page 5)

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USSR

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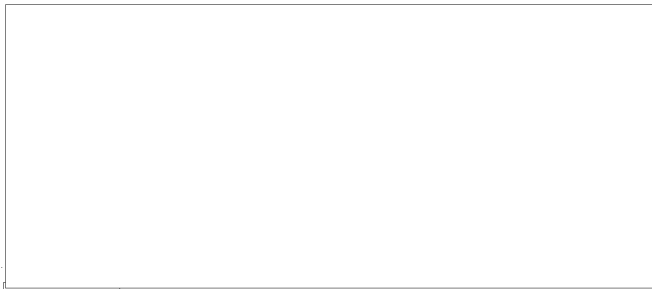
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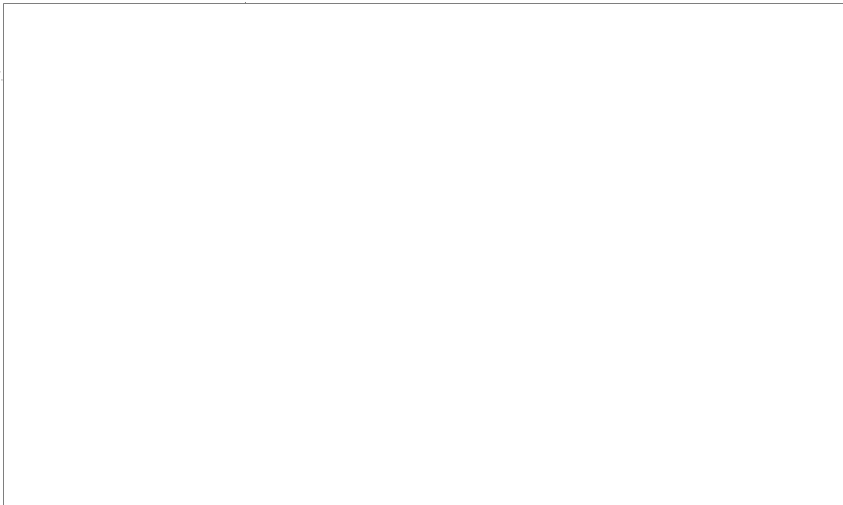


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VIETNAM

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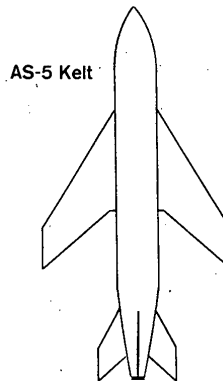
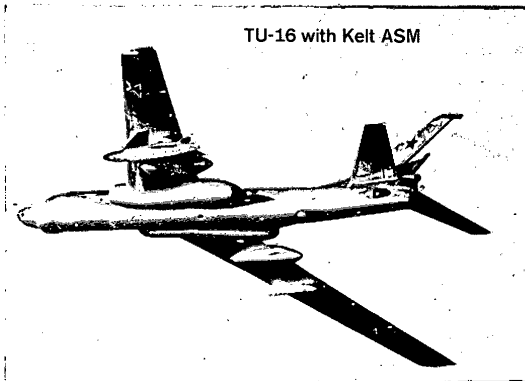
Communist forces in southern Quang Ngai Province are firmly resisting South Vietnamese efforts to dislodge them from the Sa Huynh area. The government is sending reinforcements to assist in the campaign. Elsewhere in the country, both sides continue harassing actions in widely scattered areas. The Communists are still staging numerous small-scale attacks, mostly in Quang Tri Province. Government "security operations" are continuing to clear Route 14, which remains blocked between Pleiku and Kontum cities. Aside from Sa Huynh, South Vietnamese forces are not involved in any large-scale offensive operations.

Egyptian TU-16s Approaching Combat Capability



AS-5 Kelt	
Length	30 ft.
Maximum range	120 nm
Maximum speed	Mach 0.9-1.2
Warhead - HE or nuclear	1100-2200 lbs
Propulsion	Liquid fuel rocket
Accuracy	
against land targets	1-2 nm CEP
against ships	75% hit probability

Carrying Aircraft TU-16 Badger G	
Combat radius unrefueled	1200 nm
One refueling	1900 nm
Missiles carried	2
Maximum launch speed	440 kts



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EGYPT

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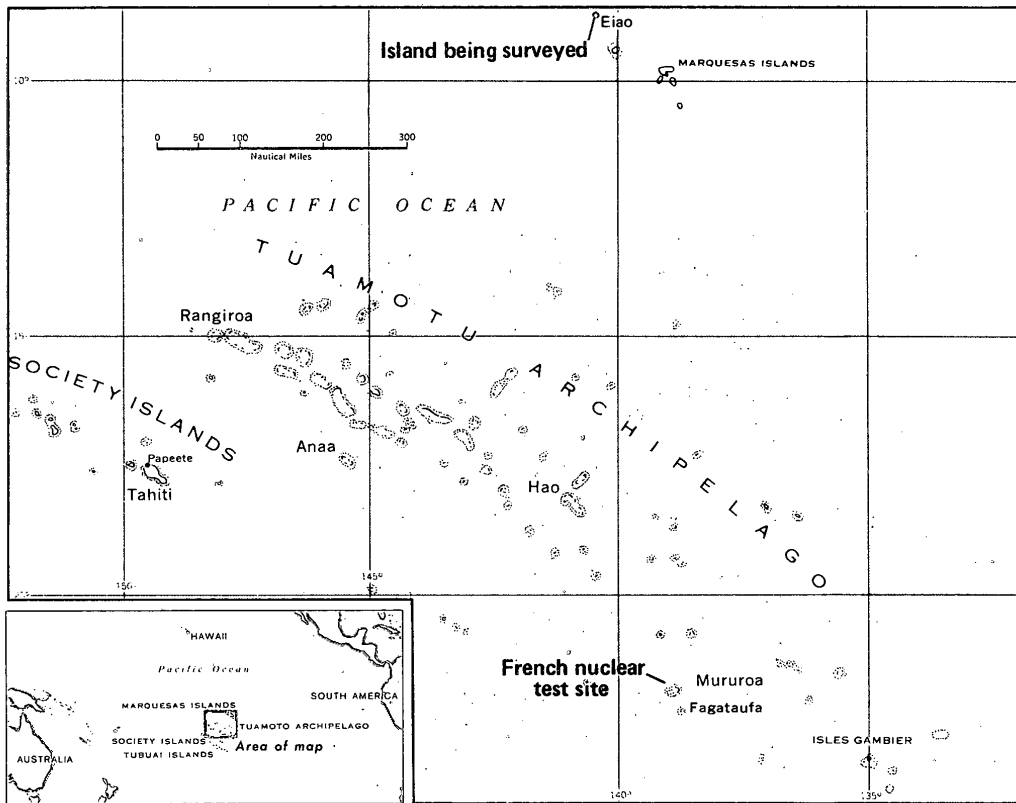
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FRANCE

France may conduct its last atmospheric nuclear tests this year and then shift its testing program underground, primarily in the hope of neutralizing protests in the Pacific area. According to Reuters, well-informed French sources say that Paris will conclude its atmospheric testing with a megaton detonation this year at the South Pacific test site.

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The French may need to conduct at least one more atmospheric test of their thermonuclear device before they can begin the planned deployment of one-megaton warheads on their submarine-launched ballistic missiles. Although a high-yield detonation would cause considerable protest, Paris may hope to temper such criticism by subsequently announcing plans to move the future testing program underground.

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NOTES

Laos: Government troops met little resistance yesterday as they reoccupied most of Paksong on the central Bolovens Plateau. Heavy air strikes apparently forced troops from the North Vietnamese 9th Regiment to pull back, and elements of a 1,400-man irregular force moved from the north to occupy hilly positions around Paksong while other units entered the southern portion of the town. The Communists probably will try to stage a counterattack once their units are reorganized.

Uruguay: President Bordaberry apparently has decided to remain in office subject to military direction to avoid the total collapse of constitutional government. When his civilian political support evaporated, he was forced to give in to the generals' demands for economic reforms and a crackdown on corruption in government. As a face-saving gesture, the rebelling officers have not insisted on immediate public acceptance of all of their demands. They apparently will allow Bordaberry to agree to generalized points, being satisfied that he will follow their dictates.

International Monetary Developments: Exchange markets are reopening in the wake of an agreement on new exchange rates. Although the Japanese market remained closed today, it will reopen tomorrow with the yen floating. When the European markets open, the West German mark will be repegged at its old rate relative to gold, which means a 10 percent revaluation relative to the dollar. The British pound, the Canadian dollar, and the Swiss franc are all expected to continue floating.

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Cuba - Yemen

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Venezuela-Cuba: President Caldera and the presidential candidate of the opposition Democratic Action Party are now both on public record favoring restoration of diplomatic ties with Cuba. The opposition leader's stand is a major reversal and is significant because his party's close relationship with the Venezuelan military suggests that armed forces leaders no longer strongly oppose restoration of ties with Havana. The move could come well before presidential elections in December.

Egypt-Africa: Cairo is strengthening its ties with a number of African countries following recent Israeli diplomatic reverses in Uganda, Mali, and several other states. Egyptian Foreign Minister Zayyat announced yesterday that Cairo intends to upgrade its representation in Dahomey, Tanzania, and Sierra Leone and will seek to increase its representation in all African states.

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