

The President's Daily Brief

29 May 1973

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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May 29, 1973

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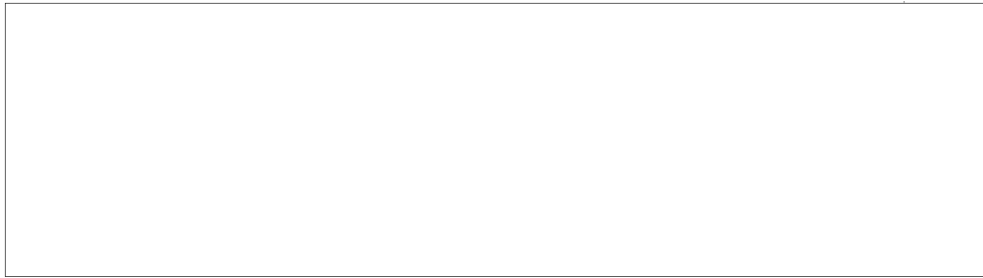
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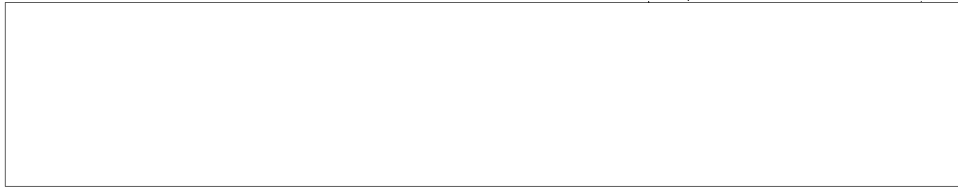
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Iceland has asked for a special NATO meeting today. It hopes that the alliance will secure the withdrawal of British naval vessels from the disputed waters. Iceland's cabinet may decide on further moves today, but the foreign minister expects that there will be no formal request for renegotiating the base treaty at least until after President Nixon's visit this week. *(Page 1)*

The Communists have shifted two major logistic units from Laos and Cambodia into South Vietnam's western highlands. A new road corridor there will be less affected by the heavy rains in the summer months. *(Page 2)*

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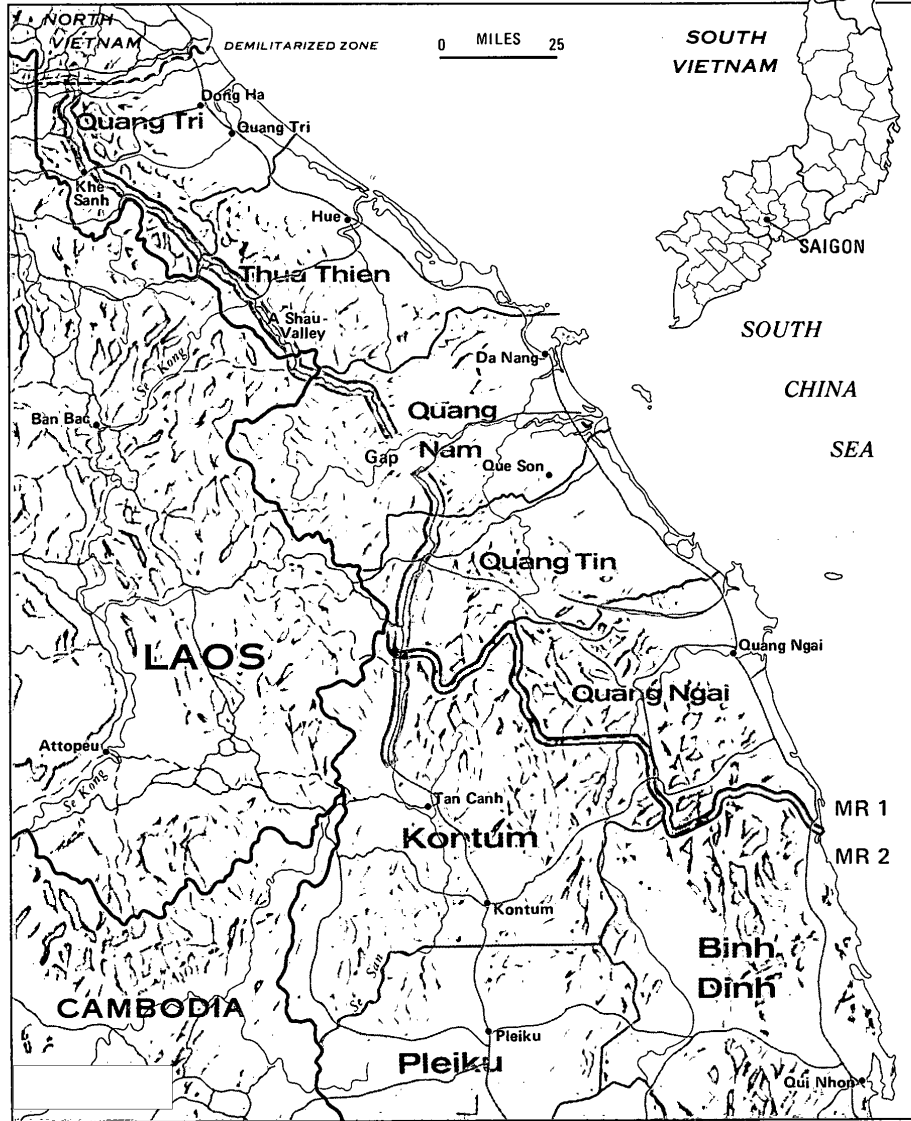
The government decided yesterday to take its case against the British to NATO, and may decide to petition the UN Security Council on the subject today. According to a NATO official, Iceland requested that the North Atlantic Council hold a special meeting this morning and plans to ask the Council to see that British naval vessels are withdrawn.

Foreign Minister Agustsson told Ambassador Irving yesterday that he and Prime Minister Johannesson will face stiff opposition in today's cabinet session in trying to beat back a demand to invoke Article VII of the US treaty--which provides for the start of negotiations on the status of the NATO base. Nevertheless, he expressed confidence that such a move could be postponed until after President Nixon's visit, and possibly until after the NATO ministerial meeting in mid-June.

Although Agustsson claimed that anti-NATO and anti-base elements remain in control of the government, the situation in respect to the base seems to have improved somewhat since he returned to Iceland last Thursday. He may succeed in postponing the invocation of Article VII by supporting the appeal to the UN.

Communist Fisheries Minister Josefsson, back from a visit to Eastern Europe, can be expected to lead the movement to review the base agreement now unless the US and NATO oppose the British "aggression." Popular sentiment is with him, and those opposing him risk political oblivion.

New Communist Road Corridor



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SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communists have shifted two major logistic units from southern Laos and northeastern Cambodia into the western highlands of central South Vietnam.

These units probably will take charge of the growing logistic network inside South Vietnam. A new road corridor the North Vietnamese have been building from the Demilitarized Zone into the central part of the country is scheduled for completion by the end of May.

This system lies east of the mountains and will be less affected by the heavy rains that render much of the infiltration corridor through Laos and Cambodia impassable during the summer months. Supply activity along the traditional route has already begun to slow with the beginning of the rains.

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NOTE

Cambodia: A resupply convoy from South Vietnam consisting of ten vessels, including six with POL supplies, met intense Communist fire south and north of Neak Long yesterday, but reached Phnom Penh without sustaining any major damage. The capital now has sufficient fuel stocks to last until June 7, when the next convoy is scheduled to arrive.

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