



# The President's Daily Brief

*9 August 1973*

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exemption category SB(1),(2),(3)  
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 August 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The military situation around Phnom Penh is reported on *Page 1*, including indications that some Khmer insurgent forces in the area are temporarily pulling back, apparently for rest and refitting.

The Thai Government is studying a Foreign Ministry paper that recommends "urgent" negotiations on the future of the US military presence. (*Page 2*)

The role of the military in Chinese politics and the return of civilians to positions in the provinces are discussed on *Page 3*.

The Chilean Government has announced that the three armed forces chiefs will join the cabinet today. (*Page 4*)

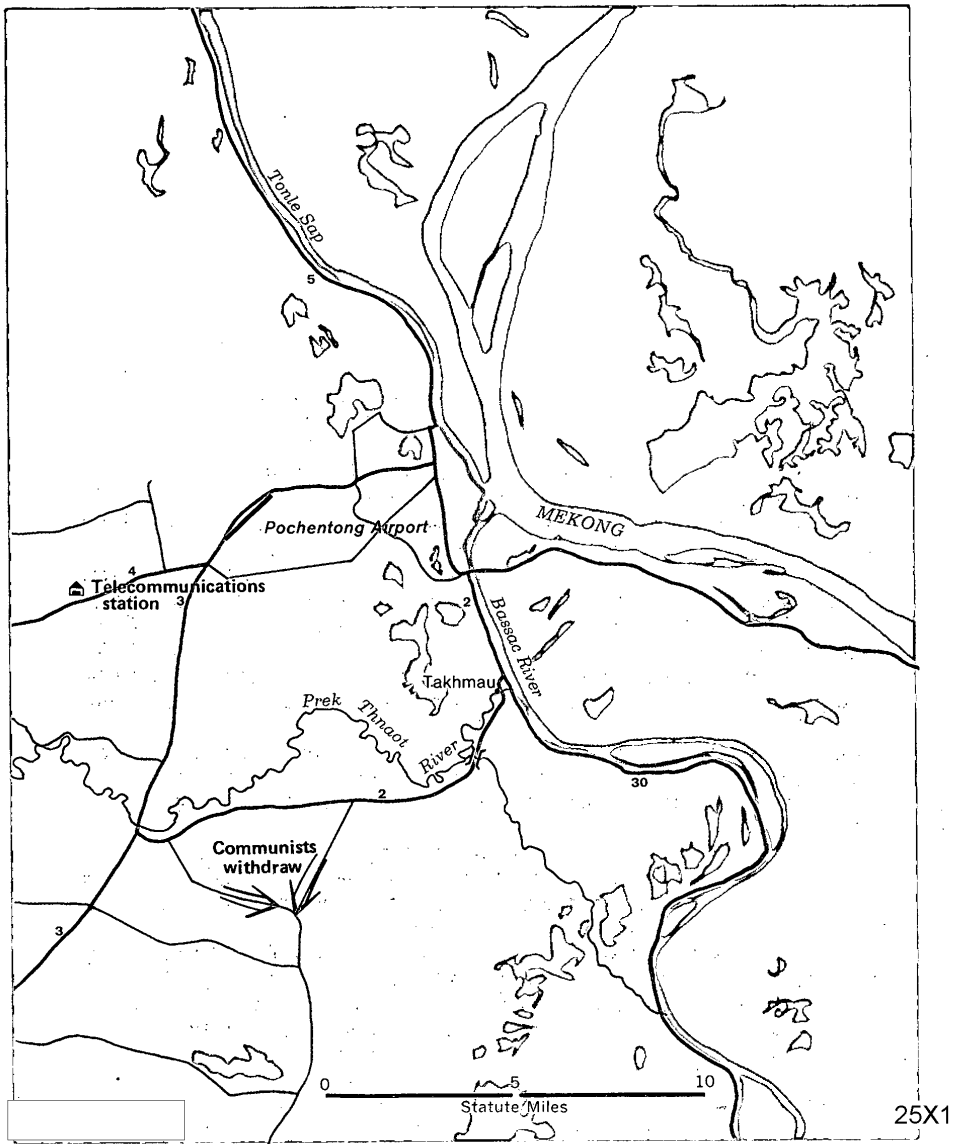
North Korea [redacted] Egypt. (*Page 5*)

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Notes on [redacted] the anti-Chinese riots in Indonesia, and Japanese aid to Indonesia appear on *Page 6*.

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# Phnom Penh



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CAMBODIA

An intercept of August 7 indicates that the insurgents are withdrawing most of their units from Routes 2 and 3 south of Phnom Penh, leaving "only a small force to conduct sapper attacks and to defend liberated territory." The message states that the withdrawal is part of "a buildup of forces to continue strong attacks in the future."

*US bombing along these roads has been particularly heavy, and the Communists apparently have decided to conserve their strength in this sector until after August 15. Government forces along Route 3 have been edging southward toward the Prek Thnaot River for several days against only light resistance.*

Other intercepts reflect Communist plans to continue their offensive in the area between the Bassac and Mekong rivers southeast of Phnom Penh. Recent insurgent initiatives in this sector have been limited to shellings and minor ground attacks, however, and the Cambodian Army's 1st Division has been making steady progress in clearing Route 1.

Northwest of the capital, small insurgent forces continue to elude government sweep operations and to launch sporadic ground attacks on government positions within five miles of Pochentong airport. To the west, insurgent sappers have temporarily knocked out the telecommunications station at Kambol near Route 4, but this key highway as well as Route 5 remains open to truck convoys. The Mekong River also is still open to supply convoys from South Vietnam.

## FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

### THAILAND

The government is studying a Foreign Ministry paper that recommends "urgent" negotiations with the US to achieve the withdrawal of 7,000 to 10,000 men within the next three to six months.

--It proposes that if possible such an agreement be announced before August 15.

--It also calls for subsequent negotiations on reduction of US bases and further troop withdrawals.

*These specific recommendations may reflect the thinking only of Deputy Foreign Minister Chartchai, who forwarded them. Prime Minister Thanom and General Praphat continue to put stock in the deterrent value of the US military presence and are not interested in a precipitate dismantling of the American force structure.*

*The general thrust of the Foreign Ministry paper, however, is in accord with Bangkok's continuing re-examination of US-Thai relations. Mounting popular criticism of the US presence in Thailand has convinced the leadership that present levels are politically unacceptable. Above all, Thanom and Praphat feel a need to maintain the impression that Bangkok retains the initiative on US force levels and will not merely be reacting to decisions made in Washington. The two leaders would probably like to reach agreement on a token withdrawal as soon as possible and may press for a firm public date for the beginning of deliberations on a phased withdrawal.*

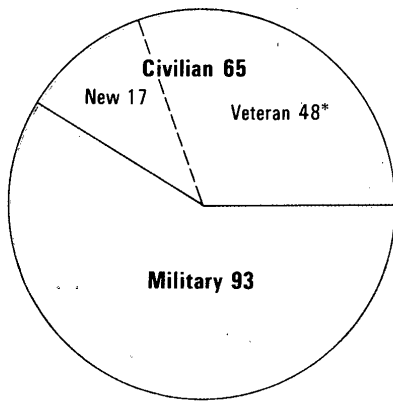
*Bangkok's policy toward the US presence will be heavily conditioned by the Thai view of developments in Cambodia. There are indications that Bangkok is beginning to reconcile itself to the possibility of a future Cambodian government dominated by Sihanouk and the Khmer Communists.*

*Thai policy will be to maintain good relations with any Cambodian government not openly hostile to Bangkok. This message was to have been passed to Sihanouk.*

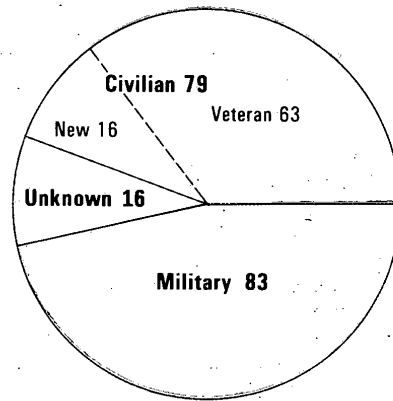
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### Composition of Provincial Party Committees

**Original total at formation,  
September 1971 158**



**Current total,  
July 1973 178**



**Total additions since formation 57**

Civilian 28	Military 11
Veteran 24	Unknown 18
New 4	

**Total promotions since formation 13**

Civilian 10	Military 3
Veteran 9	Unknown 0
New 1	

**Total purged, absent since January 1, 1973 or demoted 28**

Civilian 6	Military 19
Veteran 4	Unknown 3
New 2	

*\*Veteran cadre are cadre who held a party or government position prior to the Cultural Revolution*

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CHINA

The role of the military in Chinese politics is one of the major issues confronting the Peking regime as it prepares for the 10th Party Congress. Civilian representation on provincial party committees is now approximately equal to the military in absolute numbers. Senior military officials, however, still hold at least one of the two top posts in all but three of China's provinces and independent municipalities.

*The military developed a dominant position in provincial politics as a consequence of the Cultural Revolution, but in late 1971 Peking began to reduce this influence. The civilians who are returning are chiefly rehabilitated second-level cadre. Prior to the Cultural Revolution, they were for the most part provincial party secretaries and vice governors; many are experts in rural and agricultural matters. All are experienced administrators capable of contributing to the resolution of China's agricultural problems and to the drive to rebuild party organizations.*

*On the other hand, most of those who held top provincial posts before the Cultural Revolution have not been rehabilitated. These men, unlike the civilians who have already returned, were contenders for national political power. Their rehabilitation is undoubtedly now being discussed.*



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CHILE

Following several days of mounting tension, the government has announced that the armed forces chiefs will join the cabinet today.

*President Allende apparently hopes this move will help to restore a semblance of political and economic order and end coup plotting by dissident military officers. It seems likely to put serious stress on Allende's Popular Unity coalition, however, and may not satisfy the opposition either.*

Meanwhile, the truckers' strike, now in its third week, is causing serious shortages. Scattered strikes by bus and taxi owners and drivers, doctors, and copper technicians have thus far been only partially effective. Other groups considering going out on strike have thus far been deterred by memories of the government's harsh retaliation after the general strike last October.

Terrorist incidents, allegedly in support of the strikers, are now more frequent and damaging than in October, raising the possibility of stronger reaction by armed civilian supporters of the government, and by extremists of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left.

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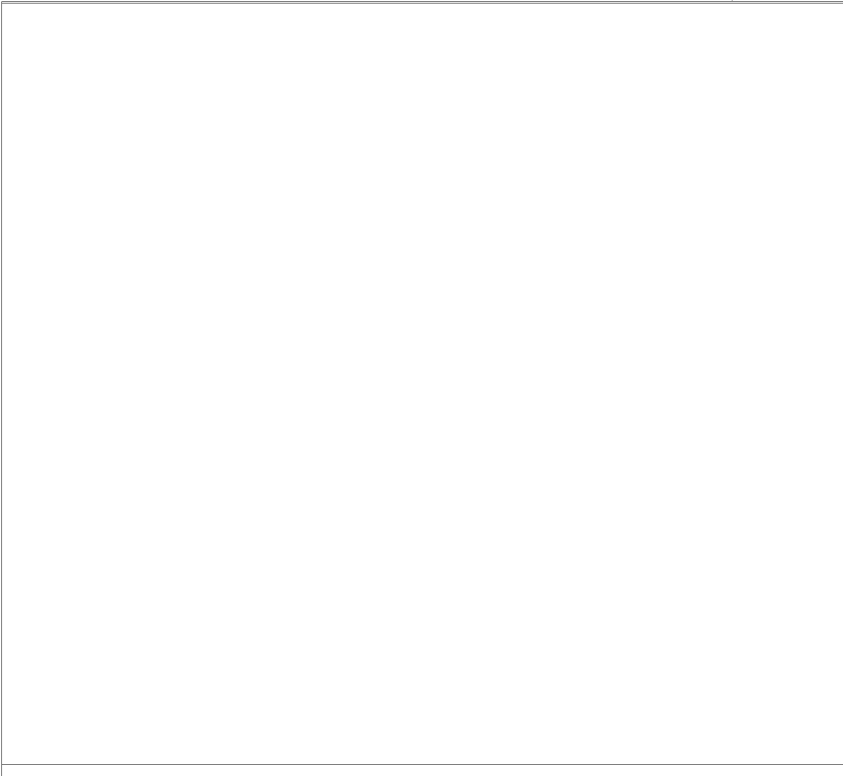


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EGYPT - NORTH KOREA

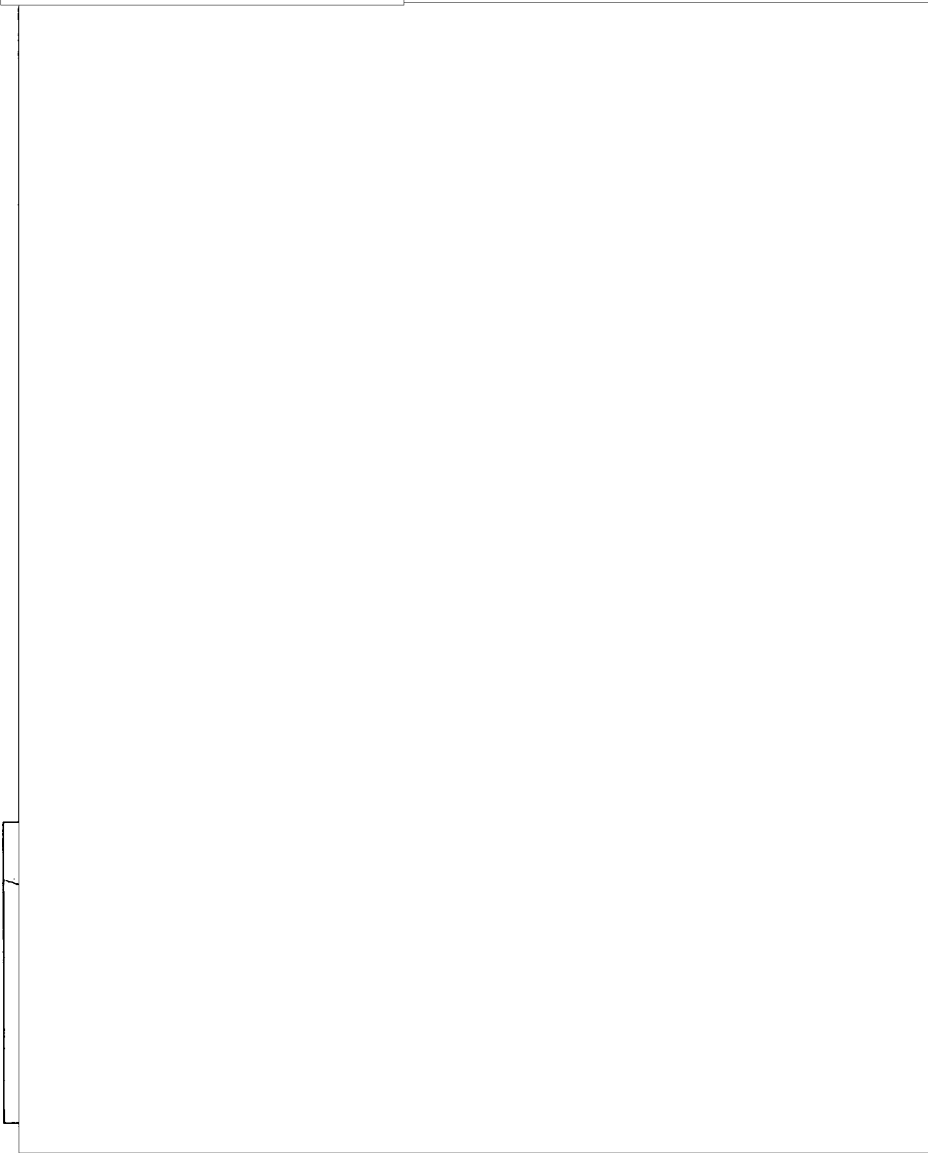
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NOTES

Egypt:

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Indonesia: Quiet continues in Bandung and other cities hit by anti-Chinese riots last weekend, but the government is maintaining security precautions. The local consensus is that the riots were spontaneous--based on discontent with prevailing socio-economic conditions as well as on traditional Indonesian hostility toward Chinese. There is no evidence to support the thesis of some government officials that the disturbances were organized either by Communist remnants or right-wing extremist Muslims.

Japan-Indonesia: Japan's economic aid to Indonesia this year provides the most generous loan terms ever offered by Tokyo. In addition to loans and grants for food and fertilizer totaling \$57 million, Jakarta will receive commodity and project loans amounting to \$169 million at 2.75-percent interest with 30 years to repay, including a 10-year grace period.

*Top Secret*