



The President's Daily Brief

5 November 1973

45

25X1

~~Top Secret~~



Exempt from general
declassification schedule of E.O. 11652
exemption category 5B(1)(2)(3)
declassified only on approval of
the Director of Central Intelligence

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

5 November 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

General quiet prevailed on the Middle East battlefront over the weekend, although there were occasional minor outbreaks of fighting along the Suez Canal. Arab oil producers announced a 25-percent production cutback. Various delays threaten to slow deployment of the UNEF.

25X1

[REDACTED] (Page 1)

25X1

Communist forces attacked and apparently overran two South Vietnamese outposts in Military Region 2 near the Cambodian border. (Page 3)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

[Redacted]

25X1

[Large Redacted Area]

25X1

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

General quiet prevailed on the battlefield over the weekend, despite sporadic cease-fire violations and continued preparations by both sides for a possible resumption of hostilities. Arab oil producers underscored their political war with an additional production cutback.

The Syrian front was quiet, probably because of heavy rains, but occasional minor outbreaks of fighting continued through the weekend along the Suez Canal. The Israelis claim that on November 3 the surrounded Egyptian Third Army tried to construct a small infantry bridge across the canal from the east bank between Suez and Little Bitter Lake. The Egyptians gave up the attempt, however, after a three-hour artillery, mortar, and small arms duel.

Yesterday, a UN patrol reported fighting near Suez as 200-300 Egyptian troops pushed out of the city and were met by Israeli infantry and tank units. UN observers also reported hearing heavy explosions near Ismailia, and the Israelis complained that the Egyptians had opened fire on their forces near that city.

25X1

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

[Redacted]

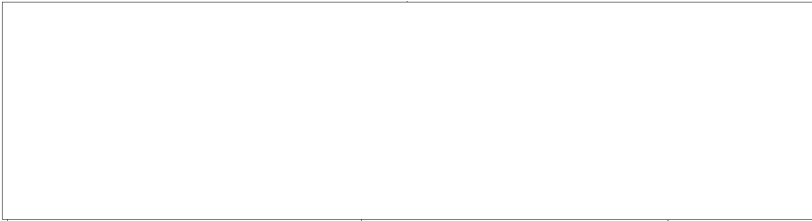
25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



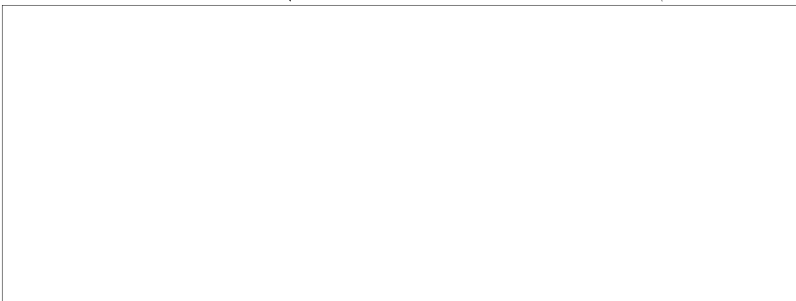
25X1



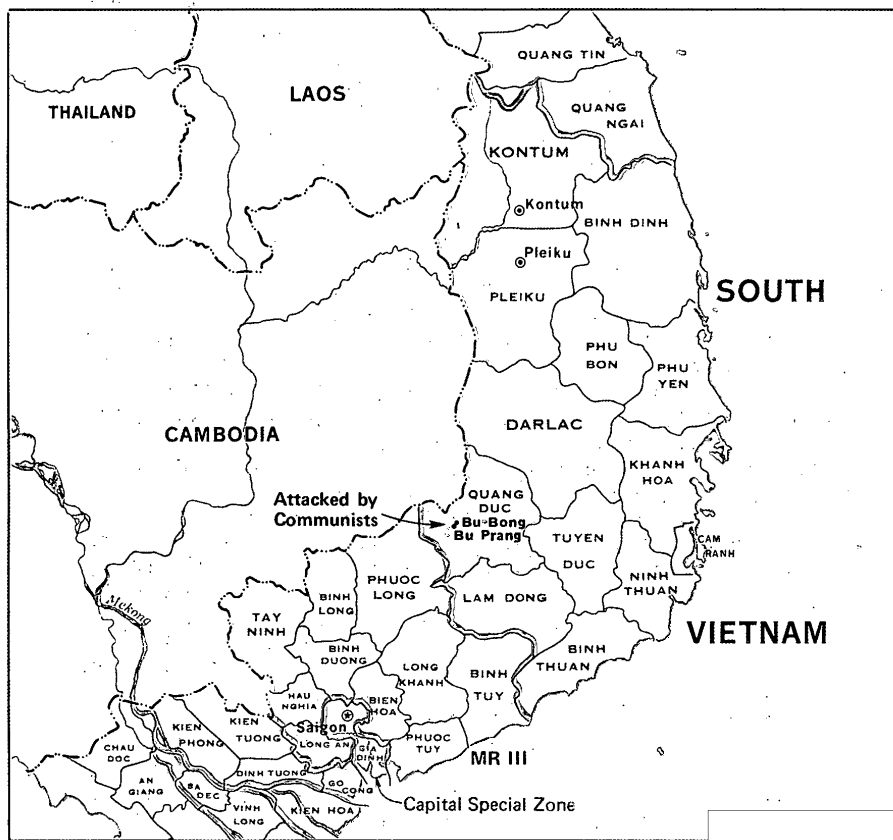
25X1

Arab oil ministers announced a 25-percent production cutback based on September's production figures. Saudi Arabia, with a 10-percent limitation imposed in mid-October and the additional embargoes of shipments to the US and Netherlands, had already reached the 25-percent level. The new formulation appears to strengthen King Faysal's leadership role by committing the other producers to match his cutback. If adhered to, the move will increase the overall Arab cutback in November by some five percent over that already in effect.

At the UN, various delays threaten to slow deployment of the full 7,000-man UN Emergency Force (UNEF). The Secretary-General must negotiate agreements with each of the seven participating states approved by the Security Council last Friday. The problems of paying for the force are still unresolved. There is little support for the proposal that the costs be apportioned among UN members according to the regular scale of assessments. Less-developed states are likely to support instead the Brazilian proposal making developed countries, particularly permanent Council members, responsible for 98 percent of the costs. Since there is no cash in the UN treasury, a delay in reaching some agreement could stall the entire operation.



25X1



554859 11-73 CIA

25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist forces, backed by armor, attacked and apparently overran two South Vietnamese outposts yesterday in Military Region 2 near the Cambodian border. The attacks on Bu Prang and Bu Bong in Quang Duc Province resulted in heavy casualties to both sides, according to South Vietnamese military spokesmen.

The Communist attacks coincided with a bellicose public statement from the Viet Cong regional command which ordered its forces to "recover all areas illegally occupied by the enemy" since the January cease-fire agreement. Since Communist propaganda on the situation elsewhere in the country has been taking a similar line, more aggressive Communist military action seems likely in other areas that have been contested since the cease-fire.

Top Secret