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The President's Daily Brief

April 25, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 25, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A military uprising is under way in Portugal this morning. A group calling itself the Armed Forces Movement apparently plans to set up a "National Junta of Salvation" and restore civil liberties. (Page 1)

Israeli Chief of Staff Gur does not expect the exchanges on Mount Hermon to lead to a major escalation. (Page 2)

The next major target in the Khmer Communist campaign against exposed government enclaves will probably be Prey Veng City, 30 miles east of Phnom Penh. (Page 3)



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Notes on the USSR-Cuba and the USSR - Indian Ocean appear on Page 5.

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PORTUGAL

A military uprising is in progress in Portugal this morning, the state-supported news agency has acknowledged. Troops have blocked access to the Defense Ministry and, according to press reports, a group calling itself the Armed Forces Movement has taken over a radio station. The troops apparently plan to set up a "National Junta of Salvation" and restore civil liberties.

It is not clear, as of 0430 EDT, whom the forces represent or what is the extent of the uprising. There are reports that the military rebellion has spread to the north of the country.

Last month a military company stationed 50 miles from Lisbon marched to protest the firing of General Antonio de Spinola, the deputy chief of staff of the armed forces, and his boss, General Costa Gomes. The march was stopped by troops loyal to the government who forced the dissidents to return to their barracks. They then surrendered and were arrested.

Spinola was fired because far rightists were outraged over his proposal--in a recent book--to loosen Portugal's ties to its African territories. The government arrested some 200 military supporters of General Spinola, but refrained from further arrests reportedly to avoid any greater stirring up of the military.

Military dissidents are apparently again manifesting discontent with government policy. [redacted] The strength of the dissidents is not yet clear.

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ISRAEL-SYRIA

[Redacted]

[Redacted] has said that he does not expect the exchanges on Mount Hermon to lead to a major escalation. Fighting nevertheless increased yesterday on the Golan front. [Redacted]

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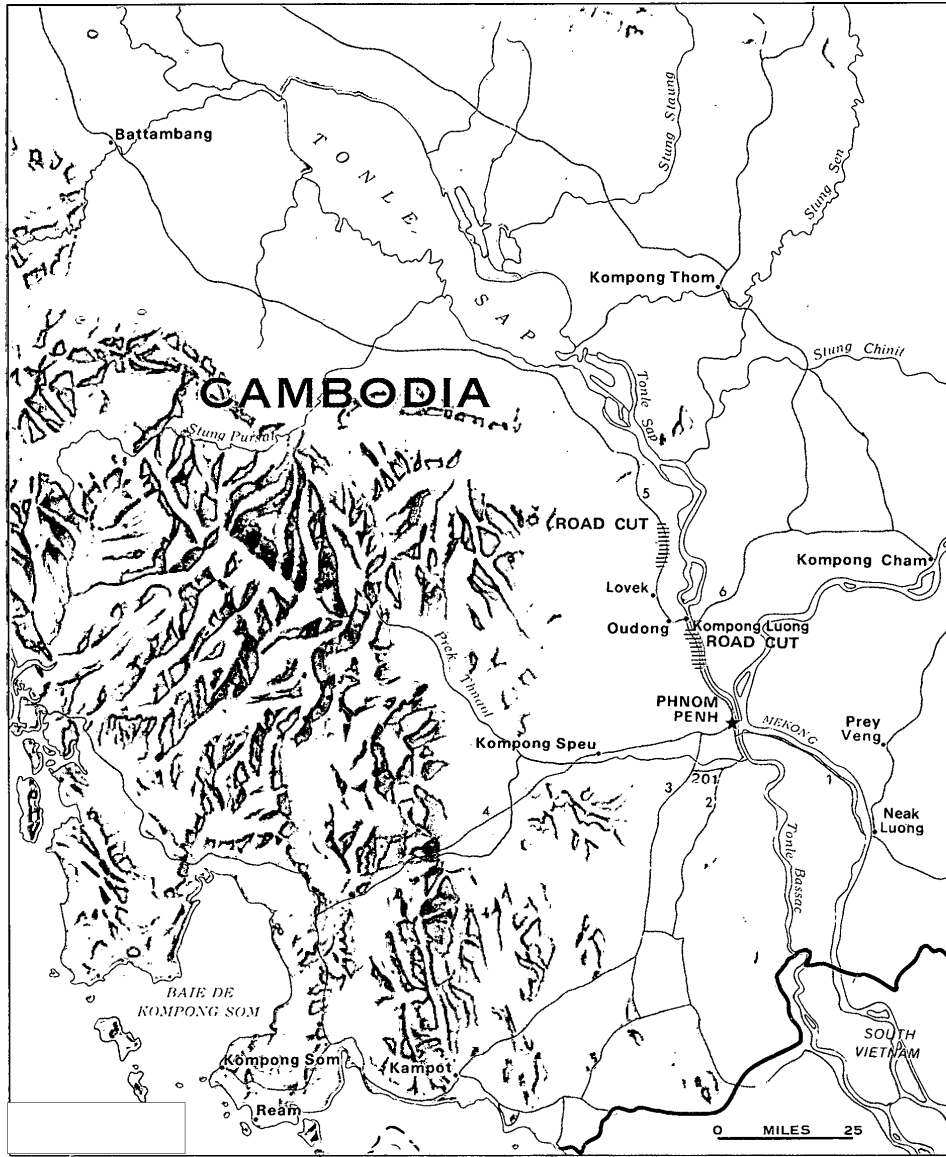
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[Redacted]

Israeli and Syrian aircraft struck targets in the Mount Hermon area and in the southern sector of the front. Damascus claims to have downed two Israeli aircraft, but Tel Aviv said that all of its planes returned safely. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]



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CAMBODIA

The recent loss of Kompong Luong will give a fresh push to the Khmer Communist campaign against exposed government enclaves in the countryside. The Communists are trying to follow up their success at Kompong Luong by moving against the nearby government base at Lovek. Intercepted messages between Communist units point to the provincial capital of Prey Veng, 30 miles east of Phnom Penh, as their next major target. As many as three Communist infantry regiments, one artillery regiment, and five local militia battalions have been designated to participate in attacks scheduled to begin in late April or early May.

The government is aware of the Communists' plans. The garrison at Prey Veng has been reinforced

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Prey Veng is near insurgent base areas, however, and the terrain around the city is favorable to the Communists' operations.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

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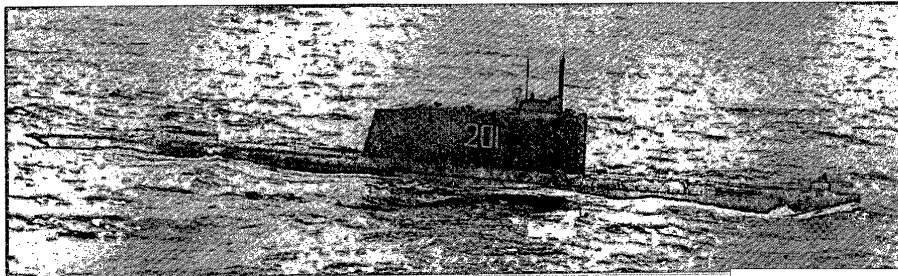
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Soviet G-II Class Ballistic Missile Submarine



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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: A Soviet diesel-powered ballistic-missile submarine rendezvoused yesterday east of Bermuda with the Krivak guided-missile destroyers that are en route to Cuba. The submarine--a G-II class unit--and the destroyers are expected to arrive in Cuba in time for May Day celebrations. The submarine carries three SS-N-5 ballistic missiles that have a range of 700 miles and are capable of carrying nuclear warheads. This will be the first G-class submarine to visit the island since April 1972.

USSR - Indian Ocean: The Soviets are dodging Indian requests that they come out publicly in support of naval limitations in the Indian Ocean. For the past several months, New Delhi has been trying to get the Soviets to announce that they would "freeze" the level of their naval presence in the Indian Ocean provided other naval powers do the same. Two weeks ago, [redacted]

[redacted] Deputy Foreign Minister Firyubin told [redacted] that a "freeze" would leave the Soviets in an unacceptably inferior position to the US. Firyubin strongly implied that US plans for a naval base at Diego Garcia had complicated the issue. Moscow is seeking to portray the US, abetted by Communist China, as the instigator of big-power rivalry in the Indian Ocean.

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