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The President's Daily Brief

September 11, 1974

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

September 11, 1974

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GREECE

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Foreign Minister Mavros is trying to rally economic and political support in Western Europe on the Cyprus issue and related matters.

[Redacted]

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Mavros said Greece would participate in negotiations leading toward a federal solution on Cyprus if the Turks first provided Athens with a face-saving gesture. He said a symbolic withdrawal of Turkish forces from current lines or permission for a return of Greek Cypriot refugees to Famagusta would be acceptable.

The Greeks will argue during negotiations that the division of the island must be proportionate to the population. Turkish Cypriots constitute about 18 percent of the population, but Turkish forces now occupy approximately 40 percent of the island.

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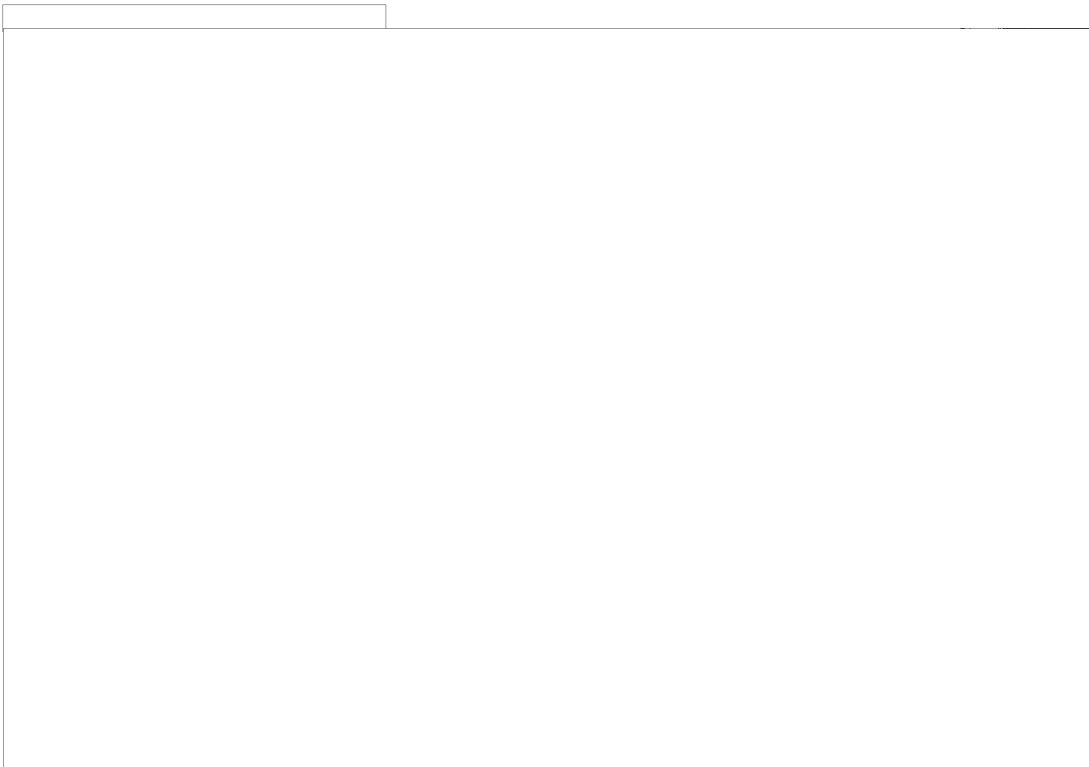
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There have been indications that Karamanlis wants to restructure, but not dismantle, cooperative agreements between Athens and Washington.

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USSR

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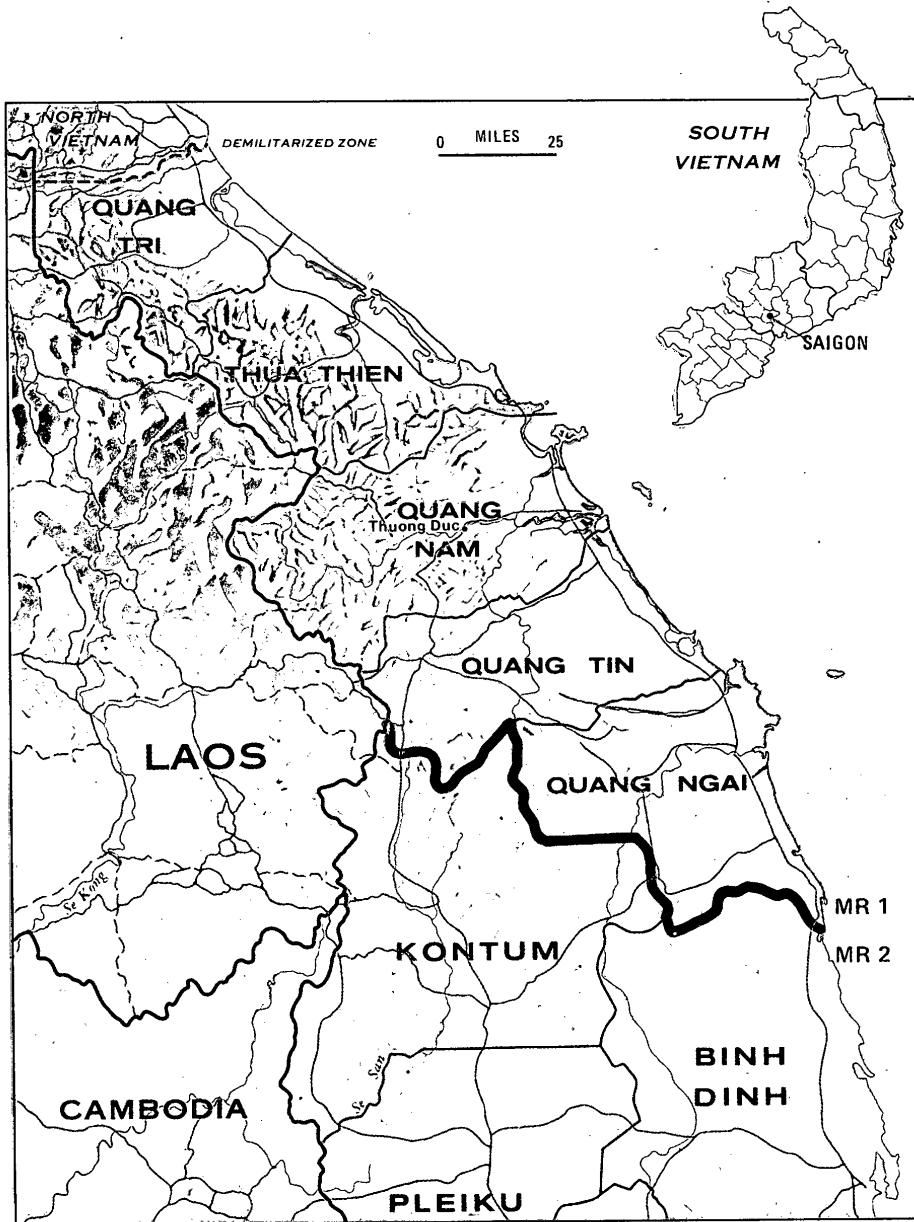
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VIETNAM

A potentially significant battle developing around the district town of Thuong Duc in Quang Nam Province symbolizes some of the changes in the character of the war since the cease-fire.

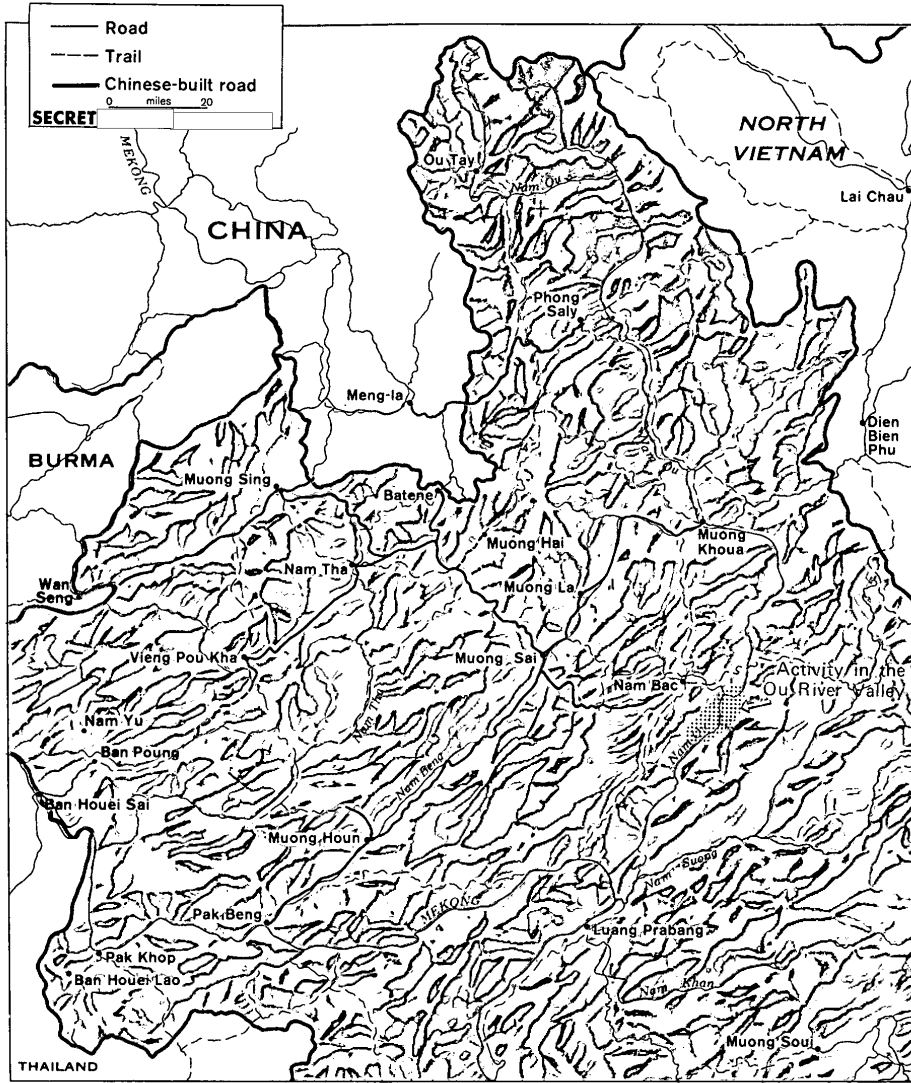
In past years, South Vietnamese counterattacks usually quickly forced the withdrawal of Communist forces from towns they had captured. Now, however, the Communists have the advantage of a logistic network developed since the cease-fire that provides them with the maneuver capability and resupply capacity to defend towns they have taken.

The First Brigade of the government's experienced Airborne Division has been cautiously attempting to retake Thuong Duc, which was captured by the Communists in the summer offensive. Government forces have been slowly moving to control high ground around the town before mounting an assault.

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South Vietnamese commanders are planning to send reinforcements. The Communists would like nothing better than to hang a substantial defeat on the First Airborne Brigade.

Chinese Road Network in Northwest Laos



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CHINA-LAOS

Chinese road building in northern Laos during the coming dry season may focus on construction of a road toward the royal capital of Luang Prabang. Completion of such a route would provide the Pathet Lao with direct access to their forces in the capital area.

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For some time there have been indications that a route to Luang Prabang would eventually be included in the Chinese road-building effort. Last year the Chinese began to extend the road system from Muong Sai toward Nam Bac in north central Laos. In May of this year a Chinese regiment, probably an engineer unit, moved into the Ou River Valley southeast of Nam Bac near an established supply point only 62 miles from Luang Prabang.

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In recent months, monsoon rains have prevented the 23,000 Chinese engineers and support troops in Laos from making any substantial additions to the road system. Road construction activity should pick up again soon with the advent of the dry season.

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USSR

Jewish emigrants from the USSR to Israel during the first eight months of 1974 numbered 13,700, a drop of 32 percent from the same period of 1973, when 20,287 received permission to leave.

The Dutch embassy in Moscow, which represents Israeli interests, reports that about 1,500 have departed monthly since May of this year. The Dutch believe that the decline in departures is not attributable to any increase in the rate of Soviet rejections of exit applications. Such refusals are running at about 10 percent, the usual rate. The Dutch see the decline instead as the cumulative effect of constraints, including the financial hardships experienced by Jews who make application to leave the USSR and the uncertainty of conditions in Israel.

Some 145,000 Soviet Jews reportedly have formal invitations from Israel. Many are delaying applications for permission to leave, possibly in the hope that Western efforts to negotiate a reduction of the costs and risks involved in emigration will succeed.

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USSR: [redacted]

[redacted]

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Mozambique: The rebellion by dissident whites that broke out last Saturday in Lourenco Marques fell apart yesterday. In a final announcement yesterday morning, the dissidents agreed to give up in order to avoid further violence. The envoys from Portugal who met with the rebels Monday night have returned to Lisbon without comment, but it seems unlikely that they offered any significant concessions. Lisbon cannot revoke its agreement with the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique, and the front is not likely to offer its political opponents a place in the transitional government--the dissidents' basic demand. Front officials have announced that they will begin setting up the transitional government in Lourenco Marques next week. The front will appoint a prime minister for the territory and two thirds of the cabinet.

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Egypt - South Yemen: [redacted]

[redacted]

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Cambodia: A representative of Prince Sihanouk and an official of the Lon Nol government reportedly met in Bonn last week. This would be the first contact between the two sides since the Cambodian conflict began in 1970. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted] As a result of the meeting, Sihanouk may be sounded out on whether President Lon Nol's departure could serve as the basis for a peaceful settlement. Sihanouk and the Khmer Communists have consistently rejected any compromise with the Lon Nol regime.

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