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The President's Daily Brief

May 2, 1974

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Cambodian Army units yesterday repulsed the initial thrust of anticipated Khmer Communist attacks against the provincial capital of Prey Veng. (Page 2)

Notes on Portugal, Honduras, and Pakistan-Egypt-Syria appear on Page 3.

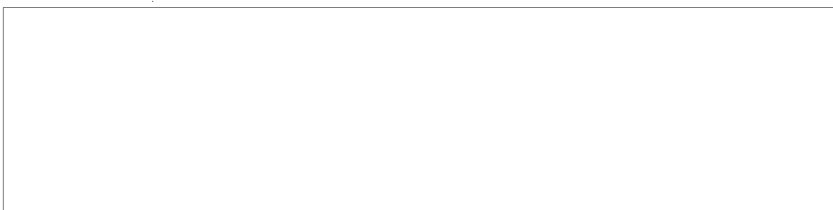
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USSR-SYRIA-ISRAEL

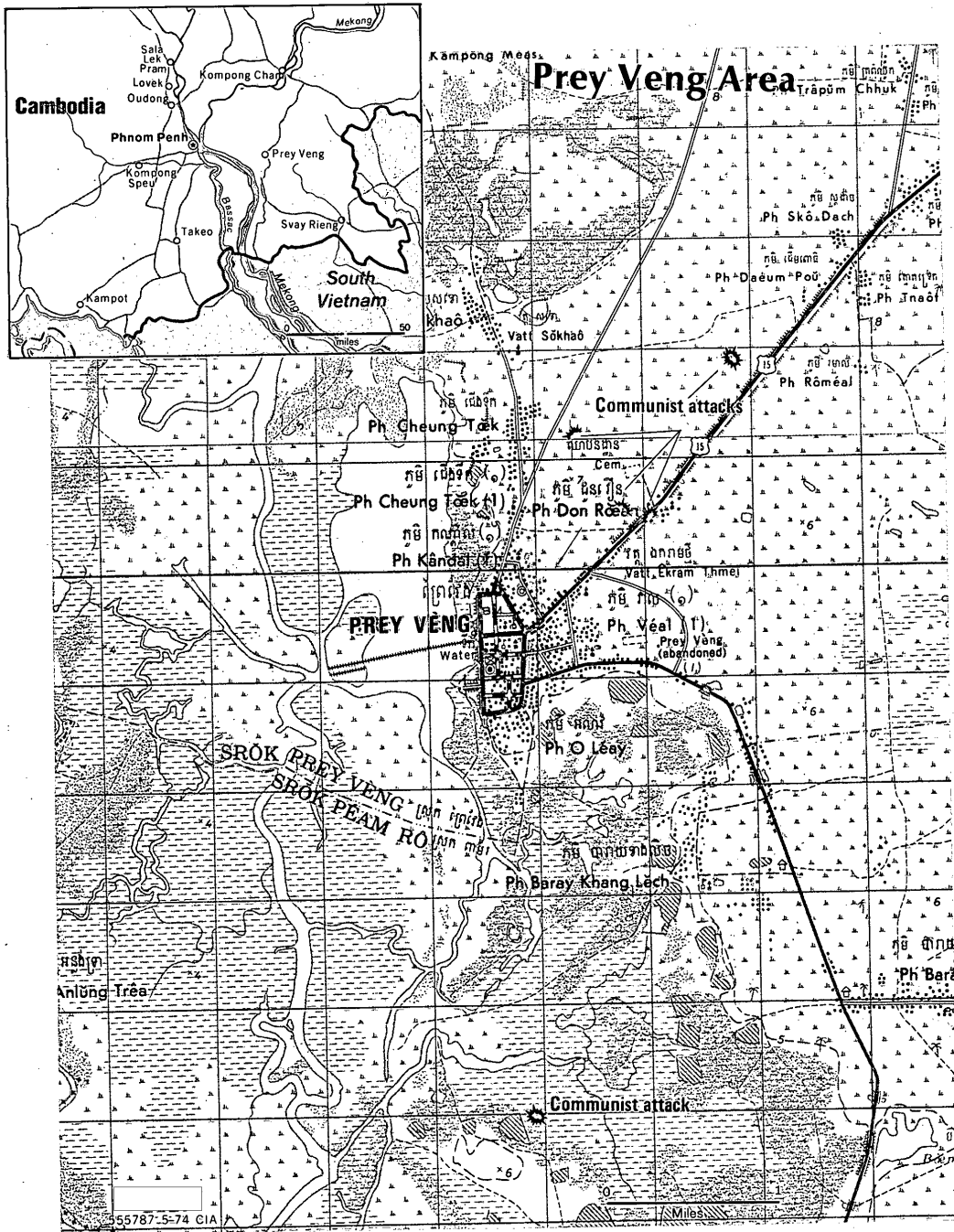
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Moscow is continuing to supply Damascus with substantial amounts of military equipment. Over 100 T-62 medium tanks, a number of fighter aircraft, a large number of armored personnel carriers, and an unknown quantity of FROG unguided rockets (with a maximum range of 43 nautical miles) have been delivered since mid-March. Some of this equipment may have been provided for under a new agreement reached by President Asad during his visit to Moscow in mid-April.



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Only light fighting occurred on the Syrian front yesterday. Israel and Syria exchanged tank and artillery fire on Mount Hermon and in some other sectors. Israeli aircraft were active, flying reconnaissance missions and defensive patrols, but no combat missions were detected.



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CAMBODIA

Cambodian Army units yesterday repulsed the initial thrust of the anticipated Khmer Communist attacks against the provincial capital of Prey Veng, 30 miles east of Phnom Penh.

The Communists, who have been preparing for their campaign against Prey Veng for over a month, can be expected to keep pressure on the city. Intercepted messages and prisoner reports indicate that as many as 5,000 Communist troops may now be in the Prey Veng area; the attacks yesterday involved only a portion of this force. To support their push against Prey Veng, the Communists apparently intend to launch diversionary attacks against nearby government positions along the east bank of the Mekong River.

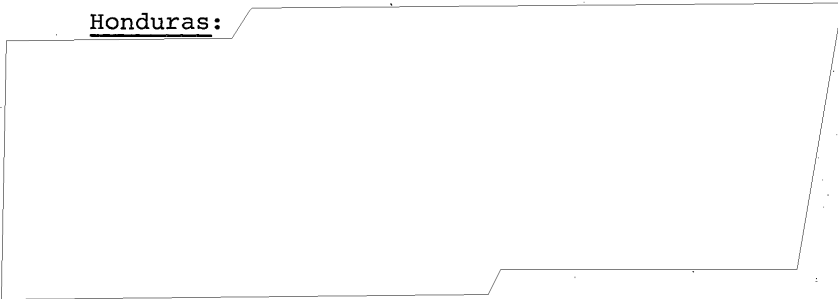
Northwest of Phnom Penh, Communist units are still moving against the government base at Lovek. The base has been the target of intense artillery and mortar barrages for the past few days, and insurgent ground units are now closing in on several sides. With the recent arrival of the 2,000-man garrison from Sala Lek Pram, government troop strength at Lovek has grown to between 4,000 and 5,000. The consolidation of government forces on this front will enable the air force to provide more effective support.

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NOTES

Portugal: May Day passed without trouble in Lisbon. Left-wing groups took an active part in the celebrations, joining others in an exuberant display of popular support for General Spinoia. Banners draped from buildings and carried by marchers proclaimed appreciation for the new freedoms permitted by the junta. Although tens of thousands gathered in the capital, there was little outward evidence either of the armed forces or of the National Republican Guard, the paramilitary force responsible for internal security.

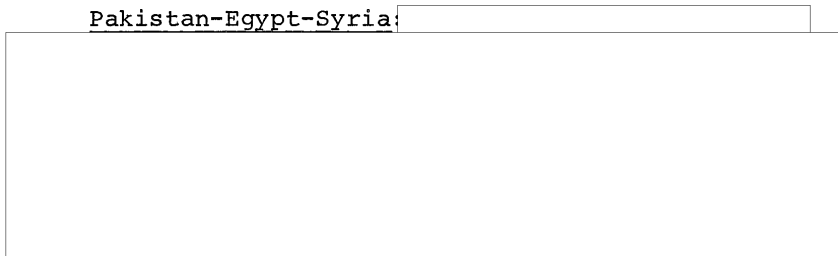
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Pakistan-Egypt-Syria:



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