



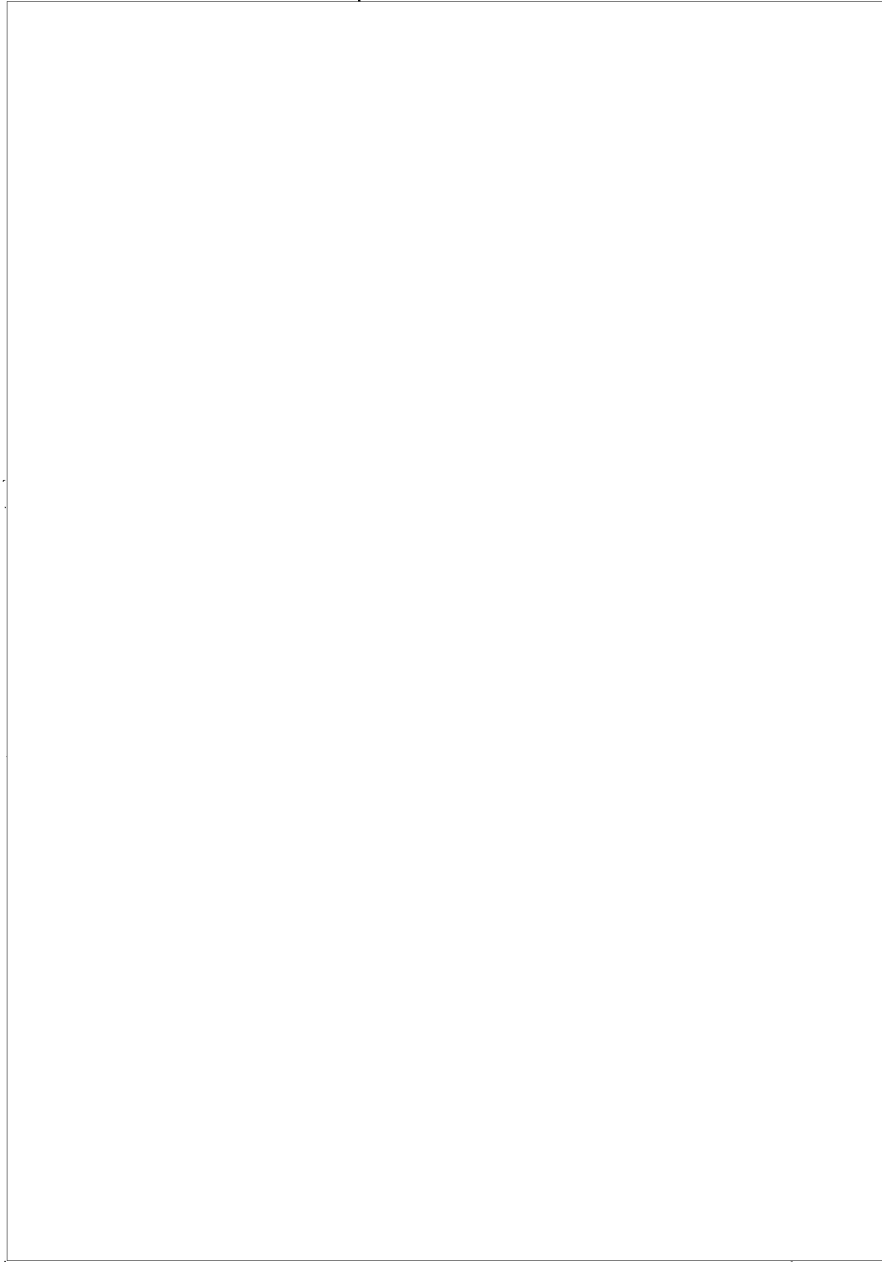
The President's Daily Brief

May 14, 1974



~~Top Secret~~ 25X1

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

May 14, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Fighting increased yesterday on the Golan front. UN observers reported heavy Syrian artillery fire east of Al Qunaytirah. Israeli planes struck targets in southern Lebanon. (Page 1)

[Redacted]

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South Vietnam

(Page 2)

[Redacted]

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Insurgent leaders in Portuguese Guinea announced yesterday that they are prepared for negotiations with Lisbon, cease-fire or not. The rebels in Portuguese Guinea are in a better position to win a political settlement from Lisbon than their counterparts in Angola and Mozambique. (Page 4)

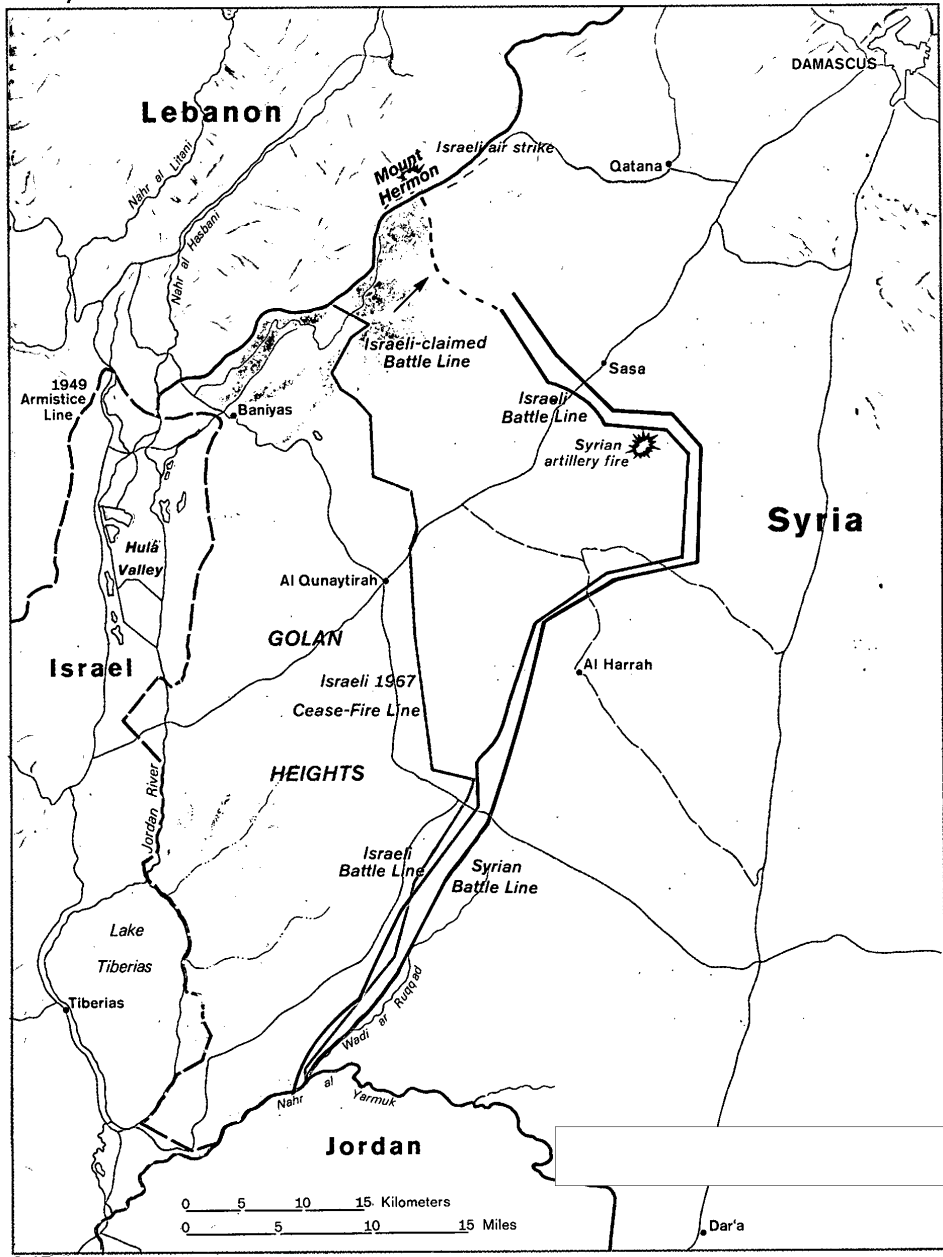
The Khmer insurgents have launched their anticipated push against the provincial capital of Kompong Thom, 75 miles north of Phnom Penh. Government defenders at Prey Veng, east of Phnom Penh, are holding their own against continued shelling and ground probes by the Communists. (Page 5)

[Redacted]

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A note on USSR-Cuba appears on Page 5.

The Syrian Front



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ISRAEL-SYRIA

Fighting on the Golan front increased yesterday. Most of the firing was concentrated east of Al Qunaytirah, where UN observers reported heavy Syrian artillery fire.

For the first time since Friday, Israeli fighter-bombers yesterday struck targets in southern Lebanon. The strikes apparently were directed against fedayeen positions on the western slopes of Mount Hermon. No Syrian aircraft were reported active near the front.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

COSVN has issued detailed plans for its "offensive phase" in South Vietnam during May and June. The latest guidance [redacted] call for the heaviest attacks to occur after June 1. The bulk of the action apparently is to be concentrated against remote government outposts in an attempt to secure outlying areas and improve Communist access to heavily populated sections of the country.

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The two-month campaign is to cover several parts of South Vietnam, especially the delta and the provinces north and west of Saigon. Intense government counterattacks are anticipated. [redacted] the fighting is not intended to "rekindle the war" and not "all our armed forces will be used."

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[redacted] contains little new information on the Communists' intentions, but offers great detail on the scope, timing, and intensity of the campaign.

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The South Vietnamese are aware of the Communists' plans and have begun taking steps to counter them. A recent successful government operation against main-force units north and west of Saigon is an example, and plans to conduct similar operations elsewhere may take some of the muscle out of the Communists' punch.

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PORTUGUESE AFRICA

Leaders of the insurgent movement in Portuguese Guinea announced yesterday that they are ready for an "immediate start of negotiations" with Lisbon "with or without a cease-fire."

The insurgents in Portuguese Guinea are in a good position to win a political settlement from Lisbon, which has no economic stake in the territory; there are few white settlers to resist a pull-out. The rebels have established a political structure that insurgent organizations in Angola and Mozambique do not have. Last fall the insurgents proclaimed the state of "Guinea-Bissau," which has been recognized by over 60 African, Communist, and other countries as well as by the Organization of African Unity. They hope to win UN membership at the next General Assembly session.

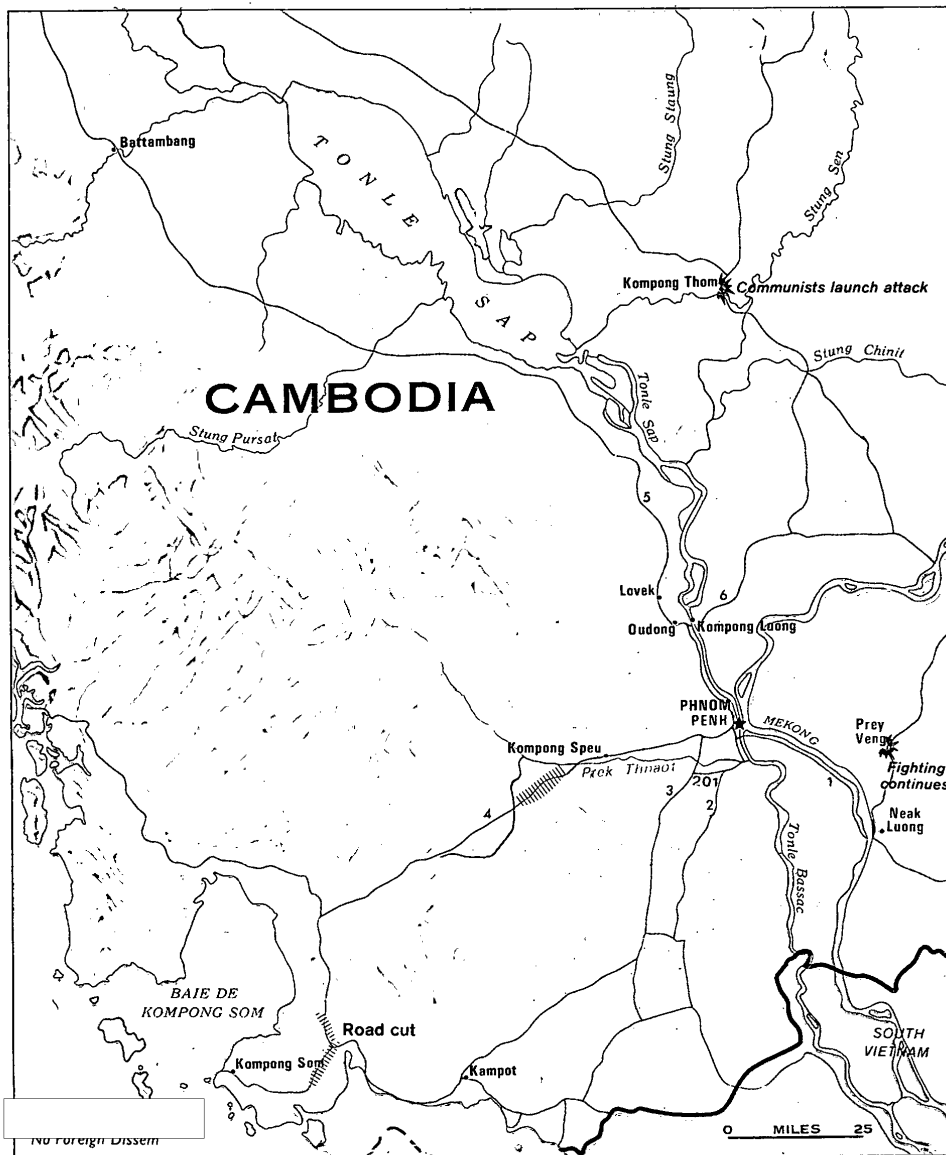
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Unlike the rebels of Portuguese Guinea, representatives of liberation movements in Angola and Mozambique and the foreign ministers of the black African countries supporting them ended a meeting in Tanzania last Thursday pledging to "intensify the armed struggle" against Portugal. The foreign ministers of Zaire, Zambia, Tanzania, and Congo promised their governments' full support.

Despite the tone of the communiqué, the participants are far from united, particularly with respect to Angola. Presidents Mobutu of Zaire and Ngouabi of Congo support competing rebel groups there.

The Portuguese do not feel pressed to strike any bargains with the Angolan rebels. Insurgent activity in the territory has been at a low ebb for the past several years.

In Mozambique, the insurgents have resumed fighting after a lull to assess the Portuguese coup. Since the first of the year, the rebels have steadily infiltrated and attacked areas heavily populated by white settlers. The settlers have reacted with strong demands for better protection. So far, the Portuguese military response has been ineffective.



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NOTES

Cambodia: Khmer Communist forces have launched their anticipated push against the provincial capital of Kompong Thom, 75 miles north of Phnom Penh. Assaults against the city's outlying defenses have been repulsed, and the air force is ferrying reinforcements to Kompong Thom. East of Phnom Penh, insurgent gunners continue intermittent shelling of Prey Veng, while Communist infantry probes exposed government outposts. There are signs, however, that this Communist force is beginning to encounter supply problems. Government ammunition and food stocks are ample, and morale among the city's 4,000 defenders is high.

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USSR-Cuba:

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