



The President's Daily Brief

April 9, 1975

5

~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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

April 9, 1975

Table of Contents

Vietnam: New instructions to communist cadre in South Vietnam call for a continuation of the present offensive until "total victory" is achieved this year. (Page 1)

Cambodia: Prime Minister Long Boret returned to Phnom Penh yesterday with no prospects for an immediate political solution or a cease-fire. Communist forces launched new attacks on the east bank of the Mekong River. (Page 3)

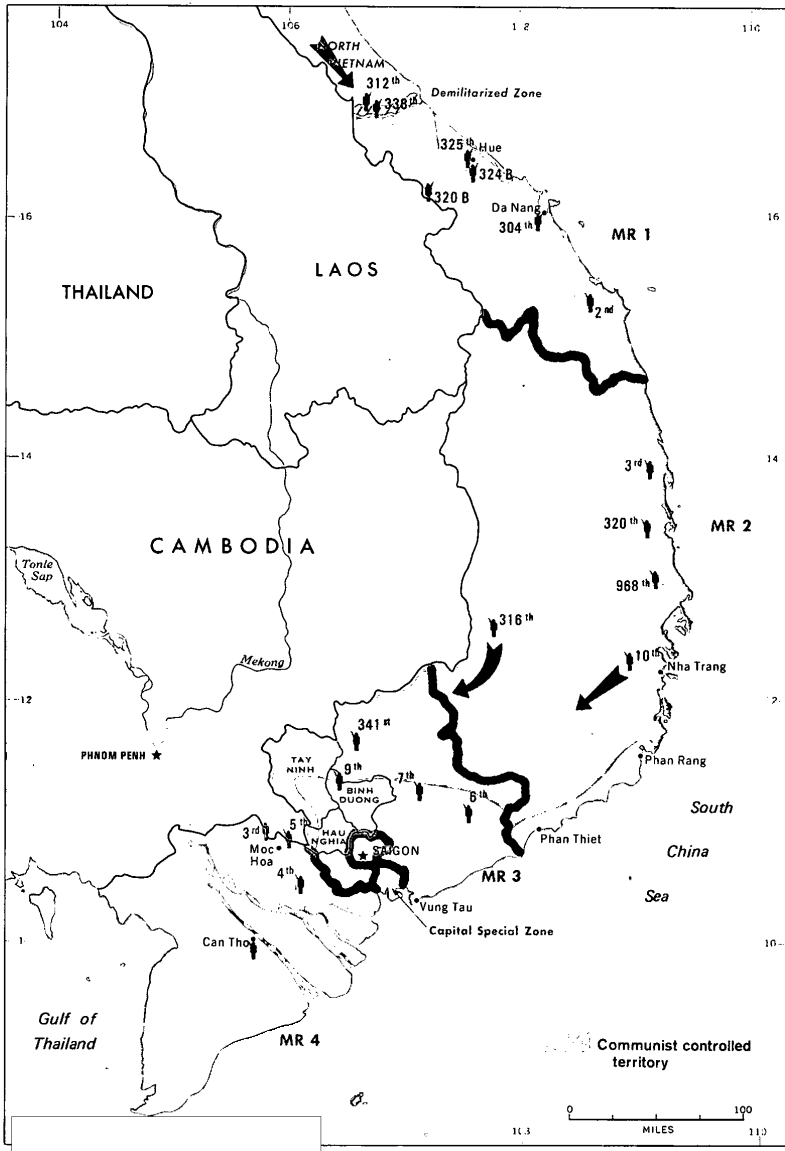
Syria-Egypt: Relations are further strained over Sadat's efforts to reconvene the Geneva conference. (Page 5)

Cyprus: The last hurdle has been cleared to reopening the Cyprus intercommunal talks. (Page 7)

Greece-Turkey: The two countries remain at loggerheads over the Aegean. (Page 8)

Notes: USSR; Japan; USSR-India; Spain; NATO (Pages 9 and 10)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

New instructions to communist cadre in South Vietnam call for a continuation of the present offensive until "total victory" is achieved this year, [redacted]

25X1
25X1

[redacted] The new orders, issued on April 3, bring up to date an earlier document, which had indicated that victory was not anticipated until 1976.

The instructions leave little room for political solution to the conflict. Talk of negotiations or the formation of a tripartite coalition will be used "merely as stratagems." [redacted] the orders maintain that "the most opportune moment for the communist side has arrived" and that attacks to "liberate" Tay Ninh, Hau Nghia and Binh Duong provinces will be conducted this month.

25X1
25X1

The communists may now be moving into position for such attacks. They currently have eight divisions in military regions 3 and 4; at least four of them are positioned in an arc north of Saigon and the others are threatening population centers and supply routes in the delta.

The North Vietnamese 5th Division has pulled back from the Moc Hoa battlefront in the northern delta and may join units of the 3rd Division along the Cambodian border to prepare for fighting in Hau Nghia and Tay Ninh provinces. North of Saigon, the 9th Division has observed radio silence for the past few days, and South Vietnamese officials fear that it is moving closer to the capital. The 6th, 7th, and 341st divisions pose a threat northeast of the capital. The 341st has arrived in the area only recently from North Vietnam. Two divisions in the central highlands show signs of shifting toward Saigon. They could move into Military Region 3 in a matter of days.

The communists could shift additional combat units to the south from central South Vietnam. They probably will need to keep a large force in the northern two thirds of the country, however, to eliminate pockets of South Vietnamese resistance and establish firm control over the population.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Radio direction-finding indicates that two North Vietnamese reserve divisions have shifted toward the Demilitarized Zone from Thanh Hoa. They appear to be following in the tracks of another division which is in northern South Vietnam. All three belong to the North Vietnamese Army 1st Corps, which is moving south; its headquarters was recently spotted near the Demilitarized Zone. A fourth division--also subordinate to the 1st Corps and last noted in the Hanoi area--shows signs of moving. The most likely destination for these combat units is in provinces around Saigon; they could reach the Saigon area in about a month.

These communist moves, together with the heavy losses sustained by the government since early March, add up to an irreversible shift in the strategic balance in South Vietnam. In comparison, the South Vietnamese have only seven infantry divisions, together with rangers, territorials, and the remnants of three divisions extracted from the northern part of the country. The government is now reorganizing these units and preparing them for combat.

* * *

On the political front, South Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Ba Can [redacted] hopes to have a new cabinet by this weekend. [redacted] it would include members of the civilian opposition, although [redacted] he was having difficulty persuading Buddhist and Catholic groups to participate.

25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Cambodian Prime Minister Long Boret returned to Phnom Penh yesterday and told Ambassador Dean there are no prospects for an immediate political solution or a cease-fire.

In Bangkok, Boret met Prince Sihanouk's son, Norodom Yuvaneath, who said Sihanouk "will not negotiate" and suggested that his father be invited back to Phnom Penh, presumably to restore the monarchy. Boret could not agree to this on his own authority; he instead emphasized that his government desired an early political solution in which Sihanouk would play the key role.

25X1

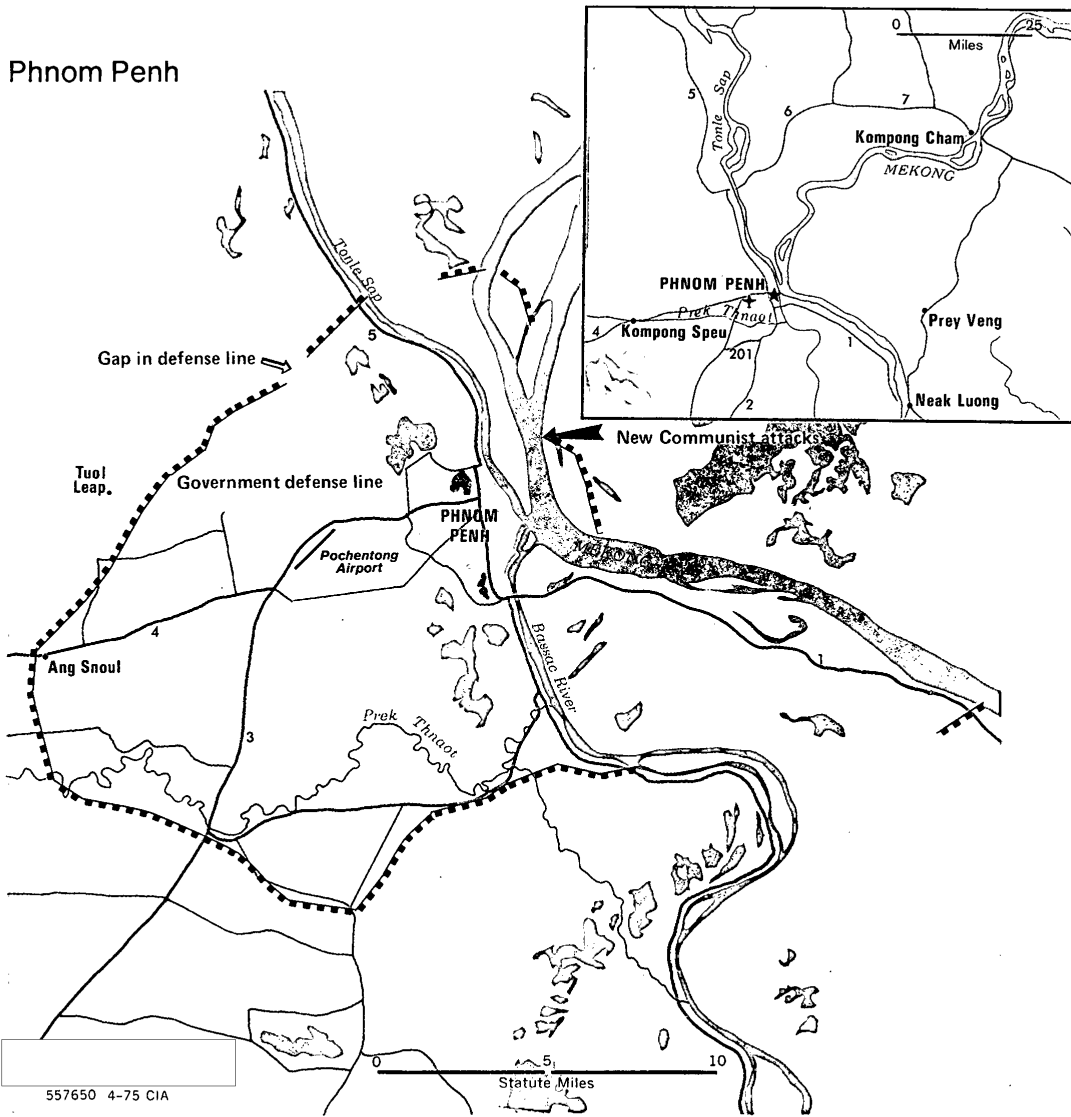
In Indonesia, Boret obtained Jakarta's help in interceding with Sihanouk through Algerian Foreign Minister Bouteflika. Boret said Bouteflika had also agreed to help and that if the slightest encouragement from Sihanouk were forthcoming, Boret would be available immediately to work out the details.

Sihanouk publicly denied yesterday that any "authorized representative" had met Boret in Bangkok. He earlier criticized Indonesian President Suharto for "meddling" with the Cambodian situation.

In his conversation with Ambassador Dean, Boret also discussed evacuation plans in the event of a collapse in the defense of Phnom Penh. Two days earlier, Cambodian President Koy also asked Dean about the evacuation of Khmer leaders under such circumstances. The ambassador told both officials that some space would be available aboard US aircraft, but that he was not in a position to determine who or how many could be accommodated.

(continued)

Phnom Penh



25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

* * *

Khmer communist forces launched new attacks against government units on the east bank of the Mekong River near Phnom Penh yesterday. Fighting on the more important battlefronts north and west of the city was limited to inconclusive shelling and skirmishes. Shelling attacks against Pochentong airport also slackened, although the proportion of artillery rounds to the less accurate rockets increased.

Intercepted messages reveal that the communists are scouring outlying battlefields for more howitzer ammunition and that communist units are beginning to move toward Phnom Penh from a number of widely separated provinces. The deployments are occurring slowly, however, and it is apparent that many units will not arrive in the capital area before next week.

In the countryside, stiff fighting continued yesterday around the southwestern provincial capital of Kompong Speu. Several positions just outside the town are isolated. In the southeast, the communists are keeping steady pressure on the defensive perimeter around the provincial capital of Prey Veng, but government units there appear to be holding their own.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SYRIA-EGYPT

Relations between Damascus and Cairo have come under greater strain. The Syrians, who had welcomed the breakdown of Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, now are angry with President Sadat for seeking to reconvene the Geneva peace conference. They suspect that Sadat is still trying to obtain a separate Sinai disengagement agreement, and they cite as evidence Sadat's unilateral extension of the UN mandate in the Sinai and his pledge to reopen the Suez Canal.

[redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
Sadat's call for a return to Geneva is a ploy to buy Cairo more time to pursue indirect negotiations with the Israelis. [redacted] Sadat's decision to reopen the Suez Canal on June 5 was a tip-off that Cairo has no intention of letting the UN observer forces' mandate in the Sinai expire in late July. [redacted] Sadat might already have a "deal with the Israelis in his pocket." 25X1

The Syrian President [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] irked at Sadat for assuming to speak for all the Arabs in calling for a resumption of the Geneva talks and inviting members of the UN Security Council to participate. The Syrians gave [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the clear impression that Damascus had been caught flat-footed by Sadat's recent actions and did not know what tack to take next. Sadat's tendency to act unilaterally has long fed Syrian distrust and dislike of the Egyptian President. 25X1

The Syrians have yet to say anything publicly about Sadat's moves. After calling for the resumption of the Geneva talks for so long, they are hardly in a position to criticize Sadat. Instead, they have vented their frustrations largely at the US. The controlled press has attacked US Middle East policy and expressed strong skepticism that a US policy reassessment will lead to any real change in Washington's approach to negotiations.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The Syrian press also has lately demanded a prior commitment from Israel to withdraw to the 1967 borders and recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians before the Geneva conference is reconvened. Asad is said to have told King Husayn that he does not want to go to Geneva simply to watch the Egyptians and Israelis sign another disengagement accord. For the present, Asad said, Syria takes the position that it would go to Geneva only if the other parties were ready to discuss an overall, final settlement.

The Syrian leader somewhat surprisingly played down the importance of his proposal for a joint Syrian - Palestine Liberation Organization command. Although Asad reportedly said that he doubted the PLO would follow through on his offer because it would mean the subordination of the PLO, we believe he will continue to advocate more formal Syrian-Palestinian ties simply because he seems to have few other ways at present of influencing Cairo.

Asad nevertheless is unlikely to want to go it alone, and he probably sees no alternative to trying to work with Egypt to obtain his objectives. His government's actions over the next few months are likely to be aimed, at least in part, at trying to fence in Sadat and to force him to coordinate his moves more closely with the Syrians.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CYPRUS

The last hurdle to reopening the Cyprus intercommunal talks in Vienna late this month has been cleared. Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish Cypriot sector, announced yesterday that agreement had been reached on the role of the UN Secretary General and the venue of the talks and that he--Denktash--would act as the Turkish Cypriot negotiator in at least the first sessions. Secretary General Waldheim will play no substantive role in the talks, but may assist on subjects agreed on by the negotiators.

The talks are scheduled to be held April 28 through May 2, providing little time to reach agreement on the sensitive issues to be discussed. The talks may continue in Vienna at a lower level after May 2, or could be transferred back to Nicosia.

Clerides' role as the negotiator for the Greek Cypriots is clouded as a result of a dispute with Archbishop Makarios over negotiating strategy. Clerides has been sharply attacked by the pro-Makarios press and political groups after a speech he gave last week setting out the realities of the situation as he saw them.

He argued that a bizonal federation, as desired by the Turks, would probably offer the Greek Cypriots the best opportunity to regain some of the territory lost last summer and to achieve strong guarantees for the future. He also took issue with the concept of a "long-term struggle," a phrase used by Makarios, which Clerides feels is tactically poor and likely to freeze the Turkish position.

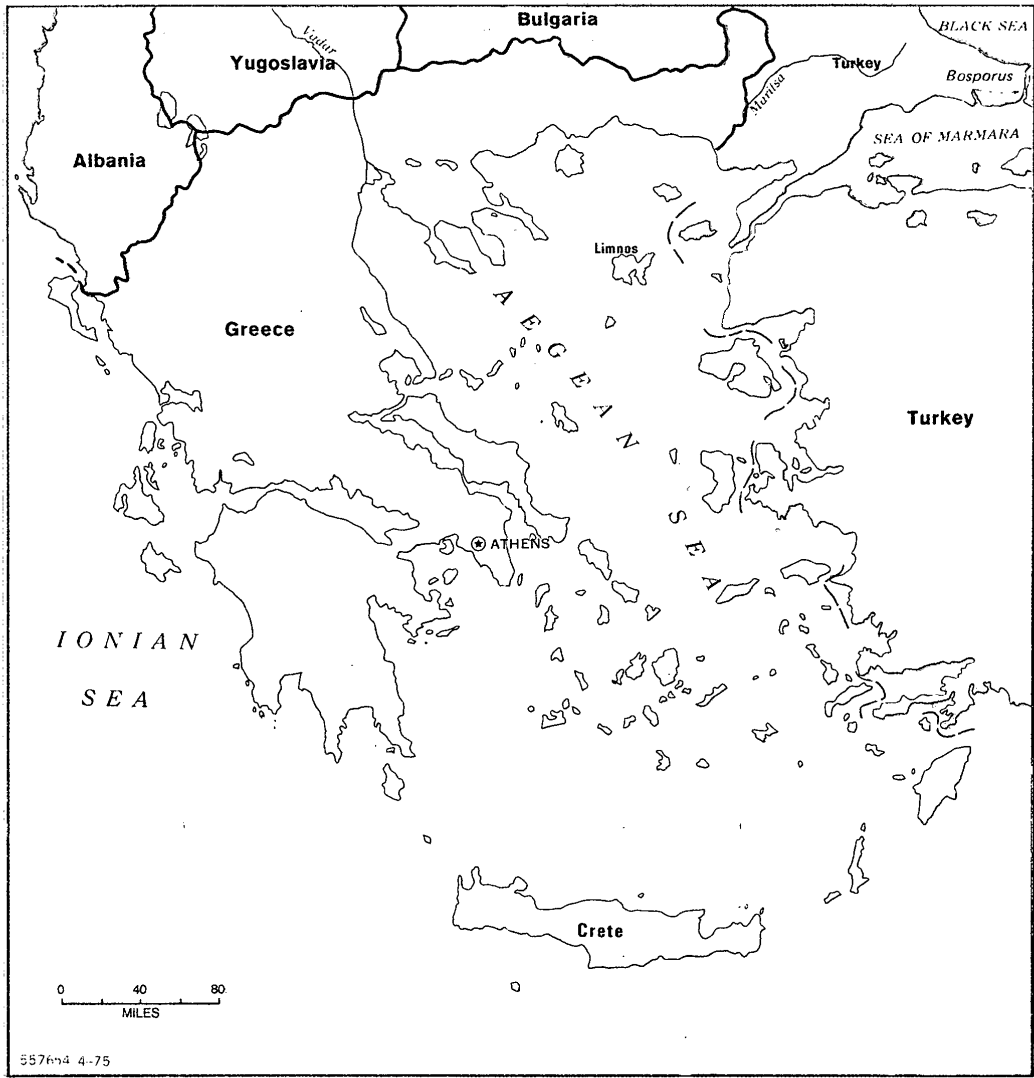


25X1



25X1

Clerides himself is not above using the threat of resignation as a tactic, perhaps in an effort to gain assurances of support that will tie Makarios, and possibly the Greek government, to the unpopular concessions Clerides will have to make to obtain a settlement. Reports have already surfaced that Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis has asked Clerides to stay on.



587m4 4-75

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

GREECE-TURKEY

Greece and Turkey are still at loggerheads over the Aegean; each side is maintaining that its actions are justified because of a threat from the other.

A high Greek Foreign Ministry official has admitted to the US embassy that his government has sent military forces, including aircraft, to the Dodecanese and other Aegean islands in contravention of international treaty. He said Turkish leaders had repeatedly made threatening statements about the islands.

The official said that Greece could not allow more Turkish overflights, which he claimed caused panic among the civilian population and created uncertainties which had economic implications throughout Greece, such as bank withdrawals, hoarding, and discouragement of tourists.

The Turks view Greek fortification of the islands as clear provocation. Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayangil told the US embassy on Monday that Ankara simply cannot have "armed aircraft carriers" so close to its shores. He said that it was essential for Turkey to monitor the situation.

25X1

The Turkish government yesterday again denied that it had violated Greek air space and publicly charged Greece with a military buildup on the islands. It said that Turkish aircraft will continue to fly over the Aegean in accordance with the rights given it by international law.

The Greeks believe that the Turks are trying to intimidate them, as well as to establish a de facto role for the Turkish armed forces in the Aegean.

25X1
25X1

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

25X1
25X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

[redacted]	25X1
[redacted] Moscow [redacted]	25X1
[redacted]	
[redacted]	25X1
[redacted]	25X1
[redacted]	25X1
[redacted]	25X1
[redacted]	25X1

* * *

Japanese Foreign Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who arrives in Washington today, will be primarily interested in discussing Middle Eastern issues and the possibility of another Arab oil embargo.

In connection with developments on Indochina, Miyazawa may seek Secretary Kissinger's views on Japan's support of Thai and Indonesian efforts to broker a Cambodian settlement. The foreign minister probably will also seek a reaffirmation of US security commitments in Japan. For Tokyo this subject is linked to the problem of nuclear weapons on visiting US warships. Despite some differences of opinion with us, Miyazawa comes as a long-time friend and supporter of the US-Japanese alliance. Moreover, with the Miki government still uncertain of its political strength and facing important local elections, the foreign minister will try to avoid any indication that Japan's relations with a major ally are not in good order.

* * *

The USSR reportedly agreed to supply \$500 million worth of military equipment to India during Soviet Defense Minister Grechko's February visit.

This would be the largest agreement ever concluded between the two countries, amounting to about one third of total Soviet military commitments to India since the aid program began in the early 1960s. Such an agreement underscores Moscow's commitment to maintain India's military preponderance on the sub-continent. The bulk of the equipment is naval, including three large combat ships. Ground force equipment includes tanks, artillery, and SA-6 and SA-7 surface-to-air missiles. New Delhi probably did not make any political or military concessions during Grechko's visit, such as endorsing Moscow's Asian collective security scheme or granting base rights to the Soviet navy.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

* * *

Prince Juan Carlos is becoming increasingly concerned over the problems Spain will face unless Franco can be persuaded soon to initiate the transfer of power.

In a recent conversation with Ambassador Rivero and Senator Scott, Juan Carlos spoke with intensity of the mounting desire in Spain for Franco to step down. The Prince expressed confidence in the full support of the army and said that many officers wanted an early transfer of power. He noted in passing, however, that some younger officers have a tendency to favor the communist-inspired Democratic Junta--a coalition of illegal, largely leftist, opposition parties. We have no evidence, however, of significant sympathy among younger officers for the Democratic Junta, although these officers are increasingly interested in politics. Juan Carlos made a strong plea for US understanding and support, especially in the area of relations with other Europeans. He also said he hoped the US could help the Spanish armed forces with equipment.

* * *

A majority of the NATO representatives have reacted favorably to the idea of a conference of heads of government in connection with a regular meeting of NATO foreign ministers on May 29 and 30 in Brussels.

The representatives, meeting in Brussels yesterday, agreed to consult their governments and convey the response to NATO's Secretary General by April 15. The US representative thinks that Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau is likely to be the only dissenter among the heads of state.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Top Secret