



The President's Daily Brief

26 November 1969

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Top Secret



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The high levels of North Vietnamese infiltration forecast in a recent intercept have not yet been detected. *(Page 1)*

In Laos, signs point toward greater enemy activity in coming weeks. *(Page 2)*

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New Zealand's parliamentary elections on Saturday are expected to be close. *(Page 5)*

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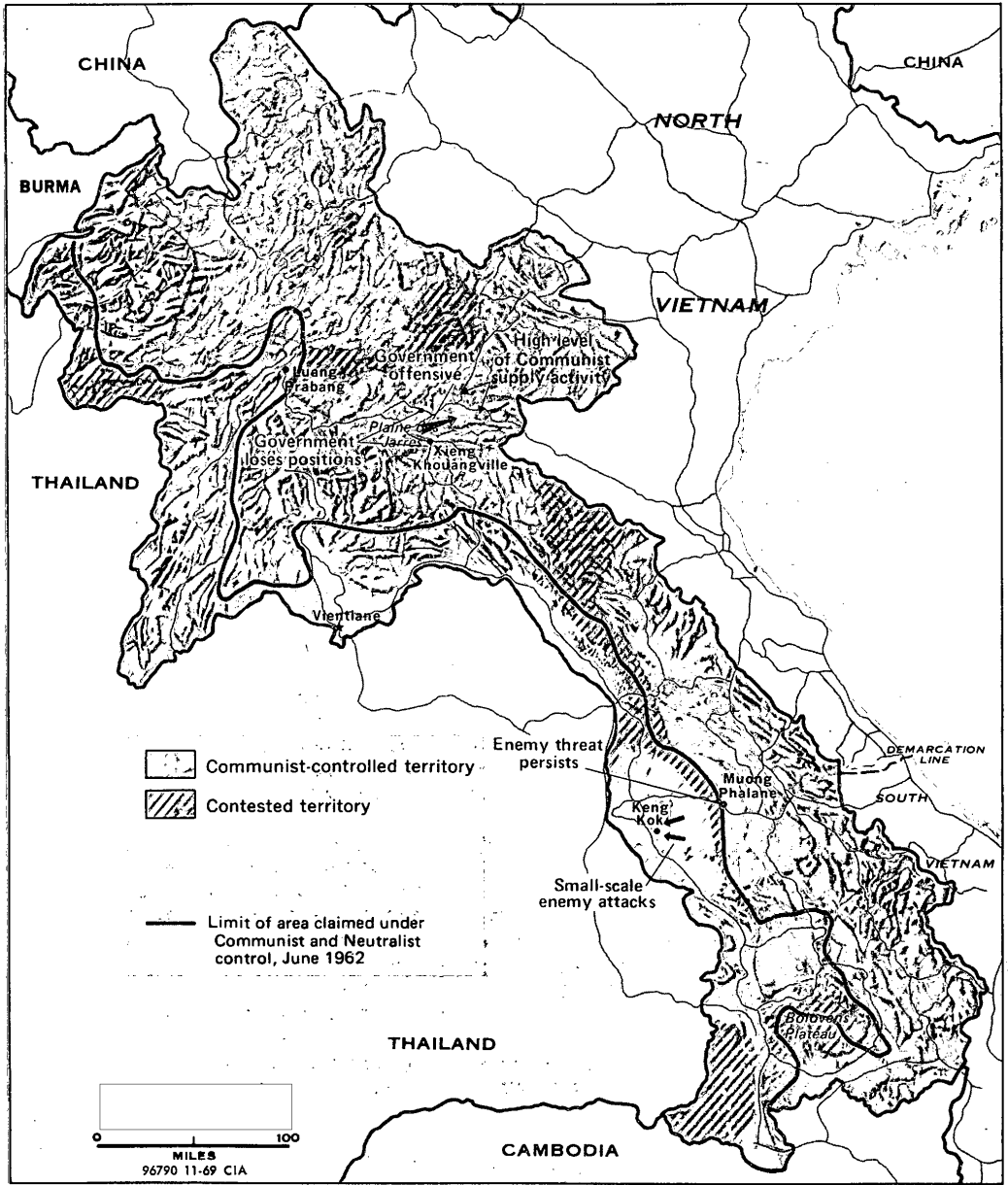
NORTH VIETNAM

The high levels of infiltration forecast in a recent intercepted message have not yet been detected. That message called for two groups a day to move through the Vinh area beginning on 20 November.

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Since late October, when the upswing in North Vietnamese infiltration became apparent, 16 groups totaling about 9,000 troops are believed to have begun their move south.

Laos: Current Situation



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LAOS

There are signs pointing toward a higher level of enemy activity in coming weeks. In the north, Communist forces recently overran a number of government positions scattered over the Plaine des Jarres. The North Vietnamese continue to move large quantities of supplies into northern Laos.

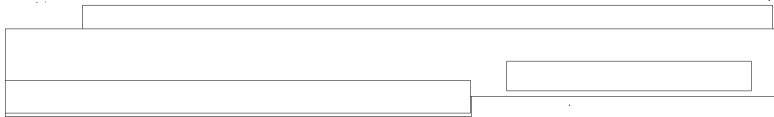
The current wave of enemy activity on the Plaine has been directed against the weakest elements of the government presence, and may be an effort to deflect a government offensive pushing into important enemy staging and supply areas farther to the east. In addition to buying time for the Communists, these attacks are causing a level of casualties that the government can ill afford.

In the south, enemy troop movements indicate that the Communists are preparing for another round of attacks against government outposts near Muong Phalane. Recent small-scale enemy attacks farther west near Keng Kok may be designed to force government units to pull back from Muong Phalane in order to defend politically more sensitive positions in the Mekong Valley.

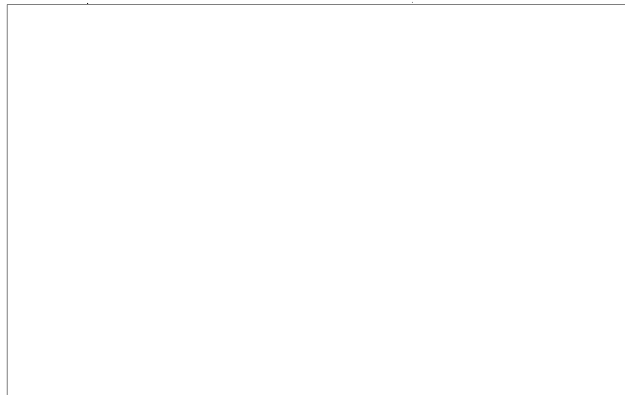
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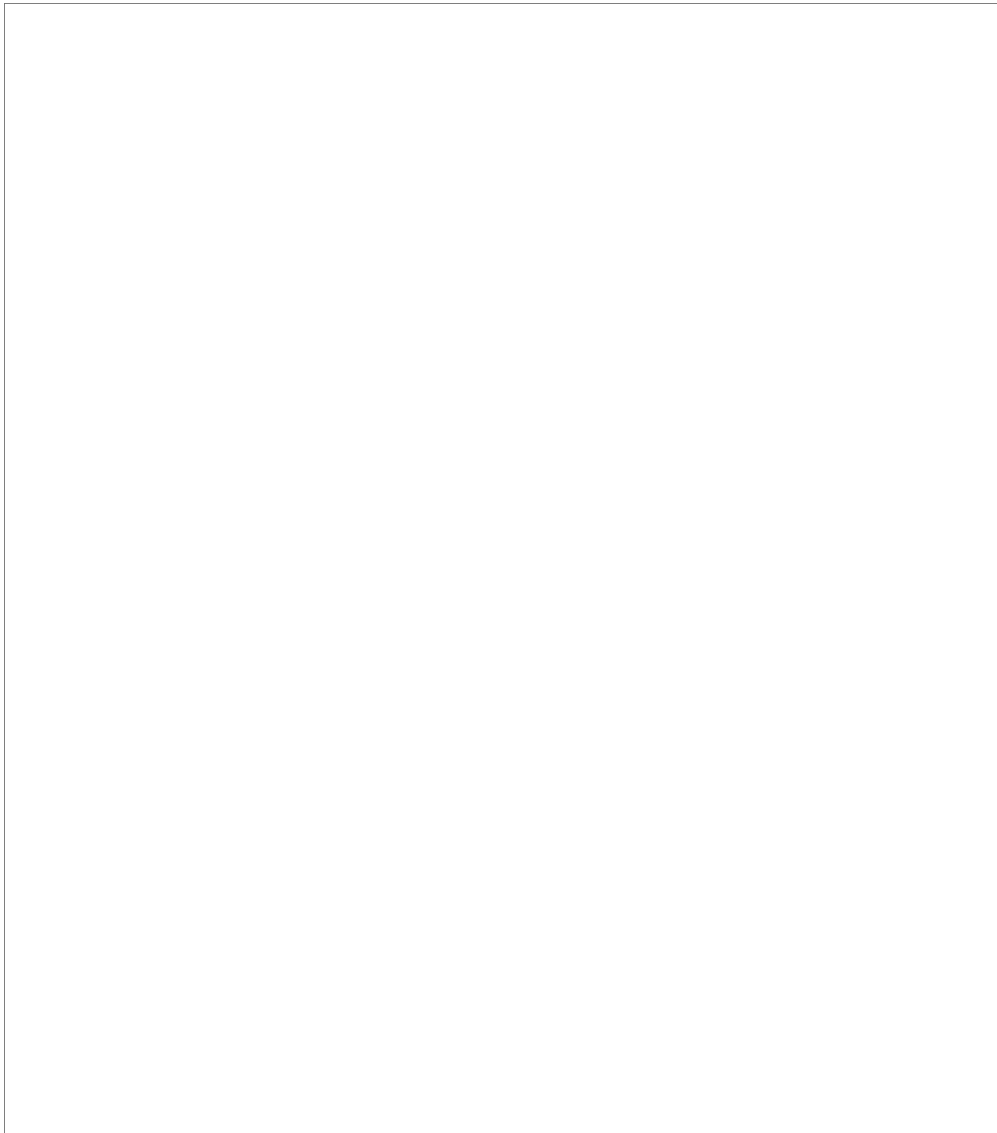




Egypt

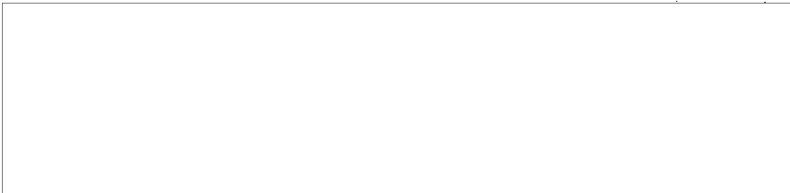
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EGYPT



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NEW ZEALAND

This Saturday's parliamentary elections are expected to be close. A national poll published last week indicates the opposition Labor Party is making impressive gains, with 43.2 percent of the vote against Prime Minister Holyoake's National Party's 43 percent; a poll in September gave the National Party an eight percent lead.

Labor apparently will pick up many immigrants and young people voting for the first time. In the absence of sharply defined issues, personalities are playing a major role. Labor leader Kirk's campaign performance has been more impressive than that of Prime Minister Holyoake, and the latter's appearances have occasionally been marred by hecklers in disagreement with Wellington's Vietnam policy. Labor's improved prospects could be undermined, however, if a limited shipping strike now going on becomes nationwide.

A Labor victory probably would not bring any drastic policy changes. The Labor leadership appears to be firmly in the hands of moderates. New Zealand forces in Vietnam would certainly come under review, but Kirk is on record as supporting President Nixon's policy of phased withdrawal.

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NOTE

West Germany - East Germany: Talks between the East and West Germans on postal and telecommunications matters, which began in September, resumed on Monday after two postponements by the West Germans. Bonn doubtless hopes that success in these talks will be a prelude to a future discussion of political differences. The East Germans' willingness to talk suggests that their demand for recognition may not prove an obstacle to political talks, especially if they see some economic advantages.

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