

~~SECRET COKE~~

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Report #41
11 June 1970

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT RELATING TO CAMBODIAN OPERATIONS

Increased enemy pressure is weakening the FANK defenders at Kompong Thom. The attacking enemy force is estimated at 1,000 Communist troops using mortars and recoilless rifles and the Cambodians feel that they will be unable to hold out without reinforcements. The defenders also number approximately 1,000, but a quarter of these are young, inexperienced recruits who are reportedly exhausted. In addition, the garrison has only mortars for counterfire, and sporadic support from Vietnamese AC-47 aircraft. Ammunition and supplies are running low and inclement weather has complicated resupply activities at the clay airstrip.

General Lon Nol has stated that Kompong Thom must be held at all costs. Cambodian authorities have asked the South Vietnamese to helolift two Khmer Krom battalions from the Capital to reinforce FANK forces at Kompong Thom.

Meanwhile, the situation at Siem Reap has stabilized. The airfield has been secured and is being used to resupply the two FANK brigades and to evacuate foreign personnel stranded in the city during the fighting. At last report, the major enemy harassment consisted of sniper fire. A Cambodian military spokesman has claimed that Pathet Lao troops were involved in the attack on Siem Reap. While not confirmed, it is possible that troops from southern Laos have made their way to this area. It was reported in late April and again in mid-May that Pathet Lao forces were observed crossing into Preah Vihear Province, Cambodia. The criteria for identifying them as Pathet Lao were not reported.

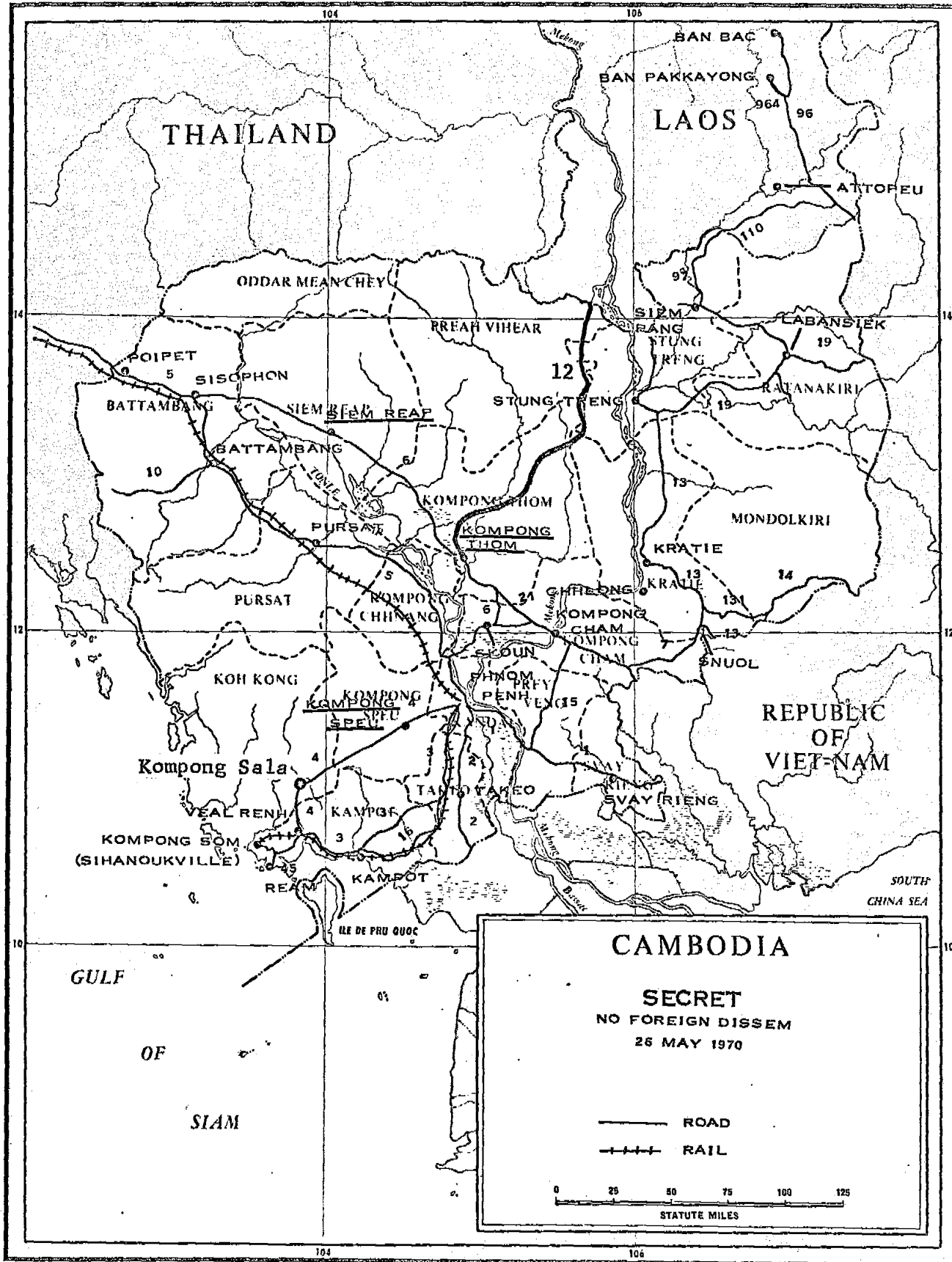
To the south, in Military Region 2, an attack on a government outpost along Route 4 at Kompong Sala was repulsed yesterday. This attack may indicate renewed enemy interest in severing this vital link with the sea. Reinforcing this analysis is information that the Headquarters of the 101D NVA Regiment has moved northward; it is now about 10 miles south of Kompong Speu. The regiment is now in position to harass traffic on Routes 3 and 4 and attack population centers in the area.

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Regarding the status of LOCs in Cambodia, Routes 1, 4 and 5 are open. Routes 1 and 4 require escort. Routes 2, 3, 6, 7, 13, 15, and 19 are closed due to a combination of bridge damage/destruction and/or enemy presence. Route 12 is closed from Kompong Thom to the border of Laos. The railroad line between Phnom Penh and Kompong Som is closed due to destruction of at least three bridges and enemy presence; the line between Phnom Penh and the Thai border is operating with armed guards. The Mekong River is open south of Kompong Cham but requires armed escort vessels.

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