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No. 0073/72
25 March 1972

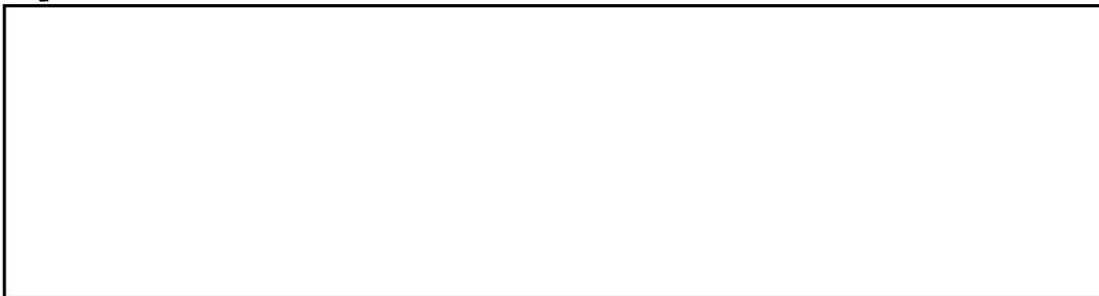
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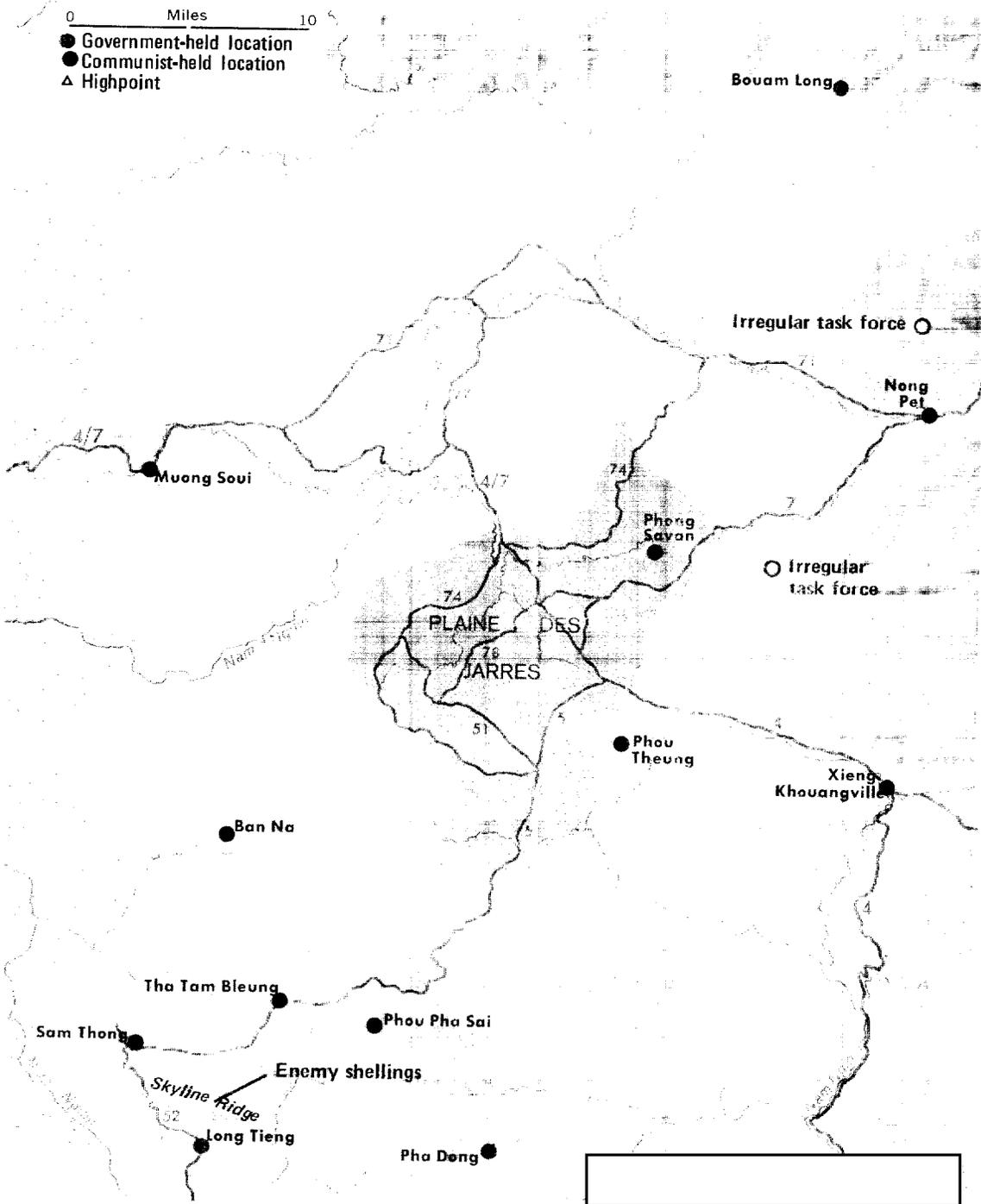


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LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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LAOS: There has been no appreciable change in the situation at Long Tieng.

The Communists shelled three positions on Sky-line Ridge on 24 March, but did not attempt a ground assault. Vang Pao's forces attempted to reoccupy one position on the center of the ridge, but were driven off by enemy fire. It appears that the North Vietnamese are moving out of these positions to avoid artillery attacks and air strikes, but remain close enough to turn back any government assaults.

The Communists may be preparing to launch their next major assault against positions guarding the road from Sam Thong.

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To the east, irregular task forces remain near Phong Savan and Nong Pet but are meeting increased enemy resistance. The Communists on 24 March shelled the irregulars east of the Plaine with 105-mm. howitzers. Both task forces have clashed with North Vietnamese units in the past few days.

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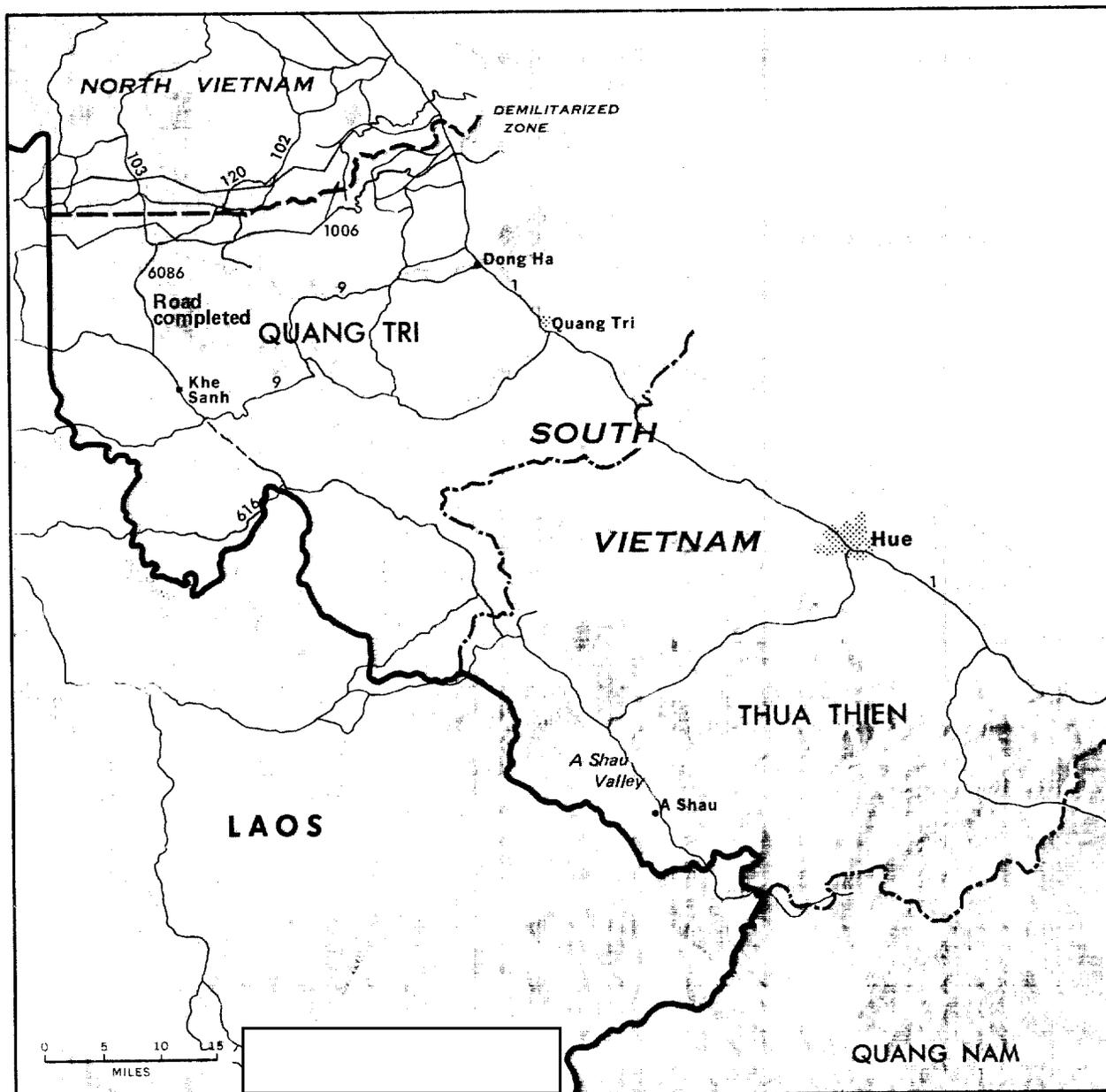
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NORTH VIETNAM: Improvements in the network of roads in the southern part of the North Vietnam pan-handle are continuing.

The road structure on Route 103/6086 through the DMZ has been completed and is capable of supporting through traffic as far south as Khe Sanh in South Vietnam, [redacted] March. [redacted] traffic on the road network from the DMZ to Khe Sanh during the past several weeks have reflected sporadic heavy traffic which appeared to be related to construction and local shuttle activity. Some of this traffic, however, may represent logistic movements.

No appreciable change has been observed on the other new roads in the DMZ, although Route 1006 has been extended slightly to reach the southern boundary of the DMZ. Since the roadnet in the DMZ is east of the mountains, it will provide an alternate means of moving supplies south when heavy rains render the Laotian network impassable in the next few months. [redacted]

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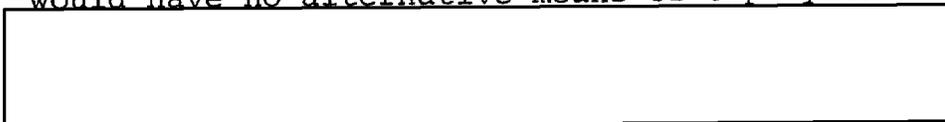
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JORDAN: King Husayn will seek increased US budget support during his visit to Washington.

Amman's budget this year provides for expenditures at about last year's level, but foreign aid commitments, particularly from the US, are down. With domestic borrowing of about \$30 million, Jordan probably still will have a cash deficit of \$25 to \$40 million, even if some bills are carried over into 1973. The US was Amman's major source of budgetary aid last year, providing about \$48 million, but Washington plans to provide only \$32 million for 1972.

Unless Jordan can obtain additional foreign aid, the government will either have to cut expenditures substantially or face severe financial strains. The first casualty probably would be Jordan's development program, which is needed if Jordan is ever to reduce its dependence on foreign aid. If Amman were also forced to curtail civil service or armed forces expenditures, many people would have no alternative means of employment.



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UGANDA-ISRAEL: In response to President Amin's anti-Israeli moves, Tel Aviv has decided to withdraw all its military advisers from Uganda.

Earlier this week Amin announced that military training agreements with Israel would not be renewed and that "Israeli intelligence agents" and army advisers would have to leave the country by 27 March. The President temporarily exempted Israeli air force advisers, who make up at least half of the approximately 50-man contingent, but the Israelis intend to withdraw them too. Amin's latest moves were prompted by Israeli press allegations that he postponed a trip to Cairo because of growing unrest at home.

[REDACTED]

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Relations between Kampala and Tel Aviv have been declining since early this year when Amin, a Muslim who, nevertheless, has had close ties with the Israelis, began to strengthen relations with Arab countries, notably Libya. He may have received financial encouragement from Premier Qadhafi to break with Israel.

On Thursday Amin repeated an earlier threat to close the Israeli Embassy and hinted strongly that he would at least take steps to limit further the Israeli presence in Uganda. Yesterday the Ugandans claimed they arrested five Israeli nationals whom they linked with earlier charges of Israeli "subversive activities."

[REDACTED]

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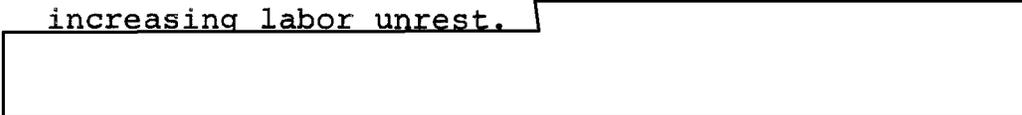
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URUGUAY: Demanding a 40-percent wage hike, private sector workers struck on 22 March in protest against government plans to announce a 20-percent increase on 1 April.

This is the second major shutdown in the past two weeks. US Embassy officials predict that over the next few months there will be repeated general strikes as well as work stoppages in sectors with specific grievances. Both the Communist federation and some independent labor leaders are irritated by the Bordaberry administration's refusal to match the increases granted public sector employees earlier this year by former president Pacheco. The government is trying to retard inflation, but previous wage concessions, the recent devaluation, and substantial increases in public utility prices probably will cause a 60-70-percent rise in the cost of living this year.

The Uruguayan labor minister privately admits the need for fundamental changes in labor legislation to permit the growth of responsible trade unionism, but says that proposals for reform are not possible at present. The government threatens to penalize government workers who strike, but otherwise has not indicated how it will deal with increasing labor unrest.



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NOTES

MALTA-UK: Prime Minister Mintoff will fly to London today to review a draft Malta-UK agreement that may be signed Sunday. He has dropped his demands that the US provide him with assurance of bilateral assistance along with a commitment that the 6th Fleet will not seek to use Maltese facilities leased to the British. Malta will receive about \$33 million upon signature, plus an additional payment of \$6.5 million from Italy. The former sum constitutes a large advance on the first full year's rent and a backdated payment to reimburse Valletta for the British tenancy during the negotiating period.

[Redacted]

USSR-CUBA: A Kotlin-class destroyer that left Cienfuegos on 21 March is headed back to port following routine operations and refueling south of Guantanamo. This is the first time the Soviet destroyer has conducted out-of-port operations since it and an F-class diesel attack submarine arrived in Cuba on 5 March. A Kresta-class guided missile cruiser was originally scheduled to be part of the visiting naval force, but it was diverted to assist the H-class ballistic missile submarine that is now in tow north of the Shetland Islands en route to Northern Fleet waters.

[Redacted]

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