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CAMBODIA: The Communists are increasing the tempo of military activity.

They hit Pochentong airfield near Phnom Penh early this morning with a 50-round barrage of mortar, recoilless rifle, and rocket fire, the first direct attack on the airfield since last March. Damage and casualties apparently were light and no ground attacks have been reported. The attack is the first in the Phnom Penh area since late September, when enemy sappers caused extensive damage to several oil storage facilities within the city.

The Communists have also been increasing their activity northwest of the capital. Enemy elements on 7 November attacked two government battalions located about ten miles from the capital near the rail line town of Bat Doeng and have occupied the village of Bamnak farther north along the rail line following two days of sharp fighting.

A relief force from Pursat attempting to retake Bamnak was also ambushed. Government losses in these actions were 36 killed and 100 wounded. This pressure may be the work of Phuoc Long Front elements that recently moved into this area from the south.

In the Route 6 area, meanwhile, the government has not yet secured Rumlong village, where heavy fighting continues into the third week. The Communists are maintaining pressure on government units throughout the Rumlong area but may be rotating their forces. The continued hard fighting along Route 6 is beginning to exact a psychological toll in Phnom Penh, where the optimism of Cambodian military leaders has given way to excessive pessimism. Prime Minister Lon Nol is scheduled to meet with his field commanders today to discuss what to do next. ~~(SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)~~

10 Nov 71

*Central Intelligence Bulletin*

1

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JORDAN-FEDAYEEN: A second round of negotiations toward an accommodation between Amman and the Palestinian guerrillas has opened.

Although fedayeen leaders are still disputing the value of the earlier round of talks, Yasir Arafat and his supporters within the Palestine Liberation Organization have decided to make a positive effort toward an agreement, if even minimal terms can be obtained, rather than merely to maneuver for political advantage. The fedayeen have named a delegation which is composed almost entirely of "moderates" anxious to conclude such a compromise in order to re-establish a minimum commando presence in Jordan.

Both the fedayeen and the Jordanians have resumed the negotiations in response to Saudi Arabian pressure. Nevertheless, they may both revert to hard positions. Elements within Fatah, the major organization involved in and most affected by the negotiations, are wary of the talks and may seek to torpedo them.

Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi Tal appears somewhat optimistic that the talks may end in an agreement. He rules out any large-scale return of fedayeen to Jordan or the loosening of control over those who will be allowed to re-establish themselves in the country. On the other hand, the King and Jordan Army leaders are unalterably opposed to any provision that will open even a remote possibility that the fedayeen could re-establish their former entrenched position in Jordan. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

10 Nov 71

Central Intelligence Bulletin

2

~~SECRET~~

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Doc. 2