



*The President's Daily Brief*

15 October 1969

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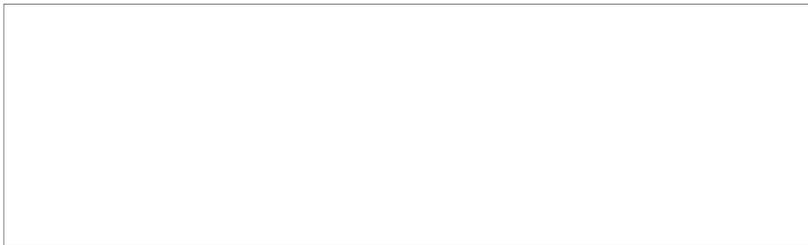


FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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In Laos, there has been little change in the military situation around the Plaine des Jarres, but in the south, Communist forces are beginning to put pressure on government guerrillas near Tchepone.  
(Page 3)

The Seoul government is getting help from an unexpected quarter--the recent bumbling efforts by the North Koreans to send in agents--in its campaign for a favorable vote in Friday's referendum on President Pak's third term. (Page 4)

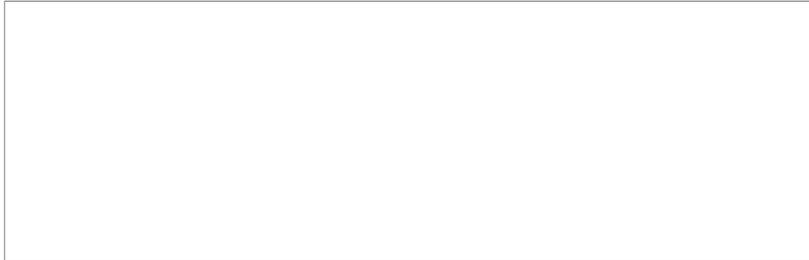


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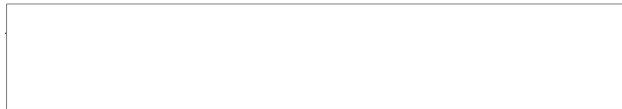
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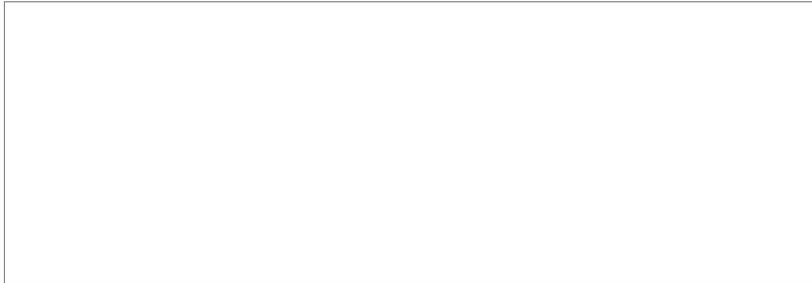
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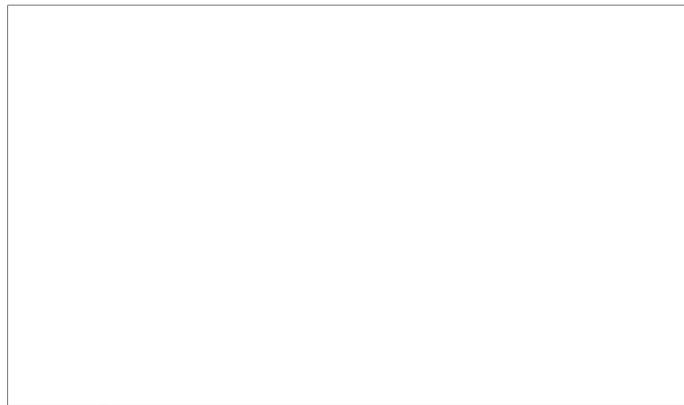
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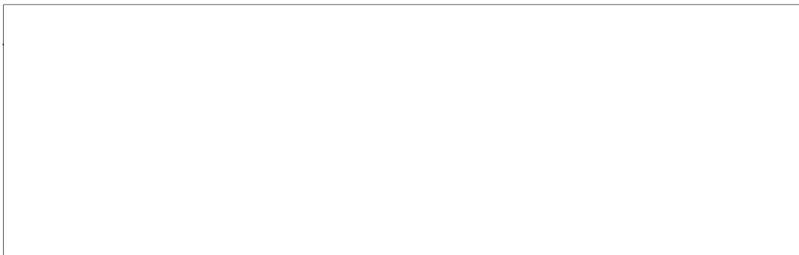
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SOVIET UNION - COMMUNIST CHINA



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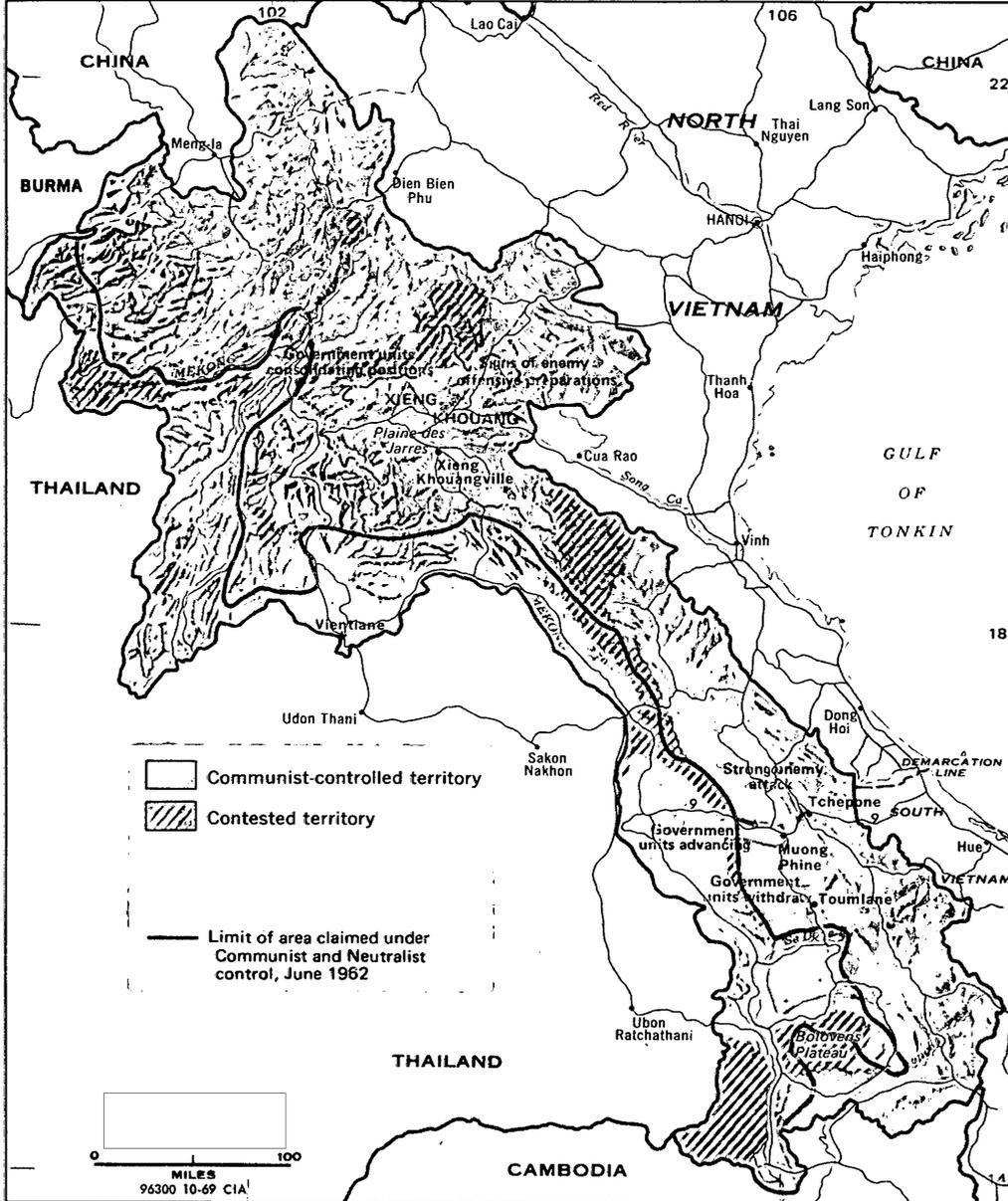
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### Laos: Current Situation



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LAOS

General Vang Pao's guerrillas are making some progress in their offensive in Xieng Khouang Province, but the military situation in northern Laos remains generally static. Communist forces seem to be sticking essentially to defensive tactics, although they have become a bit more active in their patrolling and small-scale raids.

*We still expect an enemy counteroffensive. North Vietnamese intercepts continue to speak of new troop deployments and logistic planning.*

In southern Laos, the picture is less favorable for the government. Friendly units have been forced to withdraw southward from the recently captured town of Toumlane, and several companies of irregulars have been driven off their high ground position overlooking Route 9, just southwest of Tchepone. Reinforced government elements have begun moving from the northwest toward Muong Phine in an effort to regain the initiative there.



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SOUTH KOREA

Pak's supporters are playing up yesterday's sinking of the 75-ton North Korean agent boat and other recent successes against Communist infiltrators to push their case for a yes vote in next Friday's referendum on a third term for Pak. They are using the incidents to paint [redacted] picture of the threat from the north and to point up the administration's ability to defend the country.

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[redacted] the government has also released details of five agent arrests or sightings in the rear areas in the last two weeks. [redacted]

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Another facet of the government's highly organized campaign has been to concentrate on the rural vote to offset the negative vote expected in Seoul and in other towns.

*All indications are that Pak's third term aspirations will be supported by a comfortable majority.*

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SOVIET UNION

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