



*The President's Daily Brief*

21 February 1970

27

~~Top Secret~~ 50X1



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

21 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

50X1

[Redacted]

50X1

[Redacted]

50X1

[Redacted]

50X1

North Vietnam may be ready to try something new in Paris. (Page 4)

Communists in Laos take the Plaine des Jarres. (Page 6)

Philippine students will demonstrate again today at the US Embassy. (Page 7)

[Redacted]

50X1

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

CUBA



50X1



50X1



50X1



50X1



50X1



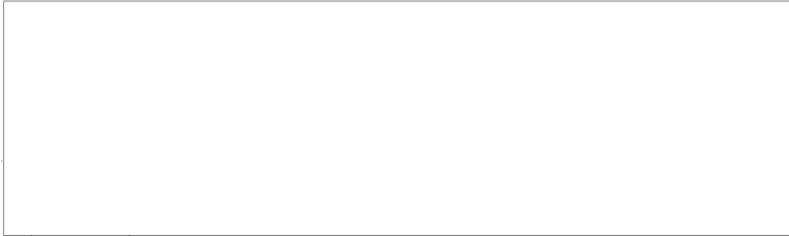
50X1



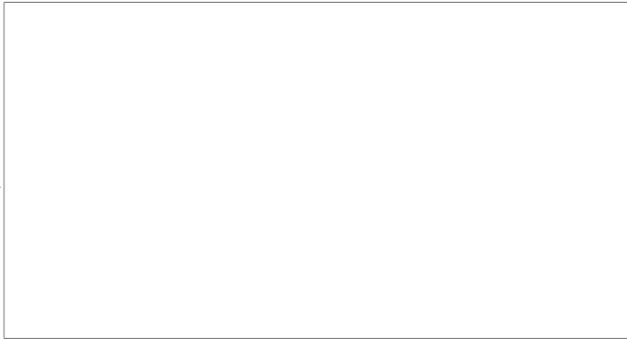
50X1

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

BOLIVIA



50X1



50X1



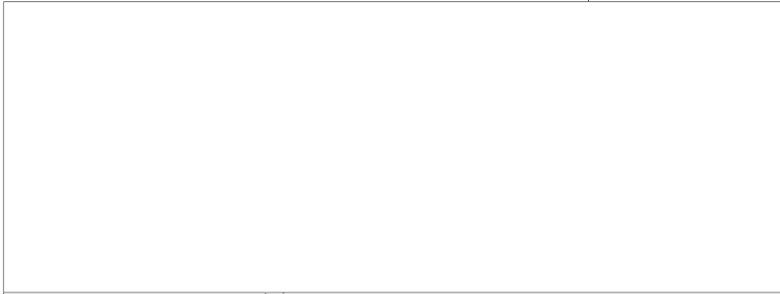
50X1



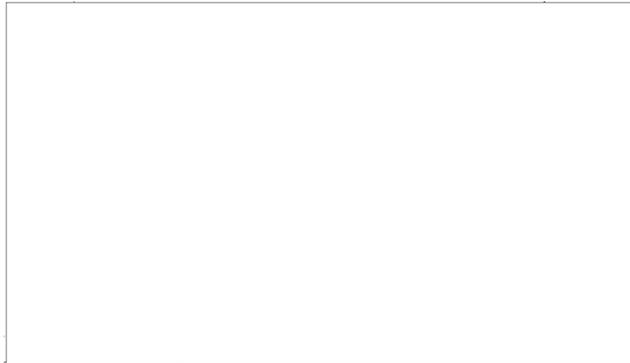
50X1

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

FRANCE



50X1



50X1



50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NORTH VIETNAM

A North Vietnamese press spokesman in Paris announced yesterday that Le Duc Tho has completed his mission as Hanoi's representative at the French Communist Party congress and has "returned" to the headquarters of the North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris talks. Tho had been absent from Paris for more than seven months.

*This is the latest in a series of indications that the Vietnamese Communists may be edging toward new maneuvers in the talks and perhaps in their tactics in Vietnam as well. Previous signs include:*

*--The gratuitous praise Hanoi recently heaped on the compromise agreements Ho concluded with the French in 1946.*

*--A long and authoritative article by First Secretary Le Duan which, among other things, mentions a strategy based on "the exploitation of enemy contradictions and on systematic concessions."*



50X1

50X1

*--Soviet Counsellor Oberemko's assertion on 17 February to Robert Blake of the US Embassy that Tho was staying on in Paris in hopes that "sincere" talks could be started.*

*We suspect Oberemko was accurately reflecting Hanoi's estimate when he said the North Vietnamese do not think Vietnamization will work. Nevertheless, the evidence is growing that they feel a need to alter the evolution of the war. We think Hanoi is going to try harder to get the US out faster, and with less support for the Saigon government than might accrue from the Vietnamization program.*

(continued)

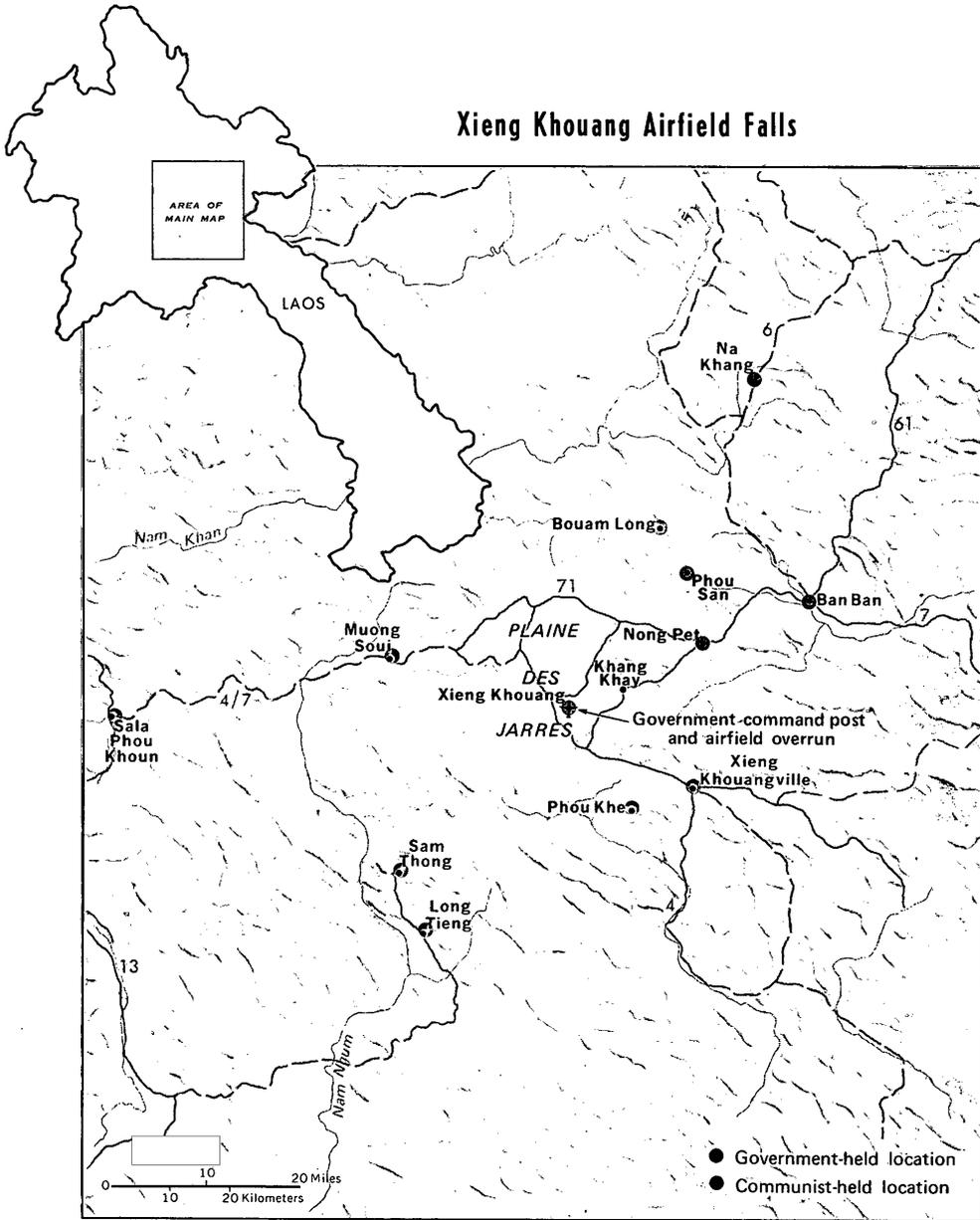
*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*Short of a major military effort, which they are almost certainly not prepared to undertake any time soon, the Communists' only means for hastening the withdrawal of US forces lies in the realm of negotiations.*

*Tho could leave Paris for Hanoi at any time. We believe, however, that the post-Ho leadership has finished a round of decision-making and cautiously begun a new political reconnaissance.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

### Xieng Khouang Airfield Falls



50X1

97693 2-70 CIA

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LAOS

A major Communist ground assault early this morning captured the command post and the airfield at Xieng Khouang. Government troops are withdrawing in an orderly manner, [redacted]

[redacted] and should be off the Plaine des Jarres altogether by the end of the day.

50X1

*In recent days, Xieng Khouang has assumed great symbolic importance to General Vang Pao and his Meo troops. Its fall will surely depress the always fragile morale of the Meo and Vang Pao himself, even though the government's strategy all along has been to minimize casualties by falling back prudently. The loss of the Plaine was expected, in view of the exceptional Communist buildup before the campaign began.* [redacted]

50X1  
50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

PHILIPPINES

[redacted] the organizers of today's demonstration in Manila are planning a peaceful affair. Student leaders are not always able to prevent violence, however, particularly when it is instigated by outsiders.

50X1

*The students were embarrassed by Wednesday's riot, or so they claim, and are trying hard to blame almost anybody except themselves. No matter how careful the planning, however, simply by convening a large gathering in such emotion-fraught circumstances they are opening the door to further misadventures.*

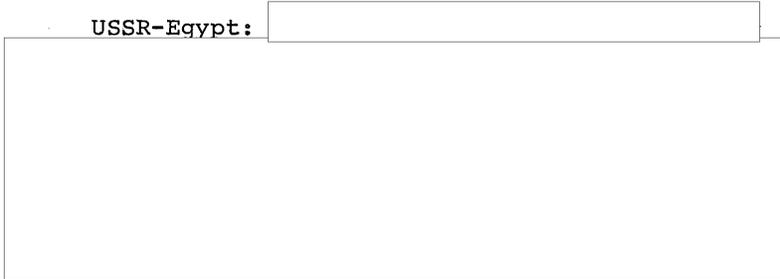
At press time (0500 EST) we were receiving reports from the embassy that students were gathering in large numbers but so were security forces personnel.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTE

USSR-Egypt:



50X1  
50X1

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*Top Secret*