



The President's Daily Brief

25 June 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The familiar pattern of activity continues in Cambodia; Lon Nol may pull his troops out of the northwest. (Page 1)

Israel

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In Jordan, the King and the commandos have made no real progress toward an agreement. (Page 5)

North Korea is joined by Communist China in this year's "celebration" of the anniversary of the Korean War. (Page 6)

Communist China may launch another satellite. (Page 7)

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CAMBODIA

The Communists attacked Kompong Speu city again yesterday and were driven off by a Cambodian Army counterattack. A government spokesman in Phnom Penh reports that friendly casualties were light. The Communists attacked Kompong Speu initially on 12 June and held the city for several days before being driven out by South Vietnamese troops. Elements of the North Vietnamese 101D Regiment, which are still located near Kompong Speu, probably participated in the renewed fighting.

Kompong Thom is quiet after days of continual fighting. Cambodian Army messages indicate Communist troops are withdrawing from some of their positions around the city to take up new positions to the south and southeast. A large Communist force from the Kompong Thom area was said to be heading south toward Kompong Chhnang on 21 June, indicating that more enemy activity may be in prospect in that province. The Communists apparently still control the railroad town of Krang Lovea.

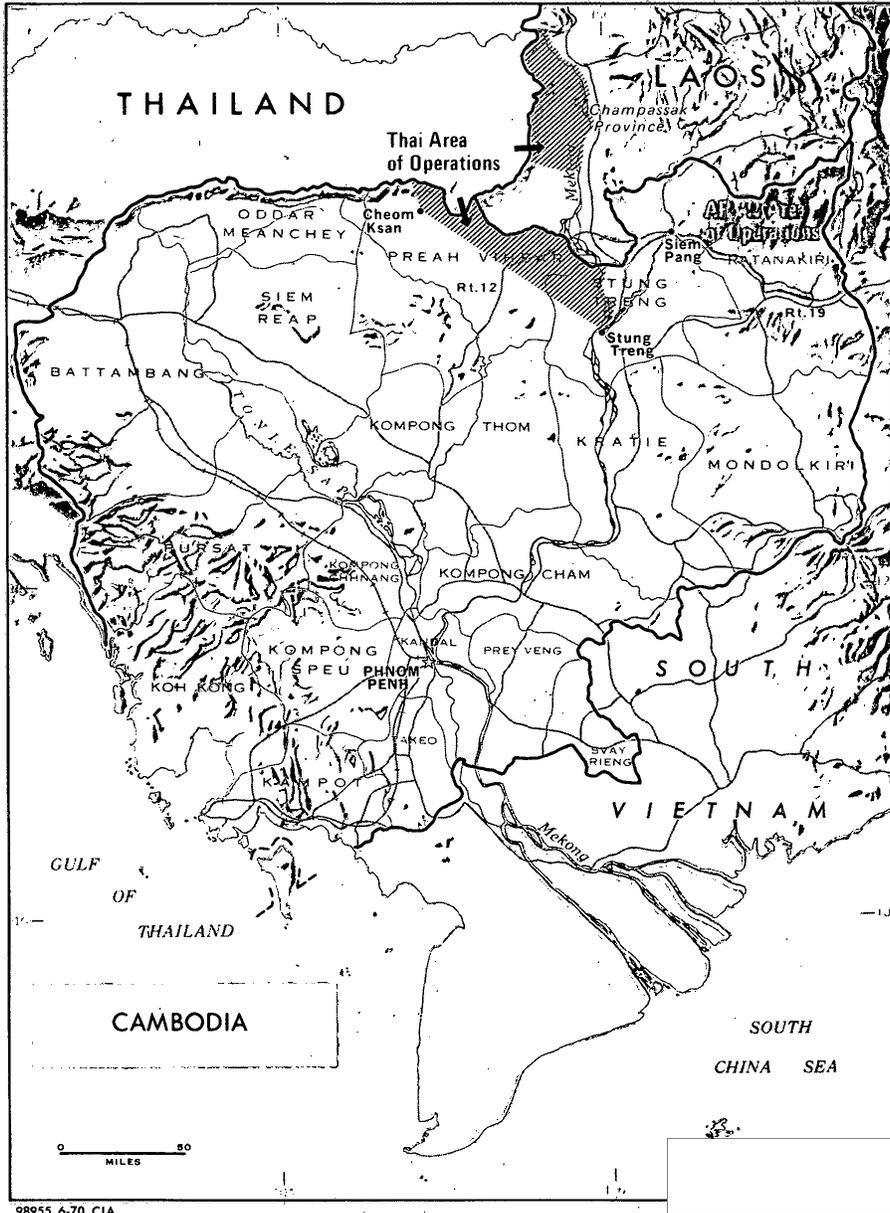
The government says it has suffered 400 casualties at Kompong Thom. Enemy losses to air strikes probably were also heavy. Aerial reconnaissance on 22 June indicates that the city's waterfront is completely destroyed, and that almost half of the city is in ruins.

In the south, substantial Communist forces apparently are now in and around the town of Prek Tameak, on the east side of the Mekong River northeast of Phnom Penh. Government troops withdrew toward Phnom Penh yesterday to await reinforcements.

Considerable enemy movement continues to be reported near Prey Veng city. Cambodian Army messages state that sizable numbers of Communist troops are in the area and that an attack on Prey Veng could come at any time. According to one intercept, enemy elements are moving into ambush positions along Route 15 between Neak Luong and Prey Veng city.

In the east, there was little action around Kompong Cham city, but the enemy harassed Tonle Bet town with artillery fire last night. Large concentrations of Communist forces are still sufficiently close to Kompong Cham to make new attacks on the city at short notice.

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US Chargé Rives met with Lon Nol on Tuesday evening and learned that the prime minister had ordered his troops to withdraw from "the northwest provinces." Lon Nol said he would welcome US assistance

[redacted] Lon Nol's army would be responsible for holding a line extending from the Thai border through Siem Reap, Chhlong, and Snoul to the Vietnamese border.

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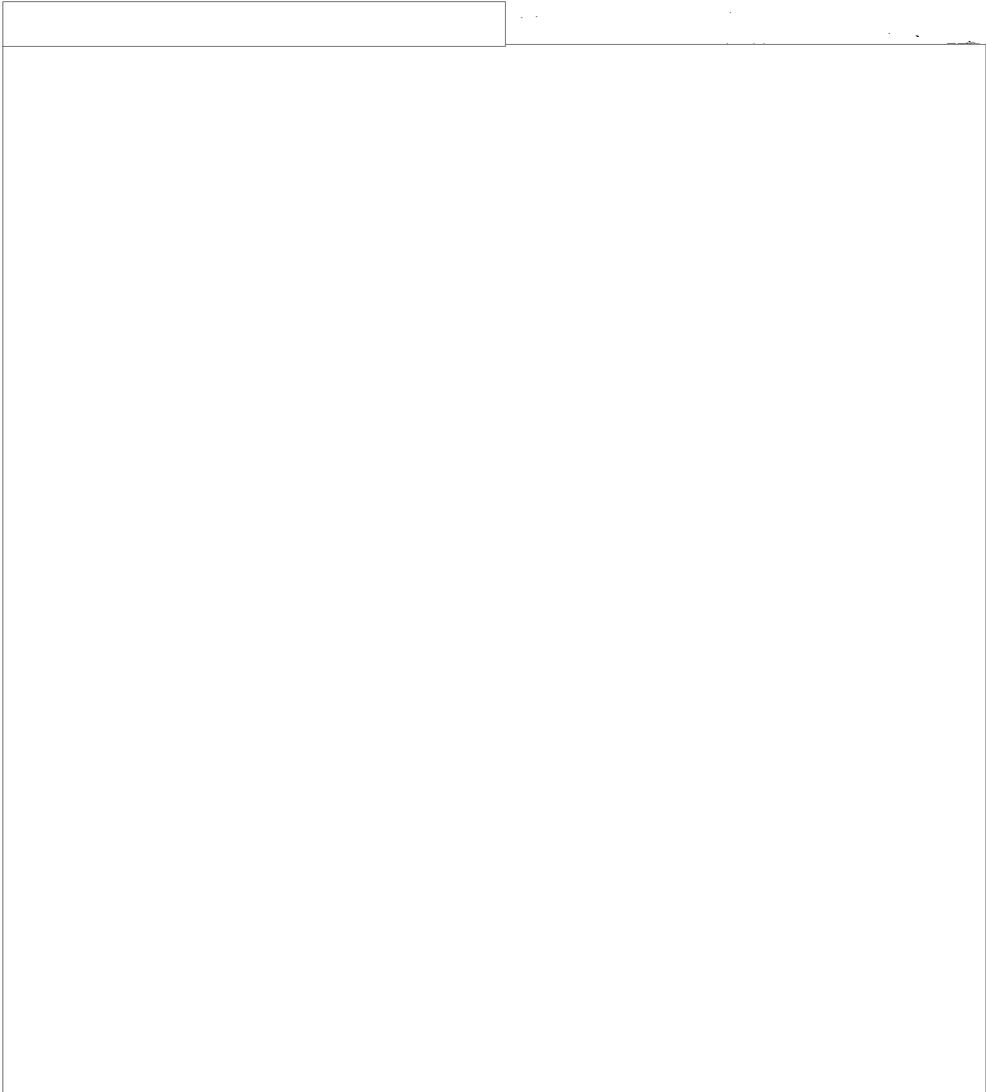
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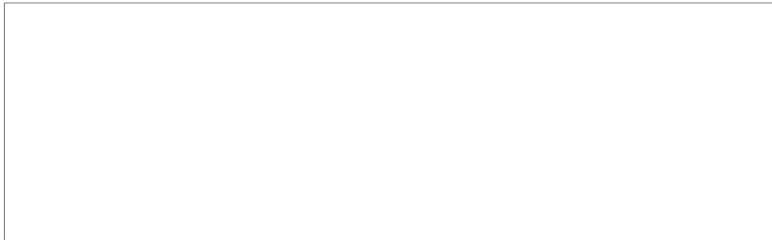
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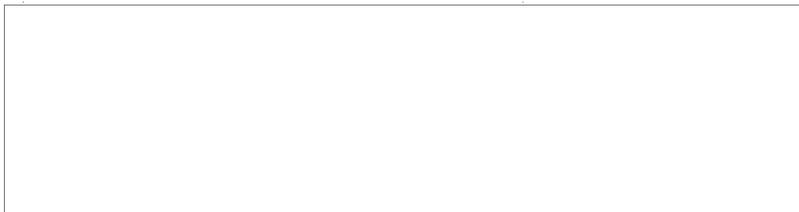
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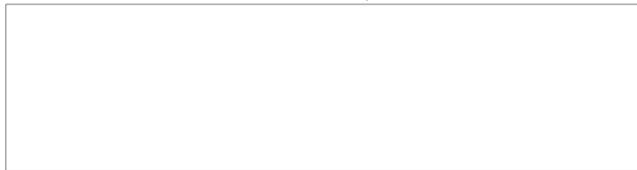
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN

Negotiations aimed at hammering out a working agreement between the government and the fedayeen are virtually stalled after two weeks. The talks may be given a lift when the committee formed at the Tripoli summit conference last weekend arrives in Amman. The committee, composed of representatives from Algeria, Egypt, Libya, and the Sudan, is supposed to work out a solution which will guarantee both Jordanian sovereignty and freedom of commando action.

Most Jordanians are still in a state of shock, and they believe that the crisis is not yet over. Their uneasiness has been fed by warnings from fedayeen leaders that the country is still threatened by CIA-instigated plots and that the fragile truce may be deteriorating. Although Arafat claims to speak for all the guerrillas, George Habbash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine is still marching out of step.

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NORTH KOREA

On 22 June--the eve of the 20th anniversary of the Korean War--North Korea again proposed a step-by-step program leading eventually to the creation of a single government. This formula had been publicized widely a few weeks before; it is similar to propaganda overtures Pyongyang has made in the past. A precondition to all these proposals is the withdrawal of US forces from South Korea.

Pyongyang's ostensibly flexible approach to peaceful unification is intended to contrast with Seoul's insistence on the retention of US forces. North Korea's renewed emphasis on peaceful unification also is in line with its switch last year to less militant tactics toward South Korea.

This line does not preclude dramatic terrorist acts in the South, like the bomb, apparently intended for South Korean leaders, which exploded prematurely on Monday. Plans for such incidents could explain the increased state of readiness of the North Korean military,

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An editorial published in Peking sets improved relations between Communist China and North Korea within the framework of an Asian "anti-US united front." The editorial echoes many of the standard shibboleths against the US and Japanese "aggressors" in Asia, and takes an oblique swipe at the Soviets who are accused of "collaborating" with the US and "maintaining dirty relations" with the Lon Nol government.

The editorial breaks no new ground but is further evidence of Peking's effort to use the "united front" theme as a means of improving its position throughout Asia at the expense of the US, Japan, and the USSR.

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NOTES

Communist China: There are tenuous indications that Peking may soon launch another satellite.

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Czechoslovakia: Alexander Dubcek has lost his job as ambassador to Turkey, and former premier Cernik lost his one remaining government post. Party conservatives presumably will now turn their attention more to the rank and file. Local party leaders had been reluctant to conduct a wholesale purge so long as the largely moderate national leadership under Husak had managed to shield Dubcek and Cernik. A party central committee plenum is tentatively scheduled for later this week and will give a better reading on how much the conservatives have strengthened their hand. Some government spokesmen predict Dubcek's party membership will be lifted on that occasion.

Turkey: Initial popular relief over the government's speedy action to restore law and order in western Turkey is giving way to fear that recent events may lead to a repression of legitimate opposition to the Demirel government. Authorities have arrested as many as 400 "leftist troublemakers," including many of those responsible for student unrest during the past year. The government has indicated it intends to ban the Marxist Turkish Labor Party for its part in the recent riots.

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