



The President's Daily Brief

30 June 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Events in Cambodia are discussed on *Page 1*.

In Chile, the presidential election campaign has begun in earnest; former president Alessandri still appears to be in the lead. (*Page 4*)

A new Soviet swing-wing fighter has been seen for the first time in recent satellite photography. (*Page 5*)

The Soviets

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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CAMBODIA

Enemy probes against the Lovek munitions depot were driven back by government defenders yesterday. A South Vietnamese task force has moved north toward Lovek, as part of a joint Cambodian - South Vietnamese operation to relieve Communist pressure there. An intercepted government message reported yesterday that some trucks loaded with materiel remain at Lovek; they are to be moved to Phnom Penh when the situation improves.

Kompong Chhnang city is quiet, but Communist forces are still moving into northern Kompong Chhnang Province from Kompong Thom via the Stung Sen River. The army has asked Phnom Penh for air strikes against these infiltrating elements.

Kompong Thom city was attacked from the north on 28 June, but details are not yet in hand. Twelve government battalions are now either in or en route to the city.

There is increasing enemy activity south of Siem Reap city, along the shores of the Tonle Sap. The city continues to be hit by sporadic mortar fire. Recent identification of forward elements of the Viet Cong 5th Division some six miles east of the city suggests that heavier attacks on Siem Reap may occur soon. [redacted] the headquarters of the Viet Cong 275th Regiment, which has been located far to the east, is also now in the Siem Reap area.

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The government's evacuation of Oddar Meanchey Province is under way. [redacted]

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Government positions west of Kompong Speu city received harassing fire on 28 June, but no casualties were reported. [redacted]

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Southeast of Phnom Penh, government forces have reoccupied a village on Route 1, 25 miles from the Cambodian capital. Just east of Phnom Penh, two battalions of South Vietnamese Marines have moved into fixed positions and set up artillery in order to block possible Communist advances from the north-east.

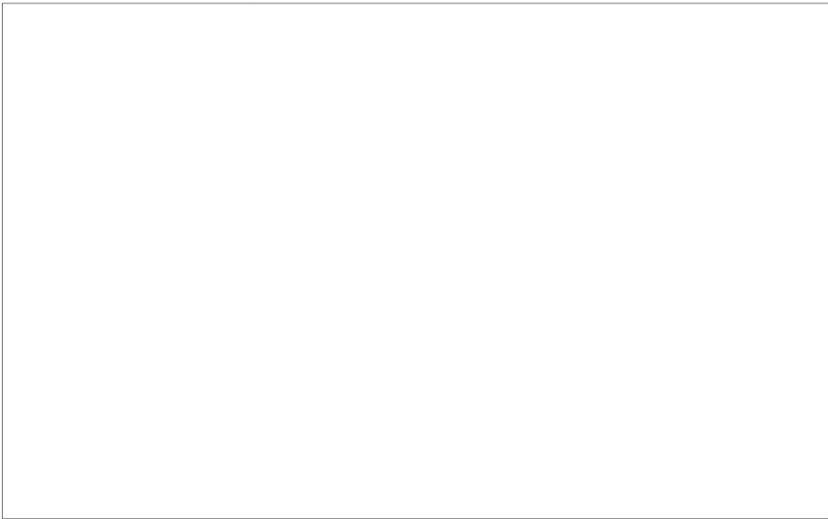
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Lon Nol told a news conference yesterday that although he would like US troops to remain in Cambodia, he did not think their presence was necessary at the present time. For now, he would be happy with continued US air support. He expressed the hope, however, that US forces would return to Cambodia if necessary.

Lon Nol said allied operations into the Communist sanctuaries had been of great assistance. He again stated that Cambodian forces were lacking in arms. He claimed that 70 regular army battalions (35,000 men) lacked weapons but said another 80 battalions were "reasonably" well-armed.

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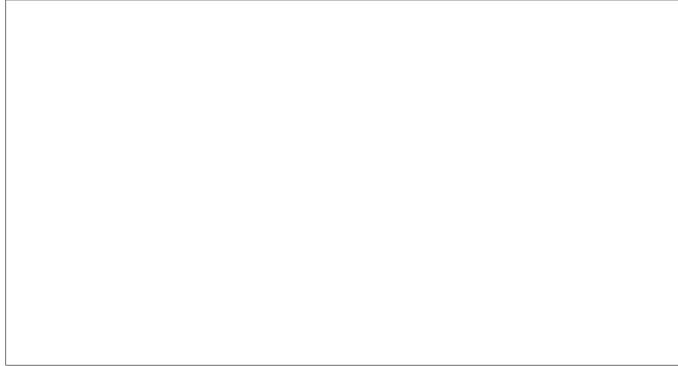


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A Cambodian military spokesman announced this morning that Prince Sihanouk will be "put on trial" by a military tribunal at Phnom Penh on 3 July. According to late press reports, Sihanouk will be tried in absentia on charges of high treason and political executions.

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CHILE

With the presidential elections of 4 September approaching in Chile, the early commanding lead of former president Alessandri has slipped, although he still appears to have an edge on Socialist Allende and the governing Christian Democratic Party's candidate, Tomic.

Alessandri appeals to those worried about increasing incidents of violence and the rapid pace of the reforms being carried out by the Frei government. Nonetheless, Alessandri's standing is being eroded by the lack of clear programs, his dependence on poor advisers, and his age (74). Allende, the candidate of the far-left Popular Union coalition, must overcome his image as a three-time loser in presidential races. He has the support of the coalition's hard-working, well-organized Communist Party, which would be a dominant element in an Allende government.

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[redacted] he is currently on an upward track as the campaign begins in earnest.

Tomic has not had much success in offsetting a reputation for being a radical. He advocates prompt and complete nationalization of the largely US-based copper industry rather than the gradual process being carried out by Frei. Alessandri has said he will abide by the Frei copper program, while Allende promises outright expropriation.

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NOTES

USSR: A new Sukhoy-designed swing-wing fighter was seen for the first time in recent satellite photography of the Ramenskoye flight test center near Moscow. The aircraft appeared to be about 65 feet long with an extended wingspan of about 50 feet. It is thus considerably larger than the Mikoyan-designed swing-wing Flogger which is undergoing weapons systems testing. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] If development continues it could enter service by about 1976.

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USSR: [REDACTED]

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