



The President's Daily Brief

8 July 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 July 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on Page 1.

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Bucharest is angry over Moscow's premature publication of a summary of the new Soviet-Romanian friendship treaty. (Page 4)

The lead flight of the Soviet relief airlift to Peru has been rescheduled for 9 July. (Page 5)

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CAMBODIA

Continuous air strikes and government reinforcements have failed to dislodge Communist forces from staging areas on the outskirts of Saang. Villagers reported on 7 July that hundreds of Viet Cong were marching on the town from the east and south. The garrison commander has urgently requested additional ammunition.

Southwest of Phnom Penh, the Communists appear to be preparing for another major attack on the provincial capital of Kompong Speu. The city has been shelled intermittently for the past several weeks. Cambodian villagers report that the Communists are moving weapons and munitions northward toward the city. In addition, the headquarters of the North Vietnamese 1st Division recently moved from the South Vietnamese border to a position some 20 miles south of the city. The mission of the headquarters may be to control operations by elements of the 101D Regiment, two sapper battalions, and two unidentified battalions that are all now located in the vicinity of Kompong Speu.

In nearby Koh Kong Province, Communist forces are reported to be concentrating on both sides of Route 4, the overland artery that links Phnom Penh with Kompong Som (Sihanoukville).

numbers of Viet Cong and Cambodian Communist troops are located near the government's command post at Kompong Seila, which came under enemy attack on 5 July.

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In the northeast, some North Vietnamese main force units subordinate to the Communist B-3 Front have drifted back to their border base areas from positions in the Cambodian interior. These units may be returning to re-establish their logistic system.

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The government has undertaken a city-wide search in Phnom Penh for Communist agents, sympathizers, and munitions caches. The operation thus far has turned up very little. Cambodian police have had little practical experience in dealing with Communist infiltration and concealment techniques in urban areas, and South Vietnamese officers who have been in Phnom Penh are appalled at Cambodian security practices.

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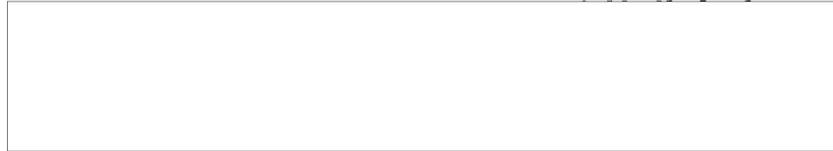
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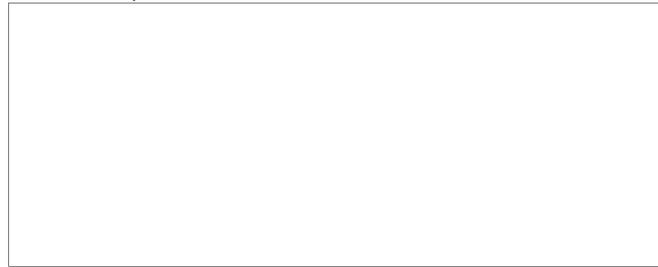
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ROMANIA-USSR

Studious efforts on both sides to maintain a facade of cordiality fell apart at the end of Soviet Premier Kosygin's visit to Romania for the signing of a new treaty of friendship and mutual assistance. TASS promptly published a summary of the treaty's contents, including a provision obliging each side to come to the assistance of the other, if it is attacked by any enemy. If this is a true rendering, then Romania's mutual defense commitments to the Soviets have been extended beyond Europe. There was no hint, however, that the Romanians accepted inclusion of the Brezhnev doctrine in the agreement.

The Romanians vigorously protested publication of the Soviet version, angered by what apparently was a violation of a previous agreement to publish the texts simultaneously in Moscow and Bucharest today. TASS has rescinded its summary.

It is possible that TASS made a mistake, but it is equally likely that a deliberate affront to the Romanians was intended, just as Brezhnev's last-minute boycott of the treaty signing appears to have been. Although the treaty is designed as the basis for correct relations between the two, the circumstances of the signing may leave Romanian-Soviet relations less friendly than before.

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NOTES

USSR-Peru: The USSR has again canceled the lead flight for its relief airlift to Peru, but has indicated that it will take place tomorrow if "meteorological and technical conditions" are satisfactory. Opening of the 65-plane airlift must await the lead flight that is expected to carry the necessary aircraft handling and maintenance personnel. The Soviets now have secured landing rights and fueling facilities en route.

North Vietnam - Laos:

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Jordan:

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