



The President's Daily Brief

1 AUGUST 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

1 August 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Cambodian situation is discussed on *Page 1*.

Even if the right-wing Gahal leaves the coalition, Israeli resolve will remain strong and Mrs. Meir can govern with a comfortable majority. (*Page 3*)

[Redacted] Bolivia [Redacted]

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The left-wing Tupamaros kidnap two diplomats. (*Page 5*)

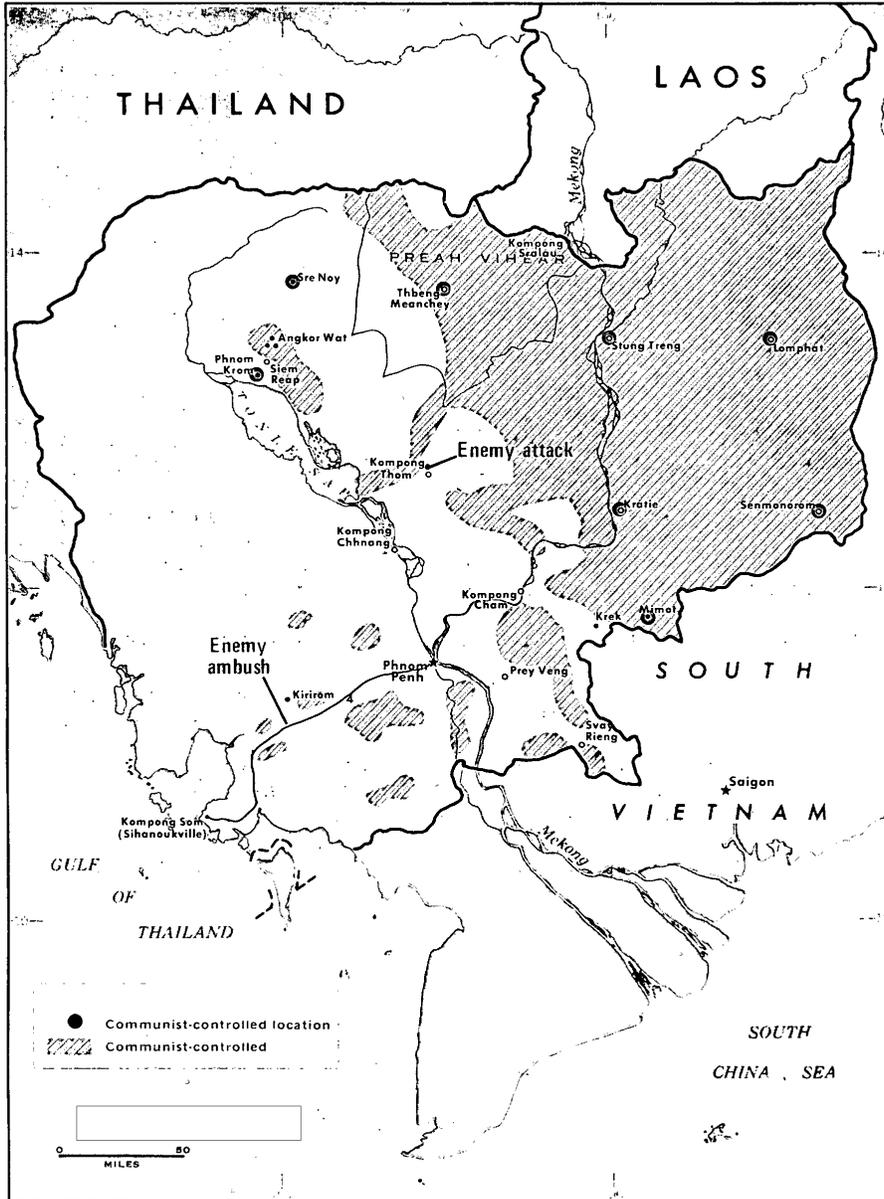
[Redacted] Israel [Redacted]

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A Pathet Lao envoy will see Souvanna today. (*Page 7*)

The Somali Government may tell the ambassador today of plans to release the Midnight Sun. (*Page 7*)

Cambodia: Current Situation

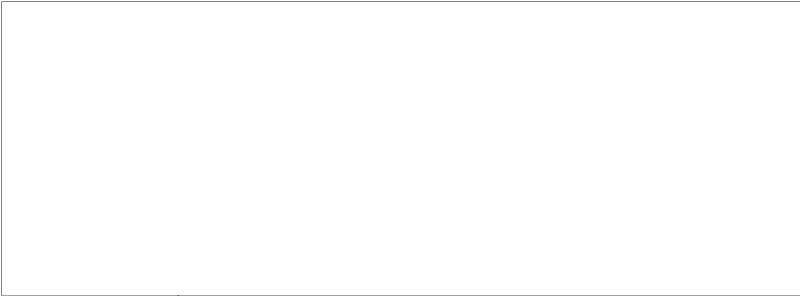


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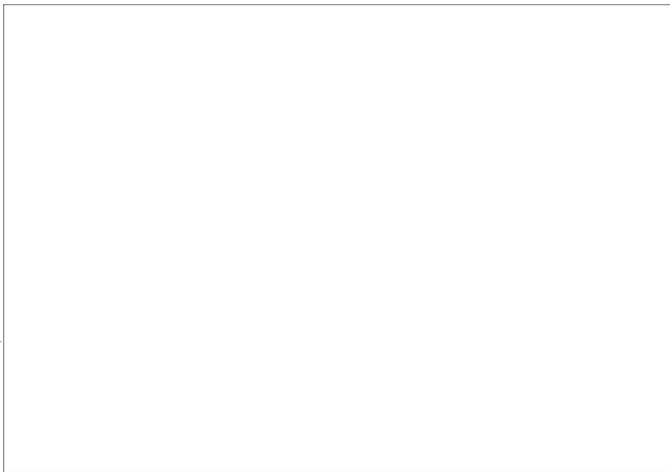
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CAMBODIA



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Government forces pushing through the jungle toward Kirirom have been slowed by heavy monsoon rains. They are now midway between their staging areas on Route 4 and the town itself. A government battalion from Phnom Penh moving on Route 4 just south of Kirirom was overrun yesterday by the Communists, and air strikes were called on both sides of the road.

In the west, on 30 July two government battalions were attacked by Communist units three miles north of Kompong Thom city. Nine government troops were killed, including a battalion commander. According to an intercepted Cambodian Army message, substantial Communist reinforcements were moving south from Preah Vihear Province on 31 July to join numerous enemy elements already around the city in an attack.

(continued)

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ISRAEL

Despite a week of domestic wrangling, Tel Aviv's acceptance of the US peace initiative contained no public qualifications, apparently an effort to appear as positive as Egypt and Jordan.

Prime Minister Meir is reported to have told her party that even if the right-wing Gahal leaves the coalition, her government will not be weaker or less resolute in defending Israel. The announcement specifically states that the cabinet "will remain faithful to the basic principles of the government's resolves and its official statements." Gahal apparently still has not made a final decision whether to leave the government. Most of the members of Gahal favor retention of all the conquered Arab territories.

The Gahalists are clearly split, however, with some holding out for doctrinal purity while others argue that to leave now is to give up influence prematurely--before the Arabs' intentions are really tested. Mrs. Meir, although still trying to keep Gahal in the coalition, can govern with a comfortable majority without them. If Gahal did leave, it would have little capability to organize any opposition that could threaten the government.

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BOLIVIA

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URUGUAY

A US and a Brazilian diplomat were kidnaped yesterday in coordinated attacks by the extreme left-ist Tupamaros.

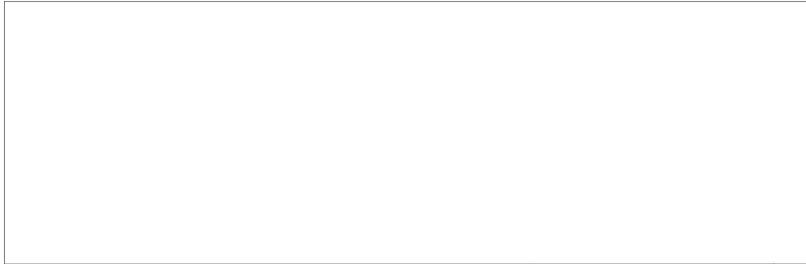
In their first abduction of foreigners, the Tupamaros have demanded the release of all political prisoners for the American and have threatened to kill the Brazilian unless a ransom of slightly more than \$1 million is paid.

As recently as March, President Pacheco stated that if a foreign diplomat were kidnaped, the Uruguayan Government would not accede to terrorist demands. Earlier this week, following the kidnaping of a judge, Pacheco said that there would be no exchange of prisoners for the judge.

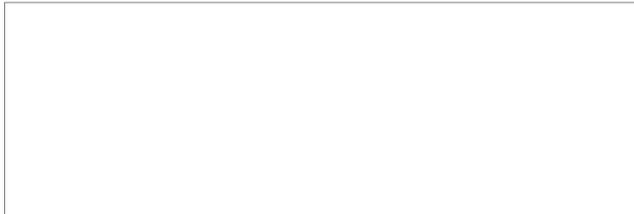
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PANAMA-ISRAEL



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NOTES

Laos: Souk Vangsok, the special envoy from Communist leader Souphanouvong, arrived in Vientiane yesterday and is expected to have private talks with Souvanna today. Souk is the most important contact between the Communists and Vientiane since 1964. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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Somalia: Foreign Secretary Arteh told the [redacted] that the American-owned geological survey ship, the Midnight Sun, which has been held by the Somalis for some five weeks, would be released, but he did not indicate when. Arteh did not reveal whether any conditions must be met before the ship can leave. The Somali Government has not directly informed US officials in Mogadiscio of its intentions but may do so today when the US ambassador is scheduled to meet with Arteh.

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