



The President's Daily Brief

26 September 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Jordan is discussed on Page 1.

Soviet [redacted] Syria [redacted] Jordan.
(Page 3)

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Cambodian paratroops have captured the village of Tang Kouk. (Page 4)

[redacted]

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In Laos, government guerrillas have lost some positions in the north, but have retaken one in the south. (Page 6)

Soviets [redacted]
(Page 7)

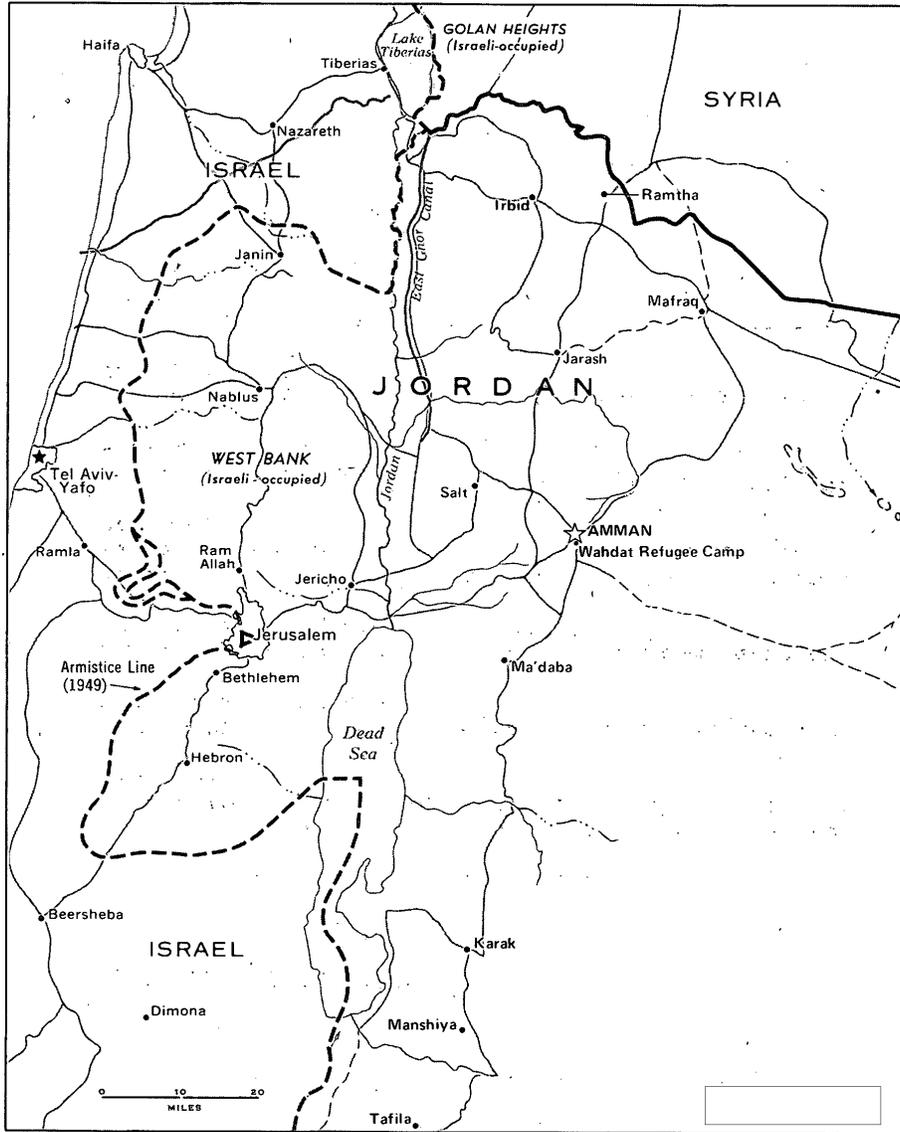
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Negotiating plans of major oil companies in Libya are discussed on Page 8.

Officials in Ottawa think agreement on recognition of Peking may be near. (Page 9)

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JORDAN: Current Situation



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JORDAN

Most of Jordan was quiet yesterday as the latest cease-fire seemed to be holding for the moment. The cease-fire orders of King Husayn and Yasir Arafat to the army and the fedayeen were broadcast by Radio Amman in late afternoon. Arafat's statement was read by Sudanese President Numayri, head of the Arab mediation delegation. The King, in his statement, urged the fedayeen to "return to their senses" and noted that the Arab League delegation had now approved the terms of settlement he had reached earlier with some fedayeen leaders.

Arafat has not accepted these terms, however, and no general settlement has been reached.

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[Redacted]

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some fedayeen extremists are questioning Arafat's right to speak for them in negotiating any cease-fire.

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Numayri, now back in Cairo with Arafat and the rest of the delegation, is charging that the Jordanian Army has already violated the cease-fire.

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[Redacted]

Baghdad and Damascus have issued their usual blasts, and Libya has broken diplomatic relations with Jordan.

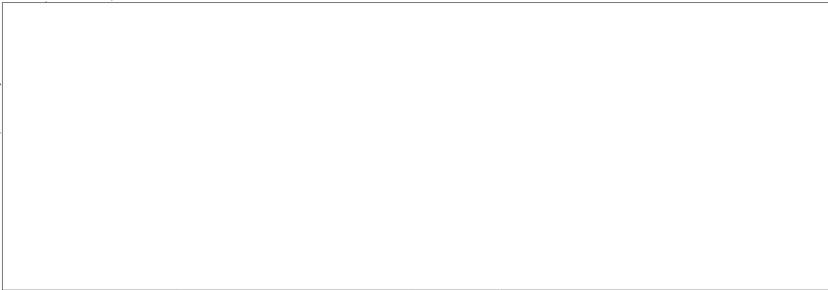
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The Jordanian Army now seems more or less in control of Amman.

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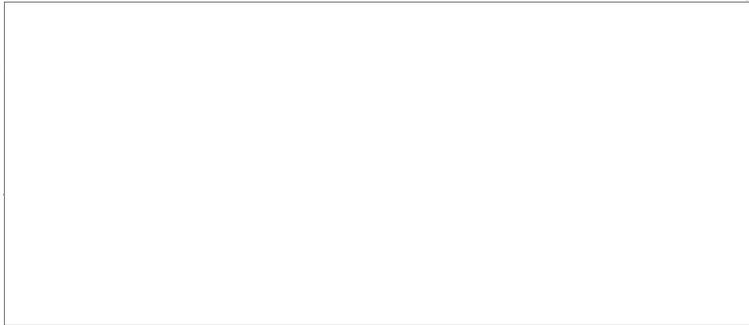


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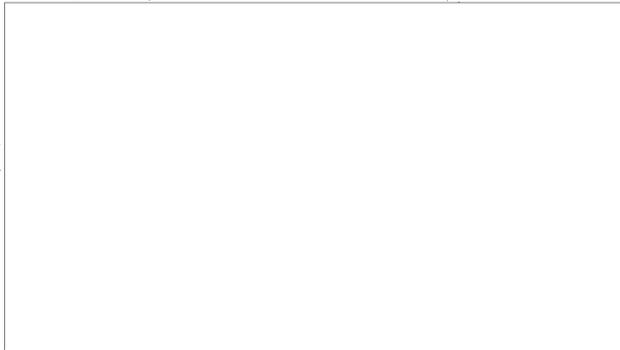
The whereabouts of the American and Israeli-American hostages is still unknown. The King's confidant, Zaid Rifai, has told our embassy that the 16 hostages freed yesterday by the Jordanian Army were in good condition, but he refused to say where they were found for fear of jeopardizing other rescue efforts. Press reports claim they were found locked in an abandoned house at the Wahdat Refugee Camp. The freed hostages may leave Jordan today.

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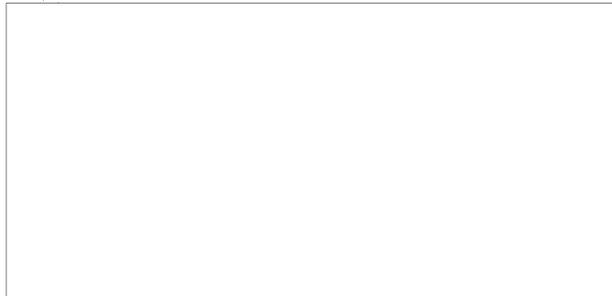
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CAMBODIA

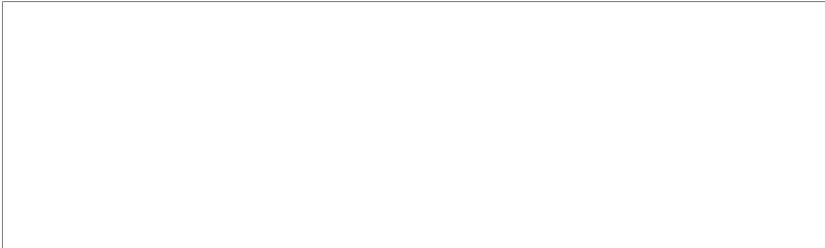
Late yesterday afternoon Cambodian paratroops captured Tang Kouk where Communist troops had been blocking the government's advance for almost two weeks. Government troops met only light resistance as they entered the village. Government casualties in the attack were not announced, but the US defense attaché in Phnom Penh reports that Cambodian forces have suffered more than 150 casualties in the past few days.

Government troops plan to launch a sweep operation in the area today, and then will probably attempt to push on toward Kompong Thom. Communist resistance, however, can be expected to increase as the government column advances north.

A community development leader who accompanied the government column attacking along Route 6 told a US Embassy officer that villagers along the road indicated dissatisfaction with living under the Communists. They freely pointed out Communist collaborators who had not fled when government forces arrived. Villagers complained that the Communists did not allow people to leave their villages, requisitioned goods, and placed "unsavory elements" at the head of village committees.

Although this report may be tailored somewhat for its US audience, it does suggest that the Communists' organizational gains are still transitory and depend heavily on their military presence.

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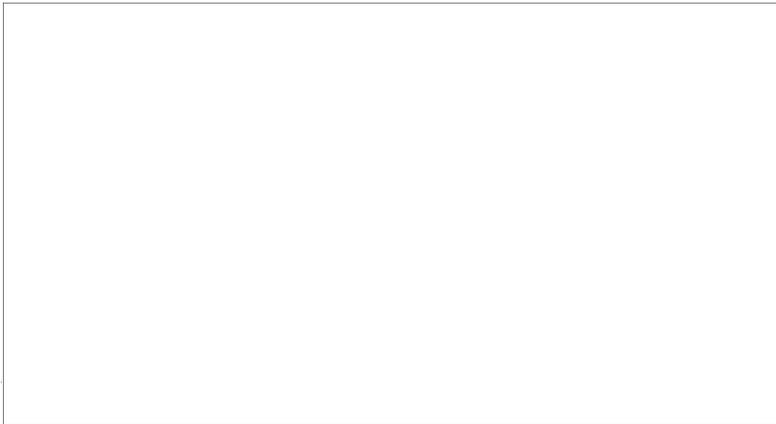


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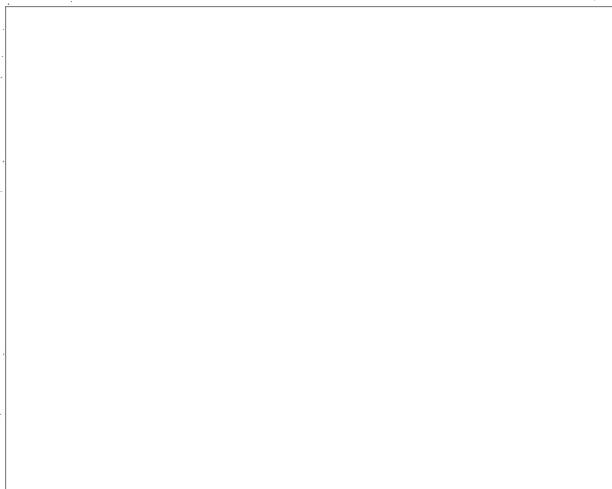


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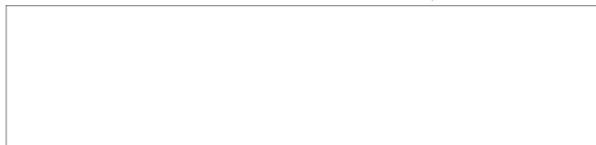
NORTH VIETNAM



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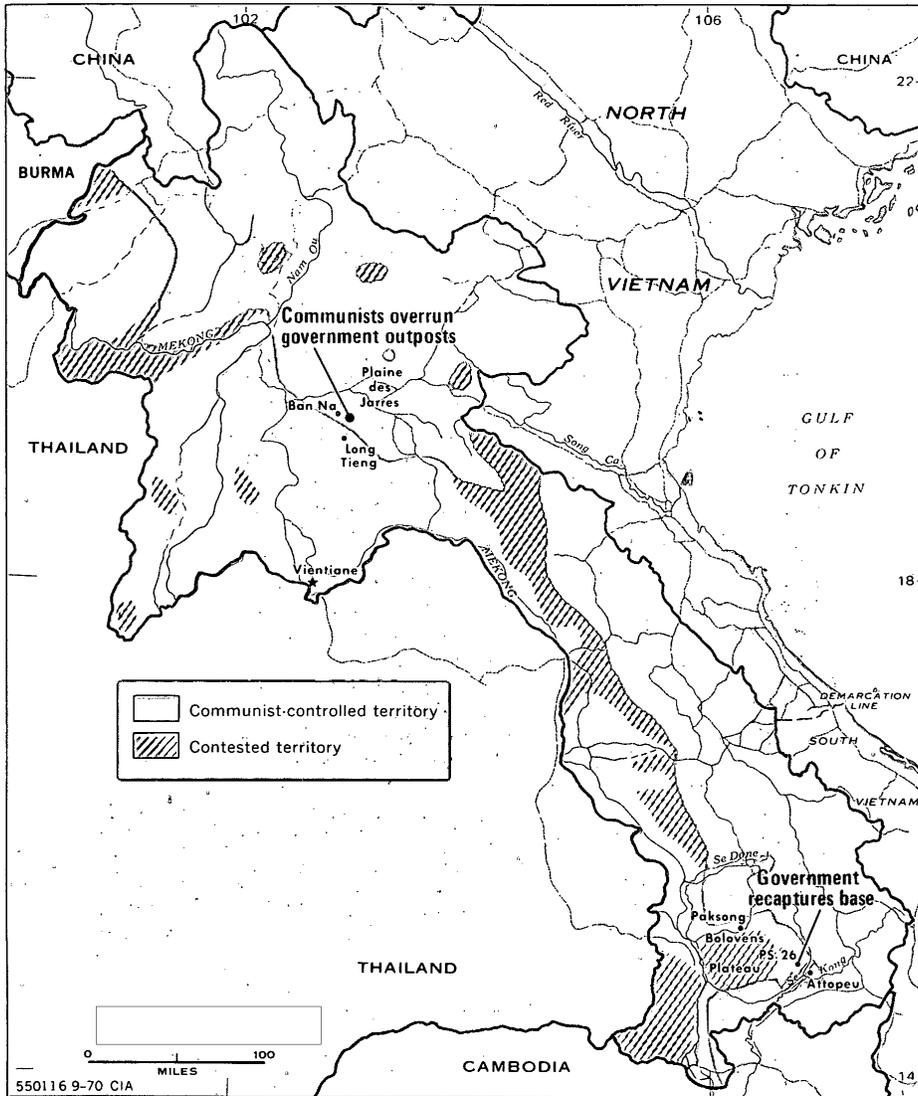


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LAOS: CURRENT SITUATION



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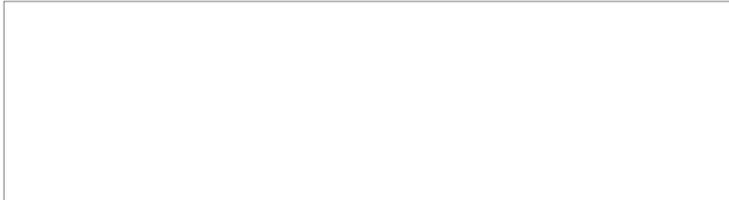
LAOS

Government forces trying to reoccupy key positions south of the Plaine des Jarres have provoked stiff enemy counteraction. On 24 September about 300 North Vietnamese regulars attacked and overran three Lao guerrilla outposts located within three miles of Ban Na, a hilltop position commanding the northern approaches to Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng. Messages from elements of the North Vietnamese 316th Division have called for "larger scale" attacks beginning on 2 October.

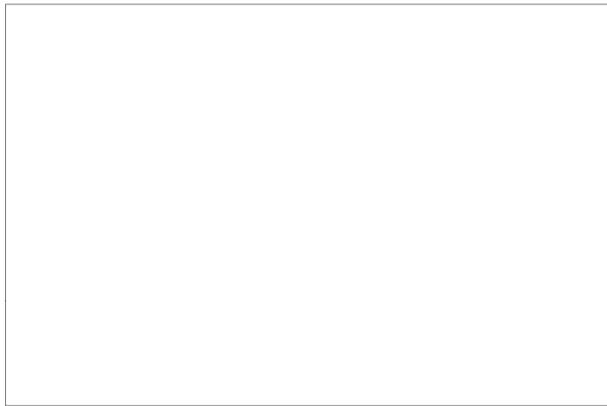
In southern Laos, two government guerrilla battalions with heavy air-support yesterday retook PS-26, a Bolovens Plateau base overlooking the town of Attopeu. Permanent control of PS-26 would facilitate guerrilla harassment of enemy communications lines in the Sekong Valley, but the government may have trouble holding it. The base has already come under mortar fire since its recapture.

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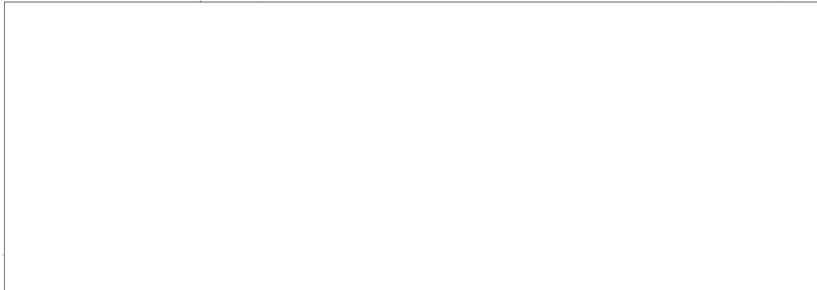
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LIBYA

Representatives of major international oil companies--BP, Esso, Mobil, Shell, Socal, and Texaco--met yesterday in New York to develop a joint position in their dispute with the Libyan Government on posted prices and taxes. These companies were planning--on the assumption that Libya will back down--to reject certain features of the settlement negotiated by Occidental and three members of Oasis. The results of their meeting are not yet known.

Two of the companies--Texaco and Socal--will begin negotiations in Tripoli on Sunday. They may find that the Libyans are not bluffing. Through the deals with Occidental and Oasis, the Libyans can be confident of one and one-half million barrels per day production. Moreover, the government has ample near-term foreign exchange reserves. If the companies resist settlement, the Libyans probably will take some action such as suspending their production. This would reduce further the oil available from sources in the Mediterranean by about 1.5 million barrels a day, and would aggravate the already tight supply situation in Western Europe.

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CANADA - COMMUNIST CHINA

The Canadians say they may be close to an agreement on recognition of Peking. At their latest meeting with Chinese representatives in Stockholm on 17 September, the Chinese seemed to accept Ottawa's proposal to "note" but neither endorse nor challenge Peking's claim to Taiwan. The Canadians evidently expect Peking to move fairly quickly.

Prime Minister Trudeau probably would prefer not to formalize anything with the Chinese until after his trip to the USSR from 19 to 29 October. If Peking hopes that Canada's recognition can influence UN voting on the Chinese representation issue this year, it will have to give a positive response to Ottawa by early November.

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