



The President's Daily Brief

3 November 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted] South Vietnam (Page 1)

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Allied military operations are returning to normal in the northern provinces of South Vietnam, following the heavy seasonal rains. (Page 3)

[Redacted] Soviets (Page 4)

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[Redacted] (Page 5)

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Cairo has named two vice presidents, but there appears to be continuing dissension over their roles in the government. (Page 5)

The latest photography of Chinese road building in northern Laos is discussed on Page 5.

Bahi Ladgham has been replaced as Tunisian prime minister, but he will continue to chair the Arab committee in Jordan. (Page 5)

Following a detailed check-out, Boeing engineers believe the Concorde SST will be able to meet specifications for commercial transatlantic flight. (Page 6)

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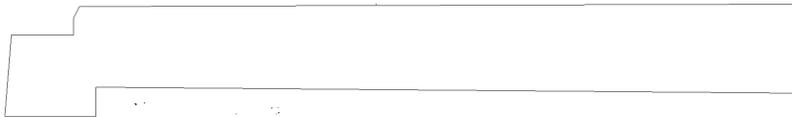
SOUTH VIETNAM



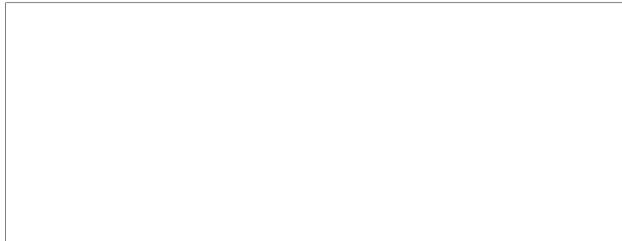
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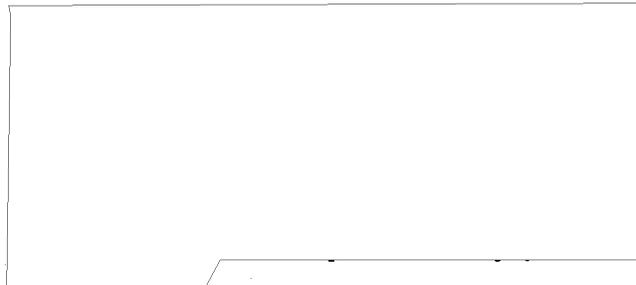
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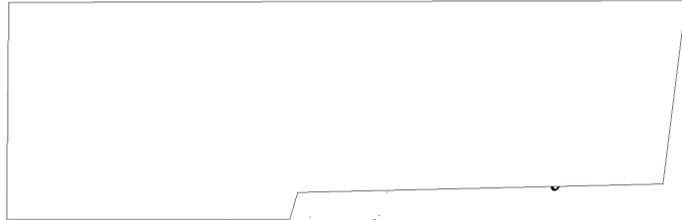
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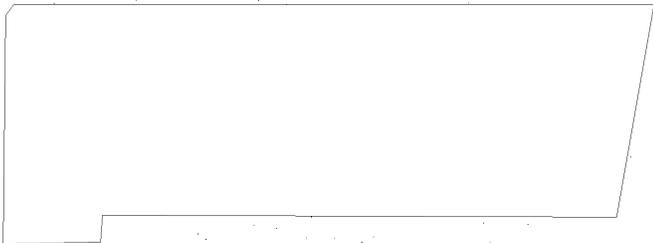
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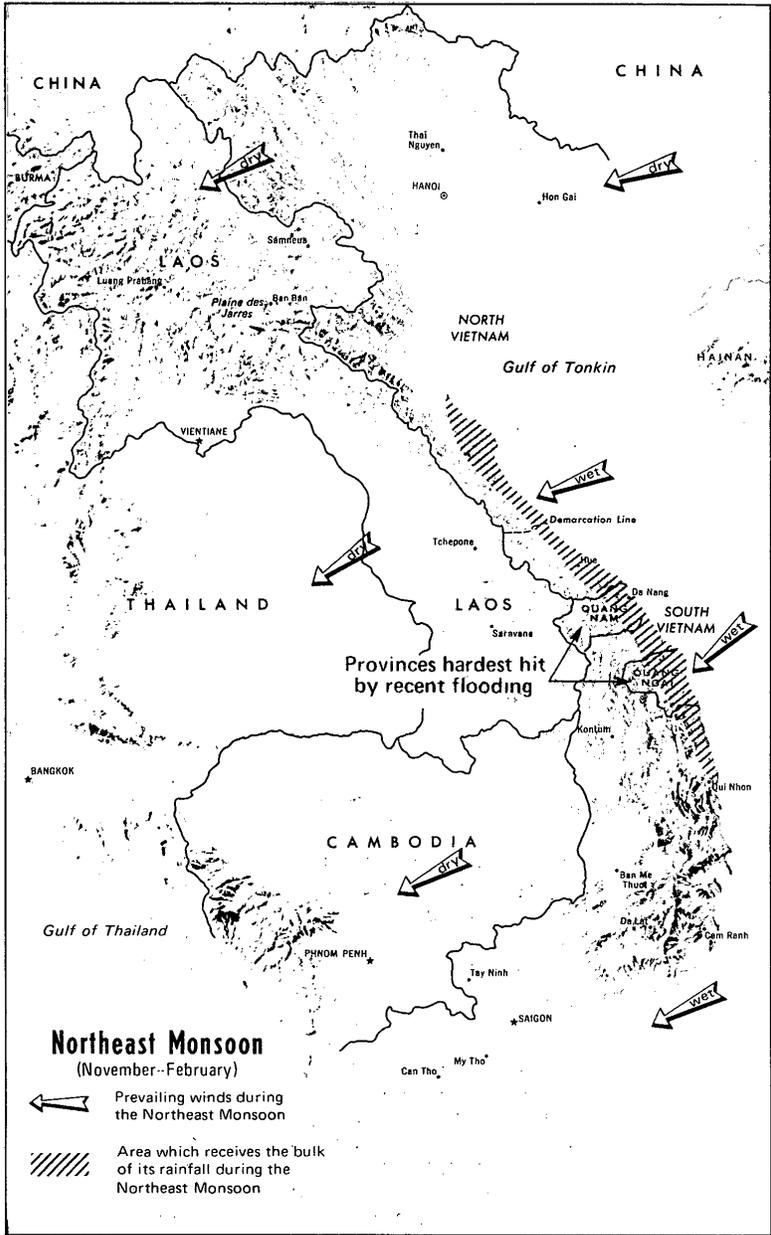


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SOUTH VIETNAM

Allied military operations in the northern provinces are returning to normal following the heavy seasonal rains which had brought the war to a virtual standstill. Allied military units had been tied up for several days with civilian relief efforts in the low-lying populous areas of the north. More than 150 Vietnamese civilians have been killed as a result of the rains, over 200,000 driven from their homes at least temporarily, and a large part of the rice crop destroyed. Intercepts indicate that the rains also dealt Communist forces a setback in northern South Vietnam and in southernmost North Vietnam as well. The Communist command in the South Vietnamese province of Quang Nam radioed that their losses were high and that starvation would be a real danger in the flood's aftermath. Communist military units have been ordered to assist local civilians where they can.

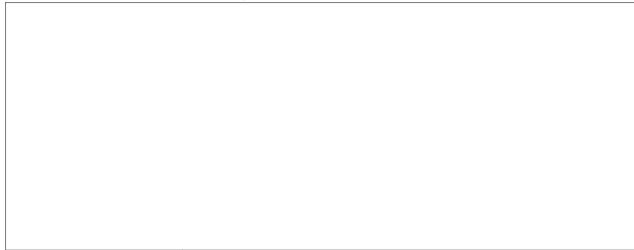
This coastal region always receives heavy rains at about this time of year as the northeast monsoons move in from the Gulf of Tonkin. This year the bad weather has been compounded by the onslaught of a series of typhoons. Elsewhere in Indochina, the weather is improving, bringing better conditions for both allied and Communist military operations in Laos, Cambodia, and southern South Vietnam.

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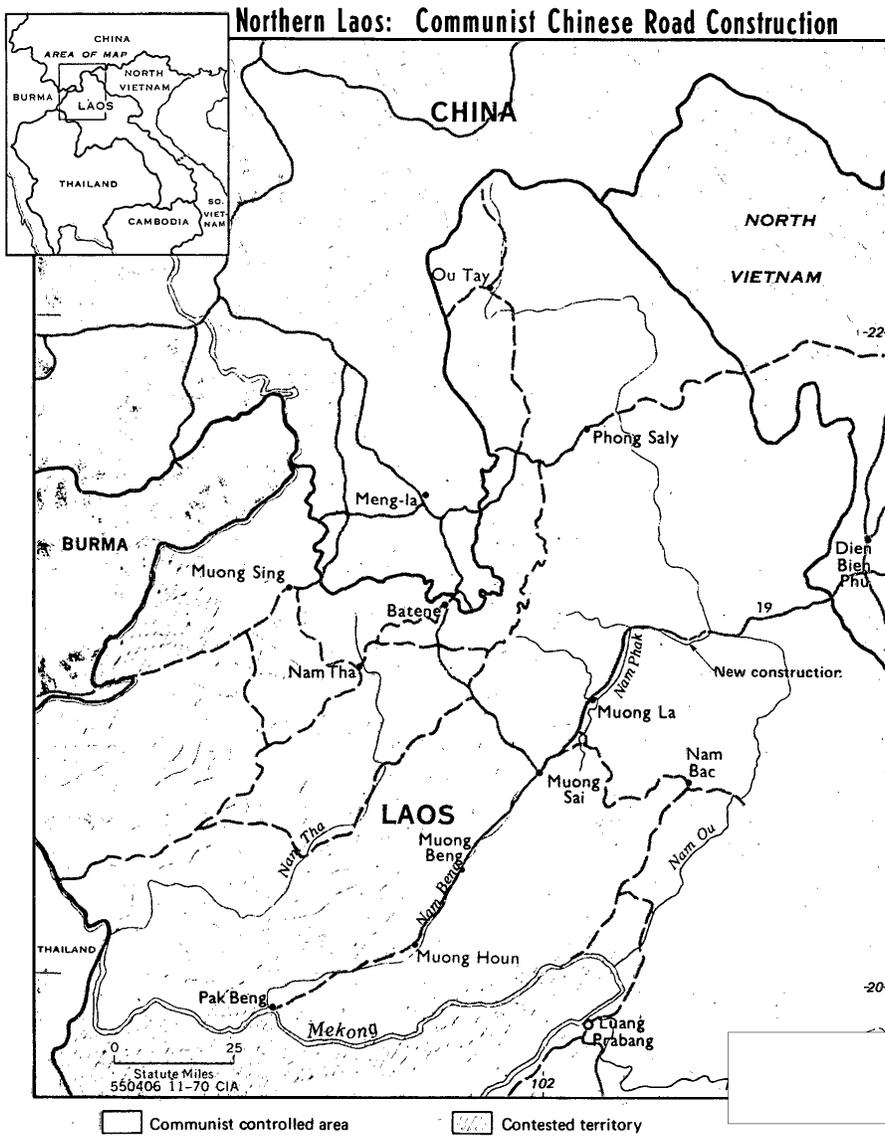
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NOTES

Egypt

Egypt: The delayed naming of Husayn al-Shafi and Ali Sabri as vice presidents completes the formal organization of the new Sadat government. Neither man was designated first vice president, however, nor were they assigned areas of responsibility, suggesting continued dissension over their future roles. Al-Shafi, one of Nasir's earliest revolutionary associates, is generally considered a political lightweight, but left-leaning Sabri has some influence, particularly within the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's sole legal political organization. Both men were members of Egypt's National Defense Council.

Communist China - Laos: The Chinese apparently are giving first priority this dry season to completing a road linking northern Laos and North Vietnam. Photography of late October shows intermittent survey traces under way along the final eight miles separating a road northeast from Muong Sai and Route 19 from North Vietnam. Roads from China via Muong Sai are motorable close to the present point of construction, and a through road to North Vietnam could be ready by the end of the year. Elsewhere, repair and improvement of existing roads, including the Muong Sai - Muong Houn road, is continuing.

Tunisia: President Bourguiba has relieved Bahi Ladgham as prime minister, but Ladgham will continue to chair the Arab committee overseeing the Jordanian-fedayeen cease-fire. Ladgham will return to the Middle East as Bourguiba's personal representative. His successor is Hedi Nouira, Tunisia's leading economist, who had been named acting prime minister early last month when Ladgham took on the Jordanian assignment. Ladgham's replacement by Nouira has been planned for some time.

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UK-France: Following detailed evaluations and discussions with the developers of the Concorde SST, Boeing engineers have concluded that the airliner will be able to meet specifications for commercial transatlantic flight. The Concorde reached its highest speed of Mach-1.86 last month and will soon begin flight tests at its planned Mach-2 cruising speed. A complete evaluation of the Concorde's capabilities will not be possible until the Mach-2 test series is completed.

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