



The President's Daily Brief

12 November 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Owing to the schedule of President Nixon, this issue of The President's Daily Brief contains information as of 2200 EST 11 November 1970.

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Cambodian commanders have dropped their plan to divert several battalions from the "Chenla" task force, as Communist activity along Route 7 has declined. (*Page 1*)

Government guerrillas in southeastern Laos have encountered heavy resistance. (*Page 2*)

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CAMBODIA

A decline in Communist activity has led Cambodian commanders to drop their plans to divert several battalions from the "Chenla" task force on Route 6 to the effort to clear Route 7 in the Skoun - Kompong Cham area. Although Cambodian positions north of Skoun and in Kompong Cham city have been harassed, no major enemy attacks have developed in the past 48 hours. Cambodian units have pushed eastward along Route 7 and have re-entered the crossroads town of Troeung, which the Communists have evacuated.

All of Route 7 between Skoun and Kompong Cham, however, apparently is not secured and major North Vietnamese elements remain in the vicinity. Government commanders now hope to complete the reopening with forces already situated along Route 7 and in the town of Skoun. Efforts to bring up reinforcements overland from Phnom Penh will have to await such time as a temporary bridge can be substituted for the large span south of Skoun destroyed by the Communists two days ago.

The severity of the recent round of Communist attacks is still difficult to measure, but, except for Troeung where the government defense folded quickly, Cambodian units once again gave a good account of themselves. Communist casualties appear to have been relatively high, but we cannot verify the Cambodian Army claims that over 100 enemy troops were killed and many more wounded.

The headquarters of the North Vietnamese 165th Regiment, meanwhile, has moved out of the Cambodian - South Vietnam border area. It is now well into Cambodia, west of the Mekong River.

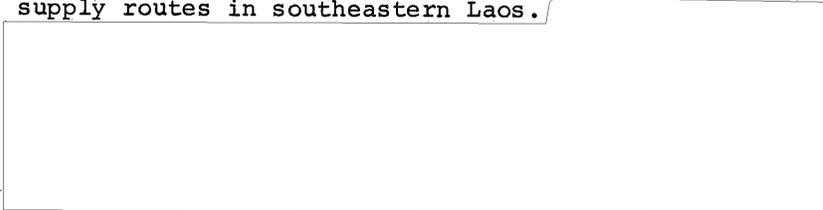
If the direction finding is accurate, this will be the first time that the 165th has positioned itself for action against Cambodian forces. Its movement follows by one month a similar redeployment by the North Vietnamese 174th Regiment, which has taken part in the recent fighting around Route 7, and may be evidence of Communist intentions to increase pressure in the Tang Kouk - Skoun - Kompong Cham area.

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LAOS

The Communists have been offering heavy resistance to government guerrillas attempting to harass supply routes in southeastern Laos.

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The sharpness of the Communists' response reflects their sensitivity to guerrilla harassment even though bad weather and US airstrikes are still thwarting the resumption of heavy supply movements through this area.

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