



*The President's Daily Brief*

*1 January 1971*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Enemy military activity has increased in Cambodia's northwest provinces. (Page 1)

[Redacted] (Page 2)

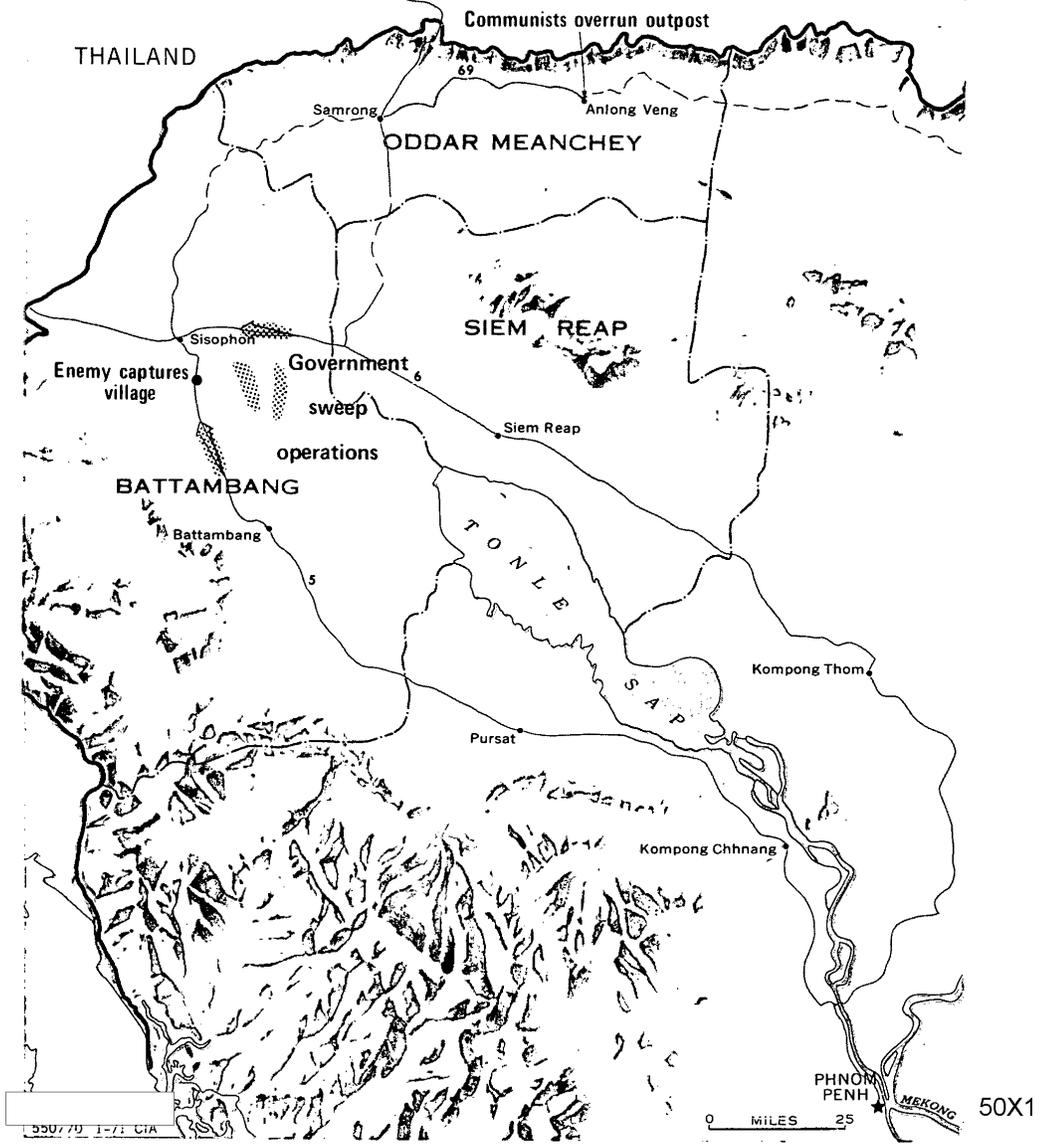
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Elements of a North Vietnamese Army Division appear to be preparing to return to northern Laos. (Page 3)

[Redacted]

Sino-Soviet relations have slumped a bit. (Page 5)

### CAMBODIA: Current Situation



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Enemy forces recently captured a village and a bridge on Route 5 in Battambang Province, less than ten miles south of the crossroads town of Sisophon.

*This marks the first time the Communists have cut the western land access to Battambang city, the country's second largest urban center. The Communist advance was carried out in the face of a government operation [redacted] to clear the area around Sisophon.*

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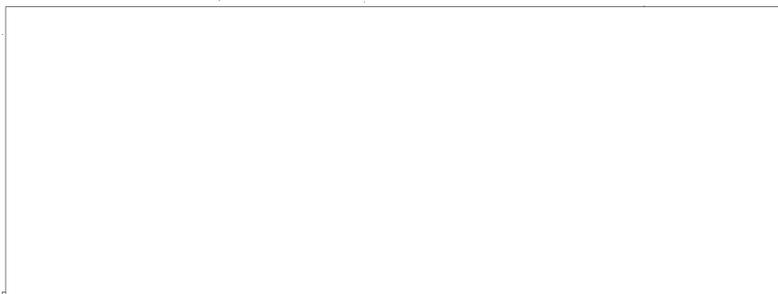
Farther north, Communist forces have moved to within 15 miles of Samrong, the poorly defended capital of remote Oddar Meanchey Province. The enemy push toward Samrong began with the overrunning of a small Cambodian garrison at Anlong Veng on Route 69 on 21 December. Since then, the Communists have captured several other lightly defended government positions as they moved west along the road. Other enemy troops are threatening the government's few remaining outposts north of Samrong, near the Thai border.

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*The increase in Communist activity in Oddar Meanchey may be intended in part to distract government forces trying to clear roads farther south toward Siem Reap Province. Oddar Meanchey is impoverished in both population and resources, and its loss would not be a major setback to the government; Phnom Penh in fact has already written it off.*

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JORDAN-FEDAYEEN



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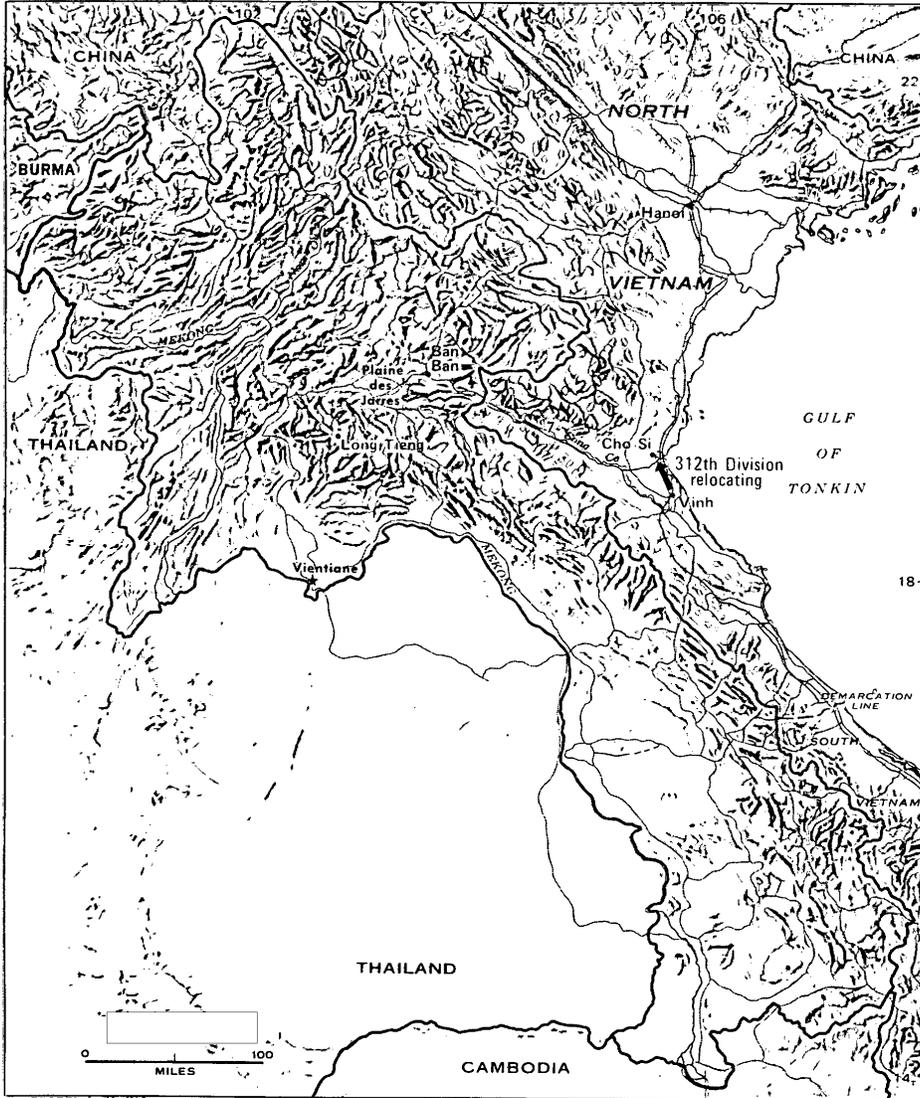
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NVA 312th Division May Return To Laos



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LAOS - NORTH VIETNAM

There are indications in intercepts that elements of the North Vietnamese Army 312th Division-- which has been located near Vinh since withdrawing from Laos last summer--may be on the move. Rear service groups at Vinh, for example, have reported that some 3,000 troops would be moving through the Cho Si railroad complex in early January.

*The pattern of these movements suggest the 312th is returning to Laos. Cho Si is a major transshipment point for personnel and supplies headed for northern Laos. Troops returning to the Hanoi area from Vinh could also be routed through Cho Si, but this seems less likely.*

*The 312th was introduced into Laos for the first time last year following the government's capture of the Plaine des Jarres. It was used principally as a rear guard security force. The main burden of the effort to clear the Plaine and push toward the government's Long Tieng complex belonged to the NVA 316th Division. The 312th's return could be part of a buildup for intensified dry season action or a specific response to the government's harassment operation at Ban Ban.*

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USSR



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NOTES

USSR-China: Yesterday a Pravda editorial rebuked the Chinese for Peking's attack last week on "Soviet revisionist imperialism" in Eastern Europe. Both states have now broken their suspension of full dress polemics. These outbursts together with the collapse of the Sino-Soviet river navigation talks on 19 December have somewhat negated the tenuous signs of improvement in state-to-state relations.



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Poland: Poland's new chief of state, Jozef Cyrankiewicz, and Foreign Minister Jedrychowski emphatically expressed hope for improvement in US-Polish relations in private conversations with Ambassador Stoessel at a year-end diplomatic reception in Warsaw. Cyrankiewicz showed a special interest in economic ties, and Jedrychowski confirmed our evaluation that there would be no change in Polish foreign policy under the new leadership. Jedrychowski added that Warsaw's policy of detente would, if anything, be intensified. Under this rubric, he told the Ambassador he wants to talk further about improving bilateral relations.

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