



*The President's Daily Brief*

29 January 1971



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Laos, the Communists are increasing their troop strength west of the Plaine des Jarres prior to the dry season campaign. (Page 1)

Government clearing operations around Phnom Penh proceeded smoothly yesterday. (Page 2)

[Redacted] (Page 3)

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Some comments on the Israeli reply to Jarring appear on Page 4.

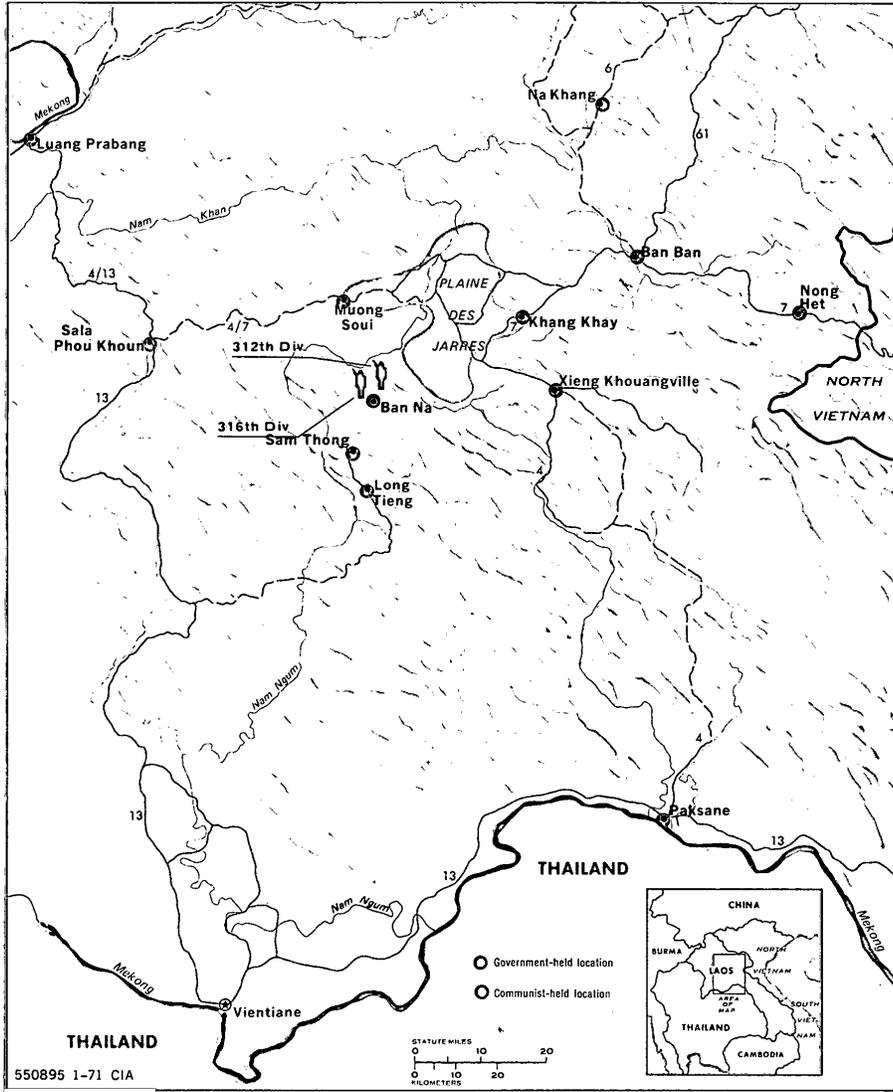
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A progress report on Chinese road building in Laos appears on Page 6.

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### LAOS/PLAINE DES JARRES: Buildup of NVA Forces



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LAOS

Major portions of the North Vietnamese 316th Division have moved near Ban Na, which commands the northern approaches to the main government irregular base at Long Tieng. Two elements of the 312th NVA Division are also in the region, and other parts of the 312th Division continue to move into northern Laos from North Vietnam.

*The Communists now have more than 2,000 troops around Ban Na. Units of the 316th are continuing to engage in tactical operations and reconnaissance around Ban Na, Sam Thong, and Long Tieng, indicating that they may remain in the area along with newly arrived elements of the 312th.*

*Although their precise targets and timing are not clear, the extent of the enemy buildup suggests that the Communists plan to begin their drive within the next few weeks, earlier than last year's effort which began in late February.*

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CAMBODIA

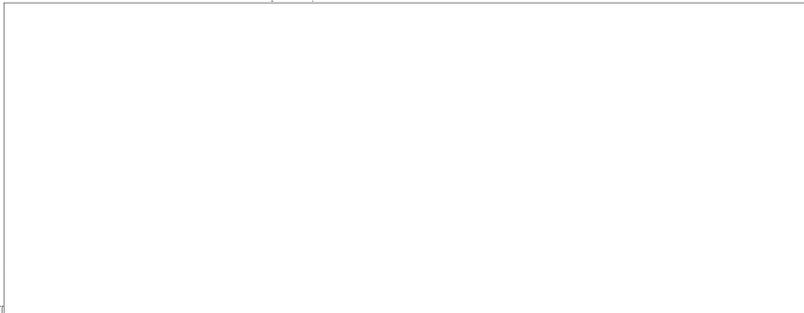
Cambodian forces are encountering little enemy resistance as they continue clearing operations around Phnom Penh. An intercepted Cambodian Army message claims that several large enemy columns equipped with heavy weapons were converging yesterday on Phnom Penh from the Kompong Cham area. Another said that Communist troops were setting up rocket launching sites in several villages west of the Phnom Penh airfield.

*The details of these reports are pretty clearly exaggerated, but the enemy is capable of carrying out new attacks near the capital. Intercepts show that the headquarters of the North Vietnamese 96th Artillery Regiment was 15 miles northeast of Phnom Penh yesterday, about seven miles closer than its previous location. An enemy artillery element--possibly from the 96th--has been detected 20 miles east of the capital, in good position to threaten traffic on the Mekong.*

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MIDDLE EAST

*The text of the Israeli reply passed to Jarring on 27 January does not appear to provide Jarring with any additional aid in persuading the Egyptians to agree to an extension of the cease-fire. The Israelis criticize the Egyptian note of 18 January as failing to take note of many points covered in the 9 January Israeli "Essentials of Peace" proposals.*

*The latest Israeli paper does not address itself directly to the question of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories or the refugee question. First, say the Israelis, specific agreement must be reached on four points:*

*--peace in the area;*

*--respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area;*

*--mutual acknowledgment of the rights of each other to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force; and*

*--termination of all claims of belligerency by each state against the other.*

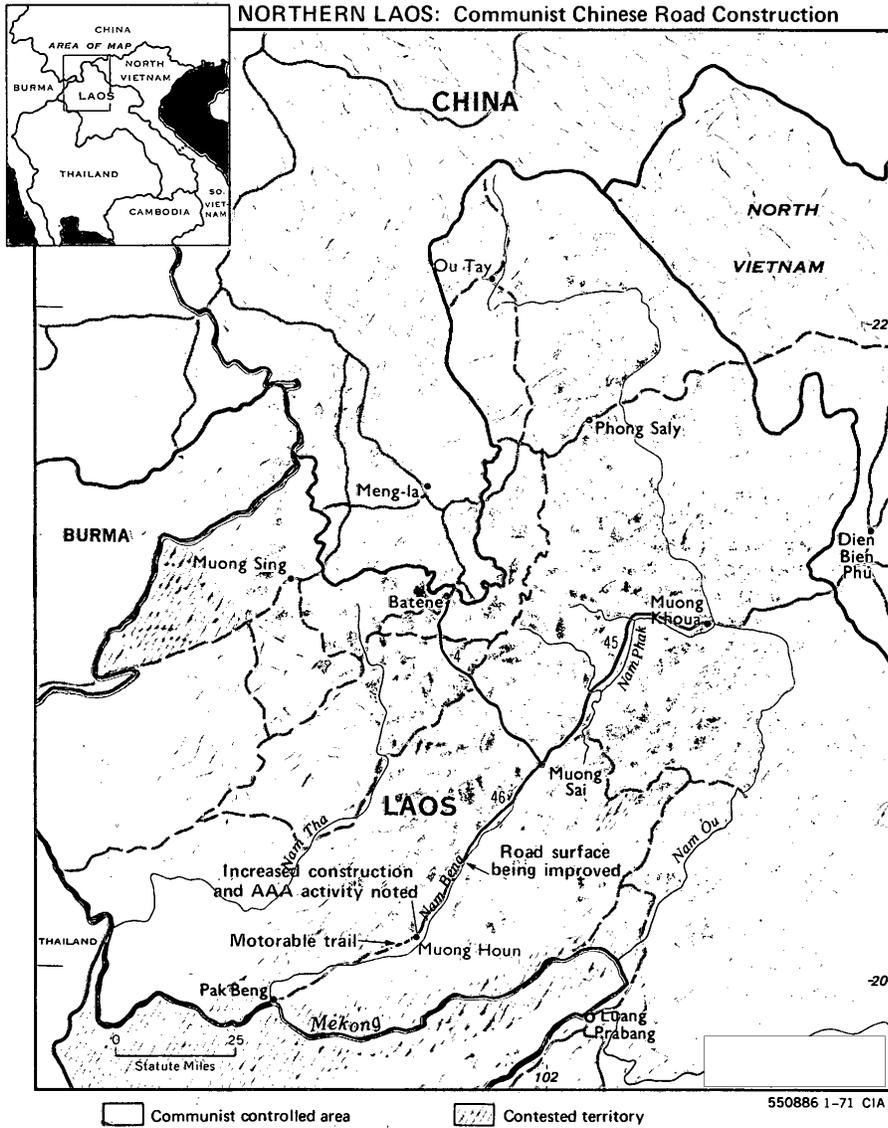
*Once this is accomplished, the Israeli reply states, then it will be possible to discuss other issues.*

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NOTE

Communist China - Laos: The Chinese appear to be preparing to resume construction of Route 46 toward the Mekong. Photography of early January shows increased activity just north of Muong Houn, the present terminus of the road, including the expansion of construction camps and the building of new AAA sites. So far this dry season Chinese road builders have concentrated on finishing Route 45, which runs northeast from Muong Sai to Muong Khoua, and on improving the surface of Route 46 between Muong Sai and Muong Houn. Both projects are nearly completed.

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