



The President's Daily Brief

26 November 1971

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 November 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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The Indians [redacted] fighting along the borders of East Pakistan [redacted] (Page 1)

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The latest South Vietnamese operation into Cambodia has met little resistance so far, and there is no evidence that the Communists have reacted by pulling forces out of operating areas deeper inside Cambodia. (Page 3)

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[redacted] Egypt [redacted] (Page 4)

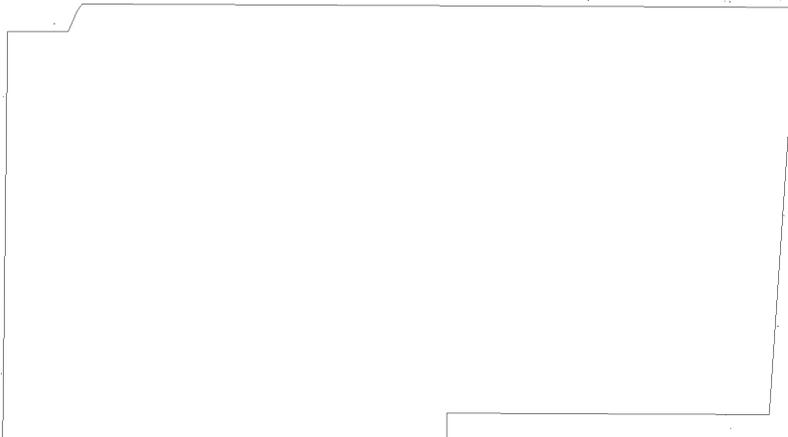
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The Chinese are beginning to accumulate a sizable backlog of MIG-19 jet fighters and F-9 jet fighter-bombers at production facilities. (Page 5)

The Soviet cruiser and one submarine appear to be headed back home from Cuban waters. (Page 6)

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INDIA-PAKISTAN



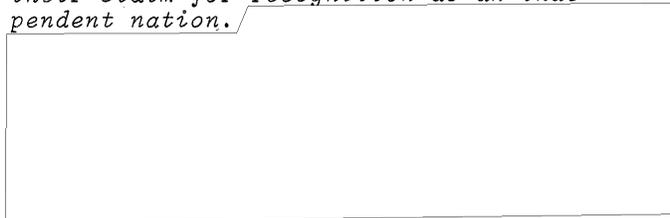
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[redacted] Ambassador Keating's lengthy, stormy session with the Indian Foreign Minister yesterday. The Indian reiterated the view that the US should force President Yahya to find a political solution and heatedly denied that Indian troops were inside East Pakistan for other than defense against Pakistani attacks.

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India's basic tactic in East Pakistan is for Indian troops to secure border areas and then withdraw, leaving the Mukti Bahini in control. This tactic has succeeded in forcing the Pakistanis to bring the bulk of their troops to the borders, thus leaving the interior relatively unguarded. Indeed the US Consul in Dacca reports that the Mukti Bahini have greatly increased their operations in the interior since 19 November, and some heavy scattered fighting is taking place. The Mukti Bahini also want very much to seize an important town in order to give some credence to their claim for recognition as an independent nation.

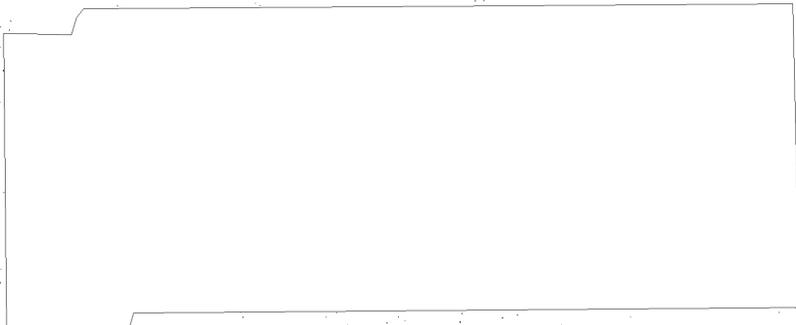
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Pakistan's Foreign Secretary has publicly affirmed that Pakistan is considering raising the question of "Indian aggression" in the UN Security Council. Ambassador Farland reports, however, that the Pakistanis appear to be hoping for a Security Council session initiated by someone other than themselves.

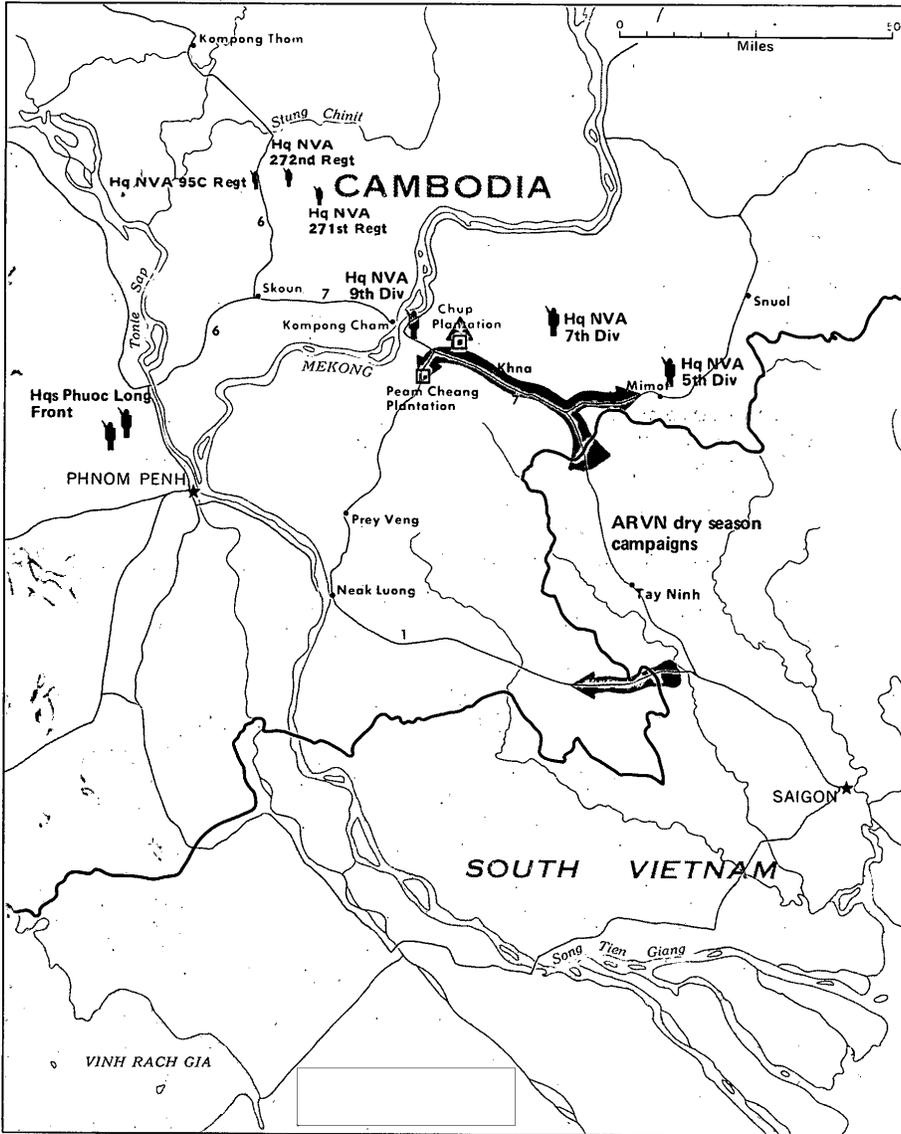


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CAMBODIA - SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist forces have not yet reacted to the South Vietnamese dry season campaign. South Vietnamese airborne troops with armor support are encountering little resistance in clearing the area that will serve as a support base for future forays north and south of Route 7. A move into the plantation areas will begin as soon as enough supplies and ground forces are assembled. Other South Vietnamese forces are scheduled to mount a diversionary attack along Route 7 toward Mimot, while similar spoiling operations by a smaller South Vietnamese task force are under way in the Parrot's Beak area along Route 1.

Radio direction finding of 24 November reveals that major elements of the Communists' 5th, 7th, and 9th divisions continue to be located in the areas they occupied before the start of the South Vietnamese operation. There has been little fighting along Route 6 since Cambodian forces abandoned a portion of the road two weeks ago.

In the Phnom Penh area, the government has made little headway in pushing major elements of the Communist Phuoc Long Front from positions close to the capital. The presence of Communist units has had some effect on morale in the city, and there is a widespread fear that a terrorist campaign may begin soon. The distribution of antigovernment leaflets in recent days and a terrorist attack on a police station yesterday is the only evidence of unusual activity. Government security in the city and its environs is poor, and the Communists probably can mount additional terrorist actions in Phnom Penh.

[Redacted]

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the Communists have no intention of occupying Phnom Penh because they could not hold it. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] the Communists hope to undermine Lon Nol internationally by demonstrating the feebleness of the Cambodian forces and by putting a strain on Vietnamization by drawing Saigon's forces into Cambodia.

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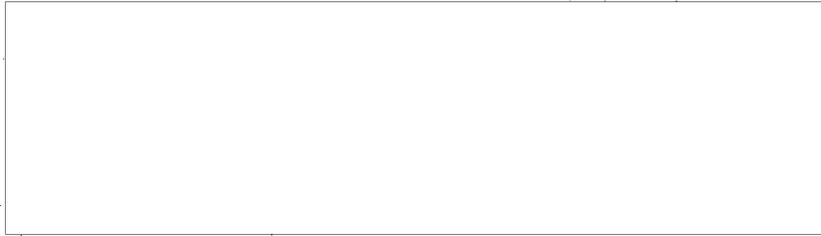
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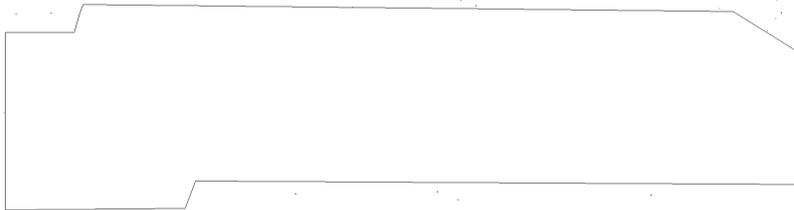
EGYPT



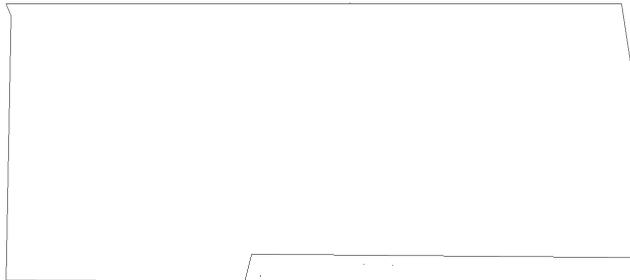
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COMMUNIST CHINA

Recent satellite photography shows about 620 MIG-19 jet fighters at three airfields associated with the Shen-yang production facility in northeast China and almost 100 new F-9 jet fighter-bombers at the Nan-chang facility in eastern China.

Both of these totals are the highest yet observed. Accumulations at the production facilities first became apparent early this year and have continued to increase as deliveries of the new aircraft to tactical units have been relatively low. The military aircraft standdown since mid-September undoubtedly has further contributed to the backlog. Apart from this fairly recent circumstance, we see no ready explanation for the Chinese Air Force's apparent difficulty in absorbing the new aircraft.

China has been producing MIG-19s for about seven years and F-9s since at least 1970. Some 1,200 MIG-19s and about 60 F-9s have been assigned to tactical units since production began.

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NOTE

USSR-Cuba: Two TU-95 naval reconnaissance aircraft flew to Cuba from the USSR yesterday--the second pair to fly there in the last month and the sixth pair since TU flights began in 1970. The aircraft normally remain in Cuba about a week before returning. The Kresta-class cruiser and F-class submarine, now some 200 miles north of the Dominican Republic, evidently are headed back to the USSR. The other F-class submarine, which apparently sustained mechanical problems during its recent operations, and the Kashin-class destroyer remain in port at Mariel.

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