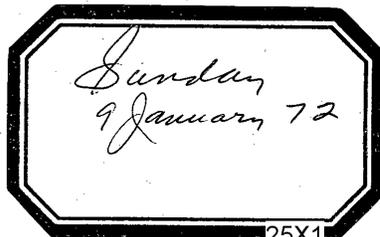




*The President's Daily Brief*



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HW PDB FOR 9 JANUARY:

LAOS

PRESSURE CONTINUES TO MOUNT ON GOVERNMENT FORCES DEFENDING LONG TIENG, BUT THE ENEMY'S ANTICIPATED MAJOR ASSAULT ON THE GARRISON HAS YET TO MATERIALIZE. IRREGULAR UNITS REPORTED SHARP CLASHES WITH NVA TROOPS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE LONG TIENG VALLEY ON 8 JANUARY AS WELL AS PERIODIC MORTAR AND ARTILLERY ATTACKS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOUR NIGHTS HOWEVER, NO SHELLING BY NVA 130-MM GUNS WAS REPORTED, SUGGESTING THAT THE COMMUNISTS COULD BE HOARDING THEIR AMMUNITION FOR A HEAVY PRE-ASSAULT BARRAGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IN THE SOUTH, A GOVERNMENT FORCE ATTEMPTING TO BLOCK FURTHER WESTWARD MOVEMENT BY THE COMMUNISTS ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU HAS REPORTED HEAVY PRESSURE FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE UNITS. DURING THE NIGHT OF 7-8 JANUARY, THE GOVERNMENT UNIT AT BAN GNIK, ABOUT 12 MILES WEST OF PAKSONG ALONG ROUTE 23,  WAS SURROUNDED AND RECEIVING MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE AS WELL AS GROUND PROBES. CASUALTIES SO FAR HAVE BEEN LIGHT, HOWEVER, AND THE BAN GNIK COMMANDER APPEARS TO BE MAKING GOOD USE OF HIS ARTILLERY AND TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT.

USSR-CUBA

THE TWO SOVIET BUKLT OSA-CLASS GUIDED MISSILE PATROL BOATS BEING TOWED ACROSS THE ATLANTIC SHOULD ARRIVE IN CUBA EARLY THIS WEEK. THEY PROBABLY ARE DESTINED FOR CABANAS, A NAVAL BASE WEST OF HAVANA. THE OSA IS ARMED WITH FOUR MISSILES WITH A RANGE OF ABOUT 20 MILES. THE CUBANS MAY SCRAP SOME OF THEIR 18 OLDER AND SMALLER KOMAR PATROL BOATS THAT CARRY ONLY TWO MISSILES.

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