



The President's Daily Brief

Sunday, 27 Feb 72

27 FEB 1972
~~4 March 1972~~

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SUNDAY CABLE
27 FEBRUARY 1972

LAOS

Vang Pao's irregulars operating east of the Plaine des Jarres are encountering stiff enemy resistance. The North Vietnamese have reacted most strongly to one task force that had been moving toward the enemy's 130-mm. guns and supply caches on the southern edge of the Plaine. This force has been hit hard several times in the past few days and has retreated deeper into the foothills southeast and east of the Plaine. The other three task forces have also been under attack and have made little forward progress. One of these groups, however, has occupied high ground overlooking Route 4, an enemy supply artery east of the Plaine, and is directing air strikes on trucks and supply areas.

Military activity around Long Tieng and Sam Thong remains light. Intercepted messages indicate that troops of a third North Vietnamese regiment have moved north from Long Tieng, apparently to defend a major supply dump near the Plaine. Two other regiments had moved earlier in response to Vang Pao's operations. Three or four enemy regiments remain in the area of Long Tieng, however, and aerial observers report that the Communists are moving great quantities of supplies into depots south of the Plaine.

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THAILAND

Bangkok is conducting its largest counterinsurgency operation to date. The Thai Army has committed over 12,000 troops against one of the largest Communist base complexes in northern Thailand. The Communists are putting up stiff resistance and have inflicted well over 200 casualties on the Thai forces.

Despite the strong resistance, the government is committed to a major effort to overrun the insurgent stronghold. Even if it does so, however, the army will have to establish a permanent presence in the area if the operation is to have lasting value.

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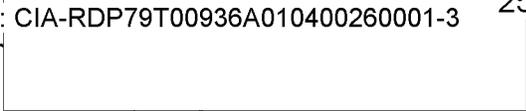
NOTE

South Vietnam: Military activity has dropped off in South Vietnam in recent days, although Communist harassing attacks continue. Intercepts [] indicate that enemy forces in a number of provinces are encountering difficulties from allied bombings and ground sweeps, but they are continuing to prepare for future attacks.

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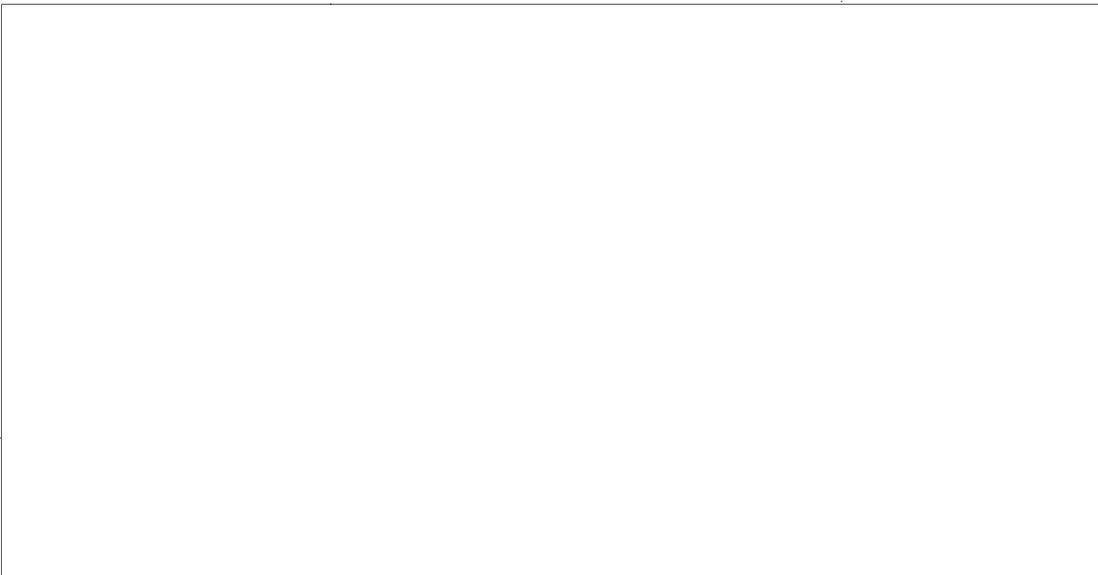
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