



*The President's Daily Brief*

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~~17 July 1972~~

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Top Secret<sup>25X1</sup>

PDB Cable  
28 May 1972

USSR-VIETNAM

Two Radio Moscow <sup>09</sup> broadcasts beamed at Vietnamese listeners on 25 May assert that negotiations are the only way to end the war, and they both endorse the VietNAMESE COMMUNIST ~~Cong - Hanoi~~ proposal to reconvene the Paris talks. The first notes that the Vietnam problem "cannot be solved by military means." The second defends Moscow's search for better relations with Washington and reminds unnamed "friends" that the USSR's peace program entails no sacrifice of principle because it pays great attention to eliminating "dangerous hotbeds of war" in Southeast Asia and to solving problems there by political means.

This line is in keeping with what the Soviet media have <sup>SAID</sup> ~~said~~ in the recent past, and it squares with Premier Kosygin's remarks during his toast Friday night. These broadcasts, beamed specifically at the Vietnamese and in their language, are evidently designed to emphasize Moscow's position to Hanoi. Meanwhile, the Soviet media continue to ignore recent ~~North~~ Vietnamese statements denouncing the President and criticizing attempts to internationalize the Vietnam issue.

## VIETNAM

The situation at Kontum City has taken a turn for the worse. New Communist attacks took place early on 27 May and at last word North Vietnamese forces hold two sections of the city. Enemy pressure has kept the city's main airport closed. Allied helicopters have been able to bring in some supplies and evacuate wounded troops by landing in the western part of the city, but even this 25X1 was becoming hazardous at last report.

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The North Vietnamese are also maintaining pressure on government lines north of Hue. The Communists have made little headway and have suffered heavy casualties but show no signs of pulling back. A prisoner says the increased attacks which began on 21 May will be maintained for ten days. Communications continue to show the North Vietnamese 325th Division moving into South Vietnam from the southern panhandle of North Vietnam. A second<sup>d</sup> regiment of that division has now moved across the DMZ into Quang

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## CAMBODIA

With the voting only a week away, former deputy prime minister In Tam seems to be posing a real threat to Lon Nol's bid to become the country's first elected president.

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[REDACTED] significant numbers of voters in the Phnom Penh area favor In Tam, and that he is running ahead of Lon Nol in some of the more populated areas of the countryside. In Tam is making effective use of those issues on which Lon Nol is most vulnerable--military weakness, corruption, and authoritarianism. His candidacy has been especially appealing among Phnom Penh's disgruntled students, many of whom have volunteered to help in his campaign.

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For its part, the regime--with the vigorous backing of the military establishment--is working to boost Lon Nol through such means as a massive army parade on 27 May.

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[REDACTED] The government will be counting the votes and this, of course, gives it the ultimate advantage.

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## NOTE

Poland-US: The Polish press, after five weeks of near silence on President Nixon's forthcoming Warsaw visit, has now published extensive commentary. The most authoritative article, in the party newspaper Trybuna Ludu on 27 May, says Poland sees the US as a "valuable partner for mutually advantageous economic relations." The article also refers positively to the chance of improved political relations, but the emphasis throughout is on Poland's continuing allegiance to socialist principles and its allies.

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