



*The President's Daily Brief*

*1 June 1972*

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*Top Secret*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

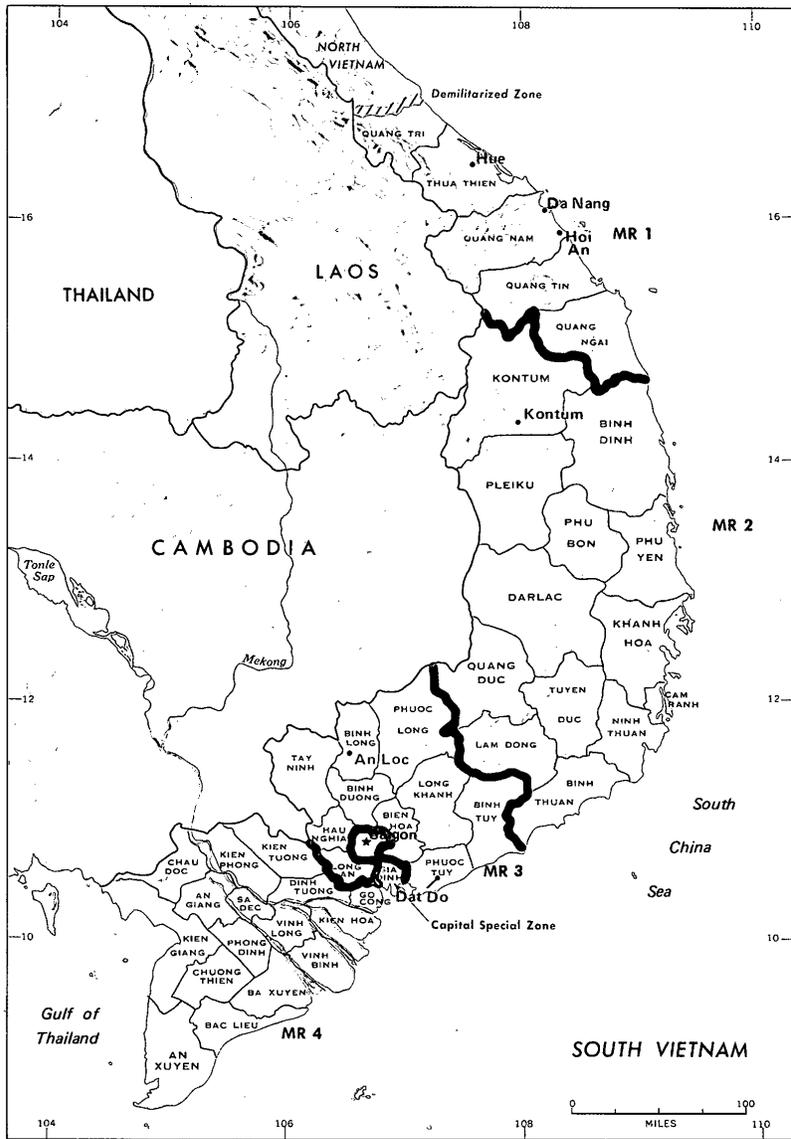
1 June 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

South Vietnamese forces in the highlands are still trying to clear enemy pockets from inside Kontum City. (Page 1)

President Allende is trying to come to grips with another flare-up between the Communists and Socialists in his governing coalition, and might replace their cabinet members with military officers. (Page 3)

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VIETNAM

South Vietnamese forces in the highlands are still clearing enemy pockets in Kontum City. Yesterday government regulars with tank support engaged in house-to-house fighting to drive Communist troops from the city's northern portions, but territorial forces attempting to clear sappers from the south-eastern section have so far been unable to prevent reinfiltration at night. There are indications, moreover, that the Communists may be committing another regiment against Kontum. A prisoner captured just north of the city on 30 May says his regiment has been reassigned [redacted]

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On the northern front, the Communists continue to harass defenses north and west of Hue with shelling and ground probes. Prisoners taken during the last several days along the Quang Tri - Thua Thien border are from four different regiments subordinate to three different divisions or commands. The proximity of these regiments suggests that a single authority may now be coordinating the campaign against Hue.

Farther south along the coast, the Communists apparently are preparing to increase activity in Quang Nam Province. Intercepts indicate that large amounts of weapons and ammunition are being brought into the province [redacted] enemy plans to attack roads and major towns, including Da Nang and the provincial capital at Hoi [redacted]

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North of Saigon, the government relief forces south of An Loc were in heavy contact much of yesterday. In adjacent Tay Ninh Province, government troops have reoccupied part of a border district that had been abandoned early in May. In Phuoc Tuy Province southeast of Saigon, however, no progress has been made in clearing Communist forces from the capital of Dat Do District, and three of the other four districts are under heavy enemy pressure.

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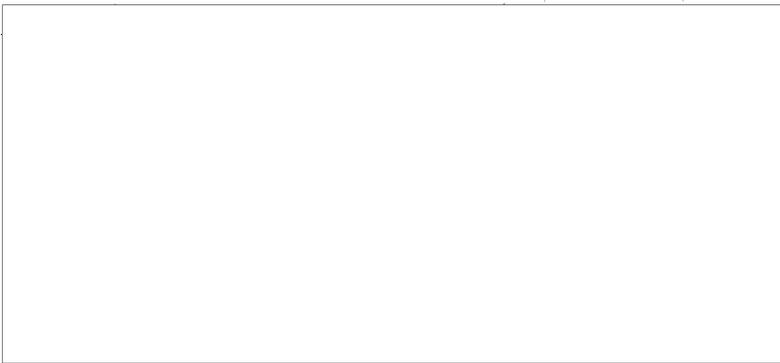
\* \* \*

An article appearing in the May issue of the North Vietnamese military journal hails battlefield successes to date as evidence that the "Vietnamese revolutionary forces" can and should continue fighting for a prolonged period, if necessary. Recently broadcast by Radio Hanoi to combatants in the South, it portrays allied setbacks as proof that Vietnamization has been defeated and that the way is open to further Communist gains--including "in areas adjacent to the cities." The article also makes numerous allusions to the "proven" value of using all forces at the disposal of the Communists and of adapting strategy to particular conditions.

*Although the article apparently was written before the mining of North Vietnamese ports, its broadcasting as recently as 28 May shows that it reflects current policy. We believe that the author, who may be a high official in Hanoi, intended the commentary not only as a standard morale booster but as a device for quieting reservations in some circles over Hanoi's current military policy.*

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CHILE

President Allende is trying to come to grips with another flare-up between the Communists and the Socialists, the two principal members of his coalition. [redacted] during a recent encounter with the president each party threatened to bolt the coalition unless it received support from Allende. Allende responded that he would then replace their cabinet members with military officers. He gave them until 7 June to settle their conflict.

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*We believe Allende has been seeking an opportunity to bring more military men into his cabinet, and this could give him the chance. The constant quarreling between the ardently revolutionary Socialists and the more pragmatic Communists has prevented his coalition cabinet from becoming the efficient tool he believes he needs.*

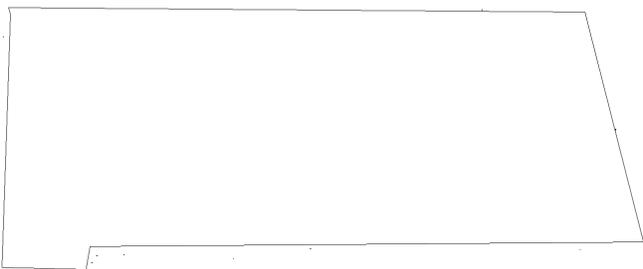
[redacted] Allende [redacted] discussed bringing more military officers into the cabinet with the army commander in chief, General Carlos Prats. He [redacted] [redacted] assured Prats that military men would be responsible only to him, not to the coalition political parties. Prats replied that he would not oppose having more military men in the cabinet, but would insist on a major change [redacted] in the government's economic policies.

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NOTE

Israel-Fedayeen: [redacted]

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the surviving terrorist captured following the slaughter at the Tel Aviv airport Tuesday night belonged to the Japanese "Red Army Faction", some of the members of which have been trained by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine at its bases in Lebanon. Under an agreement of late 1971, PFLP officers have also gone to Tokyo to study the organization and methods of the small Japanese group, which has carried out a few sensational terrorist actions in Japan. Palestinian terrorists evidently have also gained the occasional cooperation of European radicals in hijacking and sabotage operations.

[redacted]

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