



The President's Daily Brief

7 June 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

There are persistent signs of North Vietnamese preparations for attacks in the northern provinces of South Vietnam. (Page 1)

The Soviets have not changed their public posture of support for the Vietnamese Communists. (Page 2)

Lao officials are worried about a Communist threat to the town of Pakse. (Page 3)

There will be a great deal of international negotiating soon concerning Iraq's nationalization of the IPC's oil properties. (Page 4)

fedayeen plans for new terrorist attacks in Israel. (Page 5)

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VIETNAM

Military action remains generally light as both sides prepare for further fighting.

Skirmishing continues in Hau Nghia Province just west of Saigon, along Route 13 south of An Loc, and in the Kontum Pass in the highlands. Enemy pressure against An Loc itself remains moderate, and government forces mopping up in Kontum City predict that the airfield there will soon be reopened.

There are persistent signs, however, that the North Vietnamese are trying to prepare a new round of strong attacks, particularly in the northern provinces.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] Intercepts [Redacted]

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[Redacted] have indicated for some time that the North Vietnamese would try to regain offensive momentum in the Hue area early this month. There are also signs the enemy is preparing attacks around Da Nang and farther south in Binh Dinh Province.

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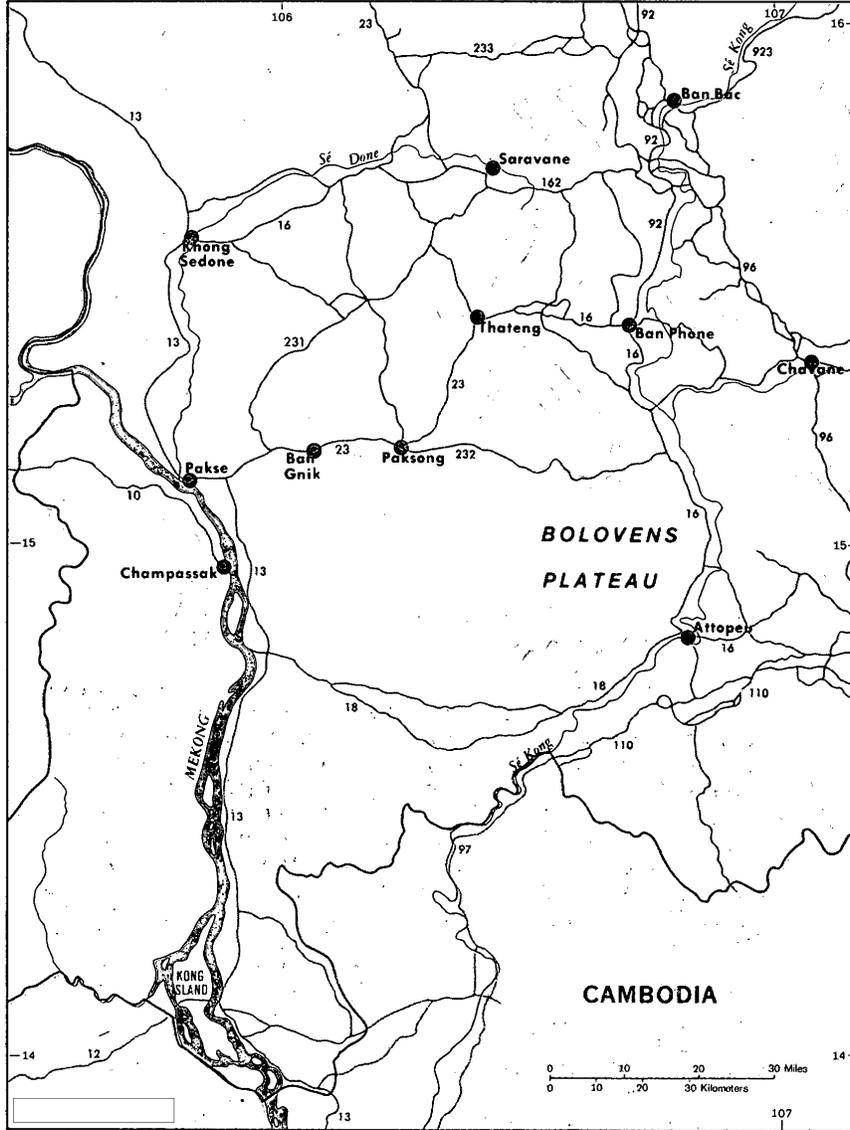
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USSR-VIETNAM

The third anniversary this week of the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government has given the Soviets their first opportunity since the summit to express their support for the Vietnamese Communists publicly. At the Viet Cong ambassador's reception on 5 June and in a message to the PRG leaders, the Soviets condemned "US aggression" in Indochina and affirmed that the USSR would fulfill its "internationalist duty" to support Vietnam. Pravda subsequently noted that the latest Communist offensive in South Vietnam had dealt a "heavy blow" to the US Vietnamization policy, but the article focused primarily on the reasonableness of the Vietnamese Communist negotiating position. It singled out the Vietnamese demand for a three-part government of national concord, noting that this would "exactly meet" the real political situation in South Vietnam.

This Soviet commentary is quite similar to the treatment accorded the anniversary last year.

LAOS: Bolovens Plateau Area



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- Government-held location
- Communist-held location

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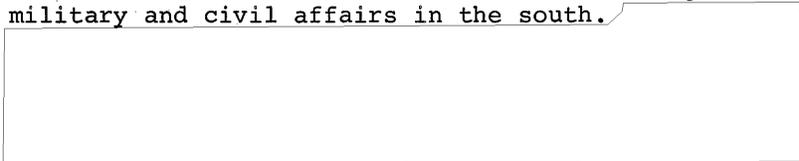
LAOS

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Government officials in Pakse, in south Laos, are alarmed over recent reports [redacted] the Communists will soon attack the town. Reflecting this concern, Prime Minister Souvanna has sent Defense Minister Sisouk to take charge of military and civil affairs in the south.

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In fact, the military situation in the south has not changed since the North Vietnamese dispersed government forces attempting to retake the provincial capital of Khong Sedone two weeks ago. The Communists are still blocking Route 13 both north and south of Pakse. Moreover, recent heavy rains have washed out the town's supply route from Thailand, and Pakse is now virtually isolated, except by air.

The North Vietnamese clearly have the capability to attack Pakse with little warning. Such an attack, however, would be a significant change from the Communists' self-imposed policy of avoiding major actions against the Mekong River population centers. It seems more likely that, as in the past several years, the North Vietnamese are attempting to mount a credible threat that will keep government forces away from the Bolovens Plateau and the infiltration corridor farther east.

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INTERNATIONAL OIL



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OPEC is expected to take a more moderate position than the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, which meets Sunday.

Baghdad has publicly offered oil from its nationalized fields at market prices.



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IPC's threat of legal action against buyers of the "hot" oil is likely to deter sales in major non-Communist markets.

In a move that may be related to the Iraqi nationalization, Libya has informed US companies operating there that they should send a high-level representative to Tripoli for a meeting with the Revolutionary Command Council tomorrow.

Tripoli has given Iraq strong public support for its actions against IPC. The meeting may be a political move to assert Libya's solidarity with Iraq and to harangue the companies for boycotting nationalized oil from both countries. (Tripoli nationalized British Petroleum assets in Libya last December.)

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NOTES

Fedayeen-Israel: The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and its collaborators from the Japanese "Red Army Faction" plan further acts of terrorism against Israel.

[Redacted]

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The Israeli Government is aware of this plan.

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USSR: [Redacted]

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Cuba: [Redacted]

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