



The President's Daily Brief

10 July 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, fighting is continuing in and around Quang Tri City. *(Page 1)*

Lao Government forces are renewing their effort to recapture the hills southwest of the Plaine des Jarres. *(Page 2)*

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VIETNAM

Fighting continues in and around Quang Tri City following stiffened Communist resistance. South Vietnamese airborne troops encountered strong opposition when they attacked enemy defenses in the western section of the city on 9 July. The day before, airborne troops along the southern outskirts as well as other units farther to the south were subjected to Communist mortar and artillery fire. Lead elements of the South Vietnamese Marines have advanced to a point about one mile east of the city, but their progress has been slowed by artillery barrages and harassing ground attacks.

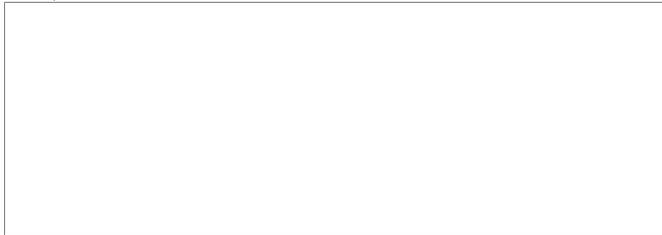
Intercepts indicate that most enemy reconnaissance missions have been completed. The messages, while often extravagant in claiming success, suggest that the Communists are prepared for a determined defense of Quang Tri. Other intercepts indicate that elements of the North Vietnamese 304th Division are deployed west of the government forces between Quang Tri City and the My Chanh defense line and are preparing for attacks along that line.

The Communists are also keeping up the pressure around Hue. Fire Support Base Bastogne west of the city has been shelled heavily, and several government troop concentrations in the same area have been subjected to ground attacks. Hue and several military positions to the south were shelled over the weekend, but casualties and damage were minimal.

Military activity in the rest of the country was relatively light except in the northern Mekong Delta where Communist forces are pressing their attacks around Base Area 470 in western Dinh Tuong Province. Two nearby district towns have received mortar and ground attacks, and several surrounding military outposts have been overrun or abandoned. These Communist attacks appear designed to secure the base area and the nearby canal network.

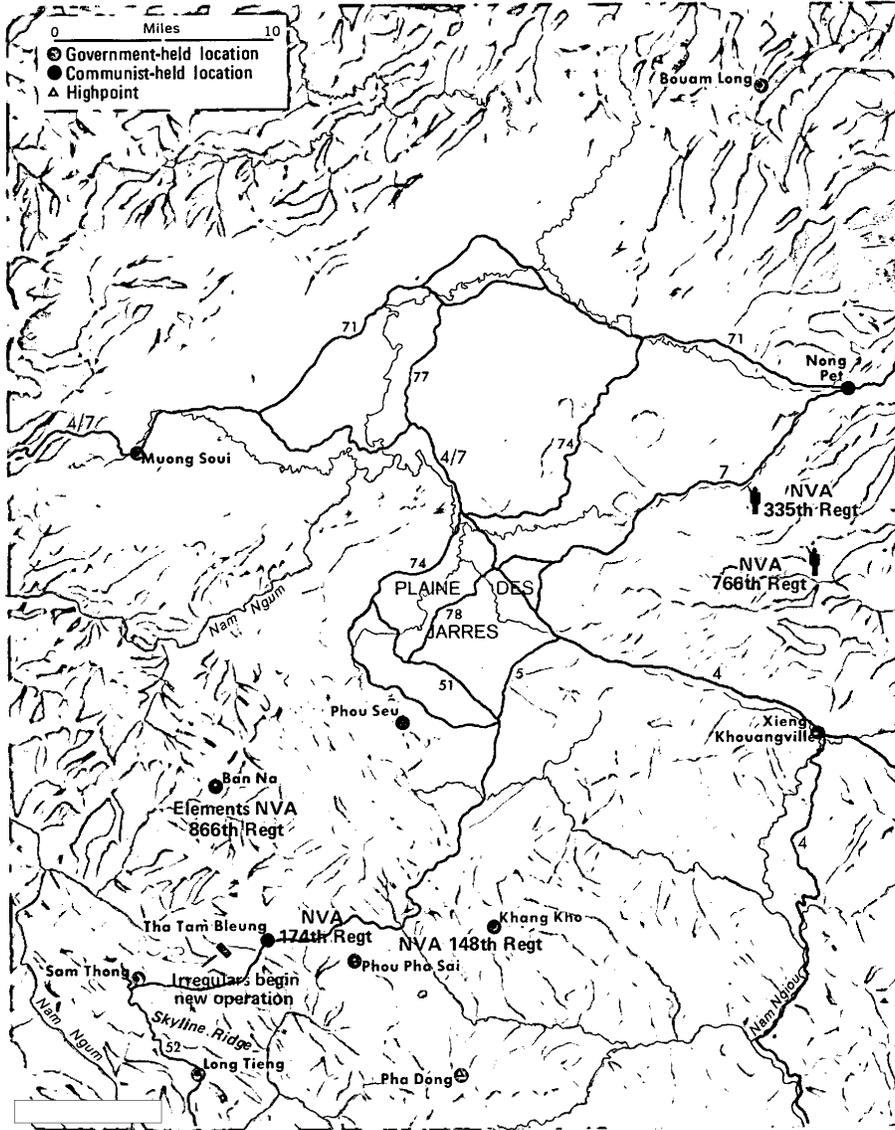
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LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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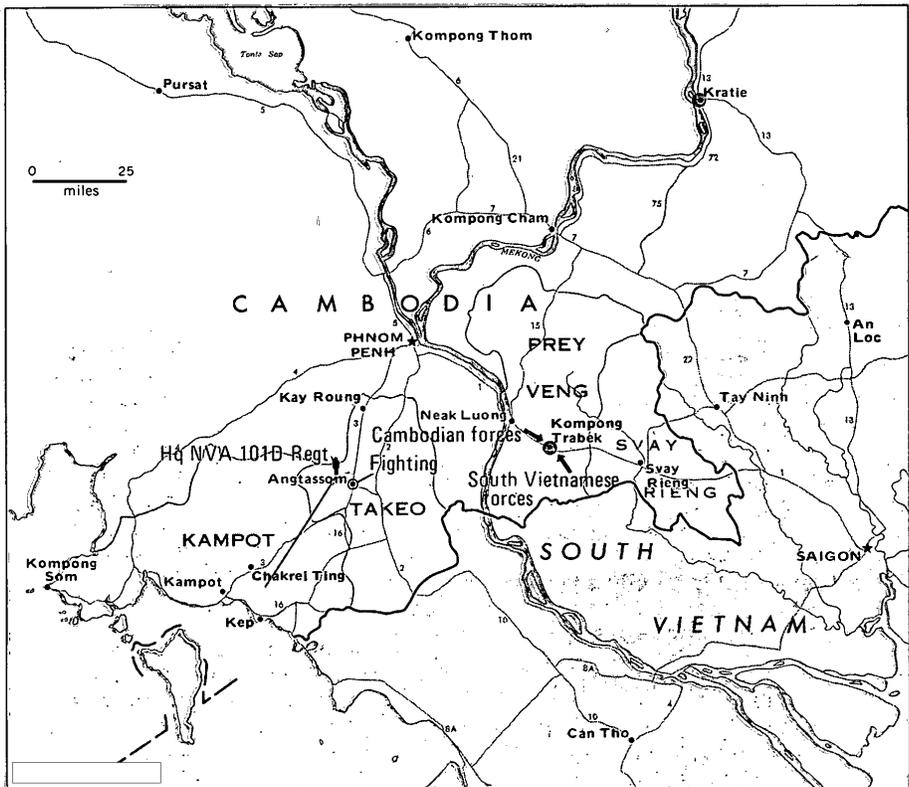
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LAOS

The government is attempting to revive its offensive to recapture the hills southwest of the Plaine des Jarres. Four fresh irregular battalions were moved into the Tha Tam Bleung valley late last week and are now moving eastward to try to dislodge the Communist troops entrenched on Phou Pha Sai, a key highpoint overlooking the southern Plaine. So far they have met only limited resistance. The North Vietnamese have elements of three regiments south and west of the Plaine and one or two others in reserve. They have built numerous heavily fortified positions in the area and have used small probes and shelling attacks to thwart other irregular attempts to advance during the past two months.

In south Laos, government forces are still encountering stiff resistance to their efforts to clear enemy units dug in to the north and west of Khong Sedone.



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● Communist-held location

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NOTES

Cambodia: The combined Cambodian - South Vietnamese operation to clear a section of Route 1 is being slowed by heavy rains. The troops have so far met only light opposition and have moved to within two miles of their first objective, the Communist-controlled town of Kompong Trabek. South of Phnom Penh in Takeo Province, a five-battalion government relief force has advanced to the outskirts of the town of Angtassom, which has been under heavy enemy attack since 1 July.

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Northern Ireland:

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