



The President's Daily Brief



Top Secret
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1 September 1972

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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[redacted] the Vietnamese [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 1)

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South Vietnamese Marines have initiated a number of attacks in the Quang Tri area, apparently causing heavy enemy losses.

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[redacted]

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[redacted] Soviet [redacted]

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[redacted] Laos [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 4)

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Cambodian troops are having little success in reopening Communist-controlled sections of two major highways. (Page 5)

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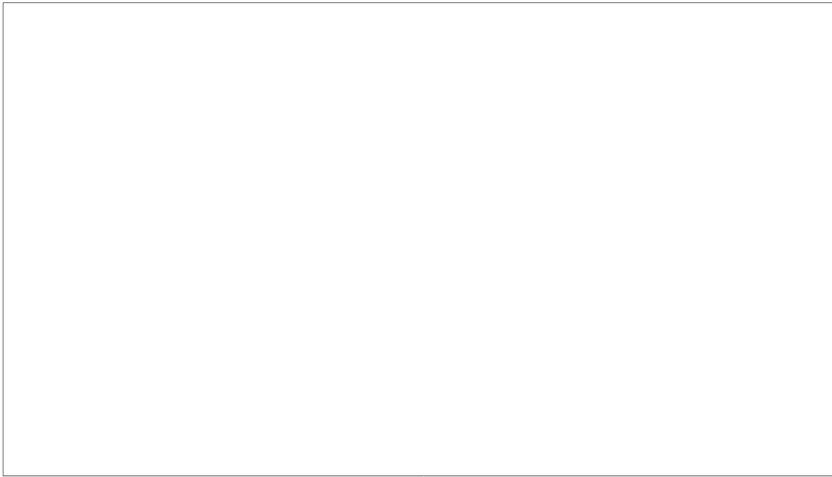
[redacted] Soviet [redacted]

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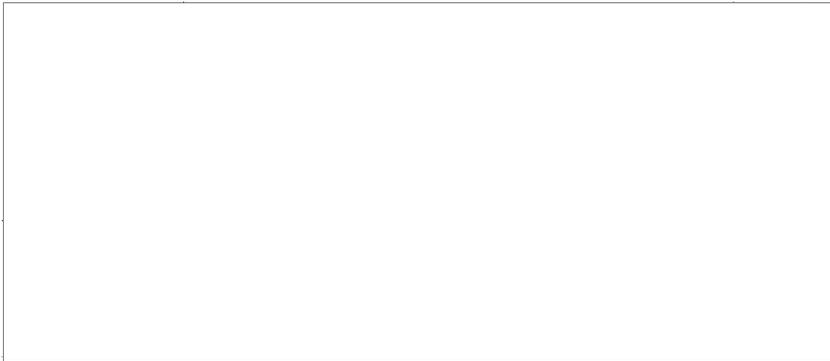
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VIETNAM



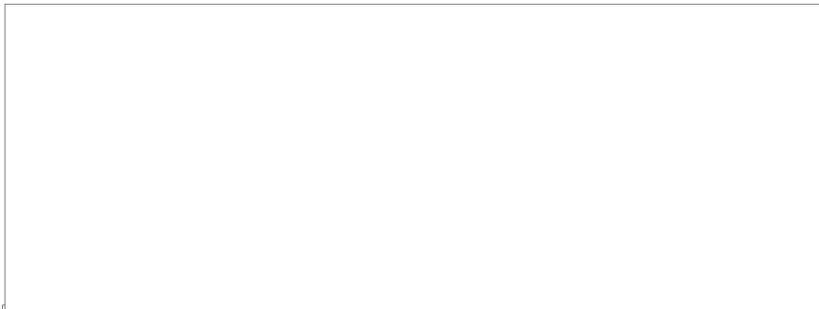
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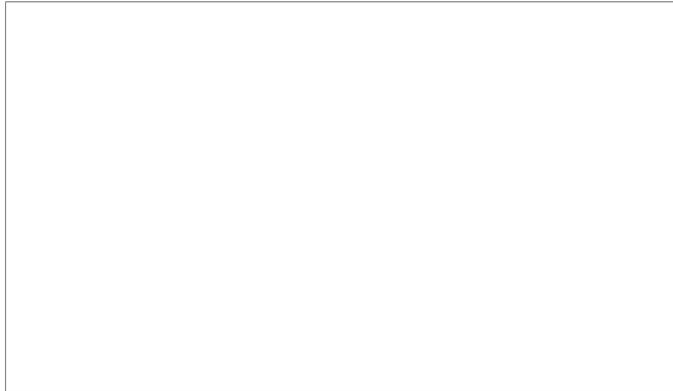


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SOUTH VIETNAM

South Vietnamese Marines have initiated a number of attacks in the Quang Tri area, apparently causing heavy enemy losses. Several large enemy munitions caches have also been uncovered by government troops in Thua Thien Province near Fire Base Bastogne. Nevertheless, the North Vietnamese fired nearly 2,000 artillery and mortar rounds at South Vietnamese Marines in and around Quang Tri City yesterday, but this morning the shelling decreased. Farther south, airfields and military bases at Da Nang, Bien Hoa, and Binh Thuy were hit by a large number of enemy rockets. Enemy attacks may increase in several sectors of the country tomorrow, the 27th anniversary of North Vietnam's founding and a day on which the Communists normally increase their military activity.

Although the Communists have pounded the Quang Tri sector with an average of nearly a thousand rounds of artillery and mortar fire a day for the past five weeks, enemy supply problems are growing worse. Some Communist units there are having difficulty moving food and other supplies over routes blocked by allied operations. Communist units near Hue also appear to be suffering from a shortage of ammunition as a result of logistics problems and the capture of ammunition by the South Vietnamese.

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USSR-LAOS-VIETNAM



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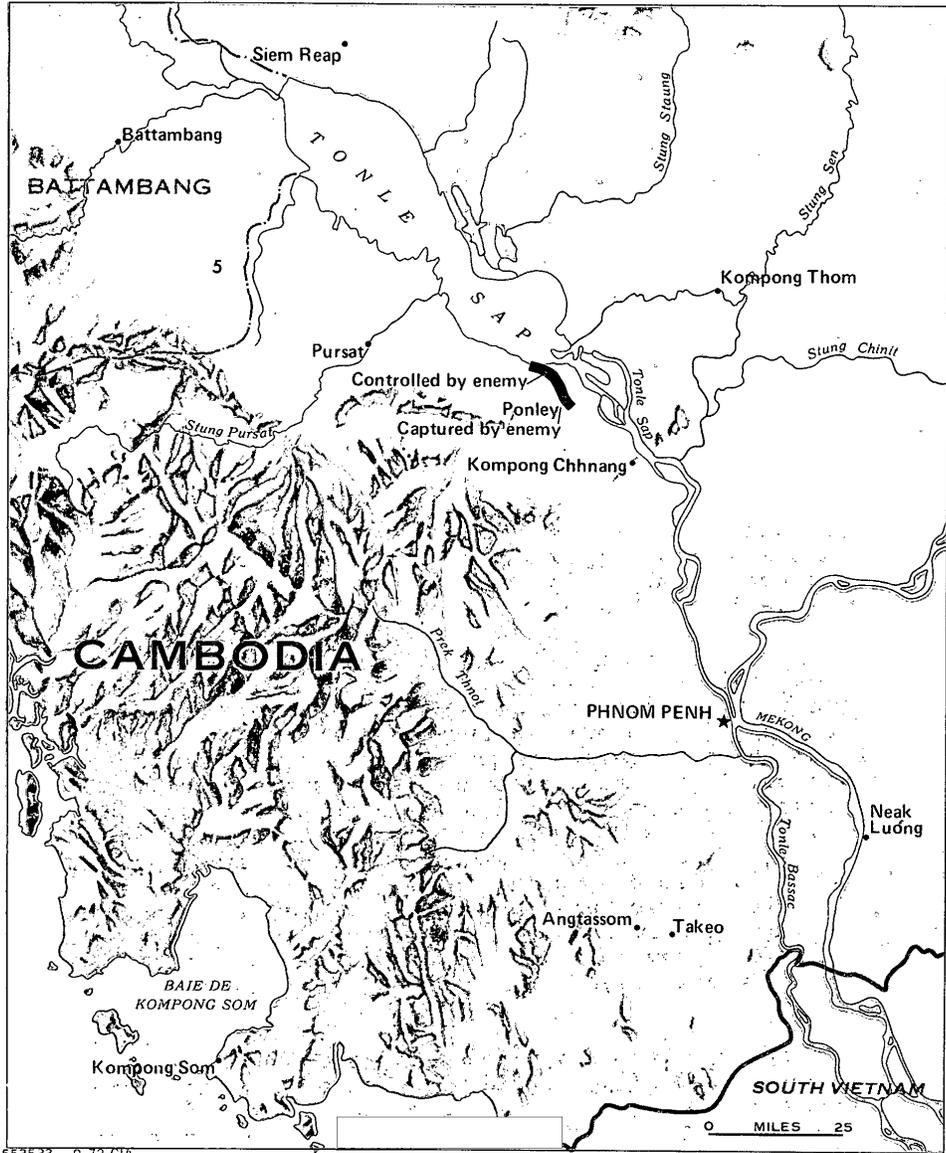
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CAMBODIA

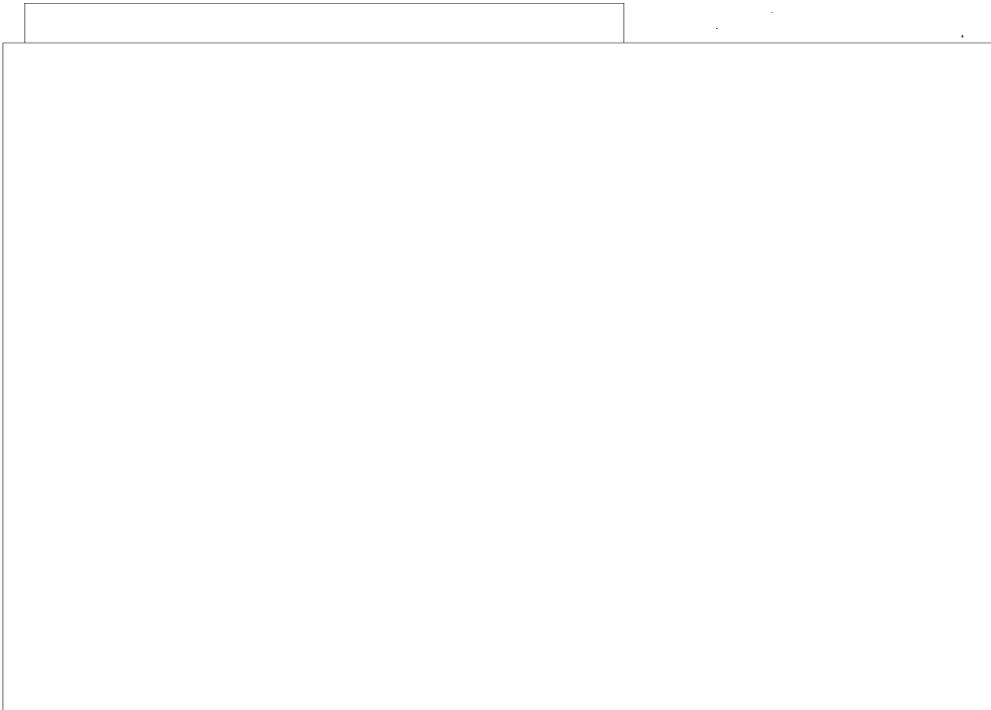
Communist forces have increased their control over Route 5 northwest of the capital in recent days, reducing sharply the government's ability to move rice from Battambang Province to Phnom Penh.

[redacted] *the interdiction of Route 5 threatened a rice shortage in the capital. The government has now purchased 10,000 tons of rice from Thailand for delivery in early September, which will help replenish the dwindling reserves.*

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The Cambodian Army has not yet reopened a section of Route 2 in Takeo Province since it was closed on 26 August.

Meanwhile, intercepts indicate that the Communists are planning a series of harassing operations in the Phnom Penh area to ensure that the Cambodian Army "does not get a breather." This campaign apparently started yesterday when enemy sappers raided a petroleum storage depot and destroyed or damaged two bridges just north of the capital.



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USSR



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NOTES

USSR: The Soviets, in addition to preparing a launch of their largest space booster, also are getting ready to launch a Soyuz spacecraft.

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Egypt-USSR: President Sadat has called upon Egyptian editors to rebut recent Soviet press articles critical of Egypt. This indicates that the recent upsurge of polemics between Egypt and the USSR, [redacted]

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[redacted] will continue. Egyptian leaders apparently believe that criticism of Moscow is necessary to justify their ouster of Soviet military personnel. Moscow recently began responding to this criticism, and its public rebuttals are becoming more strident.

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