

The President's Daily Brief

5 December 1972

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~~Top Secret~~^{25X1}

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

5 December 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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(Page 2)

Several Soviet Komar missile boats appear to be en route to North Vietnam. (Page 3)

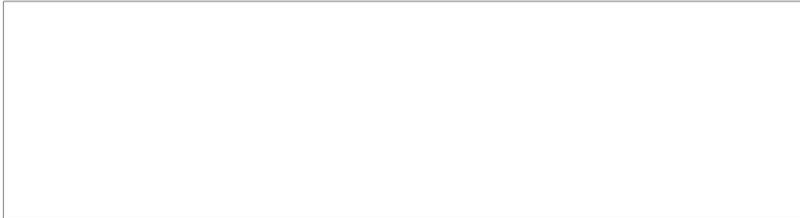
The North Vietnamese are preparing to increase their efforts to gain diplomatic recognition from South-east Asian and European countries as soon as a cease-fire is arranged. (Page 4)

[Redacted]

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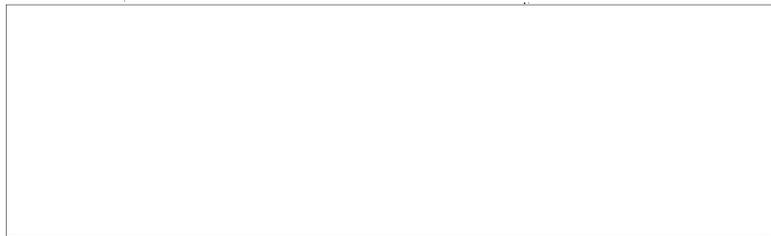
CHINA - SOUTHEAST ASIA



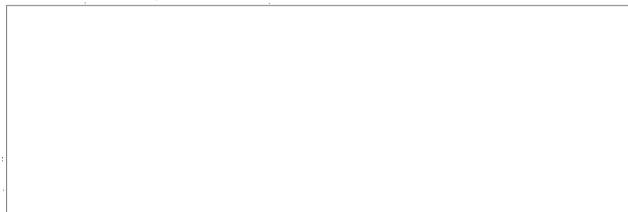
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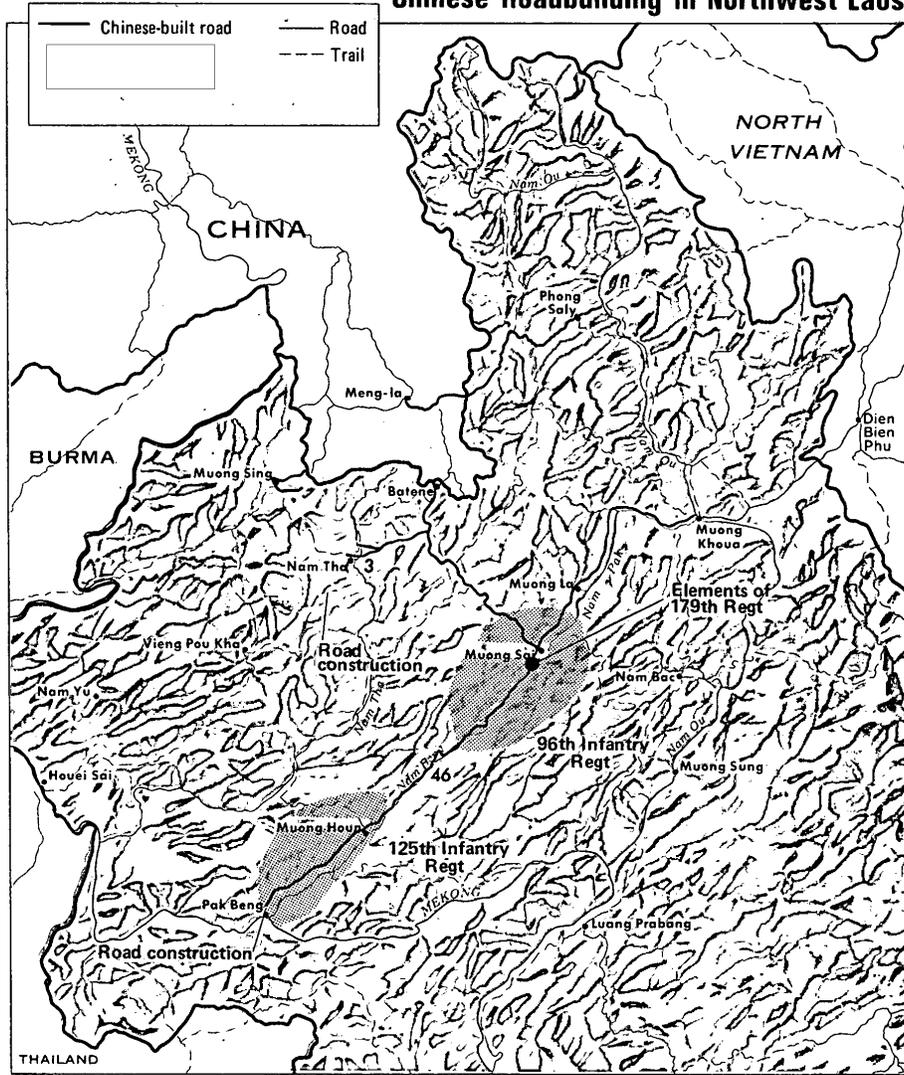
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Chinese Roadbuilding in Northwest Laos

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CHINA-LAOS

[Redacted]

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USSR - NORTH VIETNAM

[redacted]
 [redacted] at least two and most likely four Komar missile boats were loaded aboard freighters in Vladivostok.
 [redacted]

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Chan-chiang is one of the Chinese ports used for transshipment of materiel to North Vietnam. The Chinese produce their own version of the Komar in large numbers, so the craft delivered to Chan-chiang would appear to be for North Vietnam.

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[redacted]
 [redacted]

The Komar carries two antiship cruise missiles with a range of 12 to 15 miles. It is designed for defending coastal areas against larger surface ships. [redacted]

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NORTH VIETNAM

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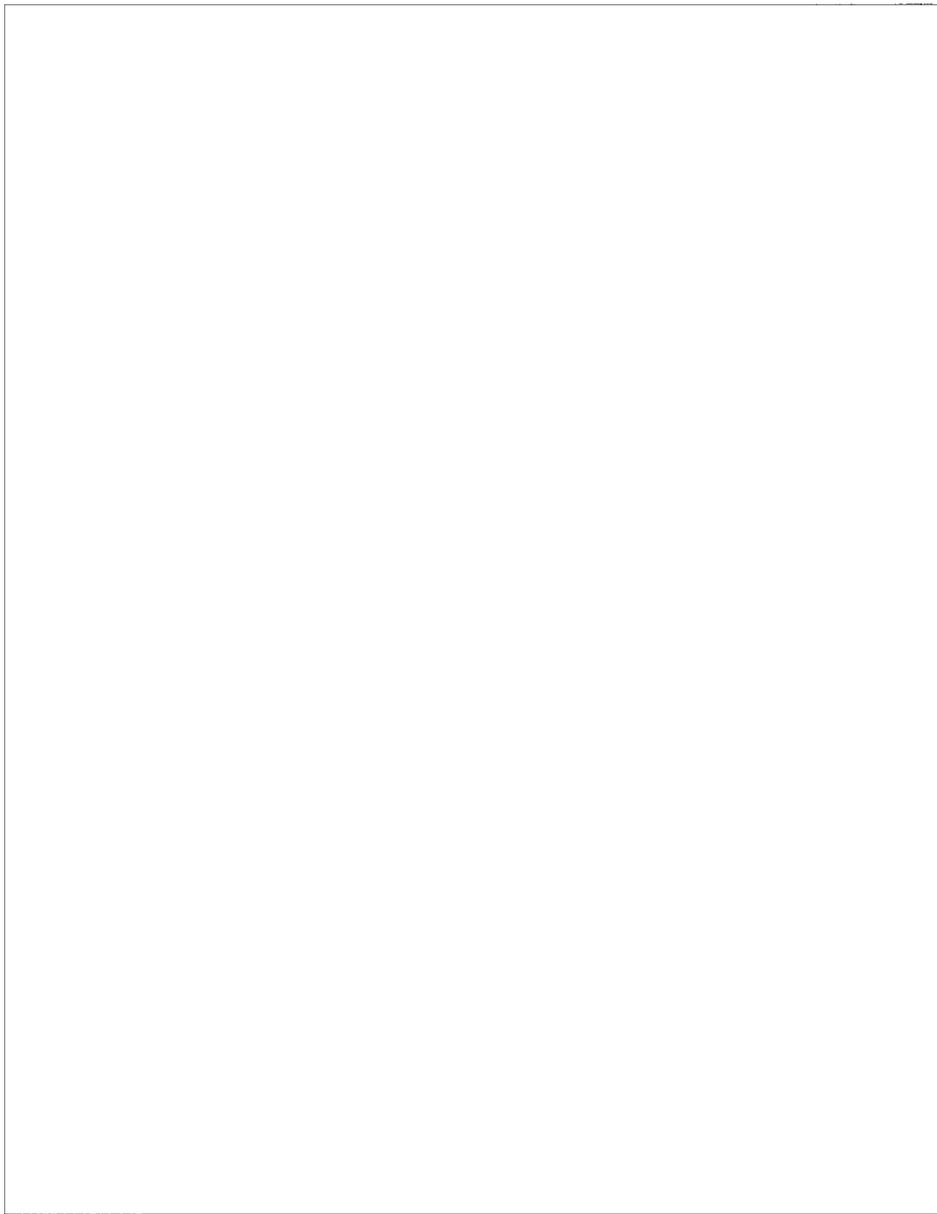
[redacted]
[redacted] Hanoi intends to mount a drive for diplomatic recognition in non-Communist countries as soon as a cease-fire agreement is signed. Countries in South-east Asia and Europe will be the main targets, although the North Vietnamese will also attempt to upgrade existing contacts with Japan and Hong Kong. If Hanoi cannot get formal recognition, it will try to establish trade missions or travel offices.

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The North Vietnamese have already gained diplomatic recognition from several European countries--Austria, Denmark, Norway, and Switzerland--and they have been angling with some success for closer economic relations with the Japanese. In the process Hanoi has softened some long-standing preconditions and is now willing, for example, to accept ambassadors from countries that have embassies in Saigon.

The Viet Cong's Provisional Government also intends to mount a new diplomatic effort designed to differentiate the PRG clearly from Hanoi.

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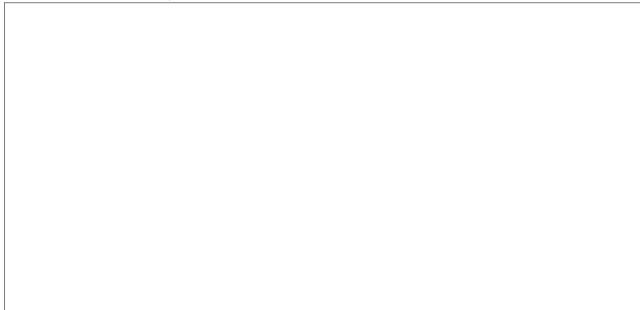
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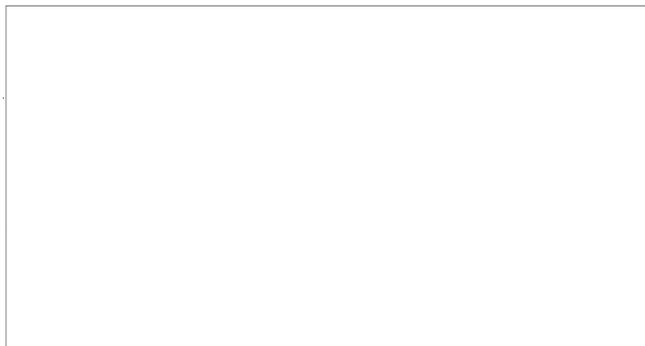
ISRAEL



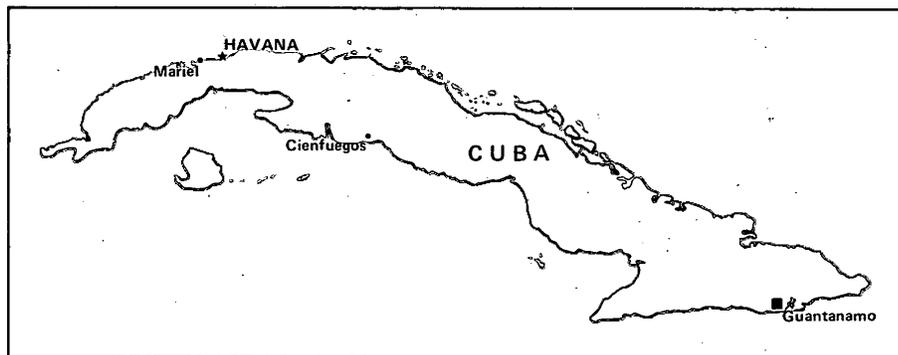
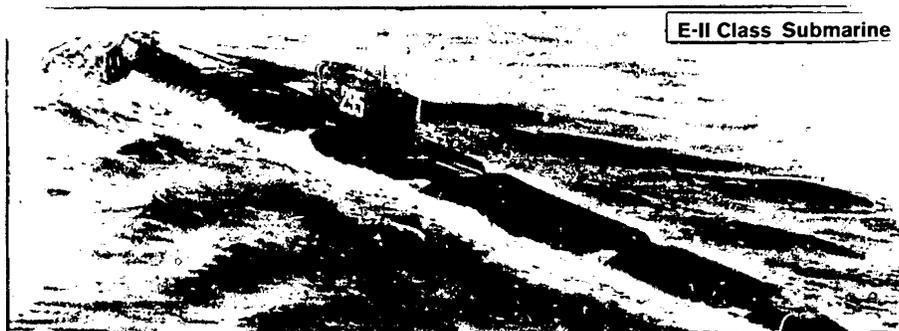
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NOTES

North Vietnam: Hanoi's annual dry-season effort to resupply its forces throughout Indochina appears to be under way. Intercepts indicate heavy vehicular traffic carrying large amounts of war supplies through southern North Vietnam. Because of the great volume of goods involved, the normal policy of traveling only at night has been relaxed. We have also noted sharply increased logistics activity from North Vietnam into the Laos panhandle and the beginnings of a major supply push into northern Laos as well.

Vietnam:



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USSR-Cuba:

[redacted] a Soviet nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine arrived at Cienfuegos on Sunday. Submarines of this class (the E-II) have appeared in this port twice before, once in 1970 and again last year. At present, the Soviets also have a cruiser, a destroyer, a diesel-powered submarine, and auxiliary vessels in Cuban waters.



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Honduras: The long-expected overthrow of President Cruz took place quietly yesterday morning, and General Oswaldo Lopez, chief of the armed forces, has resumed the presidency for "a minimum of five years." The new government may begin with some nationalistic posturing, but we expect no real challenge to US interests.

(continued)

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Haiti: Since President Duvalier dismissed Luckner Cambronne from his cabinet last month, Haiti has been swept by rumors of additional impending dismissals from the government. Despite an official denial, such rumors have generated unrest reaching into the armed forces. Some officers [redacted] are for the first time in years talking among themselves about the need for basic changes. A handful are said to be determined to prevent further consolidation of the Duvalier family's power. It is unusual for such thoughts to be bruited about among the Haitian military, long a submissive tool of the dictatorship. We do not expect an early coup attempt, but the current atmosphere will not soon be dissipated.

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