



The President's Daily Brief

11 December 1972

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exemption category 5B(1),(2),(3)
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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In Laos, the North Vietnamese have broken the month-long lull in the north by attacking three irregular battalions in positions overlooking the enemy's principal access route to Sam Thong. *(Page 2)*

A cease-fire apparently has now been worked out between the Lebanese Army and Arab guerrillas that had reinfiltred the Lebanon-Israel border area. *(Page 3)*

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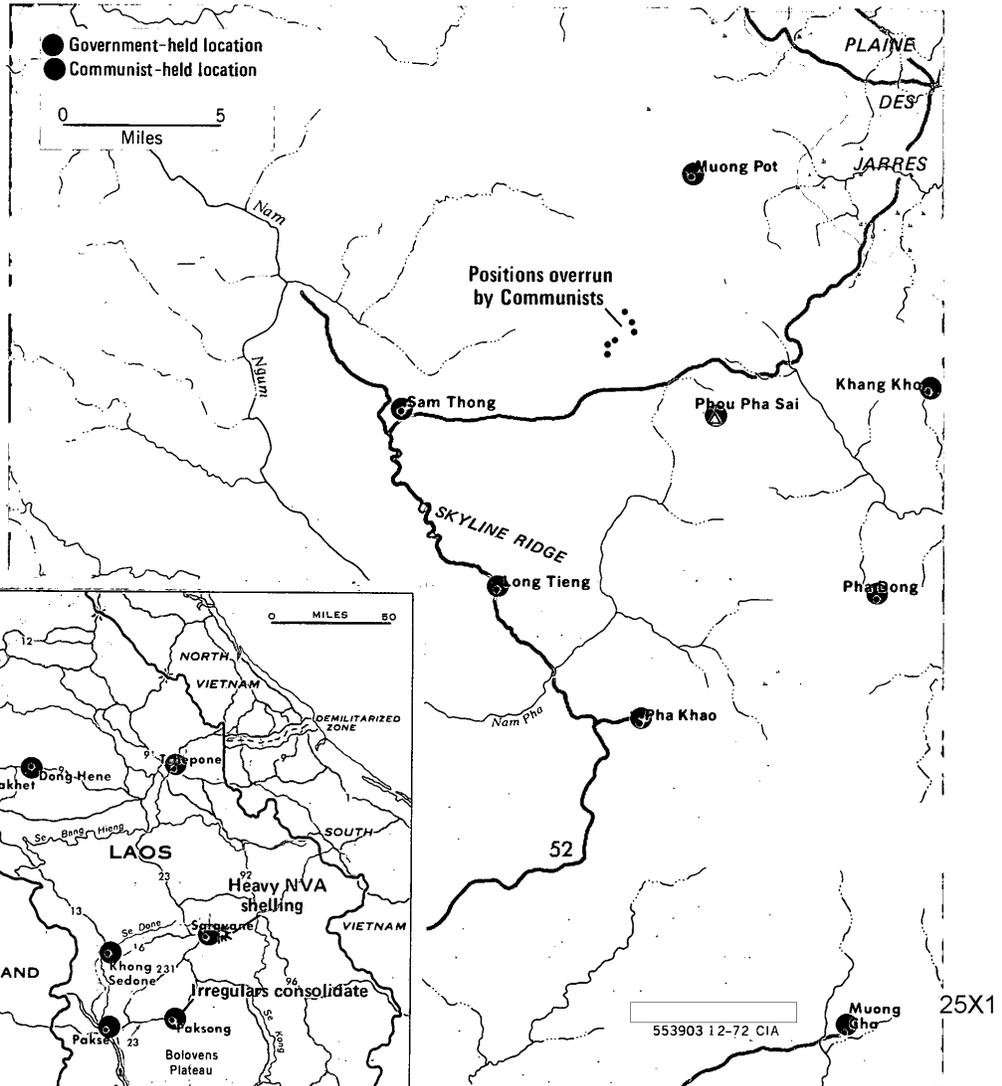
NORTH VIETNAM - USSR

The annual Soviet - North Vietnamese aid agreements were signed in Moscow on 9 December. As is usual, the TASS statement announcing the agreements did not provide figures. TASS emphasized that next year the USSR would ship--without compensation-- large consignments of goods, equipment, and other property of "great significance" for the development of the North Vietnamese economy and the strengthening of its "defense potential."

This year saw little of the fanfare normal for such occasions. Although in the past Soviet Premier Kosygin has generally been on hand, no top-level Soviet leader attended this year's signing. The Soviets also refrained from publicizing the "grand banquet" that is reported to have followed the ceremony. Moscow obviously is interested in downplaying its role in re-supplying North Vietnam at a time when sensitive negotiations on ending the war are in progress.

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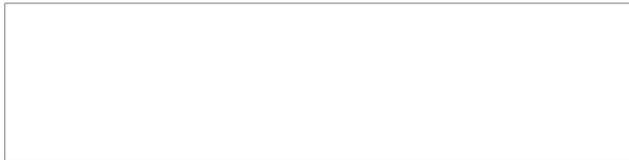
LONG TIENG AREA



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LAOS

The North Vietnamese have broken the month-long lull in the north. On Saturday company-size units of the North Vietnamese 174th Regiment, supported by moderate artillery and heavy weapons fire, attacked three irregular battalions in positions overlooking the enemy's principal access route to Sam Thong. The irregulars, although supported by heavy artillery, quickly withdrew after suffering some casualties.



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In the south, government troops in Saravane easily turned back an assault by three North Vietnamese battalions supported by artillery and heavy weapons fire. On the Bolovens Plateau, irregulars are taking advantage of the absence of resistance to consolidate their hold on Paksong.

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NOTE

Lebanon-Fedayeen: On Saturday, Lebanese Army units clashed again briefly with Arab guerrillas that had reinfilitrated the Lebanon-Israel border area in defiance of a government ban. A cease-fire apparently has now been worked out, however. Lebanese Army spokesmen report that the guerrillas have begun to pull back from the border areas.

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