



*The President's Daily Brief*

*13 January 1973*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

		South Vietnam. (Page 1)

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The Soviets are trying to improve their relations with the Lao Communists. (Page 3)

New Zealand's new Labor Party government evidently intends to stake out a foreign policy independent of Australia as well as of the US. (Page 4)

President Kaunda's decision not to send Zambia's copper through Rhodesia will hurt the economies of both countries. (Page 5)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

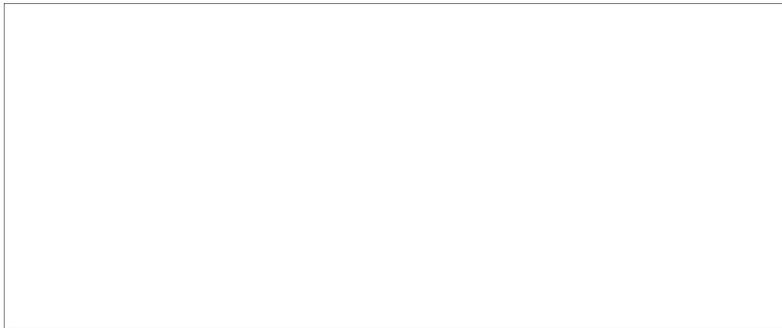
**SOUTH VIETNAM**

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**JAPAN - NORTH VIETNAM**



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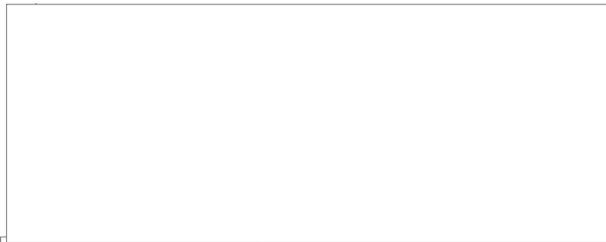
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR-LAOS

The Soviets are trying to improve their relations with the Lao Communists.

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Yesterday, Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma told Ambassador Godley that the Soviet ambassador in Laos had asked whether the government would have any objections to his visiting Sam Neua. Souvanna told him he had none.

*This would be the first trip to Sam Neua by a Soviet envoy in a number of years. Presumably he would be going to sound out the Pathet Lao directly on prospects for a settlement of the war in Laos. Previously, most Soviet dealings with the Pathet Lao have been either in or through Hanoi. The Soviets have been urging the government side for some time to negotiate seriously toward a peace agreement.*

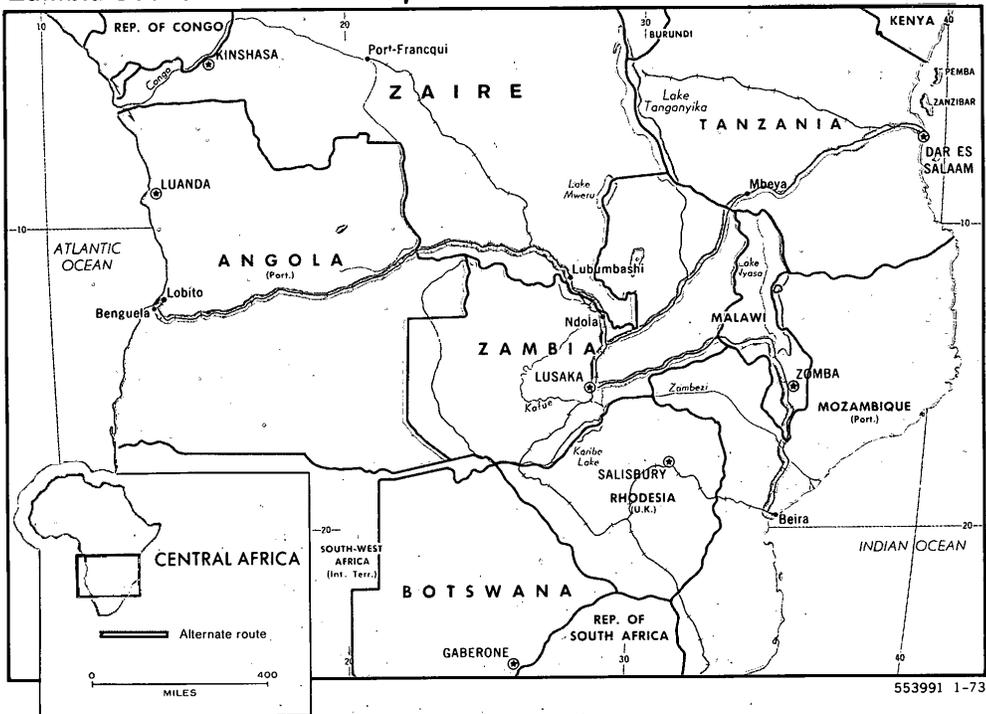
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NEW ZEALAND

In a discussion with Chargé Wood on Thursday, Prime Minister Kirk called SEATO outmoded and said it should be replaced by a broader, less military-oriented organization. New Zealand will maintain its membership for the time being, but Kirk said he would refuse to attend any SEATO meeting. Kirk emphasized the importance of the ANZUS alliance, however, and said that he will speak to Australian Prime Minister Whitlam, who visits Wellington next week, of the desirability of continuing the five-power defense arrangement with the UK, Singapore, and Malaysia for another four or five years.

*Kirk's comments indicate that while his new Labor Party government is inclined to diverge in a number of respects from the US foreign policy, it does not intend merely to echo Canberra's brand of independence. Although his views on SEATO are sharper than those Whitlam has expressed, he appears somewhat more relaxed toward the five-power arrangement.*

### Zambia Seeks Alternate Transportation Routes



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

RHODESIA-ZAMBIA

President Kaunda has rejected the Rhodesian Government's offer to permit Zambian copper exports to pass through the border closed on Tuesday to virtually all other traffic. He has ordered a re-routing of the shipments, the source of half his government's revenue and about all of its foreign exchange.

*Zambian officials are counting on using an improved road system to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, but they appear to have overestimated the capacity of that port. The economies of both Rhodesia and Zambia will be hurt. Perhaps most important, it will now be politically difficult for Prime Minister Smith to back down from his closure of the frontier, an act that had been intended as a warning to Kaunda to stop raids into Rhodesia by Zambian-based insurgents.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**NOTE**

Bangladesh: The USIS building in Dacca, occupied early last week by students protesting US bombing in North Vietnam, has been restored to US control with the help of the government. Normal USIS operations have not yet been resumed, but the students did little damage. Several key officials of the ruling Awami League have recently taken a less anti-American line and have apparently decided to focus instead on domestic political opponents.

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