



The President's Daily Brief

9 April 1973

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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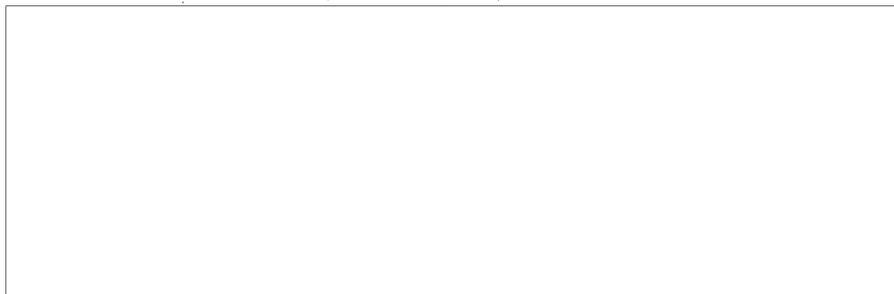
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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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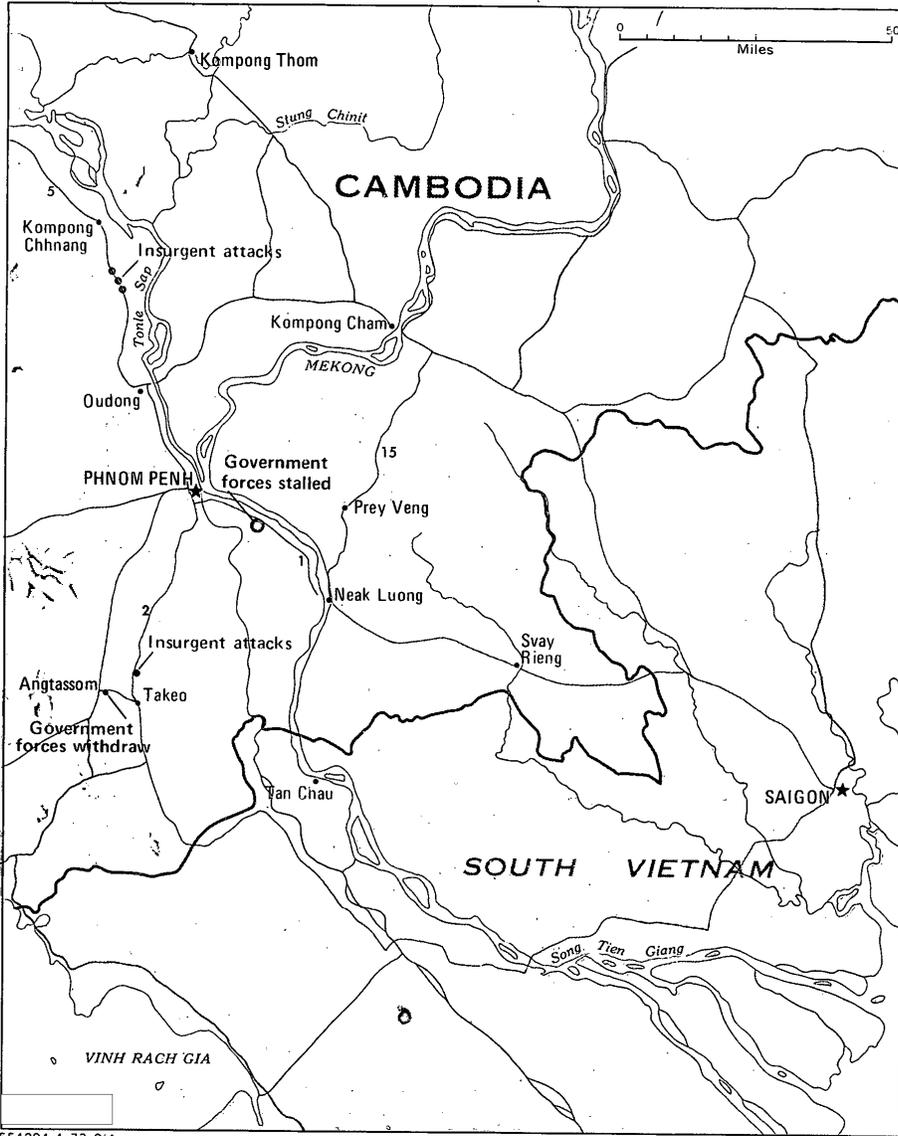
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Phnom Penh remains isolated, with roads to it cut and river traffic under fire. (Page 1)

The Chinese ICBM, the SCT-1, failed its third flight test. (Page 2)

Another ICCS helicopter has been downed. (Page 3)

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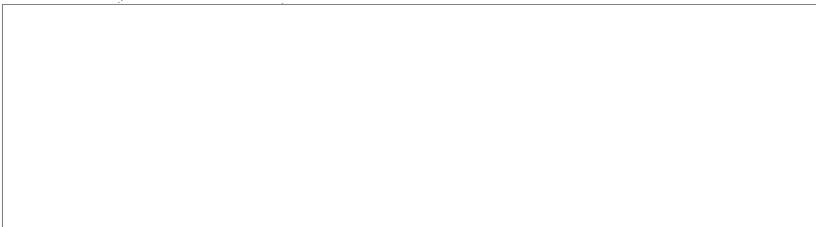
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CAMBODIA

The Khmer insurgents are continuing their harassment of government positions along major highways and near the Mekong River. In the most significant ground action over the weekend, insurgent attacks forced government troops to abandon their positions at Angtassom, about 40 miles south of Phnom Penh, and pull back toward Takeo. Other insurgent attacks were reported against government units along Route 2 north of Takeo, along Route 15 north of Neak Luong, and along Route 5 south of Kompong Chhnang. In addition, the insurgents have stalled the government clearing operation on Route 1, southeast of Phnom Penh.

Yesterday, the insurgents shelled five ships of a Mekong resupply convoy, inflicting minor damage on three of them. All five vessels made it to Phnom Penh; two were carrying badly needed petroleum products. The rest of the convoy stayed in South Vietnamese waters. Some of the remaining vessels attempted the run again this morning. According to unconfirmed press reports, one, a tanker, was hit and burned, causing the crew to abandon ship.

If these vessels do not reach Phnom Penh today, the capital's stocks of some essential POL products will be exhausted.

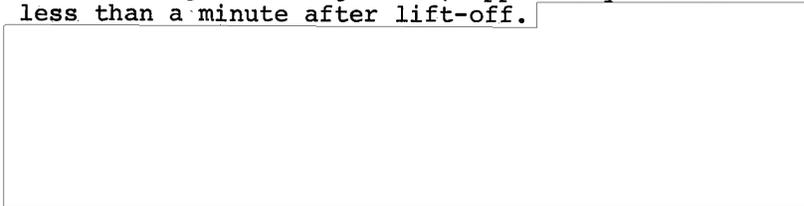


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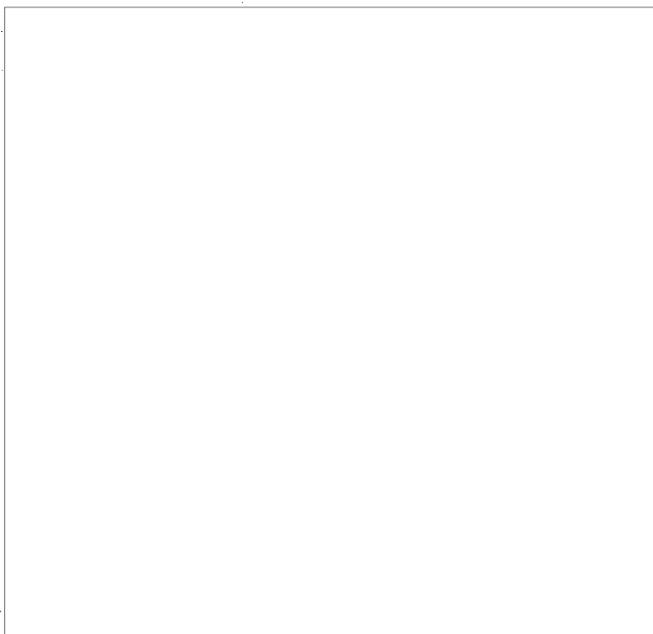
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CHINA

The third flight test on April 7 of the SCT-1, China's large two-stage ICBM, apparently failed less than a minute after lift-off.



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NOTE

Vietnam: A Joint Military Commission helicopter was shot down by small arms fire over the Mekong Delta today while escorting another helicopter carrying ICCS observers. Both craft were clearly painted with identification markings. None of the South Vietnamese passengers or crew of the crashed helicopter were hurt. No Viet Cong were aboard. Meanwhile, survivors of Saturday's downing of two ICCS helicopters in the north have been recovered, along with the bodies of their colleagues, who were killed in the fall from 3,000 feet after their craft was hit by a missile. The dead include a US crew, a Canadian, an Indonesian, two Hungarians, and two Viet Cong.

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