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# The President's Daily Brief

*February 18, 1974*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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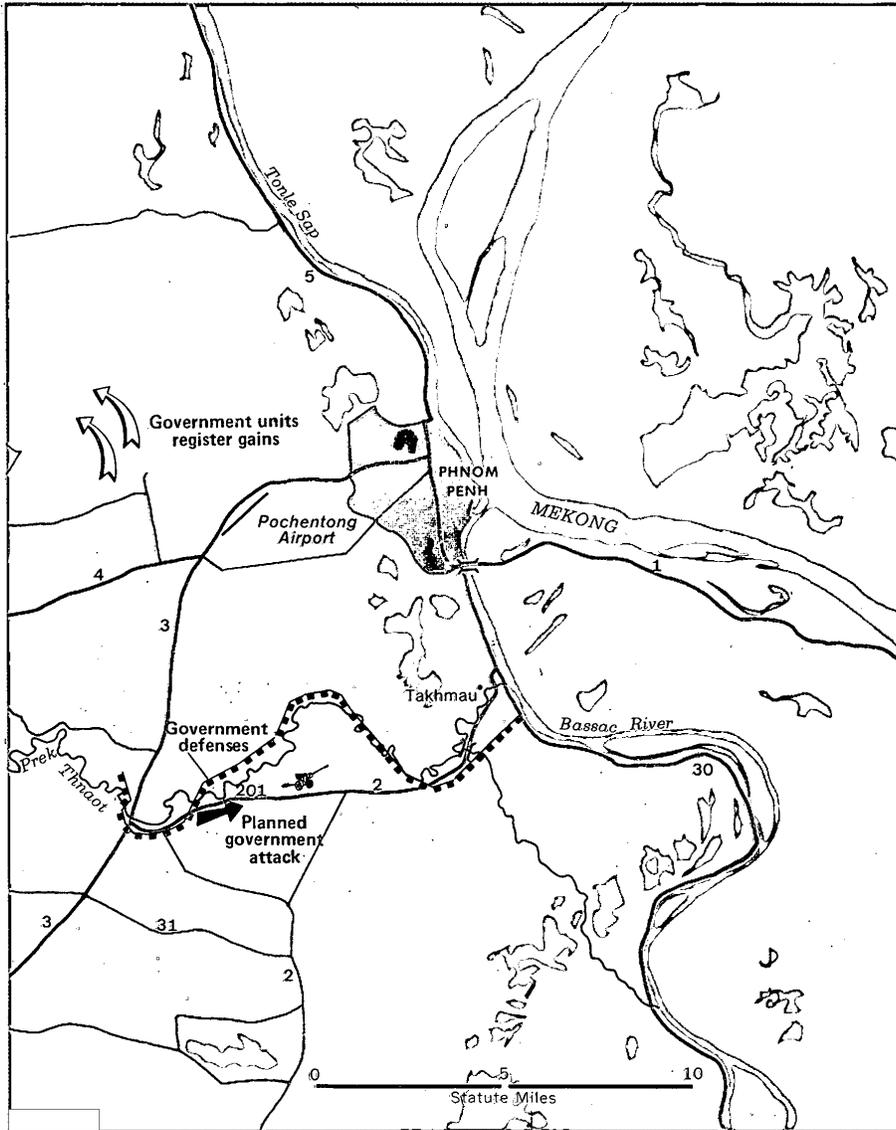
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Cambodian government forces will probably retain the initiative for the next few days as the Communists prepare for a renewed push on Phnom Penh toward the end of the month. *(Page 1)*

The Soviet Union is interested in renewing the dialogue with Japan, with particular emphasis on negotiating Siberian development projects. *(Page 2)*

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# Phnom Penh



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CAMBODIA

Cambodian Army forces along Phnom Penh's southern front are scheduled to begin a drive in the next few days to expand government holdings near Route 3 on the southern bank of the Prek Thnaot River. The Khmer Communists will have to respond to this move against their western flank or risk envelopment of some of their units. These would include the artillery that has been shelling Phnom Penh. Northwest of the city, government units are mopping up after their successful assaults on insurgent troops seven miles from Pochentong airport.

Government ground forces will probably retain the initiative for the next few days as the Communists prepare for a renewed push on the capital toward the end of the month. Intercepted messages continue to reflect Communist plans for a coordinated effort on several fronts, but no specific date for the attacks has been mentioned.



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USSR-JAPAN

The Soviet Union is interested in renewing the dialogue with Japan begun during Prime Minister Tanaka's visit to Moscow last October. [redacted]

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[redacted] Moscow wants to implement the agreements reached at that time, particularly those on Siberian development.

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Soviet officials in Japan maintain that the USSR is now ready for detailed negotiations on at least five separate Siberian development projects. They blamed bureaucratic wrangling in Moscow for past delays, but said that all Soviet ministries now agree on the need to move ahead. The Soviets denied that they have lost interest in the Tyumen pipeline [redacted]

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The Japanese are disappointed in the lack of specifics and are skeptical that the Soviets are prepared to bridge the wide gap in the two countries' positions on economic issues. The Japanese want to keep their lines open, however, and have invited any one of the top three Soviet leaders to visit Japan after June.

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