



*The President's Daily Brief*

22 November 1969

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*Top Secret*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 November 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Leaders of the Warsaw Pact powers are expected to meet soon in Moscow, probably to discuss European security matters. (Page 1)

The Italian domestic situation is causing further difficulties for the Rumor government. (Page 2)

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Cambodian insurgents have renewed their activity in the countryside. (Page 4)

In Iraq, a struggle for power is developing. (Page 5)

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WARSAW PACT

Leaders of the Warsaw Pact powers are expected to assemble in Moscow soon, probably to discuss European security matters. The exact timing is still not known.

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[Redacted]

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Soviet Ambassador Tsarapkin was suddenly recalled from Bonn to Moscow on 20 November to take part in preparations for the meeting.

There are conflicting reports concerning the purposes of the meeting and its agenda. A West German official in Prague, citing statements by Eastern European diplomats, takes the view that the East Germans requested the meeting in order to discuss a common policy toward West Germany.

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[Redacted]

the participants will treat Germany and Berlin only as part of a broader discussion of European security matters.

*In any event, Pankow will certainly try to obtain agreement from its East European allies not to move too quickly in negotiating with Bonn or to ignore East German interests. The East Germans may already be too late, however, especially in the case of the Poles.*

*Unlike 1967, when Pankow joined forces with Moscow to block West Germany, this time the Soviets have been relatively forthcoming toward Bonn. They are reported to have told the other Eastern European states that they too may negotiate certain issues with the West Germans. Unless Moscow shifts tactics and supports the East Germans, it appears doubtful that Pankow will be able to dissuade its allies from following their own schedule for moving closer toward an accommodation with Bonn.*

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ITALY

There is uneasiness in government circles following police casualties at the hands of labor extremists in Milan during Wednesday's general strike. The police, worn by the strikes and demonstrations of the past two and one-half months, had earlier organized a complaint over their long hours of trying to maintain order. Following Wednesday's incidents, senior officials only with some difficulty dissuaded police retaliation, and two of the less tractable units were replaced by others from outside Milan.

The government of Prime Minister Rumor has come under new attacks from many quarters over the deterioration of the domestic situation. [redacted]

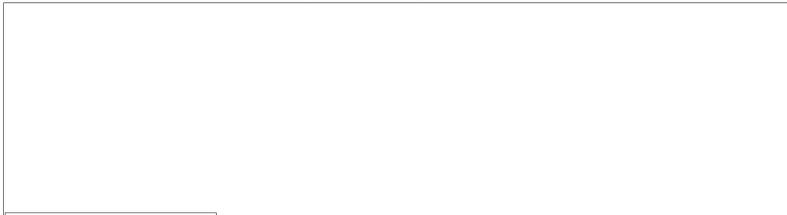
[redacted] President Saragat believes that a stronger government is required.

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*There is little doubt that the Rumor government is in difficulty, but how precarious its position may be is not clear. The government is making some progress toward new labor contracts that may ease the current unrest, and in the meantime efforts to maintain law and order are receiving support from both conservative and leftist politicians. Should the police fail to exercise their normal restraint or be otherwise insubordinate, however, the government would immediately be in serious trouble.*

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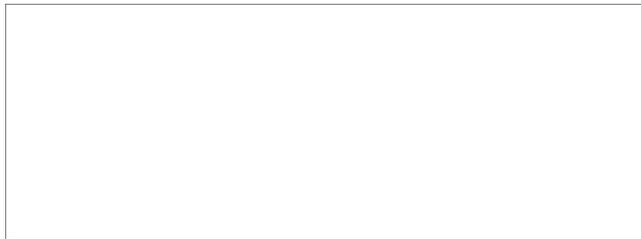
COMMUNIST CHINA



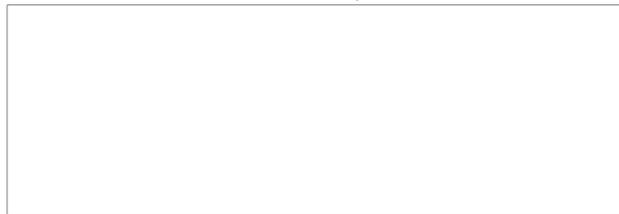
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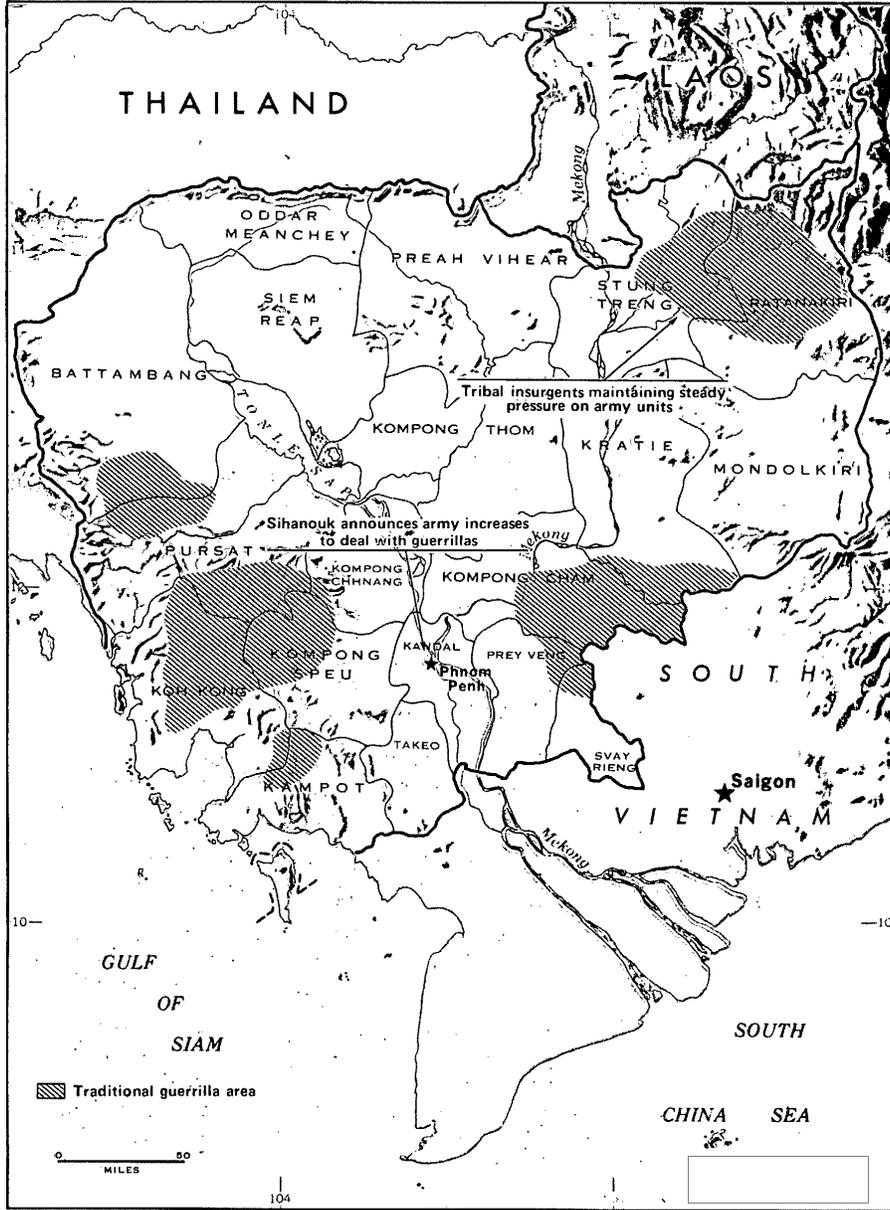


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### Cambodia: Insurgent Activity on the Rise



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CAMBODIA

With the coming of the dry season, leftist insurgents have renewed their activity in the countryside. Most of the incidents, as reflected in intercepts of Cambodian military messages, are occurring in traditional guerrilla areas in the western provinces and in the east, along the South Vietnamese border. In the latter sector, the insurgents get some logistic support from the Viet Cong and are able to dodge security forces by withdrawing into Viet Cong - controlled territory along the border. Insurgency is particularly acute in the northeast, where tribal rebels, backed by the Vietnamese Communists, have maintained steady pressure on Cambodian Army units. Away from the immediate border area, the Viet Cong do not appear to be supporting insurgent groups.

*The guerrillas [redacted] are a perennial thorn in Sihanouk's side. [redacted]*

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*The insurgents' heavy-handed tactics of sending propaganda and extortion teams against villages in the outlying provinces suggest that they are making little progress in developing a popular base.*

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NOTE

Iraq: A struggle for power is developing. The civilian wing of the Baath party is threatening the present dominance of the party's military wing. Although the civilian faction does not exercise control over the military as such, it can count on the loyalty of many junior officers, the party militia, the civilian party apparatus, and perhaps a number of non-Baathists both in and out of the army. A successful coup by this group, however, would still leave Iraq in essentially the same political posture in its relationship with the West.

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