



The President's Daily Brief



27 June 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

The Soviets are maintaining the rate of their military deliveries to the Middle East at close to last year's levels. Egypt, Syria, and Iraq are receiving a wide variety of equipment, and the Sudan, as we noted earlier, apparently has been added to the group of regular Soviet clients.

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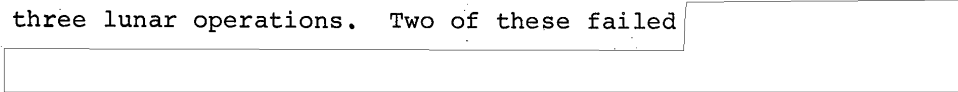
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SOVIET AFFAIRS

A major space launch seems in the cards for early July. The movement of Soviet space support and recovery ships suggests that the mission will be an unmanned circumlunar flight similar to Zond 5 and 6 last year. Since the successful flight of Zond 6 in November 1968, the Soviets have attempted three lunar operations. Two of these failed



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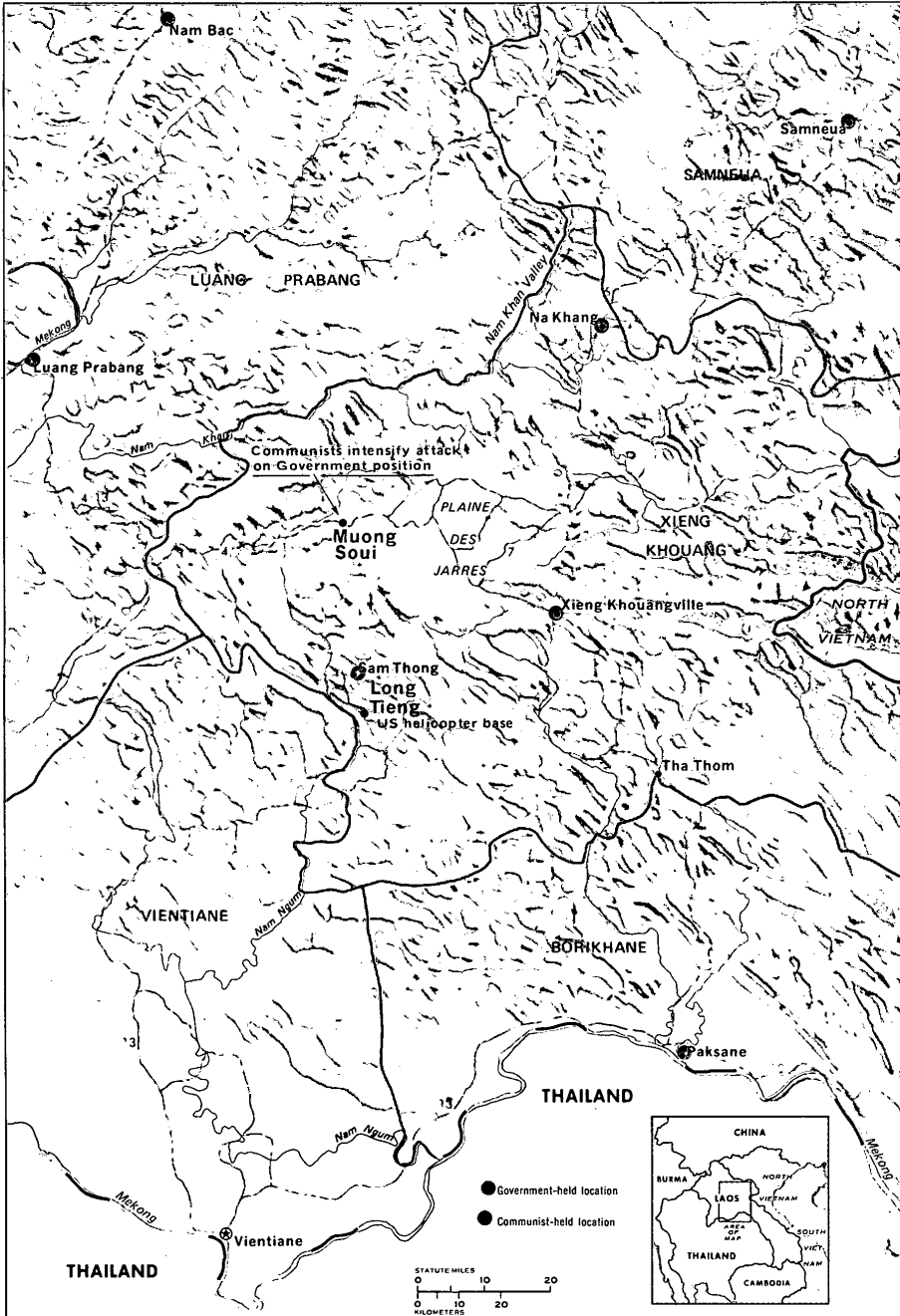
EUROPE

The French have announced that the test firing of their land-based IRBM on 24 June was successful, and that the missile is completely satisfactory. This clears the way for production of operational missiles, which the French must start soon if they are to meet their scheduled deployment date of late 1970 for the first nine IRBMs. Further testing and modification of the missile and its components will take place both before and after deployment.

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There is nothing significant to report on Vietnam.

LAOS: Current Situation



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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

LAOS

Communist troops again attacked Muong Soui early today. Large numbers of the government's neutralist troops deserted, and the base's defensive perimeter was further reduced. The headquarters compound and the Thai-manned artillery outpost are still being held.

Lao military leaders must soon choose whether to give up Muong Soui or send in reinforcements. Even with more troops, however, the situation will be difficult to salvage if the Communists continue to press their attack.

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Loss of the base would put the Communists in a better position to move westward and re-establish themselves in northern Vientiane Province, from which they were driven several years ago. The attack in any case will deflate the recently raised hopes of Lao leaders of reaching some political settlement with Hanoi.

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PERU

The government began to implement its agrarian reform program yesterday by taking over the eight largest sugar plantations, including those of W. R. Grace & Co. Government administrators were sent to the plantations and the companies' business offices in Lima, and the firms' bank accounts were frozen. By moving first against foreign-owned lands, the government apparently hopes to generate nationalistic support for the land reforms and thereby counter expected opposition from wealthy Peruvian landowners.

LATE ITEM: LAOS

Ground commanders decided today to evacuate all progovernment troops from Muong Soui. As of midafternoon local time, the airlift of troops out of the area had begun.

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