



The President's Daily Brief

1 April 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

1 April 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The enemy's "highpoint" of military activity in South Vietnam yesterday does not seem to have been as intense as similar efforts last year. (Page 1)

While Peking has been soft-pedaling its polemics, Moscow has become shriller in its propaganda attacks on the Chinese. (Page 2)

The North Vietnamese continue to put troops into the infiltration pipeline but at a rate considerably less than what it was for the same period last year. (Page 4)

[Redacted]
China [Redacted] (Page 5)

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The situation in the Cambodian countryside is fairly quiet, but this may be only temporary. (Page 6)

[Redacted] (Page 7)

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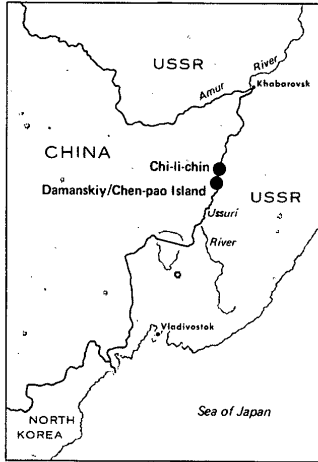
SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist forces hit over 100 US and South Vietnamese positions last night. Among the targets of generally light shelling attacks were Da Nang, Camh Ranh Bay, and three US division headquarters north of Saigon. Some ground fighting was reported along the Cambodian border, but none of it lasted very long. First reports put American casualties at eight killed and almost 100 wounded.

This surge is one of the biggest Communist efforts of the current winter-spring period, but it does not seem to measure up to the enemy's periodic "highpoints" in 1969. There is some indication that yesterday's action may be followed by a second phase of attacks. The enemy has supply problems, however, and the current deployment pattern of most of his larger units suggests that the Communists will be unable to maintain this activity for long.

**Chinese Maintaining Defensive Positions
on Ussuri River Islands**

[Redacted]



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USSR-CHINA

Soviet propaganda attacks on China are becoming shriller. While Peking has been soft-pedaling its polemics, Moscow has been hammering away at the Chinese on a variety of issues. An article in Red Star on 31 March, for instance, accused China of taking "openly provocative" military measures, including large-scale military construction, in areas bordering the Soviet Union and Mongolia.

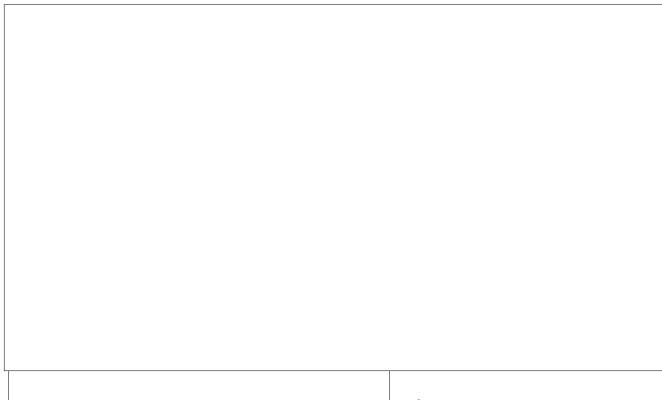
Actually the Chinese have taken only limited defensive measures in these areas. Such accusations are probably Moscow's way of countering the Chinese allegations that the Soviets are forcing them to negotiate under military pressure. They also help the record in case the Peking talks collapse.

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Satellite photography [redacted] indicates that the Chinese are maintaining their defensive positions on the contested islands in the Ussuri River. Since the most recent previous photography-- [redacted] the Chinese had cleared snow from defensive trench networks on Damanskiy/Chen-pao Island, where they clashed with the Soviets a year ago, and from a small segment of the trench network on Chi-li-chin, a larger island north of Damanskiy/Chen-pao.

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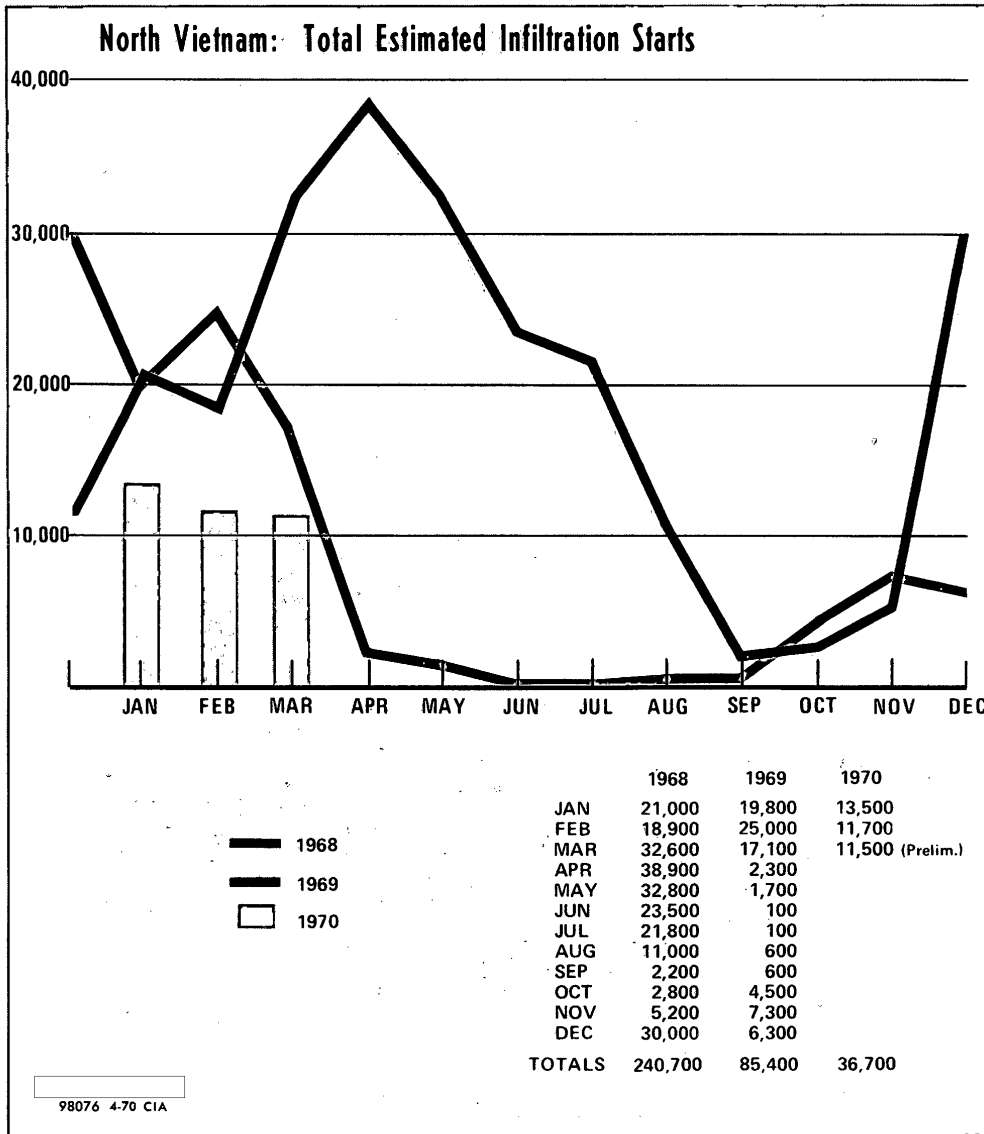
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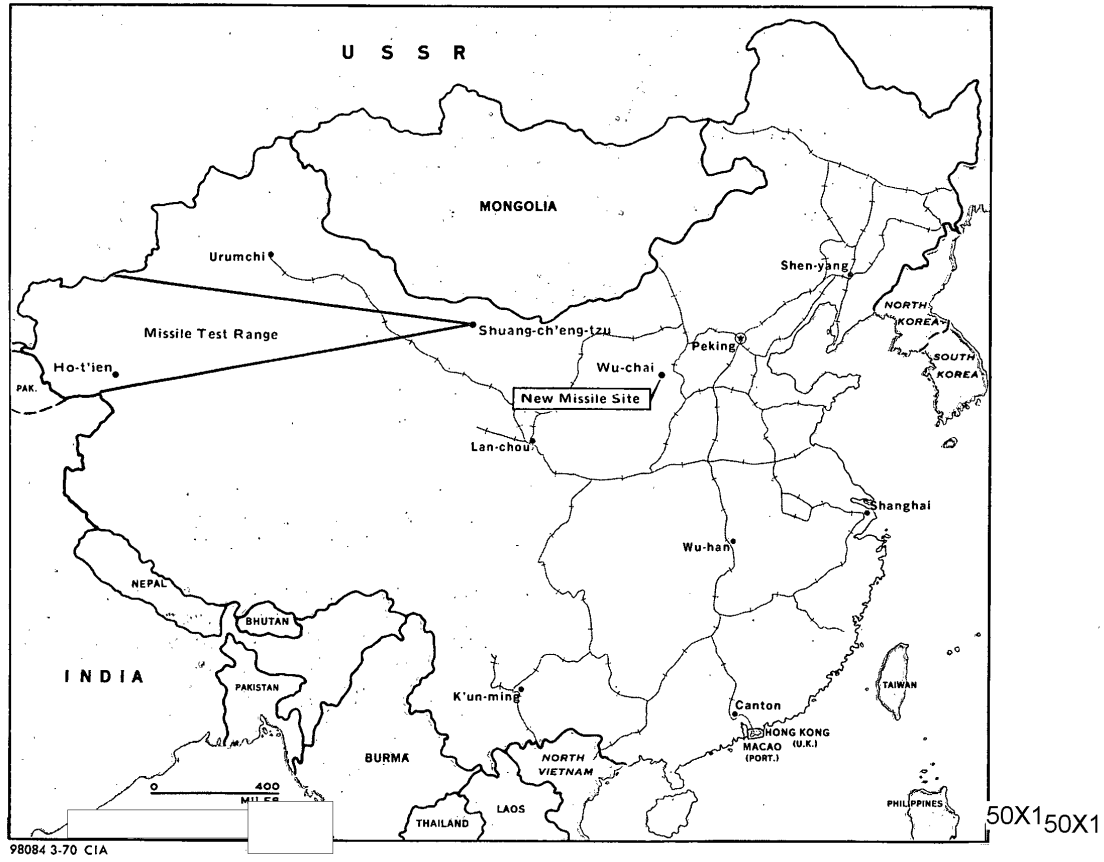
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NORTH VIETNAM

Over the past week, new battalion-sized groups have been entering the infiltration system at the rate of one a day. This had been forecast in an intercept of 20 March, which said such a rate would be maintained between 25 March and 2 April. A more recent message indicates, moreover, that new departures will continue at least through 4 April.

With most of the returns in, it now looks as if the total input for March will be about 11,500. For the first quarter, then, about 37,000 have entered the pipeline, as compared with some 61,000 during the same period last year.

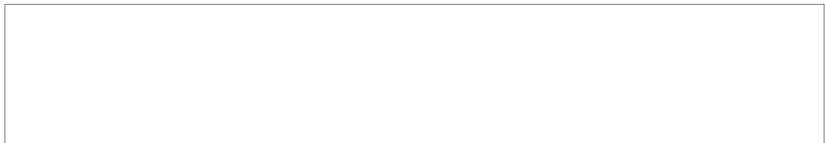
Newly Discovered Chinese Missile Site at Wu-chai



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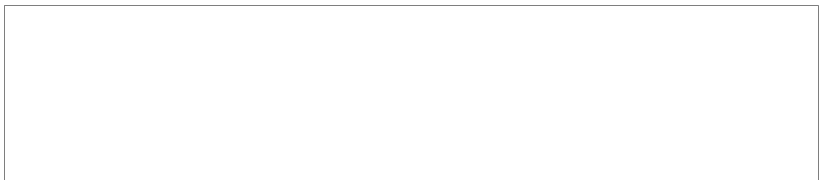
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COMMUNIST CHINA



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A missile about 70 feet long aboard a transporter-erector is discernible on the pad in photography of 15 November 1968. The missile length generally equates with the Chinese MRBMs seen on several occasions at the Shuang-cheng-tzu test range.



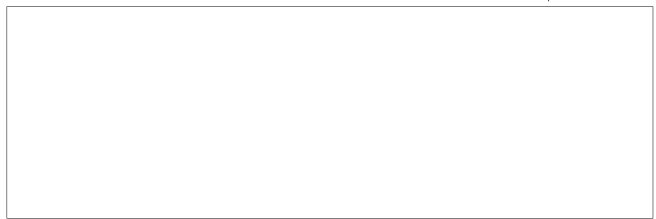
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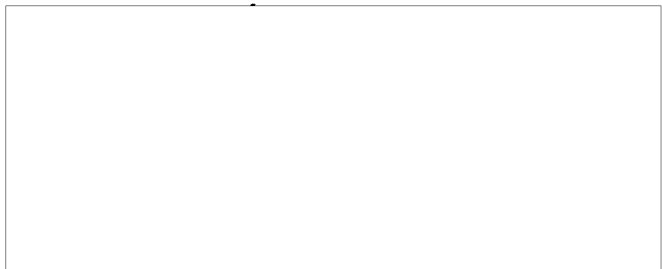
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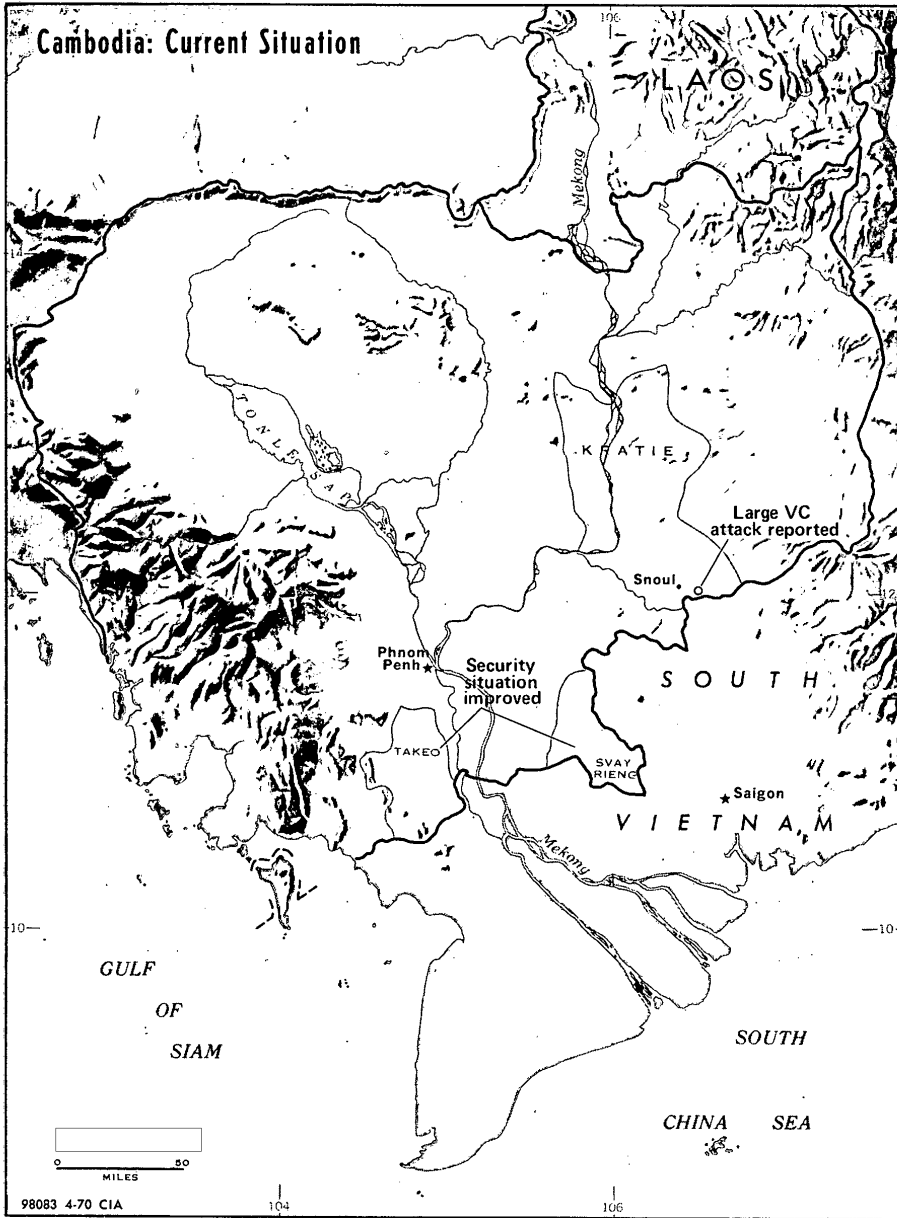
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CAMBODIA

Western correspondents who have motored into Svay Rieng and Takeo provinces report civilian traffic back to normal, but they say that Cambodian security forces are maintaining roadblocks along major routes into Phnom Penh. The journalists saw no evidence of new demonstrations nor any sign of the peasant bands that were active in Takeo earlier in the week.

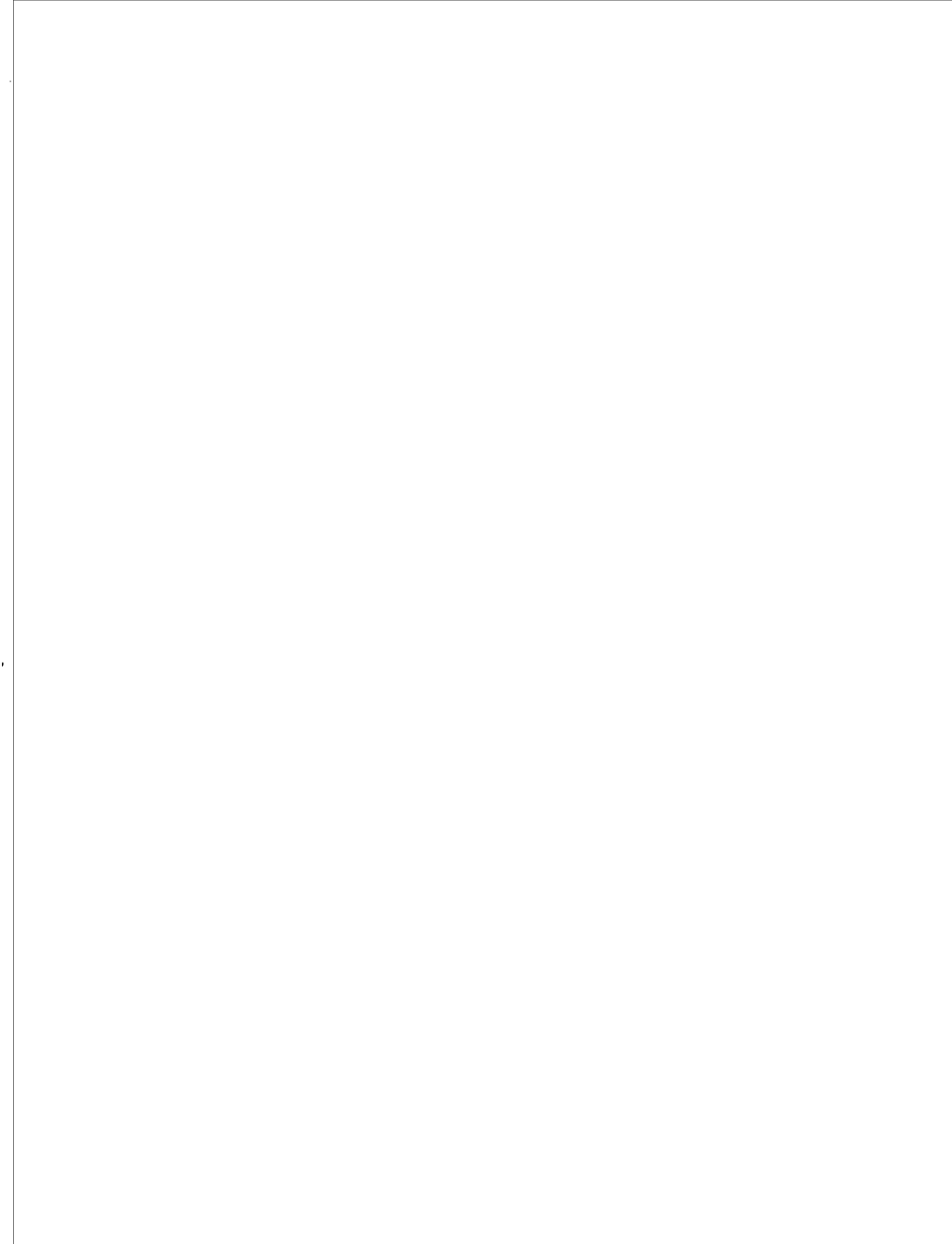
The government has also been picking up some welcome support in the capital. Large crowds of enthusiastic youths turned out in Phnom Penh in response to government appeals that they enlist in the armed forces. The influential head of the principal Buddhist order addressed the nation in a radio broadcast that was hardly flattering to Sihanouk.

Along the South Vietnamese border, more Communist attacks against government positions have been reported. Several posts south of Snoul were overrun yesterday, in what seems to be a continuing Vietnamese Communist effort to drive Cambodian forces away from the border.



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NOTES

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USSR: The Soviet naval force operating in the Mediterranean has now increased to some 64 ships, including 27 warships and 13 submarines. Most of the ships have been occupied with small-scale exercises and surveillance of NATO naval forces. The helicopter carrier Leningrad is conducting ASW training near Crete; its sister ship, Moskva, is operating west of Malta.

Cuba-USSR: Raul Castro, Cuba's armed forces minister, has accepted Soviet Defense Minister Grechko's invitation to visit Moscow early in April. Raul has been in the USSR several times before, most recently in November 1966. No reason for his April visit has been announced--it is described only as "an official friendly visit"--but it seems probable that he and Grechko will get around to discussing Soviet military aid to Cuba.

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