



The President's Daily Brief

29 April 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

29 April 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] In Cambodia,
Communist military activity has momentarily abated.
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Recent satellite photography shows a new Chinese mis-
sile that is larger than the MRBMs previously spotted.
(Page 2)

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] North Vietnam [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Page 3)

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The latest information on Soviet ICBM silo construc-
tion is provided on Page 4.

Italy is unenthusiastic about the Spanish-French
scheme for a Mediterranean Pact. (Page 5)

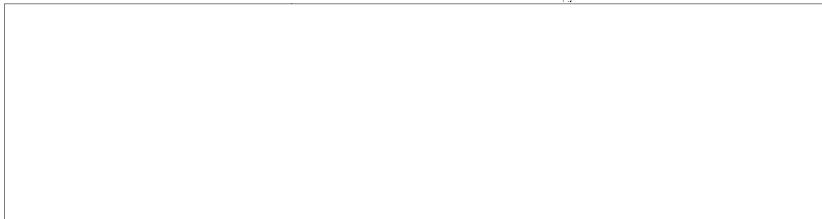
In Laos, some new skirmishing has been reported
around the Plaine des Jarres, but it has not materi-
ally altered the situation. (Page 6)

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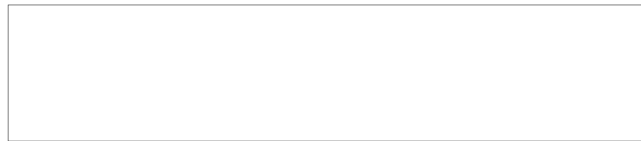
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CAMBODIA

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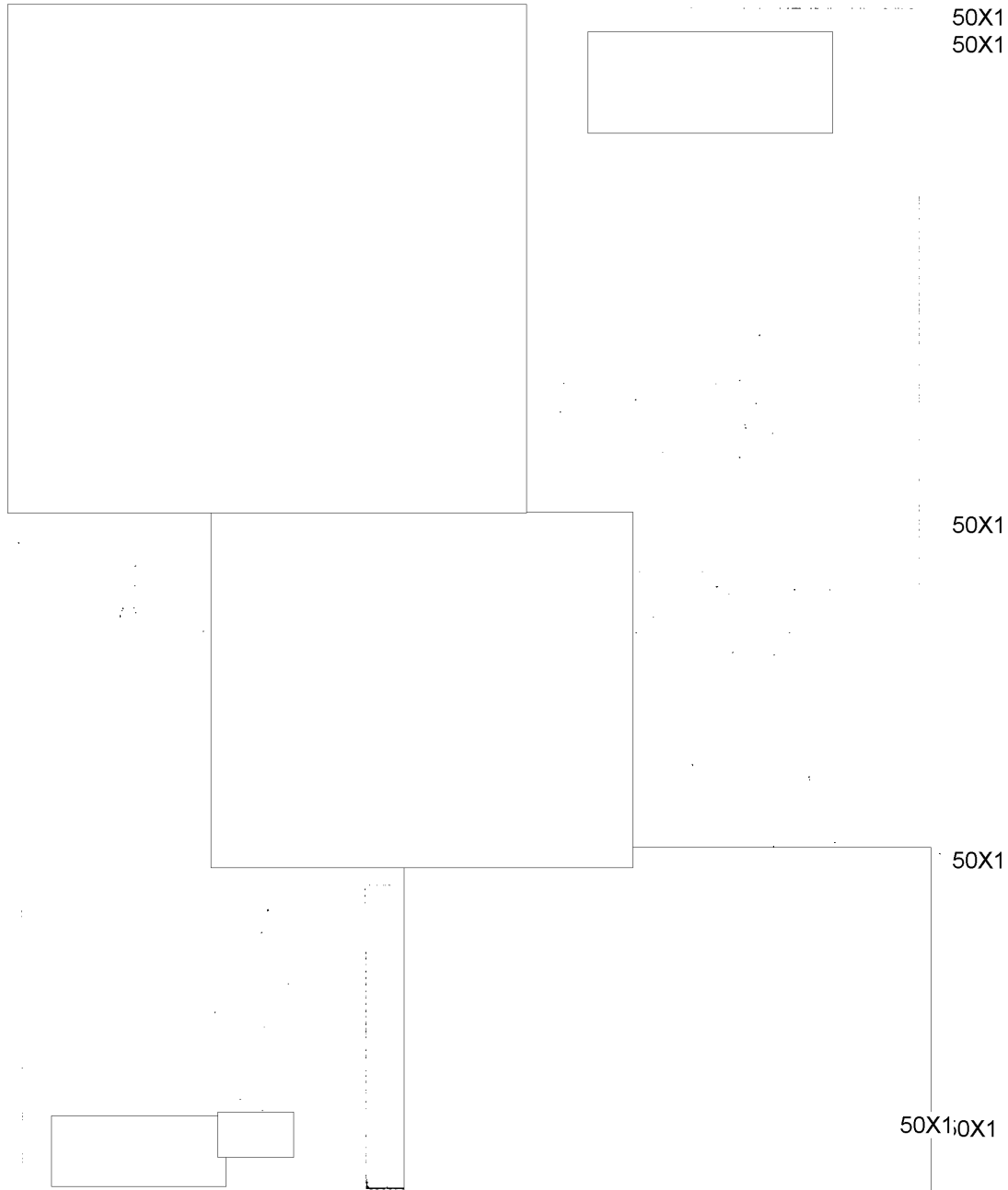
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Communist military activity has tapered off, but some fighting appears to be continuing around Angtassom town in Takeo Province. The press reports that government troops are being sent into Takeo and Kampot provinces to reinforce government positions and to clear roads recently blocked by the Viet Cong.

* * *

Several of the governments planning to attend Adam Malik's conference on Cambodia, including Japan, Thailand, Australia, and New Zealand, are pressing Malik to hold a smaller advance meeting at the ambassadorial level to work out a draft communiqué. As things now stand, the larger session is to be held in Djakarta on 11 and 12 May.



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COMMUNIST CHINA

Satellite photography [redacted] shows a missile on a transporter-erector at the Wu-chai surface-to-surface missile launch site that is larger than the MRBMs seen at the Shuang-cheng-tzu test range.

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NORTH VIETNAM

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Total troop departures this dry season were only about 60,000, as compared with about 100,000 during last year's dry season. Over half of the 60,000 were destined for southern South Vietnam and the adjacent base areas in Cambodia.

Hanoi is still leaving itself the option of resuming the troop flow if events in southern Indochina require it. Recent intercepts indicate the Communists intend to keep their major logistical stations in the Laos panhandle open at least through May.

* * *

Madame Binh's announcement yesterday that she is leaving Paris is one more indication the Vietnamese Communists intend to put the talks on ice for the time being. It is not clear from her statement how soon she will be leaving

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[REDACTED]

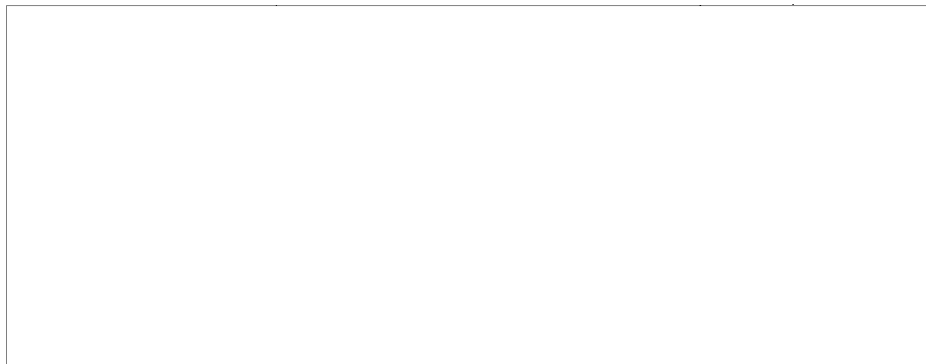
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Her departure will leave Xuan Thuy, her counterpart in the North Vietnamese delegation, as the only high-ranking Vietnamese Communist official still in Paris. North Vietnamese spokesmen have hinted that he too may be leaving soon.

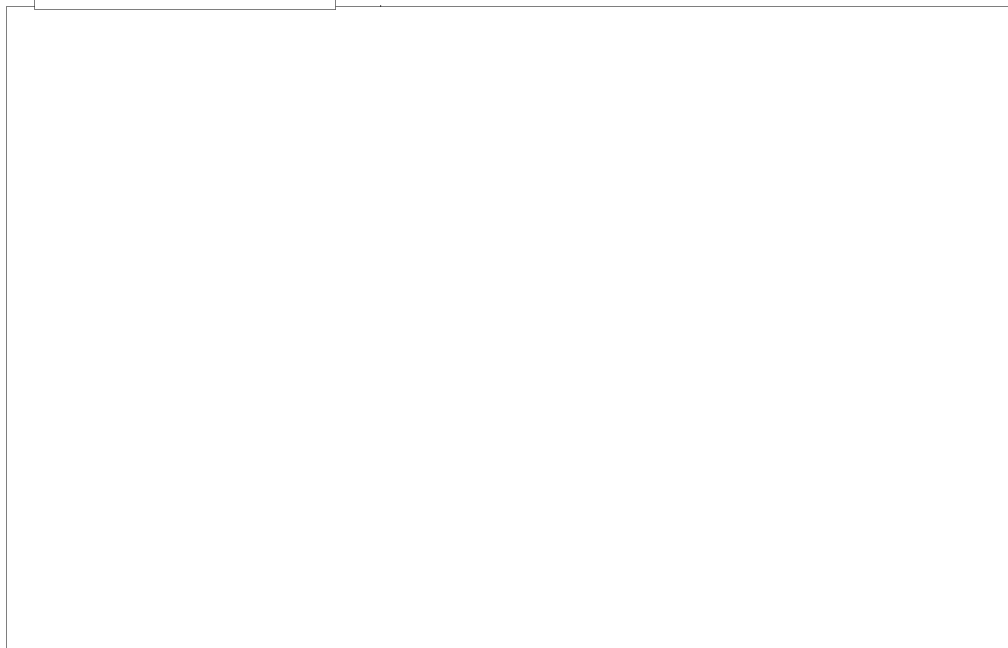
Madame Binh placed heavy emphasis during her press conference on the recent Indochinese "summit conference" and on the "mutual solidarity" of the region's three countries. This strongly suggests that the Vietnamese Communists think the greatest advantage in the immediate future is to be gained from combining military pressure with political action in the Indochinese context, rather than from new initiatives in Paris or any other international forum.



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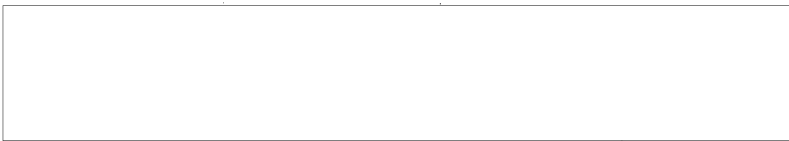


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USSR

The latest satellite photography shows one new group of ten SS-11 silos under construction at the Yedrovo ICBM complex, one at the Pervomaysk IRBM complex, and one at the Derazhnya MRBM complex.



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MEDITERRANEAN

Roberto Ducci, a ranking official in the Italian Foreign Ministry, told a US Embassy officer last week that Rome saw little advantage in a tripartite Mediterranean pact with Paris and Madrid. Not only would the Italians find such close association with the Franco government politically unacceptable, but they do not believe that it is in the Western interest to divide the Mediterranean into Eastern and Western zones, as though the Eastern Mediterranean were lost to the Soviets.

France has been promoting the idea of a Mediterranean Pact of some sort ever since De Gaulle became president. [REDACTED]

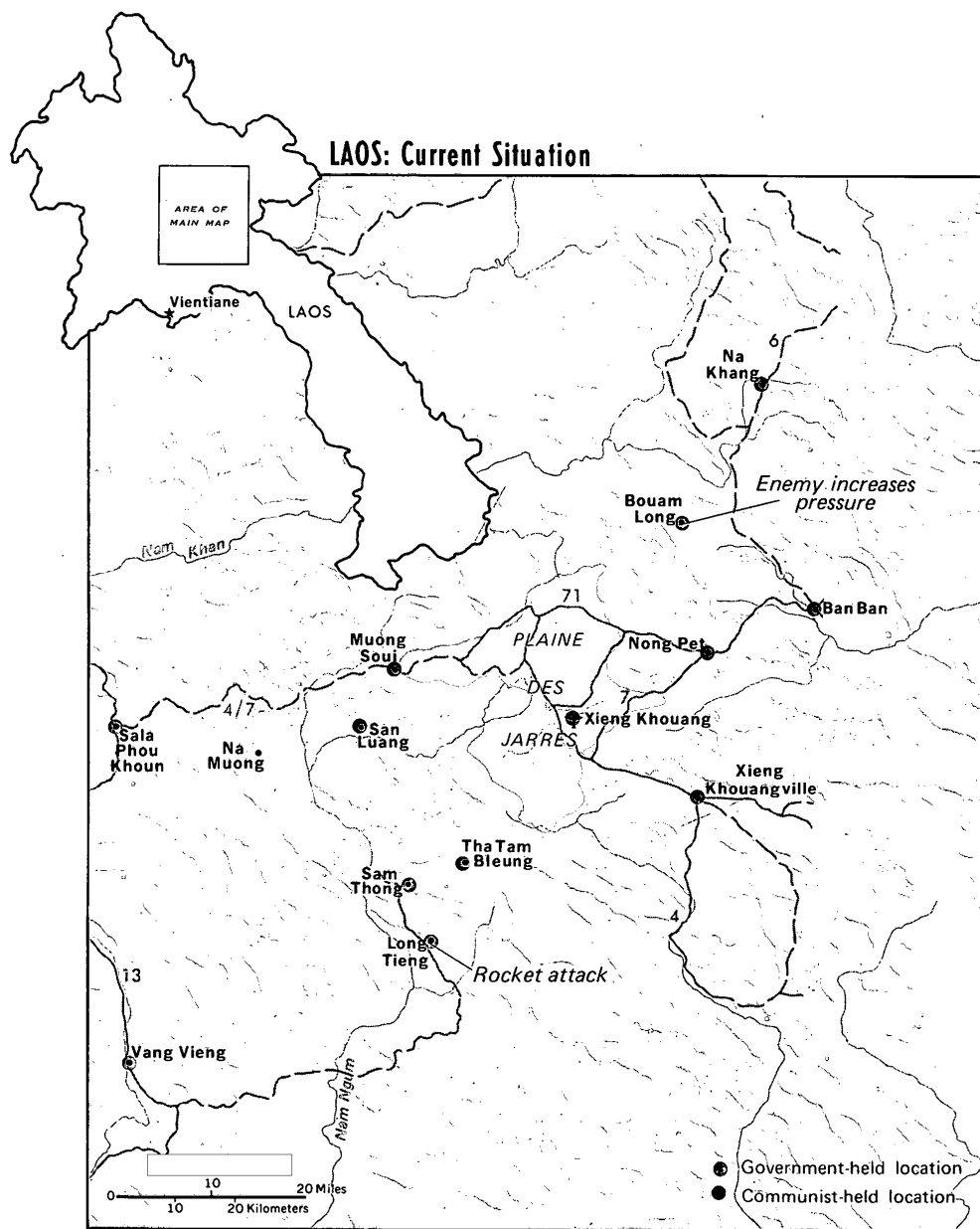
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NOTES

Laos: The situation remains essentially unchanged south of the Plaine des Jarres, although light enemy probes have been reported near Tha Tam Bleung and Sam Thong. Yesterday four 122-mm. rockets hit near the Long Tieng airstrip; no casualties or serious damage were reported. North of the Plaine, the Communists are intensifying the pressure against Bouam Long, but so far government losses have been light.

East Germany - West Germany: The two governments are expected to sign an agreement regulating and improving postal and telecommunications exchanges today. This should help the atmosphere for the next summit meeting between Chancellor Brandt and East German Premier Stoph at Kassel on 21 May.

Arab States - Fedayeen: Yet another fedayeen organization--the Popular Struggle Front--has targeted US facilities and enterprises. A spokesman hinted that his group may conduct terrorist attacks within the US. The Front has only two hundred or so members, but it has the capability of carrying out its threats. It was responsible for the bombing of the offices of El Al and Pan American airlines in Turkey last weekend.

Guyana: Prime Minister Burnham announced at a press conference last week that the government intends to hold discussions with the foreign-owned bauxite and sugar industries in order to ensure "local meaningful participation" in controlling these industries. He also said future concessions will require a minimum Guyanese participation of 51 percent. The total foreign investment in Guyana is somewhere between \$150 million and \$200 million. The US share is about \$55 million.

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