



The President's Daily Brief

2 May 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Military activity in the interior of Cambodia has slackened. (Page 1)

In South Vietnam, the increase in Communist attacks in the past two days may represent the beginning of the second phase of the enemy's spring campaign. (Page 3)

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British and French officials are optimistic about the Concorde SST despite its technical problems. (Page 5)

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CAMBODIA - SOUTH VIETNAM

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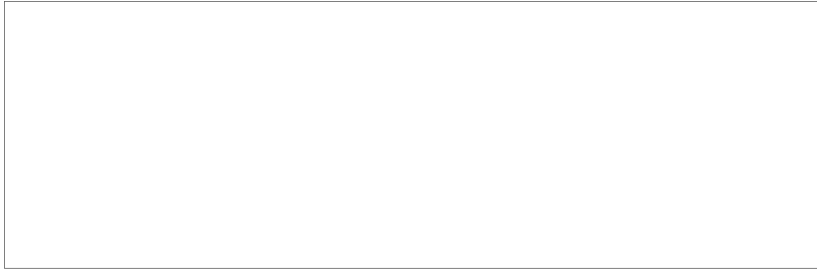
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In the Cambodian interior, some limited fighting continues in the south, but military activity elsewhere seems to have fallen off temporarily. The government claims that it has regained firm control over the southern port city of Kampot, after the Viet Cong had occupied most of the commercial district for two days. The government has also confirmed, however, that the Communists now control the river town of Chhlong in Kratie Province.

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In Peking yesterday, Sihanouk was received by the Chinese politburo's standing committee including Mao Tse-tung and Lin Piao and was the featured foreign guest at evening festivities celebrating May Day. Chinese press reports did not give any details of the talks Sihanouk had with Mao, but their meeting is another demonstration of Chinese support for Sihanouk's cause.

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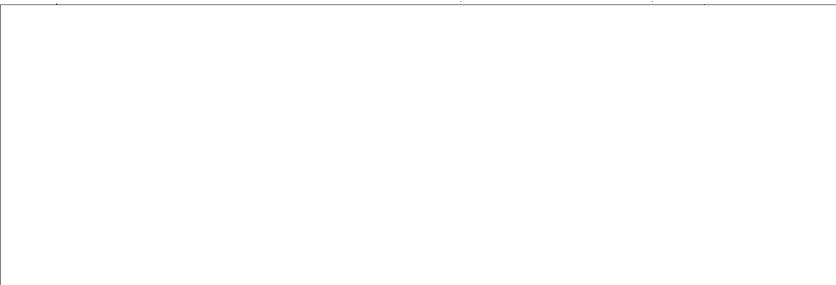
SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist forces in South Vietnam appear to have launched the anticipated May phase of their 1970 spring campaign. Following a series of shellings of allied military targets in the four northernmost provinces early on 30 April, the enemy initiated some 61 incidents in IV Corps during the night of 30 April.

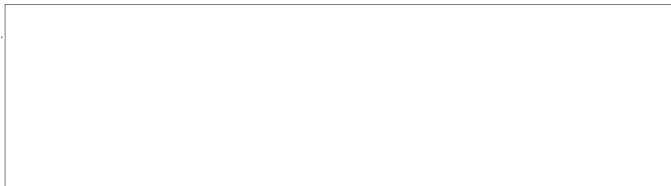
While this total is considerably lower than the number which opened the 31 March - 1 April phase in the delta provinces, the targets struck were about the same as before. Remote military outposts accounted for about 75 percent and district towns for 10 percent.



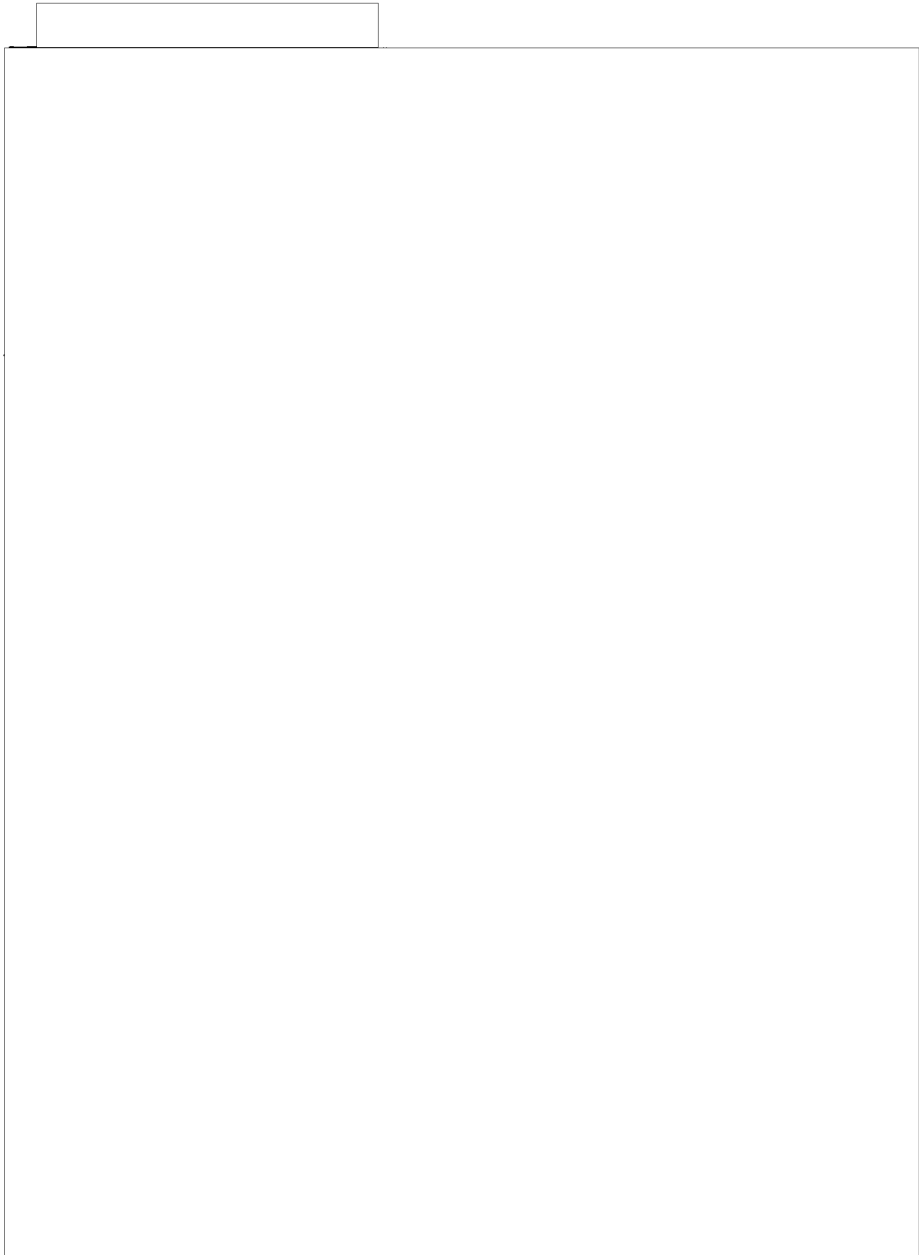
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USSR-EGYPT

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FRANCE-UK

British and French officials are pleased with the progress of the Concorde SST flight test program. The British are now installing new, more powerful engines on the UK-produced Concorde prototype and plan to begin Mach 2 flight tests later this month. The French plan to begin Mach 2 testing within the next two months.

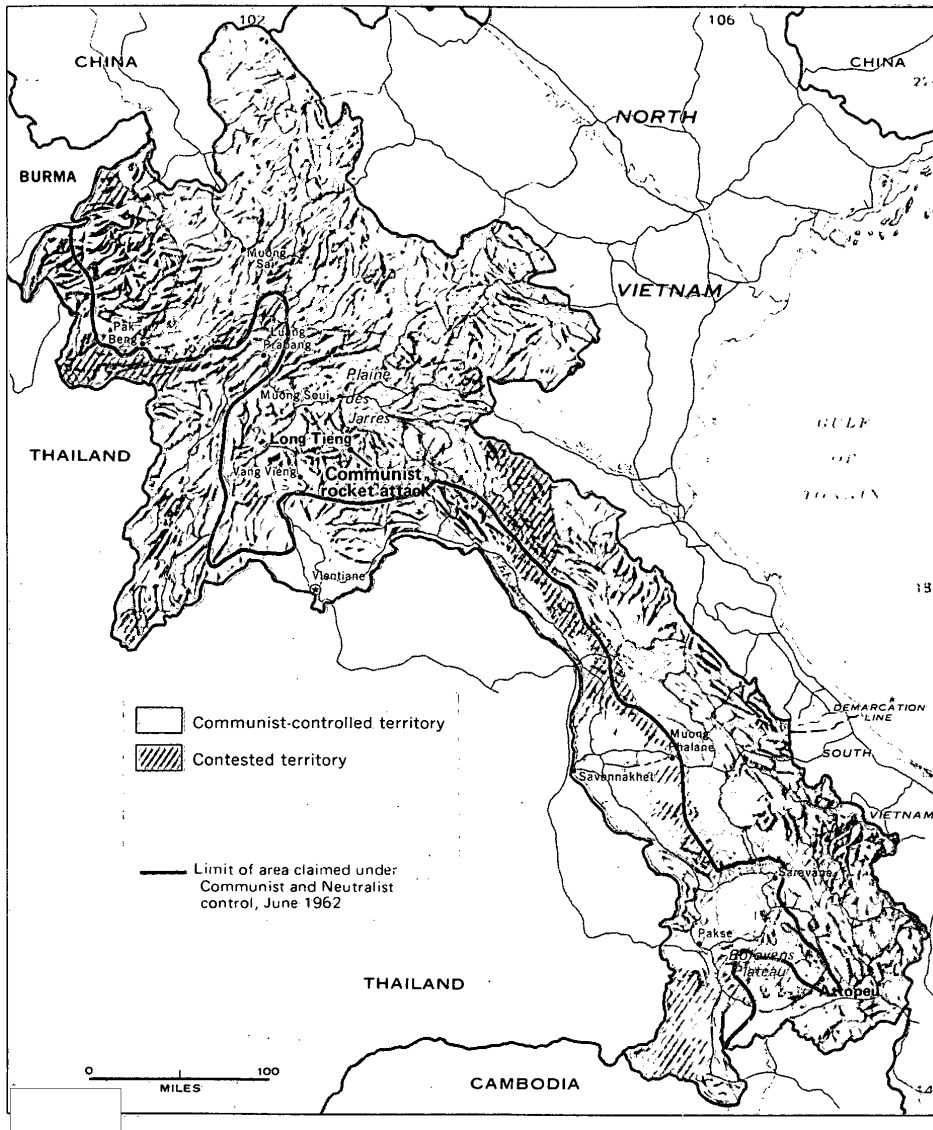
These tests are expected to answer many of the questions crucial to the Concorde's economic success.

The two governments have spent about \$975 million on the Concorde project to date and probably will spend an additional \$800 million before the production stage is reached. The French and British manufacturers presently estimate the unit price of the Concorde at \$19.5 million. The two companies point out, however, that the price may be higher when contract negotiations with the airlines begin this summer. Some 16 airlines hold options to purchase 74 Concorde, more than one-half of which are US carriers.

Excessive weight and excessive noise are the most intractable of the problems remaining.

Official attitudes in France and Britain tend to accentuate the positive. While it may never be an economic success, the Concorde probably will go into production and enter at least limited service, now scheduled to begin in 1973.

Laos: Current Situation



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NOTE

Laos: Communist forces harassed government bases with rocket fire in both northern and southern sections of the country on 1 May, but no major fighting was reported. The Meo stronghold at Long Tieng was attacked with six 122-mm. rockets, and seven 140-mm. rockets were fired at the Pakse airstrip in the south. No loss of life or major damage occurred from either attack. Meanwhile, government forces have had some success in the past two days consolidating their hold on high ground about seven miles to the north of Long Tieng, where the Communists launch their rocket attacks. On the Bolovens Plateau overlooking Attopeu, a small Communist force continued to resist government efforts to recapture the key fire base lost on 29 April. No effort has been made to retake the town of Attopeu.

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