

The President's Daily Brief

11 August 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Cambodian situation is discussed on *Page 1*.

The fedayeen remain openly hostile to the peace efforts while Egypt and its supporters are applying pressures to bring them into line. (*Page 3*)

Libya has received more military equipment from the USSR but claims that Soviet military advisers will be kept out of the country. (*Page 4*)

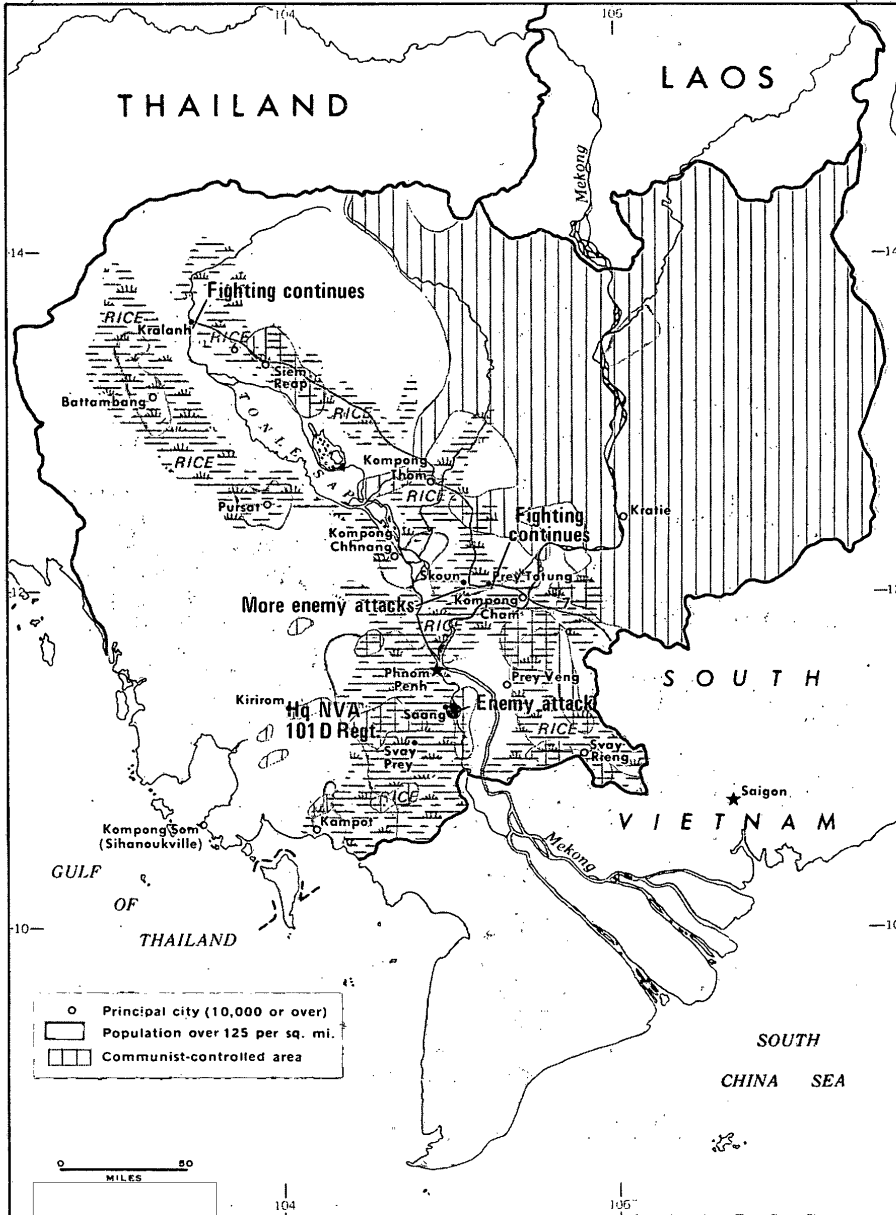
The purge of Bolivia's leftist Information Minister has bought President Ovando more time. (*Page 5*)

An intensive military and police search has failed to recover the two remaining hostages held by Uruguayan terrorists. (*Page 6*)

Soviet relief flights to Peru remain in abeyance. (*Page 7*)

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CAMBODIA: Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

The Communists continue to harass government forces at scattered locations throughout the country. In Kompong Cham Province, the enemy again hit the town of Prey Totung; government defenders called for air support. Fifteen miles to the west, Cambodian troops at Skoun were also attacked again. These Communist attacks along Route 7 probably are designed to isolate Kompong Cham city.

Fighting also continued 20 miles south of Phnom Penh near Saang which has been harassed periodically by the enemy since April. At last report, Saang was still in government hands.

The US defense attaché in Phnom Penh reports that the attacks near the capital on the night of 9 August were exaggerated in press reporting. The actions were mounted by only small numbers of enemy troops. The recent flurry of enemy activity near the capital may, however, portend bolder raids in the near future.

Southwest of Phnom Penh, the enemy continues to dig in near Kirirom. A large government patrol met stiff resistance while probing enemy positions there on 8 August, and communications intelligence indicates that the headquarters of the North Vietnamese 101D Regiment moved back into the area the following day.

Considerable Communist activity is also reported in Siem Reap Province, where additional fighting occurred yesterday at the crossroads town of Kralanh. The Communists apparently are trying to sever overland access to Siem Reap by destroying bridges west of the city on Route 6. The Communists have been moving weapons and ammunition into position northeast of the city, and small enemy groups aided by Cambodian Communists have been infiltrating the city itself.

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Lon Nol told US officials on 10 August that no more Cambodian troops will be sent to South Vietnam for training. This decision was largely prompted by the excessive costs being charged by the Vietnamese, according to Cambodian chief of staff General Saman. The US chargé in Phnom Penh, however, believes that one reason for the decision is that the Cambodians prefer to handle their own training now that a training camp based on South Vietnamese techniques is being prepared. Saman also claimed that Cambodian troops arriving in Vietnam for training were relieved of new M-79 grenade launchers and given used ones. Saman observed that although political relations between Phnom Penh and Saigon were "reasonably good," there is much tension between the military of both countries.

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MIDDLE EAST

The division between the Palestine guerrillas and the governments supporting the cease-fire is widening. Frustrated by their inability to be more than an irritant to Israel, the central committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization is now calling for a Vietnam-type war in the Middle East, and a fedayeen newspaper has warned the Jordanian Government that any attempts to curb guerrilla activities or to crush the movement will be met with force.

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Among the various pressures being put on the fedayeen is Libya's suspension of its subsidy to Fatah. Moreover, a weekly half-hour radio broadcast over Radio Benghazi has been canceled. Cairo has deported a number of fedayeen-sponsored Palestinians studying in local universities

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USSR-LIBYA

Libya is continuing to receive Soviet military equipment. A Soviet freighter arrived in Tripoli on 9 August, the third such shipment since deliveries began in mid-July. Tanks, artillery pieces, and tracked vehicles were seen being offloaded.

The two previous shipments consisted of at least 90 T-54/55 medium tanks, as well as armored personnel carriers, scout cars, artillery pieces, and large quantities of tank ammunition.

Libyan officials claim that Soviet military advisers will be kept out of the country and that training will be provided by Arab experts.

In the longer run, however, problems arising from the use of Soviet equipment may dictate otherwise.

The Libyans continue to assert a willingness to deal with all nations.

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BOLIVIA

President Ovando has reappointed all but one of the cabinet members who resigned last week. The one exception is the leftist Minister of Information who has been anathema to the military.

In dismissing the leftist, Ovando has met a major military demand and has bought himself some more time. Army commander General Miranda can be expected to continue to press for further moderation in government policy.

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URUGUAY

Intensive military and police search operations in Montevideo have thus far failed to recover the two remaining hostages held by the extreme leftist Tupamaros. According to an unverified communiqué from the terrorists, Brazilian Consul Gomide was to be killed last night, but as of 0500 EDT there was no confirmation of his death. Popular indignation over the killing of one of the two American hostages has resulted in unprecedented public support for the rescue efforts. Despite continued pressure from the Brazilian Government, President Pacheco remains firm in his refusal to negotiate with the kidnapers for the release of imprisoned Tupamaros. The near-dictatorial powers he requested to fight the terrorists have now been granted temporarily by the congress.

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USSR-PERU

There have been no Soviet relief flights to Lima in the past two weeks, probably because of equipment failures and bureaucratic mix-ups. The airlift was halted for a week following the loss of an aircraft over the Labrador Sea on 18 July, and only six flights have been made since that date.

About one third of the planned 65 flights have now been completed. Even if the airlift is completed as planned, the value of the total Soviet contribution will fall far short of that already provided by the US.

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