



The President's Daily Brief

22 September 1970

0

~~*Top Secret*~~

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 September 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Jordan is discussed on *Page 1*.

Elements of the Cambodian task force on Route 6 are attempting to outflank enemy forces blocking the road. (*Page 4*)

In Laos, government forces have recently mounted a series of attacks against enemy-controlled routes in the panhandle. (*Page 5*)

President Tito has proposed a government reorganization that would substitute a collective leadership for the present one-man presidency. (*Page 6*)

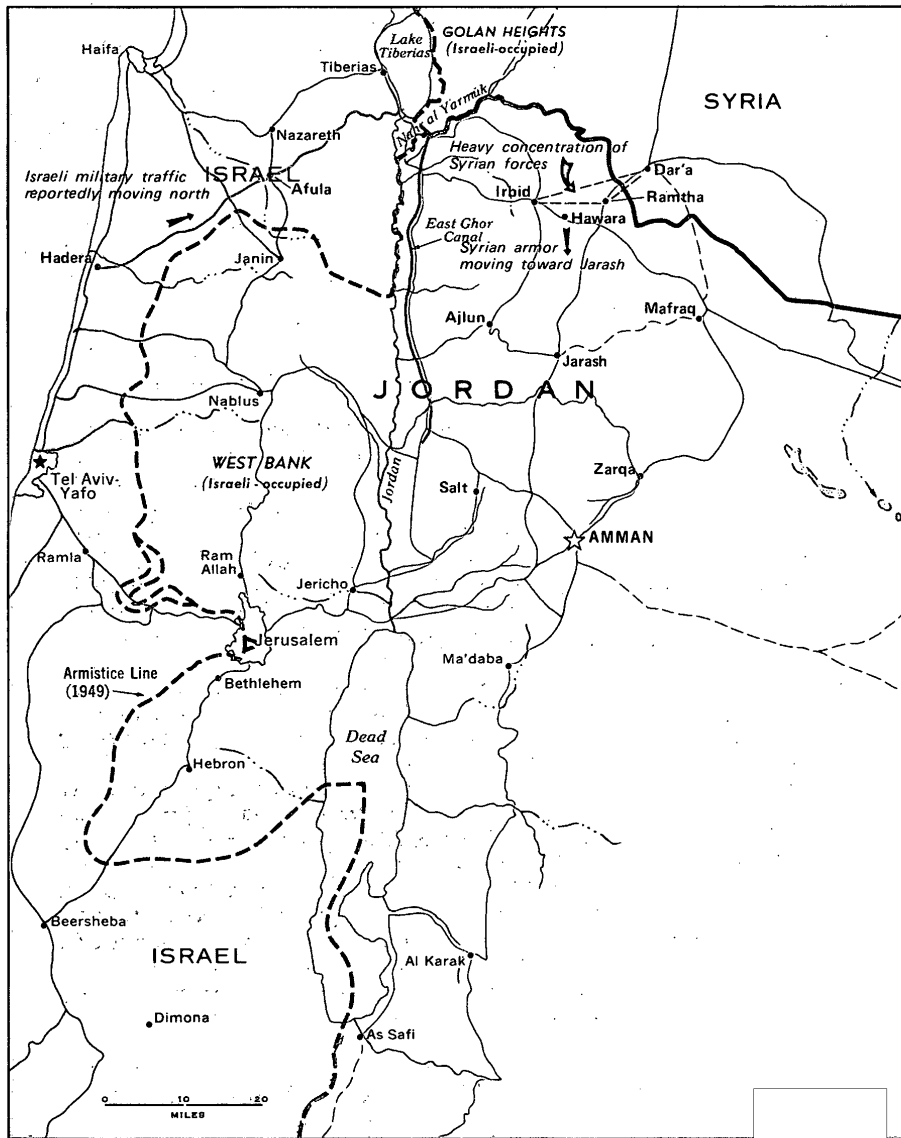
The Soviets *Page 7*.

50X1

Communist insurgents in Thailand have killed three high-ranking government officials. (*Page 8*)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN: Current Situation



550563 9-70 CIA

50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN

Israel apparently has gone into a high state of alert as the situation in northern Jordan continues to deteriorate. [redacted]

50X1

[redacted] heavy military traffic moving north from Tel Aviv, including tanks, Hawk missiles and 155-mm. artillery. A large number of buses, at least some of which were seen to be carrying troops, were also spotted on the Hadera-Afula road. The attaché speculates that the Israelis may be deploying to the Golan Heights area. All troops observed appeared to be equipped for combat.

50X1

Israeli newsmen on the scene reported a major battle Monday night around Irbid involving heavy artillery and bombing by Jordanian aircraft. [redacted]

50X1

[redacted]

50X 50X1

Syrian forces in the Irbid-Ramtha-Dar'a triangle yesterday morning included some 250 tanks and substantial quantities of artillery, considerably outnumbering Jordanian assets. [redacted]

50X1

[redacted]

[redacted] Irbid, Ramtha, and Mafrag were in the hands of the fedayeen, with Salt, Ajlun, and Jarash under Jordanian Army control. Syrian armor has been spotted moving south of Hawara toward Jarash, however.

50X1

[redacted]

50X1

Last night, tanks were still battling at Mafrag, and the Jordanian 40th brigade, supported by other units, was expected to begin shelling again.

[redacted]

50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

50X1



Fighting broke out again in Amman this morning.

50X1



A curfew, which was to have been lifted in Amman between 0600 and 1800 Amman time, was reimposed in at least one area of the city. Yesterday, King Husayn

50X1

ordered the army to cease firing on the fedayeen; sporadic fighting continued, however.

50X1

50X1

earlier yesterday the Jordanian Army made a big effort to clear the remaining fedayeen strongholds, apparently with some success. Zaid Rifai, the King's confidant, told an embassy officer that the Jordanian Army caught four or five top Fatah leaders and destroyed over 200 fedayeen bases in Amman.

50X1

An emergency Arab summit conference is scheduled to begin in Cairo today, although the list of participants is not clear. A Jordanian request for a postponement was rejected. Jordan apparently intended to send its ambassador in Cairo, but later press announcements indicated that Prime Minister Daud was to attend. Jordan intends to insist that the sole topic of discussion be Syria's invasion, but this will be difficult to achieve, particularly given the likelihood of Yasir Arafat's presence. Nasir and Arafat presumably hope to arrange an early compromise solution that will relieve Nasir of pressure from radical quarters to intervene, and give Arafat a political victory over King Husayn. Syria might also prefer a negotiated settlement.

50X1

King Husayn, however, thus far has shown no willingness to accept half-way measures. Yesterday, in his first public address since the beginning of the crisis, he was brief and uncompromising, calling on the army to rally against Syria's invasion. The Jordanians might be prepared to accept a mediated solution that accorded with their national interests, but it seems unlikely that today's meeting will come up with this type of proposal.

(continued)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

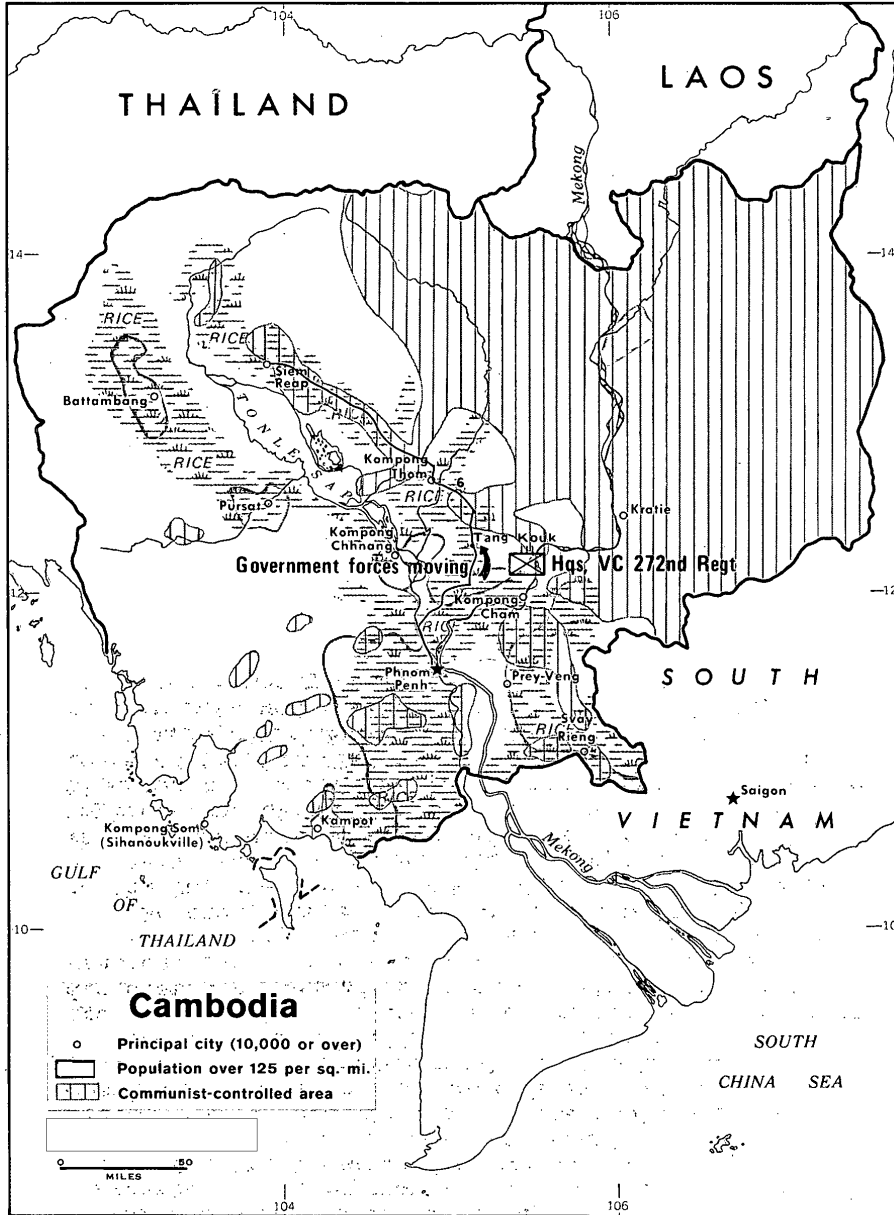
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The Soviets continue to warn both publicly and privately against Western intervention in Jordan. In the main, however, their admonitions have been temperate and cautiously worded. This, together with the lack of suggestive Soviet military movements, indicates that Moscow does not at this time contemplate direct military involvement should Western intervention occur. The Soviets would instead probably confine themselves to some demonstrative move, such as repositioning elements of their Mediterranean Squadron, as well as undertaking a massive diplomatic propaganda offensive against the intervention.



50X1

Current Situation



550561 9-70 CIA

50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

CAMBODIA

Three paratroop battalions from the stalled government task force thrust northeast from Route 6 yesterday in an apparent effort to outflank enemy forces blocking the road at Tang Kouk village. The operation was mounted during a visit to the task force by Lon Nol. His trip by helicopter to the battlefield area coincided with an announcement that the government had replaced the task force commander, another indication of the importance Lon Nol attaches to the operation and of his impatience with its failure to move ahead. Late press reports indicate that Cambodian troops pushed into Tang Kouk early today after meeting little resistance along the way.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] two battalion-sized Communist units have crossed the Mekong, north and south of the government force, and apparently are moving westward toward Route 6. These may be elements of the Viet Cong 272nd Regiment, whose headquarters recently returned to the west side of the Mekong, north of Kompong Cham city.

50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**LAOS**

Government forces have recently mounted a series of guerrilla attacks against the Ho Chi Minh trail and other enemy-controlled routes in the panhandle. Small teams of Laotian irregulars operating south of Chavane along Route 96 during the past week have been setting mines and ambushing North Vietnamese patrols. Farther north along the same route, government forces have been involved in at least one firefight about 18 miles southeast of Ban Bac. So far the teams involved in these raids have reported only limited opposition.

To the west, at least five battalions of irregulars are moving toward Route 23 in an attempt to cut that road. Two battalions, totaling about 600 men, are now located within ten miles of Ban Toumlane; since 12 September they have clashed on several occasions with small Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese units. A third battalion is reported to be moving east along the south bank of the Se Bang Hieng River, where the Communists have recently established a logistics control unit. To the north, two additional battalions have been working their way eastward along Route 9 since early this month and are now reported to be within ten miles of Muong Phine.

The Communists are unlikely to allow these incursions to go unchallenged much longer. The North Vietnamese have brought several thousand new troops into the panhandle from North and South Vietnam this summer, presumably to ward off operations of this sort. In addition to striking back against the government guerrillas, the Communists may also launch some major attacks of their own in the western part of the panhandle-- Paksong appears to be a prime candidate-- in order to force the Laotian military back on the defensive.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

YUGOSLAVIA

President Tito has proposed a government reorganization that would substitute a collective leadership for the present one-man presidency. Speaking in Zagreb yesterday, Tito said that the collective body would comprise people with the greatest "respect" for the Yugoslav system.

The proposal clearly is on Tito's own initiative and not due to pressure. It is the latest in a series of moves on the governmental level which Tito set in motion earlier this year in an effort to come to grips with the problem of succession. Although Tito did not say when or how the proposal would be implemented, we do not expect the reorganization to take place prior to the visit of President Nixon.

At the party congress last year, Tito set a precedent for collective leadership by setting up a party executive bureau of 15 leading officials including himself. This body, dominated by Tito, provides the nucleus of party authority. The current proposed constitutional change in the structure of the state's top executive echelon is likewise unlikely to diminish the pre-eminence within the government which flows to Tito from his stature and prestige within the party.

Tito's latest proposal comes at a time when Yugoslavia is drawing closer to the West, and it may well be designed to give the government apparatus a more democratic appearance. It will also provide Tito with a hand-picked group of associates to whom he can further entrust some state functions.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

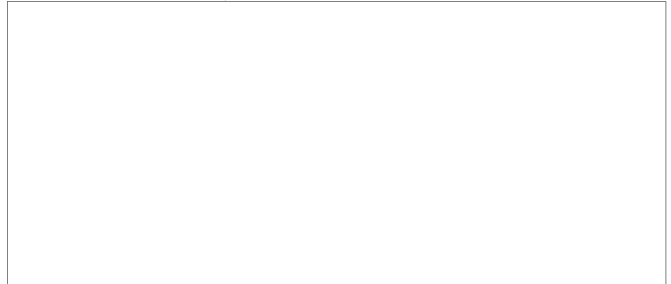
SOVIET UNION



50X1



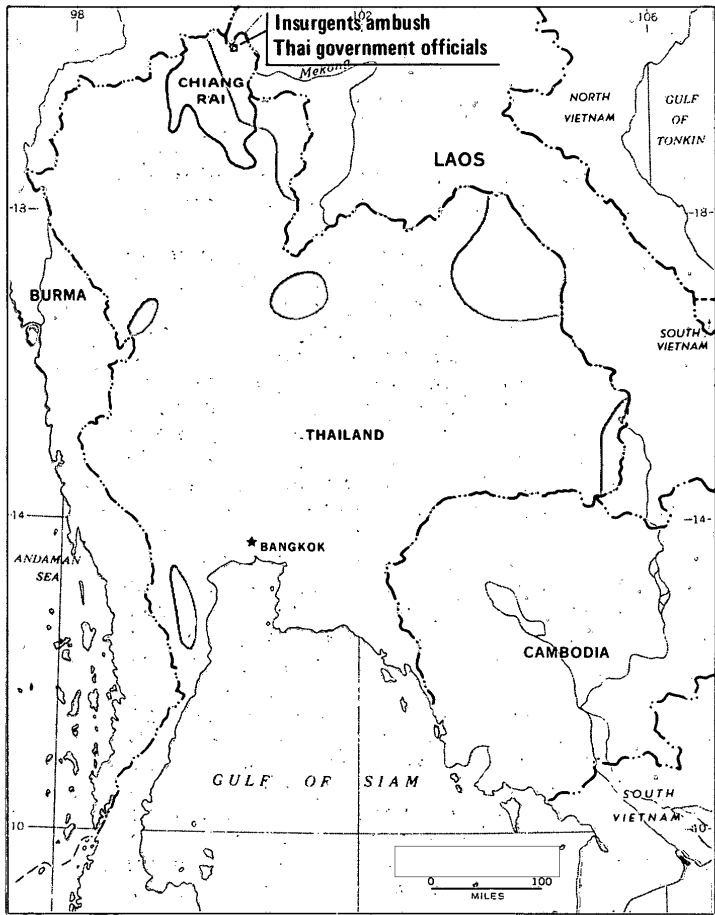
50X1



50X1



50X1



550051 9-70 CIA

Area of insurgent activity

50X1

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Thailand: Communist insurgents on Sunday ambushed and killed the governor and police chief of Chiang Rai Province, as well as the intelligence chief of the Thai 3rd Army--the highest ranking officials yet killed by the insurgents. Their deaths may spark more intensive counterinsurgency operations against guerrilla strongholds in this area. Thousands of army troops and border police have already begun a search for the killers.

Top Secret