



*The President's Daily Brief*

13 January 1972

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

LATE ITEM

Ghana: Ghana radio announced early this morning that Prime Minister Busia, who is currently in London, had been deposed and that power had been taken by Lieutenant Colonel Achampong, who commands one of Ghana's two army brigades. Some firing was heard near the Prime Minister's residence, but movement in the capital has not been impeded and there is little evidence of military activity. The coup group apparently controls the airport in addition to the radio station. Achampong, who only recently had commanded a key security battalion in Accra, was known to be personally bitter over budgetary and force cuts made last June. His take-over announcement charged Busia with economic mismanagement and with carrying out arbitrary arrests. It stated that the government will be placed in the hands of a "National Liberation Group composed of representatives of the army and civic groups."

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Long Tieng situation is reviewed on *Page 1*.

The Vietnamese Communists are being unusually open about their intentions regarding military activity in South Vietnam. (*Page 2*)

Mujibur Rahman has taken decisive action to consolidate his power in Bangladesh. (*Page 3*)

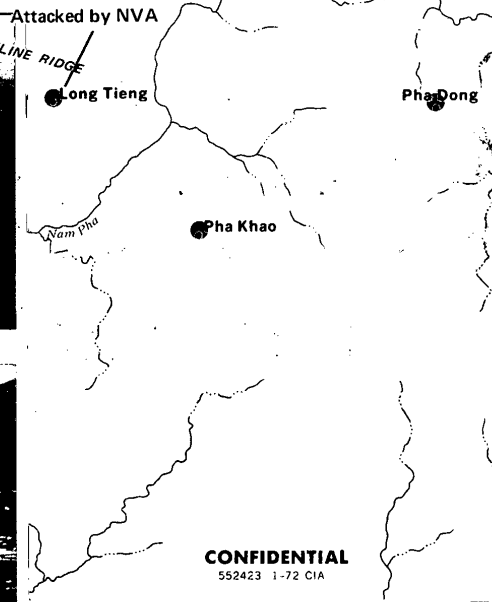
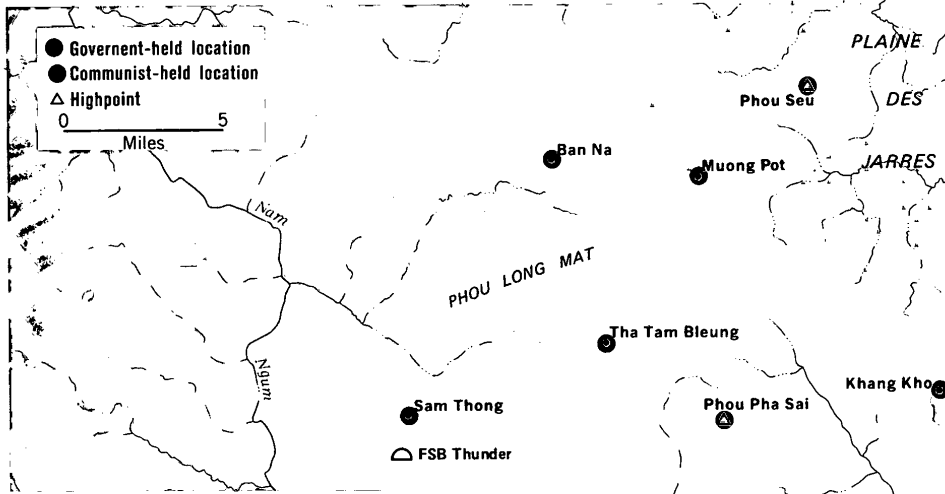


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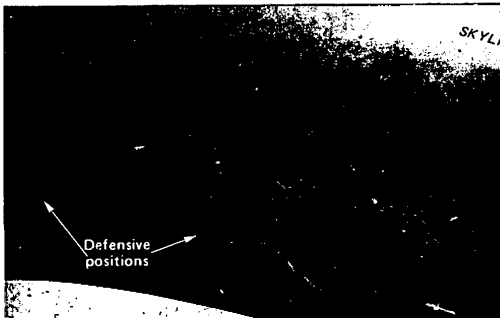
Pakistani President Bhutto impressed Afghanistan's leaders during a quick trip on 11 January. (*Page 5*)

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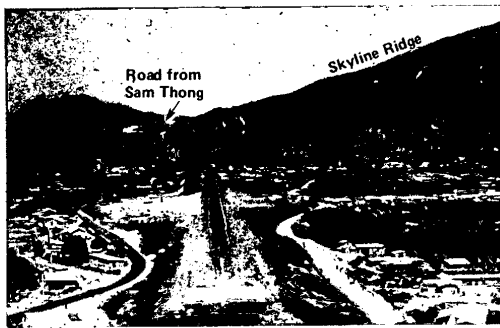
# LONG TIENG AREA



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Long Tieng Valley looking southeast

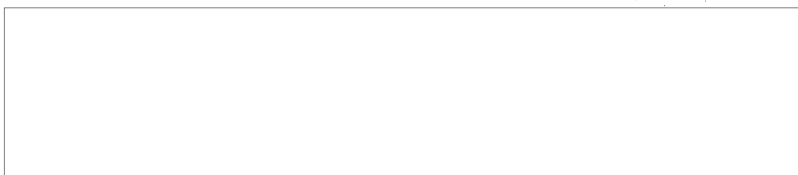


Long Tieng Valley looking northwest

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LAOS

The situation in the Long Tieng area remains critical, but irregular troops are still holding on. North Vietnamese troops in the Long Tieng Valley are confined to the south slope of Skyline Ridge and to a few pockets in the village of Long Tieng. Their presence in the village may have prompted an announcement today by the Pathet Lao radio that Long Tieng had been captured. A direct attack in force has not yet developed, however.



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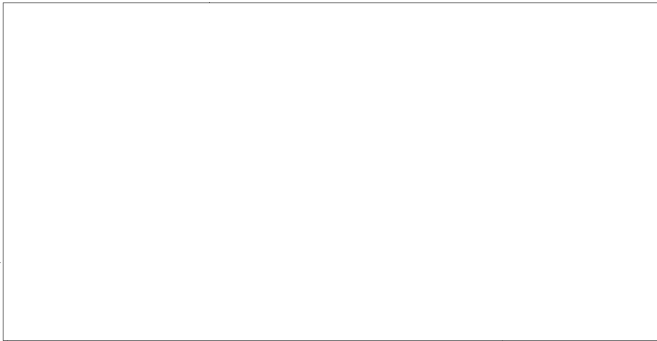
Much will now depend upon the North Vietnamese ability to follow up with a major new attack. Vang Pao, who seems to be in good spirits, is determined to try to retake Skyline Ridge within the next 48 hours. He believes, however, that if this is not possible, a withdrawal from Long Tieng would probably become necessary.

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VIETNAM

The Communists are spreading the word that a "massive" spring military campaign is being planned in South Vietnam to take place in the period surrounding the Tet celebrations, which begin on 15 February, and President Nixon's trip to Peking. The latest comment on Communist intentions comes from a member of the North Vietnamese negotiating delegation in Paris.

*Much of the talk about a big offensive may be rhetoric, but the volume and openness of Communist discussion of their military intentions is unusual because they normally work hard to conceal even the outlines of their plans.*



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*Except for the border areas of Military Regions 1 and 2, where a big spring effort seems in the works, substantial evidence is lacking regarding resupply and redeployment activities that normally precede a maximum Communist military effort. Some activity of this type has been reported recently in a few scattered areas around the country, but these do not appear to be enough to support extensive hostilities. In particular, we will be watching to see if the Communist divisions in Cambodia begin to move into Military Region 3.*

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BANGLADESH

Mujibur Rahman has shifted the country to a parliamentary system of government and put himself in as prime minister. He removed Tajuddin Ahmad from that job without as yet giving him a new one, and placed Abu Syed Chowdhury--a respected jurist and educator--into the now largely ceremonial presidency. The rest of the cabinet is little changed.

*Mujibur Rahman is demonstrating an ability to move decisively to consolidate his power. The ouster of the left-leaning Ahmad from the job removed a staunch ally of India and the Soviet Union who might contest Mujib's desire to put his country on as independent a course as possible.*

*Mujib still faces enormous problems, particularly Bangladesh's prostrate economy and internal security. Attempts to cope with these difficulties will require substantial Indian assistance. This reliance, together with his expressed gratitude to Mrs. Gandhi's government for its role in the independence struggle, assures New Delhi of paramount influence in Dacca for some time to come.*





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NOTE

Pakistan-Afghanistan: President Bhutto made a favorable impression on Afghan leaders during his surprise visit to Kabul on 11 January. The Afghans are chronically suspicious of Pakistan, and only recently King Zahir told Ambassador Neumann that Bhutto was an "unbalanced man" and a "pathological liar." Bhutto apparently was able to change this impression, however, and the Afghans now say that he has "matured." Both Bhutto and the King appeared content to defer discussion for the time being of the problem of the Pushtu-speaking area of Pakistan, for which the Afghans have long advocated independence.

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