



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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1 FEBRUARY 1965

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LAOS

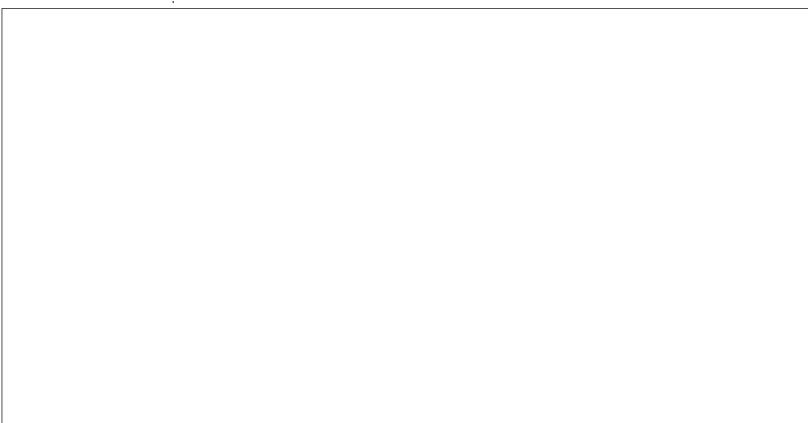


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DAILY BRIEF
1 FEBRUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

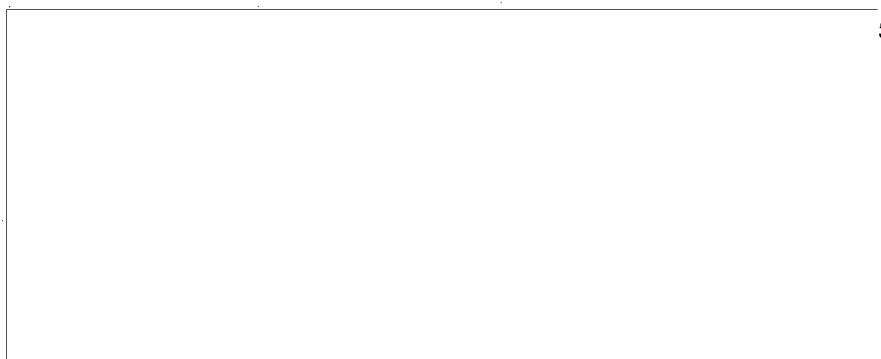
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The Vietnamese New Year holidays will last most of this week and may slow down political wrangling. The Viet Cong cease-fire appears to be in effect, and military activity has dropped following a brief, pre-holiday upsurge.

2. Laos

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The Communists are increasing their military activity. They have resumed operations in the Thakhek area in central Laos and have forced Meo guerrilla units out of their positions near Muong Sai. They are also maintaining pressure on the Meo near Sam Neua. (See map.)

3. Sudan

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4. North Vietnam

Moscow's decision to send Premier Kosygin to North Vietnam underscores both its desire to regain influence in Hanoi at Peiping's expense and its concern over the possibility of escalation in the Indochina conflict. Kosygin's delegation will probably arrange for a substantial increase in economic and military aid to North Vietnam. A discussion comprises Annex 1.

5. USSR**6. France-Germany**

Bonn is now seeking ways to implement the De Gaulle-Erhard agreement at their 19-20 January talks to seek new Western meetings on German reunification, possibly initially among the ambassadors in Washington. De Gaulle is slated for one of his semi-annual press "conferences" on 4 February and may indicate then whether or not the meeting of the two leaders is to have a real impact on European affairs. Erhard and De Gaulle, without major concessions on either side, did manage to bring about a temporary aura of good-feeling between Bonn and Paris.

SELECTED SOVIET OFFICIAL DATA ON ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE
 Percent of Increase (or Decrease) Compared with Preceding Year

	1963	1964	Previous * Data (if different)	Planned Rate ** of Increase for 1964
GROSS SOCIAL PRODUCTION	5	7		NA
NATIONAL INCOME	NA	7+	5	7.7
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION	8.5	7.1	7.8	6.7
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION	NA	12		NA
STATE PLANNED INVESTMENT	6	8	6.8	10.8
NEW FIXED CAPITAL	8	6	7.4	5.9
LABOR PRODUCTIVITY IN INDUSTRY	6	4		4.6
CHEMICAL INDUSTRY	16	15		16.6
METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY	9	8		NA
FUELS INDUSTRY	10	7		NA
LIGHT INDUSTRY	2	3		NA
FOOD INDUSTRY	5	2		NA
MACHINE BUILDING and METAL WORKING	13	9		NA
ELECTRICITY	12	11		9.7
STEEL	5	6		4.7
FERTILIZER	15	28		28
SYNTHETIC FIBERS	11	17		17
OIL	11	9		7.7
CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT	9	19		24.5
AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY	17	1		NA
HOUSING	-4	-3	-5	0
TELEVISION SETS	14	18		NA
REFRIGERATORS	9	25		NA
WASHING MACHINES	27	25		NA

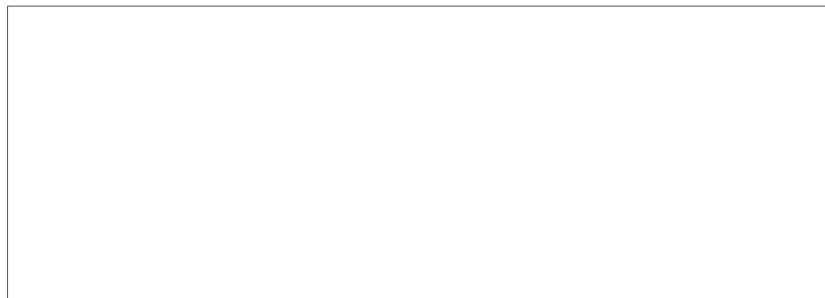
* Data in this column are from Premier Kosygin's 9 December 1964 report
on the Economic Plan for 1965.

** In most instances the planned rate is the implied annual rate necessary
to achieve the goals of the 1964-1965 plan.

(NA) Not Available

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7. Communist China**8. USSR**

The Soviet economic report for 1964 indicates that growth rates in industry continue to lag. The announced 7.1 percent rise is the lowest for any year since World War II. Agricultural production rose only 12 percent from 1963's abnormal low, and grain production figures were omitted for the second straight year. (See chart.)

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ANNEX 1

The Kosygin Delegation to North Vietnam

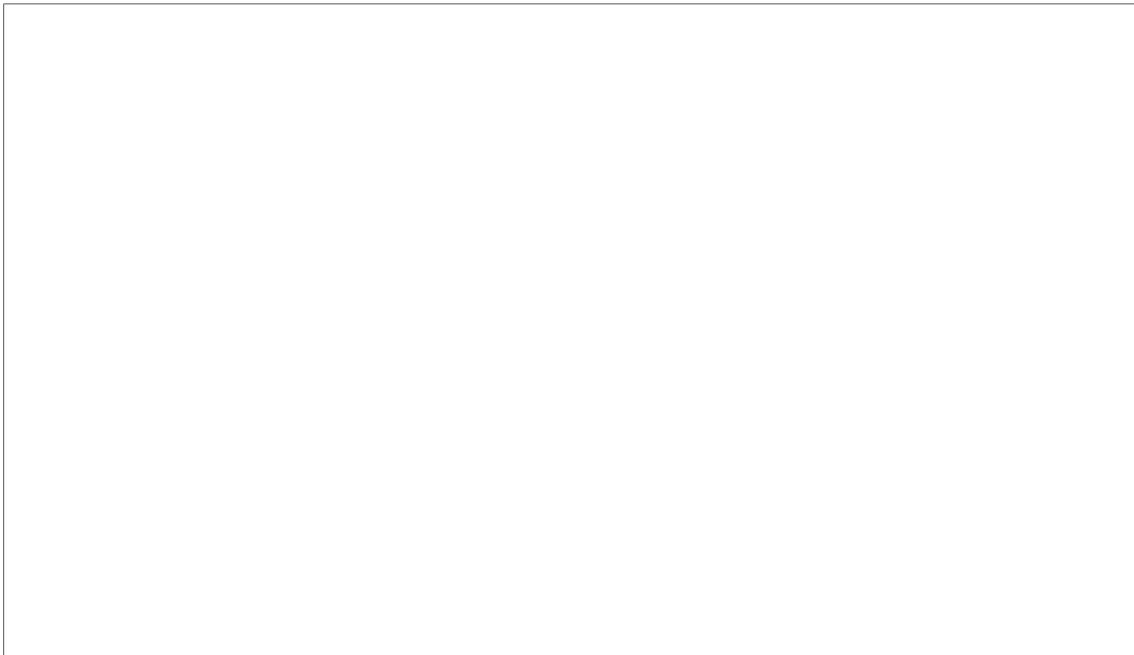
High-ranking military and economic officials are in the Kosygin delegation. New Soviet military aid may well include such defensive weapons as surface-to-air missiles, antiaircraft weapons, and naval torpedo and patrol craft, and possibly even advanced jet fighters. A Soviet economic aid mission is already in Hanoi to study implementation of existing economic aid agreements. Most aid under earlier programs is believed to have been utilized.

In exchange for this support, the Soviets probably will press for a greater voice in the formulation of Communist policy in South Vietnam and Laos. Kosygin probably will urge the North Vietnamese to avoid actions which might provoke US reprisals and lead to a dangerous military escalation. The Soviets may also discuss political initiatives designed to inhibit US freedom of action, such as exerting greater pressure toward reconvening the 14-nation conference on Laos.

The main lines of an agreement between Hanoi and Moscow on economic and military assistance may already have been worked out in advance. Following a visit by North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong to Moscow last November, Hanoi began to mute its propaganda critical of Moscow policy, suggesting it had received new assurances of Soviet support.

In an apparent effort to lessen the impact of the Kosygin mission on the US, Pravda has for the first time warmly welcomed President Johnson's State of the Union remarks about US-Soviet relations. Pravda said that the President's statements concerning the expansion of Soviet-American contacts were favorably received in the USSR.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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2 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
2 FEBRUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

There seems to be much talk behind the scenes about forming a new government, but no signs of progress are yet visible. General Khanh's original idea of a mixed military and civilian group--similar to the old High Council in all but name--is apparently still the objective.

The Buddhists are demanding representation. The Catholics are avoiding any official identification with the council, and are generally pessimistic.

2. Cuba

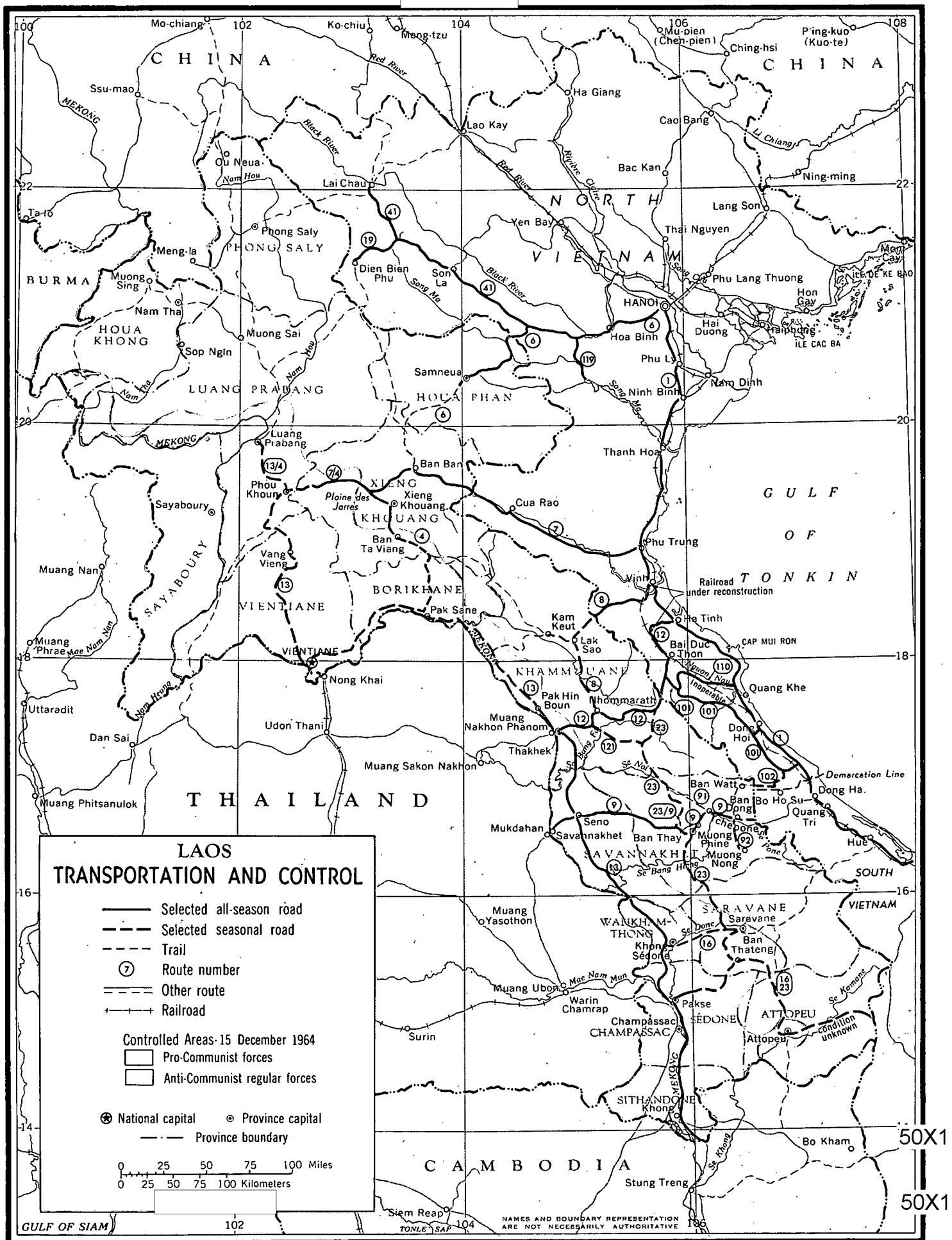
Che Guevara, who has been traveling in Africa, has turned up in Communist China. We suspect he is trying to smooth out difficulties growing out of a meeting of Latin American Communists in Havana last November at which the pro-Chinese elements criticized Havana's failure to condemn the pro-Soviets in the Latin American movement.

3. Brazil

President Castello Branco is thinking of postponing this year's country-wide gubernatorial elections. The idea would be to maintain stability until the presidential election due next year. The government, which is not popular, is sure to come under heavy fire if it decides to do this.

4. USSR

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5. Indonesia

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Small-scale Indonesian guerilla operations continue against mainland Malaysia and Borneo.

6. Laos

The situation remains confused.

General Phoumi is being increasingly open in his efforts to put some life in the dissident rightist forces which on Sunday attempted a military takeover in Vientiane. He has been making frantic efforts to get reinforcements, without apparent success. A small Phoumi force approaching the city this morning ran into artillery fire, but otherwise no fighting has occurred.

Other opportunistic factions, including the police, seem to be biding their time in case Phoumi starts making some progress.

7. Cyprus

The Soviets have apparently told Makarios in the past few days that they will not support him if his policy is to achieve union with Greece, or if he precipitates Turkish intervention. This follows Gromyko's recent policy statement mentioning federation, the solution favored by the Turks. Both Athens and Nicosia have had a shock from these maneuvers. It is not yet clear how relations between the two will be affected and whether there is an opening for new negotiations.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

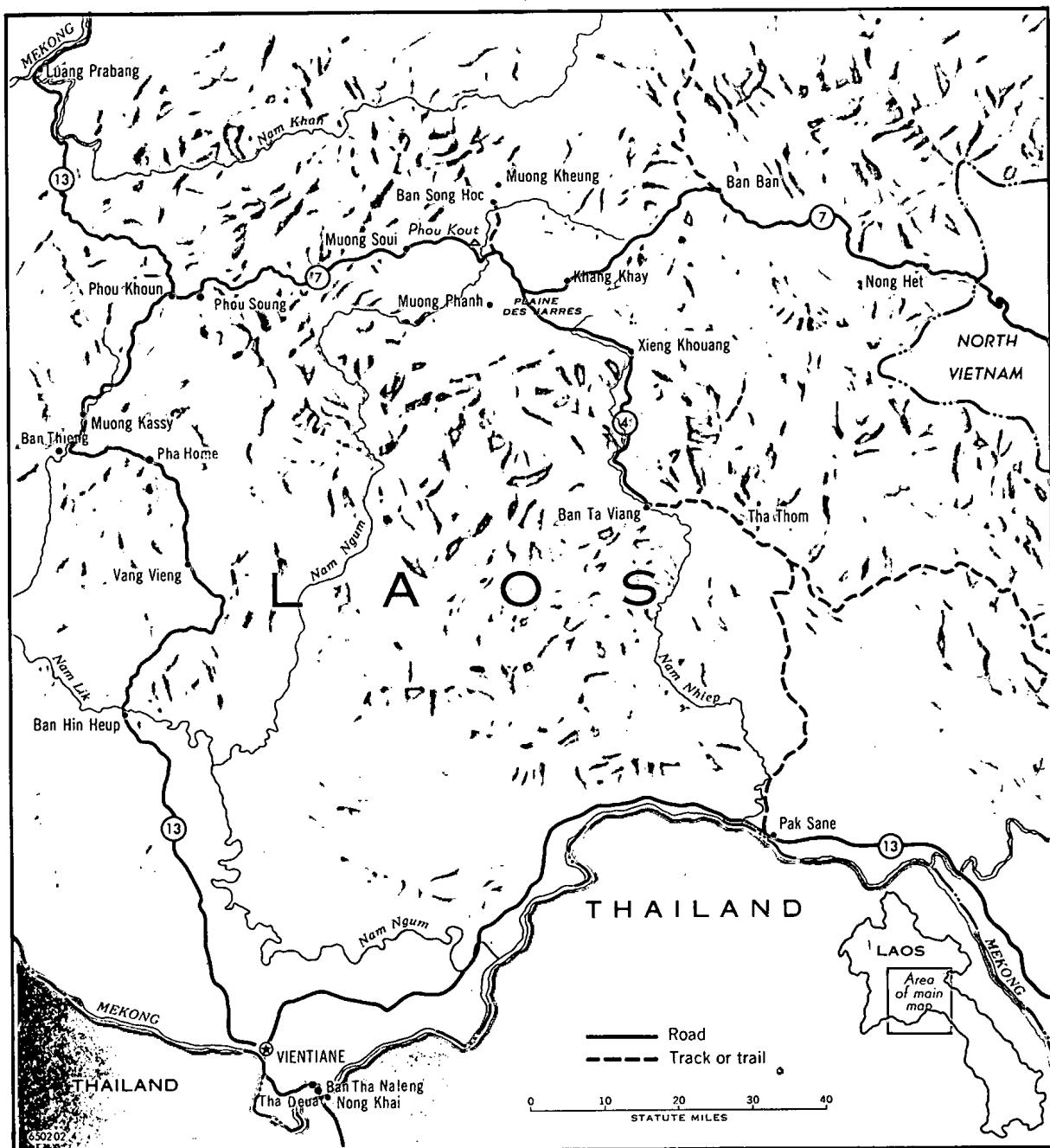
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3 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
3 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Laos

General Phoumi and security chief Siho made their move for control of Vientiane last night. This involved considerable fighting in and around the city. By this afternoon forces loyal to the government had apparently won out.

Siho and Phoumi have disappeared. Phoumi may have escaped east to Pak-sane in hopes of support from the garrison there. However, after his debacle in Vientiane he may find this difficult. (See map.)

Communist forces have not so far taken advantage of this turmoil, but they may not have had time yet.

2. South Vietnam

Khanh continues determined to ensure himself control of the new government, and he is now reported planning to have himself declared Chief of State. His moves are arousing increased resentment and alarm among various factions, including the generals. It seems likely that his opportunism will lead to more upheavals. A discussion is at Annex.

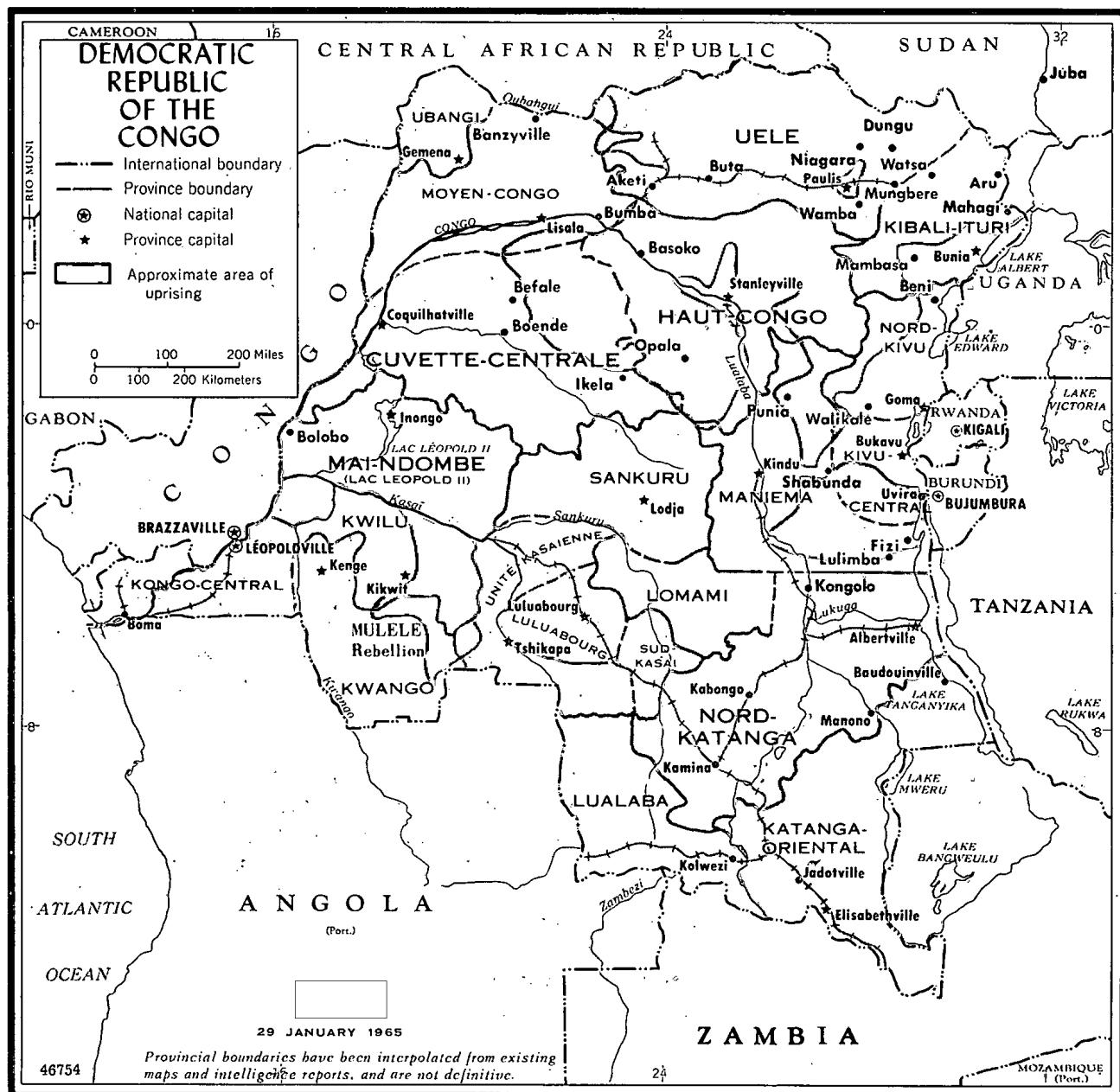
3. USSR

Premier Kosygin leaves early tomorrow for Hanoi, via Peiping. Reports that he will stop over for talks in Peiping are unconfirmed.

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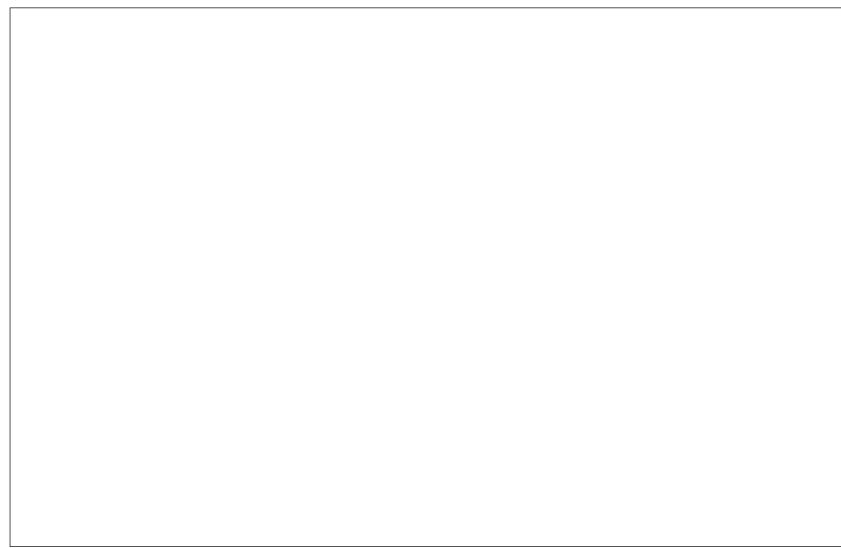
The Pravda article of Sunday welcoming the President's State of the Union remarks about US-Soviet relations was in fact intended to soften the impact of Kosygin's trip on the US.

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4. Indonesia

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5. Congo

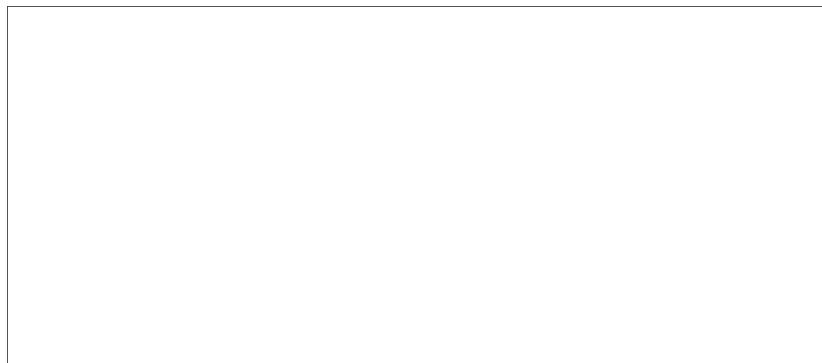
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There are now reports that several hundred "Arab" soldiers have been seen in the southern Sudan. Also, a few Ugandan regulars apparently fought beside the rebels in a recent engagement in northeast Congo. (See map.)

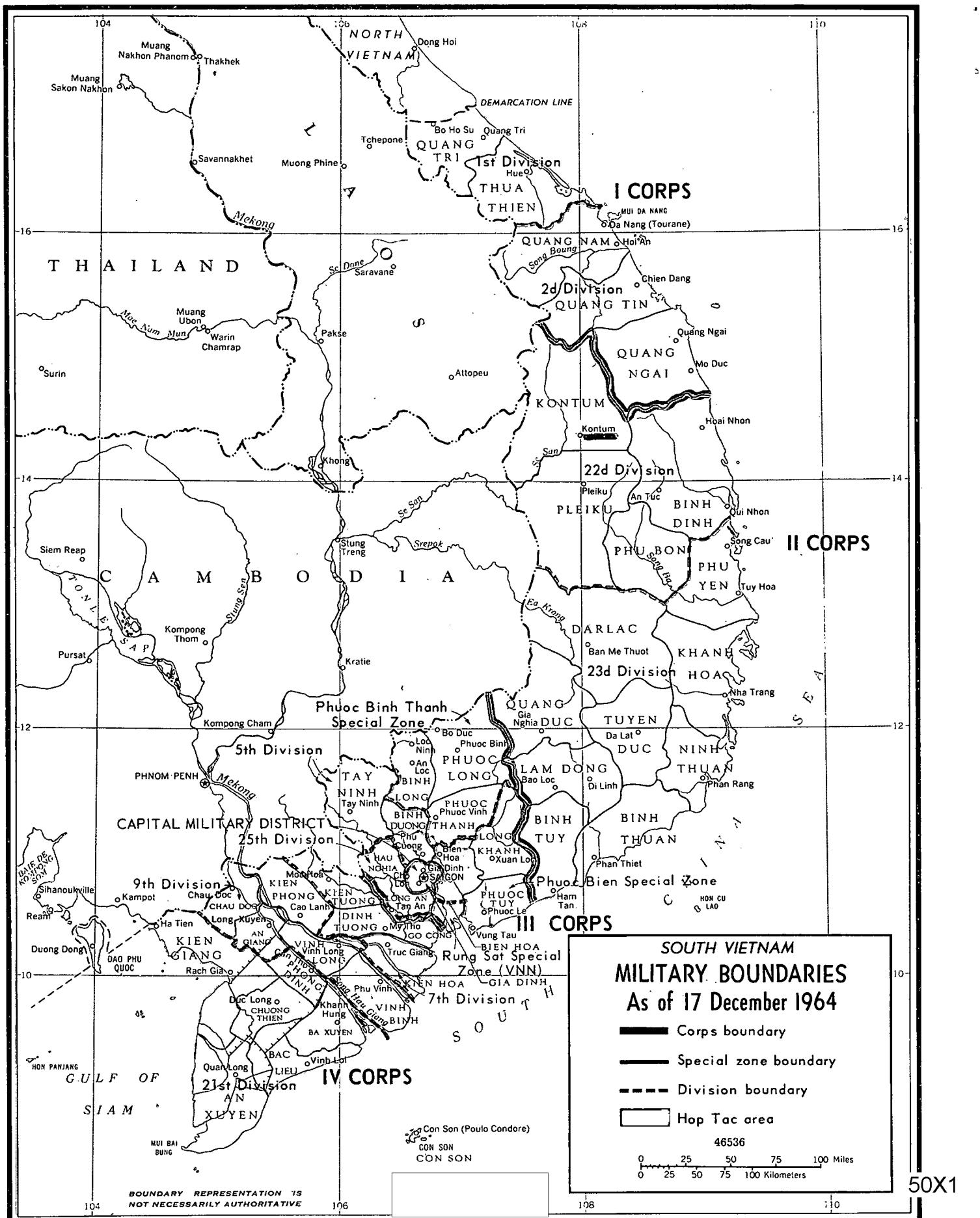


6. USSR

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ANNEX

The Situation in South Vietnam

Some of General Khanh's critics seem convinced he is bent on a neutralist settlement with the Communists. General Cao, a Catholic and former corps commander, now a staff officer in Saigon, has told the embassy that Khanh is working with the Buddhists to this end. Cao says Khanh will take the first move this Friday by asking the Armed Forces Council to name him as its choice as the new Chief of State.

Khanh may not be able to get this from the increasingly distrustful generals.

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So far, however, the generals have appeared unable to work together to thwart Khanh.

Ambassador Taylor has commented that if Khanh should succeed in establishing himself as Chief of State, he would still have the problem of keeping both the Buddhists and the generals in line. He thinks this is a nearly impossible requirement that would probably mean continued semi-anarchy.

The Viet Cong have maintained their New Year "cease-fire," but the possibility of a dramatic Communist military move designed to worsen the political pressures in Saigon is always present.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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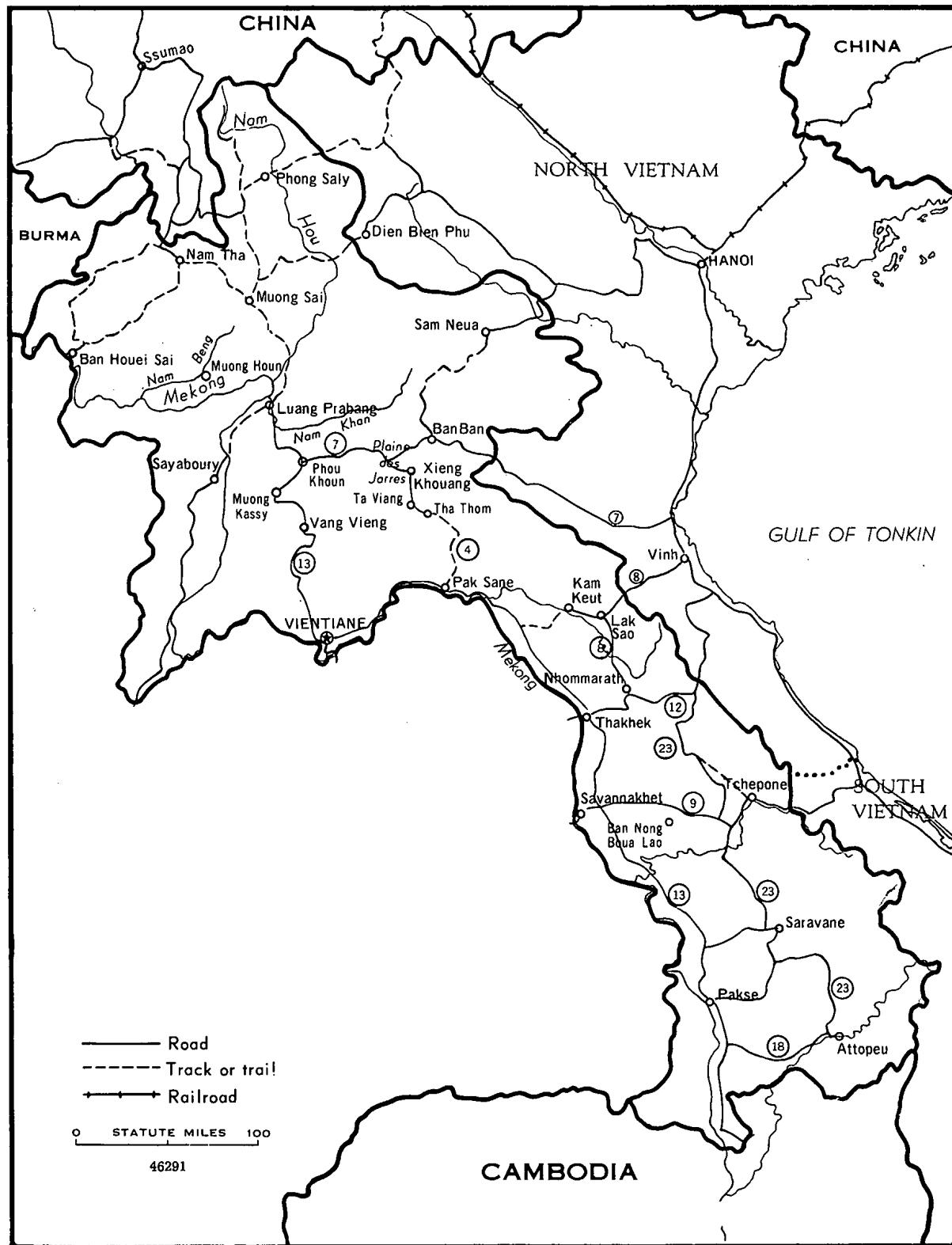
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4 FEBRUARY 1965

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LAOS



DAILY BRIEF
4 FEBRUARY 1965

1. France

The French foreign office has told the US Embassy confidentially that soundings are being taken with the Chinese Communists and the North Vietnamese regarding their attitude toward a negotiated settlement in South Vietnam. The French have long been interested in negotiations to neutralize Indochina.

They claim that the Chinese took the initiative on this occasion, asking France both to take a more active role in Vietnam and to approach Washington regarding a negotiated settlement.

So far the talks in Paris have apparently been limited to generalities. Although the North Vietnamese delegate has displayed an interest in the discussion, no direct word from Hanoi has been forthcoming as yet.

While awaiting the North Vietnamese reply, the French plan further exploratory talks this week with the Chinese and with the Soviets.

2. Laos

Order has been restored in Vientiane by forces loyal to the government. Pockets of rightist rebels continue sporadic resistance north and east of the capital.

Premier Souvanna is highly jubilant over the outcome and believes that General Phoumi is finished for good. Phoumi's whereabouts is still unknown. He may be able to round up enough support to cause more trouble.

The Communists have not yet made a significant move to exploit the confusion in the anti-Communist ranks. They have, however, kept the pressure up east of Thakhek. (Map)

3. South Vietnam

General Khanh has assured his colleagues on the Armed Forces Council that he does not intend to take over the government. Ambassador Taylor believes that there is a good chance Khanh will try to keep Chief of State Suu in office as his puppet.

Meanwhile, top military officers met today with prospective members of the joint council which is supposed to name a chief of state and premier in the next few days.

Approaches by Vietnamese to US officials in Saigon indicate that there is a deep suspicion of Khanh all around. A plot by junior grade officers to capture or kill him was uncovered today and the plotters arrested.

The lunar New Year's "truce" observed by the Viet Cong ends Saturday.

4. Cyprus

Communal tempers are on the rise again. US officials on the island report that the situation in the eastern port of Famagusta is rapidly approaching the flash point.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Makarios has indicated he plans restrictive actions in relation to the Turkish military contingent. If carried out, these are sure to inflame the Turks.

5. Italy

Negotiations are "practically finished" on the extension of Italian credits to the USSR. The Italians are offering some \$60 million, a quarter of which is to be used to finance purchases in Italian shipyards. The credits will probably run to well over five years.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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5 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
5 FEBRUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

The generals now apparently believe that Khanh will not try to seize power, at least for the present. The possibility of an early move by the various anti-Khanh factions has also faded.

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2. Laos

Generals Phoumi and Sihou are still at large, but there is no sign yet that they have mustered support for military action against Vientiane. The Communists also remain relatively quiet.

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3. Congo

Tshombé's economic talks in Brussels have gone well. The Belgians are hopeful that a settlement will be reached by Sunday.

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4. France

Paris is tightening its procedures on foreign investments in France. The finance minister is personally handling all investment applications

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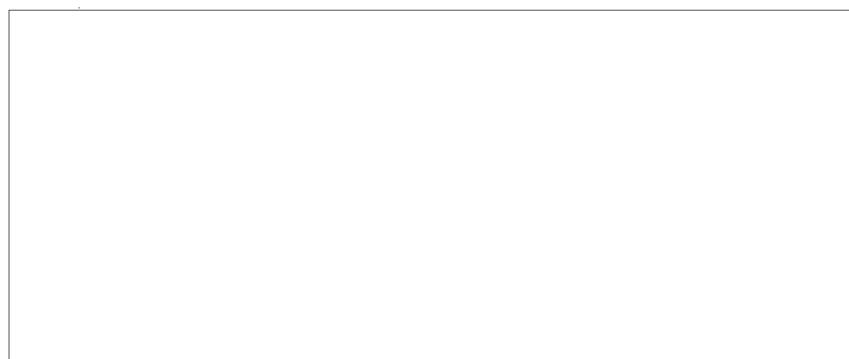
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5. USSR

The USSR, which recently purchased 750,000 tons of wheat for Cuba and Eastern Europe, has just concluded contracts with Australia and Canada for 1.1 million tons for its own consumption. The Soviet cash outlay for this grain exceeds \$100 million. The cost of the emergency purchases in late 1963 and early 1964 was about \$800 million.

6. USSR



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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6 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
6 FEBRUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

In talking to McGeorge Bundy yesterday, General Khanh concentrated largely on eliciting information about US intentions. He asked whether the US could accept a military chief of government, suggesting that he has not abandoned the idea of his own accession. Khanh also said he is having some trouble forming the new civilian-military council but hopes to have one next week.

2. Laos

Generals Phoumi and Sihou have turned up in Thailand, still with the hope of assembling forces for a march on Vientiane. The Laotian Government has made a strong démarche to Bangkok insisting that they be placed under house arrest far from the border.

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3. Sudan

A coalition of conservative political, military, and religious leaders intends to demand an immediate and drastic reduction of Communist influence in the present government. If its demands are not met, the group is prepared to stage a coup, possibly within the next few days.

4. Cuba

A public trial of Joaquin Ordoqui, an old-guard pre-Castro Communist, for collaboration with Batista authorities is probably forthcoming. This will bring into the open again the long-simmering tensions between Cuba's "old" and "new" Communists and conceivably might lead to a purge of the Moscow-favored old-liners. However, Castro, for fear of Moscow's reaction, will probably keep it from going that far. Details are at Annex.

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5. Greece

Leftists sponsored the parliamentary motion adopted today to try former Prime Minister Karamanlis for alleged abuses of office. This apparent Communist effort to distract public attention from the USSR's pro-Turkish stand on Cyprus is being supported tacitly by Prime Minister Papandreu for his own purposes. He seems to be trying to deflect attention from the shortcomings and mounting problems of his administration.

The US Embassy feels that Greek conservatives will be further alarmed by this example of growing Communist "boldness" under Papandreu's regime.

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ANNEX

Castro and the Cuban Communists

Cuba's "new" Communists--those who are loyal to Fidel above all else--have long castigated the pre-Castro Communists for waiting until the eve of victory to join the Castro revolution. Moreover, they argue that the old-line, Moscow-oriented Communists are not loyal supporters of Castro and the "Cuban revolution."

The friction between these factions was sharply defined in March 1962 when old-guard Communist leader Anibal Escalante was publicly tried and exiled for, in effect, attempting to edge Castro's new Communist followers out of the hierarchy of his new Marxist-Leninist party and to replace them with former old-line Communists.

The trial of Marcos Rodriguez last March for betraying four Cuban revolutionaries to Batista in 1957 was the next public chapter in this feud. During the trial, the new Communists charged that the old Communists had been behind the betrayal. This trial disclosed that Joaquin Ordoqui, a pre-Castro Communist leader, and his wife had befriended Rodriguez after the betrayal and, in a sense, had covered up for him.

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Ordoqui's wife was eased out last summer, and in November, Ordoqui himself was publicly suspended from his post as Cuban military quartermaster and from the party directorate. Cuba's new Communists have been pressing Castro hard for a public trial of Ordoqui.

The Ordoqui issue has created a dilemma for Castro. His own power position seems unchallenged now. However, one plan for assuring this has been to play one Communist group off against another and a show trial now of a prominent old-guard Communist could shatter the vestiges of the pre-Castro party.

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Moreover,

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[redacted] should a trial lead to a purge of old-line Communists, it could severely jolt Havana's relations with Moscow. Presumably Castro wishes to avoid this.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

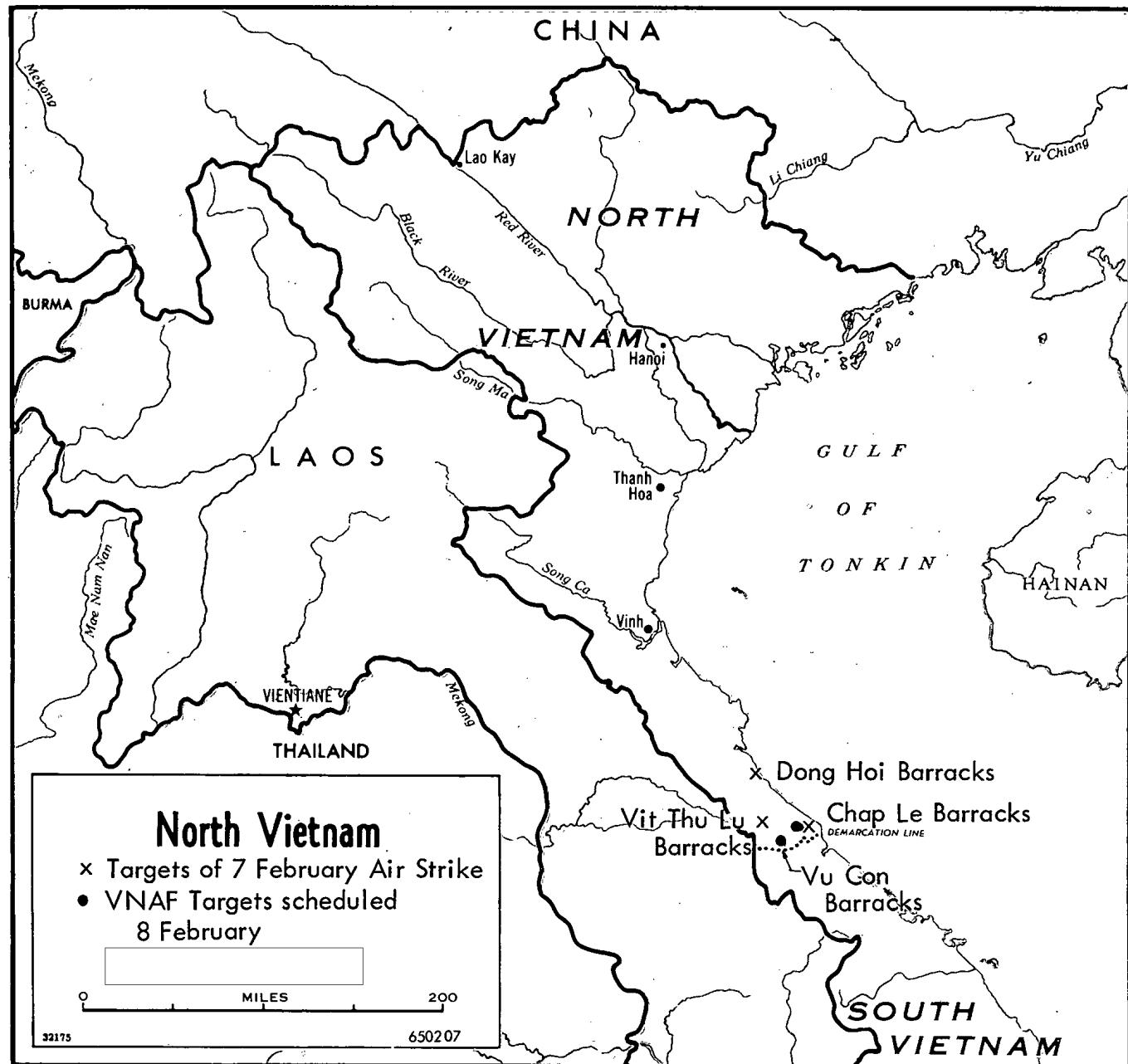


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SPECIAL ISSUE
8 FEBRUARY 1965

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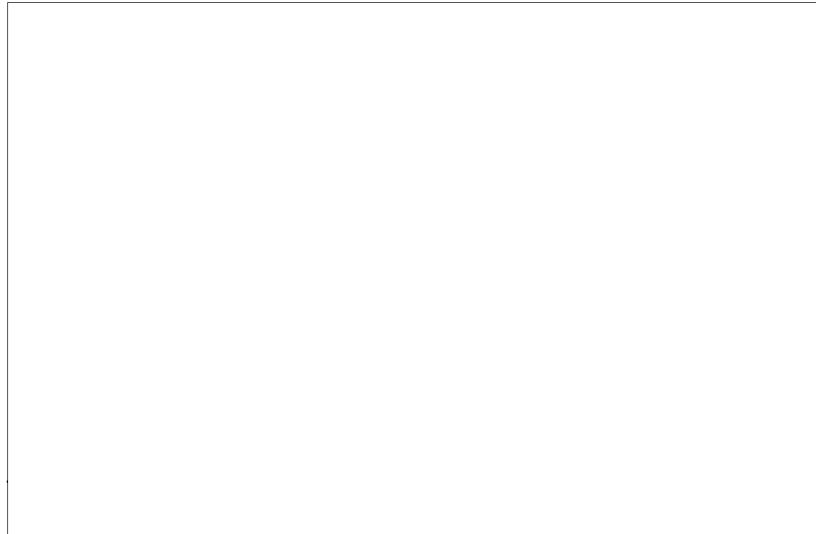
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DAILY BRIEF
8 FEBRUARY 1965

Vietnam

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Publicly, the Communists have so far responded to the US - South Vietnamese strikes mainly with pro forma propaganda suggesting that they constituted unwarranted aggression. The Soviets were apparently taken by surprise. The Moscow press so far has omitted reporting the text of a speech delivered by Kosygin after the Viet Cong attacks of 7 February, but before the US strikes. According to a North Vietnamese broadcast of Kosygin's remarks, he said the USSR is ready to come to North Vietnam's aid if "the aggressors dare to encroach on her independence and sovereignty." There is no further information available on the later activities in Hanoi of Kosygin and the rest of the large Soviet delegation.

The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry vaguely warned after the 7 February strike that attacks will meet "strong opposition from the people of the socialist countries."

Official Free World reaction is limited. Japan's Prime Minister Sato has said publicly that he regards the US bombing as a "limited reprisal." Thailand's prime minister expressed satisfaction over the strikes. In Western Europe, the initial reaction has been one of some uneasiness. Paris press commentary suggests that the US has somehow fallen into a Communist trap, while in London feelings seem to be mixed.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

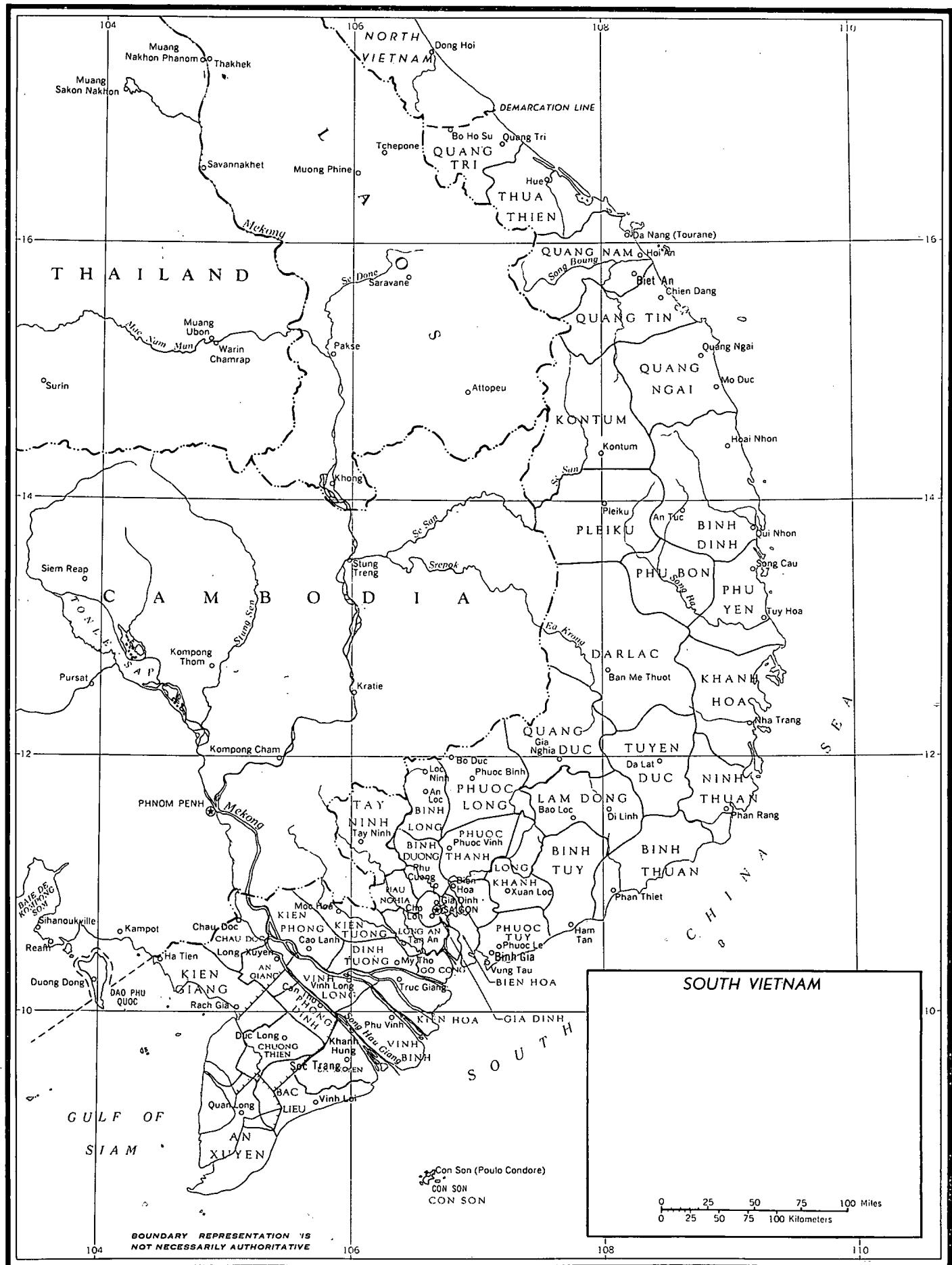
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8 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
8 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Vietnam

In Saigon, there has so far been no significant public reaction to the weekend air strikes or to the announcement that US dependents are to be withdrawn. No agreement on a new military-civilian government was reached in the Armed Forces Council meeting on Sunday. One problem seems to be that the Buddhists are reluctant to be represented unless the Catholics are.

In Hanoi, Kosygin today made another speech in which he said a situation "fraught with serious complications" is taking shape because the US has extended hostilities in Indochina. The speech, while full of denunciations of the US actions, contains no indication that the Soviets have given any further commitment to North Vietnam because of the US air strikes. Kosygin's statement on Soviet aid to Hanoi was in fact less explicitly phrased than that in his speech made the previous day before the US strikes.

The Chinese have been taking a cautious public line. Chief of Staff Lo Jui-ching issued a statement today condemning the action and asserting that the Chinese people "will not sit idly by without taking any action." According to press reports, the air strikes were given second precedence in today's Peiping papers to reports on the Chinese agricultural situation. The Chinese press has given no coverage of Kosygin's visit to Hanoi.

No significant military developments have been reported since this morning.

2. USSR

Recent satellite photography shows that a new launch site at the Tyuratam missile rangehead may be ready for use. The missile for which this installation is intended could be the first Soviet solid-propellant ICBM.

3. Laos

The Thais have assured Premier Souvanna Phouma that they will keep the fugitive Generals Phoumi and Siho out of mischief. Souvanna, however, is not satisfied, since he suspects the Thais of having been in league with Phoumi. (Phoumi has had close connections with Thai leaders.)

Vientiane is quiet, but a number of neutralist and rightist leaders are unhappy at the victory of the rightist faction led by military strong-man General Kouprasith. Kouprasith's destruction of the rival Phoumi faction has upset the delicate balance of Vientiane politics. Also, the extent of Kouprasith's loyalty to the Souvanna government is not clear.

4. Congo

Tshombé and the Belgians have settled their financial problems, which will further enhance Tshombé's standing at home and remove an irritant from Congolese-Belgian relations.

There has been no significant change in the security picture during the last several days, and sporadic small-scale rebel activity continues widespread. After several postponements, a strong mercenary-led government column has left Stanleyville to clean up rebel concentrations near the Sudanese and Ugandan borders.

Radical African efforts to shore up the rebels continue unabated. Ugandan involvement in particular is increasing.

5. Sudan

The coup forecast in Saturday's Brief is still expected, but the political parties seem to be honoring their promises to avoid trouble during Queen Elizabeth's visit.

6. Yemen

The Egyptians may shortly start a propaganda campaign charging that the US and Saudi Arabia are responsible for the mess in which the UAR finds itself in Yemen.

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LATE ITEM

Vietnam

Since the Vietnamese item on Page one went to press we have begun to receive the text of a Soviet Government statement issued today. This is the first really authoritative comment from Moscow. Our first hasty reading of the portions we have suggests that the USSR still intends, as had previously been expected, to supply defensive military equipment to Hanoi. There is also a hint that US-Soviet bilateral relations may be affected by the US strikes this weekend. We expect to provide a fuller analysis tomorrow.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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SPECIAL ISSUE
9 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
9 FEBRUARY 1965

Vietnam

Communist Military Activity: Discernible Communist military reaction to the US and South Vietnamese air strikes on Dong Hoi and Chap Le remains minimal. North Vietnamese and Chinese Communist aircraft apparently were not sent up although radars were tracking the raids. The North Vietnamese Navy, at least, is still on alert, and units are under orders to resist further attacks.

Since about the time of the US air strike at Dong Hoi on 7 February, radio silence has been maintained on certain North Vietnamese ground force communications nets: those in southern North Vietnam, some in Laos, that of the possible North Vietnamese headquarters element recently located in South Vietnam, and those serving the Viet Cong infiltration routes. It is difficult now to determine whether this constitutes a defensive measure or reflects preparations for future actions. In any case, we have never before seen anything on this scale in North Vietnamese communications.

Viet Cong Activity: Within South Vietnam, other Viet Cong attacks occurring almost simultaneously with the Pleiku attack on 7 February suggest a general intensification of Viet Cong activity following the end of the New Year cease-fire. In Quang Tin Province, an estimated Viet Cong battalion lost 220 men in an attack on a government post. There are also preliminary reports of two battalion-sized attacks in the Binh Dinh Province. On 8 February, the Viet Cong's Liberation Armed Forces Command broadcast a call to "strike strongly" to "protect the north and liberate the south."

Communist China: Peiping is developing a major propaganda campaign. However, the Chinese, even in a strong government statement of 9 January which repeats earlier warnings that the Chinese people will "not stand idly by," avoid any additional public commitment of support for Hanoi. Peiping reiterates its claim that the US attacks give the Chinese and others the "right" to assist Hanoi but is vague concerning the response should the US "insist on expanding the war."

The USSR: Demonstrations against the US Embassy in Moscow have begun.

Soviet statements thus far suggest that the USSR will go ahead in supplying further military materiel to the North Vietnamese. However, they also show marked caution in making any far-reaching commitment to Hanoi. An analysis of the most recent Soviet statements is at Annex.

ANNEX

Soviet Reaction

Soviet reaction to US air reprisals against North Vietnam has reflected the difficulties confronting Soviet leaders in their relations both with the Asian Communist governments and the US. An 8 February Soviet Government statement--the first authoritative comment from the USSR--was brief and generally cautious. Although it condemned the US reprisals and warned against any "illusion" that such "aggression" can be carried out with impunity, the statement did not advance the Soviet commitment beyond earlier pledges of "necessary assistance" to Hanoi.

Moscow declared that it "will be forced" to join its allies in "further measures to safeguard the security and to strengthen the defensive capability" of North Vietnam. Although this reaffirms the USSR's readiness to provide a substantial increase in military assistance, it does not appear to signal any significant increase in the level of aid envisaged prior to Kosygin's departure for Hanoi.

Soviet Premier Kosygin's 8 February speech in Hanoi also carried no indication that the USSR intends to undertake any far-reaching commitment in North Vietnam in the aftermath of the US strikes on the DRV. Kosygin couched the USSR's pledge of support for the Hanoi regime in rather general terms. He asserted that "our internationalist duty is to increase and consolidate the strength and national defense potential of the socialist community." He declared that "neither the DRV, nor the Soviet Union, nor the CPR wanted war."

The Soviets also tried to influence US policy by injecting a cautious warning that, although the USSR favors further improvement in bilateral relations, "aggressive manifestations" might cancel out steps already taken to improve relations.

(Continued)

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The trend of Soviet reaction thus far suggests that the USSR will continue to avoid military guarantees or specific commitments to defend North Vietnam. However, the Soviet Government statement is considerably stronger than Khrushchev's reaction to the Tonkin Gulf incidents last August. This attempt to demonstrate support for North Vietnam reflects the intention of the new Soviet leaders to regain influence in Hanoi and to compete more effectively with the Chinese Communists.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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9 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
9 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Vietnam

There have been no reports of significant changes in the Chinese Communist or North Vietnamese military posture since the publication of this morning's Brief.

Some of the North Vietnamese ground units in the Vietnam-Laos area which have been on radio silence since 7 February--those in southern North Vietnam itself--have now resumed communications. There is still insufficient data to explain the reason for this widespread radio silence.

In Saigon, the Armed Forces Council appears to be moving closer toward naming a new mixed civilian-military government, but still seems to be having trouble in settling on a new premier satisfactory to the principal factions.

2. USSR

Preparations are apparently under way for a major space operation in the next few days.

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3. Cyprus

A new crisis may be building over Makarios' refusal last week to approve the rotation late this month of some of the 650 Turkish troops on Cyprus. Makarios claims that the 1960 London-Zurich agreement providing for the stationing of foreign troops on the island is now dead. This may be only a bargaining position,

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4. Congo

With the Belgian-Congolese financial negotiations successfully out of the way, the Belgians are looking again into prospects for providing further technical and military assistance. They are also hopeful of convincing Tshombé that he should make efforts to improve his image in Africa.

The mercenary-led government column en route from Stanleyville to Paulis was stalled Sunday night by rebel ambushes but intended to push on. (See map.)

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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10 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
10 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Vietnam

Other than the Viet Cong offensive of the past few days, we have detected no significant changes in the Communist military posture elsewhere in the Far East.

The propaganda outcry from Hanoi and Peiping is, however, shrill. In a wild-swinging editorial against President Johnson, Peiping today declares that air strikes against North Vietnam will only cause the Viet Cong to redouble their efforts. Hanoi is similarly vituperative, but, like Peiping, is carefully vague as to what it will do. The only firm commitment Peiping makes is a promise to counter an invasion of North Vietnam.

Soviet Premier Kosygin is overnighting in Peiping where he met what initially appears to have been another rather cool reception.

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His statements prior to leaving Hanoi suggest that he refrained from making any extensive new commitments to the Vietnamese. In Moscow Soviet officials continue to make relatively conciliatory noises toward the US.

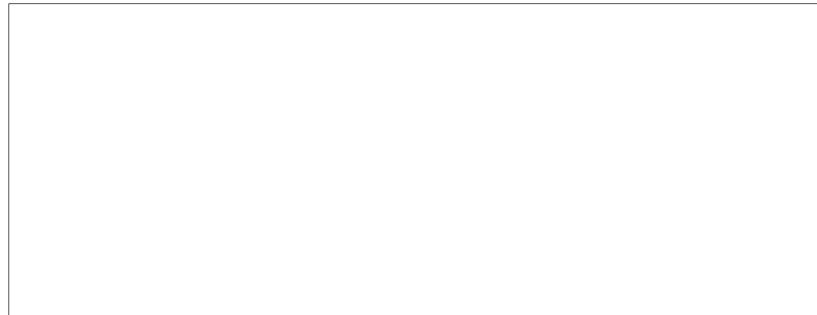
In Saigon prospects for a new government brightened today. Former interior minister Vien, a relative who does not get on too well with Khanh, says he has accepted the post of prime minister. He hopes to have a cabinet for presentation to the Armed Forces Council tomorrow or Friday.

2. Ghana

plotting is actively under way to oust Nkrumah "in the very near future." Plans are incomplete, and this, like previous plots, may collapse before execution. However, with the atmosphere in Accra after the death in prison of a venerated opposition leader, this one may have a better chance of success.

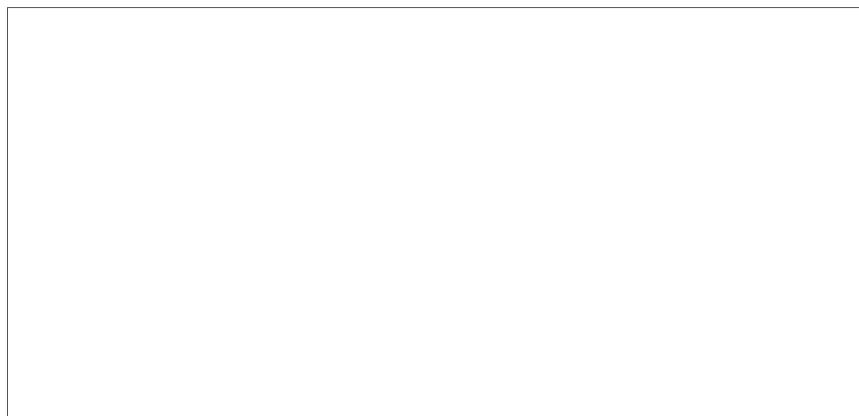
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3. Israel



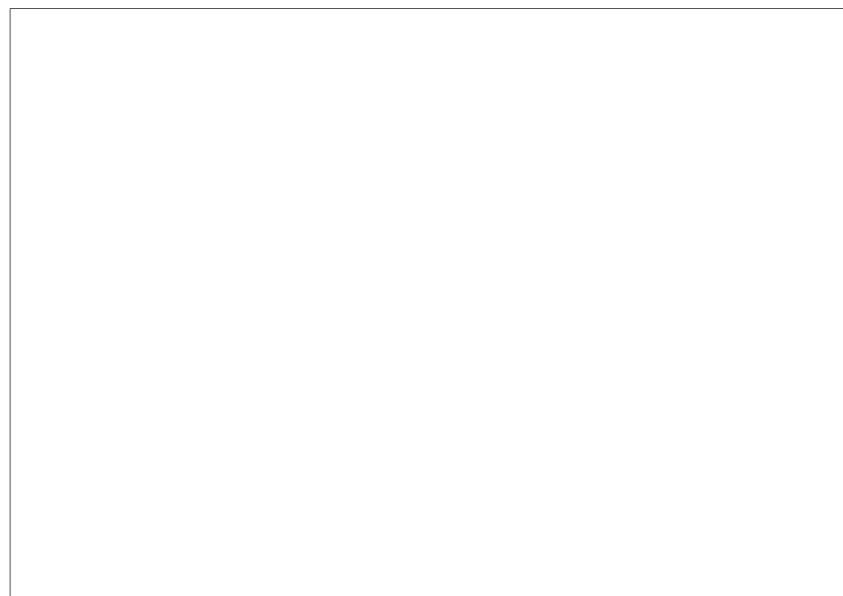
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4. Cyprus



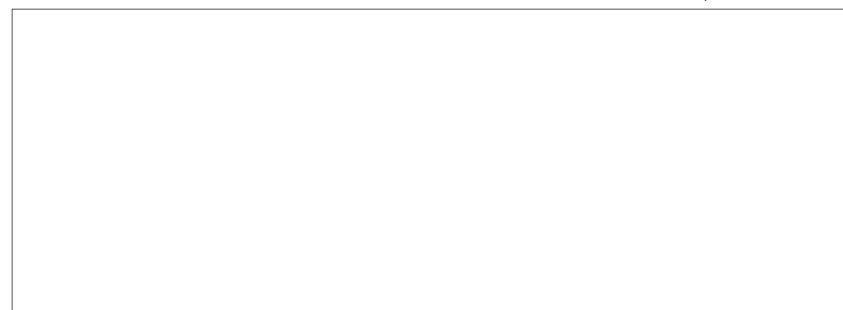
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5. Malaysia



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6. Japan



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

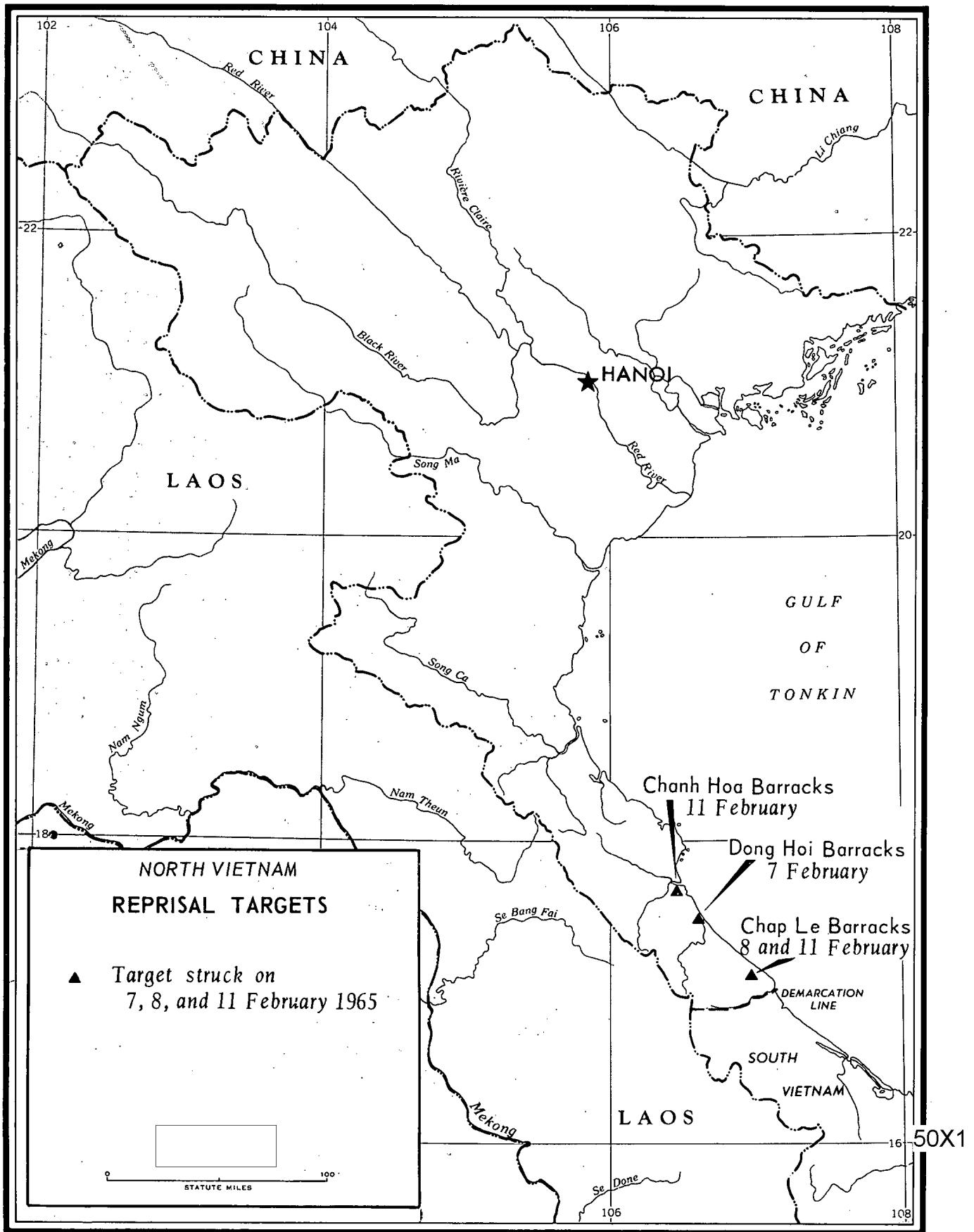
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11 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
11 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Vietnam.

No significant Soviet or Communist Chinese military reaction to this morning's retaliatory air strikes has been noted.

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Pilot reports indicate that the Chanh Hoa target area, hit by US carrier planes, was seriously damaged. Pilots returning from the US - South Vietnamese strike at Chap Le barracks reported at least five buildings destroyed and several explosions at nearby antiaircraft installations. (See map.)

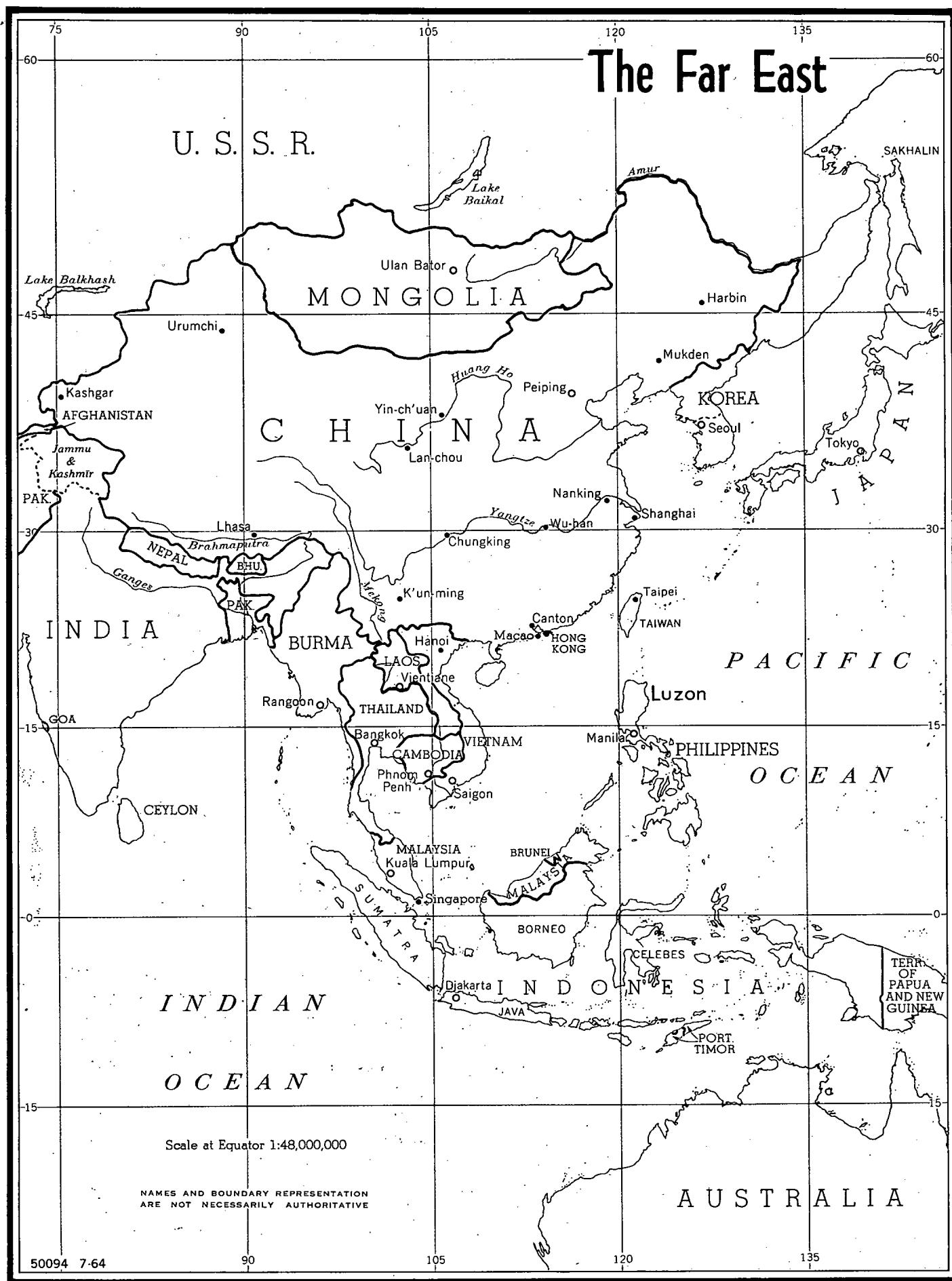
There have been no reports of significant Viet Cong attacks today. There is still no public announcement of a new government, suggesting continuing problems over the selection of a cabinet and, possibly, a premier.

2. Sudan

The conservatives believe they can pull off a bloodless coup against the Sudan's left-leaning cabinet this weekend. The Communists, however, may resist and provoke violent incidents.

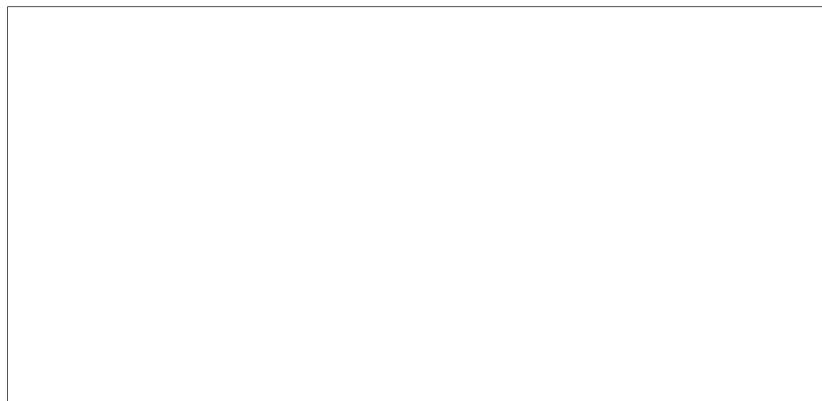
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The Far East



3. USSR

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Two Soviet Sigint ships are still active in the Far East, one off South Vietnam and another near Guam. (See map.)

4. Congo

The 600-man mercenary-government column en route from Stanleyville to Paulis has already lost over 50 men and several vehicles to rebel ambushes. This and other factors will probably delay even further the planned government offensive to close the northeastern Congo frontier. An analysis is at Annex.

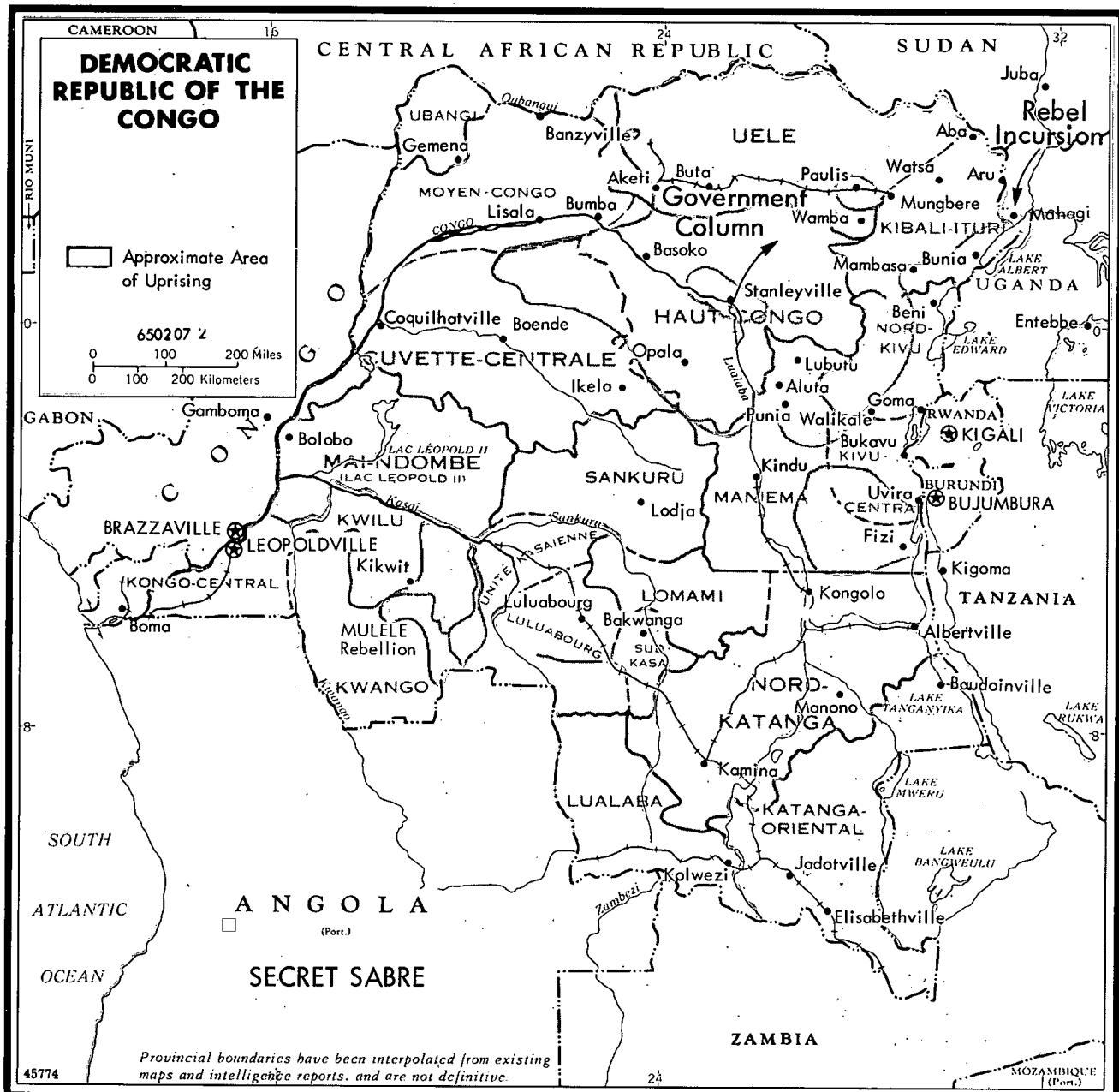
5. Cyprus

Ankara says it has word that the Greek Cypriots plan to attack the Turkish Cypriots tomorrow. This is by no means confirmed, but tensions on the island have been rising recently. The Turks could be trying to set the stage for some military move of their own.

6. British Guiana

The visit this weekend of British Colonial Secretary Anthony Greenwood could touch off a wave of violence leading to bloody racial clashes. Former premier Jagan and his People's Progressive Party plan protests and strikes against the new government of Forbes Burnham to convince Greenwood that the colony is too unstable for independence while Jagan is out of office. His group is not openly advocating violence, but is encouraging it behind the scenes.

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ANNEX

The Military Situation
in Northeast Congo

Several factors hinder government operations in east and northeast Congo: the impact of outside help to the rebels, the temporary waning of mercenary strength, and Congolese Army morale problems.

Aid to the Rebels: Arms are still coming to the rebels from the east and they are showing up better-armed in recent attacks.

Recent rebel attacks have shown improved organization and reflect the training given the rebels outside the Congo. Algerian and Egyptian "volunteers" may be in the southern Sudan for eventual use in the Congo, but so far reports of their presence with the rebels during combat there have not been proved out. However, small Ugandan army detachments do appear to have accompanied the rebels, particularly in operations around Mahagi. Intercepts indicate that the Uganda Army command has made some tactical decisions for the rebels. The effect of this outside help will probably be felt increasingly.

Should the non-Communist parties in the Sudan succeed in their plans to put in a new government in Khartoum, there is some possibility that the movement of arms for the rebels through the Sudan might be cut off. However, the flow could be maintained by stepping up shipments going via the more cumbersome alternate routes through Tanzania and Uganda.

The Mercenaries: Those currently active are already heavily committed in the extended operations in the northeast Congo. As a result, there are few to move around as "fire brigades" to stiffen Congolese Army resistance to new rebel threats which may occur elsewhere. There have been morale and pay

problems, and the mercenaries have suffered battle losses. This may affect most immediately the planned offensive to the Sudanese border, which may have to be delayed until the mercenary strength at Paulis, depleted by dispatch of a detachment to assist the column en route from Stanleyville, can be built up.

Mercenary reinforcements may be slow in coming. Contrary to earlier reports, only 113 South Africans and Rhodesians, many of them inexperienced, are training at Kamina in Katanga. One hundred eighty more are now being sought in South Africa.

The Congolese Army: Congolese Army troops are performing about as usual, with much depending on the leadership. This may improve if the Belgians follow through and take a more active role now that financial negotiations in Brussels have ended successfully.

However, Congolese Army morale is low in many places and there have been sudden flare-ups of near mutiny.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

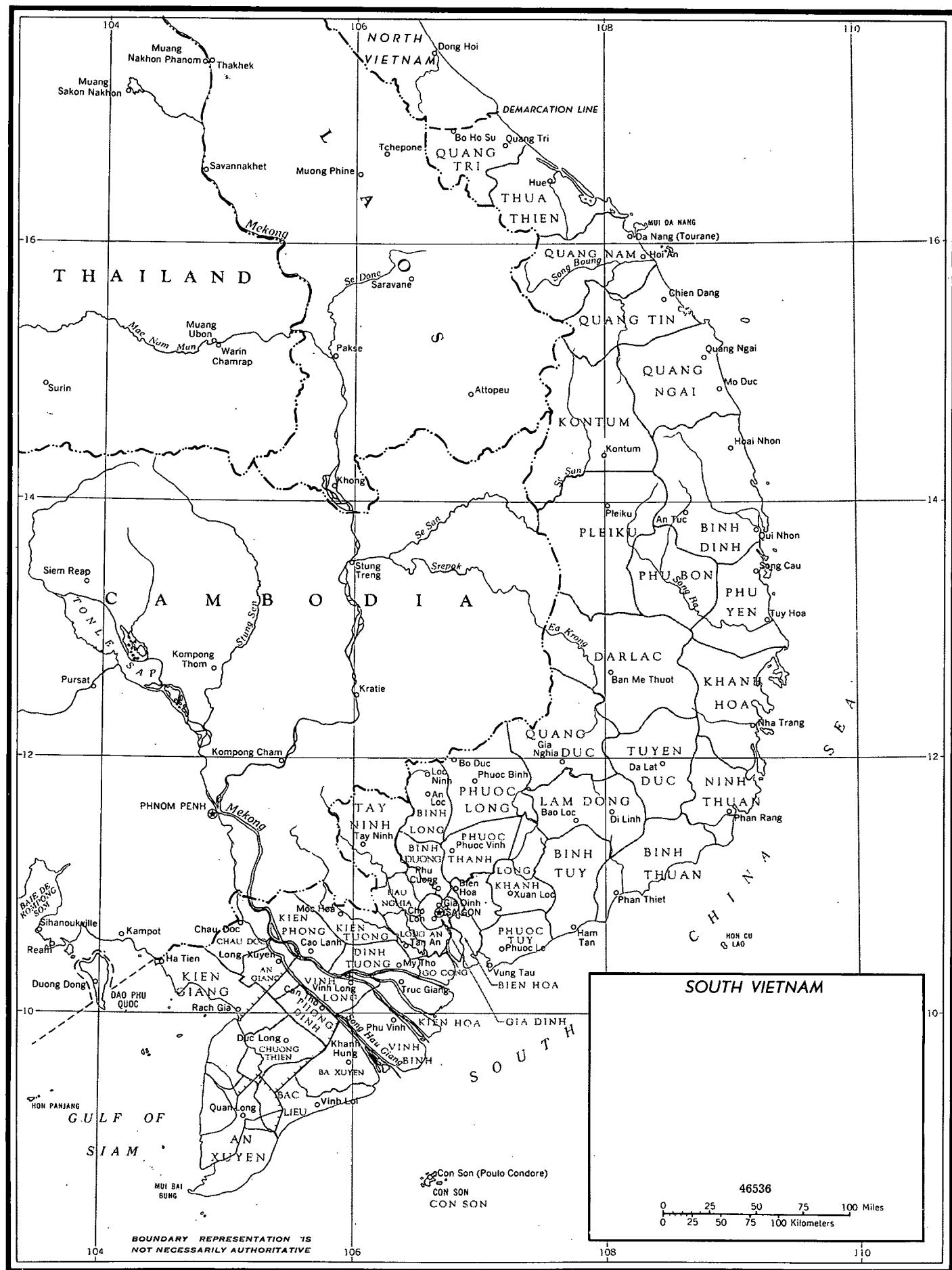
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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12 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
12 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Vietnam

There is no intelligence to support the sensational press reports that Chinese Communist ground forces are moving into North Vietnam.

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In Hanoi, the military has asked the International Control Commission to withdraw its fixed observation teams, allegedly out of concern for the security of the teams. This suggests that Hanoi may want to conduct military movements without risk of discovery by ICC observers.

In South Vietnam, attacks on other US targets may be forthcoming. This is suggested by a captured Viet Cong document which allegedly cites in addition to Pleiku and Qui Nhon, already attacked, three other localities in which there are US targets. US forces are taking precautions.

Preparations are also under way to stand off a possible Viet Cong attack tonight on the US Marine Hawk battalion at Danang.

Elsewhere, the Viet Cong have maintained an intense level of activity during the past few days.

On the Saigon political front, Interior Minister Vien says he has in writing an agreement with the Armed Forces Council outlining the working relations concerning his projected new government. Vien says he is trying to get the signature of First Corps General Thi, who seems to be the last main obstacle to completion of negotiations on the new cabinet. (See map.)

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2. Sudan

Non-Communist political parties planned to start massive demonstrations in Khartoum today in an effort to force the Communist-dominated government's resignation. No reports of further developments are yet available.

3. Laos

Communist convoys are continuing to move into Laos in some volume. Between 1-11 February, for example, approximately 115 trucks were counted entering central Laos from North Vietnam, accompanied by 450-500 troops on foot. Similar traffic also continued in the north.

4. Cyprus

5. USSR

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6. Congo

What is going on is far from clear, but it now appears that renewed efforts in the past few days to strengthen the Congo's relations in Africa have back-fired. Tshombé is said to be miffed by the hostile treatment accorded his emissary to a recent meeting with representatives of the French-speaking African states. He also is said to have refused to send a delegate to the meeting in Nairobi of the OAU sub-commission on the Congo planned for today.

Tshombé thus seems strengthened in his reluctance to do anything to improve his relations with his neighbors.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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13 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
13 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Vietnam

No new Communist military deployments related to the situation in Southeast Asia have been detected.

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Intense Viet Cong guerrilla and sabotage activity continues. No further developments indicative of fresh attacks on US facilities have been noted.

The Armed Forces Council, in circumstances which are still obscure, has apparently reversed field and designated Phan Huy Quat as the new premier. Interior Minister Vien had seemed to have the inside track yesterday.

Quat, who served as foreign minister in General Khanh's government, has been favored by the Buddhist faction led by Tri Quang. He is considered to be relatively competent and friendly to the US.

North Vietnamese and Chinese Communist propaganda has become more belligerent than ever. Hanoi warns of "blood debts" to be collected from the "US imperialists."

Peiping also promises blows by Viet Cong forces in reprisal for new US air strikes against North Vietnam. Peiping draws a clear distinction between air attacks and "invasion," which it has declared it would be duty-bound to resist. The Chinese have carefully avoided any commitment to intervene in response to air attacks against selected military targets.

Vietnam Confederation of Workers President Tran Quoc Buu says he has gained agreement from political and religious groups to cooperate in stabilizing the political situation. If Buu has in fact gained such cooperation, his influence could be significant. Buu further says he is coming to the US shortly.

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2. Malaysia

The rock throwing by youthful demonstrators at the USIS library in Kuala Lumpur today seems to have been a by-product of a protest rally by the Socialist Front party. The Socialist Front is pro-Indonesian, and several of its leaders have recently been detained by the police. The demonstrators carried banners protesting the detentions, high prices, Malaysia, and "imperialists."

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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15 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
15 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Vietnam

There have been no major developments.

Hanoi and Viet Cong propaganda continues to promise "resolute strikes" in South Vietnam. The Viet Cong have continued widespread harassment, but have not undertaken new spectacular actions.

In Saigon, Phan Huy Quat is still working toward forming a government. The present hitch seems to be that General Khanh is insisting on a somewhat unsavory civilian as interior minister. Khanh, who has been blocked from playing a major governmental role by the Armed Forces Council, may in turn be trying to block the formation of any civilian government. 50X1

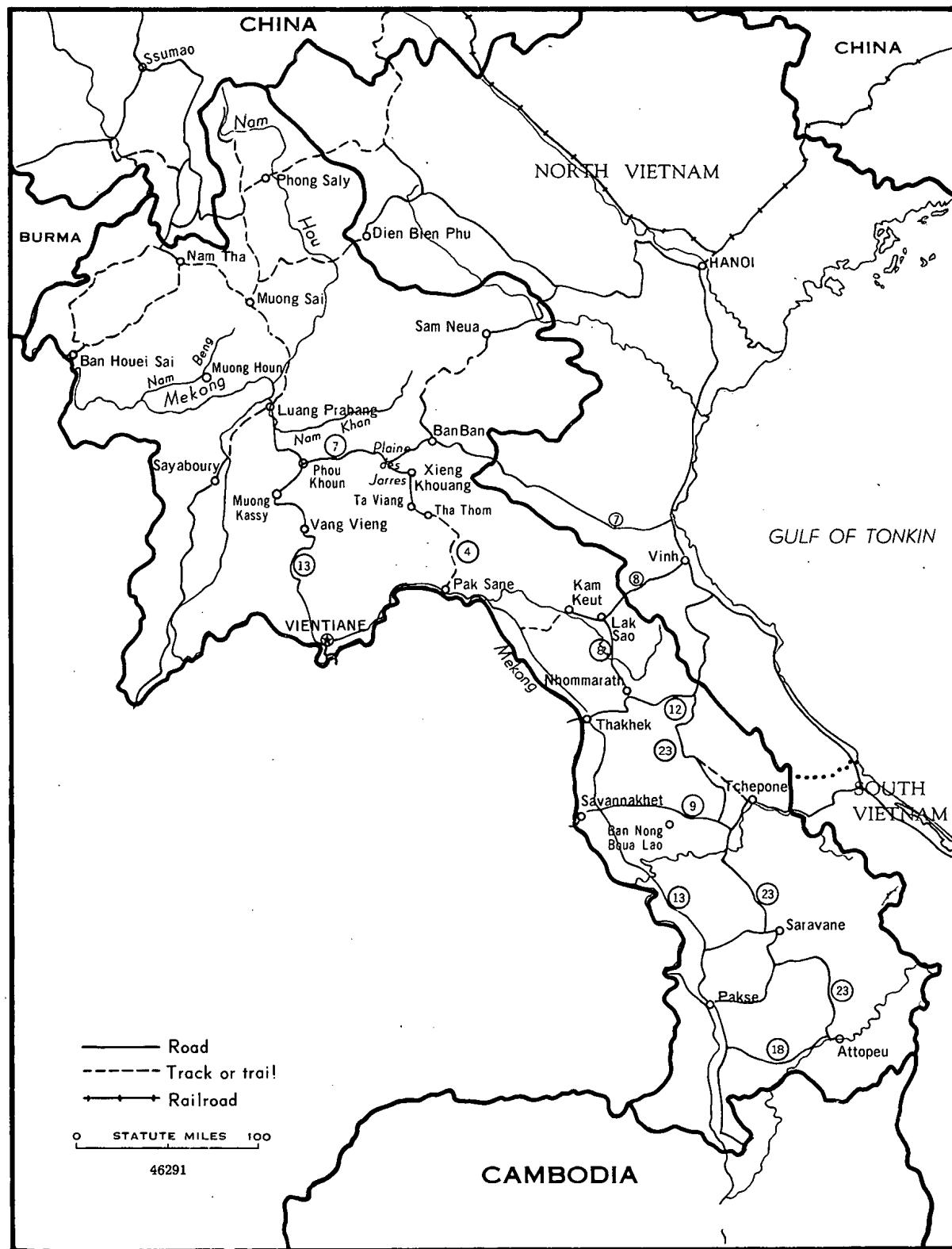
Photography of the Chinese Communist airbase at Mengtzu, near the North Vietnamese border, shows 65 MIG-15 or -17 jet fighters there, 28 more than were there in the last photography three months ago. 50X1

2. USSR

Ambassador Kohler speculated Sunday that the pattern of several temporary restrictions on embassy travel in western USSR might indicate that troops from the USSR are moving west to take part in large-scale Warsaw Pact maneuvers, perhaps in Germany. He suggests that this could be a way of putting pressure on the US over Vietnam.

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LAOS



3. Laos

The Communists yesterday captured a Meo guerrilla base 35 miles southwest of Samneua. (See map.) A government counterattack, supported by T-28 strikes, is planned. The attacking Communist force, however, is well equipped with antiaircraft and the T-28s have been less effective in this action than in previous Laotian engagements.

4. Communist China

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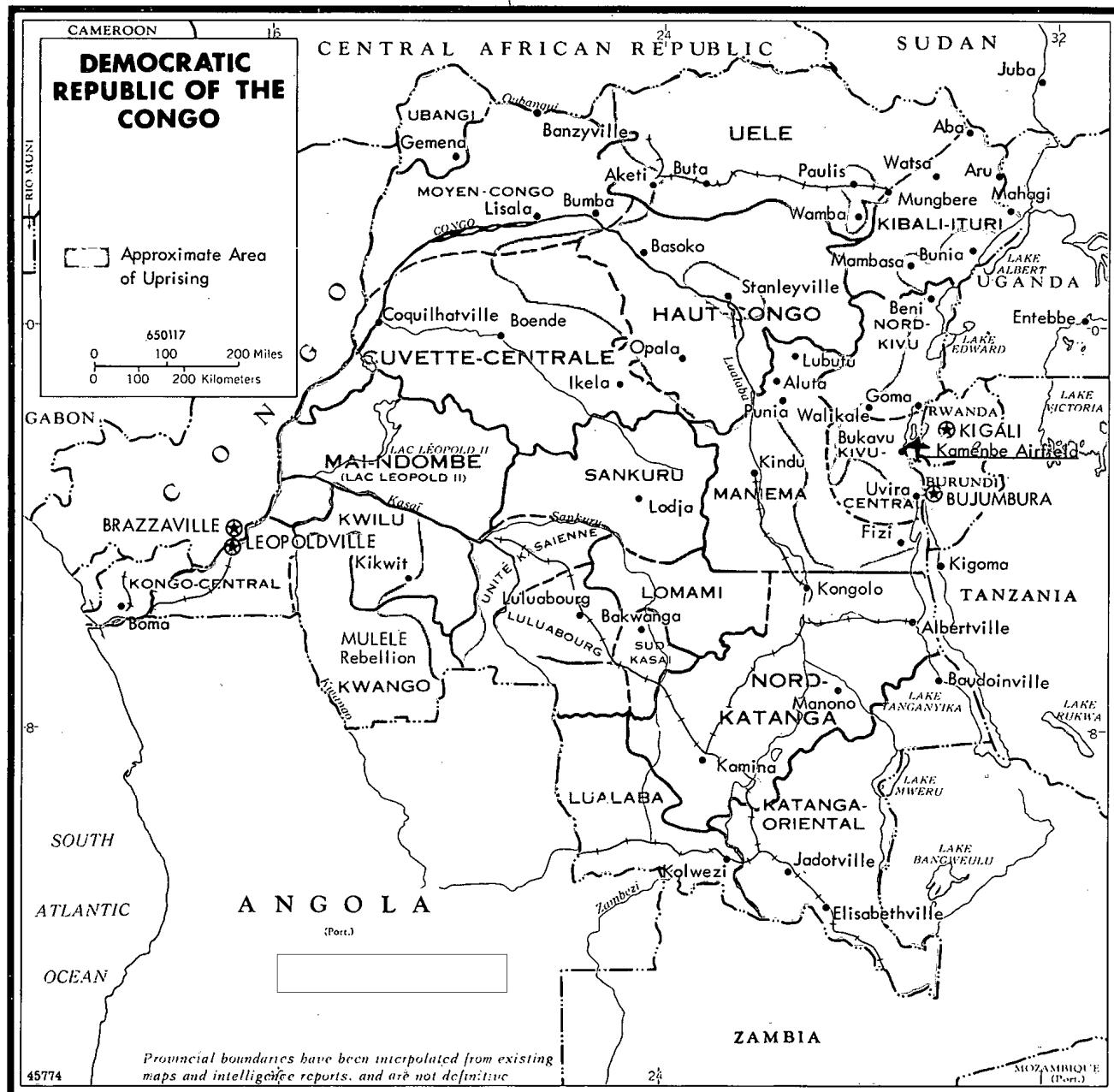
5. USSR

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6. Mexico

President Diaz Ordaz and his government appear to be reassessing Mexican policy toward Cuba. They are taking a tougher line toward Cuban activities in Mexico, possibly as a way of testing Mexican public reaction, but give no sign yet of breaking relations.

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7. Sudan

The leftist-dominated cabinet has apparently decided to give in to the non-Communist parties. Cabinet negotiations are now under way in Khartoum. Ansari tribesmen, mobilized in Khartoum last week for antigovernment demonstrations, are still standing by to forestall any leftist action in the streets.

8. Uganda

The circumstances behind Premier Obote's charge that Congolese aircraft bombed Ugandan border towns opposite Mahagi in the Congo on 13 February are not yet clear.

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(See map.)

It is possible that mortar rounds fired during mercenary operations to retake Mahagi may have fallen within Uganda. On the other hand, Obote may be creating a smokescreen to cover and justify Ugandan support to the Congolese rebels.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

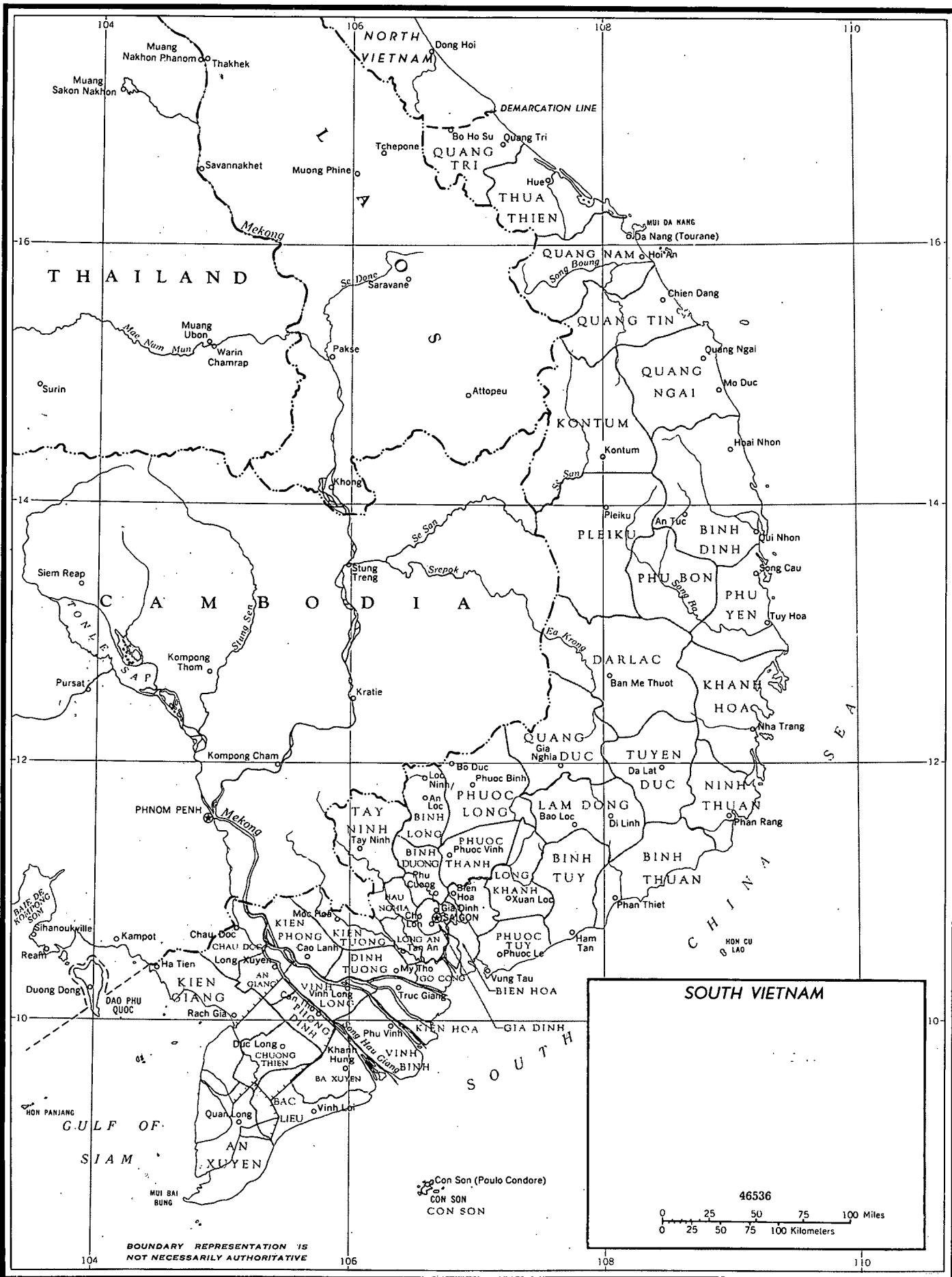
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16 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
16 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Vietnam

No major Chinese or North Vietnamese military moves have been noted. For the first time in several days, there have been no new anti-US pronouncements from the principal Communist capitals involved.

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Small-scale Viet Cong harassing activities have remained at a high level for the past few days, but no new large actions have been reported.

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A government operation is in progress in Phuoc Tuy against the Viet Cong units which took part in the Binh Gia engagement at the end of December.

New Premier Quat has rounded up a largely civilian cabinet, which General Khanh has described as the "best that can be fielded at the present time." The cabinet appears balanced as to regional and religious representation. While there is no assurance that it will not come under attack from the Buddhist Institute, some Buddhist leaders have indicated that they might be able to work with Quat.

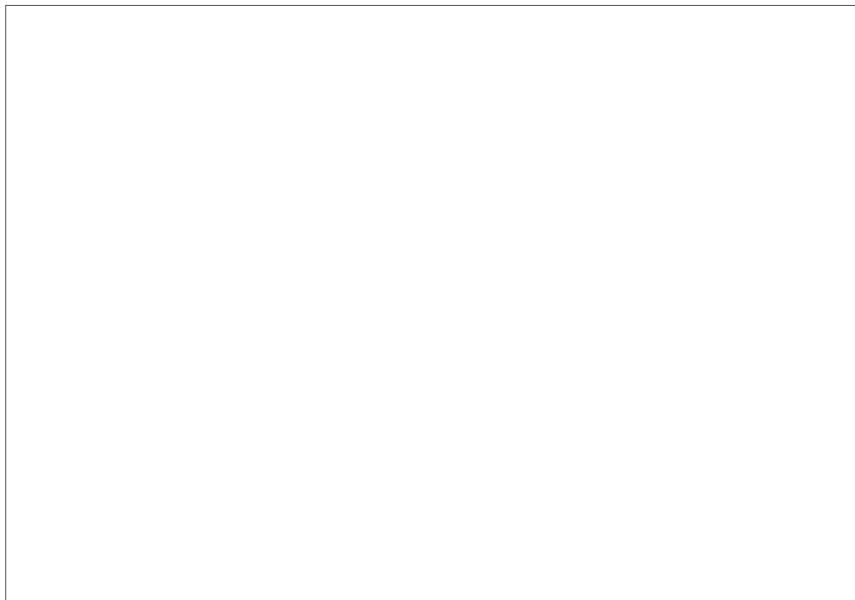
2. Honduras

Hondurans go to the polls today.

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3. France



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4. Turkey

Turkey plans to rotate its contingent on Cyprus late this month or early next month. No specific date has been set, but the Turks clearly expect that President Makarios will back down and allow the rotation to go through without trouble. The Greeks have urged this on Makarios, but the archbishop has not yet tipped his hand.

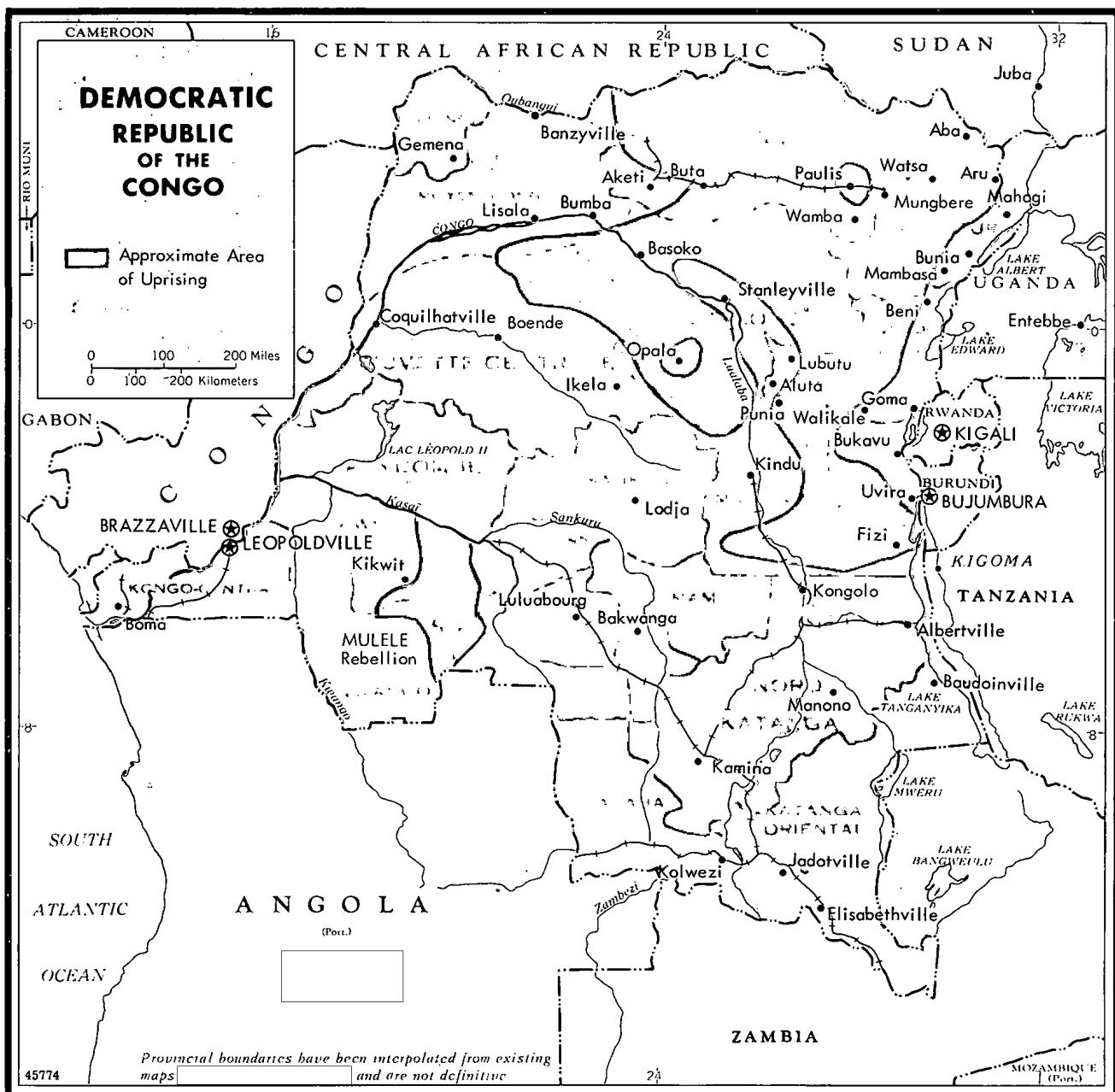
In Ankara, Suat Hayri Urguplu, a former ambassador to the US and a non-party man, has been asked to form a caretaker government until the October elections.

5. USSR

The USSR is negotiating another wheat deal with the Australians which will bring the total from this source to nearly 1.5 million tons. Moscow has already bought 500,000 tons from Canada and 250,000 tons from France.

These transactions are still far short of the 12 million tons purchased last winter. They indicate, however, that Moscow means to take advantage of present low prices to build up depleted stockpiles.

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6. Congo

Today, Congolese Army units near the Ugandan border reported themselves under attack by "Ugandan soldiers." Initial messages are fragmentary and confused. We know, however, that Ugandan units were sent to this area after the alleged bombing of a Ugandan border post Saturday. The Ugandans have been building this incident into a cause celebre, and tempers are running high.

There is still no confirmation that the bombing actually took place, but

[redacted] Ugandan outposts in the area believed-- and reported--that they had been bombed. Embassy Kampala believes that the Ugandan version is substantially correct.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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17 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
17 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Vietnam

Viet Cong military activity continues to be relatively light. Confirmation of today's press reports of major clashes near Saigon has not yet been received. No unusual Chinese, North Vietnamese, or Soviet military moves have been noted.

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The military-civilian council was set up today to serve as the National Legislative Council until a national assembly is elected. The 20 members, six of them military, represent a cross-section of Vietnamese political and religious groups. Ambassadors Taylor and Johnson talked today with Premier Quat, who seems confident his cabinet satisfies the various religious factions.

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2. Congo

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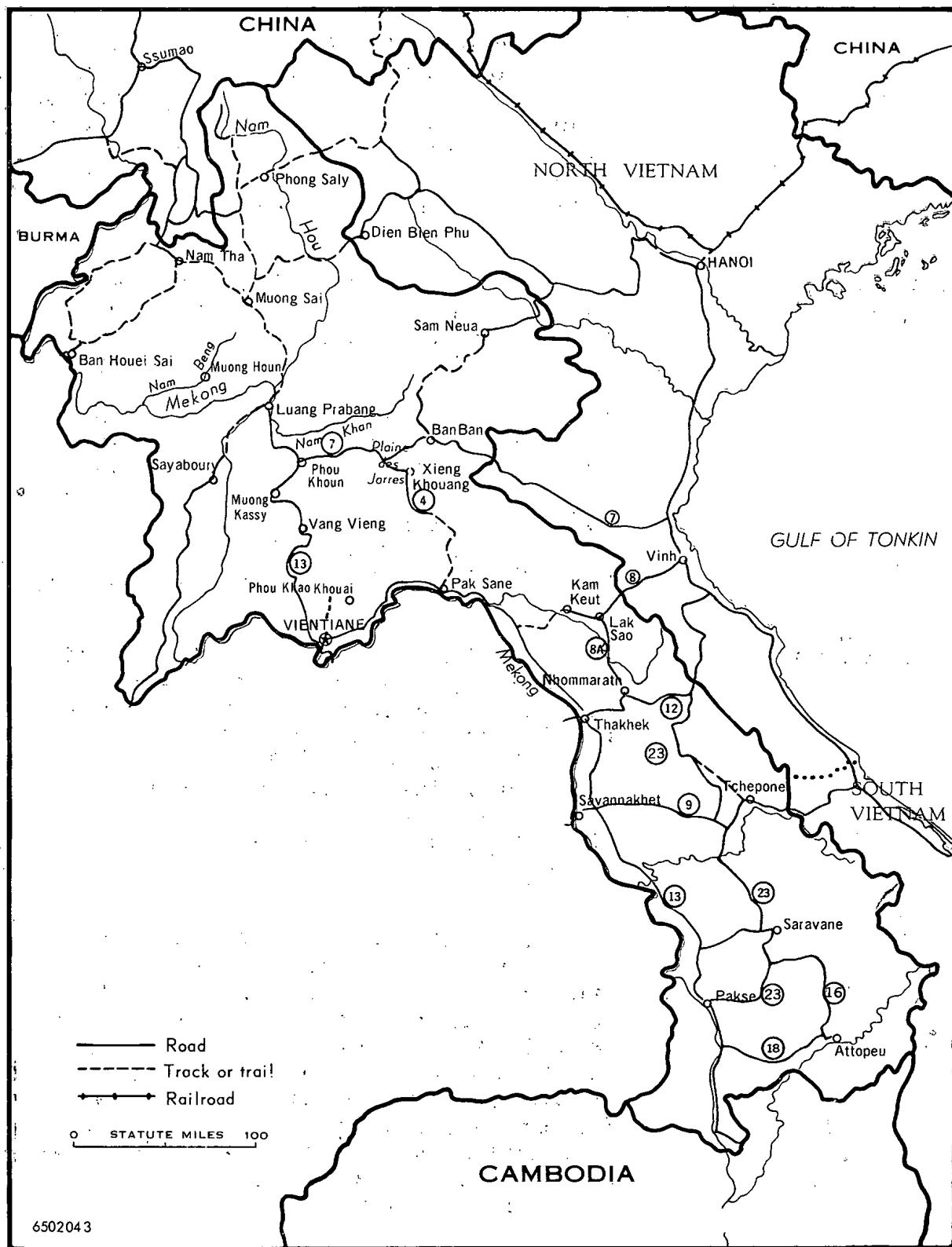
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3. Sudan

Negotiations for a change in the leftist-dominated government have stalled. The non-Communist parties, so far thwarted in their effort to bring off a bloodless coup, are again suggesting they may resort to force.

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LAOS



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4. USSR

ZOND-2, the Soviet Mars probe launched on 30 November, apparently will fail in its mission. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] Moscow has not 50X1 announced any contact with the vehicle made later than 18 December.

5. Laos

US officials in Vientiane are speculating that the recent Communist attacks in the northeast may be the start of more aggressive activity. There is evidence of continuing build-up of Communist strength in south-central Laos, and this may be the next area of stepped-up fighting. Much of the build-up appears to consist of North Vietnamese; road-watch teams report a substantial movement of trucks and troops coming in from the DRV during February. (Map)

6. Malaysia

The Indonesians are still trying to weaken Malaysia by exploiting the existing frictions between Chinese-controlled Singapore and the Malay-dominated central government. [redacted]

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7. UN

The Albanian call for a return to normal voting in the UN yesterday was probably intended to force a US-USSR confrontation over Article 19. [redacted]

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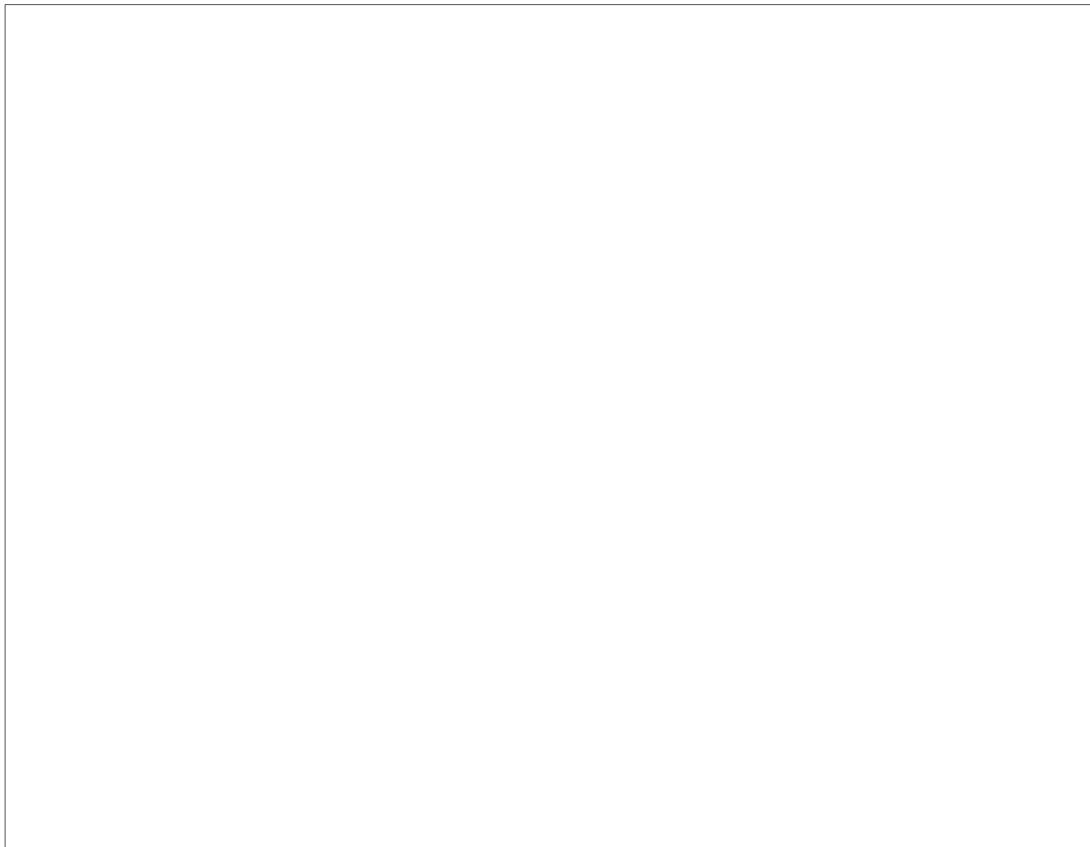
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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18 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
18 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Congo

Ugandan Army units have crossed the Congolese frontier at three places. It is not clear how large these forces are, but at least one of the columns may be company sized and equipped with armored cars. These incursions are the culmination of Uganda Prime Minister Obote's active assistance of the Congo rebels which he began in mid-December. To cover the action, Obote is accusing the Congolese of incursions into Uganda.

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Meanwhile, there is fresh evidence of other African support for the Congolese rebels.

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several large boats crossing Lake Tanganyika [redacted] from Tanzania to rebel-held territory around Fizi.

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[redacted] Tanzania has given assent to the air transit of arms for the Congo rebels [redacted]. Kenya is said to have decided to send troops to Uganda, and some may have been flown in yesterday.

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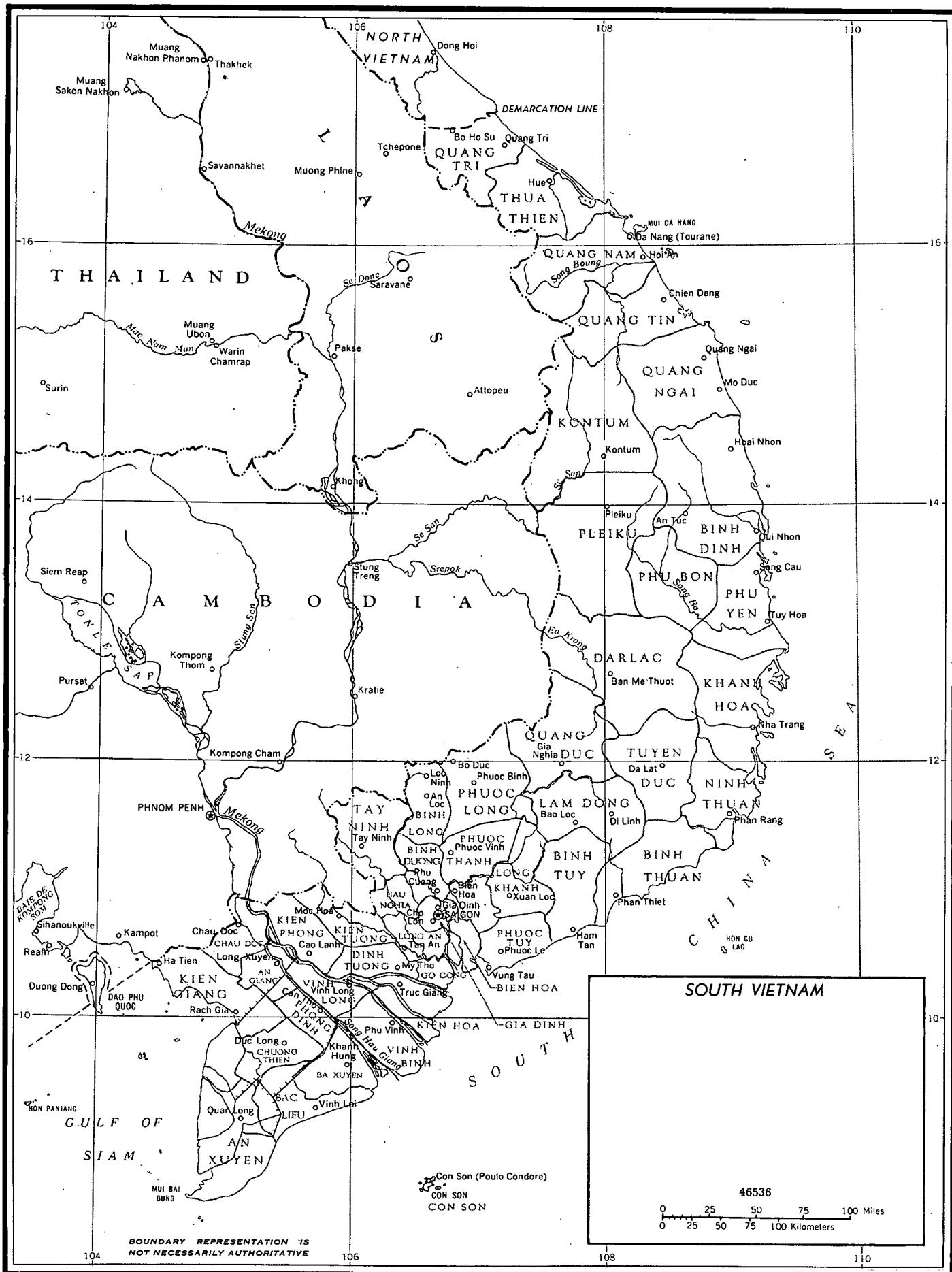
Two Congolese T-28 aircraft are missing in the area of one of the Ugandan attacks, and are believed to have been shot down.

While the extent of direct involvement by Ugandan or other foreign elements is not yet clear, it is obvious that a more effective and disciplined rebel force has appeared on the scene in the past few days.

2. Indonesia

A mob of Communist youths seized the USIS library in Medan, Sumatra, this morning. There are indications that takeovers of American-owned rubber plantations in north Sumatra are likely soon. As before, this harassing activity is instigated by, or at least connived in, the Sukarno government.

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3. Vietnam

Viet Cong activity--mainly small-scale guerrilla attacks and sabotage--has been relatively light today. The government has bombed and sunk what may prove to be a North Vietnamese vessel of some size. General Khanh is personally conducting an investigation of the hulk to determine whether it may have been used in infiltration operations.

In Saigon, political maneuvering continues. There is speculation that there may be a shake-up in the Buddhist leadership which will displace Buddhist Institute leader Tam Chau, who figured prominently in the agitation against the Huong government. Such a shake-up would further strengthen the position of Chau's rival, Tri Quang.

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4. Sudan

The new government which is now being formed will probably be dominated by non-Communist elements. However, the Communists will probably have some representation in the coalition and the likely resumption of bickering and infighting among the other parties could provide the Communists with the opportunities for influence. It is too soon to tell whether the change of government will render the Sudanese more cooperative with Western efforts to stabilize the Congo situation.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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19 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
19 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Vietnam

Soviet officials have thus far adopted a noncommittal attitude on the possibility of negotiations over Vietnam.

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Peiping continues its hard line. A key Chinese editorial of 19 February reiterated there can be peace in Vietnam only after "US aggressors have withdrawn."

There have been no new major military developments in North Vietnam or Communist China, although there are continuing signs of a posture of alert.

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2. South Vietnam

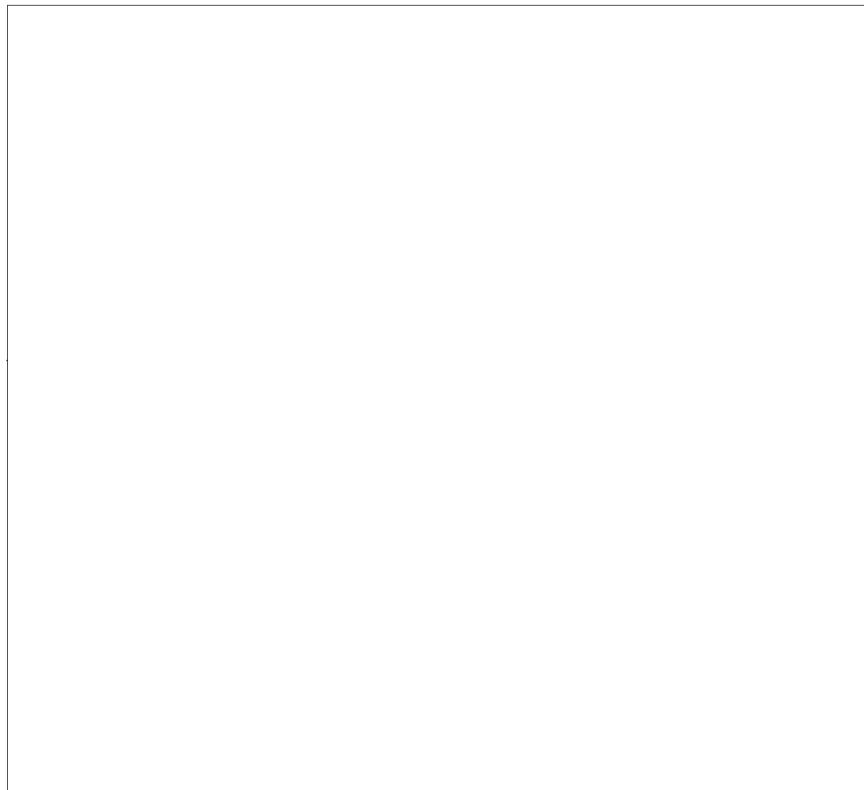
The situation in Saigon remains potentially explosive. Rebel forces led by Colonel Thao and General Phat control positions in and around Saigon, but General Khanh meanwhile is outside Saigon still trying to round up military support for himself and has put at least one column on the road to Saigon.

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3. USSR



4. Congo



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5. Cyprus

The next showdown may be nearing.

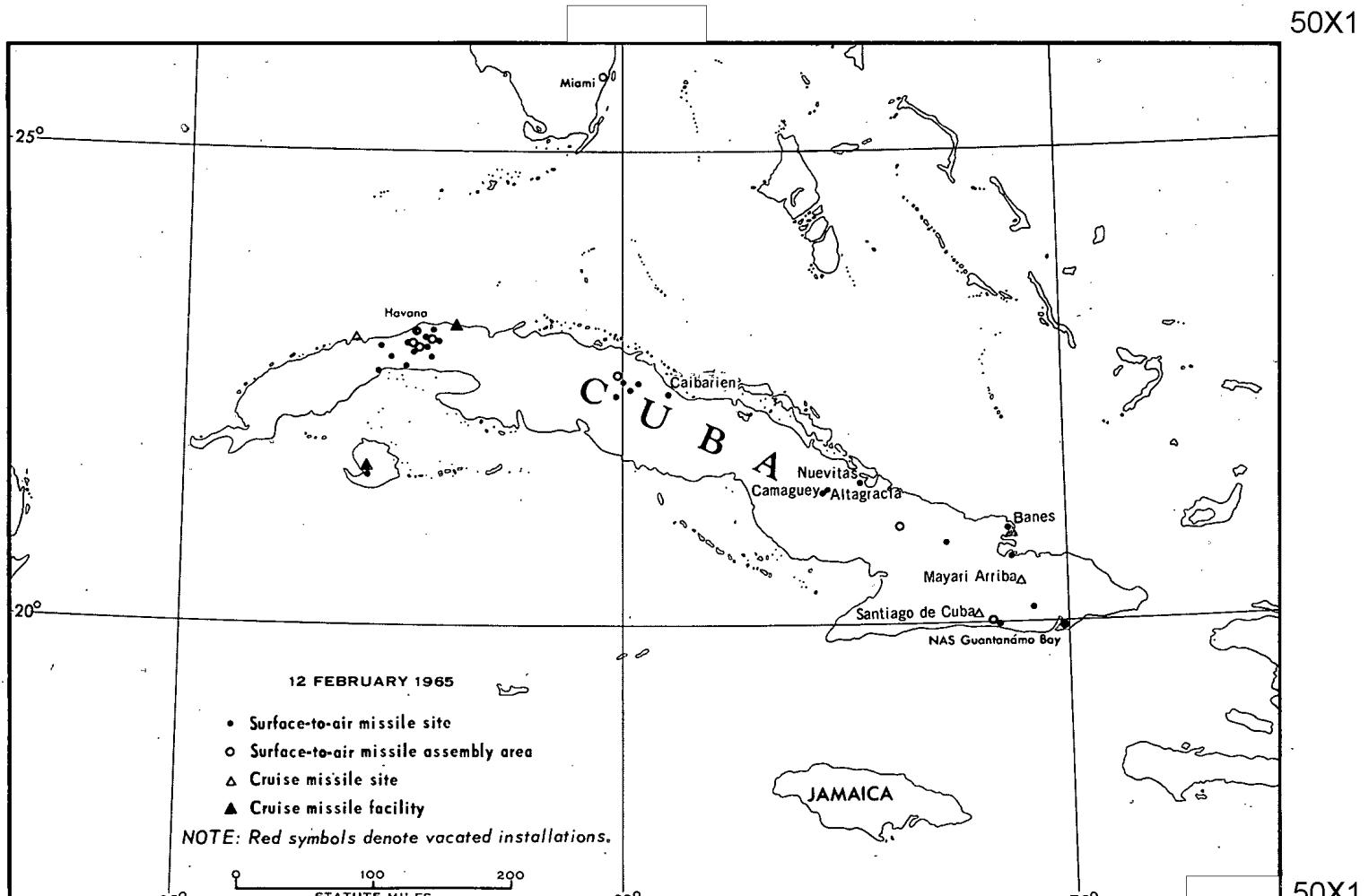
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6. Berlin

The East Germans have begun digging a large ditch, some 16 feet wide and nine feet deep, along the West Berlin border. This vast project will be over 100 miles long if it goes all around West Berlin. The ditch will be bitterly resented by West Berliners.

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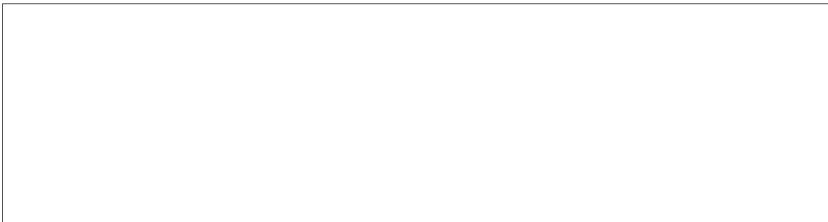
CUBAN TACTICAL MISSILE DEPLOYMENT

7. Cuba

Photography shows that cruise missiles have been shifted during the past month from eastern Cuba (and the Guantanamo area) to western Cuba, with most showing up at facilities near Havana. The purpose for this readjustment is not yet clear, but it will leave Havana more heavily defended. Cuba has about 150 of these 30-mile range cruise missiles. (See map.)

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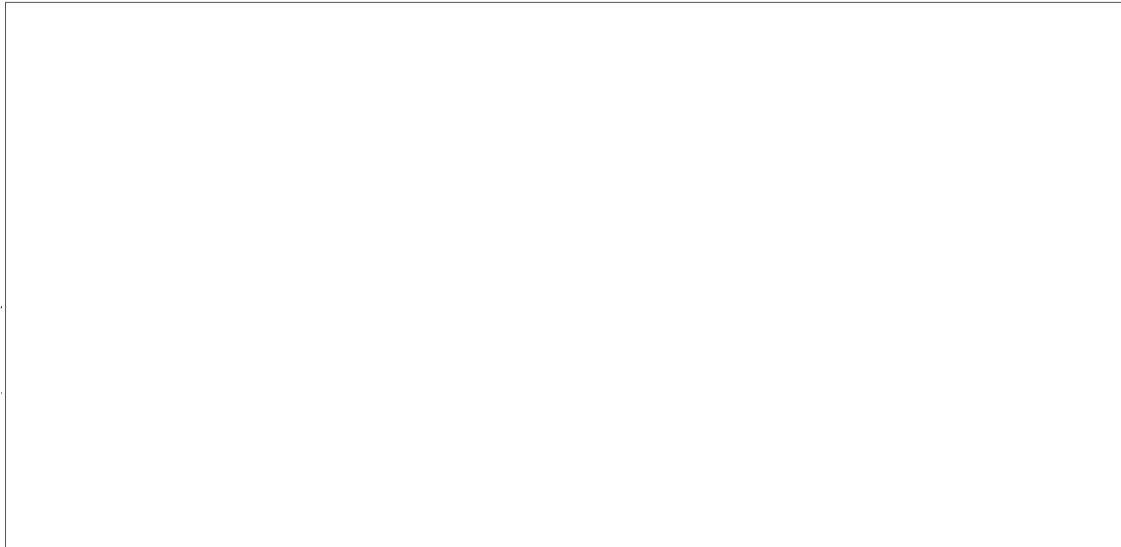
8. Dominican Republic



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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20 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
20 FEBRUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

Coup leader Colonel Thao is reported under arrest and others involved have been ordered to give themselves up.

While the coup has failed, General Khanh's status still seems up in the air. Air Force Chief Ky has told the press that Khanh is still armed forces commander but that "in the future we will talk about it."

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There have been no reports of significant Viet Cong military moves to exploit South Vietnamese military disarray during the coup effort. An analysis of recent trends in the fighting is at Annex.

There have been no indications of recent major deployments of Chinese Communist or North Vietnamese forces.

2. Israel

There have been several incidents in the past few days on the always touchy Israeli-Syrian border. Local UN peace-keeping officials move as fast as they can to hold these incidents down, but the Syrians in particular may be nervous.

[redacted] reports of Israeli troop call-ups and concentrations. There is so far no good evidence to support this Arab concern, however.

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3. Venezuela

There is no information available to suggest that yesterday's killing of a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Caracas by Venezuelan police was other than a tragic case of mistaken identity. Police had been alerted to cope with student riots supporting a taxi strike and the police involved had earlier been attacked.

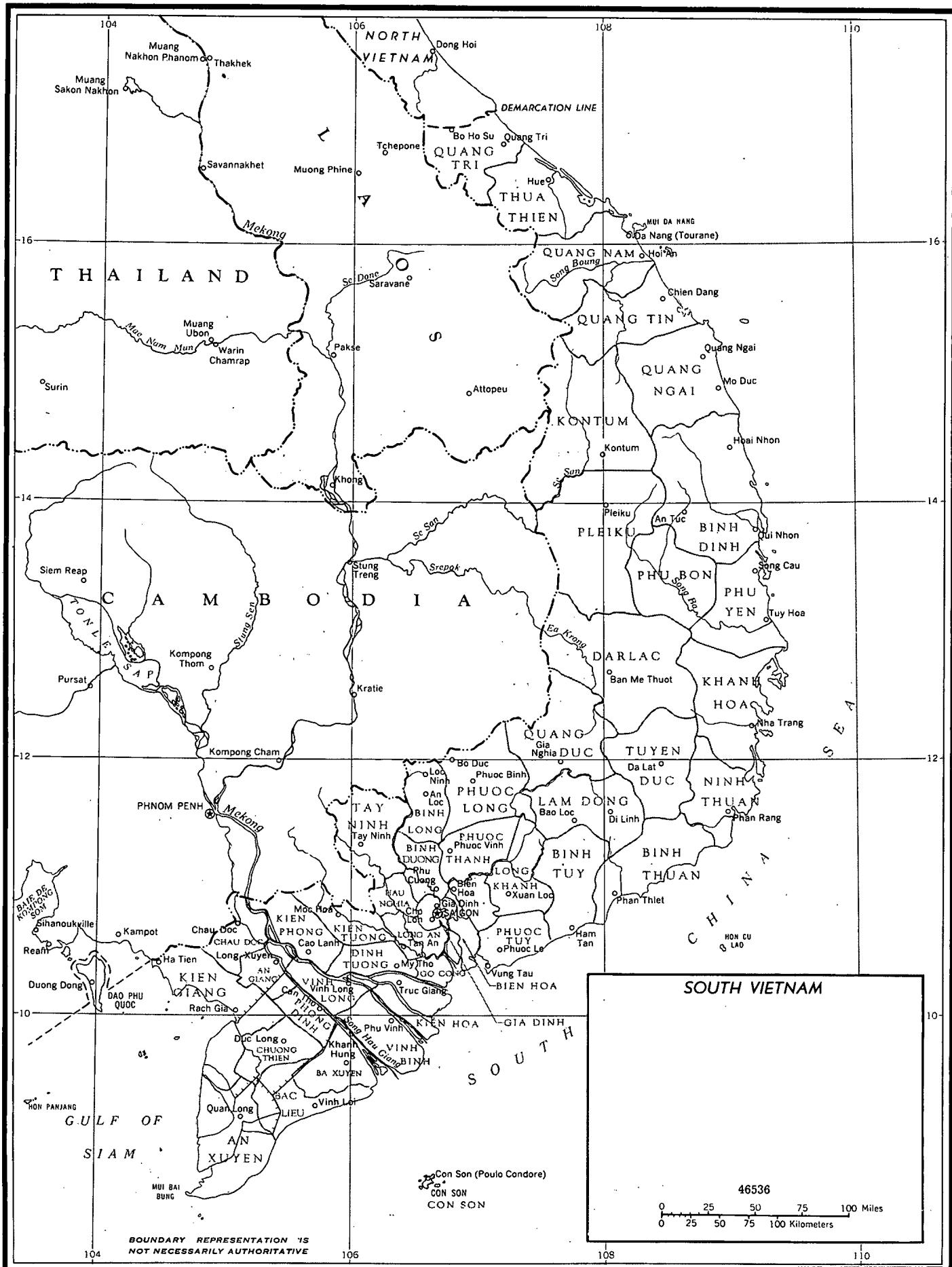
4. USSR

Premier Kosygin is apparently going to Leipzig in East Germany during the first week of March. The annual trade fair opens there next weekend. The East Germans so far are not giving this much public notice. Ulbricht, off on his trip to Cairo, will not be on hand to greet Kosygin.

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5. USSR





ANNEX

The Military Situation
in South Vietnam

The past six weeks have been among the most costly thus far in the civil war for both sides. During January, government losses ran to over 900 killed. Over 2,200 Viet Cong were killed. These were among the highest monthly figures on record. The trend toward high casualties has continued this month. During the very active week of February 7-13, 290 government soldiers lost their lives. The Viet Cong lost 628. During this period, while the number of Communist-instigated attacks and acts of terrorism was below the 1964 weekly averages, the size and violence of specific actions was stepped up considerably.

In the first two weeks of February, Saigon's forces lost a total of 1,312 weapons, while capturing 279 from the Viet Cong. Among the weapons taken from the Communists are increasing numbers of recent Soviet and Chinese make, suggesting that an effort is being made to standardize on these bloc models.

The weapons are going to arm an increasingly sophisticated, though still essentially guerrilla, army. At least 4,700 men were infiltrated into South Vietnam from the North in the first seven months of 1964, and in increasing measure these are native North Vietnamese, many of whom were drafted specifically for service in South Vietnam. US officials in South Vietnam now estimate the main force strength of the Viet Cong at 34,900, with some 60-80,000 irregulars in a backup role.

The government has 246,000 in its regular army and some 266,000 irregulars. A new recruiting program, instituted last summer, is beginning to yield results. One of the real drawbacks is a continued high rate of government desertions. Last year some 21,000 regulars deserted, the largest number in any single year.

In the field, the Viet Cong are getting bolder and more confident. They are showing an increased

willingness to engage government regulars over longer periods of time, more frequently, and in larger units.

So far in February, the Viet Cong, besides directing attacks against American personnel and installations, have dealt several punishing blows to the South Vietnamese. For example, a Communist force administered a series of defeats on government forces in Binh Dinh Province, which left government control limited to the immediate vicinity of the major population centers.

In the past few days, while there has been some slackening in the intensity of Viet Cong military attacks compared with the week of 7-13 February, it appears that the Communists are maintaining a relatively high level of terrorism and harassment. It is too early to determine whether there has been a change in the pattern of Viet Cong activity as a result of the air attacks on North Vietnam.

Viet Cong main forces in the northern part of South Vietnam were strongly reinforced last year and are considered the best they have. They have not yet been committed to their full military potential. Strong government and Communist forces are maneuvering against each other in Phuoc Tuy Province, east of Saigon. The two Viet Cong regiments, which inflicted heavy losses on the government at Binh Gia in early January, are still there.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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22 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
22 FEBRUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

Khanh appears to be on the way out after a fruitless day yesterday of trying to rally support. A US official on the spot says that we can expect a few more twists and turns, but it looks as if Khanh's shoulders are about to be pinned to the mat.

The infighting of the past few days is likely to leave deep scars on the top military and may well have planted the seeds of further dissension.

The designation of "Little" Minh to succeed Khanh seems only temporary. Among the solutions being discussed is the possibility of abolishing the office of commander-in-chief which Khanh held.

Documents taken from the wrecked Viet Cong supply ship clearly link the vessel with North Vietnam.

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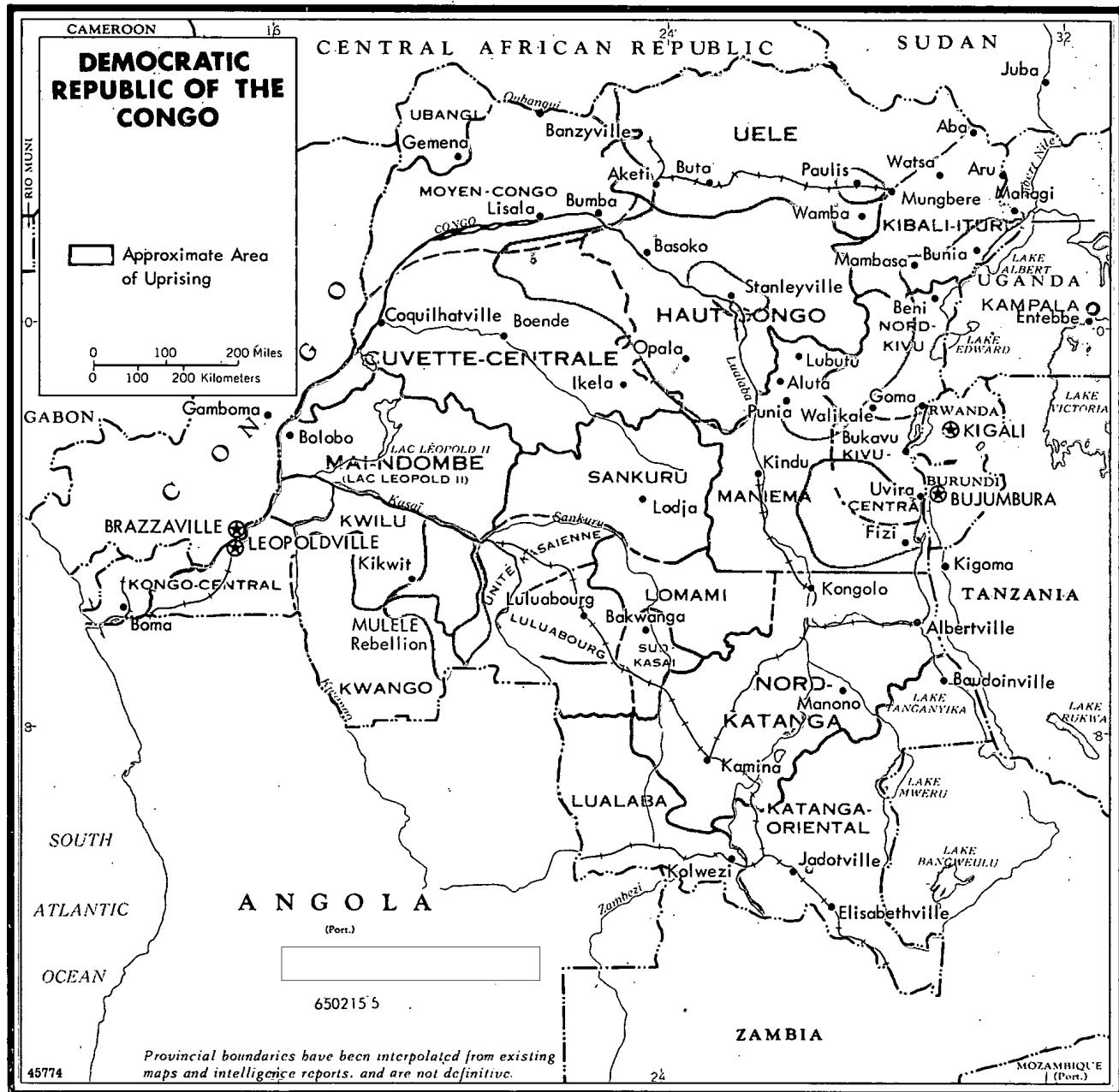
Some of the ICC teams are reportedly leaving North Vietnam.

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2. Dominican Republic

The weekend passed quietly in Santo Domingo. Well-advertised government counter-measures seem to have caused the city's many coup plotters to postpone action for the time being.

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3. North Vietnam

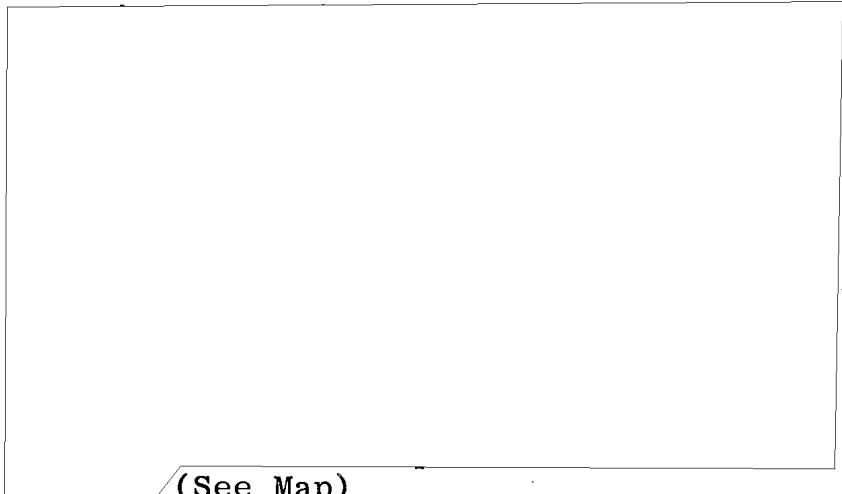
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4. Congo

There has been no real clarification of the confused events along the Ugandan border. The atmosphere, especially in Kampala, remains highly charged, and the Ugandans seem to be battening down for a prolonged state of emergency.

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(See Map)

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5. USSR

The earth satellite vehicle launched from Tyuratam this morning could be the forerunner of another three-man Voskhod mission.

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If it is successful, a manned launch could follow in a matter of days.

Yesterday, the Soviets put three satellites into orbit with a single booster. This was the second such launch. The first, last August, appeared to be a communications and ionosphere experiment.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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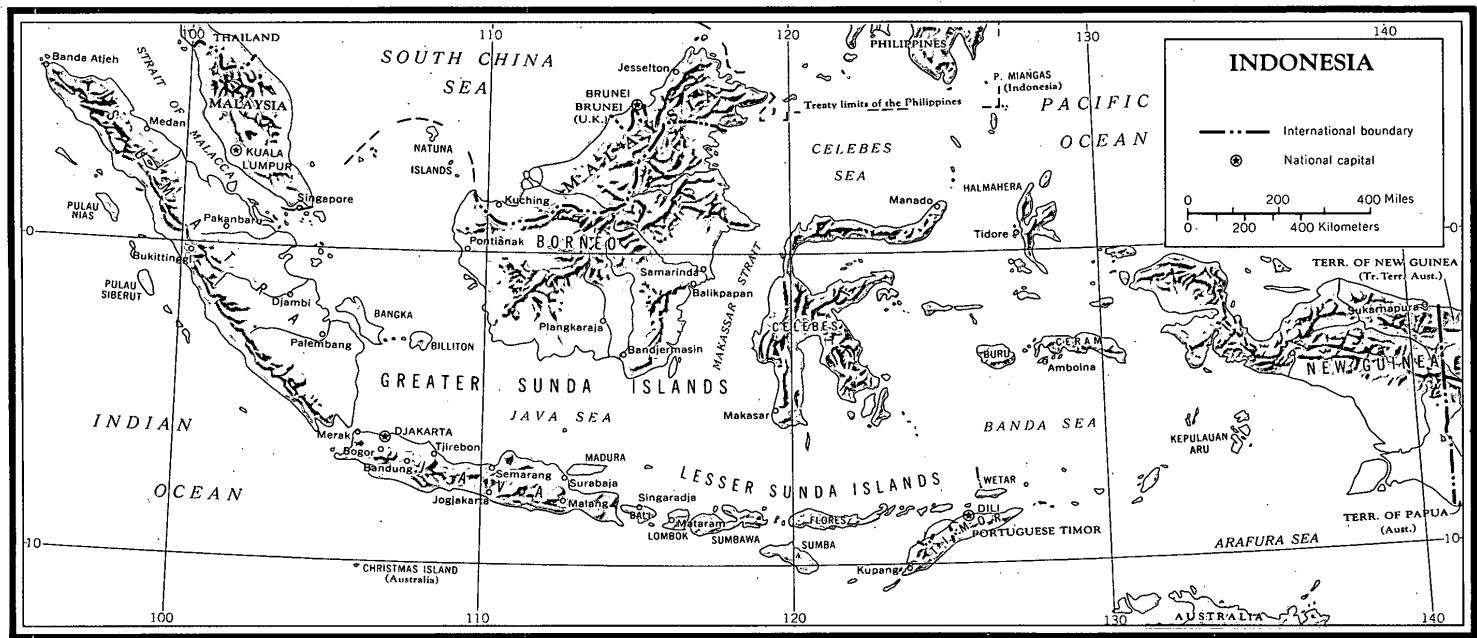
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23 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
23 FEBRUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

General Khanh probably will leave South Vietnam in the next day or so on his "roving ambassador" assignment, although no itinerary has been announced. Concern over a possible last-minute Khanh-Buddhist power play was dissipated today by Buddhist leader Tam Chau. Initial reports vary on a speech Chau made in Saigon today, but he appears to have ruled out any Buddhist support for a new coup and pledged support to the present government. A wire service report claims that he also called for an end to the civil war, but a supporting text has not been received.

Changes in the armed forces command structure have removed Khanh's cohorts from key positions. The new appointments point up the strengthened position of General Thi, I Corps Commander.

Viet Cong activities continue on the rise throughout the country, but are limited largely to sabotage, harassment, and small-scale guerrilla efforts. No new Chinese Communist or North Vietnamese military moves of significance have been reported.

2. Indonesia

Djakarta has put out another feeler for direct negotiations with the Malaysians. Foreign Minister Subandrio has asked Thailand's Foreign Minister Thanat to act temporarily as intermediary.

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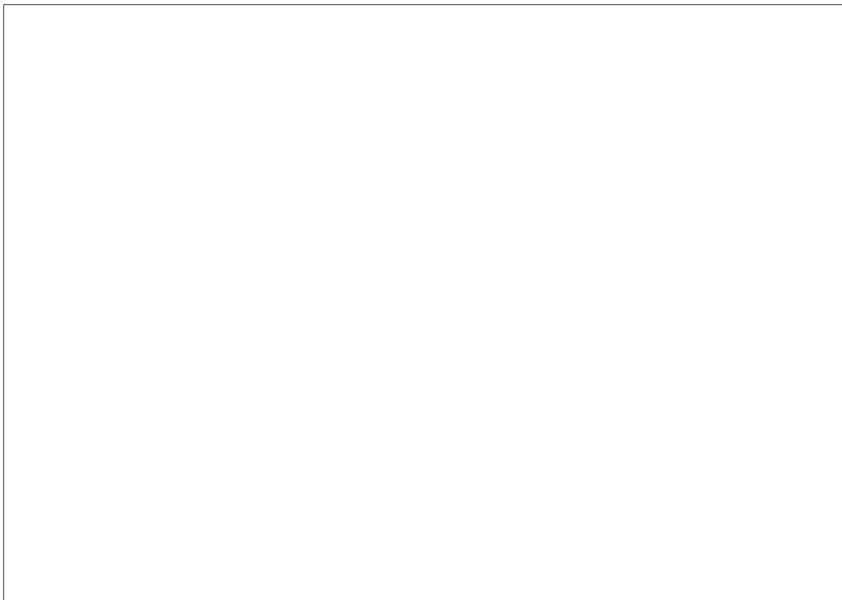
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3. Indonesia

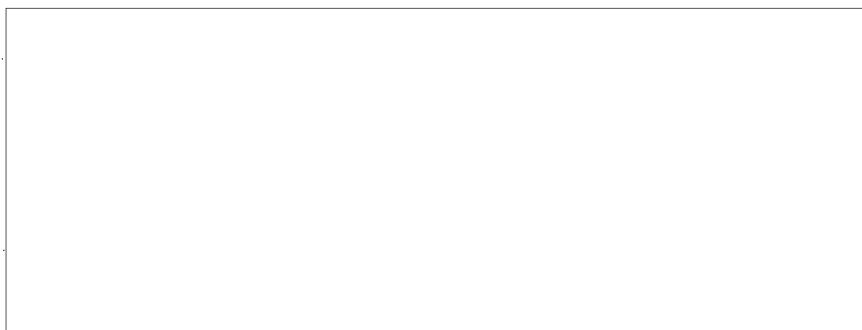
The US Embassy in Djakarta believes the Indonesians will announce some form of direct government supervision over American rubber estates some time this week. It is not expected that the American managers will be removed right away, however. Demonstrations were staged yesterday near the US Rubber and Goodyear estates in northern Sumatra, but the local security forces have so far kept the demonstrators under control.

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4. Yemen



5. USSR



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6. South Korea

President Pak says he is determined to keep the negotiations with Japan moving forward. He says those Koreans opposing the talks are a small minority, and he is prepared to resort to martial law to control them, if necessary. The Korean foreign minister now intends to return last week's apparently successful visit to Seoul by Japanese Foreign Minister Shiina.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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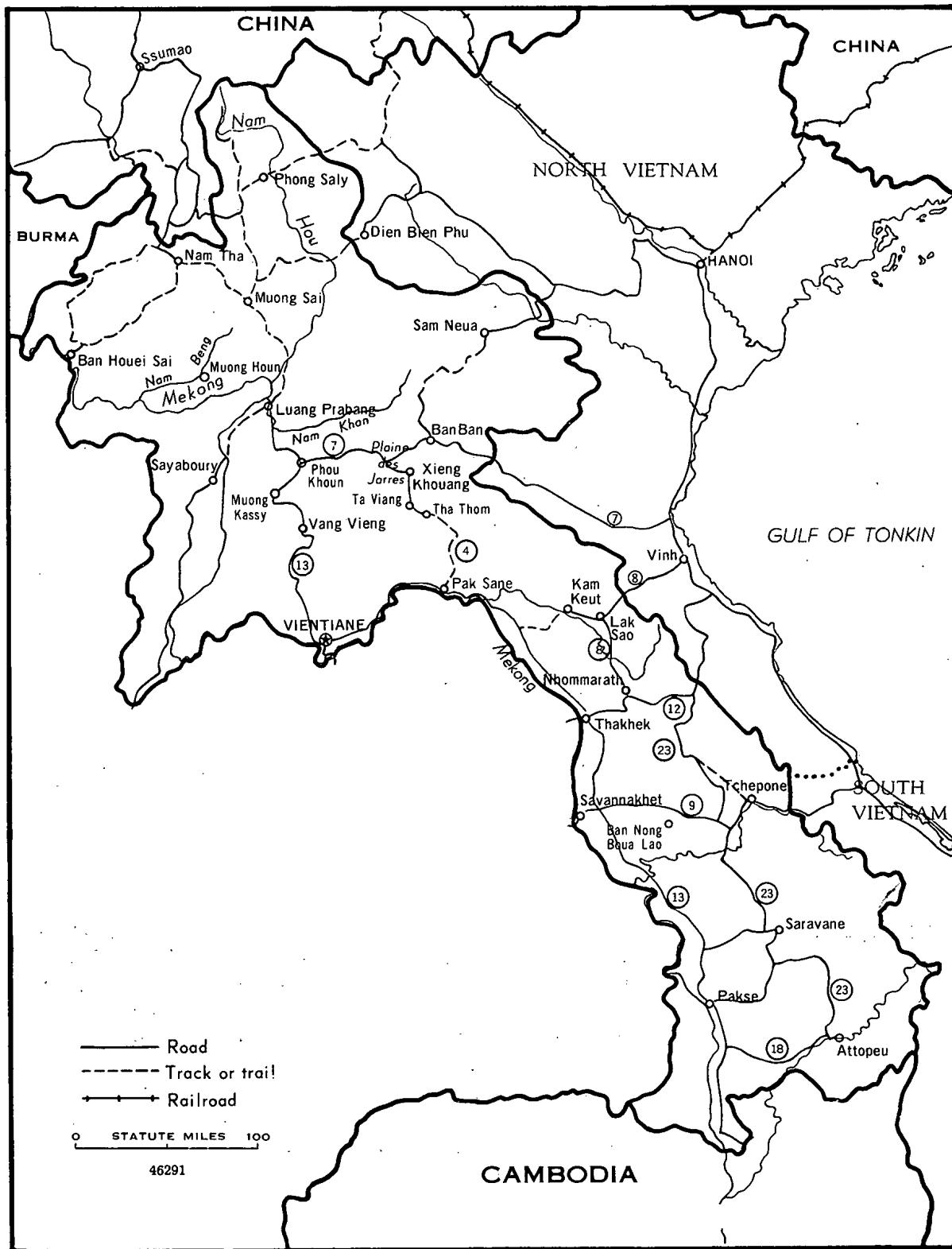
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24 FEBRUARY 1965

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LAOS



DAILY BRIEF
24 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Laos

Government and friendly tribal forces are still trying to contain the Communist clearing operation southwest of Samneua that started about three weeks ago. Information is fragmentary about what is happening in this remote area deep in Communist-held territory, but it appears that the position of friendly forces has improved since their initial setbacks. Reinforcements have been sent to the area, and more are planned. (Map)

2. Cyprus

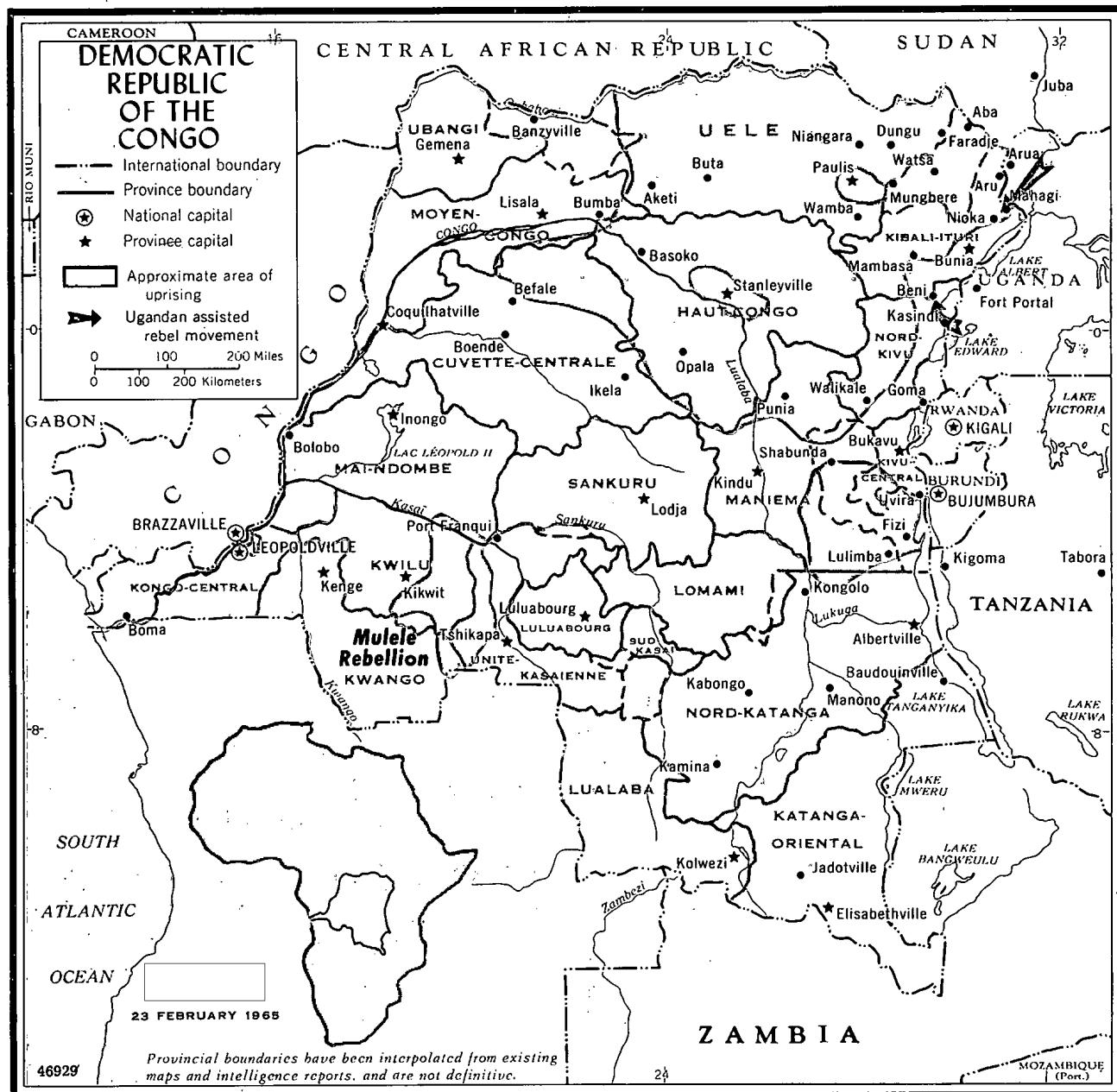
UN mediator Plaza says that Makarios has agreed to renewal of the mandate for the UN peacekeeping force. Earlier, there had seemed to be a fair chance that Makarios might make trouble about this.

3. USSR

Premier Kosygin has accepted an invitation to visit West Germany, probably some time this summer. The Germans have long wished to explore directly the possibilities for improving relations with Moscow. The Soviets, however, have always made clear that improvement would depend on Bonn's willingness to deal with the East Germans.

4. Malaysia

Prime Minister Rahman has apparently agreed to go through with the meeting in Bangkok next week proposed by Indonesian Foreign Minister Subandrio. For their part, the Indonesians appear to have no intention of stopping infiltration operations in Borneo and against the mainland, although they promised to do so if the Malaysians would agree to hold talks.



5. Congo

Another Congolese aircraft seems to have overflowed Uganda territory on Monday. According to Ugandan intercepts, which probably exaggerate, it bombed and strafed a school, wounding some children.

The news apparently has enraged Ugandan Prime Minister Obote, who has been in a highly emotional state since the first attack a few days ago. Obote may now announce the support he has been giving the Congolese rebels, using this latest incident as justification. The Ugandan Army units which crossed into the Congo on 16-17 February have withdrawn. (Map)

6. Vietnam

General Khanh seems to be going through with the agreed plan for his departure. He and his family leave tomorrow for Hong Kong.

Buddhist leaders are said to have suspended political action until disagreements among them about objectives can be ironed out. Some of them are apprehensive about the speed with which Generals Thi and Ky succeeded in removing Khanh.

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Both Thi and Ky are moving fast to put their own men into key slots, such as the National Police post and divisional commands near Saigon, and to otherwise consolidate their control over the Armed Forces Council. Thi seems to be out in front in this process.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

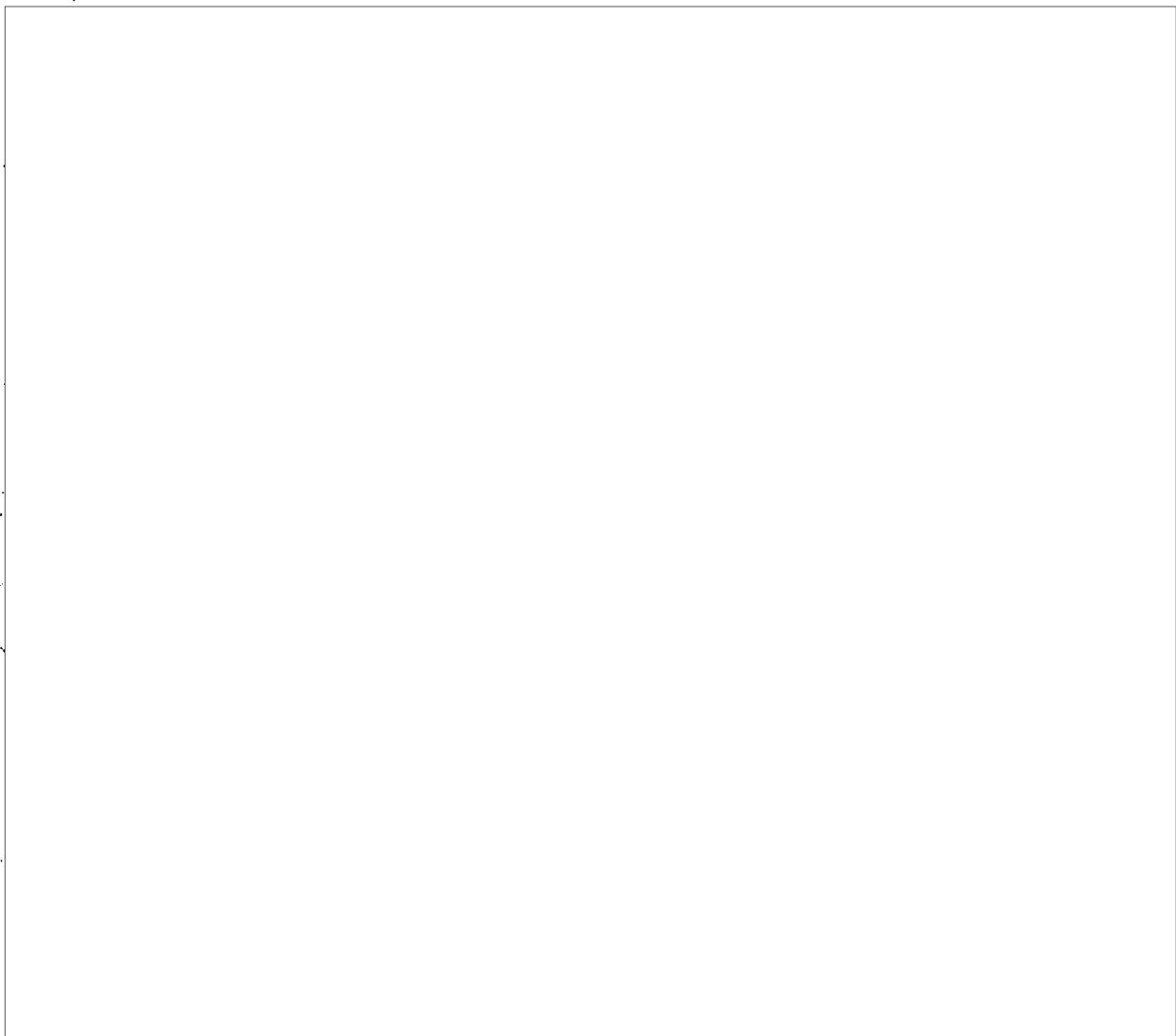
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DAILY BRIEF
25 FEBRUARY 1965

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1. Uganda

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2. USSR

Yesterday's Brief reported Kosygin's acceptance of a West German invitation. According to a later report, Kosygin thanked the West Germans for their invitation and said he must consult his colleagues. However, as matters now stand, there seems no reason to think he will not go this summer or autumn.

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3. USSR

Soviet leaders are apparently going ahead with the long-talked-of 1 March meeting of 26 Communist parties, originally scheduled for last December as preparatory to a world Communist conference. Foreign delegates are now arriving in Moscow, but seats for Peiping's supporters as well as the Rumanians will probably stay empty. So far there are no signs that anything substantial will emerge.

It will serve, however, as another platform for condemnation of US policy in Vietnam.

Peiping has consistently blasted this conclave and may now be calling its own meeting of Communist factions supporting the Chinese line.

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4. Ghana

Nkrumah's troubles are deepening. His regime's attempts to cope with Ghana's economic deterioration are ineffectual, and he has been subject to increasing criticism at home and abroad for his treatment of domestic opposition. Most recently, according to the US Embassy, coup rumors are circulating to an unprecedented degree.

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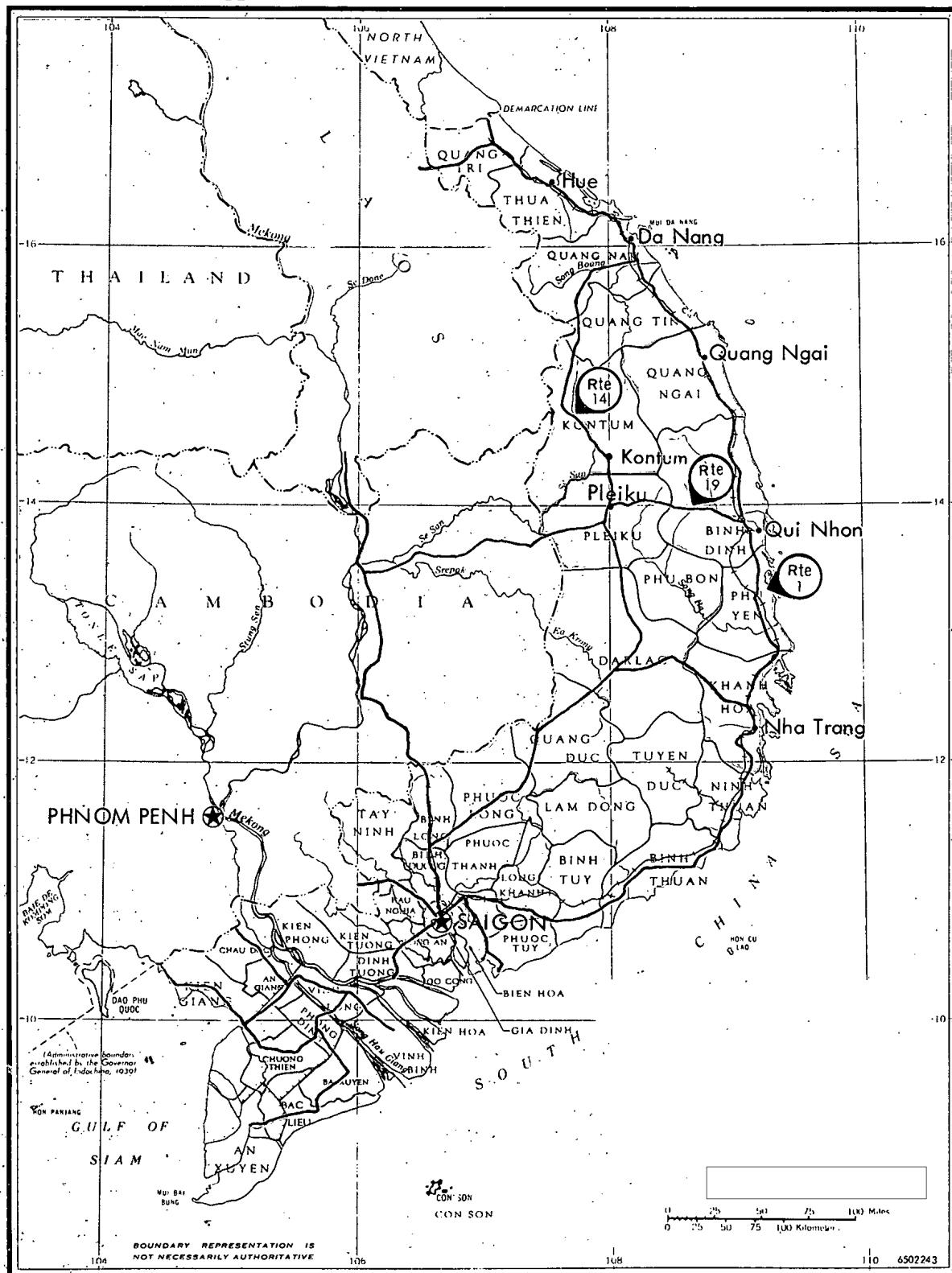
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5. Communist China

The Chinese are selling sterling, apparently as a hedge against possible devaluation of the pound. In the last month, they have exchanged sterling for about \$20 million worth of gold and \$42 million in other West European currencies.

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South Vietnam



6. Malaysia

Sukarno is already changing the signals on talks with the Malaysians. He now says he wants a "summit" meeting including Macapagal of the Philippines. This would reduce the already slim chance for any real settlement.

7. Vietnam

There is so far no confirmation of the press story that in Binh Dinh Province, the Viet Cong massacred 90 bus passengers explicitly in retaliation for bombing raids on North Vietnam. The Viet Cong have been making large gains in the northern and central provinces, including Binh Dinh, interdicting lines of communication and limiting the government's control to the main towns. (See map.)

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There is more, still rather vague, talk of war weariness in Saigon and of a desire for an end to the fighting. So far, however, press reporting on statements by government and Buddhist leaders have overemphasized this.

Soviet diplomats appear to be putting on a concerted campaign urging the US to refrain from further action against North Vietnam and to consider some form of negotiation. Hanoi and Peiping statements, however, continue to demand US withdrawal.

8. USSR

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

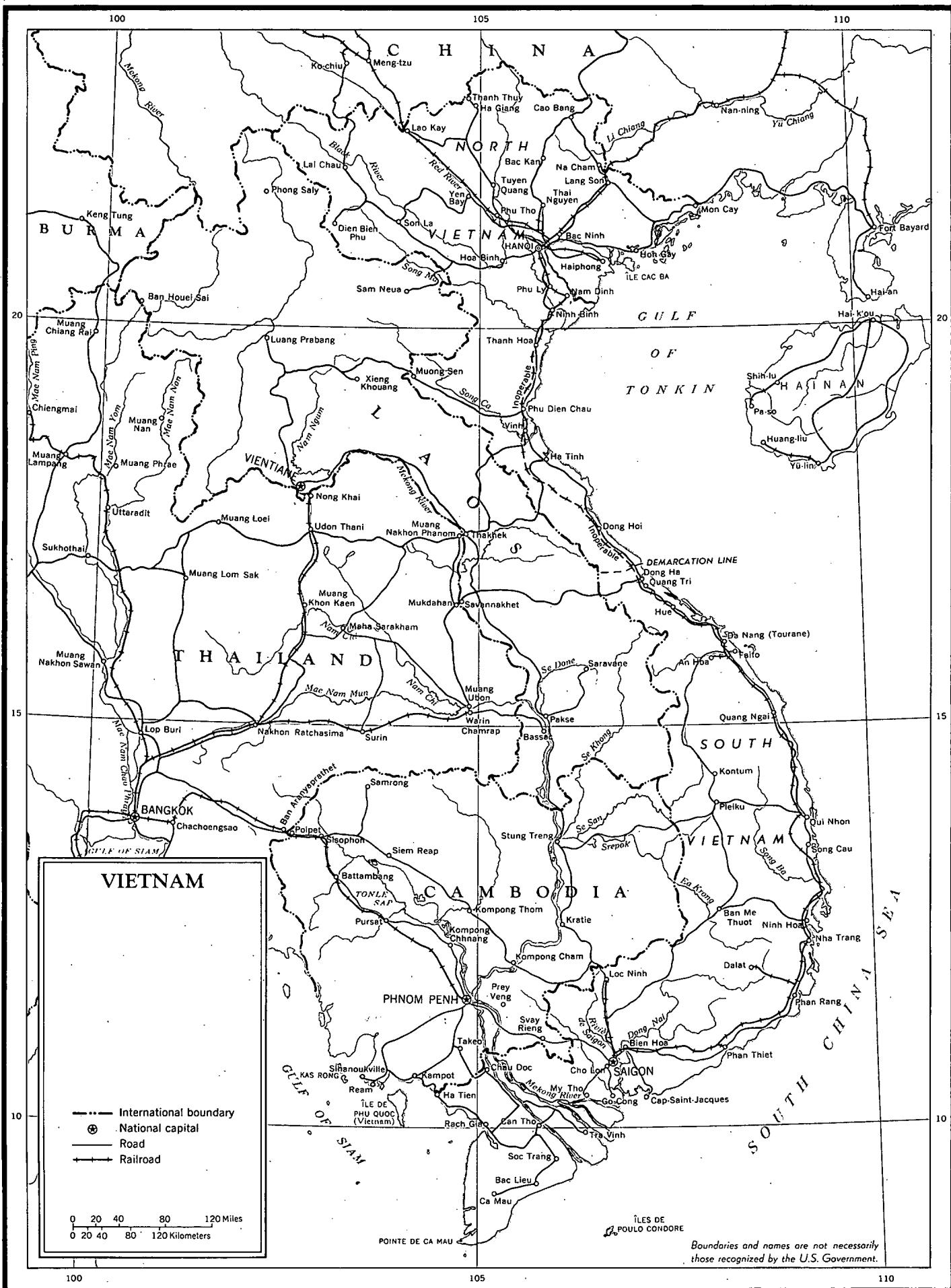
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26 FEBRUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
26 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Vietnam

General Thi's efforts to consolidate his newly won authority are making most of the other generals nervous. Some of them are trying to get him back to his corps command in the north.

Students in Saigon today mounted a small demonstration which called for an end to the war and the withdrawal of "foreign elements." They may have been members of a new "Struggle for Peace Force," which is said to be fast gaining members. On the other side, a high Viet Cong official has just declared that the Viet Cong stand ready to fight until "the last foreign aggressor has been wiped from our territory."

Aerial photography taken 14 February shows a new air field in the early stages of construction about 25 miles west of Hanoi. (See map.) Two similar fields are being built in South China.

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2. Vietnam

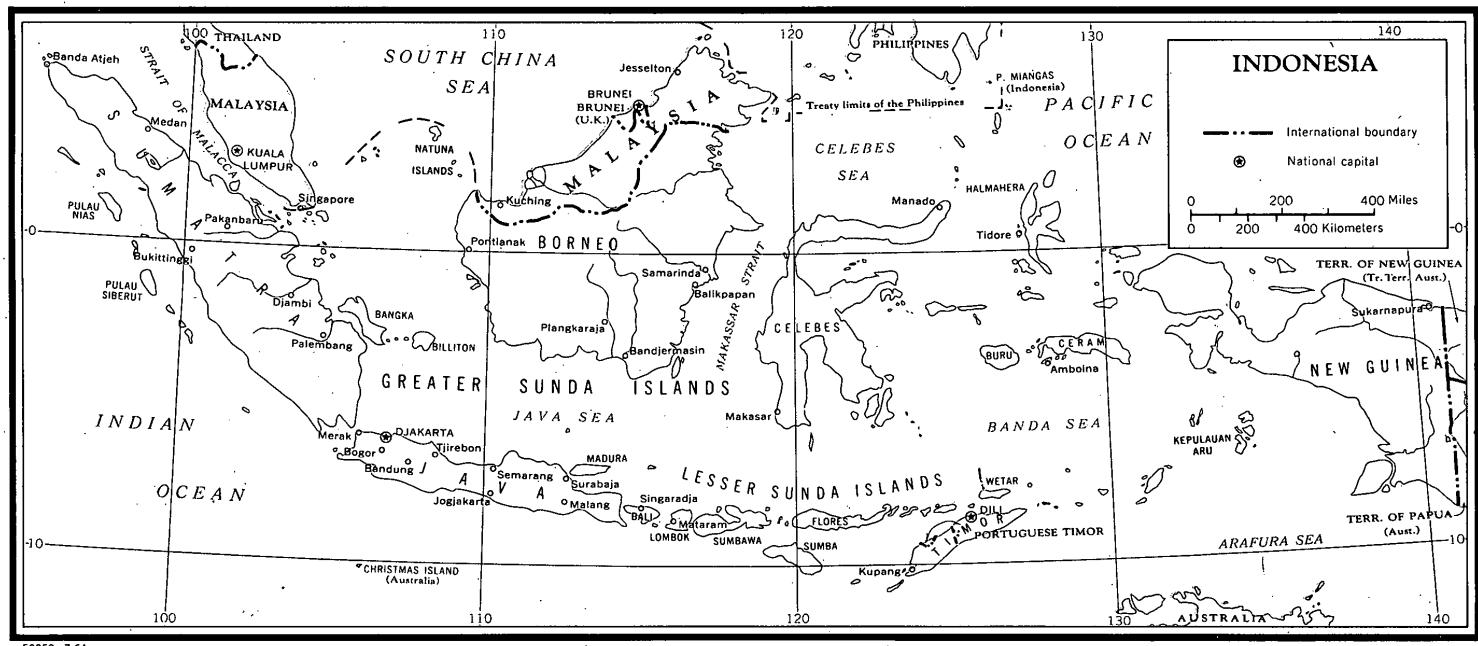
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Kosygin in his TV report to the nation [redacted] made no direct call for negotiations. He said that US "aggression" against North Vietnam must end in order "to create conditions for the exploration of avenues leading to the normalization of the situation in Indochina."

The French say Peiping might drop a US pullout as a precondition, but this is doubtful.

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3. South Korea

Pak plans to shuffle top army commanders soon so as to consolidate his own control. The President probably foresees considerable unrest growing out of opposition attacks on his efforts to reach a settlement with Japan. Pak has indicated he would impose martial law if need be.

4. Indonesia

The Indonesians, despite assurances to the contrary, have now officially taken over the management of US rubber estates on Sumatra.

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Meanwhile, Sukarno is scheduled to arrive Monday on another state visit to Cambodia. From there, he may proceed to Europe.

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5. Laos

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6. Lebanon

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7. Congo

The OAU foreign ministers meet today in Nairobi, with the divisive Congo issue high on the agenda. A bitter clash could develop between radical and moderate Africans, especially if the latter go through with plans to support Tshombé.

Tshombé plans to fly to the sessions tomorrow, although his growing difficulties with President Kasavubu could keep him in Leopoldville. There have been signs recently that Kasavubu may be alarmed at the premier's recent moves to advance his political fortunes.

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8. Cambodia

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

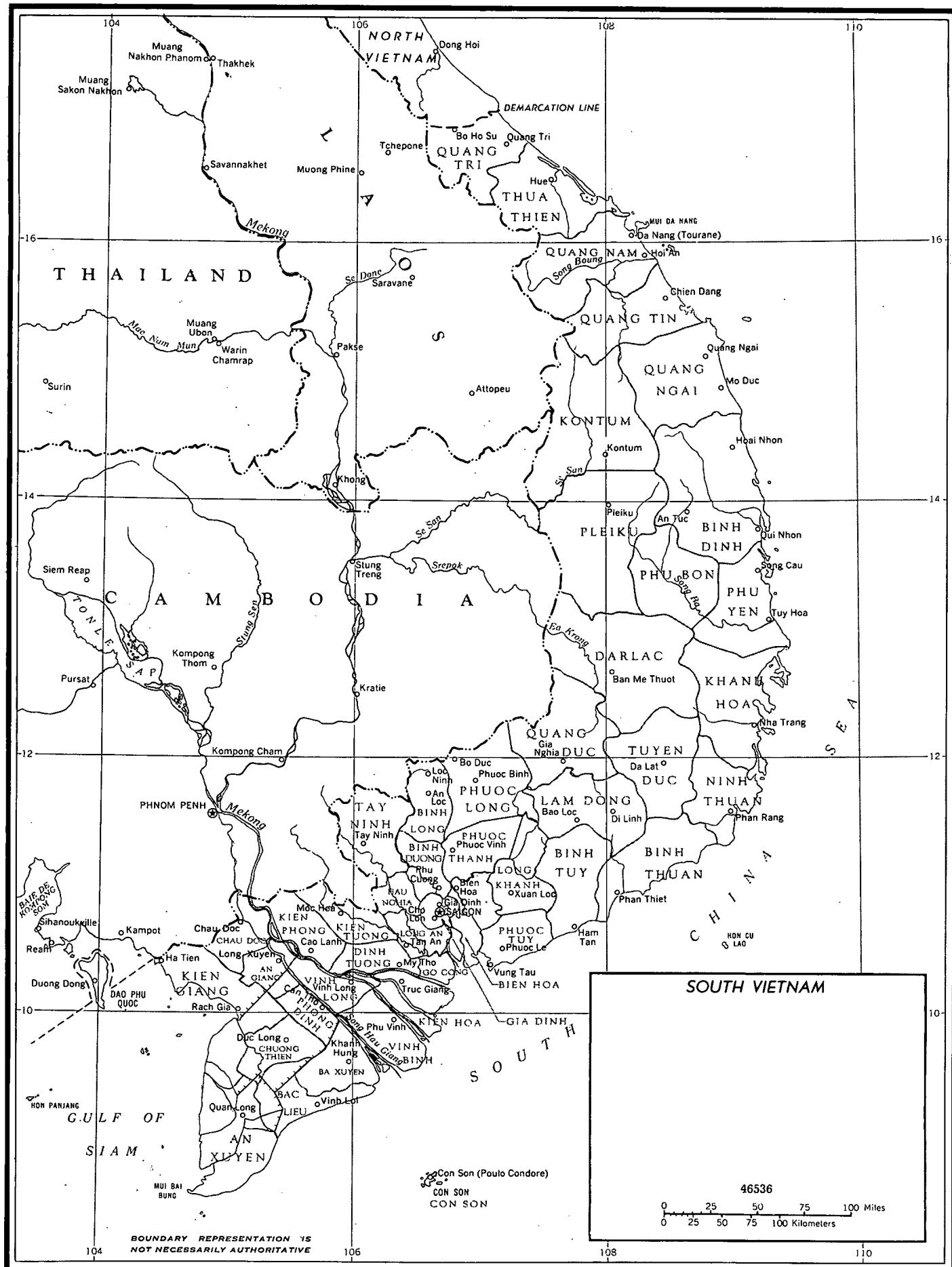
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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27 FEBRUARY 1965

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**DAILY BRIEF
27 FEBRUARY 1965**

1. Vietnam

The South Vietnamese air force this morning left what it believes to be another camouflaged Viet Cong vessel in a burning and sinking condition off the coast of Kien Hoa Province, south of Saigon. A South Vietnamese junk force is trying to reach the scene.

No major new Viet Cong military actions have been noted, but there are further signs of erosion in the government's position in the northern provinces. One district chief in the area says that he has lost control over 16 villages this month. (See map)

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Hanoi's treatment of Kosygin's TV performance yesterday was brief, almost curt. It did not even refer to the Soviet leader's circumlocutions about negotiations. Hanoi did publish another strong denunciation of "frantic" US activities in Vietnam and predicted their "sure defeat." Ambassador Taylor thinks, as do we, that the North Vietnamese are not much interested in negotiations, or a conference, just now. Peiping has not mentioned the subject in the past few days. Neither has Moscow, except for what can be read into Kosygin's speech.

The French now say that Gromyko will not after all visit Paris around 20 March. The Paris press has been speculating that the Soviet foreign minister was coming for further soundings on Vietnam negotiations.

2. France

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3. Indonesia

Djakarta is evidently prepared to countenance, if not actually connive in, a new rash of anti-American incidents. Government officials are openly talking about the coming "Indonesianization" of remaining US businesses. American tourists have, for the first time, been harried by a leftist mob in East Java. Foreign Minister Subandrio says that all USIS buildings and activities are being closed down to prevent their "poisoning" Indonesian thinking.

4. Congo

Ugandan Prime Minister Obote acknowledged yesterday to Ambassador Deming that Ugandan troops had entered the Congo, but only in "hot pursuit" of Congolese invaders. Obote was unyielding about negotiating the border problem. Deming also found Obote exhibiting symptoms of the "Nyerere syndrome," a conviction that the US is out to overthrow him.

In Leopoldville, Tshombé has not yet made up his mind to attend the OAU ministers meeting in Nairobi. He evidently hopes that the Congo question will not come before the conference until next week.

5. West Germany

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