



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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1 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
1 MARCH 1966

1. Ghana

Two Ghanaian-owned IL-18 aircraft began loading Soviet personnel in Accra this afternoon. Some 192 Russians are expected to leave the country by the end of the day. The new regime has also moved against the East Germans. Their trade mission has been told to close up shop and get its personnel out of the country as soon as possible.

Elsewhere the situation is largely unchanged. Ghana's delegates were allowed to take their seats today at the meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Addis Ababa but later a dispute arose over their credentials. They still think that they will be able to hold their own.

Nkrumah's foreign minister, Quaison-Sackey, flew into London this morning. He has apparently defected. Nkrumah himself at last report was still under wraps in Moscow.

2. Zambia

Kaunda is having more trouble with the white copper miners. Several hundred of these skilled workers are now off the job protesting the government's "no strike" decree which followed the wildcat walkouts of last month. The embassy believes Kaunda is overreacting in these situations and that his heavy-handed tactics may bring on a wholesale exodus of the crucial white labor force.

3. Soviet Union

The two Soviet Venus probes reached the planet, but at least one of them apparently failed to collect data. The Soviets admit that Venus 3 crash landed and that they were unable to communicate with it during the last part of the flight. It is doubtful therefore that Venus 3 transmitted any information on the Venusian atmosphere.

Moscow says that Venus 2 flew by the planet at a distance of only 13,000 miles. The probe was probably equipped to make a number of physical measure-

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Since the Soviets are silent on this score, it is possible that Venus 2 also suffered a communications failure.

The Soviet lunar probe this morning was unsuccessful. Moscow is trying to cover this up by calling it a routine scientific satellite.

4. Soviet Union

The huge space launching facility at Tyuratam, described in yesterday's Brief, provides the Soviets with means for a greatly expanded space program. Some of the implications of the latest satellite photography of this complex are examined in today's Annex.

5. Indonesia

The army leaders are mulling over a number of moves to help them recoup their political losses

. The first step may be an "ultimatum"--perhaps on Thursday--telling Sukarno to get rid of Suharto. This conceivably could bring a showdown, but it is more likely that the military would simply acquiesce in the face of another turndown by the president.

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6. Vietnam

Peking has reacted to the current debate in the US over the eventual status of the Viet Cong's National Liberation Front during negotiations and in any subsequent coalition government. A Chinese broadcast on Sunday made it clear that Peking does not believe the Viet Cong should settle for anything less than total control of the government in Saigon.

The idea that the Front could play the role of a "minority group" in a coalition government is nothing but a "trick," according to the broadcast. It went on to express confidence that the Front would never fall for it.

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7. North Vietnam

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8. Laos

Government troops operating with air support in the southern part of the country have failed to dislodge Communist forces from several positions which they overran last week.

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[redacted] there have been sizable casualties on both sides. Communist probes in the area are apparently part of the over-all effort in the panhandle to keep the government from mounting operations against the infiltration corridor.

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9. Philippines

The Marcos government gave in to Indonesian pressure and decided not to recognize Malaysia today. The president still seems committed to the idea, however, and Djakarta's threats will probably only delay the action.

10. Syria

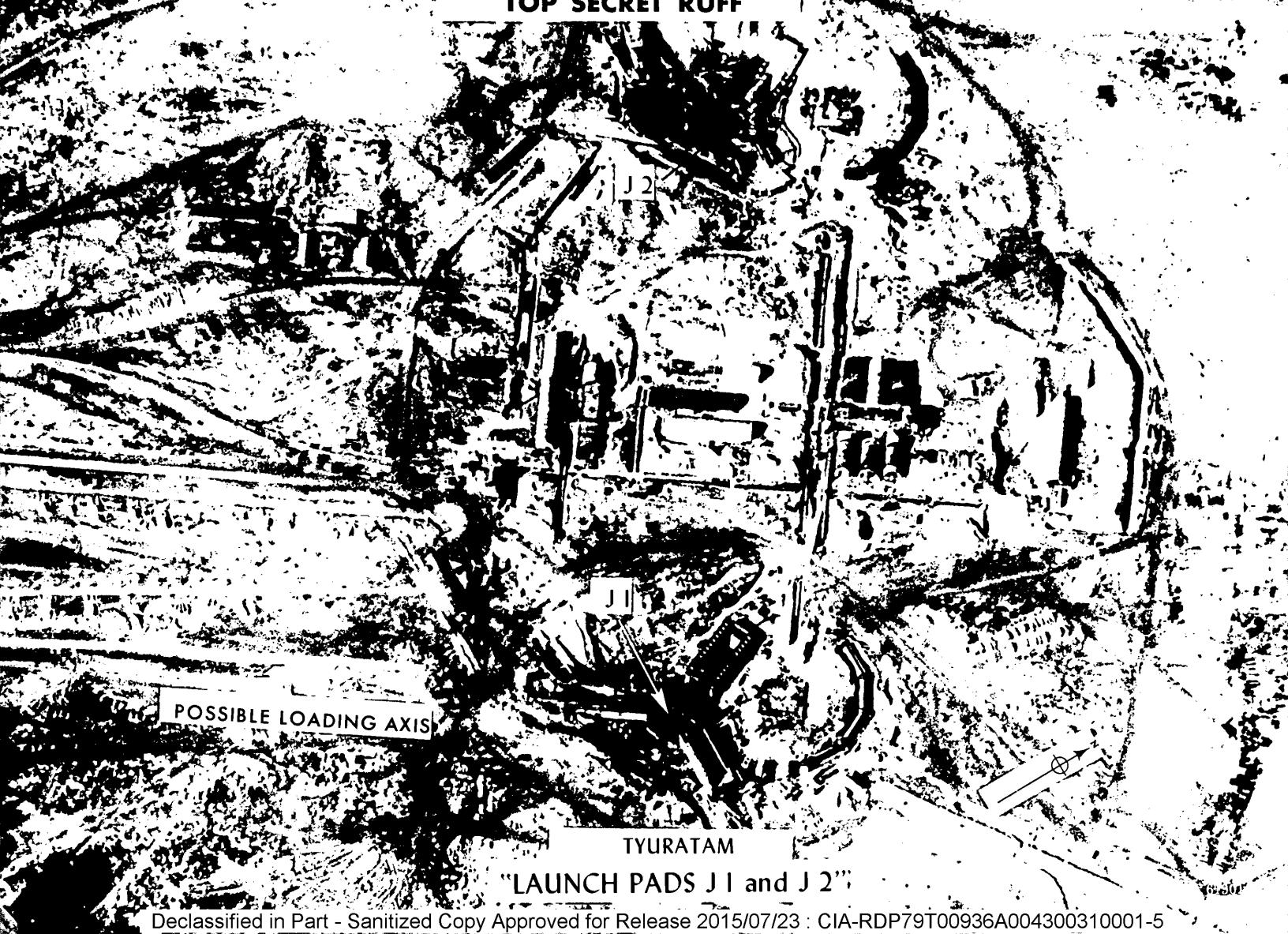
The embassy has new and good reports of a split within the army leadership. Fighting among the military forces and outbreaks affecting the civilian population could come at any time.

The government announced a new 19-man cabinet today. At least one is a member of the Syrian Communist Party.

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ANNEX

New Developments in the Soviet Space Program

The Soviets have been investing very heavily in the immense space launch Complex J at their Tyuratam missile test center. Construction was initiated in mid-1963 and has continued on a high-priority basis without interruption. The complex is now expected to become partially operational by the end of this year. The first launchings could take place early next year.

The most recent photographs of the two launch pads in Complex J (see attached [redacted] sketch) [redacted]

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The nature and the size of the construction now indicate that the pads could handle space boosters developing thrusts as great as ten million pounds. By comparison, the Saturn V booster to be used in the US Apollo program develops 7.5 million pounds of thrust. The largest Soviet booster launched to date had a thrust estimated at between 2.5 and three million pounds.

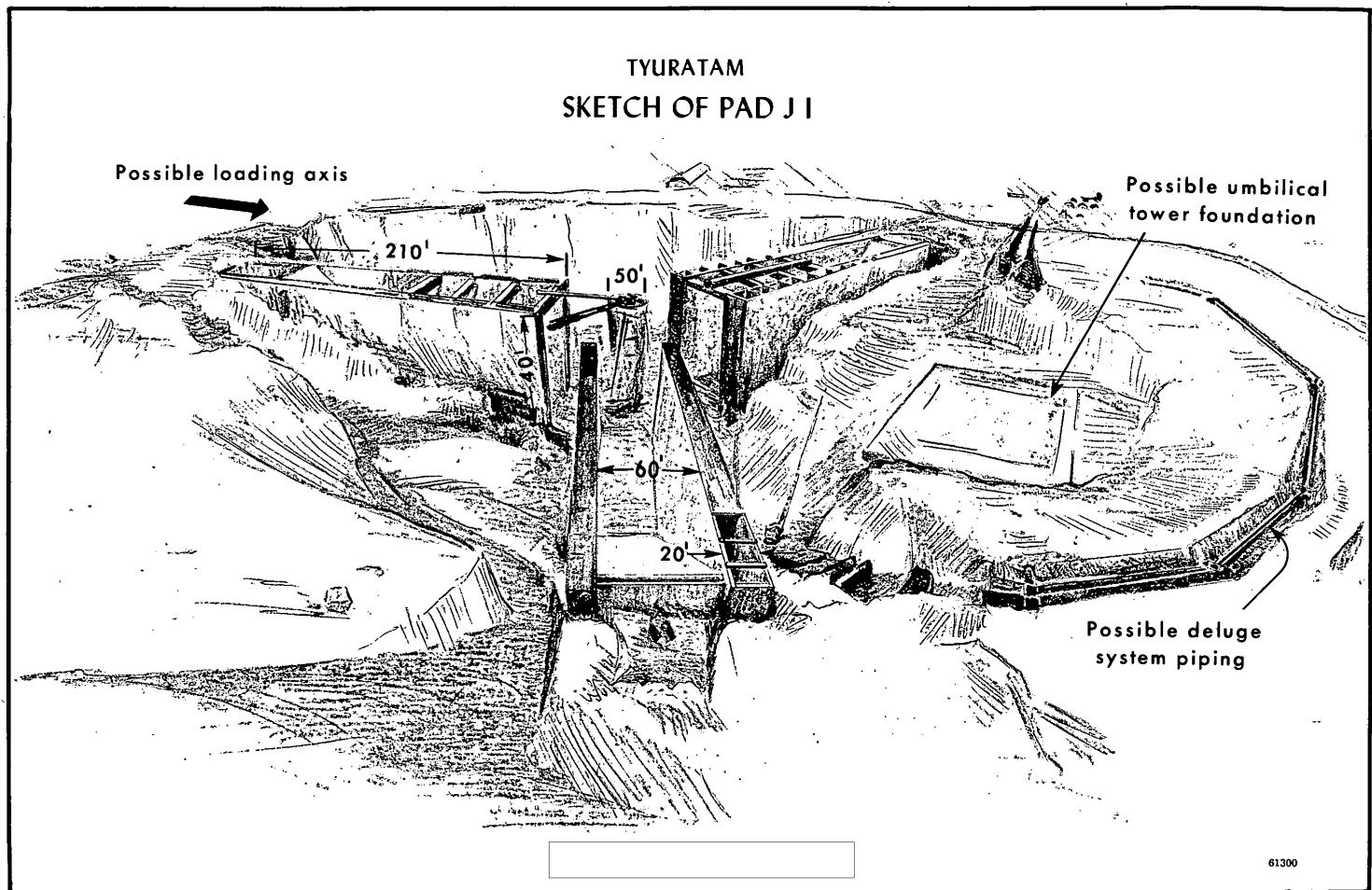
It will be possible to estimate more precisely the size of the booster once the gantry is built. Gantry tracks some 60 feet wide are now being installed between the launch sites and the massive missile assembly building some two miles away.

The twin launch pads are spaced only 1,700 feet apart. This suggests that the Soviets plan an unhurried launching program that does not require having two assembled boosters in place at the same time.

Housing facilities at Complex J provide an indication of the large number of personnel to be involved in the programs planned there. There is a "high-quality" apartment house project that could accommodate some 5,000 people and a barracks area with about the same capacity.

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ANNEX (Cont'd)

It is impossible at this point, of course, to be sure of the objectives of the space program planned for Complex J. The following would be among the feasible possibilities: manned lunar landings, sophisticated planetary probes, and the orbiting of large, manned space stations.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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2 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
2 MARCH 1966

1. Vietnam

The Chinese Communists have sent letters to a number of neutral nations warning once again against the "perfidious schemes" of the US in respect to Vietnam and reiterating Peking's opposition to a negotiated settlement except on Communist terms. Egypt, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway seem to have received such letters, and it is likely that other neutrals have been similarly cautioned.

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2. Communist China

[redacted] Chou En-lai will visit Rumania in "mid-March," and there are indications he may also go to Albania. The Chinese may hope to demonstrate that they are not entirely isolated in the Soviet-led bloc, and the Rumanians could use the visit to demonstrate their neutrality in the Sino-Soviet hassle.

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The reported timing of the trip would permit Chou to show up in Moscow for the Soviet party congress scheduled to begin on 29 March. He led the Chinese delegation to the last congress in 1961--but stomped out when the Soviets attacked Albania.

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3. Indonesia

Overt resistance to Sukarno remains limited, with even the student demonstrations trailing off into slogan-painting on walls and cars. Alleged army intentions to move against Subandrio--and Sukarno, if necessary--appear at present to be brave talk rather than precise plans.

4. Kashmir

Indian and Pakistani ministers are discussing the Kashmir problem in Rawalpindi this week, in further implementation of the January Tashkent agreement. Both sides will air their positions for public consumption, but little or no progress is likely toward resolving the basic dispute. Last week, however, both countries did complete withdrawing their forces to positions held before the September fighting.

5. Soviet Union

Cosmos 110 with its two dogs will probably stay in orbit until after 20 March, when daylight recovery in the usual area of the USSR will be possible. The Soviets are probably collecting data on the effects of prolonged radiation, weightlessness, and other potential dangers to astronauts, in line with their habitual careful attention to the biomedical aspects of manned space flights.

6. Belgium

The King's formateur today gave up attempts to form a government. New elections are increasingly likely, since the present political leaders have been able to agree on an approach to only a few of the country's economic, social, and ethnic problems. Foreign Minister Spaak, without whom Belgian foreign policy tends to stagnate, could be a casualty of the new elections.

7. United Kingdom

London is giving the moderate government of British Guiana--which will take over after independence on 26 May--a million pounds for budget support. This gift should mute squabbles in Burnham's cabinet over fiscal matters, and London probably hopes its largesse will get it off the hook for future donations.

8. Bolivia

Former co-president Barrientos is scheduled to return to Bolivia Friday, exactly two months after his abrupt resignation. The political pot will begin to boil again, in anticipation of national elections in July. So far, Barrientos is the only candidate.

Barrientos' insistence on keeping his position as commander in chief of the armed forces--whose continued unity is the key to stability in Bolivia--is causing concern among high-ranking officers. Some military are said to be working to prevent his candidacy and cancel the elections.

9. Guatemala

It looks as if none of the three presidential candidates will win an absolute majority in Sunday's elections, leaving the choice to the new national assembly which convenes on 5 May. The campaign has given little cause for optimism that any of the parties can solve the country's social and economic problems. There is a distinct chance that the voting will precipitate violence which Communist terrorists appear ready to exploit.

10. Ghana

The new regime continues to take steps to demonstrate its moderate image. It is rounding up exiles whom Nkrumah had permitted to use Ghana as a base for subversion against other African countries, and General Ankrah has underscored his government's intention to follow sound economic policies. The US Embassy notes that the departure of Communist technicians has left a large vacuum.

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News of Nkrumah's arrival in Conakry today is likely to have repercussions within Ghana, where the populace is still jumpy and susceptible to rumor.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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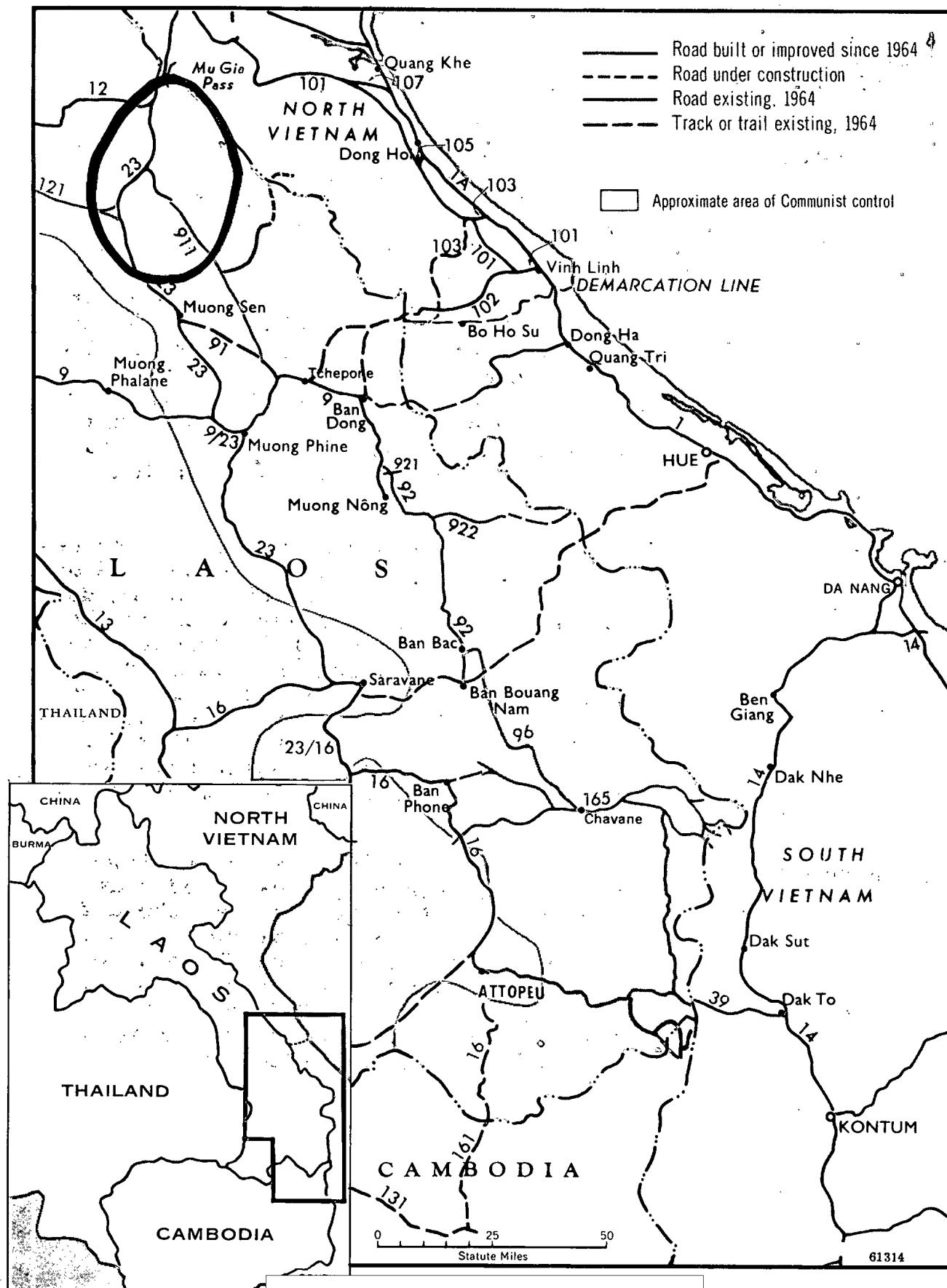
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SOUTHEASTERN LAOS



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DAILY BRIEF
3 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

Saigon's new economic minister has told US officials that he is reluctant to initiate any dramatic moves that would endanger his position in the government. He is also unwilling to approve certain economic measures discussed at Honolulu even though it was made clear to him that both South Vietnam and the US had already reached agreement on them.

The minister says that he wants to proceed slowly so as not to arouse powerful business interests. The US mission strongly questions this approach because of the dangerous economic situation.

2. Laos

A large number of Communist trucks-- perhaps as many as 400--were spotted over an eight-day period recently moving down the infiltration corridor south of the Mu Gia Pass. All of these trucks, except one convoy which carried supplies and towed artillery pieces, were loaded with enemy soldiers. It is not known whether these troops were heading for South Vietnam or being positioned for road repair work along the corridor. (Map)

3. Indonesia

Sukarno ordered the university in Djakarta temporarily closed today in his latest effort to overcome the defiance of anti-Communist students. Some non-Communist labor unions have agreed to join the student protest movement, and some kind of joint demonstration is likely. Typically, however, the military remains on the sidelines.

4. Ghana

The bizarre political gambit through which Nkrumah became the nominal head of state in Guinea is a psychological move with little real meaning. It does, however, give Nkrumah a secure base of operations in Guinea where his radical colleague, Sekou Touré, has apparently decided to go all out in support of Nkrumah's ambitions for a comeback. The present wildly anti-Nkrumah climate in Ghana, however, argues that Nkrumah's prospects are very dim.

The Ghana coup is further hardening the lines between the moderate and radical African states. Four delegations--representing Guinea, Mali, Tanzania, and Egypt--walked out of the Organization of African Unity meeting in Addis Ababa today. They explained that they could not sit in the same room with representatives of the new Ghanaian Government, whom they called "tools of imperialism."

5. Rhodesia

The oil embargo is crumbling. Significant amounts of oil are coming into Rhodesia from South Africa, and now it appears that much larger quantities may shortly come by sea and then through Portuguese Mozambique.

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6. Dominican Republic

Garcia Godoy seems not overly disturbed thus far by the reaction to last week's compromise solution to the impasse over the military chiefs. He implied to Ambassador Bunker that despite Bosch's public blast on Monday, the reaction was generally milder than might have been expected. He said he intends to take further actions designed to improve the climate for the 1 June elections.

This climate is likely to take a turn for the worse, however, if former rebel leader Francisco Caamano makes a sudden reappearance on the Dominican scene.

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7. Cuba

Occasional military cargoes are still arriving in Cuba from the Soviet Union.

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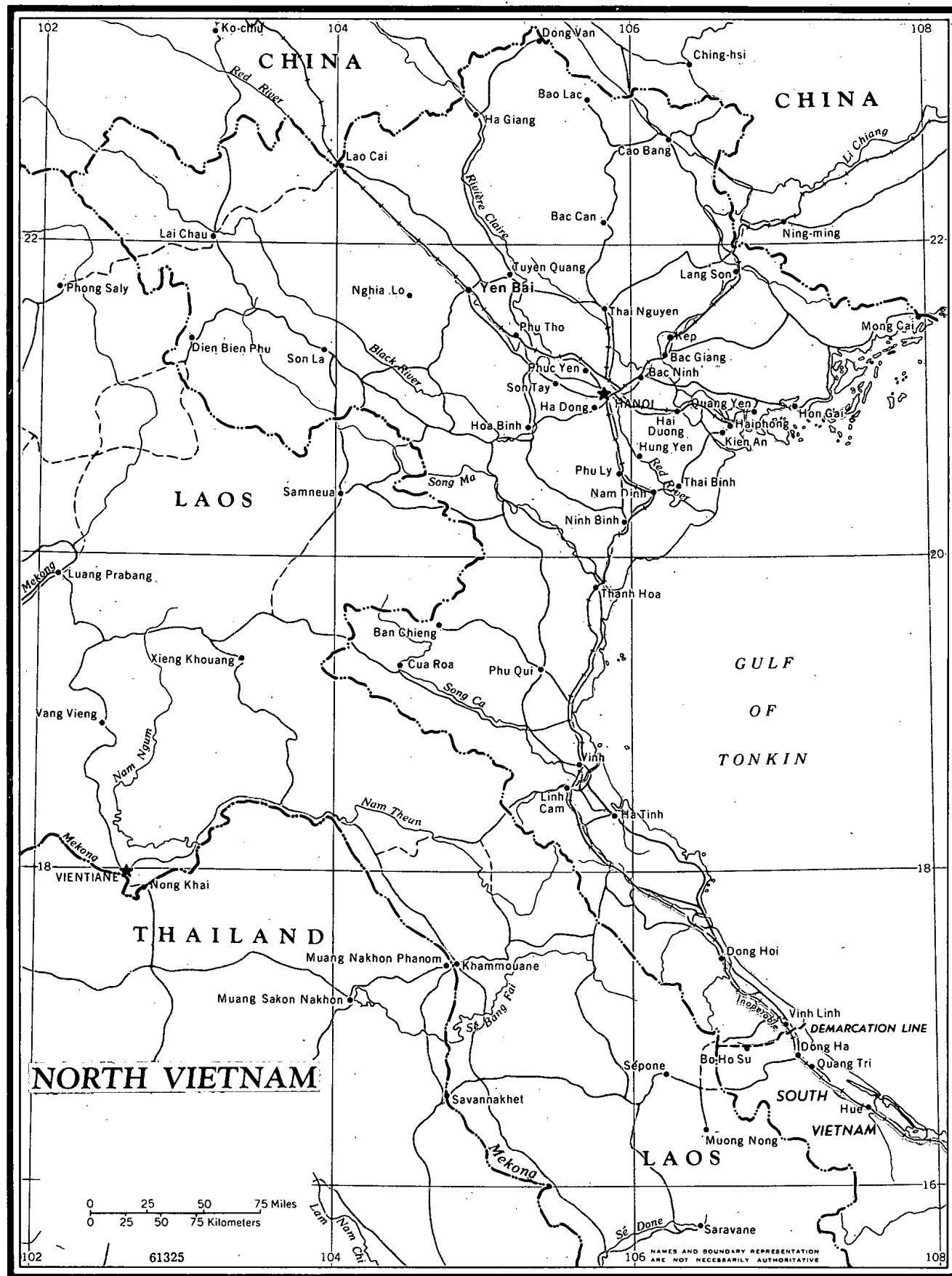
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DAILY BRIEF
4 MARCH 1966

1. Vietnam

North Vietnamese fighters have been active against US strike aircraft for the past two days. Yesterday, there were no actual engagements, but today four MIG fighters unsuccessfully attacked a flight of US aircraft striking the Hanoi - Lao Cai railroad. We expect North Vietnamese fighters to become increasingly active, especially if US planes attack more important targets.

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2. Communist China

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3. Rhodesia

British Foreign Minister Stewart has called in the Portuguese ambassador and expressed concern that the Portuguese colonial authorities in Mozambique are in effect winking at activities which threaten a major break in the oil embargo against Rhodesia. There is no indication that the Portuguese intend to interfere.

4. Ghana

Some 250 Chinese Communists have been flown out of Ghana in the past two days, and the Chinese phase of the removal of Communist "experts" from Ghana seems virtually complete.

Large numbers of Soviets are still in the country awaiting transportation. Many of them may be moved out over the weekend. The Soviets, however, hope to salvage something from the situation. The Soviet ambassador has been talking softly to the new authorities. This is in contrast to the Chinese, who have sent loud protests over mistreatment of Chinese assigned there.

Meanwhile, seven delegations have left the meeting of the Organization of African Unity because of its failure to recognize Nkrumah's continued legitimacy.

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So far, at least 15 states have recognized the new regime in Ghana.

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5. Sudan

Many of the ingredients that might cause the Sudanese Army to seize power again are at hand. The delicately balanced coalition government has been largely inactive, and little progress is being made. On top of this the army has suffered heavily from the fighting against Negro rebels in southern Sudan which many officers feel is an aimless struggle benefiting only the politicians in Khartoum.

6. France

The elaborate stage play which De Gaulle is putting on before he sends out his letters on NATO seems designed to stimulate reactions which would help him transfer part of the onus for French withdrawal elsewhere.

Paris has also let it be known that harsh and abrupt treatment awaits those who refuse to enter into the bilateral defense talks favored by De Gaulle. As part of the pressure play, Paris has floated rumors that De Gaulle may propose a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union when he goes to Moscow in June.

France has been progressively withdrawing its forces from NATO over the past seven years. Left now are two army divisions in Germany, five submarines, 16 air squadrons, and a clutch of officers assigned to NATO commands. De Gaulle would like to keep French troops in Germany, and, while a legal argument exists, there are signs that Bonn may take a stiff attitude.

7. Soviet Union

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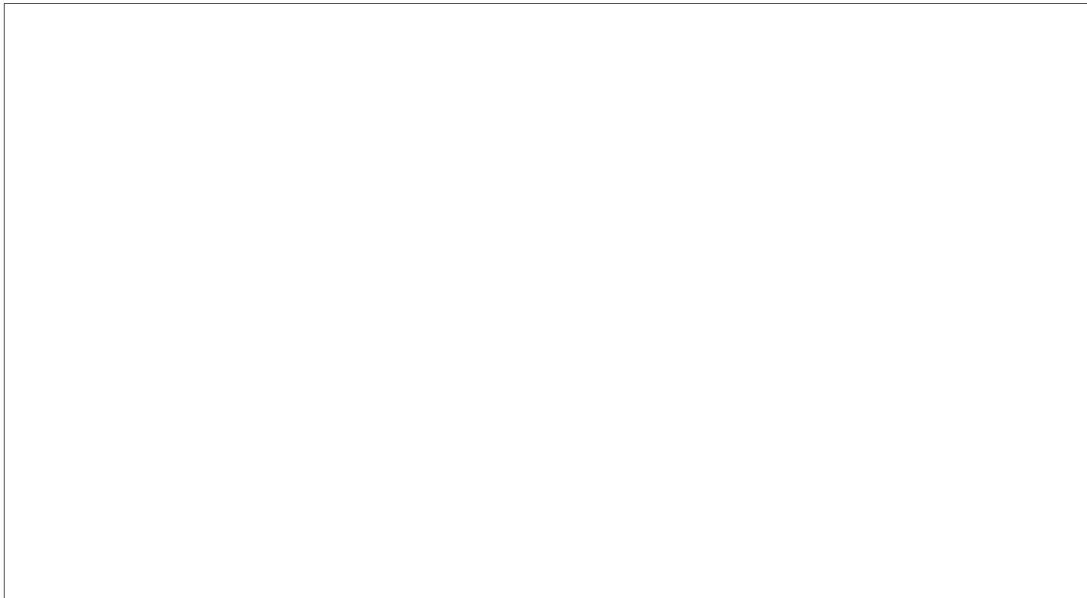
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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5 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
5 MARCH 1966

1. Indonesia

The students continue to demonstrate in defiance of Sukarno. One group has barricaded itself in the university, which Sukarno closed down the other day. Many students are said to feel that the future of the country lies in their hands.

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2. South Vietnam

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3. Ghana

Nkrumah told a US official in Conakry yesterday that he plans to leave for Cairo shortly to join his family. Beyond that, the deposed leader said, he has no plans although he does intend to write President Johnson. The official comments that Nkrumah's moderate language and resigned attitude indicate he accepts the coup back home as an accomplished fact.

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4. Rhodesia

The leaky oil embargo will virtually collapse if, as rumored, two oil tankers arrive at the port of Beira in Mozambique this weekend. British officials in the area are now hoping that measures taken to reduce Rhodesian tobacco exports will have the desired effect on the Smith regime.

5. Rwanda

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6. Congo

[redacted] former premier Tshombé will return from Belgium next week to attend the opening of parliament. The government radio today issued a blast against him, probably designed to encourage him to stay in Brussels. If he does return, he will add yet another unsettling factor to an already unsettled situation.

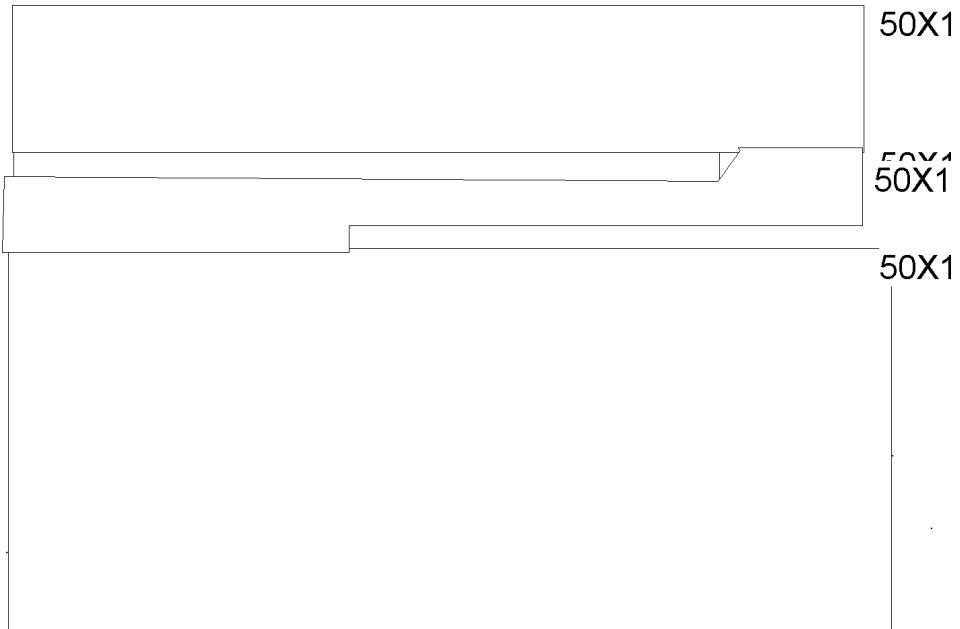
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7. Soviet Union

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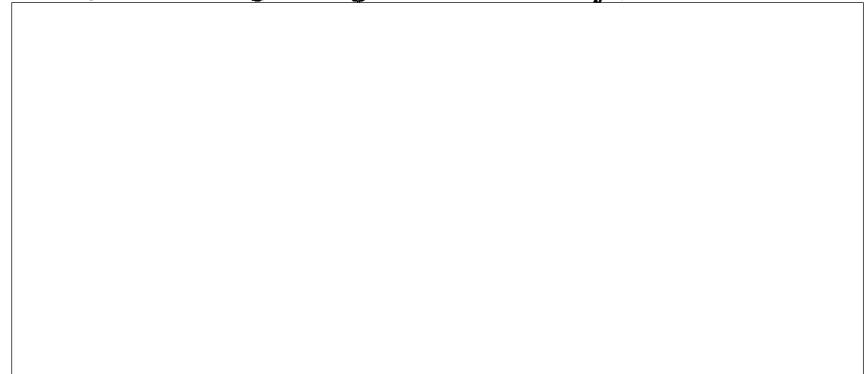
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8. Soviet Union



9. Albania

There are tenuous signs that a rift 50X1 could be developing within the Albanian leadership, which up to now has displayed a high degree of unity.



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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DAILY BRIEF
7 MARCH 1966

1. Guatemala

Backers of Julio Cesar Mendez and the Revolutionary Party are claiming victory on the basis of their own tabulation of the vote. Their figures show that Mendez now has 129,300 votes, with 68,900 for Ponciano and 67,700 for Aguirar, the government's candidate.

The US defense attaché in Guatemala City stressed that none of these figures is official and that the electoral council has stopped releasing reports. The next tabulation is not expected until late tonight or early tomorrow.

If no one gets an absolute majority of the vote, the congress will have to decide between the two top candidates when it meets in May.

2. Ecuador

The military junta has made a number of inept or highly controversial moves recently which have aroused almost all of Ecuador's still important civilian leaders. As a result a new front has been formed by leaders of several political parties

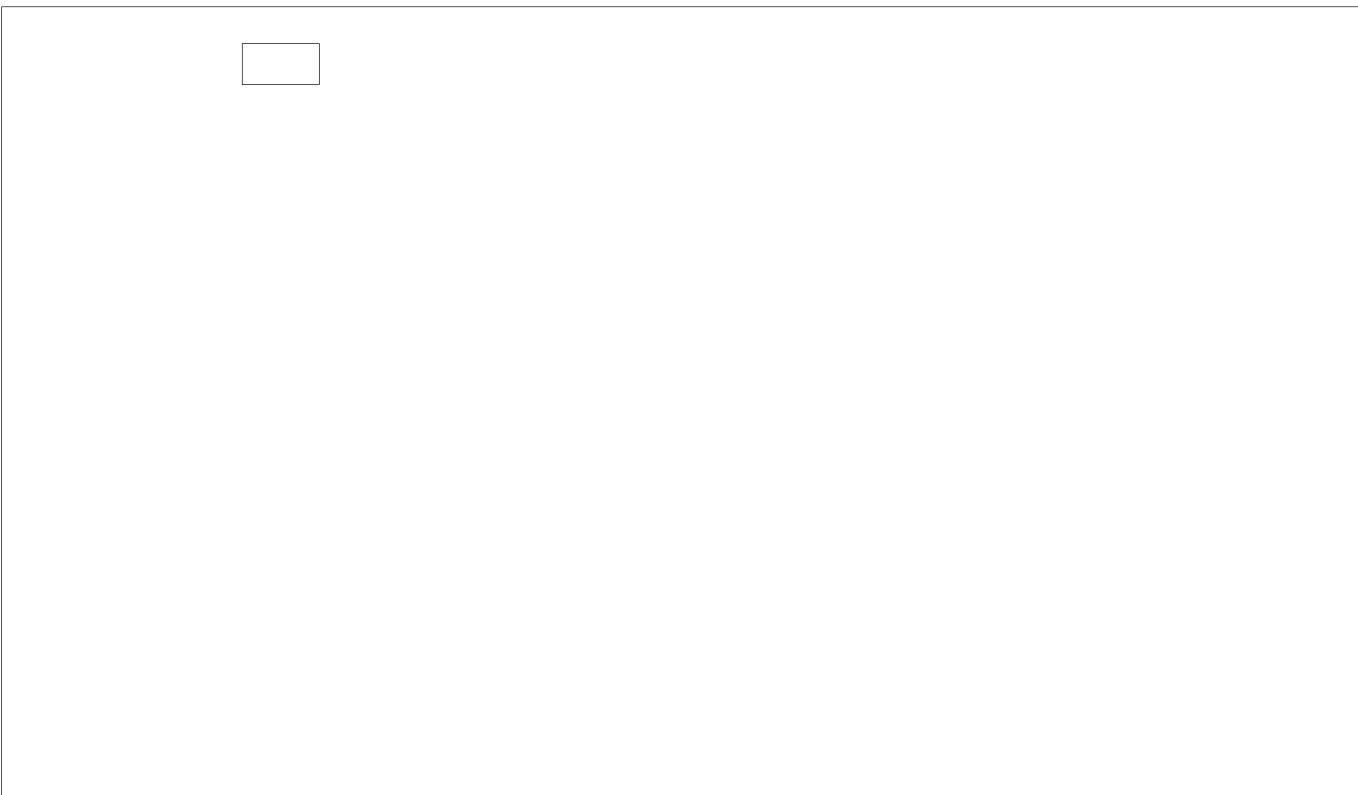
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Military unity--the key to stability--still seems to be intact at the moment, but our ambassador believes that the government could be upset with little warning.

3. Syria

There may be violence in Damascus tomorrow in connection with celebrations commemorating three years of Baathist rule. Other festivities had been planned in Aleppo, but they apparently have been called off--probably because of uncertainty there over the loyalty of the military. Some disgruntled army elements--particularly the key units on the Israeli border--might even take advantage of disorders to try a coup.

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4. Ghana

Ambassador Battle raises the possibility that Nasir will try to take over the leadership of a radical African group dedicated to returning Nkrumah to power. The ambassador notes that an Egyptian official has been trying to line up hotel rooms in Cairo "for a conference of all countries opposed to the Ghanaian regime" later in the month.

Nkrumah, along with Guinea's Sekou Touré, flew to Mali today apparently in an effort to get some kind of support from President Keita.

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5. Soviet Union

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6. India-Pakistan

Reports from New Delhi indicate that the Indo-Pakistani talks last week in Rawalpindi were a total failure. The Pakistanis were only interested in discussing the Kashmir question, an issue on which the Indians of course refused to negotiate. Both sides were disappointed at this setback to the implementation of the Tashkent declaration, but are being careful to keep the door open for more high-level exchanges.

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7. South Vietnam

The government will risk a breakdown in its relations with the powerful Chinese business community in Saigon if it carries out the death sentence handed down today against a wealthy businessman of Chinese descent. The businessman was found guilty of profiteering, and the case has become a test of Ky's vaunted anticorruption policy.

On the political side, there is continuing progress in the selection of members for the advisory "Council for Building Democracy." The ruling Directorate now hopes to announce the formation of the council by the middle of next week.

8. Cuba

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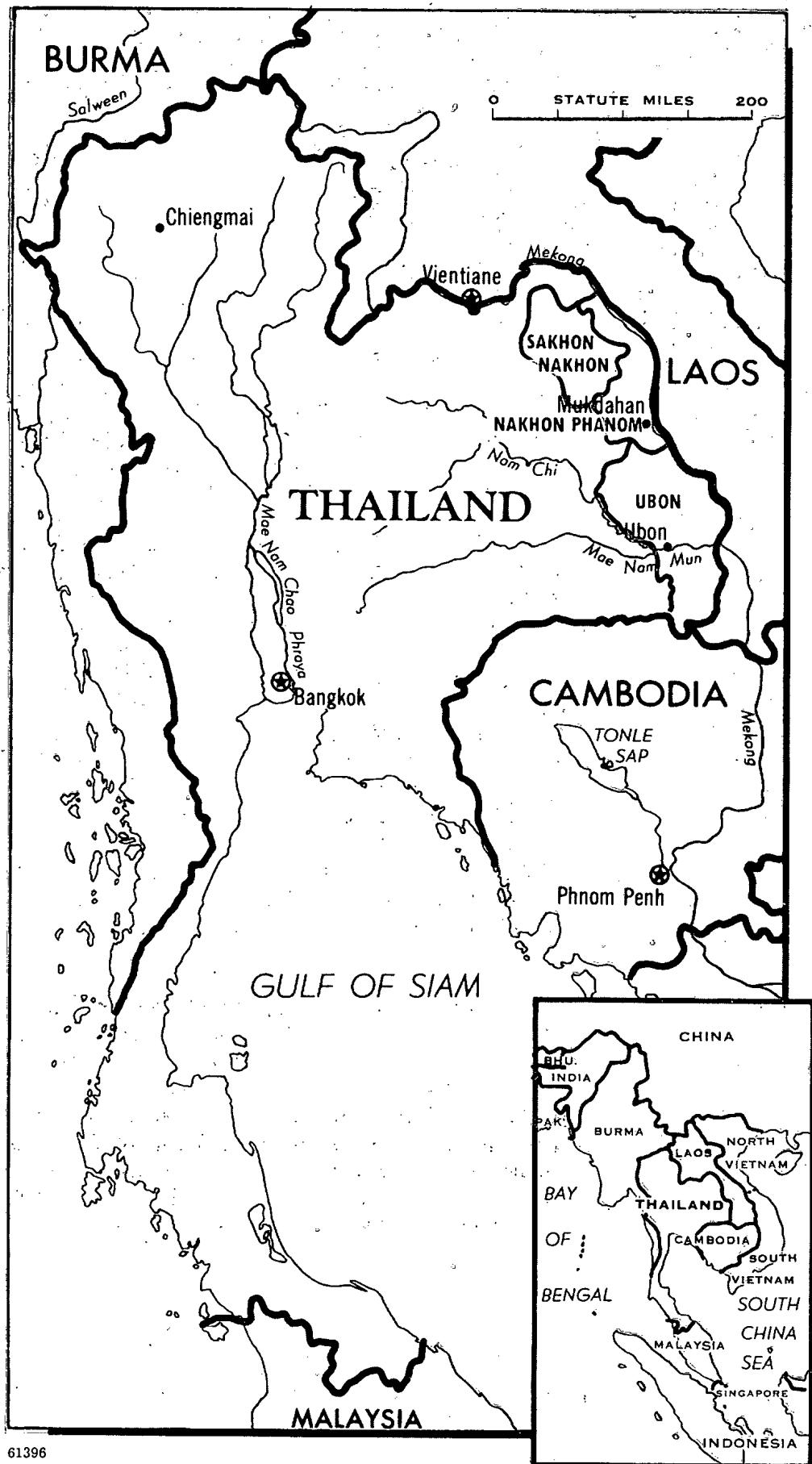
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DAILY BRIEF
8 MARCH 1966

1. NATO

Most NATO governments have indicated their intention of supporting the integrated military structure after France withdraws.

The smaller European nations fear De Gaulle's action will lead the Germans to demand a more independent military position, although German officials say Bonn has no desire for a national army. Bonn apparently wants French troops kept in West Germany, but anticipates prolonged and difficult negotiations with Paris over their status.

The British have suggested calling a special ministerial-level conference to draft a strong declaration by the fourteen in support of NATO.

Some of the smaller members face special problems.

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Denmark wonders if interest in a Scandinavian defense alliance will now revive. Norway and Iceland both think they may have more trouble dealing with internal leftist opposition to their NATO membership.

2. Thailand

Communist-inspired insurgency in the northeast, heretofore centered in Nakhon Phanom Province (see map), spread during February to two adjoining provinces. The number of assassinations and armed clashes between police and Communists in each of these provinces, in fact, well exceeded the rate of subversive activity in Nakhon Phanom.

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3. North Vietnam

High-altitude drone photography

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[redacted] shows 15 high-performance MIG-21s on the runway at Phuc Yen airfield. This is an increase of four since the last photography. The presence of several crates at the airfield may mean that more have arrived but have not yet been assembled.

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4. Soviet Union

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5. Yugoslavia

President Tito is drumming up a sequel to the nonaligned nations conference held in Belgrade last March--this one to be either in Cairo or Addis Ababa.

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[redacted] Tito has invited 17 leaders of "nonaligned" countries, including Sukarno, apparently in the hope of drawing him away from Peking's influence. In addition to Vietnam, the conference could discuss Rhodesia and the recent military coups in Africa.

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6. Belgium

Foreign Minister Spaak concedes that pressures for trade with Communist China, both from business and parliamentary sources, are rising. He thinks he can put them off for a while, without opening a trade office or doing anything else that would provide a measure of recognition.

Spaak's is about the only finger in the dike, since all the political parties would like to recognize Peking. His ability to hold the line could be undermined by new elections, which appear increasingly likely.

7. Cyprus

Tensions may be about to rise again. President Makarios is expected shortly to shunt supreme army commander Grivas off to a coordinating job. This is likely to cause a strong reaction from certain Greek personalities.

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Nicosia has recently accused a member of the Turkish Embassy of playing a leading part in underground activities and has demanded his recall. Ankara may refuse to comply.

8. Yemen

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9. Guatemala

The electoral council has resumed tabulating results of Sunday's elections, after almost a full day's embargo of any official information. Latest official figures--apparently padded to favor the government's candidate, Aguilar--now show him in second place, but still 40,000 votes behind the Revolutionary Party's Julio Cesar Mendez.

The government will probably be content with keeping Aguilar in second place, which would assure him a run-off position with Mendez in the likely event that no one receives a majority and congress decides the election.

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9 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
9 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

Ky will likely try to get rid of I Corps Commander General Thi tomorrow-- later tonight, Washington time. At a meeting of the military directorate, the prime minister plans to accuse the general of insubordination and ask the directorate to approve his removal.

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Ambassador Lodge has warned Ky and President Thieu of the risks involved in such a move, but the two Vietnamese leaders seem confident that Thi can be replaced without trouble.

If Ky is correct in his belief that most of the ten directorate members will go along with him, then Thi's chances for counteraction will be slim indeed. However, if Ky's optimism has led him to overestimate his support, a permanent split in the military could develop with unpredictable consequences for the Ky government.

Another question mark at this time is what action Ky would or could take if Thi ignores the meeting and stays at home.

2. North Vietnam

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3. India

India has been arranging for new military deliveries from the Soviet Union. A high-level Indian Air Force mission left for Moscow recently and the New Delhi press reports that agreement has been reached for Soviet delivery of some 40 helicopters.

The first major Soviet military deliveries to India since the fighting with Pakistan began arriving last month. Tanks, surface-to-air missile equipment, military aircraft, and naval equipment have been included in recent deliveries.

The value of military contracts with the Soviet Union since 1960 now exceeds \$600 million, making India the largest free world recipient of Soviet military hardware after Egypt and Indonesia.

4. Ghana

The new leaders are continuing to dismantle Nkrumah's old power structure. They have, for instance, abolished the Communist-supported "Young Pioneers," Nkrumah's vehicle for indoctrinating Ghana's youth. The Ghanaian public is still showing strong approval of the new regime's actions.

5. Panama

President Robles now seems pessimistic over the canal treaty negotiations with the US.

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This is a turnaround for Robles, who had earlier been speaking as though he felt the ultimate approval of a satisfactory treaty would be the key point in his career.

Robles is said also to feel that a treaty will probably not now be ready for signing until Panamanian politics become embroiled with the 1968 national elections.

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6. Guatemala

The losers in Sunday's elections are desperately seeking ways to prevent Julio Cesar Mendez from becoming Guatemala's next president.

The anti-Mendez forces are obsessed by fear that Mendez' moderately leftist party will become the vehicle for a Communist resurgence. This is conceivable in Guatemala

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Most observers now concede that the balloting on Sunday was generally free, though there almost certainly had been considerable coercion prior to the elections in some areas and some padding afterward in the vote counting. At last report Mendez was ahead with about 44% of the vote, compared to 33% for the government candidate and 23% for the candidate further to the right.

If the elections are allowed to stand, therefore, the final selection will have to go to the newly elected congress when it meets in May. Mendez' party is leading here too, and partial returns indicate that it could win a bare majority in the 55-man body.

7. Belgium

Efforts to end the month-old political crisis are now turning to the possibility of a Catholic-Liberal coalition, eliminating the Socialists. Such a solution would remove Socialist Foreign Minister Spaak, long the source of Belgian foreign policy initiatives.

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8. Soviet Union

There was a two-day standdown of Soviet military aviation activity Monday and Tuesday. This extended throughout the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and at first seemed highly unusual. It now appears, however, that Tuesday was a newly declared legal holiday, International Women's Day, and the normal day of rest was moved from Sunday to Monday to provide a two-day holiday. Normal flying activity has resumed today.

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DAILY BRIEF
10 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

Ky, in sacking General Thi, displayed great confidence and political adroitness

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Thi is said to have capitulated gracefully, finally even agreeing to leave the country for four months. So far there have been no signs of counter-action by Thi's friends, but no one will breathe easily until he actually leaves.

2. Vietnam

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3. Communist China

Chief of State Liu Shao-Chi and Foreign Minister Chen Yi are to arrive in Karachi later this month as official guests for the celebration of Pakistan Day. The two officials may also stop in Afghanistan.

Peking may have in mind a rather broad diplomatic effort to try and regain some of the ground it has lost abroad in recent months. Premier Chou En-lai has scheduled a March trip which, at last report, includes Rumania and Albania.

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4. Indonesia

The students were on the rampage again today. In the past three days they have gutted Indonesia's own foreign ministry and three buildings housing Chinese Communist activities.

50X1

Ambassador Green is taking what added security precautions he can against the possibility of further attacks on our facilities.

Djakarta is full of rumors about fireworks this weekend. Among the possibilities being bruited about are an attempt by Sukarno to displace General Suharto or some sort of pre-emptive action by the hesitating generals.

5. Tanzania

US officials in Dar es Salaam consider that the country's growing economic troubles may lead to an attempt to unseat Nyerere's government. Nyerere himself has been badly shaken by the rash of coups elsewhere in Africa and is taking special precautions for his personal safety. Nyerere disappeared completely during the army mutiny in early 1964, which was finally put down by British forces.

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6. Kenya

The government of Kenya is also concerned over the chances of a coup. President Kenyatta, believing that the Communists would be the most likely instigators, is ordering six Soviet and Chinese diplomats out of the country. The six were fingered by a blue-ribbon security committee as having covert relations with Kenya's left-leaning Vice President Oginga Odinga. The latter yesterday issued a blast against Kenyan moderates and then retired to his home village.

7. Guatemala

An official announcement of the final election returns has been withheld. It is now certain, however, that none of the three presidential candidates will get a majority. This will throw the election into the lap of the new congress which meets on 5 May.

At present, the two rightist parties, taken together, do not appear to have won enough seats in the congress to deny Mendez the presidency.

The rightists, along with the government, will bend every effort to change this situation, but it may be too late to do so in constitutional channels. If so, the pressures on Peralta to nullify the elections in some way will grow.

Somewhere along the line, Mendez will likely come to feel he is being robbed of the election, and his followers may well take to the streets.

50X1

8. Cuba

A huge broadcasting center being built just outside Havana should be ready for use in about three months. It is obviously meant for broadcasts to Central and South America. Since Radio Havana already saturates this area, the new facility may be intended for Soviet use.

9. Soviet Union

Moscow's two space dogs, nearing their 17th day in orbit, are still in good condition.

50X1

, the Soviets are deriving much information which should be useful in planning manned flights of long duration. The signs point to at least a 30-day flight for the dogs.

10. France

Foreign Minister Couve de Murville is set to visit Rumania and Bulgaria in late April. He may also go to Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary sometime this summer. These trips could, of course, be the forerunner of a grand De Gaulle swing through Eastern Europe.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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11 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
11 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

General Thi's removal is now provoking some adverse reaction in his northern stronghold. A public protest meeting took place in Da Nang today. About a third of the estimated 1,500 participants were military men. "Corrupt people" in Saigon linked to the former Diem regime were blamed for the action against Thi. The demonstrators were orderly.

Reaction seems centered among Buddhists, high school - age students, and workers--restive elements long eager to demonstrate. The Buddhist hierarchy is evidently not involved at this point. The possibility of Viet Cong instigation cannot be ruled out, particularly in view of earlier reports that they had plans to exploit Buddhist unrest.

Ky and his associates are still apprehensive and they may not permit Thi the quick trip to his home in Da Nang they had originally offered. Thi is due to leave Saigon for the US next Tuesday.

2. North Vietnam

50X1

3. Indonesia

The situation is becoming increasingly strained. Sukarno apparently drove home a hard line to his cabinet this morning, threatening to dismiss any minister who opposed his policies. The next round begins tomorrow--tonight, Washington time--when the President meets with his regional military leaders.

[redacted] the army expects Sukarno to use this second meeting to oust army commander Suharto. At last report, the military had still not decided on how to react to such a move.

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There is a possibility of more hostile action against the embassy over the weekend.

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[redacted] Subandrio is encouraging this kind of activity in "retaliation" for recent anti-Communist demonstrations.

4. Communist China

During the past few months, there has been speculation in the press [redacted] that Peking's third nuclear explosion will be thermonuclear. This may be what the Chinese have in mind, but if so it would provide Peking little but psychological gain.

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50X1
50X1

5. Guatemala

Peralta and his base commanders apparently agreed at their lengthy meeting yesterday not to take drastic action. The sessions are continuing today, but the details are not yet available.

Peralta at this point seems to be in control of the military, but there is a good deal of dissatisfaction over the election results. Because of this, he is said to be trying to find a "legal" way of denying the Mendez forces their full complement of seats in the congress. If Peralta succeeds in this tactic, Mendez and company will probably resort to violence.

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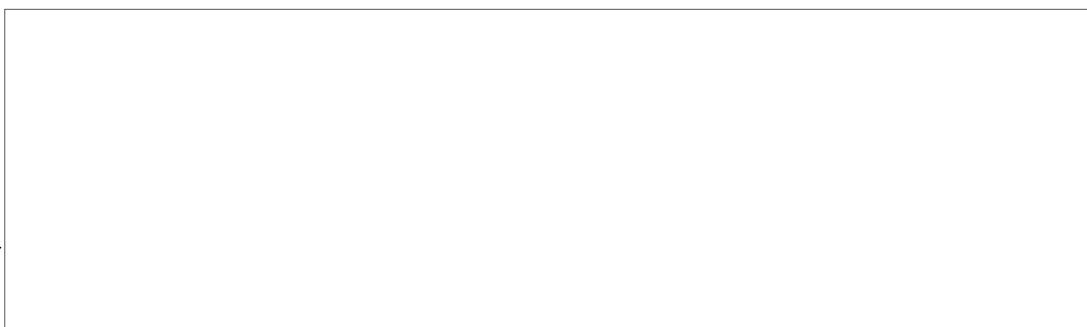


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

[Redacted area]

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12 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
12 MARCH 1966

1. Indonesia

The army now has the situation in hand, but it is too early to assume that Sukarno is down for good. The people in Djakarta nevertheless are clearly with the military and the capital is reported quiet.

Suharto apparently made his move yesterday when it became clear that Sukarno planned to replace him with a pro-Communist and at the same time dismiss the West Java and Djakarta commanders. The three separately might have caved in. Threatened together, they finally found the nerve to force Sukarno down.

It still remains to be seen whether the army will move quickly to consolidate its position. The first signs look promising; the Communist Party has finally been banned

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A number of leftist cabinet ministers have been arrested.

Suharto has gone on the air to pledge that the army will not push the Indonesian revolution either to the right or to the "extreme left." He also stated that any "person, party, or organization" opposing his policies would be "crushed by the armed forces."

His other plans--particularly the re-ordering of the cabinet--are still unknown. No immediate and radical shifts in Indonesian foreign policy are likely, but relations with China will be further worsened.

The army has again found it necessary to play its actions as being taken to protect Sukarno. This leaves him still on the scene and Ambassador Green warns of the danger of a comeback. The ambassador concludes, however, that Sukarno's chances for fully regaining his old position are now remote.

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2. South Vietnam

There were further pro-Thi demonstrations today in his former I Corps area. This morning's protest crowd in Da Nang was at least twice as big as yesterday's, but so far none of the demonstrations has shown any signs of getting out of hand.

Although some student groups have apparently made protest speeches over the government radio in Hué, it cannot be confirmed they have "seized" this or other stations, as reported in the press.

Thi has returned to Da Nang. At the time of Thi's dismissal, Ky had promised him a short well-escorted visit and this is presumably it. We have as yet, however, no confirmation that he in fact went with Ky's permission.

The Buddhist leader Tam Chau today issued a statement in Saigon which, although not referring directly to Thi's dismissal, says that the generals who participated in the revolution against Diem "must have a place in the construction of the fatherland" and "must be restored to their military positions."

If this means what it appears to, and if Tam Chau is speaking for strong elements in the Buddhist hierarchy, this development could spell serious trouble for the Ky government. A representative of Tam Chau's rival Tri Quang was present when the statement was issued.

3. Nigeria

Disgruntled army officers and recently ousted politicians are beginning to stir again in the touchy northern region of Nigeria. Police and army units there have been put on alert for six days, but the reasons for this are not yet clear.

4. Guatemala

Peralta still has the army under control and now seems bent on letting Mendez' Revolutionary Party take over if it wins the election. Peralta's warnings of the danger of civil war and of US opposition to a coup apparently turned the majority of the high command in his favor. He is promising the military, however, that the high command will move against the Mendez regime if it finds evidence of Communist infiltration.

The latest unofficial election results give Mendez enough congressional seats to ensure his selection as president.

5. Panama

Panamanian leaders are saying that the treaty draft presented by the US in January is completely unacceptable.

50X1

6. Dominican Republic

Juan Bosch is putting the heat on again.

Bosch has told the government that his Dominican Revolutionary Party will not put up candidates for the elections because Garcia Godoy and the Peace Force are unable to bring rightist terrorism under control.

Bosch may yet change his mind but, for the short run at least, he probably sees this as a good way to press Garcia Godoy for a quick crackdown against the right and an overhaul of the police and military.

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7. Canada

The Canadian political scene has been badly shaken by the airing of two espionage scandals--one involving ministers of the former conservative government. Prime Minister Pearson has called for an independent political inquiry and challenged the opposition to try to bring him down if they are not satisfied with this solution.

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[redacted]
the US Embassy does not consider the government in immediate danger. More revelations are expected to come out in the press, however, and this could bring a change in the situation sometime next week.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

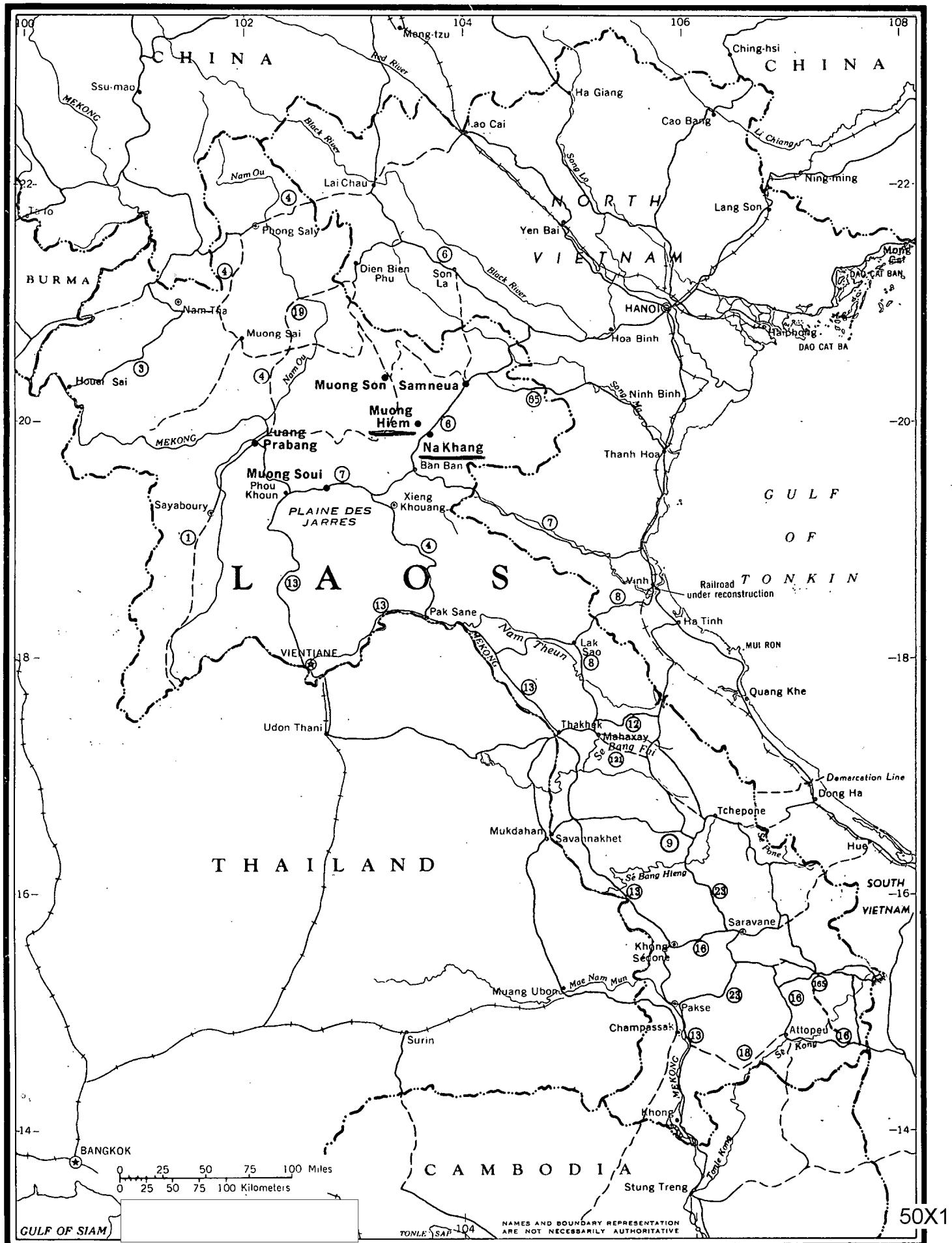
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14 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
14 MARCH 1966

1. Indonesia

Sukarno is already trying to retrieve his authority, and the army may be planning further moves against him and his leftist ministers, possibly tonight.

Some of the generals are said to be particularly incensed over Sukarno's assertions that Suharto has exceeded the authority Sukarno gave him last Saturday. Suharto's advisers have urged him to ignore the insinuation that his orders are in any way limited.

There are signs that some of the generals may not be wholly committed to keeping Sukarno down, but student and other civilian groups show signs of continuing their public action in support of the army's positions.

2. Laos

Communist forces continue to overrun government positions in northern Laos. Muong Hiem, an important base and airstrip, fell yesterday, less than a month after the Communist seizure of Na Khang to the southeast (see map).

Yesterday's action appears to cap a year-old campaign to clear government guerrillas from Route 6, which the Communists presumably hope to use as an alternate supply route to the Plaine des Jarres.

3. Vietnam

American military leaders in South Vietnam now confirm the presence of a ninth North Vietnamese Army regiment in South Vietnam. This brings confirmed North Vietnamese strength in the south to 15,880, about one-fifth of the total Communist regular force in South Vietnam. More North Vietnamese are being infiltrated, and the Communists are now filling out additional division-level structures. The subject is examined in today's Annex.

4. South Vietnam

Political agitation continued today in ousted General Thi's old area of northern South Vietnam. Today's demonstrations were by and large orderly and at a relatively low level.

Premier Ky is taking it all very calmly, feeling that the protest over Thi's removal has been kept well in hand. A potential for trouble remains, however.

Some Buddhist leaders and local politicians in the Hué - Da Nang area seem to want to keep things stirred up. They had demonstrators out today with banners calling for an end to military rule and shouting demands that Chief of State Thieu, a particular Buddhist target, be thrown out.

If these elements can keep the pressure on, much will depend on how deft and firm Thi's successor, General Chuan, proves to be.

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5. Communist China

Mao Tse-tung, now 72 years old, may be nearing the end of his road. He has been out of public view for five months and his activities have been unreported in the Chinese press since 26 November. He has now exceeded his longest recorded previous absence, in the winter of 1956 and 1957, when he is believed to have suffered a stroke.

Mao's absence has cost Peking several chances recently to impress high-level foreign visitors, of the type he used to receive regularly.

50X1

6. Belgium

The political crisis was broken yesterday when the Liberal Party leaders voted for a coalition with the Social Christians. This solution eliminates Foreign Minister Spaak and may presage moves to cut defense expenditures.

7. Yemen

Faysal has balked at Nasir's conditions for Egyptian evacuation of Yemen, specifically refusing the demand that the republicans have a two-to-one ratio in the interim government.

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[redacted], but at any time Nasir could indulge in some precipitous act that would wreck chances of a settlement.

8. Guinea

Our relations with Guinea may be in for another chilly spell. President Touré has grimly told our chargé he has "proof" of US involvement in both the Ghanaian and Nigerian coups. Touré probably has a basic desire to get along with the US, but is emotionally upset over Nkrumah's ouster, and appears to be under pressure from radical factions in his party.

9. Congo (Brazzaville)

Reports from Leopoldville say that the radical regime across the river may be in trouble. Most of its employees have not been paid since December, and there is tension between the president and the army. Almost any new government would probably be less caustically radical, but neither the rag tag army nor any other group in sight appears to offer any real solutions to the country's ills.

50X1

10. Soviet Union

There are indications that the Soviets were preparing to deorbit Cosmos 110 yesterday, and then abandoned the attempt. The reasons for these preparations are unknown.

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[redacted] It is still in orbit today, and we continue to believe that, barring a malfunction, the Soviets are unlikely to bring it down before 20 March.

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ANNEX

Communist Military Strength in South Vietnam

The presence of a ninth North Vietnamese regiment has been confirmed in South Vietnam. In addition, two new North Vietnamese battalions and two more Viet Cong battalions have been accepted as confirmed by US military officials in Saigon. As a result, they have raised the confirmed strength for all Communist troops from 72,300 to 74,990 men. The figures do not include some 18,000 combat support troops or 103,000 Viet Cong guerrillas.

There are good indications that the infiltration of North Vietnamese regulars continues apace. This means that, over and above the forces mentioned in the last paragraph, additional North Vietnamese regiments may already be in South Vietnam, even though they do not yet appear as confirmed in official order of battle holdings.

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Moreover, friendly Laotian guerrillas counted some 400 trucks moving south through the infiltration corridor during an eight-day period in mid-February. Unlike the goods convoys which have operated over these routes for the past year and more, virtually all of these carried troops. They moved at night in convoys of 20-25 trucks each. The destination of the troops--the number could run as high as 9,000--has not yet been established, but many of them will doubtless show up shortly in South Vietnam.

This infusion of new blood from North Vietnam is being used, along with Viet Cong units, to fill out the division-level structures which the Communists have been developing lately.

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(Cont'd)

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ANNEX (Cont'd)

50X1

The Communists may be creating two more right now. At least one is made up entirely of North Vietnamese.

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In most cases, these structures are not divisions in the usual sense. They are rather a group of regiments and other units brought together under a single headquarters, usually for a specific tactical purpose; for example, the two or three North Vietnamese regiments which fought together in the Ia Drang valley last November.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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15 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
15 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

There was more political agitation in the I Corps area today--especially at Da Nang and Hué. At Da Nang, the port is closed, the school boycott continues, and the general strike is about 90-percent effective.

Another mass meeting late today in Da Nang attracted about 5,000 people--close to one third were Vietnamese troops. This means that the order forbidding troop participation is either no longer in effect or is being defied.

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[REDACTED] Some speeches were made by military officers.

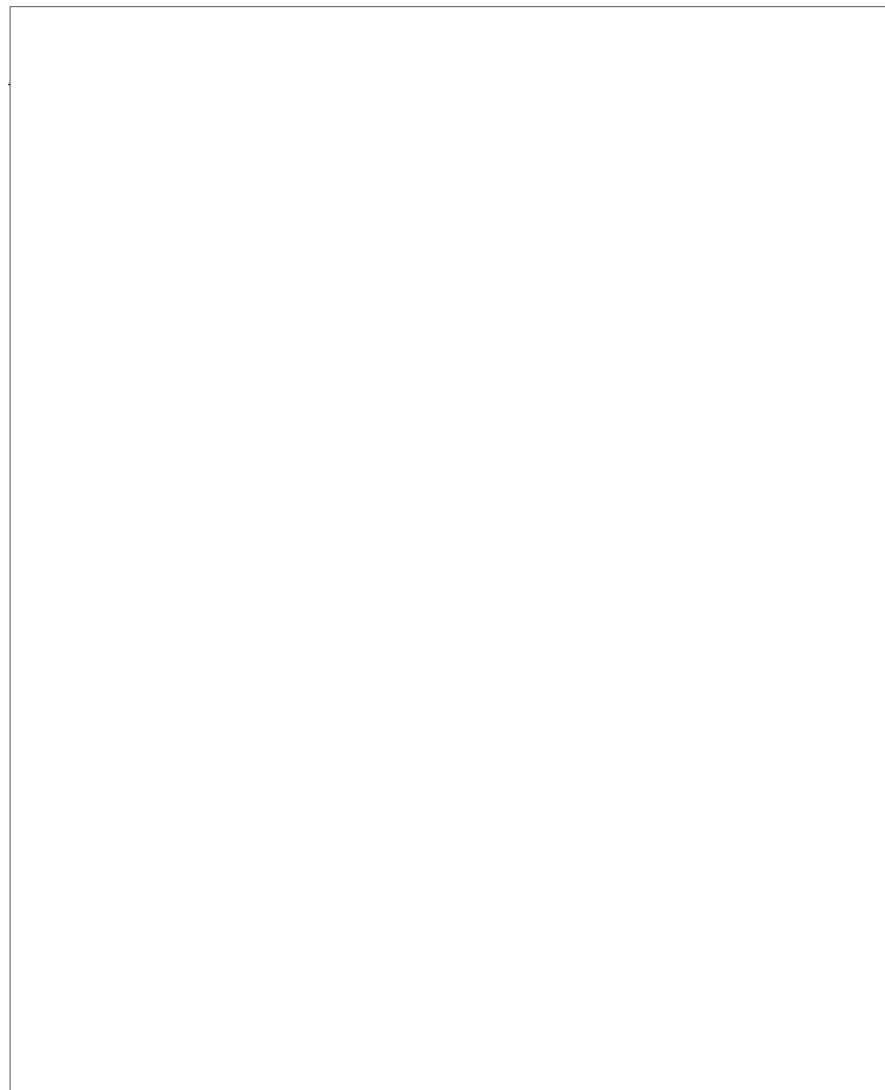
Farther north, in the touchy university city of Hué, a week-long student strike got under way today. More demonstrations--perhaps involving as many as 30,000 people--are expected there this evening, Washington time.

Ky realizes that the situation is worsening and that the problem is no longer just General Thi but the broader question of the Buddhists' attitude toward the military government. Ky now is talking about taking strong action, and this could well lead to a nasty confrontation with the Buddhists.

50X1

2. Ghana

50X1



3. Kenya

President Kenyatta showed considerable determination and political skill in cutting down the influence of extremists within his dominant political party during the recent party conference. Kenya's vice president, the pro-Communist Oginga Odinga, lost his party post, and all candidates backed by Odinga forces suffered crushing defeats. However, he still has considerable political influence and cannot be counted out yet.

50X1

4. Indonesia

General Suharto continues indecisive in the exercise of his new political authority as Sukarno tries to undercut and weaken him within the military.

Suharto's hand should have been strengthened, however, by today's impressive rally in Djakarta. The rally gave Suharto vigorous support and urged him to continue the job against Communists and pro-Communists and to reorganize the government radically. Ambassador Green believes the crowd, which numbered several hundred thousand, probably broke all Djakarta records.

5. India

50X1

6. Cuba

The number of Cubans escaping by small boat has almost doubled since the US refugee airlift began on 1 December. At least 82 people took this hazardous journey to the US last month. A further increase is expected when spring brings calmer waters to the Florida straits.

The US airlift is now bringing out about 4,000 Cubans per month, but draft-eligible males are excluded from this avenue of escape and others will have to wait for years on approved refugee lists before their plane comes.

50X1

7. Colombia

A crucial congressional election is to be held on Sunday. Opponents of Colombia's unique National Front system, which provides for a 16-year coalition of the two principal parties, may well win a majority in the new congress. This would require the next president, who is to be elected on 1 May, to rule by decree and would increase pressure for an end to the National Front system.

The political faction of rabble-rousing former dictator Rojas Pinilla is expected to make important gains in Sunday's elections.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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16 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
16 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

The Buddhists may be getting ready to press the government for substantial concessions, although one Buddhist source claims they do not wish Ky's overthrow.

Today there were peaceful rallies, each attended by some 10,000 Buddhists, in both Hué and Saigon. The Saigon demonstration was the first since Thi's ouster, and we have several reports that the Buddhists are planning further demonstrations there later this week.

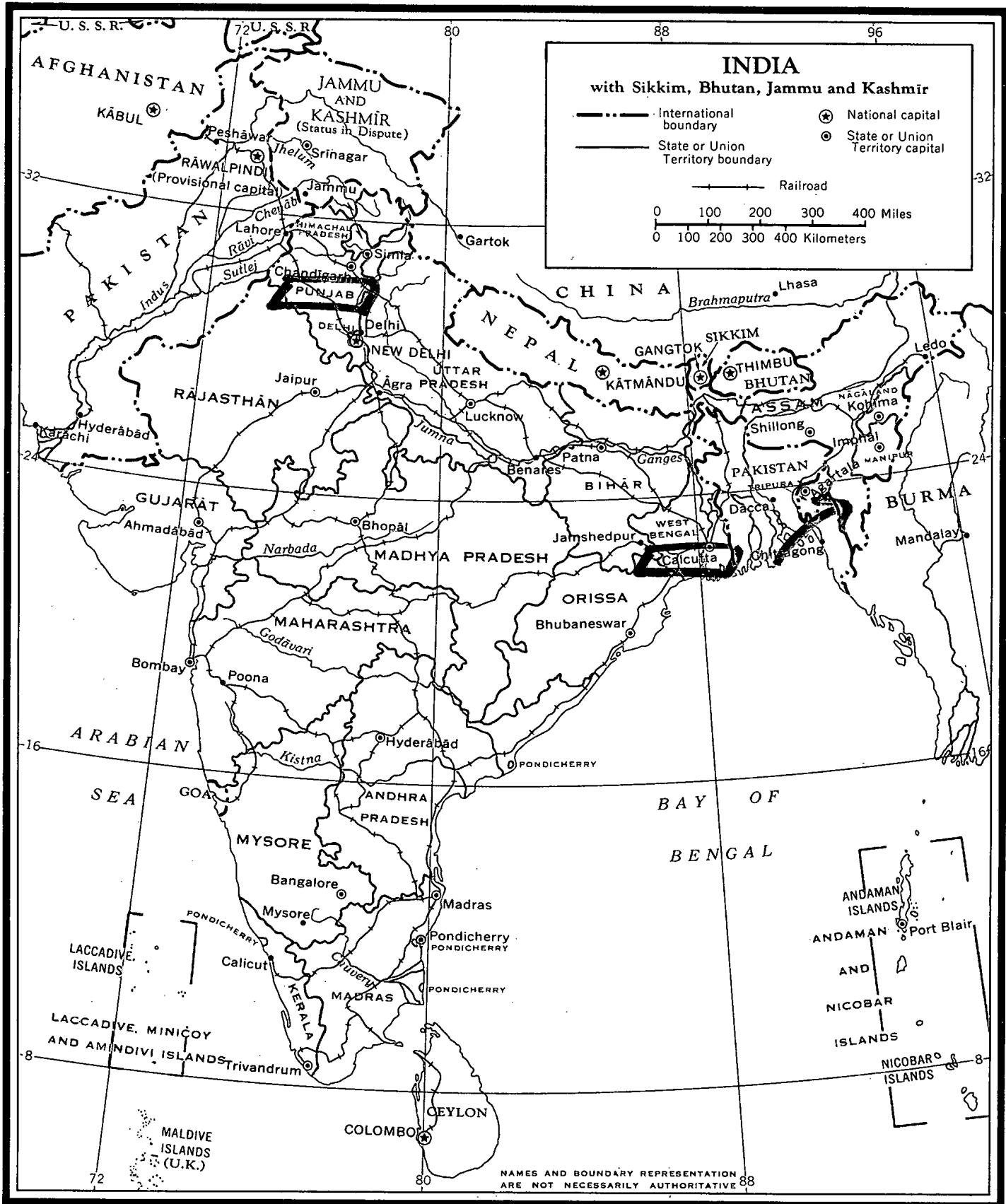
Meanwhile, Ky, in an apparently calculated risk, let Thi return to Da Nang today, presumably hoping he would calm down his supporters. So far this gambit has been successful, since Thi addressed a mass meeting this evening and urged officials and the public to accept the situation.

If, indeed, Thi continues to behave--he is scheduled to remain in the area for about two days and leave the country shortly after--this could undercut the Buddhists' charge of quarreling among the military.

2. Soviet Union

Moscow's two space dogs are back on the earth after their spacecraft was deorbited earlier than anticipated. A late TASS report explains that the dogs were suffering abnormal heart reaction. The Soviets should glean much from the flight about prolonged weightlessness and the effect of the Van Allen radiation belt on living creatures.

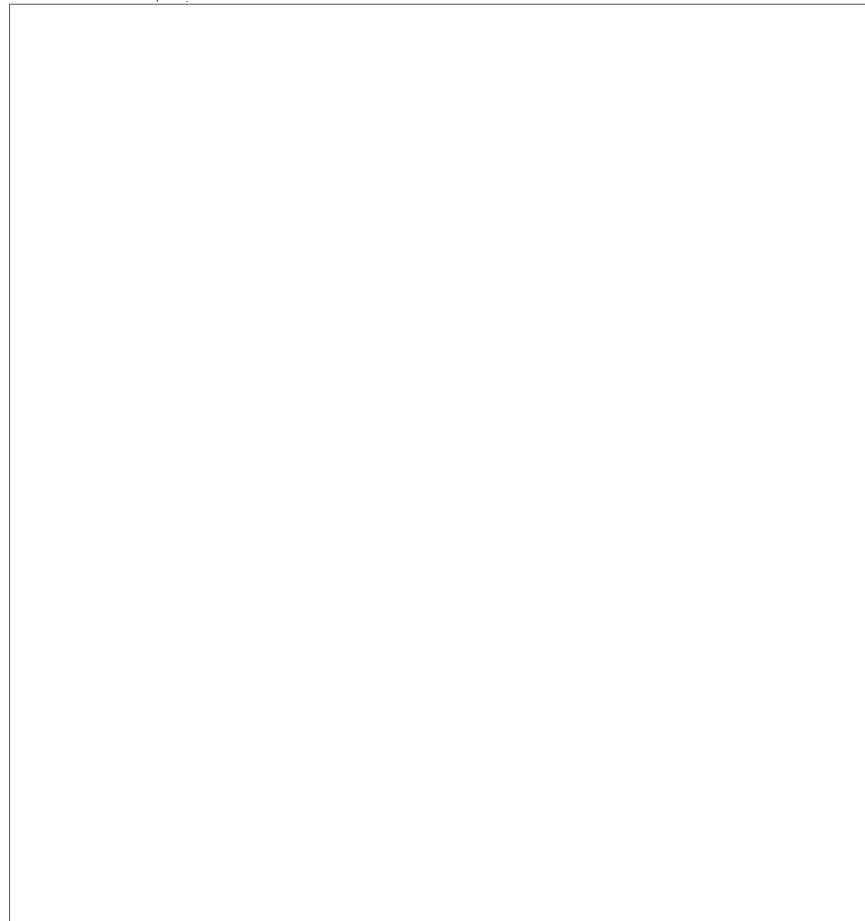
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3. Communist China

50X1



4. India

A series of domestic disorders over the past few weeks has kept the new Gandhi government grasping at emergency palliatives.

Riots in and around Calcutta seem to be dying down for the moment. These were fomented by Communists and leftists as a test of strength. Communal clashes between Hindus and Sikhs have broken out in the Punjab, and the army has had tough going against tribal revolutionaries in the northeast.

These troubles have deflected the government's attack on less dramatic, but far more important, economic problems. Since these problems promise to persist during the spring and summer, civil disorders are likely to continue. (Map)

50X1

WEST AFRICA



5. Indonesia

Sukarno is still trying to get back the authority he passed to General Suharto last weekend. Sukarno put out a delphic order today implying that his weekend action was being misinterpreted and that he, and only he, holds all power.

The generals as usual are giving lip service to Sukarno but are going pretty much their own way. Ambassador Green feels that the tide is running strongly against Sukarno. These are, however, Indonesian tides and run slowly, so that changes when they come will be relatively gradual.

6. Guinea

Despite all the brave talk about restoring Nkrumah, Guinea's Sekou Touré seems primarily concerned right now about his own position at home.

50X1

(Map)

7. Ghana

Ambassador Williams reports that food shortages in Ghana will reach emergency proportions by the end of the month and that the new Ghanaian authorities are looking to the US for immediate delivery of essential staples.

8. Yugoslavia

President Tito's dream of spearheading another conference of the nonaligned next week has collapsed. Sukarno's domestic difficulties, Nkrumah's overthrow, and a general coolness to the idea in India and elsewhere seem to make a meeting just now impossible.

50X1

9. France

An official of the French space agency says there is a better than even chance that De Gaulle will sign a satellite cooperation agreement during his June visit to Moscow. Both sides would regard such an agreement as primarily political in nature. There are a number of obstacles to carrying it out. One of these is the steadfast Soviet refusal to provide needed information to the French on the Soviet booster system that will launch the French satellite.

10. West Germany

Acting Foreign Minister Carstens suggests that the current confrontation with De Gaulle may offer an opportunity to push ahead with plans for a NATO nuclear force. Some of the smaller nations in the alliance, fearing that the dissociation of France from NATO will enhance the West Germans, may well question this thesis. The British still hope that Bonn's nuclear needs can be best met by the McNamara special committee proposal.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

[Redacted box]

50X1

17 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
17 MARCH 1966

1. Indonesia

Military and other officials in Djakarta are pressuring General Suharto to remove Sukarno once and for all. These people were shocked by Sukarno's announcement yesterday that he alone was responsible for the composition of the cabinet. They had assumed that Sukarno would give in to their demands for cabinet changes.

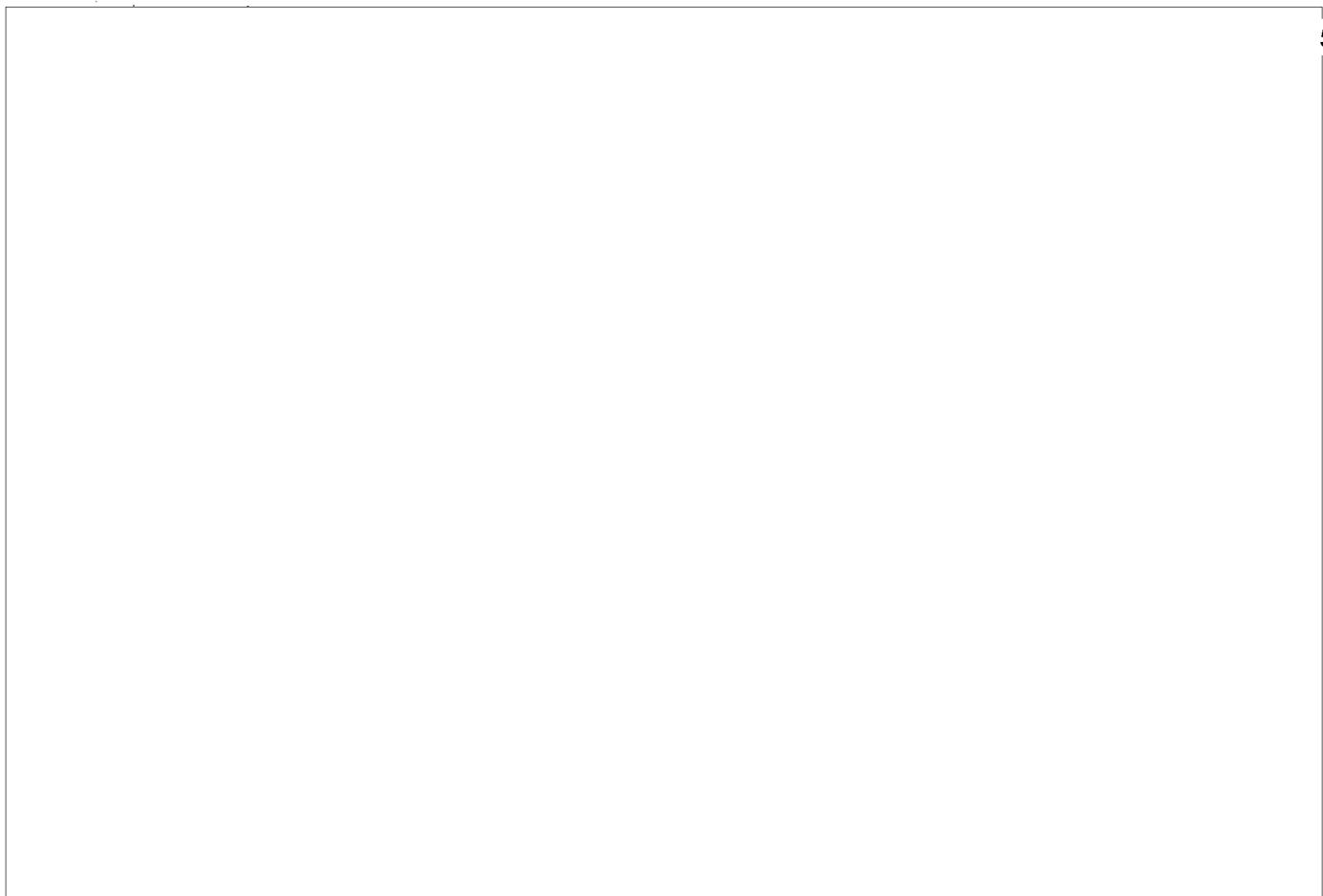
Popular demonstrations are continuing and seem to be well coordinated. Students are now said to be urging government employees to go on strike until the cabinet is purged. Ambassador Green reports that some pro-Communist cabinet members may already have been picked up.

2. Cambodia

50X1

3. North Vietnam

50X1



4. South Vietnam

Saigon was quiet today, although there were indications of behind-the-scenes political activity, including a meeting between Chief of State Thieu and Buddhist leaders:

[Redacted Box] 50X1

Meanwhile, Thi is continuing his tour of the I Corps area and appears increasingly to be playing for public sympathy. No disorders have attended any of his public appearances, however, and this afternoon he urged a crowd of perhaps 20,000 in Hué to place the national interest above individual ones.

Thi is remaining overnight in Hué but his further plans are unclear.

5. Soviet Union

[Redacted Box] 50X1

[Redacted Box] 50X1

6. Uganda

Three weeks have passed since Prime Minister Obote masterminded a coup on his own behalf; Uganda's political structure has been deteriorating uninterruptedly ever since.

Obote has now managed to alienate just about every political and tribal element in the country. The army and police still follow his orders, but their loyalty is probably only on a day-to-day basis. The embassy believes that Obote will soon be removed unless he does something to broaden his political base.

7. Ghana

Nkrumah has started to pull together a group to subvert the new Ghanaian regime. [redacted]

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50X1

8. Soviet Union

Soviet intellectuals and "liberal" Communists in a number of countries are fearful that Moscow intends to come out with a somewhat more favorable line on Stalin at the Soviet party congress which opens later in the month. The treatment of Stalin has been a hot issue for more than ten years; another embarrassing reappraisal could produce real fireworks throughout the bloc.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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18 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
18 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

The military directorate decided at a meeting this morning that it must stand firm in the face of Buddhist pressure. There was agreement that concessions right now would lead the Buddhists to up their price and "there would be no end to it."

Premier Ky, for one, says he has put up with enough from the likes of Tri Quang.

50X1

50X1

The big question now is how the Buddhists will react.

50X1

Several Vietnamese question the extent of popular support the Buddhists command in the capital.

The northern provinces were relatively quiet today. There was an anti-Ky rally in Da Nang attended by General Thi, who seems reluctant to leave his old stamping grounds and return to Saigon.

Right now both sides to the dispute seem disposed to keep within peaceful channels.

2. South Vietnam

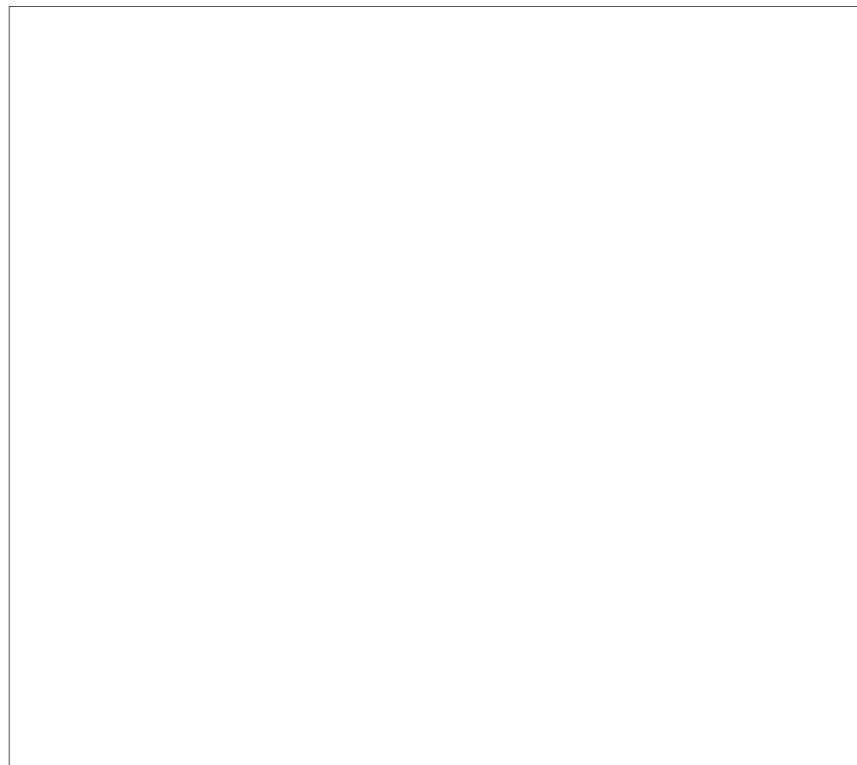
The Chinese community in Saigon is growing uneasy. Reports from the capital say that Chinese businessmen, who control much of the nation's import-export business, are anxious and resentful in the face of a growing number of police visits to Chinese merchants and the execution of one of their number. On top of this, another Chinese was gunned down today on the streets of Cholon, probably by Viet Cong gunmen with the aim of adding to the restiveness.

50X1

3. North Vietnam

Hanoi continues to improve its air defense mechanism.

50X1



4. Indonesia

The army this morning seems finally to have moved very close to full assumption of power

Fifteen leftist cabinet ministers--including Subandrio--have been detained, and Suharto has already appointed replacements. Three of these appointees are army officers, the rest moderate civilians. This reshuffled cabinet, however, is apparently to be only an interim government.

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5. France

[redacted]

50X1
50X1

[redacted] De Gaulle is quoted as saying that there would be a regular communiqué, but nothing more.

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6. NATO

The UK draft declaration in support of an integrated NATO was unanimously approved today, but different views on the future of the alliance and France's relationship lurk behind it.

In Britain there is considerable sympathy for De Gaulle's assertion that the US dominates the alliance. Italian officials fear possible complete French disassociation would place Italy at a "geographic and strategic" disadvantage. In West Germany, the opposition Social Democrats feel continued French participation is necessary to reassure other European countries regarding a growth of German influence.

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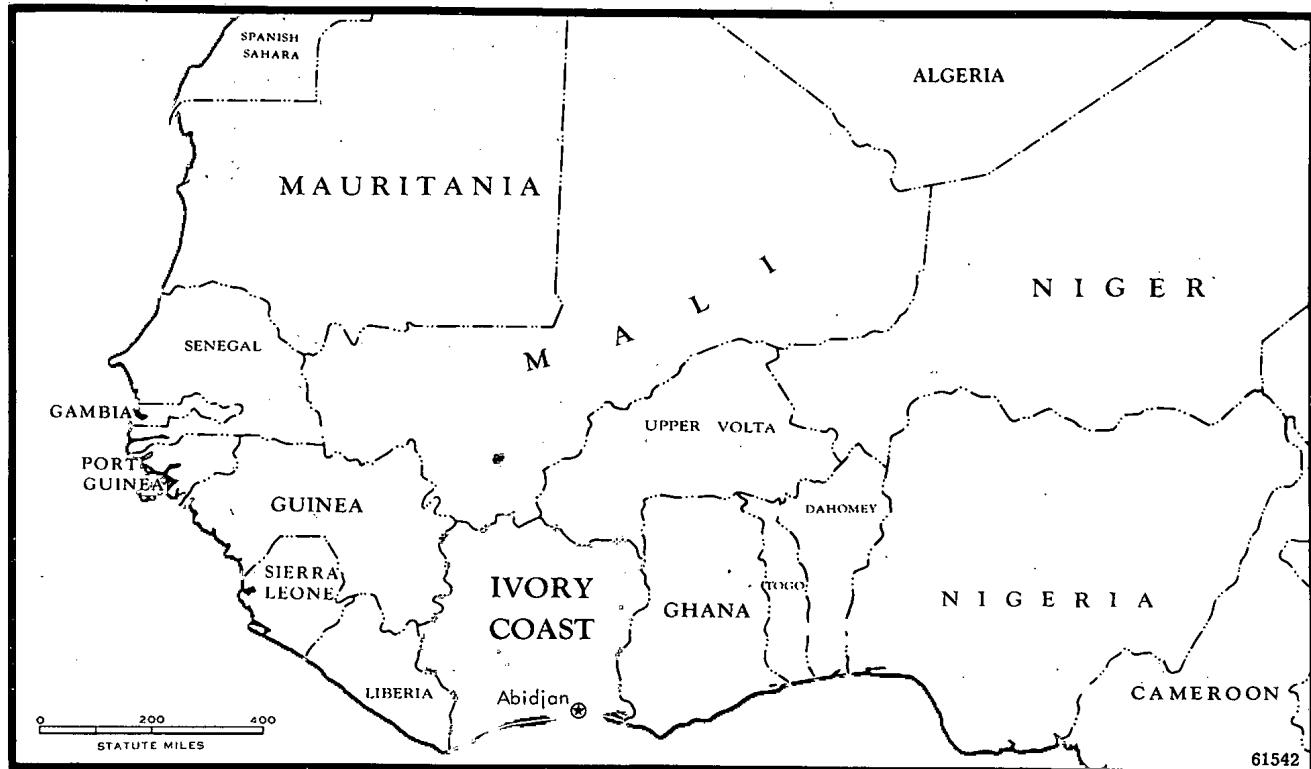
7.. UK

With elections only 13 days away, the latest opinion polls show Labor's abnormally large lead over the Tories--13 percent--unshaken. If people vote according to their opinions, Wilson could end up with a 200-seat majority.

[redacted]

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WEST AFRICA

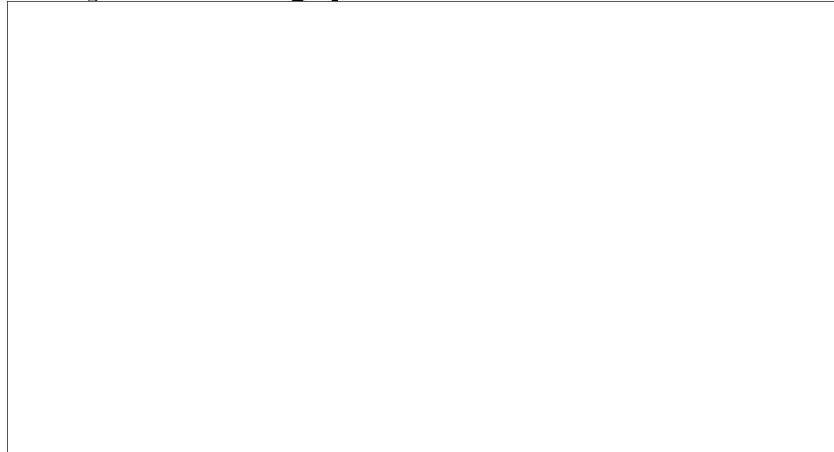


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8. Ivory Coast

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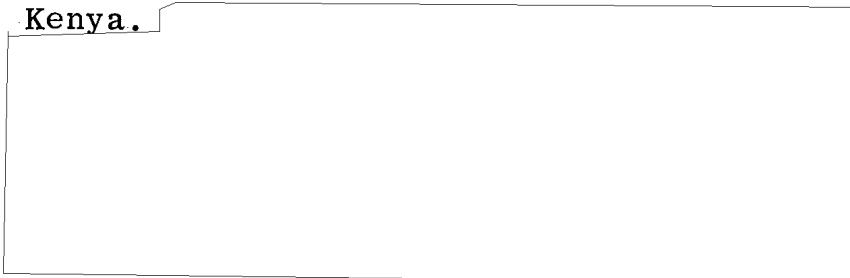
The bombast spewing out of Conakry about returning Nkrumah to Ghana is beginning to get to pro-Western President Houphouet-Boigny.



9. Kenya

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The government is continuing to make life miserable for Communists in Kenya.

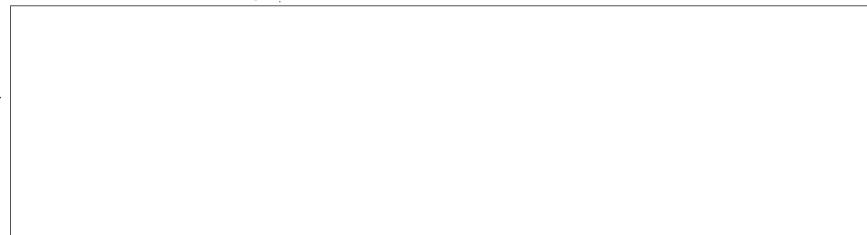


10. Dominican Republic

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Bosch, despite protestations that the climate is not yet right, has instructed his party to go ahead with plans for the election. His supporters have been ordering supplies for the campaign, and Bosch has outlined a strategy calling for him to make extensive use of radio and television. Despite his letting preparations proceed, he probably will finally decide to run only if convinced he can win--and remain in office.

11. Burma



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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19 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
19 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

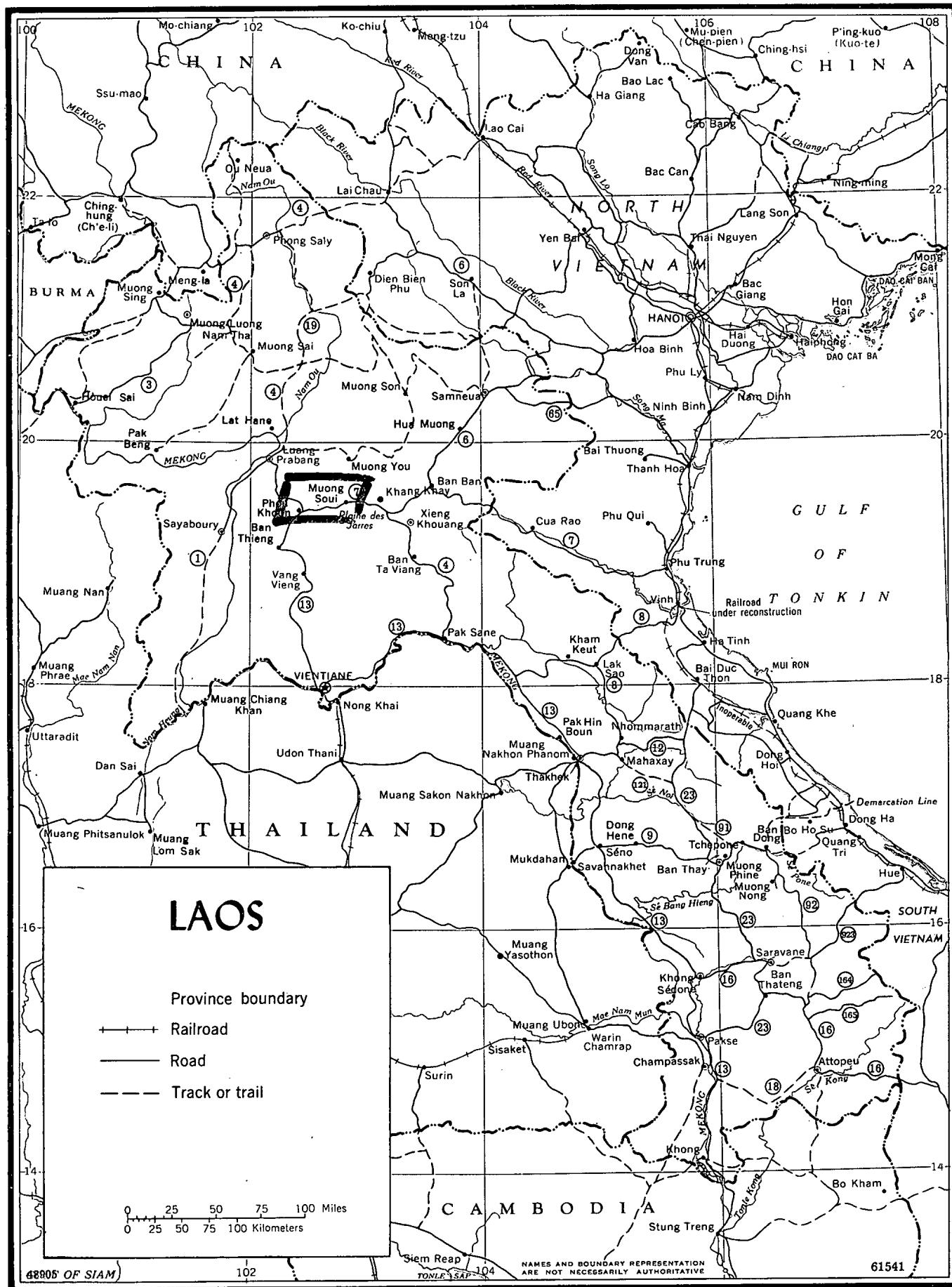
Premier Ky is spending the weekend out of Saigon, probably to emphasize his refusal to negotiate further with the Buddhists under duress.

Buddhist leaders, however, seem still unconvinced that Ky means to stick by his guns. Tonight, Saigon time, there was a large, apparently peaceful, rally in Saigon during which Buddhist leaders reiterated their demands.

For his part, General Chieu, Directorate Secretary General, is concerned over the rising frictions with the Buddhists. He fears that "some" members of the Directorate have been talking with unnecessary toughness and that they should rather be doing all they can to head off a clear-cut confrontation.

Noting the possibility of a Communist provocation in Saigon now, Chieu pointed out that it would "take only one shot for madness to follow."

In the northern provinces, General Thi continues to receive public homage at various gatherings. The school boycott continues in the two principal cities and there were two orderly demonstrations today in Da Nang, but otherwise conditions are normal.



2. Indonesia

The army seems to be tidying up its administrative apparatus for running the country after its virtual assumption of power yesterday.

50X1

Suharto today will demand that Sukarno--now at his Bogor palace--either publicly approve the army's actions or immediately leave the country.

Suharto's actual words may not be so savage. Ambassador Green notes that an aura of unreality surrounds Sukarno and his entourage. One American source observed Sukarno and Suharto in apparent convivial camaraderie immediately after one "confrontation," while another saw the President spend all of Thursday morning in chit-chat and palace antics.

The ambassador feels this behavior may reflect Sukarno's isolation from the people, his exaggerated self-confidence, his Javanese way of reacting to pressure--but most of all his showman's determination to go on with the act even when the audience is sitting on its hands.

3. Laos

The Communists in northern Laos, having overrun two important bases within a month, appear now to be moving on Muong Soui, the last major government stronghold in the area. We believe that if the Communists are prepared to accept fairly heavy losses, they can take Muong Soui and move on to the important junction of routes 7 and 13.

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4. Soviet Union

50X1



5. Belgium

The Catholic-Liberal government expected next week may take a somewhat different stance on foreign affairs.

Economy-minded, it will probably be more responsive to public restiveness over the cost of fulfilling Belgium's NATO obligations, and less willing to assume its share of the Congo aid burden. The new foreign minister--presumably Pierre Harmel--is unlikely to speak out in support of US Vietnam policy as did Spaak, or to work as hard to keep the lid on pressures to recognize Communist China.

50X1

6. Nationalist China

Frustration arising from recent military setbacks, and the specter of further Communist military operations, has Taipei restless.

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Defense Minister Chiang Ching-kuo has recently told US officials that he is on to a Communist plan to invade Taiwan. He may genuinely fear this, although we doubt he has any hard information. He may also be winding up to ask us for air defense equipment and newer jet interceptors.

7. Ethiopia

Haile Selassie is about to announce some liberalizing changes in the government structure. Specifically, [redacted] he is ready to give the prime minister some real authority, and allow him to select his own cabinet.

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50X1

8. Rhodesia

[redacted] enough oil now is getting into Rhodesia to meet daily consumption and maintain current reserve supplies indefinitely.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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21 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
21 MARCH 1965

1. South Vietnam

The Buddhist hierarchy has told its people to stay calm in the wake of Ky's blast which characterized Buddhist aspirations as "irrational, treasonable, and harmful."

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Tri Quang himself has left Saigon for Hué in order to help organize an opposition movement.

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The calm in I Corps was broken today by an antigovernment parade in Da Nang; there are also rumblings that more protest activity there is coming.

2. North Vietnam

Hanoi's propaganda has been giving the "US war crimes" theme unusually heavy play recently. Now Hanoi says that the Liberation Front has set up a special committee "to investigate evidence" and provide the public with "documentary" proof of all types of criminal American activity.

This kind of talk suggests that the Vietnamese Communists have a major effort in mind. It might well resemble the "germ warfare" campaign of the Korean war with its elaborately documented charges and world-wide publicity.

50X1

3. Indonesia

Ambassador Green notes that disillusionment with Sukarno has become more widespread in Indonesia than seemed conceivable some months ago. He believes that the process of dismantling the structure and policies Sukarno imposed on the country may well move fairly rapidly.

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Ambassador Green says that contrary to previous indications the US may soon receive a formal request for emergency economic assistance.

4. Cambodia

In Cambodia the Soviets are making a clear bid to regain the influential position they lost last year when they abruptly cancelled Sihanouk's planned visit. Last Friday a protocol was initialed under which Moscow will give Cambodia over \$2 million worth of military equipment. The Soviets thus appear in this sphere also to be vying with the Chinese, who have recently made new military deliveries to Cambodia.

50X1

5. Soviet Union

Satellite photography of 9-14 March shows a launch vehicle in ready position on a pad at Tyuratam. It is a big one and is probably the Proton satellite booster, the largest the Soviets have yet sent up. The Proton has a role in the Soviets' manned space program, but so far has only been launched twice and will require further launchings before use in a manned flight.

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6. Soviet Union

50X1

7. Soviet Union

For the first time since the Soviet photoreconnaissance program began, two vehicles are in orbit at the same time. One.

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The other, [redacted] was orbited last Thursday from the Plesetsk site, nearly 1,500 miles northwest of Tyuratam.

The use of the two launch sites demonstrates the growing flexibility of the Soviet program. So far this year, the Soviets have launched six reconnaissance satellites. This also represents an increased pace in the program over past years.

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8. Colombia

Returns from yesterday's congressional election are coming in slowly, but they do confirm predictions of a close race. The governing National Front coalition is likely to fall well short of the two-thirds required for effective control of the congress. The president to be elected on 1 May will thus probably have to rule by decree as President Valencia has had to for most of the past year.

As expected, the rabble-rousing ex-dictator Rojas Pinilla made big gains for his following of radical rightists. His group now seems assured of becoming the strongest force in the opposition. This would increase pressures for military intervention to head off governmental paralysis.

9. Rhodesia

Four months have passed since the illegal declaration of independence, and in many ways Rhodesia seems almost untouched by the economic sanctions. Moreover, the US consul in Salisbury has detected an increasing determination among the whites to fight should Britain opt for military intervention.

In Zambia, President Kaunda now fears it will be another year before sanctions bring down Smith. He feels this would be intolerable for his country. He is already having considerable trouble keeping the lid on in the copperbelt where racial tensions are becoming increasingly explosive.

10. Egypt

Nasir told Ambassador Battle yesterday that his concern over Egyptian Army morale precludes an unconditional withdrawal from Yemen. He is still anxious to settle the impasse, but doubts that any new talks would be fruitful.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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22 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
22 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

Buddhist-led agitation in the north may soon put Ky where he will have to make fundamental--and dangerous--decisions.

Today students seized the radio station in Hué and apparently have ready access to the Da Nang station. Antigovernment broadcasts from Hué were ominous in both tone and content, mentioning Ky by name and charging that the government was turning a deaf ear to the peoples' "legitimate aspirations." The broadcasts gave every indication that the agitation will continue.

The province chief and the new I Corps commander, General Chuan, appear to feel that the current agitation can safely be allowed to burn itself out, and have so far taken no steps to dislodge the students from the radio station.

If the agitation continues, Ky may feel he can no longer acquiesce in this soft policy. If, however, he orders Chuan to take repressive action, he runs the risk of increasing Buddhist determination and precipitating an all-out confrontation.

He also runs the risk that his orders may be ignored. Chuan, among other commanders, is known to have some sympathy for the Buddhist position. Some officers might also be growing queasy about their own future should the Ky government fall. Thus, they may not wish to act decisively at this time.

In Saigon, Ky has in effect apologized for his weekend blast against the Buddhists. Ky's original statement, however, may yet form a rallying point for the Buddhists, who up until now have not been completely united against the government.

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2. North Vietnam

Friendly guerrillas keeping a watch on the Communist infiltration corridor in Laos have photographed a powerful, new cargo truck well suited to service in this terrain. The truck is identified as a Polish-made Star 66. It has a six-wheel drive and can carry 5,500-8,800 pounds of cargo. Last year the Poles contracted to deliver 150 of these trucks in the first quarter of 1966.

3. Communist China

The North China plain was struck by another severe earthquake today. The epicenter was about 200 miles south of Peking (see map). There were quakes in this area on 8 and 20 March, and all three registered as grade six or seven on the Richter scale of nine.

The effect of three earthquakes in such a heavily populated area--800 to 1,000 people per square mile--has almost certainly been devastating.

4. Pakistan

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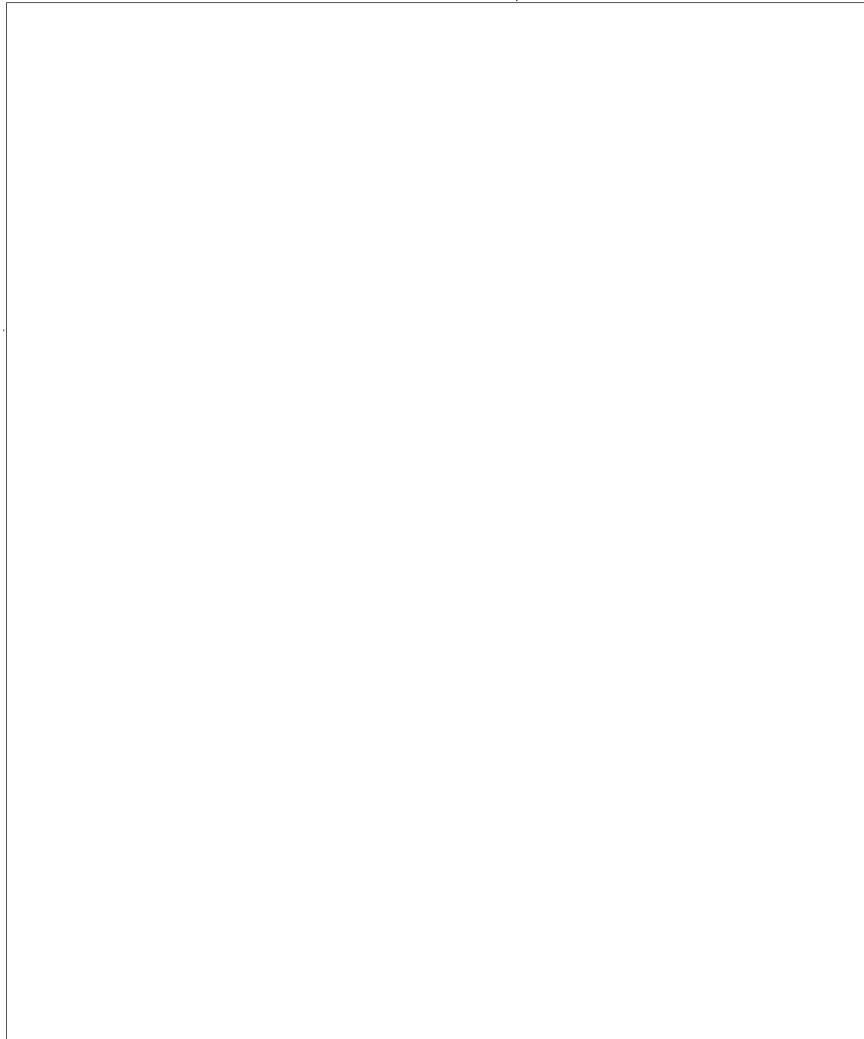
5. India

New Delhi may be thinking of proposing that the US call a halt to further military aid, "lethal" or not lethal, to both India and Pakistan.

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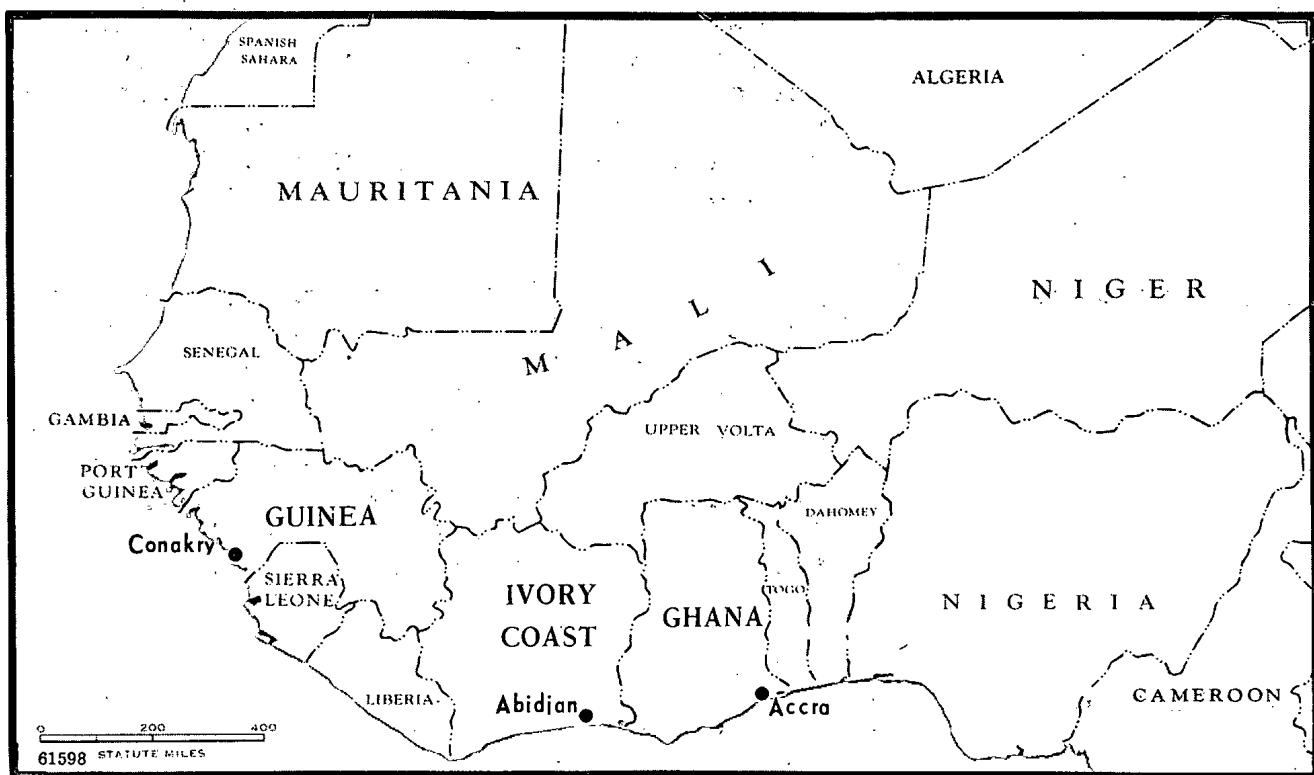
6. Indonesia



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WEST AFRICA



7. Cyprus

Relations between Cypriot President Makarios and the Greek Government are deteriorating as a result of Athens' inept attempts to name Makarios' old enemy, General Grivas, supreme commander of all Greek and Greek Cypriot forces on the island. Makarios is, of course, resisting which has produced new strains in the Stephanopoulos government as opportunistic politicians rush to take advantage of its discomfiture.

Ambassador Belcher in Nicosia warns of dangers inherent in Grivas' getting control of all Greek forces since he is one of the most belligerent elements involved in the Cyprus mess. Grivas, for example, considers Makarios soft on the Turkish Cypriots.

8. West Africa

Despite ranting and raving from Conakry, there is nothing in official reports to support press accounts of imminent war between Guinea and its neighbors. As far as we can tell, Guinea is not mobilizing its forces and is not moving them to the frontier with the Ivory Coast. In any case Guinea's armed forces are small and incapable of a land invasion across the Ivory Coast to Ghana. (Map)

9. Finland

The Social Democrats, who scored a smashing victory in the weekend elections, are traditionally Western oriented and anti-Soviet. In fact many voters turned to them as a rallying point for hostility against the Soviet Union. Stories hinting at Communist participation in a new government seem wide of the mark.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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23 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
23 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

Premier Ky and his Buddhist antagonists are both standing firm. Saigon remained quiet today, but antigovernment agitation was intensified in the northern provinces, particularly in the cities of Da Nang and Hué.

For the first time, today's demonstrations contained open attacks on the US for backing Ky. The US was accused of delaying the development of parliamentary democracy in order to maintain control in Saigon. At the same time, some of the demonstrators expressed gratitude for US military help against the Viet Cong.

Government leaders are continuing intensive behind-the-scenes talks with key Buddhists. They may be seeking some kind of compromise, but the talks could well be more in the nature of probing operations with each side looking for signs of disunity in the other.

2. North Vietnam

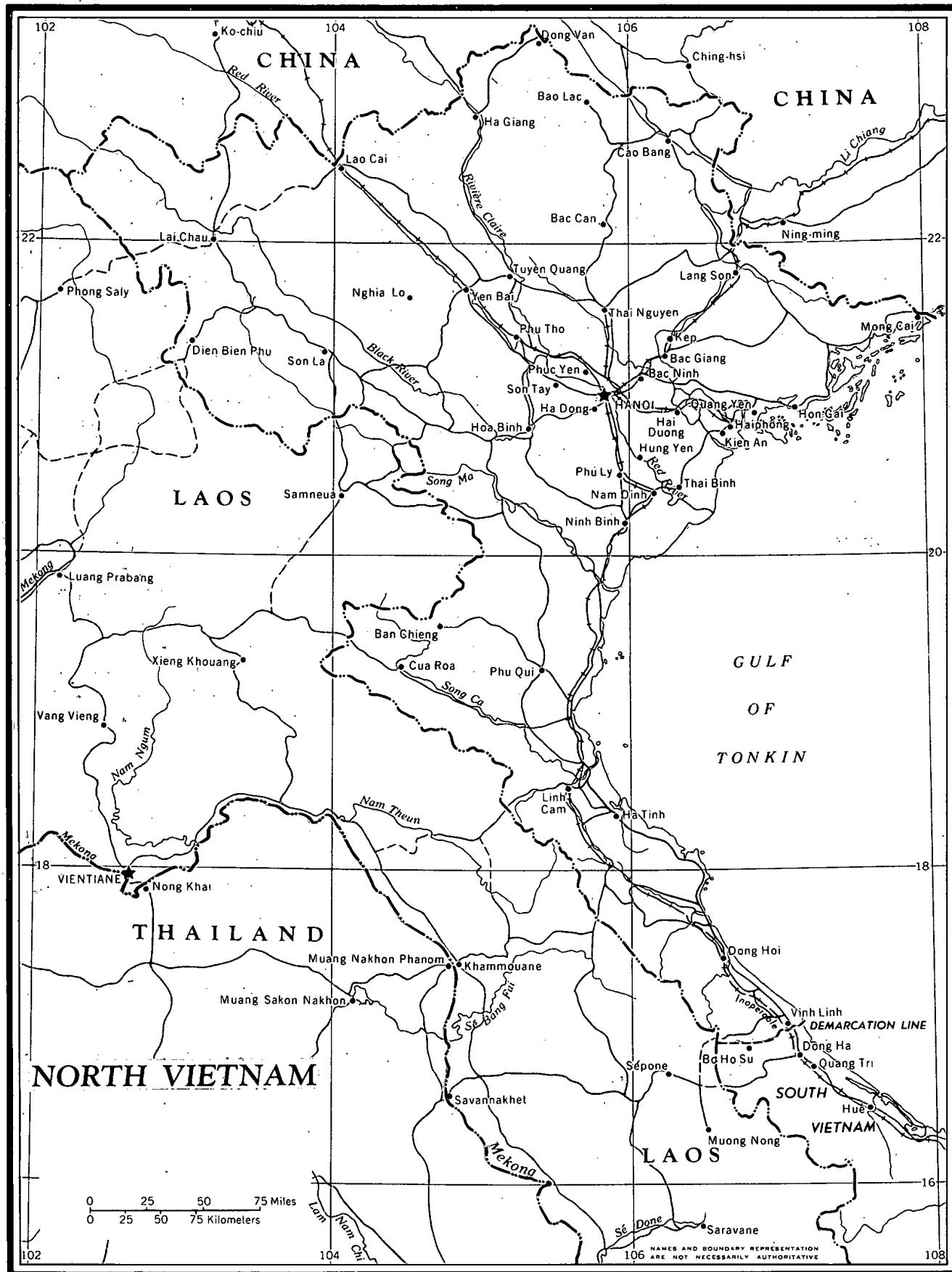
Hanoi has just arranged a sharp increase in petroleum imports, mainly gasoline and diesel fuel. A record 40,000 tons per month are to arrive in March and April. This compares to an average of 12,000 tons per month for most of last year and a monthly average of 20,000 tons since November. The gasoline and diesel fuel have been coming by sea from the Soviet Union.

This dramatic increase parallels Hanoi's recently stepped-up purchase of trucks and the build-up in truck traffic in North Vietnam and Laos.

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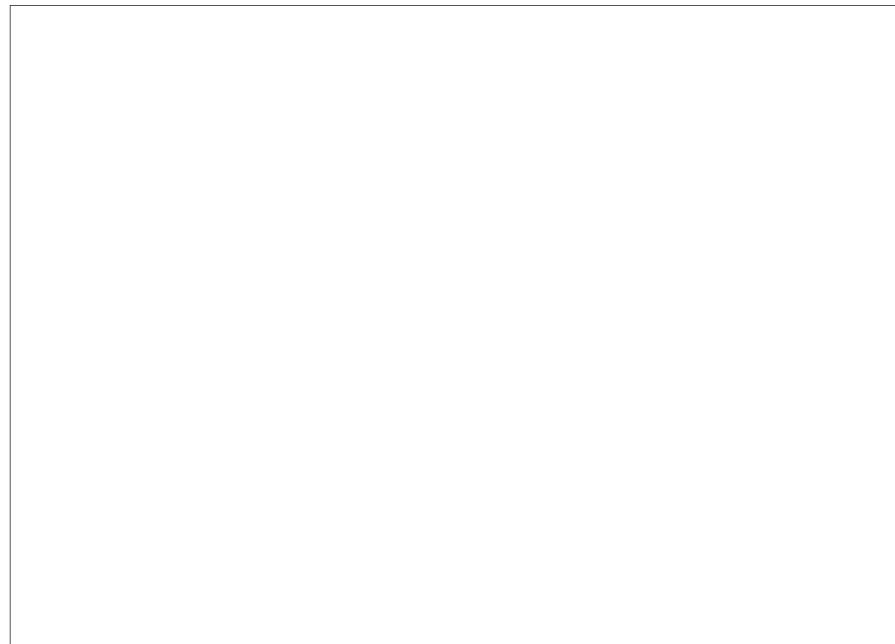
All of this seems to amount to another strong indication of Hanoi's resolve to redouble its war effort.

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3. North Vietnam

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4. Communist China

China's refusal to attend the Soviet party congress next week brings Peking to the very verge of a de facto break in party relations with Moscow.

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Mao and the other aging Chinese leaders are determined to maintain their dogmatic and isolationist course.

Moscow undoubtedly is well satisfied with Peking's reaction. It can only strengthen the Soviet hand by showing the Communist world that the Chinese are unwilling to participate in a united movement.

The Chinese refusal puts Hanoi on the spot. The North Vietnamese have publicly accepted the Soviet invitation, and the Chinese boycott now puts them in a position of having to choose between Moscow and Peking. For years they have been trying studiously to avoid this kind of decision.

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5. Pakistan

There is now visual evidence to confirm that Communist China is supplying military equipment to Pakistan. Five Communist-built tanks were seen today at the National Day parade at Rawalpindi. An earlier photograph had spotted 41 tanks near Karachi. Only Communist China is likely to have supplied these vehicles.

Four MIG-19 aircraft also participated in the celebrations

There have been numerous indications that the pro-Western Pakistani military officers have been reluctant to accept military aid from Peking. However, they are said to believe that since Pakistan is unable to develop other sources, taking aid from China is justifiable.

6. East Germany

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7. Dominican Republic

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8. Bolivia

The Bolivian Government is upset
about the release of tungsten from US
strategic stockpiles.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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24 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
24 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

There was further antigovernment agitation today in the Hué - Da Nang area, but it was less frenetic than yesterday's. In Hué, "struggle groups," apparently still enjoying free access to the local radio, broadcast bitter attacks on the Saigon government and threatened to topple it unless they get their way.

Premier Ky has sent another emissary to Hué to "persuade" the reluctant General Thi to leave his old corps area. The emissary will offer Thi "anything he wants"--including command of another corps area--if only he will leave. Thi seems disposed to sit tight in hopes that events will turn in his favor.

Saigon remains calm, despite stories of attempts to stir up a general strike. There are also reports that the Buddhists are working hard on the students, other religious groups, and even the montagnards. The Buddhists want more open support for their present course of action. So far, a number of students and the Catholics have declined to become involved.

2. North Vietnam

Le Duan, powerful first secretary of the North Vietnamese Communist Party, is in Peking for a short visit. There are rumors in both Peking and Moscow that he will head Hanoi's delegation to the Soviet party congress. There is as yet no confirmation.

From Hanoi's point of view he would be an apt choice. By sending a delegation at all, Hanoi would be living up to the commitment given Shelepin in January. By choosing Le Duan, a stiff, pro-Peking man, Hanoi would be trying to reassure the Chinese that their interests would not be overlooked.

So far, only the slavish Albanian and New Zealand parties have followed Peking in refusing to attend.

3. NATO

Paris is miffed over the absence of "relevant replies" to its notes on the alliance's future and appears to be trying to press the 14 into taking the initiative in bilateral talks.

The French representative to NATO, who spent an hour with De Gaulle on Tuesday, has told a US official that a further communication setting deadlines for specific action is already drafted. He was evasive on the dates for eviction of integrated commands and US installations, but said action to remove French personnel and end the commitment of French forces would occur between July and September.

We doubt press suggestions that Salazar may be considering withdrawing Portugal from NATO or making the US leave its Azores bases. The bases are his trump card, and he is unlikely to play it until he needs our help worse than now.

We have received no official comment on the President's speech of yesterday. The West German press welcomed the reaffirmation of the American commitment to European defense and viewed the avoidance of harsh words as a willingness to be patient with De Gaulle.

The French press was divided into predictable pro- and anti-Gaullist stands, although all seemed to believe a compromise was now out of the question. TASS carried only selected quotes without comment.

4. Indonesia

Military and civilian leaders are still trying to organize a new government--and Sukarno is still grasping for ways to influence its coloration and to keep up the appearance of being Indonesia's supreme authority. An army spokesman said today "we are not isolating the president. We just want him to think about things in quiet and solitude." To create the proper atmosphere for meditation, the army has limited him to one telephone and is deciding who can see him.

5. Communist China

50X1

6. West Africa

Liberian President Tubman is trying to calm down the uproar stemming from the Ghana coup. He says that the feuding presidents of Guinea and Ivory Coast have agreed to meet next month with him and, hopefully, ace African mediator Haile Selassie.

In the present West African atmosphere a wild word or two from either Touré or Houphouet could scuttle this plan, but the mere fact they have told Tubman--who does have their confidence--that they will be there may lay to rest the current "war" scare.

Nkrumah, incidentally, is still in Conakry

50X1

7. France

The French may have to postpone their Pacific nuclear tests, scheduled to begin in July. There have been rumors of this around Paris lately, and yesterday the foreign office confirmed that "some difficulties" had arisen, and Pompidou himself was chairing a meeting on the subject.

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8. Dominican Republic

Former rebel leader Caamano, in London, is still making noises about returning to the Dominican Republic soon, which bode no good for the fragile political peace. He might try to reassociate himself with the aura of the "constitutionalist" cause by showing up for the expected celebrations on 24 April--the first anniversary of the revolt. By then, Bosch will probably have made an announcement about his candidacy. Should he say he will not run, Caamano might then put his hat in the ring.

9. Colombia

With about 90 percent of the returns from Sunday's congressional election now in, the governing National Front appears to have just missed the two-thirds majority required for effective control of congress. Much tension and political maneuvering are likely between now and the 1 May presidential election, although the National Front's showing seems strong enough to deter the military from intervening.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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25 MARCH 1966

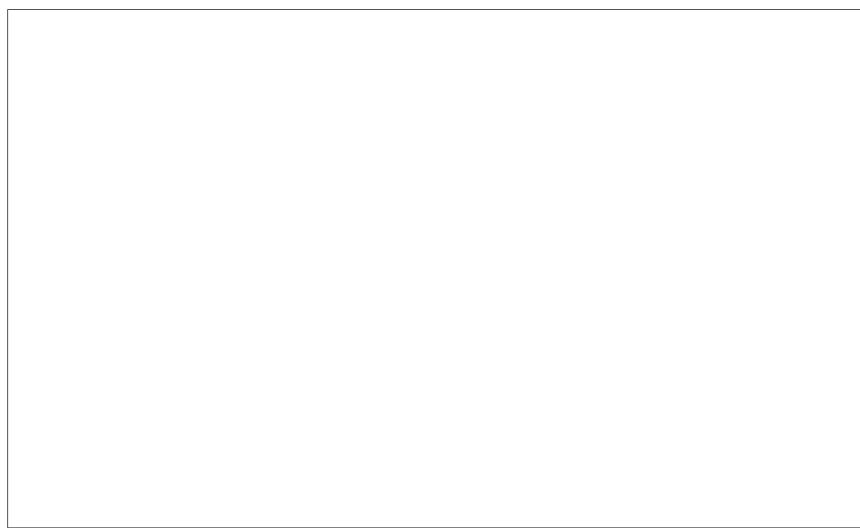
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DAILY BRIEF
25 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

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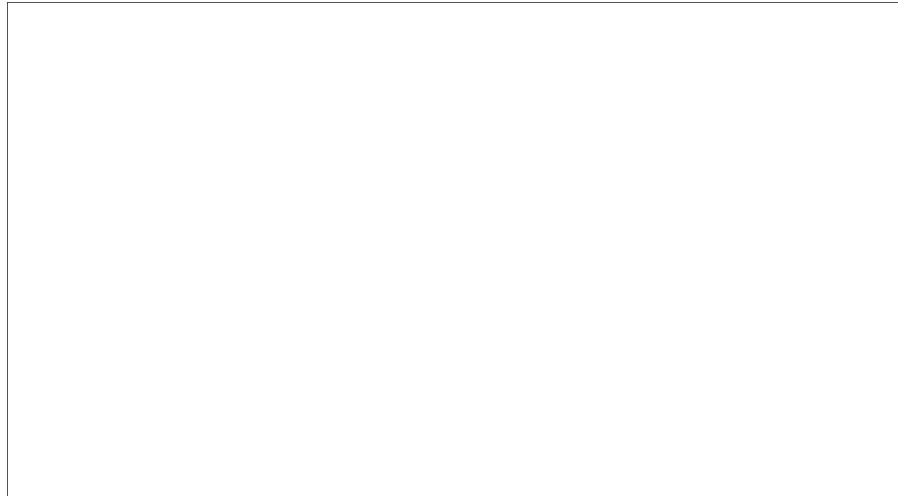


Both Hué and Da Nang regained a semblance of normality today. The strike at Da Nang has ended and there were no mass meetings reported in either city. Hué radio, however, continued to pour out inflammatory propaganda. There are also reports that a five-day strike may be launched again in Da Nang beginning tomorrow.

General Thi is still in Hué. He is staying quiet, but shows no intention of returning to Saigon.

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2. Pakistan



50X1

3. Indonesia

General Suharto's effort to maintain some show of deference to Sukarno seems the main reason for delay in the announcement of a cabinet to replace the present interim regime. The lingering aura around Sukarno, as the "George Washington of Indonesia," is still a factor, and the generals are hoping for Sukarno's formal approval of the new cabinet list.

Sukarno's temporary emergence from wraps the other night at a dazzling Pakistani reception in Djakarta dramatized the extent of his decline. He appeared in his brilliant bemedaled uniform, carrying his magic baton, and tried hard to appear his old self. But his speech [redacted] was ignored 50X1 by many guests.

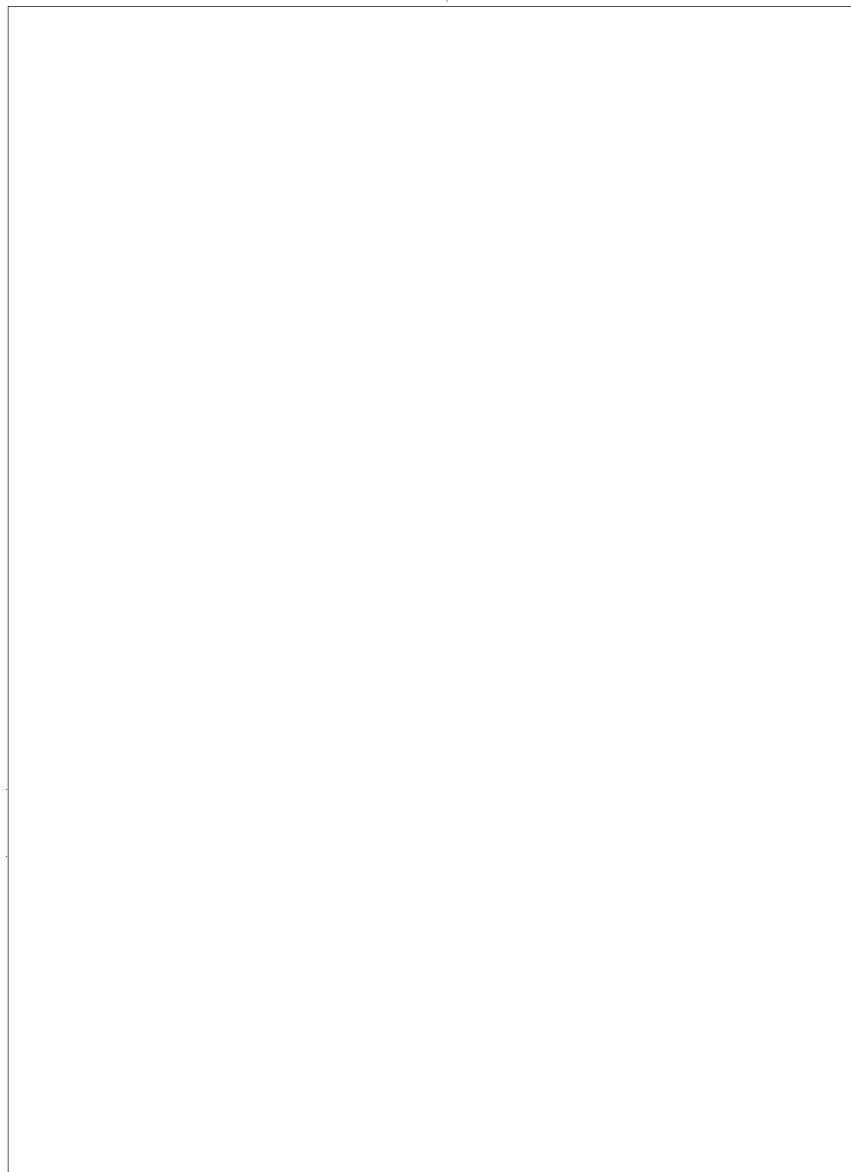
4. Soviet Union

Moscow is buzzing with rumors that the Soviet party congress which opens on Tuesday will announce an unusually large number of high-level personnel shifts. Today's Annex discusses this question as well as a number of the other problems which will be aired at the congress.

5. Soviet Union

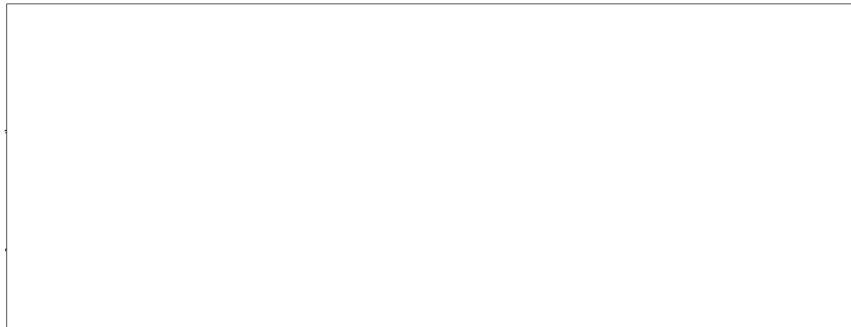
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6. Rhodesia



50X1

7. Turkey



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8. France

50X1

ANNEX

The Soviet Party Congress

A Soviet party congress is reminiscent of an old-time vaudeville show. Before it starts the audience is never quite sure whether the thing will really produce something new and exciting or merely turn out to be a warmed-over variation of an old routine. With Stalin, the congress became a rather dull affair, but Khrushchev changed all that with his secret speech at the congress in 1956 and again at the 1961 congress with his decision to flaunt the fight with China.

The congress opening on Tuesday will probably fall somewhere between the two extremes. Brezhnev, the man in charge of the show, not only lacks Khrushchev's dramatic bent, but he also seems in no mood for unnecessary trouble. Still there are a number of sensitive issues which he must discuss and there is no guarantee that he can completely control the repercussions.

Brezhnev will set the tone for the congress in his "accountability report" to the party--a speech which sometimes goes on for as long as eight hours. Its purpose is to defend the party's record in recent years and to outline its plans for the future.

Brezhnev's foreign policy statement is likely to focus mostly on past successes. His line on Vietnam will probably contain nothing new. His stand on the Chinese problem is not clear, but the indications are that he will not elect to carry the fight into the congress. Overall, Brezhnev's aim will be to serve up a convincing resumé of Soviet efforts to justify its claim of being the leading Communist power.

In internal affairs, Brezhnev's touchiest task will be to define the line on Khrushchev's ouster. It is an open question just how far the criticisms and charges will go, but they must go far enough to justify the lambasting Khrushchev has already taken.

(Cont'd)

ANNEX (Cont'd)

There is currently a great deal of talk in Moscow that the congress will add to Khrushchev's sins by blaming him for blackening Stalin unnecessarily. In the process, it is expected that Brezhnev will come out with a new formulation on Stalin--one that recognizes his "achievements" as well as his "faults." The problem here is that the party is not interested in a rehabilitation of Stalin per se, but finds itself under considerable pressure to set the record straight by acknowledging the achievements of the Stalin era.

This kind of tinkering is bound to be dangerous even if it is handled cautiously. It can only encourage the conservative elements in the Soviet Union and put a new scare into the "liberals." In time, this could even lead to factional fighting not only in the Soviet party but also in the parties of Eastern Europe and the free world. In all likelihood, Brezhnev will try to get by with a minimum statement.

A number of other subjects will be taken up. Kosygin will speak at length on the new five-year plan, but we expect nothing new because most of the decisions were published last month. There will also be an attempt to clarify the role of the party in relation to the economic leadership--the problem of how to lead without meddling. This has always been a nasty issue. We also expect to hear a great deal of talk about the indifference of Soviet youth to ideology.

If there are any dramatic moments at the congress they might come during the discussions following the presentation of the formal reports. The well-prepared scenario could break down if some of the foreign party delegations try to debate the Chinese problem. There is also a chance of some fireworks resulting from the new words on Stalin.

The final order of business will be the "election" of a new Central Committee, which in turn will "elect" the real leadership--the members of the party

ANNEX (Cont'd)

presidium. We anticipate a sizable turnover in both groups, but not among the individuals who really count.

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[redacted] It will be interesting to see who gets passed over, but much more instructive to find out the kind of younger men who are about to enter the inner circle.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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26 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
26 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

Buddhist and student agitation goes on despite the concessions offered by the ruling Directorate yesterday.

There was a brief rally and march in Saigon today on the theme of ending military rule and restoring civilian government. "Struggle groups" in the northern city of Hué seized on an incident in which a US Marine tore down an anti-American poster to keep matters heated up.

Today's agitation may not represent a final Buddhist response to the olive branch proffered by Ky. That could come tomorrow after Buddhist leaders meet in Saigon.

The attitude of the Catholics and other groups to all this is not clear, although one Catholic leader did today publicly demand a return to civilian rule.

2. Communist China

The Chinese are making their annual spring grain-buying tours and are facing hard times. Two of their major Free World suppliers, Argentina and Australia, lack large exportable surpluses this year. Again in need of at least six million tons, the Chinese will have to buy more from Canada and from marginal suppliers such as Mexico and France.

3. North Vietnam

A careful review of world shipping in February shows that only 12 ships flying the flags of non-Communist countries visited North Vietnamese ports, as against 18 in January and a 1965 monthly average of 21. All but one of the 12 were Hong Kong - owned, British-flag ships.

The decline probably resulted from a series of US approaches on the matter. As a result, seaborne imports in February were the lowest in volume since last September.

The number of Communist-flag vessels putting in at North Vietnamese ports was slightly above last year's monthly average.

50X1

4. Rhodesia

There is good reason for optimism in Salisbury over the prospects for marketing Rhodesia's vital tobacco crop this spring. A market survey in South Africa shows that country's intention to increase tobacco purchases from Rhodesia almost threefold over last year.

Although tobacco auctioning will be in secret this year in Rhodesia, there is already good evidence of high demand in the world market for the country's quality product.

5. Cyprus

The semiannual rotation of the Turkish contingent on Cyprus is due next week and, as usual on these occasions, the Turks are alert for trouble. The US

50X1

6. Ecuador

The inept military junta is cracking down hard, and yesterday's violence is sure to provoke more trouble.

Two students are reported to have been killed, and many were injured resisting the army takeover of the university in Quito last night. Student groups, for their own purposes, have been supporting a businessmen's strike in the port city of Guayaquil, protesting the government's needed increases in import duties.

50X1

7. Dominican Republic

Bosch's political party opens its convention in two weeks, and it is still anyone's guess whether it will name Bosch or someone else as its presidential candidate. Bosch will himself make the decision and will probably leave the door open for an electoral boycott should he later decide this tactic is to his advantage.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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28 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
28 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

Hué, Da Nang, and Saigon were all outwardly calm today, but there is no indication that the Buddhist "struggle" against the government is abating.

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[redacted]
agitators in Hué have sent Ky a telegram demanding that he come to Hué tomorrow, or be declared a "traitor." On the other hand, the mayor of Da Nang today told the US consul there would be no more strikes there, as they "hurt the people."

Broadcasts from Hué continue to have anti-American overtones, alleging that the military government is an American puppet. Students at Saigon University are said to be more "sensitive" to contacts with Americans, and claim they are under Buddhist pressure to demonstrate.

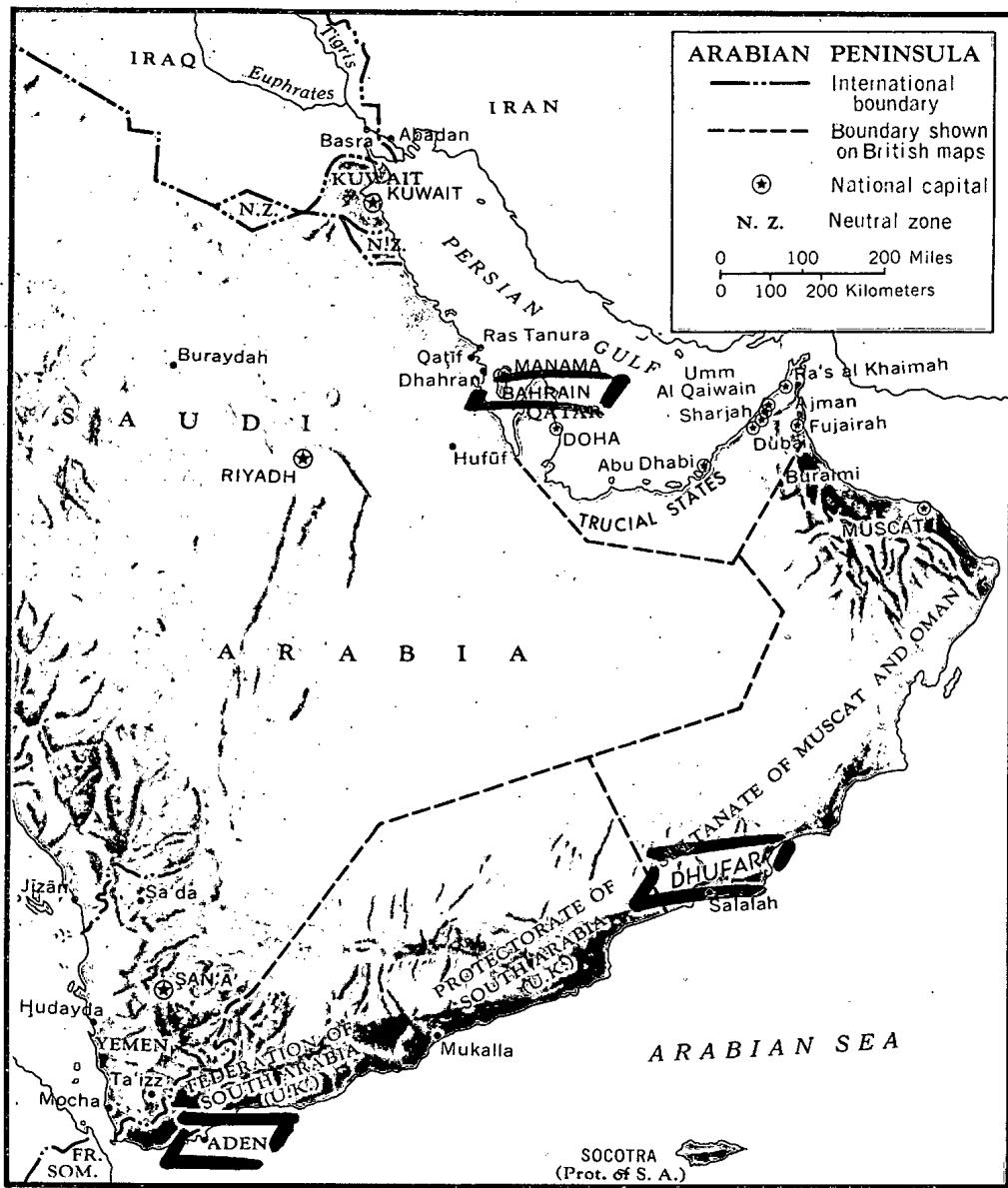
2. Indonesia

The generals leaned on Sukarno a little harder today. They announced that responsibility for the safety of Sukarno and his family was being transferred from his hand-picked palace guard to the army. The guard was once commanded by Colonel Untung, who spearheaded the abortive coup attempt last September.

The generals are also chipping away at the Sukarno legend in other ways. They have sanctioned the publication of a series of lurid accounts [redacted]

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3. Ecuador

Today's confused developments in Guayaquil and Quito promise to usher in a period of acute instability.

Mobs roamed in the streets of Guayaquil this morning. Scattered gunfire was heard, and a US-owned utility company was attacked briefly.

The first reaction of the ruling junta was to send in army troops and clamp martial law plus a dawn-to-dusk curfew on the city. At this point it looked as if the junta would stand fast in the face of the demands that it step down right now.

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4. Arabia

Arab nationalists [redacted] are broadening their campaign to force the British from the Arabian peninsula.

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Arab terrorism, which has long plagued British officials in Aden, has now spread to Bahrain. Bahrain is slated to become British military headquarters in the area after Aden is evacuated in 1968.

Rebel gangs [redacted] are stepping up their activities in the Dhufar area.

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[redacted] (Map)

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5. Soviet Union

Conditions will be favorable for another Soviet lunar probe late this week. Thursday will be the best day.

We expect Moscow to take advantage of the opening since by all evidence its lunar program continues to enjoy a high priority.

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6. Soviet Union

Soviet leaders are spending much of their time today at the airport welcoming a series of high-powered delegations to their 23rd party congress which opens tomorrow. The East European parties are all represented by their top luminaries, while the Yugoslavs, the North Vietnamese, and the North Koreans have sent their number two men. A Viet Cong delegation has also showed up. Peking was only able to prevail upon the Albanian, Japanese, and New Zealand parties to join in its boycott of the congress.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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29 MARCH 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
29 MARCH 1966

1. Ecuador

At a meeting of Ecuador's leading politicians this afternoon Clemente Yerovi was selected as provisional civilian president. This came after the junta relinquished power to the military high command, and the people in turn took to the streets.

The situation this afternoon is bordering on chaos. Large-scale demonstrations are continuing in Guayaquil and the transport workers' strike has evidently gone nationwide. In Quito, the police are not bothering to restrain the transport workers, who are distributing liquor, blocking roads, and urging the people to violence. Ambassador Coerr has advised the State Department by phone that students have seized the national radio and are broadcasting appeals for a "national revolution."

The selection of Clemente Yerovi plus the imposition of a state of siege may help to quiet things somewhat, but we expect acute political instability for some time.

2. Yemen

Egypt says that it is willing to reopen the Harad peace conference on Yemen next month, but Saudi reaction to the proposal is still unclear. At the same time, Nasir is beginning to withdraw his troops in Yemen to new positions in the western part of the country; this should give them a more flexible defense with less logistic strain. The Saudis of course are suspicious of these moves and are again asking for US military gestures of support.

3. Soviet Union

Brezhnev's policy speech to the party congress was apparently a rather bland affair. Although the full text is not in, the TASS summary suggests that it was most notable for its lack of stridency and its skirting of controversial issues.

In the foreign policy section, Brezhnev repeated the standard charges of US "aggression" in Vietnam and again laid the blame for the deterioration in US-Soviet relations at the door of the US. On China, he made a passing reference to the "unsatisfactory" state of affairs and then restated Moscow's readiness to talk with the Chinese leaders.

Brezhnev's remarks on other foreign policy topics were also along standard lines. The net impression is that Moscow is not interested in major new moves at this time.

The summary of the speech contains no mention of either Khrushchev or Stalin by name. Khrushchev, however, was dealt with indirectly through references to "miscalculations" and "undue haste."

Brezhnev also indicated that there would be more undoing of Khrushchev's innovations by proposing several changes in the party's operations and structure. One of these, a decision to give the party presidium back its old name "politburo" carries with it heavy overtones of the Stalin era.

Brezhnev's discussion of economic matters was largely routine. His line on literature and art, however, was hard and threatening toward any departure from party policy.

Tomorrow the congress begins to "debate" the Brezhnev report.

4. North Vietnam

Hanoi's first public comments on the Soviet party congress today indicate a continuing careful effort to remain in the middle between Moscow and Peking. Relations between the North Vietnamese and Soviet parties were vaguely characterized only as "the kind of fraternal relations which prevail in the socialist camp."

5. South Vietnam

The cities of Hué and Da Nang were outwardly quiet again today, but there is no sign of a decline in political agitation against the Ky government. A transportation strike in Hué is reportedly planned for tomorrow.

There were signs today that Tri Quang's militant Buddhist faction in the north remains unwilling to accept Ky's compromise proposal for a partially representative council to draft a constitution. A Hué radio station broadcast a resolution signed by one of Tri Quang's associates which was as uncompromising as ever.

The resolution, which purports to originate with Buddhist chaplains in the I Corps area, threatens to call on Buddhist soldiers to act against the government if Saigon takes reprisals against the soldiers and students taking part in the "struggle."

Premier Ky is impatient to reassert the government's full authority in the northern provinces. He told Ambassador Lodge today that he intends to keep talking and explaining for another week. After that, he said, he will take "very strong measures" if necessary to re-establish control in the affected provinces.

6. Cambodia

Sihanouk publicly admitted for the first time last week that the Cambodians are "closing our eyes" to the smuggling of Cambodian rice to the Viet Cong. His statement probably comes from recognition of the futility of his earlier efforts to prevent the flow of rice to South Vietnam, where prices are higher than those his government offers.

7. Indonesia

The new Indonesian foreign minister, Adam Malik, has approached Ambassador Green directly for US assistance to finance emergency rice purchases. Malik said that it was now politically possible to receive openly US funds for food.

8. Communist China

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

[Redacted box]

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30 MARCH 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DAILY BRIEF
30 MARCH 1966

LATE ITEM

Ecuador

Clemente Yerovi's inauguration as president has failed to end disorders.

Although Quito is calm today, leftists have maintained the momentum of last night's demonstrations and disorders by taking control in some other localities. A specific instance of this was the seizure of the ~~governorship~~ of Lora Province by one Potari Maldonado Paz, an extreme leftist leader with ties to Cuba.

Security forces stood by both in this case and during the extremist take-over of the neighboring province of Azuay.

At Guayaquil, Communist-led students briefly occupied the provincial building but were dislodged by the marines.

Until such time as the military straightens itself out and demonstrates some willingness to restore order, extremists can be expected to probe every weakness of the regime.

DAILY BRIEF
30 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

Antigovernment activity flared again in the restive northern provinces, and "struggle groups" there have injected a more virulent strain of anti-Americanism into the agitation.

In Da Nang, for example, agitators seized upon and distorted a minor traffic accident involving US marines to broadcast fairly inflammatory anti-American material. [redacted] further demonstrations are planned tomorrow in connection with ceremonies marking a Vietnamese holiday.

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Saigon remained calm again today. Tri Quang has returned to the capital, however, and the Buddhists are said to be trying to organize a major antigovernment demonstration tomorrow.

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Government security forces have been alerted and are taking extensive precautions to prevent the situation from getting entirely out of hand. American personnel have been told to keep away from the area involved.

Meanwhile, the tone of recent utterances by Catholic spokesmen suggests that they entertain doubts that Ky will survive the current wave of Buddhist agitation.

2. Soviet Union

The Soviets, judging from [redacted]

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[redacted] of their instrumentation ships, will attempt another lunar probe tomorrow. As in the 13 previous attempts--only one of which was successful--the aim will probably be to soft-land an instrumentation package.

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3. Communist China

Peking is attempting to spike the rumors growing out of Mao's record absence from public view. Last week, foreign newsmen were given an indignant denial that he is ill, and yesterday a Hong Kong Communist newspaper front-paged a blurry picture of Mao, Chou En-lai, and a girl militia member in some indeterminate city square.

These seemingly lame expedients contrast with the method usually used in dealing with previous rumors that Mao was seriously ill--producing a seemingly healthy Mao at a public function--and add to the impression that something is wrong with the old man.

4. Africa

The heads of government of 11 east and central African states are meeting today in Nairobi. They will probably hold themselves to innocuous topics such as noninterference in each others' affairs and regional economic cooperation, since they appear to realize there is little they can do about Rhodesia. Tanzania, in fact, may be looking for some face-saving way to restore diplomatic relations with Britain.

In West Africa, Touré appears to be backing off from his grandiose scheme to return Nkrumah to power and may even be coming to regard Nkrumah's presence in Conakry as a millstone on his neck.

5. Communist World

Prospects for the winter crops, now some months from harvesting, are fair in the USSR and Eastern Europe but poor in Communist China and North Vietnam.

Winter wheat is down some 15 to 20 percent in the USSR, while East Europe's winter grain prospects are below last year's everywhere except in Czechoslovakia.

In Communist China, where winter grains usually account for some 20 percent of the annual grain harvest, the wheat crop in particular will probably be no better than the very poor early harvest last year. North Vietnam's spring rice crop, usually about a third of the total, is likely to be poor, and prospects for tubers, corn, and other rice substitutes are not much better.

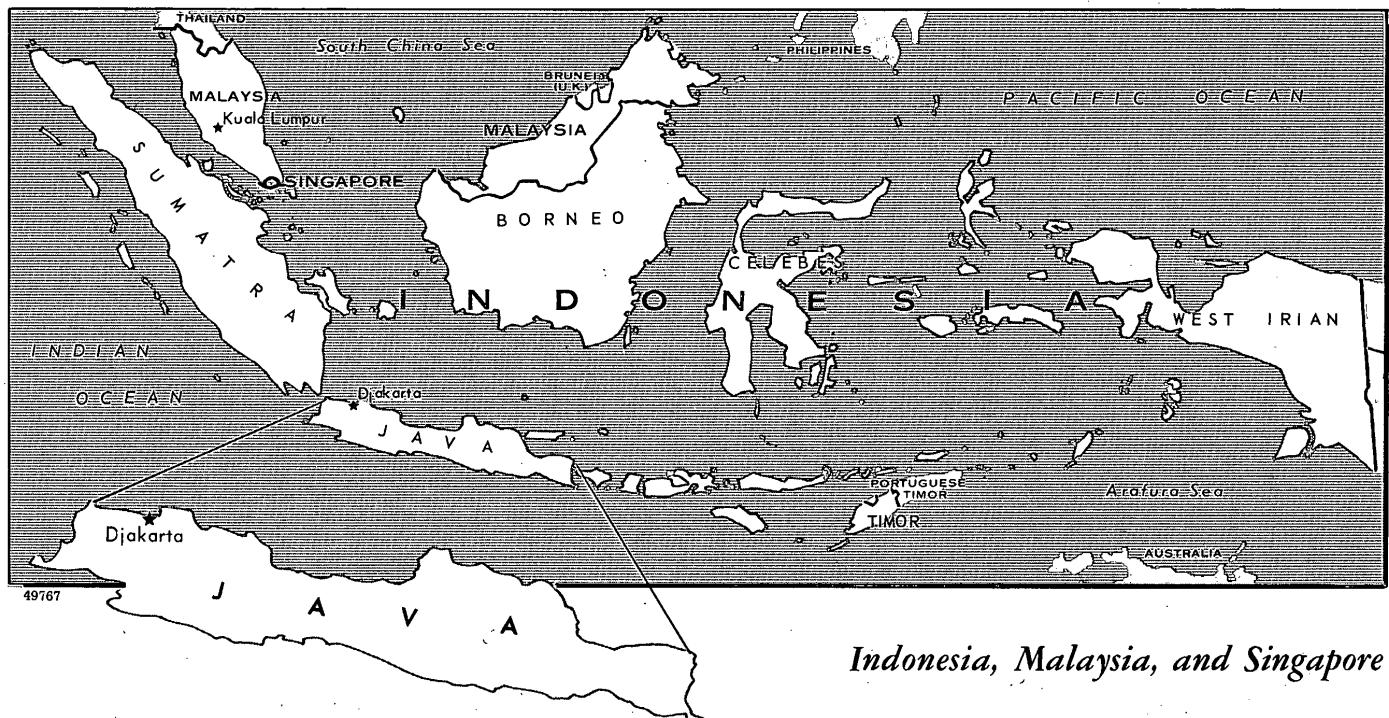
6. Pakistan

The public reception of Liu Shao-chi and his party has been wildly enthusiastic. Their tumultuous welcome in Lahore on Monday was described as the largest in the city's history.

The US Embassy feels that the display of Chinese military hardware in last week's National Day parade gave the visit a big boost, by helping to picture Peking as the "true friend" who can be counted on for material aid against the Indian enemy.

Ayub and his government, however, have treated their visitors correctly but cautiously, avoiding identification with any criticism of the US role in Vietnam.

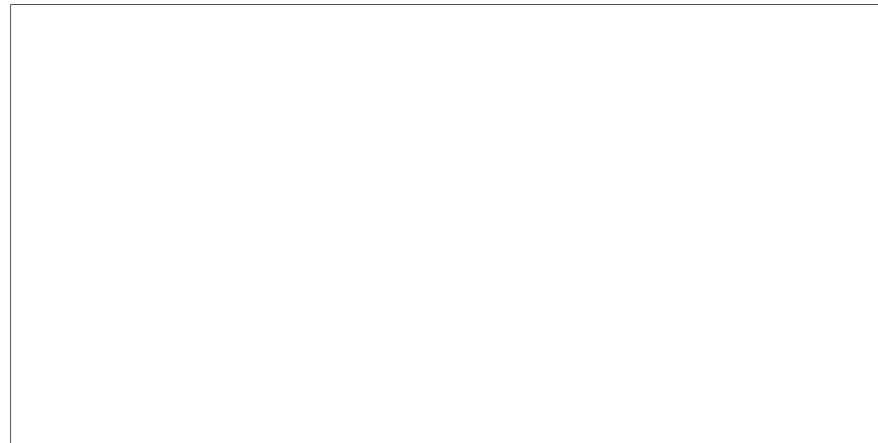
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7. Indonesia

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

[Redacted box]

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31 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
31 MARCH 1966

LATE ITEM

South Vietnam

The Viet Cong set off a heavy explosion at a large US officers' billet in Saigon this afternoon, Washington time. American officials say that a "great number" were injured; at least twenty-five people are known to be hospitalized. The billet is about eight stories high. The first four floors were completely destroyed.

DAILY BRIEF
31 MARCH 1966

1. South Vietnam

The Buddhists demonstrated as expected in Saigon today, but failed to draw the huge crowds they hoped to get. In Hué, the "struggle forces" have called for a strike to begin tomorrow; a major demonstration in Da Nang is rumored for Saturday.

The military directorate met again yesterday to discuss ways of coping with the situation.

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2. Soviet Union

The lunar probe launched this morning appears designed to orbit the moon. Luna 10 seems to be on course and operating satisfactorily. It should reach the vicinity of the moon on Sunday.

Two earlier Soviet probes photographed portions of the hidden side of the moon. A satellite in a lunar orbit, however, could systematically photograph the entire lunar surface.

3. India

There is growing nervousness among the Indians over what looks to them like ominous Pakistani military moves near the borders. This uneasiness is heightened by the recent display of Chinese military hardware in Pakistan and by the enthusiastic welcome given Liu Shao-chi there.

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An American missionary who has worked for several years among the rebellious tribesmen in eastern India informed the American Consulate General in East Pakistan this week that his contacts report seeing Mizo rebels receiving weapons from the Pakistanis. If Pakistani assistance to the rebels becomes known in India, it would surely lead to a further serious erosion of the spirit of Tashkent.

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4. Pakistan

The bland communiqué issued in Pakistan just before Liu Shao-chi's departure for China today seems to reflect an insistence by Ayub that it not be offensive to the US. Although the joint statement affirmed Sino-Pakistani friendship, it included no attacks on US policies and made no reference to Vietnam. Peking, though probably disappointed, can take comfort in the warm public reception given Liu in Pakistan.

5. Indonesia

Ambassador Green reports that the price of rice in the Djakarta area has more than doubled in the past five weeks and is now twenty times what it was a year ago. It is also evident that rice is in very short supply. Information is sketchy on conditions outside the capital, but in central Java the Catholic Relief Service reports an increase in disease stemming from malnutrition.

6. Rumania

Bucharest remains dissatisfied with the Warsaw Pact and may be trying to draw a parallel between its own position and the current French stand on NATO.

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7. Dominican Republic

The extremist 14th of June Political Group has been agitating in recent days for legalization as a political party before the 1 June elections. There is some indication that Garcia Godoy is considering a move to facilitate legalization. Though Bosch has remained quiet on this issue, presidential contenders Balaguer and Bonnelly have gone on record in favor of legalizing the group.

Some observers doubt that the group really wants to be a legal party. In its present status it can play the martyr's role, impugning the elections without risking a poor showing in popular votes.

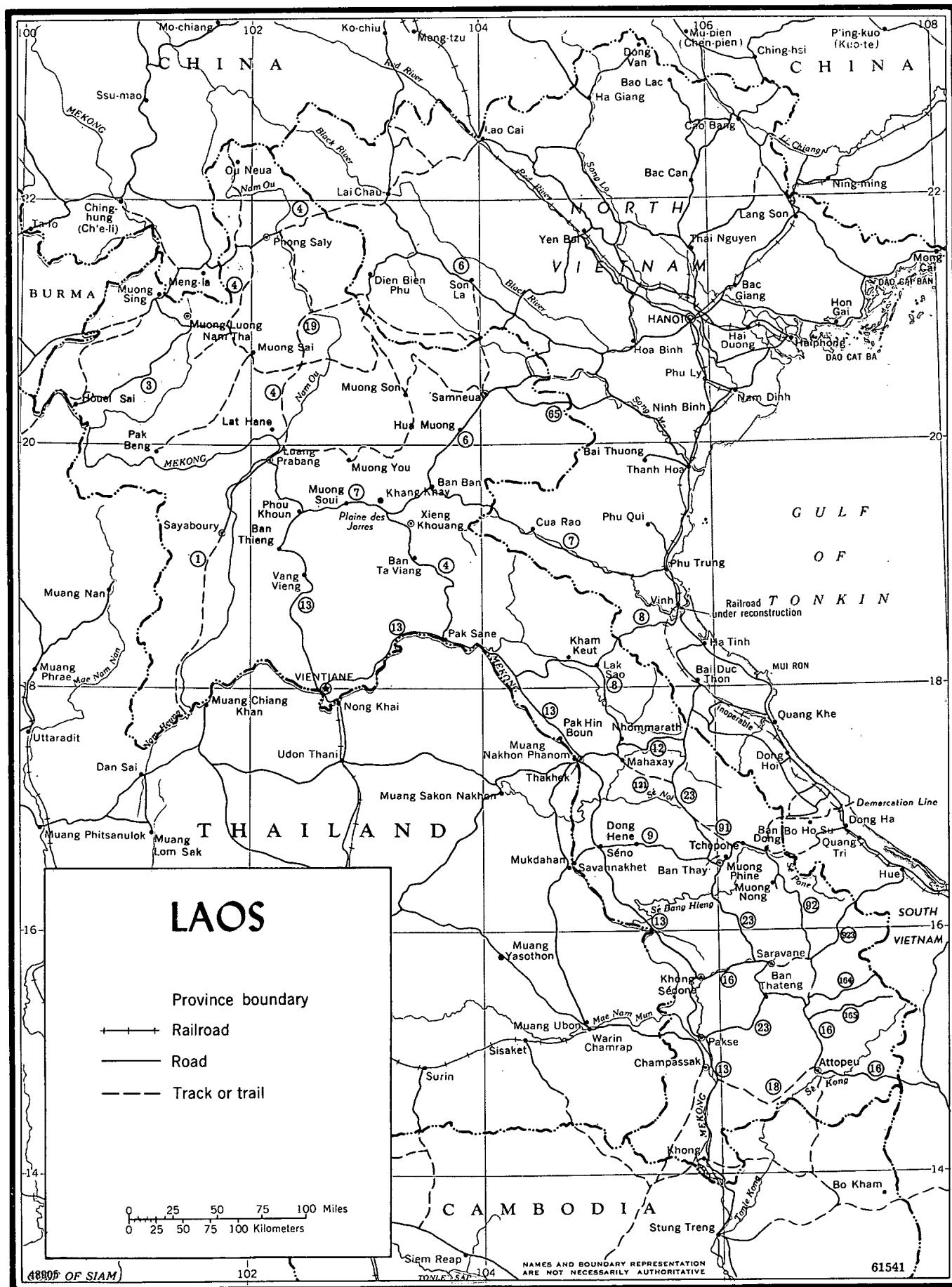
8. Ecuador

The new government appears to be taking effective control and extremist-led agitation is simmering down. Indications are that the military and police remain effective and that their morale is good.

Their hesitancy yesterday to act in the face of extremist provocations evidently resulted from uncertainty over the ultimate source of authority in Quito. This should now be resolved.

Interim president Yerovi is expected to announce his cabinet momentarily. It probably will be composed largely of people who have not been prominent in politics before. Yerovi says he will remain in power only until he can hold free elections and halt the economic decline.

In the two southern provinces where extremists took over government buildings yesterday, angry citizens later drove them out.



9. Laos

The military situation east of Muong Soui deteriorated further yesterday when a neutralist battalion abandoned its positions. (See map.)

The fighting front, however, has remained relatively calm. Steps have been taken to patch up government defenses in this area, but the embassy doubts the staying power of the units involved. Ambassador Sullivan also reports that he has intelligence indications of a Communist build-up just to the east.

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