



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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2 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
2 JANUARY 1965

1. India

The US Embassy has a credible report that India's atomic energy chief has been instructed to proceed with 12 of the 18 months' work he thinks required for production of India's first nuclear device. According to the reported plan, a decision to complete the work and to attempt an underground explosion would depend on the Indian assessment of the international nuclear picture at the end of the 12-month period.

2. USSR

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3. Communist China

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4. South Vietnam

Although we have reports that Khanh and other senior military commanders were inclined to compromise with the Huong government, the crisis continues. Ambassador Taylor now hears that Khanh is demanding establishment of a military council which would in effect control the civil government.

5. Laos

A showdown has so far been averted, but political infighting within the regime continues.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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4 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
4 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

Premier Huong told Ambassador Taylor that he intends to "have it out" with General Khanh. He intends to issue a proclamation on the government's position tonight or tomorrow. He is going to demand the release of the High National Council members arrested last month, the withdrawal of the military from politics, and the military's adherence to the provisional constitution. He says he wants to make it clear that he and Chief of State Suu can be put out of office only by force. The Buddhists seem still to be waiting to see how the Huong-Khanh struggle comes out before mounting a big offensive. Press reports exaggerated today's demonstrations.

2. Congo

Southern Sudan dissidents are in Leopoldville seeking Tshombé's support for their campaign against the Khartoum government. In return they will try to cut off aid flowing to the Congolese rebels through the southern Sudan. The rebels are already losing increasing numbers of arms through engagements with Tshombé's mercenaries. Radical African suppliers may soon be faced with choosing between stopping deliveries or sending in "volunteers" to protect their investment. So far, the presence of volunteers has not been confirmed, despite reports of their presence there.

3. USSR

The Soviets have asked UK Prime Minister Wilson to come to Moscow before Premier Kosygin fulfills his promised visit to London. No dates have been set. Our embassy in Moscow believes the new Soviet regime hopes its prestige will be boosted by a Wilson visit. Also, Party leader Brezhnev, who has no plans to go to London, may want to take a hand in first talks with a leading Western official.

4. UAR

Previous reports that Nasir might oust Premier Ali Sabri are strengthened by a government announcement today indicating that Sabri will not head the UAR's delegation to the meeting of Arab premiers on 9 January. A semiofficial Cairo newspaper has also announced that a new cabinet will be formed in March, which could be the occasion for formally removing Sabri from the premiership.



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

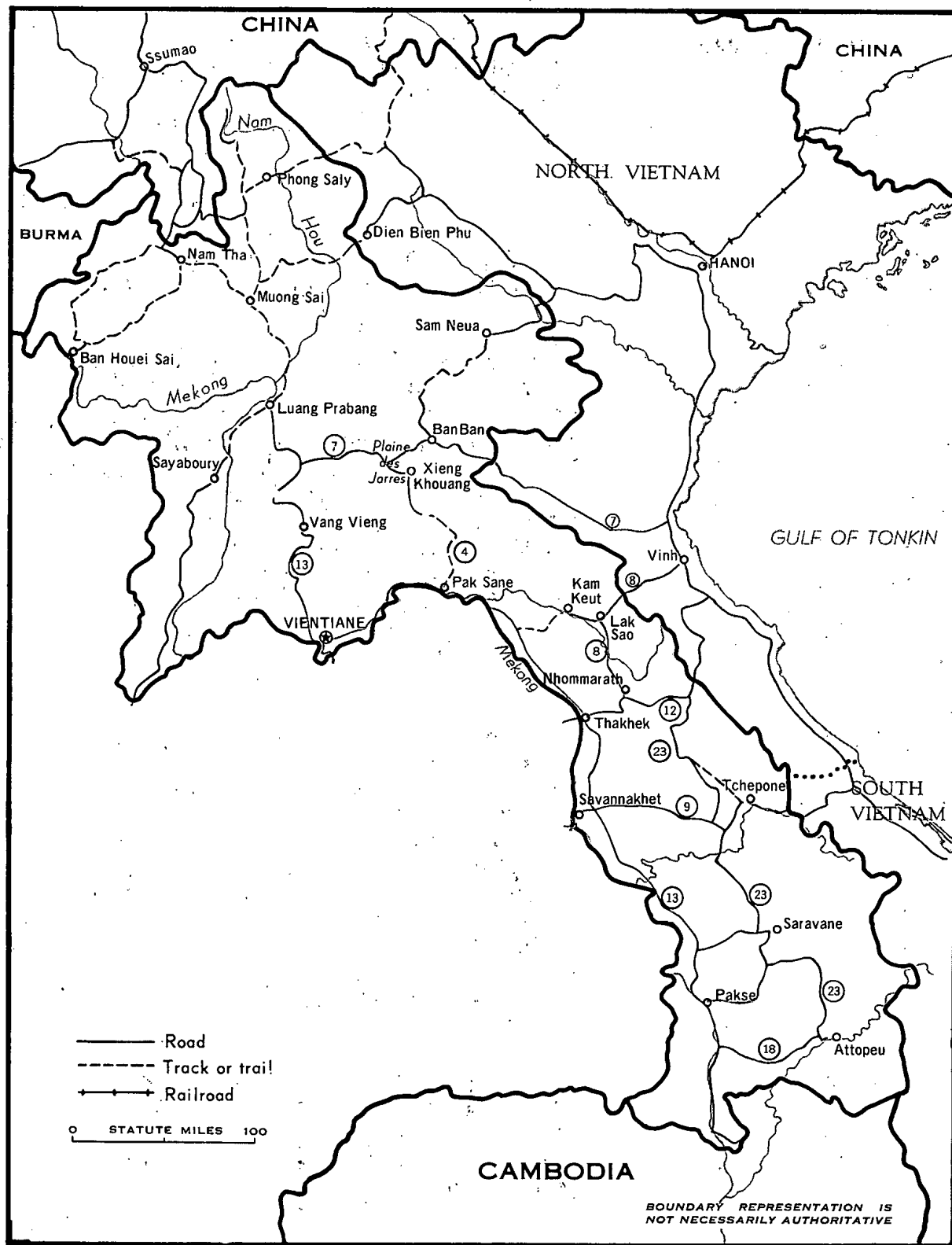
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5 JANUARY 1965

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LAOS



DAILY BRIEF
5 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

Premier Huong has decided to postpone his scheduled confrontation with the generals. He says that they have offered him an "olive branch" by withdrawing their demand for a military council to oversee the work of his government. If so, this eases the situation somewhat, but basic issues between Huong and Khanh remain unresolved. Further talks are set for tomorrow.

2. President's Speech

First foreign press and radio reaction to the State of the Union Message highlights the President's hope for a visit from the new Soviet leaders. Moscow has taken note of this but so far has offered no comment. Moscow has some niggling criticism for the sections on Vietnam and domestic affairs.

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Paris would be happy to receive the President but not as just one stop on a swing through West Europe.

3. Laos

Road watch teams in south-central Laos indicate that the recent southward movement of Communist troops is tapering off. Their reports suggest that in the past month about 5,000 Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese troops have been moved into southern Laos. In Vientiane prospects for an armed showdown have receded for the moment, although a relatively minor incident could easily set the contending generals off again. (See map.)

4. Congo

Tshombé has promised to provide southern Sudanese dissidents with "effective" aid and has asked them to have their military chiefs in Leopoldville next week to work out the details. We doubt that this will come to much. Tshombé is due to fly to Brussels later this week to try to hammer out an agreement with the Belgians on outstanding economic and political problems. The Belgians have tied the question of further aid to a successful solution of these problems. The military situation in the Congo is quiet.

5. Indonesia

Rumors of an attempt to unseat Sukarno in the next few days appear to us overdrawn. We doubt that any group in Indonesia has the intention, let alone the capability, of bringing such a thing off at this time.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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6 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
6 JANUARY 1964

1. Indonesia

Sukarno appears on the verge of dismissing several cabinet ministers who have recently been under Communist attack for their support of the recently banned, anti-Communist, "Sukarnoist" movement. Even if the vacancies are not filled by Communists, they and their ally, Foreign Minister Subandrio, will benefit.

2. South Vietnam

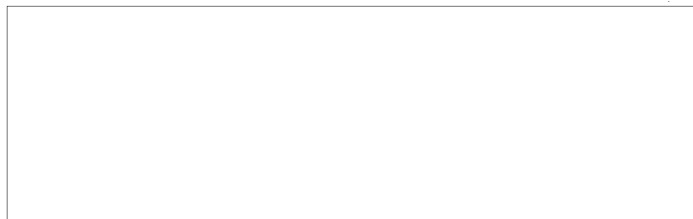
The government and the generals have worked out a compromise. If it sticks, a joint public statement will probably be made tomorrow. Apparently, the detained members of the High Council are to be released, but the Council itself will be allowed quietly to expire. This would enable both Khanh and Huong to back down, but it is too early to tell whether civil supremacy and genuine cooperation will emerge.

3. USSR

Recent satellite photography of the Soviet Union shows sixteen more hardened sites for the latest generation Soviet ICBMs, making a total of sixty of this silo type so far identified. These are not yet operational. We estimate that 221 of the launchers we have identified are operational.

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4. Communist China



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

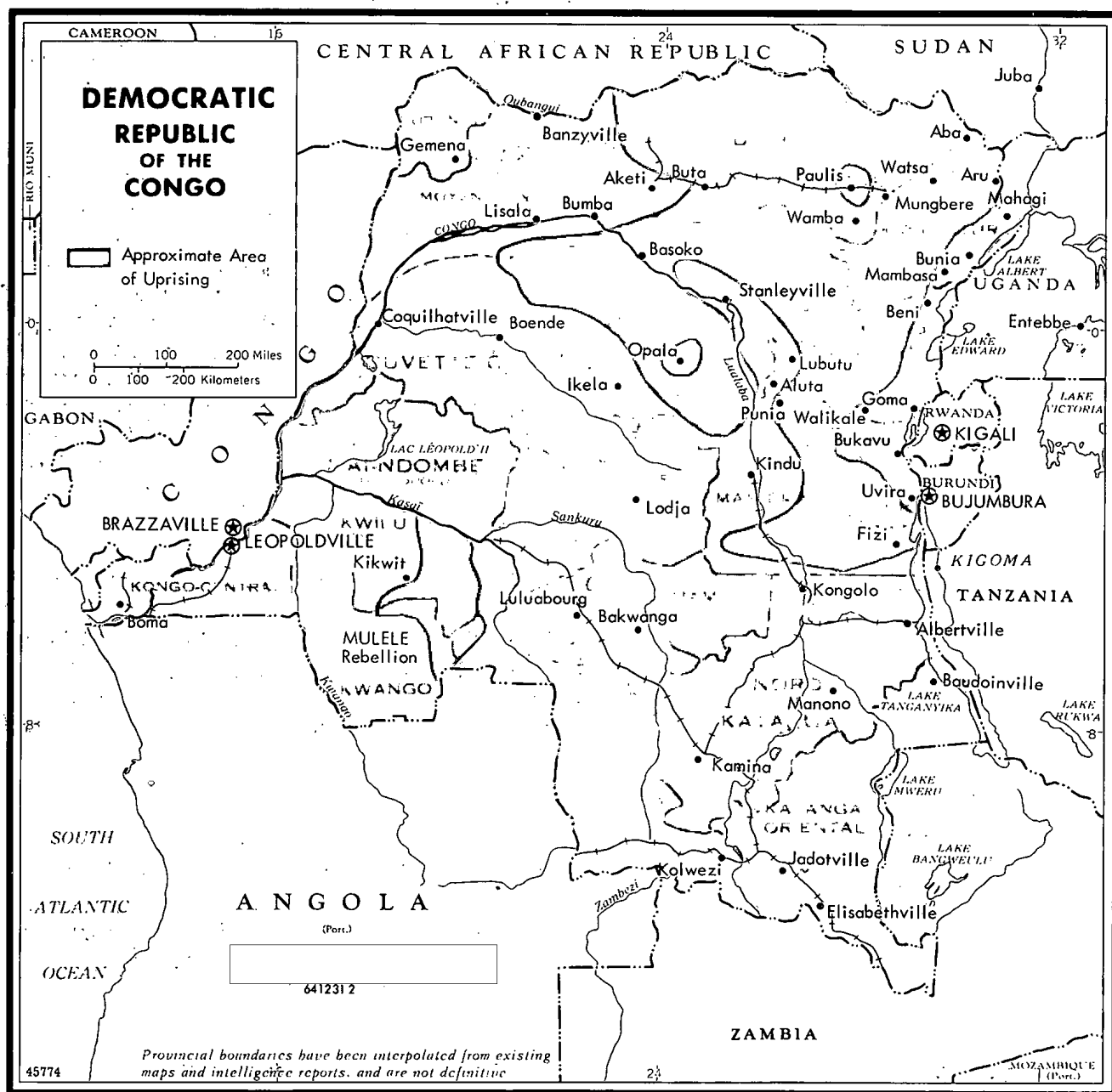
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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7 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
7 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

According to press reports, the Communist force which fought at Binh Gia is still active in the area. An assessment of the Binh Gia action forms Annex 1.

2. Indonesia

Although forces are being prepared for a large-scale military action against Malaysia, there is as yet no firm indication that this is imminent.

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3. Panama

Communists will be seeking new martyrs during Saturday's anniversary of the 1964 riots, and there are likely to be incidents of terrorism. President Robles, however, has made extensive preparations to control or avoid major trouble.

4. USSR

Moscow's reaction to the State of the Union Address suggests that the new leadership feels the time is not ripe for a summit meeting or a serious exchange on fundamental issues. A discussion is in Annex 2.

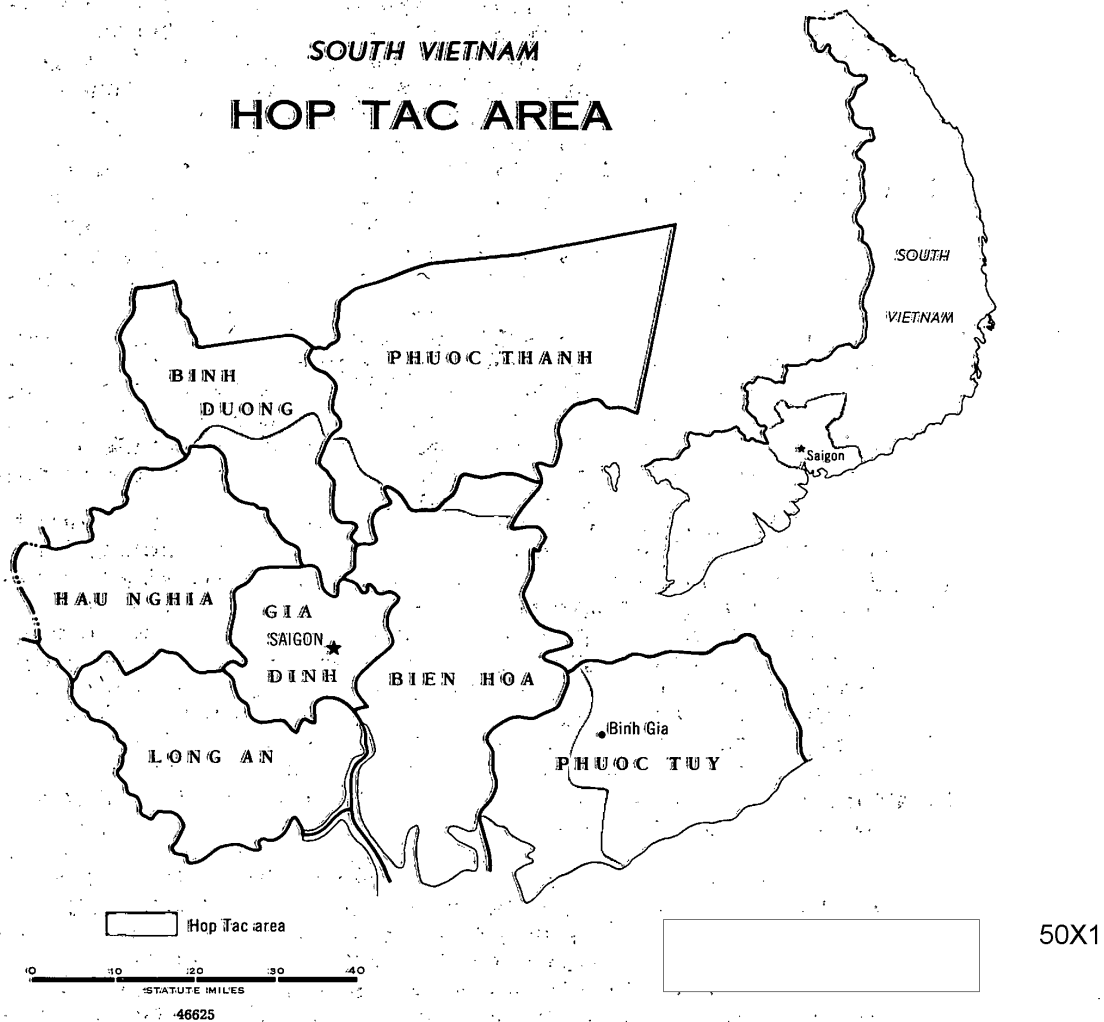
5. Congo

Although rebel bands in the east between Bukavu and Uvira and near Albertville still give trouble, resistance in the northeast is sporadic.

6. Cuba

Three cruise missiles shown in the 2 January parade are probably a variant of a Soviet 25-35 mile coastal defense missile, modified for use against ground targets. Some 60 missiles stored 40 miles north of Guantanamo could be of this type.

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ANNEX 1

The Battle at Binh Gia

At Binh Gia, a hitherto relatively quiet area, some 2,000 Viet Cong regulars stood for six days and battled a total of 4,200 government troops. The action involved an 18-hour standing defense of the village by Communist forces, followed by several deceptive withdrawals and repeated ambushes. The Communists have fought three other similar actions since January 1963, but this one involved more troops and lasted longer. Several weeks ago they began, for the first time, to draw regimental units from base areas north and northwest of Saigon, 50 to 100 miles from the eventual scene of the fighting.

Tactics used by the Viet Cong were designed to capitalize on known governmental shortcomings.

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The action was probably planned by the Communist leaders to take advantage of the political confusion in Saigon and what they regard as the partial paralysis of a high command more intent on political maneuvering than military responsibilities. The Communists evidently intended to draw off troops from the government's Hop Tac program--a concentrated effort to free the area around Saigon of Communists. The Communists also had an eye on the psychological impact of their ability to administer yet another setback to government forces, which already have a high desertion rate.

The Communists doubtless regard Binh Gia, in spite of relatively heavy casualties, as a victory. One Communist soldier, captured in the delta area southeast of Saigon, said that they have been directed to take and hold small areas for up to a week. Hanoi sees Binh Gia as a portent of "still greater victories to come."

We do not regard the battle as marking a shift by the Communists away from guerrilla tactics toward a final conventional warfare stage of the conflict. We do expect to see more such actions in the coming months, perhaps at a quickening tempo. Primary reliance will still be on guerrilla tactics and terrorism, but the Viet Cong will whenever the opportunity permits field large units for longer periods of time in more complex actions.

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ANNEX 2

Soviet Reaction to State of Union Message

The generally hostile tone of Soviet comment on the State of the Union message probably reflects the new Soviet leaders' preoccupation with domestic and international Communist political problems and a wish not to furnish ammunition for renewed Chinese charges of Soviet collaboration with the American "imperialists." Moscow is bound to be particularly sensitive to this during the period preceding the scheduled 1 March meeting to prepare for a new world Communist conference.

The Soviets apparently intended to dampen speculation on an early heads-of-government meeting without completely closing the door. They probably feel more time is needed to assess developments in NATO and Southeast Asia before responding to the suggestion of a visit to the US. In addition, Premier Kosygin and other Soviet leaders already have made commitments on meetings with foreign statesmen which extend into mid-summer.

Over the longer term, the Soviet leaders probably have a real interest in renewing direct contacts with the President. In view of their customary preoccupation with strict protocol prestige, it is likely that the Soviets would first propose that the President visit the USSR in exchange for Khrushchev's trip to the US in 1959. They would regard a presidential visit as a valuable manifestation of the authority and legitimacy of the new post-Khrushchev regime.



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8 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
8 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

Premier Huong was expecting to issue a communiqué on a civilian-military détente today, if no further differences with the military were encountered. No statement has been forthcoming, however.

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There has been a new flurry of reports that Khanh is plotting a coup, possibly with Buddhist support, and that other officers are plotting against Khanh. Taylor comments that while these are unconfirmed, there could be some unpleasant surprises this week-end.

2. Congo

President Kasavubu, whose attitude toward recent developments has not been clear, has expressed strong support for Tshombé's policies. Kasavubu rejected a suggestion that Tshombé's government be broadened. He brushed off a recommendation that South African mercenaries be replaced, saying he could not care less where they came from. Tshombé, meanwhile, plans to travel to Brussels on 12 or 13 January.

3. South Korea

Seoul has received a request from Saigon for South Korean troops, including an infantry battalion, some of whom might be slated for combat assignments. Ambassador Brown notes that when this question is debated in the National Assembly, it may cause speculation that the US is mobilizing third country combat forces for South Vietnam.

4. Arab States

The prime ministers of the Arab states will begin a three-day meeting in Cairo tomorrow to consider further measures to build up the Arab armed forces. Egypt will use the occasion to put more pressure on Jordan to buy Soviet MIG aircraft instead of Western models.

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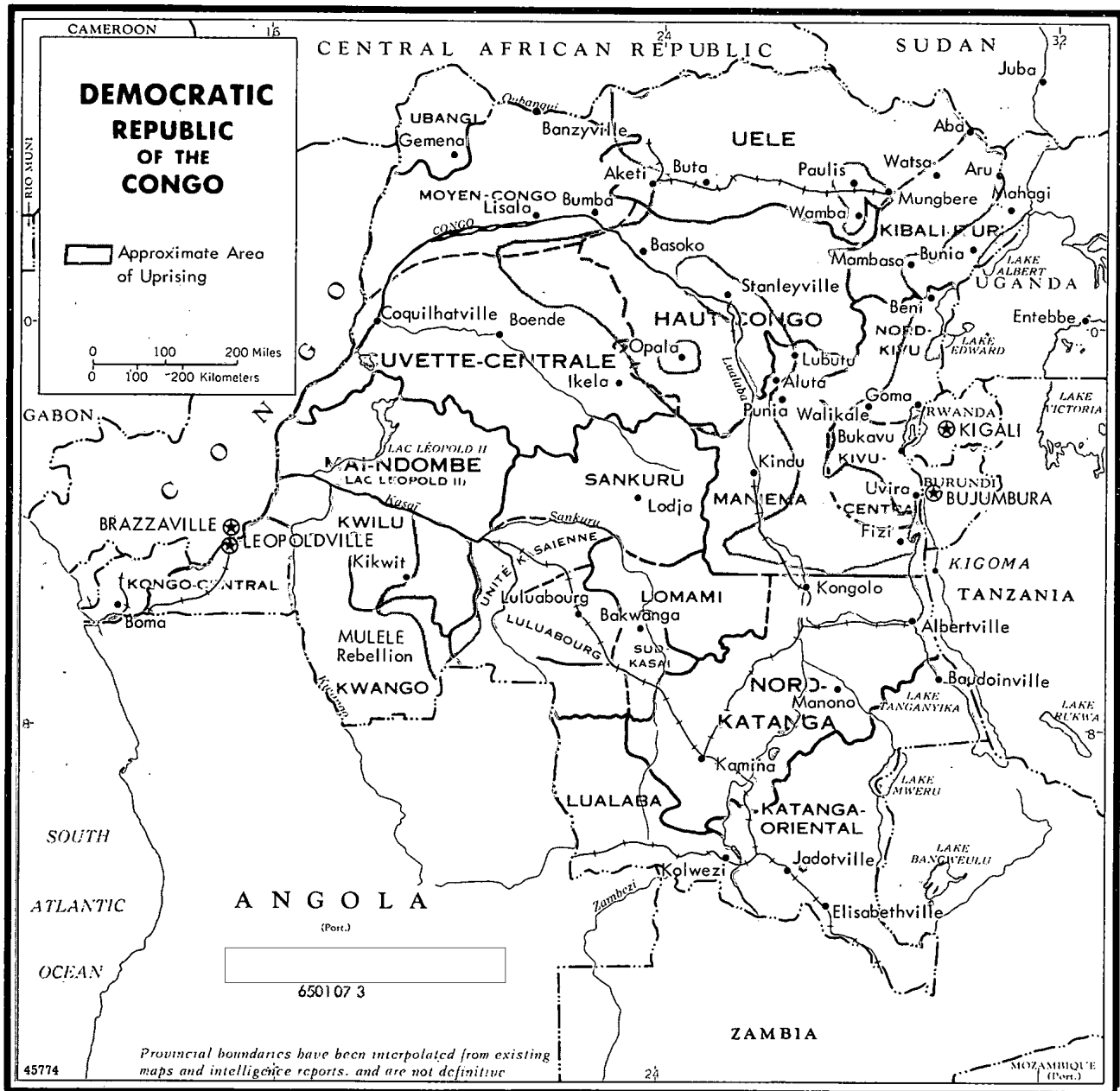
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9 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
9 JANUARY 1965

1. Congo

Two second-rank Congolese rebel leaders have told our embassy in Nairobi that the rebel movement is falling apart, and claim that they and some of their friends are ready to make a deal with Tshombé. Their story appears to hang together but is being checked further.

The rebel cause may have suffered another blow in Burundi. The King has ordered the formation of a new government which may be more inclined to crack down on Chinese Communist operations, particularly arms aid to the rebels.

2. South Vietnam

The civilian-military communiqué issued this morning may dissipate some of the atmosphere of crisis. Nevertheless, Khanh clearly has no intention of again limiting the military to a non-political role.

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3. Greece

The recent reshuffle of the cabinet probably will not solve the problem of instability in the faction-ridden government of Premier Papandreou. Our embassy expects more crises and a continued economic slide as the business community's confidence declines.

4. USSR

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5. Algeria

Our attachés have visited the two US navy pilots downed by high winds in Algeria on Thursday. The pilots are in good shape, but orders for their release still had not been issued as of last night.

6. Colombia

A well-organized guerrilla attack on government installations occurred in a provincial town on 7 January. This may indicate the beginning of guerrilla action similar to the FALN in Venezuela.

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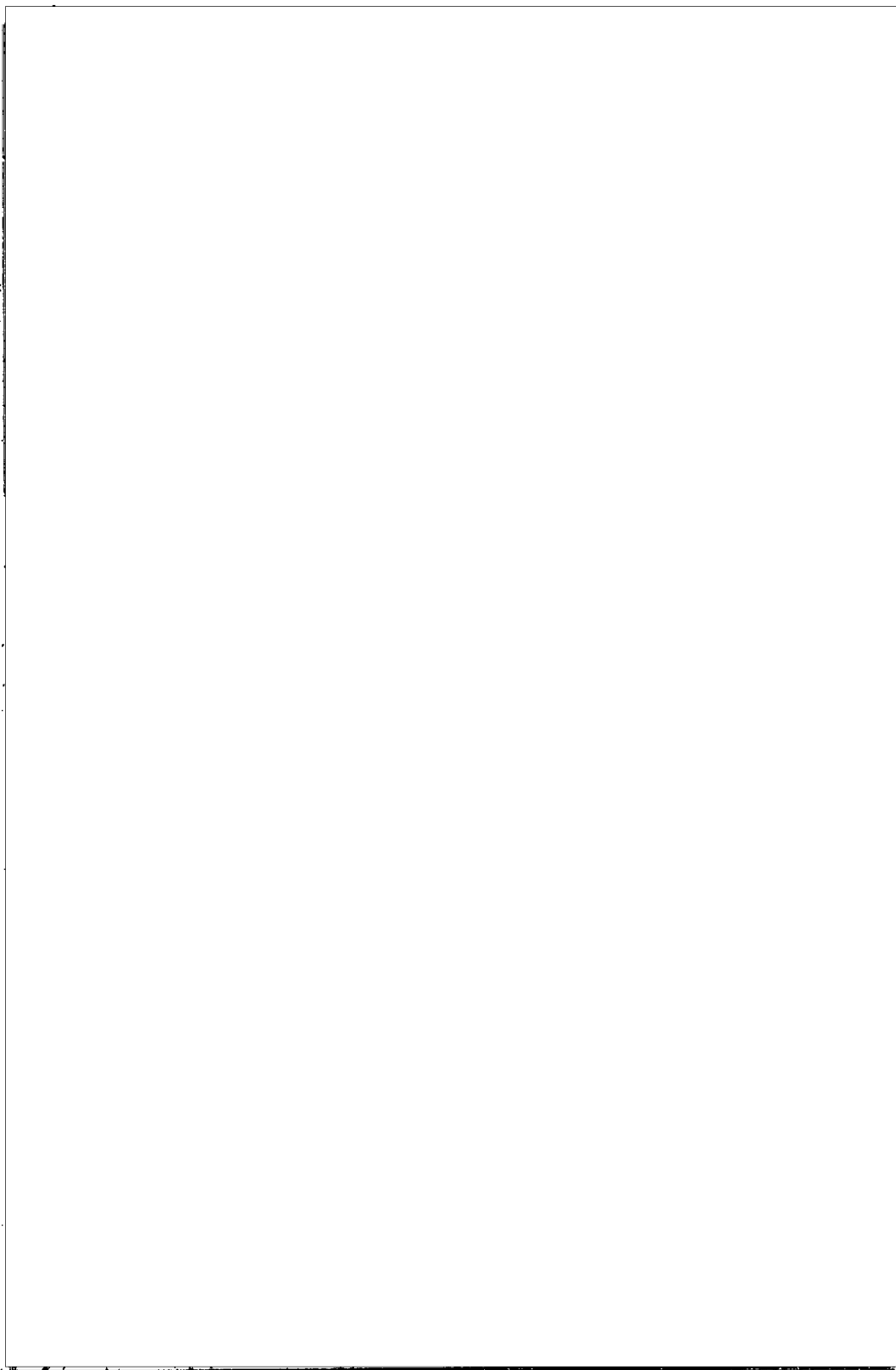
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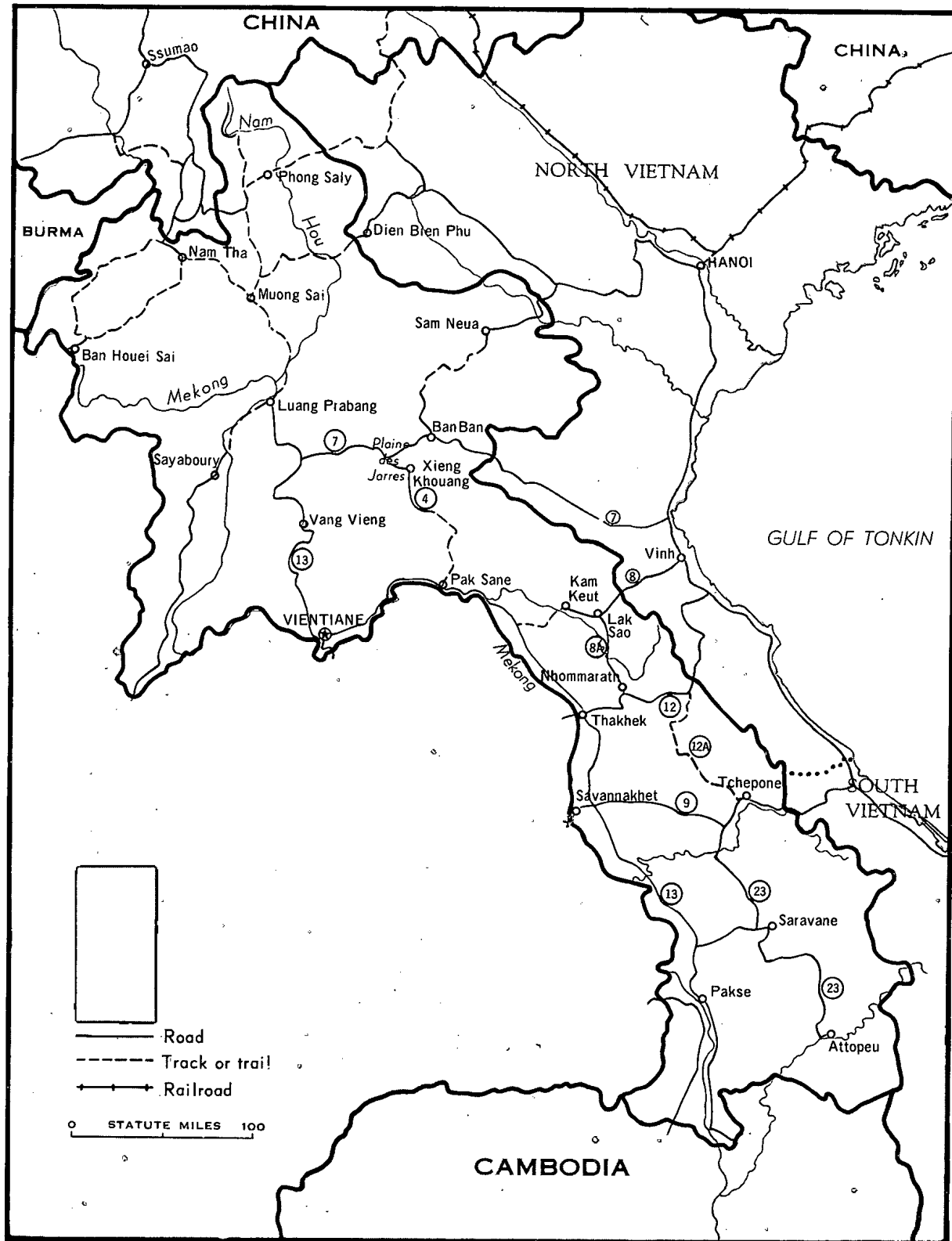
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LAOS



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DAILY BRIEF
11 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

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Gen-
eral Khanh is also interested in some
sort of supra-governmental organ, and
his representatives have been sounding
the Buddhists out on details. Premier
Huong is trying to forestall such an
eventuality by diverting attention to
the prospect of assembly elections.

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2. Indonesia

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3. Communist China

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4. Laos

The Communists, who have recently
moved at least 5,000 troops into south-
central Laos, have also introduced anti-
aircraft and other artillery into the
area. This force could either be used
inside Laos or moved on into South Viet-
nam. (See map.)

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

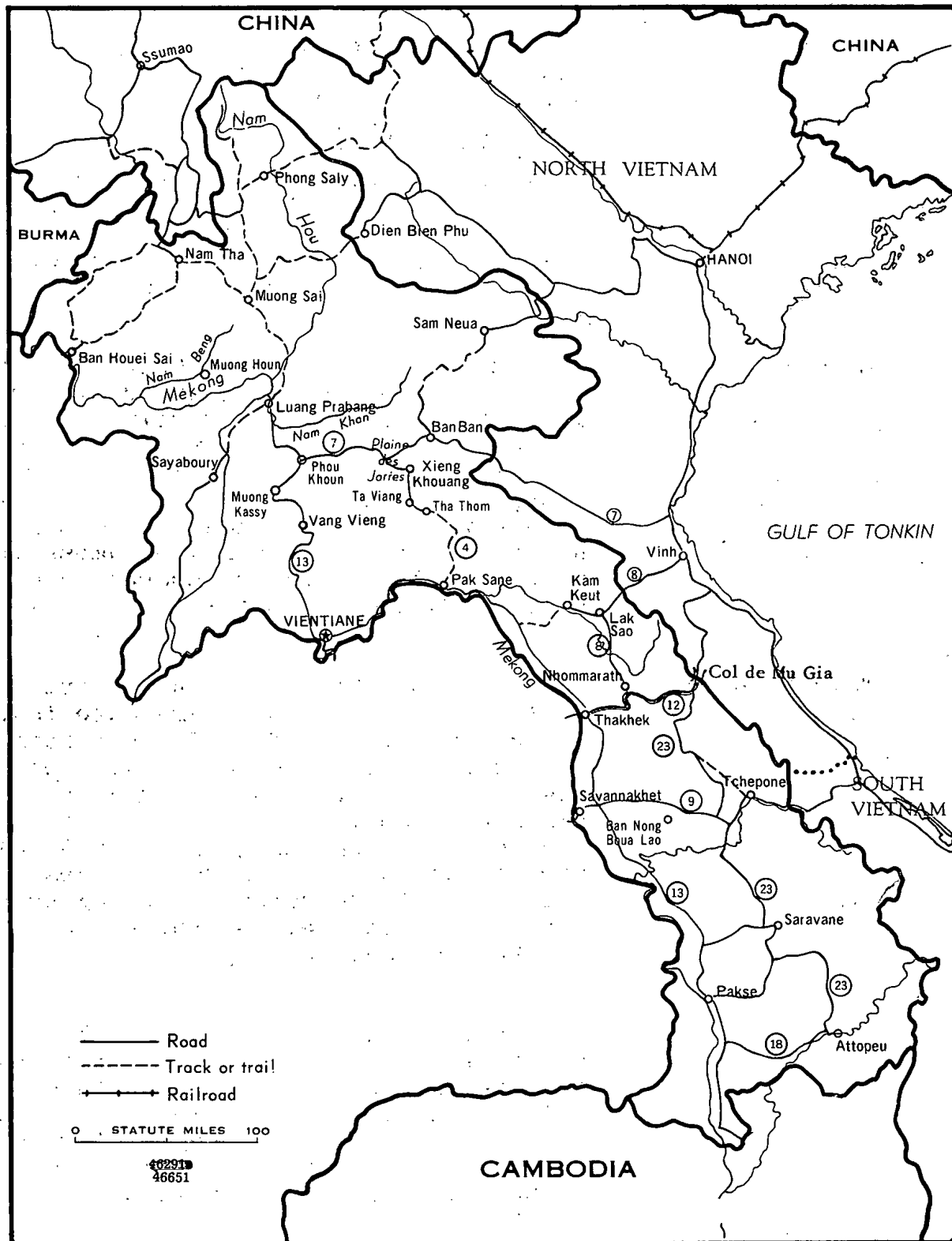
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12 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
12 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

The government is working on a draft election law, to be ready for signature by Chief of State Suu by 20 January. Elections would be scheduled as early as 21 March. While this plan is in accord with the agreements recently reached by Premier Huong and the military, the immediate outlook remains murky, partly because much mistrust persists on both sides.

2. Laos

Road watch teams on Route 12 are reporting numbers of empty trucks moving east, presumably returning to North Vietnam. It is not clear whether the trucks are returning to pick up more troops and supplies or whether a leveling off is taking place in the build-up of Communist - North Vietnamese forces we have noted in the Nhommarath area east of Thakhek. (See Map)

3. West Germany

The US Embassy in Bonn reports that Erhard and company are experiencing a near crisis of confidence regarding their foreign policy. The embassy also indicates that some German officials are feeling "let down" by the US, particularly regarding MLF. De Gaulle, who has acceded to Erhard's request that their 19-20 January meeting be a purely private one, is probably aware of these German anxieties.

4. Greece

Prime Minister Papandreou has put a stop to an intra-party rebellion by threatening to resign. The episode will add to public uneasiness over the political outlook. Jockeying for position among Papandreou's would-be successors is likely to continue.

5. Communist China

The government's highest military body met last week to discuss a report on the build-up of national forces, and presumably to endorse new policy decisions. We have nothing specific as yet regarding what decisions may have been endorsed, but before this meeting, the regime publicly pledged to increase its support of "national liberation" struggles.



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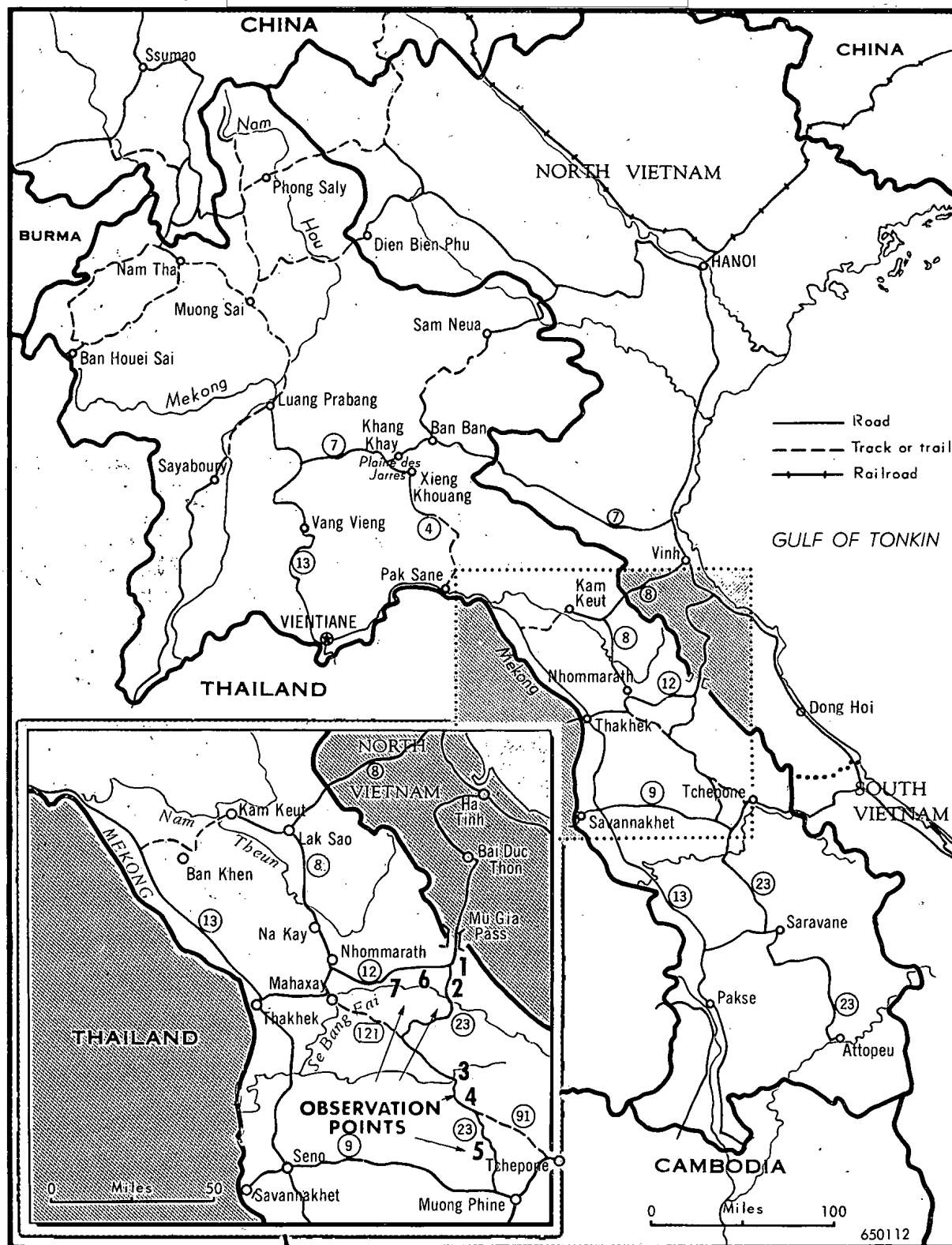


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DAILY BRIEF
13 JANUARY 1965

1. Laos

The purpose behind the sizable Communist build-up in southern Laos near Tchepone over the past month still remains uncertain. It is not clear whether immediate Communist military intentions here focus principally on Laos or on South Vietnam.

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2. South Vietnam

Buddhist leader Tri Quang says he has started a hunger strike in protest against the Huong government and General Khanh's power. If this does not get results, he threatens several Buddhist self-immolations before the US Embassy. Meanwhile, popular agitation in central South Vietnam has subsided again.

3. Nationalist China

The appointment of Chiang Ching-kuo as Minister of National Defense is another step toward succession to his father's leadership. Up to now he has operated behind the scenes, particularly in security matters. His assumption of a key public office provides him an opportunity to gain recognition and prestige.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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14 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
14 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

Prospects for more progress in stabilizing the political situation may also be improved by Buddhist leader Tri Quang's decision today to call off his one-man hunger strike in protest against the Huong government.

Meanwhile, the Viet Cong are stepping up pressure against certain densely populated areas. Fourteen district capitals south of Saigon were shelled by Communist mortars during the past week.

2. Congo

Spaak is trying to persuade Tshombé to reconsider the cancellation of his Brussels visit. Tshombé is fearful that the Belgians may be politicking with the rebels behind his back. Government heads of Kenya and Tanzania are meeting with Ugandan leaders to map strategy against Tshombé.

3. Colombia

Colombia's financial crisis is deepening. Also, there is concern over the general strike threatened for 25 January and the implications of last week's successful attack on a provincial town by Cuban-trained guerrillas. President Valencia's Defense Minister, General Ruiz Nuevo, often mentioned as a potential coup leader, discreetly sought to learn from the US chargé yesterday what the US attitude would be toward a military takeover.

4. Indonesia

Apparently seeking now to offset a recent emphasis on military build-up, Sukarno stated today that he would accept a UN or Afro-Asian role in helping to negotiate his dispute with Malaysia. Similar moves in the past have failed because of Sukarno's refusal to accept Malaysia's demand that he first withdraw Indonesian guerrillas from Malaysian Borneo. There is no evidence yet that Sukarno now intends to relax military operations directed at Borneo and the Malaysian mainland.



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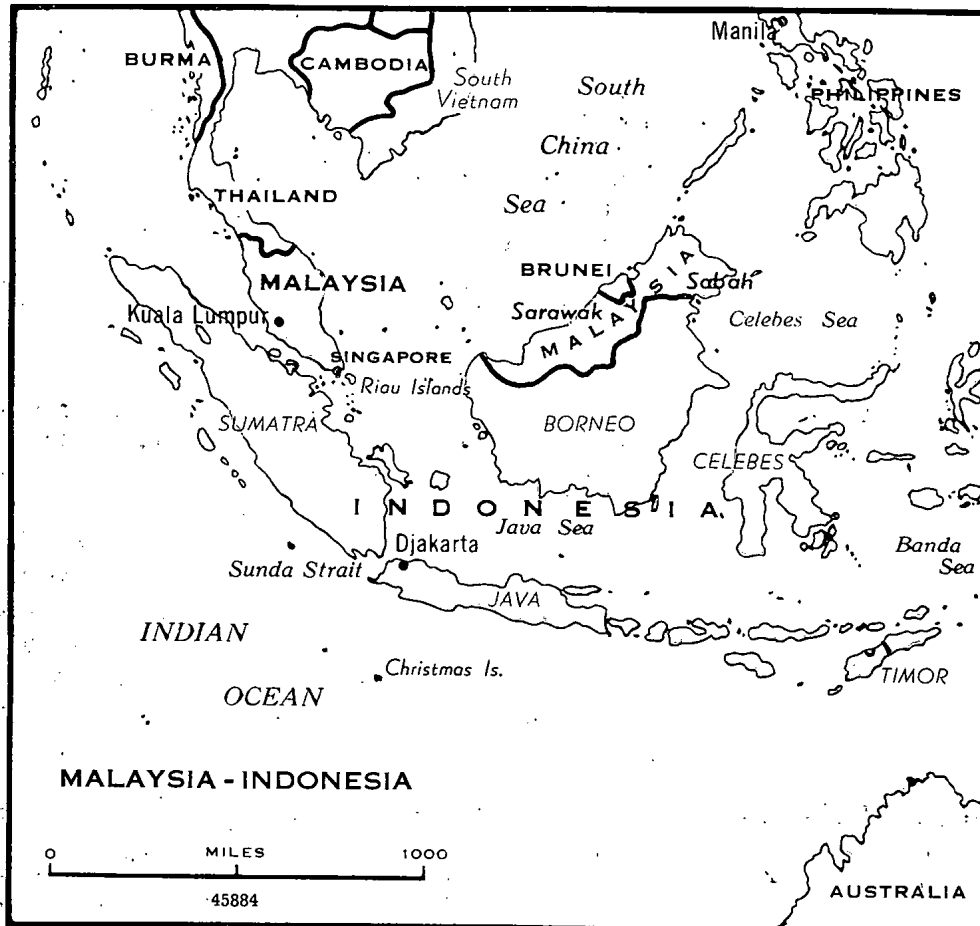
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15 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
15 JANUARY 1965

1. Tanzania

President Nyerere has ordered two US diplomats to leave Tanzania within 24 hours on charges of planning an armed revolt on Zanzibar. Details are lacking, but Nyerere may have acted on the basis of fraudulent information provided by radical Africans who have been trying for some time to convince Nyerere that the US is conniving to overthrow him. His action could be related to the meeting just concluded of East African chiefs of state, which took place in a strong anti-US atmosphere.

2. Malaysia

There is considerable sentiment among British and Commonwealth commanders in Malaysia for launching preemptive strikes deep into Borneo to counter the recent Indonesian build-up. The British are not likely to approve this but may permit their forces to operate as much as 10,000 yards into Indonesian Borneo, as opposed to the present limit of 3,000 yards. (See Map)

3. South Vietnam

General Khanh is pushing the advantage he gained in the last round with Huong and is asking for a much larger governmental role for the military. Huong is trying to reach quick agreement with Khanh, hoping thereby to present a united military-government front to the Buddhists on the eve of their expected demonstrations this weekend.

4. USSR



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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16 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
16 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

A large explosive device was discovered and deactivated today at a Saigon swimming pool frequented by Americans.

3. Burundi

The chances for a crackdown on Chinese Communist operations and arms aid to the Congo rebels are considerably diminished with the assassination yesterday of the moderate new prime minister. The King, pro-Western but indecisive, may be sufficiently intimidated to permit the radicals to return to power. Violence between Burundi's major tribes is likely.

4. Cuba

The Cubans are trying to push the Venezuelan Communists into greater revolutionary activity

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Some of the Venezuelans have been faltering lately in their zeal for violent action. Havana has come over the last few months to believe that its chances for promoting a successful Latin American revolution are brightest in Venezuela, Colombia, and Guatemala.

5. Italy

President Saragat believes that the political situation is the most dangerous since the war. He is worried that deep personal animosities among the Christian Democratic leaders may lead to disintegration of the party. The result, Saragat fears, could be a government with Communist participation or a "South American situation."

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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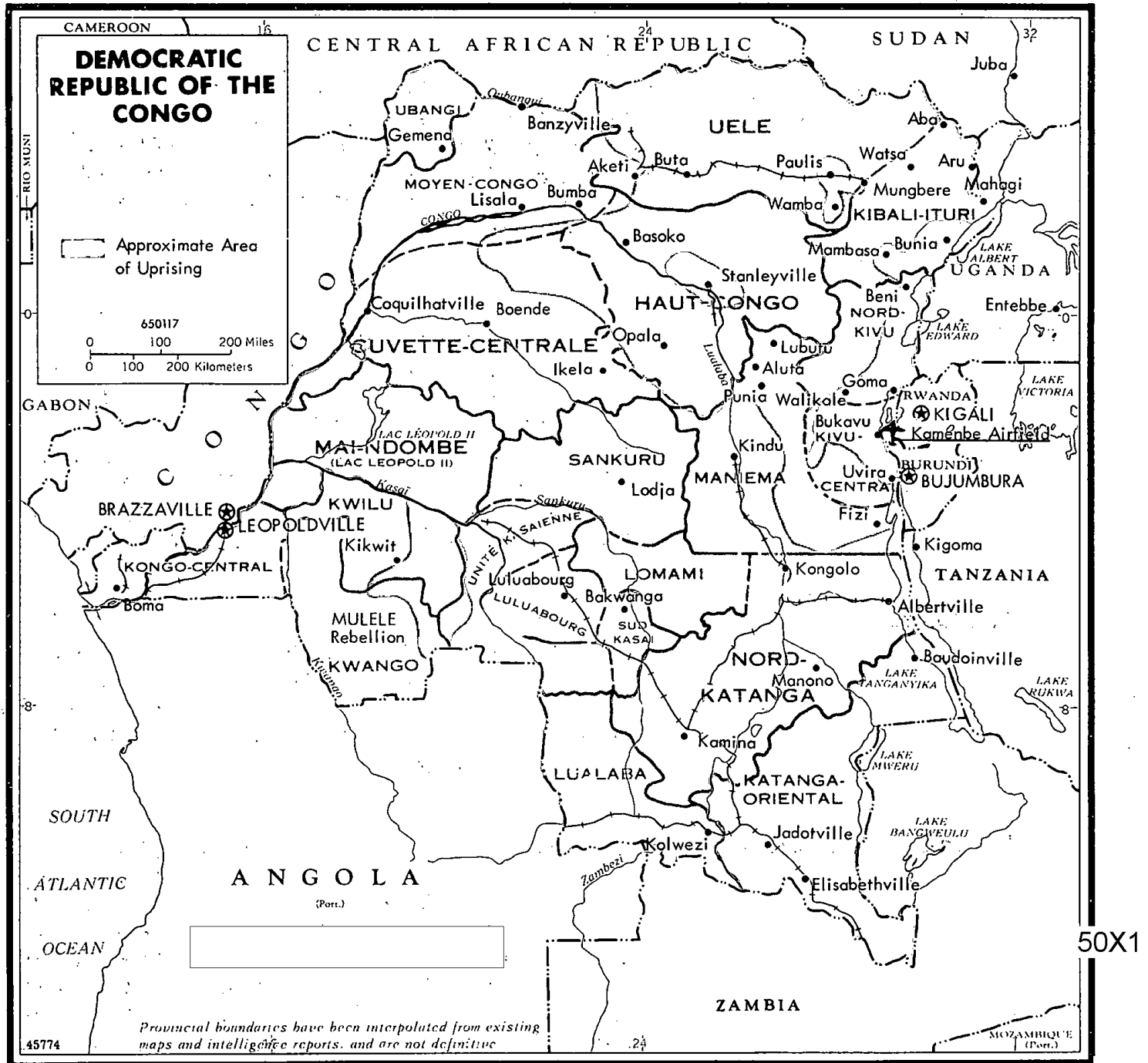


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18 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF

18 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

Premier Huong's new cabinet is a compromise which gives the military the posts they demand but fills them with officers less objectionable to the civilians. The Buddhists, however, are not appeased.

2. Indonesia

President Sukarno and Foreign Minister Subandrio tell Ambassador Jones that harassing the US Embassy will stop. This ties in with other efforts recently to draw back from the brink on Malaysia and to keep the UN door ajar. In Borneo and central Sumatra, however, the Indonesian troop build-up continues.

3. Congo

The military lull is over. The rebels are attacking at Uvira on the Burundi border.

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(See map.)

4. United Kingdom

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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19 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
19 JANUARY 1965

1. USSR

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[redacted]
Moscow found the State of the Union proposals "very interesting" but could not reply until the jelling of the proposed 1 March Communist meeting in Moscow. Nonetheless, an eventual meeting with the President "could be useful." Moscow [redacted] would not like to see American power in Southeast Asia replaced by Chinese power, although Soviet support for North Vietnam is "unavoidable."

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2. South Vietnam

The new military members of the cabinet have not yet assumed office.

[redacted] the military are still dissatisfied with the civilian makeup of the cabinet, despite the prime minister's apparent belief he had met their demands.

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3. Communist China

The latest move by the Chinese to strengthen their military forces is to decree a one-year extension to the term of service.

4. USSR

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[redacted]

5. Congo

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[redacted]

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6. Burundi

A Rwandan refugee employed by the US Embassy has confessed to killing Burundi's prime minister. Bloody tribal reprisals could be in store for Rwandan refugees in Burundi. Most are Tutsis, while Hutus comprise the Burundi majority.

7. USSR

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21 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
21 JANUARY 1965

South Vietnam: Premier Huong, still trying to buy the support of the military against his Buddhist opposition, has agreed to dispose of two more ministers under attack by the "Young Turks" and to appoint several military vice ministers. Buddhist leaders now say that stability 50X1 is not possible so long as Huong and General Khanh remain on the scene.

President's Speech: Foreign reaction to the foreign policy aspects of the Inaugural Address has begun to come in. Commentary in Western Europe and Latin America has been generally favorable. Predictably, East German and Cuban comments have struck a critical note, linking the passages on loss of American lives abroad to US "global" interventions. Soviet media thus far have carried brief factual accounts.

South Korea: The government has run into political flak over its decision to send 2,000 troops into South Vietnam. Its resolve to do so may weaken.

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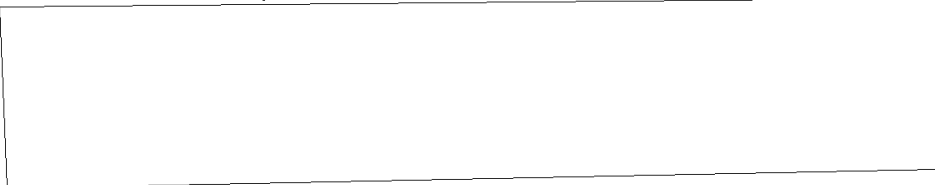
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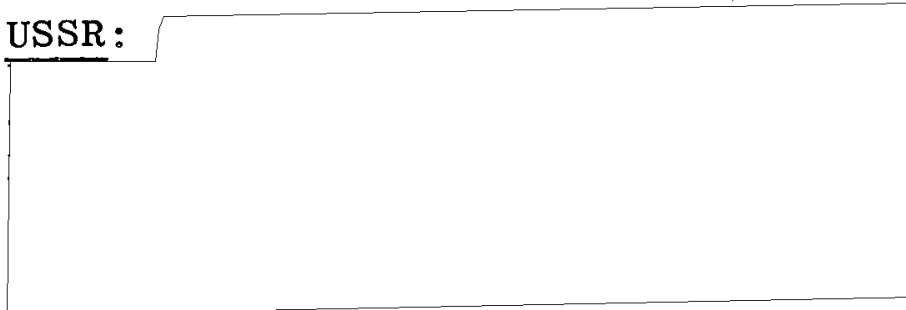
Cuba: Cuban optimism over this year's sugar prospects may be justified. Estimates by US experts indicate an output of 4.5 to 5 million tons this year. Last year's was less than 4 million tons.

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Indonesia: Foreign Minister Subandrio left yesterday for Peiping



USSR:



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Burundi: The suspected assassin, who first claimed that he had been hired by the Americans to kill the prime minister, has now changed his story. He now implicates agents of the Chinese Communists. The King, who seems intent on curbing the Chinese, has named a moderate leader as the new prime minister.

Yemen:



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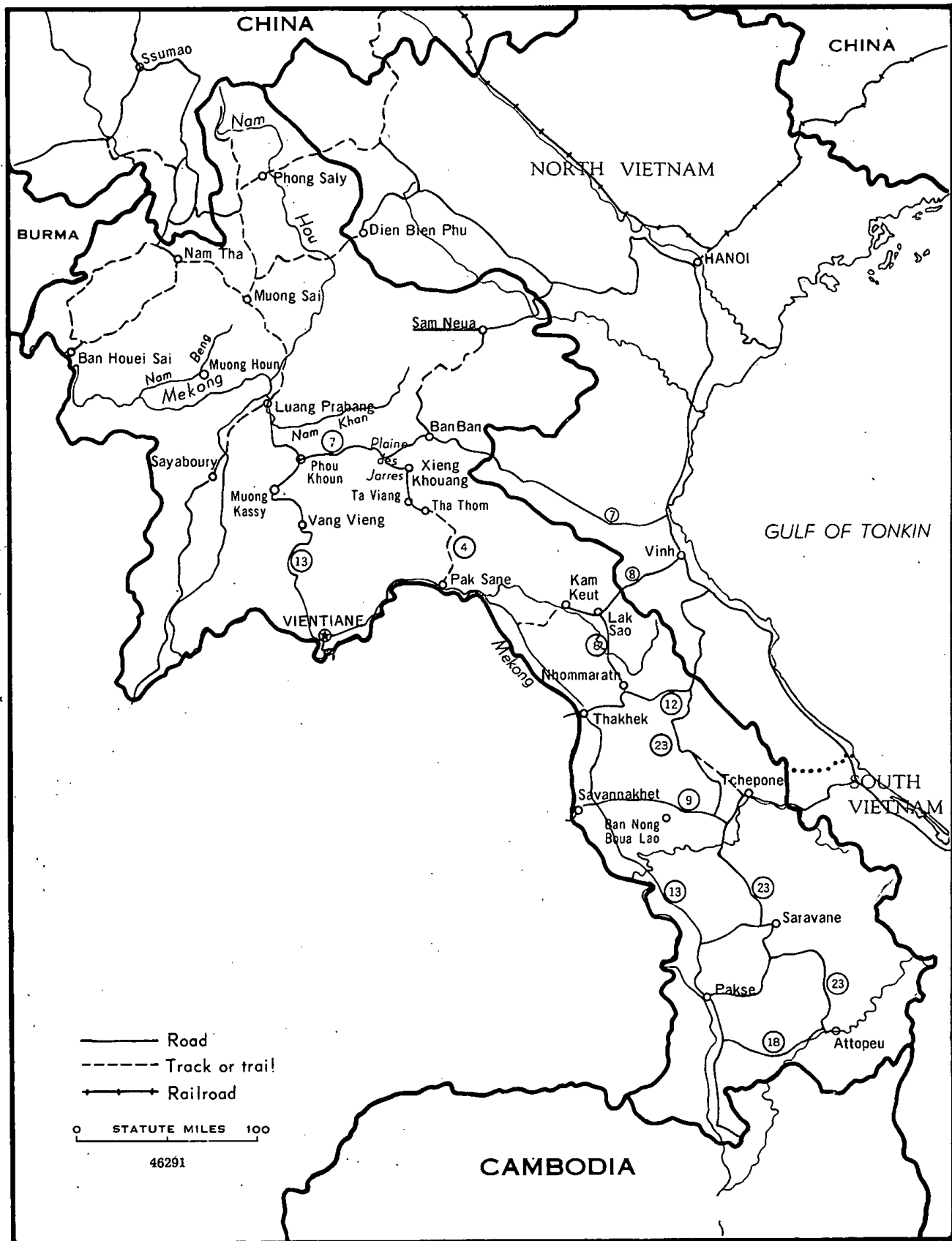


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22 JANUARY 1965

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LAOS



DAILY BRIEF
22 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

Buddhist leader Tri Quang says that today's demonstration outside the US Embassy--in which several Vietnamese were injured--is "only the beginning." There may be more Buddhist demonstrations tomorrow in Saigon and elsewhere. Tri Quang hopes to spark another military coup in order to oust Premier Huong.

2. Colombia

The unions are calling for a general strike on Monday. Troops have been moved into position to control disturbances.

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3. Laos

A Communist attack of some intensity has developed in the past few days near Sam Neua, and may turn into a major action. Press reports of a large enemy force are probably exaggerated, but the 700-odd friendly troops in the vicinity appear to be falling back under the weight of the attack. (See map.)

4. West Germany

Erhard's talk with De Gaulle developed little that was new. Erhard apparently feels that relations have genuinely improved.

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5. South Korea

The political ruckus over the proposed 2,000-man force for South Vietnam may be subsiding. The opposition now says they had not realized the original suggestion came from President Johnson.

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6. UAR

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7. Indonesia

Tension is mounting between the two main organized forces in the country: the Communists and the army. Army leaders say that the Communist Party plans to overthrow the government, and they have alerted their forces. This may be no more than political maneuvering, Indonesian style. At the least, it bespeaks active concern within the army over growing Communist influence and pressure.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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23 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
23 JANUARY 1965

1. United Kingdom

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2. Indonesia

Subandrio, who is on his way to Peiping to discuss aid, apparently has now stated publicly that Indonesia will sign no military pact with any government. This contradicts earlier reports suggesting that a formal mutual defense agreement with the Chinese might be in the wind. The best guess seems to be that Subandrio will try to get a specific Chinese military commitment, the details of which will be kept quiet.

3. South Vietnam

Buddhist-inspired demonstrations continue and seem to be taking an increasingly anti-US tone. In Saigon, it is becoming clear that the recent settlement between the generals and Huong is largely a facade, and plotting and counterplotting seem to be growing even more intense than usual. Some of this activity suggests that Khanh may be working out a deal for Buddhist support in taking over the government. This is far from certain, however.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

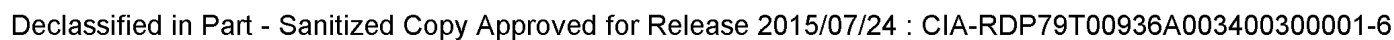
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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25 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
25 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

The traditional Vietnamese New Year holidays next week may bring some slackening in military activity. The Communist-dominated National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam has ordered a cease-fire for 1 through 6 February for celebration. Government soldiers are invited to visit their native villages in "liberated" areas so long as they do not carry arms or spy.

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Political maneuvering continues in Saigon amid an increasing air of intrigue. Our Annex sums up this situation.

2. Congo

East African leaders are intent upon increasing the flow of arms, including artillery, to the Congolese rebels.

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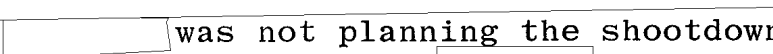

3. USSR

Current Soviet naval activity in the Western Pacific could reflect an intent to establish a limited military presence in the area, but it is too early to determine its full purpose. Moscow may only be combining training with the temporary maintenance of a close watch on US operations, particularly of US aircraft carriers.



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4. Cuba


 Fidel Castro 
 was not planning the shootdown of any U-2s. Castro  was impressed by the US bombing of the North Vietnamese naval bases last August. He doubted the Soviets would come to his aid in a similar circumstance.

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ANNEX

Political Intrigue in South Vietnam

Over the weekend various sources presented the US Embassy with a welter of conflicting reports on the intentions and intrigues of the Vietnamese military.

Premier Huong told Ambassador Taylor that the military presented their views to him yesterday, deliberately overrating the danger of his confrontation with the Buddhists in an effort to force his resignation. Huong said he would stick to his tough policy and would not resign.

General Khanh is continuing to maneuver for power. He appears willing either to work with the Buddhists or to use the Buddhist threat to justify a return to military government. Yesterday he told Deputy Ambassador Johnson that he had Buddhist agreement to a military takeover. Subsequently, however, one of the "Young Turks" told Huong's deputy that the military had reconsidered and decided to support the government, at least for now.

It is not clear whether Khanh is carrying along the rest of the military in his maneuvering. Embassy officials have been told by two different sources that a plot is underway to assassinate Khanh or at least to get him out of the country. The sources were seeking some sign of US approval. They were strongly discouraged, with the warning that such action could only make matters worse. One of these sources later reported that action against Khanh had been deferred for the moment.

The Buddhists themselves are following a devious, flexible course, aimed at Huong's overthrow and replacement by a government over which they can exert some influence, whether it be military or civilian.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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26 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
26 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

There are strong indications that General Khanh is preparing to remove Premier Huong very soon. Khanh has mentioned no date, but I Corps Commander General Thi has told the press there may be a change of government tonight, Washington time. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Yesterday Khanh again told Deputy Ambassador Johnson that Huong's downfall is inevitable. Although Khanh said the embassy would be informed of the decision before the military took action, the pace of events at the time may prevent this.

2. USSR

A recent slowdown in ICBM testing suggests the Soviets are having difficulties with some of their new missile programs. [REDACTED]

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3. Laos

[REDACTED]

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4. India

[REDACTED]

50X1

[REDACTED]

50X1

5. Honduras

A recent increase in political tensions may lead to violence as Honduras prepares for a constituent assembly election on 16 February. The country's majority Liberal Party is strongly opposed to present Chief of State Lopez' apparent intention to grab the presidency.

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6. Syria

Harsh actions by the regime of President Hafiz have not stopped demonstrations against the government's recent nationalization measures. Although the conservative groups leading the protests do not have the strength to topple Hafiz, prolonged agitation could develop support within the army, always the decisive force in Syrian politics.

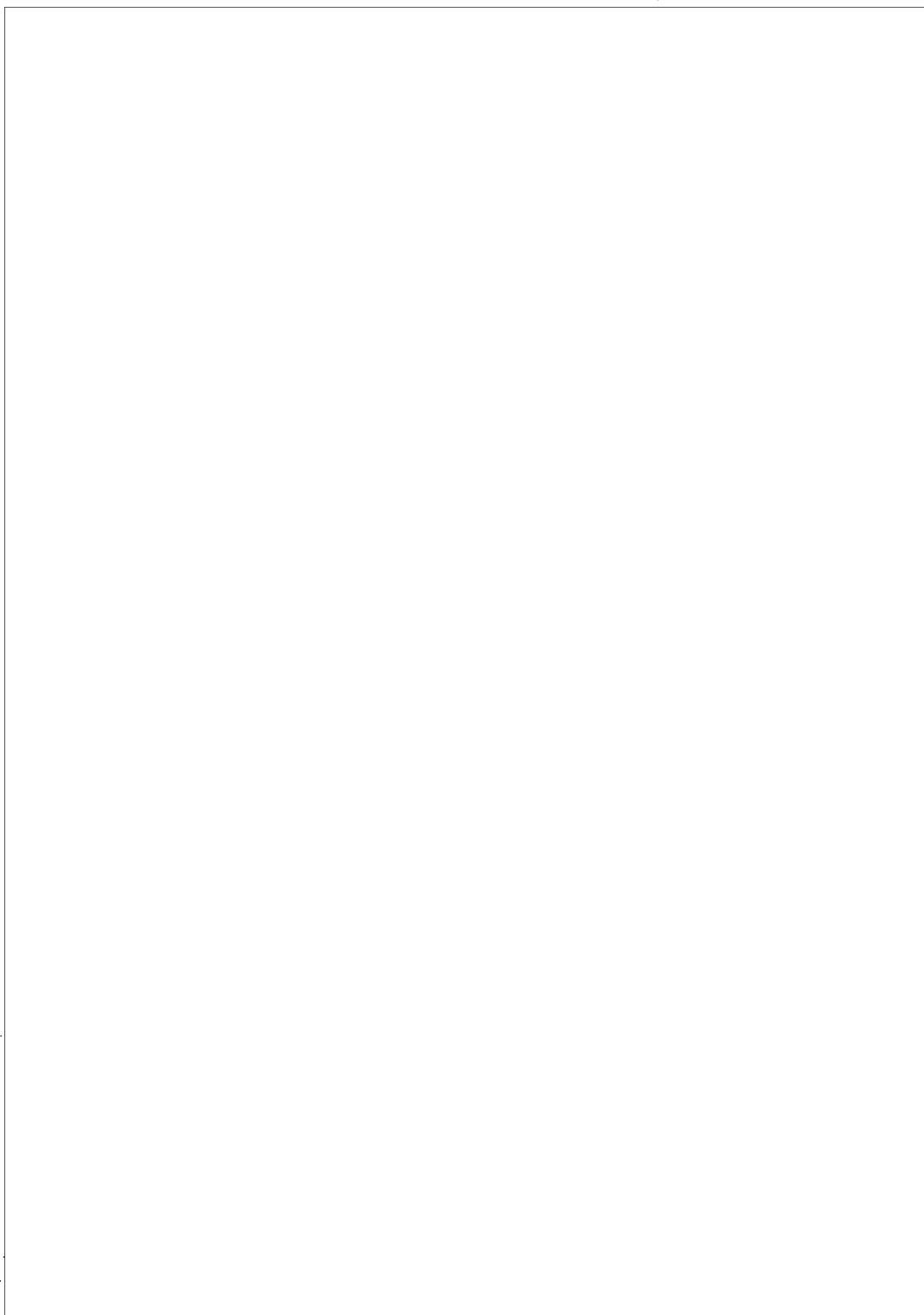
7. Thailand

The Communists are stepping up their propaganda and agitation program in Thailand. On 23 January, a clandestine Communist-operated radio station announced the formation of a "Patriotic Front of Thailand." Another front, called "Thai Independence Movement" was formed a few months ago. Its declared purpose is to lead the Communist movement for the ouster of the Thanom government and the US "imperialists."

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

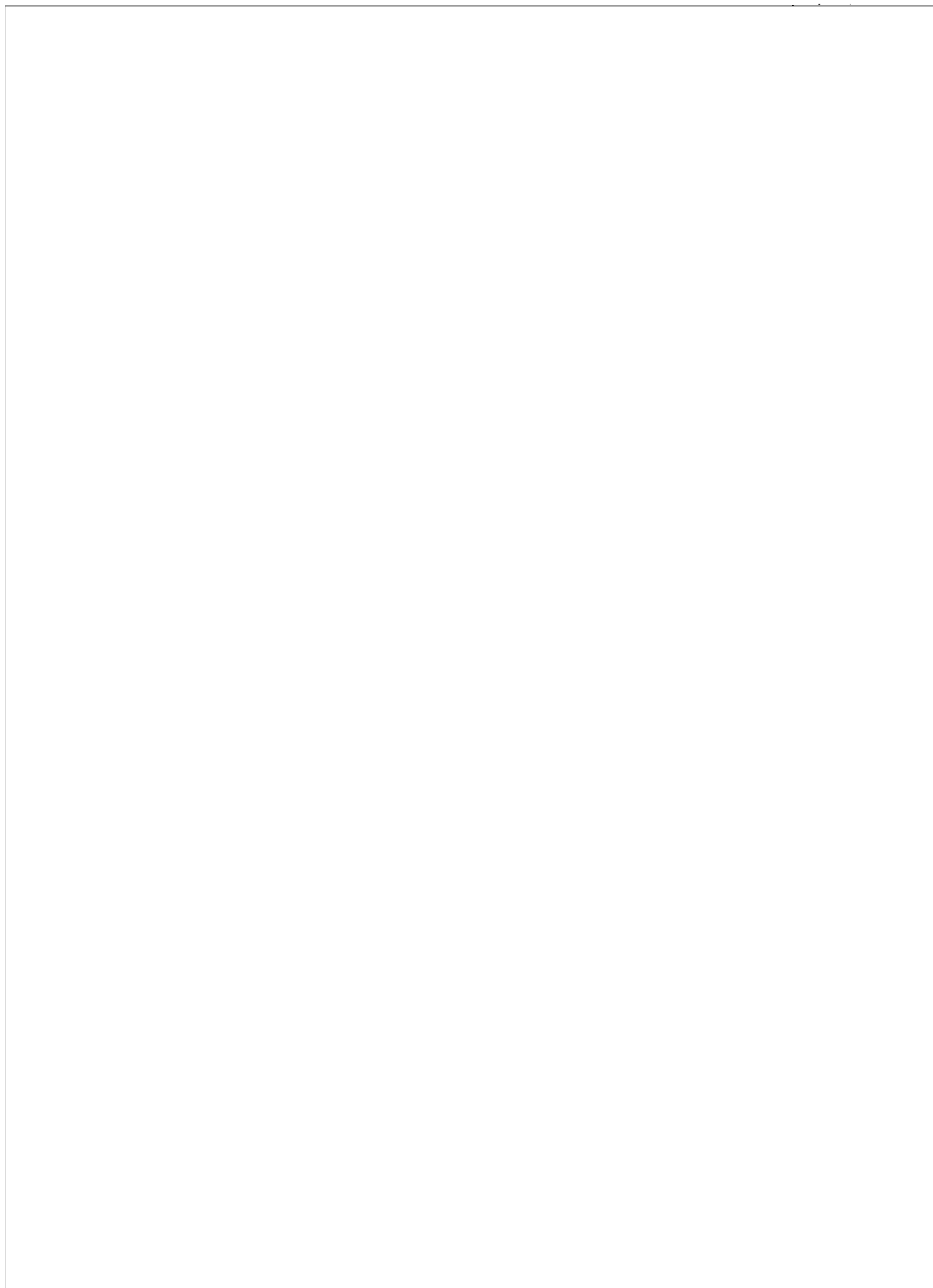


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27 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
27 JANUARY 1965

1. Laos

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2. South Vietnam

Saigon appears calm after the military takeover. General Khanh says he does not at present plan to participate in the projected government, formation of which he expects will take a week. First Deputy Premier Vien will serve as acting premier.

Khanh says he is confident the Buddhists will desist from political activity as they promised.

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The prospects for stabilizing the situation at present seem to depend very largely on two things: how Khanh goes about reorganizing the government; and whether he lives up to his commitment to form a national assembly by the end of March.

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3. Panama

Defeated presidential candidate Arnulfo Arias appears to be preparing a coup against President Robles in the next few months. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Arnulfo probably calculates that he must make his bid before the proposed negotiations with the US on the Canal problem begin to show positive benefits for Panama.

4. USSR

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5. UAR

No official Egyptian comment on yesterday's House action has been noted. Press treatment thus far has been restrained. [REDACTED]

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6. Cyprus

Gromyko's suggestion last week for a federal solution to the Cyprus problem has caused a major stir. Turkey prefers such a solution. Both Athens and Nicosia are disturbed, and shifts in their foreign policies are likely.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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28 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
28 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

General Khanh's immediate plans for a government apparatus appear to be shifting. Clearly, however, he envisages tight military control.

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Acting premier Oanh, whose term of office has not yet been specified, has been friendly to Americans, but the US Embassy does not have a high regard for him.

Further trouble from the Buddhists may be in store. They are protesting the scheduled execution of three Viet Cong terrorists and the continued detention of monks arrested in recent demonstrations.

2. Communist China

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3. Congo

Government military operations are stalled for the moment. Partly this is because Brussels has ordered a slowdown. The Belgians want to assure their economic interests; they also want Tshombé to improve his image in Africa. They may negotiate a new understanding with Tshombé, now in Brussels.

The OAU Commission on the Congo meets tomorrow in Nairobi. Radical Africans will continue their efforts to topple Tshombé.

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4. USSR

The new leadership has made some important economic changes to encourage local and private initiative. Besides a considerable degree of autonomy promised to some plant managers, the government is encouraging private initiative in housing and agriculture. A brief survey is at Annex.

5. Syria

The Syrian press is linking the US Embassy with the recent demonstrations against the government, and a full-scale anti-American campaign may be in store.

6. Cuba

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7. Burundi

8. North Vietnam

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ANNEX

Changes in Soviet Economic Policy

Last month Premier Kosygin announced plans to expand a production-marketing system which has been tried out experimentally in light industry.

In July, some 400 clothing and shoe factories will start producing according to estimated consumer demand instead of quotas established by the government. Plant managers will make the estimate of demands, and they will have the authority to buy raw materials, hire workers, and set wages.

Kosygin said that this system will eventually be extended beyond light industry. Experiments are already in progress in a truck-lift factory and a coal mine in order to determine whether the demand system will work in heavy industry.

Soon after the new regime took power, it announced that Khrushchev's restrictions on the private use of land and ownership of livestock in the countryside would be eased. The government is now trying to develop private initiative in rural areas by extending credits for the purchase of cattle and by selling fodder grains from state supplies for privately owned livestock.

In another effort to stimulate private initiative, the new regime has unobtrusively restored credit privileges to individuals building their own homes. The government apparently recognizes that housing construction, which has fallen off badly in recent years, cannot reach its goals without a large increase in private effort.

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DAILY BRIEF
29 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

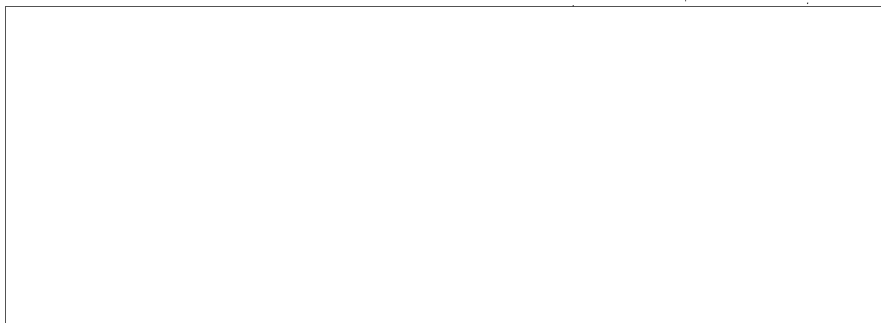
General Khanh says that a military-civilian council will be appointed in about a week and charged with setting up a new government. Khanh said that the election of an assembly might be postponed.

Khanh maintains that he has satisfied the Buddhists, but this remains to be proved. The Buddhists have at least calmed down for the present. Order is being maintained in the major cities, and there was no Buddhist reaction to this morning's execution of a terrorist.

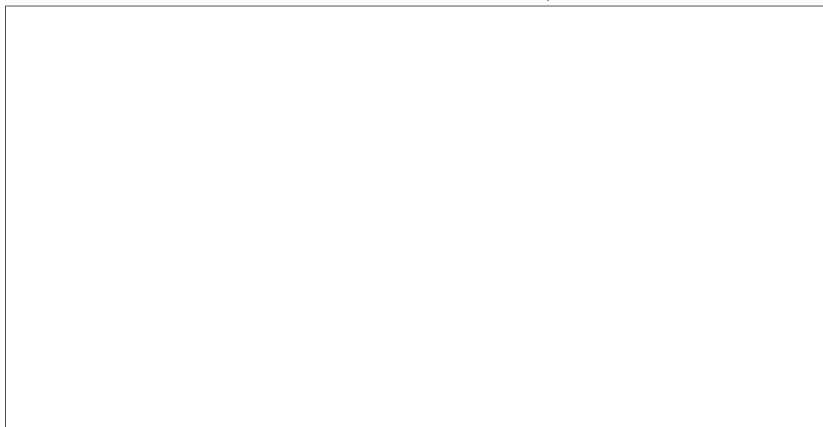
Buddhist leader Tri Quang, in a conciliatory conversation with a US Embassy officer yesterday, said he was returning to his home in Hué for a "long stay." Today he issued a press statement denying that the Buddhists are anti-American.

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2. USSR-China



3. USSR



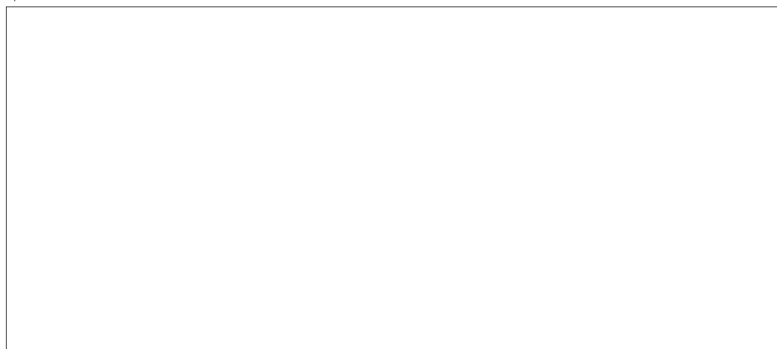
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4. Soviet Bloc

Economic differences within the Soviet bloc may be widened during the current Prague meeting of CEMA, the bloc's economic organization. Controversy is expected over responses to President Johnson's "bridge-building" concept. There also will be a ruckus over the drafting of a coordinated economic program for 1965.

5. Ghana



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6. Congo

Tshombé is still receiving aid from Portugal and South Africa. The Portuguese in Angola recently airlifted ammunition and other supplies to Leopoldville; more flights are scheduled. Also, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] some 350 South African mercenaries are going to the Congo soon, and many of these will be South African Army regulars on leave status.

Tshombé's receipt of aid from these sources is a red flag to nationalistic Africans.

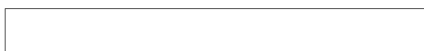
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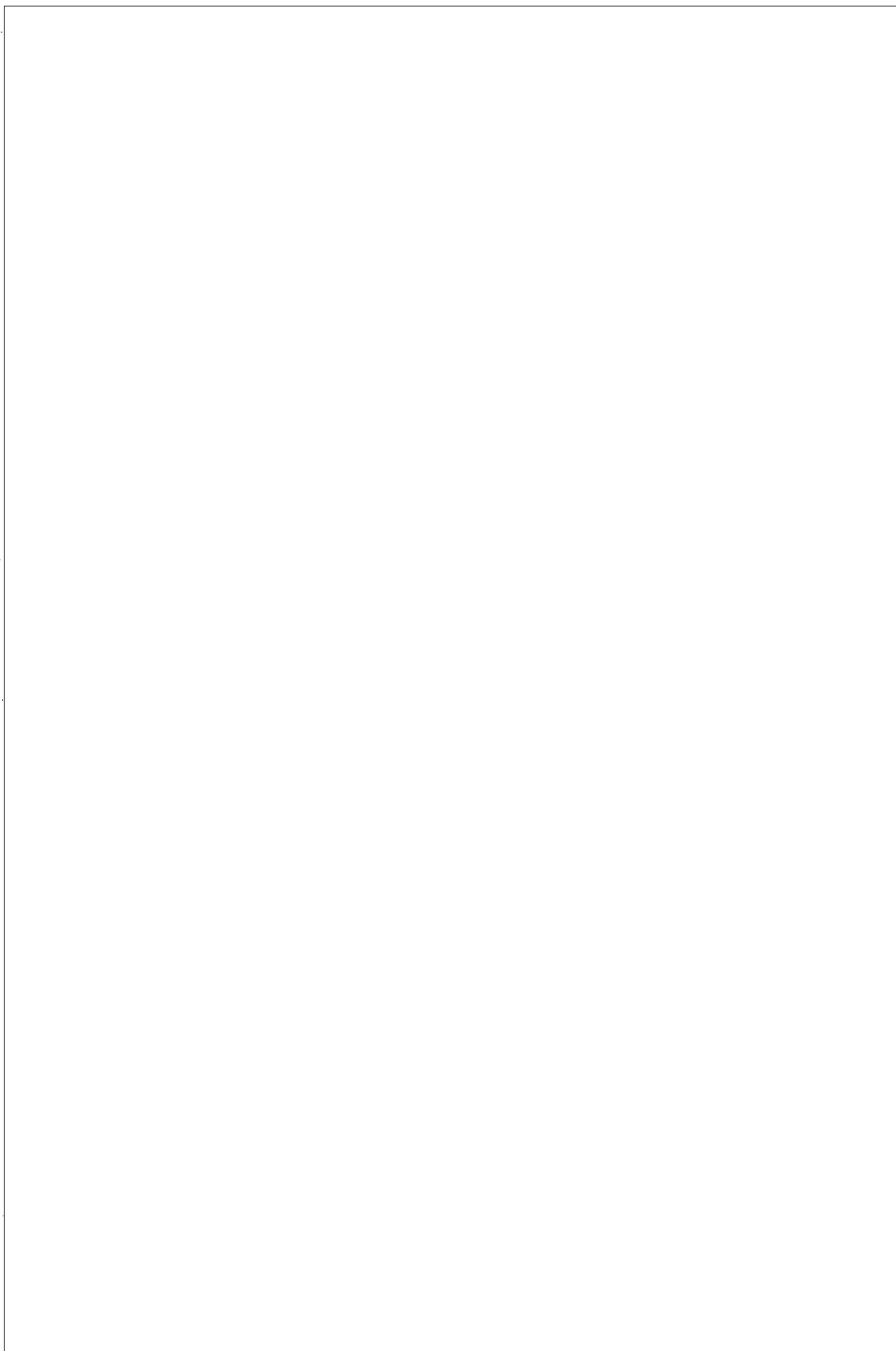
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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30 JANUARY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
30 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

The Buddhists may be about to test how much freedom of action the generals will allow them. They have asked General Khanh to return their signed agreement, which Khanh has said included a promise to abstain from politics in return for the ouster of Premier Huong.

Press reports from Saigon have picked this up and are playing it as the first sign of Buddhist discontent with Khanh. 50X1

2. South Vietnam

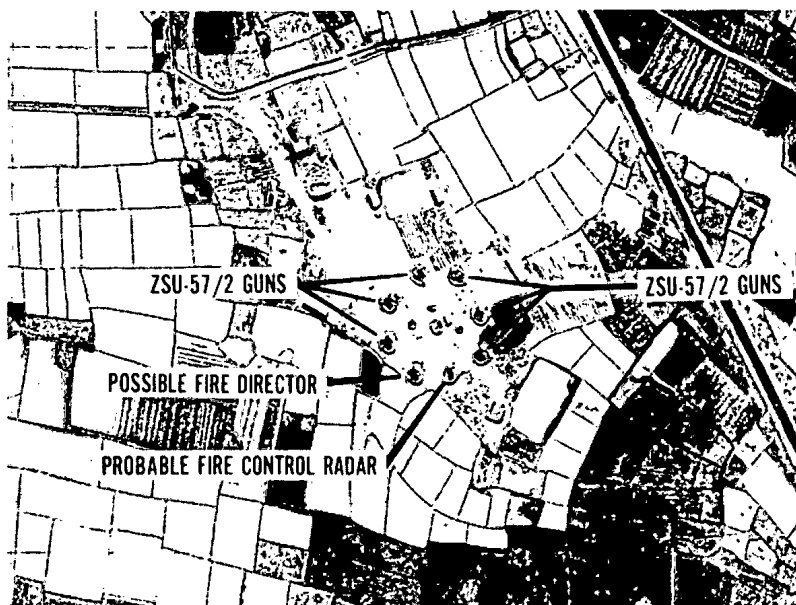
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3. Indonesia

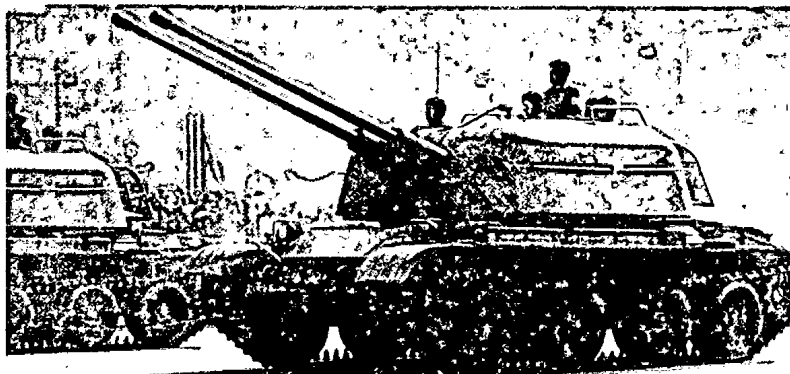
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POSSIBLE ZSU-57/2 SELF-PROPELLED ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS NEAR PHUC YEN AIRFIELD



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The ZSU-57-2 is a modified twin version of the 57mm automatic anti-aircraft gun mounted on a modified T-54 tank chassis. The twin 57mm gun is an effective anti-tank and antipersonnel weapon.

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Weight | 31 short tons |
| Speed | 30 mph |
| Cruising range | 250 miles |
| Main armament | Twin 57mm Automatic AA Gun S-68 |

4. North Vietnam

The Soviet Union is apparently assisting Hanoi in bolstering its air defenses. Aerial photography has established the deployment since 24 December of at least six Soviet self-propelled anti-aircraft guns near Phuc Yen Airfield. This weapon has never been observed in Communist China. (See photos.)

5. Burundi

Yesterday afternoon the government gave the Chinese Communists their orders to leave Burundi as soon as possible.

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6. Congo

Brazzaville Congo's concern over a supposed military threat from Leopoldville is helping the Communists and radical Africans increase their influence and presence in the country.

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a serious clash between the two Congos does not appear likely at this time.

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