



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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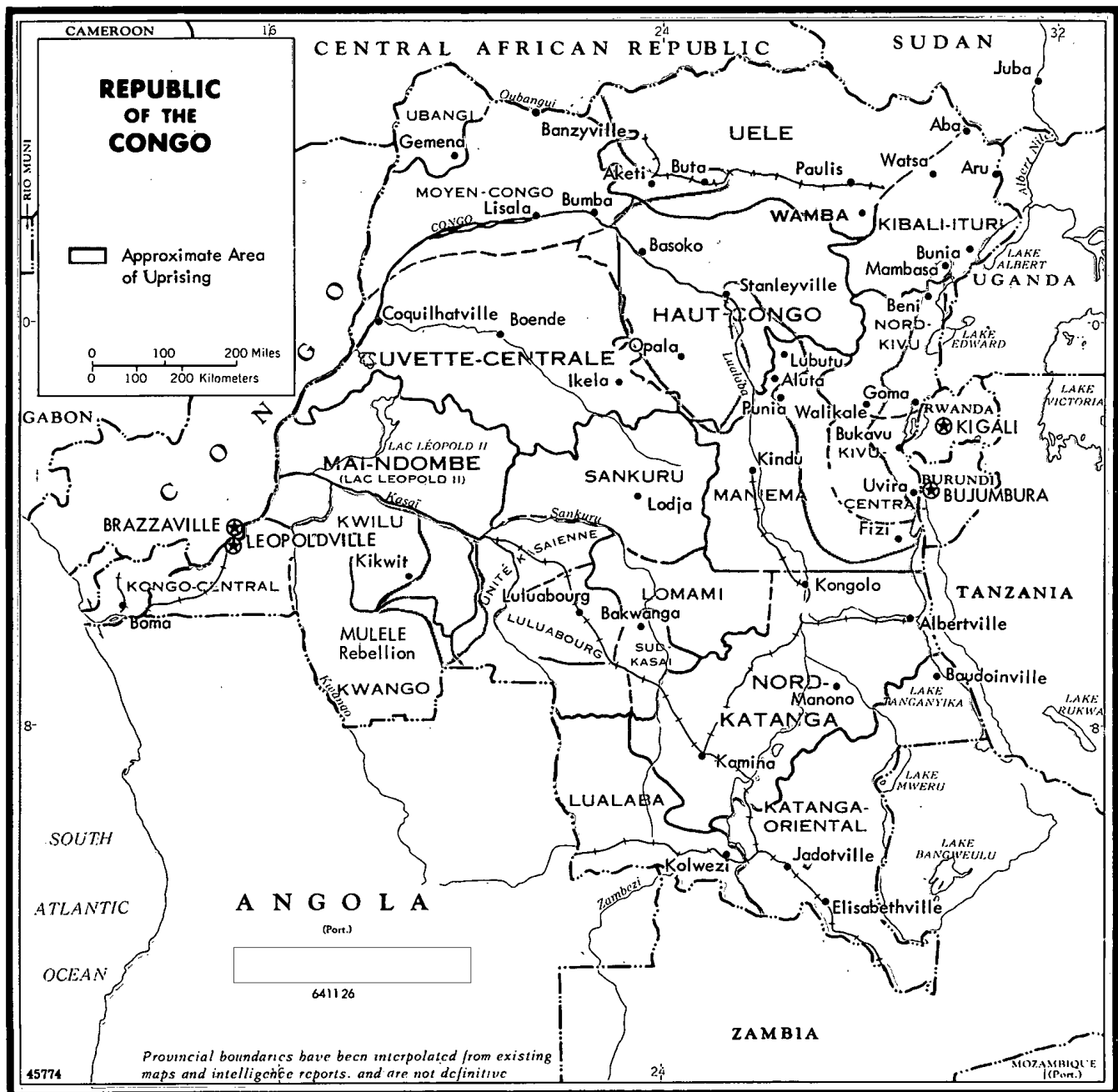


1 DECEMBER 1964

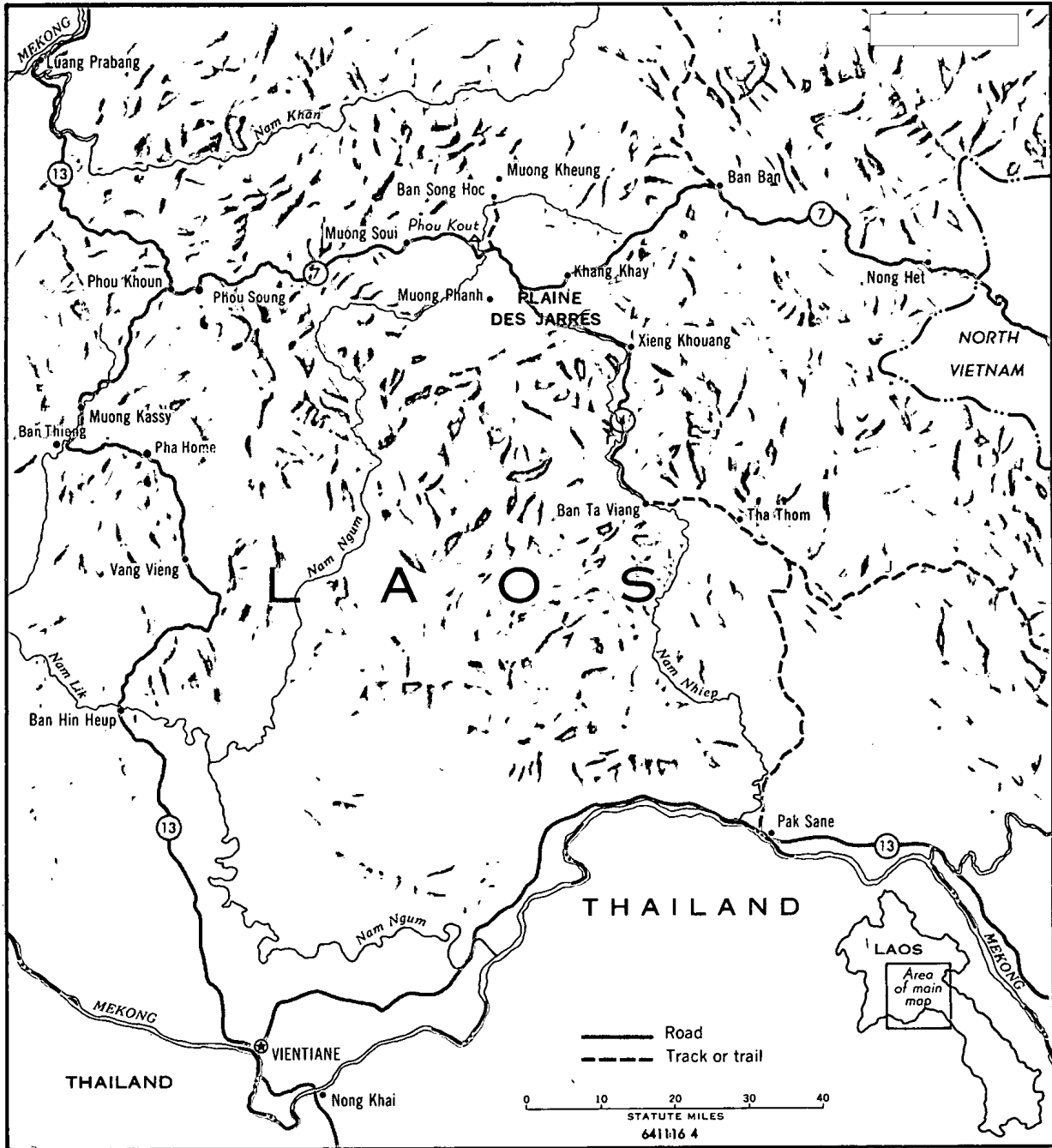
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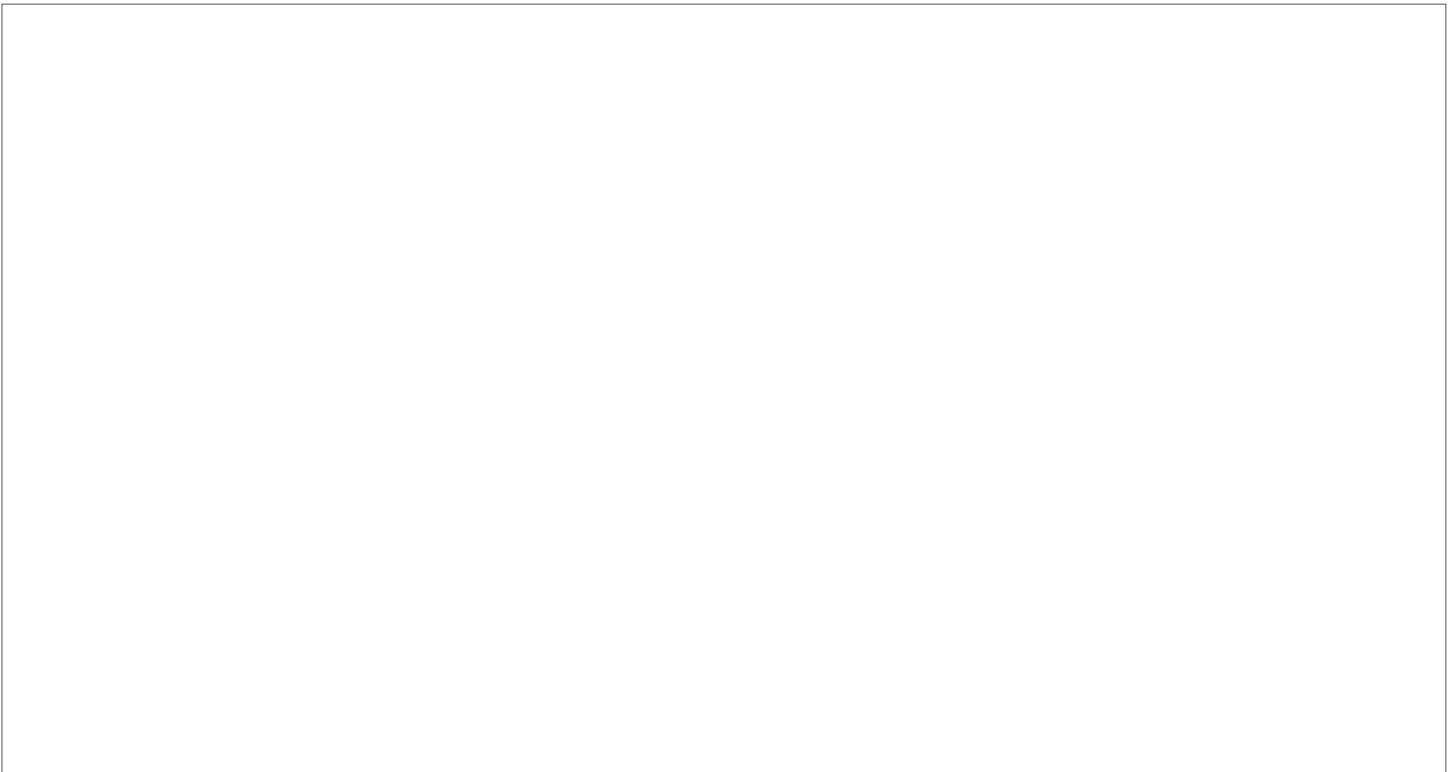
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DAILY BRIEF
1 DECEMBER 1964

1. Congo

The military situation in Stanleyville remains bleak. Government forces have retaken Bunia and are nearing Paulis, but have established only a shaky hold on towns along the Kindu-Stanleyville route.

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2. Laos

Another government attack against Phou Kout has been planned for 2 December. The Pathet Lao may react strongly. Yesterday an enemy attack was reported a few miles north of Tha Thom, but, at last official report, it appeared to be only a probing action.

3. USSR-Space

[redacted] yesterday's space probe, dubbed ZOND-2 by the Soviets, was successfully put into a trajectory toward Mars. The Soviets have announced, however, that its power equipment is not performing properly. If ZOND-2 is determined to be a failure, two weeks remain in December which are favorable for another attempt.

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4. USSR-Politics

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5. South Vietnam

Tri Quang, in central Vietnam, is now joining Buddhist leaders in Saigon in pressing for the ouster of the Huong government. With Tri Quang's power and political shrewdness in the scales against him, Huong's position is becoming increasingly difficult.

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6. North Vietnam

[redacted]
the North Vietnamese are tightening their procedures for coping with South Vietnamese maritime [redacted]

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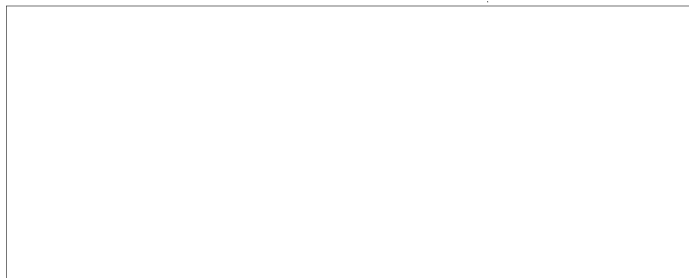
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ANNEX 1

Additional Items of Intelligence

1. Italy



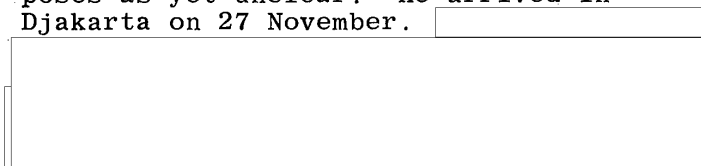
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2. Communist China

Foreign Minister Chen Yi is taking a hasty tour of Southeast Asia for purposes as yet unclear. He arrived in Djakarta on 27 November.

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3. Argentina

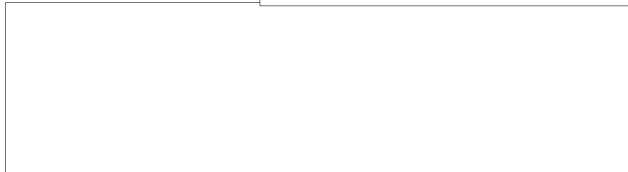


4. USSR

Growing Soviet emphasis on training of airborne ground forces for distant operations

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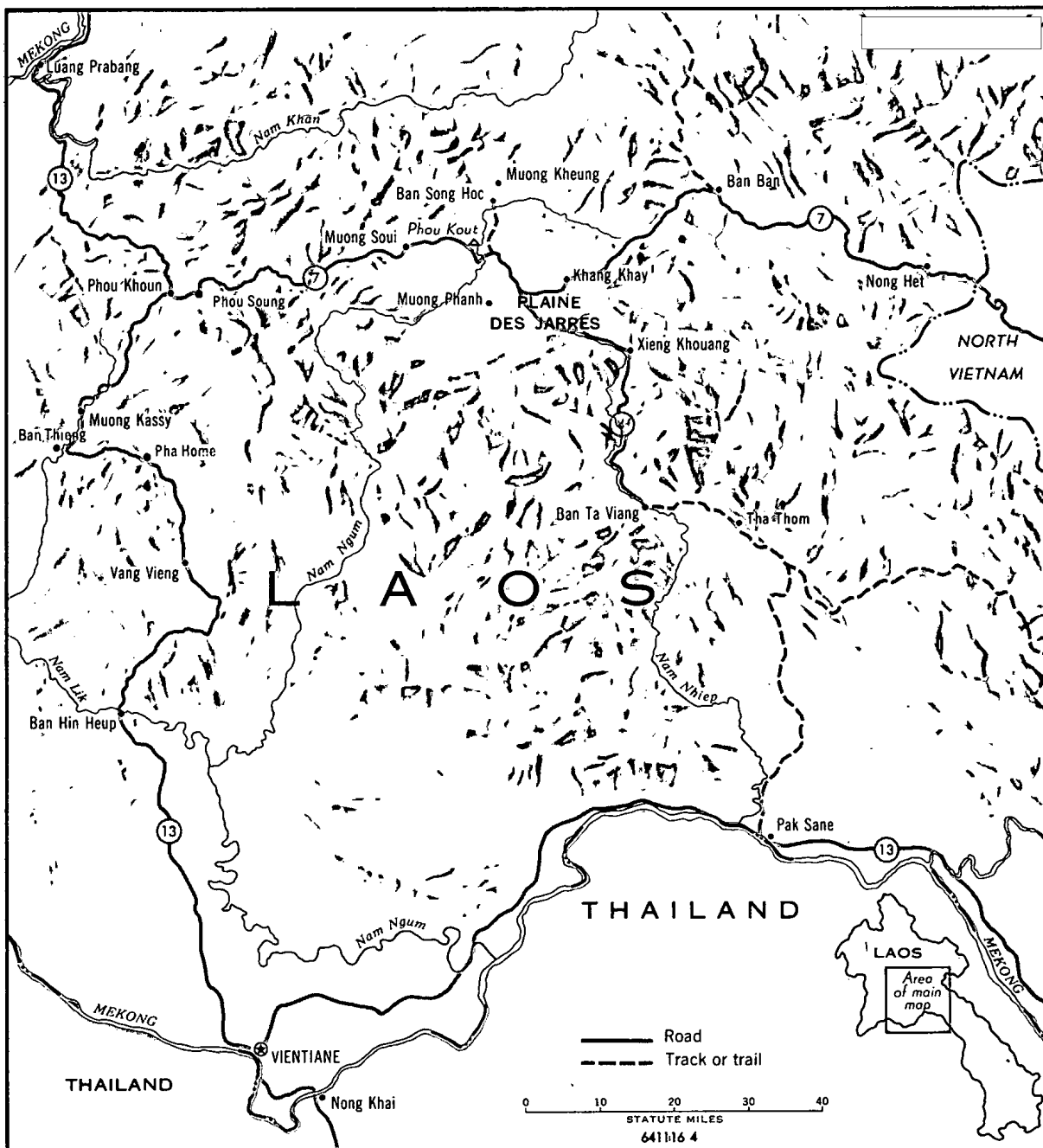
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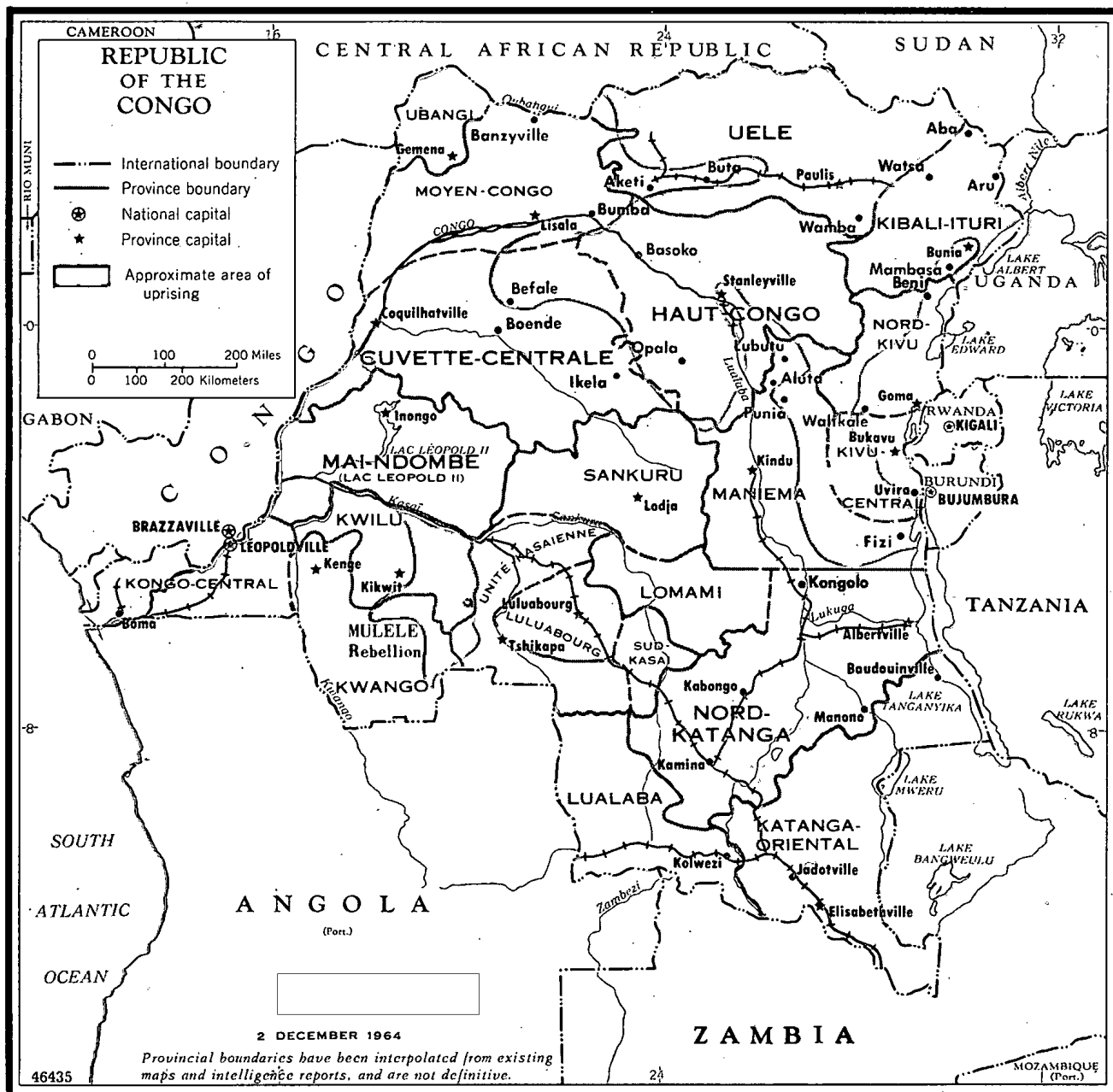


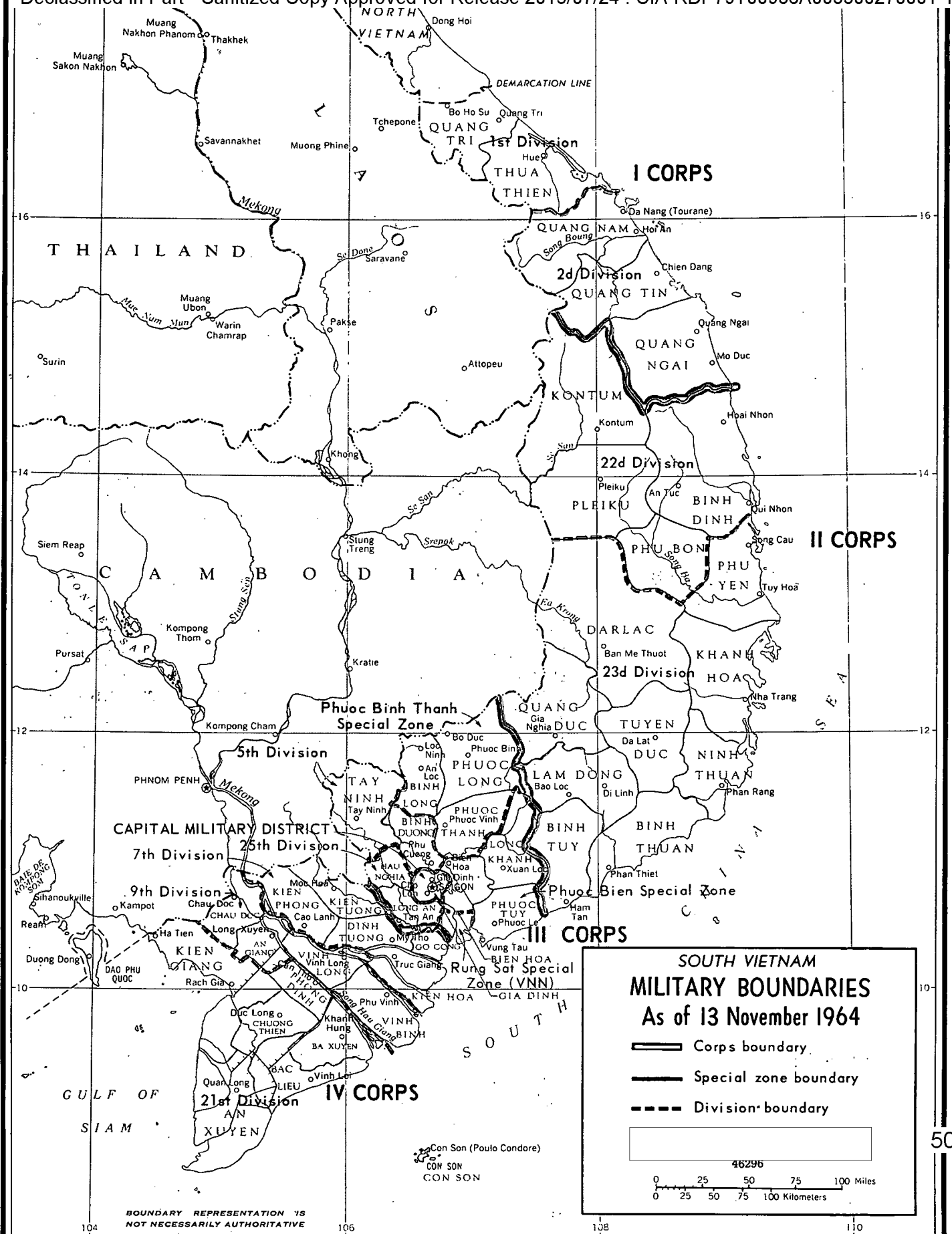
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DAILY BRIEF
2 DECEMBER 1964

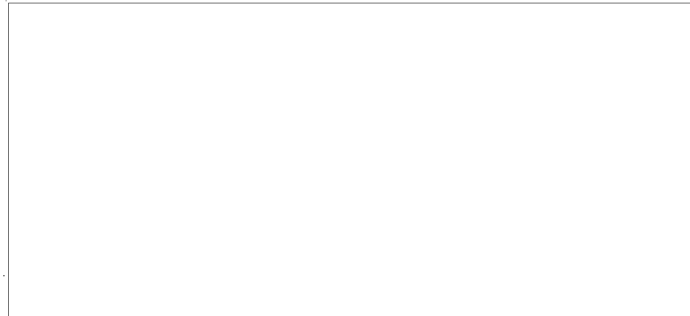
1. South Vietnam

Press reports of a major Viet Cong attack on a district capital are incorrect. MACV says the town was not overrun, and the action was confined to the district chief's compound, where some arms stocks were destroyed. (See map)

2. Congo

Gaston Soumialot, self-styled "Chief of the Congolese People's Revolutionary Council," is on his way to the UN in New York from Khartoum. He says he intends to "explain to the American people." A review of the present Congo situation is in Annex 1. (Map)

3. North Vietnam



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4. Laos

The government move against Phou Kout began yesterday afternoon with an air strike by 12 T-28s. The Pathet Lao, making their first move in central Laos in recent months, have cut Route 13 north of Thakhek and are reported moving south. (See map)

5. USSR



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6. Argentina

Peron is still being held in Rio. Castello Branco is determined to get him out of Brazil, but it is not clear that Spain will take him back. Meanwhile, Buenos Aires is quiet. Peron may not be as disappointed as his followers in Argentina, since he now has an excuse for not carrying out his promise to return.



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ANNEX 1

A Review of the Situation in the Congo

Strong rebel resistance at Stanleyville continues, and the government force of 150 mercenaries and 1,800 Congolese holds only the airport and part of the European portion of the city north of the river. Clearing the entire city may take considerable time, particularly if the mercenaries, some of whom apparently want to go home, withdraw.

It appears that the rebel regime in Stanleyville received a degree of public acceptance. The main target of the insurgents' terrorism was the educated class of Congolese. The rest of the population seems to have remained for the most part unmolested. They continue to reject the Leopoldville regime.

Elsewhere in the north, an extended period of guerrilla warfare may be at hand. The rebels are active through much of the area, and government forces are unable to keep them down everywhere.

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The consortium of eight African governments formed in early October to aid Gbenye continues active, although not markedly effective so far.

Although [redacted] Sudan [redacted] has [redacted] no change in Khartoum's policy, the cabinet there has been considering ways to help the rebels, including permitting them to set up a government in exile.

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The rebels are also receiving a greater measure of diplomatic support from the OAU and from African governments hitherto considered moderate, including Ethiopia, Upper Volta, and Tunisia. The OAU Ad Hoc Commission on the Congo has called a meeting of heads of state on 18 December in Addis Ababa to discuss the Congo situation.

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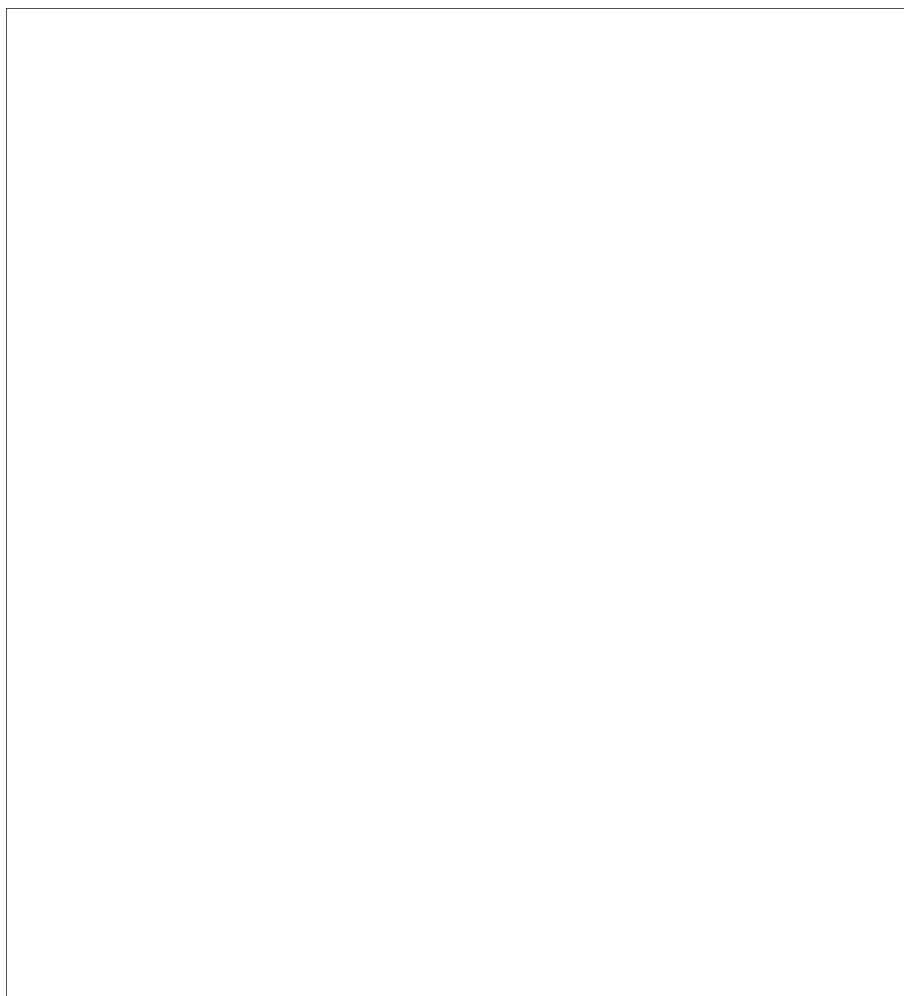


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DAILY BRIEF
3 DECEMBER 1964

1. South Vietnam

The agitation in Saigon has eased for the moment, but Buddhist leaders are setting themselves for a broader effort against Premier Huong. Tri Quang arrived in Saigon yesterday to make plans with other Buddhist leaders. Students in Hue appear ready to demonstrate soon.

2. Congo

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there are signs that the military situation in and around Stanleyville may be slightly improved.

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3. British Guiana

Jagan's party has been pouring money and effort into next Monday's election, and the outcome will be close. The most likely upshot is continued political instability and racial strife.

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4. Italy

The reciprocal trade offices to be opened next month in Rome and Peiping are to have quasi-diplomatic status.

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5. UAR

Cairo is sending a high-level economic delegation to Moscow tomorrow and on to Peiping some time later. The financial problems of the Egyptians appear to be reaching crisis proportions.

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6. Algeria

A Soviet vessel with 12 crated IL-28s on deck cleared the Bosphorus for Algeria

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7. USSR

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8. MLF

Current NATO attitudes are at Annex.

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ANNEX

MLF: A Review of Current NATO Attitudes

The sharp divisions of opinion in Europe over MLF show little signs of lessening.

The UK: In talks with Undersecretary Ball early this week, the British evinced dislike for the project as it is presently envisaged. Although Prime Minister Wilson himself did not really tip his hand, the British now appear strongly opposed to any addition to NATO's nuclear forces, particularly because of the cost. They would prefer merely to contribute their own existing or planned nuclear forces. They tentatively accept the principle of mixed-manning, but are against the mixed-manned surface fleet itself. They insist that the US veto be guaranteed. In turn, they seek some share in control of the US deterrent for themselves and other NATO members.

West Germany: There is great uneasiness in Bonn over Wilson's intention. The Foreign Ministry has told London that the mixed-manned concept should be maintained and the 25-ship surface fleet not greatly reduced. The Germans object to the inclusion of European land-based nuclear systems in any multilateral force and oppose the subordination of that force to a commander other than SACEUR. The Germans would accept a UK contribution of Polaris submarines, but ask that these be mixed-manned eventually. Thus, the Erhard government continues to display constructive support for the MLF.

Italy:

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the Moro government publicly approves "in principle." At this time, however, it is problematic whether the center-left coalition would be politically able to sign an MLF treaty and survive.

France: the French continue to voice their vigorous opposition. De Gaulle, who terms MLF "militarily unfeasible" and "inimical" to France, repeated to Ambassador Bohlen last week the view that Europe's relationship to the US has fundamentally changed since NATO was established. De Gaulle has made recent public references to a European defense organization, and he may be considering proposing some alternative to the MLF. Yesterday, Pompidou said France is ready to work for an integrated European defense, but scorned any "supranational" agency to control a European deterrent.

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The others: Both Spaak and Luns favor the MLF. Neither, however, seems willing to force the issue. Turkey recently said it was no longer interested in joining but remains in the working group. So does Greece, but Athens is preoccupied with other matters, like Cyprus.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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DAILY BRIEF
4 DECEMBER 1964

1. South Vietnam

Premier Huong appears reassured by yesterday's statement of support from the military. He is aware that Buddhist opposition is solidifying but expresses confidence he can handle it. Buddhist leader Tri Quang is a masterful tactician, however, and will prove a formidable opponent to Huong.

2. Congo

The rebels are continuing to get outside military aid.

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3. Laos

For the moment, government forces appear to be making progress in the attack on Phou Kout. (See map). The pattern of likely Pathet Lao military actions during the upcoming dry season in Laos is not clear, but some reaction is likely soon.

4. France

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5. Yemen

Republican-royalist negotiations have been shelved indefinitely by new UAR-Saudi Arabian disagreements over the future form of the Yemeni Government. A new republican government may soon be formed, without President Sallal. Scattered fighting is continuing.

6. Southeast Asia

Widespread speculation continues regarding a possible new departure in US policy toward Southeast Asia. A review of world reaction is at Annex 1.

7. Georgetown Speech

A roundup of foreign reactions to the President's speech yesterday at Georgetown University is at Annex 2.

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ANNEX 1

Current Reactions to US Policy in Southeast Asia

Recent world press, propaganda, and official reactions reflect anxiety that the US may be on the verge of new initiatives in Southeast Asia, especially in South Vietnam.

Moscow and Peiping

Both Moscow and Peiping have reacted to Ambassador Taylor's return to Washington by repeating warnings against any extension of hostilities beyond South Vietnamese borders. The Soviets are saying they could not "remain indifferent" to such a development, and the Chinese that they would "not stand idly by."

With regard to Laos, the Soviets still profess disinterest. As recently as 30 November, Gromyko said any new initiative concerning Laos ought to await the results of consultations among the three Laotian factions. Such consultations seem as far off as ever.

The West

There is little positive support in the non-Communist world for active involvement in South Vietnam. Gordon Walker told Undersecretary Ball on 30 November that he recommends a continuation of past US policy.

In Paris there is no change in the official view that neutralization of Vietnam is a realistic alternative. Although Bonn continues to profess support for the US position, there is no evidence that the West German \$375,000 offer of medical assistance to Saigon, promised last August, has been shipped.

The Italians remain detached. The Scandinavians and the Belgians continue to be reluctant to get involved.

The Neutralists

The attitudes of several developing countries, such as Algeria, Egypt, Pakistan, and Ghana, are predictably critical of the US. If anything, the current reactions of Ben Bella and Nkrumah are more extreme than the Chinese Communists'.

ANNEX 2

Reactions to the President's Georgetown Speech

West German straight reporting coverage today has been heavy, but there is so far little editorial comment. French coverage is light, and no comment is available from the UK. No reaction has been received from Latin America. Commentary available follows.

Paris

French reporters saw the speech as conciliatory to De Gaulle and as part of Washington's preparation for a meeting between the President and General de Gaulle. Premier Pompidou's speech today to a semi-official Franco-German conference in Paris, however, apparently did not refer to the Georgetown speech.

Bonn

West German commentators agreed that the most pleasing feature of the speech was its praise of the Federal Republic.

Moscow

TASS takes the view that the speech was directed at the "present crisis" in US relations with Western Europe. Moscow says the speech tried "to play down the depth of the disagreements in the North Atlantic bloc," and "strongly advertised" the MLF.

Prague

The domestic radio reported the speech as a "polemic" against De Gaulle's demand for a "so-called Europe on its own." The President's arguments on behalf of West Germany are "doubtful."

Warsaw

Preliminary press reaction suggests that the Poles were also most impressed by the "many laudatory words" about the Federal Republic.

Peiping

A Chinese commentary broadcast internationally in English called it a "gloomy" speech, intended to "maintain US domination over Western Europe." The speech referred to the sharpening disagreements within the Western camp, according to Peiping, as "the greatest threat the US is facing."



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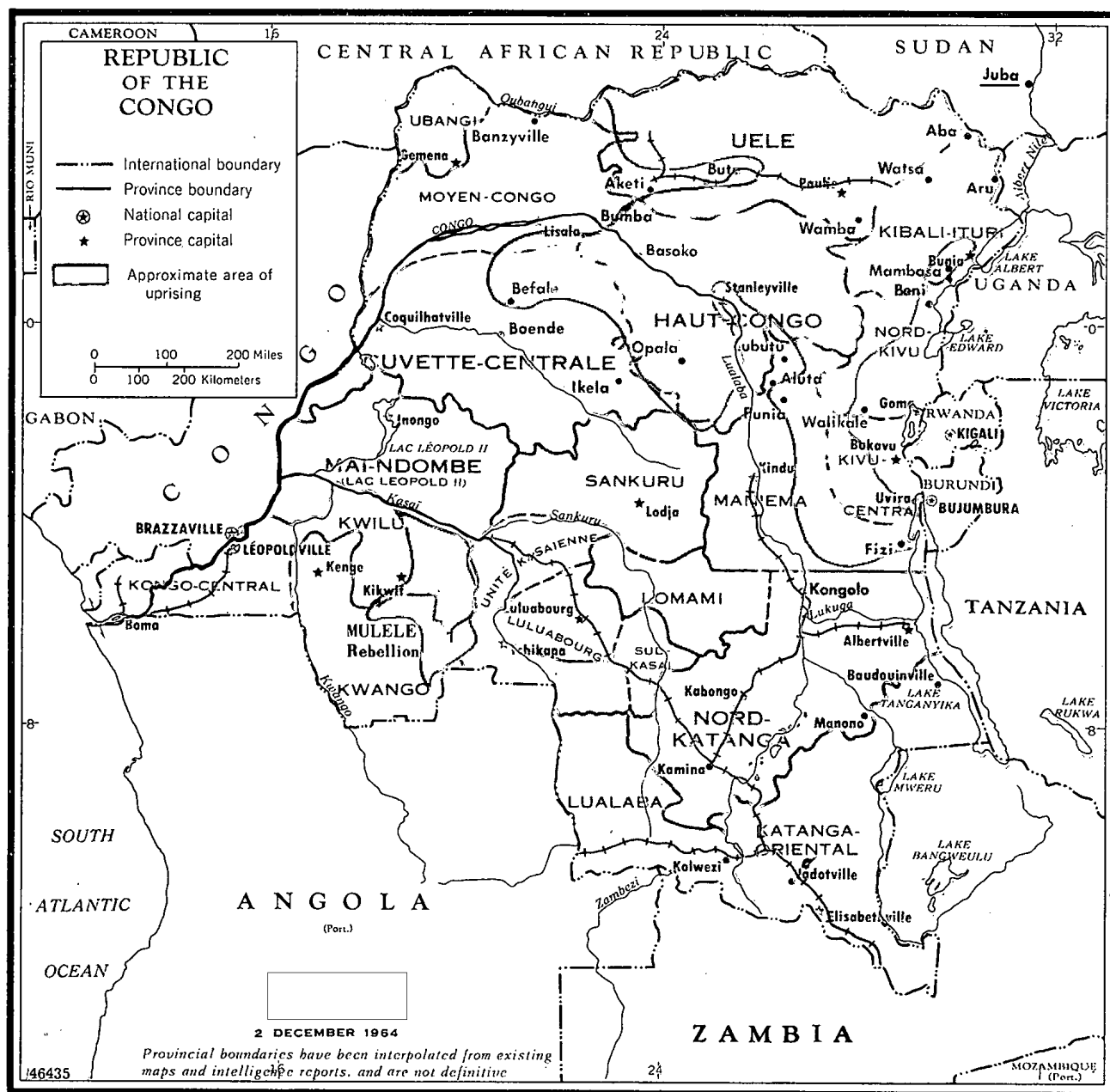
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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DAILY BRIEF
5 DECEMBER 1964

1. South Vietnam

Tri Quang, the Buddhist leader in Hué, has decided that Huong must go because he is a threat to Buddhism. Tri Quang told our embassy he is advising against further demonstrations now, but he is prepared to lead "disciplined" protests if such become necessary. He indicated that he and other Buddhists suspect our embassy of support for Huong's alleged anti-Buddhist moves.

2. Congo

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In Stanleyville, Van Der Walle still has his hands full cleaning out rebel resistance in the city and its environs. Most Western observers in Leopoldville feel the situation there is potentially explosive, but Ambassador Godley does not think the spark is yet present to light the tinderbox. (Map)

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3. MLF

German defense officials believe Germany will not join the MLF without the British, and in no case would they sign with the US alone. Ambassador McGhee tends to agree that this is the present German position.

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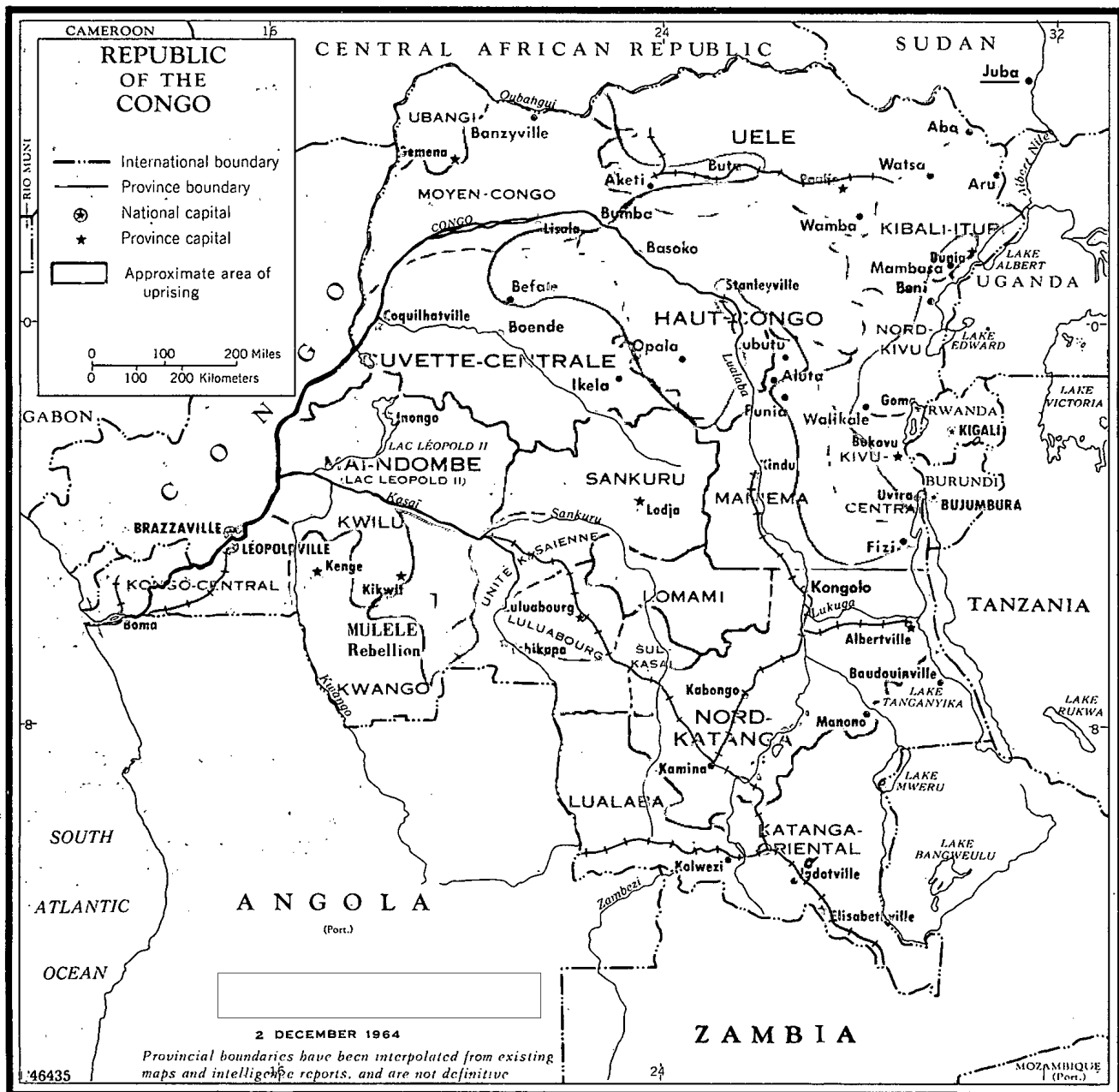
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DAILY BRIEF
7 DECEMBER 1964

1. Congo

Press reports today that Ben Bella has sent three plane loads of "volunteers" to aid the Congo rebels are not confirmed. The forty Algerians seen at the Khartoum airport on 4 December have not turned up since. Introduction of Algerian "volunteers" would probably prompt Tshombé, who is due in New York on Saturday, to ask for more US and Belgian aid. Further details are at Annex. (See map).

2. South Vietnam

The tempo of Viet Cong military activity seems to be picking up after a relative lull of some ten weeks. MACV reported 133 incidents, mostly small scale, during the period 3-5 December, and a battalion-sized action occurred yesterday. This increased pressure may be a sign of Viet Cong disappointment that greater political dislocation has not developed in Saigon.

3. USSR

Press accounts calling yesterday's Pravda's editorial a "broadside" against the Chinese are misleading. The editorial deals with domestic concerns and the role of the Communist Party, and does not appear intended as a direct attack on Peking.

4. British Guiana

Polling in the general election has so far remained orderly. Because of the intricacy of the computations for proportional representation, the result probably will not be available until around noon on Wednesday.

5. Sudan

Rioting continued through this morning in Khartoum, but died down during the afternoon. Few injuries and no fatalities among the American community have been reported. Up to now the government has relied on the police, but has announced that troops are standing by to move at the next sign of trouble.

6. Ceylon

Unrest is growing because Mrs. Bandaranaike, whose government was overturned in Parliament last week, is delaying on announcing a date for new elections. She apparently has been toying with the idea of perpetuating her self in power by declaring a state of emergency, but has been rebuffed in this by security forces.

ANNEX

The Situation in the Congo

The introduction of Algerian "volunteers" would create an entirely new war. The government's success to date has largely been the product of the mercenaries, who man for man have been greatly superior to the rebels. It is doubtful that the mercenaries would be able, as presently constituted, to handle in addition any meaningful number of real soldiers from outside. The Algerians might well be able to help the rebels hold what they have and in time to regain the initiative from the government.

Tshombé's mercenaries already suffer from problems of morale and motivation. Casualties and desertions have thinned their ranks, and the pay for which they fight has often been late. So far this has not materially reduced their effectiveness, but these nagging problems would get rapidly worse in the face of a few setbacks.

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*Since the above was written, Spaak has told the press that Tshombé has assured Brussels that he would not apply his decree reappropriating Belgium's mining concession before talking the matter over with the Belgians next week.

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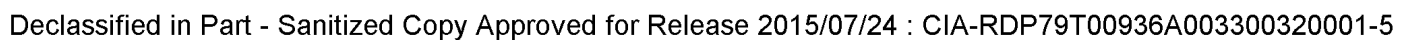
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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DAILY BRIEF
8 DECEMBER 1964

1. British Guiana

First returns show Prime Minister Jagan doing better than expected by most observers. Voting has been on a strictly racial basis, and the Jagan forces will come close to getting a majority when predominantly East Indian rural districts are counted. Final results may not be known until tomorrow or Thursday, but there seems little prospect that the election will restore political and racial stability.

2. USSR

Speculation continues in Moscow that some sweeping changes in the organization of economic management will be announced during the Supreme Soviet session beginning tomorrow. Although there is a lot of smoke surrounding the issue, Brezhnev and company have conveyed the impression that they intend to proceed at a deliberate pace.

3. Laos

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4. Aden

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5. Congo

Government forces have strengthened their hold on Stanleyville and are scheduled to arrive in Paulis on Thursday. (See map).

6. Cuba

We are not inclined so far to attach much political significance to the attempted suicide of Labor Minister Augusto Martinez. His imminent dismissal from office was probably due to incompetence. He was not an "old-line" Communist.

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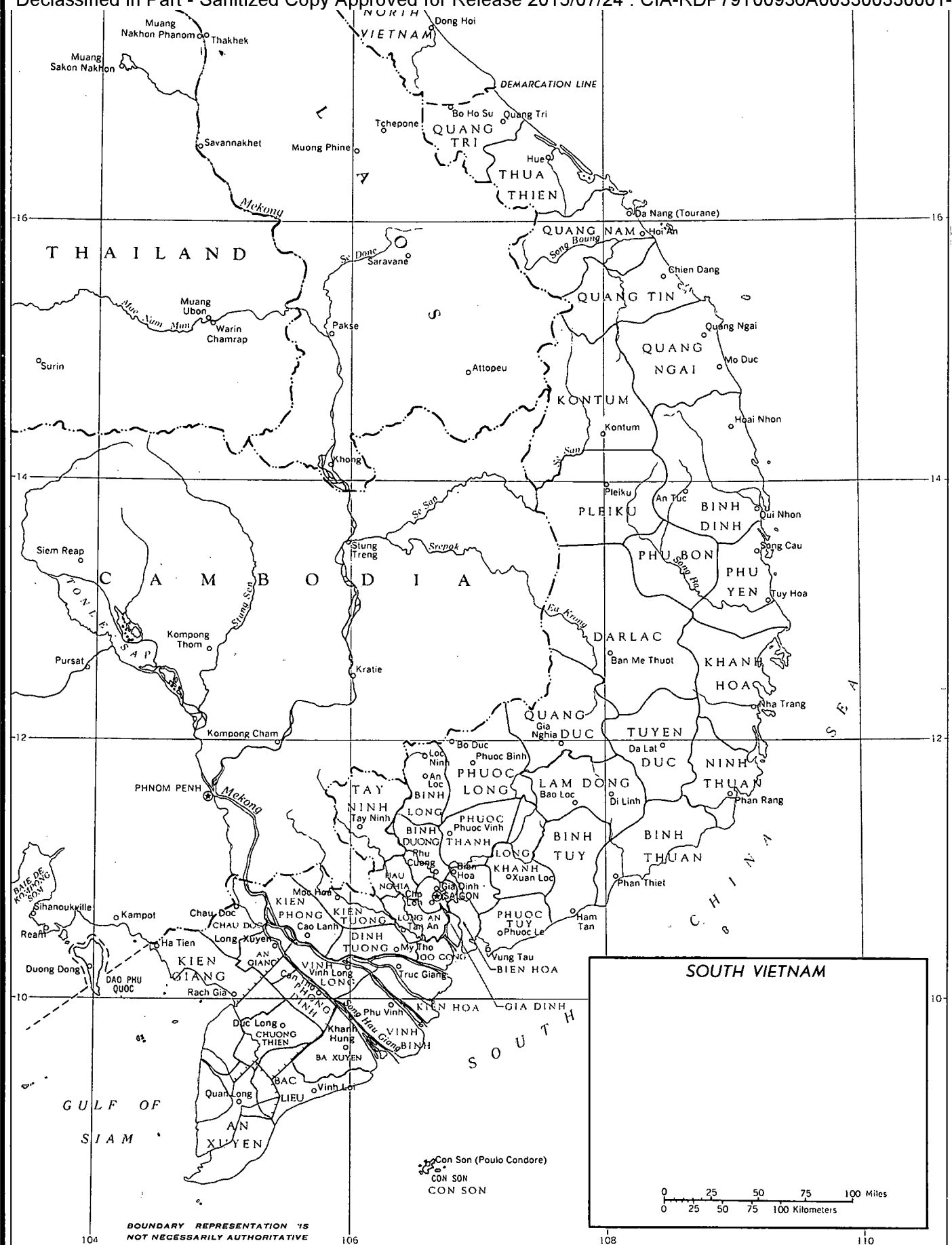
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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9 DECEMBER 1964

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**CHINESE COMMUNIST 1964 ECONOMIC
AID PROGRAM**

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Amount Extended
in million U S dollars

AFGHANISTAN	28
CAMBODIA	Unknown
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	4
CEYLON	4
CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE)	25
GHANA	22
KENYA	18
MALI	10
PAKISTAN	60
TANZANIA	45
YEMEN	28

TOTAL 244

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DAILY BRIEF
9 DECEMBER 1964

1. Congo

The Algerian foreign minister says that Algeria, the UAR, and Ghana are ready to recognize the Congo rebels and would like to see other African states follow suit. Such recognition would give the rebels new status and provide a legal basis for continued arms aid. Tshombé is leaving for Rome today, but his onward travel to New York is indefinite.

2. Indonesia

President Sukarno's violent speech last night probably will be taken as a green light for demonstrations against US installations. Sukarno also has taken a more belligerent line against Malaysia and has turned on Indonesia's timid non-Communist moderates. These actions have come promptly after the visit of Chinese Communist Foreign Minister Chen Yi.

3. South Vietnam

The Buddhists are setting up a "struggle committee" to run their campaign to oust Prime Minister Huong. One of the most influential Buddhist leaders, Tri Quang, now says that only a short time remains for a "quiet solution." The Viet Cong has broken off the engagement at An Lao. Reports from MACV indicate that press accounts of the battle were overdrawn. (See map).

4. Communist China

Peiping has committed a record \$244 million in economic aid this year, despite plenty of economic troubles at home. Most of this is being spread around Africa, where the Chinese have conducted a successful campaign for recognition. (See chart).

5. British Guiana

With 34 out of 35 districts reported, it appears that Jagan will have only 24 parliamentary seats against the opposition's 29. This will give Burnham and his coalition a slim working majority.

6. Yemen

Bitter fighting goes on in the north. Prospects for a negotiated settlement seem to have gone glimmering. [redacted]

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[redacted] the royalists, [redacted] have apparently been bolstered by new arms shipments from across the border [redacted]

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SELECTED (OFFICIAL) SOVIET ECONOMIC DATA FOR 1964 AND 1965

Percentage Increases Over the Output of the Previous Year

Data for 1965 are Soviet scheduled increases over 1964 output. Data for 1964, for the most part, are increases scheduled for 1964 and estimated from Soviet 1965 goals that were promulgated in 1963.

	1964	1965
Industrial Production	7.8	8.1
Group A (Capital Goods)	8.2	8.2
Group B (Consumer Goods)	6.5	7.7
Chemical Industry	16.6	About 15
Fertilizer	28	31
Plastics & Resins	28.5	28
Cellulose	15.8	20
Paper	14.0	12
Electric Power	9.7	12.5
Natural Gas	20	11
Crude Oil	7.7	(combined figure, gas & oil)
Metallurgy (Steel, 4.7)	X	6.0
Machine Building & Metal Working	10	9.0
Refrigerators	40.6	76
Housing	0	9
Freight Turnover	7.3	7.1

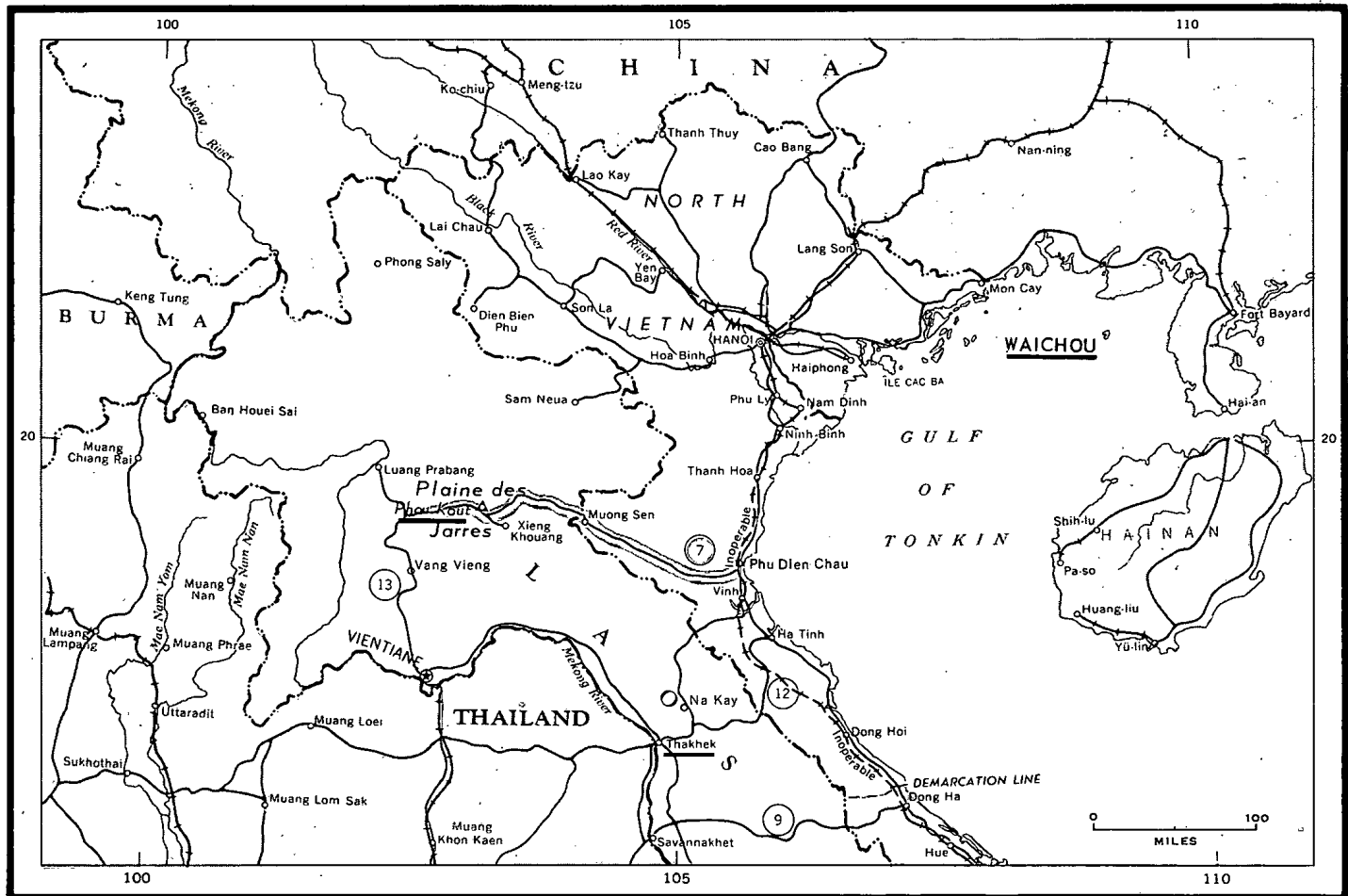
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DAILY BRIEF
10 DECEMBER 1964

1. Congo

US and Belgian officials in Leopoldville are concerned about the decline of Tshombé's military assets while outside aid to the rebels is on the rise. The morale of the mercenaries is slipping; some are leaving, and their chief, Major Hoare, is rumored about to be fired. Some Belgian military advisors, including Van Der Walle, may be pulled out before long.

2. Cuba

A discussion of the available evidence on strife within the Castro regime is at Annex.

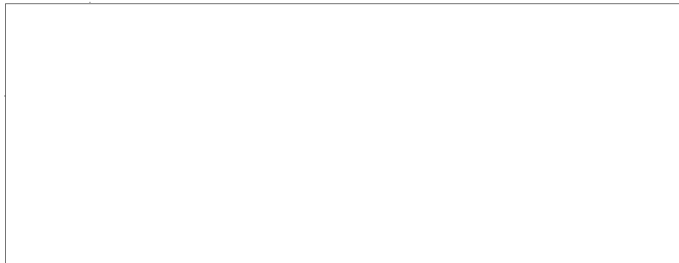
3. USSR

The 1965 budget and plan announced yesterday indicate that long-term growth goals in investment and industrial production will not be met. The military budget is down a little on paper, but this is not a reliable indication that actual military spending will be cut. Kosygin's advocacy of a system of consumer contracts throughout the economy-- which some liberal Soviet economists have been recommending for years--is, however, highly significant. (See chart). 50X1

4. Laos

Government forces are now getting air support and have renewed their attack on Phou Kout. Bad weather and stiffened Pathet Lao resistance had stalled the offensive for the past few days. Government troops have also reoccupied the positions abandoned near Thakhek last week when Pathet Lao forces cut Route 13. (Map)

5. Communist China



6. Indonesia

The head of US Rubber in Indonesia said this morning that he had been reliably informed that an attempt to take over both US and Belgian enterprises would be made this month. The embassy had heard from another source that the government had recently decided to encourage labor strikes and protests as an excuse for taking over all American rubber estates.

ANNEX

An Assessment of the Evidence Concerning
Unrest in Havana

The ouster of Cuban labor minister Martinez Sanchez and his attempted suicide on Tuesday took place after nearly a month of rumors that serious divisions have developed among Cuban leaders. These rumors have included dramatic stories of a plot to oust Fidel Castro and accounts of a basic policy split between Fidel Castro and President Dorticos. We are inclined to doubt these tales. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] On present evidence, we strongly doubt that Fidel Castro's personal predominance in the regime is being challenged.

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Fidel Castro and other Cuban leaders are seriously concerned over the intractable economic problems besetting them, and their anxiety about these basic problems could easily explain the rumored "tension" in Havana. Thus, the tardy Cuban recognition, last summer, of the gravity of their exchange problem led to the dismissal of the ministers of economy and foreign trade. The ouster of Martinez Sanchez this week came after growing public attention to the problem of low labor productivity, which has long plagued the regime. Further ministerial changes may be imminent in the regime's continuing effort to make the "socialist" system work.

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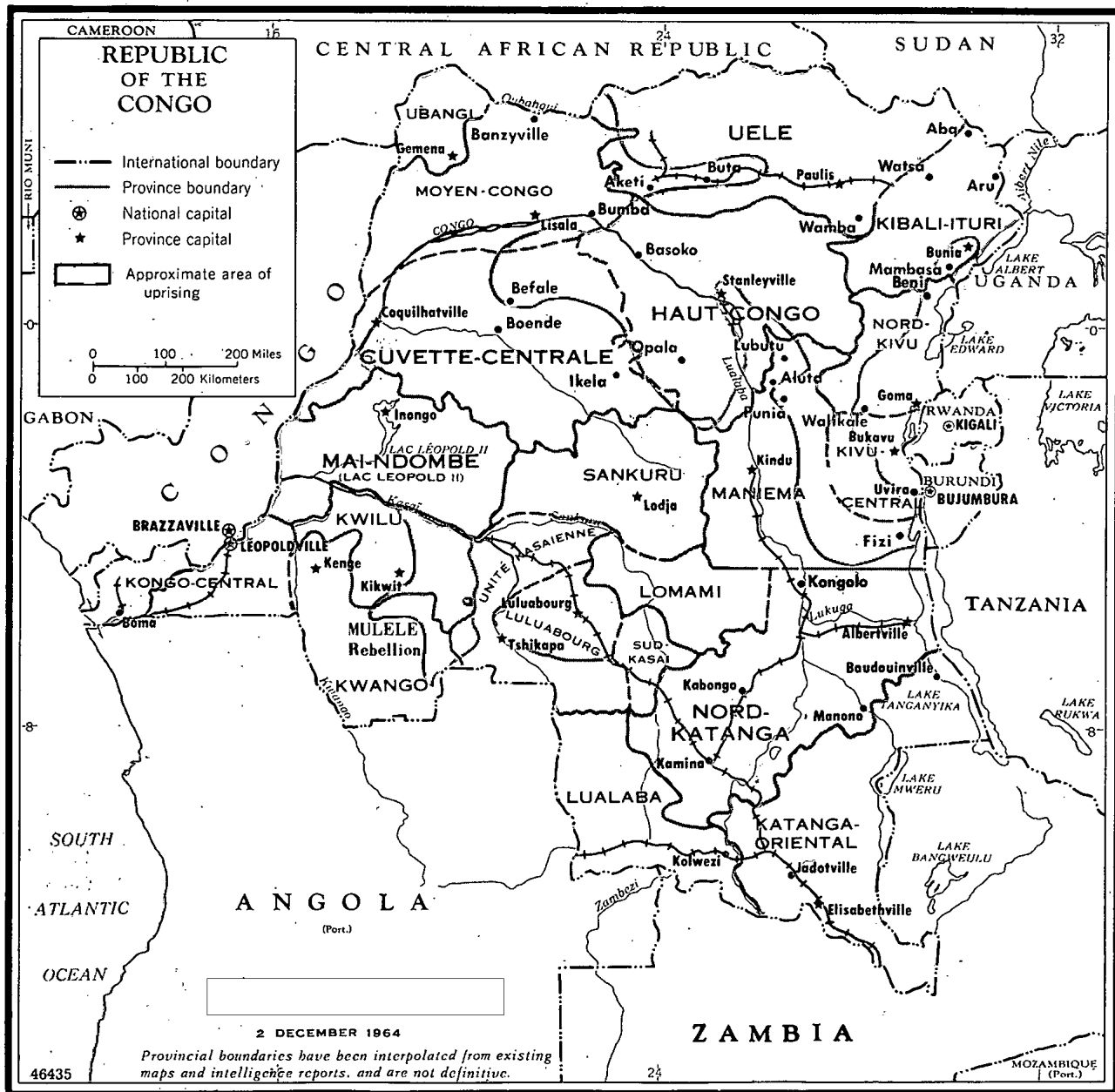
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11 DECEMBER 1964

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DAILY BRIEF
11 DECEMBER 1964

1. Congo

Mercenary forces are feeling their way in the extreme northeastern Congo and may find the going tougher as the new rebel arms and perhaps "volunteers" make themselves felt.

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We estimate that at least 100 tons of arms have reached the rebels via the Sudan. (Map)

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2. South Vietnam

Buddhist leader Tri Quang is stepping up his campaign for the removal of Premier Huong. He is still concentrating on legal measures, such as petitions. If these fail to produce results, other measures, including street demonstrations, are sure to follow. He still needs, however, to find an issue which will generate popular support for his cause.

3. British Guiana

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The way will then be opened for a coalition government under Burnham.

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4. Cyprus

President Makarios is apparently convinced that pro-enosis elements are out to displace or assassinate him. As a result, tensions are high within the Greek Cypriot community. This has already led to acts of violence, and will probably lead to more.

5. Egypt

Moscow has agreed to allow Cairo to postpone paying

50X1

for military aid deliveries. This may be only a first Soviet step in helping Nasir through his grave financial crisis.

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6. Cuba

Havana has contracted with a British firm for over \$3 million worth of sugar refining equipment. This is Cuba's largest purchase in the West since spending restrictions were imposed in July after a six-month buying spree left Castro nearly broke.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

50X1



12 DECEMBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DAILY BRIEF
12 DECEMBER 1964

1. Congo

Rebel army representatives were in Nairobi this week looking into the prospects for recruiting Kenyan "volunteers." The men they approached--some of whom have had military training in the USSR--apparently were interested, but said no one could be sent to the Congo until the government agreed. [REDACTED]

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50X1

2. British Guiana

The country remains quiet despite Prime Minister Jagan's refusal to resign and his inflammatory statements. The British are trying to persuade him to get out, but London will wait no longer [REDACTED] before issuing a legal order removing him from office.

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3. Cuba

The Cubans have almost finished building [REDACTED] fortifications around the Guantanamo base. This will greatly improve their ability to harass the base, even to the extent of denying use of its airfield.

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4. South Vietnam

The hunger strike begun by the Buddhists today is orderly so far, but suggests that they are confident of their popular support and prepared to have a trial of strength with the Huong government. The possibility of a reconciliation seems much diminished, and the chances of side reactions debilitating to the government--such as another revolt among the mountain tribes--increased. [REDACTED] the mountaineers may rise [REDACTED] depending on how they feel about what is happening in Saigon.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

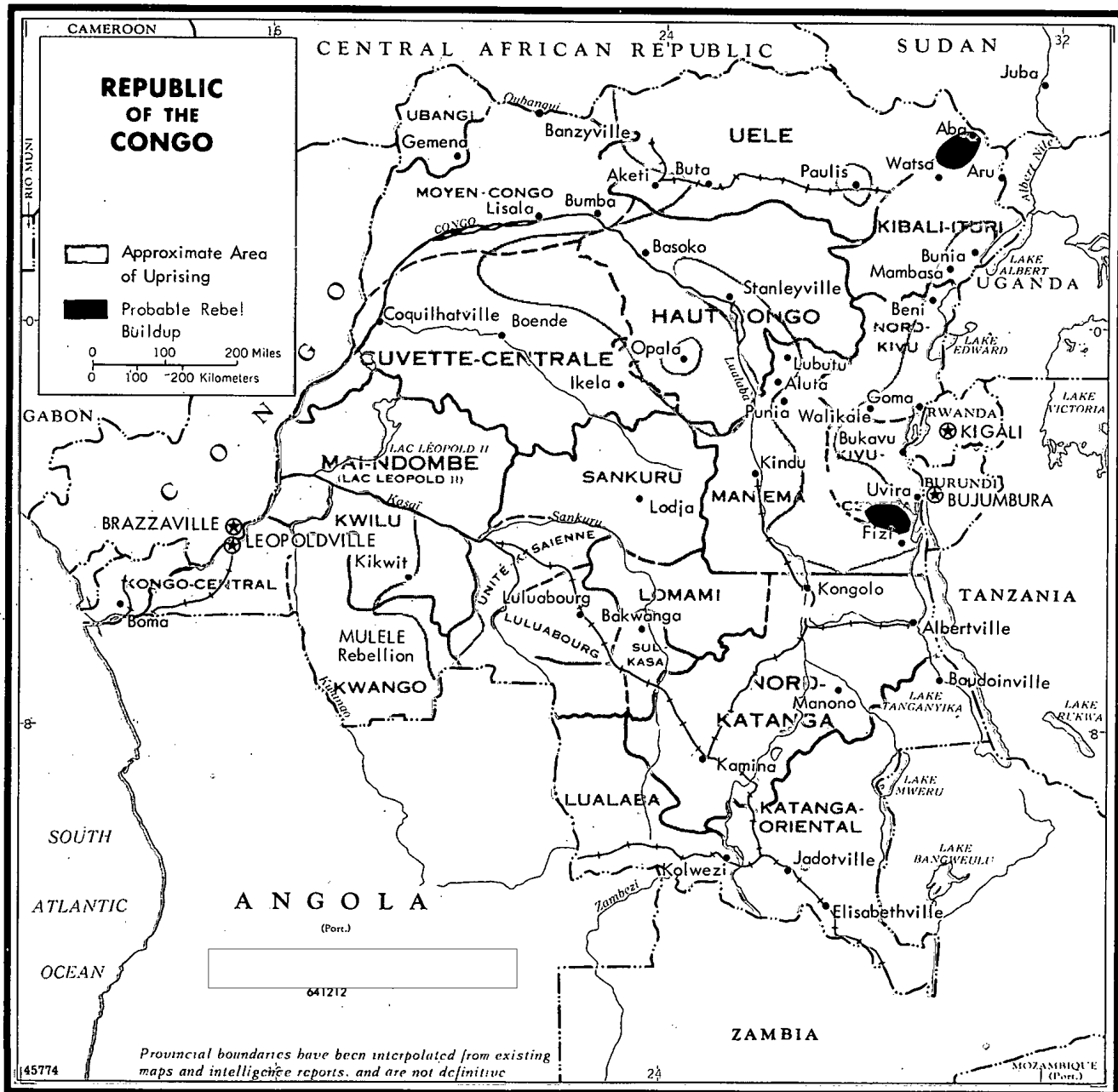
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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14 DECEMBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~



DAILY BRIEF
14 DECEMBER 1964

1. Congo

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[REDACTED]

The rebels are believed to be forming new units, perhaps laced with foreign "volunteers," just across the border. There has also been a buildup in rebel strength near Uvira, an important transport center on the Burundi border. Rebel bands are also active west of Stanleyville.

2. USSR

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[REDACTED]

3. Indonesia

50X1

[REDACTED]

US interests will be coming under increasing harassment, but the oil companies will probably be able to hang on for some time under present contracts which are advantageous to the Indonesians.

4. South Vietnam

Buddhist leaders will probably follow up their weekend fast, which failed to attract wide sympathy, with a series of public demonstrations aimed at provoking a government reaction which can be used to attract backing to their cause. The latest spurt in Viet Cong activity continues and included at least two battalion-size actions in the past few days plus a number of smaller attacks. The Viet Cong are encouraging the dissident mountain tribesmen, who may also be getting some support from the Cambodians and the French.

5. Italy

Balloting to select a successor to President Segni begins Wednesday and could extend into next week. At this juncture the race seems wide open, although there is a chance that ex-Premier Fanfani might ride into office with Communist support. This could well lead to a crisis in the center-left coalition.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

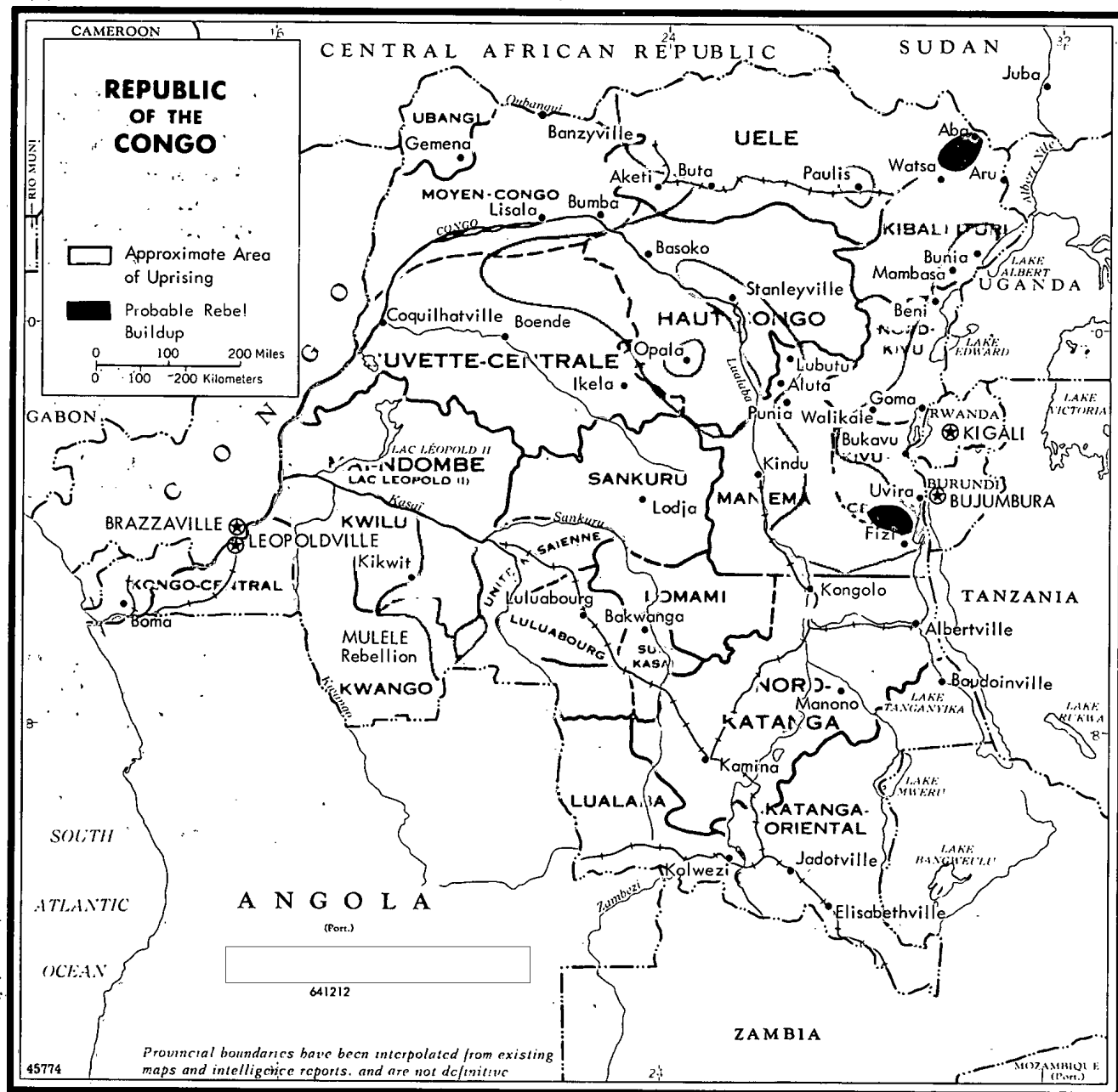
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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15 DECEMBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~



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DAILY BRIEF
15 DECEMBER 1964

1. Congo

Tshombé's vital mercenary force has been reduced [redacted] and he has fewer planes for air support than he had two months ago. The rebel buildup continues. [redacted]

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50X1

[redacted] More Chinese Communist arms have been captured, including several cases of ammunition marked "Red Cross Medicaments."

2. Argentina

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[redacted] The Peronists will probably stimulate some disorders, but government security forces should be able to control them.

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3. Malaysia

[redacted] continuing--but mostly unsuccessful--efforts by Djakarta to slip small teams of agitators and saboteurs into Malaysia.

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50X1

4. South Vietnam

Buddhist leaders have plans for a new and larger hunger strike tomorrow.

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50X1

5. UK

Members of the Common Market intend to press the Council of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), which meets Thursday, for a formal finding that the Wilson government's emergency import taxes violate the General Agreement. This could release a new round of speculative pressures against the pound.

6. Cyprus

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7. Communist China

There are signs in Chinese Nationalist photography [redacted] that Peiping's aircraft industry may be resuming production of jet fighters. The industry has been virtually idle since Soviet aid was withdrawn in 1960.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

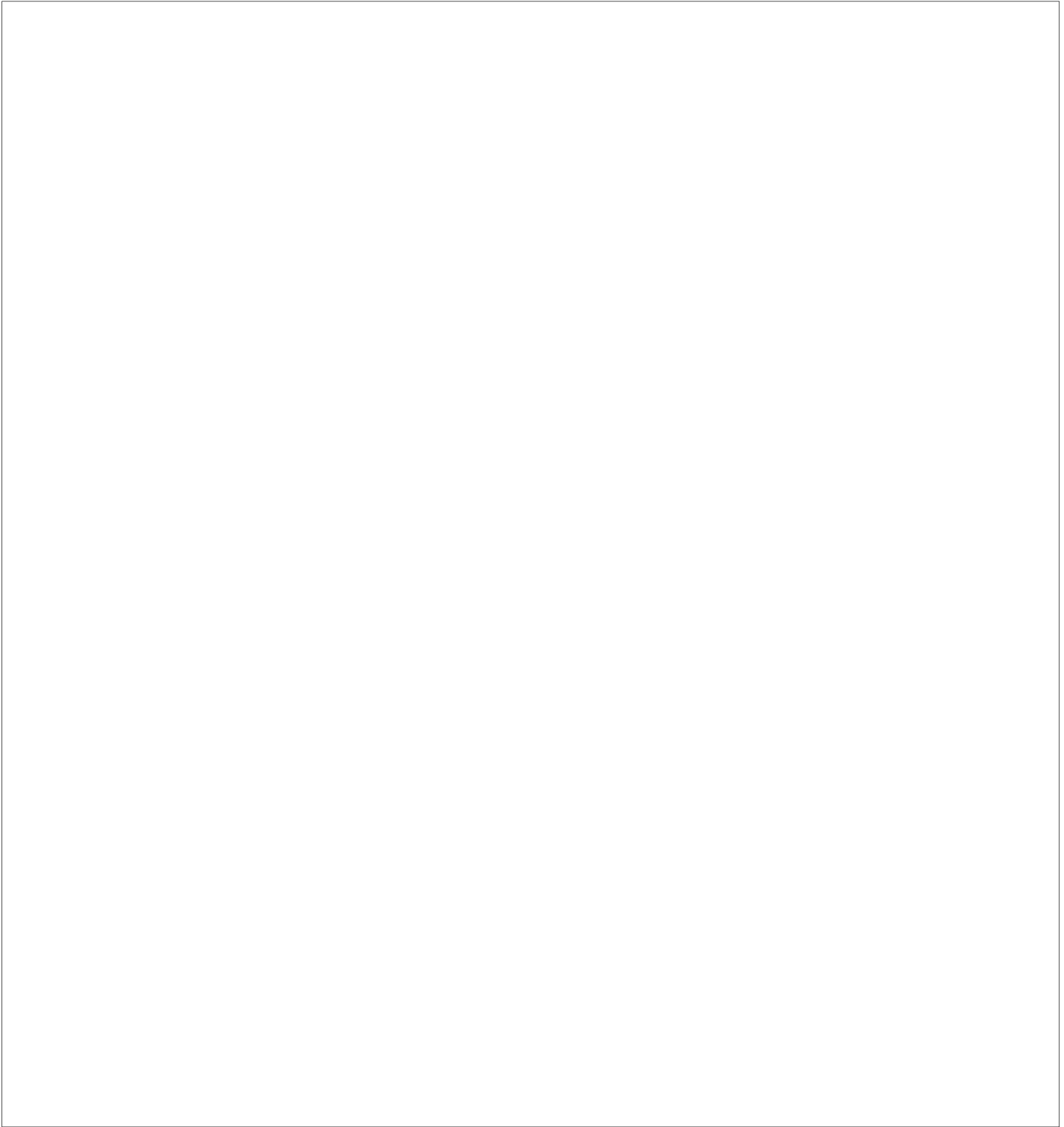
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16 DECEMBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DAILY BRIEF
16 DECEMBER 1964

1. South Vietnam

Buddhist leader Tri Quang told US Embassy officers yesterday that, while he hoped for a "legal solution," "extra-legal" mass action against Premier Huong's government now appeared necessary. Quang was not totally intransigent, however. Perhaps influenced by the Buddhists' failure so far to develop popular support, he suggested an apparent willingness to negotiate behind the scenes with Chief of State Suu or the High National Council and hinted that the US might mediate. Quang added that he would wait a day or two before giving the signal for more anti-government activities.

2. Congo

In view of the growing Belgian concern over giving continued backing to Tshombé, we have included at annex a cable setting forth the views of Auguste Gérard, head of Belgium's Société Générale. The Société is a sizable shareholder in the Congo's Katanga mines.

3. USSR

An Egyptian military group is in the USSR inspecting a wide variety of late model and up-dated equipment not previously offered to non-bloc countries. The new Soviet leaders are also filling earlier contracts with Indonesia and Syria, indicating their intention to continue long-range military aid programs undertaken by Khrushchev. [REDACTED]

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4. Pakistan

Opposition parties think they have the votes to oust Ayub from the presidency in next month's election. His opponents' joint candidate, Miss Fatima Jinnah, has picked up surprising strength, but Ayub's control of Pakistan's administration will probably give him the edge.

5. Guatemala

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] guerrilla activity there is directed by a Communist headquarters in Mexico. [REDACTED]

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6. Cyprus

The Soviet ship which docked in Cyprus yesterday unloaded 100 military trucks. The Greek Cypriots will probably exploit the delivery as demonstrating Soviet backing for Makarios.

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ANNEX

US Embassy Reports Conversation with Head of
Belgium's Société Générale
(State from Brussels 1201, 15 December)

EMBOFF HAD LONG CONVERSATION EVE DEC 14 WITH AUGUSTE GERARD SOCIETE GENERALE WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM CONGO. GERARD'S ANALYSIS OF CONGO SITUATION HAD BEEN EAGERLY AWAITED BY SOCIETE GENERALE AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO INFLUENCE PRIVATE SECTOR'S ATTITUDES TOWARD CONGO. FOR THIS REASON EMB IS REPORTING HIS COMMENTS AT SOME LENGTH.

GERARD TAKES SOMBER VIEW OF CONGO SITUATION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD FULLY RECOVERED FROM FATIGUE OF HIS TRIP AND THAT HE HAD ARRIVED AT HIS ANALYSIS ONLY AFTER CAREFUL REFLECTION. EMBOFF NOTED THAT GERARD WAS EMOTIONALLY AFFECTED BY ATROCIOUS KILLING OF SOME OF HIS PEOPLE BY CONGOLESE REBELS.

IN GERARD'S VIEW ALL INTERESTED PARTIES IN CONGO HAVE SERIOUSLY UNDERESTIMATED APPEAL OF REBELLION. OLD CONGO HANDS HAVE BEEN AMAZED AT ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS OF REBEL SOLDIERS TO FIGHT FOR CAUSE WHICH IS APPARENTLY EFFECTIVE MIXTURE OF TRADITIONAL TRIBAL PLUS ECONOMIC DISCONTENT AND THE KIND OF POLITICAL PURITANISM WHICH PROTESTS AGAINST CORRUPTION. NOTING THAT ALL OF SIMBAS WERE NOT SAVAGES FRESH FROM BUSH, GERARD POINTED OUT THAT SOME REBEL MILITARY LEADERS HAD RECEIVED TRAINING IN BELGIUM. THESE SAME OFFICERS FOUGHT BETTER AS REBELS THAN THEY EVER HAD AS ANC.

ON POLITICAL ASPECTS GERARD CLEARLY INDICATED THAT HIS NEGATIVE VIEW OF TSHOMBE IS UNCHANGED (EMBTel 76) BUT SUGGESTED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO LIVE WITH HIM SINCE THERE SEEMED TO BE NO AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVE. ON REBEL SIDE THERE SEEMS TO BE NO ACCEPTABLE PERSONALITY WITH WHOM POLITICAL SETTLEMENT CAN BE REACHED. IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS GERARD IS CONVINCED THAT COLD WAR CONFRONTATION ALREADY EXISTS IN CONGO AND THAT COMMUNISTS ARE IN POSITION TO EXPLOIT MAJOR

(Cont'd)

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STRATEGIC BREAK-THROUGH WHICH COULD GRAVELY UNDERMINE WESTERN POSITION AND EVENTUALLY CREATE DANGERS FOR EUROPE. FOR THIS REASON, GERARD BELIEVES CONGO SHOULD BE DEALT WITH AS "NATO PROBLEM" AND THAT NATO COUNTRIES SHOULD RALLY TO TAKE STEPS TO RESTORE WESTERN POSITION IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

PROBLEMS FACING US HAS TWO INTERRELATED ASPECTS (A) MILITARY AND (B) POLITICAL. REGARDING MILITARY SITUATION GERARD BELIEVES MERCENARIES TO ENCADRE ANC ARE ESSENTIAL FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR UNTIL NEW ANC BATTALIONS CAN BE TRAINED. BELGIUM ALONE CANNOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT VOLUNTEERS AND IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO ELIMINATE SOUTH AFRICANS AND RHODESIANS INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE. THIS LEAVES EUROPE AS ONLY SOURCE OF MERCENARIES AND GERARD BELIEVES SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF QUALIFIED MEN COULD BE OBTAINED ONLY IF NATO COUNTRIES COOPERATE.

TSHOMBE AND KASAVUBU MUST MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT ACHIEVE DOMESTIC RECONCILIATION WITH VALID POLITICAL ELEMENTS. CONCURRENTLY MAJOR CAMPAIGN WITH OTHER AFRICAN STATES MUST BE UNDERTAKEN TO OBTAIN THEIR AGREEMENT TO STOP MEDDLING IN CONGOLESE AFFAIRS. NATO COUNTRIES SHOULD JOIN IN EXERCISING MAXIMUM POLITICAL INFLUENCE ON AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THIS SENSE AND OBVIOUSLY GDRC WILL HAVE TO COOPERATE IN ESTABLISHING BETTER RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.

IT IS ASSUMED THAT SOCIETE GENERALE AND PROBABLY OTHER BELGIUM INTERESTS WILL URGE ABOVE VIEWS ON GOB. IT FURTHER SEEMS LIKELY THAT PRIVATE SECTOR WILL BE PREPARED COOPERATE WITH GOB IN CARRYING OUT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCLUDING POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN MAINTENANCE OF ORDER ALTHOUGH LATTER POINT WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY MADE BY GERARD.



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

50X1



17 DECEMBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~

DAILY BRIEF
17 DECEMBER 1964

1. British Guiana

Ex-premier Jagan's party plans to hold countrywide meetings next Sunday to protest the election results. Premier Burnham presumably will try to keep his own followers in line, but racial feeling is running high. Hotheads on both sides are spoiling for a fight.

2. Panama

President Robles seems to be on the verge of deciding to permit limited public observance of the anniversary of the riots last January 9. His ministers are drafting a decree calling for national mourning and half-masting US and Panamanian flags.

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3. Indonesia

Sukarno's dissolution of the anti-Communist Sukarnoist Party yesterday may be the prelude to further anti-US measures, probably against the US Information Service. An intensive Communist Party campaign against the Sukarnoist movement preceded Sukarno's sudden decision to pull the rug from under it.

4. Yemen

Negotiations between the royalists and republicans are still stalled by Saudi-Egyptian disagreement over the future of Yemen. The Yemeni republican cabinet has recently resigned in protest against Egyptian control. The Saudi-backed royalist tribes continue to give a good account of themselves against Nasir's troops, which still total more than 50,000.

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5. Trinidad

Premier Eric Williams says unemployment is in excess of 14 percent.

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He has cancelled plans to travel out of the country during the holidays, a traditional period for troublemaking in Trinidad.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

50X1



18 DECEMBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DAILY BRIEF
18 DECEMBER 1964

1. Congo

The Belgian ambassador in Leopoldville says that the Congo "looks bad on all fronts." He does not think that present government forces are up to rescuing the non-Congolese in rebel areas. Only a major new infusion of mercenaries can save the situation. The rebels have now surrounded the mercenary force at Paulis and have retaken Aketi. They are also gaining strength in Cuvette-Centrale. (See map.)

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2. Indonesia

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3. South Korea

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4. British Guiana

East Indian followers of ex-premier Jagan have started to withdraw funds from local banks, the first step in a new campaign of "non-cooperation" aimed at weakening British Guiana's economy. Burnham, the new prime minister, is still having trouble reaching agreement on a cabinet list with his coalition partners.

5. Greece

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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19 DECEMBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~

DAILY BRIEF
19 DECEMBER 1964

1. Congo

Prime Minister Tshombé is in Brussels today for talks with Belgian Foreign Minister Spaak. The Belgians have their commitments to Tshombé under review and would like to see him broaden the base of his government, and thus its appeal.

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2. UAR

Nasir to stave off Egypt's looming financial crisis. He has already received a boost from the USSR which agreed to postponements in debt repayments.

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3. Panama

First reactions in Panama have welcomed that part of the President's statement dealing with a new treaty. The Costa Rican President considers that the US is being "fair and just" to Panama. He and the Nicaraguan President are gratified that their countries are under consideration for the sea-level canal.

4. South Vietnam

Groundwork is being laid for talks between the Huong government and the Buddhists. The Buddhists, however, are still preparing for further anti-government moves this weekend.

5. Indonesia

Sukarno has decided to establish full diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors with East Germany. Djakarta already has ambassadors to North Korea and North Vietnam. The West Germans will probably react by withdrawing their economic aid.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

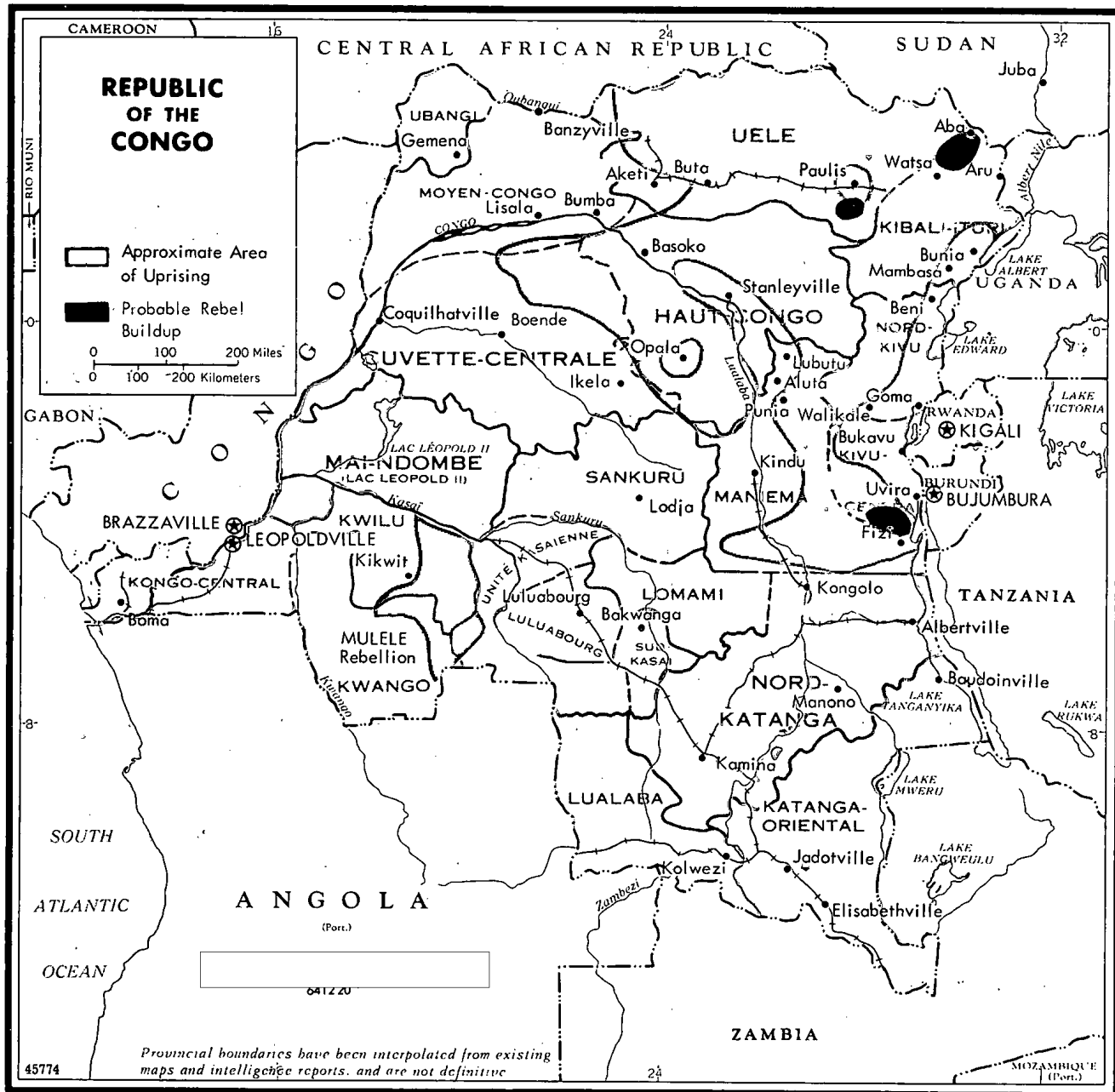
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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21 DECEMBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~



DAILY BRIEF
21 DECEMBER 1964

1. Congo

Arms assistance to the rebels is already making itself felt. [REDACTED]

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2. South Vietnam

Huong is trying to bring the generals back in line, but so far they refuse to retract their decree dissolving the High Council. He feels he may lose their support against the Buddhists, whom he fears more than the military, if he presses them too hard. Buddhist leader Tri Quang says, however, that he has at least temporarily suspended his anti-Huong campaign. [REDACTED]

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50X1

3. Indonesia

Sukarno loosed another public attack on the Congo rescue mission today, ending with the remark, "To hell with your humanitarianism." [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] USIS operations outside the capital city will probably be prohibited soon.

4. Panama

First favorable Panamanian reactions to the US canal announcement are being tempered by a "wait-and-see" attitude. There is apparently some concern about the problems a new canal might create for Panama. Anti-US groups, including the Communists, have been knocked off balance, however, and have not yet reacted.

5. Communist China

MIG fighters at Phuc Yen airfield near Hanoi have increased from 36 to 53, according to recent [REDACTED] photographs.

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6. Ghana

Nkrumah is threatening to expropriate British banks in Ghana. They have been resisting his desperate efforts to squeeze exchange out of them to pay Ghana's creditors. Virtually all commodity shipments to Ghana have been halted, and serious shortages loom.

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7. UAR

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

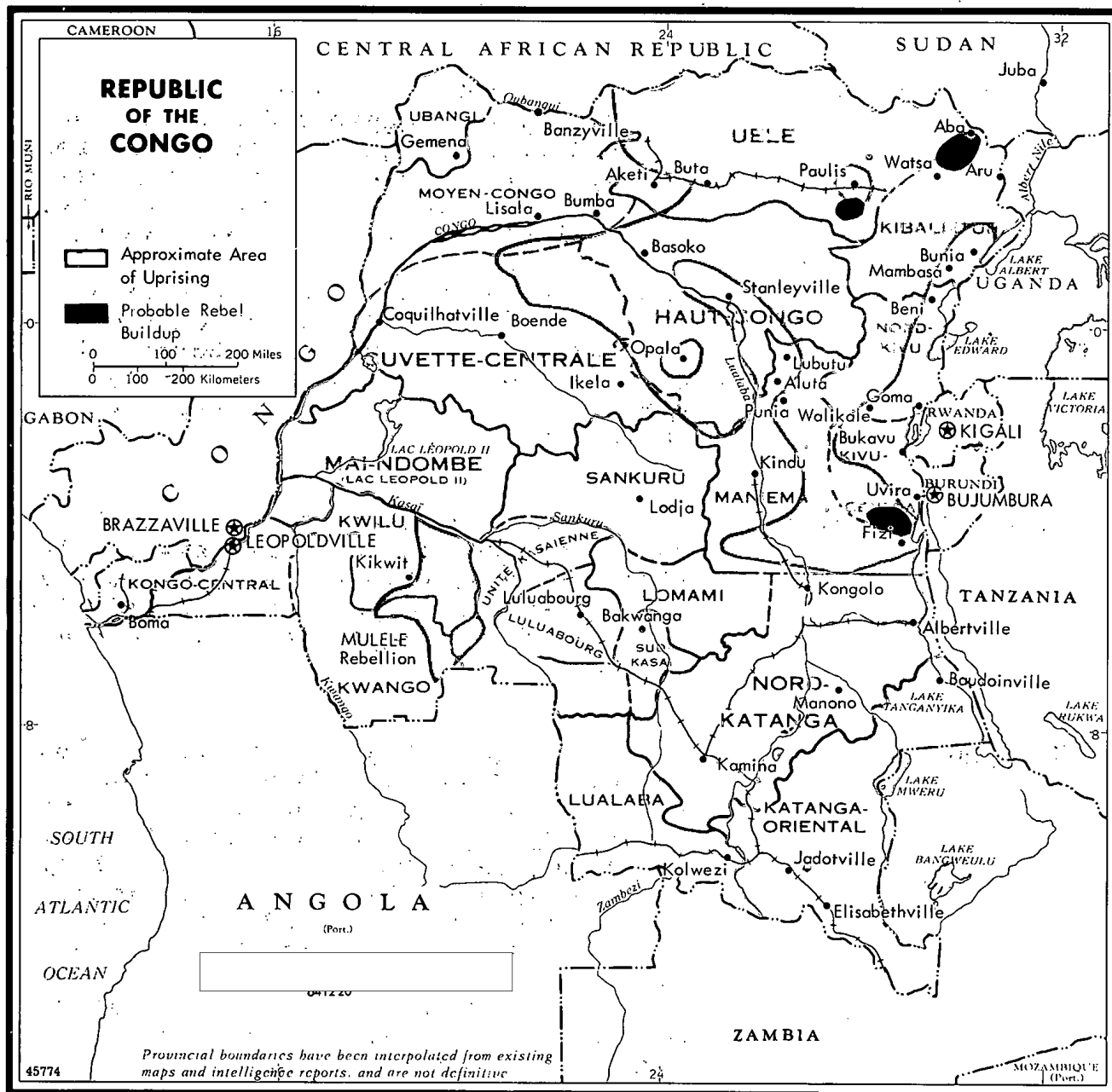
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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22 DECEMBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~



**DAILY BRIEF
22 DECEMBER 1964****1. South Vietnam**

As of 1600, we have received no indication that General Khanh has retreated from his opposition to the restoration of the High National Council, most of whose members are said to have been released from detention. Khanh may feel that he has gone too far to retreat. We have no late information on the attitudes of the young commanders, who may think twice before burning their bridges along with Khanh. There has been no sign of Viet Cong military reaction so far.

2. British Guiana

Premier Burnham has successfully completed negotiations with his coalition partners, whom he has given three ministries.

50X1
50X1
50X1**3. Laos**

Road watch teams on Route 12 report seeing about 600-800 Communist troops moving west by truck toward the Mahaxay-Nhommarath area of Laos generally east of Thakhek in the last few days. They are suspected to be North Vietnamese. There have been other indications of a recent step up in North Vietnamese activity in this sector, but it is not clear whether it is related primarily to the South Vietnamese or to the Lao-tian situation.

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5. Congo

New rebel activity is expected soon in the eastern Congo around Bukavu and Uvira. Rumors are flying in Leopoldville of attacks to be mounted on Christmas weekend from Congo (Brazzaville). We doubt that the Brazzaville regime can mount any elaborate attack, but the rumors will have an unsettling effect in Leopoldville, where a cabinet crisis is in progress. The rumors may have been deliberately floated to divert attention from rebel activity in the northeast. (See map.)

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

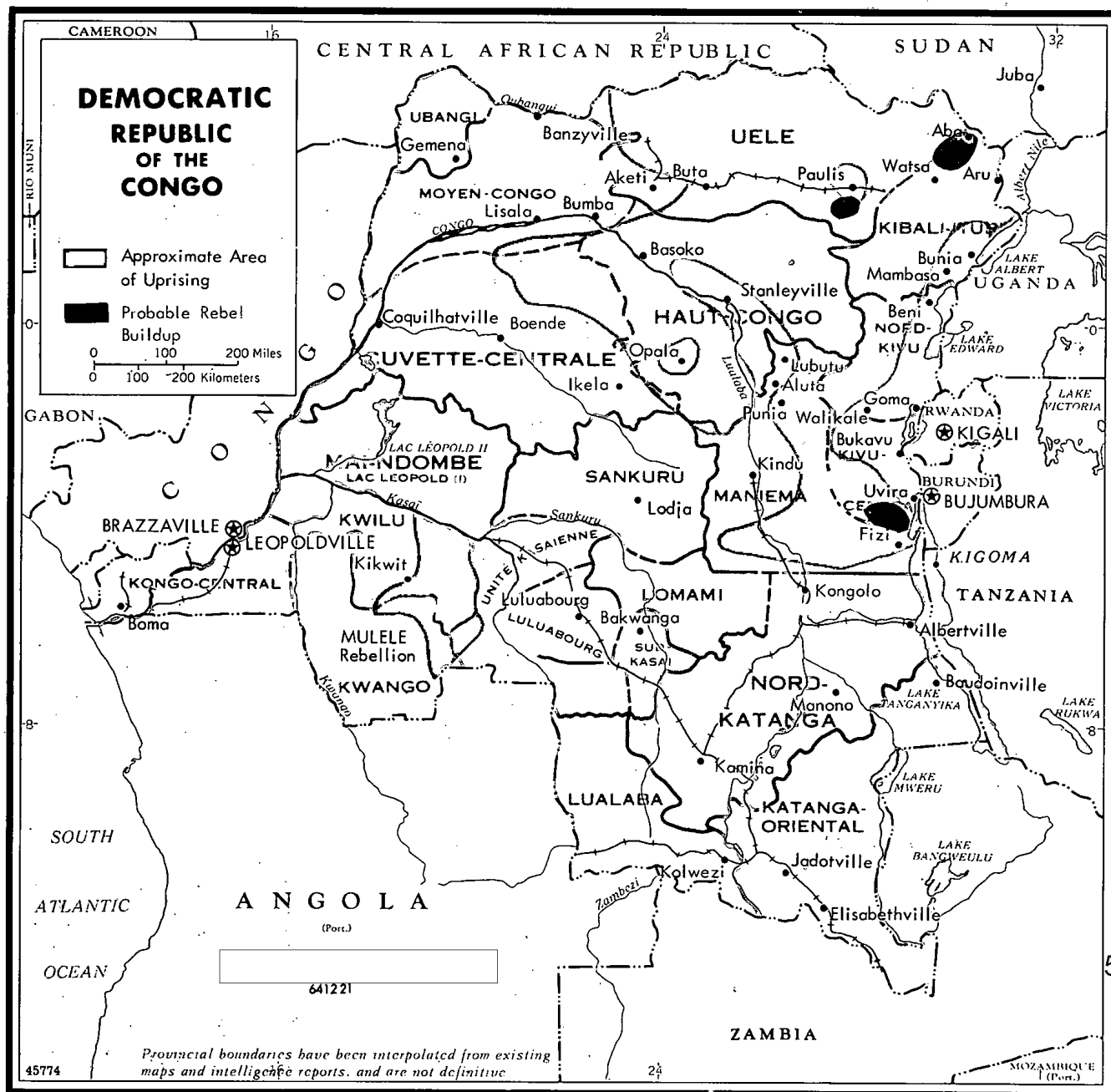
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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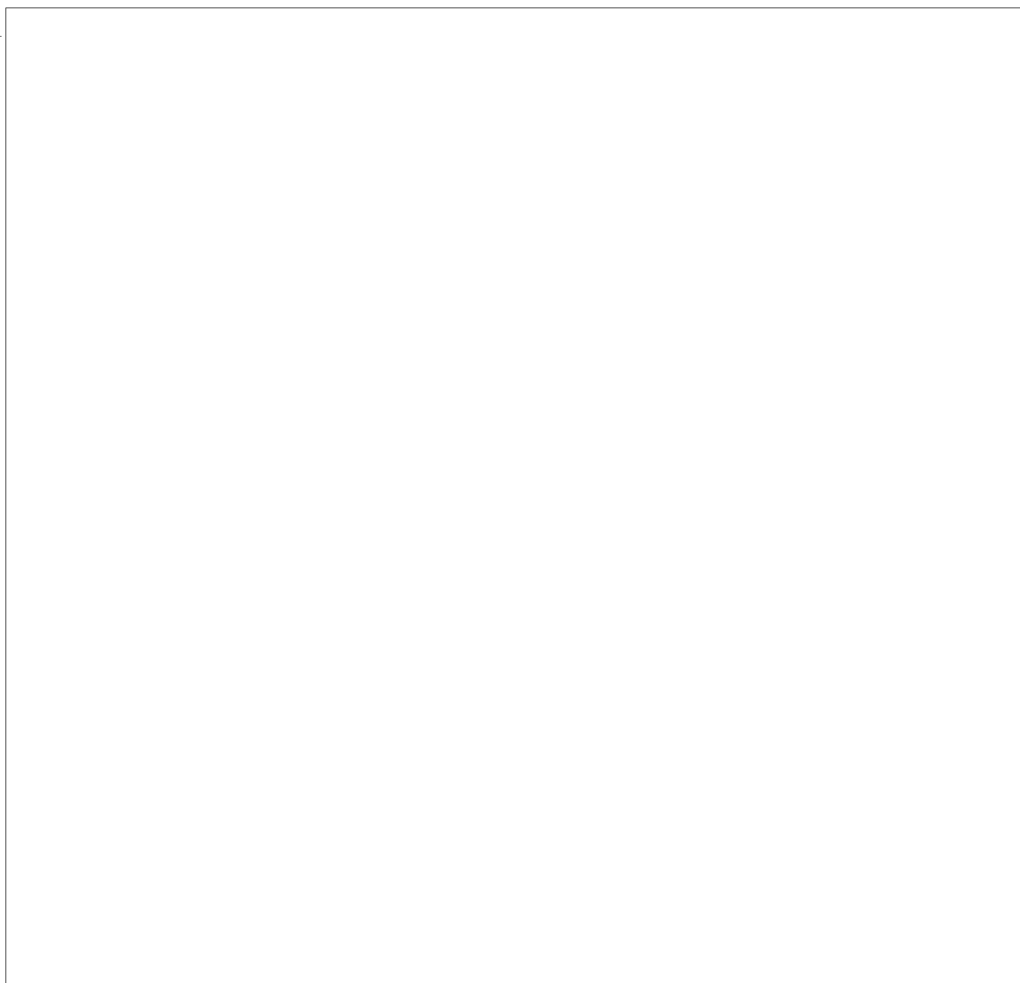
23 DECEMBER 1964

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DAILY BRIEF
23 DECEMBER 1964

1. South Vietnam

Khanh still has the backing of the generals, but there is an undercurrent of uneasiness among them that his behavior endangers US support. Prime Minister Huong has not tried to pin Khanh down. He has a lingering desire to deal first with his Buddhist tormentors. The Viet Cong has been repositioning units in the Saigon area. This has been going on for some weeks, and it could reflect no more than an effort to avoid government pacification drives. A dramatic attack on government installations, however, is possible.

2. Congo

The Congolese leaders still show little signs of realizing how precarious their military situation is, or of having a coherent policy. Tshombé, just returned from Europe, is instead talking grandly of rebuilding the Congo "from the ground up." A survey of the situation is at Annex 1. (See map.)

3. Indonesia

[redacted] Indonesian regulars are being moved to the Borneo border area and [redacted] to areas of Sumatra hard by the Malay Peninsula. [redacted] these shifts [redacted] [redacted] are sure to increase tensions. [redacted]

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4. West Germany

Erhard welcomes the signs he sees of a slight warming in US-French relations. This [redacted] will help pave the way for a meeting among US, French, German, and British chiefs of state.

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5. Italy

The protracted presidential election, with a record of 14 unsuccessful ballots, has brought the fragile Moro government near the breaking point. He is threatening to resign, and the Nenni socialists say they will revert to the opposition. There is still a little room for compromise, but the infighting so far may well leave irreparable damage on the center-left experiment.

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ANNEX 1

A Survey of the Congo Situation

There is no significant change in the generally somber security picture. Mercenary-led government forces continue active in the northeast, but several of these small government columns are at the extreme limit of supply lines, and cannot adequately garrison liberated points.

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Diplomatic pressure on Tshombé remains strong. Representatives of five radical African states were to meet in Uganda today to discuss Ghana's proposal to recognize the Congolese rebel government. The

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Back in Leopoldville from his aid-raising trip to Europe, Tshombé says he is going to talk with President Kasavubu about improving the Congo's standing with other African governments. There is still some doubt, however, that he intends to go beyond the talking stage.

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The possibilities of broadening the government are not bright, even if Tshombé were persuaded to try. The leading candidate, former premier Adoula, has probably made himself ineligible by his recent public statements implicitly critical of Tshombé's policies. Moreover, Interior Minister Munongo's recent use of his powers of arrest to even scores with old rivals and political enemies has probably frightened off other political interests not now represented in the government.

In the circumstances, Tshombé's relations with Belgium are critical. Belgian Ambassador der Kerchove has returned to Brussels to consult on continued aid to the Congo.

Tshombé's announced policy of expropriating Belgian-held shares in industrial enterprises in the Congo could cause a break in relations. Talks on the policy are scheduled in Brussels in January.

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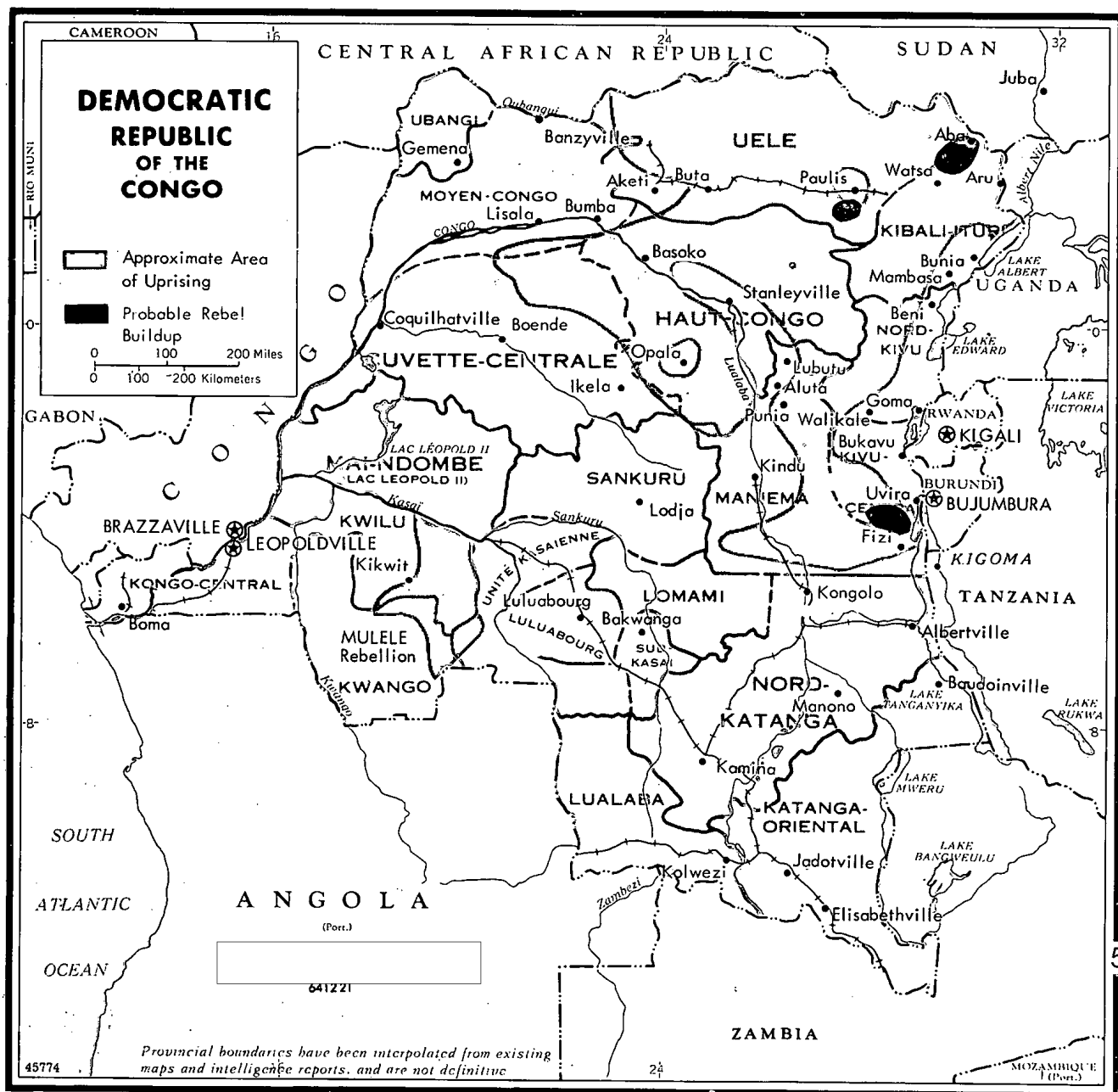


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 DECEMBER 1964

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DAILY BRIEF
26 DECEMBER 1964

1. South Vietnam

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[redacted]
[redacted] They have sent a letter to Huong, complaining of US affronts and asking the government to take "appropriate action." There have been hints that they may stop supporting the Huong government unless they get satisfaction on this. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

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2. Congo

Prime Minister Tshombé says that he and President Kasavubu oppose the Spaak proposals on broadening the Congo government. Tshombé is also strongly against the ceasefire called for by a resolution due to be laid before the Security Council. Militarily the Congo was quiet yesterday. Algerian planes landed additional arms at Juba [redacted]
[redacted]

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3. Cuba

Some Cuban SAM sites have been shut down while Soviet technicians are at work on modifications to the equipment. We suspect that these are intended to improve defense against low-flying planes. [redacted]
[redacted]

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4. Communist China

We estimate that Communist China's food output this year was 170 million tons, 2-3 percent below last year. Because of population growth, per capita supply will be some 14 percent below 1957, the last normal crop year for China. Expanded production from private gardens will take up some of the slack.

5. Kashmir

Pakistan is resentful over recent Indian actions which tie Kashmir more closely to New Delhi and could try to foment trouble for the Indians, either in Kashmir or along the ceasefire line. This weekend is the anniversary of the theft of a Moslem relic, which led to serious communal riots last winter.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

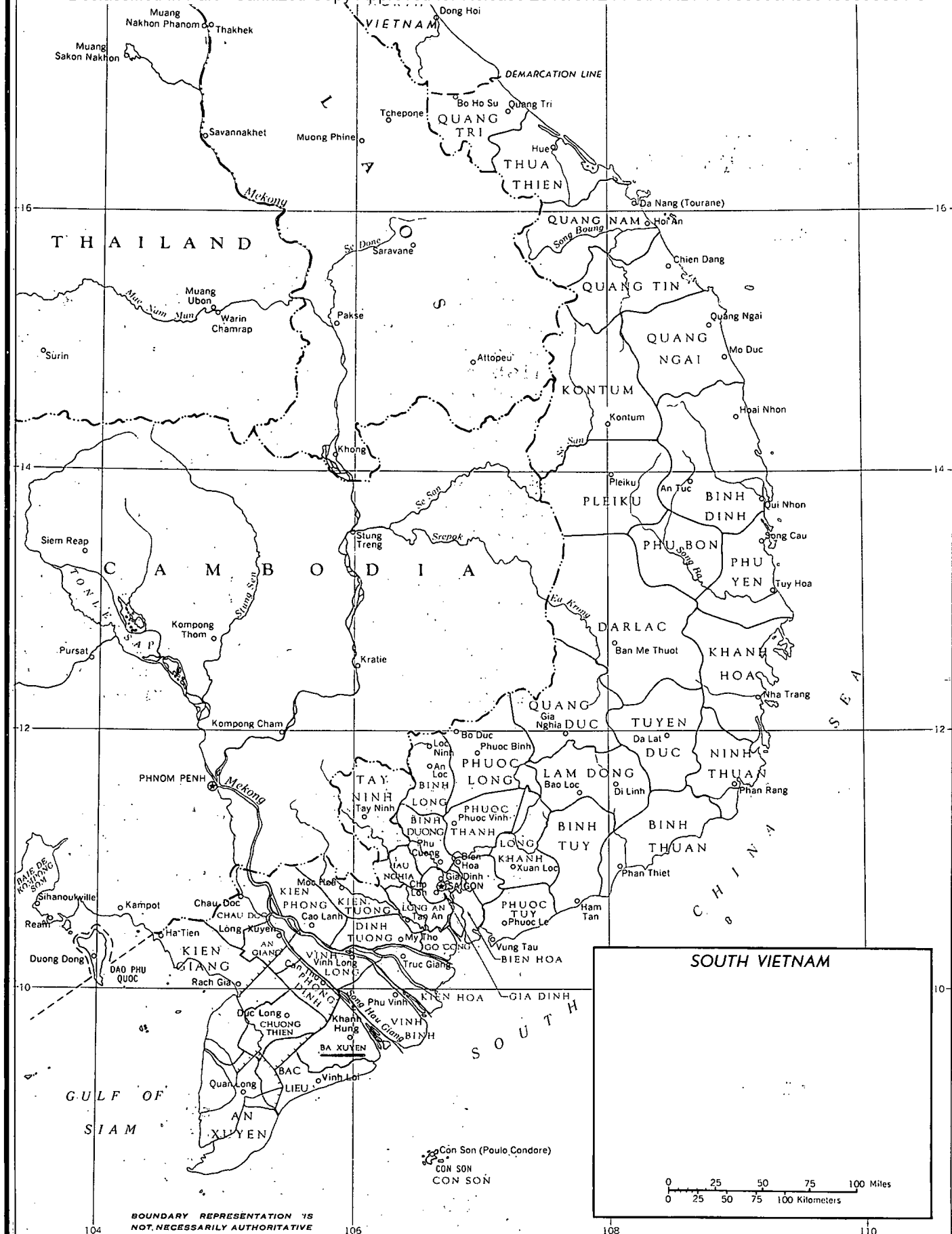
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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28 DECEMBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~



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DAILY BRIEF
28 DECEMBER 1964

1. South Vietnam

The communiqué issued today by Premier Huong and Chief of State Suu leaves the door open for reconciliation with the generals. Huong may now seek the formation of a new legislative body that would include some members of the disbanded High National Council. Some quid pro quo, including the release of political hostages, would probably be demanded from the military. The Buddhists reiterated their opposition to Huong over the weekend, but show no clear signs of an imminent renewal of agitation.

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Press reports of a sizable government military victory apparently refer to an operation yesterday in Ba Xuyen province.

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2. Congo

3. Italy

Only about half of Premier Moro's own Christian Democrat Party appears to have voted for new president Saragat, the Social Democratic leader, with those who have opposed the center-left coalition probably abstaining. This puts the expected severe strain on Moro's government. The next step will probably be a Christian Democratic Party conference, at which the new factional alignments will be sorted out.

4. Egypt

Nasir has allowed a couple of hints in the last few days that he would like to better relations with the US. A brief survey of events leading up to these approaches is at Annex.

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ANNEX

Egyptian-US Relations

Nasir's anti-US trend first became apparent last summer in wholesale criticism by the Egyptian propaganda apparatus of US policies throughout the world, as well as in the Middle East. With regard to Vietnam, Cairo has taken the line that the US is interfering there, and that the US alone is guilty of doing so.

Similar charges have been reiterated for some time regarding US support of the government of the Congo. On 1 December the rubber stamp Egyptian Assembly passed a resolution denouncing the "abominable crime" of the US-Belgian rescue operation at Stanleyville. Egyptian air shipments of arms to the Congolese rebels have been moving steadily into the Sudan [REDACTED]

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In addition, the Nasir regime has displayed animosity toward the US in a variety of other ways. Recent examples include the burning of the USIS library in Cairo--which the authorities made no effort to stop and may have staged--and the government's irresponsible handling of the recent crash of a US-owned private plane near Alexandria.

[REDACTED]

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Nasir in recent days has also been at pains to identify Egyptian interests more closely with the Soviet Union. The Soviets have publicly reciprocated, although it is doubtful that Moscow in reality has recently gained more confidence in Nasir, or has decided to give him more aid without strings.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

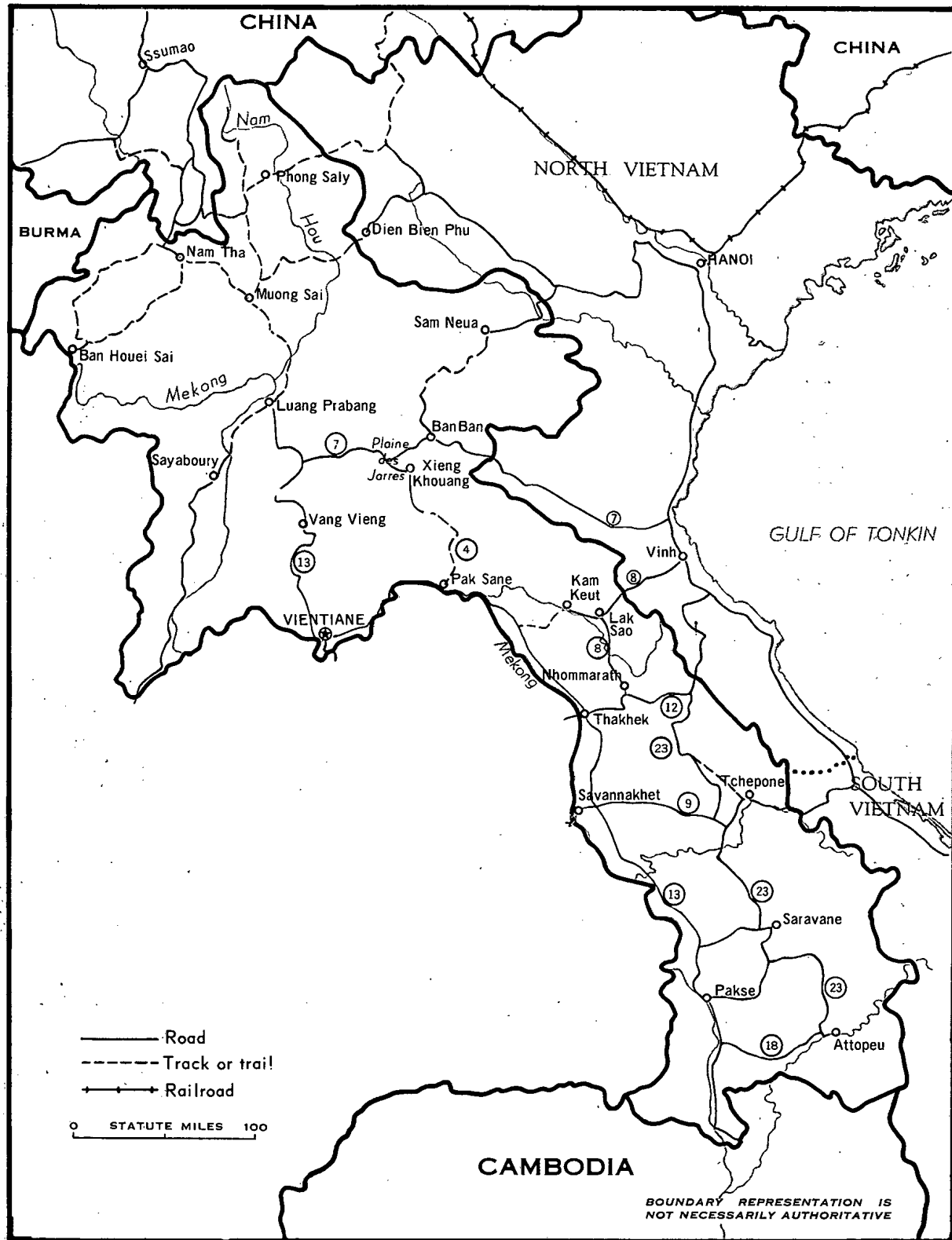
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29 DECEMBER 1964

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LAOS



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DAILY BRIEF
29 DECEMBER 1964

1. South Vietnam

[redacted] there is still much bickering among the generals, but that the civil government's relations with them are improving. [redacted] the generals and Khanh have accepted Ambassador Taylor's suggestion of talks on the situation. This seems promising, but on the other hand the generals are still detaining several members of the High Council. [redacted]

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2. North Vietnam

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3. Congo

50X1

4. Panama

The extreme left, knocked off balance by the recent US declaration on the Canal question, is seeking to regain the initiative by supporting a rising ultra-nationalist demand for "neutralization." By this they mean withdrawal of US military forces from Panama. The Robles government, although pleased by the US stand, apparently thinks it politically unwise to publicly repudiate this demand.

5. Laos

Tension is running high between rival rightist factions in Vientiane, and an attempt to take over the government could be triggered. The presence of the King may, however, help calm matters. Along routes 12 and 23 in the south-central part of the country, there are further indications of sizable Communist troop reinforcements. (See map.)

6. UAR

Nasir is apparently the source of a rumor in Cairo that the Soviets have promised to increase their economic aid to the UAR if US aid diminishes. If this is more than talk intended for US ears, Nasir may still find the Soviets readier with promises than with food grains and hard currency.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

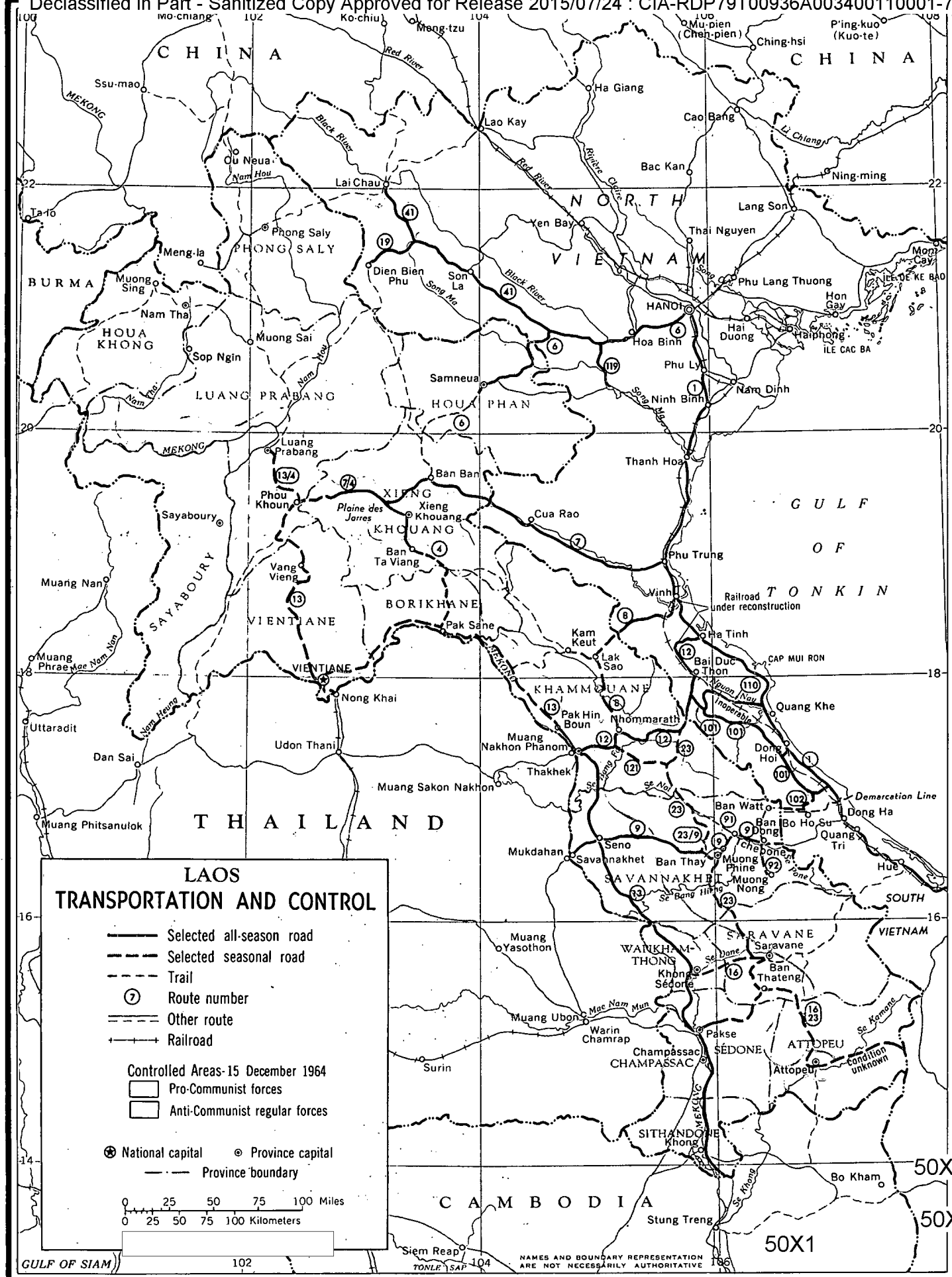
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

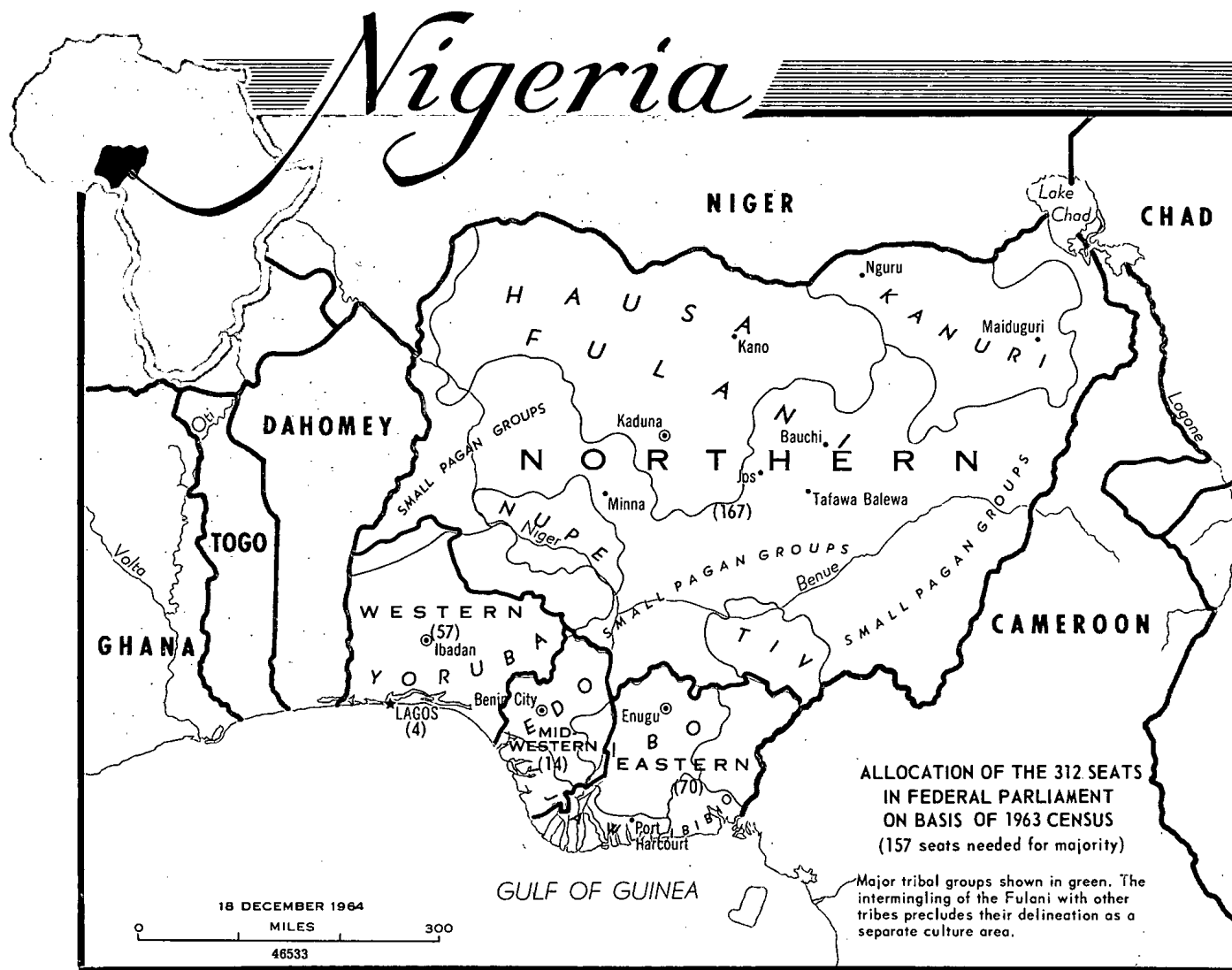
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30 DECEMBER 1964

~~TOP SECRET~~





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DAILY BRIEF
30 DECEMBER 1964

1. South Vietnam

Khanh and his generals are still deliberating at a resort near Saigon

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Dis-
cussions between civil government and the generals have not yet begun.

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while the generals back Khanh in refusing to restore the High Council, many of them oppose his anti-American tactics.

2. Laos

Souvanna Phouma has been calming down the contentious rightist generals, and Ambassador Sullivan says that the two leading rightist figures both look for a long period of political jockeying rather than a showdown. Road watch teams in south-central Laos, which have been noting considerable southward movement by the Communists, now report trucks moving south along a section of Route 23 just north of Tchepone which has been closed since the rains last spring. (See map.)

3. Nigeria

The boycott of today's election by disgruntled southerners has been broadly effective. This action has sharpened rivalries between regional and tribal interests buffeting Nigeria's fragile federation (see map) and could over the long run lead to its breakup. While few political figures really want this, the country is in for a period of instability which will muffle its moderate voice in African councils.

4. France

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5. UAR

Nasir has been seeking a scapegoat for Egypt's sorry economic situation and may now have fastened on Premier Ali Sabri.

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Although the situation is muddy, we see no sign that Nasir is losing control of the instruments of power in Egypt. Nasir, meantime, has taken a step back from his challenge to the US with the publication of a conciliatory article in a leading Cairo paper.

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