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DIRECTORATE OF
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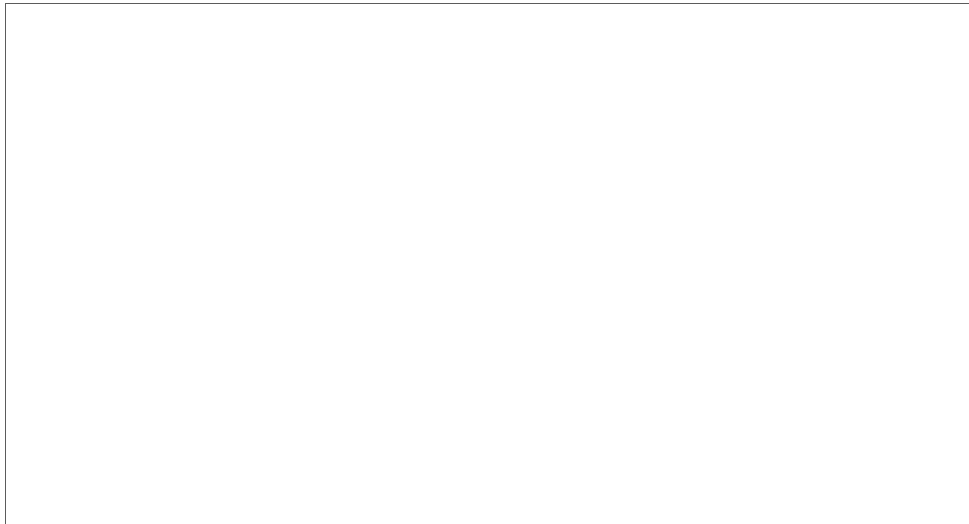
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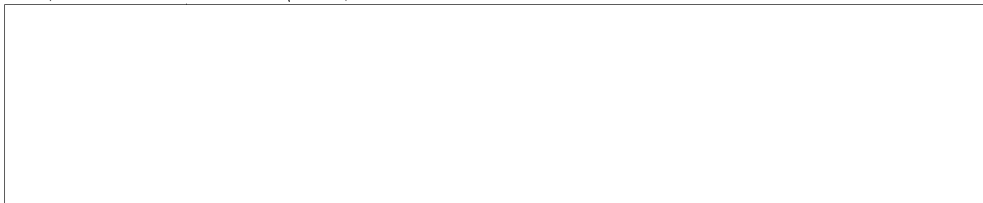
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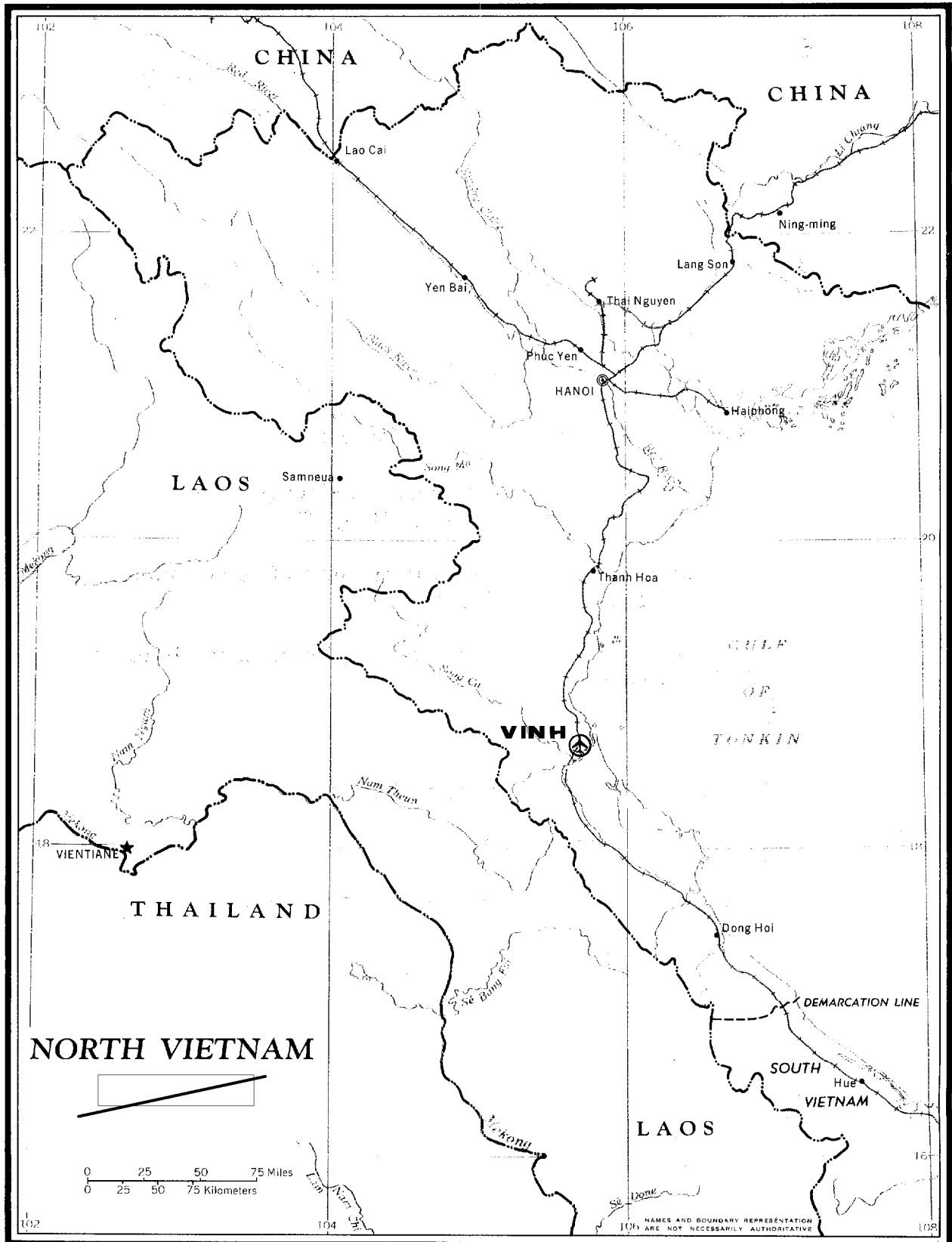
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*Vietnam:

South Vietnam: No significant military action has been reported since the Communists' own cease-fire period began yesterday noon.

The period just before noon was marked by a surge of widely scattered incidents including shellings of American bases and two ambushes of US convoys.

The Communists are expected to take advantage of any lull in the fighting, especially during the 36-hour allied truce, which begins next Monday, to step up the movement of men and materiel throughout the country. The current posture of enemy forces indicates that the Communists intend to launch large-scale attacks on one or more fronts soon after Tet. There is even a chance they will start before the conclusion of the holiday period.

North Vietnam: Interference with US B-52 raids in the general area of the Demilitarized Zone may be an objective of the apparent North Vietnamese effort to re-establish the jet airfield at Vinh.

Communications activity between Hanoi and a radio terminal at Vinh connected with air operations has recently included messages pertinent to US B-52 strike operations. Recent flights of MIG-21 aircraft to the Vinh area by two top North Vietnamese pilots, together with this unusual pattern of communications, suggests an attempt may be made to attack US bombers.

The Communists have not been successful in their efforts to shoot down a B-52 aircraft with SA-2 missiles in the area of the Demilitarized Zone. []

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*North Korea: [US reconnaissance located the Pueblo in Wonsan Bay on 26 January.]

[The ship appears to be undamaged and there is no evidence of salvage operations in the area where she may have jettisoned some of her electronic equipment.]

Pyongyang's position on the affair remains adamant. Reacting to yesterday's deliberations in the UN Security Council, Pyongyang radio voiced the government's strong opposition to any debate of the US appeal. The radio added that North Korea will ignore any Security Council resolution "rigged up to cover the US imperialists' aggression"--a statement in line with Pyongyang's policy during the past 21 years of refusing to recognize UN competence in dealing with Korean matters.

North Korean attempts to wring maximum propaganda gain from statements attributed to the Pueblo's commanding officer, Commander Bucher, continue apace. Yesterday Pyongyang broadcast a "press interview" in which Bucher allegedly referred to the "confession" made by "the crew of my ship." He is quoted as saying his men "should be punished in accordance with the criminal law" of North Korea. He also reportedly linked the Pueblo's mission with the Vietnam war, stating that the ship's mission against North Korea was in preparation for a "new war of aggression in Asia" and that the US "regards Korea and Vietnam as two fronts."

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Radio Peking broke its silence on the Pueblo incident yesterday, rebroadcasting without comment the North Korean news agency account of the incident and its text of Commander Bucher's "confession."

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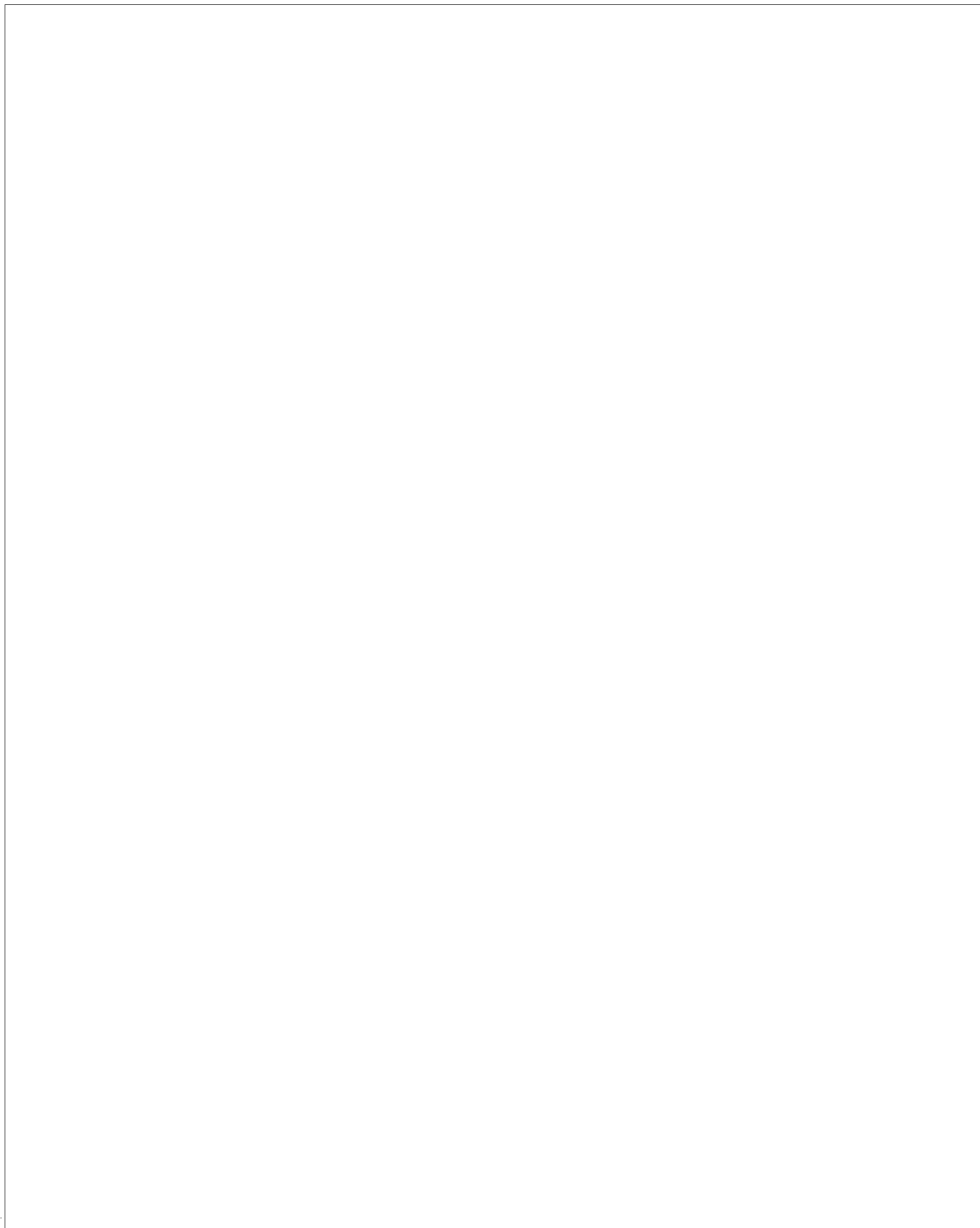
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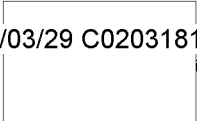
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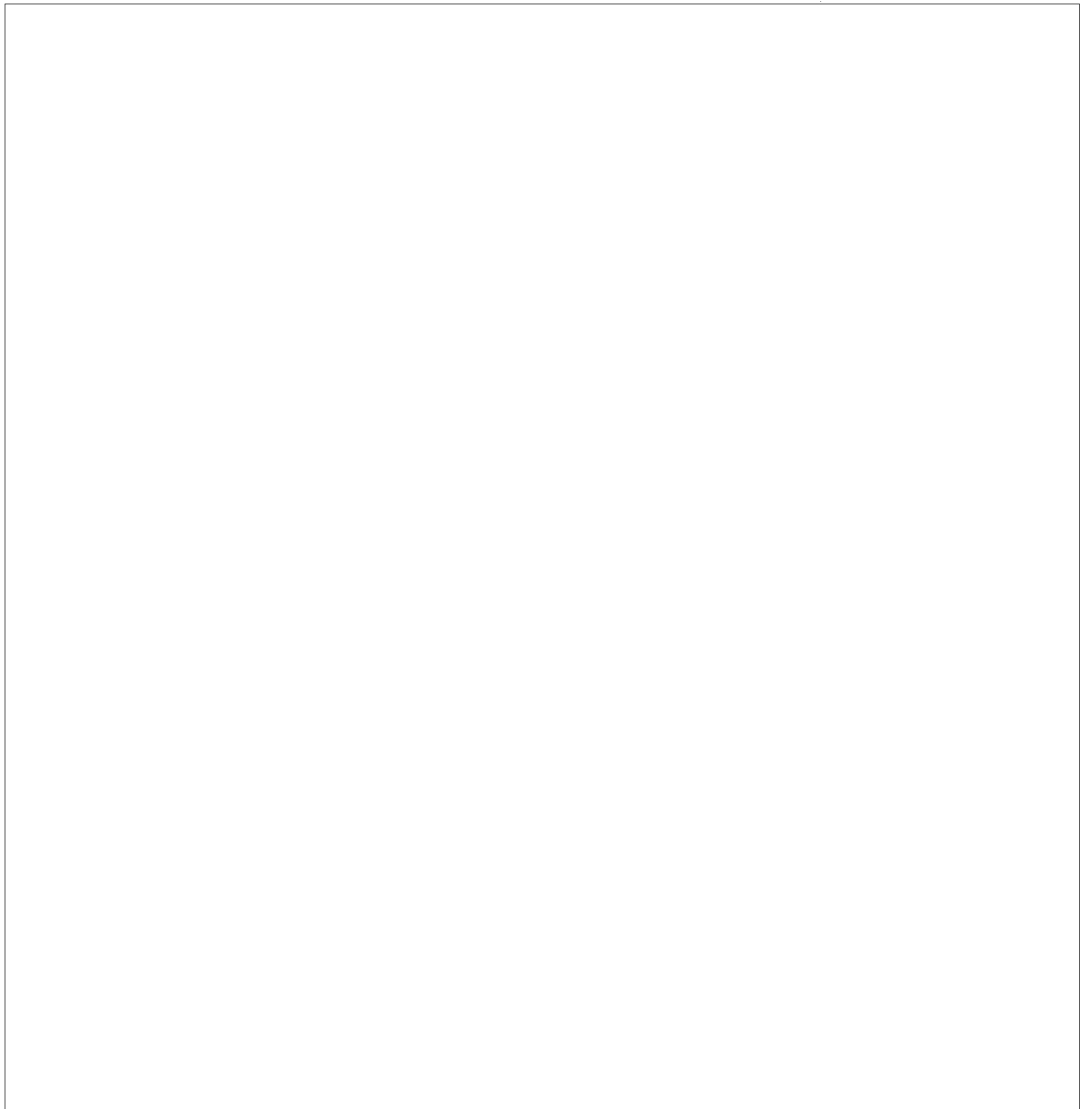
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NOTES

Denmark: A period of political maneuvering is in prospect with the announcement yesterday that Hilmar Baunsgaad, a Radical Liberal leader, will try to form a government. Baunsgaad and his pacifist-minded party, which holds the balance of power in parliament, have declared their willingness to cooperate either with the two major non-Socialist parties or with the Social Democrats. Foreign policy and defense issues are expected to be a major stumbling block to forming a coalition in view of sentiment among the Radical Liberals favoring re-consideration of Denmark's membership in NATO.

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Israel: The Israelis are moving ahead to absorb the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem, and Arab citizens there fear that they are being squeezed out of the city. The Israelis are now bulldozing in undeveloped areas which they expropriated on 11 January within the Jordanian part of the city and are implementing their own development projects for the land. Israel is also pressing Arab banks throughout occupied Jordan to reopen under Israeli banking rules. Minister of Defense Dayan has warned that Tel Aviv will take steps to force this move if the Arabs resist.

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*Brazil: The government has reacted strongly in an apparent effort to counter a suspected plot by catalytic opposition leader Carlos Lacerda. Military and security forces are on alert as Lacerda--considered an agitator by military hardliners who would like to see his political rights nullified--is scheduled to speak tonight in Sao Paulo, where the atmosphere is highly charged. Although some violence could erupt following Lacerda's speech, the government's response may well be an overreaction as there is little indication that the stability of the Costa e Silva regime is in jeopardy.

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