

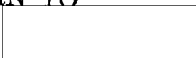
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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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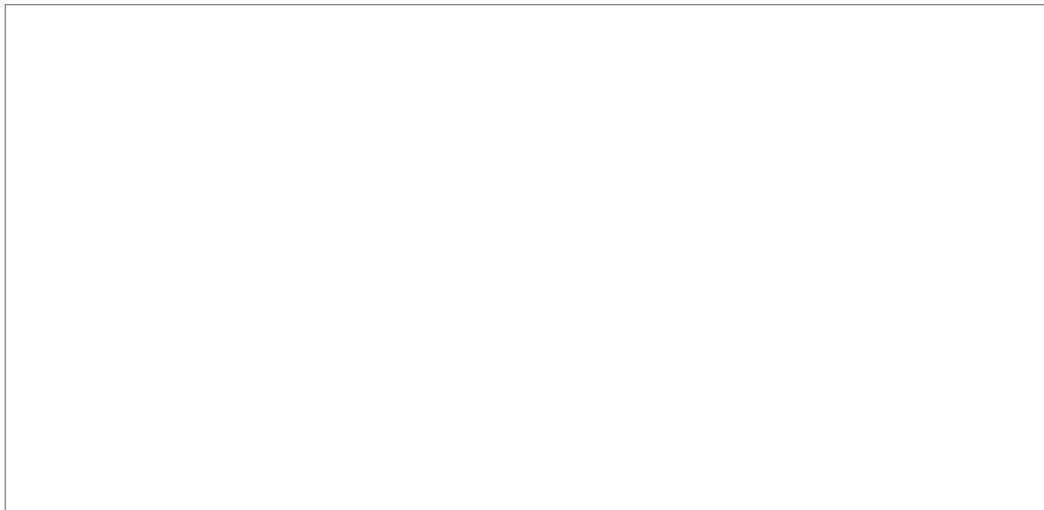
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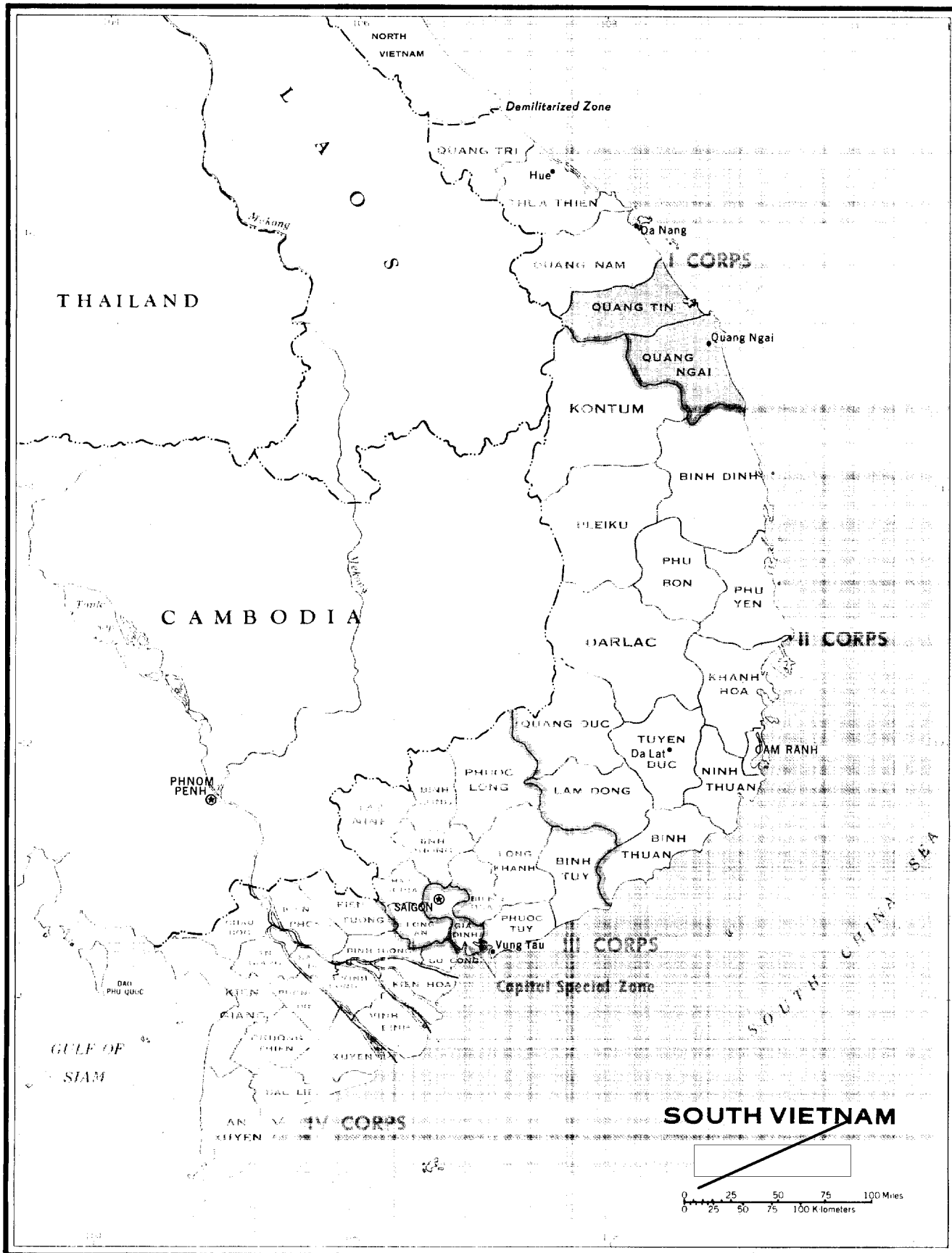
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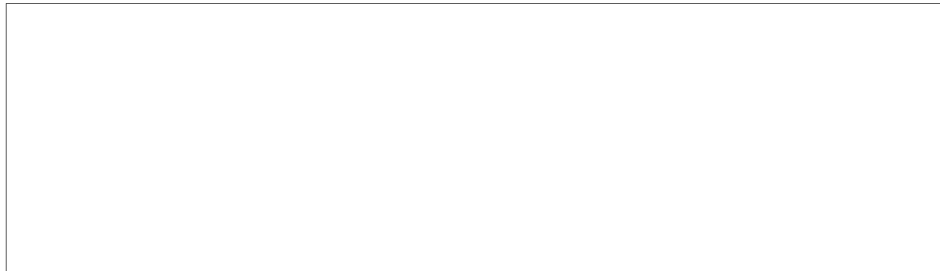
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\*South Vietnam: There is further evidence of Communist plans to intensify military operations in the southern part of I Corps.



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An enemy document, captured recently, also pointed to a major expansion of Communist operations this winter in the heavily populated coastal sections in this part of South Vietnam.

In the latest manifestation of political tensions in Saigon, South Vietnam's Senate yesterday overwhelmingly rejected the government's controversial partial mobilization decree.

Individuals in both houses of the legislature have been critical of the decree, both for its content and for its promulgation without legislative approval, but eventual acceptance was still expected. Defense Minister Vy appeared separately before both houses on 18 December to defend the decree, and his performance appeared to have been well received. Several senators, in fact, indicated that the government would receive no trouble from that quarter.

Opposition to the decree is more vocal in the Lower House which is now likely to take its cue from the Senate and follow with another rejection. The issue

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comes up for a vote in this house on 20 December.  
The government has been saying that the decree will  
be applied as scheduled on 1 January, but Defense  
Minister Vy, during his Lower House appearance, in-  
dicated that a new decree from the new assembly  
would be acceptable.

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Czechoslovakia: The recently intensified party crisis may come to a head at a central committee meeting this week.

There has been ample evidence in recent months that the political situation was becoming critical.

The US Embassy believes that the most rancorous divisions are on economic issues, but that many other grave problems have also added to strife in the leadership. A Prague Foreign Ministry official has suggested, however, that there will be no basic policy changes, but instead an accommodation of views. In the past this sort of inconclusive compromise has enabled the regime to muddle through.

The central committee meeting was originally set for 13 December, but postponed until this week. The postponement, following Brezhnev's sudden visit to Prague on 8-9 December, has led to speculation concerning possible high-level personnel changes affecting even party boss Novotny. [redacted]

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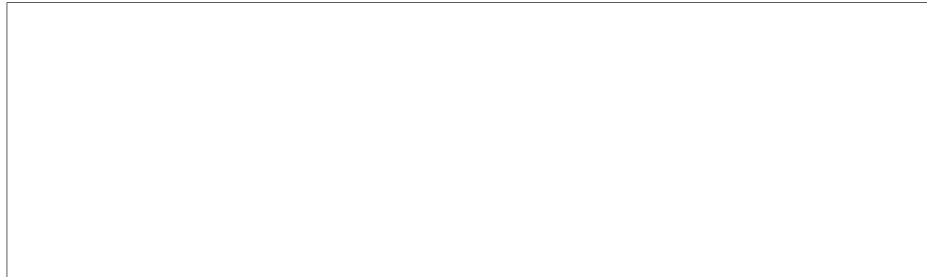
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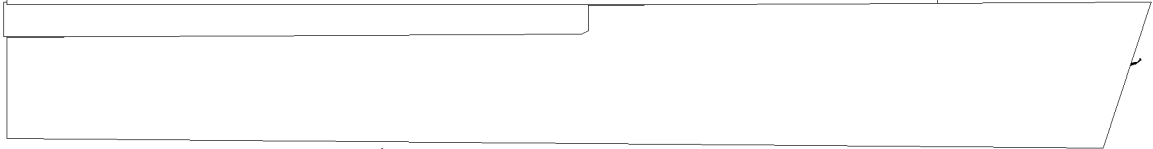
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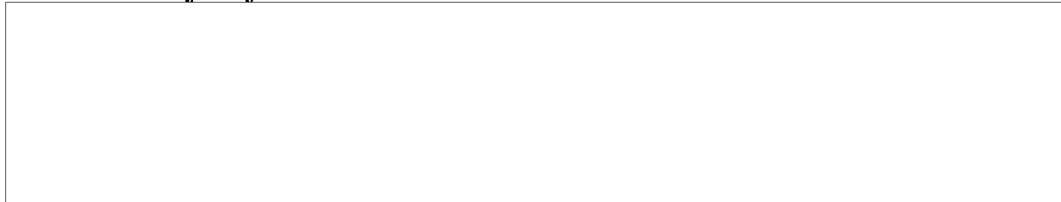


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Congo (Kinshasa): The fate of Schramme's mercenaries in Rwanda is still uncertain, despite much discussion at the recent African leaders' conference in Uganda. Agreement reportedly was reached to return the mercenaries to the Congo no later than 19 December to stand trial, but Rwandan President Kayibanda apparently had not concurred. Mobutu and Kayibanda are scheduled to continue discussions today in Tanzania. Congolese patience, however, appears to be running thin, and if there are no results soon, Mobutu may try to take matters into his own hands.

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