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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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13 November 1967

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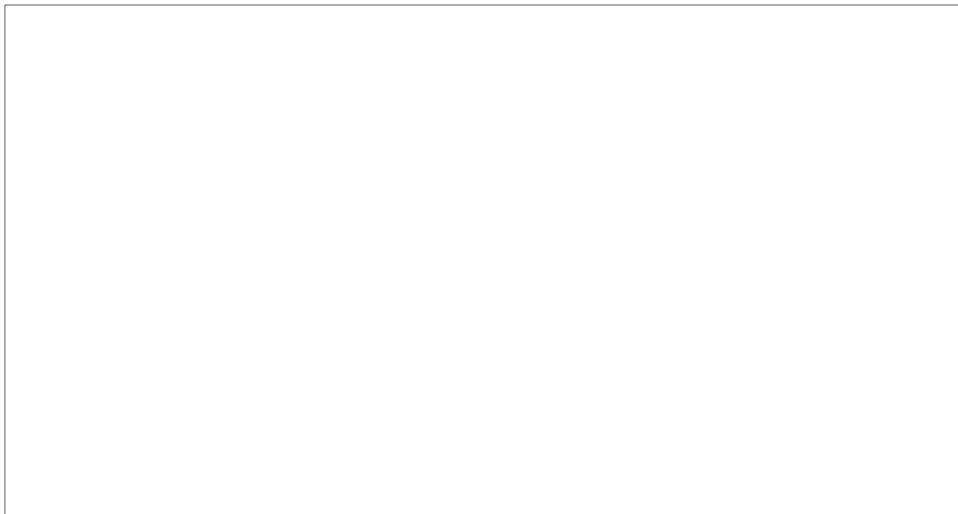
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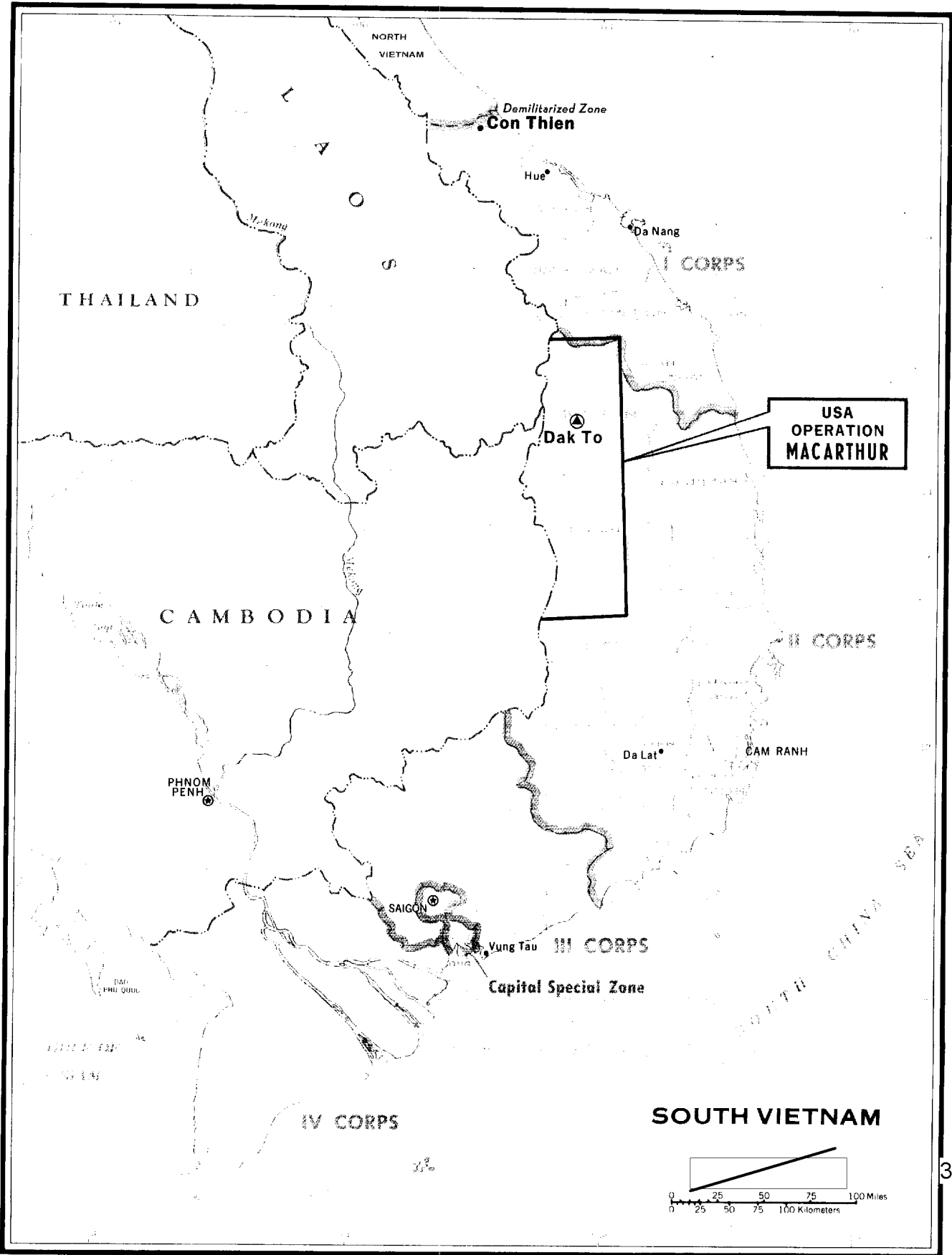
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The Viet Cong's release of three US prisoners in Cambodia this weekend was apparently designed for maximum propaganda impact.

The prisoners were "turned over" to a US "peace committee representative" at a ceremony in Phnom Penh on 11 November, then held incommunicado until the following day, when they were put on a Czechoslovakian Airlines plane bound for Prague. The prisoners and the "peace committee representative" left the plane at Beirut, however, and will return to the US on an American commercial airliner departing Beirut this morning.

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Sharp engagements continue to be reported in the Dak To area of the central highlands between US forces participating in Operation MACARTHUR and elements of the North Vietnamese B-3 Front. Cumulative casualties for the heavy fighting in the first 12 days of November are: US--96 killed, 487 wounded and two missing; enemy--619 killed, seven detained and 101 individual and 25 crew-served weapons captured.

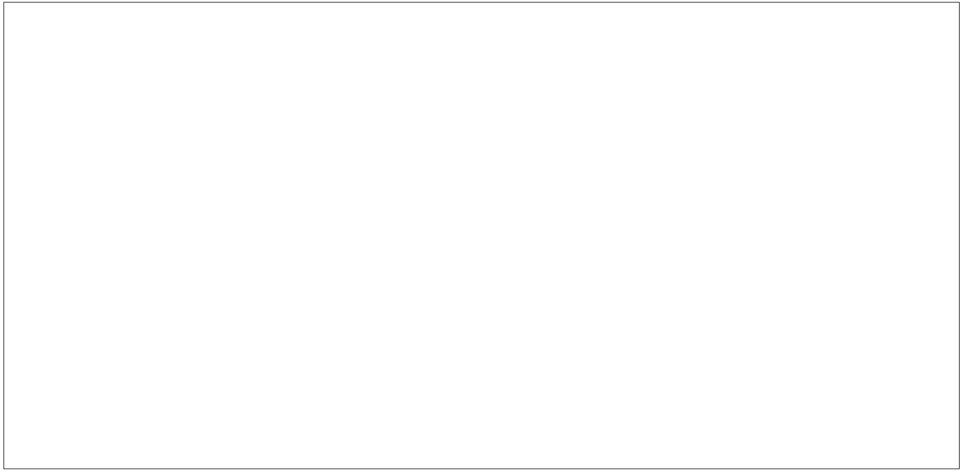
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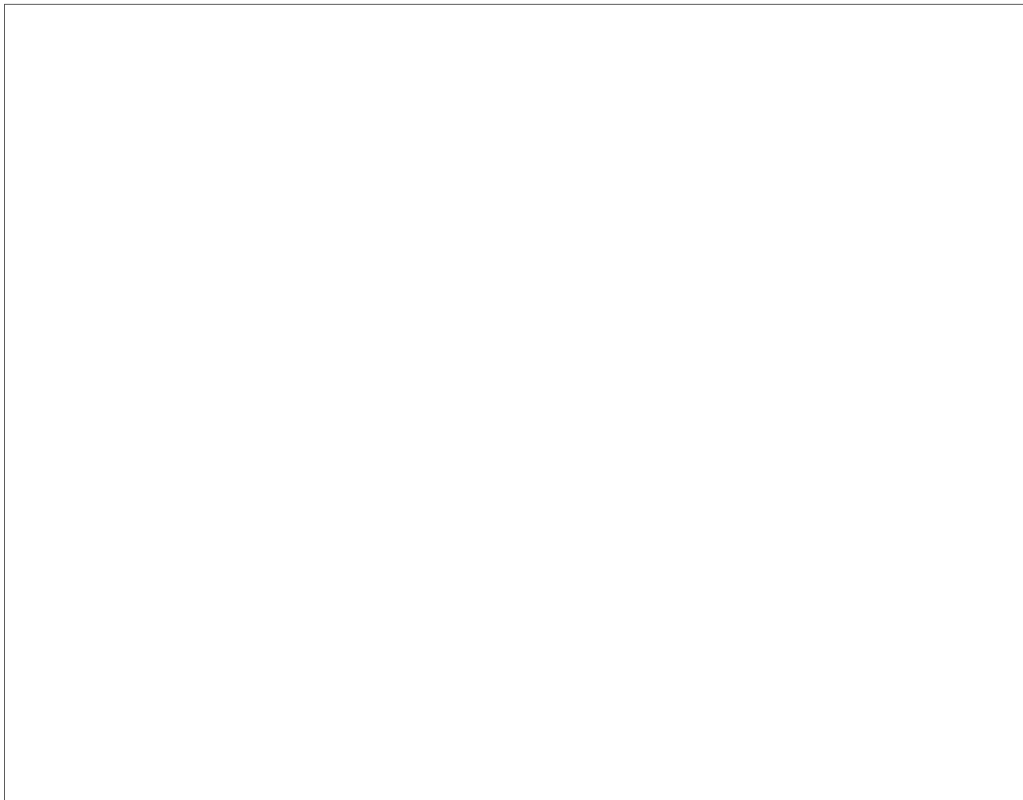


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Congo (Kinshasa): Schramme's mercenaries may be allowed to return to their home countries, but they apparently will not be leaving Rwanda soon.

The OAU commission which met over the weekend in Kinshasa voted to permit the mercenaries repatriation. Its resolution, however, demands indemnification of the Congolese Government for the damage they have caused, and insists on ironclad guarantees that they will not be allowed to return to Africa. These conditions will probably be rejected by the mercenaries' home countries, and a period of extensive haggling seems likely to ensue.

Schramme's Katangan troops were not mentioned in the commission's resolution and presumably can be sent to Zambia as soon as Kinshasa and Lusaka work out the details. []

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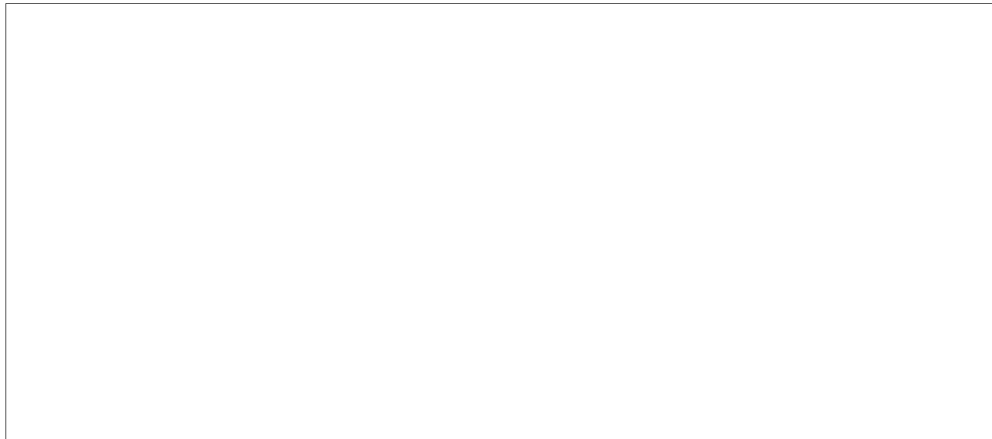
Indonesia: A seasonal rice shortage and a consequent price spiral may create a major political problem for the Suharto regime. Although imports will partially relieve the shortage, the scarcity--aggravated by speculation and poor distribution facilities--will persist until the next harvest in late March. Acting President Suharto effectively blunted last week's demonstrations by youth groups which protested high prices and corrupt officials, but continuing political pressures seem likely. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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Greece-Turkey: The Greek Air Force is on alert as a result of a number of alleged violations of Greek air space by Turkish aircraft since 4 November. Ankara has rejected a Greek protest over the incidents, and has lodged a counter-protest with Athens over an alleged violation of Turkish airspace by Greek planes on 10 November. The Turks maintain that their flights are for "training" purposes over international waters, that they will continue, and that the Greek reaction is unwarranted. Ankara's motives in the affair are not clear, but its hard-nosed attitude and the Greek response are symptomatic of the continuing frustration over the prolonged Cyprus problem. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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Panama: The presidential race appears to be wide open again. The Electoral Tribunal reportedly has ruled, on the basis of an obscure point of law, that National Guard Commandant Bolivar Vallarino--a possible compromise candidate--need not resign on 12 November to be eligible. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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