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PRES



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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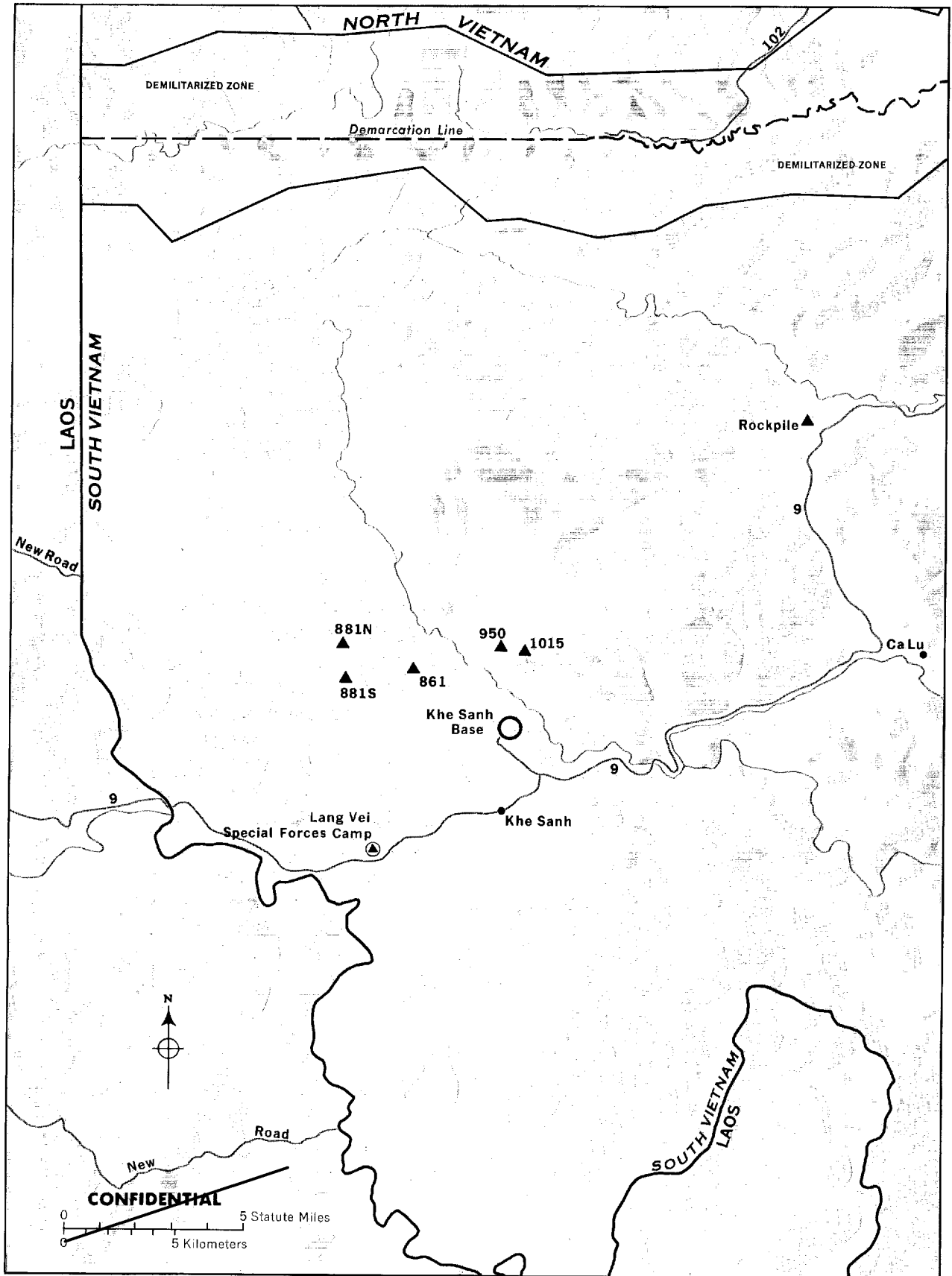


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*Vietnam:

South Vietnam: The allied combat base at Khe Sanh and its peripheral defensive positions were struck again this morning with a heavy barrage of enemy artillery, rocket, and mortar fire.

The three-hour bombardment, accompanied by a small ground probe of a nearby hill, resulted in little damage and only light American casualties. Now that the Communists have forced the abandonment of the Lang Vei Special Forces Camp, they will probably concentrate on the allied strongpoints surrounding the Khe Sanh base with continued shellings throughout the area.

No major new attacks have occurred elsewhere in South Vietnam, but enemy pressure nevertheless remains serious in several urban areas--notably in Hue, Da Lat, and Saigon. Fierce street fighting in Hue continues against stubborn Communist resistance. A large number of enemy believed remaining in the one-time mountain resort city of Da Lat poses a serious potential threat to the security of that provincial capital.

In Saigon last night three South Vietnamese police stations came under Viet Cong fire in the predominantly Chinese Cholon section. The Communists have constructed barricades out of furniture and abandoned automobiles in some parts of Cholon, and sharp fighting is expected before they are rooted out. Heavy fighting erupted on the northern and southern outskirts of the city yesterday when allied forces contacted battalion-size Communist units. It was announced today that two US Army infantry battalions are to conduct a sweep across the southern half of Saigon. (Map)

North Vietnam: Continuing unprecedented air activity by North Vietnamese bombers and transport aircraft strongly suggests the Communists may soon employ their limited air power in some way to support their current offensive in South Vietnam.

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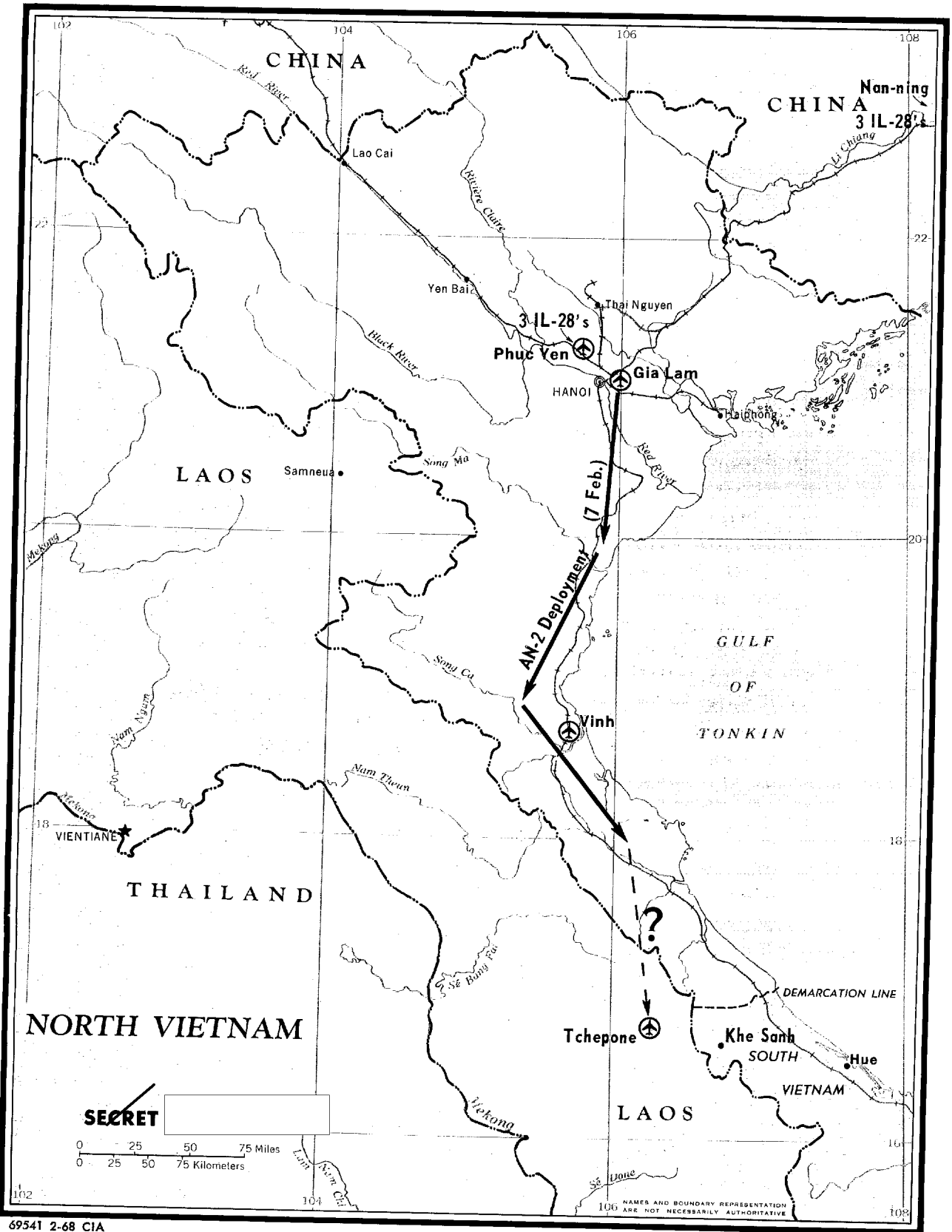
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In addition to the three IL-28 twin-jet bombers which were recently deployed to Phuc Yen airfield near Hanoi, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] three additional IL-28s were flown from Yunnani to Nan-ning in southwestern China at about the same time. Targets in northern South Vietnam such as the Khe Sanh strongpoint, the city of Hue, or the huge Da Nang base appear to be the most likely objectives of IL-28 operations. It is conceivable, however, that they could be used in diversionary attacks against targets in Laos or US naval forces in the Gulf of Tonkin.

In a possibly related development, seven AN-2 transports flew from the Hanoi area late yesterday to a point at least 50 miles south of Vinh. There is unconfirmed evidence that these piston-engine transports flew farther south and attempted to land--possibly at an "inactive" airstrip at Tchepone, Laos, some 35 miles west of Khe Sanh. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] suggest that the AN-2s ran into bad weather, however, and were forced to cancel their mission in this region with at least five of the aircraft noted returning to the Hanoi area. It is not yet clear whether the AN-2s were involved in a transport or an attack mission. [REDACTED]

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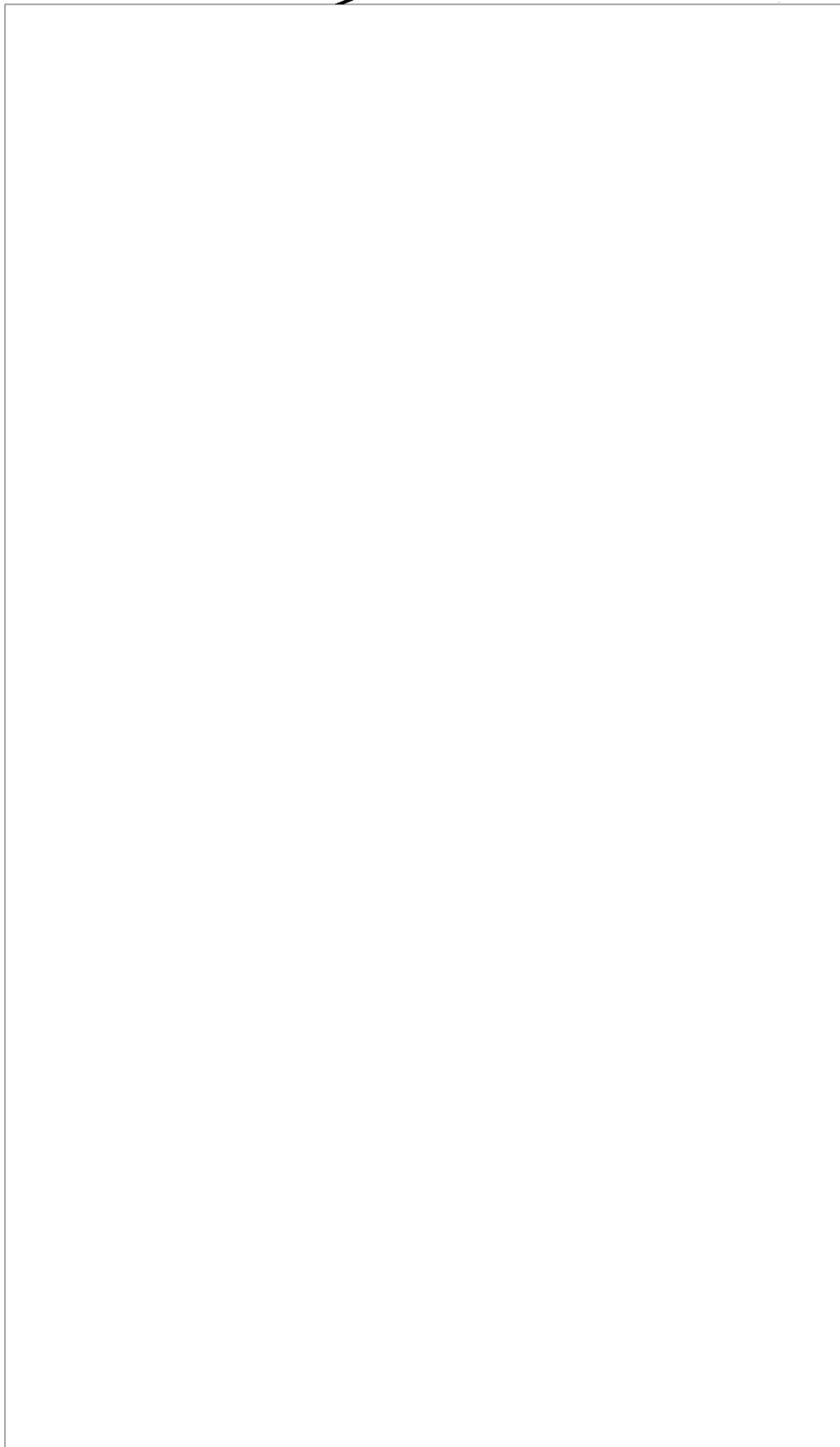
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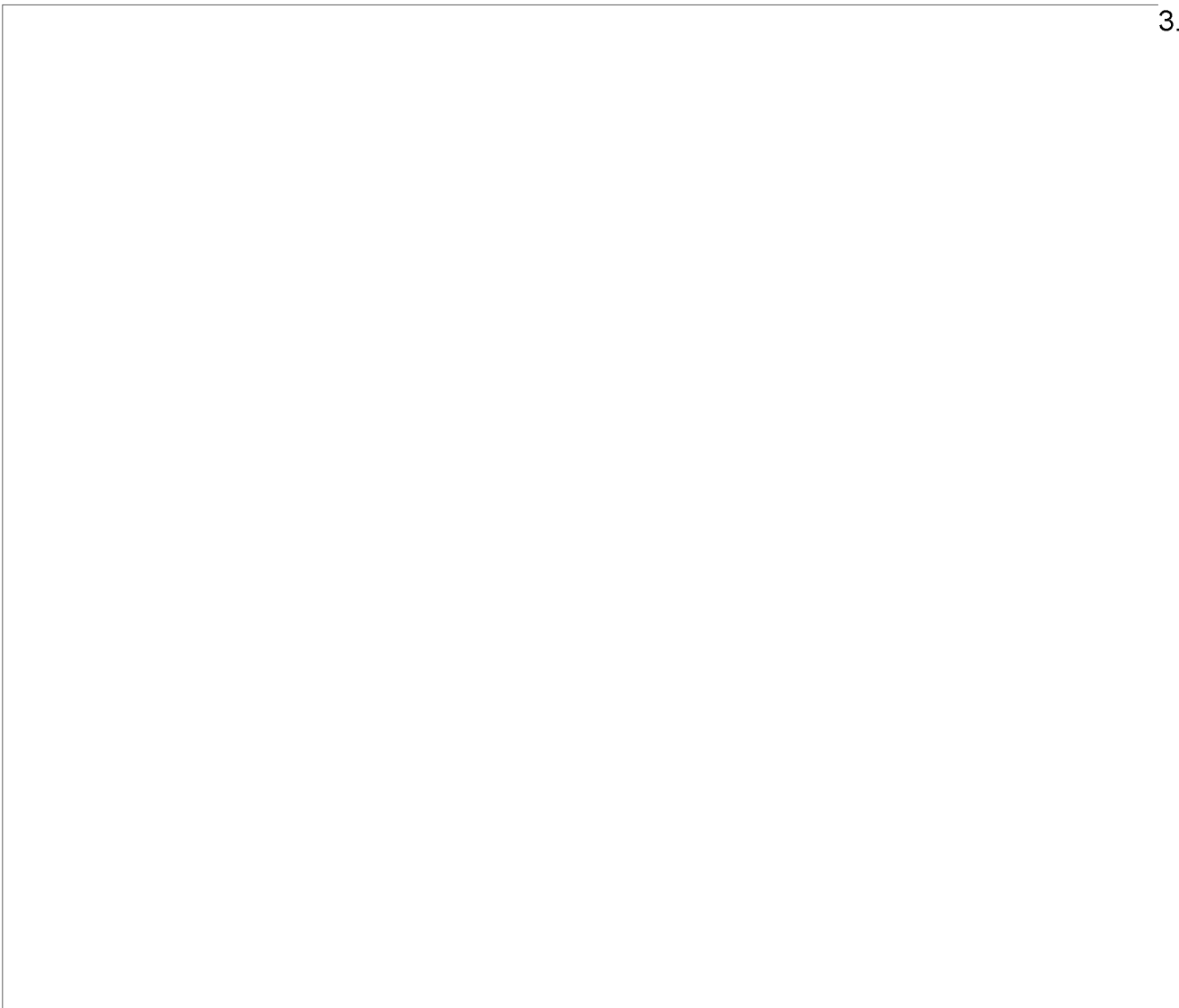


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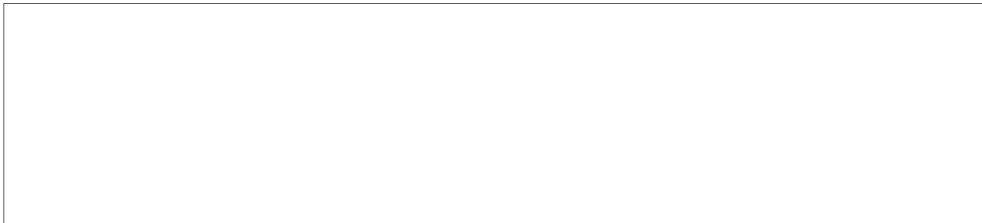
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West Germany - Poland: Bonn is seeking to open a dialogue with Warsaw concerning the Oder-Neisse line.

Chancellor Kiesinger intends to ask President de Gaulle during their talks on 15-16 February to inform the Poles that West Germany is prepared to discuss the border issue. Foreign Minister Brandt intends to ask Sweden to transmit the same message to Warsaw, and other diplomatic channels may be used.

The initiative toward Poland is designed to maintain the momentum of West Germany's Eastern policy following the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia on 31 January.

According to a West German Foreign Ministry official, Bonn might be prepared to make a declaration committing itself on the border question at a future peace conference, if this would clearly lead to a resumption of diplomatic relations. Sentiment has been growing in West Germany for acceptance of the Oder-Neisse line, but Bonn's official position is that German boundaries must be determined at a peace conference officially terminating World War II.

West German officials see little chance of a breakthrough with Warsaw at present but view this probe as the first move in a campaign to soften the hard Polish line toward West Germany. They also reason that the probe will make it more difficult for the Poles to assert that Bonn is intransigent on the border issue.

For their part, the Poles may be willing to hold private exploratory talks. Immediate results should not be expected. [REDACTED]
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Belgium: A cabinet crisis has arisen after the government of Prime Minister Vanden Boeynants collapsed yesterday.

King Baudouin is consulting with political leaders on forming a new government. In view of the tension between the French and Dutch-speaking communities, these consultations are likely to be difficult and lengthy. If the King cannot obtain agreement among the major parties on a successor, elections will be necessary.

The major parties, however, are under pressure to come up with some sort of a compromise since elections would probably benefit only the small, militant parties.

Foreign policy is not an issue, and Belgium's membership in NATO is not in question. []

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Denmark: The new Danish Government wants to be assured that the US accepts Denmark's policy of banning nuclear weapons in Greenland.

Foreign Minister Hartling informed Ambassador White on 7 February that Denmark does not anticipate renegotiation of the 1951 Greenland base treaty. He sees something less formal, such as an exchange of notes, in which the US would accept Denmark's policy of not allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on its territory and banning overflights of aircraft carrying such weapons.

Hartling indicated that this formula would satisfy what he and the government see as the insistent public demand for positive assurances that Denmark will rigidly stick to its stand against nuclear weapons.

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Nigeria: The secretary general of the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat is going to Lagos on 9 February to present his latest proposals for halting Nigeria's civil war. Although his proposals provide for the maintenance of a united Nigeria, federal leaders will probably react negatively, especially since their military campaign is going well. Biafran leader Ojukwu recently has appeared more flexible regarding Biafran sovereignty and already may have approved the Secretariat's initiative.



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