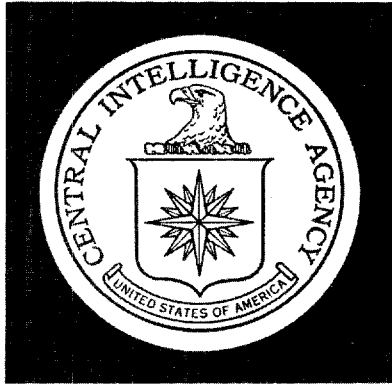


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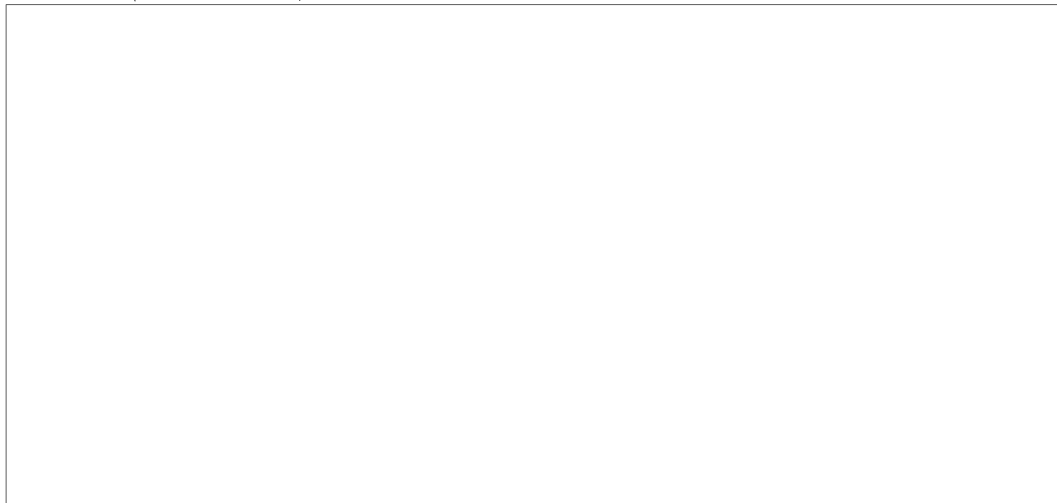
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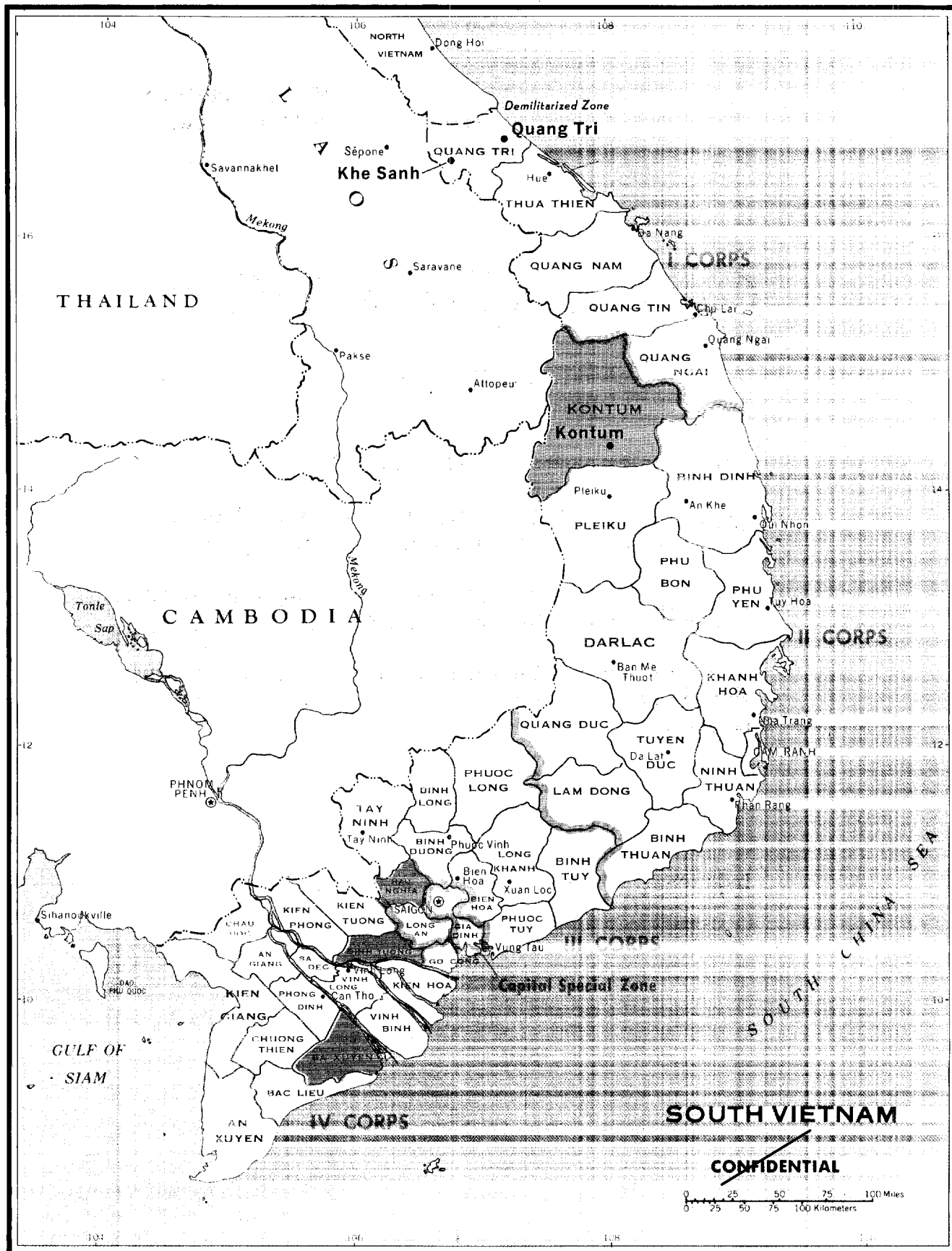
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~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]*Vietnam:

North Vietnam: Hanoi is apparently taking steps to gird the country for a crucial period of fighting in the coming months.

In an editorial on 24 March, Hanoi strongly urged the North Vietnamese people to rededicate themselves to the war effort and to make an all out effort to support the cause in the South. Hanoi said the Tet offensive has placed a new obligation on the people of the North for additional support. "Now is the time," it said, "to concentrate all our forces" and devote "everything to the struggle." The editorial attempted to convey a sense of urgency by describing the war in the South as having reached a "new situation" and a "new phase."

The themes are not new, but references to "mobilizing" troops and people suggest that a special effort is under way to provide additional manpower for Communist forces in South Vietnam.

South Vietnam: A newly infiltrated North Vietnamese regiment carried out the assault on US Army troops near Kontum city on 26 March, according to a prisoner and captured documents.

The prisoner and the documents refer to the unit as the 209th Regiment. The arrival of a new regiment in western Kontum has been detected in intercepted messages. The regiment's communications patterns suggest that it has replaced the 1st Division's 32nd Regiment which recently moved southward from the central highlands.

To the south, enemy forces in Hau Nghia Province may be preparing for new attacks. The scale and duration of engagements with the enemy in the last four days, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] a significant Communist build-up in this area. A low-level South Vietnamese agent report has identified Hau Nghia as the starting point for an offensive against the capital to take place in late March or early April.

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Meanwhile, South Vietnamese Army forces, responding to IV Corps commander General Thang's call for more aggressive behavior, are pressing sweep operations throughout the delta. In major engagements in both Ba Xuyen and Dinh Tuong provinces on 26-27 March, South Vietnamese units killed 146 Viet Cong.

Near the Demilitarized Zone, elements of the US 1st Air Cavalry Division accounted for 66 enemy dead in a day-long battle east of Quang Tri city, while US Marine patrols operating northeast of Khe Sanh beat back an estimated company-size North Vietnamese force. [REDACTED]

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*Panama: The opposition camp appears to be in a state of confusion following ineffective efforts to marshal widespread support for the Delvalle "government."

Thus far, National Union (NU) supporters have been unable to arouse public fervor for scheduled demonstrations, and attempts to promote a nationwide general strike have faltered.

In a televised speech yesterday, "President" Delvalle castigated the National Guard for "unjustified acts of violence" and urged Panamanians to support his endeavors to ensure free and just elections. Delvalle stated that he would "redouble" efforts to convene a special session of the National Assembly and to revise the electoral code, but he did not mention any specific plans to confront the Guard again.

In view of the strong military backing of the Robles government, NU leaders would appear to have little alternative but to await a Supreme Court ruling on the legality of Robles' impeachment after the judicial body reconvenes next Monday.

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Poland: An uneasy calm prevails among the students, while intraparty maneuvering appears to be intensifying.

Hard-line party elements are sustaining the tension with a continuing barrage of anti-Jewish and anti-intellectual propaganda. More than a score of scapegoats for the recent unrest, mostly university professors, some of them Jews, have been fired. Additional ousters of liberal academicians probably will inflame militant students, who are dissatisfied with the regime's response to their grievances. Some students reportedly plan to protest the academic dismissals at a rally today.

A conference in Warsaw of provincial party first secretaries on 26 March is evidence of the continuous activity at the top reaches of the party. The meeting may signal the imminence of a reported central committee plenum.

Gomulka's position within the party politburo is secure at the moment, although his ability to maneuver contending forces within the party central committee is less sure. He may no longer be in sole charge of policymaking.

Changes in the top leadership probably will result from the events of the past month. They may, however, be put off until the party congress near the end of the year, provided there is no renewal of public violence. [REDACTED]

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Czechoslovakia - Eastern Europe: A number of Czechoslovakia's allies, led by East Germany, have criticized developments in Prague.

In a bitter attack on 26 March, East German politburo member Kurt Hager publicly assailed Czechoslovak "renewers" and "modern Marxist revisionists." He also directly attacked Josef Smrkovsky, a leading proponent of "democratization."

The East Germans are attempting to influence internal changes in Czechoslovakia and to slow down any revamping of Czechoslovak foreign policy. Hager's attack suggests that Dubcek was unable at the Dresden meeting last weekend to allay Pankow's fear that Prague will pay less attention to its interests. Hager drew an explicit connection between the "attitude assumed by Smrkovsky and others" with alleged attempts by West Germany to "isolate" East Germany from its Communist neighbors.

Czechoslovakia has protested both to the East German ambassador and, in an unprecedented move, to the East Germany party leadership in Pankow. Numerous Czechoslovak organizations had already rejected foreign criticism. The exchange undoubtedly will lead to a further deterioration of Czechoslovak - East German relations.

For the second time in a week, the Hungarian party endorsed Czechoslovak developments, but also expressed concern. Zoltan Komoscin, the leading ideologist of the Hungarian party, emphasized a parallel between the situation in Hungary in 1956 and that in Czechoslovakia now. He warned that the Czech party must overcome the "anarchistic endeavors" of both the "conservative forces" within the party and the "nationalist, rightist forces" which idealize the "bourgeois republic" of the pre - World War II era.

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In what amounts to an indirect reply to foreign criticism, Dubcek remarked on the Dresden meeting in a 26 March interview. He noted that there had been "considerable interest" about Czechoslovakia, with concern expressed lest "antisocialist" elements participate in the democratization process. He said that "all our friends"--rather than all participants--wished Czechoslovakia "success" and endorsed fully what has been done. Dubcek's remarks suggest that Prague intends to continue its reforms.

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NOTE

Indonesia: The Indonesian Congress yesterday unanimously appointed Suharto full president for five years, but called for congressional elections in three years instead of a five-year postponement. It also placed some limitations on the emergency powers granted Suharto two years ago. The compromise package, in which the army-dominated government yielded on some of its demands to the civilian-dominated Congress, should temporarily appease those elements who have been concerned over the army's predominance.

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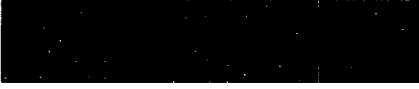
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