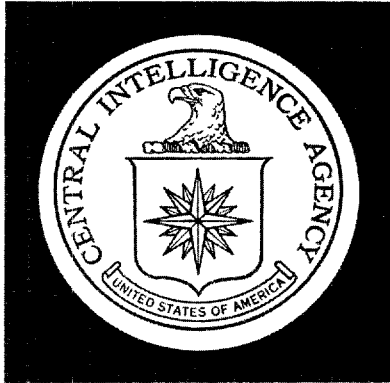


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Central Intelligence Bulletin



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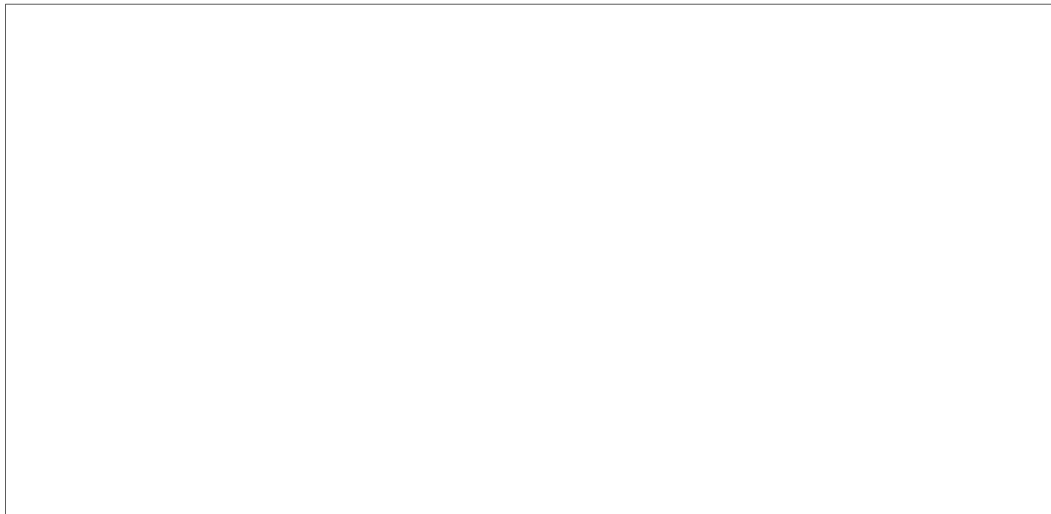
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3.3(h)(2)



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3.3(h)(2)

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

North Vietnam: Hanoi evidently has decided to pump substantial new forces into South Vietnam, possibly for a strong follow-up to the Tet offensive.

[REDACTED] unusually heavy south-bound enemy truck traffic in North Vietnam and Laos. The messages convey a distinct sense of urgency.

3.3(h)(2)

[REDACTED] an average of more than 100 trucks a day moving through the Mu Gia Pass area between 20 and 23 March, the highest level since just before the Communist Tet offensive. [REDACTED]

3.3(h)(2)

[REDACTED] Some of these trucks carried troops, a most unusual procedure, again suggesting urgency.

3.3(h)(2)

[REDACTED] high degree of activity by North Vietnamese logistic authorities in Laos near the South Vietnam border. [REDACTED]

3.3(h)(2)

As part of their longer-term efforts to sustain military operations in the South, the Communists continue to improve their logistics network. [REDACTED] they are building a new road which apparently will skirt the western end of the Demilitarized Zone. This will provide a considerably shortened supply route to the Khe Sanh and A Shau Valley areas than provided by the usual route through the Mu Gia Pass.

3.3(h)(2)

Progress in the construction of the new road has been rapid with some 16 miles of high-quality road completed southward from the Dong Hoi area in North Vietnam in two months. (Map)

(continued)

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South Vietnam: Action in the ground war continued at a slow pace on 24-25 March.

The most significant fighting was near Khe Sanh and Camp Carroll in Quang Tri Province where some 80 Communists were killed. The action near Khe Sanh took place on Hill 575, where a US Marine patrol encountered a platoon-size enemy force in fortified positions. [redacted]

[redacted] enemy plan to establish antiaircraft positions on Hill 575, which overlooks the Khe Sanh airstrip. [redacted]

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*Panama: In an address last night, "President" Max Delvalle charged the National Guard with arbitrary action and the creation of a state of siege.

Followers of National Union (NU) presidential candidate Arnulfo Arias as well as others opposed to Robles have made the Guard their prime target since yesterday morning's raid on NU headquarters and the arrest of over 300 party members. Opposition media gave heavy play to the use of tear gas, set off periodically as a "clearing operation."

The tear gas also inspired the first allusions to the US presence in Panama. The Delvalle cabinet was considering a protest to the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the Guard's use of US AID-delivered riot weaponry for political purposes. A former treaty negotiator, Jorge Illueca, asserted on television that "there are 1,000 Guard members paid by a foreign power."

In an open challenge to the Guard, Delvalle has summoned the National Assembly today to hear a message on electoral reforms. The Guard refuses to recognize the Assembly and yesterday denied deputies entrance to the building. Delvalle promised to "rectify" Guard measures and appealed for equanimity on the part of the citizenry.

Earlier yesterday, Christian Democratic presidential candidate Antonio Gonzalez Revilla also placed the blame on the Guard for "whatever trouble results" and praised the actions of the National Assembly. Gonzalez made the original call for the impeachment of President Robles and thus touched off the month-long legal jockeying that climaxed Sunday with the installation of Delvalle as chief executive.

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NU media continue to call for a general strike. With NU Secretary General Nicosia under arrest, his assistant has been ordered to get the strike moving.

[redacted]

3.3(h)(2)

President Robles continues to dispute Delvalle's claim to the presidency and has strongly endorsed the Guard's action. [redacted]

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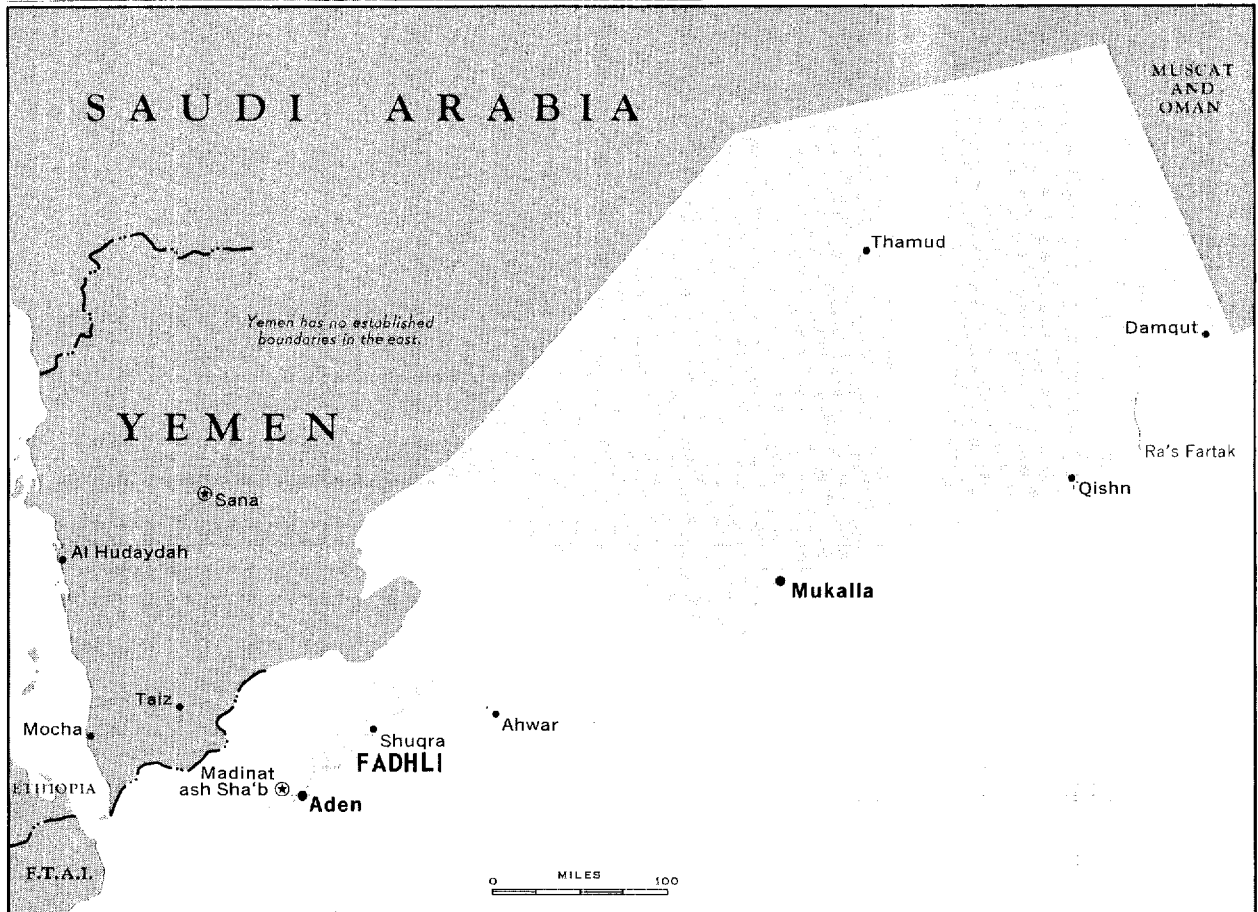
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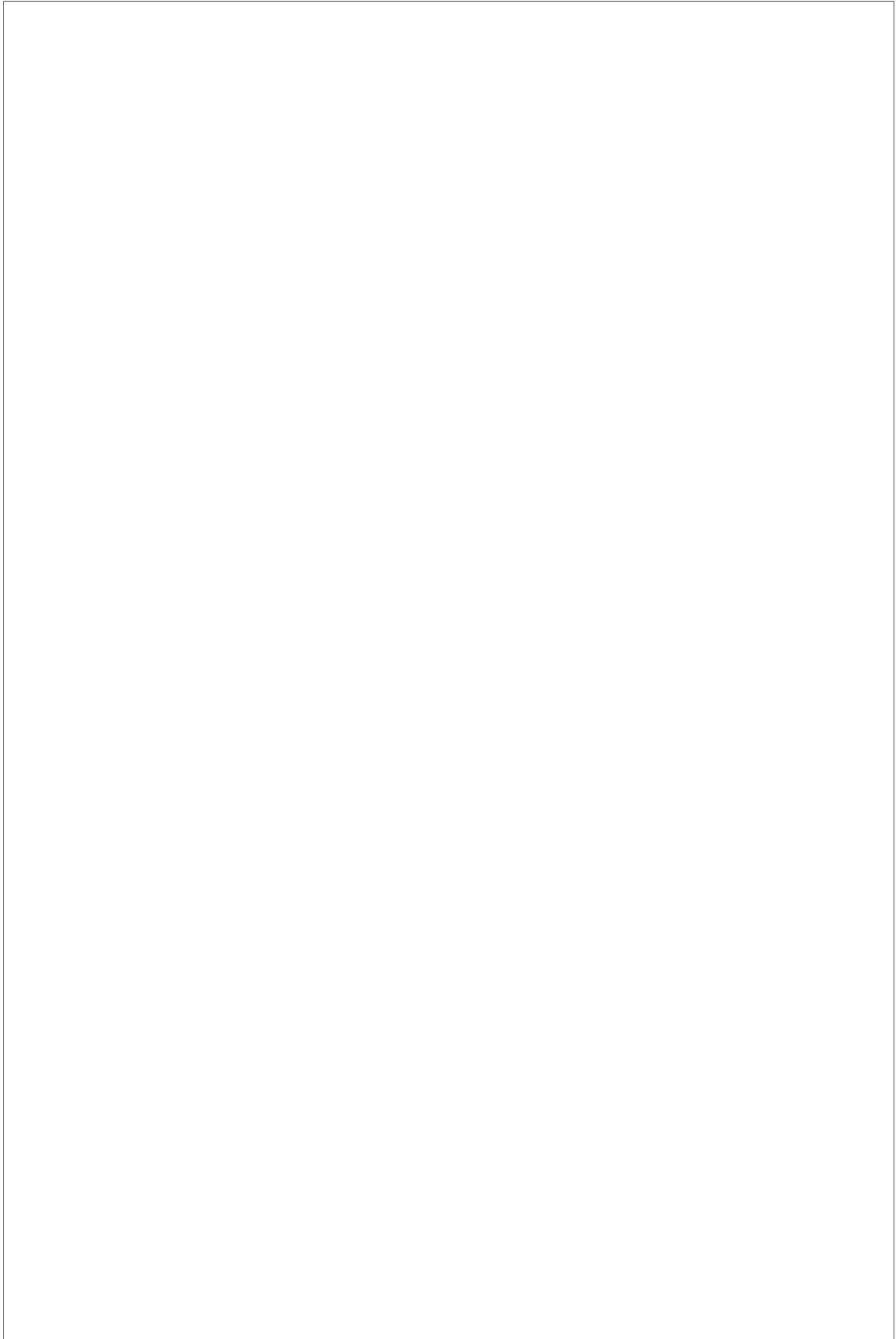
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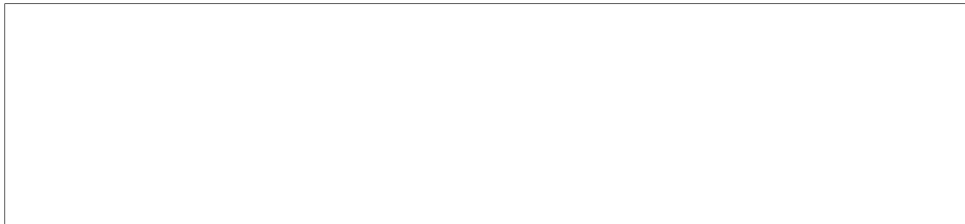
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Guatemala: The recent kidnaping of Archbishop Casariego has been tied to a plot to overthrow the Mendez government.



3.3(h)(2)

President Mendez asserts "there is no doubt it was the work of extreme rightists." He adds that he has no evidence yet of any military involvement although it is possible that military elements might have been a party to the plot. Some rightist plotters have been arrested, but Mendez is not likely to take action against the vice president or the military if it would alienate essential support.

The ramifications of the recent plot point to the possibility of further attempts against his government.



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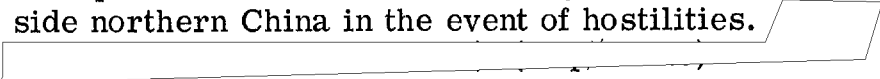
USSR: The Soviets have deployed a mobile missile system to three Strategic Rocket Forces bases on the Sino-Soviet border.



3.3(h)(2)

The transporter for the missile system was first seen in a parade in Moscow last November. Subsequently, an article in Red Star stated that this system was in the hands of the Strategic Rocket Forces. The missile within the environmental pod carried on the transporter may be the SS-12, which has probably been operational since late 1965 and has a range of about 450 miles.

The deployment of this system would considerably increase the ability of local commanders to destroy transportation centers and military concentrations inside northern China in the event of hostilities.



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