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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

JCS and State department review(s) completed.

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

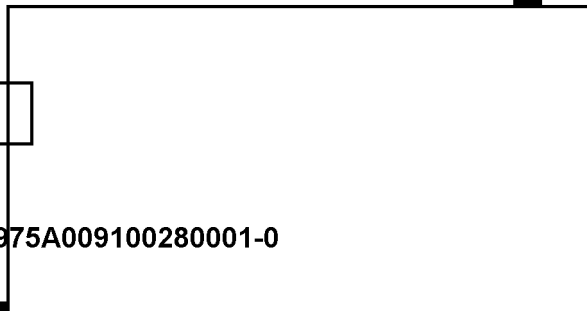
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9 August 1966

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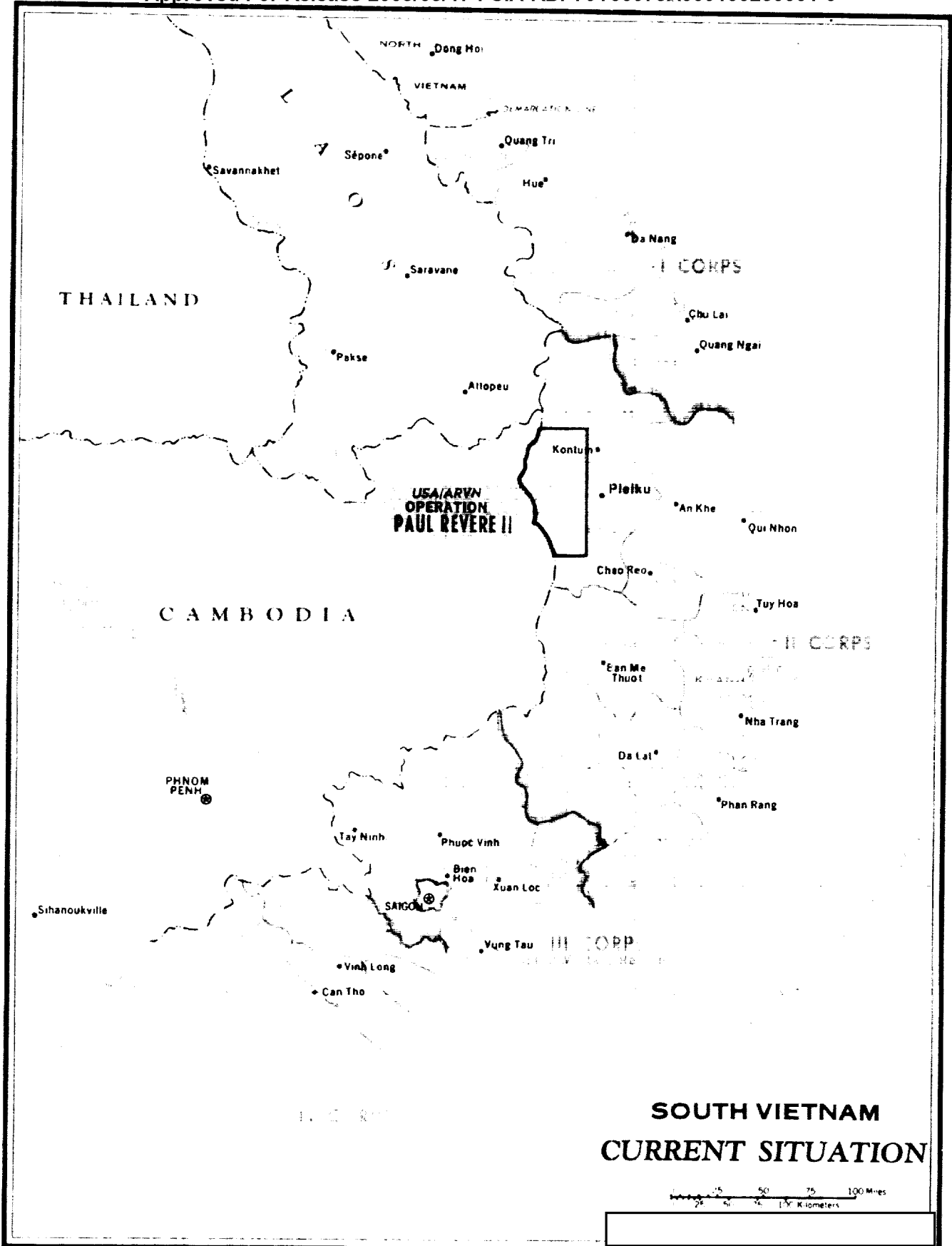
1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)
2. Syria: Continuing differences within Baathist military regime spark new rumors of open conflict. (Page 2)

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9 August 1966

*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Contact has been renewed with Communist forces in the central highlands.

A US company, participating in Operation PAUL REVERE II, yesterday fought an estimated battalion-size enemy force about 30 miles southwest of Pleiku. Supported by planes and artillery, the US unit reportedly killed 65 Viet Cong, while losing 22 killed and 36 wounded. Elsewhere, military activity is at a low level. (See Map)

Meanwhile, MACV is continuing interrogation in Saigon of a Viet Cong who defected on 2 August in II Corps. The rallier claims to be

[Redacted]

MACV has increased its estimate of the strength of each of the three regiments of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) 324B Division--now in South Vietnam's northernmost province, Quang Tri--from 1,500 to 2,500 men. In addition

[Redacted]

MACV has accepted into the possible category seven support battalions of the division. The total strength of the division is now carried at 9,410 men, instead of 5,000, as before. (See Map)

These and other minor changes announced by MACV raise the number of confirmed PAVN soldiers in South Vietnam to 44,900.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Syria: Continuing differences within the Baathist military regime have sparked new rumors that some open conflict is imminent.

Personal rivalries among the regime's military leaders have precluded the development of any cohesive leadership which might stabilize the six-month-old government. Either of two major contending army factions could move to oust its opponent at any time.

The question of whether or not to seek a meaningful rapprochement with Egypt--including the reinstatement of pro-Nasirist officers in the army--has provided still another source of conflict. Supporters of the Baathist regime which was ousted last February also remain a potential threat.

Further tension has been generated in the military by the resentment of the Sunni (orthodox) Muslims --who are the majority--toward the preponderance of members of the minority Alawite sect in influential posts.

Civilian dissatisfaction with the fragmented regime is increasingly outspoken. No civilian group, however, possesses any capability for effective anti-government action.

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NOTES

Nigeria: [Disregarding new Supreme Commander Gowon's orders, the northern troops who now control the Lagos area are still searching out Ibo military personnel.]

[Redacted]

Al-

though apparently personally loyal to Gowon, these northerners are said to have an overriding concern for their own security in what they regard as hostile territory following their recent anti-Ibo mutiny.

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[Redacted]

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[Large redacted area]

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Uruguay: President Heber evidently intends to resume immediately his duties as head of Uruguay's nine-man government council. His walkout on 3 August failed to attract much popular support for his ostensible attempt to force recalcitrant members of his governing Blanco Party to support a bipartisan constitutional reform proposal. He has caused, rather, a split in both major Blanco factions and increased chances for anti-reform elements to stall the proposal in congress beyond the 27 August deadline for its inscription on next November's ballot.

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 The Scientific Adviser to the President
 The Director of the Budget
 The Department of State
 The Secretary of State
 The Under Secretary of State
 The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
 The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
 The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council
 The Director of Intelligence and Research
 The Treasury Department
 The Secretary of the Treasury
 The Under Secretary of the Treasury
 The Department of Defense
 The Secretary of Defense
 The Deputy Secretary of Defense
 The Secretary of the Army
 The Secretary of the Navy
 The Secretary of the Air Force
 The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)
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 Commandant, United States Marine Corps
 U. S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO
 Supreme Allied Commander, Europe
 Commander in Chief, Pacific
 Commander in Chief, Atlantic
 The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
 The Director, The Joint Staff
 The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army
 The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy
 The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force
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