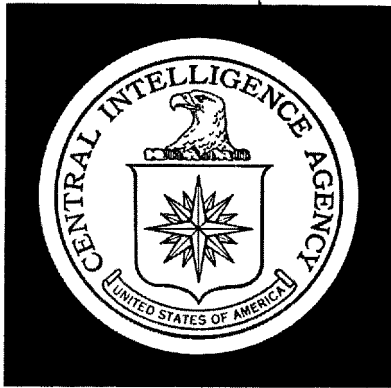


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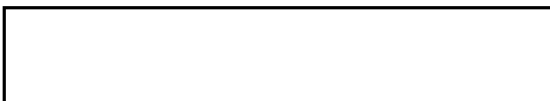


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VIETNAM: Current situation report. (Page 1)

GREECE: Constantine's choice of prime minister suggests that early elections are planned. (Page 2)

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

Military Situation in South Vietnam: Communist units were on the offensive yesterday in I and II Corps.

Approximately 12 miles northwest of Hue, a battalion of US Marines fought off an attacking force estimated at battalion strength for three hours before repulsing it. The enemy lost 54 dead and four captured compared to US casualties of eight wounded. Farther north near the Demilitarized Zone, a South Vietnamese army outpost lost three defenders when some 30 mortar rounds were fired apparently from inside the Zone itself.

In addition, a US/ARVN resupply convoy moving from the capital of Phu Bon Province to the capital of Pleiku Province was ambushed. During the assault which lasted only 15 minutes, 15 troops in the convoy were killed. (Map)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The Constituent Assembly continues to make progress with its constitution drafting duties.

Yesterday, the deputies reportedly approved the principle of electing a legislature with an upper and a lower house. In previous meetings this week, they voted in favor of eventual elections for province and village chiefs and their councils.

The issue of elected, as opposed to appointed, province chiefs was especially controversial in the assembly because of the power of the office. Provincial posts traditionally have been filled by military officers who are appointed. Some deputies, particularly refugee elements from the north and Dai Viet party officials in sympathy with the views of military leaders, were naturally opposed to changing a system which has favored them. [REDACTED]

Greece: The appointment of Ioannis Paraskevopoulos as prime minister points toward general elections.

King Constantine chose the new prime minister after consultations with all major political leaders. Paraskevopoulos previously headed a caretaker government which conducted the February 1964 elections. No date for an election has yet been announced. The new cabinet may be presented to the King sometime today, at which time plans for the new government may be clarified.

The King's action was necessitated by the resignation of the 15-month-old Stephanopoulos government after the National Radical Union (ERE) party withdrew its support. ERE had provided the bulk of Stephanopoulos' parliamentary backing, but on Tuesday party leader Kanellopoulos said the ERE could no longer support a government headed by another party. ERE and Kanellopoulos may estimate that their electoral chances will be better if elections are held prior to 1968, when they otherwise would be required by the constitution.

The change in Athens to a new government may lead to some disruption in the Greek-Turkish dialogue over Cyprus, [REDACTED]

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