

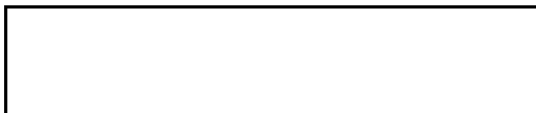
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*Vietnam:

North Vietnam: Short-range, surface-to-surface missiles intended for coastal defense may have been introduced into North Vietnam. If confirmed, they could endanger US warships conducting shore bombardment operations along the coast.

Photography [redacted] reveals two positions just south of Thanh Hoa which contain camouflaged equipment, including one object identified as probably an SS-N-2 (STYX) missile and several possible rail-type launchers. Both sites contain six revetted positions that initially appeared to be intended for surface-to-air missile operations.

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The sites were struck repeatedly by US Navy aircraft on 5 and 6 January and operational reports indicate that extensive damage was inflicted. There is no firm evidence from photography or pilot reports, however, that either site was occupied at the time of the attacks.

If North Vietnam has received STYX missiles to oppose US naval operations near its coast, the locations of the sites noted in photography are well-suited to this purpose. This missile has a range of about 20 miles and was the weapon used by the Egyptian Navy on 21 October 1967 to sink the Israeli destroyer Eilat. US aircraft carriers customarily operate beyond the range of a STYX missile fired from the Vietnamese coast.

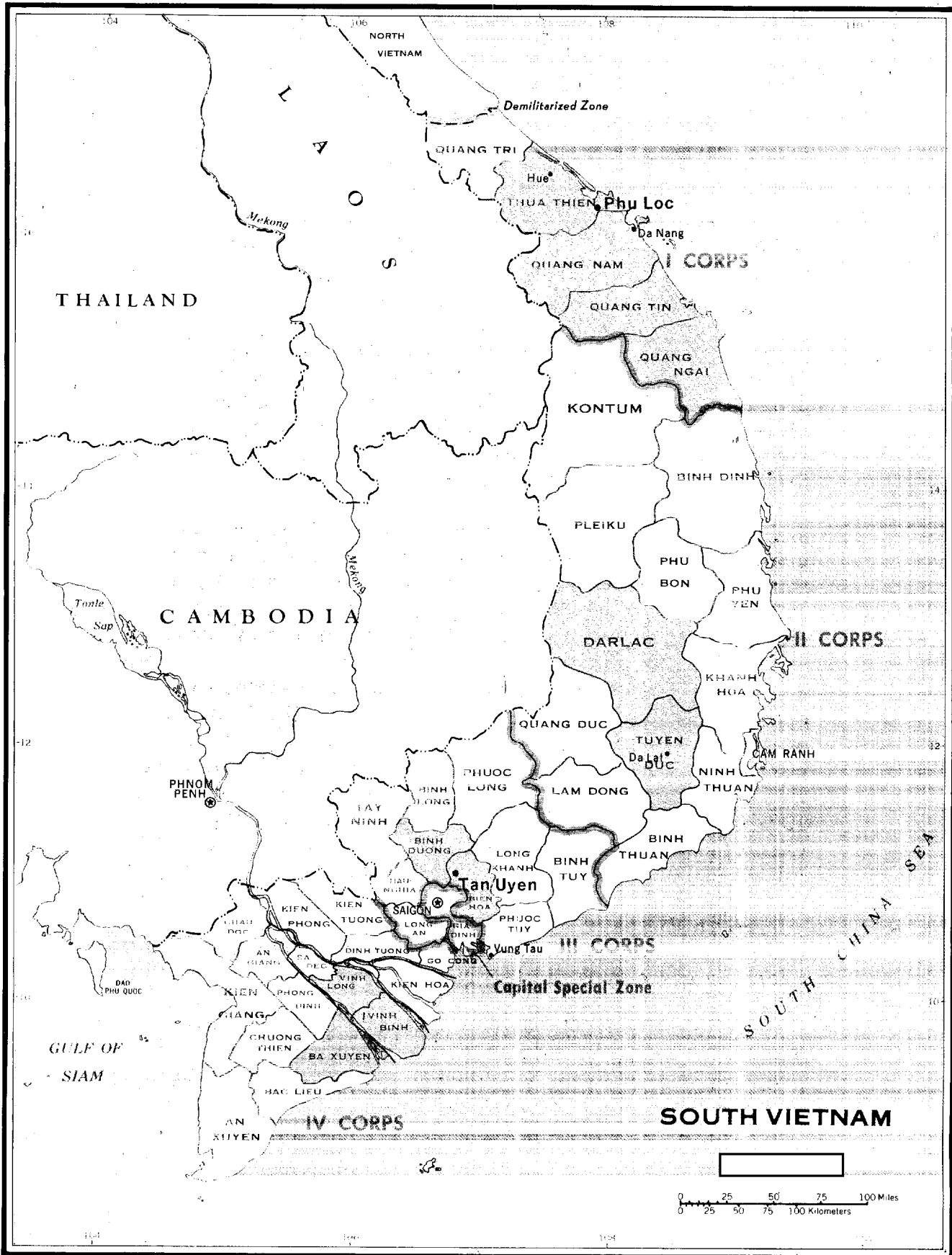
South Vietnam: Vice President Ky claims that he and senior army generals have urged President Thieu to exercise more dynamic leadership.



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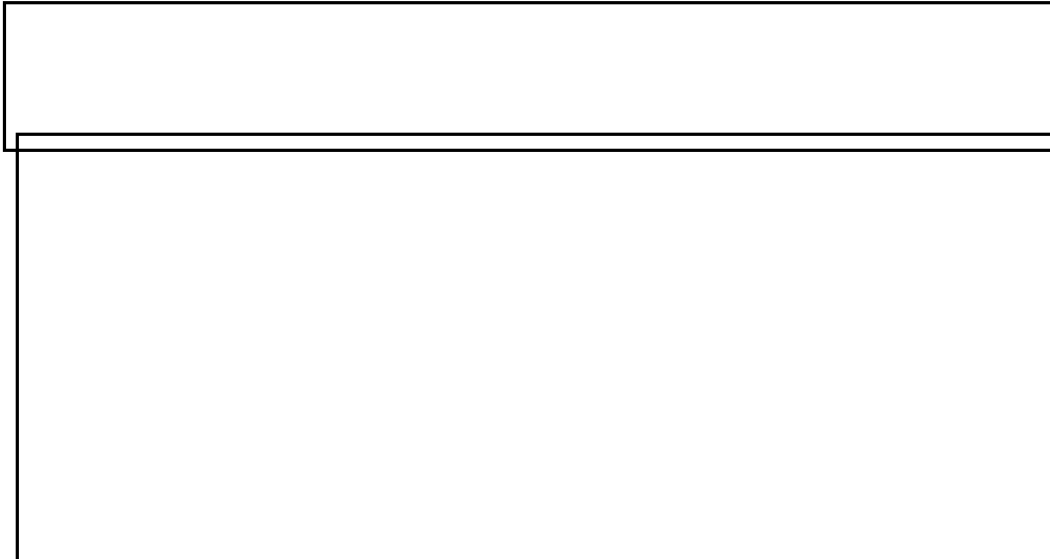
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Government administrative centers and Allied outposts in various parts of the country have been subjected to enemy assaults during the past several days.

In Thua Thien Province on 6 January, the Communists conducted a series of coordinated attacks against Phu Loc District headquarters, three adjacent Combined Action Platoons and a US Marine reaction force. Friendly forces suffered 34 killed and 80 wounded in these actions while the enemy lost 91 killed. On 5 January in Quang Tin Province, the enemy assaulted a US fire support base near a district town which had been attacked on 3 January. These two incidents cost the Allies 46 killed and 113 wounded while the enemy is reported to have lost 80 killed.

Other district headquarters in Quang Ngai and Quang Nam provinces of I Corps have been recent Communist targets, while in II Corps, there were several coordinated mortar barrages in and around the capital of Darlac Province. A district headquarters in Tuyen Duc Province of II Corps also received mortar fire on 5 January.

During the night of 6 January enemy forces appear to have coordinated a number of incidents in the III Corps provinces of Binh Duong and Bien Hoa. The brunt of this effort was directed against a Vietnamese Army regimental

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headquarters at Tan Uyen in Bien Hoa Province. The Communists did not succeed in overrunning the army compound, but they appear to have held the town for several hours. Almost simultaneously, at least four other engagements occurred in the adjacent areas of Bien Hoa and Binh Duong provinces. Preliminary casualty reports from all incidents indicate Allied losses of 12 killed and 45 wounded. Enemy losses were unknown.

In southernmost IV Corps, the Viet Cong on 6 January hit a military training center, an army convoy and a Revolutionary Development area in Vinh Long Province. In adjacent Vinh Binh Province, two villages were assaulted and in Ba Xuyen Province, a district capital outpost apparently overrun. This flurry of enemy activity cost the Vietnamese at least 42 killed, 98 wounded and 67 weapons lost. Enemy casualties are unknown.

Cambodia-Vietnam-US: On the eve of Ambassador Bowles' arrival in Phnom Penh, Prince Sihanouk has held two weekend press conferences aimed at curbing speculation about possible results of the meeting.

Sihanouk explicitly stated for the first time that a major purpose of talks with Bowles or any US emissary was to forestall any allied military actions across Cambodia's borders. He was also particularly sensitive to press stories that Bowles would attempt to negotiate a right of hot pursuit, indicating that his own earlier remarks on this subject were being widely misinterpreted.

Sihanouk repeated that he was willing to act as an intermediary between the US and Hanoi, but that the Communists had given him no reason to believe that they wished to use Phnom Penh as a channel. He did note, however, that he would receive later this week the Soviet ambassador to Cambodia and the chief of the Polish ICC delegation at their request, presumably concerning the attitudes of their governments toward Cambodia's request for a strengthening of the ICC.

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Czechoslovakia: The new leadership in Czechoslovakia may prove to be unstable.

Slovak leader Alexander Dubcek's elevation to first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party--replacing Antonin Novotny--appears to have been a last-minute compromise among various interest groups within the presidium and central committee at the party plenum ending 5 January. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] a publicity spread which had been prepared on planning chief Oldrich Cernik, who was thought to have been a leading contender for Novotny's job.

Dubcek's position was probably somewhat strengthened, however, with the expansion of the party presidium from ten to 14 members. The four new presidium members, who were promoted over five candidate members of that body, have played relatively minor roles in national politics but they do represent a regional balance. They were added to counterbalance the presence of Novotny and any of his potential supporters who remain in the party's ruling body.

The new men are experienced in some of Czechoslovakia's key economic problem areas. Their appointment and the communiqué of the central committee suggest that economic improvement will be the first order of business once the new regime completes its organization.

Other leadership changes, both in the party and government, are reportedly being considered. Premier Lenart may be replaced by Cernik when the parliament meets on 10 January. Conservative ideology chief Jiri Hendrych may also go eventually. Hendrych is said to have attempted to get on the anti-Novotny

bandwagon during a December party meeting, but was told by other presidium members that it was too late, and that in any case his record prevented this.

According to several reports, the government structure will be reorganized, although a picture of its new shape has not yet emerged.

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NOTE

*Chile: President Frei won a vote of confidence from his Christian Democratic Party (PDC) over the weekend, according to press reports. He obtained the resignation of the leftist directorate that has controlled the party since last summer. Frei will now have PDC support for his legislative program, but he still faces trouble from the opposition-controlled Senate. [REDACTED]

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