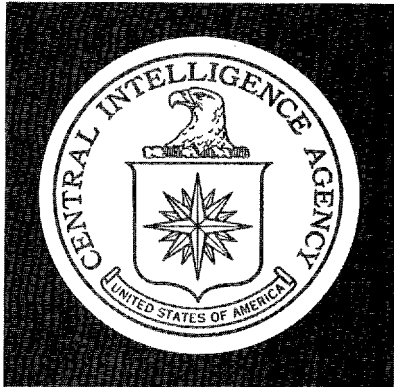




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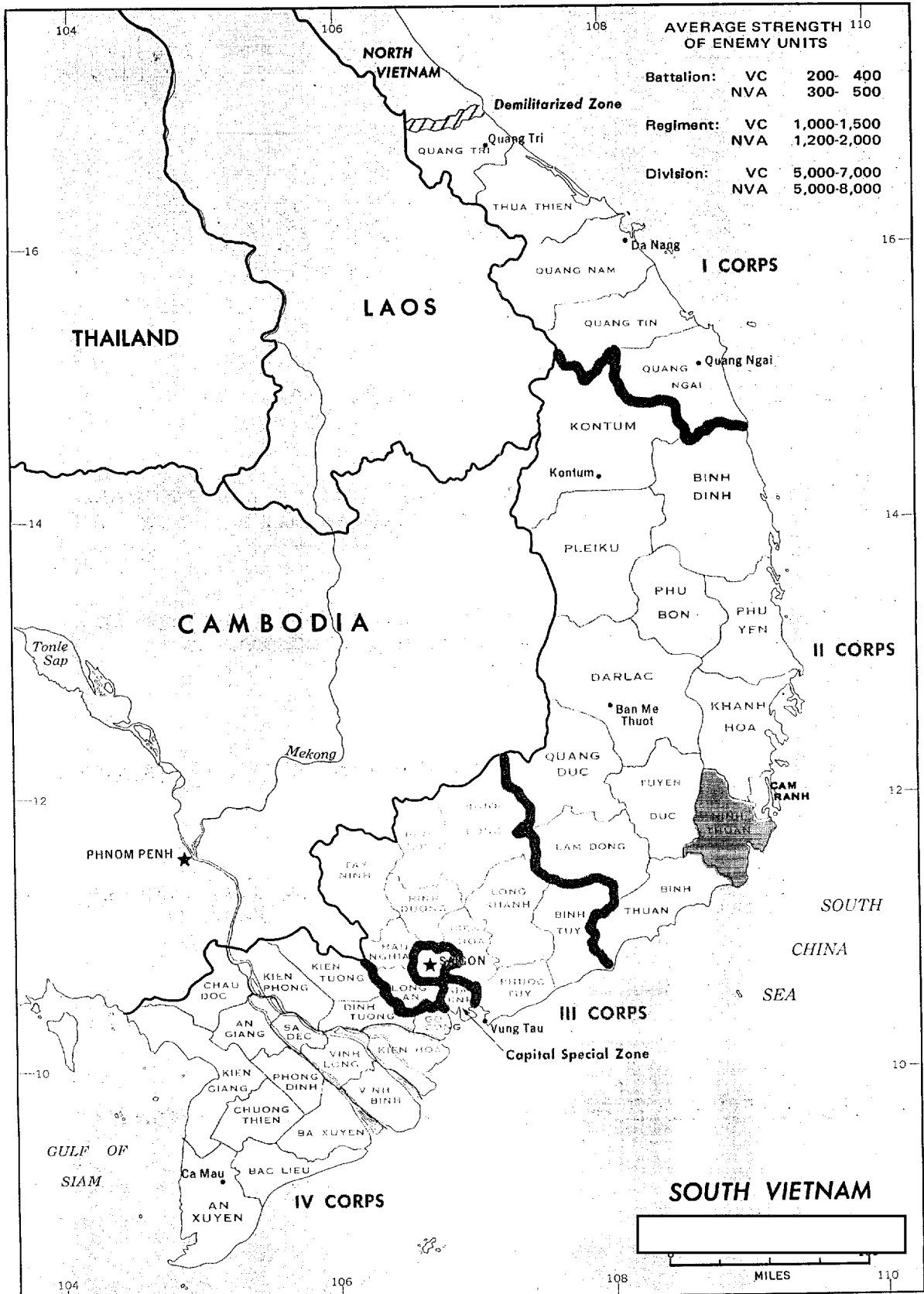
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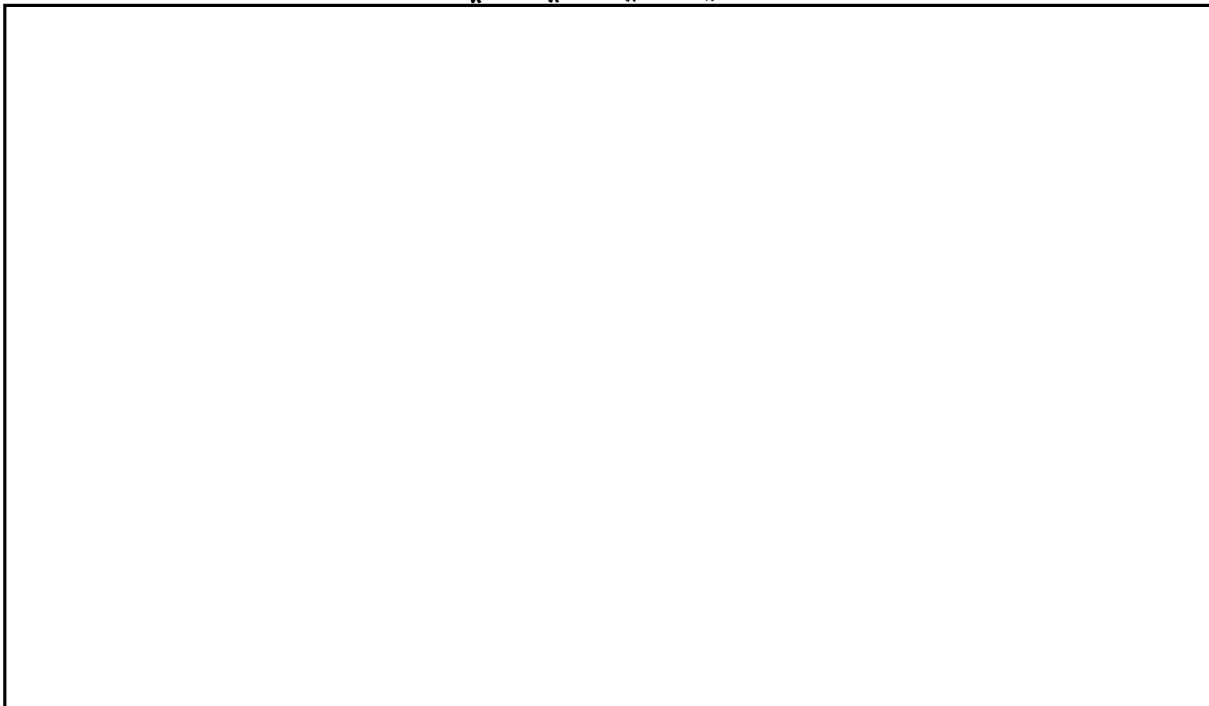
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[South Vietnam: Military action remained generally light throughout the country on 27-28 July.

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The success of recent Communist penetration efforts against the South Vietnamese Government's propaganda operations in the coastal II Corps province of Ninh Thuan underscores the effectiveness of the enemy's mass manipulation tactics at the rice roots level.

In mid-June, South Vietnamese security services in Ninh Thuan Province uncovered a seven-man Communist cell among the 14-man GVN armed propaganda team operating in that province. Armed propaganda teams are composed of ex - Viet Cong working for the government propagandizing against the Communists and seeking to encourage Viet Cong to rally to the GVN. The local Communist organization in Ninh Thuan, however,]

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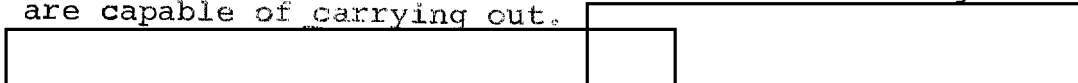
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through a combination of meticulous background investigations, realistic propaganda appeals, and the use of physical threats, was able to persuade the armed propaganda team chief and six of his fellows to resume working for the Viet Cong cause.

These double agents, in the course of their participation in the provincial GVN propaganda effort, contacted local families who were known to have relatives in the Viet Cong. Instead of encouraging them to rally to the GVN, they belittled the government and built up the Communists' image among these people.

The views of the team chief as to why he agreed to resume working for the Viet Cong indicate that among the relatively unsophisticated populace in this province, and probably elsewhere as well, the propaganda rhetoric of the Communists still appears to best the GVN's efforts. He stated that he was impressed by the logic of the Communists' propaganda and by their use of threats at the most opportune time in their recruitment pitch. The Viet Cong, the team chief claims, displayed "generosity" and "leniency" by allowing him and those team members he subsequently recruited to "atone for the error of their ways."

The Viet Cong employment of credible and impressive examples, coupled with plain and simple ideas that are easily understood in all their forms of propaganda, has been one of the keys to the success and resiliency of their movement. Viet Cong propaganda also carries with it an implied or explicit threat which the people know the Viet Cong are capable of carrying out.



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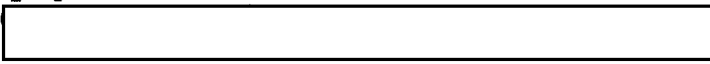
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Pakistan: President Yahya Khan has suggested that elections could be delayed indefinitely by a failure to resolve a number of current political problems.

In a speech to the nation on 28 July, Yahya reviewed recent developments and presented plans for a return to civilian rule. He disclosed that he would appoint a civilian advisory council to allow for greater public participation in his administration, but did not reveal the names of the new advisers. He also named a Supreme Court justice from East Pakistan as chief election commissioner and said that preparation for elections should not take more than 18 months--after a new constitution is worked out.

Although setting forth these first steps toward a restoration of civilian control, Yahya warned that controversial issues such as the provisions of a new constitution, autonomy for East Pakistan, and the basis for allocating seats in a central parliament would have to be resolved before an election campaign could begin.

Resolution of these problems could take years, however, and Yahya's warning raises the possibility that martial law may continue indefinitely. Such a prospect could lead to fresh troubles in East Pakistan, where the present government is regarded as little more than alien rule, and might also arouse antagonism within the military. Reports indicate that a rift is already growing in the Karachi area between younger officers and their seniors because of the military government's failure to eradicate corruption.



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United Kingdom: London is beginning to take new soundings in Paris over the question of Britain's broader participation in European affairs.

Contrary to previous reports, a decision to begin a dialogue with the new French government on the topic apparently was reached at a meeting of UK ambassadors to Common Market countries on 24-25 June. The UK ambassador to France, Christopher Soames, had his first meeting with the French foreign minister on 11 July and expects to have a second session this week.

The British emphasize that the dialogue will not cover issues to be treated subsequently in Community-wide negotiations. Rather, London hopes to demonstrate its sincerity about entering Europe, to clear the general atmosphere between the two countries, and to determine what specific questions and problems the new government may have with British entry.

A British official has indicated that the topic of possible French-UK nuclear cooperation has not yet been raised directly by either country. Should the question arise, the British plan to listen but not encourage discussions at this time. [REDACTED]

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Algeria-France: Relations between Algiers and Paris, which were expected to deteriorate further after the resignation of De Gaulle, may soon begin to improve instead.

French officials in Paris are reported to be somewhat optimistic that present "not bad" relations could get better. A favorable sign is the recent meeting between Algerian Premier Boumediene and the French minister of cultural affairs, who visited Algiers briefly to attend the opening of the Pan-African Cultural Festival. [redacted]

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[redacted] plans are now under way for Foreign Minister Schumann to visit Algiers this fall. A scheduled visit of former foreign minister Debre was postponed after De Gaulle resigned.

[redacted] the Algerians seemed interested in lessening their dependence on the Soviets in the military area. [redacted] the French had recently sold 28 Fouga trainers to the Algerians, who had also requested an increase in French training of Algerian pilots. [redacted]

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[redacted] the French put no stock in press rumors, which have recently turned up again, that there are Soviet "missile bases" in Algeria. [redacted]

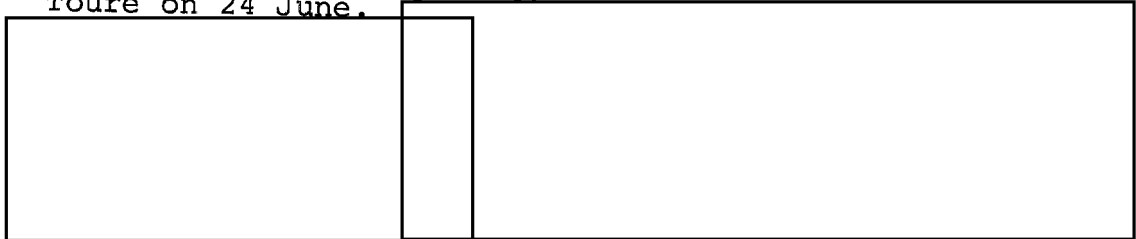
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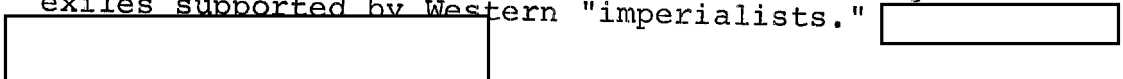
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Guinea-USSR: The Guineans may soon request the recall of the Soviet ambassador, although the affair is likely to be handled quietly.

The ambassador is in trouble with the Guineans for failing to report contacts his embassy has apparently had with a man claiming to be an accomplice in the unsuccessful attempt to assassinate President Touré on 24 June.



Although there is no evidence that the Soviets were involved in the assassination attempt, the Guineans clearly regard the ambassador's failure to report the contacts with the "accomplice" as a serious omission. The incident is unlikely, however, to lead to a major disruption of Guinea's close ties with the Communist world. Any public crisis would be awkward for Guinea, whose propaganda has been linking the assassination attempt with antiregime exiles supported by Western "imperialists."



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NOTE

El Salvador - Honduras: Pressure for military action against Salvadoran occupation forces is building in Honduras. OAS observers have reported tense conditions on the southern front, with both sides "inching forward." Without rapid motion toward a workable formula by the OAS foreign ministers, the chances of an incident breaking the cease-fire will increase. Sanctions against El Salvador will be under consideration at the OAS meeting today.

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