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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
8 June 1972

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam
(As of 0730 EDT)

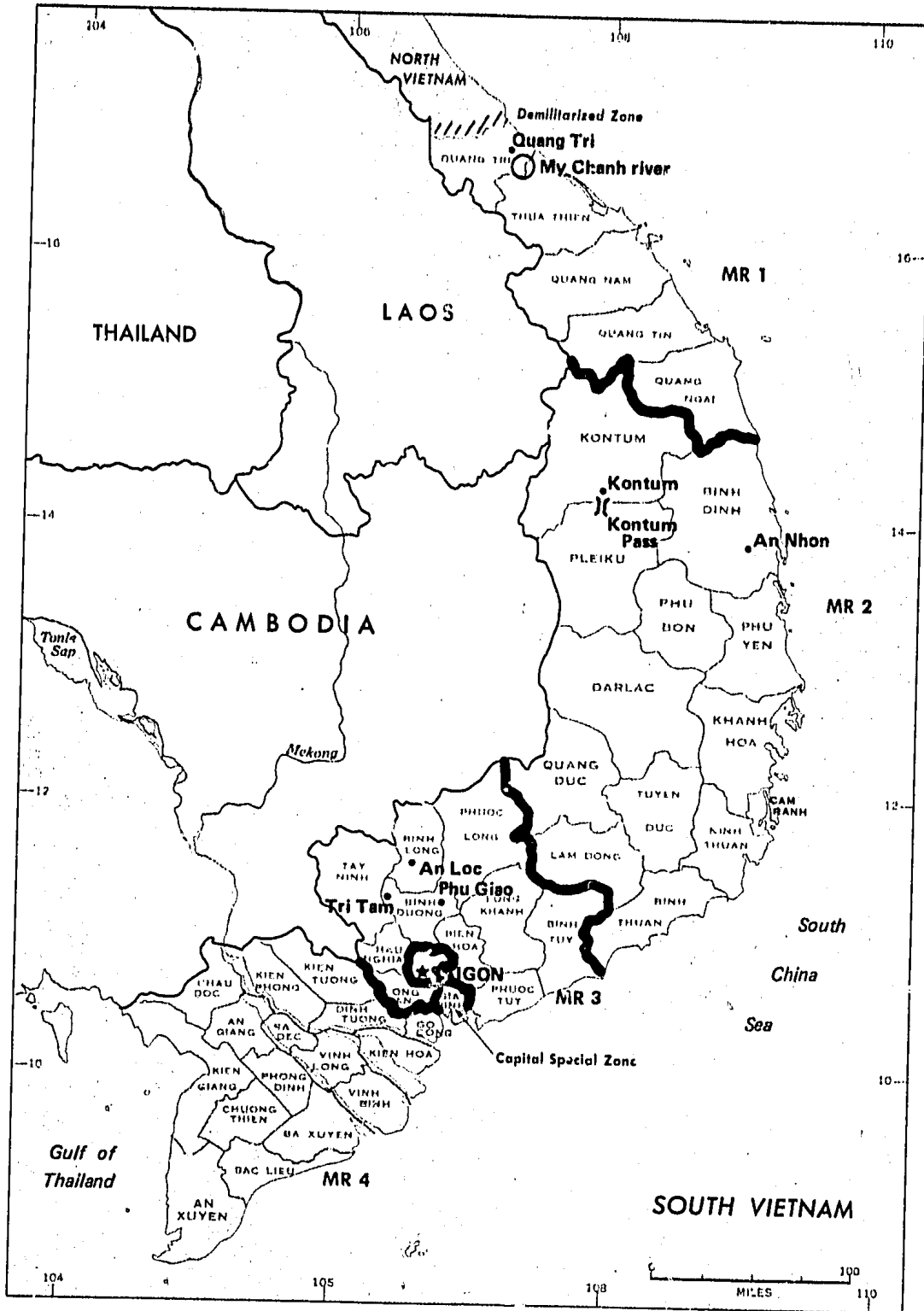
1. Combat activity picked up somewhat in the northernmost provinces on 7-8 June, but the overall military situation remains essentially unchanged.

2. In Quang Tri Province, elements of the South Vietnamese Marine Division have initiated a limited offensive drive north from the My Chanh River on a 14-mile front. Press reports indicate that as many as 2,500 marines are involved in this operation. The same sources report that the marines have encountered little ground opposition but are being heavily shelled by North Vietnamese 130-mm. artillery units near Quang Tri City. Official reports as of 0300 EDT this morning indicated that the marines had advanced approximately one mile.

3. Immediately to the south in Thua Thien Province, Communist forces initiated a series of shelling attacks on five ARVN fire support bases during the night of 7-8 June. The attacks were of limited duration, however, and were not followed by any significant ground action.

4. In the central highlands no new developments were reported. Kontum City was quiet during the night and government forces have made no further progress in opening the Kontum pass. In coastal Binh Dinh Province, however, the pace of combat has quickened. Continuous fighting is reported from An Nhon district, where the Communists appear to have committed two battalions. Approximately 50 government troops have been killed in recent clashes and the enemy has taken control of about one kilometer of Route 1 north of An Nhon town.

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5. In Military Region 3, the Communists are continuing to tie down government forces around An Loc. Over 300 rounds of artillery fire hit the town during the past 24 hours, and the ARVN relief column is still stalled to the south along Route 13. The Communists are still stepping up their pressure in the other provinces west and northwest of Saigon.

6. [redacted] in addition to the current enemy operations in Hau Nghia and Tay Ninh provinces, the Communists may soon initiate new thrusts in Binh Duong Province.

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[redacted] elements of the Viet Cong 9th Division are concentrating in the Phu Giao district and intend to attack south along Route 16 beginning about 10 June. The 9th Division has not been in action since the initial battles for An Loc, and it may indeed have moved to Binh Duong Province.

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7. [redacted] elements of the NVA 101st and 174th Regiments are concentrating in the Tri Tam district of Binh Duong and are receiving reinforcements. [redacted]

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[redacted] these units intend to participate in a second phase of the current enemy offensive commencing on 15 June.

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