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8 March 1966

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

This publication provides a periodic review of internal security in underdeveloped countries where there is a threat from Communist-supported insurgency.

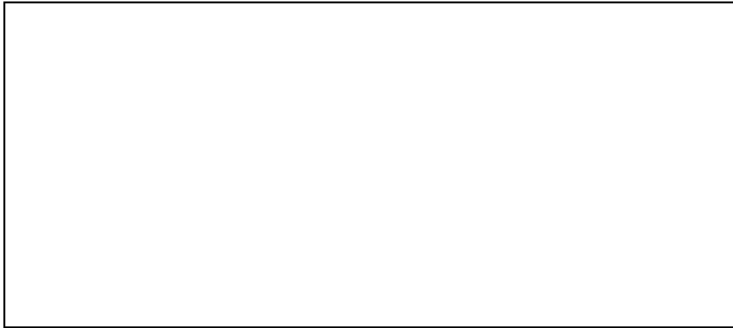
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Office of Current Intelligence

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REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

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OCI No. 0863/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
8 March 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Review of Insurgency Problems

1. Thailand

Insurgency in the northeast is spreading.

Sakon Nakhon and Ubon Provinces now rival Nakhon Phanom, heretofore the center of Communist subversion, in intensity of insurgent activity.

Nakhon Phanom Province had only one armed clash and one assassination during this period. In Sakon Nakhon, on the other hand, there were at least four armed clashes between police and Communists and two assassinations. In Ubon Province there was even greater activity, with five armed clashes and three terrorist attacks policemen in which two policemen were killed and three wounded. (Map)

2. Peru

The Peruvian Government's recent successes against guerrillas of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) has caused serious disarray in the MIR organization. Insurgency is now so limited that most of the army troops have returned to their barracks. The MIR will undoubtedly have to go through a lengthy period of retrenchment and reorganization before it can again operate effectively.

The back of the guerrilla effort in central Peru was broken during December and January by the death of at least three top leaders. This group was the first to initiate hostilities, in early June 1965.

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The army decimated the MIR organization in southern Peru last October killing national MIR chief Luis de la Puente Uceda in the process. The remaining groups --a guerrilla band in northern Peru, an urban terrorist militia in Lima, and the self-styled Army of National Liberation (ELN) in Apurimac and Ayacucho departments--have shown little capability for serious insurgent activity.

MIR guerrillas in the north reportedly have been ordered to return to their homes, and their leaders, Elio Portocarrero and Gonzalo Fernandez Gasco, may have fled to Ecuador or been killed. Recent press reports from Lima state that ELN chief Hector Bejar has been apprehended by the police. Also, there have been indications that ELN guerrillas are fighting among themselves and may be breaking up.

Five small homemade bombs detonated in Lima the night of 18 February caused minimal damage and no serious injury. Handbills scattered at the bombing sites proclaimed the actions to be protests against the jailing of widows of MIR guerrilla leaders Guillermo Lobaton, Maximo Velando, and Luis de la Puente. Eight sticks of dynamite with a fuse detonator were discovered on 21 February in the garden of the Colombian Embassy residence, but were safely removed by police. The bombings appear to be the work of MIR, ELN, and/or Trotskyist terrorists, while the dynamite affair may be linked to the death of Colombian guerrilla leader Camilo Torres.

With the insurgency problem well under control, the government hopes to be able to concentrate its resources and attention more fully on socio-economic reform and development programs. There is a possibility, however, that Peru may experience a full-blown cabinet crisis when the Congress reconvenes in mid-March. Opposition congressmen, who dominate the legislative body, are threatening censure of the minister of education, and the cabinet has served notice publicly that if this occurs it will resign en masse. Frequent congressional censure of cabinet ministers during President Belaunde's administration has been adopted by the opposition APRA party as the primary means of political attack on the government.

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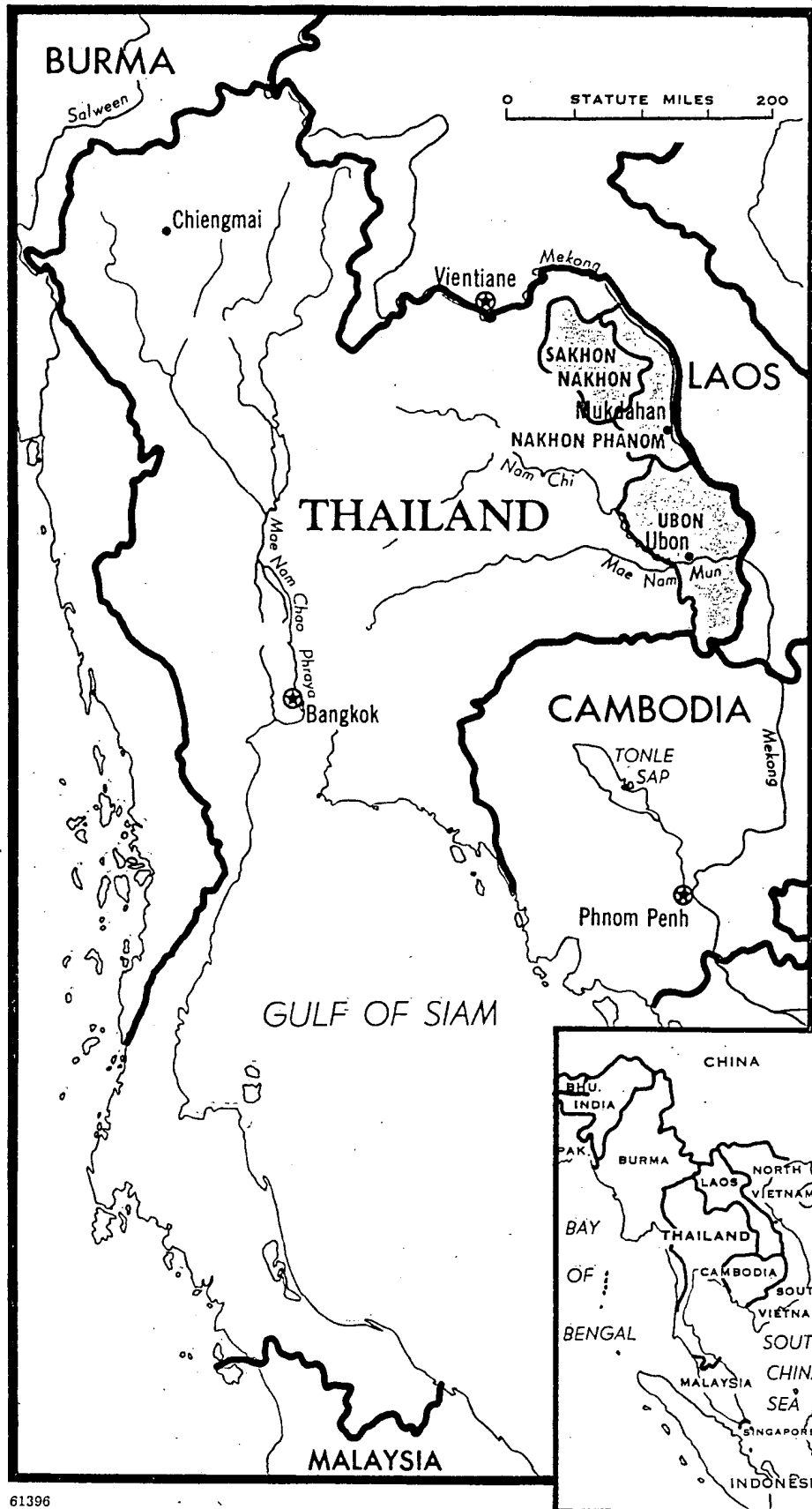
The tactic has succeeded in impeding government programs and efficiency to the point that the frustrated President reportedly is now considering appointment of a military cabinet. This would probably achieve the desired effect of intimidating the obstructive Congress.

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