



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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4 MARCH 1965
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1. Vietnam

Saigon today is alive with talk of another coup, and some military and police moves which may be related have been noted. These coup rumors lack specifics but they do reflect the deep uneasiness which infects the South Vietnamese establishment following the departure of General Khanh.

Much of this swirls around General Thi, whose power and ambition seem to be growing. Thi is said to be maneuvering to neutralize some of his fellow "young Turks." Many of them in turn are trying to engineer his ouster.

Buddhist leaders appear to be marking time. The influential Tri Quang says he supports Quat because Quat has "done nothing wrong yet." This is reminiscent of Quang's initial stance toward the Huong government.



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There have been no further reports of Russian-speaking pilots in North Vietnam.

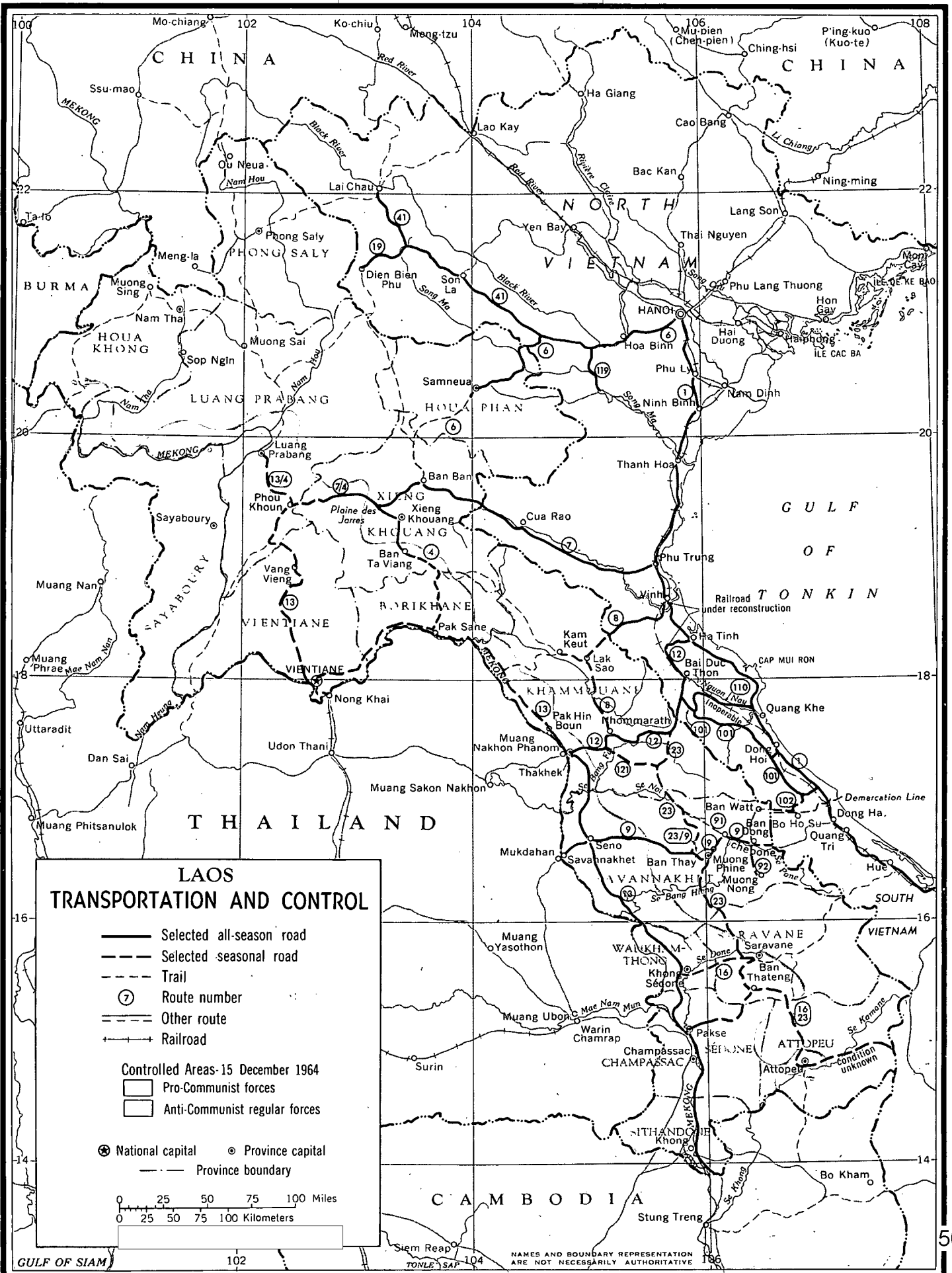
No Chinese Communist or North Vietnamese military shifts which can be tied to the latest US air strikes have been noted. The Chinese have lately ordered that security on aircraft movement be tightened, and this could mask added southward fighter deployments. Hanoi has relaxed the alert its forces have been on for the past few days.

The Soviet statement on Vietnam today went a bit further than previous pronouncements in emphasizing the consequences of US actions to US-Soviet relations. Ambassador Kohler calls the demonstration against the embassy today the "most aggressive and nastiest" in recent memory, despite the fact that protective measures were stepped up in anticipation, and the militia made a serious effort to control the crowd.



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2. Indonesia

[redacted] Sukarno has ordered a gradual step up in the harassment of American officials in Indonesia until a peak is reached in June. Sukarno reportedly believes that a gradual worsening of US-Indonesian relations will induce Washington to side with Indonesia against Malaysia.

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[redacted] the next goal of the party-led program of anti-American agitation is to force the closure of the US Embassy. Communist-led trade unions have stepped up their efforts to secure the takeover of US oil firms.

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A high Indonesian police official today asked Ambassador Jones to caution Americans in Surabaya and Medan not to venture outside the city limits for the next week or ten days. Jones also reports having heard that Russians working in the Medan area are thinking of donning identification disks to avoid being mistaken for Americans.

3. Laos

Meo tribesmen report that large numbers of Communist trucks continue to move southward in the Laotian panhandle. (See map.) The movement was especially heavy during the last week in February. This upsurge could have involved some of the 300 or more trucks spotted moving south in North Vietnam

[redacted] a few days earlier.

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4. Cyprus

Soviet tanks, antiaircraft guns, artillery, armored vehicles, and motor torpedo boats have already arrived on Cyprus. Reports [redacted]

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[redacted] that the USSR is also providing surface-to-air missiles have not been confirmed but an intensive effort to check this information is under way. There would be strong Turkish reaction to the arrival of Soviet SAMs on Cyprus.

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5. Iraq

The government [redacted]

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[redacted] is getting ready for yet another major military move against the Kurds. Army units are already on the move north so as to be in a position to kick off the campaign when the spring thaws arrive sometime in the next few weeks.

6. Eastern Europe

The gradual loosening of the Soviet Union's iron grasp on Eastern Europe is encouraging a revival of long-dormant territorial and minority problems. So far, Rumania and Hungary have taken the lead in reviving nationalistic interest in lost lands. They are not likely to remain alone since every nation in the bloc has old claims on one or more regions of one or more of its neighbors. A discussion of some of the ramifications of the situation is at Annex.

7. Italy

The Moro government seems to have evaded still another crisis by reaching agreement today on a long-pending cabinet reshuffle. [redacted]

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ANNEX

Territorial Quarrels in Eastern Europe

Hungary and Rumania have been at daggers drawn for some months now over the Transylvania problem. (See map.) Northern Transylvania, with its large Magyar population, has been a part of Rumania since 1918. Now the Hungarians are complaining over the oppression of the Magyar minority. One Hungarian official has gone so far as to term the treatment being accorded the Magyars, "genocide." Anti-Rumanian incidents in the area have been increasingly numerous. Hungarian flags have been raised. A pamphlet predicting the return of the area to Hungary has appeared. There has even been scattered violence. Bucharest, not surprisingly, suspects that Budapest is behind all this. The Rumanians also suspect that the Soviets have lent quiet encouragement to the agitation.

Not to be outdone, the Rumanians have raised old claims on Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina, now part of the USSR. This has been in a low key so far. For example, the Rumanian leaders have sent historians searching through old texts, where they have uncovered passages in which Marx strongly criticized Russia's seizure of Bessarabia. There are signs that the Rumanians, who have taken up the matter officially with the Soviets, may be prepared to carry their campaign a good deal further.

Other states in the area may not be long in joining the outcry. Thus, Czechoslovakia has been making noises about the return of Ruthenia, now part of the USSR. Wary officials in Budapest have referred to the possible return of Kosice, now in Czechoslovakia.

There is, however, a general recognition that everyone is vulnerable in this game, and this may help keep the lid on. So far irredentist claims have been seized upon essentially as tactical weapons rather than serious goals to be pursued at whatever cost. However, popular feelings on these matters are strong, as for example in Germany over the loss of German land to the Poles. If the forces of nationalism continue to grow, ambitious figures and strong factions may resort increasingly to the espousal of traditional territorial and ethnic claims as a means of broadening their appeal.

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