



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

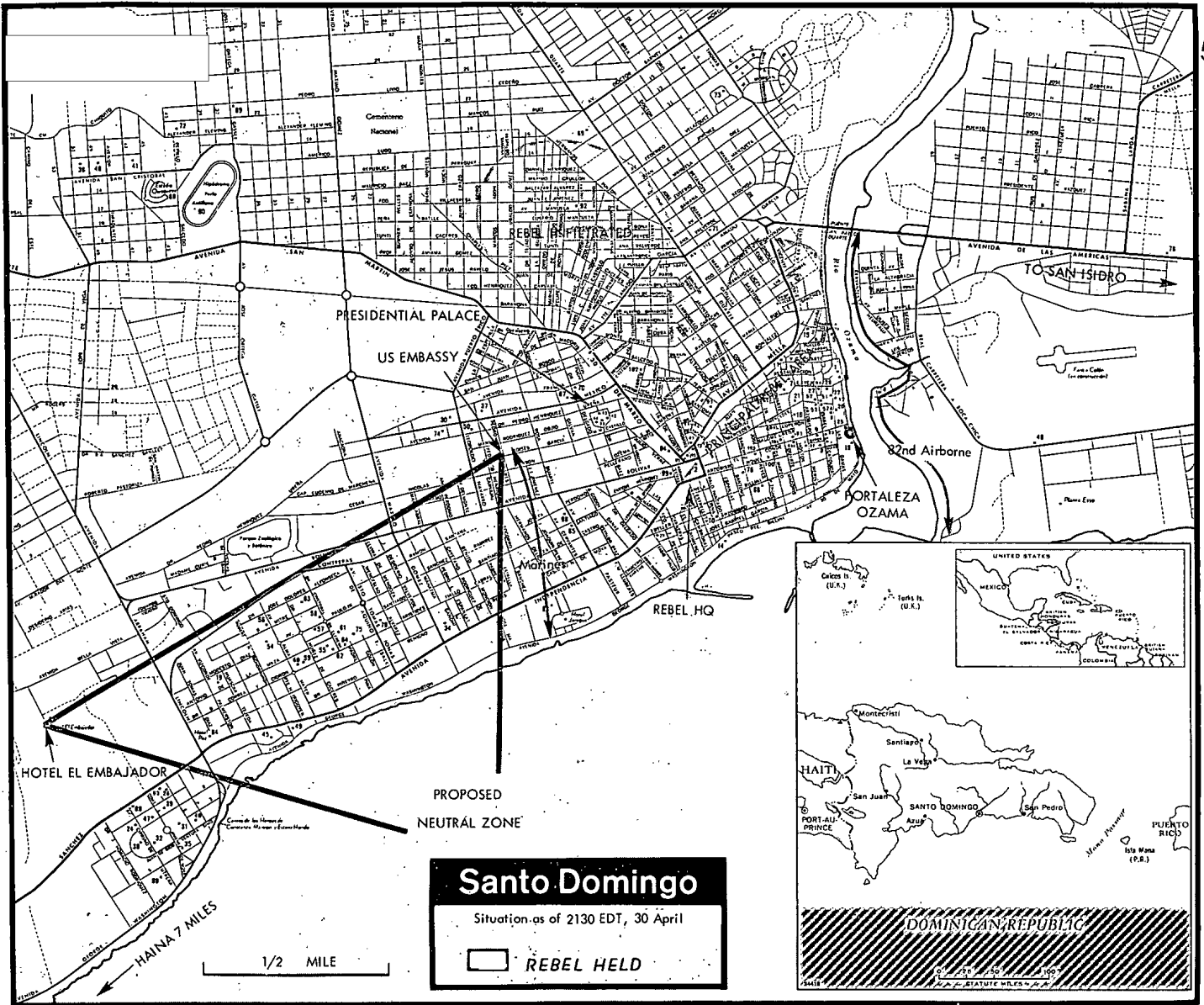


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3 MAY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
3 MAY 1965

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LATE ITEM

(Information as of 5:00 p.m. EDT)

Dominican Republic

There continue to be occasional breaches of the ceasefire. Small arms and mortar fire broke out shortly after noon from the rebel enclave east of the American Embassy. As of mid-afternoon, sporadic fire was continuing.

The capital is still without effective government and public services. Badly needed supplies are flowing into the city on the communications route. American marine and army forces opened this morning.

There are signs, faint as yet, of nervousness and some disarray in rebel ranks. Some rebels are reported to be caching their weapons. Others reportedly dispersed unarmed after abandoning their positions. In addition, Communist elements are charging Bosch supporters with having "betrayed the revolution." The same elements are demanding that the fight be continued until "liberty" is secured.

These elements are also pulling out all stops in trying to stir up anti-American feelings.

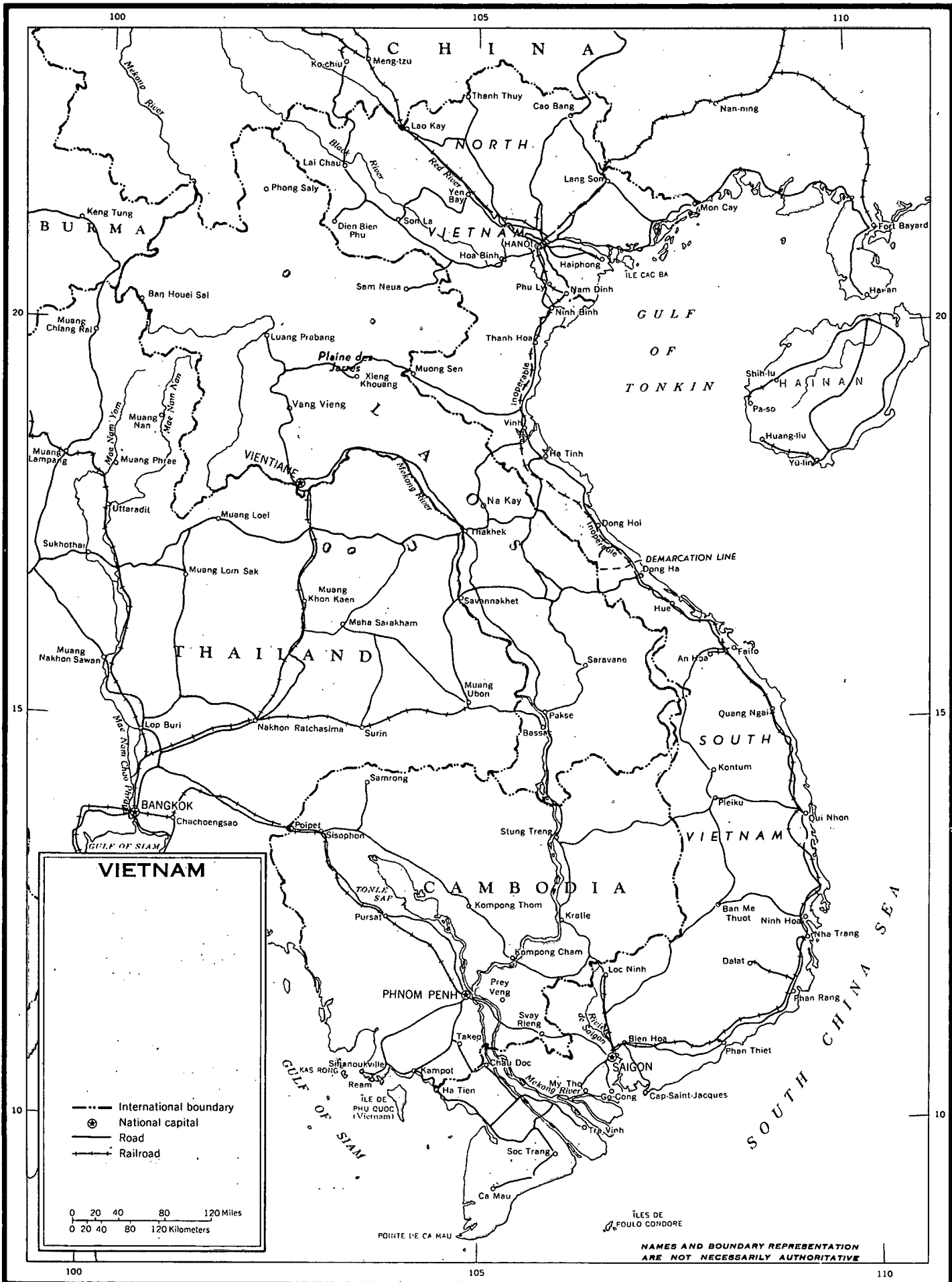
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Loyalist forces are trying to set up a quarantine of the rebel areas in Santo Domingo to prevent arms being moved elsewhere. [redacted] out-lying regions indicate [redacted] the situation is quiet with little sympathy for the rebels.

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1. Vietnam

US Marines are engaged in their largest patrol to date against Viet Cong concentrations near Da Nang air base. Heavy US air strikes were conducted during the weekend against guerrilla positions in the central highlands and the Mekong Delta.

Communist military activity is at a comparatively low level. Most observers believe, however, that this will not last much longer.

[redacted] the Viet Cong are regrouping in preparation for intense activity in the very near future when the coming rains may make US and South Vietnamese air support and resupply operations difficult. See fuller discussion at Annex.

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2. Venezuela

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3. Indonesia

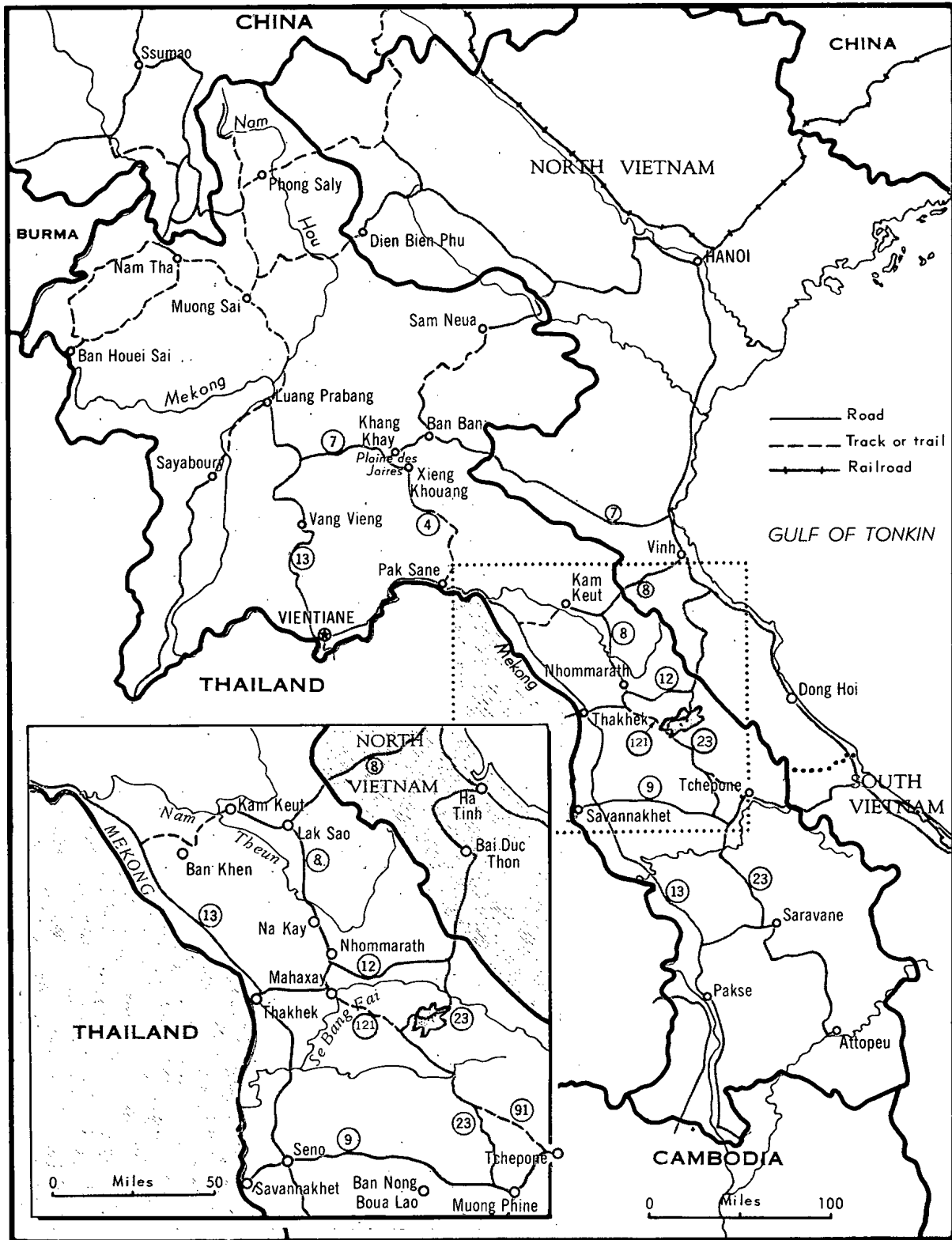
The Communists plan a large-scale demonstration at the US Embassy around the middle of May [redacted] they will try to force their way into the embassy. The Communists hope to induce non-Communist groups to participate.

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LAOS



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4. Laos

April southbound Communist truck traffic on Route 23 (see map) was the heaviest yet observed. Approximately 670 southbound trucks were counted, as compared with about 398 in March, and smaller totals in January and February. A lot of the April traffic probably carried supplies for the Viet Cong. A late report from a watch team farther south along Route 23 indicates that 80 trucks were seen moving south on 1 May.

5. India

The situation remains fragile.

The de facto cease-fire in the Rann of Kutch is not preventing occasional artillery exchanges, although other operations seem to be at a standstill.

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The Indian build-up along the Punjab border of West Pakistan continues. Tension is also high on the border with East Pakistan.

6. Italy

The returns on Premier Moro's recent trip to the US make it clear that it raised his personal stock considerably. According to the US Embassy, top Italian politicians feel that the attention given Moro by President Johnson will contribute to political stability in Italy.

Prompt action by Moro to exploit his new prestige in coping with the country's many unsolved problems will be essential. If not used, his present leverage will soon be diminished.

7. Cambodia

The government has given official notice that it is breaking diplomatic relations with the US. Cambodian Foreign Minister Konn Wick says that he wants to maintain consular relations, but warns that even these could not be continued if there were any more border incursions from South Vietnam.

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ANNEX

The Outlook for Increased Viet Cong Activity

Viet Cong activity has remained at a low level for six consecutive weeks. Although South Vietnamese successes and increased US participation in the war may have disrupted Viet Cong offensive plans,

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the main force may be continuing to improve its capabilities and some units in the northern provinces may have been repositioned. While there are no positive indications of an imminent large-scale offensive, the Viet Cong are believed to retain the capability for conducting major actions in selected locales and at the same time conducting a countrywide campaign of terrorism, harassment, and small-scale actions. The prolonged lull in Viet Cong actions and inactivity of main force units is believed to be a temporary phase in the war which can be abruptly changed by the Communists at any time. It is still anticipated that, during the forthcoming rainy season, the Viet Cong will make a major effort.

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