



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

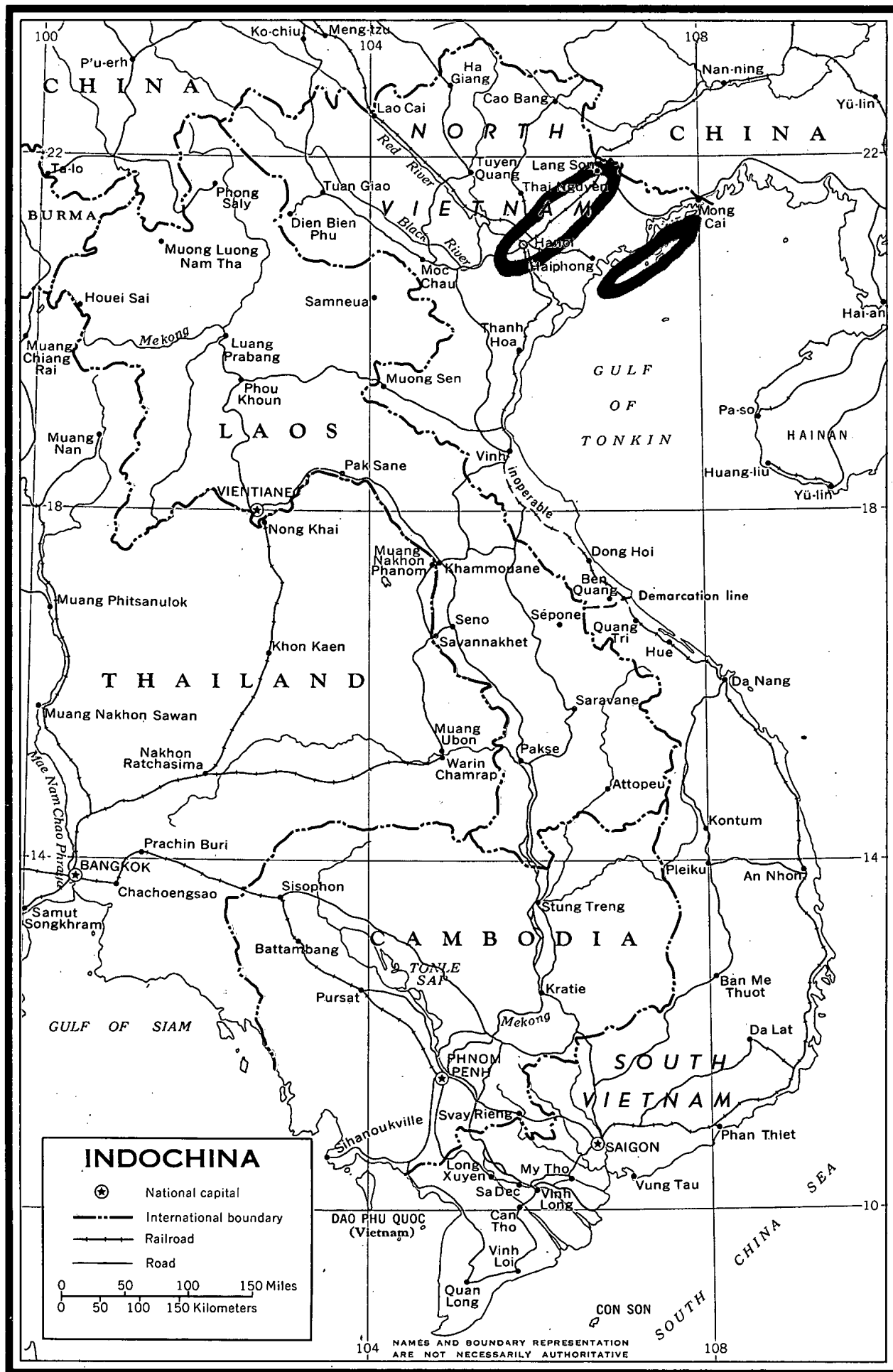
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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16 JULY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

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2. Vietnam

Emanations have been monitored over Hanoi from what may be a radar commonly used for target acquisition at Soviet surface-to-air missile sites. Although such radar sets are also used for early warning, this may be a tentative sign that missile equipment is being installed. There is no evidence, however, of the presence of missile guidance radar.

On 15 July, for over three hours during US air strikes on North Vietnamese targets, as many as 24 Communist jet fighters may have patrolled over the Langson to Hanoi stretch of the vital rail line from China (see map). This must reflect either increasing Communist concern for this transport artery or a desire to protect a particular high-priority shipment.

Communications intelligence continues to indicate Chinese Communist military logistics support activity in South China along the key and apparently congested route into North Vietnam. A Chinese military entity continues to communicate from northeast North Vietnam, but clarification of its role is still lacking.

Intercepts also indicate that for about a month a small number of Chinese vessels (possibly as many as 18) have been operating under naval control in North Vietnamese coastal waters between Haiphong and Mong Cai. The vessel types are unknown. It cannot so far be determined whether they are patrolling, ferrying military supplies, or possibly surveying what the Chinese may envisage to be a future Chinese naval operating area.

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3. Greece

The crisis is deepening, and the possibility of extreme action is growing.

The King's premier-designate, Athanasiades-Novas, is reported to have formed a cabinet today. However, [redacted]

[redacted] his chances of obtaining the necessary parliamentary approval are steadily declining. The King is said to have other candidates to fall back on, but their vote-getting ability may also prove inadequate.

Meanwhile, Papandreou's forces, with leftist support, are whipping up antimonarchical feeling throughout the country. A leftist-backed student demonstration is scheduled for the capital tonight.

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4. Canada

Canada's longstanding tug of war between provincial and federal authorities will dominate the conference of premiers which starts in Ottawa on Monday.

French-speaking Quebec is expected to up its demands for political and economic autonomy. The premiers of the other provinces--particularly conservative British Columbia--are also pushing for more "rights" which, if granted, could weaken the central government. Prime Minister Pearson has already made numerous concessions to preserve harmony, but this has only whetted provincial appetites.

The conference will probably end in short-term compromises, but no long-lasting solution appears in sight.

5. Venezuela

The government has indefinitely postponed its plan to occupy the Central University. It apparently has had second thoughts about risking the adverse political effects of such a move.

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6. Laos

Maneuvering among Laotian political factions is accelerating as this Sunday's National Assembly elections approach.

The Communist Pathet Lao is boycotting the elections, but competition has been keen among the 200-odd non-Communist candidates for the 59 seats. The results will not be made public until mid-August, so a prolonged period of infighting is likely.

There have been no more stirrings among the rightist military leaders who shelved their coup plans earlier this week. Nevertheless, the King has taken the precautionary step of asking Premier Souvanna Phouma to shorten his vacation in Europe and return home.

7. USSR

The USSR claimed today that it had launched a scientific space station weighing more than 26,000 pounds. This would be more than twice the estimated weight of any previous Soviet satellite.

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The stated purpose of the satellite--to measure high-energy particles--would not appear to justify its large size, suggesting that in this first flight the payload is largely ballast.

Earlier today Moscow claimed to have orbited five satellites with a single vehicle. The launch has been confirmed, but the number of satellites has not yet been established. The Soviets have three times previously orbited triple payloads at one launch.

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