



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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22 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

Buddhist-led agitation in the north may soon put Ky where he will have to make fundamental--and dangerous--decisions.

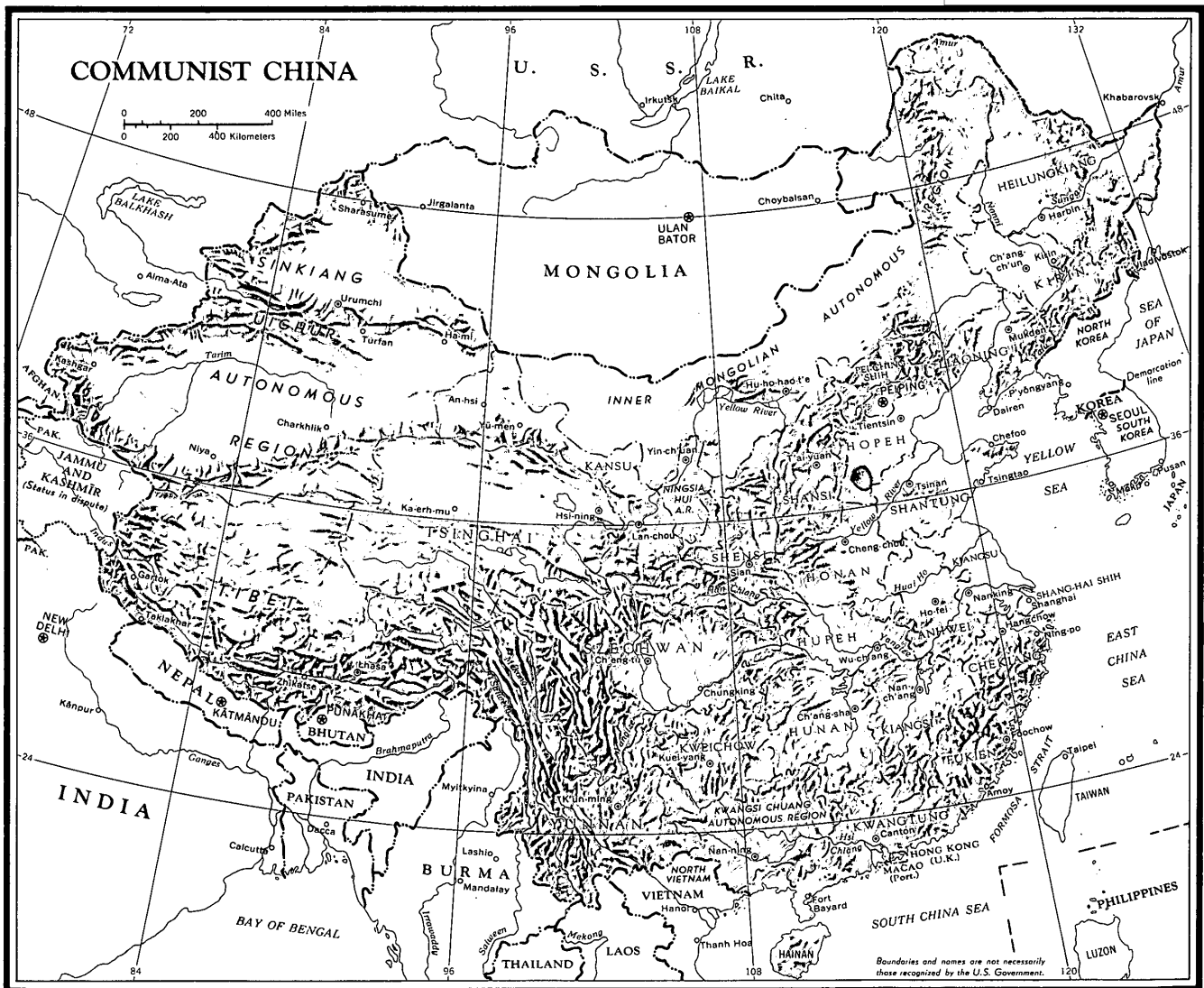
Today students seized the radio station in Hué and apparently have ready access to the Da Nang station. Antigovernment broadcasts from Hué were ominous in both tone and content, mentioning Ky by name and charging that the government was turning a deaf ear to the peoples' "legitimate aspirations." The broadcasts gave every indication that the agitation will continue.

The province chief and the new I Corps commander, General Chuan, appear to feel that the current agitation can safely be allowed to burn itself out, and have so far taken no steps to dislodge the students from the radio station.

If the agitation continues, Ky may feel he can no longer acquiesce in this soft policy. If, however, he orders Chuan to take repressive action, he runs the risk of increasing Buddhist determination and precipitating an all-out confrontation.

He also runs the risk that his orders may be ignored. Chuan, among other commanders, is known to have some sympathy for the Buddhist position. Some officers might also be growing queasy about their own future should the Ky government fall. Thus, they may not wish to act decisively at this time.

In Saigon, Ky has in effect apologized for his weekend blast against the Buddhists. Ky's original statement, however, may yet form a rallying point for the Buddhists, who up until now have not been completely united against the government.



2. North Vietnam

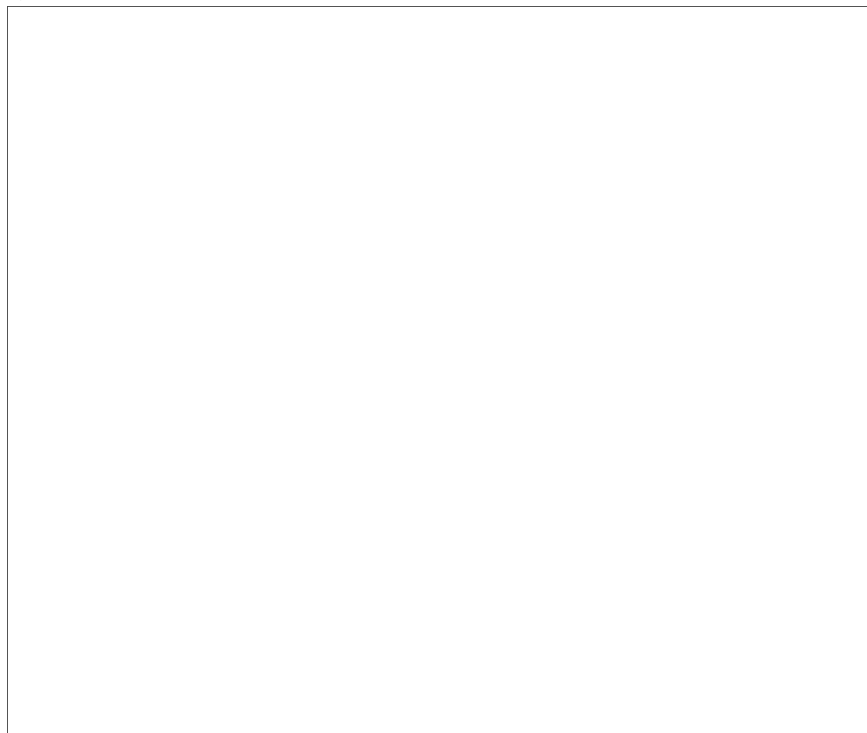
Friendly guerrillas keeping a watch on the Communist infiltration corridor in Laos have photographed a powerful, new cargo truck well suited to service in this terrain. The truck is identified as a Polish-made Star 66. It has a six-wheel drive and can carry 5,500-8,800 pounds of cargo. Last year the Poles contracted to deliver 150 of these trucks in the first quarter of 1966.

3. Communist China

The North China plain was struck by another severe earthquake today. The epicenter was about 200 miles south of Peking (see map). There were quakes in this area on 8 and 20 March, and all three registered as grade six or seven on the Richter scale of nine.

The effect of three earthquakes in such a heavily populated area--800 to 1,000 people per square mile--has almost certainly been devastating.

4. Pakistan



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5. India

New Delhi may be thinking of proposing that the US call a halt to further military aid, "lethal" or not lethal, to both India and Pakistan.

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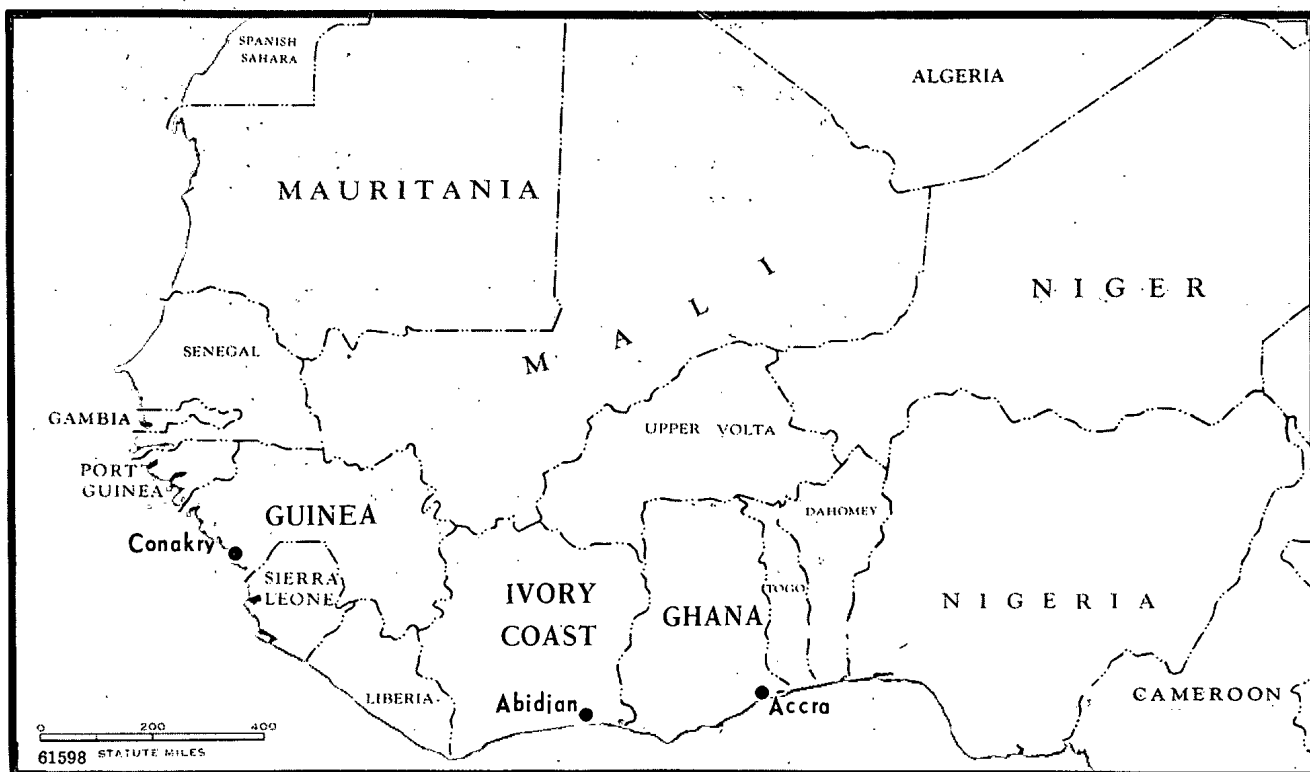
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6. Indonesia

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WEST AFRICA



7. Cyprus

Relations between Cypriot President Makarios and the Greek Government are deteriorating as a result of Athens' inept attempts to name Makarios' old enemy, General Grivas, supreme commander of all Greek and Greek Cypriot forces on the island. Makarios is, of course, resisting which has produced new strains in the Stephanopoulos government as opportunistic politicians rush to take advantage of its discomfiture.

Ambassador Belcher in Nicosia warns of dangers inherent in Grivas' getting control of all Greek forces since he is one of the most belligerent elements involved in the Cyprus mess. Grivas, for example, considers Makarios soft on the Turkish Cypriots.

8. West Africa

Despite ranting and raving from Conakry, there is nothing in official reports to support press accounts of imminent war between Guinea and its neighbors. As far as we can tell, Guinea is not mobilizing its forces and is not moving them to the frontier with the Ivory Coast. In any case Guinea's armed forces are small and incapable of a land invasion across the Ivory Coast to Ghana. (Map)

9. Finland

The Social Democrats, who scored a smashing victory in the weekend elections, are traditionally Western oriented and anti-Soviet. In fact many voters turned to them as a rallying point for hostility against the Soviet Union. Stories hinting at Communist participation in a new government seem wide of the mark.

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