

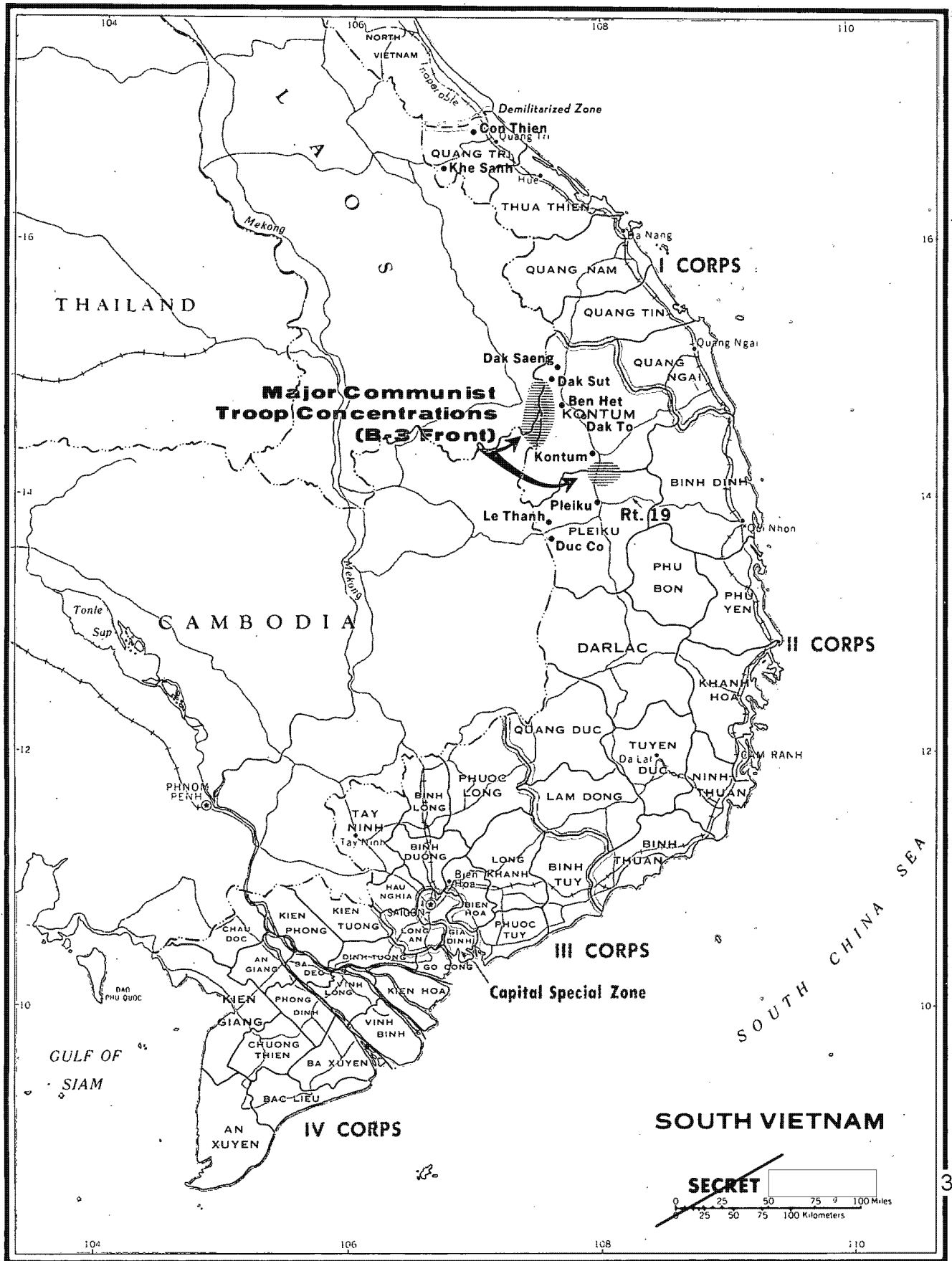


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 January 1968



3.5(c)



69357 1-68 CIA

3.5(c)

DAILY BRIEF
20 JANUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

The attack on Pleiku airbase yesterday is one of many signs pointing toward an early enemy offensive in the western highlands.

3.3(h)(2)

[redacted] this offensive will probably be a series of widespread, coordinated attacks against the strategic allied positions noted on the map. There may also be an attempt to cut Route 19.

The Communists consider Kontum and Pleiku as a single command, the "B-3 Front." There are two major troop concentrations involving at least five North Vietnamese infantry regiments plus extensive combat support units.

* * *

There have been several bomb incidents in Danang this week and leaflets have been scattered about town warning the population to stay away from Americans. US officials in Danang have taken precautions.

2. [redacted]

[redacted]

NR

3. [redacted]

[redacted]

NR

Page Denied

~~Top Secret~~

~~Top Secret~~



FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



~~Top Secret~~ 3.5(c)

16

20 January 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

20 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnam on San Antonio Formula: Hanoi has not commented specifically on President Johnson's State of the Union address, but on 18 January it broadcast a recent article again rejecting the President's San Antonio formula as an unacceptable method of getting talks started.

The article is from the 15 January issue of the Vietnam Courier, a magazine Hanoi puts out in English and French for international consumption. It offered an unusually detailed critique of the US position. It said the San Antonio speech was unacceptable because it called only for a "conditional cessation" of the bombing. The article claimed there had been no evolution in the US position on negotiations since the President's Baltimore speech in April 1965. The San Antonio formulation, it said, specified three prerequisites for the US to end the air and naval bombardment, and claimed that this was a challenge to common sense. The US, it said, does not have a right "to set conditions" for the cessation of the bombing.

The article also repeated the recent "will talk" statement of Foreign Minister Trinh and said that this answered the question of what Hanoi would do if the bombing stopped.

Mai Van Bo's 16 January elaboration of Trinh's "will talk" bit is still being stressed by Hanoi. The Los Angeles Times correspondent in Hong Kong and Harrison Salisbury both were referred to the Bo statement by Hanoi in response to their queries about clarification of Trinh's formula.

[Redacted]

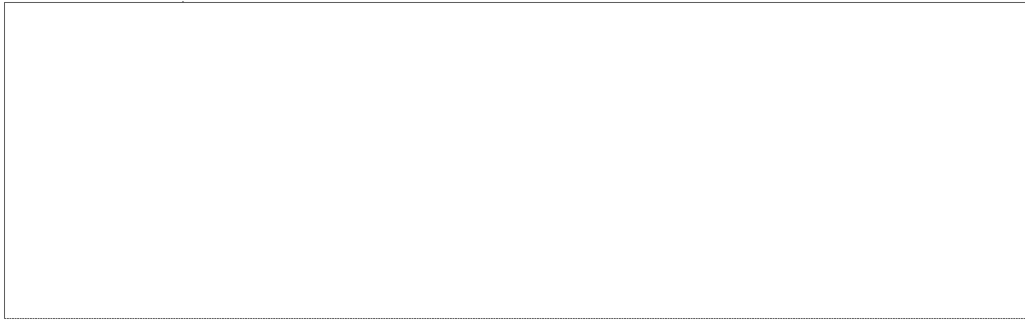
3.3(h)(2)

[Redacted]

3.3(h)(2)

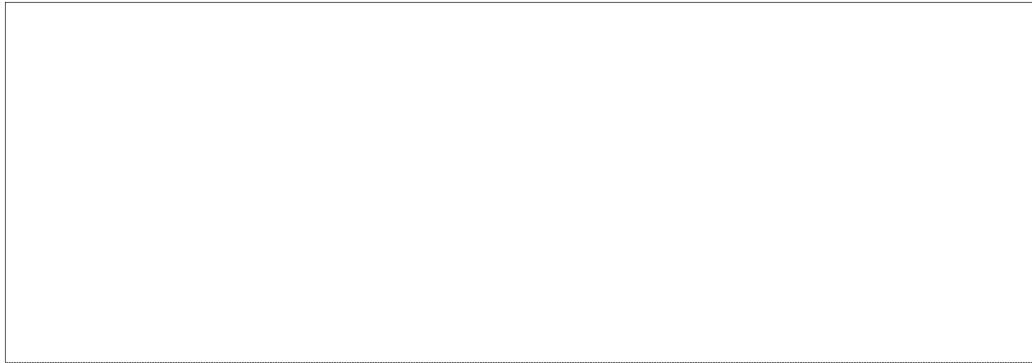
Page Denied

Page Denied



3.3(h)(2)

* * *



3.3(h)(2)

* * *

Red Cross Visit Turned Down: Hanoi has informed the International Red Cross that it will not be able to accept the visit of Andre Durand, the IRC's delegate in Phnom Penh. Durand has been trying to get to Hanoi for some time in an attempt to secure Geneva Convention coverage for US prisoners in North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese used their standard excuse for rejecting the visit-- "intensification of the war."

II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing of significance to report.

~~Top Secret~~