



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

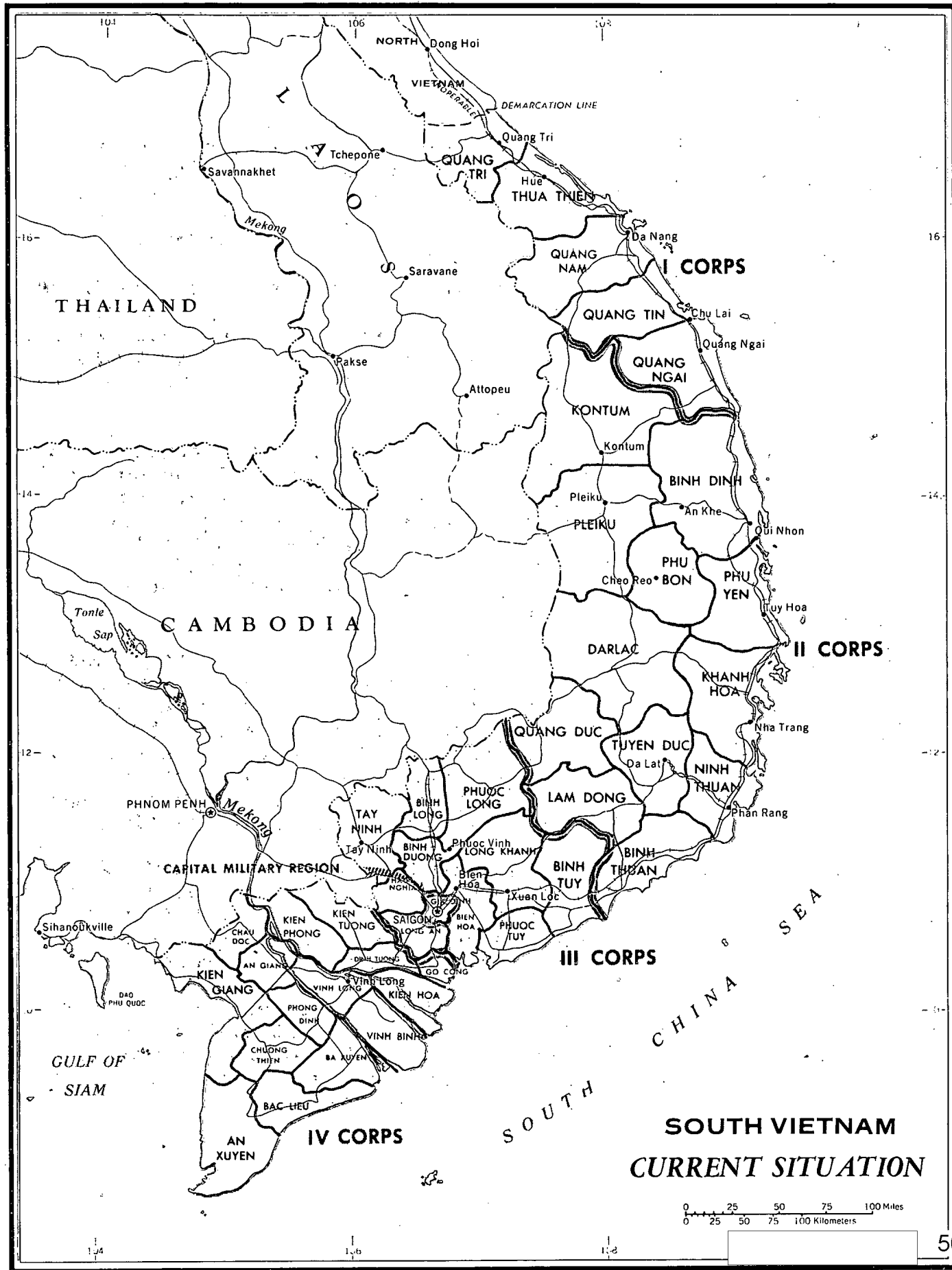


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1 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

The political situation appears to be rapidly worsening, and Ky may soon have to take drastic action to try to restore government authority, or make major concessions to the Buddhists.

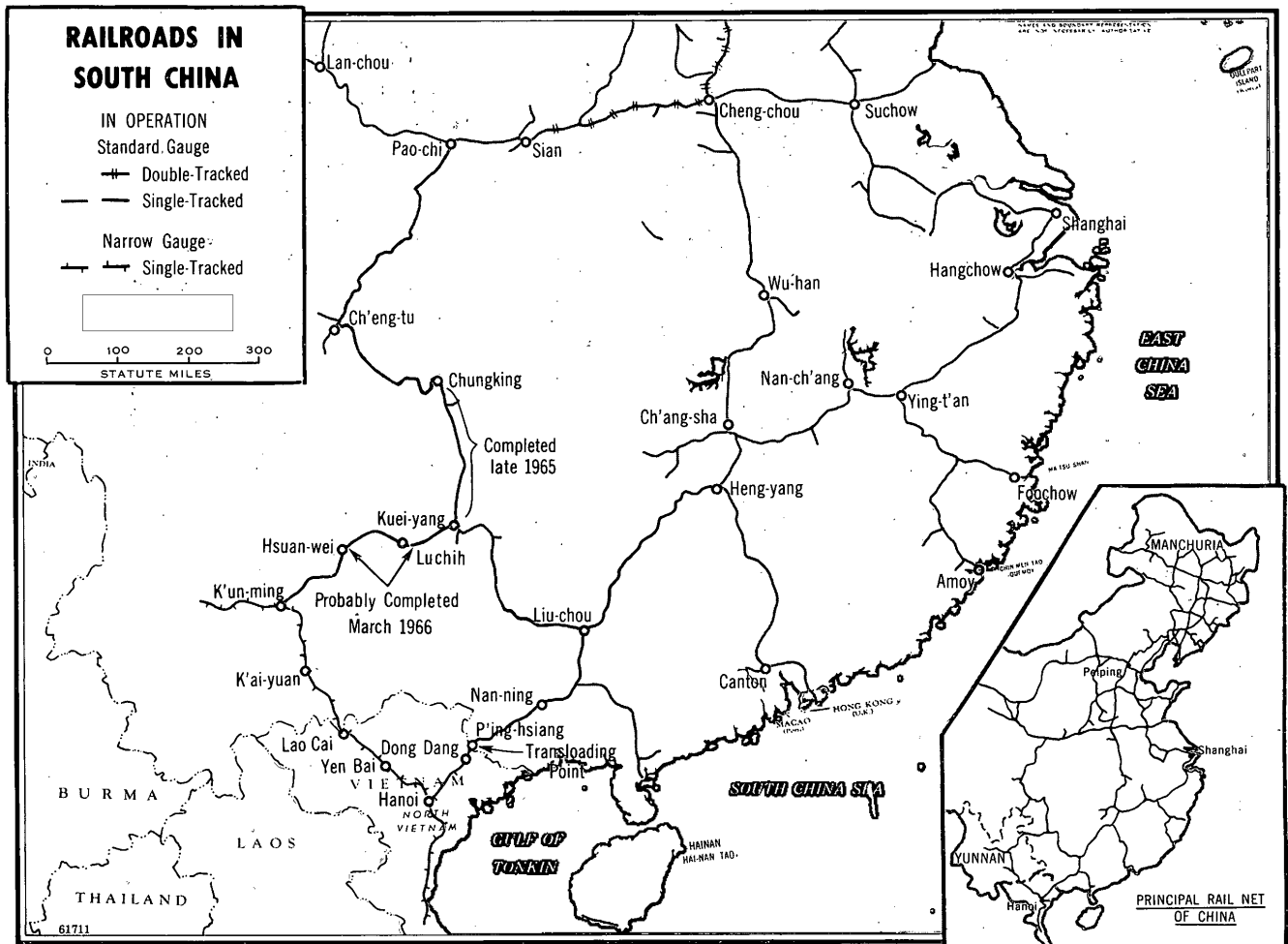
Anti-government agitation continues unchecked in Hué and Da Nang, and today demonstrations spread to Qui Nhon, Dalat, and Pleiku (see map). The latter two were clearly engineered by students from Hué.

Law and order appeared non-existent today when a mob of some 10,000 seized General Chieu in Hué. Neither the security forces nor police made any attempt to protect him. In Dalat, Vietnamese troops stood by and the national police fled while a mob sacked the radio station.

Agitators in Hué appear to be aware of secret government plans to move forcibly in the city early next week. Our consul there comments that, with the element of surprise lost, the government now will have to act with great speed and overwhelming force. Any half-baked or piecemeal measures could be disastrous.

Ambassador Lodge told chief of state Thieu today he could not conceive of another week going by in Hué and Da Nang under present conditions without something happening to US troops.

Even if the Ky government survives the present conflict it will be seriously weakened--either by compromise with the Buddhists or from public resentment over repressive measures.



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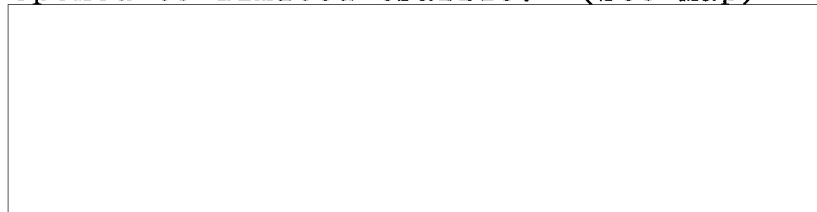
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2. Communist China



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the important rail link between Kueiyang and Kunming in Southwest China has been opened to limited traffic. (See Map)



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The opening of this inland line to through traffic will greatly improve China's ability to move goods to North Vietnam.

3. India

A new round of violence in the Calcutta area is likely to result from leftist plans for a 24-hour general strike next Wednesday. There are reports that militant pro-Peking Indian Communists are laying plans for a direct confrontation with the police.

4. Ecuador

The country was relatively peaceful today, but leftist agitators may only be pausing for breath.

A delegation headed by the leftist rector of Cuenca University has gone to Quito to demand that interim president Yerovi yield to a triumvirate in which he would be outvoted by two leftist intellectuals. The country's volatile students are said still to oppose Yerovi, and they plan to convene a nationwide student meeting next week to discuss how to make this opposition felt.

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5. France

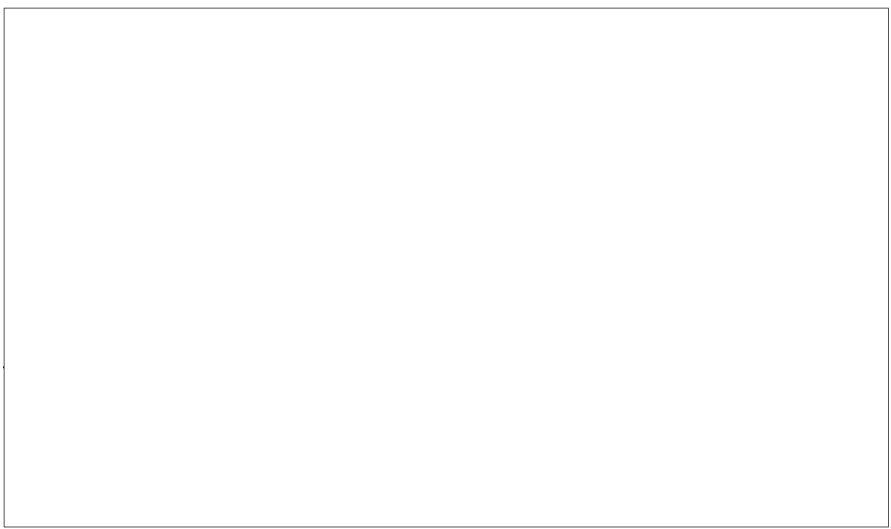
Opposition parties are beginning to make a political issue of De Gaulle's abrupt action toward NATO.

The Socialist Party has issued a strong condemnatory statement and directed its supporters in the National Assembly to submit a motion of censure during the session beginning today.

De Gaulle, of course, has more than enough votes to defeat such a motion. Opposition elements may hope to pick off a few wavering Gaullists by this gambit, but their principal objective is probably to leave De Gaulle, when the chips are down, with only the Communists and the remaining Gaullists standing with him.

The opposition will, however, have trouble keeping public debate on the subject alive; at least, the French public has been relatively apathetic on the issue thus far.

6. Soviet Union



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7. Rhodesia

The breakaway Smith regime seems to lack real confidence despite its success in withstanding Britain's program of sanctions.

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Some Rhodesians believe that pressures will be stepped up now that Wilson has received a smashing vote of confidence. They also are concerned that the South Africans, after their elections, may reduce their help and press Smith to negotiate.

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8. Guinea

Sekou Touré, who was going to restore Nkrumah a few short weeks ago, is apparently growing more and more fearful of his own skin.

Distrustful of his own armed forces, Touré has publicly urged the masses to take up their machetes and slit the throats of all imperialists once a coup attempt looks imminent. This has naturally unnerved the European and American community.

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Houphouet-Boigny in nearby Ivory Coast has been loudly encouraging Guinean exiles as part of a psychological campaign against Touré.

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