

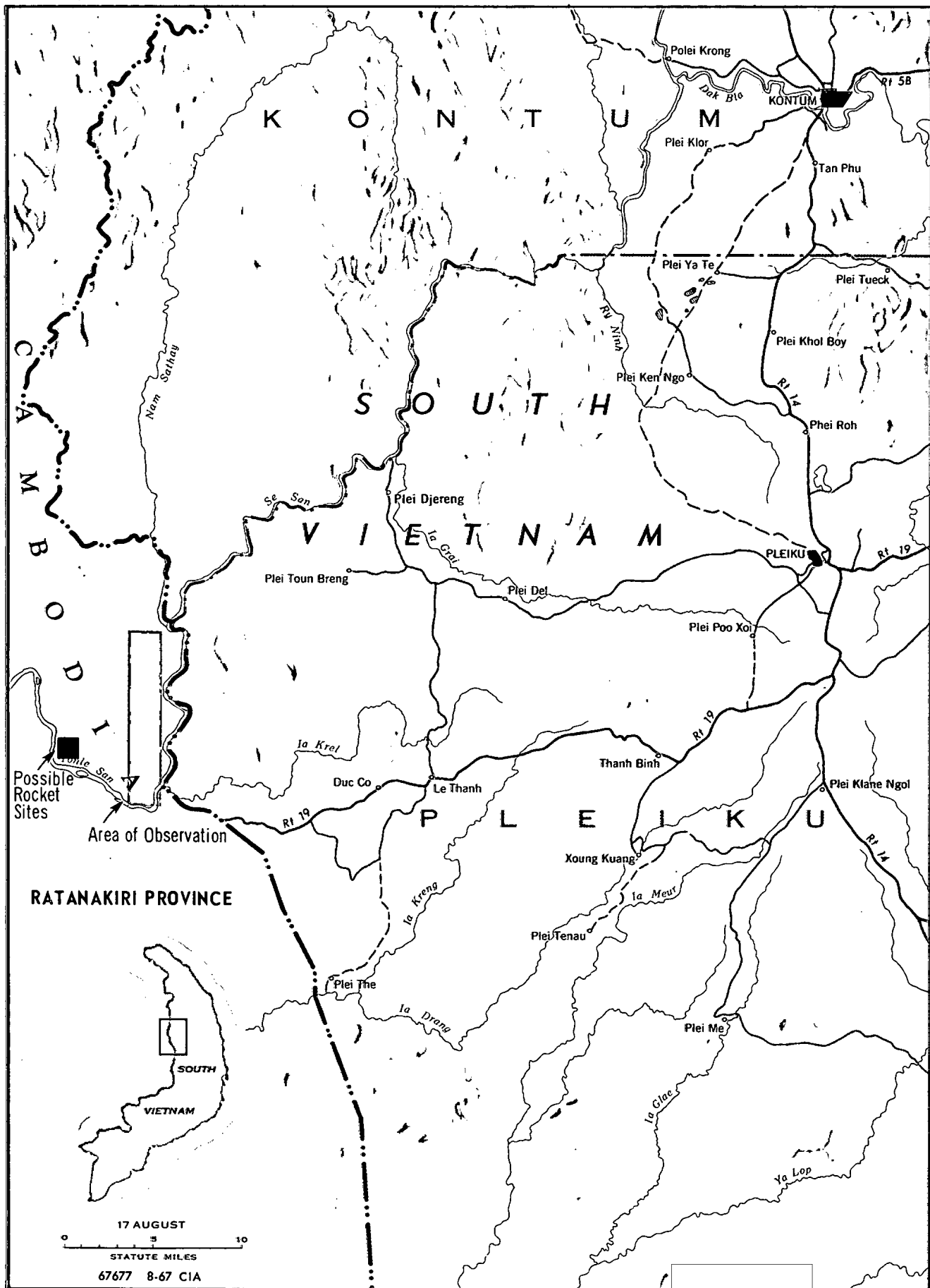


The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 18 August 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
18 AUGUST 1967

1. Vietnam

On Saturday, the International Control Commission is to conduct a helicopter reconnaissance of an area along the Cambodian - South Vietnamese border. The investigation is in response to a formal request from Sihanouk after US reporters had claimed that Viet Cong rocket sites were located there.

The area in question contains extensive Communist support activity, but there is little hope that the Commission members will see it. The bad terrain, the short time allotted for the trip, and the Commission's past performance suggest that the Cambodians will get the clean bill of health they want. Still, the investigation could provide a useful precedent for the future.

2. Cuba

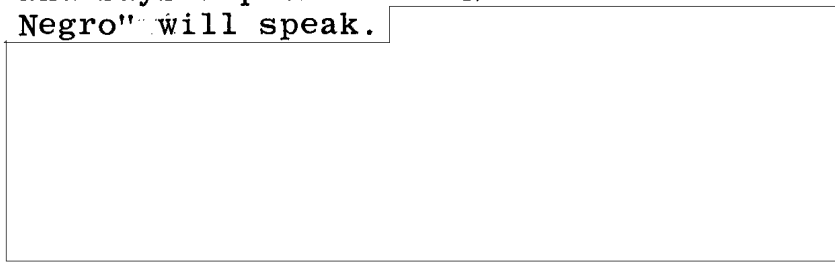
Fidel Castro's blueprint for violent revolution puts major emphasis on a common strategy for guerrilla warfare throughout rural Latin America.

Castro hammered away on this thesis in his closing speech to the Havana conference of the Latin American Solidarity Organization. We have been examining the full text of this speech, given last week, and it is quite clearly a declaration of ideological independence from orthodox Latin American parties as well as a statement of intent to support armed struggle.

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3. Cuba

Today has been proclaimed the "Day of Solidarity with the American Negro." Havana plans appropriate ceremonies and says a prominent "North American Negro" will speak.

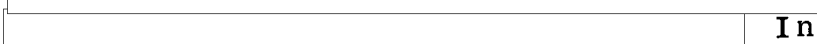


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4. Communist China



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In general, we believe Mao is riding the tiger with his Cultural Revolution but refuses to get off because of the tremendous loss of face and political power that would follow an end to the revolution.

Given that situation, we see even greater trouble ahead with, perhaps, a collapse into total anarchy. Before final chaos, however, we believe one of two things may occur:

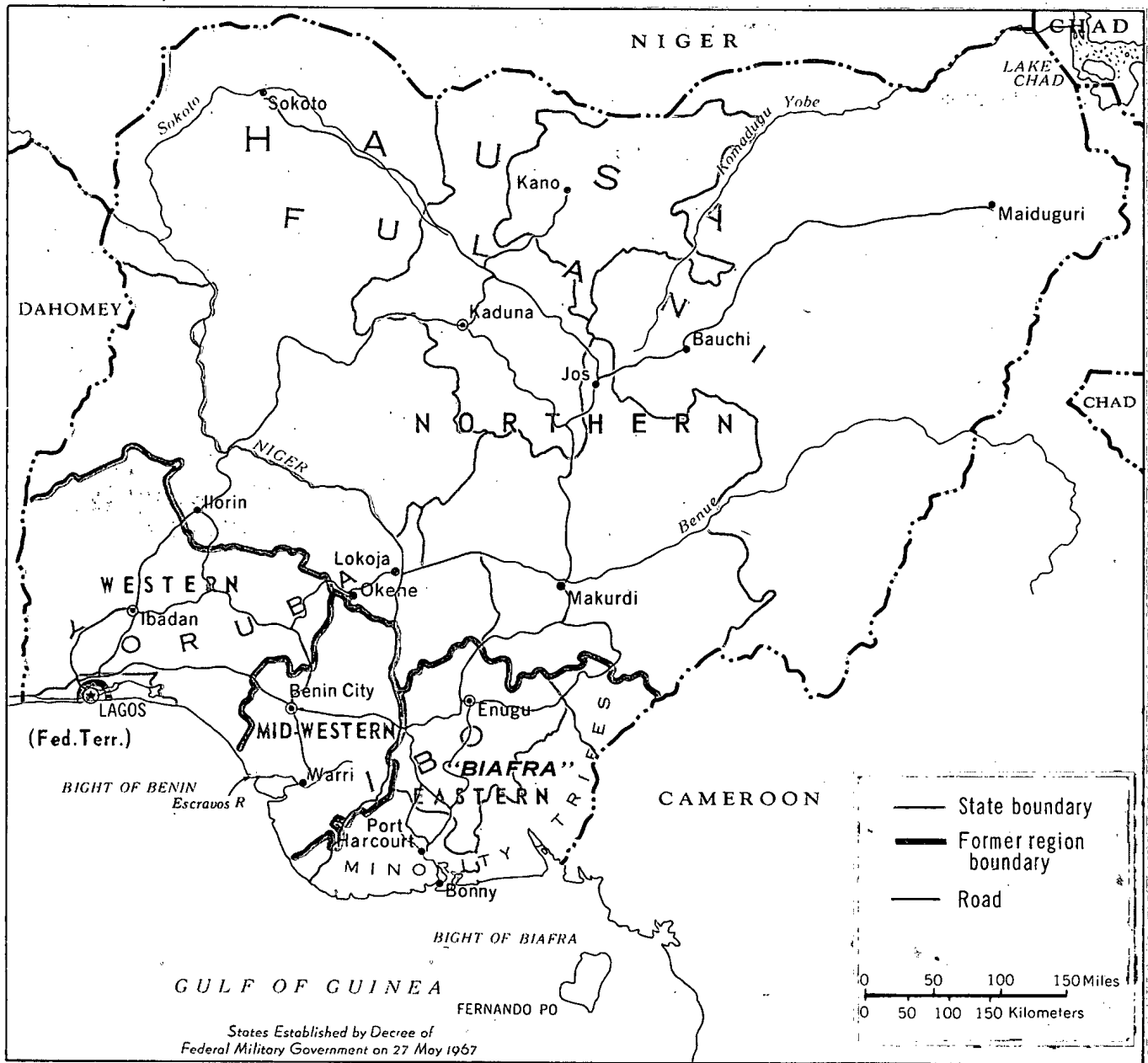
--China will return to the sort of warlord regionalism that marked the 1920s, or

--There will be a coalition of more "moderate" military and Communist Party leaders who will ease Mao aside--using him as a symbol, but keeping his hand off the throttle. (These men would be more rational but no less antagonistic to the United States.)

We believe the second course is more likely, and that it may come to pass within the next year.



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5. Nigeria

Federal forces appear to be holding their own. While the Biafrans have much of the Mid-West state, their offensive has gone into neutral gear.

6. Colombia

With one year of his four-year term behind him, President Lleras can look back with some sense of accomplishment. He has made fairly good progress on the economic front and he is a pusher on Latin American economic integration. Lleras is still plagued by guerrillas, but has had some success against them.

His greatest millstone has been a Congress that bickers, dickers, and drags its feet. Recent political shuffles may help in the Congress, however, leaving Lleras with a reasonably clear road for his promised reforms.

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