



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

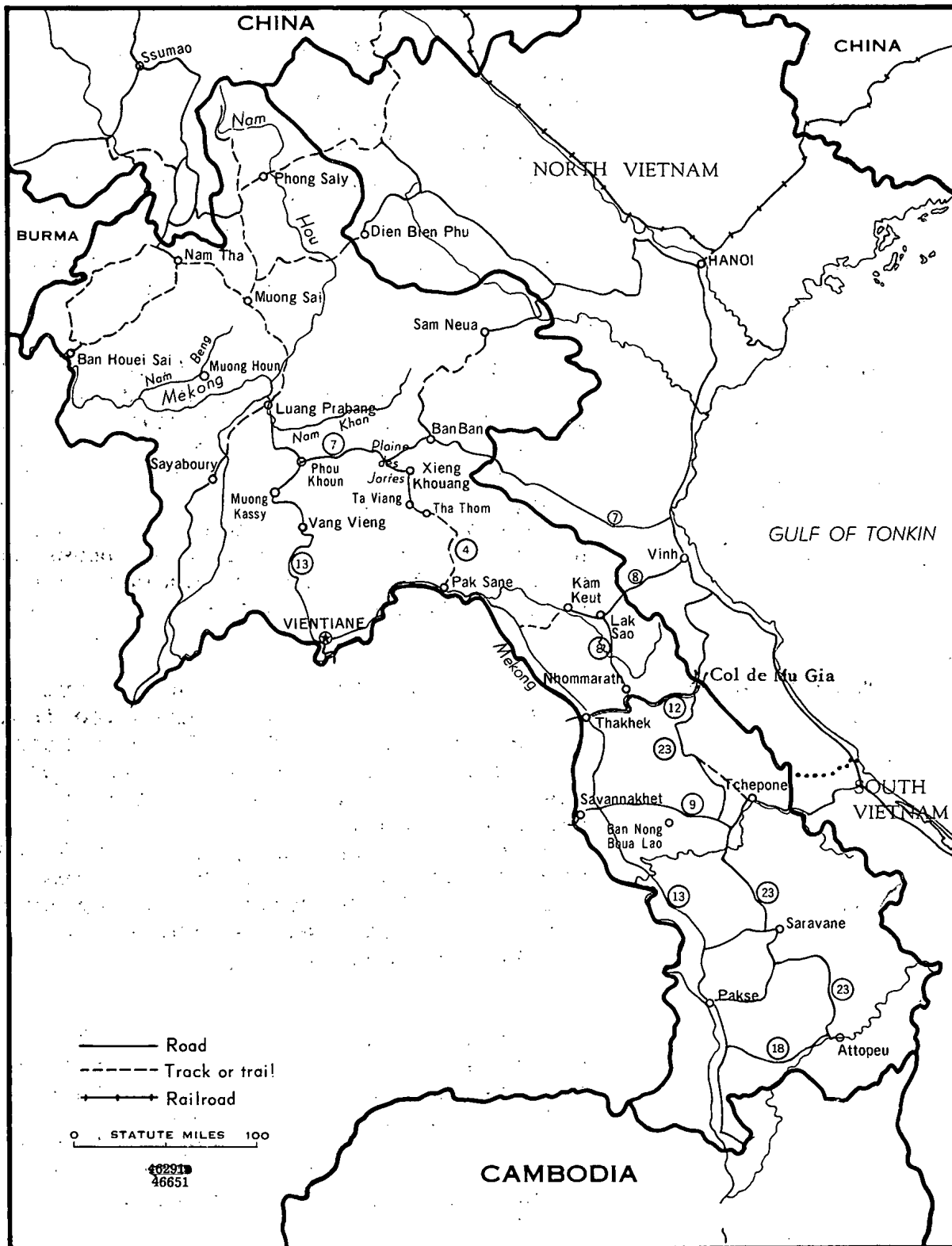
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12 JANUARY 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

LAOS



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1. South Vietnam

The government is working on a draft election law, to be ready for signature by Chief of State Suu by 20 January. Elections would be scheduled as early as 21 March. While this plan is in accord with the agreements recently reached with Premier Huong and the military, the immediate outlook remains murky, partly because much mistrust persists on both sides.

2. Laos

Road watch teams on Route 12 are reporting numbers of empty trucks moving east, presumably returning to North Vietnam. It is not clear whether the trucks are returning to pick up more troops and supplies or whether a leveling off is taking place in the build-up of Communist - North Vietnamese forces we have noted in the Nhommarath area east of Thakhek. (See Map)

3. West Germany

The US Embassy in Bonn reports that Erhard and company are experiencing a near crisis of confidence regarding their foreign policy. The embassy also indicates that some German officials are feeling "let down" by the US, particularly regarding MLF. De Gaulle, who has acceded to Erhard's request that their 19-20 January meeting be a purely private one, is probably aware of these German anxieties.

4. Greece

Prime Minister Papandreou has put a stop to an intra-party rebellion by threatening to resign. The episode will add to public uneasiness over the political outlook. Jockeying for position among Papandreou's would-be successors is likely to continue.

5. Communist China

The government's highest military body met last week to discuss a report on the build-up of national forces, and presumably to endorse new policy decisions. We have nothing specific as yet regarding what decisions may have been endorsed, but before this meeting, the regime publicly pledged to increase its support of "national liberation" struggles.