



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

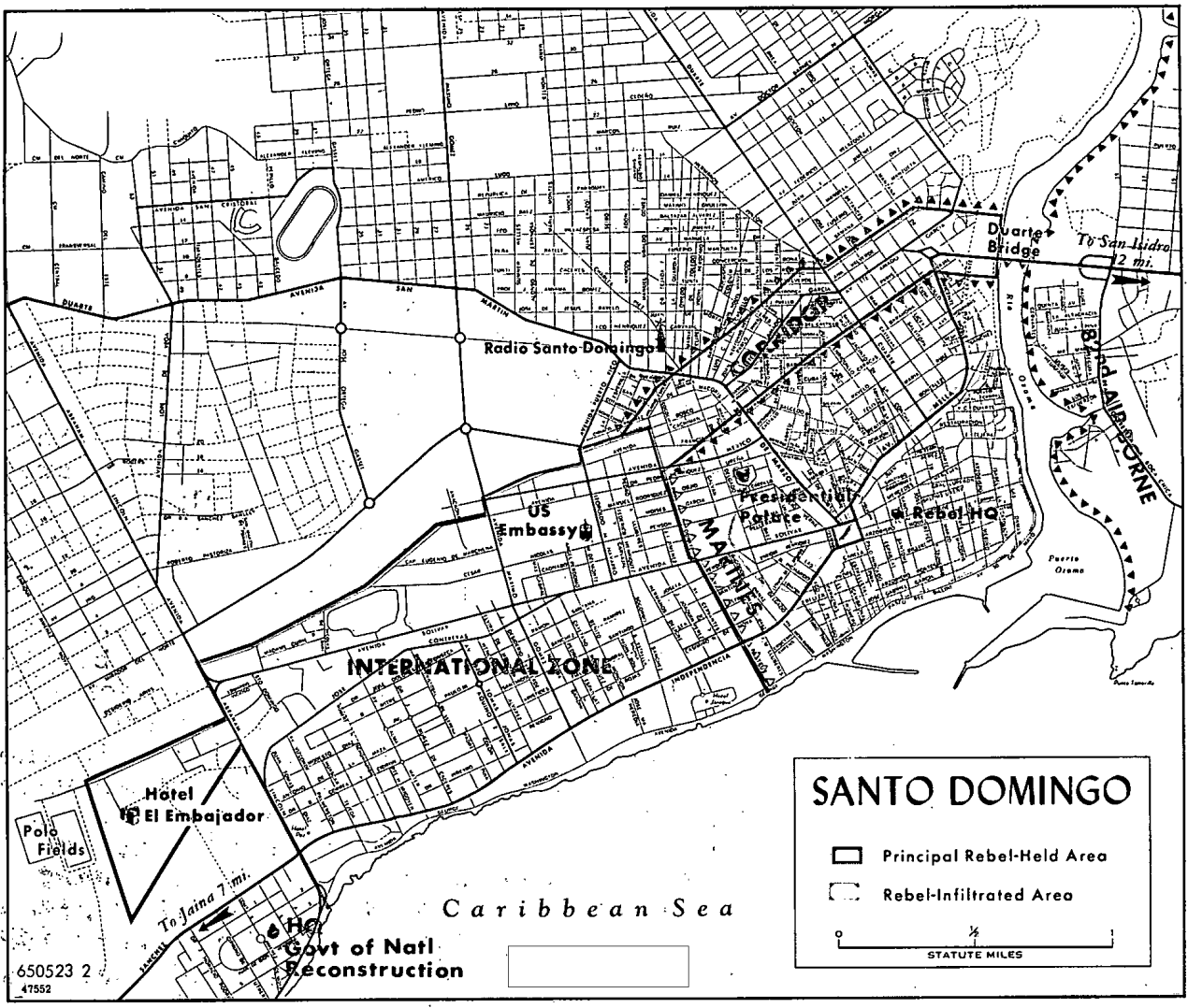
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



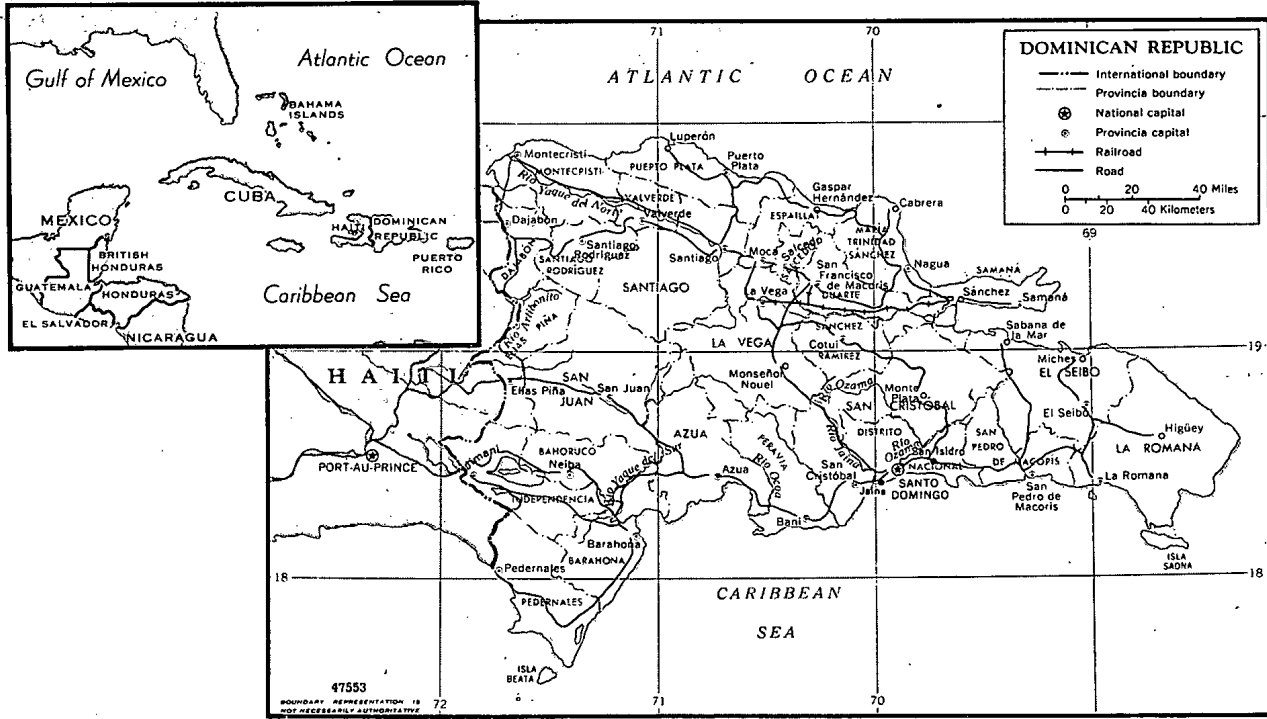
50X1

24 MAY 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~



50X1



DAILY BRIEF
24 MAY 1965

LATE ITEM

Dominican Republic

Aside from occasional shooting incidents, there is little military activity in Santo Domingo, and people are once again beginning to move about.

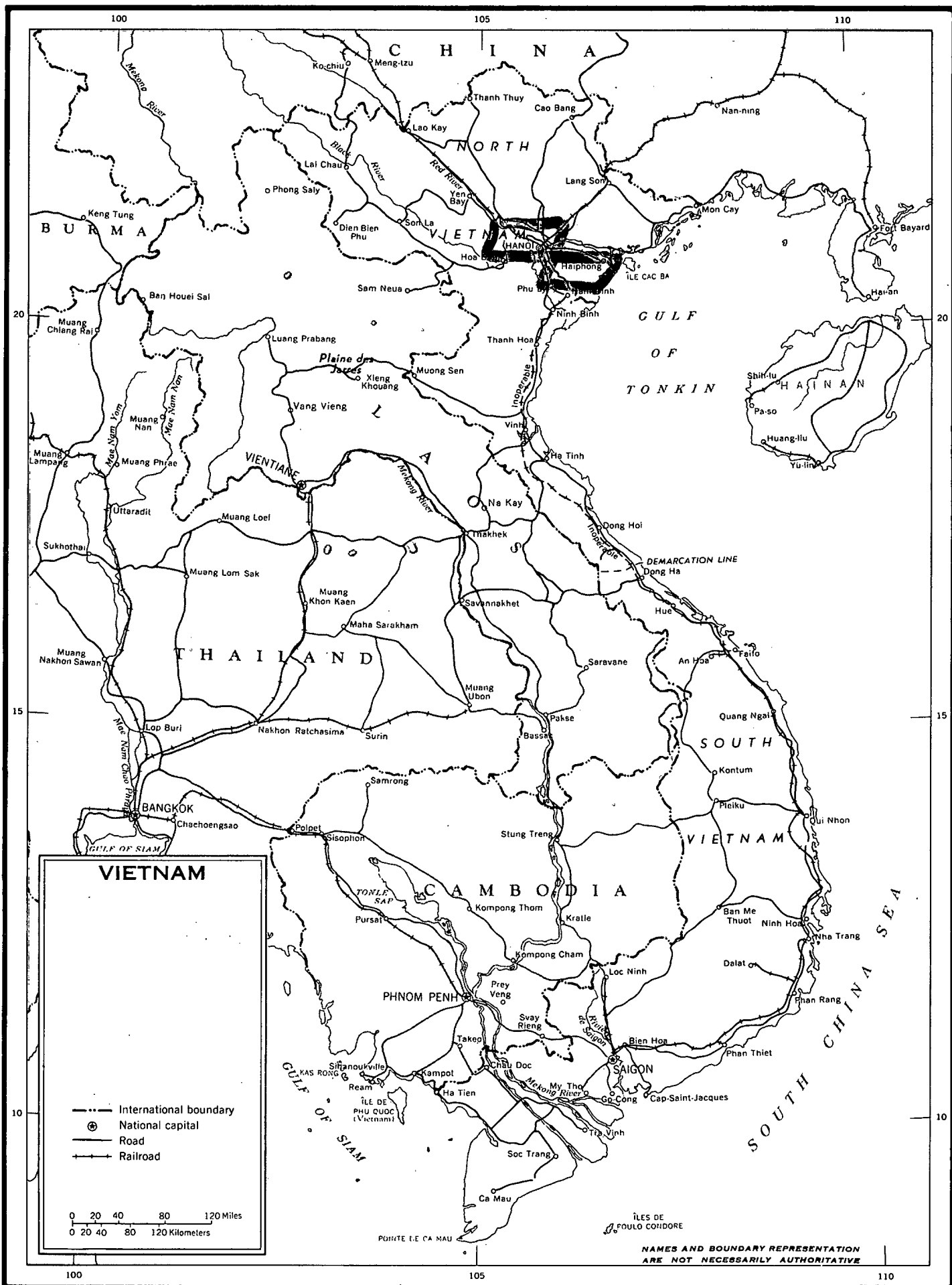
Outside the capital, the situation has remained generally calm. There are reports, however, of an underlying popular uncertainty as people in the interior towns wait to see how the political negotiations develop. There continue to be sporadic reports of Communist preparations for violence outside the capital, [redacted]

50X1

[redacted] and there have been no new rural attacks since early Saturday. 50X1

The Imbert regime is holding to the line that the rebels must surrender unconditionally. Its radiobroadcasts stress increasingly that no compromise can be made with Communists. Rebel president Colonel Caamano, on the radio this afternoon in an appeal designed to capitalize on popular aspirations, claimed that his goal was to guarantee the constitution of 1963. He promised that his group would not retreat because "it has the majority of the people behind it."

50X1



47238

DAILY BRIEF
24 MAY 1965

50X1

1. Vietnam

Soviet military equipment is continuing to arrive in North Vietnam.

High-altitude photography has confirmed the arrival of the three IL-28 bombers at Phuc Yen airfield near Hanoi. Communications intelligence has provided tentative indications that two more are on their way through China.

Photography has also disclosed a total of 63 MIG 15/17 jet fighters at Phuc Yen, six of them in the process of being assembled. The previous count was 57, with a possible four more at Cat Bi airfield near Haiphong.

2. South Vietnam

Premier Quat says that the long-delayed cabinet changes will be announced tomorrow. He also says that the decision has been made to replace General "Little" Minh as chief of the joint staff.

Quat told Ambassador Taylor that the principal generals had insisted on ousting Minh. He will be replaced by II Corps Commander, General Co. No date was mentioned, nor was anything said about Minh's future prospects.

The premier said that Chief of State Suu has approved the cabinet reshuffle. He complained, however, that Suu continues to insist on the need for national assembly elections, which Quat considers impractical at this time.

50X1

3. Argentina

Senior military officers are now [redacted] so dissatisfied with the Illia government that they are planning some form of military intervention.

50X1

[redacted] the decision to intervene has been made, but the timing has not been determined. Also undetermined is the form--possibly a military takeover or some "constitutional move," such as putting up a military candidate for election.

50X1

The dissatisfaction springs from several causes, the latest being the government's procrastination on sending troops to the Dominican Republic. Illia's delay in providing a badly wanted military pay raise is a particular irritant to the officers.

4. Colombia

Security forces are keeping a tight lid on throughout the country. Although the students and leftists had made plans for more demonstrations, they appear to be having second thoughts as a result of the government's strong stand during the past few days.

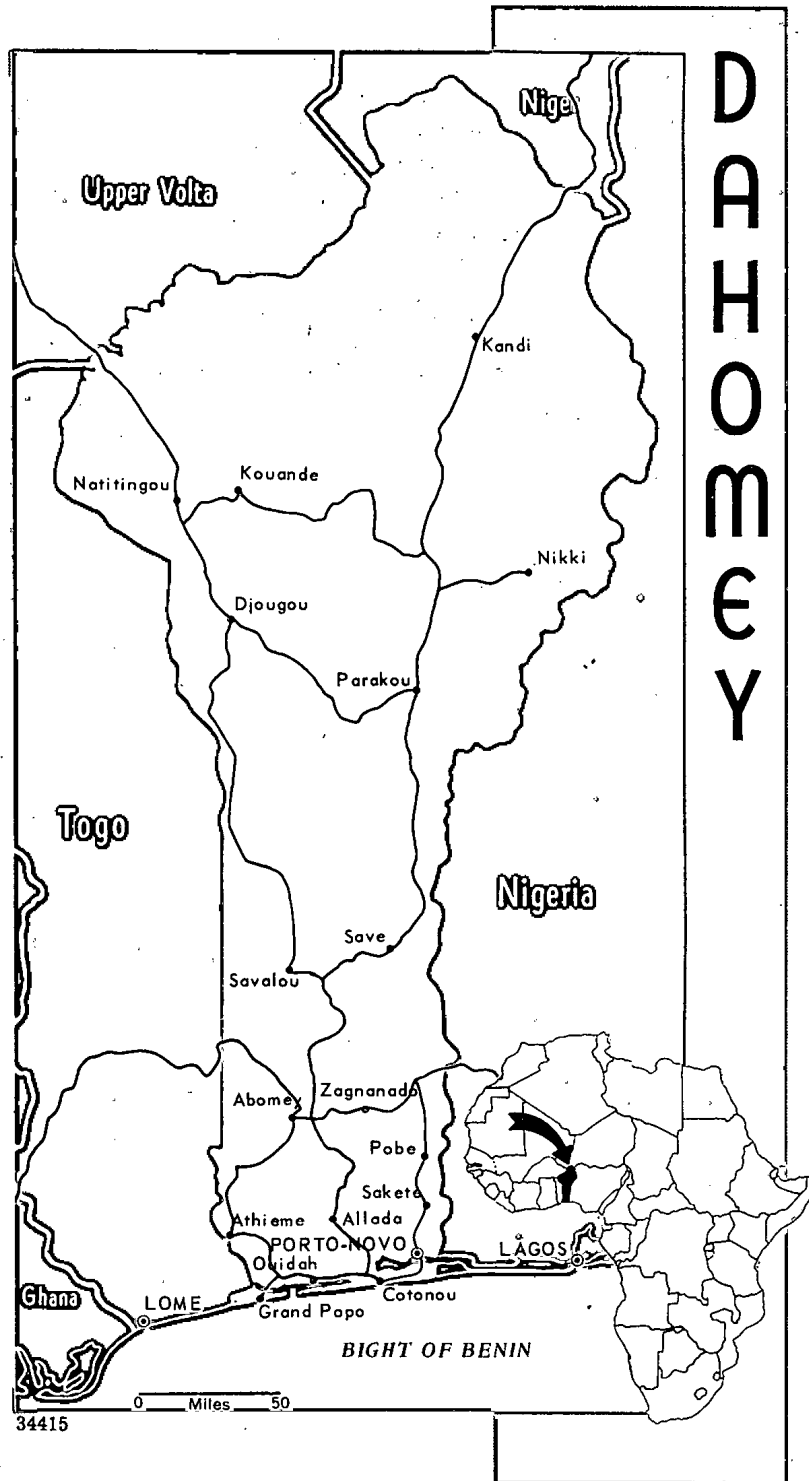
5. Bolivia

The military forces of the junta began yesterday to move into the tin mining complexes, and there have been some clashes with the armed miners' militia.

The junta's military intervention, designed to re-establish government control as a step toward economic rehabilitation, was originally planned for later this week. It was probably precipitated by provocative acts by the miners, such as the attempted ambush of junta president Barrientos on Saturday.

The junta seems confident of its ability to pull off the operation, and the morale of its forces will be bolstered by today's defeat of a heavily armed miners' militia unit holding a mine complex near La Paz. The next few days, however, will be crucial. An analysis is at Annex.

50X1

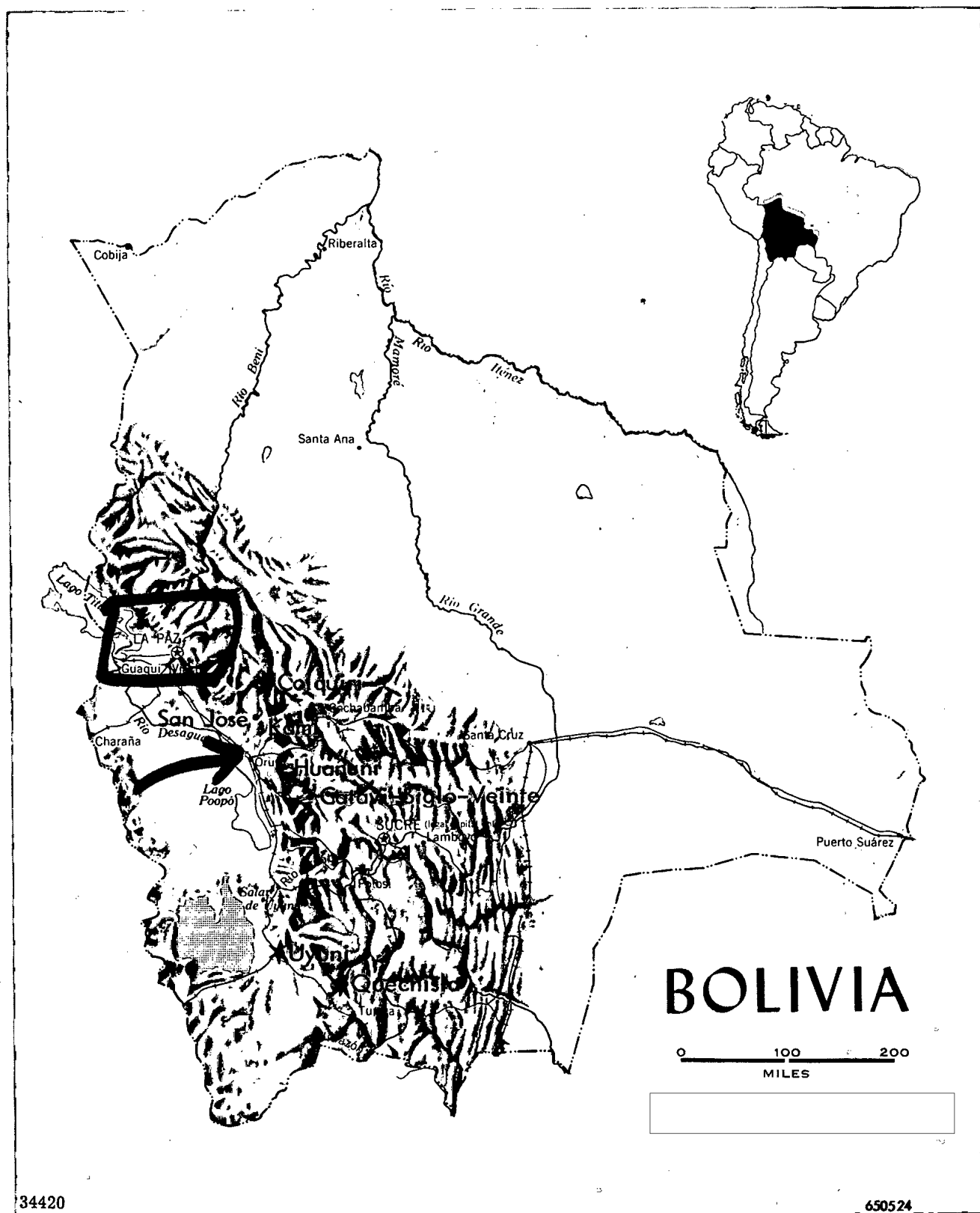


6. Dahomey

Premier Ahomadegbe's recent arrest of suspected plotters against his regime may soon bring things to a head.

50X1

50X1



50X1

ANNEX

The Situation in Bolivia

Since the 1952 revolution and subsequent nationalization of the mines, the 28,000 Bolivian tin miners, armed and controlled by extreme leftists, have had a hammerlock on operations at the mines. Such control, combined with years of poor management, falling tin prices, and the degradation of ore deposits, has resulted in lowered production and operation at a loss. This is critical for a country where tin exports have traditionally contributed between 55% and 70% of total export earnings.

The Triangular Plan, devised in 1961 by the US, West Germany, and the Inter-American Development Bank as a rescue operation to finance the rehabilitation of the tin-mining industry, was suspended in the summer of 1964. At that time it became apparent that the government of Paz Estenssoro was not going to establish civil authority in the mines. When the military junta under Barrientos took power last November, it announced its intent to undertake sweeping economic reforms.

This spring, junta leaders tried to arrange a boost in production through negotiations with the miners. They met with no success. Early this month they began at last to discuss a military intervention to clear the way for an implementation of reforms. A decree providing for increased labor discipline and more economical mining operations was also drafted. Originally, the plan was to issue the decree, and to follow it with military action only if necessary to enforce it.

On 15 May, the government arrested and exiled Juan Lechin Oquendo, the miners' leader. This produced a sharp reaction among the miners and led to the subsequent strikes and the present crisis. Violent action by the miners stimulated the government to start its military intervention before various contingency plans could be implemented.

ANNEX (Cont'd)

The junta gives every sign that it will stick to its guns and carry through with its plan to secure outlying areas and then to move into the main mine region near Oruro. Major mine areas have been declared military zones and so far one truce proposal-- to end the strike if the troops are called off-- has been rejected. However, a successful operation to assert control over the mines will require civil order throughout the rest of the country; the armed forces would be hard put to cope with a fight for the mines as well as urban disorders in La Paz and elsewhere. Some trouble was reported from La Paz today from students and factory workers.

So far the junta, in which Barrientos and military commander Ovando are rivals for power, has stuck together. It managed last week to keep order in La Paz and to restore a general strike situation. In addition to army units and the police, the junta can throw in armed peasant militia units. This combination may, with the initial success near La Paz, serve to discourage the miners from prolonged resistance.

The outcome of this struggle will have far-reaching significance for the country and government of Bolivia.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET