



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

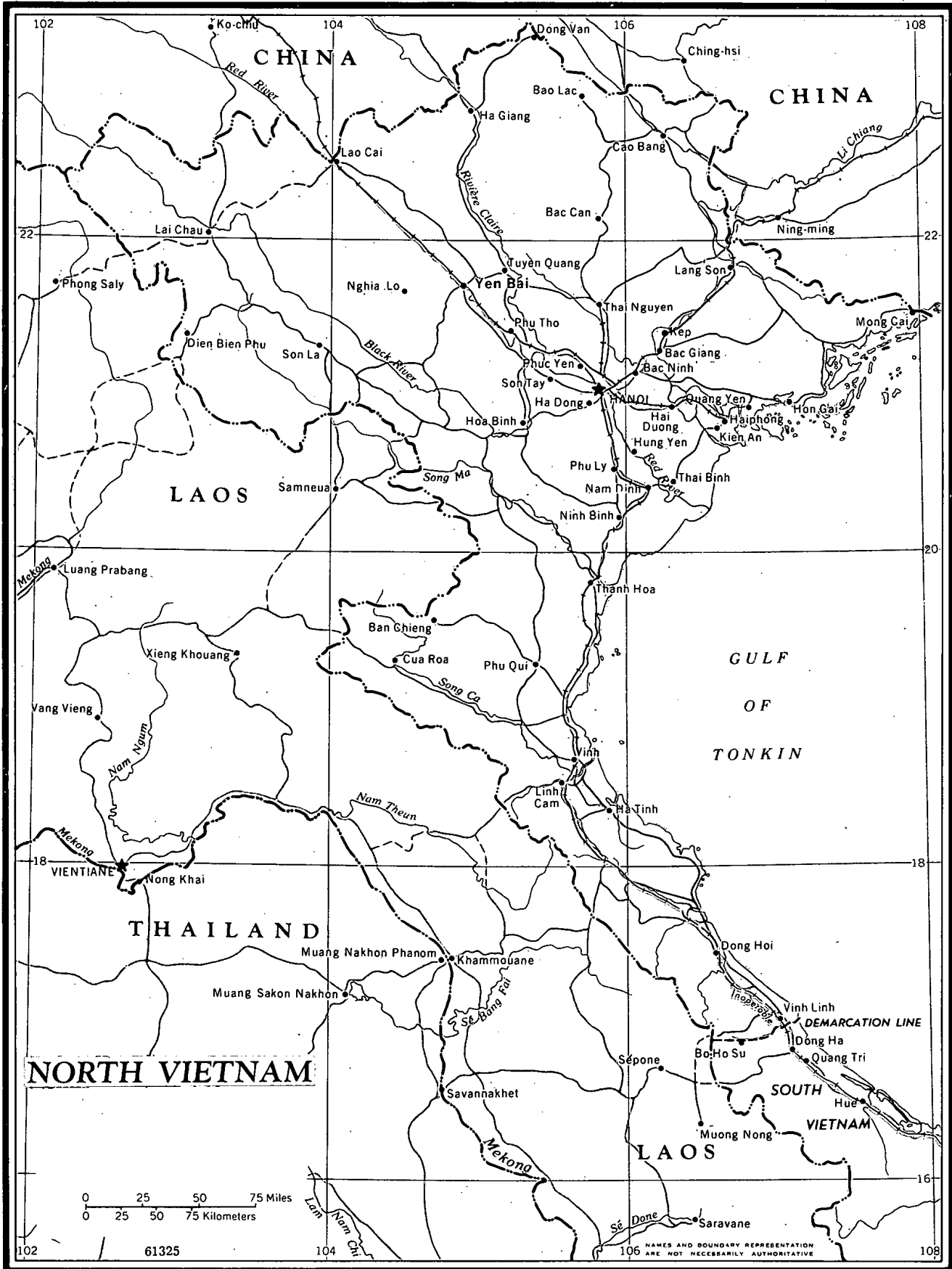


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4 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Vietnam

North Vietnamese fighters have been active against US strike aircraft for the past two days. Yesterday, there were no actual engagements, but today four MIG fighters unsuccessfully attacked a flight of US aircraft striking the Hanoi - Lao Cai railroad. We expect North Vietnamese fighters to become increasingly active, especially if US planes attack more important targets.

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2. Communist China

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3. Rhodesia

British Foreign Minister Stewart has called in the Portuguese ambassador and expressed concern that the Portuguese colonial authorities in Mozambique are in effect winking at activities which threaten a major break in the oil embargo against Rhodesia. There is no indication that the Portuguese intend to interfere.

4. Ghana

Some 250 Chinese Communists have been flown out of Ghana in the past two days, and the Chinese phase of the removal of Communist "experts" from Ghana seems virtually complete.

Large numbers of Soviets are still in the country awaiting transportation. Many of them may be moved out over the weekend. The Soviets, however, hope to salvage something from the situation. The Soviet ambassador has been talking softly to the new authorities. This is in contrast to the Chinese, who have sent loud protests over mistreatment of Chinese assigned there.

Meanwhile, seven delegations have left the meeting of the Organization of African Unity because of its failure to recognize Nkrumah's continued legitimacy.

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[Redacted] So far, at least 15 states have recognized the new regime in Ghana.

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5. Sudan

Many of the ingredients that might cause the Sudanese Army to seize power again are at hand. The delicately balanced coalition government has been largely inactive, and little progress is being made. On top of this the army has suffered heavily from the fighting against Negro rebels in southern Sudan which many officers feel is an aimless struggle benefiting only the politicians in Khartoum.

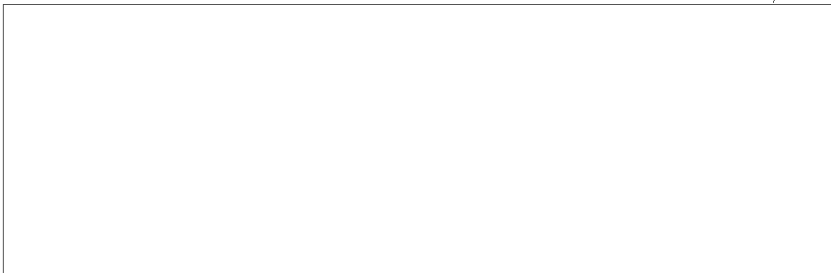
6. France

The elaborate stage play which De Gaulle is putting on before he sends out his letters on NATO seems designed to stimulate reactions which would help him transfer part of the onus for French withdrawal elsewhere.

Paris has also let it be known that harsh and abrupt treatment awaits those who refuse to enter into the bilateral defense talks favored by De Gaulle. As part of the pressure play, Paris has floated rumors that De Gaulle may propose a nonaggression pact with the Soviet Union when he goes to Moscow in June.

France has been progressively withdrawing its forces from NATO over the past seven years. Left now are two army divisions in Germany, five submarines, 16 air squadrons, and a clutch of officers assigned to NATO commands. De Gaulle would like to keep French troops in Germany, and, while a legal argument exists, there are signs that Bonn may take a stiff attitude.

7. Soviet Union



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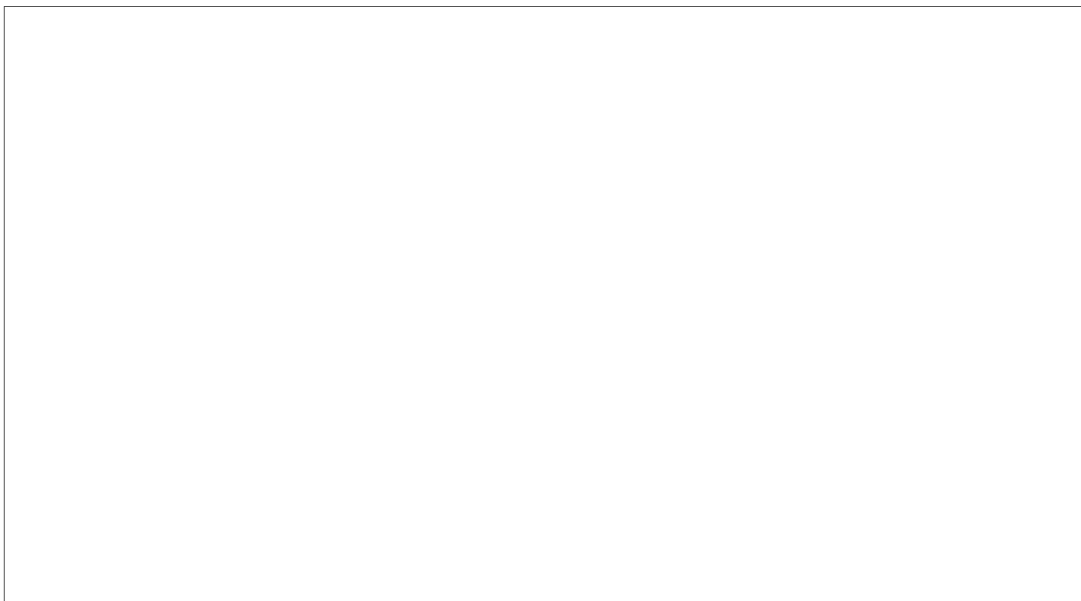
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