

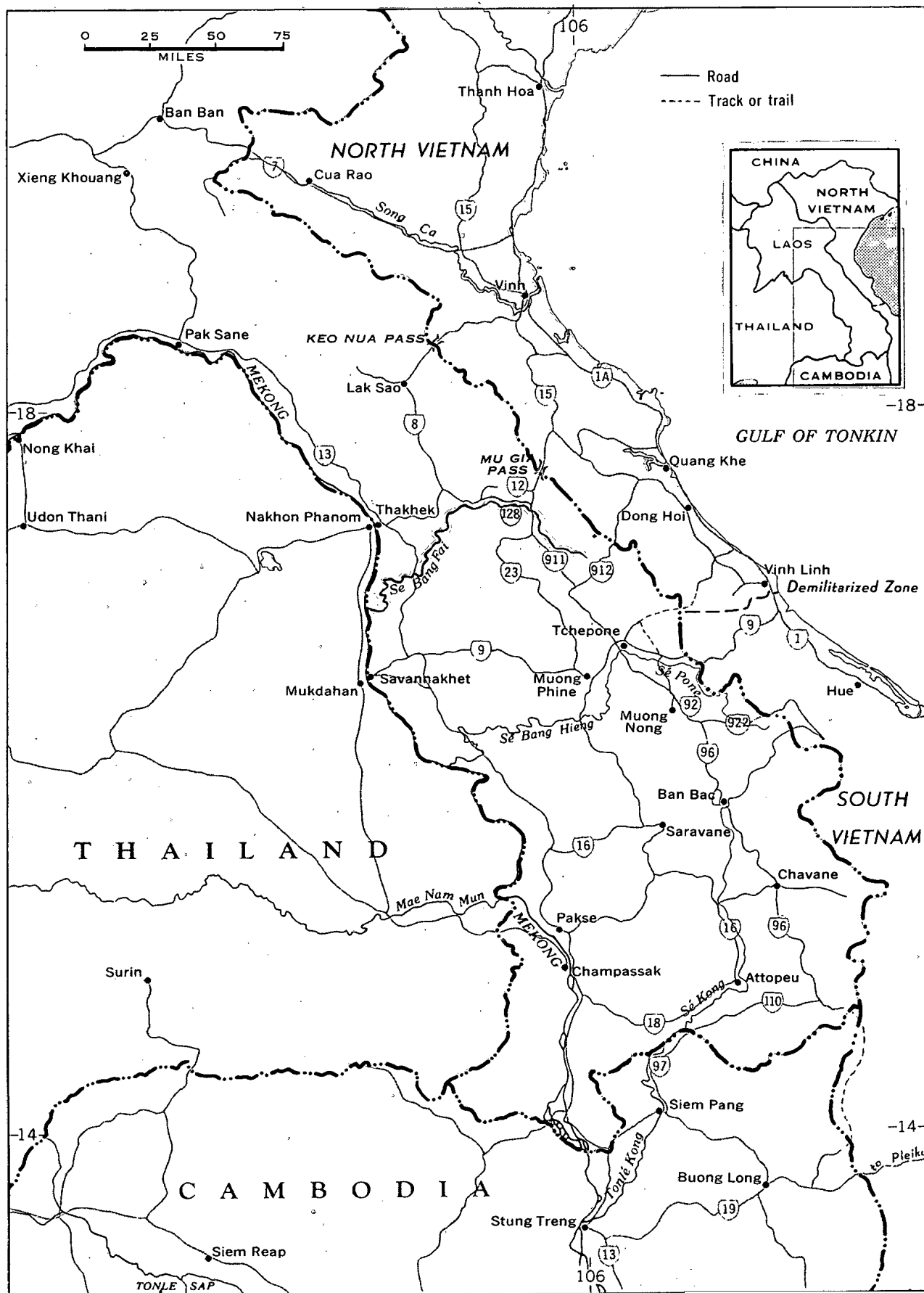
The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 August 1967



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LAOS PANHANDLE



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DAILY BRIEF
19 AUGUST 1967

1. North Vietnam

Hanoi seems to be pulling most of its trucks out of the Laotian pan-handle, presumably until the current rainy season ends sometime in October. Since early July, our roadwatch team near the Mu Gia Pass (see map) has seen nearly 50 trucks a day going in to North Vietnam. None have been reported heading south since 18 July. Farther south, a few trucks have been seen moving both ways, indicating that at least a trickle of supplies continues to pass through Laos.

2. Jordan

The US Embassy in Amman is cautiously optimistic over King Husayn's chances of surviving at least to the end of this year.

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3. Greece

Officials in the Greek security service are getting jumpy over what they see as growing resistance activity against the military regime. They fear it may become more serious after the schools open next month.

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4. Dominican Republic

Juan Bosch has withdrawn his resignation as "senior adviser" to his Dominican Revolutionary Party. Though still in self-imposed exile in Spain, he continues influential in party affairs. His return to his post coincides with a new drive by party radicals to win the upper hand over more moderate leaders. The squabbling continues, but the radicals in the party are now on top again.

5. Uruguay

The economic and political mess looks more and more hopeless. President Gestido is said to be deeply discouraged; important cabinet ministers say they cannot see any way out. Talk is being heard in Montevideo now of the need for some kind of unconstitutional "solution." It probably has not come to this point yet, but it soon may unless the president takes hold and stops his government's aimless drifting.

6. France

De Gaulle is getting ready to formalize his country's withdrawal from the South East Asia Treaty Organization

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Actually, this will not make much difference--Paris has played only a minimal role in the organization since 1965. The move would presumably be aimed at improving France's credentials as a potential mediator of the Vietnamese war.

7. Vietnam

H. Rap Brown jumped the gun yesterday when he announced that Stokely Carmichael was then arriving in Hanoi.

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8. Nigeria

The civil war drags on with no end in sight. The federal Nigerian government presented London this week with a whopping list of military hardware it wants to buy. Thus the British are now faced with a decision they had hoped to avoid.

London has been sending Lagos limited "defensive" shipments which it hoped would prevent intensification of the fighting. Now it will have to decide quickly whether to relax this policy or to cut off arms sales altogether.

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9. Congo

Mobutu's young militants are straining at the leash again, threatening new and wider scale antiwhite demonstrations unless Schramme and his mercenaries quickly capitulate. Mobutu is trying to hold them back, but is under heavy pressure.

The Belgian ambassador in Kinshasa is so desperate that he is asking Brussels for authorization to offer Belgian troops to fight against Schramme. This would be hard for Mobutu to take even if Brussels could be persuaded to make the offer.

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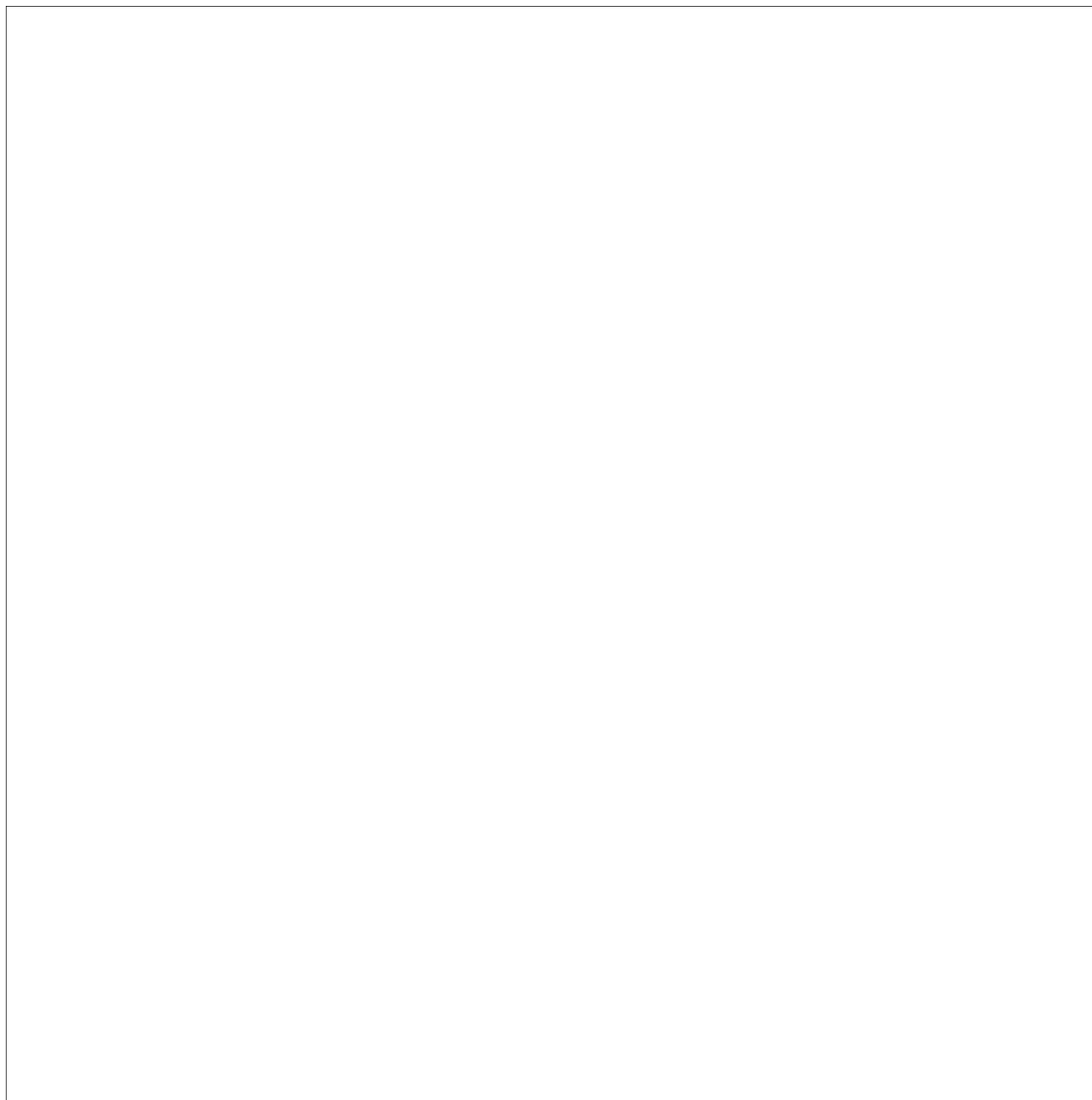


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