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27 August 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

*South Vietnam: Troops remain in control of strategic points in major towns, although the government appears eager to restore an appearance of normality.

There has been some easing of curfew restrictions in Saigon and Hue. Statements of support for the government's moves by Ngo Dinh Nhu's Republican Youth movement, by "patriotic" Buddhists, and by other progovernment groups are being circulated.

Viet Cong activity remains at a generally low level. A battalion-strength attack in northern South Vietnam that occurred on 21 August, the first large-scale attack in this region since last fall, probably was unrelated to the Buddhist situation.

Viet Cong actions on this scale are usually planned well in advance. Two Viet Cong battalions are normally located in the attack area.

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NOTES

Laos: Phoumi Vongvichit, Pathet Lao Minister of Information in the coalition government, has returned to Vientiane after an absence of four months, claiming "full powers" to negotiate for Prince Souphannouvong, the Pathet Lao leader. There is no information on what proposals the Pathet Lao may be about to put forward. However, Vongvichit's return to the capital suggests that the Pathet Lao may at least temporarily be shifting emphasis from military pressure to political maneuvering.

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Haiti: Friction is increasing between the Haitian Armed Forces (FAd'H), and the civil militia (VSN) which was created by Duvalier in 1958 to offset the power of the FAd'H. The present hostility between the two groups apparently stems from the VSN's poor showing against a handful of terrorists in the Kenscoff area last July and its more recent ineffectual action against the rebels in the northeast. This growing friction could ultimately weaken Duvalier's regime.

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British Guiana:

allegations by a member of the government that documents distributed in the US by an opposition United Force (UF) senator are forgeries. The documents purported to prove fund transfers from Moscow to Jagan's People's Progressive Party through Barclay's Bank. The UF has been the most active opposition group recently, but publicity given this matter in British Guiana is likely to undermine the increasing influence and respect it appeared to be gaining.

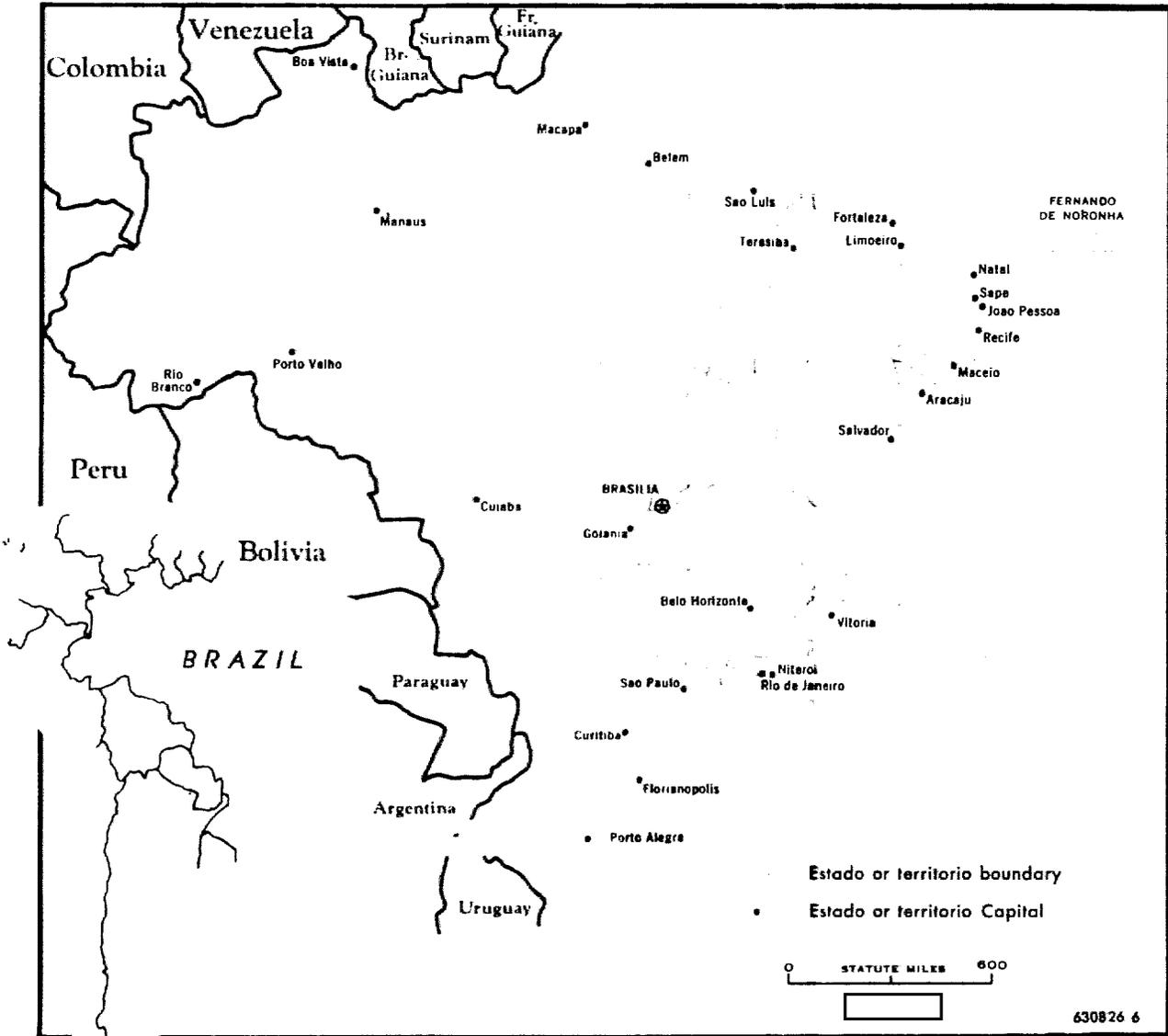
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BRAZIL



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Brazil: Communist-controlled unions in PETROBRAS, the Brazilian Government's oil enterprise, reportedly plan to strike soon throughout Bahia State in hopes of sparking a nationwide strike. The Communists' main objective apparently is to bring pressure on the Goulart government to expropriate all privately owned oil refineries in Brazil. US and other private investment in the Brazilian oil industry is limited largely to distributing activities--exploration and refining being carried on almost exclusively by PETROBRAS.

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West Germany: (The government is considering a request from the Ruhr steel industry for an immediate increase in tariffs on steel from countries not members of the European Coal and Steel Community from 6-8 percent to 10-12 percent. In sounding out the opinion of the US Embassy in Bonn, Under Secretary Westrick in the German Economics Ministry acknowledged that the proposed move might hurt the forthcoming Kennedy Round tariffs talks and said Bonn "hoped" to minimize the damage by making the tariff increase only temporary. The government's willingness to consider this move apparently reflects the failure of recent efforts to stem the flow of low-priced steel into the German market by means of informal agreements between the Coal-Steel Community and Britain, Japan, and Austria.)

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