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9 February 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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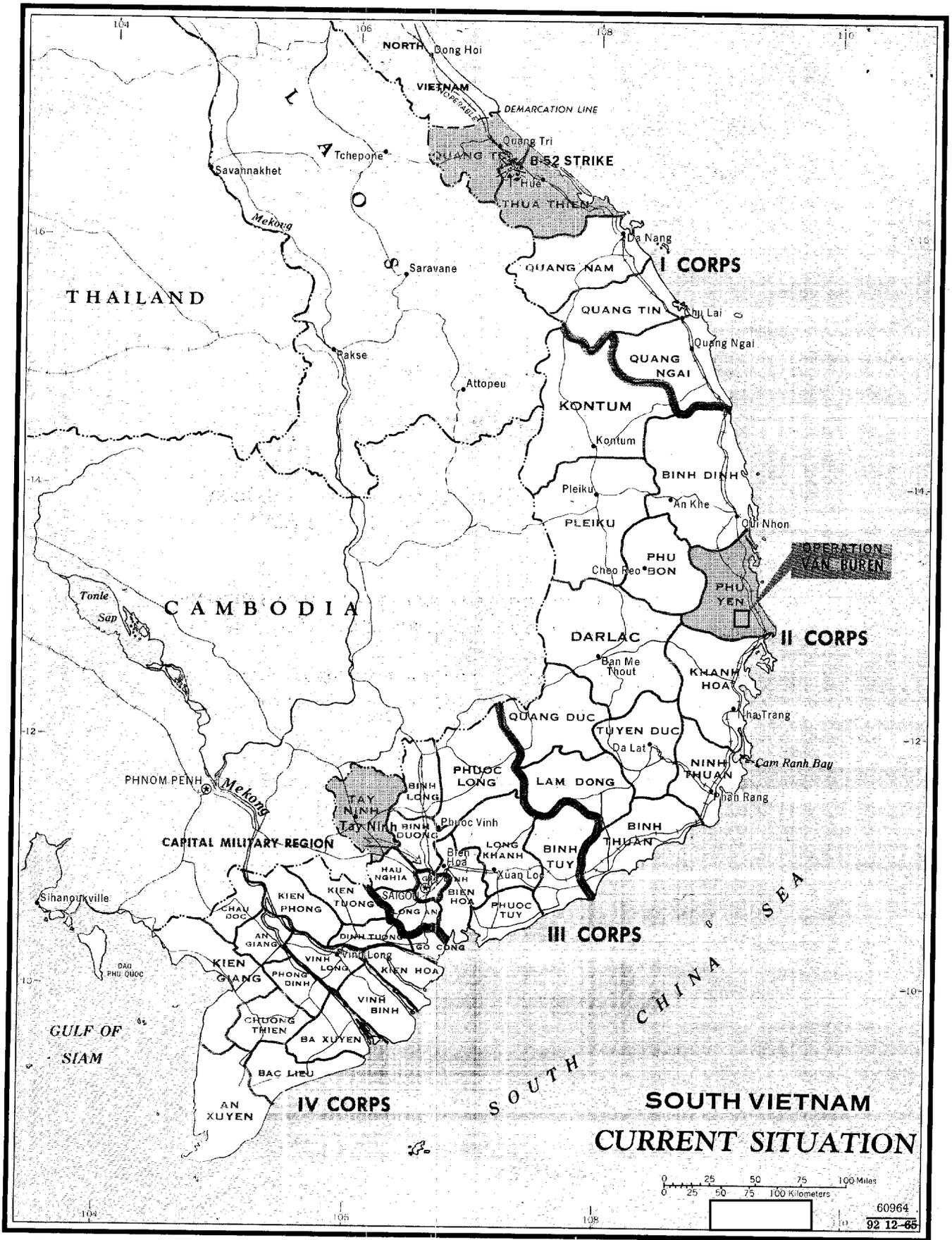
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: There have been no reports during the past 24 hours of significant enemy contact in major allied operations under way in South Vietnam.

However, local South Vietnamese soldiers operating yesterday about 12 miles south of the capital of Tay Ninh Province were attacked by a Viet Cong force of unknown size. A paramilitary relief force sent to the scene was also ambushed while enroute. Resulting government casualties totaled 39 killed, six wounded, and 30 missing. Enemy losses were unknown.

On the previous day, elements of the US 101st Airborne Division participating in Operation VAN BUREN established contact with a reinforced company of Viet Cong, and killed 58 during the ensuing fire fight. VAN BUREN has been providing security for the harvesting of rice in Phu Yen Province during the past two weeks. It has resulted in cumulative enemy losses of 584 killed and 47 captured; allied casualties are 80 killed (40 US) and 266 wounded (169 US). More than 15,000 tons of rice have been harvested thus far.

Further north near the Quang Tri - Thua Thien border, two South Vietnamese army battalions searching a target area bombed earlier by B-52 Stratofortresses clashed with an unknown number of Viet Cong on 7 February. Government casualties were 12 killed (1 US) and 31 wounded (2 US); enemy losses totaled 15 killed.

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Nigeria: [General Ironsi's regime may be moving to round up all the younger officers who sparked the coup on 15 January.]

[A British police official serving with the Nigerian police force has told the US Consul in Kaduna, capital of the important Northern Region, that two such army officers were arrested in Kaduna on 5 February. One of them was described as the "right-hand man" of Major Nzeogwu, the coup leader in the north, and the other as the killer of former federal prime minister Balewa. Several other apparent key leaders of the coup, including Nzeogwu himself, were reported earlier to have been placed under detention in Lagos.]

[The British official indicated that, in order to strengthen Ironsi's hand, the military government had decided to "close in" on coup activists still at large. He said about six officers in Enugu, the capital of the Eastern Region, are also slated to be taken into custody.]

[Although Nzeogwu stated publicly a few days after the coup that it was organized by only five middle-ranking officers,

[redacted] Ironsi has been under conflicting pressures with respect to the treatment of these officers, who are regarded as heroes by much of the public and by significant elements of the army. A decision by Ironsi and his close associates to remove more of these restive younger officers from circulation would presumably reflect a desire to forestall possible further initiatives by them as well as to restore basic army discipline.]

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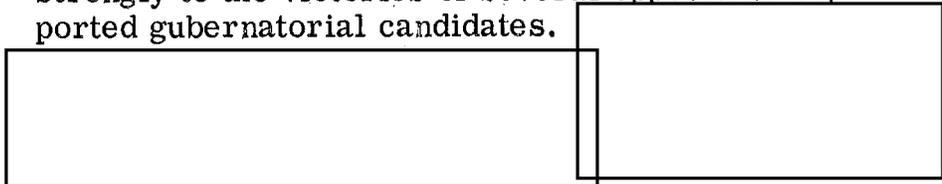
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Brazil: Provisions in Brazil's "Third Institutional Act" issued on 5 February appear to favor pro-government candidates in coming national and state elections.

By setting the date for congressional elections on 15 November, six weeks after the president is chosen on 3 October, the act ensures that President Castello Branco's successor will be elected by the present congress. This improves the prospects of whoever becomes the regime's candidate, since the pro-government National Renewal Alliance holds a majority of seats in the current chamber of deputies.

The act provides that public officials now in office who wish to run in the fall elections need not resign until three months before election day. This reduction in the former six-month deadline allows War Minister Costa e Silva, a strong presidential contender, to remain in the cabinet until early July. A reduction from four to two years in the domicile requirement for state office will increase the number of gubernatorial candidates from among the military commanders who support Castello Branco's revolution.

The Institutional Act sets 3 September as the date for gubernatorial elections in 11 of the 22 states, with the voting to be by the state legislatures rather than by popular ballot. The main reason for this change is probably to prevent a recurrence of an unsettled political period such as developed last fall. At that time hard-line military officers reacted strongly to the victories of several opposition-supported gubernatorial candidates.

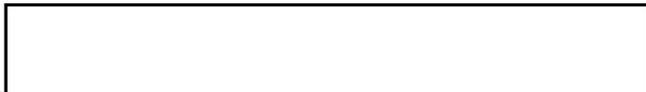


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*Dominican Republic: [Despite optimistic statements by Garcia Godoy and Defense Minister Rivera, the latter's exact departure date is not yet certain.]

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[According to the US deputy commander of the Inter-American Peace Force, Garcia Godoy plans to appoint army Colonel Perez y Perez as defense minister sometime today.]

[Significantly, Rivera seems to be moderating some of the demands he has been making on the President. For example, he now would be satisfied with the demilitarization of the rebel military camp rather than its complete disbandment.]

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[Rivera's optimism may in part be the result of an apparent lack of candor by the President. According to Rivera, Garcia Godoy said he was ready to guarantee that no further changes in the high command would take place before the elections. Earlier in the day, however, the President made it clear to Ambassador Bunker that he could only promise this as long as the chiefs were "obedient and politically impartial."]

[Garcia Godoy now appears to have committed himself reluctantly not to remove the service chiefs along with Rivera. The President is probably right in estimating that this will only bring on further trouble, since it fails to meet built-up anticipations by the left that the solution to the present impasse would be more encompassing, and would include the assignment abroad of all those regular military officers listed in Garcia Godoy's 6 January decree. After much negotiation the last of the rebel officers listed in this decree--including Colonel Caamano--left for their overseas assignments on 22 January.]

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Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State or of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

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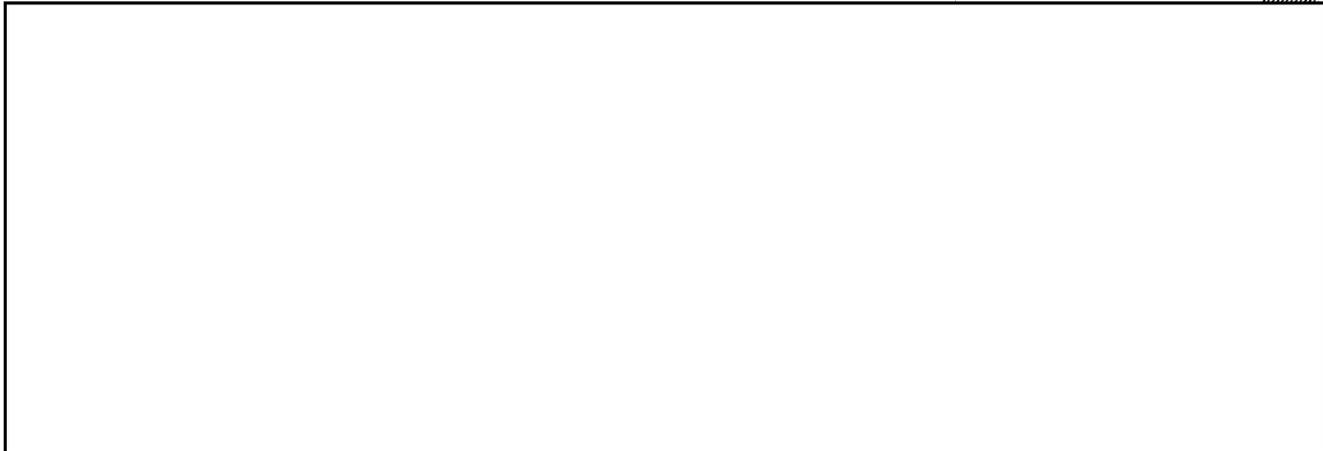
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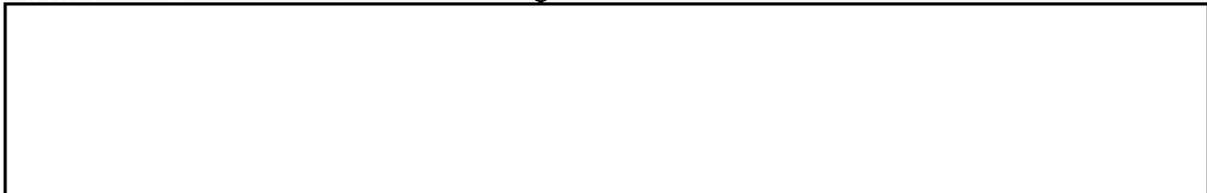
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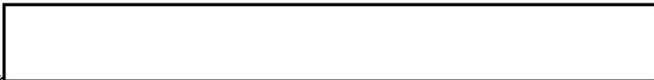
India: Antigovernment agitation by students in Kerala State appears to be subsiding. The rioting has centered less on over-all food shortages in the state than on New Delhi's reduction of the rice ration for Kerala's preponderantly rice-eating populace. The Gandhi government has partially restored the rice cut and is delivering emergency rice supplies from elsewhere in India. Nevertheless, leftist opposition elements in Kerala can be expected to continue their efforts to discredit New Delhi's administration of the state between now and the 1967 general elections.

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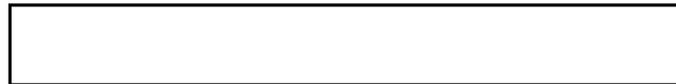
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