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Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)

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Dominican Republic: Potential disorders



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

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The Constituent Assembly has adjourned for the Tet holiday and will resume debate on the draft constitution on 14 February. The assembly has not begun to debate sections dealing with the authority of the future legislature.

The Armed Forces Council--the theoretical seat of the government--recently met in Saigon. According to Premier Ky, he and Chief of State Thieu spoke to the council on the importance of improving the quality of the South Vietnamese Army in relation to its role in the Revolutionary Development program. Ky and Thieu also reported on progress being made in the drafting of the constitution.

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: No major contact has been reported during the past 24 hours by any of the 32 battalion-size or larger allied/South Vietnamese search-and-destroy operations currently in progress.

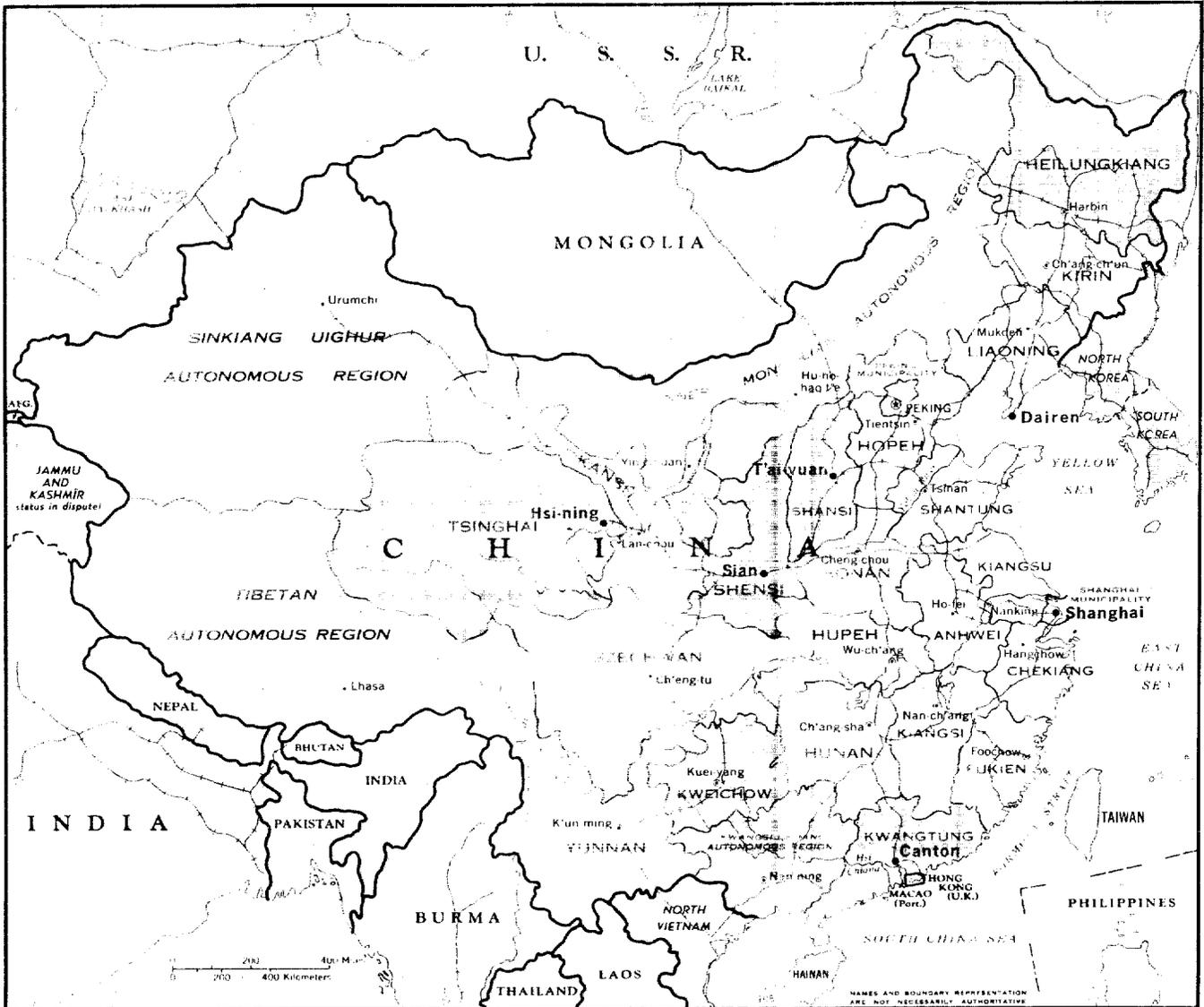
The intensity of pre-Tet Viet Cong - initiated activity has increased. Early today the English army airfield in coastal Binh Dinh Province was struck by automatic weapons fire and nearly 60 rounds of Viet Cong mortar fire. Friendly casualties during the two and a half hour attack were reported as one killed (US) and 59 wounded (53 US). Three helicopters were damaged and a 10,000-gallon fuel storage tank was hit, but did not burn.

Yesterday, approximately 30 rounds of mortar fire struck the Binh Thuy airfield in the Mekong Delta province of Sa Dec causing damage to nine aircraft. There were no casualties. A nearby hamlet was also shelled at the same time; no casualties have yet been reported. [REDACTED]

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Dominican Republic: President Balaguer expects disorder on 9 February when Communist student groups plan a march on the national palace. The march will commemorate the shooting of three students by the national police during a demonstration on the same date last year. So far the march does not have significant non-Communist support. There is a possibility, however, that ill-disciplined police will overreact to extremist provocations.

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