

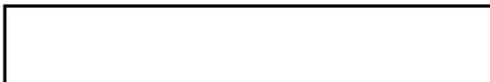


DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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AGENCY ARCHIVES, [Redacted] 20 June 1967

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Approved For Release 2003/04/18 : CIA-RDP79T00975A010000170001-1

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*Soviet Union - UN: [Kosygin's speech at the General Assembly yesterday was a severe attack on Israel, but otherwise was generally moderate.]

[Kosygin made it clear that the chief Soviet aim is to force Israel to hand back captured Arab territory, although his draft resolution is considerably broader. The Soviets would presumably be willing to sacrifice a condemnation of Israel and a demand for restitution to the Arabs, if they could achieve a simple withdrawal resolution to be implemented by the Security Council. Kosygin obviously does not view the General Assembly session as the place to bring forward constructive proposals dealing with the overall Middle East situation; he nowhere dealt with the question of direct Arab-Israeli talks or of access to the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba.]

[Although American policy was portrayed as flouting the objectives of the UN--in contrast to Soviet policy--Kosygin's references to the US role in the Middle East were on the whole temperate and unprovocative. He merely charged that certain imperialist actions "might have been interpreted by Israeli extremists" as encouragement to commit acts of aggression, and never so much as hinted at direct US intervention in the hostilities. A general reference to the undesirability of arms races--a problem raised by President Johnson earlier in the day--might have been intended to keep the door open for private talks with the US.]

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*USSR: The Party Central Committee will reportedly meet today in Moscow, probably for the purpose of giving added punch to Premier Kosygin's efforts at the UN.

Press reports from Moscow state that the meeting will center on the Middle East question. Such a meeting could be counted on to issue a ringing endorsement of the resolution Kosygin offered yesterday in the General Assembly. Individual speeches, however, could be used to sharpen the attack on Israel and to reiterate the Soviet support for the Arab nations.

A central committee meeting at this time would also serve to underscore the primacy of the party and General Secretary Brezhnev in the formulation of foreign policy. At least in public, Brezhnev has thus far taken a back seat to Kosygin in the current crisis. A plenum, at which Brezhnev would be the dominant figure, would provide the party chief with an excellent forum in which to redress the balance.

Some reports suggest "internal questions" will also come up at the meeting. This could be a reference to the anticipated release from the central committee secretariat of Yury Andropov who was appointed last month to the top post in the Committee for State Security (KGB).

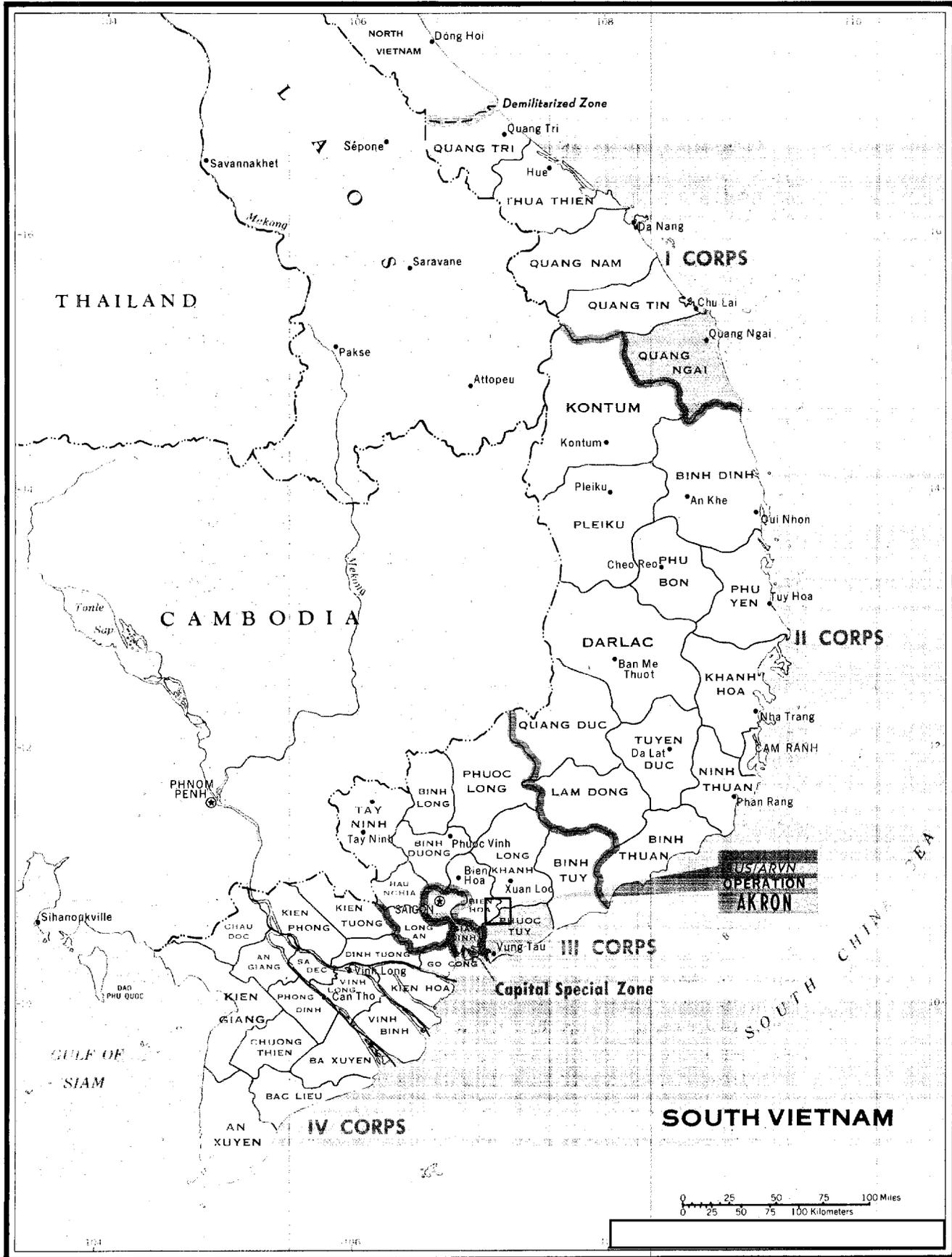


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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: The recent intensification of ground fighting continues amid indications of stepped-up North Vietnamese infiltration of reinforcements for Communist units in the south.

Two major engagements erupted in the past two days between US and Viet Cong forces within a 30-mile radius of Saigon. In one action, five companies of the US 9th Infantry Division established heavy contact on 19 June with a Communist force of undetermined strength during an amphibious operation along the inland waterways of Gia Dinh Province, some ten miles southeast of Saigon. Preliminary casualty reports indicate that 30 enemy troops were killed against US losses of 21 killed and 67 wounded.

On the previous day, 30 miles east-southeast of Saigon, battalion-sized elements of the 274th Viet Cong Regiment/5th Viet Cong Division lost 45 killed during an abortive attack against units of the US 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Phuoc Tuy Province. The armored units, which sustained casualties of eight killed and 31 wounded, are part of a four-battalion US/ARVN task force committed to Operation AKRON, which is aimed at clearing elements of the 5th Viet Cong Division and local guerrilla forces from an important Communist base area in southeastern III Corps.

[Evidence continues to mount that North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops are infiltrating into South Vietnam in increasing numbers as "filler groups" for existing Communist formations. Recent interrogation of two NVA captives has revealed that their infiltration unit--the 260th Battalion--entered South Vietnam in March 1967 to reinforce elements of the 3rd NVA Division operating in Quang Ngai Province. According to one of the captives, the 260th Battalion was subordinate to a training regiment in North Vietnam and was the first of six battalions scheduled to infiltrate south at the rate of one every two months.

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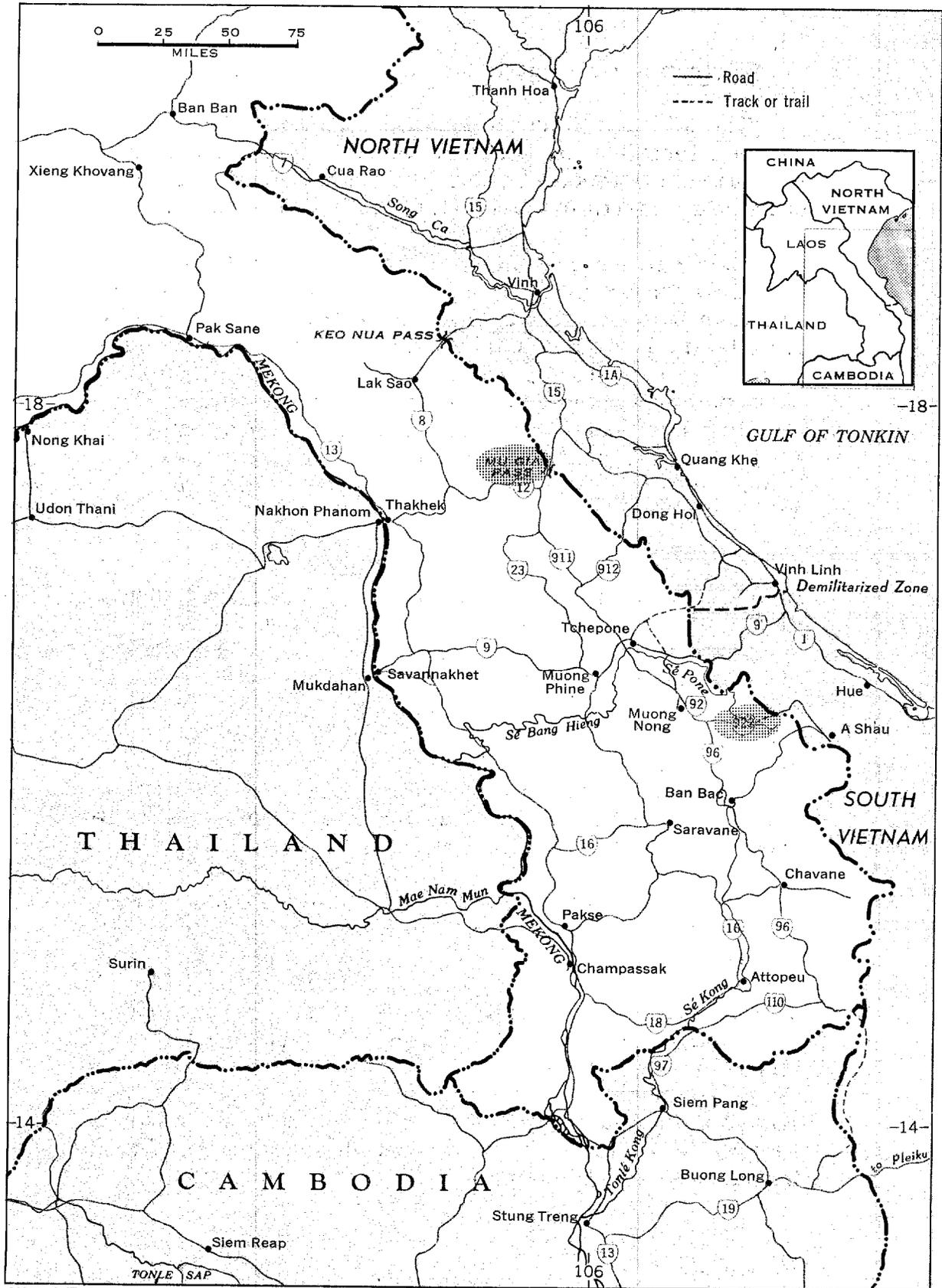
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LAOS PANHANDLE



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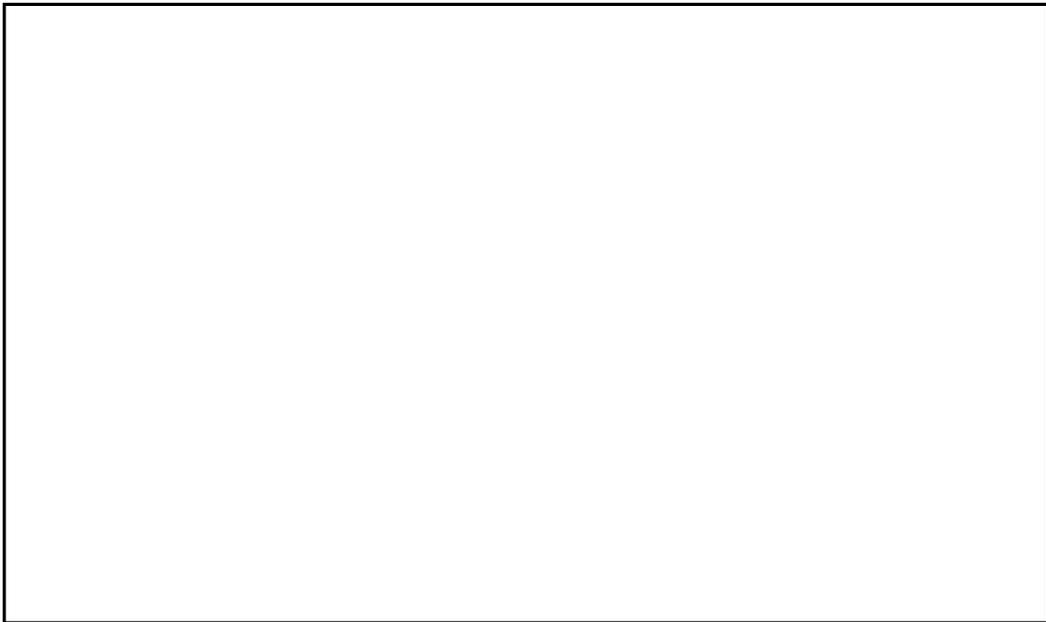
20 Jun 67 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

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[redacted] NVA replacements have arrived this spring to reinforce major Viet Cong/NVA formations elsewhere in South Vietnam, including those in the northernmost and central portions of I Corps, the highlands and coastal regions of II Corps, and the area of III Corps north of Saigon. (Map)



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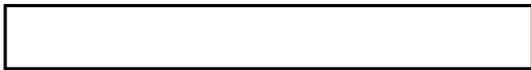
Truck Traffic Through Laos: Accumulated evidence indicates that the Communists have made more extensive efforts this year to prolong the use of Laotian infiltration routes during the rainy season than during any previous year.

While Communist trucking has declined with the onset of the rainy season to about five per day through Mu Gia Pass and to one or two per day further south in the Laos panhandle during the past three weeks, intense work is still under way to keep key sections of the Laos panhandle roadnet--including the Route 922 extension into South Vietnam's A Shau Valley--trafficable as long as possible.

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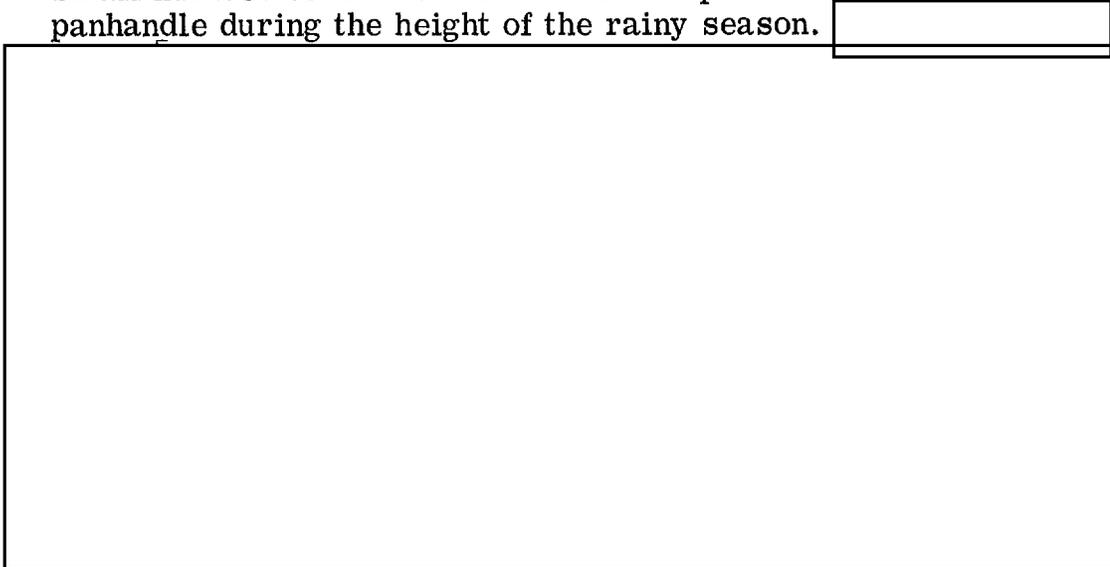
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It is unlikely, nevertheless, that more than a small number of trucks will be able to operate in the panhandle during the height of the rainy season.

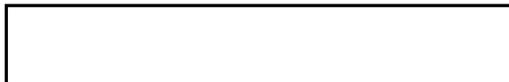
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