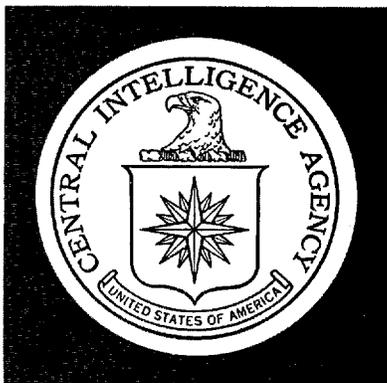


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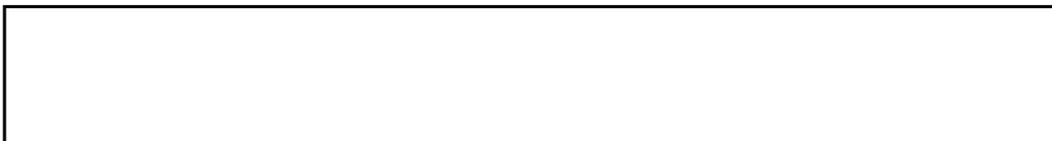
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South Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)

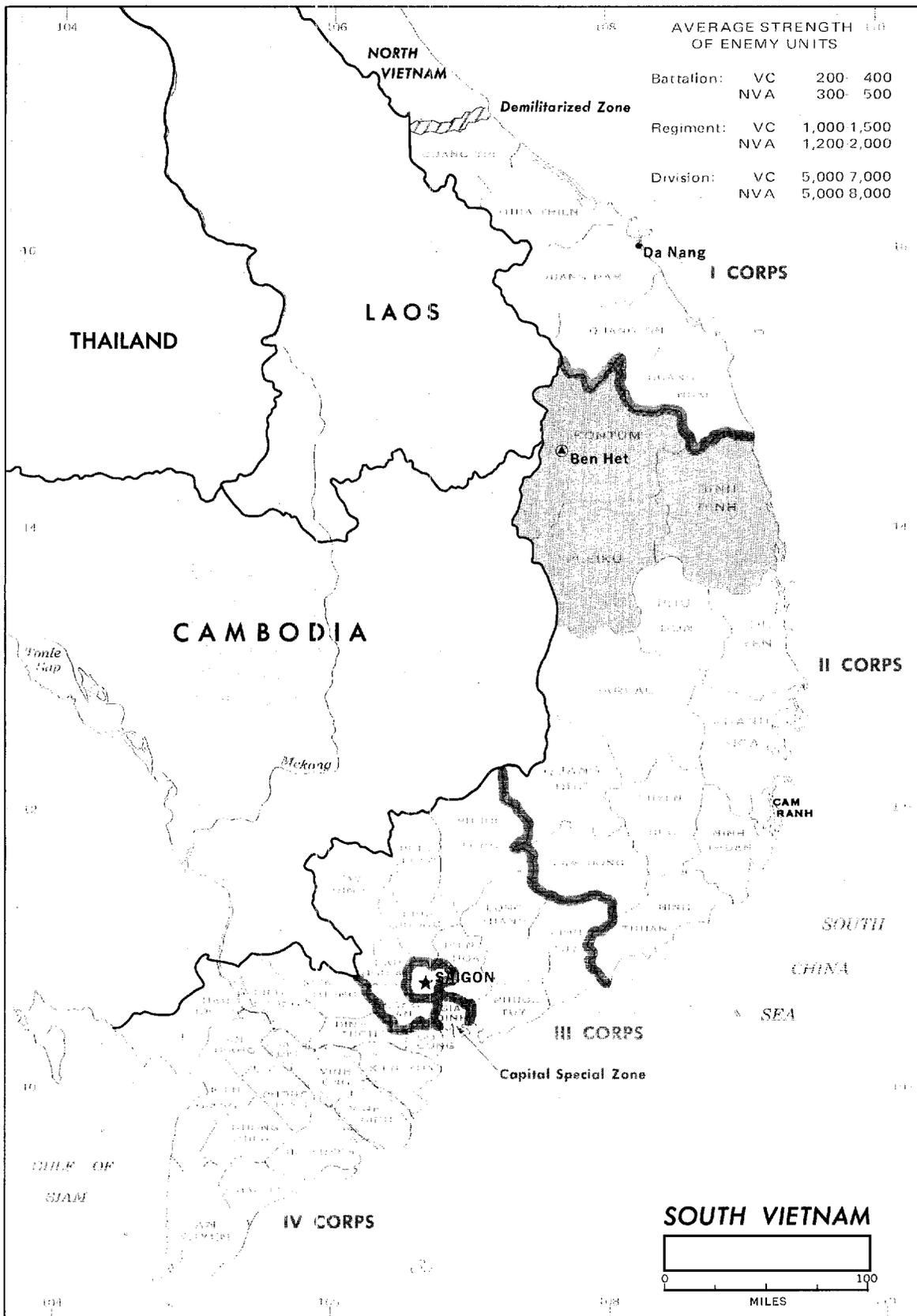
Laos: Government pressing deeper into enemy territory but signs indicate a new Communist offensive. (Page 3)



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South Vietnam: Ground action was light over the weekend in all corps areas.

In the northern provinces in two battles southwest of Da Nang and near the Demilitarized Zone, allied troops killed 25 Communists with little loss to themselves. In III Corps allied forces on sweep operations fought three sharp skirmishes with the enemy in an area from 30 to 50 miles northwest of Saigon, killing 52 Communists.

Little action of any consequence was reported elsewhere in the country but signs of enemy battle preparations continue to be observed. A defector [redacted] says that two North Vietnamese regiments will soon attack the Ben Het Special Forces camp along the Cambodian border. Other reports of impending attacks in Binh Dinh and Pleiku provinces raise the possibility that the Communists will mount a series of attacks throughout much of II Corps in the near future. [redacted]

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Laos: The government continues to make gains south of the Plaine des Jarres but there are fresh signs that the Communists intend to go on the offensive once again.

Government guerrilla forces now have moved into the former Pathet Lao stronghold of Xieng Khouangville, and in a related operation have driven the enemy from the Muong Ngan area to the east, capturing large amounts of supplies. The government's counteroffensive was originally designed to force the Communists to divert troops to protect their rear areas--an objective which has failed to materialize. The ease with which the enemy positions have fallen, however, has led Meo leader Vang Pao to change his objective and to commit additional troops in order to hold ground already captured and to press deeper into enemy territory.

There now is a danger that Vang Pao may be overextending his thinly-stretched guerrilla troops. There are large numbers of North Vietnamese troops who have not yet been committed to the fighting.

A buildup of North Vietnamese is also under way north of the Plaine des Jarres. [redacted]

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[redacted] as many as five Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese battalions--including the 148th Regiment of the North Vietnamese Army 316th Division--are being moved into position for an all-out assault on the government outposts at Bouam Long and Phu Cum. [redacted]

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[redacted] the North Vietnamese hope to take these positions in order to prevent government guerrillas from using them as a base for moving back into Samneua Province during the rainy season. [redacted]

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[redacted]

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