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THAI COMMUNIST INSURGENTS INCREASE ACTIVITY

Communist guerrilla operations, which have been moderate so far this dry season, are on the increase. The major threat remains in the remote north and north-central provinces, where a force of some 1,600 insurgents continues to erode the government's positions along the Lao border. The security situation is especially bad in portions of Nan and Chiang Rai provinces, where guerrillas have harassed several army outposts, forcing the evacuation of at least one.

Bangkok has sought to ease guerrilla pressure by the heavy use of air and artillery strikes. An army sweep operation last month into an insurgent stronghold near the Lao border in eastern Nan Province met with disastrous results, however. The guerrillas shot down two government helicopters besides managing to overrun several government base camps and inflicting a number of casualties on Thai regulars. The operation was sparked by a growing number of reports that the insurgents were trying to seize and administer whole villages in this region.

The security situation is more favorable in the northeast, where the Communists are still on the defensive. The enemy's much-heralded dry-season offensive has not materialized, a development that may further under-

mine the wavering morale of many rank-and-file guerrillas, as well as the appeal of the insurgency to villagers. Guerrilla incidents involving the assassination of informants and ambushes of local security teams remains endemic to the northeast region, however.

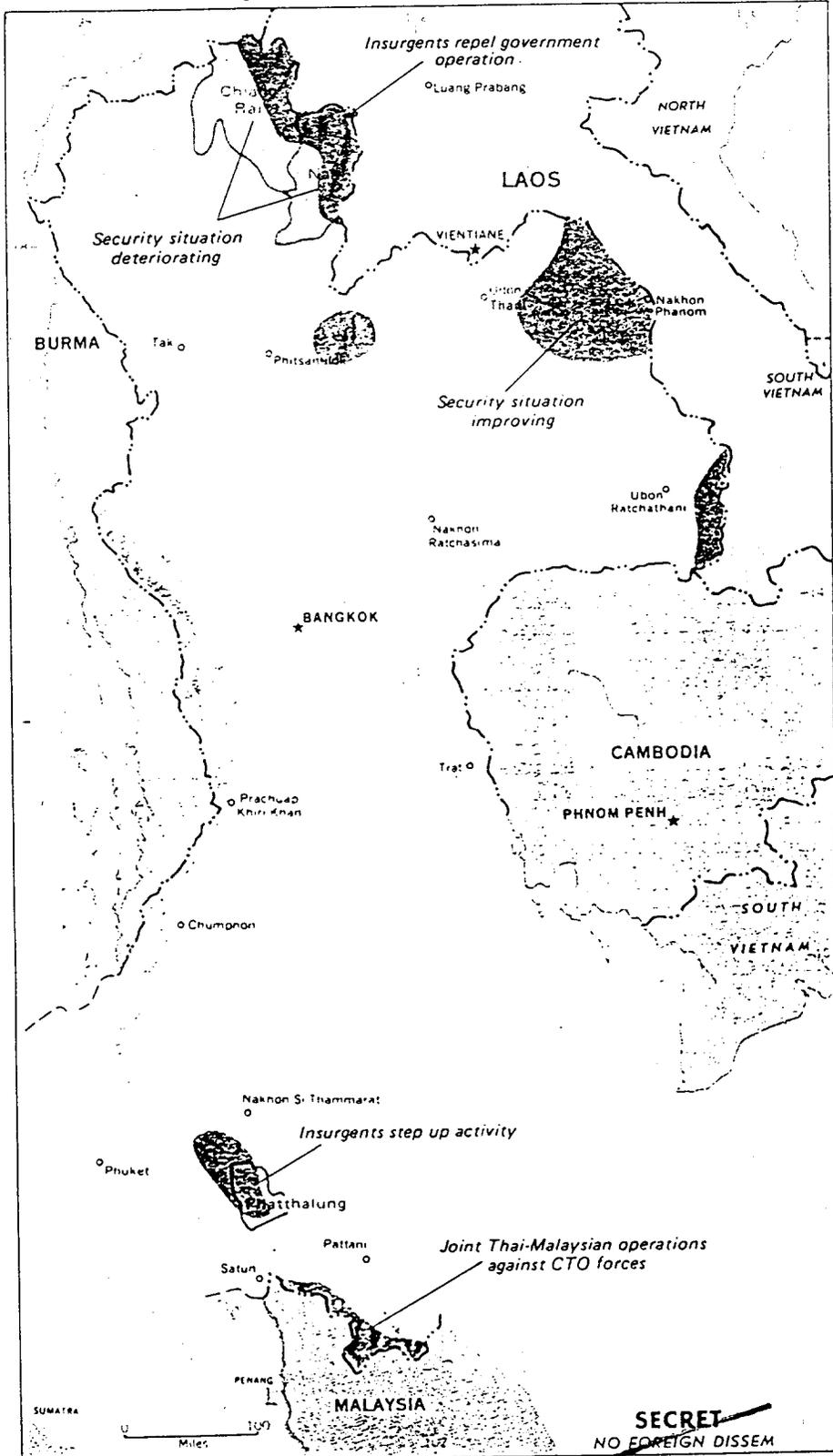
Communist guerrillas in the mid-South region have sharply increased their activity in recent months, particularly in the province of Phatthalung. The government's counterinsurgency apparatus has not made any meaningful effort to deal with the marked deterioration of security in this area. As a result, police are reluctant to wear uniforms; travel to outlying villages by provincial and district officials is reported to be at a standstill; and local officials appear uncertain about how to cope with increased guerrilla terrorism.

The counterinsurgency picture is considerably brighter in the southern reaches of the peninsula, where activity by the Malayan Communist Terrorist Organization has been at a fairly low level. In recent weeks joint ground and air operations by Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur have uprooted several insurgent base camps along the Malaysian border, one of which was believed to have been the headquarters of the terrorists 12th "regiment." (~~SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~)

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Thailand: Insurgent Activity



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COMMUNIST CHINA TAKES OVER TANZANIAN MILITARY PROGRAM

Peking now is virtually the sole provider of military aid and training to Tanzania, following the departure of Soviet and Canadian advisers early this year. A small group of East German advisers in Zanzibar, however, still shares naval training activities with the Chinese.

With the elimination of Soviet and Canadian advisers, work has begun on several long-term projects. A naval base is being constructed, with Chinese assistance, near Dar es Salaam. The base is part of a \$10-million naval development program toward which the Chinese are providing assistance of some \$4 million agreed to in late 1968. In early 1970, over 100 Tanzanians went to China for a long-postponed, one- to two-year naval engineering and technology course. Peking has also started work on an air defense "system" that reportedly will include the construction of an air base, the training of pilots, and

the provision of an undetermined number of aircraft. An unknown number of Chinese military construction experts arrived in the early part of the year, reportedly to begin work on the military airfield.

Chinese military assistance to Dar es Salaam dates back to September 1964, when a small contingent of advisers was sent to familiarize the army with the new Chinese small arms that had been delivered under the first contract signed in February of that year. Since that time, agreements totaling over \$12 million have been signed for military hardware including small arms, antiaircraft guns, medium tanks, patrol boats and landing craft, and an assortment of other military-related equipment. Part of the attraction of Chinese military aid is Peking's willingness to supply equipment free of charge, or, at most, on liberal credit terms. ~~(SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)~~

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