



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

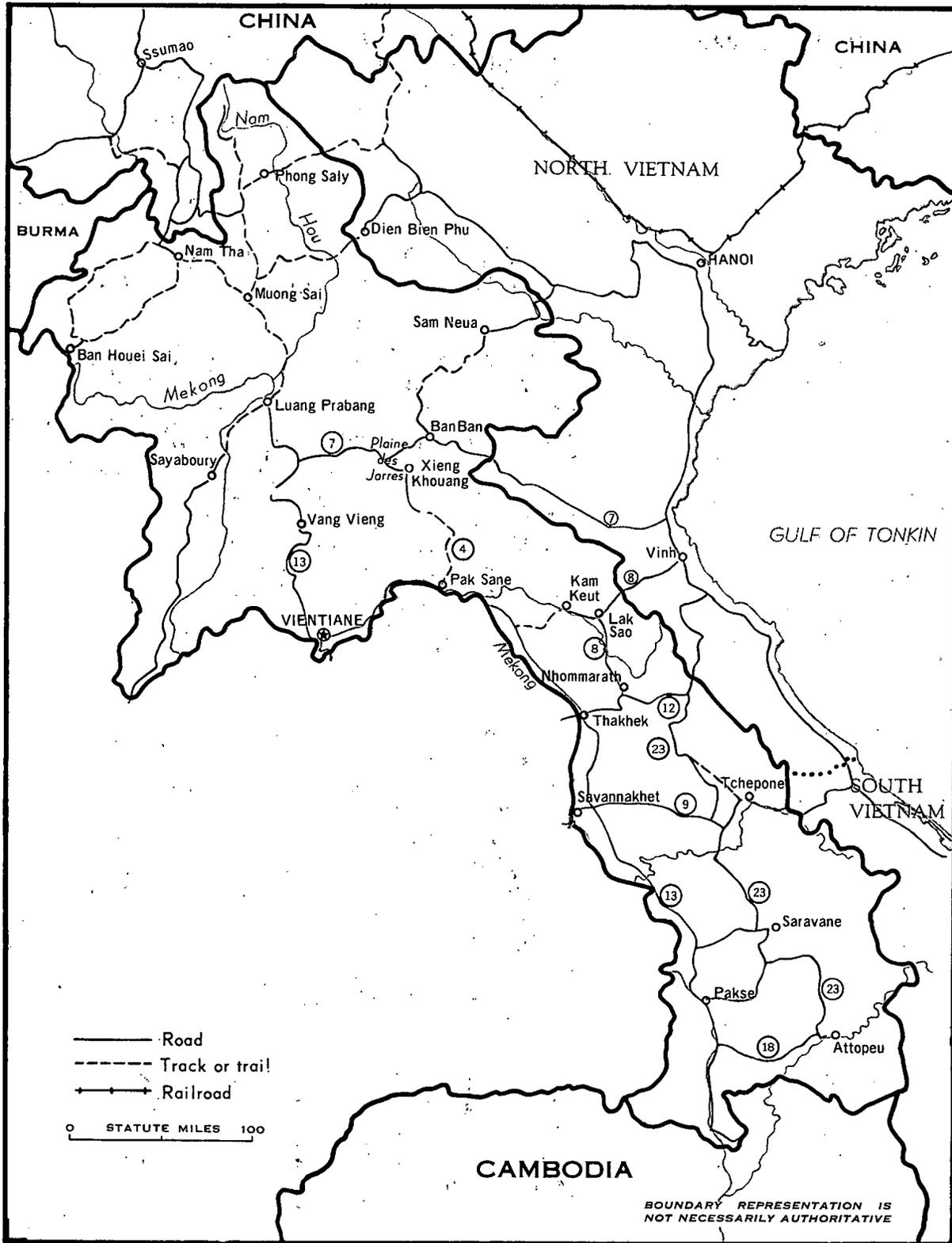
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5 JANUARY 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

LAOS



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1. South Vietnam

Premier Huong has decided to postpone his scheduled confrontation with the generals. He says that they have offered him an "olive branch" by withdrawing their demand for a military council to oversee the work of his government. If so, this eases the situation somewhat, but basic issues between Huong and Khanh remain unresolved. Further talks are set for tomorrow.

2. President's Speech

First foreign press and radio reaction to the State of the Union Message highlights the President's hope for a visit from the new Soviet leaders. Moscow has taken note of this but so far has offered no comment. Moscow has some niggling criticism for the sections on Vietnam and domestic affairs.

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Paris would be happy to receive the President but not as just one stop on a swing through West Europe.

3. Laos

Road watch teams in south-central Laos indicate that the recent southward movement of Communist troops is tapering off. Their reports suggest that in the past month about 5,000 Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese troops have been moved into southern Laos. In Vientiane prospects for an armed showdown have receded for the moment, although a relatively minor incident could easily set the contending generals off again. (See map.)

4. Congo

Tshombé has promised to provide southern Sudanese dissidents with "effective" aid and has asked them to have their military chiefs in Leopoldville next week to work out the details. We doubt that this will come to much. Tshombé is due to fly to Brussels later this week to try to hammer out an agreement with the Belgians on outstanding economic and political problems. The Belgians have tied the question of further aid to a successful solution of these problems. The military situation in the Congo is quiet.

5. Indonesia

Rumors of an attempt to unseat Sukarno in the next few days appear to us overdrawn. We doubt that any group in Indonesia has the intention, let alone the capability, of bringing such a thing off at this time.

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