



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



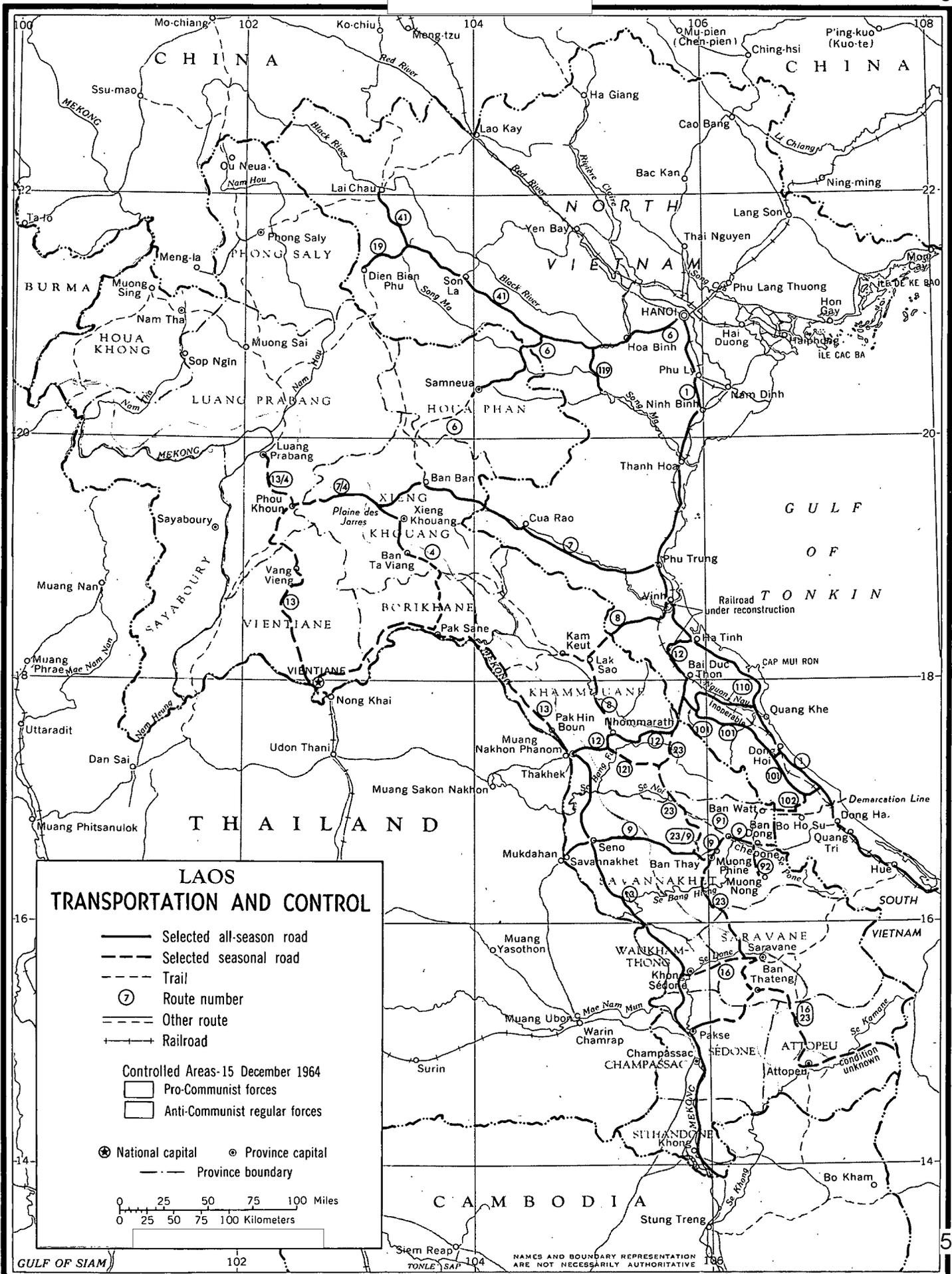
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15 MARCH 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Laos

The Communist attack repulsed last week by government troops and planes east of Savannakhet was definitely made by a North Vietnamese Army unit, says the US Army attache in Vientiane.

The attache concludes that Hanoi is using Laos as a training ground for newly formed units before they are committed in South Vietnam. This would help to account for the relative absence of effective Communist activity in south-central Laos despite the apparent build-up in this area over the past several months. (Map)

2. Vietnam

Uneasiness about the Buddhist convention which started yesterday, and the Armed Forces Council meeting scheduled for today, probably caused the weekend flurry of rumors about an impending coup in Saigon. There is no firm evidence of a possible coup in the next few days.

As of the time of this writing, no information has come in about the council meeting, which was to decide on new command assignments. Advance indications were that the meeting might also see a move to oust "little" General Minh as commander in chief.

Viet Cong military and terrorist pressure in the countryside remains intense. The shooting yesterday of three Marines at Danang air base--one fatal--was accidental.

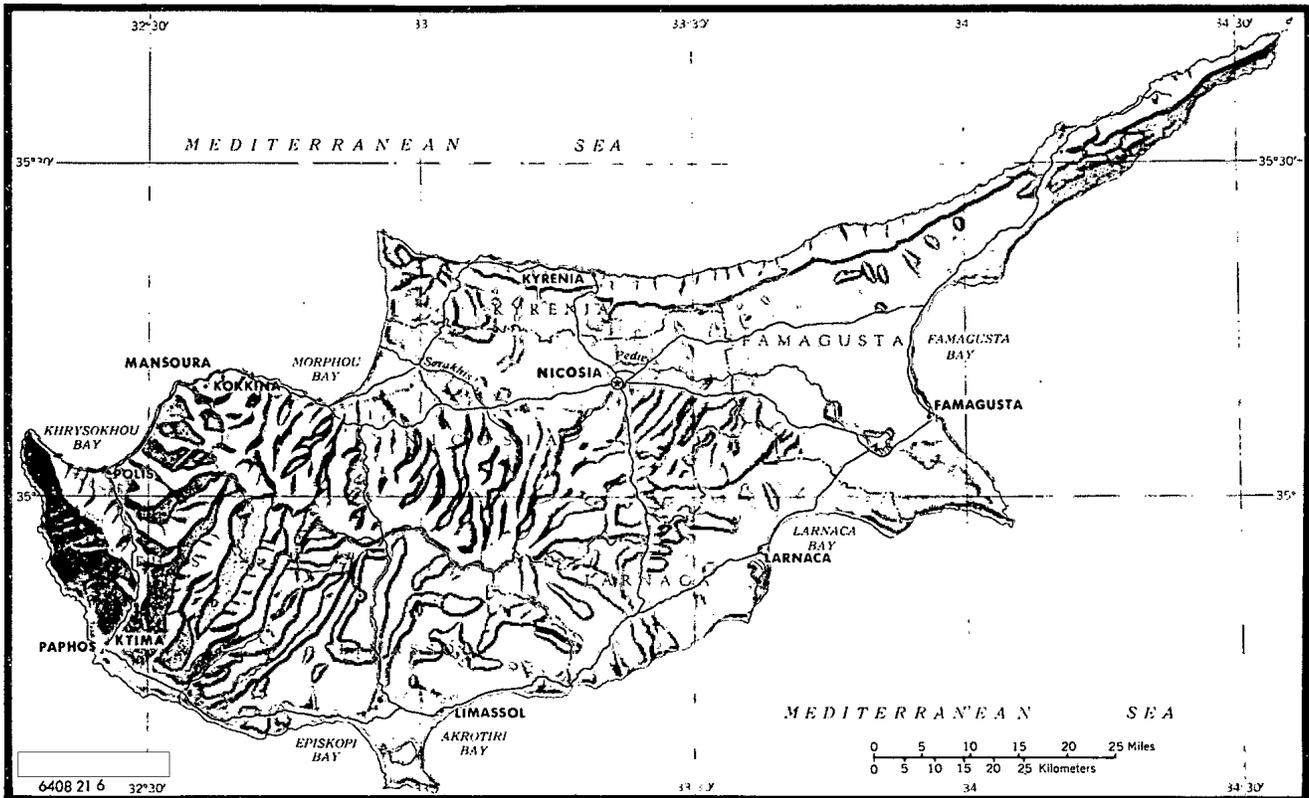
Hanoi's phoney claim that its forces shot down six US and South Vietnamese aircraft, and damaged many others in yesterday's raid, is for domestic consumption. Having asserted that the invaders were adequately punished, the regime needs to furnish some sort of proof.

No changes have been reported in the attitudes of the principal Communist governments concerned in the situation.

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CYPRUS



3. Cyprus

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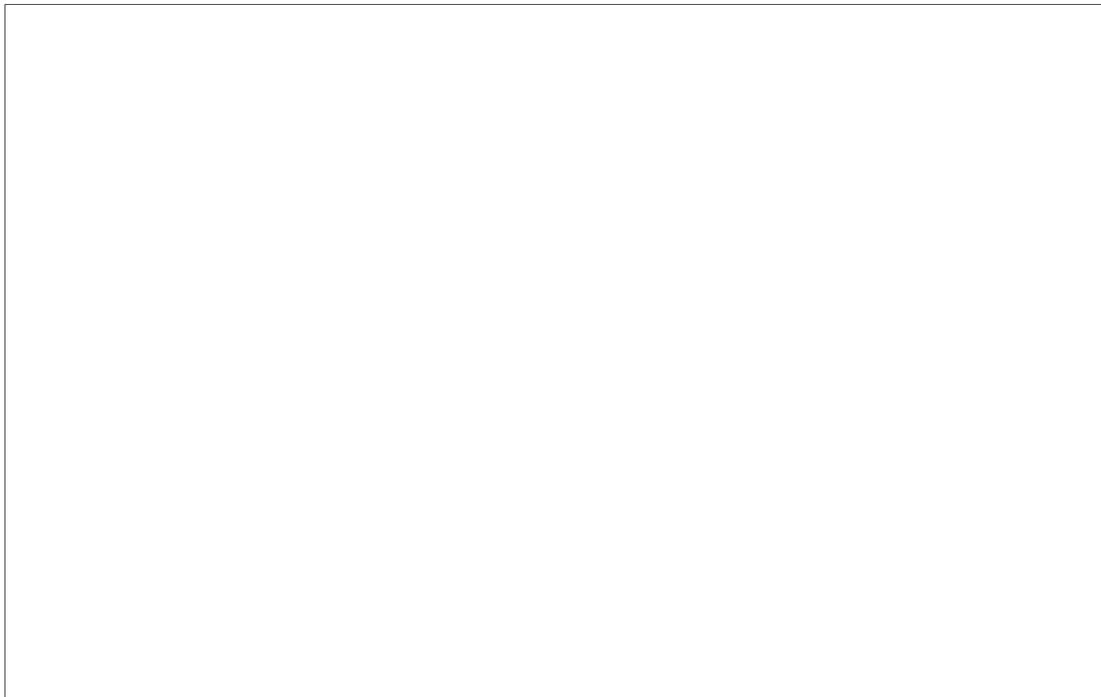
In Cyprus, the situation remains tense near Lefka in the northwest, where firing between Greek and Turkish Cypriots took place on Saturday. The Greek Cypriot pressure seems to be part of Makarios' general tendency of the past few days to heat up the situation. (Map)

4. USSR

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