



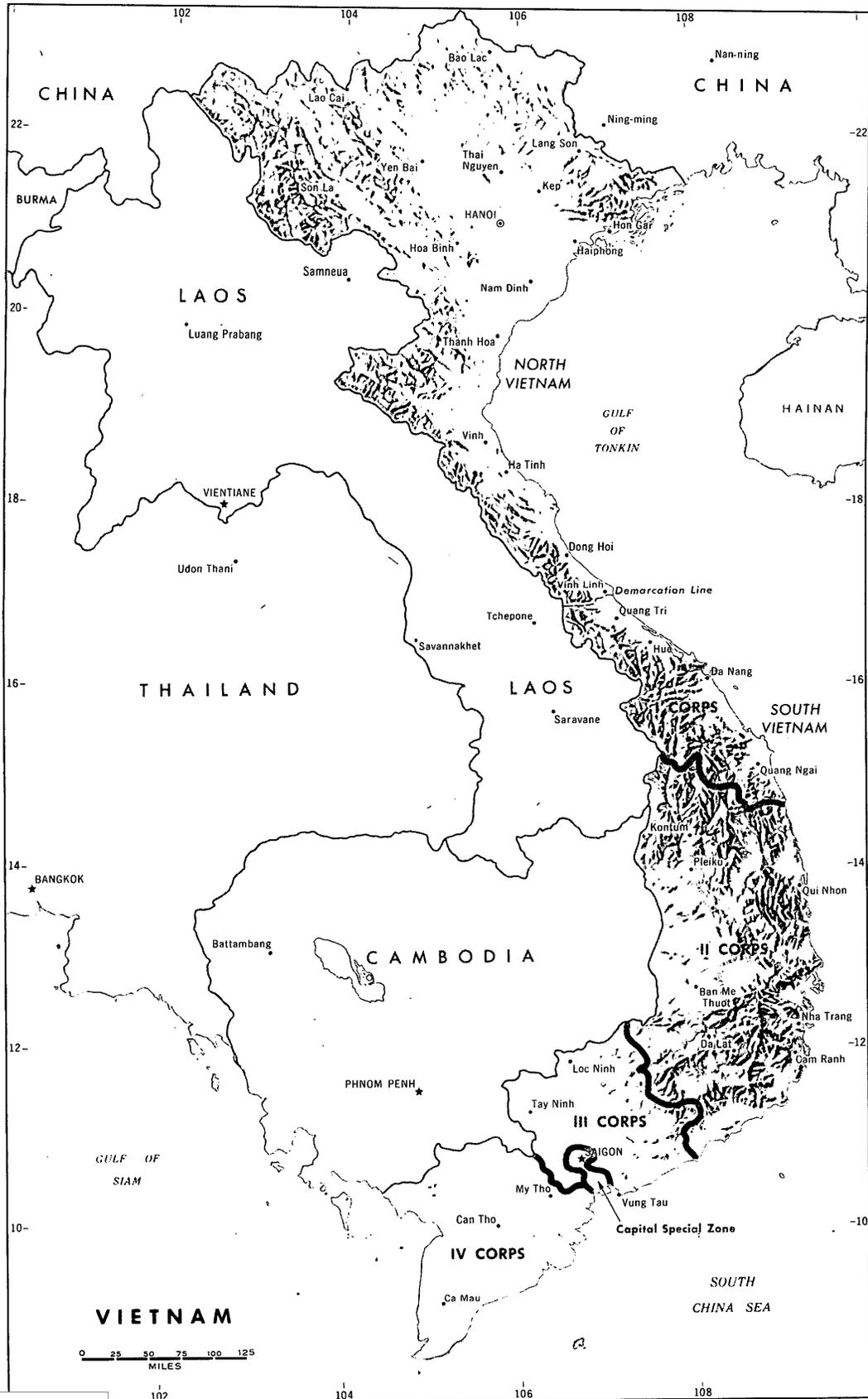
The President's Daily Brief

24 March 1969
(Afternoon)

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~~Top Secret~~





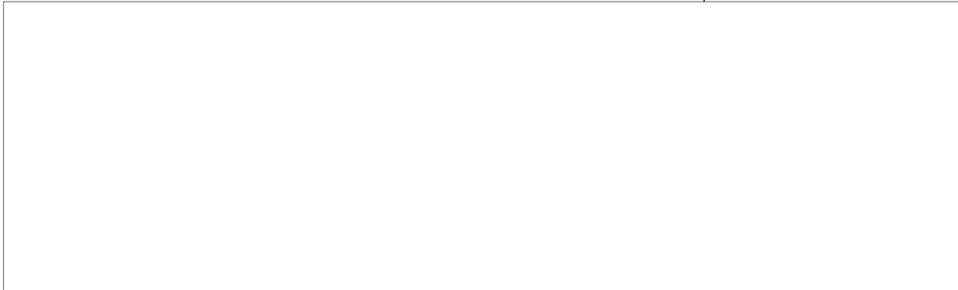
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25 March 1969

LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF
24 MARCH 1969

There have been no significant ~~new~~ developments overnight.



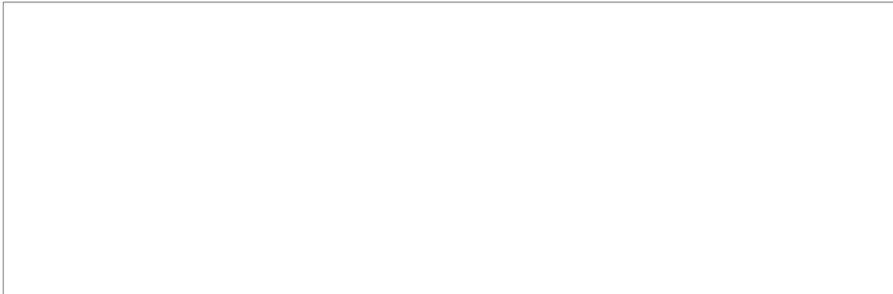
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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

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SOVIET AFFAIRS

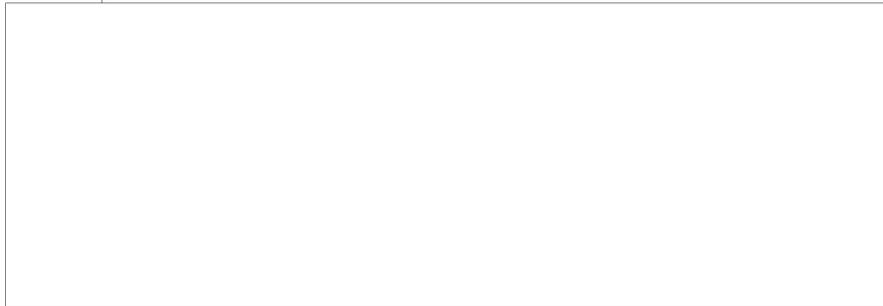
The Soviets have launched [redacted] reconnaissance satel-

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lites

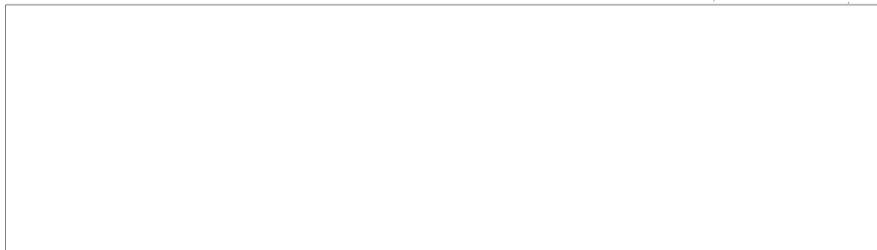


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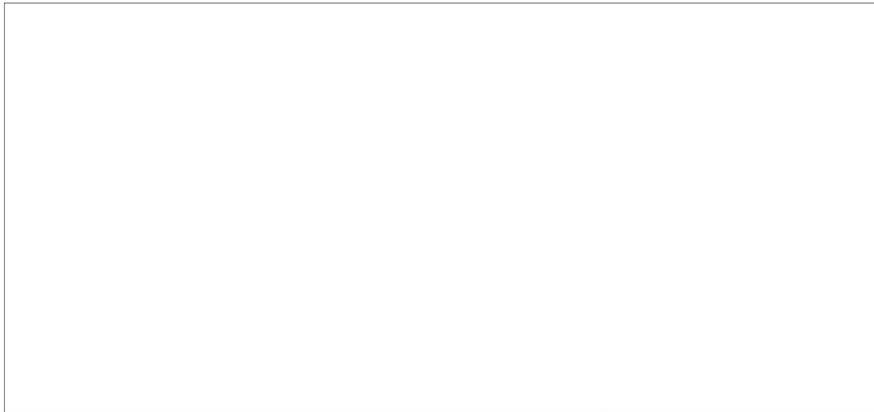
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MIDDLE EAST



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EUROPE

There is nothing significant to report.

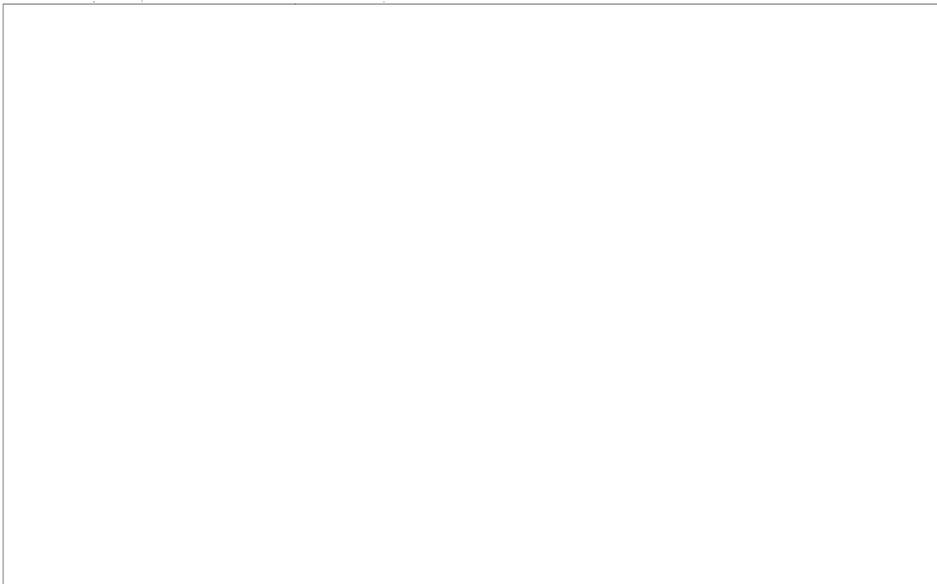
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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

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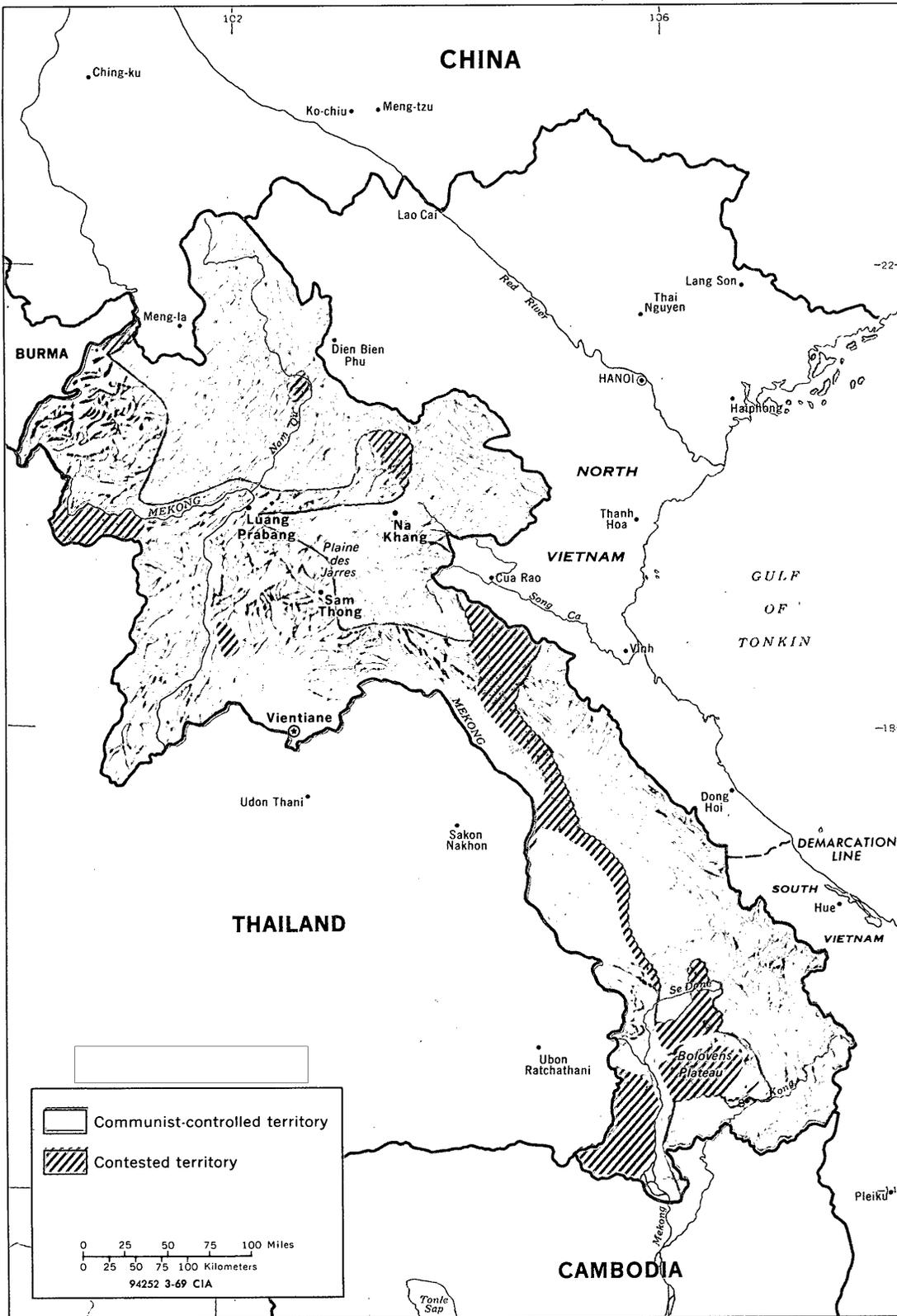
PAKISTAN

The urban areas of East Pakistan seem to have quieted down somewhat, perhaps because the populace is exhausted and perhaps also because the government has recently shown more decisiveness. Troops are being used occasionally to restore order in East Pakistani cities as well as in parts of West Pakistan, and both Ayub and his home minister have recently denounced the unrest in strong terms. The returning quiet in Dacca and other cities may also be due in part to opposition leader Mujibur Rahman's calming influence.

Too much should not be made of this; reports from the East Pakistani countryside say that violence is continuing

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LAOS



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unabated there, and the calm in the cities is extremely fragile. The lessening of violence and the government's new-found assertiveness are hopeful straws in the wind, however.

LAOS

The government has launched an intensive air campaign to disrupt Communist forces around the Plaine des Jarres.

[redacted] pilots say their attacks have caused a large number of secondary explosions. Present plans call for at least three more weeks of heavy strikes.

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The enemy has moved cautiously since capturing Na Khang over three weeks ago, and the government's subsequent loss of a number of positions in the area has been more a result of the sagging morale of its troops than of enemy ground assaults.

[redacted]

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There is some danger that the severity of the air strikes and the fact they are being directed against positions that have not been attacked until now [redacted]

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[redacted] could trigger the enemy attacks they are designed to forestall.

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ITALY-COMMUNIST CHINA

Foreign Minister Nenni has told the Dutch foreign minister that Italy has decided to "drop the subject" of recognizing Communist China. Nenni said there had been a "total absence of reaction from Peking" to Italian overtures earlier this year. He added that any further initiative will have to come from Peking.

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