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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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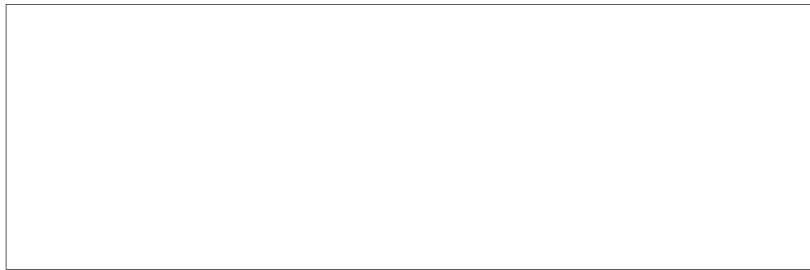
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Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)



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*Vietnam:

North Vietnam: The North Vietnamese are doubtless pleased by the worldwide attention being given to Foreign Minister Trinh's recent remarks about talks.

Hanoi probably feels that its indicated willingness to talk is being widely interpreted as having put the ball in the US court. The Vietnamese seem bent, however, on not having Trinh's statements distorted or embellished by others.

Hanoi's sensitivity on the issue was underscored by an announcement from the North Vietnamese mission in Paris on 4 January which sought to clarify a Western correspondent's account of an interview with their spokesman the day before. The mission confirmed the Trinh statement but went on to add that the remainder of the correspondent's story was "pure invention."

The Soviets are also handling the issue gingerly. Crucial portions of the Trinh speech were reported without comment on 2 January, [REDACTED]

3.3(h)(2)

[REDACTED] Hanoi cleared the text of a dispatch on the speech with the Vietnamese before sending it to Moscow.

US military authorities in Saigon now estimate that some 53,600 North Vietnamese troops infiltrated into South Vietnam in 1967. The final figure for 1967 will probably be considerably higher as there is a lag between the time an infiltration group arrives in South Vietnam and when it is noted in these statistics.

In any case, it appears that infiltration in 1967 will not exceed the 88,500 counted in 1966.

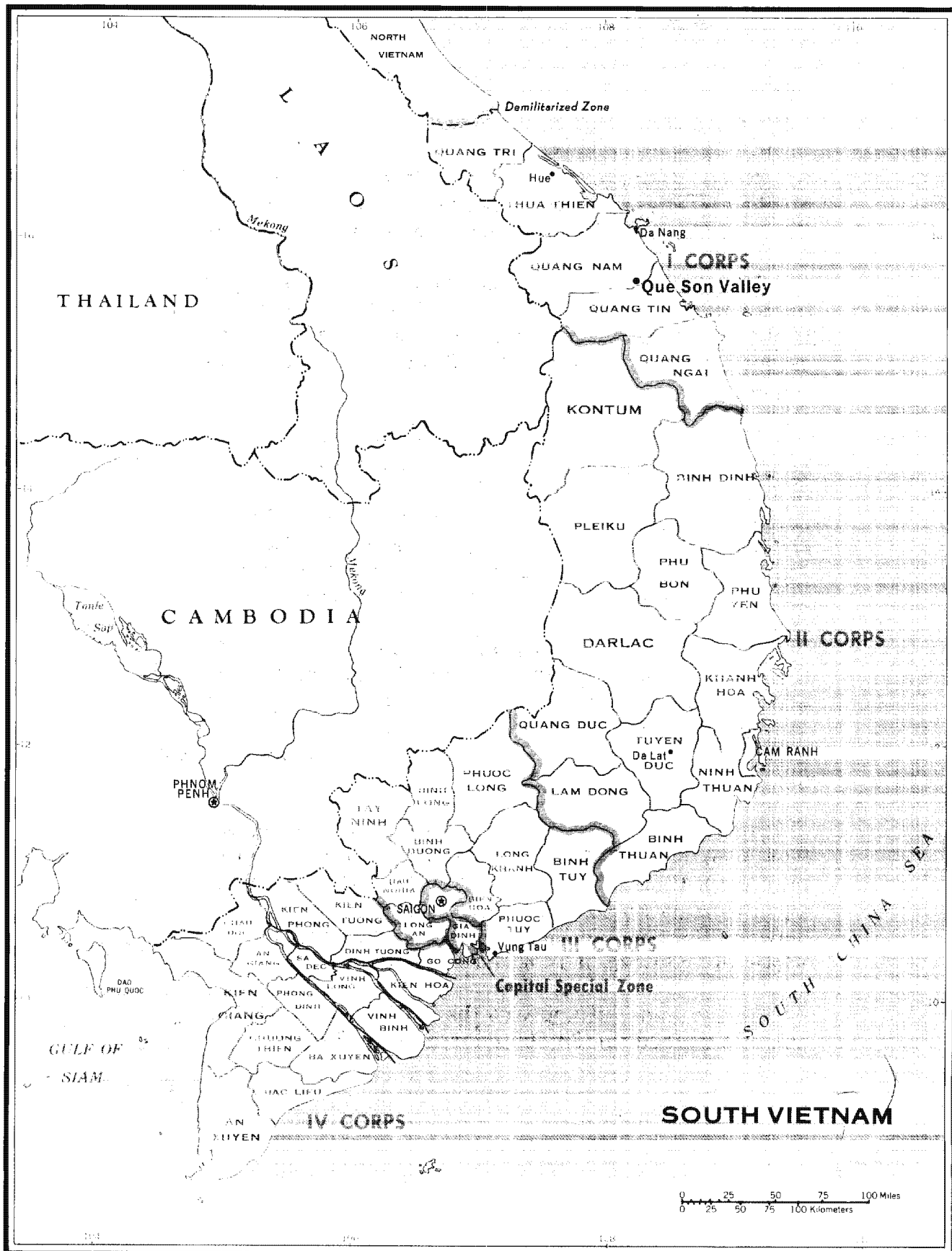
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South Vietnam: North Vietnamese Army troops launched a series of assaults against 1st Cavalry Division positions in the Que Son Valley on 3-4 January. Some 196 enemy were killed in these attacks, bringing the number of Communists killed in the valley in the past two days to more than 300.

3.3(h)(2)

[REDACTED] Buddhist monks from both the moderate and militant factions are talking with some Buddhist senators about organizing a political party to counteract growing Catholic political influence. The monks apparently visualize a party in which they would exert their influence from the sidelines while the day-to-day activities would be managed by the senators. It is questionable, however, whether leaders of the two Buddhist factions can either adequately reconcile their own differences or find sufficient common ground with prominent national politicians to forge a viable political alliance. [REDACTED]

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