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DIRECTORATE OF
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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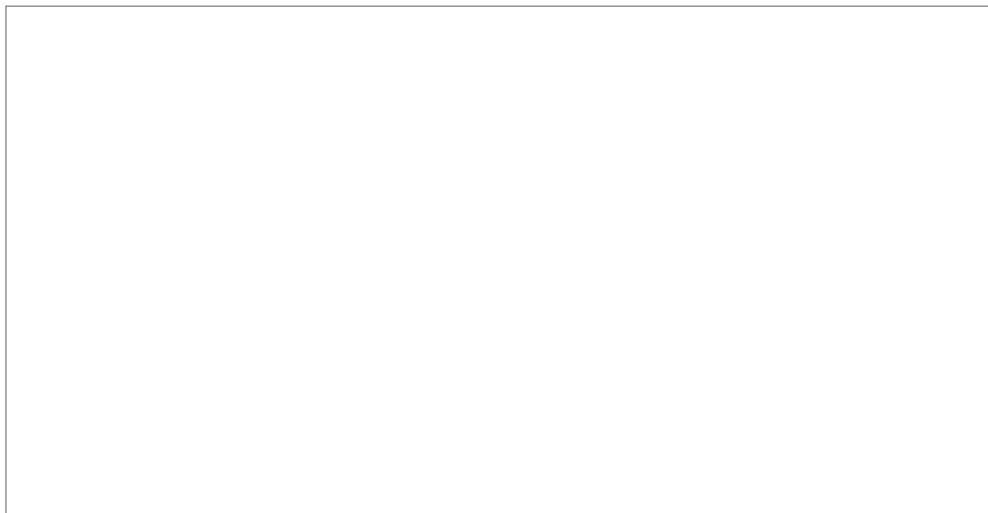
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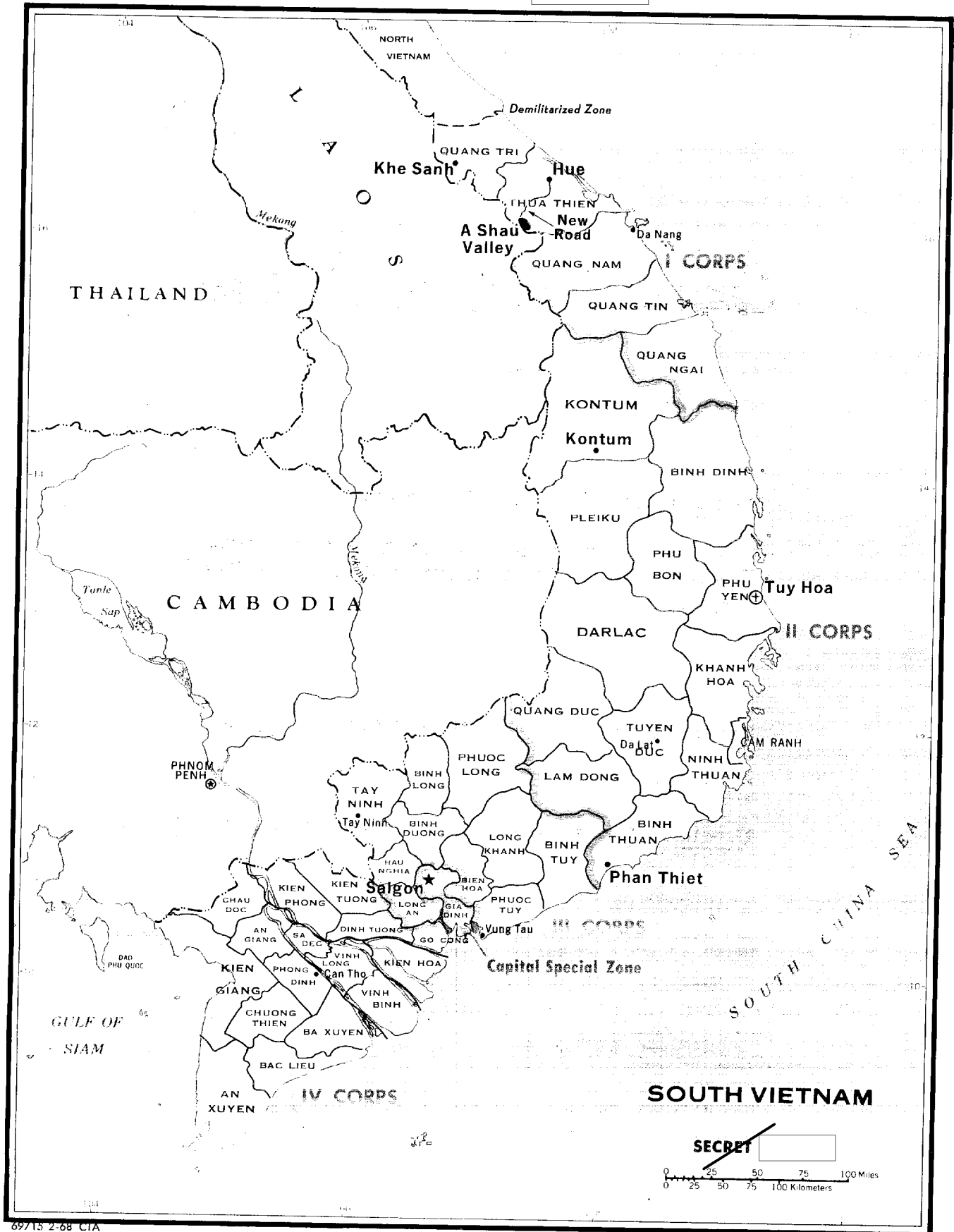
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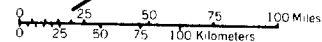
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***South Vietnam:** Military activity was generally light on 26 February.

Allied strongpoints along the Demilitarized Zone again came under North Vietnamese artillery, rocket, and mortar bombardment, the heaviest being directed at Khe Sanh, where three Marines were killed and 52 wounded.

In central Vietnam, mortar attacks were reported against Kontum city and Tuy Hoa airfield, and ground fighting flared near the provincial capital of Phan Thiet.

The Viet Cong attacked Tan Son Nhut air base and other points in the Saigon area with rockets, mortars and 75-mm. recoilless rifle rounds early this morning. Elements of three enemy divisions continue to maneuver within striking distance of the capital and nearby airfields.

In a clash yesterday 14 miles west of Tay Ninh city, US forces report that the enemy were supported by three unidentified type tanks and a half track. One tank was destroyed, killing 30 of the enemy. The remaining two tanks were reported to have withdrawn toward the Cambodian border.

Viet Cong forces in the IV Corps area launched a series of mortar and small-scale ground attacks against district towns and isolated outposts throughout the delta.

[redacted] the Communists have nearly completed a road eastward from the A Chau Valley. The road will provide a direct supply route from the Laotian corridor to the Hue area.

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[redacted] the Communists are conducting a large-scale "recruitment" drive in the countryside. Government forces have by and large been pulled in to defend the urban areas, giving the Communists a free hand, [redacted]

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Egypt: The Nasir regime appears uncertain how to handle the first hostile demonstrations it has faced.

The first demonstration occurred on 21 February. "Workers" from the southern suburbs of Cairo staged a march ostensibly protesting the "light" sentences given high-level military officers charged with negligence during the war last June. The former chief of the air force was given 15 years imprisonment, but two other top officers were acquitted. The protesters demanded death sentences, and police reportedly had to use gunfire to halt them.

Agitation has evidently continued and, despite a ban, students rioted in Cairo itself on Sunday. After a Sunday night cabinet session, the government closed the four major universities and all the high schools in the country. Demonstrations have been banned once again, and the regime has announced that the accused officers will be retried by another court.

The government moves may forestall further outbreaks, but the seriousness of the incidents indicates a popular mood the Nasir regime has never previously had to face. The demonstrations underscore the malaise and frustration arising from the humiliation of the Egyptian defeat last June. The spontaneity of the demonstrations is open to question, but the identity and motives of possible organizers are unknown.

Although stiffer sentences for the accused might appease disaffected civilians, such sentences would at the same time increase resentment among the military. The military is already bitter over receiving the blame for the defeat at the hands of the Israelis, and, in some cases, restive under "retraining" by Soviet military advisers.

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The regime's problem with hostile sentiment will be compounded by the absence of any visible progress in getting the Israelis to withdraw from occupied Egyptian territory. [redacted]

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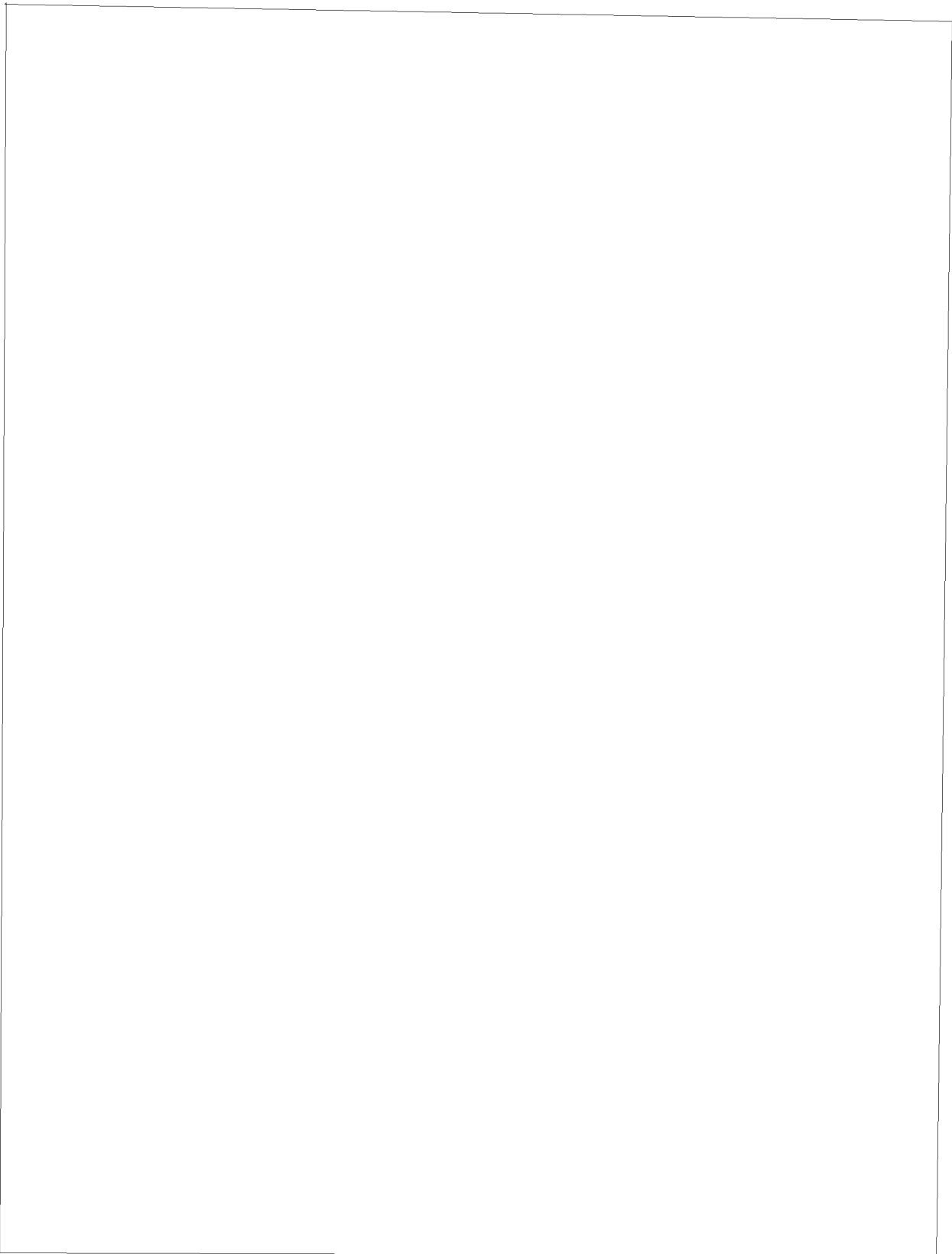
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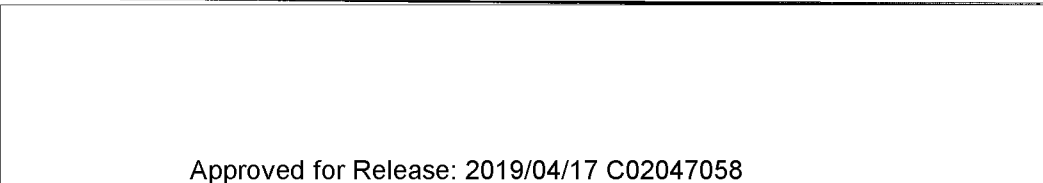
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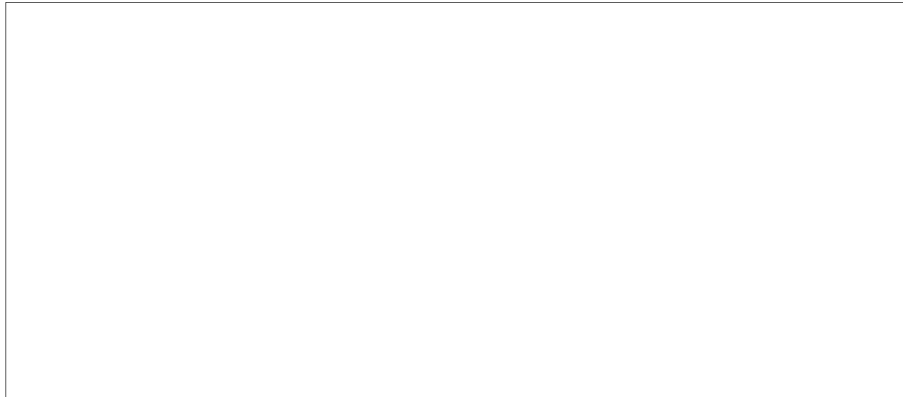
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USSR: Soviet diplomats recently have been lobbying for the US-Soviet draft nonproliferation treaty. The draft is still before the disarmament conference in Geneva. Representations have been made in New Delhi and Tokyo, and the Russian delegate at Geneva privately made an impassioned defense of the treaty against Rumanian criticism. In Moscow, the envoys of Austria, Italy, India, Japan, Burma, Brazil, and Chile have been approached for support. Brezhnev and Kosygin have emphasized in major speeches the importance Moscow attaches to acceptance to the treaty.



Uruguay-Czechoslovakia: The Uruguayan police have proposed buying nearly [redacted] of small arms from Czechoslovakia. Military leaders have expressed concern with proposed reductions in US military aid at a time when the government's planned austerity program threatens to stir Communist-inspired labor agitation and increased urban unrest. President Pacheco Areco has yet to approve the purchase, which is to include submachine guns and ammunition, and there is still some possibility that the deal will not go through.



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