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16 January 1961



Copy No. C 75

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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16 JANUARY 1961

THE COMMUNIST BLOC

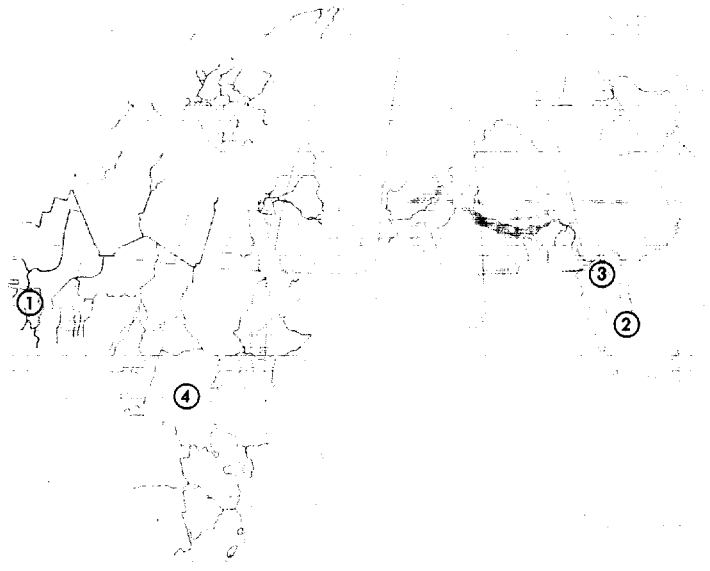
Soviet Union apparently turns over two
IL-18s to Guinea. ①

ASIA-AFRICA

South Vietnamese opposition continues to
plot against Diem. ②

Laotian Government forces suffer fur-
ther setbacks. ③

Congo--Situation in Katanga critical. ④



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

16 January 1961

DAILY BRIEF

THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Scrab

USSR-Guinea: The two Soviet IL-18s which arrived in Conakry last month apparently have been turned over to Guinea and presumably will be used to establish an international civil airline under the guidance of Soviet personnel. In the latter half of 1960, Czechoslovakia provided three twin-engine IL-14 "luxury-type" aircraft for a domestic Guinean civil airline to be operated by Czech personnel. Meanwhile, bloc military materiel supplied to Guinea in late 1960 appeared in a recent parade in Conakry. [redacted] The display included artillery and 25 armored personnel carriers. [redacted] (Page 1)

NO

ASIA-AFRICA

South Vietnam: [Political opponents of South Vietnamese President Diem remain restive under his continued failure to liberalize his regime, and recent reports indicate that some opposition circles still believe a coup is the only way to bring about desired reforms. One faction of the Dai Viet party claims to have considerable military support for a plan of action to replace Diem with a coalition government of all anti-Communist groups. The government reportedly plans to stimulate a new political front prior to the presidential election scheduled for 9 April, but this is unlikely to attract the cooperation of opposition elements.] [redacted] (Page 2)

OK

Laos: [Government forces appear to be suffering further setbacks as Kong Le/Pathet Lao troops push southward from the Xieng Khouang area. General Phoumi, who has dispatched T-6 aircraft in support of his ground forces, is still] [redacted]

Revision

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[] [Optimistic that he can redress the situation and proceed with his own offensive northward.] []

Meanwhile, Communist China on 14 January joined the USSR and North Vietnam in endorsing Prince Sihanouk's proposal for a 14-nation meeting on Laos. The Communist airlift into Laos continues; ten Soviet military LI-2s recently noted en route to Communist China from the USSR have been scheduled to fly from Peiping to Hanoi, seemingly confirming that they are to be used in the Laos airlift. Eight additional LI-2s are en route to Peiping for Hanoi. []

The LI-2, which closely resembles the C-47, is a smaller and somewhat slower aircraft than the IL-14. It carries a 3,300-pound cargo load as compared with about 5,000 pounds for the IL-14. [] (Page 3) (Map)

Congo: The American consul in Elisabethville believes that the situation in Katanga Province has become very critical and will "rapidly reach a climax." The UN representative in Elisabethville admits that UN forces "suffered a staggering reversal" at Manono when Lumumba's forces prevented significant reinforcement of an outnumbered Nigerian unit. The situation in Kivu Province is characterized as chaotic. [] *Revision*
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DAILY BRIEF

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Bloc Assistance to Guinea

The two Soviet four-engine turboprop IL-18 passenger planes which arrived at Conakry in December apparently have been turned over to the Guinean Government. One of these aircraft--with Guinean markings--was used by President Touré on his recent visit to Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. The other, on a flight to Casablanca last week, used Guinean callsigns. The IL-18s presumably will be used by Guinea to establish an international civil airline--Air Guinea--with Soviet guidance, pilots, and technicians. Guinea is the second nonbloc country to receive the Soviet IL-18; Ghana has been provided with at least four such aircraft.

Czechoslovakia, in the latter half of 1960, supplied three twin-engine "luxury-type" IL-14 aircraft to Guinea. These planes reportedly will be used to establish a domestic civil airline with Prague's assistance. Presumably both Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union have agreed to train Guinean personnel in running an airline and operating these aircraft. [redacted]

Some of the Soviet arms and military equipment delivered to Guinea late last year were displayed in Conakry on 23 December in a parade honoring Ghanaian President Nkrumah and Mali's head of state, Modibo Keita. US Embassy personnel viewing the parade observed artillery and infantry weapons and 25 armored personnel carriers. [redacted]

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Opposition Restive Under Restrictions
Of South Vietnamese Regime

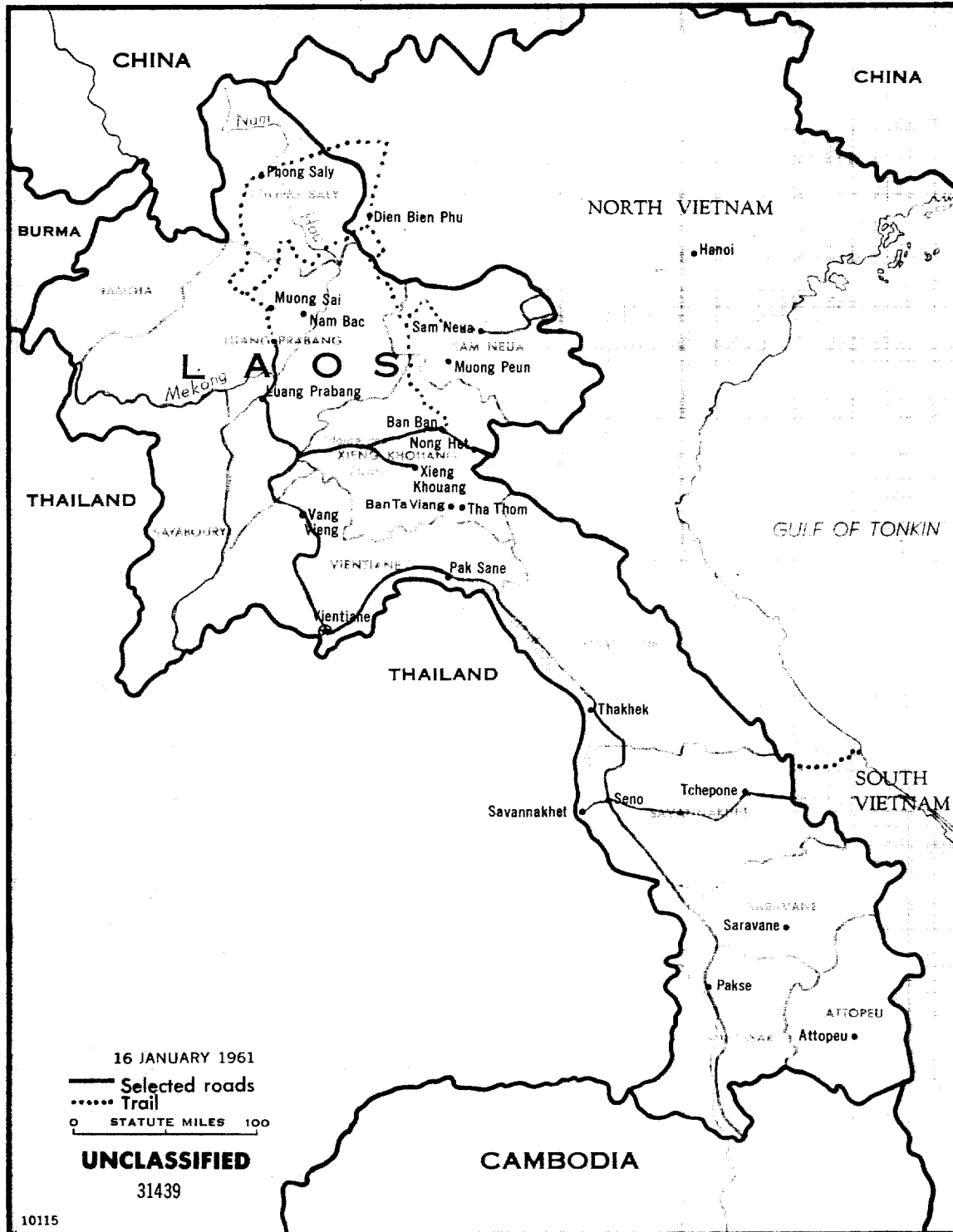
[President Diem's continued postponement of political and social reforms which would rally popular support has apparently encouraged further coup plotting since the unsuccessful paratroop coup effort last November. A faction of the once influential anti-Communist Dai Viet party claims to have a plan of action and the necessary military support to overthrow Diem and replace him with a non-Communist coalition representing government and opposition groups. Other Dai Viet factions are reported to have received Communist offers of cooperation.]

[No Dai Viet faction currently has sufficient influence to challenge the government without backing from the military, which demonstrated its loyalty to Diem in suppressing the November uprising. Continuing dissatisfaction in the armed forces, however, is evident in the statements recently made to the American ambassador by the air force commander. He expressed doubt that Diem ever intended to introduce reforms or that reorganization of the command structure would halt political interference at all levels of the military.]

[Diem has indicated that he plans some additional reorganization of his cabinet and intends to strengthen both appointive and elective representation at the village level. No changes have been announced, however, and he still seems reluctant to consider adequate reforms. Moreover, some opposition circles are spreading rumors--so far unsubstantiated--that there has been severe repression against regime opponents not implicated in the November attempt.]

[The government reportedly hopes to channel and control opposition activity through the creation of a new political front before the presidential election on 9 April. However, the planned front, apparently to be an outgrowth of the government-inspired People's Committee Against Rebels and Communists which was organized to ferret out collaborators in the November coup attempt, is unlikely to attract such cooperation or satisfy demands for an open opposition party.]

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~~TOP SECRET~~The Situation in Laos

[Government forces south of Xieng Khouang have received a further setback. The capture by Kong Le - Pathet Lao troops of the village outpost of Ban Ta Viang was apparently intended at least to disrupt General Phoumi's plans for a multipronged offensive designed to retake the Plaine des Jarres area and could signal a rebel intent to push southward toward Pak Sane. In the latter event, an early target would probably be Tha Thom, an important Phoumi base about 15 miles east of Ban Ta Viang. Phoumi, however, continues optimistic that his T-6 aircraft now flying ground-support operations in the Ban Ta Viang area, together with reinforcements recently sent to Tha Thom, will shortly enable him to proceed with his own offensive.]

[Chinese Nationalist officials apparently still want their irregular troops in Burma to have some role in Laos.]

[Ex-Premier Phoui is considering a trip to Phnom Penh to discuss with Souvanna Phouma a broadly based government in Laos. Phoui has told American Embassy officials in Vientiane that it is essential for Souvanna to return, and that Souvanna might be induced to accept a government representing all political shades minus the Communist-front Neo Lao Hak Sat as a preliminary to "complete national reconciliation." Phoui feels strongly that Laos can never be won by force of arms and that the present government does not enjoy sufficient popular support.]

On 14 January Communist China joined the USSR and North Vietnam in endorsing the proposal made by Cambodia's Prince

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Sihanouk for a 14-nation conference on Laos. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Communist China has sent letters to the 1954 Geneva Conference cochairmen-- Great Britain and the USSR--asking immediate action on the Sihanouk proposal. The Chinese, like their bloc colleagues, probably feel that if such a conference does eventually take place, it would have little immediate effect on the military situation in Laos and would provide a forum for condemnation of the United States: They may also see the proposed conference as a convenient means for hedging against any suggested solutions to the Laotian crisis that might favor the West.

Khrushchev, [REDACTED] took favorable note of French support for a wide coalition government in Laos and appealed for French cooperation in stopping "American military interference."

Moscow radio is denouncing the introduction of T-6 aircraft into Laos as a "deliberate provocation" and has called for the "most resolute measures" to check this "dangerous Washington enterprise." A Soviet commentary beamed to Europe on 13 January noted that the United States justified this action as a means of "self-defense" for the Boun Oum government and asked, "Cannot the lawful government of Laos, which is the victim of aggression, act likewise?" Peiping on 14 January quoted Kong Le as warning that if the US does not halt such "aggressive acts," he will "appeal to the fraternal countries and peoples. . . to supply the Souvanna Phouma government with similar arms." According to Western press reports from Laos, Kong Le's headquarters claims some Laotians have left for Moscow to receive pilot training. While these statements may be intended to prepare the ground for increased bloc military commitments to counter the arrival of the T-6s, there is as yet no evidence of preparations to introduce similar bloc aircraft into Laos. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Soviet transports continued to fly into Laos through 15 January. Ten Soviet military LI-2 transports have arrived

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at Peiping from Irkutsk and are scheduled on to Hanoi. In addition, eight more Soviet LI-2s are en route to Peiping for Hanoi. The LI-2, which closely resembles the C-47, is a smaller and somewhat slower aircraft than the IL-14. It carries a 3,300-pound cargo load, as compared with about 5,000 pounds for the IL-14.

The number of LI-2s involved suggests that some if not all of the IL-14s now engaged in the airlift from Hanoi will be replaced. Five of the IL-14s have been flying almost continuously since 3 December; the second group of five, which arrived in Hanoi on 14 December, has been continuously engaged since that time; and there are no aircraft service facilities at Hanoi capable of performing major maintenance.

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~~TOP SECRET~~The Congo Situation

The American consul in Elisabethville believes that the situation in Katanga Province is very critical and will "rapidly reach a climax." The UN representative in Elisabethville has admitted to the consul that UN forces "suffered a staggering reversal" at Manono, northern Katanga, when Lumumba's forces prevented reinforcement of an outnumbered UN unit of Nigerian troops. The UN, however, will continue to attempt to reinforce its garrisons, act as a buffer between clashing forces, and use moral suasion to prevent a civil war.

Meanwhile, the small Katangan air unit continues its reconnaissance operations; its air strikes appear to have been made against Baluba rebel forces rather than Lumumba's troops. Moreover, the presence of Lumumba's troops has led to greatly increased activity by Baluba tribesmen sympathetic to Lumumba. According to a press report, Balubas attacked a Swedish UN unit on 15 January and reinforcements were being rushed in to support it. [redacted]

Reporting that Balubas had shot down a Katangan transport plane on 11 January, the Lumumba command at Gemena, in reiterating its need for support, [redacted] Gizenga requested "speed in sending the arms so that he can send soldiers from Stanleyville via Kivu to the Baluba forces. . . so they can free the rest of Katanga Province." [redacted]

[redacted] the Stanleyville regime implied that Lumumba's supporters in Kasai Province--northwest of Katanga Province--were being hard pressed by Mobutu's forces. [redacted]

[redacted] Gizenga requested an "urgent supply of arms" so that he could send reinforcements to Kasai; the Lumumba forces there fear that Kalonji will gain control if they do not get help quickly. [redacted]

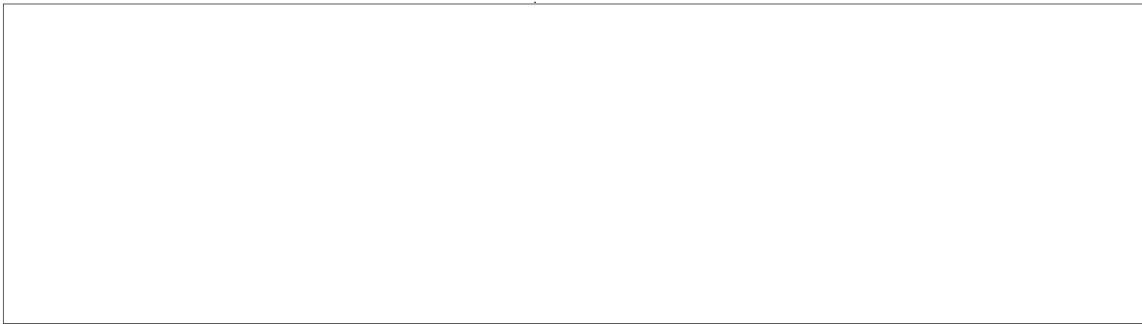
Meanwhile Congolese Premier-designate Joseph Ileo and Minister of State Albert Delvaux have publicly accused the Soviet Union of working through the UAR to support Lumumba. Delvaux also accused Ghanaian UN troops in south Kasai

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of supplying pro-Lumumba invaders of Katanga with gasoline.

[redacted]
[redacted] the situation in Kivu Province is chaotic. Lumumba's forces in Kivu are reliably reported to have shelled the Belgian trust territory of Ruanda on 12 and 13 January. According to press reports, Belgian Army units in Ruanda have repulsed some 40 invading Congolese soldiers. [redacted]



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