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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*

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\*Vietnam:

South Vietnam: The allied combat base at Khe Sanh and its peripheral defensive positions were struck again this morning with a heavy barrage of enemy artillery, rocket, and mortar fire.

The three-hour bombardment, accompanied by a small ground probe of a nearby hill, resulted in little damage and only light American casualties. Now that the Communists have forced the abandonment of the Lang Vei Special Forces Camp, they will probably concentrate on the allied strongpoints surrounding the Khe Sanh base with continued shellings throughout the area.

No major new attacks have occurred elsewhere in South Vietnam, but enemy pressure nevertheless remains serious in several urban areas--notably in Hue, Da Lat, and Saigon. Fierce street fighting in Hue continues against stubborn Communist resistance. A large number of enemy believed remaining in the one-time mountain resort city of Da Lat poses a serious potential threat to the security of that provincial capital.

In Saigon last night three South Vietnamese police stations came under Viet Cong fire in the predominantly Chinese Cholon section. The Communists have constructed barricades out of furniture and abandoned automobiles in some parts of Cholon, and sharp fighting is expected before they are rooted out. Heavy fighting erupted on the northern and southern outskirts of the city yesterday when allied forces contacted battalion-size Communist units. It was announced today that two US Army infantry battalions are to conduct a sweep across the southern half of Saigon. (Map)

North Vietnam: Continuing unprecedented air activity by North Vietnamese bombers and transport aircraft strongly suggests the Communists may soon employ their limited air power in some way to support their current offensive in South Vietnam.

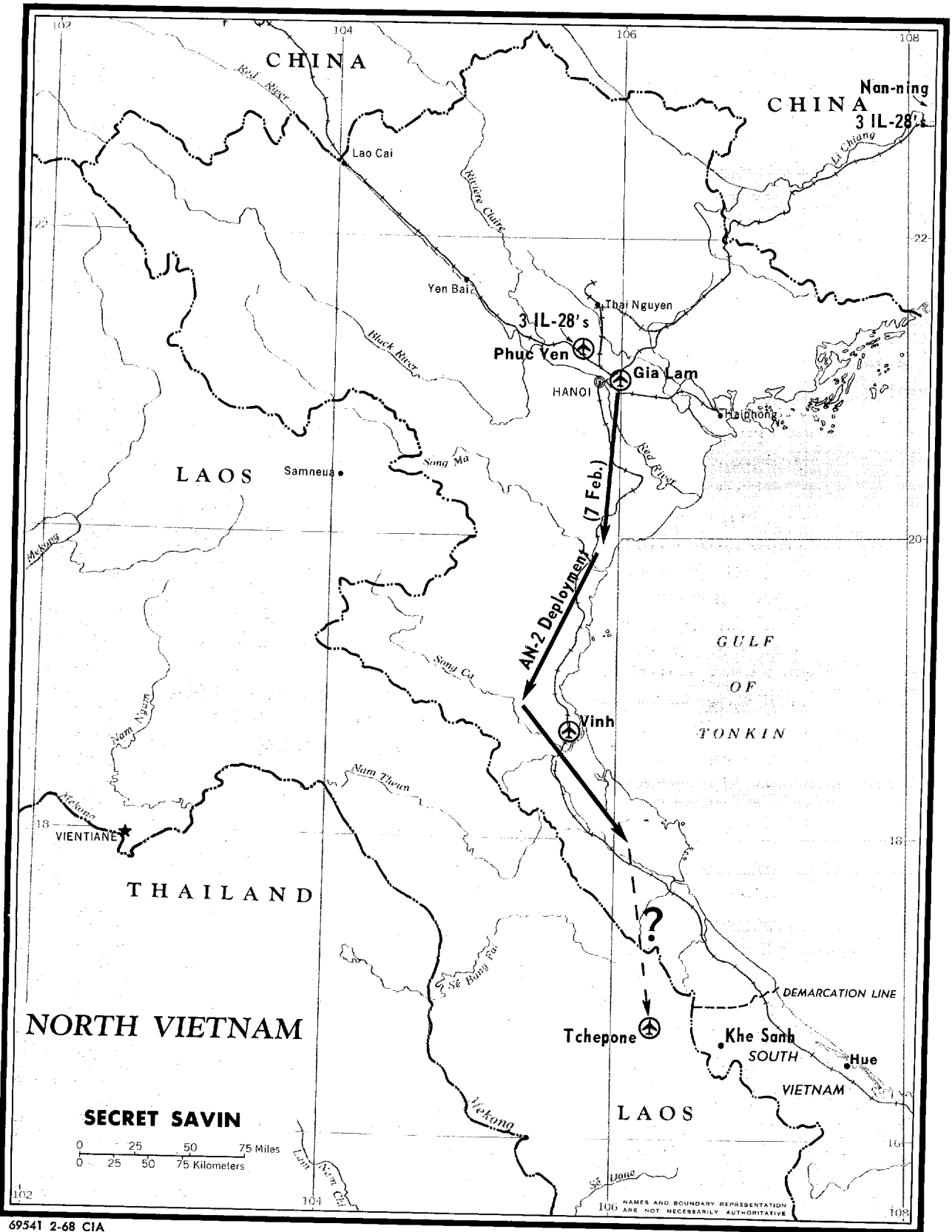
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8 Feb 68 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

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In addition to the three IL-28 twin-jet bombers which were recently deployed to Phuc Yen airfield near Hanoi, further analysis of intercepted communications reveals that three additional IL-28s were flown from Yunnani to Nan-ning in southwestern China at about the same time. Targets in northern South Vietnam such as the Khe Sanh strongpoint, the city of Hue, or the huge Da Nang base appear to be the most likely objectives of IL-28 operations. It is conceivable, however, that they could be used in diversionary attacks against targets in Laos or US naval forces in the Gulf of Tonkin.

In a possibly related development, seven AN-2 transports flew from the Hanoi area late yesterday to a point at least 50 miles south of Vinh. There is unconfirmed evidence that these piston-engine transports flew farther south and attempted to land--possibly at an "inactive" airstrip at Tchepone, Laos, some 35 miles west of Khe Sanh. Voice communications suggest that the AN-2s ran into bad weather, however, and were forced to cancel their mission in this region with at least five of the aircraft noted returning to the Hanoi area. It is not yet clear whether the AN-2s were involved in a transport or an attack mission. (SECRET SAVIN NO FOREIGN DISSEM) (Map)

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\*Korea: Feeling is still running high in South Korea, but the Pak government and public information media seem to have modified their opposition to the US handling of the Pueblo case.

Seoul's foreign minister told the National Assembly yesterday the government still demands the US place equal emphasis on the recent North Korean attempt to kill President Pak and on the Pueblo incident. He conceded that discussion of the crewmen's release might be given priority "from a humanitarian point of view."

The government moderation is reflected in Seoul newspapers which have dropped complaints of exclusion from the Panmunjom talks and stress on unilateral action against the North. They now admit the US is sensitive to South Korea's problems and will clearly honor American commitments to defend the South.

The South Koreans may feel that the lack of progress at Panmunjom reduces the possibility the US might make compromises which would undercut them.

Minor student demonstrations have continued, however. About 100 seminary students forced their way past US Army guards at Freedom Bridge near Panmunjom before being turned back. In addition, some 300 high school students demonstrated near a US air base about 30 miles south of Seoul, and two small groups of youths with placards denouncing the Panmunjom talks appeared in front of the US Embassy.

A group of six Soviet destroyers steamed into the Sea of Japan on 5 February. Some of them may relieve ships already there. The Soviets waited until the Korean crisis subsided somewhat and some US naval forces moved out of the Sea of Japan before substantially increasing their naval strength in the area. Thirteen Soviet ships, including two missile cruisers and three missile-equipped destroyers, two tankers,

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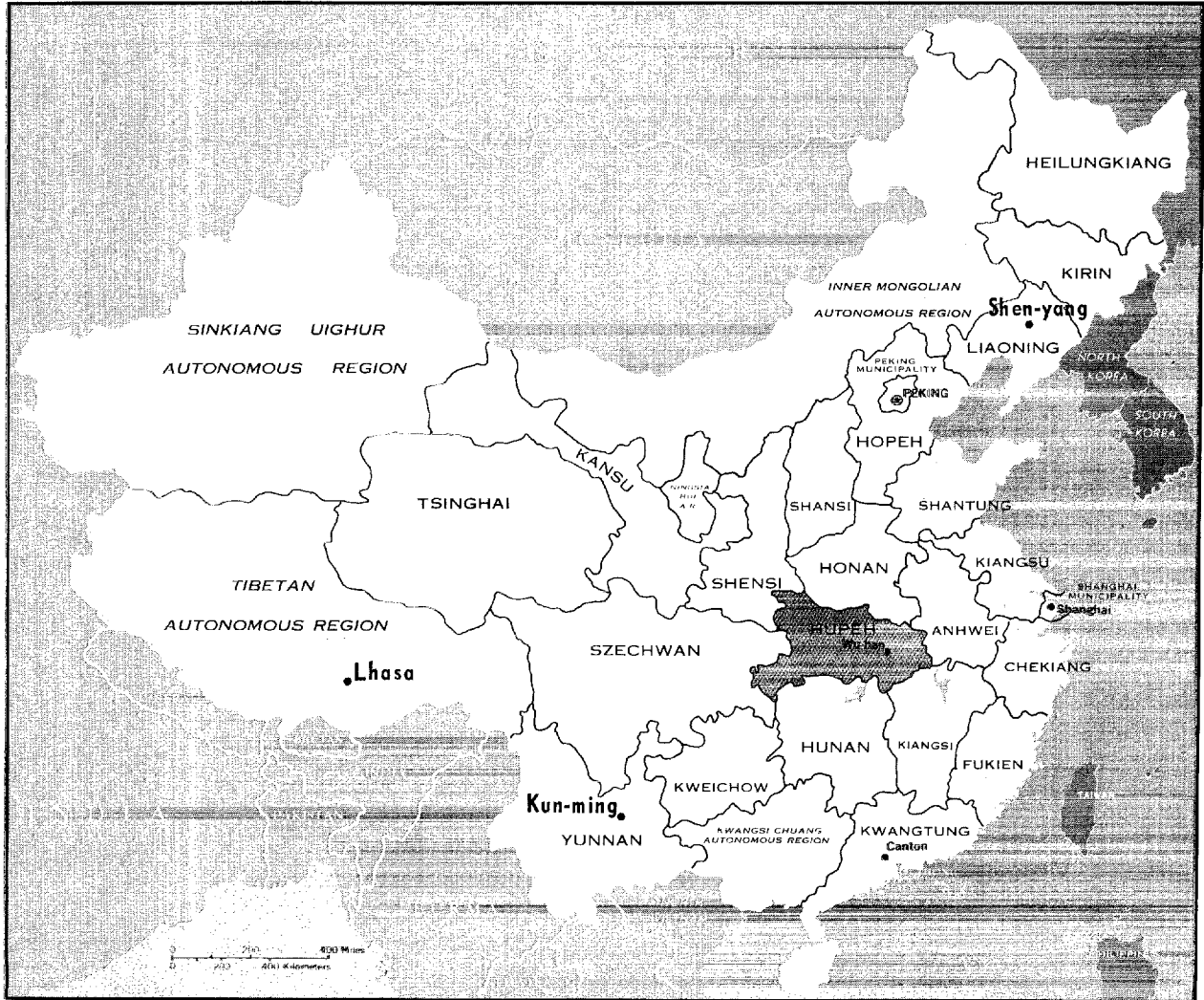
and two intelligence collectors, are now in the Sea of Japan. Soviet naval aircraft continue air reconnaissance of the US task force. (TOP SECRET TRINE)

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Communist China: Despite efforts to stabilize provincial governments, widespread factional disorder continues.

Peking has announced that a revolutionary committee was set up in Hupeh Province on 5 February. This is the 14th revolutionary government to be established in the Cultural Revolution and the second during the past week. The new provincial leaders are Wuhan military region officials who were brought in to govern this area following the kidnaping incident last July, and a rehabilitated former provincial party first secretary.

The establishment of revolutionary governments in China's 29 provinces and major municipalities apparently is behind schedule. Last fall Mao demanded that "revolutionization" of provinces be completed by the Chinese New Years--31 January--presumably in preparation for a party congress being planned for mid-1968. In January, however, a Chinese foreign affairs official told a leftist Japanese delegation that it was now considered impossible to make "realistic" preparations for a national congress this year.

Meanwhile, factional clashes are continuing in many areas. According to intercepted messages, a heavily armed Red Guard group in the Kun-ming area, supposedly suppressed by the army on 28 January, was reported on 4 February to be "burying corpses" and planning to "annihilate" troops in the area.

In Shen-yang, where a Red Guard newspaper in early January reported factions split between supporters and attackers of the military region commander, messages on 3 and 5 February reported that armed groups were roaming the city and "firing" on troops. A Red Guard message from Lhasa--scene of violent Red Guard fighting for more than a year--on 3 February denounced the senior military officer in

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Tibet for allowing the "large scale armed struggle" to expand. On 5 February a radio operator said the sound of artillery could be heard daily. (TOP SECRET TRINE ISHTAR NO FOREIGN DISSEM) (Map)

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West Germany - Poland: Bonn is seeking to open a dialogue with Warsaw concerning the Oder-Neisse line.

Chancellor Kiesinger intends to ask President de Gaulle during their talks on 15-16 February to inform the Poles that West Germany is prepared to discuss the border issue. Foreign Minister Brandt intends to ask Sweden to transmit the same message to Warsaw, and other diplomatic channels may be used.

The initiative toward Poland is designed to maintain the momentum of West Germany's Eastern policy following the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia on 31 January.

According to a West German Foreign Ministry official, Bonn might be prepared to make a declaration committing itself on the border question at a future peace conference, if this would clearly lead to a resumption of diplomatic relations. Sentiment has been growing in West Germany for acceptance of the Oder-Neisse line, but Bonn's official position is that German boundaries must be determined at a peace conference officially terminating World War II.

West German officials see little chance of a breakthrough with Warsaw at present but view this probe as the first move in a campaign to soften the hard Polish line toward West Germany. They also reason that the probe will make it more difficult for the Poles to assert that Bonn is intransigent on the border issue.

For their part, the Poles may be willing to hold private exploratory talks. Immediate results should not be expected. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/  
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Belgium: A cabinet crisis has arisen after the government of Prime Minister Vanden Boeynants collapsed yesterday.

King Baudouin is consulting with political leaders on forming a new government. In view of the tension between the French and Dutch-speaking communities, these consultations are likely to be difficult and lengthy. If the King cannot obtain agreement among the major parties on a successor, elections will be necessary.

The major parties, however, are under pressure to come up with some sort of a compromise since elections would probably benefit only the small, militant parties.

Foreign policy is not an issue, and Belgium's membership in NATO is not in question. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Denmark: The new Danish Government wants to be assured that the US accepts Denmark's policy of banning nuclear weapons in Greenland.

Foreign Minister Hartling informed Ambassador White on 7 February that Denmark does not anticipate renegotiation of the 1951 Greenland base treaty. He sees something less formal, such as an exchange of notes, in which the US would accept Denmark's policy of not allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on its territory and banning overflights of aircraft carrying such weapons.

Hartling indicated that this formula would satisfy what he and the government see as the insistent public demand for positive assurances that Denmark will rigidly stick to its stand against nuclear weapons.  
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USSR: A lunar probe launched from Tyuratam yesterday failed early in flight. It was the first Soviet attempt to orbit the moon or to land on its surface since December 1966. The 13-month hiatus probably has been used to improve existing instrumentation or to develop equipment needed for new experiments. The two Soviet payloads that were successfully landed on the moon returned valuable pictures and scientific data, but the three that orbited provided only marginally useful photography of the lunar surface. (TOP SECRET TRINE)

Nigeria: The secretary general of the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat is going to Lagos on 9 February to present his latest proposals for halting Nigeria's civil war. Although his proposals provide for the maintenance of a united Nigeria, federal leaders will probably react negatively, especially since their military campaign is going well. Biafran leader Ojukwu recently has appeared more flexible regarding Biafran sovereignty and already may have approved the Secretariat's initiative. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/BACKGROUND USE ONLY/CONTROLLED DISSEM)

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