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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

*Memorandum*



THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 0600  
22 March 1965

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
22 March 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam as of 0600 EST

The US Air Strike of 22 March

1. About 20 US aircraft struck the Vinh Son radar site in North Vietnam at about 1600 local Vietnam time (0300 EST) on 22 March. All planes returned safely, except one F-105 which crashed into the sea. The cause of the crash is undetermined. The pilot was recovered safely. Initial pilot reports indicate that the results of the raid were "excellent."

2. Initial field reconnaissance reports indicate that the 21 March South Vietnamese strike against the Vu Con barracks in North Vietnam destroyed five buildings in the target area. The target contained some 64 buildings in all.

Bloc Political Developments

3. The Communist bloc capitals have roundly scored the 21 March South Vietnamese attack, but do not advance any new or different themes in their propaganda treatment of the situation.

4. On the political front, the Chinese Communists have made a new move apparently aimed at bringing pressure against the US to halt its air strikes against North Vietnam and at encouraging French hopes for negotiations on Indochina.

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[REDACTED] Communist China might take part in an international conference if it were convened without preconditions. They noted specifically that Peiping would not insist on prior withdrawal of US forces from South Vietnam as the price of such talks, but would be unwilling to condition a conference on cessation of DRV support for the Viet Cong.

Bloc Military Developments

14. No significant military deployments associated with the Vietnam situation have been noted in North Vietnam, Communist China or the Soviet Union during the past twenty-four hours.

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Viet Cong Military Activity

16. No major Viet Cong actions have been reported today as the Communists continue to emphasize small-scale but widespread guerrilla activity in the countryside.

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Meanwhile, two grenade incidents were reported in Saigon and Da Nang respectively, but no damage or serious injuries were sustained in either case.

18. Two motorized junks about 25 miles off Binh Dinh Province on 20 March fired on a Vietnamese observer aircraft which had sighted them. Vietnamese fighter aircraft subsequently strafed the junks, disabling one while the other escaped. The disabled junk is being towed to shore. No other details are available at this time.

19. According to unconfirmed press reports, two battalions of South Vietnamese troops were airlifted by 49 helicopters today against a concentration of 1,500 Viet Cong about 10 miles from Da Nang. The area reportedly had previously been softened up by 28 U.S. and South Vietnamese aircraft. If confirmed, this action would mark the largest helicopter operation thus far in the South Vietnam Army I Corps.

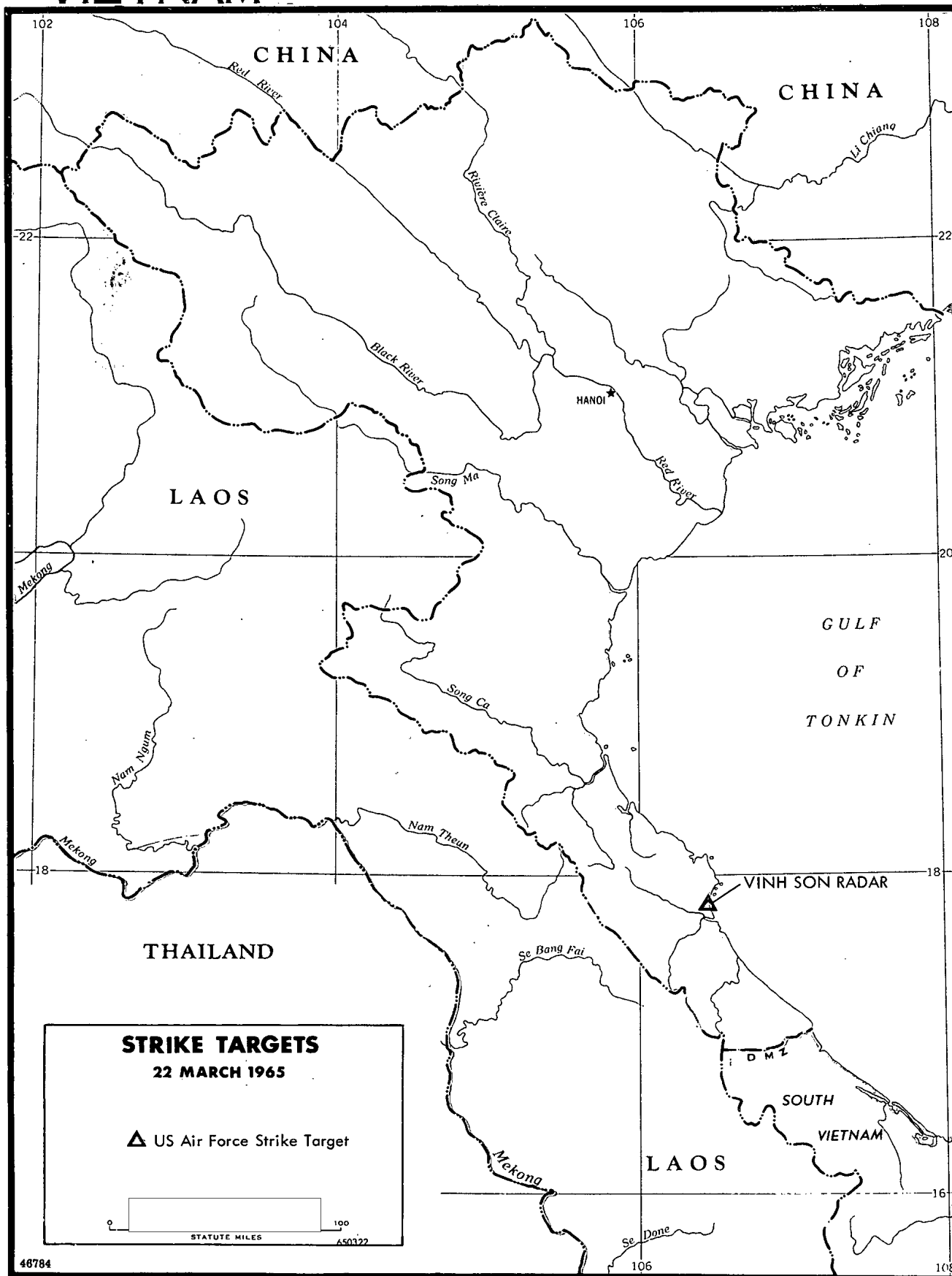
South Vietnam Political Developments

20. Nothing of significance has been reported in the last 24 hours.

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# NORTH VIETNAM

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