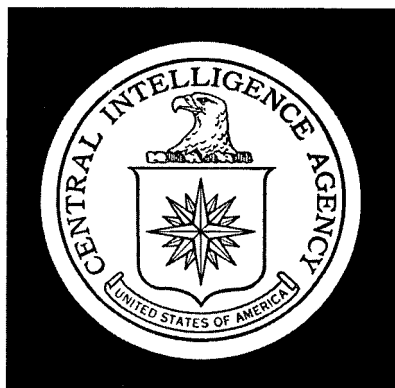


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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

ARMY review(s) completed.

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State Dept. review completed

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HIGHLIGHTS

The North Vietnamese have stepped up the movement of supplies southward along their coast during the Tet cease-fire.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:

A total of 215 enemy-initiated incidents have been reported during the first three days of the cease-fire period (Paras. 1-2). According to several recently captured documents, the Viet Cong have had difficulty recruiting and keeping military forces due to low morale and poor leadership (Paras. 3-6).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

A recent US field assessment of conditions in the central highlands concludes that the tribal autonomy movement FULRO, is not planning an uprising during Tet (Para. 1).

III. North Vietnamese Military Developments:

Field reports indicate that the Communists are stepping up the movement of supplies toward the southernmost areas of North Vietnam during the Tet truce (Paras. 1-3).

IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

VI. Other Major Aspects: Recent photography indicates that efforts to improve and expand North Vietnam's rail system are continuing (Paras. 1-5).

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. As the third day of the Tet cease-fire ends, a total of 215 Communist-initiated incidents --85 major and 130 minor--have been reported. The 85 major incidents have resulted in American casualties of 13 killed and 82 wounded. South Vietnamese casualties are reported as four killed, ten wounded, and two missing. Communist losses are 59 killed, two captured, and 23 Communist suspects detained.

2. There appears to be no significant pattern in the incidents that have occurred so far. However, the majority of the enemy-initiated incidents have been directed against US patrols and perimeter defenses. The rate of these incidents remains about the same as during the two previous military stand-downs at Christmas and New Year's, 1966.

Viet Cong Difficulties in Binh Duong

3. Several documents captured during Operation CEDAR FALLS indicate that the Viet Cong in Binh Duong Province are losing popular support and are having difficulty recruiting and keeping military, especially guerrilla, forces.

4. According to one document, dated 29 August 1966, the people "lacked confidence in cadres and soldiers." A second document, containing minutes of a meeting held between 21 October and 3 November 1966, spoke of difficulties encountered by the Viet Cong in attempts to induce refugees from Communist-controlled areas to return to their native hamlets and villages. The Viet Cong had offered to repair houses belonging to these people and had promised agricultural loans, but apparently with little success. The document stated that the people "still express concern about living in their former areas because of fear of bombings and artillery fire."

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5. A complaint in a 27 September 1966 quarterly report prepared by the Dau Tieng District Command Committee that the guerrilla movement was progressing slowly because of recruitment difficulties is probably related to the decrease of popular support. Other documents have indicated that the Communists in the province are having as much difficulty in holding on to their military personnel as they are in recruiting them. According to the 29 August document, such "erroneous tendencies" as pacifism, corruption, and poor discipline among troops were corrected during indoctrination sessions, but weaknesses were still apparent in military leadership, thus increasing the likelihood of desertions.

6. A 10 May 1966 document from the chief of the Binh Duong provincial unit's political section further revealed that troops of this unit feared hardship, death, artillery and air attacks, and the prospect of a protracted war. The document cited several instances of entire platoons fleeing the battlefield and leaving their weapons behind during engagements with the allies. A third document, in addition, reported that a number of guerrillas in the province had deserted in October 1966 because they feared exposure by former comrades who had rallied to the government.

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

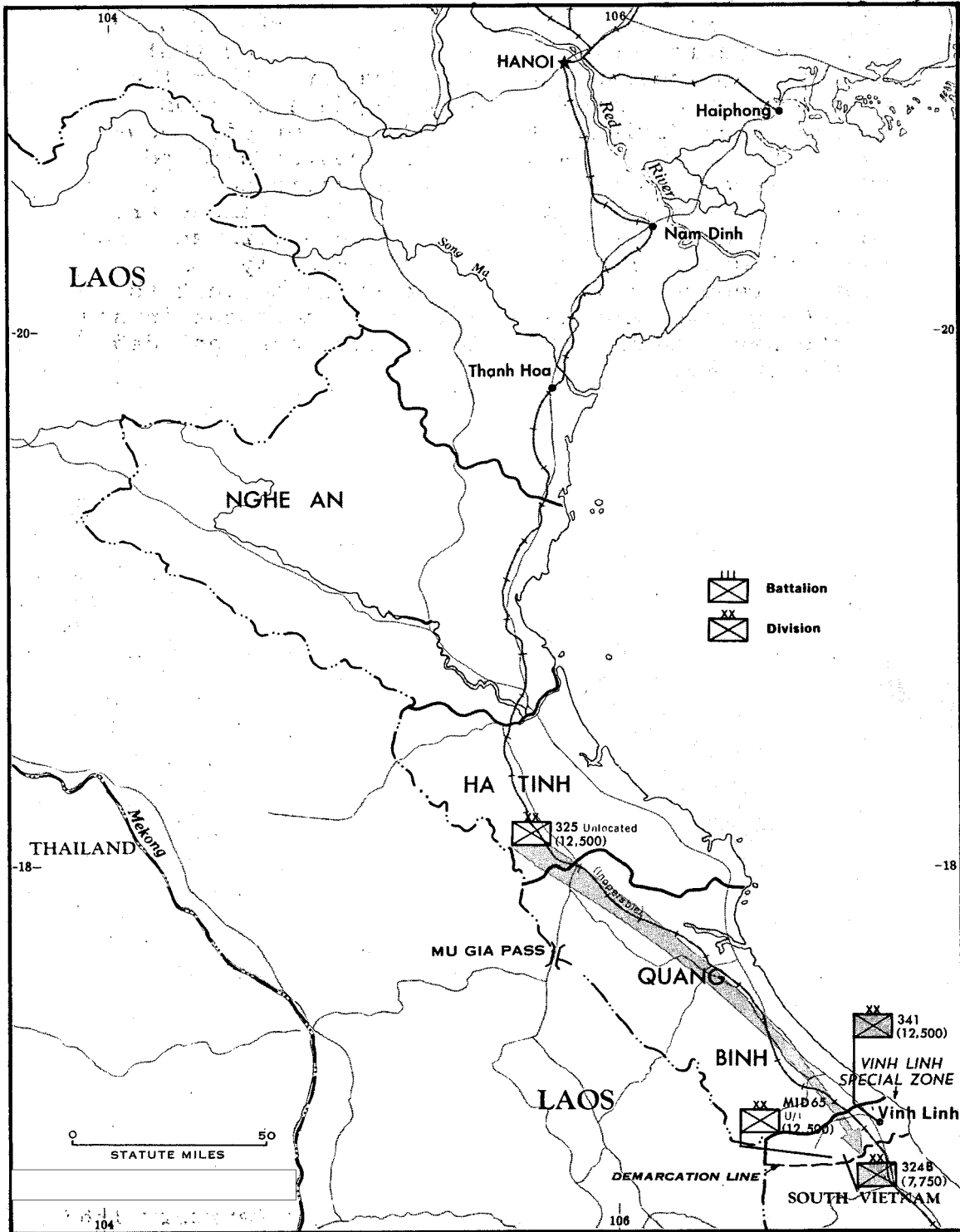
1. A recent field situation report based on the observations of US officials concludes that there is no substance to recent reports that the tribal autonomy movement--FULRO--plans serious disturbances during the Tet holiday period. However, US observers warn that, if montagnard and FULRO dissatisfaction with GVN economic policies continues, and if other FULRO-GVN differences are not settled, the breach between the government and the montagnards may again widen. Finally, US sources report that there is no evidence that the Viet Cong have penetrated the FULRO movement in any of the seven central highlands provinces included in the survey.

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North Vietnam: Order of Battle



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III. NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Reports from US military units indicate that the North Vietnamese, as expected, are taking advantage of the Tet truce to step up supply movements in support of their war effort.

2. Up to 10 February, 900 to 1,000 coastal watercraft have been sighted along the coast of North Vietnam--all but a few between the 18th and 17th parallels. The boats could have been carrying supplies destined either for Laos or the DMZ area. Supplies are apparently being landed north of the DMZ and transferred to trucks which can take them either westward to Mu Gia Pass or southward toward the DMZ.

3. The poor descriptions of the watercraft sighted and lack of information on trip frequencies preclude an accurate estimate of the tonnages being moved. The capacity of most of the craft usually employed along the coast is probably about ten tons each. The sightings during the present truce have been twice the sightings during the Christmas truce. More units, however, are now observing this traffic, and the area of coverage is greater.



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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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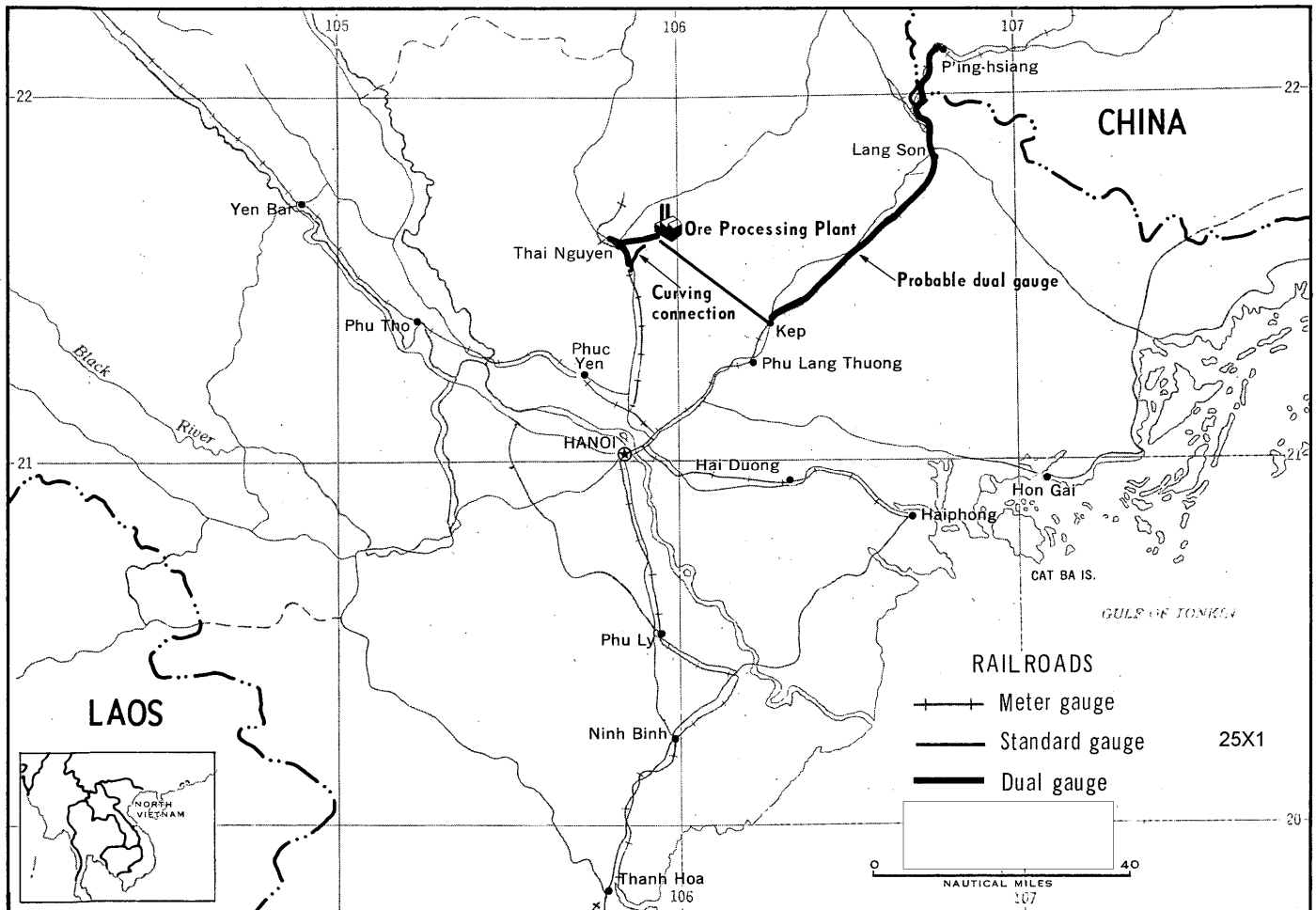
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Hanoi Area Dual Gauge Railroad Development



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VI. OTHER MAJOR ASPECTS

1. Recent photography indicates that efforts to improve and expand North Vietnam's rail lines are continuing. In the Thai Nguyen area the North Vietnamese are beginning to lay a standard-gauge third rail on the meter-gauge line between Thai Nguyen and Hanoi.

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2. Photography [redacted] reveals that the rail line from Thai Nguyen to Hanoi has been converted from meter gauge to dual gauge to a point about three NM south of Thai Nguyen. The same photography shows a curving connection being constructed to link the line coming into Thai Nguyen from Hanoi with the newly constructed line from Kep.

3. The line from Kep is known to be standard gauge up to the Thai Nguyen iron ore processing plant. From this junction, [redacted] photography shows the line to be dual gauge until the connection with the line to Hanoi. The connecting curve is shown in photography as being laid with only standard-gauge track, but the switches connecting the curve to the main lines are dual gauge.

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4. Earlier photography has suggested that a standard-gauge third rail is also being added to the meter-gauge line between Kep and Hanoi.

5. Completion of both dual-gauge lines and the probable dual-gauge line running from Ping-hsiang to Kep would allow materials moving from or through China on standard-gauge track to pass all the way to Hanoi, via Kep - Thai Nguyen or Kep-Hanoi, without transloading. These construction efforts seem to continue Hanoi's policy of steadily providing alternate transport facilities; the existing rail lines are not used to capacity.

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