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17 May 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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*Dominican Republic: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT) The rebels continue to seek external political support as the morale of their fighting units in Santo Domingo declines in the face of continued loyalist military pressure.

The rebel Caamano government continues to make the most of the political cards at its disposal. General Rikhye, head of the advance United Nations party representing U Thant, received a rousing public welcome when he visited rebel-held areas yesterday. Caamano's claim to represent the forces of "constitutionalism" evidently has been one of his most effective arguments abroad, particularly in Chile and Venezuela.

[Extremists are now talking of a last ditch defense of their strongholds, although many have reportedly already left the city. They are suffering from shortages of ammunition and gasoline, however, and reportedly from defections among their followers.]

[Some of the political moderates on the rebel side are showing disillusionment with the Caamano government. These include several leaders of Juan Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) who helped spark the original revolt but who evidently do not now have significant influence in the Caamano group.]

Meanwhile, Antonio Imbert--whose effort to establish a viable anti-rebel government has met with little success after nine days of trying--is under mounting pressure from loyalist officers who want to continue military action until the rebels are decisively defeated.

The morale of loyalist military officers is reported to be high in the wake of their first military

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successes since the insurrection began. Their forces made continued gains yesterday in the two-day old drive to clear the rebels from the important industrial zone in the northern part of the city. [REDACTED]

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Meanwhile, the Brazilian and Venezuelan governments are moving ahead with plans to participate in the Inter-American Armed Force. Brazilian President Castello Branco, who plans today to seek congressional authorization for an 800-man contingent, told the US Army attache that he had made this decision because it is morally right, because Brazilian interests demand that there not be another Cuba in this hemisphere, and because "the United States should not always carry the burden alone." [REDACTED]

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

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[Developments in North Vietnam: Photography [redacted] disclosed 60 MIG-15/17 jet fighters at Phuc Yen airfield, four more than were noted there on 13 May. The photography failed to disclose any jet fighters at Hanoi's Gia Lam airfield, [redacted]

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However, about 20 transport aircraft were still at Gia Lam.]

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[A photoreconnaissance mission [redacted] over major rail yards near the Sino-DRV border area did not detect any evidence of military rail shipments.]

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Communist Political Developments: Hanoi radio on 15 and 16 May claimed that Western reports that Washington and Saigon had proposed discontinuing bombing attacks against North Vietnam if the DRV stopped supporting the Viet Cong were "a worn-out trick of deceit and threat." The Hanoi broadcasts referred to other Western reports in an attempt to prove

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that the current lull in attacks was ordered to permit aerial reconnaissance and to "pinpoint remaining targets worthy of American attacks."

Peiping, Hanoi and the NFLSV have all strongly criticized President Johnson's renewed call for unconditional negotiations. A Chinese broadcast called the appeal a "discredited hoax," while North Vietnam's party daily claimed it repeated "shopworn allegations full of contradictions and deceptions." Hanoi called the President's speech "only a maneuver" as the US prepared for more "aggressive" acts. A Liberation Front statement claimed that negotiations would be meaningless unless the NFLSV participated and unless all US troops were withdrawn.

Peiping claimed that the President had "slanderosly charged" China with wanting to continue the war "whatever the cost to its allies." Hanoi called references to China's ambitions in Asia a "divisive plot" and "an obvious attempt to split the socialist countries." The Liberation Front statement called the President's speech an attempt to "sow division," claimed it was "cowardly to slander Peiping by saying the latter exerts pressure on Hanoi," and stated that the Vietnamese did not need Peiping or anyone else "to incite them to rise up to fight for salvation."

North Vietnam has rejected Indian President Radhakrishnan's proposal for negotiations, according to a Hanoi broadcast on 15 May. Hanoi claims that the proposal was "aimed at finding for the US a way out which also helps it rule over South Vietnam." Hanoi still is trying to avoid exacerbating relations with India, stating that even though the "Indian authorities want to show their goodwill...their erroneous viewpoint benefits only the US imperialists."

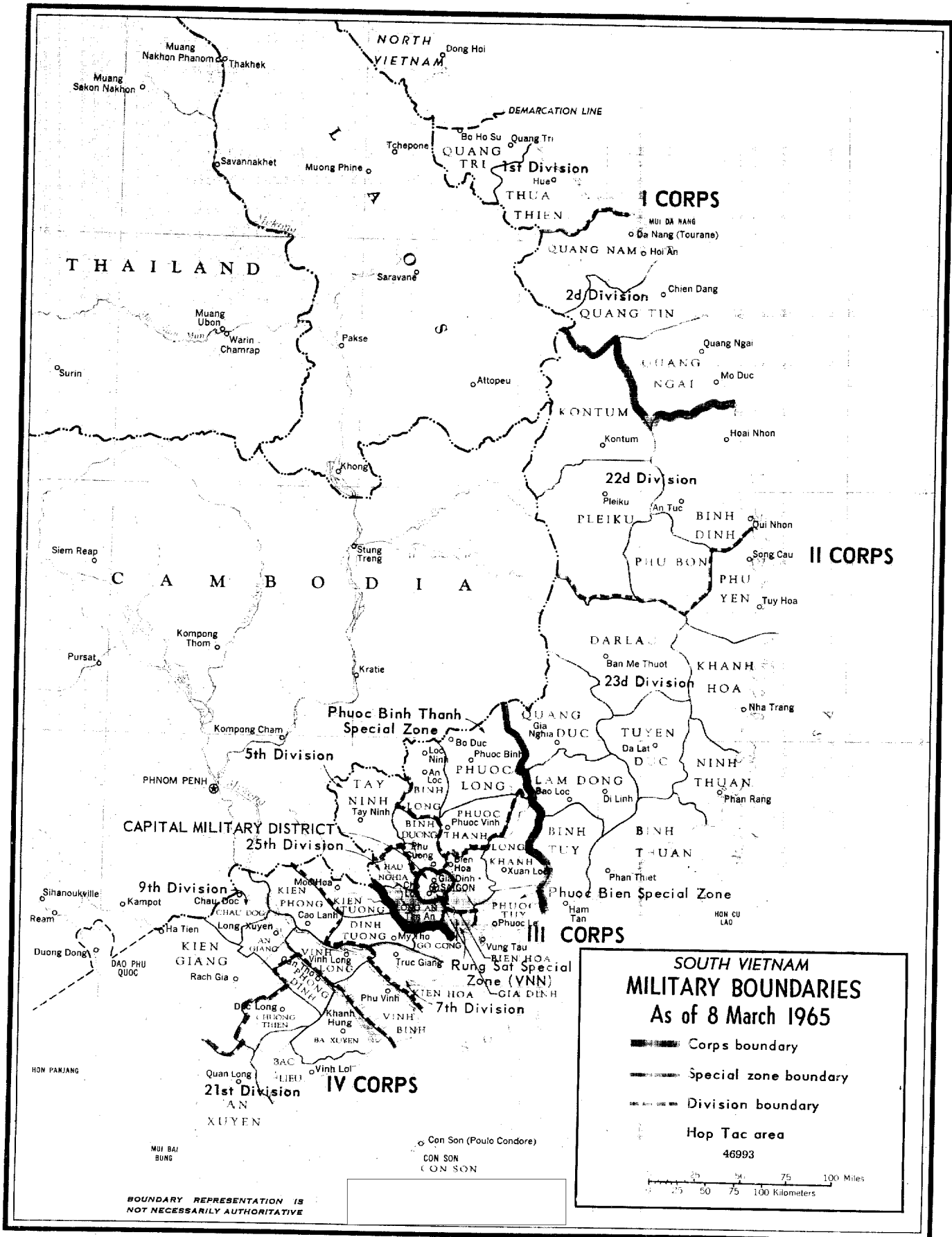
Hanoi had broadcast a milder statement on the proposals on 7 May which claimed that the offer ran counter to India's proper role as chairman of the ICC in Vietnam.

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The Situation in South Vietnam: There is still no evidence of Viet Cong sabotage in yesterday's chain reaction explosion which killed at least 21-24 Americans, wounded 95 and destroyed some 12 aircraft at Bien Hoa air base north of Saigon. The initial explosions so far appear to have resulted from a defective bomb fuse. No Vietnamese are known to have participated in loading ordnance on the planes.

The heavy losses at Bien Hoa followed the almost total destruction of a 16-vehicle government convoy which was ambushed by the Viet Cong in Long Khanh Province about 50 miles northeast of Saigon on 15 May. Government losses were reported as 41 killed, 20 wounded, 39 missing, 13 vehicles destroyed, and one armored car missing.

An official press announcement of 15 May indicates that South Vietnam's National Security Council the previous day approved Premier Quat's proposed military command reorganization; no personnel appointments have yet been announced. [Meanwhile, recent remarks by Buddhist leader Tri Quang to embassy officers suggest that a new period of Buddhist political restiveness, with anti-Catholic, anti-government, and anti-US overtones, may be in the offing. In addition to charging that the Catholics were raising private armies, Quang claimed that the boost to popular morale from the air strikes now appeared to be waning, and that anti-American sentiment and interest in peace would probably begin to reappear.]

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Bolivia: Deportation of Juan Lechin to Paraguay will intensify labor unrest.

[The minister of labor is expected to resign over the deportation of the powerful head of the Bolivian Workers' Confederation and the National Leftist Revolutionary Party.] The Federation of Mine Workers and some other unions have called a general strike to start tonight in protest against government labor policy and Lechin's arrest.

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The minister of government has announced that Lechin's exile is due to his involvement in subversive plotting and his possession of dual citizenship. [Lechin was accused of having acquired Chilean nationality under an assumed name.]

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Ecuador: The junta appears to be overcoming the crisis in Guayaquil.

After giving striking Guayaquil businessmen and their regionalist followers an impressive demonstration of martial law, the military junta has issued a decree which paves the way for settlement. The decree establishes a special commission, chaired by the minister of finance, which will have ten days to work out any necessary modifications in the new tariff rates which touched off the strike. In practice the procedure does little more than give the chamber of commerce an opportunity to be heard.

Goods will meanwhile clear customs at the old rates, but new schedules will eventually apply retroactively. The merchants have conditioned their acceptance of the decree upon release of those arrested during the past week. Freedom of expression and assembly have been restored and military patrolling has been reduced.

The affair could have a salutary effect on stability, in that it led to a determined government show of strength followed by a somewhat magnanimous concession, and was accompanied by seizure of the arms cache of the terrorist Detachments of Secret Organization. It may also have restored armed forces unity, which has recently been in doubt.

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Israel-Syria: The 13 May firing incident on the Israeli-Syrian border was provoked by the Israelis to create a pretext for shelling Arab Jordan River diversion equipment in the vicinity, according to evidence accumulated since the attack. This is the second such attempt to deter the Arabs from proceeding with their diversion project. After the Israelis attacked a work site close to the border on 17 March Syrian construction activity, which is in a very early stage, at first ceased and then was resumed at the present less exposed site.

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The Vice President
Executive Offices of the White House
 Special Counsel to the President
 The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs
 The Scientific Adviser to the President
 The Director of the Budget

The Department of State
 The Secretary of State
 The Under Secretary of State
 The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
 The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
 The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council
 The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Treasury Department
 The Secretary of the Treasury
 The Under Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense
 The Secretary of Defense
 The Deputy Secretary of Defense
 The Secretary of the Army
 The Secretary of the Navy
 The Secretary of the Air Force
 The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)
 The Assistant Secretary of Defense
 The Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff
 Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy
 Chief of Staff, United States Air Force
 Chief of Staff, United States Army
 Commandant, United States Marine Corps
 U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO
 Supreme Allied Commander, Europe
 Commander in Chief, Pacific
 Commander in Chief, Atlantic
 The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
 The Director, The Joint Staff
 The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army
 The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy
 The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

The Department of Justice
 The Attorney General
 The Federal Bureau of Investigation
 The Director

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 The Administrator

The Atomic Energy Commission
 The Chairman

The National Security Agency
 The Director

The United States Information Agency
 The Director

The National Indications Center
 The Director

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