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Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

SOUTH VIETNAM: South Vietnamese troops encounter increased resistance near Quang Tri City. (Page 1)

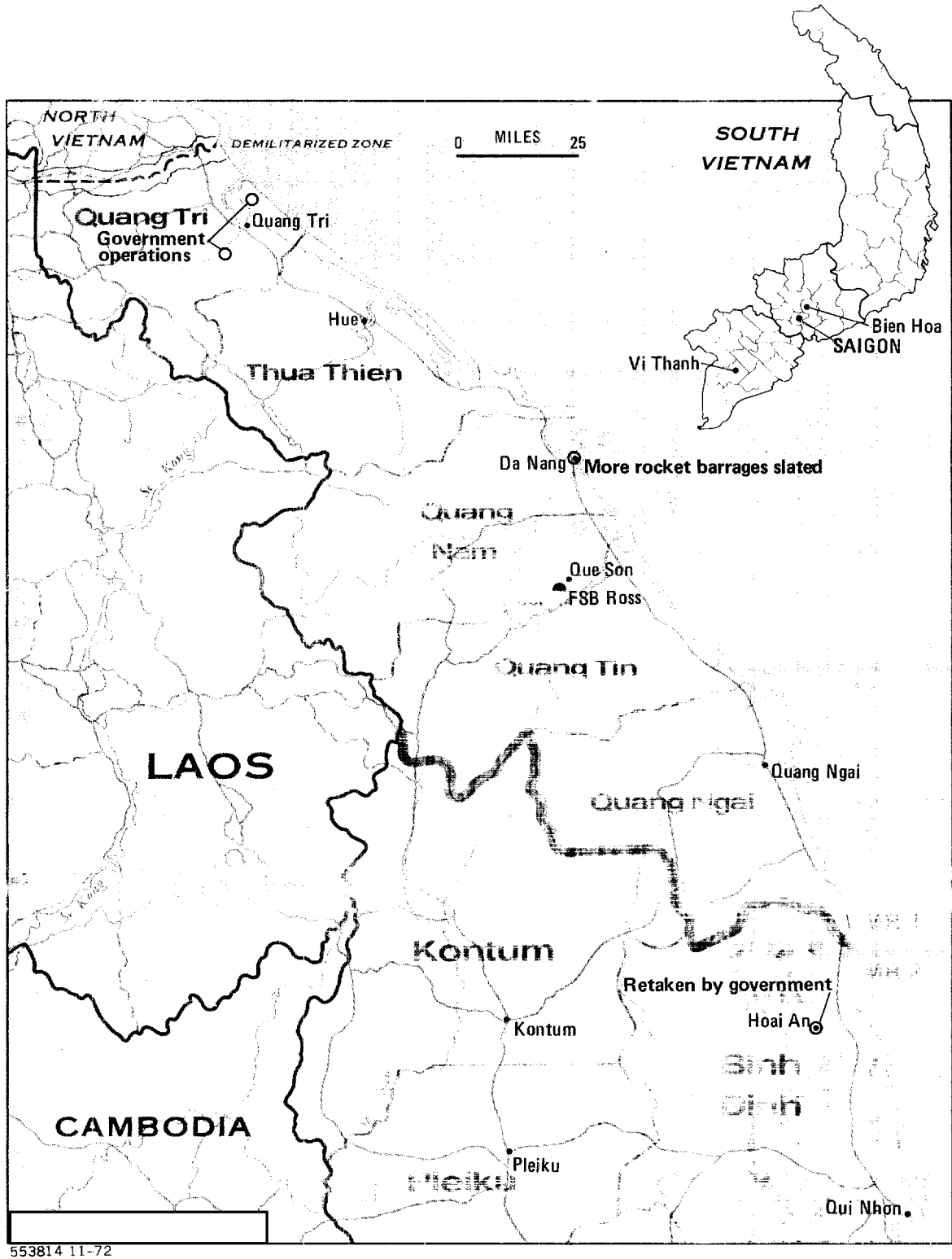
ISRAEL: Views of Defense Minister Dayan may keep alive the controversy of the fate of the occupied territories. (Page 2)

LAOS: Military situation (Page 5)

CHILE: President Allende's travel plans (Page 5)

SECRET

SECRET



25X1

SECRET

SECRET

SOUTH VIETNAM: South Vietnamese troops are encountering increased resistance west and north of the Quang Tri provincial capital.

Farther south in Quang Nam Province, [redacted] the Communists have slated still more rocket barrages for the Da Nang area, with some six firings scheduled through 20 November. In the Que Son Valley, a regiment of the North Vietnamese 711th Division has been detected close to Fire Support Base Ross. Prisoners have indicated that the Communists will soon mount new attacks in the Que Son area, possibly supported by armor and artillery. South Vietnamese forces in coastal Binh Dinh Province, meanwhile, have retaken Hoai An District capital, the last district center that was under enemy control in the province.

25X1

In the southern provinces, the Communists directed a 40-round rocket barrage against Bien Hoa Airbase yesterday, but only light damage and a few casualties resulted. A Communist regiment north of Saigon reportedly has lost nearly two thirds of its personnel during the past few weeks, including the regimental commander and deputy commander. [redacted] enemy supply shortages north of the capital are forcing small Communist units to forage for food and other supplies.

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In the delta, the Communists directed mortar fire against the Chuong Thien provincial capital of Vi Thanh and shelled several district towns close to the Cambodian border. A recently captured document says that all Vietnamese Communist units in Cambodia have been ordered to move into South Vietnam whether or not there is a political settlement of the war. [redacted]

25X1

13 Nov 72

Central Intelligence Bulletin

1

SECRET

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ISRAEL: Party debate over the ultimate fate of the occupied territories has been temporarily halted, but the views of Defense Minister Dayan are likely to keep controversy alive.

On 8 November, Prime Minister Meir called an end to the Labor Party's discussion of Israel's policy toward the occupied Jordanian territory that had been initiated by Dayan in July. During the debate, Dayan, who is recognized as the key voice on security matters in the cabinet, had elaborated on his ideas on the issue, and this had stimulated a reassessment of Israel's relations with the Arabs under its control.

Like others in the government, according to the US Embassy, Dayan seems convinced that a negotiated peace settlement with Jordan should not come before some progress is made on the Egyptian front. He also apparently believes that Israel must demand more of Jordan than security. The continued movement of population between Israel and the West Bank, according to Dayan, could not be ensured if control of large parts of that territory were to revert to Jordan now. Instead, he favors a long period of Arab-Israeli familiarization and cooperation so that Israel is never again isolated.

In support of this view, Dayan has recently advocated more dynamic economic and social welfare programs aimed at integrating the populations of the occupied territories. Dayan believes that an environment more propitious for peace can be created in the span of a few years by increasing the number of informal arrangements with Jordan and by providing the population of the occupied territories with services, wages, and a standard of living comparable to that now enjoyed by the Israelis. Mrs. Meir and other powerful Israelis reportedly look askance at this proposal, fearing that economic integration with the occupied lands implies political integration and threatens the character of the Jewish state.

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13 Nov 72

Central Intelligence Bulletin

2

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

Dayan does not play a pivotal role on these basic matters of the Israeli approach toward peace and the future character of the state of Israel. Nevertheless, Mrs. Meir's move to cut off debate on this issue reflects her concern that Dayan's views could gather a following and cause a breach in the party.

25X1

13 Nov 72

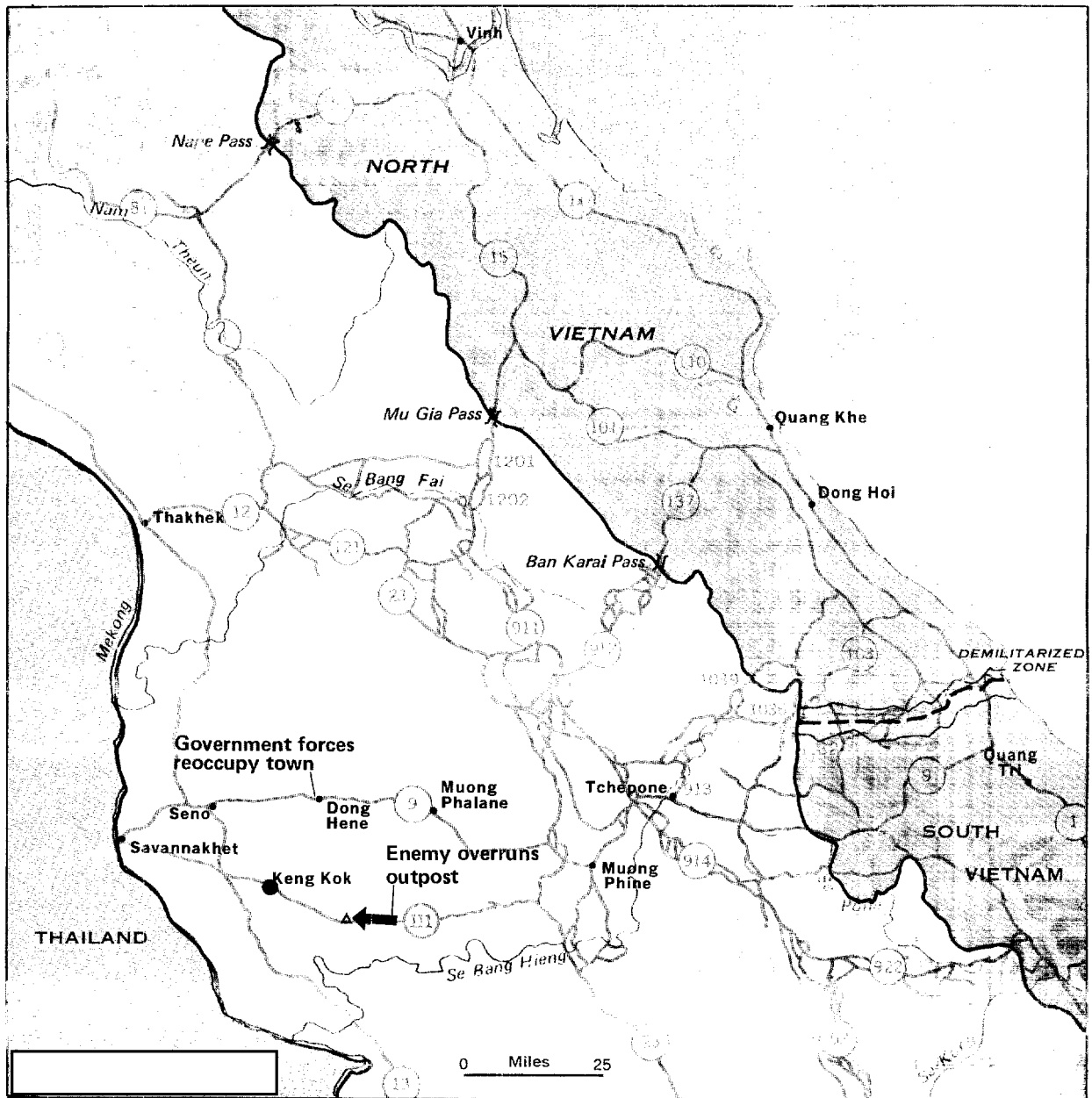
Central Intelligence Bulletin

3

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LAOS: Central Panhandle



25X1

Government-held location

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NOTES

LAOS: Government irregulars succeeded in re-occupying Dong Hene on 11 November after several days of bitter fighting in and around the town. The capture of this town in the central panhandle, while of little military significance, caps a successful government counteroffensive that began on 2 November with the recapture of the nearby village of Keng Kok. The military situation in the central panhandle is far from settled, however. At the same time that government forces were pushing their way into Dong Hene, a North Vietnamese battalion was overrunning a lightly defended government outpost some 15 miles southeast of Keng Kok. In the north, poor weather over the weekend hampered General Vang Pao's forces, and they made no significant headway on the Plaine des Jarres. (Late yesterday, the Communists hit Luang Prabang airfield with 20-30 122-mm. rockets, which destroyed one aircraft and damaged four others. The airfield, itself, suffered only light damage, and there were no casualties in the attack, which the enemy failed to follow up on the ground.)

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CHILE: The details of President Allende's recently announced travel plans appear to have been determined. According to the Chilean chargé in Mexico, the president will begin a two-week trip about 28 November. He will first stop in Mexico and next visit the UN General Assembly in New York. He will then proceed to Moscow before returning home by way of Cuba. Interior Minister General Prats will be the acting chief executive during his absence. Chilean sources expect that President Allende will find an occasion to meet with US officials.

[REDACTED]

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