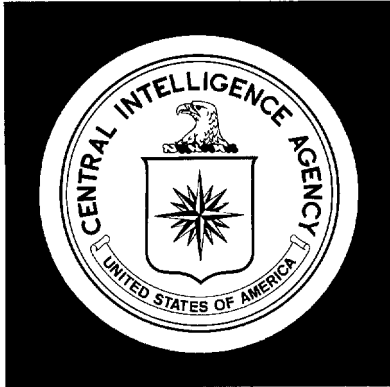


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CAMBODIA: Phnom Penh is calm following the bombing of the presidential palace on Saturday and brief student disorders earlier in the day.

The Khmer insurgents marked the third anniversary of Sihanouk's ouster yesterday by lightly shelling the outskirts of Phnom Penh, but no other significant action was reported. The state of emergency declared by President Lon Nol on 17 March remains in effect, as does a dusk-to-dawn curfew. The government has also suspended publication of all privately owned newspapers until further notice and is keeping the city's security forces on maximum alert.

There is confusion over the identity and motives of the Cambodian Air Force officer responsible for the bombing of the presidential palace. He was recently expelled from flight training for disciplinary reasons, but there is no evidence linking him and the insurgents. The government claims the pilot is the husband of one of Sihanouk's daughters, although the US Embassy has no information to confirm this. Several relatives of Sihanouk in the Phnom Penh area have been arrested, and a number of other members of the royal family have been removed from their military positions.

The attack on the palace was preceded by violence that broke out during a mass meeting of students and teachers called to decide whether protests against the government's economic policies should be continued. Following a scuffle between some students and soldiers, several grenades exploded, killing at least two students and injuring many others. Popular reaction to the incident so far has been mild, but additional student and teacher demonstrations are planned for later this week.

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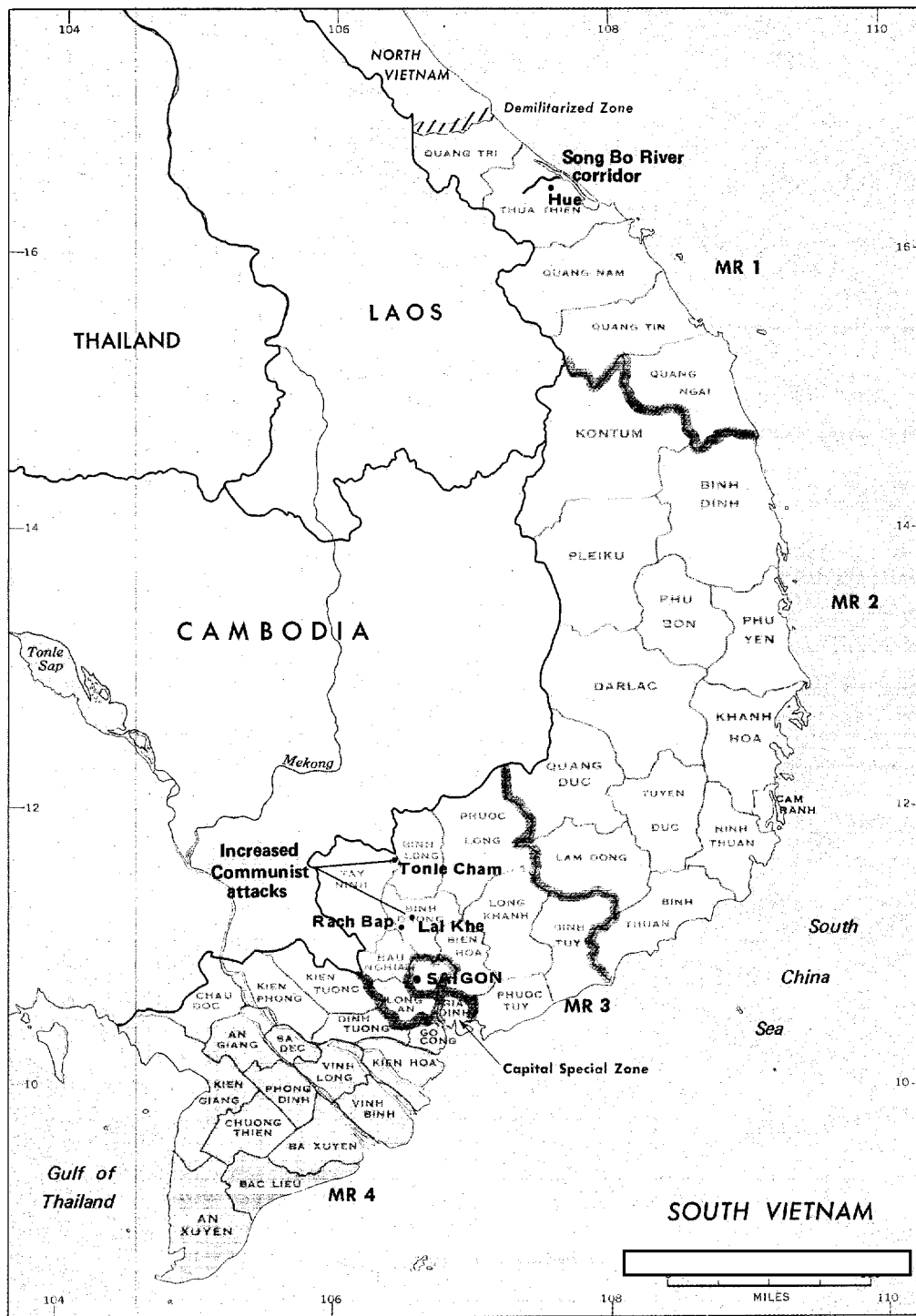
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SOUTH VIETNAM: Sharp fighting occurred early in the weekend north of Saigon and northwest of Hue, but it has since slackened somewhat.

Communist troops launched strong attacks against a government outpost at Rach Bap and a base camp at Lai Khe in Binh Duong Province. These attacks have now eased, but the Communists are applying heavy military pressure farther north against a Ranger camp at Tonle Cham in Tay Ninh Province. The Rangers have been unable to get fresh supplies or to evacuate their wounded because of heavy Communist ground fire, but they still have control of the camp. The Communist delegates on the Four Power Joint Military Commission so far have successfully prevented any investigation of the fighting by the Commission, according to the US Embassy.

Northwest of Hue, Communist units increased their ground and artillery attacks along the Song Bo River corridor. South Vietnamese control of this area has hindered Communist infiltration and resupply into the lowlands from their mountain bases. Although fighting has subsided in the past 24 hours, renewed clashes are likely.

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CHILE: Bitter infighting in the government coalition is detracting from its good election showing.

The basic struggle is between some Socialist Party leaders, who are increasingly determined to radicalize the Chilean revolution, and the more cautious Communists, who are convinced they must root out extremism in order to protect their interests.

Strong personal rivalries are also involved; so is President Allende's instinct for survival that keeps him playing both sides, although he leans toward the Communist rationale as safer. Allende hopes that, with his help, fellow Socialists who share his preference for tactical moderation will be able to recapture his party's leadership.

The Socialists and Communists are now focusing on a highly publicized split in a coalition mini-party nearly extinguished in the election on 4 March. One faction of the party is manipulated by the Communists, the other by the Socialists; both seem intent on making all government supporters make a choice.

The larger aim of the struggle is to determine who will control the Allende administration during its last three years. The Communists reportedly want to force the extremists from the coalition. The extremists suspect the Communists are also preparing the groundwork for cooperation with the opposition Christian Democrats. [REDACTED]

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