

Approved For Release

25X1

2008/08/04 :

CIA-RDP85T00875R001000090

Dec

Approved For Release

2008/08/04 :

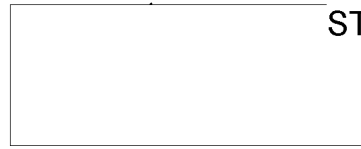
CIA-RDP85T00875R001000090

completed

Top Secret



STAT



STAT



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Developments in Indochina

State Dept. review completed

Top Secret

100

5 January 1973

25X1



25X1


Page Denied



DEVELOPMENTS IN INDOCHINA

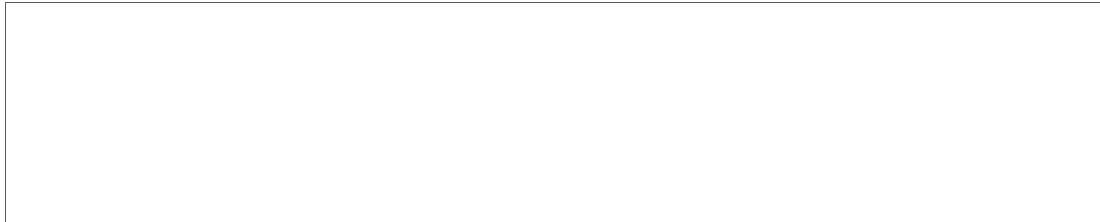
(Information as of 1500)

SOUTH VIETNAM

So far, the intensification of enemy military activities predicted for early January  has been slight. New moves by the An Quang Buddhists could generate frictions with the Thieu government.

25X1

25X1



25X1

LAOS

Bouam Long defenders have enjoyed four relatively quiet days. The irregulars are not having much success retaking Vieng Pou Kha.

CAMBODIA

The government is sending reinforcements to Tram Khnar.

NORTH VIETNAM

Rapid progress is being made in construction of a new airfield south of Vinh.

5 January 1973



SOUTH VIETNAM

The intensification of enemy military activities predicted for early January [redacted] has been slight. So far most of the action has been concentrated in the southern provinces where there has been a moderate rise above the daily incident level of the last two months; government civil and military installations have been shelled and roads and bridges sabotaged. Casualties and damage have been light.

25X1

It appears that the Communists are still temporizing somewhat in directives to their forces and that they have not yet issued firm orders and fixed dates for a substantial new campaign. Although most reflections of Communist directives currently indicate a desire to try and influence the negotiations at Paris by a show of military strength in South Vietnam, the enemy high command appears to be moving cautiously in deciding when and where to call for a major effort. This is doubtless because of the frequent changes in the status of the negotiations over the past few weeks, as well as a desire to avoid another mistiming of military operations, such as the one that committed many enemy units to a costly, premature offensive last October in anticipation of a cease-fire.

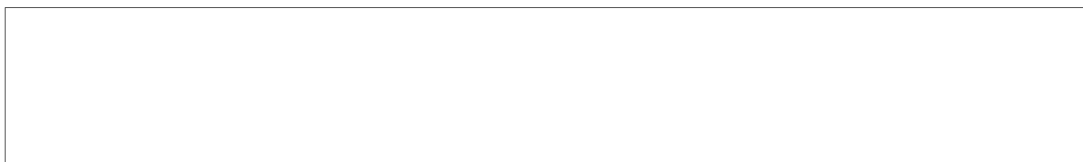
The Communists nevertheless apparently believe that the next few months will be critical in the outcome of the war.

25X1

5 January 1973

-1-


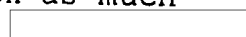
25X1





25X1

In most  reports 

25X1

 there is substantial criticism of recent enemy military efforts. It would appear that the inability and unwillingness of some Communist elements to carry out combat orders fully and adequately are a growing problem for the Communist command in deciding the timing and scope of new offensive operations. The Communists also have to consider the need to maintain their forces in a posture and at a strength adequate to launch the military operations they have long planned to strengthen their position as much as possible on the eve of a cease-fire. 

25X1

 planning along this line is still under way, even though the enemy is clearly less optimistic about an early cease-fire agreement. 

25X1

25X1

25X1

Buddhist Political Activities

Current efforts by the An Quang Buddhists could lead to renewed friction with the Thieu government. They are attempting to compile a list of persons detained "illegally" or "arbitrarily" by the government. An Quang has had a long-standing grievance with the government over the detention of Buddhists involved in the 1965-66 "struggle movement," and the church is also concerned over allegedly unjustified arrests during the Communist offensive last year. The Buddhists sent a letter to President Thieu last November requesting the release of those being held, the Buddhists have so far not been able to present a documented case.

Local An Quang pagodas are asking families of those being held to provide names of detainees and

5 January 1973



25X1

descriptions of the circumstances of detention. A leading monk has informed US Embassy officers that the church will focus on Buddhist detainees, but that it also hopes to obtain information on non-Buddhists. While the An Quang leadership has not indicated how it intends to use such information, it may hope to secure the release of the jailed Buddhists under a cease-fire agreement.

Meanwhile, a new An Quang political group is preparing to increase its organizational activities. Senator Vu Van Mau, the leader of the Buddhist Parliamentarians' Liaison Group, has informed US Embassy officers that the group will hold meetings in Hue on 12 and 13 January--its first activities outside of Saigon. If successful, the group will expand its activities to other areas. Despite the recent decree requiring that candidates for national office must be backed by a political party, there is no indication yet that the Buddhists plan to develop the group as their own party. They are concerned, however, that the government may try to disrupt their organizational effort. Senator Mau says there has been no harassment thus far, but he sees the Hue meetings as a test of the government's attitude.

Since the Buddhists still see the Communists as the greater threat to their position, they are reluctant to challenge the government for fear the Communists will be the ultimate beneficiaries. For this reason, they may decide to back off if they see trouble brewing. Nevertheless, their current activities indicate that An Quang leaders do not want to remain on the political sidelines when they feel their vital interests are at stake.

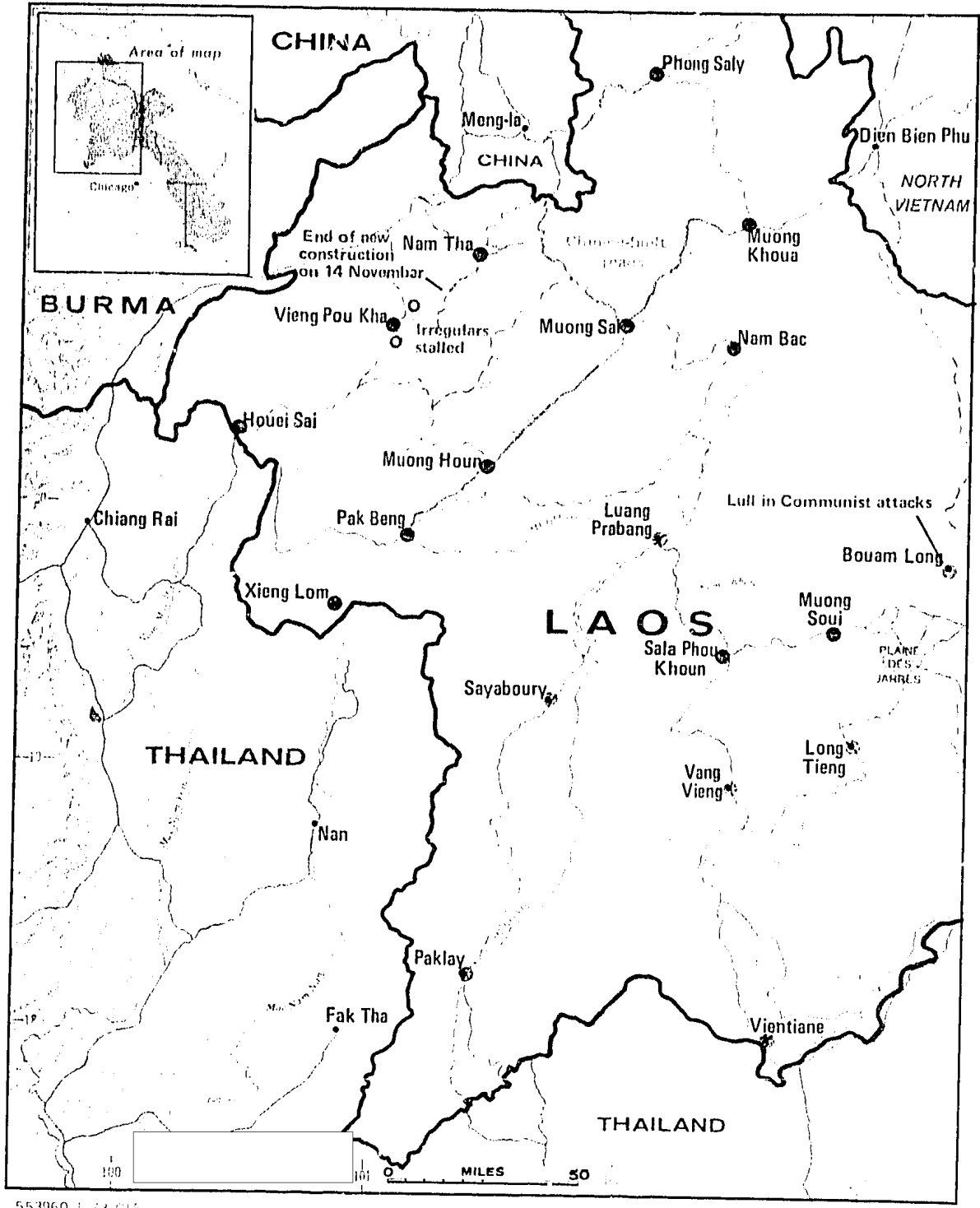
25X1

5 January 1973

-3-

25X1

Page Denied



553960 1 74 CIA

⊙ Government held position ⊕ Communist held position

25X1

[REDACTED]

LAOS

There have been no Communist ground attacks against Bouam Long in the past four days, and shelling of the government stronghold has slackened considerably. Irregular defenders are gradually extending their patrols around the base and so far have clashed with only two small Communist units.

25X1

[REDACTED]

Government Operation Fizzling in the Northwest

Since early December irregular troops have been trying without success to retake Vieng Pou Kha, a former government refugee center in Houa Khong Province. Lead elements of the small government force were less than a mile from the settlement two weeks ago, but since then Communist attacks have forced the irregulars to pull back.

Vieng Pou Kha is astride old Route 3, which connected the village with Nam Tha, now a Pathet Lao administrative center. Chinese construction crews last October began building a new road along the alignment of a 12-mile stretch of the old track southwest of Nam Tha, but work halted in mid-November at about the same time a Pathet Lao force overran Vieng Pou Kha.

25X1

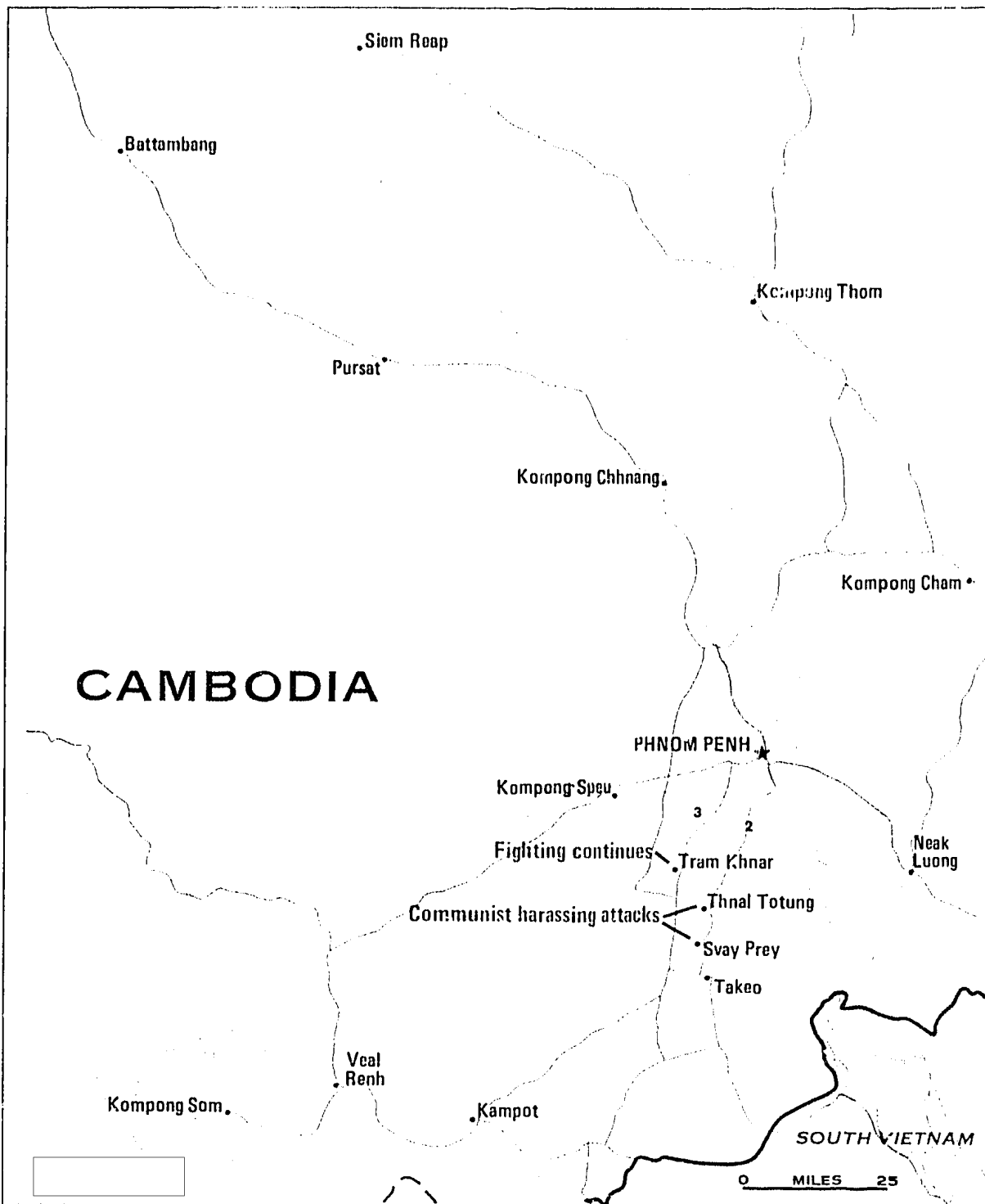
[REDACTED]

5 January 1973

-5-

[REDACTED]

25X1



553961 1-73 CIA

25X1

CAMBODIA

The government on 4 January dispatched three battalions of reinforcements to Tram Khnar on Route 3, but press reports claim that Communist forces have prevented these units from moving into the embattled village. The remnants of the two Cambodian battalions defending Tram Khnar reportedly are receiving some air support. To the southeast, the Communists are continuing to harass small government positions on Route 2 at Svay Prey and Thnal Totung. A government paratroop battalion that has been participating in Cambodian - South Vietnamese clearing operations along Route 2 south of the town of Takeo has been ordered to move north to relieve Svay Prey.

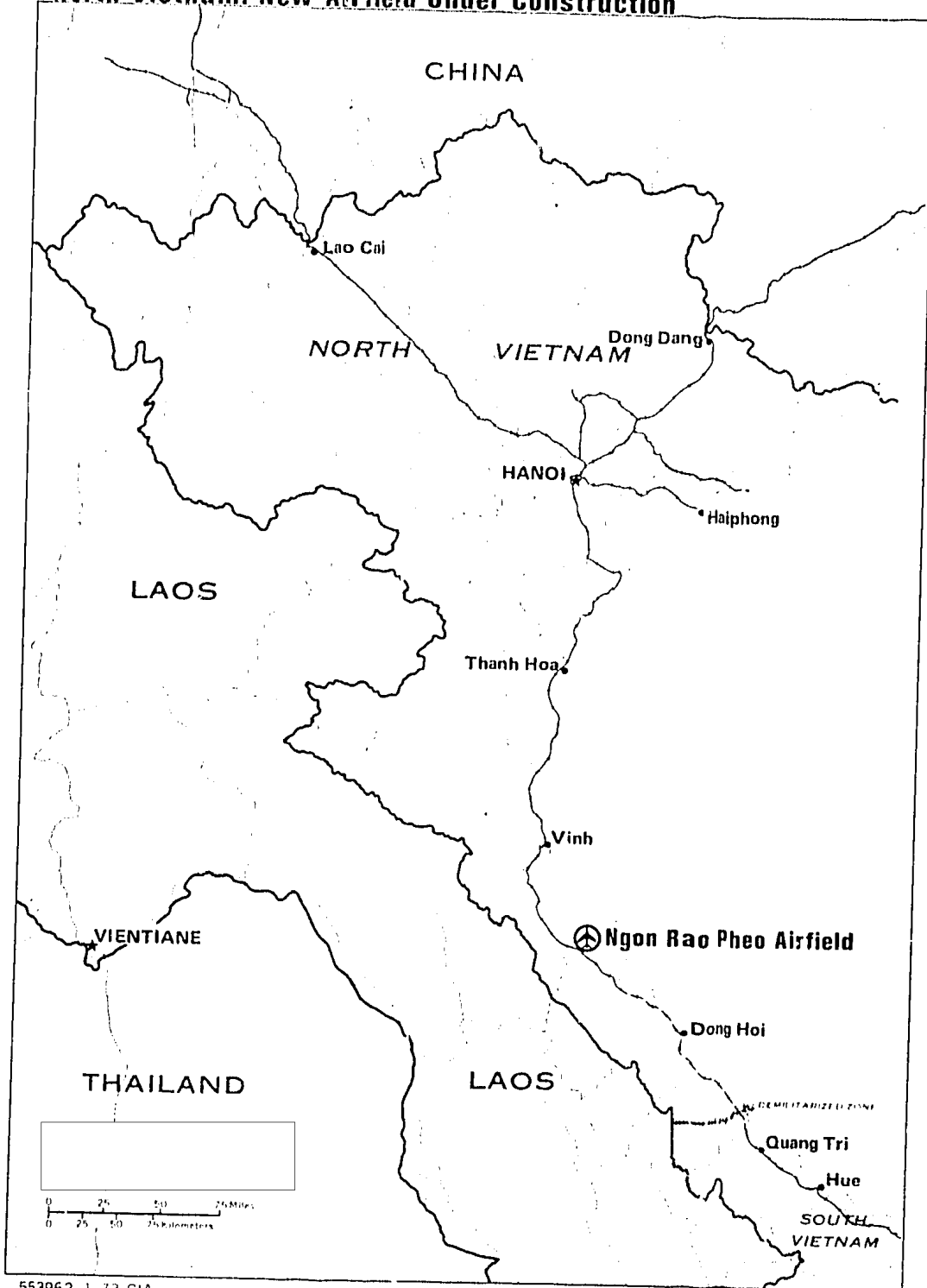
25X1

5 January 1973

-6-

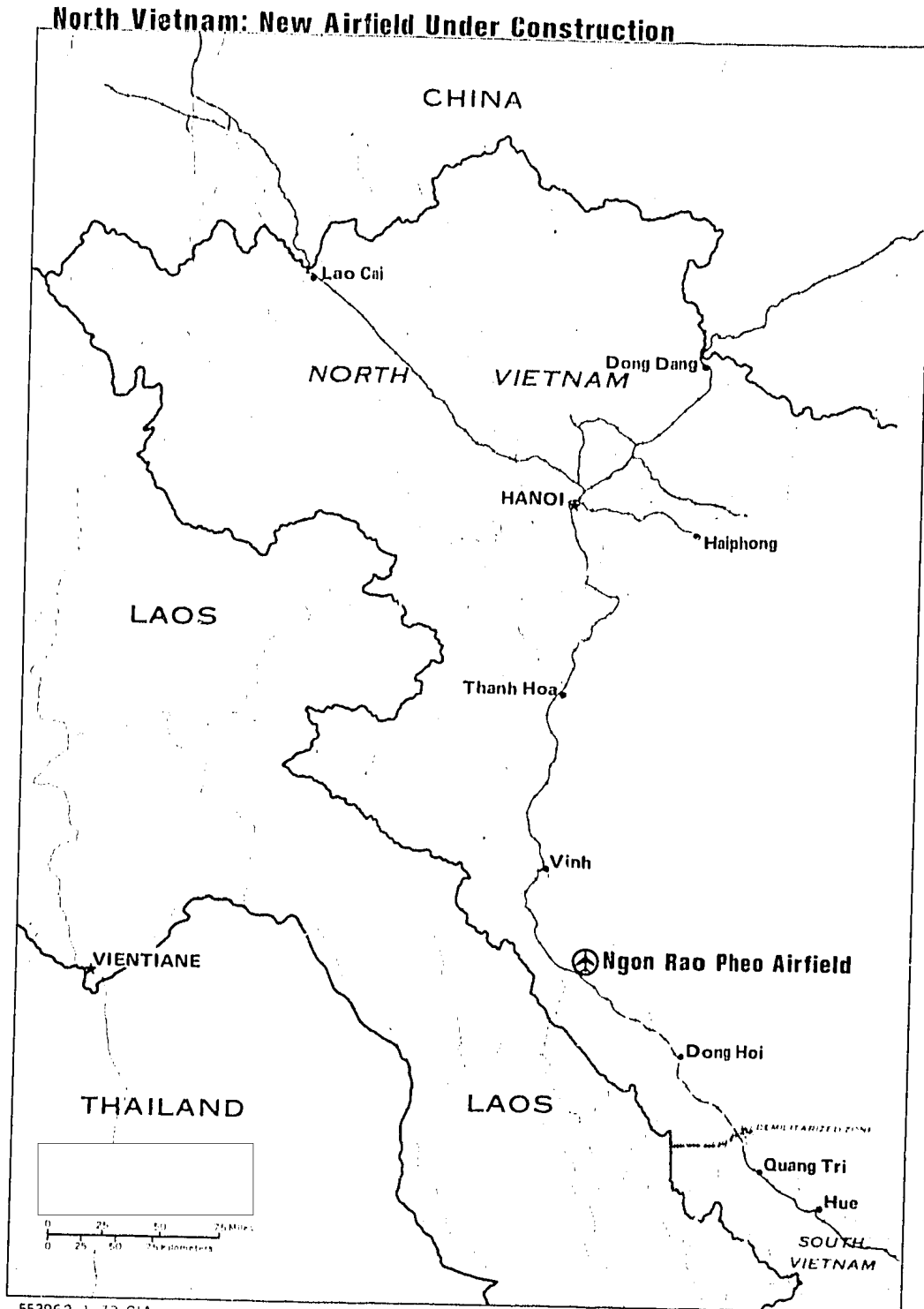
25X1

North Vietnam: New Airfield Under Construction



553962 1 73 CIA

25X1



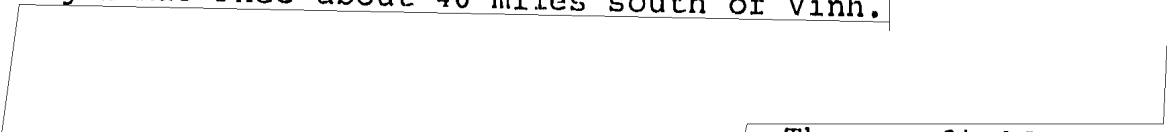
25X1



NORTH VIETNAM

Photography [redacted] has revealed rapid progress in construction of a new airfield at Ngon Rao Pheo about 40 miles south of Vinh.

25X1



25X1

The new field is on high ground and is less susceptible to flooding than the Dong Hoi airfield which has not been used for over a year.

Photography [redacted] reflected construction of another possible airstrip 1.5 miles northwest of this field.

25X1



25X1

NGA Review
Complete

5 January 1973



25X1