



The President's Daily Brief

9 February 1970

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

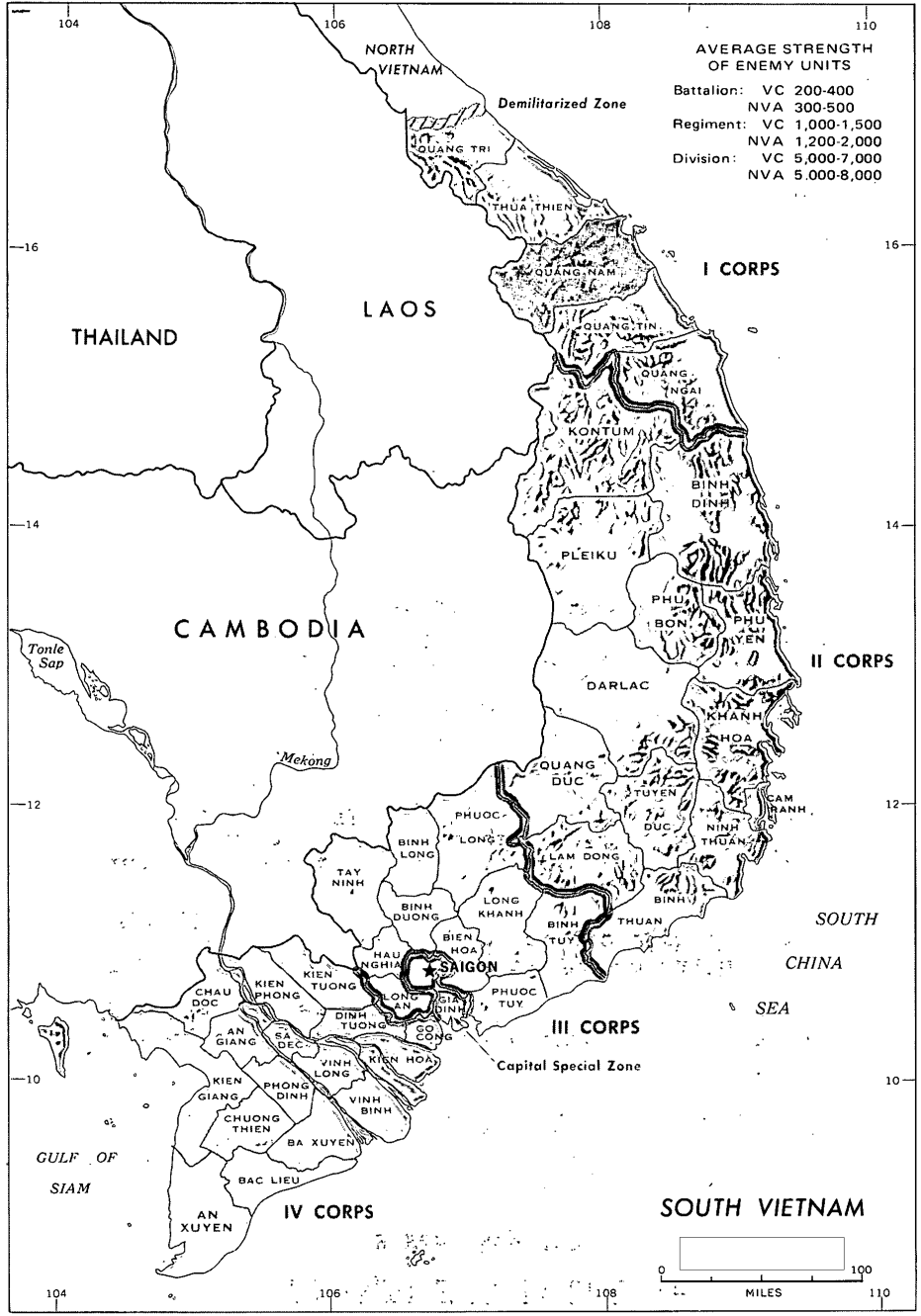
Allied forces in Vietnam are braced for post-Tet attacks. (Page 1)

The European Communities have agreed on their financing and are ready to negotiate with the UK. (Page 2)



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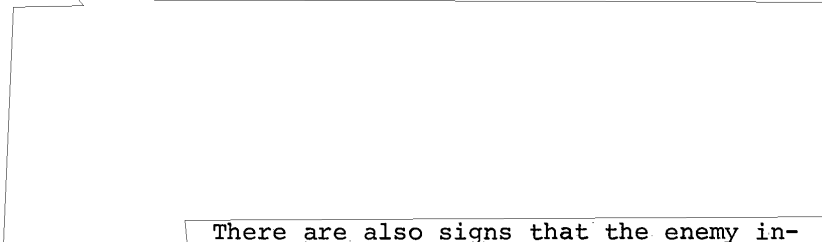


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SOUTH VIETNAM



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There are also signs that the enemy intends to increase its activity in the Mekong Delta soon, notably in the provinces of Dinh Tuong and Kien Hoa.

Enemy formations surrounding the Saigon area do not appear to be in position to mount attacks on major allied bases and installations in the near future. The discovery over the weekend of several large caches of munitions north of Saigon could further delay any plans for action. The heavy explosion that wrecked Saigon's press center yesterday, however, may signal increased terrorist and sapper activity over the next few days.

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The Council of the European Communities, in a 22-hour meeting ending on 7 February, resolved the difficulties that had blocked final agreement on a plan for future financing. Beginning in 1975, the European Parliament will have the final say over the small portion of the budget that covers administrative expenditures, but the Council will be free to reject any parliamentary amendments to the rest of the budget.

The Council also agreed to common marketing policies for wine and tobacco--a condition laid down by the Italians for their approval of the financing arrangements. The decisions on wine and tobacco, along with the resolution of the question of budgetary powers, will permit the individual governments to move for national parliamentary ratification of the financing package.

The agreement cleared away the remaining obstacles to preparations by the Communities for accession negotiations with the UK. Belgian Foreign Minister Harmel--the current Council president--said that the Council meetings from now until the summer will be devoted exclusively to discussions of the Communities' future and preparations for enlargement.

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