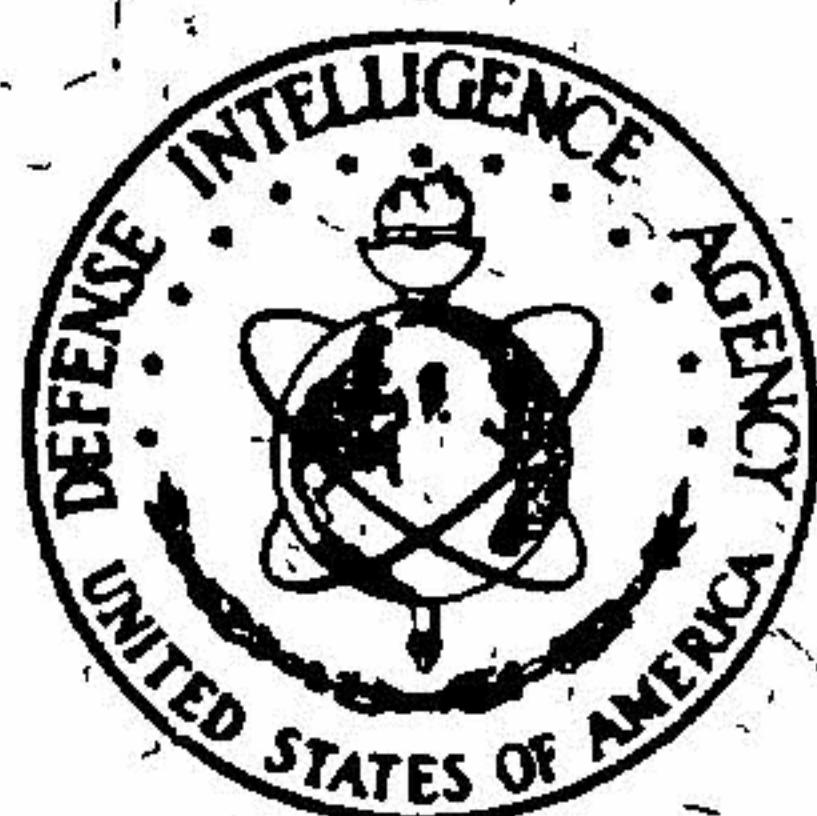


1 DECEMBER 1971
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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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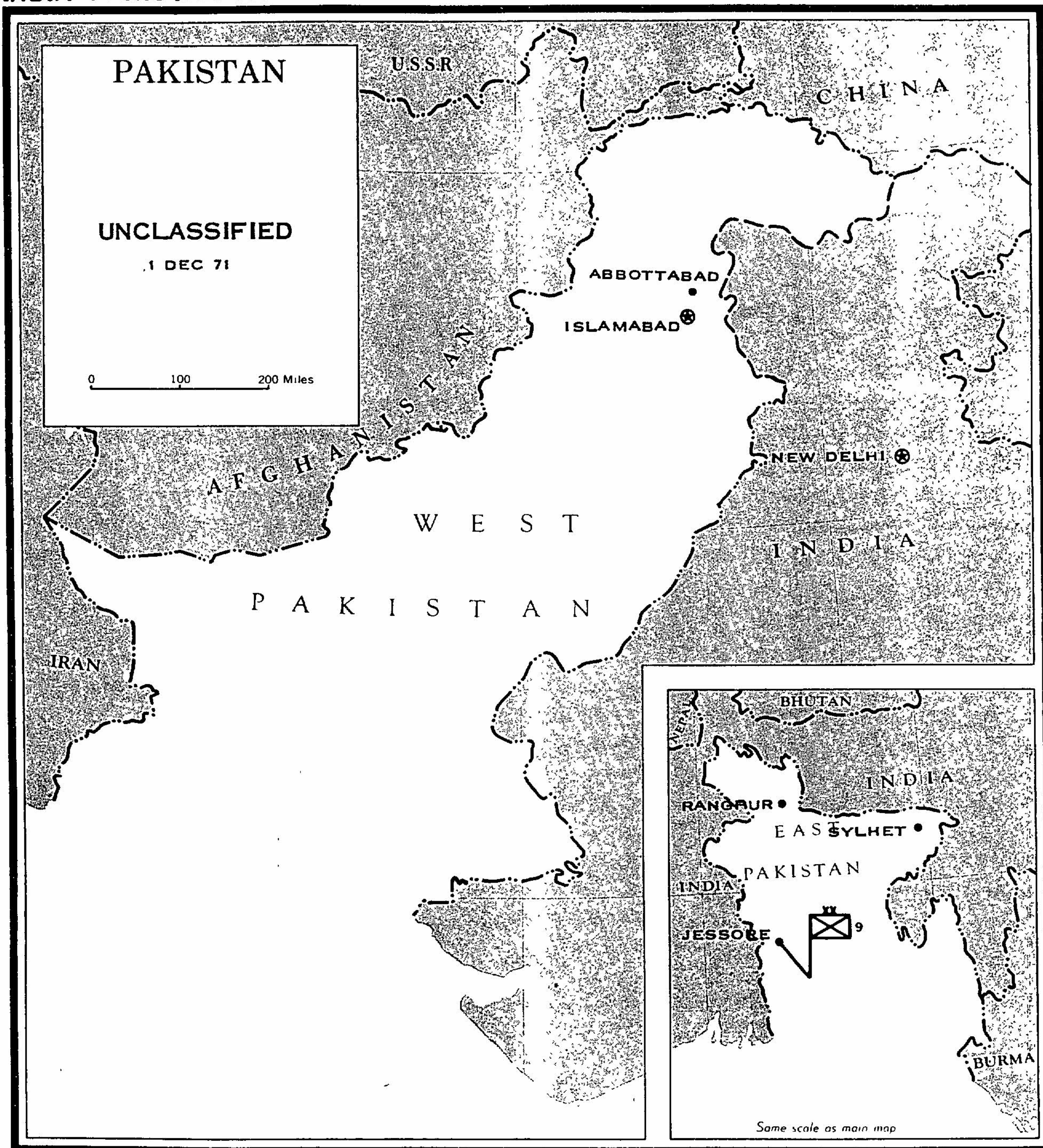
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INDIA-PAKISTAN SITUATION



INDIA-PAKISTAN

Fighting continues in East Pakistan, and Islamabad has decided to reinforce its forces there.

Reliable information on the military situation in the east remains sparse, but fighting reportedly continues near Jessore and in the Sylhet and Rangpur areas. The US Army Attache visited 9th Infantry Division positions and was told by a brigade commander that rebel forces hold a salient six miles from the border near Jessore. The officer declined, however, to discuss plans for remedying the situation. The head of the Pakistani Eastern Command Lt Gen Niazi had earlier remarked that the Pakistanis must straighten out their fighting perimeters and it would be foolhardy to try holding every insignificant salient. His statement indicates Pakistani willingness to surrender difficult to defend areas to rebel forces.

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424 Gen Niazi acknowledged that he had requested reinforcements and was not worried about his supply position. (b)(1) (b)(1) between 23 November and 10 December a total of 4,667 troops and large quantities of ammunition are to be transported to East Pakistan via Pakistan International Airways. (b)(1) there have been no recent troop rotations and that those en route are reinforcements. This along with continuing military preparations in the west underscores Islamabad's intention to retain control of the east and is likely designed to place the onus of any additional escalation of fighting upon New Delhi.

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424 the move of the 7th Infantry Division. (b)(1) and other sources, numerous troops have been observed in the vicinity of Abbottabad, and a new military restricted area has been staked out.

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(b)(3):50 USC 403
-1(i)

(b)(1) the 7th will move into the new cantonment within the next 10 days. The last remaining Pakistani division will then have been deployed to the forward area.

In other developments, the Indian Navy assumed control of the merchant fleet yesterday. Flag vessels may not sail without prior permission from the navy and are required to report details of their movements and position at sea to naval authorities. The Pakistani Navy instituted similar controls on the 23d. ~~(SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/CONTROLLED DISSEM)~~

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INDIA

The government may be planning to develop a nuclear capability.

A usually reliable source said recently that "the decision has already been made; there is no way around it." He added that the "first underground test will probably take place within six to eight months." This claim gains some support from statements of India's delegates at the Fourth International Atoms for Peace Conference in September. They said that their country was interested in nuclear explosions for various peaceful projects and that if it was decided to pursue such a program, India would design and build its own nuclear explosives.

New Delhi's interest in nuclear explosives surfaced in 1970 during Prime Minister Gandhi's state visit to France. At that time, she asked President Pompidou for advice and technical assistance in setting up an underground test program. Despite considerable pressure from rightist elements to develop nuclear weapons, the government has steadfastly opposed such a move. It has, nevertheless, refrained from signing the Nonproliferation Treaty, and any effort to build and test nuclear devices for peaceful purposes would have obvious military implications.

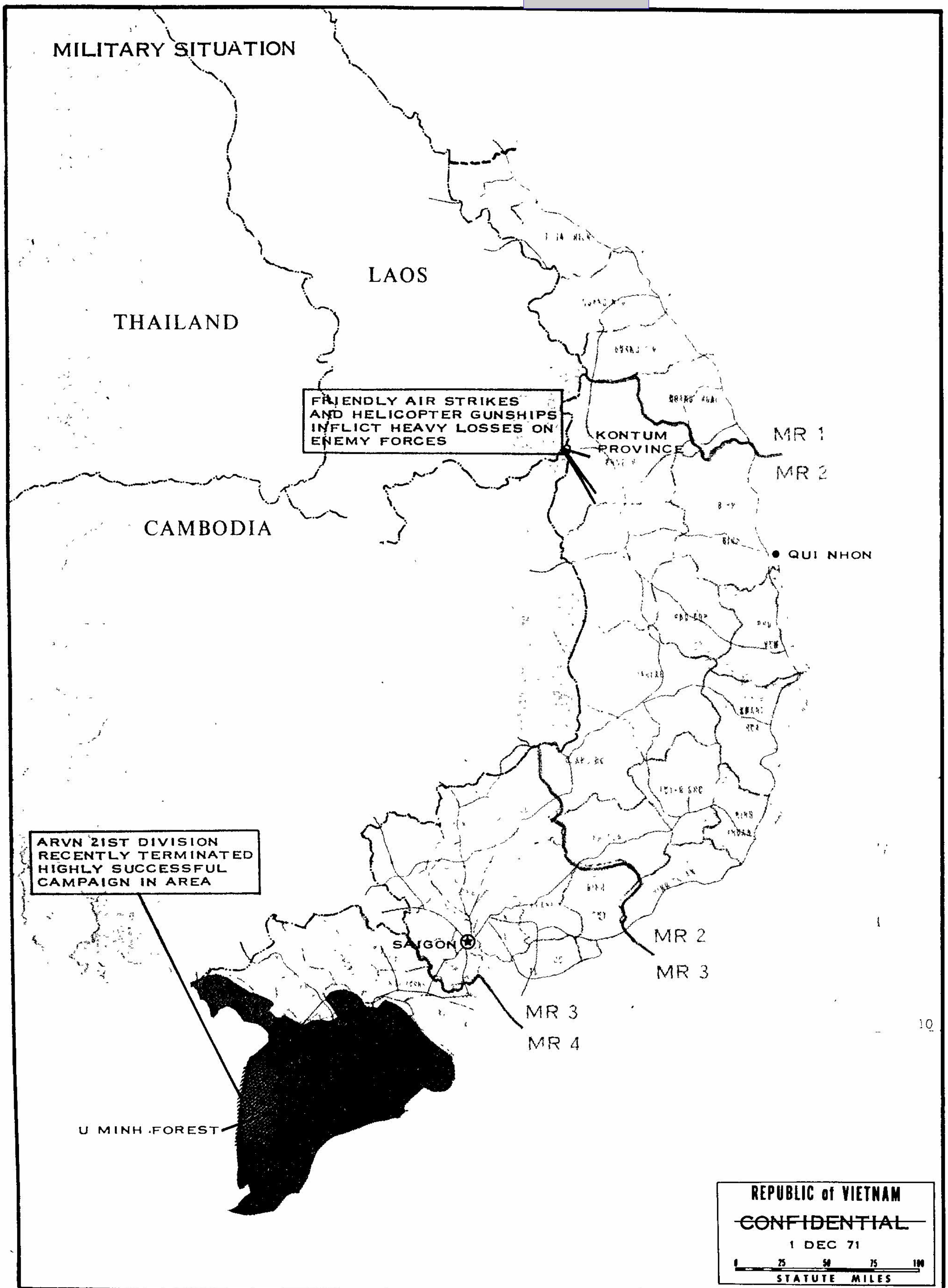
India has all the necessary facilities to support a small nuclear-weapons program. It is estimated to have enough plutonium for several fission weapons and is considered capable of producing a rudimentary fission device within a year of the decision to do so. ~~(SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/BACKGROUND USE ONLY)~~

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REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

Government forces have reportedly inflicted significant losses on communist units in the western highlands and have launched fresh initiatives in the southern Delta.

Twenty-one South Vietnamese battalions, participating in a major dry-season offensive in the western highlands against communist base areas along the Cambodian border, had three engagements on 27 and 28 November. In west-central and southwestern Kontum Province, 137 of the enemy were reportedly killed, mostly by air strikes and helicopter gunships. The ARVN casualties were listed as four killed and 28 wounded, and the downing of two US observation helicopters caused injuries to the four crew members.

A Viet Cong plan to launch a major sapper operation against government installations in Qui Nhon City during early December has been compromised by a well-placed clandestine source. Since most members of Viet Cong sapper units in the area were arrested last spring, the raid is to be conducted by a platoon of NVA sappers. Local observers believe that the communists are capable of undertaking such an operation but that heightened security precautions will lead to its cancellation.

The 21st and 9th ARVN Divisions have launched a new effort to reduce the remaining enemy strongholds in the southern Mekong Delta. It follows immediately on the 21st's highly successful U Minh Forest campaign, initiated last December. The main objective of the new operation is to use the 9th Division to block overland supply and infiltration routes from Cambodia, while the 21st continues to target the enemy's local production and supply system. If successful, critical food and supply shortages would force the predominantly NVA main forces in the area

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either to disperse and try to live off the local economy or withdraw toward Cambodia over a long, exposed route that is coming under increasing government control.

During the past year, government forces operating in the U Minh Forest claim to have killed nearly 5,000 of the enemy and wreaked havoc on his logistic system in VC Military Region 3. Moreover, the four communist main-force regiments in or adjacent to the forest were kept on the defensive. The resettlement of over 66,000 people to areas under government control has nearly eliminated the popular base of insurgent support in the U Minh and deprived the enemy of an important source of manpower and food.

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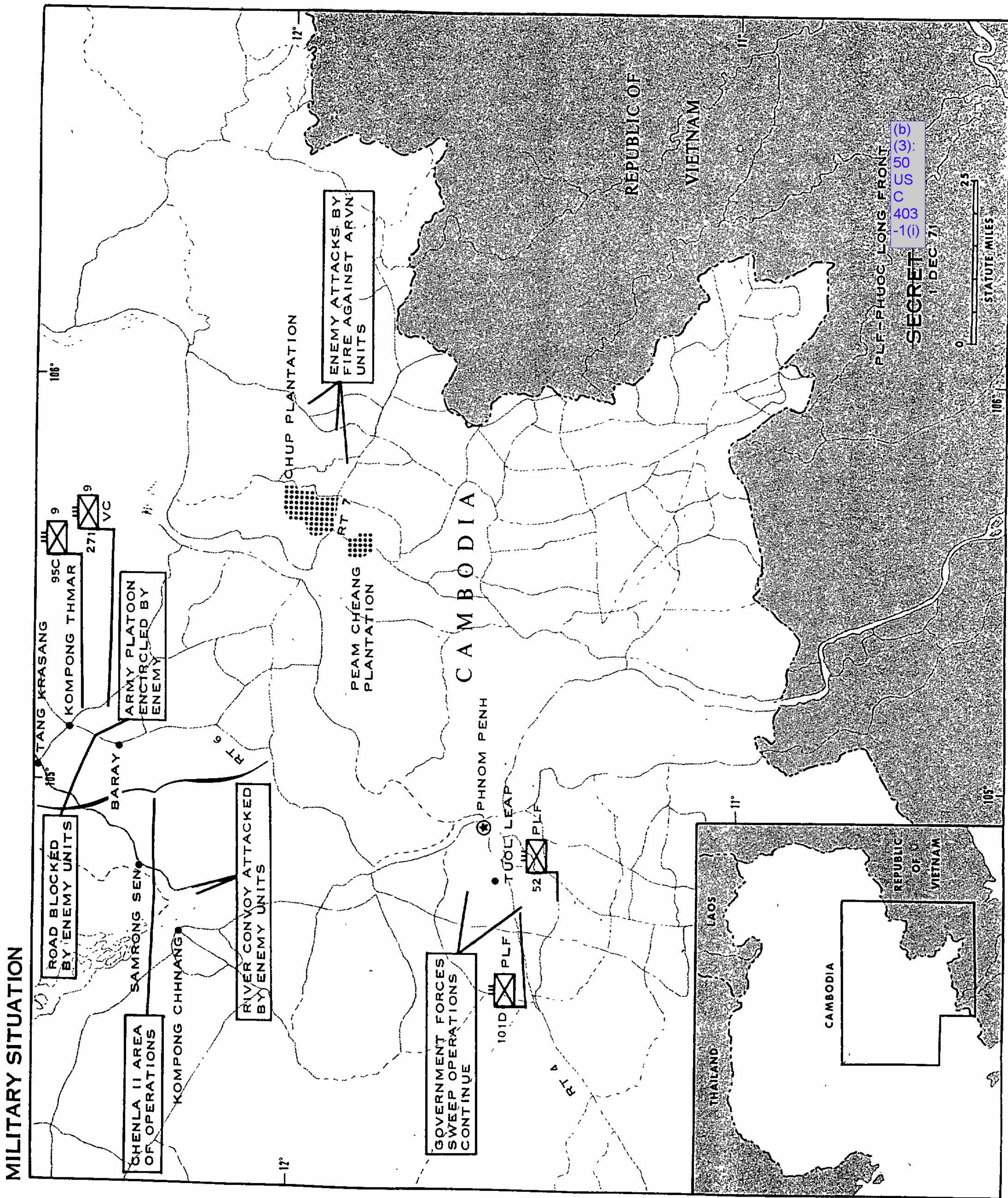
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CAMBODIA

The communists may be preparing to step up activity in the CHENLA II area.

Communications intelligence of 29 November indicates that the 271st VC Regiment, 9th VC Division, has moved northward toward Kompong Thmar and near its sister regiment, the 95C NVA, which was recently confirmed in that area.

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424

Route 6 between Kompong Thmar and Baray is blocked by the enemy and that a Cambodian Army platoon along this stretch of road has been isolated from other government units to the north and south. Two Cambodian battalions were reportedly also attacked on Route 21 southeast of Kompong Thmar. One is cut off, while the other has made its way back to town. The move of the 271st Regiment and renewed enemy initiatives in the CHENLA area indicate that the communists do not yet consider the ARVN thrust along Route 7 east of the Mekong River enough of a threat to require the return of the 9th VC Division to its previous area of operation east of the Mekong.

The first of the government's waterborne resupply convoys for the northern CHENLA area arrived at Samrong Sen from Kompong Chhnang on 28 November. It was attacked twice while en route and lost one killed and 18 wounded. Plans call for moving supplies by sampan from Samrong Sen up the smaller waterways in the area. This program, supplemented by airdrops, will support government forces isolated along Route 6 north of Baray.

In the TOAN THANG area, ARVN units continue small sweeps near their base areas along Route 7 but have not yet moved into the Chup and Peam Cheang Plantations. The enemy is still avoiding major contacts while harassing the South Vietnamese with attacks by fire.

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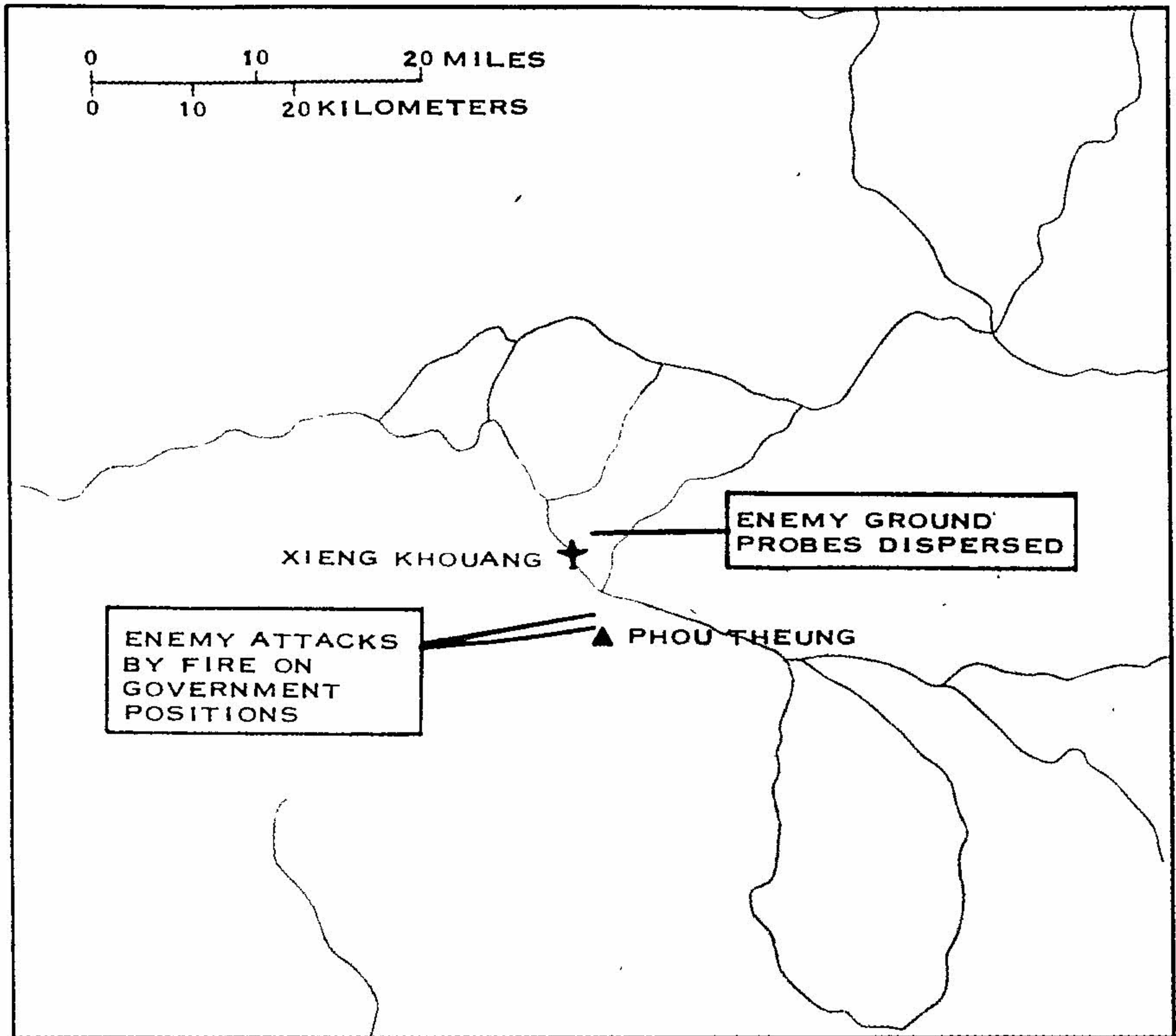
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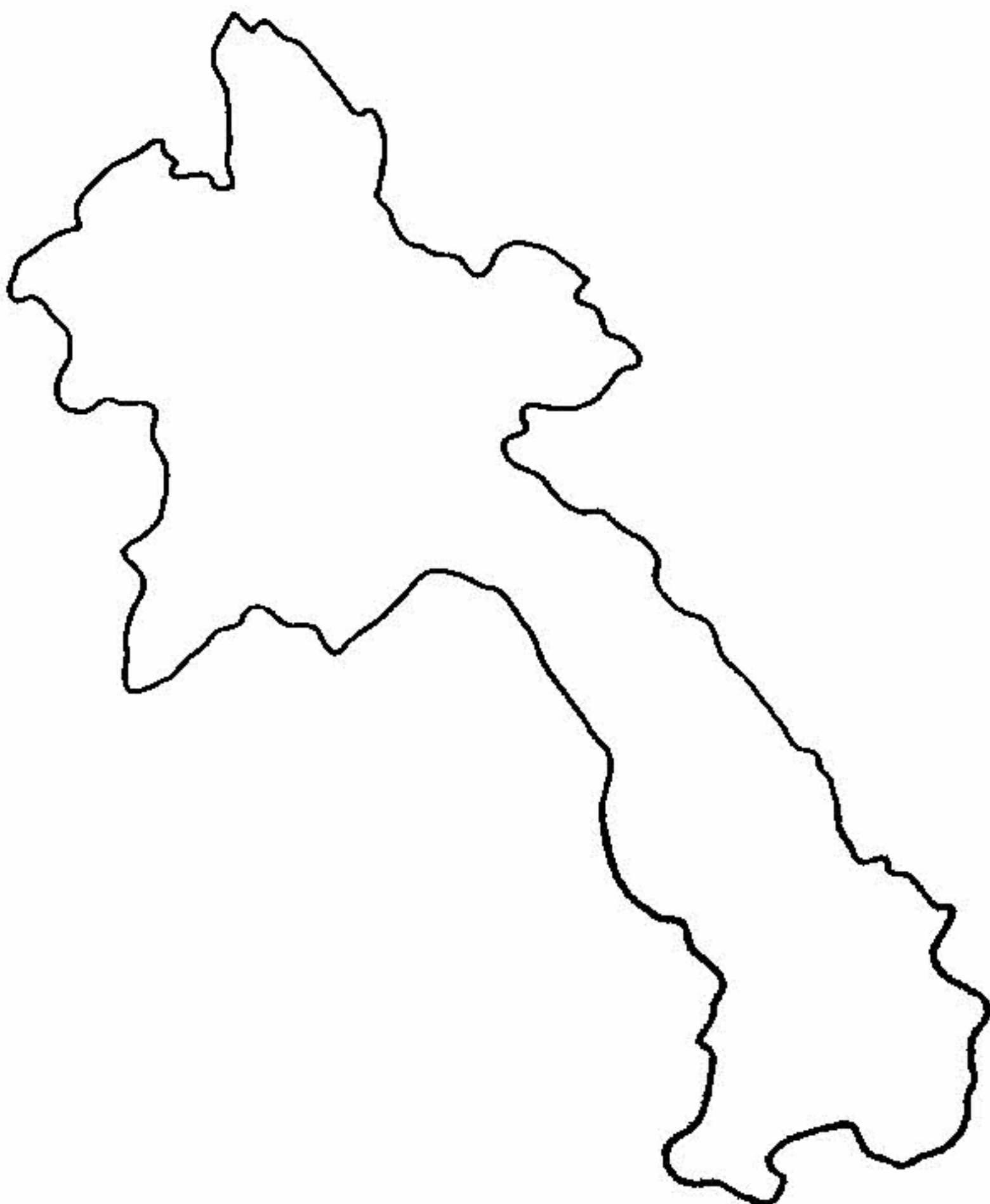
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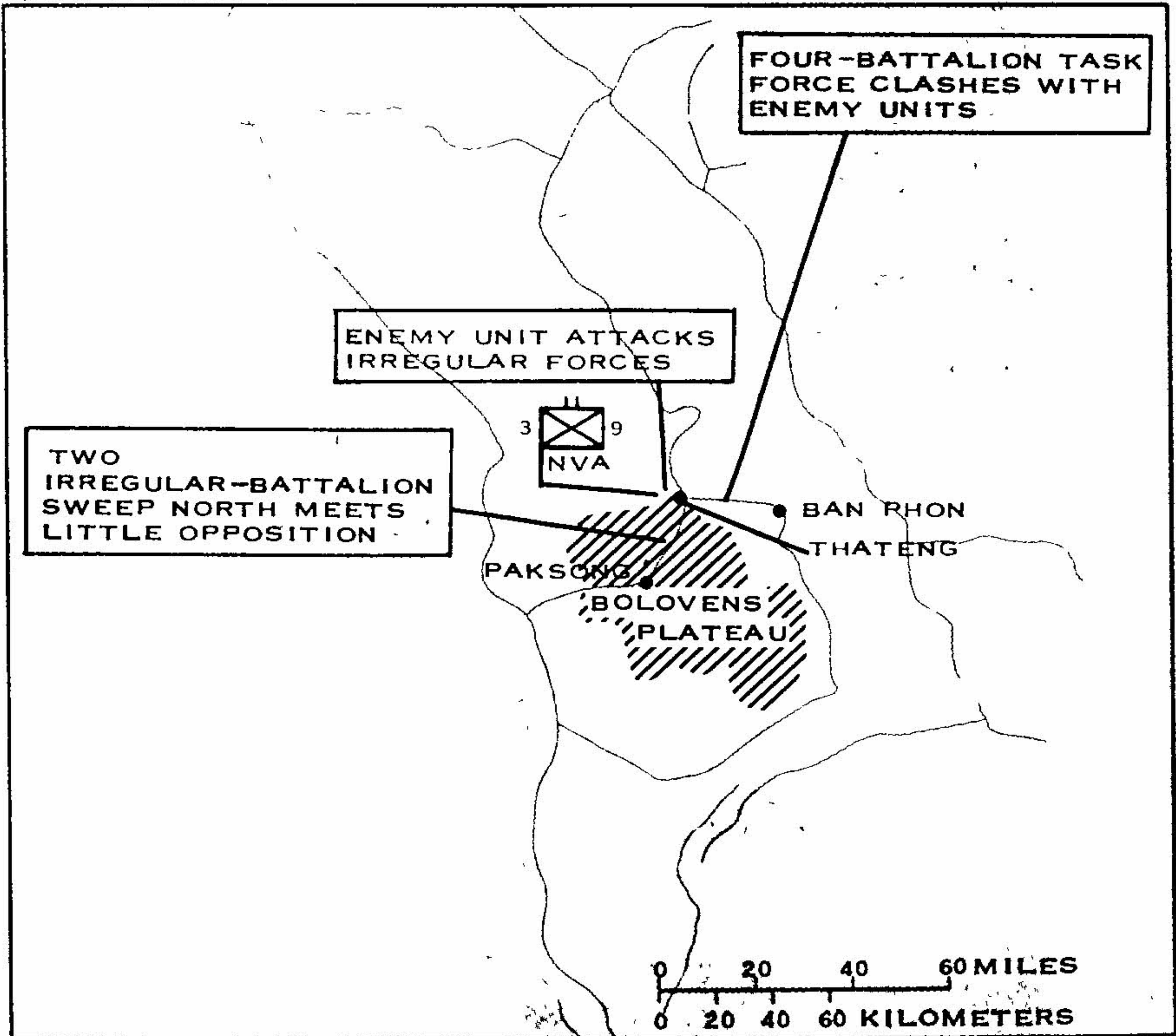
PLAINE DES JARRES



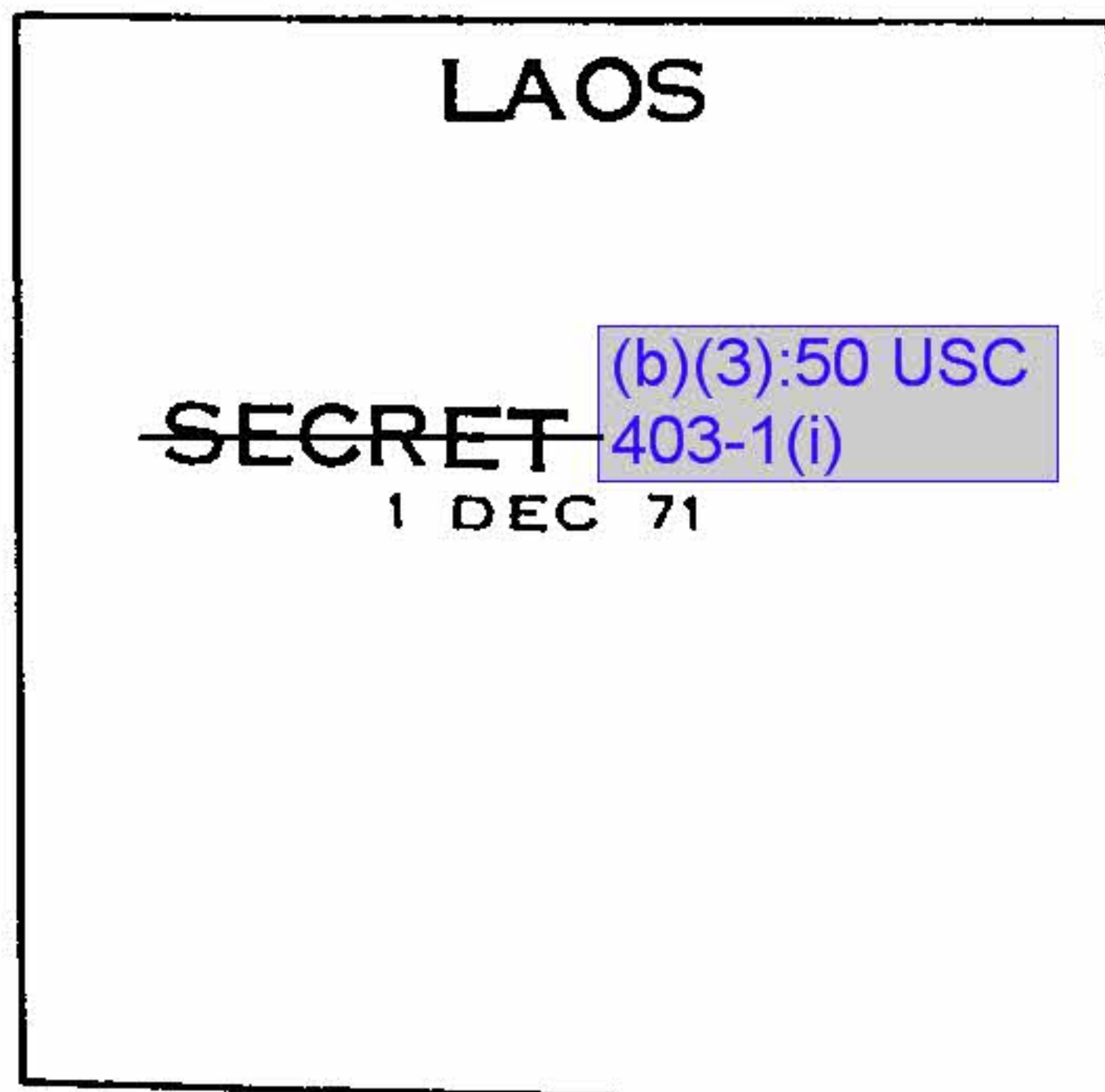
LOCATION MAP



SOUTHERN LAOS



MILITARY SITUATION



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West of Phnom Penh, government forces on sweep operations in the vicinity of Route 4 have reported no contacts since 28 November. Communications intelligence indicates that headquarters elements of the 52d and 101D NVA Regiments, Phuoc Long Front, remain outside the TUOL LEAP area of operation. ~~(SECRET~~

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LAOS

Scattered clashes have been reported in both north and south.

Shellings and minor ground probes continue on the Plaine des Jarres. In one incident near Phou Theung, irregular positions received 100 rounds of 82-mm mortar fire but sustained no casualties. Enemy troops also tried twice to infiltrate irregular defenses northeast of Xieng Khouang airstrip on the 28th but were dispersed each time.

In the panhandle, the four-battalion task force pushing westward from Ban Phon is now about halfway to Thateng. Ground commanders believe the irregulars have inflicted heavy casualties on NVA units in several contacts. In the Thateng area, irregular forces northwest of the town were attacked on 29 November by an enemy unit, most likely the 3d Battalion, 9th NVA Regiment, but casualties were light on both sides. On the Bolovens Plateau, two irregular battalions sweeping northeast from Pak-song have progressed to about eight miles from the town and report no new contacts. ~~(SECRET~~

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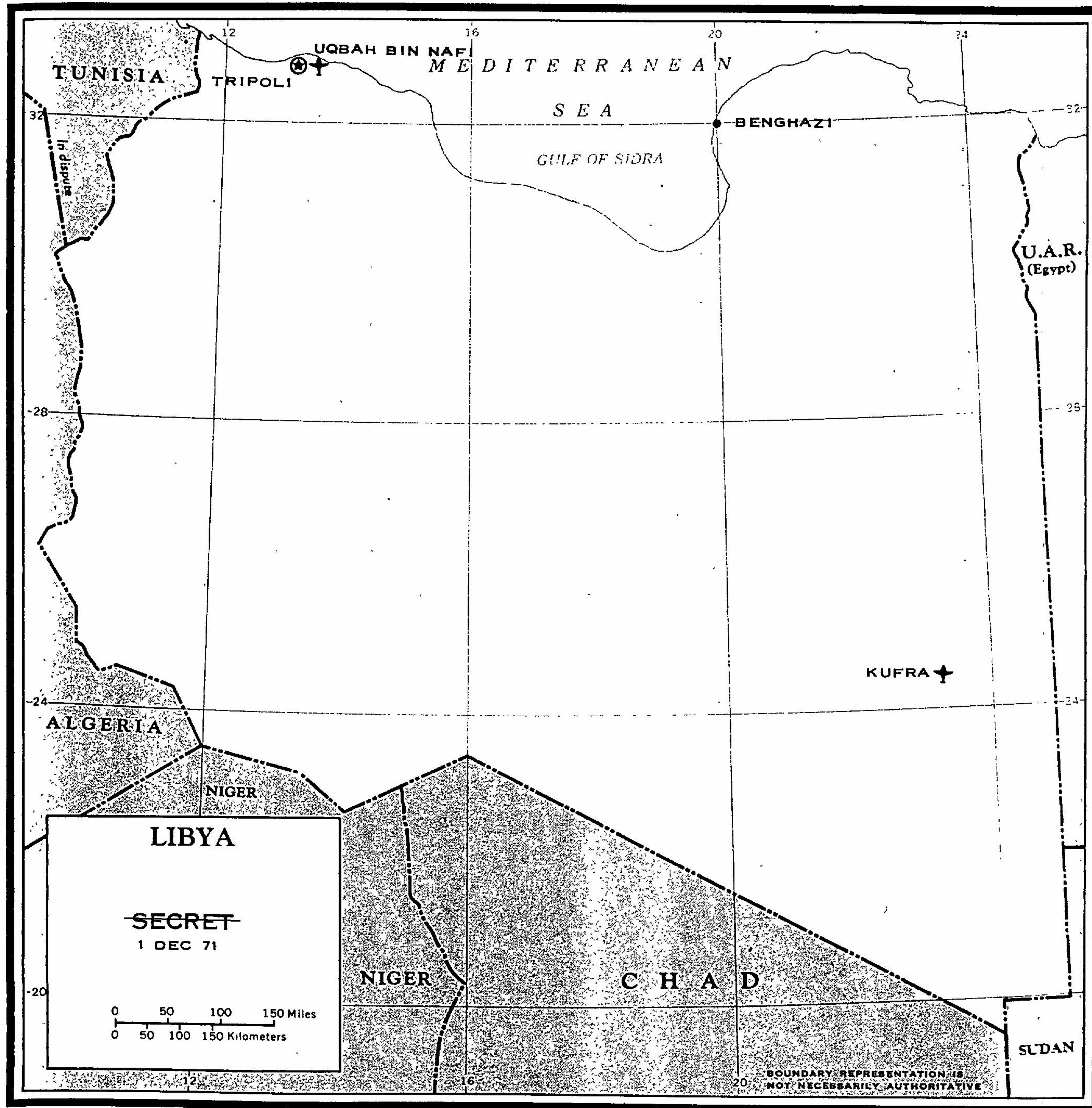
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AIR DEVELOPMENTS



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EGYPT-LIBYA

Close air cooperation between the two countries continues despite political differences.

Reliable sources say that the seven Egyptian MIG-21/FISHBEDs that arrived at Uqbah bin Nafi (formerly Wheelus) Air Base in mid-November are engaging in evaluation flights with Libya's MIRAGEs. The nationality of the MIRAGE pilots is not known, but a test of relative capabilities would be more beneficial to the Egyptian Air Force if both the FISHBEDs and MIRAGEs were manned by its personnel. About nine Egyptian and 13 Libyan pilots are now qualified in the MIRAGE.

The Libyan Air Force has 15 MIRAGEs -- four trainers, nine MIRAGE III Es, and two MIRAGE 5s. The 5s arrived on 23 November, and France plans to deliver four more by the end of this month. Although all the aircraft are currently at Uqbah bin Nafi, Tripoli reportedly plans eventually to base a MIRAGE squadron at Kufra Airfield, some 500 miles southeast of Benghazi. Improvements under way at this installation are said to include an extension of the runway to 11,700 feet. Located in a remote area, Kufra could also be used by the Egyptian Air Force as a dispersal or training facility. Its usefulness is limited, however, by the region's extreme heat and frequent and sudden sandstorms.

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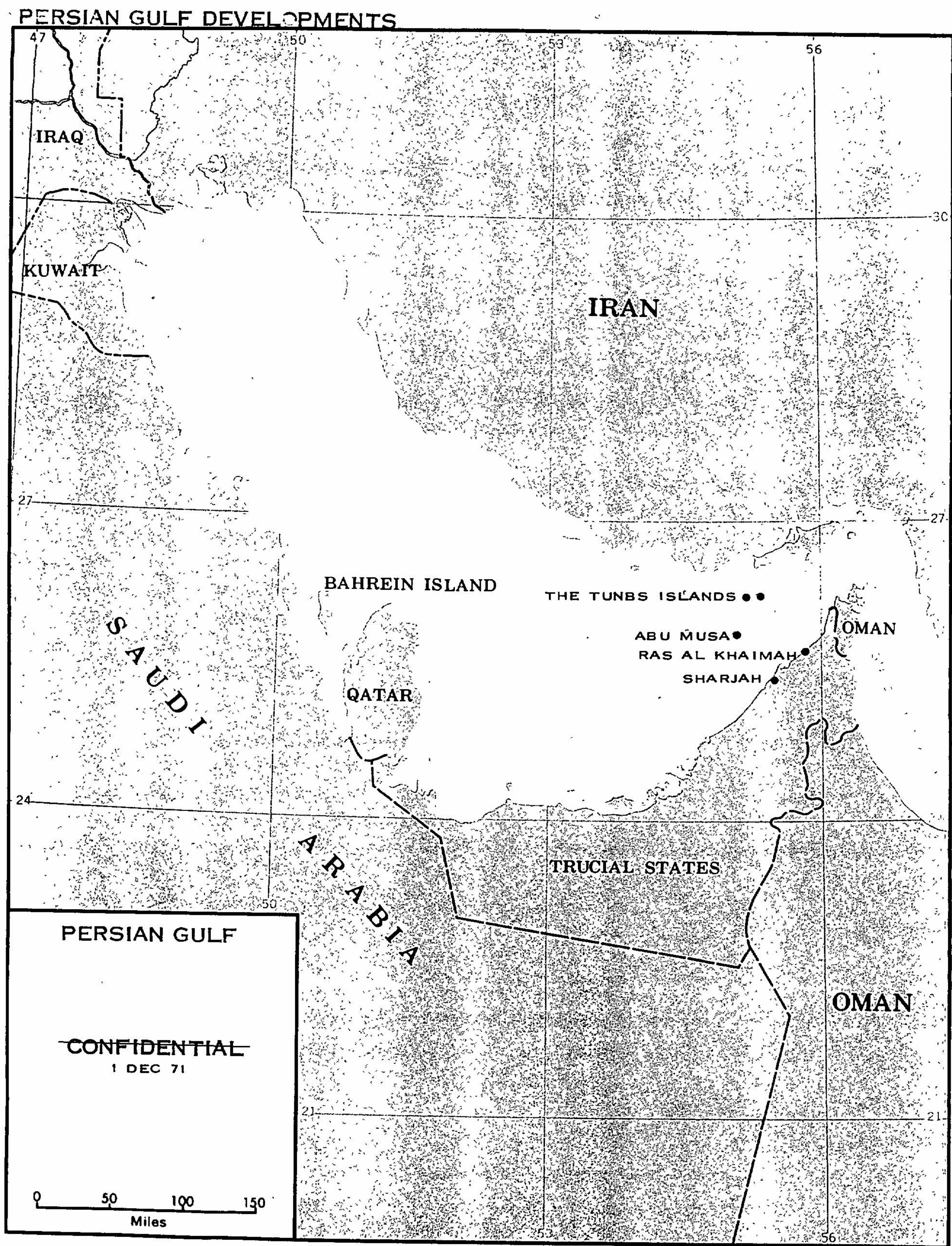
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PERSIAN GULF

Iran's occupation of Abu Musa and the two Tunbs Islands on 29 November is not expected to trigger an Arab military reaction.

The Iranian "Governor General of Southern Ports" and the Commander of the Persian Gulf Fleet were officially welcomed on Abu Musa. The landing on Greater Tunb, however, met light resistance from the local police, who shot and killed an Iranian naval officer and two enlisted men. Return fire killed four policemen and wounded five before the defenders surrendered.

Tehran claims to have reached an agreement with Ras al Khaimah allowing for occupation of the Tunbs similar to the one with Sharjah, but Ras al Khaimah reportedly denies making any such deal. Although claiming full sovereignty over the islands, the Shah will apparently help the sheikhs save face by allowing them to continue civil administration, at least temporarily. As part of the agreement with the Sheikh of Sharjah, Iran will give him aid amounting to about \$3.6 million per year and a share in any future oil revenues.

Iraq has severed relations with Iran and the UK, but the other Arab capitals are likely to confine their reaction to verbal protests. ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

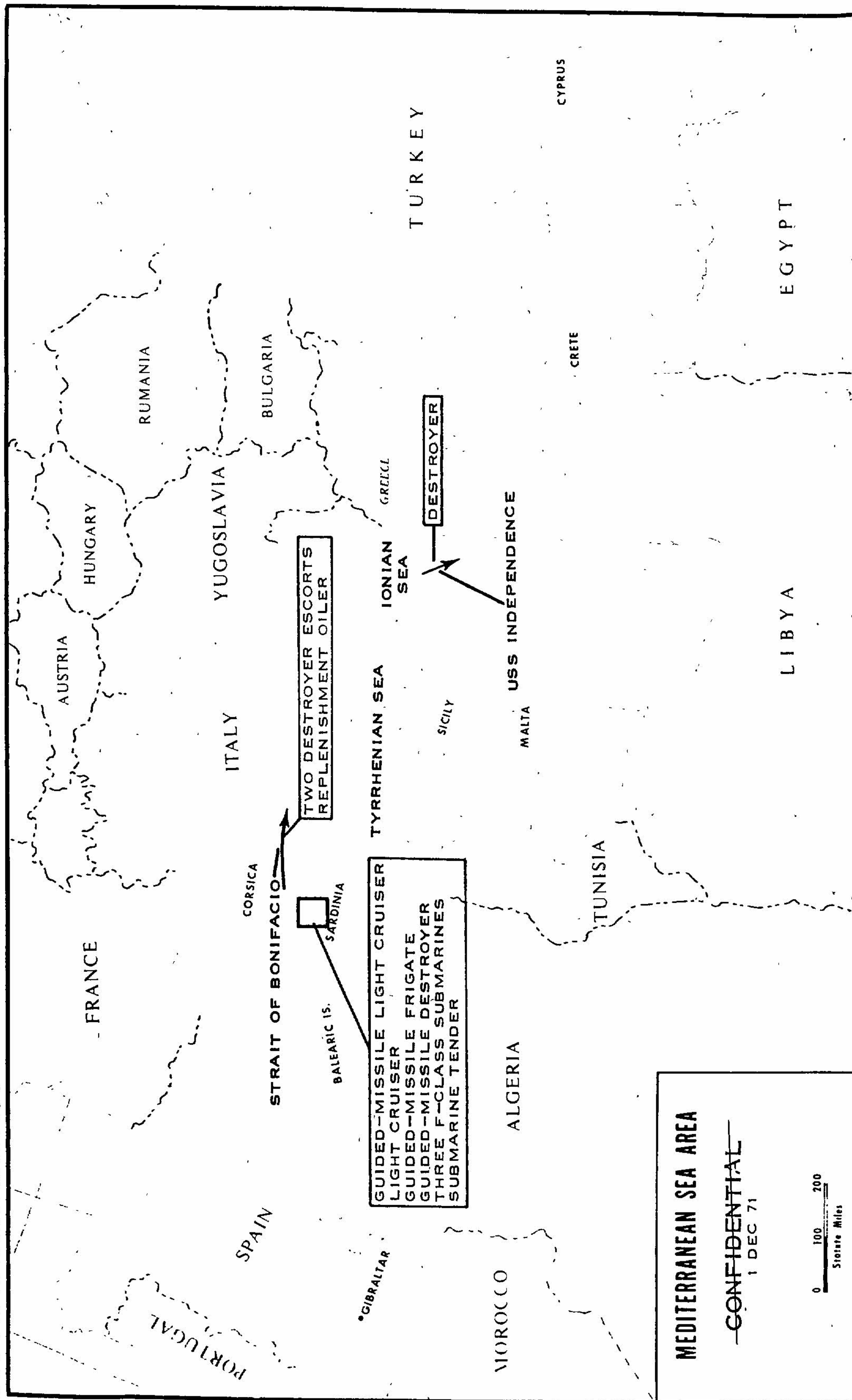
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SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY



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USSR

A capsule carrying a pennant bearing the USSR's insignia has been landed on Mars, according to TASS. The capsule was reportedly separated from MARS 2 as the spacecraft approached the planet. MARS 2, which was launched from Tyuratam on 19 May, continues in orbit around the planet. Its orbital parameters were announced as: Apogee, 13,500 nautical miles; perigee, 745 nautical miles; period, 18 hours; and inclination, 48 degrees. MARS 3, launched nine days after MARS 2, is expected to reach the planet tomorrow. ~~(SECRET)~~

(b)(1),(b)(3):50 USC 403,(b)(3):P.L. 86-36



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