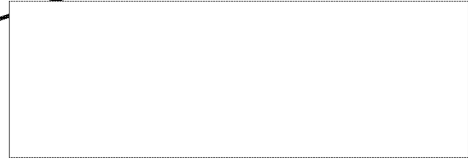


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Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)

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*Vietnam:

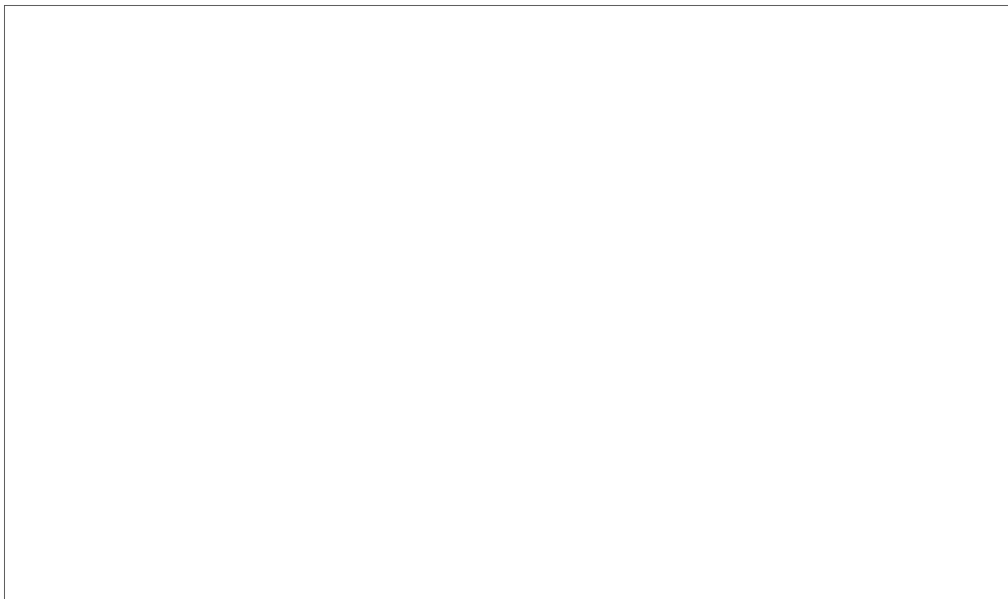
North Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh played no role in the elaborate ceremonies in Hanoi marking the 50th anniversary of the Soviet Revolution.

The 77-year old President's only contribution to the occasion was a bland article written for the Soviet party paper. Given the importance the Communists attach to this anniversary, Ho's absence from the festivities is unusual. [redacted]

3.3(h)(2)

Ho has, in fact, made only three public appearances in recent months. The last was for North Vietnam's national day celebrations held in late August. Despite his inactivity and apparent aloofness from the political scene, there has been no indication during the past year that his subordinates have had difficulty in running the country without his immediate leadership and direction. The evidence suggests that the regime's major policies--particularly on strategy for the war and on possible peace negotiations--have been the result of collective decision making.

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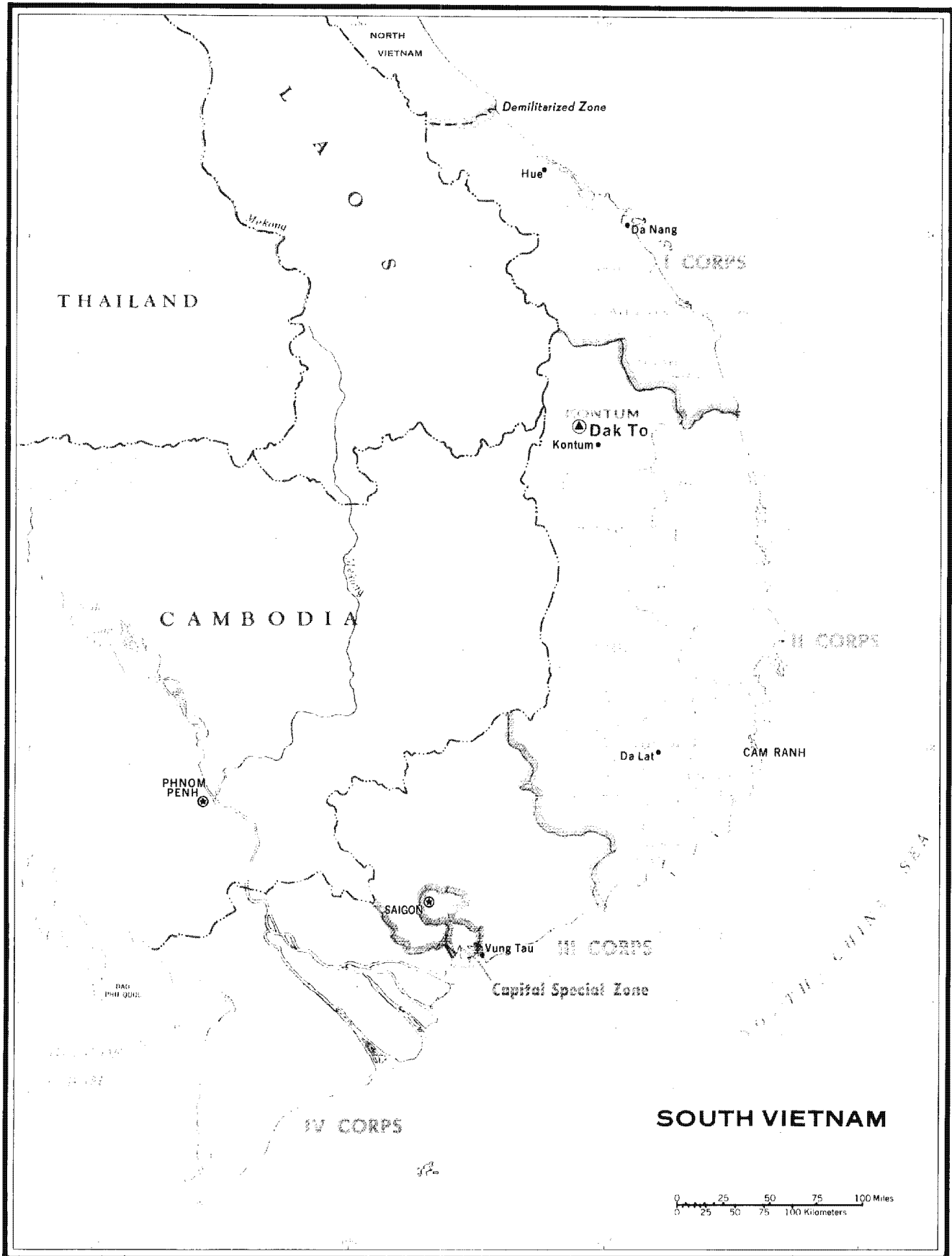


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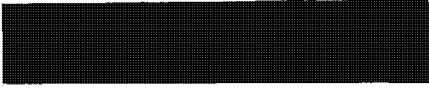
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