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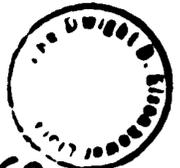
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Laos Situation Report (U)

COPY NO. 02

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE
JOINT STAFF
Washington 25, D. C.



30 December 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Subject: Laos Situation Report (U)

Attached hereto is the situation report 11-60, on the current situation in Laos, based on information available in the Laos Situation Room as of 0630 EST Friday, 30 December 1960.

FOR THE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS:

C. E. NELSON
Captain, USN
JCS Duty Officer

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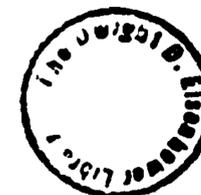
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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE
JOINT STAFF
Washington 25, D.C.



LAOS SITUATION REPORT
11-60

30 December 1960

PERIOD COVERED: 290630-300630 local based on information available in the Joint War Room as of 0630 EST Friday, 30 December 1960.

1. INTELLIGENCE:

a. There were no significant troop movements reported during period.

b. General Bounleut reported Vientiane forces control Vientiane-Luang Prabang road from Luang Prabang south to Nam Ming, and from Vientiane north to Lik River. The area in between is under PL/Kong Le control with a major concentration of Pathet Lao at Muong Kassy.

c. An agreed estimate of enemy forces in the entire Muong Kassy - Vang Vieng area is 400-600 Kong Le troops and 1,000 to 2,000 Pathet Lao, some of which are directly in support of Kong Le.

d. Lao Army headquarters has developed a new operation plan for the attack on Vang Vieng using coordinated drives from the north, northeast and south.

e. Task Force 1, with a strength of 2,150 troops will advance in two columns by highway and river from Luang Prabang toward Vang Vieng. Task Force 2, with a strength of 1,750 troops including Meo tribesmen will move overland from Plaine des Jarres. Task Force 5 with a strength of 1,500 troops supported by 2 batteries of 105 howitzers will continue the move north from Vientiane.

f. The current front line units will continue mop up operations through 30 December, link up with Task Force 5 from Vientiane, and establish a holding position just south

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of Vang Vieng awaiting the arrival of Task Force 1 and 2 for a coordinated attack on the city.

g. In an interim report of photo reconnaissance mission conducted on 26-27 Dec., USAIRA South Vietnam states that one photo of an IL-14 in the Vang Vieng area shows a peculiar protuberance which indicates the craft may have been armed.

h. Observers on the flight report Kong Le's position in Vang Vieng appears to be highly defensible. During flight, there was no sign of General Phoumi's troops north of Vang Vieng for a distance of 20 miles.

2. OPERATIONS:

a. Those CINCPAC forces in Joint Task Force 116, which are earmarked for possible action in Laos, remain alerted in DEFCON 3. The three Navy Task Groups (70.4, 76.5, 77.7), which were earlier deployed off Tourane, remain in DEFCON 3 and are now ordered to remain in the South China Sea.

b. CINCPAC has again strongly emphasized the necessity of stopping the Communist airlift into Laos. He feels that the build-up of Pathet Lao forces must not assume such proportions that defeat of Phoumi and even the capture of Vientiane and Luang Prabang will result. He advocates the use of gasoline drum fire bombs against Pathet Lao supply dumps and aircraft on the ground. The concentration of supplies and troops at Vang Vieng makes that location the first priority target.

3. LOGISTICS:

a. The following summarizes recent logistic supply actions. CINCPAC has requested, since 19 Dec. 1960, emergency airlift or surface shipment to BANGKOK of

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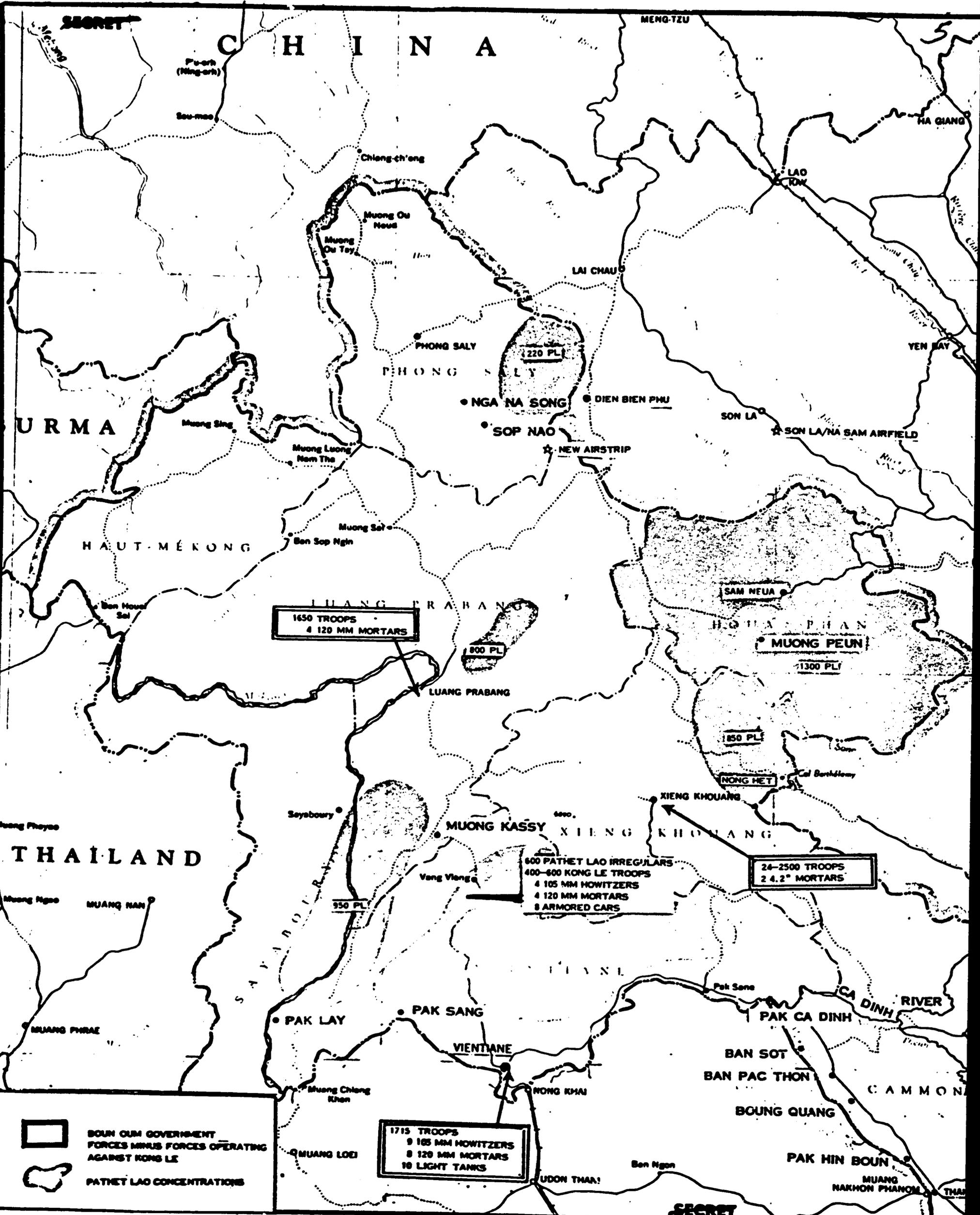
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uniform items, blankets, carbines, ammunition, cargo parachutes, radios, telephones, switchboards, batteries and hand grenades. These supplies are to be used to replace worn out clothing and equipment as well as support approximately 10,000 additional troops that have just been authorized. All of these items are being expeditiously handled. Of the 18 aircraft assigned to the airlift, 5 have arrived and 12 are enroute having departed from CONUS or points of origin in PACOM. The estimated time of arrival BANGKOK is 96 hours after departure from CONUS.

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1650 TROOPS
4 120 MM MORTARS

800 PL

MUONG PEUN

1300 PL

1850 PL

NONG HET

24-2500 TROOPS
2 4.2" MORTARS

600 PATHET LAO IRREGULARS
400-600 KONG LE TROOPS
4 105 MM HOWITZERS
4 120 MM MORTARS
8 ARMORED CARS

950 PL

1715 TROOPS
9 105 MM HOWITZERS
8 120 MM MORTARS
10 LIGHT TANKS



BOUM OUM GOVERNMENT
FORCES MINUS FORCES OPERATING
AGAINST KONG LE



PATHET LAO CONCENTRATIONS

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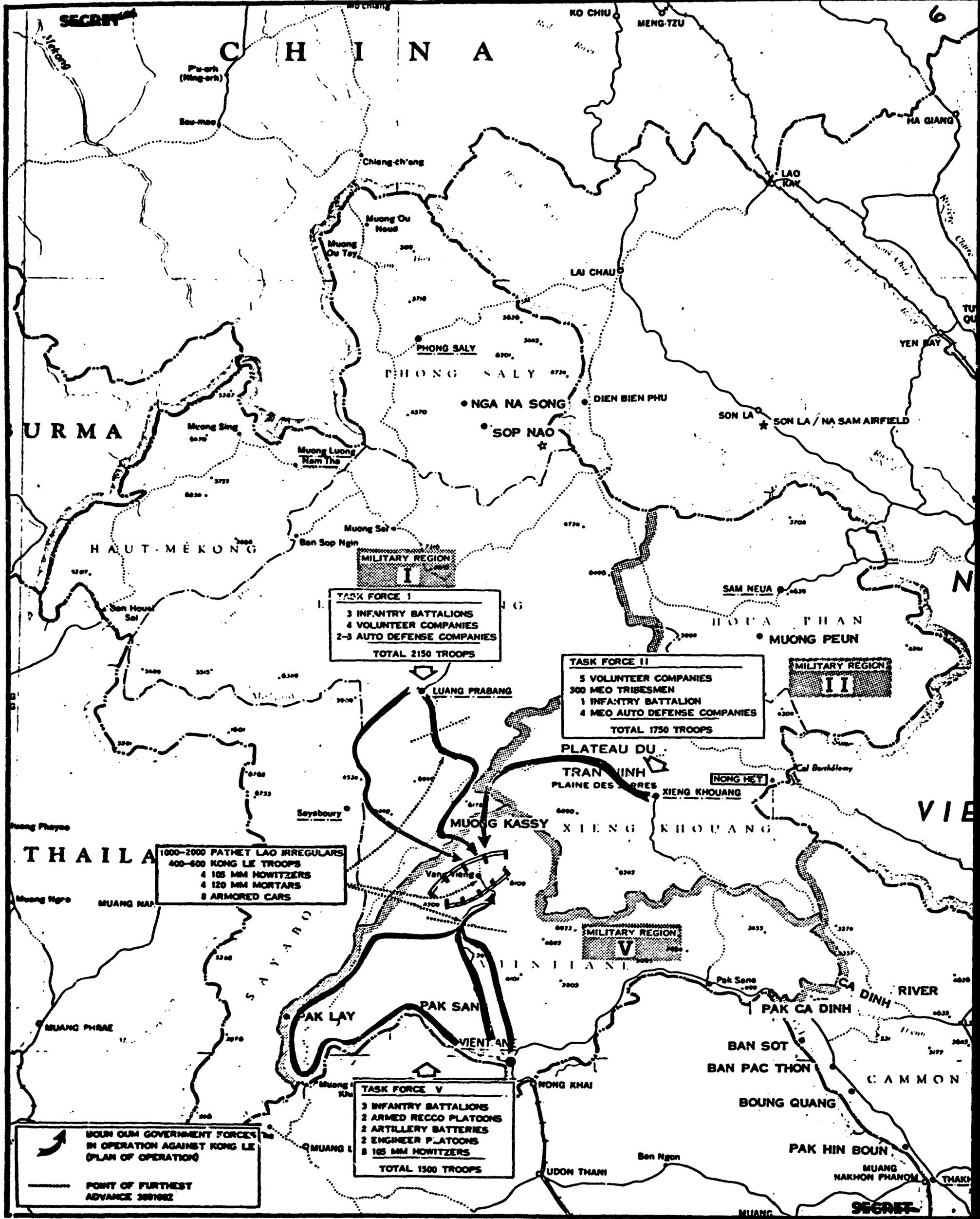
C H I N A

BURMA

HAUT-MEKONG

THAILAND

VIE



TASK FORCE I
 3 INFANTRY BATTALIONS
 4 VOLUNTEER COMPANIES
 2-3 AUTO DEFENSE COMPANIES
 TOTAL 2150 TROOPS

TASK FORCE II
 5 VOLUNTEER COMPANIES
 300 MEO TRIBESMEN
 1 INFANTRY BATTALION
 4 MEO AUTO DEFENSE COMPANIES
 TOTAL 1750 TROOPS

1000-2000 PATHET LAO IRREGULARS
 400-600 KONG LE TROOPS
 4 105 MM HOWITZERS
 4 120 MM MORTARS
 8 ARMORED CARS

TASK FORCE V
 3 INFANTRY BATTALIONS
 2 ARMED RECCO PLATOONS
 2 ARTILLERY BATTERIES
 2 ENGINEER PLATOONS
 8 105 MM HOWITZERS
 TOTAL 1500 TROOPS

MOUN GUM GOVERNMENT FORCES IN OPERATION AGAINST KONG LE (PLAN OF OPERATION)
 POINT OF FURTHEST ADVANCE 300100Z

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Laos Situation Report (U). Transmittal Memorandum, Capt. C. E. Nelson, Duty Officer, to the JCS. Dec. 30, 1960. 1 p.
Encl: Same title [intelligence: estimation of Kong Le and Pathet Lao forces in Vang Vieng area; Lao army plan to attack Vang Vieng. Operations: CINCPAC view that PL buildup must be limited by bombing supply dumps and aircraft at Vang Vieng. Logistics: CINCPAC request for airlift of supplies to Bangkok for recently-authorized 10,000 additional troops]. Report 11-60, Operations Directorate, Joint Staff. 5 p., map. TOP SECRET to SECRET. SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED. NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS. Declassified Dec. 18, 1979. Eisenhower Library, White House Office, Office of the Staff Secy. Records, 1952-61, International File, Folder: Laos Situation Reports (9), Box 10. Department Of Defense, 30 Dec. 1960. U.S. Declassified Documents Online, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CK2349422077/USDD?u=wash74137&sid=USDD&xid=25f1ed8f&pg=1. Accessed 24 Jan. 2021.