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Profile

Monday, August 28, 1967 -- 5:55 p.m.

Mr. President:

This analysis of rural population control in Viet Nam in recent years is interesting and heartening.

It conforms to the sharp rise in voting registration as an indicator of increased government control over the Vietnamese population, and underlines a major cause of Viet Cong manpower shortage.

Specifically, it shows:

1. An increase in government control in rural areas of 1.2 million in the last six months; 1.8 million in the last year; 3.1 million since mid-1965.

2. The Viet Cong controlled population is down by more than a million since mid-1965. In mid-1965 it was 24% of the total population (including cities); it is now 14%.

3. If the six Vietnamese cities are added in (whose population has increased from 1.7 million to 2.7 million, between 1965 and 1967) the total under secure GVN control has increased from 6.6 million in mid-1965 to 10.8 million in mid-1967.

W. W. Rostow

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GVN RURAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRESS

GVN population control figures continue to show increasing government control of population residing outside of the six autonomous cities (see Table 1). Although the absolute control levels are subject to question the trend over time may be accurate: as of June, 8.1 million Vietnamese (57.5%) reportedly resided in secure areas (excluding the six autonomous cities), compared to 6.9 million (52.1%) in December 1966 and 6.3 million (47.9%) in June 1966. These figures suffer from several recognized deficiencies, including politically-motivated distortions by field reporters, frequent revisions of population bases, sensitivity to rural-urban population migration, and misleading category labels. But they are the only long-term time series available, and an analysis of the trends seems worthwhile.

To simplify presentation of the trend we have computed a single index measure of GVN province control as follows:

<u>GVN Rating Category</u>	<u>GVN Aligned Population as Percent of Category Total</u>
Secure	100%
Undergoing Securing	60%
Contested	30%
VC-Controlled	0%

The last line of Table 1 shows the total GVN-aligned population computed in this way. This statistic shows the same steady upward trend as the Secured population category; by June 1967, 9.4 million people or 67% of the SVN rural population could be considered aligned with the GVN.

The computer printed maps following Table 1 graphically depict rough geographical variances in the GVN-aligned population index: the darker the area, the higher the index. The favorable trend shown in Table 1 is clearly reflected. Some specific trends show fairly clearly:

(1) GVN control throughout I Corps and Northern II Corps (VC MR5) deteriorates from June 1964 to June 1965. The GVN gradually regains control from December 1965 to the present, with an overall jump of one whole step (of 5 steps each of which is 20% population control) for practically the whole region between December 1966 and June 1967. The exception is the DMZ where the alignment index drops to the 41-60% range in June 1967.

(2) Back in June 1964, the highest alignment index anywhere around the Saigon area was the 41-60% shown to the northeast of the city. VC control was very high (indicated by dot (.) and plus (+) symbols signifying alignment index ranges 0-20% and 21-40% respectively) to the west and south. GVN control of 81-100% was established by June 1965 to the northeast, but the area west of the city never does attain over 60%.

(3) GVN alignment of 61-80% was gradually established along the Mekong River by December 1965, with 81-100% (blackest area) shown in the north in the Chau Doc - An Giang area thereafter. The southern Delta is a real low spot for GVN control, never reaching more than 60%. A regression is shown between December 1966 and June 1967 in this area to the 21-40% range.

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(4) The area north and east of Vung Tau in Phuoc Tuy province reaches a high point in December 1966, but a significant regression appears in the June 1967 map to the 40-60% range.

(5) The Kontum area at the Laos - Cambodia - SVN border seems to change hands frequently. VC control is high in June 1964; GVN control is high from December 1964 to December 1965; GVN control drops in June 1966; GVN control is very high (81-100%) in June 1967.

These maps were produced by SYMAP, a computer technique developed at the Harvard University Computer Graphics Laboratory. Each density level represents a degree of GVN rural population alignment, running from darkest (over 80% GVN-aligned) to lightest (less than 20%). The maps can also be read as VC control maps with heaviest VC control reflected in the lightest areas and least VC control in the darkest areas. They are not area control maps. The density (blackness) of any given spot on the map is determined by the control indexes of all provinces whose geographical center points fall within a radius of a few inches. Thus War Zone C, about as unsecure an area as there is in SVN, is colored entirely black in June 1967. The reason for this misleading result is that the alignment index for Tay Ninh province is very high (93%) because the population is concentrated in the reportedly secure areas of the province. The points on the map which lie in the war zone are colored black since they are near the center of a province (Tay Ninh) with an index between 81 and 100%. If some other province center were closer, the points would have been colored to reflect that province's index, even though the war zone falls in Tay Ninh province geographically.

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TABLE 1

RURAL POPULATION CONTROL BY CATEGORY ^{a/}
(End of Month (000) in Thousands)

	June 1964	Dec 1964	June 1965	Dec 1965	June 1966	Dec 1966	June 1967
Secured	4226.0(32.7)	4268.8(33.3)	4953.0(38.3)	5916.1 (45.4)	6272.1(47.9)	6869.1(52.2)	8078.5(57.5)
Undergoing Securing	2610.6(20.2)	1843.5(14.4)	986.9(7.6)	794.7(6.1)	779.3(5.9)	693.1(5.3)	829.4(5.9)
Contested ^{b/}	3424.8(26.5)	3601.3(28.1)	3521.7(27.2)	2880.4(22.1)	2716.6(20.7)	2795.8(21.2)	2768.5(19.7)
Uncontested ^{c/}	116.3(.9)	60.1(.5)	33.6(.3)	86.0(.7)	130.5(1.0)	163.2(1.2)	-----
VC Controlled	2546.0(19.7)	3048.8(23.7)	3440.4(26.6)	3357.4(25.7)	3207.5(24.5)	2649.8(20.1)	2365.2(16.8)
Total Population	12923.7	12822.5	12935.6	13034.6	13106.0	13171.0	14041.6
Total GVN-Aligned Population (Weighted) ^{d/}	6819.8(52.8)	6455.3(50.3)	6601.7(51.0)	7257.0(55.7)	7554.7(57.6)	8123.7(61.7)	9406.7(67.0)

^{a/} Excludes population of the 6 autonomous cities.

^{b/} Formerly Undergoing Clearing.

^{c/} Dropped as a category 1 Jan 67.

^{d/} Computed as 100% of Secured, plus 60% of Undergoing Securing plus 30% of Contested population..

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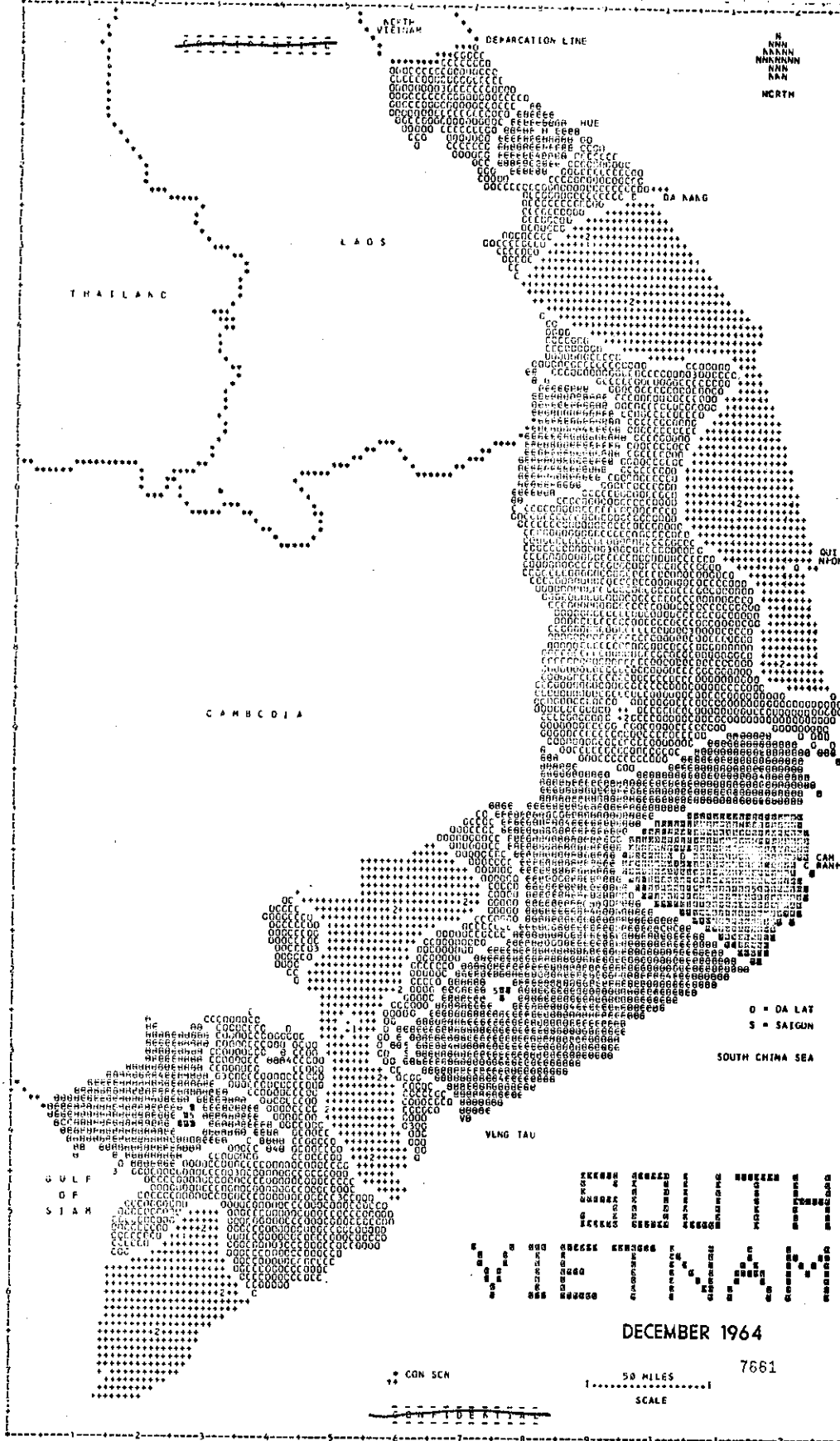
PERCENT GVN-ALIGNED
RURAL POPULATION

[illegible]

0- 21- 41- 61- 81-
20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

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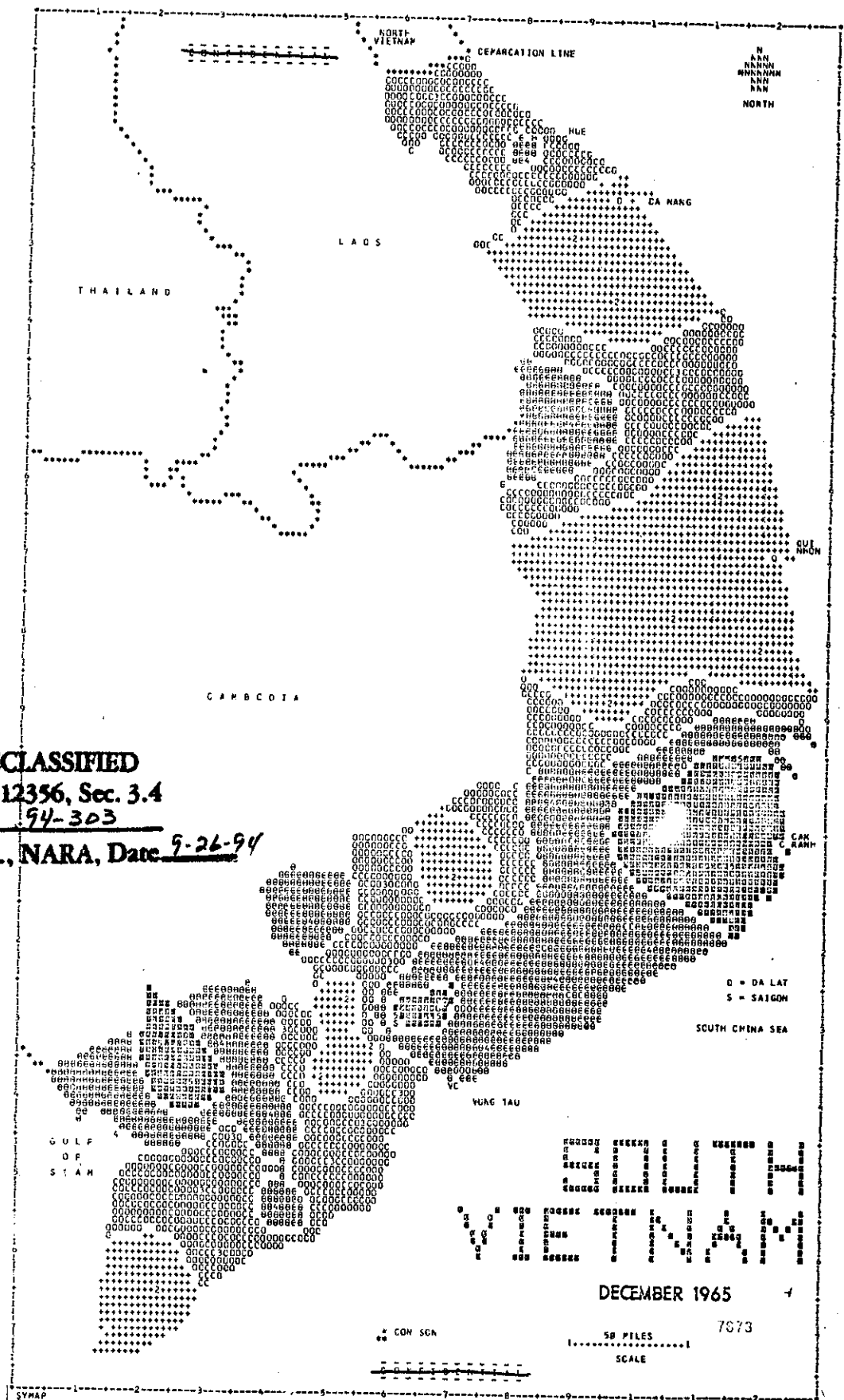


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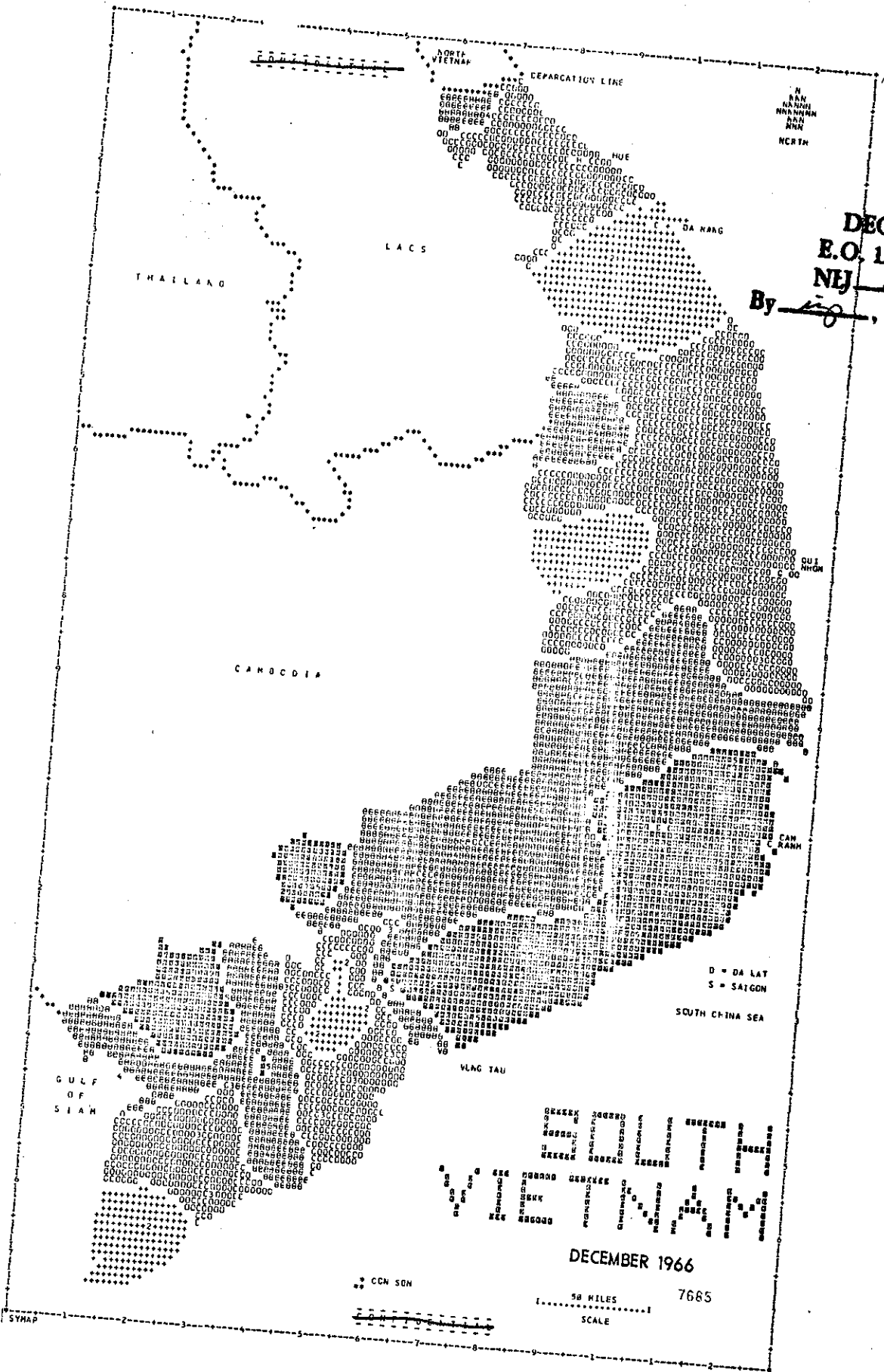
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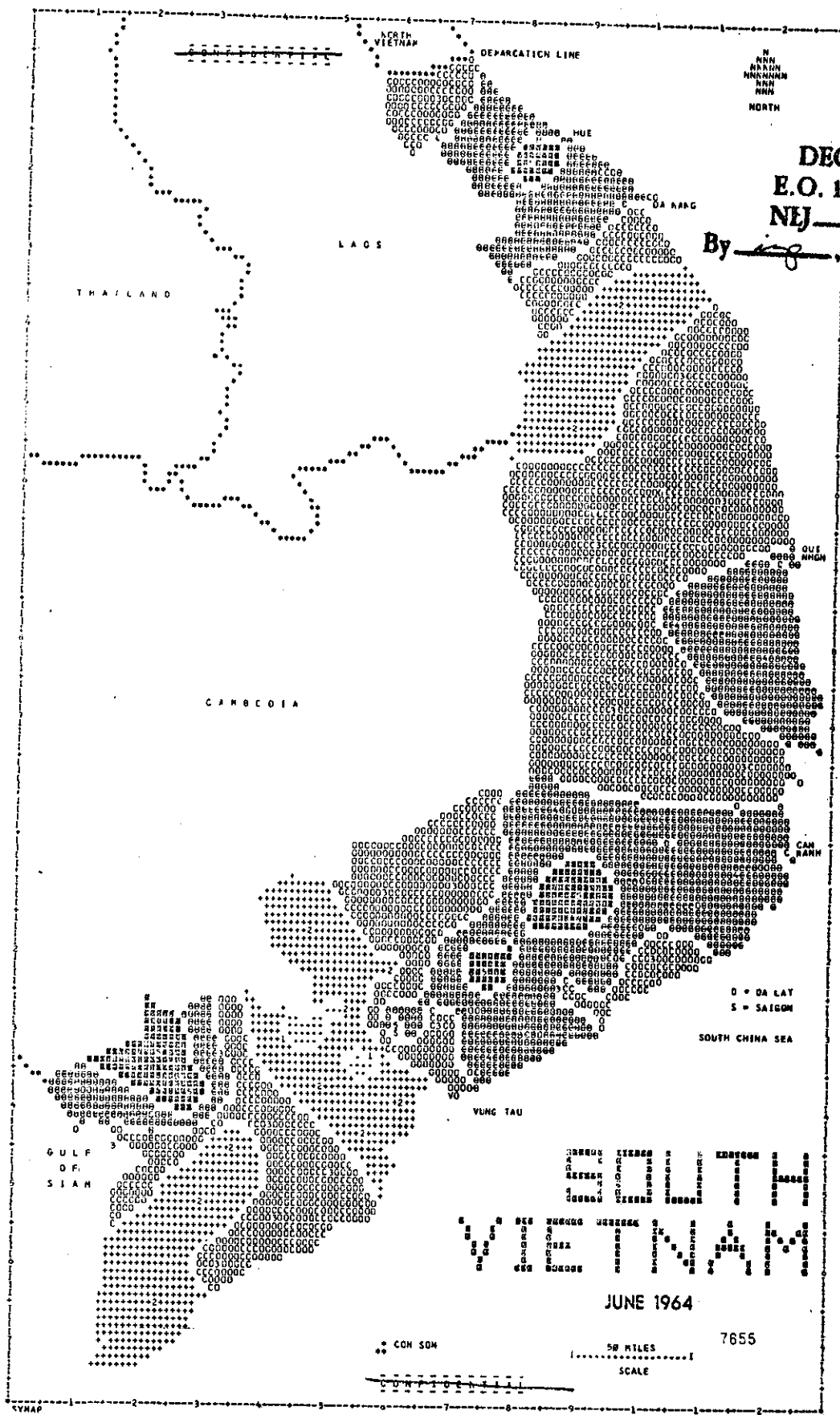
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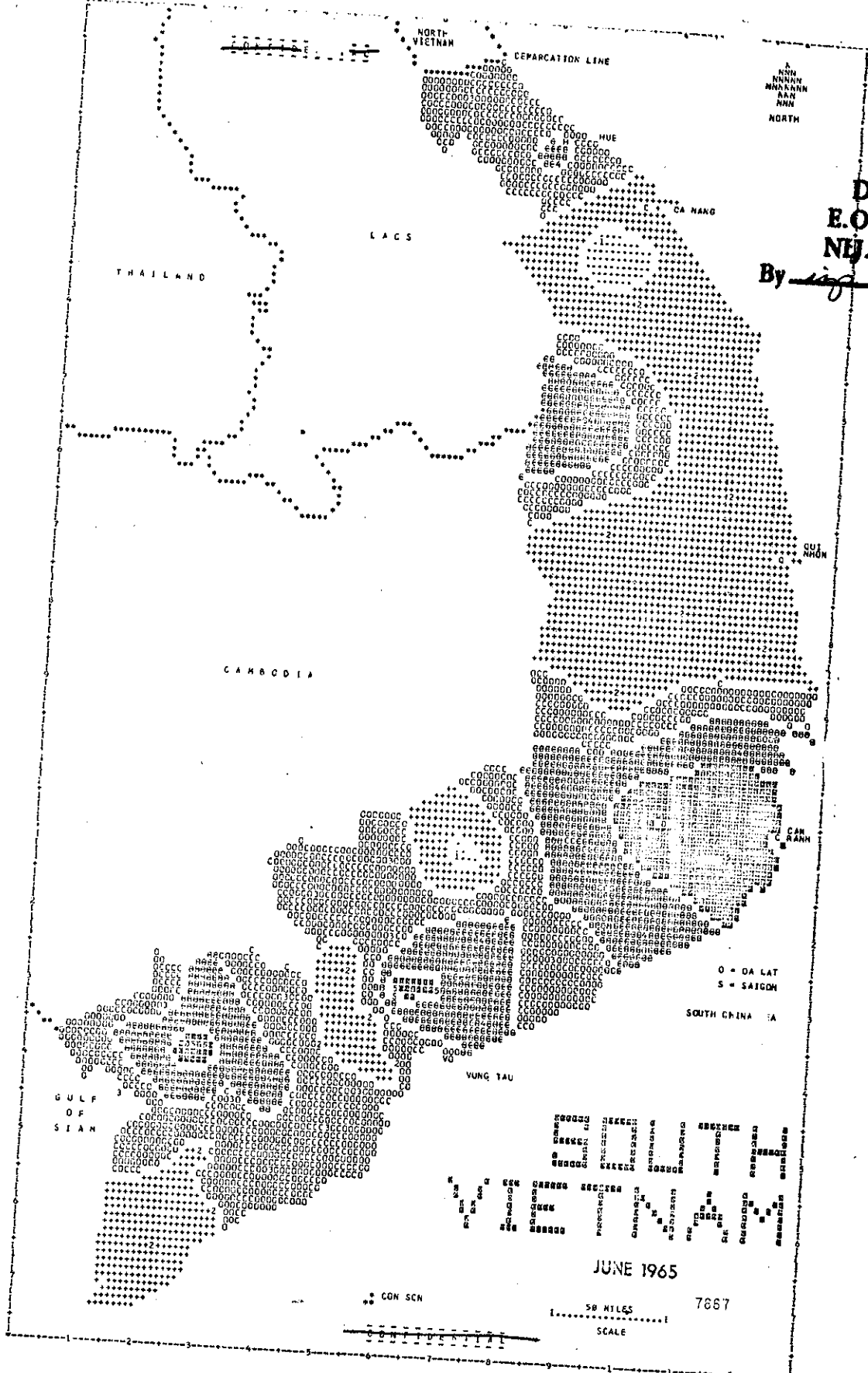
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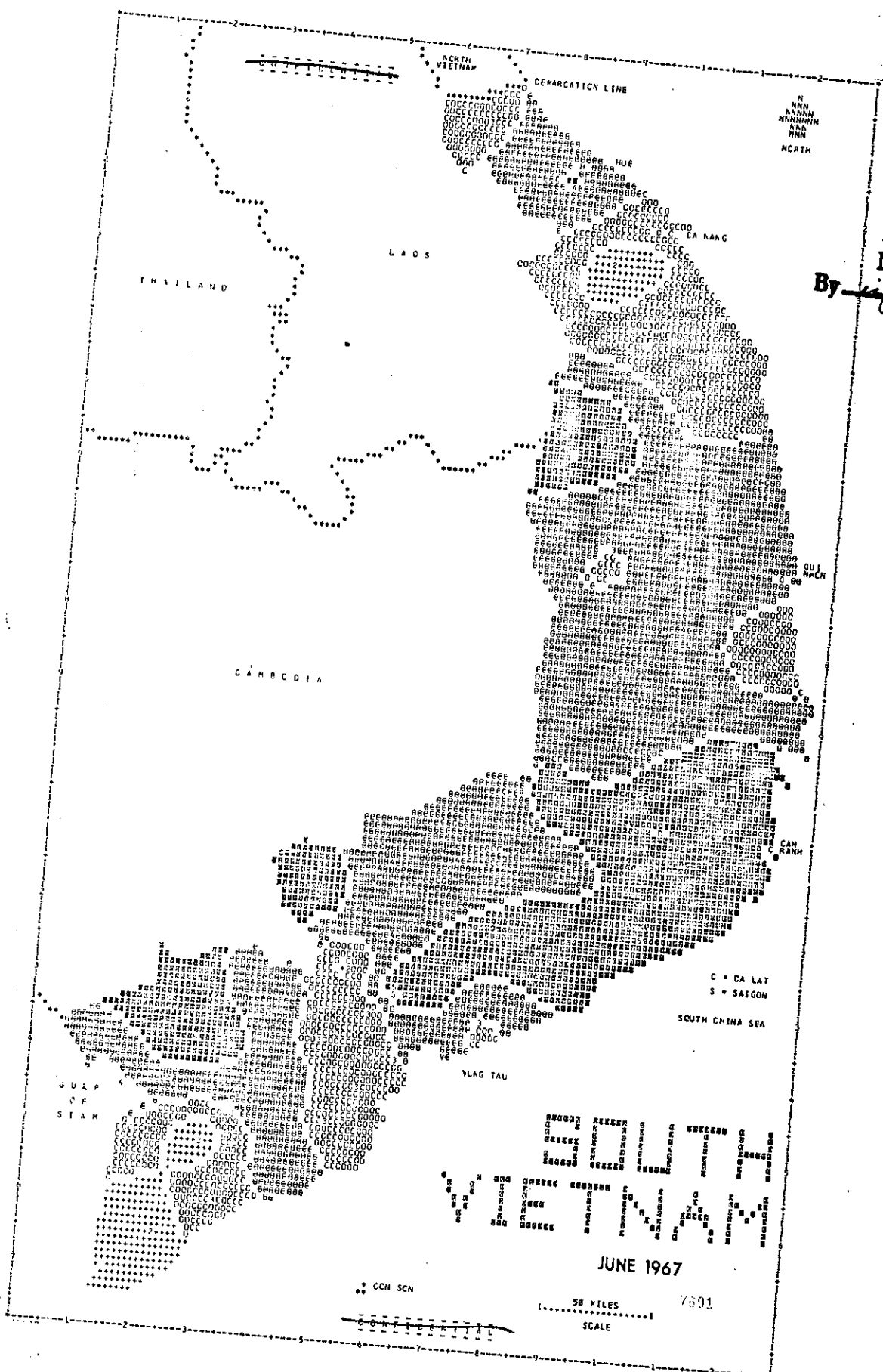
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