

The Global Trend of Wars

First of all it was evident that we had to think 'out of the military box' and start from a National US policies perspective, and work down from that to what part of the Military could most effectively play. First of all, we had to start with the trend in conflicts that were INTERNATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT - that is those armed conflicts which the United States, as a World Power, had to take into account because they either affected our strategic interests, threatened us or those countries with which we had treaty obligations, or where countries asked for our assistance.

We first measured conflict trends just over the 8 years from 1958 when such 'irregular' or 'lower spectrum of war' conflicts started rising to 1966 when our study was due.

The charts below were the Unclassified results of our study. They were deliberately made that way so that they could be studied by other - than Pentagon - agencies of the US government, and could be read by the Press.

Pentagon Years (5)

Category: Pentagon Years 1963-1966

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	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
Prolonged Irregular or Guerrilla-Type Insurgencies	28	31	30	31	34	41	43	42
Brief Revolts, Coups, Uprisings	4	4	11	6	9	15	9	11
Overt, Militarily Conventional Interstate Conflicts	2	1	1	6	4	3	4	5
TOTAL	34	36	42	43	47	59	56	58

Numbers represent the total number of conflicts occurring or still in progress during year

The total trend was up, and especially irregular forms of conflict when compared with conventional war conflicts.

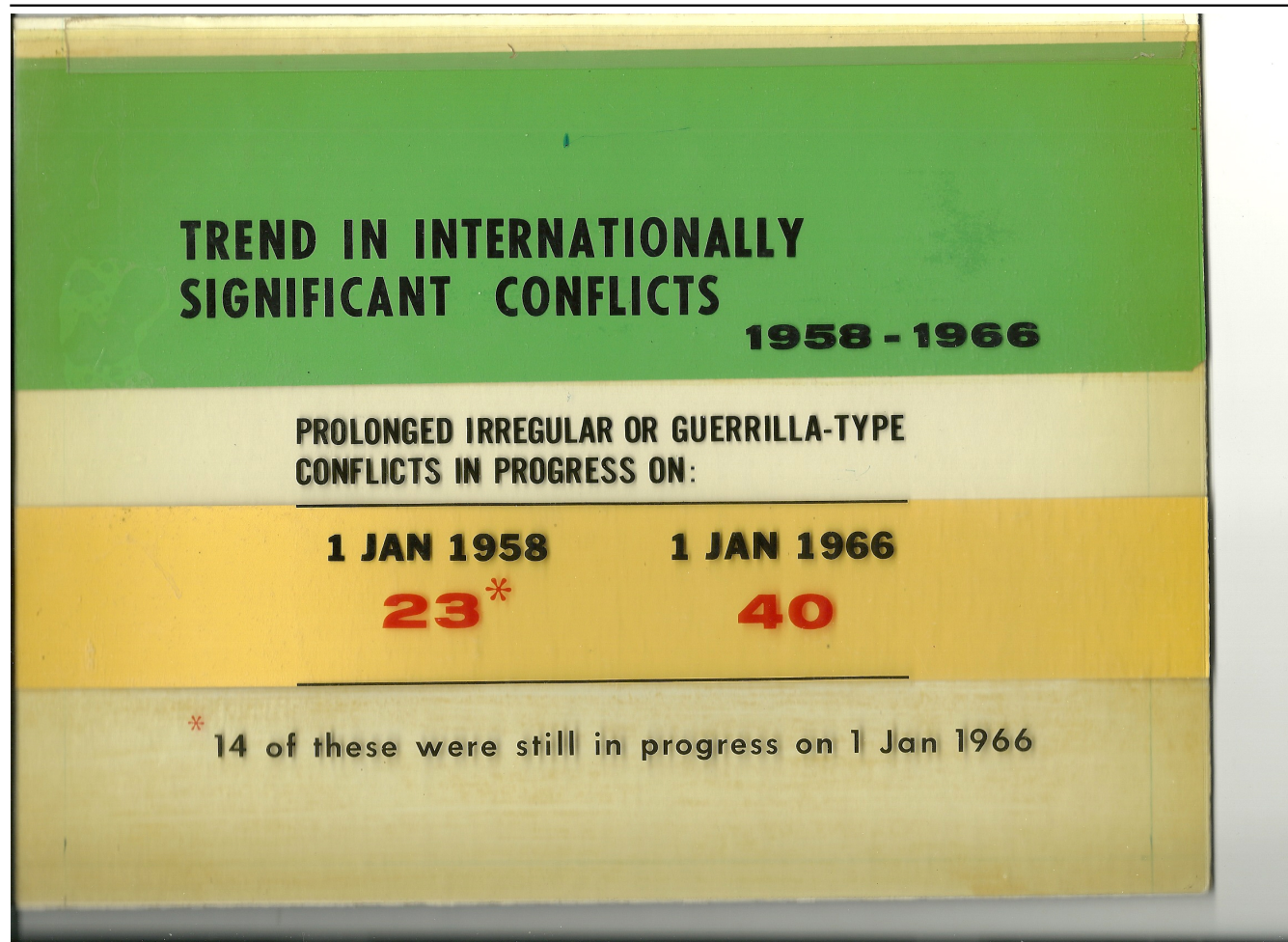
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Then came the question WHERE were those conflicts.

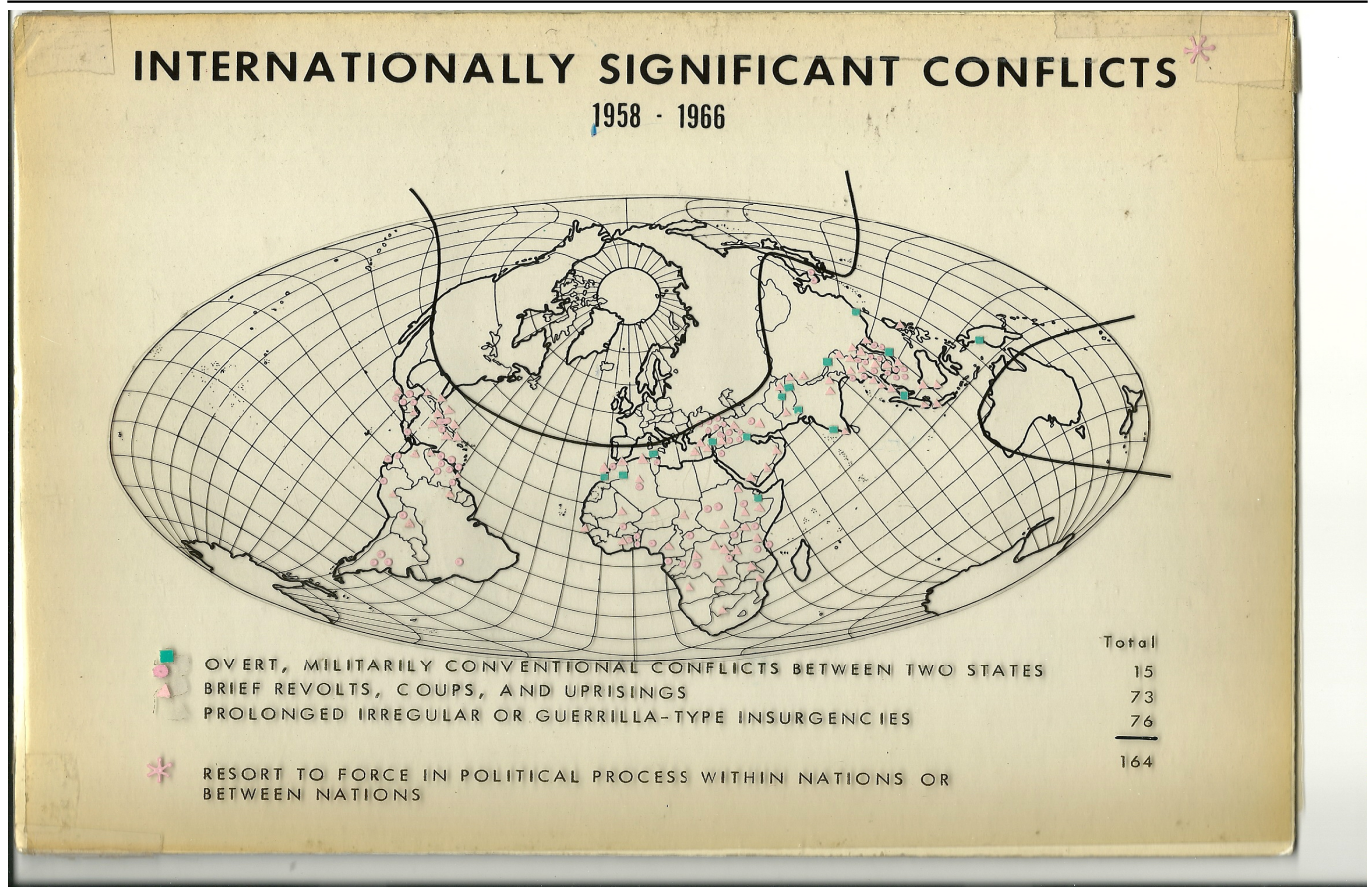
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It was clear most of the prolonged insurgencies were in the 3d World regions - not in the advanced European or North American regions.

Now these results of a picture of world Trends of the numbers of lower spectrum of war conflicts came as a surprise to senior military planners in the Pentagon.

But the bigger surprises - on what other trends correlated mostly with the number and locus for 'lower spectrum of war' - were yet to come.

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