

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
1 MAY 1967

1. Yemen

The evacuation of American personnel from Yemen continued quite smoothly yesterday; only a handful of the US staff are still in Taiz. The US chargé's office in Sana has also been reduced. Final flights scheduled for this morning will take out the last evacuees.

The two American AID officials arrested last Wednesday are still in custody.

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There has been no new word from Egypt or Yemen since restrictions on the Yemeni ambassador to the US were lifted yesterday. Nasir's top aide, Marshal Amer, indicated that this "quieter situation" might help to get the prisoners released.

Late word this morning from Sana is that a large demonstration has started in front of the US Embassy.

2. North Vietnam

The air defense operation on Saturday against the attack on the Hanoi railroad and highway bridges was one of North Vietnam's most sophisticated and well-coordinated reactions to date. Use of multiple surface-to-air missile firings, large flights of MIGs, and heavy antiaircraft fire show Hanoi's determination to protect strategic targets in the Hanoi-Haiphong area.

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3. South Vietnam

The Constituent Assembly has completed its draft electoral law. The law does not specify any minimum percentage of the total vote a candidate must receive in order to win, nor does it make any reference to a runoff election. Pressure from Ky and his supporters in the assembly probably accounts for these significant omissions.

The assembly, however, reared up on its haunches and set the election for "a Sunday in September 1967"--thus overriding the Directorate's unilateral selection of 1 September, a Friday.

4. Guatemala

[redacted] the Communist terrorist organization is planning to carry out attacks today against the US Embassy, its personnel, and US-owned property in Guatemala City. Other May Day plans include sabotage of power lines, attacks on other embassies, and assassinations in the countryside. Guatemalan authorities are alerted.

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5. Greece

There are still no signs of an effective opposition to the military takeover, but deep concern about the future is developing in Athens. The talk both in liberal and conservative circles is that the coup could well produce a permanent split between left and right--a situation which would work to the best advantage of the Communists.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
2 MAY 1967

1. Yemen

All Americans scheduled for evacuation have now safely left the country. The two US AID officers are still in custody, but US officials have uninterrupted access to them. The Yemeni deputy premier and the commander of Egyptian forces in Yemen are meeting with Egyptian officials in Cairo, probably to decide what line to take now.

Nasir, apparently bent on wringing the maximum political benefit out of the case, may show his colors in a major speech scheduled for this afternoon (Washington time). He may depict the quarrel as one between Yemen and the US, with Egypt merely an aggrieved party. There are hints, however, that he may figure the time is ripe for another hard-line anti-American blast.

2. South Vietnam

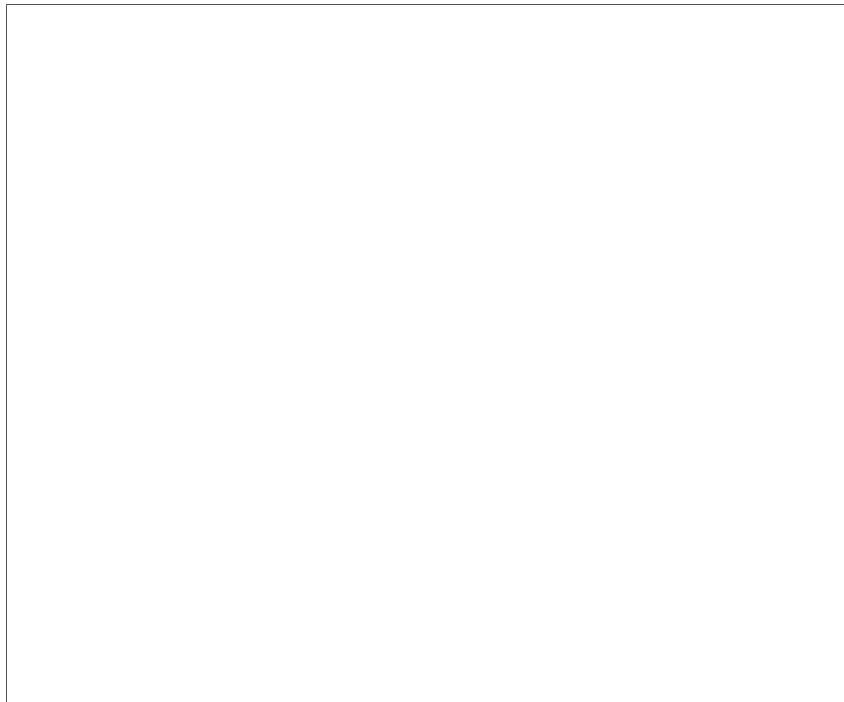
Almost 1,000 villages had voted for local councils when the first phase of this election program wound up Sunday. Overall voter turnout was 77 percent of the more than three million eligible. Scattered acts of Viet Cong terrorism seem to have had little effect. A second series of village elections will begin in July.

3. Cambodia

On Sunday Sihanouk sacked the moderate Lon Nol government, which has been under attack from the left since its formation last October. He may have thought the government and the army were cooking up a major purge of the left. Sihanouk himself may now take over as premier, and if so is unlikely to make any startling policy changes.

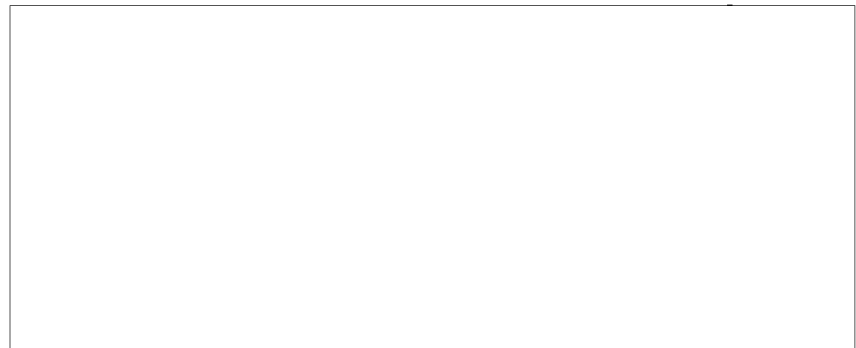
4. Communist China

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5. Soviet Union

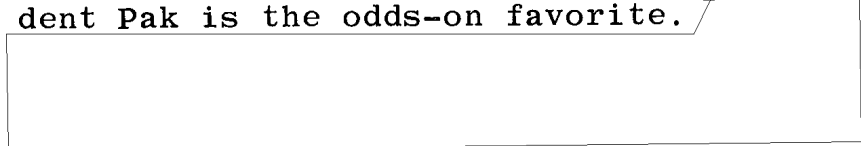
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6. South Korea

Tomorrow is election day, and President Pak is the odds-on favorite.

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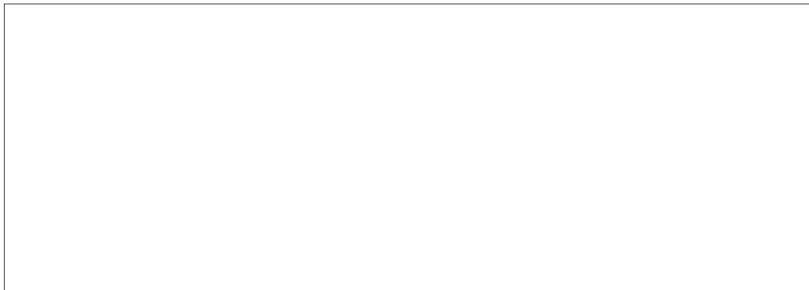


7. Afghanistan

Prime Minister Maiwandwal is still not out of the woods over charges that high-level officials are in cahoots with the US. For two weeks he has been avoiding parliament, which is threatening to censure him, but is expected to show up today and try to counter the charges.

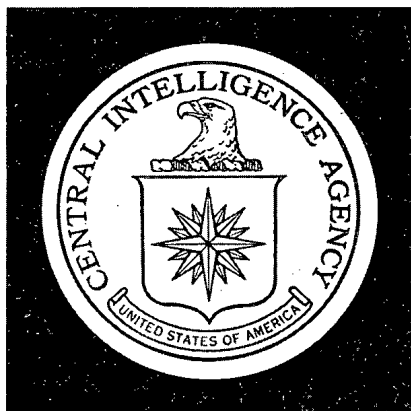
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8. Guatemala



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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
3 MAY 1967

1. Vietnam

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2. Egypt

Cairo apparently intends to see that the Americans under arrest in Yemen are released in due time, but shows no other sign of wanting to improve relations with the US.

Yesterday afternoon a senior Egyptian told a US official that the two Americans would be freed, although there would be some delay because the Yemenis had become so embroiled in the case.

At about the same time, Nasir was launching into his most vitriolic public attack on the US in recent years. Half of his two-hour speech was an anti-American diatribe cataloguing a wide range of alleged US machinations against Egypt. There was no glimmer of friendship amidst the bombast.

3. Cuba

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4. NATO

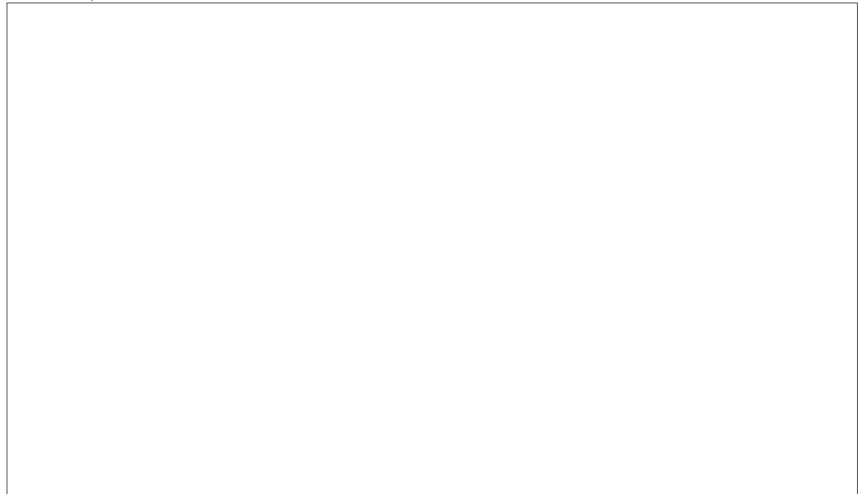
The British are pushing for early consideration of a possible approach to the Soviets on a mutual NATO - Warsaw Pact force reduction.

The British NATO representative said Monday his government feels now is the time to act to get maximum advantage from the proposed UK and US redeployments. He asked for a special meeting of NATO's Defense Planning Committee to discuss the subject. Such a meeting may well be held the week of 12 May.

5. Cambodia

Sihanouk named a personal adviser, Son Sann, as Cambodia's new prime minister yesterday. Sihanouk, who threw out the moderate Lon Nol cabinet on Sunday, said the new government would be limited to no more than three months in office. Son Sann is a conservative who has consistently tried to rein in the Prince. He has held key cabinet jobs before and has been generally pro-US.

6. North Korea



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7. Greece

The junta is digging its spurs in deep and moderate Greek politicians are gravely troubled.

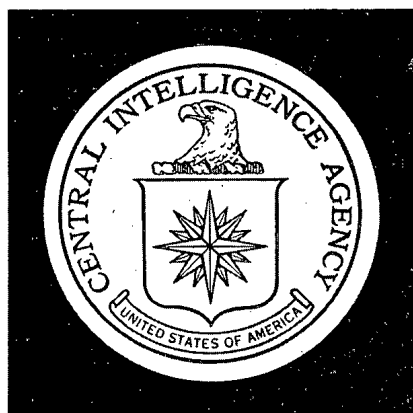
These politicians doubt there will be anything like an early return to representative government--and on this score they may be right. They also fear an extreme political polarization of the left and right, with the eventual possibility of Communist guerrilla warfare. For the moment at least, this latter prospect seems unlikely as all the hard-core Communists are under lock and key.

Andreas Papandreou also is still under detention.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 4 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
4 MAY 1967

1. North Vietnam

Cargo deliveries by foreign ships to North Vietnam continued at the high level set during the first quarter of the year. Some 129,000 tons were delivered in April--a slight drop from the record of 142,000 tons in March.

Petroleum shipments declined, but dry cargoes reached a new high. Continued heavy imports of food apparently mean that earlier reports of a poor harvest in North Vietnam were correct and that other Communist countries are underwriting Hanoi's needs in order to head off a food crisis.

2. Common Market

Paris has probably not yet decided how to cope with London's bid for membership and appears to be stalling for time.

Wilson's bid was as close to an unconditional one as was possible for him to make. If De Gaulle is to keep Britain out this time, he will have to come much closer to revealing openly his opposition to anything which would obstruct French predominance in Western Europe.

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3. Sino-Soviet Relations

Moscow has more than doubled its Chinese language propaganda broadcasts since mid-April. The weekly schedule, now 180 hours, includes two simultaneous programs at prime evening hours. Moscow's line stresses the growing isolation of Mao and company from the Communist party. Some of the broadcasts are frankly encouraging anti-Mao sentiment in the Chinese Army.

4. Eastern Europe

The most significant thing to emerge so far from last week's rather feeble conference of European Communist parties in Czechoslovakia has been the extent of Rumania's isolation from its erstwhile allies. Rumania has moved perceptibly closer to the position long held by Yugoslavia.

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[redacted] typically Yugoslav themes played by the Rumanian press during the conference, strongly suggests that the joint absence of the two parties was no coincidence.

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5. Spain

One effect of the widespread and violent May Day demonstrations this year may well be to play into the hands of extremists in both the regime and the opposition. Ambassador Duke points out that the regime's reversion to a tough line on May Day stimulated rather than discouraged worker defiance.

The violence suggests that Franco will have increasing difficulty in his effort to keep the lid on pressures for liberalization.

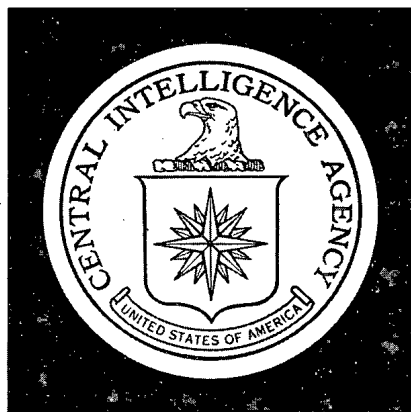
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6. Guinea

Sekou Toure's regime is at its lowest ebb since independence, though he will probably somehow pull through again. A sinking economy and financial scandals involving high officials are mainly responsible. Characteristically, Toure blames "foreign plotters." He has ordered all foreign missionaries out of the country by 1 June. This will affect some seventy US citizens.

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~~Top Secret~~ 5 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
5 MAY 1967

1. Soviet Union

The principal conclusions of the National Intelligence Estimate "Soviet Attitudes and Intentions toward the War in Vietnam" just approved by the US Intelligence Board are:

- The Soviet leaders probably believe there is no prospect of movement toward a political solution for several months, and that they have no alternative but to help North Vietnam carry on the war, hoping that changes in attitude in either Hanoi or Washington will permit a political solution later.
- The Russians fear that the US, in its impatience to get the war over, will escalate the conflict in a way which will increase the risks and costs for Moscow; in an effort to forestall this they are stressing their intention to move to more vigorous support of North Vietnam.
- Peking will probably not pose serious obstacles to the continued transit of military supplies across China.
- Hanoi at some point will probably press Moscow for more sophisticated equipment than those types now on the scene. There is a good chance that under pressure the Soviets would provide such weapons as cruise missiles and tactical rockets.
- If the conflict were to be intensified by the US the Soviets at some point would probably create an atmosphere of heightened tension. They might provide limited numbers of volunteers or crews for defense equipment or aircraft. The mining or blockade of the North Vietnamese coast would be most likely to provoke these responses. Moscow is probably not prepared to resort to direct threats of general war as a means to protect North Vietnam.

2. South Vietnam

[redacted] assessment of Buddhism as a political force between now and the September elections:

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- The Buddhist movement, largely because of government surveillance of the militant leaders and the adoption of tough control measures, is less a threat to political stability than at any time since 1963.
- Tri Quang is the sole leader of the militants, and the only Buddhist capable of directing antigovernment activities. Tam Chau, the moderate Buddhist leader, is no organizer and has no devoted activist following.
- Tri Quang can probably control only 180,000 votes, but he can inspire others to action.
- There is no hard evidence that the Buddhists are controlled by the Viet Cong, although their antics frequently serve the Viet Cong cause.
- Come September, the Buddhists will flock to the polls rather than the barricades.

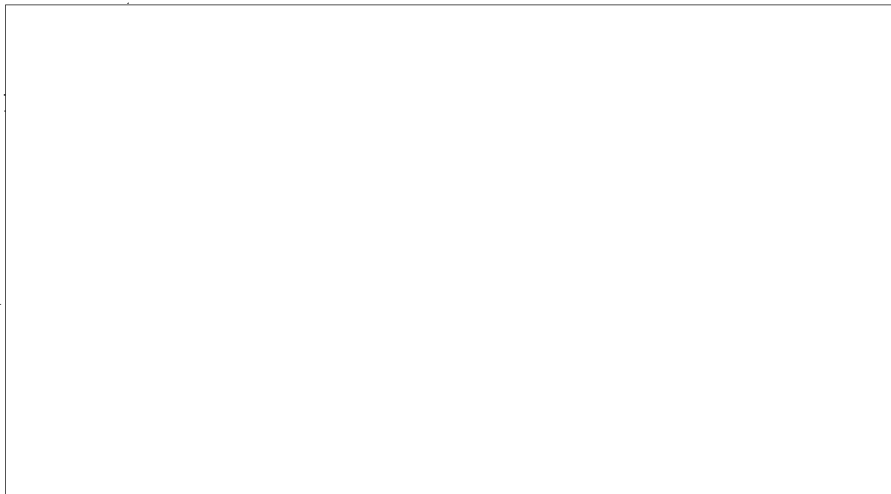
3. South Korea

President Pak's victory in the presidential election assures a continuation of moderate leadership stressing economic improvement. Pak's large margin--won over the same opponent he narrowly defeated four years ago--will give him some new muscle to help control the factional fighting in his Democratic Republican Party.

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4. Yemen

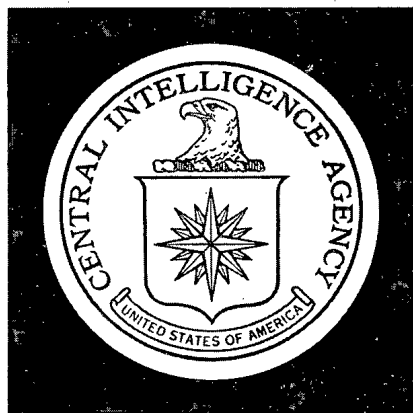


5. Cuba

We have re-examined the evidence-- including recent reports and rumors in the press--and find nothing to change our conclusion that no strategic weapons, nuclear warheads, or Soviet combat troops have been reintroduced into Cuba.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 6 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
6 MAY 1967

1. North Vietnam

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2. Brazil

There is a growing trend toward anti-Americanism.

The press has blown up the activities of a few American missionaries preaching birth control into a US campaign to "sterilize" Brazilian women. The issue is assuming the proportions of a national uproar. A large news chain is accusing the US of being part of a "conspiracy" to depose Costa e Silva. Leftist newsmen in general seem to feel the government's "independent" foreign policy gives them the right to stand up to the US.

There is no evidence that the government has stimulated this hostile press--but no real effort has been made to stop it.

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3. Cyprus

The island has been calm since the coup in Athens, but serious trouble may develop this weekend.

There are fears that General Grivas, commander of Cypriot armed forces, may crack down on the Communists despite the Cypriot government's objections.

Grivas made clear earlier this week that he would not tolerate a belated May Day celebration on Sunday.

[REDACTED]

Any inflammatory speeches criticizing the King or the present regime in Athens could put Grivas on the warpath, not only against the Communists but Makarios as well.

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4. Dominican Republic

Yesterday's firebomb attack on a prominent senator from Bosch's old party may have major political ramifications. Suspicion will focus on the government, since the senator was a strident critic of Balaguer.

This incident will further alienate the left, and comes at a time when right-wing dissatisfaction with Balaguer has been increasing. His recent appointment of two of Trujillo's followers--one of them a brutal police officer--has fanned this discontent.

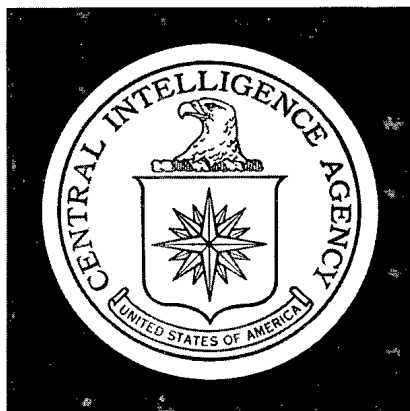
While we do not see any group capable of seriously threatening the government at the moment, Balaguer's political position is running downhill.

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5. Thailand

Stepped up harassment by Communist insurgents in the northeast is severely challenging the government's "protect the villages" program. One band of insurgents, capitalizing on the slow reaction of government forces, managed to occupy a village for 24 hours. All in all, the insurgents initiated 30 percent more attacks in March than in February. Government casualties doubled over the period.

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~~Top Secret~~ 8 May 1967



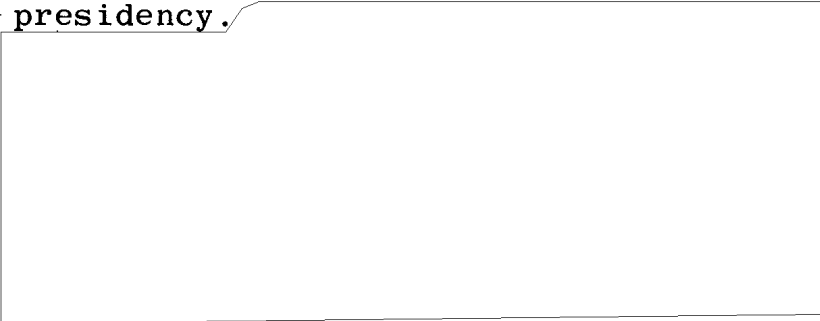
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DAILY BRIEF
8 MAY 1967

1. South Vietnam

Pressures are mounting on Chief of State Thieu to abandon his undeclared but very real interest in the presidency.

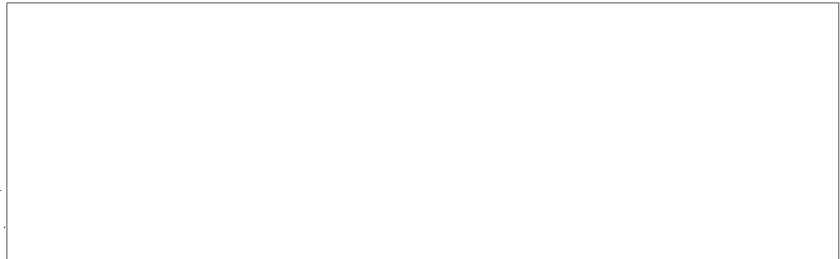
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For his part, Ky seems to be becoming increasingly irritated by Thieu's silence.

2. North Vietnam

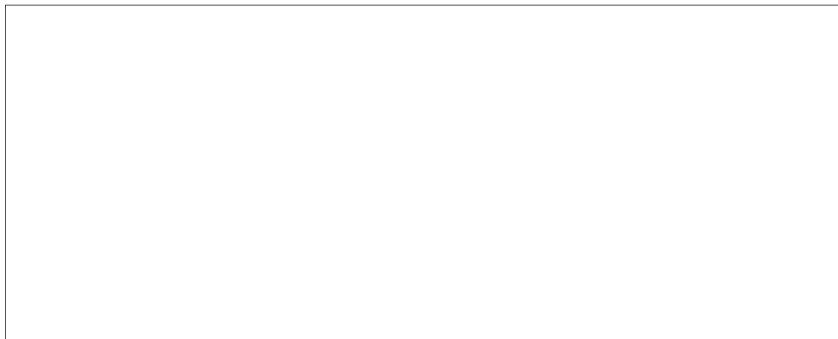
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3. Cyprus

The weekend passed quietly despite the ominous portents on Friday. The Communists carried out disciplined demonstrations throughout the island, but were careful not to provoke the military.

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4. Greece

King Constantine, still painfully aware of the weakness of his position, continues on a course of cautious cooperation with the coup managers while trying to avoid becoming publicly identified with them. He told Ambassador Talbot late last week that one of his prime objectives is to encourage his senior generals gradually to reassert their authority over the middle-level officers who pulled off the coup.

The King went on to say that he is doing what he can to press for an early return to constitutionality. The first small step toward this goal was taken last week when the cabinet agreed to appoint a committee to review the constitution and, ultimately, to submit the revised charter to a plebiscite. No timing for the process has yet been agreed on.

As for Andreas Papandreou, who is shortly to go on trial for treason, the King said he had been assured by regime leaders that there will be no attempt to get a death penalty.

5. Dominican Republic

The political storm touched off by last week's firebomb attack on a prominent opposition senator is growing worse. The Dominican Revolutionary Party, of which the senator is a member, has called on its congressional bloc to boycott congress until effective measures are taken against terrorism.

President Balaguer is on the spot. His enemies are accusing him of fostering the climate of terrorism by bringing back thugs associated with the Trujillo tyranny. Public reaction to the latest incident has been sharp and critical of the President.

6. Panama

The United States Intelligence Board has just approved a Special Estimate on Panama, with these conclusions:

- Increased tension and political turbulence are likely as the upcoming presidential campaign interacts with the highly emotional issues involved in the Canal treaty negotiations.
- The elite families long in control may be hard pressed to get one of their own elected president next year. The challenge comes from [redacted] Arnulfo Arias, who heads the country's only mass movement.
- Much depends on when the treaty negotiations are completed. If President Robles is able to present the treaties for ratification by September, they might be somewhat less a disruptive campaign issue.
- Otherwise, there is small chance of getting satisfactory treaties before a new administration takes over in October 1968.

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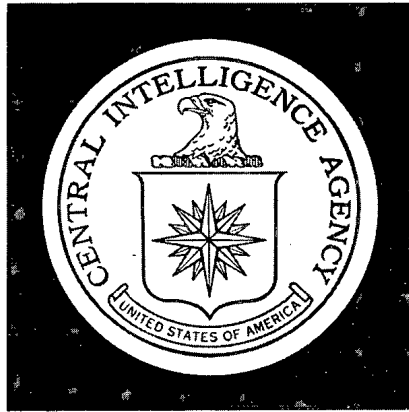
7. Egypt

The Egyptians, while still pretending that they are neutral bystanders in the Yemen situation, are now saying that the two US AID officers being detained in Yemen will be released by 15 May. Yemeni officials continue to talk of an impending trial for the two "guilty" officers.

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~~Top Secret~~ 9 May 1967

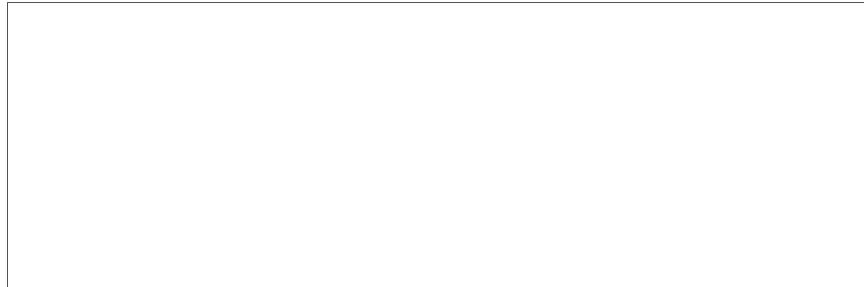


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DAILY BRIEF
9 MAY 1967

1. Vietnam

Our embassy in Stockholm believes that so far Lord Russell's "tribunal" (the sessions will probably end tomorrow) has gone rather badly. The sessions were poorly organized and have not had a good press.



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The sessions may get wilder these last two days, as the Swedish Government relaxes or ignores the bounds of legal tolerance. The embassy feels nothing short of a "shocking obscenity" could now cause the government to close up the show.

2. South Vietnam

Yesterday the defense minister announced that the army will not appoint any military man as its candidate for president. This gets the generals off the hook of having openly to support either Ky or Thieu, and lessens for the moment the chances of a split in the military establishment.

It also leaves Ky free to declare his candidacy (with civilian backing) without waiting for Thieu to make up his mind. Thieu may also decide to run, however--and then the generals would be hard-pressed not to take sides, at least privately.

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3. Communist China

We believe the recent press reports of large-scale violence are greatly inflated

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As best we can figure it out, the use of such reports is a repeat of a tactic employed earlier in the cultural revolution.

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In the past Peking has circulated lurid stories about disorders in order to discredit local party leaders slated to be purged. Now, however, it looks as if local military commanders rather than party types are the main target.

4. Hungary

Cardinal Mindszenty is debating whether to abandon his refuge in the US Embassy in Budapest. This word comes from Cardinal Koenig of Vienna who saw Mindszenty on Sunday. Koenig believes the Hungarian prelate may accept a papal invitation to come to Rome, or decide to live in Vienna. Our chargé is not so sure.

5. Syria

The radical leadership has been confronted recently by a number of demonstrations reflecting opposition within the business and religious communities. While these people almost certainly cannot topple the regime, we might well see one of the competing factions at the top take advantage of the general unrest to make a move against the others.

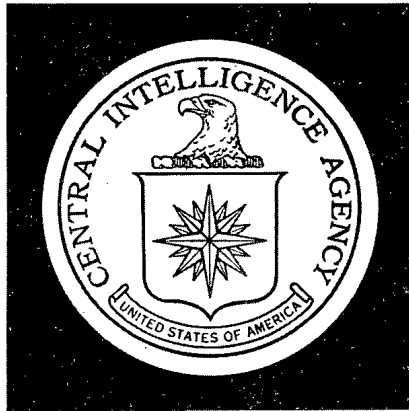
6. EEC

EEC Commission President Hallstein has withdrawn his candidacy to head the new commission merging the executives of EEC, EURATOM, and the Coal-Steel Community. He blames his decision on the recent Kiesinger - De Gaulle agreement to limit his tenure to a mere six months.

The French will be glad to see Hallstein go; they have always been opposed to his attempts to strengthen the EEC. By withdrawing, Hallstein at least will stimulate discussion of the issues involved.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
10 MAY 1967

1. Vietnam

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2. Yemen

The Egyptians still swear the two AID officials will be released--without trial--despite Yemeni noises to the contrary. The Egyptian foreign minister, speaking for Vice President Amir, says Egypt is "doing its best."

Some of Cairo's other actions have not been helpful, however. A US team to remove the AID files has not been allowed to leave Egypt. The "documents" the Yemenis claim incriminate the AID officials may well be among the papers the Egyptians filched from the AID building and examined in Taiz last weekend. There are also signs that a mob attack on the AID building may be drummed up, probably to cover the rifling of the files.

The Yemeni Foreign Office has asked that the US consulate in Taiz be closed. Washington has authorized the consul to destroy the communications gear and close the consulate at his discretion.

3. India

Mrs Gandhi brought it off. Her personal choice for president--the first Muslim to hold the office--won Saturday's election. This is a much needed boost both for her and the sagging Congress Party.

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4. Panama

Robles has sent his foreign minister back to the US with instructions to wind up the canal treaty negotiations "as soon as possible." Robles wants the treaties signed by June. His chief negotiator, however, doubts that this deadline can be met.

5. France

French officials are thinking about the problem of the "residual value" of the now abandoned US installations in France. However, they say the French forces could not use many of these without extensive renovation, and are hinting that Paris might bill the US for "negative residual value."

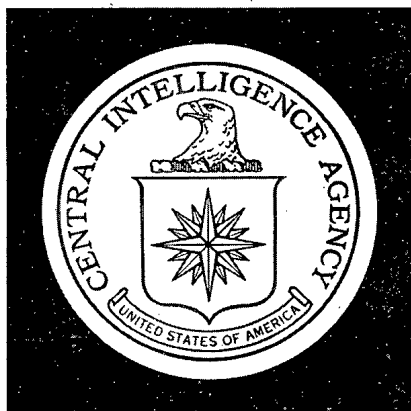
6. Indonesia

Suharto's government is continuing the public mudslinging match with Peking, while trying to hold down popular harassment of Chinese in the countryside. This weekend the recently expelled Indonesian chargé, who suffered some indignities at the hands of howling mobs in China, is scheduled to return home. The government will try to keep anti-Chinese demonstrations within bounds.

7. Gabon

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 11 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
11 MAY 1967

1. Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

Prime Minister Ky had a "long and frank talk" with General Thieu on Tuesday. Ky told Ambassador Bunker that he had declared his intention to run for the presidency and asked Thieu for "unity of the military." According to Ky, Thieu seemed to acquiesce and said he was not sure whether he would return to the army or simply retire.

On the face of it this would seem to settle the question, but Thieu has not yet been heard from directly. [REDACTED]

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3. Bolivia

"Che" Guevara, Castro's will-o'-the-wisp guerrilla theoretician who disappeared from the Cuban scene in 1965, may be with the guerrillas in southeast Bolivia.

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4. Rhodesia

Eighteen months ago today Prime Minister Ian Smith made his unilateral declaration of Rhodesia's independence. Economic sanctions notwithstanding, there are no signs whatever that Smith is thinking about throwing in the sponge.

Sanctions, in fact, seem to have had remarkably little effect. The government is buying up this year's tobacco crop at a higher price than last year and seems confident of overseas sales.

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5. Israel

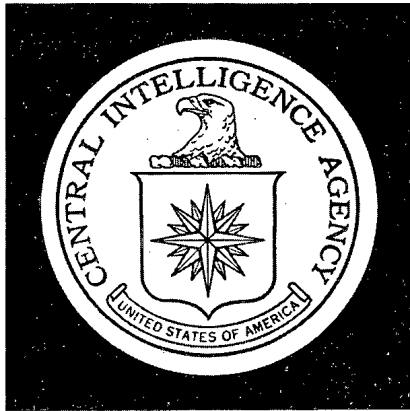
With the score standing at 14 Arab terrorist acts inside Israel since 7 April, the pressure is building for retaliation. Syria is primarily responsible for supporting the terrorists and probably would be the target for any Israeli attack.

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6. Iraq

Nasir is not going to be happy with the new Iraqi cabinet announced yesterday. While still subject to all the pulling and hauling that beset Arab politics, the cabinet is likely to set a general course toward better relations with the West and adopt something more like neutrality where Cairo is concerned. The new prime minister is President Arif, who now wears both hats.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 12 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
12 MAY 1967

1. Communist China

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2. Hong Kong

The Hong Kong government and Peking's apparatus in the colony are moving toward a test of strength. The Communists have sharply increased their agitation in recent months. Yesterday this resulted in a clash between police and hundreds of rioters engaged in a demonstration against "foreigners."

The local government, no longer able to avoid the challenge, [redacted] must take a hard line to prevent erosion of its authority. It clearly has the example of Macao in mind.

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Peking is out to embarrass the local authorities in Hong Kong, as it did the Portuguese. In this case, however, the Chinese have more to lose; they probably do not now want to jeopardize the considerable economic benefit they get from continued British control of the colony.

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3. Western Europe

Brezhnev has been urging West European Communist leaders to adopt "united front" tactics.

In his off-the-record bilateral contacts during the recent European Communist party conference in Czechoslovakia, the Soviet leader pressed for a broad anti-German "peace front." This, he said, should bring together not only political parties but also youth groups, labor activists, intellectuals, and religious organizations.

4. Iraq

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5. Iran

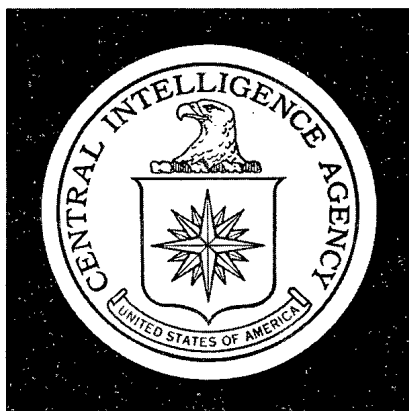
The Shah has angrily "suspended" plans for his US trip next month. He is reacting to fragmentary press accounts of uncomplimentary references to him during recent closed hearings of the US Senate Disarmament Subcommittee. Ambassador Meyer hopes he can calm things down when the official US record arrives, but he is not sure.

6. Guatemala

Rightist vigilantes are retaliating for Communist terrorism with their own campaign of assassinations, kidnappings, and bombings. They have been increasingly active in recent days. Their targets, unfortunately, include a number of moderate leftists and labor leaders who probably have no connection with Communism.

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~~Top Secret~~ 15 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
15 MAY 1967

1. South Vietnam

Police Director Loan intends to play a major role in the coming national elections. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] he is moving ahead with plans for a political organization in the provinces to support Ky's bid for the presidency.

Loan added that the high level of world interest in the elections precludes the chance of rigging them, but that the military establishment will wield its legitimate patronage powers to assist Ky.

* * * * *

Ky, meanwhile, intends to push hard for certain labor reforms on the Saigon waterfront. He expects strenuous opposition and even strikes engineered by the vested interests that have long profited as middlemen in the labor market. Ky seems to have seized on this as a good opportunity to demonstrate to the electorate his solicitude for the workers.

2. Soviet Union

The Soviet Embassy in Bonn is sniffing around on the mutual troop reduction issue.

A Soviet diplomat called at the US Embassy late last week to get some clarification about our troop rotation plan in West Germany. He remarked there were economic and political considerations which made the Soviets interested in a reduction of their forces in East Germany, but they wanted to assess our recent moves before they reached a conclusion themselves.

Ambassador McGhee comments that it is hard to tell whether the diplomat's call was directed by Moscow or was an independent step taken by the Soviet ambassador to West Germany who has strong personal interests in disarmament and European security.

50X1

3. Iran

The Shah's trip to Washington appears to be on again, but the Iranian ruler is still smouldering over what he considers insults by Senator Fulbright.

On Friday, Ambassador Meyer came from a scratchy two and a half hours with the Shah commenting that the senator's uncomplimentary remarks during recent Senate Disarmament Subcommittee hearings are not likely to be forgotten or forgiven in Tehran. [REDACTED]

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The ambassador doubts the Shah will be interested in going to a scheduled tea with the senator.

4. Egypt

Nasir, fearing an Israeli attack on his Syrian ally, is putting Egypt's armed forces on alert.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] On Friday, the Israelis warned they would strike Syria if the Syrians kept on sending terrorists into Israel.

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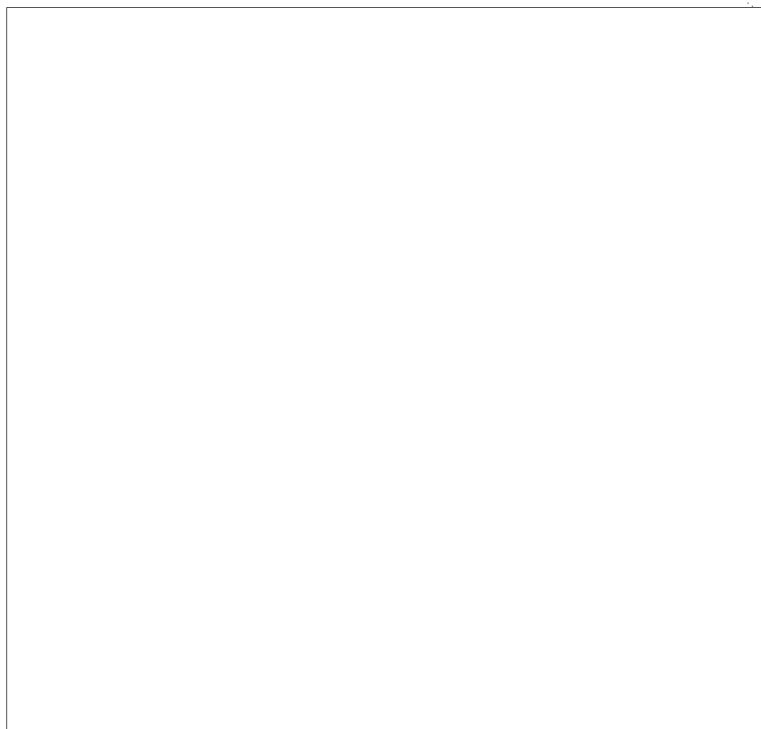
Nasir is not likely to start a fight with Israel--in fact, he would like to avoid one--but he would be under great pressure to help Syria if the Israelis attack.

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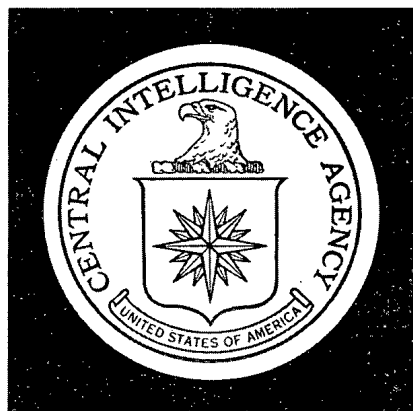
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5. Yemen

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 17 May 1967



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LATE ITEM

Yemen

US citizens Liapis and Hartman
were freed this morning. As of
5:00 AM EDT they were enroute to
Asmara, Eritrea, by plane.

DAILY BRIEF
17 MAY 1967

1. North Vietnam

The flight of the eight Soviet transports to Hanoi via Peking has evidently been held up. We have yet no indication whether the change in schedule is temporary--due to operational factors--or permanent.

2. South Vietnam

The suicide of a Buddhist school teacher on Tuesday--the first day of a week-long celebration leading up to Buddha's birthday--may have been politically motivated. We have had reports that Tri Quang and company intended to seize on the "peace" issue to regain their political momentum. These militants, however, even with an immolation to work with, probably cannot now drum up any serious disturbances.

3. Hong Kong

The Chinese are keeping up their pressure on the British. In Peking, for instance, the Chinese are putting on the same kind of mass demonstrations in front of the British Embassy that they gave the Russians last winter. In Hong Kong itself, the leftists are organizing "struggle groups" to prepare for more demonstrations. There is talk of trying to mobilize the 400,000 unemployed teenagers in the colony for this purpose.

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4. Arab States -
Israel

Embassy Cairo reports it is now quite clear that the troop movements through Cairo on Monday were purely defensive. In essence, Nasir was putting on a show to demonstrate his solidarity with Syria in the event of a new Israeli attack.

No Israelis were hurt in the latest terrorist explosion on the night of 15-16 May near the Israeli-Jordanian border.

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5. Yemen

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6. Nigeria

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7. Cambodia

Sihanouk seems to be broadening his attack against the Cambodian left. The other day at a cabinet session (the Prince frequently has these broadcast live over the radio), he lashed out at "red" propaganda activity and made pointed references to "Red Guard" behavior and the distribution of Mao's works in Cambodia. Sihanouk also repeated his accusations that Vietnamese Communists were behind recent disorders in western Cambodia and that the leftists are being used by certain unnamed "foreigners."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 18 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
18 MAY 1967

1. Vietnam

The North Vietnamese are not likely to get much more than a hearty handshake and best wishes from Hungary's defense minister now visiting Hanoi. He may chip in some more small arms and trucks, but the East Europeans in general have not been outstanding contributors of military hardware, despite their strong political and propaganda support for Hanoi.

50X1

2. Venezuela

President Leoni, outraged by the presence of Cuban military types with the Venezuelan guerrillas who last week landed near Caracas, wants to retaliate with more than an OAS resolution.

He has suggested that the US pressure the Soviets to get Castro to cease and desist. Leoni would also like to see US unions boycott shipping lines serving Cuba and firms trading with Cuba be blacklisted.


Leoni added that without some US action, Latin American countries cannot stop Castro's guerrillas, which he claimed were now active "throughout the continent."

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3. Hong Kong

The Maoists in Peking, whipped up by their own increasingly extreme and xenophobic views, may believe that they can extract some political concessions from the British without seriously damaging their economic interests in Hong Kong. The Chinese earned over \$550 million worth of hard currency there last year.

We cannot yet say how far the Chinese will be prepared to push their "demands." The riots are continuing, and spreading.



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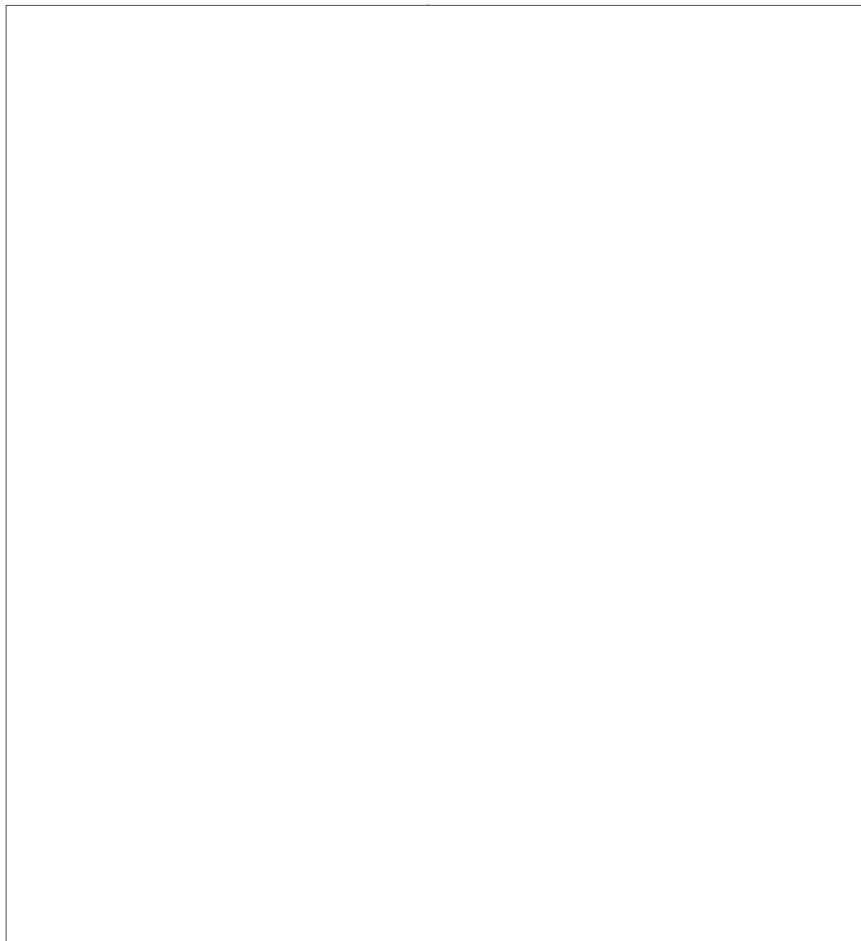
At the least, then, more violent demonstrations are probably in store for Hong Kong and harassment of British diplomats in China will continue. Should these steps fail to achieve results, Peking may go on to apply pressure through curtailment of fresh food and water supplies from the mainland.

4. Gibraltar

Spain shows no signs of easing the restrictions on air space that are endangering civil air flights into the Rock. London is willing to talk about the matter, but Madrid--whose heart has long been set on somehow forcing the British out--will talk only as part of general negotiations on "decolonizing" the territory. The British, who are diverting their civil aircraft unless they can safely land with only "minor infringements" of the restrictions, fear that Spain may impose further harassments.

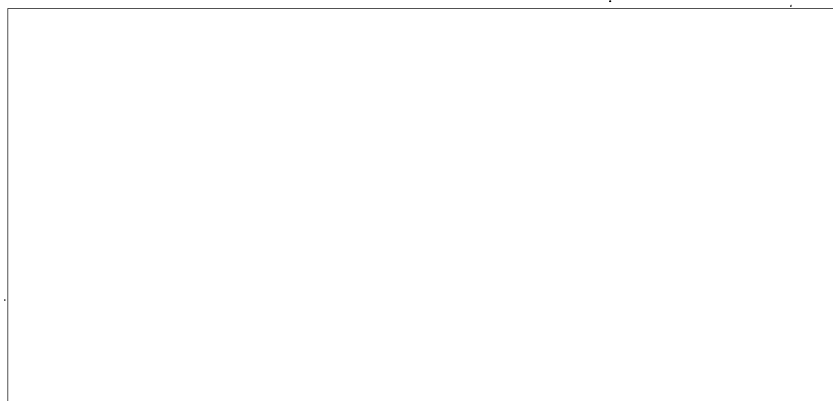
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5. Soviet Union



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6. Yemen



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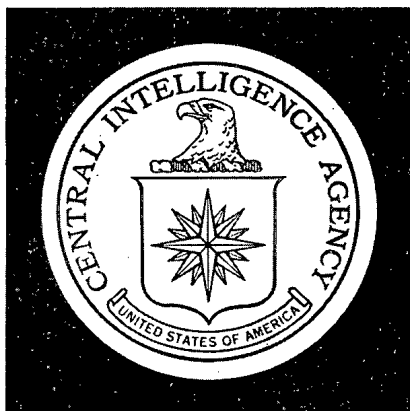
7. Arab States -
Israel

Egypt has requested the withdrawal of the UN Emergency Force from the Egyptian-Israeli border. This has little military significance, since the Force never has had any capability for preventing a border clash. Cairo probably hopes its demand will deter Israel by "demonstrating" Egypt's intention to aid Syria if attacked.

The Syrians seem to be double-talking themselves into believing the Soviets will come to their assistance in the event of an Israeli attack. They say Soviet aid "will reach the verge of military intervention." Moscow apparently has given some vague assurance of support, but we think any commitment such as the Syrians have in mind is highly unlikely.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 May 1967



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**DAILY BRIEF
19 MAY 1967**

**1. Arab States -
Israel**

The situation is explosive and the Syrians hold the match.

If Syrian terrorists kill any Israelis, Israel is quite likely to strike fast and hard. The Syrians are unpredictable

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Nasir, for his part, is undoubtedly anxious to duck a fight.

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But Nasir has crawled way out on the limb. He has made one of the best publicized troop build-ups in recent years and he has told the United Nations Emergency Force to go home.

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50X1

With his prestige on the line, Nasir will find it hard indeed to back down if the crunch comes.

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2. Soviet Union

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50X1

3. Vietnam

Today is Ho Chi Minh's birthday.

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4. Hong Kong

Peking is tightening the screw with more veiled threats, but the British continue to believe they have nothing to gain and everything to lose by knuckling under to Communist demands.

In Hong Kong, well-disciplined demonstrations go on with no incidents reported, but the few British officials in China are having a rough time. Masses of Chinese have paraded past the office of the British chargé in Peking chanting Mao-quotes, and the British representative in Shanghai was frog-marched around his house by Red Guards when he refused to bow to a picture of Mao.

Yesterday there was a mass rally in Peking to condemn the British. Chinese broadcasts warn of the "worsening" situation.

5. Mexico

The situation in Sonora state is described as extremely tense by the US Consul General in Hermosillo. Troops moved in to quell a three-month revolt against the state's governor on Wednesday.

A number of arrests have been made in Nogales on the Arizona border. Now citizens of Nogales are threatening to storm the jail if those arrested are not released. More troops are being moved toward the border town.

The basic issue is popular resistance to the Sonora governor's selection of his successor. The cause has been taken up by university students, who have been leading demonstrations and riots.

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6. Ecuador

Arosemena assured Ambassador Coerr on Wednesday that Ecuador will participate fully in the action program adopted at Punta del Este. Arosemena probably will do what he says, although we still expect him to use US aid as a whipping boy whenever he thinks he can make some domestic political mileage.

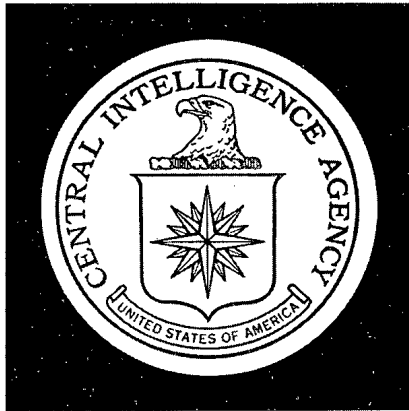
Arosemena's administration is broke.

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7. Sudan

A new premier, Muhammad Mahjoub, was named yesterday. He is not expected to change the Sudan's relatively pro-Western outlook.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
20 MAY 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel

Nasir continues his gigantic gamble. If he is lucky and there is no major outbreak, he will be crowing about how he deterred Israeli aggression. He does not control all the players, however, and the chance of an explosion has grown during the past 24 hours.

United Nations forces are quickly withdrawing from positions along the Egyptian-Israeli border and Nasir's troops are moving in. This includes the sensitive post on the Gulf of Aqaba which could be used to interdict the route by which tankers from the Middle East reach the Israeli port of Eilat (see map). Any Egyptian action against shipping here would almost surely provoke a strong Israeli military counter-action.

The Israelis have begun a "partial mobilization." US defense attachés noted a considerable increase yesterday in Israeli military movement toward both the northern and southern borders. Israeli authorities assure the US Embassy, however, that all their moves are purely precautionary.

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2. Hong Kong

An uneasy lull has settled over the colony, though orderly Communist-led demonstrations continue. The British are not complacent. They recognize that the worst may be yet to come.

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3. North Vietnam

The flight of Soviet cargo transports to Hanoi via Peking, which did not materialize as scheduled earlier this week, now appears to have been definitely cancelled. We still do not know why the flight was called off. For that matter, Hanoi seemed unaware of the cancellation for several days.

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4. Communist China

5. Soviet Union

High-level dissatisfaction with the performance of the Soviet state security and intelligence apparatus (the KGB) was probably behind the change in its command announced in Moscow yesterday. We have heard rumblings of such dissatisfaction recently and the wording of the announcement certainly suggests it.

If the new KGB chief, Yuri Andropov, retains his place in the party Secretariat, he will be the highest ranking political figure in that job since Beria was purged in 1953.

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6. Iran

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7. Common Market

The other Common Market countries are interpreting De Gaulle's statements on British entry as extremely harsh. They are pessimistic about Britain's chances.

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De Gaulle will be the dominant personality at the Common Market "summit" meeting in Rome late this month. Although the meeting is not likely to make a formal decision on the issue, De Gaulle will have another effective forum. The result could be further serious damage to London's bid.

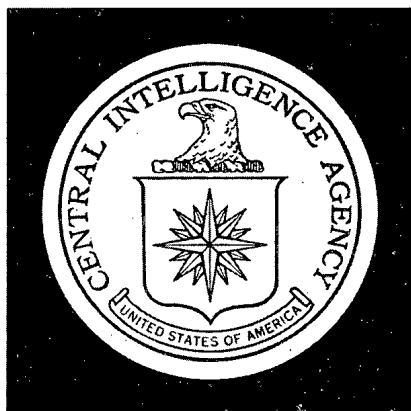
De Gaulle's next maneuver might be blunted, however, if some of the other five members quickly make it clear that they do not accept De Gaulle's view of Britain. The Dutch--and Foreign Minister Luns in particular--have played this role in the past.

8. Cuba

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Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
22 MAY 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel

Israeli patrols, both land and air, crossed both the Egyptian and Jordanian frontiers over the weekend. These incursions have caused brief exchanges of fire, but neither side appears ready to expand them into a major clash.

The evacuation of United Nations forces is proceeding more slowly than expected from earlier evidence.

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Embassy Cairo reports that Egyptian officials, one of whom said he hoped Israel did start something, appear bellicose and confident they could win. "We will drive straight for Tel Aviv, and our air force will destroy every city and town in Israel in a matter of hours," said another official.

The embassy feels that this mood probably extends to Nasir himself, and concludes there is no doubt he is playing for keeps.

The Egyptians appear also to have talked themselves into believing stories of a US-Israeli plot against Syria. The embassy feels anti-US actions involving the American community in Egypt could erupt at any time.

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2. North Vietnam

At least 34 North Vietnamese jet fighters have been knocked out of action in aerial combat or by airfield bombing over the past month. Ten of these were shot out of the air this weekend.

This leaves Hanoi with about 46 fighters on the four bases in the Hanoi-Haiphong area.

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3. Hong Kong

Demonstrations are getting larger and more militant. The local Communists appear bent on provoking an incident, and they came fairly close yesterday and again this morning.

On both days raucous crowds, defying a ban on disorderly gatherings, came eyeball to eyeball with the police. In yesterday's melee, police used tear gas and clubs and made numerous arrests. This action has produced Communist screams of "police brutality" and charges that thousands were wounded, dead, or missing.

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4. Communist China

Posters saying that pro-Mao types are being massacred in some provinces continue to appear, and we continue to believe they are greatly exaggerated.

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We suspect this poster campaign is Peking's way of laying the groundwork for a reorganization of the local military commands.

5. Guinea

Nkrumah, still vegetating in Guinea surrounded by a dwindling bunch of semiliterate henchmen, last week made his first public speech in over a year.

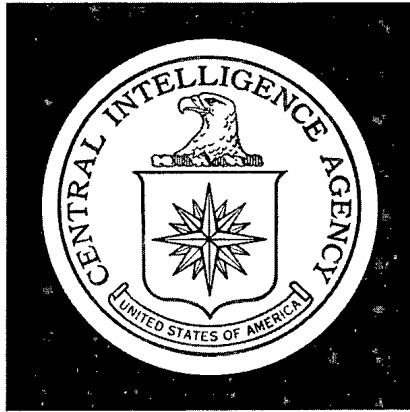
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6. Soviet Union

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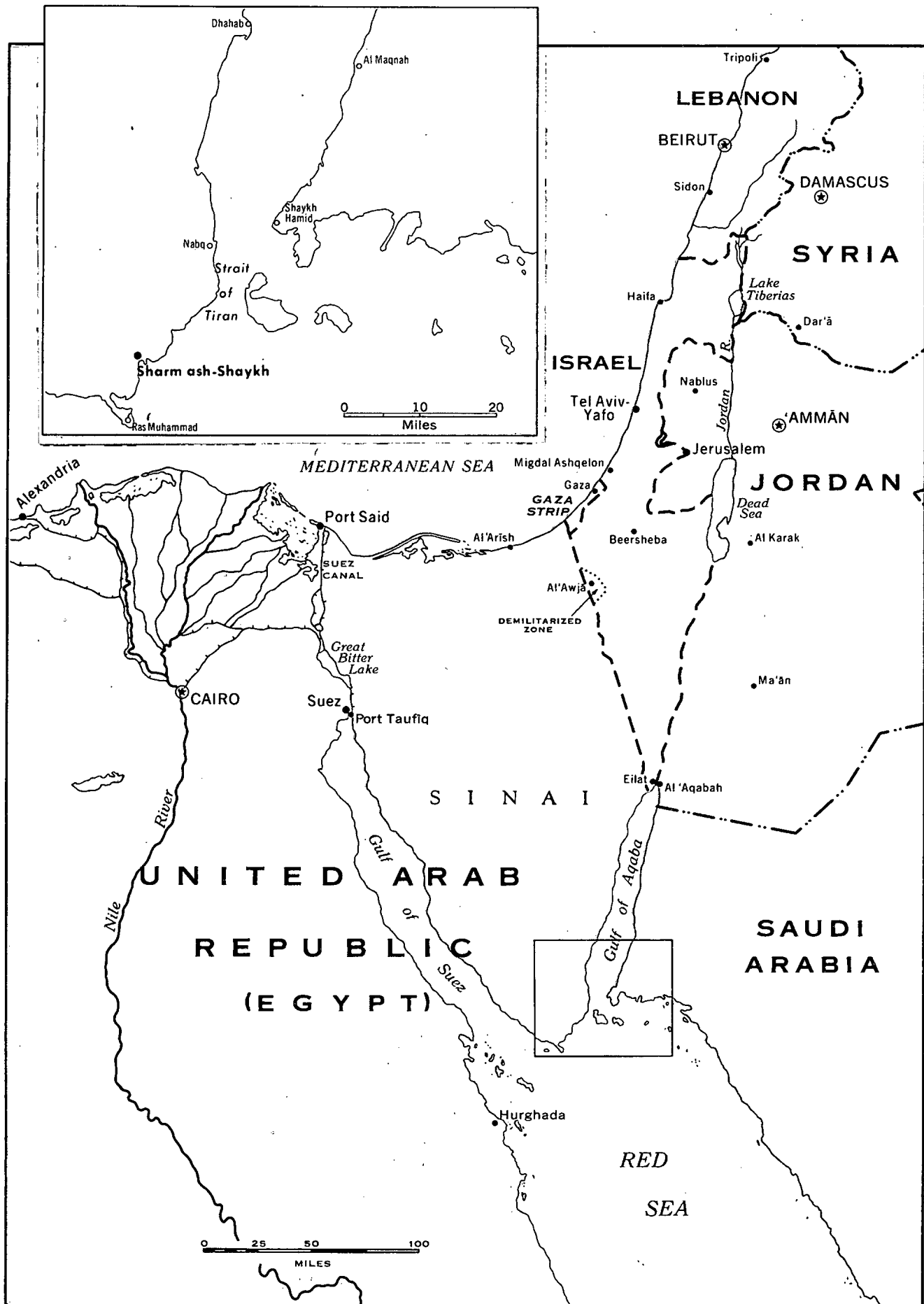


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
23 MAY 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel
(As of 5:45 AM
EDT)

More than 12 hours have passed since Nasir threw down the gauntlet and announced closure of the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping. The Israelis have made it clear such action would be considered a cause for war.

The only Israeli reaction reported so far has been Foreign Minister Eban's early morning telephone call to Ambassador Barbour reporting Nasir's statement and suggesting President Johnson be informed. Eban did not elaborate.

The Israelis may be planning a pre-emptive strike, but the fact they did not hit Egyptian positions at first light this morning (Tel Aviv is six hours ahead of Washington) suggests they may be waiting until the Egyptians try to stop a ship.

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The Egyptians have a coastal artillery battery in position to block the mouth of the Gulf. Air and naval units are stationed nearby at Hurghada. When the Israelis strike, however, they are not likely to confine themselves to these targets.

UN Secretary General U Thant arrives in Cairo this morning and he undoubtedly will try to pull Nasir back from the brink. U Thant's prospects are considered slim.

If Israel attacks Egypt, Syria would become involved. Iraq and Algeria might offer military aid. Support from the other Arab states would be more vocal than practical. We still believe the Israelis are capable of defeating any combination of Arabs.

Moscow has not commented on Nasir's latest move, but we think the Russians are not likely to get directly involved with their military forces. The Soviets, however, will continue to back Nasir from the political side and they may ante up more weapons for the Egyptians.

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2. South Vietnam

Former premier Tran Van Huong, the leading civilian contender for the presidency, told an officer of the US Embassy on Sunday that he will announce his candidacy formally this week. The 63-year-old Huong seems to have come to the conclusion that the increasingly open competition between Ky and Thieu has greatly improved his chances of winning the presidency.

Huong's remarks suggest that he intends to ride hard on the theme of corruption in the government.

3. Hong Kong

The British are getting tougher. Yesterday all public gatherings were banned and truncheon-swinging Hong Kong police moved in on the mobs under clouds of riot gas. Both the ban and the casualties inflicted by police are sure to spark further disorders.

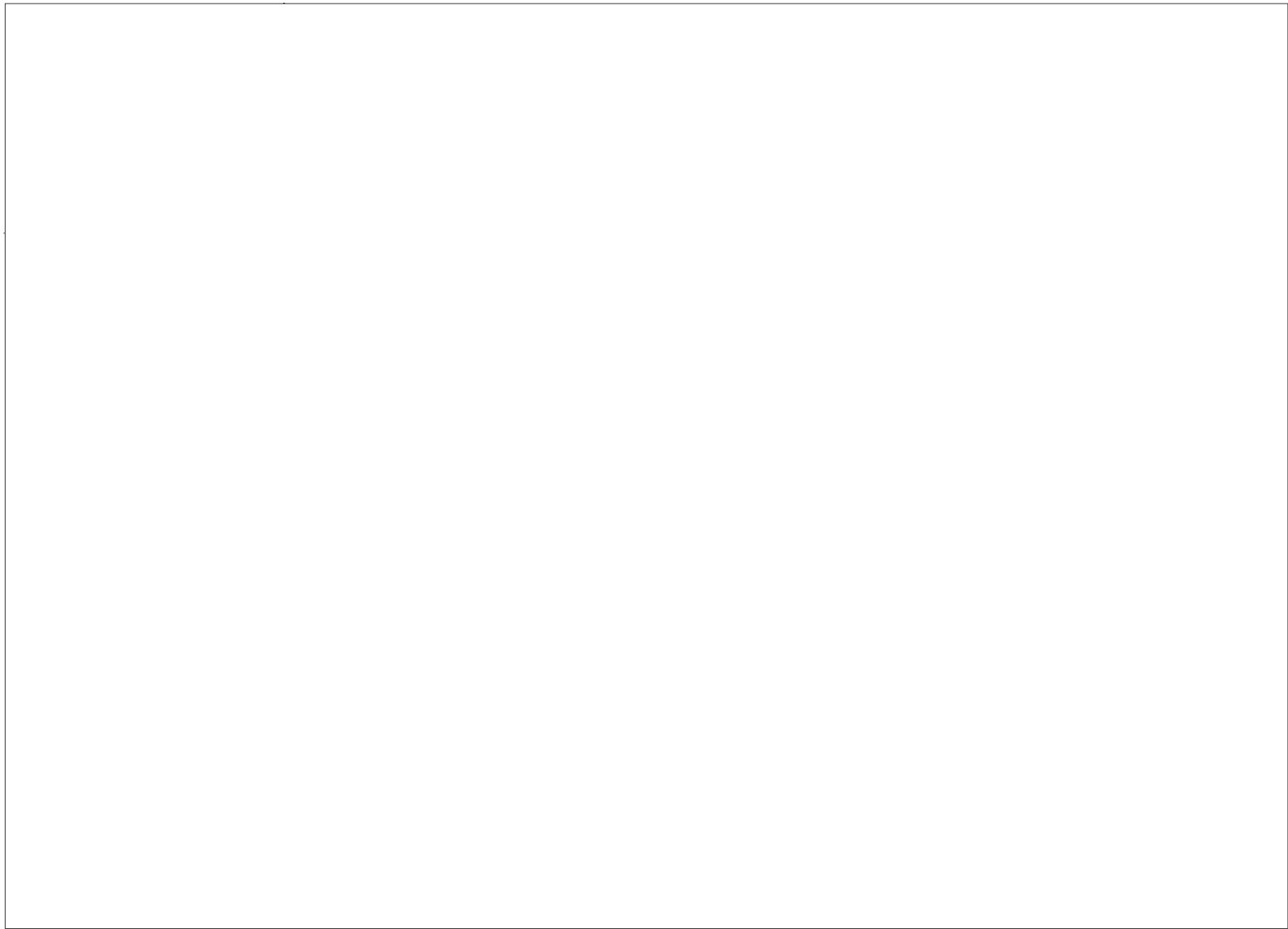
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Peking's latest action has been to order the British representative out of Shanghai.

4. Dominican Republic

Balaguer's balance of payments situation is sliding downhill despite the recent increase in the Dominican share of US sugar imports. Last Friday, US officials confronted the Central Bank's governor and asked what the Dominicans planned to do. He replied that the two obvious courses were to crack down on imports and ask for more US aid.

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5. Soviet Union

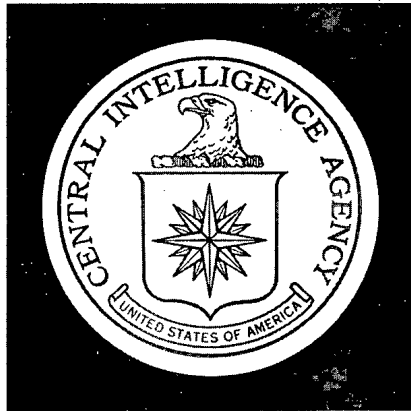
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6. India

The government is jittery over the security situation in West Bengal and particularly in the vital port city of Calcutta. The Communists are the strongest element in West Bengal's coalition government and officials in New Delhi believe the seeds of revolution are being sown. The central government is prepared to intervene, but wants to step carefully lest it give the Communists a pretext for calling out the street mobs.

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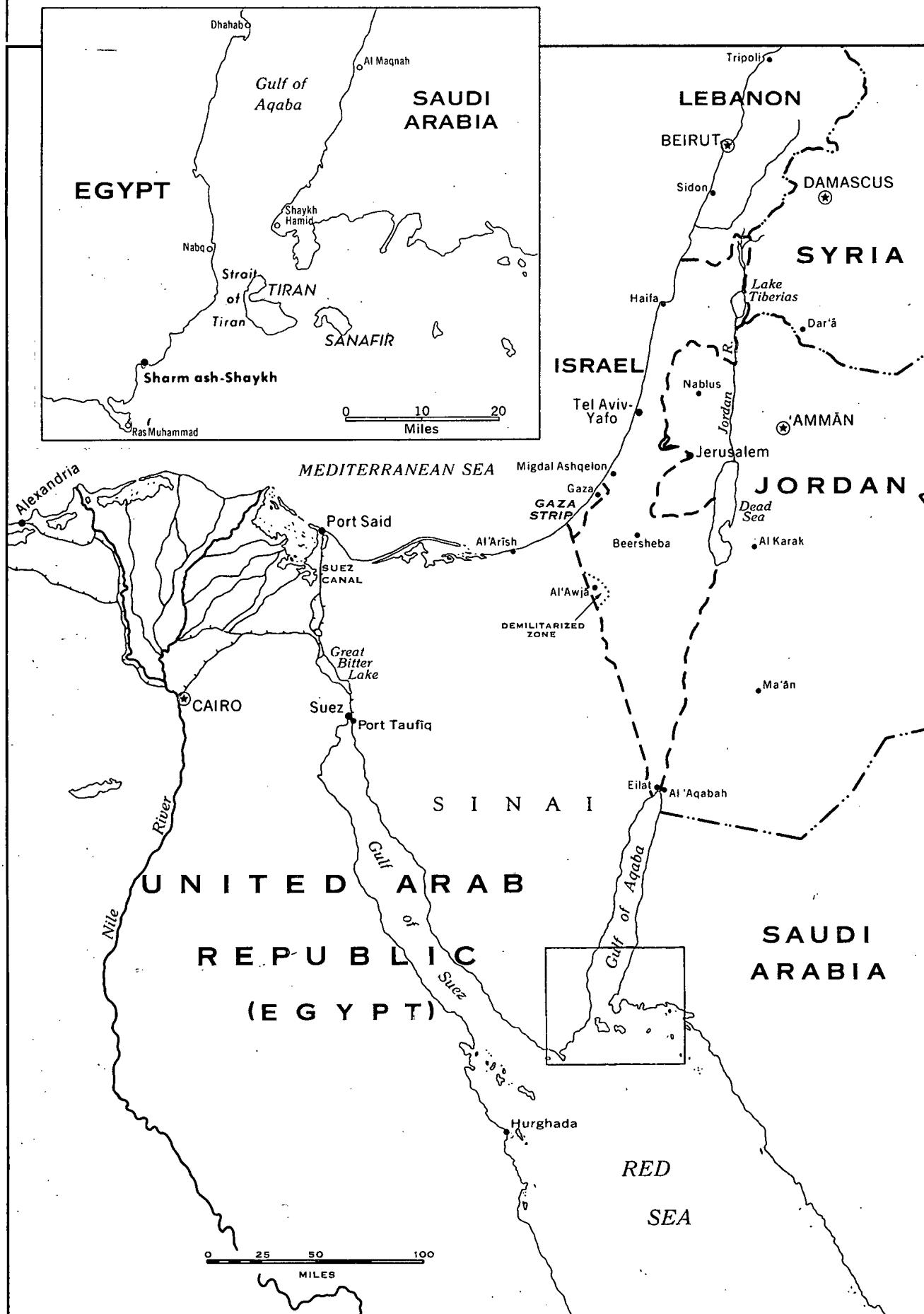


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
24 MAY 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel

No major new developments have taken place in the area during the past 24 hours. It has become even clearer, however, that Cairo is deadly serious in its blockade of Israel's southern port and that Moscow is out to give the Arab side strong propaganda support.

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The Israelis are continuing strongly to reaffirm their determination to ensure freedom of navigation in the gulf.

The Soviet position is ambivalent. Moscow's official statement yesterday stressed its strong support for the Arabs against anyone who tries "to unleash aggression" in the area.

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2. Hong Kong

The Colony was relatively quiet yesterday and there has yet been no challenge to the government's ban on public gatherings. More trouble is almost sure to come, however, and the authorities are becoming concerned over the strains that are beginning to show on the local police.

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Peking is still out to keep the pot boiling. It has now formally demanded a quick reply to its "statement" of last week calling for British capitulation to the demonstrators in Hong Kong.

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3. South Vietnam

Uncertainty concerning the presidential aspirations of Thieu and Ky--which stems from the inability or unwillingness of the two men to reach a clear, frank agreement--seems to be generating dangerous tensions among their adherents.

Some of Ky's friends, for instance, say they will resign their government posts if Thieu runs, whereas some close to Thieu blame the lack of agreement on Ky's evasiveness. Yesterday, two well-placed Vietnamese told embassy officers they felt the situation between Ky and Thieu "was approaching a critical point." The Vietnamese indicated they still had hopes, however, that the matter could be resolved.

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4. Peru

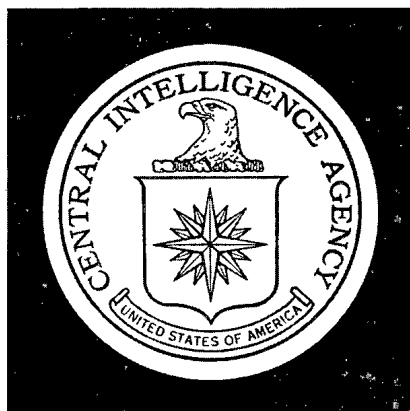
President Belaunde is working desperately to head off a government financial crisis, but the opposition-controlled Congress is in no mood to give him the necessary authority. There are signs that the President is thinking seriously of dissolving Congress for at least long enough to implement tax measures by decree. He could probably get military backing for such an extralegal move.

5. Cuba

Castro is proclaiming openly his determination to continue helping revolutionary movements in Latin America and elsewhere. Last week his party publicized a defiant communiqué acknowledging Cuban participation in the landing of a guerrilla team in Venezuela early this month. The Cubans declared that this kind of assistance will go on. On Monday, Castro's United Nations delegate treated the General Assembly to a violent diatribe along the same lines.

Just what Castro hopes to gain by these flamboyant proclamations is unclear. They follow a series of recent Cuban reverses in Latin America and could be designed simply to impress other Communist movements with Cuba's determination to play a leading role in the "world revolution."

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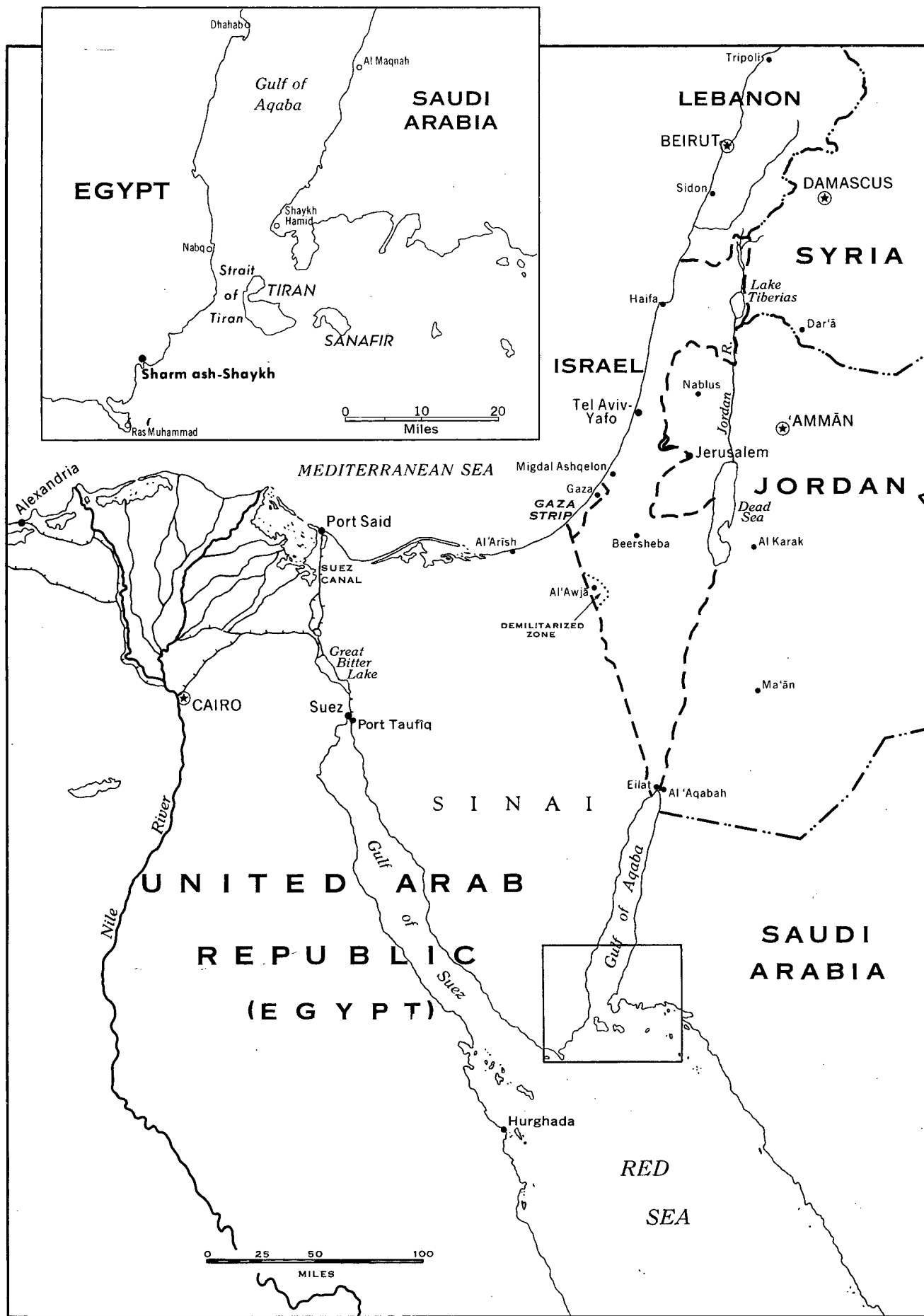


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 25 May 1967



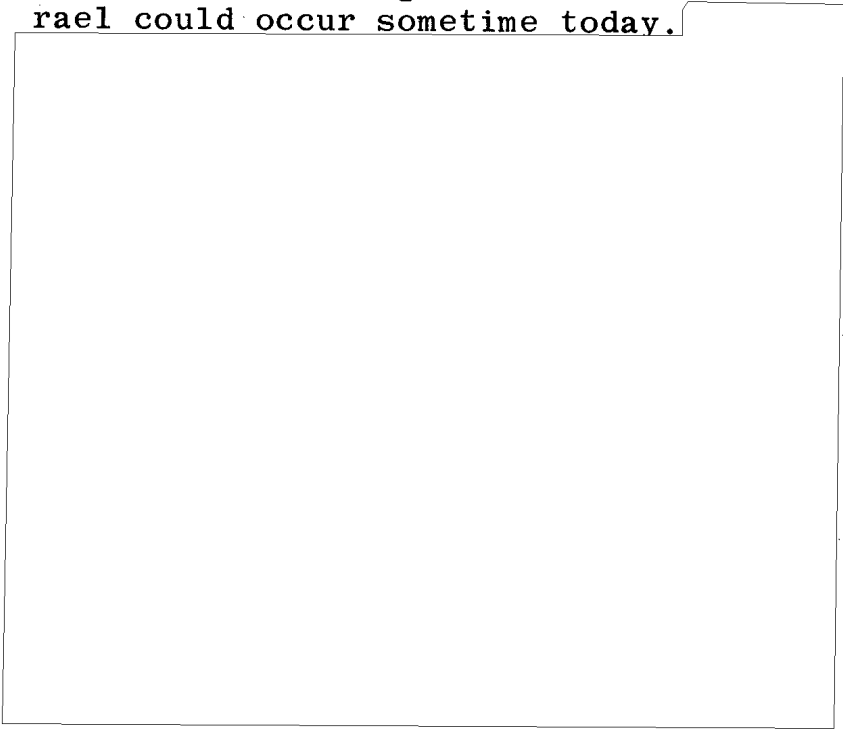
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DAILY BRIEF
25 MAY 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel
(As of 5:30 AM EDT)

The first test of Nasir's ban on shipment of strategic materiel to Israel could occur sometime today.



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Moscow's treatment of the crisis was in low key yesterday with little commentary on the news. Other Arab states continue to express their support for Nasir.

At Annex today we briefly discuss the impact of Nasir's brinkmanship on the moderate Arab states.

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2. Vietnam

Evidence of large-scale infiltration by regular North Vietnamese Army infantry units into South Vietnam continues to accumulate. This activity, reminiscent of the heavy infiltration during the first half of 1966, extends from the Demilitarized Zone to the central highlands.

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3. Hong Kong

Britain's unyielding stand may be paying off--at least some of the Colony's top Communists seem to be developing symptoms of uncertainty.

If Peking is a reluctant dragon, however, it does not show in the actions of the Chinese regime. The mainland press continues to fulminate with outright lies and gross distortions of the truth--one Chinese broadcast claimed over 200 had been killed or wounded by Hong Kong police. Yesterday two British diplomats were kicked and smeared with glue as they left Shanghai on Chinese orders.

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The Hong Kong scene is relatively calm at the moment.

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4. Yemen

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5. Common Market

Heads of the six Common Market governments meet in Rome Monday for their first summit session since 1961. The Dutch are aiming for a Five-Against-France club to push for early negotiations on Wilson's application. Specifically, there will be an effort to get De Gaulle to agree that when the Community's Council meets on 5 and 6 June, the Council begin preparing for talks with the British.

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ANNEX

Impact of Nasir's Actions on the Moderate Arab States

Nasir's stock has soared among the street Arabs of the Middle East--and he has forced the more moderate Arab regimes into a Hobson's choice.

Jordan, for example, can either support Nasir or face the charges of collaboration with imperialism that could topple King Husayn. [REDACTED]

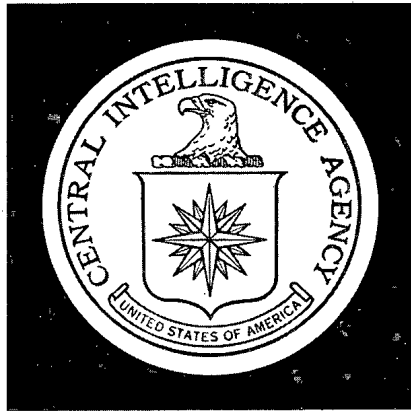
[REDACTED] Un-
less Jordan gives full support to Egypt--and at present Jordan's response is lukewarm--Nasir will make life unpleasant indeed. And Husayn knows it.

Like Jordan, Saudi Arabia is vulnerable to the charge of not going all out for Nasir in this crisis.

[REDACTED]

The Kuwaitis have already threatened to cut off oil to the West, the Iraqis are in close collaboration with Cairo in mobilization planning, and the Lebanese are making a show of partial mobilization while hoping that no confrontation will occur.

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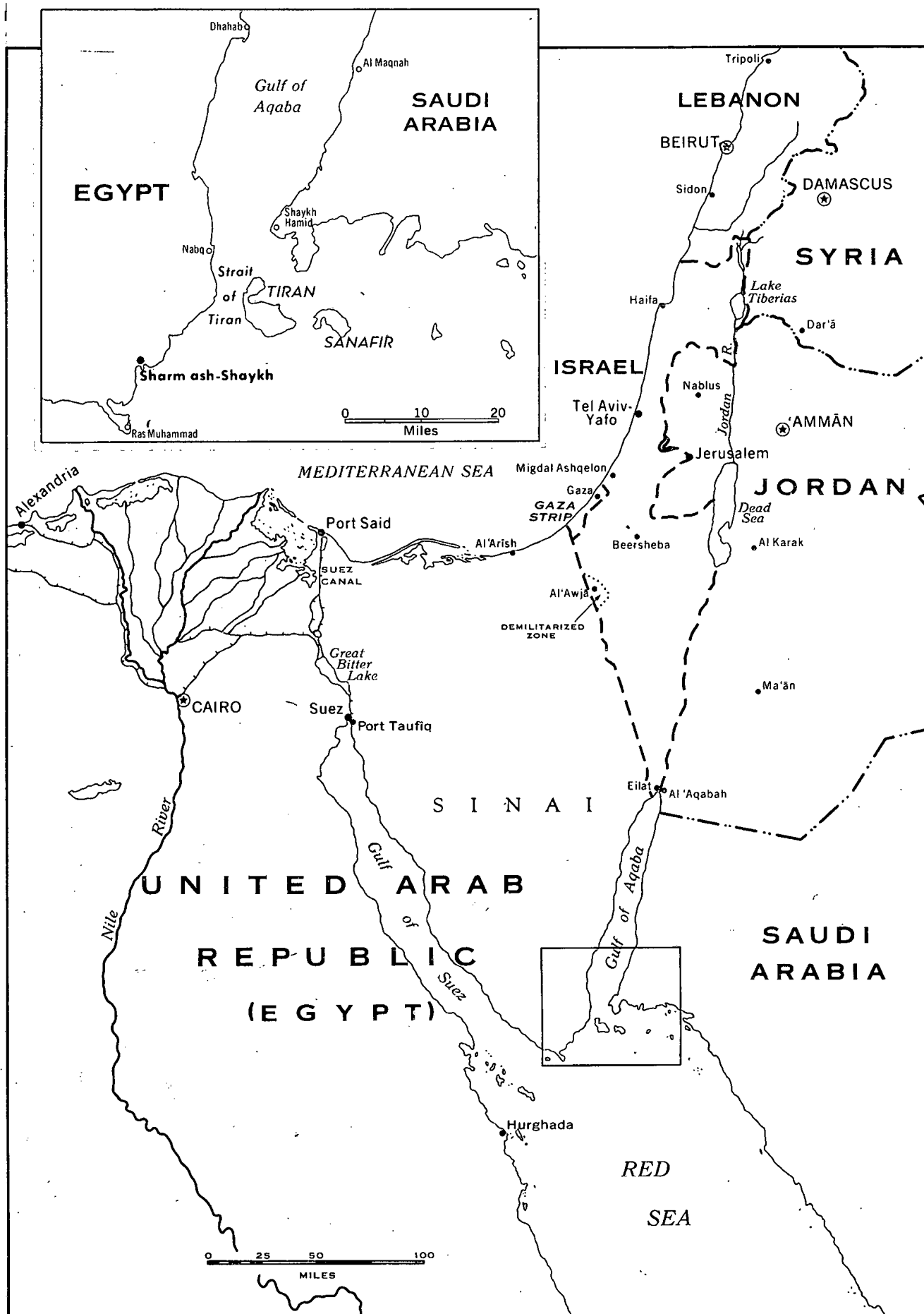


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 26 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
26 May 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel

Both sides continue to marshal their forces, but the blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba has not yet been challenged. The Egyptians are patrolling the Straits of Tiran. The next vessel believed due there bound for Israel could appear to-day

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Egyptian troops in the Sinai peninsula are rapidly improving their positions, but we see no indication that an attack by these forces is imminent. There are some signs that Israeli ground forces--already estimated to be 50 percent mobilized--may have been further increased.

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2. North Vietnam

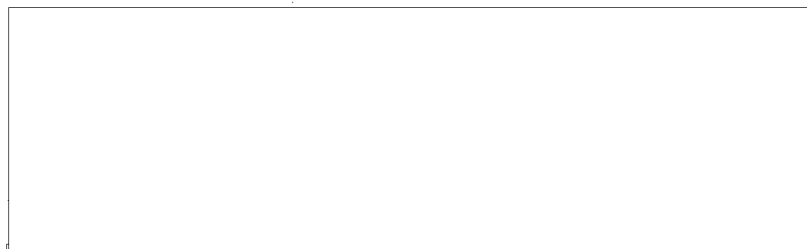
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3. Vietnam

The latest reference to an imminent kick-off day for some kind of offensive activity is in a Viet Cong document picked up recently near Saigon.

The document is about two weeks old and states that 29 May has been "reconfirmed" as the opening day of the summer campaign. It goes on: "Consequently, all units must urgently complete their preparations so that the fire in the opening phase will be well coordinated, spectacular, and continuous."



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signs could point to Communist plans for coordinated offensive operations in several areas of the country early next week.

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4. West Germany

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5. Hong Kong

The local scene remains relatively quiet.

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there are signs that the Communist agitators are now uncertain as to what, if anything, to do next. Our Consul General feels that Peking and the local leftists overestimated the latter's capabilities, underestimated those of the Hong Kong government, and miscalculated the reactions of the local populace.

6. Soviet Union

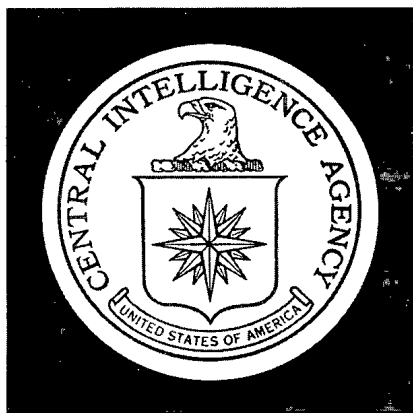
A long standdown in manned space flights appears likely. The Soviets have used a newspaper article by cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin to admit that investigation of the Soyuz 1 catastrophe will be long and complex.

Gagarin, however, divulged only the parachute malfunction, while insisting everything else was fine and dandy.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
30 MAY 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel
(As of 5:00 AM EDT)

Diplomatic maneuvering and pronouncements continue to hold center stage. There have been no significant troop movements in the last 24 hours, but Egyptian, Syrian, and Israeli forces remain ready to spring.

Israeli hawks are muttering about the government's "inaction," [redacted] and a general sense of frustration and puzzlement is said to have developed since Eshkol's temporizing statement Sunday night. Sentiment is growing for the inclusion of Moshe Dayan, the army's 1956 hero, in the cabinet. The tactics of the present leadership are likely to prevail, however [redacted]

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The Soviets continue to avoid taking a clear-cut position on the Gulf of Aqaba question. Moscow is meeting Egypt's urgent military needs [redacted]

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We still have no confirmation of press reports that an American ship was fired on near the Gulf of Aqaba. The only warning shot we know of was directed at a Danish freighter Sunday. The ship was subsequently permitted to enter the gulf.

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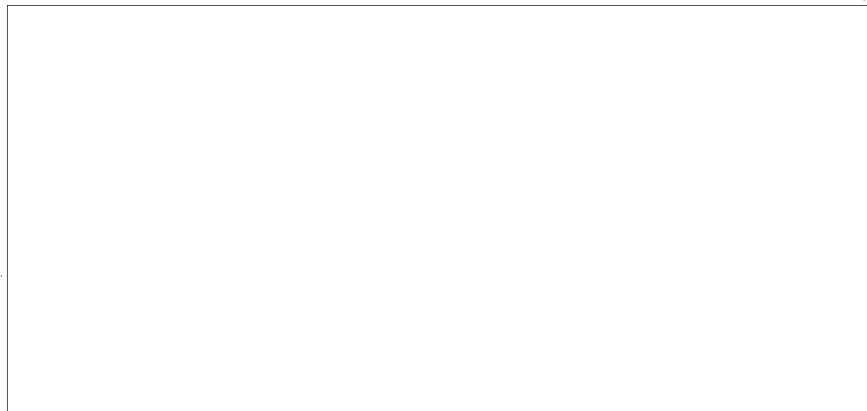
2. Jordan

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3. North Vietnam

50X1



4. Dominican Republic

The political turbulence of early May has subsided considerably. Bosch's old left-of-center party has ended its boycott of the legislature

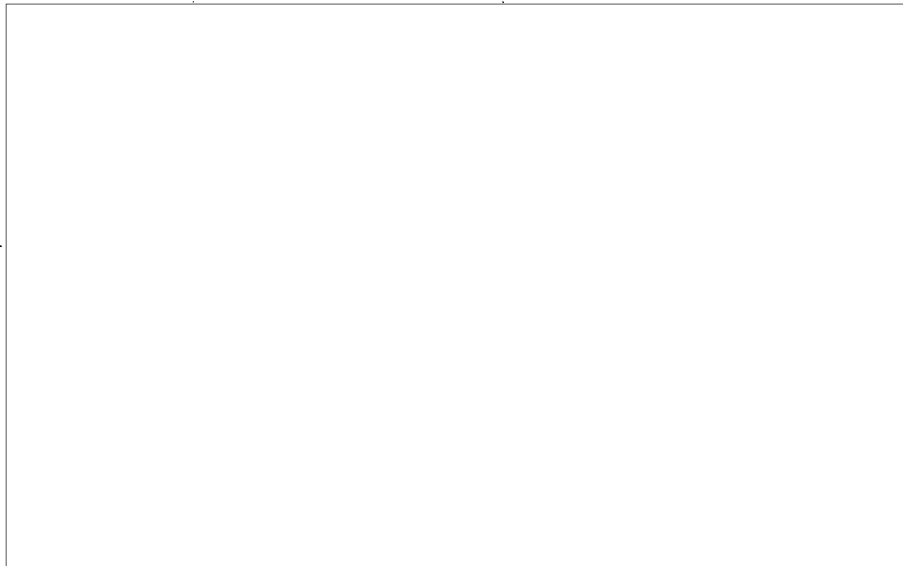
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Nevertheless, all the causes of the recent uneasiness are still around.

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5. Greece



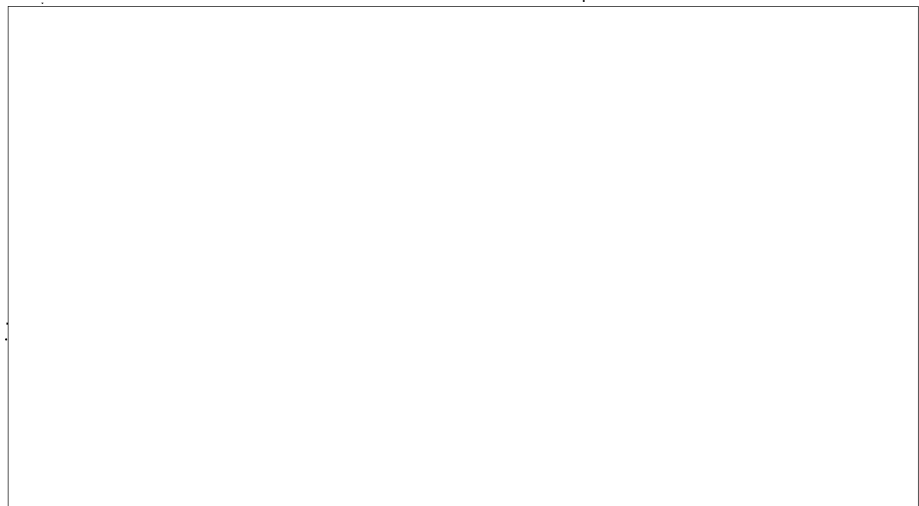
6. Nigeria

The Eastern Region has just announced its secession, and disintegration of the Federation is probably not far behind. We do not expect either event to produce an immediate general breakdown of order, but localized violence may create hairy experiences for some of the 7,000 Americans in the country.

7. Haiti

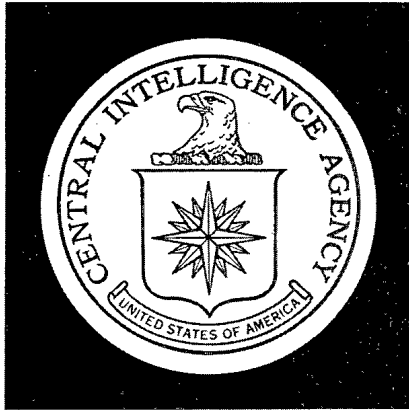
A series of military and civilian shakeups has intensified the aura of fear and suspicion that pervades Haiti. Almost anything produces rumors--and hopes--of the regime's downfall, and Ambassador Timmons feels that Duvalier's power base has in fact eroded of late.

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Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 31 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
31 MAY 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel
(As of 5:30 AM EDT)

There have been no major developments overnight.

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Press reports yesterday implied the Soviets were suddenly strengthening their Mediterranean squadron. These reports appear to be a somewhat alarmist pick-up of routine Soviet navy activity.

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Nasir, having received King Husayn's surrender, is turning his attention to other moderate Arabs. The Cairo press has been turning the screw on Libya with charges that the US is shipping weapons to Israel through Wheelus Air Force Base. Soviet commentary on the crisis is relatively restrained.

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2. Jordan

King Husayn's "secret" trip to Cairo yesterday was about as secret as an Easter egg roll on the White House lawn. Nasir, in a clear double-cross, gave Husayn maximum publicity to make sure the whole world knows of Jordan's surrender and to make it virtually impossible for Husayn to renege later.

Despite Egyptian pledges to handle the whole affair quietly, almost every radical Arab in Cairo was on hand to greet Husayn when he arrived and the first press release came less than two hours after his plane touched down.

Husayn signed a joint defense pact with Egypt--the proceedings were broadcast live--and then flew home, leaving his scalp nailed to Nasir's lodge pole.

The defense pact stipulates that Husayn will put his forces under Nasir's command in case of war. 50X1

the King may have to sack some of his pro-Western cabinet ministers. 50X1

3. South Vietnam

as we go to press there have been no significant enemy attacks for 48 hours. 50X1

There still are plenty of signs that the enemy anticipates some heavy fighting, but recent allied operations along the Demilitarized Zone may well have spoiled his timetable.

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4. South Vietnam

Ky confirms that he has reached an "understanding" with former prime minister Huong, the leading civilian contender for the presidency. He told Ambassador Bunker on Monday that the two men have agreed that if either wins the election he will bring the other into the government. Ky again spoke confidently of winning and said he would ask other defeated candidates also to join him in setting up a government representing "a broad spectrum of the voters."

Ky also said he intends this week to have a heart-to-heart talk with General Thieu. He is still hopeful of an "arrangement" under which Thieu will abandon the presidential race.

5. France

The first shot in this year's nuclear weapons test series should be on Thursday, winds and weather near the South Pacific test site permitting. There probably will be three tests this summer, all of relatively small yield devices.

6. Honduras

The long-standing border dispute between Honduras and El Salvador has warmed up after two recent incidents including an armed clash Monday afternoon. It is not yet clear who shot first at whom, but both sides report casualties and both are reinforcing their frontier garrisons. A joint commission is to investigate the incidents.

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