

## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 1 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
1 April 1967

1. Vietnam

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2. Greece

There has been a parade of political leaders to the palace, but so far no one has been named to form a new government.

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## 3. Argentina

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## 4. Panama

Aware that his time for private discussion with President Johnson will be limited at Punta del Este, President Robles is thinking seriously of suggesting a follow-up meeting in Washington to continue canal talks.

## 5. Egypt

Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko ends his three-day visit with Nasir today. Even the tight-lipped Gromyko has been unusually secretive about this trip, but we suspect Nasir's economic practices figured prominently in the talks. For one thing, the Soviets are not anxious to be left holding the bag for Cairo's wheat needs. Gromyko may very well have warned Nasir not to throw away his access to PL 480.

## 6. Netherlands

After a six-week search, the Queen may soon have a new prime minister--Petrus De Jong, defense minister in the outgoing cabinet. If De Jong is successful in forming a government, and his chances look good, the new defense minister is likely to be a Liberal. In that case, the net effect would be pressure for reducing Dutch commitments to NATO.

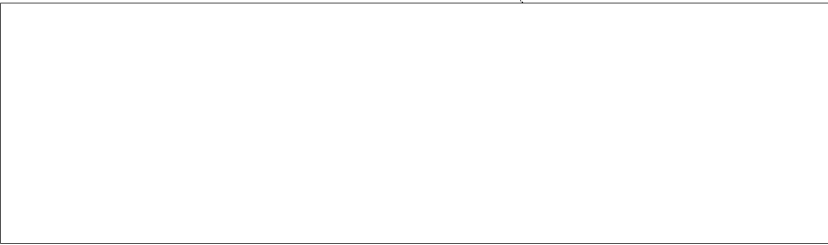
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## 7. Communist China

The Chinese are conniving with Japanese firms to buy scientific equipment useful in advanced weapons work.




## 8. Burma

Refugees from the turmoil of Communist China's Cultural Revolution have been crossing into Burma in gradually increasing numbers since the first of the year.

Between 1,500 and 3,000 are estimated to have entered Burma along one 40-mile stretch of the border north of Lashio. Some Chinese Communist soldiers also have fled to Burma. The Burmese are rounding up all the refugees they can catch and sending them back to China, but it is almost impossible to police the entire mountainous border.

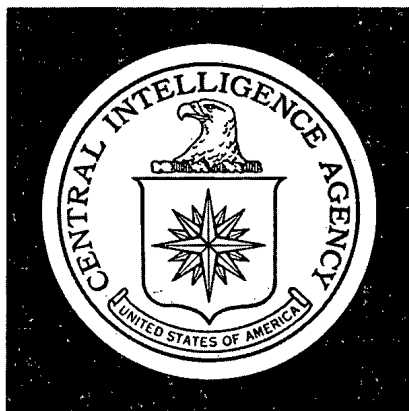
Many of the refugees will join the various insurgent bands that have operated in this rugged area for years.



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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 3 April 1967



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**DAILY BRIEF  
3 APRIL 1967**

**1. North Vietnam**

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**2. South Vietnam**

Elections of village councils were held yesterday in about one third of the 1,000 constituencies scheduled to elect councils this month. According to early reports, the voting was carried on without serious interference by the Viet Cong.

[REDACTED] voter turnout was heavy--about 80 percent of the registered electorate. This is comparable to that recorded during the election of delegates for the Constituent Assembly last September.

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**3. Soviet Union**

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#### 4. Communist China

Signs that Liu Shao-chi is about to be formally brought down may well mean that the cultural revolution is entering an advanced stage. Liu--number two man in the party until last August and still chief of state--was the target of a giant all-day rally in Peking yesterday.

This came immediately after People's Daily demanded that the "handful of counterrevolutionary revisionists" must be overthrown and that the "top party person in authority taking the capitalist road"--an unmistakable reference to Liu--must be removed. This could come tomorrow when the next "down with Liu" rally is scheduled.

#### 5. Japan

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## 6. Cuba

Castro's running feud with the pro-Moscow Communist parties of Latin America is entering the stage of public recriminations. The dispute revolves around whether to use "armed struggle" tactics in Latin America; Castro says that guerrilla warfare is a must, but the pro-Moscow parties favor more peaceful "popular front" maneuvers.

The Brazilian Communist Party has come out with a strong attack against Castro for working at cross purposes with the other parties. The Chilean Communists and others are likely to follow suit.

The Soviets are also increasingly upset. Their efforts to establish diplomatic relations with Venezuela and Colombia have been set back by the recent upsurge in operations by pro-Castro guerrillas in both countries.

## 7. Chile

President Frei's Christian Democrats were badly mauled in municipal elections yesterday.

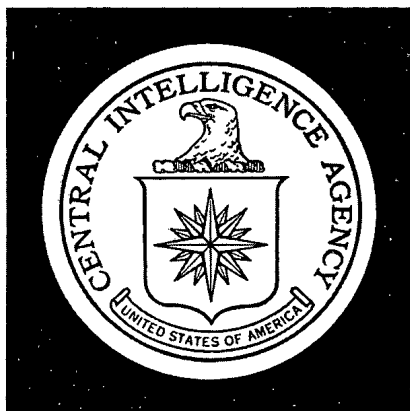
this was mainly a protest against Frei's "high-handed and holier than thou" application of his economic and social reforms, and his unwillingness to involve himself in the normal give and take of Chilean politics.

Frei will go to the summit in a weakened position.

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

*Top Secret 4 April 1967*



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**DAILY BRIEF**  
**4 APRIL 1967**

**1. North Vietnam**

Hanoi's great debate about the relative merits of building up the main forces or the irregulars is continuing. The whole question is re-argued in an article in the February issue of the party journal.

This article tries to find a middle ground. In one place it comes down fairly hard in favor of strengthening the irregulars, arguing that "this task has not yet kept up with the developing war's requirements." Later, the author goes on to say that mere guerrilla activity will not win the war; powerful main force units must still wage major battles in which the enemy will be "annihilated."

The article also suggests that Hanoi has upped its estimate of the number of US forces it may ultimately have to face to a million, as opposed to the 500,000 figure generally mentioned in the past.

**2. South Vietnam**

When Chief of State Thieu promulgated the new constitution on Saturday, he did not announce the "national reconciliation" program, as had been expected.

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## 3. Greece

Premier Kanellopoulos, leader of the largest conservative party, and his cabinet were sworn in yesterday. He will presumably try for a vote of confidence next week, and we think his chances are slim.

If Kanellopoulos fails, the King has authorized him to dissolve parliament and prepare for elections within 45 days. Such action, however, would run him afoul of ex-premier Papandreou's demand that elections be carried out by an "impartial" premier. Papandreou is unlikely to consider him impartial, having already described his appointment as a "gross scandal."

## 4. Nigeria

Supreme commander Gowon and Eastern leader Ojukwu continue to snap at each other's heels. Over the weekend Ojukwu issued an "edict" designed to give him control of revenue collection in the East, and Gowon is taking counter-measures to foil this scheme. The quarrel is likely to simmer along on this back burner, since we doubt that the military governors of the other regions would support any really forceful measures against Ojukwu.

## 5. France

The French have confirmed [ ] [ ] that they are planning a nuclear test series in the Pacific early this summer [ ]

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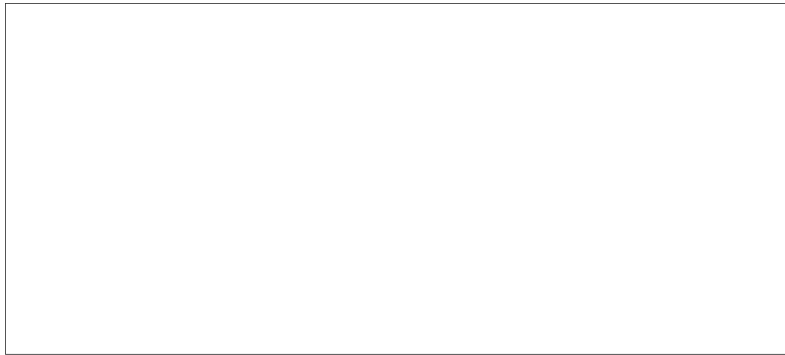
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**6. Indonesia**

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 5 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
5 APRIL 1967

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### 1. South Vietnam

Sparring between Ky and Thieu for the presidential candidacy is continuing behind the scenes in Saigon. Senior military officers, anxious to avoid having to side openly with one or the other, have agreed to wait for what they hope will be a personal understanding between the two men. The Armed Forces Council would then endorse the candidacy of the one who emerges as the "victor" from the personal agreement.

### 2. North Vietnam

Soviet seaborne shipments to North Vietnam have increased considerably so far this year. Deliveries of petroleum during the first three months of 1967 were up some 25 percent over the 1966 rate. Food deliveries were up dramatically--from 6,000 tons in all of last year to 36,000 tons so far in 1967. Soviet deliveries of machinery and equipment to maintain the economy and repair bomb damage have also risen notably.

Virtually all military equipment is shipped overland.

### 3. Communist China

The public humiliation of Liu Shao-chi grows more strident as the stage is set for his formal--and long overdue--dismissal as chief of state. In the process, all of Mao Tse-tung's miscalculations back to the 1930s are being laid at Liu's doorstep. As Liu falls, so fall many officials in the party apparatus he built over the past decade.

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#### 4. Soviet Union

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#### 5. Argentina

President Ongania is pressing the fight on Argentina's chronic inflation. Following a major devaluation of the peso last month, the government has announced a series of wage freezes and is expected to take action to hold down prices. Ongania timed his wage freeze to take advantage of the labor movement's current disarray.

#### 6. South Korea

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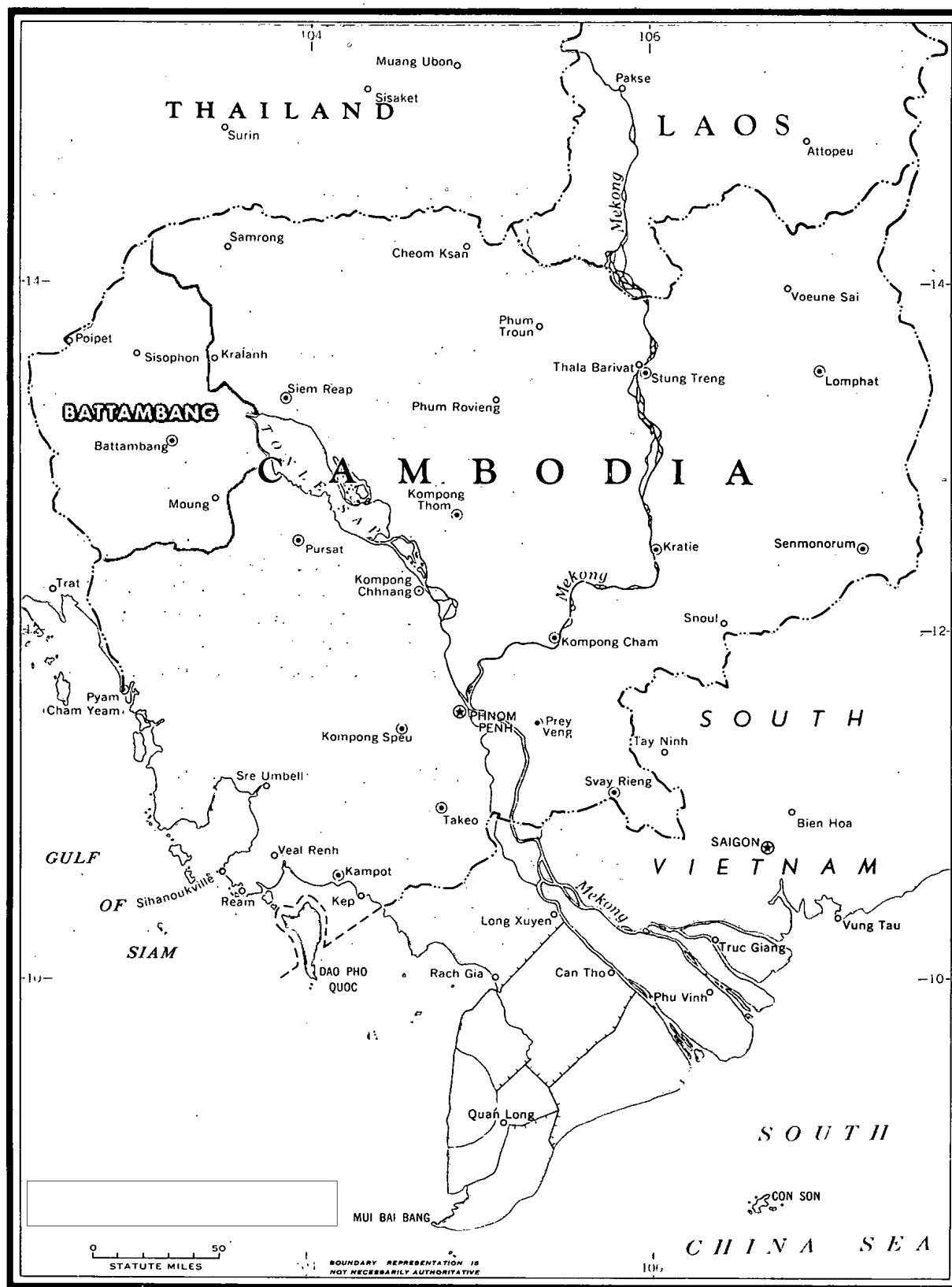


## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 6 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
6 APRIL 1967

1. Cambodia

The government is moving fast to smash opposition activity which recently broke out in Battambang Province (see map).

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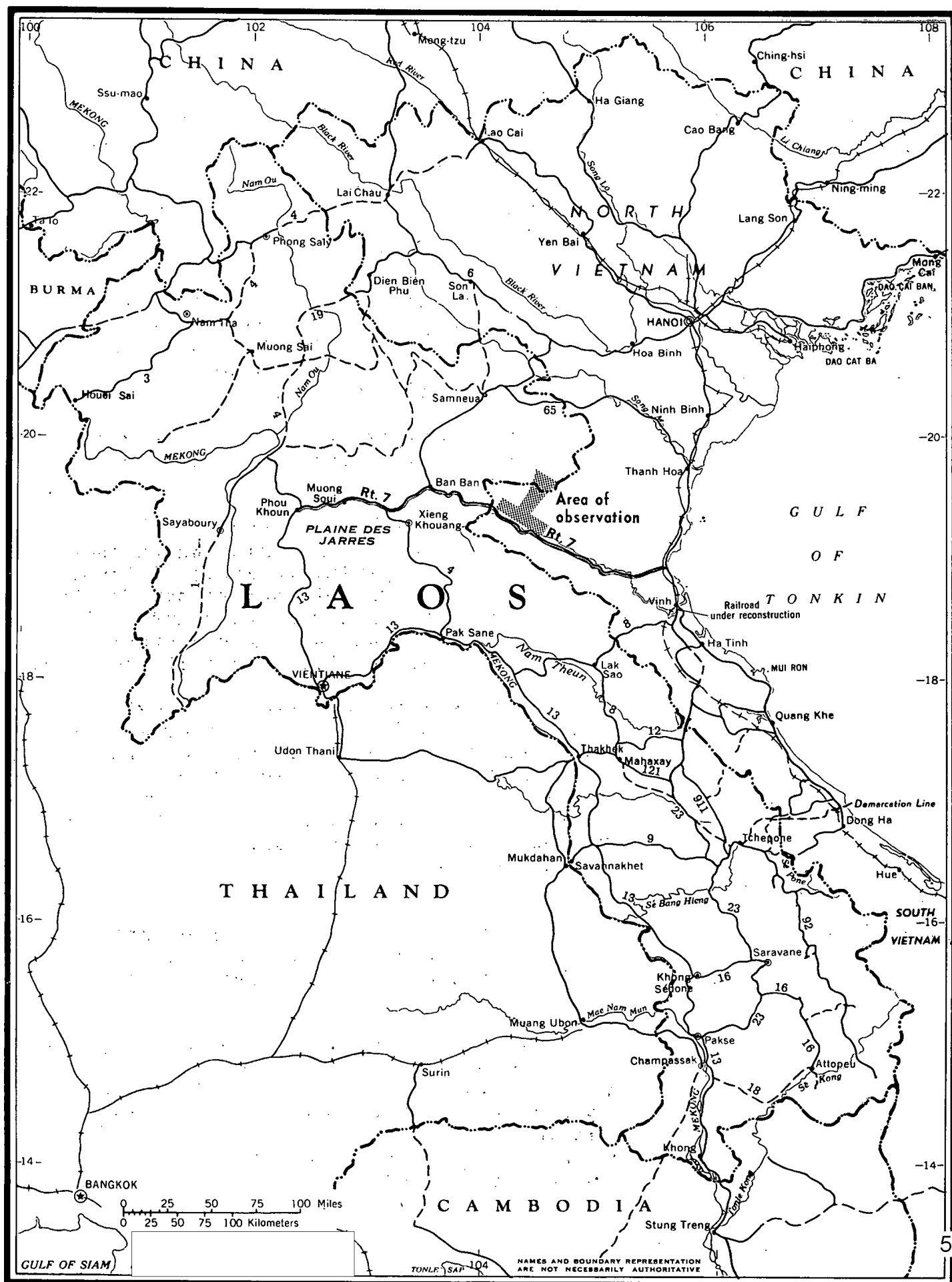
We cannot be sure yet just what the trouble is. Sihanouk calls it a "pro-Communist rebellion." We know that the government's oppressive economic measures had sparked public resistance in the area earlier this year.

Sihanouk may use the trouble to justify a crackdown on leftists who have recently been causing him political headaches in the capital. They want him to drop the moderate Lon Nol government, but Sihanouk seems to be backing Lon Nol.

2. India

Mrs. Gandhi's Congress Party has been caught short by a surprise show of unity among the opposition parties on Tuesday, when they announced agreement on their candidates for president and vice president. It is just possible that Congress will lose out when the big electoral college meets early next month. This would be a very serious blow to the party's prestige.

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### 3. North Vietnam

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### 4. Laos

There has been a sudden and large increase in truck traffic from North Vietnam toward the Plaine des Jarres in northern Laos.

We do not yet know the reason for this increase. However, the dry season will end in northern Laos soon and the Communists may be stockpiling for the bad weather. There are no other signs of build-up for a Communist military operation.

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## 5. Chile

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## 6. Bolivia

The government has abandoned the idea of trying quickly to eliminate the band of guerrillas that badly mauled an army patrol late last month. Plans now call for a sustained counterinsurgency campaign that could last for months.

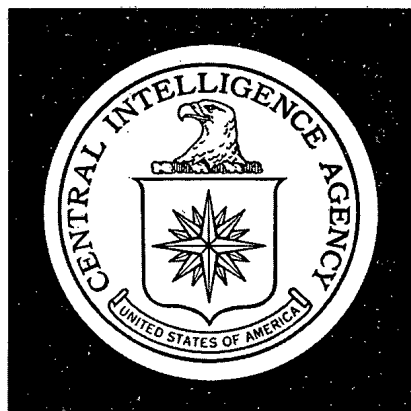
Government efforts to hide the army's incredibly bad performance are causing highly exaggerated press stories about the guerrilla threat. Actually, the guerrillas probably number fewer than a hundred, are geographically isolated, and do not now pose a threat to the regime.

## 7. Nigeria

The federal government seems at a loss how to respond to the Eastern Region's edict taking control of revenues collected there. So far all it has done is to suspend national airline flights and cargo deliveries into the East. Two of the three other regional governors have refused to support stronger economic retaliation. This is a further sign of the growing impotence of the central government.

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 7 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
7 APRIL 1967

1. Vietnam

Communist forces have during the last two days launched a series of heavy--and obviously well-coordinated--attacks against allied positions in South Vietnam's two northernmost provinces. These actions may be the opening gambits in a Communist plan to pin down and overextend major allied forces in the area.

We have been expecting something of the sort. Captured documents, defector reports [redacted] [redacted] have for several weeks been pointing to Communist preparations for something big south of the Demilitarized Zone [redacted]

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2. Communist China

The campaign against Liu Shao-chi continues to mount and is now beginning to involve other key officials. Posters attacking both foreign minister Chen Yi and the finance minister have been put up nearly every day this week. Other posters denouncing three top military men have appeared since Tuesday.

These and other developments suggest that the radicals in the leadership are attempting to resume the purge of Mao's opponents and to reverse the policies associated with Chou En-lai. He and other moderates had been trying in recent weeks to subdue militant Red Guards and restore some measure of order and sanity. In sum, there is every indication that the fight at the top continues.

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### 3. Communist China

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### 4. Soviet Union

The Western press corps in Moscow has been busy filing stories that a civilian will be named to succeed Malinovsky as Soviet defense minister.

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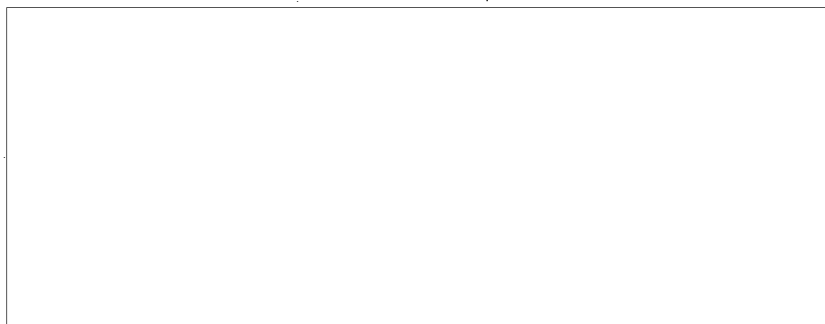
The most frequently mentioned name is Dmitry Ustinov-- a party secretary who is also the top expert on armaments--but there is nothing firm on this.

### 5. Dominican Republic

The new Minister of Police and Interior is threatening to quit because of the influence of "Trujillista" officials on President Balaguer. If this happens, the outcry is apt to be shrill--perhaps even leading to cooperation between the anti-Trujillo right and left in opposition to the President.

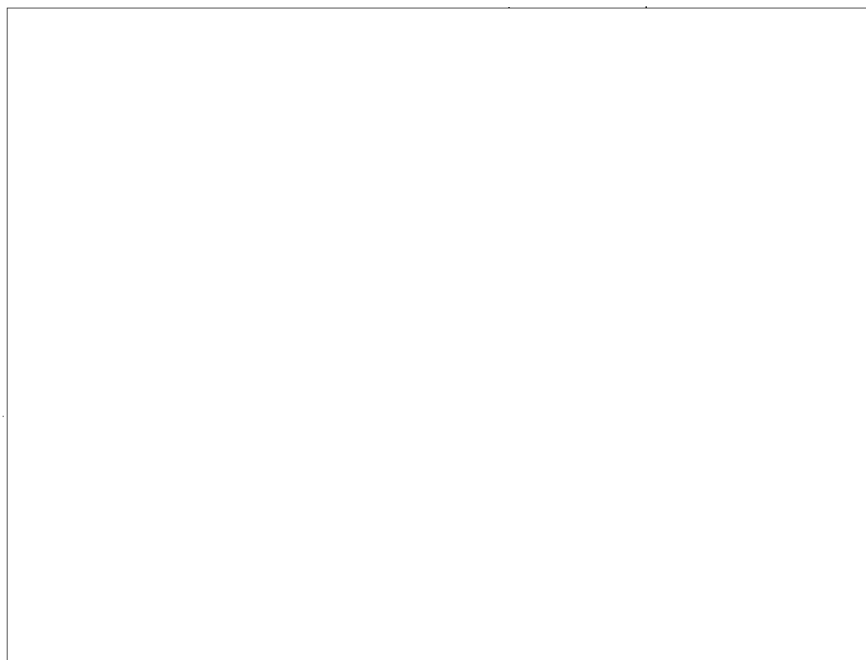
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**6. Peru**



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**7. France**

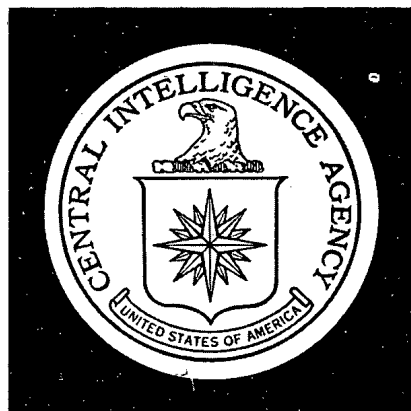


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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 8 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
8 APRIL 1967

1. South Vietnam

Another civilian political leader is about to enter the presidential contest. Former prime minister Tran Van Huong is planning to announce this weekend.

Like Constituent Assembly Chairman Suu, the other main declared civilian candidate, Huong is a prominent southerner. This means that the largest potential reservoir of votes against the military candidate in the coming election could well be split two ways.

2. Vietnam

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3. Aden

The United Nations "fact finding" mission--after six gunfire-ridden days spent mostly locked in hotel rooms and presumably under the beds--left yesterday with more haste than dignity. The three members--a Venezuelan, a Malian, and an Afghan--saw almost nothing, refused to talk to the local government, and were spurned by the nationalists for whose cause they showed considerable bias.

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#### 4. Israel-Syria

The border is quiet so far today, following major ground and air engagements yesterday. The clashes were touched off when Syrian troops fired on Israeli tractors working fields in a disputed border area.

There are conflicting claims as to losses in the air battles. The Israelis certainly came off best, however, and probably consider they have proved their military superiority.

For their part, the Syrians probably realize they are unlikely to get much beyond propaganda support from Cairo and their other Arab friends.

There may be some further clashes, but we doubt that either side will soon seek another major engagement.

#### 5. Soviet Union

An unusually large number of flights into Tyuratam over the last week suggests that the Soviets are preparing a major space launch. It is difficult, however, to be sure about the nature or timing of an event solely from flight activity. We expect to pick up other indications, such as deployment of space support ships.

#### 6. Soviet Union

Last year Soviet gold reserves increased about 10 percent--the first upswing after a decade of steady decline from some \$3 billion down to \$1 billion. Barring an emergency similar to 1963-65, when wheat purchases from the Free World necessitated massive sales of gold, we expect Moscow's reserves will rise slowly through the next several years.

7. Dominican Republic

President Balaguer has misgivings about being out of the country next week. He fears right-wing civilians may try a coup, or otherwise embarrass the government during his absence.

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While we agree that serious strains are developing in the country, we see no indication of specific plans to take advantage of Balaguer's absence. He is expected to show up at Punta del Este-- and ask for assurances of continued US economic and political backing.

8. Venezuela

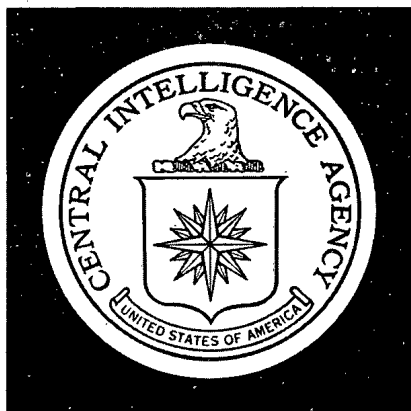
Guerrilla activity in rural areas has increased markedly in recent weeks. In the cities, however, the government's countermeasures have put a real crimp in terrorist attacks. The problem now is that practically all government troops are already committed to counterinsurgency operations, leaving no reserve to cope with new outbreaks.

9. Turkey

President Sunay's visit is getting extensive and favorable attention in the Turkish press. Stories about the bomb incident at the Turkish Embassy are receding in favor of those about the communiqué, Sunay's press club appearance, and his invitation to President Johnson to visit Turkey.

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~*Top Secret*~~ 10 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
10 APRIL 1967

1. North Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

Local elections went off smoothly yesterday for the second successive Sunday. Voter turnout was again high, probably even better than the 80.5 percent recorded last week. Viet Cong harassment was minimal on election day, though there had been a few incidents in the days just before.

3. Communist China

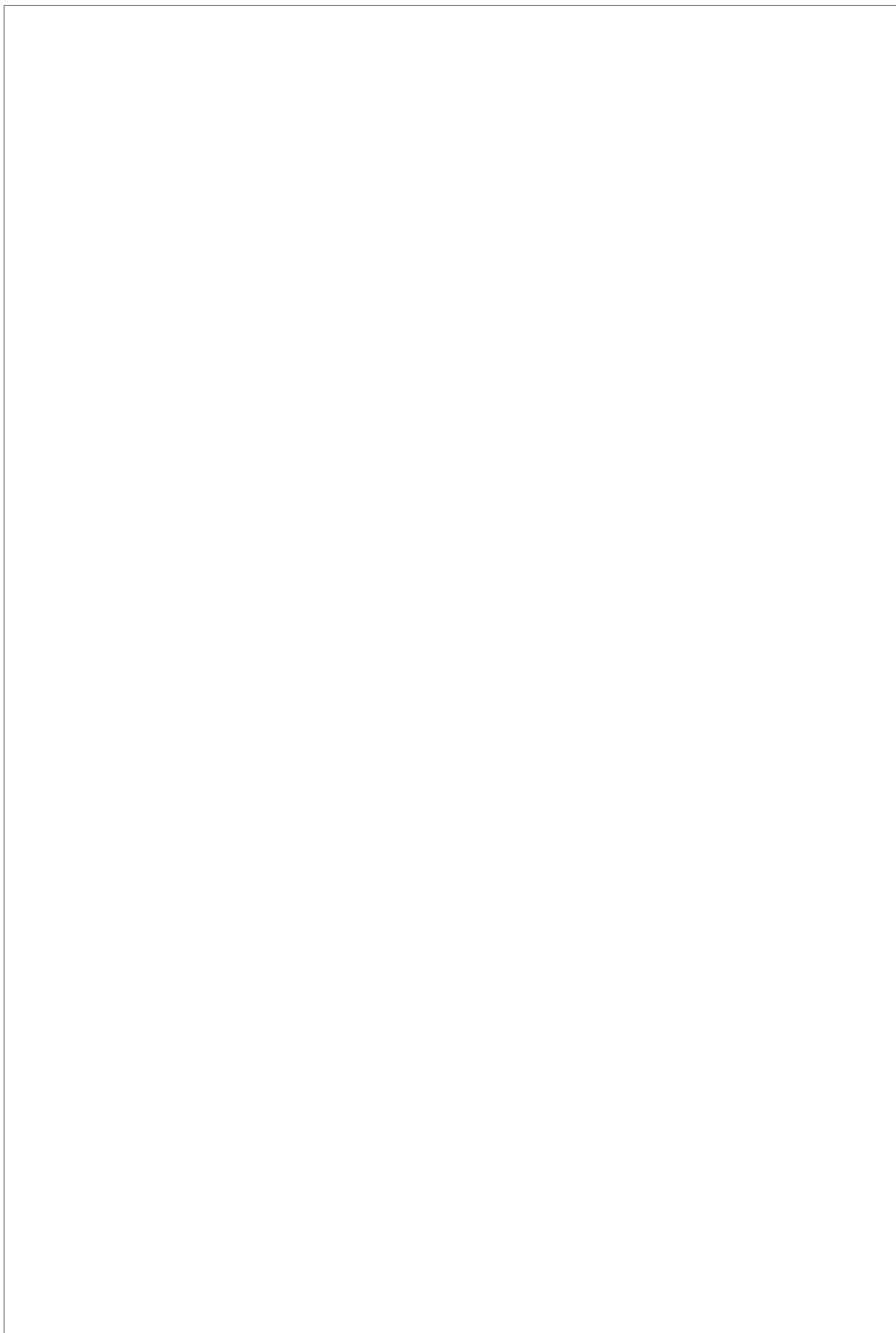
The strident campaign against Liu Shao-chi has entered its second week. Hundreds of thousands of Chinese surged through Peking streets again yesterday chanting demands for his ouster. Lurid anti-Liu cartoons blossomed on the streets over the weekend, one of them depicting Liu's wife as a painted prostitute.

4. Soviet Union

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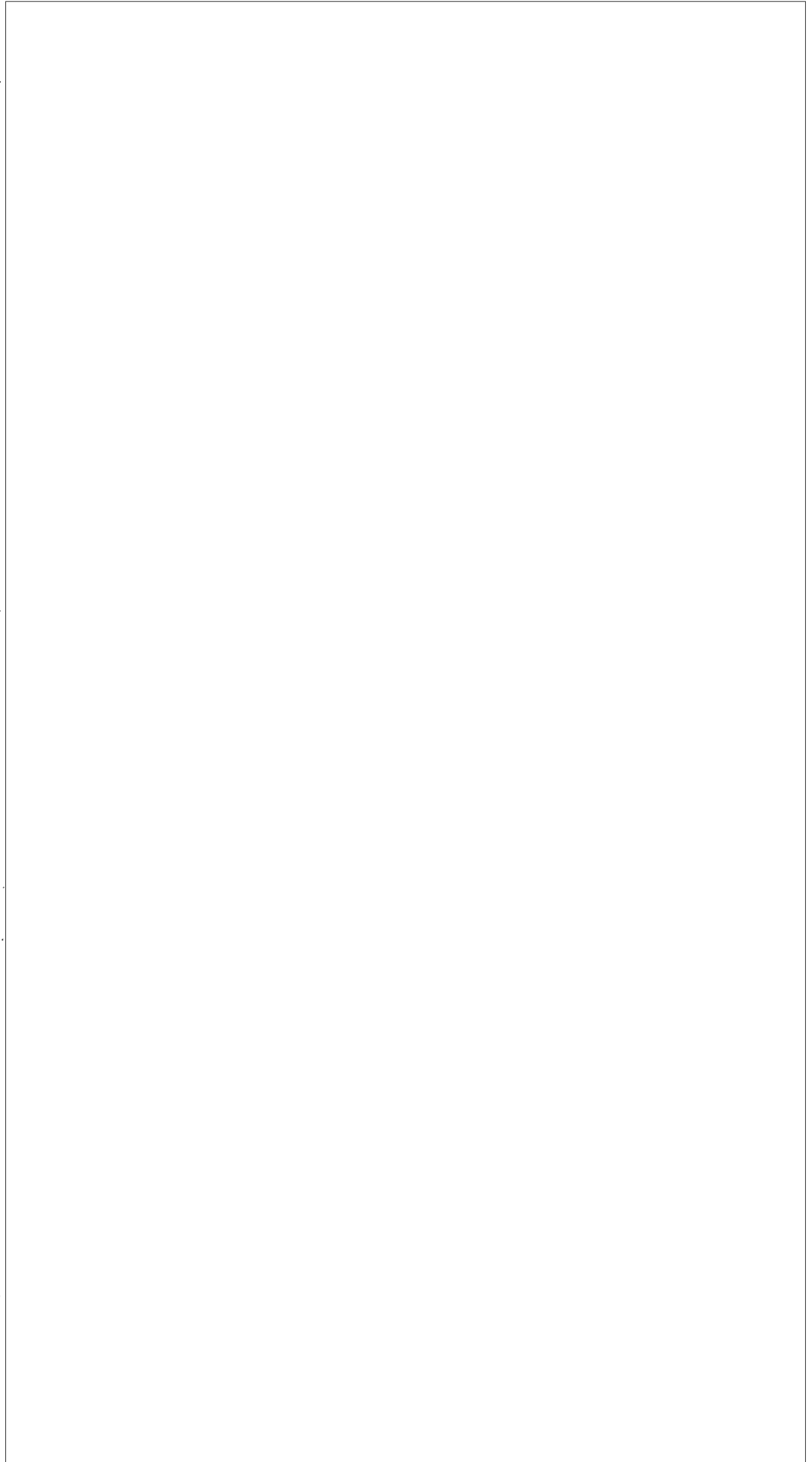
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5. Chile -  
Soviet Union



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6. Greece

Constitutional government will be under severe strain in the coming difficult weeks. It may not survive.

Premier Kanellopoulos is not likely to win a vote of confidence on Wednesday. His next move will probably be to dissolve parliament and call for national elections.

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7. Cyprus

The firefight on Saturday between Greek and Turkish Cypriots was the worst in several months.

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8. Syria-Israel

The border is quiet in the wake of Friday's major outbreaks.

Syria lost six of its 26 MIG-21s.

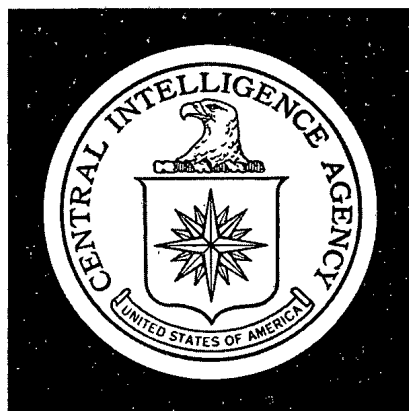
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9. India

The India aid consortium has agreed on a \$1,280 million target for this year-- a figure that includes supplementary food assistance to match the US pledge. This is an encouraging start. Now begins the tough job of extracting specific pledges.

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

*Top Secret 11 April 1967*



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**DAILY BRIEF**  
**11 APRIL 1967**

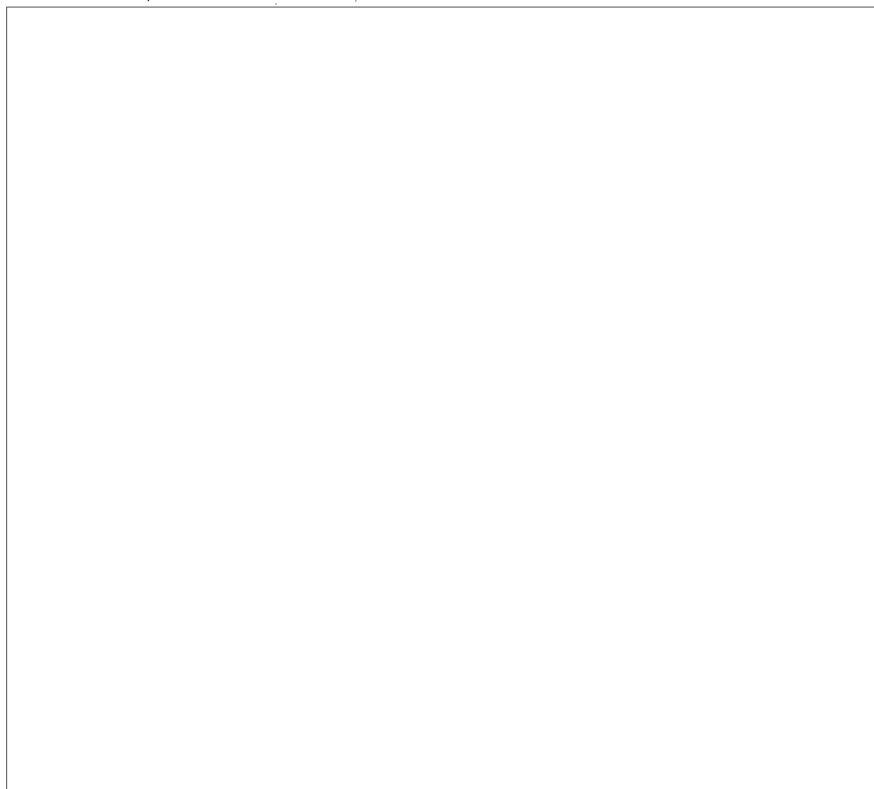
**1. Dominican Republic**

President Balaguer has made two important personnel changes which should help keep the lid on at home during his absence. The ex-police chief--a Trujillista who is totally unacceptable to the new minister of interior--has been posted to the provinces in order to head off the latter's threat to resign.

In addition, Balaguer's military adviser, Colonel Nivar, has been given a key army command in the Santo Domingo area. Nivar is [redacted] trusted by few besides Balaguer, but the move will put someone the President believes loyal in temporary control of the capital.

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**2. Panama**



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### 3. Vietnam

We continue to see signs that the Communist political apparatus within South Vietnam is transferring key military and political cadres from higher to lower echelons. This seems to be an effort to strengthen organization and revitalize leadership at the grass roots level, where

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[redacted] Viet Cong cadres have shown ineptitude.

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[redacted]  
Communist cadres in districts and villages have been "demoralized" by allied military pressures and prospects of a protracted war.

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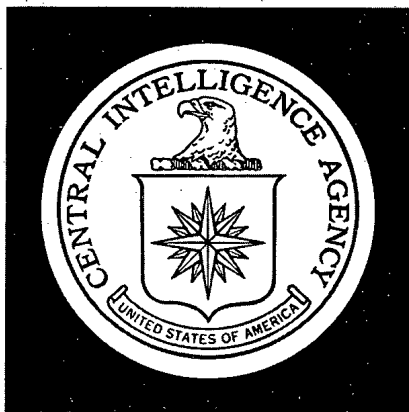
### 4. Cambodia

Sihanouk now seems to be preparing to take over the government himself if the unrest in the western part of the country gets worse. In a recent speech the chief of state warns that he is prepared if necessary to suspend both the National Assembly and the moderate Lon Nol government "pending the restoration of security."

Sihanouk is probably genuinely concerned about the trouble in the countryside, but he may well see his personal takeover as a nice way of cutting back the influence of both the leftists and moderates in the government.

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# *The President's Daily Brief*

*Top Secret 12 April 1967*



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DAILY BRIEF  
12 APRIL 1967

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1. South Vietnam

[redacted]  
[redacted] retail prices in Saigon have leveled off again. Rice supplies have increased and there has been a corresponding drop in price.

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2. Vietnam

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3. Greece

The vote of confidence on Kanellopoulos' government, scheduled for today, has been put off until Friday. We think Kanellopoulos wants more time to scrounge up support, but he may yet decide to dissolve parliament and preside over new elections whether ex-premier Papandreou likes it or not. Security forces remain on alert against any further demonstrations by Papandreou's supporters.

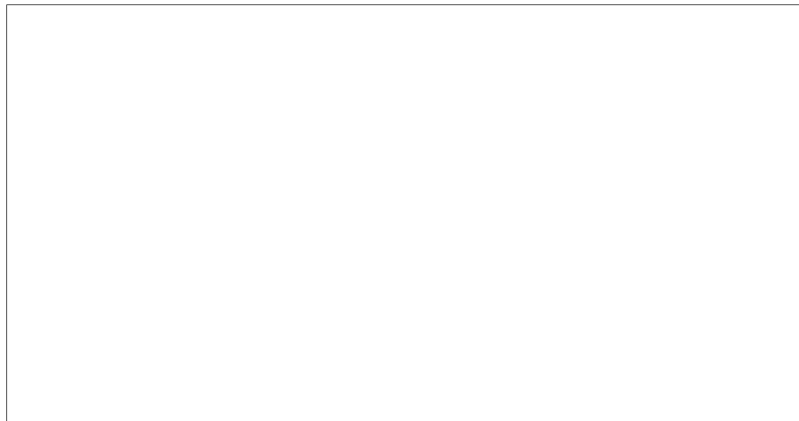
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#### 4. Israel-Syria

The Israelis have reinforced their troops along the disputed border and the Syrians seem to be bracing for new hostilities. We believe, however, that the Israelis are only backing up their "right" to cultivate the area. Tel Aviv proved its military superiority last week, and, barring some serious provocation, probably will not start another major engagement.

The Syrians fired at an Israeli tractor yesterday, but missed.

#### 5. Soviet Union



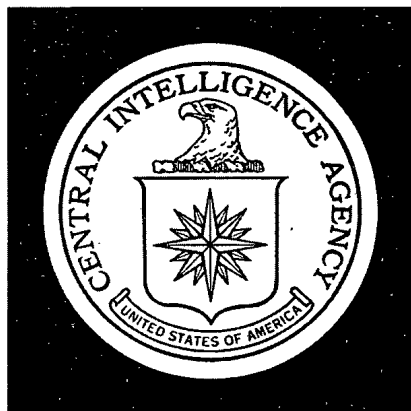
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#### 6. Soviet Union

The Egyptians say Moscow will come up with another 400,000 tons of wheat, deliveries to start in May. But the terms--considerably stiffer than last December's contract for 250,000 tons and comparable to those of the US Commodity Credit Corporation--reflect Moscow's unwillingness to be saddled with Egypt's wheat requirements.

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 13 April 1967



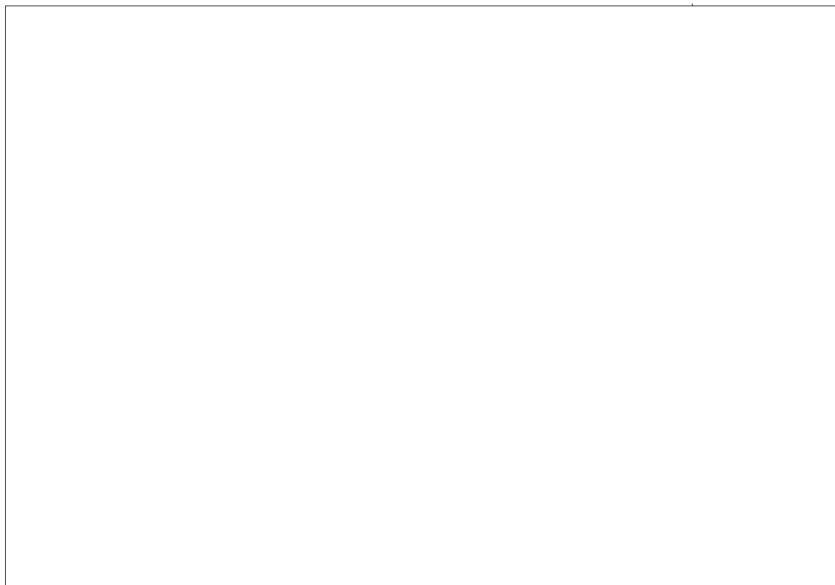
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DAILY BRIEF  
13 APRIL 1967

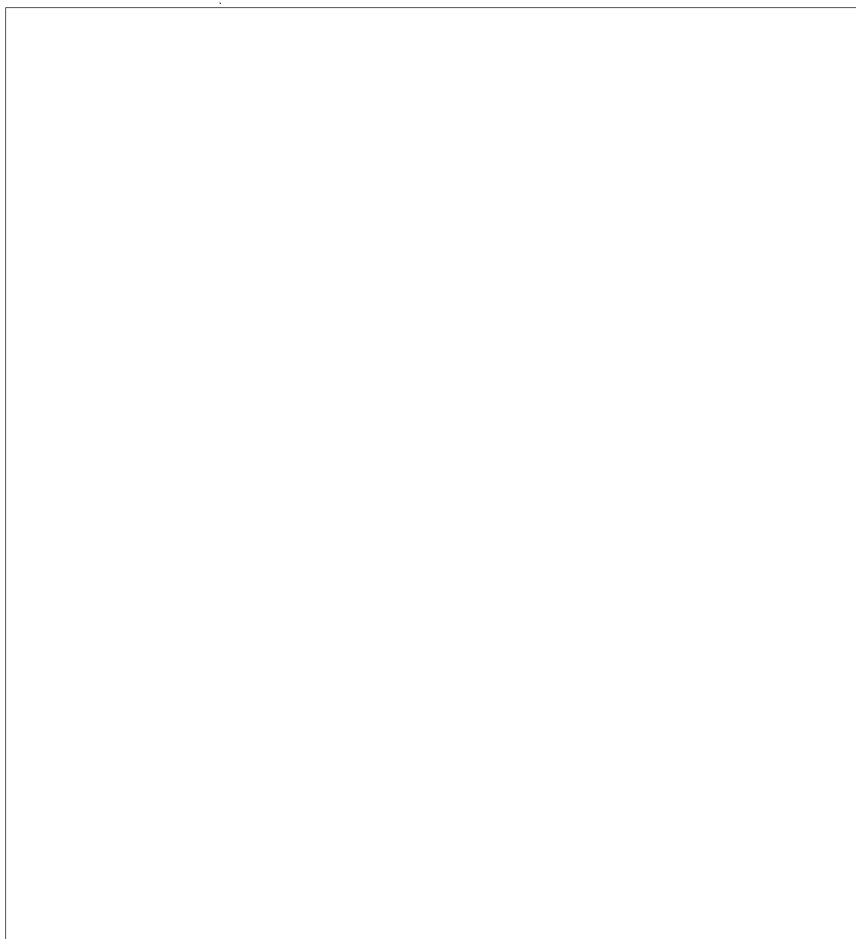
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1. North Vietnam



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2. Vietnam



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3. Vatican

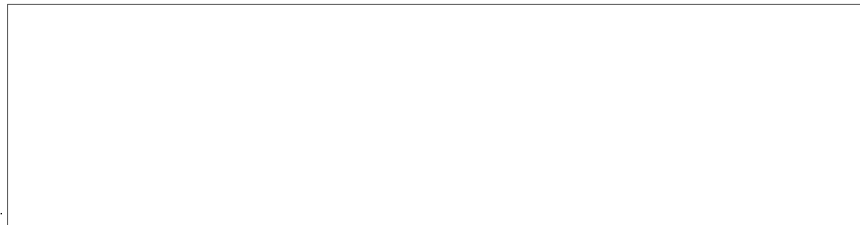
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4. Bolivia

For the third time in three weeks Bolivian troops seem to have come off second best in a clash with guerrillas in the rugged highlands of southeast Bolivia.

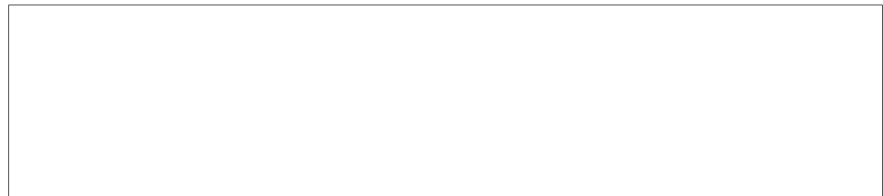
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The success of these guerrilla bands against the army could spark similar activity in other parts of the country. The latest incident is also likely to increase bickering among Bolivian officers whose nerves are already raw over the poor showing the troops are making.

5. France

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## 6. France

De Gaulle has agreed to go to Rome in May for a summit meeting with the chiefs of the other five member states belonging to the European Economic Community. De Gaulle is going on the condition there be no fixed agenda, a tactic which gives him room for maneuver to undermine support for British membership in the Community.

One bit of bait De Gaulle may use is a new offer of French cooperation on the ever-popular concept of European political unity--without Britain.

## 7. Syria

Damascus, inspired by the concessions on pipeline royalties extracted last month from Iraq Petroleum Company is now putting the squeeze on the American-owned Trans-Arabian Pipeline. This line runs from Saudi Arabia through Jordan and Syria to the Lebanese Mediterranean coast. According to Damascus Radio, Syria has asked company representatives to come at once for talks. Negotiations will not be easy.

## 8. Soviet Union

Our surmise that Moscow might get a civilian minister of defense turned out to be wrong. Marshal Grechko was named Soviet minister of defense yesterday. He is a 63-year-old professional soldier with a knack for trimming his sails to the prevailing winds from the Kremlin.

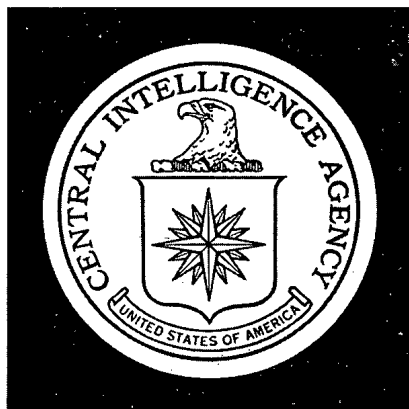
Grechko was, for instance, a great Khrushchev supporter, even when it meant selling out old army comrades.

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Grechko will do what he is told and is not likely to make any early changes.

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 14 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
14 APRIL 1967

1. South Vietnam

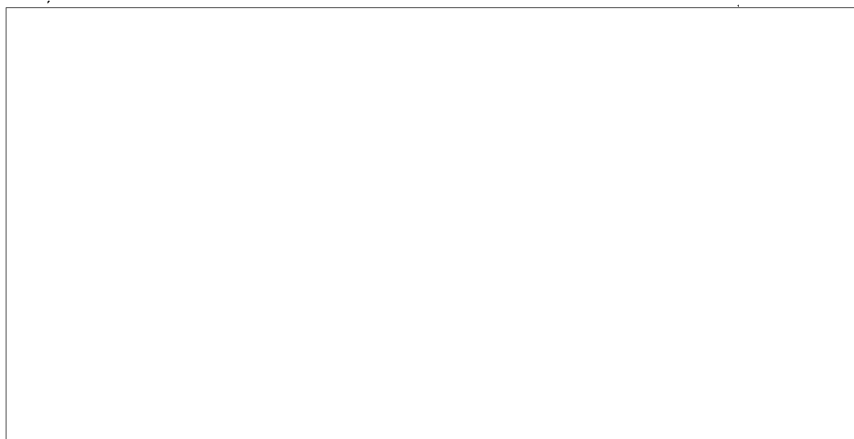
There are several reports that the Viet Cong are planning a combined mortar and rocket attack against US installations at Da Nang for the middle of the month. Rocket launchers and what may have been rocket launch positions were seen recently south and east of the base.

2. Korea

Another clash on Wednesday in the Demilitarized Zone came after an intruding North Korean platoon encountered a South Korean security patrol. The incidents of recent weeks reflect both an increase in the number of North Korean penetrations and intensified patrolling by United Nations forces.

The North Koreans are probably out to embarrass the Pak government, which is facing elections next month, and to discourage it from sending more troops to Vietnam.

3. Communist China



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#### 4. Communist China

The mammoth anti-Liu rallies continue almost daily in Peking. Signs point to continuation of this bizarre campaign for some time. Earlier this month Chou En-lai said he was postponing a trip abroad because there would be "great events" in China during the next two months.

#### 5. Greece

Communist-inspired strikes and demonstrations are shaking the already precarious political balance. The Communists, like ex-Premier Papandreou's Center Union Party, are demanding Premier Kanellopoulos' resignation and the installation of a nonpolitical government to supervise elections.

Kanellopoulos, with strong backing from the King, is not about to give in. He may or may not go through the futile exercise of seeking a vote of confidence from parliament today. He most probably will dissolve parliament and call for new elections under his own supervision.

This tactic will surely provoke intensified demonstrations which, in turn, could provide the King with the pretext for postponing--or cancelling--elections.

#### 6. Iran

The Shah says the high-powered Soviet economic delegation now in Iran is continually making sweeping offers "to satisfy any of Iran's needs." So far, the Soviet mission has referred publicly only to its agreement to help in the expansion of Iran's oil industry. This presumably means Soviet assistance in oil exploration in the off-shore areas of the Caspian Sea.

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7. Nicaragua

The death of ex-President Luis Somoza last night has removed an important moderating influence from the political scene. [REDACTED]

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8. Rhodesia

Ian Smith is under growing pressure from men in his own party who think he is too moderate. They want the country declared a republic as quickly as possible and they want an end to all thought of renewed talks with London.

[REDACTED] these extremists may have the strength to unseat Smith during the party congress later this month.

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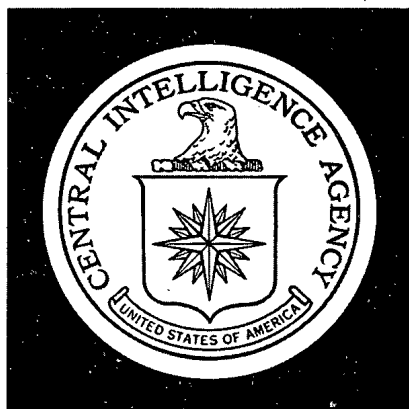
9. Angola

A new and unusually effective nationalist organization is emerging in Portuguese West Africa. Called the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, it has established a more or less self-sustaining organization inside the colony, where it seems to be growing rapidly.

The new group may never be able to defeat the Portuguese militarily, but Lisbon could be right in regarding it as the greatest long-term menace to continued Portuguese rule in Angola.

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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 15 April 1967



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**DAILY BRIEF**  
**15 APRIL 1967**

**1. Laos**

The Communists seem increasingly concerned about the effect of our military operations--particularly air strikes--on their supply routes and depots in Laos.

On Wednesday the Russians proposed to the British a joint statement by the two nations as co-chairmen of the 1962 Geneva Conference condemning US military activity in Laos. Ambassador Dobrynin followed up on the same day with a demarche to Ambassador Kohler here.

While both the proposed joint statement and the demarche list a number of US sins in Laos, they show a particular sensitivity to air operations, including B-52 raids.

Moscow may also be concerned at the extent to which Souvanna is himself eroding the tripartite structure of his government. The right wing has just about swallowed the neutralists. Some Soviet pressure on Souvanna may well follow these diplomatic moves.

**2. Soviet Union**

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### 3. Soviet Union

One Yevgeny Pitovranov has recently identified himself to Embassy Moscow as one of the top men in the Russian Chamber of Commerce. He has had talks with the embassy counselors for economic and cultural affairs, and has expressed special interest in developing international trade--an area for which he claims special responsibility.

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### 4. Soviet Union - India

L. K. Jha, an aide close to Prime Minister Gandhi, says that Moscow has told the Indians that it is willing to guarantee India and other neutralist nations against both nuclear blackmail and nuclear attack in connection with a nonproliferation treaty. Jha was in Moscow last week and is now in Washington.

Jha also says that the Russians are "much more forthcoming" on security assurances than earlier, and that Gromyko told him the US and the Soviets should issue separate but parallel declarations on this when the treaty is opened for signature.

Moscow's new position will surely bring a big uproar from the Chinese, but the Soviets no longer seem to care about Peking's charges of US-Soviet "collusion."

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## 5. Israel-Syria

Tensions are high again. Israeli troops are now positioned within the Demilitarized Zone itself, and the Syrians are claiming that even more land there should be added to the disputed category. United Nations observers are trying to cool things off but are getting little cooperation from either side. New incidents are expected at any time.

## 6. Greece

General elections are set for 28 May following the dissolution of parliament yesterday. Ex-premier Papandreou has already said that the monarchy will be the prime issue in the campaign. If anything resembling a Papandreou victory appears likely, the King may encourage a right-wing dictatorship to block it.

This might work for the short run, but the long-term effects would probably be disastrous. The various leftist elements would likely band together, but this would only bring on fierce counteraction from the right. Chaos--favorable only to the Communists--might well ensue.

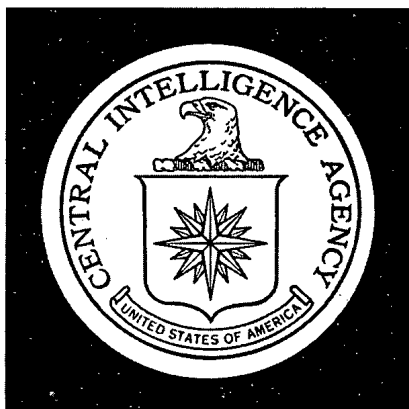
Greece has been on the edge of this precipice before, however, and has always managed to step back.

## 7. Cuba

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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 17 April 1967

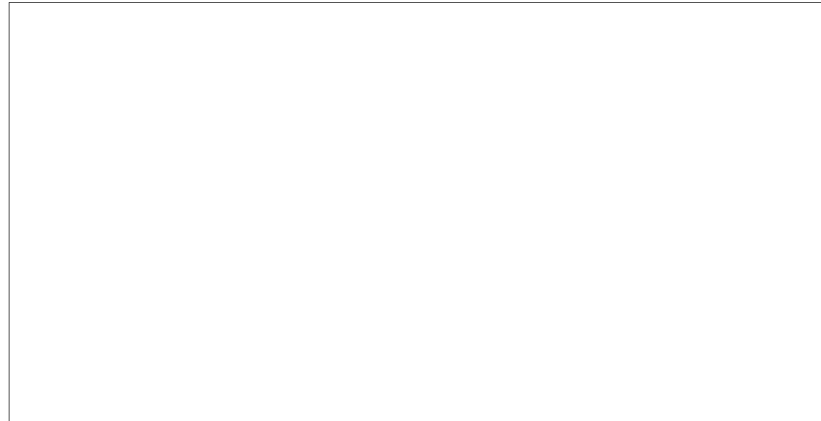


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DAILY BRIEF  
17 APRIL 1967

1. North Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

Yesterday was the third and final Sunday of voting for village and hamlet officials. Early reports suggest that Viet Cong harassment was somewhat greater this time. Three lightly defended villages northeast of Saigon were attacked just before the polls were to open and several Revolutionary Development workers were executed.

3. Ghana

Early this morning a group of young officers moved against the generals who threw out Nkrumah in February 1966. While the picture is still murky, there are no indications that the coup leaders intend to bring Nkrumah back from exile in Guinea or shift Ghana's generally pro-Western orientation.

General Ankrah, who headed the government until this morning, has asked for asylum in Ambassador Williams' residence. The ambassador reports no sign that Americans are in danger.

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#### 4. India

New Delhi is most unhappy with our decision to resume sale of spare parts for lethal items of military hardware. The Indians are afraid Pakistan will come out ahead in this deal. For their part, the Pakistanis have mixed feelings. They are not at all pleased about the end of military aid, but they do want the spare parts--particularly for their F-104s.

#### 5. Guatemala

Communist terrorists are threatening to assassinate US Embassy personnel in retaliation for recent government successes against the guerrillas. Both the embassy and Guatemalan security officials are aware of these plans and have taken precautionary steps.

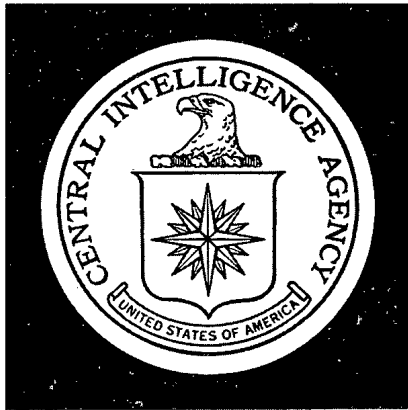
#### 6. South Korea

South Korean jets sank a North Korean ship in the Yellow Sea this morning. Seoul has announced the North Korean ship was engaged in espionage operations. This incident will further raise the tensions that have built up as a result of recent North Korean forays across the Demilitarized Zone.

#### 7. East Germany

Not much of real substance is expected from the Communist Party congress opening today in East Berlin. However, it will be interesting to see how the Communists handle the hot potato Chancellor Kiesinger pitched into their laps last Wednesday when he publicly called for improved relations between the two Germanies. Party boss Ulbricht probably will try to appear responsive to Kiesinger but such a gesture will not come easily to him.

*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 18 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
18 APRIL 1967

1. South Vietnam

Ky has just come up with another device to avoid a showdown inside the military over the presidency. He has had a group of some 300 students polled on their preferences for president. The survey, just completed, showed that about 80 percent in Saigon and 60 percent in Hue preferred Ky to Thieu. They felt Ky was more open and dynamic.

Ky and his staff are now disseminating these results throughout the political community. One statistic is being omitted, however. The students were also queried as to their preference for a military versus a civilian candidate. They registered 90 percent for the latter.

2. North Vietnam -  
Laos

[redacted] a large increase in truck traffic from North Vietnam toward the Plaine des Jarres in northern Laos. This traffic is still heavy, but our road watchers deeper in Laos have not seen comparable increases. We cannot yet determine what is going on.

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3. Communist China

Militant Red Guard factions in Peking are now, for the first time, clawing at one another. The rivalry among these groups--all of them believed responsive to the most militant elements in the party leadership--apparently resulted in violent clashes at Peking University last week.

We have no ready explanation for this latest twist and are not yet ready to call it a reflection of new divisions in the leadership. It could simply be youthful aggressiveness.

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#### 4. Greece

Ambassador Talbot fears that the brewing political storm may well bring the country to a fateful choice between two evils: rightist dictatorship or a government basically hostile to the monarchy and probably also to Greece's present foreign alignment.

The principal players in this latest Greek drama have now taken up inflexibly hostile positions. On the one side are the traditional instruments of power--the King, the military establishment, and conservative political interests.

The political forces ranging from the center to the far left now undoubtedly represent the majority of the population. The problem is that Andreas Papandreou, the left-leaning son of the ex-premier, is now the only vigorous leader of the main opposition party.

At this point, it seems that the best that could happen would be if Papandreou's party wins only a plurality in next month's election. The King could then insist on a coalition government excluding the Communists and keeping Andreas out of sensitive security posts.

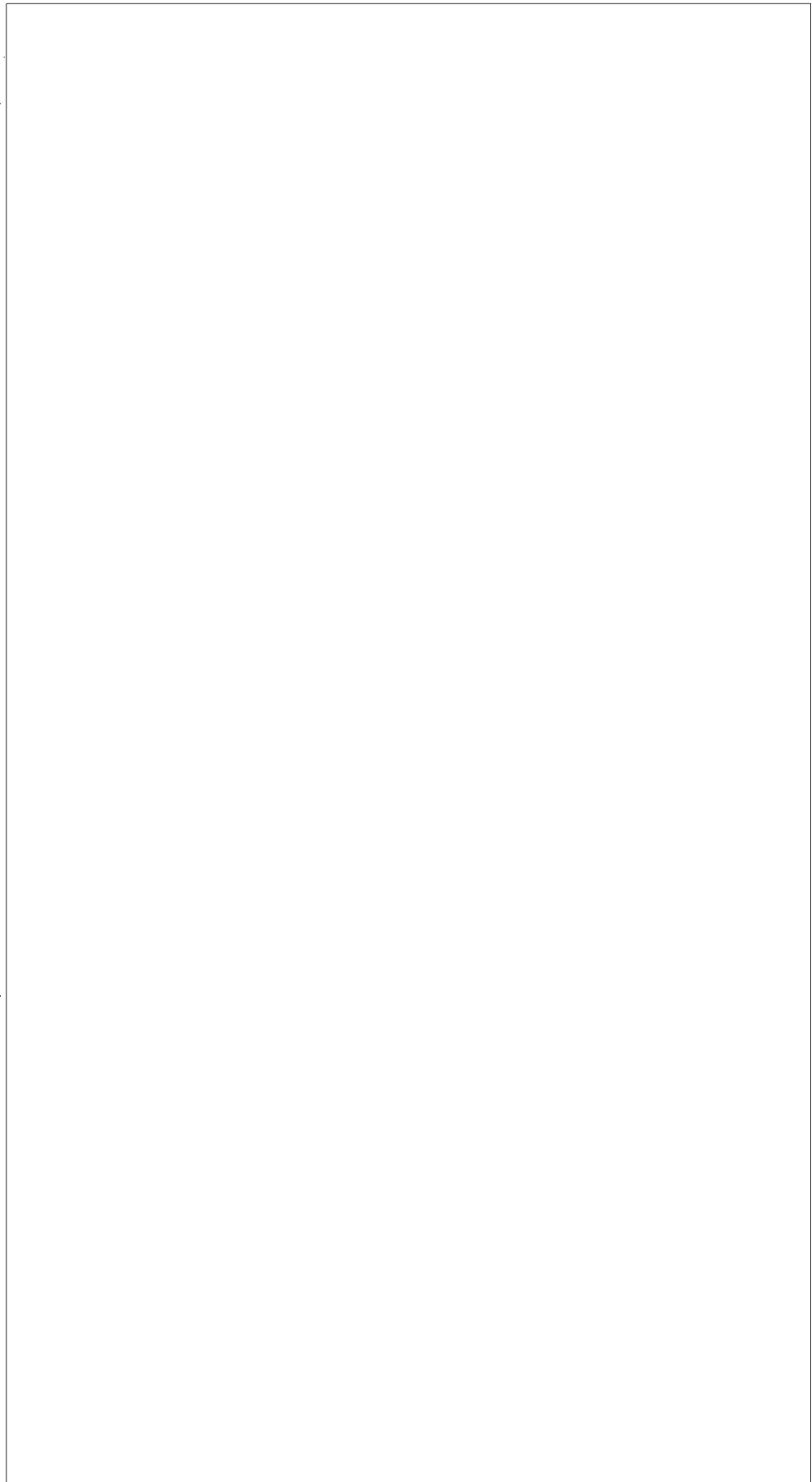
#### 5. Ghana

The country is quiet and back under the control of the military leaders who threw out Nkrumah. Yesterday's coup attempt was poorly planned and carried out. It seems to have had the backing of only a limited number of troops. There was little bloodshed.

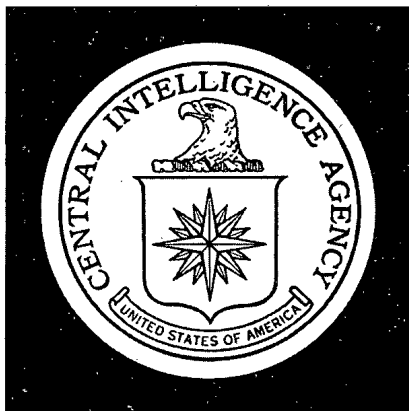
One unfortunate effect of the episode has been to derail or at least set back Ghana's attempt to arrange a new meeting among Nigeria's feuding rulers.

**6. West Germany**

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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 19 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
19 APRIL 1967

1. South Vietnam

Yesterday afternoon Ky told General Lansdale that the generals have decided to back him for president. The word was even then being passed to the still-hospitalized Thieu. This sentiment on the part of the generals does not surprise us--and probably was not altogether news to Thieu.

2. Communist China

There are strong signs that the Mao-Lin Piao-Chou En-lai alliance is beginning to crack. Red Guard groups close to Lin Piao are mounting a scathing attack on Foreign Minister Chen Yi. Chen Yi, we feel quite sure, is under the wing of Chou En-lai.

3. Burma

Signs are mounting that General Ne Win is considering major modifications in his highly doctrinaire "Burmese Way to Socialism." Something drastic is surely needed if he is to save the country's rapidly sinking economy.

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#### 4. United Kingdom

London has reopened the question of pulling its forces out of Singapore and Malaysia. One Foreign Office official says the cabinet wants to leave the Southeast Asian mainland completely by the mid-1970s. Foreign Secretary Brown will likely bring this up during his talks in Washington this week.

#### 5. Soviet Union

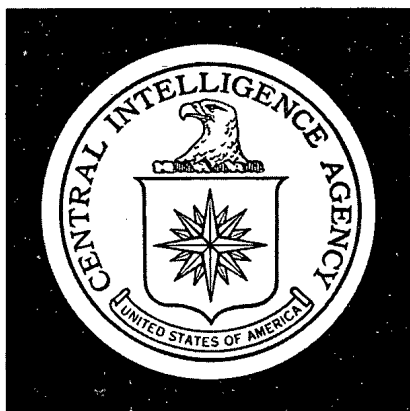
Moscow and its East European allies have come up with an agreement to establish a communications satellite system open to world-wide membership. This is probably not meant as a direct challenge to the US-sponsored International Satellite Consortium (INTELSAT). There is evidence instead that the Soviets hope to link the two systems together.

#### 6. France

After checking with Couve de Murville, Herve Alphand says the French Government will do everything possible to prevent the Bertrand Russell trial from being held in France.

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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 20 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
20 APRIL 1967

1. South Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

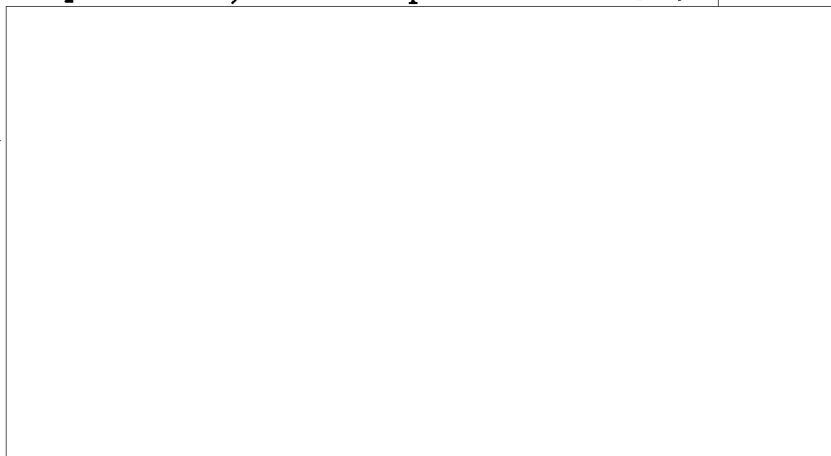
Recent intelligence assessments conclude that the Viet Cong have lost momentum in the southern Mekong Delta provinces, but government forces have not been making much progress either. Despite some ambitious plans for Revolutionary Development, the situation in these eight southernmost provinces appears to be stalemated.

3. Greece

The government may be getting ready to arrest left-wing leader Andreas Papandreou, the ex-premier's son.

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#### 4. Sino-Soviet

There may be some truth to the story that Moscow and Peking have made a deal which will make it easier for the Russians to get their military shipments across China to North Vietnam. Much of the heat seems to have gone out of the transit issue since last February, when Moscow was charging the Chinese with serious obstruction.

It is not clear just what arrangement has been made [REDACTED]

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A transit agreement would appear to have more psychological than military significance. Its importance has in fact been ballooned by the press.

For instance, despite Soviet propaganda charges, there is no evidence that Soviet shipments have been seriously delayed. There also is no evidence yet to support stories [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] that an agreement has opened the way to greatly increased arms shipments.

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In any case, it would suit the Russians and North Vietnamese if they could get it across that the Sino-Soviet problem is not so serious as to undermine North Vietnam's defenses.

#### 5. Nigeria

The Eastern Region has come still closer to de facto secession by taking over the management and assets of all federal services in the East, such as power, transport and communications. This puts the ball in Gowon's court. When it has been there before, he has talked tough but done little.

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6. Bolivia

We now have good evidence that the guerrilla activity in southeast Bolivia is--as La Paz has claimed--Communist supported and directed. Both the pro-Soviet and pro-Chinese Communist parties of Bolivia are involved

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7. Soviet Union

8. Soviet Union

All our usual indicators point to a major space launch--probably another test in the Soviet manned space program--within the next few days. It could be a third test of the new capsule, possibly with cosmonauts on board, or a further test of a new upper-stage propulsion system for boosting a spacecraft into a much higher orbit.

An unmanned flight around the moon (with return to earth) is also a possibility. The best opportunity for such a flight during April will come up next week.

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 21 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
21 APRIL 1967

1. North Vietnam

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2. Communist China

Premier Chou En-lai remains Peking's chief spokesman, but he may be losing ground to the radicals. Some of the more rational policies Chou put into effect in February have lately been reversed. The heavy attacks on his protege, Foreign Minister Chen Yi, are also part of the picture.

Chou has, as best we can determine, been running China with very little help. The new politburo installed last August had 25 members; the leadership's scorpion-in-a-bottle performance has left only seven of these active and clearly in good standing. The seven include Mao, Lin Piao, Chou himself, one propagandist, two policemen, and one economic administrator.

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### 3. Sino-Soviet

Peking's deep hatred for the Soviet leadership came out in a discussion [redacted]

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[redacted] late last month.

Chou again charged Moscow with secret US-Soviet collusion against China and accused the Russians of undercutting Nasir's efforts to inspire revolt in South Arabia. Chou even said he was thinking of ending the periodic talks in Warsaw between the Chinese and US ambassadors because the talks were exploited by the Soviets.

[redacted]  
[redacted] Hanoi had released the letters between President Johnson and Ho Chi Minh because the North Vietnamese wanted to make it clear that no meaningful discussions were under way. This is much the same line taken in Hanoi propaganda.

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### 4. West Germany

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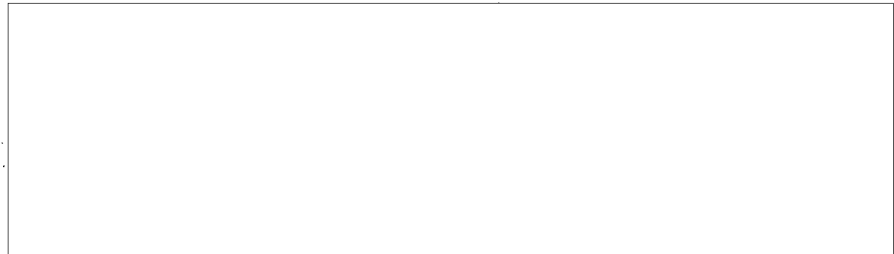
5. Non-Proliferation Treaty

Yesterday the North Atlantic Council gave the US its approval to move ahead in talks with the Soviets aimed at getting a draft treaty on the table when the 18 Nation Disarmament Committee meets at Geneva on 9 May.

Neither the Italians nor the Germans, however, are committed to any treaty draft and still have major reservations. They are reluctant about provisions on safeguards and those which might preclude a European nuclear defense community sometime in the future. They also would like any treaty to have an expiration date.

The French do not intend to sign a non-proliferation treaty.

6. France



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7. Greece

The government of Premier Kanellopoulos was toppled early this morning by a group of military officers in a fast-moving, well-planned coup.

One of the military's first acts was to arrest left-wing leader Andreas Papandreu. Kanellopoulos also has been taken into custody and a guard has been placed around the palace.

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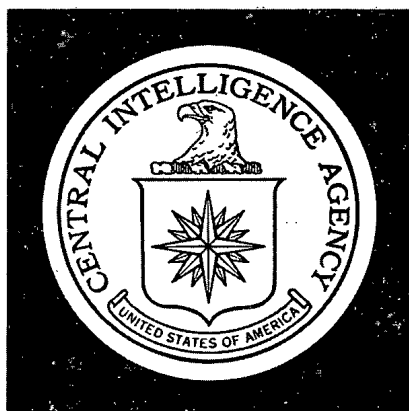
The army controls Athens and the city is quiet. There appears to be no danger to Americans.

The coup is not likely to affect Greek relations with the US.

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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 22 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
22 APRIL 1967

1. Greece

Yesterday's coup was carried out by a group of middle-grade officers without the authorization of the King or of the top military command.

The effect has been critically, if not irreparably, to undercut the position of the King and, perhaps, to weaken military unity. There are signs of confusion among the ranking generals.

Ambassador Talbot found the King seething with anger last night against those [redacted]

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[redacted] who had carried out the takeover. He seemed at a loss over what he could do and wondered aloud whether it would be wise to ask for US military support. He asked for US helicopters to evacuate the royal family in case this becomes necessary.

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The King said he had been forced into accepting the new government. The new prime minister, a civilian, seems to be merely a front man for the military--probably that group in the army responsible for the coup.

So far there has been very little bloodshed. At last word Athens was quiet and no outbreaks have been reported elsewhere.

2. Israel-Syria

Further serious incidents are in prospect as both sides continue to build up troop strength along their borders. United Nations officials have been unable to get either side to cease its provocations.

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### 3. Lebanon

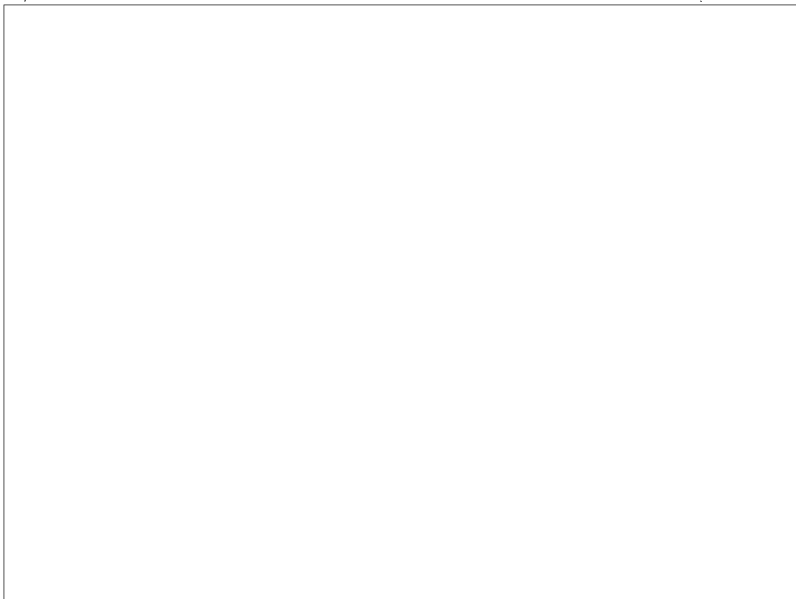
President Hilu told Ambassador Porter on Tuesday that he is under political pressure to accept a recent Soviet offer of "massive" economic assistance. He explained that he would much prefer not to turn to Moscow, but that he will have little choice unless some US aid is forthcoming.

Hilu has real cause for concern. His development plans have bogged down for lack of money and radical pro-Nasir politicians are effectively exploiting growing unrest.

There is no reason to doubt that the Russians have made an offer to Lebanon if only to obtain a small economic foothold where they have previously had none.

### 4. Iran

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## 5. Afghanistan

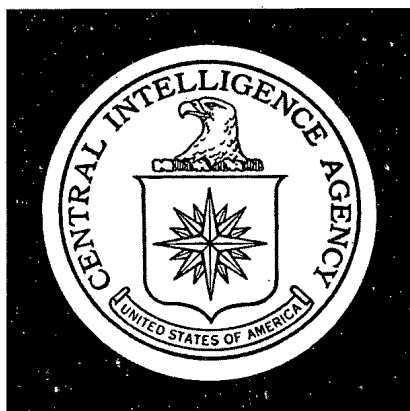
A full-blown political crisis has erupted in Kabul and Prime Minister Maiwandwal could lose his job. The storm broke after circulation of allegations by an Afghan student in the US. The student, a protege of Ramparts magazine, claimed that Maiwandwal had been installed as prime minister with the secret backing of the US Government.

This is just the spark in the haystack. Maiwandwal has antagonized the tribal right by seeking reform and the nationalist left by cooperating with the West.

He felt obliged to submit his resignation on Tuesday. The King has not yet accepted it and would do so reluctantly.

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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 24 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
24 APRIL 1967

1. South Vietnam

Thieu's hat is still in the presidential ring, despite Ky's more aggressive maneuvering to be selected as the military's candidate. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Ambassador Lodge notes that most of the senior generals seem to be keeping their lines open to both Thieu and Ky--and waiting to see where the power lies.

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2. Greece

Athens is outwardly calm. The curfew has been shortened, and infantry and armored units, although still in control of the city, are less in evidence. Behind this calm facade, however, we believe there are still many tensions and uncertainties.

The King--painfully aware that the young coup leaders control the guns--has gone along part way. He still is not in sympathy with the coup or its perpetrators, however, and is resisting demands to sign some of their more drastic measures. There could yet be a showdown between them.

The forced retirement of several high-ranking officers may mean that the coup leaders are consolidating their control of the armed forces.

Policy statements issued so far give the impression of a hard-nosed rightist attitude. The emphasis on social justice, social welfare, and a national mission suggests that the coup was aimed at more than just keeping the Papandreous from power.

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### 3. Soviet Union

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Soyuz-1 carried only one man, but had room for three. It was the first manned test of a new spacecraft the Soviets have been developing, most likely for a circumlunar flight. The Soviets may have originally intended a more complex mission for this spacecraft, such as orbiting a second spacecraft and transferring crew members, [REDACTED]

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### 4. Yemen

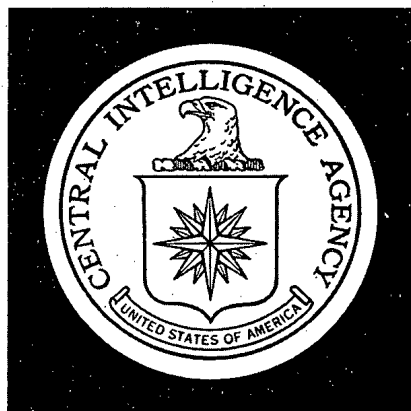
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## 5. Dominican Republic

There could be disturbances this week--the second anniversary of the 1965 revolt--if various political groups try to stage "commemorations" despite the government's ban on public demonstrations. Bosch's old party has planned an ambitious schedule of events for today, and members of the former "constitutionalist" forces are talking about leading a march through Santo Domingo.

*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~*Top Secret*~~ 25 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
25 APRIL 1967

1. Greece

The new government is anxious to be accepted by its NATO allies. In talks with Americans, high officials have underscored their pro-US position, and the new foreign minister lost no time in accepting an invitation to Adenauer's funeral.

The King is still bitter about the coup, but yesterday he met with one of its leaders. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the King said it had been "fairly cordial" and that he believes he must reach some understanding with the new government.

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The coup in Athens has created some uneasiness on Cyprus where Greek Cypriots in particular are not quite sure what may come next.

2. South Vietnam

Voters have now gone to the polls in 900 of the approximately 1,000 villages scheduled to elect their officials this spring. Total turnout so far has been 77 percent of those registered. Viet Cong harassment was light during the latest polling last Sunday.

3. Soviet Union

The ill-fated flight of Soyuz-1 is a serious setback to the Soviet manned space program. The Russians are not likely to risk another cosmonaut fatality until they have made a detailed investigation of the disaster and corrected the technical difficulties that plagued Colonel Komarov's entire mission. Damage to the capsule will hamper such investigations.

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#### 4. Communist China

Chinese leadership below Mao Tse-tung, Lin Piao, and Chou En-lai has been changed drastically in the past month.

Leaders in current favor turned out for a rally on 20 April and again with Mao and Lin yesterday. Five important politburo members are missing, including Foreign Minister Chen Yi. Lin Piao's wife showed up at the rally along with Madame Mao, the perennial harriidan of the Cultural Revolution.

The belated entry of these ladies into public life--both had been seldom seen and never heard before last year--suggests they are useful representatives at meetings their husbands do not care to attend.

Outside Peking, there is continued evidence of economic dislocation, although not on the scale that we saw in January.

#### 5. Indonesia

Relations between Djakarta and Peking took another nose dive yesterday, but neither country seems willing to be the one to break diplomatic ties entirely. Charging that the Chinese Embassy had organized antigovernment demonstrations, the Indonesians threw the two most senior Chinese diplomats out of the country. Within hours Peking repaid in kind.

#### 6. Bolivia

Bolivian troops have scored their first victories against the guerrillas. Twice last week army patrols hit guerrilla bands, inflicting casualties and taking prisoners. Several foreign nationals were captured

These recent victories should help pump up Bolivian army morale.

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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 26 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
26 APRIL 1967

1. Greece

The country's new rulers clearly expect to be around for some time.

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Official pronouncements reflect a strongly "reformist" mission and a distaste for professional politicians.

King Constantine now seems intent on exerting whatever influence he can toward moderation.

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2. North Vietnam

Silting is beginning to make it difficult for large ships to get into Haiphong harbor. At least four ships have been held up for many days during the past six weeks while waiting for the needed extra high tide. The problem will become worse with the coming monsoon season unless dredging begins soon.

3. Nigeria

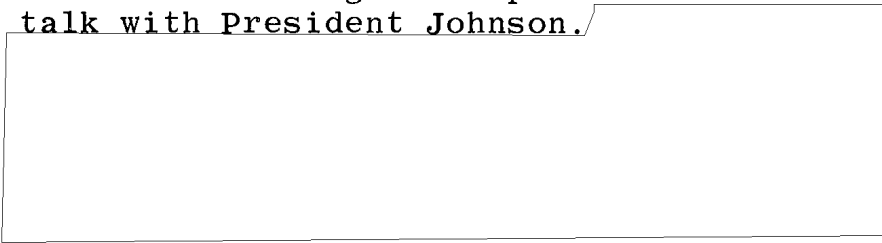
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#### 4. Panama

President Robles returned from Punta del Este brimming with optimism over his talk with President Johnson.



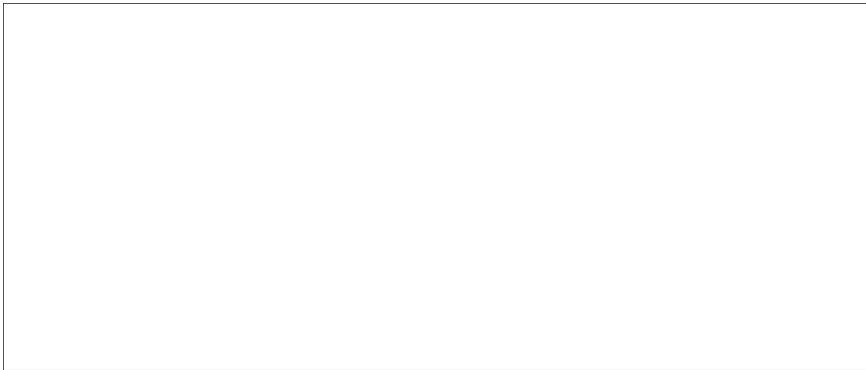
#### 5. Dominican Republic

The United States Intelligence Board has just approved a new Estimate on the Dominican Republic. The principal conclusions are:

- President Balaguer will probably be able to retain power for at least the next year or so.
- The military leaders still regard themselves as the final political arbiters, but will probably hold together behind the President.
- Leftist extremists are squabbling among themselves and are likely to remain in disarray for some time. They are capable of sporadic urban terrorism, but not much more.
- Political and economic pressures could push Balaguer toward more authoritarian methods.
- The economy will improve only spottily.
- Any economic progress will remain dependent on continuing substantial US aid.

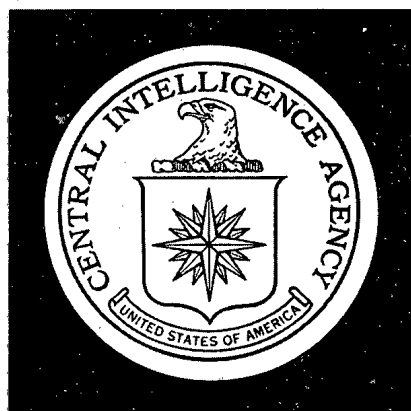
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#### 6. Japan



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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 27 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
27 APRIL 1967

1. South Vietnam

The impasse between Ky and Thieu over which of them will be the military's candidate continues, although both insist they will ultimately come to some amicable arrangement. This will take some doing, since each appears to have his heart set on getting the "nomination" and to be confident that he will.

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Embassy Saigon reports that labor unions in the capital are mounting a campaign for a 40 percent wage increase to offset the increase in the cost of living since mid-1966. The main pressure behind this demand is economic, not political. The cost of rice, which accounts for one-third of total family expenditure, has gone up 124 percent since last June.

2. Cambodia

Sihanouk is evidently planning a further crackdown against extremists on the left. This fits with a number of recent signs that he is genuinely worried over what he regards as a serious Communist-inspired rebellion in the countryside. Sihanouk's new view is even beginning to color his remarks on foreign policy. He has spoken of "deterioration" in his relations with "certain socialist countries."

3. Indonesia

Peking seems unconcerned that it may be goading Djakarta into breaking diplomatic relations. Hordes of Chinese have been demonstrating outside the Indonesian Embassy for the past three days; each day the crowds get a bit uglier and another big rally is set for today.

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## 4. Yemen

Late word this morning from Taiz is that a second day of demonstration has begun. The embassy is braced.

No Americans have been reported hurt by the first attack on the embassy yesterday, but at least two US citizens are said to have been taken into custody. Damage to the embassy and other US buildings was heavy.

The explosion of mob violence follows directly from a campaign of harassment against the US presence in Yemen since the ouster of President al-Amri and the return of the pro-Egyptian hardliners last August. During this period, minor diplomatic incidents, anti-US "spy trials," and vicious press treatment have been standard.

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\* \* \* \* \*

Chances for a US mediation effort of the Yemen problem are not bright. Cairo in fact has only been making things worse recently by parading ex-King Saud in Yemeni territory--a deliberate insult to Faysal--and by renewed bombings of Yemeni tribes with toxic agents. While King Faysal has answered the US mediation proposal with guarded acceptance, Egypt has still given no hint of a reply. The American chargé in Cairo is now pressing for an answer.

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## 5. Greece

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[REDACTED]

During the past 24 hours the situation in Athens has remained essentially unchanged. The King issued a guarded statement following his meeting with the new cabinet yesterday. Constantine expressed his dissatisfaction with the recent events and hoped his country will return soon to parliamentary government.

There were reports yesterday that the new regime was in danger of imminent collapse and that some move might be made to bring in more moderate elements. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

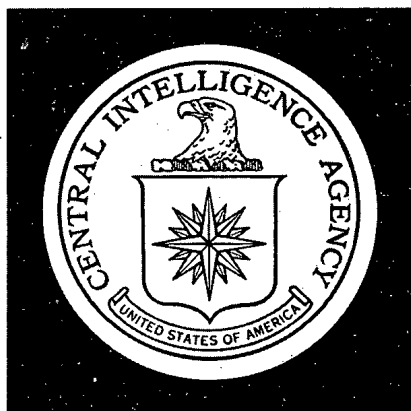
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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~*Top Secret*~~ 28 April 1967



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**DAILY BRIEF  
28 APRIL 1967**

**1. Great Britain**

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**2. South Vietnam**

The Communists seem to be preparing a major offensive in the central highlands.

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defector reports point to a build-up in southwestern Pleiku Province in the area of the Ia Drang Valley battles of late 1965.

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One defector, a North Vietnamese soldier, has said the Communists plan to strike at the height of the monsoon in June and July.

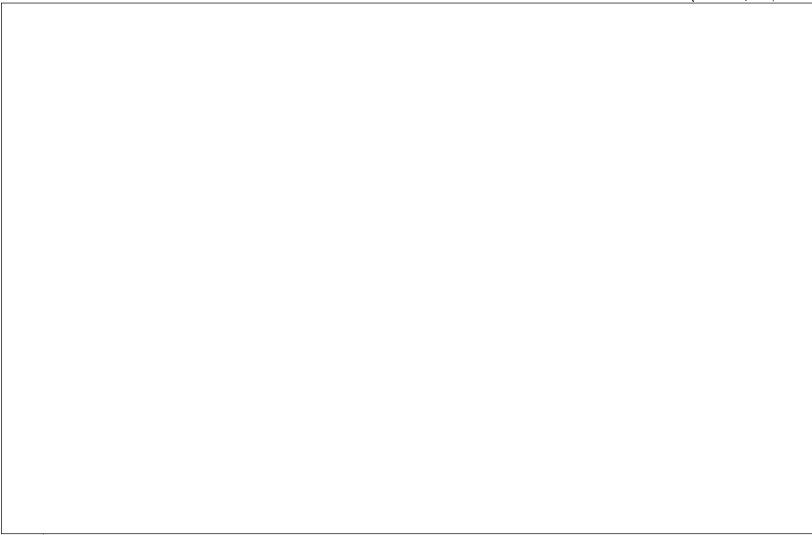
**3. Cambodia**

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#### 4. Soviet Union

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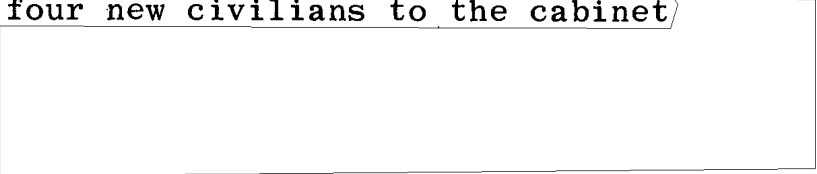
Cosmos 154 and its predecessor Cosmos 146 were tests of a new piece of space hardware; both were at best only partially successful. We believe that a vehicle of this type will eventually be mated with a Soyuz capsule for circumlunar missions or for establishing manned orbiting space stations.

#### 5. Soviet Union

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## 6. Greece

We see no signs as yet of any organized move against the new regime. The King, however, appears to be re-asserting some influence over the new government. He has succeeded in adding four new civilians to the cabinet/




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The King apparently hopes that personality clashes among the coup leaders, as they begin the difficult job of trying to run the country, will give him further chances to gather up some of the reins.

## 7. Yemen

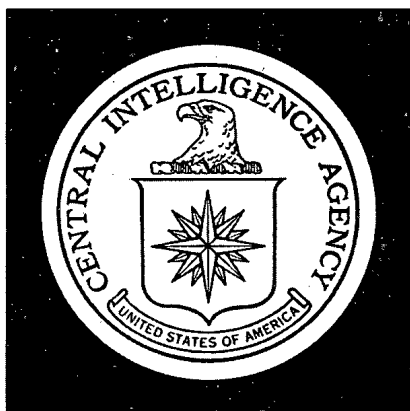
The government has announced it will break the US economic assistance agreement and prosecute two Americans for subversive activity. The Americans, still in custody, were interrogated at length yesterday by the Egyptians in the presence of a US official.



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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 29 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
29 APRIL 1967

1. Yemen

The situation remains tense with new anti-American demonstrations reportedly planned for today.

Demonstrations could pose serious problems for the Americans who are supposed to begin leaving the country this morning. An Ethiopian commercial airliner is on the ground in Yemen and ready to start ferrying out US personnel. A skeleton staff will remain in the two US diplomatic installations at Sana and Taiz.

Cairo pulls the strings in Yemen and Cairo remains officially silent to our protests over the arrest of two Americans in Yemen. Some clarification of the Egyptian position may come this morning, however, when the US chargé in Cairo meets with a key Nasir aide.

2. South Vietnam

Retail prices continued to hold relatively steady in Saigon during the week ending on Monday. This follows the trend of the previous five weeks. The price index rose by less than one percent; meat and fish were up a bit, but rice continued to decline.



### 3. Greece

King Constantine feels the situation is looking up, but the 27-year-old ruler may be overestimating his ability to handle the coup leaders. Some of the recent "concessions" made to the King appear to be more form than substance. He has swallowed the reassignment of one of his closest advisers, a major posted to the royal household. He has also accepted several significant changes in the military command structure.

The coup leaders will move carefully where the King is concerned, however. His cooperation is essential to maintain at least the trappings of legitimacy and the military see him as a useful bridge to foreign governments.

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As for political prisoners, Ambassador Talbot met yesterday with the new interior minister and concluded from the talk that Andreas Papandreu will go on trial.

### 4. Philippines

The Huks are becoming more aggressive in Central Luzon and could give President Marcos some serious trouble in the future.

After years of scrounging in the wilderness as bandits, these armed Communists now appear to be back under party discipline and to be gaining strength. Though still not a significant security menace, Huk terrorism has increased, and so has the willingness of local politicians to collaborate with the guerrillas.

This collaboration has done much to stall Marcos' land reform program-- a program he feels is essential to winning peasant support for the government.

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## 5. India

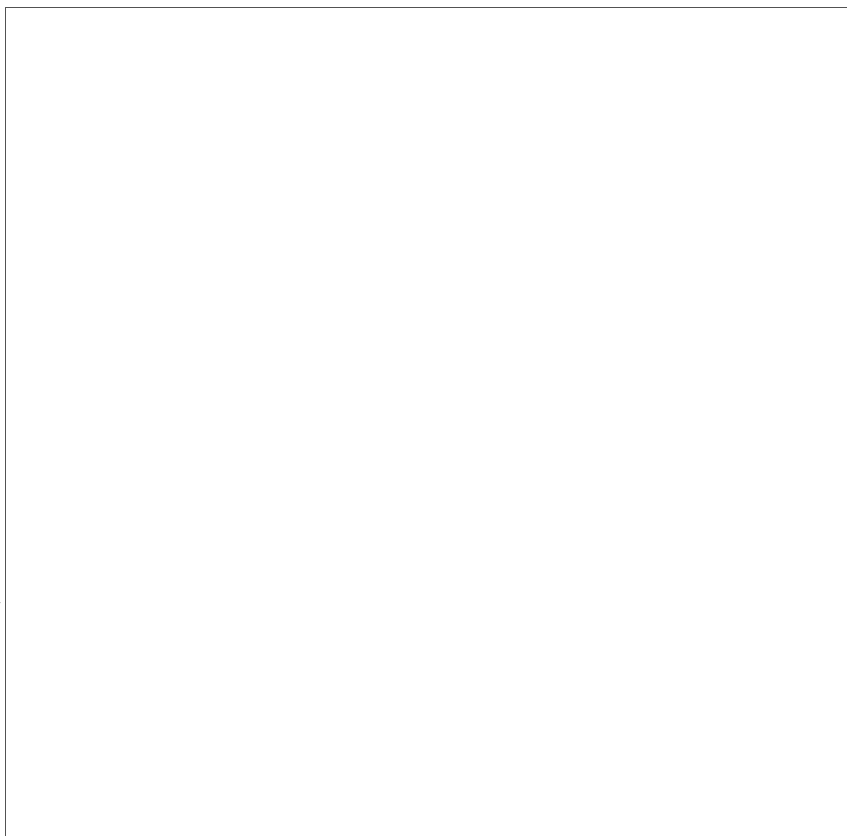
Mrs. Gandhi, already beset by India's food and political problems, faces a personal trial by fire with the presidential election next Saturday.

Against the express wishes of top Congress Party leaders, Mrs. Gandhi chose a Moslem, Vice President Zakir Husain, as the party's candidate. If he loses--and it is going to be a close race--she will be in real trouble and could be replaced as prime minister.

Outside this immediate threat to her position, Mrs. Gandhi faces spreading famine. The situation is expected to get worse this summer and there is little hope of improvement before next year at the earliest.

## 6. Soviet Union

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*Top Secret*