



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

50X1

2 MAY 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
2 MAY 1966

1. Vietnam

A recently captured document suggests Viet Cong use of Cambodian territory may be increasing. The document contains the minutes of an early April meeting during which Viet Cong officers discussed the problem of control over their personnel in Cambodia.

"Local chiefs" in Cambodia were said to be permitting the Viet Cong to establish "living and messing" facilities on a "long-term" basis and were giving gifts to sick and wounded Viet Cong.

Sihanouk has claimed publicly that he has denied the Communists permission to set up facilities inside Cambodia. At best, however, he has very limited control in the border areas, particularly in the isolated northeast corner of the country.

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2. South Vietnam



3. North Vietnam

50X1

4. Thailand

The Communists are stepping up their terrorist activities in northeast Thailand. At least 25 village leaders and police informants have been assassinated so far this year. By contrast, there were only about 30 politically inspired murders in 1965 and ten or less in 1964.

At the same time, there have been more armed skirmishes as a result of stepped-up government operations. Here the efforts to improve the government's counterinsurgency capability are beginning to show results. Several sweep operations, for example, have been mounted recently

The villagers in remote areas are responding favorably to the increased government presence.

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5. Nationalist China

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6. Soviet Union

Soviet military officials have begun to comment on Marshal Malinovsky's recent references to a "Blue Belt" defensive system.

[redacted] is a "complex" of four elements--air defense, missiles, aircraft, submarines, and antimissile systems. The latter were said to be "in the process of being deployed."

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A Soviet admiral provided a similar explanation. He told the attaché that the "belt" is an "entire complex of several defensive systems which includes, among other things, Soviet submarines." He added that "obviously" aircraft and missiles are also part of the complex.

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7. Soviet Union

Statistics published by the Soviets on their fulfillment of the plan for the first quarter of the year fall in line with earlier indications that 1966 will be a time of economic retrenchment.

Moscow's figures do not show the pick-up which would be needed to meet many of the targets set in the new five-year plan (1966-1970). The Kremlin, however, evidently expects that its current efforts toward industrial reform will lead to higher rates and thus result in fulfillment of the 1970 goals.

Our analysis of the Soviet figures also tends to confirm that there has been some increase in the production of military and space hardware during the quarterly period.

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8. Congo (Brazzaville) The badly split radical regime in Brazzaville continues to limp along from one crisis to another. The problem now is the selection of a cabinet following the premier's recent resignation. This issue is so hot that the old cabinet--with a new premier--may have to stay on indefinitely. The man rather likely to get the premiership is considered to be one of the regime's leading extremists.

TOP SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

3 MAY 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

DAILY BRIEF
3 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

The continuance of the Ky government after the formation of the constitutional convention to be elected this fall is shaping up as a major issue with the Buddhists.

Premier Ky intends to stay on until after a constitution is drafted, but Buddhist leaders are reiterating [redacted] that the convention should both appoint an interim government and serve as an interim legislature. 50X1

Ky may be floating a trial balloon on the idea of delaying the elections, to which he is committed by mid-September. Today he told newsmen that "we will try to hold elections by October." Such remarks could easily put the "struggle groups" in the streets again if they are taken as a delaying tactic. 50X1

2. Communist China



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3. Communist China

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4. Jordan

King Husayn today assured our ambassador that Jordan would not retaliate "at this time" for the two Israeli border raids last weekend.

Husayn added, "Do not come to me on the next occasion asking that I restrain the army." Continued failure to retaliate against Israeli attacks could indeed expose Husayn to political trouble at home and aspersions on his Arab manhood from Cairo.

His frustration is worsened by the fact that the guerrillas who provoked the Israelis, although based in Jordan, are controlled and supported by Syria.

5. Canada

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6. Sweden

May Day celebrations in Stockholm, where Vietnam was the theme, were marked by the worst anti-American incidents in years.

Although the principal speaker, Foreign Minister Nilsson, did not mention possible Swedish recognition of North Vietnam, he did call for negotiations including all participants, saying "we cannot at all be neutral" in the face of Vietnam.

The embassy expects more anti-American outbursts before the September elections as the ruling party leadership makes more concessions to its left-wing elements.

7. Nigeria

General Ironsi and his military colleagues, whose regime has coasted for three months on a wave of popularity, may soon have to make some hard decisions.

The euphoria which followed removal of the old, corrupt politicians is fading fast. A nationwide increase in prices of basic foods has produced a popular clamor for action by the government. Violence in the provinces, which plagued the former government, has not yet been stamped out.

These problems would present no threat if the army were united behind the regime. There is, however, considerable evidence of discontent and lack of discipline among the military.

A prime issue here is the government's attitude toward the middle-grade officers who carried out the January coup and were subsequently arrested, rather gently, by Ironsi. They are variously regarded as heroes or mutinous assassins--and Ironsi may soon have to commit himself one way or the other.

8. Togo

Liberian President Tubman's visit last week to Lomé gives some interesting glimpses of African statesmen in action.

The Togolese went all out in preparing for the visit but Tubman inexplicably stopped in the Ivory Coast en route. This left the entire Togolese Government and the diplomatic corps twiddling their fingers for two hours at the steaming airport, while the school children lining the street drooped in the hot sun.

The Liberians finally materialized, but with 12 more dignitaries than expected, and food ran out at the gala banquet that evening. An illuminated fountain Tubman dedicated in "Liberia Square" gurgled only fitfully.

The Liberians, however, seemed pleased at honors accorded them and the sight of their flag throughout the city. On the last morning, after euphoric farewell speeches, Tubman and party roared off by car at nine-thirty for Cotonou--where the Dahomean Government had assembled at the airport to meet his eight o'clock plane.

TOP SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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4 MAY 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

DAILY BRIEF
4 MAY 1966

1. North Vietnam

[REDACTED] 50X1

the Communists are stepping up the movement of supplies in the Laos panhandle. It seems likely that they are trying to replenish their stockpiles in the Laos - South Vietnam border area before the rainy season sets in again.

The effort which the Communists have devoted to expanding the supply routes in the Laotian panhandle is indicated by the fact that there are now more than 650 miles of road in this area; this compares with 250 miles in mid-1965.

2. Soviet Union

[REDACTED] 50X1

The most recent satellite photography shows that one of these installations is now externally complete and that construction of eight associated launchers has resumed after a lapse of about a year. This facility and its launchers could be operational by the end of this year.

[REDACTED]

3. Soviet Union

The latest satellite photography has also shown up a new Soviet delta-wing aircraft about the size of the US F-106 interceptor.

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4. Canada

Prime Minister Pearson's victory last night was a very close one and made possible only by the support of the Social Credit parties.

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5. Colombia

Unofficial returns from Sunday's election are almost complete and it is clear that President-elect Carlos Lleras Restrepo will have a stronger popular mandate than outgoing President Valencia. More of the eligible voters cast their ballots this time than four years ago and Lleras' total was substantially higher than Valencia had received.

6. Rhodesia

Rhodesian security forces claim the guerrilla group they clashed with last weekend had been trained and armed by the Chinese.

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The guerrilla band, which had apparently entered from Zambia, was overwhelmed and only a few members escaped.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

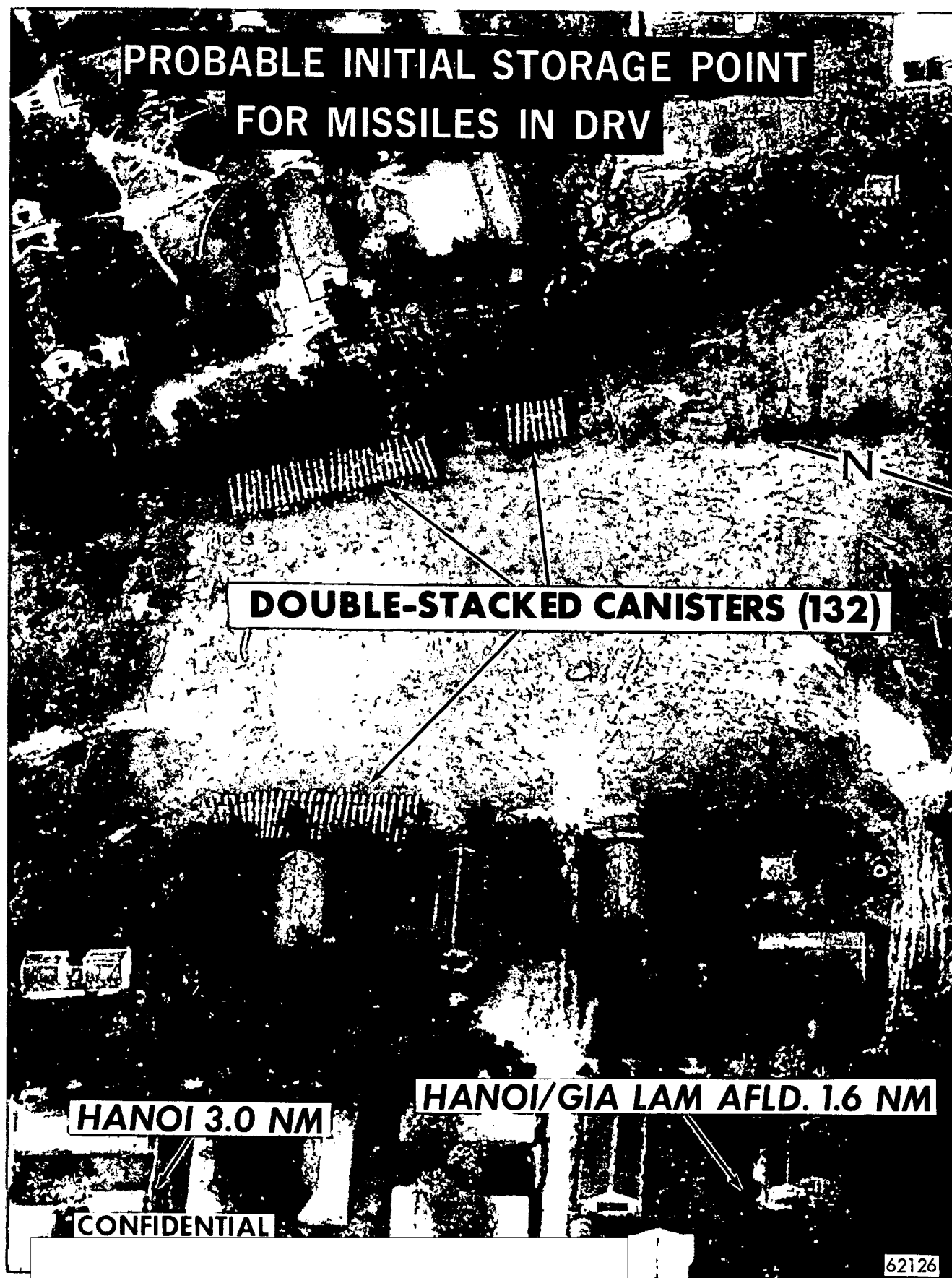
THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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5 MAY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF**5 MAY 1966**

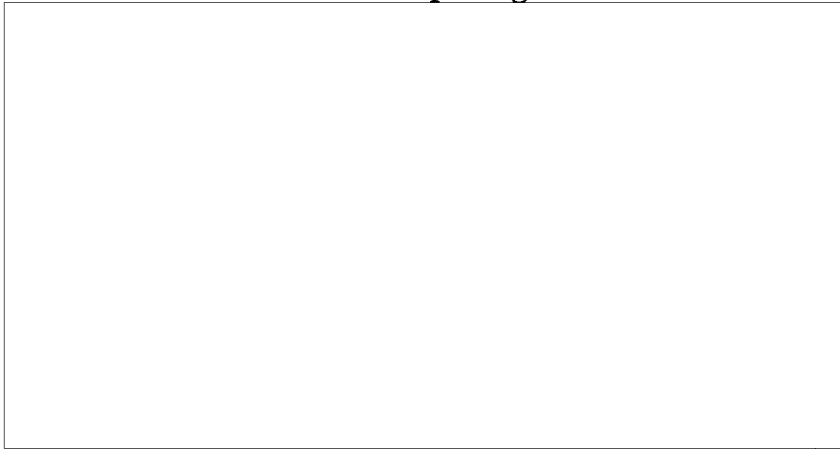
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1. Vietnam

We have further evidence suggesting that large numbers of troops have moved down the trails to South Vietnam this year.

**2. North Vietnam**

Photography of last Sunday shows at least 132 canisters for surface-to-air missiles lined up at an army barracks about three miles from Hanoi. (See photograph.) Nearby are two support facilities which service the missile units around Hanoi and Haiphong.



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3. South Vietnam

The council to draft an election law got off to a shaky start today. The three-hour session quickly degenerated into criticism of the government, arguments over the powers of the council, and demands that the government issue a clarifying decree.

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4. Soviet Union

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5. Indonesia

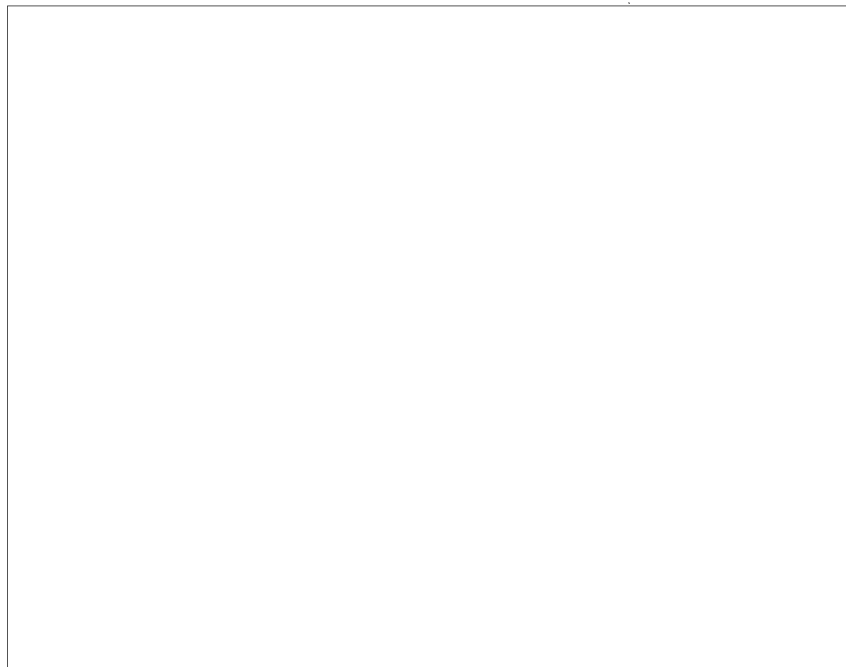
The army and General Suharto have taken a step backward in announcing today the postponement of the heralded 12 May session of Indonesia's top policy-making body, the Provisional Peoples' Consultative Assembly. Sukarno had threatened to dissolve the assembly after much publicity had been given to the possibility that it might rescind his life-long presidency.

The postponement, however, is only a tactical move which reflects the army's apprehension over Sukarno's residual popularity and his craftiness.

The next act could be a return of anti-Sukarno demonstrators to the streets, and this may be what Suharto has in mind.

6. Jordan

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7. Dominican Republic

As the election campaign heats up and edges into displays of violence, there are suggestions that Balaguer's campaign may be gathering some momentum.

[redacted] presidential candidate Rafael Bonnelly will withdraw his name just before the 1 June elections and right-wing parties which have declared for him will swing their support to Balaguer.

By law, moreover, votes for Bonnelly would be tallied for Balaguer if Bonnelly explicitly withdrew in his favor.

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8. Guatemala

The terrorist arm of the Communist Party has begun a threatened week of violence in the capital. [redacted]

[redacted] last night there was at least one kidnapping of a senior government official.

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What the Communists hope to accomplish by this renewal of terrorism is hard to fathom. Should it be prolonged, it could conceivably lead to a refusal by the lame-duck military government to turn over power on 1 July. The newly seated congress is to elect a president in the next few days.

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TOP SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

6 MAY 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

DAILY BRIEF
6 MAY 1966

1. The President's Speech

The official press in Eastern Europe has come up with mixed reactions to President Johnson's speech on Tuesday. At the same time, some Eastern European officials have offered favorable comments in private.

The party daily in Prague noted that the speech represented a "somewhat revised" expression of US policy toward Eastern Europe. Other Czech papers said the speech was meant to exert "political pressure" on the unity of the socialist camp. This same line was put forth in the only comment so far from Hungary.

All major Rumanian papers treated the speech in a favorable context, quoting the President's view that the new trade bill "will have the possibility of increasing trade" with Eastern Europe.

A Rumanian official, who commented positively to an American official on the attitude of the executive branch toward improving trade relations, also expressed skepticism about the possibility of favorable congressional action. Bulgarian officials have reacted similarly.

Warsaw has given the speech only brief factual coverage; the Bulgarians have not mentioned it.

2. North Vietnam

A review of world shipping shows that only seven ships flying the flags of non-Communist countries visited North Vietnamese ports in April. Of these, only two brought cargoes.

This compares with a monthly average of 24 non-Communist ships engaged in this trade last year. The decline, which has been evident since last February, is probably in part a reflection of US diplomatic efforts in free world capitals.

Fear for the safety of ships and crews is likely to contribute to a continuing decline. Poland has widely publicized the exposure of the freighter Beniowski to the 20 April US air attack on Cam Pha. Warsaw has since indicated that it will withdraw from the trade, and some free world shipping companies have had to replace crews who refused to sail for North Vietnam.

3. South Vietnam

The Buddhists are keeping up their pressure on the election issue. The monk Tam Chau, now in Ceylon for a world Buddhist meeting, told the press there that South Vietnam's Buddhists will go all out to topple the Ky government unless elections are held prior to September.

Back in Saigon, the council to draft an election law held its second meeting today under somewhat more propitious circumstances. It apparently agreed to get down to business after receiving a formal government authorization clarifying its functions. The government refused, however, to give prior assurances that its work would be accepted as the law of the land.

4. Communist China

The Western press is giving considerable play today to a recent Peking editorial which warns that the Chinese party is engaged in a "life and death struggle" with opponents at home.

We think it likely that this attack is aimed at professional military men and cadres who question the enduring wisdom of some of Mao's doctrines. It is also likely that this kind of dissidence will be of increasing concern as the war in Vietnam continues and as the regime prepares for Mao's departure from the scene.

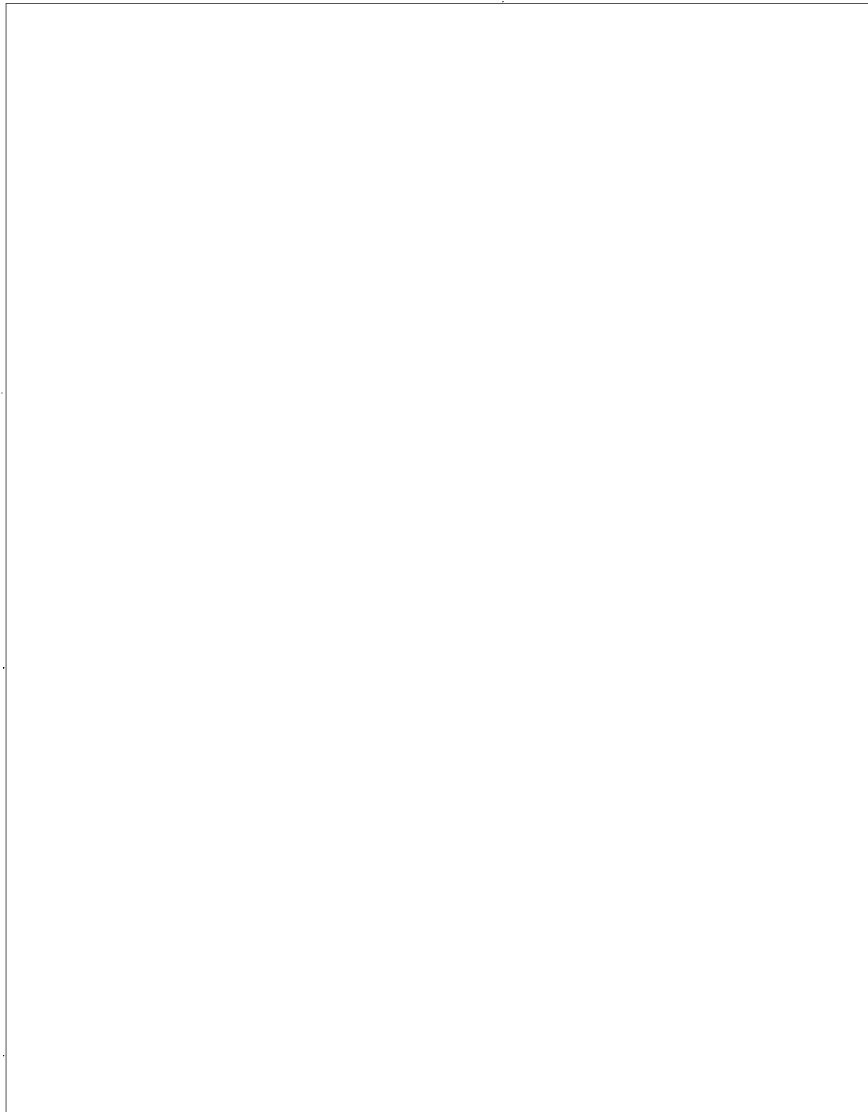
Important political figures, however, have not been implicated in this or other recent attacks, and there is no evidence to support the speculation in The New York Times and Washington Post that we are observing surface manifestations of a top-level party dispute.

5. India

The director of India's atomic energy establishment says that when the Chinese conduct their third atomic test the pressure for India to build its own bomb will become "intense." He told a US diplomat today that there had been a confidential parliamentary committee discussion on this subject recently and that there had been "very strong voices" in favor of going ahead. The Indian official left the impression he and Prime Minister Gandhi had presented counterarguments that had won the day, but they thought it was questionable how long the pressures could be resisted.

6. Pakistan

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7. Rhodesia

Ian Smith has put together a particularly strong team to represent him at the talks with the British in London next week. The US consul in Salisbury says that it would be difficult to find a more able group of Rhodesian officials. The consul considers this an indication of the seriousness with which Rhodesia is approaching the talks.

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8. Egypt

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9. Malawi

Malawi--formerly the British protectorate of Nyasaland--is desperately seeking money. The US ambassador says that the government has badly overspent, thanks to Prime Minister Banda's determination to "push buttons, throw switches, and cut ribbons to dramatize his political sagacity, economic savvy, and planning genius."

The ambassador is worried that the West may have to submit to "financial whitemail" or see Banda either appeal to the East for aid, or lead the country's economy down the Nkrumah road. Malawi's finance minister in fact has already suggested that the US should be willing to offer \$50 million, "the amount Banda has saved the US by delivering Africa from Communism."

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

7 MAY 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

DAILY BRIEF
7 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

Ky today publicly voiced a "prediction" that the Directorate would remain in power "for at least another year." He reaffirmed that elections for a constituent assembly would be held as scheduled in September, but stressed that "we will not resign in favor of this assembly."

Although there has been no reaction from the Buddhists so far, these remarks will almost certainly reinforce their belief that the military rulers intend to wriggle out of their "promise" of a speedy return to civilian government. Tri Quang told an American newsman on Thursday that "the people" in Hué were already "very much worried" about Ky's hint that the elections would be postponed until October.

Ky may be working himself into a mood to challenge the Buddhists.

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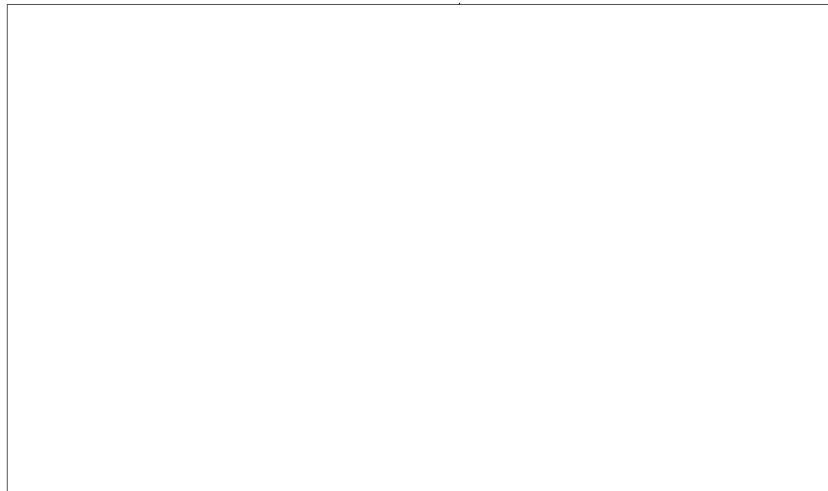
2. Vietnam

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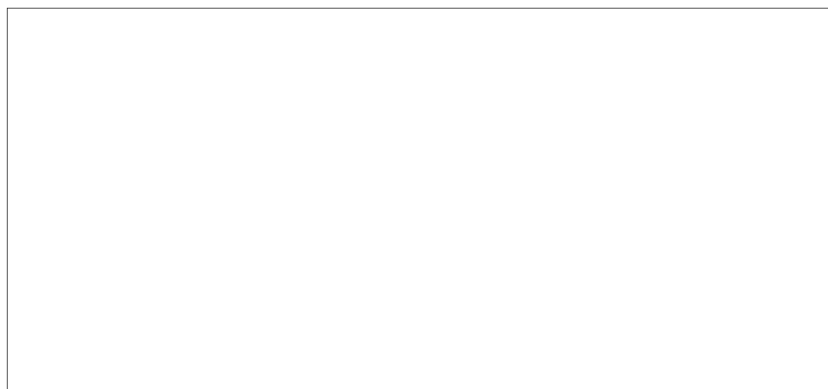
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3. Soviet Union



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4. Soviet Union



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5. Czechoslovakia

The Czechs are apparently about ready to buy long-range jet transports from the Douglas Aircraft Corporation if suitable credit terms can be worked out. This strongly suggests that despite Prague's negative propaganda reaction to President Johnson's speech on Tuesday, the Czechs in practice will continue to seek improved economic relations with the US.

If the contract with Douglas is signed, it will probably lead to a request for US approval of a Prague - New York route for Czechoslovak Airlines.

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6. Guatemala

Terrorists attempted another political assassination in Guatemala City early yesterday, but no further violence has been reported since that time. Police and military forces are continuing to take maximum security measures.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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9 MAY 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

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DAILY BRIEF
9 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

The Buddhist hierarchy has not yet come out with any significant reaction to Premier Ky's weekend remarks. However, Tri Quang has reportedly been summoned from Hué by Buddhist leaders in Saigon to discuss the issue.

The Viet Cong appear to be zeroing in on South Korean personnel as a target for propaganda, terrorism, and sabotage attacks.

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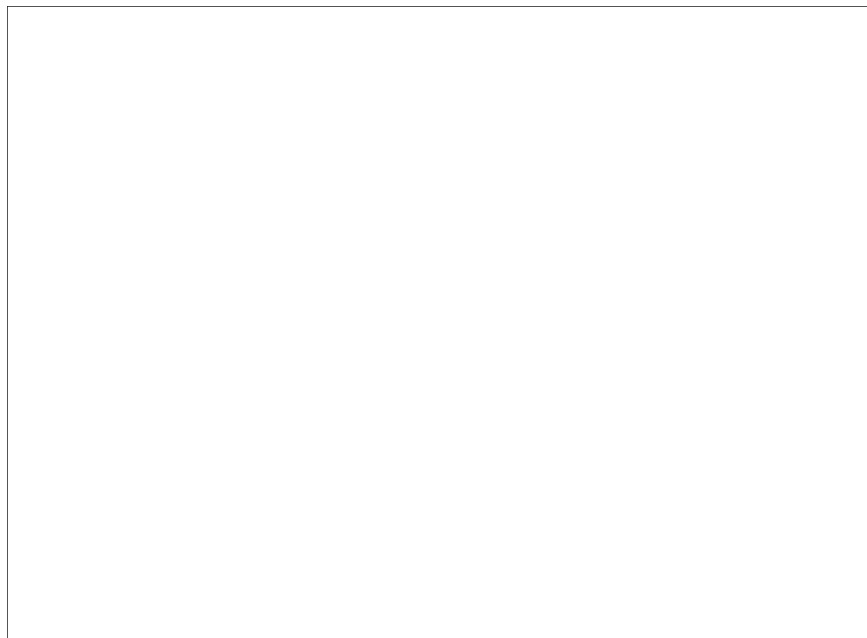
2. North Vietnam

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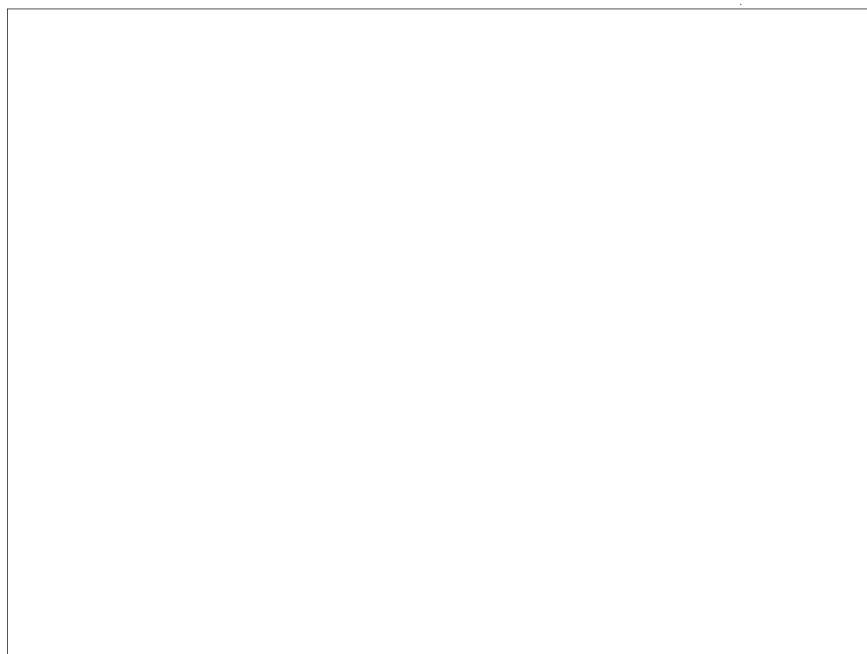
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3. Vietnam



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4. Rhodesia



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5. Guinea

Our embassy sees signs that Peking may be dangling an aid package before the Guineans--for a "political price."

The government is uncharacteristically not pressing for more US food shipments, despite an apparently imminent food shortage. Also, there are more Chinese milling around Conakry than at any recent time, and the local Soviets seem unhappy.

Touré, however, dropped no hint of any such prospects in an exceedingly frank and friendly talk last week with Ambassador Attwood, who formerly was ambassador to Guinea.

6. Ethiopia

Last week the Ethiopians celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Emperor's return to Addis Ababa following the Italian occupation. The main event was a gigantic--by African standards--parade of the US-equipped Ethiopian Army through the capital and a fly-by of Ethiopian-piloted supersonic jets and other US-supplied aircraft.

Ambassador Korry noted that even the Emperor had never witnessed such an impressive display of the range and extent of the US military assistance program.

The troops were all young and vigorous looking, in contrast to the many tottering "spear chuckers" seen in previous years. Their equipment was clean, and they seemed to be accepted with pride by the populace.

The Emperor said he now knew what an excellent job the US had done with his military and declared: "I am content."

7. Communist China

Preliminary data on the third nuclear test, which took place early this morning (Washington time), suggests a yield of about 50 kilotons. Peking's first two nuclear tests, in October 1964 and May 1965, gave yields of 25 and 35 kilotons respectively. The device was apparently dropped from an airplane.

Peking is claiming its device "contained thermonuclear material." If indeed it contained such material, the small yield indicates that no significant thermonuclear reaction could have occurred.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

10 MAY 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~ 23

DAILY BRIEF
10 MAY 1966

1. Communist China

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2. Communist China

The Chinese clearly felt obliged to display Mao Tse-tung for their Albanian allies. Failure to do so would have come close to admitting the foreign rumors that Mao was no longer a significant factor in Chinese affairs.

Mao's return, after being completely out of sight for six months, coincides with signs of a serious struggle within the party. There was a highly unusual attack by one party newspaper against another. The one attacked, which immediately published an abject confession, is the organ of the Peking city party committee.

It is not certain that the matter will end there. The serious charges raised against a group of municipal party officials could ultimately extend to even higher officials.

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3. Vietnam

Peking seems worried about the possibility of US retaliatory air action against targets in China as a result of the MIG incident over North Vietnam on Sunday.

The Chinese waited until yesterday to broadcast a number of tough remarks which Chou En-lai had made during an interview with a Pakistani newsmen in early April. The interview was published in Pakistan two weeks ago, but received no previous publicity in China.

Chou's remarks repeated the old warnings that once war had broken out between the US and China it would "have no boundaries." He suggested that such a war could be started by US "air or sea action," and then noted "if you come from the sky, why can't we fight back on the ground?"

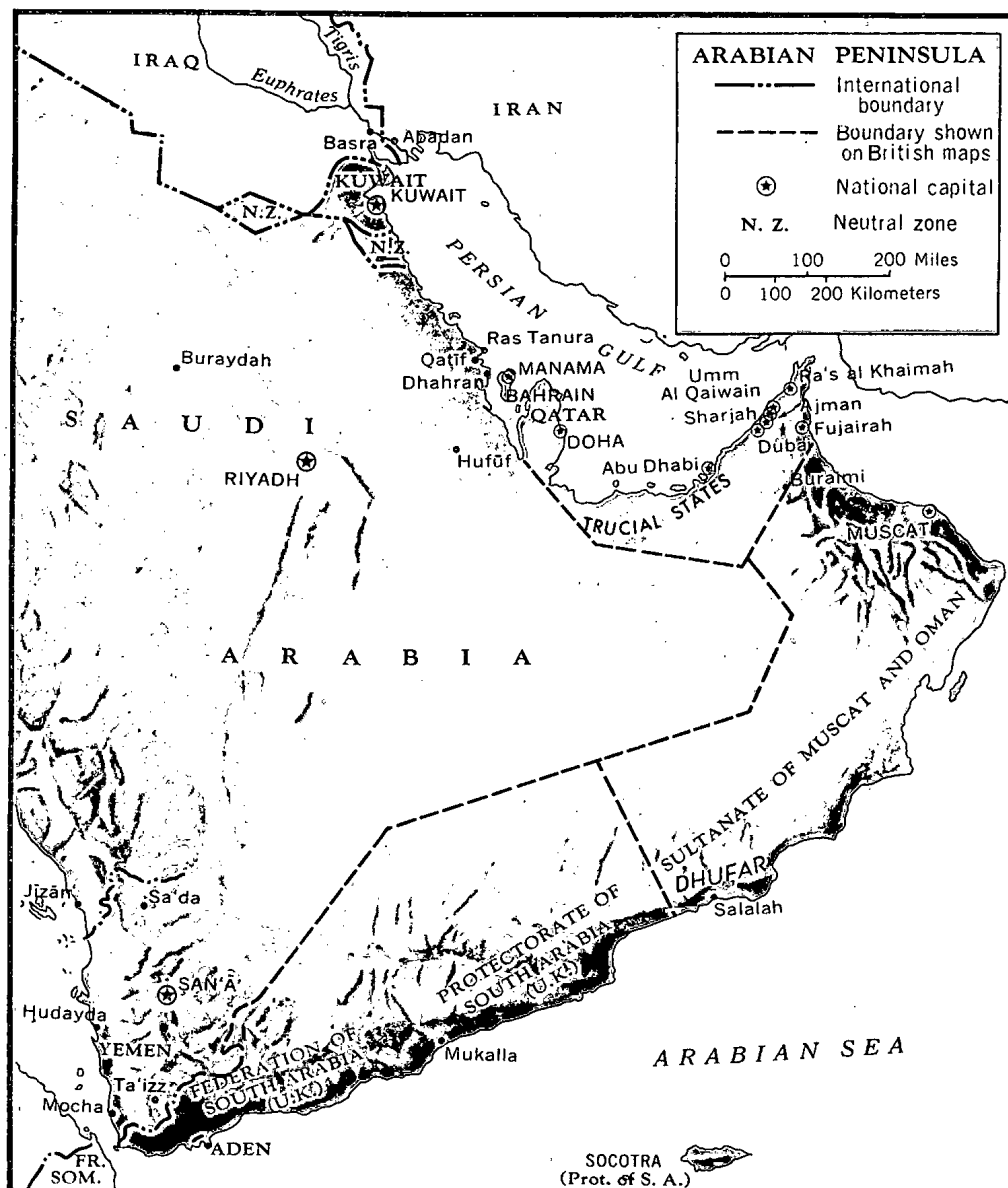
Chou again asserted that China would not take the initiative to provoke hostilities but was fully prepared to defend itself and would certainly defeat any invading force.

4. North Vietnam

Total North Vietnamese strength in the South now numbers some 26,000. Suspect units, if authenticated, could raise this figure to about 40,000.

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5. Pakistan

Ayub has reiterated his determination to expand Pakistan's military strength in the face of India's continuing arms build-up. He told Ambassador McConaughy recently that if Pakistan continues unable to procure lethal weapons from the US, it will be necessary to turn "even to the Devil himself."

Chinese military assistance to Pakistan has thus far included small arms, artillery, tanks, and a number of MIG-19 fighters.

6. Israel

Fighting erupted again late today at a point on the Israeli-Jordanian border. The Israelis admit they have so far suffered one fatality. The presently heightened sensitivities on both sides increases the danger of a heavier than usual engagement this time.

7. Persian Gulf Area

British influence in the area is under increasing challenge from Egyptian-backed nationalists.

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8. Chile

Public indignation against the scheduled French nuclear tests in the Pacific is becoming so strong that the Chilean Government is being forced to consider more drastic action than the two protests it has recently made to the French ambassador.

The government is now seeking a meeting of foreign ministers of the South American Pacific coast states. It also hopes to obtain a United Nations investigation of the risk of radiation damage to South America.

9. Rumania

Brezhnev's arrival in Bucharest today suggests, in part, a Soviet effort to point out to the Rumanians their narrowing room for maneuver between Moscow and Peking.

Press reports say Brezhnev is being accompanied by a Soviet specialist in relations with ruling Asian Communist parties. With a particular eye to Chou En-lai's impending trip to Rumania later this month, the Russians are sure to try to obtain greater Rumanian backing for their position in the Sino-Soviet dispute.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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11 MAY 1966

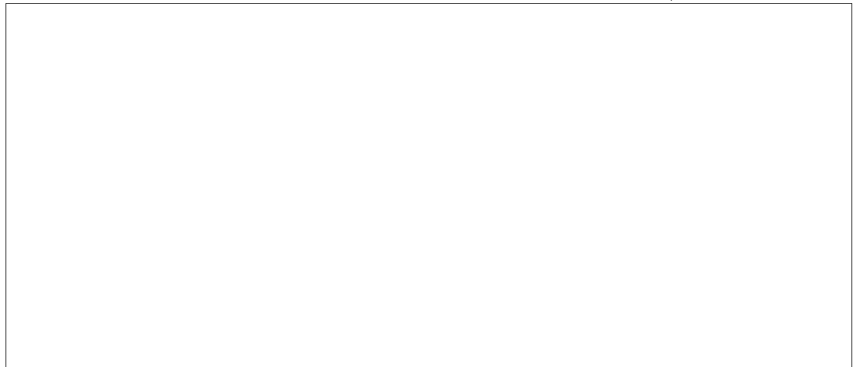
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DAILY BRIEF
11 MAY 1966

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1. Vietnam



2. South Vietnam

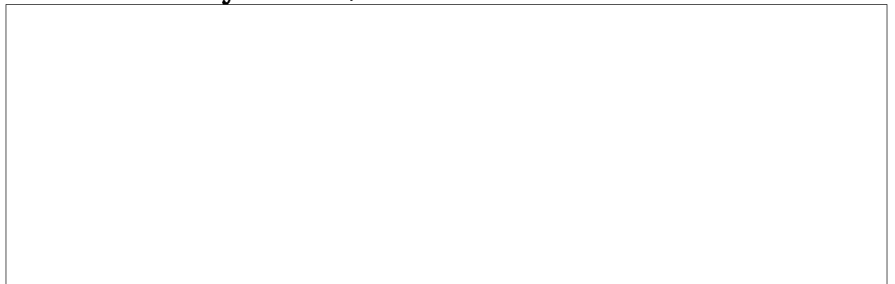
Ky today reiterated that the directorate will lead the government until elections for a new legislature are held, probably in mid-1967. His remarks--really impromptu responses to newsmen--were hedged and indirect, indicating that he has not taken the advice of close associates to make crystal clear how he thinks the government will evolve over the next year.

Meanwhile, some prominent Buddhist monks have been visiting provincial capitals, giving antiwar and anti-American speeches in which they urge soldiers to obey Buddhist leaders rather than Americans, and saying that Americans should be benefactors, but not owners, of Vietnam.

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3. Soviet Union

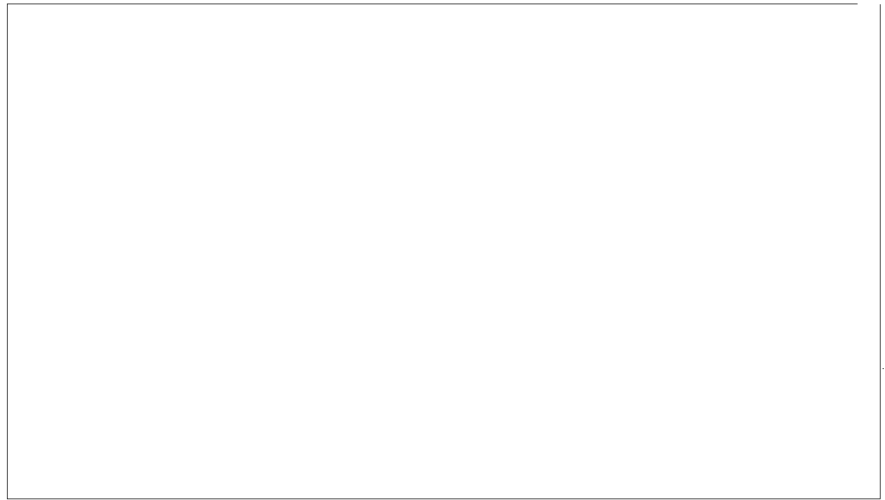
The late April US reconnaissance satellite mission continues to provide us with information on Soviet space and missile systems.



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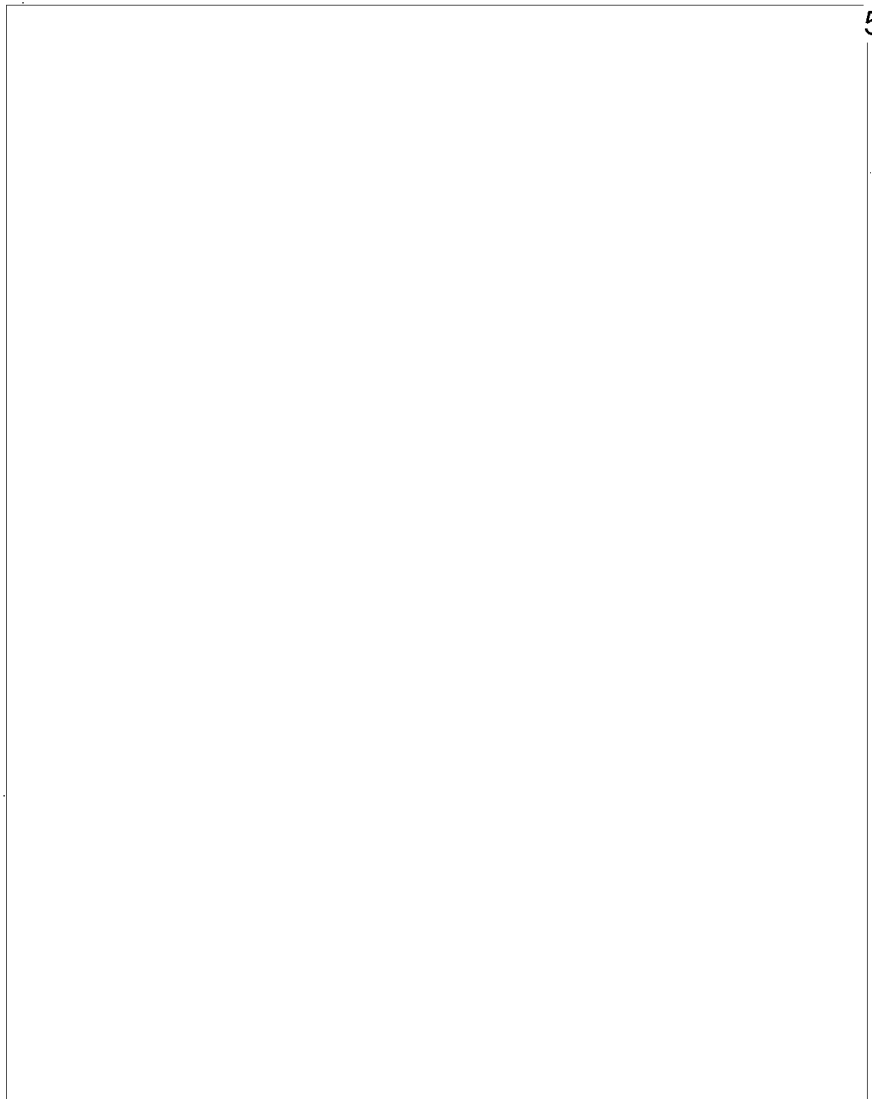
4. Soviet Union

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5. France

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6. Dominican Republic

As the 1 June elections draw near, there is more word of an agreement for a coalition among Bosch's principal opponents. A negotiator is quoted to the effect that Rafael Bonnelly, third runner in the field, has come to terms with Joaquin Balaguer, presumably to withdraw in Balaguer's favor.

The prospect of this has been bothering Bosch lately, even though he appears confident and has been given a slight edge by many observers. Bosch wants Bonnelly in the race to keep the center-to-right vote divided between Bonnelly and Balaguer.

7. Ecuador

Provisional president Yeroivi's weak government may soon face a new threat and perhaps another period of political turmoil.

Ex-president Velasco Ibarra, now in exile in Argentina, apparently intends to return to Ecuador, possibly on 28 May. This is the anniversary of a 1944 revolution which brought him to power for the second of his four presidential tenures.

Velasco at 73 is still a charismatic demagogue, and Ecuador is alive with rumors about his return.

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8. Laos

The Laotian General Staff, long jealous of the independence and growing power of General Ma, commander of the air force, has finally lowered the boom on him. He has been removed from command and assigned to the staff as deputy chief for operations and intelligence.

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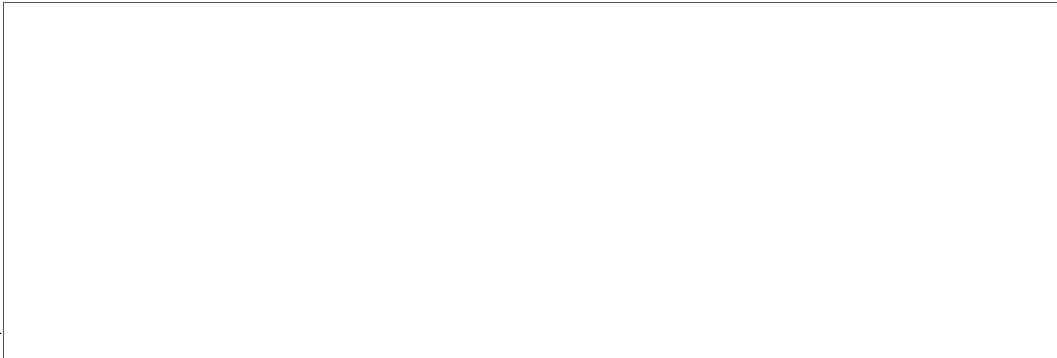
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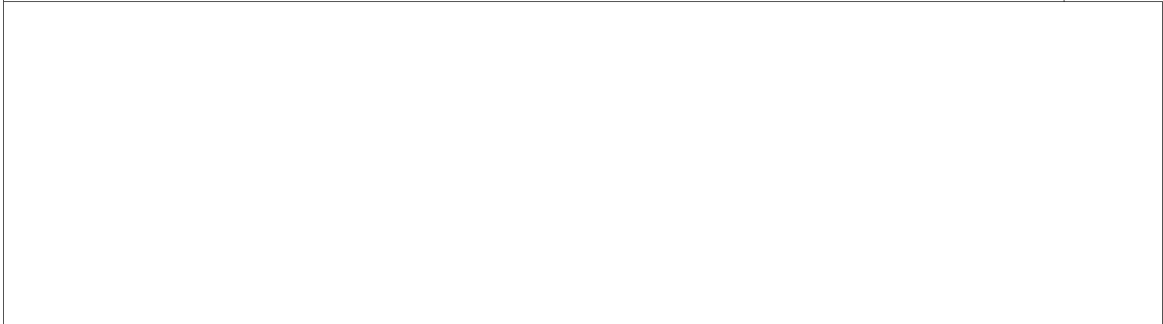
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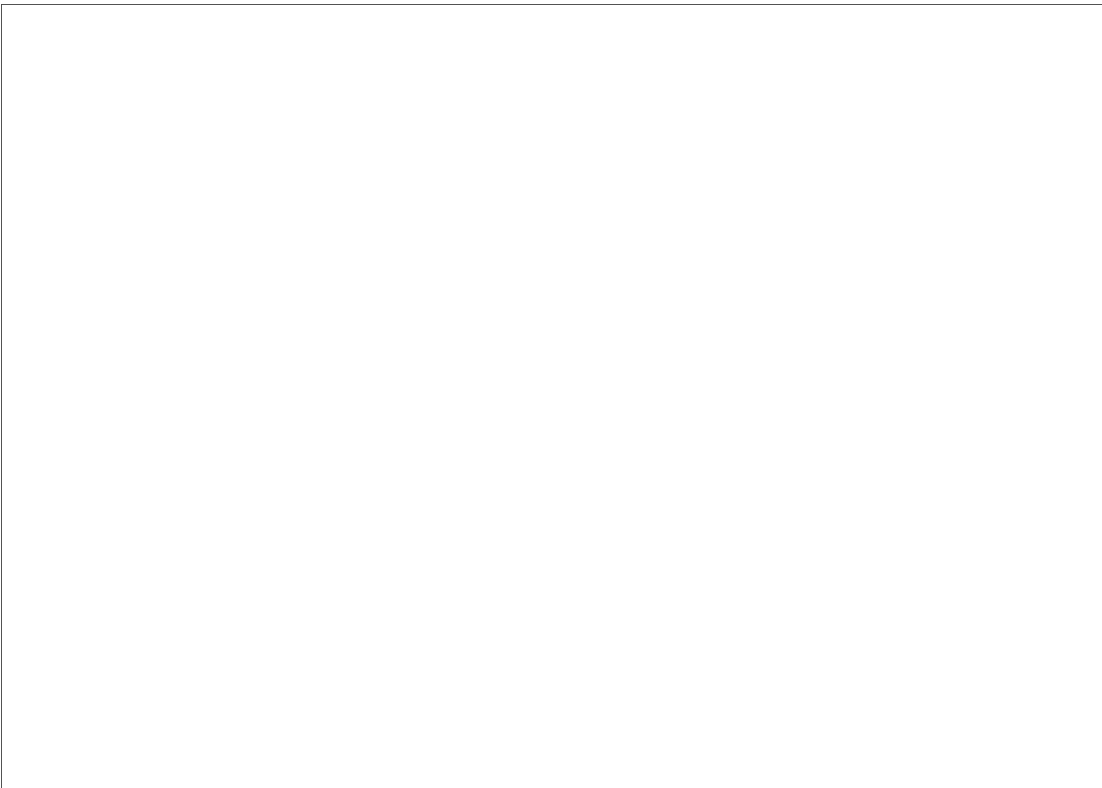
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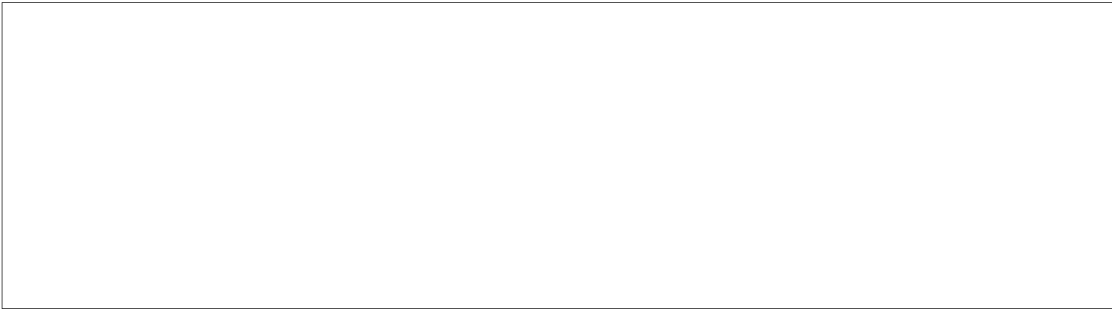


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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12 MAY 1966

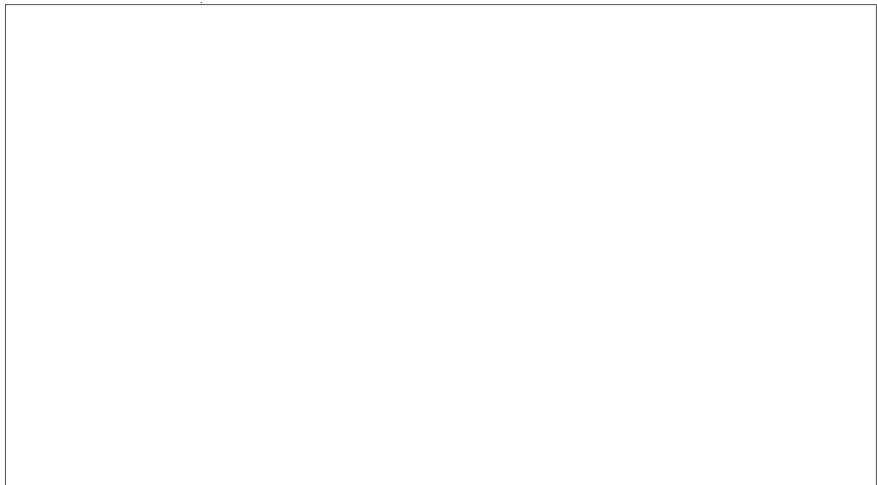
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23

DAILY BRIEF
12 MAY 1966

50X1

1. North Vietnam



2. South Vietnam

The danger of violence between "struggle" forces and their opponents has increased recently in the Hué area.

Yesterday, a district chief opposed to the "struggle forces" was replaced by a man who had taken part in the anti-government movement. The changeover took place with two companies of I Corps army troops on hand to prevent trouble. Nationalist party militants are said to feel bloodshed is still a "good possibility."

3. Laos

The General Ma affair has been settled, at least for the moment, by compromise. Ma will retain command of the Laotian Air Force, but his headquarters will be moved to Vientiane where the general staff can better monitor his activities. This face-saving formula may keep the factions in check for a while, but the attempt to undercut Ma will certainly impair the effectiveness of the air force for some time to come.

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4. Congo

Financial talks between the Congolese and the Belgians opened in Brussels today amid conflicting indications as to what may transpire. Congolese President Mobutu is not there

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The Congolese delegation, however, is less volatile than the President and might try to settle for only moderate concessions.

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Mobutu may be digging his political grave if he insists on pushing the Belgians too hard.

5. Sweden

A Swedish foreign ministry official has warned one of our diplomats in Stockholm to expect a major demonstration at the embassy over Vietnam sometime during the month. The embassy notes that next Thursday is a Swedish national holiday and this could provide the occasion. Both the Swedes and the Americans are reviewing their security precautions.

6. Chile

Indignation in Chile over the upcoming French nuclear tests is reaching the point where violence may come into play.

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labor leaders of the opposition Socialist Party will use the tests as one of the issues in a students' and teachers' strike planned to start tomorrow. If the strike goes well the party may call for demonstrations against the French and US embassies.

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7. Dominican Republic

Ambassador Bunker [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] feels the chances for free Dominican elections on 1 June are good. He believes the election race is very close.

The ambassador noted that most people in Santo Domingo and most Latin diplomats think a Bosch victory is inevitable; in the countryside, however, it is a different story. Balaguer is strong in the rural areas, and his campaign is well organized there.

On balance, Bunker thinks the results may well turn on the weather or the availability of transport to get the peasants to the polls. Election day falls during the rainy season.

The ambassador is optimistic that the Dominican military will not interfere with a constitutional government. He "hopes" Bosch will accept the election results.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

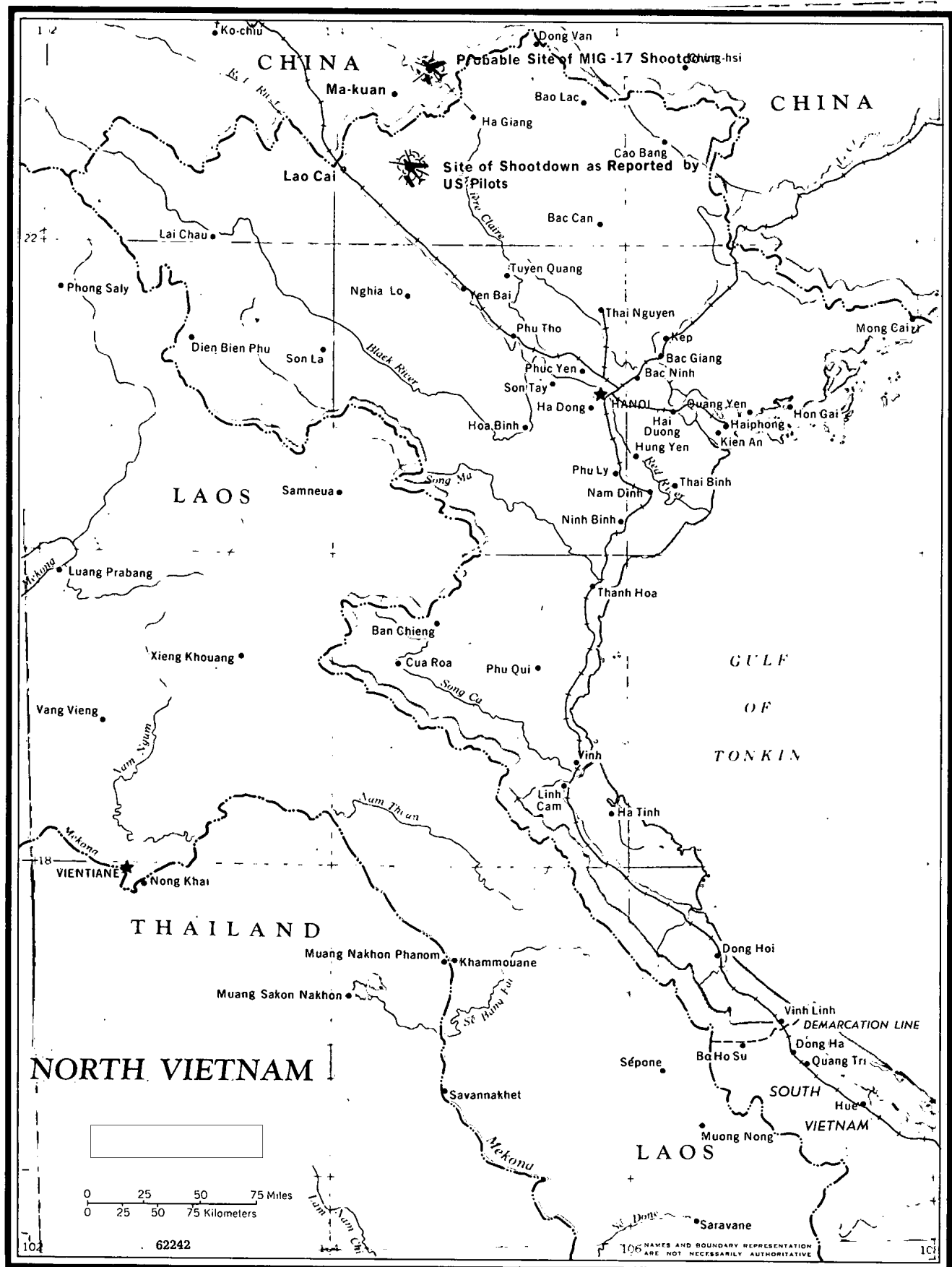


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13 MAY 1966

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50X1

DAILY BRIEF
13 MAY 1966

1. Vietnam

[REDACTED] Chinese probably believe that their MIG fighter was indeed shot down yesterday over China. [REDACTED]

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Peking's first public reaction to the incident suggests that the Chinese do not intend an immediate or major act of retaliation, such as the Chinese ground action which Chou En-lai has alluded to as a possible counter to US air or sea attacks. The ominous notes sounded appear largely to be atmospherics.

Peking may in fact interpret the shootdown as an American response to the Chinese attempt to attack US aircraft over North Vietnam on 8 May.

2. South Vietnam

Premier Ky now says he will make no further comments to the press on the subject of elections. The Buddhists, he claims, might be the first to sabotage elections for an assembly since they know they cannot obtain a majority of the seats.

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3. France

France and the Soviets may sign a space cooperation agreement before De Gaulle's June trip to the USSR. [REDACTED]

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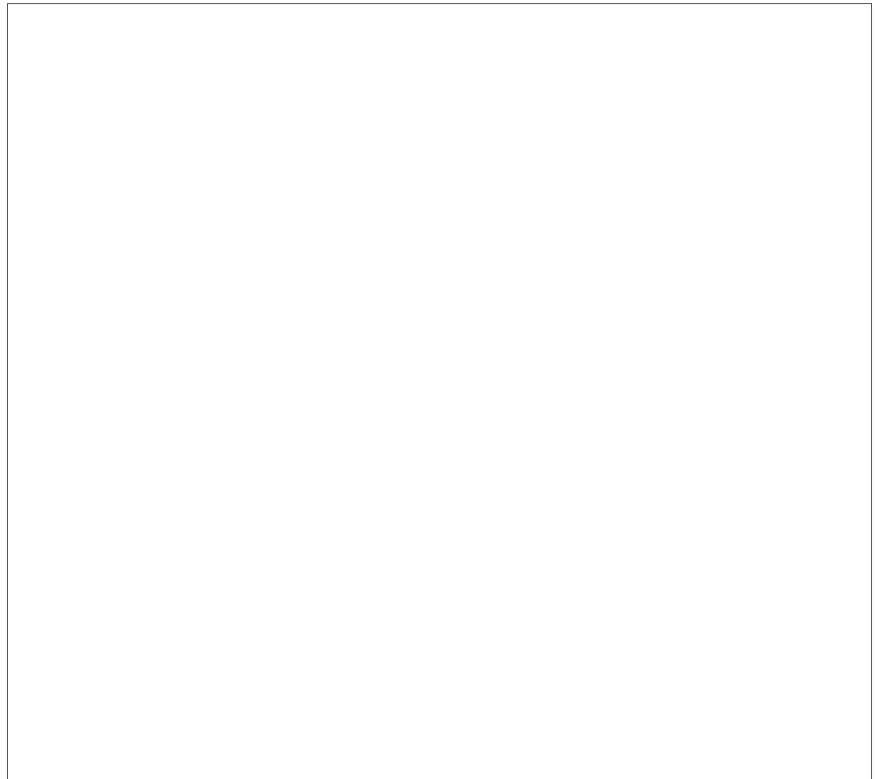
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[REDACTED] the Soviets renewed their offer to launch French satellites, and for the first time promised the French access to the launch site--presumably Tyuratam, where non-Communists have never been permitted.

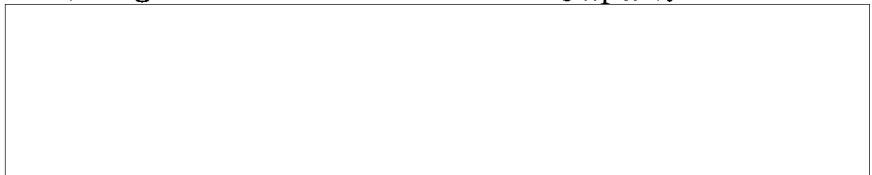
4. Communist China



5. Japan

China's nuclear test may shake Japan out of its long-standing belief that Peking is not a threat to Japan.

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Japanese press reaction to the test has almost uniformly warned of the possible Chinese Communist threat.

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6. India

As expected, the Chinese test appears already to have triggered a second round in India's great debate on nuclear policy. The US Embassy notes a significant shift in parliamentary opinion, with several deputies formerly opposed to Indian possession of the bomb now calling for immediate construction of one. The director of India's atomic energy establishment acknowledges that "parliamentary fallout" over the test is severe.

The pro-bomb forces will push their case vigorously, encouraged by their apparent feeling that Mrs. Gandhi will not offer as hard-nosed opposition as did Shastri. Parliament will adjourn next week, however, and after that proponents of the bomb will not have any well-publicized forum until the next session in mid-August.

7. Pakistan

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8. Argentina

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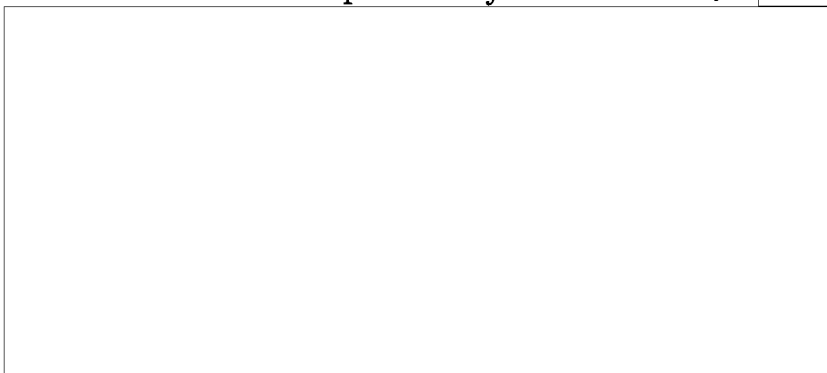
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9. Iraq

Talks between leaders of the four-year-old Kurdish rebellion and the prime minister have reportedly foundered.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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14 MAY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
14 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

The principal labor confederation today threatened to call a general strike in the Saigon area on Monday unless the government acts against the police for recent alleged antilabor acts. The US Embassy notes that the confederation's specific demands this time are "unquestionably reasonable" and believes the government will give in.

The strike threat seems to be a result of an accumulation of grievances by this generally progovernment labor group.

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On the political scene, a prominent Buddhist monk referred publicly today to Ky's statements regarding his continuation in office for another year. He said simply that, for the moment, he cannot take these remarks seriously.

2. North Vietnam

The high-level Rumanian visitors to Hanoi seem to have accomplished little if anything. Reading between the lines of the joint communiqué issued on their departure leaves the impression of important areas of disagreement.

The communiqué included the usual mutually gratifying language, but omitted the customary reference to a "complete identity of views." The Rumanians very likely tried to budge the North Vietnamese on the issue of negotiations and got nowhere.

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3. Rumania

[redacted] Soviet leader Brezhnev's talks in Bucharest this week with Rumanian leaders suggest that differences between the two countries are indeed basic.

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These differences are illustrated by the highly nationalistic tone of a recent speech by Rumanian party chief Ceausescu, widely reported in this morning's press. Contrary to the press, however, we believe this speech was intended to make the Rumanian position clear before Brezhnev arrived, rather than being the cause of his visit. The trip was scheduled as early as April.

More to the point, there is good evidence that the Russians have been concerned with Rumania's apparent independent efforts to widen its neutralist role in Asian affairs, both in the Sino-Soviet dispute and in seeking for the first time to establish a role for itself in the Vietnam situation.

The other major issue between Moscow and Bucharest is probably Rumania's long efforts to reduce its role in Warsaw Pact affairs and perhaps [redacted]

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to disengage from the Pact coincident with France's decisions concerning NATO.

4. Poland

Warsaw yesterday demanded that three of the four US defense attachés there leave the country.

Although not billed as such, this action was in retaliation for the 4 May expulsion of a Polish attaché from the US, which in turn was in retaliation for harassment of US attachés in Poland. The delayed response came hard upon news of the House Ways and Means Committee's refusal to consider the East-West trade bill this year.

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5. Rhodesia

[redacted] the London talks with Rhodesian representatives, which began on Tuesday, are off to a slow start. There is much sparring and reluctance to come to grips with the problems.

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Meanwhile, the Portuguese are convincing themselves that Britain intends to dump the blame for the continued survival of Rhodesia at their door. They contend that, because of economic self-interest, London cannot bear down on South Africa. This hypothesis also includes the notion that Britain intends to invade Rhodesia through Mozambique.

Lisbon is in fact reinforcing its already substantial forces in Mozambique, but this is at least in part directed against growing African insurgency there.

6. Guatemala

Terrorists in Guatemala City yesterday machine-gunned a police patrol car, killing one officer and wounding two. The terrorists escaped. This may not have been a planned incident, since it appeared that the terrorists simply panicked when halted for an ordinary traffic violation.

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[redacted] There is still no clue as to the whereabouts of the government officials kidnaped last week.

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7. Bolivia

Developing political tensions may force postponement of the 3 July national elections.

There is squabbling among the four parties composing the electoral alliance of General Barrientos, who is still the only presidential candidate. Student hostility, agitation in the tin mines, and opposition of most other political parties to the elections are further muddying the waters.

TOP SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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16 MAY 1966

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23



DAILY BRIEF
16 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

There was minor small-arms fire in Da Nang tonight, Vietnam time; Saigon and Hué were quiet. By all accounts this is only a temporary lull while the "struggle" forces plan their retaliatory moves against the government.

The hard core of the opposition, in fact, met in Hué this morning. Former I Corps commanders Thi and Dinh, 1st Division commander Nhuan and Tri Quang were all present.

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2. West Germany

Bonn's firm line on the conditions for French troops remaining in Germany is coming under open attack from those in favor of a softer approach.

Franz-Josef Strauss, Adenauer's defense minister and a long-time enemy of Erhard, is the most outspoken critic. He agrees that there should be no reversion to occupation status, but considers the government's tactics too hard and legalistic. Strauss would apparently go quite far to obtain a compromise permitting French troops to remain.

For a variety of reasons, many Germans still shy away from a showdown with France. Some feel a break with France would bury forever all hope of European unification. Others fear a confrontation now would cause De Gaulle, while in Moscow, to take positions inimical to German interests.

3. United Kingdom

The seamen's strike could literally paralyze the British economy if it lasts more than a couple of weeks. Any settlement seems remote at this point. Dockworkers have pledged to support the seamen by refusing to unload strikebreaking foreign vessels.

Wilson is considering a wide range of emergency measures, some of them quite drastic. He may be obliged to use the navy to move strikebound ships from the docks and to use troops to replace dockworkers.

4. Israel

If the Israelis were looking for a pretext for a reprisal raid into Syria, they now have one. Two Israeli farmers were killed by a land mine near the border today. The Fatah terrorists, who will probably be blamed, are supported by the Syrian Government.

5.

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50X6

6. Rhodesia

Tomorrow, the Africans will have their day in the Security Council on the Rhodesian issue. The British are still hoping to head off a vote on an African resolution. They intend to review the steps they are taking and stress that now is not the time for a substantive resolution. If it does come to a vote, they are confident there will be sufficient abstentions to block a resolution.

7. Ghana

The new government has extended an old contract, initiated by the Nkrumah regime, to import Soviet crude oil. It has also increased the amount it will buy.

This move, seemingly inconsistent with the Western orientation of the new leaders, is a reflection of Ghana's continuing foreign exchange crisis. The oil deal may encourage continued major Soviet purchases of cocoa, Ghana's principal export.

8. Dominican Republic

Little more than two weeks before election day, there are some signs that a swing may be developing toward Balaguer.

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President Garcia Godoy also thinks he senses a trend toward Balaguer, who he believes will get the votes of people who want, first of all, peace and jobs. If such a trend does materialize, it will tend to gather in those many voters who are still undecided but want to vote for a winner.

Bosch may sense a swing against him. His speech yesterday was an angry one in which he charged that his enemies were preparing to cheat him of victory. He implied a threat to withdraw from the campaign. This may be only the first of a series of speeches in a similar vein.

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9. Ecuador

Ex-president Velasco now definitely plans a triumphant return from exile next week. His friends and enemies alike are saying that all the old demagogue will have to do is to start talking and the people, politicians, and probably some military will sweep him to power again.

Interim president Yerovi, oppressed by the government's seemingly impossible financial problems, may simply throw up his hands and take off. Characteristically, Velasco is reported saying he will demand legalization of the Communist Party when he returns next week.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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17 MAY 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
17 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

The standoff continues, but clashes between opposing South Vietnamese troops in the I Corps area could occur without warning. Ky sent more combat police to Da Nang today and intends to send a Ranger battalion there tomorrow to replace one of doubtful loyalty.

A column of Saigon troops moved up the road from Da Nang toward Hué, apparently only to block the road at a pass some ten miles from Da Nang. But the possibility of a move on to Hué was treated as a certainty by the Hué radio which called on all units today to prepare to defend the city.

General Cao, Ky's new I Corps commander, made a number of efforts during the day to bring under his control the rebellious troops in the corps area.

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First Division commander Nhuan refused to see him when he went to Hué. Cao's tactics, thus far, seem carefully designed to avoid undue provocation.

Buddhist leader Tri Quang also seems to be counseling moderation among his followers. He seems to have headed off an angry anti-US demonstration after the incident in Hué when a US helicopter gunner killed the South Vietnamese lieutenant who had fired at General Cao's helicopter. Later, he told the US vice consul that "I have saved American lives this morning."

A Hué radiobroadcast subsequently featured the "tragic massacre" of Hué citizens at the airport, but blamed this "criminal act" solely on the "bloodthirsty Thieu-Ky clique."

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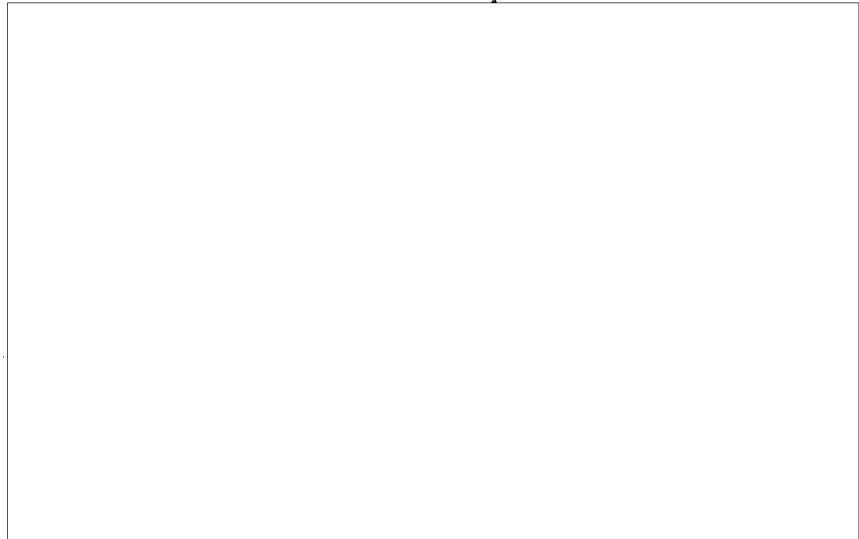
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2. France



3. Communist China

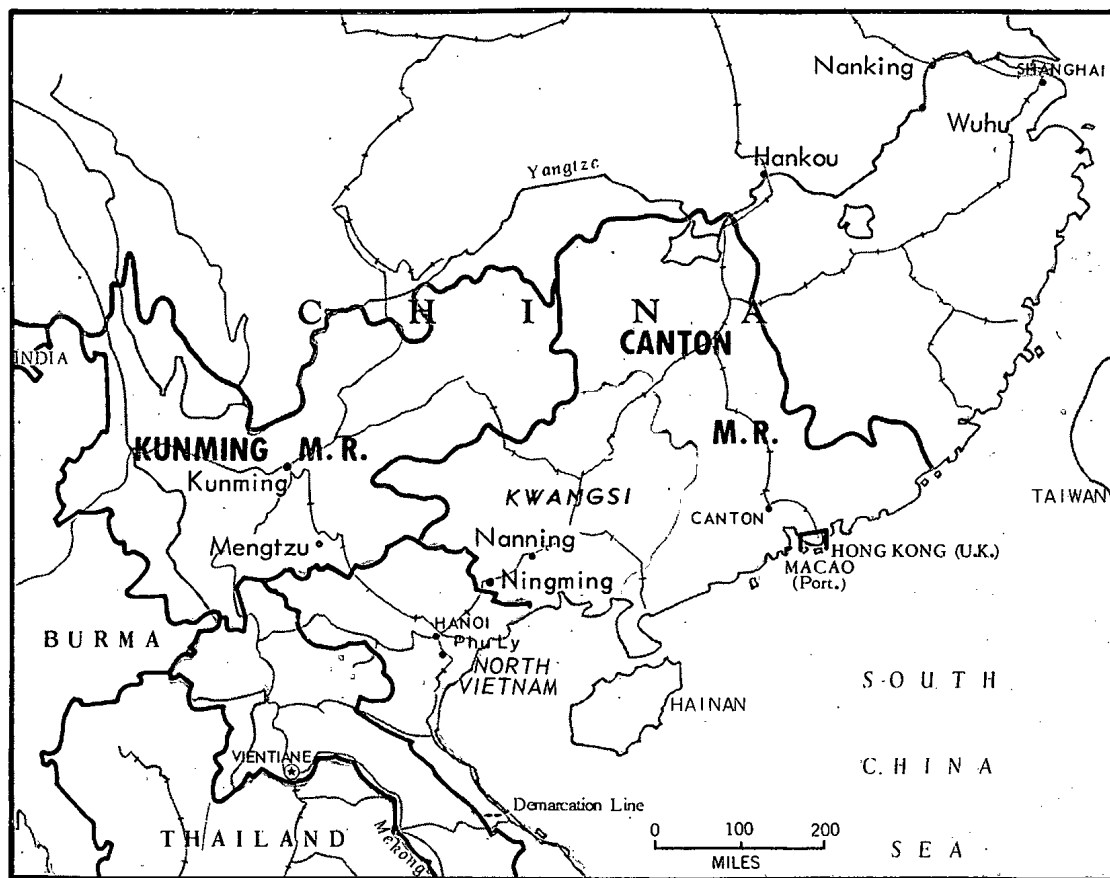


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4. Communist China

Peking radio announced today that China is publicizing photographs of the missile remains and jettisoned fuel tanks from the US plane that shot down the Chinese fighter near the North Vietnamese border last Thursday. These, of course, could be faked, but it does carry the Chinese propaganda on this incident another notch higher.

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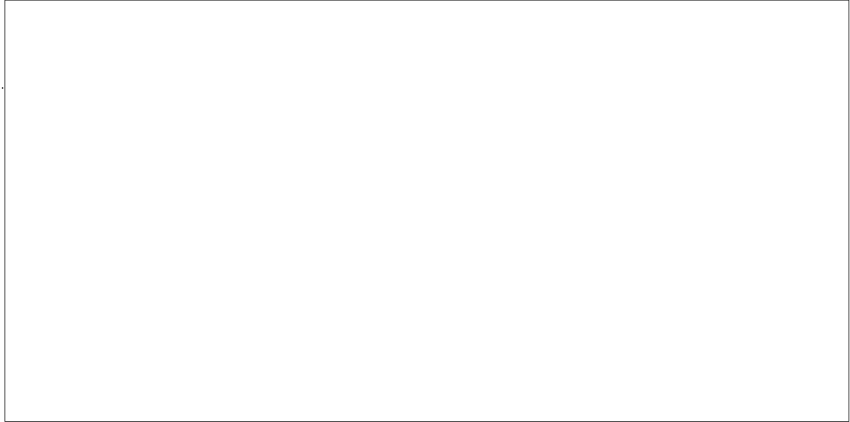


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5. Communist China

The Chinese may be improving their surface-to-air missile defenses in South China. 50X1

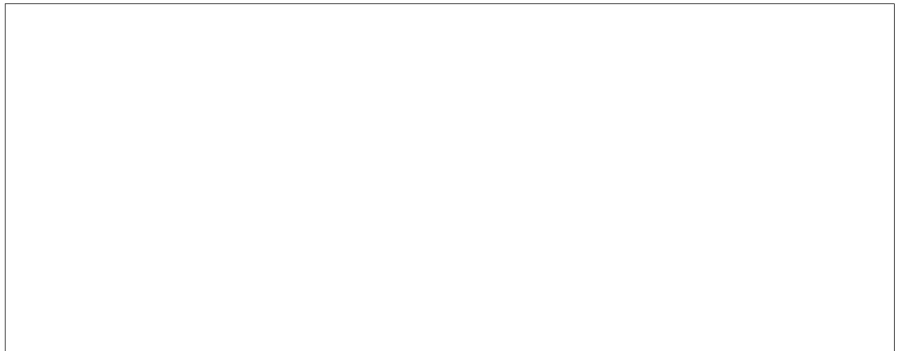


6. Syria

The three-month-old radical Baath military regime has not developed any firm power base. Some key military units are still not giving it full support, and factionalism among the coup group itself appears to be increasing. An open conflict among the military leaders could break out at any time.

7. Canada

Prime Minister Pearson, who beat down the opposition in a close censure vote early this month, may soon be faced with a crisis of confidence within his own Liberal Party.



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8. Dominican Republic

In a ten-minute speech this afternoon, Bosch gave the government an ultimatum of 48 hours to end what he described yesterday as the "panorama of mounting violence" against his followers. This is probably a Bosch ploy to get back in the headlines and to justify his reluctance to campaign in person. However, if he becomes convinced that he will not win, there is a good chance of his using this claim of violence to withdraw.

9. Congo

The financial talks between the Congolese and Belgians, which opened in Brussels last week, promise to be long and difficult. Mobutu is determined to show that he runs the Congo, and his large delegation appears ready to call into question Belgium's whole position in the country.

Specifically, the delegation is bent on renegotiating the settlement the Tshombé government made concerning the interlocked Belgian-Congolese public and private debt servicing--a dreadful can of worms dating back to preindependence days.

The Belgians are not prepared to reopen this question. Concerned, however, about the vulnerability of the 35,000 Belgians and the country's large investment in the Congo, they probably will be civil to the Congolese and hope that Mobutu will soon cool down.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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18 MAY 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
18 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

Although open clashes have been avoided in I Corps area, neither side has made, or seems ready to make, any concessions.

In Da Nang, government troops and struggle forces are continuing to reinforce their positions. Struggle forces, including Vietnamese Army troops, still hold the Tinh Hoi pagoda--the focal point of the confrontation.

Some government officers are reportedly urging an all-out attack on the pagoda, but Ky told Deputy Ambassador Porter that he was opposed to this course.

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Hue was "reasonably calm," but with barricades on many streets. There have been no reports suggesting an immediate government move on the city. A strike has shut down shops, markets, and public transportation, but no anti-American activity was observed. Tri Quang--who has been counseling moderation among his followers and was charming on Monday--was somber, combative, and sometimes little short of insulting in talking to the US vice consul today.

General Thi, whose ouster as I Corps commander precipitated the present troubles, has agreed to meet Ky tomorrow in Chu Lai.

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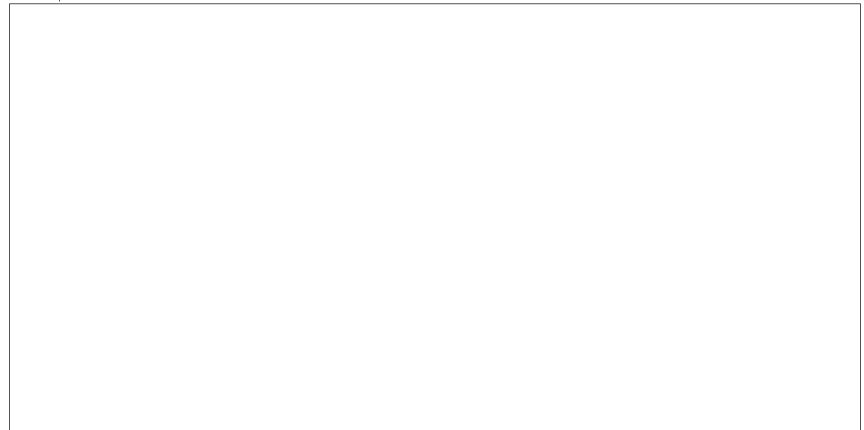
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2. Soviet Union



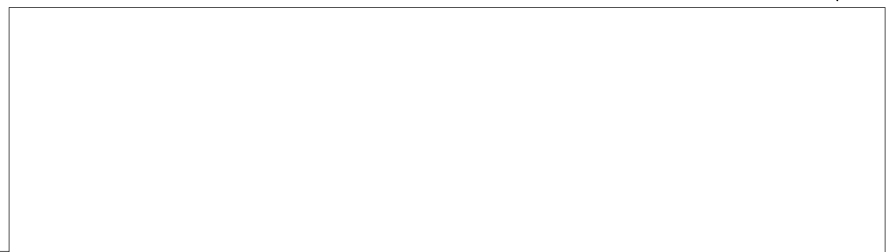
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3. France



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4. Egypt



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5. Uganda

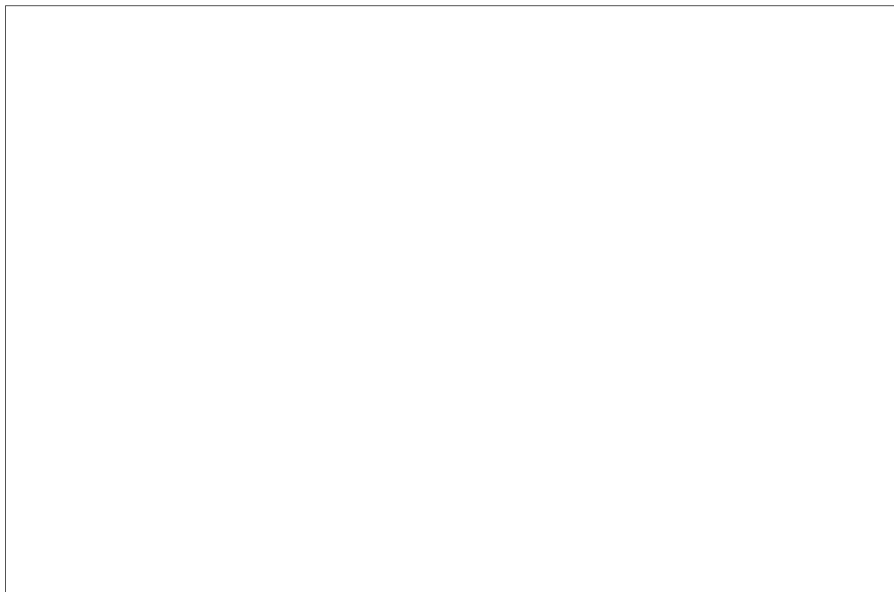
Obote is still obviously worried that his opposition might try to bring him down. When parliament reconvened on Monday, he made sure that soldiers with Sten guns were in the courtyard and that his jet trainers were flying overhead. Even the public and the diplomatic corps have been excluded from the sessions.

The police in the capital area have been placed on stand-by alert until further notice.

6. Guatemala

A guerrilla band identified as belonging to the Communist Party's action arm killed 14 members of an army patrol yesterday in the mountains northeast of Guatemala City. This is the largest number of casualties that the guerrillas have ever inflicted in a single action. The incident took place in spite of the state of siege which the government decreed last week.

7. Communist China



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8. Nationalist China

The leaders of Nationalist China now seem more pessimistic over the trend of events in the Far East than at any time since their defeat on the mainland in 1949. This feeling has been brought about by such things as the decline of Nationalist military power relative to that of Communist China, Peking nuclear successes, and Nationalist defeats in sporadic clashes with the Communists in the Taiwan Strait.

On top of these factors, Chiang Kai-shek and his advisers are thoroughly upset and dejected by the China policy discussions in the US.

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All of this would seem to indicate that the Nationalists will be increasingly difficult to deal with in the future.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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19 MAY 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
19 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

Da Nang was reported to be quiet tonight after the clash there earlier today.

Just who is in command of the government force at Da Nang is not clear at the moment. The new corps commander and part of his staff have taken refuge at US headquarters, and National Police Director Loan, who was on the scene apparently undercutting him, has gone back to Saigon. The unit commanders on the spot are reported to be under orders to watch the pagodas but not to attack them. Premier Ky told Deputy Ambassador Porter today in Saigon that his plan now is to cordon them off to block the entrance of supplies.

Ky also says he has made no plan to move against Hué. He apparently hopes the dissident military force there will wither on the vine; the troops, he claims, will begin to desert back to their units when their pay is due at the end of the month.

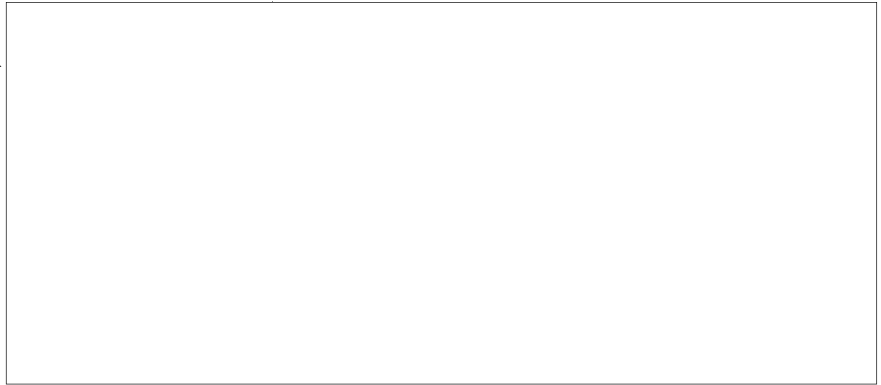
In Hué, General Thi, whose scheduled meeting with Ky fell apart, takes the line that as long as Ky stays in power "there will be turmoil," and that any meeting between the two must be in Hué on Thi's terms.

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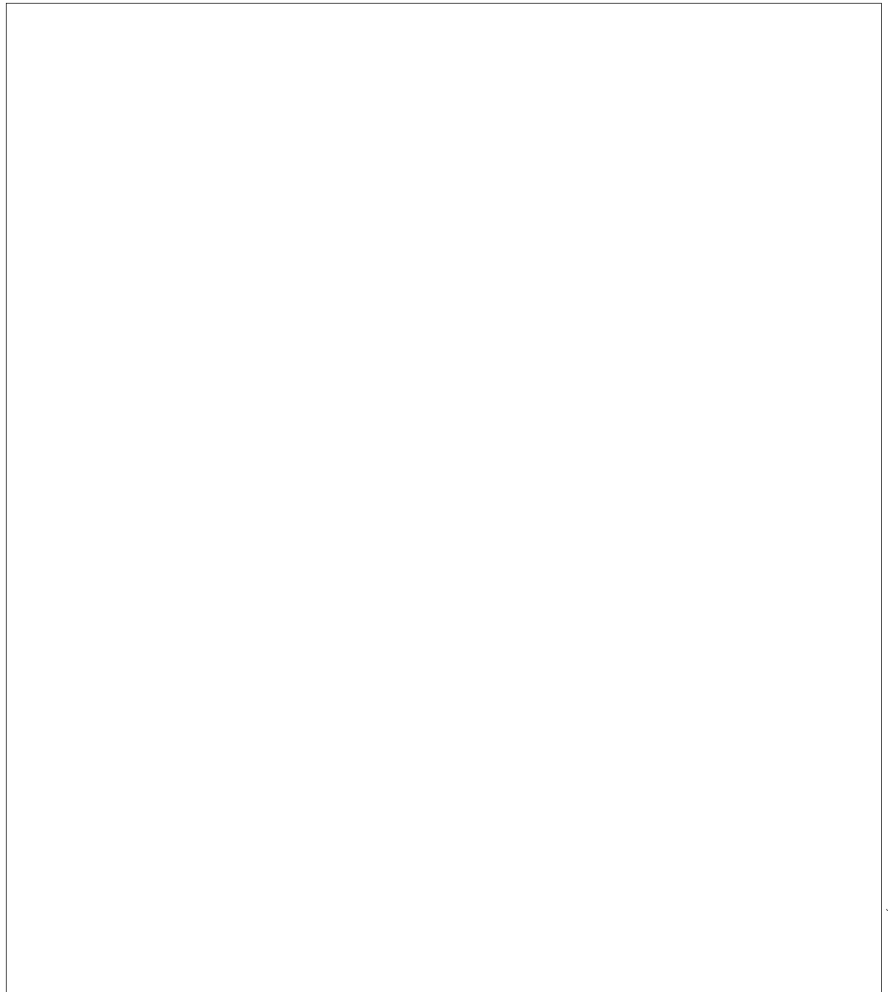
2. Soviet Union

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3. France

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4. Cuba

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5. Dominican Republic

Bosch's party has withdrawn the election boycott threat, at least for this time, and there are signs that the candidate's grandstand play may have backfired.

Bosch's detailed charges that incidents of "political persecution" have taken place in various parts of the country have proven exaggerated, misleading, or mere rumormongering.

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Some Bosch partisans are reported convinced that their campaign has lost ground in recent weeks. They say they need at least 45 more days to reverse what they sense to be a swing to Balaguer. Thus they are seeking ways to have the elections postponed, at least until 1 July.

6. Indonesia

There are signs of progress in Foreign Minister Malik's effort to end Sukarno's old policy of "confrontation" against Malaysia.

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official talks between the two countries may get under way next week.

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TOP SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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20 MAY 1966

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23

2. Communist China

Signs are growing that a behind-the-scenes power struggle among Chinese leaders is under way.

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3. Rhodesia

Another crisis is brewing over Zambia's policy toward the jointly owned Rhodesian-Zambian railway system. Kaunda is refusing to meet financial demands levied by Rhodesia, and the latter could take counteraction that might cost Zambia the use of Rhodesian rail lines long before alternative routes to sustain the Zambian economy are available.

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4. Arab States

The standard hostile Arab comment is already flowing in on this morning's announcement that the US will sell subsonic jet attack aircraft to Israel. In addition, however, a number of conservative, pro-US Arab leaders feel undercut at a time when they are girding for a new round of infighting with Nasir.

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5. Yemen

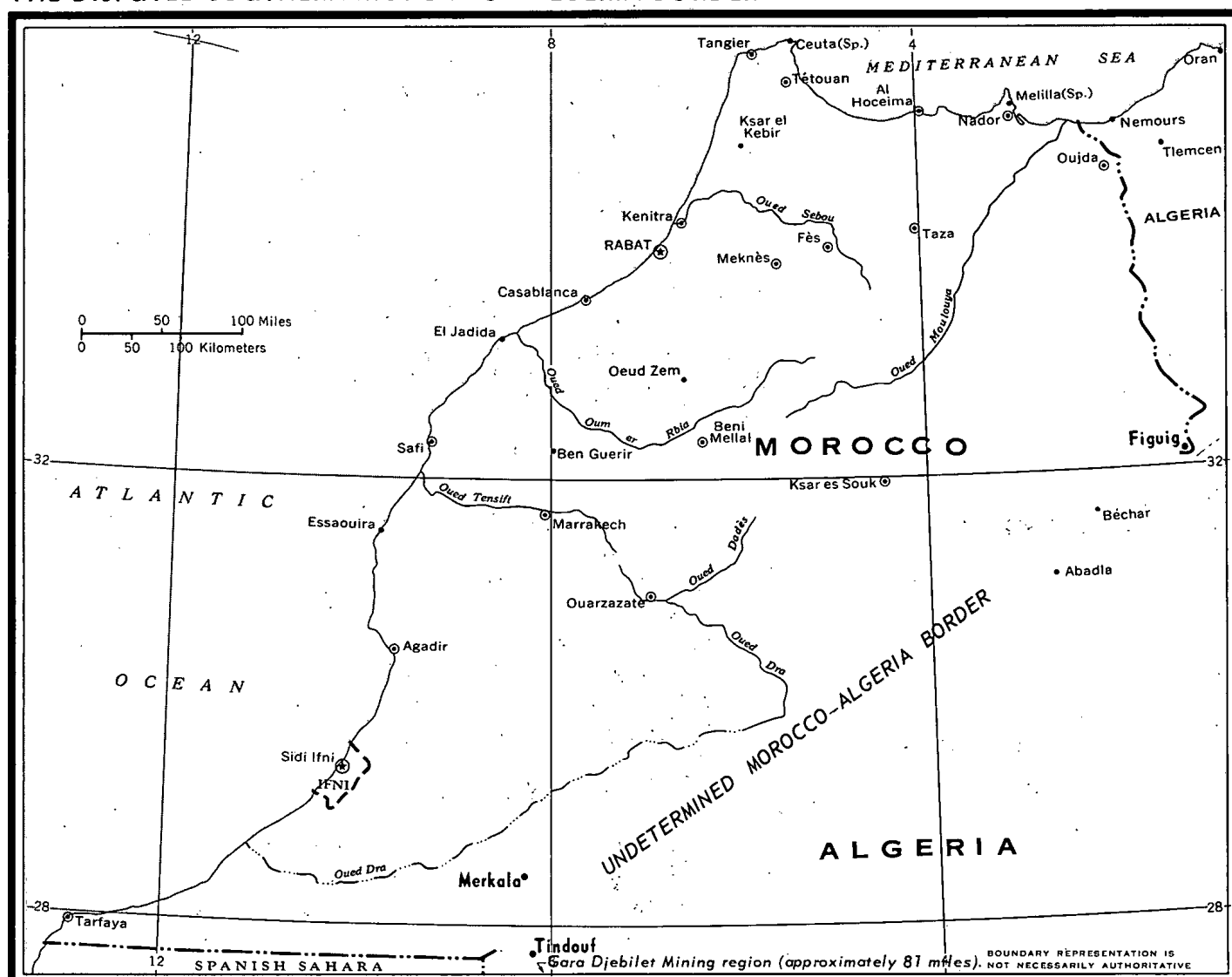
Efforts, this time sponsored by the Kuwaitis, to get the Egyptians and the Saudis talking again about the Yemen problem have foundered.

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The Saudis, jittery over Nasir's recent threats to attack them if they continue to support the Yemeni royalists, are airlifting troops to the border area. These troops, however, are too few and ineffective to deter the Egyptians if they really want to attack. With the principal backers of the two Yemeni factions in this mood, plans to reconvene the so far abortive Harad peace conference next week may evaporate.

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THE DISPUTED SOUTHERN MOROCCO-ALGERIA BORDER



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6. Morocco

Tensions are rising along the disputed border with Algeria. [redacted] the Algerians have reinforced their troops in the area between Figuig and Tindouf (see map), supposedly "demilitarized" after serious border fighting in 1963. A clash may already have occurred around a town Moroccan messages claim has been occupied by an Algerian infantry battalion "and two camel platoons."

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Hot-tempered local commanders may cause further incidents, but both Algiers and Rabat will try to keep the lid on. However, King Hassan, who is convinced that the Algerian military machine will ultimately be used against him, may get alarmed enough to press again for increased US military assistance. The Algerians have received considerable quantities of Soviet arms since 1963.

7. Pakistan

[redacted] the Pakistanis, convinced that nothing will come of "the spirit of Tashkent," intend to increase incidents along the border in Kashmir. The idea is to create such a crisis atmosphere that the UN would then do something about Indian intransigence on Kashmir, but to stop short of provoking India into starting general hostilities.

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Relations between the two countries have been steadily deteriorating in recent days, however, and the Pakistani plan could easily get out of control.

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8. Bolivia

Prospects for the 3 July elections coming off as scheduled appear somewhat better. The ruling junta has rejected a petition for postponement, while two and perhaps three parties have finally decided to oppose Barrientos' front in the congressional elections. Barrientos is still the only presidential candidate.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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21 MAY 1966

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26

DAILY BRIEF
21 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

Ambassador Lodge is urgently trying to arrange a meeting with Premier Ky, who has been out of Saigon during the day. The purpose here is to get a late reading on Ky's plans, and if all goes well, to discuss the possibility of a meeting between Ky and General Thi. Lodge will offer to serve as mediator between the two.

Thi said yesterday that such a meeting would be fruitless, but US officials on the scene say that he may be receptive to further overtures.

At Da Nang, fighting continued into the evening following the taking of the Tan Ninh pagoda this morning. There are still no indications what else the struggle forces may do to retaliate against this action.

Saigon is generally quiet tonight, Vietnam time.

2. Ecuador

Former president Velasco is expected to arrive in Guayaquil Tuesday morning and, naturally, to make a speech in the plaza.

His followers appear to have had less success in drumming up enthusiasm for their chief this time than upon previous returns to the country, and the crowd will probably be smaller than usual. The enthusiasm his followers create, however, is no measure of that which will be generated by the magnetic presence of the old master himself.

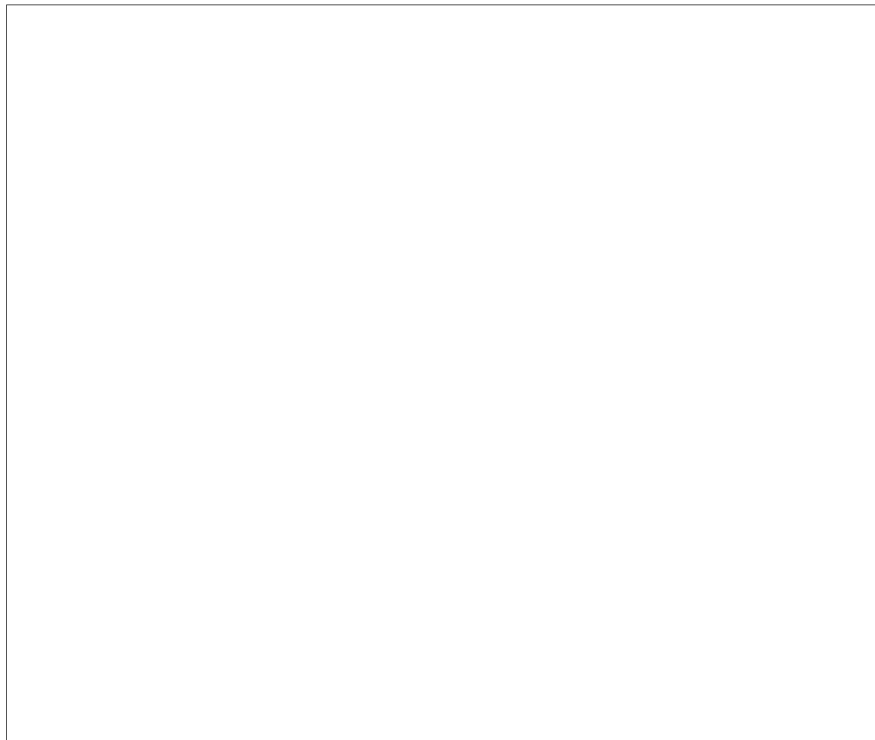
Widespread antigovernment strikes are adding to the nationwide unrest.

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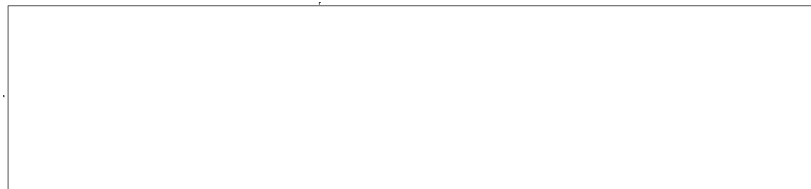
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3. Zambia

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4. Rhodesia

The "exploratory" UK-Rhodesian talks in London, kept under extremely close wraps by Wilson's order, ended yesterday. A terse communiqué will be issued this afternoon. A British team will go to Salisbury next weekend for a second round.

An official of the Commonwealth Relations Office told our embassy that the talks dealt with how Rhodesia might be returned to constitutional rule--since Britain absolutely will not negotiate with an illegal regime. The question of how and with whom negotiations might take place, and the general shape of a solution, were also discussed. No agreement was reached, or expected, on any of these points.

50X1



5. Guatemala

The government appears to be stepping up antiguerrilla action in the wake of Tuesday's ambush of an army patrol in which 14 soldiers were killed.

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6. Dominican Republic

Press reports of an attempted assassination of Balaguer yesterday appear overdrawn.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

23 MAY 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

DAILY BRIEF
23 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

Antigovernment resistance in Da Nang has crumbled completely. The government intends to put "pressure" on Hué, but we know of no plans for a military assault on that city.

Ky apparently intends to be magnanimous in victory. Today he told Ambassador Lodge that he would give amnesty to those who had surrendered at the main Da Nang pagoda. He also said he was planning a Berlin-type airlift of food and medicines to the city.

Ky hopes to use the "peoples congress" scheduled for Saigon tomorrow--at which he says there will be representatives from Hué and Da Nang--to capitalize politically on his Da Nang victory. He plans to reiterate his desire to hold elections.

In Da Nang itself there was no noticeable gloating or rejoicing by government troops, who during the afternoon busily used leaflets, broadcasts, and handbills in an effort to win support from the population.

The Buddhists may try to keep the pot boiling, however. Today, Tri Quang, in a "heated, well-modulated shout," berated the US vice consul in Hué for what he termed US alliance with Thieu and Ky, and made veiled threats of "massive demonstrations" and "direct action" against the consulate. A two-hour anti-American demonstration outside the Buddhist Institute in Saigon today was broken up by Vietnamese paratroopers and marines.

2. Indonesia

Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik now plans to meet Malaysian Deputy Premier Razak in Bangkok at the end of the month. Malik says he hopes to have the confrontation issue finally buttoned up shortly thereafter.

Malik realizes, however, that Sukarno may not support the agreement which Malik hopes to reach with Razak. If this is the case, Malik will wait to table his plan until August when the Provisional Assembly is scheduled to meet.

50X1

3. Mozambique

Rebel activity in northern Mozambique is inching upwards. Portuguese officials say that their forces last week defeated the largest single rebel push to date--some 1,500 guerrillas who had moved in from across the Tanzanian border.

The Portuguese added 3,500 additional troops to their 30,000-man force in Mozambique last week. Others will probably be needed.

50X1

4. Uganda

Disturbances have broken out between Obote's central forces and supporters of one of Uganda's leading regional leaders. The basic issue is Obote's high-handed methods and his bloodless coup of last February.

During the weekend, firing was reported on the outskirts of Kampala, and government roadblocks have been set up since that time. Both sides seem ready and able to continue the fight.

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5. Dominican Republic

The political temperature is becoming dangerously hot as the Dominican election campaign goes into its final week. There have already been sporadic incidents of violence recently, and the charges and countercharges of fraud, corruption, and intimidation are growing more numerous with each passing day. In this situation, the chances for serious disturbances before 1 June are very real.

6. Bolivia

The military junta is still determined to hold elections on 3 July. The recent efforts by opposition parties to get a 90-day delay have been summarily rejected.

This turn of events considerably improves the chances for a peaceful resolution of Bolivia's political crisis, although there is still ample time for the situation to fall apart.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



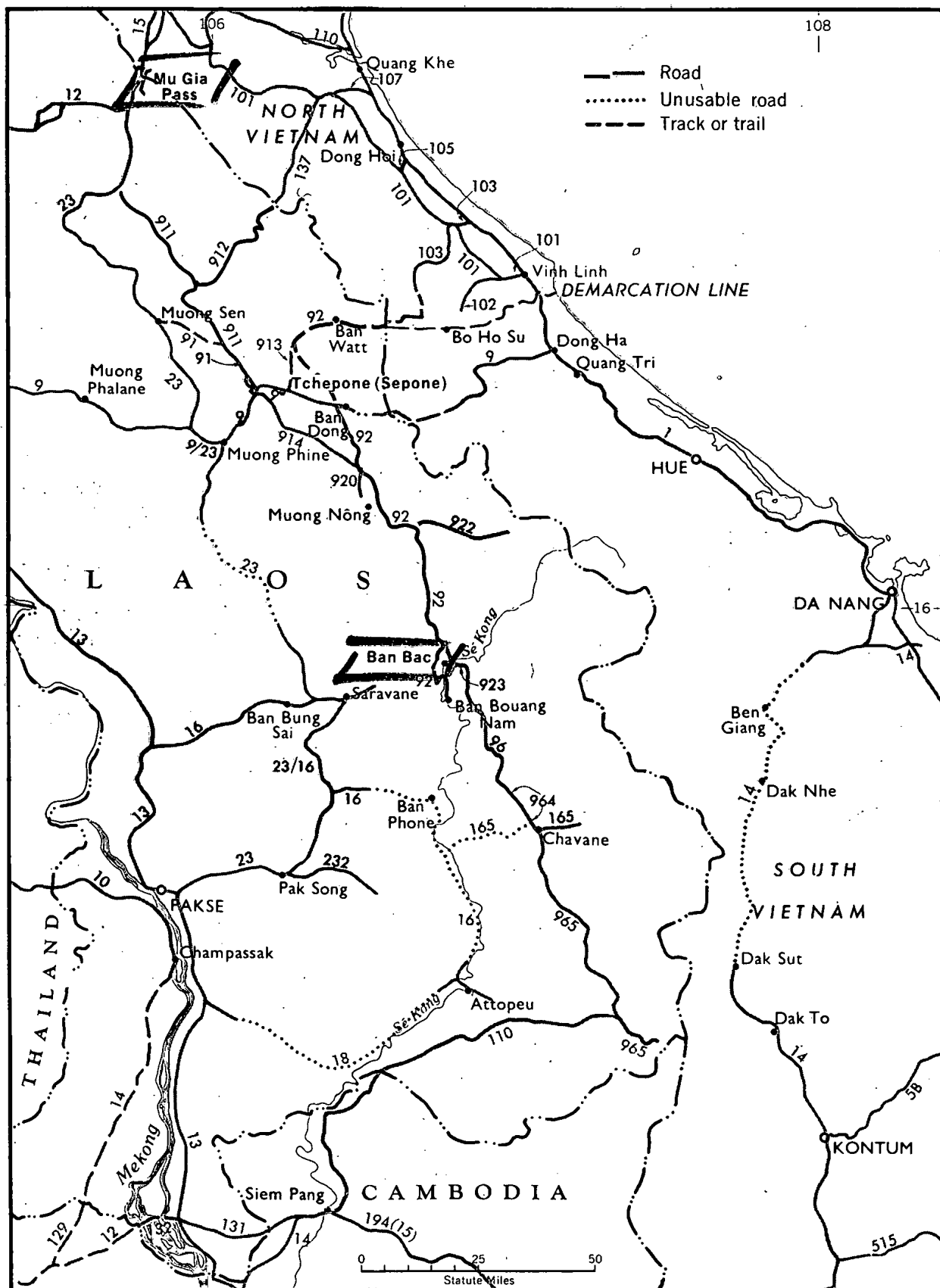
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24 MAY 1966

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23

SOUTHEASTERN LAOS



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DAILY BRIEF
24 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

Struggle forces are set to demonstrate in Hué at 9:00 p.m. tonight, Washington time. The province chief there has warned US officials that he expects the demonstration to be anti-American; he also fears that there may be violence. Additional police will be posted at US installations, but their reliability is wide open to question.

The dissident generals are still at the heart of this trouble in Hué. Yesterday General Thi told the troops there to "turn your weapons against Thieu and Ky"; today Thi and Tri Quang put out a declaration calling for the assassination of the two Saigon leaders.

There was one major break, however, today in the ranks of Hué dissidents. General Nhuan, commander of the First Division, announced that he is now supporting the government.

Saigon and Da Nang have both been quiet tonight, Vietnamese time.

2. Laos

The Communists are continuing to move substantial numbers of trucks in the northern sector of the Laotian infiltration corridor. Between 18 and 22 May, for instance, observers reported some 150 trucks moving down one of the key roads below the Mu Gia Pass (see map).

Farther south, however, the combination of rain and air strikes is giving the enemy considerable trouble. Recent photography shows that two important infiltration routes near Ban Bac have been well blocked by land slides. A vital ford in the same area has become unusable because of high water.

3. Soviet Union

Soviet naval activity in the Mediterranean is at an unusually high level this week.

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The port calls made by these ships highlight the political as well as the military value Moscow attaches to Mediterranean operations. They have recently visited Egypt, Algeria, and may soon show the flag in one or two French ports.

4. Finland

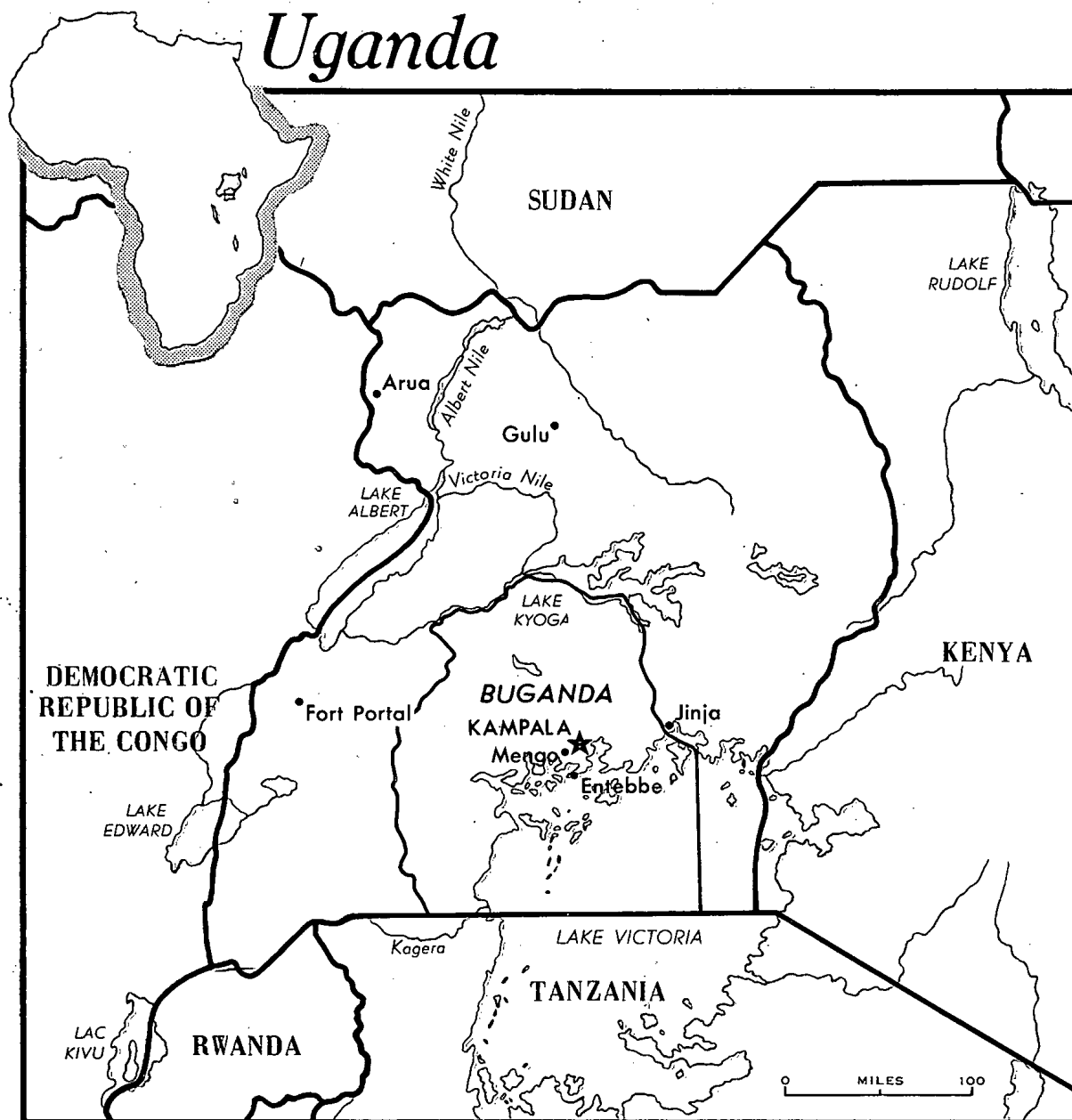
The agreement to form a coalition of left and center parties marks a breakthrough for the Communists, who have been excluded from Finnish cabinets since 1948. Final approval by the parties involved is expected later this week and the new government may be installed by the weekend.

The Communists are likely to be offered three of the 15 cabinet posts. Non-Communists in Helsinki maintain that it is necessary to have the Communists accept cabinet responsibility, especially since the government will have to take unpopular austerity measures.

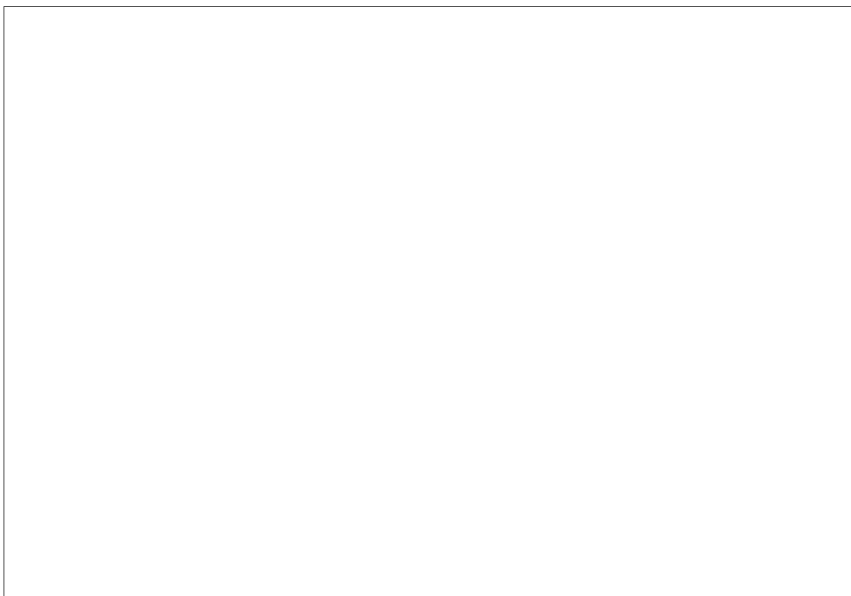
5. Rumania

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6. Cyprus

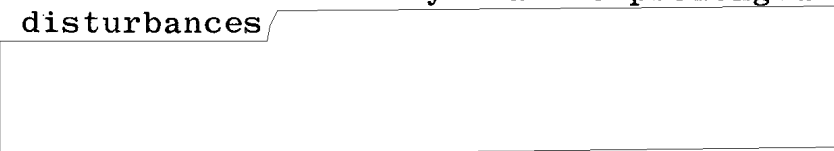


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7. Uganda

Obote is clearly out to break once and for all the autonomy of the kingdom of Buganda. Today his forces stormed the King's palace just outside Kampala and the King, whom Obote charges with treason, is reported to have been arrested.

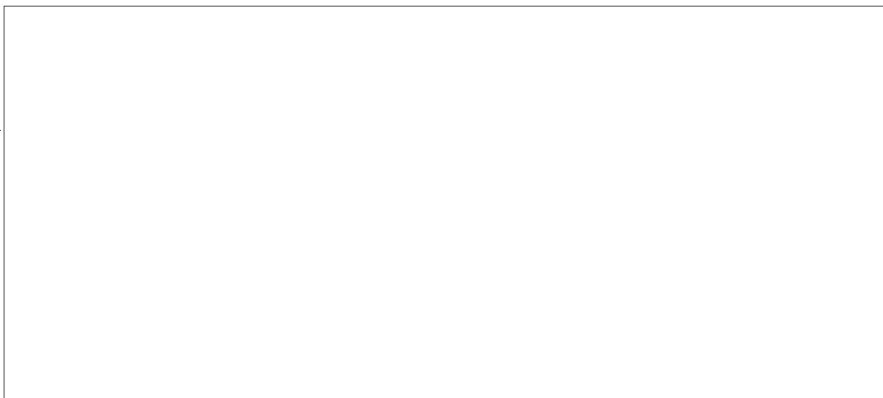
The King has wide support in Buganda, the country's largest region (see map). Obote's move can only lead to prolonged disturbances



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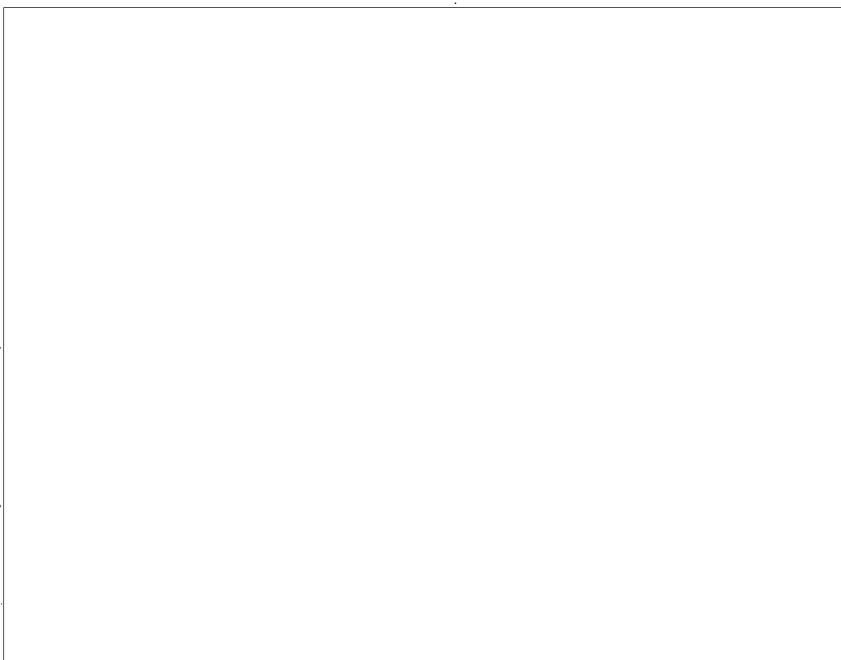
8. Dominican Republic



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9. Guatemala



10. Ecuador

Ex-President Velasco arrived back in Ecuador on schedule early this afternoon. There were only some 5,000 people out to greet him as his yacht entered the port of Guayaquil, but it is too soon to say his return is any less triumphal than he expected. As this is being written, he should be beginning a scheduled three-hour speech to his followers.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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25 MAY 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
25 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

It was a relatively quiet day on the political front. There were scattered demonstrations in Saigon and elsewhere, but none of them got out of hand. Saigon is doing its utmost to exploit moderate Buddhist leader Tam Chau's call for an end to demonstrations "in order to make peace with the government."

The US Consulate in Hué is still under siege by a group of some 75 students. They set up barricades and tents for an all night vigil and are restricting access to the building. Local authorities are unwilling to end this harassment.

There are further reports of disaffection with the "struggle movement" on the part of officers of the First Division in Hué. The two major dissident generals, Thi and Dinh, however, remain adamant that Ky and Thieu must go before there can be peace.

Chief of State Thieu confided to Ambassador Lodge today that Saigon intends no assault on Hué. Instead, he said, the government will "blockade" the city and try to reduce the dissident stronghold by psychological pressures.

2. North Vietnam

Initial reports on North Vietnam's early rice crop indicate that it has not fared well. Hanoi radio has admitted difficulties during the harvest because of manpower shortages, and no claims have been made as to the size of the crop, an almost sure sign that performance was poor. The early crop normally constitutes about a third of annual rice production.

3. Soviet Union

We are continuing to find more ICBM silos under construction for the SS-11 system.

A first look at satellite photography of 16-20 May--a particularly productive, cloud-free run--so far reveals about 20 more silos, bringing to nearly 100 the number of these silos we have ferreted out within the past month. Most of these were probably started since last fall, but snow, cloud cover, and the early stage of the construction prevented detection until recently.

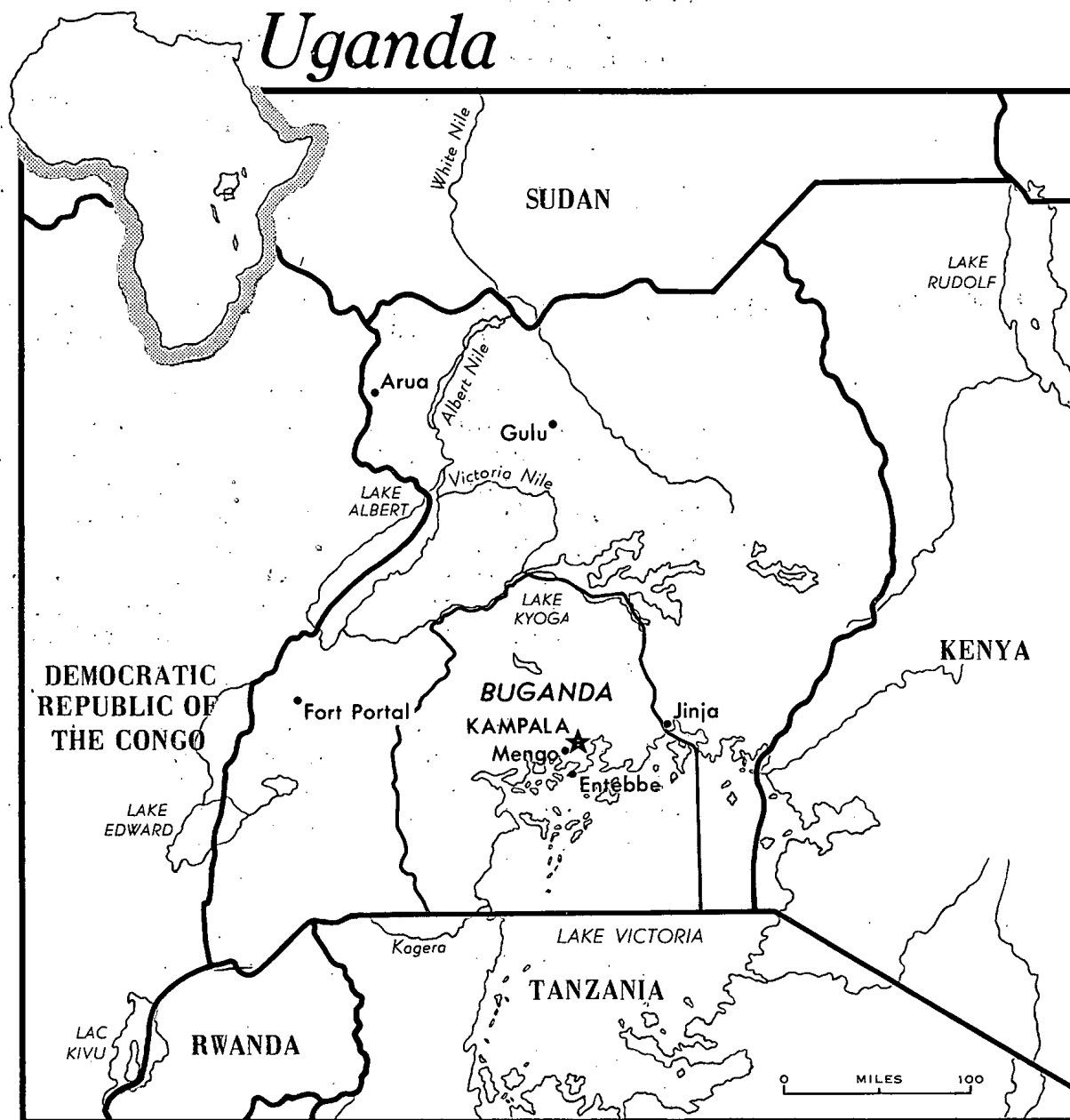
4. Iraq

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There are some 350 Egyptian troops stationed in Baghdad, but we doubt that Cairo would commit them to support a coup attempt at this time.

5. Israel

50X1



6. Uganda

Obote's forces now control Kampala and the King of Buganda's palace in nearby Mengo (see map). The King's whereabouts is uncertain, and he may have escaped.

Dissidence is continuing in the surrounding areas of Buganda, however, where the struggle between the central government and the proud Bagandan people is likely to be bloody and protracted. So far, none of the 760 Americans in the country have been harmed.

7. Nationalist China

Taipei is trying to stir up public reaction to the US China policy debate.

For the past month the controlled press has been featuring editorials blasting "appeasers" in the US. Scholars and politicians have been rounded up to sign open letters expressing "anguish" over any change in US policy. Today, the foreign office committee of the Legislative Yuan began a series of three public hearings on Chinese-American relations.

This propaganda barrage may well be designed to bolster assertions by Nationalist officials that the US debate would provoke a serious public reaction on Taiwan.

8. Communist China

The adulation of "the thought of Chairman Mao," which has been reaching crescendo proportions lately, hit a new high--or low--in mid-May.

Two Chinese journals carried an article on the "philosophical questions" involved in the sale of watermelons in large cities. The article demonstrates how the correct application of Mao's thought enabled the author to overcome "contradictions" and boost the sale of watermelons in Shanghai by 79 percent.

The Soviets, whom Peking has accused of being afraid to publish Chinese materials, yesterday reprinted the article in its entirety--without commentary.

9. Rhodesia

Wilson's high-level delegation arrived in Lusaka yesterday to reason with Kaunda, who says he will risk losing traffic rights on the Zambian-Rhodesian railway rather than knuckle under to Salisbury's demand for prepayment on Zambian traffic. Rhodesia appears already to be enforcing its demand, and Zambian copper is reported to be piling up in storage areas.

Kaunda says the delegation will be wasting its breath. In the past, however, the British have at the last moment dissuaded him from disastrous moves, and may be able to keep him from persevering in this course which would greatly complicate the general Rhodesian dispute.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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26 MAY 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
26 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

The struggle forces in Hué who sacked the USIS library today appear bent on more of the same.

Our consul construes a demand by university students that the US drop its support of Ky by 5:00 a.m. (Washington time) as a threat to attack the consulate at that time. There are other indications an assault may come sooner. A limited evacuation of American civilians has been ordered.

Ky, apparently aware of the gravity of the situation, told Ambassador Lodge today that he would give the strongest instructions to protect official Americans in Hué. A battalion of supposedly loyal troops has actually arrived and taken up positions around the consulate and other US installations. The consul fears, however, that these troops may have neither the will nor the ability to put down a determined attack.

In Saigon this morning riot police dispersed small groups of monks and students before they could organize demonstrations. Da Nang is quiet with almost normal activity except for the port, which remains closed.

General Thi has agreed to meet Ky tomorrow in Chu Lai. Press reports of the impending meeting may kill it, however, since on Tuesday Thi refused even to consider such an encounter until told it could be a secret one.

2. Communist China

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50X1

50X1

3. Cambodia

More and more influential Cambodians seem to be fed up with Sihanouk and his erratic policies. The chief complaints are his mishandling of the economy and his arbitrary use of power. His attitude toward the US is also a factor. 50X1

4. Dominican Republic

The embassy in Santo Domingo has sent in its final estimate on the elections. It says in sum that "Balaguer has become the man to beat, principally because he has apparently gained the initiative, a matter of great importance with respect to influencing the large and decisive uncommitted bloc of voters."

50X1

5. Egypt

Informed Egyptians are increasingly concerned over the deterioration of Egyptian relations with the US, according to Ambassador Battle. Apologists for the regime have been pleading for US understanding of Nasir's threats to follow a more aggressive policy in the Middle East. They say that Nasir is only reacting defensively to US support of Saudi Arabia and arms aid for Israel.

The embassy notes that other elements in Egypt are expressing increasing opposition to Nasir. For the first time in several years there are rumors of a pro-Western coup [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

50X1

50X1

6. United Kingdom

The head of Britain's Trade Union Council said yesterday that he sees no quick way to end the strike; instead, he expects it to last for at least a month.

The maritime union chiefs are talking about a six weeks' strike and predicting that Wilson will be forced to use the navy to clear the ports by the end of the week.

The embassy notes that so far both sides have made a serious effort to limit the strike's damage to the national economy. However, with no good prospects for further negotiations, the situation will be much more difficult to control.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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27 MAY 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
27 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

Very early reports from the meeting between Ky and Thi at Chu Lai say that it went well. Ky is said to have agreed to give Thi and also General Dinh unspecified "jobs in the army." Later, Thi met with Generals Cao and Dinh. Details are still unknown.

In Hué, the situation has been quiet since the consulate was evacuated earlier in the day. The twelve remaining US officials there have been moved to our army compound nearby.

Buddhist monks trying to organize demonstrations against the government were active in Saigon again today. The embassy reports that there were four such efforts in different parts of the city; all were unsuccessful. During the evening, progovernment marines with tear gas grenades were called in to disperse anti-American marchers.

2. Guatemala

50X1

3. North Vietnam

[redacted]
[redacted] a definite stiffening of security and morale was noticeable following the bombing of the missile site in the Hanoi suburbs in late April. [redacted] children and wives are again being sent to the country and that camouflage activities are being intensified.

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[redacted] elec-
tric power in Hanoi has periodically been reduced by as much as two thirds during the past month because of damage to nearby plants. Trolley buses are running only part time and much of the northeastern part of the city is without light.

50X1

[redacted]
[redacted] Ho Chi Minh looks spry, but he recently switched from Lucky Strikes to filtered Salems for reasons of health.

50X1
50X1

4. Communist China

50X1

5. Communist China

Two key figures have apparently been toppled as the power struggle among Chinese leaders continues. Peng Chen was ousted as mayor of Peking about a week ago and Lo Jui-ching was removed as army chief of staff some two months ago, [REDACTED]

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This information is consistent with other bits and pieces we have been receiving on the murky political maneuvering under way in China. Peng, once a member of Mao's inner circle, has been one of the party's top officials. Lo Jui-ching is one of a group of key security and propaganda officials who have been out of sight for several months.

There are signs that the power struggle is not over yet. A Canton broadcast of last week suggests that a powerful party boss in Central-South China may be trying to construct a new alignment to protect his own position.

6. Malaysia

The British have begun to draw up plans for gradually moving their troops in Borneo back from the borders with Indonesia. They are anxious to appear forthcoming in response to Indonesian "deconfrontation" moves. Foreign Minister Malik and the Malaysian deputy prime minister are set to meet in Bangkok on Monday to begin their talks.

50X1

7. France

The French people are being well informed on what a US troop withdrawal will cost them. The leading financial daily in Paris published a double-page report on it this week.

Among other things, it points out that the US military expenditures represent about a fourth of the annual French balance-of-payments excess. It also reports that most of these expenditures are in underdeveloped areas of France where their cutting off will have an important impact.

8. Uruguay

The legal tactics being pursued by the local Communist party are beginning to pay dividends as the party benefits from growing popular disgust over the country's continuing political and economic decline.

Last week the Communists engineered a successful labor congress which called for the organization of a unified national labor confederation. If this comes off, they would surely dominate it and as a result strengthen their political power base.

This week the party succeeded in obtaining a sufficient number of signatures to assure a place on the November ballot for its constitutional reform proposal for reorganizing the national government.

The danger is that continued failure of the two traditional parties to agree on a bipartisan approach to reform may bring a Communist-controlled popular front an important windfall vote in the national elections next November.

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9. Ecuador

In the three days ex-President Velasco has been back in Ecuador it has become clear that he still enjoys an amazing degree of popularity, especially among the underprivileged masses.

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Velasco is [REDACTED] pressing hard for a direct election. The traditional politicians, on the other hand, are insisting on the election of a Constituent Assembly which would then presumably designate a president.

50X1

The national convention of Velasco's well-oiled political movement is set to open in Guayaquil tomorrow. From this we may get an idea of the degree of Communist participation he will accept this time. [REDACTED]

50X1

50X1

10. Dominican Republic

The weather this week may hurt Balaguer's chances on election day. One of the steadiest downpours of the past year is making it difficult for the rural people to obtain the documents they will need if they are to cast their ballots next Wednesday. Balaguer is counting heavily on the rural vote.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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28 MAY 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
28 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

Today Ky gave an embassy officer his version of his meeting yesterday with Thi. Ky said he appealed to Thi on the basis of their old friendship and the need to unite the country. He said Thi agreed to leave Hué "in a few days" for somewhere in II Corps area, where Thi could "talk things over with his colleagues." Among "things" to be discussed would be a job for Thi, since Ky said he had not offered him any specific position.

Ky said he believed the next month would see a good deal of political progress. He appeared determined to press on against the Buddhists, especially to "isolate" Tri Quang, whom he characterized as the representative of a "small group of fanatics" and a "small-minded man."

Ky may be underestimating Tri Quang's influence. Yesterday Foreign Minister Do told an embassy officer he felt the crisis was far from ended, and that there was a real danger of Ky's become overconfident after his "Da Nang victory."

Both Hué and Da Nang were quiet today. Firm action by riot police in Saigon has dispersed demonstrations without serious incidents.

2. Iran

The prime minister has declared that the Western oil consortium's decision to raise this year's oil exports from Iran by only 9 to 11 percent is "unacceptable" and further evidence that the West is turning its back on Iran. The Shah has been insisting that a 17.5 to 20 percent increase is necessary to finance needed economic and military programs.

3. Dominican Republic

The pre-election scene was thrown into confusion this morning by the announcement that Balaguer and his Reformist Party have withdrawn from the election. This might be a political gambit aimed at capturing center stage only four days before the election. A Reformist Party rally scheduled for tonight in Santo Domingo may provide the answer, although there are some reports that the rally has been cancelled.

Except for the weather, things had been going fairly well for Balaguer in the past few days. Only a few hours before his announcement, the vice presidential candidate of third-running Bonnelly had publicly thrown his support to Balaguer.

The withdrawal was, at least ostensibly, in response to rejection by election officials of Balaguer's request that women be allowed to vote without identity cards. Garcia Godoy will surely do all in his power to get Balaguer to reverse the decision.

4. Cuba

Fidel Castro's blast last night was typical of those he has used in past years to divert attention from problems at home by accusing the US of various kinds of "imperialist plots."

He bitterly denied official US statements on the recent incidents around the Guantanamo Base and professed to see them as an indication of impending US aggression. He responded by declaring that the Cuban armed forces would be placed on alert.

50X1

It seems likely, however, that there will be another major propaganda campaign and further incidents.

5. Congo

Belgian officials say that never before has it been so hard to fathom the goals and tactics of Congolese leaders. Mobutu, they fear, is running completely out of control.

Mobutu's recent actions to cut off direct communication and transportation between the outside world and Elisabethville, the center of Belgian commercial and industrial interests in Katanga, is a case in point.

They seem on the surface aimed at bringing these Belgian interests under closer supervision by Leopoldville. However, they are hurting native Katangan interests and could be a reflection of Mobutu's distrust of the people in Tshombé's old stronghold.

There are also new signs of coup plotting in Leopoldville. One group known to be plotting does not have the strength for a successful attempt and Mobutu is probably aware of their plans.

6. Nigeria

The military leaders who have been ruling since last January's coup may soon face a serious challenge. The most immediate issue is the status of the middle-grade officers who carried out the coup and were subsequently arrested. They are regarded as heroes by a good many in the military as well as in the general public.

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7. Ethiopia

Relations between Ethiopia and the Soviet Union have been sliding downhill rapidly in recent weeks.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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30 MAY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
30 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

Tri Quang may believe that he has gone too far out on the political limb and he may now be trying to move himself back a bit. This morning one of his emissaries passed the word that Quang wants an "American authority" to come to Hué to discuss a compromise.

The middleman suggested that this might involve retaining Ky, dumping both Thieu and Co, and bringing Thi back into the government.

As for Thi, in an interview today, he gave the impression that he is somewhat fed up with Tri Quang and that he may be prepared to re-enter government service. When asked whether his rapprochement with Ky would isolate Quang more and more, Thi answered, "You're intelligent enough to figure that out for yourself."

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In a cable this morning, Ambassador Lodge has branded the Buddhists' current suicide campaign as an obviously desperate and cynical effort to pressure the US. Despite these suicides, however, the struggle forces have yet to follow them up with new large-scale demonstrations in the major cities.

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2. Indonesia

Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik, who meets with Malaysian Deputy Premier Razak in Bangkok today, seems confident of reaching an agreement that will end the confrontation. He told Ambassador Green on Saturday that preliminary meetings in Kuala Lumpur last week had gone very well and that Malaysia had already proposed a formula acceptable to him.

Malik is still concerned about Sukarno's reactions. He said that although the military were just as eager as he to end confrontation, they left it to him to deal with Sukarno. The ambassador feels certain that if Sukarno tries to make a test case of the confrontation issue, Malik will emerge the victor.

Malik, incidentally, asked the ambassador to pose with him for photographers--the first time their meetings have been publicized in this fashion.

3. Nigeria

All major towns in northern Nigeria are reported quiet following yesterday's antigovernment demonstrations. Although some missionary installations have reportedly been entered by the demonstrators, we know of no injury to Americans.

The demonstrations, which had ominous tribal overtones, may have been triggered by Ironsi's speech last week in which he outlined plans to make Nigeria a unitary state. The conservative Moslem northerners, who controlled the federal government prior to the January coup, probably interpreted this as an effort to further reduce their influence.

Ironsi, who has tried to reassure the northerners, now will probably have to take firm action to restore order or run the risk of trouble from young southern army officers, already unhappy with his leadership.

50X1

4. Egypt

Egypt and the USSR may be moving toward a period of cautious cooperation in pursuit of common objectives in the Arab world. Egypt is completely dependent on the USSR for military aid, and Soviet bloc aid is becoming increasingly important to its economy.

The Soviets, however, will shy away from specifically backing Nasir on such adventures as his developing showdown with Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, mere dollars and cents will limit Soviet cooperation, since Moscow appears to realize that its huge investment in Egypt may be reaching the point of diminishing returns.

5. Dominican Republic

Supporters of both Bosch and Balaguer are reportedly optimistic. Most observers, however, consider it a close race which may be decided by the "silent vote"--the large, unsophisticated segment of the population which makes itself heard only on election day.

Bonnelly and his supporters, who probably have few illusions about their chances, are said to be embittered by Balaguer's skimpy offers for their support and may go the distance for lack of any better alternative.

50X1

6. Laos

The Communists' year-old campaign to clear government troops out of the Samneua area of northern Laos has recently suffered some setbacks.

Last week government guerrillas reoccupied Na Khang village and airstrip, and earlier in the month recaptured Muong Hiem. These important positions had been taken by North Vietnamese troops in February and March to improve Communist supply and transit routes into the Plaine des Jarres.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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31 MAY 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
31 MAY 1966

1. South Vietnam

Saigon was quiet today, but we cannot be sure how long the lull will last, or whether it represents a deliberate effort by the Buddhist leadership to calm things down. However, Buddhist Institute leaders reportedly met this evening with Ky and Thieu. As yet we have no hard information about what was discussed.

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Both Tri Quang in Hué and Buddhist Institute leaders in Saigon have called for an end to self-immolations.

50X1

Hué was also calm, with some indications that the province chief--now beginning to show some backbone--is making headway against the unruly students, who appear to have given up control of the radio station. Barricades in the city, however, were still manned by armed students at 11:00 p.m. (Vietnam time).

The province chief has also withdrawn most of the troops of the politically shaky First Division from Hué. This has deprived the struggle force of any organized military support--but also leaves the city vulnerable to attack by the Viet Cong. Although Saigon reportedly has no immediate plans to re-occupy Hué, this vulnerability might provide a pretext to move in loyal troops.

50X1

2. Soviet Union

A recent CIA study shows that Moscow last year was able to cut its hard currency deficit almost in half as compared with 1964--a drop from about \$600 million to between \$300-350 million.

This reduction came largely from a cutback of some \$300 million in imports of Western wheat and machinery. Gold sales--Moscow's chief means of financing its chronic hard currency deficit--were accordingly reduced to just over \$300 million, in contrast to the record sales of more than \$500 million in 1964.

This year, the Soviets will probably again hold back their imports from the West in order to conserve foreign exchange. Trade with Communist countries is expected to grow a little faster than the 1965 rate of less than four percent.

3. Soviet Union

The antimissile defenses under construction in the Moscow area are being expanded. The latest satellite photography shows early construction preparations for what will probably be another radar and launcher installation for defense against ballistic missiles.

This will make a total of five positions forming an arc around the northern and western sections of the city. We still expect that at least one and possibly three more of these positions will be built.

The same satellite mission also provided further evidence that the two huge missile detection and tracking radars in the northwestern part of the Soviet Union are nearing completion and could begin operating soon.

4. Pakistan

Other satellite photography shows that there are now at least 29 MIG-19 aircraft at one airfield in West Pakistan. Another 20 of these planes may well be under camouflage and in packing cases nearby.

Earlier photography had shown only 14 aircraft: [REDACTED]

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50X1

5. Iraq

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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50X1

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6. Congo

Congolese-Belgian relations are headed for even rougher sledding as a result of the abortive plot against President Mobutu over the weekend. Mobutu is convinced the Belgians were involved and he has already ordered one Belgian Embassy officer expelled. The president has said, however, that he will not break relations.

Our embassy believes that the Belgians were guilty of nothing more than indiscretion, but warns that this latest affair has all the potential for blowing up into a highly dangerous source of anti-Belgian tension.

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