



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

1 NOVEMBER 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

DAILY BRIEF
1 NOVEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

The four official political blocs that were formed in the constituent assembly on Monday are bound together principally by regional and religious factors.

Interestingly, the two blocs in which northerners predominate have already demonstrated an ability to outmaneuver and outvote the two in which southerners are most numerous. They have done this despite the fact that southerners make up the largest group on a strictly regional basis.

Thus far, the assembly has been remarkably free of the disruptive effects of Vietnamese regionalism. Any effort by the northern-led blocs to press their advantages too far and too fast, however, could quickly change this.

2. West Germany

50X6

3. West Africa

Guinean President Touré still refuses to accept US disclaimers of responsibility for Ghana's removal of Guineans from a Pan American aircraft at Accra. Touré insists that Pan American--and the US Government--should have protected the passengers.

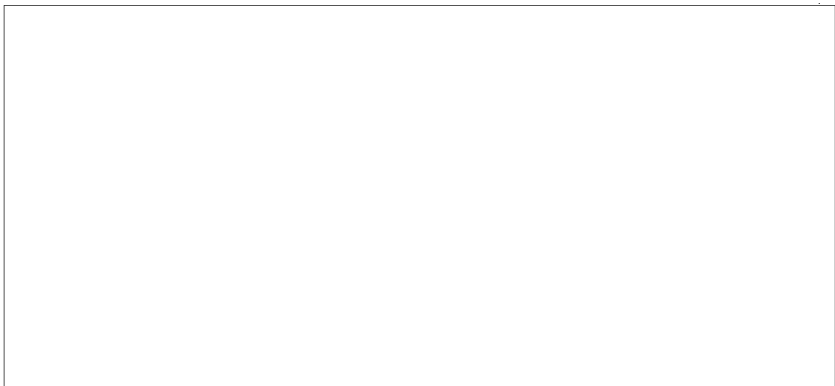
Touré has assured Ambassador McIlvaine that he has issued strict orders against molesting Americans. Americans are still confined to their homes, however, and occasionally questioned by the authorities. Anti-American broadcasts and demonstrations are continuing.

4. Venezuela

Last Sunday's abortive revolt was apparently the work of right extremists. Some 40 arrests have been made but the full extent of the plot is not yet clear.

Our embassy feels that the political and economic climate has improved recently and that there would be little public support for a coup attempt now. The habits of Latin American military malcontents are hard to break, however.

5. Panama

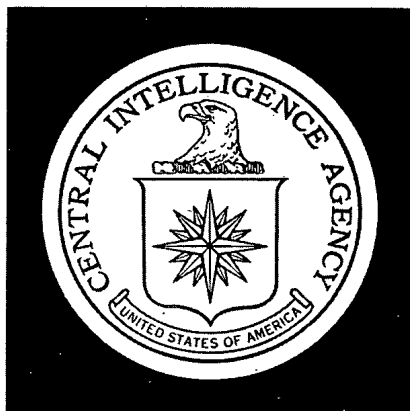


50X1

50X1

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
2 NOVEMBER 1966

1. Communist China

We have been expecting for some weeks that the fight in the Chinese leadership would soon reach a new and perhaps decisive stage. Now we see signs that this may be close at hand.

For one thing, recent speeches and press statements out of Peking make it clear that Mao and Lin Piao are determined to push their attack on the "opposition" even harder than in the past. The popular slogan, "beat the wild dog to death even while it is drowning" is indicative of the current mood.

Secondly, since mid-October the Red Guards have been putting up posters demanding the ouster of various leaders, some almost at the very top, but these people are still on the scene. This is strange business for a Communist country and can hardly last much longer.

50X1

2. Korea

The North Korean raid yesterday now appears to have been in retaliation for a similar South Korean action on 26 October. The extent of the South Korean probe is still unclear, but reports of North Korean casualties run as high as thirty.

50X1

3. South Korea

President Johnson's visit to South Korea was an outstanding success. In the process, President Park obtained obvious internal political advantages and the country as a whole got a healthy psychological lift.

4. Vietnam

President Marcos' proposal to U Thant for an all-Asian conference on Vietnam was a follow-up to discussions held when Marcos was at the UN last September. The Philippine statement that Burma would be willing to host the conference was based on vague indications of interest elicited from the Burmese at that time.

Burma maintains that Rangoon could be the site of peace negotiations if "both parties to the Vietnam conflict" so requested. On the other hand, Burma has refused a Philippine request to convey the decisions of the Manila conference to Hanoi.

5. South Vietnam

A recent Viet Cong appeal for its units to brace themselves for a coming US "counteroffensive" is an unprecedented admission of Viet Cong concern over expected allied offensives during the coming dry season.

The highly emotional harangue of the National Liberation Front contains few references to victory and makes much of the need to overcome hardships. It declares in defensive tones that "we must hold together, no matter how protracted and hard our struggle is, we will continue our fight and win."

6. Israel

Debate in the Security Council on the Israeli-Syrian issue is expected to wind up at any time, but whatever the outcome, the odds are increasing that Israel will make a retaliatory move.

50X1

7. West Germany

We have nothing substantial yet from the meeting of the Christian Democratic leadership which took place today.

50X1

8. Soviet Union

icebreaker Lenin has had a serious nuclear accident very recently "involving extreme damage and personnel injuries."

50X1

9. Soviet Union

50X1

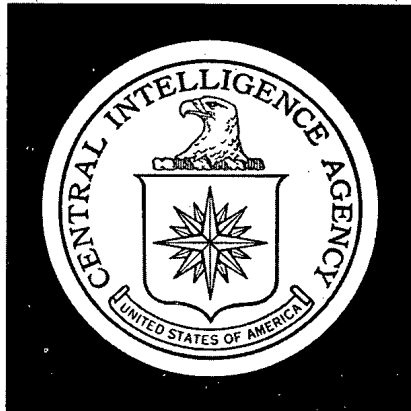
50X1

10. West Africa

The quarrel between Guinea and Ghana remains on dead center. In Ghana, the chief of state tells us that he is standing firm and that if there is any more monkey business from Guinea he will add the return of Nkrumah from Guinea as a new condition for settlement.

In Guinea, Sekou Touré is obviously humiliated by Ghana's action and still feels that only through pressure on the US can he obtain the release of the prisoners in Ghana. Ambassador McIlvaine expects new moves against him, perhaps even "comfortable protective custody."

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
3 NOVEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

For the second day in a row North Vietnamese MIG-21 fighters tried to down a US electronics reconnaissance plane near Yen Bai. There were no losses either to the enemy or to the US escort planes but in today's action the North Vietnamese pilots were unusually aggressive and, contrary to their usual practice, were willing to carry on the fight beyond the initial intercept.

This kind of activity could well mean that a new period of aggressiveness by enemy fighters is about to set in. It may also indicate that they are mounting a special effort against our electronics missions.

2. North Vietnam

US Marines have captured a document that throws some new light on measures taken by Hanoi to counter increased participation in the war by US forces in 1965. This find is summarized at Annex.

3. South Vietnam

The Saigon embassy reports that consumer prices, which had risen by five percent during the week ending 24 October, climbed another five percent between the 24th and 28th. This marks a sharp reverse to the downward trend of the past several weeks.

One of the factors at work here is nervousness on the part of the merchants because of the resignation of Economy Minister Thanh and Thanh's warnings of impending economic trouble. Another factor is the continuing upward trend in rice prices caused by the Mekong flood.

4. Communist China

The massive Red Guard rally in Peking today points to continuation of the deadlock between opposing groups inside the top leadership.

Two million people turned out to hear a short speech by Lin Piao. Lin repeated his usual slogans, but sounded more defensive than previously. At some points he seemed to be appealing for broader support from outside the party and for backing from uncommitted elements within the party.

5. Arab World

Syrian and Jordanian forces are alert for Israeli raids which both expect to be launched against them momentarily. The Syrians are also issuing strident new blasts against the "imperialists," particularly the US. Neither the alerts nor Syrian threats are likely to deter the raiders, however.

6. West Germany

Erhard conceded last night that he may have to step down. At the same time, however, he insisted that he will go on trying to put together a majority government.

He seems to be hoping that the two state elections later this month might demonstrate anew his one-time popular appeal. This is a thin reed; his party is generally expected to suffer further losses. The first of the two state elections is on Sunday in Hesse--a Socialist stronghold--and may give Erhard's party colleagues an opportunity for the next move against him.

7. Nigeria

Tensions are rising again as the interregional talks on a constitutional settlement remain stalemated. There is good evidence that the secession-minded Eastern region is trying to arrange clandestine arms deliveries from Europe.

Elements of the Nigerian military are aware of this and are now pressing for pre-emptive military action against the East.

8. Dominican Republic

President Balaguer is being urged to adopt more authoritarian tactics. This is one reaction in his administration to the gains made last weekend by militant radicals in the biggest opposition party.

50X1

50X1

The president is basically a moderate, but right-wing pressures may well become more and more difficult for him to resist.

9. Guatemala

After a series of setbacks in the field at the hands of the military, the Communists have now resumed their campaign of urban terrorism. The government declared a state of siege this morning in the wake of a major robbery and sabotage of a power station yesterday near Guatemala City.

50X1

50X1

ANNEX

A View of the War from Hanoi

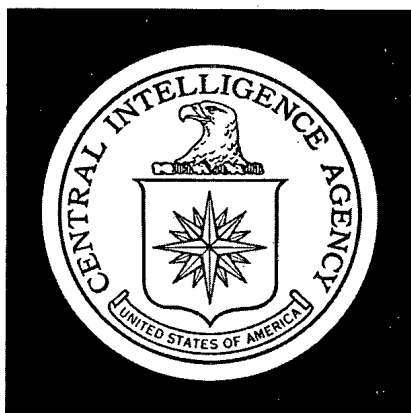
A document captured by US Marines fighting North Vietnamese forces just below the Demilitarized Zone provides some new insights into Hanoi's response to the enlarged role of the United States in the war in 1965. It discusses resolutions approved by two secret meetings of the central committee of North Vietnam's Communist Party.

In June of 1965, the central committee ordered a massive mobilization of North Vietnamese manpower to expand the regular army and provide for increased infiltration into South Vietnam. This meeting also ordered the organization of large construction crews for the repair of bomb damage and issued instructions for the establishment of "combat villages" along the coast of North Vietnam and in the military region along the Demilitarized Zone.

A more important meeting occurred in the autumn of 1965. The resolution produced by this meeting redefined the war as a single war with three theaters--North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and Laos. The principal responsibility for all three theaters was placed on the North Vietnamese Army. The resolution also rearranged Hanoi's long-standing national objectives to give first priority to the war effort. This decision has never been publicized since that would be an admission that "building socialism"--previously the number one objective--had been subordinated to the successful prosecution of the war.

Communist concern over the disclosure of important information through capture of documents by allied forces is reflected in another document from a Viet Cong - controlled area near Saigon. This document refers to the loss of a "historic resolution" to the enemy--probably the directive captured by the Marines.

Top Secret



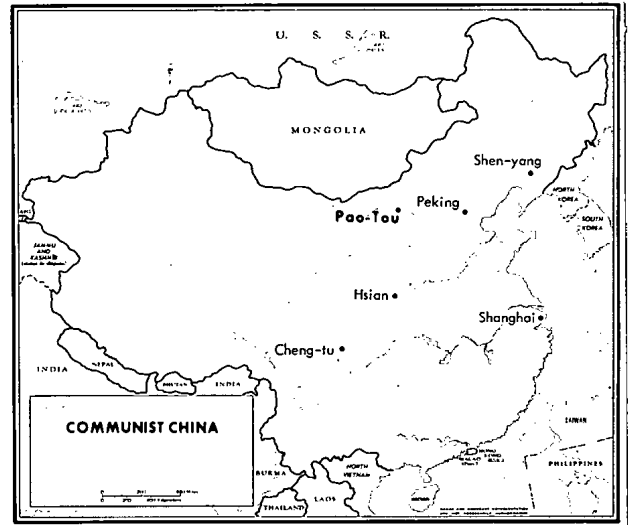
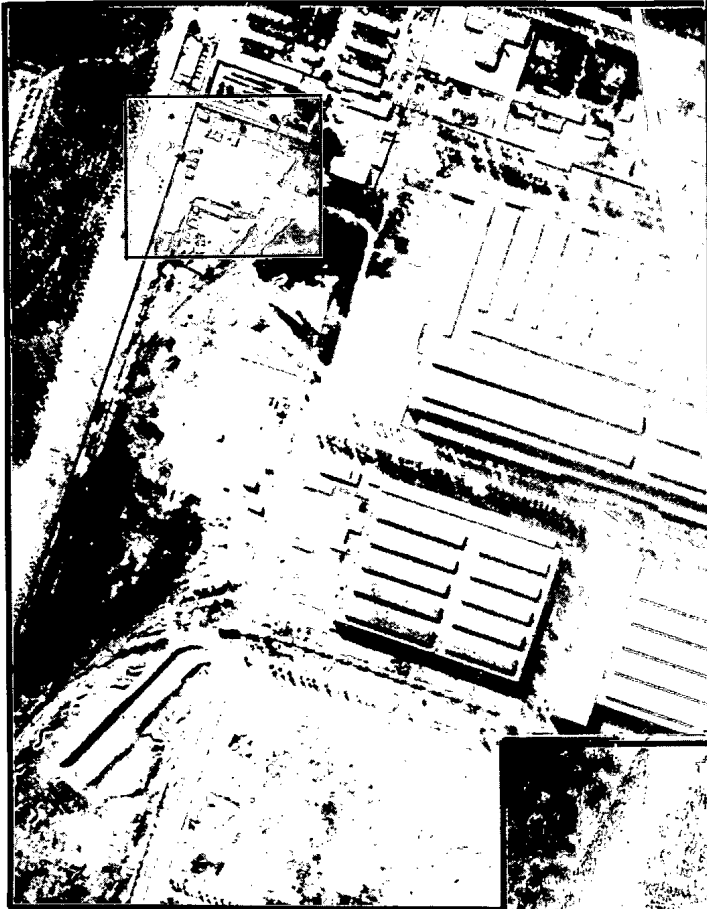
The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 4 November 1966

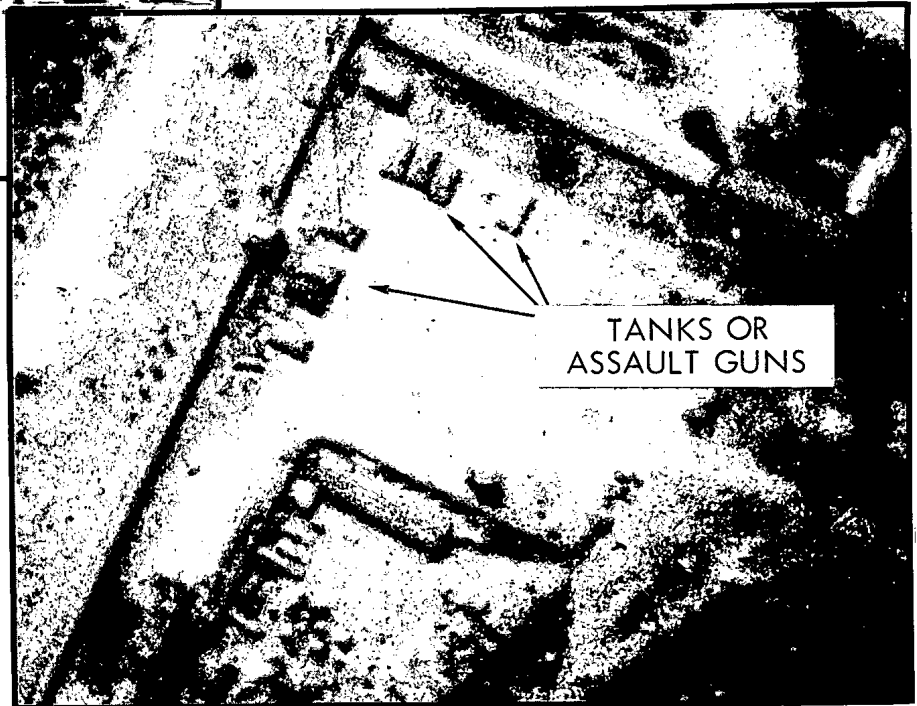


50X1

PAO-TOU TANK PLANT, CHINA



TOP SECRET RUFF



64490 11-66 CIA IAD/NPIC

DAILY BRIEF
4 NOVEMBER 1966

1. Vietnam

Three weeks have passed since there has been any significant contact with enemy forces directly below the central and eastern portions of the Demilitarized Zone. US military authorities are inclined to think that elements of the two regular North Vietnamese divisions that had been in the area have now been pulled back north, except for their reconnaissance units.

This may well be just a temporary response to US military pressures.

2. Soviet Union

50X1

3. Communist China

Satellite photography has confirmed that Communist China is producing tanks.

China's only tank plant was built by the Soviet Union in 1958 but remained dormant after the Russian pull-out in 1960. Activity resumed at the plant last year and the recent photography shows medium tanks and assault guns on the grounds of the factory. (See photographs.)

50X1

4. Arab World

The Soviet veto of Israel's complaint against Syria has loosened the last restraint on Israel.

Israel has been preparing its forces for air and ground action and Syria will almost certainly provide provocation for retaliatory action. There have been numerous incidents along the border during the four weeks Tel Aviv has been awaiting the outcome of its appeal to the UN.

5. Guatemala

One of the government's first moves under the state of siege proclaimed early yesterday was the arrest of many rightist leaders. Large quantities of arms and explosives were found during the roundup. Meanwhile, terrorist activity by the left is on the rise.

6. Dominican Republic

The economy is in better shape than in 1964, and the Balaguer government's austerity program is on the right track

50X1

50X1

50X1

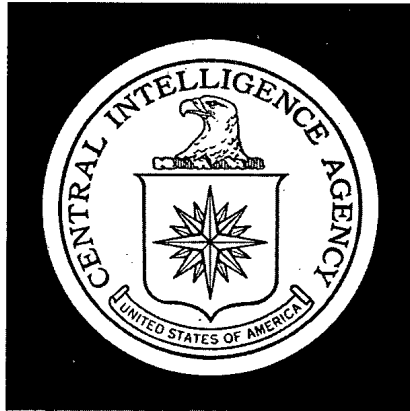
7. Iran

The Shah is pleading for US help in his confrontation with the consortium of Western oil companies that produces and markets most of Iran's oil. The Shah insists on a substantial increase in oil production to finance Iran's economic development and defense programs.

The consortium is willing to permit a moderate increase but is not in a mood to compromise. It has about two more weeks in which to respond to the Iranian demands.

The Shah could probably be persuaded to scale down his demands somewhat. If it comes to a showdown, however, he threatens to deprive the consortium of some of its concession areas. This would touch off a new uproar among the oil companies which could accuse Iran of violating its international commitments.

Top Secret

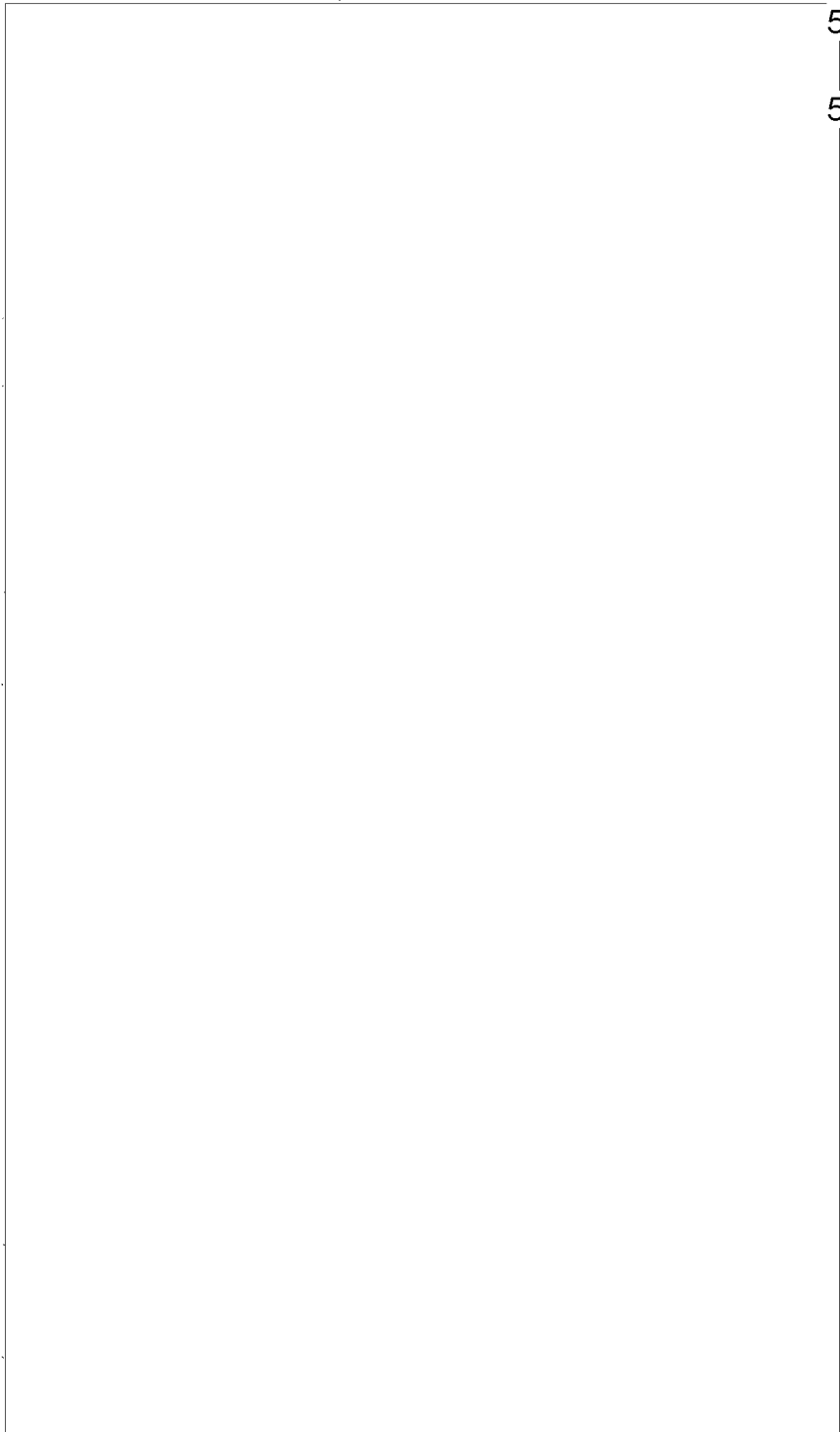


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 5 November 1966



50X1



50X1

50X1



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
5 NOVEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

Revolutionary Development Minister Thang is complaining that criticism of his program has recently become fashionable among Saigon leaders.

Some of this criticism comes from Ky and Thieu. It probably stems from resentment over the publicity accorded Thang and his programs. Thang's resignation would be a real impediment to revolutionary development since no equally qualified successor is in sight.

2. Communist China

50X1

3. West Germany

Erhard intends to wield whatever influence he has left in his party in an effort to assure continuity in his policies.

50X1

All eyes are on tomorrow's state elections in Hesse. Erhard's party has long been in the minority there. A further shrinking in its support would surely weaken Erhard's voice in his party councils still more.

50X1

4. United Kingdom

50X6

5. Colombia

Extremist student leaders and the Communists are reeling in the wake of President Lleras' strong reaction to last week's riot at the university. He has made it absolutely clear that he will put up with no more agitation against his democratic reform program. The Communists may well have suffered their biggest defeat in many years.

50X1

6. Arab States

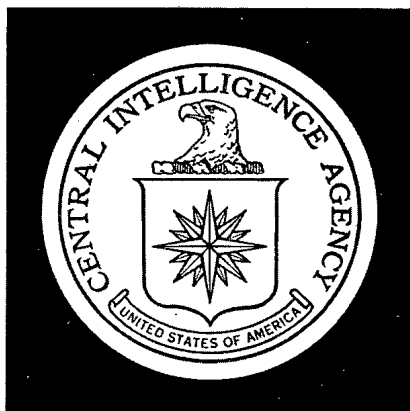
Right now the Arab states are in a state of barely suppressed turmoil. General apprehension over Israel's next move is only one factor. Another is the deepening hostility between the radical and conservative Arab rulers. The mutual defense pact signed yesterday between Egypt and Syria could be aimed at Jordan as much as at Israel.

King Husayn of Jordan is genuinely fearful that Israel may seize on the present poor state of his relations with Egypt, Syria, and Iraq to launch a full-scale attack on Jordan.

50X1

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 7 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
7 NOVEMBER 1966

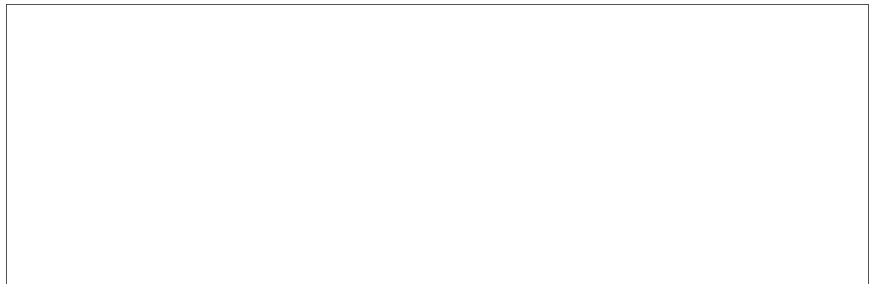
1. South Vietnam

Major General Do Cao Tri, a former I Corps commander who is now picking up his military contacts after two years in exile, says that morale in the South Vietnamese officer corps is deteriorating all the time. He blames this largely on favoritism in promotions and on corruption among the armchair generals.

Tri says that the army's new stress on pacification will make this situation considerably worse. Company and field grade officers will feel that they are being relegated to jobs beneath the dignity of fighting men.

Tri claimed dissatisfaction was already at such a level that a relatively minor incident could easily touch off a major explosion. The general obviously has a number of axes to grind, but he also has influence and contacts.

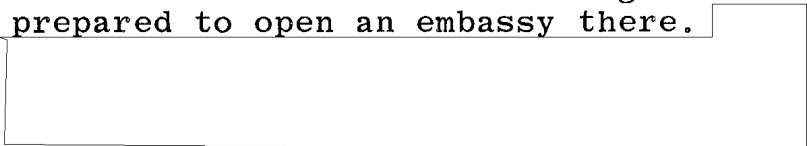
2. Soviet Union



50X1

3. Congo

Mobutu has been granted his wish-- Moscow has agreed to re-establish diplomatic relations with the Congo and is prepared to open an embassy there.



50X1

50X1

4. West Germany

The Hessian elections yesterday disappointed all three major parties. Nothing has happened to move the national government crisis any closer to a solution.

The Social Democrats failed to make the big gains they hoped would add to their political leverage nationwide. The Free Democrats lost strength in Hesse and thereby lost status and bargaining power in Bonn. Erhard's Christian Democrats predictably declined, but not dramatically so.

The unexpected gains made by the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party in Hesse can probably be attributed in part to public disgruntlement over the maneuverings in Bonn. It probably is not an indicator of a nationwide trend.

5. Uruguay

The government is wearing thin as Communist-inspired strikes and slow-downs continue. Agitation has disrupted the capital for over two months.

Top security officials want emergency action to squelch the agitators. Political leaders, however, have their eyes on the important national election less than three weeks away. They are reluctant to do anything that might cost votes.

Talk of an impending coup is again being heard in Montevideo. It may not come to that for a while, but clearly the situation is steadily becoming more tense and unsettled.

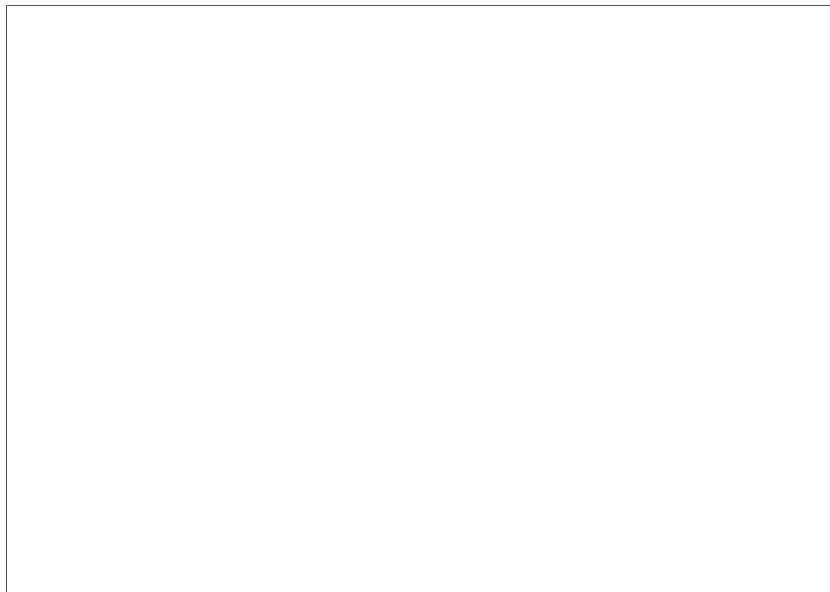
6. Indonesia

Soviet leaders are taking an extremely hard-nosed position with Indonesian officials seeking some relief from the very heavy schedule of debt payments due Moscow. The Soviet Union is Indonesia's biggest creditor--well over \$1 billion is involved, representing about half of Indonesia's medium and long-term foreign obligations.

Moscow may well ease up after Djakarta's Western creditors make official the much more liberal terms they have already agreed to in principle.

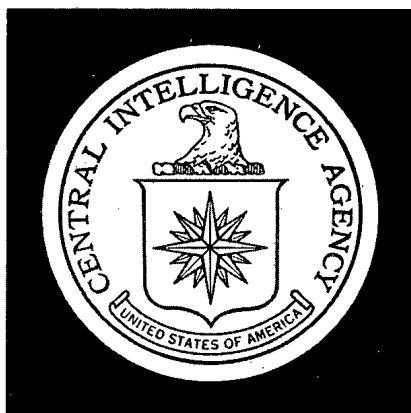
7. Iran

50X1



Top Secret

*Records
Center*



The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~

8 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
9 NOVEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

The constituent assembly, with election of its various committees out of the way, has turned back to the articles in its charter which gives the present military government veto power over any draft constitution passed by less than a two-thirds vote.

Today's session was primarily an attack on this article, with demands that it be either abolished or amended. The assembly appeared fairly well united in its opposition. Representatives of all but one of the voting blocs spoke against the article. At the moment, however, most deputies appear inclined toward a compromise rather than a confrontation with the military directorate.

Even the assembly's discussion of the article, however, will antagonize the directorate, which is adamant on the issue. In the present atmosphere, still heated from the regional rivalries that underlay the recent cabinet crisis, a disruptive exchange between assembly and government could develop.

2. Soviet Union

Soviet officials in London are busily denying that they invited British Foreign Secretary Brown to Moscow. They say the initiative came from the British side.

3. South Vietnam

Consumer prices, which had risen for two consecutive weeks, fell about four percent between 31 October and 4 November. This drop resulted from increased deliveries of foodstuffs--especially live hogs--into Saigon following the 1 November national holiday.

The embassy reports a gloomy rice situation, however, with deliveries from the delta for the first nine months of the year 30 percent below those for the same period last year. The embassy estimates that at this rate South Vietnam--a traditional rice exporter--will have to import close to 500,000 tons this year.

4. Guinea

Sekou Touré delivered an inflammatory diatribe against the United States at a public rally in Conakry this afternoon. He laid full blame on the US for Ghana's detention of the Guinean Foreign Minister.

So far Touré has ordered the US to get Peace Corps people out of Guinea within a week and has withdrawn Pan American's landing rights. He says Guinea can get along without US aid.

Ambassador McIlvaine expects more trouble. He does not see how diplomatic relations can be continued.

5. France

There will be more trouble with the French if an ailing French computer firm controlled by General Electric goes through with its plans to let go a large number of workers.

The French government had agreed to General Electric's purchase of this firm only when it became clear that it could not survive otherwise. Paris is determined to be self-sufficient in computers and would probably accuse General Electric of placing its economic interests above the French national interest.

6. West Germany

50X1

7. Latin America

The "race" to buy jet aircraft which the press has been playing up has little substance behind it.

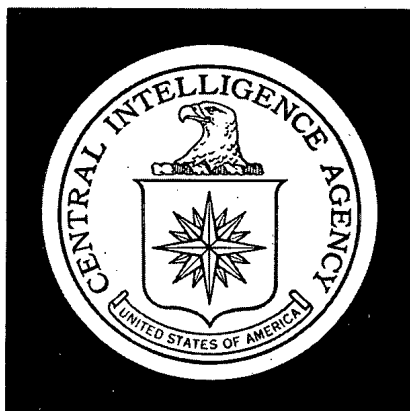
Talk of an arms race apparently began when Chile announced its purchase of 21 British Hawker Hunter fighters after learning that Argentina was buying 25 A-U's from the US. Both deals had in fact been in the works for months.

Peru has also been shopping for more modern aircraft. All three countries have obsolescent jets and have been under domestic political pressure to modernize.

In spite of further reports that Brazil is looking for tanks and Venezuela for ships, there has actually been no unusual increase in Latin American arms purchases this year.

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF**9 November 1966****1. South Vietnam**

Yesterday's debate in the constituent assembly came to a vote this morning. A healthy majority of the delegates (53 of the 66 participating) voted to get down to the business of drafting a constitution, but at the same time to give the government one month to amend two offending articles in the assembly's charter.

If the problem is not satisfactorily resolved in a month, the assembly is to respond by stopping work.

The assembly's first step will probably be to name a small delegation to meet with the government on the issue while the assembly itself gets to work on the constitution. One hopeful sign is that most delegates seem to recognize the need to avoid a head-on clash with the government.

2. Indonesia

The army is alerted for possible moves by pro-Sukarno forces tomorrow--one of Indonesia's major holidays. The president still manages to have considerable emotional appeal, especially in East and Central Java, but any major success by his followers is quite unlikely.

3. Communist China

[redacted] tension continues to build in Peking as the Red Guards step up their attacks on high officials.

50X1

50X1

50X1

4. Zambia

President Kaunda will shortly seek increased US, Canadian, and West European help to reduce Zambia's continuing economic dependence on Rhodesia. His alternative is the politically unpalatable--if not impossible--one of reaching an accommodation with the Smith regime. The dimensions of Kaunda's dilemma are examined at Annex.

5. Guinea

There have been no anti-US incidents following Sekou Touré's blast yesterday afternoon. The Conakry embassy has started rounding up the Peace Corps workers in the interior, but the complicated overland evacuation arrangements have not yet been approved by Touré's government.

There could easily be trouble during the evacuation period.

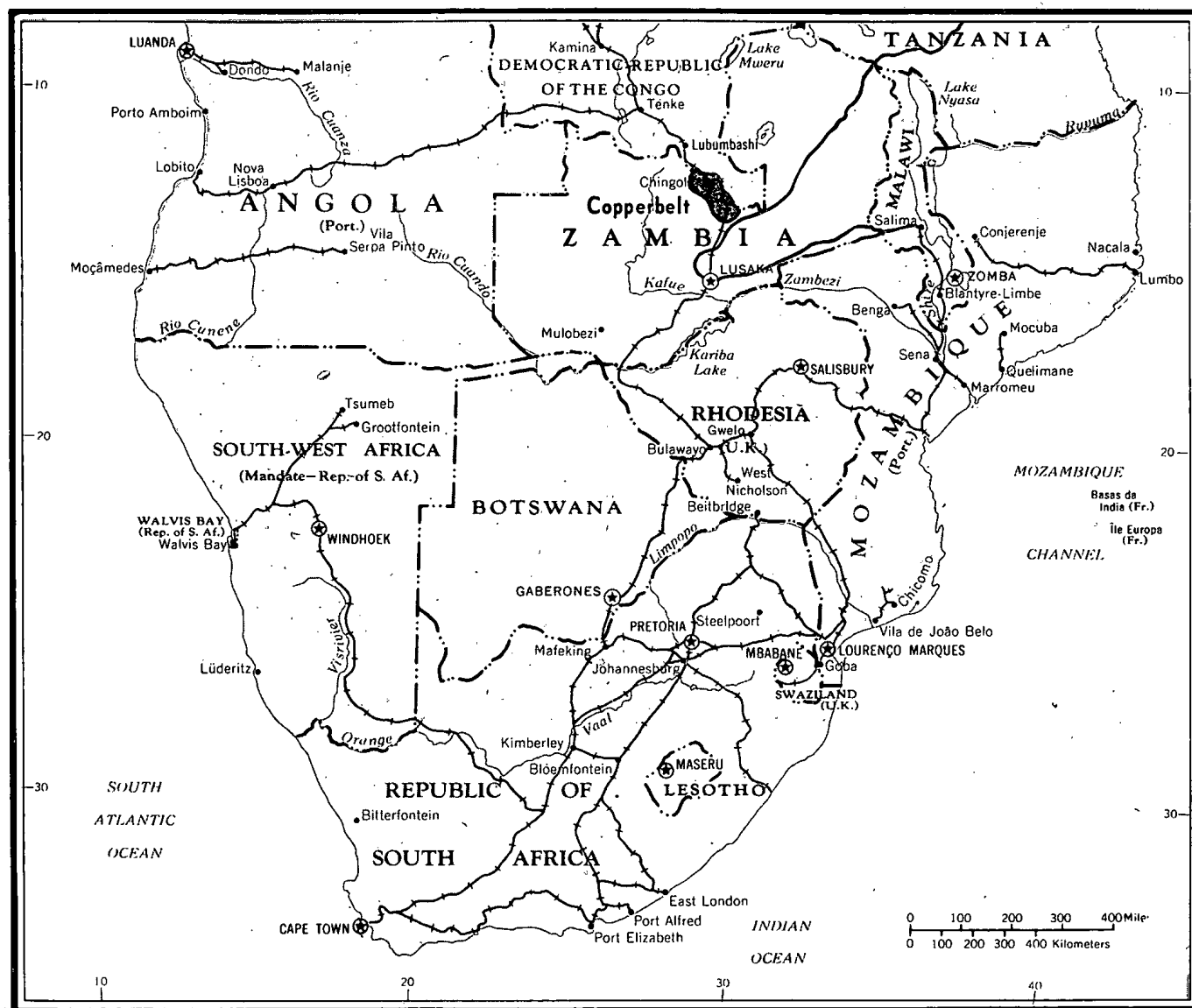
50X1

6. United Nations

50X1



50X1



64558 11-66 CIA

ANNEX

Zambia: A New Call for Help Is Coming

Zambia has pulled through its first year of isolation from Rhodesia with difficulty and only with considerable US, British, and Canadian assistance. Troubles have now accumulated to a point where they demand immediate solution. The cost will be very much higher than the stop-gap measures of the past year. The only bright spot on the horizon is the current high world price for Zambia's copper.

A prodigious US-British-Canadian oil lift effort began last December after the British embargo on oil to Rhodesia forced the Rhodesian government to stop the customary shipments to Zambia. The idea was that this would buy time for the upgrading of surface routes into Zambia bypassing Rhodesia. Progress on these routes has been disappointing.

Land routes through the Congo, Angola, Tanzania, and Malawi are still inadequate and unreliable. Moreover, most of them will become nearly impassible with the onset of the six-month rainy season.

Despite rather spartan Zambian gasoline rationing, there is constant danger of a gradual exhaustion of oil supplies unless large-scale air shipments are resumed. Because of technical and other problems in the Congo, a resumption of the US oil lift through that country might well double last spring's cost of \$1 per gallon of oil delivered.

50X1

Coal for refining Zambia's copper is another looming problem. Zambia is second only to the US as a Free World producer of refined copper. The industry earns more than 90 percent of Zambia's foreign exchange and, to keep it going, requires well over a million tons of Rhodesian coal per year. Rhodesia has not stopped exporting coal to Zambia, but has placed obstacles on its transport to the copperbelt, where stocks are now dangerously low. Moreover, Rhodesia could cut off the supply entirely with no warning.

50X1

ANNEX (Cont'd)

Zambia has begun to develop its own coal resources. Their extent is still uncertain, however. Even if they prove to be large it is very unlikely that they can fill Zambia's needs before 1970, at the earliest.

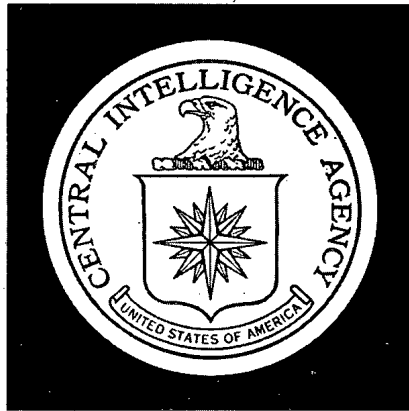
Perhaps the most potentially explosive dilemma now faced by Kaunda is the growing tension among the 30,000 white workers who hold almost all the professional and skilled labor positions in the country. They are absolutely essential to the economy, particularly to the copper and railway industries.

These white expatriates are mostly from Rhodesia and South Africa. Most of them have no use whatsoever for Zambian independence and are naturally sympathetic to the racial policies of their homelands. They have stayed on in Zambia only because of high salaries.

But even financial incentives have become less appealing as Kaunda felt himself obliged to bear down on the more extreme of the racists among them. Kaunda has already deported a few white troublemakers and tensions in the expatriate community are high.

The sudden departure of many of the whites, a real possibility if present tensions mushroom into serious violence, would strike an almost irreparable blow at the economy. Even a slow exodus would create difficult problems.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
10 NOVEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

Hanoi radio told its listeners today that "there will certainly be no major changes" in American domestic and foreign policies as a result of the US elections. Hanoi's Communist Party daily claimed--in a short article on page four--that the election showed that the American people were opposed to "the war of aggression in Vietnam."

2. North Vietnam

The Polish deputy foreign minister has assured our ambassador in Warsaw that Poland will contribute no hard currency to North Vietnam.

The Pole discounted press stories that the recent Moscow conference had decided to create a hard currency fund to aid Hanoi. He said that hard currency was irrelevant to Hanoi's present needs which are food, consumer goods, and medicines.

3. Haiti

50X1

50X1

4. Communist China

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

Yesterday a People's Daily editorial ordered workers and peasants not to leave their posts to participate in the cultural revolution, except in their spare time. The Red Guards were told--as they had been in September--to stay out of industrial enterprises and agricultural areas.

Peking's jumpiness is understandable, since the over-all economy is so weak that even minor losses--especially in food production--could have serious consequences.

5. Africa

The once promising Organization of African Unity barely staggered through its summit meeting, which ended last night. The latest hassle between Ghana and Guinea made a shambles of the session, but disharmony and futility would probably have set in even without this irritant.

50X1

6. West Germany

Kurt-Georg Kiesinger, nominated today by the Christian Democrats to succeed Erhard, is still a long way from becoming chancellor.

50X6

Even if he gets the job, Kiesinger, whose looks do not make up for his indecisiveness, is unlikely to give Germany any stronger leadership than Erhard has.

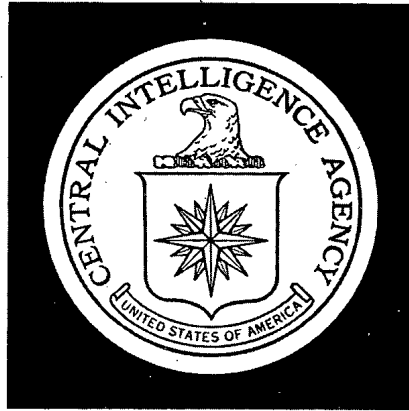
7. Rhodesia

Tomorrow, Rhodesia will have survived for a year the British-inspired sanctions which last winter London predicted would defeat the rebels "within weeks." Instead, the country's economy is still operating reasonably well and the Smith government faces no serious threat from whites or Africans either inside or out.

Smith's only problem now is London's ultimatum to come to terms by the end of the year or face a British request for UN sanctions. He is probably far from panicky over this, since he knows Britain will not support any UN action which would endanger its trade with South Africa.

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 11 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
11 NOVEMBER 1966

1. Soviet Union

50X1

2. Vietnam

Hanoi and the Viet Cong have been dropping hints that they may set up the Viet Cong's National Liberation Front as a provisional government for South Vietnam.

This line has appeared in the past without anything being done about it. The Communists may be considering it more seriously now, however, as a means of countering recent setbacks.

50X1

50X1

3. North Vietnam

50X1

4. Nigeria

50X1

5. West Germany

50X1

50X1

6. West Germany

50X1



50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 12 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
12 NOVEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh told [redacted]

50X1
50X1

[redacted] that he realized the United States could not be forced to leave Vietnam by military action. Ho said he was counting on the American public eventually tiring of the "useless slaughter."

When asked about possible neutralization of all of Vietnam under international guarantees, Ho said he had given this much thought. He did not reject the idea.

Ho said very little about China and urged his visitor to remember that the Vietnamese are not Chinese.

2. Indonesia

Tensions are building up again in Djakarta and triumvirate member Malik predicts a very difficult week ahead. The drive to cut Sukarno down to size has now reached the point of another showdown. The cautious General Suharto, reluctant to precipitate a clash, seems to be hesitating. This is the kind of situation that plays into Sukarno's hands; he is making effective use of his old tactics of threat and bluff.

The precipitating issue now is the triumvirate's plan to fill more than 100 vacancies in parliament with appointees sympathetic to its goals. If this should bring on a clash, General Suharto's superior military support would almost surely prevail. The danger, of course, is that continued temporing could easily permit Sukarno further to exploit weaknesses in the government.

50X1

3. Israel

Three Israeli soldiers were killed and six wounded early today when their vehicle ran over an Arab-planted mine about a mile inside Israel's border with Jordan. This is the first such case since the UN Security Council wound up its consideration of the Israeli complaint early last week. The new incident may well trigger the Israeli's expected retaliatory strike.

4. West Germany

50X6

5. Greece

Premier Stephanopoulos hit an unexpected snag today which could touch off another extended political crisis. His candidate for parliamentary president was defeated by the newly reconvened legislature.

Stephanopoulos had made clear before the balloting that his government would stand or fall on the vote. There will be more balloting today, but it is uncertain whether the premier can win back the twelve deputies who defected to the opposition.

50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/07/24 : CIA-RDP79T00936A004800220001-0

Note: Late word from Athens indicates that Stephanopoulos has gotten his way and the threatened crisis has been averted.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/07/24 : CIA-RDP79T00936A004800220001-0

6.. Haiti

Duvalier has suddenly dismissed a number of military men, including some high-ranking officers [REDACTED]

50X1

[REDACTED] It is too soon to say whether this means that the plot has definitely been compromised. If it has, the plotters should have been dead or in jail by now. The conspirators in the military have nevertheless suffered a serious setback.

Port-au-Prince is quiet and all signs are that Duvalier remains confidently in control in his palace.

50X1

[REDACTED]

There is no sign of any lessening in the unprecedented open anti-Duvalier sentiment that has been growing for several weeks in various parts of the country.

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
14 NOVEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

Having papered over the cracks in his cabinet, Ky will probably now turn his attention to the problem of General Quang. [REDACTED]

50X1

50X1

Sacking Quang is unlikely to provoke a crisis equal to the dismissal of General Thi in I Corps since it would not arouse the Buddhists. It would, however, antagonize most southerners and heat up regional animosities.

Ambassador Lodge reports that the Saigon rumor mill has Quang's removal imminent. Ky is probably lining up solid military support before making any definitive move against Quang.

2. Communist Bloc

Bulgarian party first secretary Zhivkov has become the first bloc leader to endorse the proposal--originally advanced by minor nonbloc parties--to convene a world Communist meeting to "deal with the new problems facing the Communist movement," i.e., China.

Zhivkov's statement at his party's congress does not bring such a meeting much closer, however, since Rumania, North Vietnam, North Korea, and others continue to oppose it. It does, however, indicate that the issue is still very much alive for some parts of the Communist world and will be a recurrent theme in future conclaves.

50X1

3. Jordan

The Jordanians feel they are caught in the cross fire between Israel and the Arab extremists.

King Husayn believes that Israel deliberately chose to attack Jordan because it was militarily easier than attacking Syria--the real instigator of terrorist attacks on Israel. The Jordanians are particularly piqued because they believe they have done everything possible to prevent terrorists on their soil from entering Israel, while Israel has not made a comparable effort to police its side of the border.

Ambassador Burns in Amman still feels the Jordanians will not resort to further military action. He notes, however, that Jordan's Army took a bad mauling Sunday and strong pressures for a reprisal could develop.

4. India

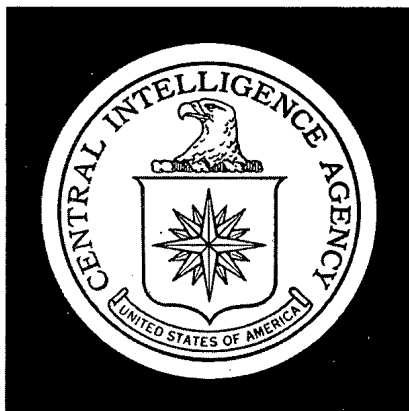
Indira Gandhi's reorganization of her cabinet is an attempt by the government and the Congress Party to set their house in order, both to meet India's urgent problems and to prepare for February elections. Her government may be nearing the end of its tenure.

Famine is the most pressing of India's problems, and continuing adverse weather is hampering corrective measures. The government finds itself more and more preoccupied with domestic violence as the demands of a modern society press in on a traditional people.

Internationally, India faces a hostile Pakistan and a militant China with a growing nuclear capability. And failure of the nonaligned nations to form a cohesive group has left India isolated.

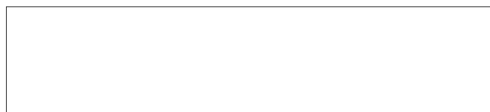
The Congress Party will probably use the February elections as a means of replacing Mrs. Gandhi with someone better able to exercise the firm leadership that India's multiple difficulties require.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 15 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
15 NOVEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

50X1

2. South Vietnam

General Vinh Loc, commander of the II Corps area in the Vietnamese highlands, is reported in a Saigon hospital. The rumors have it he will not be going back to his headquarters.

Ky does want to cut some of the powerful corps commanders down to size, but he thinks highly of Loc. He may be planning to use Loc as a replacement for the [] IV Corps commander, General Dan Van Quang, []

50X6

50X1
50X1

3. Communist China

[] civil
air traffic in northwest China was grounded for several hours today. This may have been caused by bad weather,

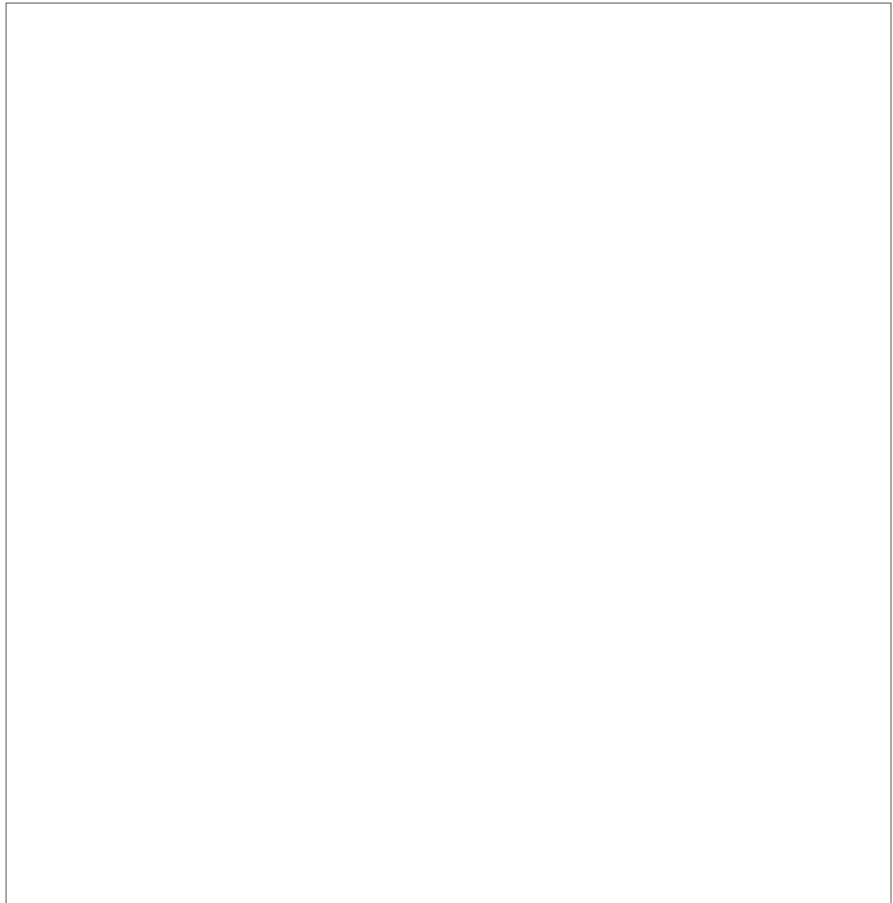
50X1

50X1

50X1

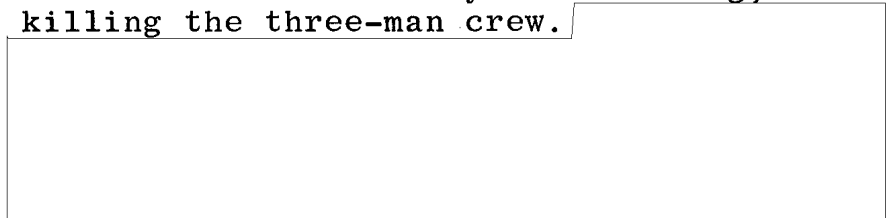
4. Communist China

50X1



5. Soviet Union

The Russians are very much interested in the Pan American jetliner which crashed in East Germany this morning, killing the three-man crew.



50X1

US officials are still trying to get permission to go to the crash, but we expect the Soviets to be rather uncooperative. They will unquestionably see this as the time to retaliate for the treatment they received last April when one of their fighters crashed in the British sector of Berlin.

50X1

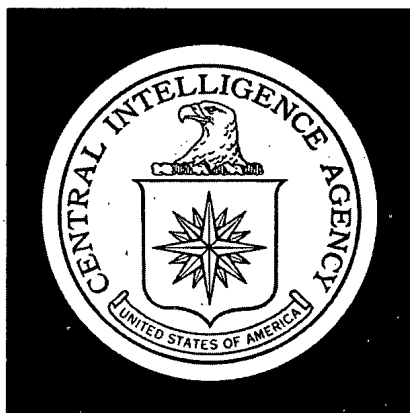
6. Israel-Jordan

The situation is moving from bad to worse. Ambassador Burns in Amman says that pressure is building for Jordan not to wait for another attack, but to attack Israel now.

The first demonstration--a nasty one--protesting the government's inaction took place near the scene of the Israeli incident today. The ambassador feels that Husayn may come to believe that he must vindicate his leadership by striking at Israel in order to save himself.

So far the King has stood firm against attacking Israel now, but says he will certainly be forced to do so if Israel strikes again. He also says he expects the US to provide him arms and to restrain Israel.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 16 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
16 NOVEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

Ky has completed his cabinet changes by splitting the Ministry of Economy and Finance into three. Henceforth there will be ministries for industry, commerce, and finance. Southerners have been chosen to fill these posts as well as the three other vacancies created when disgruntled southern ministers walked out last month.

The three economic ministers are to form an "economic council" under the chairmanship of Ky, with the governor of the national bank as secretary general. This will give the governor a major voice in over-all economic policy.

2. South Vietnam

We have a late report--which we are checking out--that IV Corps commander Quang will replace General Thang as Minister of Revolutionary Development. In what appears to be a typical face-saving arrangement, Thang is slated to become Chief of Staff of the Joint General Staff. Some Revolutionary Development programs are to be transferred to the military and remain under Thang's jurisdiction.

3. Communist China

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

4. Communist China

The Red Guards are snarling the country's transport system.

Incessant travel during recent months by some 10 million of these types has so clogged passenger facilities that many ordinary travelers have been stranded, despite regime efforts to supply extra transport.

Even worse, this congestion is playing havoc with freight shipments on some lines.

50X1

Early this month the regime suggested a remedy--the Guards should walk, in fervent emulation of the Long March. We see a few signs that this idea is catching on, but enthusiasm may wane during the cold and snow of the approaching winter.

50X1

5. Japan

16 November 1966

50X1

6. Dominican Republic

The latest embassy diagnosis is that the political boil is getting angrier.

The Dominican Revolutionary Party seems to have jettisoned its respect for constitutional government in favor of militant attacks against Balaguer. Views of the party's left-wing leaders are close to those of the Communists and extreme leftists and cooperation on some issues is possible.

The embassy believes that Balaguer may take authoritarian measures against the opposition, and predicts that if he does so the opposition will become more intransigent. On the other hand, any lack of firmness by Balaguer could alienate the military-civilian coalition that supports his regime.

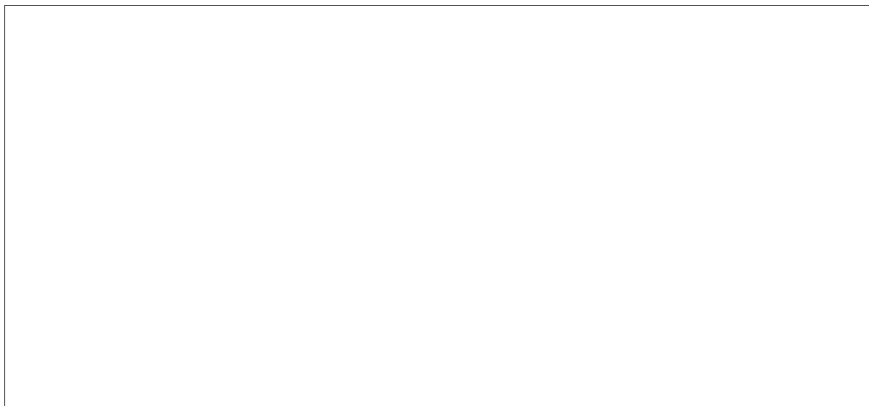
The embassy thinks all this could produce civil strife within three to six months.

7. Indonesia

Yesterday Suharto arrested some officers accused of planning to kidnap him and certain other key military leaders. This ought to clear the air of reports that supporters of Sukarno were about to do something, and may even speed up Suharto's "phased campaign" to neutralize the president.

50X1

8. Iraq



50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 17 November 1966



50X1



50X1

64644

50X1

DAILY BRIEF
17 NOVEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

Recent photography shows that the North Vietnamese and Chinese Communists are starting to improve the rail line connecting Hanoi with Kunming, China. (See Map) The line joining Kunming to the main Chinese rail network was only completed in March.

Improvement of the Kunming route is in line with Hanoi's policy of ensuring alternate transport facilities. Up to now, however, the Pinghsiang-Hanoi Railroad has seemingly been handling deliveries from China more than adequately.

2. South Vietnam

Ky is reconsidering the idea of appointing General Quang Minister of Revolutionary Development. Although we know the transfer was seriously proposed, Ky described it as "crazy" when Ambassador Lodge asked about it.

This leaves wide open the problem of how to dispose of Quang without unduly stirring up his southern friends. After the unfortunate effects of removing General Thi from I Corps last March, Ky is moving very cautiously on this one.

3. Communist China

The United States Intelligence Board has approved a Special National Intelligence Estimate on Peking's advanced weapons program. The estimate concludes that the Chinese could have a few 500-1,000 mile missiles deployed in 1967 or 1968 and a few intercontinental missiles by the early 1970's. The intercontinental missile in particular is likely to be crude by our standards and intended primarily as a psychological weapon.

50X1

50X1

4. Communist China

As the seesaw struggle for power goes on, some of the more practical-minded leaders around Premier Chou En-lai appear to have gained ground.

Yesterday Peking revealed the promotion of economic planner Li Fu-chun into the "standing committee" of the politburo. This committee contains Mao and the top half-dozen or so leaders and is the key policy-making body.

Li's promotion comes despite recent Red Guard poster attacks on him. Li is considered a Chou man and a reasonably good economist.

5. Jordan

50X1

6. Haiti

Duvalier faces growing unrest and disaffection. Despite his knack for nipping coup plots in the bud--last week he cashiered 23 suspect army officers and sent them fleeing to asylum in various Latin American embassies--rumblings and rumors of new schemes to overthrow him continue to circulate in Port-au-Prince.

50X1

50X1

7. Ecuador

The presidential problem has been temporarily swept under the rug with the constituent assembly's election of Otto Arosemena Gomez as provisional president. Otto Arosemena, like his cousin Carlos who was thrown out of the presidency by the military in 1963, is a high living, fifth-of-Scotch-a-day man. Otto is a generally pro-US political moderate, although he does not agree with our economic policies in Latin America.

8. Turkey

Turkish officials suspect last Sunday's riot in Adana--against American airmen who had allegedly molested Turkish girls--may have been organized by the far left Turkish Labor Party.

Tuesday the Turkish foreign minister told Ambassador Hart that there had been advance preparation and that agitators were waiting to whip up a scene when the American airmen came out of a movie. There have been other indications that leftist groups are gearing up for a renewed anti-American campaign.

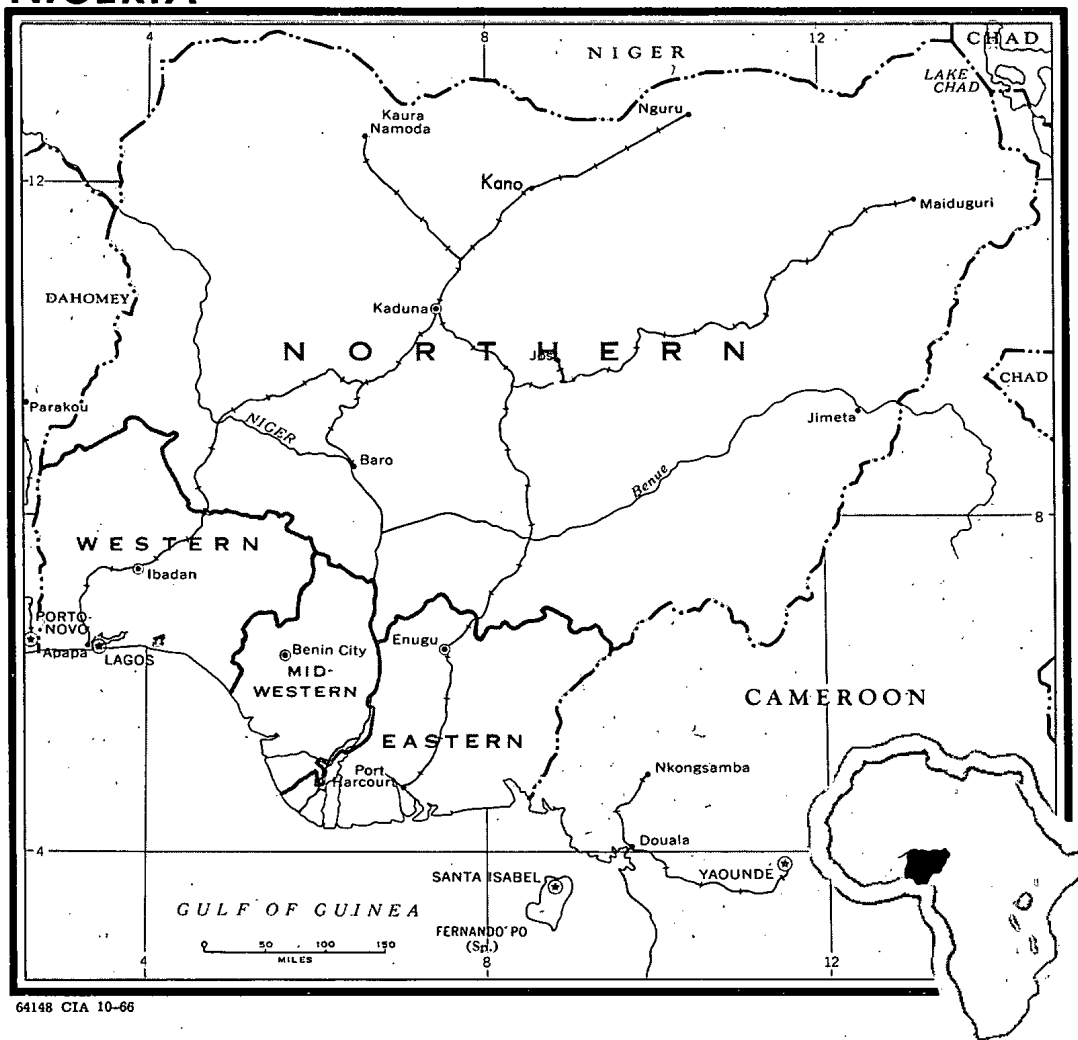
9. India

Newly appointed Home Minister Y. B. Chavan has taken a tough, no nonsense stand on student demonstrations. His first test may come tomorrow if students go through with their plans to march on parliament. Riots by students and other groups have shaken Mrs. Gandhi's government.

10. Nigeria

Efforts to bring the Eastern Region to the conference table have failed, and the interregional talks--scheduled to resume today--have been postponed indefinitely. The situation, in sum, continues to slide downward. A review is at Annex.

NIGERIA



ANNEX

Prospects for Nigeria

CIA has just taken a fresh--and gloomy--look at the Nigerian problem. We believe the situation looks like this:

Nigeria may well be nearing a breakup. The Federation's main political institutions have largely disappeared, formerly important political figures are dead or discredited and practically no one new has come to the scene to take their place. Insofar as federal power exists at all, it is centered in the badly fragmented and undisciplined army, whose troops are mostly from the North. Colonel Gowon, army chief and head of the shattered federal government--himself a northerner--has at most only tenuous control over the military and security forces.

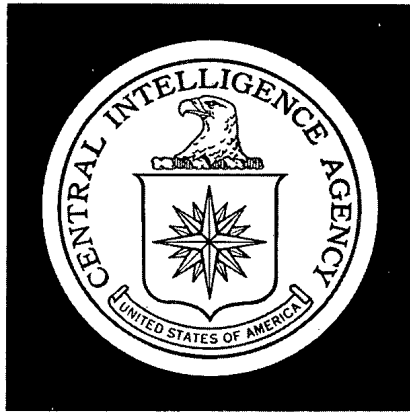
The Eastern Region has already gone some distance toward de facto independence. Its military governor has never recognized Gowon as head of the federal government and the governor now bans the export of food-stuffs from his region. Secessionist sentiment is strong in the East, particularly among the thousands of Ibos who fled because of its massacres in the North. In addition, many easterners think they can go it alone because of their large oil revenues. We expect the drift toward independence to continue, but doubt that actual secession will take place during the next few months.

Gowon and the military, meanwhile, are trying to maintain a united army in some sort of a single country. The problem is that the army is far from united, however. Its leaders may favor a "united" Nigeria only in the abstract, and they are dismayed by the loss of prestige and emoluments which would result from breaking the army into smaller separate parts. In the last analysis, however, the behavior of army officers is usually determined by tribal, regional, or personal ties and prejudices.

ANNEX (Cont'd)

In these circumstances, an attempt to predict the course of events is altogether hazardous. There is an outside chance that some sort of a loose arrangement between the regions will evolve. We think it more likely, however, that there will eventually be a total breakup of the Federation.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 12 November 1966

DAILY BRIEF
18 NOVEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

Ky seems finally to have found another roosting place for [redacted] IV Corps commander, General Quang.

50X1

[redacted]
[redacted] Quang will become Minister of Planning and Development. This is a new ministry, created to give Quang an important enough sounding post to get him out of IV Corps quietly.

50X1

50X1

50X1

2. Jordan

King Husayn has described the recent Israeli attack as an act of war--not a retaliatory raid. He called the diplomatic corps in Amman together to make this point and to emphasize that if Israel attacks again for any reason Jordan will strike back.

Prime Minister Tell later told Ambassador Burns that even if the government tried to exercise restraint he was not certain the Army would. Tell said the Army would be trigger-happy for months to come and it was quite possible for a Jordanian officer to fabricate an incident that would force an attack on Israel.

Although Tell is given to overstatement at times, Burns thinks his observations should not be treated lightly in this case.

50X1

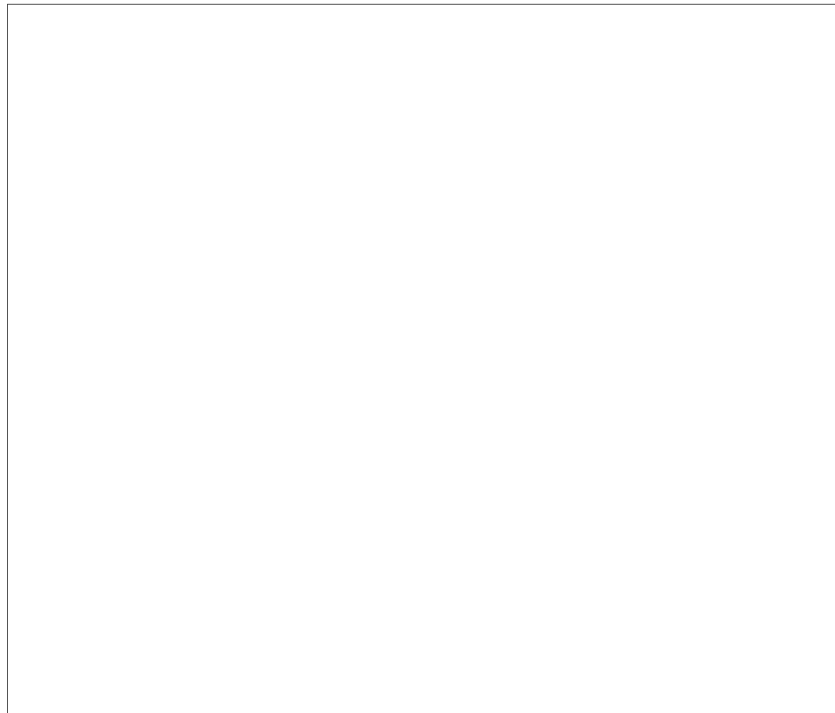
3. Soviet Union

50X1

4. Cambodia

50X1

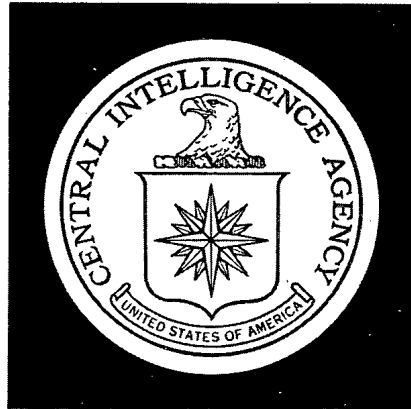
5. West Germany



50X6

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
19 NOVEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

The Saigon embassy says there is no truth to press stories that General Thieu has snubbed Ky's new cabinet appointees.

Thieu in fact did meet the new ministers [redacted]

50X1

[redacted] Thieu and Ky had an extended--and apparently very friendly--conference yesterday. [redacted]
[redacted]

50X1

2. North Vietnam

Low-level photography confirms the presence of two North Vietnamese surface-to-air missile sites within ten miles of the Demilitarized Zone; one is occupied.

50X1

3. North Vietnam

Washington Post correspondent Joseph Kraft has been having talks this week both with Hanoi's ambassador to Prague and with the chief of the Liberation Front's mission there. He got the typically tough response. These are some of the observations:

--the North Vietnamese leaders see the US elections as routine and are not inclined to accept them as a barometer of possible policy changes;

--there seems to have been some disagreement among the hierarchy in Hanoi over military tactics, with older elements sticking with worn-out ideas in use since the war with the French;

--the Liberation Front does not see any advantages in setting up a provisional government at this time.

50X1

4. Ecuador

The life expectancy of the new government of provisional president Otto Arosemena Gomez may be pathetically short.

The coalition that brought Arosemena to power only three days ago shows signs of disintegrating, and the opposition is growing stronger.

If the politicians don't act, the soldiers may. Military leaders are put out by vitriolic attacks on the armed forces now being voiced in the assembly

50X1

5. Indonesia

Suharto has taken another major step toward consolidating his power by signing a decree enabling him to fill the parliamentary seats vacated by Communists with his own supporters.

50X1

6. Rhodesia

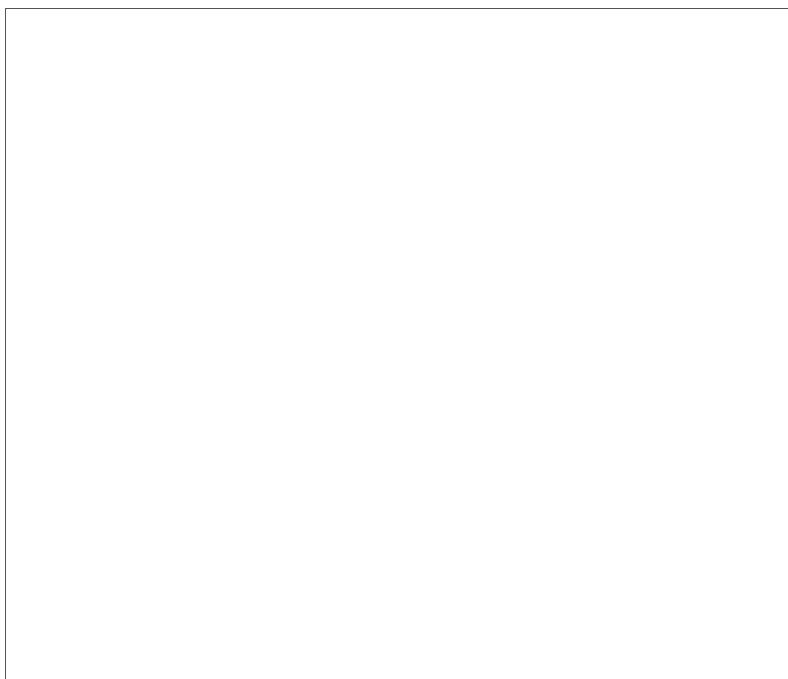
The British High Commissioner in Salisbury believes a final break between Britain and Rhodesia is likely before mid-December. The question will probably be raised in the House of Commons next week.

Commonwealth Secretary Bowden may make a last-ditch visit to Salisbury to pin the blame clearly on the Rhodesian regime.

50X1

7. Haiti

50X1



50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
21 NOVEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

Tri Quang seems to be moving to get himself back into the mainstream of political action. He has been relatively quiet in the weeks since he gave up his hunger strike. He must be itching to get back into action.

Tri Quang let it be known last week that he is prepared to take part "constructively" in the political process--provided a "satisfactory" constitution is adopted. He also pointedly sided with the constituent assembly's current effort to have its charter amended.

2. South Vietnam

Food prices are rising again. By the middle of this month the Saigon working class had to pay 30 percent more for its rice than it paid last June. Recent flood damage in the delta has added to the problem by pushing up vegetable prices.

Reports from the provinces also tell of general increases in retail prices and the hoarding by merchants in anticipation of still higher prices during the holidays. The feeling is prevalent in the provinces that the recent resignation of Economy Minister Thanh will not help the fight against inflation.

3. Soviet Union

The Russians may be cranking up for another lunar mission within the next day or so.

the position of their tracking ships point in this direction. So far in 1966, the Soviets have launched five lunar probes.

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1 50X1

4. Nationalist China



5. Togo

President Grunitzky is back in the saddle after an abortive coup fizzled out early this morning. The picture is still murky. More than one group apparently moved against Grunitzky. As of tonight, he seems to have the army's support, although some military men were involved in the coup attempt. Lome, the capital, is calm and there appears to be no danger to Americans.

6. Jordan

Bitterness and anger over the 13 November Israeli attack remain the predominant public emotions in Jordan. Anti-regime demonstrations took place again yesterday and there could be trouble tomorrow.



50X1

50X1

50X1



7. West Germany

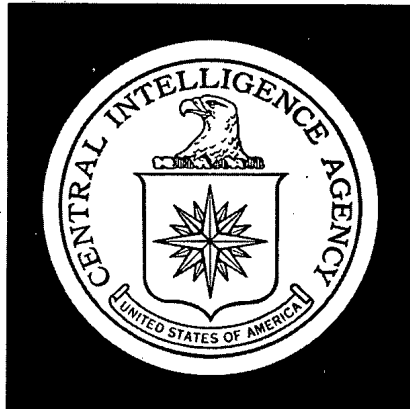
Franz Joseph Strauss will find his hand significantly strengthened by yesterday's Bavarian elections.

Strauss should be able to parlay his party's victory into a key cabinet role for himself when a new national government is formed in Bonn. On the other side, the smallest of the three coalition parties lost ground in Bavaria and will no longer be so attractive a partner to the two major parties. The Socialists and Christian Democrats may now turn to a "grand coalition."

The far right-wing National Democratic Party with its neo-Nazi overtones captured 15 legislative seats, demonstrating strength among refugee, farmer, and small business groups. Though this success was minor, it sent a shiver through the major parties who now appear to agree that the National Democrats must be openly combatted.

The final score in the 204-seat Bavarian legislature: Christian Socialists--110; Socialists--79; National Democratic Party--15.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
22 NOVEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

50X1

2. South Vietnam

Chief of State Thieu sees a continuing key role for the military in South Vietnam in spite of movement toward a civilian-based government. Thieu told General Westmoreland yesterday he doubted that a strong political party could be formed and said that even if it were, it will be the army and not a political party that will carry the fight against the Viet Cong.

Thieu said he would not be a candidate for office under the forthcoming constitution, but that other generals might run.

Thieu denied rumors of strained relations between himself and Ky. He said Ky himself was aware that Thieu had been a useful restraining influence on Ky's impetuosity.

3. Jordan

King Husayn's "brother" Arabs in Egypt and Syria are exploiting the unrest in Jordan to encourage his people to rise against him. The King's security forces in fact have their hands full trying to control antiregime demonstrations. [redacted] it took two battalions of troops to put down a riot yesterday in a west Jordan town.

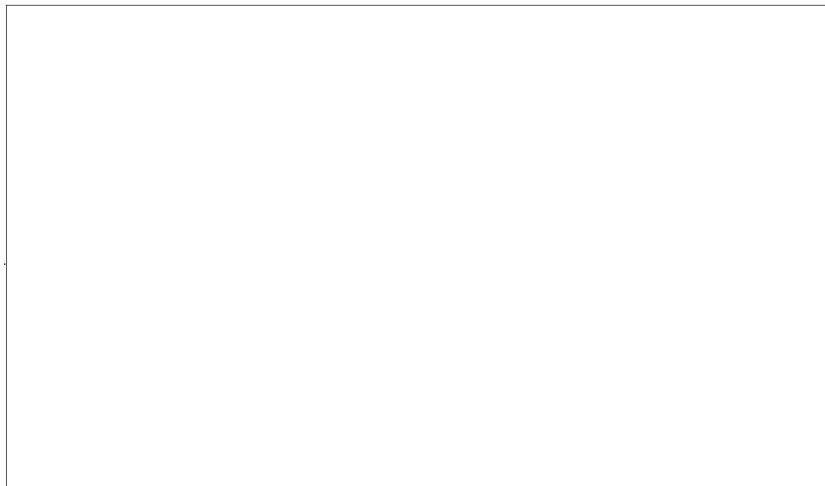
50X1

50X1

50X1

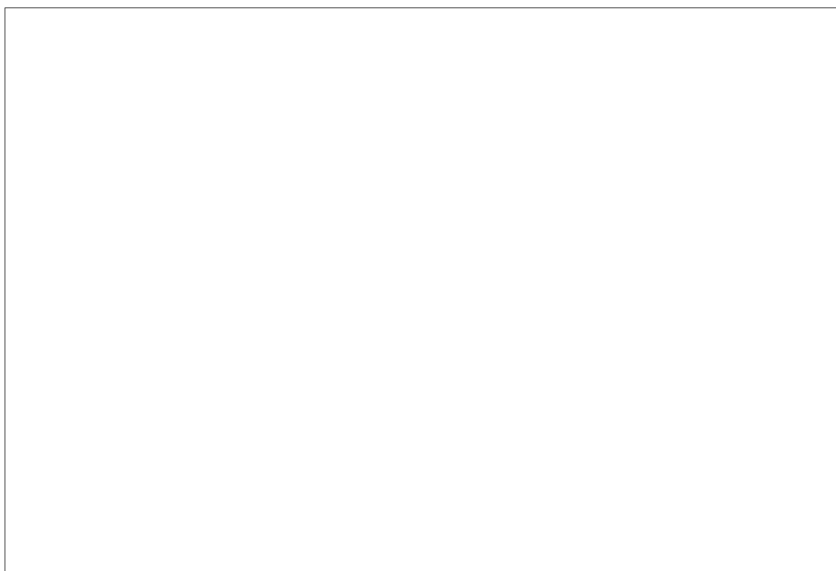
4. Soviet Union

50X1



5. Soviet Union

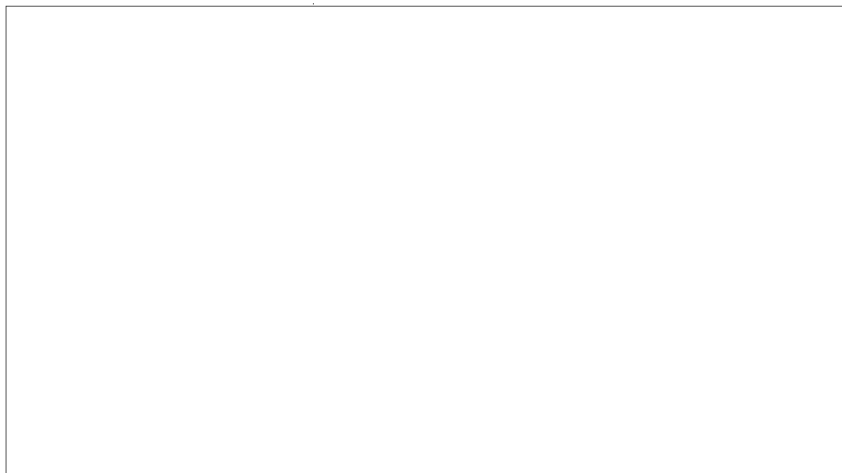
50X1



6. Soviet Union

It looks as though Raul Castro got what he wanted in Moscow last spring-- a new military aid agreement.

50X1



50X1

50X1

7. Rhodesia

Smith has tossed Prime Minister Wilson a hot potato [REDACTED]

50X1
50X1

Smith has publicly accepted an invitation to appear on British television, and many Britons will interpret his willingness to come to London as a sign of reasonableness. Should Wilson now go ahead and break--or refuse Smith a visa--he is likely to get most of the blame.

Wilson cannot delay for long, however, if he is to get UN action on the mandatory economic sanctions he promised African commonwealth leaders if Smith is still in business at the end of the year.

8. Australia

Saturday's elections should pose no threat to Prime Minister Holt's government. Holt may lose two Senate seats, however [REDACTED]

50X1

50X6

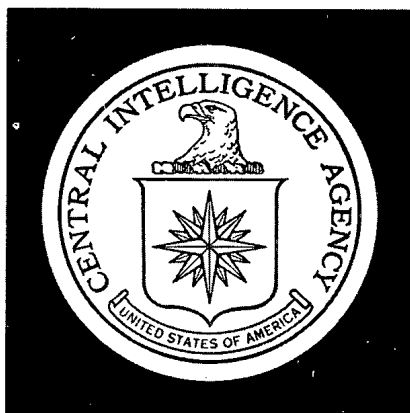
Since President Johnson's visit, Holt has attempted to depict the election as a referendum on his government's Vietnam policy and close ties with the US.

9. Communist China

[REDACTED]

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
23 NOVEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

A foreign ministry official has "explained" to embassy officers Foreign Minister Do's public threat of hot pursuit into Cambodia.

The official said Do's statement was not really a declaration of a new policy and would not result in South Vietnamese troops actually pursuing the next border violators back into Cambodia. Rather, he said, it was a warning to Sihanouk to desist from his recent public abuse of Saigon officials.

The official admitted, however, that Do's speech was given on orders from "the military" who, he said, favor such countermeasures against Cambodia.

2. Communist China

The battle for power within the leadership took a sudden new turn today. Red Guard attacks on Chief of State Liu Shao-chi and the general secretary of the party were sharply intensified. Both are now publicly accused of very serious political crimes. This may well be the start of a move to bring them down in disgrace.

3. Guinea

Russian teachers at Guinea's polytechnic institute are upset at the prospect of a US aid pullout from Guinea. One of the deans at the institute says the Russians fear the result would be to place them in the intolerable position of direct confrontation with the Chinese aid personnel in Guinea. Ultimately, they fear, the Guineans may turn on them as they have the Americans.

4. Jordan

The situation is grave. Violent anti-Husayn demonstrations erupted today in every important center in west Jordan, including Jerusalem. Some openly called for the King's overthrow. Jordanian officials expect the demonstrations to become even more violent.

So far the police and troops appear to be responding to orders but this may not last much longer. The use of troops to repress demonstrations is further intensifying military demands for retaliation against Israel. Such a retaliatory strike would, in fact, be the one thing that could quickly--if momentarily--restore the King's and the army's prestige.

King Husayn insists his choice has now narrowed to either a strike at Israel, even if it be suicidal, or facing a popular revolution at home. He told a US Embassy officer last night that "I have never before been blamed so openly by my own people and army for failing to provide the necessary defense against Israel. To oppose pro-Nasir demonstrations is one thing. To seem to oppose my own people and army on Israel is quite another."

50X6

50X1

5. Uruguay

The prospects for continued democracy in Uruguay hang on the outcome of Sunday's elections. If none of the four proposals to replace the nation's unwieldy nine-man executive with a single president is approved, the result will be bitter public disillusionment. The pressures for illegal action to force a change will then grow.

The voters must choose from a bewildering array of candidates for both the presidency--in case constitutional reform is approved--and for a new National Council of Government--in the event reform fails.

At this point it looks like a toss-up between the two traditional political parties. It is generally expected, however, that the Communists' electoral front will make significant gains and thus increase its stature as an important minority group.

6. NATO

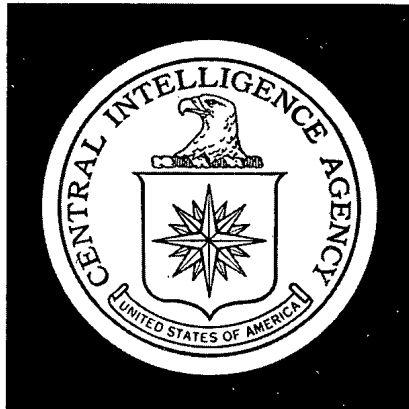
The Germans are moving ahead on their own in talks with the French regarding the legal status of French troops in Germany. Bonn and Paris now hope to have the issue settled before the mid-December NATO ministerial meeting.

Bonn had earlier agreed to keep these talks parallel to General Lemnitzer's negotiations with Paris on the mission of the French forces in Germany and their relationship with the NATO command.

50X1

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 November 1966



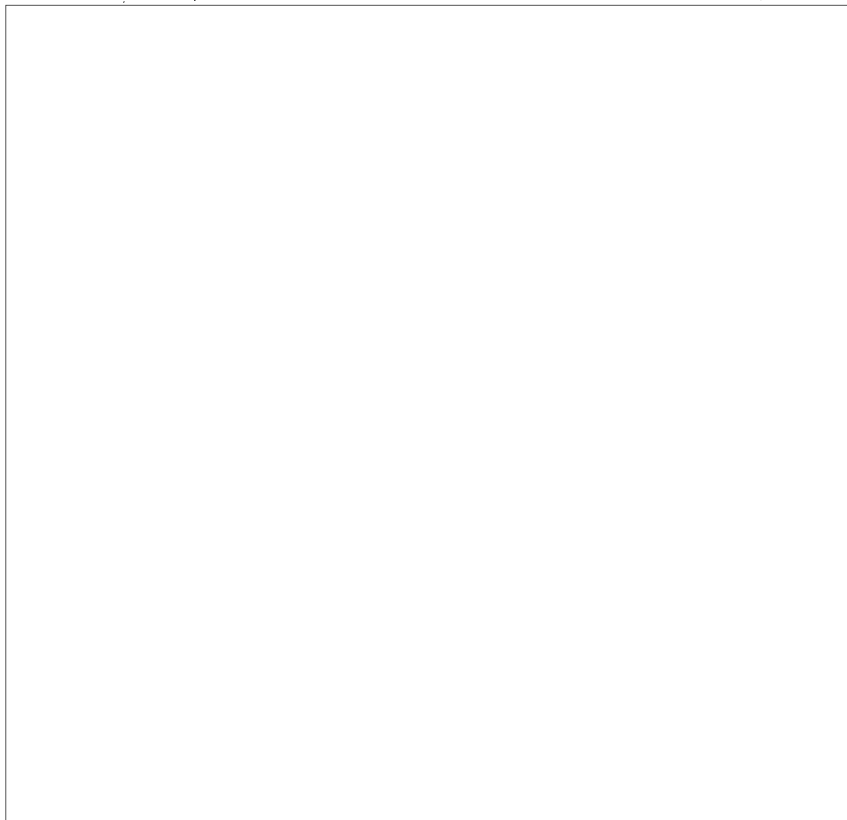
50X1

DAILY BRIEF
24 NOVEMBER 1966

1. Jordan

Demonstrations against the government have quieted today but there have been some outbreaks. Although King Husayn expects further demonstrations, he is more concerned about assassination of Jordanian leaders.

50X1



At last report Nasir is making a speech. We do not yet know what he is saying, but he can hardly avoid the Jordanian issue. How he chooses to play it may well determine whether a major Middle East crisis is at hand.

2. North Vietnam

The North Vietnamese Army seems to be having morale problems. This month's army journal, published in Hanoi, contained an article that was clearly intended as a pep talk for those whose resolve may be weakening--"suffering losses and making sacrifices does not mean we are not winning," the author said.

50X1

3.. North Vietnam

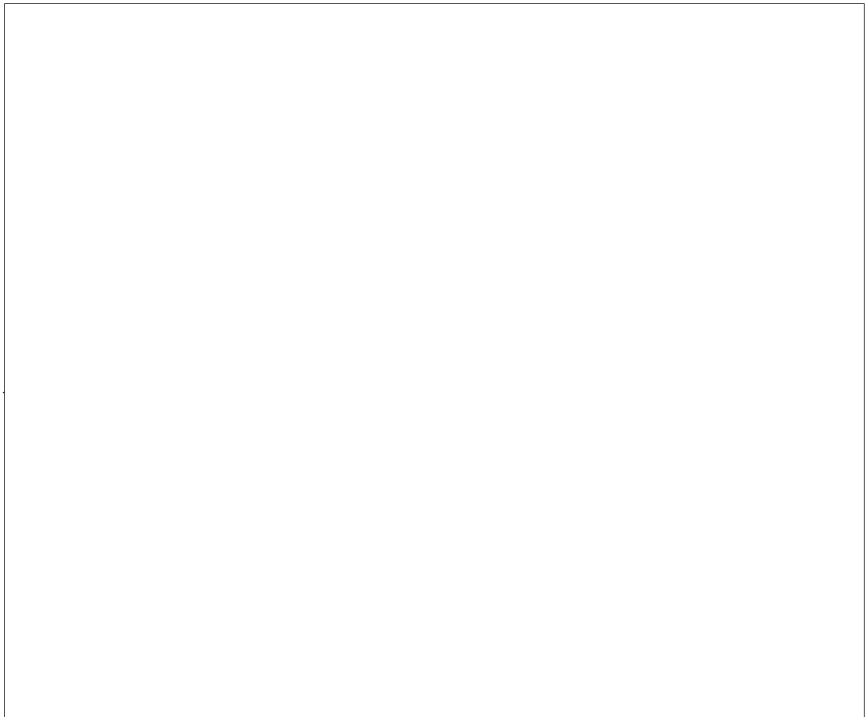
Bad weather and disruptions caused by the war are contributing to a poor rice harvest.

Local authorities are having trouble getting in the late crop--which accounts for almost two thirds of total production--because of excessive rain and lack of labor. Even Hanoi's public statements on the harvest have been less than optimistic.

A reduced rice harvest will add to the woes of the ordinary citizen, but a major food crisis is not likely. Hanoi will probably be forced to divert some manpower to production of other foods and import food from its Communist friends.

4.. Nationalist China

50X1



24 Nov 66

50X1

5. Communist China

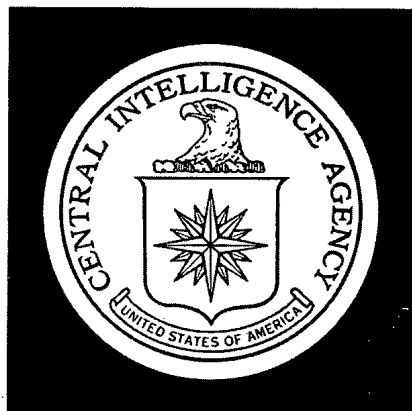
The new attacks on Liu Shao-Chi and Teng Hsiao-Ping which we reported yesterday have brought the struggle in Peking to yet another climax.

The attacks now seem so bitter and fundamental that we believe the attackers-- whoever they are--have committed themselves to destroying the bulk of the party's leadership as it has existed since 1939. They also suggest by implication a failure of Mao's leadership over that period.

Despite orders from one of the contending factions to go home by the 20th, the Red Guards remain in Peking. Another great rally, scheduled first for yesterday and then for today, has been postponed twice without explanation.

24 Nov 66

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 25 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
25 NOVEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

50X1

2. Communist China

The line-up of Chinese leaders at today's Red Guard rally did little to clear up the mystery of who is winning out in the power struggle. Despite grave charges made by the Guards only two days ago against Chief of State Liu Shao-chi and party secretary Teng Hsiao-ping, both men showed up with Mao and the other leaders to watch one million Red Guards tramp past.

50X1

3. Jordan

The Jordanian situation remains explosive, although the King survived a potentially dangerous Moslem sabbath.

Whipped up by sermons at morning prayers, Moslem worshippers broke from mosques in the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem today for another round of riots against the King. Jordanian security forces opened fire and three civilians were killed before things calmed down. At last report, the streets were quiet.

Nasir was very careful in his speech yesterday. He could have inflamed the situation; instead, he chose not to attack King Husayn openly. Nasir

50X1

knows that a revolution in Jordan might suck him into a war with Israel--a war he probably would lose.

50X1

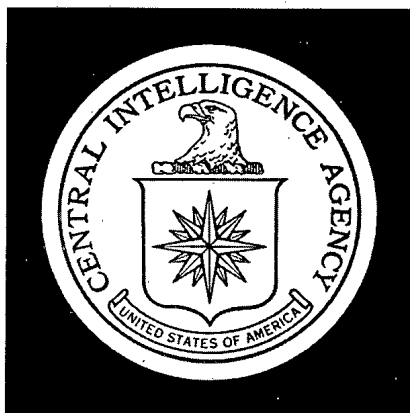
4. Laos

The small war goes on. With the end of the rains, Communist troops have begun sparring with friendly forces for hilltop positions overlooking supply routes in northern Laos. These are small unit actions with limited objectives--the Communists are reluctant to concentrate in large numbers because of increasingly effective tactical airstrikes against them.

25 Nov 66

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 26 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
26 NOVEMBER 1966

1. West Germany

The West German Socialists have apparently agreed to form a "grand coalition" with the Christian Democrats. This will mean Kiesinger will be chancellor and Socialist leader Brandt most probably vice chancellor and foreign minister.

A new government under Kiesinger will continue to work closely with the US, but it probably will be more assertive of German national interests. We also would expect an effort to improve relations with Paris and a greater flexibility toward relations with Eastern Europe.

2. Vietnam

We see some signs that the Cambodians are indeed trying to limit Viet Cong use of their territory as a sanctuary.

50X1

A Cambodian soldier captured last week in Tay Ninh claims he was part of a team sent across the border to warn the Viet Cong they would be fired on if they attempted to enter Cambodia.

50X1

3. France

General De Gaulle ranged over a wide field of subjects in a Thanksgiving Day chat with Ambassador Bohlen. No new or startling trends in De Gaulle's thinking emerged, although Bohlen believes the French President is edging toward acceptance of two Germanies.

De Gaulle continues to believe the best thing for Europe is De Gaulle. Speaking in "complete friendship," he lectured the ambassador on the need for a US withdrawal in Vietnam.

When Bohlen remarked that the American public was puzzled by present French policies, De Gaulle replied he was out to "restore France's personality" in international affairs.

4. Syria

Damascus is threatening to take over the pipeline that carries oil from northern Iraq through Syria to the Mediterranean.

The Syrians have tried a bit of Bedouin brigandage by demanding more money for transit fees, but the Western companies that own the pipeline can get oil elsewhere and are holding firm.

If the pipeline is shut down, Iraq will lose about 40 percent of its government revenue. However, the radical Syrian regime, abysmally ignorant of economics, apparently does not recognize that Syria too will suffer.

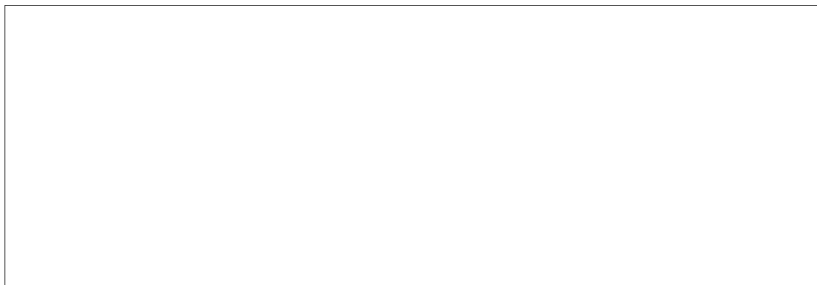
5. Jordan

As of 1200 noon EST, the situation is quiet, but tense.

26 Nov 66

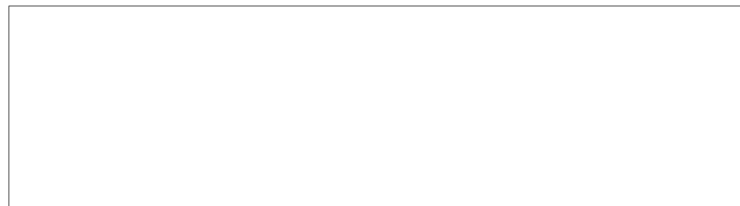
50X1

6. Communist China



50X1

7. El Salvador



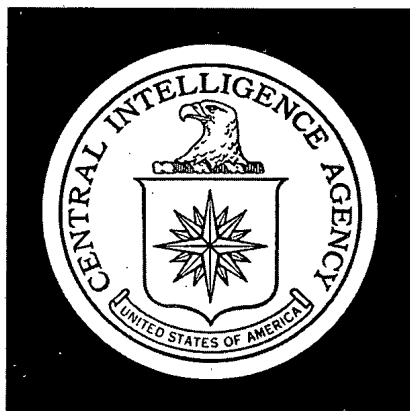
50X1

26 Nov 66



50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 28 November 1966



50X1

23

DAILY BRIEF
28 NOVEMBER 1966

1. Vietnam

The Viet Cong radio yesterday denounced Saigon's statement that the Viet Cong had "proposed" truces over Christmas and New Year's. The Viet Cong declared that their truce announcement was a unilateral decision, and that there is no question of "making any proposal" to the US and South Vietnam.

The Viet Cong's sharp reaction is probably explained by their desire to squelch any implication that the truces could lead to negotiations.

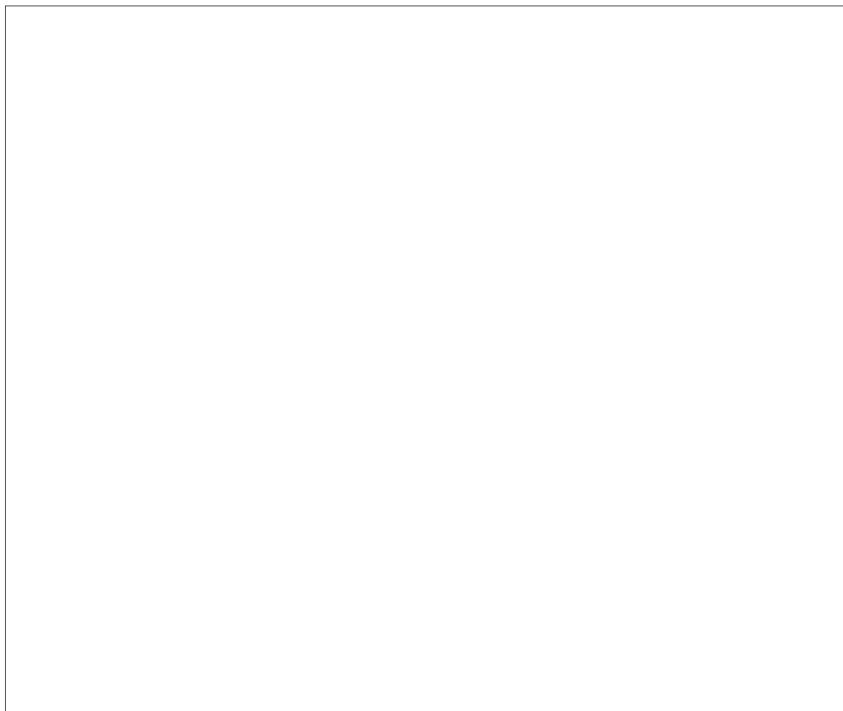
2. Indonesia

Ambassador Green feels that Foreign Minister Malik is less optimistic about the political situation than in recent months.

Two things in particular seemed to be bugging Malik when he talked with Green Saturday: a belief that the military were "moving in" on the civilian sector, and fear that Suharto was playing Sukarno too loosely. He apparently feels that Suharto's tendency to compromise with Sukarno will revive now dormant pro-Sukarno elements.

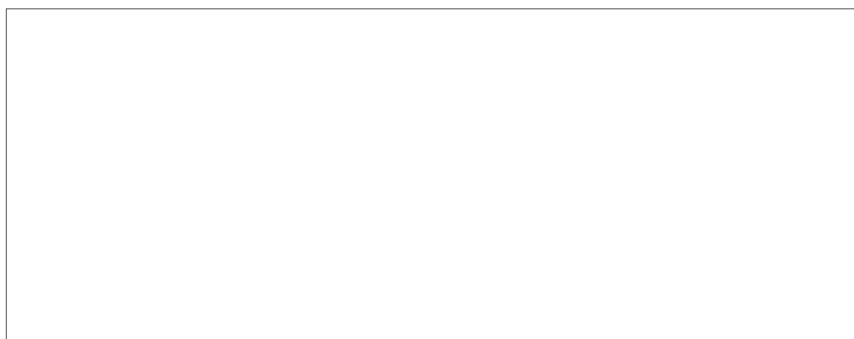
The President, however, may soon be in for some anxious moments. Colonel Dani, a chief figure in last October's coup attempt, goes on trial before a military tribunal on Wednesday. He probably knows all and could implicate Sukarno, but may well hold back in hope of obtaining clemency from the President. 50X1

3. United Kingdom



50X6

4. Rhodesia



50X6

5. Jordan

There was only one antiregime demonstration today, but officials are braced for trouble tomorrow--the anniversary of the UN resolution partitioning Palestine.



50X1
50X1

28 Nov 66

50X1

6. Communist China

We have evidence of further strengthening of Peking's southern fleet.

[redacted] a major vessel, which may have replaced the fleet flagship, has been operating in the area since late last week.

50X1

28 Nov 66

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 29 November 1966



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
29 NOVEMBER 1966

50X1

1. Soviet Union

2. Vietnam

A Filipino congressman arrived in Saigon yesterday with word that President Marcos intends to visit South Vietnam "very shortly." Marcos is still publicly denying such plans, but rumors of his impending visit are already spreading in Saigon. Such a trip now would be consistent with Marcos' energetic efforts to follow up on the Manila conference.

3. Jordan

The antiregime demonstrations in west Jordan today resulted in some violence, but the day passed without the serious trouble that had been feared.

Israeli fighter planes clashed with Egyptian MIG-19s near the border and at least one of the Egyptian planes was downed. Israel has publicly claimed to have knocked out two MIGs, but Egypt has been mum about the whole affair.

4. Indonesia

Another delay has come to the army's drive to implicate Sukarno in last year's pro-Communist coup effort. The trial of former air force leader Dani has been postponed again. The postponement is attributed to the judge's illness. We suspect, however, that the cautious General Suharto may again be temporizing with Sukarno.

50X1

5. Burundi

A bad government has been replaced by a worse one. Yesterday's coup seems to have been the work of extremists who have long favored re-establishment of relations with Communist China. The new leaders will probably go slowly, however. They are inexperienced and probably anxious to avoid offending Belgium, on whose support the country depends.

6. Communist China

50X1

7. Brazil

President-elect Costa e Silva plans to pass through the US sometime in January during the extensive world trip he is planning. Last week he gently needled the US defense attaché on the fact that the US, unlike other countries, had not yet issued him an invitation.

29 Nov 66

50X1

8. Uruguay

The voters have approved a return to presidential government, but the president-elect may not have what it will take to pull his country out of the doldrums.

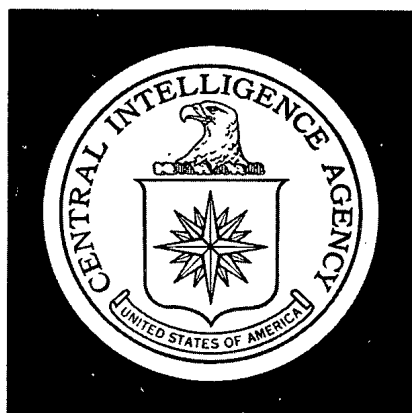
The 65-year-old Oscar Gestido, who will have to wait until next March to begin his five-year term, owes his victory to a well-oiled political machine. Neither particularly dynamic nor imaginative, Gestido is probably a good deal more honest than the political faction which helped elect him and with which he must share the spoils of victory.

As expected, the Communists' political front gained significantly. It now seems that it may double its small representation in Congress.

29 Nov 66

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 November 1966



50X1

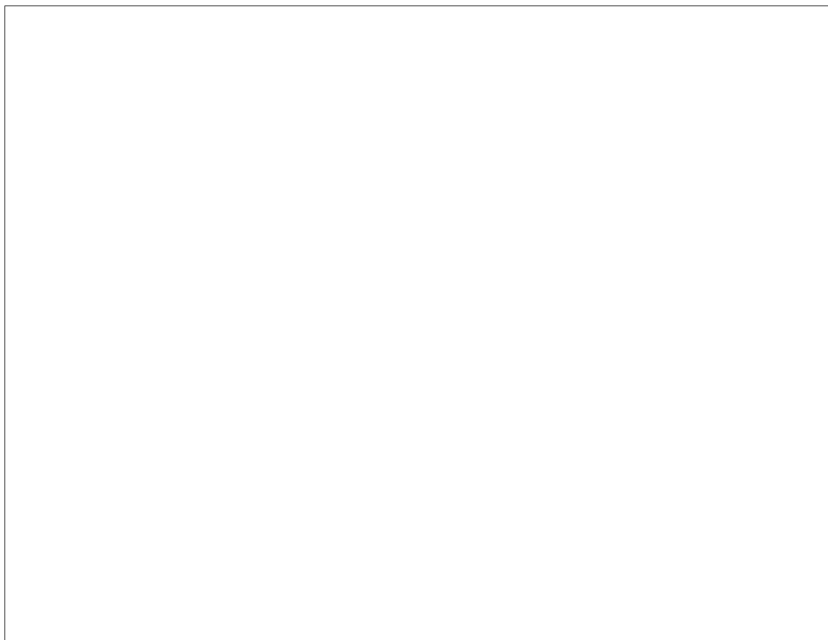
DAILY BRIEF
30 NOVEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

We see signs that Communist military leaders, probably shaken by the success of US search-and-destroy operations, are shifting from large-scale operations to guerrilla tactics. A discussion of this trend is today's Annex.

50X1

2. North Vietnam



3. Soviet Union

The new Soviet spacecraft was finally brought to earth today.

This was probably the first in a series of test flights of a new vehicle for future manned space missions.

50X1

50X1

50X1

4. West Germany

The new cabinet includes much of the best political talent in Bonn. Kiesinger's success will be measured by the degree to which he can forge an effective government out of this group of ambitious individuals, whose past feuds have been frequent and bitter.

In parliament, the new "grand coalition" will hold 447 seats to only 49 for the Free Democrats, the sole opposition party. However, after 17 years of fighting each other, the coalition parties may have trouble cooperating. Sensitive issues include the Socialists' desire to improve relations with East Europe, including East Germany, and the questions of offset and the impending budget deficit. 50X6

5. Indonesia

Moscow has agreed to permit Indonesia to reschedule its debts on terms at least as favorable as those offered by Western creditors. During the readjustment period, Moscow will provide spare parts and technical assistance on a cash basis.

Soviet military aid deliveries account for the largest single slice of the Indonesian debt and the Soviets obviously want to protect their investment. They are also urging Djakarta to move ahead with some economic aid projects already under way. These include a steel mill and a nuclear research reactor.

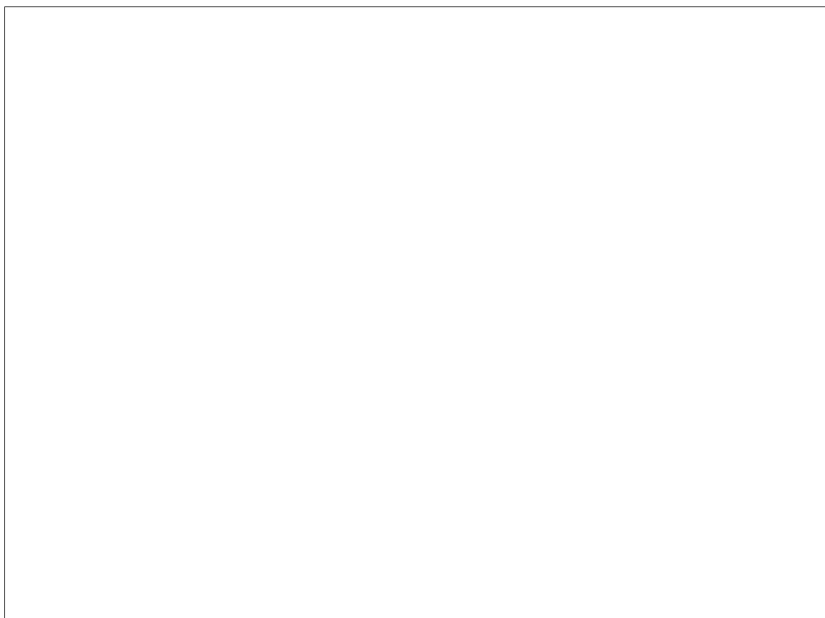
30 Nov 66

50X1

6. Jordan

Jordan was quiet today for the first time in over ten days.

50X1

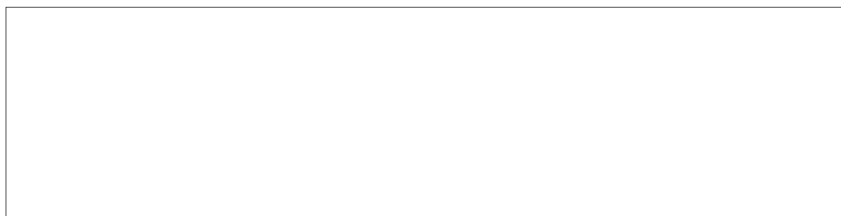


7. Rhodesia

The Rhodesian affair has staggered into yet another final round. Neither opponent wants to allow the other to be last in the ring. Thus both continue to shadow-box long after the real issues have been settled.

Smith's latest maneuver is to make a "final" series of counterproposals to the British. These are clearly designed for public effect as a demonstration of willingness to compromise, but make no concessions on his basic position.

50X1



30 Nov 66

50X1

ANNEX

Return to Guerrilla Warfare?

The "great debate" among North Vietnamese military leaders over whether to emphasize guerrilla operations over large-scale mobile warfare seems to have ended for the moment--in favor of the guerrillas.

Such is the message of an article written by one "Cuu Long" (Vietnamese for "Mekong") and widely publicized by the North Vietnamese. "Cuu Long" is probably the pseudonym of a senior member of the Communist hierarchy in South Vietnam. He specifically warns against "the erroneous concept" of "depending on concentrated troops" to challenge US forces to large unit combat on a regular basis. All this contrasts markedly with the weight placed on conventional warfare tactics by the Communist leadership within South Vietnam as late as last July.

The appearance of this article suggests that the leadership has made its decision. Actually such tactics have been forced on the Communists in recent months by the success of US search-and-destroy/spoiling operations, which have made it more difficult for them to mount their own large-scale operations.

50X1
50X1

None of this means, however, that the Communists are going to pack up their gear and go home. "Cuu Long" stresses, on the contrary, that guerrilla war is admirably suited to a "protracted resistance" which will tie down enemy forces by making them spread themselves thin. Nor does he mean that the Communists will lapse into purely defensive tactics. Specifically warning against such a move, he points out that even in guerrilla warfare the object is continually to attack and harass the enemy. "To pause at the defensive is to invite the danger of being annihilated" is the way "Cuu Long" puts it. He does not rule out occasional large-scale operations, but implies that

30 Nov 66

50X1

there must be closer coordination between the political and military actions of the guerrillas and the regular forces.

The author admits that the Communists face difficulties even if they go all out to develop the "unlimited" potential of guerrilla warfare. For instance, he notes the need for quickly expanding the number of guerrillas in the south, and implicitly criticizes the Viet Cong high command for weakening the guerrillas in 1965 by transferring cadres and men into the regular forces. Elsewhere in the article he hints that this process is already being reversed. We indeed see signs that some of the larger units are being broken down into guerrilla groups.

The Communists clearly remain confident that with these revised tactics they can chew up US forces piecemeal and ultimately inflict a politically unacceptable level of casualties.

50X1

50X1

30 Nov 66

50X1

Top Secret