

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 28 February 1967
1 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF

28 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

Former prime minister Tran Van Huong is emerging as a potential civilian presidential candidate who would have the support of southern regionalists. He wants the job and probably will throw his hat into the ring when the time comes, according to a US Embassy officer who visited him yesterday.

The embassy officer found Huong to be an intelligent and strong-minded man, but no strong believer in democracy. As president, he would try to be a strong, paternalistic leader. Huong understands the need for military-civilian cooperation, but he keenly remembers his troubles with the military when he was prime minister. He is clearly thinking of a civilian government in which the military would be kept in a subordinate role.

2. North Vietnam

50X1

3. Communist China

The army is now clearly emerging as the prime instrument for reestablishing order.

Yesterday Peking broadcast what amounts to a blueprint for the military in straightening out those provinces where disorder exists. The broadcast identifies "anarchism" as the chief danger, an implicit criticism of Maoist revolutionaries. It also stresses the importance of "production." [redacted]

[redacted] wall posters show that the army is increasingly active in civil affairs.

50X1

50X1

Radical revolutionary groups are still causing trouble in some provinces, but troops are now being used to arrest their leaders and, in some cases, disband their organizations.

4. Latin America

Perhaps as many as four presidents will not attend the inter-American summit. Arosemena of Ecuador and Belaunde of Peru could well boycott--mainly because of their dispute with the United States over fishing rights. Barrientos of Bolivia insists he will stay away unless Bolivia's access to the sea is on the agenda. He seems amenable to a face-saving formula on this, however. We have already noted that Duvalier will remain in Haiti.

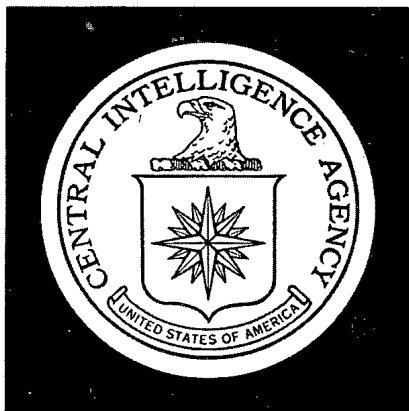
5. Aden

A new wave of violence in Aden is expected to follow the killing of a number of prominent Arab nationalists. In the last three days, a former cabinet minister was shot, an ex-premier's home was bombed and three of his sons killed, and two men were trampled to death at the sons' funeral. The chaos has produced a general strike.

What lies behind all this, we believe, is a feud between the two main terrorist groups which are fighting for position in anticipation of the British pullout next year.

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 March 1967

2 March 1967



50X1

23

50X1

DAILY BRIEF
1 - 2 MARCH 1967

50X1

1. Soviet Union



2. Sino-Soviet
Relations

Moscow's anti-Chinese campaign continues at full throttle despite the change of pace in Peking's "cultural revolution."

The Soviets are screaming as shrilly as ever about alleged Chinese interference with Soviet aid to Hanoi. Yesterday Hanoi felt obliged to deny "Western" reports of such interference.

Moscow, apparently determined to stir up disaffection among ethnic minorities in far-west China, is still deluging the area with broadcasts which depict, in local languages, the worst aspects of events in China.

50X1



50X1

50X1

3. Uruguay

The country's Communist Party hopes, through a massive agitation campaign, to create a climate of apprehension before the April summit meeting. 50X1

[REDACTED]

The party effectively controls organized labor, and is capable of fomenting strikes or disrupting public services on call. Moreover, inflammatory propaganda could egg on other, more extremist, groups to acts of vandalism or even violence. 50X1

[REDACTED] Communist parties in several other countries are planning protest demonstrations in their own capitals, and intend to pressure various presidents to resist US proposals.

4. Brazil

During a recent informal evening with our military attaché (a long-time friend), outgoing President Castello Branco said his successor, Costa e Silva, is "intelligent, shrewd, and forceful," and should "do all right." Referring to the endless jokes and cartoons about his own short neck, Castello Branco laughed off the latest one--which says that after three years of government without a neck, Brazil will now have four years without a head.

The President added that Costa was "extremely enthusiastic" about President Johnson personally.

50X1

5. Congo

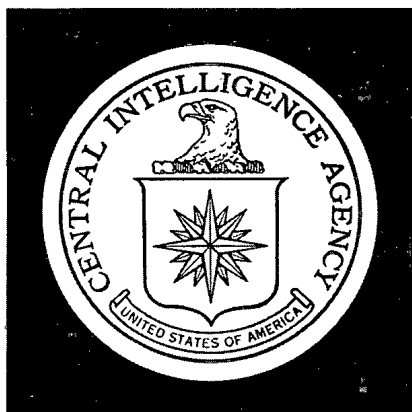
Foreign Minister Bomboko came back from Paris, and an audience with De Gaulle, acting like there's gold in those hills. Specifically, he claims Paris will provide a \$20-million short-term loan--to help cover the foreign exchange shortage caused by Mobutu's "victory" over Union Miniere--and increase French technical assistance in the Congo. The hooker is De Gaulle's hint that the Congo should cozy up to the ex-French African states.

Mobutu, although wary of the French, might string along awhile with Paris if he thinks this will help him break Belgium's economic hold on the Congo.

6. Syria

The pipeline from northern Iraq to the Mediterranean, closed since mid-December, may soon reopen. Agreement between Syrian negotiators and the Western-owned company was easy: the company knuckled under to most demands. The radical Damascus regime will now proclaim another victory over the "imperialists."

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

3 March Day Run

~~Top Secret~~ 3 March 1967

~~4 March 1967~~

DAILY BRIEF
3 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

Pressure is building up fast for an early decision by the military on whether to back Ky or Thieu for the presidency. The Armed Forces Congress may meet on the question as early as this weekend.

50X1

2. Vietnam

From a recent conversation with the Soviet ambassador in Hanoi, a Western diplomat got the impression that Moscow sees the new US military tactics against North Vietnam as an "added measure of the same," rather than as an "escalatory step." However, the diplomat inferred that the mining of Haiphong would be regarded as escalation. Soviet policy, the Westerner surmised, will be determined by the war's political and economic cost to Moscow--and not solely by US action against North Vietnam.

Ambassador Thompson got a slightly different--and tougher--reaction yesterday from a middle-level official in the Soviet foreign ministry. This man laced into the ambassador rather vigorously on what he called our recent escalation in Vietnam. He was courteous throughout, however, and seemed to be talking only for the record.

3. Argentina

The Ongania regime won an important victory over the big General Labor Confederation on 1 March. The confederation's 24-hour general strike was a flop. The failure is a serious if not final blow to labor's phased "action plan" against the government's work reform measures.

50X1

50X1

4. Communist China

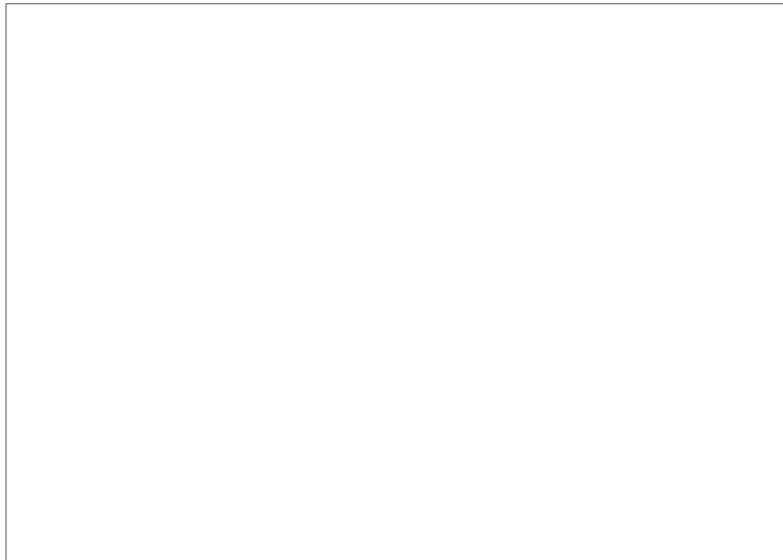
50X1

5. West Germany

50X6

50X1

6. Uruguay



7. Dominican Republic

Dominican politics is like a nest of tarantulas. President Balaguer used this apt phrase in a major speech this week that was a forthright response to his political opposition. He stressed that while subversion and political violence will not be tolerated, all shades of political opinion are free to engage in open dialogue.

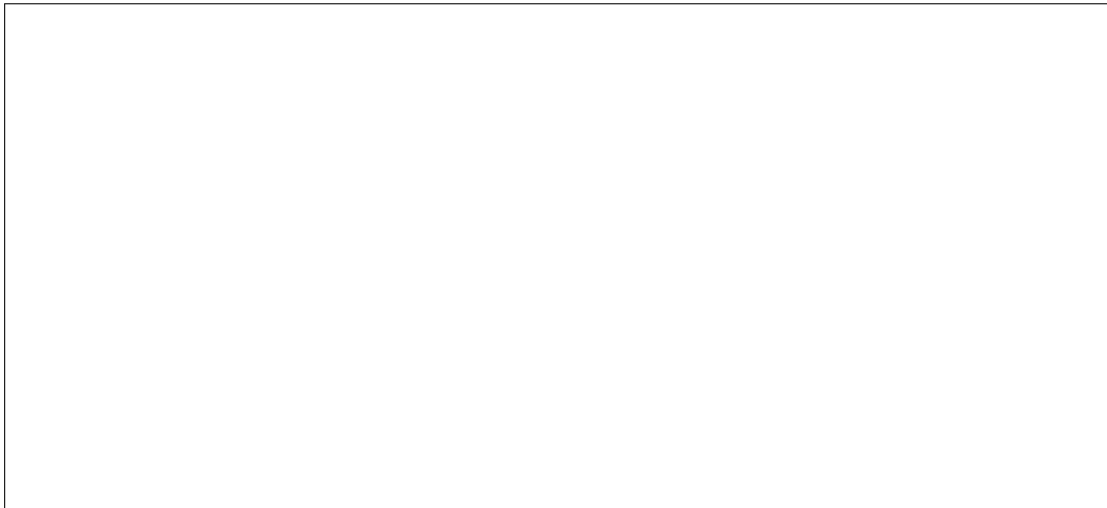
Some elements of the opposition found the speech constructive and conciliatory--but not the big Dominican Revolutionary Party which Balaguer pointedly ignored. Balaguer's political problems are likely to grow worse before they get better and the tarantulas will be around for a long time.

8. India

To the surprise of many, Mrs. Gandhi is emerging as a very good bet for re-election as prime minister.

Despite the damage to her prestige as a result of her party's election setbacks, Mrs. Gandhi will face the party caucus on 12 March with a considerably larger base of support than her probable rival, the elderly Morarji Desai.

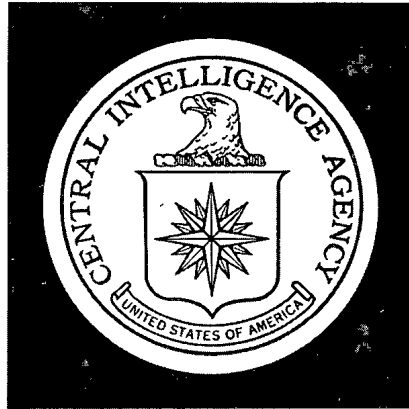
Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/07/24 : CIA-RDP79T00936A005000290001-0



50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/07/24 : CIA-RDP79T00936A005000290001-0

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 March 1967

3 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
2 - 3 MARCH 1967

1. North Vietnam

[redacted] Moscow
sees the new US military tactics against
North Vietnam as an "added measure of
the same," rather than as an "escalatory
step." However, [redacted]
[redacted] the mining of Haiphong would be re-
garded as escalation. Soviet policy [redacted]
[redacted] will be deter-
mined by the war's political and economic
cost to Moscow--and not solely by US ac-
tion against North Vietnam.

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

2. Communist China

50X6

3. Egypt -
Saudi Arabia

50X1

50X1

4. India

To the surprise of many, Mrs. Gandhi is emerging as a very good bet for re-election as prime minister.

Despite the damage to her prestige as a result of her party's election setbacks, Mrs. Gandhi will face the party caucus on 12 March with a considerably larger base of support than her probable rival, the elderly Morarji Desai. This is because some of her strongest supporters come from states where the party did well. Conversely, some of her opponents in her own party were defeated in the election.

5. Dominican Republic

Dominican politics is like a nest of tarantulas. President Balaguer used this apt phrase in a major speech this week that was a forthright response to his political opposition. He insisted that subversion and political violence will not be tolerated and that all shades of political opinion are free to engage in open dialogue.

Some elements of the opposition found the speech constructive and conciliatory--but not the big Dominican Revolutionary Party. Balaguer ignored the party in his speech; he clearly regards its leaders as beyond the pale. Balaguer's political problems are likely to grow worse before they get better and the tarantulas will be around for a long time.

6. Argentina

The Ongania regime won an important victory over the big General Labor Confederation on 1 March. The confederation's 24-hour general strike was a flop. The failure is a serious if not final blow to labor's programmed struggle against the government.

50X1



50X1

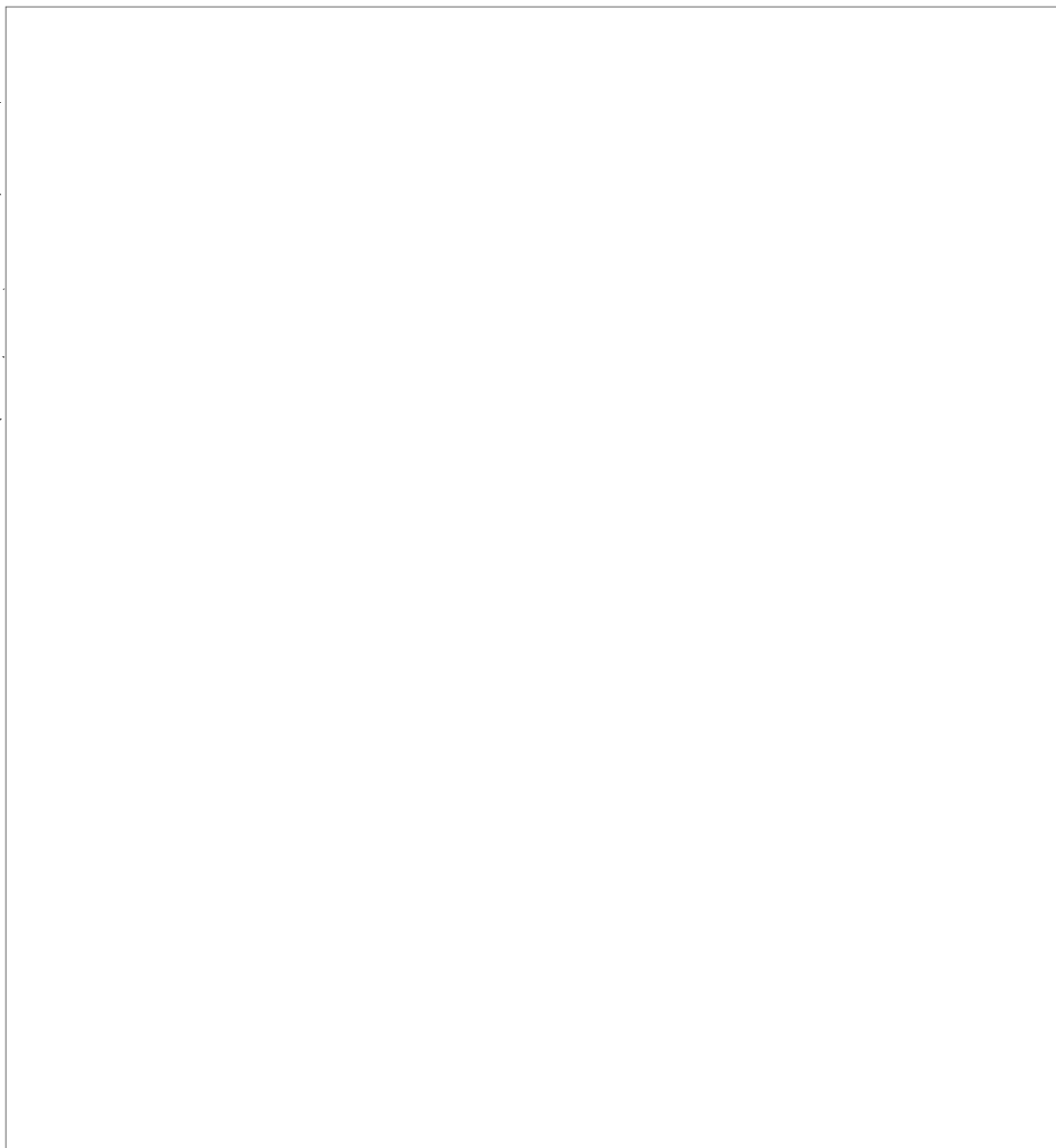


50X1



50X1

50X1



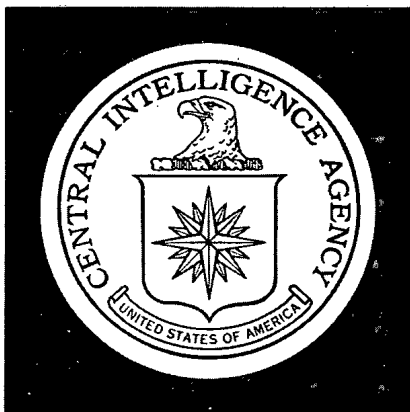
50X1

50X1

NOTICE

Beginning Monday morning March 6 the President's Brief will be prepared during the night and will be delivered at the opening of business daily Monday through Saturday.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 March 1967

4 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
3 - 4 MARCH 1967

1. North Korea -
Communist China

Now the North Koreans are beginning openly to take a few whacks at the Chinese.

North Korean diplomats in several countries have objected strongly and publicly to Red Guard poster attacks last month charging the Pyongyang regime with "revisionism."

[REDACTED]

The fifty remaining Chinese technicians in North Korea meanwhile have been forced to hole up at the embassy; the Koreans closed the hotel where they were living.

50X1

2. Vietnam

Sea deliveries to North Vietnam last month totaled 100,000 tons--a figure in line with recent months.

50X1

3. Soviet Union

It took only two days after launch for the Soviets to begin transmitting weather data to the US from their satellite Cosmos 144. With the last weather satellite it took two months, suggesting increased Soviet confidence in this system after two and a half years of flight testing.

Cosmos 144 is the first Soviet vehicle to have a near-polar orbit.

50X1

4. India

The first of many problems arising from the Congress Party's loss of half the state governments in India has come to the surface in West Bengal, where a coalition dominated by a mixed bag of leftists and various Communist factions will take over.

50X1

5. Britain

Britain, turning a deaf ear to sniping from its European allies, is going ahead with its projected friendship treaty with the Soviets. A senior British official says that the Foreign Office hopes to have the draft ready for signature when George Brown goes to Moscow in May.

London plans to keep its allies generally informed of the treaty's progress, but it has no intention of formally clearing what it considers strictly a bilateral affair with its alliance partners. They in turn view London's determination as another factor complicating an already exceedingly complicated European diplomatic scene.

6. Dominican Republic

Balaguer says he plans "in principle" to attend the Punta del Este summit conference if the timing is right and the domestic political situation holds still enough for him.

50X1

7. Brazil

Costa e Silva will surely be no carbon copy of Castello Branco after he becomes President on 15 March. For one thing, the new cabinet he will bring in contains several open critics of the Castello regime. These men may try to give the appearance of new policy departures even though the government sticks basically to the course charted by its predecessor.

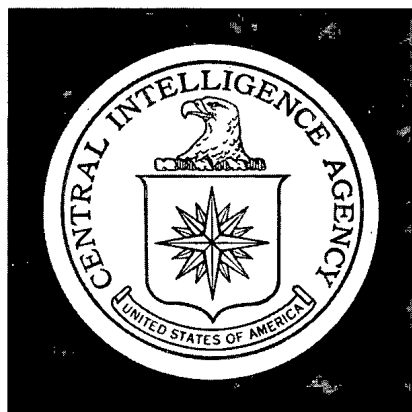
Brazil, while remaining strongly pro-West, will probably pursue a considerably more nationalistic policy, less closely tied to the US.

On the domestic scene, Costa will pursue policies pretty much like Castello's but with more emphasis on production and economic growth and with more permissive credit and wage policies.

NOTICE

Beginning Monday morning March 6 the President's Brief will be prepared during the night and will be delivered at the opening of business daily Monday through Saturday.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 4 March 1967

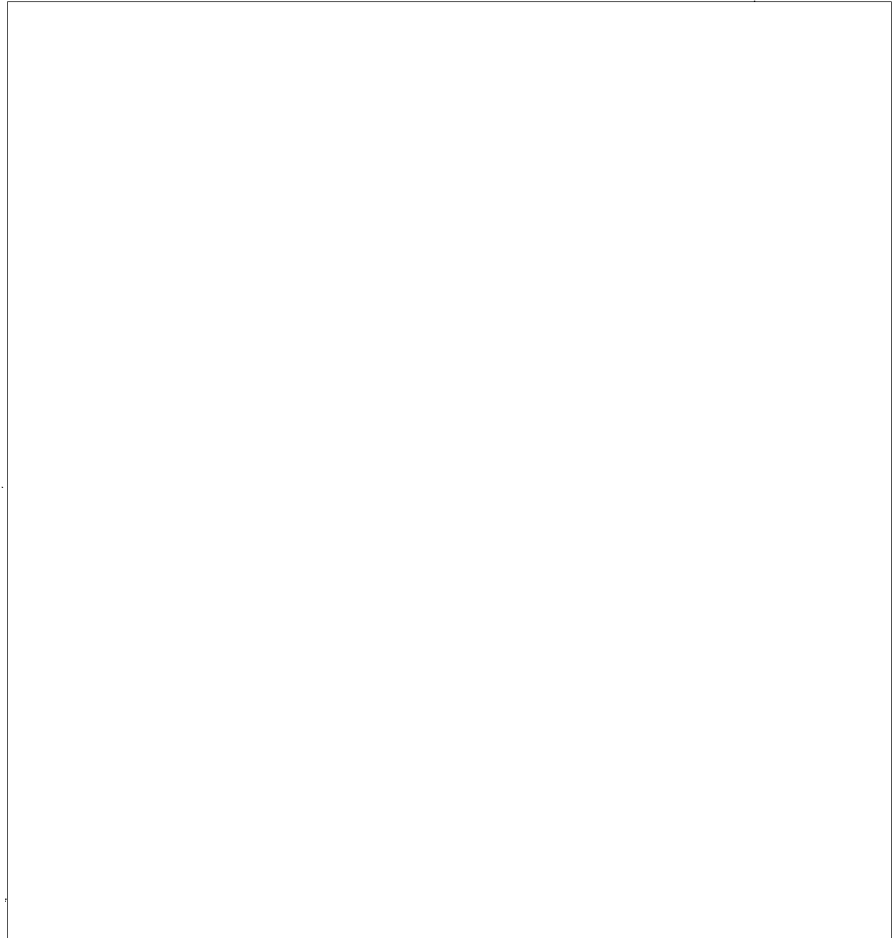


50X1

DAILY BRIEF
4 MARCH 1967

50X1

1. West Germany



2. South Vietnam

The Saigon embassy understands that Governor Hanh of the National Bank of Vietnam has agreed to take over-all charge of the economic sector. This would make one man responsible for supervising the ministries of commerce, industry, finance, and communications. Ambassador Lodge sees this as a major step forward.

There will be no public announcement until the government can agree on replacements for the ineffective ministers of finance and commerce.

3. Communist China

The army is playing an increasingly important role in restoring order. Besides knocking Red Guard heads together, troops have taken over administration of good-sized portions of the transportation network.

It is also clear that Peking is counting on the army to get the crucial spring planting drive launched. Even an army drawn from the peasantry, however, may not be able to clear up the mess left in rural areas by the "cultural revolutionaries."

50X1

4. Soviet Union

50X1

5. Argentina

The Ongania government is leaning pretty hard on labor following failure of the recent general strike. Five participating unions have now been suspended by the government, and government-owned plants are threatening severe reprisals against workers who took part in the strike.

While these actions seem temporarily to have cowed labor, they are bound to leave a bitter aftertaste. Coupled with forthcoming economic austerity measures, they will seemingly ensure that the labor-government feud will continue indefinitely, and this in turn means pressure on Ongania to become more authoritarian.

6. El Salvador

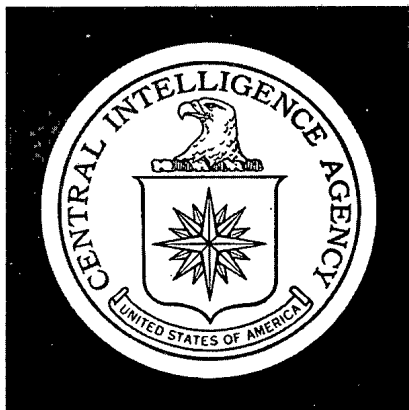
President Rivera contends that he will not go to the Punta del Este meeting unless the international coffee agreement is renegotiated, but reluctance to leave the country in charge of his vice president, with whom he has been feuding, may be a more telling reason.

Whatever the case, Rivera's stand on the coffee agreement is good politics on the eve of Sunday's national elections. The government candidate for the presidency is expected to win handily, but the lame duck Rivera administration may have some tidying up to do afterward. This might also keep Rivera at home.

50X1

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 6 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
6 MARCH 1967

1. France

De Gaulle followers made out well yesterday in the first round of voting. They received almost 38 percent of the vote. In the first round of the 1962 election they polled about 36 percent.

The Communists maintained about the level of 1962, while the Leftist Federation fell short of its expectations. The Federation's slippage will encourage the Communists to stay in the race for the second round next Sunday--a development that can only help the Gaullists.

2. Venezuela

Communist terrorists have again shown their ability to stage something spectacular. The murder of the brother of Venezuela's foreign minister caused the government to suspend constitutional guarantees on Saturday, only two days after they had been restored. Nonetheless, government operations since mid-December have probably disrupted the terrorists' ability to mount a major campaign--at least for the present.

50X1

3. Communist China



50X1

4. Indonesia

The Congress, Indonesia's top policy-making body, meets in special session starting on Tuesday to decide Sukarno's future. General Suharto will probably work for a "consensus" instead of an open vote in the Congress--a tough job involving not only the accommodation of pro- and anti-Sukarno forces but also adjustments between military and civilian groups.

The Congress convenes at a time of increasing distrust and rivalry between the military commanders and civilian political elements. Thus the real question at issue is not so much the disposal of Sukarno as the relations of these two main groups in the post-Sukarno period. Indeed, there is some possibility of a lasting--and probably disastrous--political split.

5. China-Japan

Peking is delaying the renewal of visas for Japanese newsmen in China; the object is to force the correspondents to sweeten up their reporting of China's cultural revolution. Peking has already warned the Japanese that their reporting of events on China--the most detailed and informative of any correspondents--is "unfriendly."

50X1

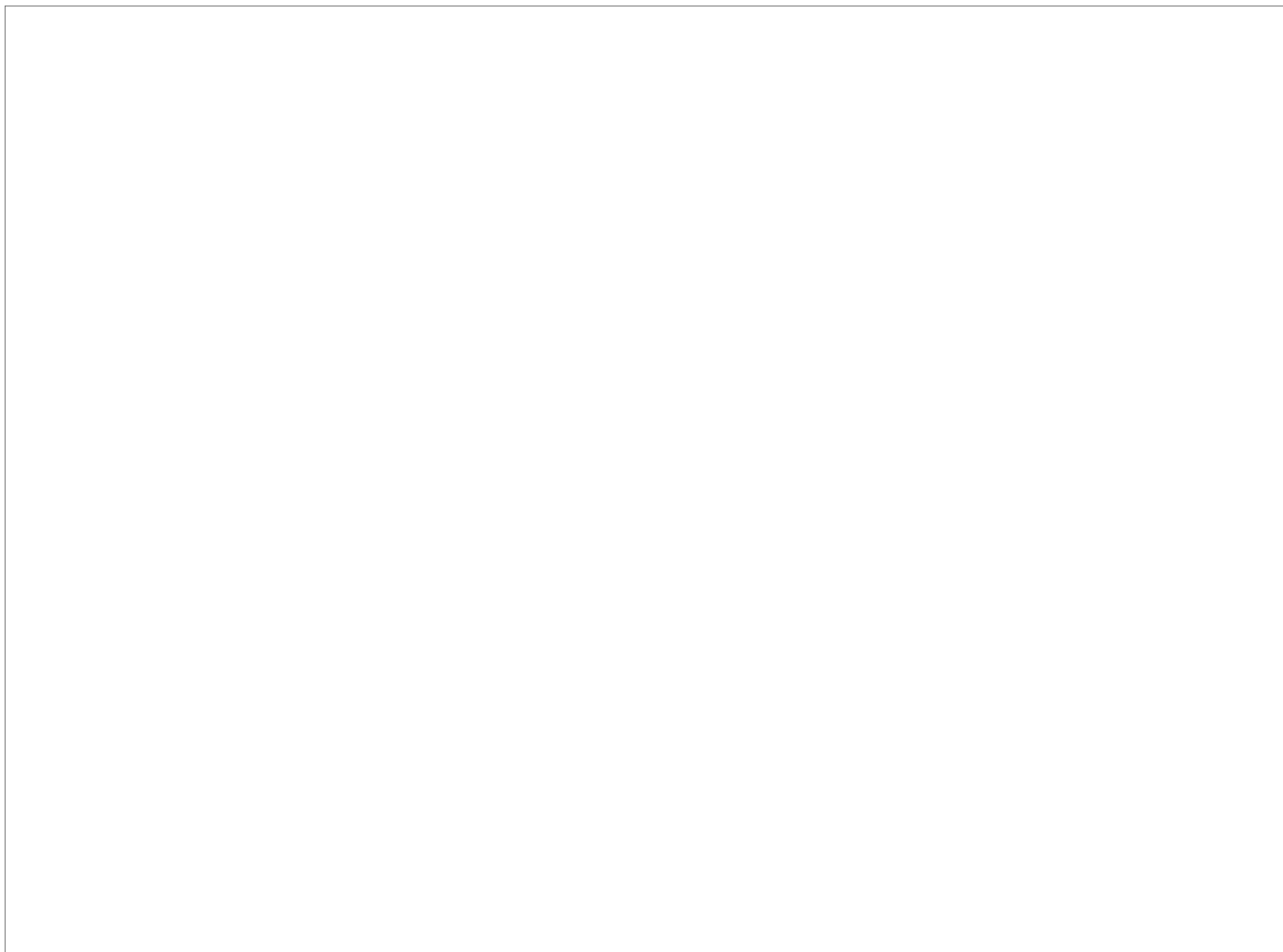
6. Canada

The Canadian government is concerned that Castro may decide to represent Cuba at "Expo 67" in Montreal. Ottawa has already warned Havana informally of the security problem which would arise.

50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/07/24 : CIA-RDP79T00936A005000320001-6

50X1



Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/07/24 : CIA-RDP79T00936A005000320001-6

7. Vietnam

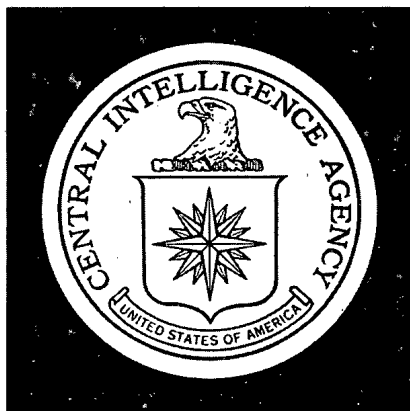
50X1

8. North Vietnam

To date, Communist propaganda has not given extensive coverage to Senator Kennedy's Vietnam speech. Hanoi has claimed, however, that even the Western press sees the speech as an example of the "continuous and severe criticism" which President Johnson faces on Vietnam from within his "own political faction."

Moscow's only commentary took a different tack. Saturday Izvestia quoted its correspondent in Washington to the effect that the senator's disagreement with US policy should not be exaggerated, that opposition in the US Senate is "irresolute and small," and that it does not influence the White House.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 7 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
7 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

Ky seems to be stepping up his behind-the-scenes campaign for the presidency. [REDACTED]

50X1

50X1

Saigon continues to inspire student demonstrations. Monday night's parades added Senator Fulbright to the list of "irresponsible pacifists" like De Gaulle.

The parades--which have been staged almost nightly for more than a week--are adding to the general pre-election ferment in Saigon. One result has been to set the local rumor mill humming. The US Embassy warns that we can expect some sensational--and baseless--stories out of Saigon in the coming days.

2. Soviet Union

50X1

50X1

3. Egypt

Ambassador Battle was treated to a tirade by Nasir when he paid his farewell call last Saturday.

Nasir said he would not respond to US pressure and that he did not want American wheat. When Egypt was getting US wheat, Nasir said, he used to go to bed every night disturbed by the knowledge that five out of every eight loaves of his bread came from the US.

From this performance and farewell calls on all top officials the ambassador gained these impressions:

- They genuinely believe the US is supporting conservative Middle East regimes against Egypt and other "progressives."
- They refuse to see anything they have done to warrant our cutting off wheat supplies.
- They all felt obliged to rake over their well worn charges against CIA.
- They do not see why Nasir's vehement anti-US speeches should rankle Washington.
- They are concerned about the economy, but bluster that "we will make it in spite of you."
- They are letting these beliefs become practically dogmas.

4. Sino-Soviet Relations

The Soviet press has picked up a Swiss writer's exposé of an intelligence ring allegedly operating out of the Chinese Communist embassy in Bern. This account, replete with names and details, charges that the ring is in cahoots with Chinese Nationalist agents and is supported by opium sales.

Ambassador Thompson comments that publication of such a story--an almost unprecedented act among Communist states--shows the Soviets have little hope for improved relations in the foreseeable future.

5. Congo

Another precinct has been heard from concerning the \$20 million loan the Congolese are now publicly claiming Paris has agreed to give them. Couve de Murville has assured Ambassador Bohlen by all that is high and holy that there is no such agreement, or any shift in French policy toward the Congo.

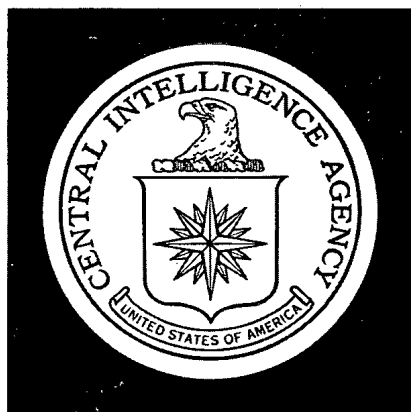
50X1

6. India

The Sino-Soviet dispute has taken a weird turn in the Indian state of Kerala. There the new Communist-dominated coalition government includes a husband-and-wife team. But he belongs to the Moscow-oriented party, she to the Peking-leaning one--which objects to the couple living together. They may, however, visit each other.

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 8 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
8 MARCH 1967

50X1

1. Egypt




2. Communist China

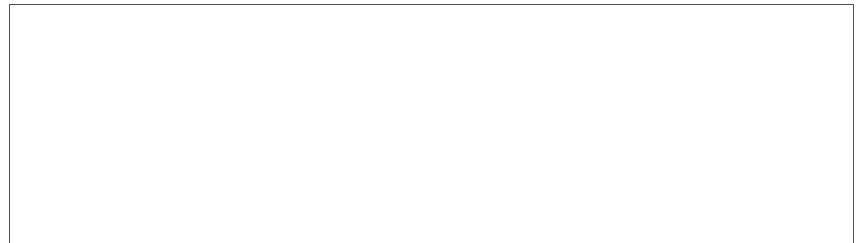
The drive to restore order is gathering momentum. Mass "rebel" organizations are being dismantled and the Red Guards seem to be in the process of reorganization. Some of the party officials who were violently attacked in recent months are now being rehabilitated.

50X1

3. South Vietnam

 captured documents continue to show growing Viet Cong concern over the government's Revolutionary Development program.

50X1



50X1

4. Cuba

The principal conclusions of the National Intelligence Estimate just approved are:

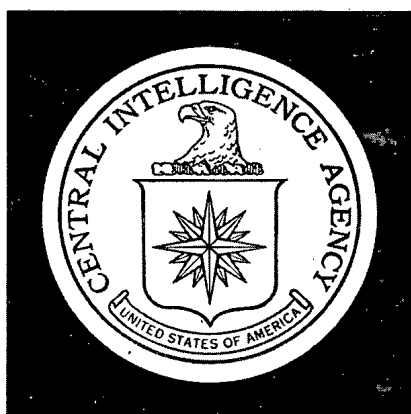
- Castro's revolution has not prospered. Prospects are for only minor economic gains this year and next.
- Increasingly, the regime is keying its hopes to the more distant future when it expects its long-term education and economic programs to pay off.
- Castro will almost certainly persist in encouraging and training foreign insurgents. Poor prospects in Latin America, however, are already causing him to increase his attention to Africa, where opportunities are greater and risks fewer.
- Cuban-Soviet frictions will continue, but the Soviets have little practical choice but to continue backing Castro.
- For the next two years at least, we believe Castro will remain clearly pre-eminent in the Cuban leadership and his hold on power will remain strong.

5. India

Political observers are fascinated at the prospect of a by-election in Bombay that is already being billed as a "battle of fallen giants." The man who barely defeated the acid-mouthed Krishna Menon in last month's election died suddenly on Monday.

Menon, one of the world's bitterest baiters of the US, will presumably try again for a seat in the legislature. There is a good chance that his opponent this time will be S. K. Patil, the powerful Bombay party boss who was defeated in another constituency last month.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
9 MARCH 1967

1. Vietnam

Some unusually good movie and still films have been acquired as an unexpected dividend from Operation JUNCTION CITY. The best of these pictures show General Nguyen Chi Thanh--a member of Ho Chi Minh's Politburo and Hanoi's number one man in the South--and two other North Vietnamese generals inspecting Viet Cong installations in South Vietnam.

This is by far the most publicly exploitable evidence yet that these people are in fact operating inside the South. The Saigon embassy is planning to make full use of the opportunity.

2. Laos -
Soviet Union

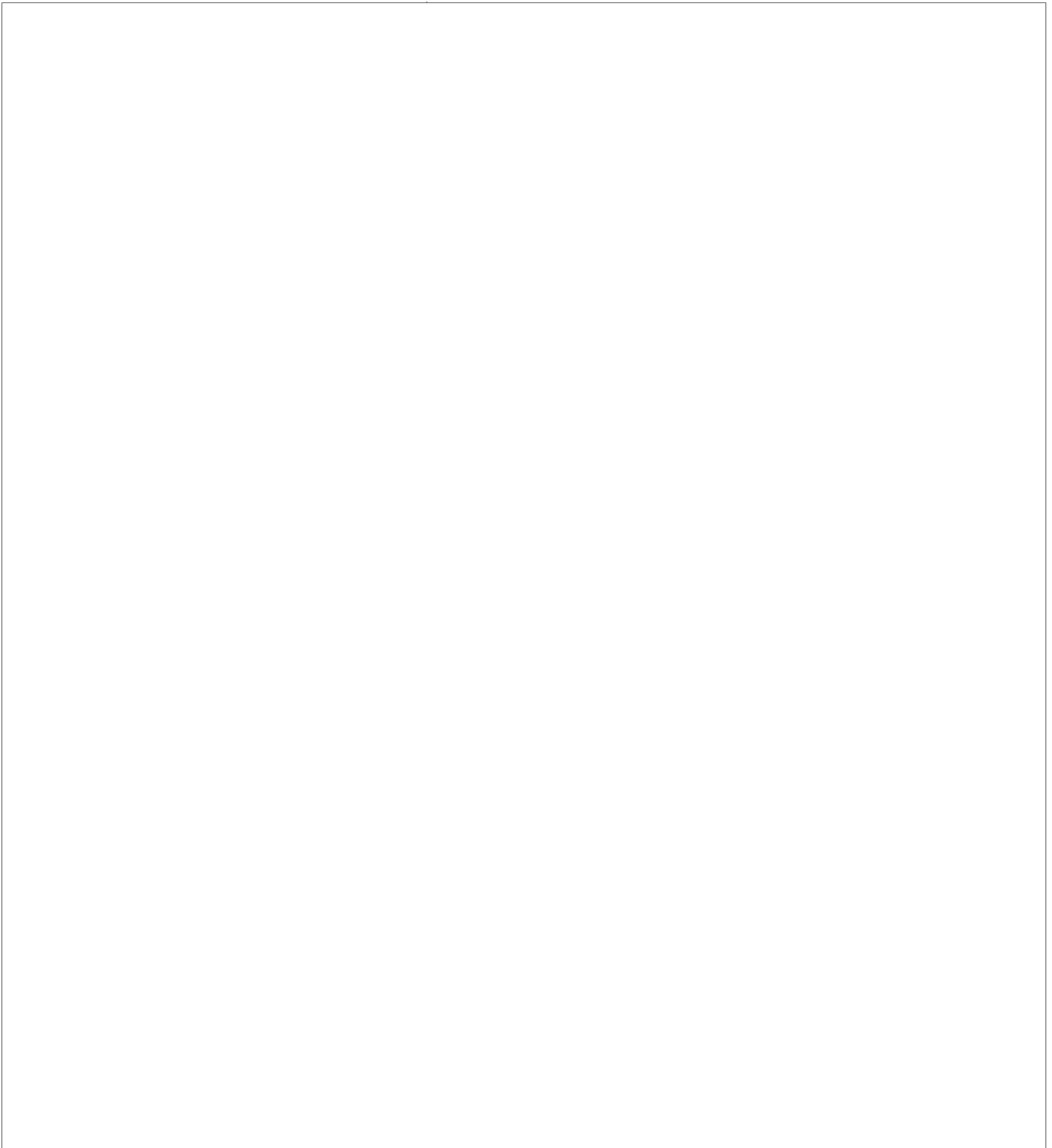
Prime Minister Souvanna has told Ambassador Sullivan the Soviets have not yet submitted a promised formal request for blanket permission to overfly Laos en route to Hanoi. He said that when they do, he will limit them to night flights along a northern route, which would rule out chance encounters with US aircraft.

There has been only one overflight since the Russians reopened the issue early last month.

3. Indonesia

The army has smashed an armed band of pro-Sukarnoites in Central Java, killing its leader--a well-known mystic--and as many as 80 of his followers. The action was carried out on 5 March after the mystic had ignored earlier warnings to knock off his pro-Sukarno agitation. It should serve as an object lesson to other pro-Sukarno groups at a time when Congress is trying to figure out what further measures, if any, to take against the Bung.

50X1



4. Communist China

Trade with the imperialists is on again.

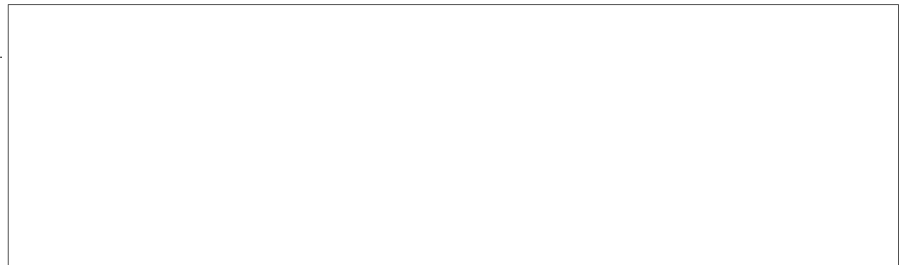
[redacted] the Chinese have reopened the long sidetracked talks with a West European consortium for a \$150 million steel rolling mill. A Danish trade exhibition opening in Peking on 1 March drew some high-ranking Chinese officials, and the Communists are saying that a bigger and better Canton trade fair will be held on schedule this spring.

50X1

On the other hand the Chinese are showing no interest in reviving trade with the Soviets. Each side continues to make such business as it does with the other as unpleasant as possible.

50X1

5. Soviet Union



6. Panama

President Robles has a real problem on his hands. Two powerful families in his administration are feuding; their weapons are the family newspapers. Some of the mud flying around is sticking on Foreign Minister Eleta, who heads one of the papers.

The effect on the operations of the government is bad enough, but what makes matters worse is that the bad press Eleta is getting may rub off on the canal treaty he is negotiating with the US. Robles had been counting on the newspapers of both families to help sell the treaty to the Panamanian public.

50X1

7. Venezuela

President Leoni went through the roof when he heard that a Venezuelan Communist in Havana had publicly claimed credit for the recent murder of his foreign minister's brother.

The usually unruffled Leoni is said to be mulling over a letter to President Johnson and a request that the Punta del Este summit meeting next month take up the problem of Cuban intervention. He is also considering pressure on Mexico to break relations with Castro or at least to crack down harder on travel to Cuba.

8. Nigeria

Verbal jousting between Supreme Commander Gowon and Eastern governor Ojukwu is threatening to spill over into military action.

50X1

Ojukwu

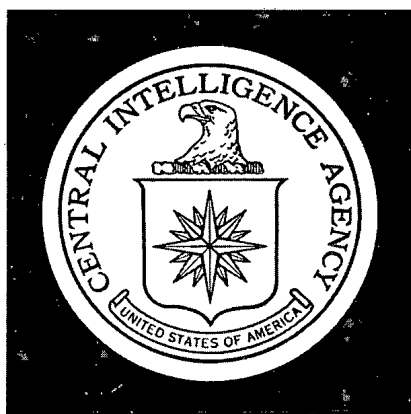
50X1

seems to be gearing his people up for an early attack by federal forces. He is also said to be dickering with some tribal leaders from the Western region who are getting fed up with the presence of Gowon's mainly northern army.

50X1

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
10 MARCH 1967

1. North Vietnam

50X1

2. South Vietnam

Saigon is beginning to experience a short-term economic crisis because of the temporary rice shortage. Stocks in Saigon are way down. Moreover, deliveries from the delta to the capital last month totaled only 17,500 tons--about 12,000 tons short of the February 1966 figure.

Some imported rice is now arriving and South Vietnamese officials are undertaking emergency distribution measures.

3. Soviet Union

50X1

4. Soviet Union

50X1

5. India

Chances for stable local governments are slim in at least five of the eight Indian states where the Congress Party failed to win a majority. New Delhi in fact may have to impose direct rule in some of these states if the political situation continues to deteriorate. Among the grim possibilities is a breakdown of cooperation between national and local governments on food policies.

6. Communist China

The situation continues to stabilize both in the cities and the provinces. Peking is quiet; the army now performs most of the police functions there.

Hong Kong press reports of disturbances in Canton cannot be substantiated. Recent visitors to the city say little or no ferment was evident.

50X1

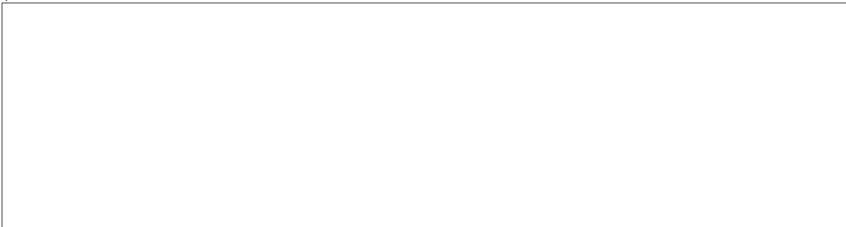
7. El Salvador

Ambassador Castro reports there is every indication that US interests will not suffer as a result of Colonel Fidel Sanchez's sweep in the presidential election last Sunday.

50X1

8. Panama

Foreign Minister Eleta says that his government definitely plans to place the treaty negotiations at the top of the agenda for bilateral talks during the summit meeting. Eleta is still concerned about the pace of the negotiations. He believes the primary objective is to get Presidents Johnson and Robles "to agree to do whatever is required"--even to order up around-the-clock negotiations--to get signatures on the treaties by June.



50X1

50X1

Top Secret

ILLEGIB



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 11 March 1967

50X1

ILLEGIB
23

50X1

DAILY BRIEF
11 March 1967

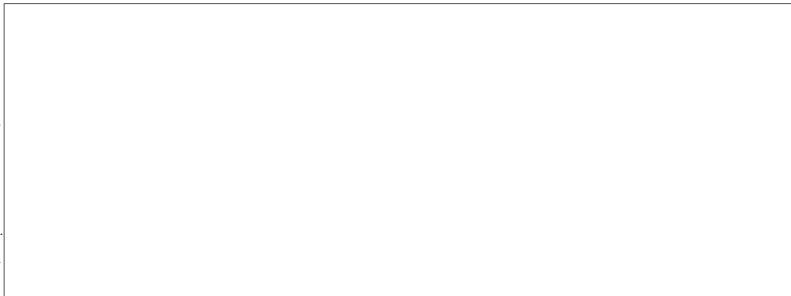
1. Vietnam

50X1



2. North Vietnam

50X1

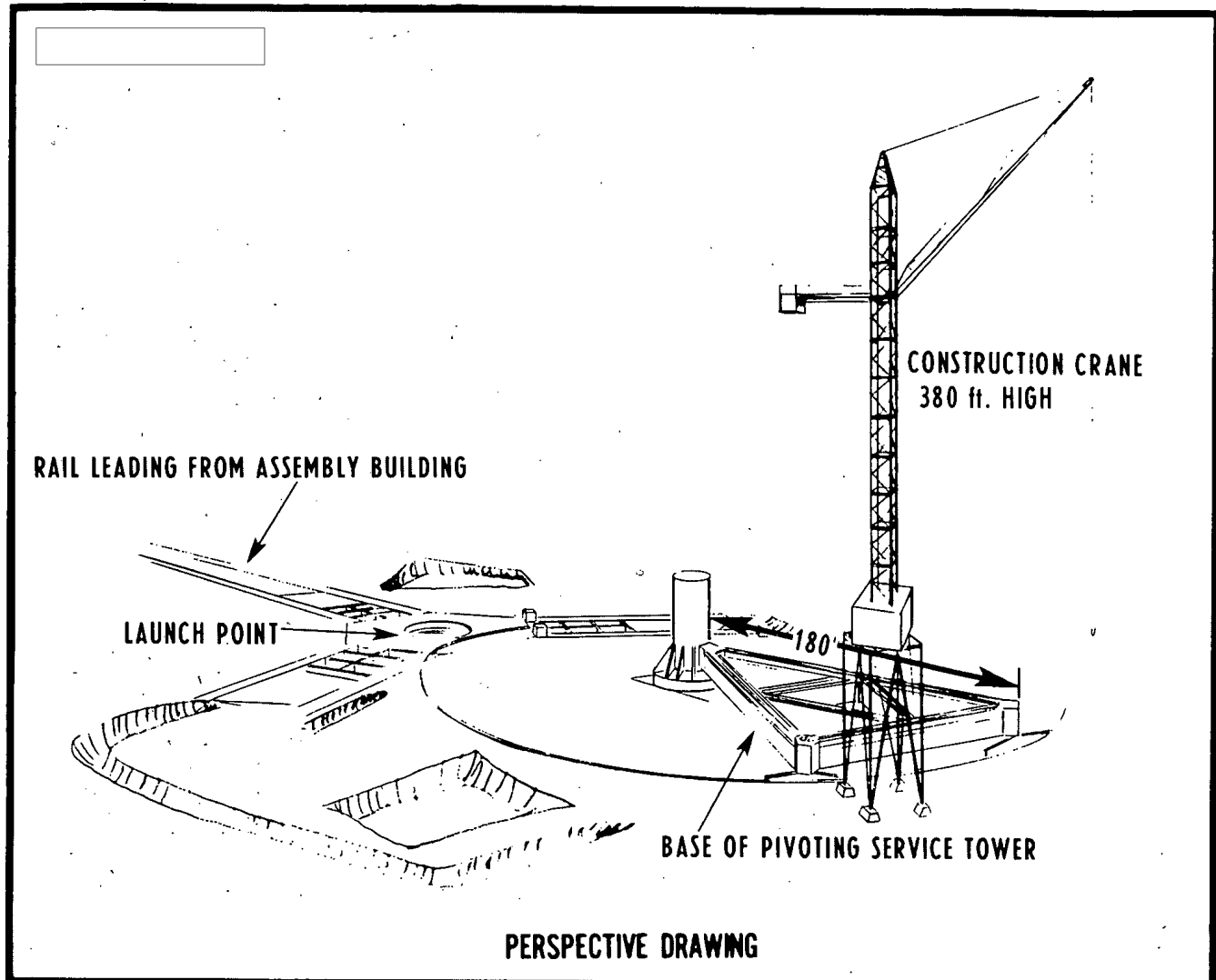


3. India

Mrs. Gandhi's only opponent in tomorrow's caucus to choose a prime minister--aging Congress Party stalwart Morarji Desai--has withdrawn, according to late press reports.

50X1

NEW SOVIET SPACE LAUNCH FACILITY AT TYURATAM



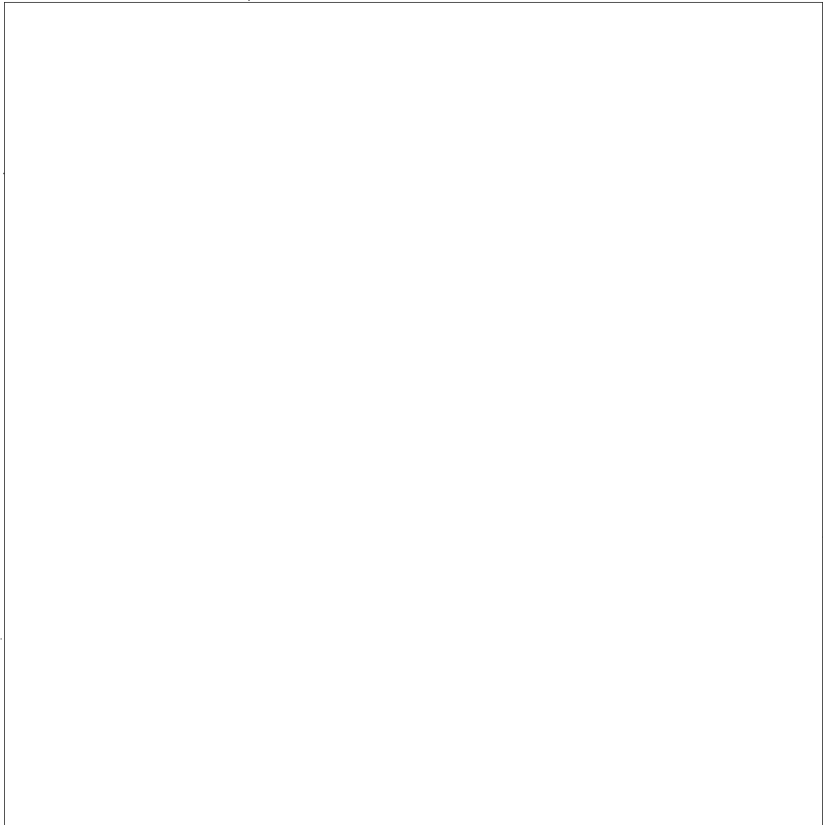
50X1

50X1

4. Soviet Union

The Soviets are moving ahead rapidly on their huge new space launch facility at Tyuratam.

The latest satellite photography shows the base for a massive swiveling service tower at one of the two identical launch pads. This tower--expected to be well over 300 feet high--will pivot up to the pad to fuel and service the booster rocket, and then swing back before the launch. (See sketch)



50X1

50X1

5. France

The French press is saying De Gaulle will soon announce his intention to visit Canada this year. We believe such an announcement could come after Sunday's elections. De Gaulle would most likely show up for France's "national day"-- 25 July--at Montreal's EXPO 67, and also visit Quebec City and Ottawa.

Pearson might try to promote a meeting between President Johnson and De Gaulle. He would figure to be included in any meeting on Canadian soil.

6. Pakistan

50X1



7. Indonesia

A committee of Congress today voted to strip Sukarno of his title of President. This is farther than Suharto probably wanted to go

50X1

. We still expect he will try to keep Congress from putting Sukarno on trial.

50X1

50X1

50X1

8. Soviet Union

50X1

9. El Salvador

Plans are under way to have President-elect Sanchez represent the country at Punta del Este. This would permit President Rivera to baby-sit at home with his vice president, whom he is afraid to leave in charge.

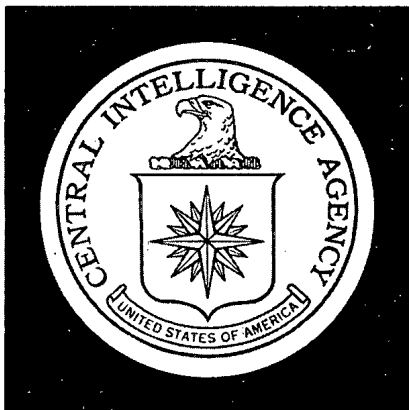
50X1

Rivera may yet find a way to go himself

50X1

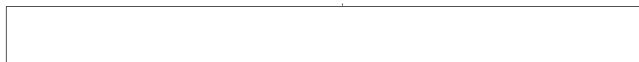
50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
13 MARCH 1967

1. Communist China

The recently flagging "Cultural Revolution" is showing some sign of new life. A politburo member whom Chou En-lai had earlier defended has come under renewed poster attack in Peking. A recent editorial in the authoritative Red Flag complained that revolutionaries and the military were not being given a big enough role--and the party too big a one--in the new three-way governments being set up in the provinces.

The Chinese are also beating on the Soviets with renewed enthusiasm. Over the weekend they threw out two Soviet diplomats and protested the conduct of some Soviet frontier guards, whose worst sin apparently was to confiscate Mao's works from a Chinese train.

2. Soviet Union

50X1

3. Vietnam

Communist forces in South Vietnam may have a rocket larger than the 140-mm. type used in the attack on the Da Nang Air Base last month. For one thing, a North Vietnamese defector claims to have been trained in the use of a 175-mm. rocket weapon. In addition, a new and very large Russian-made rocket fuse was recently discovered in South Vietnam.

50X1

4. South Vietnam

The Constituent Assembly has finished its basic work on the draft constitution, which now needs only a few finishing touches. There are still some things to clear up with the military, but these will probably be ironed out without the Directorate having to use its veto. As things now stand, both government and assembly leaders think the constitution will be wrapped up by 27 March and promulgated in late April.

5. Latin America

Presidents Balaguer of the Dominican Republic and Arosemena of Ecuador now seem good bets to attend the Punta del Este summit meeting.

Bolivian President Barrientos

50X1

has boxed himself in with his nationalistic statements on the access to the sea issue. Unless Chile obliges him by showing more willingness to talk, Barrientos will probably have to stay home.

President Lleras of Colombia may also have trouble going; his senate has threatened to deny him necessary permission to leave the country unless he first arranges to have a vice president elected.

6. Indonesia

We do not expect any real trouble to follow the congressional decree shelving Sukarno.

The whole campaign against him has been so drawn out and carefully orchestrated by acting President Suharto that this final step belongs in the department of anticlimax. The decree itself stops short of explicitly dismissing Sukarno--it just says he is "no longer capable" of doing his job. It also leaves it to Suharto to decide whether Sukarno will actually be brought to trial, a step he is not likely to take.

50X1

7. France

De Gaulle's narrow margin in the new assembly will probably not result in any major policy changes. A number of independent conservatives are expected to support the government on most issues and, in any event, government policy can only be challenged by a censure motion passed by an assembly majority. This is a dubious prospect at best in view of the diversity of the opposition.

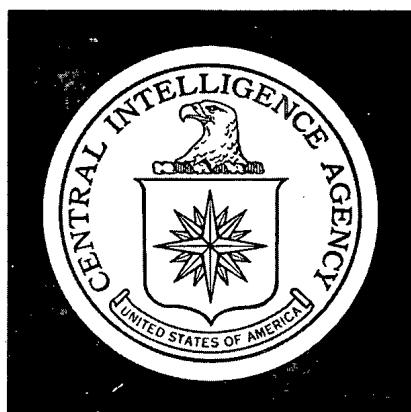
8. Soviet Union

Moscow so far is playing Svetlana Stalin's defection in very low key. The Soviet people are being told that she went to India to bury her husband's ashes; how long she stays abroad is her private affair. Tass is taking the same line for international audiences.

9. Britain - Soviet Union

The British ambassador in Moscow says negotiations will begin there soon on the friendship treaty. He expects it to have a preamble based on the United Nations Charter and its content limited to cultural, scientific, and economic cooperation.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
14 MARCH 1967

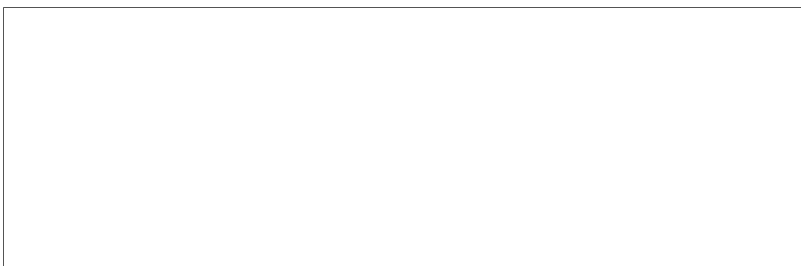
1. South Vietnam

Representatives of the Directorate are scheduled to meet today with the Constituent Assembly to iron out remaining areas of controversy in the draft constitution.

The meeting could be crucial in the development of the constitution, since some members of the Directorate--both military and civilian--are said to be dissatisfied with several key articles. Should the assembly be hard-nosed about the Directorate's "recommendations," the Directorate might decide to invoke its power of revision over the draft constitution.

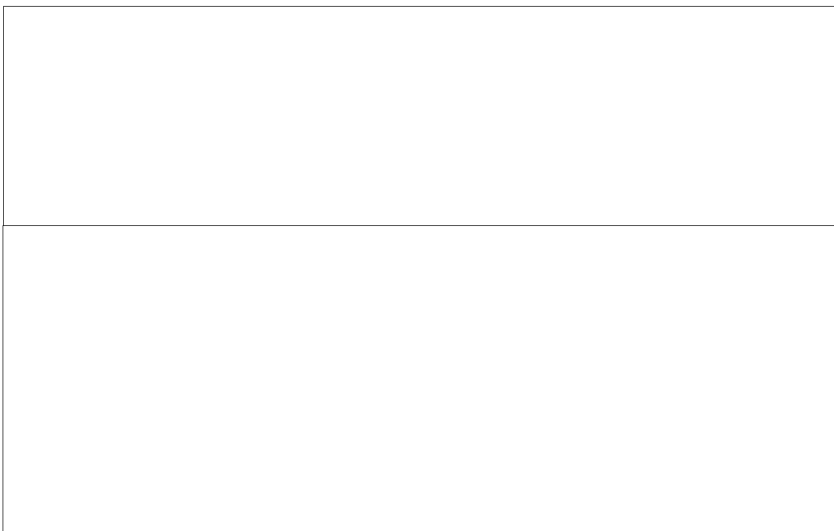
Similar conferences in the past, however, have produced enough compromise to prevent an open break between the two bodies.

2. Soviet Union



50X1

3. Soviet Union



50X1

50X1

50X1

4. France

All the statistics on the second round of the French election are not yet in, but one thing is clear: the Communists showed well in an electoral system rigged against them. After holding on to their hard-core support in the first round, they picked up additional strength in the second. At this reading we can only guess that the party's relatively moderate tone during the campaign convinced a sizable number of Frenchmen to do something they had never done before--vote the party, at least as a second choice.

De Gaulle, however, deserves some of the credit here. His policy of rapprochement with the Russians helped to make the party more palatable.

The Communists' attitude toward Mendes-France will probably be a clue to the policy they will adopt in the new assembly. The Communists made his election possible by withdrawing their candidate in the run-off. If they now support Mendes-France rather than Mitterrand, the Gaullists will face a considerably more formidable opposition.

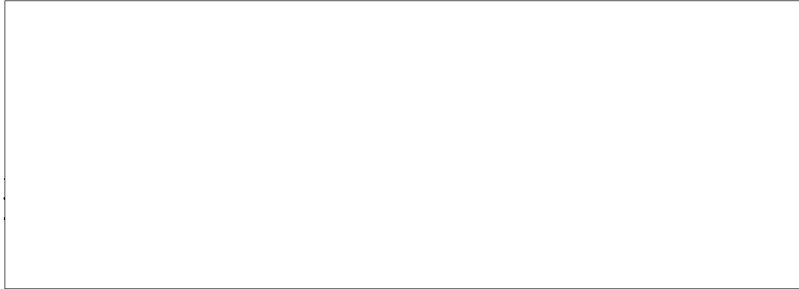
5. Brazil

Federal police expect strikes and student demonstrations today and also tomorrow--inauguration day for Costa e Silva. In addition, military units are on alert for disturbances by some of Brazil's many dissident extremist groups. Warnings of action against US personnel and installations have also been received.

6. Peru

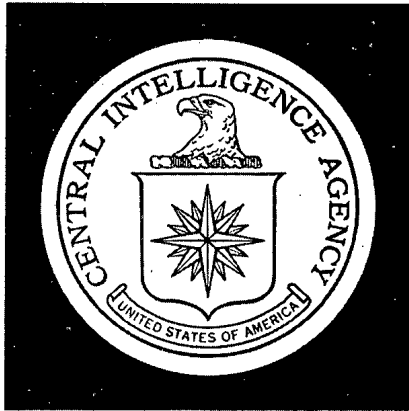
President Belaunde now feels he will be able to attend the inter-American summit. However, this decision will have to be confidential until Belaunde gets permission from the Peruvian Congress--currently in adjournment--to leave the country.

7. Cuba



50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 15 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
15 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

50X1

2. South Vietnam

The press gives the impression that the atmosphere at yesterday's meeting of Constituent Assembly leaders and representatives of the Directorate to discuss controversial points of the draft constitution was strained. We have no details

50X1

50X1

3. Communist China

The top leadership is still anything but one happy family. The politburo's agricultural specialist, Tan Chen-lin, after being lambasted in posters last week, was publicly denounced yesterday in what looked like an official parade.

We believe Tan may have been thrown to the dogs because of a high-level dispute over agriculture in late February.

Poster attacks on less senior party and government officials continue. Some are still being dragged out for public humiliation, despite the word passed in mid-February that Mao deplored such "uncivilized" spectacles.

4. Franco-Soviet Relations

The love affair is cooling off a bit.

Moscow is not happy over French opposition to the nonproliferation treaty, and may even suspect Paris is encouraging Bonn's difficult attitude.

50X1

The Soviets may also be taking a dim view of French support for Bonn's diplomatic offensive in Eastern Europe. France's failure to sign the outer space treaty is another probable irritant.

As to De Gaulle, his nose may be a bit out of joint over Kosygin's recent performance in England, where he freely discussed Vietnam and proposed a Soviet-British friendship treaty.

50X1

50X1

5. Malta

Premier Borg Olivier has "provisionally" accepted London's offer of money to plug the hole that withdrawal of British troops will create in the Maltese economy.

50X1

50X1

the Maltese public seems relieved that the Premier quit while he was ahead.

6. Canada

50X1

7. Soviet Union

50X1

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 16 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
16 MARCH 1967

1. Vietnam

50X1

2. South Vietnam

General Chieu, the Directorate's chief negotiator with the Constituent Assembly, reports the military are unwilling to go along with the assembly's proposal that it serve as an interim legislature. However, the Directorate is amenable to extending the life of the assembly so it can draft electoral decrees and help monitor the forthcoming elections.

The Directorate, according to Chieu, thinks it should retain its legislative as well as its executive powers until both the new legislature and the president are elected. He says the two elections will be held as soon and close together as possible.

Chieu claimed that the Directorate was ready to defer to the assembly view on most other differences. He and Ambassador Bui Diem think final agreement is close at hand. The assembly, however, may stall until after the return of the many government officials planning to attend the Guam conference.

50X1

3. India

Mrs. Gandhi's new government is, as she said it would be, a combination of old stalwarts and new blood. We do not expect any major shifts in government policies.

The wide spread of ideological positions within the leadership could cause problems as Mrs. Gandhi again comes to grips with the country's truly appalling domestic problems. Also, much will depend on the ability of Mrs. Gandhi and Deputy Prime Minister Desai to bury the hatchet. But Ambassador Bowles is moderately optimistic.

4. Tunisia

50X6

5. West Germany

50X1

50X1

6. France

Officials in Paris are assuring [redacted] that Sunday's referendum in French Somaliland will go heavily in favor of continued French rule. [redacted]

50X1

50X1

This may be so, but it will not solve France's problems there. The referendum campaign has sharpened tensions among the diverse peoples of the Colony. A pro-France vote is almost sure to set off riots among the Somalis, who are a minority, and among their kin in the Somali Republic.

50X1

A vote for independence would probably bring war between Somalia and Ethiopia. The Somalis want Somaliland; the Ethiopians will not put up with Somalian control of their access to the sea. Somalia has moved troops close to the border [redacted]

50X1

7. Cuba

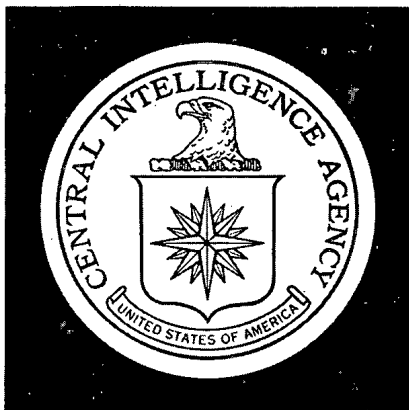
The US press has failed to capture the full fervor of Fidel Castro's blast on Monday night against Moscow's policies in Latin America. Never before has Castro been so direct on this issue in a public speech.

Referring to recent Soviet efforts to cozy up to such "oligarchic and treacherous" governments as those in Colombia and Venezuela, Castro charged that this amounts to helping those governments "repress the revolution."

Castro also castigated pro-Moscow Latin American Communist parties for betraying the revolutionary struggle. He praised the Venezuelan guerrillas, implying that he would continue supporting them. The speech surely must be the last shovelful of dirt thrown on the Moscow-inspired agreement of November 1964 to work only through the official Latin American Communist parties.

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 17 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
17 MARCH 1967

1. Communist China

Two more politburo members--the finance minister and state planning chief--have come under attack in Peking, but they are not being hit as hard as agricultural specialist Tan Chen-lin. Like Tan, however, both work for Chou En-lai.

Chou could also have been the indirect target of a recent Shanghai editorial condemning critics of the Red Guard. It said flatly that those who attacked the Guards for their relatively few mistakes are enemies of the "Cultural Revolution."

posters in Peking defending Chou, suggesting that his supporters fear he himself--and his influence for rationality--may be coming under attack.

50X1

2. Vietnam

50X1

3. South Vietnam

Premier Ky, while still very much a candidate, seems to be shying away from seeking military endorsement for the presidency. There are signs that he may instead try to organize civilian support for his candidacy.

50X1

We cannot be sure that Ky will actually try to follow this course, but if he does, it will jar the precarious unity maintained thus far in the Directorate and threaten the political stability of the past 20 months.

50X1

4. Ethiopia

The Ethiopians are getting edgy as Sunday's referendum on French Somaliland approaches. They swear up and down that recent troop movements have been for contingency purposes only, but their suspicions of the Somali Republic seem to border on the paranoid.

50X1

The Ethiopian prime minister, for example, claims leaders of the Somali tribesmen in French Somaliland are ready to spark an independence drive whichever way the referendum goes, and the Somali Republic is ready to help them. This could be true

50X1

Ambassador Korry still thinks Addis Ababa is planning no offensive action. However, misinterpretation of Somali military movements, fear that Nasir may be egging the Somalis on, and a general tendency to flap in a situation like this have all reinforced Ethiopian fears of being a "Christian island in a Moslem sea."

50X1

5. Tunisia

President Bourguiba appears to have weathered a serious coronary attack; his French specialist says his recovery prospects are excellent. Nevertheless, Bourguiba's son has gratefully accepted the US offer to send heart specialist General Thomas Mattingly.

50X1

6. West Germany - Poland



7. Indonesia

Acting President Suharto, now that Sukarno can no longer snap at his heels, has set economic improvement and the election of a new congress by mid-1968 as his major targets.

On the economic side, Suharto faces staggering problems. A stabilization plan slowed inflation during the last quarter of 1966, but increased government expenditures and seasonal rice shortages have again spiraled prices upward. Moreover, the civil service is badly overgrown and underpaid; to make ends meet, it has to violate the very economic control measures it is supposed to enforce.

Another serious problem will be growing strains on Suharto's government as its civilian members become more restive under the army's pervasive control.

50X1

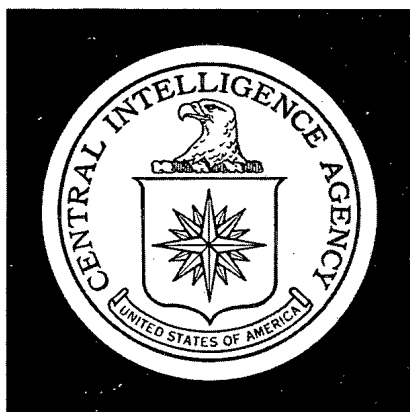
50X1

8. France-Algeria

50X1

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 18 March 1967



50X1

23
85

DAILY BRIEF
18 March 1967

1. Soviet Union

The Russians may well try another lunar probe next week. The optimum time will be Sunday through Tuesday.

[REDACTED]

50X1

2. North Vietnam

We think Hanoi could be gearing up for a propaganda spectacular involving US prisoners in North Vietnam, but we have no solid evidence when this might come. Such a spectacular might be similar to the mass confessions on "germ warfare" the Communists exploited during the Korean war. It would be a key element in the Communists' present well-orchestrated, world-wide campaign to blacken the US for "war crimes."

We have good reason to believe that "confessions" have been extracted from all or most of the US prisoners in the North. Some individual statements have been released from time to time, but we believe Hanoi is holding back on a goodly collection still in its file for later use.

3. France

People around De Gaulle are beginning to admit that the government clearly lacks the money to implement its elaborate social welfare program. Instead, there is talk now of "improving the presentation" of existing programs and developing "a more effective dialogue" with the working class. The newly beefed-up Left should have quite a field day with this.

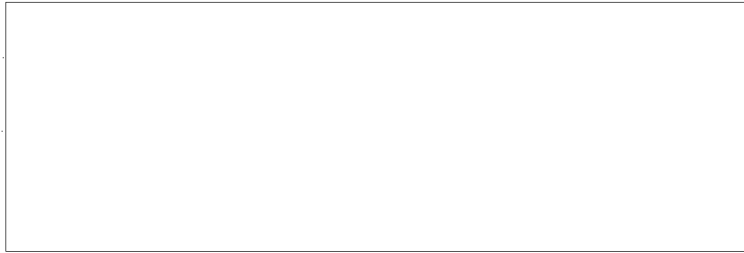
[REDACTED]
50X1

4. Egypt

Egypt is on a collision course with the US, and recognizes a "duty to oppose and foil US policy in the Middle East and other parts of the world." This is the line of an editorial put out yesterday by one of Nasir's semi-official press spokesmen. The piece also says that Nasir told Ambassador Battle that Egypt would withdraw its long-standing request for renewal of the PL-480 wheat program.

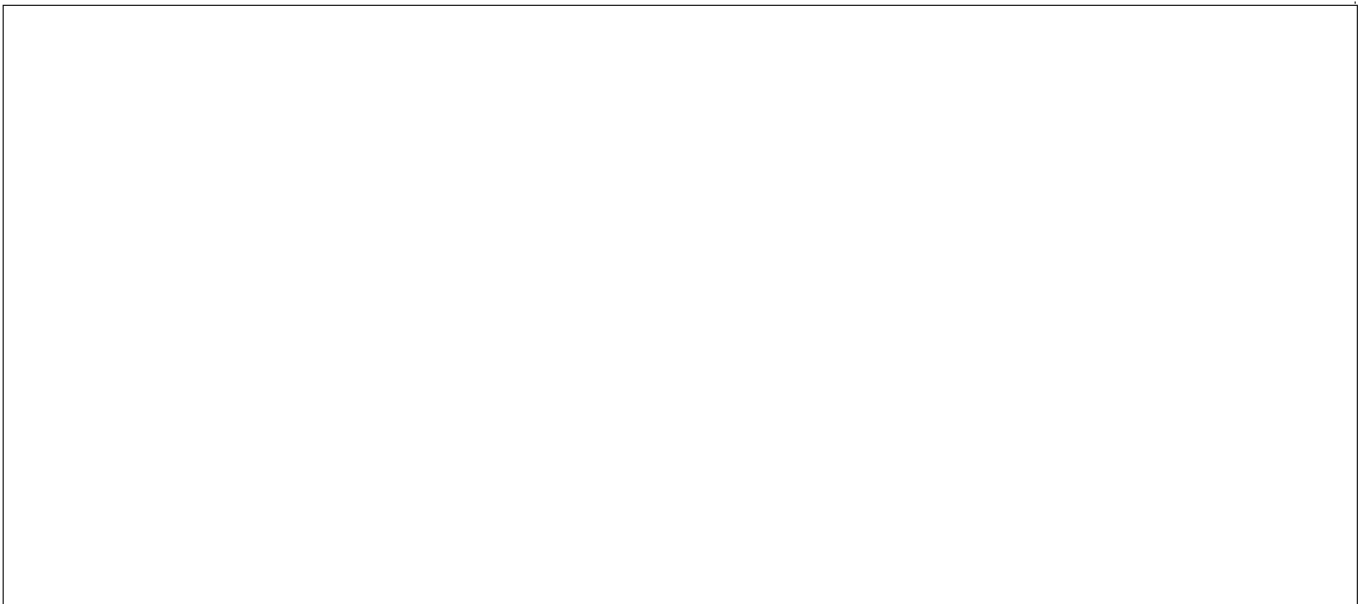
5. Guinea

50X1



Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/07/24 : CIA-RDP79T00936A005000430001-4

50X1



Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/07/24 : CIA-RDP79T00936A005000430001-4

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
19 MARCH 1967

1. Communist China

The top-level feuding goes on. Supporters of Chou En-lai are now putting up wall posters defending him against unnamed opponents. This is a clear sign that Chou--the most prominent voice of reason in the tumult--has been the target of more radical leaders trying to undercut him.

Other signs of resurgent radical efforts are cropping up. The compromise arrangements reached last month with leaders in strategic border regions like Sinkiang are now coming under violent attack from powerful Red Guard groups in Peking.

2. Vietnam

[redacted] recent defector reports indicate North Vietnamese units in the Demilitarized Zone may be getting ready to attack in force US Marine and South Vietnamese airborne elements operating in northern Quang Tri Province. At least four Communist regiments, supported by two heavy weapons battalions, are believed available.

A major attack might have the dual purpose of neutralizing the heavy US artillery near the Demilitarized Zone and of diverting allied attention from continuing infiltration of Communist units from Laos into western Quang Tri.

50X1

50X1

50X1

3. South Vietnam

Ky's deal with the Constituent Assembly is not sitting well with General Thieu and other members of the Directorate.

50X1

Directorate leaders claim they had planned initially to take a hard bargaining line with the assembly. What especially bothers them is Ky's agreement to let the assembly serve as a full-fledged legislature for the period between election of a president and a new legislature. The Directorate had wanted to retain all powers until both were elected.

Thieu and company have, for the moment, bowed to the inevitable, accepting the constitution "in principle." However, they will have one final crack at it when the Armed Forces Council meets after Guam to approve its promulgation. Even if they pass up this opportunity, the whole affair will further complicate relations between Ky and Thieu as they jockey for the presidential nomination.

4. Nigeria

This unfortunate country has slipped farther toward chaos in recent days. The federal government issued a "constitutional" decree on Friday which is likely to push the recalcitrant Eastern Region to the brink of secession--if not beyond.

50X1


50X1

50X1

50X1

5. Soviet Union

Brezhnev personally put the screws on Hungarian party boss Kadar last month in an apparently futile effort to bring him into line on the question of West Germany. Rumania had already broken ranks by unconditionally recognizing Bonn, and now Hungary seemed inclined to follow suit.



This, of course, is only one facet in Moscow's effort to strengthen East European resistance to Bonn's recent diplomatic initiatives and to forestall East Germany's isolation. Kadar's apparent resistance to Brezhnev's arm-twisting reinforces our belief that Moscow's effort can only be a delaying operation.

6. France

De Gaulle's forces are planning a tricky maneuver to get control of key posts in the new assembly, where they will have the barest majority. The cabinet is to resign on 1 April to permit those who were elected deputies to take part in the election of assembly officers and committee chairmen. Then they are to resign their assembly seats and be reappointed to the cabinet. Members of the government cannot vote in parliament.

50X1

7. French Somaliland

The people went to the polls on Sunday as scheduled. French riot police were called out to suppress at least two outbreaks. As yet we have no basis to predict the outcome of the voting.

50X1

In Somalia, the Soviet ambassador implied to Ambassador Thurston that his government, too, is anxious that there be no hostilities between Ethiopia and Somalia. He hinted strongly that Moscow is deliberately holding up a much-needed shipment of diesel fuel for Somalia until well after the referendum.

50X1

8. Lebanon

The country seems headed for dark days. This is the growing feeling among official and nonofficial contacts of the US Embassy in Beirut. The fear is that despite its vaunted neutrality, Lebanon is being drawn willy-nilly into the whirlpool of Arab rivalries beyond its borders.

50X1

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
20 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

Ambassador Bui Diem--now in Saigon--says that approval of the draft constitution by the Armed Forces Council will be "merely a formality."

50X1

The council will probably be convened soon after the Guam Conference, with the constitution itself being promulgated early next month. The election date for president and vice president has been set for 3 September; 4 September for the upper house and 1 October for the lower house.

2. North Vietnam

Peking went out of its way in speeches and editorials over the weekend to reaffirm its support for Hanoi. The ostensible reason for this was the 17th anniversary of "Vietnam Day Against US Imperialism." The primary purpose, however, was to reinforce the North Vietnamese conviction that Hanoi will win in the long run and that negotiation would be useless. The Chinese probably see the Guam Conference as leading to a sizable US escalation, and these latest statements out of Peking are meant to stiffen Hanoi's resolve.

3. Soviet Union

A Soviet officer in Moscow has promised the US defense attaché that next summer's air parade will be "very interesting." A big show in this the 50th year since the October revolution would certainly not be surprising. The Soviets have several developmental aircraft which they might unveil, including fighters, transports, and a prototype vertical take-off and landing plane.

50X1

4. French Somaliland

The French are in the saddle and cracking down hard on protesting Somali tribesmen following Sunday's successfully rigged referendum. A curfew has been imposed in Djibouti, where the Somali community lost a number of lives in postelection rioting. Leaders of the pro-independence party have been arrested.

[redacted] Djibouti looks like an armed camp--the native quarter is closed off with barbed wire and French troops and gendarmes are highly visible. Paris is also said to have reinforcements ready to send to Djibouti if necessary.

50X1

Those two interested bystanders--the Somali Republic and Ethiopia--continue their watchful waiting. [redacted]

50X1

[redacted] the Ethiopians, with the referendum coming out the way they wanted it, might be just as happy to leave it to the French to clamp down on Somali dissidents inside the colony.

5. Saudi Arabia

50X1

6. France

Signs are mounting that the French plan nuclear tests in the Pacific either late this spring or early next summer.

50X1

If the French do as they have in the past, danger warnings to ships and aircraft will be issued at least a month before tests actually begin.

50X1

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret ²¹~~27~~ *March 1967*



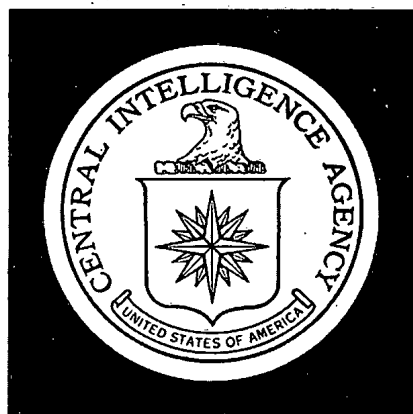
21
Mar
50X1
67

NO PDB WAS ISSUED ON 21 MARCH, 1967.
THE PRESIDENT WAS IN GUAM AND REQUESTED
THAT THE PDB BE ISSUED ON THE AFTERNOON
OF THE 20th INSTEAD.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/07/24 : CIA-RDP79T00936A005100010001-9

**THERE WAS NO PDB ISSUED ON
21 March 1967.**

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/07/24 : CIA-RDP79T00936A005100010001-9



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
22 MARCH 1967

1. Vietnam



50X1

2. Communist China

There are signs that the party Central Committee has recently been-- or still is--in session. Wall posters last weekend, for instance, claimed that the committee was meeting in an atmosphere of "struggle" over who will hold the positions of power.

The last regular meeting of the Central Committee was in August. However, in October--another period of confusion about the future of the Cultural Revolution--the committee held a [redacted] "work conference." The current meeting is probably similar.

50X1

3. Zambia -
Communist China

Embassy Lusaka has word that Peking is dangling a \$17 million interest-free loan in front of the Zambian Government. This is big money for Kaunda and company, but they have not decided whether to accept. The embassy calls the offer a "definitive indication" that the Chinese see Zambia as a place of special importance.

50X1

4. Brazil

The new government's go-slow attitude toward Latin American economic integration is the latest indication that its foreign policy will differ from its predecessor's in some respects. The number-two man in the Foreign Ministry has made it clear that the Costa e Silva government opposes the rigid time schedule--1980--for such integration. He said his government is not certain that this policy is favorable to Brazil's long-term interests; new markets would be small compared with the large Brazilian market.

The official also commented that many Brazilians were "somewhat disillusioned" by what they regarded as the small amount of additional US assistance envisioned in President Johnson's statement on 13 March.

5. Dominican Republic

The attempted assassination yesterday morning of right-wing political leader Antonio Imbert is bound to roil the political waters. The identity of the gunman who wounded Imbert is still unknown, but the government's involvement will surely be suspected. President Balaguer is personally directing the investigation. Reaction by both the right and left to what they will call "neo-Trujilloism" is likely to be both noisy and strong.

6. United Kingdom

7. Morocco

50X6

8. Israel-Jordan

All United Nations Military Observers are back on alert as a result of growing tensions along the Jordan-Israeli border. King Husayn has repeated his warning that Israeli raids will force him to counter--no matter how suicidal this may be. The Israelis are aware of Husayn's position and are likely to be more cautious than in the past.

9. Indonesia

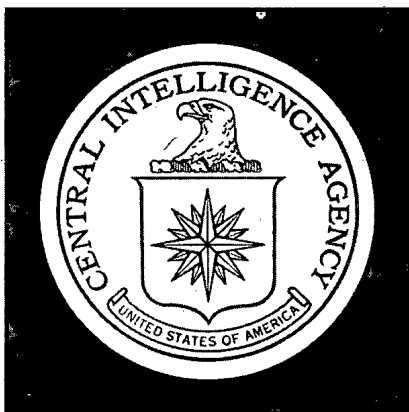
Ambassador Green notes that the crisis atmosphere has finally lifted. The new leaders have already become so engrossed in their planning that they seldom give Sukarno a backward glance.

The personal fortunes of the former Bung, however, continue to slip away. The in-group has now taken away his yellow presidential flag, his white helicopter, and even his uniforms. When last seen, Sukarno was bouncing about in a Volkswagen.

10. Sierra Leone

The chief of the army has moved in to prevent the new prime minister from taking office. This brought on angry demonstrations yesterday and more disturbances are likely today. In sum, a considerable period of instability seems to be in the cards for this West African member of the British Commonwealth.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
23 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

Tri Quang has launched a new effort to get his militant Buddhist movement back into the spotlight. He is leading a campaign for a "permanent ceasefire" to begin on 23 May, Buddha's birthday. Appeals have already gone out to a number of governments in addition to the US for a ceasefire. If this idea prospers, Tri Quang and company intend to press for an indefinite extension of the ceasefire and, finally, to offer their services as mediators.

This is so transparently a self-serving scheme on Tri Quang's part that we expect little positive to come of it. It may, however, generate some publicity.

2. Communist China

Peking is more and more turning to the army to administer the country and keep the economy from collapsing. The military now appear to be in complete charge in two provinces, and to have at least a dominant voice in most others.

The army controls the civil airline, some of the railroads and communications facilities, as well as a segment of the merchant shipping. The Central Committee has also directed the military to supervise spring planting and support industrial production.

This does not mean the army will become a vast labor force. It probably will, however, replace the shattered party and government apparatus as Peking's administrative instrument for conveying orders and seeing that they are carried out.

3. Austria

Vienna still wants to join the Common Market and acquire defensive missiles--and Moscow still objects. During a just-completed visit to Russia, Chancellor Klaus was told that neither desire was compatible with the 1955 peace treaty or Austria's political neutrality. Moscow would consider Austrian affiliation with the Common Market as a virtual second absorption of the country by West Germany.

4. Panama



50X1

5. Laos

The "little war" in northern Laos grinds on. Government forces attempting to enlarge their area of control are meeting determined resistance from both Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese units. We have no evidence, however, that the Communists are gearing up for any big offensive during the current dry season.

6. French Somaliland

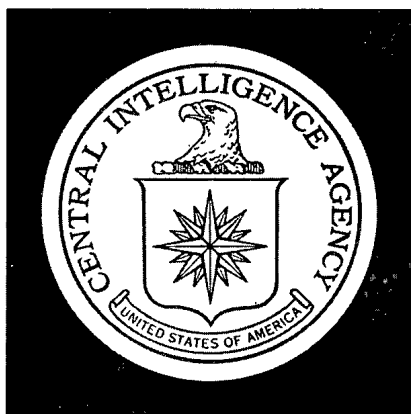
Reinforced French troops are keeping the lid on in Djibouti. Somalia says it does not "recognize" Sunday's referendum, but is reacting cautiously. Addis Ababa says that unless the Somalis do "something foolish" in the near future, Ethiopian troops will move back from the border area.

50X1

7. Sierra Leone

Following their intervention yesterday to keep the premier-designate from taking office, the military have put the capital city under tight control. The army chief says "all efforts" are being made to form a "constitutional government," but these words coming from a man who has just seen how easy it is to seize power seem to have a slightly hollow sound.

Top Secret

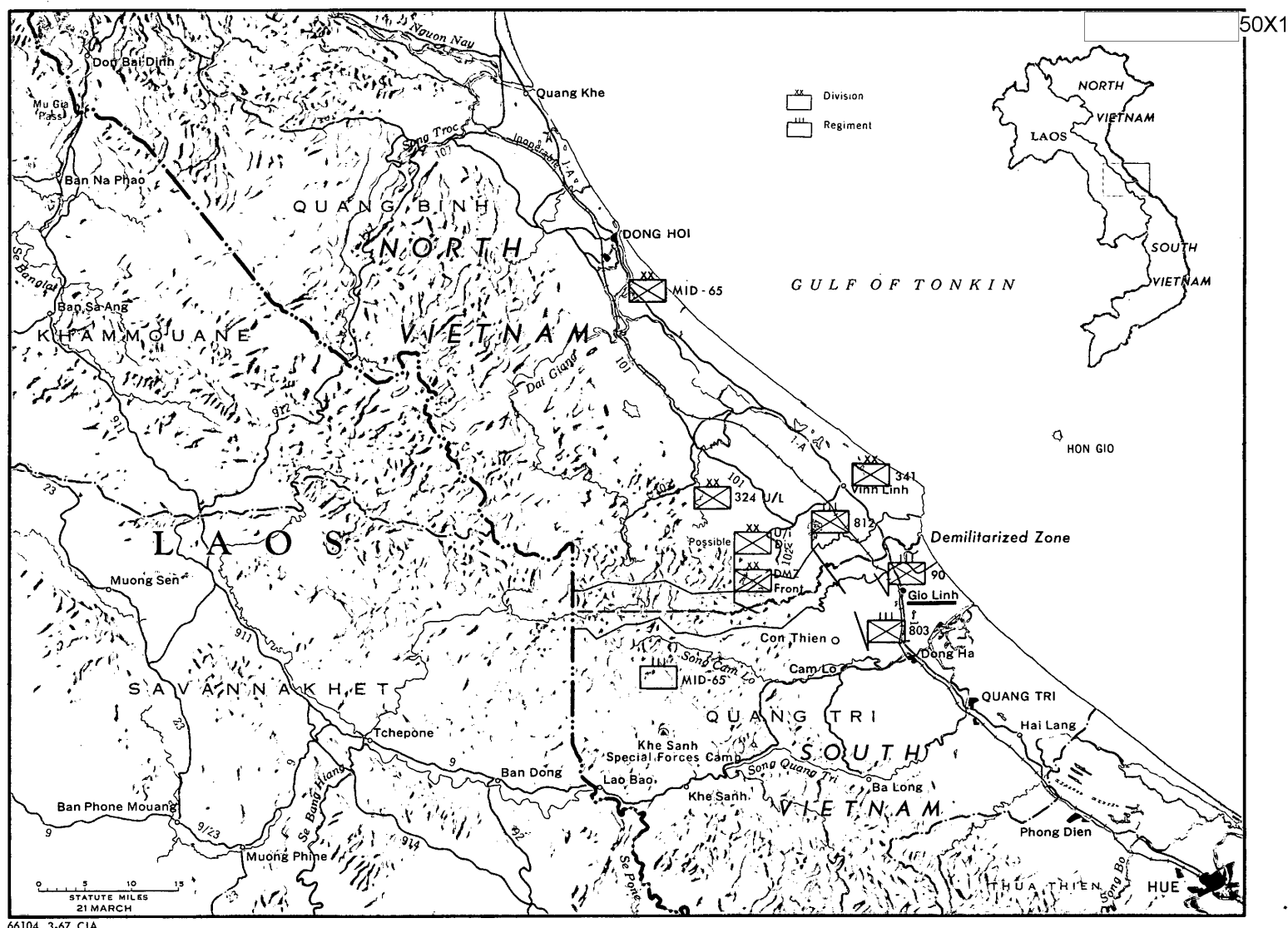


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 March 1967



50X1



DAILY BRIEF
24 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

The chairman of the Constituent Assembly, Phan Khac Suu, is on the point of entering the race for the presidency. A prominent southerner and the last civilian chief of state, he seems confident he could make a good showing as a civilian opponent to a military candidate. Suu has already selected his vice presidential running mate, another civilian political independent.

2. Vietnam

We can now cite additional indications the Communists may be getting ready for something big south of the Demilitarized Zone:

-- []
[] North Vietnamese forces in and just above the Zone have built up from about three to four divisions with supporting artillery. Substantial elements of one of these divisions are now operating in Quang Tri Province.

50X1

-- [] reports []
[] tenuously suggest sizable recent infiltrations, including possibly two regiments near the Special Forces camp at Khe Sanh in western Quang Tri.

50X1

We cannot be sure what all this adds up to, but the Communists certainly seem to be in a position to follow up their barrages against our artillery positions at Con Thien and Gio Linh with ground action.

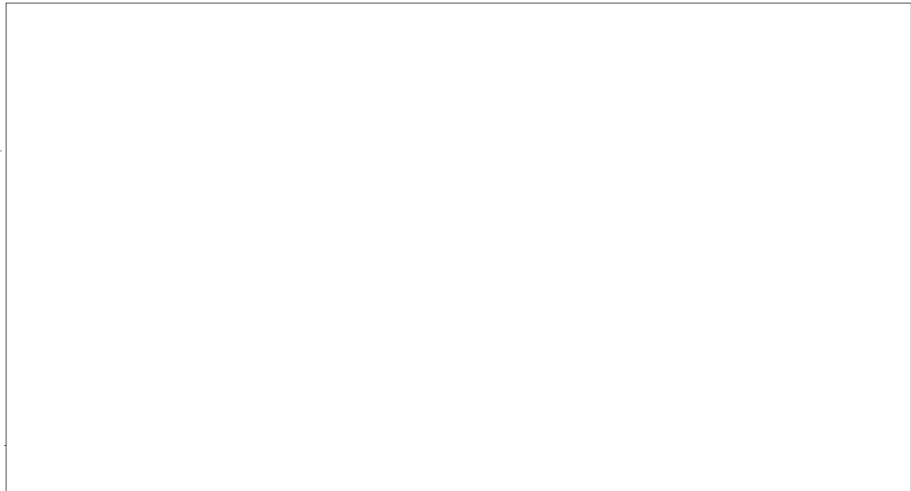
3. Sierra Leone

A group of senior army officers, tired of the electoral dispute, have seized the government and thrown all the principals in jail, including army commander Lansana.

50X1

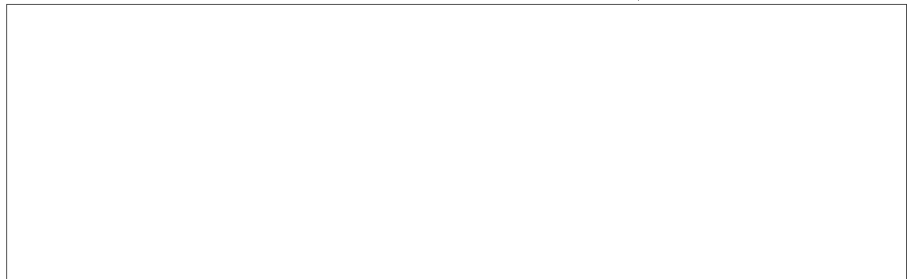
4. West Europe

50X1



5. Aden

50X1



6. Dominican Republic

Conservative and rightist politicians are still shaking in their boots in the wake of Tuesday's attempt to murder Antonio Imbert. The identity of the attackers is still unknown, but persistent rumors point to vengeful old followers of Trujillo.

Balaguer has taken the bull by the horns and appointed Luis Amiana Tio to head the investigation as his new minister of interior and police. (Amiana and Imbert are the sole survivors of the group that assassinated Trujillo.) This is almost sure to result in a rather thorough shakeup of Balaguer's top security officials.

7. Peru

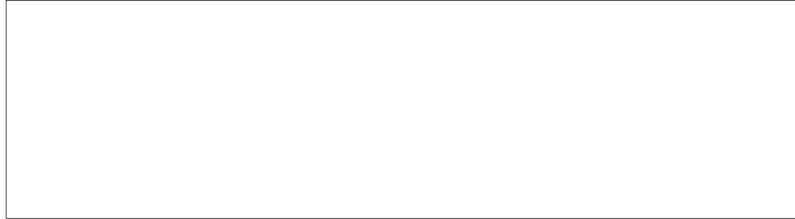
The air force is interested in an attractive Swedish offer to sell it some late model supersonic aircraft. If Peru goes through with the deal, a new generation of fighter planes will be introduced to the continent. Neighboring countries would feel under strong pressure to make equivalent purchases.

50X1

8. Cuba

Fidel Castro's subversive efforts did not prosper in Latin America last year. This was not for lack of trying.

50X1



50X1

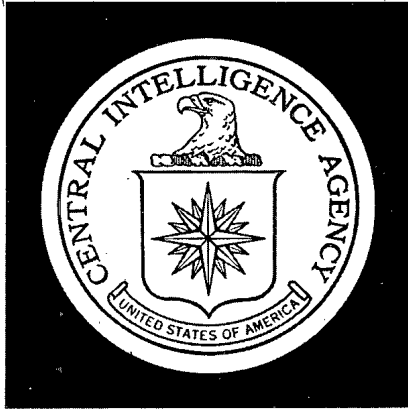


50X1



50X1

Top Secret

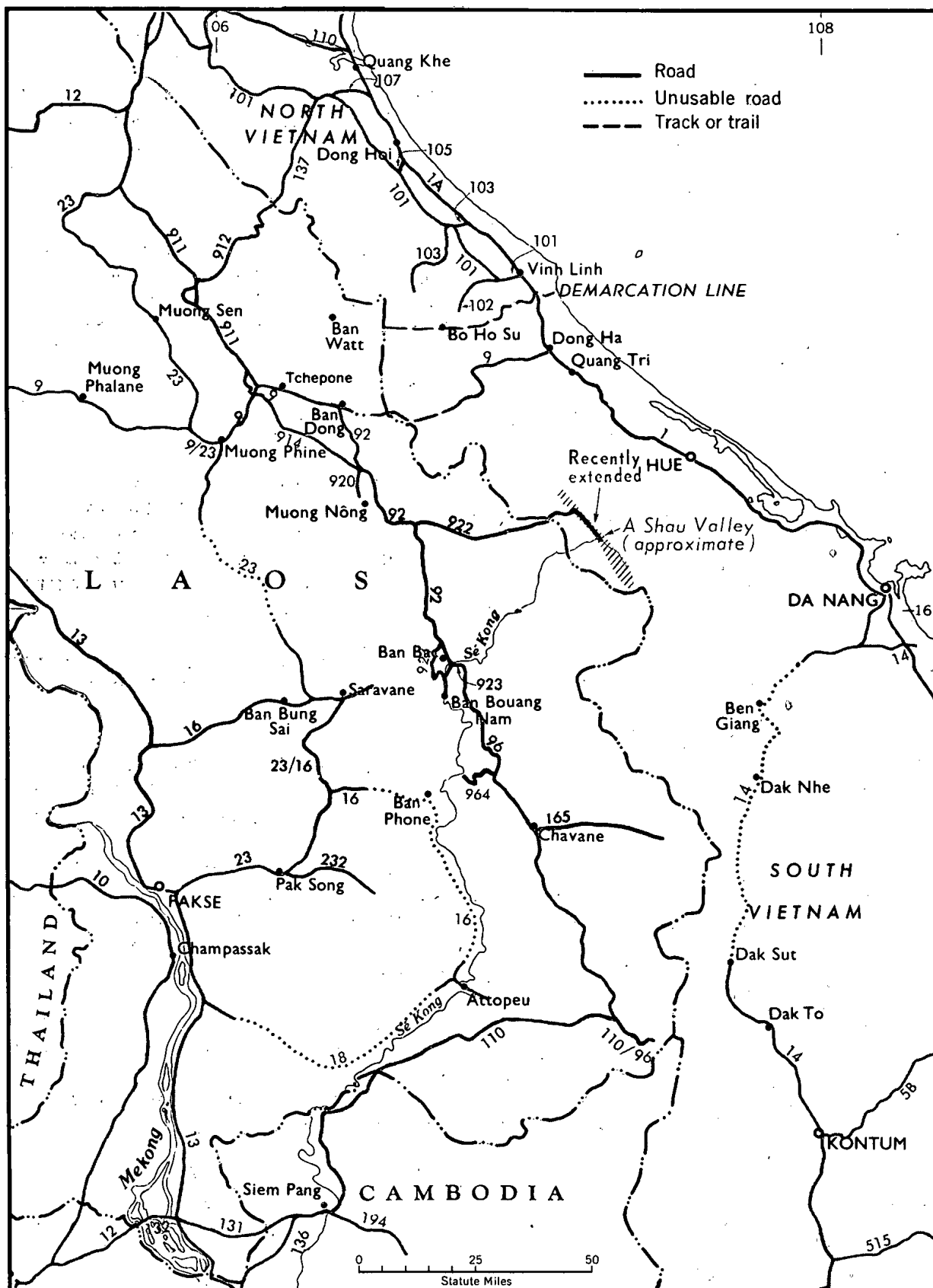


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 25 March 1967



50X1

LAOS PANHANDLE

66125 3-67 CIA

50X1

DAILY BRIEF
25 MARCH 1967

1. Vietnam

The Communists are working all out to extend Route 922 from the Laotian panhandle into the A Shau Valley area of South Vietnam.

Recent photography shows construction activity--including river crossings--reaching nearly 15 miles into South Vietnam. All this has been done since 1 February. Friendly guerrillas say the Communists are working at night and--apparently in expectation of US air strikes--are building pontoon bridges for alternate river crossings.

The road may soon be ready for truck traffic and eventual establishment of the Communists' first truckhead inside South Vietnam. Up to now supplies have been brought in by porters from road terminals in Laos.

The road may also be used to bring artillery weapons into South Vietnam.

2. South Vietnam

The US Embassy in Saigon is uneasy over indications of considerable military opposition to some aspects of the new constitution. It expects the Armed Forces Council to give final approval when it meets on 27 March, but fears the strong reservations of some top officers could lead them to drag their feet in putting the new constitution into force.

The embassy also believes disagreement over the constitution may add to the strains on military unity caused by the competing presidential ambitions of General Thieu and Premier Ky.

3. Communist China

Peking is pushing ahead with efforts to rebuild battered municipal and provincial administrations. Twice this week Chou En-lai has hammered home to mass organizations the urgent need to form a "Revolutionary Committee" to run Peking.

The north-central province of Shansi has already set up such a committee. It seems to have streamlined the local government apparatus and to be taking over some of the provincial party organization's functions. A senior army political commissar may be the real power.

4. Burma

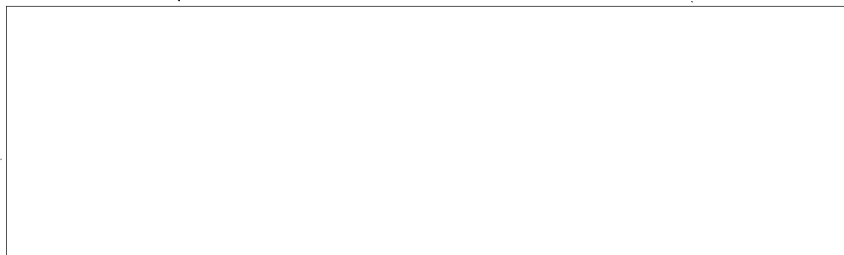
A decline in rice exports--which normally account for 70 percent of Burma's foreign exchange receipts--is one of the toughest problems facing General Ne Win. Shipments have gone down from a post-war peak in the late 1950's of about 2 million tons to an expected 7-800,000 this year.

Production has fallen off some, but the real difficulty is in getting the rice to Rangoon for export. The pitifully low price paid for rice by the government monopoly is forcing many farmers to channel most of their crop into the black market.

Ne Win is trying to do something about the problem, but he finds it hard to admit the failure of government-operated marketing facilities. He is also hampered by a dispirited bureaucracy overloaded with zealous but inept military types.

5. Soviet Union

50X1



50X1

6. Venezuela

President Leoni and company are busily developing their case against Castro for supporting Latin American subversion.

50X1

In the meantime, the Venezuelans claim some success in bilateral contacts with neighbors. Even Mexico is said to be coming around to the idea that a policy of nonintervention also requires opposition to Cuba's meddling in other countries.

7. Colombia

Colombia is coming in for its share of trouble from two brands of Communist guerrillas, those following Castro and those under control of the local Communist Party. There have been four attacks this month, the most recent being the ambush of an army patrol on 22 March.

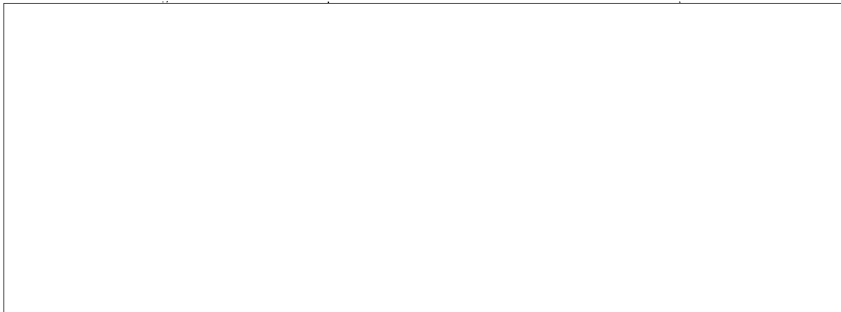
The Colombian Army has had a lot of experience dealing with bandit groups, and the Communists have yet to show they can keep up a sustained campaign.

However, President Lleras' political opponents are citing the attacks as another reason why Congress should not let him go to the summit meeting. They claim he should stay at home at a time when the government is "at war with subversives." For his part, Lleras has been spurred by the guerrilla attacks to support Venezuela's diplomatic moves against Castro.

50X1

8. France

The French see last Sunday's referendum in French Somaliland as a mandate to stay, but they have serious doubts about how long. If the going gets too rough, Paris will probably bow out as quickly and gracefully as possible.



50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 27 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
27 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

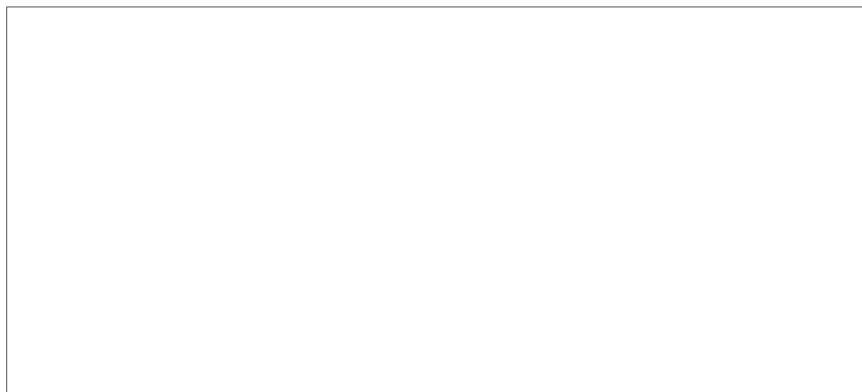
We have few details beyond press reports on yesterday's incident between Saigon police and a routine funeral procession organized by militant Buddhists. The police held up the procession until Ky gave it his okay.

There have been signs for some time, however, that the Buddhists desire to resume political action, although they show little inclination to compete in the coming elections. This orderly procession was probably a test of Buddhist strength and government reaction.

2. South Vietnam

The senior generals who make up the Armed Forces Council meet today to review the draft constitution. Ky told Ambassador Lodge on Saturday that he expects a good deal of grumbling from the generals who, Ky said, fear the constitution will cut into their power. Ky feels up to the situation, however, and believes in the end he can persuade the generals to support the constitution.

3. Soviet Union

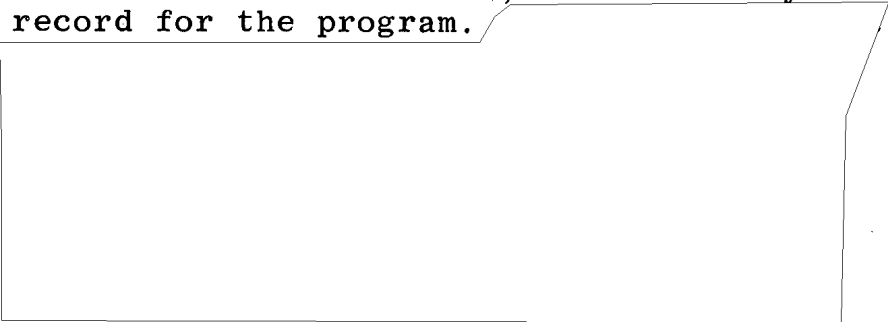


50X1

50X1

4. Soviet Union

There have been eight Soviet space launches so far in March, a new monthly record for the program.



50X1

5. Communist China

Peking is still trying hard to keep the cultural revolution from interfering with spring planting. The regime has ordered attacks on production cadres and "power seizures" in the countryside to cease. It has also restricted the time to be spent on "mass activities," and called on the army to reimpose discipline on the peasants.

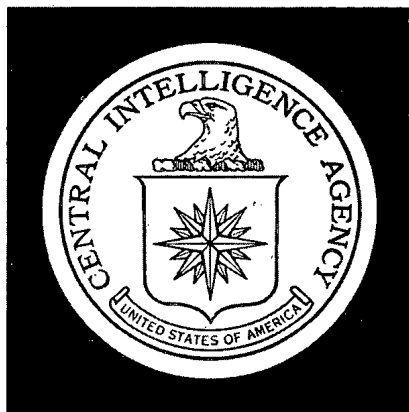
Even so, we doubt that spring farm work this year will be up to par. There are already reports of food shortages in some areas; Peking, however, can probably prevent widespread famine.

6. India

The Indian ambassador in Moscow says the Svetlana affair has caused a "definite setback" in Soviet-Indian relations. He claims the Soviets insist the Indians acted in collusion with the US. The ambassador added that the Soviets gave her an exit visa only after a split decision at "a very high level."

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 28 March 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
28 MARCH 1967

1. North Vietnam

50X1

2. Chile

50X1

3. Bolivia

A good deal of smoke still covers the details of last week's clash between guerrillas and Bolivian troops, but Ambassador Henderson feels a security threat to the government may be shaping up.

The guerrillas--just how many is not clear--jumped a 22-man army patrol on 23 March killing seven. The rest were captured and then released in a remote mountainous area. An army unit is now moving to the scene of the clash, but is hampered by lack of equipment and is a long way from any source of supply.

50X1

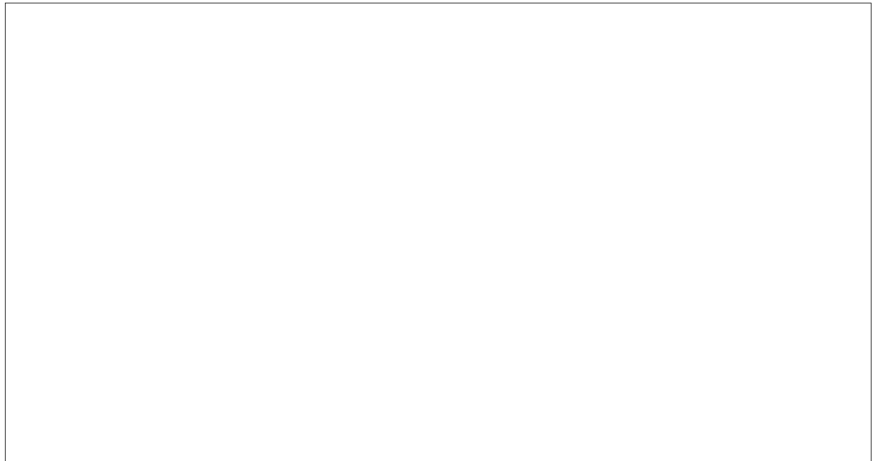
50X1

4. Communist China



50X1

5. Communist China



6. Greece

A new political crisis may be brewing in the perennial feud between the King and ex-premier Papandreou. The King has replaced two career senior officers who are in the Papandreou camp. Papandreou may retaliate with an effort to topple the present "interim" government.

50X1

7. Soviet Union

Profit, once a dirty word in the Communist lexicon, is becoming fashionable as the Soviets try to build incentive into their economy. The latest move in this direction is a plan--experimental at this point--to put some of the state farms on a profit-and-loss basis in hopes of spurring production.

Under this system, farm managers would be given greater leeway in planning and selling their crops. Some of the profits would be returned to farm workers in the form of bonuses or better housing. Many Soviet factories have been operating under this system since last year.

8. Somali Republic

The Somalis are still hopping mad about the 19 March referendum which keeps French Somaliland tied to Paris, but they have come to the realistic conclusion there is not much they can do about it for the time being.

50X1

50X1

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 29 March 1967



50X1

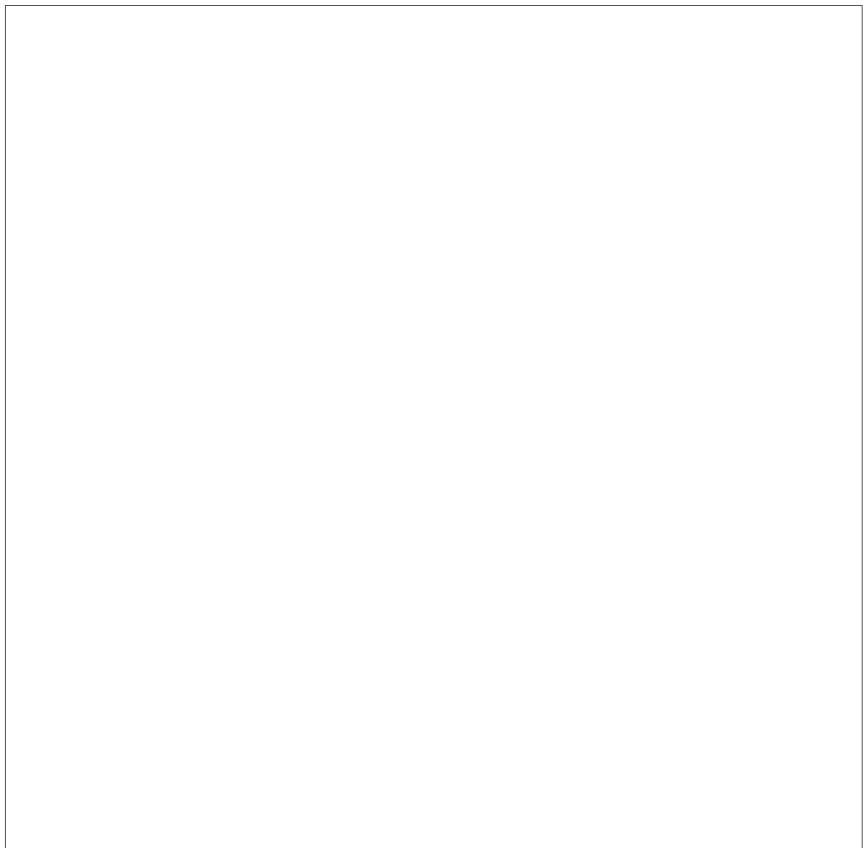
DAILY BRIEF
29 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam



50X1

2. Cambodia-Vietnam



50X1

50X1

3. Thailand

50X1



4. Colombia

President Lleras has hit upon a neat device to overcome congressional opposition to his departure for the Punta del Este summit meeting. He has replaced his unpopular justice minister--who would run the country during the President's and the foreign minister's absence--with the widely respected former President Echandia. Echandia, it seems, even has the necessary qualifications to serve as minister of justice.

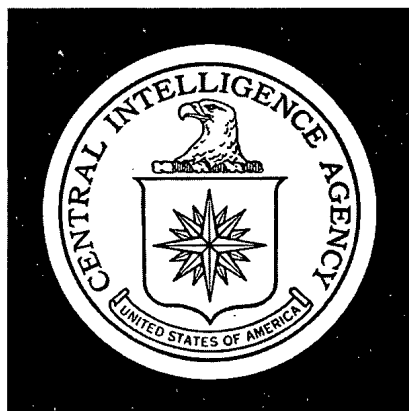
Chances are thus considered good that the Senate will give Lleras permission to go, although it may take a while for opposition members to get through their expected windy speeches.

50X1

5. Venezuela

President Leoni seems to have overcome earlier qualms about the value of the summit meeting and now plans to attend. The silver lining for Leoni is the prospect of pushing his anti-Castro crusade in intensive bilateral talks.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 March 1967



50X1



66172 3-67 CIA

50X1

50X1

DAILY BRIEF
30 MARCH 1967

1. Vietnam

Communist truck traffic in the Laotian panhandle continued fairly heavy throughout March. According to reports from friendly guerrilla teams,

most of this traffic is heading for Communist storage areas near the South Vietnamese border.

50X1

2. South Vietnam

Initial interrogation of a Communist

tends to confirm other indications of an enemy summer offensive in Quang Nam, Quang Tin, and Quang Ngai provinces (see map).

one of the main objectives of the offensive is the special forces camp which guards the approach to Quang Ngai city.

enemy units are being positioned in this area.

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

3. Soviet Union

50X1

50X1

4. Soviet Union

The Soviets are adding a new element to their propaganda line against the Chinese. What they are saying is that Peking and the CIA are actually working together. The Russians have tried out this theme on occasion in the past, but only recently have they begun to use it prominently.

Among other things, Moscow says this duo collaborated in the abortive Indonesian coup of 1965 and attempted to turn the recent elections in India against the Indian Communist Party.

In Latin America the Chinese are alleged to have "closed ranks" with the CIA and other "subversive US agencies." The Soviets charge that the collaborators intend to split the Communist parties and to make Communism and the Soviet Union look bad.

5. Sino-Soviet Relations

Despite the sorry state of affairs between China and the Soviet Union, the two countries continue to maintain economic relations--albeit at rather modest levels. Moscow, for instance, still delivers some nonstrategic military equipment to China, but nothing that the Chinese are unable to manufacture themselves. We understand that total trade this year will stay at about the level of last year, which was somewhat below the 1965 figure of \$415 million.

6. Sierra Leone

Embassy Freetown says only lip service is being given to the idea of returning the government to civilians, and the army is digging in for a long stint at running the country.

7. Dominican Republic

President Balaguer's newly appointed police chief may well bring out the worst in the country's political habits. The new man is known for his strong-arm tactics and is suspected of having been one of the heavy hands in the Trujillo period.

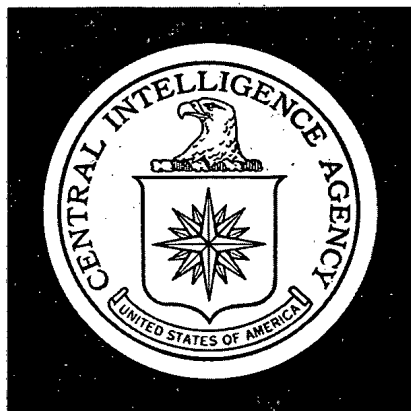
The police chief comes to office at a time when old feuds between Trujillistas and conservatives proud of their anti-Trujillo record are being openly revived. He should find it hard working with his boss, the Minister of the Interior, who is one of the surviving members of the group that killed Trujillo.

8. Greece

The government may fall today. The issue before Parliament is a disputed amendment to a proposed electoral law.

This amendment would grant immunity from arrest to all election candidates--a step obviously intended to protect ex-premier Papandreou's son whose parliamentary immunity is currently being challenged. The embassy in Athens believes the prospects for resolving the dispute are poor.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 31 March 1967



50X1

22

DAILY BRIEF
31 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

Thieu will announce the new "national reconciliation plan" tomorrow, along with the official promulgation of the constitution. The draft of his proclamation offers the enemy political and economic integration, but does not spell out the specific rights and benefits returning Viet Cong can expect.

2. Greece

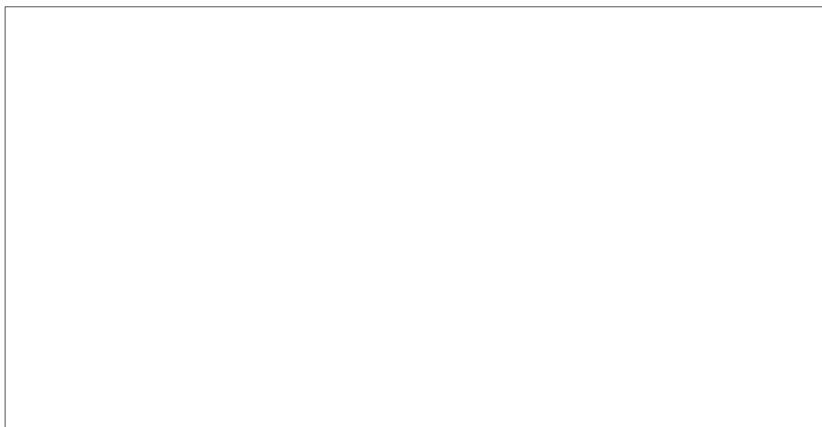
The King, who yesterday accepted Premier Paraskevopoulos' resignation, may try to form another government from the present fragmented parliament. Ex-premier George Papandreou's party, however, is demanding new elections--which it could well win--within 45 days. Should consultations with political leaders fail to solve the crisis, or if the situation threatens to produce a government headed by Papandreou's son Andreas, the King might resort to some form of military dictatorship.

The Papandreous head a loose collection of leftists, centrists, and miscellaneous types in which father and son head separate, and at times antagonistic, factions. They have sometimes played ball with the Communists and Andreas has adopted a bitterly anti-American pose. We suspect some of this is opportunism rather than conviction, however.

Thus Greece would appear headed for a major crisis, but it could yet be papered over.

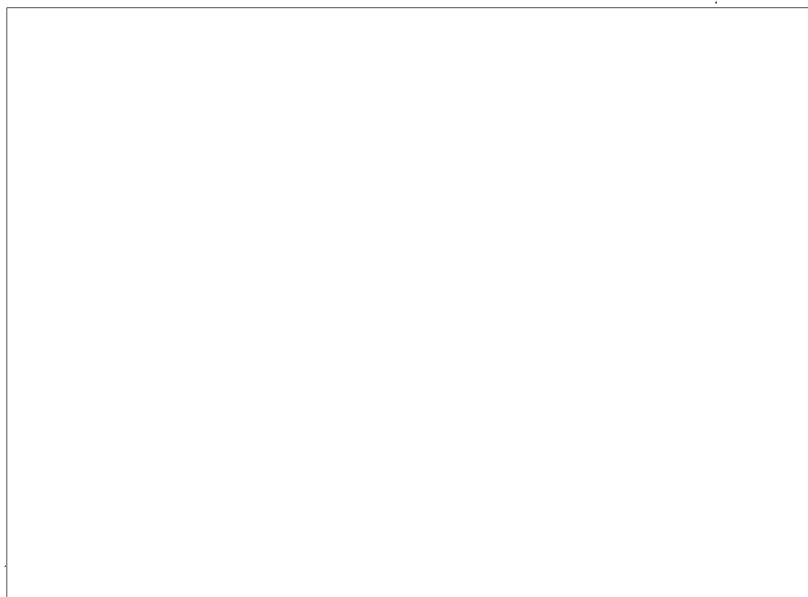
3. Soviet Union

50X1



4. India

50X1



5. Communist China

We now have evidence that the meningitis epidemic, noted in south-east China in February, is affecting most of the populous eastern portion of the country. It has been spread by the constant movement of Red Guards.

The regime is sending medical teams into the countryside from many of the large cities. The epidemic should run its course by about the end of April, but in the meantime will almost certainly put further crimps in the economy.

50X1

6. Rhodesia

Our Consul General in Salisbury believes the British authorities are being dangerously optimistic about the effects of mandatory sanctions--on the books for about three months now.

He grants that major sectors of the Rhodesian economy are encountering "important difficulties," but sees no evidence that these difficulties are creating serious pressure on Smith and company to change their political course. The rising cost of living, although pinching everyone, is being taken in stride like similar privations in World War II Britain.

50X1

The Consul General also notes that there is no effective dialogue between the regime and the African majority. He sees, however, no evidence of unrest that could pose a major security problem in the near future.

7. Communist China

The thought of Chairman Mao is getting ever closer to the Chinese people, if we can judge from the latest rage in Peking fashions--underwear adorned with quotations from his works.

50X1

Top Secret