



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

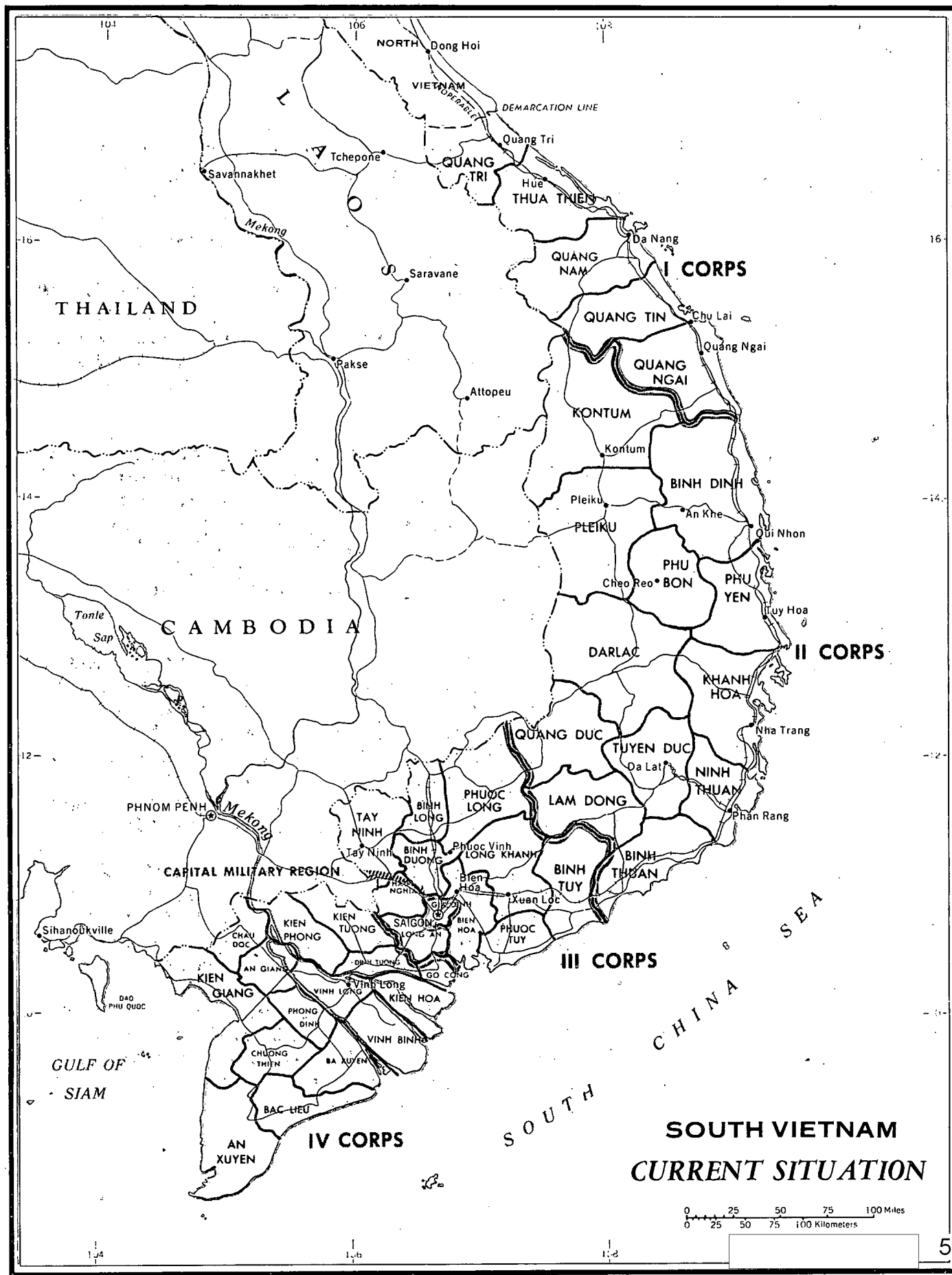


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1 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
1 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

The political situation appears to be rapidly worsening, and Ky may soon have to take drastic action to try to restore government authority, or make major concessions to the Buddhists.

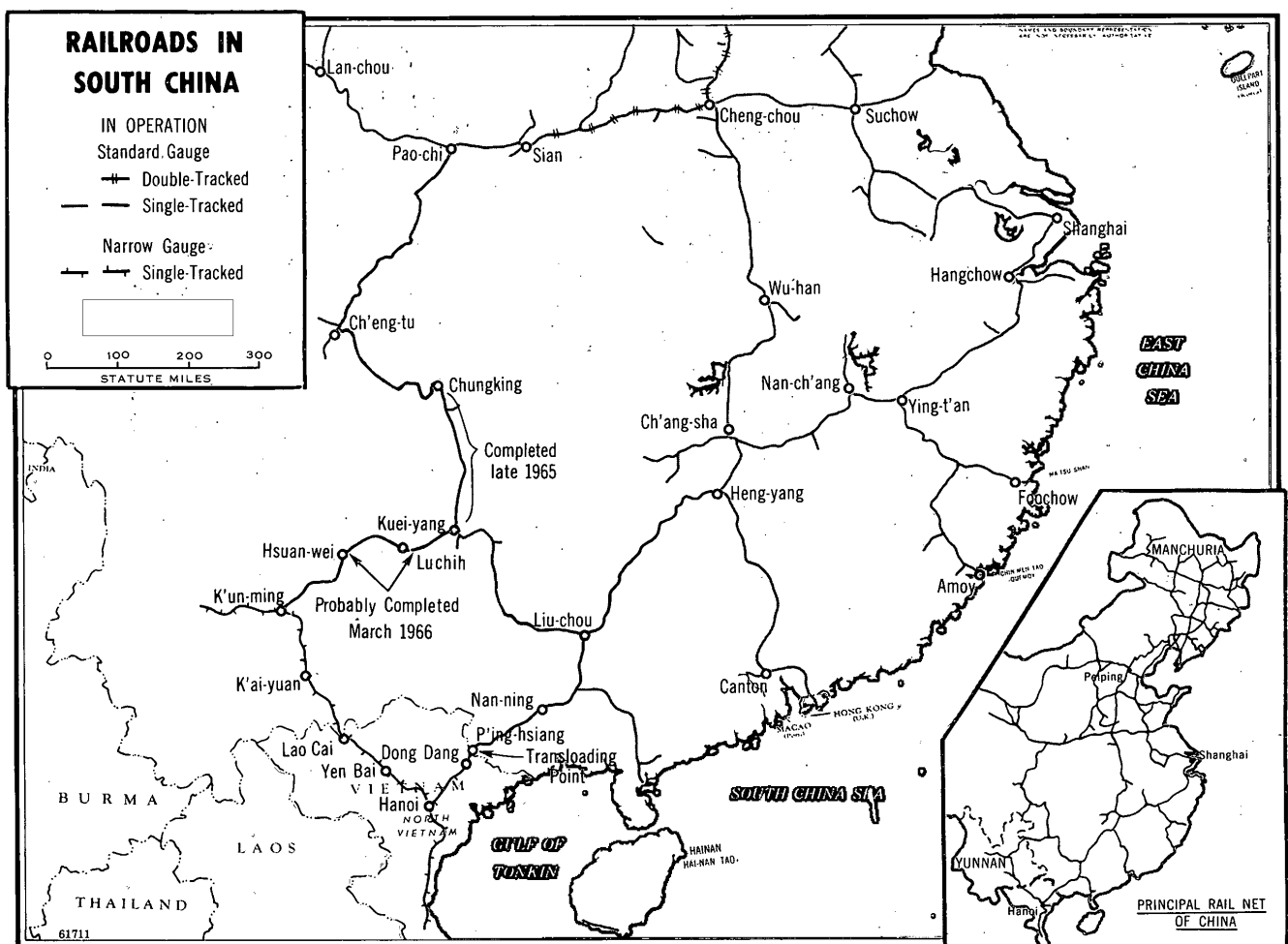
Anti-government agitation continues unchecked in Hué and Da Nang, and today demonstrations spread to Qui Nhon, Dalat, and Pleiku (see map). The latter two were clearly engineered by students from Hué.

Law and order appeared non-existent today when a mob of some 10,000 seized General Chieu in Hué. Neither the security forces nor police made any attempt to protect him. In Dalat, Vietnamese troops stood by and the national police fled while a mob sacked the radio station.

Agitators in Hué appear to be aware of secret government plans to move forcibly in the city early next week. Our consul there comments that, with the element of surprise lost, the government now will have to act with great speed and overwhelming force. Any half-baked or piecemeal measures could be disastrous.

Ambassador Lodge told chief of state Thieu today he could not conceive of another week going by in Hué and Da Nang under present conditions without something happening to US troops.

Even if the Ky government survives the present conflict it will be seriously weakened--either by compromise with the Buddhists or from public resentment over repressive measures.



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2. Communist China

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[redacted]

the important rail link between Kueiyang and Kunming in Southwest China has been opened to limited traffic. (See Map)

[redacted]

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The opening of this inland line to through traffic will greatly improve China's ability to move goods to North Vietnam.

3. India

A new round of violence in the Calcutta area is likely to result from leftist plans for a 24-hour general strike next Wednesday. There are reports that militant pro-Peking Indian Communists are laying plans for a direct confrontation with the police.

4. Ecuador

The country was relatively peaceful today, but leftist agitators may only be pausing for breath.

A delegation headed by the leftist rector of Cuenca University has gone to Quito to demand that interim president Yerovi yield to a triumvirate in which he would be outvoted by two leftist intellectuals. The country's volatile students are said still to oppose Yerovi, and they plan to convene a nationwide student meeting next week to discuss how to make this opposition felt.

[redacted]

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5. France

Opposition parties are beginning to make a political issue of De Gaulle's abrupt action toward NATO.

The Socialist Party has issued a strong condemnatory statement and directed its supporters in the National Assembly to submit a motion of censure during the session beginning today.

De Gaulle, of course, has more than enough votes to defeat such a motion. Opposition elements may hope to pick off a few wavering Gaullists by this gambit, but their principal objective is probably to leave De Gaulle, when the chips are down, with only the Communists and the remaining Gaullists standing with him.

The opposition will, however, have trouble keeping public debate on the subject alive; at least, the French public has been relatively apathetic on the issue thus far.

6. Soviet Union

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7. Rhodesia

The breakaway Smith regime seems to lack real confidence despite its success in withstanding Britain's program of sanctions.

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Some Rhodesians believe that pressures will be stepped up now that Wilson has received a smashing vote of confidence. They also are concerned that the South Africans, after their elections, may reduce their help and press Smith to negotiate.

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8. Guinea

Sekou Touré, who was going to restore Nkrumah a few short weeks ago, is apparently growing more and more fearful of his own skin.

Distrustful of his own armed forces, Touré has publicly urged the masses to take up their machetes and slit the throats of all imperialists once a coup attempt looks imminent. This has naturally unnerved the European and American community.

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Houphouet-Boigny in nearby Ivory Coast has been loudly encouraging Guinean exiles as part of a psychological campaign against Touré.

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2 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
2 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

The political situation continues to deteriorate. Some 5,000 troops, police, and government workers were involved in a protest march in Hué today. The civil servants' strike there is still effective. 50X1

At Da Nang, 7,000 to 10,000 people, including about 2,000 military, staged a march similar to that in Hué. In addition, student leaders have announced that their ultimatum to US officials over an incident involving demonstrations and US Marines has expired. This raises the possibility of action against American installations in the Da Nang area.

General Chieu has been released from custody at General Thi's residence in Hué and is now back in Saigon. He denies that he was held against his will.

Premier Ky announced in a public speech yesterday that further demonstrations would be illegal and that he would use force to prevent them. We see no current signs that Ky is ready to back up this statement.

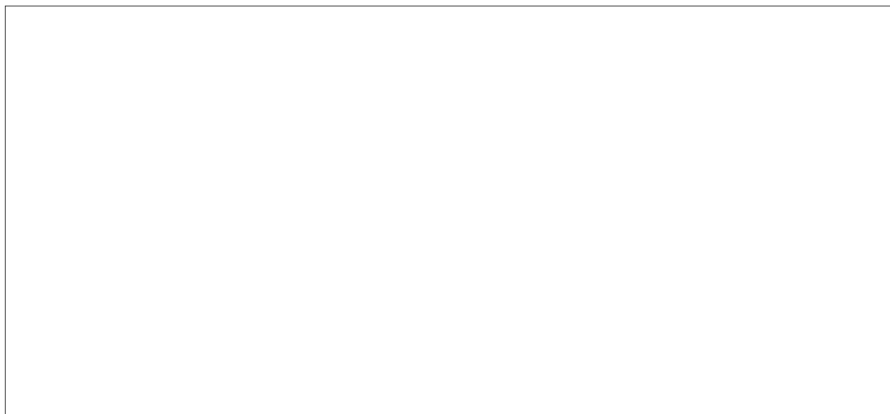
✓ 1. 2. Indonesia

Another milestone in the dismantling of Sukarnoism may come on Monday. The new leaders revealed today that an "important political statement" is to be issued then. Ambassador Green has been privately informed that it will rephrase the government's policy goals in "positive and constructive" terms.

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3. Soviet Union

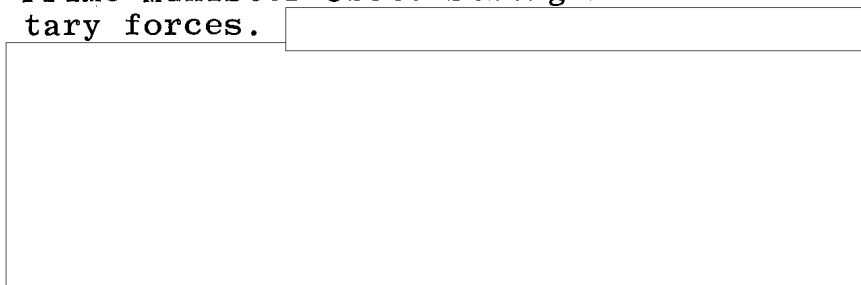
Moscow seems to be desirous of freer exchange with the US on some military matters. Recently, US military attachés have been allowed to make trips in the Soviet Union to certain areas that had been restricted. They have also been granted more freedom in arranging their transportation and accommodations on these trips.



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✓ 8. Uganda

Communist countries are helping Prime Minister Obote strengthen his military forces.



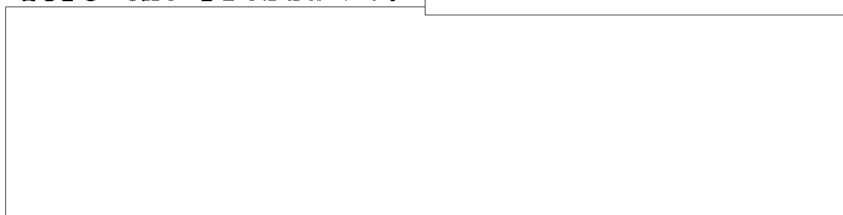
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Obote has alienated every political grouping in the country. He is being kept in office almost solely by the army and security forces, to whom he must increasingly cater.

✓ 9. Ecuador

The country is generally calm as special interests plead their cases before the President.



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✓ 10. 16. Brazil

A new wave of public unrest is weakening Castello Branco's effort to instill order and stability into the political structure. Continuing inflationary pressures and the disquiet of an election year tend to magnify the government's difficulties. The military leaders are disturbed by labor and student demonstrations.

The President continues to use his broad powers very sparingly, but he may have to adopt harsher tactics if the trend continues.

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4 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
4 APRIL 1966

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1. South Vietnam

The outcome is still in doubt as the government stakes its prestige on a forceful effort to re-establish its authority in Da Nang and other disaffected cities. The troops dispatched today to the Da Nang airport may have begun moving into the city proper.

At last report, there was no word of violence in Da Nang, but there were indications that antigovernment forces were preparing to resist. The Da Nang radio station has been put out of operation by its progovernment staff.

In Hué the radio called today for the public to join First Division troops and police in resisting any government move on that city. In the central mountain town of Dalat, government police sent in to restore order failed to overcome demonstrating students. In Saigon itself, government forces were obliged again to use tear gas against demonstrators. Another demonstration is planned for tomorrow.

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As could be expected, there has been a sharp rise in coverage of the "struggle movement" in Hanoi and Viet Cong propaganda. This has particularly emphasized the anti-US aspects and seems designed to press the "struggle groups" further in that direction.

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2. Communist China

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3. Common Market

Walter Hallstein, President of the European Economic Community Commission, may be unable to accept reappointment because of illness. This would be good news for the French; they have wanted to get rid of him for some time, believing that this would help to weaken the commission.

If Hallstein is out of the running, the French would have a better chance to promote the candidacy of Dino Del Bo-- the somewhat erratic President of the Coal-Steel Authority--or Paul-Henri Spaak, also mentioned as a possibility by the French.

4. Soviet Union

Luna 10 remains in orbit around the moon

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There is still no evidence that the probe has photographed the lunar surface, but Luna 10 probably has enough payload capacity to accommodate photographic equipment.

Western press reports that the spacecraft seems to be tumbling and is therefore malfunctioning.

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5. Soviet Union

Moscow seems to have been surprised and irritated by the speech delivered last Thursday by the Cuban delegate to the Soviet party congress. Armando Hart Davalos, Castro's high-ranking representative at the meeting, came out with the most belligerent statement yet made there. On Vietnam, for instance, he proposed that a military force be created capable of stopping the bombing of the north.

The Soviet news agency, TASS, so far has been careful not to mention this part of the speech. Pravda and Izvestia have tried to indicate that the Cuban's long harangue on Vietnam failed to get any applause at all.

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5 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
5 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

There was no real improvement in the situation today but at least a direct firefight was avoided between troops supporting the government and those behind the "struggle groups" in the northern provinces.

That threat was eased after Premier Ky talked with the local corps commander, General Chuan, at the Da Nang air base. Ky apparently backed away from using force against the still defiant city, at least for now.

Chuan's own loyalties are uncertain, but he does seem to be urging moderation all around. He is said to believe that the situation will improve.

This does not fit too well with other reports from the area. For one thing, a portion of Chuan's command is in a state close to open revolt.

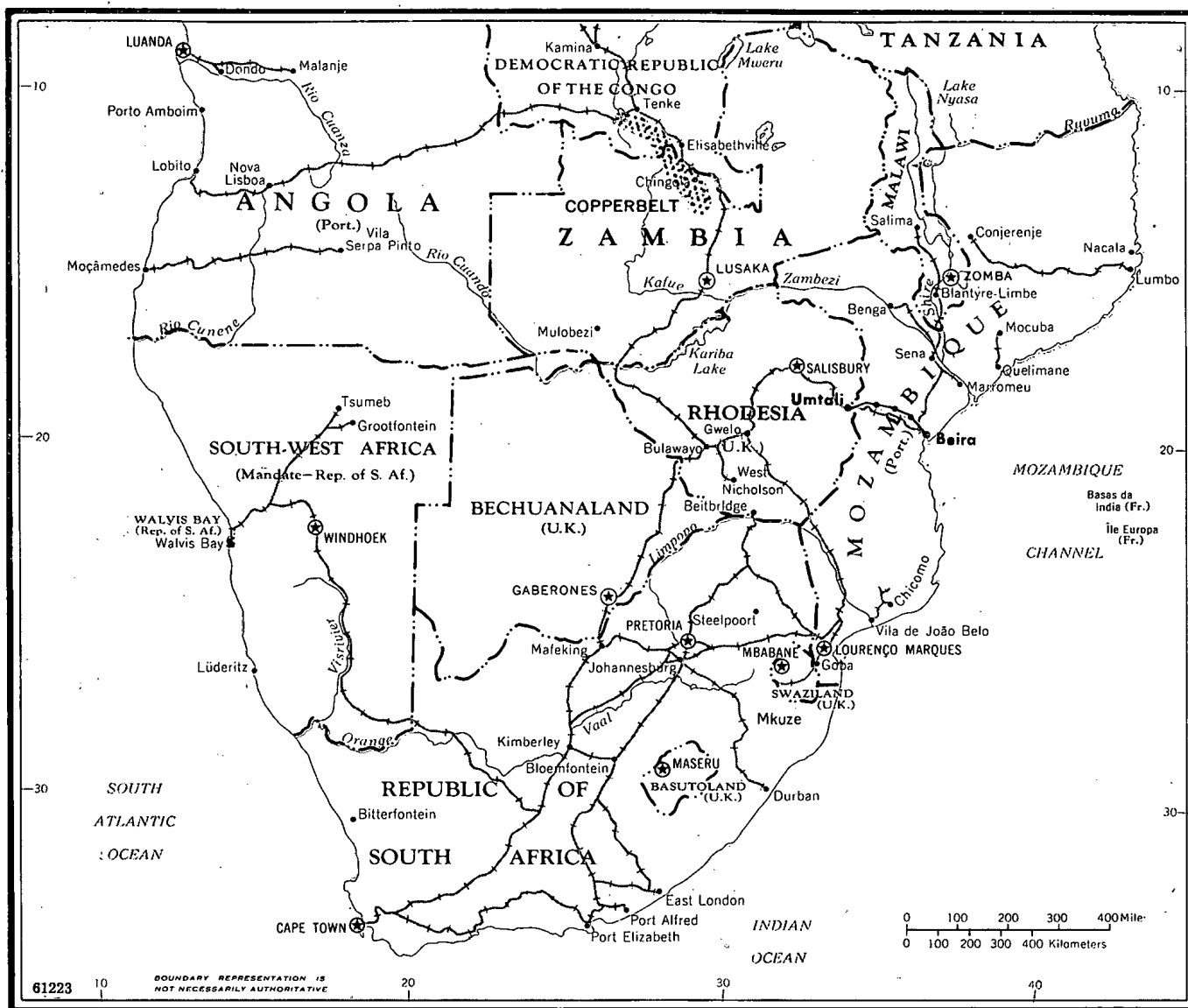
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The chief of the province in which Hué is located fears the situation will get worse

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Hopes for some sort of a political accommodation are still alive, but only faintly. Buddhist leaders hold out the prospect of early agreement, but this may be only an effort to buy time. As matters stand now, it is questionable that they are still completely in control of the agitation.

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2. Communist China

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3. Rhodesia

Britain's four-month-old oil embargo, already seriously breached by shipments through South Africa and Mozambique, now faces an even more serious challenge.

A Greek-registered tanker, which the British halted briefly but were unwilling to divert forcibly, arrived in Beira yesterday, and another is due today.

If either ship unloads there--and it is not yet certain they intend to--Britain will probably try to pressure the Portuguese into denying use of the pipeline across Mozambique to Rhodesia, but we see no signs that Lisbon will knuckle under.

One tanker load would increase Rhodesian stocks by about a month at current consumption rates. More important would be the psychological impact of such an event. African governments, lately quiescent on Rhodesia, would again be howling for stronger British actions and mandatory UN sanctions.

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4. West Africa



5. Ecuador

Provisional president Yerovi, whose mandate has been described as "temporary and somewhat precarious," may already have antagonized the army.

In addition to naming a little-known Guayaquil lawyer as minister of defense, Yerovi has dismissed both the army commander and the chief of the general staff--who put him in office--for protesting his release of subversive leaders. Yerovi's cabinet as a whole is a colorless cluster, and the country's vested interests will continue to oppose imperative economic reforms.



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6. Dominican Republic

With his party's convention due to begin on Saturday, Bosch apparently is still weighing various possibilities for its electoral ticket.

A leading party figure said yesterday he thought Bosch would nominate former rebel leader Caamano for vice president, in order to prevent other political groups from cashing in on Caamano's popularity.

[redacted]
[redacted] Bosch [redacted]
yesterday said Caamano will be offered the presidential slot. [redacted]
Bosch will not run himself because he is "convinced" that neither the US nor the Dominican armed forces, which he called "the two decisive factors in Dominican politics," would ever accept him as president.

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Bosch admitted that Caamano lacks political and administrative experience, but said that Bosch and his party would dedicate themselves to guiding him aright.

7. France



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8. Soviet Union

Kosygin's long report to the party congress on the five-year plan--he talked most of today, with a short lunch break--appears merely to have rehashed the economic plan announced last month. He did, however, come out with some of the strongest statements yet heard from the post-Khrushchev regime on the need to strengthen the USSR's military potential.

The congress is grinding on endlessly in standard, stereotyped fashion. Yesterday, Lyubov Sysoyeva, a 25-year-old milkmaid, regaled the delegates with remarks such as "comprehensive mechanization of livestock sections is a highly important task in stockbreeding."

9. Indonesia

The new ruling group is deflating Sukarno still further. The controlled Djakarta press is increasingly directing criticism at Sukarno himself. Yesterday General Suharto pointed out that under Indonesia's constitution the congress--not the president--holds supreme power.

Members of the revised cabinet have been plotting a moderate course for the country, but show themselves acutely aware of the chaos and complexities they have to deal with.

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6 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
6 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

Ky now says that the government will have to make some political concessions before it attempts a military solution in Da Nang. Accordingly, he sent a letter today to the Buddhist leader Tam Chau, agreeing to hold a constitutional convention within six months if Tam Chau in turn will put out an order to stop the antigovernment agitation.

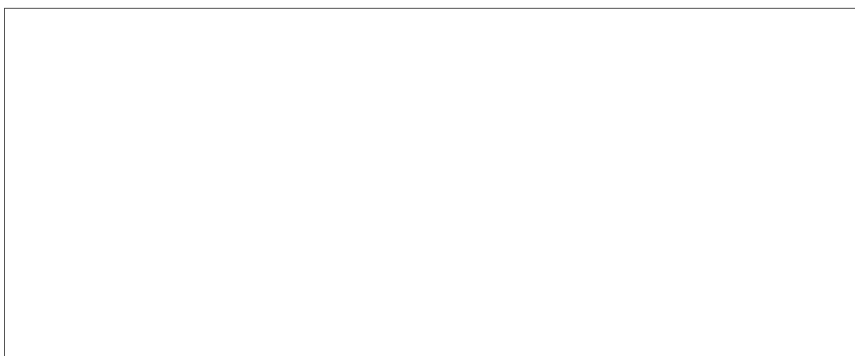
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2. Soviet Union



3. India

Today's 24-hour strike in the Calcutta area has touched off a new wave of violence. The militant extremists in back of the strike are using food shortages as the pretext, but they are really out for a test of strength with the government.

4. Zambia

A wave of wildcat strikes is disrupting the copper industry. Native Zambian miners are unhappy at being paid less than white expatriates working in the same mines.

This is a dilemma for Kaunda, but the hard economic facts in Zambia oblige him to try to preserve the status quo for a while longer. He is trying persuasion and minor concessions in the hope of avoiding drastic action to end the strikes.

5. France

The last of the three nuclear reactors at Chinon, France's major commercial nuclear power venture, has begun operating. When all three reach full capacity next year, they could provide France with about four percent of its electric power needs.



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6. Latin America

The split between "political" and "revolutionary" Communists in Latin America is coming to the fore again at the party congress in Moscow.

Recent speeches there by the Argentine, Chilean, and Uruguayan Communist leaders all stressed the desirability of forming political alliances with other "democratic" parties. By implication, all three rejected the Cuban delegate's earlier strident call for armed revolution.

The delegates from Ecuador and Peru, where Chinese Communist machinations have been most damaging to the old-line parties, were vehement in their speeches today against the "subversives manipulated from afar" who try to break up their parties.

7. Haiti

Duvalier has launched another of his drives against real or imagined plotters. [REDACTED]

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As usual, the paranoic Duvalier is blaming the US. [REDACTED]

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8. Panama

Foreign Minister Eleta says his government will be ready next month to present its counterproposals to the US canal and base rights treaty drafts that were handed to Panama in January. The Panamanians have significant changes in mind.

Eleta also said that he and President Robles are thinking seriously of inviting all former Panamanian presidents to discuss the counterdrafts prior to the next meeting with the US negotiators.

Eleta's primary motive would be to give Arnulfo Arias an opportunity to become involved and thus undermine his claim that the opposition has been excluded. Arias, however, is unlikely to do anything to weaken his insistence that no treaty concluded by the "illegal" Robles government would be acceptable.

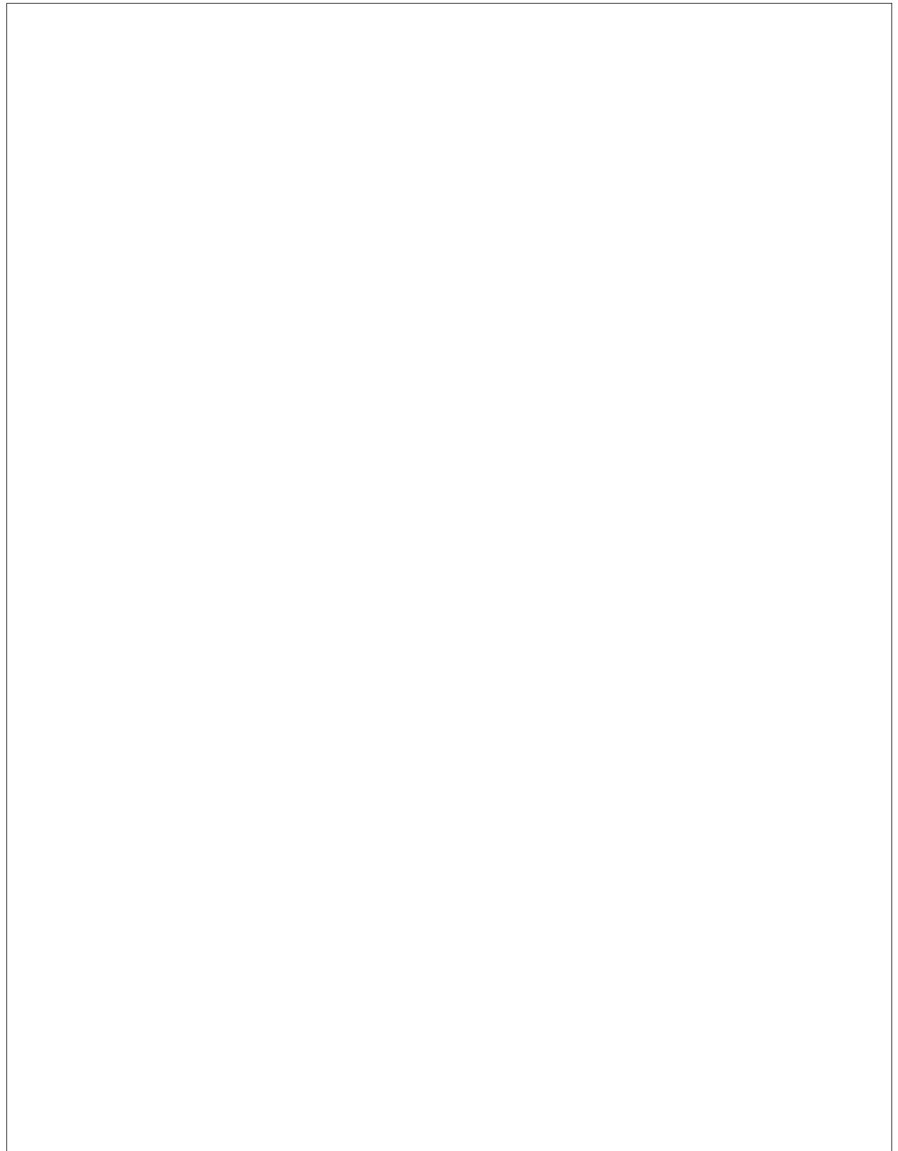
9. Soviet Union

The Soviet MIG-17 that crashed today in a West Berlin river is being salvaged by the British. The Soviets made several attempts during the afternoon to get to the crash site and the British are protesting these intrusions. No other Soviet reaction has yet been reported. The Allies have agreed on a formal protest to the Soviets over the "irresponsible flying" which caused the accident.

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10. North Vietnam

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7 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
7 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

Ky again appears "determined" to take Da Nang by force, although the city was quiet this evening after a flurry of "alerts" by both antigovernment and government forces earlier in the day.

This evening (Saigon time), Ky told Ambassador Lodge, "If we take no action now, the government will have lost it for good." Later he said, "I will give the order tonight." American officials feel that Ky is being incorrectly informed about the situation in Da Nang.

Ky also suggested that he might not be able to restrain the Saigon marines--still sitting on their hands at the Da Nang airport--much longer. [redacted]

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[redacted] their tempers are wearing thin under taunts from struggle group loudspeakers, and that even some members of the Directorate are disturbed by the government's inactivity at Da Nang.

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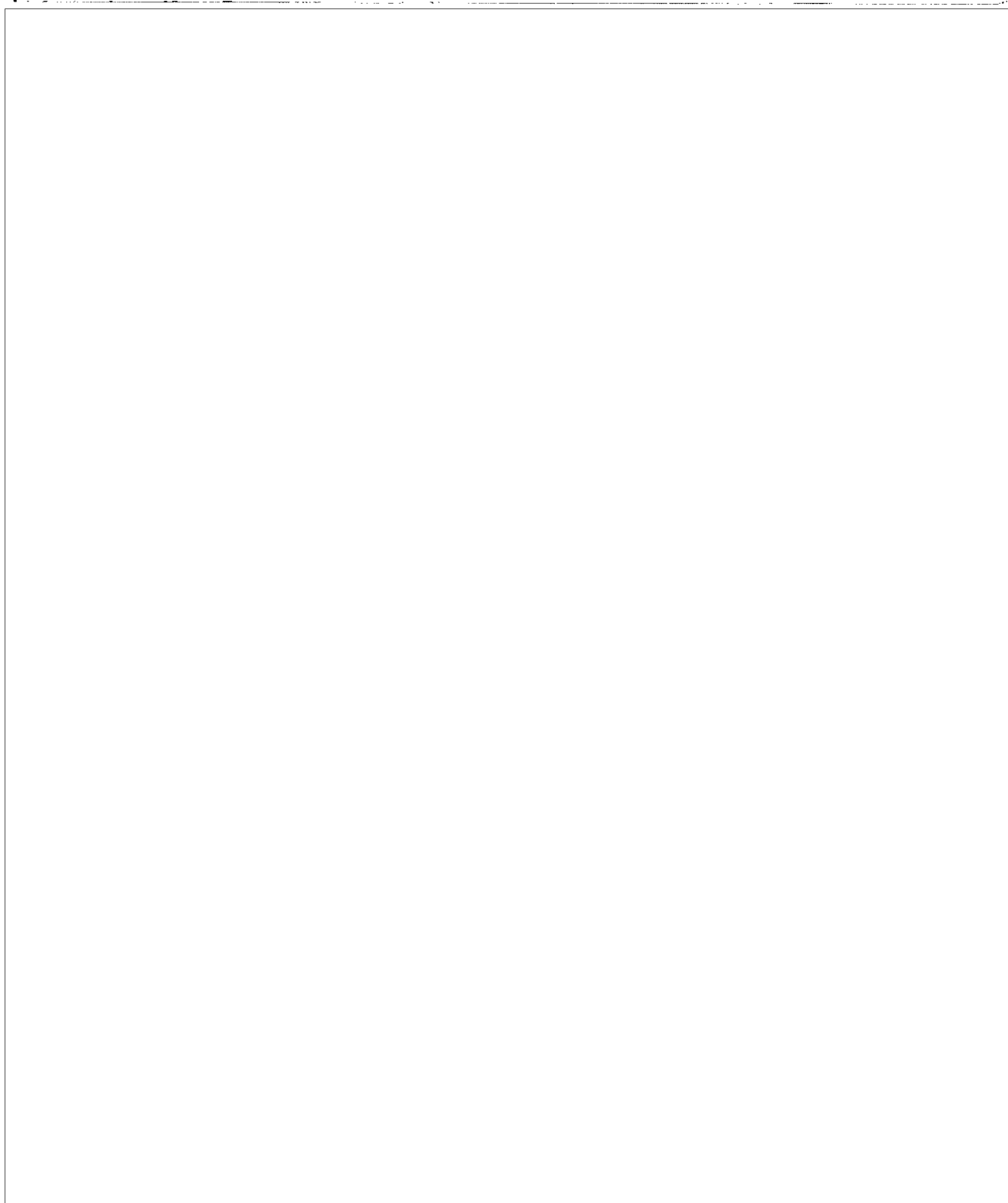
In Saigon, ugly violence was continuing this evening despite a Buddhist Institute communiqué calling for temporary cessation of the "struggle" to allow Ky publicly to confirm prior verbal communications to Buddhist leaders.

There are good indications, however, that--as in the past--the Buddhists and Ky are interpreting their exchanges differently, and that their positions on the composition of a constituent assembly still differ fundamentally.

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2. Soviet Union

The Soviet fighter which crashed in the British sector of West Berlin yesterday has been salvaged and identified as a YAK-28 Firebar. Major portions of the aircraft are intact and should tell us much about the equipment aboard. The Firebar is the latest and most advanced fighter in the Soviet operational inventory

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3. Communist China

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4. Hong Kong

The colony was torn by serious rioting for a second night. British authorities have clamped on a curfew and mobilized all police and army units for riot control duty. These are the worst civil disturbances in Hong Kong since Chinese secret societies and criminal elements went on a five-day rampage in 1956. The Chinese Communists have not yet moved to take advantage of the present trouble.

5. India

There was more violence in the Calcutta area today, and sporadic clashes with riot-control police will probably continue for several more days. The coalition of leftists which sparked these disorders probably sees them as dress rehearsals for larger efforts when the food crisis deepens in late spring and summer.

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6. Rhodesia

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7. Bolivia

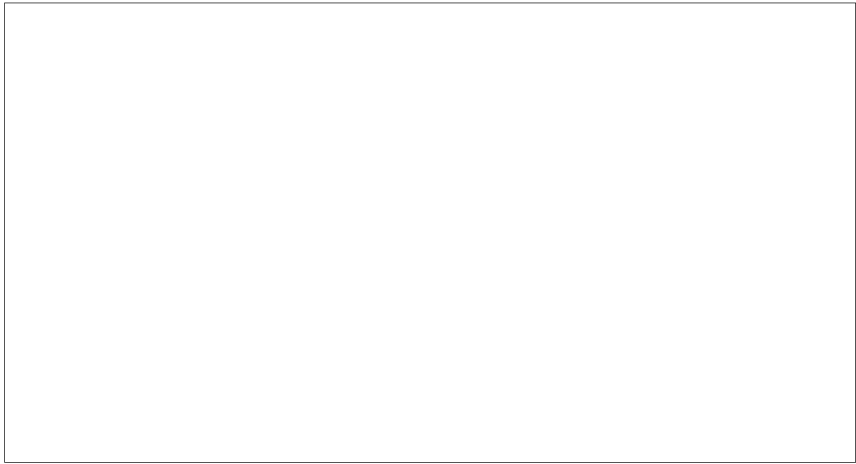
Adherents of the once proud Nationalist Revolutionary Movement are arranging a big demonstration in La Paz Saturday to mark the anniversary of the 1952 revolution. The forthcoming presidential election has already increased political tensions, and these demonstrations could easily provide the spark for violence of the sort that is all too common in Bolivia.

This would be particularly likely if presidential aspirant Barrientos goes through with his plan to march a large group of his loyal campesino followers into La Paz. Since the holidaying campesinos will in all likelihood be quite drunk, clashes with the demonstrators would seem a good possibility.

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8. Dominican Republic

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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8 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
8 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

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[redacted]
the ruling directorate today voted unanimously "to develop plans for the necessary action" against antigovernment elements in the northern provinces. The timing was left open, but the move could come tomorrow.

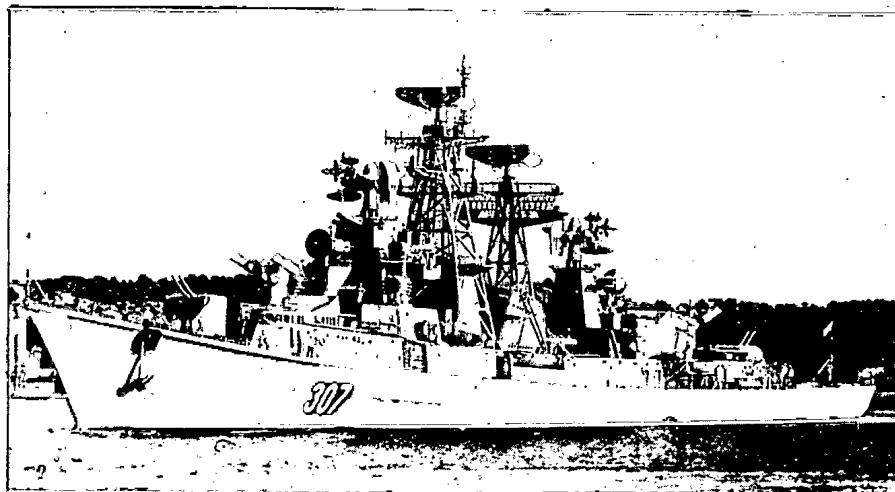
The directorate also decided on command changes in the area. The ineffective General Chuan was removed and command of I Corps given to General Ton That Dinh, a forceful officer of somewhat uncertain loyalties. He is to proceed to Da Nang tomorrow.

Some members of the directorate apparently still hope that a "real show of force" will cause the struggle groups in Hué and Da Nang to collapse. The struggle groups in these cities show every sign that they will fight to prevent pro-government troops from entering either city. The likelihood of clashes at Da Nang in particular has prompted the embassy to order all civilian Americans evacuated.

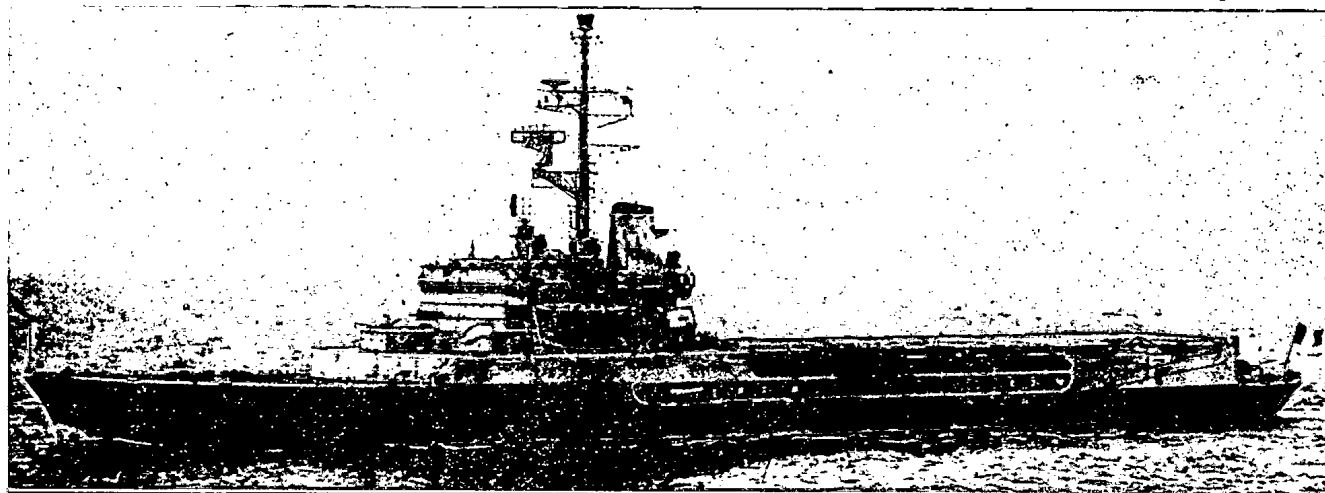
The chances for a peaceful political compromise receded further today when Buddhist leaders in Hué and Da Nang denounced Tam Chau's plea yesterday for a pause in agitation. An antigovernment struggle committee, under a follower of Tri Quang, was set up today in Saigon.

Tonight in Saigon there has been further rioting, largely by bands of young hoodlums. The police fear bigger antigovernment demonstrations tomorrow with an increased anti-American flavor. A sector of the city has been cordoned off and Americans advised to keep out.

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The new frigates under construction in the USSR may be larger than this 470-foot KASHIN-Class--the last type of guided missile ship to be built by the Soviets



The new Soviet helicopter carriers reportedly being built in the Black Sea apparently resemble this 590-foot French helicopter carrier JEANNE d'ARC

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2. Vietnam

The Viet Cong are beginning to feel the pinch on their food supplies. Their radio this week acknowledged that current allied operations had created "difficulties" in food procurement. The admission was coupled with an exhortation for a "patriotic" upsurge in food production.

Hanoi today marked the first anniversary of the promulgation of its so-called "four points" for solving the Vietnam problem by insisting, once again, that they are the one and only basis for settling the war.

3. Communist China

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Weather reporting in northwestern China has not yet been stepped up and we have not detected the usual preparatory flights by debris-collecting aircraft.

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4. Soviet Union

The Soviets are apparently planning to introduce two new classes of major warships.

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one or two units of a new class of frigate--probably to be equipped with guided missiles and the latest anti-submarine weapons--are currently under production as are two probable helicopter carriers. Such ships are needed to extend the Soviets' antisubmarine and amphibious warfare capabilities beyond the range of ground-based air support.

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5. Soviet Union

The 23rd Soviet Party Congress--an exercise in dull oratory--finally ended today. The general party line and the political balance at the top were not significantly affected. The widely heralded move to rehabilitate Stalin failed to get off the ground.

The turnover in membership of the party's governing bodies was kept to a minimum. The few changes that were made point to a slight improvement in the position of the orthodox wing of the party, and this is in keeping with the stress at the congress on the need for greater discipline and ideological firmness.

As expected, Brezhnev received the title of General Secretary and has emerged from the congress with somewhat enhanced prestige.

6. Africa

The summit conference of eleven east and central African leaders in Nairobi last week was considerably more productive than most African meetings of this kind. Although each participant came to the meeting with a dispute going with at least one of the others, the group still managed to take realistic steps to patch up its differences.

Progress was particularly good on refugee problems. Tanzania's Nyerere agreed to limit the activities of Malawi exiles in his country; Kenyatta ordered the ouster of two Congolese rebel leaders and a roundup of southern Sudanese dissidents.

Congolese President Mobutu reached preliminary agreement with all participating neighbors to resolve their refugee problems. Both Nyerere and Uganda's Obote in turn promised Mobutu that they would stop all aid to the Congolese rebels.

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7. Ethiopia

Haile Selassie's decision to take off on a three-week trip to West Africa and the Caribbean, beginning on Monday, evidently indicates that he is not particularly worried about the long-simmering discontent at home. Last month the Emperor made a few political reforms to cool down his critics, but a number of military and civilian elements are still dissatisfied with his heavy-handed rule. In this situation, the possibility of a move against the regime during his absence cannot be ruled out.

8. Eastern Europe

The Chinese Communists may be trying to encourage the formation of splinter groups within the Soviet-oriented parties of Eastern Europe.

Peking's leading European client, Albania, has publicly hailed the "clandestine reappearance of the Polish Communist Party." Tirana may have been referring to a group of Polish Stalinists, one of whom fled Poland with Albanian help in February and has since been beaming anti-Gomulka, pro-Chinese broadcasts from Tirana.

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We doubt that Peking's efforts have had much effect as yet.

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9 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
9 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

The government still has not implemented yesterday's Directorate decision to force its authority on Da Nang. Two Ranger battalions that were supposed to reinforce the Saigon marines at Da Nang are now "not scheduled" to leave the Saigon area.

Some move against Da Nang may yet come, however. General Dinh, the new I Corps commander, and General Vien, who is in command of the marines, have left Hue for Da Nang. Ky, however, told Ambassador Lodge today that he favors limited measures, since all-out force would produce much bloodshed. Over 200 US and third-country civilians have been evacuated from Da Nang without incident.

In Saigon, the Buddhist leadership--whom the government had hoped might split--has issued a communiqué announcing an all-out fight against the government. This communiqué no longer seeks concessions but announces formation of a country-wide "Buddhist Struggle Force."

Ambassador Lodge sees "clear and evident" indications that the Viet Cong are attempting to exploit the turmoil in Saigon. He notes that many of the demonstrators are by no stretch of the imagination "students," but obviously experienced and hardened ruffians. Ky says that last night Buddhist leaders told him they could no longer control the mobs, as men "who were not Buddhists" are taking over.

2. Vietnam

The number of North Vietnamese Army troops in South Vietnam continues to grow at a significant rate.

Ten units of regimental strength and four separate battalions, totaling some 18,500 men, are now confirmed. Other suspected units could raise this figure to over 30,000. 50X1

Large-scale infiltration appears to be continuing, probably in preparation for increased activity during the rainy season. 50X1

3. Dominican Republic

Bosch now says he has changed his mind and that he will be a candidate for the presidency. He claims that he is under heavy pressure from his party to make the race. US assurances--re-layed to him yesterday--that we would support any elected government were probably another factor leading to his turnabout.

Antonio Guzman is Bosch's choice for vice-presidential running mate. A Bosch-Guzman ticket will be a strong one, since Guzman will have some appeal to the middle-of-the-road voters.

4. Bolivia

La Paz has been quiet this morning, but members of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement still plan to mount a major demonstration sometime during the day. Late reports say that these people will try to avoid a fight with the security police, but this could change quickly when the free-flowing liquor begins to take effect.

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5. Soviet Union

Those parts of the downed YAK-28 Firebar that have been recovered will be turned over to Soviet officials early this evening, Berlin time. [REDACTED]

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As of yesterday afternoon, large sections of the plane, including both engines, had still not been raised.

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6. Indonesia

The generals have been encouraging Sukarno to take a trip and he may give in and visit Cambodia within the next few days. [REDACTED]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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11 APRIL 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
11 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

The pause in antigovernment demonstrations lasted through the day, but there are reports of activity planned for tomorrow in Hué and Saigon.

The newly installed commander in the northern provinces, General Dinh, professes optimism that he can reassert control over disaffected military units and re-establish government authority in Hué and Da Nang. As his contribution to easing the tension, he is removing the two remaining marine battalions from Da Nang. It is not yet clear what if anything opposition elements will contribute, although they are toning down their anti-American statements.

The government still intends to convene a national political conference in Saigon tomorrow. As of now, it has no clear idea how many of the 150-170 invitees will show up. The radical Tri Quang crowd is encouraging a boycott.

Tam Chau, the relatively moderate but ineffective Buddhist leader, is reportedly stepping aside. Tam admits that he has lost control and that "extremists" are now calling the shots.

General Khang continues to tell us of a group of officers who think stronger measures should be taken against the Buddhists and talk in terms of a "house-cleaning." Khang, as commander of troops in the Saigon area, is of course in a key spot.

2. Indonesia

A country-wide harassment of ethnic Chinese is being condoned and sometimes covertly supported by the military, apparently as a way of getting at Peking.

The Chinese, long envied and hated for their virtual economic stranglehold over large portions of the population, are having their schools, shops, and associations penalized or confiscated. If continued, this tactic is almost sure to produce another wave of serious anti-Chinese rioting, and rob the country of people who could be of help in reconstructing the economy.

Meanwhile, the new rulers must spend much time and energy in lengthy meetings with Sukarno, before doing what they have already decided to do.

Last week, for instance, the foreign and economic ministers had to go to the palace and gently but firmly tell Sukarno there was absolutely no money for one of his chief dreams--an "emerging nations" conference in Djakarta--and that construction would end on the partly completed buildings. They left the president profoundly depressed.

3. Pakistan

Civilian and military officials continue to make noises about accepting "a comprehensive" offer of military assistance from Peking, if the West does not come up with the hardware to relieve what they consider Pakistan's severe shortages.

Although the Chinese have supplied some tanks, and possibly aircraft, we have no evidence they are developing a large assistance program for Pakistan. The Chinese have only a limited capability to maintain a modern military establishment in China, let alone Pakistan.

4. France

The government and the Gaullist party have launched a major propaganda campaign in support of De Gaulle's moves against NATO and US bases.

So far, they have had some success in convincing the public that reduction of ties with the alliance's organization does not mean loss of its protection. De Gaulle has astutely played upon the pride and nationalism of the French as well as their far greater interest in local issues. He answers opposition charges that he has broken with France's allies by pointing out that France has not withdrawn from the alliance.

The opposition will challenge the government when the National Assembly opens its foreign policy debate Wednesday, but the expected censure motion has almost no chance of succeeding.

5. Rhodesia

The UN's approval for London to use force in preventing tankers from reaching Beira may have opened a hornets' nest, since it classifies circumvention of the oil embargo as "a threat to the peace." Some African states may now seize this precedent to press for mandatory sanctions against Portugal and South Africa, who are letting in through other routes enough oil to sustain the Rhodesian economy even if Britain succeeds in keeping tankers out of Beira.

6. Dominican Republic

Bosch, yielding to "pressures," has accepted his party's nomination for the election on 1 June. He appears confident of repeating his 1962 victory.

He will probably still occasionally threaten to withdraw, however, as he did in 1962, both for publicity and as a tactic to extract the most favorable conditions from the provisional government. If elected, he might abdicate in favor of his moderate running mate Antonio Guzman.

There is a growing feeling of concern in Santo Domingo that the anniversary of last year's revolution on 24 April may bring disturbances that could shatter the political peace, although our embassy has no hard information suggesting that either the extreme right or left plans to create serious incidents.

7. Haiti

Although superficially calm over the weekend, Haiti is said to be like a tinderbox.

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TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

12 APRIL 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

DAILY BRIEF
12 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

The Buddhists are evidently preparing a new wave of demonstrations to protest the National Political Congress, which they boycotted today. A meeting of some 2,000 people at the Buddhist Institute in Saigon last night was probably called to organize this activity. The embassy has reports that large-scale demonstrations may start in Saigon on Thursday, and that monks are again ready to set fire to themselves.

Antigovernment activities were resumed in the provinces today. Nearly 5,000 demonstrators--some armed--marched in Da Nang; Hue was largely closed down as approximately 8,000 people assembled to denounce the government.

The replacement of Colonel Lieu as Director of the National Police appears to be imminent; Lieu has long been associated with former I Corps Commander Thi.

Several cabinet members close to Lieu and Thi are threatening to resign if the replacement is formalized. They believe that Lieu's removal would mean the end of whatever support still remains for Ky among the moderate Buddhists. They say that if this happens, Ky would have little or no chance of staying in power.

2. Pakistan

The government, aided by extremist groups, is working hard to stage an impressive welcome for Liu Shao-chi during his two-day visit to East Pakistan beginning on Friday. Most of the people, however, seem apathetic or even hostile to the visit, and Liu is unlikely to encounter the almost hysterical adulation he received on his tour of West Pakistan late last month.

3. Soviet Union

Today is Cosmonauts' Day in the Soviet Union. Some of the cosmonauts have seized the occasion to make unusually open statements on the Soviet program to put a man on the moon. These statements imply that Soviet plans are highly competitive with the US program, although this has usually been disclaimed by Soviet spokesmen.

It has been more than a year since the last Soviet manned space flight. Western newspapermen in Moscow now say "informed sources" there are predicting a major manned flight within the next few weeks.

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4. Greece

The survival of the Stephanopoulos government hinges on the outcome of a cabinet meeting under way tonight. Foreign Minister Tsirimokos resigned yesterday. Stephanopoulos said he would give up his mandate if the other cabinet members fail to back him against Tsirimokos. Nonetheless, a second cabinet minister is reported to have resigned today.

The movement of Tsirimokos and his friends into the opposition has wiped out Stephanopoulos' lead in parliament. However, enough members could defect from Papandreou's opposition to give the government a reprieve.

The extent of Greek Government control over the Cyprus armed forces was the issue that led to Tsirimokos' resignation. He had made common cause with Makarios against Athens' policy of allowing General Grivas a firm hand in all Cyprus' military affairs.

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5. Kenya

The government has decided to withdraw its ambassador from Peking and to open a new embassy in Tokyo. This is a reflection of the importance Kenya has been giving to its growing commercial ties with Japan and of Kenya's desire to encourage a withering away of its relations with Communist China.

6. Ecuador

Provisional president Yerovi, after two weeks in office, has yet to show the strength and resolution needed to tackle Ecuador's internal security and economic problems. Communists are making the most of the unrestricted freedom they have enjoyed since Yerovi, under student pressure, amnestied all jailed and exiled subversives.

On the economic front, the president shows no inclination to risk antagonizing the business elite by taking needed austerity measures.

The military still has the power to change all this. But last month's chaotic events weakened military prestige and the leading officers are now probably most reluctant to resume major responsibility for running the government.

7. Dominican Republic

Encouraged by a relatively long period free of violence, Dominicans seem to be increasingly abandoning their earlier skepticism about the possibility of holding elections on 1 June.

By the end of this coming weekend, if all goes well, all significant political parties will have held their conventions. Balaguer has been the most energetic campaigner thus far. His enthusiastic reception in some places seems to have surprised even his campaign workers.

TOP SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

13 APRIL 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

DAILY BRIEF
13 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

Ky's opponents seem determined to remove him and appear to be leaning toward the generals who overthrew Diem as acceptable temporary replacements. Several reports indicate that the Buddhists, and even the Catholics, would agree to having retired General Tran Van Don, of the former Minh junta, head an interim government. The opposition may also be thinking of bringing back "Big" Minh as chief of state in such a government.

Tri Quang told an American observer today that Don would be "ideal," because of his lack of religious affiliation, his popularity with the military but nominal civilian status, and his southern origin. The embassy notes that Don has lately been contacting a variety of political figures, probably to strengthen his political position in case of a "call"--or perhaps to mount a coup.

These opposition plans reckon without Ky, however. Although both he and Thieu say they are willing to accept as "inevitable" the demand for an elected constitutional convention, Ky has said he will resist any attempt to replace him with an interim government. We do not think Ky has the means to resist for long

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2. South Korea

President Pak is concerned about the crisis in Saigon, particularly as it may affect his election prospects next year, but he is not, as suggested by the press, holding up the dispatch of additional Korean troops. A regiment of some 5,000 men is even now en route to South Vietnam, and, as far as we know, preparations for the July departure of another division are still going forward.

3. North Vietnam

The Soviets are beginning to send aviation gas and jet fuel to North Vietnam by sea instead of by rail through Communist China. [REDACTED]

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50X1

4. Soviet Union

The Soviets have test fired eight intercontinental ballistic missiles since the winter standdown ended last month. All four first-line systems have been fired.

One of these, the SS-9, is due to be handed over to the Strategic Rocket Forces sometime this year. [REDACTED]

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50X1

A second new missile, the SS-11, needs further testing. [REDACTED]

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50X1

5. Poland

The Gomulka regime has decided to stage a series of "patriotic rallies" this weekend in near proximity to ceremonies marking the millennium of Christianity in Poland. In the resulting charged atmosphere, disturbances could occur.

50X1

6. Egypt

Nasir seems particularly jumpy these days. Exceptionally tight security precautions were taken last month to protect him on a relatively simple rail trip to Suez. [REDACTED] 50X1

[REDACTED]

We do not feel that Nasir is in any immediate danger of being overthrown, however.

7. Iran

[REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] the Shah is again talking about applying for Soviet arms. He is attracted to this course by what he thinks of as Indian and Pakistani success in getting arms from "both sides." His advisers are convinced that the Shah will try to tap Moscow if the US cannot or will not meet his felt needs. 50X1

Such an action would be in line with the more assertive line the Shah has been taking recently. This has included accepting a Soviet offer to build him a steel mill. Like others before him, he believes he can deal with the Soviets without serious risk to his own position.

8. Afghanistan

King Zahir's brave experiment in democracy may be turning sour. The elected parliament is loudly at odds with Prime Minister Maiwandwal and Monday took the unprecedented step of declaring one of his recent decrees null and void. This promises to usher in a period of considerable turmoil. The chief beneficiary could turn out to be the authoritarian Daud, who is no friend of the democratic process.

ANNEX

Assessment on Vietnam
12 April 1966

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The situation in Vietnam has deteriorated rapidly and in so far as the regime has now offered a reversion to civilian government, the life of the military directorate as at present constituted is presumably limited. This offer may well increase rather than diminish the present political, social, and religious turmoil; and in any case the nature of any future government cannot be perceived at present.

Hué and Da Nang are still outside government control. Both the Buddhists' and Ky's military rivals have been encouraged by Ky's earlier vacillation. The extreme Buddhists have hardened their demands and have been joined by the more "moderate" (who claim they have been "betrayed by Ky") in boycotting the National Political Congress now taking place, and the two factions have apparently made an agreement promising violent country-wide demonstrations if their demands are not met. Ky is thus faced with growing pressure for the early removal of his government which General Thieu's offer to the National Political Congress of early elections seems unlikely to assuage.

Administratively the situation is equally unresolved. Ky was reported to have decided for the second time that the situation in the center must be restored, if necessary by force, though some of the government troops at Da Nang have been withdrawn. Generals Thi, Chuan (relieved of Thi's post at his own request) and Nhuan (I Division Commander) if not actively opposing Ky's forces are certainly not assisting them against the opposition.

It seems likely that Ky will not survive this test. His fate might be the result of a "palace revolution" which could throw up another general--possibly Thi--but in view of their present attitude

(Cont'd)

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ANNEX (Cont'd)

it seems unlikely that the Buddhists would accept this and therefore the directorate may go as a whole. If this happens prosecution of the war against the Communists, which has already suffered as a result of the South Vietnamese Armed Forces' preoccupation with the political situation and, for example, delays in the unloading of bombs, may be endangered.

It is not easy to predict what form any new government may take. The Buddhists are united temporarily in opposition, but their statements reveal few positive ideas and not even whether they themselves wish to take over power, nor is the attitude of the Buddhist groups toward continuing the war clear, although both main groups have hinted at negotiations with the Viet Cong. No one figure is likely to emerge who can reconcile the conflicting emotions and interests of the various religious and political groups, the sects, and the armed forces (who still remain the decisive power). For the present we can only predict a worsening of the present confused situation.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

14 APRIL 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DAILY BRIEF
14 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

The government's concession on the election issue today has forced the Buddhists to reappraise their stance. The results are still unclear, and early signs are mixed.

This morning one militant Buddhist leader was still expressing mistrust of the Ky government and saying "the struggle" would continue. Another said Ky must now announce "cabinet changes" if he is to expect support. Still another said Buddhists are "satisfied at this point." Militant leader Tri Quang has yet to be heard from.

Ky seems to be under growing pressure from a group of some 80 middle-grade officers who want him to take decisive action to reassert his authority. These "baby Turks," as he calls them, are urging a major reorganization of the government that would eliminate the "more corrupt" generals from the directorate and bring in some respected civilians. General Thieu might be among those dropped.

Such a move would have the appearance of giving in to popular demand for a change, but its purpose would be to create a much stronger central government by thoroughly rebuilding the civil and military structures. The government, under this plan, would accept the promised election schedule, but would retain power for the year or more it takes to draw up a constitution.

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50X1

2. Communist China

Peking's domestic propaganda has taken what appears to be a significant turn recently. In the past the propaganda machine has recommended "collective leadership" only for the lower echelons of the party; now it says that collective leadership is important "at all levels." In view of Mao's long absence, this would seem to be a guarded attempt to alert the people and the party that a caretaker regime may soon be in charge.

3. Iraq

Baghdad is outwardly calm but the Iraqi political balance has been badly jarred by the death of President Arif last night.

50X1

Prime Minister Bazzaz has temporarily taken charge of the government, but his chances for maintaining stability look slim. There may be no immediate trouble, but without Arif's skillful hand on the reins, one of the rival nationalist groups is likely to bid for power before long.

50X1

4. Yemen

[redacted] the Egyptians intend to withdraw some 6,000 troops from Yemen within the next few weeks. This is probably part of Nasir's new strategy in Yemen--to pull out up to half his 60,000-man force, but perhaps maintain an Egyptian presence there indefinitely.

50X1

5. Nigeria

[redacted] a group of Nigerian Army officers may move against the Ironsi regime "within the next 48 hours." This may be only wishful thinking, but there have been signs of dissidence and lack of discipline within the military ever since Ironsi took over last January.

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6. Rhodesia

The American consul in Salisbury believes that the white Rhodesians are more united and determined than ever, after five months of illegal independence. He considers that military action against the country would become a major operation.

There have been no further signs of economic decline during recent weeks. Prospects for marketing this year's tobacco crop are considered good; the oil shortage is still only an inconvenience.

TOP SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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15 APRIL 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

DAILY BRIEF
15 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

Antigovernment activity tailed off again today as leaders of the contending factions take stock of where they stand now.

Premier Ky believes he has a mission to run the country until the promised elections can be held and a new government installed. This seems to have been the consensus at the political conference just concluded; moderate Buddhists in Saigon seem satisfied for the moment.

The more militant crowd, which revolves around veteran agitator Tri Quang, is reserving its position and could still opt for a new wave of demonstrations.

The northern provinces, too, are still largely outside government control. The struggle forces in Da Nang have set up their own "peoples' police force" which is making arrests on its own authority and frequently mistreating prisoners. Ousted General Thi's contribution today was his first public call for Ky's overthrow.

2. Vietnam

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50X1

3. Indonesia

The new regime appears to be deliberately pushing relations with Peking to the breaking point. Police and military units on the scene made no attempt to halt today's sacking of the Chinese Communist Embassy.

[redacted] the new rulers have bluntly informed Sukarno that military confrontation of Malaysia cannot continue because of the army's desperate supply problem. Later, Foreign Minister Malik flatly said he would seek a negotiated settlement with Malaysia. Sukarno finally accepted these tidings, although with bad grace.

50X1

4. Algeria

Despite the relative coolness between Algiers and Moscow since the overthrow of Ben Bella--who had been decorated as a Hero of the Soviet Union--the Soviet military aid program continues.

This week the Soviets made a first delivery of all-weather jet fighters [redacted]

50X1

5. Belgium

The month-old coalition government, trying to balance the budget without increasing taxes, is cutting back aid to the Congo. [redacted]

50X1

50X1

6. Iraq

The country remains calm.

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The cabinet and National Defense Council, however, must meet within a few days after Arif's funeral--set for Saturday--to elect a new president. Old rivalries will make this difficult.

50X1

Nasir is undoubtedly most anxious to influence the outcome and may find means to support the significant pro-Nasirist element in Iraq.

50X1
50X1

7. Dominican Republic

The various Communist parties and other assorted groups have plans for demonstrations in Santo Domingo during the rest of April. The climax could come on 24 April, the anniversary of last year's revolution. Tension is again building in the city after the relative calm of recent weeks.

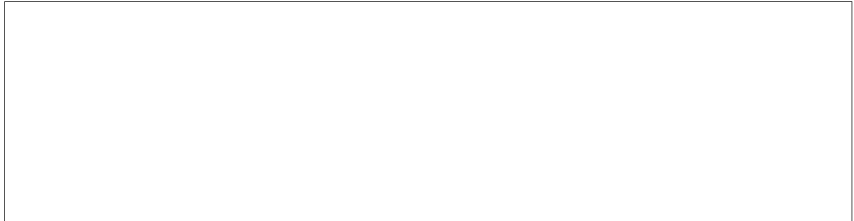
Anti-US demonstrations by left-wing students yesterday caused only minor disturbances.

8. Canada

50X1

9. Rhodesia

Smith may go on the radio tomorrow and order closure of the UK High Commission in Salisbury, presumably as retaliation for London's UN Security Council action. 50X1



TOP SECRET

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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16 APRIL 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

DAILY BRIEF
16 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

Antigovernment defiance continued today in the northern provinces, despite the apparent agreement reached in Saigon between Ky and the Buddhist Institute. A mob in Da Nang publicly denounced Ky's election decree as a "trick." Radios in Da Nang and Hué are still declaring that the struggle will go on until the government falls.

The government's position in the I Corps area has, in fact, worsened during the past few days. General Dinh, the new corps commander sent up there last week to re-establish Saigon's authority, is permitting the antigovernment leaders a free hand. There are increasing signs that forces under his command are becoming even more committed to the antigovernment movement. 50X1

A delegation from the Buddhist Institute in Saigon is to go to Da Nang tomorrow, purportedly to persuade Buddhists there to cease agitation. Institute leaders, however, could easily back down from their agreement with Ky. All they would need is something they could call a demonstration of Ky's "bad faith." They are aware of the dissension within the Saigon military and may prefer to await further developments.

Premier Ky seemed to be a deeply troubled man during a conversation today with General Lansdale. He asked for US help in arranging a personal meeting with General Thi and said he would even offer Thi the vice-premiership if this would help "save the country."

2. France

50X1

3. Greece

The political crisis eased appreciably yesterday when a Center Union deputy joined the government party, giving Stephanopoulos a majority of one in the 300-man chamber.

The extreme left, however, is still threatening to introduce a no-confidence motion when parliament reconvenes on Tuesday. This could be sticky in view of "revelations" yesterday that the government tried to bribe two other deputies to cross the floor.

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4. Iraq

Our embassy notes several factors favoring an orderly installation of a new president. The cabinet and the National Defense Council, who will elect the president, enjoy a relatively secure power base and have been sensitive to popular longing for stability.

The embassy believes the election will be a serious effort to find a leader responsive to Iraq's best interests, and that the US need not fear the outcome.

50X1

5. Burundi

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Radical elements, increasingly in the ascendancy there, have been making noises about inviting back the Chinese, who were thrown out in January 1965.

[REDACTED]

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50X1

50X1

6. Uganda

Yesterday Obote got an "emergency" meeting of parliament to vote in a new constitution and a new parliament (consisting of those who voted for the new constitution), and to confirm his position as head of state and government.

One deputy, referring to the some 100 police and military patrolling the parliamentary grounds, the closed public galleries, and the special forces types with automatic weapons in the lobby, said he thought the prime minister "had gone a bit far in demonstrating he had taken over all the powers of government."

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TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

18 APRIL 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

DAILY BRIEF
18 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

The military directorate met in Saigon today to discuss preparations for elections and to review the problems in the I Corps area. The members seemed to agree that the situation in I Corps was worsening and the majority spoke in favor of taking "firm action" to restore Saigon's authority there. Ky was equivocal, however, and no decisions were reached.

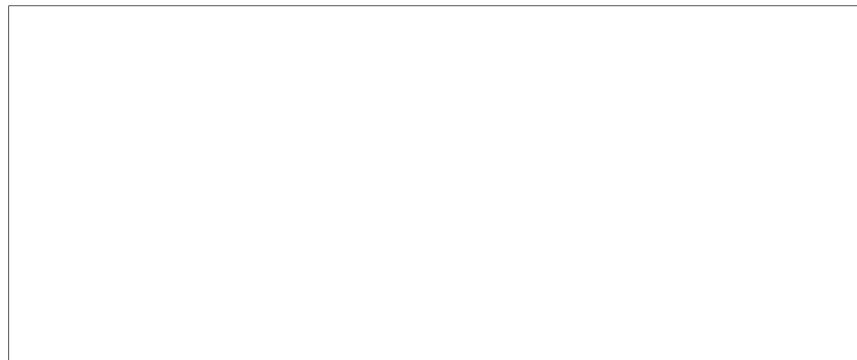
Tri Quang spoke to Buddhist groups both in Hué and Da Nang today. In Hué, he advised a group of about 5,000 to cease their demonstrations and live with the Ky government until elections for a constituent assembly are held. He also announced that he would stay in I Corps until the assembly is established.

Tri Quang apparently repeated this line in a speech later in the day at Da Nang.

There has been no decisive response yet by antigovernment elements in I Corps to these appeals. The struggle group in Hué has somewhat toned down its radio commentaries, but there have been no changes noted in Da Nang. A meeting of struggle group representatives was scheduled for tonight in Hué to discuss "important problems."

2. France

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50X1

3. Dominican Republic

Juan Bosch collected endorsements over the weekend from two smaller parties. He now has or is likely to receive support for his presidential candidacy from the entire spectrum that backed the "constitutionalist" cause during last year's civil war.

The extremist-led 14th of June Group, however, conditioned its endorsement of Bosch in terms which will be very difficult for him to accept. It insists, for instance, that Bosch repudiate all dealings with any agencies of the US Government.

The coalescence of leftist parties around Bosch has increased pressures for a union between Balaguer's middle of the road and Bonnelly's conservative forces. A union agreement between these two would be very hard, though not impossible, to come by.

4. Brazil

It is now all but certain that War Minister Costa e Silva will be the government's candidate to succeed President Castello Branco. The nominating convention is set for next month.

Castello Branco might have preferred a successor with more political experience, but Costa e Silva seems to meet most other requirements. Castello Branco has thus far avoided giving Costa e Silva his personal endorsement, but he has promised to back any candidate nominated by the progovernment party.

50X1

5. Pakistan

As expected, the welcome Liu Shao-chi got in East Pakistan last weekend was unimpressive compared to that given him in West Pakistan a few weeks earlier. The Chinese are still finding it profitable, however, to picture themselves as Pakistan's only reliable ally.

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6. Guinea

A Guinean delegation in Moscow recently brought back some sobering thoughts which have caused Touré's advisers to counsel a more restrained course. Soviet officials are said to have told the Guineans that Conakry can expect no help from Moscow if Touré's policies should provoke an attack from the Ivory Coast or a French-backed coup.

In recent days almost all Touré's close advisers have been forcefully urging him to back down from the extreme positions he took after the coup in Ghana. He is stubborn, but he may be softening a little. Special missions are being sent out to several African countries in an attempt to head off the isolation of Guinea.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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19 APRIL 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
19 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

Today Ky told Ambassador Lodge that Tri Quang was calling off his struggle campaign. Ky said this should provide "some rest," and indicated he hoped to use this "calm period" to prepare for elections.

The Hué radio does appear to be lining up behind Tri Quang's new position, but radio Da Nang is still calling for the removal of Ky and Thieu, describing them as "traitorous dictators stubbornly allying themselves with foreigners." Both cities were generally quiet, although there were some scattered incidents of violence.

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2. Vietnam

50X1

3. Communist China

Peking is sending one of its top economic men on an official visit to Cambodia next week. His trip is the latest in a series of moves Peking is making to shore up its position in southern Asia. China is already Cambodia's major source of economic and military aid.

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4. Communist China

50X1

50X1
50X1

5. Laos

Reports from friendly tribesmen who keep a close watch on the infiltration corridors in Laos indicate that over the past few weeks southbound traffic has been far lighter than the daily average of 25-30 trucks reached in December and January.

One of the principal factors contributing to the decline has been the heavy toll exacted on this traffic by US air attacks. In the past seven weeks pilots say they have destroyed some 300 trucks and damaged another 300. These record totals stem from more widespread and effective use of forward spotting.

6. Soviet Union

50X1

50X1

7. South Africa

Prime Minister Verwoerd has sent Wilson a tough letter saying that South Africa will resist all efforts to force it into applying sanctions against Rhodesia.

Verwoerd went on to warn that any attempt to extend these sanctions to South Africa would be opposed "by all the means at our disposal" and that the results on the British economy would be "dire."

50X1

8. Ecuador

Provisional president Yerovi is deeply discouraged after only three weeks in office.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

20 APRIL 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
20 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

A tenuous truce on the political front continues. Buddhist leaders are still making much of their insistence that the "struggle" will resume its violent phase if the government fails to carry out its promises in good faith.

Tonight the Buddhists in Saigon mounted another rally to dramatize and expand on this warning. A prominent monk claimed to have information that certain unidentified persons were thinking of a "false coup" designed to avoid fulfillment of the regime's election promises.

Buddhist leaders have clearly caught wind of the misgivings about elections as early as August that have been growing among many South Vietnamese since the easing of the crisis. A group of Saigon University law professors, fearing the Communists could use the elections to move in, has urged postponement. Catholics and even some Buddhist laymen are similarly worried.

2. North Vietnam

The leaders in Hanoi continue to show concern over failures of the rank and file to perform up to expectations. Yesterday, Hanoi radio claimed that Ho Chi Minh had used some unusually blunt language at a recent cadre meeting. Ho is said to have called for "harsh disciplinary measures" against a number of party members and cadres, including high-ranking officers, for having "deviated from party directives."

3. Soviet Union

The latest satellite photography shows construction of large single silos for Soviet SS-9 missiles continuing at about the same rate as last year. Deployment of small single silos for the SS-11 also appears to be hitting the 1965 pace after falling off in the fourth quarter of last year.

All told, some 240 single silos have been identified; approximately 125 could become operational by mid-year.

4. Soviet Union

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50X1

[redacted] the Soviets are preparing for a new or unusual space event. We are unable at this point to predict what type of operation is being planned, but doubt that a manned flight is scheduled for the near future.

5. Dominican Republic

There have been numerous reports that Dominican extremists are planning to provoke disturbances and anti-US demonstrations next week in connection with the anniversary of last year's revolution. Embassy [redacted] officers are counseling Garcia Godoy on precautionary measures, and the embassy itself is adopting special security procedures. Garcia Godoy will go on nationwide television tonight to appeal for order.

50X1

6. Italy

The Moro government will have Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in tow for six days during his official visit to Italy which begins tomorrow. The Italians expect the talks to cover such standard political issues as East-West relations and disarmament, but they also hope to get signatures on a broad economic cooperation accord.

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[redacted] the Vatican has no objection to Gromyko meeting with Pope Paul. The embassy believes that such a meeting will probably take place.

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7. Greece

50X6

8. Kenya

President Kenyatta, who has just driven Oginga Odinga from his party and government, has called in the Soviet and Chinese ambassadors [REDACTED]

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More than 30 parliament members have resigned from the ruling party in sympathy with Odinga, and Kenyatta doubtless is trying to make sure that this does not snowball into a dangerous opposition movement.

Odinga's group will probably pick up further support from various disgruntled elements throughout the country. Kenyatta's moderate backers still hold the initiative, however, and are glad to see the dissidents come out in the open where they can be freely attacked for disloyalty.

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TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

21 APRIL 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

DAILY BRIEF
21 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

As yet the Buddhists have not tried to take advantage of today's incident in Dalat in which troops clashed with demonstrators.

Tri Quang in Hué told an American official today that he was doing his best to defuse the "struggle" movement in the northern provinces. "Why should I cause trouble when it is only a matter of months before Thieu and Ky step down?" The Buddhist monk added, however, that some people in the area had become "overexcited" so that he was having some trouble.

He indicated, as have other Buddhist spokesmen, that their forbearance would disappear if Ky waffles on elections or takes retribution against the "struggle" groups.

[redacted] Premier Ky has gone ahead and replaced his controversial director of national police. Ky has had this step in mind for several weeks but postponed action when a number of cabinet officers threatened to resign.

50X1

2. Vietnam

A captured Viet Cong document, which sets forth the proceedings of a military intelligence conference last year at the Communists' South Vietnam headquarters, makes the point that the Communists do not see any prospect for negotiations until "the enemy is forced to accept" them.

Even then, the Communists do not expect "the enemy" to negotiate in good faith anymore than they propose to themselves. The document quite flatly says that "the Party" will try to use any negotiating period to prepare "to launch a general offensive and uprising for a complete victory."

50X1

3. Rhodesia

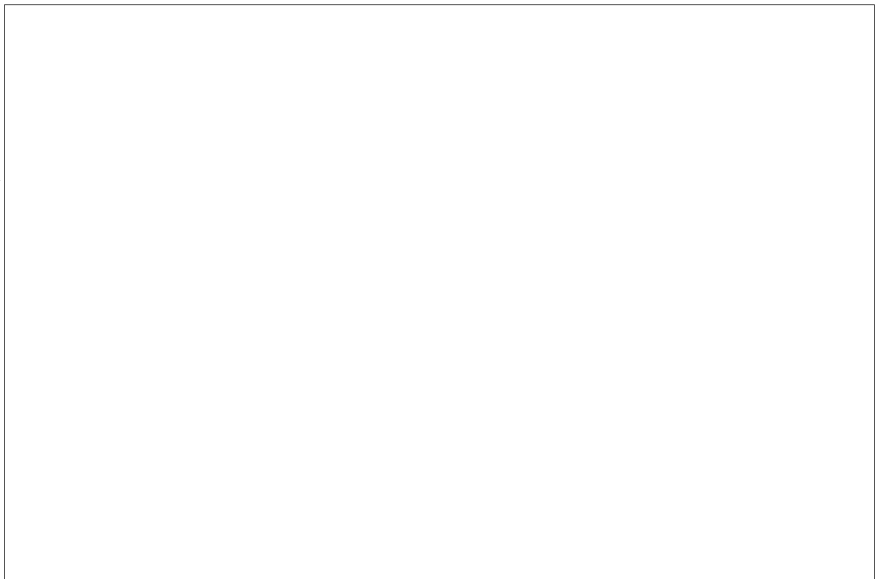
South African Prime Minister Verwoerd [REDACTED] will not halt the flow of oil to Rhodesia and has also refused to act as intermediary in any negotiations between London and Salisbury. Pretoria's attitude could well lead the other African states to call for UN sanctions against Rhodesia.

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This would put London on the hot seat. A veto would make it public enemy number one in Black Africa, but acquiescence could jeopardize its badly needed billion dollar a year trade with South Africa.

Foreign Minister Stewart says London has now decided to consider the "starkest" possibilities--which presumably includes use of force to bring Smith down.

4. Egypt



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50X1

5. Iran

The Shah, who appears increasingly unhappy with the US, wants to know well before 26 May if he is going to be allowed to buy the military equipment he asked for some months ago. This deadline, he says, is to permit him to initiate procurement measures elsewhere, if necessary, before leaving on an official visit to Rumania.

Reports of recent Soviet arms deliveries to Egypt or Iraq have probably heightened his determination to get more equipment somewhere, and he has the money to pay for it. He particularly wants to beef up defenses in southern Iran and along the Persian Gulf--areas he is convinced are threatened by Nasir.

6. Cyprus

The problem appears to be entering the early stages of another crisis period.

The Turkish Government, under growing pressure to "do something," is contemplating a diplomatic initiative to force the removal of alleged restrictions on the Turkish Cypriot community. Their proposals, as presently envisaged, are almost certain to be rejected out of hand by Makarios.

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7. India

The agriculture minister says the food situation now appears "manageable" as a result of US grain commitments. Grain handlers at one of the major harbors, however, have reportedly gone on strike. Any prolonged tie-up now could impede New Delhi's effort to build up stocks before the monsoon rains starting in June sharply reduce import capacity.

8. Soviet Union

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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22 APRIL 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
22 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

No further trouble has been reported from Dalat since the grenade incident at the police station earlier in the day. The city will stay under tight military control until tomorrow morning. The I Corps area has been quiet today.

General Chieu, the secretary general of the military directorate, said yesterday that the directorate has no intention of relinquishing control of the government until constitutional processes are completed. He doubts, however, that there will be any sharp confrontation while preparations for election get under way.

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2. North Vietnam

The North Vietnamese may be preparing for a possible call-up of veterans with military service prior to 1954.

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There were earlier signs that this move was being considered.

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3. Laos

General Ma, the capable head of the air force, has apparently again angered his nominal superiors in the Laotian military establishment. They are thinking of removing him for exceeding his authority and disregarding instructions from the general staff.

50X1

4. Communist China

The Chinese continue to find many little ways to irritate the Soviets. A Peking broadcast this week carried new regulations for foreign vessels plying border rivers. The rules, clearly aimed at the Soviets, prohibit passengers and crewmen from sketching, fishing, or swimming from the boats.

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5. Japan

Prime Minister Sato is concerned over the threat to Japan inherent in Peking's accomplishments in the nuclear and missiles fields.

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50X1

6. Poland

US military attachés in Poland have recently been severely harassed by the secret police and even threatened with loaded firearms. The Polish response to our protests has been highly unsatisfactory.

The most likely explanation lies in the regime's domestic problems. Gomulka is under the strong influence of the secret police and their influence tends to become dominant during periods of domestic difficulties.

The current church-state confrontation and the subversive activities of a small dissident faction on the fringes of the Polish party are presently causing some nervousness in Warsaw.

7. Soviet Union

ear-
lier this week that Moscow has increased its armed forces personnel strength to "keep pace" with the US. He refused to give a strength figure, but said that three million was "realistic."

Early last year the Soviet armed forces were estimated to number between 2.8 and 2.9 million. There has been evidence of an increase since then.

8. West Europe

British talk of withdrawing from the European Launcher Development Organization, largely for financial reasons, will be a major issue during the organization's meeting next week in Paris. Uncertainty over the prospects for joint European space efforts may delay agreement on US proposals for cooperative US-European arrangements.

9. United Nations

U Thant's term as secretary general expires next fall, and his associates feel he will probably decide by June whether he will try for re-election.

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50X1

His wife is said to be thoroughly unhappy in the US and violently opposed to her husband's remaining.

10. Dominican Republic

Sunday will begin a week of observations to mark the first anniversary of the eruption of the civil war. Some of the events are likely to be provocative and trouble could develop quickly.

Bosch has publicly warned his partisans against taking part in any demonstrations, but groups further to the left are preparing to agitate on a variety of issues, particularly against the US.

Dominican troops are to be restricted to quarters beginning tomorrow. This will keep them off the streets and out of the way of leftist demonstrators, but readily available in case trouble erupts.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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23 APRIL 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
23 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

Martial law in Dalat has been extended, and the city remains quiet but tense. Word of the trouble there the past few days has reached the "struggle forces" in Hué and Da Nang; so far their only reaction has been a single telegram of protest addressed to the Buddhist Institute in Saigon.

The situation in Hué and Da Nang seems to be slowly edging its way back to normalcy. The radio stations in both cities have been returned to government control, if only under arrangements which give the "struggle forces" daily access for brief periods. Despite this trend, there is plenty of evidence that plotting continues among the area's many mutually antagonistic groups.

Saigon, too, was quiet today. A large demonstration involving Catholics and Nationalist Party members could develop tomorrow, however.

2. North Vietnam

Hanoi's jet fighter force is getting more action. Today they reacted to a US air strike for the seventh straight day.

Radio Hanoi has depicted all this as a "glorious victory." It is claiming that 10 US aircraft have been shot down in the past two days, for a grand--and greatly exaggerated--total of 980 since the air war began.

3. Rhodesia

Prime Minister Wilson has sent a personal emissary to Salisbury and Pretoria on a secret mission, [REDACTED]

50X1

[REDACTED] The emissary, who was Wilson's private secretary until last week and is slated for an ambassadorship, spent two days in Salisbury and is now in Pretoria.

The trip came shortly after South African leader Verwoerd told the British that, while he would not mediate the Rhodesian dispute, he would be willing to help bring about a meeting between Wilson and Smith. Wilson could well be making one more effort to find out if a negotiated settlement is feasible.

4. Syria

50X1

The regime's overtures in recent weeks toward the Communist Party of Syria probably smoothed the way for signing the big economic aid agreement in Moscow yesterday. But these developments have almost certainly increased dissidence among the still-influential moderates.

5. Iraq

The new President Arif may be looking for a way to end the Kurdish problem. In his first address to the nation last week he was notably conciliatory on this issue. It also seems that the army offensive against the dissidents, that was to have begun by now, has been postponed.

50X1

6. Dominican Republic

Dominican military and police officers in the capital still seem to be carefully preparing to avoid overreaction to the expected leftist provocations during the coming anniversary week.

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Meanwhile, the Moscow-oriented Dominican party has announced its support for the events planned for the week by Communist-led student groups.

7. Guatemala

The Communists, who have been relatively quiet since the 6 March elections, have now concluded that the probable assumption of the presidency by moderate leftist Julio Cesar Mendez will bring no real change to benefit them.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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25 APRIL 1966

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23

DAILY BRIEF
25 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

The Hué "struggle group" seems to be relaxing its hold over the city, although it has said it will continue twice-daily broadcasts. Primary schools reopened this morning, and many of the most violent anti-Ky and anti-US banners have been taken down.

There was one demonstration in Hué this afternoon--to denounce the Viet Cong for killing civilians in last night's mortar attack, which completely missed the airport it was aimed at.

In Saigon, reaction has been mild to the replacement last week of the national police chief. Several cabinet members had earlier threatened to resign if Ky took this step.

2. North Vietnam

Hanoi's naval units appear to be stepping up their activity.

50X1

3. Communist China

Satellite photography of 15-18 April has turned up visual evidence of the three earthquakes which shook the North China plain in March.

The three epicenters can be clearly distinguished very close together in the alluvial soil about 150 miles south of Peking. Damage to buildings, agriculture, irrigation canals, and transport routes occurred in an area of more than 6,000 square miles.

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[redacted] destruction may have been extensive in this farming area with a population density of some 800 to 1,000 per square mile.

4. Communist China

50X1

5. Indonesia

Anti-Chinese feeling is rising among the rabid Moslems in northern Sumatra, despite army efforts to tone this down. Overseas Chinese have been hounded through the streets, stripped, and then painted red. Our consul in Medan feels that indignities of this sort are child's play compared to the major anti-Chinese riots he fears are coming.

50X1

6. Cambodia

Sihanouk says he will shortly join with representatives of North Vietnam and the Liberation Front for South Vietnam in a "summit meeting." Its purpose, according to Sihanouk, will be to sign agreements on peaceful coexistence, fraternity, and mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity.

The Cambodian prince has been moving his country closer to the Vietnamese Communists for some time now, and it could be that the groundwork has been laid for reaching some sort of an understanding over Cambodia's borders with Vietnam, long a major Sihanouk objective. There has been no hard evidence of this from Hanoi, however.

7. Tanzania

Communist zealots on Zanzibar are clamoring for the closing of the US Consulate.

Egged on by Bloc and Chinese representatives, they have already closed down the US library and forced the removal of another American officer. They have now cooked up "evidence" linking Consul Pickering with a plot to restore Arab rule and are pressing for his scalp too.

Besides embarrassing the Americans, tactics such as these tend to frustrate President Nyerere's efforts to consolidate the two-year-old union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

8. Congo

Ambassador Godley says he is cautiously optimistic about the Congo.

He feels that the political and security situation right now is better than at any time in the past five years. Part of this is due to the fact that for the first time since 1960 no other African regime is actively interfering on behalf of the rebels, whose activities are now relatively confined.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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26 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
26 APRIL 1966

1. North Vietnam

There were air battles again today over North Vietnam. This time, US fighters downed a MIG-21.

Hanoi's jet fighters have been much more aggressive recently and since 17 April have reacted almost daily to US air activity over North Vietnam. US pilots find their Communist counterparts well trained and very combative.

The greater boldness shown by Hanoi's fighter force followed quickly on the increased US air strikes in the Hanoi-Haiphong heartland. The North Vietnamese evidently consider that these US attacks require an aggressive air response, even at the risk of US retaliatory strikes against North Vietnamese airfields.

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2. South Vietnam

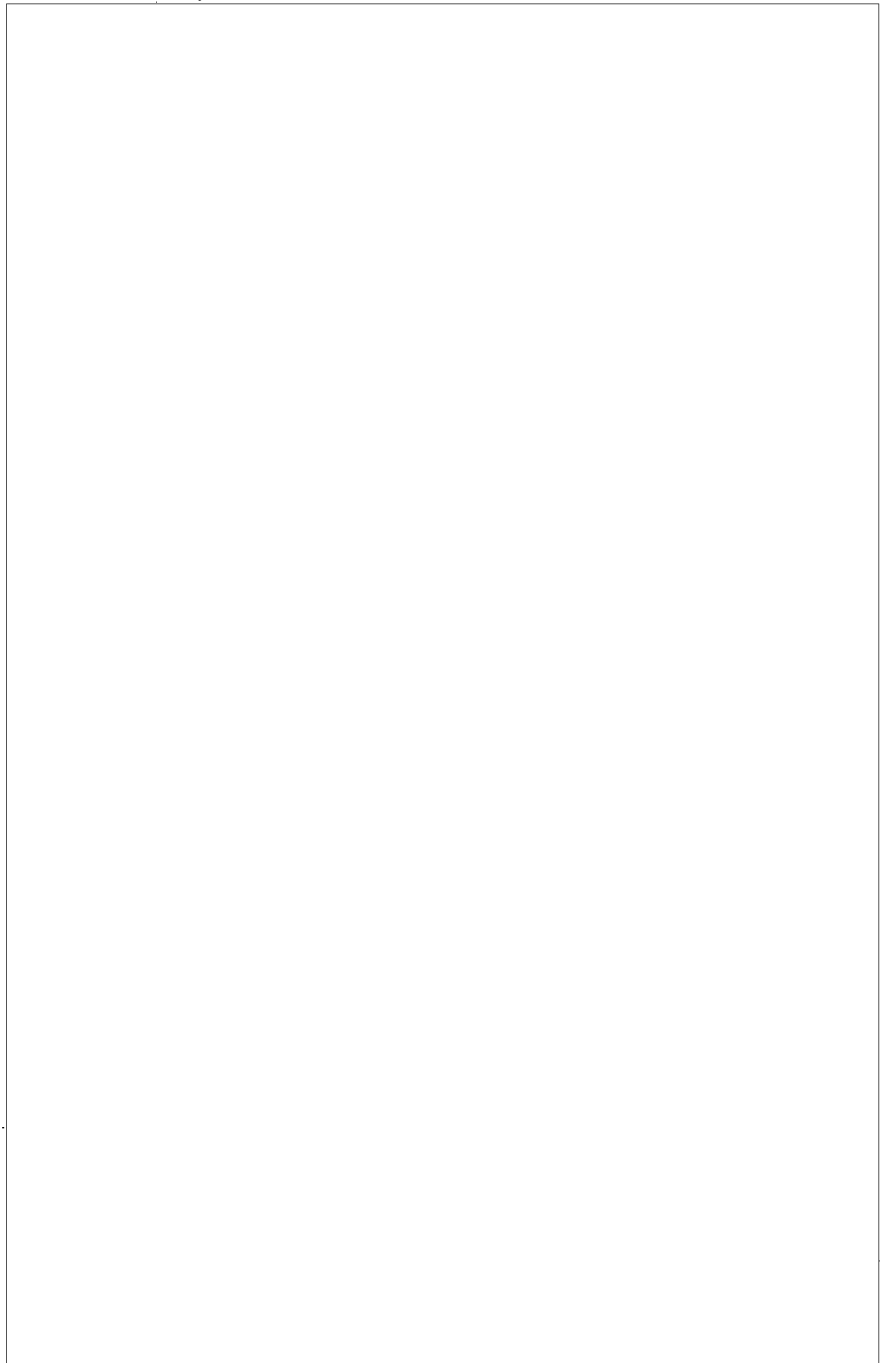
Today was quiet on the political front, but the possibility increased of clashes between Catholics and Buddhists in the Da Nang area. Catholics, angered by a shooting last week in one of their villages which they blame on Buddhists, are reported by the press to plan "massive demonstrations" in Da Nang to demand punishment for Buddhist leaders of the antigovernment forces.

Ky has outlined to Ambassador Lodge his current thinking on the future evolution of the government. He feels it important to assure a continuing major--if not dominant--role for the military.

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3. Soviet Union

50X1



4. Soviet Union

50X1

5. Soviet Union

Soviet officials admit that the first of the three earthquakes which hit Tashkent today did considerable damage. Experts in Washington, however, doubt that any of the tremors reached catastrophic proportions. The first shock registered about 6.5 on a 12 point measuring scale; the other two measured considerably less.

6. Iraq

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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27 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
27 APRIL 1966

1. North Vietnam

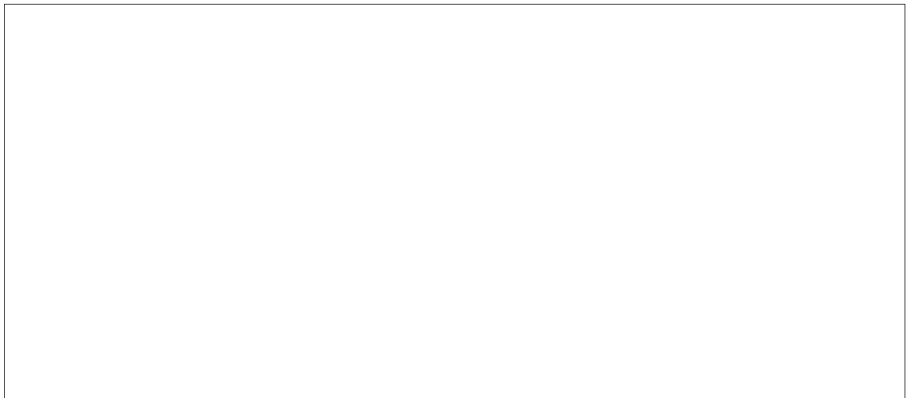
Articles in the provincial press some months back show that the diversion of young, able-bodied men to the armed forces and time-consuming militia tasks was having a noticeable impact on the local labor market. Subsequently, the call up of more young men and the recall of veterans of the war against the French have magnified the problem.

There is, however, no hard evidence that the problem is serious enough to deflect the men in Hanoi from their single-minded pursuit of the war. The major regime spokesmen, including Ho Chi Minh, assured the National Assembly last week that the "holy war" against the US was going well. Victory, they intoned, was inevitable.

Therefore, the regime and the entire people, were to be rededicated to fight on until the US agrees to Hanoi's "four points."

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2. North Vietnam



50X1

3. Soviet Union

During the next few days, conditions will again be favorable for a lunar probe, and the Soviets may attempt another lunar operation. Luna 10, in orbit around the moon since 3 April, has probably provided them with much useful data on the lunar surface and environment.

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4. Communist China

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5. Dominican Republic

Students, probably aided and abetted by the pro-Castro 14th of June Revolutionary Movement, are planning a demonstration at the US Embassy tomorrow--the anniversary of the landing of US troops. The agitators plan to burn flags and stone personnel and property.

There are indications that various leftist groups will try to turn the demonstrations into all-out anti-American violence. The accidental killing of a Dominican boy this afternoon by an American sentry has increased tensions.

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6. Colombia

The candidate of the governing National Front, Carlos Lleras Restrepo, appears to have Sunday's presidential election sewn up. His only opponent is a follower of ex-dictator Rojas Pinilla.

The campaign has been uneventful, however, and possibly no more than a third of the electorate will bother to vote, thus giving Lleras a weak mandate. There may be some disturbances, but the army and police appear ready to preserve the peace.

7. Congo

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8. Canada

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

28 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
28 APRIL 1966

1. South Vietnam

The political pot seems to be boiling up again. [REDACTED]

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At the same time, there are rumors in Saigon that General Co and the IV Corps commander will attempt a coup of their own over the weekend. While there are no other indications that either side is about to move, it is known that the directorate has discussed removing Co and the other general since early March. Up until recently, at least, the furor caused by General Thi's removal had led them to reconsider.

As for Prime Minister Ky, he is now telling some of his colleagues that it would be unwise to hold elections in the next three or four months. He feels that the intense political maneuvering in the pre-election period could easily bring on widespread trouble.

2. Dominican Republic

There was a large and noisy demonstration in front of our embassy this morning, but it lasted only about an hour and there was no violence. Communist flags were flying and there was the usual anti-US chanting. At least one US flag was burned.

Elsewhere in Santo Domingo there have been no serious incidents reported, and the rest of the country seems to have had a relatively normal day.

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3. India

Mrs. Gandhi crossed swords for the first time this week with the influential doctrinaire "socialists" of India. It came in a broadcast to the nation in which she minced no words in setting forth her basically pragmatic economic policies.

Leftists in and out of congress, who have been attacking the trend in this direction as a deviation from Nehru's socialist principles, now know where Mrs. Gandhi stands. Among other things, she stressed the necessity of accepting outside help in developing an Indian fertilizer industry as the ultimate solution to the food problem. She ridiculed fears that this would mean domination by foreign capital.

Ambassador Bowles characterizes the speech as more convincing and confident than any Mrs. Gandhi has given as prime minister.

4. Sweden

Prime Minister Erlander is under pressure from influential leftists in his Social Democratic Party to adopt a more neutralist foreign policy. His scheduled speech to a May Day rally, the theme of which is to be Vietnam, will be the first indicator of how far he is ready to go in this direction.

Erlander and other Socialist leaders may well be tempted to play domestic politics with the Vietnam issue. They are looking hard for a way to undercut Sweden's relatively liberal-minded Communist Party, which has been making deep inroads into the Socialist rank and file.

5. Rhodesia

The British-Rhodesian exploratory talks are likely to begin soon, probably in London, but there is no sign that either side is willing to yield on the issue of Rhodesia's independence. Each seems to believe that time is on its side.

Prime Minister Wilson, who is playing up Smith's willingness to talk as an important "breakthrough," probably hopes the dialogue will head off a confrontation in the United Nations.

African representatives there probably have the strength to spearhead a vote in the Security Council for sanctions against the South African Government--a development that would immensely complicate Wilson's dilemma.

6. Bolivia

Leftist former vice president Juan Lechin, once Bolivia's powerful labor boss, has [redacted] returned from exile [redacted]

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50X1

This increases uneasiness among the military. They already fear an attempt by leftist labor and political elements to turn the planned May Day celebrations into violent anti-junta demonstrations.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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29 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
29 APRIL 1966

1. North Vietnam

Detailed analysis of low-level photography taken last week shows a Chinese Communist - built fast patrol boat operating near Haiphong. This is the first sighting of this class in North Vietnamese waters.

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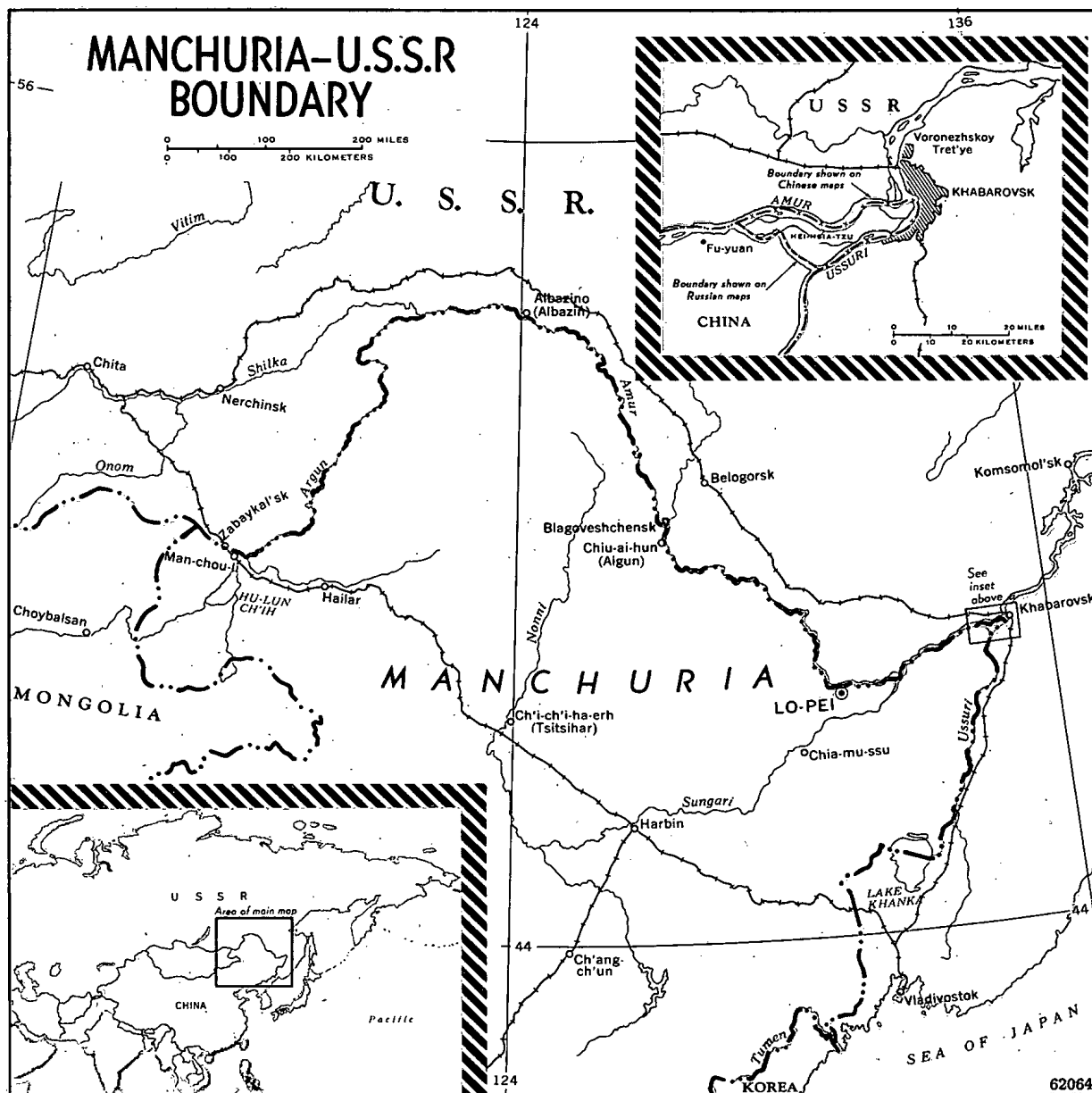
2. South Vietnam

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3. India

Indian Defense Minister Chavan expects Pakistan and Communist China to cooperate in harassing the Indians in Kashmir, along the Sino-Indian border and in areas of tribal unrest. Other senior officials, including Prime Minister Gandhi, apparently believe that the Pakistanis or the Chinese were the perpetrators of the recent series of terrorist bombings on the railroads of eastern India.

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50X1

4. Communist China

There is new evidence of friction along the Sino-Soviet border in Manchuria.

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5. Soviet Union

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50X1

6. Egypt

Nasir seems to be drifting back to a policy of open hostility toward Saudi Arabia's King Faysal. Cairo has reinstituted its "Enemies of God" radio programs, and the main "enemy" being pilloried in these broadcasts is Faysal.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We should get a further glimpse of Nasir's intentions in a major speech he has scheduled on May Day.

7. Dominican Republic

There has been no major trouble today in the wake of last evening's shooting. The principal political leaders, including Bosch, seem to have their eyes on the June 1 elections and disposed to try to keep the lid on.

8. Rhodesia

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] sanctions have not yet had a serious impact on the Rhodesian economy, and there is nothing out of Salisbury to indicate that the Rhodesians are prepared to make major concessions to get them lifted.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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30 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
30 APRIL 1966

50X1

1. Communist China

Satellite photography taken on 20 April shows that two TU-16 medium bombers have been moved to an airfield some 145 miles northwest of the Lop Nor nuclear test site. A dozen MIG fighters are also at the field to provide protection. A new secure area is being added near the airstrip, very likely for handling the bomb when it arrives.

2. South Vietnam

There could be violence in Saigon tomorrow in connection with the traditional labor day parade there. The mayor is said to have warned the labor leaders that the city's security forces are on alert, anticipating that the parade might be turned into an anti-government demonstration.

Tam Chau and some other relatively moderate Buddhist leaders will be leaving shortly for a religious conference in Ceylon. With Tri Quang holed up in Hue, this means that Buddhist affairs in the capital will be in the hands of one of the more hard-line and undependable leaders. The embassy comments that this is not a reassuring prospect.

3. Colombia

Student disorders which began in midweek have spread and become more violent on the eve of the presidential elections tomorrow. They have taken an anti-US slant. For example, Bogota students yesterday held a "stone-in" on the road to the airport, pelting passing cars while listening to anti-US harangues.

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4. Dominican Republic

Garcia Godoy seems bent on securing the withdrawal of the Inter-American Peace Force prior to the 2 July inauguration of the new government. He is sending a personal envoy to all American chiefs of state with a letter on the subject.

He sees the removal of the force as necessary to complete his "mission" and assure his place in Dominican history. It would also be useful in the future if, as seems likely, Garcia Godoy continues to entertain political ambitions.

The provisional president's move will create difficulties for Bosch and could affect his plans for participating in the election. [REDACTED]

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50X1

5. Indonesia

The tide continues to run against Sukarno and Indonesia's leftists.

This week moderates seized control of the large Nationalist Party, long a refuge of extremists and Communists. The Communist Party has been, to all intents and purposes, driven underground and its effectiveness as a national political force reduced to nearly zero.

Government leaders have agreed to resume relations with the South Koreans and have initiated talks with U Thant about re-entering the UN.

On top of this, one of the principal generals yesterday made one of the strongest public pitches yet for the withdrawal of Sukarno's mandate. In effect, he called Sukarno's position as "President for Life" unconstitutional.

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6. Israel

Tensions with the Arabs are building up again. The Israeli Army carried out a pair of raids against Jordanian border villages last night in retaliation for Fatah terrorist activity mounted from the area. [REDACTED]

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Actions such as these have been carefully measured by Tel Aviv to secure the maximum effect on Israel's Arab neighbors, but there is always a danger that one will get out of hand some day.

7. France

De Gaulle, we are told, sees his June trip to the Soviet Union in its broad "historical" context. He has hopes that it will bring some movement toward his long-standing goal of a detente in Europe.

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