

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
1 JULY 1967

1. South Vietnam

Ky's acceptance of the vice-presidential slot on Thieu's ticket, while appearing to preserve the "unity of the military," will create a whole new set of problems for the Directorate.

Ky almost surely considers his acceptance of the vice-presidential slot a compromise rather than a surrender, and will insist on a strong voice in all important decisions. Hence, the tensions built up between Ky and Thieu over the last months may be rekindled as they try to agree on the nature of their campaign, the division of power between them, and (assuming they win) appointments to the new government.

Moreover, Ky claims he won agreement from his peers that he should control the armed forces. This hardly seems like the sort of authority that a president would give up to a vice president for very long.

The other generals may yet be hard pressed to keep the peace between their standard bearers in an election that has now taken on a civilian versus military coloration.

2. Aden

The odds are going down on the British effort to put together a working native government. Deep-seated tribal animosities and the bitterness engendered by the Arab-Israeli war are working against the British effort

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British civilians are already leaving the Colony.

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3. Middle East

Israel's Foreign Minister Eban took a comparatively moderate stand on the matter of national boundaries

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Emphasizing that everything hinges on peace settlements with the Arabs, Eban said Israel wanted no territory in Sinai so long as the peninsula was demilitarized. He also said Tel Aviv would prefer demilitarization of the Syrian heights to any outright takeover of Syrian territory.

4. Soviet Union

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5. Greece

Wednesday that the junta is threatening to turn to De Gaulle for military aid unless the US relaxes its policy on hardware deliveries. We suspect there is an element of blackmail in this threat. There is no doubt, however, that the military coup leaders are growing increasingly annoyed with the situation.

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6. Communist China

Peking pursues its campaign of diplomatic obnoxiousness on several fronts.

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Burma's Ne Win is now being described by Radio Peking as a "fanatic fascist dictator." In fact, the general is being charged with personally organizing the anti-Chinese riots in Rangoon. (Things are quiet in Burma, although Red Guards continue to parade around the Burmese Embassy in Peking.)

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Perhaps the closest thing to a diplomatic success Peking can chalk up in recent weeks is the possibility that the Chinese will be allowed to build a railroad through the African republic of Zambia.

7. Haiti

Duvalier shows no sign of easing his brutal campaign against suspected opponents.

The death penalty has been decreed for all military "deserters" and their relatives--a move clearly aimed at most of the 95 Haitians who have fled to asylum in various embassies. Rumors of coups are as prevalent as voodoo drums in this dark republic, but we feel that Papa Doc is not in any immediate trouble.

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8. Poland



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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
3 JULY 1967

1. South Vietnam

Information is still coming in on the armed forces meetings last week which hammered out the agreement between Thieu and Ky. At this point, it seems that Thieu's uncompromising attitude may well have alienated some of the key generals while Ky's behavior generated considerable admiration among them.

Just what this may mean for the future is still unclear, but it does add to other signs that the Thieu-Ky alliance may well continue to be an uneasy one for some time to come.

With the Thieu-Ky rivalry at least temporarily laid to rest, the Directorate was almost immediately faced with another awkward development. The Assembly formally validated "Big" Minh's application as a presidential candidate. The generals show every sign of sticking by their decision to keep Minh out of the country, but this will now be more difficult for them to justify.

2. North Vietnam

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3. Arab States -
Israel

The Israelis do not give much importance to the minor clashes with Egyptian troops that took place over the weekend on the banks of the Canal. More such clashes have occurred today.

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The UN General Assembly is expected to vote this afternoon on the rival Middle East resolutions. The Soviets, with French support, were working hard all weekend on the African delegations and we think there is some chance that the "nonaligned" resolution may get the required two thirds vote.

4. Soviet Union

Soviet President Podgorny, in Cairo last week, has been in Damascus since Saturday and is scheduled to go on to Baghdad today. We presume the talks focus mainly on military aid.

5. Communist China

Liu Shao-chi may have been formally "overthrown" as head of state, as the US newspapers are saying, but this signifies little. He was deprived of all meaningful authority months ago.

The turmoil continues in many parts of the country.

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6. France

The third and final atmospheric nuclear test in this year's series took place in the South Pacific yesterday. [REDACTED]

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7. Cyprus

Makarios and company have good reason for suspecting the new government in Athens of working behind their backs to hammer out a deal with Turkey to "settle" the Cyprus problem. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Greek-Turkish talks about Cyprus were recently resumed and may be making headway.

The military rulers in Athens would surely like to tidy up this problem which has for years been a dangerous irritant in Greek-Turkish relations. If they can get together with the Turks on a formula for Cyprus' future, the Greeks will not balk at forcing it down the throats of the Cypriots--even if this requires the overthrow of the Makarios regime.

An Athens broadcast on the weekend carried an announcement from "authoritative sources" which seems to threaten just that. It accused "persons holding the highest positions in the Cypriot state" of insisting on such unrealistic conditions for union with Greece as to make this impossible. Now, the announcement went on, these persons must be isolated and forced out.

The US Embassy in Athens has no hard information that action is imminent, but does note that the Cyprus problem was being discussed at the highest levels of the government last week.

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8. Congo

It looks very much like Moise Tshombé has finally come to the end of his road. President Mobutu

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doubtless intends to execute the former premier if--as is likely--the Algerians agree to extradite him.

Mobutu can probably clamp down hard enough to control any adverse reaction in Katanga, Tshombé's old stronghold. The Belgians, however, will be especially angered by Mobutu's action and will be less willing to help him financially.

9. Nigeria

News that secessionist Biafra has acquired at least one bomber has prompted General Gowon of the federal government to make urgent requests to the US and Britain for military assistance, mainly aircraft. Gowon is just as determined as ever to crush Biafra and is under growing internal pressure to begin military action quickly.

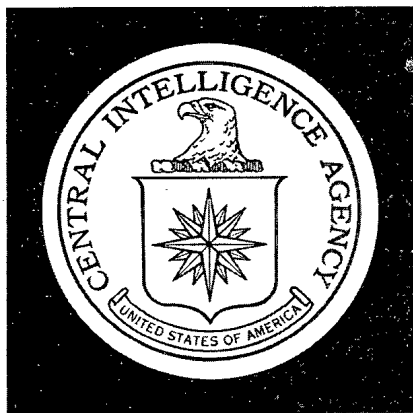
The pressure on Gowon was intensified on Saturday when the country's largest oil producer, the Shell Company, decided to hand over to Biafra a portion of the oil payment due Nigeria this month.

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DAILY BRIEF
4 JULY 1967

1. South Vietnam

Ky claims he will be the real executive authority and that Thieu has agreed to function as only a figure-head if the two men are elected in September. Barring some unforeseen development, they look like a shoo-in.

No matter what Thieu may have agreed to, Thieu when elected will have the constitutional authority and will be unlikely to give it up.

On the senatorial election front, there are now 640 candidates for 60 seats. Under Vietnam's jerry-built election law, each voter will vote for six slates of 10 candidates each. By any way of figuring it, however, there are far too many candidates.

2. North Vietnam

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3. Soviet Union

Gromyko and company are scheduled to leave New York for home on Friday.

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4. Middle East

No further exchanges of fire between Egyptians and Israelis have been reported overnight. The Israelis have announced that 14 of their men were wounded during the three days of clashes.

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The word from the UN is that the consultations late last night between the nonaligned and Latin American groups to try to get some sort of compromise resolution did not succeed.

5. Yemen

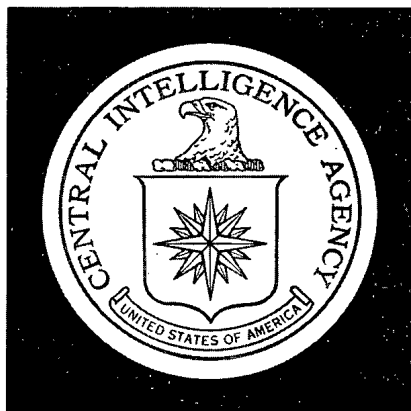
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6. Yugoslavia

Tito's decision to side with Moscow on the Arab-Israeli war has not been welcomed by all members of the Yugoslav hierarchy. A number of top Yugoslavs apparently feel Tito was much too hasty in rushing to embrace the Arabs. Yugoslav officials in the US fear an economic boycott by Jewish-owned firms doing business with Belgrade.

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LATE ITEM

Congo

Early this morning troops from kidnapped ex-premier Tshombé's home province of Katanga mutinied at Bukavu on the Congo's eastern border. The picture is not yet clear, but the revolt appears to be in support of Tshombé who has been held in Algeria since his airplane was hijacked Saturday.

If this mutiny is not put down quickly, trouble could break out in other parts of the Congo and seriously threaten President Mobutu's regime. The last remaining unit of white mercenaries appears to have sided with the Katangese mutineers.

DAILY BRIEF
5 JULY 1967

1. Soviet Union

The strain of the past few weeks is showing on Soviet leaders and there are some signs of dissension in the ranks.

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2. Cuba

The Cubans appear to be getting a new defensive missile system, this one for use against low-flying aircraft.

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The SA-3 is designed for use against aircraft flying too low for the SA-2 missile system. This will be the first time the SA-3 has been deployed outside the Soviet Union.

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3. Middle East

Israel claims its antiaircraft gunners bagged an Egyptian jet fighter over the Sinai Peninsula yesterday. The Egyptians have denied it. No one seems disposed to use the incident as an excuse for renewed fighting.

4. Oil

Kuwait apparently has authorized the loading of one US and several British tankers beginning 8 July.

The Saudi Arabians, using broadcasts to point out how much revenue is being lost, are conditioning the Saudi public for a resumption of sales to the US and Britain. So far, the Saudis estimate their demonstration of loyalty to the Arab cause has cost them more than \$30 million.

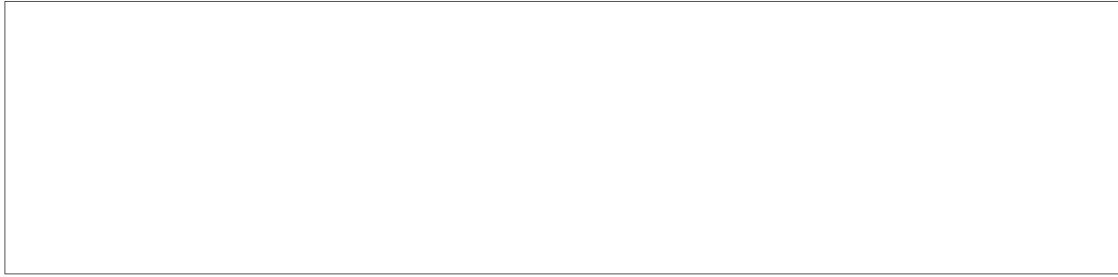
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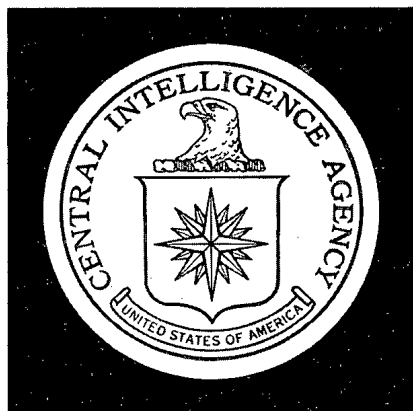
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DAILY BRIEF
6 JULY 1967

1. Congo

The mutiny which began in Bukavu yesterday morning has spread to other areas of the eastern Congo. Mutineers apparently now control the airport at Kisangani (formerly Stanleyville), but Mobutu's assertion that they were assisted by paratroopers from outside the Congo cannot be confirmed.

It is still not clear whether the mutiny was planned some time ago, or is a reaction to Tshombé's kidnaping. In Bukavu, at least, the mutinous Katangan soldiers and the white mercenaries who support them have been friendly toward local civilians and foreigners. No Americans have been injured.

Mobutu appears to be keeping calm, but he will find it very difficult to regain control. His army has few capable units in the east, and probably none of these want to tangle with the mercenaries. Also, Mobutu has no means to transport any significant number of troops rapidly.

2. Burma

Peking is still trying to get back at Burma for the anti-Chinese rioting in Rangoon last week. The Chinese have twice demanded a public apology, and want to send airplanes to bring injured Chinese back to China.

Somewhat more ominously, Peking's propaganda (for the first time in many years) is proclaiming support for the Burmese Communist party's struggle against Ne Win's "reactionary" regime. We doubt, however, that the Chinese are ready to give the Burmese Communists--who are weak and divided--any real political or material support.

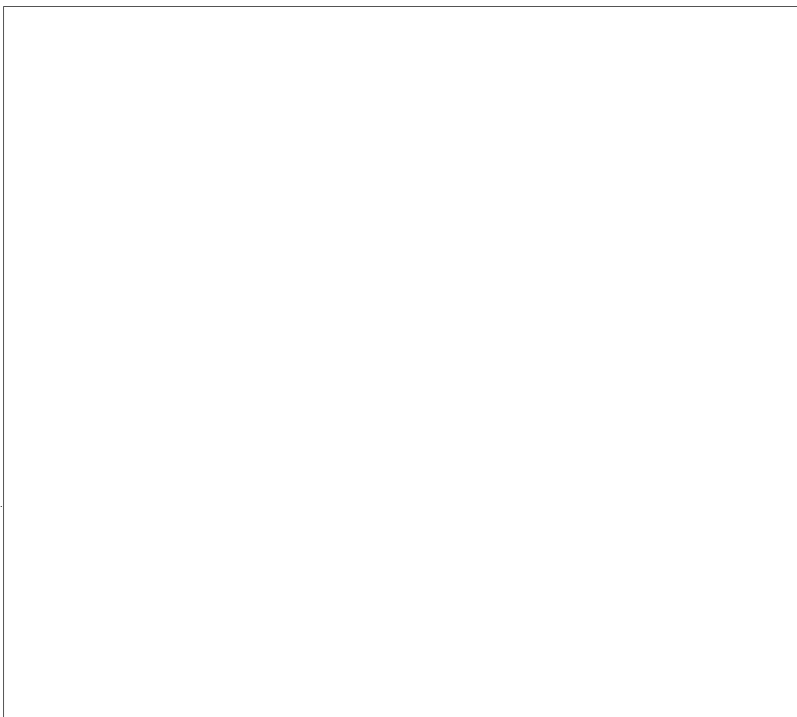
3. Middle East

Defense Minister Dayan's announcement that Israel will in effect annex the Gaza Strip increases the pressure on the Arab states. As with Jerusalem, the Arabs are now confronted with permanent absorption of occupied territories unless they agree to discuss the future status of these areas.

The fact that Dayan, whose position on the future of occupied territories has been noticeably tougher than Foreign Minister Eban's, made the announcement is another indication of his prominence in the Israeli cabinet.

In New York, the emergency session of the General Assembly has recessed until next week. The US mission believes the Soviets realize they suffered a severe setback in yesterday's voting, and are considerably chastened.

4. North Vietnam



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5. Communist China

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6. Korea

The North Koreans are stepping up their harassment of South Korea, both by agent operations into South Korea and by increased aggressiveness along the Demilitarized Zone.

As many as 60 armed agents may now be roaming around in the South. Their mission is to set up bases for future guerrilla operations. In the last few weeks armed reconnaissance and probing attacks around the Demilitarized Zone, heretofore confined largely to the US sector, have been increasingly directed against South Korean personnel.

The North Koreans probably hope to kick up enough dust to discourage further South Korean troop contributions to Vietnam.

7. Aden

The British Army has regained control over most of the terrorist-infested Arab slum quarter. The nearly bloodless nature of the operation suggests some sort of agreement with Arab nationalists may be working. If so, this could ease tensions and give London a little better chance of putting together some sort of native government before it turns the whole place over to the Arabs in January.

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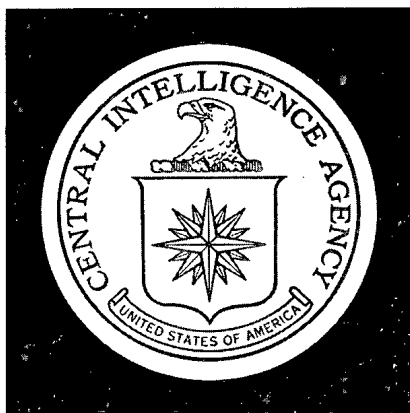
8. France

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**DAILY BRIEF
7 JULY 1967**

1. Middle East

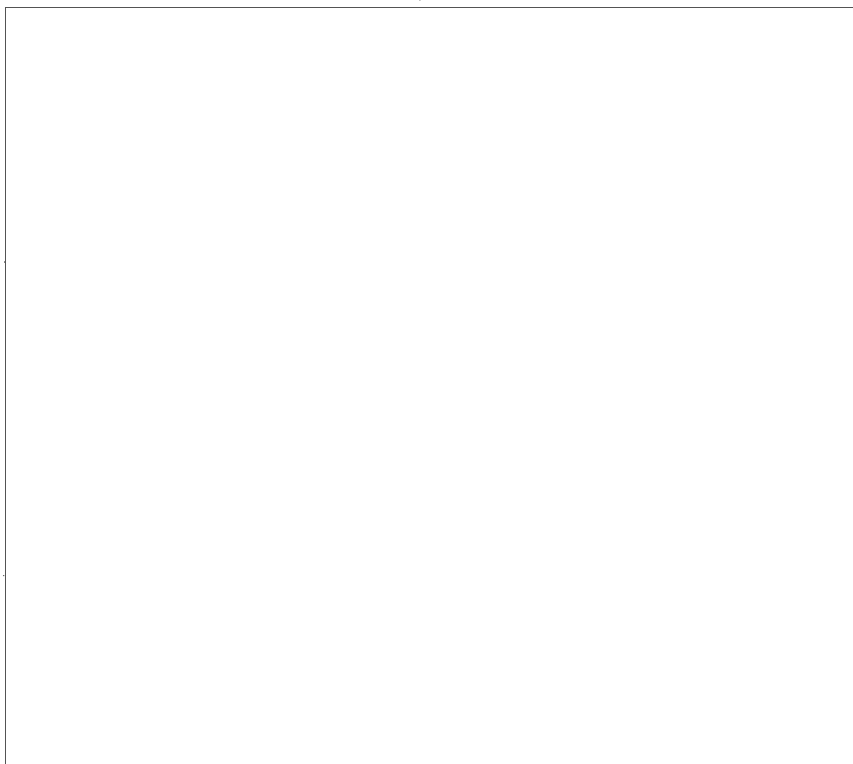
Israeli forces in Jordan's West Bank appear to be making little effort to win over the local Arabs. More than a month after the Israeli takeover, reports continue to come in of

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growing passive resistance among the people.

Earlier, there had been some talk among local Arab leaders of possible independent negotiations with Israel for a separate political entity. Few are now willing to support this concept.50X1

2. Soviet Union



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3. Congo

The rebels, led by European officers, apparently continue to extend their areas of control in the eastern Congo. Troops still loyal to Mobutu have thus far taken little action in their own defense and seem to lack direction from the capital.

The mutiny has intensified latent antiwhite sentiment among the people and the danger of violence against foreigners has increased. The press, however, has so far not included the US in its denunciation of various Western nations for alleged support for the mercenaries. At last word, all US citizens were safe.

In addition to his request to the US for aircraft, President Mobutu has appealed to Belgium for military assistance.

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4. Mexico

President Diaz Ordaz' party machine came out of Sunday's elections with its traditional overwhelming victory. Some early estimates give the party a whopping 90 percent of the ballots cast nationwide for seven state governors and the lower house of Congress.

The party apparently did well even in Sonora. There may well have been some cheating here, however, and popular resentment against the imposition of local candidates by the party bosses in Mexico City will continue to be a public issue, in Sonora and elsewhere.

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5. Panama

Opposition leader Arnulfo Arias suddenly left the country last weekend for a tour of Europe. It is not clear yet how this affects his longstanding vow to oppose ratification of the Canal treaties.

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President Robles, meanwhile, is moving confidently ahead with his plans to secure ratification of the treaties. He has decided to come to Washington late this month for the formal signing and expects to call the special session of the National Assembly during the first week of August.

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6. Indonesia

Another legacy of the Sukarno days has gone by the boards; the country's economy will benefit significantly. The government has decided to resume normal trade with Singapore, a top Indonesian market prior to Sukarno's ruinous "confrontation" policy.

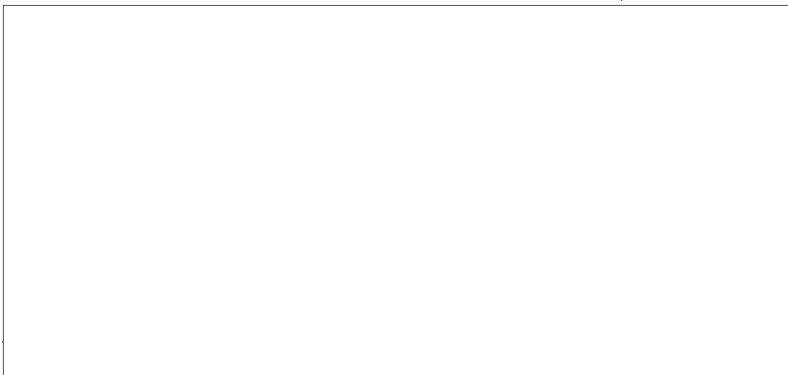
7. Cyprus

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8. Soviet Union

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Hong Kong

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DAILY BRIEF
8 JULY 1967

1. Congo

Mobutu's troops regained control of Bukavu yesterday. The Congolese apparently have also retaken Kisangani (Stanleyville), and at least one plane-load of mercenaries from there has reached Rhodesia.

At Lubumbashi (Elisabethville), nine Europeans were bayoneted by Congolese troops on Thursday; there have been several other reports of incidents. This kind of violence could subside as quickly as it began, but it could also get worse and bring on a European exodus.

2. Nigeria

Federal Chief Gowon has ordered his troops to start the long-awaited invasion of the Eastern region. Lagos has already announced the capture of two important towns inside the Eastern border, but this is anything but firm.

US citizens still in the border area--dependents were evacuated last month--are being sent out. There is evidently no particular danger for US personnel at the present time.

3. Israel

Prime Minister Eshkol openly criticized Defense Minister Dayan yesterday and this may well lead to Dayan's resignation and a more flexible Israeli position on terms for a settlement.

Dayan is unlikely to remain silent in the face of Eshkol's statement that the defense minister's "self praise is not honorable." Dayan's political strength, however, is not up to his popularity. He may therefore choose to withdraw for now, but he will remain a strong contender for eventual leadership of Eshkol's Mapai party and the government.

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4. North Vietnam

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Hanoi announced yesterday that Nguyen Chi Thanh--a four-star general and a member of the North Vietnamese Politburo--is dead of a heart attack. Thanh was the Viet Cong commander-in-chief and a noted hardliner in the Hanoi leadership.

5. Communist China

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6. Morocco

King Hassan is giving every indication that he intends to preserve his country's pro-Western stance despite mounting criticism of his regime. His choice of a new premier on Thursday--a man friendly to the US--is the most recent case in point. All in all, Hassan is clearly stepping up to his responsibilities.

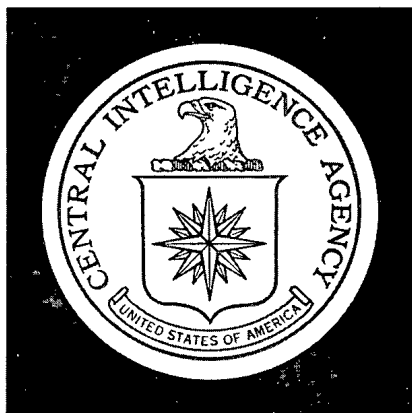
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7. South Africa

The closure of the Suez Canal has given South Africa an opportunity to demonstrate its importance to the West. A substantial number of ships which formerly transited the Canal are now using the route around Africa, and South Africa's ports are the only ones large enough to bunker and provision them.

The South Africans indeed are boasting about their dependability in contrast to many Afro-Asian countries in the Mid-East crisis. Although this will probably not change South Africa's relations with its old enemies, it will undoubtedly make the major industrialized countries even more reluctant to support demands for sanctions against the South Africans.

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~~Top Secret~~ 10 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
10 JULY 1967

1. Congo

The near panic among the European population is subsiding, especially in Lubumbashi (Elisabethville). Our consul there notes that the local governor has made an "impressive and effective" effort and seems to have reestablished discipline. Mobutu, "shocked" by his soldiers' behavior, has sent his top military confidant to the city to be sure the army stays in line. Inflammatory antiwhite propaganda on the Congolese radio and television, however, is continuing.

In Kisangani (Stanleyville), the airport is still in the hands of the mutineers. Some Europeans, apparently taken to the airport by the mercenaries, may be in danger as Mobutu's forces advance. Reports of extensive brutality by Congolese troops in Kisangani have not been confirmed.

Even if calm is restored, however, many Europeans will decide they have had enough. The European employees of the Congolese company that took over Union Miniere have already resigned en masse. Mobutu, however, may not allow a mass departure of technicians, which would shut down Katanga's copper mines and cripple the country's economy.

2. Nigeria

We have conflicting reports from Lagos and the Eastern region (Biafra) as to how the civil war is going. There have, however, been casualties on both sides. Gowon's forces are unlikely to bring off a quick victory, since the rains and logistical problems are enough to keep them from making a rapid penetration even if unopposed.

3. North Vietnam

The sudden death of Senior General Nguyen Chi Thanh presents Hanoi with a double-barrelled problem: replacing him as head of the Communist apparatus in South Vietnam, and filling his place in the North Vietnamese Politburo.

Hanoi already has half a dozen generals in command positions in South Vietnam who could take over the military effort, but none of them could speak with Thanh's authority on political matters. Since his arrival in the South early in 1965, Thanh is believed to have had decision making authority over both the planning and implementation of strategy, as well as the deployment of Communist forces.

Thanh's death has caused the first vacancy on the Politburo in more than half a dozen years. With Thanh alive, the eleven man group was probably pretty evenly divided along militant and moderate lines. Trying to pick a successor could cause much bitterness, especially between hardline First Secretary Le Duan (with whom Thanh was generally aligned) and powerful Defense Minister Giap, who was no friend of Thanh's.

4. Middle East

Saturday's clash between Egyptian and Israeli forces along the Suez Canal was probably another Egyptian effort to spark UN action, rather than a prelude to major fighting. Despite Cairo's charges, Egyptian artillery appears to have begun the incident, which mushroomed into an engagement involving aircraft, tanks, and heavy artillery.

The stepped-up Israeli response to the harassment, however, indicates that Israeli patience is beginning to wear thin.

5. Hong Kong

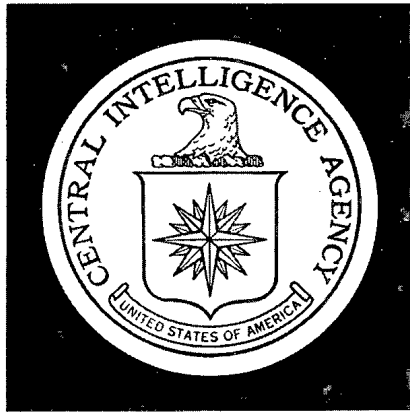
There has been no further shooting along the border following the clash Saturday morning between Chinese infiltrators and British security forces. Violence and terrorism continue in Hong Kong city, however.

Peking is trying to blame the British for the Saturday incident and has demanded an apology. The Chinese protest, however, was not as strongly worded as some of their previous statements on Hong Kong.

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We believe there may be more such incidents, but no immediate showdown with the British.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 11 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
11 JULY 1967

1. Congo

Government forces continue to delay their attack on the mercenary contingent at Kisangani (Stanleyville).

The mercenaries still control the Kisangani airport and are apparently holding a large number of women and children as hostages. They are said to be completely encircled by federal troops, but the federals have been holding off while attempts are made to arrange evacuation of the noncombatants.

Racial tension in most of the rest of the Congo seems to be abating. This is especially noticeable in Katanga; there is even some chance that a mass exodus of key European technicians can be avoided.

2. Nigeria

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the federal forces have evidently made no significant breakthroughs in the fighting along the border area.

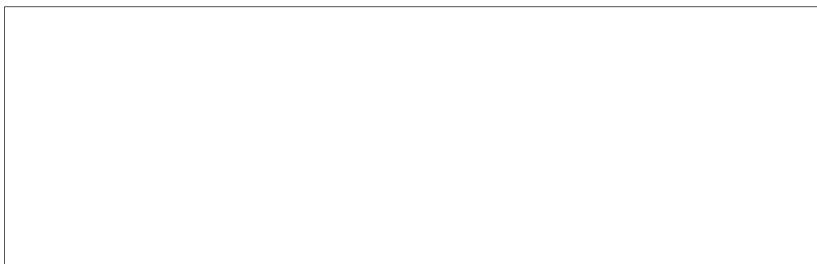
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3. North Vietnam

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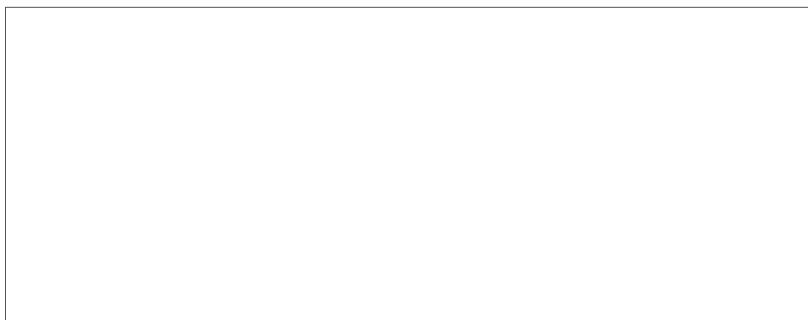
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4. Middle East



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5. Soviet Union



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6. Communist World

Crop prospects in the Communist countries are relatively good; North Vietnam is the exception.

In the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, grain production should be above average but below the record of last year. The outlook for China's early grain harvest is favorable; prospects for later crops are still unclear. The Chinese will probably import at least 5-6 million tons of grain from the free world, as it has in the past.

In North Vietnam, the outlook is not good for the spring rice crop. Less than usual was planted, and the harvest has encountered numerous difficulties.

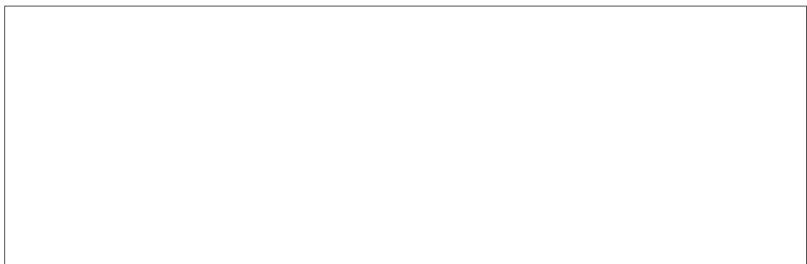
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7. West Germany

The defense budget will sustain a large part of the cut in expenditures called for in Bonn's new four-year financial plan.

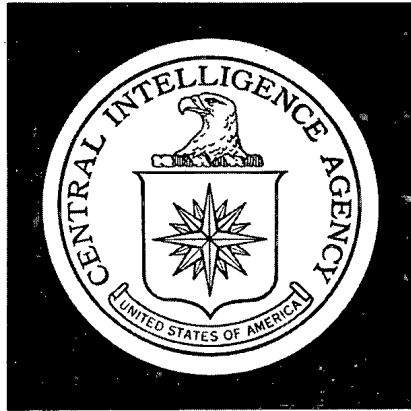
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The reductions will range from \$500 million next year to a high of nearly \$640 million in 1970. Total defense spending in 1968 is set at \$4.5 billion, rising to \$5 billion by 1971.



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DAILY BRIEF
12 JULY 1967

1. Middle East

King Husayn's meeting in Cairo with Nasir and Algerian President Boumediene broke up yesterday without a formal communique, suggesting they failed to agree on much. We doubt that Husayn made much headway in trying to persuade Nasir to take the lead in moving toward settlement, especially in the presence of the militant Boumediene.

Arab diplomatic activity is continuing, however, with Boumediene now in Syria where he publicly called for a continuation of the war on Israel. At the same time Iraqi President Arif has come to Cairo for talks with Nasir. At this point, it seems unlikely that the proposed Arab summit meeting will actually be held in Khartoum on 15 July.

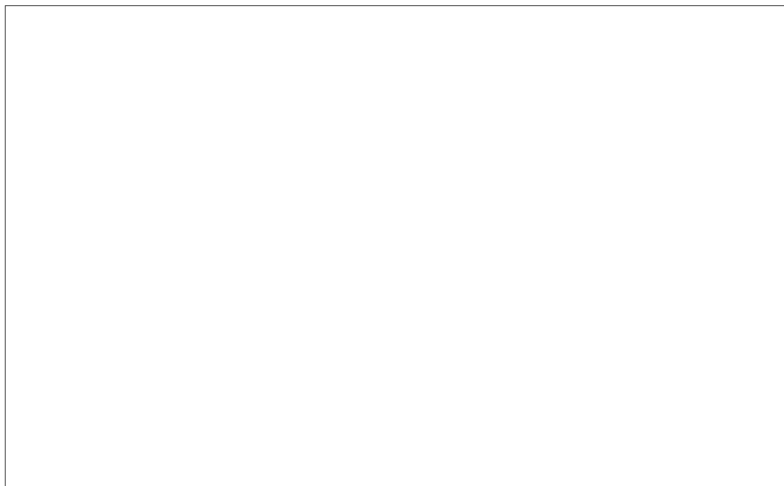
2. United Nations

Prospects that the General Assembly, which reconvenes today, can come up with a compromise substantive resolution on the Middle East are not good. Although the Assembly would like to wind up on a positive note, many delegates fear the gap between last week's unsuccessful Yugoslav and Latin American resolutions cannot be bridged.

The Spanish proposal calling for Israeli withdrawal, asking all parties not to use force, and requesting the appointment of a special representative of the Secretary-General, is not gathering much support and may not even be introduced.

The Soviets are still working for an acceptable compromise but may be ready to fall back on a procedural resolution simply authorizing appointment of a United Nations special representative and dumping the whole problem back in the Security Council's lap.

3. North Vietnam



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4. South Vietnam

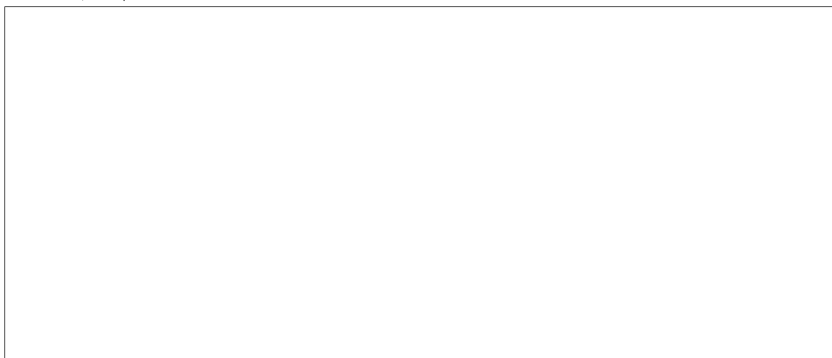
Ky



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appears as yet undecided whether to commit the full weight of his very considerable campaign apparatus behind the Thieu-Ky ticket.

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5. Nigeria

Federal forces are running into stiff resistance and thus far have penetrated only a few miles into the eastern region (Biafra). Biafran resistance to superior federal firepower has been more stubborn than the Lagos government expected. Both sides are said to have suffered numerous casualties.



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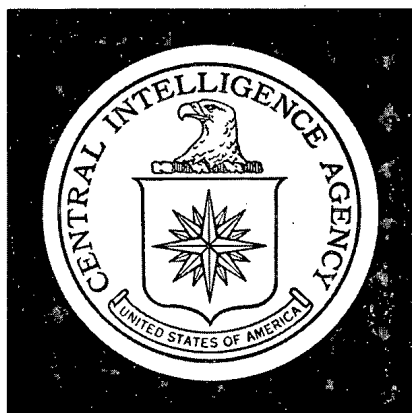
6. Panama

It now appears likely that opposition leader Arnulfo Arias will sit out the upcoming debate over ratification of the canal treaty. Some of his supporters are saying his abrupt departure for Europe last week reflects Arias' belief it would be useless to try to prevent ratification. By staying out of the country Arias can avoid implying personal approval of the treaty.

7. Brazil

Brazil is said to have signed a letter of intent on 8 July to buy 20 French Mirage tactical jet fighters at an attractive price. The Brazilians, with no modern jet fighters, have for some time been trying to buy supersonic F-5's, but in their impatience to get sophisticated aircraft, they may go through with the French deal.

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LATE ITEM

Congo
(As of 5:15 AM EDT)

A Red Cross plane has landed at Kisangani (Stanleyville). Initial reports from it tend to confirm that the mercenaries, presumably with at least some of their European and American hostages, have departed from the airport area. There appears to be some fighting elsewhere in the city, however, raising the possibility that revenge-seeking Congolese troops may get out of control and molest the remaining Europeans.

DAILY BRIEF
13 JULY 1967

50X1

1. Vietnam

There is a bit of good news at hand about the road watch teams in Laos and North Vietnam. One of the chief problems in this effort has always been that of getting their information out quickly and accurately to those who can use it effectively. This problem is now being licked.

2. Nigeria

The military stalemate continues, amid signs that failure to achieve a quick breakthrough may be telling on the morale of Gowon's federal forces.

50X1

3. Middle East

The radical and moderate Arab states are still divided over whether to move toward a settlement with Israel. Algeria and Syria, the fire-eaters, are opposing Nasir's plan to call an Arab summit meeting, pointing out that King Husayn and other moderates might have a majority. Nasir will probably back off from the scheme.

* * * * *

The economic chaos caused by the war, along with the problem of caring for refugees and war prisoners, has heightened chances for serious epidemics in the area. Cholera is the most immediate threat, with widespread outbreaks likely this month. Malaria has already reached epidemic proportions in Iran and Iraq.

4. Hong Kong

The British, after using troops for the first time against local agitators yesterday, appear determined to rout out Communist leaders operating from leftist controlled buildings.

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50X1

5. Burma

Rangoon continues quietly but firmly to resist pressure from Peking over the recent anti-Chinese outbreaks. A note handed the Chinese on Tuesday flatly rejected charges that the incidents were government instigated.

The uproar with China has, incidentally, boosted Ne Win's stock sky high at home, and diverted popular attention from the country's economic problems. Whether the government will jump at this chance to make some basic economic policy changes, however, is problematical.

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6. Communist China

50X2

7. Soviet Union

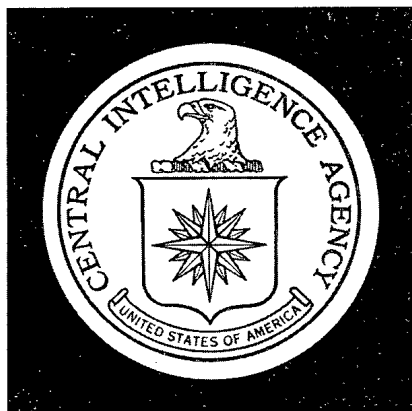
The Soviets are playing a delaying game on anti-ballistic missile talks, but keeping the lines open.

Just the other day in Geneva, a Soviet official talking to Senator Gore urged that the Disarmament Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee withhold any early report which might result in further pressure on the Administration to begin deployment of anti-ballistic missiles.

The official told the Senator that while the Soviets had been impressed with Secretary McNamara's arguments, Kremlin military leaders needed a little more time to think them over. When the Senator noted he was under pressure to publish a report within perhaps two weeks, the Soviet spokesman responded that a further delay would be helpful.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
14 JULY 1967

1. Congo

All US citizens in Kisangani (Stanleyville) are evidently safe following the rebel withdrawal.

Seven US citizens--wives and children of missionaries--were evacuated yesterday. The evacuees report that the remaining US missionaries are unharmed, and they believe that two US soldiers who were in Kisangani when the fighting broke out are also safe.

Two more evacuation flights are scheduled for today. It is still not clear whether the rebels took any hostages with them when they left.

2. Nigeria

The federal campaign is still bogged down.

3. Middle East

The Soviets are trying to get Arab approval of a compromise resolution in the General Assembly based on withdrawal of Israeli forces and termination of the state of war.

50X1

The Soviet draft resolution calls for Israeli withdrawal without fixing a time limit. Discussion of other aspects of the problem--such as ending the state of war--would be transferred to the Security Council, where discussions would begin "as soon as withdrawal starts." Up until now, Moscow has insisted that there can be no solution until Israeli forces have been pulled out.

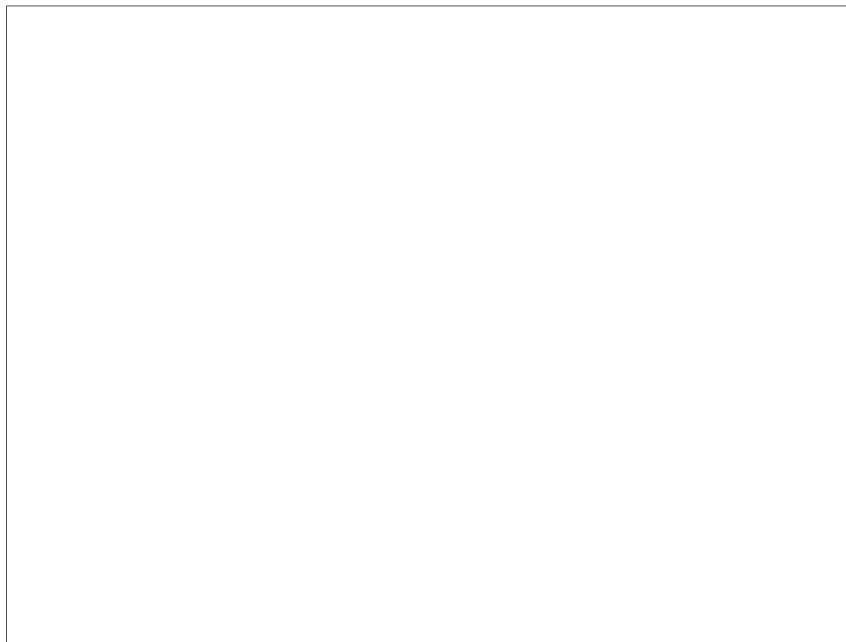
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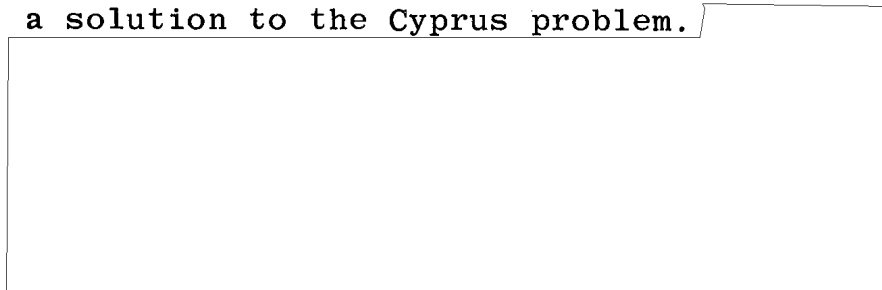
4. Hong Kong

The local Communists are planning new ways to harass the Hong Kong authorities.



5. Cyprus

There are a few more signs of interest in both Athens and Ankara about a solution to the Cyprus problem.



6. South Vietnam

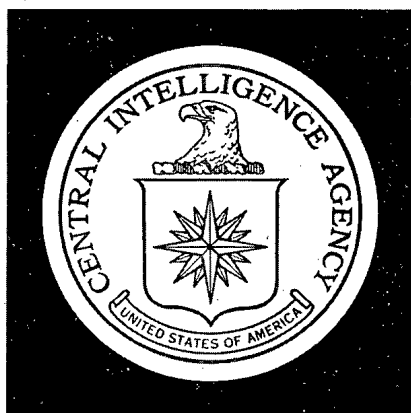
Two national assembly deputies believe the assembly will approve "Big" Minh's bid to run for the Presidency.



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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 15 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
15 JULY 1967

1. Soviet Union -
Egypt

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2. Israel

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The Israelis are puzzling over what to do with all that Soviet equipment they captured from the Egyptians last month.

They say they have given up the idea of using the tanks, because of the spare parts problem. On the other hand, they have accumulated such a huge stockpile of Soviet artillery weapons and ammunition that they are seriously thinking of adopting selected calibres.

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50X1

3. South Vietnam

50X1

4. Burma

Peking has not helped the Burmese Communists much with its recent strong endorsement of them. Ne Win, in a clear-cut warning to local Communists not to act on the Chinese call for his overthrow, has arrested about 100 left-ists identified with various pro-Peking front organizations.

So far the only local Communist response to Peking's nudging has been to scatter a few leaflets in a town north of Rangoon.

5. Rumania - Soviet Union

The Rumanians seem to be doing some independent snooping regarding the Soviet armed forces.

how many ships
the Soviets keep in the Mediterranean.

50X1

Rumania did not attend the last two Warsaw Pact military intelligence conferences. It may be that it has been cut off from normal pact sources on Soviet military deployment.

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6. Congo

The Congolese army and some civilians have gone on a rampage of looting and living it up in Kisangani (Stanleyville). Less than half of some 100 Europeans holed up in a hotel have so far been brought out in Red Cross planes. Eleven more Americans have been evacuated; two American teachers at the local university evidently want to stay.

The whereabouts of the mercenaries who decamped on 12 July is still a mystery. Evacuees report, however, that the mercenaries took with them large numbers of Congolese whom they had recruited.

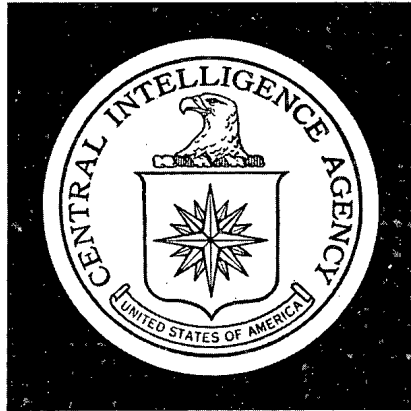
7. Nigeria

There has been no change in the military situation in the northwestern corner of the Eastern Region (Biafra), but in the northeast a provincial capital seems to have fallen to federal forces.

Most of the 145 Peace Corps volunteers in the region have been put out of jobs because the schools have been closed. In view of this and the fact that the Lagos government objects to their continued service in the Eastern Region, their early evacuation is planned.

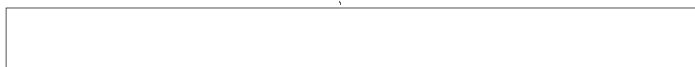
Both sides are continuing to rummage around for arms. The federal government is said to have bought six armed Czech jet trainers for delivery later this month. One ship has run the federal blockade and delivered small arms and ammunition to the Eastern Region.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 17 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
17 JULY 1967

1. Congo

The evacuation of foreigners wanting to leave Kisangani has been completed. Embassy officers describe Kisangani as a dead city. Looting by Congolese soldiers and civilians has been at an all-time high.

It now appears that the rebels when they moved out last Wednesday took some European but no American hostages.

2. Nigeria

The federal military effort against the East is moving ahead slowly.

3. United Nations

The General Assembly which reconvenes today will apparently continue for at least a few more days while last-ditch efforts are made to work out a substantive resolution. The Soviets have been meeting with the Latin Americans over the weekend to discuss a compromise text, but it is doubtful that the Arabs can be persuaded to go along.

4. United Kingdom

Britain is set to announce tomorrow its intention to pull out of Singapore and Malaysia by the mid-1970s. The efforts of numerous governments to change or delay this decision have succeeded only in getting London to make the withdrawal contingent on conditions prevailing East of Suez by the 1970s.

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5. Poland

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6. Soviet Union

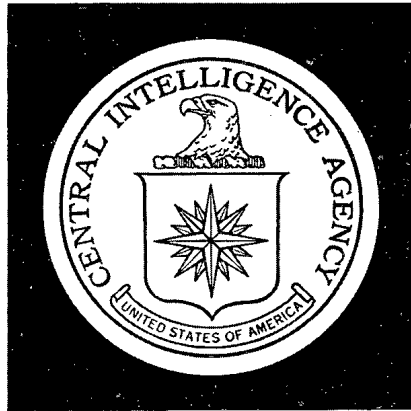
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**7. Communist China -
Cambodia**

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 18 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
18 JULY 1967

1. South Vietnam

The Assembly's election committee yesterday voted to disqualify the Thieu-Ky ticket. Even though the Assembly as a whole is expected to reverse the decision later today, the committee's action is not sitting well with the top military leaders, who are now meeting to decide what to do about it.

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The election committee also approved "Big" Minh's candidacy, an action the whole Assembly is expected to uphold.

Ky and Thieu appear to have reached agreement on how to use Ky's campaign apparatus to support their ticket. Ky's organization will be merged with Thieu's much smaller one, and a "central committee" formed to oversee the whole operation. Thieu will name the "secretary general," but Ky's men will actually run things.

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2. Vietnam -
Philippines

Embassy Manila says Filipinos are "agog with excitement and admiration" over Marcos' swift and secret foray into Vietnam on Sunday. Press accounts approvingly compare it to President Johnson's similar visit.

3. Rhodesia -
Britain

An emissary the British have had in Rhodesia for the past three weeks found no give in the position of the Smith regime. There is little prospect for an early break in the impasse.

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4. Soviet Union - Syria

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5. Nigeria

All US government personnel, including AID contract employees and Peace Corps Volunteers, are being evacuated from the Eastern Region except for an augmented Consulate staff at Enugu. Arrangements are also being made to remove in the next few days all other non-Nigerians who wish to leave.

There is no change in the military situation.

6. Congo

The retreating mercenaries have stopped in the Punia area to the south-east of Kisangani. President Mobutu has told Ambassador McBride that his troops would have a tough time driving them out of this inaccessible jungle area. He believes, however, that he has pretty well bottled them up by ordering all bridges on key escape routes blown up.

Mobutu half expects the mercenaries to get out by air. He admitted that his government had no way to stop them.

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7. Laos

Ambassador Sullivan has told Premier Souvanna that he will hold up replacing the ten T-28s lost in the Communist penetration of Luang Prabang airfield Sunday until positive improvements in the security of the field are made. Souvanna indicated that as a first step he planned to fire the responsible Laotian commander.

In the meantime, the remaining T-28s will continue to stage combat missions out of Luang Prabang but will overnight at the more secure Vientiane airfield.

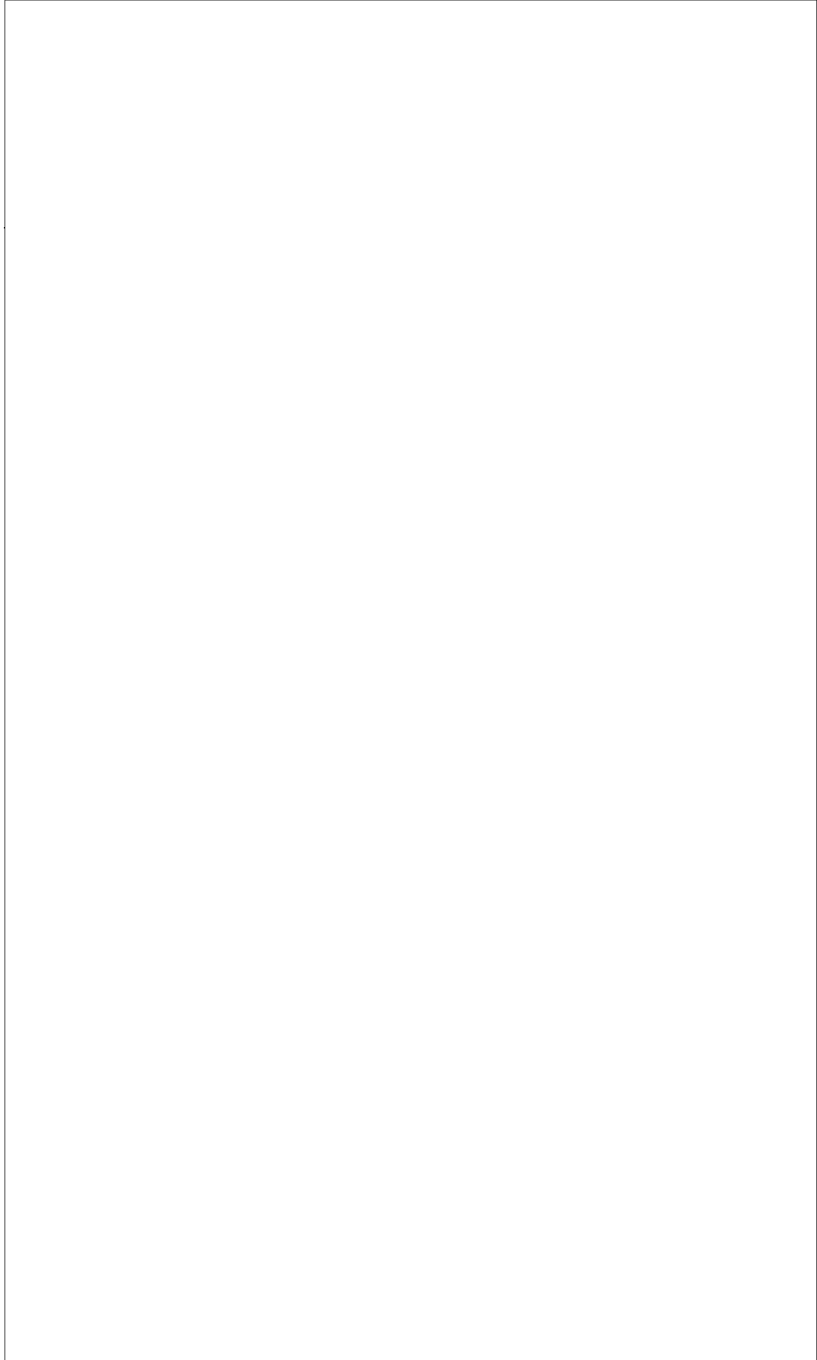
8. Panama

Last-minute difficulties have arisen which may set back the timetable for completion of action on the three draft treaties dealing with the Canal issue.

Foreign Minister Eleta, for one thing, has claimed that the map accompanying one of the draft treaties shows larger areas earmarked for US bases and smaller areas for joint administration than the negotiators agreed to. Also, many government leaders are said to think President Robles should delay coming to Washington and that the ratification process should be put off until all the drafts in the package have been more thoroughly studied.

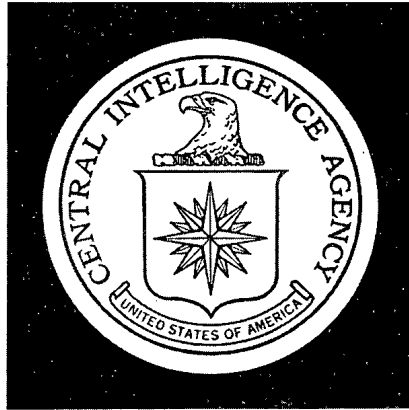
9. Middle East

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
19 JULY 1967

1. West Germany

Kiesinger has given Ambassador McGhee a run-down on his recent meeting with De Gaulle.

When Kiesinger said he could not understand De Gaulle's anti-American attitude, the General replied he was not hostile to America--he merely wants to prevent US domination of Europe. When Kiesinger said Europe should also be independent of the Soviet Union, De Gaulle replied that "whiskey might conquer the world, but never vodka."

As for the Middle East, De Gaulle said the Soviets made a great blunder by believing they could create a situation that would force the US to engage itself there. De Gaulle claimed he had told Foreign Minister Eban that Israel must not strike first, but added that he was "afraid" President Johnson had not been so firm with Eban. De Gaulle said his present policy was based on a desire "not to drive the Arabs into the arms of the Soviets."

De Gaulle was adamant against UK entry to the Common Market, and felt that China poses a "very real" problem for the Soviets.

Kiesinger thinks that, on the whole, the meeting has improved German-French relations.

2. South Vietnam

The Assembly's approval yesterday of the Thieu-Ky ticket (overriding the recommendation of its special committee) was expected. Even so, the military--in no mood to take chances--put on the pressure by threatening to void the constitution and arrest the assemblymen.

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3. France

De Gaulle is still fishing in the troubled Mid-East waters.

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Up till now De Gaulle has badgered the Africans only on issues directly affecting France.

4. Common Market

There are some signs that the long-term outlook for British entry may have improved.

London seems to have convinced the Five that it would not become an ally of De Gaulle's nationalism. Some of the Five have been encouraged to take a stronger stand by what they see as increasing opposition to De Gaulle within France. Glassboro and the Middle East crisis seem to have brought home to many Europeans the necessity for uniting if Europe is ever to play a major role in world affairs.

None of this means that De Gaulle will not fight furiously in the early rounds, but it may encourage the British and the Five to stay in the ring.

5. Cyprus

King Constantine, when recently asked about rumors of a Greek coup in Cyprus, said nothing had been decided.

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his remarks reinforce our belief that the military government has as yet no firm policy on the Cyprus problem.

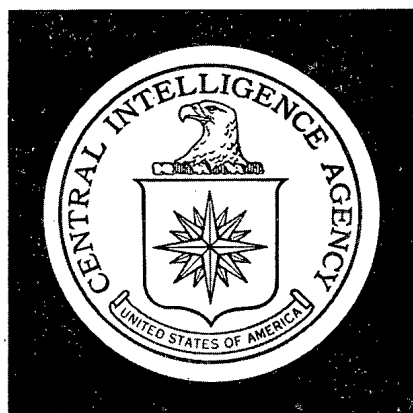
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6. Nigeria

Eastern troops are now raiding behind the federal forces, who may be overextended and short on supplies. We still see no quick end to this war.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
20 JULY 1967

1. North Vietnam

50X1

2. Panama

There are more angry words coming out of Panama on the treaty question. The main problem now is that President Robles' rush for quick ratification is not going over well with a number of pro-government politicians. Some of these influential people are saying that if Robles pushes too hard and too fast, the National Assembly will turn the treaty down.

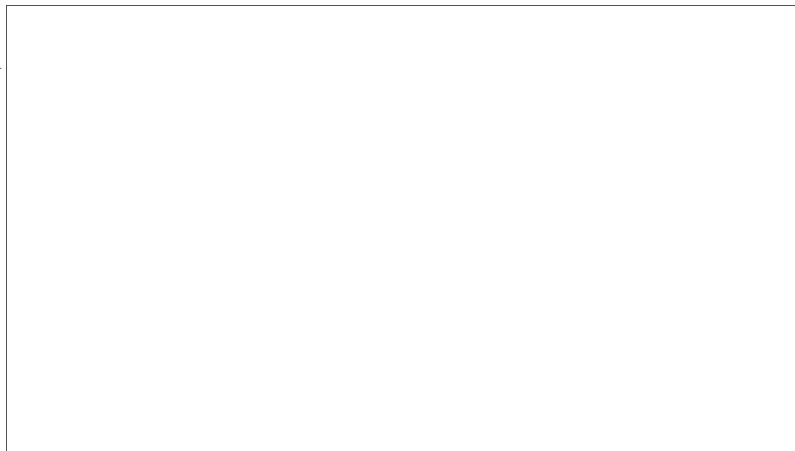
Because of the problems with the treaty, Robles has decided on a further postponement of his trip to Washington.

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3. Brazil

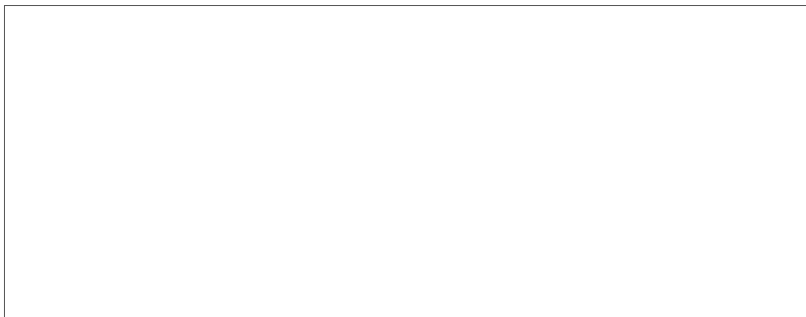
The Brazilian Air Minister says his government is moving ahead with the deal with France for 20 Mirage jet fighters.

4. Rumania



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5. Yemen



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6. France

Ambassador Bohlen understands that at least the initial drafts of the speeches De Gaulle will give in Canada contain no anti-American material. Although De Gaulle has a total of five days aboard ship to put in his own touches, the consensus in Paris is that the speeches will cause more pain in Ottawa than in Washington.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
21 JULY 1967

1. Soviet Union

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2. Soviet Union - Middle East

The United States Intelligence Board yesterday approved Special National Intelligence Estimate 11-13-67 on Soviet policy toward the Arabs. Here are its main points.

--Despite the Arab collapse last month, Moscow still wants to expand its influence in the Middle East, using the radical Arab regimes to undermine US influence.

--Soviet leaders have a tricky problem, however, in trying to woo the Arabs by giving them arms while at the same time avoiding another Arab-Israeli war.

--The Soviets already have replaced much of the aircraft and some of the other equipment the Arabs lost in the war, and have probably given general assurances that all of the losses will be made up.

--Final decision on ultimate supply levels, however, will probably be delayed. Moscow will want to keep both its political and material support from going beyond a point likely to stimulate provocative Arab moves or pre-emptive Israeli action.

--Moscow has already expanded its presence in the area, and a further influx of Soviet advisers, instructors, and technicians can be expected. The Soviets will continue to be leery of formal base agreements and will almost certainly avoid signing defense pacts, but we expect an increased Soviet military presence in Arab ports and military facilities.

3. Mexico - Communist China

The rag-tag batch of leftists the Mexican police picked up Wednesday were more adept at crime than at subversion. They were arrested in connection with a recent bank robbery. Even so, the Chinese were giving them about \$1600 a month.

4. North Vietnam

A recent editorial in Hanoi's party newspaper admits that the economy performed badly during the first half of this year.

The early rice crop was said to be "reduced"--that is, smaller than last year's mediocre crop. Both natural causes and poor management were blamed for this. We have other evidence that drought is continuing to threaten the rice crop, and we think there is little chance that Hanoi can reduce the food imports that have reached record levels this year.

As for industry, output is said to be "stabilized" and local industry to have performed "fairly well." These are the weakest claims ever made, and almost certainly mean that production has lagged behind plans, or possibly even retrogressed from last year.

5. Soviet Union

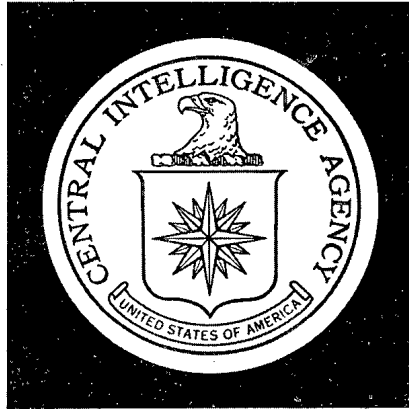
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6. Communist China

More demonstrations against Liu Shao-chi are in the wind. A renewed drive against his alleged followers throughout the country can be expected to sharpen the political infighting, which has already virtually brought government to a standstill in some provinces and has disrupted economic activity and rail traffic.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 July 1967

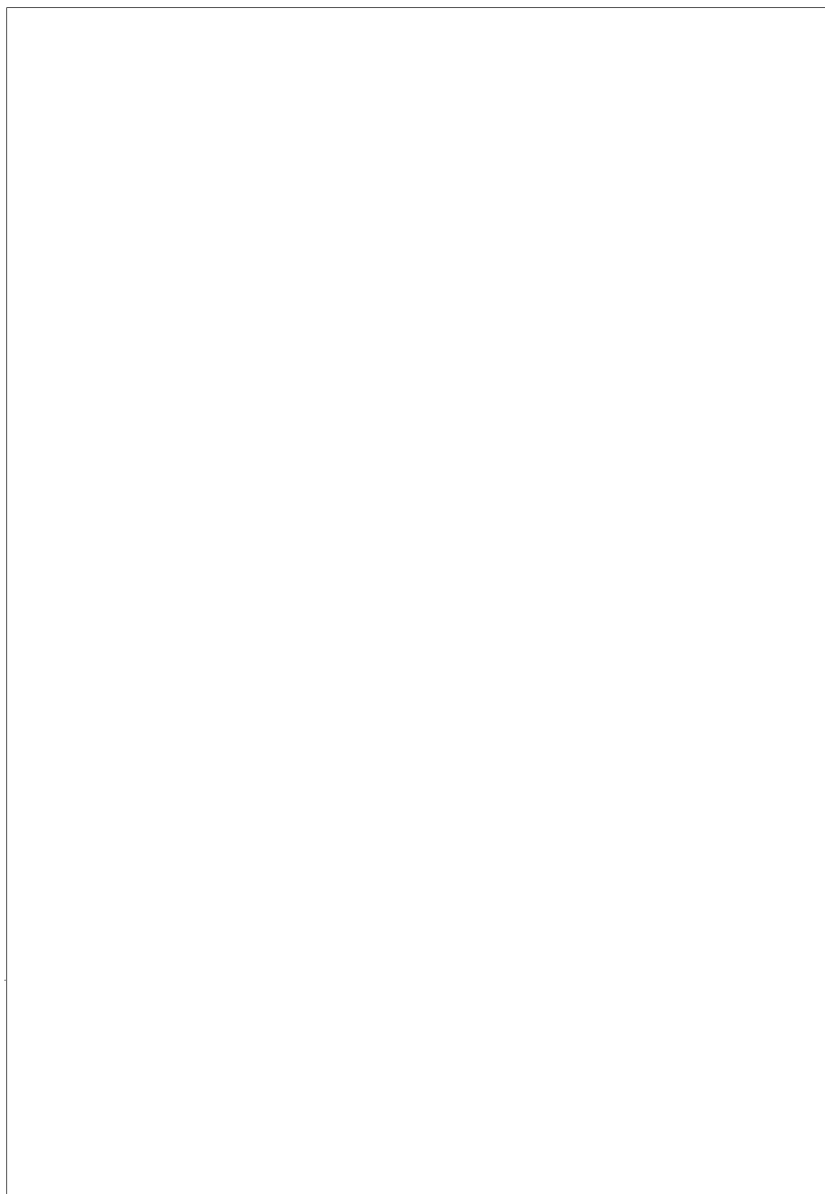


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DAILY BRIEF
22 JULY 1967

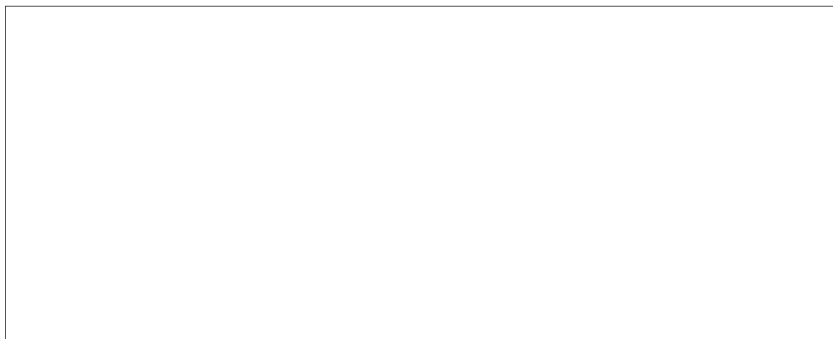
1. Soviet Union

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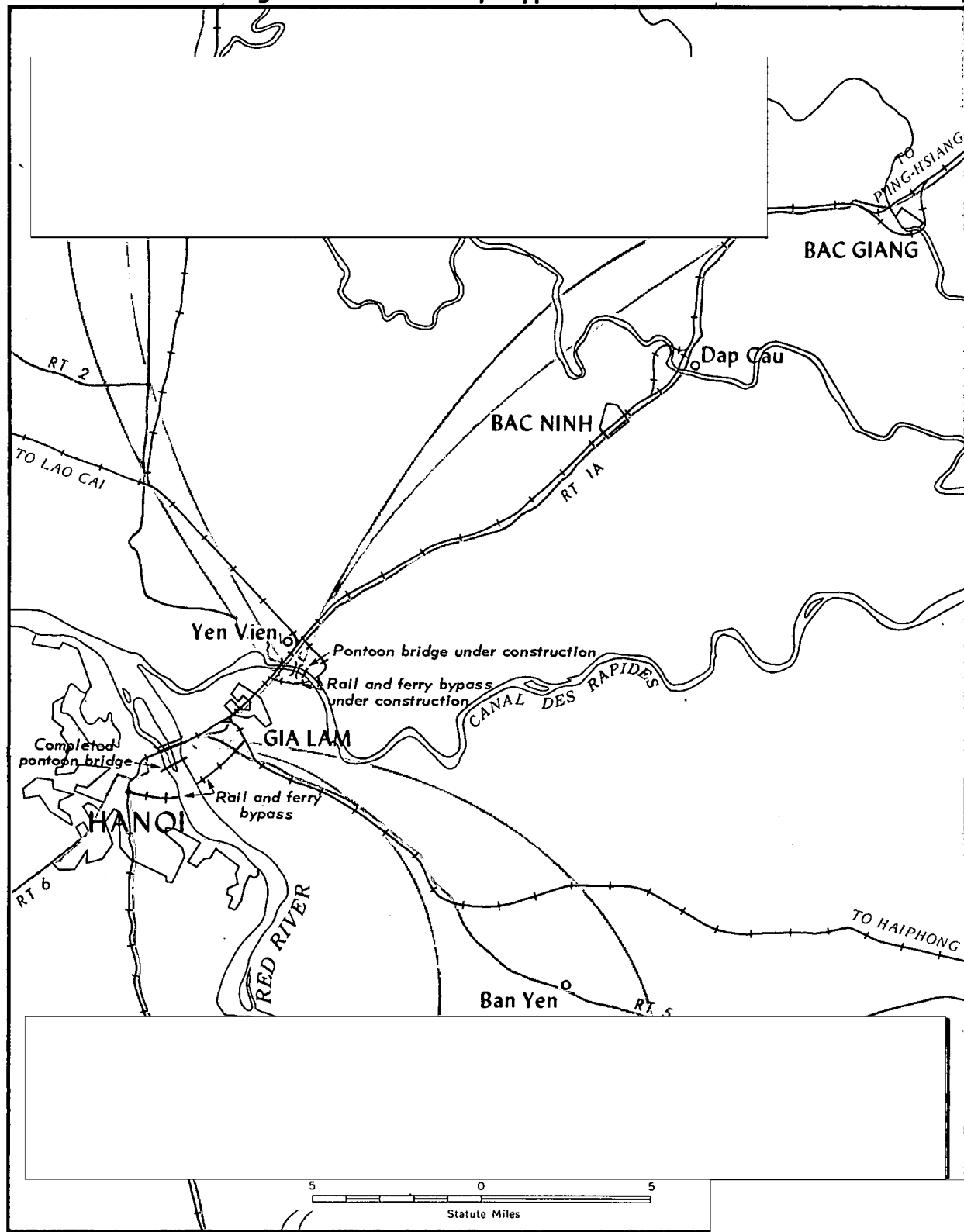
2. Jordan

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HANOI AREA - Bridge and Rail Ferry Bypass Construction



67426 7-67 CIA

3. North Vietnam

Hanoi is making elaborate preparations to keep its key rail lines open.

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Recent photography shows that the North Vietnamese have already completed a pontoon bridge and ferry bypass for the mile-long Doumer Bridge across the Red River just east of Hanoi--a bridge that has not been attacked.

Similar precautions have been noted for the nearby Hanoi Railroad-Highway Bridge which was damaged by air strikes in April.

Both of these bridges are on the line between Hanoi and Pinghsiang--the chief route for transporting supplies from Communist China.

4. Iraq

The Iraqis intend to press Moscow for a new arms deal, as well as speeded up deliveries under a 1966 agreement.

5. Hong Kong

There has been no mass violence this week, largely because of tough British action against the militant leaders and their organization. Hardcore Communists, however, are determined to continue the struggle even if isolated bombings are the best they can do. Peking's reaction to the stronger British tactics has been relatively restrained.

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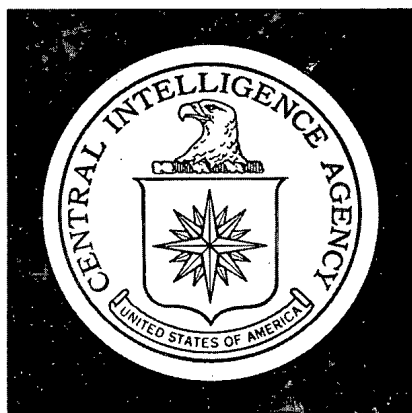
6. Indonesia

Suharto, with great publicity, is reviving the anti-Sukarno campaign. We do not think Sukarno poses any threat, and Suharto probably does not either. But this noisy campaign is drawing attention away from another issue--corruption in government--where Suharto's cleanup efforts are making haste slowly.

7. South Korea

The opposition's boycott of the National Assembly has brought legislative processes to a grinding halt. No early improvement seems likely, since opposition hard-liners are still yelling "we wuz robbed" (in the June elections), and President Pak is still seething over opposition pranks that marred his inauguration. Any proposal to send more troops to Vietnam would require Assembly approval, and the government would be unlikely to act without a consensus.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
24 JULY 1967

1. Egypt

The only thing really new in Nasir's long-winded speech yesterday was his call for an Arab summit conference. Nasir had been throwing cold water on the idea, pushed most avidly by King Husayn. We cannot be certain what caused his change of heart, but a desire to get the ball back from the hardliners--Algeria and Syria--may be part of the answer.

2. Soviet Union -
United Nations

Foreign Minister Gromyko went home empty-handed from the unsuccessful General Assembly session--but with a pocket full of problems for Moscow's Middle East policy.

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3. Jordan -
Iraq

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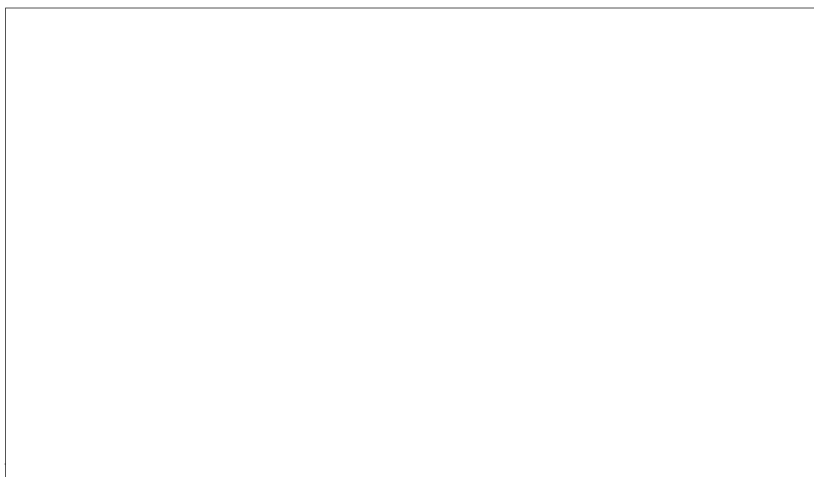
4. South Vietnam

The electorate will have its work cut out for it in the September senate elections. Even after some pruning by the central election council, 48 lists of ten men each are still in the running; only six lists will be elected. Since most candidates are from the Saigon area, the senate will have a definite urban cast whoever wins.

The peasants will be better represented in the lower house to be elected in late October or early November. Local candidates will stand for these seats, and the number from each province will depend on its population.

5. Communist China

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6. Rumania

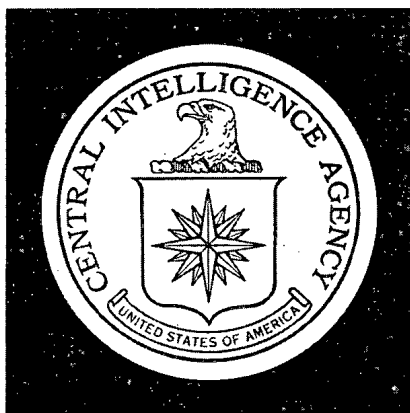
Rumanian party boss Ceaurescu has been getting a lot of advance billing for a speech he will give the Rumanian National Assembly today. He may not live up to some of the wilder rumors about what Rumania will do next to show its independence, but Moscow is clearly worried. Yesterday Pravda made it clear that in the Soviet view, the Rumanians have strayed too far already.

50X1

7. Nigeria

Lagos seems about ready to try amphibious landings in the Port Harcourt area of the Eastern Region. Some 2,000 troops and such naval craft as the Federal government owns are being assembled for the purpose. In the meantime Federal forces along the northern front are supposed to step up the pressure--if they can.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 25 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
25 JULY 1967

1. Saudi Arabia

50X1

2. Rumania

Party boss Ceausescu's speech to the National Assembly yesterday was not the blockbuster rumor had predicted. He did, however, strongly reaffirm aspects of Rumania's foreign policy which run counter to Moscow's line, particularly on such issues as the Middle East and the Warsaw Pact.

The most interesting aspect of the performance was the presence, by invitation, of a correspondent from Radio Free Europe--an unprecedented event in Eastern Europe. Bucharest probably hopes this reporter will be able to get some objective publicity on the Assembly session through to Eastern Europe, where Bloc propagandists normally describe Rumanian policies as disruptive.

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3. Syria

We have a number of reports suggesting that Syria is planning to renew terrorist activities against Israel and is getting ready for guerrilla war. Some of the fire-eaters in Damascus are talking of a "Viet Cong type war." Presumably this would only be possible in that sector of Syria occupied by the Israelis.

Some of these reports may be Syrian-inspired, to build up the regime as leader of the die-hard Arabs. There is, however, some evidence that preparations actually are afoot. Both the Israelis and the Jordanians are taking the Syrian threat seriously.

There are also reports of Syrian moves to resume direct hostilities along the cease-fire line. We doubt Damascus has any such intentions, even though its forces were not as badly mauled as those of Egypt and Jordan. In any event the Israelis will be able to handle anything Syria throws at them.

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4. Nigeria

The federal amphibious task force has sailed from Lagos

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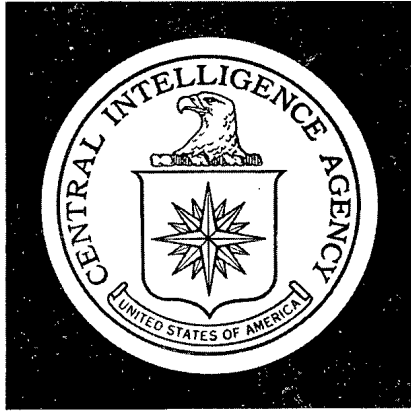
5. Soviet Union

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the Soviets are ready to resume testing of the Soyuz-1 type capsule, possibly this fall.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 26 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
26 JULY 1967

1. Vietnam

Some of the North Vietnamese regiments that had been operating just south of the Demilitarized Zone appear to have been pulled back to positions within or north of the Demilitarized Zone. This may have been dictated by the need for rest, resupply, and reinforcement after ten days of heavy fighting early this month with US Marines.

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2. Laos

The Communists have turned up the heat a bit under the back-burner war in Laos.

Several recent actions--the 16 July sabotage raid on Luang Prabang airfield and increased artillery shelling elsewhere--seem intended to raise pressure on government troops who themselves have been probing into enemy-held territory. We see no signs of a general Communist offensive, but there may be attempts to pick-off some of the more isolated garrisons.

3. Nigeria

The anticipated federal invasion of break-away Biafra appears to be underway. Press reports early this morning claim the landing force has captured the island of Bonny, an oil terminal at the mouth of the channel leading to Port Harcourt, Biafra's main seaport. Elsewhere in Nigeria there is some evidence of growing anti-American feeling, but as yet no physical harm to US citizens or property.

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4. Arab States

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5. Canada

De Gaulle has overplayed his hand.

When he tossed off his cry for "free Quebec" on Monday, he presumably thought of it as another way to emphasize his exhortations to all Canadians to resist the influence of their "colossal neighbor." Actually, the slogan is used by only the small separatist movement and not by French-Canadians generally.

Responsible French-Canadian leaders can be expected to react as adversely to De Gaulle's performance as are Anglo-Saxon Canadians--and the Pearson government.

6. Argentina

Bolivia's inability to round-up the small bands of guerrillas reported operating near the Argentine border is causing concern in Buenos Aires.

Argentina's President Ongania has given the Bolivians some ammunition and he is increasing his security forces along the border. Although Ongania is reluctant to get more directly involved, he is making contingency plans--along with Paraguay--to cover military intervention should that bridge eventually have to be crossed.

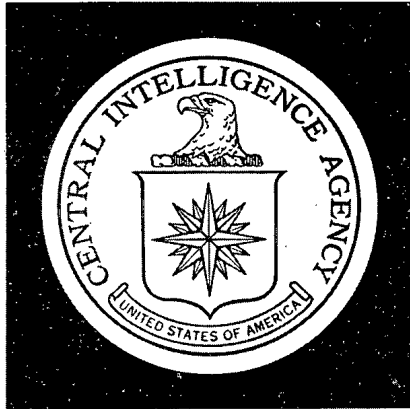
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7. Congo



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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 27 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
27 JULY 1967

1. Communist China

Peking has come close to losing control over the important Wuhan Military Region in Central China. This is where two high party officials from Peking were arrested last week by the local military leader.

At a million-strong demonstration in Peking on Tuesday Lin Piao and a host of other officials denounced military and party leaders in Wuhan. One speaker openly called on the "hood-winked masses" of Wuhan to revolt. An editorial in yesterday's Peoples Daily asserted that Wuhan leaders will be destroyed if they "do not surrender."

Mao's fury at the defiance in Wuhan may be impotent. We have seen no signs that Peking has yet sent troops to the rebellious area. It may be afraid to do so.

2. North Vietnam

The last two OXCART missions-- flown within a 24-hour period--have given us what amounts to a composite picture of nearly the whole country of North Vietnam. With the help of good weather, we were able to obtain cloud-free photography of about 80 percent of the country--and this included all of the particularly sensitive areas.

In the realm of air defense, for instance, these missions provided almost a complete look at surface-to-air missile sites and fighter aircraft.

There were no signs of surface-to-surface missile deployment.

3. Vietnam

Stokely Carmichael has been made a vice-president of an "investigating" unit in Bertrand Russell's "war crimes tribunal."

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4. Soviet Union

Soviet arms deliveries to the Arab States have slowed down, but talks are still going on in Moscow with Arab delegations on further military aid. We have yet to see any sign of the long-term course the Soviets propose to take, but Moscow is putting out the line that the equipment to be resupplied will be "defensive."

5. Pakistan

President Ayub is to include Moscow in the European tour he is planning this September. We understand that Soviet leaders have been urging him to come. They are anxious to offset Chinese influence in Pakistan. Ayub, for his part, would like to get the Soviets to ease up on their strong support for India.

6. France

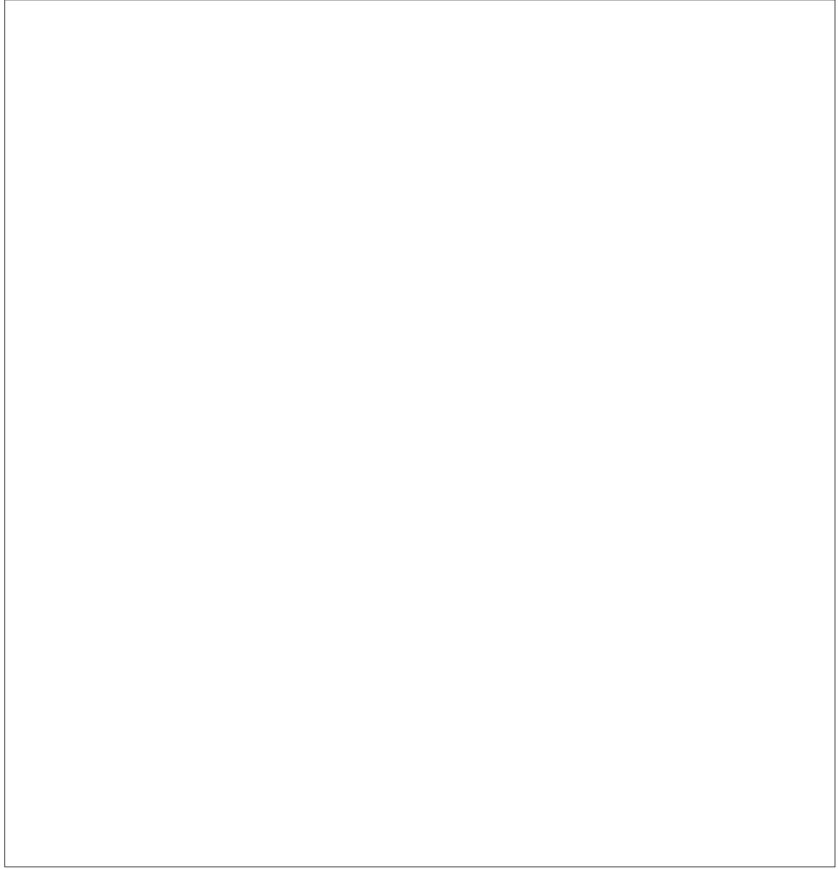
The French have decided to build up some cheap credit with the Algerians early next year by evacuating their last naval base in Algeria some nine years ahead of schedule. The base is not worth much to France now and evacuation will be a big boost to President Boumediene's local prestige.

The infant Algerian navy, however, is not capable of maintaining or operating the base installations.

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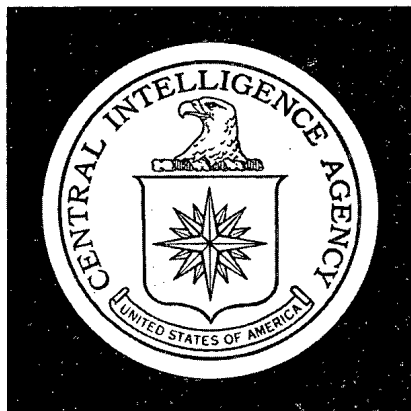
7. Argentina

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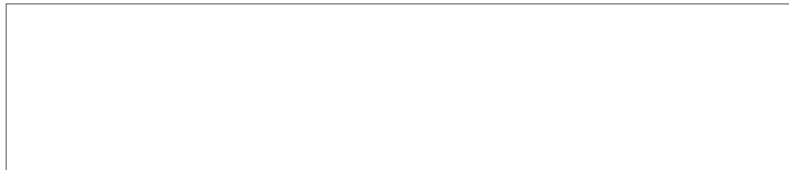
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DAILY BRIEF
28 JULY 1967

1. Communist China

Bloody fighting--at an unprecedented level--has recently broken out in Canton. Travelers say a fierce fight there lasted from Sunday to Tuesday and all rail traffic in the area was shut down during that time.



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In the Wuhan area, late--but still unconfirmed--reports say that the central authorities are now beginning to use paratroopers and other regulars against the dissident forces.

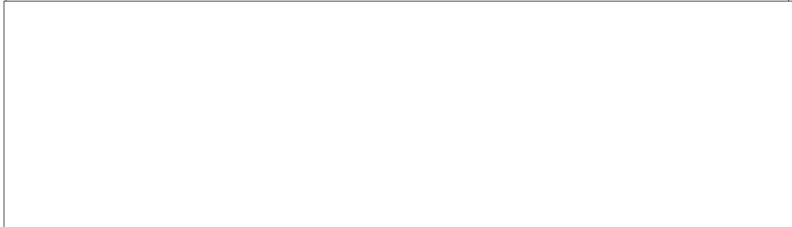
2. Soviet Union -
Mongolia

The Russians are continuing to build up their forces in Mongolia.



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All told, there may well be as many as 10,000 Soviet military personnel now in Mongolia.

3. Nigeria

The federal government's campaign against the East seems to be moving along reasonably well.

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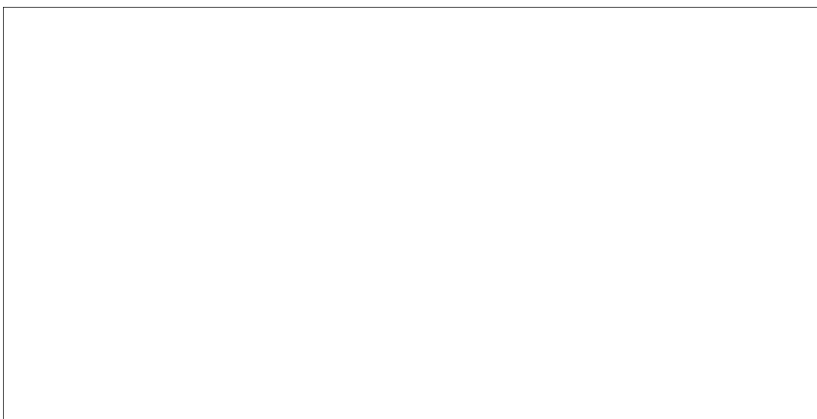
4. France

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[redacted]
[redacted] France is likely to establish some sort of official commercial representation in East Germany "very soon." If it comes off, the East German regime will certainly view this as a major breakthrough in its drive for international acceptance. Paris will represent it as a move forwarding detente, but Bonn will be upset and claim that De Gaulle is supporting a separate East Germany.

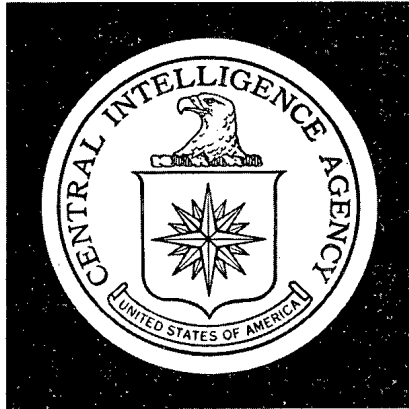
5. Cuba

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**DAILY BRIEF
29 JULY 1967**

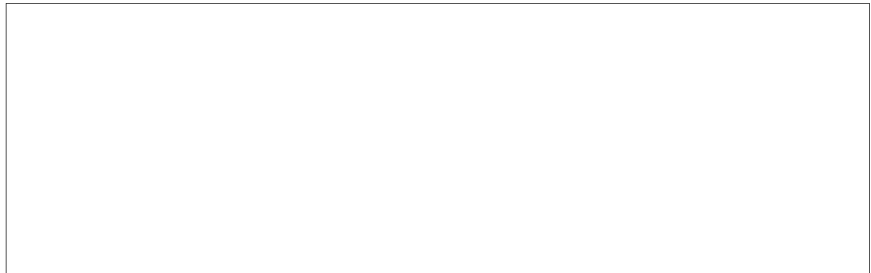
1. Soviet Union

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2. Soviet Union



3. Egypt

Four high-ranking air force and navy officers are said to have been arrested on charges of "high treason" (and alleged CIA connections), suggesting that a purge may be underway. Nasir could use a few scapegoats, and may have decided on a purge--and subsequent show trials--of those "responsible" for the June debacle.

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4. South Vietnam

Press censorship ended a week ago, but Saigon editors are not altogether pleased. One of them complains that he is now burdened by having to decide himself what is and is not dangerous to print.

Another editor notes apprehensively that personnel in the government censorship office are now working "twice as hard." He thinks they are compiling evidence for future use against offending papers.

Despite these worries, criticism of the government has grown in the press. Some papers have openly called for the disqualification of the Thieu-Ky ticket.

5. Communist China

Sharp fighting now seems to be going on in the Wuhan area, with military units involved on both the Mao and anti-Mao "sides." There is still no confirmation, however, that forces from outside the province have been alerted or deployed, despite the seriousness of the situation.

6. France

The French press has been unanimous in pinning responsibility for the Canadian fiasco on De Gaulle personally, although "authorized sources" say it was Canada's fault. Phrases such as "irreparable mistake," "scandal," and "catastrophe" reflect the also unanimous opinion that the government has been hurt both at home and abroad. The government controlled radio-television has made no attempt to hide this overwhelmingly unfavorable press reaction.

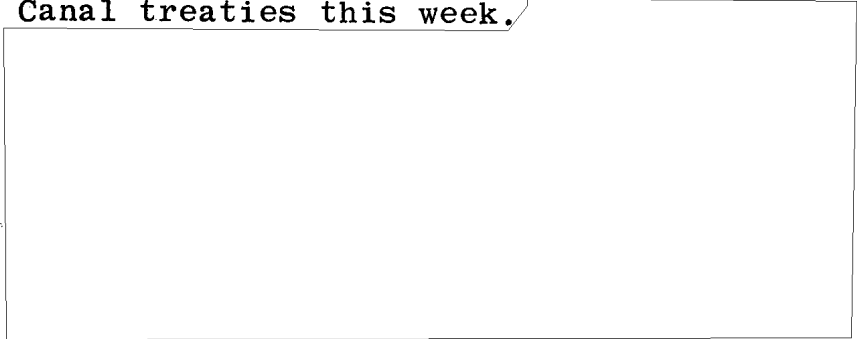
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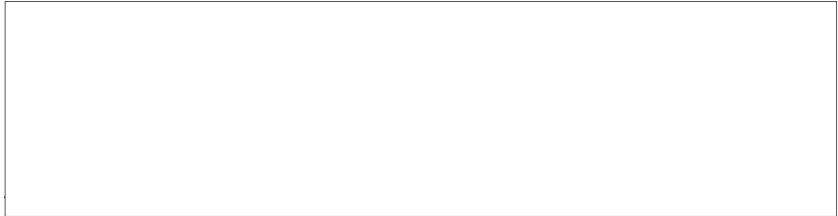
7. Panama

The Foreign Relations Council,
President Robles' influential advisory board, held its first discussion of the
Canal treaties this week. 50X1



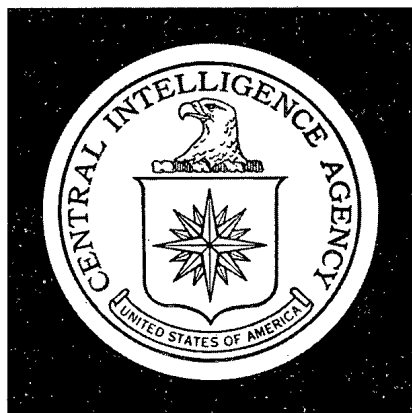
8. Congo

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DAILY BRIEF
31 JULY 1967

1. Communist China

Mao's forces seem to have made a major retreat in an effort to reach an accommodation with defiant military officers.

Several regional military commanders, including the rebellious leader from Wuhan, were in Peking late last week. What emerged from the negotiations is not clear, but Peking broadcasts are now talking mildly and defensively of forgiveness for those who repent. No mention is made of punishment of those officers for whom Peking was demanding severe penalties just a few days ago.

Any agreement with the troublesome regional military leaders is bound to be fragile, however, and it is clear that major problems remain.

2. South Vietnam

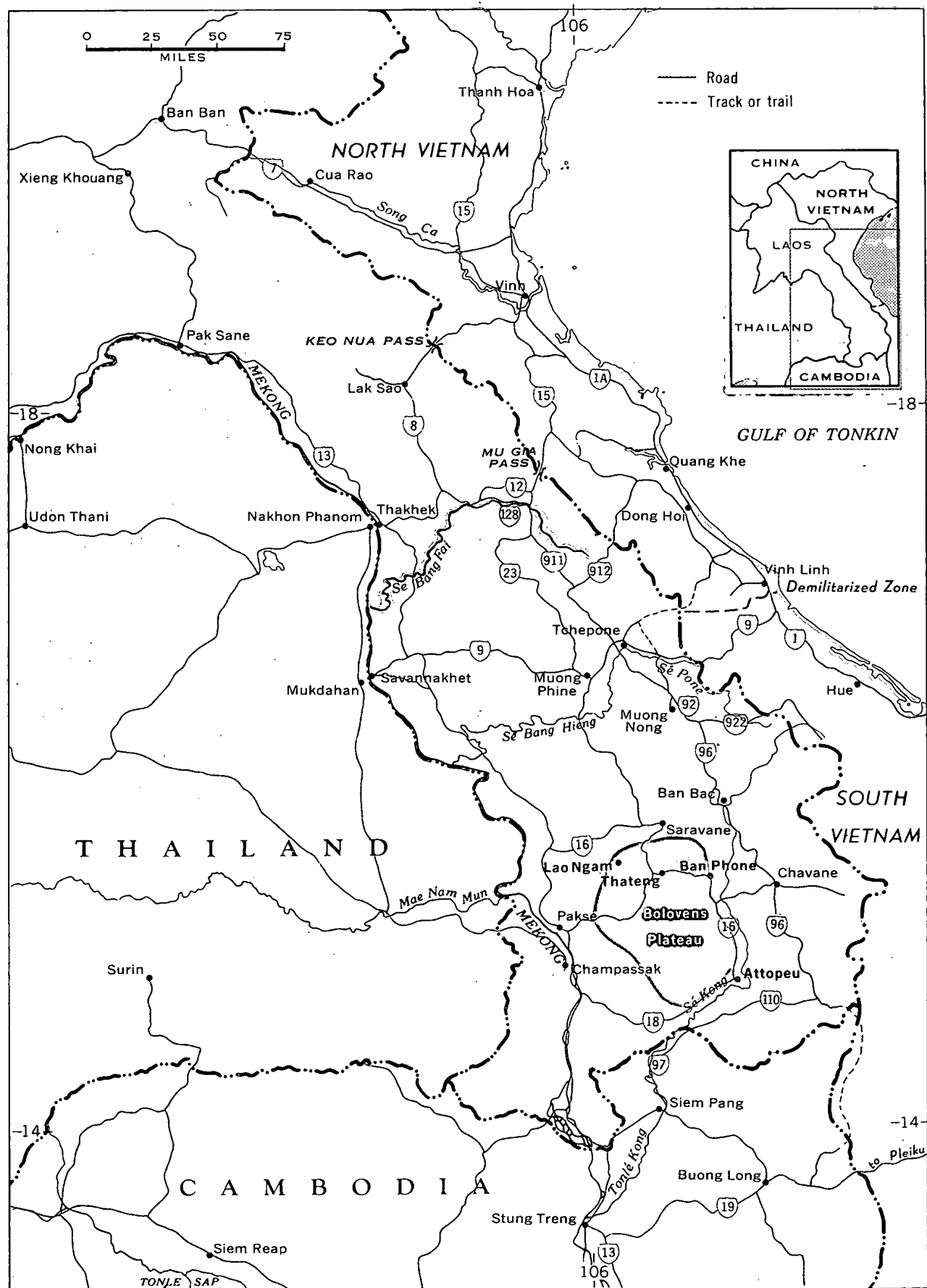
The Thieu-Ky campaign machinery is not yet working as effectively as it should. Part of the problem is resentment in the Thieu camp over the predominance of Ky men in the joint committee--a result of Ky's much bigger and better organized machine before the merger took place.

Continuing mutual distrust between the two leaders is still at the heart of the problem, however.

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3. Laos

Communist forces have made several sharp attacks against government positions in southern Laos in recent days. The attacks were carried out by North Vietnamese troops in the Bolovens Plateau (see map). They are probably intended in part to counter recent government probing operations into the vital infiltration corridor.

4. Burma

The virulent attacks on General Ne Win which Radio Peking has been beaming to Burma for more than a month have recently been hitting the regime where it hurts. Ambassador Byroade points out that some of Peking's comments on Ne Win's economic failures ring quite true. He fears the already dissatisfied Burmese peasants may be receptive to the broadcasts.

5. Israel

Arab resistance is growing rapidly in Israeli-occupied Jordan and in old Jerusalem. Some of this may be inspired by agitators sent in from the outside, but the main cause seems to be mounting popular anger over the harsh Israeli administration.

The Israeli cabinet discussed the matter yesterday and is said to have decided on a "liberal" policy on the West Bank. Still, it was stressed that any organized resistance would be crushed; the danger is growing that some incident may panic the Israelis into bloody reprisals.

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6. Peru

The government was thrown into a constitutional crisis after Congress failed to open its new session on Friday. A disputed election for senatorial officers led pro-government legislators to boycott the opening meeting, thus denying Congress a quorum and preventing its installation.

President Belaunde is probably not altogether unhappy with this development. He had long been frustrated by the opposition-controlled Congress

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The fact remains, however, that democratic processes will be badly shaken in Peru unless this impasse is quickly resolved.

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