

## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 1 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
1 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -  
Israel

No major new developments have occurred overnight, and the danger of an explosion has not diminished.

Israeli Prime Minister Eshkol is being hard pressed by the hawks within and outside his government. Political leaders were deliberating most of yesterday on possible cabinet changes. The result, according to late press reports, was the naming of General Moshe Dayan as defense minister, a post which has been held by Eshkol. Appointment of this hero of the 1956 campaign against Egypt would seem to be a clear gain for the activists critical of Eshkol's moderate line on the crisis.

The Egyptians continue organizing military support among their Arab allies. A high-powered delegation from Cairo made quick visits to Iraq and Syria yesterday [redacted]

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[redacted] Even Morocco has now joined the list of Arab states promising to place troops at Egypt's disposal if war comes.

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King Husayn told Ambassador Burns yesterday that he had felt absolutely compelled to sign the pact with Nasir in order to buy insurance for his regime. He went on to say that he had reluctantly come to the conclusion that the US Air Force training unit in Jordan should be withdrawn. He pleaded for US understanding and said he wants continued close ties with the US.

Husayn, describing his talks in Cairo, reported that Nasir is completely convinced that if Israel attacks, it will only be because the US has given it the green light.

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## 2. Soviet Union

We still believe the current Soviet naval activity in the Mediterranean has no direct relationship to the crisis, despite the US newspaper headlines.

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The Soviets can nevertheless be expected to make the most of their naval presence to indicate their support of the Arabs.

## 3. South Vietnam

Retail prices have gone up for the second week in a row. The embassy suggests that the relative stability of the past three months may be over.

## 4. Common Market

The upshot of the Rome "summit" meeting this week was not a diplomatic victory for De Gaulle. The other five members left him with no doubt that they will continue to press for Britain's early membership.

The next round opens in Brussels on Tuesday when the six foreign ministers get together. The French will likely try again to stall, but they will have trouble preventing some sort of movement forward.

Prime Minister Wilson recognizes that there may well still be a long obstacle course ahead, but he has reason for hope at this point. As Ambassador Bruce points out, Wilson is very hard-pressed now on the home front and has bet nearly all his political chips on the Common Market bid.

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## 5. Nigeria

We see little chance that the country's breakup can be reversed. The former Eastern Region, now the "Republic of Biafra," has a fairly solid economic foundation, thanks largely to its oil resources. The crumbling federal government is talking big about military action to quell the "rebellion," but it probably lacks the muscle to do so.

The secession of the East has greatly increased the danger that order will break down in other areas, particularly in the Western Region around the federal capital of Lagos. The US Embassy has requested and been granted permission to evacuate dependents of US Government and non-government personnel, beginning with those in the most endangered parts of the country.

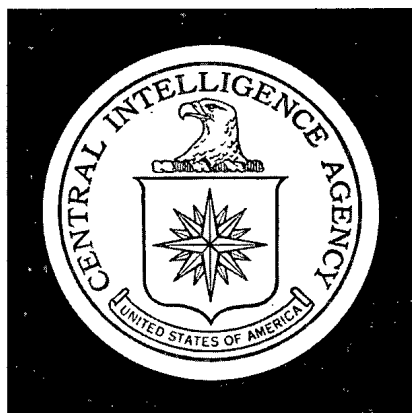
## 6. Guatemala

Rightist vigilantes struck again on Tuesday. This time their victim was a prominent non-Communist congressman, a member of President Mendez' own party.

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 2 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
2 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -  
Israel

Ambassador Barbour says there is no doubt that the Nasir-Husayn pact is heightening the fears in Tel Aviv that time is working against Israel. Press commentary, for instance, is generally along the line that the agreement tightens the time frame in which diplomacy should be allowed to operate.

From the security standpoint, the major Israeli fears are that the pact will strengthen enemy air power and that Husayn will be unable to control the militant Palestine Liberation Organization along the Israeli frontier.

The new Israeli cabinet will be presented to parliament for approval on Monday--General Moshe Dayan will in fact be the new Defense Minister. Another activist will serve as Minister Without Portfolio.

War fever in Jordan, especially among the Palestinian element, continues to mount. Embassy Amman believes that even if fighting can be avoided there will soon be a surge of anti-American sentiment throughout the country.

## 2. Rhodesia

Ian Smith is willing to settle with the British along the lines of their near agreement last December [redacted]

[redacted] Smith is said to be willing even to sack some of his cabinet members of the very far right--one of Wilson's conditions last year.

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An offer by Smith would put Wilson in a very difficult position. He probably would drop his previous requirement for "majority," i.e. African, rule of Rhodesia if he could reach an otherwise acceptable agreement. His advisers almost certainly would back him in a compromise with Smith, as would most of the British public and the opposition conservatives. Labor's left wing, however, would have yet another grievance.

## 3. United Kingdom

There could be some give in Prime Minister Wilson's decision to announce complete British withdrawal from the Asian mainland by 1975. [redacted]

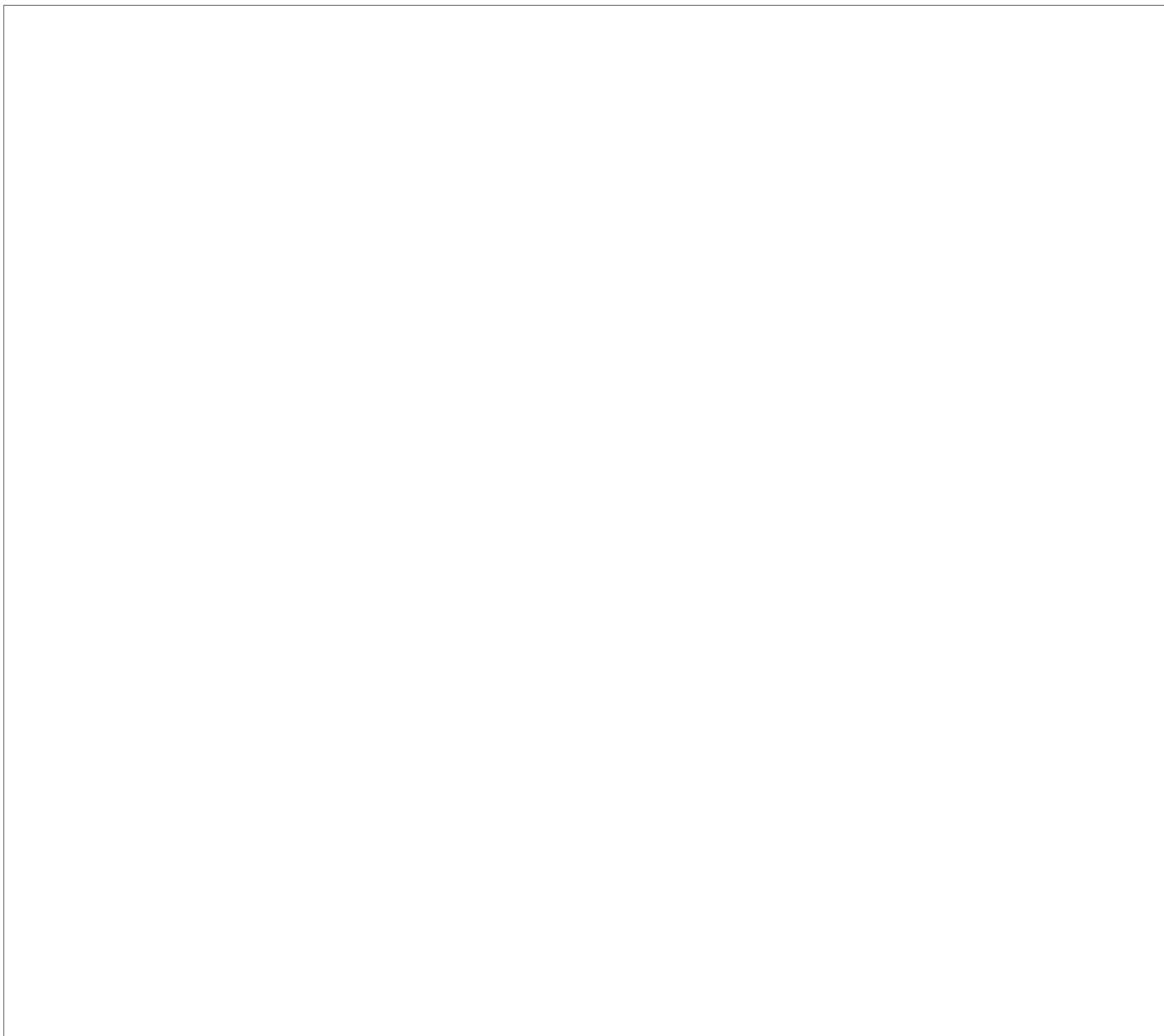
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This of course would represent a considerable victory for the Asian Commonwealth governments, which have argued that an announcement that Britain intends to withdraw would be almost as dangerous to stability as withdrawal itself. If Wilson feels hard pressed enough by his domestic critics, however, he may well decide that an announcement on withdrawal is the best way to improve the climate at home.

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4. Nigeria

A federal military effort to thwart the East's secession seems increasingly likely.

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Any such invasion would likely run into immediate trouble because of the federal army's logistical deficiencies and because the Eastern Army would be fighting on home ground. If Gowon delays until after the heavy rains begin--usually in June--his troops will face even greater problems.

5. Greece

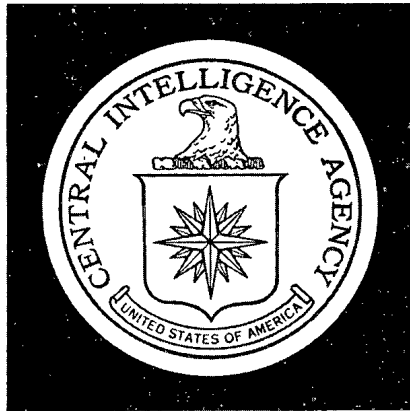
Colonel George Papadopoulos, one of the military triumvirate, has been making a heavy-handed play to get his brother installed as private secretary to the King. So far he has not succeeded, but Ambassador Talbot sees the attempt as a sure sign that the colonel is now bent on neutralizing the palace.

6. Communist China

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 3 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
3 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -  
Israel

Cairo's public threat to close the Suez Canal to any nation forcibly attempting to break the blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba reflects Nasir's determination not to back down on the blockade issue. Foreign Minister Riad told Ambassador Yost yesterday that Nasir's position in the Arab world would be destroyed should he yield, and that Egypt had no alternative but to fight "anyone" who tries to force a passage.

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Yesterday's clash between a group of Syrians and an Israeli patrol was the most serious incident in several weeks. Neither side, however, appears bent on letting it lead to a general engagement.

Damascus is showing some unhappiness over the Egyptian-Jordanian defense pact, and is censoring Egyptian news releases concerning it.

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As for General Dayan as defense minister, Ambassador Barbour believes his standing with the Israeli people and army may actually help Eshkol maintain a moderate policy for longer than would otherwise be possible.

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## 2. Communist China

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## 3. Hong Kong

Communist-led labor unions are said to be preparing for a "violent conflict" with the government--probably an attempt at a prolonged strike to begin today or tomorrow. We doubt the Communists can carry this off; their planning may be intended to boost morale, shaken by the government's firm but unprovocative stance. Whether or not the strike comes off, the British believe the local Communists are settling in for a long-term confrontation.

Peking is continuing its attacks on the British, but at a greatly reduced level.

## 4. Venezuela

President Leoni is getting impatient over Venezuela's inability to get hemisphere support for its denunciation of Cuban intervention. Many in his government feel Venezuela is out on a limb and is beginning to appear ridiculous in the world press. Their frustration is leading to increasing criticism of the US.

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5. Bolivia

This week for the first time an army unit trained and equipped by the US Military Assistance Program tried its hand against the guerrillas in southeastern Bolivia. The encounter was at best a standoff--and has triggered a major review of the government's counterinsurgency effort.

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6. Nigeria

Gowon has so far responded to the East's secession with ineffectual decrees. In the East, Ojukwu seems relaxed and confident, and has appointed a foreign minister even though nobody has yet recognized his "Republic of Biafra."

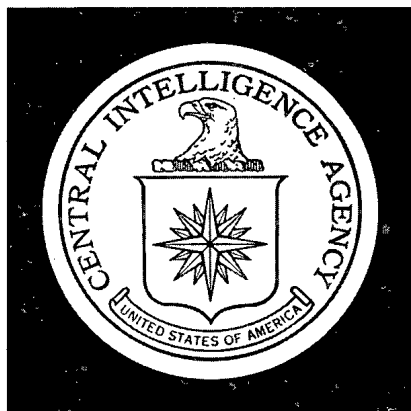
7. Uganda

The Soviet aid program is producing a lot of snickers since word has gotten around that "nine dull brown mechanical monsters" now enroute across Kenya are snow plows from the Ukraine.

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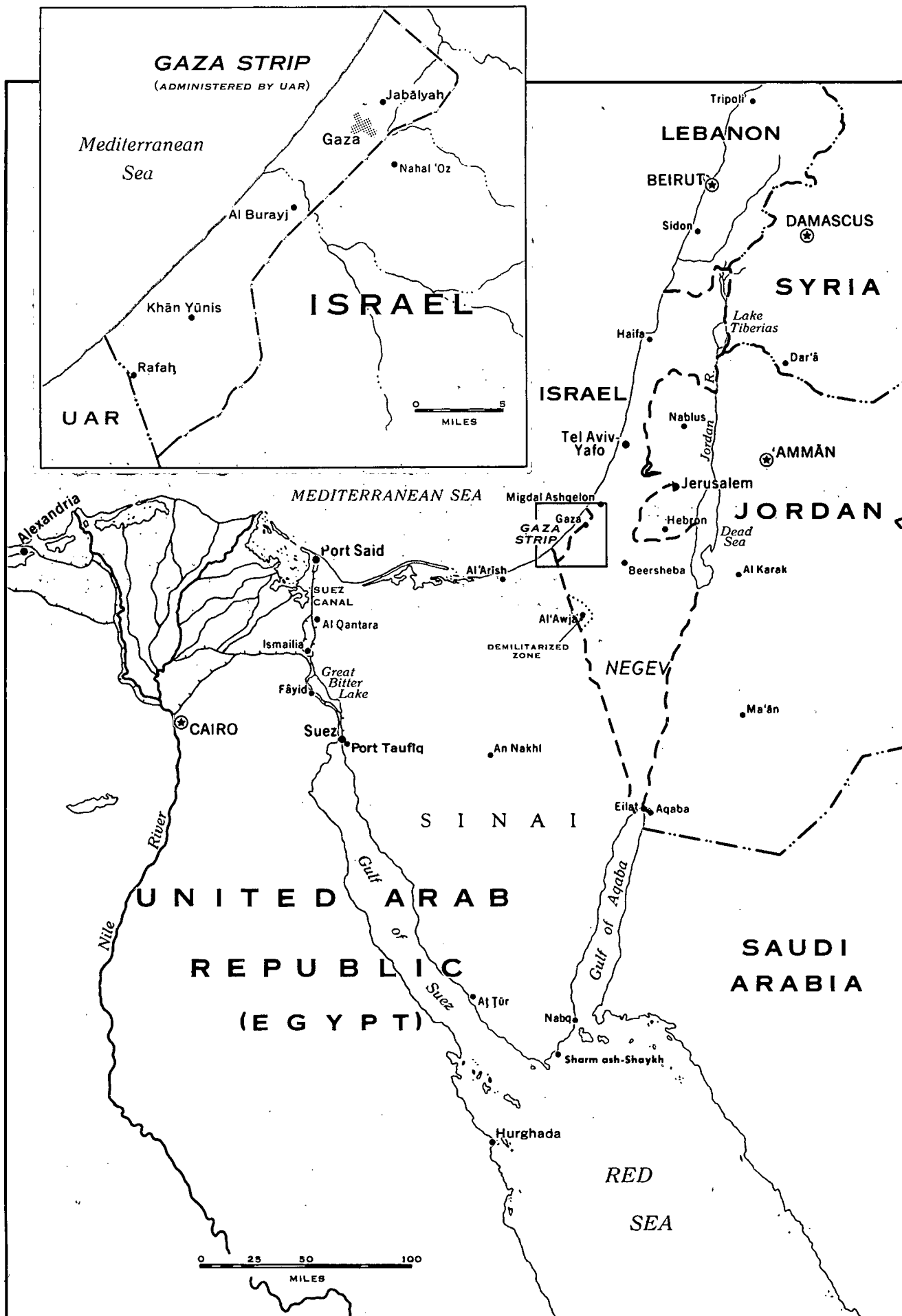


## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 8 June 1967



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LATE ITEM

Arab States -  
Israel  
(As of 5:30 AM EDT)

The Israelis have just announced (according to the press) that Egyptian armored forces have counterattacked "in force" in an effort to fight their way out of the Sinai Peninsula. This could refer to Egyptian troops trapped in the rapid Israeli advance.

DAILY BRIEF  
8 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -  
Israel  
(As of 5:00 AM EDT)

The UN's ceasefire order is being disregarded. Egypt has officially announced it will not comply, and Nasir has personally so informed most other Arab governments. The Israelis may have broken their ceasefire agreement with Jordan.

Early this morning the Jordanian prime minister told our embassy that Israeli tanks were moving into northwestern Jordan. The ultimate aim of such a movement might be to attack Syria. The embassy also says fighting on the Israeli-Jordanian front picked up during the night.

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On the Sinai Peninsula, the Israelis have apparently accomplished most of their military objectives. Yesterday the Israelis approached the Suez Canal so rapidly that they probably cut off the major portion of the retreating Egyptians.

Embassy Cairo believes that public realization of the Arab defeat has generated strong feeling against Nasir, and foreign diplomats in Cairo consider the Egyptians are in a state of panic over the military debacle.

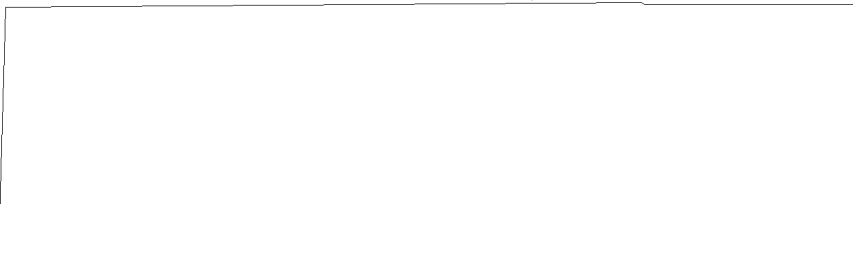
Mobs in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, have damaged US installations, and our consulate in Aleppo has been attacked and burned. As the extent of the defeat sinks into the Arab countries, danger to US citizens still there may increase. Refugees from the fighting in Jordan's West Bank are already streaming into Amman, where they could cause disorder directed at Americans.

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## 2. North Vietnam

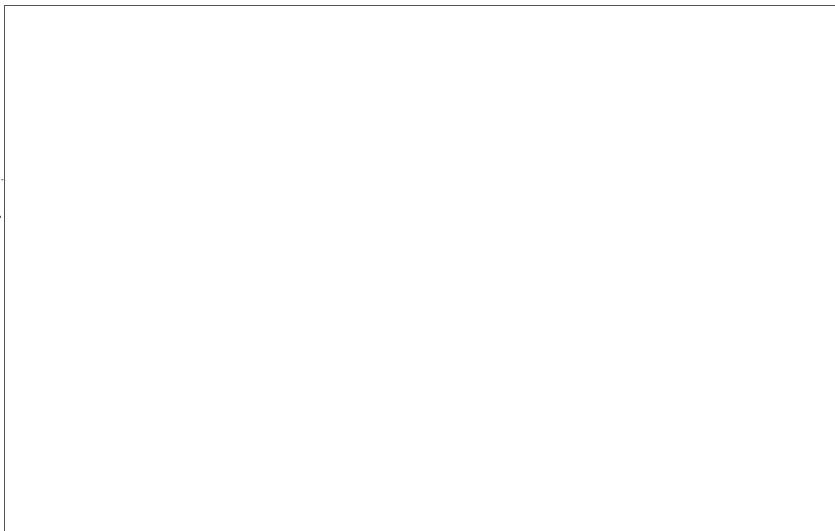
Shipping figures for May show a new monthly high for seaborne deliveries to North Vietnam--147,000 tons. Bulk foodstuffs accounted for nearly half, and petroleum for about a quarter.

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North Vietnamese exports were lower in May than at any time in the past two and a half years. This is primarily because of bomb damage to the Haiphong cement plant and coal facilities at Cam Pha.

## 3. Soviet Union



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## 4. Nigeria

The British, up to now relaxed about or even opposed to evacuating their citizens, are advising British women and children to leave the Eastern Region (or Biafra, as it is now calling itself). This reversal comes from the belief that chances of a Federal invasion are increasing.

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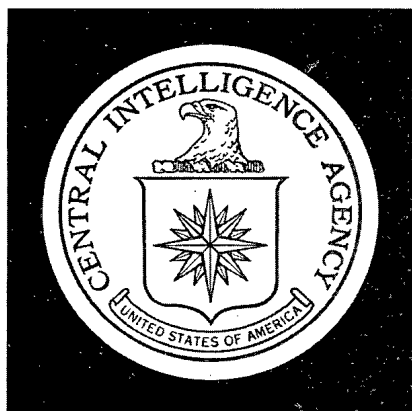
## 5. Thailand

Embassy Bangkok, in a recent assessment of Communist insurgent activity during April, suggests that the insurgents did make modest gains in several areas. King Phumiphon

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may paint a somewhat more alarming picture, however, when he comes to Washington.

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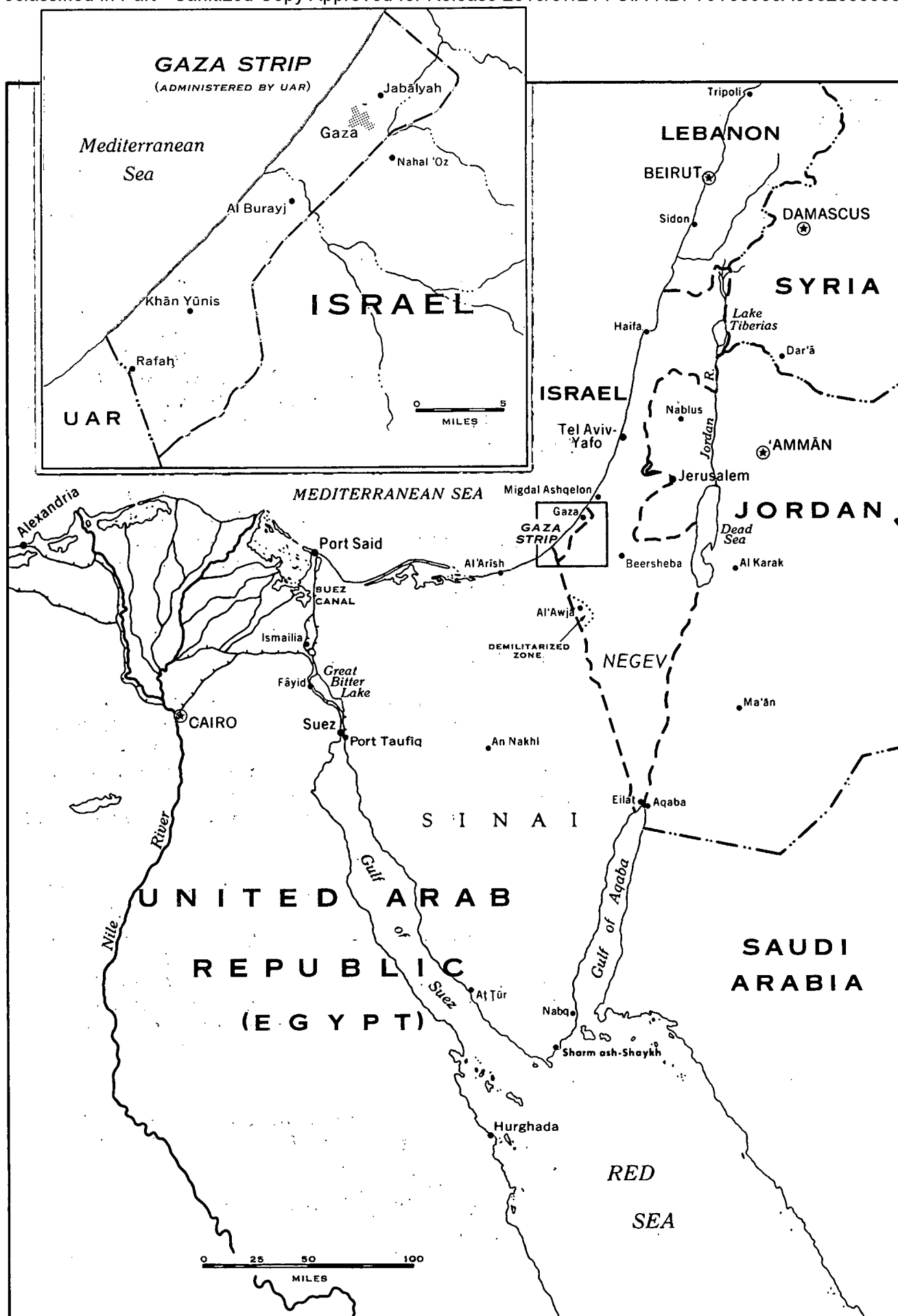
## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 10 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
10 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -  
Israel

The Security Council convened at 4:00 AM this morning in response to an urgent Syrian plea which emphasized that Israeli forces were pushing on toward Damascus. We know that the Israelis have captured a town on the main highway 40 miles south of the Syrian capital. Bombing of military installations around Damascus has been going on since noon yesterday. A late press item from Tel Aviv claims that Damascus is encircled.

We have no confirmation of a story in the Washington Post this morning which says that some 400 Russian advisers are participating on the Syrian side.

On the Egyptian front, the cease-fire remains in force.

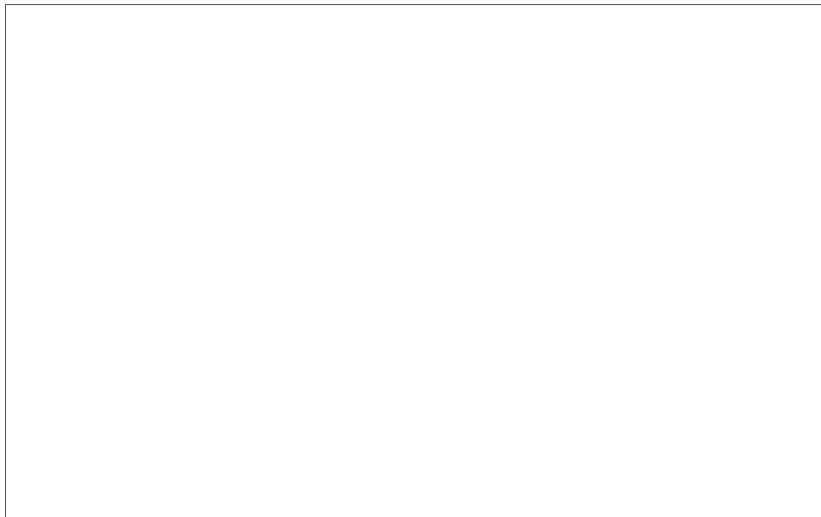
There were mass demonstrations in Cairo last night aimed at urging Nasir to stay on as president. Other Arab heads of state have joined the appeal. The matter is still scheduled to be discussed today in the Egyptian National Assembly.

There was a statement out of Moscow last night on the Middle East following a hastily called Communist "summit meeting" in the Soviet capital. The statement was essentially propaganda. It contained no specific commitments and provided no indications that increased aid to the Arabs is being planned.

No major problems in the evacuation of US citizens from the Middle East were reported over night.

2. Yemen

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3. North Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh's unusual absence from the public scene is leading to speculation that North Vietnam's aging president may be ill.

The 77-year-old Ho has been seen only once in the past three months-- the longest he has been off-stage in seven years. Ho may be ill, but it is quite possible he is taking a lengthy vacation. He has done this in the past.

4. South Vietnam

General Thieu is still reluctant to climb down off the fence and make a decision one way or the other on his presidential candidacy. Several mediators are now working between Thieu and Ky trying to find a face-saving way for Thieu to retreat. Thieu remains noncommittal on what sort of job his ego requires

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5. Cuba

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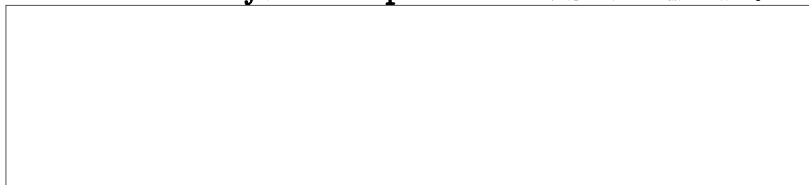
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6. Nigeria:

A federal military move against the East may take place this weekend.

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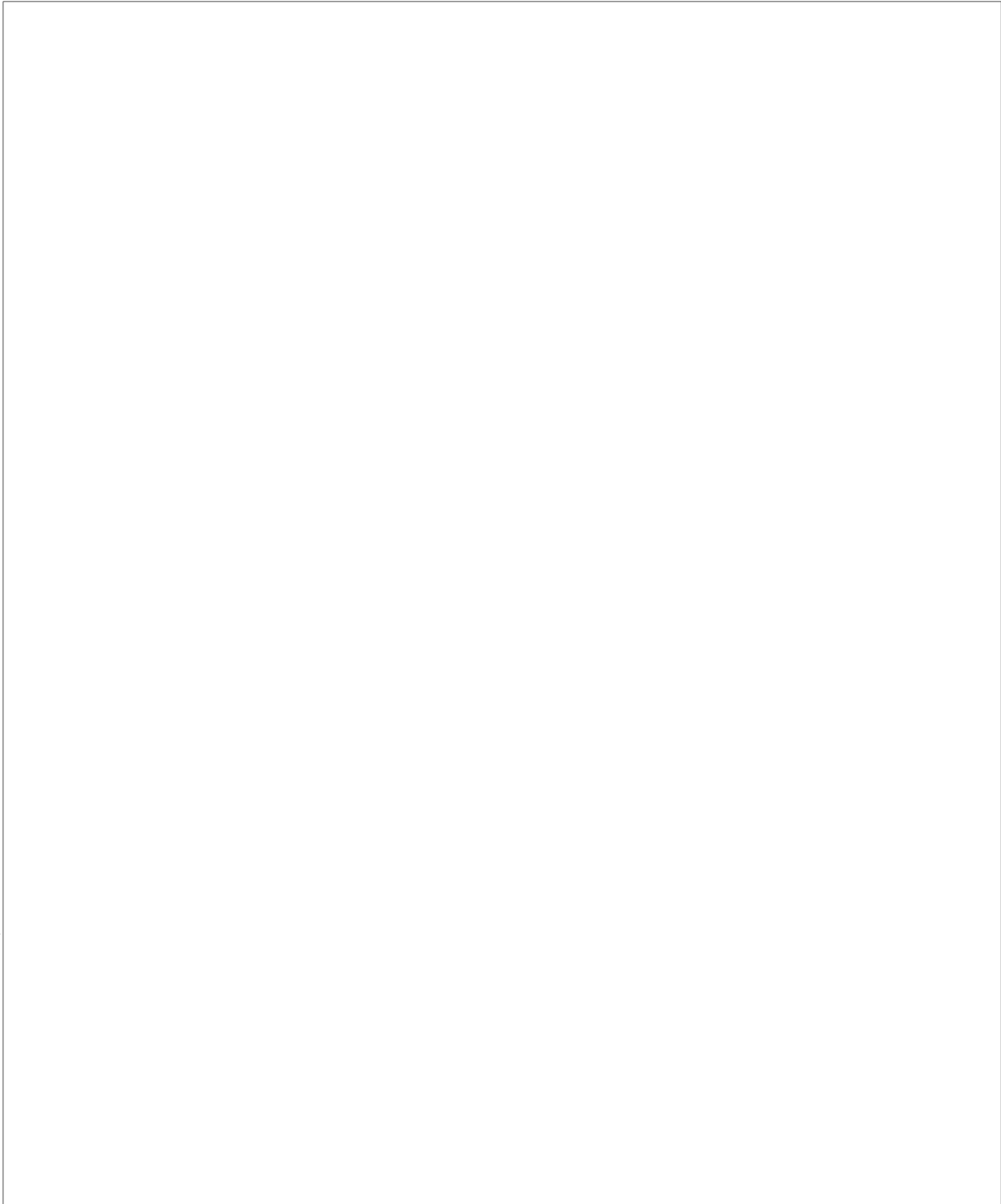
7. Haiti:

The government radio has announced that 19 military officers arrested late last month for "high treason" were executed on Thursday. Some of these people had been close to Duvalier for years. This latest example of the regime's ruthlessness could well backfire if other military aides--distinguished in the past solely by their loyalty--now begin to have doubts about their future.

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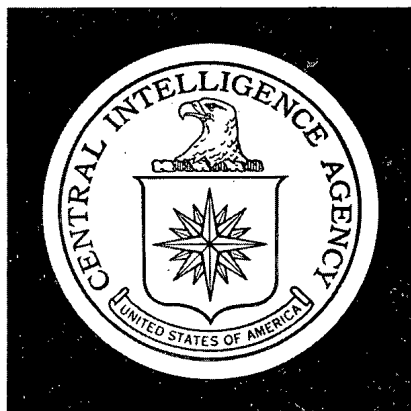
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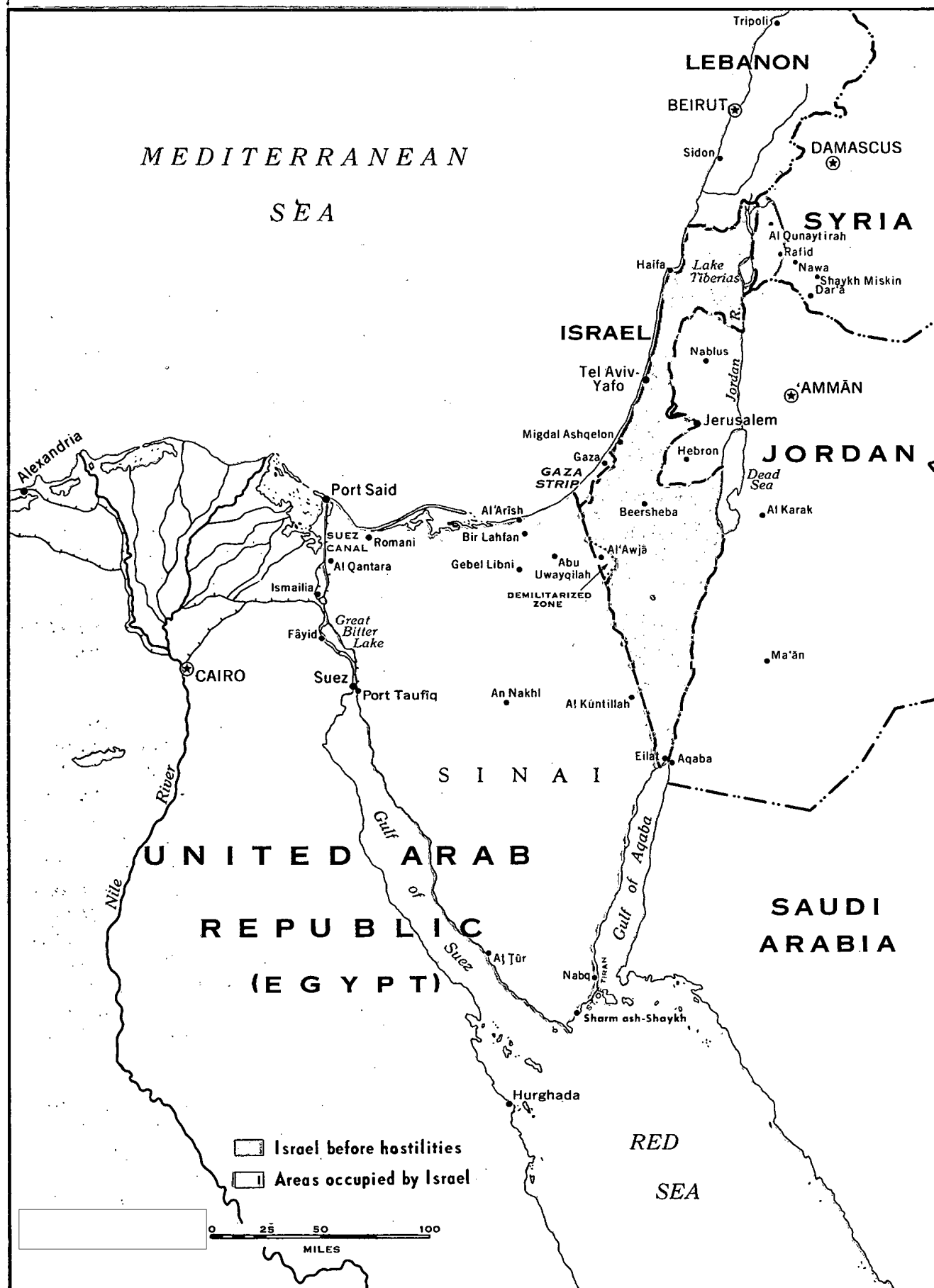
## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 12 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
12 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -  
Israel  
(As of 5:30 AM EDT)

The ceasefire is holding, although some sniping was reported during the night.

Reports from UN observers suggest the Israelis may be guilty as charged at last night's UN Security Council session. These observers claim they saw Israeli tanks moving east of the Syrian village of Rafid yesterday. The tanks reportedly were headed for Shaykh Miskin, a town on the main road linking Damascus with Jordan and well east of the ceasefire line.

Israeli officials are making it clear that they have no intention of giving up all the ground captured in the past week. The Gaza Strip, Jordanian territory west of the Jordan River, and the Syrian high ground overlooking Israeli settlements have all been mentioned as areas Tel Aviv intends to keep.

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## 2. South Vietnam

The Military Directorate continues to diddle with the presidential election law in a manner that is not going to help the already strained relations between the Directorate and the Provisional Assembly which drafted the law.

Friday the Directorate decided that when it promulgates the law, it will simply leave out one article the generals do not like. The assembly had voted earlier to retain this article which deals with the number of officials needed to vouch for, or "introduce," a presidential candidate.

## 3. Soviet Union

The Soviets launched a deep-space mission toward Venus last night.

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This is the eleventh Russian shot at Venus

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The present mission--if it works--will be on target in time for the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution this November.

## 4. Nigeria

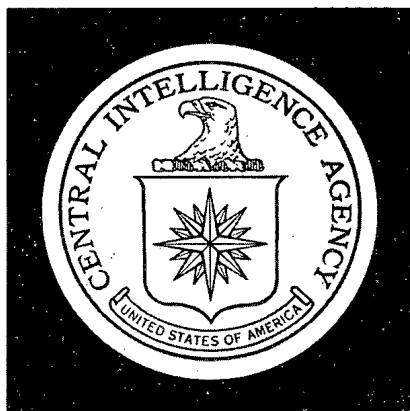
The federal invasion of the break-away Eastern region (Biafra) planned for 11 June apparently has been postponed because of logistics problems. There was a skirmish Saturday on the border between the Northern and Eastern regions, however. An attempt to dynamite an American-owned oil storage tank on the same day suggests there may be a growing danger of sabotage.

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## 5. Somali Republic

Even closer relations with the Soviet Union are probably in store for the Somali Republic following ex-premier Abdirascid's election as president on Saturday. Besides his long history of cozy dealings with Moscow, Abdirascid is also a determined troublemaker where Somali territorial claims against neighboring Kenya and Ethiopia are concerned.

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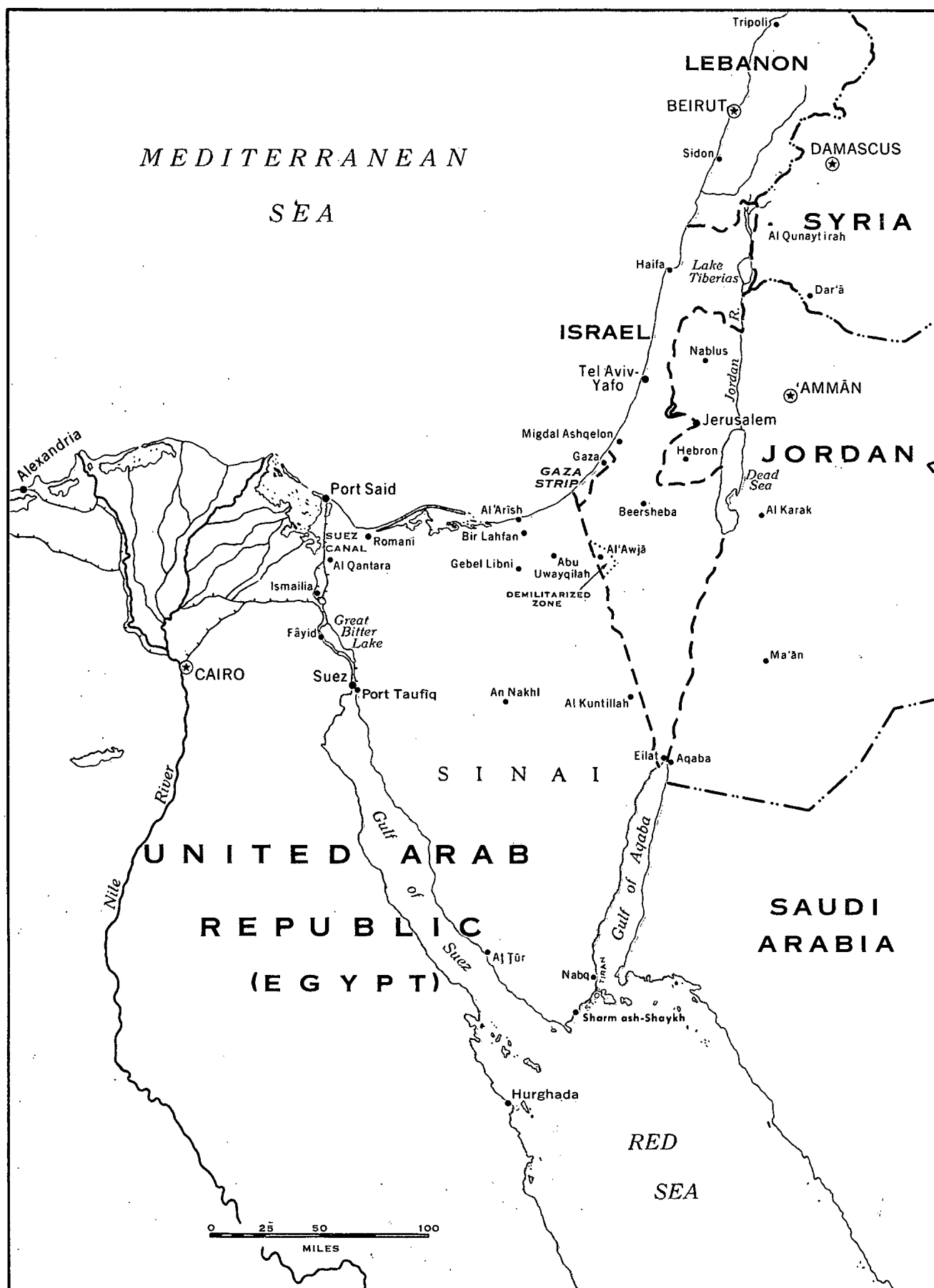


## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 13 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
13 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -  
Israel

The night was generally quiet along the ceasefire lines.

It is becoming clear that the Israelis intend to resist any United Nations effort to mediate a settlement of the war. They claim the right to insist on direct peace negotiations with the individual Arab states. Israeli leaders imply that they will hold on to the Arab territory they now have until the Arabs come around. For the moment they are giving only partial and reluctant assistance to General Bull and his UN staff.

The Arab states are talking again about an emergency summit conference, but no date has yet been set.

The Algerians are coming to the forefront as the most militant of the Arabs.

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The press in Algiers has been complaining that Moscow's policy of "peaceful coexistence" is an obstacle to countries seeking to liberate themselves from "imperialism."

Now that the firing is over and the danger of a confrontation with the US has receded, Moscow is going all out in an effort to repair its tarnished image among the Arabs. It is mounting a diplomatic offensive that is evidently to include a request for a special session of the UN General Assembly later this month. The Soviets almost certainly expect they can get wide support in the assembly for their effort to force Israeli withdrawals from Arab territory.

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## 2. Soviet Union

Soviet military activity is still following normal patterns--except for the continuing military transport flights to Egypt and Algeria. We still feel these flights are designed more to demonstrate Moscow's moral support for the Arabs than to affect the military situation.

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## 3. NATO

The Middle East crisis has shaken those member governments that had been less than fully convinced of the necessity of the NATO defense program. This applies particularly to the Scandinavians. Ambassador Cleveland notes that the crisis has produced a sudden change in these attitudes and that expectations of an imminent East-West detente have been deflated. He also notes fewer grumbles about Vietnam.

## 4. Iceland

Prime Minister Benediktsson's victory in Sunday's election ensures continuation of his coalition's firm pro-Western policies. The principal contributing factors were domestic prosperity and the split in the Communists' political front. Foreign policy questions and the presence of US troops seem to have had little effect on the election.

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## 5. Latin America

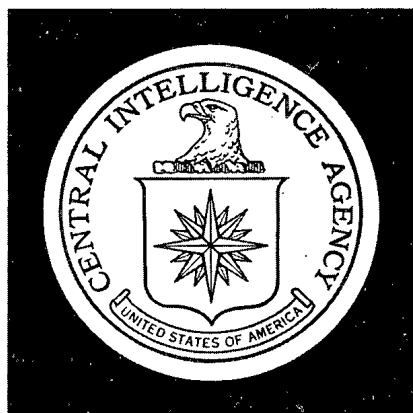
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## 6. Communist China

The army has again been directed to restore order throughout the country. We do not expect this to help much. For several weeks earlier this year the army had a similar mandate--and local commanders quickly came under attack for suppressing "true revolutionaries." Some were dismissed.

This time the local military chiefs are likely to tread carefully. They probably know the trouble in the countryside is a reflection of continuing rivalries in the Peking leadership.

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 14 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
14 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -  
Israel

There have been no significant military developments overnight.

On the diplomatic front, Moscow's drive for an emergency meeting of the UN General Assembly has stalled, at least temporarily.

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The Security Council adjourned late last night without voting on the Soviet resolution calling for condemnation of Israel and the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Israeli Prime Minister Eshkol toured Sinai yesterday and said his country had no intention of adding new territories as a result of the war. He added, however, that Israel will stay in Sinai until new arrangements are made for Israel's security. This is a much softer line than that taken by Defense Minister Dayan.

The leadership of Dayan's Rafi party decided on Tuesday to consider rejoining Eshkol's ruling Mapai party. Former prime minister Ben Gurion led the splinter Rafi group out of the Mapai in 1965. The Rafi leaders probably believe that Dayan's enormous prestige will help them take over control from Eshkol and the others who make up the Mapai's old guard. If this should happen, the Israeli position in negotiating a settlement would undoubtedly get tougher.

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## 2. South Vietnam

Chief of State Thieu seems intent on staying in the presidential race.

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Some officials believe Thieu is gaining voter sympathy by portraying himself as a victim of the heavy-handed tactics of Ky's supporters.

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## 3. Cambodia

Cambodia has apparently granted full diplomatic recognition to North Vietnam. Sihanouk is quoted as saying yesterday that Hanoi's diplomatic mission in Phnom Penh has been upgraded to an embassy. This comes as a result of a North Vietnamese statement last week recognizing Cambodia's territorial integrity within its present borders.

Sihanouk also said the Viet Cong's Liberation Front would soon be accorded "diplomatic status" because it issued a similar statement in May.

The Communists are trying to regain influence lost in Sihanouk's recent attack on the Cambodian left, but there is no sign they are willing to delimit "present borders" and this in the past has been the sticking point.

## 4. United Kingdom

Embassy London says the question of Britain's overseas military establishment is still very much in doubt. A cabinet decision on whether to withdraw completely from the Asian mainland by 1975 is still expected before 15 July, however.

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## 5. India

The Indian Government is facing a barrage of domestic criticism as a result of its strong pro-Arab stance in the mid-East crisis. Even within the Congress Party itself, there is evidently widespread [redacted] opposition to Mrs. Gandhi's decision to align her government so closely with the Arabs.

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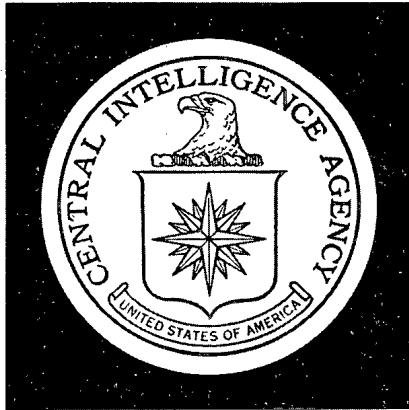
## 6. Korea

The government is dealing firmly with student protests against the rigging of National Assembly elections last week. Some 675 people had been detained "for questioning" at last report. The situation now is not explosive but could become so if the police overreact and public sympathy builds up for the students.

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 15 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
15 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -  
Israel

There have been no significant developments overnight.

The Soviets may be doing some artful dodging with their latest UN gambit. By moving the crisis into the General Assembly, the Russians give up the veto they have in the Security Council. They can do as much shoe pounding as they want in the assembly, but, in the end, they can let themselves be "pressured" by the majority into a more tenable--and reasonable--position.

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The Arabs, meanwhile, are unbending in their opposition to direct negotiations with Israel and the Israelis are just as adamant that there must be such negotiations. Yesterday the Egyptians said the Suez Canal would not be opened until the Israelis left the eastern shore.

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## 2. South Vietnam

Thieu announced yesterday that he will run for president.

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## 3. Communist China



## 4. South Korea

Student demonstrations over election irregularities are spreading. Some universities have been closed and troops may be needed to control the situation. We see no immediate threat to the government, however.

## 5. Canada

Ambassador Butterworth feels the Pearson cabinet is drifting more and more toward neutralism. Reviewing Ottawa's foot-dragging performance on mutual defense matters, the ambassador comments there is a definite and growing Canadian tendency to shirk military responsibilities and to slide away from close cooperation with the US. "While our requests meet with stalling today, they could well meet with outright no's tomorrow."

## 6. Ecuador

One of President Arosemena's most outspoken critics was elected mayor of Guayaquil in Sunday's election; he may well go after the presidency next year. As mayor of Ecuador's largest--and most turbulent--city, Assad Bucaram can be expected to make trouble for Arosemena. As president, however, he probably would not be much of an improvement over his political arch-enemy.

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## 7. Venezuela

The Venezuelans are giving serious thought to going after Castro with something more substantive than talk. [REDACTED]

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President Leoni is angry because other Latin American nations have shown little enthusiasm for his effort to get some action out of the Organization of American States on the issue of Cuban subversion. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Havana radio took to the air after Cuban soldiers were captured on Venezuelan soil last month and said, in effect, "we did it and we'll do it again."

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Besides commando raids on Cuba, the Venezuelans are considering economic sanctions against countries trading with Havana. [REDACTED]

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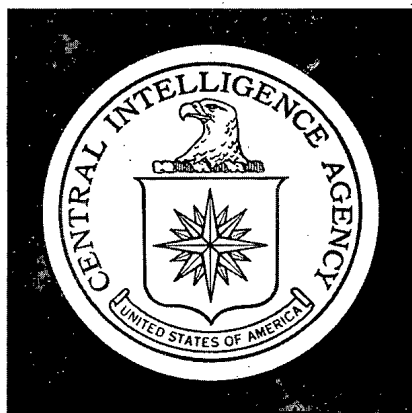
## 8. Dominican Republic

Dominican security forces are probably up to handling any guerrilla outbreak. [REDACTED]

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 16 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
16 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -  
Israel

So far, there is no word that Kosygin's example has persuaded any other chief of state to come to New York for the General Assembly session.

The Arab states are by no means happy with Moscow's initiative for the special session, though most of them finally went along with it.

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The Arabs agreed yesterday to hold a foreign ministers' meeting in Kuwait this Saturday, presumably as a prelude to the Arab summit meeting some of them had been pressing for. The imminence of the UN General Assembly session, however, may lead them to adopt the Moroccan suggestion that the foreign ministers get together in New York.

The Israelis are having a difficult time in some of the Arab territories they are holding. The local people are very hostile on Jordan's West Bank and sniping continues in the old city of Jerusalem.

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2. Libya

The foreign minister explained that the King's decision to ask for US evacuation of Wheelus was taken in the conviction that this is an essential step in the government's effort to restore public order. It is also evident that the insecure pro-Western regime is anxious to do what it can to reduce its isolation from the other Arab states.

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### 3. Soviet Union

Soviet leaders are stretching the truth when they claim that everything they did during the first days of the Middle East war was acceptable to and done in consultation with Nasir and other Arab leaders.

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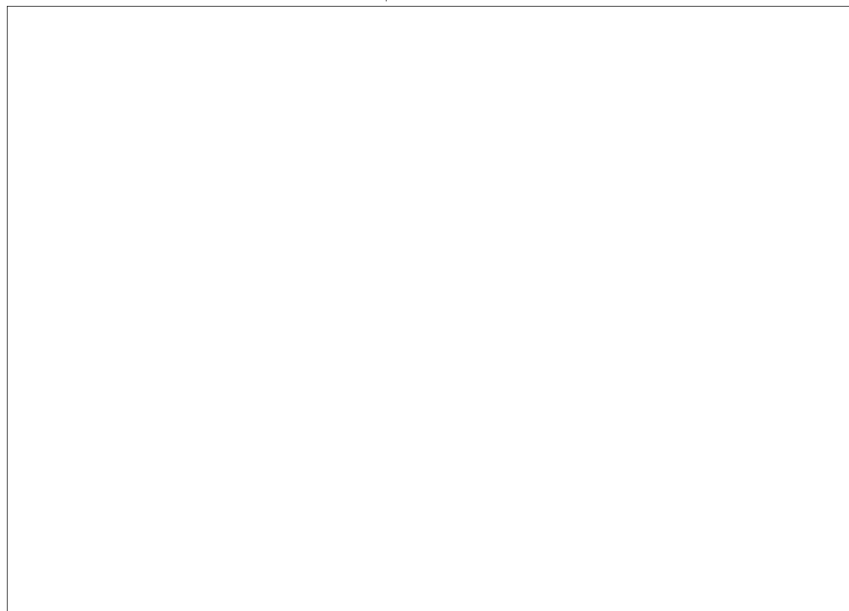
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#### 4. Soviet Union



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#### 5. Communist China

Disorder continues in many parts of China. [redacted]



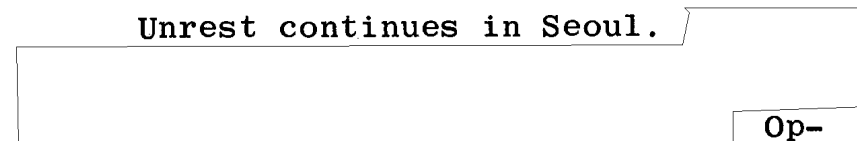
[redacted] Mao and Lin Piao have in the past downplayed the cost of the violence, saying that it helps sustain the "revolution."

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#### 6. South Korea

Unrest continues in Seoul. [redacted]



Op-  
position politicians are beginning to get in on the act, and it appears that President Pak is in for a more difficult time than we had originally suggested.

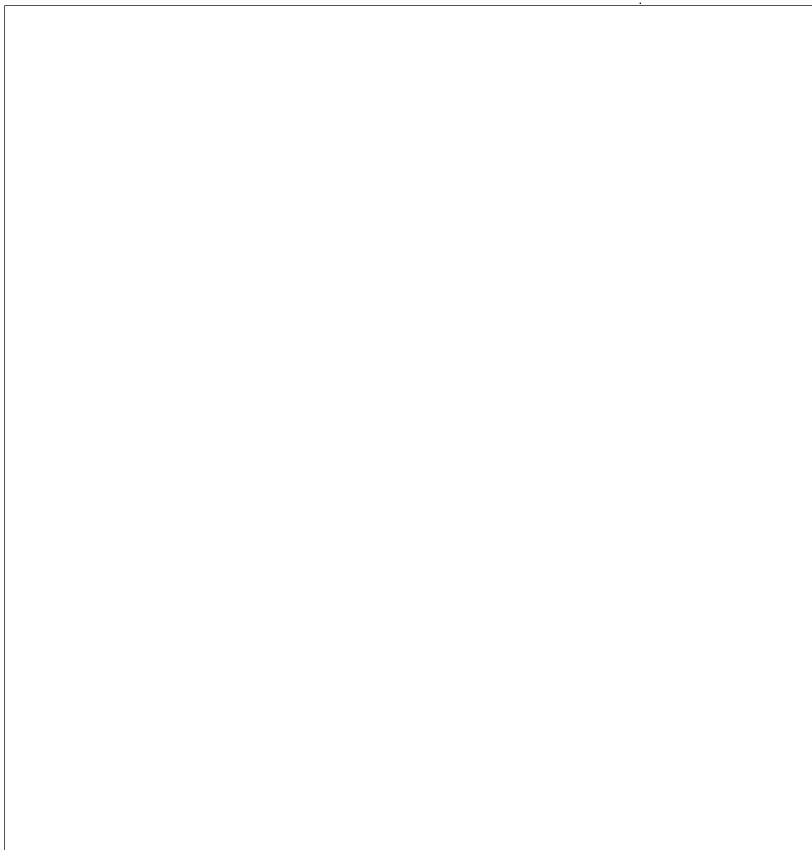
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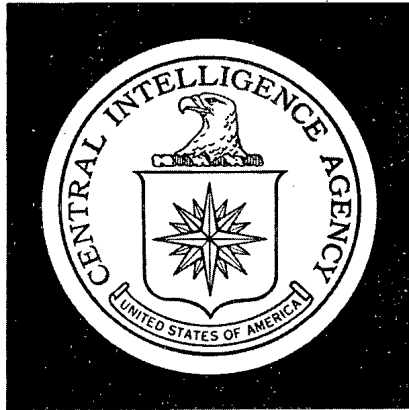
## 7. Rhodesia

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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 17 June 1967



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**DAILY BRIEF**  
**17 JUNE 1967**

**1. Arab States -  
Israel**

The opening meeting of the General Assembly convenes at 9:30 this morning. The wording of the agenda may well produce the first controversy of the session. The Soviets want the assembly to consider "the liquidation of Israeli aggression" and the withdrawal of Israeli forces behind the armistice lines. The UN Secretariat, however, is trying to get a relatively bland formulation--hoping to avoid a long procedural debate.

The Arab foreign ministers conference, originally scheduled for today in Kuwait, will apparently be held in New York instead. The Arabs undoubtedly decided that they will be able to accomplish more at the UN than in Kuwait.

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Marshal Zakharov, the Chief of the Soviet General Staff, has arrived in Cairo for an unannounced visit. In addition to checking on the Soviet airlift, we presume the Marshal's visit is intended to give the Egyptians some tangible evidence of Russian concern over their military defeat.

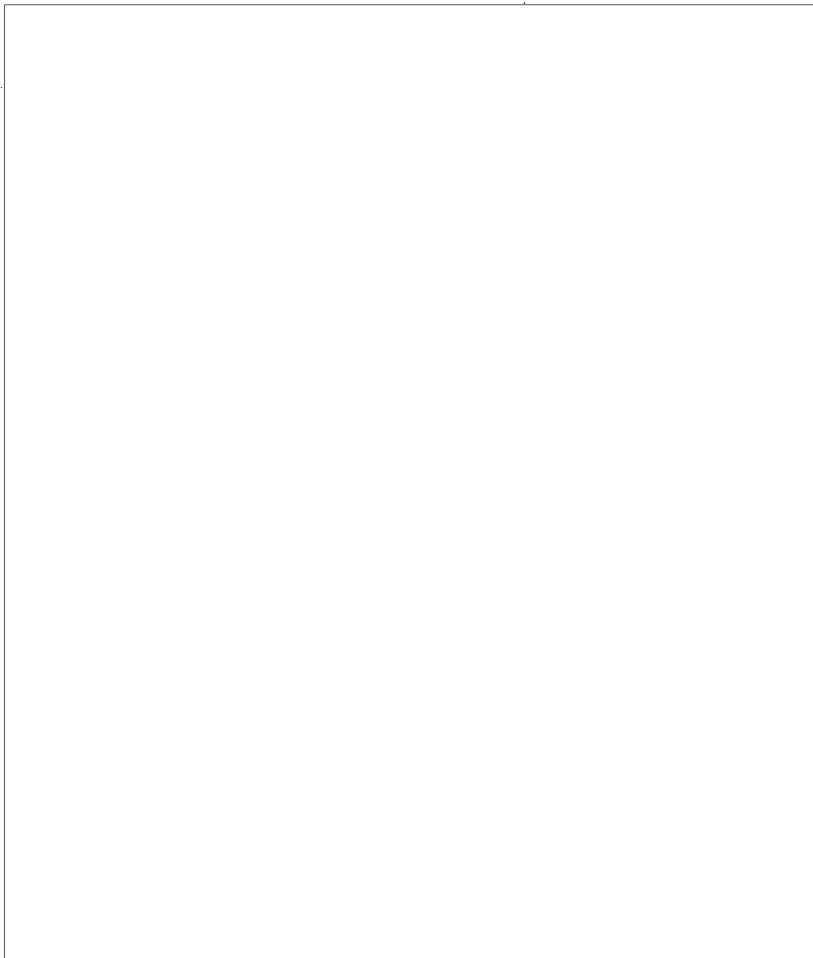
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## 2. Soviet Union

Embassy Moscow believes the Soviet delegation to the General Assembly is well tailored for talks with the US-- particularly on subjects other than the Middle East. The embassy also comments that Kosygin's trip may be a good thing in itself--he has never been in the US before and, being relatively undogmatic, is more likely to draw appropriate conclusions from what he sees here than Khrushchev did or Brezhnev would.

## 3. Soviet Union - Cuba

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## 4. United Kingdom

According to a Gallup Poll published yesterday, the conservatives lead labor by seven percent. This continues the steady improvement in conservative standing over the past four months and marks the highest point of public support for the Tories during labor's tenure in office.

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## 5. South Vietnam

Despite assurances to the contrary from both Ky and Thieu, armed forces unity is going to be strained if both men go in to the presidential campaign.

There is a deepening enmity between the two men, an enmity particularly noticeable on Thieu's side. Ambassador Bunker talked with Thieu Wednesday. After repeating his pledge to maintain military unity, Thieu whipped into a bitter condemnation of Ky's electioneering tactics.

"This is not Ky's government," Thieu said, "the Directorate is the government and I happen to be its chairman."

Neither US nor Vietnamese mediators have been successful so far in getting Thieu and Ky together to talk things out and, given Thieu's present mood, any session would be scratchy.

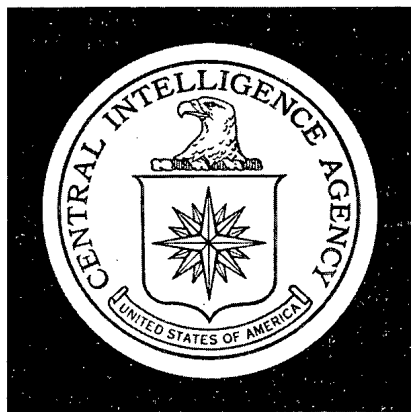
## 6. Bolivia

President Barrientos is thinking of buying off one of the leading opposition parties in an attempt to strengthen his political base. The price is said to be at least three cabinet posts, including the Foreign Ministry, for the rightist Socialist Falange.

This looks like an attempt by Barrientos to neutralize the opposition while he concentrates on the persistent guerrilla problem. The guerrillas in recent weeks have shown greater skill and strength in their sporadic encounters with government troops; the public is losing patience with the ineffective government response.

*Top Secret*





## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 19 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
19 JUNE 1967

1. United Nations

Kosygin and the other delegation heads spent a rather busy day in New York yesterday conferring with one another and getting their lines straight for today's General Assembly session.

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The Soviet press generally maintains its harsh line against the US and Israel. Unofficially, however, Moscow seems to be probing for US reaction to various elements of a possible Middle East settlement.

2. Arab States

The internal repercussions of the Arab military defeat continue bubbling up in various Arab states. In Egypt, Nasir yesterday took over the top post in his political machine, replacing a man who had apparently become a rival in recent days. Also, a new cabinet is to be announced today.

In Syria, the war has altered the precarious balance of political forces and major changes may be in the offing.

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### 3. Libya

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[REDACTED]

As for the US Wheelus base, the Libyan prime minister told Ambassador Newsom that it would be quite acceptable if detailed discussions on withdrawal are deferred until August or September. He would like, however, some early preliminary talks that would give the appearance of prompt forward movement.

### 4. Communist China

Peking's sixth nuclear test, carried out at Lop Nor late on Friday, Washington time, was as expected its largest to date. [REDACTED]

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### 5. South Vietnam

Political temperatures are already rising in anticipation of next fall's elections.

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[REDACTED]

Ambassador Bunker is very concerned. He reports that all political elements are aware of what is going on and feel that Ky is getting away with it only because the Americans support him and condone his tactics.

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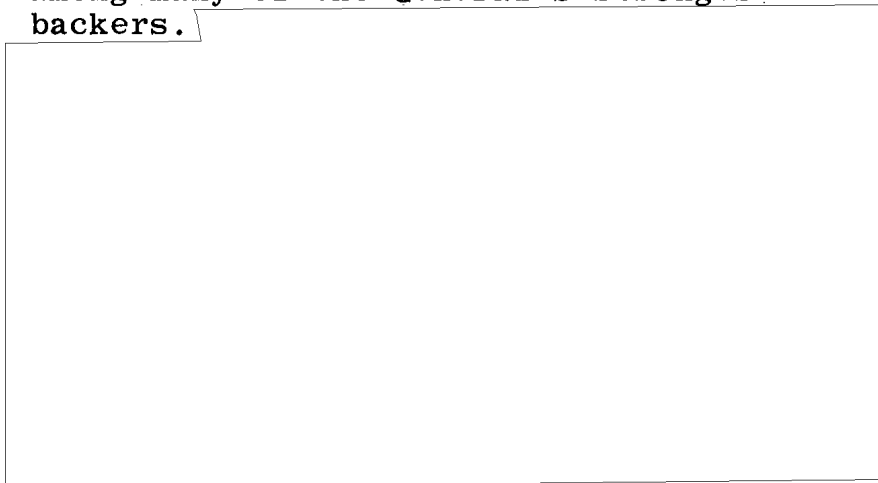
**6. Soviet Union**



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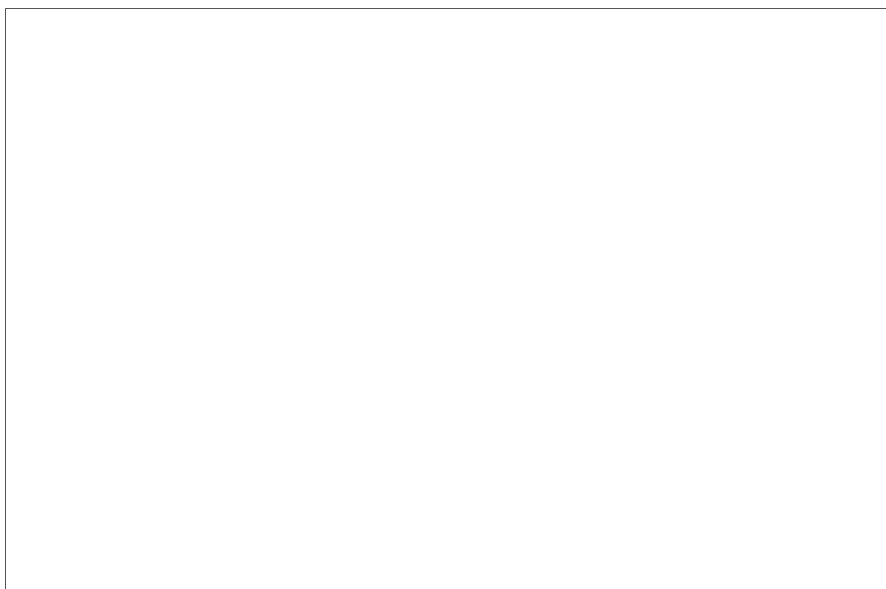
**7. France**

De Gaulle's self-serving stand on the Middle East war is unpopular, not only with the French public but also among many of the General's strongest backers.



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**8. Rumania**

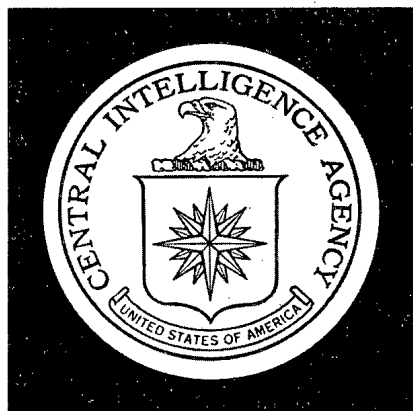


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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 20 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
20 JUNE 1967

1. United Nations

Preliminary reaction to President Johnson's speech yesterday has been generally favorable among UN representatives--other than the obvious exceptions. The speech is regarded by many delegates as conciliatory and moderate in tone, and a concise summary of US views. There has been considerable comment that Kosygin's speech made the President's sound even better.

The Latin Americans were pleased that the speech gave first place to their area. The Rumanian representative said the President's position was not really very far from that of his own country.

Several Arab delegates asked why the US had become involved in the dispute, believing the Israelis should speak for themselves. Israel's representative, however, characterized the speech as good and helpful.

Indian and Saudi Arabian officials at the UN complained that the speech offered nothing new.

2. Arab States

Syria has issued what appears to be a call for guerrilla warfare against Israel. Radio Damascus yesterday urged Palestinians in Jordan's West Bank and the Gaza Strip to unite in a "secret armed struggle to paralyze the Israeli economy and spread confusion" until the Arabs can inflict a "final defeat" on Israel.

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### 3. Soviet Union

Western press correspondents in Moscow say that the Soviet party central committee is meeting today to discuss the Middle East situation and certain "internal questions." There is usually no official word on such meetings until after they have broken up.

A central committee session at this time would be useful to show that the entire party is behind the Kosygin line, but it would also help to remind people that it is Brezhnev and not Kosygin who is number one in the Russian hierarchy.

### 4. Yugoslavia

Tito has moved quickly to plug the hole in his nonalignment policy--a hole which resulted from his going to Moscow's bloc summit meeting ten days ago. Yugoslavia lined up with the Soviets in the condemnation of Israel.

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### 5. China-India

India's Embassy in Peking is under its fourth straight day of siege. The round-the-clock Red Guard demonstrations are in retaliation for an Indian attack on the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi last week. There is no telling at this point how long this will go on, but the Indians raised the ante again yesterday by sealing off the Chinese in their New Delhi compound.

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**6. Cambodia**



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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 21 June 1967



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**DAILY BRIEF**  
**21 JUNE 1967**

**1. Arab States -**  
**Israel**

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An atmosphere of tension is still being maintained in the Egyptian capital with all press media banging away on the theme of eventual victory over Israel. Nasir has made no public appearance since 10 June, but presumably will be on hand to greet Soviet President Podgorny when he arrives in Cairo today. Podgorny's visit is another gesture to dramatize Moscow's support for the Arabs.

Such support, incidentally, could get expensive if the Russians try to replace all the equipment lost by the Arabs. We estimate this bill would run somewhere near \$500 million. Closure of the Suez Canal is also going to cost the Soviets about \$11 million a month in increased shipping charges.

50X1

## 2. Aden

Fighting flared again this morning after a night of sporadic shooting. The trouble started yesterday when British-trained Arab troops mutinied following the dismissal of some of their officers.

The British hold the upper edge, but there was some nasty fighting yesterday. This action triggered a general strike.

Cairo's open calls for destruction of the US and British positions in the Middle East have done nothing to help things.

## 3. Greece

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## 4. Hong Kong

The colony's Communists are finding it hard to keep the pot boiling. Despite a bitter poster campaign against the British, repeated calls for strikes, [REDACTED]

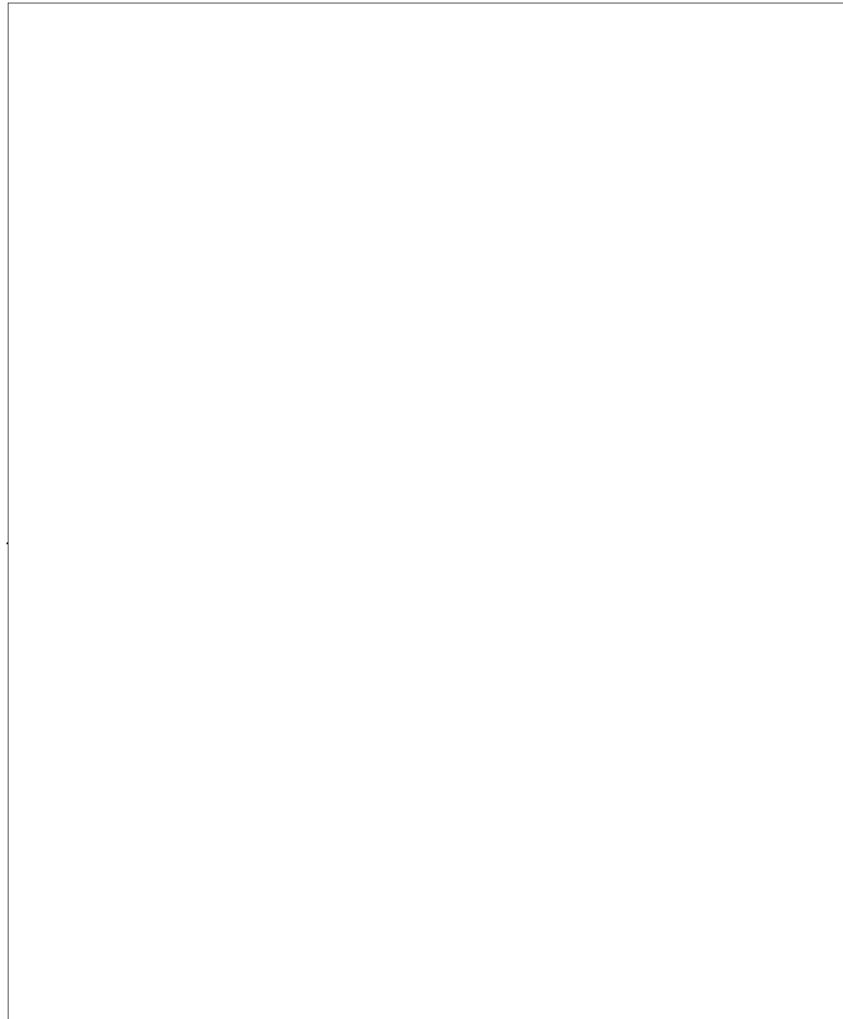
50X1

[REDACTED] the average Hong Kong Chinese just does not seem to care. Business activity remains near normal. The Communists have not given up, however, and a new incident could give them fresh ammunition.

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## 5. Communist China

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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 22 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
22 JUNE 1967

1. United Nations

The principal antagonists continue publicly to push their irreconcilable positions, but behind the scenes at the UN there are some slight signs of flexibility.

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## 2. Soviet Union

The Soviet party's central committee ended its sessions yesterday with a hard-nosed resolution on the Middle East. It blasts the Israelis and re-echoes the call for unspecified "joint action" in support of the Arabs approved at the Communist summit conference in Moscow on 9 June.

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The Soviets may well be preparing to back a simple resolution calling for unconditional Israeli withdrawal-- a resolution that would have some chance of gaining the required two thirds vote in the Assembly.

## 3. Aden

At last word, British troops had still not regained control of the Arab quarter of the city, which remains in terrorist hands. Arab radios in neighboring Yemen are exhorting the populace to "deal the death blow to British imperialism."

50X6

#### 4. Soviet Union

More signs are cropping up of Moscow's extreme concern over the publication this fall of the book by Stalin's daughter.

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Soviet leaders are particularly resentful over the expected timing of publication. It is scheduled to appear at about the time of the extravagant Soviet fiftieth anniversary celebrations this fall.

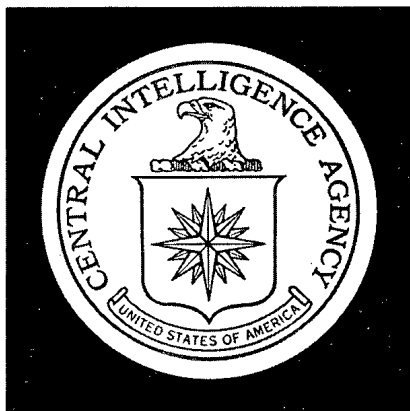
#### 5. North Vietnam

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#### 6. South Vietnam

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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 23 June 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF  
23 JUNE 1967

1. United Nations

Behind-the-scenes efforts at the General Assembly to get an acceptable alternative to the US and Soviet resolutions seem to be moving only slowly.

A committee of non-aligned states--led by India and apparently encouraged by the Russians--is working on a resolution which calls for withdrawal of troops, respect for sovereignty, and appointment of a special UN representative to facilitate discussions on settling other issues. Similar efforts by Western European and Latin American groups have yet to produce anything substantial.

Nearly all mediation efforts are focusing on whether withdrawal of Israeli forces can be linked with the other issues at stake.

50X1

The announcement of the Glassboro meeting was "greeted with relief" by all sides at the UN last night.

50X1

## 2. India

Public order in West Bengal is deteriorating badly. The food distribution system has broken down and Communist-inspired lawlessness is spreading. Mobs have been looting grain trucks and trains, and the supply of food to famine areas in northern India could well be seriously affected.

The present West Bengal government

is almost totally ineffective. Direct rule by New Delhi is likely if it falls.

50X6

## 3. Aden

The situation is about the same--serious.

## 4. Mexico

The gubernatorial election in the state of Sonora on 2 July is likely to produce a new wave of violence.

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The basic issue is still popular resistance to the government's high-handed methods in selecting a candidate for governor.

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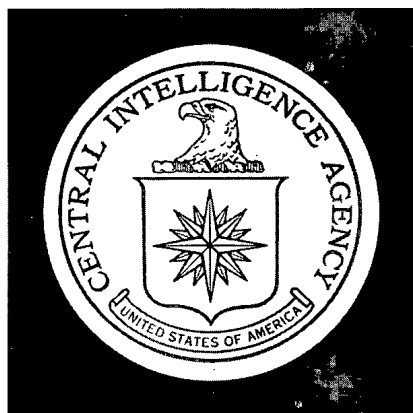
## 5. Chile

The Frei government's attempts to appease the articulate Chilean left by maintaining good relations with Moscow have brought a steady increase in Soviet influence in Chile. Ambassador Dungan says that the Russians have acquired access to a wide assortment of news media, as well as academic, scientific, and social circles. The Soviets are now trying to woo the Chilean military.

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*Top Secret*





## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 24 June 1967



50X1

LATE ITEM

United Nations

Kosygin is scheduling a press conference at the UN for 8:00 PM EDT tomorrow.

DAILY BRIEF  
24 JUNE 1967

1. United Nations:

All eyes were on Glassboro yesterday with little of substance accomplished on the banks of the East River.

So far, commentary on the New Jersey summit meeting has been almost all favorable and optimistic. Those UN delegates who have expressed themselves have taken heart from the cordiality of the meeting and from the announcement it will continue tomorrow. The Western press has been laudatory; as yet there has been no real comment by Communist or Arab news media.

The General Assembly stands recessed until Monday. Jordan's King Husayn is to address the Assembly either Monday or Tuesday.

Husayn arrives in New York tonight and he apparently has some specific proposals to broker there and in Washington. For one thing, Husayn seems to be thinking in terms of trying to get Israeli occupation troops replaced by UN forces. In exchange, Husayn would urge such Arab concessions as right of passage through the Strait of Tiran.

2. Lebanon

Pro-Western Christian elements have asked the US and British embassies for arms to protect themselves against anticipated attacks by radical Moslems. No commitments have been made to these groups, but the US chargé comments that our position in Lebanon would suffer badly if these pro-Western factions lose out to Nasir's supporters.

### 3. South Vietnam

A thoroughly embittered Foreign Minister Do told a US Embassy officer this week that he has just decided to resign. He explained that he can no longer work with Prime Minister Ky, who he is convinced is fast becoming a dictator. Do said he will probably file as a candidate for the upper house before the 1 July deadline.

Do has been one of the most effective members of the cabinet. His present mood is partially a result of the Ky-Thieu rivalry; he has made no secret of his sympathy for Thieu.

### 4. South Vietnam

The price of rice went down again in Saigon during the second week of June. This is good news, but the type used by the working class still costs over 40 percent more than it did at the beginning of the year.

### 5. West Germany

Kiesinger's friendship for De Gaulle shows signs of cooling.

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Our Embassy believes Kiesinger's new look at De Gaulle has left him more convinced of the need for keeping US troops in Germany and, perhaps, has given him a healthier appreciation of the offset arrangement.

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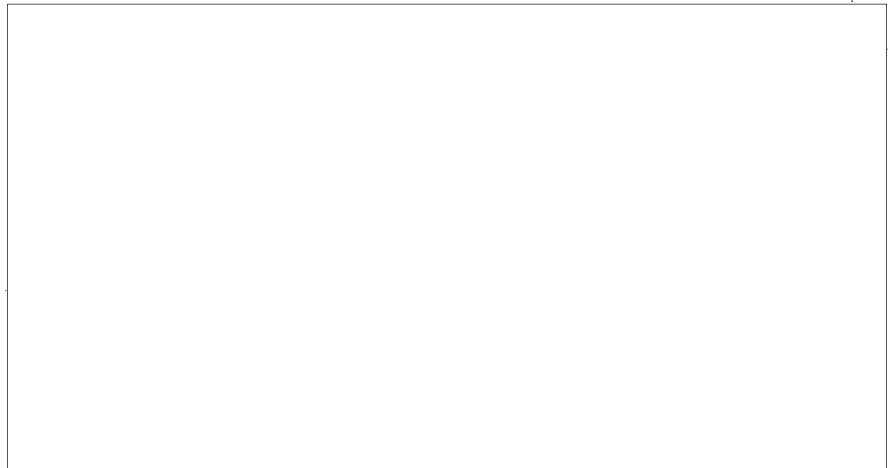
## 6. France

De Gaulle did little to win friends with his petulant statement Wednesday linking the Middle East and Vietnam.

Even normally pro-Gaullist French newspapers were critical and the only support came from the French Communist Party paper. French diplomats at the UN, including Couve de Murville, were caught off base and embarrassed.

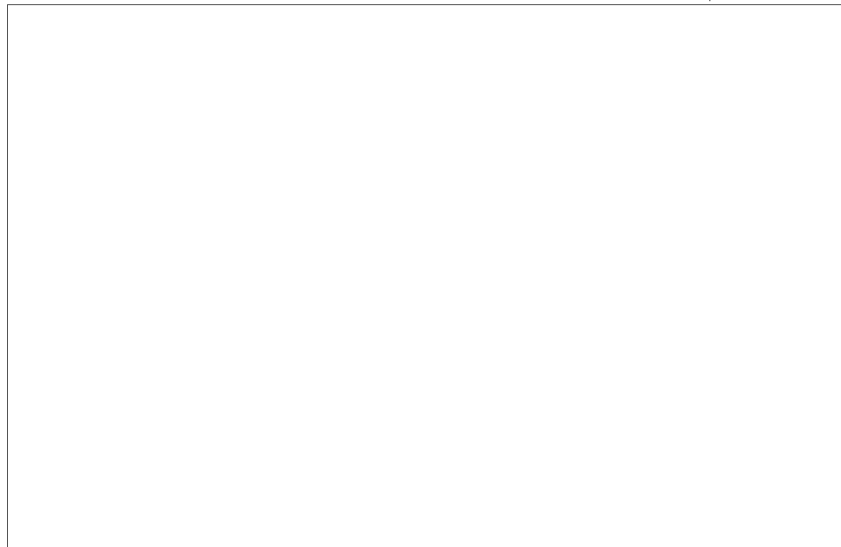
Ambassador Bohlen comments that the statement seems to reflect De Gaulle's bruised ego--his realization that, despite his ambitions for a grand French role in international affairs, major issues will be settled in Washington and Moscow, not in Paris.

## 7. Panama



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## 8. Soviet Union

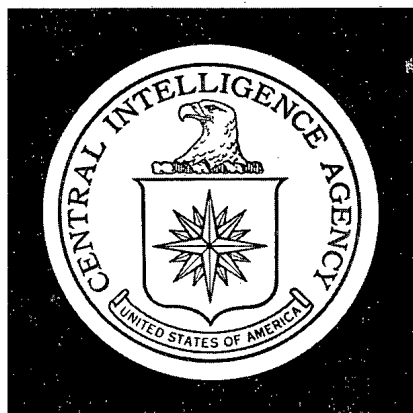


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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 26 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
26 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -  
Israel

The refugee situation in Jordan is worsening as thousands of Arabs continue to cross to the East Bank.

The Israelis are not making an adequate supply of food available--creating the impression that West Bankers would fare better with UN rations on the East Bank. Red Cross representatives say they are getting little or no cooperation from Israel in their efforts to organize aid for the West Bank people.

A Jordanian official says his government is considering the return of some 10,000 of the refugees by means of a "Freedom March." A time for this has not yet been set.

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2. Soviet Union

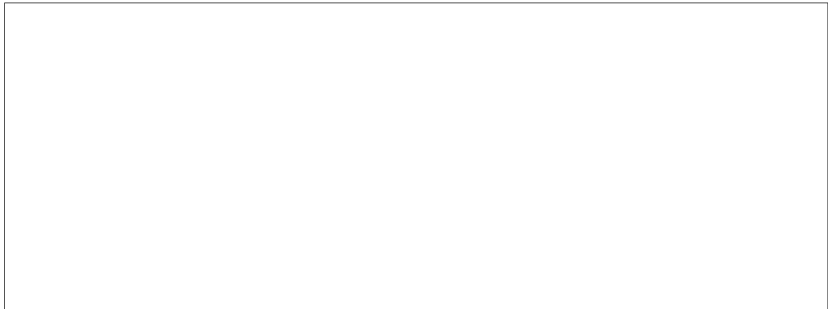
We still expect Premier Kosygin to go home by way of Cuba. This appears to be essentially a protocol and fence-mending stop.

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### 3. West Germany

Chancellor Kiesinger plans during his visit to Washington to make a strong pitch to President Johnson about the nonproliferation treaty. The Chancellor is preoccupied with the point that a treaty of unlimited duration would deprive Germany forever of the ultimate means of defense and would thus put it in a position of permanent inferiority. Kiesinger also seems to be convinced that limiting the duration of the treaty would take the steam out of his domestic opponents, who have been opposing the whole idea.

### 4. Hungary



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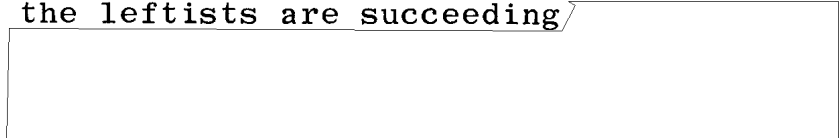
### 5. Bolivia



16 miners were killed and more than 60 wounded in a clash with soldiers and police on Saturday.

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This incident was provoked by Communists and other extremists who have been trying to turn growing unrest among the miners into a move against the government. So far there are no signs that the leftists are succeeding

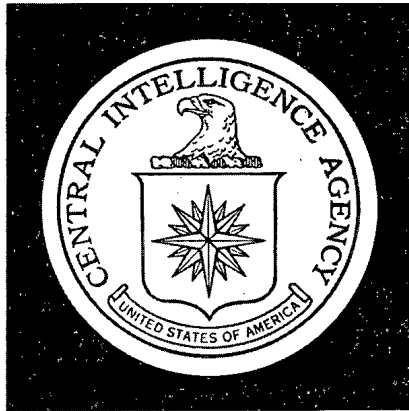


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## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 27 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
27 JUNE 1967

50X1

1. Soviet Union

[redacted] left the US yesterday.  
Kosygin [redacted]

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He faces an uphill battle if he is really to mend his fences with Castro and company. The Cubans [redacted]

50X1

[redacted] regard Soviet tactics early in the Middle East war to have been a sellout to the "imperialists."

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50X1

Newsmen covering Kosygin's arrival in Havana comment on the absence of any fanfare or evidence of enthusiasm for the visit.

Back in Moscow, the propaganda media seem at a loss on how to play the Hollybush talks. This is suggested by the almost total absence of editorial comment on the sessions as of noon yesterday in Moscow.

2. United Nations

Yesterday's session was dominated by King Husayn's effective presentation of the Arab position. [redacted]

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Some signs are appearing that the Arab states may now be moving toward acceptance of a resolution simply calling for Israeli withdrawals.

In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Eshkol has firmly reiterated Israel's uncompromising stand on no withdrawals until direct talks with the Arabs have taken place. He added that the peace settlement must give Israel "better frontiers." On the refugee problem, he expressed his government's readiness to contribute financially to "help heal this festering sore."

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### 3. United Kingdom

London's disposition to look out for its own interests in the Middle East is showing more now than it was when the crisis first broke. Ambassador Bruce feels that part of the explanation lies in Wilson's desire to demonstrate to the Common Market countries that De Gaulle is all wrong when he charges that London's foreign policies are merely extensions of Washington's.

The ambassador was told, incidentally, that George Brown was somewhat more vehement than his instructions called for when he warned Israel last week against annexing old Jerusalem.

### 4. North Vietnam

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### 5. South Vietnam

Thieu has asked Foreign Minister Tran Van Do to run in the vice presidential slot on Thieu's ticket. Do, who is considering running for the upper house, has not made up his mind on Thieu's offer but says he will give an answer today.

Ky, meanwhile, continues to solicit support from all quarters.

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The security ministry controls the police, so the Chinese are quite likely to kick in for Ky's campaign chest.

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6. Cyprus

Signs continue of deepening animosity between the Cypriot and Greek governments.

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Tem-  
pers are frayed and the angry talk is becoming more voluble.

7. France

50X1

8. Latin America

The first step toward economic integration since Punta del Este was taken last Friday. Five South American countries--Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela--formally launched their Andean Common Market, a subregional group within the Latin American Free Trade Association. It is to provide the machinery for future cooperative agreements, including ones on industrial integration now in the planning stage.

9. Uruguay

President Gestido's first four months in office have been a disappointment on the economic front. So far, the administration has spent most of its energies on filling the bureaucracy with party stalwarts and in deploring--but doing very little about--the continuing deterioration of the economy.

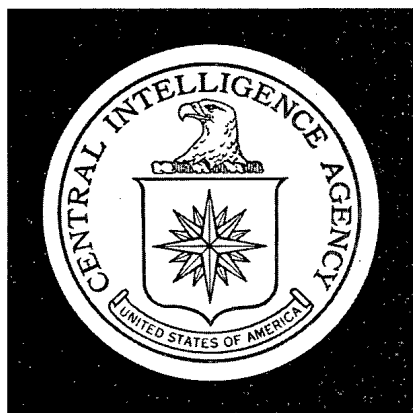
The President's latest "non-action" has been seriously to water down his economic "emergency law" he hopes to get Congress to pass. He is more concerned with maintaining party unity than fighting for this vital legislation.

Even so, intraparty squabbling over economic policy led yesterday to the resignation of Gestido's finance minister.

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*Top Secret*





## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 28 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
28 JUNE 1967

1. Egypt

Serious factional maneuvering may be underway in Cairo. [redacted] there is unrest in the army and press reports from Cairo state the armed forces are on maximum alert. Such an alert could be part of the effort to rebuild Egypt's shattered defenses, but it could also be prompted by concern for the regime's internal security.

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2. Soviet Union

Little is being said about Kosygin's Cuban visit. There are good indications that the trip was at Kosygin's initiative, not Castro's. The Soviet premier will stop over in Paris and see De Gaulle again Saturday.

3. South Vietnam

Both Ky and Thieu have announced their vice-presidential running mates.

Ky's choice is southerner Nguyen Van Loc, chairman of the advisory Peoples-Army Council.

Thieu's man, Trinh Quoc Khanh (also known as Nguyen Huu Le) is a southerner of the Hoa Hao religious sect. It is not clear at this point how much strength this man can muster. If he can deliver the Hoa Hao, however, he will be a distinct asset for Thieu.

Foreign Minister Tran Van Do said yesterday that he has decided to run for the upper house. He was apparently dissuaded from running with Thieu at the last minute.

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#### 4. Aden

The situation is critical in this unhappy sun-baked colony.

As things stand now, the British are sitting around the rim of the Crater district, an extinct volcano where many of the Arabs live. In the Crater, murder and mayhem go virtually unchecked as rival nationalists fight it out.

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The British have promised to be out of Aden by 9 January, if they do not abandon it before. They are already withdrawing their garrisons from the hinterland. It appears at this stage that anarchy will be the only thing they leave behind.

Dependents of American consular personnel are being evacuated. The Consulate has been the target of several bombing and arson attempts.

#### 5. Dominican Republic

For political and prestige reasons, Balaguer is opposed to devaluing the peso. The rate is now 1 peso to \$1 US. He is holding to this position despite the International Monetary Fund's recommendation that, in the long run, this is the only way out of the fiscal swamp in which the Dominican balance of payments is mired.

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**6. Burma**

Two days of anti-Chinese rioting in Rangoon may soon take Burma into the crowded ranks of nations with which Peking is not on speaking terms. The riots were sparked when Chinese students demonstrated against a ban on wearing Mao Tse-tung buttons distributed by the Chinese Embassy.

Peking is certain to make a scene; if Burmese diplomats in the Chinese capital have profited from the recent examples of their British and Indian colleagues, they will be laying in supplies for a Red Guard siege.

We expect relations will be badly strained but not break.

**7. Communist China**

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**8. France**

The French shot the second of their Pacific nuclear tests yesterday.

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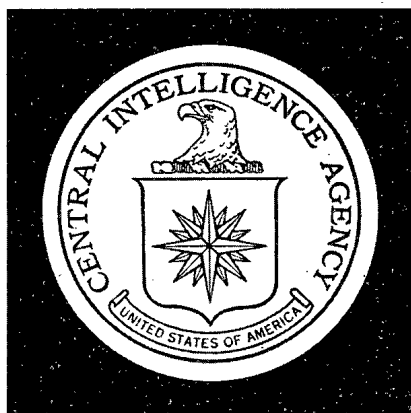
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## 9. Guinea

Guinea's Foreign Minister Beavogui is an unwilling "guest" of the Ivory Coast Government. Beavogui's airliner had to land in the Ivory Coast Monday because of bad weather. The Ivorians, whose relations with Guinea are anything but good, whisked Beavogui and his aides away. The Ivorians may try to trade him for one of their fishing boats seized by Guinea.

Beavogui has had experience in this form of African diplomacy. Last year he was pulled off a plane in Ghana. That incident was used by the Guineans as an excuse for anti-American demonstrations.

*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 29 June 1967



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**DAILY BRIEF**  
**29 JUNE 1967**

**1. Arab States -  
Israel**

The Israelis continue to prepare for eventual formal annexation of the Old City of Jerusalem. In recent days they have been busily reopening former roads connecting the two parts of the city, and repainting traffic signs in the Jordanian sector to conform to those in the new city. Yesterday there was an announcement that Israeli currency will now be the only legal tender in the old area.

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**2. South Vietnam**

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50X1



## 3. Panama

President Robles

plans to call a special session of the National Assembly sometime between 20 July and 1 August. He expects the treaty ratification process to take about 20 days and anticipates no serious trouble.

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In fact Robles has just picked up some help from an unexpected quarter. Two top officials who mouth the ultra-nationalistic line now say the treaties are good. One of these men has some influence among university students and this should help counter the efforts of Communist-led extremists to stir up trouble.

## 4. South Korea

President Pak announced a few cabinet changes yesterday--probably the minimum he believed necessary to quiet his critics and still maintain the current balance of power inside his government. In sum, we see no change in Seoul's domestic and international policies as a result.

## 5. Soviet Union

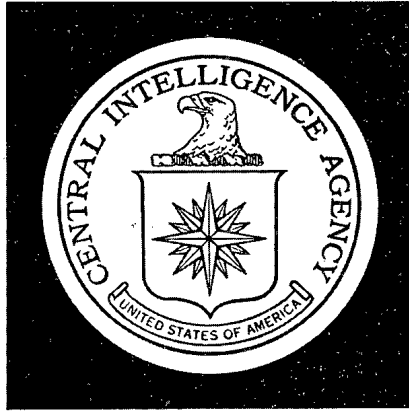
There is good evidence that the number one Communist in the Moscow city party organization--a rather large wheel--was ousted this week because he criticized Soviet policy during the Middle East crisis.

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Shortly after, there came the announcement that the man had been removed; he had a reputation as a hard-liner.

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*Top Secret*



## *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 30 June 1967



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LATE ITEM

## South Vietnam

The Thieu-Ky rivalry for the presidency may have been resolved today. Ky has agreed [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] to run as the vice presidential candidate on a ticket headed by Thieu.

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The agreement was finally hammered out and announced a few hours ago by the military members of the Directorate.

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[REDACTED]

Further portions of the agreement are as yet unclear. Both men are apparently to resign from the military service and campaign as civilians. They may also have to give up their government jobs in favor of a caretaker regime led by their associates in the military.

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DAILY BRIEF  
30 JUNE 1967

1. United Nations

Israel's unilateral moves in Jerusalem threaten to backfire in the UN. A number of uncommitted delegations are now veering toward the resolution submitted on Wednesday by the "nonaligned" states.

The Arabs and the Soviets have adopted the "nonaligned" resolution as their fallback position and are pressing for an early vote. A new resolution now being pushed by the Latin Americans, however, may yet become an alternative that could result in the defeat of the "non-aligned" resolution.

The "municipal fusion" of Jerusalem has deepened the division between the hawks and the doves in Israel. Defense Minister Dayan, leader of the hardliners, is contemptuous of the UN and determined to keep it from having an important influence on the settlement.

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2. Soviet Union

Kosygin is scheduled to leave Cuba for Paris this morning.

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press stories that this must have been a rather uncomfortable confrontation for the Soviet leader.

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### 3. Soviet Union

The Soviet Venus probe launched 18 days ago has a better chance of completing its mission than its unsuccessful predecessors.

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It is scheduled to reach the vicinity of Venus in mid-October, probably for a fly-by mission.

### 4. Aden

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### 5. Poland

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## 6. Panama

Robles' opponents have already opened up their campaign against the Canal treaties. As expected, Arnulfo Arias is leading the charge, accusing Robles of selling the country's sovereignty. Robles is in for a long summer; his biggest job will be to keep the rabblers from getting the upper hand. He seems to be off to a good start.

The Panamanian press, meanwhile, is beginning to talk about US Congressional opposition to the treaties.

## 7. Bolivia

President Barrientos is in trouble. His forces have not yet been able to re-establish control over the tin miners who rebelled last week. The guerrilla problem drags on indecisively. Opposition parties are beginning to exploit the government's weakness; student and worker agitators may soon get in on the act. If these trends continue much longer, the military may be tempted to throw Barrientos out.

## 8. Burma

Rangoon was quiet yesterday after several days of bloody anti-Chinese violence. In Peking, meanwhile, the standard Red Guard demonstrations have begun around the Burmese Embassy and straw figures of General Ne Win were set afire on the embassy gates.

If the Peking demonstrations do not set off a new round of rioting in Rangoon, tempers may gradually simmer down. It will be a long time, however, before the scars are healed.

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