



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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19 JUNE 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

DAILY BRIEF
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1. Algeria

Defense Minister Boumedienne has seized power in Algeria in a swift and bloodless coup.

President Ben Bella has been arrested and charged with treason. The President's key backers have been neutralized and it is unlikely he can make a comeback.



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A brief sketch of the new leader and the implication of his take-over is at Annex.

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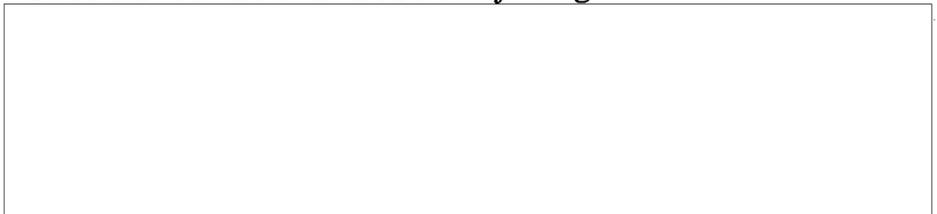
2. Greece

A political storm is building up around Prime Minister Papandreu.

He is coming under increasing fire from members of his own party largely because of his habit of temporizing over major issues. The most recent example of this is his decision not to press the case against former prime minister Karamanlis, which has enraged the left wing.

Some of his followers have threatened to withdraw their support and tumble his government. They are held back from this course by the widespread fear of Papandreu's prowess at the polls.

Perhaps a greater threat comes from the military. There are reports that disillusioned generals are talking about possible moves to topple Papandreu, perhaps in conjunction with Karamanlis' political supporters. Any such move would need the backing of the King, who so far has preferred to hoe a strictly legal row.



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3. South Vietnam

General Ky, in his new role as premier, introduced the new government at a rally this morning. All were dressed in shirtsleeves to signify this would be a working government.

The list as presented by Ky has a more marked civilian flavor than the generals had earlier indicated would be the case. The military is clearly in complete control, however.

As of today, the generals were planning to issue a tough proclamation in a day or two. It will prohibit public assembly, strikes, the distribution of leaflets, rumormongering and economic profiteering.

4. North Vietnam

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5. Communist China

The Chinese are hewing to an unbending line on Vietnam.

The official People's Daily today calls the use of B-52s "further proof" that the US position on peace talks is a "sham."

There has been no direct response to Wilson's proposed mission, but a pro-Peiping paper in Hong Kong indicated that the response when it comes will be negative.

The paper, which doubtless is speaking for Peiping, also hinted that the Chinese would reject recent suggestions that the Viet Cong could be included in Hanoi's delegation to any future conference on Vietnam.

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6. Latin America

The split between the pro-Moscow and pro-Peiping Communists in Latin America is widening.

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Early this month, representatives of Chinese-oriented groups in Colombia, Ecuador, and Chile met in Bogota to coordinate activities. They agreed to resist the "revisionist" policies sponsored by Cuba and the Soviet Union and to set up a "war council" to foster a "war atmosphere" in all Latin countries.

A meeting of like-minded groups from eight Latin countries has been scheduled for Santiago, Chile, in October.

7. Guatemala

[redacted] military leaders, who have been hatching a plot to overthrow the Peralta government, may make their move tomorrow. There is no other information to suggest that a coup will take place so soon, but there is plenty of evidence that high military officers are concerned that their close identification with Peralta's repressive tactics make them a target for reprisals by disgruntled elements.

8. Dominican Republic

The country is quiet as the two sides continue their study of yesterday's proposals by the Organization of American States.

Imbert's group has said it can accept "almost all" the proposals, but will have more to say later.

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[redacted]

The Organization of American States has granted the rebels' request to have "three or four" days before giving a formal reply.

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ANNEX

Houari Boumedienne, Algeria's New Leader

Boumedienne is 41. He was educated in the traditional Islamic style and attended military school in Egypt. He was, of course, active in the Algerian revolution, though he spent a good deal of it in Morocco and Tunisia.

At independence he controlled the so-called army of the exterior and his support was instrumental in ending the post-liberation struggle for power in favor of Ben Bella. His reward was to be named defense minister. Under his aegis, the army became the most cohesive force in the country, a process which was aided by the divisive tactics pursued by Ben Bella. Boumedienne has always insisted that the army had a political role to play in protecting the revolution.

It is not yet clear what prompted him to move against Ben Bella at this time. It may have been connected with Ben Bella's recent maneuvers against Foreign Minister Bouteflika. The latter is Boumedienne's protégé and the two once shared a bachelor flat.

[redacted] he
may lean toward the autocratic solution for problems.

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There are as yet no details on the makeup of the new government or how it will act. On past performance, we would expect no abrupt changes in course. Boumedienne's government will not be pro-Western, but it may be less anti-US. The new leader has been especially critical of his predecessor's affinity for Cuba and China. He may try to bring Algeria back to a more truly nonaligned position.

He will most likely also try to bend his government's efforts inward to press for solutions to Algeria's many and pressing economic and social problems.

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