



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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19 JULY 1965

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. Vietnam

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The newly constructed airfield near the Sino-Vietnamese border at Ningming has apparently been activated. Communications intercepted yesterday indicated that area familiarization flights were being made by a minimum of 14 aircraft, probably jet fighters.

It is unclear how many fighters are now based at Ningming, but at least 17 may have been transferred there from Canton on 14 July. Ningming was instructed to suppress all radar tracking reports on that date.

2. South Vietnam

South Vietnamese forces are continuing road clearing operations along strategic Route 19 in Binh Dinh and Pleiku provinces. For the first time since late May, two large government convoys yesterday successfully transited the 100-mile stretch from the post of Qui Nhon to the isolated II Corps headquarters at Pleiku city without incident.

Final results of a road clearing operation in Quang Nam Province during 15-16 July indicate heavy losses for both sides. For the Viet Cong the report is 174 killed, 145 suspects detained, and a quantity of ammunition and equipment seized. Government losses were 67 killed, 39 wounded, 96 weapons captured, and one helicopter destroyed.

3. Greece

The crisis continues.

The latest signs are that Premier Athanasiadis-Novas will drop his efforts to get parliamentary support for his government, and that former deputy premier Stephanopoulos will be selected as premier.

Stephanopoulos' task, however, would be arduous, for at last report former premier Papandreou was not prepared to see him step in.

The army and security forces are still on the alert to keep pro-Papandreou demonstrations from getting out of hand.

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4. USSR

Moscow has announced that Zond-3, the space probe launched on 18 July, has been placed in an orbit around the sun to conduct investigations in space and test the operation of the spacecraft's system.

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Proton-1, the satellite launched 16 July, is still in orbit. US radar sightings show it to be a large vehicle, providing some support for the Soviet claim that it weighs 27,000 pounds.

Rumors are coming out of Moscow that yet another space venture is imminent. While there are no specific indications, the Pacific instrumentation ships are moving, possibly to take up new space support stations.

5. USSR

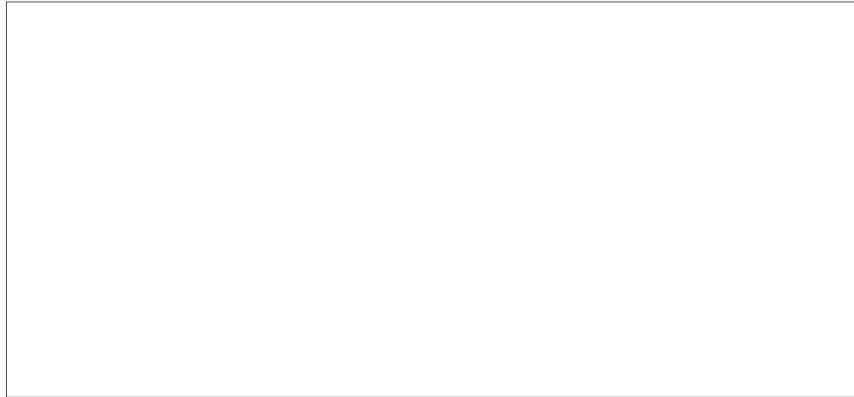
Analysis of weather data showing below-average rainfall in the New Lands, the major producer of spring wheat, indicates that prospects for the Soviet grain crop have deteriorated in recent weeks.

The situation does not appear to be as bad as that in 1963, which led the USSR to import some 12 million tons of wheat, but if the drought continues the Soviets will still need significant imports.

Minister of Agriculture Matskevich acknowledged as much in talking to Ambassador Harriman. He said the Soviets would probably buy more wheat this crop year than last. The 1964 crop was good, but even so the Soviets had to contract for some 3.5 million tons for delivery in 1965, of which about one million tons are known to be allocated to meet Soviet export obligations.

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6. Space



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7. Congo

The tension between Premier Tshombé and President Kasavubu has edged up another notch, and Tshombé is now talking, at least, of resigning.

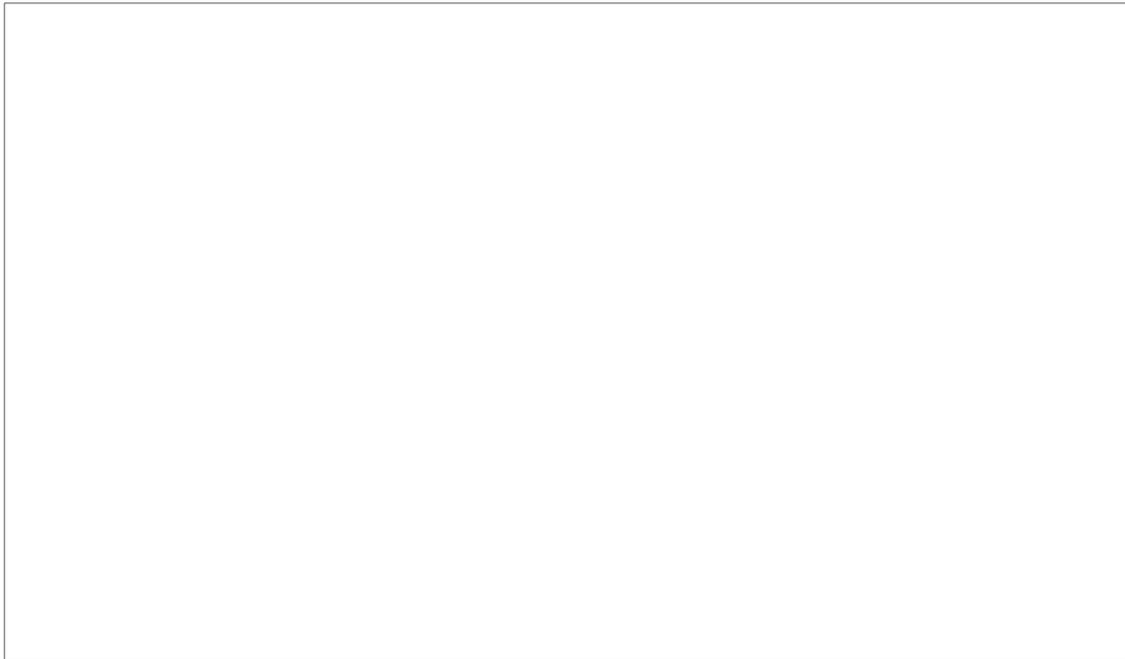
This latest flareup arises from Kasavubu's appointment of his own adherent to the vacant Interior Ministry post--a post which Tshombé said last Friday he would take over "temporarily" himself.

Army commander Mobutu, who sees both men as necessary to the Congo, is, however, doing his best to keep Tshombé from flying off the handle.

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