



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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4 NOVEMBER 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Indonesia

Army Chief of Staff Suharto is assuming an increasingly important role in national affairs. A military source has told the embassy that Suharto, not Defense Minister Nasution, is giving the day-to-day orders to the army and is dealing directly with Sukarno. The embassy believes that Suharto may emerge eventually as the Indonesian "strong man."

The same source says that the army is trying to avoid a frontal attack against the Communist leaders. While limiting the Communists' freedom of movement, the military are letting Moslems and other groups take the lead in discrediting the Communists and demanding their punishment.

A similar indirect tactic is being used against Subandrio so as to minimize the risk of alienating Sukarno from the army. At this point it seems to be working; Subandrio may well lose his job in the top security command.

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We doubt that the Communists have yet made a final decision to embark on civil war; indeed, because of its present disarray it may not be ready for other than selected terroristic and sabotage actions. However, the Communist leadership may at some point decide it has no alternative except large-scale resistance and these instructions could be in anticipation of such a decision.

2. South Vietnam

Both Hanoi and the Liberation Front continue their tough talk as they seek to demonstrate continued confidence and determination to press on with the war. This hard line is paralleled by a continuing Communist military build-up in South Vietnam, which is summarized at Annex.

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3. USSR

The Soviets are undertaking extensive photographic reconnaissance of Communist China.

This program is similar to the one directed against the West; both concentrate on weapons development facilities and military installations.

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4. Dominican Republic

Garcia Godoy's package deal on personnel shifts seems to be running into trouble.

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The strike planned for today was called off. Juan Bosch came out strongly over the radio against it, and the extremists apparently were unable to build up sufficient steam.

5. Panama

There were a few minor disturbances in the downtown area of Panama City today but the situation stayed well under control. The Canal Zone was quiet.

The patriotic holidays end today.

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6. Congo

The word is spreading in Leopoldville that Kasavubu and Nendaka are desperate for campaign funds. As a result, they are said to be appealing for foreign money so they can buy votes to keep Tshombé down.

Kasavubu has apparently been passing the hat among African leaders recently.

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[redacted] a similar approach may have been made to the Chinese Communists through Brazzaville.

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7. Rhodesia

A Rhodesian decision on the fate of a Royal Commission will be delayed until tomorrow at the earliest. Smith has been closeted today in a party caucus; a cabinet meeting on the question is now set for the morning.

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[redacted] pressures within Smith's party against the commission are continuing to build. Speculation that a declaration of independence will come soon has been heightened by the Rhodesian Government's announcement today clamping a total control on imports.

ANNEX

Continuing Enemy Build-up in South Vietnam

Evidence [] points to a continuing enemy effort to offset both the US build-up and their own recent heavy losses by further increasing the number of fighting units in the field. This is being accomplished both by the organization of additional Viet Cong main force units at the expense of village guerrilla forces and by the introduction into South Vietnam of new units of the regular armed forces of North Vietnam.

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Viet Cong documents captured in the delta region of southern South Vietnam in August directed the upgrading of half of the village guerrillas to permit the strengthening of main force units farther north. The captured directives explained that the measure was necessary to restore the balance of forces which had been upset by the introduction of US and Allied ground combat units. This measure could produce enough manpower for two or three new Viet Cong regiments. Since August there has been a continuing flow of Viet Cong elements from the delta region to areas north of Saigon.

Paralleling this internal reinforcement has been the infiltration of a number of additional North Vietnamese Army elements in recent months. Two additional regiment-size North Vietnamese groups have been identified and there are indications that one and possibly two others may have arrived. One North Vietnamese regiment, according to Viet Cong prisoners taken during last week's siege of Plei Me, took part in that action.

All of these are in addition to the three regiments [] which infiltrated into South Vietnam in late 1964 and early 1965. It is still not clear whether the newly arrived groups are regular North Vietnamese units, composite units drawn from several North Vietnamese units, or North Vietnamese cadres.

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The previously reported construction of a motorable road from North Vietnam through the Laos panhandle is now nearing completion. It will permit a substantial increase in the flow of supplies to the enemy through Laos.

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