



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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23 FEBRUARY 1966

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1. Indonesia

There was a further build-up of tension today as partisans of both sides demonstrated in Djakarta.

In a move obviously contrived by the government, pro-Sukarno students who thought that Ambassador Green had returned to Djakarta marched on the embassy to demonstrate against the ambassador personally. Some managed to enter the embassy compound, but there was little damage.

Other student groups which support the army were fired on by police in front of the palace; several were apparently killed or wounded. Later, possibly as many as 10,000 young people staged a sitdown strike outside the palace to protest the cabinet changes, but they dispersed in late evening.

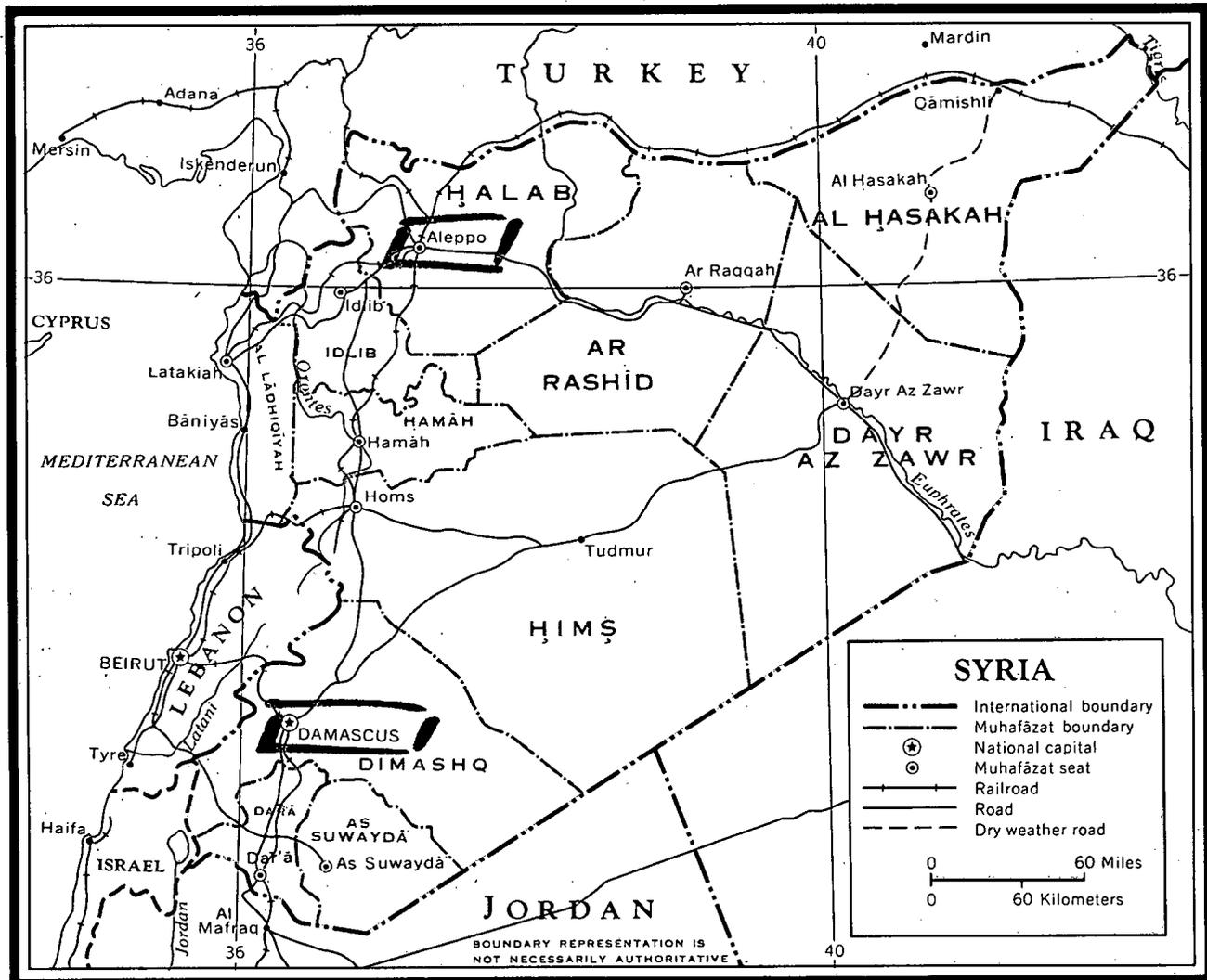
There could be more trouble tomorrow. The pro-army students and others being trucked into the capital may regroup in the morning in an effort to prevent or disrupt the cabinet installation. Other disorders could easily break out throughout the country.

2. Turkey

Turkish politics may be heading for a time of trouble. With President Gursel's condition worsening, the uncertainties of the presidential and military succession are heating up old antagonisms between rival army and air force leaders.

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3. Syria

Damascus is calm after the takeover by a radical Baath military clique this morning, but there are divisions within the military and the outcome is still in doubt.

Army units seized Damascus with little resistance, and key leaders in Prime Minister Bitar's government were arrested.

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[Redacted] Radio Aleppo [Redacted]

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[Redacted] maintains that military units in that area and in central Syria oppose the coup.

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The new "provisional regional command" in Damascus claims the loyalty of all important units except the Aleppo command. Neither the announcements from Damascus nor Aleppo, however, can be substantiated. (Map)

4. Yemen

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[Redacted]

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5. North Vietnam

Another ranking North Vietnamese military figure has come out with an analysis of the Vietnam war. A study by Nguyen Van Vinh, deputy chief of the army general staff, appears in the current issue of the same journal that last month carried Defense Minister Giap's article.

Vinh covers much of the same territory, but--unlike Giap--addresses himself to the possibility of US ground action against North Vietnam. On this point, he declares that "no matter what size forces the Americans throw into... such a conflict, they cannot avoid final defeat by the immense forces of their adversaries in this region."

Vinh admits that the US has an advantage in the technical and economic fields, but declares that this is offset by US logistical difficulties and limited manpower resources.

6. South Vietnam

The new minister of economy and finance told US officials shortly after taking office on Monday that prompt action must be taken to halt what he called the critical danger of accelerating inflation. He said he will be ready to begin corrective measures in a few days.

Saigon's ambassador to Washington, who has been home recently, believes the new minister is knowledgeable and energetic but wonders whether the necessary remedies will be fully supported by the generals.

7. Soviet Union

Cosmos 110 with its two dogs aboard continues in orbit. It is still unclear whether the Soviets will try to recover the capsule, but during the next few days the spacecraft will be passing over the usual recovery areas at night and this suggests that such an operation is not planned soon.

[REDACTED]

A primary function of Cosmos 110 may be to check out a new satellite for manned missions.

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8. Uganda

Prime Minister Obote's power grab yesterday seems to have succeeded for the short run at least. Most of his political opponents are either in jail or in hiding, and the security forces appear to be following his orders. Obote, however, has set himself against almost all the important political elements in the country and this could mean real trouble if any of the influential political leaders escape his dragnet and organize the opposition.

9. Ghana

There may be a move to overthrow the Ghanaian regime during Nkrumah's current Asian tour. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] this latest round of plotting is being engineered by the commander of the army's two brigades and the commissioner of police. Details are sketchy, but the plotters claim they intend to move under the cover of army maneuvers which are set to start today.

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[REDACTED]

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10. Panama

[redacted] the Panamenista Party under former president Arnulfo Arias and the small Moscow-oriented Communist Party are planning a joint antigovernment demonstration in Panama City on Friday. The idea is to key it to the opening meeting there of the Special Committee of the Organization of American States. Major trouble at this point seems unlikely.

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On the question of the canal treaty, the head of Panama's negotiating team said recently that he sees no reason to rush the talks. He evidently believes that February 1967 is a realistic date for presenting a draft for ratification. President Robles, however, has predicted that it would be ready this summer.

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