



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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15 MARCH 1966

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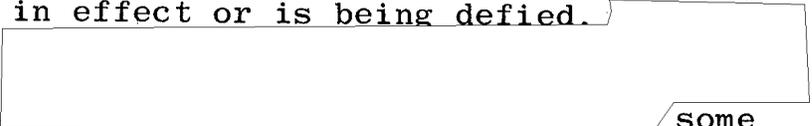
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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

There was more political agitation in the I Corps area today--especially at Da Nang and Hué. At Da Nang, the port is closed, the school boycott continues, and the general strike is about 90-percent effective.

Another mass meeting late today in Da Nang attracted about 5,000 people--close to one third were Vietnamese troops. This means that the order forbidding troop participation is either no longer in effect or is being defied.



some speeches were made by military officers.

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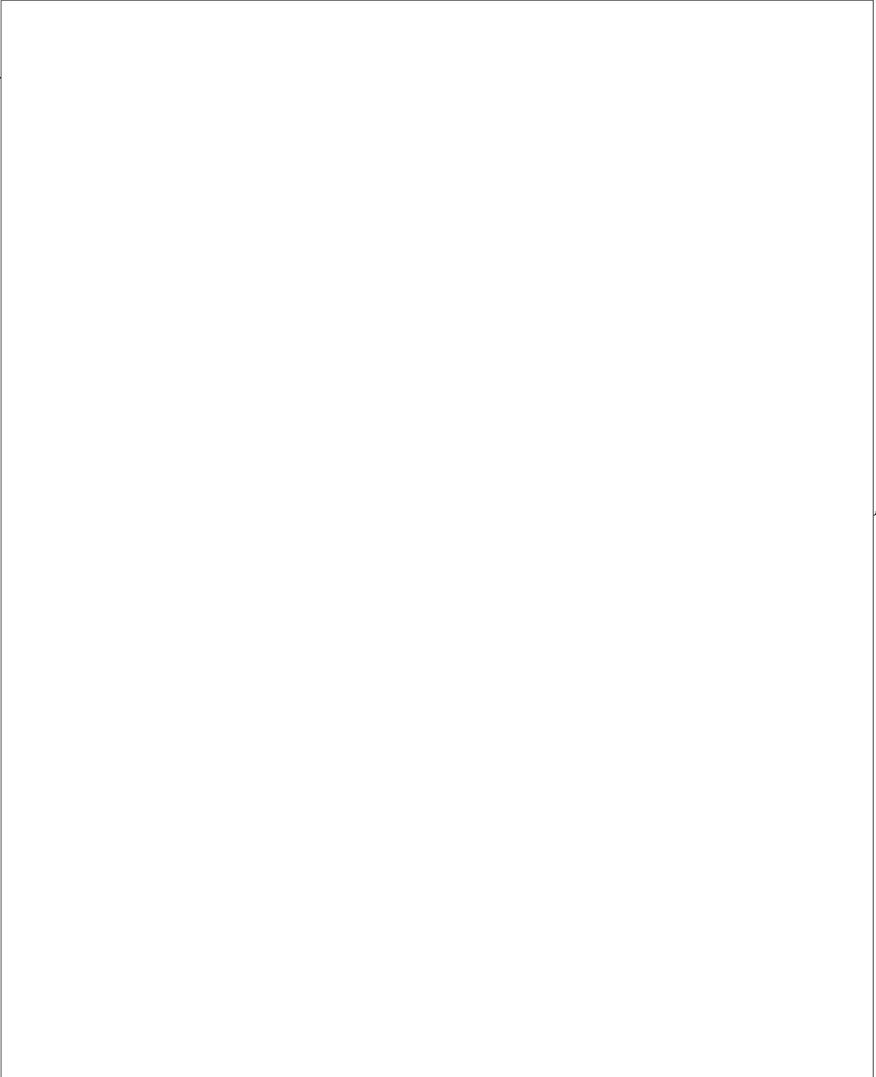
Farther north, in the touchy university city of Hué, a week-long student strike got under way today. More demonstrations--perhaps involving as many as 30,000 people--are expected there this evening, Washington time.

Ky realizes that the situation is worsening and that the problem is no longer just General Thi but the broader question of the Buddhists' attitude toward the military government. Ky now is talking about taking strong action, and this could well lead to a nasty confrontation with the Buddhists.

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2. Ghana

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3. Kenya

President Kenyatta showed considerable determination and political skill in cutting down the influence of extremists within his dominant political party during the recent party conference. Kenya's vice president, the pro-Communist Oginga Odinga, lost his party post, and all candidates backed by Odinga forces suffered crushing defeats. However, he still has considerable political influence and cannot be counted out yet.

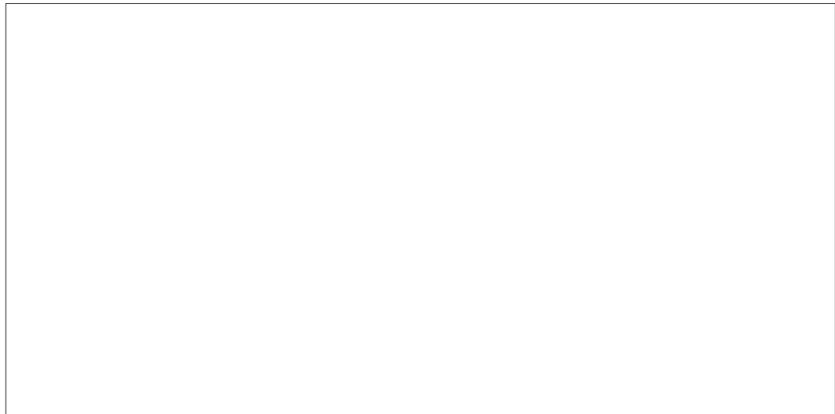
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4. Indonesia

General Suharto continues indecisive in the exercise of his new political authority as Sukarno tries to undercut and weaken him within the military.

Suharto's hand should have been strengthened, however, by today's impressive rally in Djakarta. The rally gave Suharto vigorous support and urged him to continue the job against Communists and pro-Communists and to reorganize the government radically. Ambassador Green believes the crowd, which numbered several hundred thousand, probably broke all Djakarta records.

5. India



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6. Cuba

The number of Cubans escaping by small boat has almost doubled since the US refugee airlift began on 1 December. At least 82 people took this hazardous journey to the US last month. A further increase is expected when spring brings calmer waters to the Florida straits.

The US airlift is now bringing out about 4,000 Cubans per month, but draft-eligible males are excluded from this avenue of escape and others will have to wait for years on approved refugee lists before their plane comes.

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7. Colombia

A crucial congressional election is to be held on Sunday. Opponents of Colombia's unique National Front system, which provides for a 16-year coalition of the two principal parties, may well win a majority in the new congress. This would require the next president, who is to be elected on 1 May, to rule by decree and would increase pressure for an end to the National Front system.

The political faction of rabble-rousing former dictator Rojas Pinilla is expected to make important gains in Sunday's elections.

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