



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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12 APRIL 1966

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23

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1. South Vietnam

The Buddhists are evidently preparing a new wave of demonstrations to protest the National Political Congress, which they boycotted today. A meeting of some 2,000 people at the Buddhist Institute in Saigon last night was probably called to organize this activity. The embassy has reports that large-scale demonstrations may start in Saigon on Thursday, and that monks are again ready to set fire to themselves.

Antigovernment activities were resumed in the provinces today. Nearly 5,000 demonstrators--some armed--marched in Da Nang; Hué was largely closed down as approximately 8,000 people assembled to denounce the government.

The replacement of Colonel Lieu as Director of the National Police appears to be imminent; Lieu has long been associated with former I Corps Commander Thi.

Several cabinet members close to Lieu and Thi are threatening to resign if the replacement is formalized. They believe that Lieu's removal would mean the end of whatever support still remains for Ky among the moderate Buddhists. They say that if this happens, Ky would have little or no chance of staying in power.

2. Pakistan

The government, aided by extremist groups, is working hard to stage an impressive welcome for Liu Shao-chi during his two-day visit to East Pakistan beginning on Friday. Most of the people, however, seem apathetic or even hostile to the visit, and Liu is unlikely to encounter the almost hysterical adulation he received on his tour of West Pakistan late last month.

3. Soviet Union

Today is Cosmonauts' Day in the Soviet Union. Some of the cosmonauts have seized the occasion to make unusually open statements on the Soviet program to put a man on the moon. These statements imply that Soviet plans are highly competitive with the US program, although this has usually been disclaimed by Soviet spokesmen.

It has been more than a year since the last Soviet manned space flight. Western newspapermen in Moscow now say "informed sources" there are predicting a major manned flight within the next few weeks.

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4. Greece

The survival of the Stephanopoulos government hinges on the outcome of a cabinet meeting under way tonight. Foreign Minister Tsirimokos resigned yesterday. Stephanopoulos said he would give up his mandate if the other cabinet members fail to back him against Tsirimokos. Nonetheless, a second cabinet minister is reported to have resigned today.

The movement of Tsirimokos and his friends into the opposition has wiped out Stephanopoulos' lead in parliament. However, enough members could defect from Papandreou's opposition to give the government a reprieve.

The extent of Greek Government control over the Cyprus armed forces was the issue that led to Tsirimokos' resignation. He had made common cause with Makarios against Athens' policy of allowing General Grivas a firm hand in all Cyprus' military affairs.

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5. Kenya

The government has decided to withdraw its ambassador from Peking and to open a new embassy in Tokyo. This is a reflection of the importance Kenya has been giving to its growing commercial ties with Japan and of Kenya's desire to encourage a withering away of its relations with Communist China.

6. Ecuador

Provisional president Yerovi, after two weeks in office, has yet to show the strength and resolution needed to tackle Ecuador's internal security and economic problems. Communists are making the most of the unrestricted freedom they have enjoyed since Yerovi, under student pressure, amnestied all jailed and exiled subversives.

On the economic front, the president shows no inclination to risk antagonizing the business elite by taking needed austerity measures.

The military still has the power to change all this. But last month's chaotic events weakened military prestige and the leading officers are now probably most reluctant to resume major responsibility for running the government.

7. Dominican Republic

Encouraged by a relatively long period free of violence, Dominicans seem to be increasingly abandoning their earlier skepticism about the possibility of holding elections on 1 June.

By the end of this coming weekend, if all goes well, all significant political parties will have held their conventions. Balaguer has been the most energetic campaigner thus far. His enthusiastic reception in some places seems to have surprised even his campaign workers.

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