



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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23 APRIL 1966

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1. South Vietnam

Martial law in Dalat has been extended, and the city remains quiet but tense. Word of the trouble there the past few days has reached the "struggle forces" in Hué and Da Nang; so far their only reaction has been a single telegram of protest addressed to the Buddhist Institute in Saigon.

The situation in Hué and Da Nang seems to be slowly edging its way back to normalcy. The radio stations in both cities have been returned to government control, if only under arrangements which give the "struggle forces" daily access for brief periods. Despite this trend, there is plenty of evidence that plotting continues among the area's many mutually antagonistic groups.

Saigon, too, was quiet today. A large demonstration involving Catholics and Nationalist Party members could develop tomorrow, however.

2. North Vietnam

Hanoi's jet fighter force is getting more action. Today they reacted to a US air strike for the seventh straight day.

Radio Hanoi has depicted all this as a "glorious victory." It is claiming that 10 US aircraft have been shot down in the past two days, for a grand--and greatly exaggerated--total of 980 since the air war began.

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3. Rhodesia

Prime Minister Wilson has sent a personal emissary to Salisbury and Pretoria on a secret mission, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The emissary, who was Wilson's private secretary until last week and is slated for an ambassadorship, spent two days in Salisbury and is now in Pretoria.

The trip came shortly after South African leader Verwoerd told the British that, while he would not mediate the Rhodesian dispute, he would be willing to help bring about a meeting between Wilson and Smith. Wilson could well be making one more effort to find out if a negotiated settlement is feasible.

4. Syria

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The regime's overtures in recent weeks toward the Communist Party of Syria probably smoothed the way for signing the big economic aid agreement in Moscow yesterday. But these developments have almost certainly increased dissidence among the still-influential moderates.

5. Iraq

The new President Arif may be looking for a way to end the Kurdish problem. In his first address to the nation last week he was notably conciliatory on this issue. It also seems that the army offensive against the dissidents, that was to have begun by now, has been postponed.

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6. Dominican Republic

Dominican military and police officers in the capital still seem to be carefully preparing to avoid overreaction to the expected leftist provocations during the coming anniversary week.

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Meanwhile, the Moscow-oriented Dominican party has announced its support for the events planned for the week by Communist-led student groups.

7. Guatemala

The Communists, who have been relatively quiet since the 6 March elections, have now concluded that the probable assumption of the presidency by moderate leftist Julio Cesar Mendez will bring no real change to benefit them.

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