



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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3 MAY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

The continuance of the Ky government after the formation of the constitutional convention to be elected this fall is shaping up as a major issue with the Buddhists.

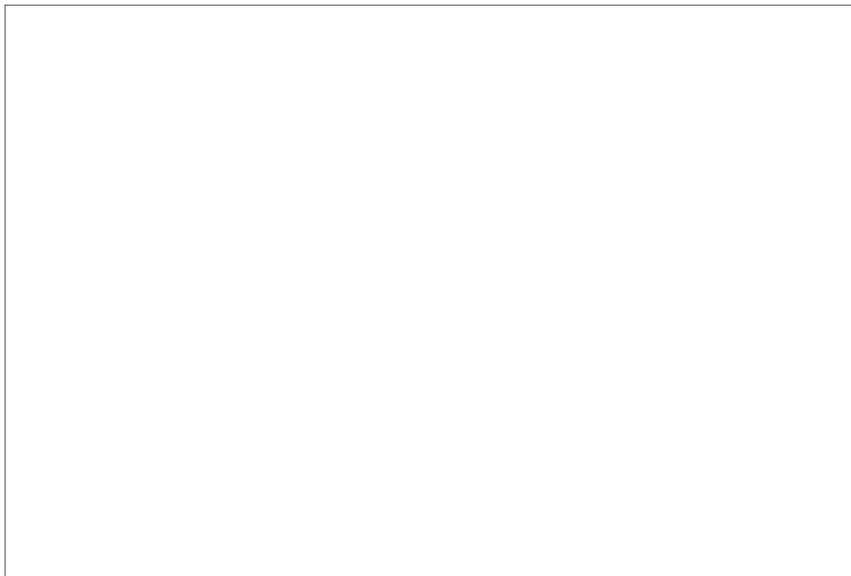
Premier Ky intends to stay on until after a constitution is drafted, but Buddhist leaders are reiterating that the convention should both appoint an interim government and serve as an interim legislature.

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Ky may be floating a trial balloon on the idea of delaying the elections, to which he is committed by mid-September. Today he told newsmen that "we will try to hold elections by October." Such remarks could easily put the "struggle groups" in the streets again if they are taken as a delaying tactic.

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2. Communist China



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3. Communist China

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4. Jordan

King Husayn today assured our ambassador that Jordan would not retaliate "at this time" for the two Israeli border raids last weekend.

Husayn added, "Do not come to me on the next occasion asking that I restrain the army." Continued failure to retaliate against Israeli attacks could indeed expose Husayn to political trouble at home and aspersions on his Arab manhood from Cairo.

His frustration is worsened by the fact that the guerrillas who provoked the Israelis, although based in Jordan, are controlled and supported by Syria.

5. Canada

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6. Sweden

May Day celebrations in Stockholm, where Vietnam was the theme, were marked by the worst anti-American incidents in years.

Although the principal speaker, Foreign Minister Nilsson, did not mention possible Swedish recognition of North Vietnam, he did call for negotiations including all participants, saying "we cannot at all be neutral" in the face of Vietnam.

The embassy expects more anti-American outbursts before the September elections as the ruling party leadership makes more concessions to its left-wing elements.

7. Nigeria

General Ironsi and his military colleagues, whose regime has coasted for three months on a wave of popularity, may soon have to make some hard decisions.

The euphoria which followed removal of the old, corrupt politicians is fading fast. A nationwide increase in prices of basic foods has produced a popular clamor for action by the government. Violence in the provinces, which plagued the former government, has not yet been stamped out.

These problems would present no threat if the army were united behind the regime. There is, however, considerable evidence of discontent and lack of discipline among the military.

A prime issue here is the government's attitude toward the middle-grade officers who carried out the January coup and were subsequently arrested, rather gently, by Ironsi. They are variously regarded as heroes or mutinous assassins--and Ironsi may soon have to commit himself one way or the other.

8. Togo

Liberian President Tubman's visit last week to Lomé gives some interesting glimpses of African statesmen in action.

The Togolese went all out in preparing for the visit but Tubman inexplicably stopped in the Ivory Coast en route. This left the entire Togolese Government and the diplomatic corps twiddling their fingers for two hours at the steaming airport, while the school children lining the street drooped in the hot sun.

The Liberians finally materialized, but with 12 more dignitaries than expected, and food ran out at the gala banquet that evening. An illuminated fountain Tubman dedicated in "Liberia Square" gurgled only fitfully.

The Liberians, however, seemed pleased at honors accorded them and the sight of their flag throughout the city. On the last morning, after euphoric farewell speeches, Tubman and party roared off by car at nine-thirty for Cotonou--where the Dahomean Government had assembled at the airport to meet his eight o'clock plane.

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