



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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18 MAY 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DAILY BRIEF
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I. South Vietnam

Although open clashes have been avoided in I Corps area, neither side has made, or seems ready to make, any concessions.

In Da Nang, government troops and struggle forces are continuing to reinforce their positions. Struggle forces, including Vietnamese Army troops, still hold the Tinh Hoi pagoda--the focal point of the confrontation.

Some government officers are reportedly urging an all-out attack on the pagoda, but Ky told Deputy Ambassador Porter that he was opposed to this course.

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Hue was "reasonably calm," but with barricades on many streets. There have been no reports suggesting an immediate government move on the city. A strike has shut down shops, markets, and public transportation, but no anti-American activity was observed. Tri Quang--who has been counseling moderation among his followers and was charming on Monday--was somber, combative, and sometimes little short of insulting in talking to the US vice consul today.

General Thi, whose ouster as I Corps commander precipitated the present troubles, has agreed to meet Ky tomorrow in Chu Lai.

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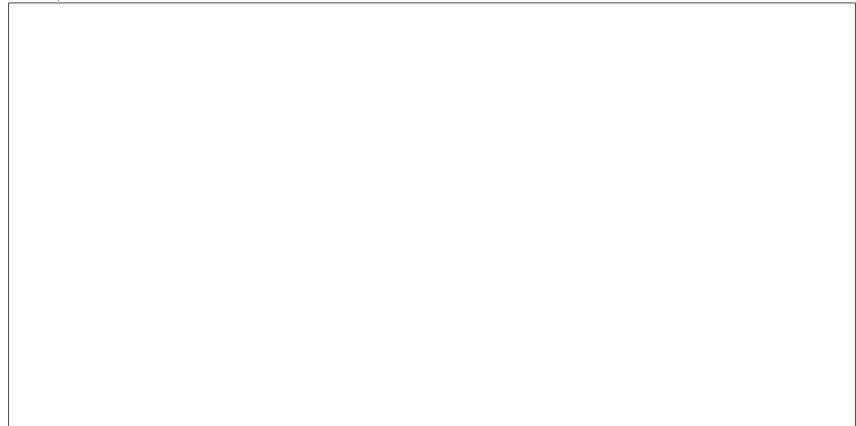
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2. Soviet Union



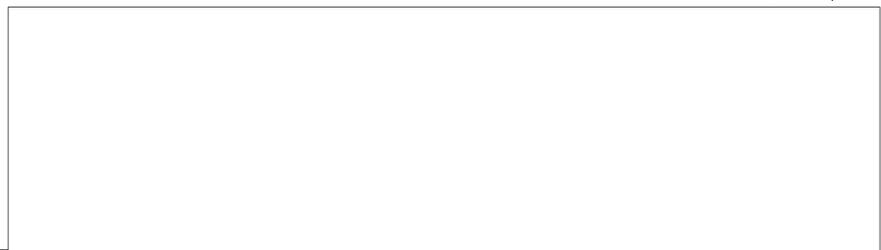
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3. France



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4. Egypt



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5. Uganda

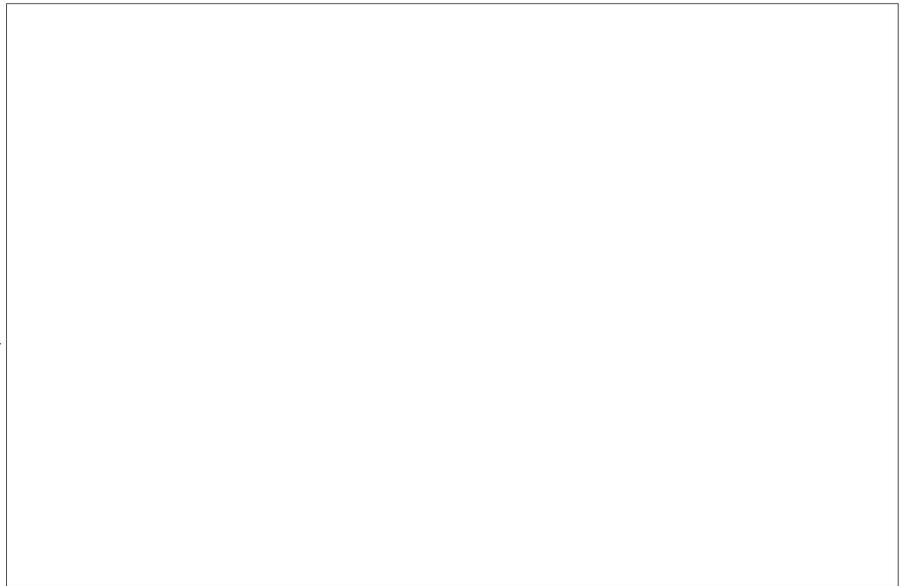
Obote is still obviously worried that his opposition might try to bring him down. When parliament reconvened on Monday, he made sure that soldiers with Sten guns were in the courtyard and that his jet trainers were flying overhead. Even the public and the diplomatic corps have been excluded from the sessions.

The police in the capital area have been placed on stand-by alert until further notice.

6. Guatemala

A guerrilla band identified as belonging to the Communist Party's action arm killed 14 members of an army patrol yesterday in the mountains northeast of Guatemala City. This is the largest number of casualties that the guerrillas have ever inflicted in a single action. The incident took place in spite of the state of siege which the government decreed last week.

7. Communist China



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8. Nationalist China

The leaders of Nationalist China now seem more pessimistic over the trend of events in the Far East than at any time since their defeat on the mainland in 1949. This feeling has been brought about by such things as the decline of Nationalist military power relative to that of Communist China, Peking nuclear successes, and Nationalist defeats in sporadic clashes with the Communists in the Taiwan Strait.

On top of these factors, Chiang Kai-shek and his advisers are thoroughly upset and dejected by the China policy discussions in the US.

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All of this would seem to indicate that the Nationalists will be increasingly difficult to deal with in the future.

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