



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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30 MAY 1966

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1. South Vietnam

Tri Quang may believe that he has gone too far out on the political limb and he may now be trying to move himself back a bit. This morning one of his emissaries passed the word that Quang wants an "American authority" to come to Hué to discuss a compromise.

The middleman suggested that this might involve retaining Ky, dumping both Thieu and Co, and bringing Thi back into the government.

As for Thi, in an interview today, he gave the impression that he is somewhat fed up with Tri Quang and that he may be prepared to re-enter government service. When asked whether his rapprochement with Ky would isolate Quang more and more, Thi answered, "You're intelligent enough to figure that out for yourself."

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In a cable this morning, Ambassador Lodge has branded the Buddhists' current suicide campaign as an obviously desperate and cynical effort to pressure the US. Despite these suicides, however, the struggle forces have yet to follow them up with new large-scale demonstrations in the major cities.

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2. Indonesia

Indonesian Foreign Minister Malik, who meets with Malaysian Deputy Premier Razak in Bangkok today, seems confident of reaching an agreement that will end the confrontation. He told Ambassador Green on Saturday that preliminary meetings in Kuala Lumpur last week had gone very well and that Malaysia had already proposed a formula acceptable to him.

Malik is still concerned about Sukarno's reactions. He said that although the military were just as eager as he to end confrontation, they left it to him to deal with Sukarno. The ambassador feels certain that if Sukarno tries to make a test case of the confrontation issue, Malik will emerge the victor.

Malik, incidentally, asked the ambassador to pose with him for photographers--the first time their meetings have been publicized in this fashion.

3. Nigeria

All major towns in northern Nigeria are reported quiet following yesterday's antigovernment demonstrations. Although some missionary installations have reportedly been entered by the demonstrators, we know of no injury to Americans.

The demonstrations, which had ominous tribal overtones, may have been triggered by Ironsi's speech last week in which he outlined plans to make Nigeria a unitary state. The conservative Moslem northerners, who controlled the federal government prior to the January coup, probably interpreted this as an effort to further reduce their influence.

Ironsi, who has tried to reassure the northerners, now will probably have to take firm action to restore order or run the risk of trouble from young southern army officers, already unhappy with his leadership.

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4. Egypt

Egypt and the USSR may be moving toward a period of cautious cooperation in pursuit of common objectives in the Arab world. Egypt is completely dependent on the USSR for military aid, and Soviet bloc aid is becoming increasingly important to its economy.

The Soviets, however, will shy away from specifically backing Nasir on such adventures as his developing showdown with Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, mere dollars and cents will limit Soviet cooperation, since Moscow appears to realize that its huge investment in Egypt may be reaching the point of diminishing returns.

5. Dominican Republic

Supporters of both Bosch and Balaguer are reportedly optimistic. Most observers, however, consider it a close race which may be decided by the "silent vote"--the large, unsophisticated segment of the population which makes itself heard only on election day.

Bonnelly and his supporters, who probably have few illusions about their chances, are said to be embittered by Balaguer's skimpy offers for their support and may go the distance for lack of any better alternative.

6. Laos

The Communists' year-old campaign to clear government troops out of the Samneua area of northern Laos has recently suffered some setbacks.

Last week government guerrillas reoccupied Na Khang village and airstrip, and earlier in the month recaptured Muong Hiem. These important positions had been taken by North Vietnamese troops in February and March to improve Communist supply and transit routes into the Plaine des Jarres.

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