



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

17 JUNE 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

DAILY BRIEF
17 JUNE 1966

1. South Vietnam

Government forces continued today the major effort to reassert Saigon's authority in Hué. There have been no pitched battles between the opposing forces, though government troops did feel obliged on several occasions today and yesterday to open fire on Buddhist-led mobs. There have been several fatalities. The situation is still explosive.

It is estimated that about 1,000 soldiers of the First Division in Hué are still openly siding with the "struggle forces." Many are without weapons, however, and most are passively holed up in the ancient Hué citadel, the walled section of the city. Troops in Hué loyal to Saigon were further reinforced today and now total some 2,000.

Tri Quang, who says he is continuing his hunger strike, is calling for new nonviolent resistance tactics, including a boycott of US personnel and installations.

Back in Saigon, the struggle between moderates and militants for control of the Buddhist Institute came clearly into the open today. Tam Chau publicized an open letter taking strong issue with the militants, including Tri Quang. In an energetic bid to regain control of the institute, he declared that he will not resign and will not be treated as a mere clerk.

The three-day "general strike" called by the institute, now set to begin tomorrow, is not expected to cause severe disruption. It is opposed by major labor unions.

2. Singapore

This week Prime Minister Lee publicly took issue with the local leftist campaign to discredit the US in Vietnam. In the most unequivocal statement he has yet made on this issue, he told a student group at the university that the US cannot be blamed for what is happening in Vietnam.

The war in Vietnam, he said, is to ensure that the same thing is not repeated elsewhere. He pointed out that Singapore is not the only nonaligned country in South Asia with an important stake in the outcome.

50X1

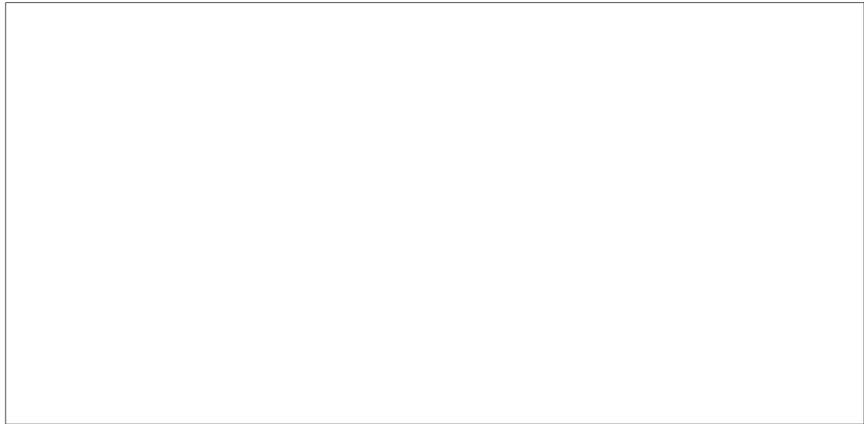
3. Congo

President Mobutu says that he is seriously considering disbanding some of the white mercenary units serving in the Congo. These troops have been bearing the brunt of the government's anti-rebel campaign for almost two years, but Mobutu now looks on them as good targets in his drive to assert his country's independence and self-sufficiency.

Although the mercenaries, particularly the South Africans, are no longer the indispensable force they were at the height of the rebellion, their removal would greatly prolong the campaign against the rebels and drastically reduce the government's capacity to head off any rebel resurgence.

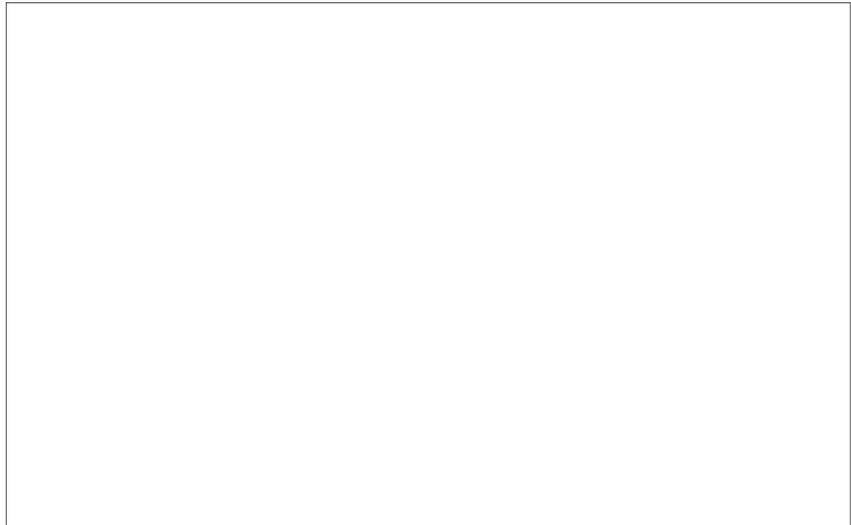
50X1

4. India-Pakistan



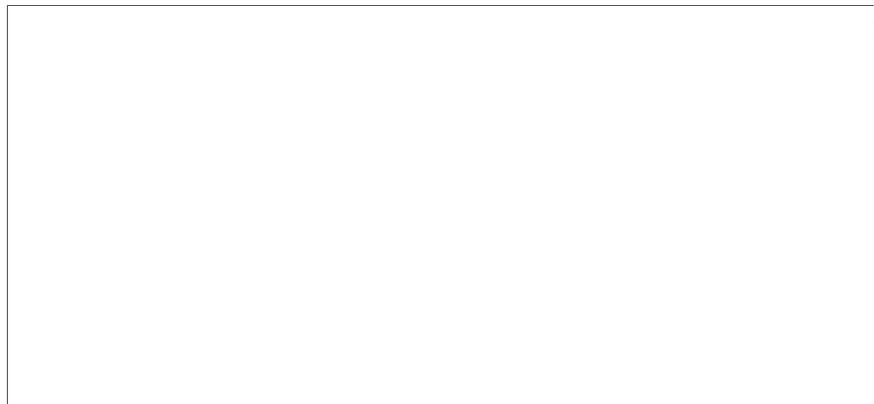
50X1

5. France



50X1

6. Netherlands



50X1



50X1

7. Bolivia

The much publicized unity of the Bolivian mine workers seems to be cracking.

Opposition to Communist and pro-Communist domination of the Mine Workers Federation has grown in recent weeks

50X1

All of this decreases the chances of violence in the mines before the national elections on 3 July.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET