



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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5 JULY 1966

TOP SECRET

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. North Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

Late yesterday the government released, in two separate ceremonies, a total of 282 persons arrested in recent weeks for participation in the "struggle."

In both ceremonies the detainees were handed over to Tam Chau with only one other Buddhist Institute leader present-- an apparent attempt by the government to build up Chau's prestige at the expense of Tri Quang and the extremist wing of the institute.

Today, the 79-member Peoples-Army Council was installed. Its mission is to advise the government on political, economic, cultural, and social welfare matters. Until it elects its officers and we can learn more about its important members, we cannot say whether this council will be any more effective than the many similar ones that have come and gone in recent years.

3. Communist China

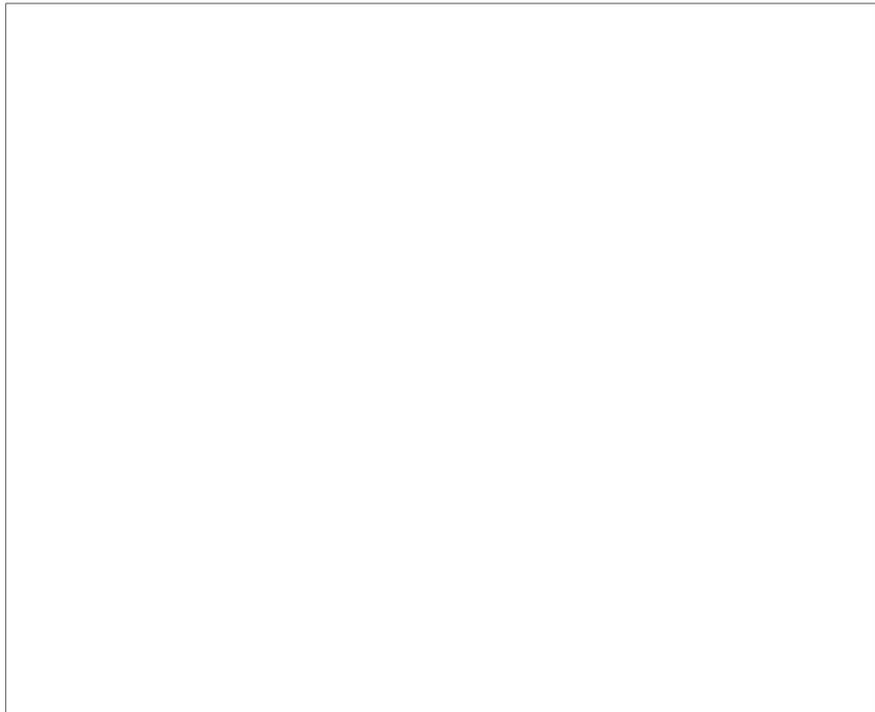
A Chinese Government statement on Sunday and a People's Daily editorial today refer to the US strikes on the Vietnamese oil depots and declare that the strikes free China from "any bounds or restrictions" in rendering support to the North Vietnamese. As a result, the newspaper says, China "will observe no boundary in aiding Vietnam," and then repeats previous pronouncements on Vietnam which implied that China would not initiate a war with the US.

In all, it seems to us that the Chinese response so far to the raids has been hesitant and cautious. Despite noisy repetition of earlier pledges of support for Hanoi, Peking has been careful to avoid any extension of their commitment in Vietnam.

In fact, the emphasis in these statements--like those from Hanoi--is on the determination of the Vietnamese people to carry on the struggle themselves.

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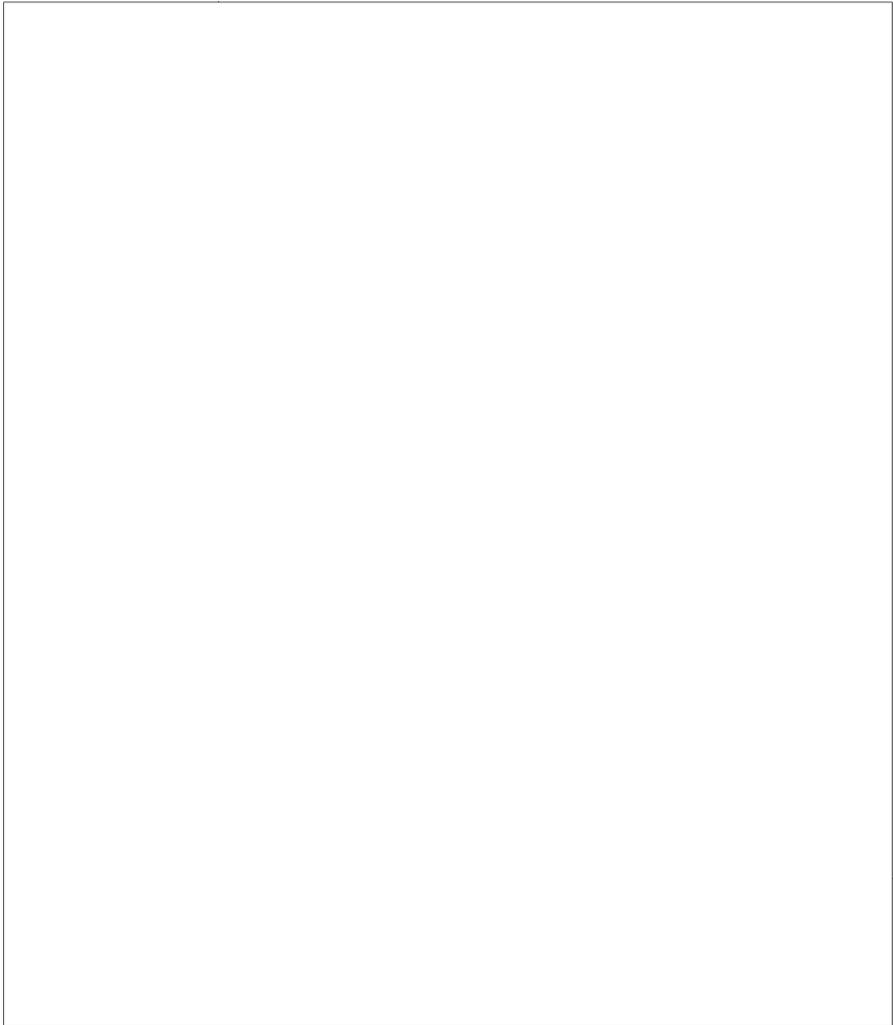
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5. Cyprus

The situation in northeast Cyprus remains explosive. The local government has informed General Grivas, the Greek-controlled commander of the Cyprus armed forces, that he can take whatever action he deems necessary to settle the road-building dispute in the Trypimeni area.

Both Athens and Ankara are urging moderation on their respective communities, but the danger of a new clash is heightened by the scheduling of a Greek Cypriot National Guard exercise tomorrow in an area bordering Turkish Cypriot territory north of Nicosia.

6. Yugoslavia



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