



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 27 March 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
27 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

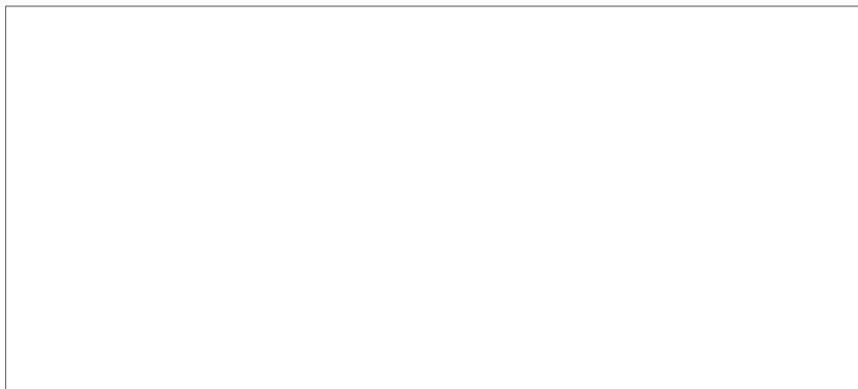
We have few details beyond press reports on yesterday's incident between Saigon police and a routine funeral procession organized by militant Buddhists. The police held up the procession until Ky gave it his okay.

There have been signs for some time, however, that the Buddhists desire to resume political action, although they show little inclination to compete in the coming elections. This orderly procession was probably a test of Buddhist strength and government reaction.

2. South Vietnam

The senior generals who make up the Armed Forces Council meet today to review the draft constitution. Ky told Ambassador Lodge on Saturday that he expects a good deal of grumbling from the generals who, Ky said, fear the constitution will cut into their power. Ky feels up to the situation, however, and believes in the end he can persuade the generals to support the constitution.

3. Soviet Union



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4. Soviet Union

There have been eight Soviet space launches so far in March, a new monthly record for the program.

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5. Communist China

Peking is still trying hard to keep the cultural revolution from interfering with spring planting. The regime has ordered attacks on production cadres and "power seizures" in the countryside to cease. It has also restricted the time to be spent on "mass activities," and called on the army to reimpose discipline on the peasants.

Even so, we doubt that spring farm work this year will be up to par. There are already reports of food shortages in some areas; Peking, however, can probably prevent widespread famine.

6. India

The Indian ambassador in Moscow says the Svetlana affair has caused a "definite setback" in Soviet-Indian relations. He claims the Soviets insist the Indians acted in collusion with the US. The ambassador added that the Soviets gave her an exit visa only after a split decision at "a very high level."

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