

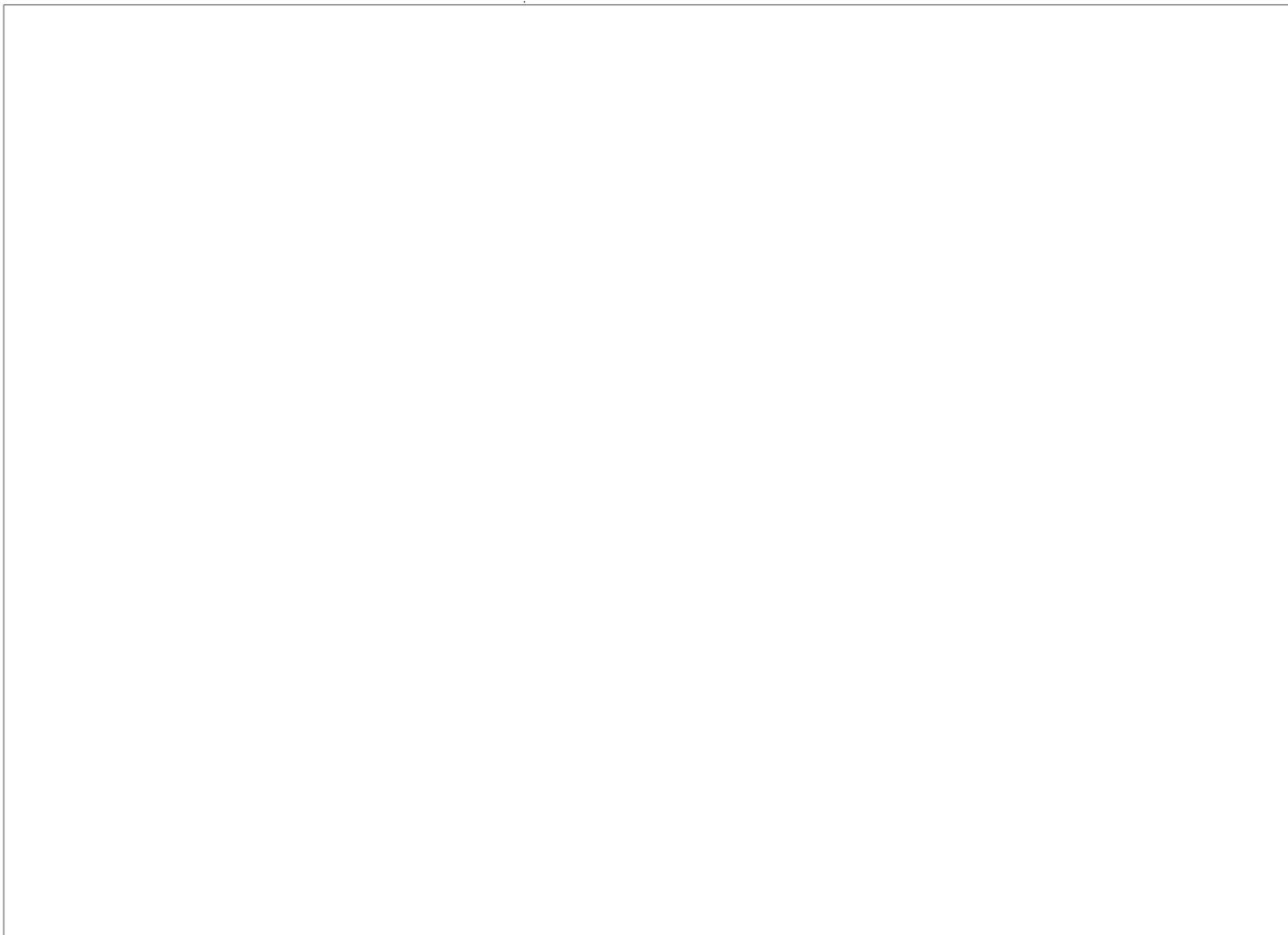
The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 12 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
12 MAY 1967

1. Communist China

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2. Hong Kong

The Hong Kong government and Peking's apparatus in the colony are moving toward a test of strength. The Communists have sharply increased their agitation in recent months. Yesterday this resulted in a clash between police and hundreds of rioters engaged in a demonstration against "foreigners."

The local government, no longer able to avoid the challenge, [redacted] must take a hard line to prevent erosion of its authority. It clearly has the example of Macao in mind.

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Peking is out to embarrass the local authorities in Hong Kong, as it did the Portuguese. In this case, however, the Chinese have more to lose; they probably do not now want to jeopardize the considerable economic benefit they get from continued British control of the colony.

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3. Western Europe

Brezhnev has been urging West European Communist leaders to adopt "united front" tactics.

In his off-the-record bilateral contacts during the recent European Communist party conference in Czechoslovakia, the Soviet leader pressed for a broad anti-German "peace front." This, he said, should bring together not only political parties but also youth groups, labor activists, intellectuals, and religious organizations.

4. Iraq

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5. Iran

The Shah has angrily "suspended" plans for his US trip next month. He is reacting to fragmentary press accounts of uncomplimentary references to him during recent closed hearings of the US Senate Disarmament Subcommittee. Ambassador Meyer hopes he can calm things down when the official US record arrives, but he is not sure.

6. Guatemala

Rightist vigilantes are retaliating for Communist terrorism with their own campaign of assassinations, kidnappings, and bombings. They have been increasingly active in recent days. Their targets, unfortunately, include a number of moderate leftists and labor leaders who probably have no connection with Communism.

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