

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 15 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
15 MAY 1967

1. South Vietnam

Police Director Loan intends to play a major role in the coming national elections.

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_____ he is moving ahead with plans for a political organization in the provinces to support Ky's bid for the presidency.

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Loan added that the high level of world interest in the elections precludes the chance of rigging them, but that the military establishment will wield its legitimate patronage powers to assist Ky.

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Ky, meanwhile, intends to push hard for certain labor reforms on the Saigon waterfront. He expects strenuous opposition and even strikes engineered by the vested interests that have long profited as middlemen in the labor market. Ky seems to have seized on this as a good opportunity to demonstrate to the electorate his solicitude for the workers.

2. Soviet Union

The Soviet Embassy in Bonn is sniffing around on the mutual troop reduction issue.

A Soviet diplomat called at the US Embassy late last week to get some clarification about our troop rotation plan in West Germany. He remarked there were economic and political considerations which made the Soviets interested in a reduction of their forces in East Germany, but they wanted to assess our recent moves before they reached a conclusion themselves.

Ambassador McGhee comments that it is hard to tell whether the diplomat's call was directed by Moscow or was an independent step taken by the Soviet ambassador to West Germany who has strong personal interests in disarmament and European security.

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3. Iran

The Shah's trip to Washington appears to be on again, but the Iranian ruler is still smouldering over what he considers insults by Senator Fulbright.

On Friday, Ambassador Meyer came from a scratchy two and a half hours with the Shah commenting that the senator's uncomplimentary remarks during recent Senate Disarmament Subcommittee hearings are not likely to be forgotten or forgiven in Tehran. [redacted]

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The ambassador doubts the Shah will be interested in going to a scheduled tea with the senator.

4. Egypt

Nasir, fearing an Israeli attack on his Syrian ally, is putting Egypt's armed forces on alert.

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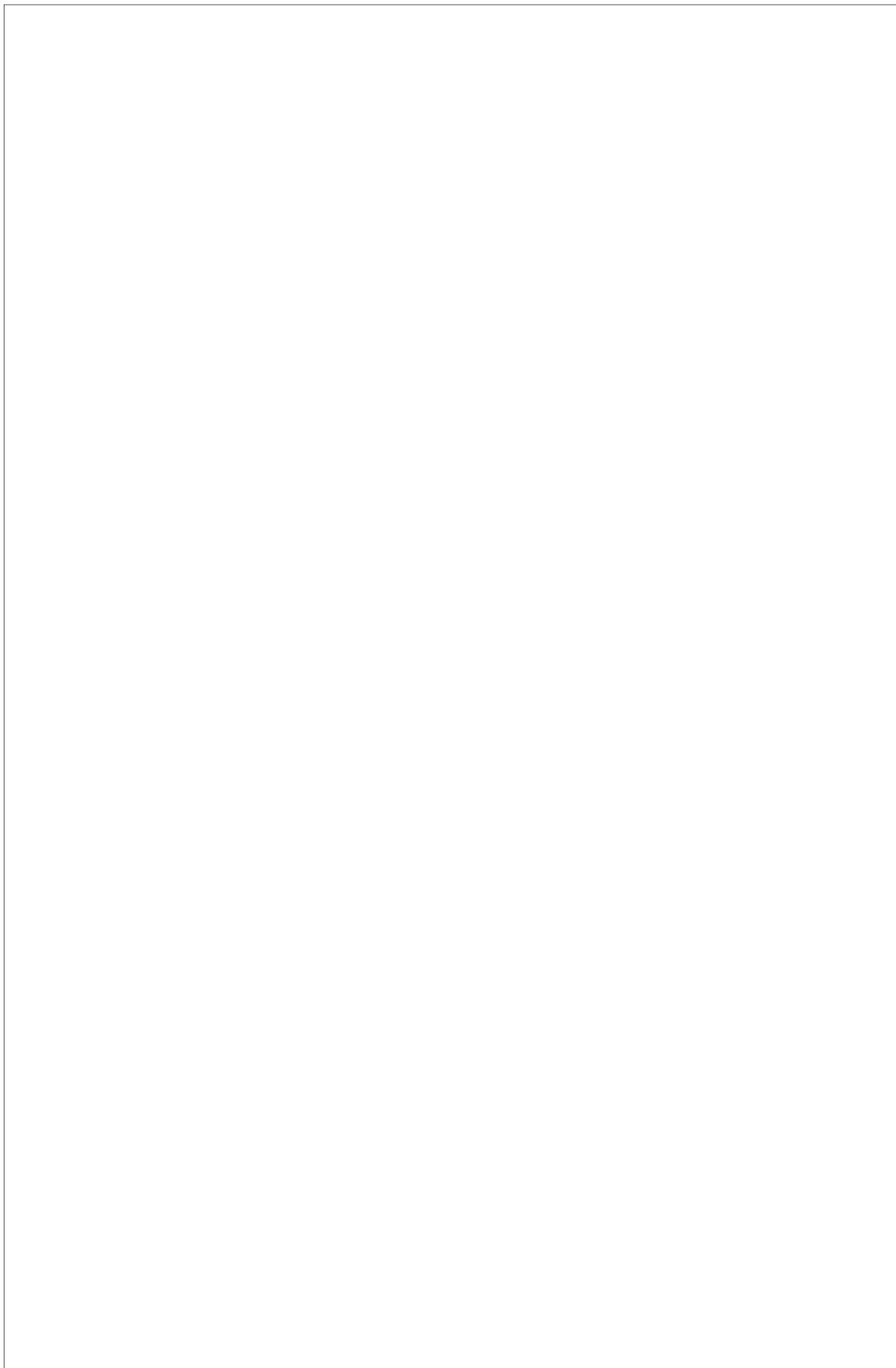
[redacted]

[redacted] On Friday, the Israelis warned they would strike Syria if the Syrians kept on sending terrorists into Israel.

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Nasir is not likely to start a fight with Israel--in fact, he would like to avoid one--but he would be under great pressure to help Syria if the Israelis attack.

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5. Yemen

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