

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 16 May 1967



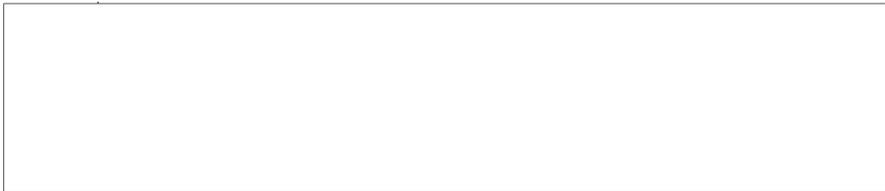
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DAILY BRIEF
16 MAY 1967

1. North Vietnam

Eight Soviet medium transport planes are on their way across China to North Vietnam. This is the largest such contingent to transit China in recent years.

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Moscow has recently been making much of its determination to provide Hanoi with assistance to meet the increased US war effort. The current flights provide a visible demonstration of that determination and the Soviets probably hope this will impress all concerned.

2. Communist China

Peking has now involved itself directly in the Hong Kong situation. The Chinese are evidently out to humble Britain publicly and thereby weaken its authority in the colony.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry statement [redacted] in Peking yesterday threatens "grave consequences" unless the Hong Kong authorities give in completely to the demands of the Peking-inspired demonstrators who rioted there last week.

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London is not likely to knuckle under in the face of a direct confrontation as the Portuguese did in Macao last December and January.



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3. Laos

Supplies brought to the North Vietnam - Laos border during late March and April are continuing to filter into Laos toward the Plaine des Jarres. Our road-watch teams inside Laos report that about 36 trucks a day--the highest rate in recent months--moved west along the route between 6 and 10 May. We still believe that this is a stockpiling operation in anticipation of the rainy season.

4. South Arabia

Last week the cabinet in London formally endorsed the decision to unload Britain's South Arabian protectorates next January. The British hope they can give independence to a government with some base of support among the diverse peoples there. This will be difficult and the British will probably accept almost any kind of regime they can get. British troops are to leave as quickly as possible after independence.

A naval force is to be stationed nearby for six months [redacted] but there will be no British guarantee against internal subversion--or against a deterioration into political chaos. The whole nasty problem may well end up in the lap of the United Nations.

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5. Egypt

Nasir is going all out to show that his mutual security pact with Syria is something which the Israelis should take very seriously. Large troop contingents were seen moving through Cairo yesterday and there are other signs of a wide-scale mobilization.

Nasir must be hoping desperately that there will be no need for him to fight the Israelis. He probably feels, however, that his prestige in the Arab world would nose-dive if he stood idly by while Israel mauled Syria again.

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6. Egypt

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7. Dominican Republic

Juan Bosch is still in Spain, leading the life of a rather embittered philosopher while his party back home carries on the wars. The latest party move has been to call again for a broad "anti-Trujillo front" to resist the Balaguer government.

So far, the only groups to respond positively to this idea have been extremists of the left. This response has put pressure on party leaders to go ahead with some kind of opposition "front"--even though this would surely produce a further exodus of the more moderate members.

President Balaguer continues on a hard-nosed course as he tries to restore public confidence in the wake of the upsurge of political terrorism. In the process, he is becoming more and more dependent on his conservative and right-wing supporters.

8. Ecuador

President Arosemena is faced with a new upsurge of violence. Several people were killed and many wounded late last week before police and troops were able to suppress crowds of workers and students demonstrating their support for striking railwaymen. Further violence is feared and there is talk of more strikes to come.

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