



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ — 6 May 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
6 MAY 1968

1. South Vietnam

The coordinated wave of enemy attacks over the weekend was widespread, but generally confined to short mortar and rocket barrages. The sporadic firefights in the Saigon area involved fairly small units. Over-all, loss of life and property damage appear to have been relatively light.

Prisoners taken in the Saigon area tell of Viet Cong preparations for further raids against the capital.

The attacks were accompanied by propaganda broadcasts alleging that many people were responding to Viet Cong appeals for a general uprising. The Communists, with an eye on the coming talks in Paris, evidently hope to give new emphasis to claims that a legitimate popular revolt is under way in the South.

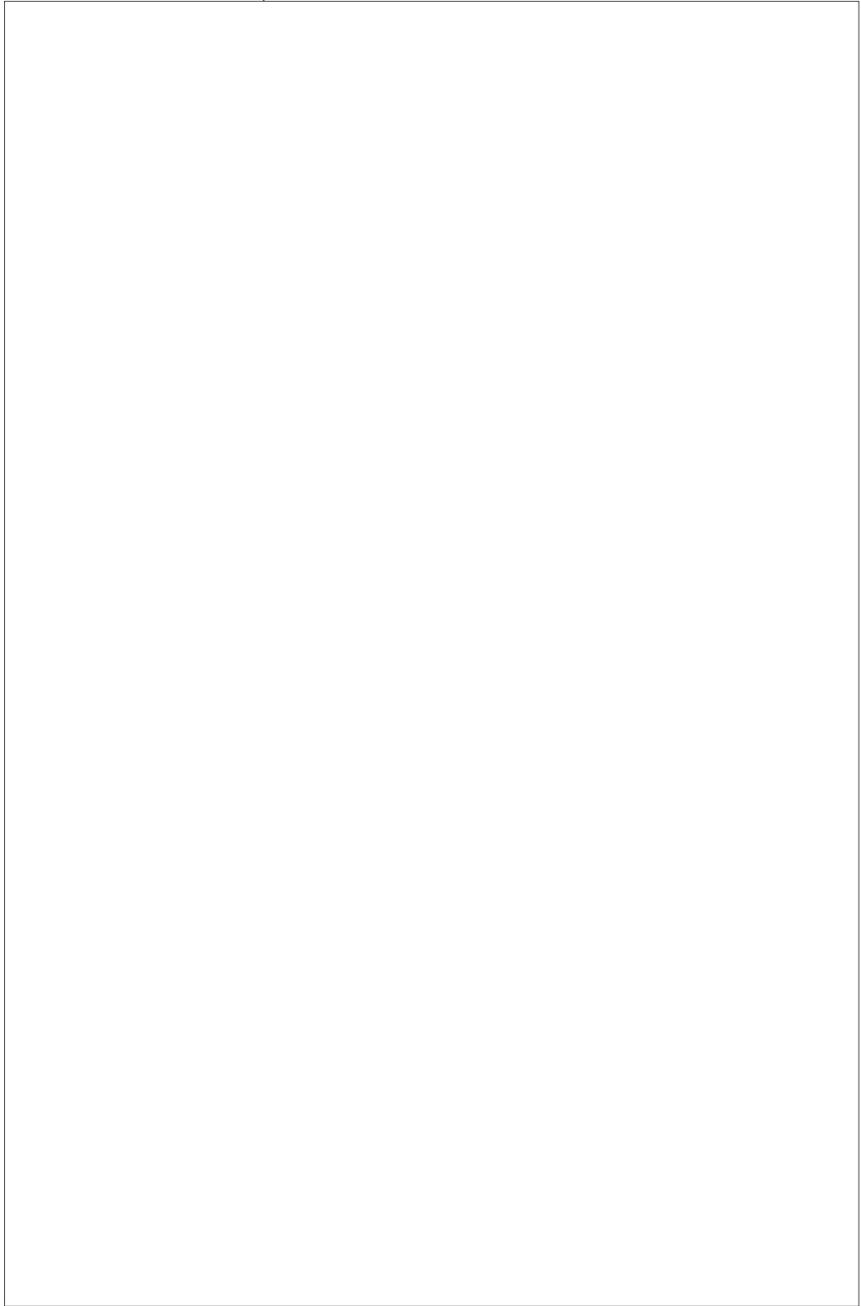
2. Czechoslovakia-
Soviet Union

Very little came of Dubcek's weekend in Moscow. At least, that is the clear impression left by the communiqué issued yesterday. Dubcek was rebuffed if, as we believe, he had hoped to get a large credit from the Soviets. The matter of "economic cooperation" was relegated to experts for further study.

The communiqué says the two sides expressed "determination" to expand friendly relations and to continue working to strengthen international Communist unity. That last point has a particularly hollow ring. The open polemics over the weekend between the Czechoslovaks and the Poles suggest that the gap will continue to widen between conflicting interpretations of what "Communist unity" means.

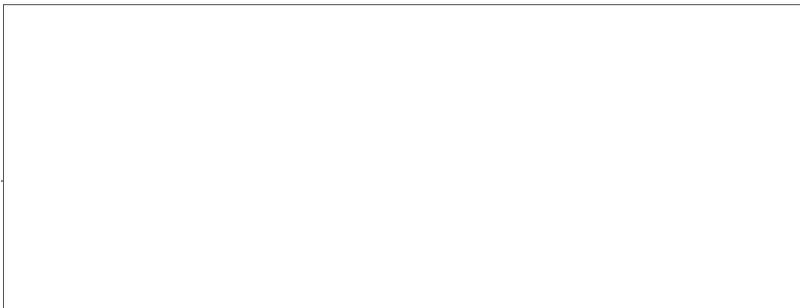
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3. Middle East



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4. United Kingdom



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5. Berlin

The Soviets say the East German ban on travel of West German officials to Berlin could be lifted--provided Bonn promises to stop trying to demonstrate that "West Berlin belongs to the Federal Republic." This was the principal point made by Moscow's Ambassador Abrasimov in East Berlin during a long talk with Ambassador McGhee on Friday. Abrasimov was clearly out to get the US to press Bonn to cut back its ties with West Berlin.

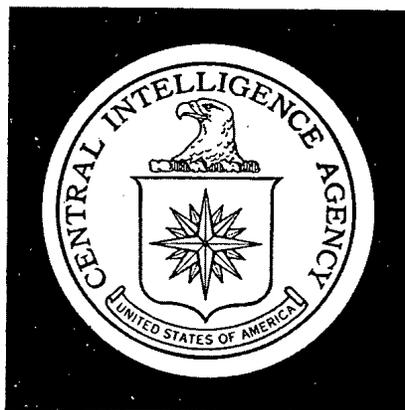
Throughout the conversation, Abrasimov took pains to stress that Moscow wants no new crisis with the Western allies and that allied access to West Berlin is in no way affected.

6. Chile

Dissatisfaction in the military over low pay came to the surface late last week when a number of middle-level officers turned in their resignations. The immediate results were shake-ups in the cabinet and in the top army command--and further complications for President Frei's battle to hold the line against inflationary wage increases.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

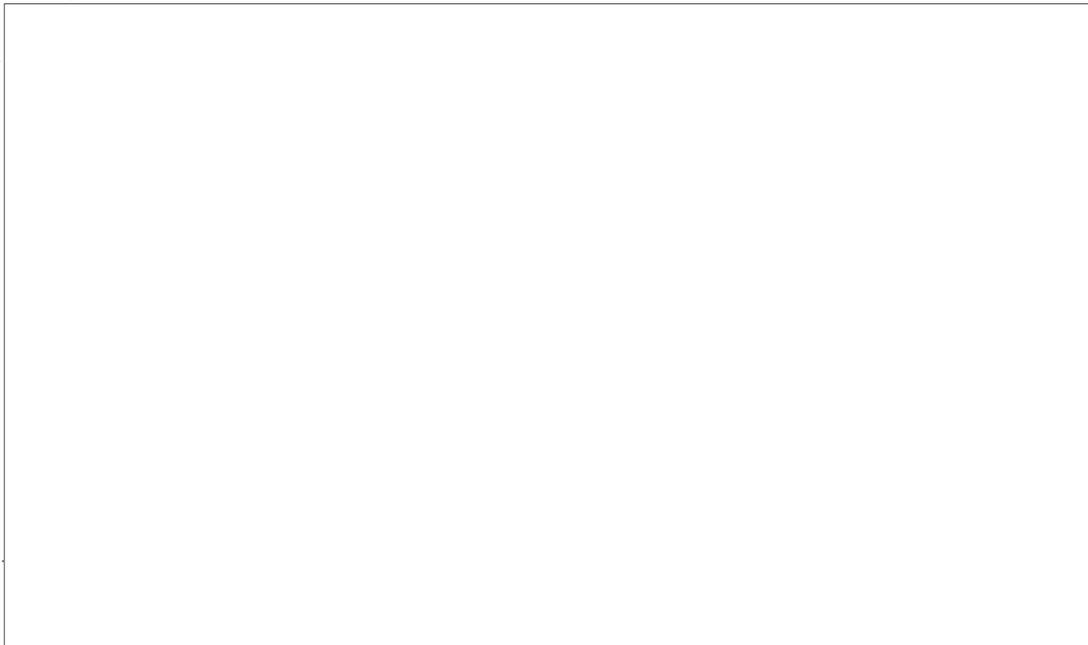
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Current Propaganda Stand: Hanoi's propaganda following the agreement to meet in Paris appears to be designed to put pressure on the US to meet the North Vietnamese demand for a complete cessation of the bombing. The main party daily on 4 May charged that the sincerity of US intentions was still very much in doubt in view of the delay involved in choosing a site, the announced US troop buildup in the South, and the "unprecedented" air attacks against "civilian targets" in the southern panhandle.

The commentary emphasized that Hanoi's terms for a settlement were still the four points--"the correct basis for a political solution to the Vietnam problem." The phrasing of one sentence, however, hinted at some flexibility by saying that a settlement "must proceed from" the four points.

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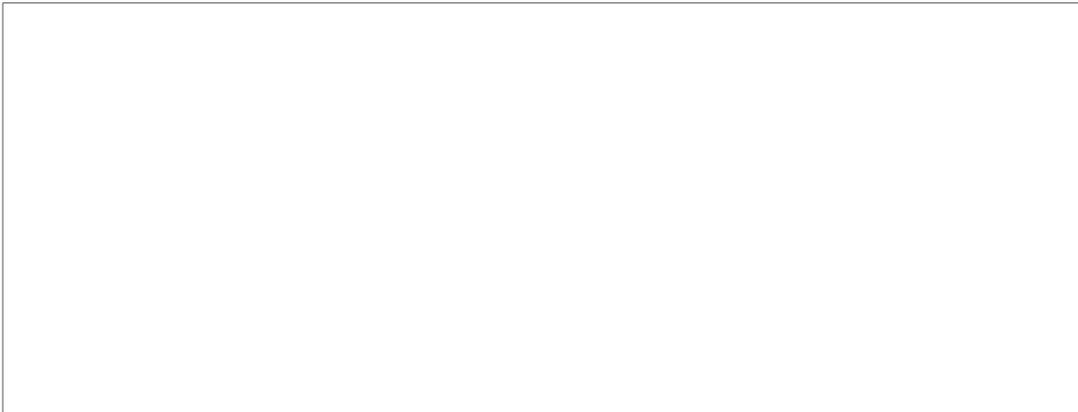
Hanoi on Independence: Hanoi used the occasion of the anniversary of Karl Marx's birthday yesterday to reaffirm its ideological independence of both Moscow and Peking. According to a summary of Politburo instructions to "the party, the army, and the people," one of the most important parts of the teachings of the early Communists is that they provided guidelines upon which future generations could build. Marxism, said the commentary, lends itself to continual development, and Engels said, "our theory is not a dogma, but the compass of our actions." North Vietnamese party cadres were told that the anniversary should be celebrated by "heightening the spirit of independent thinking, combining theory and practice, and applying Marxism-Leninism creatively to the practical conditions of Vietnam."

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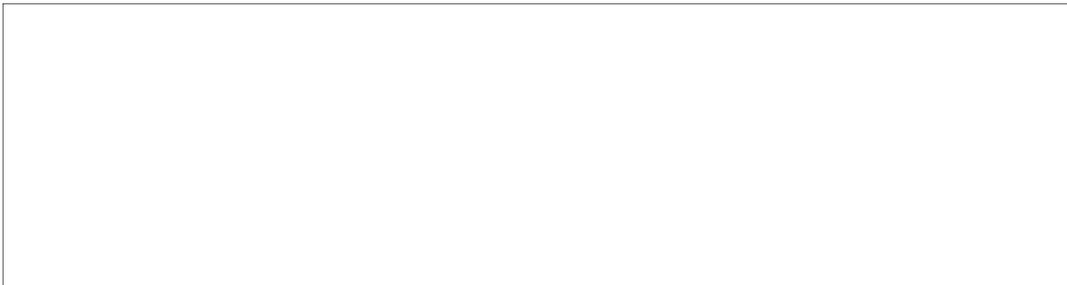
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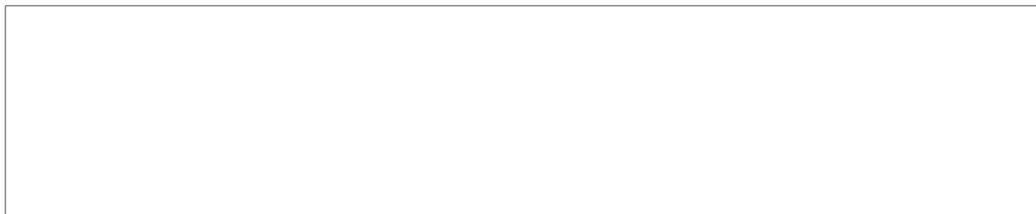


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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report.

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