

The President's Daily Brief



18 June 1969

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

Communist military forces staged a series of shellings and ground assaults against allied military targets throughout South Vietnam yesterday.

It is too early to ascertain if these actions are a prelude to the widely anticipated upsurge of offensive action expected before next weekend. Additional indications of another round of widespread enemy activity lend credence. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] that another "highpoint" is imminent. 50X1

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Sihanouk's aim almost certainly is to pressure the Communists to reduce their presence in Cambodia and otherwise to

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limit their activities. High-level talks with the Communists have been under way in Phnom Penh for several weeks. Although little is known about these talks, Sihanouk's recent statement on resuming relations with the US suggests that Hanoi has not been forthcoming.

SOVIET AFFAIRS

The international Communist conference ended yesterday with adoption of a much worked-over basic document on the extent of the "imperialist threat" and the "unity" of the Communist world. The communique acknowledged that five of the 75 attending parties--including the Italian--did not sign all or part of the document. There are reports that seven other parties expressed reservations about some portion of it. Several of them--including the Romanian--will probably find ways of dissociating themselves from objectionable sections. The document has just been made public this morning and will be reported further when analysis has been completed.

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Soviet military activity in the Far East apparently is returning to normal levels after two weeks of extensive operations. Most of the transports and many of the combat aircraft that flew to the Far East in the last few weeks are returning to home bases in the Western USSR and the naval units which deployed into the Sea of Japan have largely returned to port. Although ground forces field training in the southern Maritime Province is continuing, it is at a reduced level.

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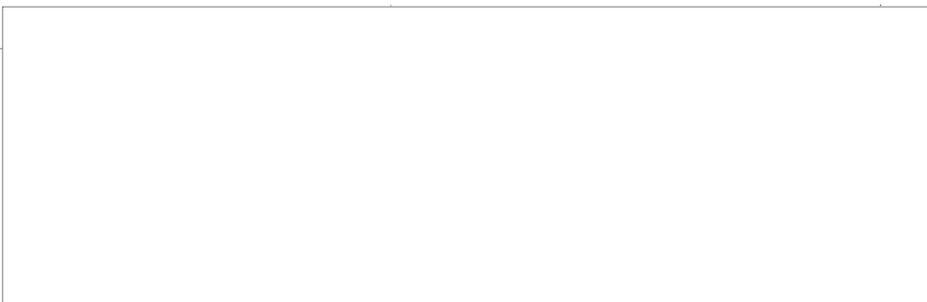
Czechoslovak party leader Husak, at a press conference in Moscow on Monday, said that Prague and Moscow would continue to consult about problems of "normalization," which suggests that the two have not reconciled their respective interpretations of the term. Husak implied, for example, that disagreement exists over whether the presence of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia will remain necessary to Warsaw Pact security.

Husak indirectly denied reports that President Svoboda would go to Moscow later this month to negotiate a troop withdrawal or a Soviet loan. He said that no date has yet been set for such a visit, and there was a clear implication that negotiations would be protracted.

These remarks will disappoint Husak's countrymen and may add to political tensions in Czechoslovakia. Pro-Soviet conservatives probably will be encouraged in their campaign to return the country to a more orthodox system.

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There is nothing of significance to report on Europe.

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

BRAZIL

No violence was reported anywhere in Rio de Janeiro yesterday when Governor Rockefeller arrived there on the second leg of his Brazilian stop. Police and security precautions were heavy but not particularly conspicuous. In many cases police wore civilian clothes and used civilian state agency trucks.

Sao Paulo, where the Governor moves today, was also calm and no definite plans for violence have been uncovered. Security is likely to be heavy and effective. All news coverage of the visit has been favorable, with some complimentary headlines, and no accounts of hostile activities.

URUGUAY

Violence is increasing as Governor Rockefeller's arrival late this week approaches. Students and workers plan to continue the antigovernment demonstrations and strikes they have been staging for a month, and the large and well-organized

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Communist Party hopes to follow up, during the visit, last Friday's vandalization of the US Embassy. In an effort to deny students ready access to school areas and thus prevent agitators from arousing an otherwise passive majority, President Pacheco yesterday closed all schools, including the university, in the Montevideo area until 30 June using the pretext of the existence of a flu epidemic. Although security forces can probably cope with localized agitation, they will be hard pressed to maintain order if violence were to break out in several places at once.

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