



*The President's Daily Brief*

*22 April 1970*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 April 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Cambodian Government, lacking significant political support and military prowess, may not be able to stave off collapse. (Page 1)

Hanoi seems to be preparing to launch a new political front for all of Indochina. (Page 3)

[Redacted]

[Redacted] (Page 3)

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[Redacted] (Page 4)

Soviet and Chinese propagandists are trading insults again. (Page 5)

Lenin's centennial in Moscow brings out all the leaders. (Page 6)

North Vietnamese in Laos are building up stockpiles in an effort to beat the rain. (Page 7)

Trinidad's Eric Williams is recovering from his original panic, but his prestige may have suffered permanent damage. (Page 8)

Continued uncertainty about the result of the Colombian election increases the likelihood of violence. (Page 9)

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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY****CAMBODIA**

Recent Viet Cong attacks within 20 miles of Phnom Penh and evidence of low-level Communist activity in the Cambodian interior have sparked rumors in the capital that the Communists intend to attack the capital or at least bring it under a virtual siege. The French mission appears to be the major source of such predictions, closely followed by US reporters, who have been shocked at the ineptness of Cambodian security forces. There are few outward signs of crisis in the capital, however, and no evidence that the Cambodian leadership fully shares in this gloomy assessment.

Communications intelligence has not yet spotted any main force Viet Cong or North Vietnamese units moving westward into the Cambodian interior from their regular operating zones along the border. Thus the harassments south of Phnom Penh and along the Mekong River could be activities of rear area security elements or of recently formed groups of Vietnamese cadre and indigenous Cambodian elements.

*Developments during the past several days make it abundantly clear that Cambodian forces are no match for the Communists. If only a limited number of main force Viet Cong or North Vietnamese units move westward out of their border bases, they could, in conjunction with indigenous and other forces already operating in the interior, overrun most of eastern Cambodia, including Phnom Penh, in a matter of days. The Communists probably could retain enough troops in their bases to hold off South Vietnamese forces. However, such an operation would run certain military and political risks, which the Communists may believe are unnecessary under present circumstances.*

(continued)

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*The woeful performance of Cambodian units against even such relatively limited pressure as they have faced up to now, and the fact that the Lon Nol regime has been unable to gain significant political or military support from other countries may encourage the Communists to believe that they can force Lon Nol and Sirik Matak out without taking the risks involved in actually moving troops into Phnom Penh. The isolation of the capital from the eastern portions of the country, increased pressure in the countryside, and the capture of some provincial capitals might cause Lon Nol's support within the army to crumble. Under such circumstances, many of the elements who were only lukewarm supporters of the previous regime might join a move to return Sihanouk as the "savior" of the country.*

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NORTH VIETNAM

Over the past few days we have noted several indications that Hanoi is getting ready to launch a new political front for all Indochina. The clearest sign is contained in an intercepted COSVN directive of 27 March which in so many words called for the fostering of a "United Cambodian Front leading to the formation of an Anti-American Indochinese People's Front."

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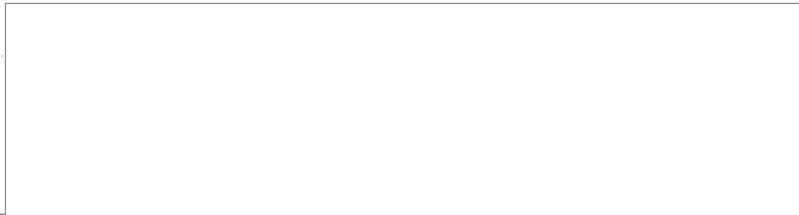
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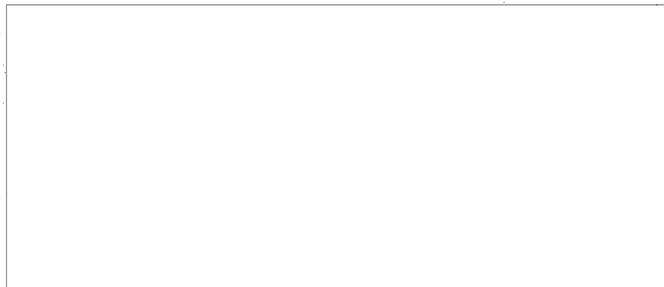
SOUTH VIETNAM



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COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR

In a lengthy, authoritative editorial commemorating the centenary of the birth of Lenin, Peking yesterday issued a particularly virulent indictment of the domestic and foreign policies of the Soviet leadership. For the first time in six months, the Chinese directly blasted the Soviets over the border problem, accusing Moscow of encroaching on Chinese territory and making nuclear threats against China.

*This attack culminates a series of Chinese denunciations designed to discredit the Soviet leadership on the eve of the widely touted Lenin centenary celebrations. At the same time, it clearly reflects China's unwillingness to remain silent in the face of Moscow's continued sharp attacks against China over the past few months. During a speech in Moscow yesterday, for example, party chief Brezhnev pointedly blamed Peking's "anti-Socialist" and "nationalistic" policies for the continuing Sino-Soviet dispute. The Chinese editorial also suggests that fundamental disagreements over border problems continue to block progress at the Peking talks.*

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## USSR

The opening of the Soviet celebration of Lenin's centennial yesterday was the first time in more than four months that all the members of the Soviet Politburo appeared together. Brezhnev again held the spotlight, delivering his fourth major televised speech in the past ten days.

Brezhnev chose to deliver an assessment of the USSR's current situation rather than a theoretical discourse on Leninism. He noted that the Soviet party's 24th Congress "is at hand" and revealed that the long-awaited five-year plan is "nearing completion." He attacked the economic planners, however, injecting a partisan note into the festivities. He also offered a routine warning about the danger of "bourgeois ideology," and commented that the task of improving living conditions cannot be accomplished "at one go." Brezhnev also promised that the military's needs will not be shortchanged, but he gave no indication that the USSR is about to accelerate military development.

Brezhnev broke no new ground on foreign policy. Speaking to the present condition of world Communism, he warned of the growing dangers posed by nationalism and by "right and left opportunism." Proponents of these deviations came in for firm criticism. On other world issues, Brezhnev's remarks were stale and uninspired.

Except in Yugoslavia, East European observances were held earlier so that the leaders could journey to Moscow. All of them are there except Tito, who sent a substitute as a mark of his disapproval of present Soviet policy toward Yugoslavia. Like Tito, Romania's Ceausescu, prior to going to the USSR, vigorously excoriated the "Brezhnev doctrine," objecting by implication to Moscow's "great power chauvinism and hegemonistic tendencies."

Hungary's Kadar was considerably milder, but quoted Lenin to the effect that blind imitation of Soviet models could lead to errors. Celebrations were low key in other places, although in East Germany the ceremonies took on a special character because party chief Ulbricht is the only surviving Communist leader who knew Lenin personally.

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LAOS

Additional North Vietnamese logistic units concerned with the movement of supplies into northern Laos have been identified. One rear services unit in North Vietnam has shipped a large quantity of food to north Laos within the past week.

*It is possible that the Communists are trying to build up their stockpiles for an all-out push against Long Tieng before the heavy rains expected early in June. The relatively low level of Communist military activity around Long Tieng over the past several weeks, together with the recent movement of elements of the 312th Division southwest of the Plaine, suggest that the Communists are husbanding resources for a larger effort.*

The Long Tieng airstrip came under rocket attack again on 20 April. There was little damage, and the government's resupply effort apparently was not affected. The accuracy of these attacks is improving, however. In the latest shelling, two rockets narrowly missed a weapons warehouse, and another impacted on the main aircraft parking ramp.

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TRINIDAD

Prime Minister Eric Williams has been under the gun for several weeks, and his increasing concern that black power activities might lead to serious disorders seemed confirmed yesterday when he received reports of a mutiny in his Defense Force. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the 30 to 50 insurgents still at large are well armed and are a formidable force for the island's loyal security forces to handle.

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*Williams has lost much of his political capital by his inept handling of the unrest that has been building up. Much of the unrest stems from economic problems and labor union militancy as well as the black power campaign. Moderate political leaders are now disappointed in Williams. The opposition probably believes it can continue to exploit black power themes.*

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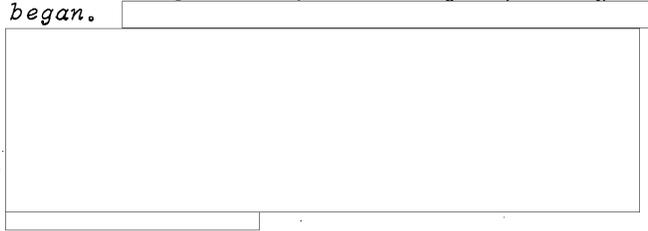
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COLOMBIA

The government has declared a state of siege in order to deal more effectively with the disgruntled followers of Rojas Pinilla, but vigorous demonstrations continue in major cities. Rojas and his party are keeping the demonstrators stirred up by charging that National Front candidate Pastrana gained his late lead by a fraudulent vote count.

*The charges of fraud are based on suspicion rather than evidence, and in fact were anticipated before Sunday's polling began.*

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