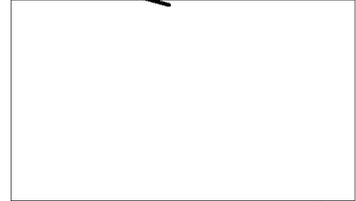


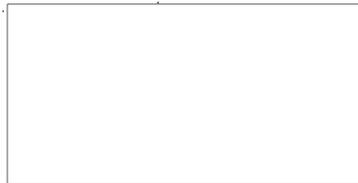
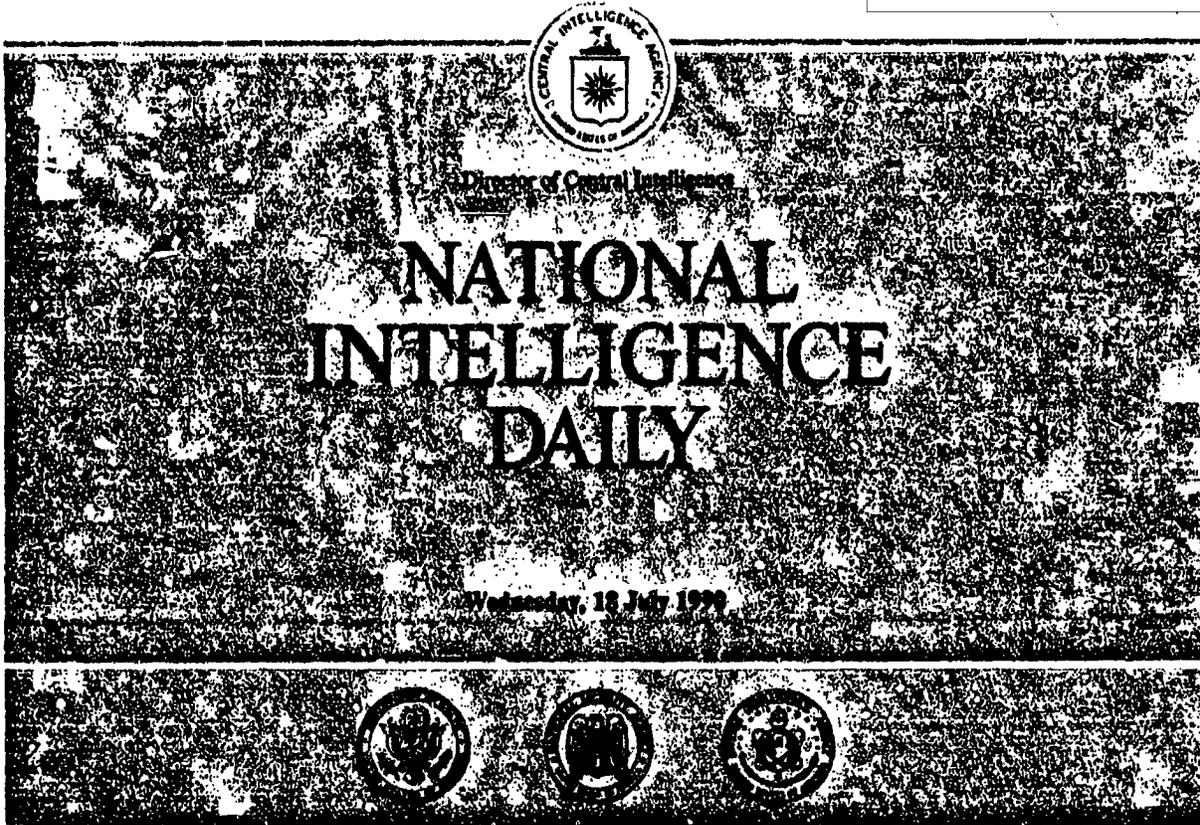
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**BURMA: Tensions Build Over Slow Transfer of Power**

The regime has increased its military presence in Rangoon in anticipation of unrest. [redacted] tensions have been building throughout the country as the regime has stalled on transferring power to the National League for Democracy, which won four-fifths of the seats in the Constituent Assembly election in May. After ignoring repeated attempts by the League to initiate talks, the military government last week wrote to the 27 parties that won assembly seats suggesting talks would not commence until the parties fulfilled unspecified election law requirements, [redacted]

Comment: Popular concern is increasing that the regime will not voluntarily relinquish power. Tensions are likely to be particularly high tomorrow, the anniversary of the assassination of Burma's founding father Aung Sang, and the day after when the one-year arrest of League leader Aung Sang Suu Kyi expires; the regime may keep her under house arrest. The authorities are likely to deal harshly with any disturbances, and the Army probably will maintain a high profile in Rangoon until at least October, well past the anniversaries of the prodemocracy uprising and the military takeover in 1988.

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