



*The President's Daily Brief*

8 July 1969

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

In another speech recently publicized by Radio Hanoi, General Giap again prescribed tactics designed to maintain steady pressure on the allies and conserve Communist strength for the long haul. He called for persistent strikes by small, compact units against larger targets, frugal use of ammunition, and reliance on captured weapons and munitions whenever possible. The occasion, an artillery corps celebration, was an appropriate one for Giap to advance his ideas. Artillery, rocket and mortar units are uniquely capable of harassing and pressuring allied forces in the field, or military and civil targets in rear bases and urban areas, at little cost--basic tenets of his strategy.

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Enemy units apparently are continuing to prepare for the main effort of the July "action phase," expected within the next few days. The lack of movement by Communist main forces toward prime targets, with the possible exception of Tay Ninh city, continues to indicate that the enemy's ground force commitment in upcoming operations will be limited.

SOVIET AFFAIRS

A small Soviet naval squadron--two submarines, three guided-missile ships, and two support vessels--are en route

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to Cuba to represent the USSR at Cuban holiday observances on 26 July. This is the first time Soviet warships have visited Cuba, an event probably intended to point up the improvement in Cuban-Soviet relations. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Cubans are not planning any formal celebrations this year, however. Thus the impact of the Soviet gesture may be less than anticipated.

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The voyage also reflects Moscow's increased interest in expanding its area of naval operations, which, from the Soviet point of view, may be more important than flattering the Cubans. The squadron has been under way since mid-June, and there is no indication the Soviets planned the visit in response to President Nixon's upcoming trip to Romania.

MIDDLE EAST

King Faysal of Saudi Arabia took an extremely gloomy view of the prospects for peace last week when Ambassador Eilts briefed him on the two- and four-power talks. Faysal told Eilts that the US proposals for a settlement are entirely slanted toward Israel. He charged that the American formula for solving the refugee problem--which qualifies unrestricted return--runs counter to UN resolutions giving the refugees the right to return to their homeland.

Faysal no doubt has his ups and downs on the question of a peace settlement, and he may have deliberately overreacted for the benefit of his listener. Nevertheless, even though Saudi Arabia is not directly involved in the settlement process,

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its support for any solution is important. This is especially so in the case of Jerusalem; Faysal considers himself the guardian of all Muslim holy places.

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There is nothing significant to report on Europe.

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

KENYA

The police claim to have few clues as to Mboya's assassin. Mboya had many enemies and several groups had a capability to pull off the assassination. [redacted]

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[redacted] the most likely suspects are a group of advisers around President Kenyatta called the "Kikuyu Establishment." (The Kikuyu, members of the largest tribe, dominate the government. Mboya was a member of the Luo tribe, the next strongest.) These men owe their power and affluence to their close ties with the presidency. They felt increasingly threatened by Mboya's growing stature and popularity. [redacted]

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Even if the Kikuyu leaders did not actually kill Mboya, they are the main beneficiaries of the new situation. Mboya's death should assure that the aging Kinyatta is succeeded by Vice President Daniel arap Moi, who though not a Kikuyu is regarded as compliant to the tribe's wishes.

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