



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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25 MAY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

It was a relatively quiet day on the political front. There were scattered demonstrations in Saigon and elsewhere, but none of them got out of hand. Saigon is doing its utmost to exploit moderate Buddhist leader Tam Chau's call for an end to demonstrations "in order to make peace with the government."

The US Consulate in Hué is still under siege by a group of some 75 students. They set up barricades and tents for an all night vigil and are restricting access to the building. Local authorities are unwilling to end this harassment.

There are further reports of disaffection with the "struggle movement" on the part of officers of the First Division in Hué. The two major dissident generals, Thi and Dinh, however, remain adamant that Ky and Thieu must go before there can be peace.

Chief of State Thieu confided to Ambassador Lodge today that Saigon intends no assault on Hué. Instead, he said, the government will "blockade" the city and try to reduce the dissident stronghold by psychological pressures.

2. North Vietnam

Initial reports on North Vietnam's early rice crop indicate that it has not fared well. Hanoi radio has admitted difficulties during the harvest because of manpower shortages, and no claims have been made as to the size of the crop, an almost sure sign that performance was poor. The early crop normally constitutes about a third of annual rice production.

3. Soviet Union

We are continuing to find more ICBM silos under construction for the SS-11 system.

A first look at satellite photography of 16-20 May--a particularly productive, cloud-free run--so far reveals about 20 more silos, bringing to nearly 100 the number of these silos we have ferreted out within the past month. Most of these were probably started since last fall, but snow, cloud cover, and the early stage of the construction prevented detection until recently.

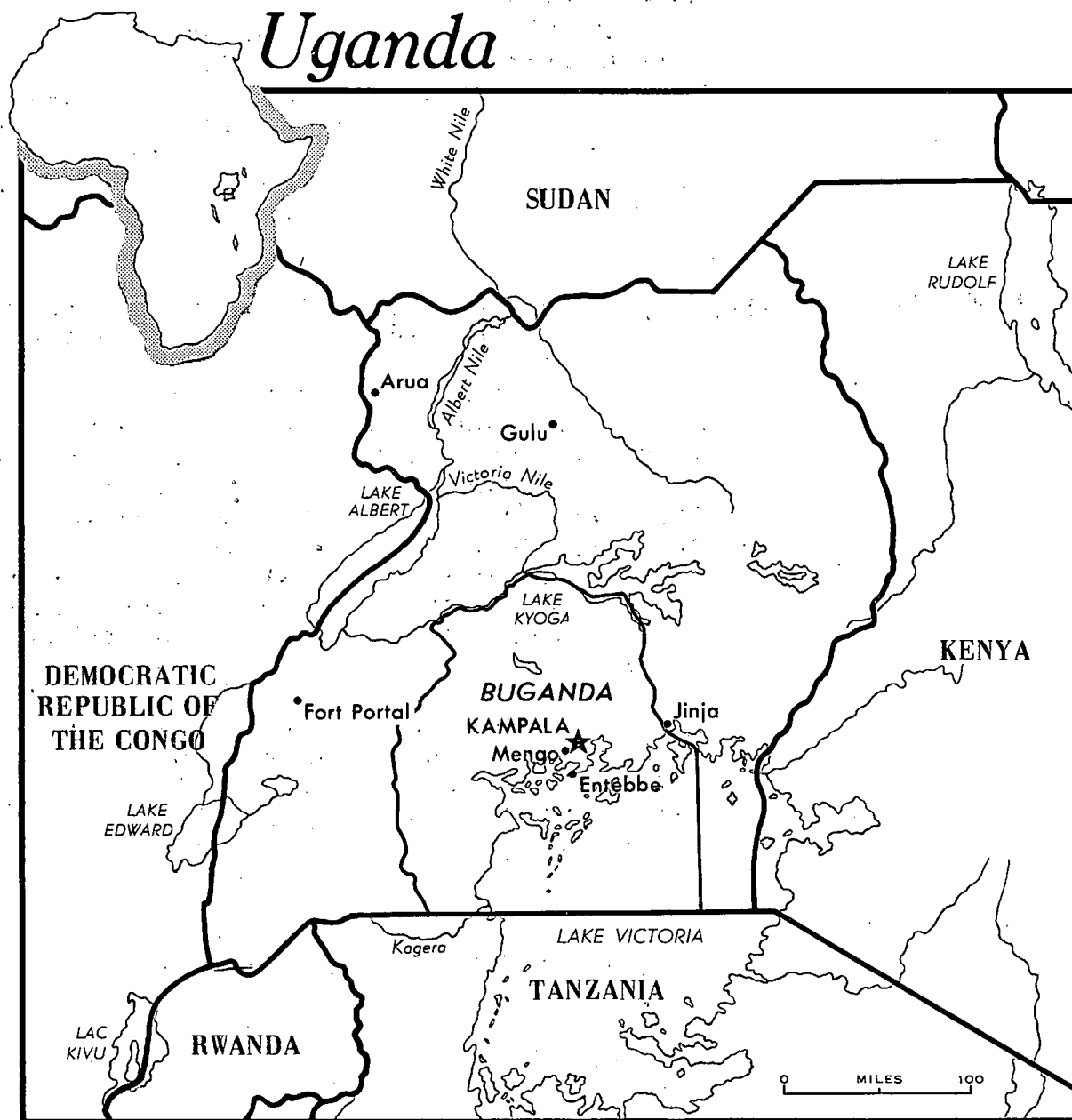
4. Iraq

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There are some 350 Egyptian troops stationed in Baghdad, but we doubt that Cairo would commit them to support a coup attempt at this time.

5. Israel

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6. Uganda

Obote's forces now control Kampala and the King of Buganda's palace in nearby Mengo (see map). The King's whereabouts is uncertain, and he may have escaped.

Dissidence is continuing in the surrounding areas of Buganda, however, where the struggle between the central government and the proud Bagandan people is likely to be bloody and protracted. So far, none of the 760 Americans in the country have been harmed.

7. Nationalist China

Taipei is trying to stir up public reaction to the US China policy debate.

For the past month the controlled press has been featuring editorials blasting "appeasers" in the US. Scholars and politicians have been rounded up to sign open letters expressing "anguish" over any change in US policy. Today, the foreign office committee of the Legislative Yuan began a series of three public hearings on Chinese-American relations.

This propaganda barrage may well be designed to bolster assertions by Nationalist officials that the US debate would provoke a serious public reaction on Taiwan.

8. Communist China

The adulation of "the thought of Chairman Mao," which has been reaching crescendo proportions lately, hit a new high--or low--in mid-May.

Two Chinese journals carried an article on the "philosophical questions" involved in the sale of watermelons in large cities. The article demonstrates how the correct application of Mao's thought enabled the author to overcome "contradictions" and boost the sale of watermelons in Shanghai by 79 percent.

The Soviets, whom Peking has accused of being afraid to publish Chinese materials, yesterday reprinted the article in its entirety--without commentary.

9. Rhodesia

Wilson's high-level delegation arrived in Lusaka yesterday to reason with Kaunda, who says he will risk losing traffic rights on the Zambian-Rhodesian railway rather than knuckle under to Salisbury's demand for prepayment on Zambian traffic. Rhodesia appears already to be enforcing its demand, and Zambian copper is reported to be piling up in storage areas.

Kaunda says the delegation will be wasting its breath. In the past, however, the British have at the last moment dissuaded him from disastrous moves, and may be able to keep him from persevering in this course which would greatly complicate the general Rhodesian dispute.

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