



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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26 MAY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

The struggle forces in Hué who sacked the USIS library today appear bent on more of the same.

Our consul construes a demand by university students that the US drop its support of Ky by 5:00 a.m. (Washington time) as a threat to attack the consulate at that time. There are other indications an assault may come sooner. A limited evacuation of American civilians has been ordered.

Ky, apparently aware of the gravity of the situation, told Ambassador Lodge today that he would give the strongest instructions to protect official Americans in Hué. A battalion of supposedly loyal troops has actually arrived and taken up positions around the consulate and other US installations. The consul fears, however, that these troops may have neither the will nor the ability to put down a determined attack.

In Saigon this morning riot police dispersed small groups of monks and students before they could organize demonstrations. Da Nang is quiet with almost normal activity except for the port, which remains closed.

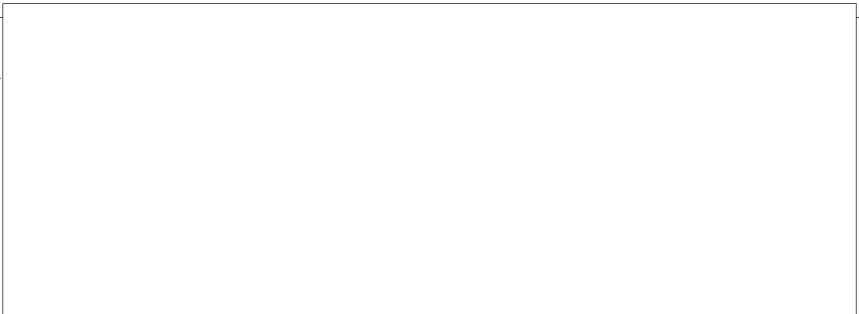
General Thi has agreed to meet Ky tomorrow in Chu Lai. Press reports of the impending meeting may kill it, however, since on Tuesday Thi refused even to consider such an encounter until told it could be a secret one.



2. Communist China



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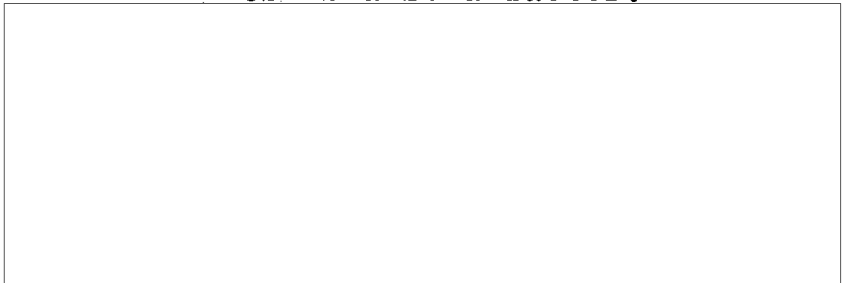


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3. Cambodia

More and more influential Cambodians seem to be fed up with Sihanouk and his erratic policies. The chief complaints are his mishandling of the economy and his arbitrary use of power. His attitude toward the US is also a factor.

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4. Dominican Republic

The embassy in Santo Domingo has sent in its final estimate on the elections. It says in sum that "Balaguer has become the man to beat, principally because he has apparently gained the initiative, a matter of great importance with respect to influencing the large and decisive uncommitted bloc of voters."



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5. Egypt

Informed Egyptians are increasingly concerned over the deterioration of Egyptian relations with the US, according to Ambassador Battle. Apologists for the regime have been pleading for US understanding of Nasir's threats to follow a more aggressive policy in the Middle East. They say that Nasir is only reacting defensively to US support of Saudi Arabia and arms aid for Israel.

The embassy notes that other elements in Egypt are expressing increasing opposition to Nasir. For the first time in several years there are rumors of a pro-Western coup [REDACTED]

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6. United Kingdom

The head of Britain's Trade Union Council said yesterday that he sees no quick way to end the strike; instead, he expects it to last for at least a month.

The maritime union chiefs are talking about a six weeks' strike and predicting that Wilson will be forced to use the navy to clear the ports by the end of the week.

The embassy notes that so far both sides have made a serious effort to limit the strike's damage to the national economy. However, with no good prospects for further negotiations, the situation will be much more difficult to control.

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