



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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1 MARCH 1965

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1. Vietnam

Ambassador Taylor comments regarding a 26 February meeting between US mission chiefs and the Vietnamese Internal Security Council that "for the first time there appeared to be something approaching a single team on the other side of the table."

Premier Quat today issued a strong policy statement rejecting a negotiated settlement under present conditions. In his accompanying oral remarks he spoke conciliatingly of the Buddhist position on peace as being quite separate from those who seek a negotiated settlement. He presumably did this because he is not sure of Buddhist support on this issue.

There have been no changes in the indicated attitudes of the principal Communist capitals on the subject of a negotiated settlement. The Chinese Communists today broadcast another blast-- in English--calling on the US to withdraw its forces from South Vietnam. Once this is done, the statement added, "the South Vietnamese people will be able to settle their own problems."

2. UAR

There is still no firm information on the call up of Egyptian reservists which has been reported in the press during the past day or so. This could be only a rumor.

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3. Congo

It now appears that the air attack on a school in Ugandan territory, which was reported in the Daily Brief of 24 February, was almost certainly not the work of a Congolese aircraft.

The whole episode remains murky, but there is some evidence suggesting the attack was a staged provocation.

In Nairobi, the OAU talks continue in camera. Tshombé is still studiedly unconcerned, and the chances that he will eventually attend the Nairobi meeting are rated only as a little better than even.

4. Laos

Prime Minister Souvanna has again proposed talks in Vientiane about a cease-fire between the rightist, neutralist, and Communist factions. Souvanna says his motive is simply to recapture the initiative in the diplomatic sphere and kill off the Pathet Lao's standing proposal for meetings in Paris.

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