



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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27 MAY 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

DAILY BRIEF
27 MAY 1965

LATE ITEM

Dominican Republic

The Imbert regime held another big rally this afternoon. Upwards of 6,000 people are reported to have attended. Portions of the proceedings, which were designed to show that the regime has a firm national hold, were broadcast on a countrywide hook-up.

Most of the speakers dwelt on the themes of anti-Communism and opposition to foreign "interference." Imbert was fairly temperate in his remarks, saying that a Communist victory in the name of "constitutionalism"--the rebels' original watchword--must not be permitted.

Otherwise, there appears to have been no great change in the situation today. Police in at least one provincial town are on the alert for possible rebel attempts to start trouble, and have searched private houses for arms--without result--and set up roving patrols.

On the rebel side, the remnants of the Congress elected with Juan Bosch in 1962 last night sent out a circular denouncing the US to some 37 governments.

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1. Bolivia

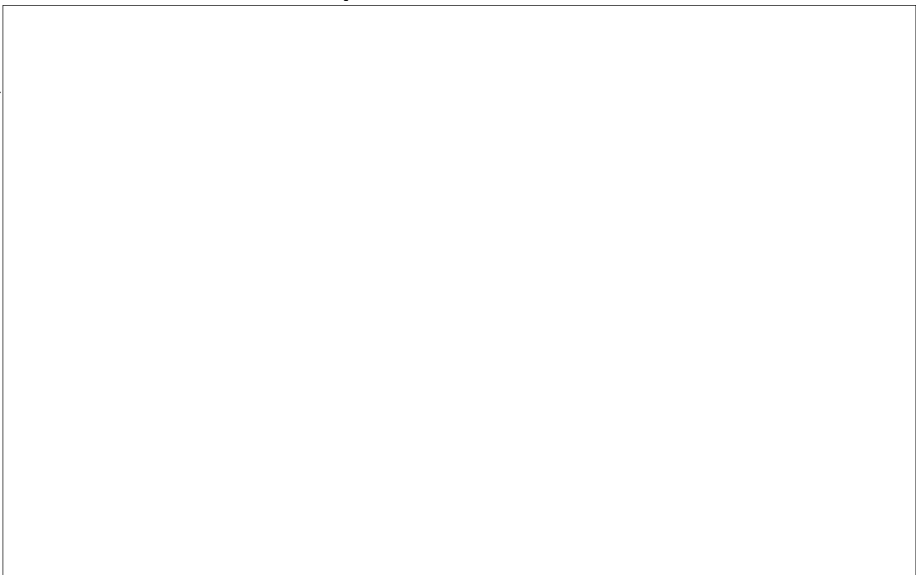
A balance seems to have been struck between junta leader Barrientos and army commander Ovando, but it is a highly precarious one. There is little reason to believe that either man will cease his efforts to dominate the other.

La Paz was functioning normally today, after an outburst of firing just before dawn. Martial law remains in effect and the city is on edge. A survey is Annex 1.

2. Vietnam

The impasse over Premier Quat's cabinet changes has not been broken. Chief of State Suu stubbornly refuses to give his approval to the shifts. The standoff threatens to broaden into a full-fledged political crisis. Already, militant Catholics are in full cry for Quat's scalp.

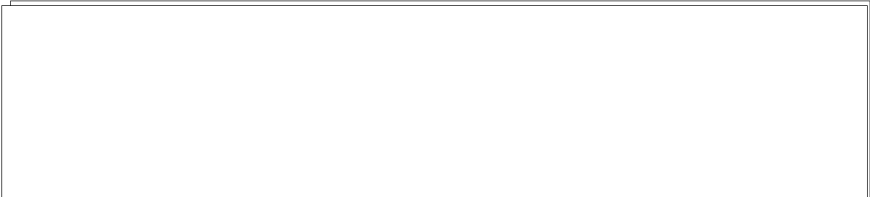
Communist guerrillas launched a series of mortar attacks early today against several government positions in the northern coastal provinces. These attacks appear to be a continuation of the limited-scale operations pursued by the Viet Cong lately. US Marines have launched their first long-range mechanized patrol in an attempt to clear the 50-mile road between Da Nang and Hue. A survey of military developments during the past week is Annex 2.



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3. USSR



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The Moscow grapevine has been passing rumors of a meeting on industrial problems in June or July. A meeting now could mean that other more urgent matters, perhaps of a political nature, are being taken up as well. These cannot be identified at this time.

4. Germany

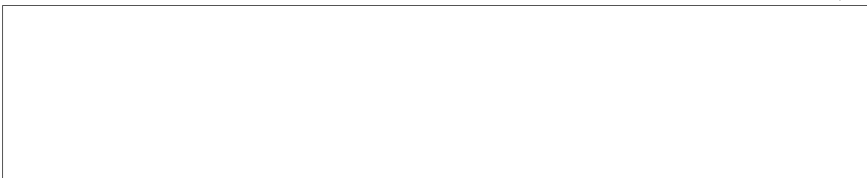
The meeting Monday between the German and French foreign ministers failed to narrow existing differences.

The two discussed such issues as European political and economic integration and recent French moves to "Europeanize" the German unification question. The French say that the talks were "cordial," but that relatively little was accomplished.

These subjects almost surely will come up again when Erhard and De Gaulle meet on 11 June. Ambassador Bohlen predicts that the result could be a further souring of relations.

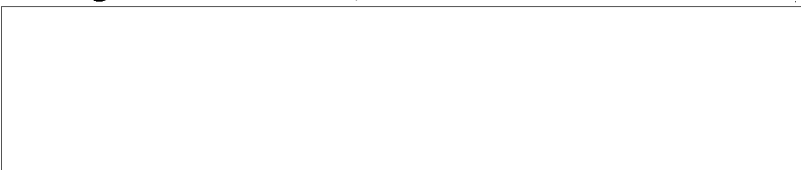
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5. Indonesia



Yesterday two small groups trying to set off bombs in Singapore harbor were foiled by Malaysian and British naval patrols. The Indonesians have also attempted to blow up two bridges near Kuala Lumpur. Their efforts, described as "amateurish," caused no significant damage.

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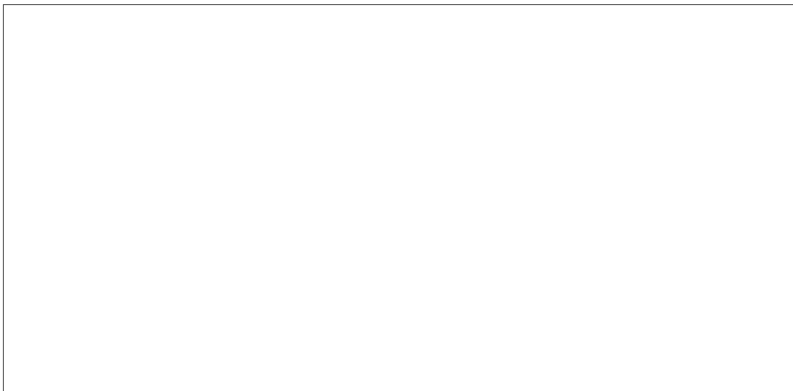
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6. France

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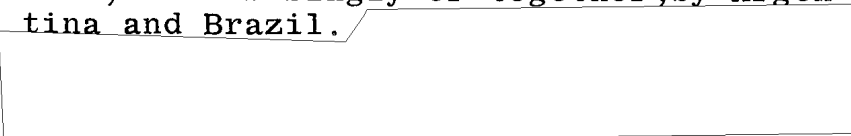
7. Uruguay

Public dissatisfaction with the unwieldy and inept nine-man ruling council is growing as the economic squeeze gets tighter.

After several weeks' procrastination, the government has finally taken over the scandal-ridden national bank. The banking system is largely paralyzed, however, and the Uruguayan peso is weakening. This political and economic deterioration, of course, provides the country's leftists and Communists with an opening.

Uruguayan leaders are showing great concern over the possibility of intervention, either singly or together, by Argentina and Brazil.

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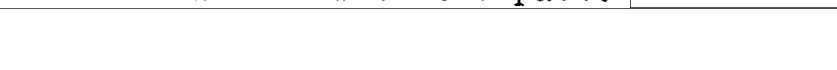
The Brazilian press has hinted at intervention, probably to bring psychological pressure on the Uruguayans.

8. Rumania

Soviet Marshal Grechko, commander of the Warsaw Pact forces, has again turned up in Bucharest, very likely to deal with difficulties between the Rumanians and the pact organization. There have been a number of reports of Rumanian dissatisfaction with the pact.

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The nature of the disagreement is not known for sure, but probably grew out of Rumania's assertion of a greater measure of independence.

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ANNEX 1

The Situation in Bolivia

The populace relaxed slightly today after Barrientos' moves yesterday appeared to have been successful in neutralizing General Ovando, at least for the moment. [REDACTED]

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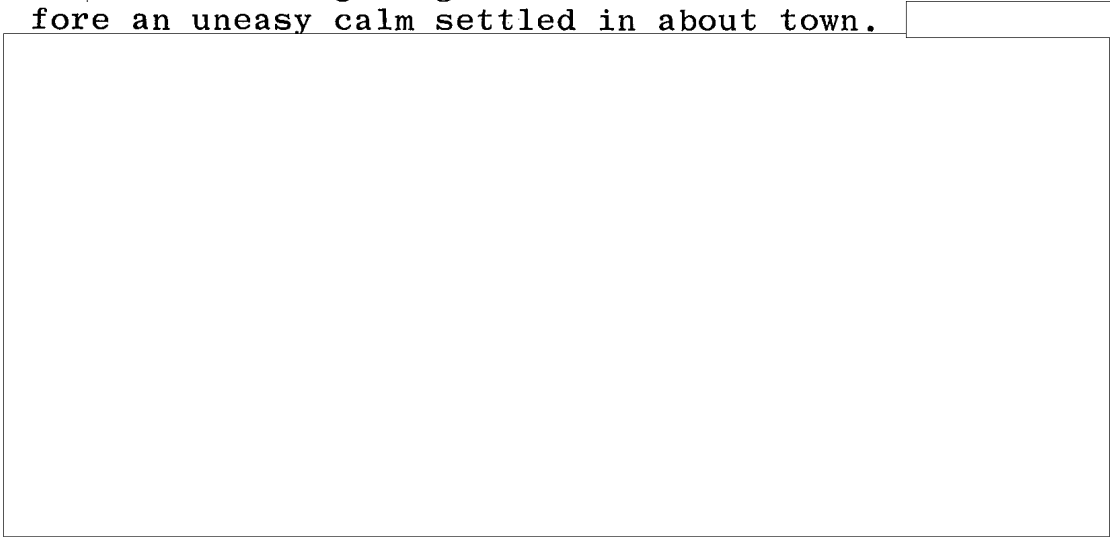
[REDACTED] In any event, neither man is likely to rest until the other has been removed from the scene.

In a crucial cabinet session yesterday, Ovando nervously defended his unilateral ceasefire agreement with the miners on the grounds that it was a military matter. He argued that his forces could not handle students and workers in La Paz and miners outside the capital at the same time.

The cabinet rejected his explanation and he was ordered to Oruro today to survey the situation at the tin mines. The cabinet reiterated its decision to enforce its will over the recalcitrant miners. Miners at the Huanuni and Siglo Veinte mines near Oruro continue to defy the junta.

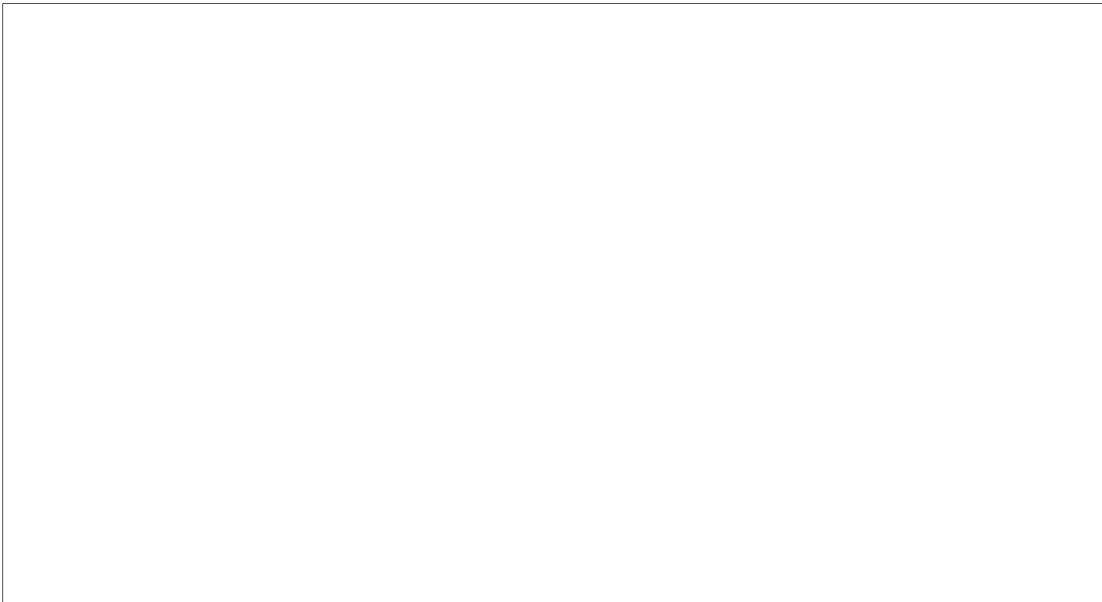
In La Paz this morning, the socialist falange and followers of the exiled leftist leader, Juan Lechin, started a brief outburst of street fighting between their activists and the regular armed forces. The fighting lasted about six hours before an uneasy calm settled in about town. [REDACTED]

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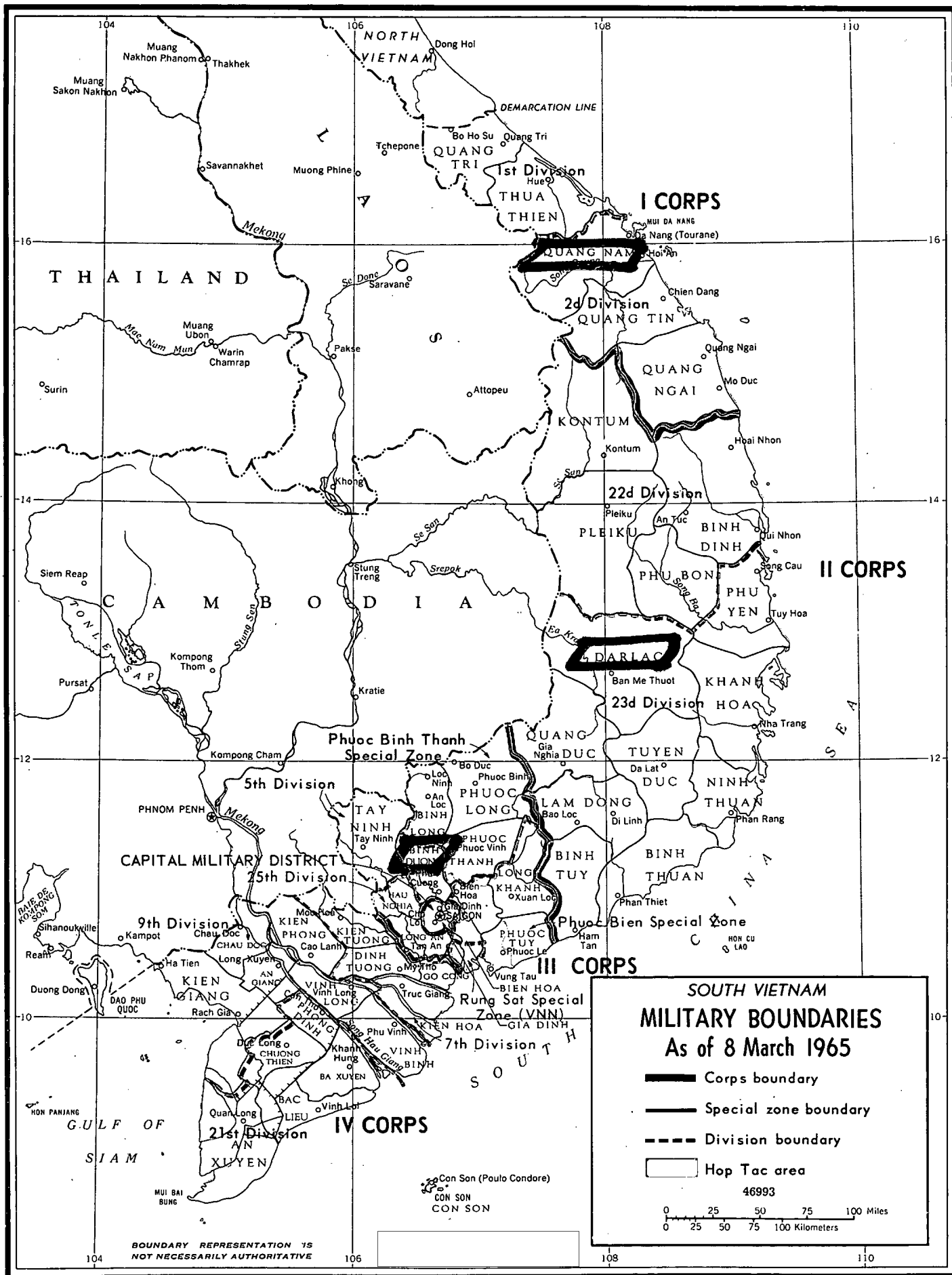


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ANNEX 2

The Military Situation in South Vietnam

Overt Viet Cong military operations during the past week continued on about the same scale as the week before. A good deal of the activity was in the nominally government-controlled provinces just to the north and northeast of Saigon, but the Communists are still trying to improve their tactical situation farther north.

- The Viet Cong successfully brought off several damaging ambushes at small cost to themselves. One by a Viet Cong battalion in Binh Duong Province north of Saigon all but wiped out a government patrol.
- Road and rail sabotage increased, particularly in the III and IV corps areas, and between the II and III corps areas.
- The 35,000-kilowatt electric power line into Saigon--furnishing about half the city's needs--was sabotaged for the 46th time.
- Terrorist pressure on the rural population continued. During the week, at least two local officials were assassinated, and seven kidnapped.

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The Viet Cong continues to avoid contact unless it is sure it can win, but government forces nevertheless had two successes last week. In Darlac Province, a government force surprised two companies of Viet Cong mountaineers, killing 39. A similar surprise attack in Quang Nam Province farther north killed 57 Viet Cong.

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ANNEX 2 (Cont'd)

US Navy destroyers for the first time were used to provide naval gunfire support of friendly positions ashore.



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