



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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5 APRIL 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

There was no real improvement in the situation today but at least a direct firefight was avoided between troops supporting the government and those behind the "struggle groups" in the northern provinces.

That threat was eased after Premier Ky talked with the local corps commander, General Chuan, at the Da Nang air base. Ky apparently backed away from using force against the still defiant city, at least for now.

Chuan's own loyalties are uncertain, but he does seem to be urging moderation all around. He is said to believe that the situation will improve.

This does not fit too well with other reports from the area. For one thing, a portion of Chuan's command is in a state close to open revolt.

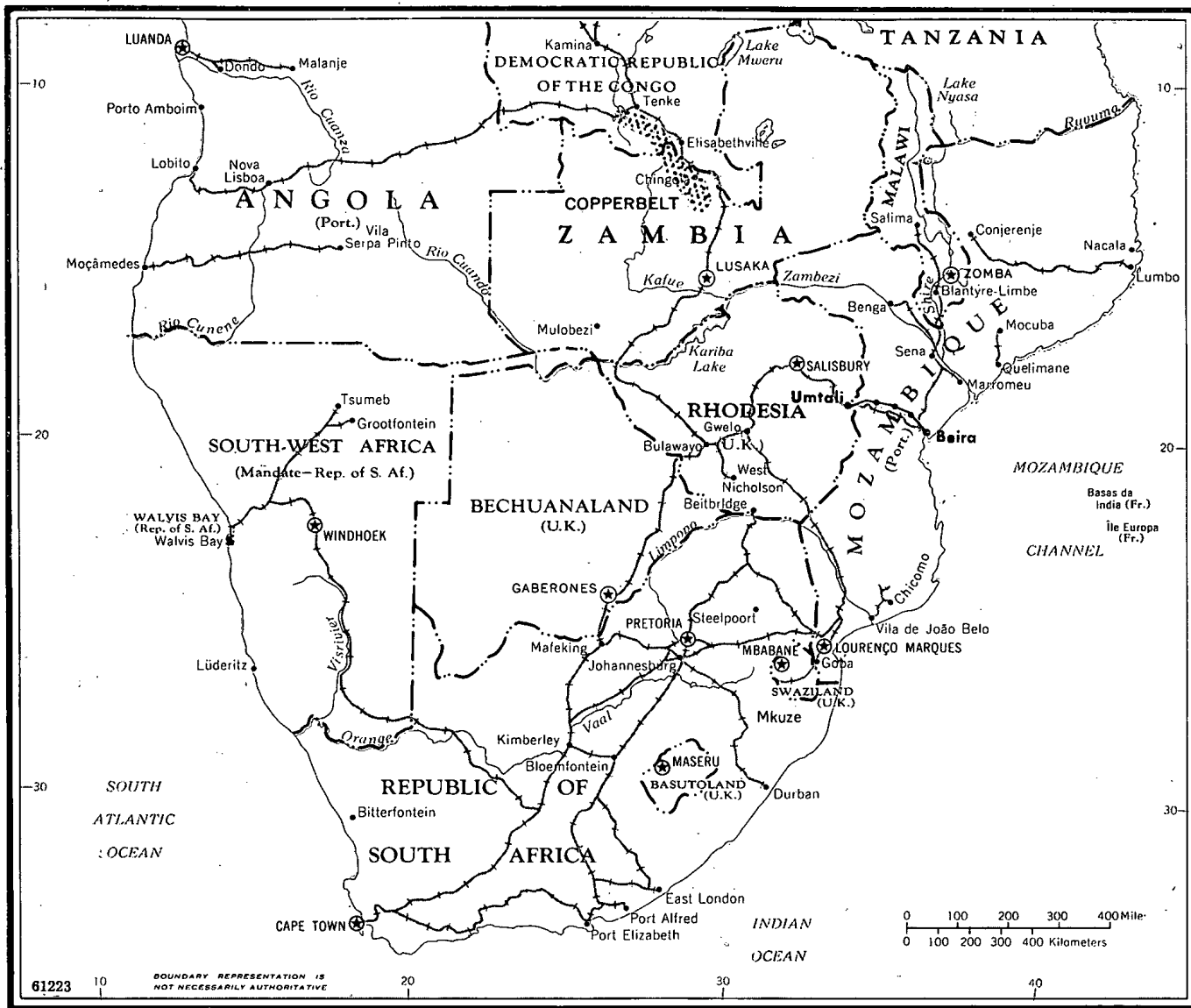
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The chief of the province in which Hué is located fears the situation will get worse

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Hopes for some sort of a political accommodation are still alive, but only faintly. Buddhist leaders hold out the prospect of early agreement, but this may be only an effort to buy time. As matters stand now, it is questionable that they are still completely in control of the agitation.

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2. Communist China

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3. Rhodesia

Britain's four-month-old oil embargo, already seriously breached by shipments through South Africa and Mozambique, now faces an even more serious challenge.

A Greek-registered tanker, which the British halted briefly but were unwilling to divert forcibly, arrived in Beira yesterday, and another is due today.

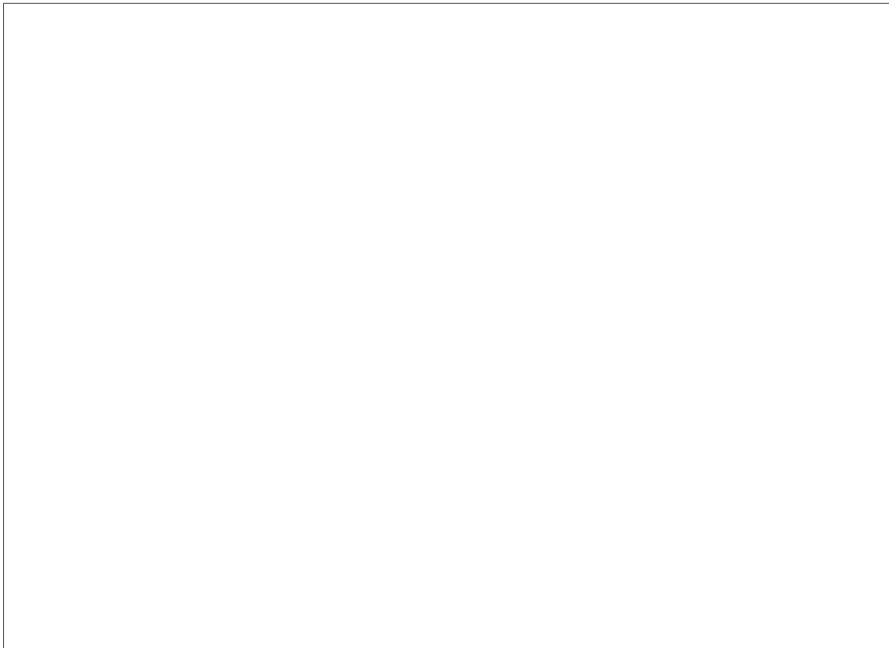
If either ship unloads there--and it is not yet certain they intend to--Britain will probably try to pressure the Portuguese into denying use of the pipeline across Mozambique to Rhodesia, but we see no signs that Lisbon will knuckle under.

One tanker load would increase Rhodesian stocks by about a month at current consumption rates. More important would be the psychological impact of such an event. African governments, lately quiescent on Rhodesia, would again be howling for stronger British actions and mandatory UN sanctions.

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4. West Africa



5. Ecuador

Provisional president Yerovi, whose mandate has been described as "temporary and somewhat precarious," may already have antagonized the army.

In addition to naming a little-known Guayaquil lawyer as minister of defense, Yerovi has dismissed both the army commander and the chief of the general staff--who put him in office--for protesting his release of subversive leaders. Yerovi's cabinet as a whole is a colorless cluster, and the country's vested interests will continue to oppose imperative economic reforms.



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6. Dominican Republic

With his party's convention due to begin on Saturday, Bosch apparently is still weighing various possibilities for its electoral ticket.

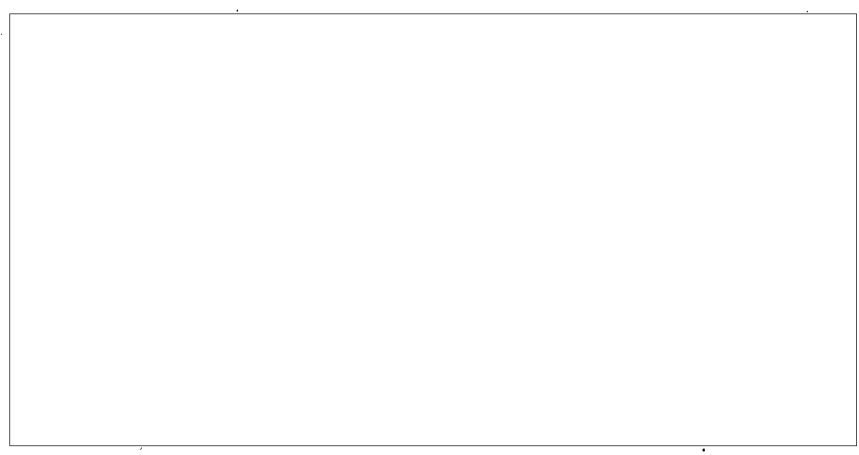
A leading party figure said yesterday he thought Bosch would nominate former rebel leader Caamano for vice president, in order to prevent other political groups from cashing in on Caamano's popularity.

[redacted] Bosch [redacted] yesterday said Caamano will be offered the presidential slot. [redacted] Bosch will not run himself because he is "convinced" that neither the US nor the Dominican armed forces, which he called "the two decisive factors in Dominican politics," would ever accept him as president.

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Bosch admitted that Caamano lacks political and administrative experience, but said that Bosch and his party would dedicate themselves to guiding him aright.

7. France



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8. Soviet Union

Kosygin's long report to the party congress on the five-year plan--he talked most of today, with a short lunch break--appears merely to have rehashed the economic plan announced last month. He did, however, come out with some of the strongest statements yet heard from the post-Khrushchev regime on the need to strengthen the USSR's military potential.

The congress is grinding on endlessly in standard, stereotyped fashion. Yesterday, Lyubov Sysoyeva, a 25-year-old milkmaid, regaled the delegates with remarks such as "comprehensive mechanization of livestock sections is a highly important task in stockbreeding."

9. Indonesia

The new ruling group is deflating Sukarno still further. The controlled Djakarta press is increasingly directing criticism at Sukarno himself. Yesterday General Suharto pointed out that under Indonesia's constitution the congress--not the president--holds supreme power.

Members of the revised cabinet have been plotting a moderate course for the country, but show themselves acutely aware of the chaos and complexities they have to deal with.

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