



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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9 APRIL 1966

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1. South Vietnam

The government still has not implemented yesterday's Directorate decision to force its authority on Da Nang. Two Ranger battalions that were supposed to reinforce the Saigon marines at Da Nang are now "not scheduled" to leave the Saigon area.

Some move against Da Nang may yet come, however. General Dinh, the new I Corps commander, and General Vien, who is in command of the marines, have left Hue for Da Nang. Ky, however, told Ambassador Lodge today that he favors limited measures, since all-out force would produce much bloodshed. Over 200 US and third-country civilians have been evacuated from Da Nang without incident.



In Saigon, the Buddhist leadership--whom the government had hoped might split--has issued a communiqué announcing an all-out fight against the government. This communiqué no longer seeks concessions but announces formation of a country-wide "Buddhist Struggle Force."

Ambassador Lodge sees "clear and evident" indications that the Viet Cong are attempting to exploit the turmoil in Saigon. He notes that many of the demonstrators are by no stretch of the imagination "students," but obviously experienced and hardened ruffians. Ky says that last night Buddhist leaders told him they could no longer control the mobs, as men "who were not Buddhists" are taking over.

2. Vietnam

The number of North Vietnamese Army troops in South Vietnam continues to grow at a significant rate.

Ten units of regimental strength and four separate battalions, totaling some 18,500 men, are now confirmed. Other suspected units could raise this figure to over 30,000.

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Large-scale infiltration appears to be continuing, probably in preparation for increased activity during the rainy season.

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3. Dominican Republic

Bosch now says he has changed his mind and that he will be a candidate for the presidency. He claims that he is under heavy pressure from his party to make the race. US assurances--re-layed to him yesterday--that we would support any elected government were probably another factor leading to his turnabout.

Antonio Guzman is Bosch's choice for vice-presidential running mate. A Bosch-Guzman ticket will be a strong one, since Guzman will have some appeal to the middle-of-the-road voters.

4. Bolivia

La Paz has been quiet this morning, but members of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement still plan to mount a major demonstration sometime during the day. Late reports say that these people will try to avoid a fight with the security police, but this could change quickly when the free-flowing liquor begins to take effect.

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5. Soviet Union

Those parts of the downed YAK-28 Firebar that have been recovered will be turned over to Soviet officials early this evening, Berlin time.

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As of yesterday afternoon, large sections of the plane, including both engines, had still not been raised.

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6. Indonesia

The generals have been encouraging Sukarno to take a trip and he may give in and visit Cambodia within the next few days.

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