



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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14 APRIL 1966

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1. South Vietnam

The government's concession on the election issue today has forced the Buddhists to reappraise their stance. The results are still unclear, and early signs are mixed.

This morning one militant Buddhist leader was still expressing mistrust of the Ky government and saying "the struggle" would continue. Another said Ky must now announce "cabinet changes" if he is to expect support. Still another said Buddhists are "satisfied at this point." Militant leader Tri Quang has yet to be heard from.

Ky seems to be under growing pressure from a group of some 80 middle-grade officers who want him to take decisive action to reassert his authority. These "baby Turks," as he calls them, are urging a major reorganization of the government that would eliminate the "more corrupt" generals from the directorate and bring in some respected civilians. General Thieu might be among those dropped.

Such a move would have the appearance of giving in to popular demand for a change, but its purpose would be to create a much stronger central government by thoroughly rebuilding the civil and military structures. The government, under this plan, would accept the promised election schedule, but would retain power for the year or more it takes to draw up a constitution.

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2. Communist China

Peking's domestic propaganda has taken what appears to be a significant turn recently. In the past the propaganda machine has recommended "collective leadership" only for the lower echelons of the party; now it says that collective leadership is important "at all levels." In view of Mao's long absence, this would seem to be a guarded attempt to alert the people and the party that a caretaker regime may soon be in charge.

3. Iraq

Baghdad is outwardly calm but the Iraqi political balance has been badly jarred by the death of President Arif last night.

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Prime Minister Bazzaz has temporarily taken charge of the government, but his chances for maintaining stability look slim. There may be no immediate trouble, but without Arif's skillful hand on the reins, one of the rival nationalist groups is likely to bid for power before long.

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4. Yemen

[redacted] the Egyptians intend to withdraw some 6,000 troops from Yemen within the next few weeks. This is probably part of Nasir's new strategy in Yemen--to pull out up to half his 60,000-man force, but perhaps maintain an Egyptian presence there indefinitely.

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5. Nigeria

[redacted] a group of Nigerian Army officers may move against the Ironsi regime "within the next 48 hours." This may be only wishful thinking, but there have been signs of dissidence and lack of discipline within the military ever since Ironsi took over last January.

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6. Rhodesia

The American consul in Salisbury believes that the white Rhodesians are more united and determined than ever, after five months of illegal independence. He considers that military action against the country would become a major operation.

There have been no further signs of economic decline during recent weeks. Prospects for marketing this year's tobacco crop are considered good; the oil shortage is still only an inconvenience.

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