



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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28 APRIL 1966

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1. South Vietnam

The political pot seems to be boiling up again.

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At the same time, there are rumors in Saigon that General Co and the IV Corps commander will attempt a coup of their own over the weekend. While there are no other indications that either side is about to move, it is known that the directorate has discussed removing Co and the other general since early March. Up until recently, at least, the furor caused by General Thi's removal had led them to reconsider.

As for Prime Minister Ky, he is now telling some of his colleagues that it would be unwise to hold elections in the next three or four months. He feels that the intense political maneuvering in the pre-election period could easily bring on widespread trouble.

2. Dominican Republic

There was a large and noisy demonstration in front of our embassy this morning, but it lasted only about an hour and there was no violence. Communist flags were flying and there was the usual anti-US chanting. At least one US flag was burned.

Elsewhere in Santo Domingo there have been no serious incidents reported, and the rest of the country seems to have had a relatively normal day.

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3. India

Mrs. Gandhi crossed swords for the first time this week with the influential doctrinaire "socialists" of India. It came in a broadcast to the nation in which she minced no words in setting forth her basically pragmatic economic policies.

Leftists in and out of congress, who have been attacking the trend in this direction as a deviation from Nehru's socialist principles, now know where Mrs. Gandhi stands. Among other things, she stressed the necessity of accepting outside help in developing an Indian fertilizer industry as the ultimate solution to the food problem. She ridiculed fears that this would mean domination by foreign capital.

Ambassador Bowles characterizes the speech as more convincing and confident than any Mrs. Gandhi has given as prime minister.

4. Sweden

Prime Minister Erlander is under pressure from influential leftists in his Social Democratic Party to adopt a more neutralist foreign policy. His scheduled speech to a May Day rally, the theme of which is to be Vietnam, will be the first indicator of how far he is ready to go in this direction.

Erlander and other Socialist leaders may well be tempted to play domestic politics with the Vietnam issue. They are looking hard for a way to undercut Sweden's relatively liberal-minded Communist Party, which has been making deep inroads into the Socialist rank and file.

5. Rhodesia

The British-Rhodesian exploratory talks are likely to begin soon, probably in London, but there is no sign that either side is willing to yield on the issue of Rhodesia's independence. Each seems to believe that time is on its side.

Prime Minister Wilson, who is playing up Smith's willingness to talk as an important "breakthrough," probably hopes the dialogue will head off a confrontation in the United Nations.

African representatives there probably have the strength to spearhead a vote in the Security Council for sanctions against the South African Government--a development that would immensely complicate Wilson's dilemma.

6. Bolivia

Leftist former vice president Juan Lechin, once Bolivia's powerful labor boss, has [redacted] returned from exile [redacted]. This increases uneasiness among the military. They already fear an attempt by leftist labor and political elements to turn the planned May Day celebrations into violent anti-junta demonstrations.

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