



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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11 JUNE 1966

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1. South Vietnam

Government forces moved further today to strengthen their authority in Hué. In Saigon, Ambassador Lodge sees some tentative signs that the leaders of the Buddhist Institute may be thinking of moderating the demand that Ky and Thieu must go.

Whether these encouraging trends will be sustained may be determined in part by the outcome of demonstrations planned for tomorrow in Saigon. Both Catholics and Buddhists have scheduled demonstrations, and the latter are billing theirs as another "massive" one. Buddhist leaders are said to be prepared to make it a counterdemonstration if, as they suspect, the Catholics concentrate on anti-Buddhist themes.

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2. Dominican Republic

President-elect Balaguer and Garcia Godoy have agreed on the timing for withdrawal of the Inter-American Peace Force, beginning shortly after the 1 July inauguration. The force would leave gradually over a 90-day period.

Balaguer has reserved the right, however, to slow or speed up the process as he sees fit.

Formal action to get the withdrawal moving now lies with the Council of the OAS. The US Embassy indicates that if this goes quickly, it might be possible to withdraw some less essential US unit before 1 July.

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3. Argentina

Under increasing pressure from the military, Illia called an unprecedented meeting of his full cabinet yesterday. The meeting produced a press release asserting the government's intention to deal with the country's most pressing problems. The cabinet is to meet again on Monday, 13 June, to take action on a long-drawn-out labor crisis in one of the provinces.

The military will be watching with interest to see whether the civilians actually follow up these good resolutions with positive action. If Illia can do so, he may be able to stave off a move by the military to oust him.

4. Congo

The Belgian military assistance program is encountering increasing hostility from the Congolese.

[redacted] there has been a slowdown in aid and no new Belgian personnel are arriving for the time being. Nor are new Belgian funds being made available for the purchase of military equipment by the Congolese Government.

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Matters may become even more unpleasant for the Belgians in Leopoldville between now and the independence celebrations on 30 June.

The US Embassy thinks that the position of the Belgian cadres in the long run is going to become tougher and tougher. On the other hand, Mobutu still relies on the Belgians and the mercenaries. Relations could, as they have before, once again simmer down.

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