



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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7 JULY 1966

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LATE ITEM

North Vietnam

The Czech news agency reported this afternoon that trials of captured US airmen "may" begin on 20 July, the anniversary of the signing of the Geneva agreements. The trials reportedly will be conducted by military tribunals in the provinces in which the airmen were captured. The death penalty will reportedly be demanded for some. There has as yet been no word on this from North Vietnamese official agencies.

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1. North Vietnam

Today's Warsaw Pact statement on Vietnam, to the effect that the Pact allies are ready to let their volunteers go to Hanoi if the North Vietnamese ask for them, does not go beyond earlier Soviet declarations on the subject. Well-hedged, cautious, and vague, the principal service of the statement is to reaffirm the common Soviet and East European position in support of Hanoi.

Hanoi radio has been playing up recent Chinese Government expressions of support, but has not yet carried recent, more militant Chinese provincial broadcasts, at least one of which adverted to China's willingness to send troops to Vietnam "if the Vietnamese need us."

The US Embassy in Saigon remarks that Hanoi seems to be using Chinese pronouncements of support to boost home front morale, but by ignoring the volunteers question still is dissociating itself from any possible suggestion that "volunteers" might be desirable.

2. North Vietnam

There is as yet no authoritative information on the "friendly conversations" De Gaulle's emissary, Sainteny, allegedly had in Hanoi with Ho Chi Minh and Pham Van Dong. Sainteny left Hanoi today for Phnom Penh.

3. Egypt

Disenchantment with the regime seems to be growing among important elements of the population.

There are few Egyptian families

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who have not had a relative or friend killed in Yemen, arrested for suspected political activity, or roughly treated in a recent campaign against landowners accused of evading reform laws.

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The prime minister is said to be at odds with the secretary general of Egypt's state political organization over implementation of the government's reform program.

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We have no information that new antiregime activity is afoot because of this dissatisfaction, but we might not in any event. Last summer plotting reached a fairly advanced stage before the usually alert regime itself got wind of it.

4. Congo (Brazzaville)

The president and prime minister are maintaining some sort of tenuous control, and order has generally been restored.

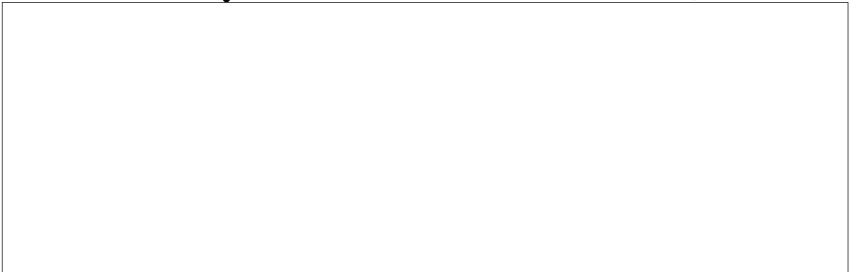
They have, however, refused most of the demands from the dissident army elements who precipitated the uproar last week and are said to have publicly admitted that only the support of their hired Cuban military types is keeping them in power.

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5. Iran

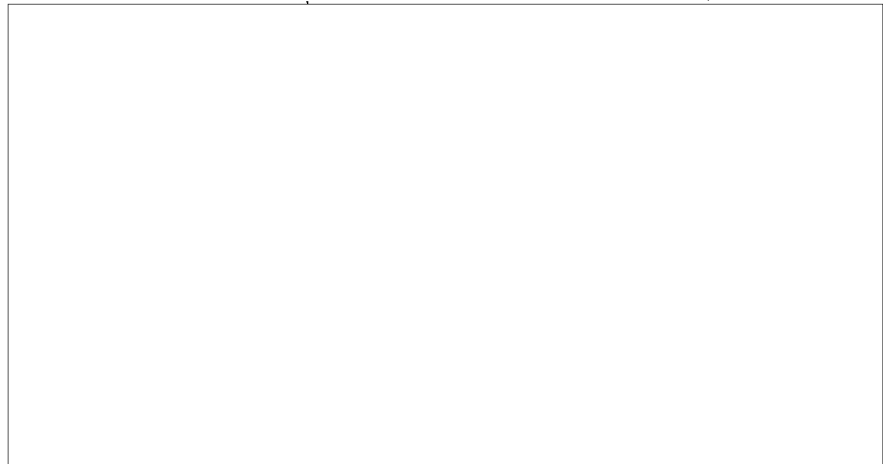
The Shah appears to have crossed the bridge mentally and probably does intend to buy what he calls "nonsensitive" arms from the Soviet Union. Several of his close advisers insist he has already contacted the Soviets.

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The Shah is said to have convoked the senators and deputies for "an important statement" next Tuesday, and could be planning to make a big splash by announcing a Soviet arms deal.

6. Cyprus



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