

The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 11 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
11 APRIL 1967

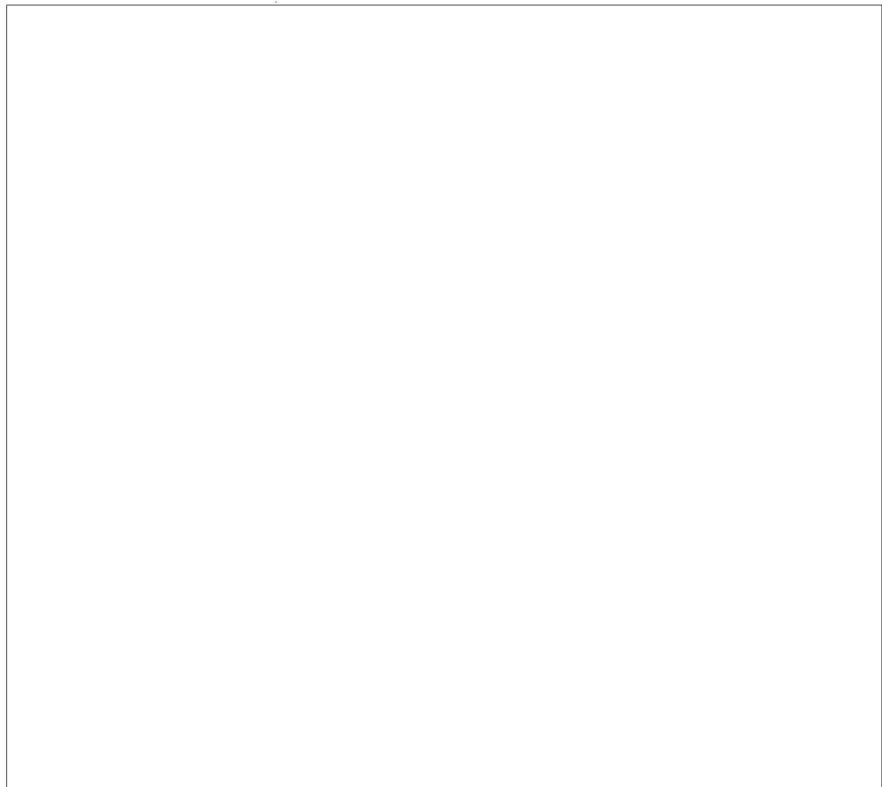
1. Dominican Republic

President Balaguer has made two important personnel changes which should help keep the lid on at home during his absence. The ex-police chief--a Trujillista who is totally unacceptable to the new minister of interior--has been posted to the provinces in order to head off the latter's threat to resign.

In addition, Balaguer's military adviser, Colonel Nivar, has been given a key army command in the Santo Domingo area. Nivar is trusted by few besides Balaguer, but the move will put someone the President believes loyal in temporary control of the capital.

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2. Panama



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3. Vietnam

We continue to see signs that the Communist political apparatus within South Vietnam is transferring key military and political cadres from higher to lower echelons. This seems to be an effort to strengthen organization and revitalize leadership at the grass roots level, where

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[redacted] Viet Cong cadres have shown ineptitude.

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[redacted] Communist cadres in districts and villages have been "demoralized" by allied military pressures and prospects of a protracted war.

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4. Cambodia

Sihanouk now seems to be preparing to take over the government himself if the unrest in the western part of the country gets worse. In a recent speech the chief of state warns that he is prepared if necessary to suspend both the National Assembly and the moderate Lon Nol government "pending the restoration of security."

Sihanouk is probably genuinely concerned about the trouble in the countryside, but he may well see his personal takeover as a nice way of cutting back the influence of both the leftists and moderates in the government.

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