

The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 29 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
29 APRIL 1967

1. Yemen

The situation remains tense with new anti-American demonstrations reportedly planned for today.

Demonstrations could pose serious problems for the Americans who are supposed to begin leaving the country this morning. An Ethiopian commercial airliner is on the ground in Yemen and ready to start ferrying out US personnel. A skeleton staff will remain in the two US diplomatic installations at Sana and Taiz.

Cairo pulls the strings in Yemen and Cairo remains officially silent to our protests over the arrest of two Americans in Yemen. Some clarification of the Egyptian position may come this morning, however, when the US chargé in Cairo meets with a key Nasir aide.

2. South Vietnam

Retail prices continued to hold relatively steady in Saigon during the week ending on Monday. This follows the trend of the previous five weeks. The price index rose by less than one percent; meat and fish were up a bit, but rice continued to decline.

3. Greece

King Constantine feels the situation is looking up, but the 27-year-old ruler may be overestimating his ability to handle the coup leaders. Some of the recent "concessions" made to the King appear to be more form than substance. He has swallowed the resignation of one of his closest advisers, a major posted to the royal household. He has also accepted several significant changes in the military command structure.

The coup leaders will move carefully where the King is concerned, however. His cooperation is essential to maintain at least the trappings of legitimacy and the military see him as a useful bridge to foreign governments.

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As for political prisoners, Ambassador Talbot met yesterday with the new interior minister and concluded from the talk that Andreas Papandreou will go on trial.

4. Philippines

The Huks are becoming more aggressive in Central Luzon and could give President Marcos some serious trouble in the future.

After years of scrounging in the wilderness as bandits, these armed Communists now appear to be back under party discipline and to be gaining strength. Though still not a significant security menace, Huk terrorism has increased, and so has the willingness of local politicians to collaborate with the guerrillas.

This collaboration has done much to stall Marcos' land reform program-- a program he feels is essential to winning peasant support for the government.

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5. India

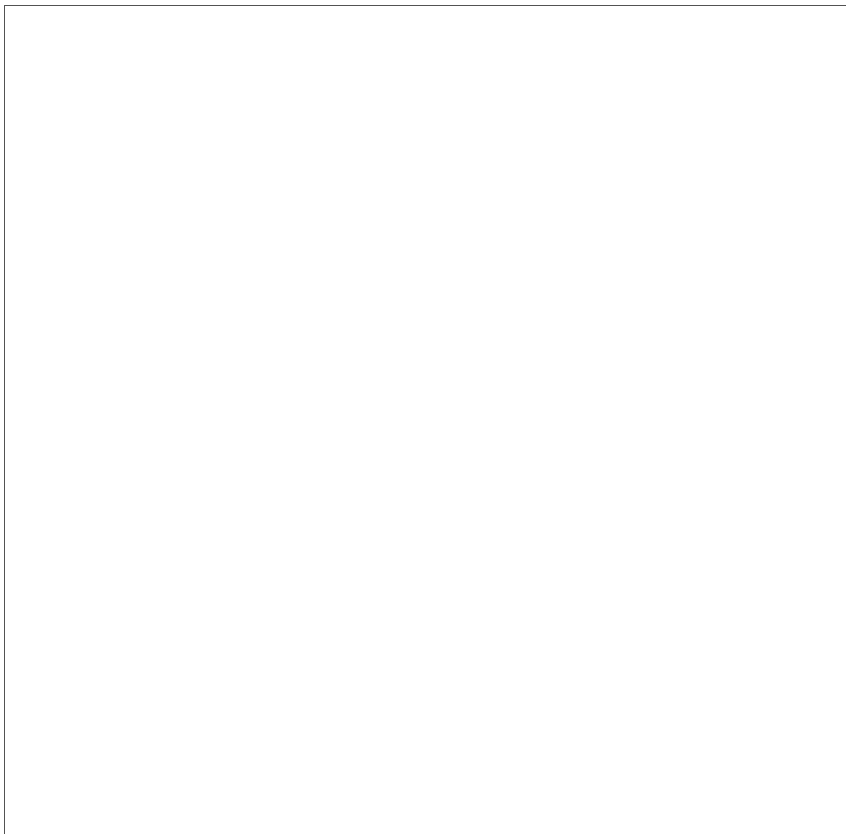
Mrs. Gandhi, already beset by India's food and political problems, faces a personal trial by fire with the presidential election next Saturday.

Against the express wishes of top Congress Party leaders, Mrs. Gandhi chose a Moslem, Vice President Zakir Husain, as the party's candidate. If he loses--and it is going to be a close race--she will be in real trouble and could be replaced as prime minister.

Outside this immediate threat to her position, Mrs. Gandhi faces spreading famine. The situation is expected to get worse this summer and there is little hope of improvement before next year at the earliest.

6. Soviet Union

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