



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 18 May 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
18 MAY 1967

1. Vietnam

The North Vietnamese are not likely to get much more than a hearty handshake and best wishes from Hungary's defense minister now visiting Hanoi. He may chip in some more small arms and trucks, but the East Europeans in general have not been outstanding contributors of military hardware, despite their strong political and propaganda support for Hanoi.

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2. Venezuela

President Leoni, outraged by the presence of Cuban military types with the Venezuelan guerrillas who last week landed near Caracas, wants to retaliate with more than an OAS resolution.

He has suggested that the US pressure the Soviets to get Castro to cease and desist. Leoni would also like to see US unions boycott shipping lines serving Cuba and firms trading with Cuba be blacklisted.

Leoni added that without some US action, Latin American countries cannot stop Castro's guerrillas, which he claimed were now active "throughout the continent."

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3. Hong Kong

The Maoists in Peking, whipped up by their own increasingly extreme and xenophobic views, may believe that they can extract some political concessions from the British without seriously damaging their economic interests in Hong Kong. The Chinese earned over \$550 million worth of hard currency there last year.

We cannot yet say how far the Chinese will be prepared to push their "demands." The riots are continuing, and spreading.

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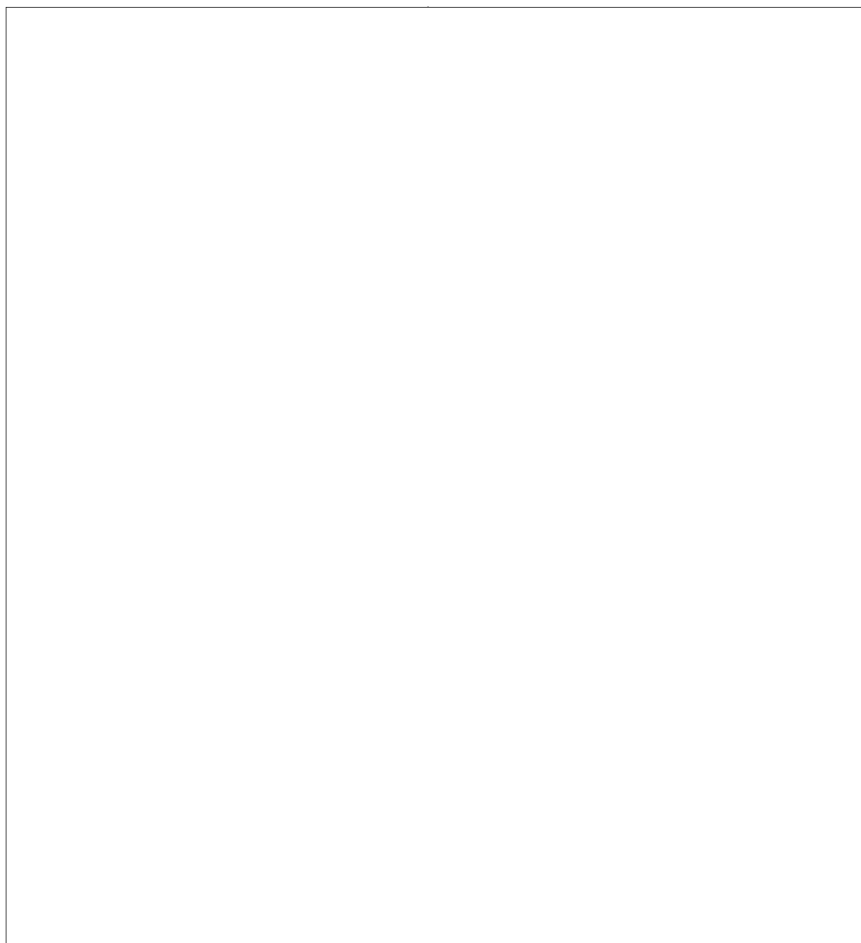
At the least, then, more violent demonstrations are probably in store for Hong Kong and harassment of British diplomats in China will continue. Should these steps fail to achieve results, Peking may go on to apply pressure through curtailment of fresh food and water supplies from the mainland.

4. Gibraltar

Spain shows no signs of easing the restrictions on air space that are endangering civil air flights into the Rock. London is willing to talk about the matter, but Madrid--whose heart has long been set on somehow forcing the British out--will talk only as part of general negotiations on "decolonizing" the territory. The British, who are diverting their civil aircraft unless they can safely land with only "minor infringements" of the restrictions, fear that Spain may impose further harassments.

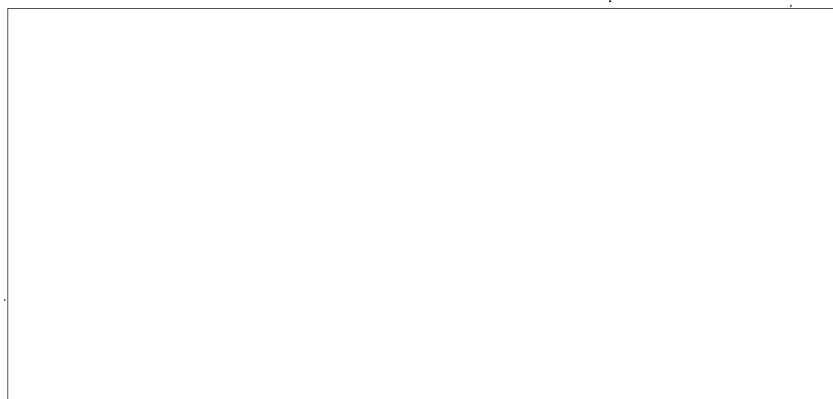
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5. Soviet Union



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6. Yemen



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7. Arab States -
Israel

Egypt has requested the withdrawal of the UN Emergency Force from the Egyptian-Israeli border. This has little military significance, since the Force never has had any capability for preventing a border clash. Cairo probably hopes its demand will deter Israel by "demonstrating" Egypt's intention to aid Syria if attacked.

The Syrians seem to be double-talking themselves into believing the Soviets will come to their assistance in the event of an Israeli attack. They say Soviet aid "will reach the verge of military intervention." Moscow apparently has given some vague assurance of support, but we think any commitment such as the Syrians have in mind is highly unlikely.

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