



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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25 FEBRUARY 1966

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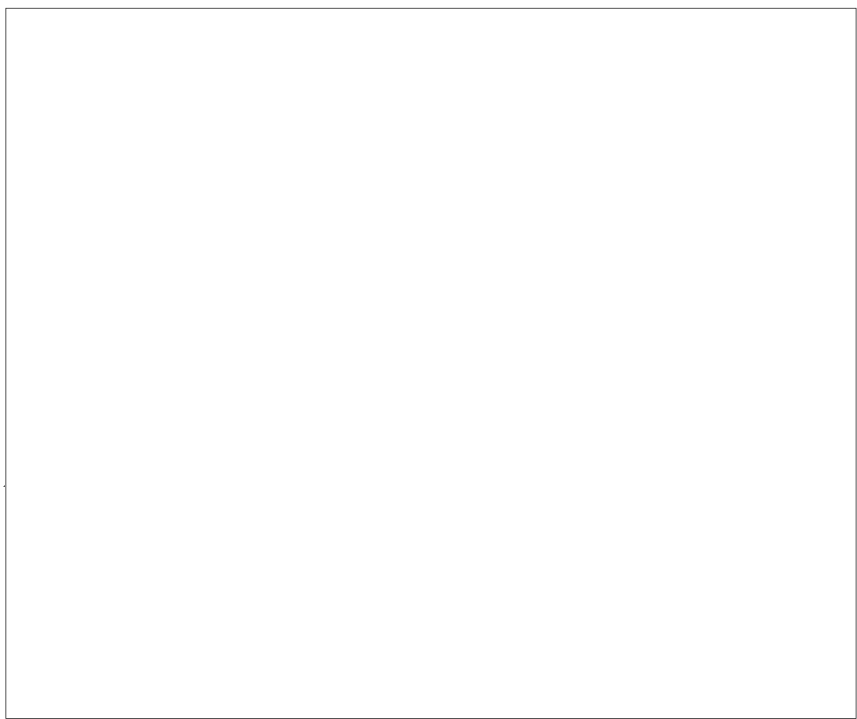
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DAILY BRIEF
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1. North Vietnam

We have further evidence of the increasing sophistication of North Vietnamese air defenses.

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2. Vietnam

Today Hanoi issued an official statement about Wednesday's contact between its chargé in Moscow and Prime Minister Wilson's special representative, Lord Chalfont. Hanoi seemed sensitive to Western press accounts of the meeting, and claimed that the chargé condemned British support for US policy and "unmasked the wicked schemes" of the US drive for negotiations.

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3. Indonesia

Sukarno is moving quickly to consolidate his gains. Today he banned the anti-Communist student confederation, the only group openly to challenge Monday's cabinet changes. The curfew in the capital was lengthened. Pro-Sukarno rallies are being mounted in the outlying provinces.

Djakarta remained tense today. There was an apparently spontaneous gesture of support for the students when an impressive number of homes and shops throughout the city flew their flags at half-mast during the funeral of one of the martyred students.

Sukarno may soon try to refurbish his own image and blacken the motives of his student opponents by publicly charging that the US was behind the anti-Communist demonstrations.



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4. Rhodesia

The effectiveness of British sanctions will be put to a hard test next month when Rhodesia begins auctioning this year's tobacco crop. The high-quality Rhodesian tobaccos normally provide about 30 percent of the country's foreign exchange earnings, and Salisbury is counting heavily on these earnings this year.

US officials in Salisbury have detected an air of optimism that the crop will be marketed,



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5. Ghana

The coup has been entirely successful, and there is no early prospect of any significant countermove. Members of the ruling National Liberation Council that was set up yesterday are all pro-Western. Soviet as well as Chinese influence is almost certain to subside considerably. Ambassador Williams expects, however, that the new leaders will probably seek to maintain a non-aligned public posture.

The ambassador points out that this coup, unlike some of the other recent ones in Africa, was not a power grab by the military. Effective authority in the ministries as well as in the regional and local governments was given to senior civil servants, not military or police officers.

The deposed Nkrumah, still a guest in Peking, has declared that he will be returning soon. This is most unlikely, but he will do all he can to stir up trouble. For the moment, this is likely to be little more than a propaganda effort. He is expected to join the rising Communist chorus that he was the victim of an "imperialist" plot.

6. Uruguay

The Communists plan a new strike offensive next month. [redacted]

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[redacted] action is to be timed to begin with the installation next Tuesday of Alberto Heber as president of Uruguay's governing national council. The Communists expect the mercurial Heber to react in a way that will permit them to increase their already considerable strength in the labor movement.

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7. Dominican Republic

The army and air force chiefs continue under pressure to step down from their posts

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Minister of Interior Castillo has confirmed to Ambassador Bennett that last week's shake-up in local and provincial government posts was designed to satisfy presidential aspirant Balaguer's complaints that too many of these posts were in the hands of Bosch partisans. Castillo, who evidently convinced Garcia Godoy that Balaguer's point was justified, added that there will shortly be further changes with the same objective.

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