



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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8 APRIL 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23

DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

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[redacted] the ruling directorate today voted unanimously "to develop plans for the necessary action" against antigovernment elements in the northern provinces. The timing was left open, but the move could come tomorrow.

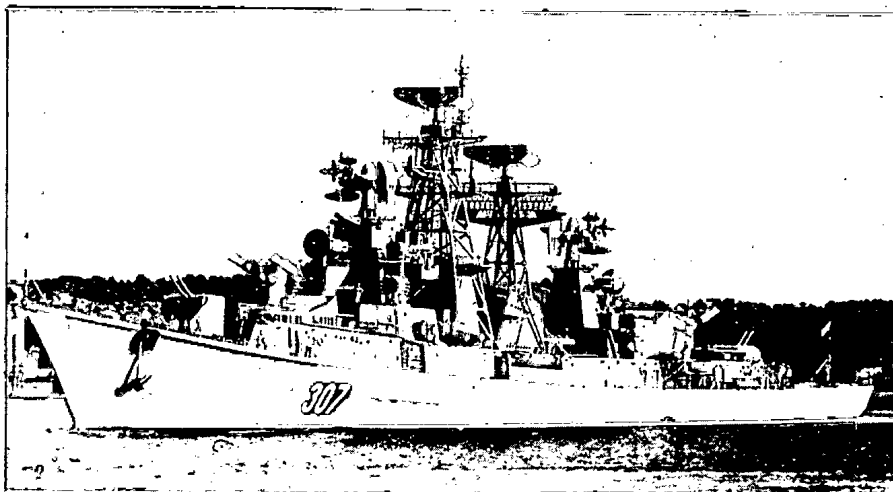
The directorate also decided on command changes in the area. The ineffective General Chuan was removed and command of I Corps given to General Ton That Dinh, a forceful officer of somewhat uncertain loyalties. He is to proceed to Da Nang tomorrow.

Some members of the directorate apparently still hope that a "real show of force" will cause the struggle groups in Hué and Da Nang to collapse. The struggle groups in these cities show every sign that they will fight to prevent pro-government troops from entering either city. The likelihood of clashes at Da Nang in particular has prompted the embassy to order all civilian Americans evacuated.

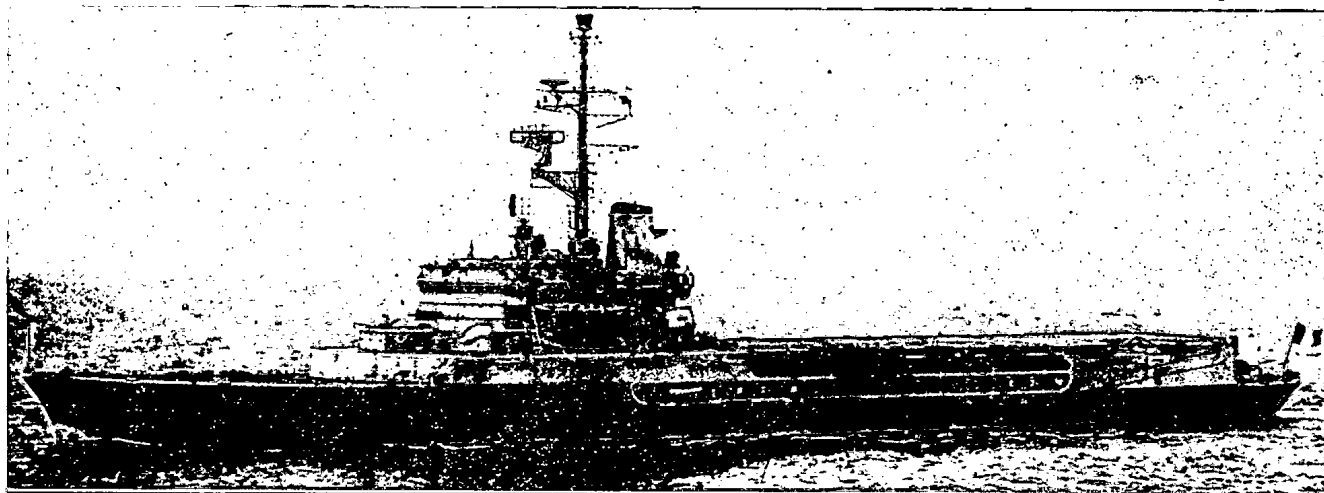
The chances for a peaceful political compromise receded further today when Buddhist leaders in Hué and Da Nang denounced Tam Chau's plea yesterday for a pause in agitation. An antigovernment struggle committee, under a follower of Tri Quang, was set up today in Saigon.

Tonight in Saigon there has been further rioting, largely by bands of young hoodlums. The police fear bigger antigovernment demonstrations tomorrow with an increased anti-American flavor. A sector of the city has been cordoned off and Americans advised to keep out.

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The new frigates under construction in the USSR may be larger than this 470-foot KASHIN-Class--the last type of guided missile ship to be built by the Soviets



The new Soviet helicopter carriers reportedly being built in the Black Sea apparently resemble this 590-foot French helicopter carrier JEANNE d'ARC

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2. Vietnam

The Viet Cong are beginning to feel the pinch on their food supplies. Their radio this week acknowledged that current allied operations had created "difficulties" in food procurement. The admission was coupled with an exhortation for a "patriotic" upsurge in food production.

Hanoi today marked the first anniversary of the promulgation of its so-called "four points" for solving the Vietnam problem by insisting, once again, that they are the one and only basis for settling the war.

3. Communist China

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] Weather reporting in northwestern China has not yet been stepped up and we have not detected the usual preparatory flights by debris-collecting aircraft. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

4. Soviet Union

The Soviets are apparently planning to introduce two new classes of major warships. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] one or two units of a new class of frigate--probably to be equipped with guided missiles and the latest anti-submarine weapons--are currently under production as are two probable helicopter carriers. Such ships are needed to extend the Soviets' antisubmarine and amphibious warfare capabilities beyond the range of ground-based air support.

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[Redacted]

5. Soviet Union

The 23rd Soviet Party Congress-- an exercise in dull oratory--finally ended today. The general party line and the political balance at the top were not significantly affected. The widely heralded move to rehabilitate Stalin failed to get off the ground.

The turnover in membership of the party's governing bodies was kept to a minimum. The few changes that were made point to a slight improvement in the position of the orthodox wing of the party, and this is in keeping with the stress at the congress on the need for greater discipline and ideological firmness.

As expected, Brezhnev received the title of General Secretary and has emerged from the congress with somewhat enhanced prestige.

6. Africa

The summit conference of eleven east and central African leaders in Nairobi last week was considerably more productive than most African meetings of this kind. Although each participant came to the meeting with a dispute going with at least one of the others, the group still managed to take realistic steps to patch up its differences.

Progress was particularly good on refugee problems. Tanzania's Nyerere agreed to limit the activities of Malawi exiles in his country; Kenyatta ordered the ouster of two Congolese rebel leaders and a roundup of southern Sudanese dissidents.

Congolese President Mobutu reached preliminary agreement with all participating neighbors to resolve their refugee problems. Both Nyerere and Uganda's Obote in turn promised Mobutu that they would stop all aid to the Congolese rebels.

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7. Ethiopia

Haile Selassie's decision to take off on a three-week trip to West Africa and the Caribbean, beginning on Monday, evidently indicates that he is not particularly worried about the long-simmering discontent at home. Last month the Emperor made a few political reforms to cool down his critics, but a number of military and civilian elements are still dissatisfied with his heavy-handed rule. In this situation, the possibility of a move against the regime during his absence cannot be ruled out.

8. Eastern Europe

The Chinese Communists may be trying to encourage the formation of splinter groups within the Soviet-oriented parties of Eastern Europe.

Peking's leading European client, Albania, has publicly hailed the "clandestine reappearance of the Polish Communist Party." Tirana may have been referring to a group of Polish Stalinists, one of whom fled Poland with Albanian help in February and has since been beaming anti-Gomulka, pro-Chinese broadcasts from Tirana.

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We doubt that Peking's efforts have had much effect as yet.

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