



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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26 APRIL 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. North Vietnam

There were air battles again today over North Vietnam. This time, US fighters downed a MIG-21.

Hanoi's jet fighters have been much more aggressive recently and since 17 April have reacted almost daily to US air activity over North Vietnam. US pilots find their Communist counterparts well trained and very combative.

The greater boldness shown by Hanoi's fighter force followed quickly on the increased US air strikes in the Hanoi-Hai-phong heartland. The North Vietnamese evidently consider that these US attacks require an aggressive air response, even at the risk of US retaliatory strikes against North Vietnamese airfields.

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2. South Vietnam

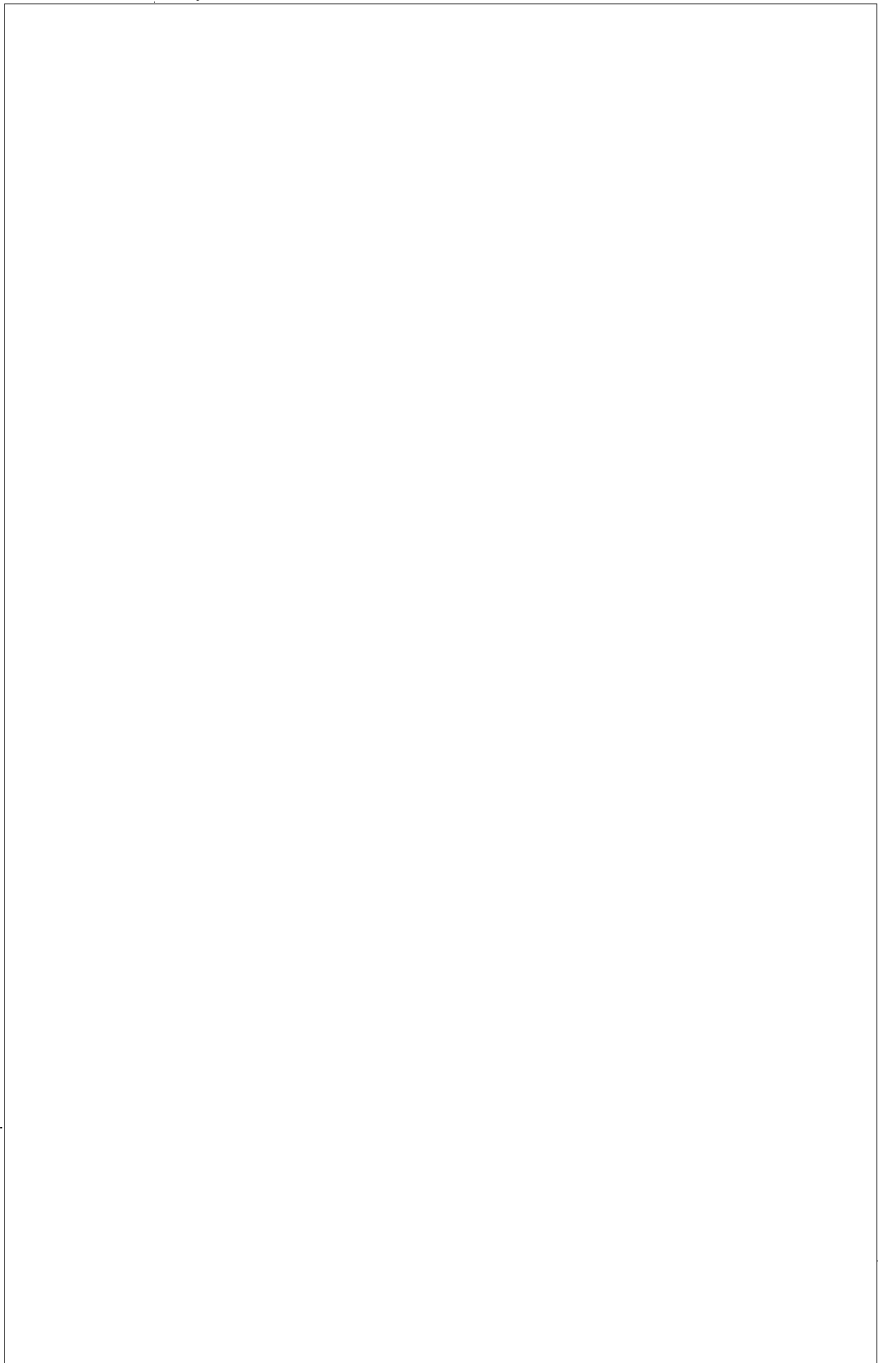
Today was quiet on the political front, but the possibility increased of clashes between Catholics and Buddhists in the Da Nang area. Catholics, angered by a shooting last week in one of their villages which they blame on Buddhists, are reported by the press to plan "massive demonstrations" in Da Nang to demand punishment for Buddhist leaders of the antigovernment forces.

Ky has outlined to Ambassador Lodge his current thinking on the future evolution of the government. He feels it important to assure a continuing major--if not dominant--role for the military.

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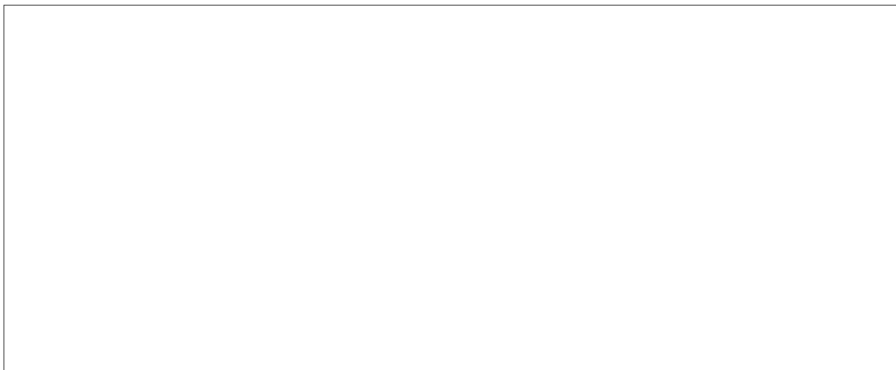
3. Soviet Union

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4. Soviet Union

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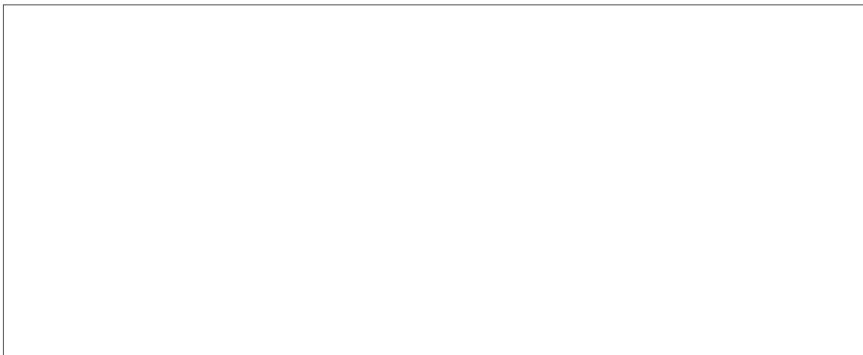


5. Soviet Union

Soviet officials admit that the first of the three earthquakes which hit Tashkent today did considerable damage. Experts in Washington, however, doubt that any of the tremors reached catastrophic proportions. The first shock registered about 6.5 on a 12 point measuring scale; the other two measured considerably less.

6. Iraq

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