



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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24 MAY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

Struggle forces are set to demonstrate in Hué at 9:00 p.m. tonight, Washington time. The province chief there has warned US officials that he expects the demonstration to be anti-American; he also fears that there may be violence. Additional police will be posted at US installations, but their reliability is wide open to question.

The dissident generals are still at the heart of this trouble in Hué. Yesterday General Thi told the troops there to "turn your weapons against Thieu and Ky"; today Thi and Tri Quang put out a declaration calling for the assassination of the two Saigon leaders.

There was one major break, however, today in the ranks of Hué dissidents. General Nhuan, commander of the First Division, announced that he is now supporting the government.

Saigon and Da Nang have both been quiet tonight, Vietnamese time.

2. Laos

The Communists are continuing to move substantial numbers of trucks in the northern sector of the Laotian infiltration corridor. Between 18 and 22 May, for instance, observers reported some 150 trucks moving down one of the key roads below the Mu Gia Pass (see map).

Farther south, however, the combination of rain and air strikes is giving the enemy considerable trouble. Recent photography shows that two important infiltration routes near Ban Bac have been well blocked by land slides. A vital ford in the same area has become unusable because of high water.

3. Soviet Union

Soviet naval activity in the Mediterranean is at an unusually high level this week.

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The port calls made by these ships highlight the political as well as the military value Moscow attaches to Mediterranean operations. They have recently visited Egypt, Algeria, and may soon show the flag in one or two French ports.

4. Finland

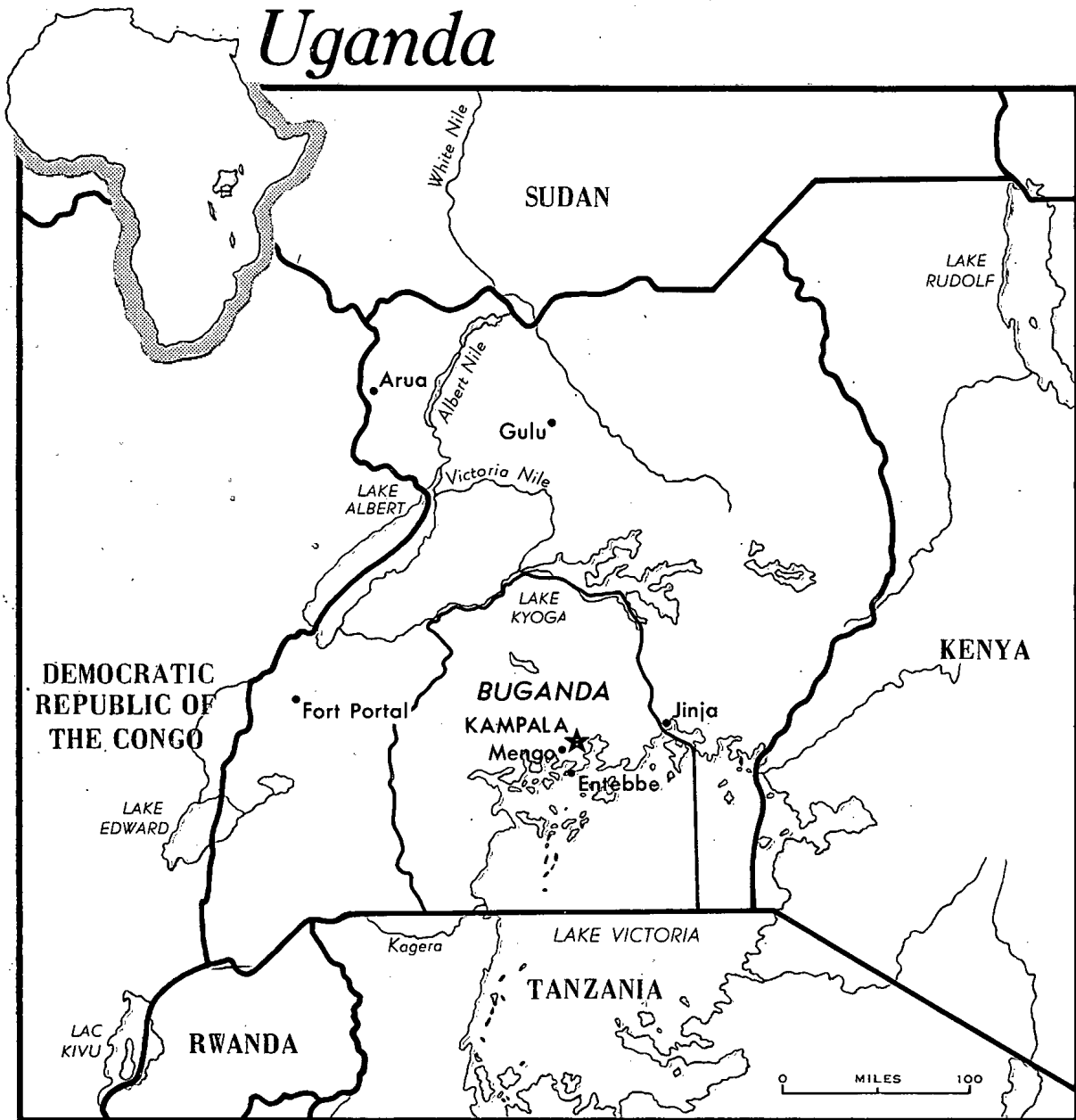
The agreement to form a coalition of left and center parties marks a breakthrough for the Communists, who have been excluded from Finnish cabinets since 1948. Final approval by the parties involved is expected later this week and the new government may be installed by the weekend.

The Communists are likely to be offered three of the 15 cabinet posts. Non-Communists in Helsinki maintain that it is necessary to have the Communists accept cabinet responsibility, especially since the government will have to take unpopular austerity measures.

5. Rumania

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[Redacted]

6. Cyprus

[Redacted]

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7. Uganda

Obote is clearly out to break once and for all the autonomy of the kingdom of Buganda. Today his forces stormed the King's palace just outside Kampala and the King, whom Obote charges with treason, is reported to have been arrested.

The King has wide support in Buganda, the country's largest region (see map). Obote's move can only lead to prolonged disturbances

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8. Dominican Republic

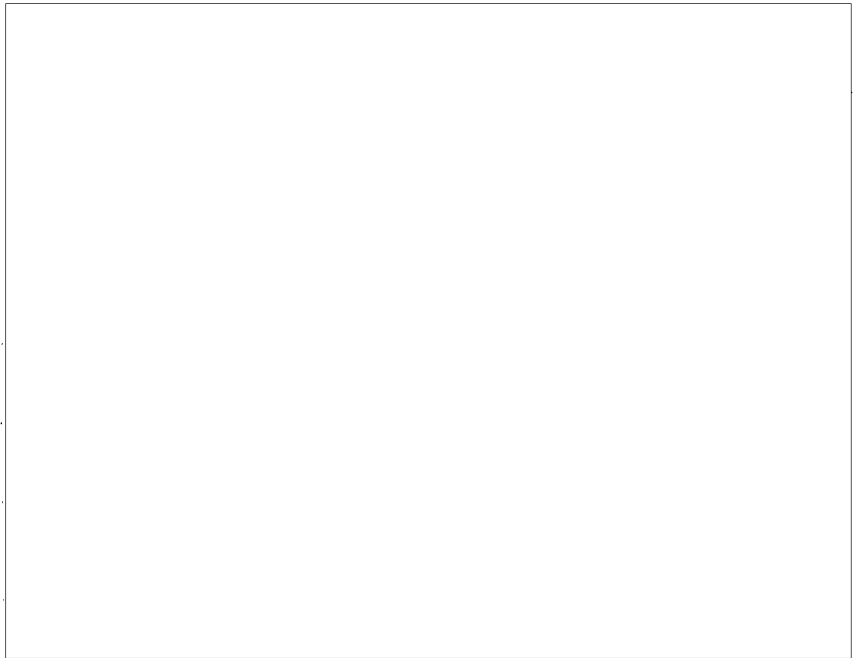
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9. Guatemala



10. Ecuador

Ex-President Velasco arrived back in Ecuador on schedule early this afternoon. There were only some 5,000 people out to greet him as his yacht entered the port of Guayaquil, but it is too soon to say his return is any less triumphal than he expected. As this is being written, he should be beginning a scheduled three-hour speech to his followers.

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