



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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23 JUNE 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~



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1. Bolivia

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The government is said to be acting to head off what it thinks might be a major effort to create disturbances by anti-Barrientos elements anxious to force postponement of the 3 July election. It is possible, however, that this may be the beginning of a move by President Ovando against Barrientos.

2. North Vietnam

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noi's search abroad for field wire began last December.

This contract will provide more wire than is now estimated as required for an initial basic issue for all combat units supported by North Vietnam, including Communist units in Laos and South Vietnam.

The expanded training and the build-up of North Vietnamese forces may have added unusual requirements. Combat at present levels in South Vietnam is estimated to chew up some 4,800 kilometers of wire annually.

3. South Vietnam

The presence of two battalions of the 141st North Vietnamese regiment has been reported along a river in Bien Hoa Province, southeast of Bien Hoa. The regiment's last known location was to the north in Phuoc Long Province.

If the present report is borne out, this will mark the southernmost location for a North Vietnamese regular unit. The bulk of these are concentrated northward from the Darlac/Phu Yen Province area.
(Map)

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4. South Vietnam

At last report, police searching the Buddhist Institute in Saigon after its seizure this morning have found tear gas grenades, knives, and a radio transmitter.

Of the several hundred persons taken into custody, including the suspected killer they wanted, police have now released some 100 Buddhist monks and nuns. They may return the Institute to Tam Chau tomorrow.

5. Communist China

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Karachi radio announced today that another Chinese aid project has been agreed upon. The Chinese are to set up a heavy machinery plant in Pakistan, reportedly to produce such items as road building equipment and machinery for cement and sugar plants.

6. Soviet Union

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a reorganization of Soviet ground forces in East Germany. This reorganization might result in some reduction of Soviet ground force support troops. The total Soviet strength now stands at about 280,000.

Thus far, we have no evidence of the actual departure of any Soviet troops from East Germany. West German newspapers, however, have been reporting rumors that the Soviets plan significant troop reductions in East Germany this summer.

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7. Cyprus

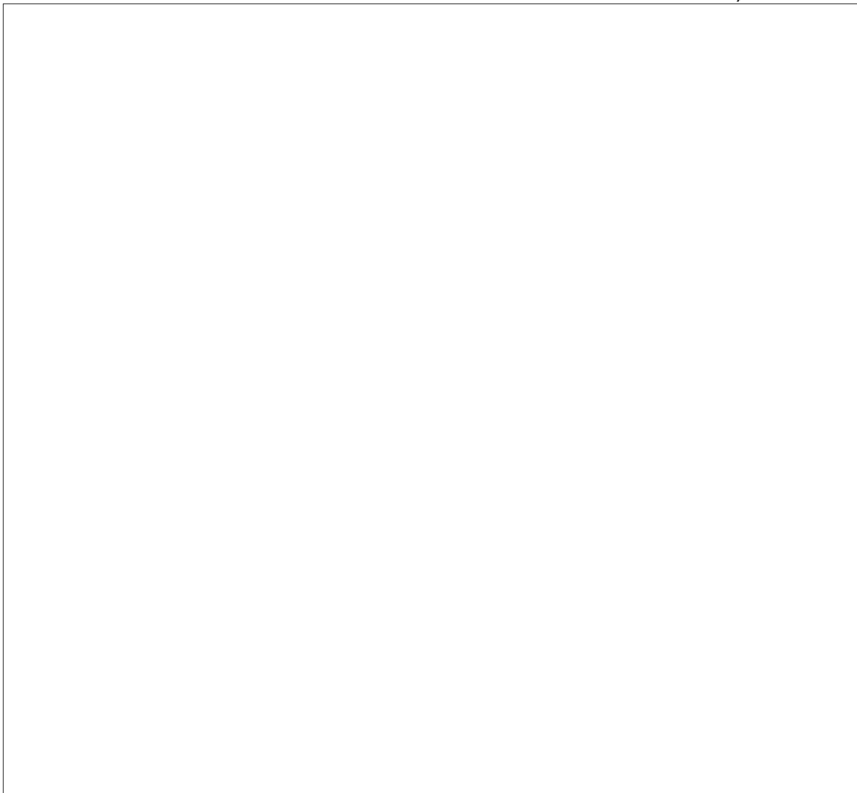
The immediate danger of a major new flareup has faded. Makarios today suddenly lifted the blockade of the Turkish Cypriot community in Nicosia.



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This has obviated Ankara's need to come through with the "countermeasures" it had threatened, but tension continues high between the two hostile communities.

8. France



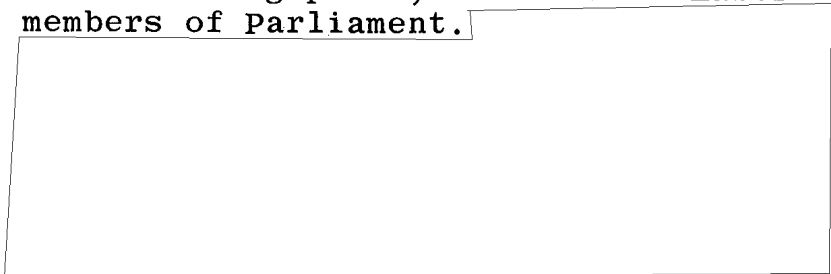
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9. United Kingdom

Prime Minister Wilson is likely to come under increasing pressure to deliver the evidence for his charge that Communists are behind the seamen's strike. The British press is generally skeptical and opposition party leaders are demanding proof, as are some Labor members of Parliament.

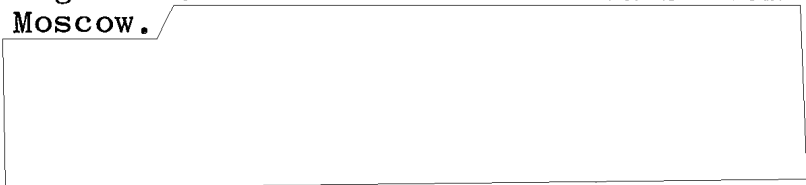


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Some hope of a possible break in the strike appeared today with the offer by the seamen's union to resume talks with the shipowners. No time for the meeting was set, however, and this may be just another false start.

10. Cuba

The drastic shortfall in this year's sugar harvest has compounded the regime's economic problems and is apparently driving the Cubans to seek more loans from Moscow.



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