



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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11 AUGUST 1966

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1. South Vietnam

Election preparations are still moving along well. Even some of Ky's critics now concede that the candidate screening operation has been fair and reasonable. This is now about complete and the candidate lists are to be formally posted tomorrow. It seems that more than 700 candidates will be competing for the 108 assembly seats on 11 September.

Well over five million people may be registered in time to vote. This is about what the government was aiming for.

2. South Vietnam

Viet Cong leaders in the delta provinces of southernmost South Vietnam are apparently worried by the declining quality of guerrillas and party members at their command.

A Communist directive from this area recently fell into our hands. It rails against the "bourgeois mentality" of a number of comrades who "drag their feet when the going gets rough." The "drop in quality" was attributed to "recent heavy recruiting" in the delta provinces.

3. United Kingdom

The British press is almost unanimous in its lack of enthusiasm for Wilson's cabinet changes. Rather than reducing the cabinet or injecting new blood, Wilson simply shuffled portfolios.

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4. Communist China

We still have no explanation for Peking's unusual move in pulling today's People's Daily off the newsstands to delete a report of Mao's presence in the capital.

5. Philippines

We are likely to be offered some additional real estate for air and naval bases when President Marcos visits Washington next month.

Marcos intends to suggest that the new sites be called "SEATO" bases to make them politically more acceptable. Use of such bases for combat operations "could be worked out," a Philippine official said.

Any deal is likely to be expensive.

6. Soviet Union

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7. Iran

The Shah apparently has given up the idea of buying Soviet surface-to-air missiles but is still inclined toward purchasing anti-aircraft guns and military vehicles from the Russians.

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These points emerged on 10 August during a long discussion on arms procurement with Ambassador Meyer and Assistant Secretary of Defense Hoopes. The Shah admitted that the Soviets seemed less than enthusiastic on arms sales to Iran

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8. Congo

Mobutu is muttering about resigning. He said Tuesday he had given himself 48 hours to decide. The deadline has passed with no sign he has made up his mind. While the mercurial Congolese president probably will not quit, what little order still exists in the country would collapse if he did.

Meanwhile, out in the bush, the shooting and looting continues.

9. Disarmament

Further strains on Western unity are developing on the issue of nuclear nonproliferation. Most of our allies at the Geneva conference on disarmament feel the US draft treaty is no longer useful for serious negotiations and some may try initiatives on their own before the conference ends late this month.

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