



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

26 AUGUST 1966

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1. Vietnam

Interrogation of a recently defected Viet Cong [redacted] has confirmed rumors that high-ranking North Vietnamese party and military personalities are operating at the headquarters of the Communist war effort in South Vietnam. 50X1

According to the defector, Hanoi's number one man in the south is a member of the party politburo. He heads both the political and military apparatus in the south, and is assisted by two other North Vietnamese generals who also hold high party posts. [redacted] 50X1

2. South Vietnam

The official two-week election campaign period began today.

In a kick-off speech yesterday, Ky appealed for a large vote and pledged that the elections would be honest. The Viet Cong took note of the occasion by gunning down six Vietnamese policemen and marines in Saigon.

We expect the Viet Cong to make a determined effort to disrupt things, but there are some signs that the Buddhist hierarchy is about to back away from its call for a boycott. However, the Buddhists will still work to defeat the government's candidates.

3. Nigeria

Security officials in Lagos have picked up scores of machetes from eastern tribal activists in the area. This lends some substance to persistent reports that these easterners were arming themselves for attacks against selected northerners. Any such violence would reinforce already strong northern secessionist sentiment.

4. Congo

The Belgian Government intends to maintain current levels of nonmilitary technical assistance to the Congo in spite of failure to come to any understanding with Mobutu.

Although opposing military commanders in Kisangani (Stanleyville) have reached a tenuous truce, there is widespread apprehension that the Katangans may decide at any moment to move south.

5. French Somaliland

The violent reception given De Gaulle forced him to cancel his scheduled public speech today.

Anti-French demonstrations of yesterday and today may have been organized by agitators from neighboring Somalia.

Nationalist activity in French Somaliland has been carefully curbed by the French in recent years. The government of Somalia has been actively seeking a change in the territory's status, however, and fears that the French may let the area fall under Ethiopian control.

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