

The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 4 May 1967

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1. North Vietnam

Cargo deliveries by foreign ships to North Vietnam continued at the high level set during the first quarter of the year. Some 129,000 tons were delivered in April--a slight drop from the record of 142,000 tons in March.

Petroleum shipments declined, but dry cargoes reached a new high. Continued heavy imports of food apparently mean that earlier reports of a poor harvest in North Vietnam were correct and that other Communist countries are underwriting Hanoi's needs in order to head off a food crisis.

2. Common Market

Paris has probably not yet decided how to cope with London's bid for membership and appears to be stalling for time.

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Wilson's bid was as close to an unconditional one as was possible for him to make. If De Gaulle is to keep Britain out this time, he will have to come much closer to revealing openly his opposition to anything which would obstruct French predominance in Western Europe.

3. Sino-Soviet Relations

Moscow has more than doubled its Chinese language propaganda broadcasts since mid-April. The weekly schedule, now 180 hours, includes two simultaneous programs at prime evening hours. Moscow's line stresses the growing isolation of Mao and company from the Communist party. Some of the broadcasts are frankly encouraging anti-Mao sentiment in the Chinese Army.

4. Eastern Europe

The most significant thing to emerge so far from last week's rather feeble conference of European Communist parties in Czechoslovakia has been the extent of Rumania's isolation from its erstwhile allies. Rumania has moved perceptibly closer to the position long held by Yugoslavia.

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typically Yugoslav themes played by the Rumanian press during the conference, strongly suggests that the joint absence of the two parties was no coincidence.

5. Spain

One effect of the widespread and violent May Day demonstrations this year may well be to play into the hands of extremists in both the regime and the opposition. Ambassador Duke points out that the regime's reversion to a tough line on May Day stimulated rather than discouraged worker defiance.

The violence suggests that Franco will have increasing difficulty in his effort to keep the lid on pressures for liberalization.

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6. Guinea

Sekou Toure's regime is at its lowest ebb since independence, though he will probably somehow pull through again. A sinking economy and financial scandals involving high officials are mainly responsible. Characteristically, Toure blames "foreign plotters." He has ordered all foreign missionaries out of the country by 1 June. This will affect some seventy US citizens.

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