



The President's Daily Brief



4 April 1970

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Top Secret

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Cambodia is discussed on Page 1.

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[Redacted]	Laos [Redacted]
[Redacted]	(Page 2)

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In Guatemala, the leftist kidnapers of West German Ambassador von Spreti have threatened to execute him if their demands are not met. (Page 3)

A rumored personnel shakeup in the Soviet propaganda apparatus may be the backwash of a larger struggle within the Soviet hierarchy. (Page 4)

Student unrest is growing in Saigon. (Page 5)

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CAMBODIA

The situation in the countryside is quiet. No new pro-Sihanouk demonstrations have been reported, and all is relatively calm along the border.

The leaders in Phnom Penh are still waiting for the Communists to drop the other shoe, but they calculate that if they do not press the Communists to vacate Cambodian territory, they can buy some more time.

The long shadow of Sihanouk has them worried, but Matak and Lon Nol are fairly confident that they can consolidate their control if the Vietnamese stay out of it.

The Communists are unsure about their ability to push the new government further and faster. They still have civilian assets in reserve and can always fall back on Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops, but it seems they prefer for now to rely on the psychological pressures already built up.

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LAOS

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GUATEMALA

No settlement is in sight as the countdown continues toward a deadline set by the leftist kidnapers of West German Ambassador von Spreti. The pro-Cuban Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) has indicated that if its demands are not met by 4 p.m. (EST) today, von Spreti will be executed. Meanwhile FAR has raised the terms to 22 prisoners and \$700,000 in ransom following the government's refusal to release the 15 subversives originally demanded by the kidnapers.

The FAR may attempt to kidnap other members of the diplomatic community to strengthen its case.

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USSR

According to the Moscow rumor circuit, informed Soviet sources are talking of important changes among officials in charge of the Soviet information, culture, and propaganda services. Four officials are reported thus far to have been removed from their jobs.

If these moves have indeed taken place, they signal an assault by Brezhnev and others on Shelepin's power base, since at least two of those removed are clearly his supporters. One of these men has been retired; another is to be removed from the center of power with an assignment to a post abroad. At the same time, Ambassador to Czechoslovakia Chervonenko, who is said to be coming home to fill the party slot in charge of propaganda, is a Brezhnev man

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Shelepin has been out of sight and probably ill since late February.

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SOUTH VIETNAM

The government has not been able to calm student unrest, and the boycott of classes at Saigon University may spread to secondary schools. A student spokesman has announced that the boycott would last indefinitely unless the government releases the students accused of being Communist agents or gives them an early trial.

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