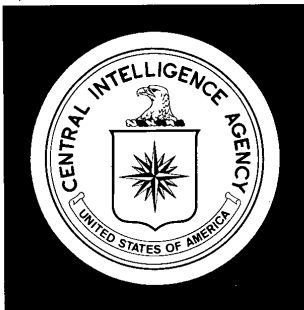


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The President's Daily Brief

• *April 16, 1974*

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

April 16, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Latin American representatives at the inter-American foreign ministers' meeting opening in Washington tomorrow will be looking for solid evidence that the US intends to undertake specific actions in their favor.

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(Page 1)

Recent intercepted messages suggest that North Vietnam's troop infiltration for this dry season may be drawing to a close. (Page 2)

Jordan

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

At the inter-American foreign ministers' meeting, which opens here tomorrow, the Latin Americans will be looking for solid evidence that the US intends to undertake specific actions in their favor. The agenda includes such economic issues as greater access to US markets, technology, and development resources as well as a "code of conduct" for multinational companies. Restructuring of the inter-American system and a general review of US - Latin American relations also are included.

The Washington conference will probably establish means for bilateral and multilateral consultations on a wide range of trade matters. It also may call for setting up special working groups on foreign investment and transfer of technology. In addition, a statement of general principles relating to the conduct of multinational corporations may be approved.

Several issues could strain the fragile unity established at the Tlatelolco Conference last February. One of these is Cuba.

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In addition, a number of Latin leaders are suspicious of US intentions in proposing a new hemisphere "community," and there will be strong pressure to exclude this concept from the final communiqué.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

VIETNAM

Recent intercepts suggest that North Vietnam's troop infiltration for this dry season may be drawing to a close. According to an April 12 message, "no southbound troops" will pass through a key transfer point in southern North Vietnam for the rest of the month, and more recent messages confirm that none have arrived. No new groups, except small numbers of specialists, have been detected entering the top of the infiltration system for eight days, the longest interruption since September.

Intercepts from southern Laos indicate that North Vietnamese in the infiltration corridor that is used to move most troops and supplies south have begun removing supplies from storage areas there before closing down for the approaching rainy season. The new Communist road network along South Vietnam's western border, however, is less susceptible to the heavy rains, and Hanoi could move men and supplies along this route well into late summer.

Hanoi has probably already sent more than enough manpower to central and southern South Vietnam to replace losses for several months at the current low level of combat. Few troops have gone to northern South Vietnam, where there has been little fighting, but Hanoi could quickly send men to this area.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

JORDAN

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