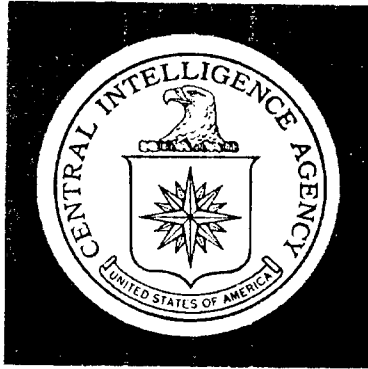


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*The President's Daily Brief*

*Top Secret 26 March 1968*

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DAILY BRIEF  
26 MARCH 1968

1. Vietnam

While military activity in South Vietnam remains at a low level, we continue to get more signs of heavy enemy infiltration into South Vietnam. Truck traffic through the Mu Gia Pass is at the highest level since just before the Tet offensive. Some of the trucks carry troops--a highly unusual procedure which suggests that the movement has a good deal of urgency behind it. Some Communist messages convey the same sense of urgency.

2. Panama

Max Delvalle, the Arias supporter whom the Assembly elected to the presidency yesterday to replace Robles, has called the Assembly into special session this afternoon to make changes in the electoral code.

This throws down the gauntlet to the National Guard, which refuses to recognize the impeachment of Robles and says it will not let the session meet. The confrontation could lead to violence, although Arias and his supporters seem to lack the resources in either manpower or equipment for an effective challenge to the Guard.

The general strike proclaimed yesterday by the Arias forces shows no sign of getting off the ground.

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## 3. Laos

The United States Intelligence Board has approved a Special National Intelligence Estimate on Communist intentions in Laos over the next two to three months. The estimate notes that the Communists could in fairly short order reduce the area controlled by Vientiane to a few enclaves.

It points out that the Communists might press ahead if, for instance, they saw an advantage in creating a "second front" in Laos to spread US resources. They might also do so if they thought it advisable to strengthen the Communist hand in any negotiations by taking as much territory as possible in Laos.

But, on balance, the estimate concludes that the Communists will probably content themselves with the capture of a few more positions and then reduce their pressure during the rainy season which begins in May.

## 4. Cambodia

Cambodian security forces have evicted Viet Cong elements from Cambodian territory and for the first time have destroyed a large Communist bivouac complex. The security forces were acting on information provided by the US.

Particularly significant is the fact that the destroyed bivouac is in an area where local Cambodian officials have previously cooperated with the Viet Cong.

Sihanouk reportedly is working up a full dossier on Viet Cong installations in Cambodia, in case he decides to blow the whistle publicly on their activities.

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## 5. Communist China



## 6. Saudi Arabia

The Saudis are predictably reluctant to go along with the Jordanian call for an early Arab summit. They fear--probably rightly--that they would be pressed at such a meeting to ante up more funds for Egypt and Jordan. They are also worried that Nasir would trap them into supporting another expedition against Israel. The Saudis torpedoed one proposed summit late last year, but in the emotional atmosphere following last week's military action, they may have trouble heading this one off.

7. Soviet Union -  
Cuba

Growing political irritations between Moscow and Havana seem to have had little effect on their economic relations. The trade protocol for this year, announced last week after six months of negotiations, calls for a ten percent boost in trade. Also, according to press reports, Moscow is shelling out more credits. The new credits would presumably be to refinance previous ones and to cover Cuba's balance of payments deficits.

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