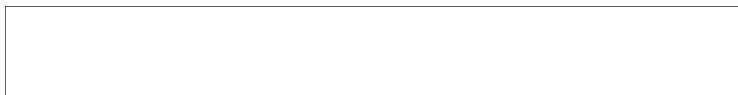


The President's Daily Brief

16 April 1969

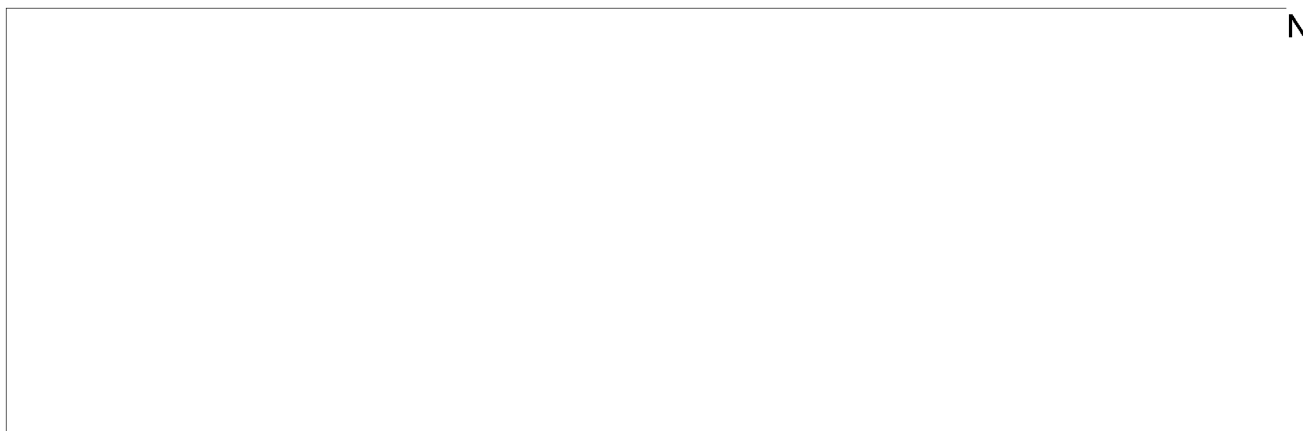
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NR Record



II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

KOREA

The destroyer USS Tucker confirms it has picked up two bodies in debris 17 miles from the crash site of the EC-121 plane.



(b)(3)

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The North Korean Defense Minister General Choi Hyun, apparently talking to the officers and men of the North Korean army unit responsible for the shootdown, thanked them for their action and was quoted as saying that the flight was part of planned preparations for "inciting a new war in Korea. ... the situation remains tense and it shows that a war may break out again at any moment." The speech appears to be part of the North Korean effort to keep its units alert to any military reaction from either the US or South Korea.



(b)(3)

(b)(3)

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A Chinese Communist newspaper in Hong Kong bitterly attacked the "despicable Russian revisionists for shamelessly and brazenly selling out North Korea by sending two warships to help the Americans find the bits and pieces of the marauding plane. ...the Russian action would be acceptable if this were a civilian plane and not a military intruder." (AP 283, 17 Apr)

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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

KOREA

North Korean military activity since the shootdown has been cautious.

[redacted] (b)(1)
[redacted] (b)(3)
[redacted] (b)(1)

[redacted] (b)(3)
[redacted] (b)(1)
[redacted] (b)(3)
No movement of North Korean forces has been detected, however, nor has there been any aircraft activity in reaction to the search.

The South Koreans are showing some concern over US resolve in dealing with North Korean attacks and the latest incident is being cited as evidence that South Korea needs more US military assistance. Calls for retaliation also continue to be heard in Seoul.

In Tokyo, opponents of the US-Japan security treaty are trying to use the incident to exploit Japanese fears of becoming involved in a Korean conflict. Both the Socialists and the Communists are stressing that the aircraft was from a US base in Japan. Foreign Minister Aichi was hit by a barrage of opposition questions in the Diet today.

For its part, Moscow remains noncommittal in its press coverage, although it obviously does not mind any inferences Pyongyang may care to read into the participation of Soviet naval units in the search.

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