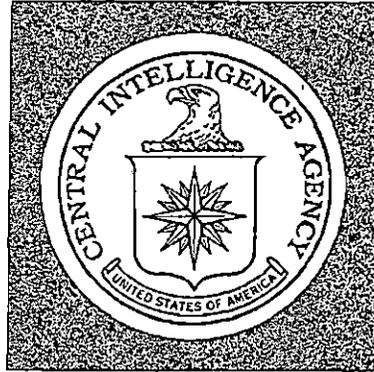


6
LBJ LIBRARY

Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ/RAC 1323/ISCAP Appeal

Document # 6



The President's Daily Brief

DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE
INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2015-077, document no. 1
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: January 30, 2017

~~Top Secret~~ 6 April 1968

DAILY BRIEF
6 APRIL, 1968

1. Vietnam

While military activity in South Vietnam remains relatively light, we have gotten scattered and very tenuous indications in intercepts that the Communists are modifying their tactics. Specifically:

--At least one artillery unit near the Demilitarized Zone was ordered on 3 April to suspend firing.

50X1, E.O.13526

These fragments may reflect nothing but local tactical situations, but they may also be related to the current peace proposals.

* * *

In Saigon, meanwhile,

50X1, E.O.13526

the prospect of negotiations has brought Thieu and Ky closer together than ever before. Even police director Loan has said he will not cause trouble for Thieu in these critical times. The South Vietnamese are totally unprepared for negotiations, however, and the fear is growing in the lower levels of the government that the US may be getting ready to "stab the South Vietnamese in the back."

2. South Korea

Leaders in both South Korea and Japan are worried that the US may pull back from its involvement in the Far East.

Even before President Johnson's 31 March speech, South Korean President Pak was reported to be worried about the "peace trend" in the US Democratic Party.

50X1, E.O.13526

Pak fears that a Kennedy administration would gradually pull out of US commitments in Asia.

3. Japan

Foreign Minister Miki told Ambassador Johnson today that press reports of the ministerial mission to Washington were erroneous.

Miki says that he and Sato have agreed they will not make any moves on this score until they have had further talks with the ambassador.

4. Cambodia

After he heard the North Vietnamese response to the President's speech, Prince Sihanouk told visiting Indonesian President Suharto that he wanted to see an end to "this terrible war." But he added wryly that if peace came to Vietnam and the Americans withdrew, the Communists would take over, and that would be even worse for him.

5. Panama

Just before the Supreme Court ruled against Robles, Arias talked bitterly to some associates about signs that his allies in the oligarchy were deserting him. He acknowledged he had been talking with "leftists" and said they seemed to be the only people who might help him "fight the National Guard and if necessary the US which was supporting the Guard." He said he would go into the hills rather than compromise with Robles.

50X1, E.O.13526

[redacted] Arias may have been talking for effect but that he sounded sincere. There is supposed to be a demonstration at Arias' party headquarters today.

6. Czechoslovakia

The new leaders are trying to smoke out Free World capitals on the prospects for economic assistance. They are investigating private as well as governmental sources in the West and are considering renewed active membership in the International Monetary Fund. One report says Prague intends to approach the World Bank for loans.

A switch to the West for economic aid could cause problems with Prague's allies. The country would be hurt badly, at least in the short term, if the USSR undertook economic reprisals. The matter apparently came up at the Dresden meeting last month; it may be the reason for a conference, so far unscheduled, which is to review economic cooperation in Eastern Europe.

7. Soviet Union

The Soviets may launch a moon probe today--the first such attempt since an abortive shot in early February.

8. Canada

Justice Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau is the favorite as the Liberal Party meets today to select a successor to Prime Minister Pearson. As prime minister, the flamboyant Trudeau would probably change the style but not the substance of Pearson's policies.

Trudeau is a French-speaking Canadian who believes in preserving the country's present federal structure. As such, he is out of tune with both the provincial government in Quebec and the separatist movement there. This might pose special problems for him in dealing with Canada's most divisive current issue.

~~Top Secret~~