



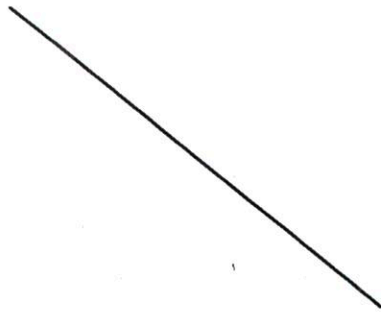
The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 May 1968



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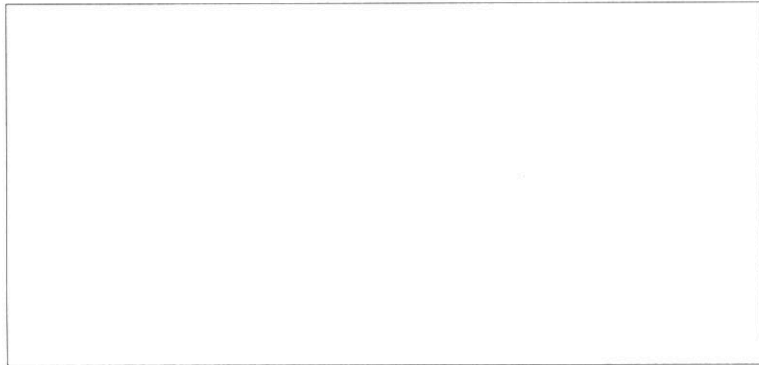
THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
2 MAY 1968



LATE ITEM

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Gulf of Tonkin



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1. South Vietnam

The National Liberation Front is trying to line up some reputable Catholics for the new Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces--the organization which the Communists evidently intend ultimately to use as part of the "coalition government" they have in mind for the South.

2. South Korea

Security efforts are being speeded up in the wake of Tuesday night's terrorist bombings in Seoul. The defense minister, referring to the "growing threat" from the North, announced that he expects larger terrorist raids.

The Pak government will surely get all the mileage it can out of the latest incidents in an attempt to silence opposition criticism of pending new security legislation.

3. Middle East

The big Israeli parade in Jerusalem got under way on schedule at about 4:00 AM, Washington time. So far, we have heard of no serious incidents. Jerusalem itself is under such tight security wraps that it is hard to see how any trouble could develop there. The Arabs everywhere, however, are so enraged at the provocative Israeli action that outbreaks of violence could easily be touched off at any of a number of places.

Amman is particularly vulnerable, especially if the well-armed Arab terrorist groups have slipped into the city. Also, border incidents along the Jordan River have been on the upswing in recent days and may well get worse.

4. Philippines

President Marcos is in a bad slump, politically [redacted] He remains [redacted] preoccupied by the six-week-old scandal involving the secret training camp for anti-Malaysian guerrillas on Corregidor. He feels he has already used up about all his political capital in an effort just to stem the continuing erosion of his influence on the home front.

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The President is likely eventually to regain his old fire, but in the meantime the administration is close to paralysis. The measure to extend financing for the Filipino civic action team in Vietnam is one temporary casualty.

5. Soviet Union

May Day in Moscow was uninspiring. The speeches were dull and no new weapons were shown in the parade.

6. Poland

The country's most eminent actress, Ida Kaminska, tells Ambassador Gronouski that she and her family want to emigrate to the US. The world renowned 69-year-old star, who is a Jew, explained frankly that the government's anti-Semitic campaign prompted her decision.

The ambassador is preparing for a flood of similar requests from other talented and able Polish Jews.

7. Panama

General Vallarino laid it on the line on Monday to a couple of Arias supporters who were pleading for National Guard neutrality in the 12 May elections. Arias will not be permitted to win, he said [redacted]

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