



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
1 FEBRUARY 1967

1. North Vietnam

Hanoi is making a concerted effort to underscore the importance of its recent statements on how it might react to an unconditional end to the bombing. All chiefs of mission in Hanoi were called in, for instance, to hear a reading of the full text of one of these statements.

These latest statements contain no firm promises. In tone, however, they suggest that Hanoi would react positively to a cessation of the bombing.

2. Vietnam

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3. Congo

Tshombé is talking again about stepping up his activity against the Congolese Government.

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As for Mobutu, his problems with the Belgians are in no way improving. For one thing, Union Minière is moving out its people as fast as it can. The company is behaving as though it firmly intends to leave. On top of this, the idea is quickly evaporating that an international consortium could be formed to move in and take over.

4. Soviet Union

The only matter of substance raised between Russian President Podgorny and Pope Paul on Monday concerned religious liberty in the Soviet bloc. Podgorny brushed aside discussion of Vietnam, and the Pope was unresponsive to Podgorny's efforts to turn the conversation to the dangers of German revanchism.

The Russian's talk with President Saragat was just about as bland.

5. Communist China

The status of the political struggle in the provinces remains confused. In a broadcast yesterday, Peking claimed that pro-Mao revolutionaries had taken over another province, but this could be merely talk. Today a broadcast from Shanghai--supposed to be firmly controlled by pro-Mao forces--admitted that the "enemy" is fighting in a "well planned and well organized manner," and "persecuting" pro-Mao revolutionaries.

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6. West Germany

Chancellor Kiesinger has told the Bonn embassy that he hopes his intentions will not be misunderstood in this country. He said he is firmly committed to NATO and that his policy toward Eastern Europe will be conducted with regard for US interests. He added that we should not be upset if his government relies mainly on the French to support that policy.

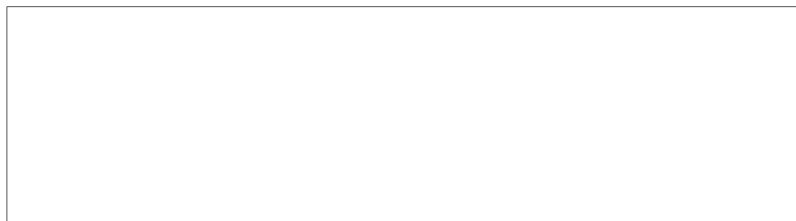
7. Spain

The current strikes and student demonstrations--both accompanied by violence--have for the first time produced some collaboration between workers and students. These disorders, however, will undoubtedly strengthen the hand of the hard-line conservatives who have been protesting a proposed liberalization of labor laws.

8. Panama

President Robles is now somewhat pessimistic about getting a new canal treaty wrapped up this year. He suspects the US is not moving on this as fast as it could.

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9. Chile

President Frei has cooled down considerably now that the initial shock of last month's congressional rebuff has passed. In an interview yesterday with Ambassador Dungan, the President no longer talked of "crushing the opposition"; instead, he admitted there were real dangers in pressing for early elections.

In a similar switch, Frei now says he is anxious to go to the inter-American summit, and expects no difficulty in getting permission to attend.

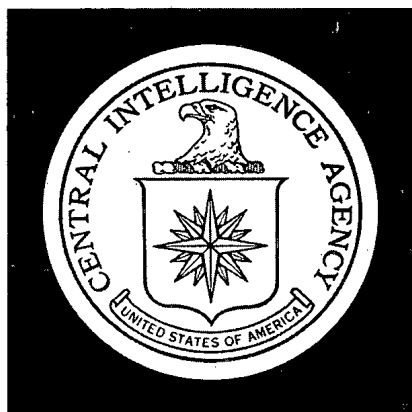
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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
2 FEBRUARY 1967

1. South Vietnam

A hassle over the separation of powers appears to be shaping up in Saigon. The constituent assembly's working draft of the new constitution is weighted in favor of a fairly strong legislature. Military leaders, on the other hand, have made it clear they want a more nearly even division of authority.

The assembly's version probably represents a maximum bargaining position from which it is likely to retreat as it dickers with Thieu and company. However, this could become one of the knottiest issues in the continuing dialogue between the government and the assembly.

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2. Soviet Union

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3. Sino-Soviet Relations

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[redacted]
[redacted] Soviet press charges that the Chinese are stepping up interference with Soviet flights to Hanoi. [redacted]

In another incident in Peking today, ten Soviet Embassy officers were taken on by the Chinese. The last word we have is that the Soviets were still being held at bay in front of the Soviet airline offices after a straight 14 hours.

We continue to believe, however, that Moscow will do everything it can to avoid being forced into making the break. 50X1

4. Communist China

Peking today claimed another pro-Mao takeover--this time in a northeast province. To us, this claim suggests that the situation there is far from settled, especially since Peking's description of the "victory" reveals that some of Mao's presumed opponents are apparently still holding key positions.

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5. Iraq

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6. Somalia

The Somalis intend to do some crash recruiting to add--hopefully by mid-March--some 3,500 bodies to their 9,000-man army.

Even if these additions materialize, the Somali Army could not fight its way out of a paper bag. Its pilots still are proficient only at cracking up their MIG fighters, while the climate and Somali "maintenance" have reduced most of its Soviet tanks and other mechanized equipment to useless hulks.

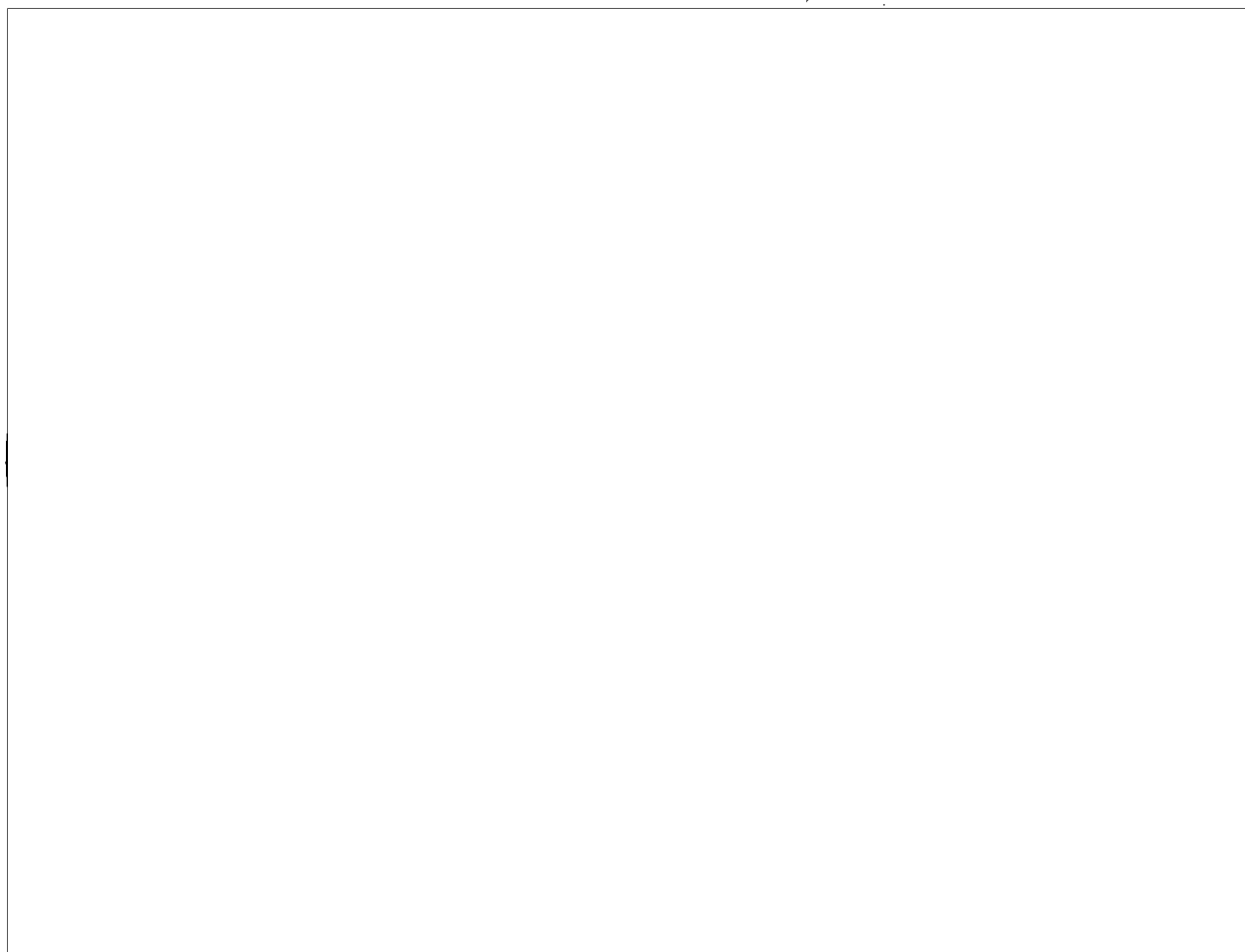
However, Haile Selassie will use news of the build-up to push even harder for increased US military aid during his visit.

7. Nigeria

The afterglow of the much publicized early January meeting of the country's top leaders is fading fast. Regional military leaders have pow-wow'd, as agreed, but they got nowhere. What is worse, personal ill feeling between Gowon and Eastern leader Ojukwu is building up again.

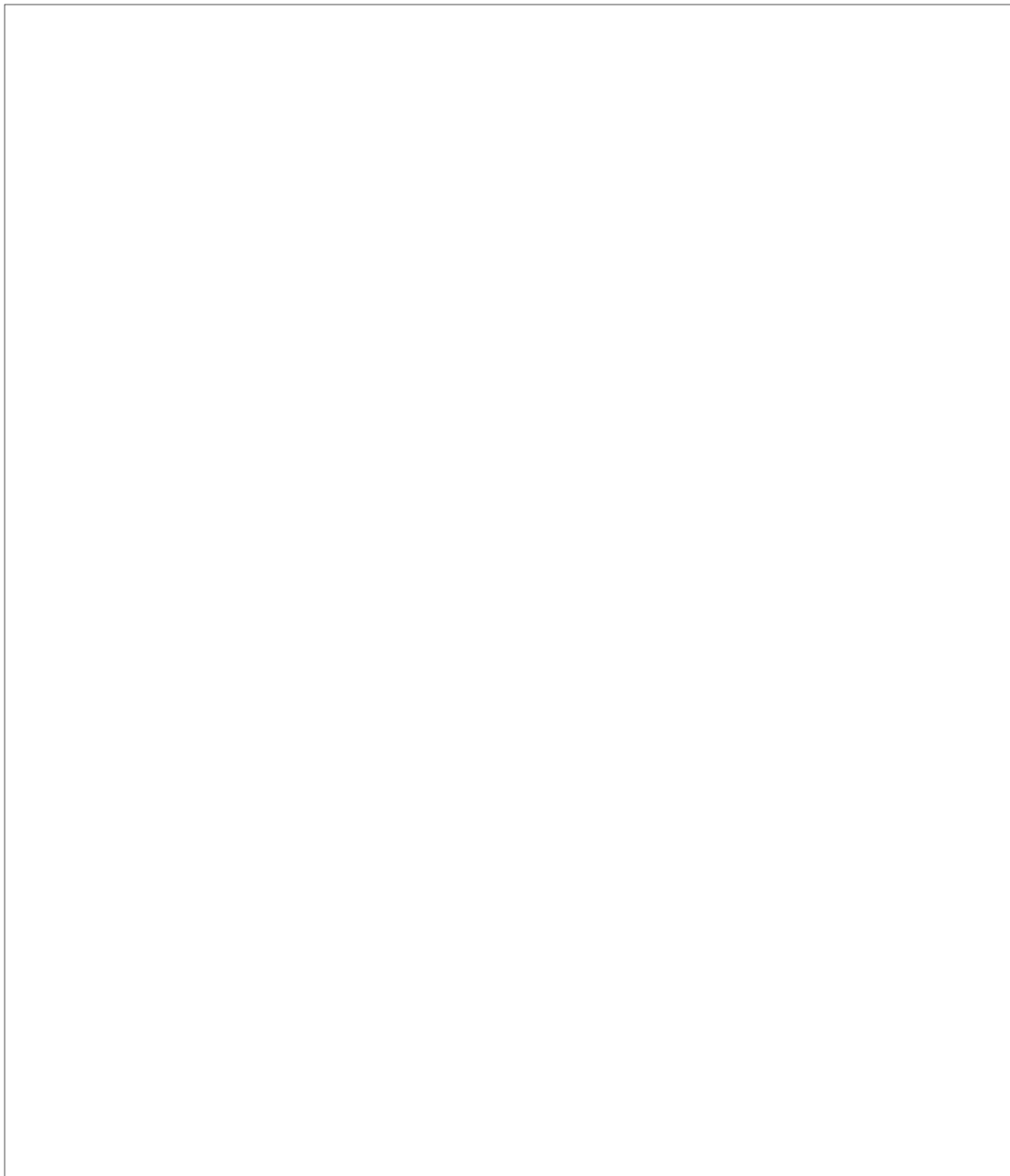
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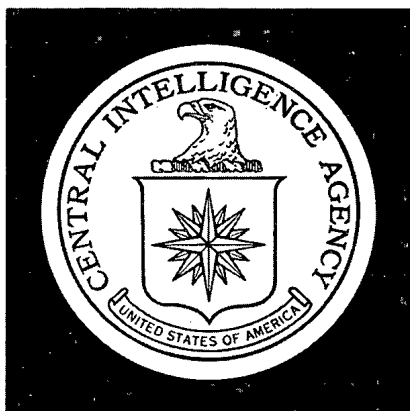


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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
3 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Sino-Soviet
Relations

Peking continues its all-out effort to provoke Moscow, but the latter still seems to be resisting the temptation to respond by a formal and complete break in relations.

Moscow could, however, be preparing for something just a little short of such a break.

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2. South Vietnam

The rice situation continues to worsen as people stock up for the Tet holiday; prices have risen 30 percent during the past month and stocks are at very low levels. Ky has yet to follow through with his promise to try to negotiate a rice deal with Thailand.

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3. Korea

The North Korean raid this morning, although it apparently did not result in any South Korean casualties, will give new ammunition to South Korea's hawks, who are already seething over the sinking of a patrol boat last month. The South Korean defense minister is almost surely urging a quick retaliatory action against North Korean positions in the Demilitarized Zone.

4. East-West Europe

Bonn's drive for better relations with Eastern Europe is becoming a divisive issue among Moscow's former satellites. On the one side is Rumania, the first to break solidarity on this issue. On the other is East Germany, angrily lobbying--without much effect--among its allies for a continued policy of treating Bonn as an outcast.

Even the Poles, among the wariest recipients of initiatives from Bonn, are beginning to feel isolated on the issue. There are some signs that Warsaw has made its own tentative soundings in Bonn.

Moscow is reacting cautiously to this confusion. There is not much the Soviets could do now, assuming they want to head off further moves toward East European - West German rapprochement. A Warsaw Pact foreign ministers meeting is apparently to convene in Berlin next week. It will surely discuss Bonn's initiatives, but any agreement on a common response is highly unlikely.

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5. Egypt

We see signs that the Egyptians expect a broad confrontation with the US.

This Tuesday Nasir's vice president told US officials that relations were even worse than during the Middle East crises in the '50s. He insinuated that US support of Jordan and Saudi Arabia was chiefly responsible for this state of affairs. Along the way, he admitted that last week's bombing of a Saudi border town was intended as "pressure" on Faysal to desist from supporting the Yemeni royalists.

The vice president admitted Egypt's economic situation was not good, and seemed to see something sinister in US delay on Egyptian aid requests.

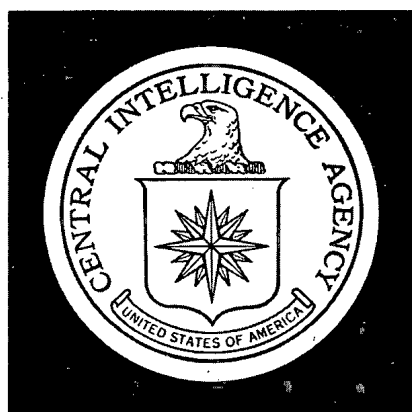
We think this is probably an accurate reflection of Nasir's present mood. We cannot be sure, however, whether it is a prelude to some new move against Western interests, or simply an outgrowth of Nasir's fantasy that the West is out to get him.

6. Bolivia

Before the Bolivian Congress adjourned this week, it acted to enable President Barrientos to leave the country for the Inter-American summit meeting. If he chooses, he can use this to justify a retreat from his threat not to go unless the American presidents agree to discuss Bolivia's access to the sea-- a perennial grudge against Chile.

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 4 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
4 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Vietnam

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2. China

The most striking thing about Mao's reappearance yesterday was Lin Piao's failure to show up too. It was a reception for the visiting Albanian defense minister and Lin Piao should have been there.

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Chou En-lai, now third ranking in the leadership, would be the man most likely to benefit if Lin Piao should fade from the scene. Chou is relatively more pragmatic and flexible than his principal colleagues, however, and for this reason Mao probably does not regard him as an acceptable successor.

3. Nicaragua

Tomorrow is election day. Isolated violence is almost certain, but no major outbreak is expected. The opposition is now talking of postelection guerrilla activity to overthrow the regime.

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4. Sino-Soviet Relations

The tough police foray on the Chinese embassy grounds in Moscow yesterday is just one more sign that Soviet patience is wearing thin.

In Peking, the evacuation of Soviet dependents got under way today. The Soviet women and children were treated to a wild and lurid anti-Soviet demonstration at the airport where the mob carried a big bloody effigy of Kosygin swinging from a gallows and shouted such slogans as "Crush the dog's head of Brezhnev." There will be some interesting stories circulating around Moscow in the coming days.

The Soviets are not the only foreigners being given the Mao treatment. The Czechs, Hungarians, East Germans, Mongolians, and the French have also gotten it.

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5. Saudi Arabia

The Egyptians bombed that Saudi town again yesterday, according to the Saudi Government. The US Army attaché this week visited the bombed town, the target of at least four recent Egyptian raids. He found it to be a major supply base and safe haven for the Yemeni royalists.

6. Chile

Quiet Soviet diplomacy is beginning to pay dividends in Chile, some two years after the resumption of diplomatic relations. A \$57 million trade and aid agreement signed last month gives some economic substance to relations between the two countries. The Soviets are also doing an effective job with their cultural and scientific programs in Chile.

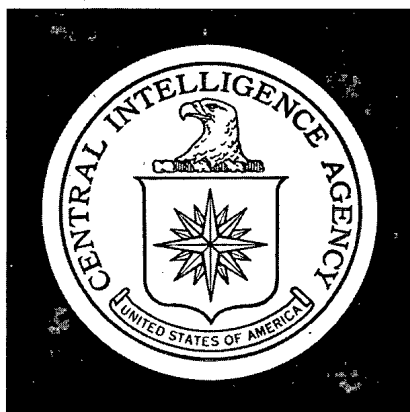
Soviet collaboration with the Frei government has been an embarrassment to the local Communists.

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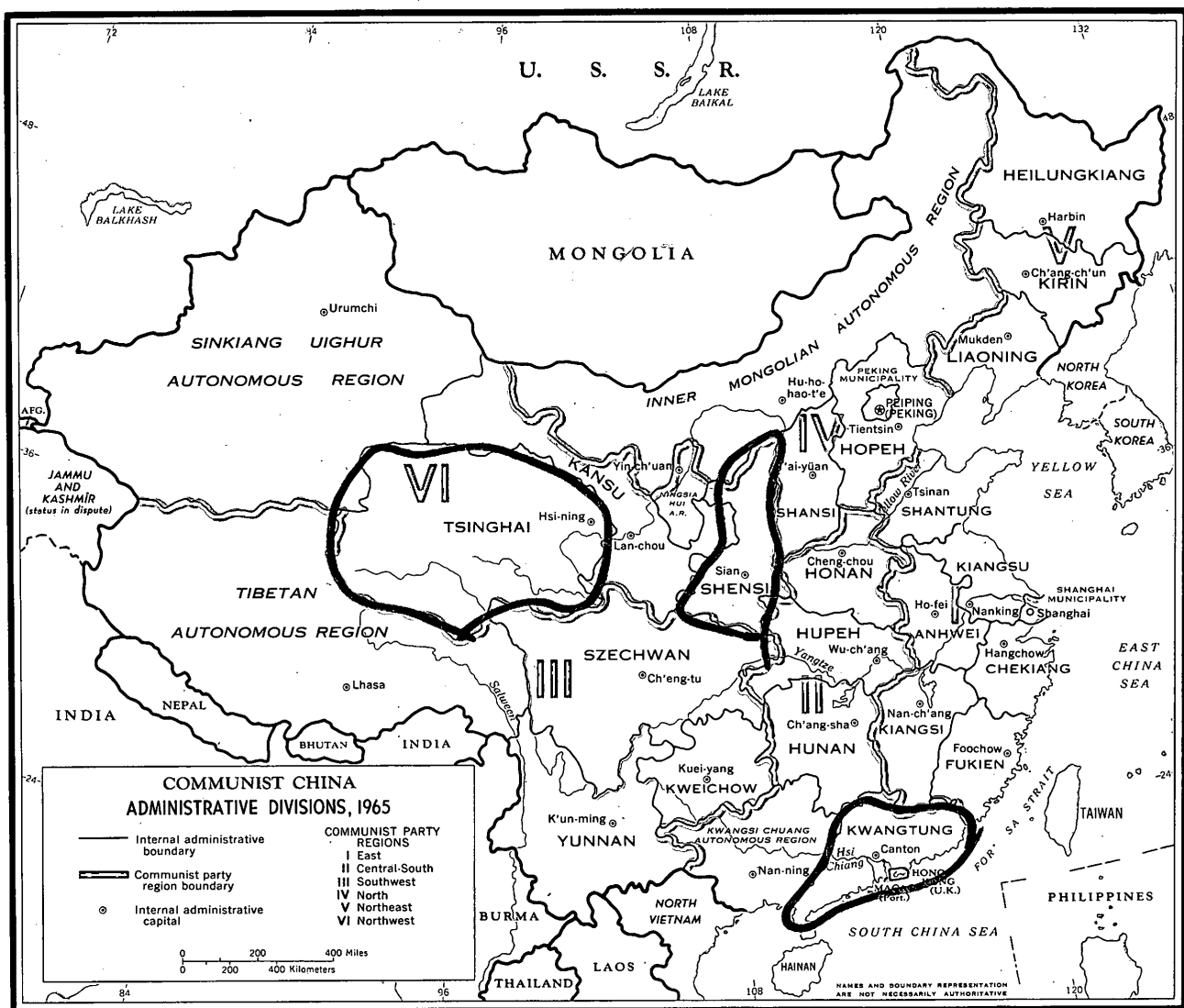


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DAILY BRIEF
6 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Communist China

It now appears that the army is siding with anti-Mao forces in the Western province of Tsinghai (see map).

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[redacted] the army has been used against Maoist elements in Kwangtung Province. Farther north, Shensi Province gives the appearance of being in turmoil.

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On the economic front, Japanese interests, responsible for about one-third of the foreign ships calling at China, are beginning to complain about delays and confusion regarding Chinese export cargoes. We presume this reflects disruptions in the internal transport system.

2. Soviet Union

Within the next few days the Soviets will probably conduct a second test of their new spacecraft for manned missions. The first orbital test of this capsule took place in November--the two-day flight of Cosmos 133.

3. Dominican Republic

The Balaguer government expects disorders on Thursday; Communist student groups have scheduled a march on the national palace.

The march is to commemorate the shooting of three students by the national police during a demonstration a year ago. The chief problem is that the poorly disciplined police may overreact if faced with extremist provocations.

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4. South Vietnam

Continuing consultation between the government and the constituent assembly is preventing serious controversies on the draft constitution from boiling over. Now we have word that a compromise has been reached regarding the powers to be granted the legislative branch. Hopefully, this will calm military fears that the future executive could be hog-tied by an uncooperative legislature.

At the rate it has been working, the assembly could complete action on the constitution by this April.

5. West Germany

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DAILY BRIEF
7 February 1967

1. Communist China

Mao and his followers still face important opposition in the army, while posters seen in Peking yesterday claim "there is no end to sporadic bloody clashes." We think these "clashes" are mainly street riots and demonstrations; no hard evidence of troops exchanging fire anywhere in China has yet appeared.

The Maoists may be trying to bring the army around by dealing brutally with military leaders who have incurred their disfavor. Posters say that the head of the army purge group--who was abruptly sacked in mid January--was dragged out before a rally of soldiers on Sunday.

2. Sino-Soviet Relations

Anti-Soviet demonstrations in Peking--now in the 13th day--look more and more like an effort to force the Russians out of China entirely. Soviet diplomats there are in a state of virtual siege.

Moscow is plainly hard pressed to maintain its pose of restraint.

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Representatives of Moscow's East European allies are also being violently abused. A mob kept the Polish ambassador in his car for 10 hours, causing him to ruin both his clothing and the upholstery.

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3. Soviet Union

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4. South Vietnam

General Tri, the Saigon minister responsible for the defector program, is said to be dragging his feet in carrying out the "national reconciliation" campaign. Tri is skittish about pushing contacts with high-level Communists for fear that he would be accused of collaboration with the Communists. He is inclined in any event to let George do it, in this case General Loan, Ky's chief of security services.

Tri's bosses seem to share some of his reservations about the program. Its launching, most recently scheduled to coincide with the New Year holiday, now seems likely to be postponed until April at the earliest.

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5. Indonesia

Pressures on Sukarno to step down--or be removed and perhaps tried for treason--are increasing.

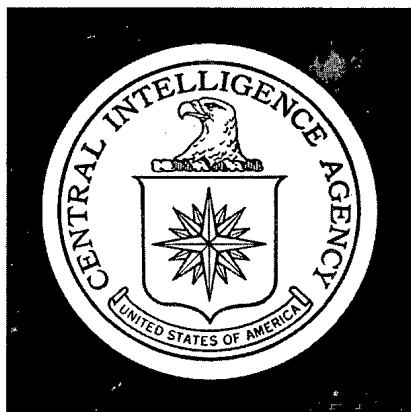
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We, however, expect the cat and mouse game to continue, with Suharto pressing Sukarno to resign and the President being as difficult as possible.

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DAILY BRIEF
8 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Sino-Soviet
Relations

Moscow is being pressed to the point where it may have no choice but to withdraw its diplomatic personnel from Peking. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Chinese have now warned East European diplomats to stop carrying supplies into the Soviet Embassy, still under siege after two weeks.

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While Moscow may finally be obliged to "suspend" diplomatic relations with Peking, we still feel it wants to avoid a formal break. [REDACTED]

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2. Soviet Union

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3. Soviet Union

Some parts of the Soviet equation--their internal security system for instance--have changed markedly over the years. Others, such as the way of handling elections, have changed hardly a whit.

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4. Vietnam

During the first 20 hours of the ceasefire, there were 14 major and 31 minor incidents reported. A major incident is defined as one resulting in casualties or a heavy volume of weapons fire. This represents an increase over corresponding periods during the Christmas and New Year truces.

Not unexpectedly, coastal shipping in the southern part of North Vietnam increased greatly following the Tet standdown.

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5. North Vietnam

Soviet shipping to North Vietnam during January was slightly higher than the monthly average of last year. The number of Soviet ships arriving or en route so far this month indicates that the higher volume will continue into March.

The over-all figures on imports to North Vietnam by sea during 1966 were up by about 34 percent, mainly because of stepped-up aid deliveries from the Russians. Free world shipping dropped off last year.

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6. Eastern Europe

The Warsaw Pact foreign ministers are meeting in Warsaw, but only after strong Rumanian objections forced a change in site and agenda.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Rumanians agreed to go to Warsaw only on condition that there be no criticism of their recognizing West Germany. Only a deputy foreign minister from Bucharest is attending and he will stage a walkout if this proviso is violated.

Thus the Rumanians have bottled up discussion of the issue uppermost in the minds of most of the other East Europeans.

7. Nicaragua

With about two thirds of the ballots counted, General Somoza has a substantial and growing lead--a whopping 72 percent at last count. Electoral fraud was widespread, obvious--and unnecessary to assure the General a solid victory.

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8. Chile

President Frei continues to have problems with an obstreperous senate. The signs now suggest, however, that it has no intention of again humiliating him by refusing him permission to leave the country.

The senate is now stalling on the constitutional amendment Frei proposed following the cancellation of his US trip. The amendment, which would permit a president to dissolve congress and call new elections, had been approved by the lower house. Senate inaction may kill it.

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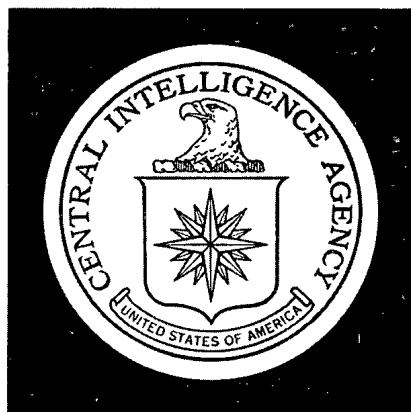
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DAILY BRIEF
9 FEBRUARY 1967

1. South Vietnam

As of darkness this evening (Vietnam time), 134 Communist violations of the truce had been reported. Our embassy in Saigon comments about these incidents, admittedly on limited evidence:

--Most of them were probably caused by Viet Cong guerrillas not under firm control of "main line" commanders;

--A large proportion involved US security patrols who came upon enemy troops unable to be sure they were not being attacked;

--Only a few incidents involved Vietnamese troops (who may, however, not be reporting promptly). One Vietnamese commander, seeing Viet Cong troops approaching his village, went out to chat with the Communist commander and told him to keep out; the Viet Cong presently shoved off.

2. Vietnam

The Australian cabinet has decided to increase nonmilitary assistance to Vietnam for the fiscal year by some 70 percent. The additional aid will be for such things as water supply, medical teams, and provincial hospitals.

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3. Indonesia

Foreign Minister Malik hopes agreement for regional cooperation can be reached with Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines by the end of March.

The new organization, as Malik sees it, would focus on cultural and economic matters. It would shy away from security questions and divisive political issues.

Lingering Malaysian and Filipino suspicion of Indonesia may throw Malik's timetable off. Nevertheless, a new regional grouping seems very much in the cards, showing once again how far back the new regime has brought Indonesia from the lunatic fringe of the third world.

4. Ethiopia

When Haile Selassie visits Moscow at the end of this month, Ethiopian officials tell us they expect the Soviets to press for a reduction in American influence as the price for stopping Moscow's buildup of the Somali Army.

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There is, of course, an element of orchestration for the Emperor's visit to Washington in these reports. He will be after arms on his visit here. Nonetheless, he is genuinely disturbed over Somali and Arab antagonisms toward Ethiopia, and may be willing to make some concessions to the Soviets.

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5. Spain

The United States Intelligence Board has approved a National Intelligence Estimate on Spain as follows:

- Franco will remain firmly in the saddle until he dies or retires;
- A major upheaval when he departs is unlikely;
- A successor regime would be almost as authoritarian but more supple in cautiously acceding to increased demands for reform;
- Continued cooperation with the US on base arrangements is expected of both Franco and a successor regime, although they will try to drive a harder bargain when agreements come up for renegotiation;
- Franco probably cannot attain Spain's main foreign policy aim of association with the Common Market, but a successor government might have better luck.

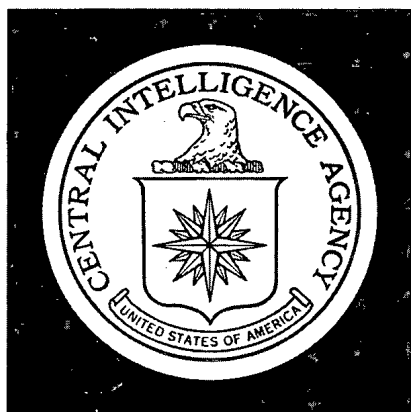
6. Communist China

The Soviets have today given a virtual ultimatum to the Chinese to stop harassment of the Soviet Embassy in Peking. "Unless this is done within the shortest space of time, the Soviet side reserves the right to take necessary measures in response."

While the Soviet note is not specific on what these measures might be, it says that the embassy is now unable to carry out its functions, including the "concrete question" of Soviet aid to Vietnam via China.

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DAILY BRIEF
10 FEBRUARY 1967

1. France

The French put up a satellite on Wednesday--their first in nearly a year. It was, at best, not altogether successful. Yesterday France asked if US radar could be used to help search for fragments in space resulting from the malfunction of the vehicle's third stage.

2. Brazil

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3. Soviet Union

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4. Soviet Union

We now think there is a rather good chance that the new spacecraft the Soviets tested for the second time on Monday is intended for manned missions to the moon. We do not know yet what lunar mission this vehicle could perform, but a circumlunar flight--looping around the moon and returning to earth--seems well within its capabilities.

At least one flight of this kind--perhaps with a dog or two--will likely precede a manned circumlunar attempt. The next favorable time for such a mission will be between 26 February and 5 March.

5. Sino-Soviet Relations

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6. North Vietnam

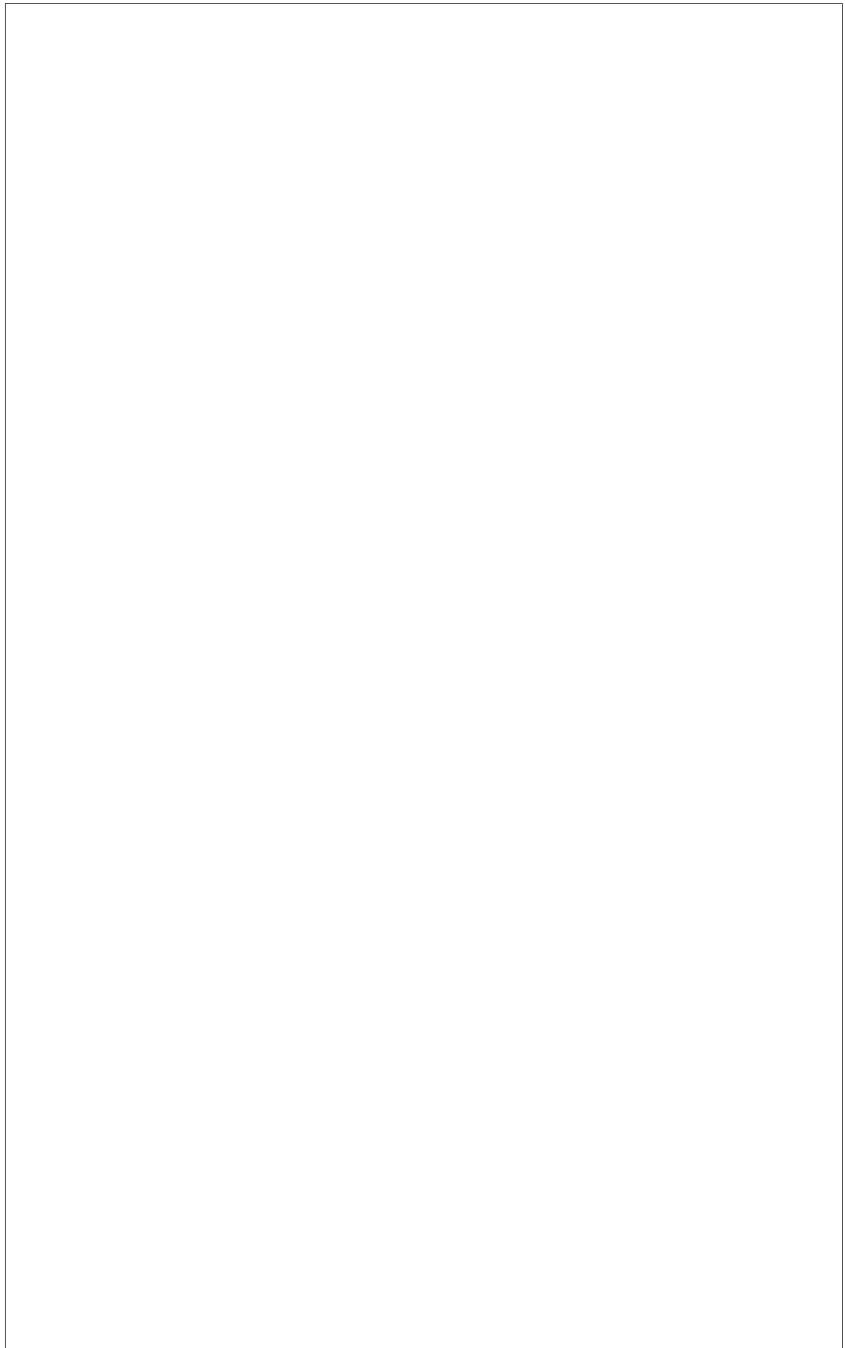
The improvement and expansion of North Vietnam's rail lines is continuing. More key lines are being made so they can be used by the standard gauge equipment employed in China. In fact, when current improvements are completed, goods coming from or through China will be able to get as far as Hanoi without transloading.

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7. Great Britain -
West Germany

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8. Congo

Mobutu and the Belgians are finally set to sign new contracts. A subsidiary of Union Miniere will mine and market the Congo's copper.

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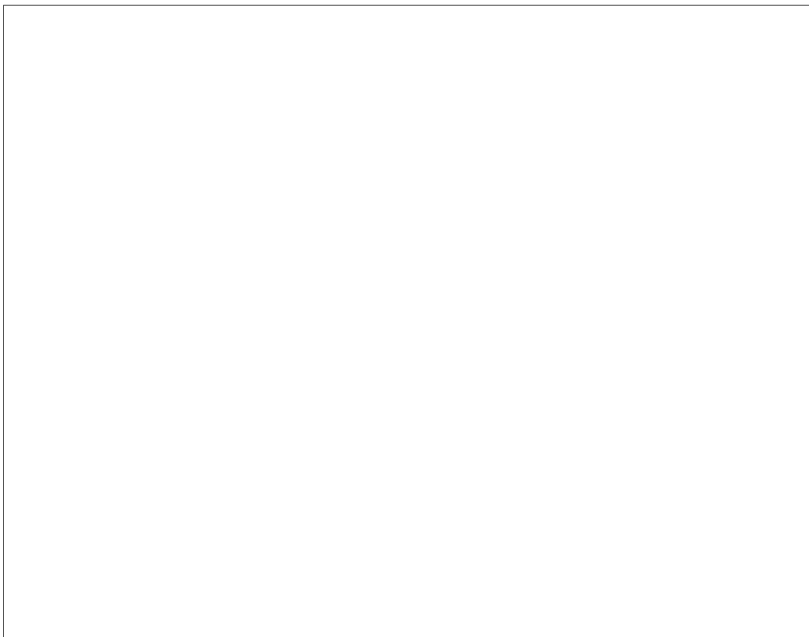


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DAILY BRIEF
11 FEBRUARY 1967

1. North Vietnam

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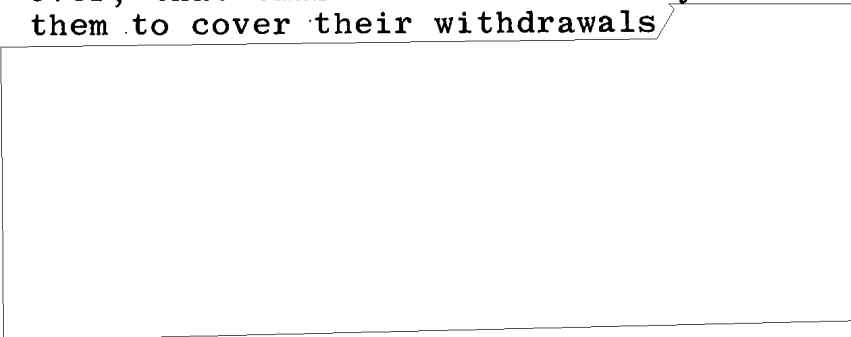
have noted signs that Hanoi is using the truce to strengthen its position within the Zone itself, and believe it is "highly possible" that surface-to-air missiles may have been moved in.

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2. East Germany

We are unable to confirm the New York Times article yesterday saying the Soviets are planning to pull out three to five divisions from East Germany and absorb the loss by sending in more rocket forces. We agree, however, that this is a feasible way for them to cover their withdrawals

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3. Warsaw Pact

By all accounts the meeting of Warsaw Pact foreign ministers, just concluded, failed to reach agreement on the implications of Rumania's establishing diplomatic relations with the West Germans. This can only mean that each of the other East European countries will continue to deal with Bonn essentially as it sees fit.

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4. Communist China

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5. Nigeria

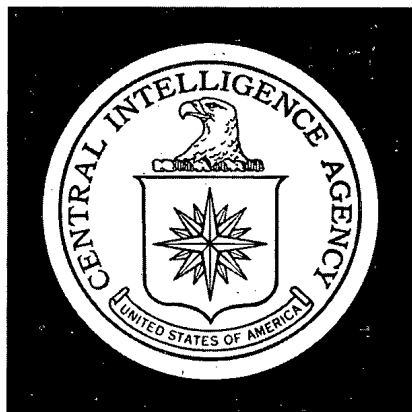
A new showdown between General Gowon, who heads the flabby federal government, and Eastern governor Ojukwu seems to be shaping up. The issue--naturally enough--is money; Ojukwu plans to hold on to all revenues generated in the East after the fiscal year ends next month.

6. Cyprus

Makarios told the Greek Crown Council which met earlier in the week on the Cyprus question that on the basis of his "personal knowledge" the US would intervene at the appropriate moment--act as mediator, enforce negotiations, and prevent the Turks from taking military action. Ambassador Talbot in Athens is now making the rounds to set the record straight.

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DAILY BRIEF
13 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Communist China

A concerted effort to curb Red Guard activity seems to be under way. A number of recent directives and posters have told students to go home, ordered most schools to reopen, and called a halt to the travel of military personnel to participate in the cultural revolution.

Similar directives last November and December did little to curb the Red Guards. The recent ones appear more authoritative, however. Peking is emphasizing that top leaders--including Chou En-lai and Lin Piao--explicitly endorse them.

2. Communist China

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3. Sino-Soviet Relations

Peking has eased its pressure on the Soviet Embassy. There were no anti-Soviet demonstrations around the embassy today and the staff is now apparently free to leave the compound. The Chinese are also giving gentler treatment to Moscow-Peking passenger trains.

It is too soon to say whether this is more than a temporary truce. Peking officials--and loudspeakers in the streets--are still belching out vitriol against the Soviets.

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4. Soviet Union

Bonn's drive for better relations with Eastern Europe is creating a dilemma for Moscow.

The Soviets cannot throw cold water on the idea of building bridges to Western Europe--because they also want to build some in order to aggravate divisions in NATO and reduce US influence. On the other hand, Moscow probably fears that East European diplomatic relations with Bonn will destroy the bogey of German militarism which the Soviets have exploited to hold the Warsaw Pact together.

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5. South Vietnam

This year's end of Tet Communist spectacular--the unsuccessful attack on General Westmoreland's headquarters--is the first Viet Cong mortar attack from within Saigon's city limits.

The mortar shells were lobbed from a point near one of Saigon's numerous small market places, eight blocks from the main US headquarters compound. The house from which the Viet Cong sabotage squad operated blew up; it is unclear whether the Communists escaped before the explosion.

Vietnamese civilian and military casualties now stand at 14 killed and 39 wounded. There were no American casualties.

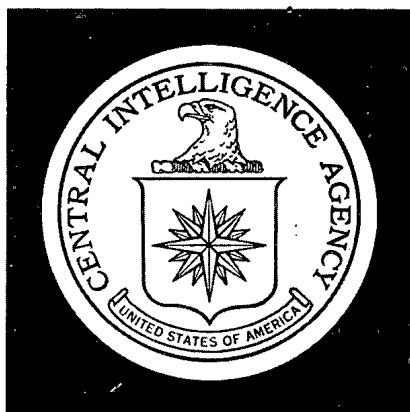
6. Egypt

Cairo, despite Ambassador Battle's efforts, apparently does not intend to reconsider yesterday's abrupt cancellation of US overflight privileges for planes carrying military supplies to Jordan. A foreign ministry official made it clear today that the regime is smarting over Jordan's closer involvement with Saudi Arabia.

In Amman, the Jordanian acting prime minister (the King and the prime minister are in Saudi Arabia) has agreed to desist for the moment from public attacks on Cairo's action. He made plain, however, that if the Egyptians "make an issue" of the matter, his government would have to respond.

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DAILY BRIEF
14 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Soviet Union

Ambassador Thompson, now back in Moscow a month, has cabled his first impressions of the changes that have taken place in the past four years.

--The leadership in the Kremlin really does operate collectively, though Brezhnev is clearly the number one man. One observer told the ambassador that in Khrushchev's day it was necessary only to convince one man in order to carry out a given proposal. Now, all members of the politburo must be convinced, since almost any one of them could block it.

--This collectivity makes for indecision and the lack of bold initiatives.

--The direction and management of the economy have improved and the leaders have reason to be proud of their "businesslike" approach.

--The people are living better now, but conditions have improved slowly.

2. Communist China

Signs continue to mount that the "cultural revolution" is at least temporarily being channeled toward a more moderate course.

It is too early to speak with confidence, but for the first time in months there is a smell of compromise in the wind. It could mean that the relatively moderate Chou En-lai is now speaking with a more authoritative voice.

3. Communist China

50X1

4. Dominican Republic

Leaders of the Revolutionary Social Christian Party, who were among the most vocal allies of the extremists during the 1965 revolution, are now shifting to a moderate position of "constructive opposition" to the Balaguer government. They clearly hope to pick up strength from disillusioned members of Juan Bosch's party, which continues to be afflicted by internal discord and irresponsible leadership.

Balaguer has responded positively to the Social Christians' cautious overtures. He could benefit considerably from this rare infusion of political responsibility into Dominican politics.

5. Argentina

Long-smoldering hostility between the military government and organized labor may soon erupt into bloodshed. Union leaders expect Communists in the labor movement will try to direct the violence against the inter-American meetings now under way in Buenos Aires.

President Ongania is under strong pressure from his military colleagues to crack down hard, but may try to hold off a showdown until the meetings are over.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 15 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
15 FEBRUARY 1967

50X1

1. Communist China

A hint on how a compromise between contending forces might be worked out is provided by formation of a provisional government in a south-central China province combining local party cadre, army commandos, and Maoist militants. Peking radio is making much of this arrangement, which follows a pattern set earlier in two other provinces, and is emphasizing the army's key role.

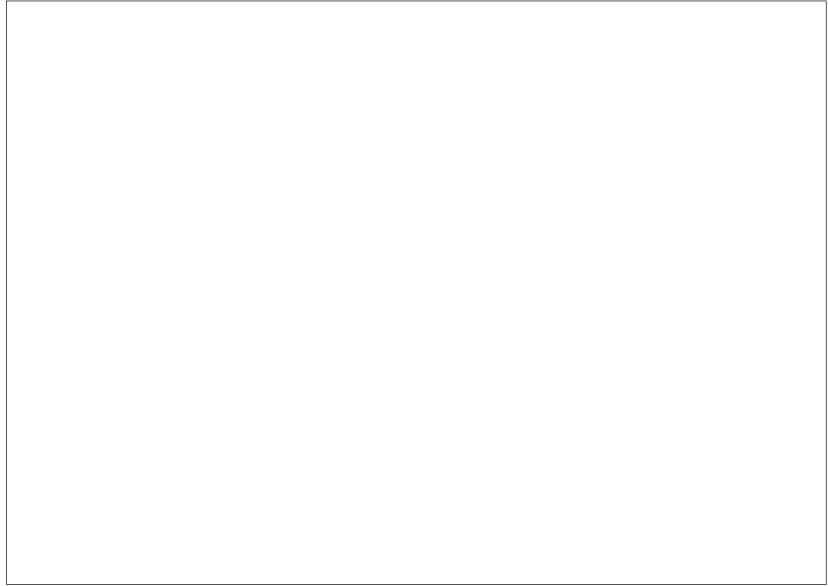
2. Soviet Union

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3. North Vietnam

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4. Indonesia

Although groggy, Sukarno is still on his feet groping for openings which might yet stave off his ouster.

The Bung has typically sought to confound his enemies and hearten his remaining friends by alternately hinting that he would resign and attempting to brazen it out. Things are now so bad for him, however, that he could cave in at any moment.

The army is not too worried about reaction in East Java--Sukarno's principal remaining bailiwick--should he resign. But it fears trouble if Sukarno hangs on and is then disgraced by congressional action next month.

15 Feb 67

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5. Thailand

Ambassador Martin's special assistant for counterinsurgency believes the Thai Communists have taken time out to consolidate control over their slowly growing insurgency. He thinks this explains the over-all decline in incidents during the last quarter of 1966.

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Martin's counterinsurgency expert gives the Thais good marks for grasping the need for a proper blend of civil, military, and police actions against the Communists. While they still have much to learn in terms of planning and follow-through, he considers them years ahead of the Vietnamese he knew from 1963 to 1965.

6. Canada-OAS

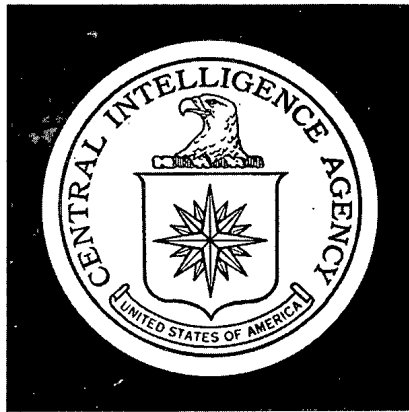
Canada may take a fresh look at membership in the OAS.

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15 Feb 67

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Top Secret



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~~Top Secret~~ 16 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
16 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Soviet Union

There has as yet been no reaction by Soviet naval or air units to the presence of two US destroyers in the Black Sea. Yesterday, Moscow told the Turks it would be obliged "to use all available means" to deny passage to one of the ships--the USS Hawkins--which is armed with antisubmarine rockets.

The Hawkins and a conventionally armed destroyer passed through the Bosphorus this morning. They are to spend three days in the Black Sea and will stay at least 40 miles from the Russian coast.

2. Vietnam

One of the first documented cases of friction between Viet Cong and North Vietnamese army troops came to light among the papers captured during Operation CEDAR FALLS. The trouble, noted in a Viet Cong report of last November, arose in integrated Viet Cong - North Vietnamese units. The troops retained their regional ties and "did not really unite."

3. North Vietnam

Hanoi is scheduled to import more grains during the first three months of this year than it did during all of 1966. This is an outgrowth of the country's exceptionally poor rice crop last year. The shipments should permit Hanoi to avoid a major food crisis this year.

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4. Communist China

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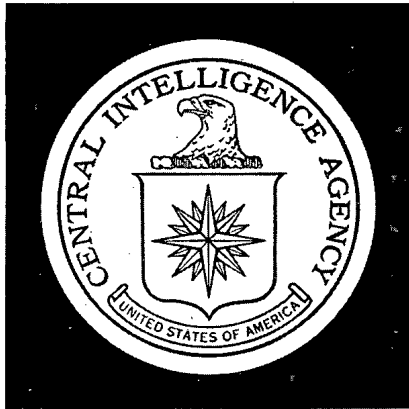
5. Israel-Syria

The Syrians--badly split among themselves--today cancelled a fourth meeting with the Israelis to discuss border problems. This could well mean that the talks are finished. Border incidents meanwhile have started up again.

16 Feb 67

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Top Secret



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DAILY BRIEF
17 FEBRUARY 1967

1. North Vietnam

A recently captured 12-page letter from First Party Secretary Le Duan to the compatriots in the south gives the lie to Hanoi's claim that the Liberation Front is an independent agent. Written in late 1965 or early 1966, the letter tells the southerners, among other things, not to concern themselves with negotiations, which had been "unanimously entrusted to the Politburo," and would be pursued when conditions were ripe.

We understand the mission in Saigon is preparing this interesting document for public release.

2. South Vietnam

The constituent assembly, back to work after its long Tet layoff, has retreated on the troublesome question of the power of the legislature.

The draft constitution now gives the legislature power to recommend dismissal of the cabinet or individual ministers by a two-thirds vote. However, the President could refuse to comply, and the legislature would then have to come up with a three-fourths vote to force him to act.

This language should pose no serious problems for the military government, which in fact is hinting that if the assembly continues to behave, it will be allowed to sit as an interim legislature.

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3. Communist China

Press reports that anti-Maoists, supported by army units, have taken over the highly industrialized Dairen area, in southern Manchuria, appear exaggerated. We do see signs of considerable tension in this area, however.

Meanwhile, Peking has announced a Maoist takeover in a coastal province. The announcement was delayed five days, however, suggesting that Peking was not so sure about its sticking power.

4. Indonesia

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The ring continues to close on Sukarno, who for the last week has gone up and down like a Yo-yo, promising to resign or threatening to hang on forever, depending upon who had just talked to him.

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5. France

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17 Feb 67

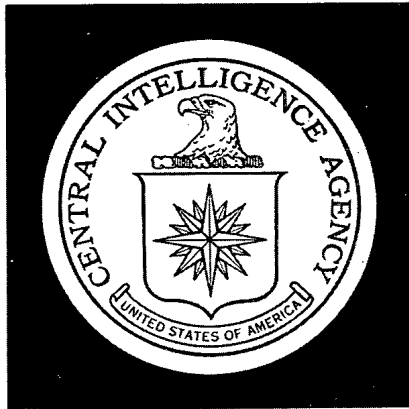
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6. Jordan

The court minister tells us King Husayn brought home the bacon--pledges for some \$23 million in aid--from his trip to Saudi Arabia and some of the Persian Gulf sheikdoms. This almost equals the money allocated to Jordan by the United Arab Command, and Husayn is more likely to see the color of it.

17 Feb 67

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 18 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
18 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Vietnam

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Prime Minister Ky and Chief of State Thieu are eyeing each other like a pair of fighting cocks just before combat. This is the way one South Vietnamese politician describes the present relationship of the two leading presidential hopefuls in Saigon. The rivalry is, in fact, becoming increasingly open, though both men realize the dangers of a split in the military and will probably seek some kind of an accommodation before it is too late.

Meanwhile, we are again beginning to hear broad hints that Ky would like very much to visit the US this spring. Among other things, he thinks it will help him politically.

3. Soviet Union

The Laotian Government has, as expected, granted the Soviets overflight privileges for several round-trip flights between Moscow and Hanoi. The flights--which are to bypass China--will be by way of Pakistan, India, and Burma. We have not yet heard whether these three have agreed to the flights.

A single Soviet flight was made over the route at the height of the Sino-Soviet tension last week.

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4. Soviet Union

The Soviets are harassing the two US destroyers cruising in the Black Sea since Thursday. Aircraft--including supersonic bombers--have repeatedly overflown the ships, a Soviet tanker tried to force a collision yesterday, and today a Soviet destroyer is shadowing them. Both ships are due to exit the Bosphorus tomorrow.

5. Soviet Union

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18 Feb 67

6. Ghana

Key members of the National Liberation Council--the guys with the guns who ousted Nkrumah--are so fed up with Chief of State General Ankrah that they may force his resignation later this month. Since they put Ankrah where he is, they probably can in fact remove him. His ouster would not immediately affect the regime's pro-Western orientation, but would have unsettling internal repercussions at a time when Ghana is making some progress toward getting back on its feet economically.

7. French Somaliland

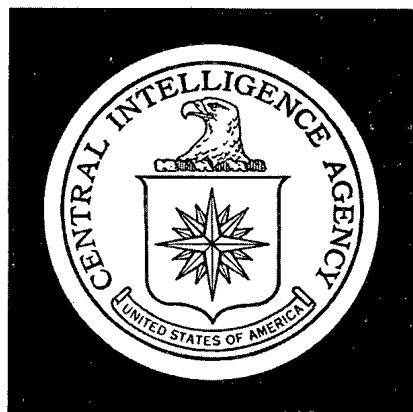
It now looks as if the natives might sever ties with France by voting "no" in next month's referendum. This would put the place up for grabs between neighboring Somalia and Ethiopia.

The Somali Army is massing along the border, and would like to see the Somali half of the population take over if the French leave. Ethiopia says it cannot stand still for this, since the ocean terminus of the vital railroad from Addis Ababa would then be in "unfriendly" hands.

An eventual clash between the Soviet-equipped Somali Army and US-equipped Ethiopian forces cannot be ruled out.

18 Feb 67

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
20 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Communist China

Open opposition to Mao's supporters is continuing in some areas despite the more moderate noises recently coming out of Peking.

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2. United Kingdom

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3. Panama

The question of US base rights has become the most critical problem in the canal treaty negotiations

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4. Turkey

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5. Congo

The new mining and marketing agreement signed with Belgian firms on Friday will cost the Congolese more than the arrangements in effect before the mines were seized. This, however, will not keep Mobutu from touting the new agreement as a great national victory over what he calls "the gnomes of Belgian high finance."

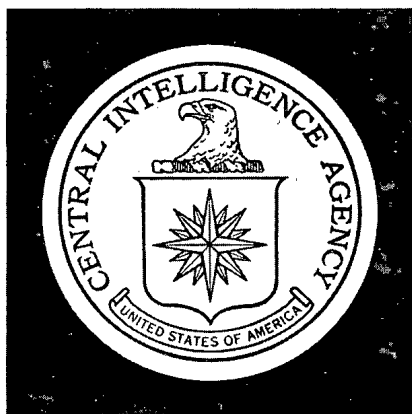
6. Uganda

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TOP SECRET RUFF

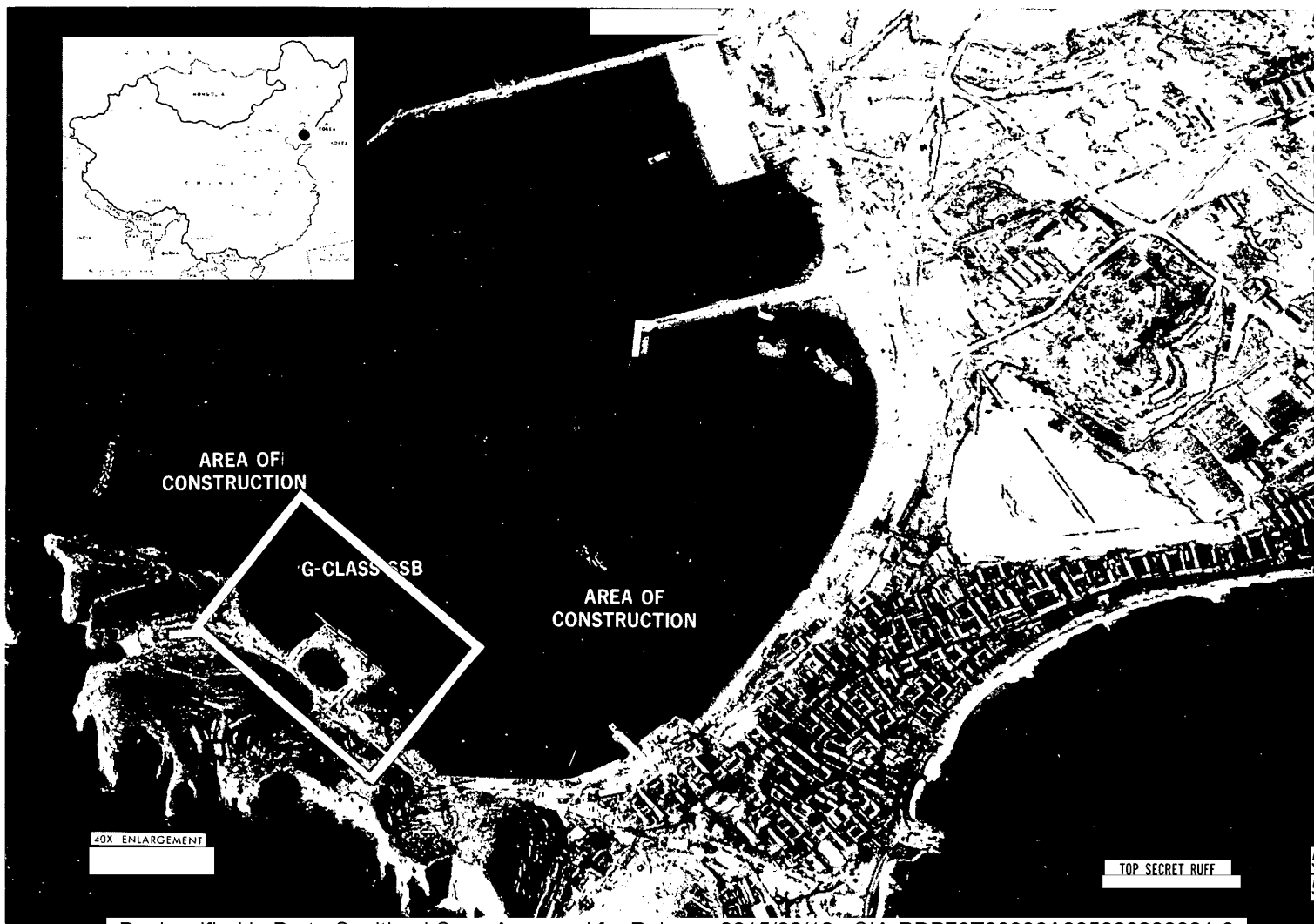
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NAVAL BASE
HSIAO-PING TAO, CHINA
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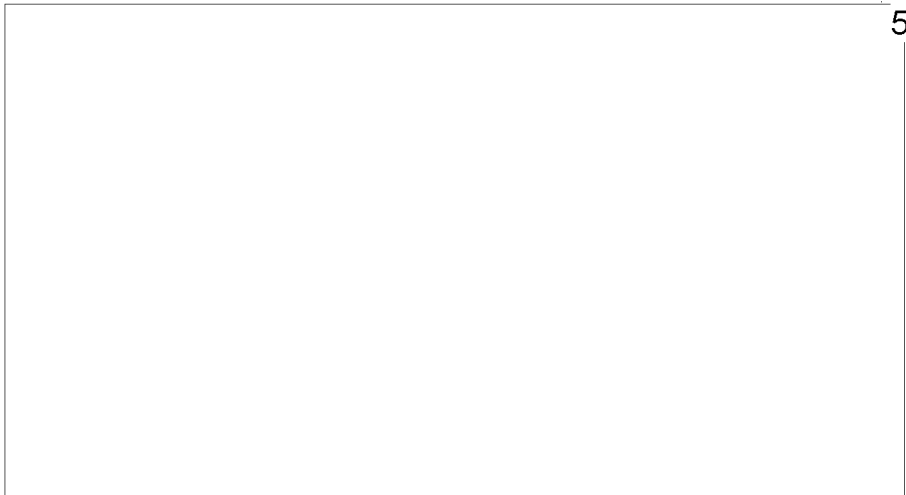
DAILY BRIEF
21 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Communist China

Recent satellite photography of a North China naval base indicates the Chinese are building missile-loading facilities for their lone G-class ballistic missile submarine. The submarine is moored alongside a still unfinished quay similar to facilities seen at Soviet missile submarine bases.

The pictures, of course, shed no light on Chinese progress in developing a missile for their submarine.

2. Communist China



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3. Soviet Union

The latest satellite photography shows the Soviets have deployed over 50 jet fighters to an airfield near the West Manchurian border. The aircraft are probably there to support recently strengthened ground force divisions in the area. This is the first time to our knowledge that tactical aircraft have operated in this military district since 1957.

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4. South Vietnam

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5. Egypt -
Saudi Arabia

Egypt may bomb Saudi surface-to-air missile equipment now being moved to the border towns recently subjected to air attacks. The Egyptian commander in Yemen hinted as much recently when he said that a Saudi air defense missile buildup along the Yemeni border would be considered an "offensive" move. He said Cairo would view this as a Saudi attempt to neutralize Egyptian air attacks before triggering a new Royalist campaign within Yemen. The missiles are US-built Hawks.

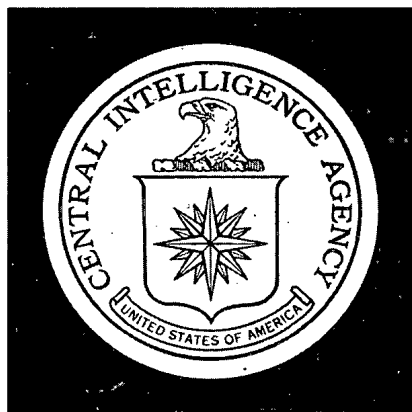
6. Turkey-Cyprus

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21 Feb 67

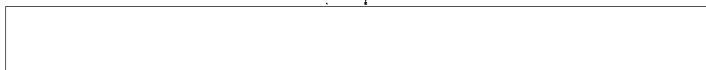
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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
22 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Indonesia

Djakarta radio announced this morning that Sukarno had stepped down as of Monday and turned over all powers to General Suharto. So far, we have only the bare bones on this, but it does appear to be a bona fide capitulation.

In any case, with Sukarno's record for bouncing back, it is still too early finally to count him out. There is even a slim possibility that some of his supporters might now try to use force to keep him on.

2. South Vietnam

[redacted] the constituent assembly [redacted] vote on presidential age--he must be at least 35-- amounts to an endorsement of Ky's candidacy. [redacted] a majority had favored 40 as the minimum age, but [redacted] Ky had changed some minds by a series of "very clever" informal meetings. [redacted]

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Our embassy, however, interprets the vote as the assembly's decision to let the army choose between Ky and Thieu. In a press interview today, Ky reversed himself for about the umpteenth time and said he would not be a candidate.

3. Communist China

Peking's weather vane continues to move toward moderation in the "cultural revolution." One major factor seems to be a real concern about disruption of the economy--particularly now that spring planting is about to begin. On Monday the Central Committee, in effect, started telling the peasants and rural work team bosses to shelve the revolution for the time being and get back into the fields.

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4. Congo

Elements of the Congolese and Burundi armies pulled off a successful joint operation against Congolese rebels in the border area earlier this week.

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5. France

It looks now as if the Gaullist majority will be considerably reduced after the legislative elections next month. Recent polls show a 4.5 percent drop in the popularity of the Gaullist candidates over a two-week period; they also indicate a continuing high percentage of undecided voters.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
23 FEBRUARY 1967

1. South Vietnam

Generals Thieu and Ky will try to reach private agreement on which is to throw his hat in the presidential ring. Failing this, they will leave it up to their fellow officers to choose between them; in any event, the military will put up only one candidate.

Thieu meanwhile is hedging his bets. While quietly lining up civilian support for his presidential ambitions, he is also trying to have written into the new constitution an "armed forces council" with clearly spelled-out powers.

Thus if Ky gets the nod, Thieu could still keep his hand in through leadership of the military.

2. East Europe

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3. West Germany

Yesterday Kiesinger asked in Ambassador McGhee to assure him that there was no truth to press reports that his government was dissatisfied with the ambassador or with its relations with the US in general. The Chancellor also said that he was trying to tone down his country's emotional reaction to the nonproliferation treaty, but added that many eminent Germans had "sincere and objective" fears about the present draft.

4. Soviet Union

A Soviet diplomat in London says that Kosygin made clear to the British that Moscow is not now interested in negotiating an East-West agreement to reduce forces in Europe. He did this by saying that the question of Germany's frontiers must first be settled--a precondition he knows is unacceptable to the West.

The source says Kosygin was responding to pressures from within the USSR and from Hanoi against any step that might help the US transfer troops from Europe to Vietnam. Also, Moscow may believe the West will soon reduce its forces in Germany anyway, and hence can see no need to be forthcoming.

5. Communist China

Southeast China appears to be in the grip of a rapidly spreading epidemic of meningitis. The mass movement of the Red Guards and their interference with doctors and health facilities is probably a prime cause.

23 Feb 67

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6. Iraq

Syria's shutting down of the oil pipeline from Iraq to the Mediterranean continues to cost Iraq some \$500,000 a day. The mere mention of this madness to President Arif is said to be like "rubbing salt into his raw wound."

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This week Arif's mood is probably worse. Damascus has curtly rebuffed his proposal that government-owned Iraqi oil be allowed through the pipeline, insisting that he first nationalize his portion of the pipeline.

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7. India

The general elections--although returns are by no means complete--are shaping up as a traumatic experience for the once monolithic Congress Party.

The party will apparently retain control of the national government, but with a greatly reduced majority. Mrs. Gandhi won handily, but several prominent party leaders--including the Congress' president--have been defeated, along with some cabinet members. The party lost Kerala State by a landslide to a Communist-led front, and was crushingly defeated in one other state. Several more are still in the doubtful column.

The right-wing opposition parties will be the chief beneficiaries of all this, although for the time being they will not be able to go beyond making louder and more disagreeable noises.

23 Feb 67

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8. Indonesia

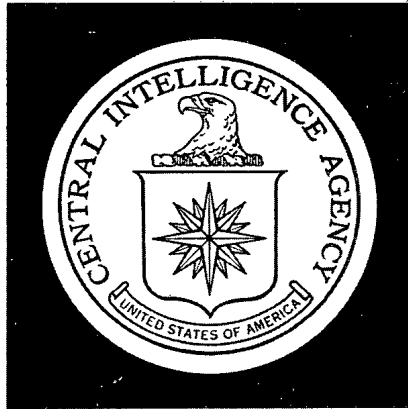
In a speech today Suharto gracefully accepted all the powers of government. Sukarno retains the now meaningless title of "President" but Suharto hinted that he may be deprived of that by congress next month.

9. Central African Republic

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
24 FEBRUARY 1967

1. North Vietnam

50X1

2. Soviet Union

Moscow seems to be having some trouble getting its lines straight on the question of antiballistic missile deployment.

Last week's shift of emphasis in Pravda on the issue has not yet been clarified. So far only the editorial writer has been reprimanded; no revision of the "mistaken piece" has appeared.

This week Soviet military leaders have been talking boastfully about Soviet air defense prowess. But most admit that they cannot guarantee the destruction of all incoming missiles in a nuclear war.

Just what all this means we cannot tell for sure. It does, however, seem that Moscow has decided to keep all its options open, at least until it has a better idea of what the US might be willing to offer in any talks on the question.

50X1

3. Communist China

Premier Chou En-lai seems to be exercising his growing authority at the expense of Lin Piao, Mao's heir apparent. Chou is not only exercising the prerogatives of his own office, but also those which would normally belong to Lin Piao as defense minister.

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50X1

4. India

The news is still bad for the Congress Party as the votes are slowly tabulated and announced. The upset defeat of several prominent and capable party leaders and cabinet ministers will make it even harder for the party to pull itself together in the aftermath. Factionalism had been a serious problem for it even before the elections.

5. Uruguay

First reports indicate that the Communist-led 24-hour general strike today was quite successful, at least in Montevideo. More of the same, if not worse, will be facing president-elect Gestido after his inauguration next week. Labor grievances are genuine and the Communists are proving adept at exploiting them.

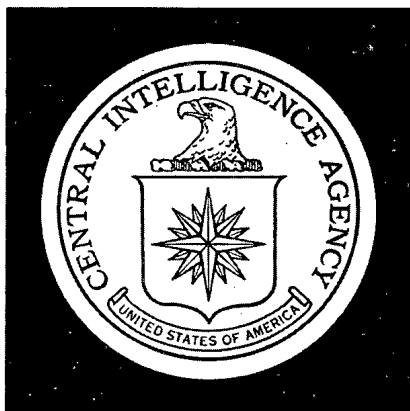
6. Venezuela

The threat of a new clash at the Central University in Caracas is building up. Classes resumed this week after an interruption of more than two months. Student demonstrators are now becoming more and more audacious in protesting the government's tough new controls. So far the police have kept hands off, but this cannot last much longer if the provocations continue.

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DAILY BRIEF
25 FEBRUARY 1967

1. South Vietnam

We are beginning to see signs that Communist forces in the Highlands are getting more than usually hard up for food and that the local populace on occasion has resisted increased Viet Cong rice levies. 50X1

Tribal resistance to Communist rice collectors is probably not yet very widespread, but any large increase in Viet Cong demands could have an important snowballing effect. Even before the North Vietnamese arrived in strength, the local Viet Cong units had a hard enough time producing and seizing enough food to keep themselves going.

2. Saudi Arabia

50X1

3. Indonesia

The principal conclusions of the National Intelligence Estimate just published on Indonesia are:

- Suharto and his anti-Communist coalition are clearly in charge and are likely to remain so, at least for the next year or so;
- Sukarno's influence will probably continue to decline, leaving him, at most, only the capability to offer occasional encouragement to frustrated leftist elements;
- There will be major problems of political adjustment. Civilian politicians, for instance, will be in conflict with military leaders reluctant to share power;
- The need for foreign economic assistance--which can only be expected from the US, Japan, and Western Europe--virtually assures continuation of Indonesia's new Western-leaning foreign policies.

4. Soviet Union

The speeches and editorials in observance of this year's Red Army anniversary were marked by obvious reflections of Moscow's increasing concern about security along the Chinese border. Also, for the first time, the Soviets officially confirmed that there had been a shooting incident on the border earlier this month.

25 Feb 67

5. Nigeria

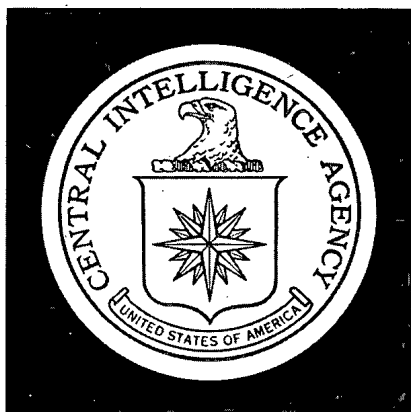
It is becoming increasingly clear that the country cannot be put together again. In fact, the danger of war among the fragmented pieces is rising.

Peace talks in Ghana last month failed to result in any progress toward a solution. Relations between the principal antagonists, Colonel Gowon of the Federal Government and the recalcitrant governor of the Eastern Region, are now much worse than before. Both are now talking about, and perhaps planning, military action against the other.

The degeneration of relations between the Federal Government and the East is not the only threat. Tensions and rivalries are growing among a number of heterogeneous tribal and sectional leaders. Between 6,000 and 7,000 US nationals are scattered throughout Nigeria and could be endangered if the trend toward violence continues.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 27 February 1967



50X1

DAILY BRIEF
27 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Vietnam

50X1

2. Indonesia

Now that he has stripped Sukarno of just about everything except the fig leaf of his presidential title, Suharto is not anxious to go any further.

Suharto is trying to get Congress, when it meets next week, to settle for a resolution which, while explicitly excluding Sukarno from further governmental or political activity, would allow him to keep his title.

Suharto's principal concerns are to keep the armed forces together and avoid possible violence in pro-Sukarno areas. In view of pressures from anti-Sukarno groups, however, he might allow Congress to take one more step and actually suspend Sukarno from office.

3. Haiti

The consensus in Port au Prince is that President Duvalier will not attend the Punta del Este summit meeting. Papa Doc is expected to cite an "unprecedented carnival" to be held in observance of his 60th birthday on 14 April, or to come up with some equally persuasive reason why he must send his regrets.

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4. Cuba

Castro is relying heavily on credit guarantees from Western European governments to obtain much-needed industrial and agricultural equipment.

In recent months such credits have enabled Cuba to buy roadbuilding equipment and locomotives in support of the sugar industry and more than a dozen large merchant ships from Spain.

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So far, Cuba has met its credit payments on time, a good performance which the Soviets are no doubt encouraging.

5. Britain-NATO

Some of the permanent representatives in the North Atlantic Council have criticized Wilson's agreement with Kosygin to work toward a friendship treaty.

They complain that a UK-USSR treaty would have a highly divisive effect in NATO, putting member countries in the uncomfortable position of having to decide whether to get in a race to the Kremlin's door. Even the French representative shed a few crocodile tears, piously terming Wilson's undertaking "not really compatible with alliance obligations."

Some of the anxiety expressed by these worthies can be attributed to the fact that the British did not consult their governments.

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27 Feb 67

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