

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
1 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam
(as of 5:30 AM
EST)

Most enemy forces in the Saigon area were routed by about noon, Saigon time, today. Allied forces are now moving against the remaining pockets of resistance.

In the northern half of South Vietnam, Communist forces remain entrenched in the highland cities of Kontum and Ban Me Thuot. At Hue, an enemy force believed to be of regimental size is still in control of part of the city.

The Liberation Front and Hanoi radios last night announced the establishment of a "Revolutionary Administration" in South Vietnam. The "Administration" is supposed to be the new authority in Saigon and other areas where the Viet Cong have influence over the population. Its main purpose, according to the broadcasts, is to serve as a strong voice in demanding the withdrawal of US forces.

2. Korea

There has been no word yet out of Moscow in reaction to the collision yesterday of a US destroyer and a Soviet freighter in the Sea of Japan. The Russian ship is apparently returning to Vladivostok instead of proceeding on to Odessa.

3. Cuba

Havana and Mexico City have completed arrangements for monthly flights to bring US citizens from Cuba. The flights will begin next Wednesday. There are still some 900 US citizens and about 2,000 alien relatives who want to get out.

4. Mali-Cuba

Cuba has agreed to send some 400 technicians to Mali over an extended period [redacted]. The first contingent is expected to arrive next month; some of these will probably be used to train Mali's civilian militia. This raises the possibility that Castro intends to establish a beachhead in another radical African state--similar to his efforts in the Congo (Brazzaville).

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Only 25 Cuban technicians--all non-military types--are now in Mali.

5. Soviet Union - India

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6. Panama

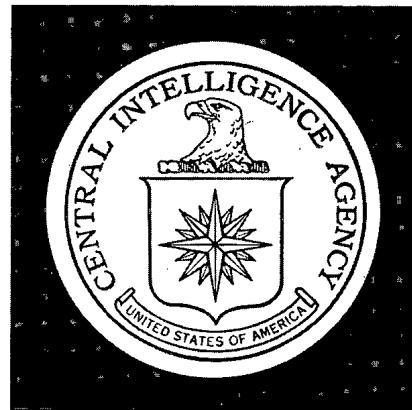
Partisans of presidential candidates Samudio and Arias are preparing for a clash at a campaign rally in western Panama on Saturday. Samudio's backers are said to be planning a deliberate provocation. The national guard chief says order will be maintained, but the local commander--who opposes Arias--is in a position to let the situation slip out of hand.

7. Nigeria

The recently renewed federal offensive is making some headway, but an end to the fighting is not in sight. On the political front in Lagos, the ruling Supreme Military Council has moved to cut back the growing influence of the civilian members of the regime. This only suggests that the council intends to maintain military rule well into the postwar period.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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1 February 1968

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

1 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Firm on Trinh Formula: After returning last week from a trip to Hanoi, the North Vietnamese ambassador in Laos told his [redacted] Soviet colleagues that the recent Trinh statement was North Vietnam's "ultimate word" on negotiations and that it was up to the US to respond. He also portrayed the San Antonio formula as a "US maneuver" to impose conditions for a bombing halt. In conversations with Ambassador Sullivan, the Soviet ambassador showed special interest in Mr. Clifford's interpretation of the "no advantage" idea and asked for an exact text. Sullivan sent him two copies and suggested one be passed to his North Vietnamese colleague.

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[Redacted]

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Communists Comment on Events in South: Communist propaganda is giving heavy play to the upsurge in military activity in the South and stressing that by this show of strength the Communists have demonstrated that the US cannot accomplish its objectives. The clear implication is that the US must resort to a political compromise. Vietnamese Communist propaganda beamed to the South emphasizes

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the size and scope of the offensive as if to underscore Communist capabilities to stand up to US military power.

Hanoi has made no attempt to portray the current offensive as a conclusive or final stage in the struggle, but instead is treating it as further proof that Communist forces hold the initiative and are able to launch large-scale, coordinated attacks. This, it says, demonstrates once again that the US is in a "losing situation." A broadcast on 31 January said the upsurge in Communist military activity is a continuation of successes achieved during the past month. It claimed that recent Communist victories had caused the US to cancel the allied cease-fire, and the Communists have "repaid the enemy in kind" by launching widespread attacks on 30 January.

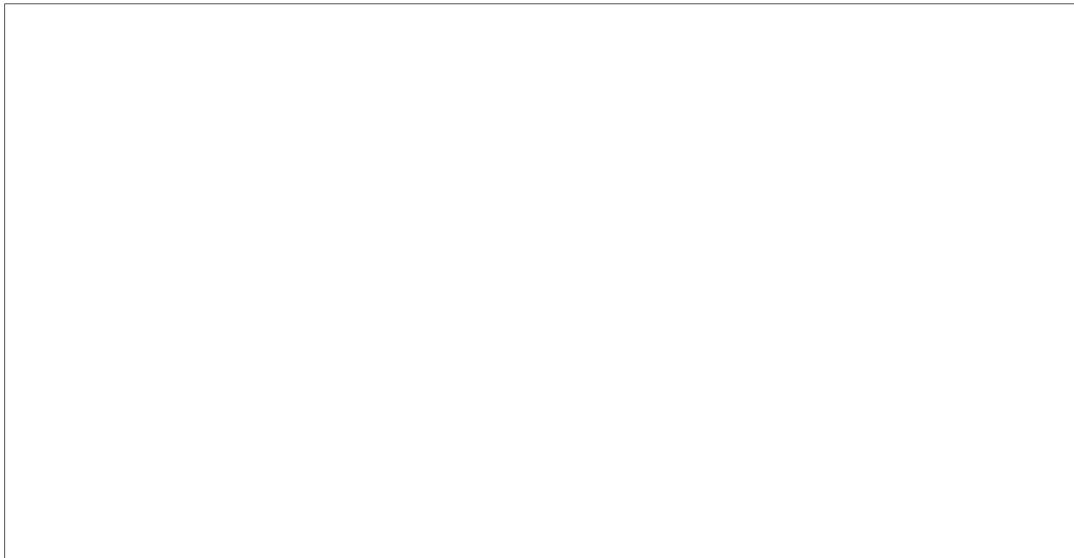
Hanoi's replay of a Viet Cong news agency report on 31 January took the same line in claiming that Communist forces had successfully attacked "all over the battlefield" and reduced the allies to confusion and clumsy responses. The Viet Cong radio singled out the attacks in Saigon as especially significant in showing Communist abilities to strike the heart of the enemy camp.

There has been no Chinese Communist commentary on the situation as yet. Soviet broadcasts, however, are carrying both Western and Vietnamese Communist accounts of the action and stressing the US predicament. A commentary in Pravda on 31 January says the Communists have launched a "new major offensive" which disproves "US propaganda" that Viet Cong forces are "depleted." It charges that US optimism is designed solely to mislead people before the presidential elections. It also asserts that the offensive is a reply to continued US attempts to seek a military solution to the conflict, and that these events show again that the US is "bogging down deeper" in a war "without prospects."

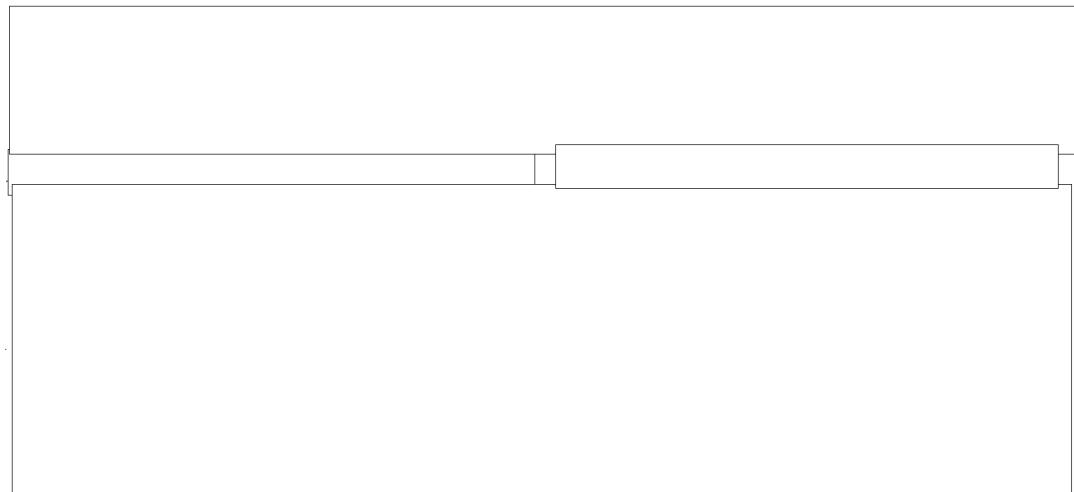
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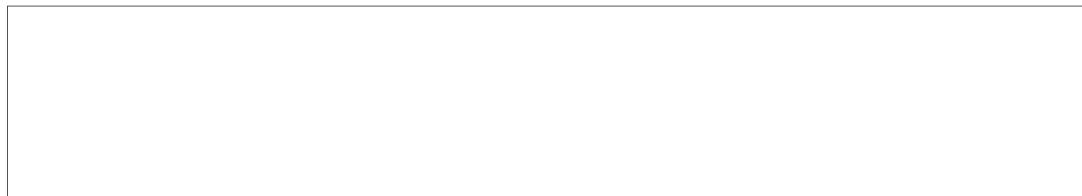


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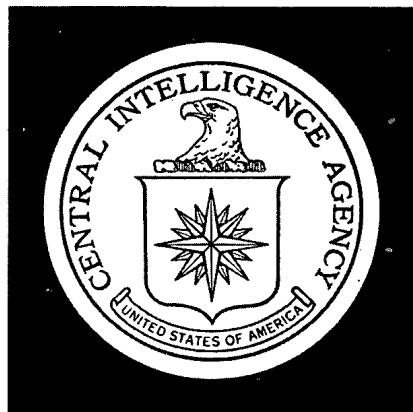
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

Nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 February 1968



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**DAILY BRIEF
2 FEBRUARY 1968**

**1. South Vietnam
(as of 5:00 AM
EST)**

Pockets of Communist forces are still holding out within or on the outskirts of key cities in each of the four corps areas.

Saigon was relatively calm last night. Early this morning, however, the Viet Cong overran two police precinct stations, and there was sporadic firing in other parts of the city. In the northern half of the country, Communists still have strong positions in Hue, Kontum, Ban Me Thuot, and Dalat. Sharp fighting is continuing in several cities of the delta area; a US Navy base was temporarily overrun at Vinh Long.

The situation around Khe Sanh has remained unusually quiet since the outbreak of the current offensive.

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Aerial reconnaissance of the Khe Sanh area shows a major enemy effort to dig trenches and bunkers ever nearer the Marine Base.

2. Korea

Pyongyang has not yet made any public comment on yesterday's talk at Panmunjom. North Korean air and naval activity, with the exception of air patrols over Wonsan and a tight naval patrol along the lower east coast, now consists of routine training missions. Military activity along the Demilitarized Zone is at a low level.

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3. Soviet Union

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4. Iran -
Saudi Arabia

The dispute between Iran and the Arabian American Oil Company (operating from Saudi Arabia) over drilling rights in the Persian Gulf took a nasty turn yesterday. The Iranians boarded an ARAMCO drilling rig within the Saudi zone and took off ten Americans and sixty Saudis.

The Shah has apparently ordered the release of these people, but the barge may wind up in Iranian hands.

This gunboat diplomacy will set back chances for meaningful Saudi-Iranian cooperation in the gulf area. Right after the incident the Shah cancelled his planned visit to Saudi Arabia.

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5. Greece

The junta, jumpy over reports of antigovernment activity abroad, claims to have evidence that the King is plotting against it. An emissary is said to be en route to Rome to warn Constantine against such activity. We have no evidence that the King is up to anything.

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[redacted]

An Ankara broadcast yesterday noted that the Turkish President had returned on Wednesday from a trip, but that his foreign minister had continued on to "West Germany."

6. Denmark

Radical Liberal Party leader Hilmar Baunsgaard [redacted]

[redacted] has put together a three-party coalition government. There is no indication how the three parties resolved their differences over NATO. The Radical Liberals have plugged for a referendum on Denmark's participation, while the other partners are strong supporters of the alliance.

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The new government will be greeted by rising public pressure for redefinition of US treaty rights in Greenland.

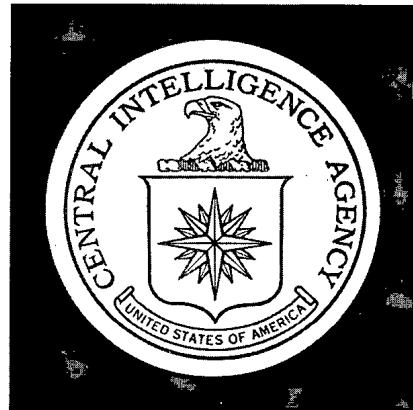
7. Venezuela

The word is going around Caracas that Communist terrorists will try to kidnap the visiting commander of US Army Forces Southern Command, Major General Johnson. US military have been kidnaped twice before in Venezuela, but this time the police claim to be on top of things and are throwing extra security around the General.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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16

2 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

2 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Peking Exports Cultural Revolution: Peking has once again tread on Hanoi's sensitivities by trying to foist off Cultural Revolution claptrap. On Tuesday, Peking broadcast a news story about Vietnamese citizens who were frustrated in their desire to study Mao's teaching. According to the broadcast, there were no Vietnamese translations of Mao's works and Chinese experts in Vietnam were

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forced to help spread the word. The news item also described eager Vietnamese begging Peking to print and circulate more copies of Mao's quotations.

While the North Vietnamese have been cautious on what they say in public about China's Cultural Revolution, they want no part of it. Last spring the theoretical journal Hoc Tap carried an article implicitly suggesting the Chinese go elsewhere with their revolution. This was apparently not enough to deter Peking permanently. Recent repatriates from North Vietnam confirm that Chinese efforts along this line are a continuing source of friction between Peking and Hanoi.

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North Vietnam's Industrial Crop Production: An editorial in the 24 January Nhan Dan urged cadre and peasants in agricultural cooperatives to increase industrial crop production during the winter-spring growing season. (Examples of North Vietnamese industrial crops are cotton, jute, and soybeans.) The goal of planting nine percent of total cultivated acreage to industrial crops has not been met, the editorial said, and in fact there had been a "downward trend" in the past two years in total industrial crop acreage. The editorial added that leading cadre and peasants in some areas wrongly held the idea that the only aim of wartime agriculture was to provide food for the army and people, resulting in a preference for grain crops and "negligence in growing industrial crops."

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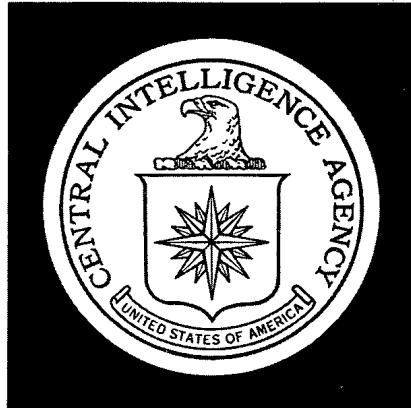


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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report.

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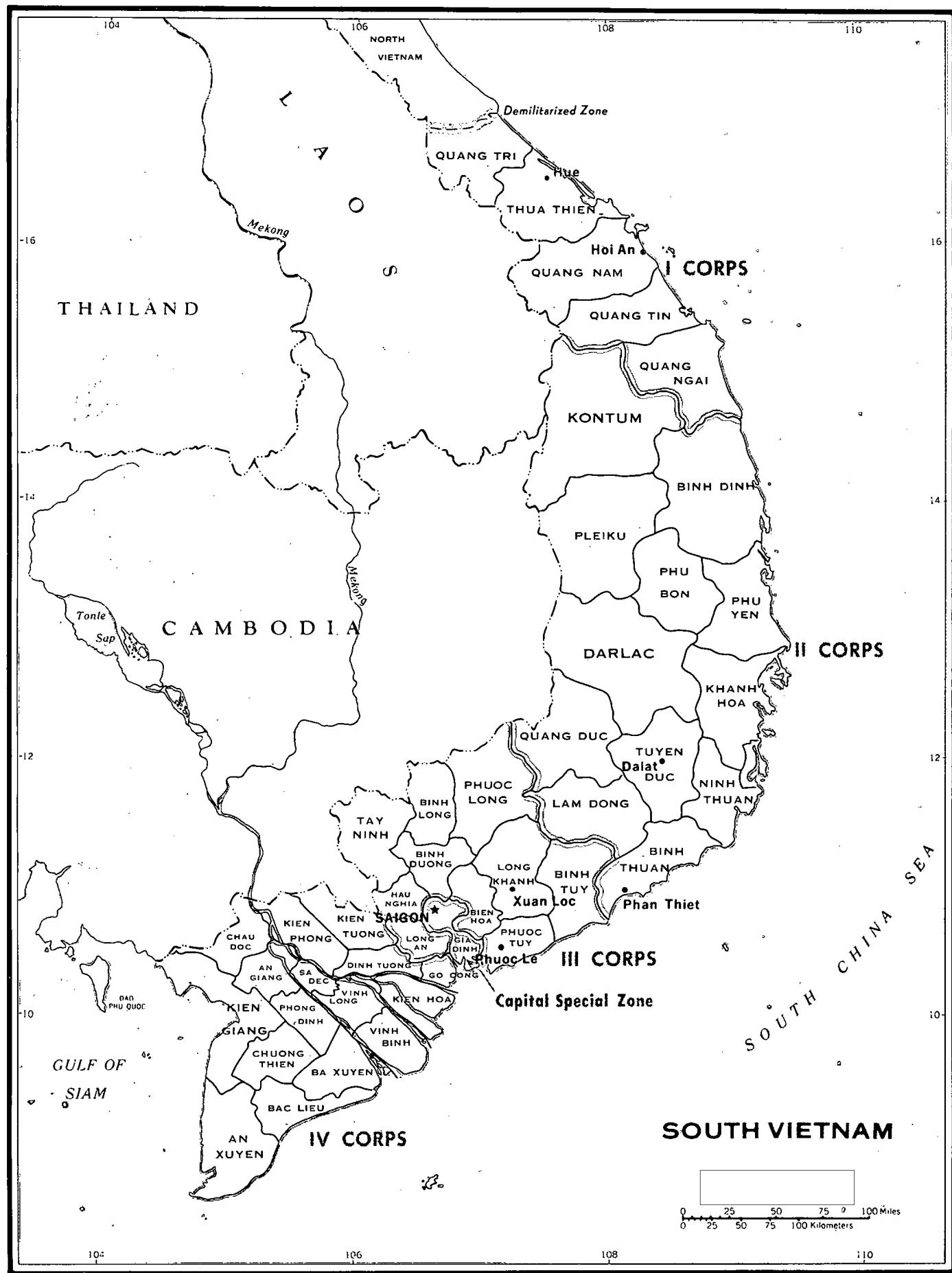


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
3 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam
(as of 5:30 AM
EST)

New attacks were launched during the night against two provincial capitals--Xuan Loc and Phuoc Le--east of Saigon. Heavy fighting is reported in both cities as well as in the delta area where other provincial and district capitals are still under attack.

To the north, fighting seems to be slackening off except for Hue where North Vietnamese regulars continue to offer stiff resistance. Isolated groups of enemy troops are still causing trouble in other cities.

Saigon has been relatively quiet overnight. There are conflicting reports on what the Communists plan next for the capital. Some Viet Cong have been sighted pulling out of the city; prisoners, on the other hand, claim that another attack is planned.

Thieu has shown a marked degree of confidence, but the effectiveness of the government is being sorely taxed. Prime Minister Loc, for example, has taken no initiatives in the past four days.

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There also are indications that a lack of coordination is hampering the government.

2. Korea

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[] There has been no comment from Pyongyang on the Panmunjom meetings nor on the President's press conference.

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3. Iran -
Saudi Arabia

The Iranians have released the ARAMCO drilling rig and tension is easing.

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No dates for a discussion have been set, but a meeting of the two monarchs might go far toward removing the problems caused by the machinations of minor officials on both sides.

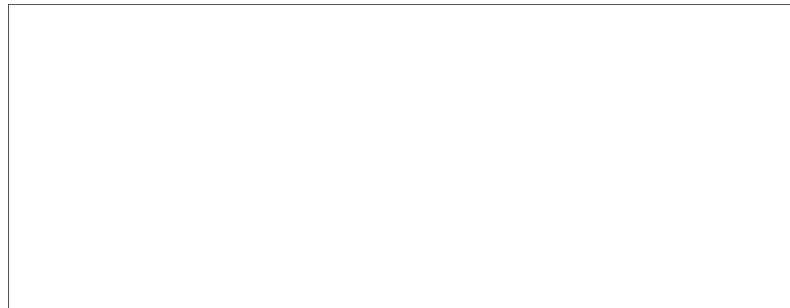
The ARAMCO barge is being towed out of the disputed area.

4. United Kingdom

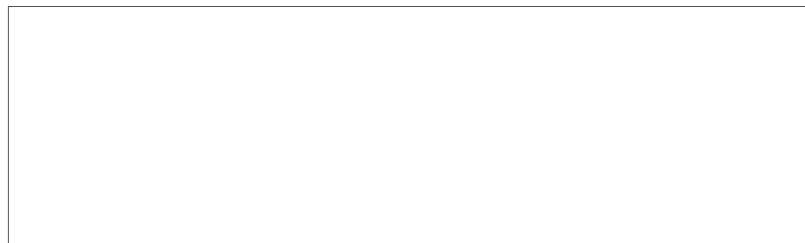
Wilson and the Labor Party have slipped further in public opinion polls. A week after the announcement of spending cuts, one showed the Tory lead at 18 percent.

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5. Guatemala



6. India



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7. Jordan

A general loosening of authority seems evident throughout the government.

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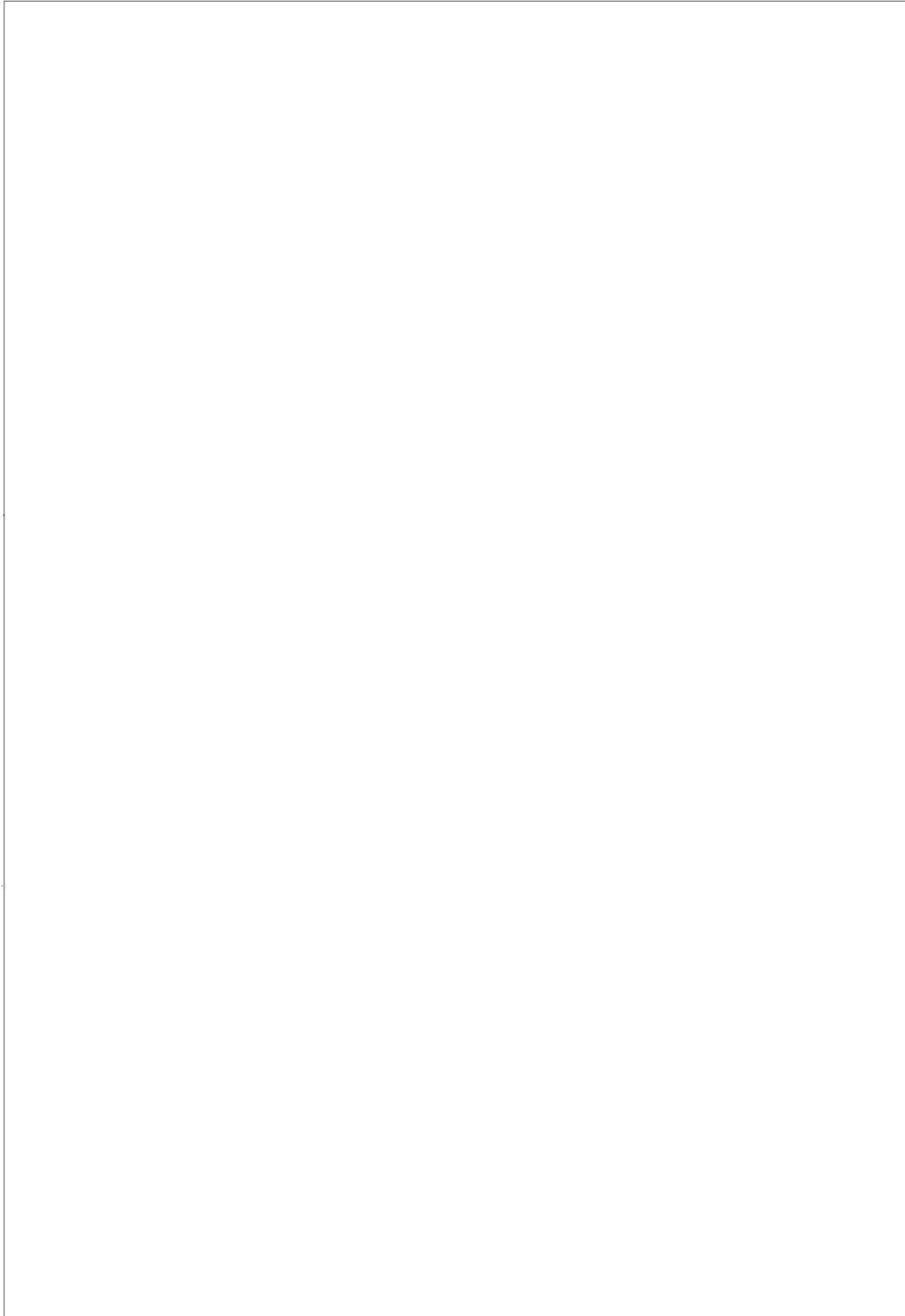
Senior army officers are criticizing the King's ties with the West; both the British and American ambassadors note an increase in anti-American sentiment.

There are no signs that an opposition group has coalesced, however, and the King's personal position is probably not yet in jeopardy.

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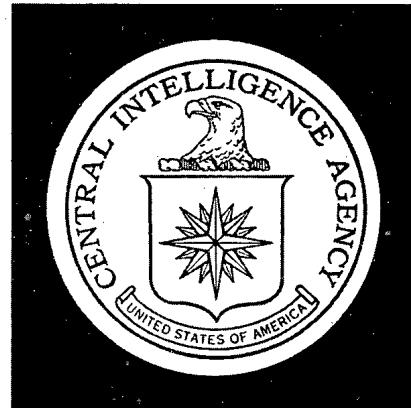
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

Top Secret 50X1
16

3 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

3 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Soviet Petroleum Deliveries Up: During December and January, deliveries of Soviet petroleum to North Vietnam ran about 50 percent higher than the monthly average for 1967.

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There may be explanations for the sharp increase in petroleum deliveries other than an intention to intensify the war effort. For example, a buildup of stocks would be expected if the North Vietnamese were growing more concerned about the possibilities of a US closure of the Port of Haiphong. However, the current flow of POL is a sudden shift from normal, and is well above the calculated monthly consumption requirement of about 20,000 tons.

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Flight to Hanoi Cancelled:

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[redacted] the situation in Saigon has caused the cancellation of a regularly scheduled International Control Commission flight from Saigon to Hanoi on 2 February. Although it is possible that this announcement is prompted only by a desire to demonstrate the effectiveness of current Viet Cong military activity in the Saigon area, Hanoi does have a special interest in this particular flight. It was scheduled to carry the two Americans to Hanoi to arrange the release of three American prisoners. Hanoi therefore may want to publicize the cancellation in order to explain any resulting delay in the release of the prisoners.

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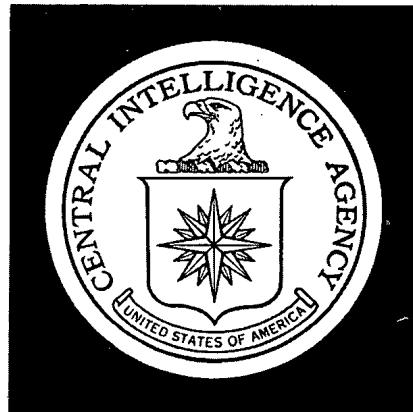
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WAR

More on Dr. Spock: Hanoi is continuing to give considerable propaganda coverage to the indictment and antiwar activities of Dr. Spock and his associates. In a broadcast on 1 February, Hanoi reported that 5,000 New Yorkers had attended a rally at which Spock declared that he was not guilty of the charges against him because he was against the "illegal war which the US is imposing on the Vietnamese people." He is quoted as saying that his group will continue to struggle for stopping the "senseless policy which is bringing suffering to Vietnam and dishonor to America." The same broadcast also reported rallies supporting Spock elsewhere in New York and in Boston.

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Hanoi on the US War Effort: In its first broadcast to American forces in South Vietnam since the Tet offensive began, Hanoi on Thursday recounted the numerous "victories" scored by the "Liberation Armed Forces." It claimed that General Westmoreland did not know how to cope with the unpredictable attacks of these forces and alleged that the Saigon government, "described as stable by Johnson," cannot keep security in many towns, even in the outskirts of Saigon. The broadcast further alleged that the Saigon government, which was "cooked up by Washington," does not represent the South Vietnamese people and is hated by them. It then asked why US soldiers should die to keep such a "hateful government on the backs of the South Vietnamese people, just because it is a product of the White House."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 5 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
5 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam
(as of 5:30 AM
EST)

The Khe Sanh area has been quiet since the attack on Hill 861 this morning. Seven Americans and 100 North Vietnamese were killed in the four-hour assault.

Sharp fighting continues in Hue, as well as in sections of Saigon and in several other cities and towns. There are signs that the enemy intends to conduct a prolonged offensive against the major population centers.

President Thieu held weekend meetings with top South Vietnamese military and civilian officials and with senior US officials, and has agreed to the formation of an emergency joint task force under Vice President Ky. It will be concerned with determining priority needs throughout the country, the movement of food and other essential relief activities, and the strengthening of information and psychological warfare services.

2. North Korea

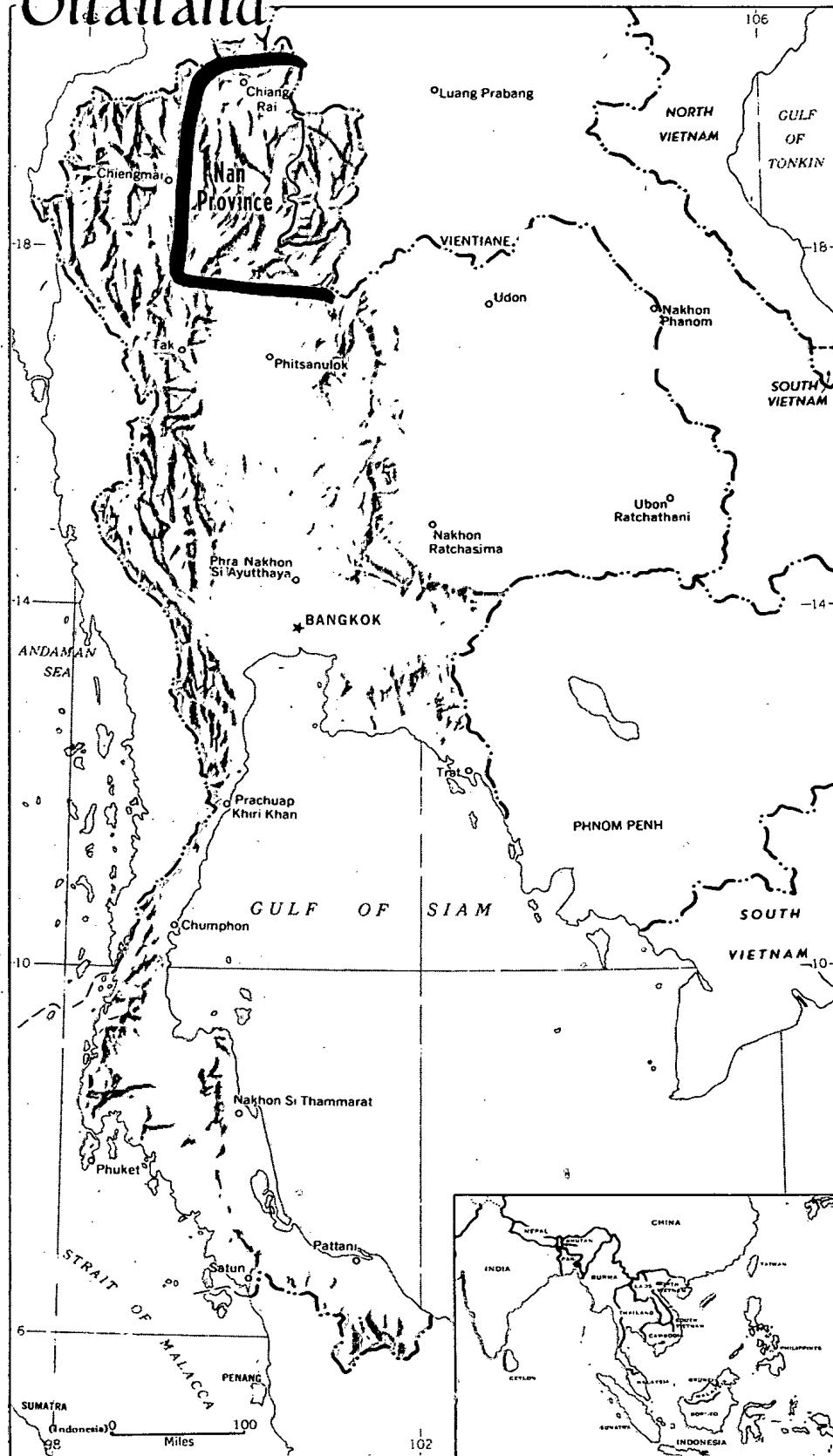
Pyongyang radio is still giving priority attention to the Pueblo incident, but is making only perfunctory reference to the talks. The radio yesterday merely said that the senior North Korean representative at Panmunjom had met with the senior member of the US side on 2 and 4 February.

The third and fourth "confessions" (by Lts. Shumacher and Murphy), which were broadcast over the weekend, contained extensive and detailed allegations concerning the Pueblo's mission and course.

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Thailand



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3. Thailand

Government troops continue to meet strong resistance in northern Nan Province. The estimated 200 Communist-led tribesmen in the area are showing considerable tactical skill in harassing and evading the government forces. Recent government losses have been high.

The Thai Communists have been working with these tribal people for several years and have succeeded in extending their influence over a number of villages. Several hundred Thai tribesmen have received military training in Laos and North Vietnam, and are apparently getting important support from Communist elements across the border in Laos.

4. Soviet Union

Ambassador Dobrynin told Ambassador Thompson a couple of weeks ago that he expected a decision within about a month on the consular convention and cultural exchange agreement. Dobrynin now claims that the Pueblo affair and Vietnam have set back the progress he had hoped to make on bilateral questions. He believes, however, that if the Korean problem were settled, the Soviet Government would give its go-ahead.

5. Saudi Arabia -
Yemen

King Faysal told Ambassador Eilts on Friday that he has decided to resume arms aid to the Yemeni royalists. Faysal says it will continue until "the Soviets and their Syrian, Algerian, and Iraqi puppets" stop helping the republicans. The ambassador tried to dissuade the King, but evidently without success.

6. Cyprus

[Redacted] 50X1

Turkish newspapers are saying that Turkish Foreign Ministry officials are somewhere in Europe and are speculating about secret talks with the Greeks. The next move will probably be a blast from Makarios; he has been working overtime to sabotage any bilateral efforts between the two countries to arrive at a solution.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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16

5 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

5 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi on the Current Offensive: The Communist military offensive is still being portrayed by Hanoi and the Liberation Front as a spontaneous popular uprising of "revolutionary forces" aiming at overthrowing and replacing the Saigon government. The political and military role of the Liberation Front seems to be downplayed deliberately. The "revolution," as the Communists call the offensive, is said to have generated new, broadly based organizations which, in conjunction with the Front, will eventually establish a coalition government for South Vietnam. These new organizations, the propaganda insists, are winning popular support, but there is an urgent note in Vietnamese Communist statements stressing the benefits of joining in the struggle or of at least supporting it.

On the political side, the Communists claim the military offensive has brought about the formation of political "alliances" throughout the country which are supported by such noncombatant groups as students, intellectuals, women, and businessmen, but whose actual composition and organization have not been spelled out. These alliances, the propaganda implies, will have a key role in setting up a coalition government. An appeal from the alliance in Hue, broadcast by the Viet Cong radio on 2 February, stated this objective most clearly. For the first time, it claimed that one of the alliance's goals was the establishment of a "national coalition administration" in the South and the setting up of normal relations with the North in order to effect reunification. Previous appeals by Saigon and Hue "alliances" as well as by a so-called "National Leadership" of the "Alliance" have called for negotiations with the Front, but not for the formation of a coalition government or the reunification of Vietnam.

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The military struggle is also being portrayed as based on popular support. Most recent statements by Hanoi and the Front avoid singling out the Viet Cong ("Liberation Armed Forces") as the focal point of the Communist military effort and imply that the offensive has spawned new "revolutionary" military forces. A Front broadcast on 3 February, carrying an appeal from the Viet Cong command, praised the "revolutionary people" for "simultaneously" rising up. It also hailed the "insurrectionary troops" and patriotic armed forces in the "revolutionary army" for rising up and "coordinating" their struggle with the Viet Cong, and called for united action against the common foe. In a broadcast the same day, Hanoi also praised the "revolutionary forces." It claimed such forces in Saigon were responsible for the "armed uprising" and that they had created an "insurrection committee" that eventually would establish a "revolutionary administration" in the city. A similar revolutionary group has been formed in the Tri-Thien-Hue area (Quang Tri, Thua Thien provinces), according to another Hanoi broadcast. These groups, like the "alliances," have made strong appeals to the people for support or cooperation, and have promised position, rewards, and safety in return.

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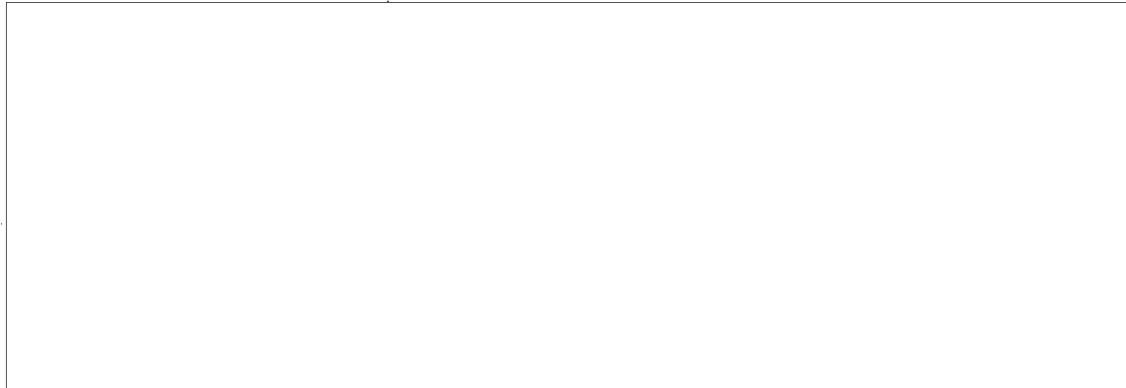
There is virtually no evidence of any substance to these Communist claims. Even the existence of the "revolutionary organizations" and "alliances" is unproved and there is nothing to suggest they have any popular support or following. The Communists' purpose in creating such an organizational facade remains unclear. They may have intended to use it to help set up a "coalition government" if their offensive won popular support, and they may still intend to do so even though this has not happened. They could also use these organizations as scapegoats for a failure of their "uprising" if their current efforts peter out.

Several Hanoi commentaries have suggested that the current military offensive is but one battle in a more prolonged struggle. The Hanoi party paper on 3 February said the current fighting was creating conditions for additional military victories. The North Vietnamese Army journal the previous day called for the southern forces to maintain and develop their victories, enlarge their fronts, and develop their revolution.

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Trade Mission to Singapore: Lee Kuan Yew has told Ambassador Galbraith that a North Vietnamese trade mission will be coming to Singapore "imminently." Lee believes that the North Vietnamese coming at this time is part of a coordinated effort, related to the current offensive in the South, to embarrass the US and to try to discourage those who support the US in Vietnam.

Lee concluded his talk with the ambassador by saying, "Do not worry. There will be no trade."

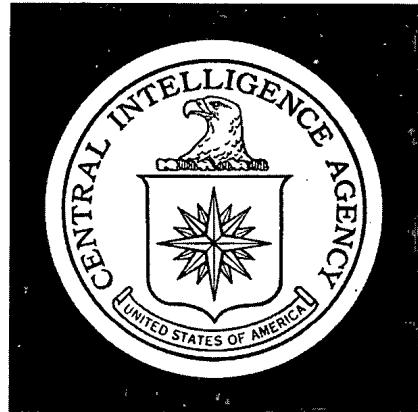
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Effects of Tet Offensive: Hanoi, in a broadcast beamed in Vietnamese to South Vietnam on 2 February, offered its analysis of the effects the Communist Tet offensive was having on the US political scene. It reported that both Saigon and Washington were in a "fever" and that the first person to lose grace was "old US Ambassador Bunker." The broadcast played up alleged consternation in US Government circles over the Viet Cong penetration of the "impenetrable" US Embassy and claimed that hundreds of Americans were killed or wounded in that attack alone. Continuing in this vein, the broadcast reported that the person with the biggest headache in Saigon was General Westmoreland whose "boastful nature" has been truly exposed by the events of the past three days. As a result of Westmoreland's boasting, the broadcast contends, President Johnson could not eat and sleep properly. He was confused "as the man in the moon."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 6 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
6 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam
(as of 5:00 AM
EST)

Heavy fighting broke out again last night in the outlying Cholon section of Saigon, where the Viet Cong overran a national police precinct headquarters. There are signs that the Communists are moving fresh forces into the capital area.

US and South Vietnamese troops are slowly increasing their control in Hue. In much of the countryside, the Communist offensive is losing steam. Significant enemy concentrations and battle preparations, however, point to the possibility of a renewal of widespread military activity.

Most elements of the government are now pulling together to deal with the crisis. Thieu has been uncharacteristically firm. Some members of the upper house are striking sour notes, however, and may press for an investigation as to why the government was not better prepared for the Tet offensive.

2. Korea

Seoul continues to boil over what it considers US failure to consult on how to handle the Pueblo incident. There was a small anti-American demonstration yesterday, along with threats of bigger ones.

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Yesterday the North Korean radio broadcast a fifth "confession" from a Pueblo crewman which, like previous ones, expressed "guilt" over and apologized for intrusion into North Korean waters.

3. Middle East

Arab leaders are getting fed up with UN emissary Jarring. They say he simply travels from capital to capital without coming up with any new proposals--while Israel digs in deeper in the occupied areas. The Jordanians, pointing to recent Israeli moves around Jerusalem, are threatening to go back to the Security Council unless Jarring does something.

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4. Egypt

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[REDACTED] Since June the role of Soviet advisers has progressed from test flying newly arrived planes to instructing on tactics to flying operational patrols. Egyptian officers are said to resent all this as a slur on their ability and Egypt's sovereignty.

5. Yemen

The military stalemate continues, despite royalist claims that Sana is surrounded, all roads cut, and "the ring closing tighter." The royalists admit that the republicans seem to have plenty of ammunition and that republican air strikes, although fewer, are still hampering royalist operations.

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6. Panama

The campaign is getting nastier. Samudio's forces virtually control the government machinery, and he may get both the electoral tribunal and the National Guard in his corner. If he does, backers of the popular Arnulfo Arias will be tempted to resort to violence.

7. United Kingdom

Embassy London, in assessing the economic situation since devaluation, believes the government's program is basically sound. The embassy feels, however, that implementation is seriously threatened by the uneasiness of the financial community, business, and labor, as well as declining public confidence in the government and the prime minister.

Potentially troublesome parts of the program, such as reduction of private domestic consumption and clamp-downs on wage and price increases, have not yet been announced.

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Hanoi Again Rejects San Antonio Formula: In its first statement on negotiations since the beginning of the Communist offensive in the South, Hanoi has issued a routine rejection of the San Antonio formula and President Johnson's 1 February comments on the prospects for settling the war. A commentary in the party daily Nhan Dan broadcast on 5 February claimed that the US was still "setting conditions" by demanding "reciprocity" and urging the Vietnamese people to pay a price by stopping or slowing down the "patriotic struggle." This demand, the commentary alleged, was the essence of the San Antonio formula and repeated by the President on 1 February.

Hanoi made no direct connection between events in the South and the question of negotiations. The broadcast also made no mention of recent remarks by US officials on the reciprocity aspect of the San Antonio formula.

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French Correspondent Reports on Strategy: A 4 February dispatch from the French correspondent in Hanoi describing Communist objectives in the current military offensive appears to be another North Vietnamese - inspired story. The newsman, Bernard Cabanes, claims that the Viet Cong and Hanoi are more elated about the political results of their five-day offensive in South Vietnam than they are about its military success. Quoting unidentified sources in Hanoi, Cabanes says that the fighting in South Vietnam is only the beginning of a "new phase of struggle" and that it will be weeks before the political gains of their new offensive can be evaluated.

Besides the battles for large towns which have been publicized, the Communists claim to have "swept into many small towns and villages" throughout the country. The plan, according to this news analysis, is to hold territory where possible and set up new administrative units. Where the ground cannot be held, their objective is to destroy the local government structure.

This analysis is a reasonable approximation of Communist strategy in last week's attacks. Cabanes' material is always censored and frequently inspired. This kind of interpretation enables Hanoi to capitalize on the potential political disruption of the offensive and at the same time makes allowances for military reverses.

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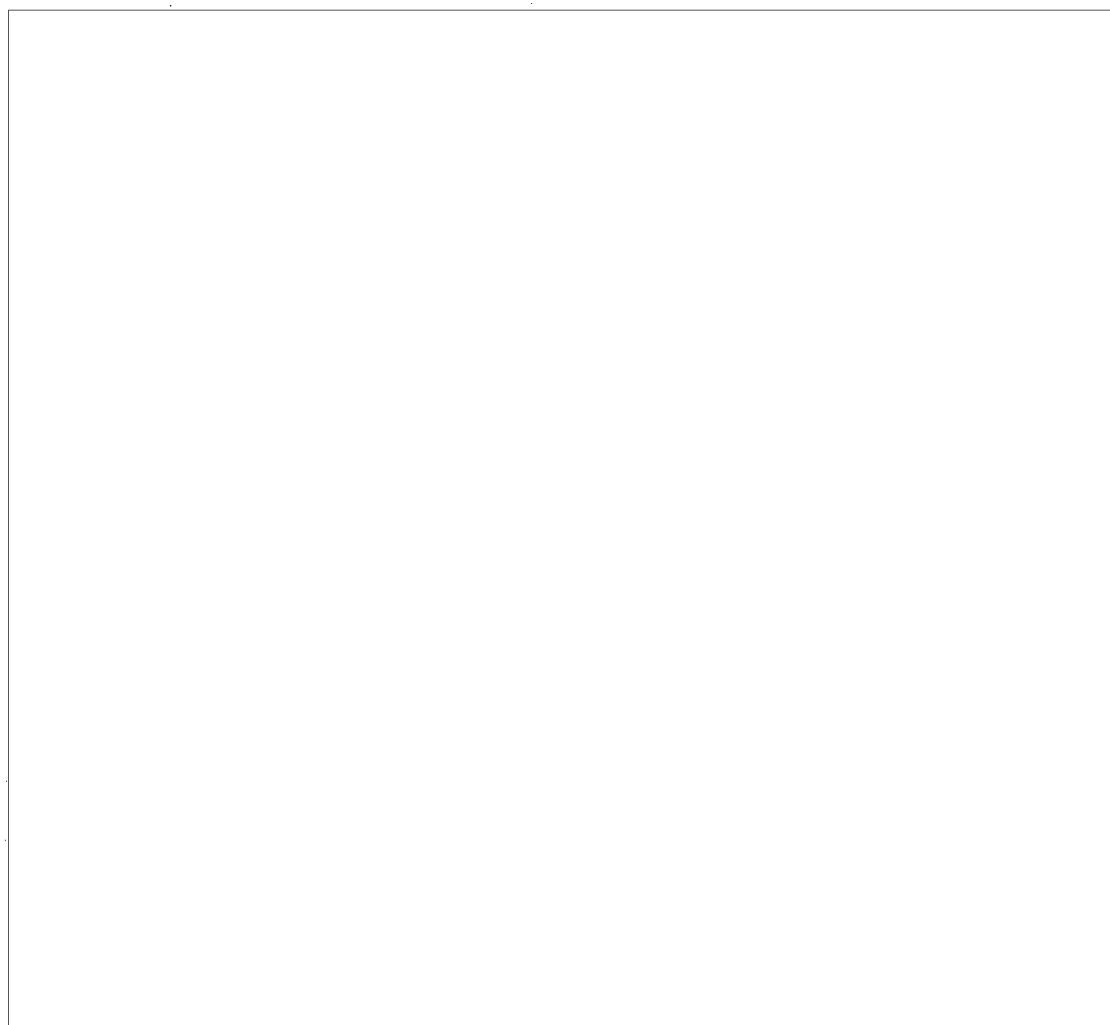
Giap Reported in Hanoi: The French correspondent also reports that General Giap was in Hanoi during Tet. There has been persistent speculation in the Western press that he was personally leading troops around Khe Sanh.

* * *

Shipping Report: Cargo deliveries to North Vietnam by foreign flag ships in January totaled about 192,300 tons, some 45,000 tons more than the previous monthly record import level set in May 1967. Large deliveries of foodstuffs, fertilizer, and petroleum accounted for the increase.

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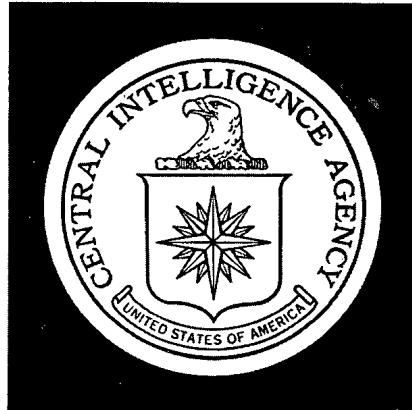
International Control Commission Still Reluctant to Fly: The ICC aircraft will not make today's scheduled flight to Hanoi where it was to pick up the three American pilots the North Vietnamese are releasing. The aircraft is based at Saigon (it makes stops at Phnom Penh and Vientiane en route to Hanoi) and the security situation has put the ICC Saigon secretariat temporarily out of action. The ICC hopes to make the next scheduled flight on Friday.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing of significance to report.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 7 February 1968



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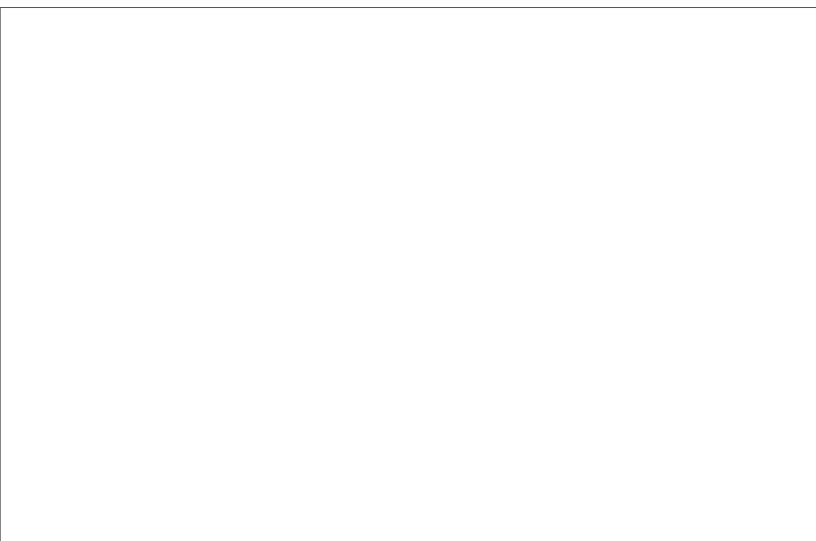
DAILY BRIEF
7 FEBRUARY 1968

1. Vietnam
(as of 5:00 AM
EST)

North Vietnamese regulars, spearheaded by nine armored vehicles believed to be Soviet T-34 tanks, were beaten back from the strategic Lang Vei Special Forces camp near Khe Sanh last night. The night-long assault was timed to coincide with a heavy bombardment of the Khe Sanh base. At last report the enemy force was pulling back.

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This is the first time the Communists have used armor in South Vietnam.



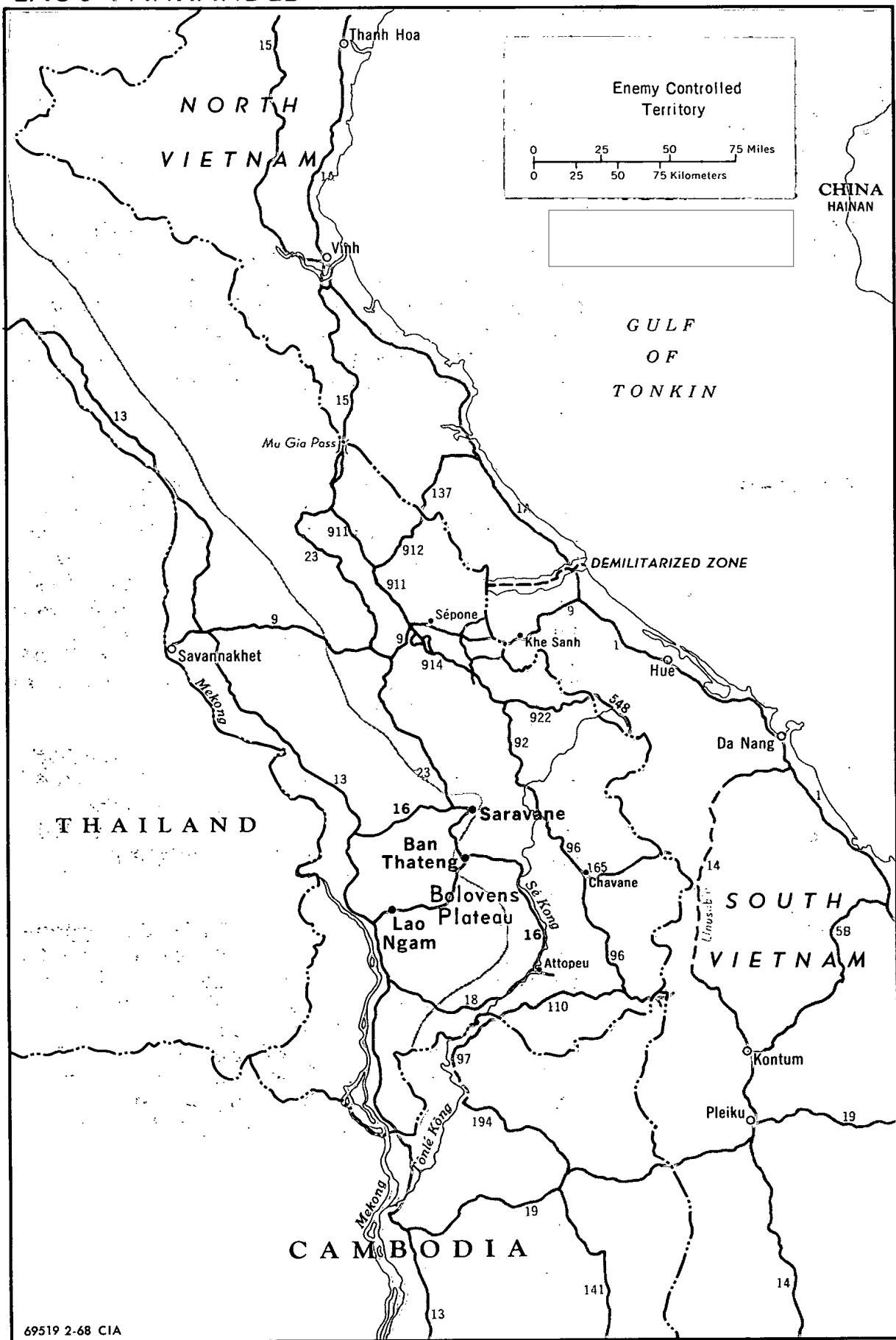
2. Korea

A number of South Koreans demonstrated against the Panmunjom talks this morning. The demonstration was at Freedom Bridge on the road leading through US lines to the meeting site. Some of the demonstrators got across the bridge where they were met and turned back by US troops.

There have been no significant developments in North Korea overnight. Pyongyang is rebroadcasting the sixth alleged confession by a Pueblo crewman.

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LAOS PANHANDLE



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3. Laos

A new series of Communist attacks on government positions in the Lao panhandle may be coming. A North Vietnamese defector reports the town of Saravane will be one of the first targets.

Saravane is the government-held position closest to the infiltration trails winding down to Cambodia and South Vietnam. Although it is not an important military base, its loss would have a serious psychological impact on the already nervous leadership in Vientiane.

4. Greece-Turkey

50X1

5. Chile

Frei's left-wing political opponents in the Senate are so dedicated to seeing the Chilean President fail that they have sacrificed much-needed economic legislation to that end. Frei's enemies are looking ahead to the 1970 presidential election, but their determined inaction leaves the economy drifting further into serious inflation.

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6. Communist China

Two party veterans, both disgraced and dismissed early in the Cultural Revolution, were recently put in charge of Hopeh, the key North China province where Peking is located. This resurrection suggests a loss of ground by the militant group in the capital. Factional fighting, however, continues throughout China.

7. Soviet Union

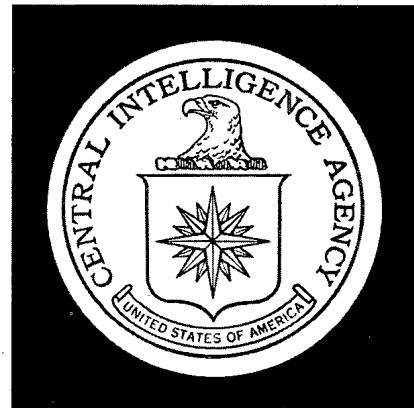
The Soviets appear to be getting ready for another lunar probe. [redacted]
[redacted] the position of Soviet space support ships suggest the launch will come today or tomorrow.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

Top Secret

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16

7 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

7 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Viet Cong Press Conference: The Viet Cong attempted to capture foreign press attention on 6 February by calling an unusual press conference in Moscow. The purpose of the conference was to increase news coverage of the Communist version of the Tet offensive in South Vietnam. The Communists played up the conference by giving plenty of advance notice to the entire Moscow press corps, including US and other Western press representatives.

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According to a Reuters dispatch, the head of the Liberation Front office in Moscow claimed that the current military effort would get "fiercer" and that the Front already had "large areas of the country under the control of revolutionary power." He said there was no hope of any change in Communist demands for a peaceful settlement of the conflict and that any move in that direction was entirely up to the US. The main Communist objective in the new offensive was to overthrow the Saigon government and under no circumstances would the Communists consider participating in a coalition government with Saigon authorities. He closed the conference with a hard statement of Communist determination to fight until the US withdraws from South Vietnam and until the Communists have achieved "final victory no matter how long that takes."

The Communist spokesman also dredged up the old "foreign volunteers" issue. This has not been used extensively by the Communists for more than a year, and they appear to be using it at this time as they have in the past to dramatize their potential military strength. The Front man in Moscow said simply that the Communists have "every right to accept foreign volunteers if the time comes."

* * *

Communist Claims of Popular Support in South Vietnam: After more than a week of claiming that popular support for their "general uprising" is "surging forward," the Communists have still failed to be specific, except in a few minor instances. The only new groups cited in Communist propaganda in the past three days are small groups of servicemen whom the Viet Cong claim have deserted from South Vietnamese Army units. In some cases both individuals and specific units are named. Most of these units are located in the northern coastal provinces, although one group of 31 was reported in a delta province. The only new nonmilitary groups claimed are an amorphous "federation of patriotic and peace-loving workers, farmers, and Buddhists in central Vietnam," cited in a Front broadcast of 3 February, and a "union of patriotic and peace-loving Buddhist servicemen in central Trung Bo" (coastal South Vietnam) reported in Hanoi's Nhan Dan on 5 February. There is no information to confirm the existence of these organizations.

Hanoi Blasts US Tactics in South Vietnamese Cities: The Foreign Ministry in Hanoi issued a statement on 6 February condemning the US and its South Vietnamese "henchmen" for their "savage bombing" of heavily populated sections of Saigon, Hue, and other cities. The statement, which also charged that "poison gas" had been used in Hue, claimed that US and South Vietnamese attacks in the cities had caused death and injury to many civilians and the destruction of many homes and other buildings.

The Hanoi statement went on to appeal to "progressive mankind" all over the world to join the condemnation of the US and the "Thieu-Ky clique of traitors."

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 8 February 1968

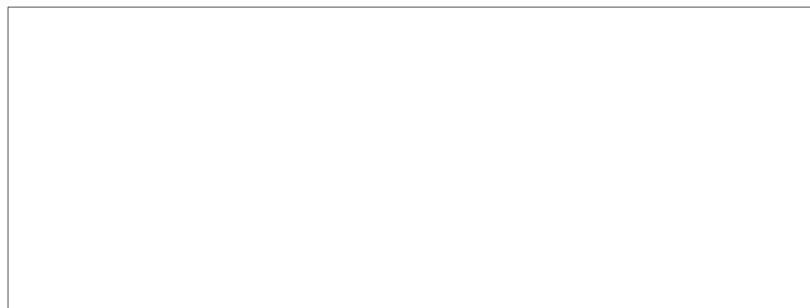


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DAILY BRIEF
8 FEBRUARY 1968

1. Vietnam
(as of 5:30 AM
EST)

The combat base at Khe Sanh was struck again this morning with a heavy barrage of artillery, rocket, and mortar fire, but casualties and damage were light. No major new attacks have occurred elsewhere in South Vietnam, but Communist pressure remains serious in several urban areas--notably in Saigon, Hue, and Dalat.



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An idea of what the Communists hoped to accomplish in the current offensive is now beginning to emerge from interrogations of captured Viet Cong. They were banking on an upsurge of popular support in the cities, and some claim they were told to organize new front groups composed of dissident South Vietnamese. The end result was to be a coalition of these new groups with the National Liberation Front which would then form a new government capable of challenging the present leaders in Saigon.

This scheme fits with the Communist propaganda about new opposition "fronts" springing up in South Vietnam. Although the Communists did not achieve all they had hoped initially, it is unlikely that these plans have been abandoned.

50X1

2. Korea

The government and press in Seoul are moderating somewhat their earlier strenuous protestations over US handling of the Pueblo case. Perhaps they feel that the lack of progress in Panmunjom reduces the chances of a compromise undercutting South Korean status.

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3. United Kingdom

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4. Soviet Union

The attempted lunar probe yesterday morning failed early in flight. It was intended either to go in orbit around the moon or to softland a payload on the surface. The Soviets have tried only one other lunar operation in the past 13 months, and that also was a flop.

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5. Denmark

The new government has set out, as its first order of business, to obtain assurances that the US accepts Denmark's policy banning nuclear weapons from Greenland and its airspace. The foreign minister informed Ambassador White yesterday that this does not have to mean renegotiation of the 1951 base treaty; a less formal exchange of notes would do.

50X1

6. Belgium

The collapse of the government yesterday climaxed a bitter dispute between French and Dutch speaking Belgians. Foreign policy is not an issue in the crisis. It will be very difficult to put together a new government on the basis of the present Parliament and new elections may be in store.

7. Czechoslovakia

All signs suggest that Dubcek returned from his quick trip to Moscow last week pumped up with confidence in his plans to put the country on a new course and to broaden his base of political support. He evidently got at least tacit acceptance in Moscow, though Soviet leaders almost surely remain apprehensive about the liberalizing experiments he has in mind.

Dubcek's program is to be unveiled at the party Central Committee meeting scheduled for late this month. [redacted]

8. Jordan

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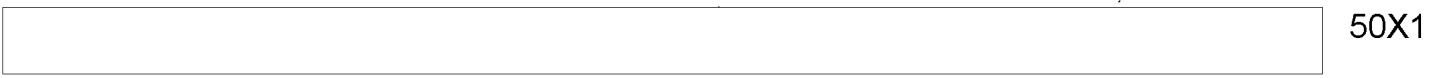
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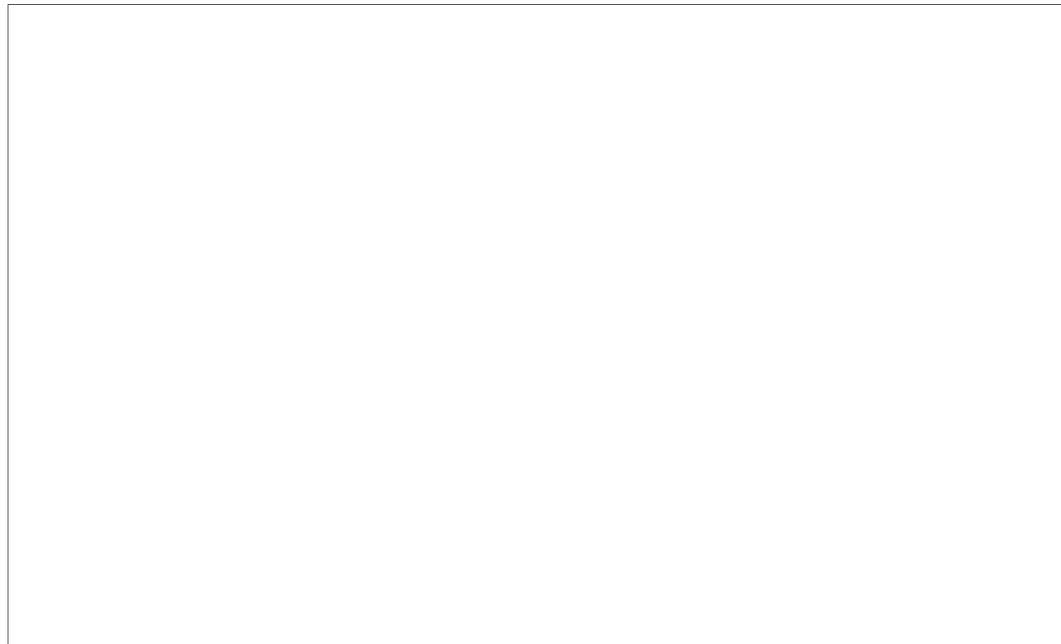


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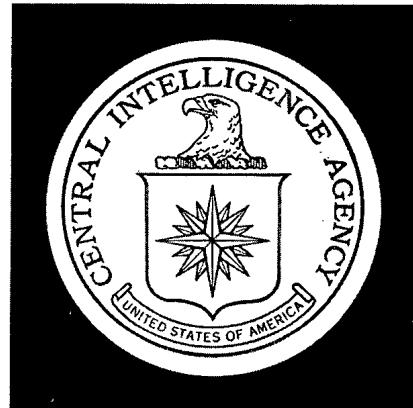


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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

Top Secret

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8 February 1968

16

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

8 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Propaganda on the Current Offensive: Vietnamese Communist propaganda is still stressing that the military offensive will not be a short-term effort, and that more difficult days are ahead. Earlier appeals frequently characterized the fighting as "urgent" and stressed the immediate objectives, whereas Front and Hanoi statements in recent days have predicted that the fighting would become fiercer and fiercer, but that greater victories are yet to come. The French Press Agency correspondent in Hanoi, whose material is censored and sometimes inspired by the North Vietnamese, reports he was told that the present fighting is only the beginning of a "new phase" of the struggle and that there will be a "second phase" to prevent the allies from recovering from the first blow.

In the absence of any genuine popular uprising, the Communists have probably found it necessary to bolster Viet Cong morale by stressing that the fighting must continue in order to nail down the successes achieved in the initial Tet thrust. Such propaganda is also designed to encourage greater uncertainty and fear among the already shaken populace and to magnify and prolong the Communist threat.

* * *

Flight to Hanoi Still Stranded: The International Control Commission (ICC) aircraft scheduled to bring out the three US prisoners from Hanoi is still stranded in Saigon because of fighting near the city. Flights from Saigon to Hanoi via Phnom Penh and Vientiane were cancelled on 2 and 6 February and one scheduled for the 9th has also been scrubbed.

The two Americans who are to receive the three flyers have been stranded in Vientiane since 2 February. The US Embassy in Laos reports that the two Americans approached the Chinese Communists in an

effort to arrange a flight through China, but were refused. (The Chinese control the only other regularly scheduled air route to North Vietnam.) The North Vietnamese Embassy in Vientiane was informed of the Chinese refusal and suggested the ICC initiate a flight from either Phnom Penh or Vientiane using another aircraft to make the flight on 9 February. The North Vietnamese guaranteed that they would provide the same security for the flight as that given the regular ICC aircraft. The US Embassy in Vientiane made a similar proposal to ICC officials in Laos and South Vietnam, and this is now being explored.

* * *

Front Spokesmen in Cairo: Vietnamese Communist spokesmen continue to underscore their contention that any moves to end the war must start with the United States.

The head of the Liberation Front mission in Cairo held a press conference on 6 February to make this point and to present the Front's line on the current Communist offensive. This was the approach taken by his colleague in Moscow on the same day. Both rejected a coalition government or negotiations with the Thieu-Ky government, and both expressed determination to continue the struggle as long as necessary to achieve a settlement on Communist terms. The Front spokesman in Cairo sidestepped a question about volunteers if the US "doubled" its strength in Vietnam by saying there are plenty of Vietnamese, both North and South, and they will "always be able to defeat" whatever forces the US sends.

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Vietnamese Praise North Korean Support: In what seems to have been a deliberate attempt to link the Pueblo incident with the Vietnam conflict, a rally was held in Pyongyang at which Vietnamese Communist representatives praised the North Koreans for their support.

Although their Korean comrades apparently eschewed any specific claim of capturing the Pueblo in order to support the Communists in Vietnam, a Liberation Front speaker described the action as an "effective contribution to the struggle of the South Vietnamese people." The North Vietnamese ambassador was not so explicit, and only claimed that Vietnamese Communist successes would be "unthinkable" without the support tendered by the North Koreans. Earlier Communist propaganda seemed to avoid making any direct connection between the Pueblo and events in Vietnam.

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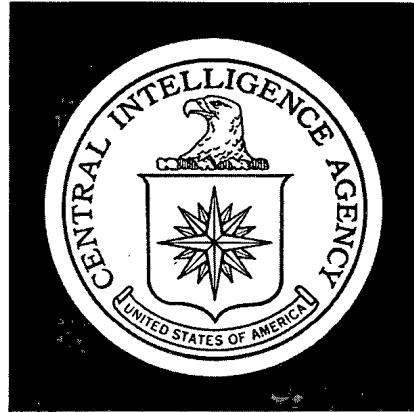
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing significant to report at this time.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 February 1968

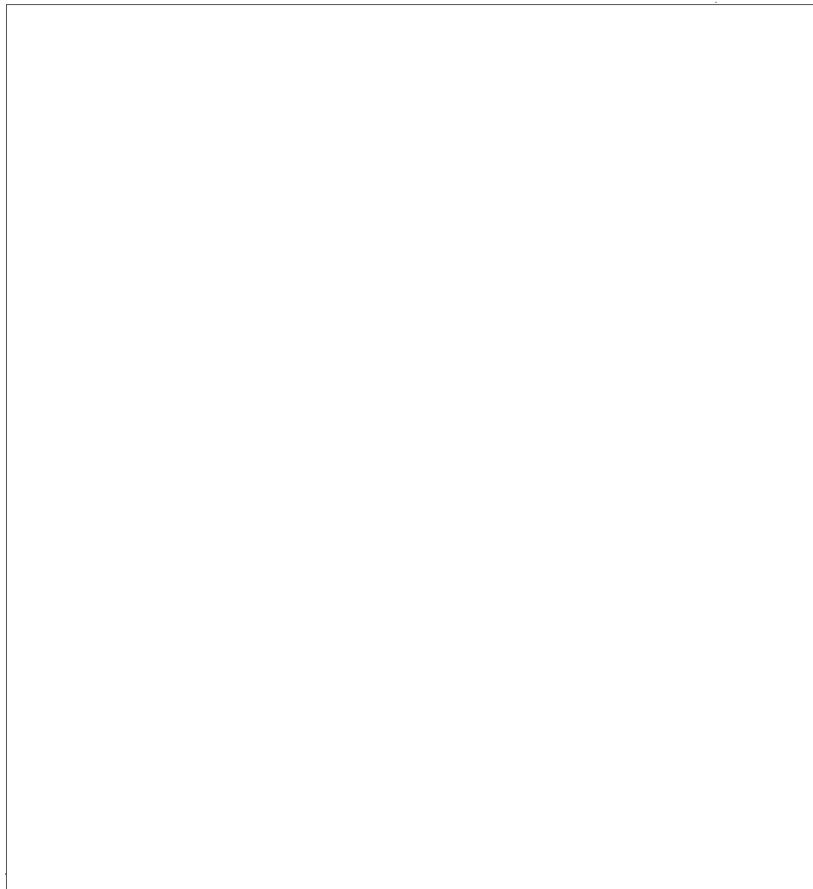


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DAILY BRIEF
9 FEBRUARY 1968

**1. Vietnam
(as of 5:30 AM
EST)**

We have no word of enemy action in the Khe Sanh area today. Late reports say that some 124 enemy troops were killed in the fighting there yesterday; US casualties were 21 killed and 27 wounded.



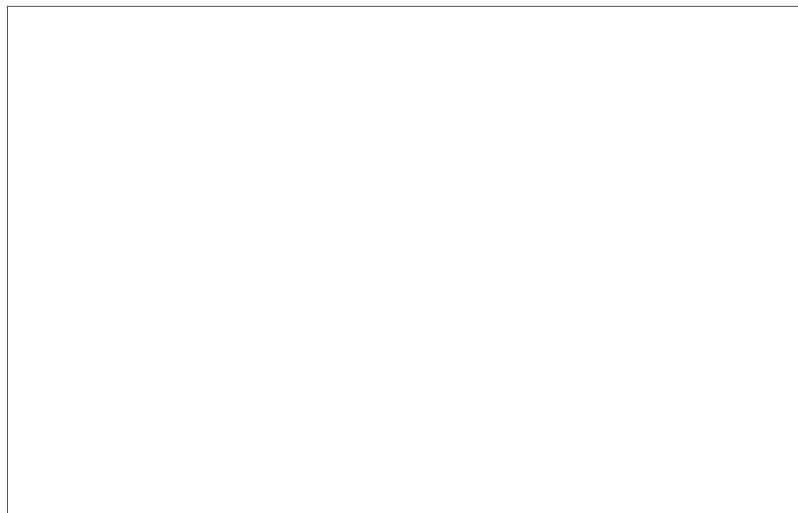
2. North Korea

No new developments have been reported overnight.

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3. Jerusalem

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4. West Germany

Antiwar demonstrations by leftist students against US installations in West Germany are becoming more and more violent. An especially bold assault on the Frankfurt Consulate early this week almost broke in.

US officials on the scene believe that the local authorities have been too lenient, and that this is encouraging the agitators. The next target is likely to be the Hamburg Consulate this weekend.

5. South America

Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia are considering the establishment of diplomatic and formal commercial relations with the Soviet Union this year. Influenced by Colombia, which restored relations last month, and by Chile, which did so in 1964, these countries hope the move might help them unload some of their hard-to-sell commodities and thus ease growing economic troubles.

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6. Sweden

The number of US deserters known to be in Sweden now stands at 24; 13 have been given asylum.

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7. Rhodesia

Ian Smith wants to visit the US soon.

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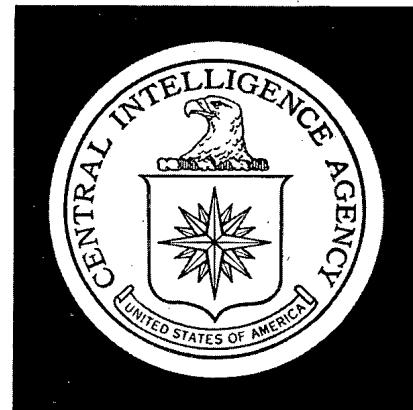
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8. Congo

Mobutu says he will propose at a meeting of the Organization of African Unity later this month that the mercenaries be allowed to leave for Europe. Although Mobutu still believes these men should be punished, he apparently will not attach any strings to their departure.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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17

9 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

9 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese Diplomat Comments: Hanoi is keeping the door to talks open but is not giving any greater appearance of flexibility.

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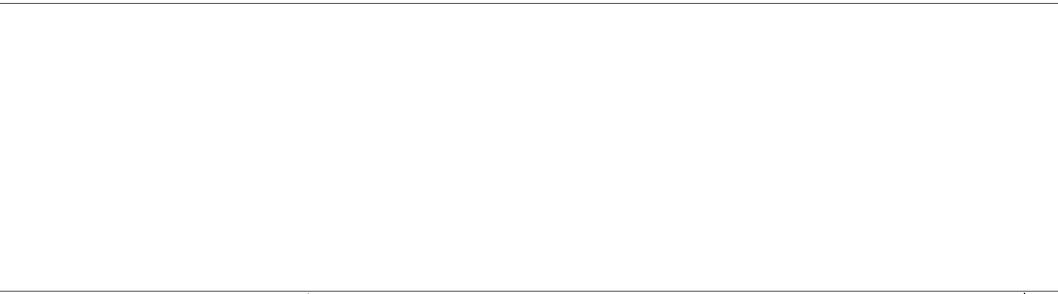
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U Thant Meets With Hanoi Representative in New Delhi: UN Secretary General Thant met with the North Vietnamese consul general in New Delhi on 8 February, according to press reports. UN spokesmen characterized the meeting as "useful" and claimed that Thant met with the Hanoi representative in a personal capacity and not as Secretary General. No indication was given as to the matters discussed.

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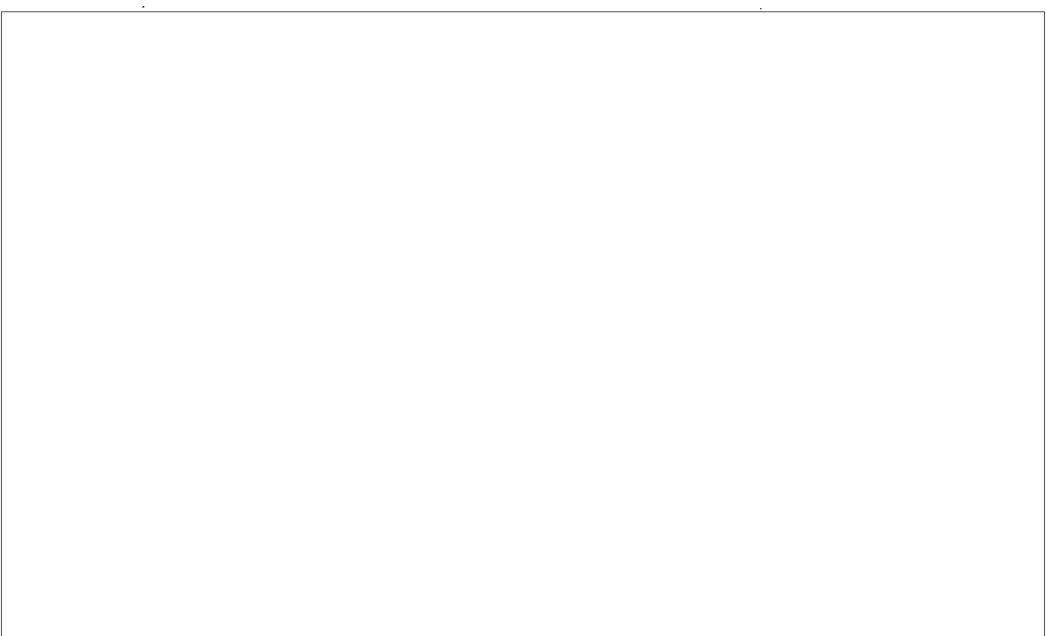
Hanoi has maintained a consistent position in opposition to UN involvement in the Vietnam situation. The North Vietnamese have, however, never openly criticized Thant personally. They probably view any meeting with him as an opportunity to convey their position on the war and negotiations to an influential international figure who is on record in favor of several aspects of their stand, particularly on the end of the bombing.

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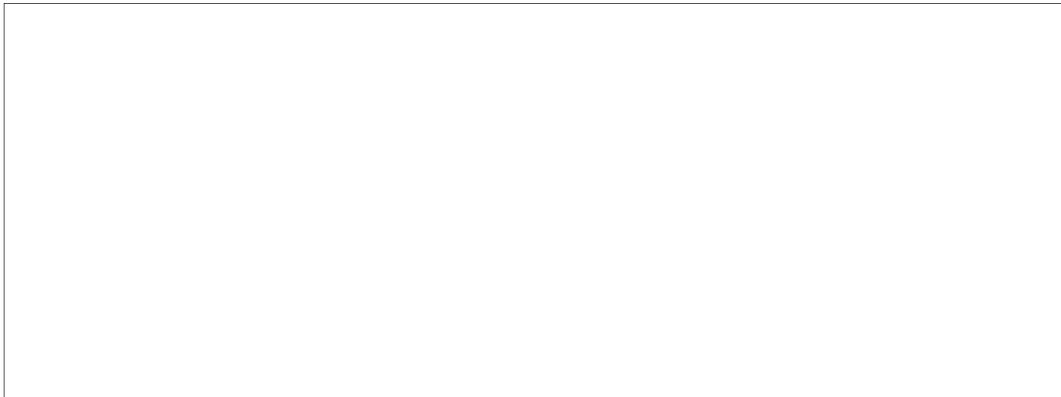
American Prisoners to be Released Today: Hanoi has confirmed its intention to send the three captured American pilots out of North Vietnam on the ICC flight today. Hanoi has cabled the head of the ICC in Saigon a manifest for the Hanoi-Vientiane leg of the flight; the names of the three pilots are on the passenger list. The plane left Saigon for Phnom Penh and Hanoi at 11:30 local time today.

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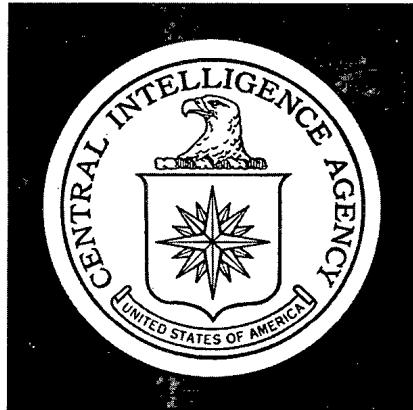
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing significant to report at this time. Hanoi radio has for some days now been saturated with propaganda relating to the Tet offensive.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
10 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam
(as of 5:30 AM
EST)

Khe Sanh and the rest of South Vietnam were relatively quiet last night.

The Communists, however, may be preparing for a new round of attacks in several areas--possibly within the next few days. North Vietnamese forces all along the Demilitarized Zone appear set to attack, and there are major enemy concentrations near Danang. Farther south, elements of three Communist divisions are in position either to strike US positions not far from Saigon or assist in operations within the city itself. Some prisoners taken in the recent fighting predicted follow-up attacks within a week or ten days.

We have noted no unusual activity by North Vietnamese aircraft in the last 24 hours.

2. North Korea

Pyongyang's recent official statements show no change in its attitude toward the Pueblo case. The regime has so far made no public comment on the latest meeting at Panmunjom.

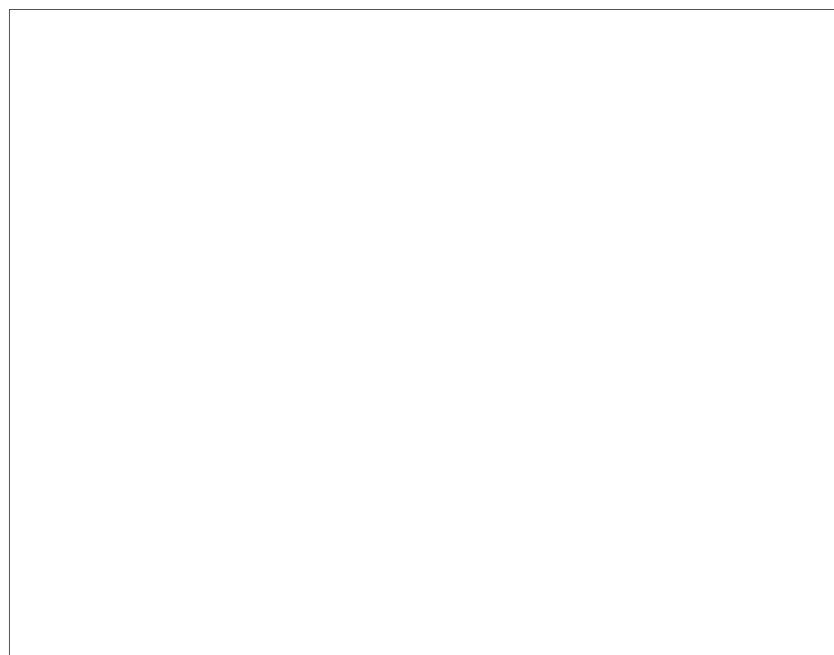
Soviet Party Secretary Ponomarev arrived in Pyongyang yesterday, where he will have a chance to take a reading of North Korean attitudes on the Pueblo affair.

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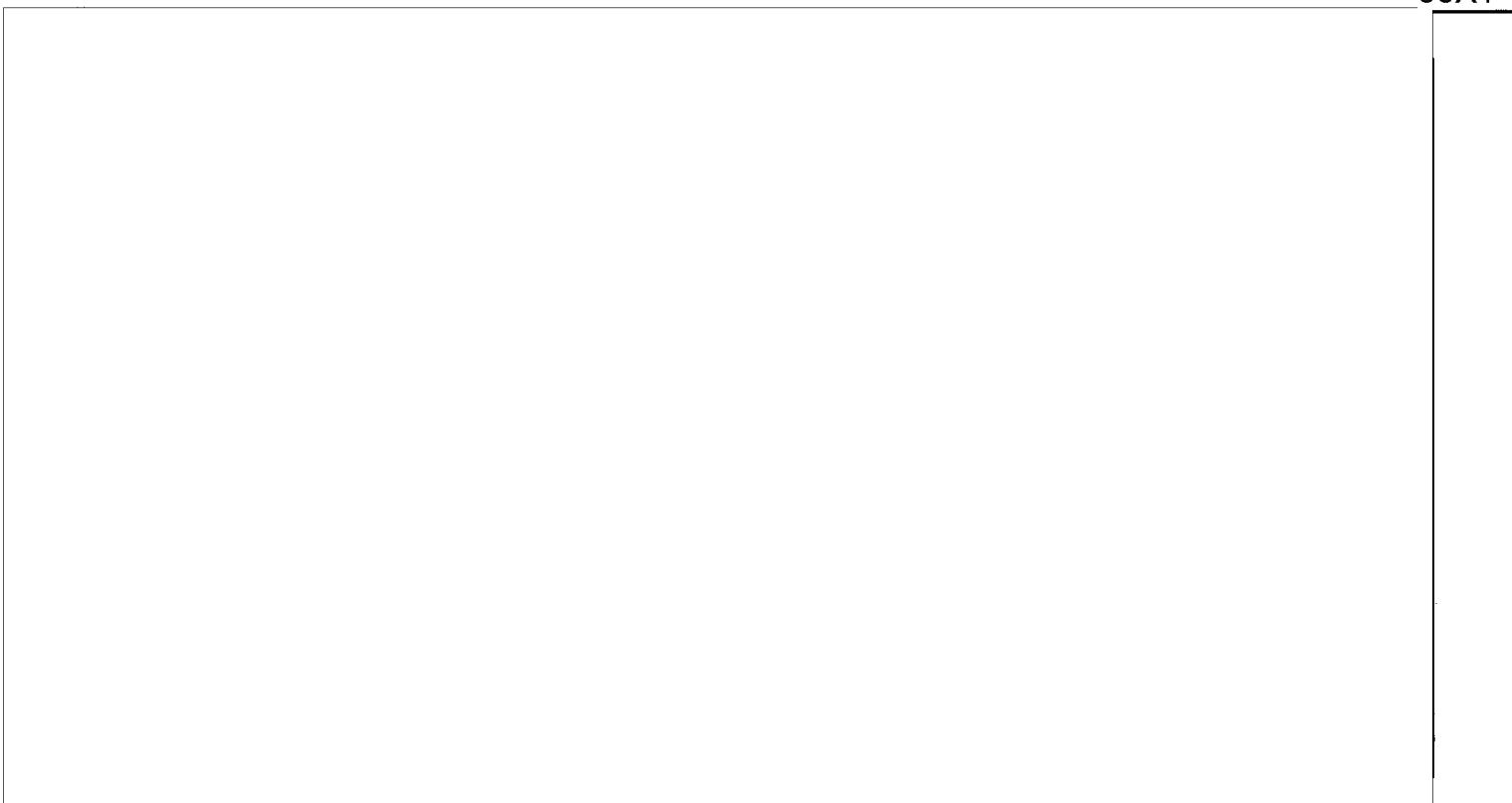
The main purpose of Ponomarev's visit, however, is probably to brief the North Koreans on the Budapest meeting of Communist parties scheduled for later this month. Ponomarev was in a high-level Soviet delegation that recently left Japan after trying unsuccessfully to persuade the Japanese Communist Party to attend.

3. Soviet Union

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4. Yemen

Satellite photography of late January shows the air strip the Soviets have been building at Taiz practically finished. Although it could take almost any kind of plane, it will be of little immediate military help to the republicans. There are no facilities for storing supplies, and the roads leading to the scene of the important fighting--far to the north--are generally blocked by the royalists.

5. Indonesia

The monumental economic mess inherited from Sukarno is keeping Suharto awake nights. Skyrocketing rice prices have already pushed the cost of living beyond the increase anticipated for all of 1968. The government's greatest worry is that Western aid donors will not meet the request for an economic assistance package of \$325 million.

Suharto wants no political sniping and yesterday announced a massive shake-up in the appointed parliament. Next, he will ask parliament to make him full president and to postpone the national elections scheduled for this summer.

6. Hong Kong

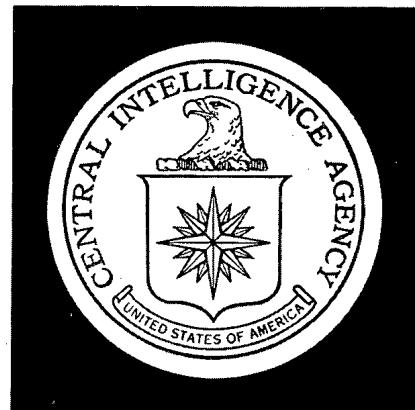
Peking is now stressing sweetness and light in its support of the colony's Communists. A donation of winter clothes for the "needy compatriots" arrived from China this week. Peking has also offered 5,000 tons of rice "to ease the plight of victimized workers."

This wolf-in-sheep's-clothing approach is consistent with Peking's directive to the local Communists last December, telling them to shift to a long-range "political struggle."

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

Top Secret

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10 February 1968

16

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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10 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Communist Propaganda on "Uprising" in South: Hanoi and Liberation Front propaganda continues to stress the "great revolutionary successes" under way in South Vietnam. Some of Hanoi radio's accounts are said to be based on direct reports from Communist correspondents in Saigon itself. The general pitch is that "revolutionary" forces, riding a crest of popular enthusiasm, are "liberating" more and more areas. They are said to be consolidating their control in a number of places by setting up "revolutionary administrative machinery," including "people's courts" to try and sentence "the puppet officials who owe many blood debts to the people."

Viet Cong radio broadcasts continue to surface new organizations allegedly composed of dissident South Vietnamese Army men and other groups opposing the Saigon regime. They insist that large numbers of people are rallying to their banners.

Hanoi's army daily on 8 February hails the recent action at Lang Vei as a "striking example of quick attack, complete annihilation, and holding the initiative on the battlefield." The paper says that this and other battles in Quang Tri Province are coordinated with those in the rest of the country, and that they provide great encouragement for Communist forces fighting in the cities.

* * *

A New Moscow Statement on Vietnam: The statement issued by TASS yesterday is clearly aimed at underlining the main themes in recent Hanoi and Liberation Front propaganda about the "great successes" achieved in the current Communist offensive in South Vietnam. The TASS release goes on at length to claim that these successes were accomplished with "the active support" of the people of South Vietnam.

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The "camp of the patriotic forces" in South Vietnam, TASS claimed, has been enlarged further. Other "democratic and national forces" have come forward to join the National Liberation Front in the struggle. The events of the past ten days prove again, TASS claims, that the "Saigon regime" is rotten and is prevented from falling only by "US bayonets."

The TASS statement makes no mention of any new Soviet response to the situation in Vietnam. It does say that US "vandalism" in South Vietnam causes "anger on the part of the Soviet people," and that mass meetings are being held throughout the country to condemn the US.

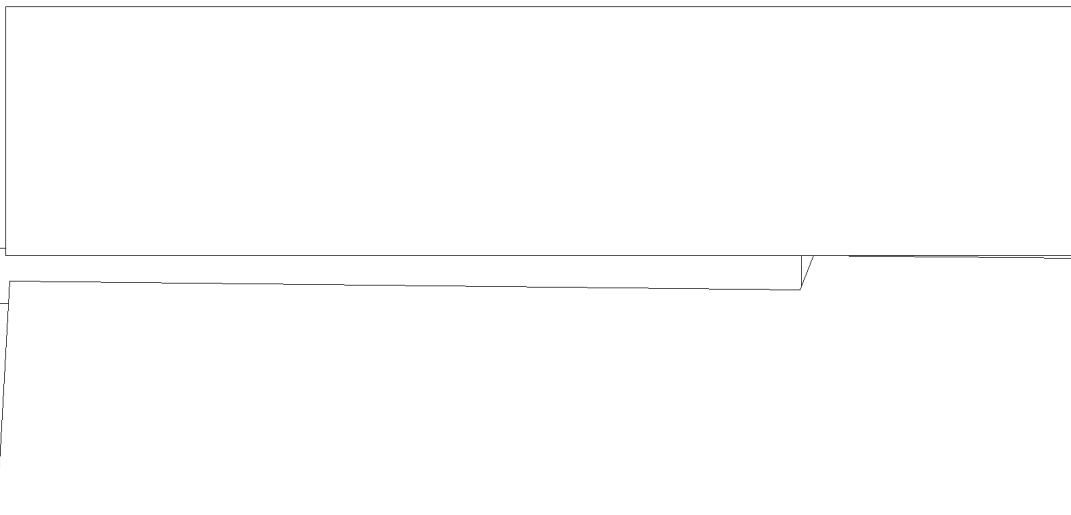
The statement concludes with the declaration that if the US truly wants talks on settlement of the war, "then what prevents it from taking advantage of the proposals of the North Vietnamese Government and the Liberation Front?" Persistence in the war "can only bring new defeats and new failures to the US."

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Defense Minister Giap Speaks: Hanoi seems to have gone out of its way to highlight the otherwise obscure occasion of North Korean Army Day. The attention may have been partly a gesture of support for the Pueblo capture, as well as for North Korean aid to the Vietnamese Communists.

North Vietnamese Defense Minister Giap apparently was a center of attention as he played his first ceremonial role in public for some months. Nothing he said provided any solid clues on Hanoi's intentions toward the war. Giap told an audience on 8 February that the Communist offensive in South Vietnam had created a "new situation" favorable for continuing the fight until "final victory." He took a similar line in a message to the North Koreans, in which he said the Vietnam conflict was entering a "fierce phase," but he made no suggestion that there would be any early end to the fighting.

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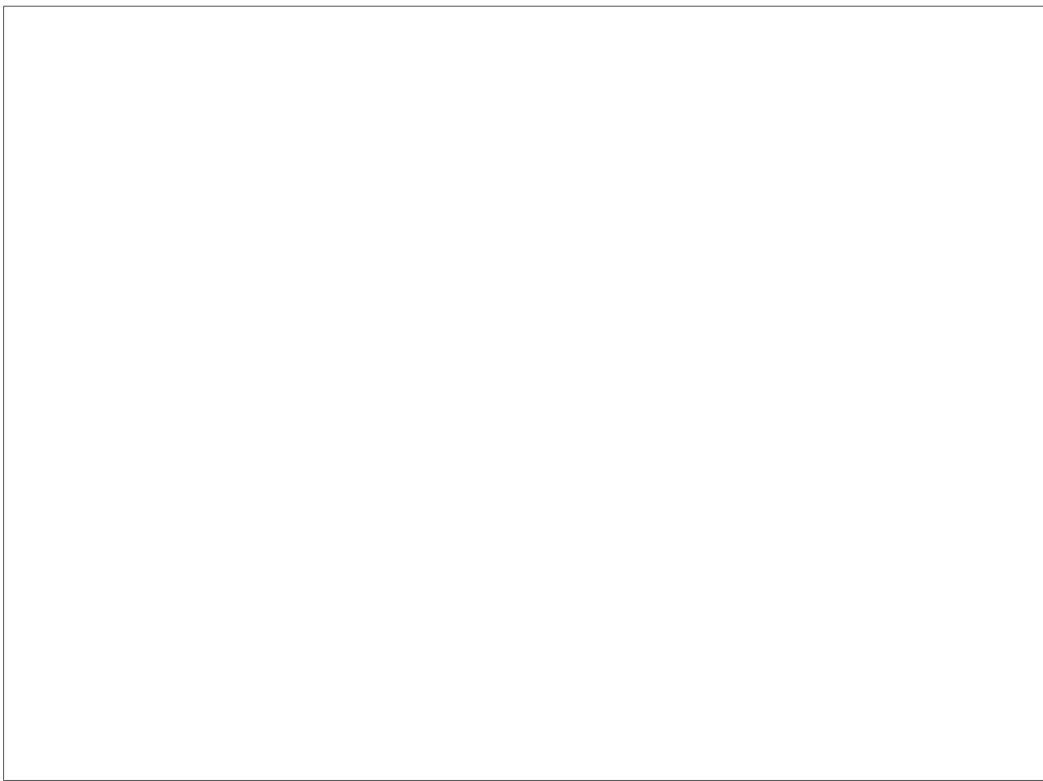
US Prisoners Fail to Leave Hanoi: The International Control Commission plane made its scheduled flight to Hanoi yesterday. When it returned to Laos, however, the three American pilots supposed to have been released were not aboard. The only explanation available so far is that the three prisoners (and the two Americans who had gone to escort them) "missed" the flight out of Hanoi.

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Front Spokesmen on Lang Vei: Continuing the recent round of press conferences held by Vietnamese Communist spokesmen, the Liberation Front's man in Prague told his audience on 8 February that Communist forces intend to maintain the offensive they have mounted against the allies in the past ten days. He reportedly claimed that the tanks used at Lang Vei were US tanks and had been brought over to the Communists by defecting South Vietnamese forces. Although the Communists have captured allied tanks in the past, aerial photography clearly shows the ones at Lang Vei were Soviet PT-76 amphibious models. The Front representative's comments doubtless were intended to maintain the fiction that North Vietnamese forces are not involved in the fighting in the South.

More Communist Propaganda Claims: In addition to holding press conferences to publicize Viet Cong "victories" in South Vietnam, Liberation Front officials abroad are now apparently disseminating written propaganda on alleged Communist successes. The US Embassy in Vientiane reports that North Vietnamese press officials there have passed to Western correspondents a mimeographed handout entitled "Victories Gained by the Troops and Population of South Vietnam after Six Days of Combat." The document closely resembles the content of Liberation Front and North Vietnamese propaganda.

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Buddhist Monk Appeals for US Support of Communist Cause: Hanoi on 8 February broadcast what it claimed was a letter to the American people from a Buddhist monk who is vice president of the South Vietnam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People, a Viet Cong front. The monk called upon the American people to "take stronger actions" to

demand that the US Government stop the war, stop drafting "American youths for the dirty war," and withdraw all US troops so as to put an end to the fighting. The letter also called on the American people to raise protests against the US and the Thieu-Ky persecution of the "revolutionary forces" in South Vietnam.

* * *

Dutch Government Avoids Crisis Over Vietnam

Issue: The government succeeded in its quiet efforts to undermine the resolve of leftists in Parliament to pass a resolution asking the prime minister to urge the US to stop bombing North Vietnam. The resolution, as finally voted, calls on the government to urge all parties to the conflict to cease hostilities.

The government may soon have another Vietnam problem on its hands, however. During a parliamentary interpellation, an opposition deputy asked Foreign Minister Luns whether the government would permit a session of Bertrand Russell's "War Crimes Tribunal" to be held in The Hague. Rather than precipitate a new crisis, Luns hedged in his answer.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Says Communist Victories Make US Leaders "Utterly Nervous": Vietnamese Communist propaganda is placing considerable emphasis on the theme that the recent Viet Cong "victories" in South Vietnam have caused deep concern among US political leaders. A Hanoi broadcast on 7 February claimed that the "faked optimism" generated by President Johnson and General Westmoreland several months ago was now having "the bottom knocked out of it" by reports from South Vietnam. The broadcast alleged that the President is "utterly nervous" and cited US press reports that he had requested each member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to sign a statement guaranteeing that Khe Sanh will not be lost to the Communists. Hanoi quoted the President as telling the Chiefs that

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"I don't want any damned Dien Bien Phu." The broadcast closed by appealing to "American friends" to side with the South Vietnamese revolution "for the sake of justice and humanity," and to urge the President "by your antiwar action" to bring the US troops home now.

A Liberation Front broadcast also on 7 February quoted Western press reports on recent statements by Senators Edward Kennedy and Morton. Kennedy was quoted as saying that the US would be wise if it admitted that the Viet Cong scored a striking political success during the last week. The broadcast also alleged that Senator Morton had admitted that the Viet Cong could inflict heavy damage on American positions whenever and wherever they choose and that the US is in a stalemate situation in Vietnam.

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The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 12 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
12 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam
(as of 5:30 AM
EST)

Communist pressures eased over the weekend around cities and towns in some parts of the country, but new attacks took place against two provincial capitals and two allied airfields in the delta. In the north, the Communists in Hue continue putting up stubborn resistance.

Life in Saigon is gradually returning to normal despite continuing Communist resistance to clearing operations in Cholon. Persistent low-level reports, however, are still predicting new "large-scale attacks" on the capital within the next few days. Elements of three Communist divisions remain within striking distance.

The Khe Sanh situation is unchanged.

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2. Korea

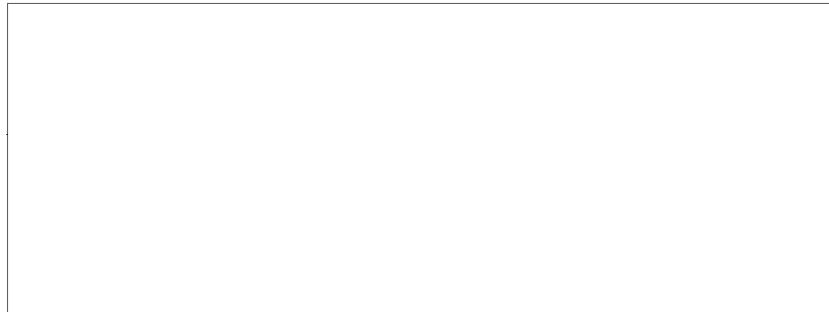
Mr. Vance had his first meeting with President Pak today to the accompaniment of a steady drumbeat in the Seoul press insisting that the South Koreans want a fuller US commitment, not just more US military aid. No word has yet come on the substance of the talks.

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Satellite photography of last week shows that the Pueblo has been moved from its anchorage in Wonsan Bay to a more secure berth at a nearby naval base. This will facilitate examination of the ship's equipment, presumably with the help of Soviet experts.

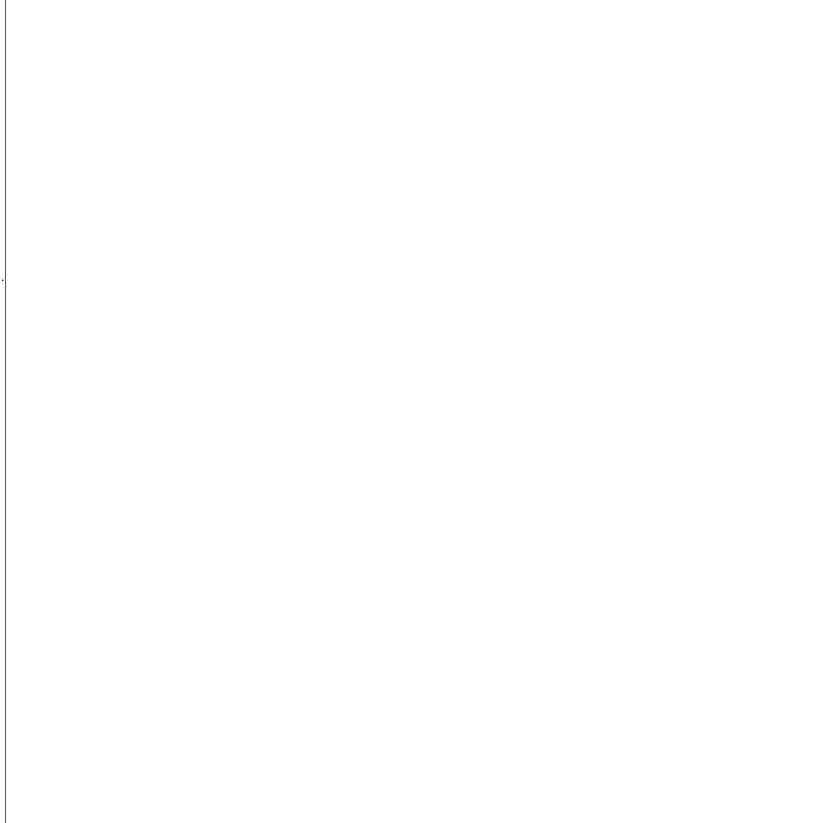
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3. Cambodia



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4. Australia



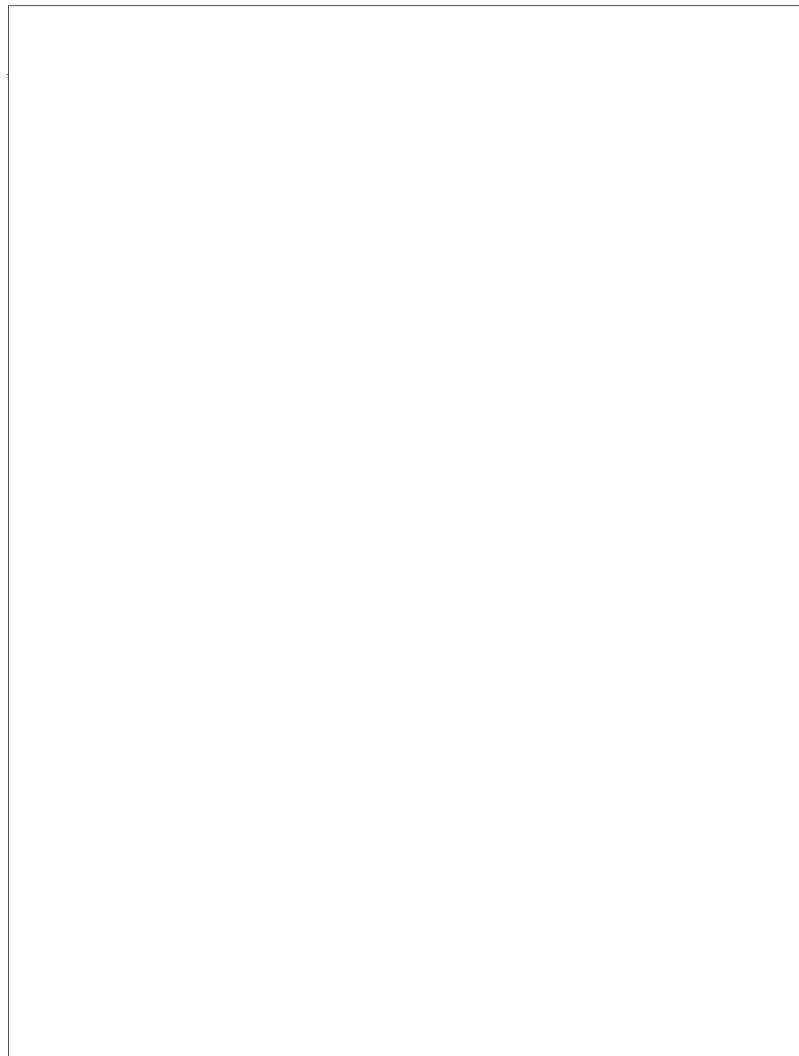
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5. Nigeria



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6. Czechoslovakia

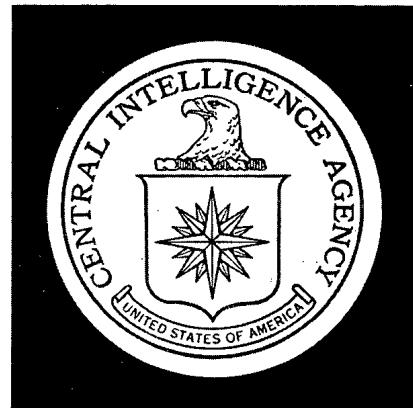


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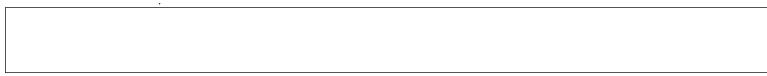
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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12 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

12 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Front Activities: Liberation Front officials abroad are continuing to make a big effort to be seen and heard. Nguyen Van Hieu, the Front man in Phnom Penh and one of the Front's most authoritative spokesmen on foreign affairs, recently discussed the Viet Cong plans to establish a coalition government. Although radio propaganda and prisoners captured in the Tet offensive have indicated that this is a Front objective, Nguyen Van Hieu is the first responsible Front official to comment on it.

Hieu made his remarks at a press conference on 8 February which was attended by Wilfred Burchett.

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Other Communist representatives have been seeking publicity contacts to emphasize the Viet Cong's military successes. In Moscow and Prague, Front representatives briefed prominent party personalities amid much publicity. The official statement issued after Dang Quang Minh's meeting with Brezhnev emphasized the political aspect of the Tet offensive. In recent days Moscow has also issued a formal TASS statement affirming support of the Viet Cong military action and of the North Vietnamese "will talk" attitude.

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Hanoi Continues Playing Up New Front Groups in the South: A Hanoi broadcast monitored in Tokyo yesterday reported what purported to be a decision by the National Liberation Front to strengthen ties with the "Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces," which it claims has sprung up in various South Vietnamese cities since the onslaught of the Tet offensive. Yesterday's broadcast claimed that the Front had issued a call for talks with the "Alliance" on "the most suitable way of reunifying Vietnam."

Peking propaganda takes the story a little further. A Chinese press agency report yesterday, quoting a North Vietnamese army newspaper, reported that the "rural people" in South Vietnam have resolved to set up a "people's regime" in response to the Viet Cong call.

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[Redacted]

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U Thant's Travels: The Secretary General has scheduled a meeting for today with the National Liberation Front representative in Moscow, according to press reports. Thant was received by Kosygin shortly after he flew in from New Delhi yesterday, and plans another meeting today, after which he is scheduled to leave for London en route back to New York. Little solid information is available to flesh out press speculation that Thant is embarked on a major new peace effort. Peking, reacting characteristically to this speculation, blasted Thant yesterday for trying to "peddle the US 'peace talks' scheme."

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Chinese Troops: In radio conversations between Chinese units in North Vietnam intercepted on 30 and 31 January, one unit stated that the problem of food shortages "troubles us very much" and that some people might have to be sent to Nanning.

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Another Chinese unit in North Vietnam said that the North Vietnamese were "very kind," gave them food, and invited them to attend their Lunar New Year Festival party at Thai Binh.

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Voice intercepts of Chinese units in North Vietnam are rare. The only voice communications previously noted were between antiaircraft observation posts.

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US Pilots: Since the three American pilots scheduled to be released from North Vietnam did not make the ICC flight on Friday, the ICC is trying to arrange a special flight tomorrow. The next scheduled flight is not until Friday.

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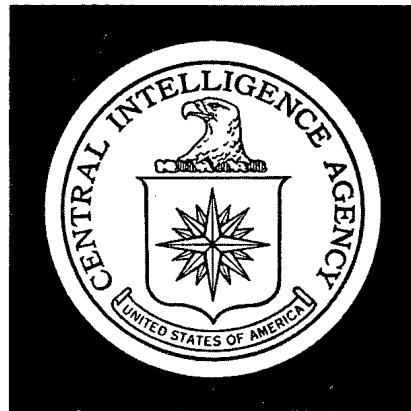
II. REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

World Reaction to Senator Robert Kennedy's 8 February Speech: The Senator's speech on Vietnam has received only light coverage in world news media. Neither

Hanoi nor Peking has yet commented. Moscow commentators have referred to Kennedy's "admissions" only in passing and have contrasted his statements with the continuing "hawkish" stance of the administration. Several press services in other Communist countries have noted the speech in brief, factual terms. Such comment as there has been in these countries has used the speech to buttress claims that the American public is becoming more disillusioned with the war, or that the recent Communist offensive has caused "anxiety and confusion" in Washington.

Free World press reaction has also been minimal. Comments in British and West German papers have been mixed.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 February 1968



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PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF
13 FEBRUARY 1968

LATE ITEM

Korea

(as of 6:00 AM
EST)

Radio Pyongyang has charged that US troops infiltrated across the Demilitarized Zone this morning. There was an exchange of fire in the area mentioned by Pyongyang, but Embassy Seoul has no information concerning any infiltration.

DAILY BRIEF
13 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam
(as of 5:30 AM
EST)

There have been no significant changes in the military situation during the night. Enemy activity throughout the country has, for the last 24 hours, been largely confined to widely scattered attacks against allied positions. The rocket barrage on Bien Hoa Air Base did little damage.

In Hue and Saigon, allied forces are continuing to clean up pockets of enemy resistance. Life is beginning to return to normal in the more secure areas of Saigon.

2. Laos

a sharp increase in south-bound truck traffic into Laos through the Mu Gia Pass during the first week in February. The number of trucks was almost double the daily average for January. Roadwatch teams in Laos said some of the trucks were carrying troops and towing artillery instead of moving the usual fuel, food, and other supplies.

The increased traffic could be partly in support of the Communist build-up around Khe Sanh.

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3. Jordan

Fears of a serious Israeli attack in the Jordan valley area are gripping Amman. After almost daily exchanges of fire across the river since last Thursday, the Israelis have moved reinforcements into the area.

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4. Rumania

A still suspicious Rumania has decided to send a delegation to the Budapest meeting of Communist parties later this month. The Rumanians decided to show up only after extensive consultations with other parties, including the Chinese. Peking may regard the presence of a Rumanian delegation as a useful check on the Soviets.

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[redacted] the delegation will oppose criticism of any Communist party as well as attempts to conclude binding agreements. The Rumanians will also try to get a world conference of Communist parties (Moscow's ultimate aim) put off as long as possible.

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5. Communist China

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6. Thailand

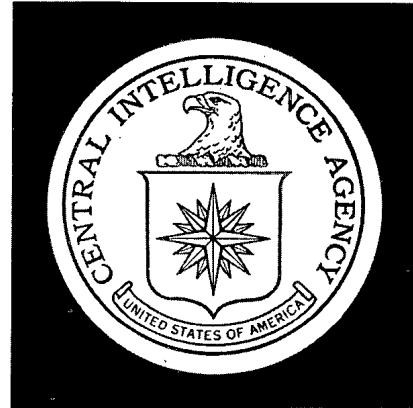
Ambassador Unger notes that Thai leaders have begun privately to express concern about US ability to win a military victory in South Vietnam. Also, the deputy prime minister has publicly called seizure of the Pueblo a dramatic example of the "fact" that Communists retain the initiative in Asia.

Thai leaders would like both additional US military aid and a mutual defense agreement. They can be expected to speak out loud and clear if their uneasiness increases.

So far, there have been no indications that the Thais are planning to renege on their commitment to supply an additional 10,000 troops to Vietnam. The troops are scheduled to arrive by mid-summer 1968.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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13 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

13 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Propaganda Roundup: Hanoi propaganda is continuing to hammer away on the theme that the Viet Cong offensive has "broken the backbone of the US war of aggression" and undermined the "puppet army and administration." An editorial in the Hanoi party daily yesterday pointed out that numerous allied installations have been destroyed and that the ability of the US to react to Communist efforts has been seriously hampered. The broadcast also claimed that the "current full-scale offensive" has driven the US into "tighter straits" and promised that such attacks would continue in order to weaken the allied position and prepare them for the "finishing blow."

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Hanoi Reports Messages to the American People: Hanoi on 10 February broadcast the text of a letter to the American people from one of the front organizations it claims has sprung up in South Vietnam in the wake of the current fighting. The letter, from the Front of National Democratic and Peace Alliance in Hue, rehashes the alleged hardships and indignities the Vietnamese people have suffered over the past several years at the hands of the Americans. This is the first effort of this type that the Communists have attributed to the new political organizations; it marks a further effort to give these groups permanence and credibility.

On 11 February, the North Vietnamese broadcast a letter from the Liberation Front's women's organization to American women. The letter asked American women "to demand an early end to this dirty war so that your sons and husbands are not forced to go there and kill South Vietnamese women and children."



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No Special Flight for Prisoners: The Canadians have informed Embassy Saigon that their efforts to arrange a special International Control Commission flight to Hanoi for today, to bring out the three US pilots, were unsuccessful. The next ICC flight is expected to go on Friday.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi and Liberation Front on Robert Kennedy Speech: Hanoi's initial references to Senator Robert Kennedy's Chicago speech are contained in two brief Vietnamese and Thai language broadcasts yesterday. Both broadcasts quote Kennedy as criticizing the US for "spending hundreds of millions of dollars to support the corrupt and impotent Saigon government." Neither broadcast contained any comment on the speech, and no English language or international broadcasts on it have yet been monitored.

The Liberation Front, in a 12 February Vietnamese language broadcast, included the same statements Hanoi attributed to Kennedy. It also reported that he said a political settlement is the only way to restore peace, that the Front should take part in all negotiations, and that escalation in Vietnam has reduced US prestige throughout the world. By way of comment, the Front broadcast stated that "although still far from the truth," Kennedy's words represent "the views of US political circles which realize that the US war in Vietnam and escalation have failed."

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The President's Daily Brief

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DAILY BRIEF
14 FEBRUARY 1968

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1. South Vietnam

The major Communist threat now appears to be centered in northern South Vietnam.

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The situation at Khe Sanh base and at Hue did not change overnight.

2. Communist China

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3. Communist China

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4. United Nations

Algeria has said it will challenge Taiwan's right to the Chinese seat in the Security Council when the Council meets today. Of the 15 Security Council members, ten voted for the seating of Peking in the last General Assembly; Canada abstained. Several supporters of Peking on the Council, however, believe the question should be decided in the Assembly.

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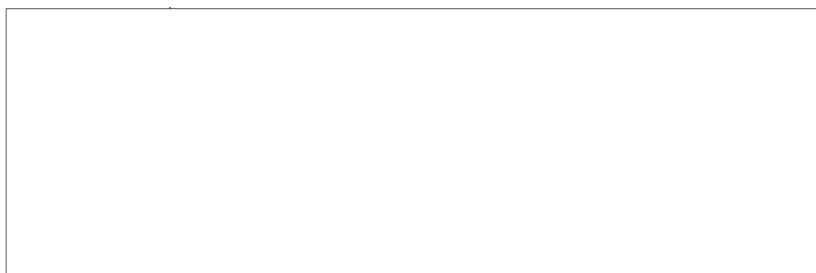
5. United Kingdom

Treatment of Prime Minister Wilson by the British press has improved as a result of his Washington visit. As of the middle of last week, the newspaper consensus about his trip was negative; most papers thought the timing was most inopportune.

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This changed during and after the visit when the press noted that the President had devoted more time to the talks than expected and had gone out of his way to emphasize the closeness of both personal and official ties. The trip is now seen as a clear gain for Anglo-American connections.

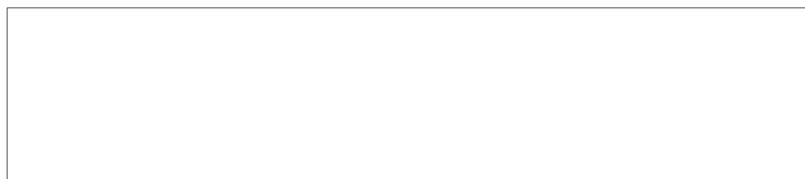
6. Cuba



7. West Germany

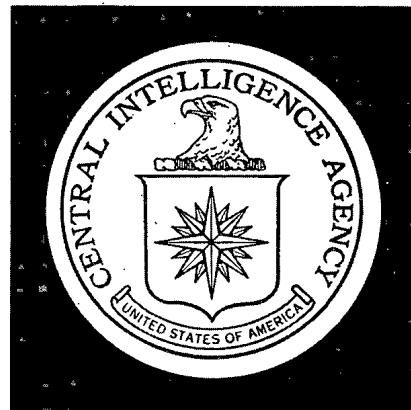
A mass anti-Vietnam rally scheduled in West Berlin next weekend will provide the first test of the Bundestag's recent statements about keeping student demonstrations in bounds. Embassy Bonn believes that this endorsement of decisive police action will assure adequate protection of US facilities, although minor damage will probably occur. The Berlin mission concurs.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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14 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

14 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Plays Down Tet Offensive: The North Vietnamese are continuing to describe the Communist offensive in South Vietnam as part of a longer term effort.

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An article in the North Vietnamese party daily, Nhan Dan, on 13 February also suggested that the current fighting would not be the final Communist effort. The article referred to the fighting as "the curtain raising victories" and called it an example of "relentless fighting and of firm maintenance and development of the revolutionary struggle."

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Hanoi Allows Some Non-Communist Visitors: After several months of denying visas to applicants from non-Communist countries, Hanoi is apparently once again allowing selected non-Communist individuals to enter North Vietnam.

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Hanoi Letter to General Westmoreland: Hanoi's latest English language broadcast to US servicemen in South Vietnam took the form of an open letter to General Westmoreland. The letter ridiculed "false optimism" on the part of the General and claimed that his attitude did not fit with the fact that the situation is growing worse for the Americans in South Vietnam. The broadcast pointed out that the General's "failure and that of Washington are as clear as daylight," and that the lesson he should draw from Vietnam is that "no violence can prevail over people's war."

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Yacht Phoenix Completes Mission: The Quaker yacht Phoenix reached Hong Kong on 13 February after delivering \$6,000 worth of medical goods to North Vietnamese officials at the port of Haiphong.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Senator Kennedy's Speech: North Vietnam added a bit more to its coverage of Senator Robert Kennedy's speech last week in Chicago. In a domestic broadcast on 13 February, Hanoi quoted several sentences of the speech and added that "press circles in the US" consider Kennedy's statement a "severe criticism of Johnson's policy." Hanoi has not yet referred to the speech in its international English language broadcasts nor have the North Vietnamese provided any independent comment on it.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 15 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
15 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

Menacing Communist troop movements continue in the central and eastern sectors of Quang Tri Province. The effect on popular morale in the province capital (Quang Tri city) has been severe. The people expect new attacks momentarily; the sudden departure of the Filipino nationals employed by the US provincial mission has not helped.



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The relative lull in the enemy's offensive against urban areas continued overnight. There were no significant ground probes in the Khe Sanh area.

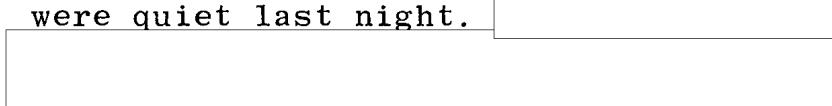
2. Laos

Government forces were driven from two positions west of Saravane yesterday, thus virtually closing the Communist ring around the city. It is unlikely that the two government battalions there can successfully resist a concerted enemy thrust.

The loss of Saravane would secure Communist control of infiltration routes in the southern panhandle and would deal a severe psychological blow to an already uneasy leadership in Vientiane.

3. Dominican Republic

All districts of Santo Domingo were quiet last night.



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4. Cambodia

Another package of material documenting North Vietnamese and Viet Cong use of Cambodia was sent to Phnom Penh yesterday. The Australian ambassador in Cambodia believes that the first batch of information was a real eye-opener for Sihanouk. He said that Sihanouk appreciates the restraint the President has applied and the care he has taken to avoid border violations. Sihanouk put the same thought in his own words last week when he told Look editor Attwood that the President was a "hawk about Vietnam, but a dove about Cambodia."

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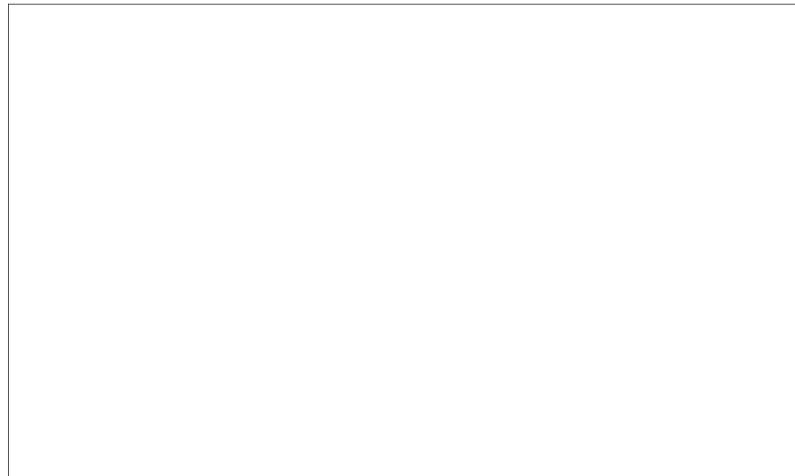
5. Bolivia

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6. West Germany -
France

Kiesinger arrives in Paris today at the head of a 50-man delegation, but the Germans are doubtful that even with that strength of number they will get far with De Gaulle. Differences over British entry into the Common Market and Willy Brandt's recent criticism of De Gaulle's policies have chilled the atmosphere. Public irritation with De Gaulle in West Germany now requires that Kiesinger avoid any sign of knuckling under as he searches for positive aspects of Franco-German relations to play up.

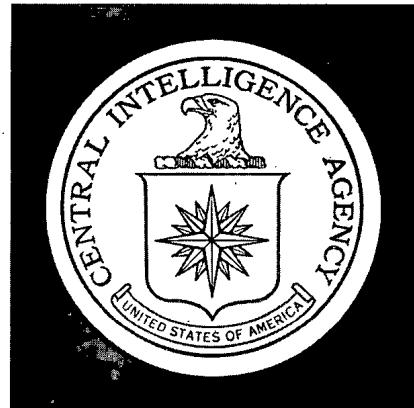
7. Canada



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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16
15 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

15 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Background on Trinh's Latest Interview: [redacted]

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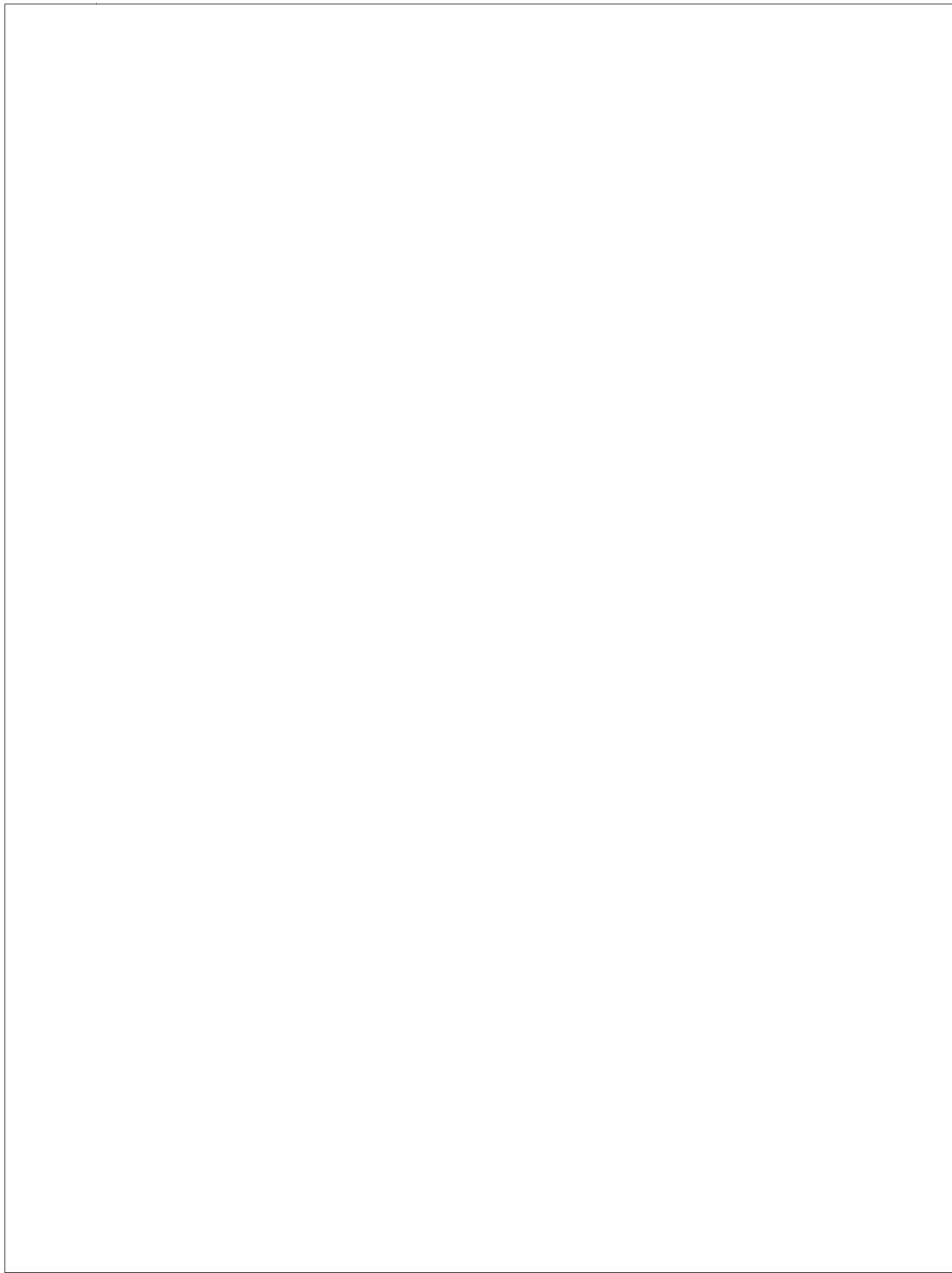
[redacted] the interview [redacted] obtained on 8 February with Foreign Minister Trinh came in response to a two-week-old request. This was the interview in which Trinh said talks with the US would begin "as soon as" the US had proven that it had stopped bombing and that the talks could cover a wide variety of subjects, including the war in the South. The French correspondent had submitted his questions in writing well ahead of the interview. Hanoi broadcast the interview even before the copy had reached the Paris office. In commenting on the interview, the correspondent said Trinh's new language meant that the talks could concern "the heart of the problem and the very solution of the war." The Foreign Ministry in Hanoi specifically approved this language in the correspondent's dispatch.

This explanation of the circumstances of the interview leaves little doubt that this was another attempt by Hanoi to keep the "will-talk" offer of late December alive in the world press and to make it seem as reasonable and forthcoming as possible.

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North Vietnamese Comment on Site for Talks
with US: North Vietnam is not bothering to think
about a possible site for preliminary talks with
the US, according to a North Vietnamese press

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official in Vientiane. In a discussion on 5 February about Communist successes in the recent Tet offensive, the official was asked if Laos was a possible site for the preliminary talks which the North Vietnamese had proposed. The location of such talks is no problem, said the press official; they could be held anywhere. The problem, he claimed, was the willingness of the Americans to negotiate.

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North Vietnamese Shipping Trends: A review of data on foreign shipping to North Vietnam during 1967 shows a striking change in the country's trade pattern as compared with 1966. Seaborne exports declined 51 percent in 1967, and imports rose 46 percent. This, of course, is attributable largely to the bombings.

Hanoi's growing dependence on foreign assistance was reflected last year in a 66 percent increase in seaborne imports from the Soviet Union and China. These two countries accounted for 79 percent of total seaborne imports.

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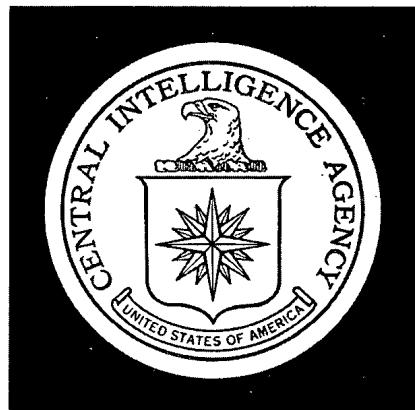
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Propaganda: Yesterday's English language international broadcast from Hanoi described a four-day fast by "more than 400 students" at Harvard, Radcliffe, and Boston University. It quoted a Harvard chaplain's description of the movement as "an expression to end the Vietnam war."

The same broadcast reported briefly a "recent" resolution by the National Council of Americans for Democratic Action "demanding that the Johnson ruling circles stop immediately the bombing of North Vietnam and put an end to all military acts in South Vietnam." The resolution, said Hanoi, pointed out that "one cannot tolerate further bloodshed" to keep the "military junta" in power in Saigon.

On another subject, the broadcast quoted a recent New York Times article giving the names of five soldiers who are allegedly seeking asylum in France "to protest the US dirty war in Vietnam."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 16 February 1968



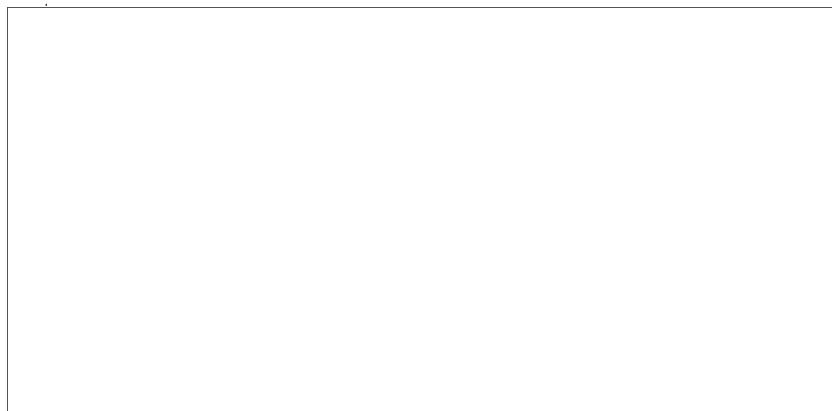
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DAILY BRIEF
16 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

The military situation did not change significantly overnight. Fighting continues in Hue and there were several sharp clashes on the outskirts of Saigon between allied sweep forces and Viet Cong units. The enemy continues menacing movements in the Quang Tri city area suggesting that another round of attacks may be forthcoming in that sector.

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2. Soviet Union

Moscow moved again yesterday to intensify frictions among the Western allies over the Berlin issue. In nearly identical letters to the US and British ambassadors, Moscow accused Bonn of trying to "undermine" the allied position in Berlin and of using Berlin "as a means of whipping up tension in Europe." The Soviet note to the French, however, merely noted that these letters had been sent and referred to the common Soviet-French interest in maintaining the status quo in Berlin.

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3. Israel-Jordan

Yesterday's fighting along the frontier was more extensive than the incidents that have been taking place almost daily for the past ten days. The Jordanians are jittery over the Israeli military build-up in the area last week. The Israelis have taken a very tough line in recent public statements. Still, there is no sign that the Israelis intend an early move across the Jordan river.

4. Greece-Turkey

It now appears that the Greek and Turkish foreign ministers really made a positive effort to bury the hatchet during their secret meeting early this month. They agreed to work toward settlement of some troublesome bilateral issues and even attacked the intractable Cyprus problem itself.

Their scheme for Cyprus involves the promotion of secret talks among the concerned parties for some form of constitutional accommodation between the island's Greek and Turkish communities. This plan is so fraught with pitfalls that it is hard to see how it can come to much. At least Athens and Ankara are now thinking positively, but Makarios has yet to be consulted.

5. Panama

Pre-election maneuvering has reached a dangerous stage, and Ambassador Adair warns that a direct confrontation between the opposing sides could come without warning. The forces of government candidate Samudio, faced with the likelihood of defeat at the polls in May, seem determined now either to lay the basis for a fraudulent vote or to cause a breakdown in the electoral system. The Arias forces are repeating their threat to fight any attempt to cheat them of victory.

6. Dominican Republic

At this point it looks as though Balaguer may have successfully faced down what could easily have become a very messy situation at the University of Santo Domingo. A massive show of military force, coupled with unusual restraint by the soldiers, seems to have brought rampaging students to heel.

The incident that set off the trouble on Wednesday came after more than a month of student unrest. [redacted]

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7. Brazil

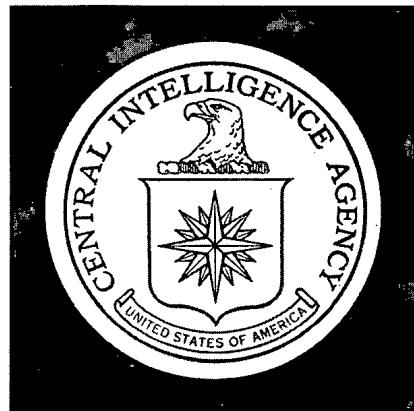
Costa e Silva is apparently not the man Brazilian military officers thought he would be when they put him where he is. Disenchantment is growing in the officer corps over the administration's clear ineptitude and over hints of corruption in high places. This reflects badly on the military as a whole, they say, and some officers are about to launch a drive for a thorough house cleaning. Among other things, they want to fire most of the cabinet and start over fresh.

The President himself is not threatened--yet, but he will have to meet the officers half way.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



Top Secret 50X1
16

16 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

16 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi on Bombing Halt: Hanoi has been in touch with a number of Western governments recently to present its case and to underscore its readiness to talk if the US stops the bombings. The Italian Foreign Office announced on 14 February that North Vietnamese representatives had contacted Rome early this month with such a message.

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The Swiss Government announced yesterday that its ambassador in Peking was en route to Hanoi to offer his country's good offices for a peaceful settlement. Although press reports say this was entirely a Swiss initiative, Hanoi doubtless chose the time by giving permission for the visit.

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French Press Report from Hanoi: French Press Agency correspondents in Hanoi took note of North Vietnamese current tactics in a story on 14 February. If the story was not actually inspired by the North Vietnamese, they probably at least approved of its contents. The story says that the Communists are trying to demonstrate simultaneously their military strength and their desire for a peaceful settlement. It claims the Communists, although "very satisfied" with the results of the offensive in the South, are stressing that it is not over yet and new attacks are likely if the US fails to stop the bombing and begin negotiations.

The story stresses the moves made by Hanoi to make its position appear more forthcoming. It concludes, however, that Hanoi does not intend to compromise on its demand for an unconditional bombing halt. If Washington insists on any form of reciprocity, even the "modified" version of President Johnson's San Antonio formula, the war will continue.

* * *

U Thant's Comments on his Contacts with North Vietnamese: Don Cook of the Los Angeles Times informed the US Embassy in Paris that one of his colleagues had managed to see U Thant in Paris yesterday. The following were said to be the secretary general's impressions:

--He could see no movement in Hanoi's position;

--Hanoi nevertheless appears very interested in getting talks started on the condition that the US stops bombing;

--U Thant thinks Hanoi would open talks within two weeks of a bombing halt;

--His conversations in Moscow forced him to the conclusion that there is no "give" in Russia's position, which continues to support Hanoi 100 percent;

--He cannot agree with Prime Minister Wilson's conclusion that differences between Hanoi and Washington are "very narrow";

--He is therefore returning to New York "not optimistic";

--A one-hour conversation with De Gaulle produced nothing of interest.

* * *

Hanoi Denies US Sent Envoy: Another French Press Agency item broadcast by Paris yesterday says that an "informed North Vietnamese source" in Hanoi has "categorically denied" reports that the US sent a special envoy to North Vietnam to explore prospects for peace. The story notes that Canadian ICC Commissioner Dier had been in Hanoi recently, but that he was not acting for the US.

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Bomb Damage in Haiphong: Bomb damage in the port is limited to certain sections of the city and is less serious than has been generally assumed, according to Robert Eaton, a member of the crew of the yacht Phoenix which was in Haiphong during late January. Eaton, who gave his views to a French correspondent in Hong Kong, also claimed that much of the city was deserted and that on a tour of the port he was shown civilian areas which had been damaged. Eaton claimed bombing effects were not evident in most sections, and that life was being conducted in a normal fashion in many areas.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

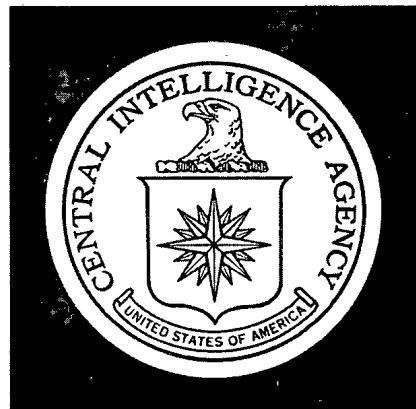
Hanoi Propaganda: Yesterday's English language broadcast by radio Hanoi contained a section devoted to quotes from recent statements on Vietnam by several members of the US Congress.

Senator Robert Kennedy's speech of 8 February came in for some more attention. He was quoted as saying that the Vietnam war could lead the US to national tragedy. Senator Mike Mansfield is quoted as saying last Sunday that the recent Viet Cong offensive had demonstrated that the Saigon political structure is no stronger today than it was three years ago. "Indeed," Mansfield is quoted, "its very survival appears more dependent on US military power than at any time in the past."

Senator Thruston Morton is quoted by Hanoi as saying that the tragedy of the US commitment in Vietnam is that most of the people of South Vietnam couldn't care less. Morton, Hanoi claimed, "again accused the Johnson administration of hoodwinking the American people about the war." Representative Margaret Heckler of Massachusetts is said by Hanoi to have accused General Westmoreland of "deluding" members of Congress.

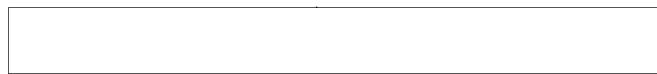
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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 17 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
17 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

Enemy tanks were sighted some five miles north of Con Thien yesterday. This is the first time tanks have been seen in this sector. Air strikes and artillery fire were ordered up, but the results are not yet known.

The Khe Sanh area has been quiet overnight except for occasional mortar fire.

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2. Communist China

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3. Soviet Union

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4. Soviet Union

Ambassador Thompson is not at all optimistic that Moscow will allow any of its major newspapers or magazines to publish an interview with President Johnson to reciprocate for the recent Kosygin interview in Life.

5. Korea

Press reaction in Seoul to the Vance mission has largely focused on the US refusal to agree on specific measures to cope with future North Korean provocations. A spokesman for the government party has called the communique inadequate and said that South Korea must rely on its own "independent" defense system. The opposition party has dismissed the communique as meaningless.

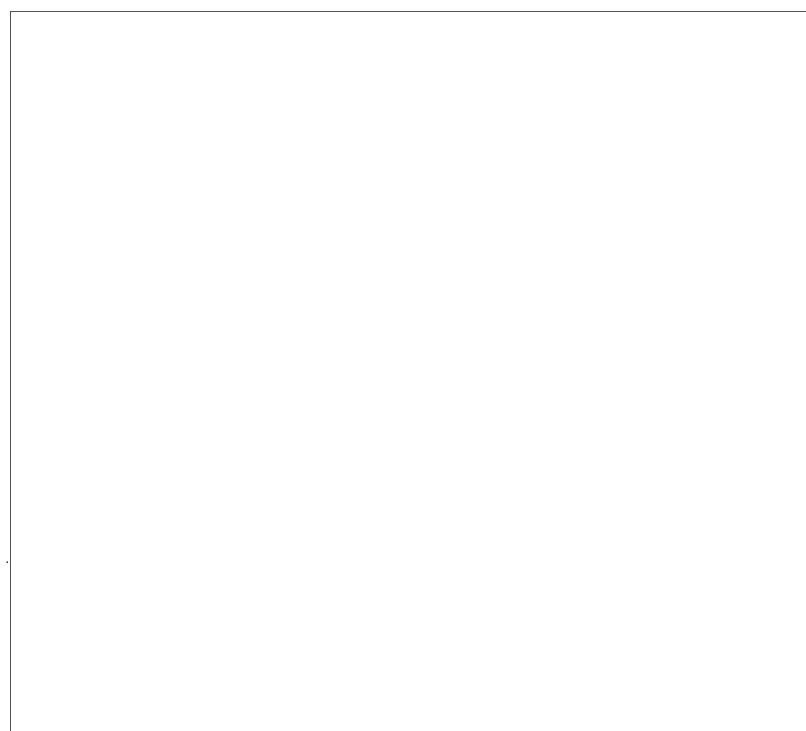
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6. Communist China

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7. Pakistan

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**8. West Berlin**

The sponsors of the anti-Vietnam "congress" in Berlin on Sunday seem determined to have a fight. They are telling the participants to wear protective hats and coats and to use flagstaffs and placard poles as weapons against the police. The amount of violence could well exceed earlier predictions.

The principal target is the US headquarters complex. Although more than 5,000 demonstrators may turn out, US officials believe that the police should be able to keep the full weight of the demonstrators from reaching the headquarters area.

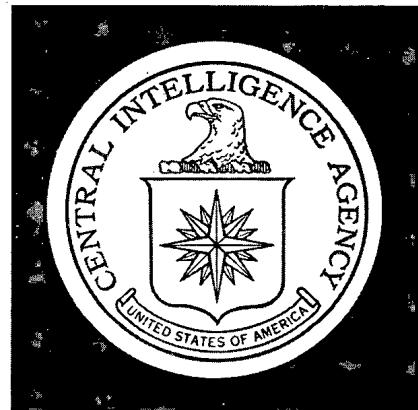
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9. West Germany

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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17 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

17 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Propaganda Roundup: A series of recent communiqués from several of the Viet Cong regional commands reviewing the military situation since the Tet offensive have indicated that the "victories" achieved in the past two weeks have only laid the groundwork for a more intensive period of fighting ahead.

Separate broadcasts carrying communiqués from the Communist commands in the highlands and in the delta detailed the victories recorded in the offensive and claimed that they produced "favorable conditions" for the advance toward "still greater victories." An editorial in the Hanoi party daily, broadcast on 16 February, employed the same theme. It claimed that the recent fighting had "smashed the enemy's grip on the countryside and loosed allied control in the urban areas." These successes, it claimed, have tipped the balance of forces in favor of the Communists and created favorable conditions for their "advancing toward total victory."

While promising new and greater victories, current Communist propaganda is also pointing out that such successes will be costly. On 14 February, the Liberation Radio, in analyzing the "successful struggle" in Saigon, pointed out that "no fierce difficulties, hardships, or sacrifices" can slacken the "surging thrust" of the people of the capital city. Other statements, employing the well-worn Communist theme--the greater its defeat the more fiercely the US will struggle--have warned of increased difficulties but have guaranteed that perseverance in duty will reap victory.

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Release of US Fliers: In its announcement of the release of the three US pilots which was broadcast yesterday, Hanoi specifically pointed out that the men had been freed through the auspices of the Vietnam Peace Committee, and not of any government or international organization. A release through government or international channels might have implied that the fliers had prisoner of war status under international agreement and were not "war criminals" as Hanoi contends.

The announcement also quoted the secretary of the peace committee as claiming that the release of the three men was a demonstration of North Vietnam's "lenient" and humanitarian policy. He asked the two US peace workers to tell their associates in the US that the work of the antiwar movement is greatly appreciated by the North Vietnamese people.

One of the Americans was quoted by Hanoi radio as saying his "basic needs" had been provided for during detention. He said he was happy to be going home and expressed gratitude for North Vietnam's "lenient policy."

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing significant to report at this time.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
19 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

The new round of Communist attacks has been directed thus far at targets in the southern provinces. Vinh Long in the delta and Phan Thiet on the coast east of Saigon have received the heaviest ground assaults. Casualties on both sides, however, have been considerably lighter than during the Tet offensive.

Saigon itself appears to be a high-priority enemy target. It received sporadic rocket and mortar fire overnight, and additional high-level Communist command elements have moved in nearer the city.

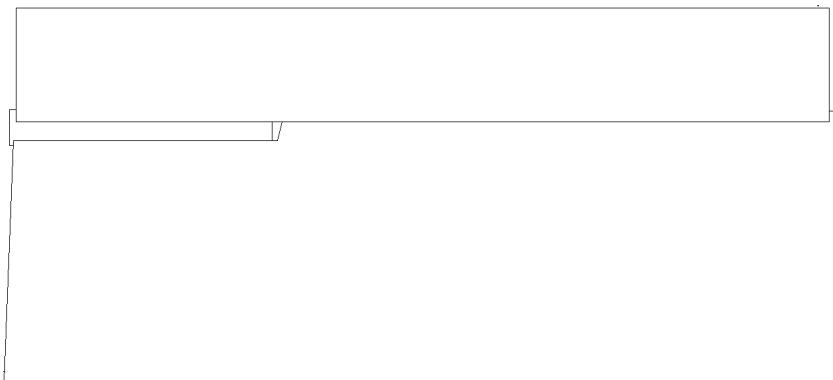
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The battle for the Citadel area of Hue continues to be indecisive.

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2. Soviet Union



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3. Pakistan

In a continuing effort to play down the seriousness of Ayub's illness, Pakistani newspapers over the weekend carried pictures of him in pajamas and robe with a newspaper in his lap. Defense Minister Khan--one of the three men currently holding the government reins--told Ambassador Oehlert that Ayub might wish to make a trip to Britain and the US as part of his recuperation. Khan suggested a meeting with the President might be arranged.

4. United Kingdom

A public opinion poll taken early this month gives the Tories a 22.5 percent lead--the greatest enjoyed by any party in the 31-year history of British polling. If this margin holds up, the Labor Party stands to lose five of the six seats for which by-elections are now pending.



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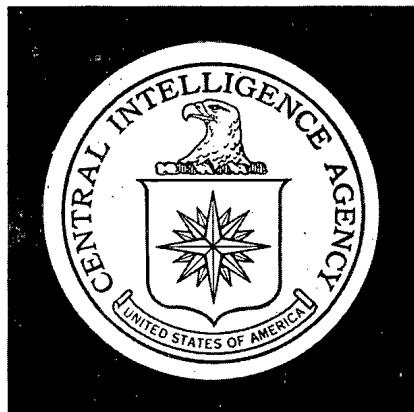
5. Laos

Over the strong objections of the Polish member, the International Control Commission has voted to visit the embattled city of Saravane. A preliminary ICC group is headed that way today and the commissioners are expected to follow about mid-week. Thus far, Laotian Army forces still hold the city.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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19 February 1968

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**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only**

19 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Communists Focus Attention on Northern South Vietnam: Despite the relative lull in new fighting so far in the northern part of South Vietnam, Vietnamese Communist propaganda continues to zero in on that area in particular. Recent Viet Cong and Hanoi broadcasts strongly imply that new military attacks will be accompanied by efforts to take over administrative control of wide areas in that part of the country.

The North Vietnamese party daily on 18 February carried an editorial praising "initial victories" in the current "general offensive and simultaneous uprisings" in central Vietnam (most of I and II Corps). It claimed that Communist forces have "turned the military and political tide" there and quoted a communiqué from the Communist command in that region saying that "vast rural areas" had been "liberated" and Saigon's control had been broken in a "string" of provincial capitals and towns. According to the paper, this put the Communists in a position to "overwhelm the enemy in many areas," and it promised even bigger and more resounding victories in the future.

Similarly, Hanoi came down hard on 18 February with an endorsement of the establishment of a new "People's Revolutionary Committee" of Thua Thien Province and Hue city, which was announced by the Viet Cong radio last week. The announcement claimed this committee was in process of taking over the administration of Thua Thien and Hue, and that Saigon's authority had been "liquidated" or was disintegrating. The new "provisional administration" allegedly has been set up under the auspices of the Hue city "National, Democratic, and Peace Alliance," a front group unveiled by the Communists at the opening of the Tet offensive. Le Van Hoa, who was surfaced earlier as head of the Hue "alliance," was also said to be chief of the new "revolutionary committee."

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Hanoi said the committee had decided to "wipe out the South Vietnamese administration structure at all levels," and to "recognize" new revolutionary committees allegedly being set up throughout the Thua Thien Province.

Much of this doubtless is sheer propaganda designed to bolster Communist claims that "revolutionary elements" from all parts of South Vietnamese society are rising up to topple the Thieu-Ky government. The persistence of the claims, however, and their continued evolution in the Thua Thien - Hue area suggests the Communists are determined to establish some sort of new political structure in this region through political agitation and organizational efforts now being conducted in both urban and rural areas.

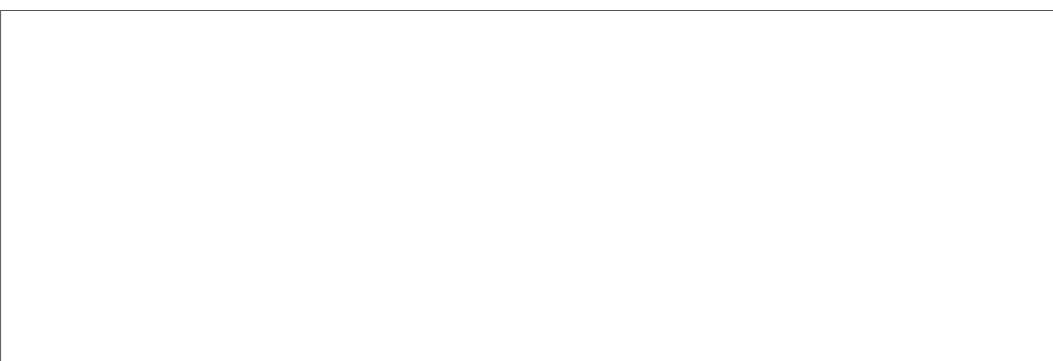
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Pham Van Dong on the San Antonio Formula: Father Berrigan, who has been in Hanoi in connection with the release of the US pilots, told the press about Pham Van Dong's statement, but the press has garbled the report. The following, according to Ambassador Sullivan, is the correct version: "President Johnson has given the impression that the San Antonio formula is an easy one to agree to. That formula however, is unacceptable. It imposes conditions. Johnson demands productive conversation. That imposes conditions. Only a conqueror can ask this. We repeat our demand for unconditional cessation of bombing. At that time we will talk seriously. When we make war, we do it seriously. So when we talk of peace, we will do that seriously."

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More on Trinh's Interview of 8 February: The French ambassador in Laos informed Ambassador Sullivan last week that Foreign Minister Trinh did not answer one of the questions posed by the French correspondent. That question was about the level and the composition of the negotiating teams which Hanoi has in mind for the talks it says it will agree to after a US bombing halt. The question was designed to draw out Hanoi on the role it envisaged for the Liberation Front in the talks. In his response to the question, Trinh simply noted that he preferred not to answer it now, but "would be pleased to reconsider at a later date."

Ambassador Sullivan has the impression that Paris may be feeding questions to the French correspondent in Hanoi in an effort to smoke out answers of interest to French policy.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Antiwar Activities in the US: On Saturday, Hanoi's international broadcast service referred to a speech of 15 February by John Kenneth Galbraith. Hanoi reported that Galbraith had "pointed out that the Saigon regime would certainly be defeated

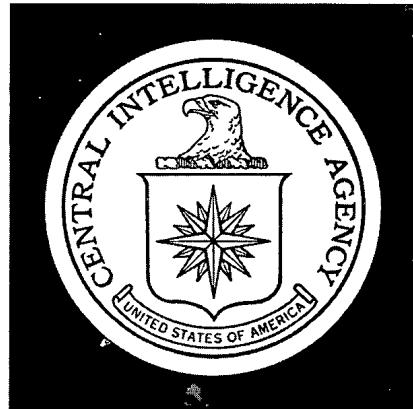
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and its army would disintegrate." The broadcast went on to say that Galbraith had also "stressed that the recent military offensive of the National Liberation Front testifies to the wide support being given the Front by the population."

The same broadcast claimed that more than 4,500 US law professors and students from 50 universities had signed a statement opposing US policies on Vietnam. The drive to collect signatures is continuing, the broadcast claimed.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
20 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

Communist military activity in South Vietnam declined in intensity yesterday and last night, though sporadic new rocket and mortar attacks were made against the Khe Sanh airfield and various other points in the country.

Enemy troops are still holding parts of two provincial capitals they attacked on Sunday. Allied forces have made only minor progress in the Hue Citadel and there are more signs that the Communists are trying to bring more troops into the Hue area.

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Kosygin's weekend speech revealed new signs that the Soviets are worried about how the US may respond to the Communist offensive in Vietnam. The Premier's line was that now the time has come for the US to take the road toward peace, that Trinh's statements have cleared the ground for such movement, and that escalation can only end in grief for the US.

For some time now, Moscow has shown growing concern that the Tet offensive may only make the war longer, costlier, and more dangerous. The Soviets have even doctored up some Liberation Front statements before publishing them in Moscow--evidently because the statements were tougher than Moscow thought they should be.

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3. Czechoslovakia

Ferment inside the Communist party is growing. All over the country local party units are demanding liberalization. This pressure from below--most of it based on genuine grievances with the old system--will strengthen Dubcek's hand at the top of the party structure. Even the old-time party war horses are bending to the pressure and talking publicly about the need for cutting back drastically on the party's power and influence.

The next Central Committee meeting, now expected in March, will probably be the occasion for announcing some personnel and organization changes. But the Czechs are a legalistic people and the changes will be carefully studied before being implemented.

4. Singapore

Lee Kuan Yew is assured of an all-out victory for his party in the April elections. Opposition candidates will contest only seven of the country's 58 constituencies--and these seven hardy souls will most likely lose.

5. Middle East

Unless there is some progress toward an over-all settlement by 2 March when the Arab foreign ministers meet, Jordan may well be forced by internal pressures to go to the Security Council; this would mean that the Jarring mission has failed. In the Security Council, now more pro-Arab than last year, the blame for the failure of the mission will likely be placed on Israel.

6. Panama

President Robles said [redacted]

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[redacted] that he may have to postpone the 12 May presidential elections unless the current political crisis eases. The struggle between the opposing candidates for control of the electoral machinery remains unresolved. Tempers are high, and a rash move by Robles could easily set off violence.

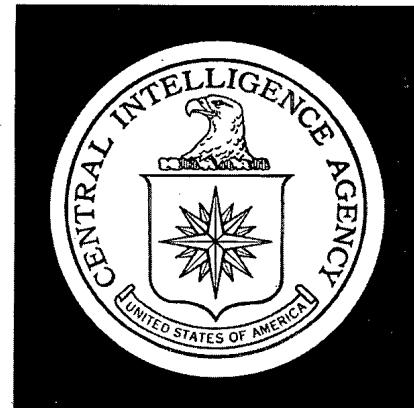
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Arnulfo Arias has already warned that he will move to impeach Robles if there is any tampering with the election schedule. Should Robles announce a postponement, the indignation would be great. Arias might then gain just enough support in the Assembly to pull off an impeachment.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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20 February 1968

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

20 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Communists Single Out Quang Tri Front: In a propaganda statement designed to buttress Communist preparations for large-scale offensive operations in the northern part of South Vietnam, the Viet Cong radio on 18 February described the "Quang Tri Front" as "a giant noose that is tightening around the necks of US troops." The commentary singles out Khe Sanh as a place where the US is worried about a "new Dien Bien Phu - type battle." It draws the most direct parallels between Dien Bien Phu and Khe Sanh yet noted in enemy propaganda, but it does not limit the Communist threat to that area. The commentary claims that Communist actions in Quang Tri Province since the opening of the Tet offensive have driven allied forces into "a state of complete encirclement" from the coastal area to the mountains around Khe Sanh.

The broadcast also takes note of one of the principal elements of enemy strategy in saying that main force units are being used to disperse and tie down allied troops while local and guerrilla forces intensify their activities throughout the provinces. It claims that this action so far has created favorable conditions for dealing the US "new decisive blows." It concludes by praising Communist forces and says their activities will be the forerunner of "a new Dien Bien Phu-type of heavy defeat for the enemy."

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Peking Views: The Chinese have once again reiterated their opposition to third-party efforts to obtain a negotiated settlement in Vietnam. A Peking broadcast yesterday asserted that U Thant's recent overseas trip and Prime Minister Wilson's trip to the US and the Soviet Union were part of Washington's effort to intensify the "peace talks fraud" in "collusion" with the Soviets. The broadcast did not mention the widely publicized North Vietnamese contacts with Thant, but it predicted that the Vietnamese would not be fooled by the "trick" and would continue fighting until the US was defeated.

The broadcast is part of Peking's increased propaganda commentary on Vietnam, which rose in volume last week to the highest level in three years. The bulk of the propaganda is devoted to hailing Communist "victories" in Vietnam, and there has been no significant departure from previous Peking pronouncements.

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Comment on San Antonio Formula: The Hanoi party daily issued one of the Communists' most direct and lengthy rejections of the San Antonio formula on 18 February. Calling the formula a "double-dealing trick," the commentary promised that Hanoi would reject any "other US moves for reciprocity."

The article also went back to earlier tough language that the US must stop the bombings "definitively and unconditionally." North Vietnam has omitted the word "definitively" in important policy statements in recent months and has used it only infrequently in more routine propaganda commentary. Its reappearance in this article does not appear to represent a stiffening of Hanoi's demands for a cessation of bombings. On more authoritative levels and through diplomatic channels Hanoi continues to use the formulation "unconditionally."

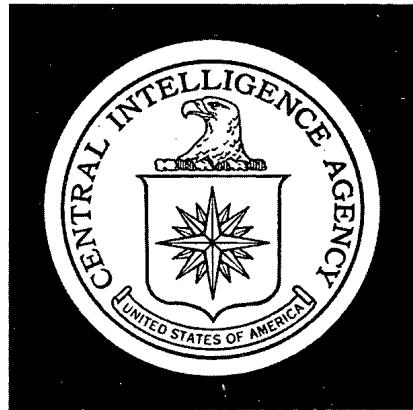
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 February 1968

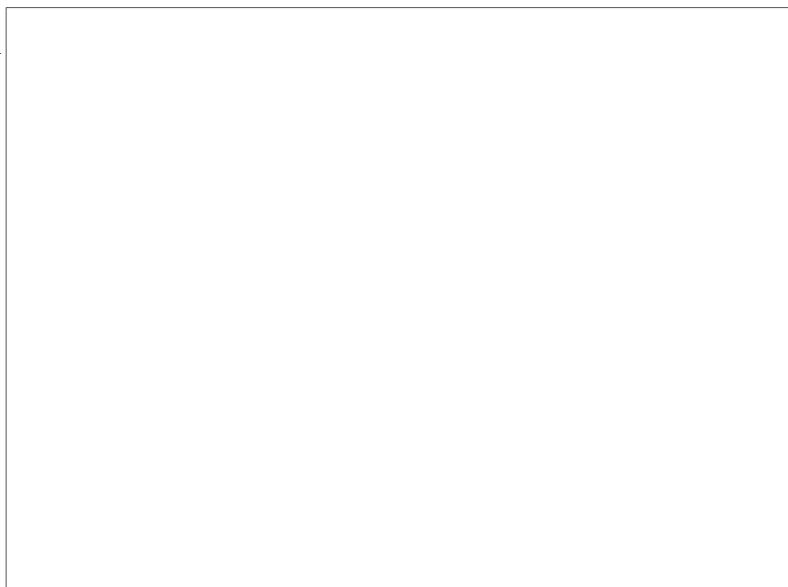


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DAILY BRIEF
21 FEBRUARY 1968

1. Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

The situation in Saigon has been relatively quiet, but sharp skirmishes continue on the outskirts. The enemy could be using the lull to infiltrate additional manpower into the city. Should Saigon's security situation deteriorate, the Communists might well try to move in with their substantial main force elements which are still within striking distance.

In other areas, no major new attacks have been reported.

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3. Pakistan



4. Soviet Union

Embassy Moscow learns that the Soviet authorities have been making widespread arrests to combat private circulation of literature which the state is unwilling to publish. Trials of writers, similar to those recently held in Moscow and Leningrad, have been reported in a number of cities throughout the country. These developments can only mean that the conflict between the regime and the intellectual community is getting steadily worse.

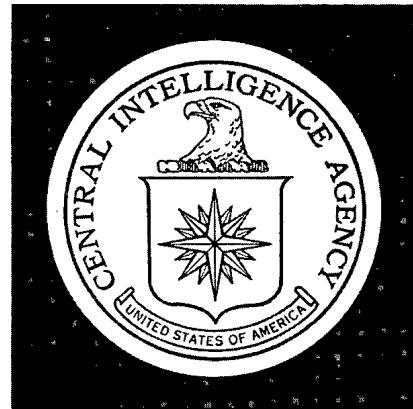
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5. Cambodia**6. Greece**

The junta is passing the word that it will produce a draft constitution ready for a popular vote "before July." The government now is said to be working on articles concerning the composition of the parliament and the council of ministers, as well as the powers of the King. Nothing yet has been said about a date for parliamentary elections.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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21 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

21 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese Diplomatic Offensive: North Vietnamese representatives abroad continue to press Hanoi's views on negotiations and to stress Communist willingness to engage in talks if the US makes the first move by stopping the bombing. In the past three weeks the North Vietnamese have taken the initiative to state their case to a whole series of non-Communist countries.

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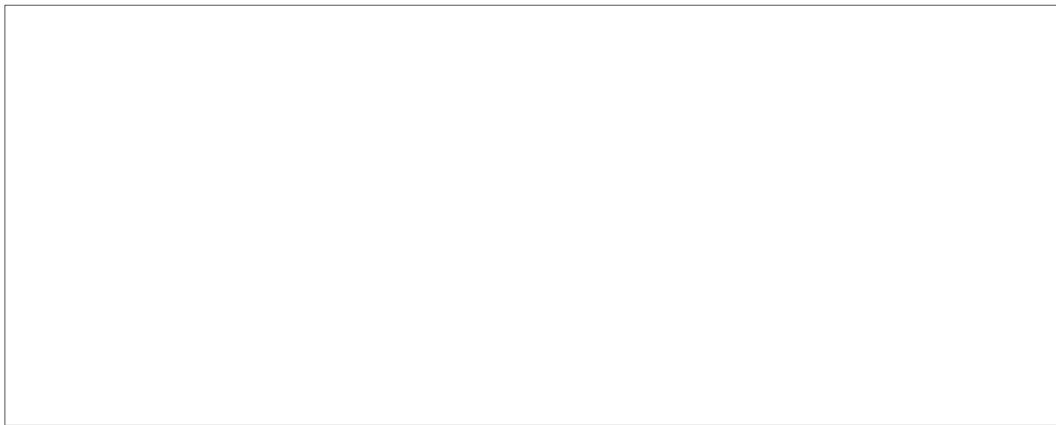
Chemical Warfare Defenses: The French Press Agency reported from Hanoi on 15 February that the North Vietnamese government council ordered a strengthening of organizations for defensive measures against chemical and bacteriological warfare "at every level" throughout the country. At the same time, the council ordered dissemination of information on protective methods, stepped up training of "sanitary cadre" and a nationwide anti-insect and anti-vermin campaign.

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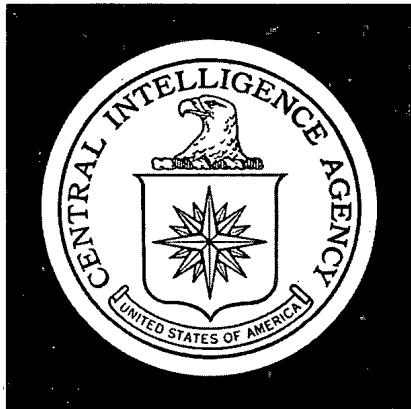
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Says US has Post-Tet Difficulties: An unsigned article in the North Vietnamese army journal, broadcast on 19 February, portrayed the "difficult position" in which the US is now finding itself following the Tet offensive. It forecast a "gloomy picture" for Mr. Clifford's takeover at the Department of Defense and cited a series of present US "setbacks" which would contribute to the bleak situation. The Pueblo incident, the fall of Nam Bac, and the loss of the Special Forces camp at Lang Vei were listed. The article went on with a series of questions related to the future conduct of the war and claimed that the American leaders would not be able to answer them. They must realize, it said, that the military front recently opened in the urban areas of the South "will last a long time and will totally reverse US strategies and tactics, which have been very bad." Measures such as sending an additional 10,000 men into Vietnam, the broadcast concluded, were like putting a handful of salt in the sea.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 February 1968



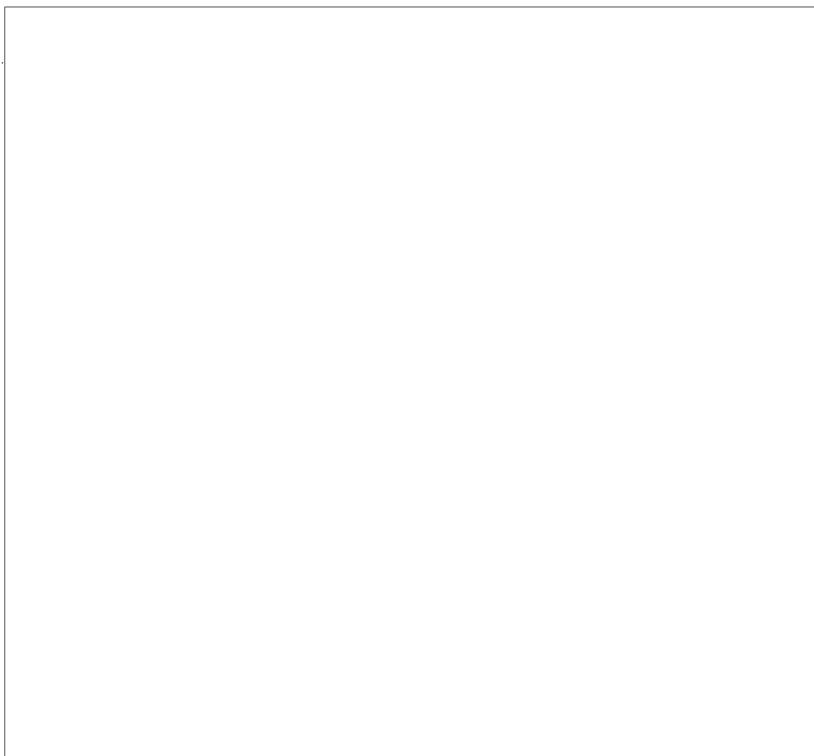
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DAILY BRIEF
22 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

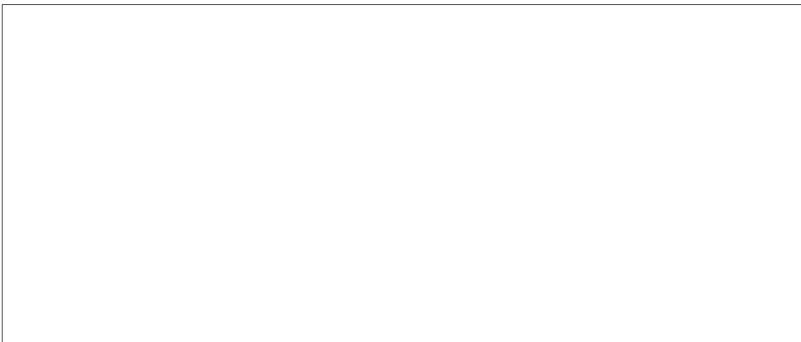
Sharp fighting continues around Saigon. Elsewhere, there have been no significant changes in the military situation during the night.

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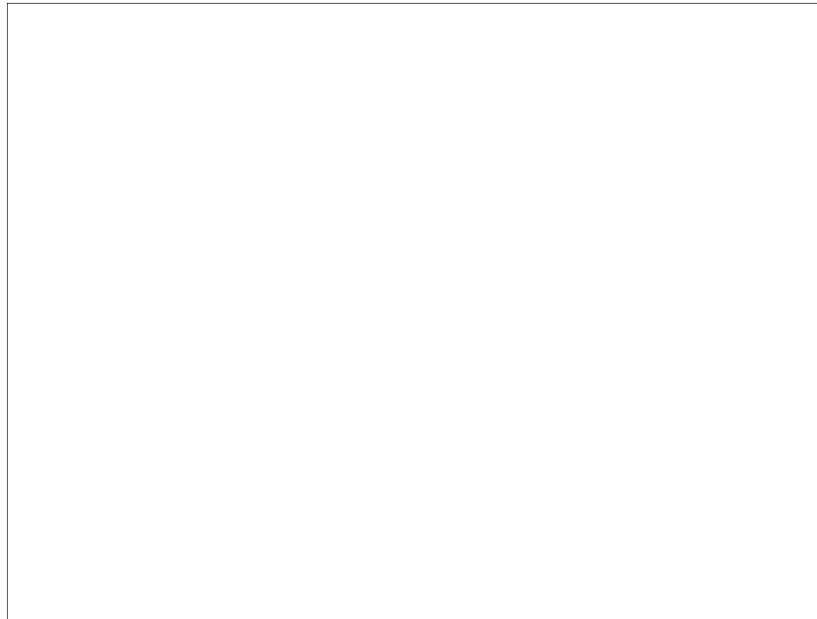
2. Geneva Conference

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3. Japan



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4. Laos



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5. Panama

Robles has further inflamed the bitter struggle for control of the electoral machinery by engineering the suspension of two pro-Arias electoral judges. If the judges are in fact dismissed, Arias might carry out his threat to impeach Robles or call a massive march on Panama City.

Robles has assured Ambassador Adair that he will maintain public order and respect democratic processes. The National Guard, which feels caught in the middle, was put on full alert Tuesday and probably could keep order in the short run.

6. Communist China

Posters attacking one Chi Pen-yu have recently been seen in Peking. This personage was a charter member of the radical Cultural Revolution group set up in 1966 and one of its chief spokesmen throughout last year. He was also one of the last of the group to be publicly active, most of the rest having faded from sight back in September.

These attacks on Chi, apparently officially inspired, strengthen our belief that the radical elements in the leadership continue to lose ground.

7. Soviet Union

On 12 February the Soviets made the first test flight of a new launch vehicle, probably intended for a weapons system.

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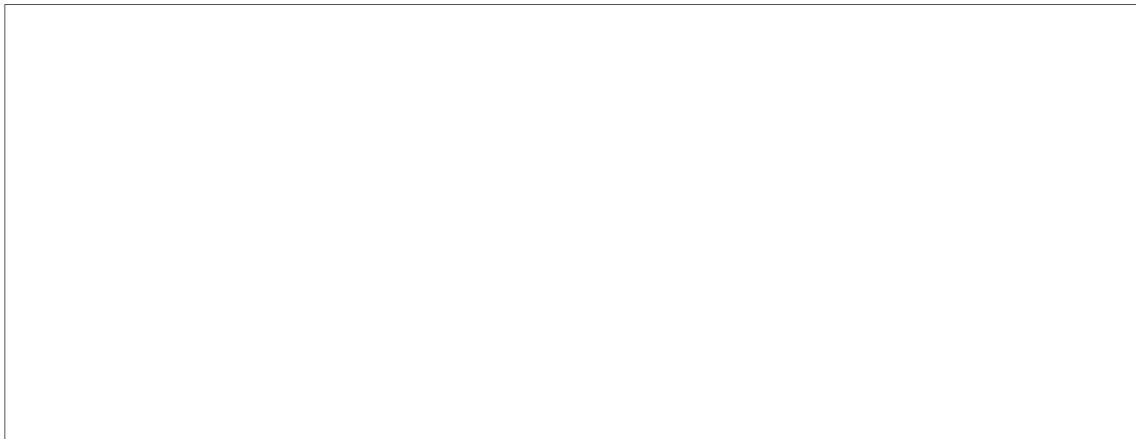


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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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22 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

22 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnam Claims Civilian Casualties: Hanoi's claim on 10 February that 800 civilians were killed or wounded by US air strikes around Hanoi, Haiphong, and Vinh Linh during the last three months of 1967 is comparable with periodic claims made during the first nine months of last year. The February claim increased Hanoi's reported total of civilian casualties for 1967 to about 5,000.

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Hanoi Atmospherics: [redacted] comments on life in Hanoi at the end of last month:

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--Some efforts were made during Tet to brighten up the state store. More goods were on display for those fortunate enough to obtain permission to shop there. Prices were very high, however, with the cheapest, smallest transistor radio selling for three times the average worker's monthly wage and a bicycle selling for ten times his monthly wage.

--Every major government building is being equipped with its own massive bomb shelter. The embassies of the Communist nations are following suit, but the non-Communist representatives continue to live unprotected.

--New Year's Day (29 January) brought out large and happy crowds of people who enjoyed themselves for 24 hours [redacted]

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[redacted] The temper of the masses as it was displayed during Tet does not suggest war weariness so severe as to be a critical factor in the situation.

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Hanoi Promotes a General with Experience in South Vietnam: A North Vietnamese broadcast indicates that a major general with a long background in South Vietnamese military affairs has been promoted into a defense ministry job in Hanoi, presumably after giving up his former responsibilities in the South.

The broadcast says that Major General Nguyen Don, identified as vice minister of national defense and an alternate member of the party committee, is in Moscow heading up a delegation to the celebrations of Soviet army day. Don has been identified for years by prisoners and captured documents as a leading figure in the Viet Cong military command structure in South Vietnam. In the early 1960s he became commander of Viet Cong Military Region Five, which covers most of the northern half of South Vietnam. One prisoner captured a year ago claimed that he had been demoted to deputy commander of the region in mid-1966, but there is no other evidence of this. There has been no hint of Don's activities over the past year or so.

General Don's move to the defense ministry may be a routine personnel shift for a man with many years of active duty in the South. His trip to Moscow and his new position indicate he is still in good standing, and it seems likely that in his new job he will continue to play an important military role. It is even possible that he was shifted to the defense ministry in order to provide the Hanoi high command with the benefit of his specialized knowledge of the situation in the northern half of South Vietnam, where the Communists now seem to be focusing their attention.

* * *

Swedish Ambassador in Peking Travels to Hanoi Today: The Swedish ambassador to China, Leonart Petri, is scheduled to travel to Hanoi on 22 February,

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This will be Petri's second trip to North Vietnam. It also is the latest step in Hanoi's current campaign to present its position on settling the war to representatives of Western and neutralist governments.

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the Swiss ambassador to Peking, who has been in Hanoi for the past three days, was scheduled to return to China on the evening of the 21st. In part, the ambassador's visit was apparently to establish some form of diplomatic relations with North Vietnam. According to a 21 February announcement of the Swiss foreign minister, the ambassador has been named official "representative" to North Vietnam--a position involving "purely technical contacts" with the North Vietnamese, but not to be construed as full diplomatic recognition. France is the only other non-Communist European country with which Hanoi currently has diplomatic relations.

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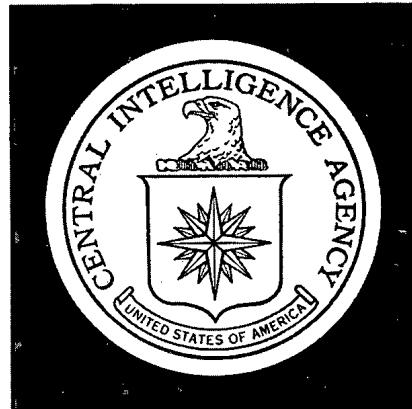
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Praises US Writers Who Oppose the War: In its English language broadcast of 21 February, Hanoi included a message from several Liberation Front writers' organizations to a group of 448 American writers and editors who have refused to pay a "war tax" and who are opposed to "Johnson's war policy." The message predicted that the American people would oppose more strongly "the Johnson administration's immoral war policy" and would demand that the US settle the war on Communist terms.

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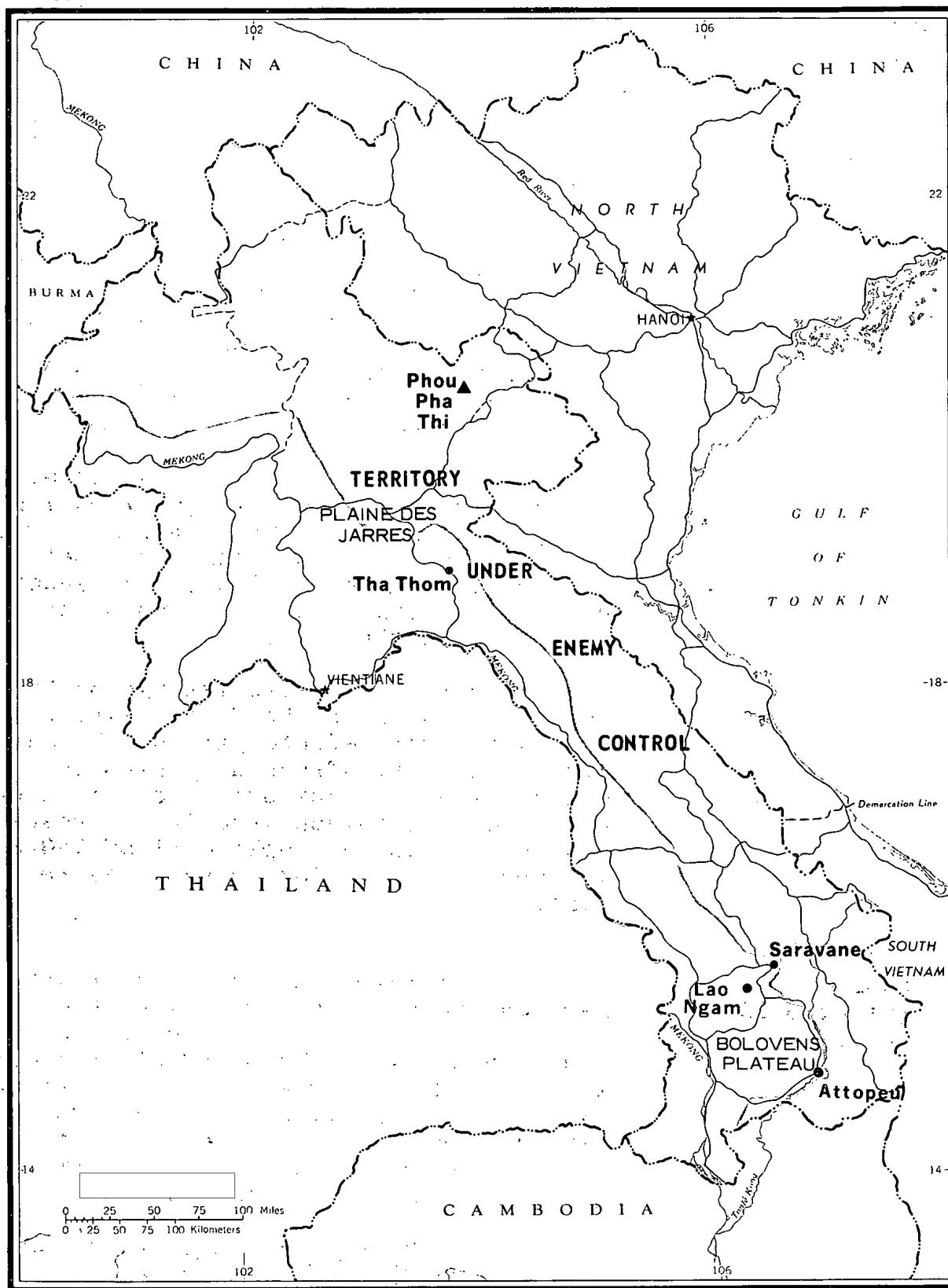
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LAOS



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DAILY BRIEF
23 FEBRUARY 1968

1. Vietnam

Several Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army units have moved closer to Saigon, possibly in preparation for new attacks on the city.

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2. Laos
(as of 5:30 AM
EST)

The anticipated Communist attack on Saravane appears to have begun this morning.

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3. North Korea

Washington analysis of the BLACK SHIELD mission flown earlier this week bears out the preliminary field findings that there have been no major changes in Korean military dispositions. Rail and road traffic along major lines of communication was at routine levels. The southern two-fifths of North Korea was covered with fair to good photography.

The Pueblo was not seen, but the area in which it had been anchored at the time of the last photography on 26 January was cloud-covered.

4. Soviet Union

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5. Canada

Pearson is faced with the formidable tasks today of maneuvering another confidence vote and then winning it. Even if he succeeds on both counts, however, the prospects for his minority government are bleak. The four opposition parties have shown a growing determination to force elections and a caretaker Liberal government under someone such as Foreign Minister Martin would have serious difficulty continuing with this parliament.

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6. Czechoslovakia

The Dubcek regime has announced a wide-ranging political "action program" which, if carried out, could drastically reduce the influence of the Communist party. The program gives expanded powers to the parliament and provides for an end to the party's interference in the management of state, economic, and social institutions.

Conservative forces entrenched in the party and government can be expected to fight full implementation of the program although they have been on the defensive since the ouster of Novotny from the top party post. Moscow, too, is showing signs of concern over both the effect of the program on Czech stability and the prospect that the liberal germ will infect more of Eastern Europe.

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7. Panama

Arias' threats to impeach Robles and stage a massive march on Panama City have thus far kept the Supreme Court from suspending two pro-Arias electoral judges. Both sides are showing some signs of trying to get off the collision course, but tensions remain high and the National Guard continues on full alert.

8. Guatemala

New terrorist attacks in Guatemala City on 21 February took the life of an official of the US-owned International Railways of Central America and seriously injured a second. Neither man is a US citizen. In a separate incident the same day, a police agent was killed when bombs exploded under police cars guarding the homes of the chief of the judicial police and the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

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23 February 1968

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

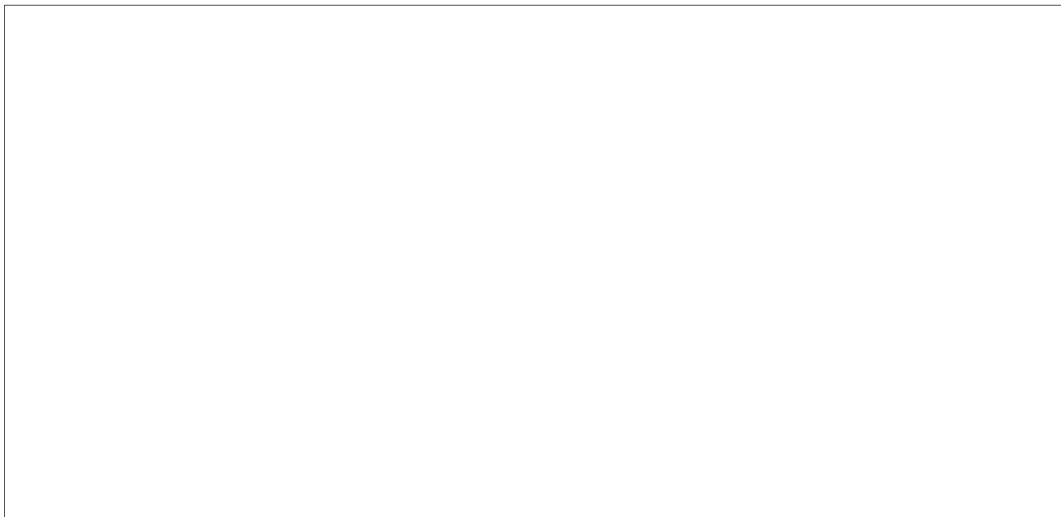
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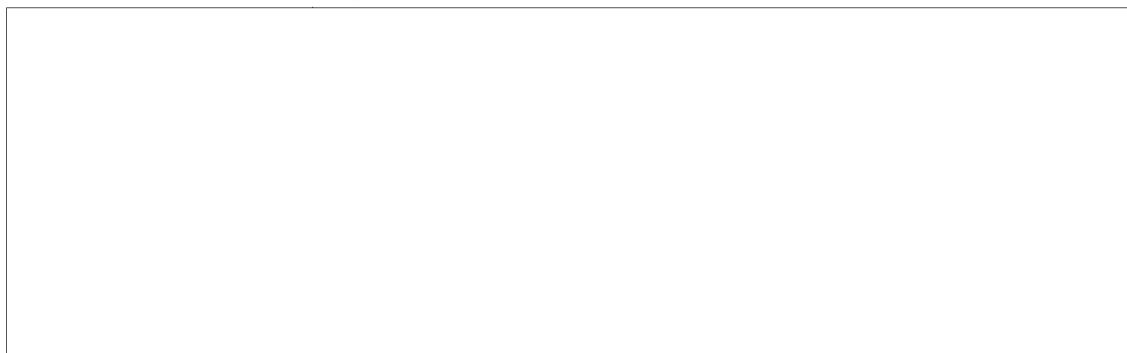
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Observations of Conditions in Hanoi:

[redacted] who lived in Hanoi during last year thinks that US bombing of targets in the Hanoi area was relatively ineffective. He said this was partly because of successful camouflage and deception techniques employed by the North Vietnamese. He also says that textile mills and a training school for party and government cadres are "strategic" targets which have not been touched by the bombing.

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This observer said that by late November there was a chronic shortage of food in Hanoi caused by transportation problems. Food was plentiful in the countryside but city markets were often bare. Other observers have reported the same thing. This is partly true, but depleted markets seem also to be the result of governmental dispersal of marketing facilities and the abandonment of some markets because of the evacuation of residential areas.

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Like other reporters, [redacted] also noted that the regime's control apparatus remains strong, and apparently is effective in overcoming many of the problems caused by the war. He said the people are still well disciplined and their morale seems high, partly because of the all-pervasive government organization and control of daily life. He noted there were rumors of resistance and undefined "political activity" among Catholics, but his knowledge was based on hearsay [redacted]

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[redacted] Unrest, discontent, and war weariness doubtless is widespread in North Vietnam, but there is no sign of any situation developing into a serious threat to the regime's control apparatus.

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More on Hanoi's Diplomatic Drive: The North Vietnamese diplomatic initiative in Sweden apparently did not amount to much. It probably was simply another attempt to spread the word that Hanoi is ready to talk any time the US is willing to stop the bombing unconditionally. A Swedish broadcast on 21 February says the talks between the North Vietnamese ambassador to Moscow and the Swedes have produced much speculation, but no indications of movement in the Communist position. Swedish Foreign Minister Nilsson publicly denied that North Vietnam had asked for any help in arranging contact with the US or that he had anything new to relay to Washington.

[redacted] 50X1

Nonetheless, the Swedish ambassador to Peking is headed for Hanoi soon, and, according to the press, he will be accompanied by the personal secretary to Foreign Minister Nilsson.

* * *

French Communist to Hanoi: The secretary general of the French Communist party may be headed for Hanoi soon. His visit has been expected for some time, and a French Press Agency report on 22 February states that it may occur soon. Hanoi doubtless will use it as one more opportunity to push its case for a bombing halt.

Hanoi's Wheat Flour Imports: This month the Soviets completed the 1967 contract for delivery of 150,000 tons of wheat flour to North Vietnam.

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[redacted] In the past, Hanoi had generally imported a little over 100,000 tons of food annually; wheat flour was generally not included and is not customarily part of the North Vietnamese diet. Domestic food production in North Vietnam was poor last year, however, and in some areas as much as 40 percent of the monthly grain ration for individuals now consists of wheat flour.

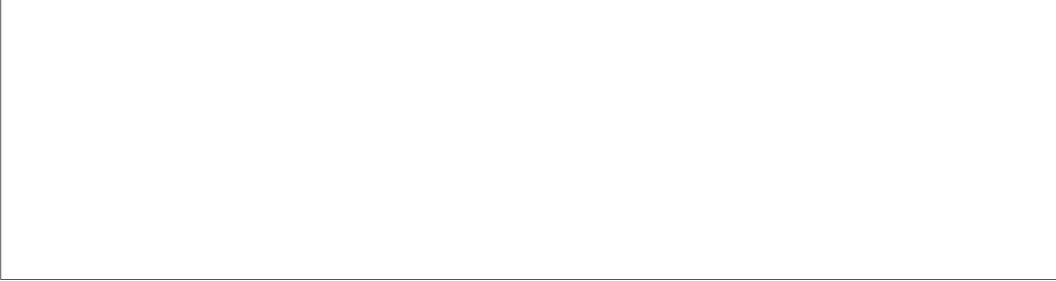
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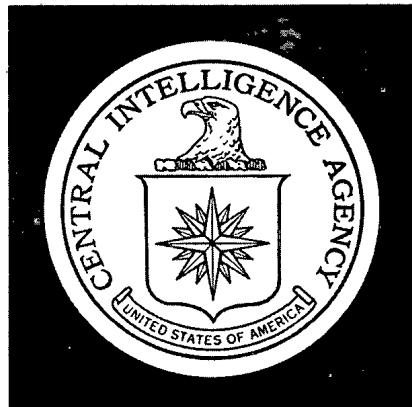
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Antiwar Movement in US: A Hanoi broadcast of 22 February takes note of a message sent by the four Intrepid sailors denouncing the Vietnam war and appealing to Americans for backing of the antiwar movement. The broadcast also reports that an organization has been set up in Sweden to help US soldiers who refuse to participate in the war and have deserted to Sweden. It says that more than 20 Americans have chosen this course so far. The broadcast also cites an Associated Press item reporting antiwar sentiments at Harvard University, where a poll of graduate students is said to have shown overwhelming sentiment against the war.

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The President's Daily Brief

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DAILY BRIEF
24 FEBRUARY 1968

50X1

1. South Vietnam

Saigon remains relatively quiet, but firefights persist on all sides of the city.

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Several cities in the north also appear threatened. These include Da Nang, Quang Tri, and Hoi An. In the delta provinces, the signs are especially bleak. The Viet Cong have overrun many rural areas, while South Vietnamese forces remain tied down defending the cities. The Communists have been having such success in their recruitment drives in the delta countryside that their strength seems greater now than it was prior to the Tet offensive, despite their heavy casualties.

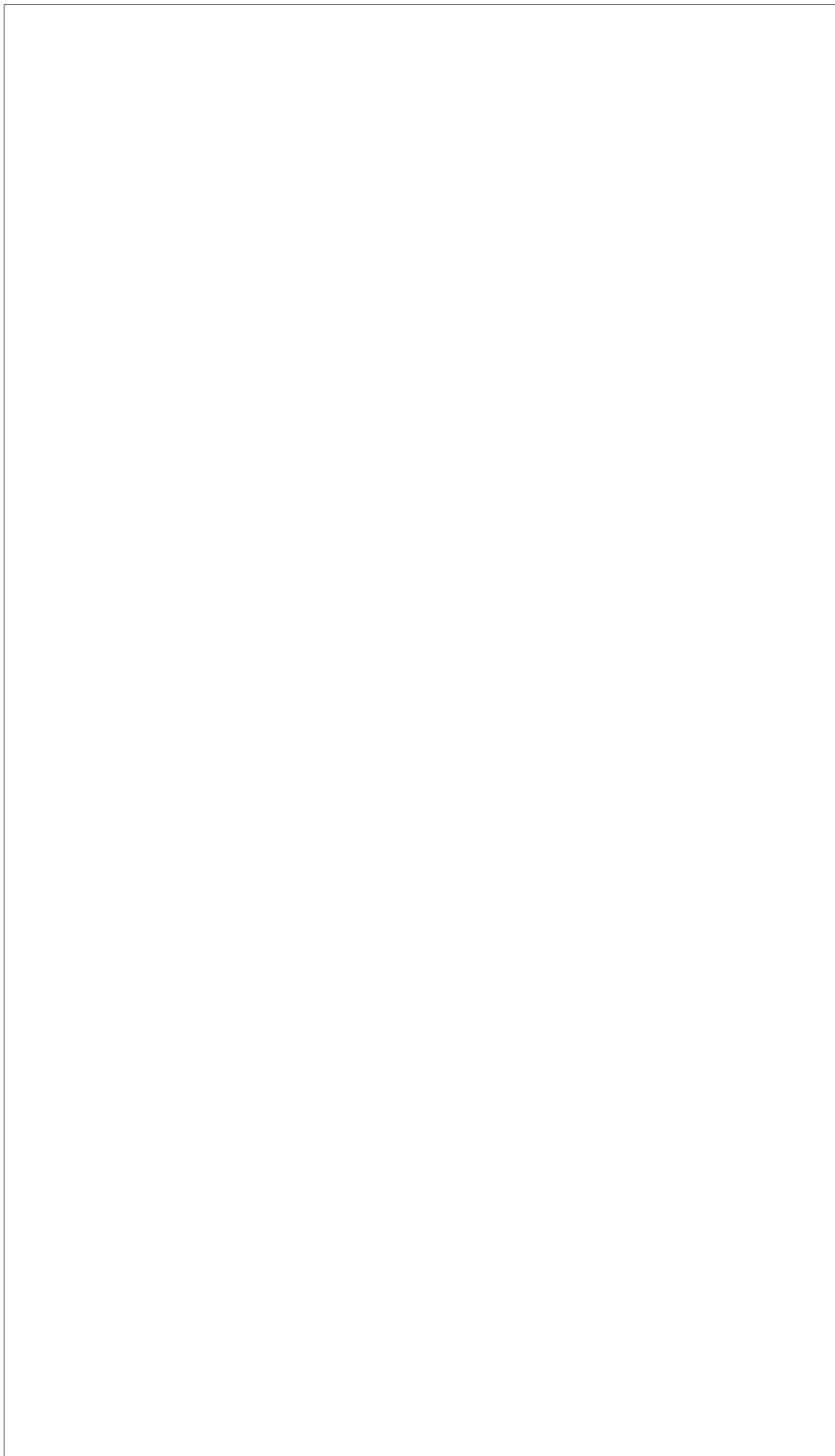
2. Laos

At last word, Communist forces around Saravane had not yet followed up yesterday's artillery attacks with a ground assault on the town. A few miles to the southwest, however, heavy fighting was reported under way most of yesterday at the Laotian regimental headquarters at Lao Ngam. However, suggests that the attackers had been repulsed.

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3. Japan

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4. Thailand

Government forces are finding it very rough going as they try to sweep several hundred tribal insurgents out of the northern mountains.

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5. India

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6. Panama

No significant change.

7. Cyprus

Makarios had expected to be unopposed in tomorrow's presidential election, but he was wrong. He has given up union with Greece as a practical objective, and the pro-unionists have put up their own man, a prominent psychiatrist. The Archbishop will probably swamp the psychiatrist, but Cypriot passions are quick to rise over the union issue, and there may be some unpleasantness.

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8. International Communism

The "consultative meeting" of Communist parties opening in Budapest on Monday will be the biggest such affair since 1960, but is not likely to come to much. Moscow has had to water down its objectives in order to draw a half-way respectable turnout. Some sixty parties have been dragooned into sending representatives, but none are coming from the Far East. The Rumanians will go.

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9. Soviet Union

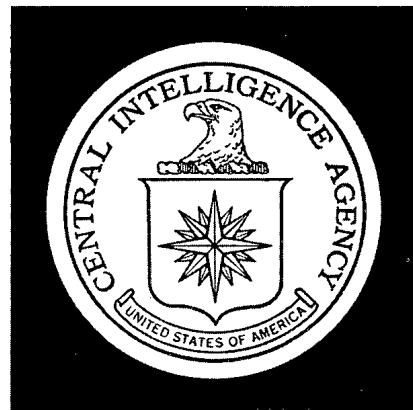
Soviet diplomats in various parts of the world continue to do battle on behalf of the US-Soviet draft nonproliferation treaty.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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24 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

24 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Limited Trade Between Singapore and North Vietnam May Be in Prospect: The North Vietnamese trade delegation which was originally scheduled to leave Singapore on 26 February is remaining an additional three days.

[redacted] it concluded a number of deals with Singapore businessmen, particularly for the purchase of rice and rubber.

Hanoi does not have a regular trade office in Singapore, but may establish one there in the near future. Trade between the two countries is likely to remain quite small.

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Threat to Kill US Prisoners: The Communists threatened on 22 February to retaliate for any execution of Viet Cong prisoners in Hue. According to both Liberation Radio and Hanoi, the newly surfaced "Thua Thien-Hue People's Revolutionary Committee" threatened to "adopt appropriate measures" against US troops captured in Hue if Communist prisoners were executed by South Vietnamese authorities.

The Communists frequently have made such threats against US personnel in order to prevent executions of Viet Cong prisoners. The only different element in this threat is the use of the new local "revolutionary committee"--an organization which the Liberation Front claims is non-Communist and is now in "control" of Thua Thien Province and Hue city.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 26 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
26 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

Enemy activity has dropped to its lowest level since the Tet offensive began on 30 January. The threat to a number of urban areas continues, however.

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2. Laos

Communist forces are maintaining pressure in the southern panhandle. The towns of Attopeu and Saravane were attacked yesterday after two days of heavy pressure on their outposts. The regional commander considers Attopeu untenable and intends to withdraw if the situation worsens.

3. Japan

Ambassador Johnson notes, "from bits and pieces" recently picked up, that both Sato and Foreign Minister Miki are privately showing deep concern about US prospects in Vietnam. Sato, realizing that US failure in Vietnam would destroy him politically, appears to be wondering whether he should try to disengage himself. Miki, a prospective successor who wants to carve out a political position for himself, is likely to be even more standoffish than Sato.

The ambassador believes both men will wait to see how the wind blows--and trim their sails if necessary--before again publicly associating themselves with the US position in Vietnam.

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4. Panama

Both Robles and Arias have backed off from their collision course, and the threat of major violence has diminished. The National Guard, still on full alert, ought to be able to quell any political arguments among pre-Lenten carnival-goers.

5. Paraguay

Our embassy has it from a good source that President Stroessner, during his late March visit to Washington, may offer to send a Paraguayan battalion to Vietnam. Stroessner would probably hope for some goodies in return. Other Latin American leaders, many of whom have a low regard for Stroessner, would not be impressed.

6. Czechoslovakia

Party conservatives, possibly led by ex-boss Novotny, are attacking Dubcek's "liberalizing" program on grounds that it dilutes the power of the party too much. A real struggle on this issue is shaping up, with the possibility that neither the liberals nor the hardliners can win a clear-cut victory at the mid-March Central Committee meeting.

7. Bahamas

The US consul general has been privately tipped off that Premier Pindling will announce today his decision to call general elections. The voting, which will then have to be set for sometime in late March or early April, will surely strengthen Pindling's hand, both at home and in his determined efforts to get the British to give the colony more self-rule.

8. Communist China

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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16
26 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

26 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

More US Prisoners to be Released?: Last Saturday, Ambassador Sullivan met the North Vietnamese chargé in Laos for the first time since the release of the three American fliers. The chargé, affable and willing to talk, was pleased to hear that the released pilots were considered to be in good shape and had indicated they were treated satisfactorily because, he said, it is Hanoi's policy to treat prisoners well. The chargé then said, "You have already received three prisoners. There are two others" At this point, the " [redacted] British information officer rolled up," and the chargé never finished this tantalizing sentence. Ambassador Sullivan will see the chargé again to try to find out what he was about to say.

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Views of Ex-French Correspondent in Hanoi:

Bernard Cabanes, on his way back to Paris last week from his lengthy tour in Hanoi, talked with an officer of our embassy in Vientiane. Cabanes, who impressed the officer as an intelligent and reflective observer (and obviously sympathetic to North Vietnam), made the following points:

--Hanoi is not counting on the US elections to lead to a short-term end to the war favorable to North Vietnam, and the population has been given no such promises;

--The North Vietnamese had hoped the recently released US pilots would return to the US via commercial air, but were "disappointed rather than surprised" that they chose to go on a US military plane;

--The release of these prisoners, Cabanes thought, was a "genuine gesture of good will" at a moment when it seemed that such a sign "might cover a little of the distance on the road to negotiations";

--He believes, on the basis of his experience with the temper of the North Vietnamese people, that they "will be the winners."

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Comments of Czech Ambassador to Hanoi: A Czech journalist has told our embassy in Prague of a recent conversation with the Czech ambassador to Hanoi while the ambassador was in Prague on home leave.

According to the journalist, the ambassador has the impression that Moscow's influence in Hanoi is growing at Chinese expense. The ambassador also believes Hanoi's offensive in South Vietnam was directed at improving its position in anticipation of negotiations sometime this summer. On the Pueblo affair, the ambassador was quoted as having said that this action was closely coordinated with Hanoi, and that the North Koreans were "playing a very dangerous game." There is no firm evidence that Hanoi and Pyongyang acted in concert regarding the Pueblo, although the timing of the incident has fostered considerable speculation to this effect.

* * *

French Communists to Hanoi: The French Press Agency on Saturday broadcast an announcement that a delegation of the French Communist Party would leave for Hanoi today. The delegation will include members of the party's top policy body and at least one member of the Central Committee.

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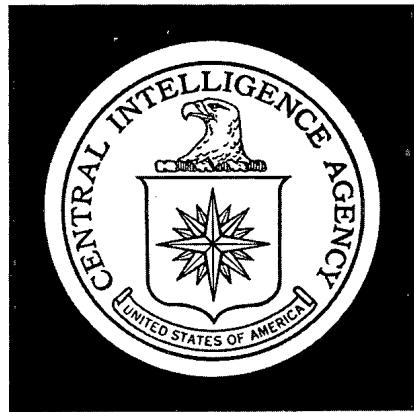
[Redacted]

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 27 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
27 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

With government forces pulled in to defend the cities, the Communists are making the most of the opportunity for a "recruiting" drive in rural areas.

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While the threat to the cities remains and elements of three enemy divisions are within striking distance of Saigon, there were no major initiatives overnight. Tan Son Nhut Air Base received seven rounds of rocket fire and allied positions elsewhere were fired on. In general, however, military action was light.

[redacted] the Communists have nearly completed a road from the A Shau Valley that will link the Laotian corridor to the Hue area.

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2. Laos

Combat in the panhandle slackened yesterday with government forces still holding Attopeu and Saravane. Early this morning, however, the government unit at Attopeu reported it was again under attack.

3. Philippines

More aggressive and effective government patrolling is forcing the Huks to keep their heads down in central Luzon. Since the first of the year, there has been a marked decrease in such Huk activities as assassinations, "tax collecting," and recruiting. Some Huk bands are reported to have pulled out of their usual operating areas for reorganization.

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4. Egypt

For the first time Nasir is facing hostile demonstrations [redacted]

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[redacted] Protesting the

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"light" sentences given air force officers charged with negligence during the war, students rioted in Cairo Sunday. Nasir closed the universities. At the same time, however, the government announced the officers would be retried.

Stiffer sentences might satisfy the unruly students, but they will not sit well with the military officers who already feel they have borne more than their share of blame for the June fiasco.

5. Greece-Turkey

Ankara and Athens continue to show an improving spirit of cooperation. Last Thursday the two governments announced they would begin talks on 11 March in an effort to extract some of the lesser thorns from their relationship. Cyprus, however, was specifically omitted from the agenda.

Cyprus is an issue to be handled separately. Both Greece and Turkey are in general agreement on another conference to be aimed at resolving their dispute. Makarios remains the unknown factor in this scenario.

6. Congo

[redacted]
[redacted] the Simba rebels may be nerving themselves up for another campaign [redacted]

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[redacted] Simba rampages in 1964 and 1965 taxed government forces severely and led to the importation of white mercenaries.

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7. Communist China

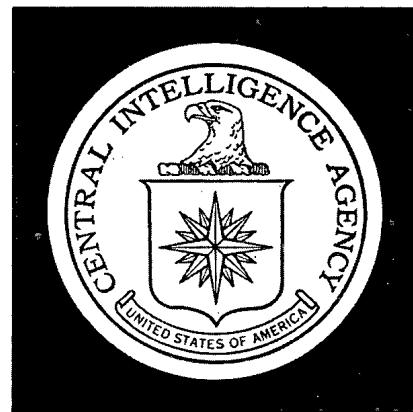
Despite calls from Peking urging
an end to factional fighting, it con-
tinues in China.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

27 February 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Communist Propaganda: The Communists are stepping up promotion abroad of the local "peace alliances" which they claim have sprung up in various South Vietnamese cities. The obscure Le Van Hao, head of the "Peace Alliance" in Hue, has reportedly addressed a letter to "heads of government" throughout the world, as well as to Secretary General U Thant, calling attention to a long list of alleged US atrocities in Hue in the past three weeks. The letter appeals for international support in getting the Americans out of South Vietnam.

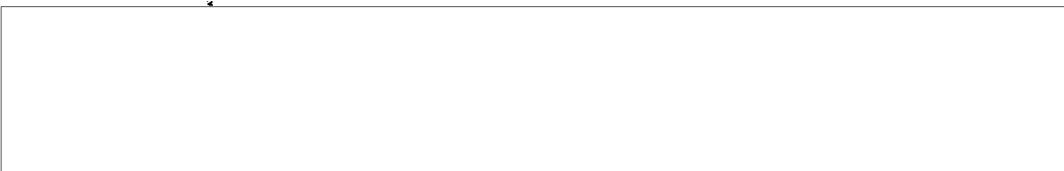
The letter was broadcast over Liberation Radio on 23 February and focuses on Communist claims that the US has now completely destroyed one of the country's most historic cities. It makes the usual Communist exaggerations that large segments of the Hue population have already joined the "revolutionary armed forces" and that Hao's "revolutionary administration" includes defectors from Saigon's military, police, and government organizations.

As a propaganda move, the letter fits in with the current Hanoi diplomatic effort to plead the Communist cause in widely scattered world capitals.

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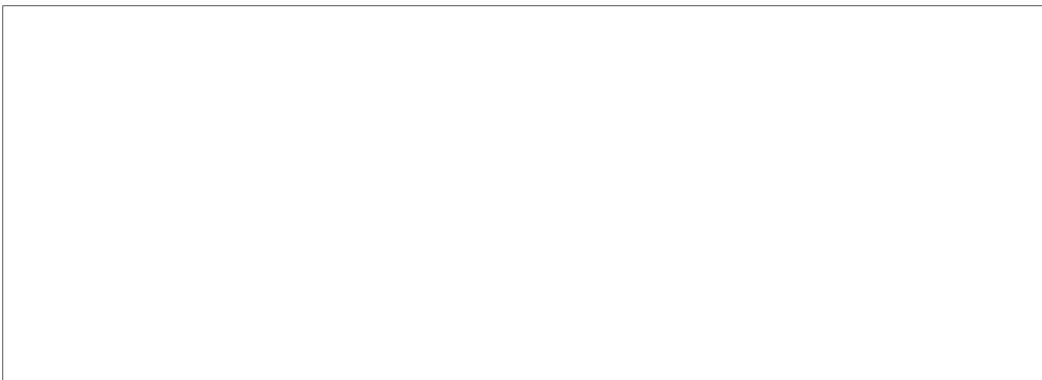
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[redacted] Comments: [redacted]
[redacted] bits and pieces
of information about North Vietnam [redacted]
[redacted] Much of what was
said doubtless was designed to convince [redacted]
[redacted] that Hanoi was ready to fight on indefinitely.

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[redacted] the country's population has been organized into small, self-sufficient groups to cope with a US invasion, if necessary.
[redacted] individuals of combat age in the North were armed and would operate as guerrillas. Older men, women, and even children would provide back-up support. The purpose of breaking down the country into small self-contained units is to enable each small unit to operate entirely on its own without central command.

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Although we have very little information about what specific steps the North Vietnamese have taken to set up so-called "combat villages," moves similar to those described [redacted] have been discussed in the government's press and radio for several years.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Reports Antiwar Demonstrations: In its 26 February English language broadcast, Hanoi reported protests against the war at the US mission at the United Nations, at Harvard, and at Cambridge University in Great Britain. The broadcast reported that at the UN demonstration, representatives of many antiwar groups demanded an end to the war and quoted Dave Dellinger, one of the leaders of the peace movement, as declaring that the demonstration was aimed at a stronger mobilization of the "masses in the movement to protest the US war in Vietnam."

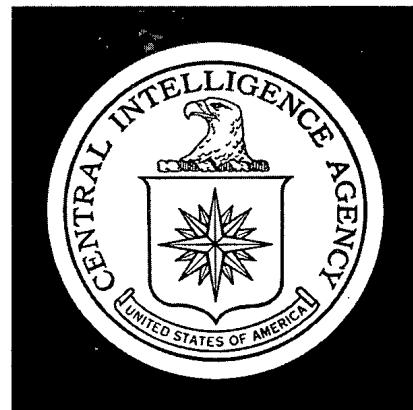
Other recent Hanoi statements have also given play to demonstrations against US policy in Vietnam which have occurred throughout Europe in the past several days.

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Hanoi on Wheeler Trip: Quoting a variety of Western press reports, a Hanoi broadcast beamed to South Vietnam on 25 February discusses General Wheeler's current trip to Vietnam. The broadcast alleges that the general went to Vietnam to gauge the "real situation" which is "alarming and runs counter to all the optimistic statements made by a number of US military officials at the end of 1967."

As for the objectives of Wheeler's trip, Hanoi alleges that he is primarily concerned with "boosting the morale of General Westmoreland and his clique," and will be making a comprehensive assessment of the military situation following the "general offensive and spontaneous uprisings of the Southern armed forces." According to the broadcast, Wheeler will also have to "settle contradictions" between Generals Westmoreland and Cushman. Finally, the Hanoi statement reports that the US has asked for the call-up of 50,000 reservists and increased the April draft call. This, Hanoi claims, indicates that the US "is still stubbornly pursuing the war of aggression" and warns that "no matter how many more troops Johnson may send to South Vietnam, all US military steps will certainly be crushed."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 28 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
28 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

The Communists continue frequent artillery attacks against key installations, but there have been no recent major ground attacks.

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2. Laos

No significant change has been reported, though Communist pressure continues against Attapeu in the far south and against Phou Pha Thi, the key guerrilla base [redacted]
[redacted] in the northeast.

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3. South Korea

The new defense minister is likely to have a closer working relationship with US officials than did his predecessor. The change in this post, like the reshuffling of top security officials last week, is aimed at quieting criticism and strengthening security in the wake of the raid on the presidential palace last month. The shifts do not presage policy changes.

4. North Korea

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5. Middle East

Gunnar Jarring spent yesterday with the Israelis in one last attempt to break the log jam before reporting to U Thant today. As yet, no word of any forward movement has come from the encounter. This morning's press reports seem unduly optimistic.

The Israelis, under prodding from the US and others, had reformulated their public position on the UN Security Council resolution of last November. Though the most recent of these statements seemed more forthcoming, the Egyptians and Jordanians still say that it does not yet constitute Israeli acceptance of the resolution. Nothing can happen, they insist, until this acceptance comes. For their part, the Israelis want prior assurance that once this issue is settled, the Arabs will enter into substantive discussions.

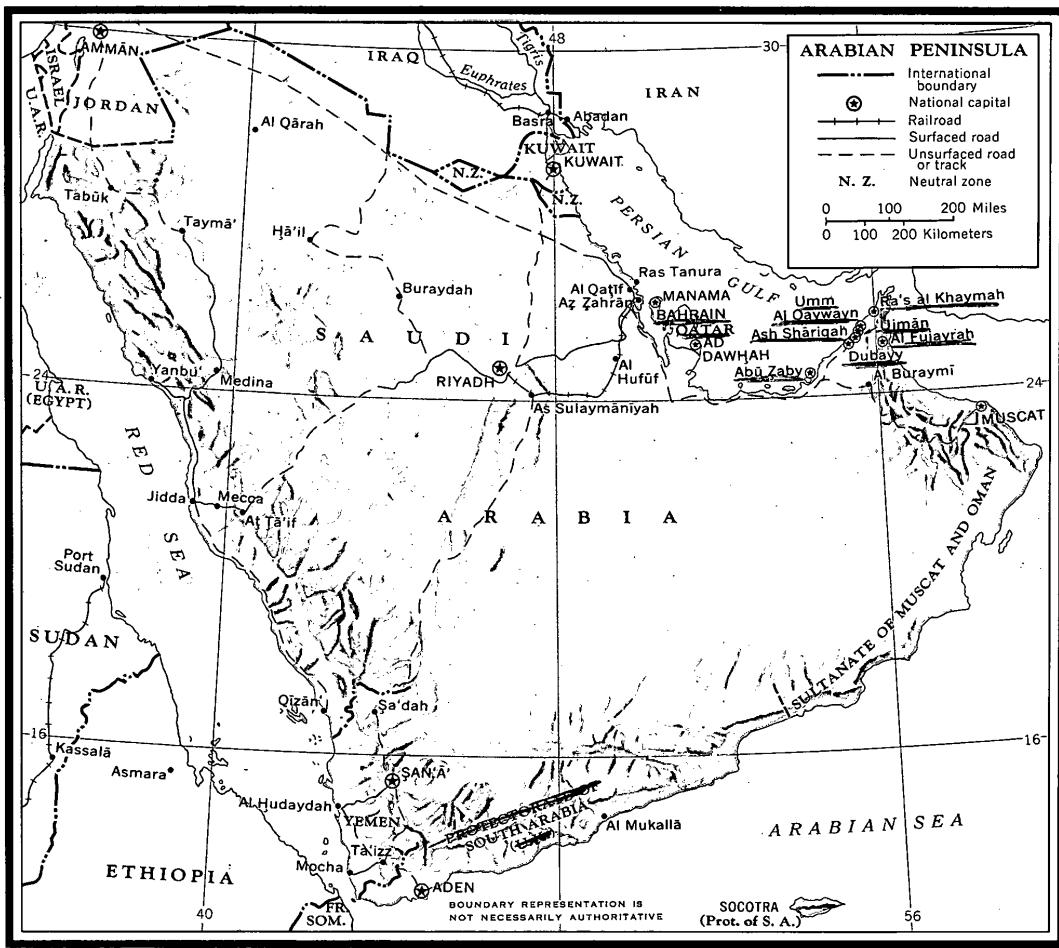
If this obstacle is overcome or by-passed, the next big issue will be the "face-to-face talks" the Israelis insist on but which the Arabs consider an abomination. It is just possible that both sides may eventually agree on some sort of compromise, perhaps with the parties sitting in separate rooms and talking through an intermediary like Jarring.

6. India

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7. Rumania

Bucharest has asked for direct talks with the US this week on the non-proliferation treaty. This request is puzzling. We do know that the Soviets have tried and failed to satisfy Rumanian misgivings about the draft treaty and that the Rumanians have been pressing hard for guarantees against nuclear blackmail. It is hard to see how the Rumanians think the US could help them on this.

On balance, this looks like an attempt to bolster the world image of an independent Rumania. It may also involve a little game of psychological warfare against the Soviets. Finally, there is an outside chance that Bucharest wants to use the treaty issue to screen talks with the US on some other topic, such as Vietnam.

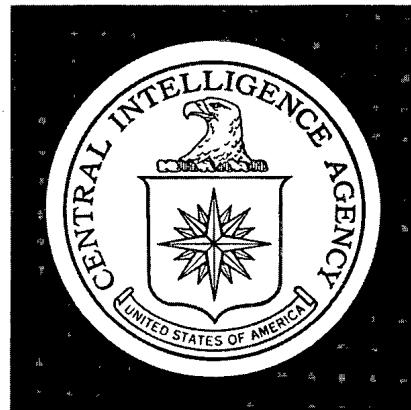
8. Persian Gulf

The nine British protectorates on the Gulf have announced their federation and the decision to assume responsibility for their own defense and foreign affairs (see map). The agreement, announced yesterday after a meeting of the nine rulers, is to take effect on 30 March. The federation will probably seek membership in the Cairo-backed Arab League.

Cairo radio is already crowing about the impending "birth of a new Arab state, the 15th member of the Arab League." If the federation holds up, the British will have a good excuse to get out of the area well ahead of their 1971 deadline, perhaps even this year. The Shah of Iran, of course, would be mightily upset by Arab unity in the Gulf, particularly if it brings an infusion of Egyptian influence there.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



Top Secret 50X1

28 February 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

28 February 1968

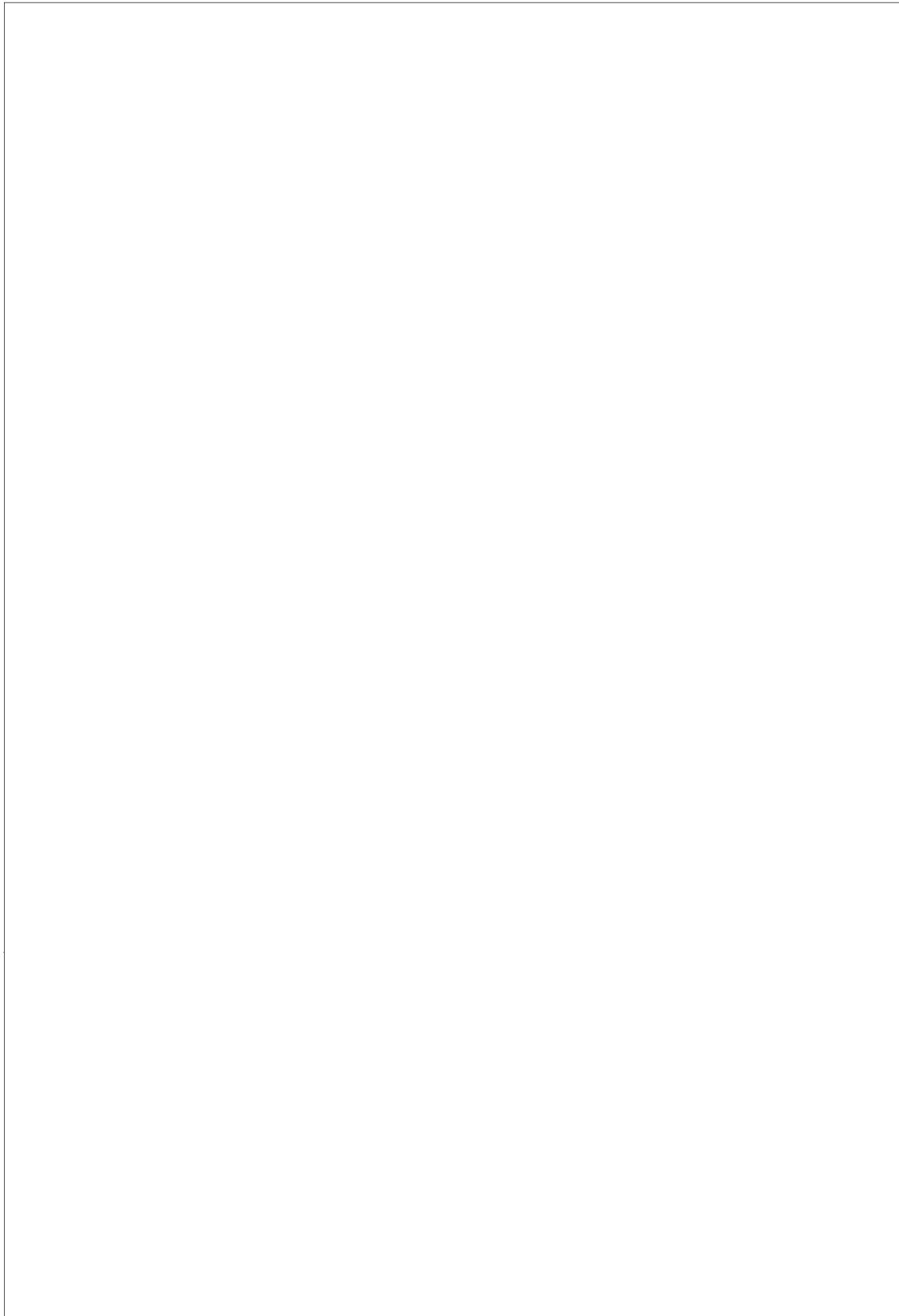
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Release Sought for Captured West German Doctors: Monsignor George Hussler, an official of the West German office of the Catholic charitable organization, Caritas, has contacted North Vietnamese officials in East Berlin regarding the release of five West German doctors who disappeared from Hue during the Tet offensive and may have been taken prisoner by the Viet Cong. Hussler, who visited Hanoi in late 1966, is presently organizing a shipment of eight tons of medical supplies to North Vietnam and feels that this may facilitate his gaining the release of the doctors. (The West Germans are preparing a similar shipment for South Vietnam.) North Vietnamese officials in East Berlin told Hussler that his request would be forwarded to appropriate authorities.

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The last US newsman to travel to Hanoi was David Schoenbrun, who went principally as an academician and not as a reporter.

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The Budapest Conference: Although the North Vietnamese are unwilling to participate in the current meeting of Communist parties in Budapest because of its Sino-Soviet overtones, Ho Chi Minh, according to several press reports, has sent a letter to the conference requesting a pledge of support. Hanoi propaganda, however, has as yet avoided giving the conference any publicity.

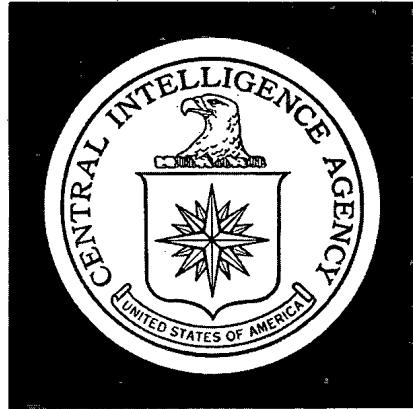
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Quotes Western Press on Westmoreland: In its English language broadcast on Monday, Hanoi radio rounded up several critical articles in the Western press on General Westmoreland. It reported that the General has admitted that the Tet offensive had placed his forces on the defensive, but ridiculed his claim that the US still maintained the initiative in its sweep operations. Quoting an Associated Press source, the radio said that US strategy in the war had failed, and that many US officers were unhappy with Westmoreland's strategy. The error he has fallen into, according to Hanoi, is that he is permitting the enemy to choose the conditions for battle. Summing up, the Hanoi statement pointed out that Westmoreland had few reserves to insure a stronger defense of Saigon or Khe Sanh and warned that the recent dispatch of 10,000 additional troops falls far short of what is really needed to hold out against new enemy thrusts, "let alone to make any gains."

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DAILY BRIEF
29 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

[redacted] the security situation in rural areas of several provinces show that the government position has deteriorated substantially.

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In Tuyen Duc Province, the Vietnamese Army has been drawn up in defensive positions in and around the cities, leaving stretches of the countryside completely to the Communists. A number of once pacified hamlets are no longer safe, and two major highways in the area which had been partially secure for more than two years are now insecure.

Rural sections of Binh Long and Phu Yen provinces are similarly affected.

2. North Korea

[redacted] Pyongyang's thinking on the Pueblo affair, [redacted] a North Korean defector

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speculate about prevailing attitudes and about upcoming moves from the North. This man's views are worth considering since he defected for personal reasons and still retains his Communist outlook. These are his conclusions:

--The talks can progress only when the US representative signs a document admitting and apologizing for intrusion into North Korean territorial waters.

--The Communists undoubtedly have made detailed plans through several stages in the exploitation of the incident. They will mobilize all their propaganda means and carry out brain-washing activities and interrogations.

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3. Czechoslovakia

The confrontation between reformers led by new party boss Alexander Dubcek and conservatives headed by his predecessor, Antonin Novotny, could get out of hand. The power struggle is no longer mainly an intraparty affair; large segments of the population have become engaged.

The struggle widened after Dubcek unveiled a popular "action program" which calls for a drastic reduction in the party's influence and the "widest possible democratization of the entire political system." Conservatives countered with an attack on the program's weakest point, its commitment to carry out far-reaching economic reforms. This succeeded in raising fears that reforms will mean loss of jobs, rising prices, and a general drop in the standard of living.

Dubcek, nevertheless, has got a lot going for him. Associations of writers, journalists, and farmers have pledged their aid. The president of the parliament and the party boss of the city of Prague have turned away from Novotny and have defended the program.

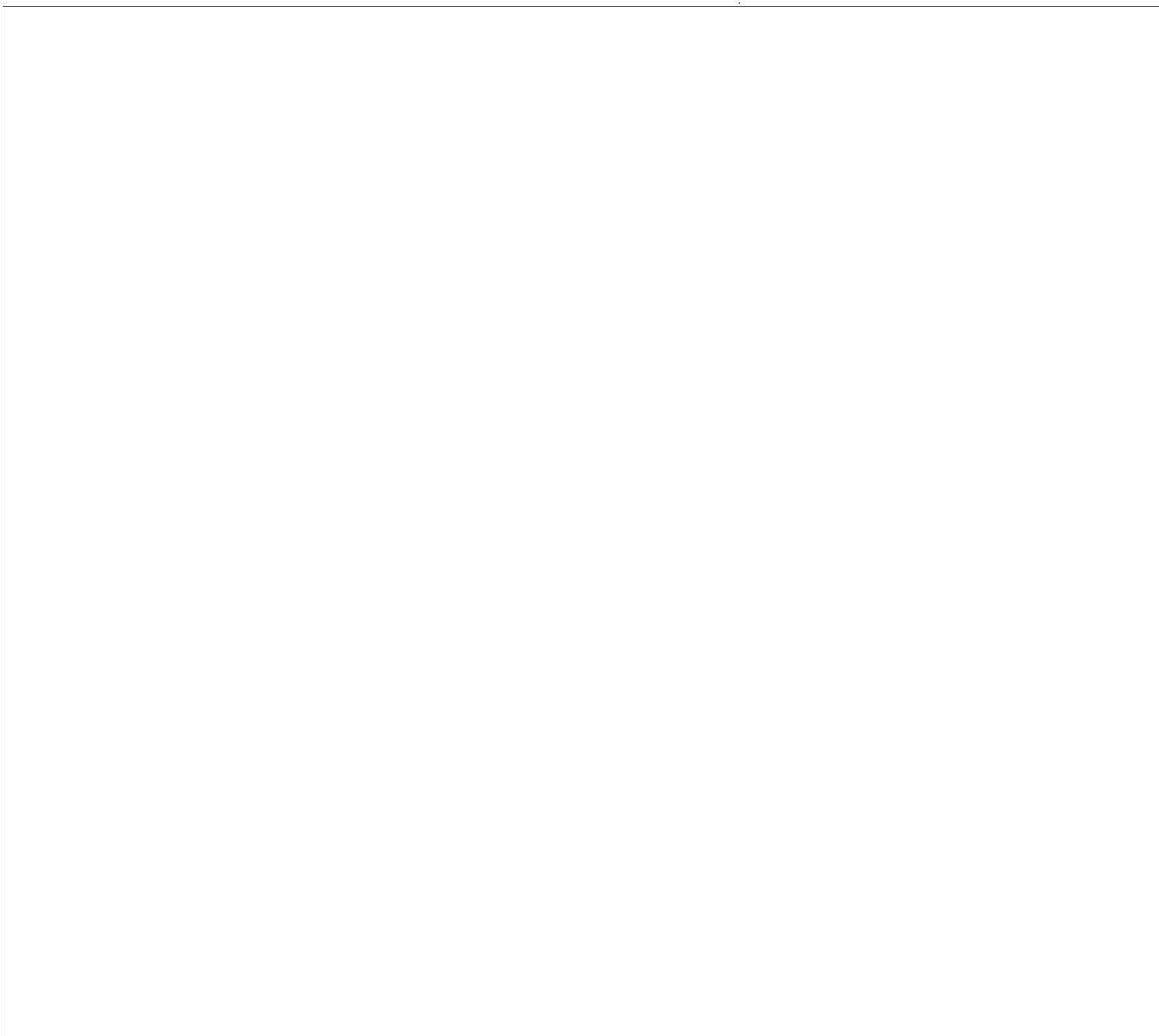
Novotny's strength lies in the still unreconstructed party presidium and in the bureaucracy. He undoubtedly was heartened by Brezhnev's failure to endorse either Dubcek or his program during his visit last week.

The struggle could come to a head in mid-March when the Central Committee meets. In the interim, the efforts of both sides to enlarge their support could lead to domestic disorder.

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4. Soviet Union

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5. Soviet Union

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6. Communist China

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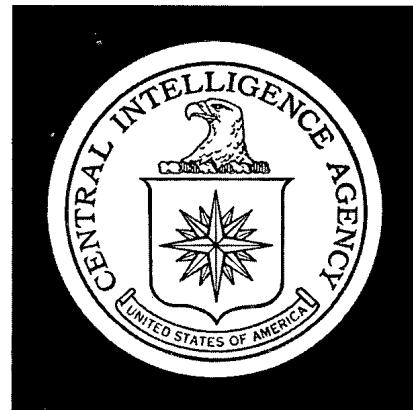
7. Panama

The dispute over control of the electoral machinery is heating up again. Backers of Arnulfo Arias are afraid that the Supreme Court is about to suspend the two pro-Arias members of the three-man electoral tribunal. Removal of these people would give government candidate Samudio an open field to run away with the election returns.

In an attempt to prevent the suspension order, Arias is calling for a mass demonstration in Panama City today.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese Position on Reciprocity: The recent assertions by two French observers that Hanoi has given assurances it would do something "tangible" in return for a bombing halt appear to be personal views based on indirect sources, rather than accurate reflections of North Vietnamese statements.

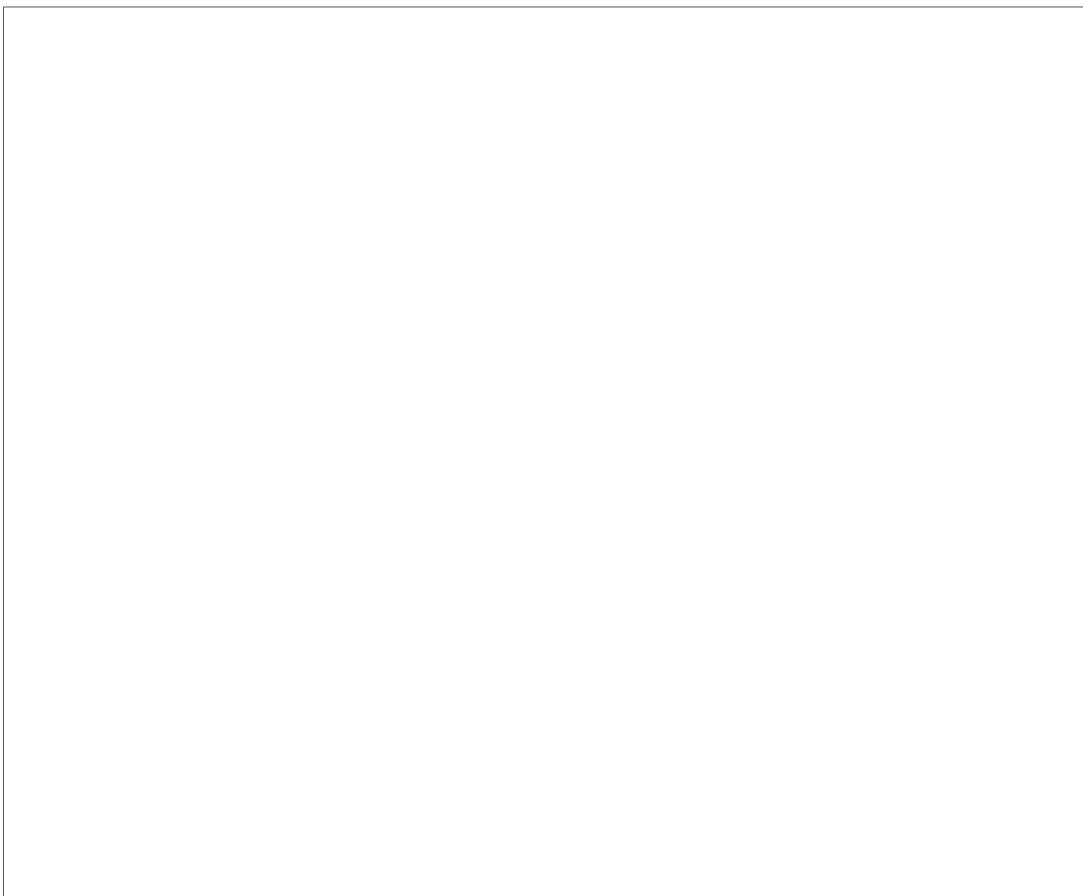
Jean Sainteny, a leading French expert on Vietnam, made such an assertion during a television interview on 27 February. He said that if Hanoi was certain that a bombing halt was "unconditional and final," it would make some gesture, such as stopping infiltration, to show its interest in negotiations. Oliver Todd, a leftist French journalist of questionable reliability on this subject, made a similar assertion earlier this month. He claimed that Hanoi, in response to President Johnson's San Antonio position, had "clarified" its position. According to Todd, Hanoi would order a cease-fire and then a withdrawal of some of its units from the South if the US "withdrew its troops from the Demilitarized Zone."

Todd later acknowledged to US Embassy officers in Paris that he was not sure his article was an accurate rendition of Hanoi's position. (It almost certainly was not.) Last Monday a North Vietnamese official in Paris refused to comment on Todd's statement about reciprocity, claiming that he had not read it.

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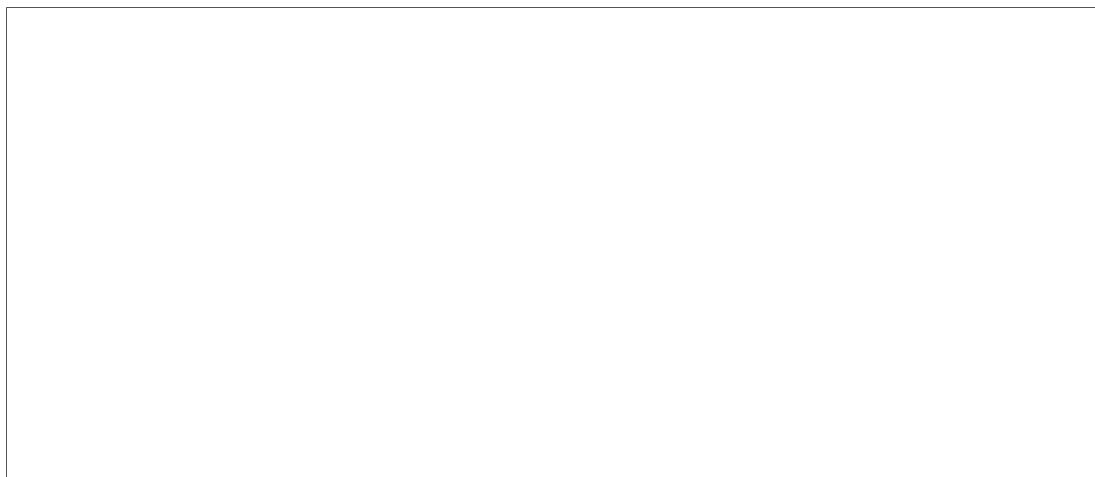
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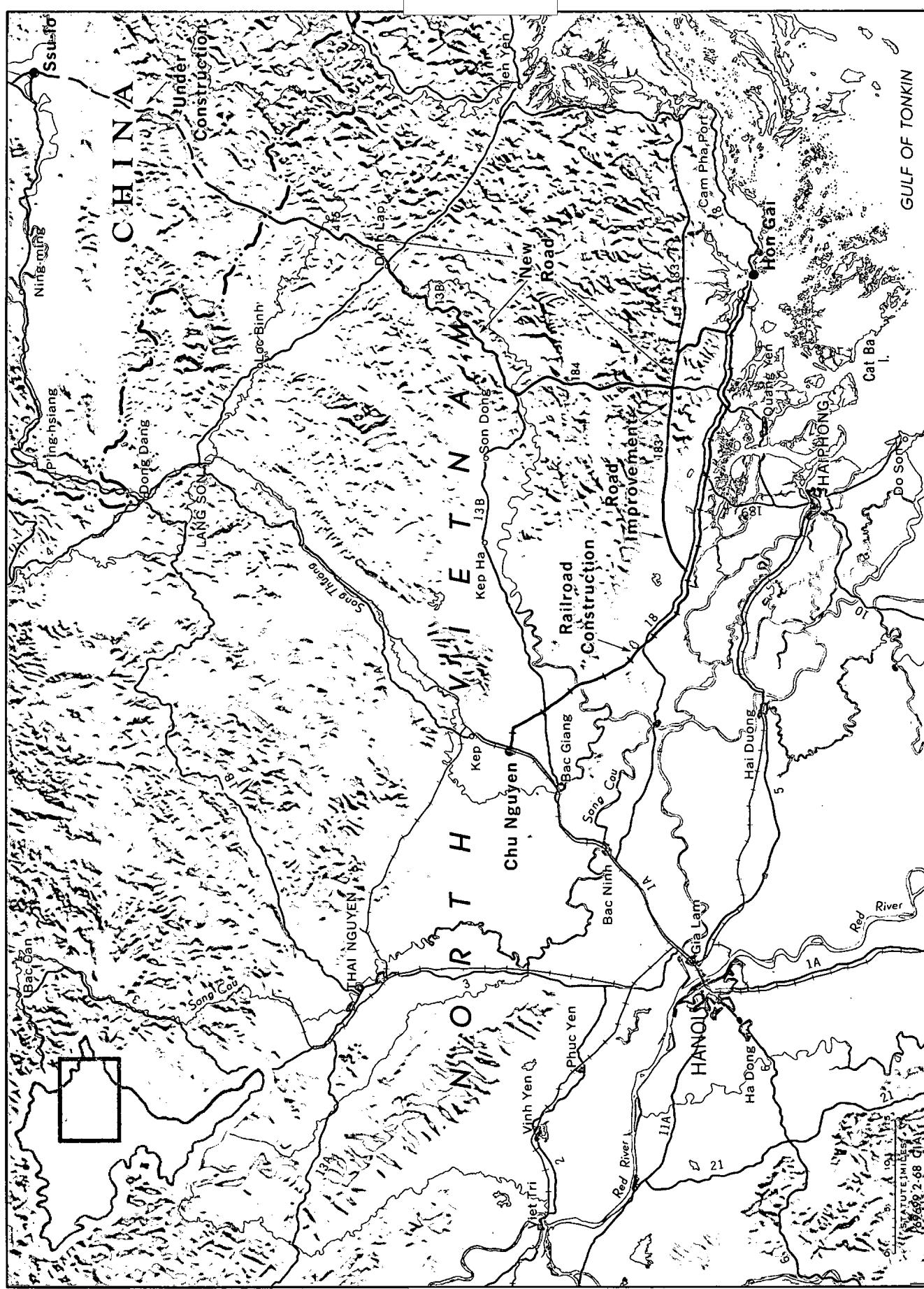
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French Exports to North Vietnam Down: [redacted]

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[redacted] According to Paris trade figures, French exports to North Vietnam totaled about \$600,000 in 1967, down from \$2.2 million in 1966. Moreover, the French did not provide the North Vietnamese with any credit guarantees in either year and expect a further fall in exports this year because of Hanoi's inability to earn foreign exchange by the sale of coal.

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France ranks a poor second to Japan in Hanoi's total foreign trade, which over-all, is continuing to decline.

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New Road Construction: The new rail and road construction in northeast North Vietnam is progressing rapidly. Photography of early January showed that about two-thirds of the roadbed for a new 67-mile rail line between Hon Gai and Chu Nguyen (see map) on the main rail line from China had been completed. This is a 60-percent advance over early October 1967. In addition, a rail yard, three passing tracks, and about half the required bridges are finished or under way along the line. Track could be laid and the line completed within a year.

A new, nearly completed, high-quality road from Ssu-lo, China, connects with the rail construction at Hon Gai. Other work is under way on a road running west from Hon Gai toward Hanoi. [redacted]

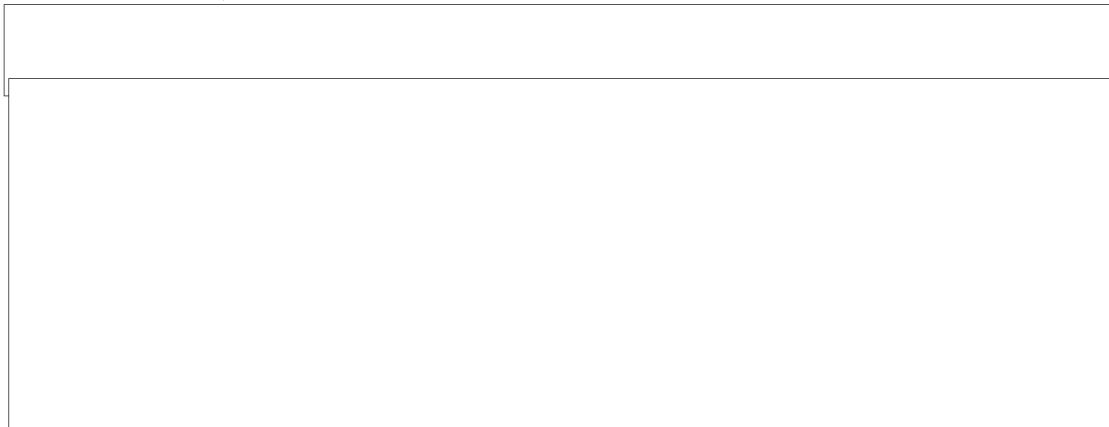
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French Correspondent on Dispersion of Installations: The French Press Agency correspondent Cabanes, who just finished a tour in Hanoi, apparently took a trip of some 300 miles into the mountainous areas of North Vietnam just before he left. He concludes from his observations that the North Vietnamese have dug into these areas in preparation for a long war and for additional air attacks. He says the regime has made these remote areas a secure refuge for vulnerable administrative, economic, educational, and public health facilities.

Cabanes' account, broadcast by the French Press Agency on 23 February, has a strong propaganda flavor, and conveys an impression of North Vietnamese determination and efficiency that undoubtedly is welcome by the Hanoi regime. Our information on the dispersion of population and production facilities indicates that these measures have not proceeded quite so smoothly and effectively as suggested by Cabanes.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Increased US Troop Strength: Hanoi in its 27 February English language broadcast described what it claimed were a series of US measures

to step up conscription to continue "its hopeless war of aggression in Vietnam." Quoting "Washington reports," the broadcast stated that the US would call up 48,000 men in the April draft, rescind the provision which exempts graduate students from the draft, and possibly mobilize a number of reservists. "All these frantic military build-ups," the broadcast concluded, "definitely cannot save the US aggressors from complete failure."

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