

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 January 1968

Special Report / Issue 1
1 Jan.

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DAILY BRIEF
1 JANUARY 1968

1. Yemen

The Soviets are withdrawing some of their people from Yemen. Nearly 200 Soviet experts assigned to a road project around Taiz have returned to Moscow, and other civilian, military, and diplomatic types have recently left Hudaydah.

We doubt this presages a general Soviet disengagement. Moscow probably wants to weed out personnel no longer needed now that the fighting has confined the Soviet presence almost entirely to Hudaydah.

2. North Vietnam

[REDACTED] Ho looked less pale than at his last public appearance in August, but seemed more feeble and had a bandage on his neck. Ho gave a brief welcoming speech, but his major address was read by a subordinate.

3. Finland

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4. Soviet Union

One of Ambassador Thompson's colleagues claims to have been told "by a Soviet source" that Ambassador Dobrynin will soon be leaving Washington. His replacement is said to be Yakov Malik, a deputy foreign minister. We would view such a shift as routine; Dobrynin has been here nearly six years, and Malik would be a logical successor.

5. Iran

Ambassador Meyer described an audience late last week with the Shah as "one of the most unpleasant of my tour." The Shah was smouldering over the oil consortium's refusal to increase exports (and consequently payments to Iran) as well as the companies' insistence upon paying in devalued pounds.

After muttering "robbery," "thieves," and a few unprintable epithets, the Shah said arbitration of the issue is "totally unacceptable." He ended by threatening to settle the matter "once and for all" by "immediate legislation."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
2 JANUARY 1968

1. North Vietnam

Speaking at a reception on Saturday, Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh said Hanoi "will" talk with the US if the bombing and "all other acts of war" against North Vietnam are ended "unconditionally." North Vietnamese spokesmen in the past have said only that there "could be talks" once Hanoi's conditions are met. Trinh's statement has been broadcast in English by Hanoi.

On the same day Trinh spoke, the North Vietnamese consul in New Delhi said categorically that an end to the bombing "would" lead to negotiations.

In neither instance did the North Vietnamese hint that Hanoi would curtail its own military activity or be prepared to talk about anything other than US - North Vietnamese relations. The apparent modification in North Vietnam's position may stem from the belief that Hanoi can increase international pressure for an end to the air attacks if it seems less rigid.

2. Cambodia

Sihanouk appears to have confirmed his Washington Post interview. At a press conference Sunday night, the Prince said again that he would receive an envoy from President Johnson "not to negotiate, but to palaver." He also said he "could not fight" US troops entering Cambodia if they were not detected. He insisted, however, that hot pursuit operations in populated areas would be met with force.

3. Dahomey

Politically unstable Dahomey faces new trouble when word gets out that France has cut off all direct budgetary support effective 1 January.

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[In any event, the coffers will be empty in a few days.]

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4. Yemen

The three Arab nations trying to mediate the Yemen war have proposed that republican and royalist representatives meet in Beirut on 12 January to begin preliminary negotiations. Neither the republicans nor the royalists have responded to the proposal yet.

The fighting, meanwhile, continues.

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5. Greece

The King is eager to return, but the junta is in no hurry.

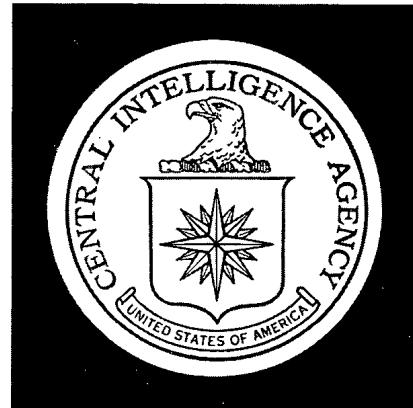
Constantine sent an emissary to Athens last week to discuss his return with Prime Minister Papadopoulos. While Papadopoulos said he would do his best to make things easy for Constantine to come back, he would not be pinned down on timing. Papadopoulos, in fact, remarked it might be best if the King waited until elections were held.

Papadopoulos has agreed to keep paying the royal allowances and to send the King one or two of his cars.

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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

2 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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West Germans Aid Hanoi: A West German news agency has announced that a complete field hospital for the treatment of bombing casualties was shipped recently to North Vietnam. The hospital, equipped with 60 beds and assorted technical facilities, represents the joint action of many private donors who pooled their contributions to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. The US Embassy in Bonn was told by the Federal Government that it had no official knowledge of the matter, but that it would not interfere.

Medical facilities of all types have long been accepted from the Free World by the North Vietnamese. This is one of the few areas in which Hanoi has consented to deal with the West, and to actively seek assistance. North Vietnamese officials in the past year have visited France, Scandinavia, and several other European countries seeking medical assistance.

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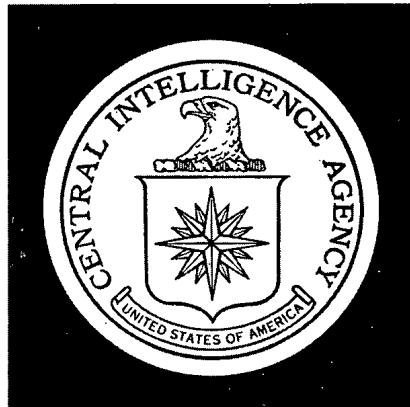
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on the Post-Dispatch: Hanoi, in an English language broadcast on 31 December, reported and discussed a recent editorial in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. As seen in Hanoi, the editorial was "strongly against the Johnson administration's plea for its Vietnam policy." The broadcast quoted the editorial as "laying waste point by point a statement by Assistant Secretary Bundy." The paper reportedly claimed that Saigon is being defeated by "South Vietnamese revolutionaries" and that South Vietnam was never a sovereign state "except by American fiat."

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DAILY BRIEF
3 JANUARY 1968

1. Cambodia

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2. South Vietnam

The Communists are intensively preparing for a new round of attacks near Dak To, not far from the Cambodian border area

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3. Australia

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4. Communist China

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The upsurge of violence around the country in recent weeks is largely traceable to Mao's latest fulminations.

5. Soviet Union

Brezhnev has postponed the visit he was to make to Nasir next week. A heavy workload of domestic business seems the most likely explanation.

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6. Middle East

Gunnar Jarring, now on his second round of Middle East capitals, is still searching vainly for some kind of "opening" toward a settlement. Last week he found the Israelis unbudged. They continue to balk at any "piecemeal" steps toward settlement. A Middle East solution, they insist, must be the result of an over-all, formal agreement; this can come only from meetings among the interested parties.

The Israelis have decided, however, on two moves which they hope will improve the atmosphere for Jarring's talks. They will agree to the removal of the trapped ships from the canal, and they have released a new batch of Arab prisoners.

7. Syria

The wildmen running the regime have isolated themselves not only from the rest of the Arab world, but also from most of their own people. Even the Russians have had little success in their attempts to calm down the Syrian leaders.

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8. Common Market

The British are billing Foreign Secretary Brown's consultations with Italian Foreign Minister Fanfani in Rome last Friday as the beginning of a "new cycle" in London's bid for Common Market membership.

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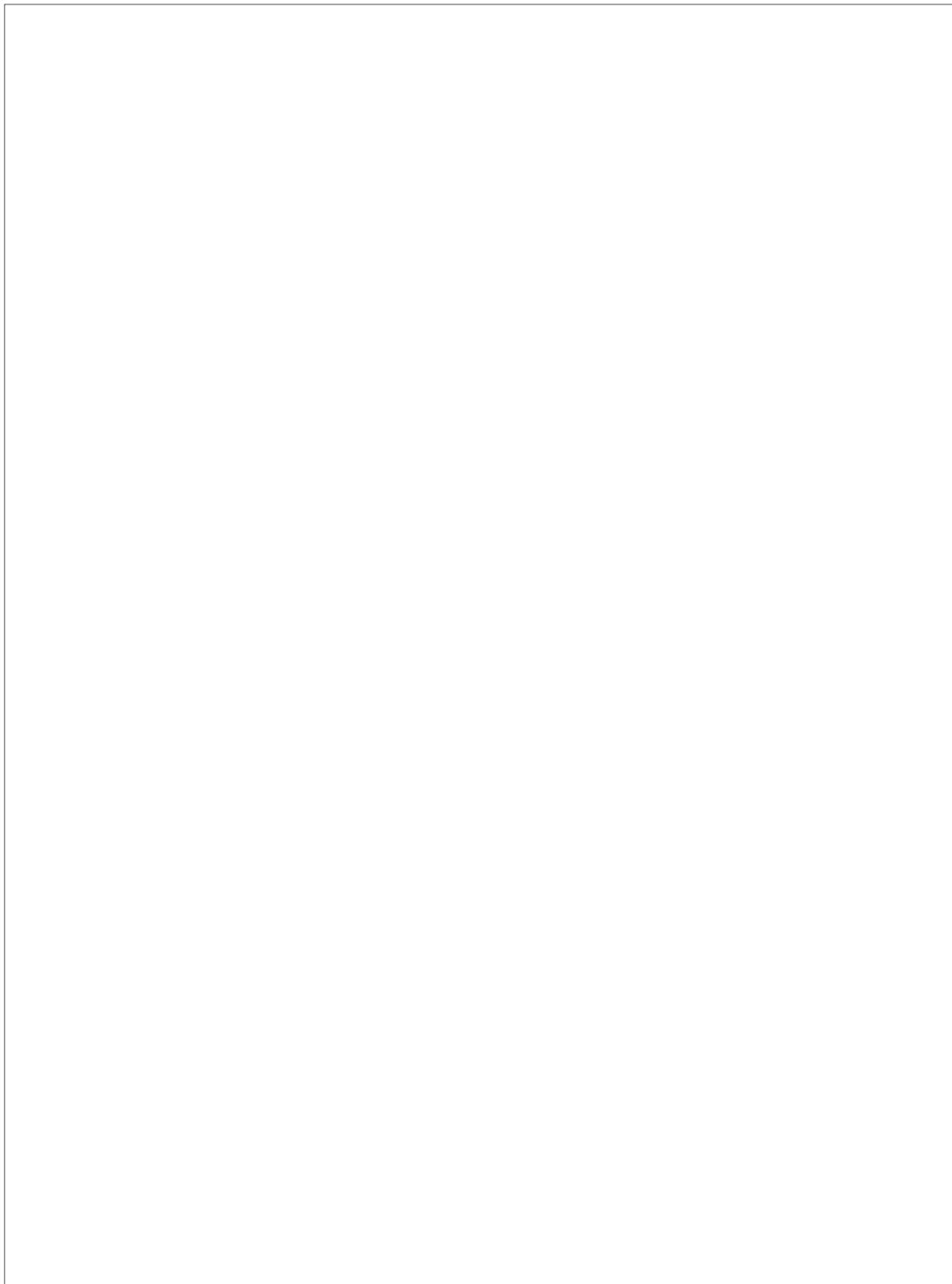
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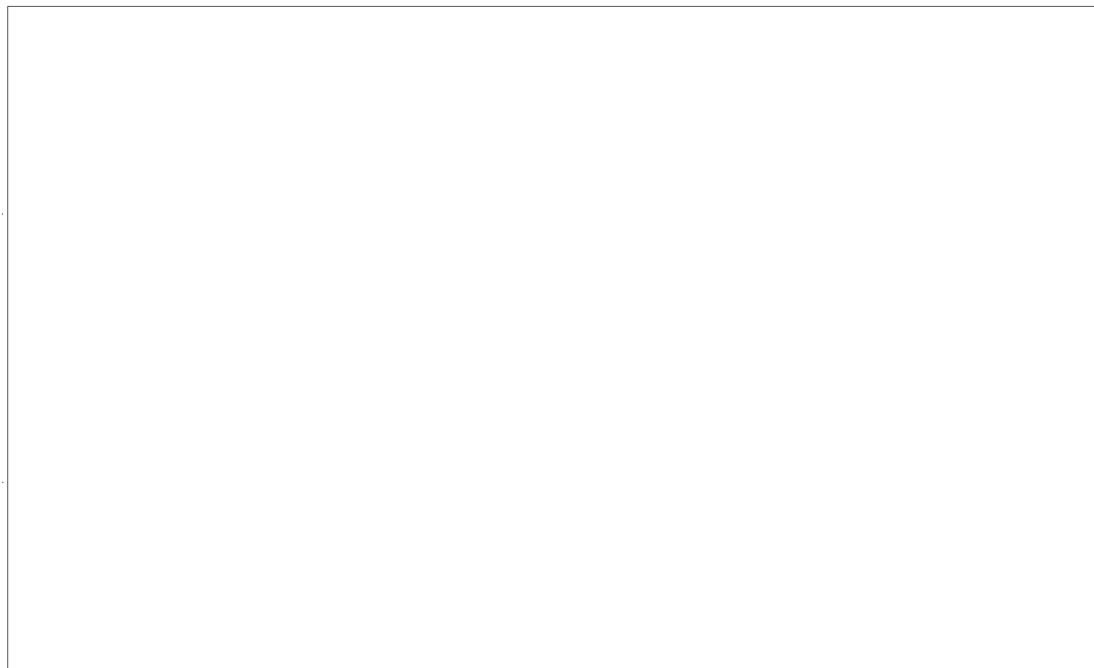
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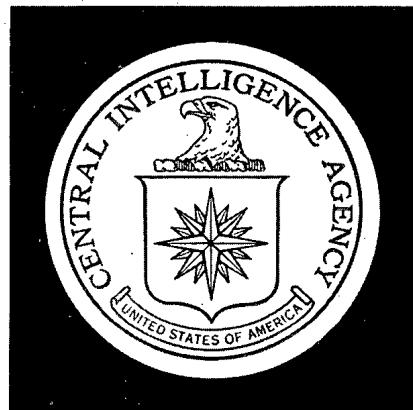
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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3 January 1968

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

3 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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The Trinh Statement: [Redacted]

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[Redacted] like Hanoi's English language version, contained the phrase that North Vietnam "will hold talks" with the US if the bombing is stopped.

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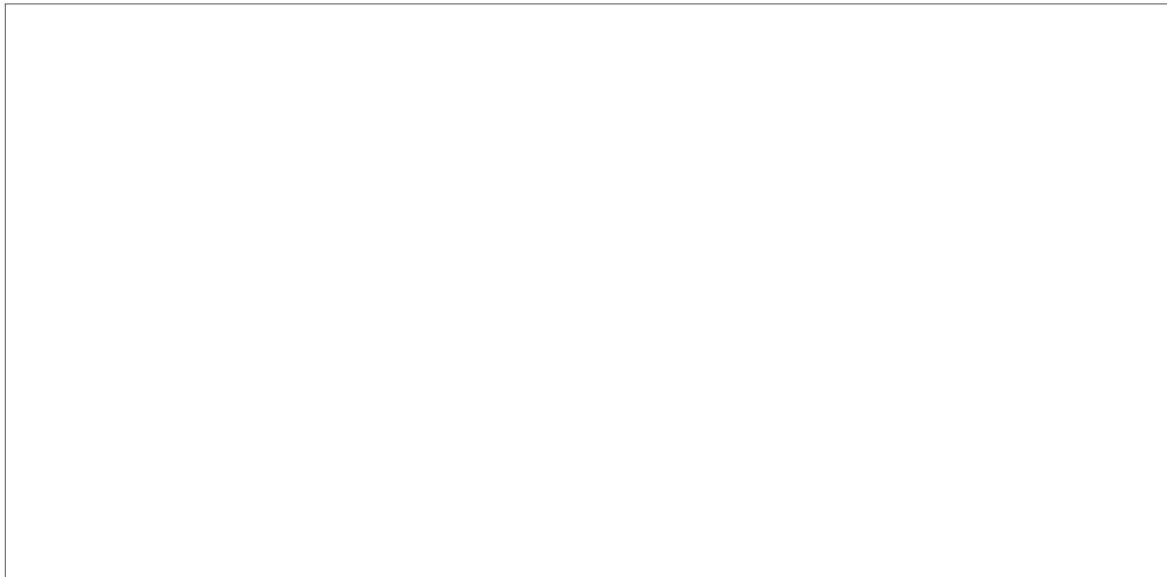
[Redacted]
the North Vietnamese ambassador in the Chinese capital left hurriedly--presumably for Hanoi--on 2 January. There was no indication that the ambassador's departure was related to the Trinh statement, but this seems to be a reasonable assumption. Peking has not taken note of the foreign minister's remarks and it is doubtful that the Chinese, who have never commented publicly on the earlier Trinh remarks about talks, will report this latest statement.

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Hanoi Economic Claims: North Vietnamese propaganda continues to insist that the bombings have not stopped expansion of local light industries which support agriculture and produce consumer goods. The alleged gains, however, probably have not matched either the regime's plans or its needs.

A Hanoi broadcast on 30 December says that 500 light industry plants have been built in dispersed locations in rural areas during the past two years. Virtually all of these plants are small-scale, workshop-type operations and most produce such things as farm tools, processed foods, glassware, matches, and cigarettes. The output of these industries is said to have increased "substantially and in some cases up to 30 percent" compared with 1964, the last prebombing year.

There is no doubt that dispersed light industries have enjoyed high priority during the bombing years. The broadcast claimed, for instance, that investment in them doubled in 1966 and increased by 37 percent in 1967. It did not claim, however, that these industries have met the country's needs, but said only that they "made an important contribution" toward this end. Reports from North Vietnam, including those from the Spaniards who left only recently, consistently describe shortages of consumer goods. Shortfalls in production are to some extent being met by imports from other Communist countries.

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

There is nothing of significance to report.

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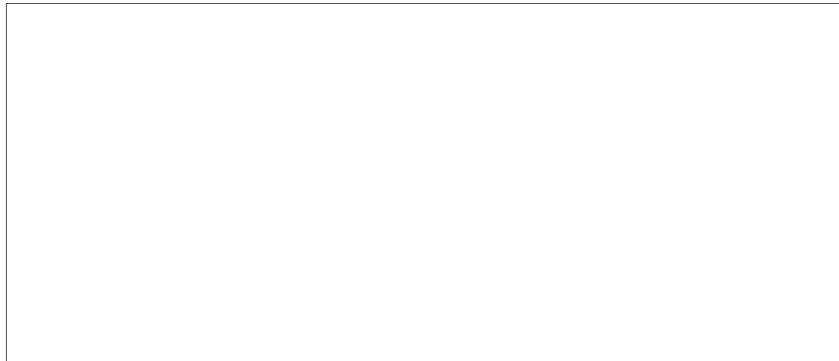
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4 JANUARY 1968

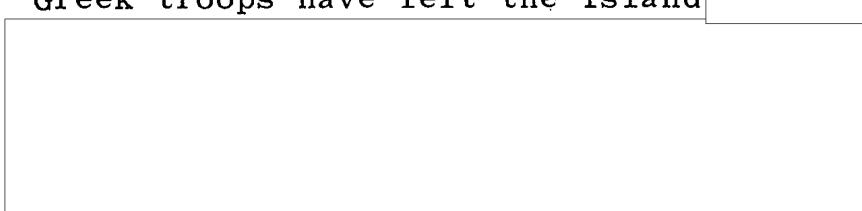
1. Vietnam



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2. Cyprus

With only 14 days remaining of the 45-day period during which the Greek "illegals" on Cyprus were to have been removed, the Turkish Government is beginning to show signs of dissatisfaction with the progress of the evacuation. Only slightly more than 3,000 Greek troops have left the island



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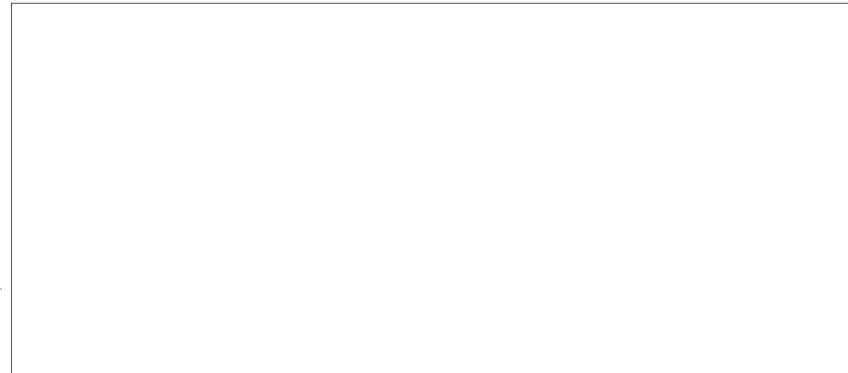
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Another point that is certain to cause concern in Ankara is the long interruption in the departures. The last evacuation was on 19 December; as of 3 January, there had been no announcement as to when the next one was scheduled.

Reports as to the number of Greek "illegals" on Cyprus before the evacuation vary widely. Several, however, estimate the figure at 15,000-18,000. Whatever the real number, the figures will be overestimated by the Turks and underplayed by the Greeks. This is likely to become the most dangerous point at issue.

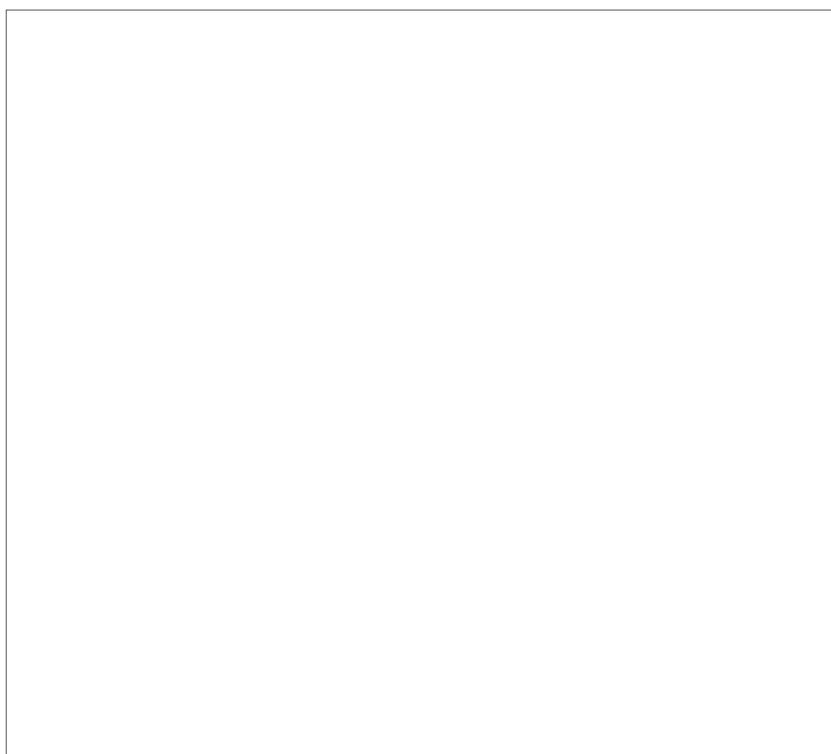
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3. France



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4. Communist China

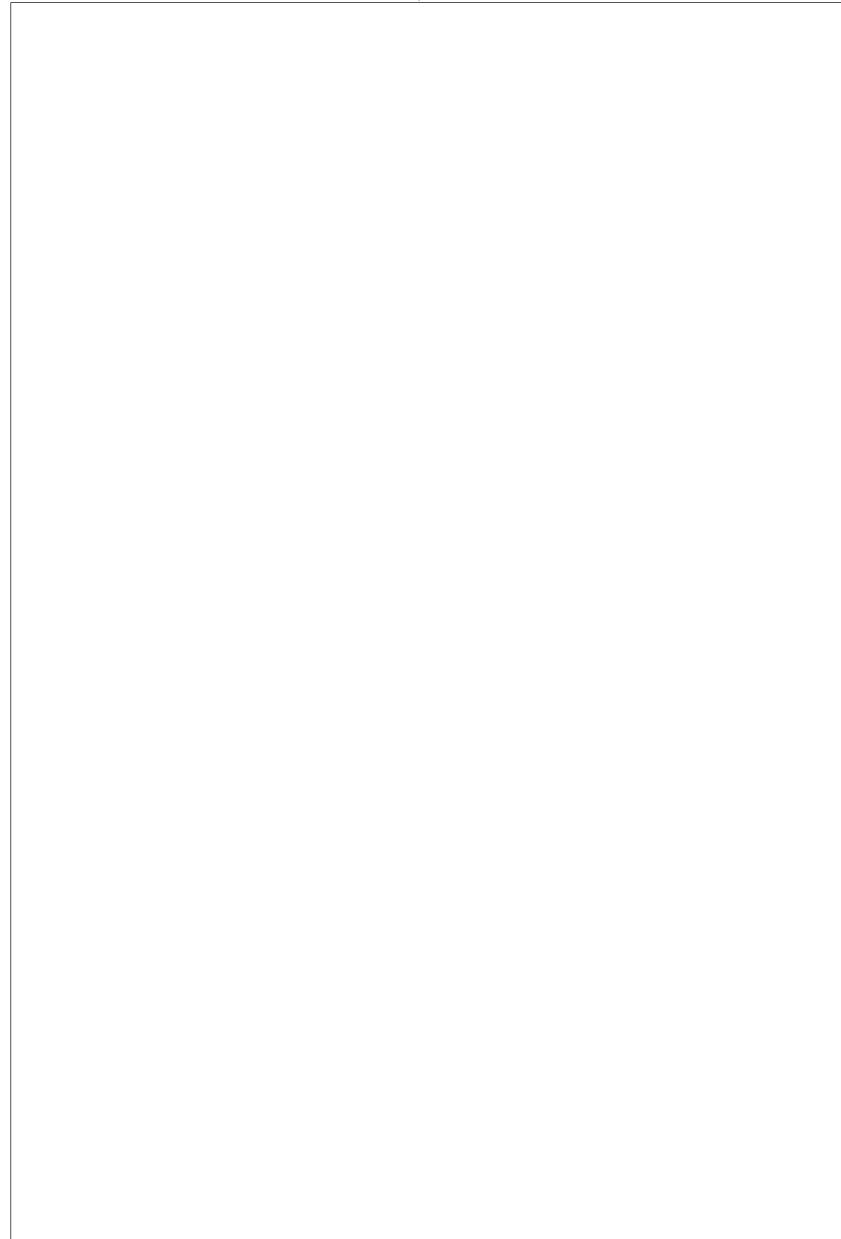


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5. Nigeria

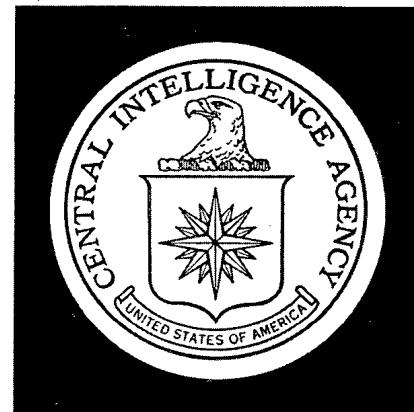
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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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4 January 1968

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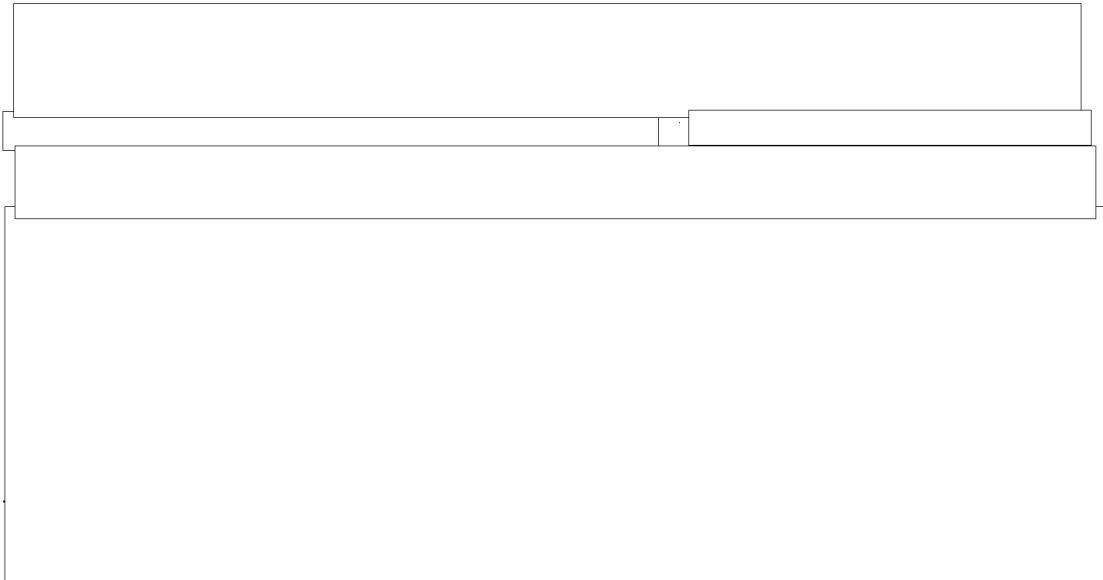
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

More on Hanoi and Negotiations: The Communist press has begun to provide publicity support for the North Vietnamese foreign minister's statement on 30 December committing Hanoi to "talks" in exchange for a bombing cessation. On 2 January, Moscow replayed the statement without commentary in both its domestic and foreign radio broadcasts. Radio Prague has also publicized it.

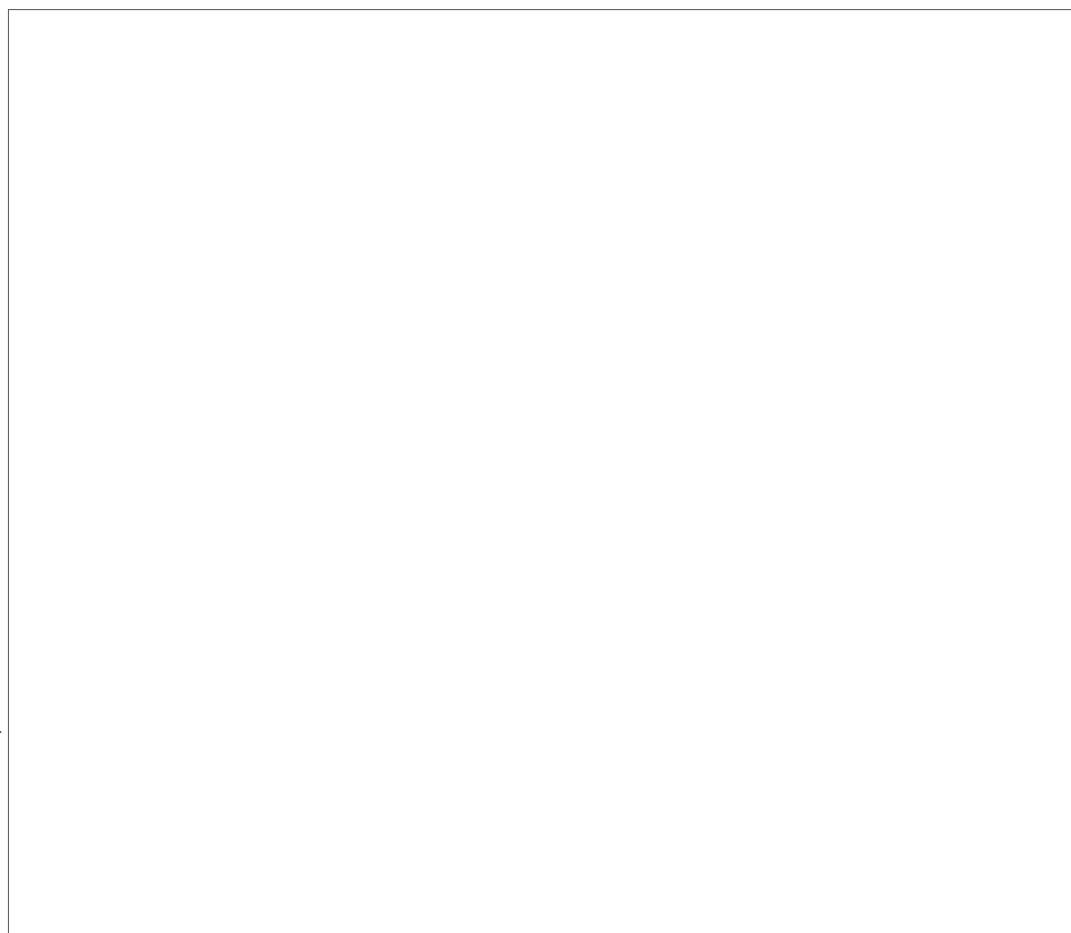
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The US consul general in Hong Kong notes that Foreign Minister Trinh's 30 December statement is a flat contradiction of the Chinese Communist position as expressed in an official China News Agency article of 28 December. This article, a long and virulent one, warned against the "Johnson peace talk trick," and predicted that all US "schemes to extend the war and play peace talk tricks will be completely smashed by the Vietnamese people." The consul general feels Trinh's statement represents a restating and widening of Hanoi's policy differences with Peking over "talks." The consul general surmises that this reflects a lessening of North Vietnamese confidence in the Chinese Communists' ability to deliver on their commitments or deter further escalation.

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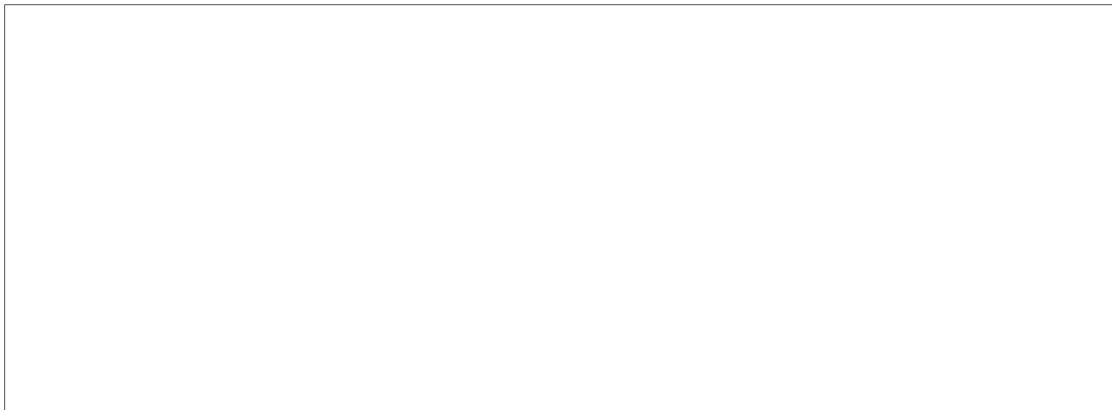


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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

- o There is nothing of significance to report.

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DAILY BRIEF
5 JANUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

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Buddhists of both factions are trying jointly to form a political party that would operate behind prominent Buddhist politicians. While both moderate and radical Buddhists are interested in this approach, it is questionable that they could resolve their own differences long enough to make an effective team effort.

2. Common Market

The Germans, reluctant at the prospect of being forced into a confrontation with De Gaulle, are developing a "new approach" in an apparent effort to get the British to back down from their "all or nothing" position. Bonn's idea, still vague, envisions a "first stage" where Britain would participate in the commercial and agricultural aspects of the Community treaties, but not in Community institutions.

The Germans, while alleging that London's "unbending" stance will get it nowhere, can offer no real hope that France would buy even this compromise formula. As for London, it has previously pointed out the emptiness of such a scheme, and will probably do so again.

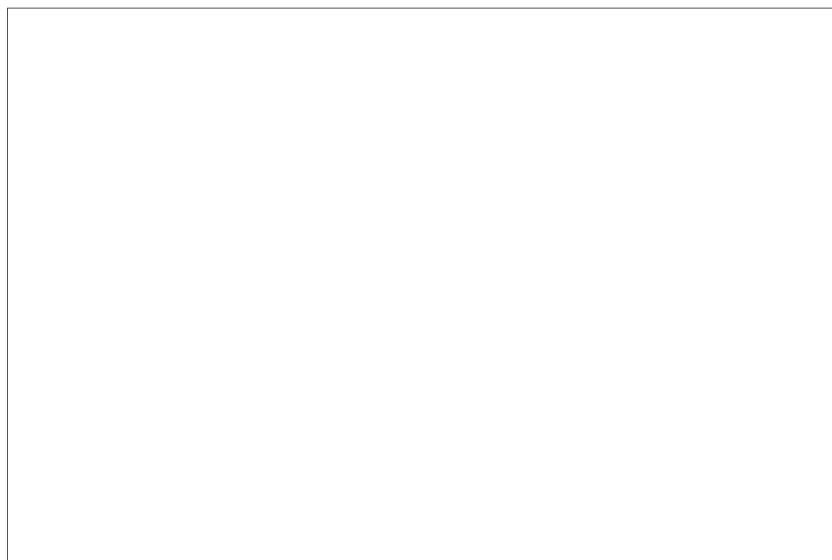
3. Cyprus

Five more Greek ships arrived on Wednesday to pick up Greek "illegals." This may help to mute growing Turkish complaints about the slow pace of the withdrawals, but will not settle the troublesome question of how many "illegals" were on the island in the first place.

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4. Communist China

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5. Communist China

A series of meetings between Peking officials and provincial military leaders is taking place, probably on what to do about continuing widespread violence. There is little at the moment to suggest what, if any, cure will be found. Peking's official New Year's Day editorial did not indicate that any marked changes in the Cultural Revolution are imminent.

6. Thailand

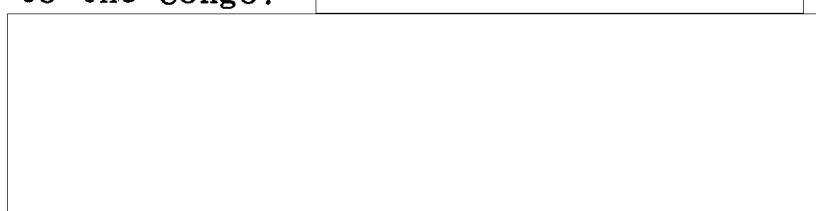
Ambassador Unger believes that additional Thai troops will not be ready for deployment to Vietnam by late April, as agreed at Canberra. He sees no signs that the troops can arrive in Vietnam before July, or June at the earliest.

7. Congo

Mobutu is sending a delegation to Rwanda today to work out the "modalities" of returning the white mercenaries to the Congo. [redacted]

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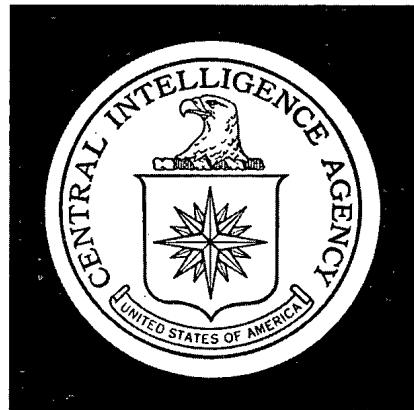
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

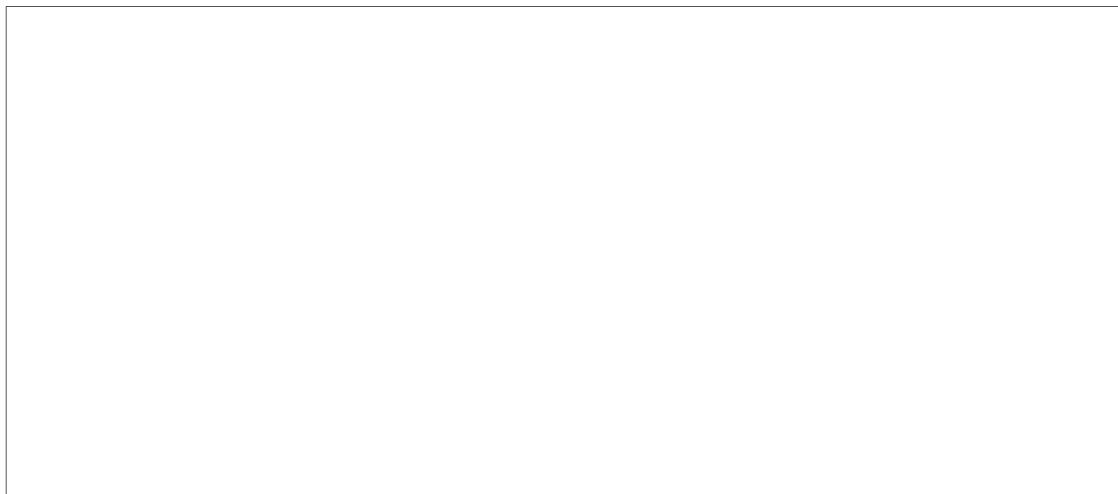
Hanoi Moves with Care: North Vietnamese propaganda has not followed up on Foreign Minister Trinh's remarks that North Vietnam will talk to the US if the bombing and other acts of war against the North are stopped. Hanoi doubtless is pleased by the world-wide attention the statement is receiving and the implication that this initiative puts the "ball in the US court." Nonetheless, the North Vietnamese seem bent on sticking precisely to the Trinh formulation and on not having it distorted or embellished by others.

Hanoi's insistence on precision is underscored by an announcement from the North Vietnamese mission in Paris on 4 January. This announcement sought to clarify a Western correspondent's account of an interview with a spokesman for the mission the day before. The correspondent reported that the spokesman had "confirmed more clearly than ever that Hanoi is willing to open peace talks at once" if the bombing is stopped. In response to a question about whether the negotiations would be fruitful, the spokesman, according to the correspondent, remarked "we are ready, the next step is up to President Johnson." In its clarification yesterday, the North Vietnamese mission in Paris stated that a spokesman had confirmed the Trinh statement and it quoted the relevant sentences. It tersely added, however, that the rest of the correspondent's story "is pure invention."

Similar precautions about sticking to Trinh's formulation are evident in Soviet handling of the subject. Moscow reported the crucial portions of the Trinh speech without comment in its domestic and international broadcasts on 2 January. A story from a Soviet correspondent in Hanoi on 3 January uses the same language [redacted]

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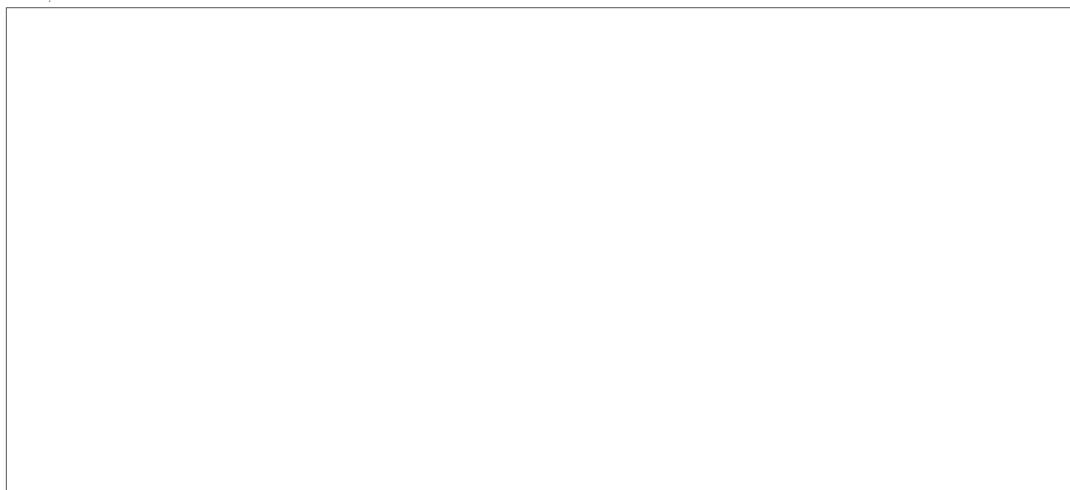
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Ho Calls for "Thrift, Production, and Combat": According to a 31 December Hanoi broadcast, Ho paid tribute and pointed out "shortcomings" in government work during the past year to a year-end Council of Ministers' meeting. The work of the people's armed forces and communication and transportation forces came in for praise. Ho, however, criticized the management of labor and financial resources. The usual exhortations were made by Ho concerning performance in agriculture and animal husbandry. New efforts were called for during 1968 "to satisfactorily fulfill the state plan." To start the New Year out right, Ho described the situation during Tet as one of "thrift, production, and combat."

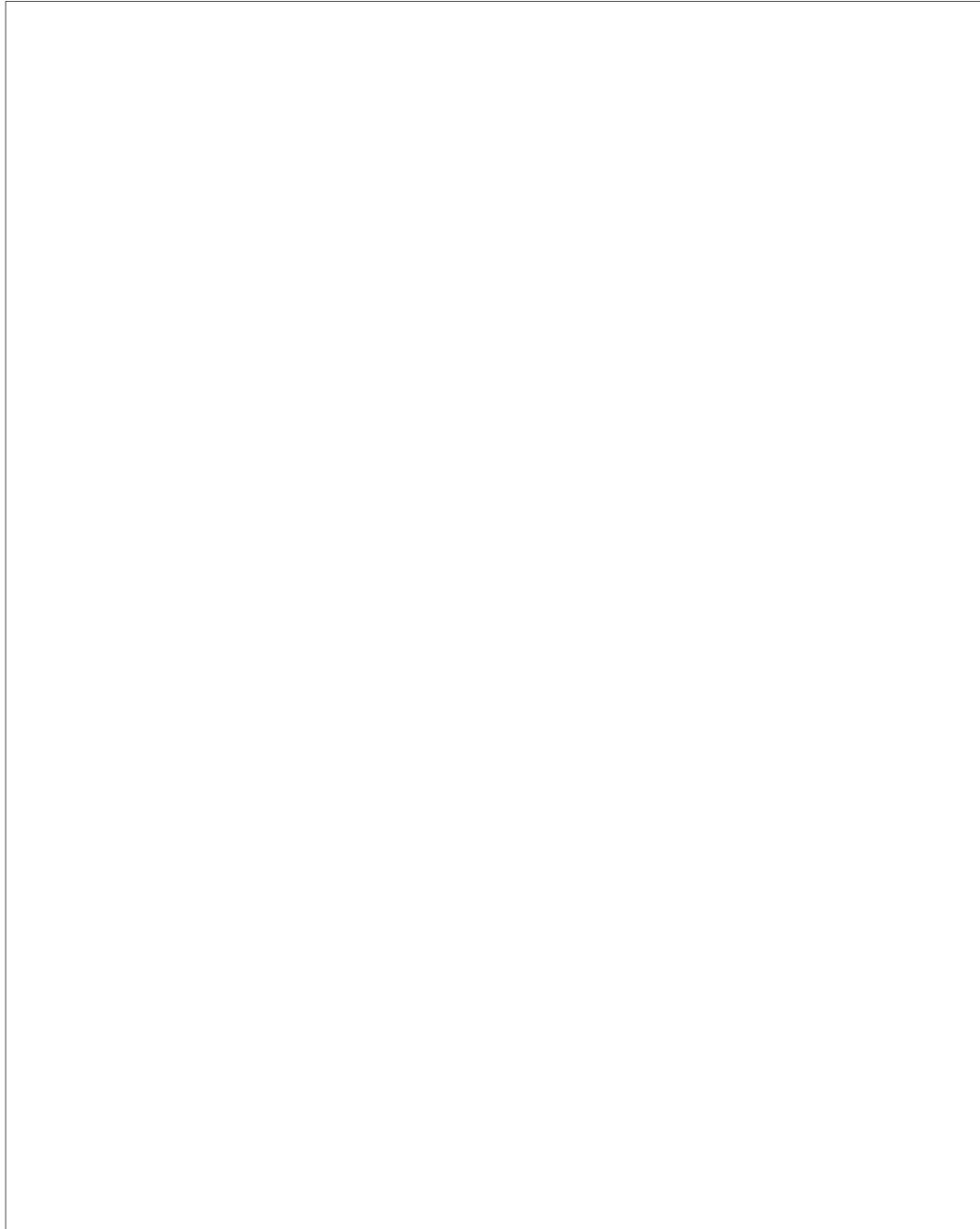
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Rail Repairs: Bombed rail lines are usually repaired in a few hours, reports one of the refugees [redacted]

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[redacted] He said civilians of both sexes and all ages are mustered from villages near the damage and work the clock around until they get the job done. The villagers are not paid and must provide their own food. Most of the work is hand labor.

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[redacted] he has seen as many as 10,000 people conscripted for work gangs.

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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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DAILY BRIEF
6 JANUARY 1968

1. North Vietnam

Two camouflaged sites on the coast south of Thanh Hoa appear to be for coastal defense missiles. What looks like the tail of one missile is visible in 19 December low-altitude photography. Preliminary examination of the photography suggests the missile involved is the SS-N-2, a naval cruise missile designed by the Soviets for use aboard missile patrol boats. The missile has a range of about 20 miles and flies just under sonic speed.

Each of the sites has six revetted positions and what appear to be launch rails can be seen in some of the revetments.

Current and past photography of the coast is being searched for additional evidence.

2. Dominican Republic

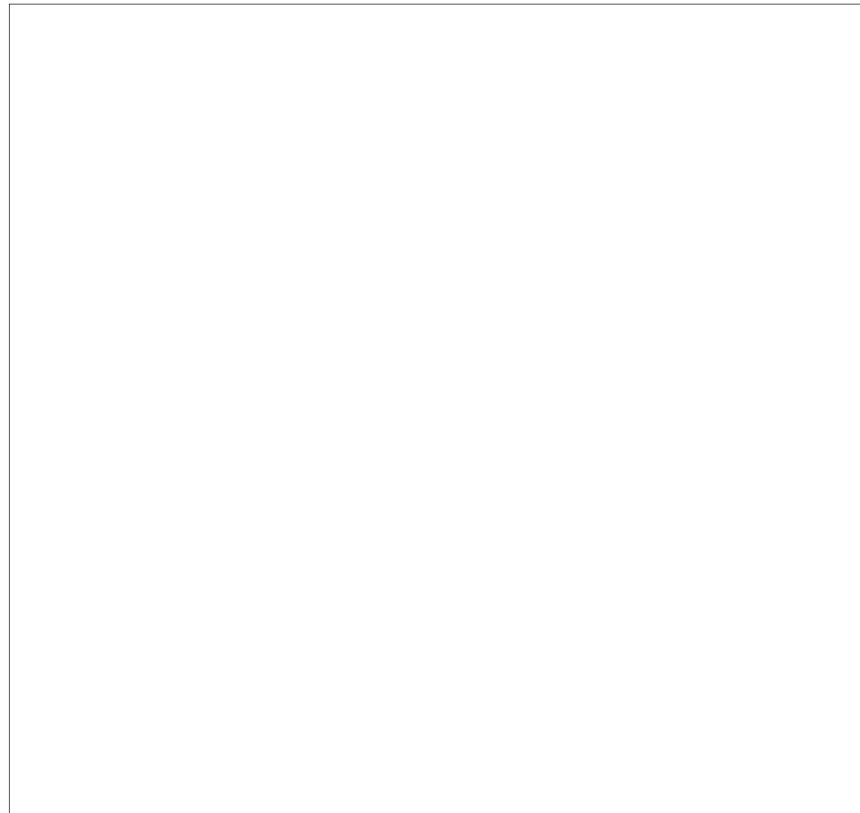
Dominican Communists are planning to stir up trouble around the University of Santo Domingo next week. The Communists hope to provoke the government into closing the university, which would give them a pretext for nationwide agitation. In recent months Dominican security forces have been doing fairly well in handling such demonstrations, but there is always the danger that the police will overreact.

3. Yemen

Claiming (mistakenly) that royalist military success is due to help from foreign mercenaries, the republicans want to invoke their joint defense pact with Egypt. Nasir has just extracted his troops from the Yemen mess and we doubt he will be interested in getting embroiled again.

4. Communist China

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**5. United Kingdom**

There now seems little doubt that the British are going to accelerate their withdrawal from Southeast Asia and the Persian Gulf. A senior Ministry of Defense official told the US Embassy that the Ministry was trying to hold at mid-1972 for both areas, but that there was strong pressure to get out by 1971.

The official also noted that the F-111 contract was under fire from Chancellor of the Exchequer Jenkins who has disliked the aircraft since his days as aviation minister. Healey is working on a possible fall-back which would reduce the order from 50 to 35 planes.

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6. Czechoslovakia

Novotny is out as head of the Czechoslovak party, although he apparently remains president of the republic. The much-criticized Novotny was replaced by Alexander Dubcek, who has been chief of the Slovak branch of the party since 1963.

We expect further changes; there is a good probability that a new regime will emerge representing a coalition of the moderate and reform factions which brought Novotny down. It remains to be seen how well a new leadership team can cope with Czechoslovakia's myriad social and economic problems.

Dubcek is something of an unknown quantity. The Slovaks are a minority group and no Slovak has ever held the top party job in Czechoslovakia. We note however, that Slovak leaders have been in the vanguard of the opposition to Novotny.

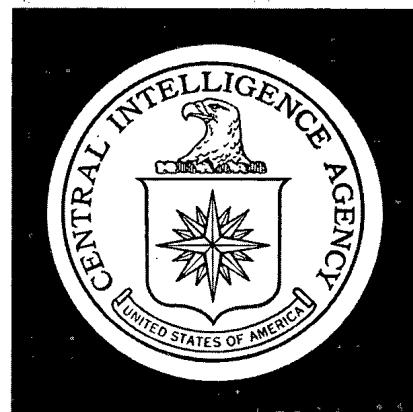
The full outlines of what is taking place in Prague are far from clear. At the moment, we do not anticipate any basic shifts in Czech relations with Moscow, but there may be some moderation in attitudes toward the West--Germany in particular.

7. Israel

Tension along the Israeli-Jordanian border is rising again. There have been three fire fights this week. The Israelis appear to be starting these incidents in retaliation for Arab terrorist activities.

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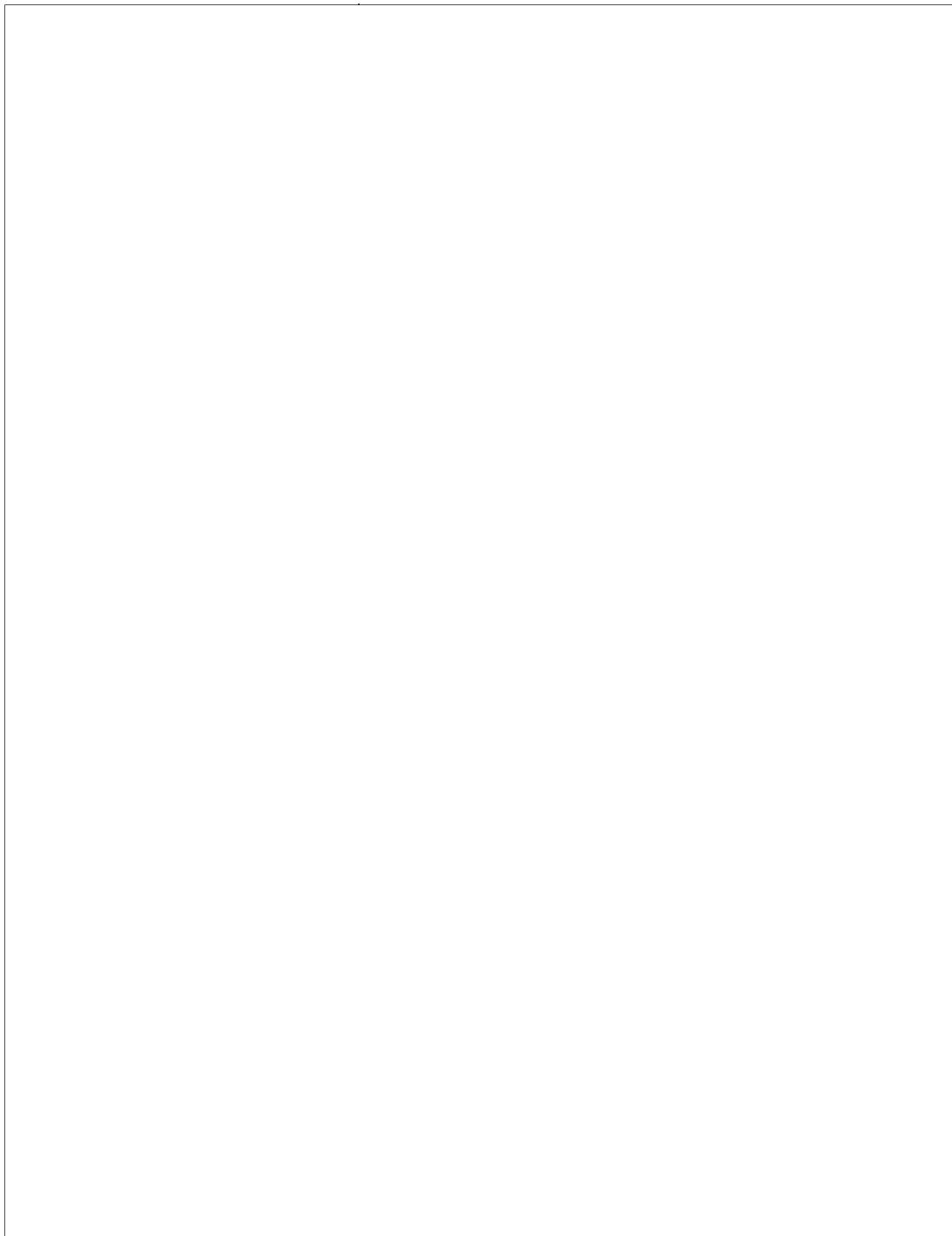
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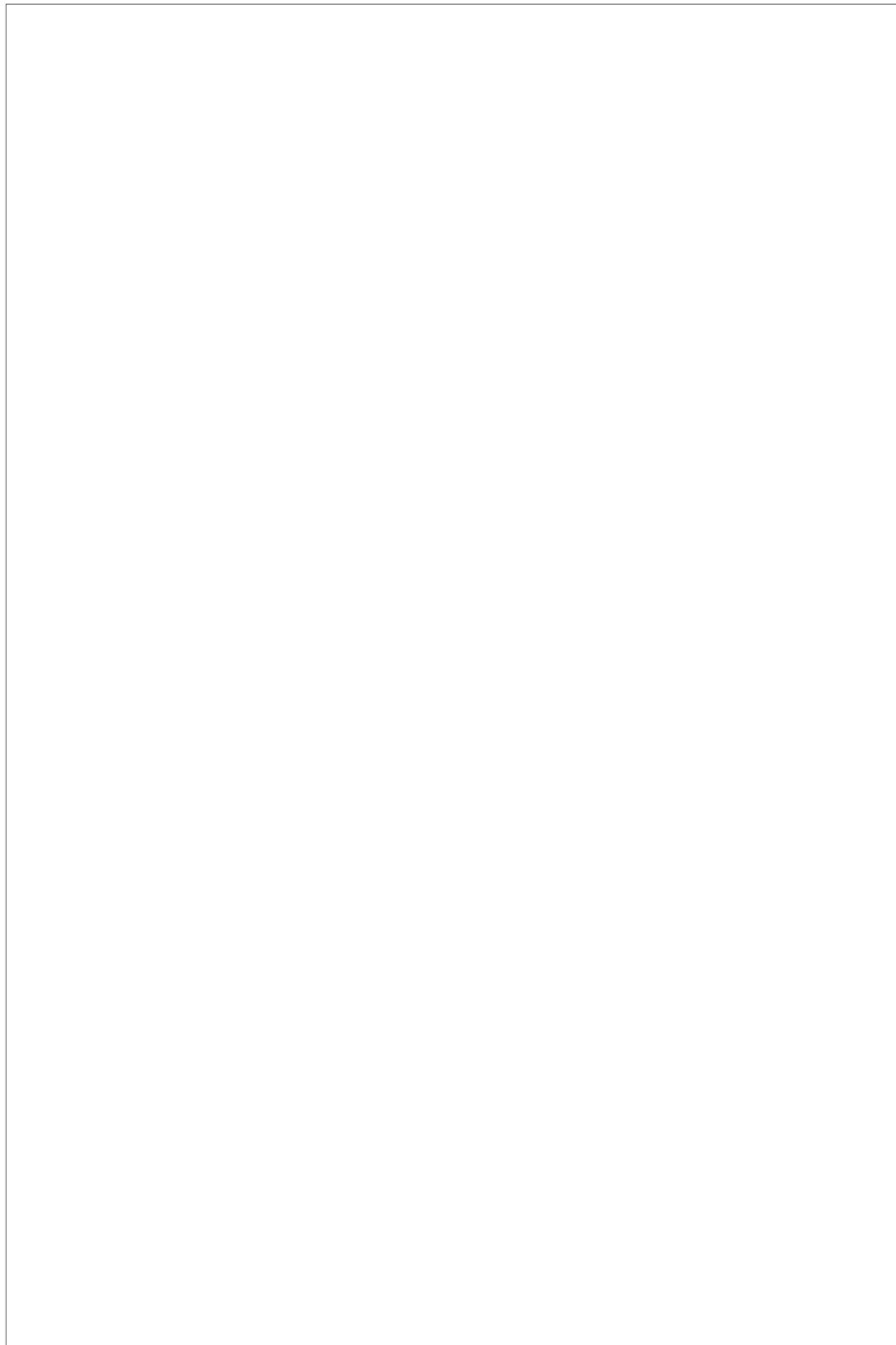
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Communist Commentary on Trinh Statement and Rusk's Press Conference: Communist propaganda is still treading warily in treating Trinh's statement and Secretary Rusk's comments on it. The Soviet and Hungarian press have reported both statements straight with little comment. Most of the other Communist countries have been silent so far.

Only the Czechs have claimed that the US has rejected the North Vietnamese offer to hold talks. A 5 January Prague broadcast alleged that the US reacted to Trinh's statement in a "completely negative fashion." It charged that the "US is demanding an assurance from Hanoi that the other side would not use the cessation of bombing to improve its military position." While acknowledging that Secretary Rusk used "a cautious formulation to give the appearance of not fully rejecting the offer," the Czechs complained that he did not say how long the US wants to investigate the proposal for opening talks.

For the most part, the Communists appear to be biding their time and waiting for a cue from Hanoi before issuing any authoritative comment.

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No Date Yet for Opening of Liberation Front Press Office in Paris: The Liberation Front representative in North Vietnam, who has been in Paris for the past two weeks, has again claimed that the Front will establish a press office there "in a few months." No precise date for the opening was given nor were the individuals to staff it named.

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Ho in Unusual Spurt of Public Appearances: Within the past two weeks Ho Chi Minh has made four separate public appearances. During this time he

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has addressed an anniversary meeting, attended a Council of Ministers meeting and met with a visiting [redacted] delegation [redacted]

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[redacted] During the preceding ten months, the 77-year-old Ho had been almost completely out of the public picture; there were persistent reports that he was ill and out of Hanoi.

His current high visibility strongly suggests that the regime is taking advantage of a period when Ho is in Hanoi and in apparent good health to discredit earlier reports of his illness. In referring to his appearance at the 25 December anniversary meeting, the Hanoi press claimed Ho looked "strong and healthy."

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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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DAILY BRIEF
8 JANUARY 1968

1. North Vietnam

The two suspected coastal defense missile sites south of Thanh Hoa were struck repeatedly by US aircraft on 5 and 6 January. There is no firm evidence from photography or pilot reports, however, that either site was occupied at the time of the attacks.

2. South Vietnam

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3. Congo

Ambassador McBride senses new trouble between the Congolese and the Belgians in the near future. He says the Congolese are becoming highly agitated over the Belgian position on the mercenary question.

Steps are being taken to get the Belgian press to cool its treatment of the issue and to head off a crisis by keeping President Mobutu somewhere near the degree of flexibility he seemed to have in his talks with Vice President Humphrey.

4. Czechoslovakia

The selection of Alexander Dubcek to replace Novotny as party chief may have been a last-minute compromise.

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[redacted] publicity spread had already been prepared on planning chief Cernik.

Cernik, who had been considered the leading contender for Novotny's mantle, now seems a good bet to replace Lenart as premier when parliament meets Wednesday.

Although Dubcek, as a last-minute choice, is probably on shaky ground, his position is believed to have been strengthened by the expansion of the party presidium from ten to fourteen men. The four new men are relative newcomers to the national political scene, but they will give the presidium greater regional balance and some much needed experience in key economic problem areas.

A likely victim of further leadership changes is conservative ideology chief Hendrych. He tried to hop on the anti-Novotny bandwagon last month but was told it was too late and that in any case his record was against him.

5. Cyprus

Three of the five Greek ships which arrived last Wednesday have now left again with some 1,500 troops and 180 vehicles, including 18 tanks and 11 scout cars. With what is expected to be taken out on the other two ships shortly, Ambassador Belcher now thinks that 7,000 "illegals" will be pulled out by the 23 January deadline. He thinks it may be time to start needling Ankara about withdrawal of Turkish "illegals."

The Turkish Cypriot press is trying to belittle the extent of the Greek withdrawal. In any event, the Turks are likely to hold to their claim that there are a lot more than 7,000 Greek "illegals" on the island.

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6. Brazil-Peru-France

France seems close to completing long-pending sales of Mirage super-sonic jet aircraft to Brazil and Peru.

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The Brazilian Government has not yet made a final decision, but the air ministry has recommended purchase of the Mirages instead of our F-5s. It cites the ten-year payment terms and the possibility of exchanging coffee and other products as plus factors for the Mirages.

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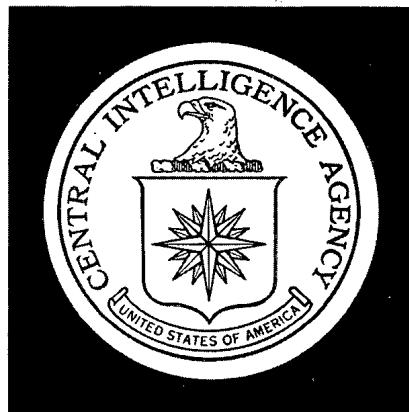
For its part, Peru is going ahead with its plans to buy 12 Mirages;

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16

8 January 1968

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8 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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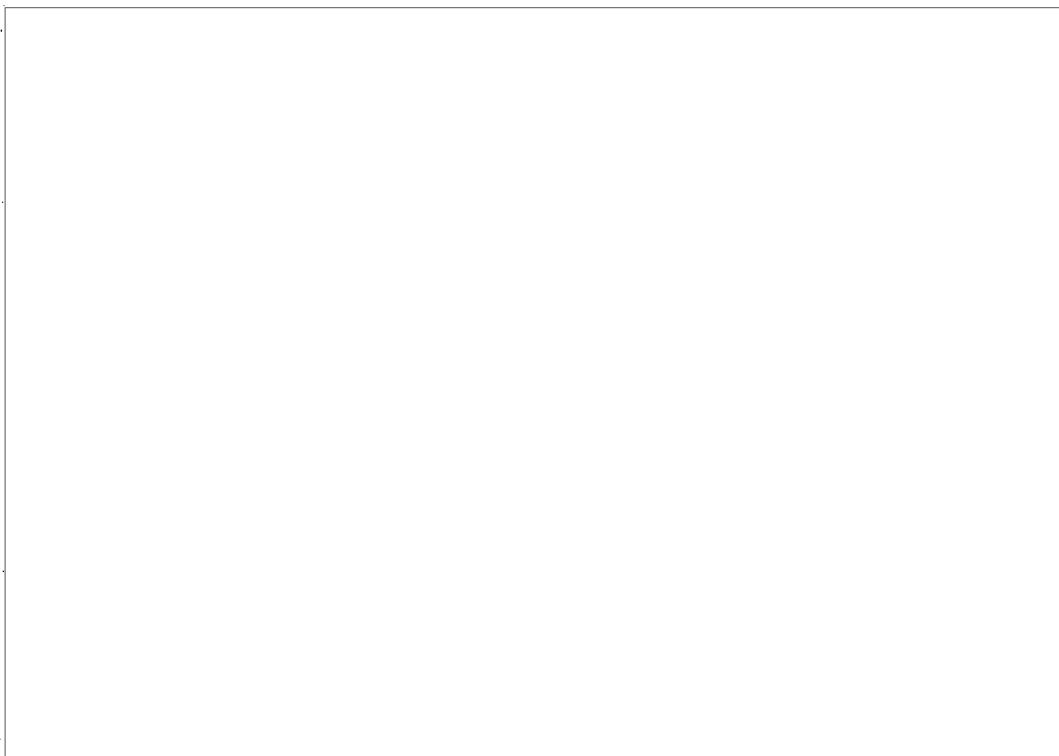
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French Views on Hanoi's Negotiating Posture:
Etienne Manac'h, the Director of Asian Affairs for the French Foreign Ministry, told an embassy officer in Paris Saturday that Mai Van Bo, Hanoi's representative in Paris, had confirmed to him on 3 January the "official nature" of Trinh's statement. Manac'h claimed Bo intended this confirmation to be passed to US authorities. Manac'h went on to say that the Trinh statement in no way changes the French government's understanding of Hanoi's position; Paris already knew that Hanoi was ready to enter into talks if bombing were halted unconditionally.

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[redacted] Reports
on the living and working conditions of the North
Vietnamese people continue to come in [redacted]

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[redacted] The most recent add to the
growing body of evidence that Hanoi has engaged in
an extensive relocation of industry, particularly
in the heavily bombed areas of the southern prov-
inces.

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One report gives details of the organization
of civilian bomb damage crews. The peacetime regu-
lation that each adult donate 25 days of labor to
state projects each year was broadened in 1965 to
a requirement that all adults under 45 respond to
unlimited calls for work anywhere for any length
of time. Only after the first 25 days of such
duty does the state begin to supply the workers'
food.

A medical technician who worked in a hospital
in the northwestern part of the country for ten
years reports that the young Vietnamese-educated

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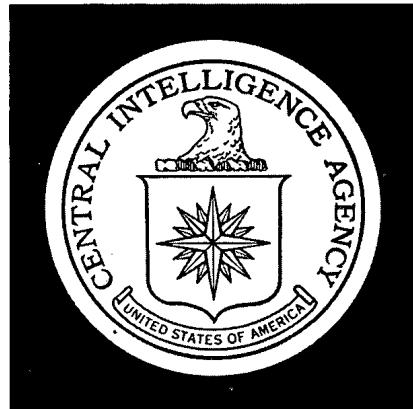
medical doctors are not nearly as well trained as the older French-educated ones in his hospital. He also reports that political considerations severely hampered the administration of his hospital.

* * *

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

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DAILY BRIEF
9 JANUARY 1968

1. Vietnam

There are major enemy build-ups in three areas. Perhaps the most immediate and serious threat is just below the Demilitarized Zone, where elements of four North Vietnamese divisions are concentrating around the allied base at Khe Sanh.

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2. Communist China

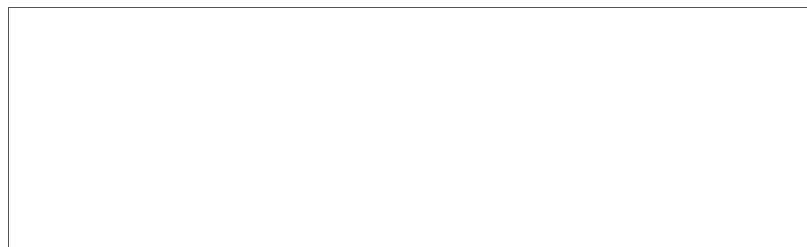
Peking, in a series of year-end statements about the Communist insurgency movements in Southeast Asia, made no pledge, even a pro forma one, of immediate or future Chinese support.

Although the Chinese claimed "brilliant victories" for the Communists in Laos, Burma, and Thailand, they preached the necessity of self-reliance in "people's war." The Burmese party, for instance, was lauded for its twenty-year "revolutionary civil war," then given the cheery word that "protracted struggles" lie ahead.

Peking's preoccupation with domestic affairs and Vietnam probably accounts for its caution. There are also signs, however, that leaders opposed to the Red Guard style diplomacy that ran riot last summer may be regaining influence.

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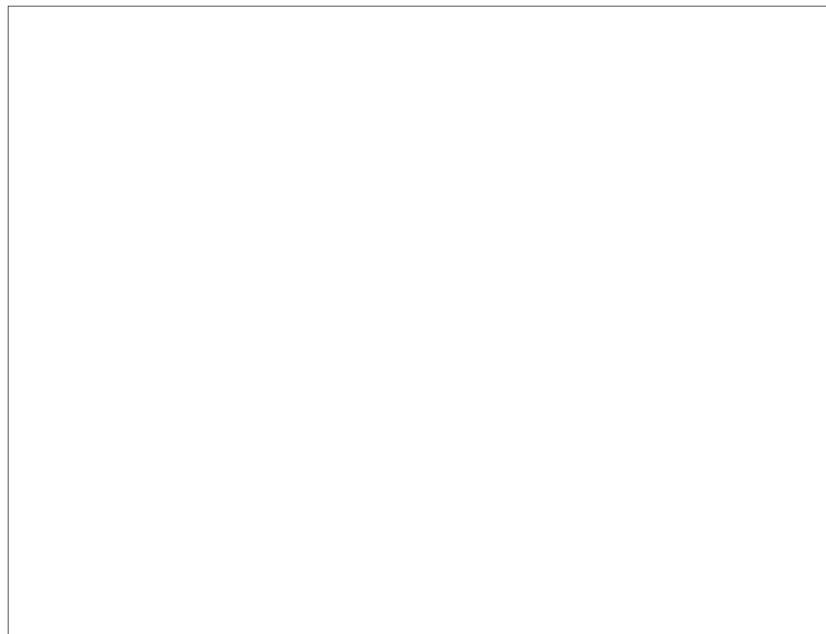
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3. United Kingdom

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**4. United Kingdom**

A Foreign Office official says that Wilson's visit to Moscow is definitely set for 22-24 January. No agenda has yet been fixed, but briefing papers are being prepared on all the "usual" subjects, including Vietnam. The official believes that, although Wilson will not discuss an Anglo-Soviet friendship treaty, the subject will come up in connection with a final communiqué.

5. Australia

John Gorton will be the new prime minister, and may be sworn in tomorrow. His administration is not likely to make any significant changes in foreign or domestic policies. This morning he reaffirmed Australian determination to stay in the Vietnam war and show the Communists that "aggression does not pay."

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6. Middle East

Jordanian and Israeli forces exchanged fire along the border yesterday. This was the fourth such incident this month, but the first since 21 November in which Israeli planes were used to silence Jordanian artillery. These exchanges can be expected as long as Arab terrorists continue to enter Israel from Jordan.

* * *

The Arab summit conference set for 17 January has been postponed indefinitely. This highlights continuing disagreement over how to deal with the Israeli problem. Syria and Saudi Arabia seem primarily responsible for scuttling the conference.

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7. Brazil

Costa e Silva has again publicly stated that Brazil will insist on its right to make and use atomic devices for peaceful purposes. His foreign minister has been exploiting this nationalistic issue for some time. The President's statement, however, commits the whole government to this stand, and puts Brazil where it could not sign the nonproliferation treaty.

8. Iran

The Western-owned oil consortium has agreed to cough up an extra \$12 million. This is the amount the Shah, furious over the issue, claimed was still owed on the last quarterly payment because of the devaluation of the pound. Iranian officials have hinted that this payment may help them compromise with the consortium on other difficult problems, such as the level of oil exports.

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9. Congo

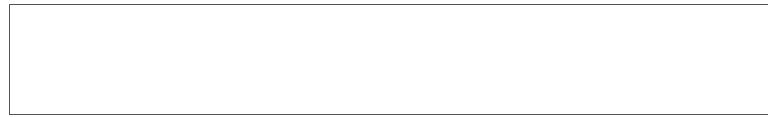
Mobutu is now described as willing to let most of the mercenaries be evacuated at once from Rwanda to Europe.

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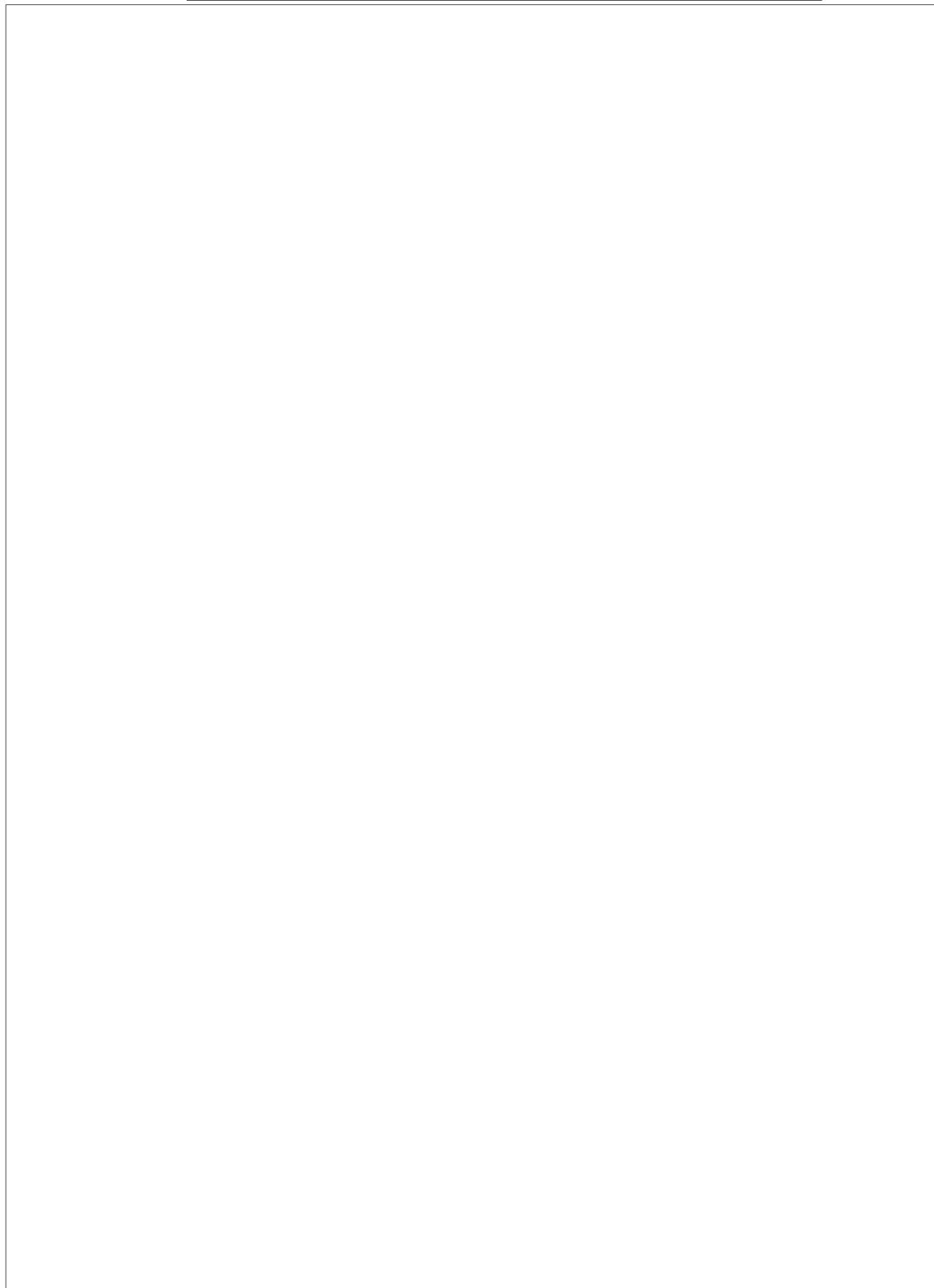
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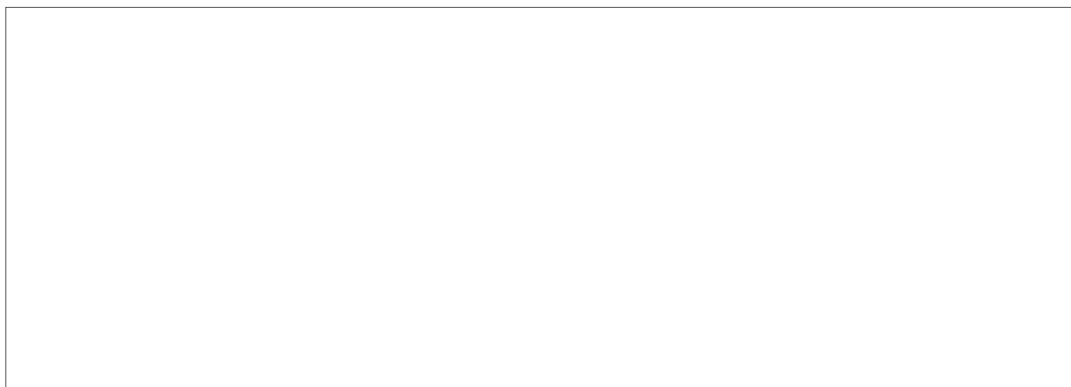
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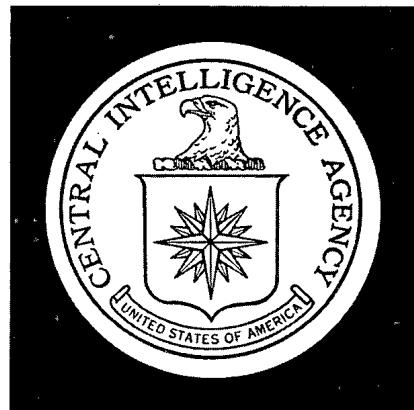
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi on Negotiations: We have no additional North Vietnamese commentary on the subject of negotiations.

A Japanese news agency is carrying the replies of North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Trinh to a questionnaire submitted by two Japanese correspondents. Trinh disparaged the President's San Antonio speech as a "deceitful attempt" to mask new escalation of the war. Trinh cited his statement of a year ago that a bombing halt is the precondition for any US - North Vietnamese talks. The interview adds nothing to Hanoi's position on this issue and the questionnaire probably was submitted to Trinh before his recent and authoritative remarks on this subject on 30 December.

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Report of Ho's Death Premature: Hanoi's sensitivity to rumors of Ho Chi Minh's health

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the regime has gone out of its way recently to have Ho meet with foreign delegations and to demonstrate that he is relatively fit at present.

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Minority Problems:

minority peoples of North Vietnam remain a continuing problem for the regime. These people are only an irritant, however, and certainly not a serious element of instability.

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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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~~Top Secret~~ 10 January 1968

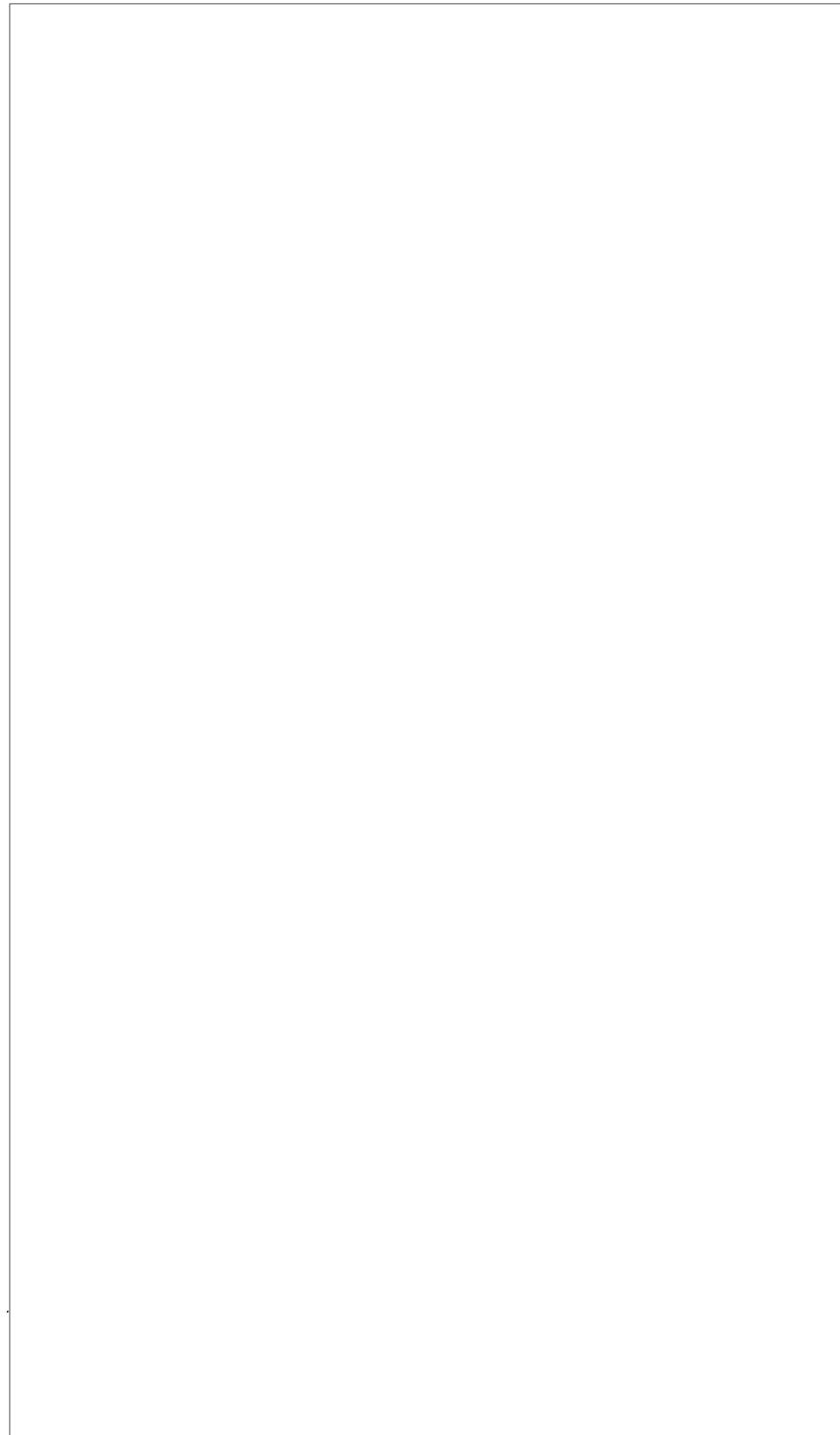


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DAILY BRIEF
10 JANUARY 1968

50X1

1. North Vietnam



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2. Soviet Union

A retired Soviet general was hauled off to jail in Moscow yesterday in full public view, just as he had finished giving Western newsmen copies of a new petition supporting the country's beleaguered intellectuals. The incident points up the awkward dilemma that confronts Brezhnev and company as they try to cope with growing restiveness in the intellectual community. The problem is examined in today's Annex.

3. Communist China

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4. West Germany

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5. Philippines

Marcos is having cabinet troubles. He has accepted the resignation of his defense under secretary after the latter's wife got implicated in a smuggling incident. There also is friction between Marcos and Vice President Lopez, who concurrently is secretary of agriculture.

Lopez submitted his resignation as agricultural secretary when Marcos gave a lesser official control of profitable forestry concessions--always a sure source of income in the Philippines. Marcos talked Lopez out of going through with his resignation, but relations between the two men remain distinctly chilly.

6. Caribbean

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7. Greece

Papadopoulos has threatened to step on a group of his erstwhile military supporters if they do not stop agitating for extreme measures. [redacted]

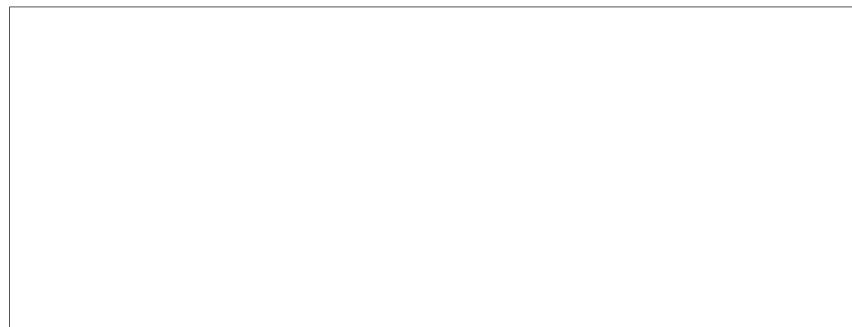
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[redacted] the radicals are demanding abolition of the monarchy, tougher action against Communists, and a gloves-off dictatorship. [redacted] this group of officers is criticizing his regime more openly now, but he [redacted] confident he could handle them when and if the time comes.

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8. Yemen



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9. Poland



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ANNEX

The Dilemma Posed by the Soviet Intellectuals

Soviet leaders are getting themselves into hotter and hotter water as they pursue their drive against dissident intellectuals. The four young intellectuals who went on trial this week for "slanderizing the state" are no mere oddballs. Behind them is the moral backing of the overwhelming bulk of the country's top creators and thinkers in many fields. They include the Soviet Union's most able writers, historians, artists, composers, chemists, biologists, and physicists. Several are Nobel prize winners; one is known [redacted] as the father of the Soviet H bomb.

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Well over a hundred of these men have signed public petitions of protest against the efforts Soviet leaders have made in the past two years to limit freedom of expression in the country. These efforts got under way nearly two years ago with the celebrated trial of the two Soviet novelists Sinyavsky and Daniel. The current trial, and three others during the past year, stemmed directly from that trial. Expressions of support for Sinyavsky and Daniel and protests against the system that persecuted them have prompted new efforts by the regime to enforce its will. These, in turn, have sparked new protests. The problem continues spiraling upward and both sides clearly mean business.

One sign of the gravity with which the intellectuals view the issue is the open admission some of them have made that they too share responsibility for Stalin's terrorism--because they dared not protest it. These men have vowed never to be so cowed in the future. [redacted]

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The intellectuals did taste one brief period of relative freedom during the Khrushchev days. Khrushchev was an innovator and he often used intellectual dissent as a way of bringing pressure against conservatives in the party who were dragging their

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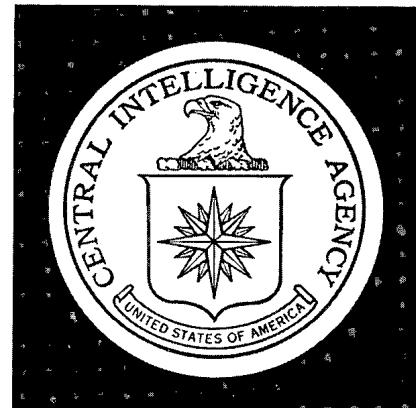
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feet, resisting the changes he thought were necessary to revitalize the Soviet system. Khrushchev's successors are quite another kettle of fish in this respect. The biggest concern of today's collective leadership is to keep a united front on immediate problems. They have not tried any long-term solutions and resent anyone trying to rock the boat. To them, the dissidence in the intellectual community is a troublesome distraction.

Some Soviet intellectuals have occasionally hinted that somewhere in the upper reaches of the party are men who sympathize with, or at least understand, their aims. No one in the present party leadership, however, has yet stepped up to support them openly.

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

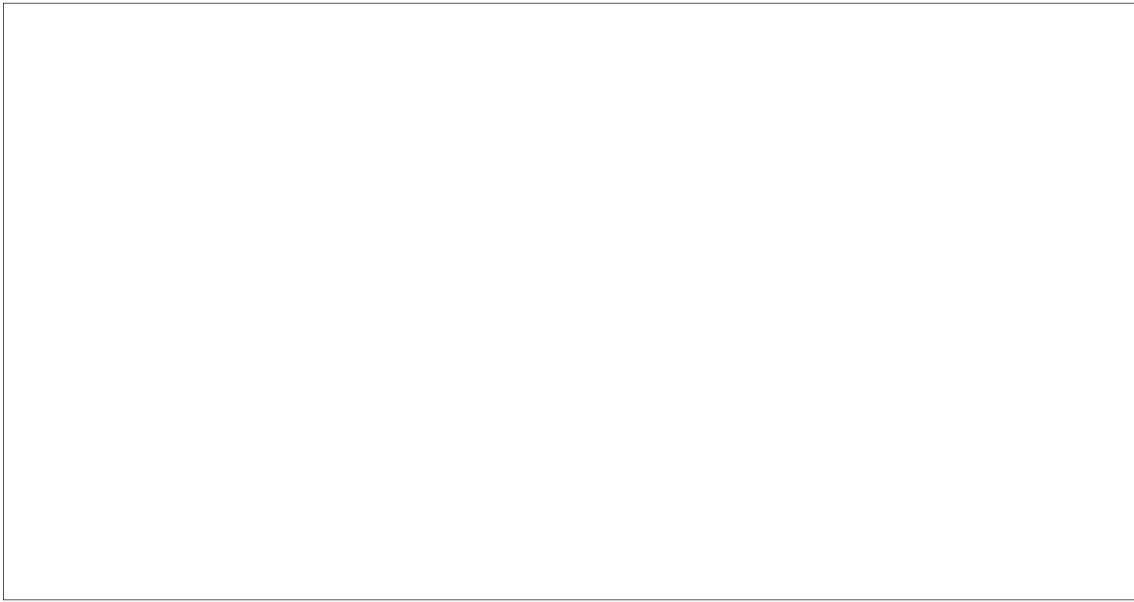
The Paul Doumer Bridge: The mid-December bombings of the Paul Doumer Bridge caused the most extensive damage yet to the crossing. Photography of 5 January confirms earlier indications that at least seven spans, or about 2,000 feet, of the mile-long bridge were dropped in the bombings of 14-22 December. Three bridge piers also were destroyed in the same air strikes.

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[redacted] the Doumer bridge was not in use on 26 December. There are, however, as many as eight alternate crossings within six miles of the bridge.

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Conditions in Hanoi During the Holiday Truce Periods: A Western observer who travels frequently to Hanoi has reported on the situation in the North Vietnamese capital during the two recent truce periods. During the Christmas standdown, he claimed that the North Vietnamese sounded air raid warnings to support their claims of allied violations of the truce.

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North Vietnamese Trade in December: Cargo delivered to North Vietnam by all foreign flag ships in December totaled about 128,400 tons. This is equal to the high monthly average during the first half of 1967 and some 38,000 tons above the July-November average.

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

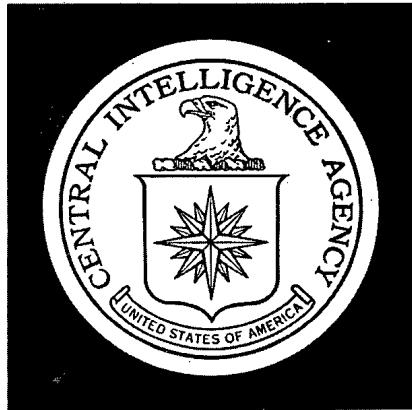
Hanoi Exploits Dr. Spock: Hanoi, in its initial comment on the charges filed against Dr. Spock and four other prominent antiwar demonstrators, has claimed that "their prosecution by the Johnson administration has aroused indignation among large numbers of American people." The statement, broadcast in English on 9 January, reported in detail Dr. Spock's remarks about the legality of the antiwar movement, and quoted other comments by antiwar leaders and by the lawyers who will defend Spock and his four associates.

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DAILY BRIEF
11 JANUARY 1968

1. Vietnam

Vietnamese Communist propaganda has again endorsed the idea of a coalition government in South Vietnam and simultaneously condemned Saigon for seeking to block avenues to peace. In doing so, Hanoi seems more interested in fanning the unrest in the South over this issue than in spelling out what it means when it calls for a coalition government.

2. Thailand

Bangkok is pushing harder for the kind of status of forces agreement it wants from the US. It has now announced a new set of procedures for dealing with US military offenders. The key provision requires that before taking custody of arrested US soldiers, US authorities must agree in writing that they be turned back to the Thais for prosecution "on request."

3. Communist China

50X1

4. Singapore

Harold Wilson is in for some tough arguments this weekend when Lee Kuan Yew flies in with fire in his eye. Lee will fight hard to get the British to move away from their timetable for withdrawal from Singapore by 1971. He has calmed down somewhat since his first fierce talk about reprisals against British economic interests. Still, he is deadly serious.

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5. Czechoslovakia

The new leaders are hinting at a much more liberal regime. An article in yesterday's official party daily, according to excerpts distributed by the Czech news agency, calls for withdrawal of the party from direct administration of the government and the economy. It also makes a strong pitch for the respect of individual rights.

Although set forth in general terms, these ideas are radical indeed for Czechoslovakia. Yet they presumably reflect the consensus of the party central committee which last week ousted party boss Novotny.

6. India

Mrs. Gandhi is making a gradual recovery from the paralyzing shock of last February's election. Months of careful political fence-mending began paying off in the waning weeks of the old year. With better party backing--particularly from Home Minister Chavan--she showed a new confidence and deftness in dealing with the mess in several states where opposition coalitions had lost their grip. The Congress Party is now back in the driver's seat in these states.

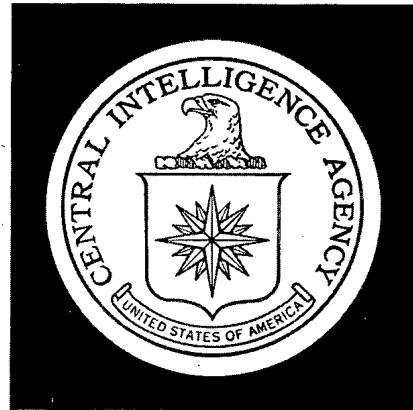
Whether Mrs. Gandhi's touch retains its magic will depend on the willingness of strong rivals within her party to keep on pulling together behind their leader.

7. Japan - Soviet Union

Trade between the two countries reached an all-time high last year. The Soviet Union has now replaced China as Japan's top Communist trading partner. Signs point to further increases this year.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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More on the Trinh Statement: The first secretary of the French Embassy in Vientiane in a recent conversation with US Embassy officials there has given a surprisingly balanced interpretation of the recent Trinh statement. In contrast to some French statements which have portrayed the Trinh statement as particularly significant and forthcoming, the diplomat offered his opinion that there were no signs that the North Vietnamese have altered their hard line concerning the substantive nature of any negotiations. In addition, he felt that the Trinh statement seemed admirably suited as a tactic to put pressure on the US to stop the bombing.

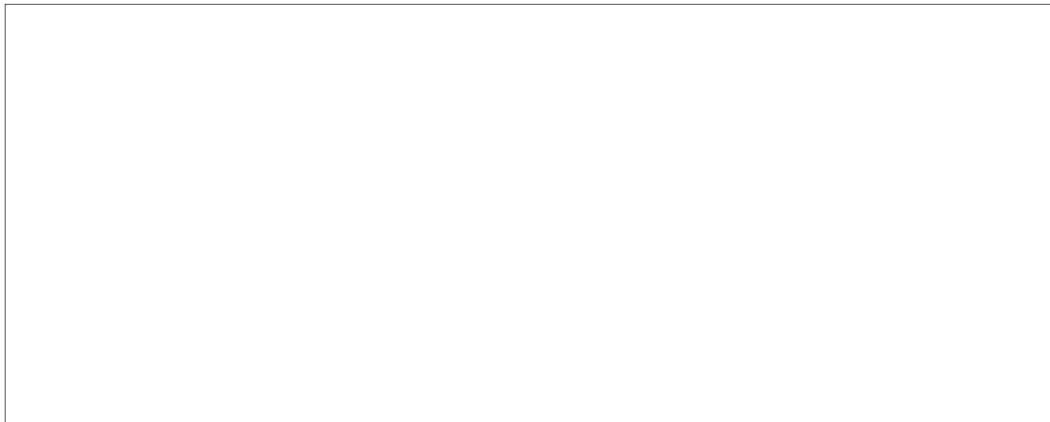
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North Vietnamese Railways:

comments

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[redacted] on the North Vietnamese railway system. [redacted] [redacted] along the major rail lines, rocks, cement, sand, dirt, rails, and wooden beams are stockpiled at two kilometer intervals to facilitate rapid bomb damage repair. Bridge repair crews normally consist of about 16 men augmented by as many locally recruited civilians as are necessary (sometimes in the thousands) to complete repairs. Repair work on a damaged rail or railroad bridge section may begin as soon as two hours after a bombing raid.

Often temporary bridges are constructed that are not strong enough to bear the weight of a locomotive. In such cases, the railroad cars are pushed across the bridge by one engine and hooked up to another on the other side.

As a rule trains move at night, are about one kilometer long with either two engines at the front, or one at either end. Passenger cars also usually move at night and are mixed with cargo cars. The majority of the trains traveling from Hanoi to Lang Son on the Chinese border are armed with antiaircraft artillery and/or machine guns.

* * *

Decentralization: One aspect of the Hanoi government's efforts to decentralize the economy and to place more responsibility on provincial administrators has been reported [redacted]

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[redacted] in mid-1966 the workers at the phosphate plant [redacted] in Thanh Hoa, south of Hanoi, were told that henceforth the province would be responsible for operating the plant and for producing all products used by the people. [redacted] 50X1
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[redacted] the workers were disheartened by this news and feared that their jobs would be made more difficult by what they felt would be inefficient administration. [redacted] 50X1
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Antiwar Gathering: Hanoi radio on 9 January announced that a group of 50 representatives of various American organizations in Europe opposed to the "US aggressive war in Vietnam" met in Paris on 7 January and formed a "continent-wide coordinating committee" named American Opposition Abroad. The broadcast reported that the group pledged to promote demonstrations by Americans against "the dirty US war in Vietnam" on George Washington's birthday and on 2 April. Additionally, the committee announced that it would circulate a petition among Americans in Europe, declaring the intention of the signatories to encourage draft resistance.

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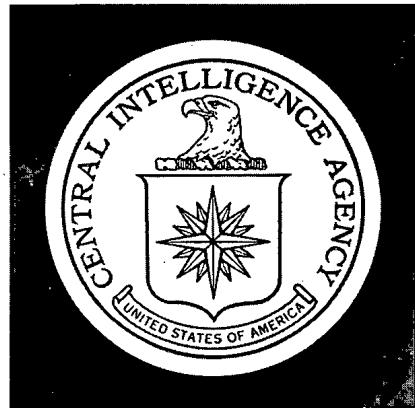
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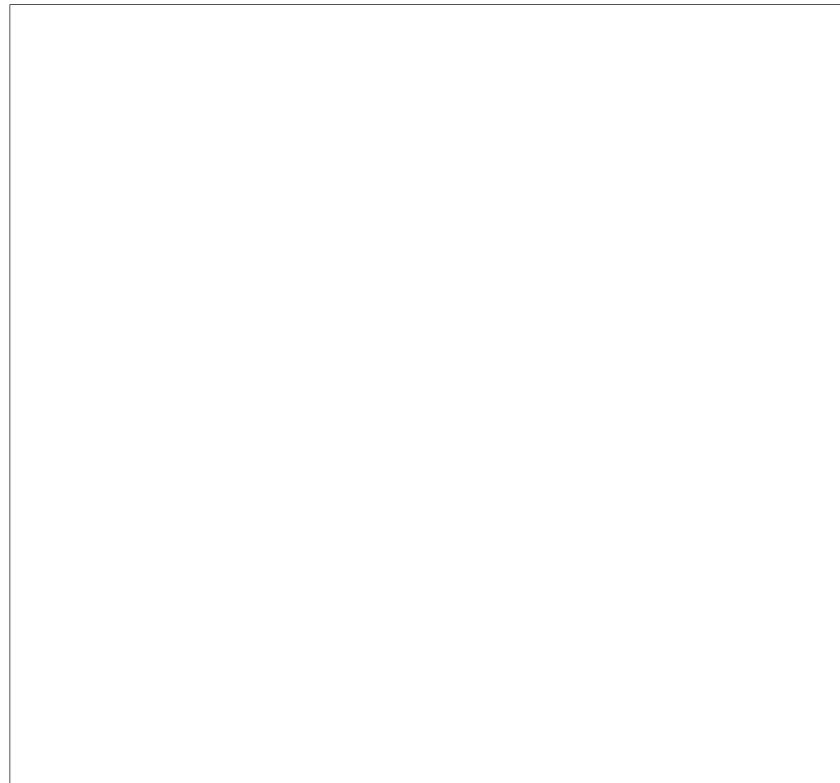
~~Top Secret~~ 12 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
12 JANUARY 1968

1. Communist China



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2. South Vietnam

The arrest of six labor leaders may prevent early settlement of the electrical workers' strike in Saigon.

The strike began yesterday morning over demands for additional wage benefits. Union negotiators are said to have made major concessions and to have been at the "half-way mark" toward settlement when the police made their arrests.

Other unions in Saigon, including port and transport workers, had earlier threatened sympathy walkouts if any arrests were made in connection with the strike.

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3. Vietnam

Sihanouk's remarks to Ambassador Bowles seem to discredit [redacted]

[redacted] that the Vietnamese Communists had asked about using Phnom Penh as a site for negotiations.

Sihanouk said he had been in touch with the North Vietnamese representative in Phnom Penh and had suggested his capital as a site for talks, but the North Vietnamese had shown no interest.

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4. Dominican Republic

With Balaguer now in office almost 18 months, Ambassador Crimmins has sent in a long assessment of the Dominican political scene. These are some of his points:

--The relative stability achieved by Balaguer is coming under heavy pressure. Both the hard-core "Constitutionalists" on the left and the hard-core "Wessinistas" on the right are now trying hard to undermine [redacted] the President.

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--The situation at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo is definitely heating up again.

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--General Wessin's significance lies not so much in his vote-getting potential as in the fairly substantial sympathies he retains in the military, and in his potential for increased attractiveness to the military and business communities.

--With continuing US support, Balaguer should be able to weather at least through the spring.

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5. Brazil

Foreign Minister Magalhaes Pinto is still denying the US support on Vietnam. Magalhaes Pinto told Senator Jack Miller of Iowa on Tuesday that public opinion in Brazil is influenced by "disunity" among the allies in Vietnam, and news reports that Americans themselves are not supporting the war. The foreign minister concluded that conditions for an understanding between the US and Brazil on Vietnam have not yet developed.

6. France -
Israel

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7. France -
Belgium

Heavy pressure from Paris to induce Belgium to buy the Mirage instead of the F-5 seems to be paying off. Ambassador Knight in Brussels now believes the Mirage will be the choice.

8. Poland

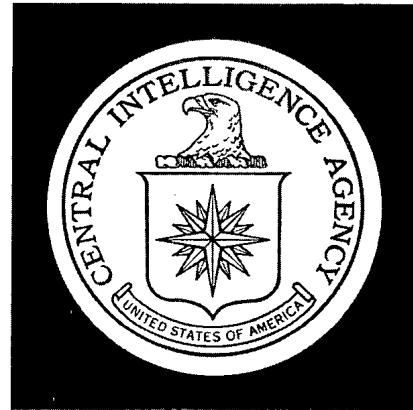
Rumors of top-drawer personnel shifts have flared up again. The rumors began about a year ago and have become more insistent recently following the turmoil next door in the Czech party hierarchy.

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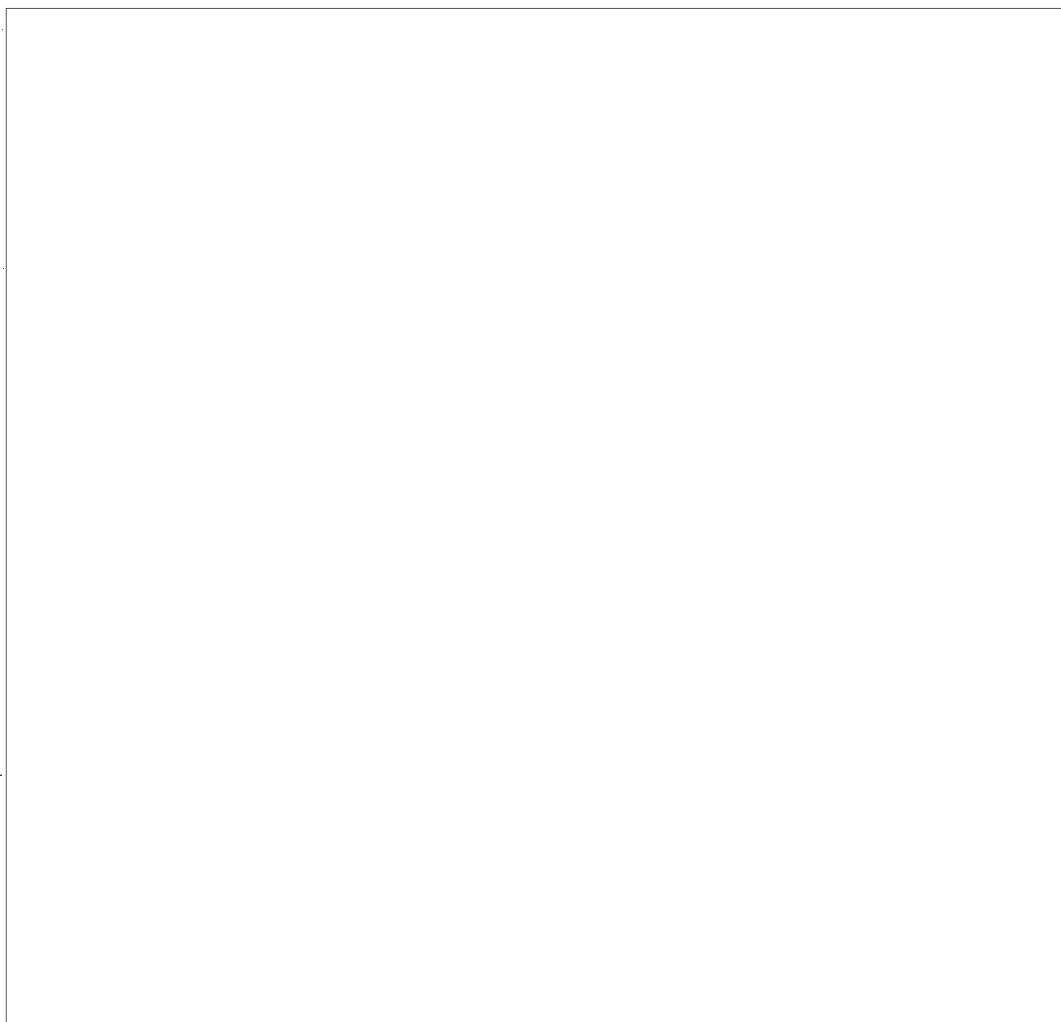
Hanoi Reaffirms Trinh's Statement: In an unusual but not unprecedeted move, Hanoi has confirmed for an American newspaper the accuracy of Foreign Minister Trinh's statement on the willingness of his government to talk with the US. According to press reports from Hong Kong, a correspondent for the Boston-based Christian Science Monitor cabled Hanoi asking about the accuracy of Trinh's statement. He received in reply a cable from the head of Hanoi's press and information service quoting Trinh's remarks as they were broadcast on 30 December. In keeping with Hanoi's current silence on the foreign minister's remarks, the cable to the Monitor correspondent contained no comment on the new formulation.

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Moscow Comments on US Reaction to Trinh Statement: In one of its limited comments thus far on the US reaction to the Trinh statement, Moscow radio in a commentary on 11 January claimed that the announcement of increased US appropriations for the Vietnam war undercut statements by American officials that they are "studying" the foreign minister's statement. The commentary pointed out that the increase in appropriations would seem to end President Johnson's "hesitation" in answering the North Vietnamese minister's step, and concluded by declaring that the US "just cannot obliterate the thought of continuing and consequently expanding the war."

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Worker Morale:

[redacted] formerly worked at a coal mine in an area northwest of Hanoi claims that the workers at the mine were demoralized by the war, the demands on their physical energy, the weight of political supervision, and the scarcity of proper food. Only hard-line party members seemed to be enthusiastic about the regime's war effort. Party and government control in the area was reportedly extremely tight. Workers with bad records were immediately sent to "re-education centers." [redacted]

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[redacted] about one percent of the people refused to be molded by the party, openly defied the regime, and refused to work. These persons were subsequently deprived of their rice ration and all other rights of citizens, and became outcasts of society. [redacted]

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[redacted] figure of one percent probably represents only isolated cases that came to his attention.

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Canadians May Send Envoy to Hanoi: According to a French Press Agency report from Ottawa, Canadian Minister of External Affairs Paul Martin stated recently that Canada hopes to be able to send an envoy to Hanoi shortly. Martin named Ormond Dier, former head of the Canadian mission to the International Control Commission, as the likely choice for such a mission, although he indicated that former ambassador Chester Ronning (who has twice previously journeyed to Hanoi) might be an alternate choice. Martin did not suggest that any Canadian mission to Hanoi was imminent but stated that Canada is actively engaged in consultations with other countries on the subject of Vietnam and is "most desirous of making a useful contribution to this cause."

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[Redacted]

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Hanoi and Western Correspondents:

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] Hanoi has not allowed any Western correspondents into the country since at least last November, and there has been some indication that the North Vietnamese have ruled out such visits for the time being. Wilfred Burchett, the Australian Communist apologist for Hanoi, stated as much in mid-December.

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Hanoi Press Officer in Paris Recalled for Consultations: Tran Ngoc Kha, head of the North Vietnamese press office in Paris, has been called back to Hanoi to report on his activities during 1967.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] The urgent note in Kha's recall cannot be readily explained, although it may be connected with providing guidelines for handling Hanoi's latest statement on its willingness to hold talks with the US in return for an end to the bombings.

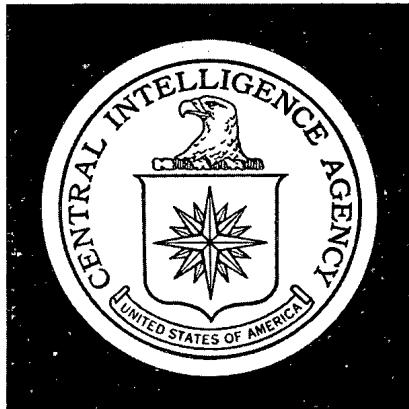
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

More on Dr. Spock: Hanoi radio in an 11 January broadcast in English announced that the Liberation Front Committee for Solidarity with the American People recently sent a message to Dr. Spock voicing high indignation at the "Johnson administration's prosecution against him and four other American intellectuals." The message "warmly hailed the patriotic activities of these and other progressive Americans" in their strong support for the antidraft movement among American youth and their "active defense of the peace and justice-loving tradition of the American people."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
13 JANUARY 1968

1. Greece

Ambassador Talbot reports that the junta leaders have reached the explosion point over what they consider refusal of their NATO allies to do business with them.

On Thursday Interior Minister Pattakos complained bitterly to an embassy officer that the "attitude" of the US and other NATO countries is creating uncertainty among the Greek people.

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Later that night, Papadopoulos was slightly more restrained during a long talk with the Ambassador. Papadopoulos nevertheless insisted there is no valid reason for US refusal to continue formal relations. He threatened to announce within a week that "NATO had rejected Greece."

The junta has been hot under the collar over alleged US coolness ever since the April takeover. The vehemence of these recent remarks suggests some troublesome public statement may in fact be imminent.

2. Cyprus

The Turks, convinced that U Thant favors the Greek Cypriot position, have made clear they want no part of him as a mediator of the basic dispute. Ankara insists that U Thant's mandate does not cover mediation of a final settlement anyway, and thinks he should stick to security matters and disarmament of "illegal" forces.

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3. Laos -
North Vietnam

The North Vietnamese tried something new in northern Laos yesterday, and it flopped. Two little biplanes tried to bomb the important anti-insurgent staging base at Phou Pha Thi. The gunner on an Air America helicopter shot down one with a carbine, and the other crashed into a hillside. Damage was minimal to the base, which also provides communications and navigational support for US air operations over North Vietnam.

We have been hearing persistent reports of an enemy buildup in this area, but so far there is no sign of any ground attack to follow up the "air raid."

4. South Vietnam

The strikes in Saigon spread yesterday when dock workers walked out to protest the arrest of the six labor leaders on Thursday. The six, meanwhile, refuse to negotiate an end to the electrical workers strike while they remain behind bars.

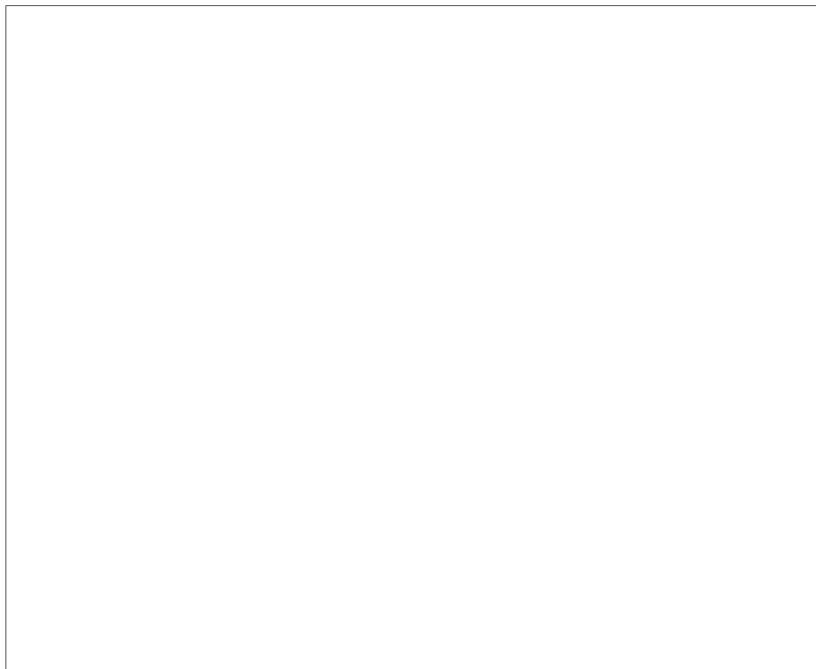
President Buu of the Vietnamese Confederation of Labor blames Labor Minister Long for the problem because of his opposition to all independent labor groups. Buu is nevertheless doing what he can to settle the trouble.

5. South Vietnam

Rice production for this crop year is going up about three percent, according to early figures of the Ministry of Agriculture. This would be the first increase since 1964. The higher nationwide output would be due wholly to increases in the Delta provinces; production in other areas actually declined.

6. Middle East

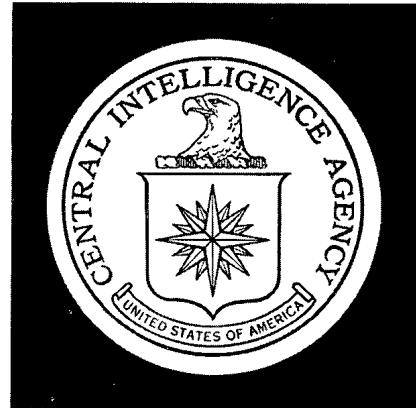
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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16

13 January 1968

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

13 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnam has begun to issue propaganda in support of Foreign Minister Trinh's 30 December Statement: Thus far, it is limited to underscoring the importance of the new formulation and to pointing out that the US has failed to respond. It contains no elaboration of what Hanoi has in mind regarding any talks with the US.

In separate broadcasts on 11 and 12 January, Hanoi praised the "correct stand" of the North Vietnamese government as expressed in Trinh's remarks, and stressed that the new formulation had already received world-wide support. The broadcasts went to great length to indicate that the US is attempting to distort Hanoi's position and that the Americans continue to put forward their own "arrogant terms" for talks. Hanoi discounted statements by US officials that Trinh's remarks are being studied and claimed that the US position as espoused in the San Antonio formula is "an insolent demand that our people accept the US terms before the US agrees to stop the bombing." The statements also pointed to the recent alleged bombing of a Soviet and a Chinese ship and other "war acts" as evidence of US bad faith and that the US intends to intensify and expand the war.

* * *

Moscow Takes Pessimistic Line: TASS notes a commentary in the Soviet military newspaper Red Star of 12 January saying that once again the US is showing it is not interested in a peace settlement. Claiming that "American politicians" still are seeking a military solution to the Vietnam conflict, the paper asserts that an expansion of military action is Washington's "reply" to Hanoi's recent statement that it will talk after a bombing halt. The article says US escalation has always brought about new measures by the Vietnamese "and their friends," and that this will be true this time as well.

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[Redacted]

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War Protesters in Holland Are Dealt a Heavy
Blow: The Dutch Vietnam Committee, one of the two
biggest Dutch organizations protesting the war,
has decided to dissolve itself [Redacted]

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This will be an important setback for the
organized Dutch protest movement and probably means
a deflation, at least for the time being, to the
anti-Vietnam demonstrations in Amsterdam, where
most of this kind of activity has taken place. [Redacted]

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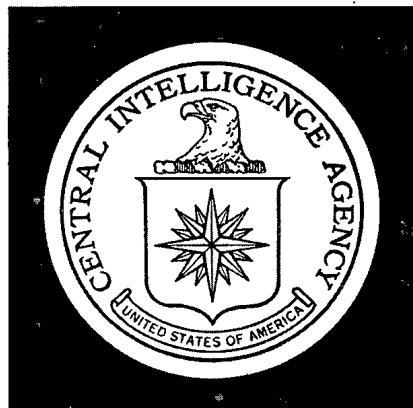
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

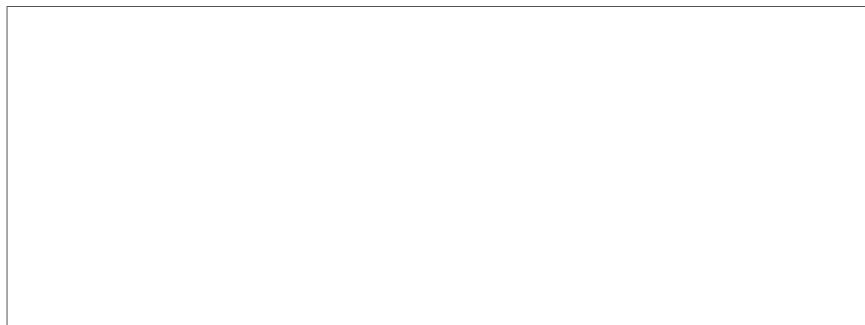
~~Top Secret~~ 15 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
15 JANUARY 1968

1. Greece



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2. Cyprus

Makarios sounded almost like a statesman in his surprise announcement on Friday calling for new national elections. He warned Greek Cypriots that compromise will be necessary since "what is desirable" is not always "feasible." He seemed to be saying that his compatriots had best abandon their goal of union with Greece.

He spoke in a conciliatory way about the Turkish community and seemed to be calling for direct talks between the two communities.

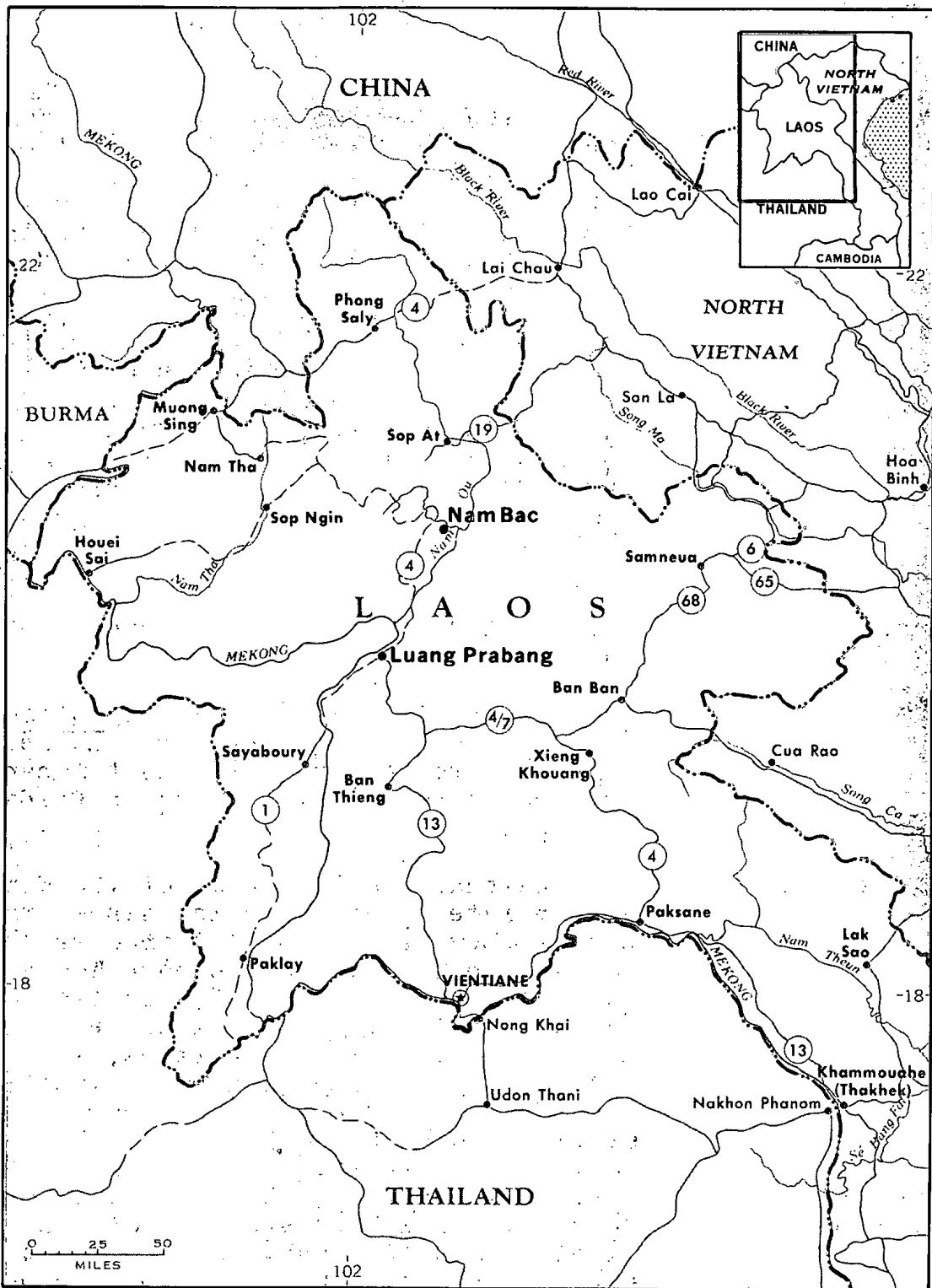
The flexibility and moderation of this talk is unusual for the capricious Archbishop and past experience with him makes us cautious. Still, it is a hopeful sign. He, of course, will be the only real candidate in the elections he has set for next month.

3. Jordan



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4. Laos

The Communists have overrun the important outpost at Nam Bac. It was the culmination of a ten-month campaign to reoccupy an area they lost in August 1966 after having controlled it for nearly a decade. In another development, a small enemy force struck the airfield at the royal capital of Luang Prabang early today. It was a hit-and-run raid, possibly aimed at preventing movement of reinforcements toward Nam Bac.

These events do not mean that the Communists have launched a bigger offensive. The loss of Nam Bac is more a reflection of poor leadership within the Laotian Army. It may set off a new round of political maneuvering within the military for control of the armed forces.

5. Japan

Police are taking extensive precautions to cope with the massive demonstrations expected this week to protest the arrival of the USS Enterprise. The carrier, the first nuclear-powered surface vessel to visit Japan, is due in the port of Sasebo on Friday.

6. West Germany**7. West Germany - Yugoslavia**

Talks get under way this week on restoration of diplomatic relations broken more than ten years ago. Both sides are anxious to take the step despite the many contentious issues that will remain unsettled between them.

8. Soviet Union

Moscow has again gone out of its way to reassure its allies that there are no early prospects for improved Soviet - West German relations.

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9. Yugoslavia

Tito has launched the long-awaited purge of party members opposed to his economic and social reforms. Some 400 people, mostly old ex-partisans and conservative bureaucrats, have been ousted from the Belgrade city organization.

Party liberals will now move on completely to dismantle the old political machine built by former party secretary Rankovic and to consolidate their control in preparation for the party congress scheduled for late this year.

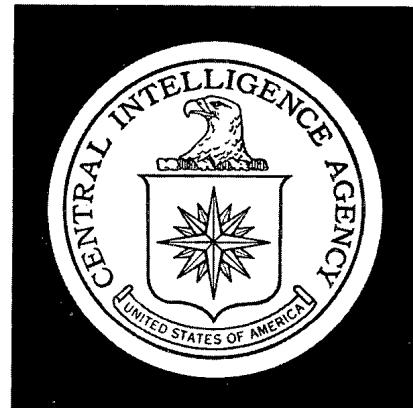
10. Cuba

Castro was back in his old virulent style on Friday when he spoke at the closing of the international "cultural" congress he had sponsored in Havana. The speech contained his most violent attack on the US in many months; he seemed particularly angered at US efforts to "sabotage" Cuban trade deals with the West.

The Cuban saved some of his choicest words for the pro-Moscow Communist parties of Latin America. He accused them of acting like "pseudorevolutionary churches" in the "rearguard" of the anti-imperialist struggle.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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15 January 1968

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

15 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Another Trinh Interview: Remarks attributed to North Vietnam's foreign minister in a recent, but undated, interview with a Bulgarian correspondent underscore Hanoi's contention that it has been on record for nearly a year as willing to talk with the US after the bombing is stopped. The interview, carried by the official Bulgarian news agency on 12 January, quotes Trinh as saying that a year ago he had "clearly pointed out that there will be talks" between North Vietnam and the US after a halt in the bombing and other US acts of war. These are not the words he used in his original "could" formulation, but instead are the ones of his less ambiguous statement of 30 December. The interview probably took place after 30 December, but this is not clear.

The wording in the Bulgarian interview suggests that while Hanoi is content to have the change in the Trinh formulation interpreted as an initiative on its part and thus put the onus on the US for the next move, it nevertheless wants to make clear that the substance of its position has not changed.

* * *

Viet Cong Reiterates Tet Cease-fire: In a communiqué charging that allied forces "deliberately distorted" Communist policy on holiday cease-fires and tried to limit their duration, the Viet Cong's news agency on 12 January restated the Communist decision ordering a seven-day "suspension of military attacks" during the Lunar New Year festival beginning 27 January. The communiqué said there had been "consistent violations" of the Christmas and New Year truces, and asserted that the US and its allies took advantage of the periods to conduct "mop-up operations" and to stage air attacks. It warned that violations of the forthcoming Lunar New Year truce would be "appropriately punished."

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Query to North Vietnam: Ambassador Goldberg was informed by Emmet Hughes of Newsweek that on 6 or 7 January Hughes had sent a letter to the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry asking for clarification of Hanoi's statement about its readiness to talk with the US. The letter contains ten detailed questions asking about the North Vietnamese terms for settlement of the conflict. Hughes said he would inform Ambassador Goldberg if he receives even the slightest response from Hanoi.

It is highly unlikely that the North Vietnamese will respond in any detail to Hughes' questions, although they may, as they have with other recent queries, repeat the foreign minister's formulation about being willing to talk if the bombing and other acts of war are stopped.

* * *

Hanoi Propaganda: North Vietnam's party daily, Nhan Dan, joined Chinese Communist media yesterday in condemning the alleged air attacks on Chinese territory near the Laotian border. The paper said this was a deliberate provocation against China by the US and its "Laotian henchmen," and is part of the US plan of war escalation in Indochina. Other aspects of this "plan," says the paper, include recent bombings of foreign ships in North Vietnam ports, strikes near the Chinese border, threats to invade Cambodia, and stepping up of the war in Laos. Hanoi's Foreign Ministry also issued a statement taking this line.

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New French Correspondent: Embassy Paris says that the French Press Agency will be sending a new correspondent to Hanoi later in the month. The man's name is Le Mauff; he is an aeronautics expert, a specialty which might come in handy in North Vietnam. Le Mauff gives the impression of being pro-American. He is clearly anti-Communist.

Le Mauff revealed in talks with the embassy that not all material filed by his agency from Hanoi is self-initiated. Some stories are inspired by the North Vietnamese. In order to distinguish between inspired stories and regular reports, a code has been devised between the Press Agency representative in Hanoi and his home office. Le Mauff did not explain how the code works.

The new correspondent offered to provide follow-up details on his future articles. He suggested that this could be arranged through the French Press Agency's home office.

* * *

Hanoi Again Praises Russell "Tribunal": Hanoi radio reports that a meeting was held in the North Vietnamese capital on 11 January to "welcome" the success of the recent second session of the Russell "war crimes tribunal" in Denmark. The participants at the meeting sent a letter of thanks praising the tribunal for its "comprehensive and deep examination" of US "war crimes," and said the session was of great value in exposing US "aggression." The Vietnamese people, it said, "highly appreciate" the tribunal as "a valuable support and encouragement," and believe it helped "awaken the conscience of the American people and other peoples of the world" against US actions.

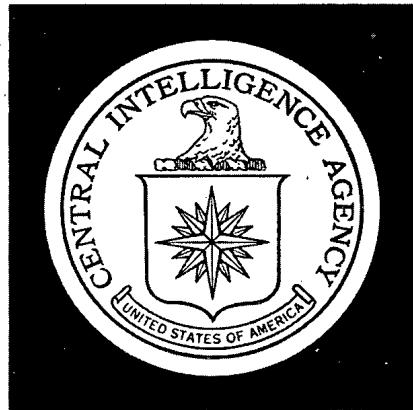
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on War Protests in US: In a brief round-up on 13 January, Hanoi radio's international service

again notes routinely various items connected with antiwar activities in the US. It claims the prosecution of Dr. Spock and others has "aroused strong indignation" in the US. The item notes comedian Dick Gregory's hunger strike protesting the war, and also mentions a Western news report about the four US sailors from the Intrepid who have been granted asylum in Sweden.

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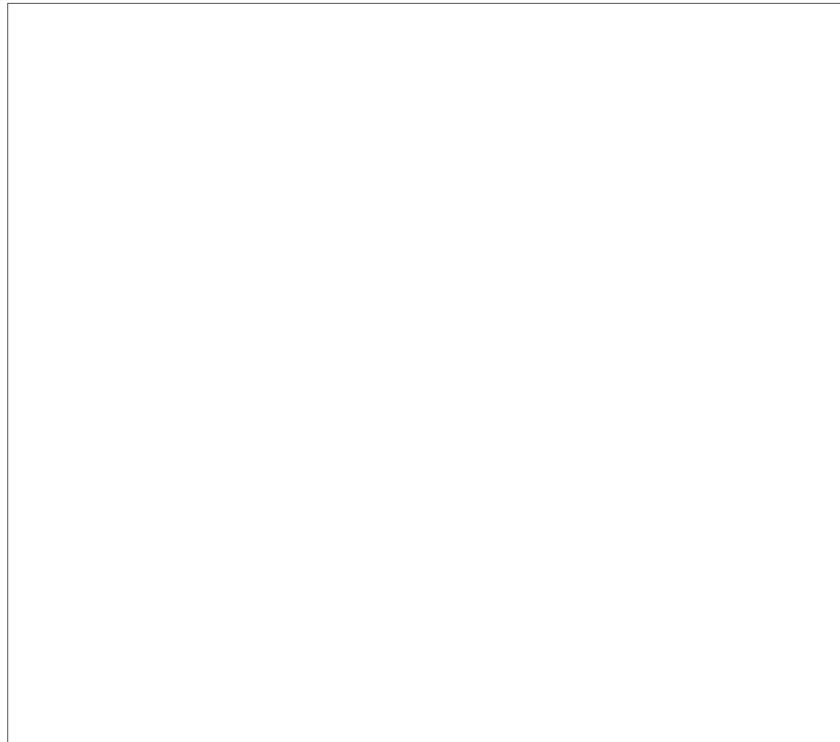


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DAILY BRIEF
16 JANUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam



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2. South Vietnam

The Confederation of Labor has authorized more sympathy strikes for today. There are some indications, however, that the government may release the six labor leaders arrested last week. This could pave the way for settlement of the strikes.

3. Jordan



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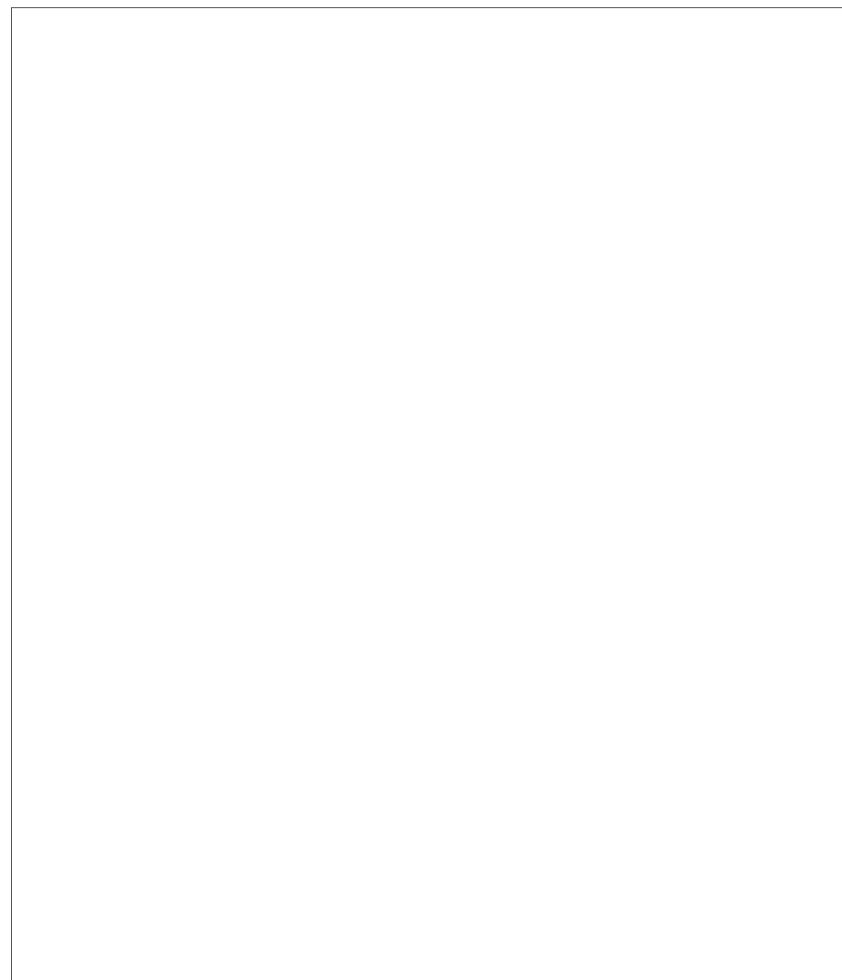
[redacted] terrorists [redacted] set fire to an oil tank in the Israeli port of Eilat on Saturday. The King is highly alarmed over the prospect of Israeli retaliation against the nearby Jordanian port of Aqaba. Amman is willing to meet with the Israelis on the whole matter of continued terrorism, but only under UN auspices. Tel Aviv wants-- as always--direct talks.

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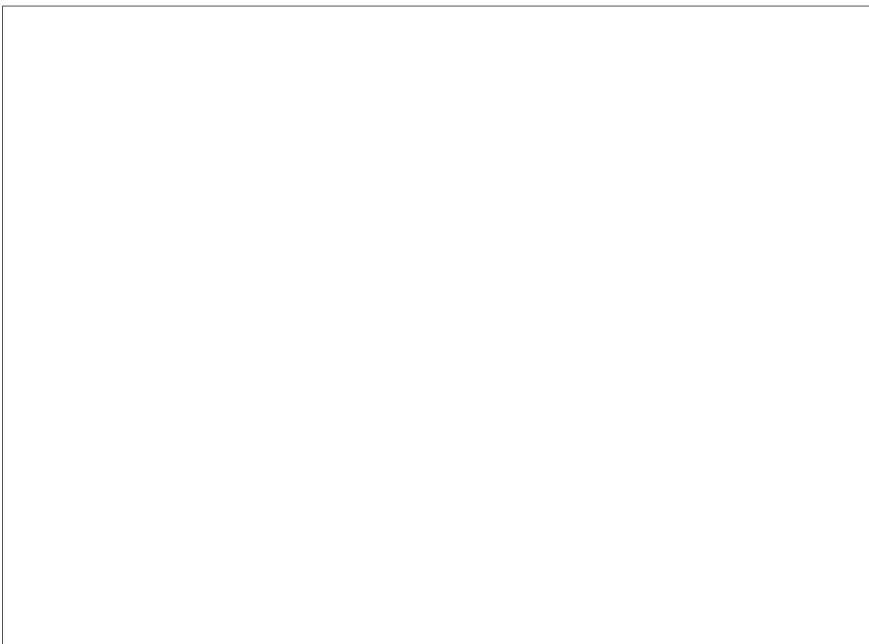
4. Saudi Arabia -
Jordan

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5. France

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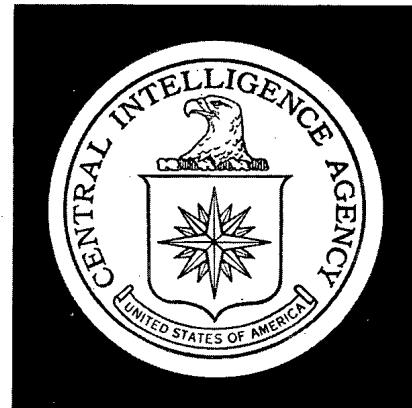
6. Soviet Union

Brezhnev, Kosygin, and Podgorny spent a long weekend in Warsaw talking with Gomulka and company.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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16 January 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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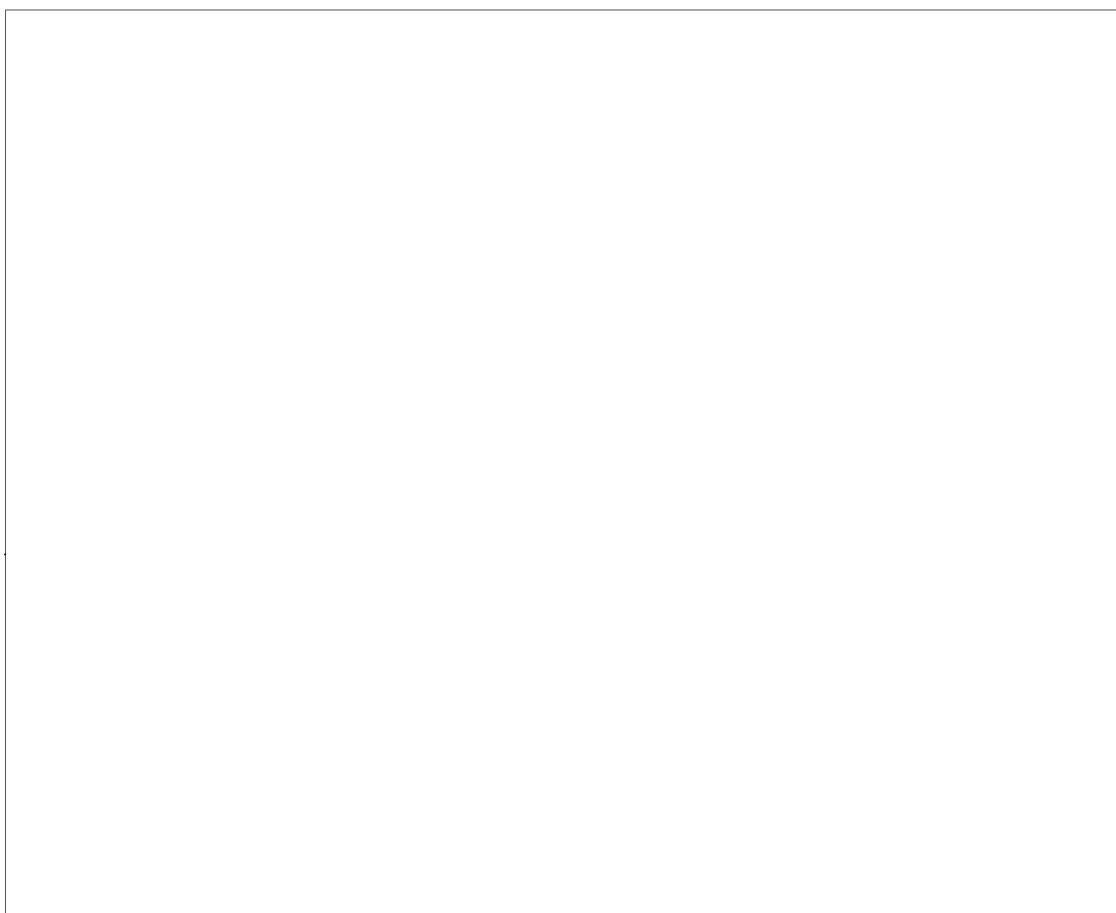
16 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Concern for Rice Crop: A recent Nhan Dan editorial called on rural localities to suspend all "talks" that are not urgent in order to complete the sowing of the spring rice crop by early February. The current planting was said to be proceeding too slowly and might lead to a shortage of seedlings for transplanting or to shortfalls in planted acreage.

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Relations with France: Paris-Hanoi relations continue their gradual warming trend, according to Embassy Paris. The North Vietnamese representative in Paris, Mai Van Bo, edged one step closer to diplomatic status on 10 January by attending his first official diplomatic reception. The French Foreign Office has explained that Bo asked to be invited to the reception on the grounds that the French representative in Hanoi enjoyed such privileges, and the French acceded to the request in the interests of reciprocity. The French want their man in Hanoi to be given maximum access to North Vietnamese leaders and have cooperated over the past year in a gradual upgrading of diplomatic relations with Hanoi. This trend will apparently continue in 1968.

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Extra Work: The efficiency of Vietnamese employees of the diplomatic community in Hanoi is apparently seriously affected because, in addition to their normal duties, they are required to work for agencies of the government for several hours each night. [redacted]

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[redacted] This requirement for additional work may mean that evacuation has shrunk the manpower pool in the capital so much that all available skilled persons are required to help the city and government function.

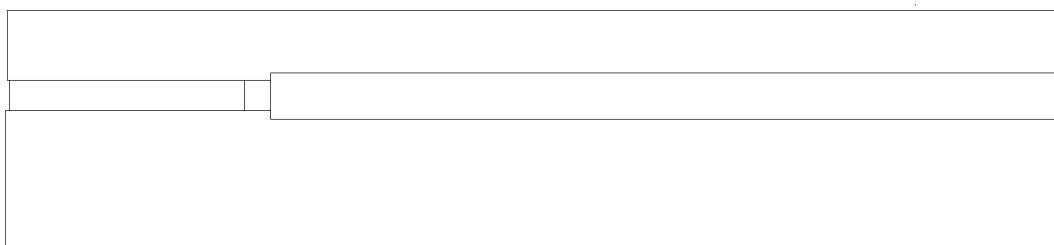
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Black Marketing: According to a Western traveler to Hanoi, government cadres in the Nam Dinh area have been buying pork ration cards from farmers, then purchasing pork and reselling it on the black market at prices ranging from two to four times the original cost.

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



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Hanoi on US Antiwar Protests: Yesterday Hanoi broadcast in English a wrap-up of Western press reports concerning recent antiwar protests in the US. The broadcast alleged that the demonstration in front of the Justice Department last week was a "protest against the Johnson administration's persecution of five American intellectuals who firmly opposed the US dirty war in Vietnam." A United Press report of the demonstrations in front of the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco is also cited, with the comment that "Rusk was inside pleading for the Johnson policy of aggression in Vietnam." Another report, says Hanoi, tells of 328 American economists who recently sent an open letter to US Congressmen to protest against the war, arguing that it "constitutes the principal source of US economic difficulties."



The President's Daily Brief

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DAILY BRIEF
17 JANUARY 1968

1. Guatemala

The Guatemalan Government declared a state of national alert last night. All political activity is suspended, carrying of arms is prohibited, and press coverage of terrorist activities is restricted. Apart from the official countermeasures, we expect that right-wing terror squads will now move quickly to strike at anyone they consider "subversive."

In addition to the shooting of the four Americans, there were three politically motivated assassinations in the 24-hour period ending yesterday. Another attempted killing failed.

2. South Vietnam

All strikes are to be called off for the time being. This respite is the product of a bargaining session between the government and union leaders Monday night. The government agreed to give electrical workers a retroactive cost-of-living allowance in exchange for the temporary back-to-work order from the union.

The no-strike pledge is good only through Tet, however, and problems could develop unless the government moves toward a more permanent accommodation--including release of jailed union leaders.

3. Soviet Union

The Russian press is beginning to acquaint its readers with the names of prominent presidential aspirants in the US. Today's Annex reviews a recent Izvestia article on this subject.

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4. Soviet Union

Brezhnev, Kosygin, and Podgorny traveled on from Warsaw to East Berlin before returning home last night. A statement out of Moscow merely says that in talks with Ulbricht and company, the Soviet leaders discussed "questions concerning the Communist movement, further political and economic cooperation, and some problems of the present-day international situation."

5. Israel-Jordan

Yesterday we noted that Husayn was very much alarmed over the chance of Israeli retaliation for the continuing terrorist raids. Now Ambassador Barbour, reporting from the Israeli side, adds that patience in Tel Aviv on this score is indeed wearing dangerously thin.

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6. Dominican Republic

President Balaguer seems determined to use a strong arm in dealing with student agitation at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo.

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7. Nigeria

The Nigerian civil war, now six months old, will probably continue for some time. Federal forces have not been able to win a clear-cut victory, but they have somewhat the upper hand and seem capable of keeping it.

Prospects for peace, or even a cease-fire, remain poor.

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ANNEX

Soviet Preview of the US Election Campaign

Izvestia, the Soviet's second largest newspaper, carried a lengthy article on 7 January reviewing possible presidential candidates in the US. These are Izvestia's conclusions:

Senator McCarthy--a "symbol hurled into the restless waters of the Democratic organization," who intends to gather under his banner all those opposed to Vietnam. He has scant hope, however, of getting nominated.

Senator Kennedy--McCarthy is really a stalking horse for Kennedy; Kennedy might take the reins if McCarthy attracts sizable voter interest in the primaries. Attributing especially Machiavellian motives to Kennedy, however, Izvestia believes that the Senator will more likely back President Johnson--preferring the victory of any Democrat in 1968 in order to realize better his own ambitions later. In 1968 Kennedy would run for vice president for the sake of a Democratic victory.

Richard Nixon--Long ago welcomed by the "military-industrial corporations and bankers of the Pacific Coast" and now backed by "the 'new money' of the missile and oil kings," Nixon is further described as a "political dealer-chameleon" who has slipped behind the mask of a "liberal, moderate conservative" but in reality is "a reactionary and an advocate of a 'hard line' in foreign policy."

Governor Reagan--He gets short shrift, being portrayed only as a former movie actor who has replaced Goldwater in the notorious position of representing the extreme right wing of the Republican Party.

Governor Rockefeller--may run after all, as suggested by the "secret lessons on foreign policy" he has been getting from Harvard's Henry Kissinger. According to the article, "influential monopolist circles" intend to back Rockefeller.

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Governor Romney--"candidate of the bankers and industrialists of the northwest"; he is trying to avoid a stand on Vietnam in order to keep a free hand for political maneuvers and schemes.

Senator Percy--seen merely as a "possible pretender"; a "relative moderate."

George Wallace--"fanatical supporter of segregation and double-dyed 'ultra' who banks on the so-called white backlash."

Izvestia noted that although Wallace can hardly believe earnestly in victory, he may draw off enough votes to throw the election into the House of Representatives. The article says that the Republicans have only to win some 30 seats in the House to win a majority, "with all the consequences resulting from it if the President is elected by this House."

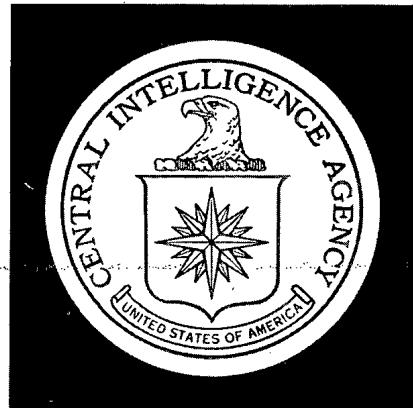
Covering any eventuality, Izvestia concluded that although many things can change during the campaign, "one thing is clear--the monopolist bourgeoisie will again try to place in the White House 'their own man,' who will pursue a course profitable for them within the country as well as abroad."

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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16

17 January 1968

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

17 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Reaction to the War: [redacted]

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[redacted] in groups the Vietnamese continually voice their pride in their nation, in its history of resisting aggression, and in the fact that it is now "defeating" the most powerful nation on earth. Workers, however, have tended to become corrupted by the war and are engaging in petty theft and black marketeering. Primary effort is given to keeping safe and alive. [redacted] American leaflets on how to build small bomb shelters were picked up and used extensively.) In private, some of the Vietnamese voice sentiments about peace, the happiness it would bring, and the horror of the air raids.

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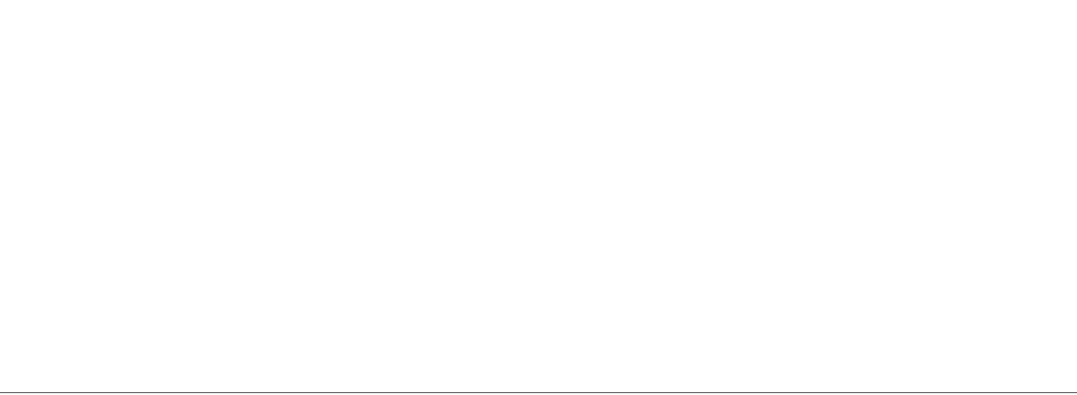
[redacted] in spite of a deep longing for peace and considerable depression over economic difficulties and personal hardships, no one contemplated even for a moment trying to do anything against the will of the government. A fatalistic attitude, "as if the war were a flood or a hurricane to be survived," seemed to be quite common.

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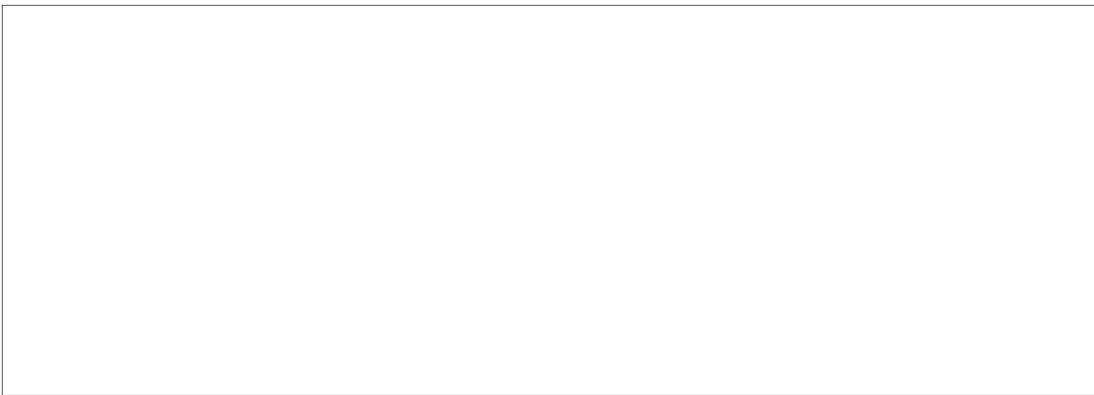
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Tighter Security: North Vietnam is tightening even further the already rigid security controls that grip the cities. The party daily, Nhan Dan, has called for greater efforts to keep the urban population in line and thus implies the regime is having some security problems. The article pointed out that watching for enemies of the state is not just the work of security police--all citizens were urged to lend a hand in spying on their neighbors to expose "espionage agents and counterrevolutionaries." This means anyone, in short, who might be expressing less than wholehearted enthusiasm for the war effort. There also was a strong hint in the article that a crackdown is coming on black marketeers.

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French Left Raises Funds for Hanoi: Various Communist and leftist-oriented organizations in France have joined together in a project termed "Ship for Vietnam," designed to raise at least one half million dollars in goods and money to be shipped to North Vietnam. The French Communist Party has pledged to raise the lion's share of the amount with other groups contributing according to their means.

* * *

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

US Being Made Ogre on Talks Issue: North Vietnam and its European bloc allies continue to stress the importance of Foreign Minister Trinh's offer of talks with the US in return for an end to the bombing. This propaganda is keyed to the theme that the US is rejecting peace overtures.

In an unusually detailed broadcast beamed in English to US servicemen in South Vietnam on 15 January, Hanoi reported both the national and international figures who have called upon the administration to respond to the Trinh statement. The broadcast listed Senators Robert Kennedy, McCarthy, Fulbright, and Cooper as leaders on the domestic scene demanding an end to the bombing, and quoted a number of editorials in leading US papers to that effect. Remarks by leaders of several NATO countries calling for an end to the air raids also were quoted.

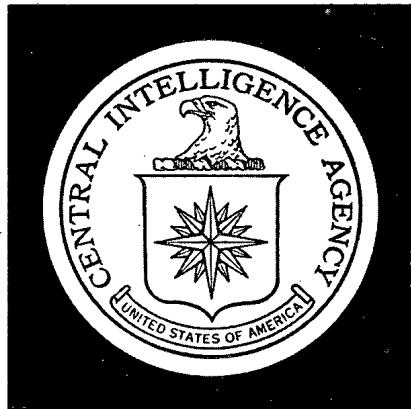
Bloc comment has been generally cautious in treating Trinh's statement, but has been uniform in claiming that the US has failed to respond. A Hungarian broadcast on 15 January is typical. It claimed that Washington had given no sign of interest in negotiations and quoted recent remarks by US officials to demonstrate an uncompromising US position on settlement of the war. Like the Hanoi broadcast, that

from Budapest listed the NATO countries which have voiced support for a cessation of the bombing and noted remarks by Senator Mansfield.

* * *

Hanoi Ballyhoos Deserters: Hanoi in an international broadcast on 16 January reported that three more "antiwar" American soldiers have sought political asylum in Sweden. The broadcast went on to wrap up previous reports on the 13 other recent defectors to Sweden and to report the protest at the Justice Department on 12 January.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 18 January 1968

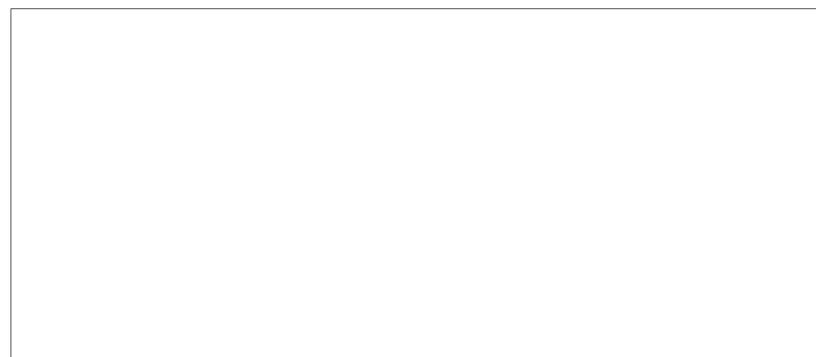


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DAILY BRIEF
18 JANUARY 1968

1. Guatemala

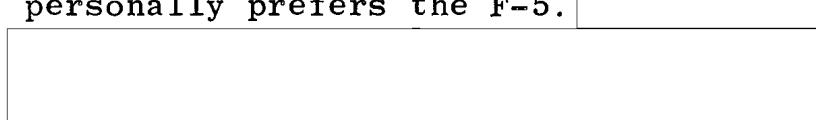
A prime suspect in the murder of the Americans was himself gunned down by security officers Tuesday night. The dead man was a high-ranking Communist.



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2. Brazil

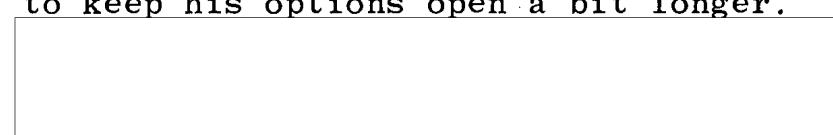
Costa e Silva is dragging his feet on the choice of supersonic fighters. The Brazilian military is plunking for the Mirage, but Costa e Silva personally prefers the F-5.



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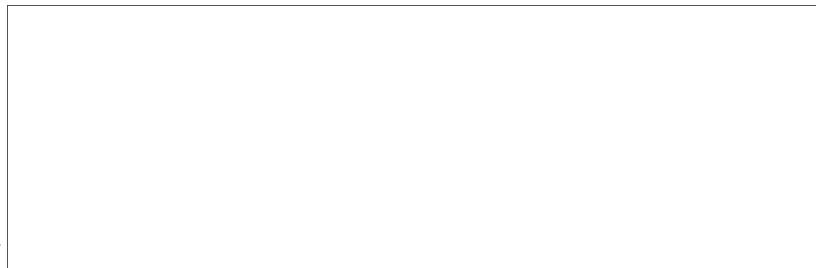
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The Brazilian President, however, is aware that the F-5s may no longer be available and is looking for a way to keep his options open a bit longer.



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3. Soviet Union

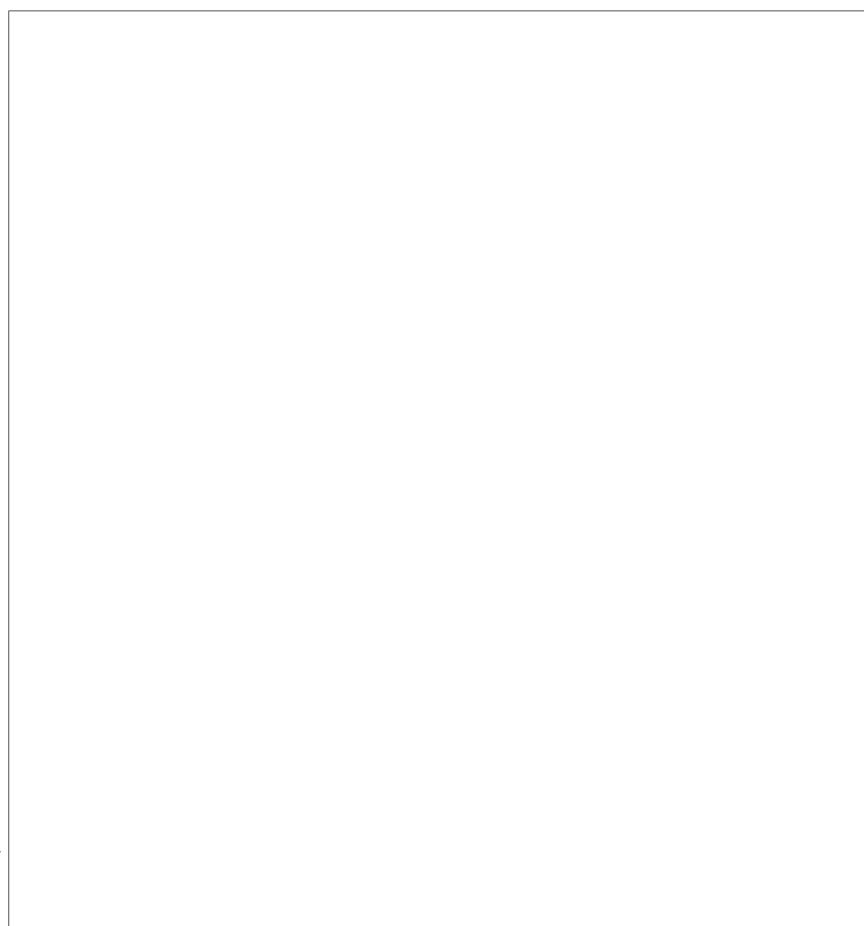


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4. Jordan

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5. Cyprus

The Greeks told U Thant their withdrawal of illegal troops was completed Tuesday. About 7,000 have been taken off the island. By our estimates, this would leave some 1,500-2,000 Greek soldiers illegally on Cyprus, most assigned to the national guard. The Turks--whose estimates are considerably higher--insist the national guard contingent is part of the bargain.

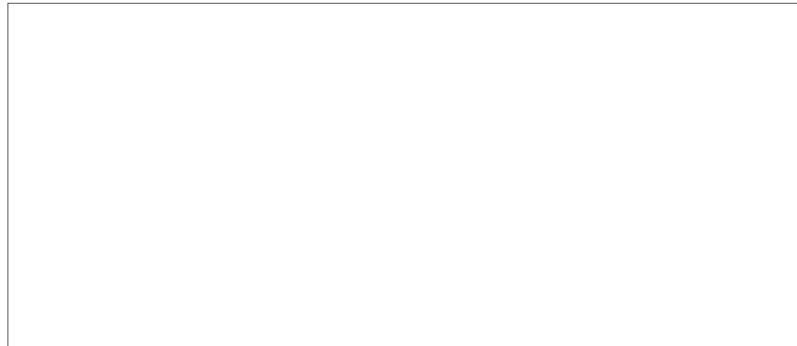
6. Iraq

There are unmistakable signs of turmoil in Baghdad. The army has had to help police restore order after several days of student riots. A general strike is threatened for today.

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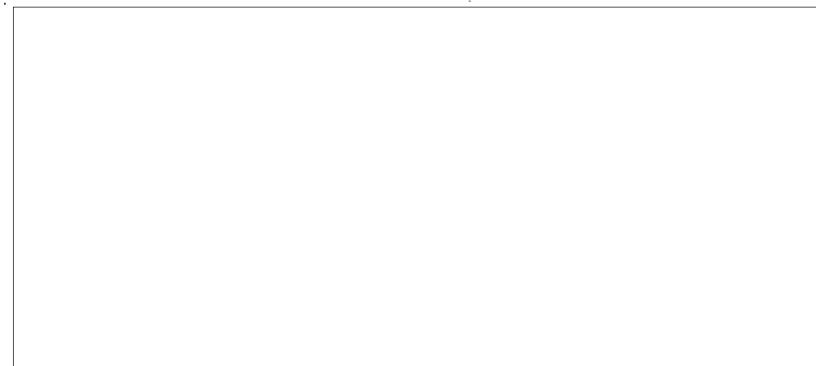
7. Soviet Union

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8. West Germany

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9. Cuba

Soviet military aid has increased since the fall of 1966 despite cool political relations between Moscow and Havana. The type of equipment being delivered

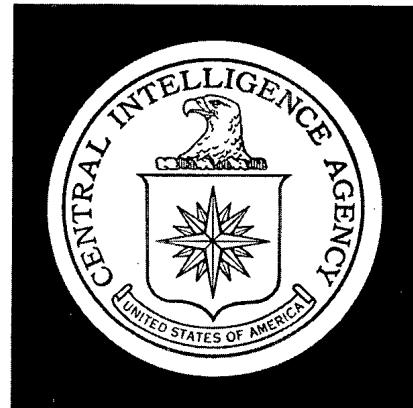
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[redacted] enables Castro to modernize Cuba's armed forces and replace worn-out material, but does not give him an offensive capability. The Soviets still have about 2,000 military advisers in Cuba.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

Top Secret 50X1

16

18 January 1968

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

18 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi's Man in Paris Tries to Heighten World Interest in Trinh's Offer: Mai Van Bo did not cut any important new ground in his interview in Paris on Tuesday, but he did expand a little on Foreign Minister Trinh's 29 December "will talk" statement. He said negotiations could begin "a suitable time" after a bombing halt.* He also indicated that both the level of talks and the agenda were negotiable and could be discussed during a preliminary meeting between the two parties. US acceptance of the Trinh offer could be relayed to Hanoi either by means of a US statement or "any other procedure" demonstrating US sincerity, he said. Bo, however, underscored Hanoi's contention that there will be no reciprocal gesture to a US bombing halt.

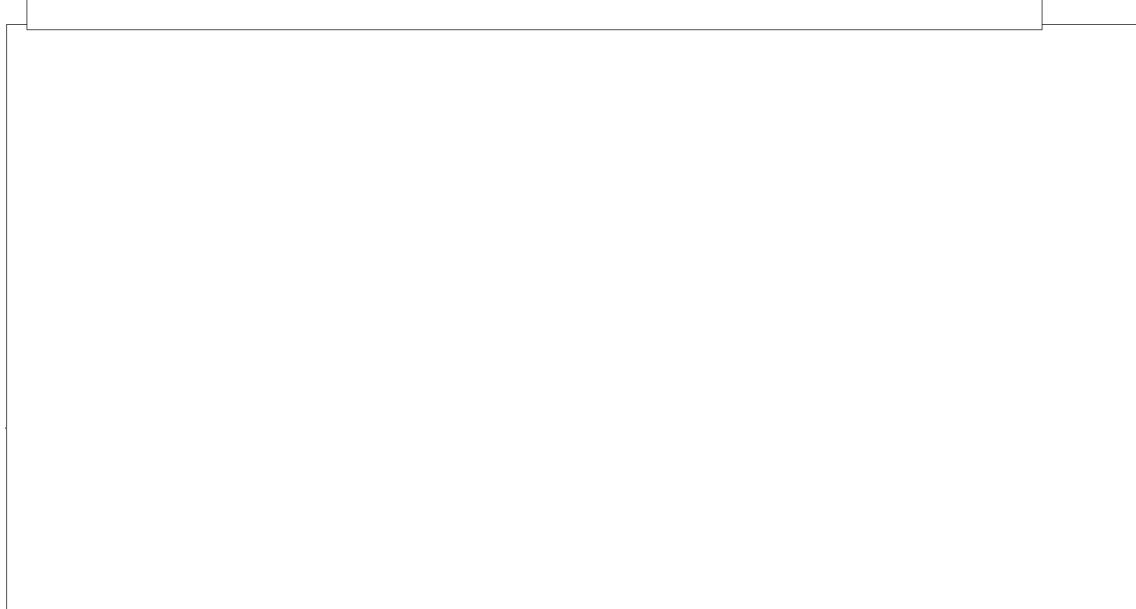
Bo's purpose was clearly to reinforce the impression that Hanoi has made a significant initiative and that now it is up to the US to respond without asking anything more of the Communists.

Bo, who is one of Hanoi's most authoritative spokesmen, went out of his way to secure immediate release of his interview. When he found that the French TV program which was to carry it was postponed, he had his material released through the French News Agency and simultaneously offered it to other Western news services.

* A cable from the US Embassy, Paris, reports that Bo gave another interview yesterday and was somewhat more specific. He said talks could begin in "a matter of days" after a bombing halt. This interview is the one reported in this morning's Washington Post and sourced to "North Vietnamese officials."



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More on a Hanoi Trade Mission to Singapore: Singapore will permit a visit by a trade mission from Hanoi in the near future but a government spokesman states that the mission will not be granted permanent status. Singapore's trade with Hanoi totaled only \$3.5 million in 1966, less than one-tenth of one percent of total trade. Primarily, North Vietnam ships coffee to Singapore in exchange for Malaysian crude rubber and coconut oil. Singapore is a major transshipment port for Far Eastern trade, and Soviet ships bound for Haiphong from the Black Sea stop at the port regularly.

* * *

Belgian Communists Plan Big Antiwar Show: Belgian Communists have overcome some factional difficulties in the national Vietnam committee and are now clearing the decks for what they expect to be the biggest anti-Vietnam war demonstration in Belgian history. It is planned for 2 March and five or six other groups have promised to join the Communists in the effort.

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

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More Hanoi Reports on US and other Western Anti-war Activities: Hanoi radio's international service carried a broadcast in English on 17 January reporting what it implied was an upsurge of antiwar sentiment in the US labor movement. It claimed that over 500 members of 50 US labor unions in 38 of the 50 states had recently issued a statement in Chicago saying that "nothing can justify the sacrifice of countless precious lives of Americans and Vietnamese." The group, according to the broadcast, went on to demand an end to the bombing and the opening of negotiations with the Liberation Front.

The same Hanoi broadcast also carried accounts of recent anti-Vietnam war meetings in New Zealand, the Netherlands, France, and Tunisia.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 January 1968



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23

DAILY BRIEF
19 JANUARY 1968

1. Greece

Papadopoulos says he will force a showdown with the US this week over recognition of his government.

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Athens is angry that the NATO allies have not recognized the government since the King's flight and are pinning the blame for this on the US.

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Yesterday tanks were again rumbling through the streets of Athens. The leadership is jumpy and is taking precautions against some kind of internal threat. We are not yet sure just what this means.

2. Israel

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3. Panama

The election campaign is off to a fast and furious start. David Samudio, definitely the underdog despite government backing, is already playing the old game of trying to stir up and cash in on chronic Panamanian resentments against the US. His speech last week was a particularly wild one, clearly aimed at getting the support he thinks he needs from the leftist, ultranationalist crowd.

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4. Laos

Souvanna is keeping cool, but even he is not yet aware of the extent of government losses at Nam Bac. So far, only about a third of the troops that had been defending the town have drifted back to government positions. The losses in military equipment are probably considerable.

Demands for a scapegoat may become hard to resist, but up to now the anger in Vientiane is directed mainly against the flagrant North Vietnamese violations of Laotian neutrality. Late Wednesday night the North Vietnamese Embassy in Vientiane was the target of some hand grenades.

5. India-Cambodia

The Indians are inclined to support Sihanouk's request for strengthening the International Control Commission in Cambodia. This was Ambassador Bowles' clear impression after a talk on Tuesday with the Indian foreign minister.

6. France-Belgium

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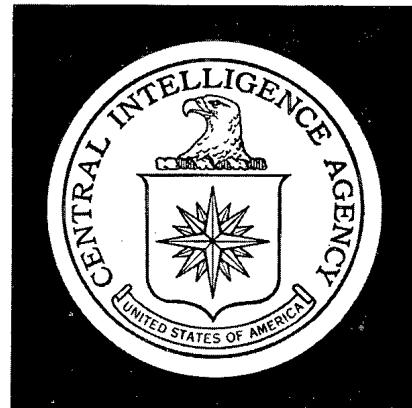
7. Communist China

Stokely Carmichael went pretty far out in his search for foreign backing during his recent world tour.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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16

19 January 1968

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

19 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Orchestration of the Trinh Statement:
North Vietnam seems to have mounted a full-blown propaganda effort to press its proposal for a cessation of US bombing and is stressing its willingness to enter early talks with the United States in return. Hanoi radio, for instance, now has endorsed the 16 January interview of its man in Paris, Mai Van Bo, by rebroadcasting it on the 18th.

Bo gave another interview on 17 January in which he apparently was even more forthcoming. He continued to reject the concept of Hanoi making any reciprocal military gesture to get the bombing stopped. In discussing President Johnson's San Antonio formula, however, Bo tried to emphasize Hanoi's positive approach by saying that North Vietnam was ready to talk about "everything" and therefore discussion of the San Antonio formula could be taken up after a bombing halt. Regarding the role of the National Liberation Front, Bo said that the current effort is directed at opening conversations between Washington and Hanoi and implied that the Front's position and questions concerning the South could be taken up sometime after US - North Vietnamese issues were "negotiated."

This interview has not yet been endorsed as an authoritative commentary on Hanoi's position, and reports on Bo's remarks in it may not be entirely accurate. As reported, however, it goes well beyond previous North Vietnamese statements and strongly suggests that the Communists intend to orchestrate a large campaign to publicize their position and make it appear attractive and reasonable.

Other Communist countries are picking up the theme and expanding their coverage of the Trinh statement. Commentaries in the Soviet press on 18 January cast Trinh's statement in the most favorable light, and one concludes with a strong endorsement of the "actions and steps by the North Vietnamese

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government aimed at a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam problem." This is the most forthright Soviet statement so far in characterizing the new Trinh statement.

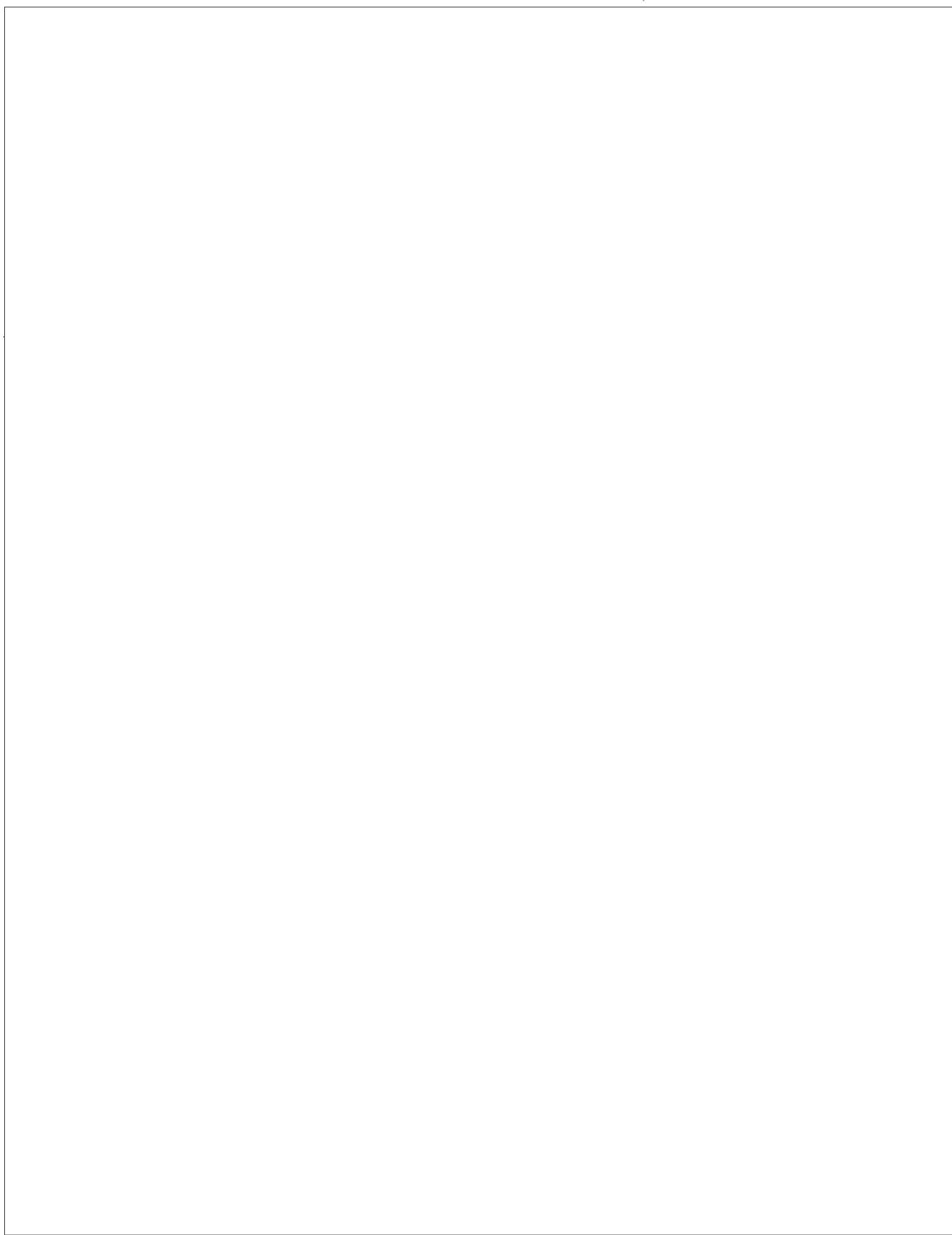
Czechoslovakia published a Foreign Ministry "declaration" on 17 January challenging the US to take the North Vietnamese up on their offer. This is the first official government statement of support for Trinh's statement by a Communist country. The Czech statement also says that Prague supports not only the Trinh offer to talk with the US, but also the "standpoints of the North Vietnamese government and the Front on a settlement of the Vietnamese problem," and that it would continue to furnish Vietnam with both "political and material" support.

The North Vietnamese consul in Rangoon also held a press conference on 18 January to publicize the Trinh offer and to condemn what he called lack of US response to the initiative. According to the French News Agency version of his comments, the consul went on to talk about the San Antonio formula. He said that it would be necessary for the US to guarantee the withdrawal of US troops from South Vietnam before US - North Vietnamese talks could be "productive." Regarding North Vietnamese activity during a period of US restraint, the consul asked, "Why should we use so-called restraint when we did not declare war on the US, which is carrying on an aggressive war against us?" The consul declared that the "two conditions" of the San Antonio formula "show that the US has no good intentions for peace." He went on to reiterate that the bombing must end unconditionally if the US truly wants talks.

* * *

New York Times Promised Interview with Bo: Henry Tanner, Paris bureau chief of the New York Times, informed the US Embassy on Thursday that Mai Van Bo had agreed to give him an interview "in the next few days." Bo asked Tanner to submit questions in advance and Tanner intends to do so today.

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Unwelcome Cuban Present:

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after the departure of the
French, venereal disease was all but eliminated in
North Vietnam.

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Lately, however, [redacted]
venereal disease has been reintroduced into
the country "by the Cubans." Authorities are moving
quickly, he says, to treat the new cases.

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Hanoi Seeks Free World Trade: North Vietnamese
officials continue to pursue free world trade con-
tacts. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Vietnam-
ese also attended and attempted to assure [redacted]
that North Vietnam's foreign trade commitments would
be met in spite of the difficulties caused by the bomb-
ings. [redacted]

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[redacted] Hanoi has also recently been pushing to open
up a trade office in Singapore.

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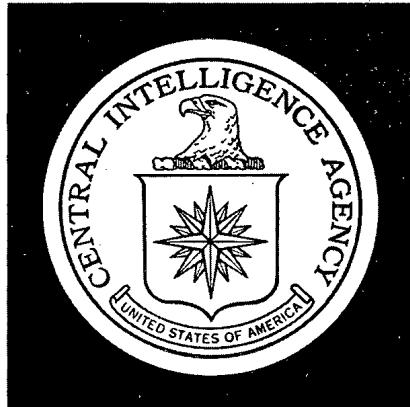
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Reports Opposition to Bombing: Hanoi is continuing to report statements by individuals or groups in the US favoring an unconditional cessation of the bombing in response to Foreign Minister Trinh's offer to talk with the US. In a 16 January broadcast beamed to US servicemen in South Vietnam, Hanoi reported that an organization of American business executives on 11 January urged the Johnson administration to consider the new formulation "very seriously" claiming that it "offers an opportunity for a first step on our part to show that we are honest and sincere in seeking a negotiated settlement." The broadcast reported that Harold Williams and Henry Merideth were cochairmen of the group which also included such prominent Americans as former Marine Corps Commandant Shoup, and Rear Admiral Arnold E. True.

The broadcast also reported a call for an end to the bombing by an organization called "American Opposition Abroad" based in Paris.

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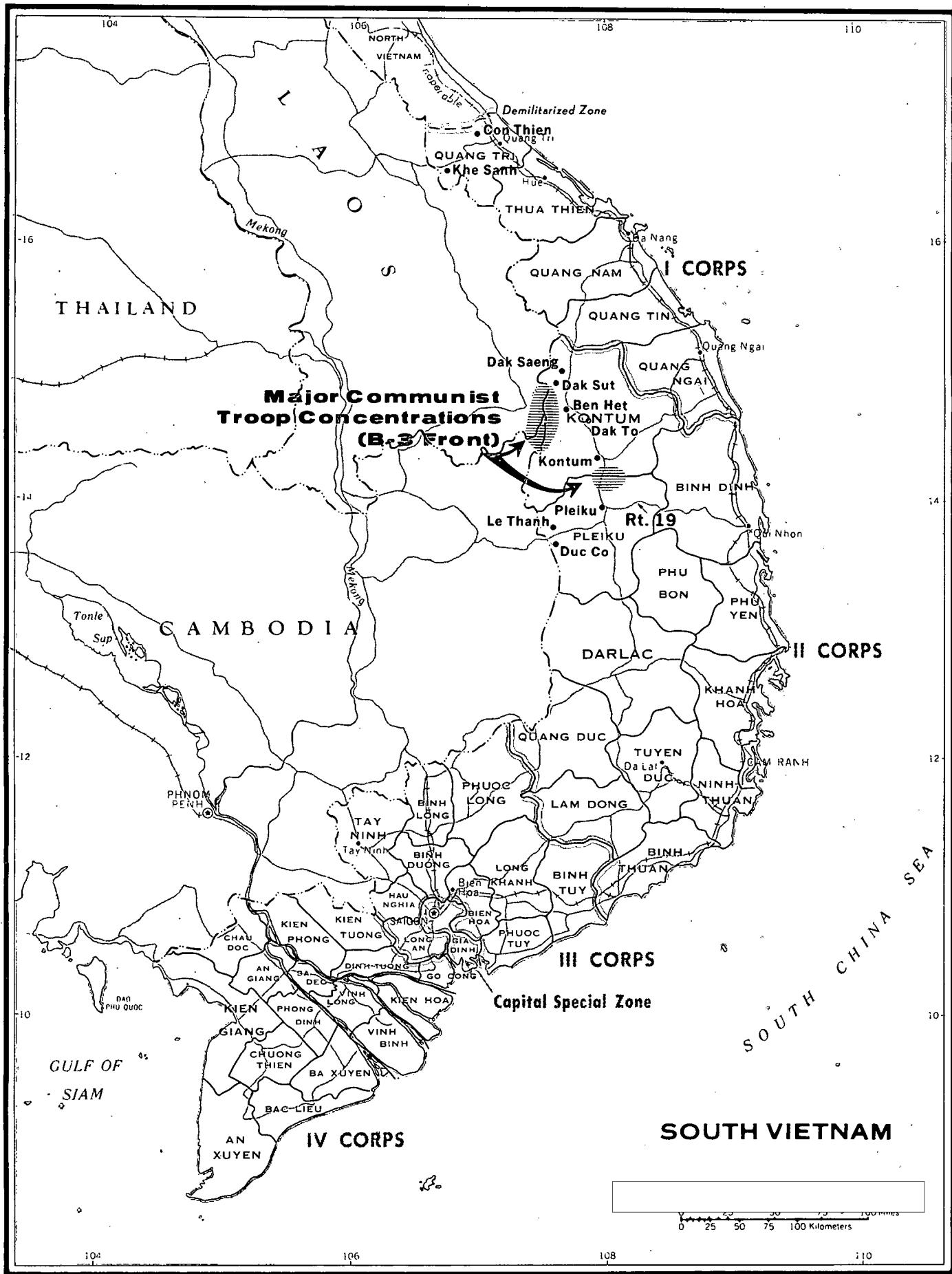


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
20 JANUARY 1968

50X1

1. South Vietnam

The attack on Pleiku airbase yesterday is one of many signs pointing toward an early enemy offensive in the western highlands.

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The Communists consider Kontum and Pleiku as a single command, the "B-3 Front." There are two major troop concentrations involving at least five North Vietnamese infantry regiments plus extensive combat support units.

* * *

There have been several bomb incidents in Danang this week and leaflets have been scattered about town warning the population to stay away from Americans. US officials in Danang have taken precautions.

2. Guatemala

Security forces are said to have made several hundred arrests in Guatemala City in an effort to find the Communist terrorists. The capital has been relatively quiet for the past two days. In spite of strong security precautions the city remains tense, and Communist or right-wing extremists could carry out further assassinations at any time.

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3. Bolivia - Cuba

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4. Soviet Union

Ambassador Thompson understands that Kosygin's trip to India will not come off next week on schedule. A meeting of the Soviet Central Committee which is supposed to begin next Thursday to take up economic problems is probably the reason for delay.

5. Italy

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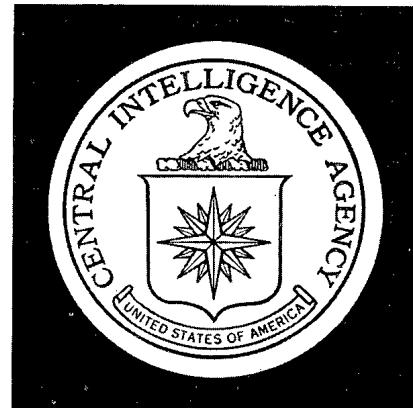
6. Denmark

For the first time in some fifteen years, the non-Socialist parties see a good chance of toppling Prime Minister Krag's Social Democrats in special elections on Tuesday. Denmark's economic problems have dominated the election campaign; foreign policy and defense issues have remained in the background.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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16

20 January 1968

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

20 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnam on San Antonio Formula: Hanoi has not commented specifically on President Johnson's State of the Union address, but on 18 January it broadcast a recent article again rejecting the President's San Antonio formula as an unacceptable method of getting talks started.

The article is from the 15 January issue of the Vietnam Courier, a magazine Hanoi puts out in English and French for international consumption. It offered an unusually detailed critique of the US position. It said the San Antonio speech was unacceptable because it called only for a "conditional cessation" of the bombing. The article claimed there had been no evolution in the US position on negotiations since the President's Baltimore speech in April 1965. The San Antonio formulation, it said, specified three prerequisites for the US to end the air and naval bombardment, and claimed that this was a challenge to common sense. The US, it said, does not have a right "to set conditions" for the cessation of the bombing.

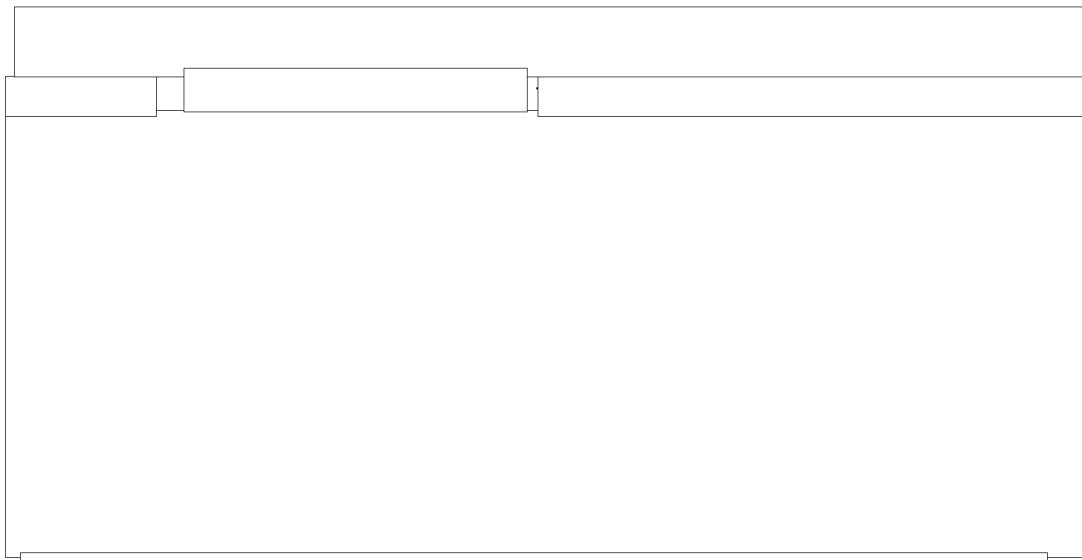
The article also repeated the recent "will talk" statement of Foreign Minister Trinh and said that this answered the question of what Hanoi would do if the bombing stopped.

Mai Van Bo's 16 January elaboration of Trinh's "will talk" bit is still being stressed by Hanoi. The Los Angeles Times correspondent in Hong Kong and Harrison Salisbury both were referred to the Bo statement by Hanoi in response to their queries about clarification of Trinh's formula.

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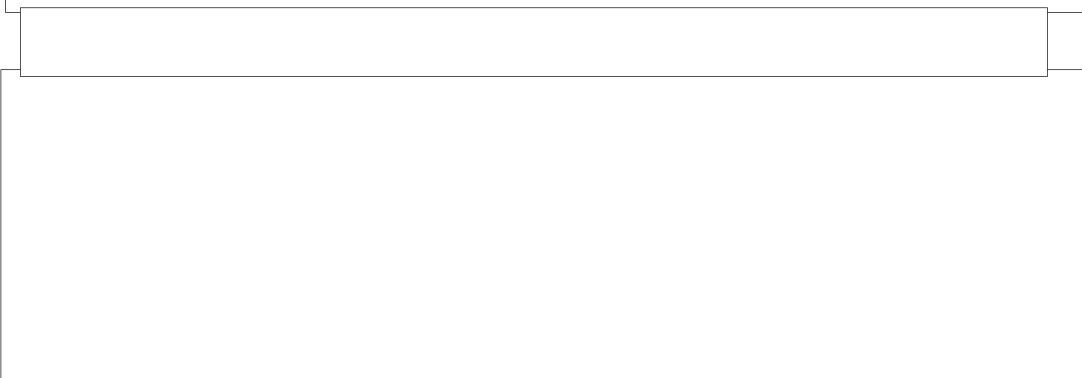
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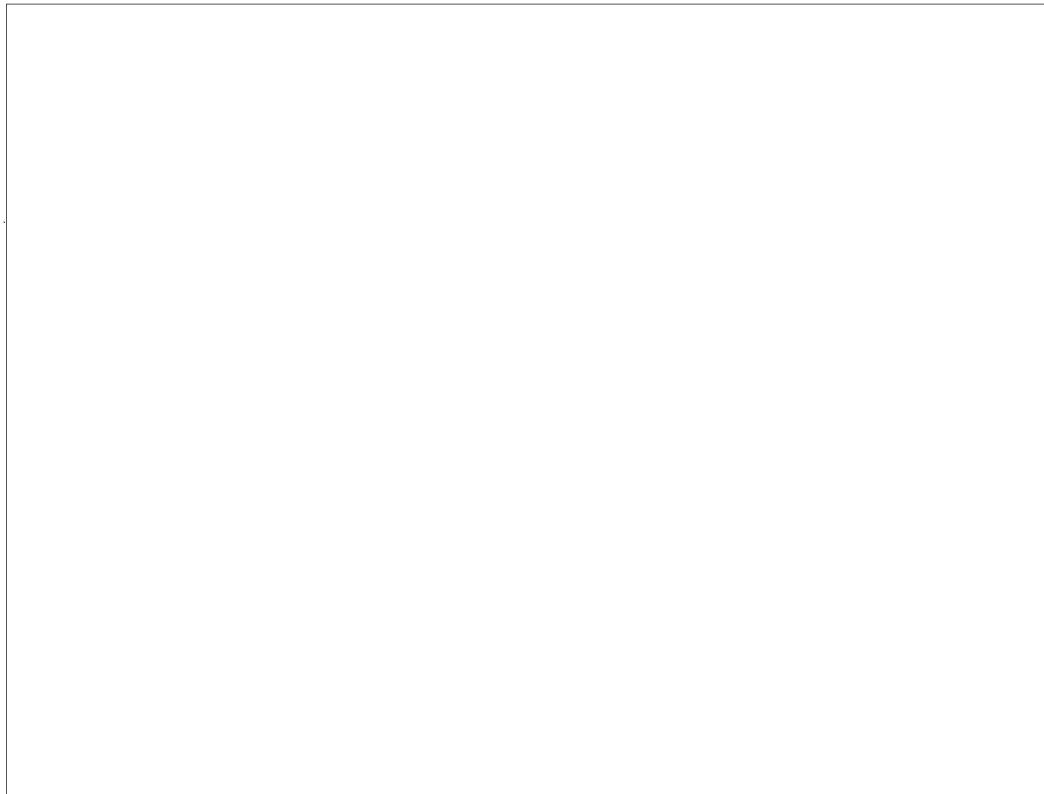
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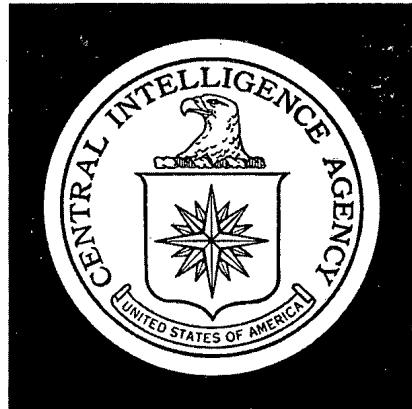
Red Cross Visit Turned Down: Hanoi has informed the International Red Cross that it will not be able to accept the visit of Andre Durand, the IRC's delegate in Phnom Penh. Durand has been trying to get to Hanoi for some time in an attempt to secure Geneva Convention coverage for US prisoners in North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese used their standard excuse for rejecting the visit-- "intensification of the war."

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~~ 22 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
22 JANUARY 1968

1. Brazil

Costa e Silva flatly told Ambassador Tuthill on Friday that Brazil will buy F-5s, not Mirages. The Brazilian President seemed to feel sure his plans would not be affected by recent US legislation.

2. Venezuela

The government suspects a coup may be attempted within the next few days. The plotters--a group of right-wing military officers and civilians--are being carefully watched by security officers, however, and their chances for success are slim.

3. Ecuador

Carlos J. Arosemena, [redacted] anti-American cousin of Ecuador's President, has declared his support for the presidential candidacy of Jose Velasco. Elections are in June.

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The two men have been bitter enemies--in fact, Carlos ousted Velasco from the presidency in 1961 before himself being thrown out by the military.
[redacted]

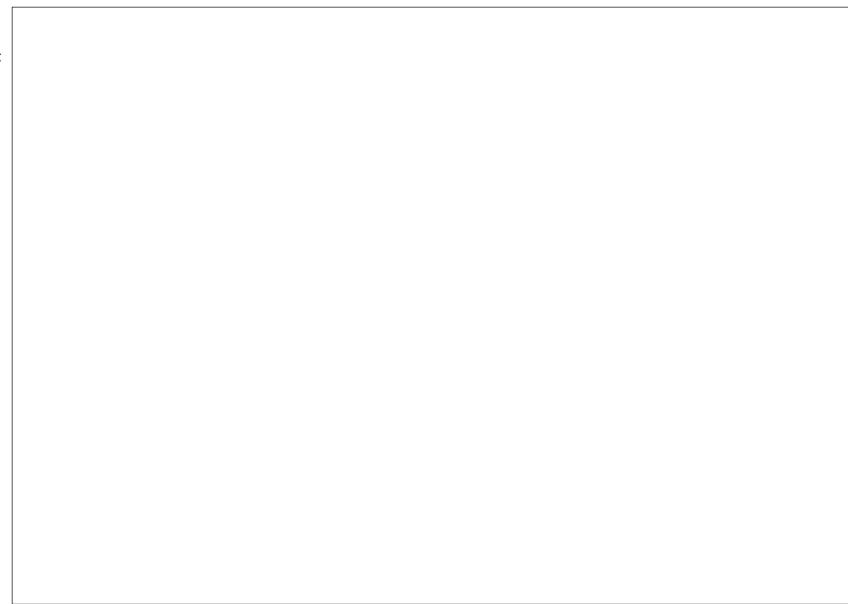
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4. Israel

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5. West Berlin

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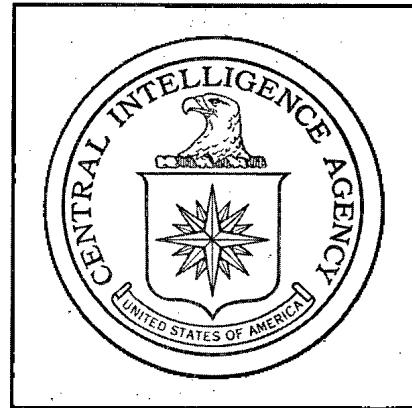
6. Australia

Gorton is smack in the middle of one of Australia's worst labor disputes in 20 years. All mail truck drivers have gone on strike. The government is willing to discuss wage demands, but wants the mail moving first. The union refuses to drive until it gets what it wants. So far, the press is giving Gorton good marks for his firm stand. His prestige could be damaged, however, if the strike is not settled shortly.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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22 January 1968

16

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

22 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi on State of the Union Address: The authoritative "Commentator" had an editorial in Sunday's party daily Nhan Dan which, in effect, rejected the San Antonio formula as a means of working toward settlement of the war. According to a summary of the article broadcast in English by Hanoi radio's international service, "Commentator" went on at length about President Johnson's references to Vietnam in the State of the Union message. He began by declaring that the Vietnam problem is clearly weighing more and more heavily on US life and that, for this reason, President Johnson was obliged to talk about ways to bring about an end to the fighting. The President, however, "only beat around the bush, repeating his San Antonio formula," the editorial declared.

The San Antonio formula, the editorial said, "is but a habitual US trick to put on the same footing the aggressor and the victim of aggression and to force the Vietnamese people to give up struggling in the face of continued US aggression." The "war-like objectives" of the "US imperialists" are laid bare not only by the "very insolent conditions" laid down in the San Antonio formula, but also by the continued US military buildup in South Vietnam and by stepped up US air raids over North Vietnam.

"Commentator" then referred to the President's "empty promises" to the American people in other parts of the State of the Union message. These, "Commentator" charged, will do no good and the "restlessness" of the American people will grow. All the political, racial, economic, and international problems faced by the people of the US are caused mainly by the Vietnam war, he declared, and President Johnson's "awkward words are but sheer falsification of truth and an affront to the people at home."

In conclusion, "Commentator" charged that "recent words and acts of the US imperialists" point merely to continuation of their "war of aggression"

as they make "more and more insolent conditions" for a settlement. The Vietnamese "people," the editorial concludes, remain resolved to fight on.

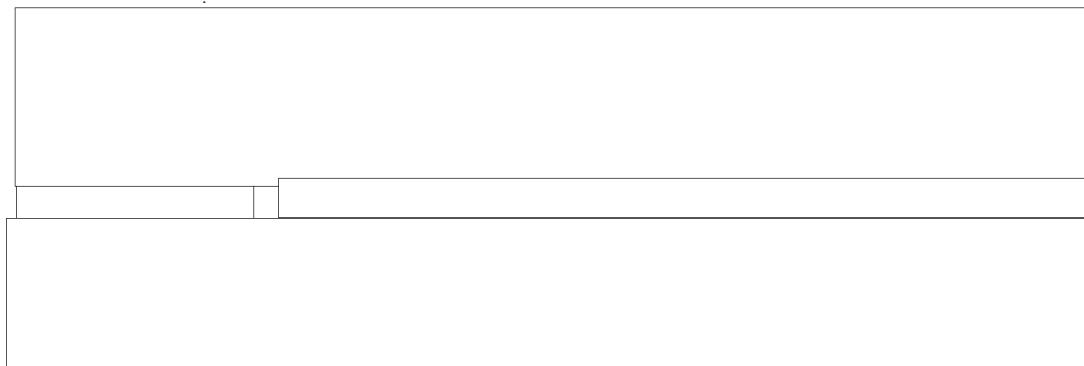
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Viet Cong Broadcast on State of the Union Message: The Liberation radio's first mention of the message came in a broadcast in Vietnamese to South Vietnam on Friday. Fully half the broadcast was devoted to an attempt to refute the President's "boasts" about the progress of the war. The broadcast then asserted in general terms that the President's references to peace served simply as a facade for further expansion of the war. There was no mention of possible US - North Vietnamese talks and the broadcast completely ignored the San Antonio formula.

The program concluded with assertions that "it is obvious" that the Vietnam war has "upset the US economy, has shaken the position of the US dollar, and has caused 'a certain restlessness' in the US, the words Johnson used to describe the spreading antiwar movement in the US."

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Hanoi Continues to Circulate Bo's Interview: On Saturday, Hanoi rebroadcast to its office in Rangoon the entire Mai Van Bo interview of 16 January with the French newsmen. [redacted]

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A New Appraisal of North Vietnam's Manpower Situation: A fresh CIA appraisal leads to the same general conclusion--that reserves are adequate to meet current demands and that Hanoi could support a military mobilization effort higher than present levels. The drains on manpower during the past three years have admittedly been sufficient to bring about some tightening in overall manpower availabilities. Hanoi has acknowledged manpower problems and responded by an increasing use of women in the labor force.

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A comparison of the manpower situation in both North and South Vietnam is revealing. South Vietnam effectively controls a much smaller population, yet it has been able to maintain full-time military forces nearly 1.5 times the size that North Vietnam maintains. If North Vietnam were to call into

full-time military service the same share of its population as has South Vietnam, the North Vietnamese military force would be more than double its present size.

* * *

Rumanian Ambassador's Comments: The Rumanian ambassador to Paris, who is now leaving his post, commented during his farewell call at the US Embassy that the United States is really winning in Vietnam. The ambassador went on to say that Hanoi's delegation in Paris no longer tries to hide its concern over the pressure Peking has been exerting on Hanoi because of North Vietnam's alleged moves toward peace.

The Rumanian's statement must be tempered by his inclination to be somewhat imaginative when he is expressing his views.

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

Viet Cong Broadcast Quotes Governor Romney: On Saturday, the Liberation radio quoted excerpts from the Governor's comments about the State of the Union message as an example of the "stream of strong criticism among many circles in the US and the West" regarding Vietnam policy. The same broadcast carried critical fragments from leading British and French newspapers.

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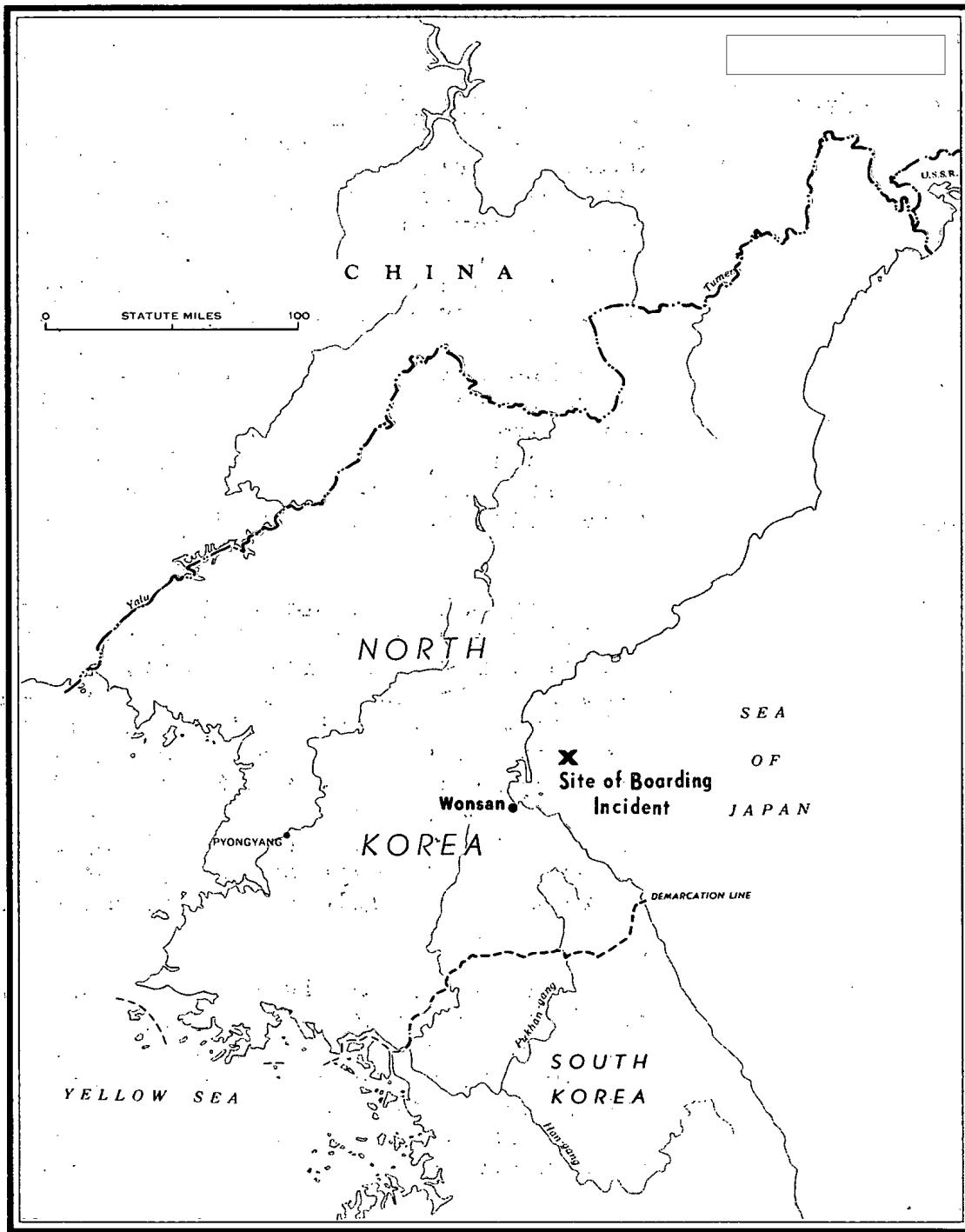
The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 January 1968



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USS 'Pueblo' Boarding Incident



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DAILY BRIEF
23 JANUARY 1968

1. North Korea

The USS Pueblo, a [redacted]

[redacted] ship patrolling just outside North Korea's twelve-mile limit, was seized by North Korean patrol boats early today and taken to the port of Wonsan. Four US crewmen were injured, one critically, by Communist gunfire prior to the boarding.

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The North Koreans have long shown extreme sensitivity to US and South Korean "spy ships" operating in the area. Pyongyang's propaganda during the past few weeks has taken a particularly harsh line against the US.

2. Korea

The bold attempt by North Korean infiltrators to attack President Pak's official residence may be only the beginning. The North Koreans have been putting considerable effort during the past two years into their apparatus for armed harassment of the South, and we expect them to use it. The idea, of course, is to make the resulting terrorism and sabotage appear to be an indigenous struggle against the Seoul government.

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3. Communist China

Rival factions continue fighting it out in a number of provinces as leaders in Peking keep on calling ineffectually for reconciliation. A dozen or so cities and provinces have been affected in the past two weeks and there is no end in sight. The regular military has become more deeply embroiled since early last month in at least the two most seriously affected provinces.

4. Denmark

Reaction to the US bomber crash in Greenland probably will not greatly affect today's election. The government has moved quickly to limit leftist exploitation of the event by stressing its long-standing public position that Danish law prohibits activity involving nuclear weapons at US bases in Greenland or in Greenland airspace. Nevertheless, there has already been one protest demonstration in front of the US Embassy, and more can be expected.

5. Soviet Union

Kosygin confirmed to Ambassador Thompson yesterday that his on again, off again visit to India is now on. Right now is a very busy period, he said, and he would be in India just "a few days."

When he gets to India on Thursday, Kosygin will find President Tito waiting for him alongside Mrs. Gandhi. Tito has extended his Indian visit and the three leaders will have a good opportunity to talk over a number of world issues.

6. Dominican Republic

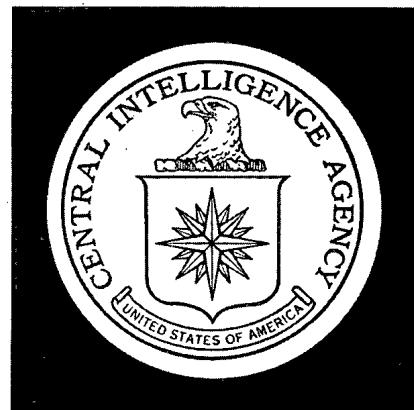
General Wessin y Wessin, front man for a well-financed and strongly conservative political party that has just been formally legalized, is pressing hard for permission to return home from exile in New York. Balaguer will be hard put to keep him out now, even though he regards him as a real threat to the government. This is just one more unsettling factor in the country's growing political restiveness.

7. Bahamas

Premier Pindling is pressing harder and harder for more self-government. If the British continue resisting--and signs point to just this--Pindling may well demand, and get, complete independence. In the meantime, he is considering an early election to strengthen his mandate. His Negro countrymen, who during the past year have enjoyed their first taste of real political power, would likely increase the government's present slim majority.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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23 January 1968

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

23 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Canadians to Hanoi:

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In a public statement on the 19th, Prime Minister Pearson revealed that Ormond Dier, senior Canadian delegate on the ICC [redacted]

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[redacted] had gone to Hanoi. His purpose, Pearson said, was to investigate Foreign Minister Trinh's "will talk" statement of 29 December.

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[Redacted]

Although Hanoi is being careful to make sure that its intentions are not distorted, the North Vietnamese are continuing to publicize their "will talk" offer. The North Vietnamese ambassador in Cairo, for example, lost no time in calling on the Egyptian Foreign Ministry shortly after his return to Cairo from Hanoi. A press release on 20 January described the ambassador as just having returned from important consultations with his government on the present situation in Vietnam and the "possibility of talks between the North Vietnamese and the US."

* * *

Problems for the British: Increasing restrictions and harassments are greatly reducing the usefulness of the British Consulate in Hanoi, according to information passed to the US Embassy in London

[Redacted] Any kind of travel by the two officers at the mission has been severely limited. They are prohibited from going to the foreign community center, and their limited gasoline ration prevents them from going to the airport. The British also cannot use the North Vietnamese telegraph to send encrypted messages, although they can use the Canadian diplomatic pouch.

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Despite these limitations, the US Embassy in London feels that, as long as the consul general is able to make use of the Canadians to get his reports out, the British will maintain the mission.

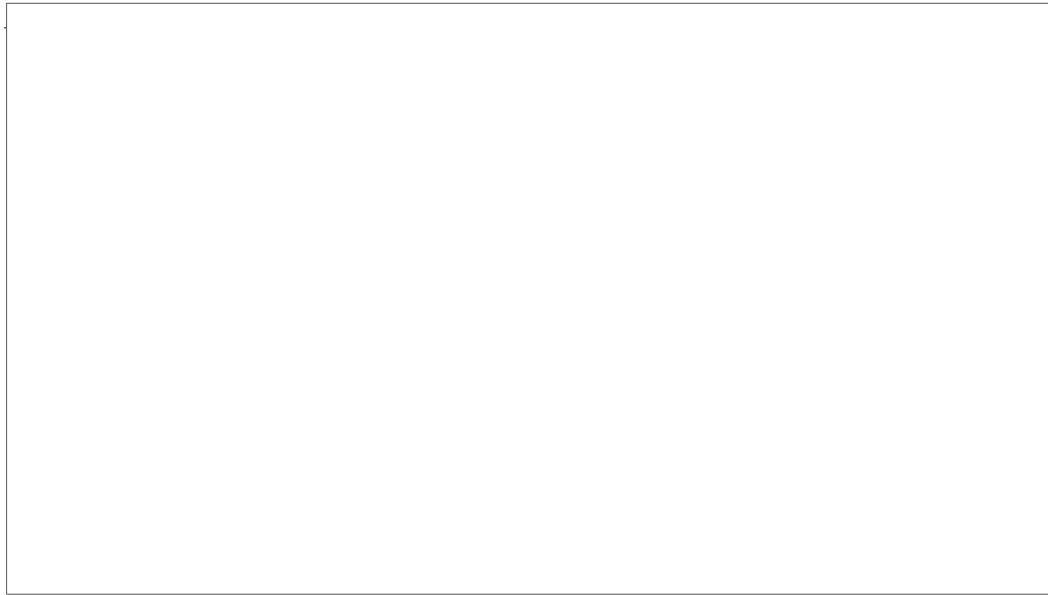
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Eartha Kitt: Hanoi's initial comment on remarks made by Eartha Kitt at a recent White House luncheon was contained in an English language broadcast on 21 January. The broadcast quoted Western news reports in claiming that Miss Kitt "angrily pointed a finger at President Johnson's wife and delivered an emotional tirade against the US war in Vietnam." The broadcast claimed that "only the shrill voice of anger and discord was heard." The Hanoi statement contained no comment of its own.

* * *

More on the State of the Union: Hanoi in a broadcast yesterday claimed that the "more of the same" kind of obstinacy about the war in the President's State of the Union address had been strongly condemned by public opinion in the US. The broadcast quoted an American Broadcasting Company television commentary which claimed the speech meant "another year of troubles for the Americans." Roger Hilsman in a National Broadcasting Company interview was quoted as saying that the message "gave rise to deception, and that what we need in Vietnam is a radical change of policy." Finally,

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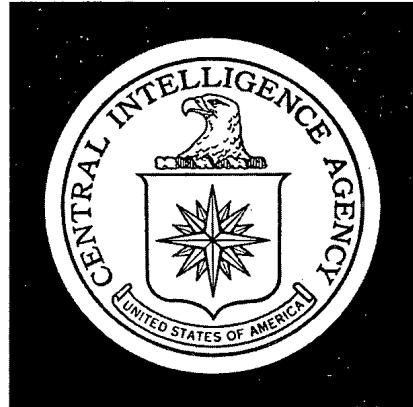
John Kenneth Galbraith's statement that he was "greatly disappointed by Johnson's message" and Senator Vance Hartke's claim that he "did not see any prospects for a settlement of our problems" were reported.

* * *

Antiwar Activity: Hanoi on Saturday reported on several groups in the US which are opposed to US involvement in Vietnam. Members of the Hawaii Committee to End the US War in Vietnam, for example, are said to have sent a message to the Liberation Front expressing their militant solidarity with the Front, and stating that the committee's stand is to demand an immediate withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam. The students at Harvard University were reported to have sent a message to the President demanding an end to the war. Several antidraft activities were also reported without comment in the broadcast.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
24 JANUARY 1968

1. North Korea

The US got nowhere at Panmunjom today. Pyongyang radio quotes the North Korean representative there as saying that "the latest is the most vicious provocation since the armistice--an extremely sinister and overt provocative machination of the US imperialist aggressors." United Press International quotes the North Korean as saying "the ship will remain in our hands."

2. Denmark

The biggest losers in yesterday's elections were Prime Minister Krag's Social Democrats and the parties on the left. The most spectacular gains were made by the Radical Liberals--a party with pacifist inclinations--who more than doubled their representation by winning 28 seats in the 179-member parliament. This small party now holds the balance of power; it will probably join with the larger Conservative and Moderate Liberal parties to form a majority government.

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The Danes are sending their own scientific investigation team and a number of newspaper men to Thule this morning.

3. Sino-Soviet

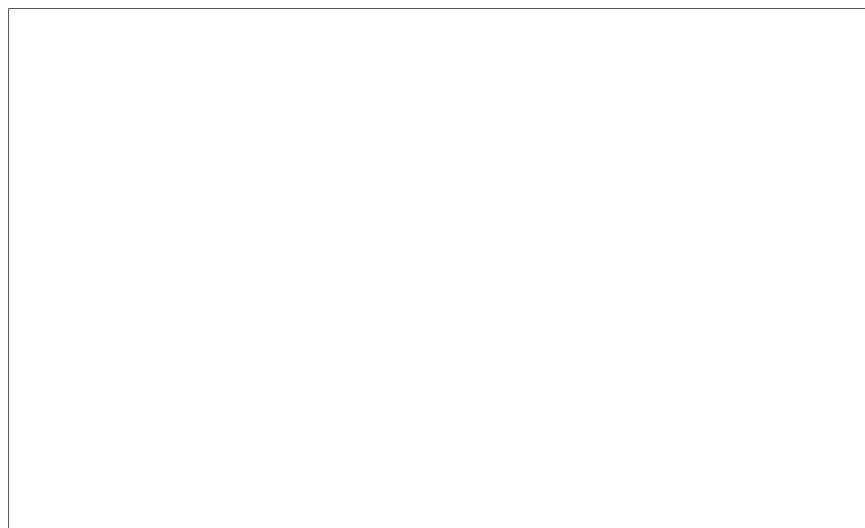
Recent satellite photography shows that a large number of Chinese Army barracks and support facilities have been built at a site in Sinkiang near the Soviet border during the past year. This is the first evidence of any Chinese move in response to the build-up of Soviet forces across the border.

4. Soviet Union

Ambassador Dobrynin told Ambassador Thompson last week that he expects a top-level decision within a month or six weeks on both the US-Soviet consular convention and on a new cultural exchange agreement. On the former, Dobrynin said there was no question of principle involved "but only one of finding appropriate time."

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5. Soviet Union



6. Dominican Republic

Leaders of the Marxist-Leninist Dominican Popular Movement told their members last week that the party has adopted a line on violence similar to that of the Guatemalan revolutionaries. The spokesmen stressed that the movement must strike back against "repression," and made clear that US citizens would be among its targets.

So far, there are no signs of an actual campaign of violence by either the right or the left, but the political atmosphere is increasingly tense.

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7. Thailand

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The military oligarchy has taken a small but important step toward constitutional government. Municipal and provincial elections were held recently--the first since the constitution was annulled ten years ago.

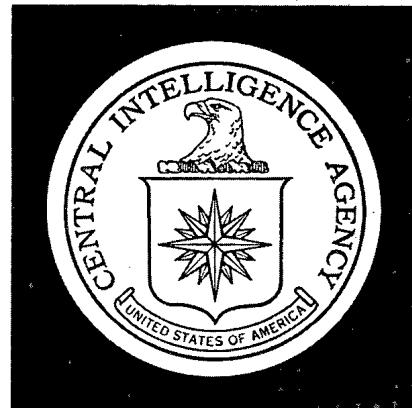
Although a restriction on discussing political issues reduced the elections largely to popularity contests, campaigning was often energetic and voter turnout was quite high. Governmental interference was minimal.

The regime now seems to realize that constitutional government cannot be put off indefinitely.

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24 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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More on the Phoenix: The Quaker yacht Phoenix is scheduled to make its second visit to North Vietnam during the forthcoming Tet truce period. According to press accounts and reports from the consulate

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general in Hong Kong, six Americans and one British citizen will sail the yacht from Hong Kong on the 23rd of January, with expectations of arriving at Haiphong by noon on the 29th. The yacht is reportedly carrying \$2,500 in drugs for the Red Cross of the Liberation Front and \$5,000 in surgical supplies for the North Vietnamese Red Cross, all of which the Quakers have stipulated must be used for treating civilian victims of the war. During a press conference before embarking, Lawrence Scott, the leader of the group, stated that Hanoi had granted permission for the yacht to visit Haiphong during the Tet truce period. Permission to supervise the distribution of the donations or to travel to Hanoi was not granted, however.

In connection with the voyage of the Phoenix, Hanoi appears to be sticking to its current prohibition of foreign newsmen. John Porterfield, an American correspondent who had planned to sail with the Phoenix crew, was refused permission to make the voyage by the North Vietnamese authorities.

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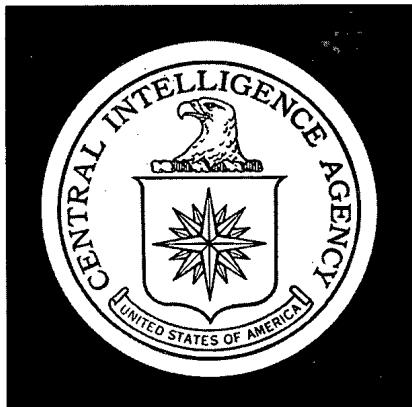
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

Nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 25 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
25 JANUARY 1968

1. North Korea

Pyongyang is still defiant on the release of the Pueblo and its crew.

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Four Soviet naval ships are operating in the vicinity of the Enterprise and its escorts. These units appear to be monitoring the activity of the US task force, but have shown no hostile intent. Soviet ships regularly operate in this area.

2. South Vietnam

Some members of the lower House may be planning to dabble in peace efforts.

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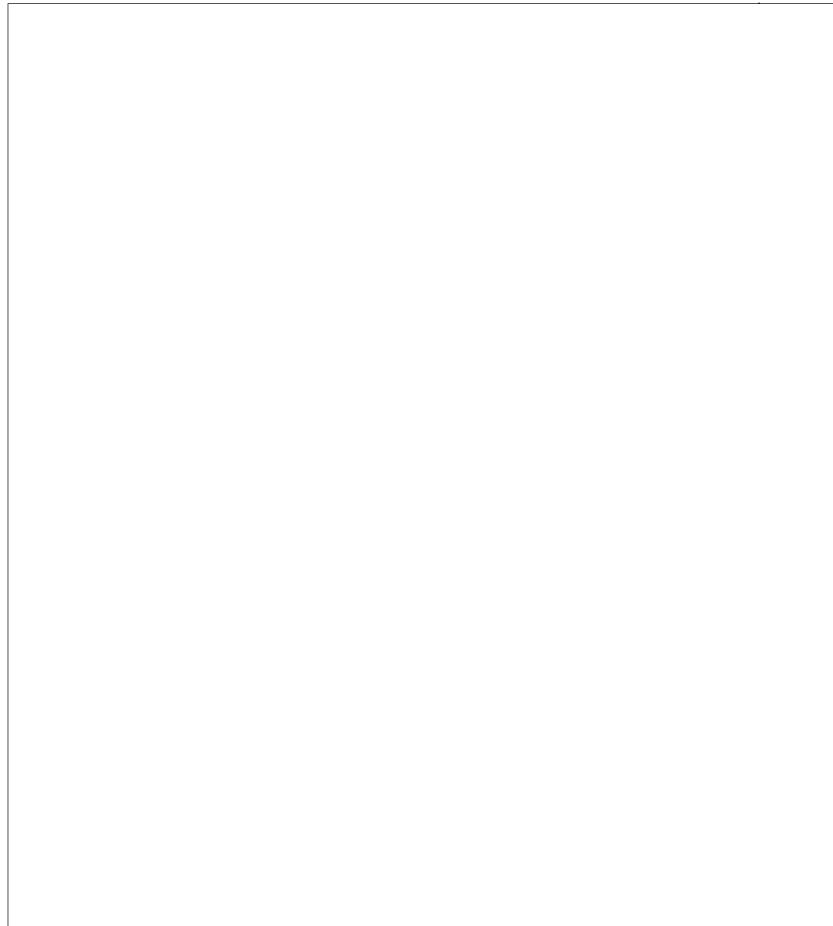
3. Laos

Over a week after the debacle at Nam Bac, the government still cannot account for more than half of the troops deployed there. Large stocks of heavy weapons, ammunition, and other equipment were also lost. We do not believe that the Communists intend to drive far south from Nam Bac, but they are stepping up their annual dry-season campaign against government guerrilla bases in the northeast.

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4. Nonproliferation Treaty

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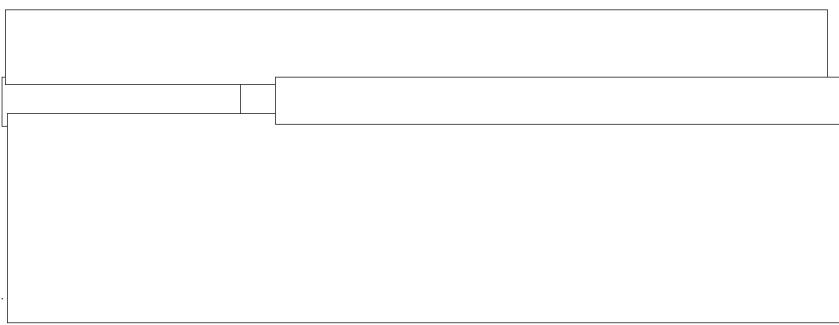
5. West Germany

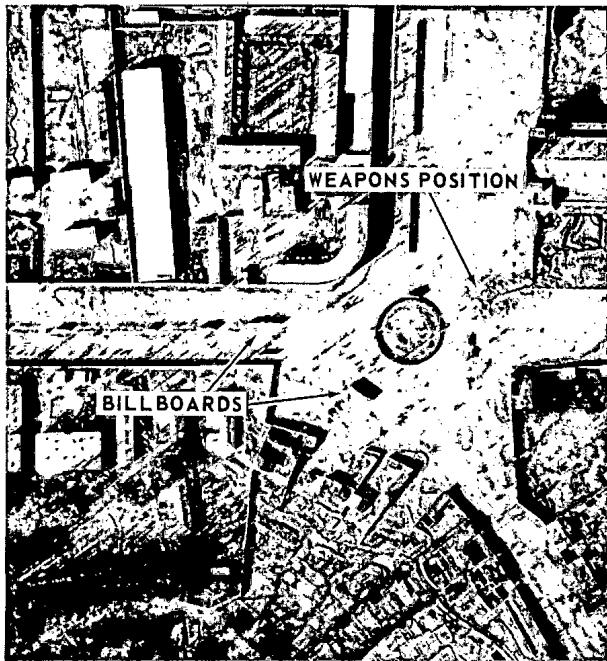
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some Foreign Ministry officials are taken with the idea of bilateral talks with the Soviets on Bonn's role in West Berlin. On Tuesday, State Secretary Carstens assured an embassy officer that the government had made no decision on this matter. A half hour later, Carstens phoned to say that Kiesinger had just said "there was nothing to worry about."

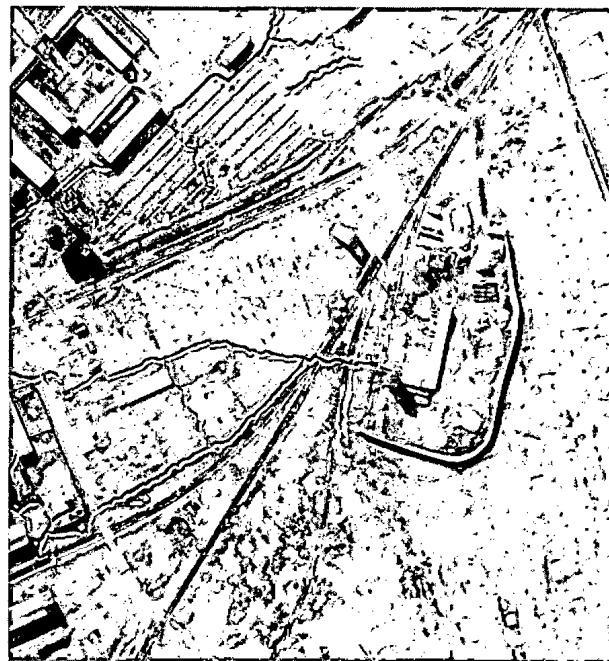
6. Jordan

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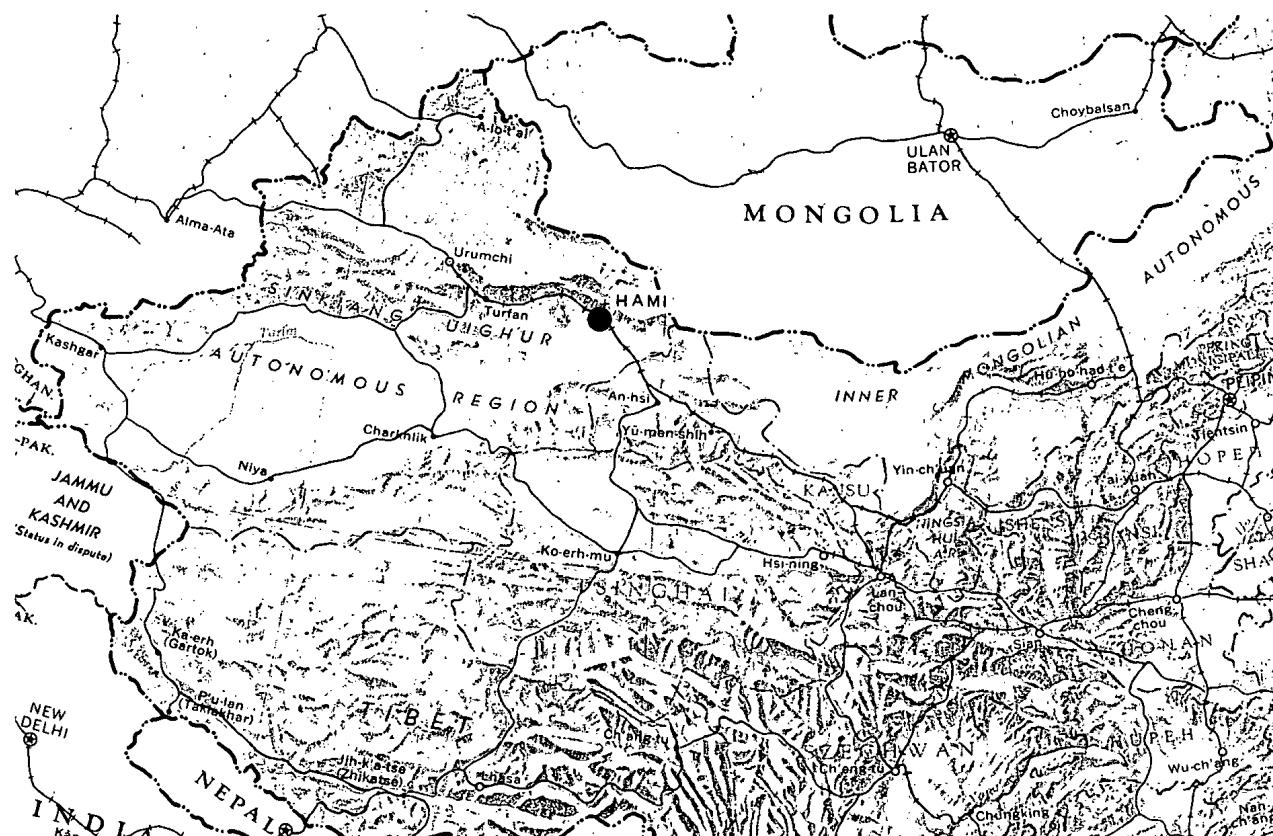




BILLBOARDS AND WEAPONS POSITION.



TRENCHES DUG ACROSS RAIL SPURS.



LOCATION MAP.

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7. Communist China



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Satellite photography of last December provides glimpses of the trouble.

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There are large crowds, billboards, and weapons positions along the streets, with what look like other weapons positions on rooftops. A number of administration buildings are surrounded by trench networks, and several rail spurs leading to local industries are intersected by trenches. The rail yard itself is heavily congested.

None of this activity was seen on photography of last June. Recent evidence indicates that the trouble is not over yet.

8. France

De Gaulle told New York Times correspondent Cyrus Sulzberger on Monday that "there was no question" of lifting the embargo on Mirage aircraft for Israel at this time. De Gaulle asserted that if these planes were sent to Israel, they would be used "to destroy Damascus."

The same day Couve de Murville told Ambassador Bohlen the decision on the Mirages for Israel would be "further postponed," but some would be sold to Iraq "on commercial terms." To the observation that this would not make the French very popular in Israel, Couve shrugged his shoulders. He later admitted that French policy was "slightly pro-Arab."

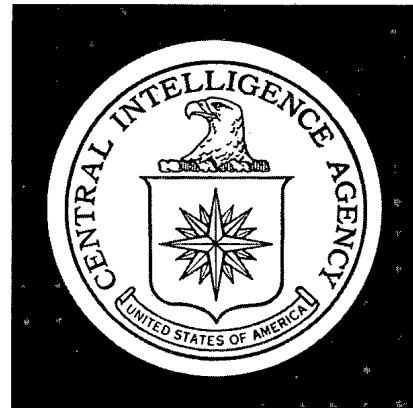
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De Gaulle also told Sulzberger that the French Canadians were the most oppressed minority in the world "with the exception of the Arabs in Israel and the Tibetans in China."

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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[REDACTED]

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Kosygin to Hanoi?: [REDACTED]

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Premier Kosygin will go on to Hanoi after his visit to New Delhi later this week. Such a visit could be timed to coincide with the Tet bombing pause. The last high-level Soviet visit to Hanoi was in January 1966, when Politburo member Shelepin led a delegation to North Vietnam during the 37-day pause. The current US-Korean trouble could alter any plans Kosygin might have.

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Hanoi Holds the Line: North Vietnam seems unwilling to go any further in publicly elaborating on its position concerning talks with the US. After strongly denouncing President Johnson's restatement of the San Antonio formula in his State of the Union message, North Vietnamese media generally have concentrated on presenting Hanoi's usual hard-line treatment of the war and ignored the issue of negotiations.

On 22 January, Mai Van Bo, who last week publicly stressed the positive aspects of Hanoi's position, cancelled a scheduled interview because he had "said everything he had to say up to now." [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Hanoi still has not endorsed Mai Van Bo's off-the-record interview with a French journalist on 17 January. His remarks at that time may have exceeded the bounds of what Hanoi wants said in public

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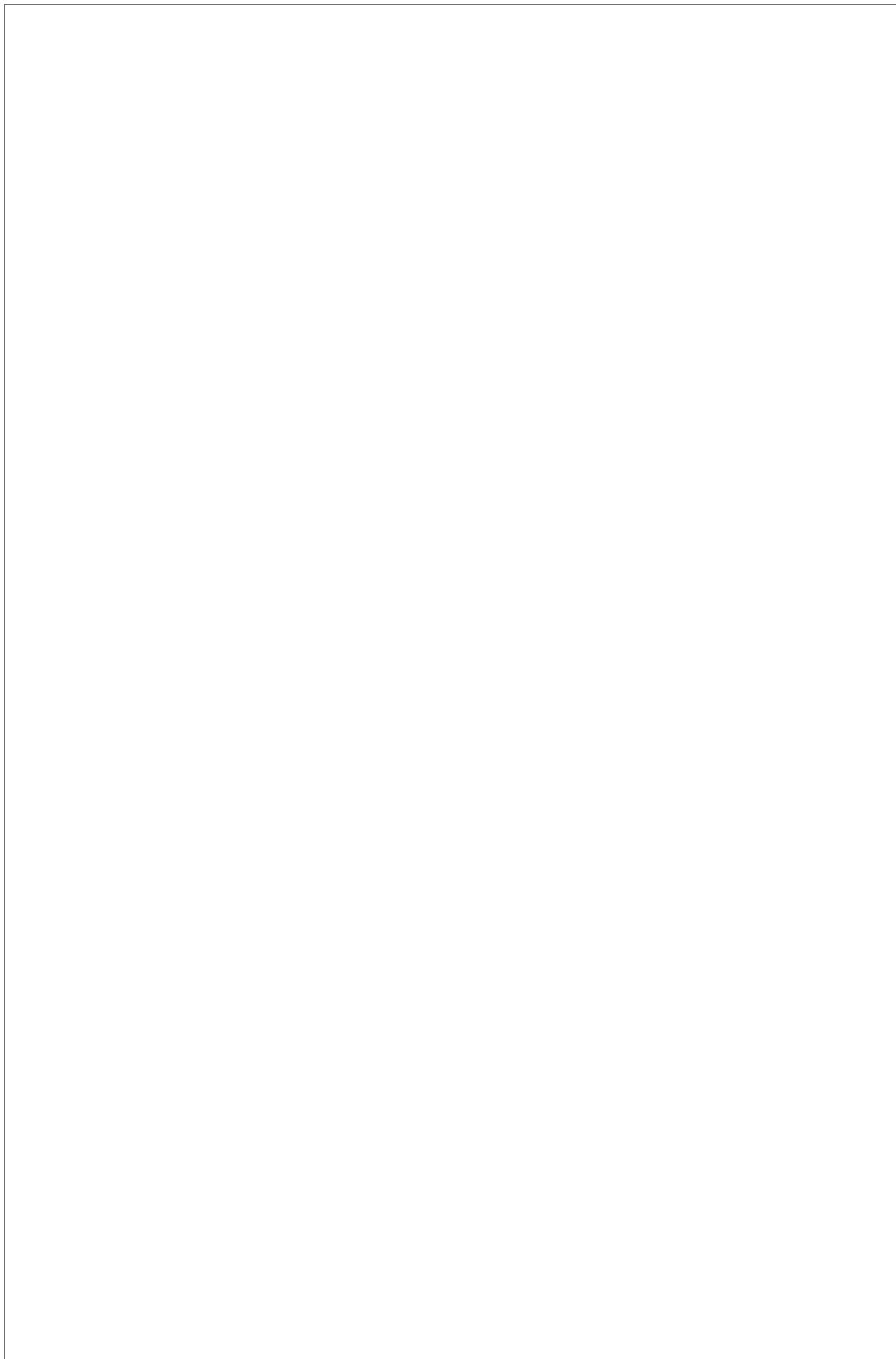
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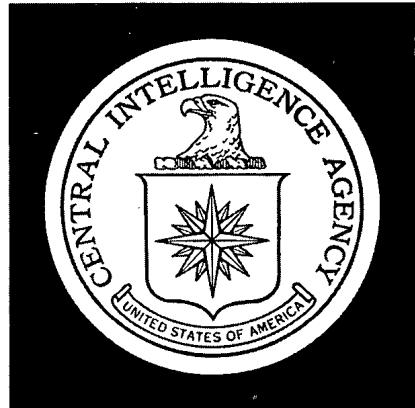
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

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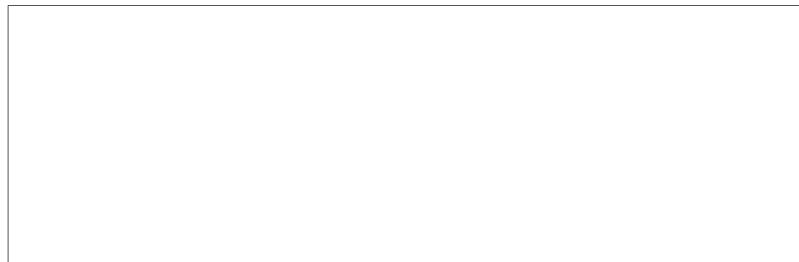


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DAILY BRIEF
26 JANUARY 1968

1. Korea

Pyongyang is now talking about bringing the Pueblo's crew to trial. A North Korean broadcast last night said "these criminals must be dealt with by law" and "receive due punishment." There is no new information on the location or condition of the crew.



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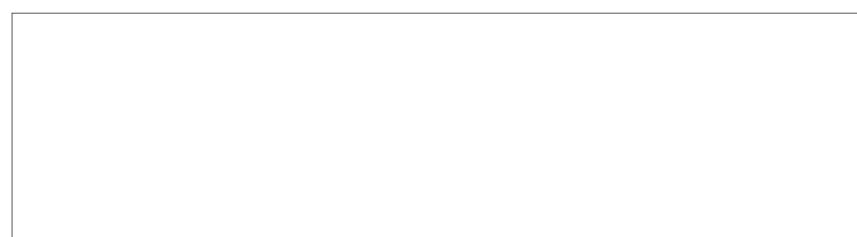
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2. Suez Canal

Working under the shadow of Israeli guns, the Egyptians start survey operations along the southern part of the canal tomorrow. This is the first step toward clearing that portion of the canal and freeing the 15 trapped ships. The Egyptians are estimating more than two months for the operation.

3. Soviet Union

Over the past weeks there have been clear signs that the Soviet leadership is having trouble dealing with some important problems. Brezhnev cancelled a trip to Cairo; Kosygin's Indian visit was up in the air until the last minute. A meeting of the central committee also appears to have been repeatedly postponed. This in itself suggests the Politburo has not been able to resolve some issue.

Just what is plaguing Russian leaders is hard to say--they certainly have a wide variety of problems. We suspect relations with the US, Vietnam, and recent developments in Czechoslovakia are high on the list of knotty issues.

Often when the Soviet leadership shows signs of disarray, the rumor mills begin churning about changes at the top.

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4. Peru

Belaunde and the Peruvian Congress are at loggerheads over the budget. The President wants Congress to levy more taxes to finance his programs; the Congress is refusing and wants the budget cut. The military, final arbiter in Peru, is irritated over the impasse and wants a compromise. Military leaders are again thinking of taking over unless there is a meeting of presidential and congressional minds.

5. Guatemala

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6. Brazil

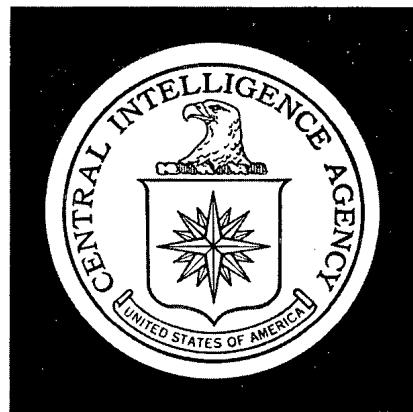
The military, at least in the vital southern part of the country, reportedly has gone on alert status. The reason is not yet clear, but it may be an effort to put pressure on Costa e Silva. His willingness to tolerate a vocal political opposition is unpopular with army officers and they may be trying to force a new get-tough policy.

7. Communist China

Peking seems unable or unwilling to exert authority over much of the country. In recent days there has been a spate of authoritative editorials denouncing factional fighting. Once these would have brought instant compliance. Now the feuding Red Guards turn a deaf ear and go on fighting. Some cities are described by travelers as in anarchy. The army sits on the side lines waiting for the contenders to exhaust themselves.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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26 January 1968

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

26 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Rumanian Visitors: The high-level Rumanian delegation in Hanoi this week had been there on an earlier visit only about a month ago.

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This may be part of Premier Maurer's attempt to bring the war to the negotiating table. Shortly after his own return from Hanoi last September, Maurer told Ambassador Davis that Rumania intended to try to push the two sides together. A further Rumanian effort along this line may emerge in high-level talks the Rumanians have scheduled this week with Pope Paul and Harold Wilson and with Soviet leaders.

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Peking Warns North Vietnamese About "Peace Talks Fraud": Peking's long-standing concern over the possibility that the Vietnamese Communists may be "misled" into entering negotiations was clearly underscored in China's Liberation Army Daily on 24 January. The article warned the Vietnamese that the US was continuing the "peace talks fraud" and declared that "so long as the Vietnamese continue the war, they will surely win final victory."

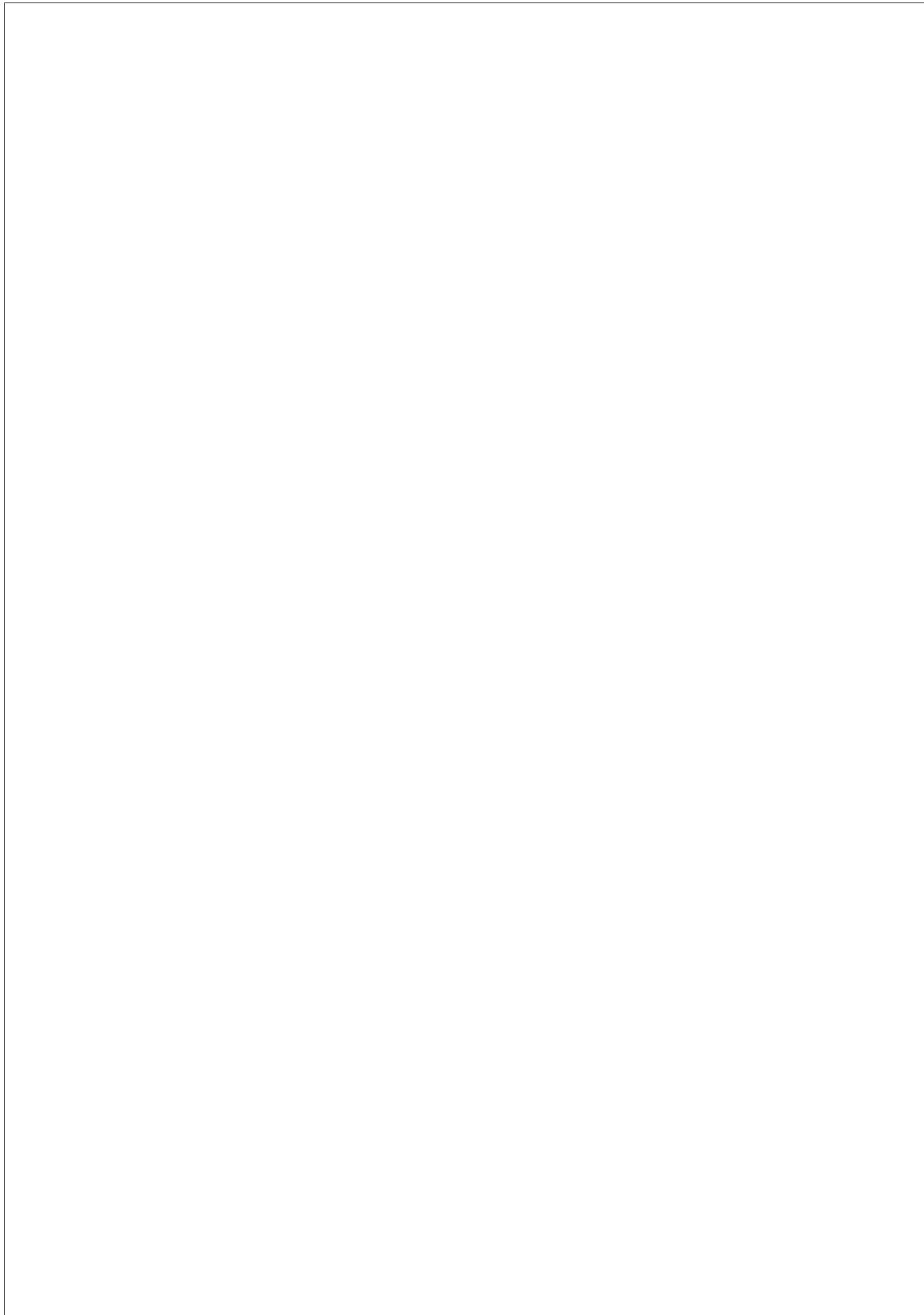
The article was also in keeping with repeated indications of Chinese displeasure with North Vietnamese moves which could be construed as establishing a more reasonable position on the question of talks. This is also currently illustrated by Peking's continuing silence on Trinh's "will talk" statement of 29 December as well as on his earlier formulation on the subject issued a year ago.

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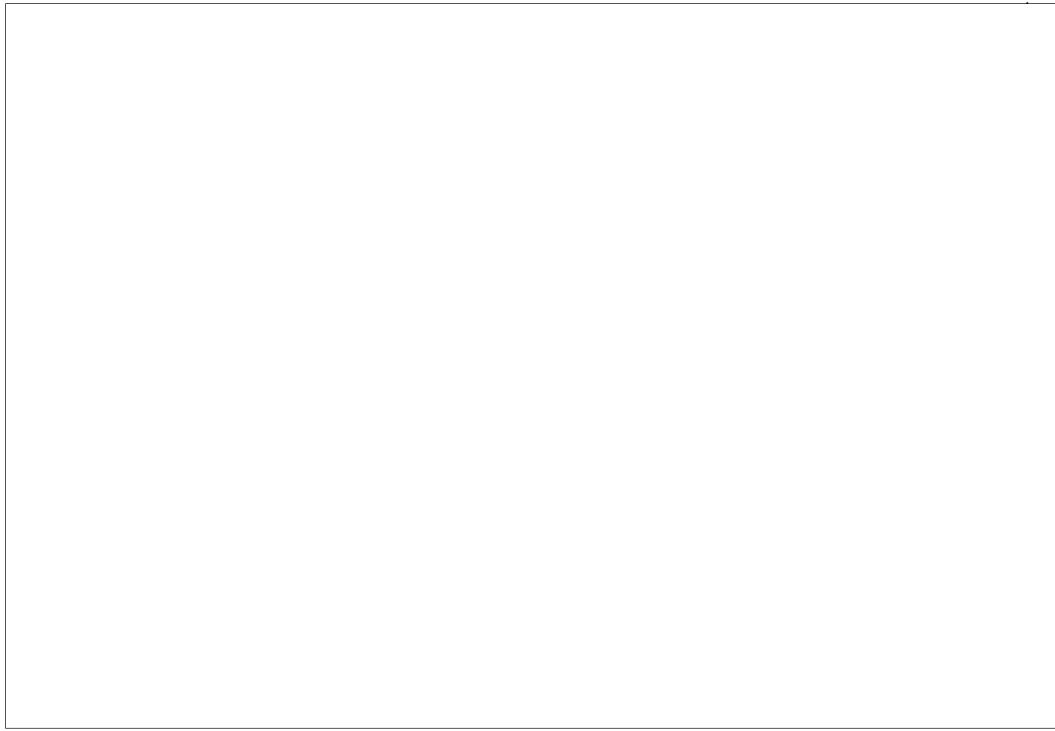


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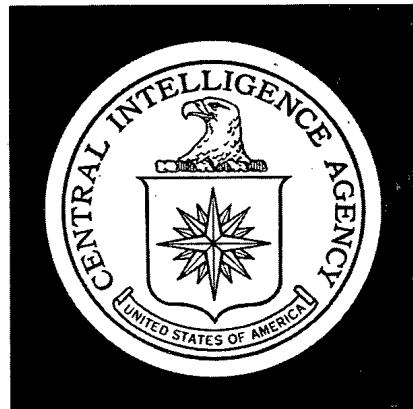
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Antiwar Activities: Hanoi radio's international service on 24 January carried a routine roundup of assorted American antiwar activities. It notes that another American soldier has deserted to Sweden and mentions recent statements by various antiwar organizations. It says that "thousands of American youths" support an appeal to refuse service in Vietnam. It notes protests against the prosecution of Dr. Spock and others opposing the war, and an appeal from a group of religious personalities calling on the US to stop the bombing of the North.

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DAILY BRIEF
27 JANUARY 1968

1. North Korea

About 75 percent of North Korean territory was covered in yesterday's Black Shield mission, which was carried out in generally excellent weather. A quick first look at the pictures in the field shows the Pueblo in Wonsan Bay with no apparent damage.

A total of 54 MIG fighters was observed at the nearby airfield, according to the preliminary field analysis. The Wonsan surface-to-air missile site was occupied, as were numerous antiaircraft artillery sites in the area. Seven Komar class guided missile boats were seen at or near the Wonsan naval base and some of them may have been armed with missiles. At least 17 other assorted small combat vessels were at the base or patrolling offshore.

There was no sign of salvage operations in the area where the Pueblo is thought to have jettisoned some of its special equipment.

The photographs are expected in Washington tonight and work on them is to get underway immediately.

The North Korean regime, meanwhile, shows no sign of modifying its adamant stand. In a domestic broadcast early today, Pyongyang radio carried a government statement declaring strong opposition to any debate by the UN Security Council in response to the US request. The announcement stressed that Pyongyang would proclaim null and void any resolution "rigged up to cover the US imperialist aggression."

2. Philippines

President Marcos returned last week from his swing through Southeast Asia bubbling with enthusiasm over the prospects of closer ties among the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

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3. Israel

The Israelis are acting more and more like permanent residents in Arab Jerusalem; the remaining Arabs feel they are being squeezed out. The latest Israeli move is to bulldoze undeveloped areas in the city preparatory to launching their own development projects there.

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4. Panama**5. Denmark**

The King has asked Hilmar Baunsgaard of the neutralist-leaning Radical Liberal Party to form a new government. This will not be easy. The two other non-Socialist parties he would need in a coalition, while agreeing with Baunsgaard on domestic policy, take a dim view of the Radical Liberal call for reconsideration of Denmark's NATO membership.

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6. Chile

President Frei now believes he will have hard work keeping the Communists from making important gains in next year's congressional elections and even in the 1970 presidential elections.

The Moscow-line party has found the legal political game rewarding in Chile and Frei has reason for concern. He told visiting Senators Gore, Miller, and McIntyre earlier this month that he thinks Chile has become a Communist testing ground; that the local party is out to prove for Moscow that electoral action is more effective than Castro-style revolution.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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27 January 1968

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

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi to Release Three US Pilots: Hanoi's domestic radio service broadcast the announcement this morning that the North Vietnamese army, "on the occasion of Tet," had decided to release three US "aggressor pilots" captured in North Vietnam. These pilots, the broadcast went on, had "displayed a repentant attitude" during the period of their detention.

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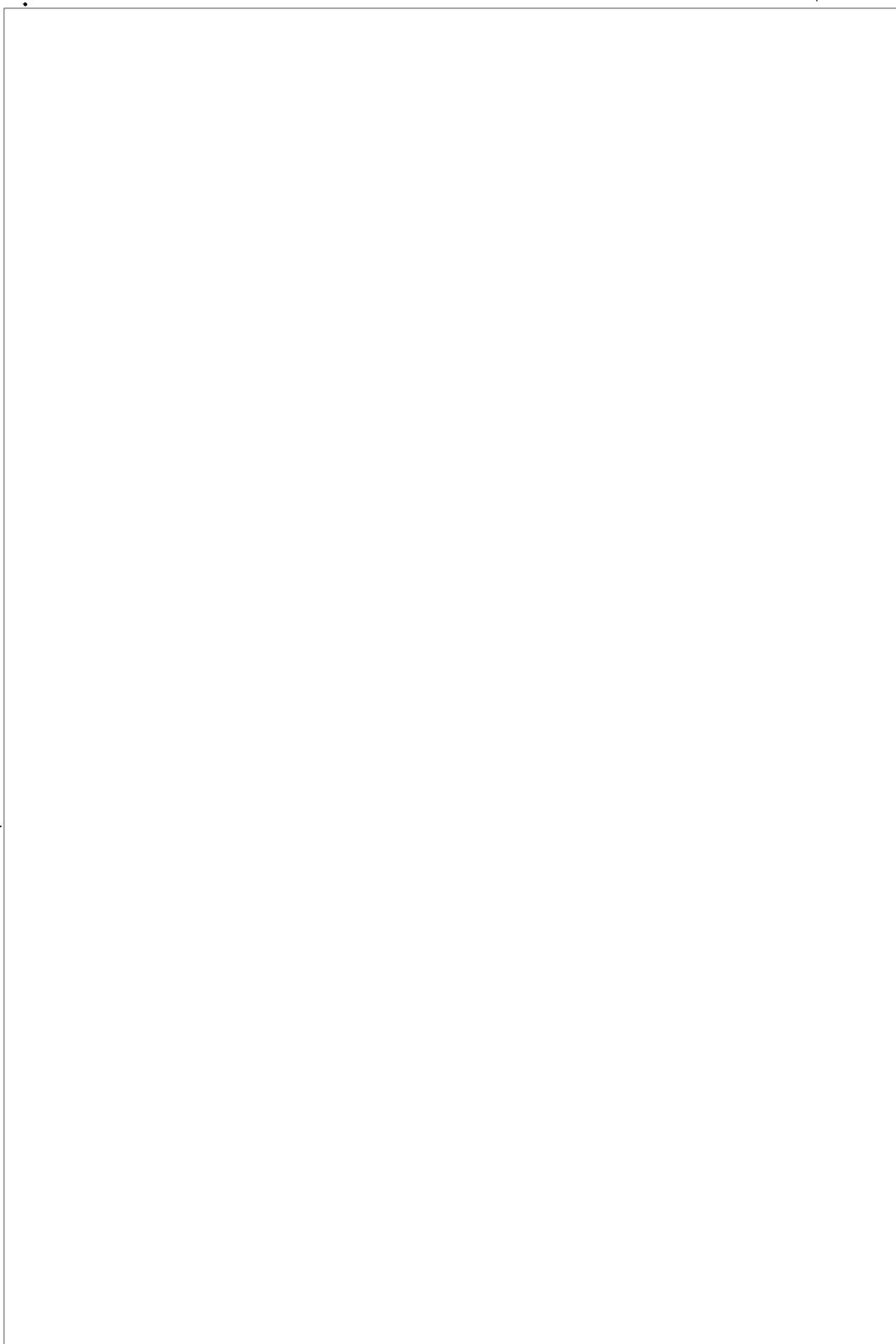
More Hanoi Comment on the Pueblo Seizure: The Hanoi party daily Nhan Dan, in an editorial broadcast internationally on 26 January, condemned as "a new act of war provocation" the sending of a US "spy ship" into North Korean territorial waters and praised the Koreans for "neatly capturing the whole US gang of spies and their ship." In keeping with other Hanoi comment on the incident, there was no effort to tie the seizure of the Pueblo to the situation in Vietnam.

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Hanoi Urges Property Inventory: A late December article in the party journal urged cadre, workers and government employees to tighten property management systems and work for more accurate inventory methods during the current "war environment." The article said a number of people had not recognized their responsibility in the protection of government property and declared "waste and corruption are still widespread."

* * *

Mai Van Bo Gets a Flag: Mai Van Bo's efforts to obtain from the French Government more of the prerogatives which go with his claimed status as head of a diplomatic mission are making some headway. Bo is now flying a flag on his official vehicle and he will soon be given diplomatic plates. Heretofore, the North Vietnamese delegate general had been driving around Paris with temporary tourist license plates.

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Hanoi on Tet Truce: Hanoi propaganda on the impending Tet truce has continued to contrast the shortened 36 hour allied ceasefire with the "more humane" seven day standdown the Liberation Front has called for. The Communists at the same time have gone to some length to document alleged US truce violations during the Christmas and New Year periods and to imply that the "weakened position" of the US will bring about additional violations during Tet.

A 25 January Hanoi broadcast set the tone of Communist comment. It claimed that the shortening of the allied truce from 48 to 36 hours was a manifestation of the difficult situation and the "savage nature" of the allies, who demonstrated no regard for the South Vietnamese people. The statement went on to list alleged US violations of past truces and to underscore the fact that the Liberation Front's seven day standdown was undertaken out of "deep respect for the people's customs and habits."

New French Press Agency Correspondent About to Leave for Hanoi: The US embassy in Paris reports that French Press Agency correspondent Jean Le Mauff will leave Paris on 29 January and arrive in Hanoi on 2 February to replace the present Agency correspondent there, Bernard Cabanes. In a conversation with the embassy in early January Le Mauff gave the impression of being generally pro-American, anti-Communist and having an open mind on his Vietnam assignment.

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Hanoi Newspapers Merge: Hanoi has merged the two local dailies that serve the metropolitan Hanoi-Haiphong area

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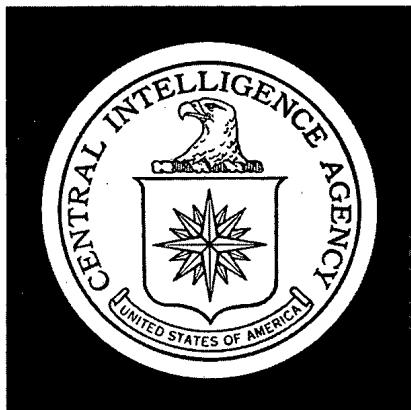
The official explanation for the merger is that the two newspapers (Thu Do, the local party daily, and Thoi Moi, the Local government paper) served the same readership and that a single newspaper would enable the party and the government to "more efficiently realize their approaches and policies."

The official explanation suggests that the party may be having difficulty supervising both these publications and that some news items out of step with the official party line may have sneaked through. It is equally possible, however, that the reason for the merger is that the readership of these newspapers has diminished because of the extensive evacuation of the capital area. One newspaper can probably adequately cover subscription needs, and will help to take some of the pressure off local propaganda authorities. It is also possible that the bombings have in some way affected the Hanoi publishing business as they have other Hanoi enterprises.

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 29 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
29 JANUARY 1968

1. North Korea

Examination in Washington of the photographs from last Friday's BLACK SHIELD mission confirms the information reported in Saturday's Brief. In addition, the mission provided good coverage of both North and South Korean military forces and activity along the Demilitarized Zone.

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Pyongyang has not yet stated its conditions for release of the Pueblo and the crew, and has reiterated that it will "severely punish" the men. The North Koreans continue to patrol their borders with aircraft and ships.

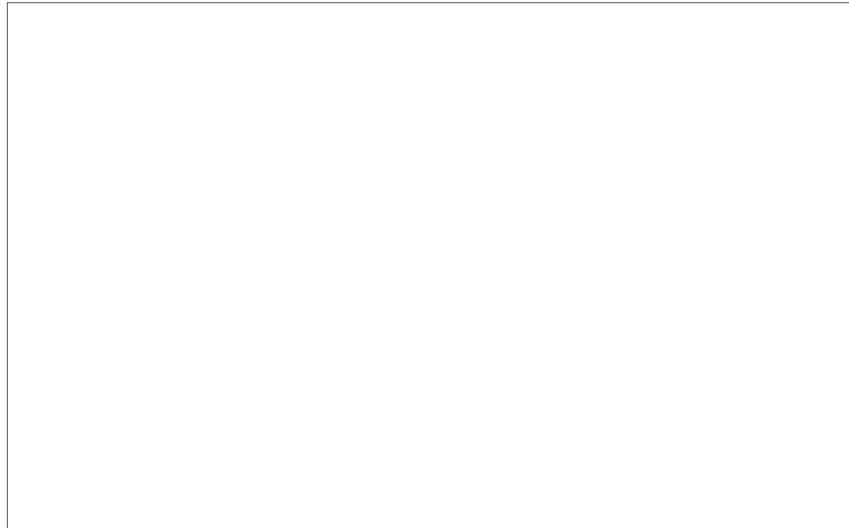
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Peking yesterday issued its first official statement on the issue. Although somewhat stronger than previous Chinese news agency reports (to make Peking's support seem at least as firm as Moscow's), it did not commit the Chinese to any specific steps.

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2. North Vietnam

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3. South Vietnam

Enemy military activity has not been reduced significantly since the beginning of the Viet Cong - announced cease-fire period three days ago. North Vietnamese main force units in the western highlands of Pleiku and Kontum provinces are completing battle preparations.

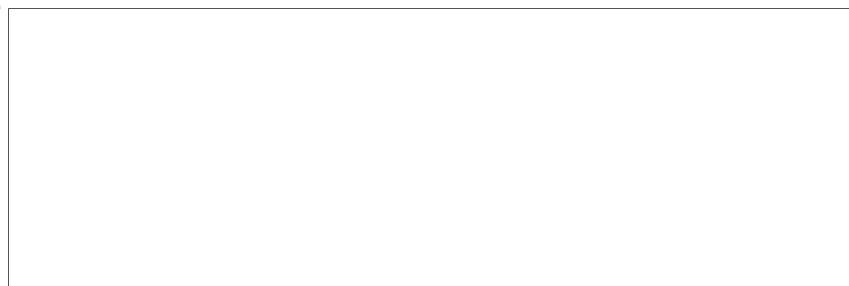


4. The Netherlands

The lower house will begin a foreign policy debate next week, with the members under great pressure from growing antiwar sentiment. A motion calling on the government to request the US to stop bombing North Vietnam will attract strong support. Prime Minister De Jong says the cabinet will resign if it passes.

5. Jordan

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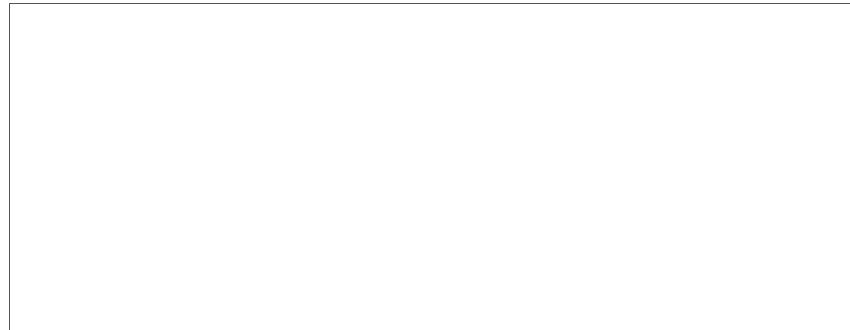
6. West Germany

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7. India

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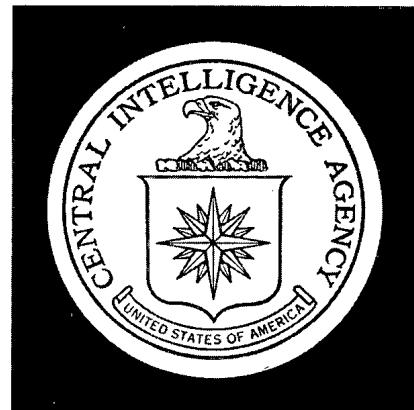
8. Czechoslovakia

New party chief Dubcek has tried to mollify critical intellectuals by letting the Czechoslovak Writers' Union elect its own leadership. He has also said the union can publish a new weekly journal to replace the one Novotny closed down. This has only partly pacified the intellectuals, however, and they will continue to press for more and speedier liberalization.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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16
29 January 1968

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

29 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

French Press Agency on Hanoi Reaction to the Pueblo Incident: Yesterday Paris broadcast in English a dispatch from the French correspondent in Hanoi. According to this piece, North Vietnam regards the Pueblo incident as part of widespread hostile American action against Asian countries, "dominated by the Vietnamese conflict." Hanoi, it said, lumps the American ship's operations off North Korea with violation of the Cambodian frontier, the bombing of Laos, violation of Chinese air space, and increasing American air and advisory activities against the Pathet Lao.

The French dispatch goes on to quote the North Vietnamese army journal as saying that the seizure of the Pueblo "is a legitimate action that absolutely no one can distort. But the Americans do not know how to be contrite. They fall back on gangsters' remarks and, while trying to resolve their crises, they resort to cunning." The army journal concludes by saying that "elbow to elbow with our Korean brothers there is the powerful socialist camp and the whole of progressive humanity."

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Hanoi on "Deceptive" US Peace Posture: Hanoi continues to place full responsibility for prolongation of the war on the US. An authoritative "Commentator" article in the 28 January Hanoi daily Nhan Dan asserts that US "ruling circles" continued to "maintain a stubborn attitude" even after Foreign Minister Trinh's recent statement that talks between Hanoi and the US "would" begin after the US unconditionally stopped the bombing of North Vietnam. The article noted that many people and governments and even some "American political circles" have demanded that the US stop the bombing.

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President Johnson's remarks on Vietnam in his State of the Union address were merely a repetition of earlier US statements, according to the "Commentator" article. Hanoi claims that the call for reciprocity in exchange for an end to the bombing is a "trick to confuse right and wrong" and that the US is seeking a pretext to expand the war. The article closed with a standard North Vietnamese assertion that they are determined to fight "till final victory" to defeat the US.

* * *

Hanoi Protests Barrier in Laos: Hanoi international service in English on 26 January quotes the Nhan Dan issue of the same date as denouncing "the US scheme to establish a mechanical warning system in Laos as a most cynical violation of the 1962 Geneva agreements." Nhan Dan goes on to state that "this barrier is designed as a supplement to the barbed wire and structural barriers to be built along the Demilitarized Zone in Vietnam and will consist of elaborate mechanical gadgets."

The newspaper further charged that "the mechanical warning system project in Laos constitutes a new step-up in the US plan to send ground forces to central and lower Laos." The broadcast concluded by saying that "the system, just as any other adventurous plan of the Pentagon, will certainly be frustrated by the Laotian people," led, of course, by the Pathet Lao. Hanoi did not state, however, that it will assist the Lao patriots, as it almost always does when speaking of Cambodia.

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North Vietnamese Television Studio: Hanoi has announced that it has set up a television film studio, according to a French Press Agency report from the North Vietnamese capital. Films will be produced for showing abroad and will depict the fight against the US and the "building of socialism." According to the French report, Hanoi hopes the studio will hasten the introduction of television generally in North Vietnam.

* * *

Release of US Prisoners: Hanoi's announced decision to release three captured US airmen held in North Vietnam appears designed for propaganda purposes. In a 27 January broadcast, the North Vietnamese stated that the men would be released in honor of Tet, due to Hanoi's "humanitarian and lenient" policy. The broadcast also noted that the three have displayed a "repentant attitude." North Vietnam has not yet stated when or where they will be freed, but has identified them as Major Morris Overly, Captain Jon Black, and Ensign Paul Metheny. All three were captured during September and October last year.

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

Hanoi on US Antiwar Protests: A 27 January Hanoi International Service broadcast in English quoted Western reports of demonstrations in front of two New York hotels on 24 January, when Vice President Humphrey and other "warmongers" were due to appear. The broadcast noted that many demonstrators were dressed in Vietnamese peasant costumes to express support for "the Vietnamese people's struggle."

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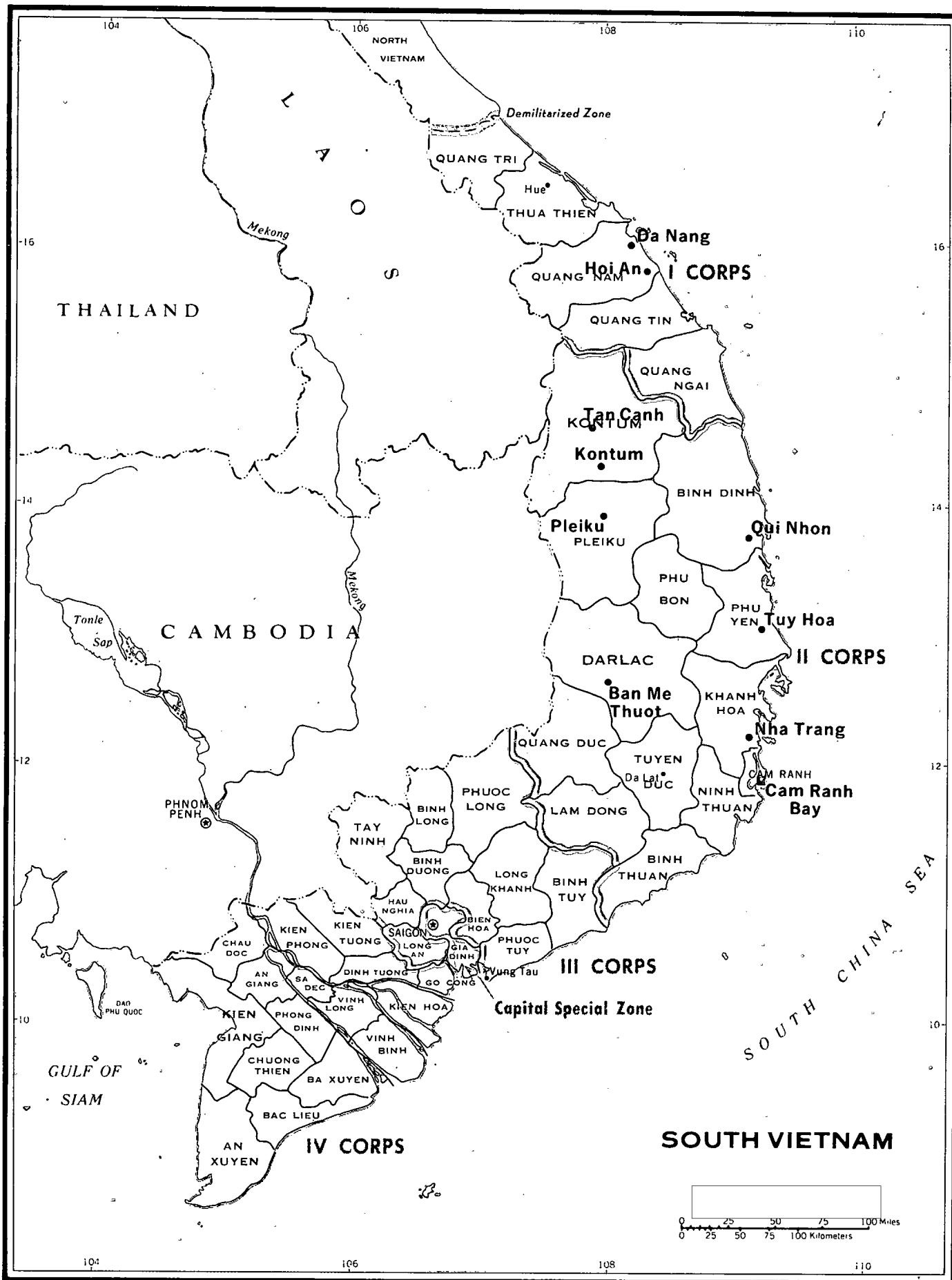


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
30 JANUARY 1968

1. North Korea

There have been few new developments overnight. Pyongyang has made no official comment on the Pueblo for more than 24 hours, although the North Koreans are broadcasting statements of support from other Communist countries.

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

Sharp fighting reportedly continues in the cities of Pleiku, Kontum, Da Nang, and Nha Trang. Information is still sketchy on what is happening around the other cities and bases hit by the well-coordinated and unprecedented Communist offensive.

Designed for maximum psychological impact, the Communists concentrated on showing they could shoot their way into major populated areas, particularly provincial capitals.

Hanoi is already trying to shift the blame for these blatant truce violations onto the allies. A broadcast this morning charged the US and South Vietnam had cancelled the cease-fire and then launched heavy attacks on the civilian populace.

So far, there are no new reports of fighting in the area around Khe Sanh.

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3. Czechoslovakia

Dubcek's quick trip to Moscow yesterday gave Soviet leaders a chance to assess the new Czech party boss and work on basic relations between the two states. Dubcek, something of an off-beat voice in the Communist world, is planning liberal domestic reforms. This may be difficult for his more orthodox Soviet counterparts to swallow in view of pressures they face for greater liberalization at home and elsewhere in the bloc.

4. Soviet Union

For their part, Soviet leaders are making sure Russian intellectuals are left with no misunderstandings about the course of the future if dissent continues.

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5. Soviet Union

Kosygin's trip to India ends on Wednesday with a stop in Afghanistan on the way home. This apparently rules out a visit to Hanoi, at least for now.

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6. Cuba

While Castro's purge of the Cuban Communist Party has made most of the headlines, the three-day central committee session also made some foreign policy decisions.

For one, Cuba's estrangement from Moscow was underscored by a resolution against sending a delegation to the upcoming Communist meeting in Budapest. Perhaps more significant, however, was a renewed pledge to support armed struggle--we suspect this means more Castro support to Latin American insurgents in 1968.

7. Guatemala

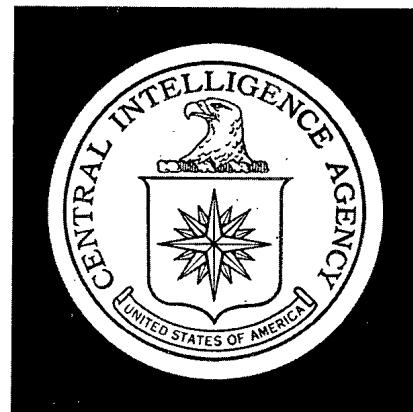
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8. Denmark

Pressure is growing for negotiations to prohibit US nuclear-armed aircraft from flying over Greenland. Although Krag is a lame duck, he has ensnarled his successor by saying this issue is one of the first things the next government should take up. Hilmar Baunsgaard of the neutralist-leaning Radical Liberal Party is still trying to form a government, but he has not commented on the overflight matter. Iceland and Norway also have shown sensitivity to the overflight problem.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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16

30 January 1968

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

30 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Hanoi Continues to Manage News Stories Sent Abroad: North Vietnam is continuing its efforts to ensure that stories filed by resident foreign correspondents in Hanoi stick to official guidelines when

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discussing regime policy toward talks with the United States.

A recent dispatch by Joseph Cabanes, the French news agency correspondent in Hanoi, commenting that the US had not yet responded to Foreign Minister Trinh's statement, was inspired and cleared by the North Vietnamese, according to the French Foreign Office. Cabanes was told by North Vietnamese officials that no story which has come out of Hanoi since the Trinh statement should be interpreted as a hardening of Hanoi's position. The officials also requested that he delete a reference to a recent statement on the question of talks by the North Vietnamese representative in Rangoon because it might be erroneously interpreted as a hardening of Hanoi's position.

Hanoi's sensitivity to interpretation of the Trinh statement, which has also affected the Czech correspondent there, may be partially responsible for the regime's refusal during the last several weeks to allow any new correspondents into the country. Even Wilfred Burchett, a frequent apologist for Hanoi, and often a vehicle for Communist propaganda, has been unsuccessful in a recent attempt to get into North Vietnam to obtain material on the issue of talks with the US. Other Western correspondents who have sought visas or information about the Trinh statement have been referred to the 29 December formulation or to a 16 January statement by the North Vietnamese mission in Paris, both of which Hanoi has authorized as official.

* * *

Liberation Front Comments on Pueblo: In a broadcast on 26 January the Liberation Front offered its initial comment on the seizure of the Pueblo. The broadcast praised the North Koreans for striking "punitive blows against the US" in defending their sovereignty. In keeping with Hanoi propaganda, the broadcast claimed that the Pueblo incident was only the latest in a series of US violations of North Korean territory and voiced the Front's full support for the Korean position. The broadcast also stated that the Front and the North Koreans share the same battlefield against the "US imperialists." It claimed

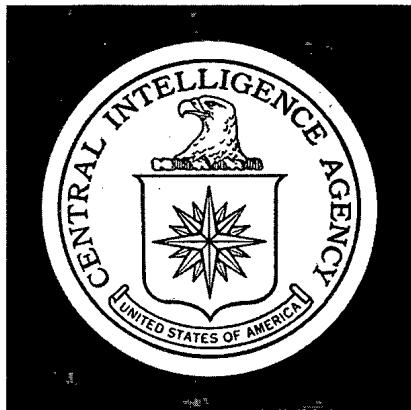
that the "US imperialists will be completely defeated more rapidly in Vietnam if they dare lay a hand on North Korea" but made no direct connection between the Pueblo incident and the US involvement in Vietnam.

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

Hanoi Asks US Peace Activist to Receive Freed US Pilots: Dave Dellinger, editor of the magazine Liberation, issued a statement in Boston yesterday saying he had been asked by Hanoi to send a representative to North Vietnam for "discussion and reception" of the three pilots the North Vietnamese claimed on 27 January would be released. Dellinger, who has been involved in antiwar activity in the US and who has twice traveled to North Vietnam, was involved in the release of three US prisoners by the Viet Cong in Cambodia last November. This is the first indication that Hanoi has taken any steps toward arranging the actual release of the three pilots. There has been no additional information on when and where they will be freed.

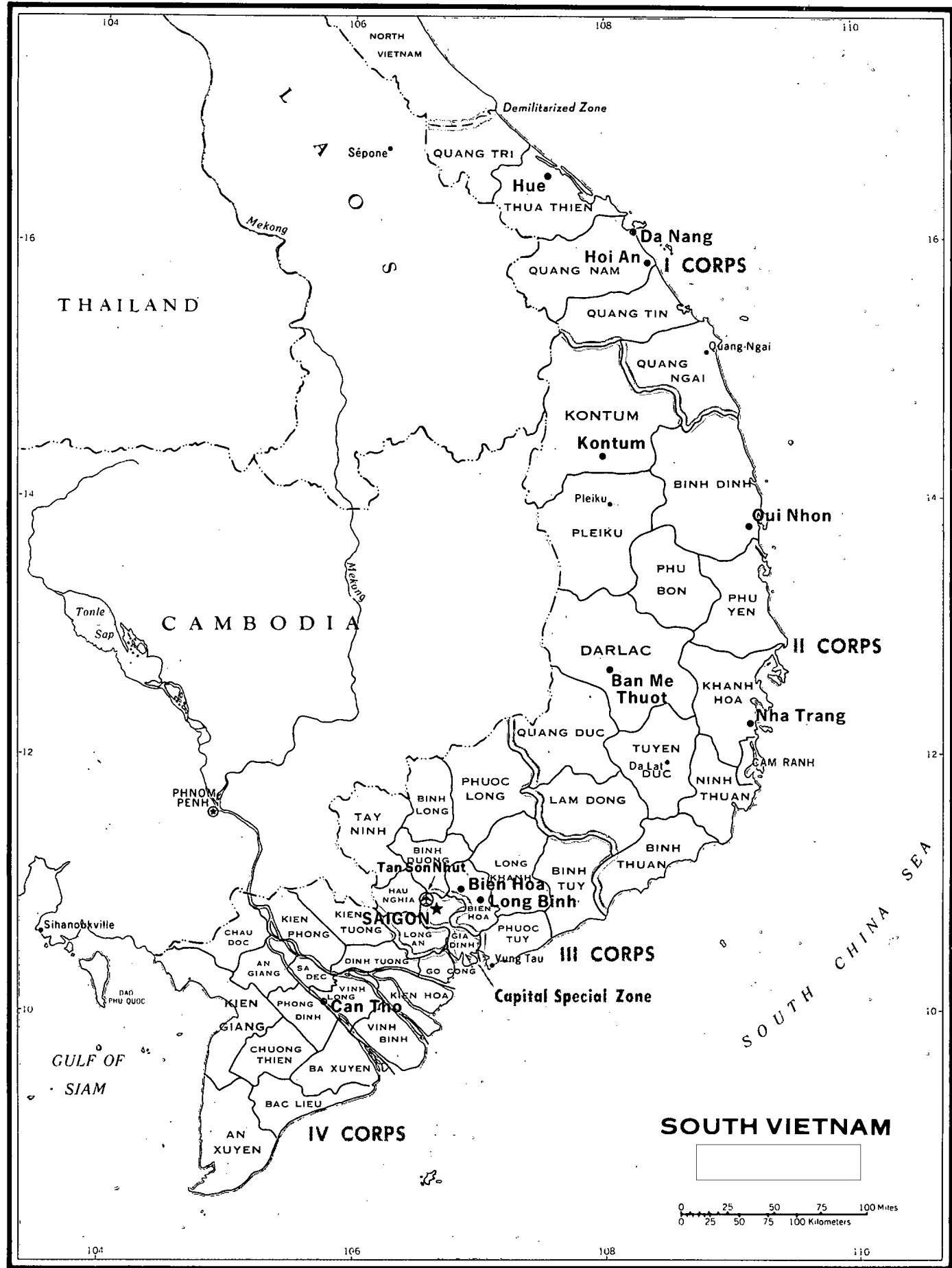
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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 31 January 1968

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DAILY BRIEF
31 JANUARY 1968

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

At last word, Communist forces were continuing their attacks against various cities and key allied military and civil installations. In Saigon itself, sporadic sniping was continuing in various parts of the city well into the day, but many of the Viet Cong terrorists were withdrawing across the river.

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So far the area around Khe Sanh remains relatively quiet, but the Communist build-up there remains the most ominous in the country.

The spectacular series of Communist attacks seems designed mainly for the shock effect. The Communists are apparently out to demonstrate to all concerned that they are still a powerful force capable of seriously disrupting the country, if only temporarily.

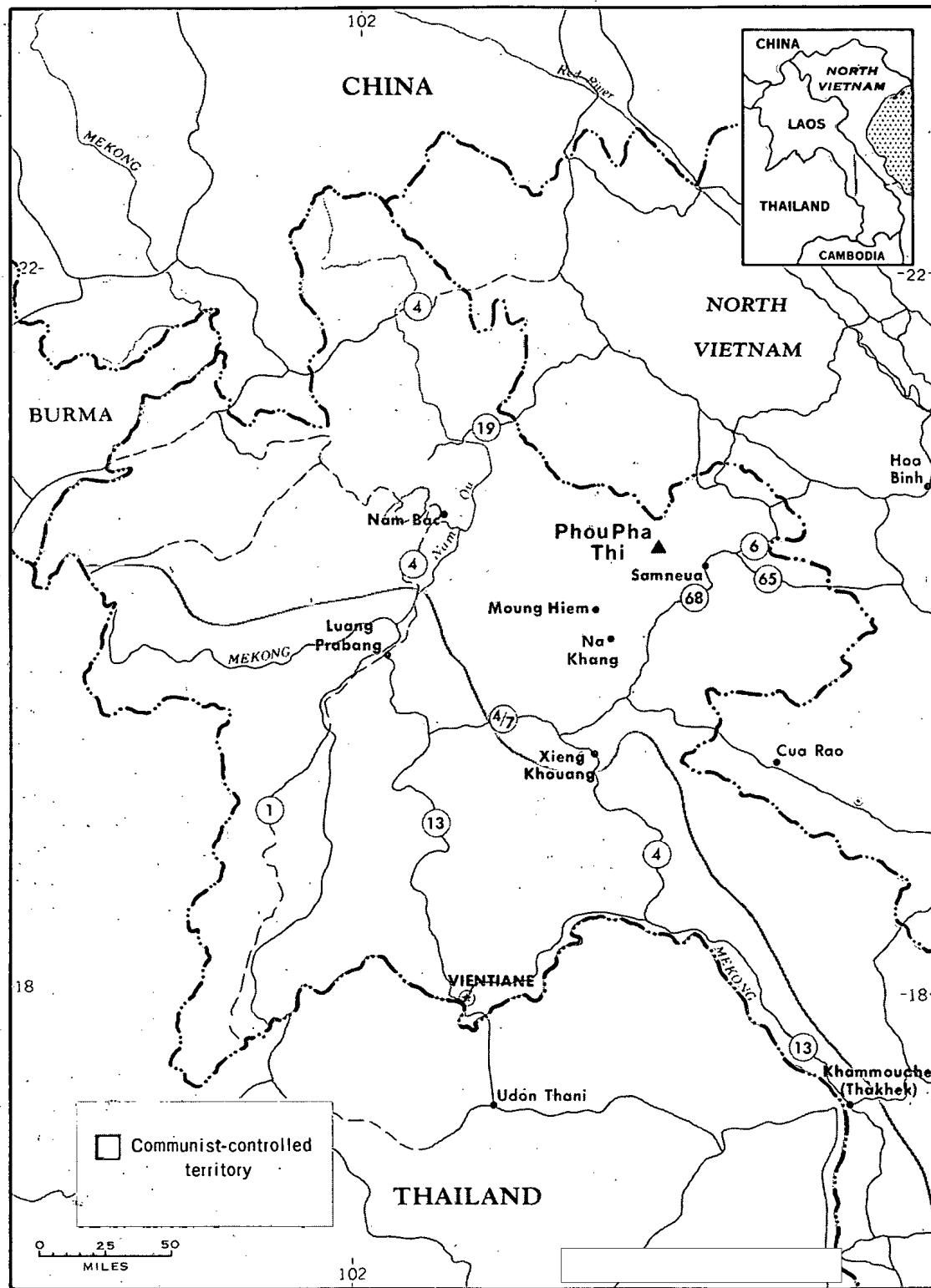
The extensive harassment of US air-fields, logistical centers, and command and communications centers appears designed also to inhibit immediate allied reaction and retaliation. It could be preparatory to or intended to support early Communist offensive operations just south of the Demilitarized Zone.

2. North Korea

The situation remains on dead center as Pyongyang continues to flaunt its determination to stand firm against US "machinations" in the United Nations and elsewhere.

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LAOS



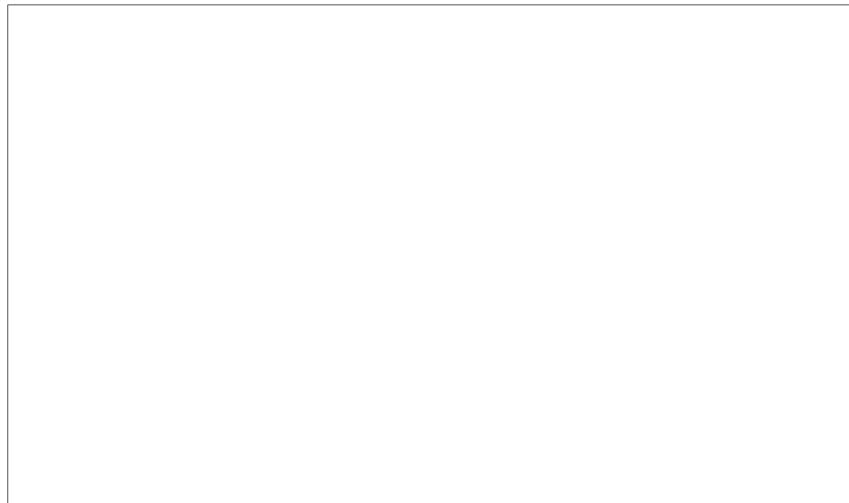
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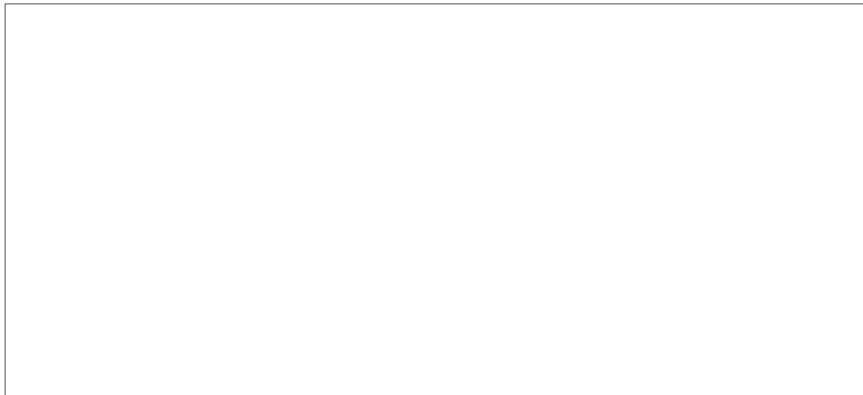
3. Laos

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Signs are growing that the Communists are preparing for a major effort to drive government forces from the key counterinsurgent base at Phou Pha Thi. Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese troops have already taken up positions encircling the base, which provides important navigational support for US air operations over North Vietnam. (Map)

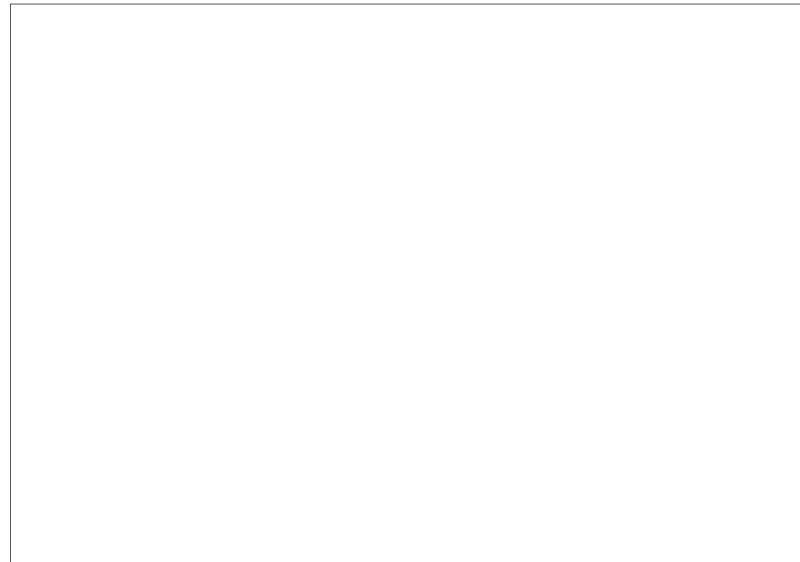
4. Cambodia**5. Israel-Egypt**

Yesterday's heavy exchange of fire across the Suez Canal began after the Israelis halted an Egyptian survey attempt in the northern sector of the canal. Israel had given its okay for operations to free the 15 trapped ships near the southern end, but had warned Egypt against any operations in the north.



6. Yemen

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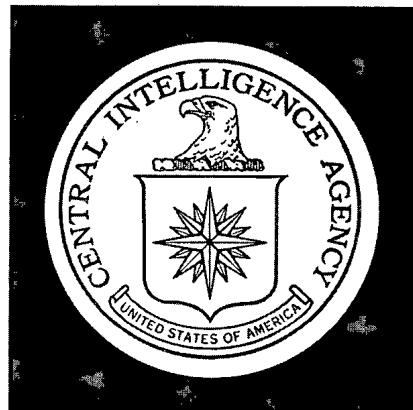
7. Brazil

Costa e Silva has evidently decided to take action against Carlos Lacerda, shrill critic of the administration and of the military establishment. The generals have been urging the President to throw the book at Lacerda this time, and he may do just that. If so, there will be a storm of public protest, but at least the generals will be happy.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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31 January 1968

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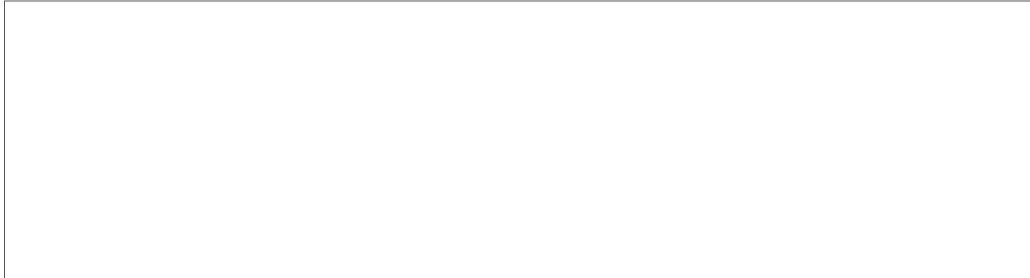
Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

31 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Front to Open Office in Tanzania: The Liberation Front's continuing effort to improve its diplomatic representation abroad has taken another step forward. Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere announced on 29 January that his government has agreed to allow the Front to set up a permanent representation in Dar Es Salaam. When staffed, this post will be the first Front representation in sub-Saharan Africa, the third on the continent, and the fifth in the Free World. The Front also has representations or agreements for representations in all Communist countries except Yugoslavia.

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Foreign Visitors: Hanoi may be easing its restrictions of the past several weeks on admitting foreign visitors.

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Since early December the North Vietnamese had consistently turned down requests from foreign writers for permission to enter the country.

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Manpower:

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although the war had taken many of the young men away from the area, there were sufficient women and children to take their places on the farms; crops did not seem to have suffered. This report is in

line with other information which has suggested that manpower problems are not yet a significant factor affecting agricultural production.

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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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