



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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28 JANUARY 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

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DAILY BRIEF
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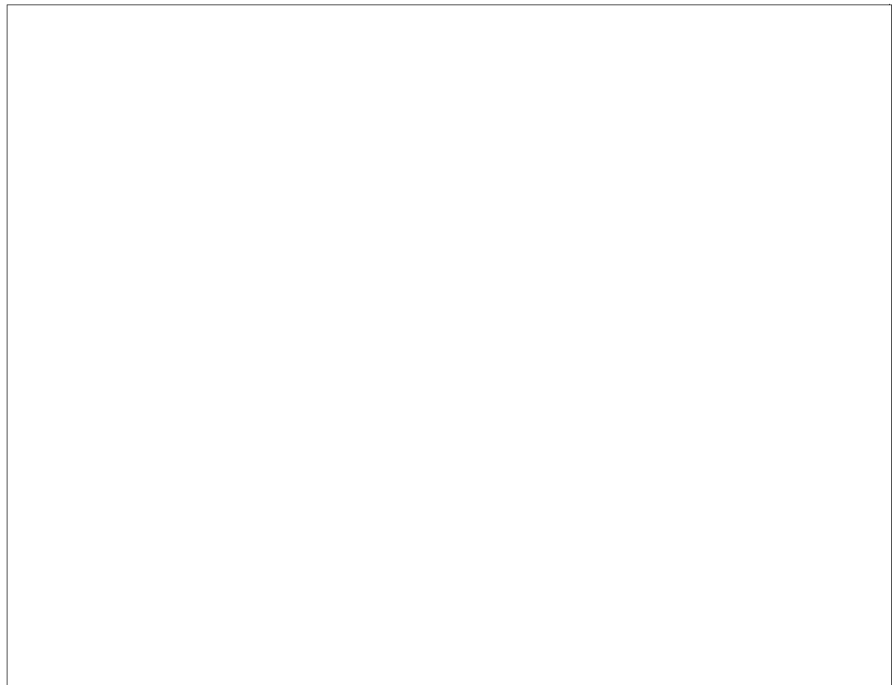
1. Vietnam

Hanoi radio today broadcast the text of an open letter, dated 24 January, from Ho Chi Minh to the heads of "socialist states" and other governments interested in the Vietnamese situation. The letter seems to be intended as North Vietnam's answer to the US 14 points.

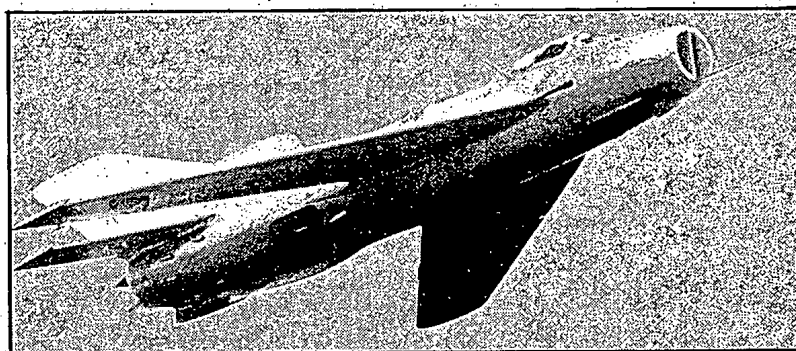
Ho does not rebut the 14 points in detail, however, but makes a round-house condemnation of US "aggression." He reiterates that the Vietnamese people intend to fight the US as long as US forces "remain on our soil." Ho further emphasizes that the US must recognize that the Communists' National Liberation Front is the "sole genuine representative of the people of South Vietnam" and must "engage in negotiations with it."

This is one of the most straight forward public statements that Hanoi has made on the necessity for the US to deal directly with the National Liberation Front in any negotiations to end the war. 50X1

2. North Vietnam



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MIG-19 FARMER

Engines:	2 Afterburning Turbojet
Radius:	520 n.m.
Speed:	765 knots
Combat ceiling:	55,800 ft.
Span:	29 ft.
Length:	34 ft.

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3. Communist China

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MIG-19 jet fighters are being produced by the Chinese.

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Although there remain a number of loose ends bearing on Chinese fighter manufacturing capabilities, this report accounts for some of the recent increase in Peking's inventory of high-performance jet fighters. (See photo.)

4. Burma

Antigovernment insurgents are becoming bolder. In recent weeks they have mounted raids on railway stations and police posts in and near Rangoon. Efforts to control this activity are being hampered by command disaffection and by a high desertion rate in the army. [REDACTED]

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Fortunately for the Ne Win government, the insurgents are conspicuously lacking in unity. They are divided among at least three major tribal aggregations and several mutually antagonistic Communist splinter groups.

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5. Ethiopia

A top Ethiopian military man fears that recent events in Nigeria were a "picnic" compared to the carnage to come in Ethiopia if the Emperor does not mend his ways.

The source describes the present situation as "intolerable." He and other top officers feel that the Emperor is completely out of touch with domestic opinion and spends too much time promoting his international image while the country rots. The source predicted that if the Emperor does not shift course, he will "sooner or later have his throat cut."

No specific coup plots exist, but pressures on the Emperor to make basic reforms are doubtless building up. Pressures such as this did lead to a short-lived attempt to unseat him in 1960.

6. French Africa

The French are letting it be known in a number of their former African colonies that they may well intervene with military force to head off future coup attempts. Although French capabilities in this direction are limited, they may hope that the threat of armed intervention will forestall coup plotters.

7. Rhodesia

[redacted] 50X1
 [redacted] some oil is finding its way 50X1
 into Rhodesia from Mozambique and South
 Africa. [redacted] it is as 50X1
 yet "only a trickle," and [redacted] 50X1
 [redacted] gasoline for other than es- 50X1
 sential services will be unavailable in
 a few weeks unless South Africa steps in
 with substantial help. Morale in the
 business community is slipping, but the
 community is not a main pillar of Smith's
 support.

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8. Soviet Union

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] a Central Committee session is imminent or perhaps already under way in Moscow. In addition to formal agenda items, each of the four other plenums since the Khrushchev ouster has made changes in the top ruling bodies.

9. Dominican Republic

Garcia Godoy is thinking of forcing the issue with his recalcitrant military chiefs [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted] Defense Minister Rivera and the service chiefs are under intense pressure to stand firm from subordinates and right-wing politicians, and some reports indicate sentiment is growing in the armed services to overthrow Garcia Godoy.

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Leaders on the left have served warning that they may take the issue to the streets if the chiefs do not leave soon. Bosch, for example, has threatened a strike next week if a solution has not been reached. Such an action could make the military even more intransigent.

10. Indonesia

The prolonged game of political chess between Sukarno and the generals goes on. The generals just now are pressing to broaden the trial of participants in the 30 September coup attempt to include large numbers of Communists, hoping that they can get a judicial determination that the party is illegal. So far Sukarno has been able to block this.

[Redacted]

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