

The President's Daily Brief

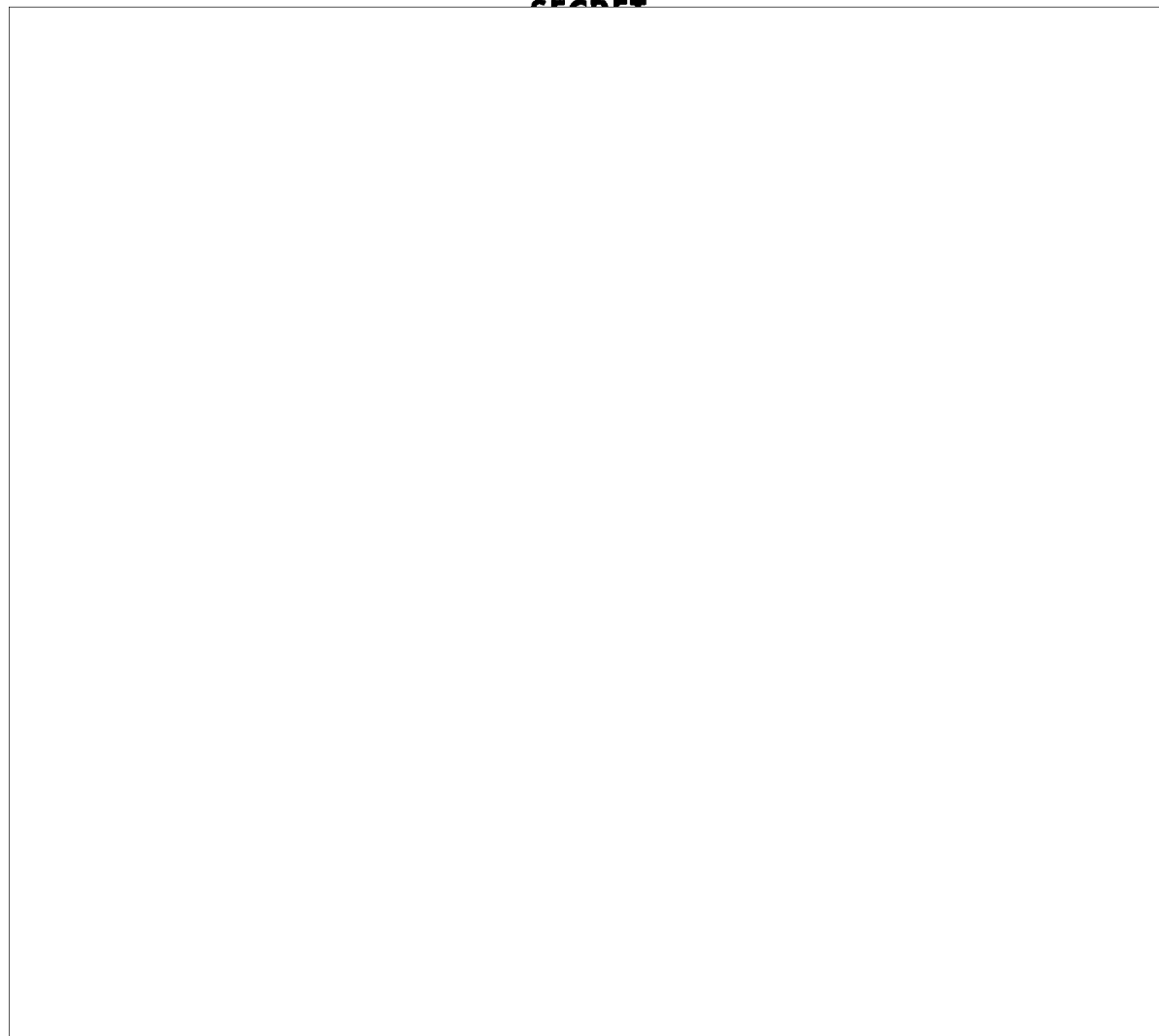
~~Top Secret~~ 3 January 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
3 JANUARY 1967

1. Communist China

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2. Guatemala

In a year-end look at the internal security situation, the US Embassy notes the Guatemalans have been doing somewhat better in operations against guerrillas in rural areas. This is largely because of more aggressive patrolling by government forces. The picture is not so rosy in Guatemala City, however. Terrorists still operate there pretty much at will.

3. North Vietnam

Soviet shipping to North Vietnam picked up in December after a slackening of deliveries from September through November. This increase may reflect deliveries under the new aid agreements concluded with Moscow in September.

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4. Congo

Union Minière struck back today by threatening legal action against anyone buying copper from the mines Mobutu confiscated on Sunday. The big Belgian company also demanded the Congolese pay some \$784 million for the seized assets. Mobutu does not have that kind of money and would not pay it if he did. Indeed, he is going to have trouble finding any money at all unless he can work out some way of selling the copper.

5. Finland

Prime Minister Paasio may be looking for a new job unless he trims his sails a little closer to the prevailing winds from Moscow.

Geography dictates the facts of political life--the Finns avoid unduly antagonizing their big neighbor. But Paasio has done just that by opposing closer relations between his Social Democratic Party and the Soviet Communist Party. If Paasio continues his independent course, Finnish President Kekkonen is likely to replace him with a more cooperative individual.

6. Cuba

Fidel Castro had little to say for a man who talked almost three hours. His traditional 2 January speech was generally humdrum with no startling revelations of new policies. Those in the audience able to concentrate on the speech--it was pouring rain--would have noted Fidel's vague reference to sharing leadership. Despite these remarks, we see little prospect that Castro will reduce his own role in running the country.

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7. Laos

Premier Souvanna Phouma appears to have done well in the National Assembly elections this weekend. A first check of still incomplete returns shows Souvanna's slate looking good for 40 of the 59 assembly seats. However, some of Souvanna's candidates owe their basic loyalty to various military commanders and it remains to be seen how long he can keep them in line.

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