

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 January 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
19 JANUARY 1967

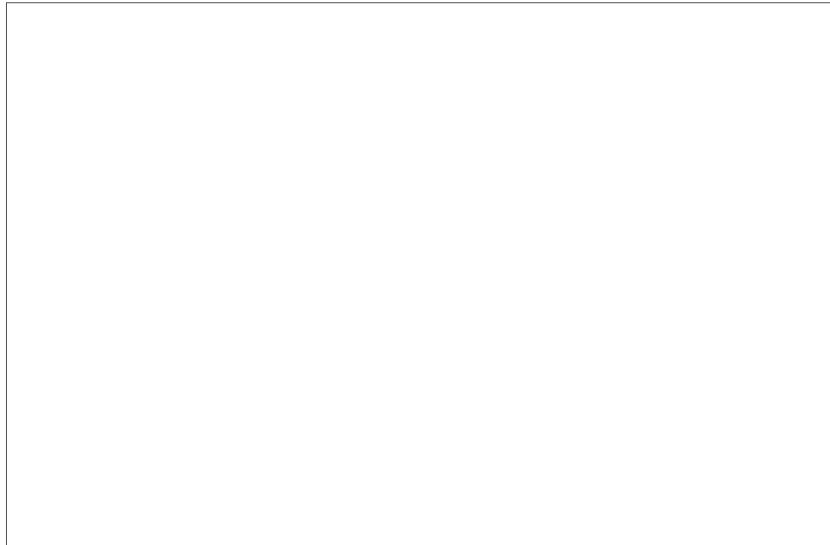
1. Communist China

Today's most interesting development was the sensational poster charge that several important victims of the cultural revolution were spying for the Soviets.

Outside Peking, the blackout of local news broadcasts has spread. Thirty-seven of the 80 regional radio stations [redacted] are now broadcasting only programs originating in Peking. This suggests these are areas where there is trouble.

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2. Nationalist China



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3. France

An attack on the international position of the US dollar features prominently on De Gaulle's list of things to do in 1967, Ambassador Bohlen believes.

Bohlen came to this conclusion after being lectured Tuesday night by Premier Pompidou on the evils of US financial strength in the international monetary system. If De Gaulle steps out for extreme monetary reform, he is likely to find it a lonely march for there are few other Europeans willing to follow that banner.

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4. Australia

Ky's visit is off to a good start. In the first 24 hours, demonstrations were minor and subdued, and the press attitude toward the visit has already begun to mellow. Ky's first speech on Australian television favorably impressed many viewers.

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5. Burma

The Burmese Government wants to get modern US aircraft and naval vessels. This recent development is a marked shift for Ne Win, who has always kept a careful eye cocked toward Peking. The type of equipment being discussed would be useful in Burma's persistent struggle with Communist and tribal insurgents.

6. South Korea

The South Koreans could retaliate for the sinking of their gunboat this morning with hit-and-run raids across the Demilitarized Zone. They have done this sort of thing in the past and President Pak, who faces elections this spring, has called publicly for "strong counter-measures."

7. Israel

There is little prospect for reduced tension along the border even though the Israelis and Syrians have agreed to meet under the aegis of the United Nations armistice commission. When the meeting does come off--no exact date has been set--it will not deal with the real core problem of Syrian-based terrorism, but with farming in the Demilitarized Zone.

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8. Belgium

The Belgian Government is in trouble over its fiscal policies and a political crisis of serious dimensions has blown up almost overnight.

The trouble stems largely from a far too optimistic budget picture painted last fall. Now it looks as if the government cannot make good and the coalition cabinet could come unstuck.

This domestic situation is likely to preoccupy cabinet members who have been trying to mediate between the Union Minière and Mobutu.

9. Bolivia

There could be more flare-ups like yesterday's attack on the US consulate in Cochabamba, but, for the moment, the government seems to have things under control. The Cochabamba incident actually was the outgrowth of a purely Bolivian problem--student protests over a recent decree--but got out of hand when Communist agitators moved in and started egging the students on to the consulate.

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