

The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 4 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
4 APRIL 1967

1. North Vietnam

Hanoi's great debate about the relative merits of building up the main forces or the irregulars is continuing. The whole question is re-argued in an article in the February issue of the party journal.

This article tries to find a middle ground. In one place it comes down fairly hard in favor of strengthening the irregulars, arguing that "this task has not yet kept up with the developing war's requirements." Later, the author goes on to say that mere guerrilla activity will not win the war; powerful main force units must still wage major battles in which the enemy will be "annihilated."

The article also suggests that Hanoi has upped its estimate of the number of US forces it may ultimately have to face to a million, as opposed to the 500,000 figure generally mentioned in the past.

2. South Vietnam

When Chief of State Thieu promulgated the new constitution on Saturday, he did not announce the "national reconciliation" program, as had been expected.

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3. Greece

Premier Kanellopoulos, leader of the largest conservative party, and his cabinet were sworn in yesterday. He will presumably try for a vote of confidence next week, and we think his chances are slim.

If Kanellopoulos fails, the King has authorized him to dissolve parliament and prepare for elections within 45 days. Such action, however, would run him afoul of ex-premier Papandreou's demand that elections be carried out by an "impartial" premier. Papandreou is unlikely to consider him impartial, having already described his appointment as a "gross scandal."

4. Nigeria

Supreme commander Gowon and Eastern leader Ojukwu continue to snap at each other's heels. Over the weekend Ojukwu issued an "edict" designed to give him control of revenue collection in the East, and Gowon is taking counter-measures to foil this scheme. The quarrel is likely to simmer along on this back burner, since we doubt that the military governors of the other regions would support any really forceful measures against Ojukwu.

5. France

The French have confirmed [redacted] [redacted] that they are planning a nuclear test series in the Pacific early this summer [redacted]

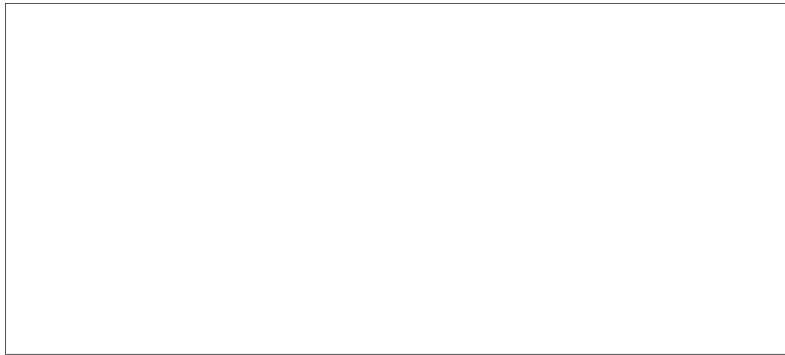
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6. Indonesia



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