

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 29 November 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
29 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Cyprus

There is no word yet this morning on Mr. Vance's discussions in Nicosia with President Makarios. We have seen nothing overnight to suggest that the Archbishop will be anything but difficult to deal with.

2. United Kingdom

The latest London Sunday Times opinion poll showed 68 percent professing little or no confidence in the government and 57 percent in favor of an immediate election. If an election were held, 42 percent would vote Conservative, 30 percent Labor, and 9 percent Liberal.

3. Soviet Union

The Russians have evidently given up any idea of another attempt soon at the major space event that failed last week.

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4. Cambodia

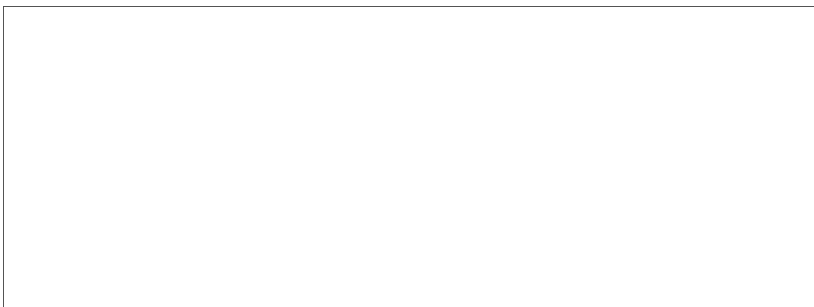
Prince Sihanouk is saying that the war may soon be extended into Cambodia. He told a press conference on Sunday that recent US newspaper reports of Vietnamese Communist activities in Cambodia are a form of pressure on Washington to extend the war. He praised President Johnson for exercising restraint but went on to warn the Cambodian people to be prepared for a "struggle to the death against the Americans."

Sihanouk issued the standard denial about permanent Communist facilities on Cambodian territory, but acknowledged that Communist units pass through isolated border areas. He also admitted that Cambodia had made a "verbal agreement" to sell rice and other nonmilitary goods to the Viet Cong.

5. Gabon

The transfer of power to Albert Bongo--President Mba died yesterday--will probably be orderly. Bongo is only 32, but has been groomed for the presidency by the French ever since Mba became seriously ill more than a year ago. There is some uneasiness because Bongo lacks Mba's stature, but Paris will undoubtedly take whatever steps are necessary to keep a pro-French regime in power in its uranium-rich ex-colony.

6. Jordan



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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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British Group Plans Visit to North Vietnam: A 25-member British "peace group" plans to leave on 23 December for a visit to North Vietnam, according to a British press report. A spokesman for the group

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stated that they planned to "share the dangers" of bombing with the Vietnamese people and to bring medical supplies for those injured in air raids. He claimed that the group did not align themselves with the "military objectives of either side" but said that they hoped their presence in North Vietnam would "bring home to people the killing of human beings who want peace and an end to suffering." The group is currently trying to raise funds to finance the trip.

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

Viet Cong Message to US Navy Deserters: On 25 November the Viet Cong's committee for "solidarity" with the American people sent a message to the four US Navy deserters from the aircraft carrier Intrepid. The message [redacted] welcomes the "courageous act" of the sailors and their statements "unveiling the truth" about the US Government's "unjust, immoral, and illegal war" in Vietnam. The Viet Cong expresses confidence that the deserters will be supported by youths in the US, as well as young American servicemen still serving in the armed forces.

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More on Dissent: A 28 November Hanoi international broadcast in English has listed a series of antiwar demonstrations in the US without providing any further comment. The broadcast reported that 100 veterans of the Vietnam war--including many officers--claimed that the war was "unjust and against the interests of the American people." According to Hanoi, the 100 ex-servicemen demanded that the American Government immediately end the war in South Vietnam and withdraw American troops.

A "Black GI" in San Francisco was quoted as saying that he would risk a five-year prison term rather than fight in the "war of aggression in Vietnam. America is the black man's battleground," he reportedly declared. Finally, the broadcast reported that more than 250 students paraded on the campus of the University of Wisconsin on 20 November "in spite of wet snow" to protest against interviews by US Navy and Marine personnel recruiting "for the aggressive war in Vietnam."

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