

*The President's Daily Brief*

*Top Secret 15 December 1967*



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DAILY BRIEF  
15 DECEMBER 1967

1. Greece

Papadopoulos and company are in full control. They seem to be in no hurry to depose the King formally or to abolish the monarchy. The new draft constitution, originally scheduled for submission today but now postponed "for a few days," should provide some clues as to the role the junta expects the monarchy to play in the future.

The attempted overthrow has had no noticeable effect so far on the Cyprus situation. The Greek foreign minister told the Turks yesterday that Greece intends to carry out the terms of the Greek-Turkish agreement.

2. South Vietnam

After a month and a half in office, the new government appears to be pre-occupied with its own organization and relationships. The unsettled Thieu-Ky feud may be partially responsible for a lack of forward movement.

Complaints are heard about Thieu's "dilettante" approach to day-to-day problems. Moreover, Thieu does not seem to be giving adequate guidance to Prime Minister Loc, who seems prone to wait for cues before moving.

One bright spot is Foreign Minister Do. He has moved professional and experienced men into critical divisions of his ministry and plans to visit Africa to refurbish Saigon's image there.

3. United Kingdom

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[Redacted]

4. Soviet Union

There are a number of signs that Moscow's propaganda and "cultural" apparatus is getting a shake-up; this may produce some fallout at the Politburo level. These moves are clearly part of a running campaign by senior leaders to break up a clique associated with former secret police chief Aleksander Shelepin.

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5. Czechoslovakia

There continues to be disagreement among the Czechoslovak leaders on party policy and leadership changes which may involve party boss Novotny. A central committee session to deal with these matters has been postponed a week.

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[Redacted]

6. Canada

Prime Minister Pearson's announcement that he will resign early next year is not the result of political pressure. Pearson at 70 merely wants to bring 40 years of public service to an end.

Pearson will stay in for the three or four months it will take the Liberal Party to choose a successor. Several cabinet ministers are contenders, but none has an inside track. The prime minister has stayed aloof from the maneuvering below him.

7. Egypt

Soviet advisers in Egypt are apparently engaged in, or attempting to engage in, the tactical positioning of Arab troops along the Suez Canal.

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[Redacted] a Soviet adviser this week visited an Iraqi division stationed along the canal and asked permission to make changes in the forces' positions. The Iraqis refused pending approval by their higher headquarters.

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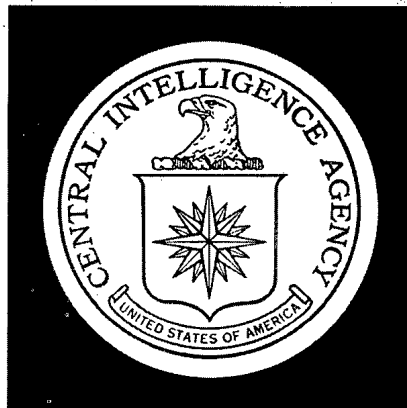
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*FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY*

## Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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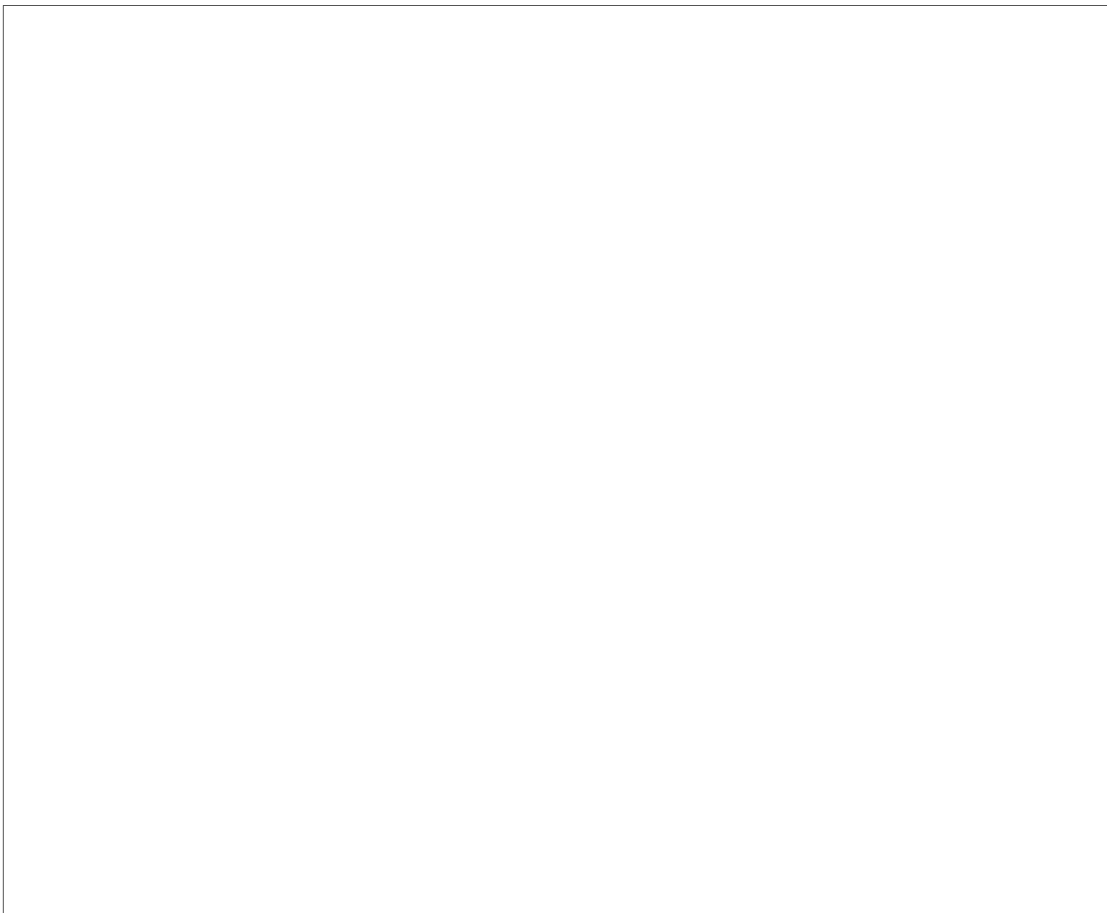
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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The Doumer Bridge: The Paul Doumer Bridge is apparently unserviceable to rail and vehicle traffic after air strikes on 14 December.

Photography taken just minutes after the attack showed that the mile-long span bridging the Red River at Hanoi was apparently damaged at several points. However, none of the bridge spans appeared to have been dropped. The bridge was last attacked on 25 October and two spans were dropped. Photography of 17 November indicated that the bridge had been reopened

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to truck traffic using prefabricated concrete spans  
resting on new piers to close the two-span gap.

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Comments of North Vietnamese Personnel at War Crimes Tribunal: A European journalist who attended the War Crimes Tribunal has reported on the unhappiness of two members of the North Vietnamese delegation. Both the Vietnamese had lived previously for some time in Europe, and their remarks not only reflected distaste for wartime conditions at home, but probably also nostalgia for the comforts they enjoyed abroad.

A North Vietnamese photographer said he was not an ardent Communist and that he wished to live in a country where there was no war and no "interminable political discussions." He complained about the hardships of life in Hanoi and the difficulties of working in the provinces, where he had to carry film on foot for "months and months," and where the film is often spoiled by heat and humidity. His thoughts on the causes of the war, however, were pure Marxist; he claimed it was caused by the need of the "great American monopolies" for war profits.

Another member of the North Vietnamese delegation complained that it was necessary to interrupt his work in Hanoi and descend into a bomb shelter at least twelve times a day. He said that only the most important offices are located underground.

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

Nothing significant to report.

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