

The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 24 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
24 FEBRUARY 1968

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1. South Vietnam

Saigon remains relatively quiet, but firefights persist on all sides of the city. [REDACTED]

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Several cities in the north also appear threatened. These include Da Nang, Quang Tri, and Hoi An. In the delta provinces, the signs are especially bleak. The Viet Cong have overrun many rural areas, while South Vietnamese forces remain tied down defending the cities. The Communists have been having such success in their recruitment drives in the delta countryside that their strength seems greater now than it was prior to the Tet offensive, despite their heavy casualties.

2. Laos

At last word, Communist forces around Saravane had not yet followed up yesterday's artillery attacks with a ground assault on the town. A few miles to the southwest, however, heavy fighting was reported under way most of yesterday at the Laotian regimental headquarters at Lao Ngam. [REDACTED] however, suggests that the attackers had been repulsed.

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3. Japan

[REDACTED]

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4. Thailand

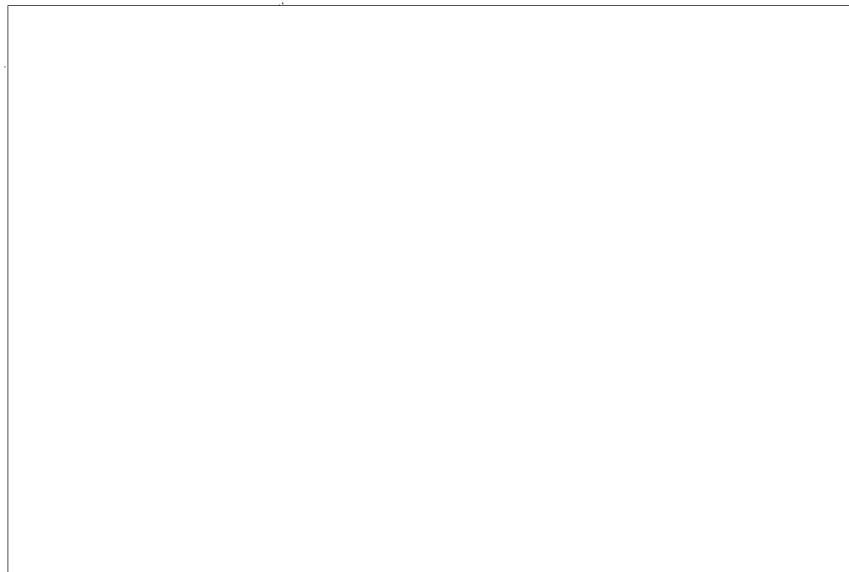
Government forces are finding it very rough going as they try to sweep several hundred tribal insurgents out of the northern mountains.

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5. India



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6. Panama

No significant change.

7. Cyprus

Makarios had expected to be unopposed in tomorrow's presidential election, but he was wrong. He has given up union with Greece as a practical objective, and the pro-unionists have put up their own man, a prominent psychiatrist. The Archbishop will probably swamp the psychiatrist, but Cypriot passions are quick to rise over the union issue, and there may be some unpleasantness.

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8. International
Communism

The "consultative meeting" of Communist parties opening in Budapest on Monday will be the biggest such affair since 1960, but is not likely to come to much. Moscow has had to water down its objectives in order to draw a half-way respectable turnout. Some sixty parties have been dragooned into sending representatives, but none are coming from the Far East. The Rumanians will go.



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9. Soviet Union

Soviet diplomats in various parts of the world continue to do battle on behalf of the US-Soviet draft nonproliferation treaty.



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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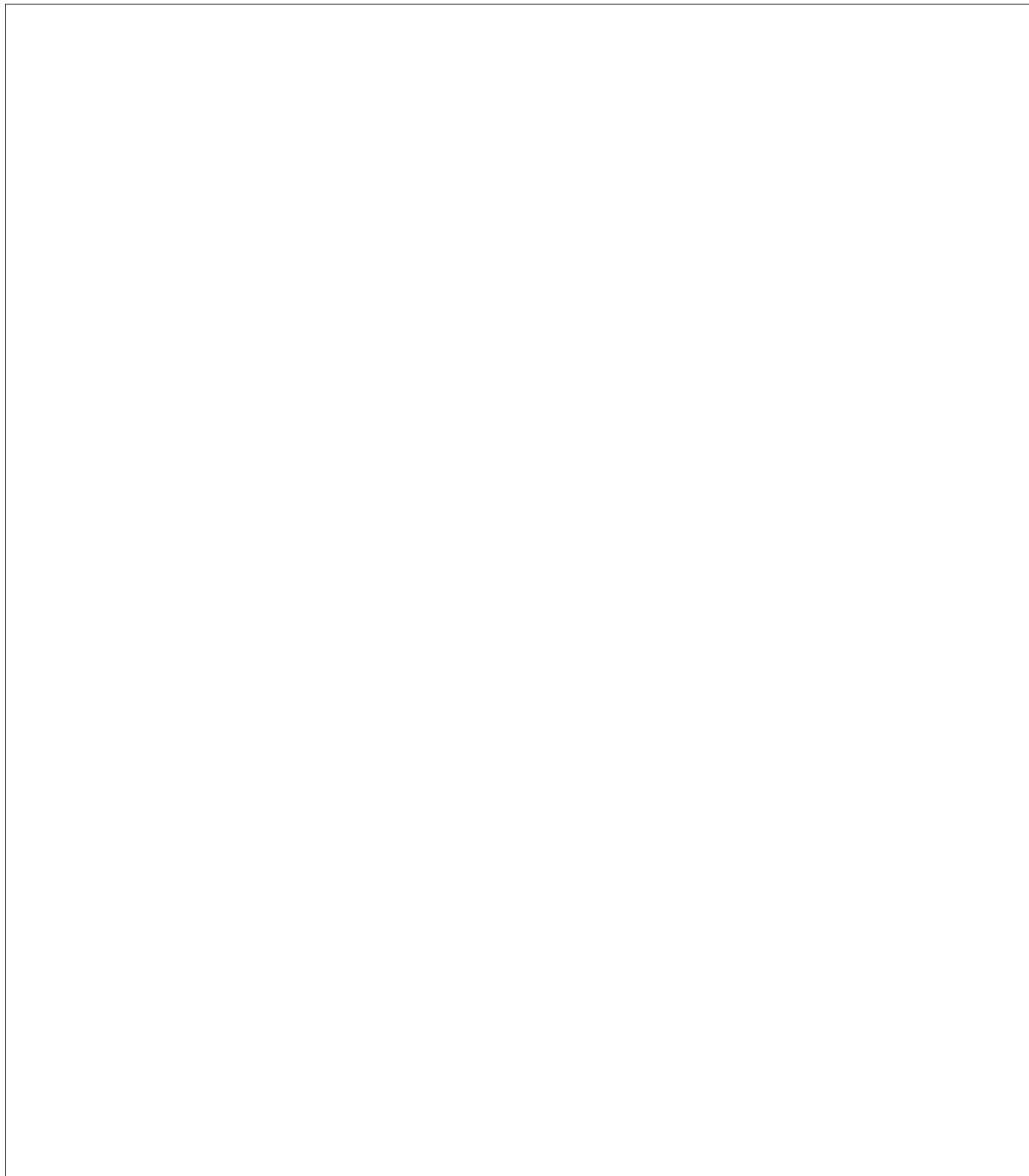
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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Limited Trade Between Singapore and North Vietnam May Be in Prospect: The North Vietnamese trade delegation which was originally scheduled to leave Singapore on 26 February is remaining an additional three days.

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concluded a number of deals with Singapore businessmen, particularly for the purchase of rice and rubber.

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Hanoi does not have a regular trade office in Singapore, but may establish one there in the near future. Trade between the two countries is likely to remain quite small.

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Threat to Kill US Prisoners: The Communists threatened on 22 February to retaliate for any execution of Viet Cong prisoners in Hue. According to both Liberation Radio and Hanoi, the newly surfaced "Thua Thien-Hue People's Revolutionary Committee" threatened to "adopt appropriate measures" against US troops captured in Hue if Communist prisoners were executed by South Vietnamese authorities.

The Communists frequently have made such threats against US personnel in order to prevent executions of Viet Cong prisoners. The only different element in this threat is the use of the new local "revolutionary committee"--an organization which the Liberation Front claims is non-Communist and is now in "control" of Thua Thien Province and Hue city.

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