



The President's Daily Brief

15 January 1973

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Top Secret^{25X1}



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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

15 January 1973

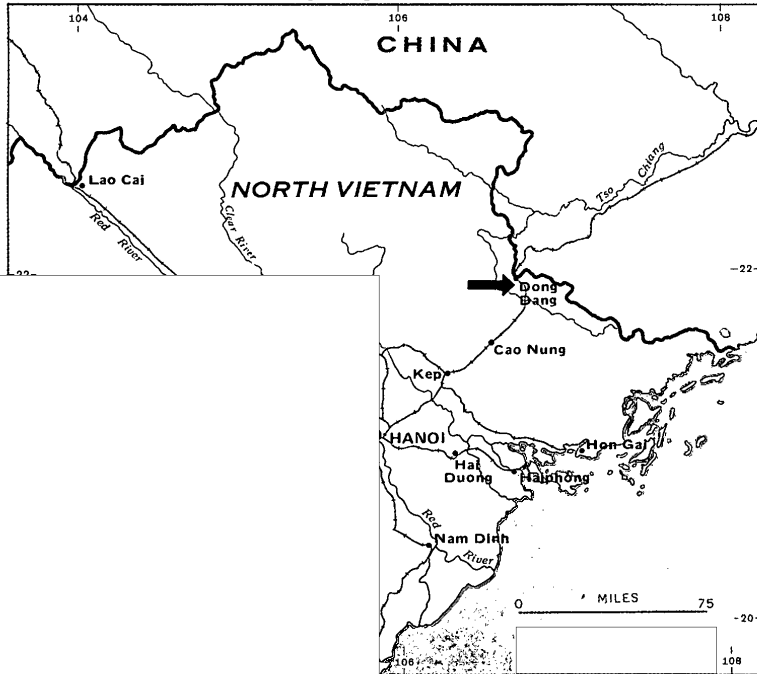
PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Soviets have supplied the North Vietnamese with low-altitude SA-3 surface-to-air missile equipment for the first time. *(Page 1)*

Government control of food distribution promises to become a major election issue in Chile. *(Page 2)*

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SA-3 Missile Canisters at Dong Dang



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USSR - NORTH VIETNAM

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| [redacted] SA-3 surface- | 25X1 |
| to-air missile equipment in North Vietnam for the first time. The equipment, spotted at the Dong Dang transshipment area [redacted] includes at least 70 SA-3 missile canisters. | 25X1 |

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| As yet no SA-3 electronic equipment [redacted] | 25X1 |
| [redacted] have been identified in North Vietnam, suggesting the SA-3 system is not operational. No SA-3 equipment was spotted at Dong Dana [redacted] | 25X1 |
| [redacted] indicating that the weapon has only recently arrived in the country. | 25X1 |

The SA-3 is manufactured only in the USSR. The Soviet decision to provide SA-3s to North Vietnam must have been made many months ago, perhaps in connection with the trip to Hanoi by Marshal Batitsky, chief of Soviet air defense forces, in March 1972. North Vietnamese technicians would have had to undergo a training program, perhaps lasting up to six months, to learn how to operate the system before the equipment was delivered.

When it becomes operational, the SA-3 will represent an increased threat to aircraft flying at low altitudes over North Vietnam.

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CHILE

The government's announcement last week that it will take over all wholesale and most retail sales of basic food commodities is likely to become a major issue in the ongoing election campaign. Although not described as such, in effect the move will amount to food rationing.

Opposition politicians are up in arms about the announcement, some falsely claiming that Allende is trying to provoke disorders of sufficient magnitude that he could cancel the 4 March parliamentary election. So far, however, the opposition has yet to surface a legislative program to challenge the government's new policy.

The military cabinet ministers, speaking as members of the armed forces, have disassociated themselves from the partisan political manner in which the government spokesman announced the plan, but support the idea of curbing hoarding, speculation, and blackmarketeering as a means of ending chronic shortages throughout the country.

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NOTES

Malta: Malta has now agreed to accept the first rental installment for 1973 (3.5 million pounds) plus the additional compensation offered by the NATO allies to make up for losses that resulted from the floating of the pound. This assures that the base agreement will remain in force through the first quarter of the year, while efforts continue to resolve the remaining differences. Most important is Prime Minister Mintoff's concern over compensation for possible future devaluations, but there are also relatively minor questions such as security clearances for Maltese personnel working on British bases.

Morocco: The execution Saturday of 11 air force officers and enlisted men for their leading roles in the coup attempt last August is expected to increase enmity toward King Hassan. Many Moroccans thought the King would spare the plotters, but he may have concluded that his position would have been eroded further by a failure to act harshly. Resentment over the executions is likely to be strongest among the Berber element of the armed forces. Many Berbers resent the country's predominately Arabized political and social elite, and a majority of the pilots involved in last year's plot, as well as many of those behind the July 1971 plot against Hassan, were Berbers.



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Philippines: President Marcos is moving to create a so-called "revolutionary government." [redacted] he has called for a meeting on Wednesday of a new national-level citizens' assembly that will include governors, mayors, heads of local citizens' assemblies, and representatives of civic associations. Marcos may ask this group--which he will designate as representative of the will of the people--to suspend Congress, and perhaps the Supreme Court as well. In the meantime, he has ordered provincial commanders of the constabulary to be more vigorous in supervising the activities of local politicians and to be prepared to assume broader political functions.

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