



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 6 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
6 JANUARY 1968

1. North Vietnam

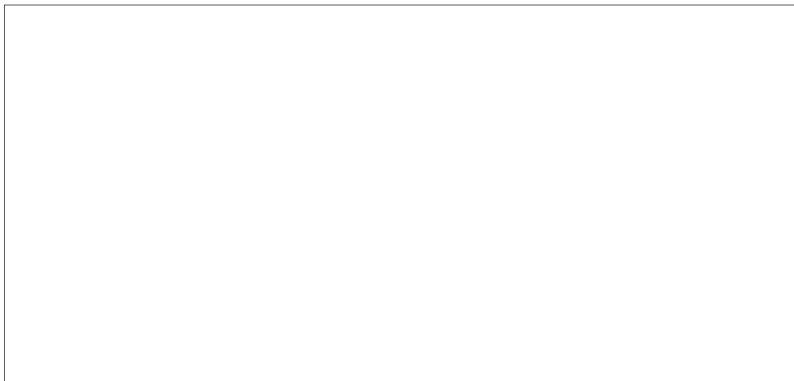
Two camouflaged sites on the coast south of Thanh Hoa appear to be for coastal defense missiles. What looks like the tail of one missile is visible in 19 December low-altitude photography. Preliminary examination of the photography suggests the missile involved is the SS-N-2, a naval cruise missile designed by the Soviets for use aboard missile patrol boats. The missile has a range of about 20 miles and flies just under sonic speed.

Each of the sites has six revetted positions and what appear to be launch rails can be seen in some of the revetments.

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Current and past photography of the coast is being searched for additional evidence.

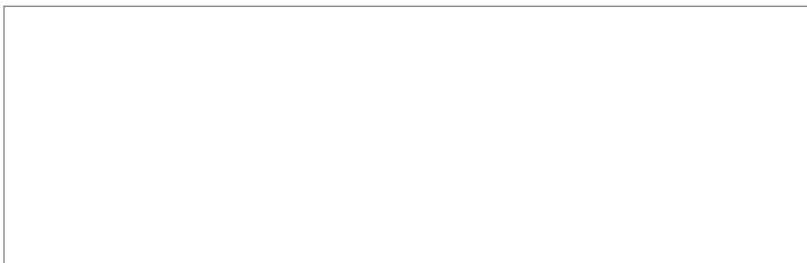
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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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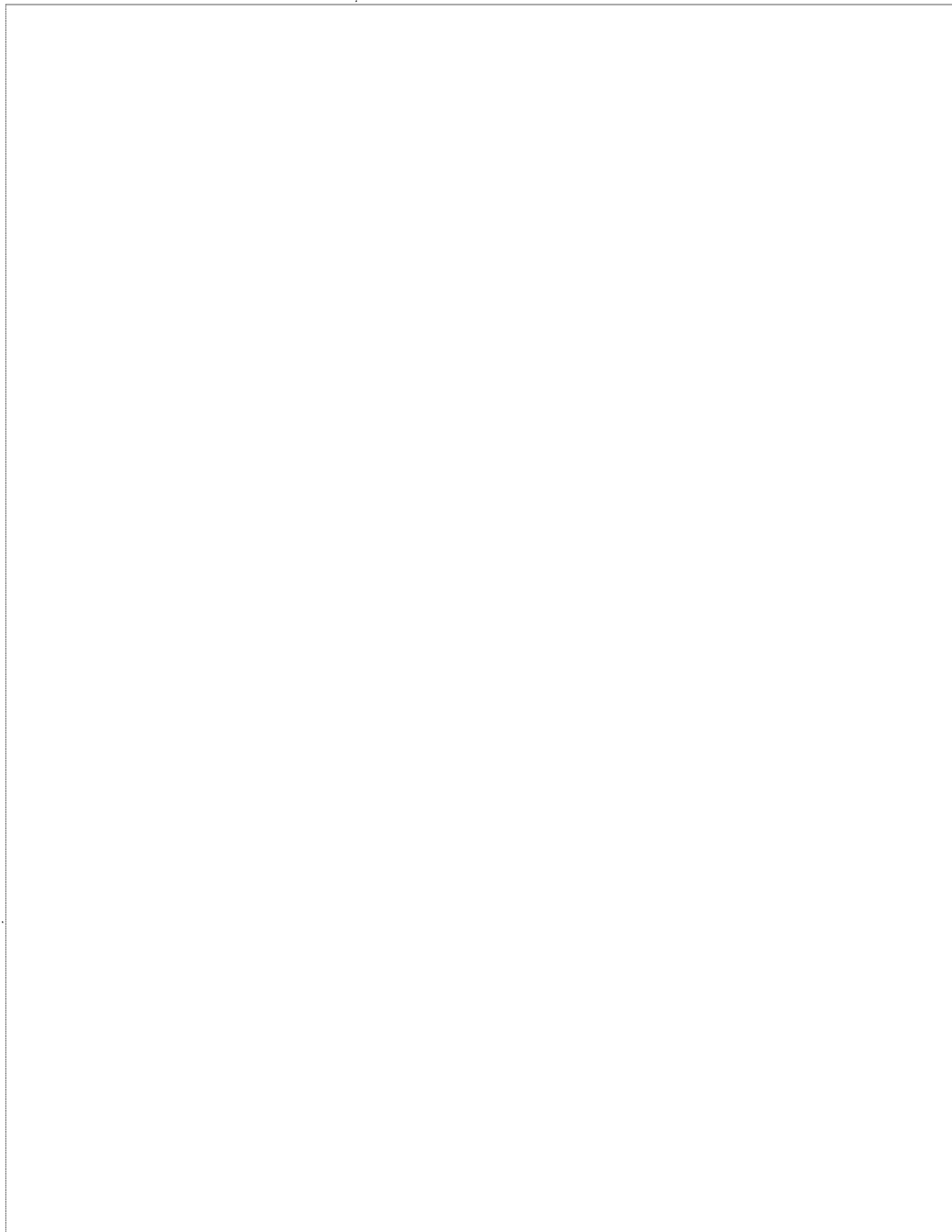
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Communist Commentary on Trinh Statement and Rusk's Press Conference: Communist propaganda is still treading warily in treating Trinh's statement and Secretary Rusk's comments on it. The Soviet and Hungarian press have reported both statements straight with little comment. Most of the other Communist countries have been silent so far.

Only the Czechs have claimed that the US has rejected the North Vietnamese offer to hold talks. A 5 January Prague broadcast alleged that the US reacted to Trinh's statement in a "completely negative fashion." It charged that the "US is demanding an assurance from Hanoi that the other side would not use the cessation of bombing to improve its military position." While acknowledging that Secretary Rusk used "a cautious formulation to give the appearance of not fully rejecting the offer," the Czechs complained that he did not say how long the US wants to investigate the proposal for opening talks.

For the most part, the Communists appear to be biding their time and waiting for a cue from Hanoi before issuing any authoritative comment.

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No Date Yet for Opening of Liberation Front Press Office in Paris: The Liberation Front representative in North Vietnam, who has been in Paris for the past two weeks, has again claimed that the Front will establish a press office there "in a few months." No precise date for the opening was given nor were the individuals to staff it named.

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Ho in Unusual Spurt of Public Appearances: Within the past two weeks Ho Chi Minh has made four separate public appearances. During this time he

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has addressed an anniversary meeting, attended a Council of Ministers meeting and met with a visiting Mongolian delegation and with the Cambodian Foreign Minister. During the preceding ten months, the 77-year-old Ho had been almost completely out of the public picture; there were persistent reports that he was ill and out of Hanoi.

His current high visibility strongly suggests that the regime is taking advantage of a period when Ho is in Hanoi and in apparent good health to discredit earlier reports of his illness. In referring to his appearance at the 25 December anniversary meeting, the Hanoi press claimed Ho looked "strong and healthy."

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

There is nothing of significance to report.

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