



# *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 13 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF  
13 JANUARY 1968

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3. Laos -  
North Vietnam

The North Vietnamese tried something new in northern Laos yesterday, and it flopped. Two little biplanes tried to bomb the important anti-insurgent staging base at Phou Pha Thi. The gunner on an Air America helicopter shot down one with a carbine, and the other crashed into a hillside. Damage was minimal to the base, which also provides communications and navigational support for US air operations over North Vietnam.

We have been hearing persistent reports of an enemy buildup in this area, but so far there is no sign of any ground attack to follow up the "air raid."

4. South Vietnam

The strikes in Saigon spread yesterday when dock workers walked out to protest the arrest of the six labor leaders on Thursday. The six, meanwhile, refuse to negotiate an end to the electrical workers strike while they remain behind bars.

President Buu of the Vietnamese Confederation of Labor blames Labor Minister Long for the problem because of his opposition to all independent labor groups. Buu is nevertheless doing what he can to settle the trouble.

5. South Vietnam

Rice production for this crop year is going up about three percent, according to early figures of the Ministry of Agriculture. This would be the first increase since 1964. The higher nationwide output would be due wholly to increases in the Delta provinces; production in other areas actually declined.

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY*

# Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam  
for the President's Eyes Only

13 January 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnam has begun to issue propaganda in support of Foreign Minister Trinh's 30 December Statement: Thus far, it is limited to underscoring the importance of the new formulation and to pointing out that the US has failed to respond. It contains no elaboration of what Hanoi has in mind regarding any talks with the US.

In separate broadcasts on 11 and 12 January, Hanoi praised the "correct stand" of the North Vietnamese government as expressed in Trinh's remarks, and stressed that the new formulation had already received world-wide support. The broadcasts went to great length to indicate that the US is attempting to distort Hanoi's position and that the Americans continue to put forward their own "arrogant terms" for talks. Hanoi discounted statements by US officials that Trinh's remarks are being studied and claimed that the US position as espoused in the San Antonio formula is "an insolent demand that our people accept the US terms before the US agrees to stop the bombing." The statements also pointed to the recent alleged bombing of a Soviet and a Chinese ship and other "war acts" as evidence of US bad faith and that the US intends to intensify and expand the war.

\* \* \*

Moscow Takes Pessimistic Line: TASS notes a commentary in the Soviet military newspaper Red Star of 12 January saying that once again the US is showing it is not interested in a peace settlement. Claiming that "American politicians" still are seeking a military solution to the Vietnam conflict, the paper asserts that an expansion of military action is Washington's "reply" to Hanoi's recent statement that it will talk after a bombing halt. The article says US escalation has always brought about new measures by the Vietnamese "and their friends," and that this will be true this time as well.

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War Protesters in Holland Are Dealt a Heavy Blow: The Dutch Vietnam Committee, one of the two biggest Dutch organizations protesting the war, has decided to dissolve itself

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This will be an important setback for the organized Dutch protest movement and probably means a deflation, at least for the time being, to the anti-Vietnam demonstrations in Amsterdam, where most of this kind of activity has taken place.

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

Nothing of significance to report.

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