



# *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 21 April 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
21 APRIL 1967

1. North Vietnam

Premier Pham Van Dong has returned from his early April trip to Moscow sticking to the hard line on the war.

[REDACTED] Pham said he believes the US probably will increase military pressures. Nevertheless, he declared, Hanoi can now surmount any foreseeable step.

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Pham did not seem to overrate anti-war protests in the US. He said he does not believe the Americans will necessarily lose the will to continue. Other regime spokesmen, however, have been making much of the idea that US resolve will weaken.

Regarding U Thant, Pham said the secretary general's recent proposals had conceded too much to the Americans and that therefore he no longer has Hanoi's confidence.

2. Communist China

Premier Chou En-lai remains Peking's chief spokesman, but he may be losing ground to the radicals. Some of the more rational policies Chou put into effect in February have lately been reversed. The heavy attacks on his protegee, Foreign Minister Chen Yi, are also part of the picture.

Chou has, as best we can determine, been running China with very little help. The new politburo installed last August had 25 members; the leadership's scorpion-in-a-bottle performance has left only seven of these active and clearly in good standing. The seven include Mao, Lin Piao, Chou himself, one propagandist, two policemen, and one economic administrator.

3. Sino-Soviet

Peking's deep hatred for the Soviet leadership came out in a discussion [redacted]

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[redacted]

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[redacted] late last month.

Chou again charged Moscow with secret US-Soviet collusion against China and accused the Russians of undercutting Nasir's efforts to inspire revolt in South Arabia. Chou even said he was thinking of ending the periodic talks in Warsaw between the Chinese and US ambassadors because the talks were exploited by the Soviets.

[redacted]

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[redacted] Hanoi had released the letters between President Johnson and Ho Chi Minh because the North Vietnamese wanted to make it clear that no meaningful discussions were under way. This is much the same line taken in Hanoi propaganda.

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4. West Germany

Initial German endorsement of the US troop rotation plan is eroding.

The Germans [redacted]

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[redacted] have strong feelings about the planned pull-out of 144 combat aircraft. They fear this would greatly reduce allied strike capability [redacted]

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Bonn also is concerned about the withdrawal of two US brigades--not so much because of the numbers involved, but because there is some apprehension that this may be only a prelude to a larger reduction.

5. Non-Proliferation  
Treaty

Yesterday the North Atlantic Council gave the US its approval to move ahead in talks with the Soviets aimed at getting a draft treaty on the table when the 18 Nation Disarmament Committee meets at Geneva on 9 May.

Neither the Italians nor the Germans, however, are committed to any treaty draft and still have major reservations. They are reluctant about provisions on safeguards and those which might preclude a European nuclear defense community sometime in the future. They also would like any treaty to have an expiration date.

The French do not intend to sign a non-proliferation treaty.

6. France

The French launched their first ballistic missile from a submerged submarine on Wednesday. It was strictly an early test, however, and it will be about three years before there is anything like a Polaris weapons system ready for duty at sea.

7. Greece

The government of Premier Kanellopoulos was toppled early this morning by a group of military officers in a fast-moving, well-planned coup.

One of the military's first acts was to arrest left-wing leader Andreas Papandreou (Brief of 19 April). Kanellopoulos also has been taken into custody and a guard has been placed around the palace.

The army controls Athens and the city is quiet. There appears to be no danger to Americans.

The coup is not likely to affect Greek relations with the US.

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