

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 November 1967



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LATE ITEM

Israel-Jordan

Israeli planes attacked Jordanian tanks and artillery this morning after firing broke out near the scene of the cease-fire violation yesterday. Firing was also reported in the area of the Umm Shurat Bridge. This is the fifth exchange in four days. Fourteen Jordanians have been reported killed in the clash yesterday.

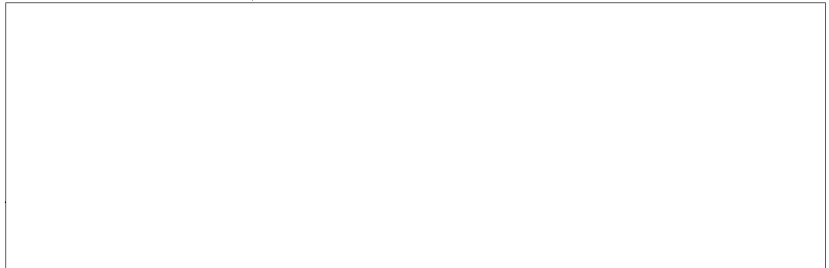
DAILY BRIEF
21 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Cyprus

The situation has remained essentially unchanged overnight.

Ankara continues to insist that removal of the Greek "illegal" forces is basic to any easing of tensions. Ankara says that unless these troops leave the island, Turkey will land an equal number of her own to protect the Turkish Cypriots.

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The Greeks say that they have a three-stage plan for resolving the problem. Ambassador Hart in Ankara, however, believes that this formula is unworkable and could lead the Turks into taking action.

According to the defense attaché in Ankara, arrangements for Turkish troop embarkation are now complete.

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2. United Nations

[redacted] the Arabs at the UN were both surprised and dismayed at the Soviets' decision to table their own Middle East resolution.

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[redacted] These reactions are not far from Ambassador Goldberg's, who sees the Russians engaged in a spoiling operation in order to prevent a Western political solution to the crisis.

3. South Vietnam

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4. Thailand

Bangkok is getting very sticky on the status of forces agreement now under negotiation with the US. The government is under fire from political critics who say that in catering to the US, Thai interests are being sacrificed. This static is likely to get worse before it gets better; political activity is on the upswing in anticipation of assembly elections next year.

5. Dominican Republic

Exiled General Wessin y Wessin's presidential ambitions are creating an uneasy political situation. A right-wing group which is promoting Wessin recently applied for recognition as a political party; this could pave the way for Wessin's return from Miami.

Wessin seems to be fast becoming a rallying point for disaffected political and business elements. He also apparently commands some loyalty in the armed forces, particularly at lower levels.

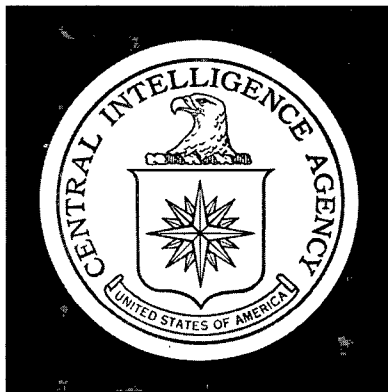
Unfounded rumors of a less than positive US attitude toward Balaguer are adding to the problem. These allegations have gained wide currency among the rumormongers and have led to charges by otherwise responsible elements that US support is shifting to Wessin.

6. Philippines

The Nacionalista Party of President Marcos has made a strong showing in the elections. With nearly 90 percent of the returns in, Nacionalista candidates have taken six of the eight Senate seats being contested, and in local elections, the President's party has apparently won about two-thirds of the governorships and mayoralties.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

3.5(c)



~~Top Secret~~

16

21 November 1967

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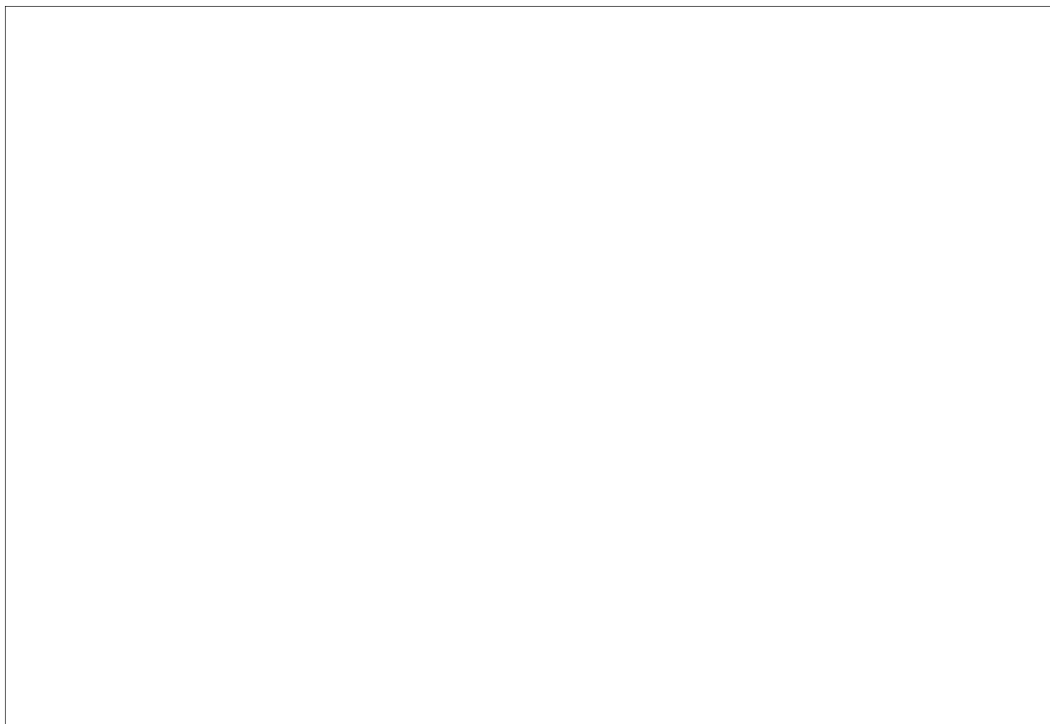
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Contingency Planning for Radio Broadcasts: Hanoi is apparently taking steps to assure continued broadcasting services should the country's primary radio station, Radio Hanoi, be knocked out by air attack. A [redacted] trading company has shipped five radio transmitters to Hanoi via an intermediary in Hong Kong [redacted]. The transmitters will broadcast in short wave, probably at the modest power of one kilowatt.

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Relations with Tanzania: Tanzania and North Vietnam have agreed to upgrade the diplomatic representation between the two countries to the ambassadorial level. No new North Vietnamese ambassador

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was named to replace the chargé now in Dar-es-Salaam.

[Redacted]

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Hanoi already has ambassadors resident in or accredited to the African nations of Algeria, UAR, Congo (Brazzaville), Guinea, and Mali. In addition, Hanoi has unfulfilled agreements to exchange diplomatic representations with Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Senegal.

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Pig Production Threatened by Disease: During the past three weeks

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[Redacted] outbreaks of hog cholera, possibly in epidemic proportions, have broken out in several widely separated areas of North Vietnam. [Redacted]

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mentioned the deaths of large numbers of pigs and dogs and called for preventive measures to be taken. In the province of Lai Chau near the Chinese border, for example, the provincial agricultural department informed various districts that shipments of veterinary medicine and preventive medicines were being sent.

Hog cholera is common in Vietnam and generally harmless to human beings unless there is massive exposure to the disease. Only three human deaths were reported in the recent messages. Nonetheless, the loss of a large portion of the swine population which might result from a severe epidemic of the disease could have a serious effect on the population by removing an important source of protein from its predominantly grain diet.

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

Hanoi on US Antiwar Movement: A Hanoi International Service broadcast in English asserted yesterday that Americans have stepped up their protests against the war. The broadcast stated that Vice President Humphrey faced an antiwar demonstration in New York on 15 November, just after he returned from his "criminal"

trip to South Vietnam. Hanoi also said that Americans showed their indignation at Japan's "complicity" with the US in Vietnam by demonstrating against Premier Sato while he was in the US. The broadcast closed by noting that four editors of Ramparts magazine recently burned their draft cards to protest the war and that the event was pictured on the cover of the December issue.

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Viet Cong on US Deserters: Another Hanoi International Service broadcast in English yesterday cited a recent Viet Cong commentary praising four US sailors who deserted in Japan to protest the war. The Viet Cong condemned the US for pressing Japan to arrest the sailors and claimed that their act, as well as similar protests by other US servicemen, were "conscientious acts of genuine Americans." The Hanoi broadcast stated further that the Viet Cong hailed the "courageous" antiwar acts of all American soldiers.

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Hanoi on Viet Cong Release of American Soldiers: On 19 November, a Hanoi broadcast in English to US troops in South Vietnam noted the Viet Cong's recent release of two Negro GI's and another American prisoner. Hanoi claimed that the men were released as an expression of the Viet Cong's "humanitarian policy and leniency" toward its captives, as well as "a manifestation of solidarity" with American Negroes. The broadcast asserted that the Negro in America knows that "no Viet Cong ever called me a Nigger." According to Hanoi, the Viet Cong has followed a consistent policy toward American and other foreign troops who "come over to our side." They are well treated and will be helped to rejoin their families when conditions permit. The broadcast closed with an appeal to US troops to "act before it is too late" because "this is one of the correct ways for you to get out of this war."

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