

The President's Daily Brief

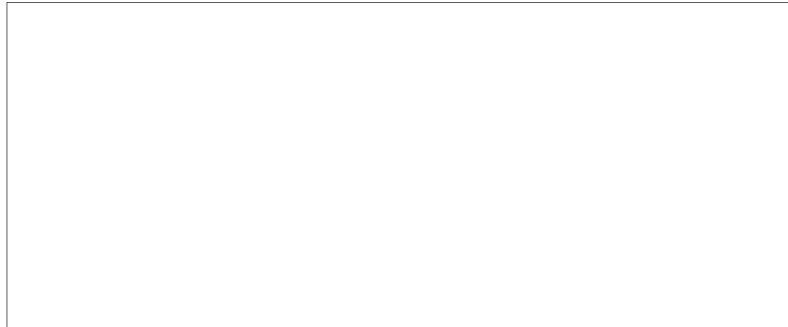
~~*Top Secret*~~ 28 December 1967



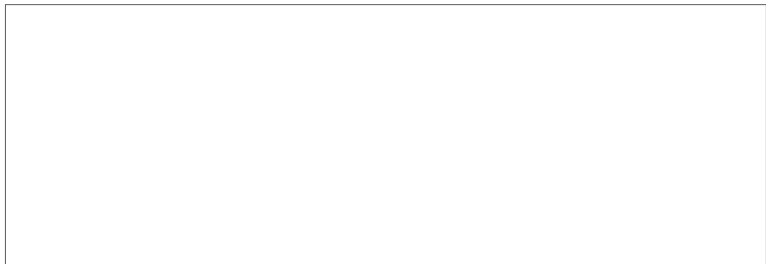
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DAILY BRIEF
28 DECEMBER 1967

1. Vietnam



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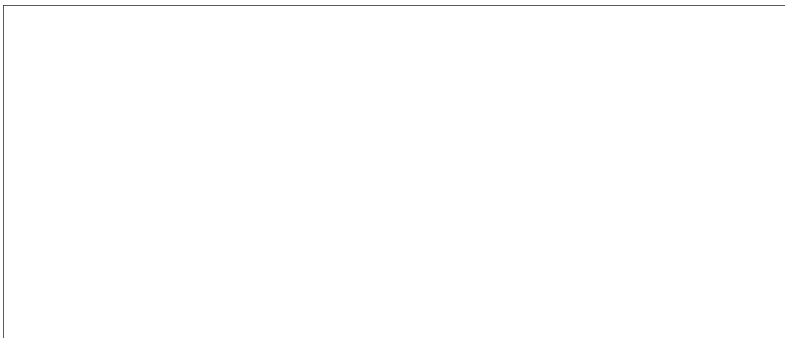
2. Laos

Government forces are reported to have recaptured the central Laotian town they lost to the Communists on Christmas Day. Elsewhere, there is Communist pressure, but no major moves. Press reports out of Laos have tended to exaggerate the Communist campaign, although it is more extensive than in recent years.

3. Cambodia

Sihanouk is reacting predictably to the US note. Assuming his favorite role as the Cambodian David up against the US Goliath, the Prince is trying to build international opinion--and pressure--against any moves into Cambodian territory.

4. Communist China



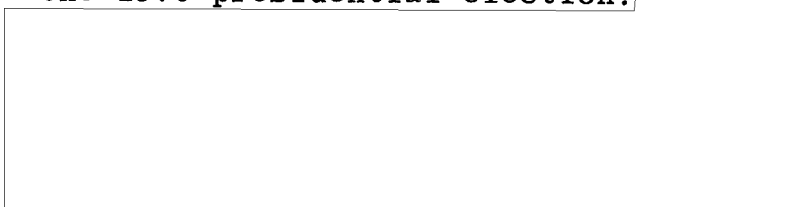
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5. South Korea

Fists flew in the National Assembly this morning as progovernment legislators stormed the speaker's platform and recaptured it from opposition members. The opposition had been holding a live-in on the platform since they seized it last week in protest over the government's failure to check election irregularities. Early reports indicate the government majority quickly rammed through the 1968 budget. The Assembly is scheduled to adjourn tomorrow.

6. Chile

Chilean Communists hope to combine all the country's leftist political parties into a united front to capture the 1970 presidential election.



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The Communists recently had some success in a by-election by teaming up with one other party. This success may help them pull in other leftist parties and give their front a good start toward 1970.

7. Yemen

The battered republicans are now seeking mediation. On Tuesday a top republican leader said he would welcome the services of a three-nation commission formed last summer to seek a negotiated solution to the civil war. Earlier the republicans had rejected the commission's efforts. The royalists--who are not losing the war, but are far from winning it--may be agreeable to talks.

8. Congo

The fate of the mercenaries remains unsettled. The Congolese still want them, and Rwanda still says no. Congolese Foreign Minister Bomboko assured the US chargé that the mercenaries would be treated tenderly if returned. He said they would be "put in a comfortable prison" and their trial would be "in the best tradition of European justice." There is no indication the mercenaries care to take their chances on Congolese concepts of European justice.

9. France

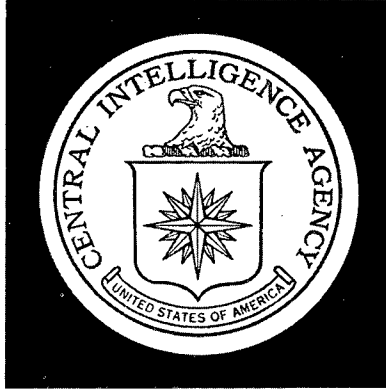
De Gaulle may be ready to lift his Middle East arms embargo.

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soon and a torpedo boat already was on the way. The French also have indicated their willingness to sell aircraft to Iraq. If De Gaulle is ending the embargo, it is probably because he feels he has made all the political profit he can and now it is time to look to the commercial side of the ledger.

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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
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

More on Living Conditions: Reports on living and working conditions in North Vietnam continue

[Redacted]

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women have replaced men in "virtually every field of endeavor," and that women constitute the great majority of the militia and about one-half of the armed security service.

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Agricultural and construction workers usually work about a seven-hour day [Redacted] and are subjected to short, political indoctrination sessions about once a week--a not excessive requirement in view of war needs and the Communist penchant for political indoctrination. [Redacted] the draft age as 18 and [Redacted] that illegal deferments are not uncommon, citing examples of the successful bribery of both medical officials and personnel cadre in charge of assignment and recruitment.

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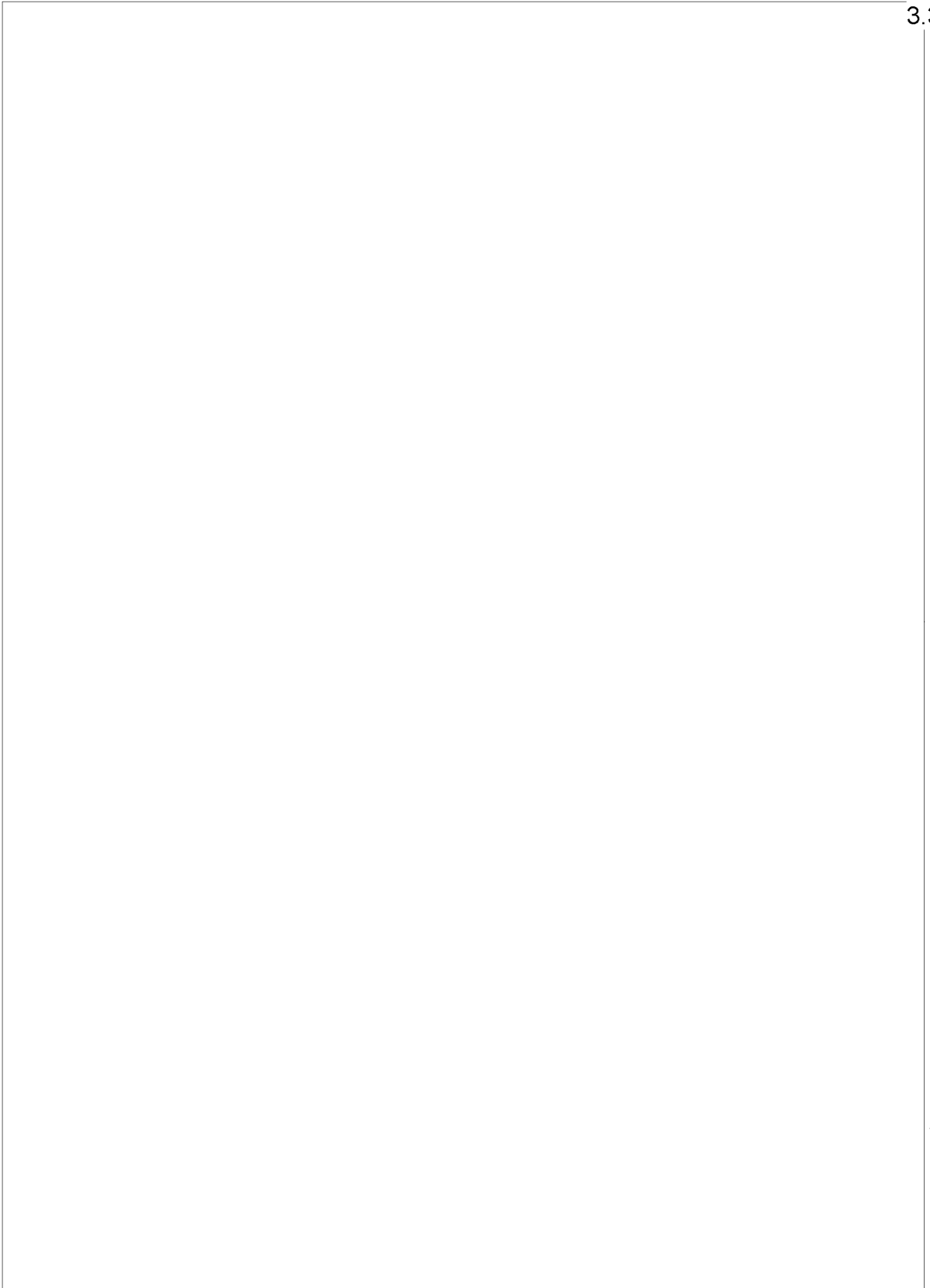
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report.

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