

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 December 1967

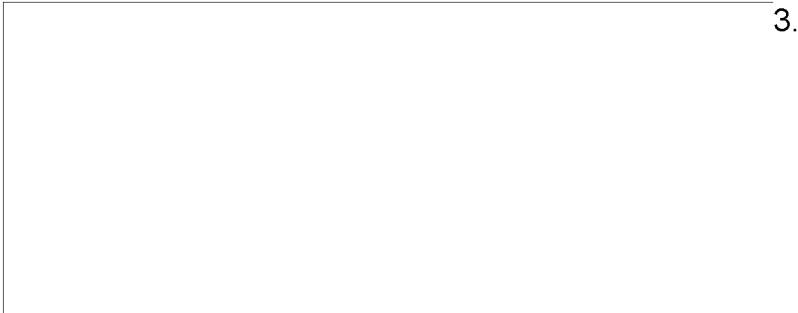


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DAILY BRIEF
21 DECEMBER 1967

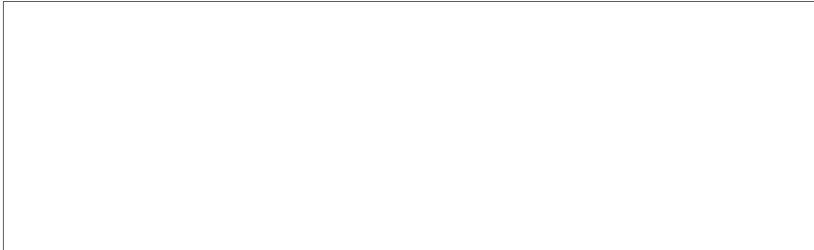
1. Common Market

Dutch Foreign Minister Luns said today that the Five would negotiate "individually and jointly" with Britain, De Gaulle's objections notwithstanding. This statement appears to be in response to George Brown's proposal yesterday.



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2. United Kingdom



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3. Greece

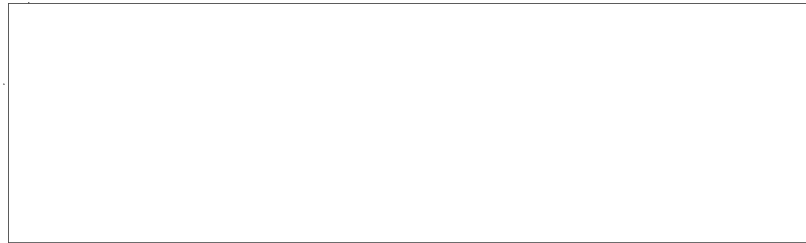
The King's return is still up in the air. There has been no response from Athens so far to Constantine's statement yesterday. The King said his only condition for going back was a firm timetable for re-establishing parliamentary democracy.

The junta probably could buy this, but Constantine's other remarks about the regime's "deviations" will not set well in Athens. Some members of the junta would be quite willing to let Constantine cool his heels in Rome indefinitely.

Greek troops continue to leave Cyprus, with more than 3,000 now evacuated.

4. Singapore

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5. Laos

Communist forces are maneuvering around government bases, but there have been no major clashes since last week. Both North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao are involved in their usual dry season campaign aimed at pushing back anti-Communist guerrillas in the north and at keeping government troops away from the Ho Chi Minh trail in the south. They are apparently being somewhat more aggressive this year, however.

6. Indonesia

Suharto sees a bleak year ahead unless he can get a \$325-million foreign aid transfusion. Expressing his thanks for America's help, including a \$110 million pledge for next year, Suharto asked Ambassador Green Monday night if the US would urge other countries, especially Japan, to contribute their full share to the balance.

Then Suharto asked if the US could go beyond the \$110 million should all other efforts fail. The acting president is particularly concerned about the first quarter of 1968.

7. Sudan

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8. Dominican Republic

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Political bickering continues to threaten the stability of the Dominican military establishment. General Perez, head of the armed forces, is again threatening to resign [redacted]

[redacted] If Perez goes, other key staff officers are likely to follow him, which would weaken Balaguer's control of the armed forces. Balaguer may try to wriggle out of this by reassigning the officer Perez dislikes. Any respite, however, is likely to be temporary.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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21 December 1967

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

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Soviet Reaction to President's News Conference:
President Johnson's references to Vietnam in the press interview broadcast Tuesday evening have not sparked much initial interest in Moscow. A Moscow international broadcast states that the President was merely trying to give an appearance of flexibility by raising the question of "unofficial" talks between Saigon and the Front. In reality, the broadcast went on, the US continues its position of refusing to recognize the Front.

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Latest Photography of the Bridges: Photographs taken on Monday show that three spans of the Doumer bridge, totaling about 840 feet, have been dropped and that another 350-foot span has been badly damaged. The main bridge over the Canal des Rapides, according to photos taken last weekend, has suffered two dropped spans totaling 214 feet and damage to another 107-foot span.

Judging from past performance, the North Vietnamese will require several weeks to repair the latest damage.

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the embassy reported that the targets of that day's strike were the Paul Doumer Bridge "and other outlying points of the city."

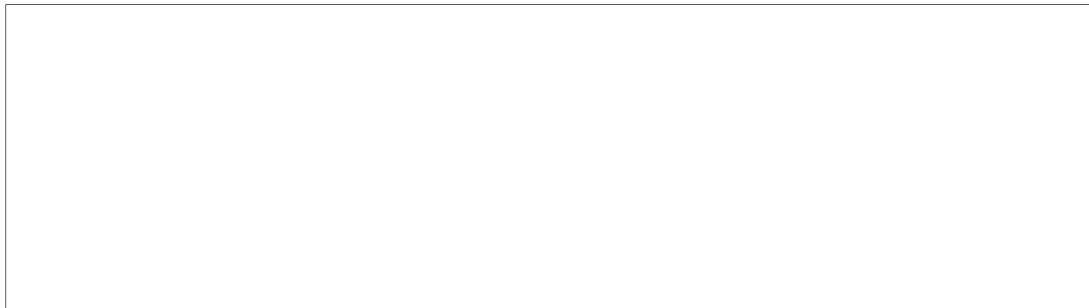
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Recent Photographs of North Vietnam: The most recent high altitude BLACK SHIELD photography provided excellent coverage of North Vietnam on two successive days, 15 and 16 December.

All six of North Vietnam's major airfields were covered. A total of eight to twelve operational MIG fighters, including four or five MIG-21s, were identified. Since these pictures were taken, at least five MIG-21s have been returned to North Vietnam from reserves in China. This will more than compensate for the MIG-17s lost to US planes during the past week. The return of these MIGs also demonstrates that Hanoi intends to maintain a limited but aggressive interceptor force to oppose the US bombing effort.

Another highlight from the 15-16 December pictures is evidence that the North Vietnamese have devised a way to move rail cars in and out of Haiphong, despite the continuing unserviceability of the only rail-highway bridge into the port. A rail ferry appears to be operating adjacent to the destroyed bridge.

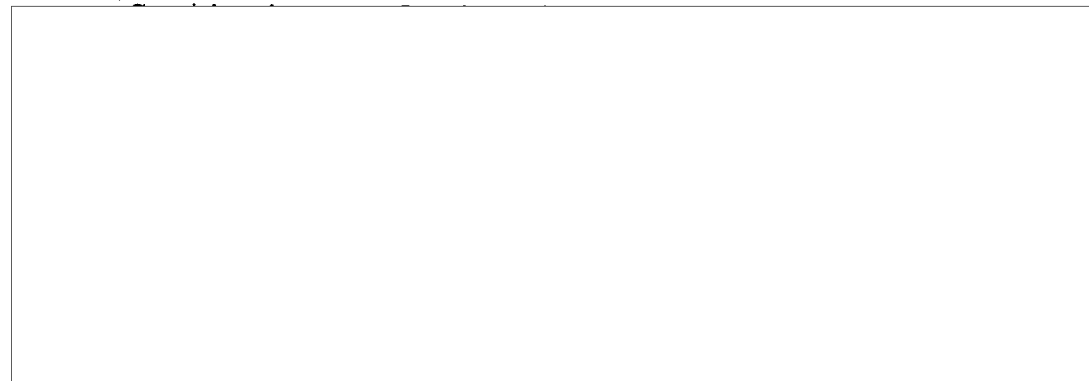
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Hanoi Radio: North Vietnam apparently has taken steps to maintain operations by Radio Hanoi in case its primary broadcasting facilities are damaged by US bombings.

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Hardships in North Vietnam:

[Redacted]

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[Redacted] evacuees from Hanoi and Haiphong were given a six-month rice ration upon arrival in Thai Nguyen and that they did not receive any additional special treatment. They were expected to resettle themselves and to obtain employment which would qualify them for food ration cards before they had consumed their special ration.

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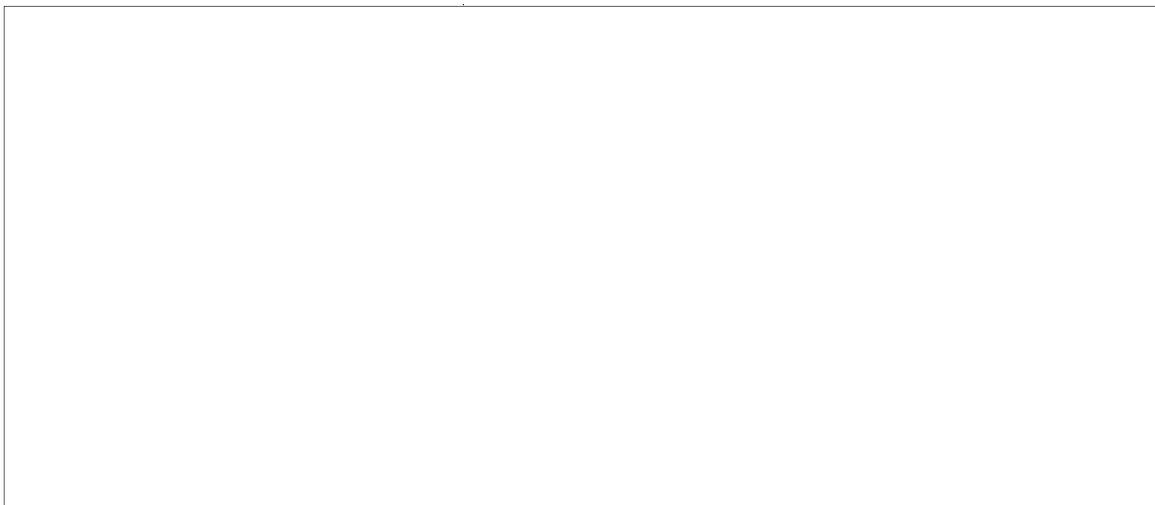
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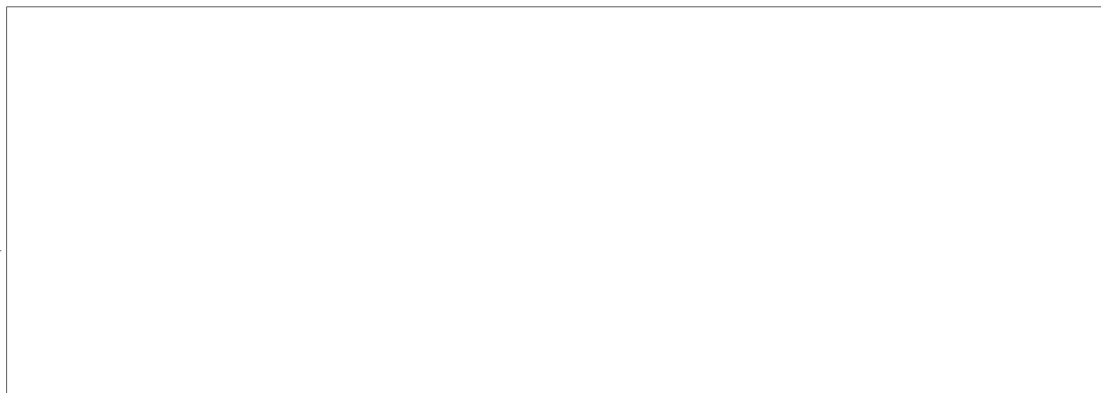
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing of significance to report today.

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