



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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23 DECEMBER 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Rhodesia

[redacted] President Kaunda dropped from his speech last night a paragraph announcing that he would divert Zambia's copper exports away from Rhodesia and thus deprive the Rhodesians of transit fees.

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Our ambassador in Lusaka warns, however, that this is only a reprieve, and that the Zambians clearly will take some action. The Zambian cabinet met today to consider alternative suggestions put forward by London, but we have no word yet of a decision.

Radical-minded Tanzanian President Nyerere has announced he will spend Christmas at a town near the Zambian border. Since he has never done this before, there is suspicion that he may intend to meet Kaunda again. Nyerere continues to harass the British. Today his government said that the entry of British military personnel into Tanzania to help with the Zambian oil airlift is "unacceptable."

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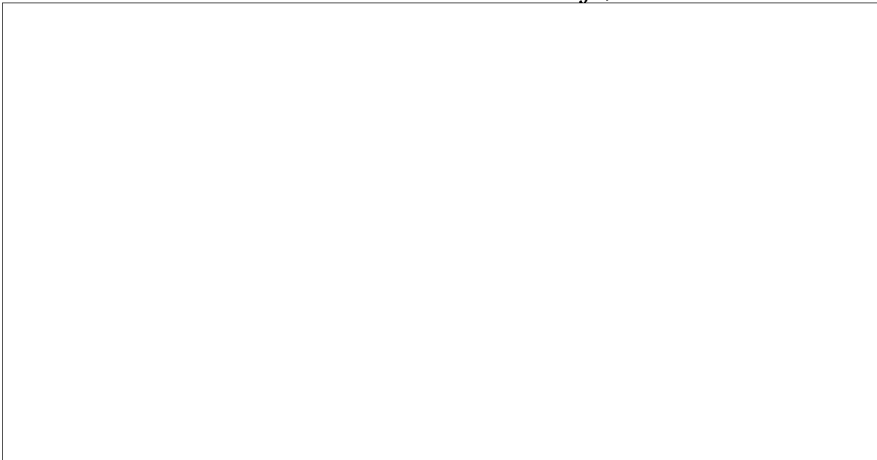
2. Laos

Ambassador Sullivan reports that there are indications of heavy Communist military pressure in east central Laos during the next several days, some of it timed to coincide with the new year observed by anti-Communist tribal guerrillas. Premier Souvanna has asked that the US respond with "maximum" air strikes.

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3. South Vietnam

The Viet Cong have repeated their earlier statement about a 12-hour Christmas Eve truce but have not responded in any way to the US - South Vietnamese announcement of a 30-hour cessation of hostilities over the holiday.

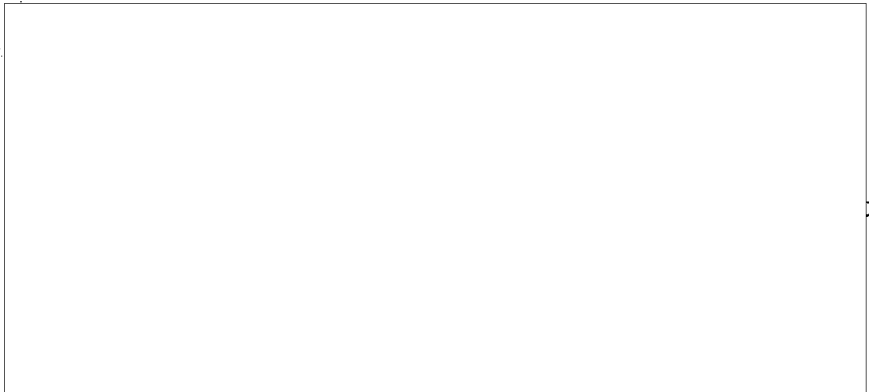


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4. North Vietnam

A preliminary field examination of photography taken over Phuc Yen airfield today discloses the presence of two aircraft, tentatively identified as SU-9 late generation fighters.



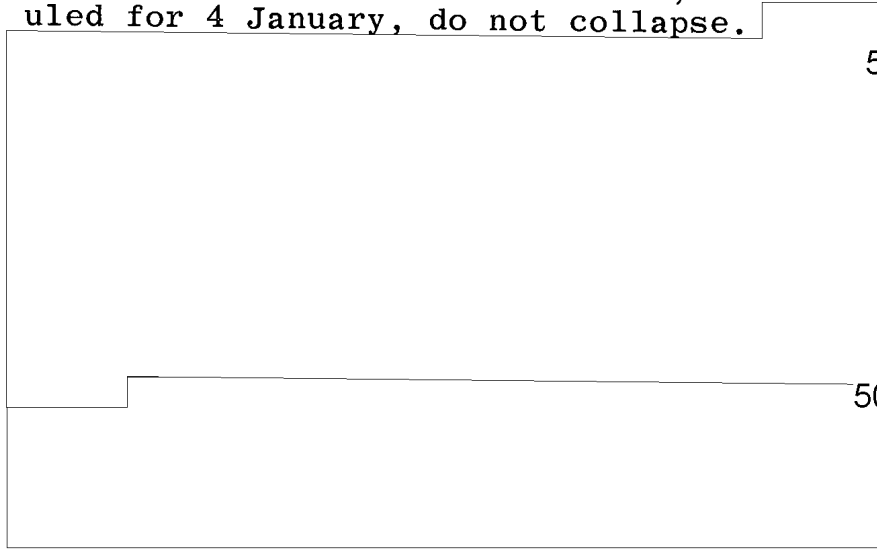
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The photography also shows some 46 early model MIG fighters. Since 42 North Vietnamese fighters have flown to Mengtzu in Communist China over the past few days, this means that the 24 crated aircraft discovered in September photography have now been assembled.

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5. India

Moscow apparently is trying to keep the Indians relatively flexible so that the Tashkent talks with Pakistan, scheduled for 4 January, do not collapse.



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Moscow certainly harbors no illusion that the Tashkent conference will bring any basic accommodation between India and Pakistan. The Soviets apparently hope, however, that the talks will improve the atmosphere and limit Chinese attempts to exploit the situation.

6. Indonesia

The shift to the right is at last bringing some practical moves to normalize relations with the US.

Our embassy this week received payment for damage done to our consulates in Medan and Surabaya by demonstrators earlier this year. Some 40,000 United States Information Service books, held in storage by the police since last March, were released for the use of universities yesterday. Finally, an American missionary held for the past six months on vague subversion charges apparently is to be released shortly.

All of this obviously has been done without any help from Sukarno. He gave a student rally yesterday the same old line that Communism is an essential part of the Indonesian political mix, adding that he would stick to this view "until I enter my grave."

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7. Turkey

Prime Minister Demirel [redacted]

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[redacted] will not take military action against Cyprus, despite pressures from Turkish opposition parties for a violent response to the recent United Nations resolution on the Cyprus issue.

Demirel does intend to pull out all the diplomatic stops to force Greece into direct negotiations. Further measures against Greek residents of Turkey will be part of this campaign.

Specifics of a new Cyprus policy will not be developed, however, until after the Turkish parliament debates Cyprus early next week. Turkish authorities meanwhile are cracking down on student demonstrators who have been calling on the government to act now.

8. Dominican Republic

The surface situation in Santo Domingo appeared normal today, despite underlying tensions.

Garcia Godoy tentatively plans to make a radio-television speech to the nation tonight or tomorrow, giving the results of the investigation of the Santiago outbreak and, possibly, indicating what action he will take. This could easily produce a new crisis, since both the right and left remain in a fire-breathing mood.

9. Guatemala

Colonel Ponciano may be backing away from his plot to overthrow the Peralta government at this time. Ponciano told Ambassador Mein yesterday that he did not believe there would be trouble before the presidential elections, scheduled for next March, unless the internal security situation deteriorates further.

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[redacted] dissatisfaction still appears to be widespread in the Guatemalan army.

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10. Bolivia

Police and armed forces have been put on a holiday season alert, beginning today. [redacted]
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