

The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 8 February 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
8 FEBRUARY 1967

1. Sino-Soviet
Relations

Moscow is being pressed to the point where it may have no choice but to withdraw its diplomatic personnel from Peking. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Chinese have now warned East European diplomats to stop carrying supplies into the Soviet Embassy, still under siege after two weeks.

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While Moscow may finally be obliged to "suspend" diplomatic relations with Peking, we still feel it wants to avoid a formal break. [redacted]

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2. Soviet Union

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3. Soviet Union

Some parts of the Soviet equation-- their internal security system for instance--have changed markedly over the years. Others, such as the way of handling elections, have changed hardly a whit.

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4. Vietnam

During the first 20 hours of the ceasefire, there were 14 major and 31 minor incidents reported. A major incident is defined as one resulting in casualties or a heavy volume of weapons fire. This represents an increase over corresponding periods during the Christmas and New Year truces.

Not unexpectedly, coastal shipping in the southern part of North Vietnam increased greatly following the Tet standdown.

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5. North Vietnam

Soviet shipping to North Vietnam during January was slightly higher than the monthly average of last year. The number of Soviet ships arriving or en route so far this month indicates that the higher volume will continue into March.

The over-all figures on imports to North Vietnam by sea during 1966 were up by about 34 percent, mainly because of stepped-up aid deliveries from the Russians. Free world shipping dropped off last year.

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6. Eastern Europe

The Warsaw Pact foreign ministers are meeting in Warsaw, but only after strong Rumanian objections forced a change in site and agenda.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Rumanians agreed to go to Warsaw only on condition that there be no criticism of their recognizing West Germany. Only a deputy foreign minister from Bucharest is attending and he will stage a walkout if this proviso is violated.

Thus the Rumanians have bottled up discussion of the issue uppermost in the minds of most of the other East Europeans.

7. Nicaragua

With about two thirds of the ballots counted, General Somoza has a substantial and growing lead--a whopping 72 percent at last count. Electoral fraud was widespread, obvious--and unnecessary to assure the General a solid victory.

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8. Chile

President Frei continues to have problems with an obstreperous senate. The signs now suggest, however, that it has no intention of again humiliating him by refusing him permission to leave the country.

The senate is now stalling on the constitutional amendment Frei proposed following the cancellation of his US trip. The amendment, which would permit a president to dissolve congress and call new elections, had been approved by the lower house. Senate inaction may kill it.

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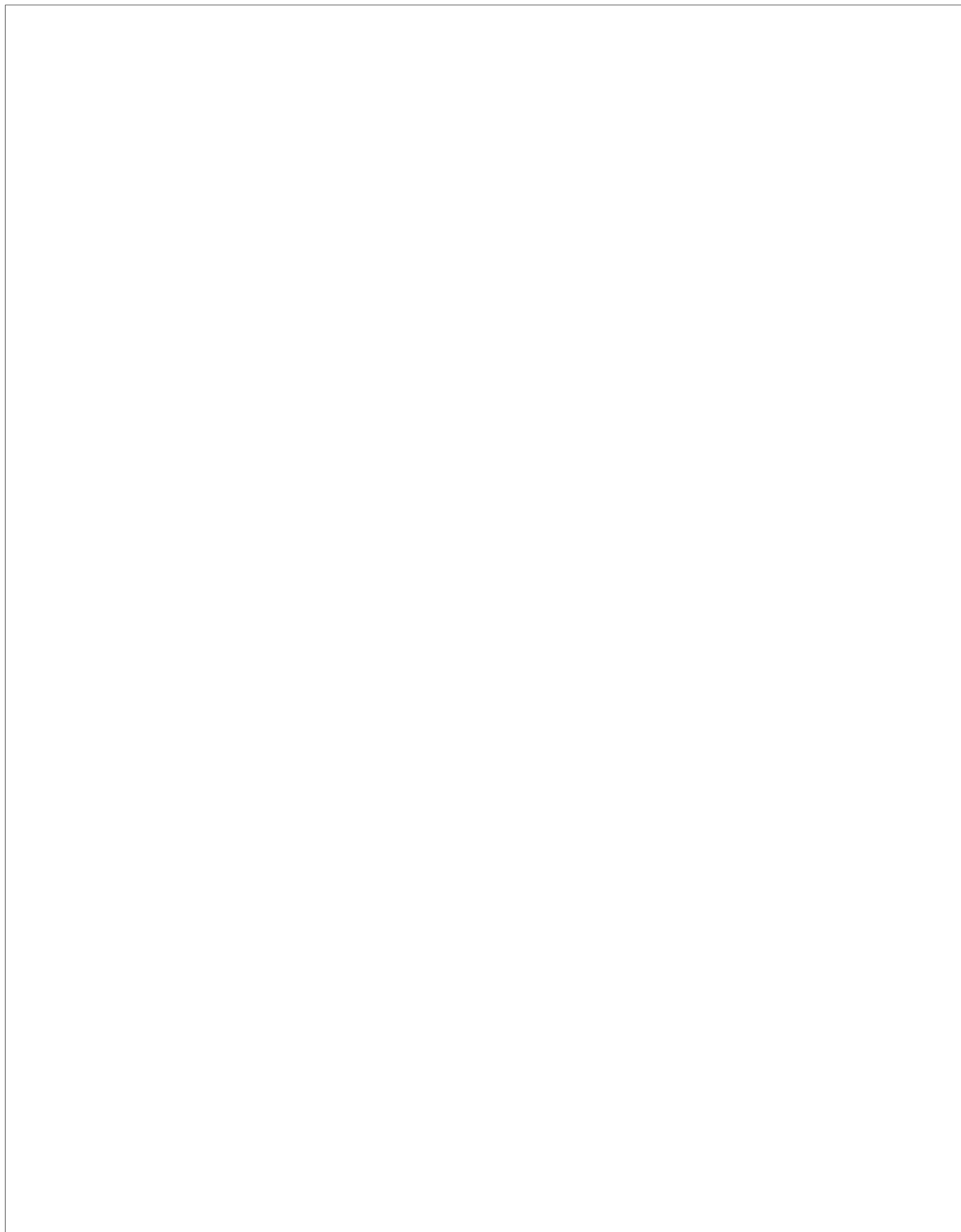
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