



# *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 2 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF  
2 JANUARY 1968

1. North Vietnam

Speaking at a reception on Saturday, Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh said Hanoi "will" talk with the US if the bombing and "all other acts of war" against North Vietnam are ended "unconditionally." North Vietnamese spokesmen in the past have said only that there "could be talks" once Hanoi's conditions are met. Trinh's statement has been broadcast in English by Hanoi.

On the same day Trinh spoke, the North Vietnamese consul in New Delhi said categorically that an end to the bombing "would" lead to negotiations.

In neither instance did the North Vietnamese hint that Hanoi would curtail its own military activity or be prepared to talk about anything other than US - North Vietnamese relations. The apparent modification in North Vietnam's position may stem from the belief that Hanoi can increase international pressure for an end to the air attacks if it seems less rigid.

2. Cambodia

Sihanouk appears to have confirmed his Washington Post interview. At a press conference Sunday night, the Prince said again that he would receive an envoy from President Johnson "not to negotiate, but to palaver." He also said he "could not fight" US troops entering Cambodia if they were not detected. He insisted, however, that hot pursuit operations in populated areas would be met with force.

3. Dahomey

Politically unstable Dahomey faces new trouble when word gets out that France has cut off all direct budgetary support effective 1 January.

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In any event, the coffers will be empty in a few days.

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4. Yemen

The three Arab nations trying to mediate the Yemen war have proposed that republican and royalist representatives meet in Beirut on 12 January to begin preliminary negotiations. Neither the republicans nor the royalists have responded to the proposal yet.

The fighting, meanwhile, continues.

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5. Greece

The King is eager to return, but the junta is in no hurry.

Constantine sent an emissary to Athens last week to discuss his return with Prime Minister Papadopoulos. While Papadopoulos said he would do his best to make things easy for Constantine to come back, he would not be pinned down on timing. Papadopoulos, in fact, remarked it might be best if the King waited until elections were held.

Papadopoulos has agreed to keep paying the royal allowances and to send the King one or two of his cars.

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY*

## Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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West Germans Aid Hanoi: A West German news agency has announced that a complete field hospital for the treatment of bombing casualties was shipped recently to North Vietnam. The hospital, equipped with 60 beds and assorted technical facilities, represents the joint action of many private donors who pooled their contributions to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. The US Embassy in Bonn was told by the Federal Government that it had no official knowledge of the matter, but that it would not interfere.

Medical facilities of all types have long been accepted from the Free World by the North Vietnamese. This is one of the few areas in which Hanoi has consented to deal with the West, and to actively seek assistance. North Vietnamese officials in the past year have visited France, Scandinavia, and several other European countries seeking medical assistance.

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

Hanoi on the Post-Dispatch: Hanoi, in an English language broadcast on 31 December, reported and discussed a recent editorial in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. As seen in Hanoi, the editorial was "strongly against the Johnson administration's plea for its Vietnam policy." The broadcast quoted the editorial as "laying waste point by point a statement by Assistant Secretary Bundy." The paper reportedly claimed that Saigon is being defeated by "South Vietnamese revolutionaries" and that South Vietnam was never a sovereign state "except by American fiat."



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