



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 16 January 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
16 JANUARY 1967

1. South Vietnam

Ky, whose desire to run for president is becoming ever more compelling, is worrying now over how best to weasel out of his earlier pledge to back Chief of State Thieu for the office.

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unless Thieu soon decides on his own not to make the race, the two men will be obliged to have it out between them.

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2. North Vietnam

Disruptions of rail traffic in China continue widespread. We have no evidence that these difficulties are having an impact on North Vietnam, but the lines and junction points affected include some through which Soviet aid to Hanoi must pass.

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3. Israel-Syria

Conditions along the border are becoming increasingly explosive. UN observers report that both Israel and Syria have been moving armor and artillery into forward areas during the past week.

Israeli Foreign Minister Eban said today that his country has no intention of turning the problem over to the UN Security Council. He implied that recourse to the UN has always been futile.

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[Redacted]

4. Macao

The Portuguese say the situation is "very uncertain"; the Chinese still insist that the Portuguese acknowledge their "crimes."

A Portuguese delegation crossed into China this morning, Washington time, with a new version of their "apology," but it is still not known whether it met the Chinese demands. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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5. Soviet Union

We believe Moscow's recent release on bail of jailed US tourist Buel Wortham is related directly to Soviet interest in passage of the proposed East-West trade bill.

6. France

[Redacted] the French are about to raise new obstacles against [Redacted] membership in the European Economic Community. The thinking is that Paris, preferring to avoid an open veto of Britain's bid, will insist as a precondition that London detach itself from US policies in Southeast Asia and support French efforts to raise the price of gold.

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7. Australia

[Redacted]

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