

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 February 1967

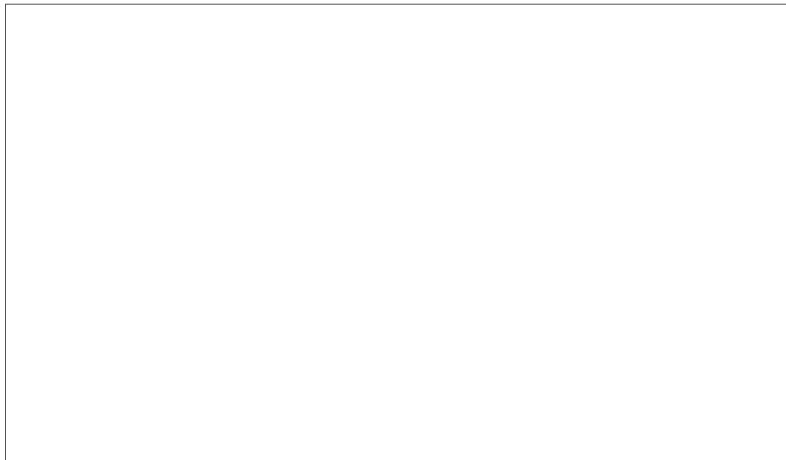


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DAILY BRIEF
24 FEBRUARY 1967

1. North Vietnam

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2. Soviet Union

Moscow seems to be having some trouble getting its lines straight on the question of antiballistic missile deployment.

Last week's shift of emphasis in Pravda on the issue has not yet been clarified. So far only the editorial writer has been reprimanded; no revision of the "mistaken piece" has appeared.

This week Soviet military leaders have been talking boastfully about Soviet air defense prowess. But most admit that they cannot guarantee the destruction of all incoming missiles in a nuclear war.

Just what all this means we cannot tell for sure. It does, however, seem that Moscow has decided to keep all its options open, at least until it has a better idea of what the US might be willing to offer in any talks on the question.

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3. Communist China

Premier Chou En-lai seems to be exercising his growing authority at the expense of Lin Piao, Mao's heir apparent. Chou is not only exercising the prerogatives of his own office, but also those which would normally belong to Lin Piao as defense minister.

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4. India

The news is still bad for the Congress Party as the votes are slowly tabulated and announced. The upset defeat of several prominent and capable party leaders and cabinet ministers will make it even harder for the party to pull itself together in the aftermath. Factionalism had been a serious problem for it even before the elections.

5. Uruguay

First reports indicate that the Communist-led 24-hour general strike today was quite successful, at least in Montevideo. More of the same, if not worse, will be facing president-elect Gestido after his inauguration next week. Labor grievances are genuine and the Communists are proving adept at exploiting them.

6. Venezuela

The threat of a new clash at the Central University in Caracas is building up. Classes resumed this week after an interruption of more than two months. Student demonstrators are now becoming more and more audacious in protesting the government's tough new controls. So far the police have kept hands off, but this cannot last much longer if the provocations continue.

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