



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 March 1967

2 March 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
1 - 2 MARCH 1967

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1. Soviet Union



2. Sino-Soviet
Relations

Moscow's anti-Chinese campaign continues at full throttle despite the change of pace in Peking's "cultural revolution."

The Soviets are screaming as shrilly as ever about alleged Chinese interference with Soviet aid to Hanoi. Yesterday Hanoi felt obliged to deny "Western" reports of such interference.

Moscow, apparently determined to stir up disaffection among ethnic minorities in far-west China, is still deluging the area with broadcasts which depict, in local languages, the worst aspects of events in China.

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3. Uruguay

The country's Communist Party hopes, through a massive agitation campaign, to create a climate of apprehension before the April summit meeting.

The party effectively controls organized labor, and is capable of fomenting strikes or disrupting public services on call. Moreover, inflammatory propaganda could egg on other, more extremist, groups to acts of vandalism or even violence.

Communist parties in several other countries are planning protest demonstrations in their own capitals, and intend to pressure various presidents to resist US proposals.

4. Brazil

During a recent informal evening with our military attaché (a long-time friend), outgoing President Castello Branco said his successor, Costa e Silva, is "intelligent, shrewd, and forceful," and should "do all right." Referring to the endless jokes and cartoons about his own short neck, Castello Branco laughed off the latest one--which says that after three years of government without a neck, Brazil will now have four years without a head.

The President added that Costa was "extremely enthusiastic" about President Johnson personally.

5. Congo

Foreign Minister Bomboko came back from Paris, and an audience with De Gaulle, acting like there's gold in those hills. Specifically, he claims Paris will provide a \$20-million short-term loan--to help cover the foreign exchange shortage caused by Mobutu's "victory" over Union Miniere--and increase French technical assistance in the Congo. The hooker is De Gaulle's hint that the Congo should cozy up to the ex-French African states.

Mobutu, although wary of the French, might string along awhile with Paris if he thinks this will help him break Belgium's economic hold on the Congo.

6. Syria

The pipeline from northern Iraq to the Mediterranean, closed since mid-December, may soon reopen. Agreement between Syrian negotiators and the Western-owned company was easy: the company knuckled under to most demands. The radical Damascus regime will now proclaim another victory over the "imperialists."

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