

The President's Daily Brief

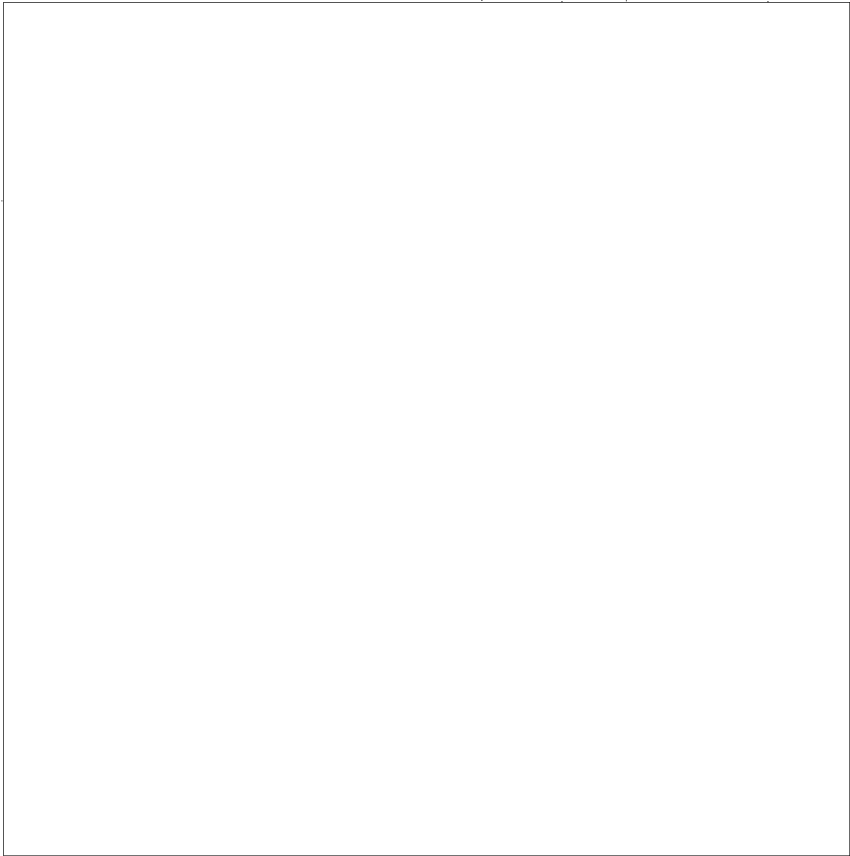
~~Top Secret~~ 15 March 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
15 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam



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2. South Vietnam

The press gives the impression that the atmosphere at yesterday's meeting of Constituent Assembly leaders and representatives of the Directorate to discuss controversial points of the draft constitution was strained. We have no details



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3. Communist China

The top leadership is still anything but one happy family. The politburo's agricultural specialist, Tan Chen-lin, after being lambasted in posters last week, was publicly denounced yesterday in what looked like an official parade.

We believe Tan may have been thrown to the dogs because of a high-level dispute over agriculture in late February.

Poster attacks on less senior party and government officials continue. Some are still being dragged out for public humiliation, despite the word passed in mid-February that Mao deplored such "uncivilized" spectacles.

4. Franco-Soviet Relations

The love affair is cooling off a bit.

Moscow is not happy over French opposition to the nonproliferation treaty, and may even suspect Paris is encouraging Bonn's difficult attitude.

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The Soviets may also be taking a dim view of French support for Bonn's diplomatic offensive in Eastern Europe. France's failure to sign the outer space treaty is another probable irritant.

As to De Gaulle, his nose may be a bit out of joint over Kosygin's recent performance in England, where he freely discussed Vietnam and proposed a Soviet-British friendship treaty.

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5. Malta

Premier Borg Olivier has "provisionally" accepted London's offer of money to plug the hole that withdrawal of British troops will create in the Maltese economy.

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the Maltese public seems relieved that the Premier quit while he was ahead.

6. Canada

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7. Soviet Union

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