

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 31 August 1967



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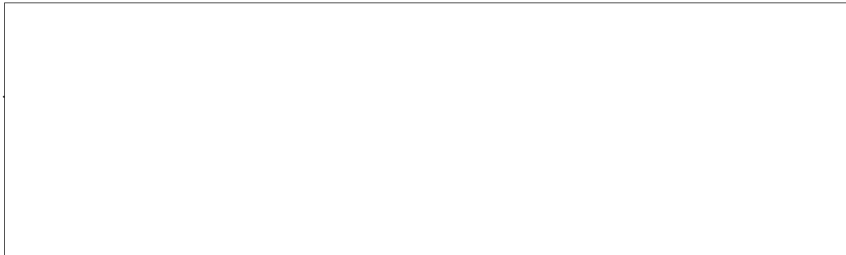
DAILY BRIEF
31 AUGUST 1967

1. Communist China

Peking's first authoritative comment on the intensified US bombing in North Vietnam reflects continuing concern that Hanoi will not remain steadfast. The Chinese statement, broadcast yesterday, claims laboriously that no US or Soviet "plot" to bring about peace talks can possibly succeed in the face of North Vietnamese determination to defeat the US.

The statement contains a strong reiteration of Chinese support for North Vietnam but implies that the Chinese will become directly involved only if they are attacked by US forces.

2. Portugal



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3. Nonproliferation Treaty

New Delhi remains less than a willing bride on the nonproliferation treaty. An Indian representative at Geneva told a US official that India would probably sign under Soviet and US pressure, but ratification by the parliament might be delayed. Other Indian officials have been even more pessimistic, trying to hold out for some sort of security guarantee against the Chinese.

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4. Arab States

The Arab summit moves into its third day. Jordan's King Husayn is making his plea for a rational approach to a settlement with Israel and Nasir appears to have concluded another agreement with Saudi Arabia's King Faysal to end the civil war in Yemen. The Syrians have pulled out of the meetings and are sulking in their tents.

Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and Libya are expected to back Husayn. Nasir, however, holds the key that could swing in other Arab states. Nasir is likely to be more moderate than in times past, but we suspect he is too much the victim of that past to become the champion of peace with Israel.

As for peace in Yemen, it may be a bit early to start uncrossing fingers. Although the press reports that outside observers will watch Egyptian troops leave

[redacted] Nasir and Faysal have agreed before (1965) to stop the war--and the war went on.

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5. Venezuela

There is growing sentiment for something more substantial than talk about Castro's subversive efforts in Venezuela. Last week's capture of another Cuban has stirred the pot again [redacted]

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Prominent political figures in Caracas are calling on the government to retaliate with clandestine military operations against Cuba. There have been about as many legal sanctions as possible applied and Venezuela's frustrations in these efforts may lead to more drastic policies that could include raids on Cuba.

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There are at least tentative indications that some other Latin American nations are thinking along similar lines.

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