



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
21 FEBRUARY 1968

1. Vietnam



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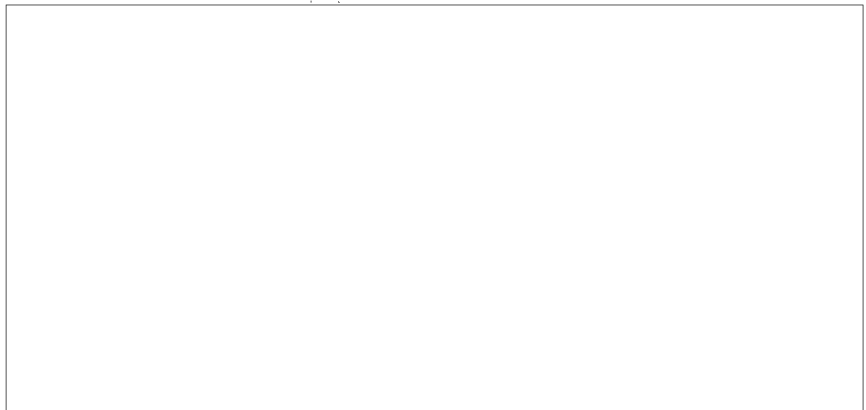
2. South Vietnam

The situation in Saigon has been relatively quiet, but sharp skirmishes continue on the outskirts. The enemy could be using the lull to infiltrate additional manpower into the city. Should Saigon's security situation deteriorate, the Communists might well try to move in with their substantial main force elements which are still within striking distance.

In other areas, no major new attacks have been reported.

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3. Pakistan



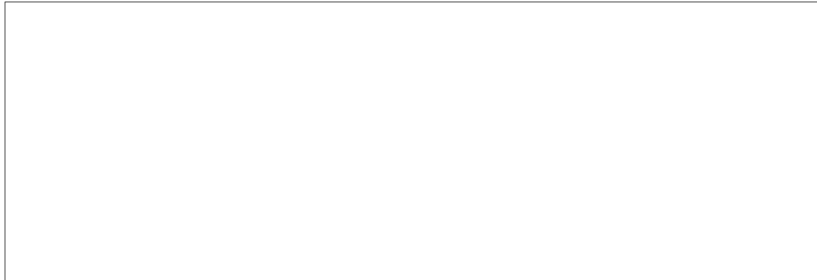
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4. Soviet Union

Embassy Moscow learns that the Soviet authorities have been making widespread arrests to combat private circulation of literature which the state is unwilling to publish. Trials of writers, similar to those recently held in Moscow and Leningrad, have been reported in a number of cities throughout the country. These developments can only mean that the conflict between the regime and the intellectual community is getting steadily worse.

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5. Cambodia



6. Greece

The junta is passing the word that it will produce a draft constitution ready for a popular vote "before July." The government now is said to be working on articles concerning the composition of the parliament and the council of ministers, as well as the powers of the King. Nothing yet has been said about a date for parliamentary elections.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese Diplomatic Offensive: North Vietnamese representatives abroad continue to press Hanoi's views on negotiations and to stress Communist willingness to engage in talks if the US makes the first move by stopping the bombing. In the past three weeks the North Vietnamese have taken the initiative to state their case to a whole series of non-Communist countries.

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Chemical Warfare Defenses: The French Press Agency reported from Hanoi on 15 February that the North Vietnamese government council ordered a strengthening of organizations for defensive measures against chemical and bacteriological warfare "at every level" throughout the country. At the same time, the council ordered dissemination of information on protective methods, stepped up training of "sanitary cadre" and a nationwide anti-insect and anti-vermin campaign.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Says US has Post-Tet Difficulties: An unsigned article in the North Vietnamese army journal, broadcast on 19 February, portrayed the "difficult position" in which the US is now finding itself following the Tet offensive. It forecast a "gloomy picture" for Mr. Clifford's takeover at the Department of Defense and cited a series of present US "setbacks" which would contribute to the bleak situation. The Pueblo incident, the fall of Nam Bac, and the loss of the Special Forces camp at Lang Vei were listed. The article went on with a series of questions related to the future conduct of the war and claimed that the American leaders would not be able to answer them. They must realize, it said, that the military front recently opened in the urban areas of the South "will last a long time and will totally reverse US strategies and tactics, which have been very bad." Measures such as sending an additional 10,000 men into Vietnam, the broadcast concluded, were like putting a handful of salt in the sea.

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