

The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 30 January 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
30 JANUARY 1967

1. North Vietnam

Hanoi still shows no willingness to make concessions in exchange for an end to the bombing. North Vietnamese spokesmen, however, are trying to appear more flexible for public consumption. The current line of sweet reasonableness is that, if the US "unconditionally" stops bombing, then talks between Washington and Hanoi "could" be held. As usual, nothing is said about a reciprocal North Vietnamese action.

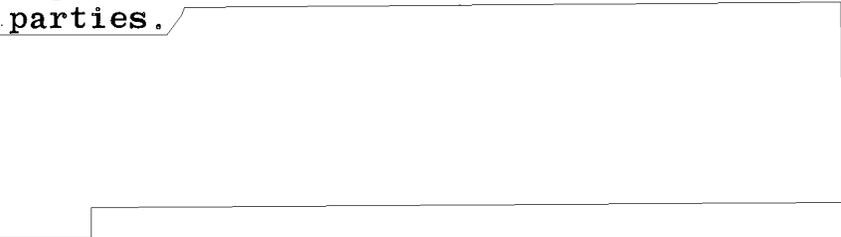
2. Communist China

The tumult continues unabated. We are now seeing signs that in some regions of China the regular military forces may be resisting the pro-Mao "revolutionaries." This, of course, is a risk Mao must have known he was taking when he ordered the army to support his partisans in their drive to full power.

The principal areas of most obvious military resistance to Mao seem now to be in the remote regions of Tibet and Sinkiang in the far west of China.

3. Communist World

Plans are moving ahead for a gathering of East and West European Communist parties.



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Ostensibly, the principal purpose would be to discuss questions of European security. The problem of Communist China would surely come up, however, and the meeting would probably be described as an important step in the very careful preparations Moscow says are necessary for an eventual world party conclave on China.

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4. Japan

Prime Minister Sato must be mighty pleased with himself today. His party did better than generally expected in yesterday's election and is now assured of a comfortable majority in the lower house. His own party leadership is also now more secure.

Sato's principal opponents, the Socialists, were the big losers. Their defeat reflects badly on the party's new radical leadership. This is the party which had long been demanding the abrogation of the security treaty with the US.

The election results are to some degree a popular endorsement of Sato's publicly avowed support of close relations with the US. The outcome will also encourage Sato to expand his modest program of economic cooperation with other non-Communist Asian nations.

5. Israel

Israel and Syria failed again yesterday to make any progress toward agreement on farming rights in the Demilitarized Zone. A third meeting of the UN's Mixed Armistice Commission is set for Thursday, but there is no sign that it will be any more productive.

6. Mexico

Another crackdown on extremist fringe groups is on. Most of these little groups are led by men excommunicated from the larger, more orthodox Communist movements. They have taken on some of the characteristics of the old-time bandido as they defend the local poor against landowners and petty despots.

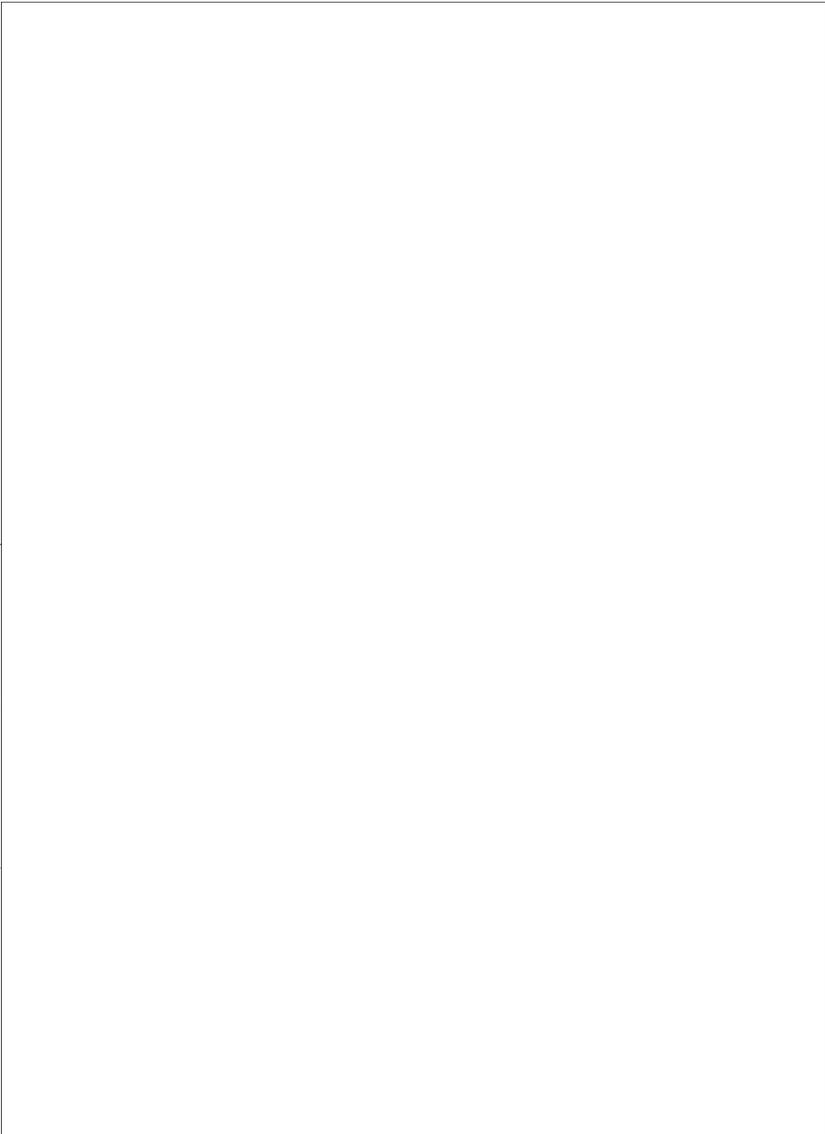
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7. Soviet Union

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