

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 March 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
24 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

The chairman of the Constituent Assembly, Phan Khac Suu, is on the point of entering the race for the presidency. A prominent southerner and the last civilian chief of state, he seems confident he could make a good showing as a civilian opponent to a military candidate. Suu has already selected his vice presidential running mate, another civilian political independent.

2. Vietnam

We can now cite additional indications the Communists may be getting ready for something big south of the Demilitarized Zone:

-- [redacted] North Vietnamese forces in and just above the Zone have built up from about three to four divisions with supporting artillery. Substantial elements of one of these divisions are now operating in Quang Tri Province.

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-- [redacted] reports [redacted] tenuously suggest sizable recent infiltrations, including possibly two regiments near the Special Forces camp at Khe Sanh in western Quang Tri.

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We cannot be sure what all this adds up to, but the Communists certainly seem to be in a position to follow up their barrages against our artillery positions at Con Thien and Gio Linh with ground action.

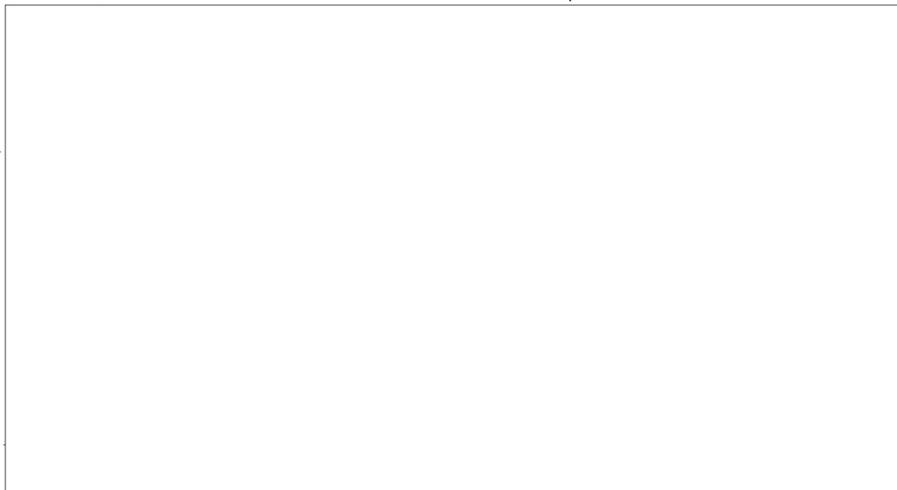
3. Sierra Leone

A group of senior army officers, tired of the electoral dispute, have seized the government and thrown all the principals in jail, including army commander Lansana.

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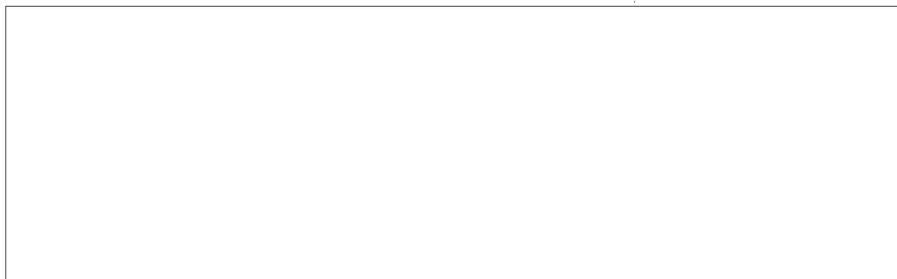
4. West Europe

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6. Dominican Republic

Conservative and rightist politicians are still shaking in their boots in the wake of Tuesday's attempt to murder Antonio Imbert. The identity of the attackers is still unknown, but persistent rumors point to vengeful old followers of Trujillo.

Balaguer has taken the bull by the horns and appointed Luis Amiama Tio to head the investigation as his new minister of interior and police. (Amiama and Imbert are the sole survivors of the group that assassinated Trujillo.) This is almost sure to result in a rather thorough shakeup of Balaguer's top security officials.

7. Peru

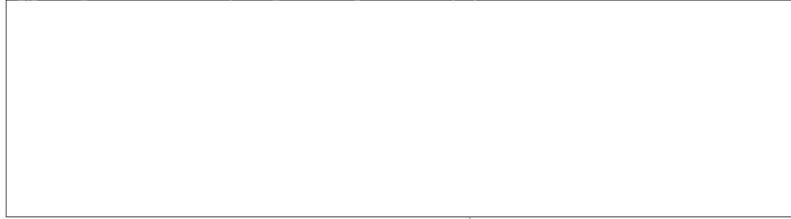
The air force is interested in an attractive Swedish offer to sell it some late model supersonic aircraft. If Peru goes through with the deal, a new generation of fighter planes will be introduced to the continent. Neighboring countries would feel under strong pressure to make equivalent purchases.

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8. Cuba

Fidel Castro's subversive efforts did not prosper in Latin America last year. This was not for lack of trying.

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