



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 March 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
30 MARCH 1967

1. Vietnam

Communist truck traffic in the Laotian panhandle continued fairly heavy throughout March. According to reports from friendly guerrilla teams, [redacted] most of this traffic is heading for Communist storage areas near the South Vietnamese border.

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2. South Vietnam

Initial interrogation of a Communist [redacted] tends to confirm other indications of an enemy summer offensive in Quang Nam, Quang Tin, and Quang Ngai provinces (see map). [redacted] one of the main objectives of the offensive is the special forces camp which guards the approach to Quang Ngai city. [redacted] enemy units are being positioned in this area.

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3. Soviet Union

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4. Soviet Union

The Soviets are adding a new element to their propaganda line against the Chinese. What they are saying is that Peking and the CIA are actually working together. The Russians have tried out this theme on occasion in the past, but only recently have they begun to use it prominently.

Among other things, Moscow says this duo collaborated in the abortive Indonesian coup of 1965 and attempted to turn the recent elections in India against the Indian Communist Party.

In Latin America the Chinese are alleged to have "closed ranks" with the CIA and other "subversive US agencies." The Soviets charge that the collaborators intend to split the Communist parties and to make Communism and the Soviet Union look bad.

5. Sino-Soviet Relations

Despite the sorry state of affairs between China and the Soviet Union, the two countries continue to maintain economic relations--albeit at rather modest levels. Moscow, for instance, still delivers some nonstrategic military equipment to China, but nothing that the Chinese are unable to manufacture themselves. We understand that total trade this year will stay at about the level of last year, which was somewhat below the 1965 figure of \$415 million.

6. Sierra Leone

Embassy Freetown says only lip service is being given to the idea of returning the government to civilians, and the army is digging in for a long stint at running the country.

7. Dominican Republic

President Balaguer's newly appointed police chief may well bring out the worst in the country's political habits. The new man is known for his strong-arm tactics and is suspected of having been one of the heavy hands in the Trujillo period.

The police chief comes to office at a time when old feuds between Trujillistas and conservatives proud of their anti-Trujillo record are being openly revived. He should find it hard working with his boss, the Minister of the Interior, who is one of the surviving members of the group that killed Trujillo.

8. Greece

The government may fall today. The issue before Parliament is a disputed amendment to a proposed electoral law.

This amendment would grant immunity from arrest to all election candidates--a step obviously intended to protect ex-premier Papandreou's son whose parliamentary immunity is currently being challenged. The embassy in Athens believes the prospects for resolving the dispute are poor.

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