



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 4 August 1967.



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DAILY BRIEF
4 AUGUST 1967

1. Soviet Union

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2. North Vietnam

Cargo deliveries by foreign flag ships dropped off in July. Only about 70,000 tons arrived compared to an average of 128,000 tons during the previous six months. This decline was reflected in most categories of cargo.

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3. Uruguay

The government is eyeball-to-eyeball with the Communist-dominated labor movement in a situation that can only add to the country's serious political and economic woes.

Egged on by the Communists, public employees are demanding a 40 percent pay raise. Amidst strikes and work stoppages, the navy took over the port of Montevideo for eight hours Wednesday and police are routing strikers from government banks. By and large, the Communists hold the initiative and the situation is likely to get worse before it gets better.

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4. Haiti.

Duvalier is suffering from another case of invasion jitters based on half-truths and rumors of exile plotting. He has reacted in character by clamping on a nation-wide curfew and putting the army on full alert.

Haitian exiles have little capability for pulling off a real invasion, but this does not keep Duvalier from seeing demons in all the shadows--including his son-in-law who is charged with plotting to overthrow the government. The son-in-law, Max Dominique, is now in Spain and we doubt he will return to face justice Haitian-style.

5. Congo

Mobutu's enthusiasm for laying hands on Tshombé is cooling rapidly. Ambassador McBride had breakfast yesterday with the General and came away with the distinct impression the Congolese president is growing weary of the whole affair which kicked up more of a fuss than he apparently anticipated.

The ambassador's concern is that the Algerians, for reasons of their own, will just dump Tshombé into Mobutu's lap.

[redacted] it appears the Algerians still have not decided what they are going to do.

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Mobutu certainly has enough in his lap without Tshombé. Trouble with rebellious mercenaries continues in the eastern Congo and there is concern that Congolese troops, who are not doing so well against the mercenaries, may take out their frustrations on whites--mostly Belgians--still in the area. The three-man US consular post at Bukavu has evacuated to Rwanda.

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6. Libya

The Libyan radio announced yesterday that the British have agreed to evacuate their Libyan bases within six months. We have not heard any details, but we knew talks were under way. We still feel, however, that the Libyan Government is not panting to get us out of Wheelus.

The British, who want to reduce their commitments in the Middle East, may be willing to go, and this in turn could provide King Idris with something of a victory to help valve off steam for foreclosure on Wheelus.

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