

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 January 1968

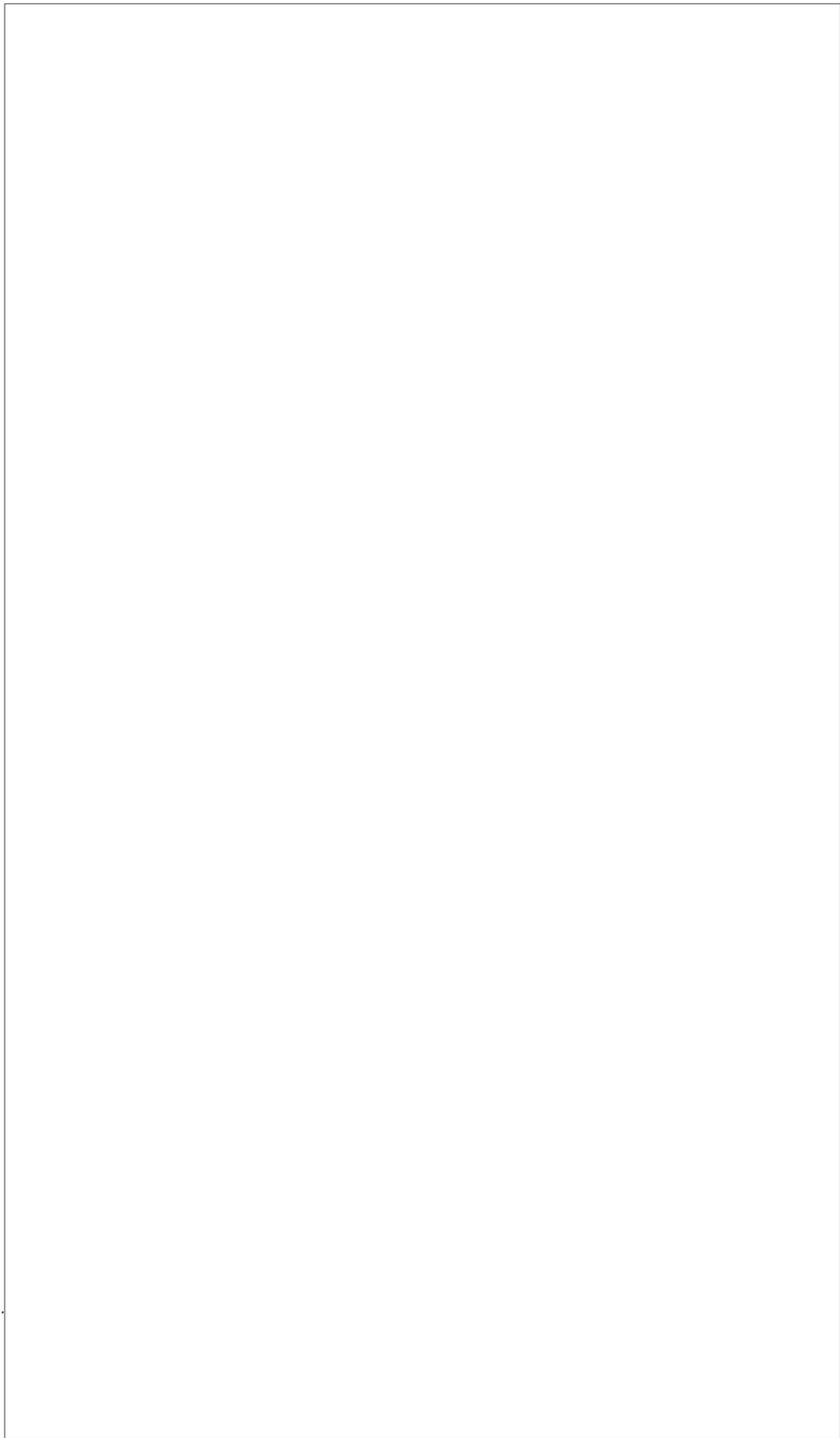


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DAILY BRIEF
10 JANUARY 1968

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1. North Vietnam



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2. Soviet Union

A retired Soviet general was hauled off to jail in Moscow yesterday in full public view, just as he had finished giving Western newsmen copies of a new petition supporting the country's beleaguered intellectuals. The incident points up the awkward dilemma that confronts Brezhnev and company as they try to cope with growing restiveness in the intellectual community. The problem is examined in today's Annex.

3. Communist China



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4. West Germany



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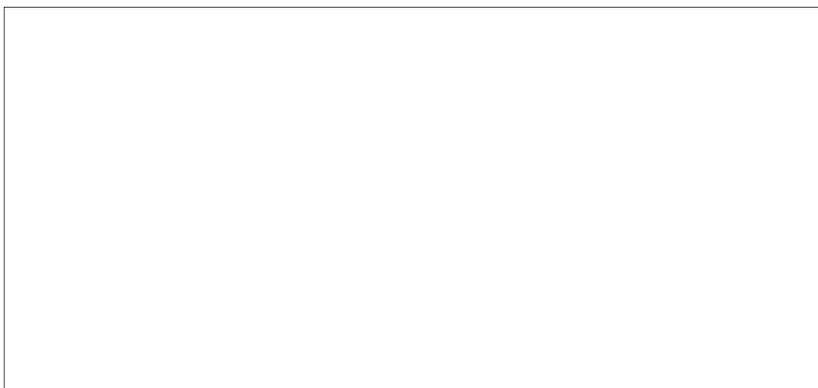
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5. Philippines

Marcos is having cabinet troubles. He has accepted the resignation of his defense under secretary after the latter's wife got implicated in a smuggling incident. There also is friction between Marcos and Vice President Lopez, who concurrently is secretary of agriculture.

Lopez submitted his resignation as agricultural secretary when Marcos gave a lesser official control of profitable forestry concessions--always a sure source of income in the Philippines. Marcos talked Lopez out of going through with his resignation, but relations between the two men remain distinctly chilly.

6. Caribbean



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7. Greece

Papadopoulos has threatened to step on a group of his erstwhile military supporters if they do not stop agitating for extreme measures. [redacted]

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[redacted] the radicals are demanding abolition of the monarchy, tougher action against Communists, and a gloves-off dictatorship. [redacted] this

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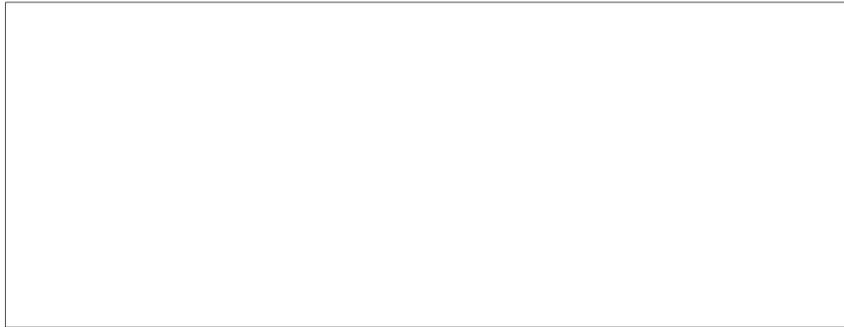
group of officers is criticizing his regime more openly now, but he [redacted] confident he could handle them when and if the time comes.

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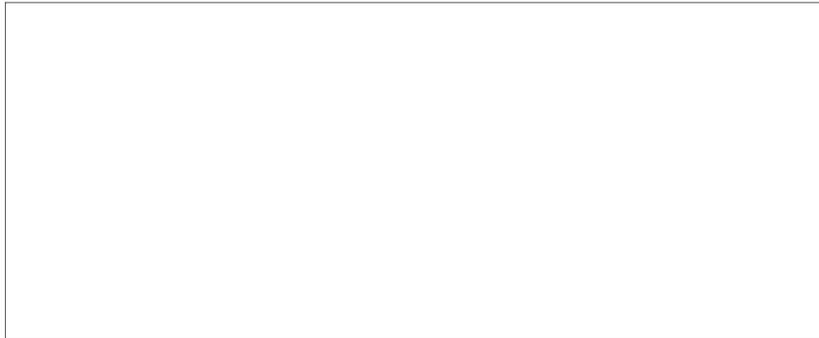


8. Yemen



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9. Poland



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ANNEX

The Dilemma Posed by the Soviet Intellectuals

Soviet leaders are getting themselves into hotter and hotter water as they pursue their drive against dissident intellectuals. The four young intellectuals who went on trial this week for "slandering the state" are no mere oddballs. Behind them is the moral backing of the overwhelming bulk of the country's top creators and thinkers in many fields. They include the Soviet Union's most able writers, historians, artists, composers, chemists, biologists, and physicists. Several are Nobel prize winners; one is known [redacted] as the father of the Soviet H bomb.

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Well over a hundred of these men have signed public petitions of protest against the efforts Soviet leaders have made in the past two years to limit freedom of expression in the country. These efforts got under way nearly two years ago with the celebrated trial of the two Soviet novelists Sinyavsky and Daniel. The current trial, and three others during the past year, stemmed directly from that trial. Expressions of support for Sinyavsky and Daniel and protests against the system that persecuted them have prompted new efforts by the regime to enforce its will. These, in turn, have sparked new protests. The problem continues spiraling upward and both sides clearly mean business.

One sign of the gravity with which the intellectuals view the issue is the open admission some of them have made that they too share responsibility for Stalin's terrorism--because they dared not protest it. These men have vowed never to be so cowed in the future. [redacted]

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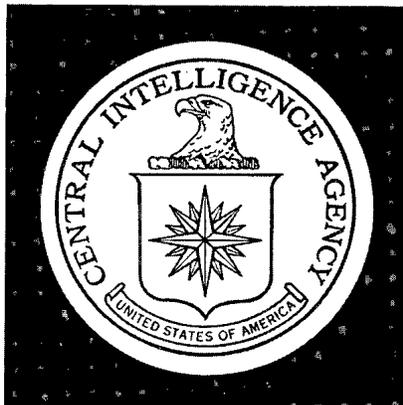
The intellectuals did taste one brief period of relative freedom during the Khrushchev days. Khrushchev was an innovator and he often used intellectual dissent as a way of bringing pressure against conservatives in the party who were dragging their

feet, resisting the changes he thought were necessary to revitalize the Soviet system. Khrushchev's successors are quite another kettle of fish in this respect. The biggest concern of today's collective leadership is to keep a united front on immediate problems. They have not tried any long-term solutions and resent anyone trying to rock the boat. To them, the dissidence in the intellectual community is a troublesome distraction.

Some Soviet intellectuals have occasionally hinted that somewhere in the upper reaches of the party are men who sympathize with, or at least understand, their aims. No one in the present party leadership, however, has yet stepped up to support them openly.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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10 January 1968

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

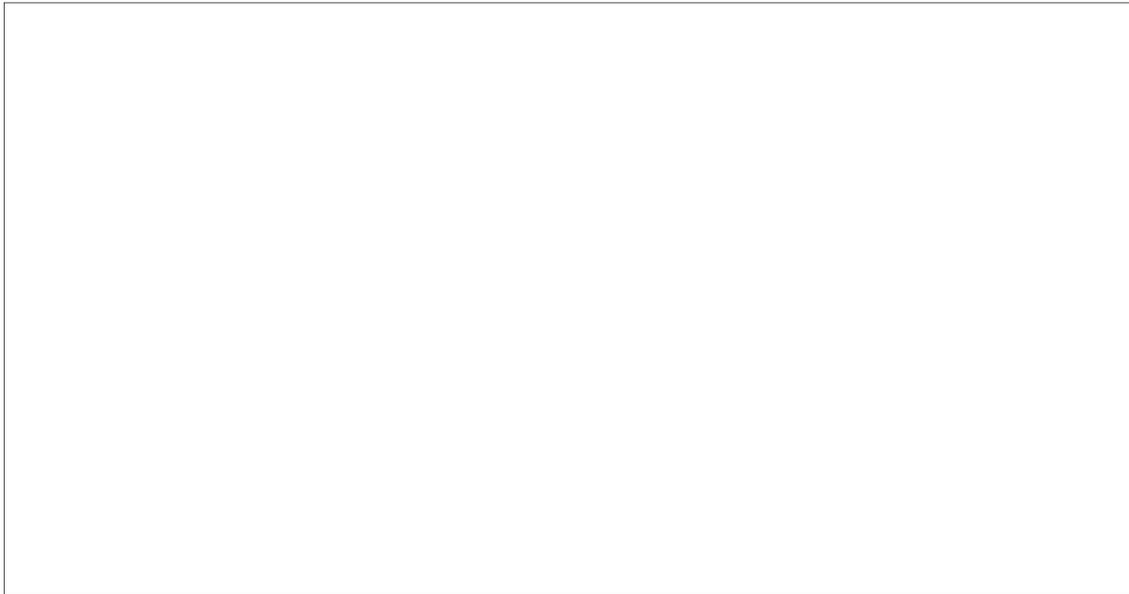
The Paul Doumer Bridge: The mid-December bombings of the Paul Doumer Bridge caused the most extensive damage yet to the crossing. Photography of 5 January confirms earlier indications that at least seven spans, or about 2,000 feet, of the mile-long bridge were dropped in the bombings of 14-22 December. Three bridge piers also were destroyed in the same air strikes. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Doumer bridge was not in use on 26 December. There are, however, as many as eight alternate crossings within six miles of the bridge.

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Conditions in Hanoi During the Holiday Truce Periods: A Western observer who travels frequently to Hanoi has reported on the situation in the North Vietnamese capital during the two recent truce periods. During the Christmas standdown, he claimed that the North Vietnamese sounded air raid warnings to support their claims of allied violations of the truce.

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North Vietnamese Trade in December: Cargo delivered to North Vietnam by all foreign flag ships in December totaled about 128,400 tons. This is equal to the high monthly average during the first half of 1967 and some 38,000 tons above the July-November average.

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

Hanoi Exploits Dr. Spock: Hanoi, in its initial comment on the charges filed against Dr. Spock and four other prominent antiwar demonstrators, has claimed that "their prosecution by the Johnson administration has aroused indignation among large numbers of American people." The statement, broadcast in English on 9 January, reported in detail Dr. Spock's remarks about the legality of the antiwar movement, and quoted other comments by antiwar leaders and by the lawyers who will defend Spock and his four associates.

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