



The President's Daily Brief

3 January 1973

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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China wishes to maintain good relations with the US, despite the bombing of North Vietnam. (Page 2)

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[Redacted] South Vietnam [Redacted] (Page 3)

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The Soviets have published an account of the charges prospective emigrants must pay to reimburse the state for their educations. (Page 4)

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USSR

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CHINA-US

There is fresh evidence that Peking's restrained reaction to US bombing of North Vietnam's heartland was due to its overriding interest in preventing damage to Sino-American relations.

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[Redacted]

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Based on [Redacted]

[Redacted] the New China News Agency and to Chinese envoys posted abroad [Redacted] avoided directly linking the bombing with Sino-American ties until Chou En-lai did so informally on 28 December. Chou's remark almost certainly was made because of heightened concern in Peking that the bombing might imperil an early settlement.

Peking has not yet reacted officially to the new limitations on US air strikes over North Vietnam or the scheduled resumption of the Paris talks. At the US Embassy in Paris yesterday, however, Chinese diplomats delivered a New Year's greeting to President Nixon signed by Mao, Chou, and Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

SOUTH VIETNAM

[redacted] the Communists are planning a new round of attacks as the Paris negotiations resume. [redacted]

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[redacted]

The Communists are not now in a position to mount an offensive anywhere near the magnitude of the spring 1972 campaign.

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[redacted]

There have been some enemy deployments in the past few weeks pointing to a possible increase in offensive operations, but we would expect to see additional troop movements before the launching of any major, countrywide effort.

The South Vietnamese are aware that the Communists would like to make some military progress in the near future and are taking steps to counter anticipated enemy action.

* * *

At a New Year's Eve reception for the diplomatic corps, President Thieu restated his objections to the proposed peace terms and blamed the Communists for blocking a settlement. Thieu is sending two emissaries--former foreign minister Tran Van Do and former ambassador to the US Bui Diem--to friendly capitals to drum up support for his position. Diem told the US Embassy that they leave this week for Washington to explain Saigon's policies, particularly to members of Congress. After their US visit, they plan to travel to Japan, Indonesia, and Canada.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

In an unusual interview distributed abroad by the Novosti press agency, a Soviet deputy minister of internal affairs has expounded on the regulations for emigration. He said that men over 60, women over 55, and invalids are fully exempt from the charges that the USSR levies on emigrants with a college education or its equivalent. He also claimed that men and women who have been employed for specified numbers of years are excused from refunding corresponding portions of their education costs. Those who have higher degrees or military postgraduate training must repay the state 50 percent of their education costs; those who took correspondence courses, 25 percent; and the poverty-stricken pay nothing.

The minister also asserted that the fees are charged without regard for the individual's nationality or destination. He admitted, however, that the rules do not apply to those departing for another Communist or a "progressive underdeveloped" country. In rebutting "bourgeois propaganda" about obstacles put in the way of Soviet Jews trying to emigrate to Israel, he made the misleading claim that 95.5 percent of the applicants in 1972 received permission to leave.

Soviet Interior Ministry officials seldom make public statements containing details of their restrictions on emigration. Release of this interview is a sop to Western opinion, and suggests that Moscow has revised its regulations in the face of Western protests. Nothing was said about restricting future emigration to those with close relatives abroad, even though a Soviet Jew claimed in late November that such a regulation had been posted.

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NOTE



planes yesterday, one of the Syrian pilots ejected after being outmaneuvered--without any shots being fired. Earlier, Israel publicly had claimed that its aircraft had downed the Syrian MIG-21 in a dogfight over Lebanese territory.

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