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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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28 November 1967

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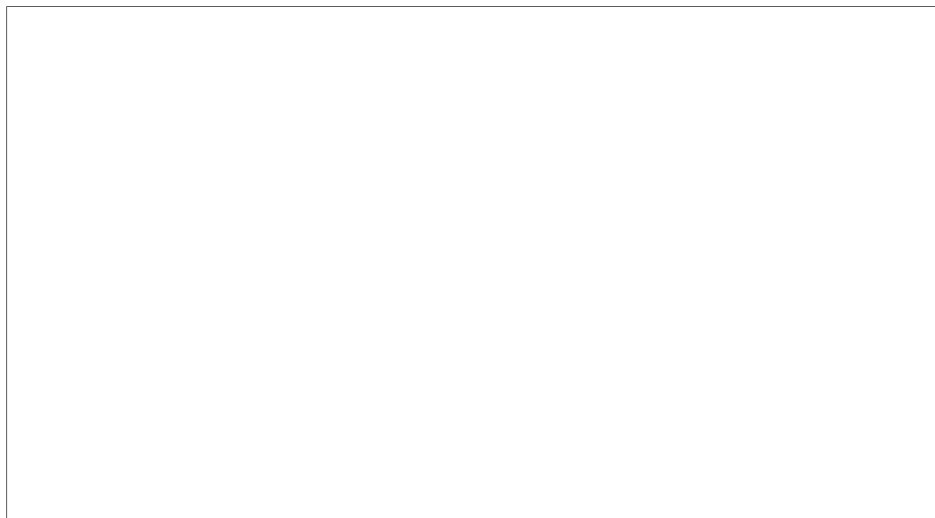
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*Cyprus: Ankara has submitted stiff counterproposals to Athens in the latest round of negotiations.

Although no details are available, NATO Secretary General Brosio states that the new Turkish conditions "will be more difficult for the Greeks to accept." In addition to these latest demands, Ankara is insisting that all Greek "illegals" leave Cyprus within 45 days.

The armed forces of both nations remain in a high state of alert. Two destroyers, two submarines, and a number of patrol craft and minelayers which had been with the "invasion force" in southern Turkish ports suddenly left Mersin this morning. The transports carrying the troops, heavy weapons and armor remained in port, however.

Despite a general lessening of tension on Cyprus, patrol activity by Greek Cypriot police and civil defense elements has increased. Both Greek and Turkish Cypriot news coverage has become less strident in tone during the past day or so. [REDACTED]

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*South Vietnam: In the area north of Con Thien,

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] suggest that new attacks are being prepared. A third unit, the 164th Artillery Regiment, is in position to provide supporting fire against Con Thien and Gio Linh.

The South Vietnamese Government's recent mobilization decree, aimed at strengthening the armed forces, has run into difficulty with the new Senate. In its session on 25 November, the Senate indicated a general displeasure that the decree had been promulgated by the government before the new legislature was invested. A majority of the senators question the constitutionality of the decree.

South Vietnamese Defense Minister Vy is reportedly dissatisfied with the caliber of Vietnamese Army officers and is considering revamping the officer selection process. Under Vy's reported plan college graduates would first be inducted as privates and then screened carefully for officer qualification before being awarded commissions. A college degree is now the prime criterion for admission to officer candidate school. [REDACTED]

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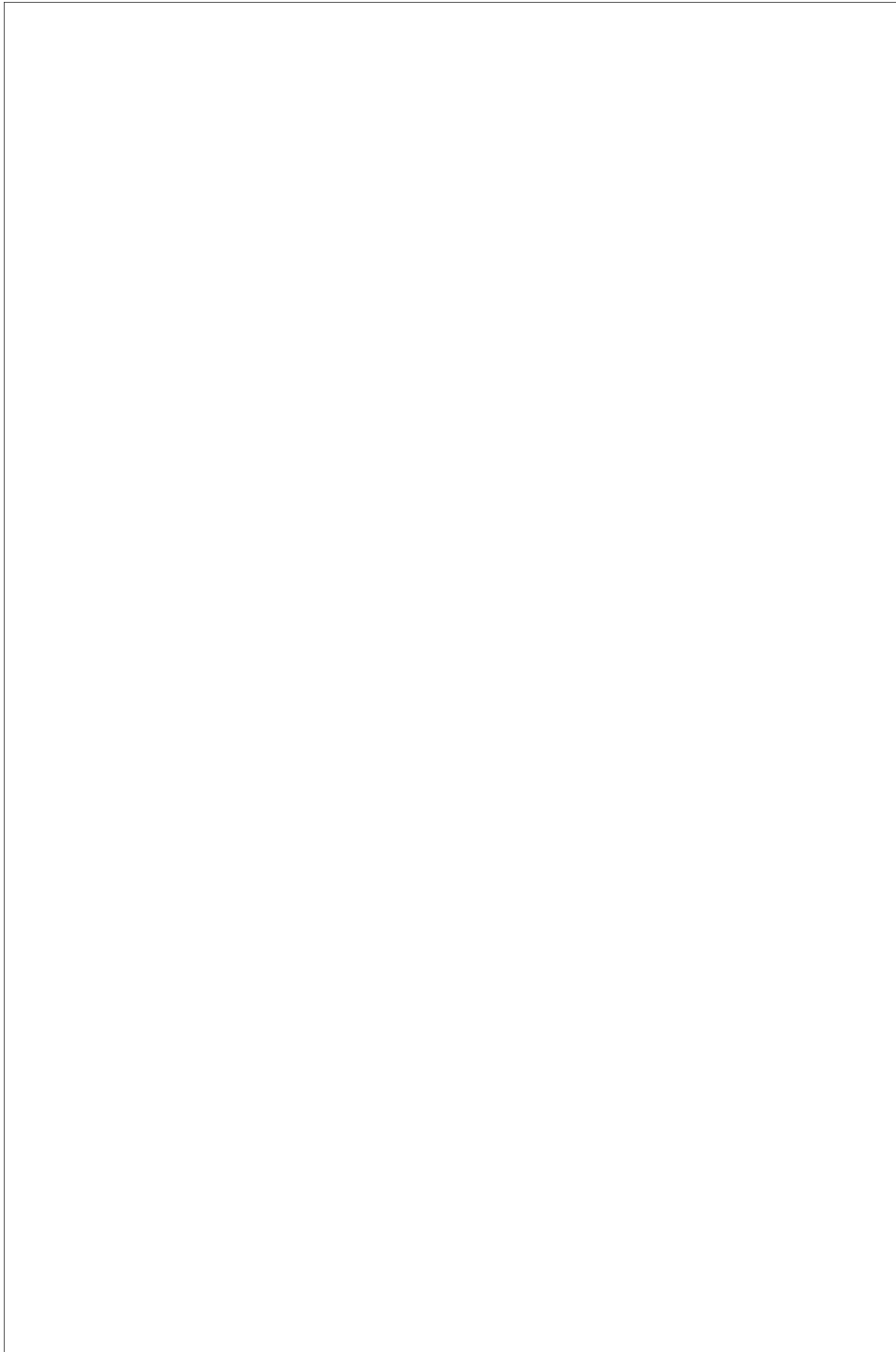
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*France: A sharper tone and more explicit terms than he has used previously characterized De Gaulle's press conference yesterday.

Aside from a fleeting prophecy of a downward trend for the dollar as a consequence of British devaluation, De Gaulle's major reference to the United States came in his treatment of the Middle East. Until Washington disengages itself "from the vile war it is conducting" in Vietnam, the big-four solution he envisages for the Middle East is impossible, he reiterated. He made clear that any settlement must include Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory and international status for Jerusalem. In return, Israel would receive access to the Suez Canal.

De Gaulle's aggressive views on French-Canadian sovereignty focussed on resistance to US domination and on the role of French Canada in assuring a global outlook for the French language. He clearly hopes to promote both aims through his espousal of an association of two Canadas similar to that recently endorsed by Quebec politician Rene Levesque. [REDACTED]

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In rejecting London's bid for early negotiations on Common Market membership, he specified that only British submission to French conditions can open the door. Until Britain radically transforms itself into "one of the pillars of a European Europe" he held out only the possibility of a free-trade association including the other Northern European countries.

De Gaulle began and ended his monologue on domestic matters. He again reminded everyone that his regime has given France political stability, and implied that the French populace should be thankful to him for the improved living standards they now enjoy. [REDACTED]

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Canada-NATO: Ottawa may be considering reductions in its NATO forces in Europe.

The government's campaign to reduce spending is requiring the Department of National Defense to cut the budget sharply. Some defense officials are said to favor deactivating a major unit, and Canada's NATO forces are viewed as a likely candidate.

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[REDACTED] senior government officials are considering a cut of about one third in Canada's forces in Europe. These now consist of 6,500 army troops and six squadrons of aircraft. As a partial alternative, Ottawa could deactivate the small NATO-committed forces stationed in Canada.

Defense Minister Cadieux told Parliament last week that he will discuss reduction of Canada's military strength at the NATO meeting in Brussels on 13 December. [REDACTED]

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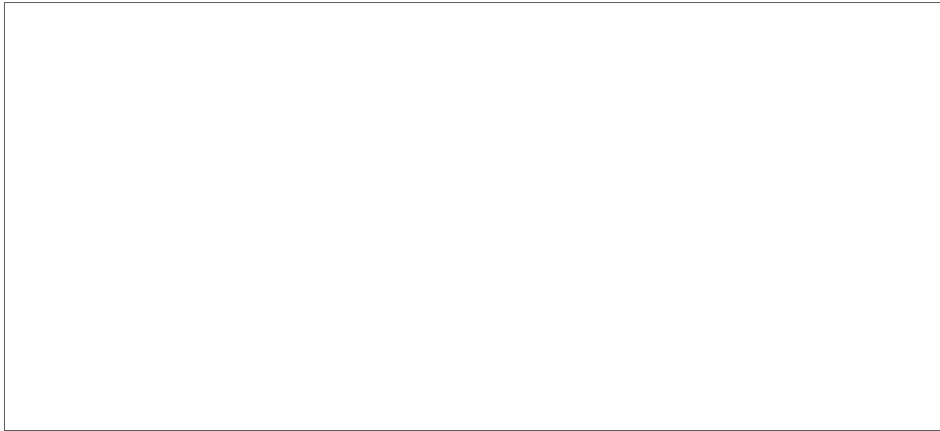
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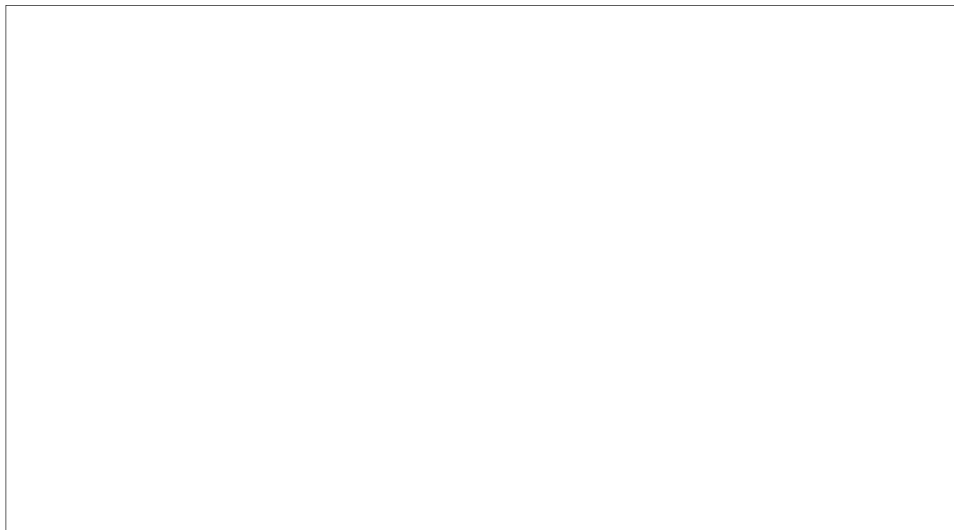
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Singapore: Singapore's interest in expanding trade opportunities has led to the establishment of diplomatic and economic ties with a number of East European countries. Last week Bulgaria became the first Communist country to open an embassy in Singapore, and the Lee government has agreed to exchange diplomatic missions with Rumania and Yugoslavia. Soviet and Polish trade missions are already functioning in Singapore. Hungary is expected to open one soon. [REDACTED]

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 24 November 1967 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 70-1-67 "Liberation Movements of Southern Africa" 3.5(c)

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