



# *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 7 March 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
7 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

Ky seems to be stepping up his behind-the-scenes campaign for the presidency.

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Saigon continues to inspire student demonstrations. Monday night's parades added Senator Fulbright to the list of "irresponsible pacifists" like De Gaulle.

The parades--which have been staged almost nightly for more than a week--are adding to the general pre-election ferment in Saigon. One result has been to set the local rumor mill humming. The US Embassy warns that we can expect some sensational--and baseless--stories out of Saigon in the coming days.

2. Soviet Union

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### 3. Egypt

Ambassador Battle was treated to a tirade by Nasir when he paid his farewell call last Saturday.

Nasir said he would not respond to US pressure and that he did not want American wheat. When Egypt was getting US wheat, Nasir said, he used to go to bed every night disturbed by the knowledge that five out of every eight loaves of his bread came from the US.

From this performance and farewell calls on all top officials the ambassador gained these impressions:

- They genuinely believe the US is supporting conservative Middle East regimes against Egypt and other "progressives."
- They refuse to see anything they have done to warrant our cutting off wheat supplies.
- They all felt obliged to rake over their well worn charges against CIA.
- They do not see why Nasir's vehement anti-US speeches should rankle Washington.
- They are concerned about the economy, but bluster that "we will make it in spite of you."
- They are letting these beliefs become practically dogmas.

#### 4. Sino-Soviet Relations

The Soviet press has picked up a Swiss writer's exposé of an intelligence ring allegedly operating out of the Chinese Communist embassy in Bern. This account, replete with names and details, charges that the ring is in cahoots with Chinese Nationalist agents and is supported by opium sales.

Ambassador Thompson comments that publication of such a story--an almost unprecedented act among Communist states--shows the Soviets have little hope for improved relations in the foreseeable future.

#### 5. Congo

Another precinct has been heard from concerning the \$20 million loan the Congolese are now publicly claiming Paris has agreed to give them. Couve de Murville has assured Ambassador Bohlen by all that is high and holy that there is no such agreement, or any shift in French policy toward the Congo.

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#### 6. India

The Sino-Soviet dispute has taken a weird turn in the Indian state of Kerala. There the new Communist-dominated coalition government includes a husband-and-wife team. But he belongs to the Moscow-oriented party, she to the Peking-leaning one--which objects to the couple living together. They may, however, visit each other.

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