

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 4 December 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
4 DECEMBER 1967

1. Cyprus

Greece and Turkey have accepted the terms of U Thant's plea for peace and offer of the UN's good offices. As of 5:00 AM EST, however, there was no official word that Cyprus had accepted [redacted]

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[redacted] Consultations to end the crisis are now expected to shift to the UN.

2. South Vietnam

Saigon officials are considering resuming diplomatic relations with Indonesia. The Indonesians have suggested the South Vietnamese open a consulate general's office in Djakarta. Some South Vietnamese want to hold out for a full embassy, but others, including Ky and Foreign Minister Do, appear willing to take what they can get.

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3. Nigeria

The federal government now will be able to buy military equipment in Britain. London previously had restricted arms sales to the Nigerians [redacted]

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The British [redacted] are now prepared to sell the Nigerians "what they want." The federal government, wasting no time, has sent a representative off with a long military shopping list.

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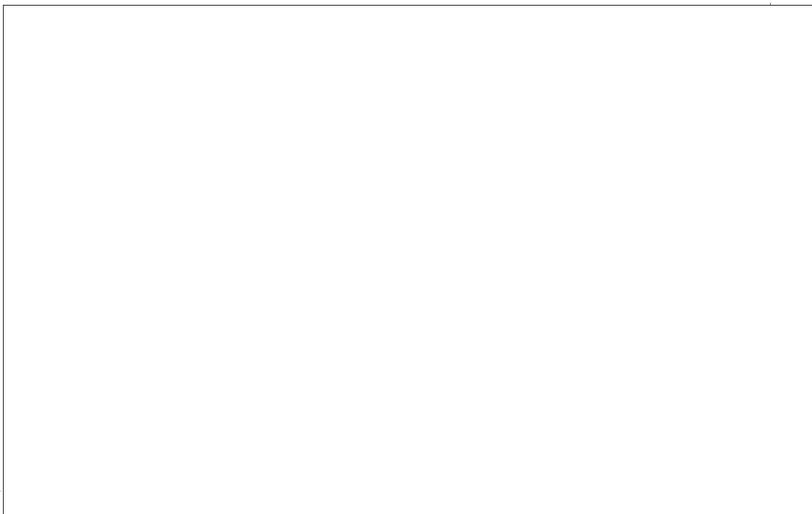
4. Congo

Most of the Katangese rebels who had fled to Rwanda have been repatriated to the Congo, where (so far) they have been treated decently. The white mercenaries, however, are still in Rwanda, where, to their immense irritation, they are being "processed" by representatives of the Organization of African Unity.

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5. Soviet Union

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6. Communist China

Clashes between rival Red Guard units continue to be reported from widely scattered parts of China. The key railroad to west China is still closed to through traffic because of Red Guard activities. Many of the Guards are again using firearms as they did during the bloody summer months. Fighting, however, is still on a smaller scale than it was then.

7. Cambodia

Sihanouk has been saying that Sino-Cambodian relations are back on the track; now he has underlined this by accepting a new offer of Chinese military aid. The Chinese have been supplying Cambodia with arms since 1964, but this latest gesture is clearly a peace offering to smooth things over after Sihanouk's anti-Chinese outbursts earlier this fall. Peking's new aid will include ammunition and an unspecified number of patrol boats and reconnaissance planes.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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4 December 1967

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Traffic Moves in Hanoi: Heavy traffic was moving on the principal rail and highway routes in the Hanoi area as of 1 December [redacted]

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[redacted] Most of the trains and trucks [redacted] appeared to be heading toward Hanoi from the direction of China and from Haiphong.

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[redacted] both the Doumer and Canal des Rapides bridges were operating at full capacity Friday night. [redacted]

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[redacted] train and truck movement on both bridges had been heavy and continual during the preceding week. At the Canal des Rapides crossing, [redacted] an alternate rail and highway bridge was still out, but a pontoon bridge to the west of the main span was carrying additional truck traffic.

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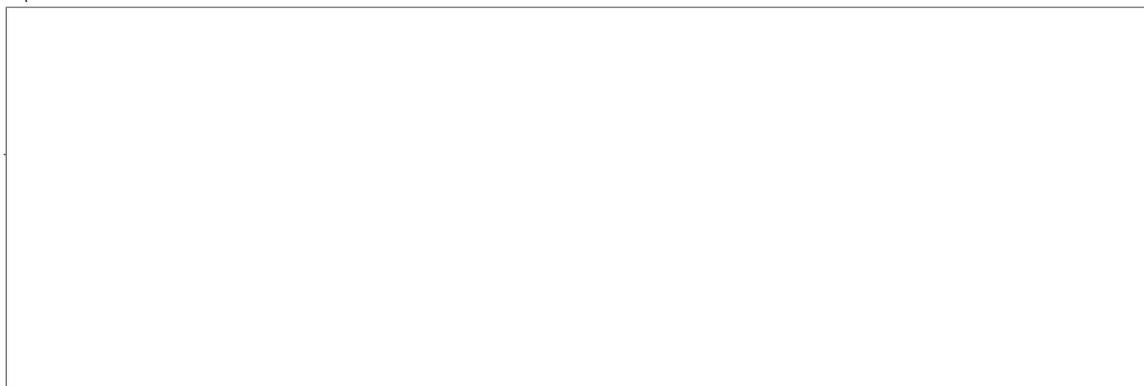
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Military truck convoys were reported moving from Haiphong to Hanoi on Route 5. Heavy traffic was also observed moving south on Route 1A and moderate truck activity was evident on Highway 3. No delays were noted. [redacted] observations suggest that Hanoi is taking advantage of the poor flying weather over North Vietnam to replenish supplies consumed during the past six weeks of heavy bombing in the capital area.

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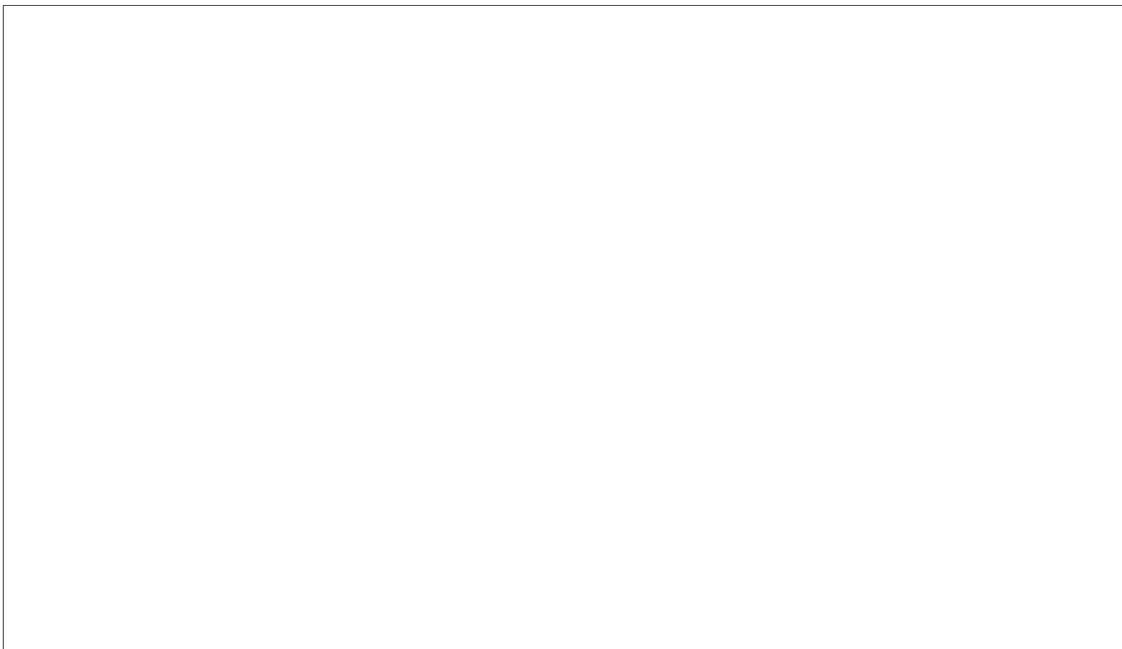
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Peking Protests Ship Incident: The Chinese Communist Foreign Ministry issued a statement Saturday protesting a 25 November US air attack on a Chinese freighter anchored at the North Vietnamese port of Hon Gai. Peking claimed the attack wounded eight Chinese crew members and seriously damaged the ship.

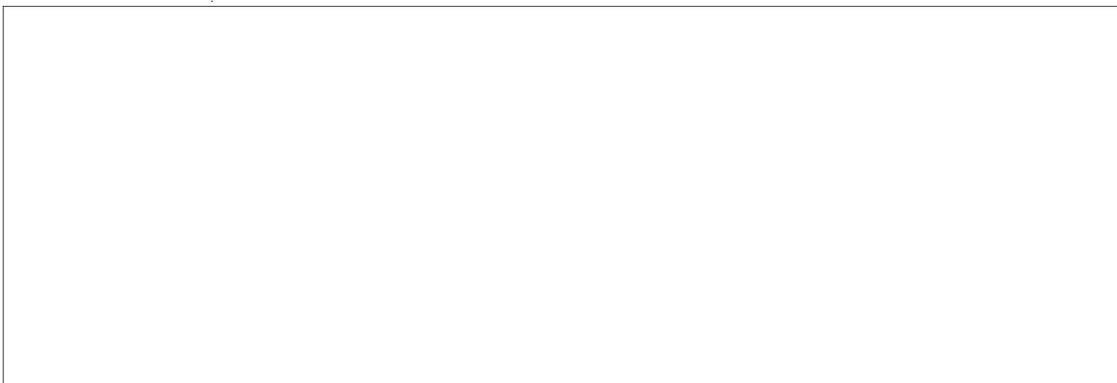
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The Chinese protest went no further than Peking's standard anti-US rhetoric and its pledges of support for the "Vietnamese people."

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

More on Secretary McNamara: The Viet Cong's Liberation Radio crowed on 30 November that "McNamara has been dismissed," and that this happened because the Communists have defeated "all the strategies and tactics of the most talented collaborator of Johnson." The commentary says that "now the war of aggression of the US imperialists is going to collapse completely." It reviews US progress in Vietnam since 1961 and says that it was "McNamara himself" who devised the strategies and tactics and guided their execution. The commentary concludes by asserting that "any talented man who dares shoulder the heavy load (McNamara) leaves behind, will surely face more bitter, stronger, and more ignominious defeats."

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