

The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 4 January 1968

3.5(c)

DAILY BRIEF 4 JANUARY 1968

1. Vietnam

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North Vietnamese took advantage of the New Year's cease-fire, as they did of the Christmas truce, to step up supply movements through the southern provinces. During the 36-hour stand-down, about 400 trucks were observed moving in the southern part of North Vietnam. This number of trucks could move up 1,200 tons of cargo.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

More on Hanoi and Negotiations: The Communist press has begun to provide publicity support for the North Vietnamese foreign minister's statement on 30 December committing Hanoi to "talks" in exchange for a bombing cessation. On 2 January, Moscow replayed the statement without commentary in both its domestic and foreign radio broadcasts. Radio Prague has also publicized it.

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The US consul general in Hong Kong notes that Foreign Minister Trinh's 30 December statement is a flat contradiction of the Chinese Communist position as expressed in an official China News Agency article of 28 December. This article, a long and virulent one, warned against the "Johnson peace talk trick," and predicted that all US "schemes to extend the war and play peace talk tricks will be completely smashed by the Vietnamese people." The consul general feels Trinh's statement represents a restating and widening of Hanoi's policy differences with Peking over "talks." The consul general surmises that this reflects a lessening of North Vietnamese confidence in the Chinese Communists' ability to deliver on their commitments or deter further escalation.



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- II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR
 - There is nothing of significance to report.

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