

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 December 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
2 DECEMBER 1967

1. Cyprus

At last word, Makarios was still stubbornly holding out against the proposals accepted by Greece and Turkey. Mr. Vance began another session with the difficult Archbishop at about 2:30 AM this morning.

2. Greece

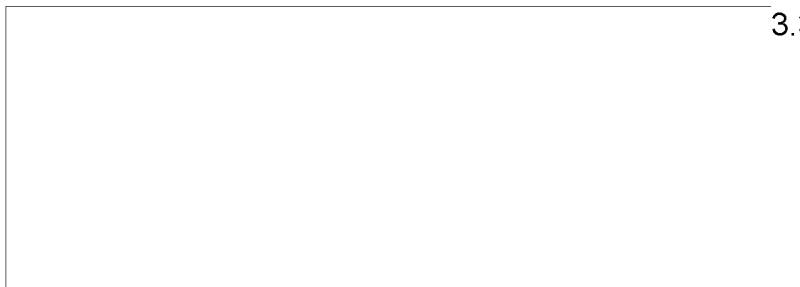
The aftermath of the Cyprus crisis may well have an unsettling effect on the domestic political scene. Many Greeks, when they become aware of the facts, will regard withdrawal of their troops from Cyprus as capitulation under Turkish threat. The junta will have a hard time explaining its actions in a way that does not damage its standing.

Disagreement is evident even within the junta itself over the handling of the crisis; there may be a call for scapegoats.

Former Prime Minister Karamanlis, still popular in conservative circles, has seized the opportunity to blast the junta publicly from his safehaven in Paris.

3. Soviet Union -
Egypt

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4. Israel - Egypt

The Israelis are continuing aggressive air patrols in the Suez area despite the loss of one of their planes yesterday. Any more shootdowns might well prompt them to strike at Egyptian antiaircraft batteries.

5. Soviet Union

Soviet propagandists took a few days to settle on an "explanation" for Secretary McNamara's job change. Now, the line is emerging that the "super-hawks" have won a victory in Washington and will henceforth exert much greater influence on Vietnam policy.

As one broadcast said, "preparations for a tougher policy in Vietnam require tougher measures by the White House, and replacement of the main figure in the Pentagon is one of them."

6. Canada

Rene Levesque has announced that he will form a political party dedicated to making Quebec a sovereign state. This gives the Quebec separatists an important shot in the arm, for they now have the popular, dynamic leader they had always lacked. Levesque, a former TV commentator and an experienced politician, is widely and favorably known in Quebec, even among those who have not favored the extremist views he is now pushing.

It was Levesque's program for Quebec, incidentally, that De Gaulle endorsed in his press conference this week.

7. West Europe

Britain's European allies are furious over De Gaulle's latest move to blackball Britain from the Common Market. This was obvious during Tuesday's meeting of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Agreement was general there that De Gaulle has raised the ante for British entry and that "something" should be done to keep him from calling the tune.

The men in Strasbourg are acutely aware, however, that the crisis De Gaulle is forcing on the Community could seriously disrupt it. The opposition to De Gaulle still lacks organization and its strength will depend on whether or not Kiesinger is willing to stand up to De Gaulle.

8. Bolivia

The government is rapidly approaching bankruptcy. Bolivia has built up a \$25 million dollar deficit so far in this fiscal year. Cash resources may well be gone by February. This predicament stems from poor management and from the drain of the war against guerrillas. A Bolivian delegation is in the US now trying to turn up help.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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

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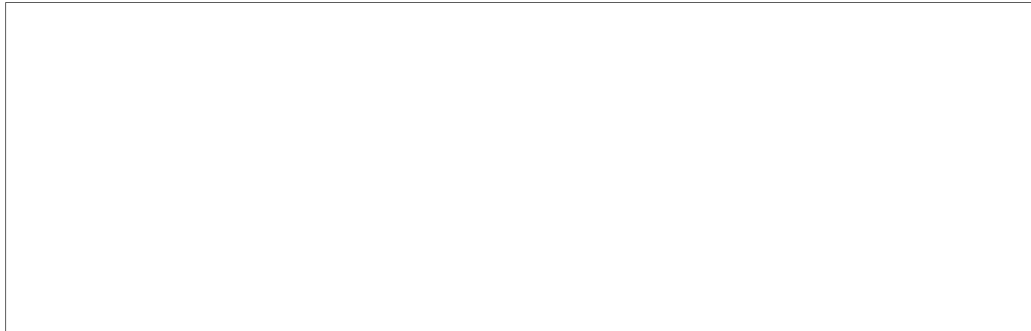
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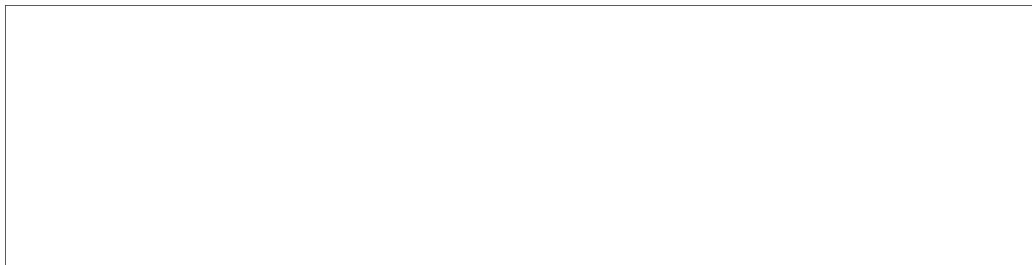
Stokely Carmichael's Publicity Agent in Sweden:
The Swedish police have informed the US Embassy in Stockholm that an American citizen--one Sherman Adams--is, among other things, Carmichael's publicity

agent in Sweden. According to the police, Adams is a "student" at Uppsala University, but does very little studying and spends most of his time employed as a "naked model." Furthermore, say the police, Adams has a poor reputation and is considered "undesirable."

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

Hanoi Comments on the American Political Scene:
A recently received article from the 9 September issue of the North Vietnamese periodical Propaganda and Training offers an unusually detailed insight into Hanoi's view of the American political scene. The article, entitled "Inside the American Ruling Groups," commences with a standard Communist interpretation of the manner in which the "monopoly capitalist groups" control American politics. It names President Johnson as a member of the "Southern States-Texas group" which is closely connected with the "Wall Street Morgan-Rockefeller bloc." Continuing in this vein, the article points out that there is no difference between the Republican and Democratic parties because both represent "the great monopoly capitalistic groups ruling the US."

The article admits that there are differences on the domestic scene between the two political bodies but goes on to underscore that on foreign policy issues the lines of the two parties resemble each other.

The most interesting section of the article concerns an interpretation of the "Hawk and Dove" factions in the US. The article claims that the hawk faction consists essentially of a number of "ultra rightists" such as "Nixon, Goldwater, Dirksen, Ford, and the Pentagon generals." In addition such "senators" as Stennis, Rivers, Zablocki, McKee, and Dodd are included in this group. The hawks, according to Hanoi, advocate stronger escalation, intensifying "the destructive war against the North (considering this one of the important methods for subduing Hanoi)," and bringing additional troops into the South. They also demand assaults against the North, oppose a halt to the bombing, will not recognize the South Vietnamese Liberation Front, and will not agree to withdraw troops.

The dove faction, according to the article, consists essentially of a "number of liberals in the leadership circles" such as Senators Mansfield, Fulbright, Robert Kennedy, Morse, Gruening, Church, and McGovern. These senators are said to oppose the "escalation activities" which could lead to a direct confrontation with China and the Soviet Union. They also advocate a suitable negotiated solution which will "maintain South Vietnam within the American circle of influence." Specifically, the article declared that the doves oppose expanding the targets to be struck in North Vietnam, oppose the mining of Haiphong, resist the landing of troops in North Vietnam, endorse de-escalation by both sides, and recognition of the Liberation Front.

In comparing the two blocs, the article concluded that the hawks are the strongest at present. They are said to dominate the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the military, appropriations, and security committees of Congress, and to control the CIA. Their stand, the article maintains, is basically the same as that of the President, Dean Rusk, and "Walter" Rostow.

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Further Hanoi Comment on McNamara: The Hanoi daily Nhan Dan claims that Secretary McNamara's "dismissal" is an "open acknowledgment of the heavy failures" of the US in Vietnam, according to a 1 December Hanoi International Service broadcast in English. Nhan Dan asserts that Secretary McNamara has been "disgraced" at a time when the Vietnam war is "most fierce" and claims that President Johnson wanted to hold McNamara fully responsible for US defeats. The article asserts, however, that the President "must bear all the responsibility" for the war and that he is "dreaming of some victories" to serve as a political asset in next year's election. The Nhan Dan article closes by predicting that further escalation will not "turn the tide" and will only lead to heavier US defeats.

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