

The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 23 November 1967



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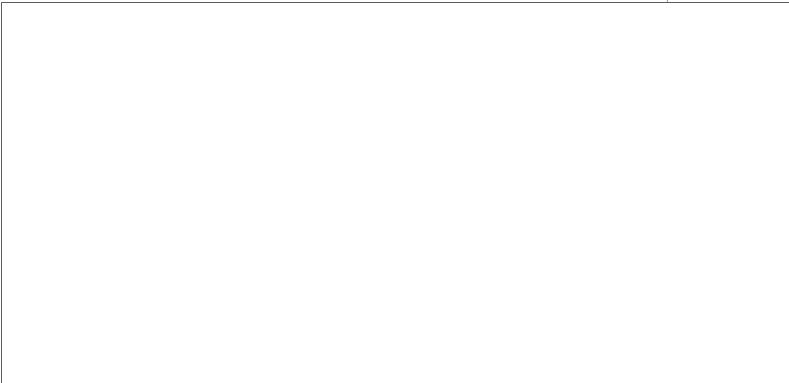
DAILY BRIEF
23 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Cyprus

The Turks have not moved and the issue is still in the political arena as of 5:00 AM EST (noon in Cyprus and 1:00 PM in Ankara).

The Turkish cabinet was in session until early this morning considering Athens' reply to the Turkish note of 17 November. "Not satisfactory" was the verdict announced in a statement after the meeting. The Turks still are insisting on withdrawal of Greek forces illegally on the island.

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2. South Vietnam

Analysis of recent communications involving the 304th North Vietnamese infantry division strongly suggests that as many as four of its regiments are moving toward South Vietnam. The deploying elements seem headed for the Laos panhandle rather than the Demilitarized Zone, which was the route for the last division which infiltrated.

3. Soviet Union

The long-awaited space shot failed shortly after lift-off yesterday. We believe this was to have been an unmanned circumlunar mission. The Soviets could try again in the next day or so, but they probably will want to wait and find out what went wrong.

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There will be another good lunar launch "window" about 20 December.

4. Nonproliferation Treaty

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5. Chile

A general strike has been called for today to protest anti-inflation measures. This will be the first general strike in four years and the government is not taking it lightly. Security forces have been put on alert.

6. India

The fall of three state governments in two days has, if anything, helped Mrs. Gandhi. The Congress Party had been out of power in all three states (Punjab, Hariana, and West Bengal) and now has a chance to get its hand back in. A Socialist-sponsored no confidence motion will be debated in Parliament today, but it has no chance of passing.

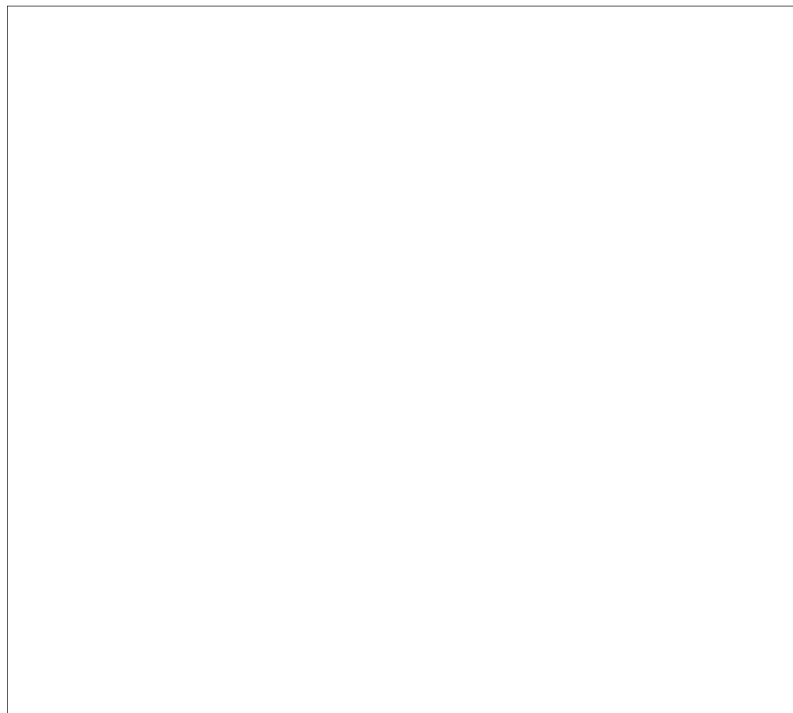
West Bengal, with Communist-inspired mobs roaming Calcutta streets, has the most potential for a nasty explosion, but the new state government seems to be moving in with determination.

7. Syria

Damascus, despite growing isolation in the Arab world, warnings from Moscow, and its own extreme military vulnerability, goes right ahead with a hard-headed rigidity that is quite likely to bring on a serious clash with Israel. The Syrians' latest moves include an open call for another round of fighting and denunciation of all resolutions put before the UN.

8. Japan

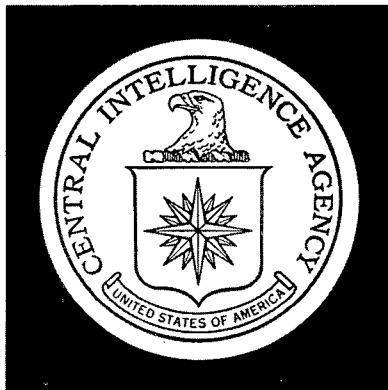
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9. Japan

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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
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Ambassadors Return to Hanoi: The North Vietnamese ambassadors to Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary, and East Germany have all returned to Hanoi in the past ten days, [redacted]

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[redacted] The simultaneous return of this many diplomats strongly suggests a conference is being held on some kind of special problem.

It seems unlikely that another general North Vietnamese policy review is under way. The last such review was held this past summer and appears to have covered the entire range of issues related to the war. We would expect Hanoi's chief diplomats in France, Moscow, and Peking to return for another gathering of that kind; so far, there is no sign they have. Moreover, the North Vietnamese ambassador to Indonesia just returned to his post after an extended stay in Hanoi following the earlier session.

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Hanoi's Propaganda in Japan: The North Vietnamese have opened a traveling exhibit in Japan. It consists of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong weapons, publications, and other items. [redacted]

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[redacted] Report on Recent Hanoi Damage: On Monday, [redacted]

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[redacted] latest report on the bombings around Hanoi. He conceded that the targets of the US strikes

were probably military airfields and factories near the capital. He nevertheless wondered whether "the bombs are also intended to break the will" of the civil population. The use of pellet bombs and the warning leaflets dropped from the air over Hanoi lead him to suspect this, he reported.

The [redacted] noted no signs of panic, however, and no evidence of a general exodus from the city.

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The [redacted] also reported several observations in Hanoi just before the recent series of raids. The Paul Doumer Bridge, hit again in late October, was being repaired by "Chinese experts," he said. He added that the span could already support foot and bicycle traffic by mid-November. The areas around the bridge and the power plant are now "absolutely deserted" in daylight hours.

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Cuban Military Delegation to Hanoi: A high-level Cuban military delegation has arrived in Hanoi at the invitation of the North Vietnamese Ministry of Defense, according to a 21 November announcement by Hanoi. The mission includes the Cuban armed forces chief of staff and probably represents another link in the growing ties between the two countries in their struggle against "Yankee imperialism." While in Hanoi, the delegation will probably inspect the North Vietnamese air defenses--particularly air defense and surface-to-air missiles--and exchange information on guerrilla warfare tactics. The Cuban representation in Hanoi has long included a number of military personnel [redacted]

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Other Travel Notes: The North Vietnamese trade union delegation which has been in Italy since 15 November received a "rousing welcome" at the headquarters of the Italian United Socialist Party on 22 November, according to a press account. Socialist Party officials reportedly reaffirmed their support for the unconditional cessation of US bombing of North Vietnam at the meeting.

Soviet Reactions: Interestingly, Soviet propaganda media have not yet taken note of the recent bomb damage to the Soviet attaché office in Hanoi. This has, however, been reported in the press elsewhere.

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Pravda Home Office Worries About its People in Hanoi: [redacted]

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[redacted] the Pravda correspondent in Hanoi and a man at the home office in Moscow. [redacted]

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[redacted] Moscow, worried about the effects of the most recent bombings, [redacted]

[redacted] "All of our people are unhurt, we were very lucky...a hole was blown in Galya's room." (Galya is evidently a Soviet female working at the Hanoi Pravda office.) "The bombardment has gone on for four days in a row...and the day before yesterday (i.e., 18 November) delayed-action fragmentation bombs rained down on our area."

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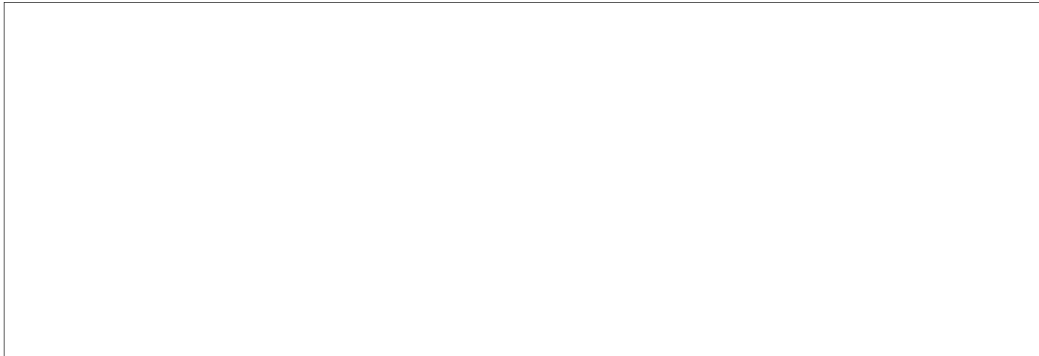
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Viet Cong Comment on the Bunker-Westmoreland Trip: The Liberation Front, in a clandestine broadcast in Vietnamese on 16 November, reported that the recent return to the US of General Westmoreland and Ambassador Bunker "clearly reflects the confusion and panic of these two US aggressors." The broadcast claims that despite their awareness of the "peril and stalemate," the US officials "dare to lie to themselves and to fool the American people by boasting enthusiastically over the situation in South Vietnam." Continuing on this theme, the broadcast recounted the numerous "victories" won by the Communists in the current "winter-spring" campaign. The broadcast asserted that in view of these serious US losses, "it is certain that Bunker and Westmoreland will ask for more reinforcements, aid, weapons, and money to expand and pursue their aggressive war in Vietnam."

Liberation Radio went on to ridicule President Johnson's recent tour of US military bases as an effort to "flatter, deceive, and incite US troops to go to South Vietnam and die shamefully," and to contrast this with Governor Wallace's call for a cut in US aid in order to force the US "satellites to send mercenaries to South Vietnam."

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