

The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 27 December 1967



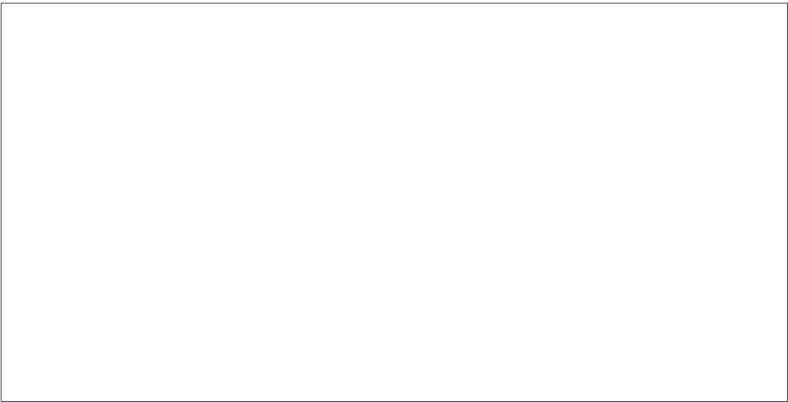
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DAILY BRIEF
27 DECEMBER 1967

1. Communist China

Civil disorder and violence are spreading. In some areas, local conditions appear to be as bad as last summer. There are an increasing number of reports that Red Guards are again using machine guns and other military weapons. The army seems to be doing little or nothing to prevent outbreaks, but intervenes only to keep the violence from spreading.

2. Communist China



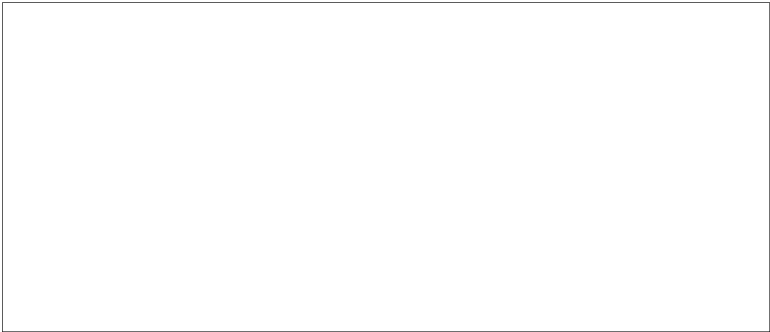
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3. Cambodia

The International Control Commission was unimpressed by its investigation of the Viet Cong camp reported by two American correspondents.



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4. Soviet Union

Recent satellite photography has given us a glimpse of the model (not for certain an exact model) of the huge space booster which the Soviets are expected to launch in the latter part of 1968. A vehicle about 320 feet tall and 50 feet in diameter--a bit shorter and fatter than Saturn V--was seen on one of the two giant launch pads under construction at Tyuratam.

The over-all size of this object, probably an engineering mock-up to check out the pads and their support facilities, is quite close to what we had estimated. The setting up of this check-out vehicle before structural portions of the launch area are completed suggests that the Soviets are wasting no time in readying these facilities.

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5. Yemen

6. Aden

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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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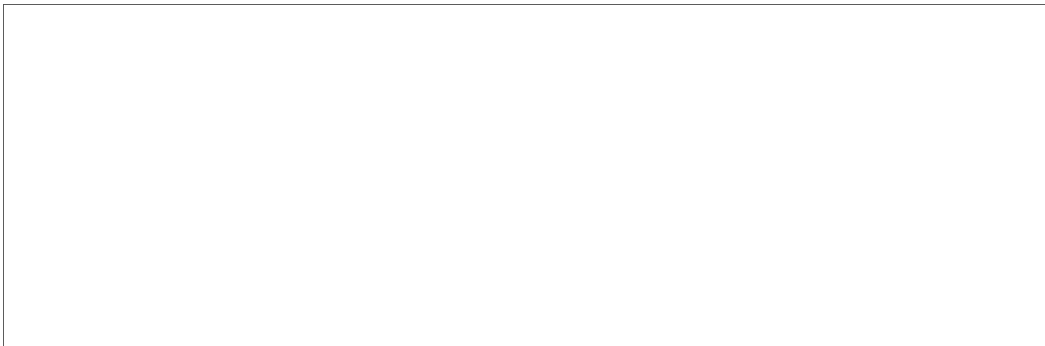
Giap Fails to Show: Preliminary news accounts of the attendance at the 23 December celebrations in Hanoi indicate that Defense Minister General Vo Nguyen Giap was not present. Army Day is an occasion which

General Giap not only normally attends, but on which he speaks, and his absence is unusual. Hanoi has not reported on Giap's activities since he was reported returning from the Soviet anniversary celebrations in mid-November.

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Hanoi Chary on Contacts Issue: The Vietnamese Communists are still maintaining a cautious silence on President Johnson's press interview comments about possible contacts between the Thieu government and the Liberation Front. On two recent occasions authoritative Hanoi and Front spokesmen have avoided specific comment on this particular subject when the occasion presented itself. Hanoi issued two propaganda attacks this past weekend in which the President's five points were condemned in general terms, and his joint statement with Thieu in Australia and his pre-Christmas travels were described as tricks and peace frauds. The issue of Thieu-Front contacts was not discussed. The same reluctance to openly discuss the issue of contacts between the Liberation Front and the Thieu government was demonstrated by a Front representative in an interview for a French newspaper.

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

Antiwar Protests Reported by Hanoi: In a 26 December English language broadcast, Hanoi noted without comment a number of antiwar activities that took

place during Christmas week in the US. A "stirring demonstration" near the UN building on 21 December was reported as well as a press conference by Harvard Professor H. Stuart Hughes on the same date, in which Hughes called for an "immediate end to the bombings of North Vietnam."

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