

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
14 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam

The major Communist threat now appears to be centered in northern South Vietnam. [redacted] 3.3(h)(2)

North Vietnamese forces are installing landlines along the Laos - South Vietnam border between the Demilitarized Zone and the A Shau valley. The system is not yet in service, but work is proceeding apace. Landlines would improve enemy communications capabilities and provide communications security for Communist units stationed in these areas.

[redacted] 3.3(h)(2)

[redacted] extensive reconnaissance, maneuvering, resupply, and battlefield preparation activity by North Vietnamese forces against allied positions stretching from Khe Sanh eastward across the Demilitarized Zone and southward to Quang Tri city. North Vietnamese artillery and infantry units operating in the central and eastern portions of the Demilitarized Zone are also being heavily resupplied.

The situation at Khe Sanh base and at Hue did not change overnight.

2. Communist China

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4. United Nations

Algeria has said it will challenge Taiwan's right to the Chinese seat in the Security Council when the Council meets today. Of the 15 Security Council members, ten voted for the seating of Peking in the last General Assembly; Canada abstained. Several supporters of Peking on the Council, however, believe the question should be decided in the Assembly.

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5. United Kingdom

Treatment of Prime Minister Wilson by the British press has improved as a result of his Washington visit. As of the middle of last week, the newspaper consensus about his trip was negative; most papers thought the timing was most inopportune.

This changed during and after the visit when the press noted that the President had devoted more time to the talks than expected and had gone out of his way to emphasize the closeness of both personal and official ties. The trip is now seen as a clear gain for Anglo-American connections.

6. Cuba

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7. West Germany

A mass anti-Vietnam rally scheduled in West Berlin next weekend will provide the first test of the Bundestag's recent statements about keeping student demonstrations in bounds. Embassy Bonn believes that this endorsement of decisive police action will assure adequate protection of US facilities, although minor damage will probably occur. The Berlin mission concurs.

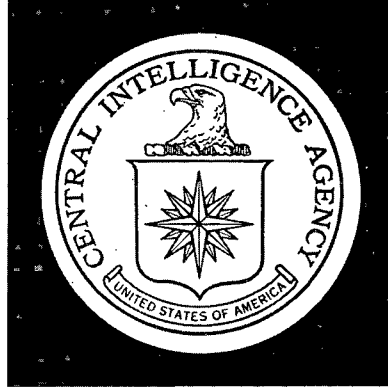
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Plays Down Tet Offensive: The North Vietnamese are continuing to describe the Communist offensive in South Vietnam as part of a longer term effort.

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An article in the North Vietnamese party daily, Nhan Dan, on 13 February also suggested that the current fighting would not be the final Communist effort. The article referred to the fighting as "the curtain raising victories" and called it an example of "relentless fighting and of firm maintenance and development of the revolutionary struggle."

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U Thant's Talks with North Vietnamese: The North Vietnamese apparently have encouraged U Thant's efforts to bring about talks on Vietnam, but they have offered him nothing new concerning their position.

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Hanoi Allows Some Non-Communist Visitors: After several months of denying visas to applicants from non-Communist countries, Hanoi is apparently once again allowing selected non-Communist individuals to enter North Vietnam.

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Hanoi Letter to General Westmoreland: Hanoi's latest English language broadcast to US servicemen in South Vietnam took the form of an open letter to General Westmoreland. The letter ridiculed "false optimism" on the part of the General and claimed that his attitude did not fit with the fact that the situation is growing worse for the Americans in South Vietnam. The broadcast pointed out that the General's "failure and that of Washington are as clear as daylight," and that the lesson he should draw from Vietnam is that "no violence can prevail over people's war."

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Yacht Phoenix Completes Mission: The Quaker yacht Phoenix reached Hong Kong on 13 February after delivering \$6,000 worth of medical goods to North Vietnamese officials at the port of Haiphong.

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

Hanoi on Senator Kennedy's Speech: North Vietnam added a bit more to its coverage of Senator Robert Kennedy's speech last week in Chicago. In a domestic broadcast on 13 February, Hanoi quoted several sentences of the speech and added that "press circles in the US" consider Kennedy's statement a "severe criticism of Johnson's policy." Hanoi has not yet referred to the speech in its international English language broadcasts nor have the North Vietnamese provided any independent comment on it.

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