

The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 17 November 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
17 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Cyprus

The situation has eased, but the truce is fragile and renewed fighting could lead to early military intervention by Turkey. About 25 people were killed in Wednesday's fighting; casualties were about evenly divided between the two sides.

The evidence at hand shows that Turkish air strikes against the positions occupied by Grivas on 15 November might have taken place as early as dawn of 16 November if the positions had not been evacuated. Turkish ground and naval forces also went into a condition of advanced readiness. Both Turk and Greek forces remain on alert.

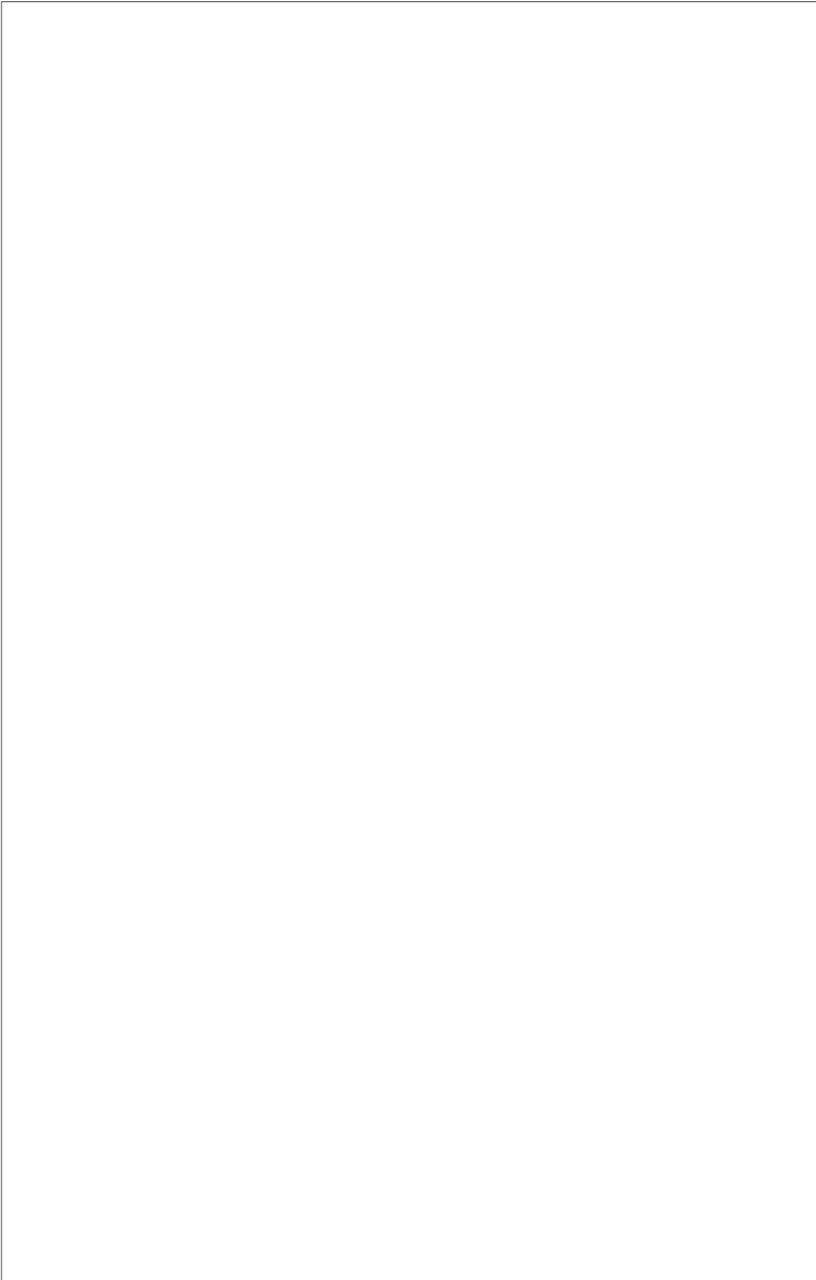
Turkish officials recognize the role US diplomats played in inducing the withdrawal, but anti-US elements are blaming Washington for the whole affair. These elements instigated street demonstrations in Istanbul and Ankara yesterday, and they will probably be able to bring off more.

2. Soviet Union

The Russians in New York are continuing to consult closely with US delegates on how to get a nonproliferation treaty through the UN. The Soviets are saying that their position on non-use of force--a topic likely to come up next week--will not draw US opposition. They have also reaffirmed their willingness to cooperate in heading off moves by non-nuclear nations to scuttle the treaty.

3. Communist China

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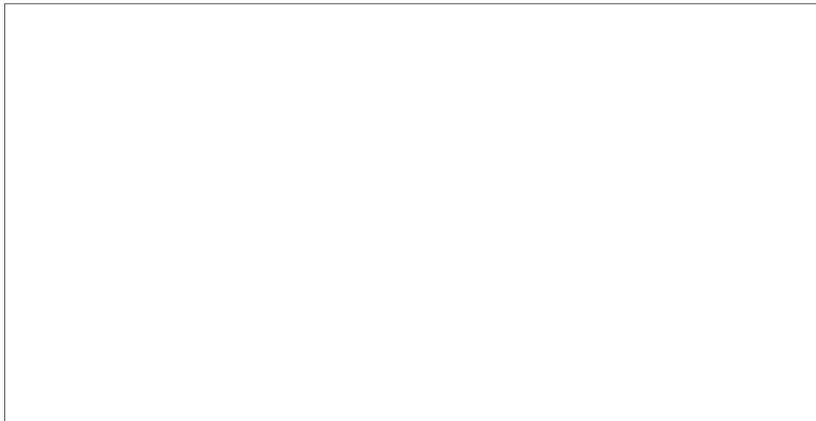


4. France

The second full-scale test of France's intermediate range ballistic missile was conducted a week ago. The French military were not happy with the results. Failure of the first test in July and other difficulties have already forced a delay in the deployment date-- from mid-1969 to 1970.

5. Soviet Union -
Yemen

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6. Carmichael

In a message published in Cuba yesterday, Stokely Carmichael called on Negroes "to create a Vietnam in the US." He also called for "black power for all-- from South Africa to Nova Scotia," and for negroes to fight in the streets of Detroit, New York, Chicago, Washington and "Pennsylvania."

Carmichael is currently in Tanzania. Yesterday he described President Nyerere as a dynamic leader, totally committed to the emancipation of his people.

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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 Reaffirms Its Position: North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong, in a recent interview with a reporter from the French periodical Le Nouvel Observateur, reaffirmed Hanoi's standard position on several of the key questions related to the war and voiced the Vietnamese Communists' determination to continue the struggle until "ultimate victory." In his remarks, carried in the 15 November issue of the magazine, the Premier insisted that the "four points" remained the basis for any settlement of the conflict, and he reiterated that Hanoi's demand for an "unconditional cessation of the bombing" means that the Vietnamese will never negotiate under the threat of bombs.

In response to a question about Ambassador Goldberg's recent remarks, he ruled out any UN action in the war, but he made no specific reference to Goldberg's suggestion that the Liberation Front might participate in a Security Council discussion of the conflict. The Premier also underscored the importance of the Liberation Front's new political program and emphasized once again that the Front is "the sole authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people."

The remainder of the Premier's remarks were devoted to defense of the Communist position on the Vietnam conflict. He conceded that the days ahead will undoubtedly be more difficult but insisted that "it does not matter, our people will pursue the war until victory, regardless of the duration or its cost."

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North Vietnamese in Italy: A North Vietnamese trade union delegation was due to arrive in Italy on 15 November for a ten-day visit as guests of a Communist-dominated trade union. The delegation includes Nguyen Cong Hoa, vice president of the North Vietnamese trade union, and several other trade union officials who have recently been in Prague and who attended the Soviet anniversary celebrations in Moscow. According to the Communist paper, L'Unita, the delegation will visit several Italian cities.

This is the first visit of a North Vietnamese delegation to Italy and is another step in Hanoi's continuing effort to establish contact in the West.



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During the past year, Hanoi has also sent trade union groups to several Scandinavian countries and at present has an industrial delegation touring France.

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Hanoi Trying to Decentralize Economy: North Vietnam is continuing its effort to decentralize its economy in order to make it less vulnerable to bombing.

the latest move in this direction has been the approval by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of a government policy granting economic and financial autonomy for the administrative committees in provinces and large cities. In line with government pronouncements over the past two years, these committees were urged to adopt a spirit of responsibility, initiative, and creativity in economic and financial matters. Such local autonomy in economic matters, if successful, would tend to increase self-sufficiency and to cut down on the transportation of goods.

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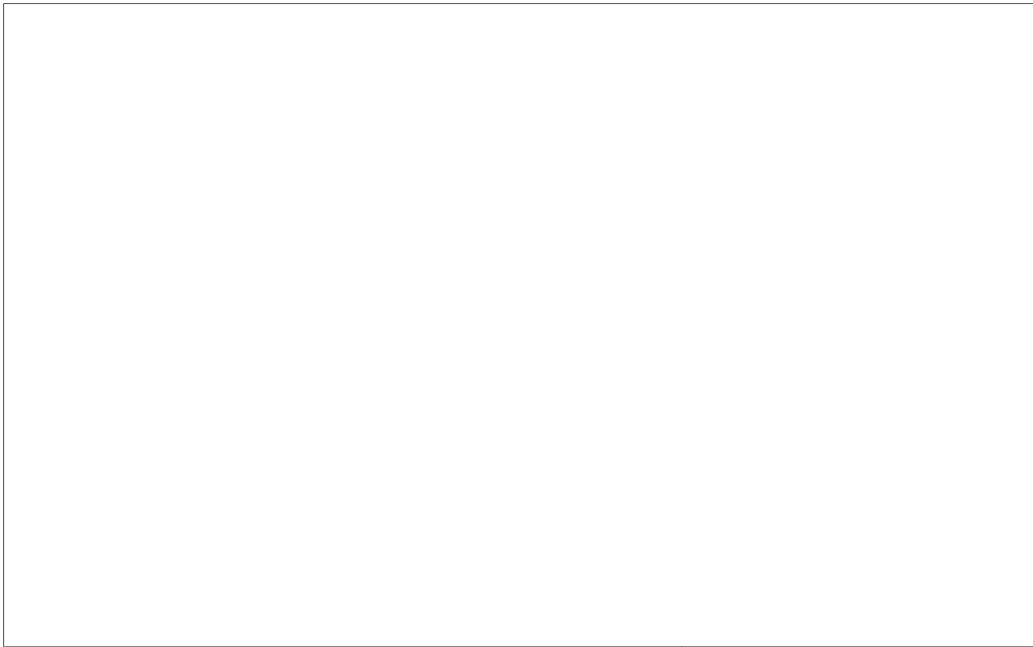
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Rations Control in North Vietnam: According to an August report from a North Vietnamese rallier, Hanoi has two rationing systems--one for the rural and one for the urban population. Agricultural workers receive a share from the harvests on the basis of work points earned during the year. They are issued additional ration books for other rationed commodities not produced in the cooperatives. The urban population is issued two ration books, one for rice and another for other rationed commodities. All livestock, except for poultry, is regarded as government property; livestock cannot be slaughtered for individual consumption but must be sold to the government for rationed distribution.

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The Striking Freighter Crew: Yesterday we reported that the crew of the British freighter Shun Tai, then in Haiphong, had gone on strike for higher pay. directing the ship to proceed to Hong Kong, where the crew will be "replaced."

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[redacted] to Visit North Vietnam: We have an intercepted 13 November message from a North Vietnamese official [redacted] [redacted] confirming arrangements for another group [redacted] to visit North Vietnam. The message states that, "the delegation is accepted" and asks that it arrange to arrive in Hanoi on 24 November.

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