



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 November 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
13 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Vietnam

The American soldiers released on Saturday by the Viet Cong are expected to arrive in the US by commercial flight this evening. Two of the men are in fair shape; the third is weak, but has already shown some improvement.

During their stopover in Lebanon, two of the soldiers--Sergeants Pitzer and Jackson--are quoted by Embassy Beirut as saying, "The sooner we get back to the Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, the better." Sergeant Pitzer said repeatedly that he wants to return to Vietnam to continue the fight.

The Viet Cong's interest in getting as much propaganda mileage as possible from the release is underlined in a recently received official Cambodian document. According to the document, the Viet Cong representative in Phnom Penh told the Cambodian foreign minister in late September that the prisoners would be released for "humanitarian reasons," but with the ultimate aim of encouraging US antiwar groups and demonstrating that the Viet Cong had always treated prisoners well.

2. Israel-Jordan

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3. Congo

The meeting of the Organization of African Unity over the weekend voted in favor of repatriating the mercenaries. It imposed stiff conditions, however, including a demand for payments to the Congo for the damages which the mercenaries have done, and for guarantees that they will not be allowed to return to Africa.

These conditions will probably be rejected by the mercenaries' home countries. A period of extensive haggling--with the mercenaries sweating it out in Rwanda--will probably ensue.

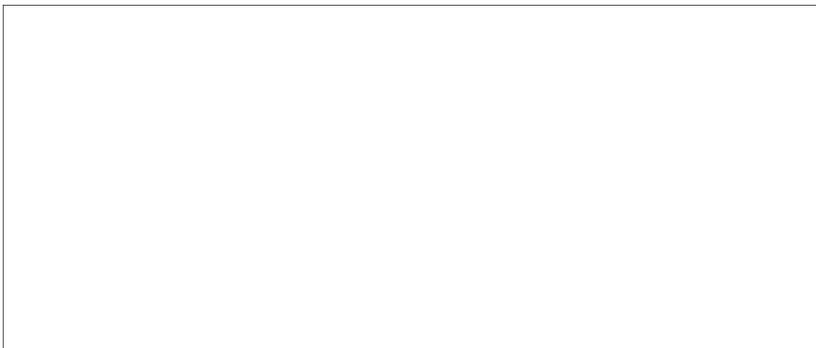
4. Greece-Turkey

The Greeks have put their air force on alert, charging that the Turks have repeatedly violated their airspace during the past week. Ankara has already rejected a Greek protest over the incidents; it maintains that the flights are for "training" purposes and that they will continue.

Turkish motives here are still not clear.

5. Egypt

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6. Indonesia

A seasonal rice shortage and resulting price spiral may well create a major political problem for the Suharto regime. Suharto effectively blunted demonstrations last week by youth groups protesting high prices and corrupt officials, but continuing political pressures seem likely.



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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

North Korean Pilots: North Korean pilots have resumed flight activity in North Vietnam after a two-week hiatus. At least 13 Korean pilots were detected [redacted] performing routine defensive patrols and practice intercepts between 8 and 10 November. All of the activity took place out of Kep airfield, which has recently been restored to use.

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The two-week lull in Korean activity may have been caused by a number of circumstances. Phuc Yen airfield, for example, was struck for the first time on 24 October and put out of commission. Kep airfield had been made unserviceable shortly before that date. Korean activity had generally been confined to these two fields. Korean pilots may also have been involved in the movement of North Vietnamese fighters to bases in southern China in recent weeks. In addition, a new contingent of Korean pilots is believed to have arrived in North Vietnam in mid-October. In the past, rotations of Korean personnel have caused short lulls in flight activity as the newcomers become acquainted with their new, and often hostile, environment.

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North Vietnamese Officials Visit Burundi: Three North Vietnamese diplomats visited Burundi from 3-9 November to explore the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations. [redacted]

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[redacted] the North Vietnamese also sought to explain Hanoi's position with regard to "US aggression" in Vietnam. Although the visit was a private one and not at the invitation of the Burundi Government, the North Vietnamese were received by Burundi's president. We have no information as to the results of the trip, but the North Vietnamese said that they were leaving "feeling very happy."

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

Viet Cong Thank Americans Who Participated in Antiwar Demonstration: A recent Hanoi broadcast in English reports that the Viet Cong's Committee for Solidarity with the American People has sent a message thanking the Americans who participated in last month's antiwar week in the US. The message asserted that the protests--especially the demonstration on 21 October at the Pentagon--"greatly impressed" the South Vietnamese people. The Viet Cong also expressed appreciation to the "thousands upon thousands of American youths" who destroyed their draft cards or "encircled the military induction centers for many days." The message closed with a prediction that Americans in "yet greater numbers" would take part in the antiwar movement.

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