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The President

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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8 FEBRUARY 1965

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MAP - SOUTH VIETNAM

DAILY BRIEF
8 FEBRUARY 1965

1. Vietnam

In Saigon, there has so far been no significant public reaction to the weekend air strikes or to the announcement that US dependents are to be withdrawn. No agreement on a new military-civilian government was reached in the Armed Forces Council meeting on Sunday. One problem seems to be that the Buddhists are reluctant to be represented unless the Catholics are.

In Hanoi, Kosygin today made another speech in which he said a situation "fraught with serious complications" is taking shape because the US has extended hostilities in Indochina. The speech, while full of denunciations of the US actions, contains no indication that the Soviets have given any further commitment to North Vietnam because of the US air strikes. Kosygin's statement on Soviet aid to Hanoi was in fact less explicitly phrased than that in his speech made the previous day before the US strikes.

The Chinese have been taking a cautious public line. Chief of Staff Lo Jui-ching issued a statement today condemning the action and asserting that the Chinese people "will not sit idly by without taking any action." According to press reports, the air strikes were given second precedence in today's Peiping papers to reports on the Chinese agricultural situation. The Chinese press has given no coverage of Kosygin's visit to Hanoi.

No significant military developments have been reported since this morning.

*See also late item
on Page 3 for first
Soviet reaction.*

2. USSR

Recent satellite photography shows that a new launch site at the Tyuratam missile rangehead may be ready for use. The missile for which this installation is intended could be the first Soviet solid-propellant ICBM.

3. Laos

The Thais have assured Premier Souvanna Phouma that they will keep the fugitive Generals Phoumi and Siho out of mischief. Souvanna, however, is not satisfied, since he suspects the Thais of having been in league with Phoumi. (Phoumi has had close connections with Thai leaders.)

Vientiane is quiet, but a number of neutralist and rightist leaders are unhappy at the victory of the rightist faction led by military strong-man General Kouprasith. Kouprasith's destruction of the rival Phoumi faction has upset the delicate balance of Vientiane politics. Also, the extent of Kouprasith's loyalty to the Souvanna government is not clear.

4. Congo

Tshombé and the Belgians have settled their financial problems, which will further enhance Tshombé's standing at home and remove an irritant from Congolese-Belgian relations.

There has been no significant change in the security picture during the last several days, and sporadic small-scale rebel activity continues widespread. After several postponements, a strong mercenary-led government column has left Stanleyville to clean up rebel concentrations near the Sudanese and Ugandan borders.

Radical African efforts to shore up the rebels continue unabated. Ugandan involvement in particular is increasing.

5. Sudan

The coup forecast in Saturday's Brief is still expected, but the political parties seem to be honoring their promises to avoid trouble during Queen Elizabeth's visit.

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6. Yemen

The Egyptians may shortly start a propaganda campaign charging that the US and Saudi Arabia are responsible for the mess in which the UAR finds itself in Yemen. Nasir's purpose would be to justify new actions he is planning in Yemen and perhaps against Aden. These include changes

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inside the Yemen.

LATE ITEM

Vietnam

Since the Vietnamese item on Page one went to press we have begun to receive the text of a Soviet Government statement issued today. This is the first really authoritative comment from Moscow. Our first hasty reading of the portions we have suggests that the USSR still intends, as had previously been expected, to supply defensive military equipment to Hanoi. There is also a hint that US-Soviet bilateral relations may be affected by the US strikes this weekend. We expect to provide a fuller analysis tomorrow.

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