

DAILY BRIEF
20 MARCH 1967

1. South Vietnam

Ambassador Bui Diem--now in Saigon-- says that approval of the draft constitution by the Armed Forces Council will be "merely a formality." [REDACTED]

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The council will probably be convened soon after the Guam Conference, with the constitution itself being promulgated early next month. The election date for president and vice president has been set for 3 September; 4 September for the upper house and 1 October for the lower house.

2. North Vietnam

Peking went out of its way in speeches and editorials over the weekend to reaffirm its support for Hanoi. The ostensible reason for this was the 17th anniversary of "Vietnam Day Against US Imperialism." The primary purpose, however, was to reinforce the North Vietnamese conviction that Hanoi will win in the long run and that negotiation would be useless. The Chinese probably see the Guam Conference as leading to a sizable US escalation, and these latest statements out of Peking are meant to stiffen Hanoi's resolve.

3. Soviet Union

A Soviet officer in Moscow has promised the US defense attaché that next summer's air parade will be "very interesting." A big show in this the 50th year since the October revolution would certainly not be surprising. The Soviets have several developmental aircraft which they might unveil, including fighters, transports, and a prototype vertical take-off and landing plane.

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