

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
1 JUNE 1968

1. France

France seems to be pulling back from civil war. The general strike is losing momentum, although the railway workers and some others say they will stay off the job. The established unions are concentrating on case-by-case negotiations with employers. In most cases they are getting deals which are better than the concessions announced last weekend. Some union leaders think the strike will be largely over by the middle of next week.

Just as De Gaulle has diverted the unions into traditional economic channels, his call for elections has gotten the politicians thinking in traditional terms again. Political leaders of all colorations are busily getting ready for the elections late this month. The old splits between the Communist and the non-Communist left have already reappeared.

The students and unorganized workers who touched off the crisis are as unhappy as ever, but they too have lost much of their momentum. A good many of the grievances which turned this into the biggest strike in French history are still present, however, and may return to haunt De Gaulle.

The French general staff is on 24-hour alert, but the generals do not think the army will be needed unless the dissidents unexpectedly start shooting.

Our embassy estimates that the strike has already knocked about two percentage points off this year's economic growth rates in France. The Bank of France has used up most of its readily available foreign exchange reserves. The bank is activating emergency arrangements with other financial institutions, including the US Federal Reserve.

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2. North Vietnam

Le Duc Tho, one of the top-ranking figures in the North Vietnamese Communist hierarchy, is scheduled to arrive in Paris on Monday to join Hanoi's delegation as a "special adviser." [redacted]

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[redacted]

Tho was with the Communist forces in South Vietnam in the 1950s, and his absence from the Hanoi public scene since late 1967 suggests that he may recently have been back in the South. He brings to Paris a reputation as an outspoken hardliner, a standing at home which probably gives him some real decision-making authority, and an expertise which will serve the delegation well when South Vietnamese questions arise.

The addition to Hanoi's delegation of a high-ranking expert on South Vietnam will doubtless not go down well with the South Vietnamese Government.

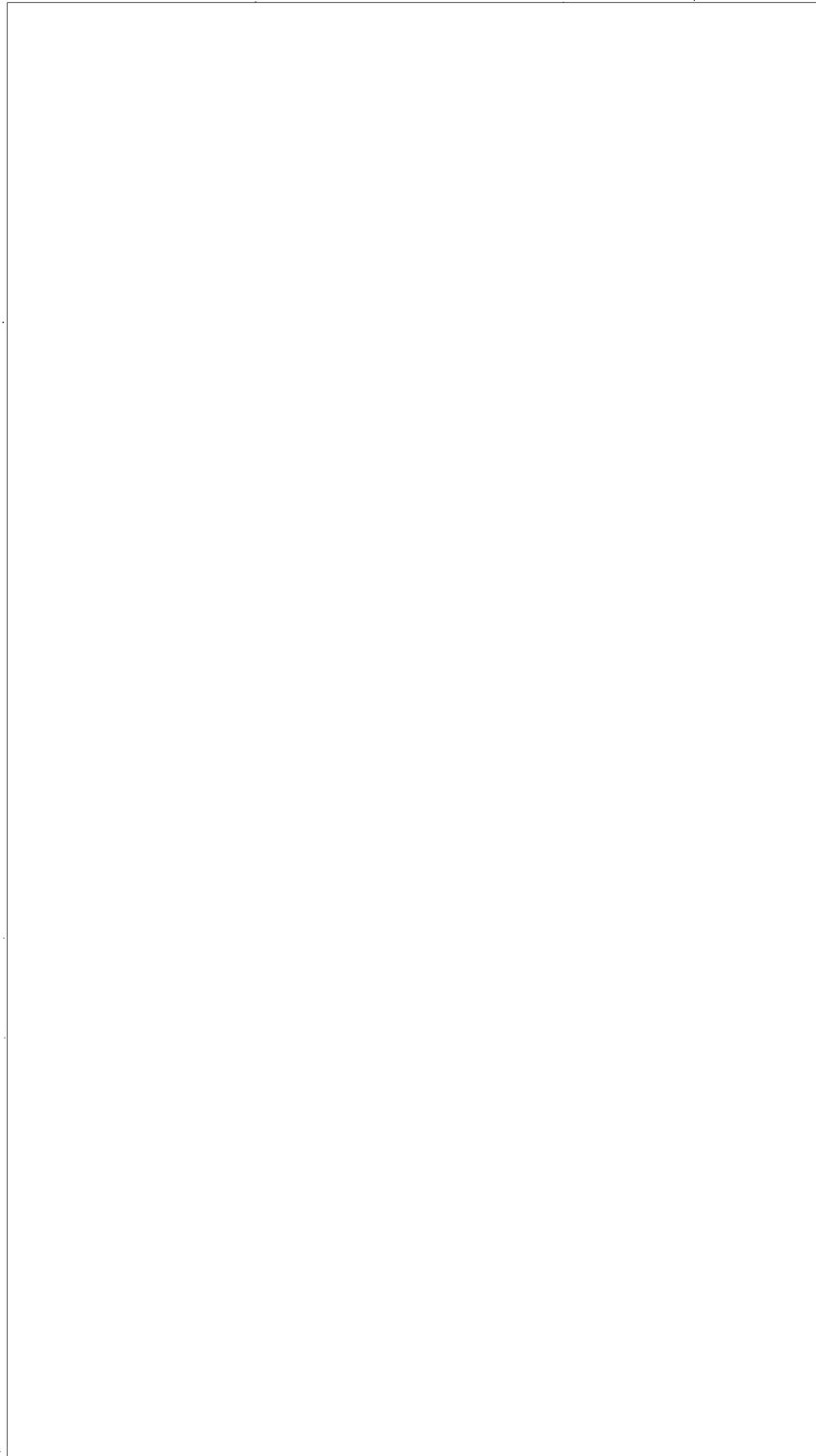
3. Ecuador

Ecuadorans go to the polls Sunday to elect a president in the first reasonably honest election in the country's history. There are three candidates--incumbent President Arosemena is not one of them--and present indications are that they will divide the vote almost evenly. Former president Velasco, an aging rabble rouser, may have a slim lead.

The campaign has been hard and sometimes bitter, but we believe the elections will come off without serious violence. The postelection period may be a different story. Defeated Ecuadoran politicos have always been loathe to abide by the verdict of the polls.

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4. France -
Middle East



5. Jordan-Israel

[redacted] there is another Israeli troop build-up in progress along the Jordanian border. The Egyptian news agency has also picked up the story.

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6. Canada - Communist China

Canada is moving toward recognition of Communist China. Canadian public opinion overwhelmingly favors such a move, and Prime Minister Trudeau has made much of the issue during the current election campaign. Concrete steps toward recognition are also an easy way for Trudeau to differentiate his policies from those of Lester Pearson.

The sticky point is Taiwan. Peking will almost certainly insist that Canada break with Taipei, but Trudeau says he will not do this. He may hope the Chinese Nationalists will solve the problem for him by breaking with Ottawa on their own.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
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1 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

1 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

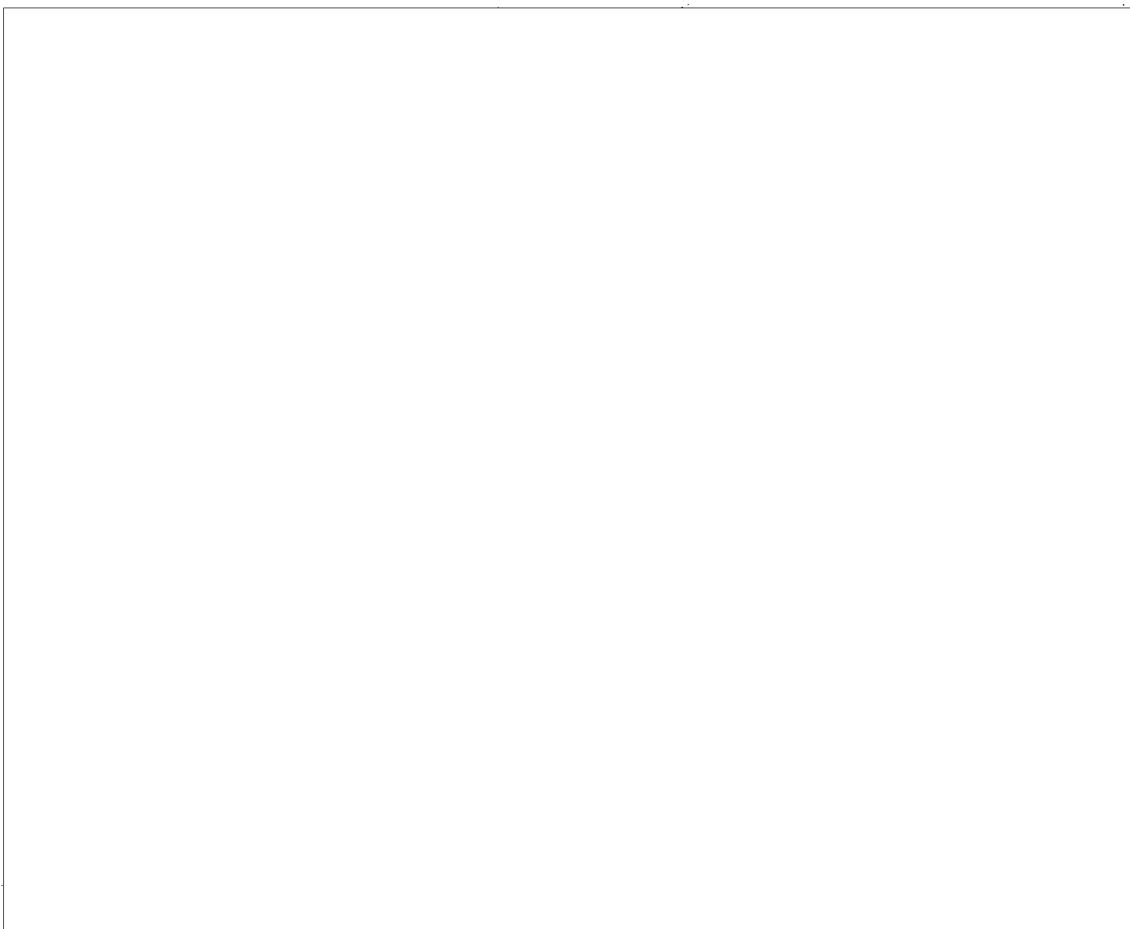
Hanoi's Foreign Minister Gives Interview: In a recent interview with a visiting Hungarian delegation broadcast over Hungarian radio on 31 May, North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh underscored Hanoi's present fight-talk strategy. He praised the Communist forces for the "successes" they have achieved since Tet and pointed out that the aim of the Vietnamese people is to "score further major military and political victories and to get nearer to ultimate victory." Trinh singled out the recent formation of the National Alliance as one of the more significant political victories in the present struggle.

On the diplomatic front, the foreign minister repeated Hanoi's contention that the US had been forced into the Paris talks and accused the US of stubbornly refusing to recognize that the primary purpose of the talks is to determine the cessation of the US bombing of North Vietnam. Trinh also derided the concept of reciprocity without actually ruling it out and sidestepped the issue of Northern forces fighting in the South by claiming that this was a sheer misrepresentation of the facts.

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Diplomat's Visit to Helsinki: Finnish officials have given the US Embassy in Helsinki an account of the recent "purely informative" visit of the North Vietnamese ambassador to Moscow. The ambassador, who arrived on 28 May and departed for Moscow yesterday, told the Finnish foreign minister that cessation of US bombing attacks and military activities against North Vietnam were the sine qua non for success of the Paris negotiations. He rejected the de-escalation concept, stating that once the bombing and other activities stopped, Hanoi would be willing to discuss any subject.

The North Vietnamese diplomat, who is said to have made a favorable personal impression, also expressed appreciation for Finland's "truly neutral position" in not recognizing the Saigon government and did not ask for Finnish recognition of Hanoi.

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Captured Pilot Comments on Paris Talks: Hanoi's English language broadcast to American servicemen in South Vietnam on 30 May contained the first alleged statement by a captured American pilot on the Paris talks. The unidentified pilot stated that he viewed the talks in France as a sign of hope and reported that he was being given material on the discussions. He also noted that he was "concerned" with the US position during the talks and observed that "Harriman speaks for the US Government and not for the majority of Americans." The pilot went on to endorse Hanoi's demand for an unconditional cessation of the bombing, stating that this position "is reasonable and justified because the US had no right to attack North Vietnam." The pilot closed with a plea for peace and for an end to this "senseless war in Vietnam."

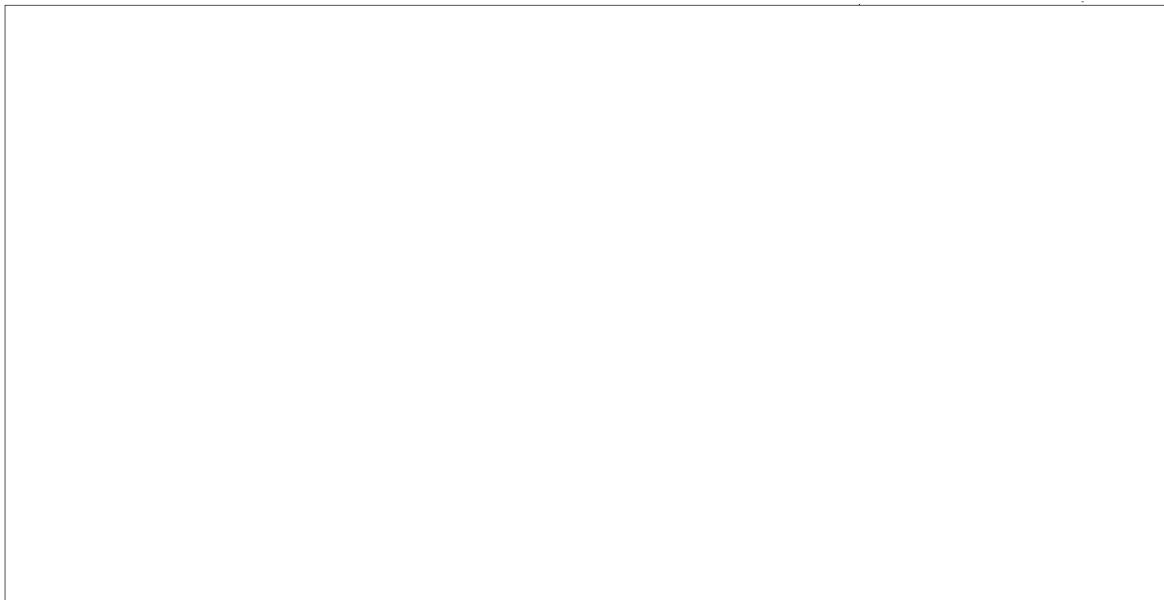
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Foreign Shipping During May: Cargo deliveries to North Vietnam by foreign flag ships in May totaled 223,000 tons, some 28,000 tons more than the previous monthly record import level set in January.

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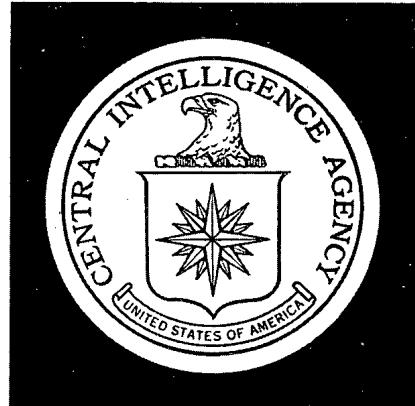
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
3 JUNE 1968

1. France

The situation continued to ease over the weekend. Militant students are still trying to generate greater interest in their campaign against the government, but non-Communist labor union leaders are optimistic about an early back-to-work movement.

The forthcoming parliamentary electoral campaign, which begins next Monday, is already diverting attention from the students and strikers.

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2. Italy

Some political leaders point to the spread to Italian cities of student violence inspired by the French crisis as good reason to maintain the government coalition of Christian Democrats and Socialists. Nonetheless, the Socialists' Central Committee has confirmed the party's decision to withdraw when Parliament convenes Wednesday.

Thus far, disturbances in Italy do not have a pronounced antigovernment flavor, and there has been little labor involvement.

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3. Czechoslovakia

All in all, Dubcek got what he wanted from the Central Committee session that ended Saturday. The most conspicuous examples of the old conservative regime were ousted from the party, and the groundwork was laid for removal of the rest. The party's intent to proceed with its liberalization program was reaffirmed, although it was pointed out that the problems facing the country would take time to resolve. The plenum set 9 September as the date for convening an extraordinary party congress which will elect a new Central Committee.

4. Jordan

King Husayn has begun to crack down on the terrorists in Jordan. The fight in Amman last week between his security forces and a new Syrian-backed group apparently has persuaded him to move against other terrorist elements as well. The question still is how vigorously he can press the campaign without pulling back troops from the cease-fire line with Israel.

**5. Soviet Union -
East Germany**

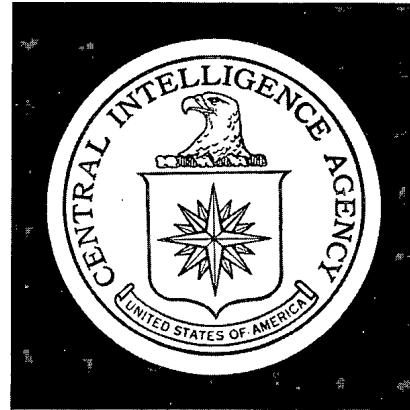
6. United Kingdom -
Common Market



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3 June 1968

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

3 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi on Bombing Halt: Hanoi has indicated that it is not demanding a de facto cessation of the bombing and other acts of war before moving on to other issues at the Paris talks. At the same time, however, the North Vietnamese are continuing to insist that the US must accept the North's terms for the cessation and are stressing that this bombing halt must be carried out rapidly.

This clarification of Hanoi's position was spelled out in an article by the authoritative writer "Commentator" in the party daily, broadcast on 1 June. In discussing the bombing question, Commentator used a new and more precise formula. He insisted that the US "must first of all clearly acknowledge its responsibility to put a definitive and unconditional end to the bombing and all other acts of war on all of North Vietnam before other problems can be discussed." Although a more precise reflection of Hanoi's position, the new formulation is consistent with the stance Hanoi has adopted on the bombing question at the Paris talks. Since the talks started, Communist spokesmen in both Paris and Hanoi have consistently argued that the bombing issue must be "determined"--implying that they mean settled or arranged but not actually implemented--and then other questions can be taken up. In the 31 May session of the talks, chief Hanoi spokesman Xuan Thuy used the "determined" formula several times, as he has on previous occasions

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Commentary on the French Situation: In a Nhan Dan article on 1 June, Hanoi modified its previously cautious approach to the French political crisis by giving a carefully worded endorsement of the "working classes' struggle" against the French administration. Hanoi charged the "monopoly capitalist class" with an attempt to maintain its privileges through "fascist" measures, but concluded with its conviction that the people would wage a "resolute struggle" to change the present policy and "lay the foundation for a bright future." In contrast to commentary from both Moscow and Peking which openly attacked De Gaulle, Hanoi, in its most substantive account of the crisis to date, refrained from mentioning the General by name.

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

There is nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 4 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
4 JUNE 1968

1. North Vietnam

Hanoi has "corrected" its English language broadcast of 1 June which had seemed to suggest a little more flexibility on the issue of a US bombing halt. The "correction," broadcast yesterday, repeated Hanoi's familiar position that the bombing issue must be "determined" before other questions can be taken up.

That formulation, however, still leaves the hint that there might be a phase after an agreement to halt bombing and before an actual cessation, and that substantive talks could take place during that time.

2. South Vietnam

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3. France

This is a day of decision. Thousands of French workers are voting on the accords hammered out over the long holiday weekend by their union leaders. In some key industries they have already turned thumbs down to generous settlement offers. It is too early to forecast a trend, but government hopes for an early, massive return-to-work movement have clearly been frustrated.

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4. Australia

Prime Minister Gorton found his US visit "immensely helpful" and reassuring, according to a member of his staff. The staffman added that Gorton now favors keeping Australian troops in Malaysia and Singapore after 1971. This is a clear shift from his thinking just before his departure for the US.

British plans for assisting Malaysia and Singapore after 1971 will presumably be clarified at next week's five-nation conference in Kuala Lumpur. Gorton will then have a better framework for working out Australia's future defense plans.

5. Japan

A militant student group is preparing for a major "mobilization" this Friday against the US Embassy and outlying consulates. This is "retaliation" for the crash of the US jet last weekend. The students involved are a particularly wild-eyed bunch with a record of violence on anti-US issues.

The Japanese police will be able to cope with them, but probably not without some bloodshed.

6. East Germany

Ulbricht apparently got what he hoped for from Moscow--reassurance of continued Soviet backing for his tough line against Czechoslovakia and West Germany. This is clearly reflected in the communique issued after last week's talks in Moscow.

The Soviets have exacted a price, however. Economic agreements worked out last month have the effect of even more closely tying the East German economy to the Soviet's.

7. Arab States -
Israel

The Israelis are preparing for trouble tomorrow, the first anniversary of the war. A general strike has been called in Israeli-occupied Jordan, and Arab terrorists may try something dramatic against Israel.

In Jordan proper, the day will be observed with a mass rally in the capital. [redacted]

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[redacted]
its security procedures will be put to a real test. In Egypt, Nasir has scheduled an anniversary speech which could touch off demonstrations.

Any violence in these or other Arab states could quickly take on anti-US manifestations.

8. Yugoslavia

The government has adopted a fairly conciliatory attitude as it faces the unfamiliar experience of bloody student rioting in the capital. Student demands have so far been concerned mainly with their own affairs at the University, and Tito is anxious to keep it that way.

9. Cuba

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10. Chile

[redacted]
Strains are growing inside the powerful Communist-Socialist political alliance. The problem: mounting irritation among the more pragmatic Communists over the reckless extremism of their Socialist allies.

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11. Panama

It is not all over yet. [redacted]

[redacted] Arnulfo Arias' people have gotten wind that the Supreme Court intends to issue a ruling on Wednesday invalidating Arias' victory. [redacted]

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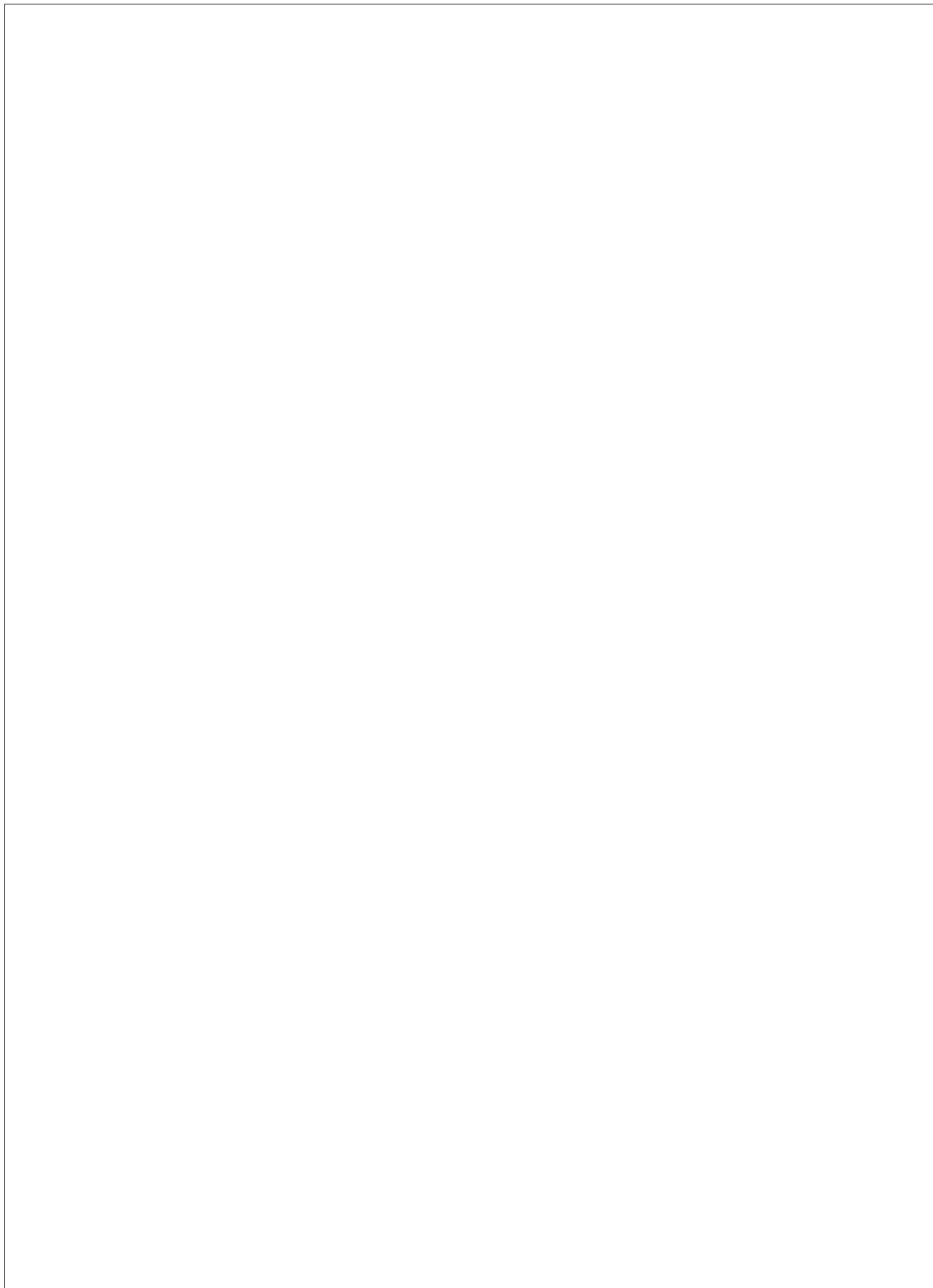
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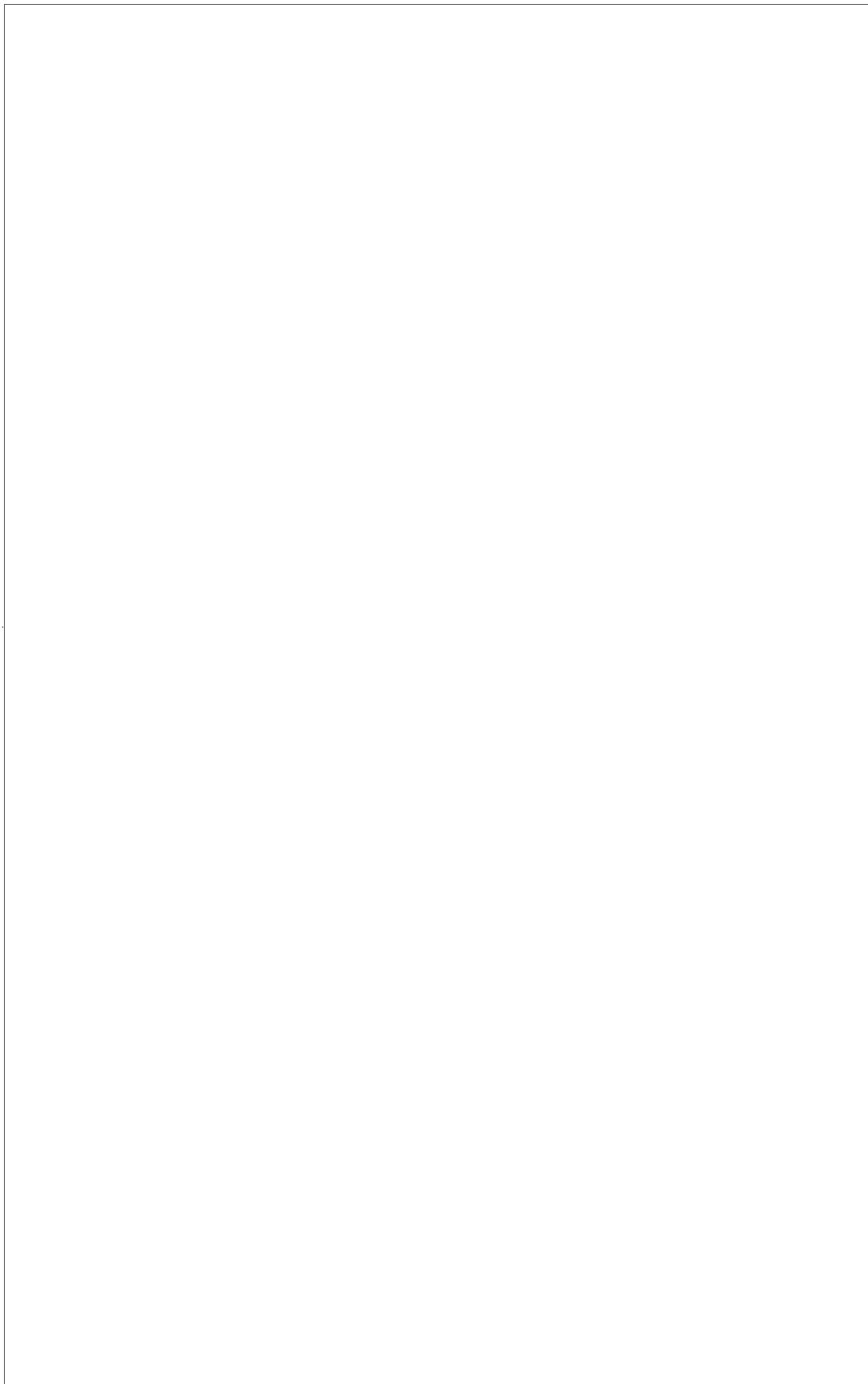
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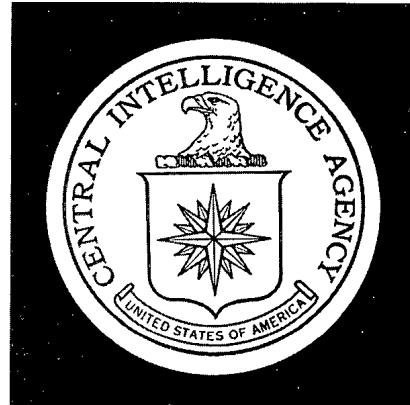
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4 June 1968

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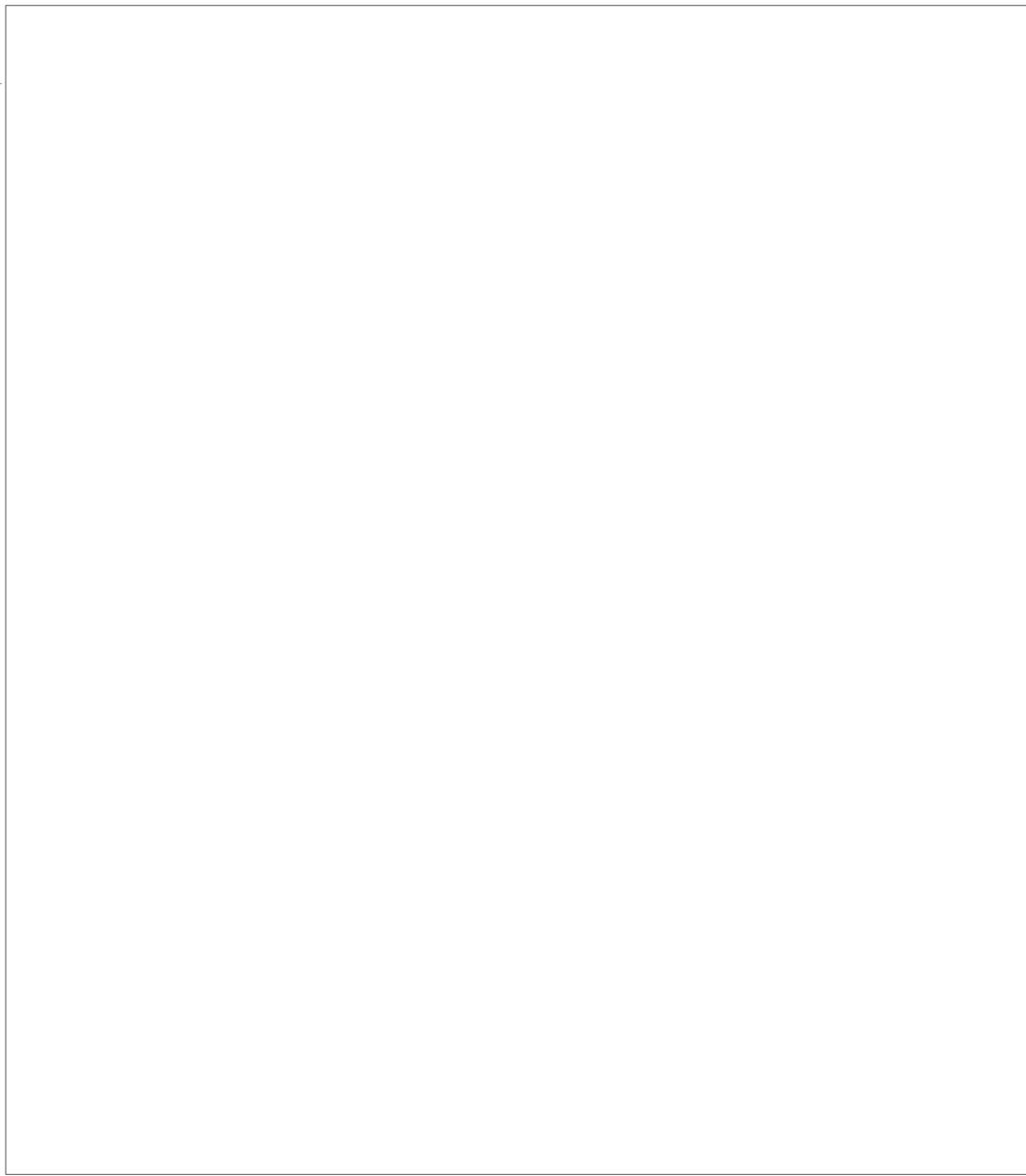
4 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Front Thanks Chou for Weapons: The president of the presidium of the Liberation Front's Central Committee recently sent a message to Chou En-lai, thanking him for some weapons the Chinese had presented to a visiting Vietnamese "art ensemble." The letter, as broadcast in English over Hanoi's international service on 2 June, took the occasion to reiterate the Front's standard militant line on the war and to praise Chinese solidarity.

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The letter doubtless was designed to serve both as a reminder to US negotiators of the Front's own hard line on the war, and as a gesture toward the even more hawkish regime in Peking. In general, Sino-Vietnamese relations remain as touchy as ever.

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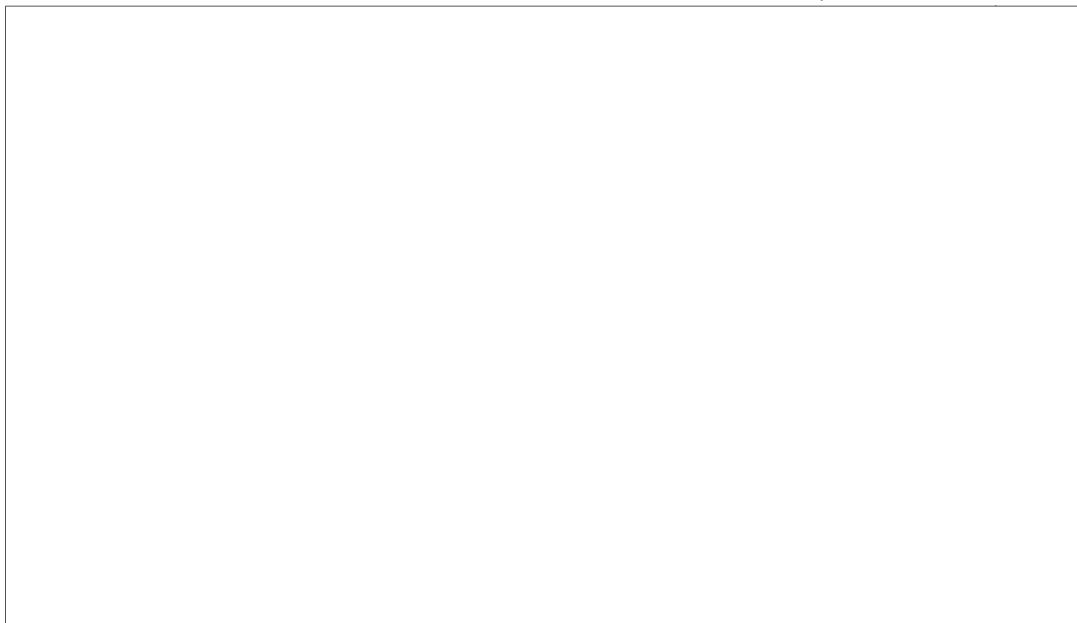
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

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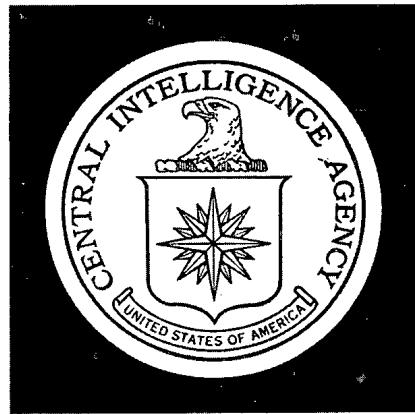


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Protest of Spock Trial: The Liberation Front's Committee for Solidarity with the American People has issued a statement protesting the trial of Dr. Spock and four other opponents of the war. According to the statement, which Hanoi quoted in its international service in English on 3 June, the defendants "are not guilty of any crime. On the contrary, they are genuine patriots who are defending the honor of the United States...." It termed the trial a "vile act" aimed at halting the growing popular opposition to the war.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 5 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
5 JUNE 1968

1. France

The back-to-work movement is proceeding slowly indeed. Among others, public transport, postal, and radio-television workers are still on strike, and the automobile, steel, and chemical industries are still shut down.

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2. South Vietnam

Thieu has turned down the Assembly's general mobilization bill and asked for some amendments to make it more palatable to the military. Among the "suggested" amendments are expansion of the draft age and elimination of veterans' exemptions.

Thieu has threatened to promulgate his own mobilization decree if the defense committees of both houses do not accept the changes.

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If Thieu carries out his threat, he will severely strain relations with the lower house, which drafted the present limited bill. Indeed, he may even alienate the upper house, which had been more willing to grant Thieu broad powers in the mobilization law.

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3. South Vietnam

General Khang, the commander of III Corps, recently unburdened himself of complaints about Thieu, Premier Huong, and democratic institutions in general in a talk with Ambassador Berger. Khang is close to Ky, and his discontent almost certainly reinforces the vice president's own unhappiness.

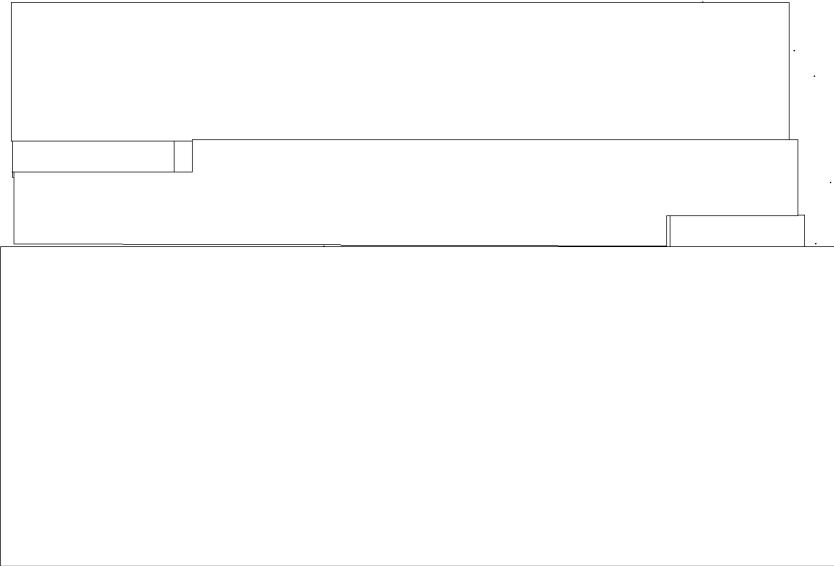
Ky himself was in a black mood when Berger and General Abrams called to express their regrets over Sunday's accident. In his despondency he even talked of resigning, but Berger doubts that he will convert his talk into action.

4. Israel-Jordan

Yesterday's heavy exchange of fire along the border seems to have been triggered by nervousness on both sides on the eve of the first anniversary of the outbreak of war. The exchange started with small-arms fire but escalated quickly, with the Israelis finally sending aircraft to bomb Jordanian positions. The shooting died down again at dusk. Both sides have complained to the Security Council.

Demonstrations commemorating the outbreak of the war are still scheduled in Jordan today.

5. Soviet Union



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6. Czechoslovakia

In a speech to 6,000 party activists on Monday, Dubcek attacked Novotny and the conservatives with unprecedented vehemence. While he admitted that some anti-Communists were trying to establish themselves politically, he indicated he was sure he could control them. He also made only a nominal effort to hide Czechoslovakia's disagreement with the Soviets on some points of Marxist dogma.

The speech was part of a country-wide campaign to sell the government's liberal "action program" and undermine the conservatives. His remarks have a self-confident ring, leaving the impression that he no longer expects the Soviets to line up behind the conservatives.

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The first Soviet contingents--small ones, according to the Czech press--have entered Czechoslovakia for this month's Warsaw Pact exercise.

7. Ecuador

The outcome in the presidential election in Ecuador was no surprise. The aging demagogue, Jose Maria Velasco, came out on top in the three-way contest, but he received only a little over a third of the total vote.

Velasco's opponents are likely to have a majority in the legislature, and it seems likely that they will try to find some way to remove him. As Velasco himself said after the election, "The only thing Ecuadoreans can ever unite upon is in opposition to whatever government is in power."

8. Suez Canal

It has been a year now since the Suez Canal was closed, and we think it will stay closed for quite some time. The economic impact of this closure has been noticeably smaller than it was in 1956. Supertankers, for instance, can now carry Middle Eastern oil around the Cape of Good Hope for not much more than it used to cost to use the canal.

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The only countries which are really suffering are those in South Asia and the Far East. Freight rates between Western Europe and Communist China have gone up as much as 50 percent since the canal was closed. US grain shipments to India and Pakistan have been similarly affected.

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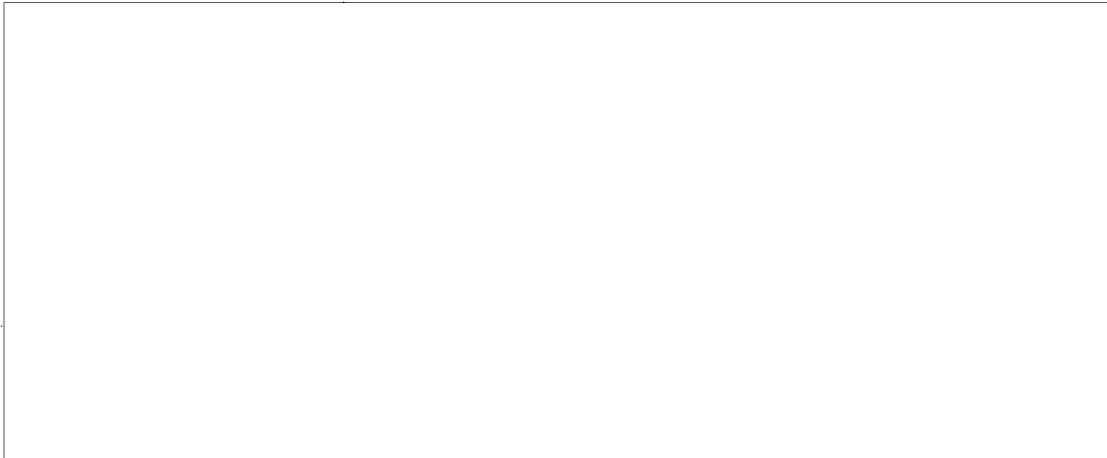
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Giap Talks Tough: Nothing particularly new or startling emerged from an interview with Vo Nguyen Giap published yesterday in the French Communist Party journal, Humanité. As North Vietnam's senior soldier, Giap takes a hard position for publication, and the Humanité interview was no exception. The General restated Hanoi's determination to keep fighting until its objectives are met. He remarked that the North Vietnamese question the good will of the US, stating the only peace that will be acceptable will be a peace with complete independence, free from "American interference."

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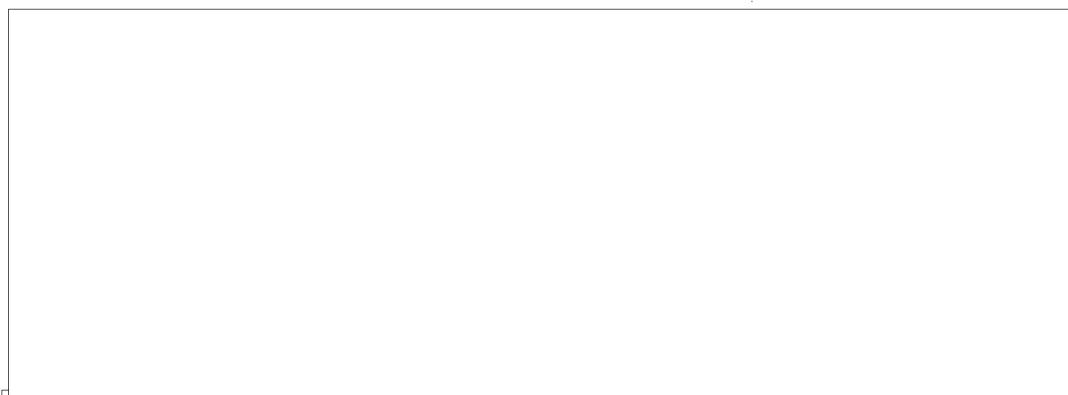
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Kennedy Letter: The Czech news service is publicizing what it claims are excerpts from a letter written by Robert Kennedy. As quoted by the Czechs, Kennedy stated the US "must unconditionally stop the war in Vietnam" and reach agreement with the Liberation Front as well as with Hanoi.

The Czechs claim the letter was in answer to some questions posed by a Czech newspaper and have told the US Embassy it was published in the paper Monday night. The embassy, however, has not been able to find the letter in print.

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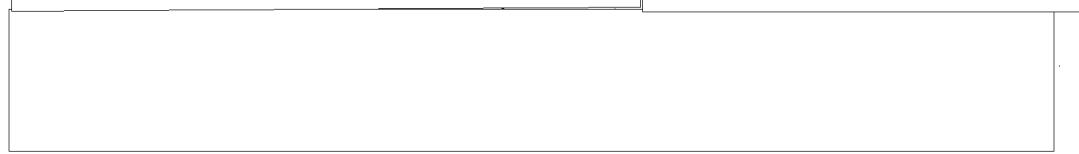
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THE PRESIDENT'S
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6 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam

[redacted] 50X1
the police seem to be operating effectively despite the loss of top personnel on Sunday.

Major Nguyen Mau, the new Saigon police chief, is a capable officer. He still has to prove himself to his men, but he is moving vigorously and he is giving close personal direction in the field, particularly in Cholon.

Police morale is good [redacted]

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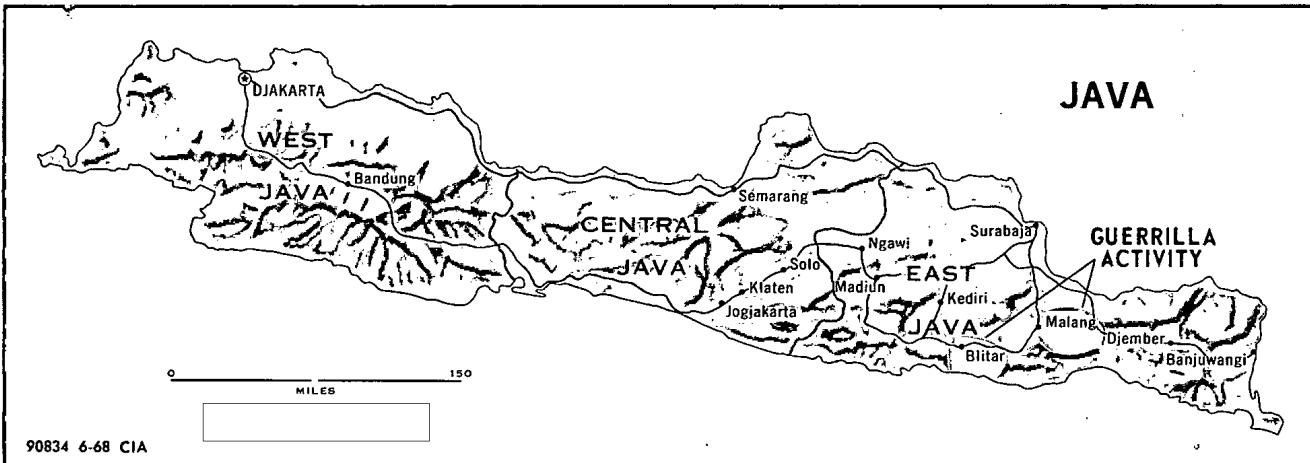
2. France

Postal and transport workers are expected to return to work today, but other key sectors of industry and commerce remain strikebound.

Looking forward to the elections, the French Communists expect to outpoll the Federation of the Left and become the undisputed leaders of France's left-wing opposition. The Communists, however, face dissension in their party and privately concede that it probably will be De Gaulle who emerges with the final victory.

3. Iran -
Saudi Arabia

The Shah and Faysal met briefly in Jidda on Monday. The meeting was cordial. Each ruler presented his case on territorial disputes and the median line question--who gets what oil in the Persian Gulf. Although no solid agreements were reached, this meeting may help stabilize Gulf problems until the two men meet again later this year.



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4. Indonesia

Communist guerrilla activity in East Java is of growing concern to Suharto.

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East Java is a traditional Communist redoubt. The people are poor, the government unpopular, and the rugged, jungle-clad hills ideal for guerrillas.

guerrillas are beginning to make their presence felt, raiding small outposts and assassinating village officials.

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5. West Germany - Soviet Union

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6. South Korea

Pak's ability to control factionalism within his own party will be tested in the months ahead. Last week Kim Chong-pil [redacted] suddenly resigned as the party's chairman. Kim [redacted] thinks Pak intends to run for a third term in 1971 and Kim wants to run himself. Kim has a substantial following in the party and could be a problem unless Pak finds a face-saving path to reconciliation.

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7. Yugoslavia

The student unrest which began earlier this week in Belgrade is spreading to other cities. It also is developing antiregime overtones. Tuesday night demonstrations broke out in Sarajevo.

Defiant students still hold some university buildings in Belgrade; there are demands that government officials be dismissed. One student was seen carrying a placard with the slogan, "Down with the Red Bourgeoisie!" (presumably well-off Communist bureaucrats).

The government is moving cautiously now, but is likely to start cracking heads if things keep going downhill.

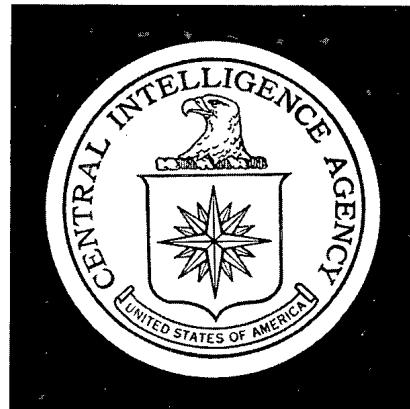
8. Arab States - Israel

King Husayn told Ambassador Symmes yesterday that the Soviet ambassador to Jordan had warned of Israeli plans to occupy Jordanian territory. The Soviet ambassador claimed his information came from "good sources." Similar Soviet "warnings" to the Arabs last year helped to precipitate the events that culminated in the June war. Such warnings also play on fears already high in Jordan.

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Liberation Front to Open Paris Office: The Communists are finally moving ahead on the establishment of a Liberation Front office in Paris, after delaying for several months.

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The relatively low level of these individuals suggests that they are working personnel coming to open the office and serve as the press staff. It is

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[redacted] One

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excuse the Communists have used all these months
for not opening the office is that they have not
decided who should head it.

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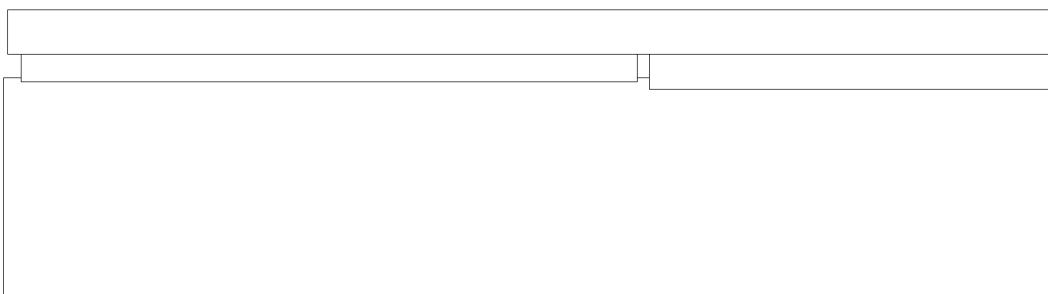
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Comment on Kennedy Shooting: Hanoi radio was quick to react to the shooting of Senator Kennedy. In a broadcast yesterday morning over its domestic service in Vietnamese, it gave some of the details of the assassination attempt and of Senator Kennedy's background, at one point calling him "the most redoubtable political opponent of Johnson in the Democratic Party." The broadcast concluded with the comment that the attack "again clearly shows the hideous, true face of US society, full of crimes and injustice. In the race for position and interests, the ruling cliques, representing the various factions of the US monopoly capitalist class, have not hesitated to resort to bloodshed and fire to liquidate one another."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 7 June 1968



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23

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
7 JUNE 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

We have confirmation [redacted]

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[redacted] that Dubcek was hard pressed by the Soviets to make sure that his reform movement did not slip out of Communist control.

The new Czech leaders [redacted]

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[redacted] decided that they could salvage most of their liberalization program but that they would have to meet a number of Soviet demands. As a result, they partially revved up again the party's opposition to the Catholic Church and to new non-Communist political groups.

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They also decided that it would be necessary as well to follow through soon on the promises contained in the action program. A way had to be found to make news media more responsive, but without reintroducing censorship.

The course of events since these decisions has pretty much followed the plan, except that pressures for speedier liberalization in the country apparently were stronger than the leadership anticipated. Some modifications have been made in that direction, but only enough to gain a respite. Clearly, Dubcek will have serious difficulty satisfying both the Soviets and his own people, particularly liberals who will be pressing for even more reforms to be put on the agenda of a special party congress in September.

2. Panama

Arias, at his request, had a cordial conversation with Ambassador Adair on Tuesday. In the course of stressing his wish for better relations with the US, Arias intimated that a request for budgetary support might become necessary.

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3. Philippines

The appropriation bill for the civic action group in Vietnam is still languishing, primarily for want of a hard push from Marcos. One Senate opposition figure, whose vote could break the deadlock when the special session convenes next month, says he will go along only if another does. The other, arguing that the opposition cannot be expected to lead the drive, apparently is waiting for Marcos to lay his domestic political prestige on the line for the bill.

4. Communist China

There is further evidence of the bad effect the Cultural Revolution is having on exports. Western traders at the recent Canton trade fair complained that Chinese export goods were in short supply and high priced. Exports to Japan in the first four months of this year were about 40 percent lower than in the previous four-month period.

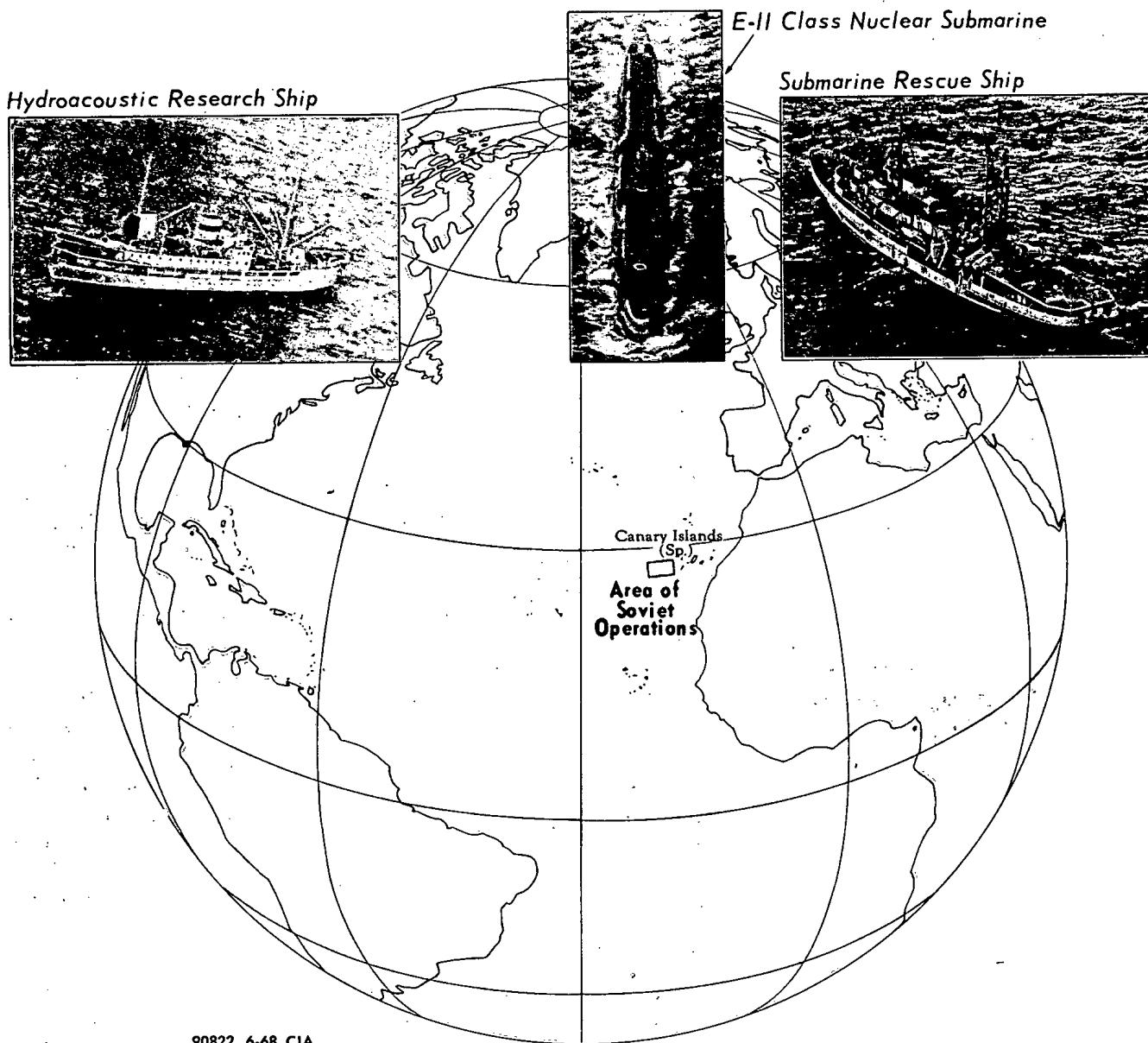
**5. Middle East -
Kennedy Assassination**

In the coffee houses and the editorial pages of the sensational press, the Arabs are calling the Kennedy assassination a "Zionist plot." They see it as intended to sour Arab relations with the US. Responsible Arab newspapers and officials, however, soberly denounce the crime and stress that it will probably provoke strong anti-Arab sentiment in the US.

In Israel, one popular and strongly nationalistic paper has attempted to link the assassination to an Arab international conspiratorial group patterned on pre-Israel Zionist terrorist organizations. It points out that the assassin transferred Arab world political assassination to America. Another paper blames the act on an Arab incitement campaign.

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Soviet Ships Near the Canary Islands



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6. Soviet Union

The Soviets show a rather unusual interest in the Atlantic around the Canary Islands. They have sent expeditions to the area almost yearly since 1963--the latest one was there in the last half of May. This activity is definitely related to submarine operations; this year a nuclear-powered submarine worked with a group of research ships.

This part of the Atlantic is generally calm, has good conditions for sonar work, and is off the beaten path. Just what the Russians are up to is not certain. One good possibility is that they have in mind eventually setting up a mobile support base for submarine operations. The position would be a good staging point between home ports and the US coast.

7. Soviet Union

Satellite photography shows that the new space launch complex at Tyuratam is nearing the end of construction. This is the launch center for the Soviet programs to land a man on the moon and to place a large manned space station into orbit around the earth.

We do not, however, expect an attempt at a manned lunar landing before mid-1971, nor the orbiting of the space station before the mid-1970s.

**8. Communist China -
Burma**

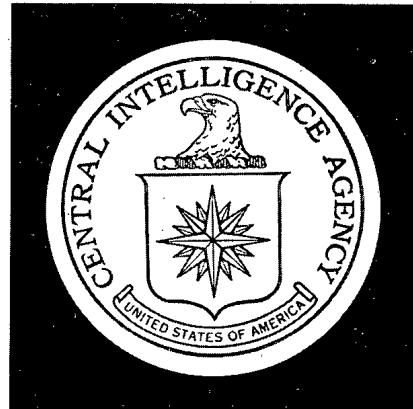
There are signs that Peking is trying to make up with Rangoon. Relations have been at a low ebb since last summer, when the Chinese Communist embassy in Rangoon sponsored Maoist "revolutionary" activity that led to anti-Chinese rioting.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes

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16

7 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

7 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

More Vietnamese to Paris: Hanoi continues to dispatch more people to Paris. The latest group is legal talent

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Hanoi said they were going to Paris "for a job of brief duration with the North Vietnamese delegation."

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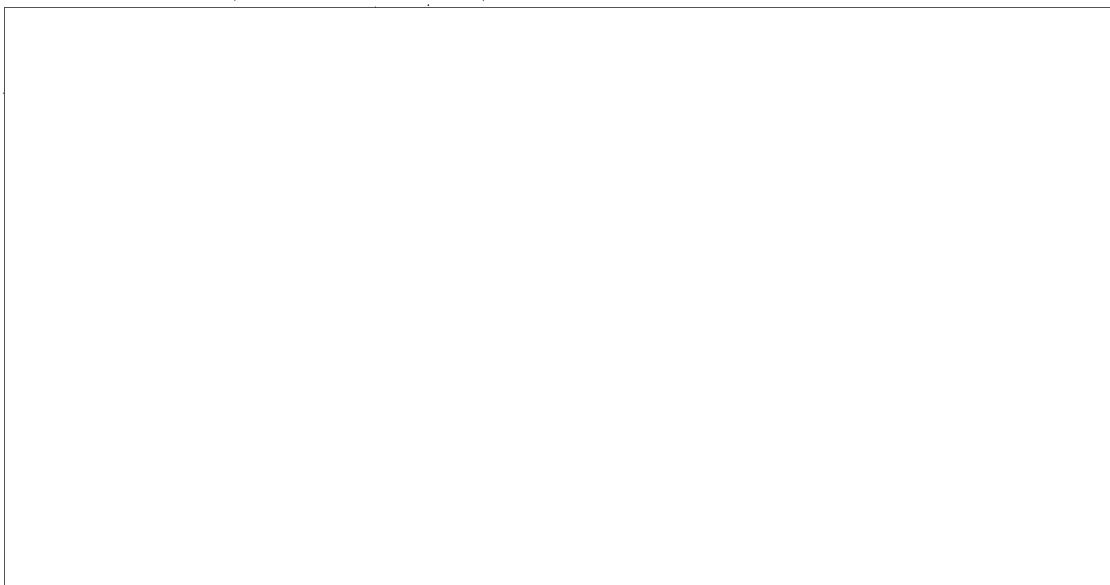
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Doumer Bridge: Permanent repairs to the Paul Doumer Bridge are nearly half completed. Photography of 23 and 27 May shows three of seven dropped bridge spans are in place and work completed on damaged or improvised piers. At the present rate of construction the remaining four spans could be in place by mid-June and the bridge open to rail traffic soon after. A large barge crane and steel truss bridge spans were first noted near the Doumer bridge in mid-May photography.

The destruction of the Doumer bridge, although an impediment to traffic crossing the Red River, never halted the movement of supplies into Hanoi. There are 18 rail and highway by-passes to the Doumer bridge.

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

Paris Delegation on Senator Kennedy: Officially, the North Vietnamese in Paris have refrained from any comment on the death of Senator Robert Kennedy. The press spokesman for the delegation said yesterday that it was "the concern of the US and the American people." A Reuters correspondent in Paris, however,

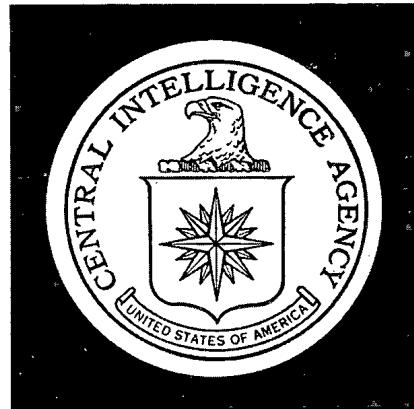
apparently found a North Vietnamese who was willing to comment, but not to be identified. This unnamed person claimed that the North Vietnamese saw a "certain connection" between the shooting of President Kennedy in Dallas, his brother in Los Angeles, and Martin Luther King in Memphis.

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Hanoi Radio on Senator Kennedy: Hanoi Radio yesterday commented on Senator Kennedy's death. In a broadcast to Southeast Asia in English, Hanoi said that "world public opinion is unanimous that with the assassination, US prestige in the world has further declined. Many foreign papers have pointed out that the assassination was part and parcel of the plot of US ruling circles to eliminate one another in their race for power."

Similar but briefer comments were made by Hanoi Radio in Vietnamese to South Vietnam, and in English to American troops in the South.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 8 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
8 JUNE 1968

1. Soviet Union

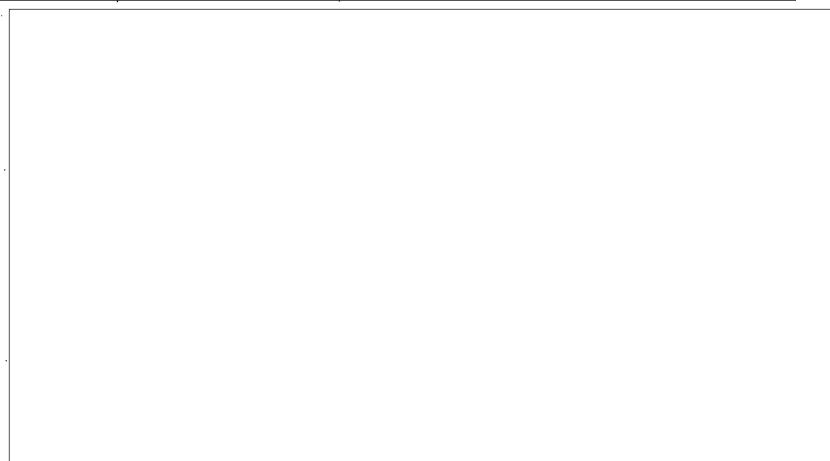
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2. Czechoslovakia

The Czechs have appointed a special military spokesman to handle publicity for the upcoming Warsaw Pact exercise in Czechoslovakia. We see this highly unusual move as part of a plan to allay fears that the Soviets will use the exercise to cover military intervention.

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3. Soviet Union -
Egypt

Soviet press and television have seized upon the assassination of Senator Kennedy to launch a vicious tirade at US domestic and foreign policies and the entire American system. Conspicuously missing is any message of sympathy to the Kennedy family or the people of the US.

This propaganda is suggesting both official US negligence and even connivance in the shooting. Pravda, for instance, says that a leader of the bourgeois who departs even slightly from the imperialist line is subject to elimination. So far, the Soviet media have been completely silent about the national origin of the accused killer.

Some Arab newspapers are dishing up similar but more direct charges of official US complicity in the murder. One Cairo paper talks about "certain circles, including the CIA," which were involved. A Beirut paper says, "US intelligence was probably behind the assassination."

4. Soviet Union

5. France

We doubt that De Gaulle's radio-TV broadcast yesterday convinced many uncommitted voters to support the regime in the parliamentary elections later this month. The General's rather vague idea of a partnership for management and labor will probably be rejected as paternalistic and dangerous for the unions. His continuing attacks on the Communists are also not very effective electoral ammunition.

6. South Vietnam

Saigon Radio announced today that National Police director Loan has been replaced by Ranger commander Colonel Tran Van Hai. There are also rumors that Saigon's mayor Cua has been replaced.

There have been several reports that Thieu was planning to remove both men, who are recovering from wounds received during the recent fighting in Saigon.

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Although Thieu's action might provoke Ky into some impetuous move, including his resignation as vice president, Thieu evidently anticipates that there will be no major trouble.

7. Japan

Sato's cabinet secretary, reacting to popular concern over the jet crash in Fukuoka last weekend, announced on Wednesday that the government will request cessation of US night training flights.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Sato voiced his displeasure, saying there is a need to restudy the problem of US air bases near congested areas. He also charged the US with failure to keep its word on minimizing night training flights.

Leftist students have mounted demonstrations every day this week against US diplomatic posts and military facilities throughout Japan. Thus far, the police have been able to keep these demonstrations under control.

8. Bolivia

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16

8 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

8 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Cyrus Eaton to See Le Duc Tho: The aging Cleveland industrialist and espouser of left-wing causes has plans to meet the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris this weekend. Eaton has been in Moscow where he passed on news of his Paris trip to Ambassador Thompson. According to Eaton, Kosygin is making arrangements for the meeting with the Vietnamese.

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Kosygin, Eaton said, questioned him on US intentions about peace. The Soviet premier said the Russians had heard many rumors that President Johnson did not want a settlement before elections. Eaton claims he assured Kosygin that the US is sincerely seeking an agreement.

Eaton did not say just what it was he intended to say to the North Vietnamese in Paris.

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Bloc Arms: East European arms delivered to North Vietnam are showing up in South Vietnam. Romanian and Bulgarian antitank bazookas, Bulgarian recoilless rifles, and Polish assault rifles are being captured by US forces. The bazookas and assault rifles captured were manufactured as recently as 1967.

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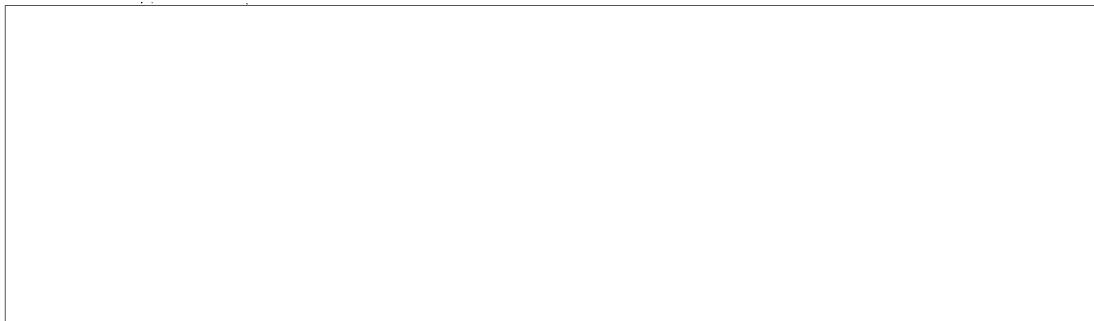
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Rail Lines North Improved: Recent photography shows the North Vietnamese have been busy improving the rail lines to China. The new construction consists of additional sidings and by-passes around tunnels and rail yards--all designed to make the lines less vulnerable to bombing and to speed the flow of traffic.

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

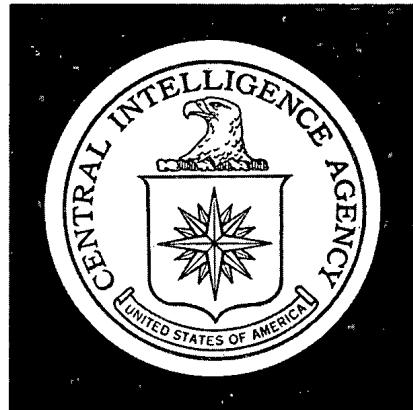
Hanoi on Senator Kennedy: Hanoi news media are giving extensive coverage to the death of Senator Kennedy. News of the assassination was carried by both domestic and international broadcasts on 6 June and the following day; lengthy commentaries appeared in Nhan Dan, the party daily. The initial broadcasts pointed out that the Senator was one of the strongest critics of US policy on Vietnam and called him a "formidable opponent of the Johnson-Humphrey party."

According to one broadcast in English, the Nhan Dan commentary portrayed the Senator's death as the latest example of the use of violence in the American election process and implied that those who opposed him in the elections were responsible for his death.

Another broadcast in French, also sourced to Nhan Dan, included extensive quotes from the Senator's speeches on Vietnam.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 June 1968



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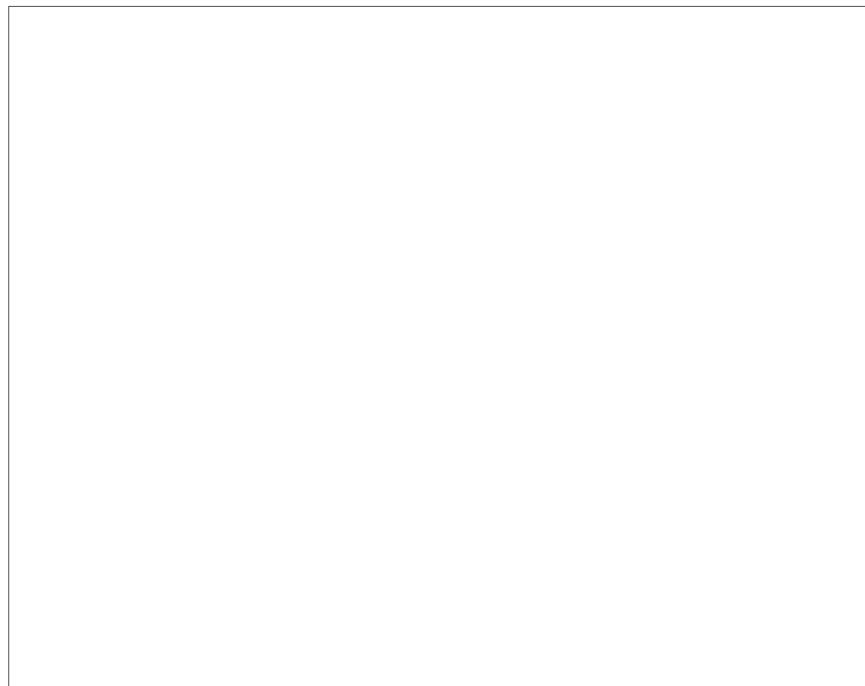
THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
10 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam

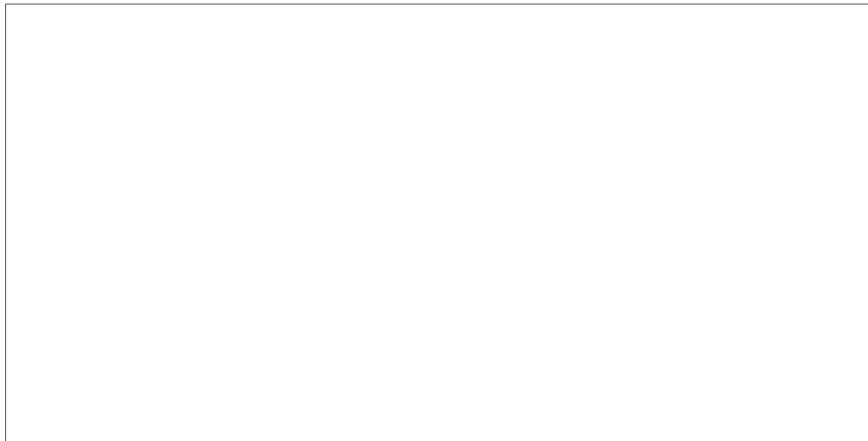
Replacement of National Police director Loan and Saigon mayor Cau has stirred little reaction so far. Both men were in Ky's camp and their removal further erodes the vice president's power base.

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2. Soviet Union



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3. Colombia

The Colombian Senate meets tomorrow to consider the unusual case of a president who has tendered his resignation. The resignation, announced by President Lleras on Friday, probably will be rejected, but Lleras may find his precipitous move is politically expensive.

The resignation was triggered by Lleras' anger at Senate opposition to his constitutional reform bill. Lleras' action, however, is widely viewed as a political ploy and, in the end, he stands a good chance of alienating important leaders of his own party. It also will weaken the coalition that governs Colombia.

4. Laos

Fighting is tapering off. Each year the Communists shift to the defensive about this time with the approach of the monsoon rains.

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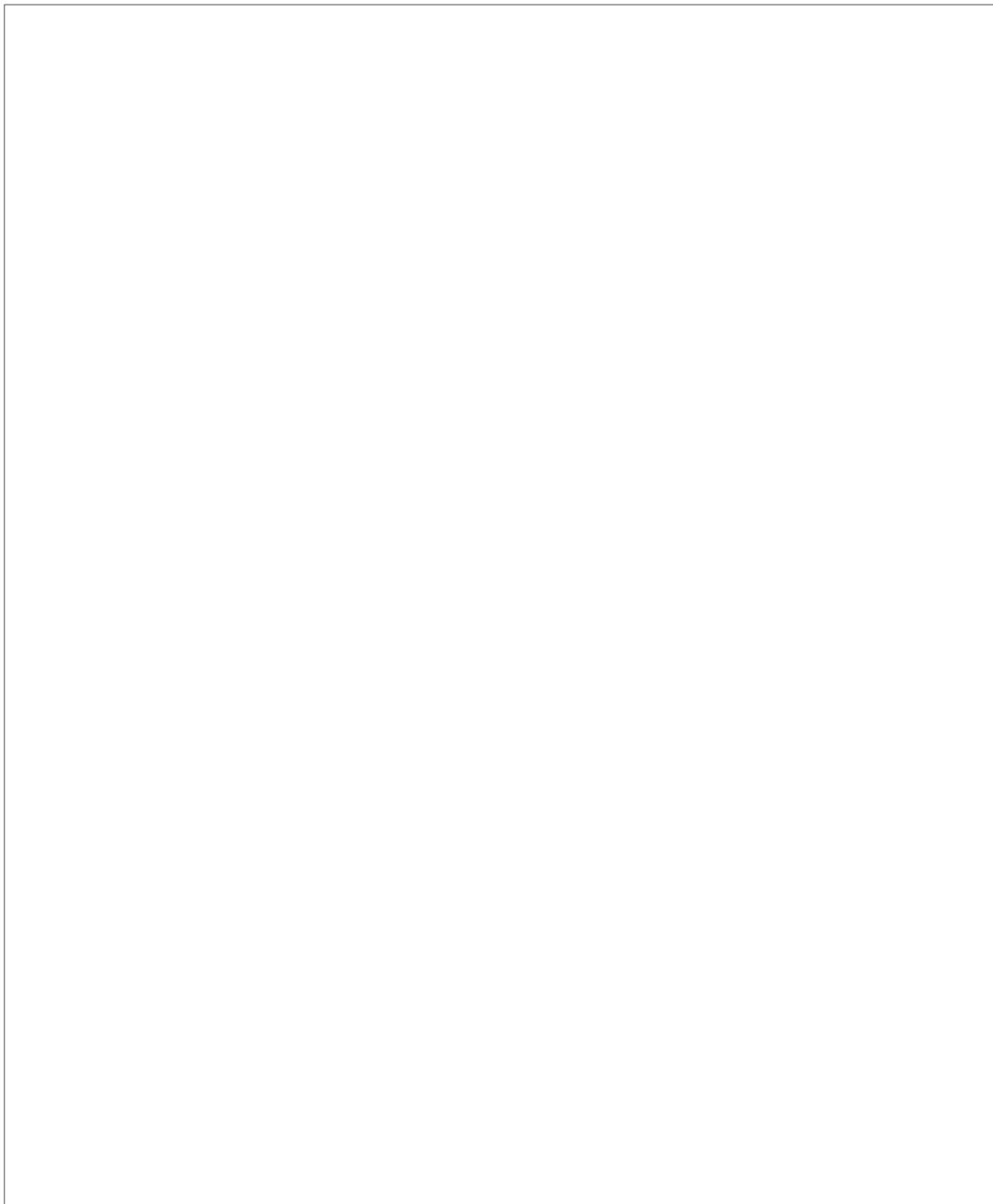
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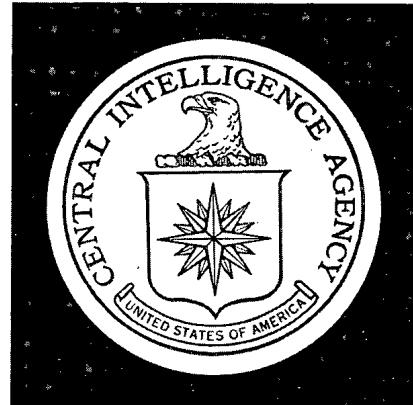


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16

10 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

10 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese Ambassador in Moscow Meets US Citizens: In English language broadcasts on 7 and 8 June over its international service, Hanoi announced that Nguyen Tho Chan, the North Vietnamese ambassador in Moscow, had had separate meetings with Cyrus Eaton and a delegation of American professors and students from Windham College in Vermont. The Hanoi statements made it appear that both Eaton and the college delegation welcomed the "successes" of the Vietnamese Communists. The statements also pointed out that the ambassador had asked his visitors to convey the Vietnamese people's sincere thanks to those Americans "who are fighting persistently against the US war of aggression in Vietnam."

The meeting with the Windham group was apparently chiefly a propaganda exercise, according to information passed to the American Embassy in Moscow by the group. Chan apparently took Hanoi's standard line on the war and negotiations and stressed his government's independence of both Moscow and Peking. He claimed that US prisoners of war were "eating better" than Vietnamese and called the assassination of Robert Kennedy a political murder by hawkish elements in the US. The Vermont students were also treated to several propaganda films on North Vietnam and given literature supporting Hanoi's position on the war.

* * *

Views on the Paris Negotiations: In separate conversations with a Western journalist, Liberation Front and Hanoi officials in Phnom Penh have given their views on the Paris talks. Both officials were adamant in insisting that the complete and unconditional cessation of the bombing was a necessary prerequisite to more substantive discussions.

The Front official, a second secretary in the Phnom Penh office, stressed the necessity of a complete American withdrawal from South Vietnam. He claimed that the Front now controls all provinces of South Vietnam, "except for the provincial centers." When pressed on this claim, however, he could not specify any area in which a peaceful Front regime, free from possible allied attack, had been established.

The press and cultural attaché of North Vietnam's embassy in Phnom Penh claimed that Hanoi had entered into the talks with the US because it considered the time to be favorable. He discounted allegations that the talks were the product of a "hawk-dove" controversy among Hanoi's leaders and denied that either Moscow or Peking had any influence on North Vietnam in its decision to begin discussions with the United States.

The North Vietnamese attaché also derided the effectiveness of US bombing but admitted that the bombing limitation had been a source of "great relief" to the people of Hanoi and said that many evacuated enterprises were now returning to the capital.

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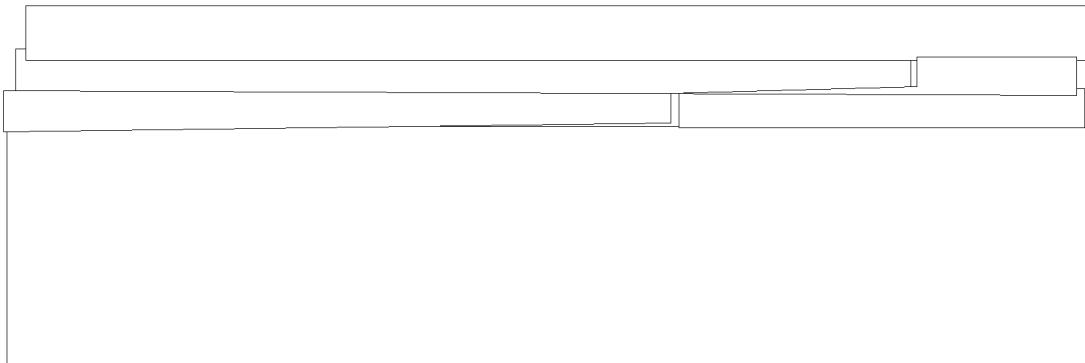
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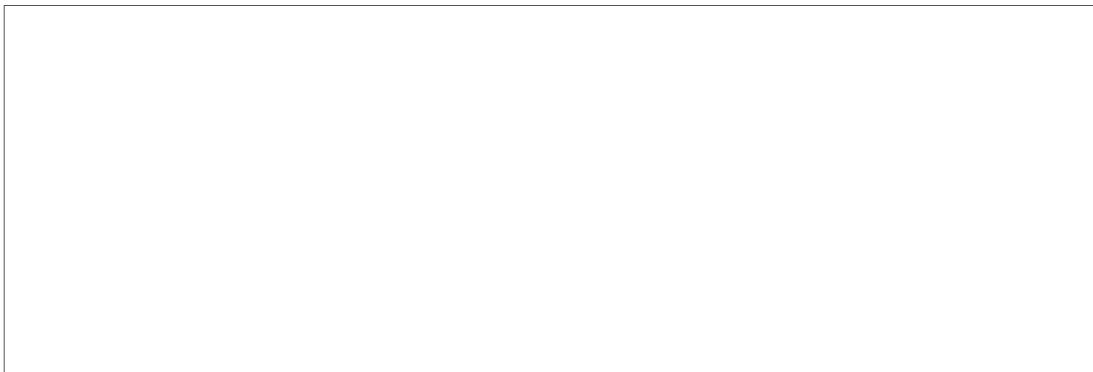
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"Victories" in Saigon: On 9 June the Viet Cong's clandestine radio, in Vietnamese to South Vietnam, broadcast a commentary on "the victories of the Saigon armed forces and people." It claimed that compatriots in many areas of the city had risen up, in coordination with "the enemy-annihilating fire of the revolutionary armed forces," and had dealt "staggering blows" to the "American devils and their lackeys." It asserted that their ability to fight on urban battlefields had increased despite the enemy's counterattacks.

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Rice Harvest Prospects: A Czech report from Hanoi is the latest indication that Hanoi's fifth-month rice crop, which is currently being harvested and normally provides about one-third of the yearly harvest, may be in some difficulty. The report, broadcast over Prague Radio in English on 8 June, noted that the harvest has begun after an unusually long and cold spring period and is generally expected to yield less rice than usual. The report also took note of the annual government appeals for greater effort in harvesting the crop, avoiding waste, and preparing the ground for the planting of the major fall crop.

There is no clear evidence as yet just how large the deficit in the spring crop will be. Hanoi's rice harvests of the past several years, however, have generally fallen below the normal annual average of 4.5 million tons. For the past two years, these deficits have been made up by large imports of rice and rice substitutes from China and the Soviet Union.

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Hanoi Restricts Travel of Foreigners: The North Vietnamese may be attempting to shield reconstruction efforts in the Hanoi area from the eyes of foreigners resident in the capital. According to a Czech broadcast of 8 June in English over the international service, the city administration in Hanoi has published a notice restricting the movements of foreigners in Hanoi and its vicinity as of 10 June. The notice states that foreigners without special permits will not be allowed to enter certain areas where important installations such as power plants, industrial complexes, and dikes are located.

* * *

Aid to Hanoi: Le Thanh Nghi, Hanoi's traveling economic emissary, continues his aid-seeking swing through Eastern Europe. Agreements on aid for 1969 now have been signed with Hungary, Bulgaria, and Poland. The pact with Poland, signed on 8 June, in addition to covering the usual manufactured goods and equipment, states that "installations for complete plants" will be supplied. This may refer to the Polish effort to provide miscellaneous small factories, a program which has been dormant during the bombing of areas in North Vietnam where industrialization was taking place. During the past two years, large numbers of North Vietnamese have continued to undergo

technical training in Poland and other East European countries.

After his stop in Poland, Nghi traveled on to Bucharest, where agreements similar to those reached with the other East European countries will probably be signed in the next few days.

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

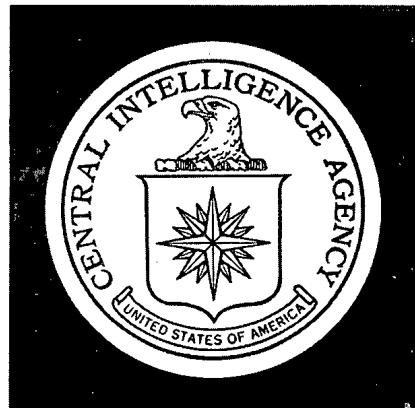
Hanoi on Senator Kennedy's Views: Statements on the situation in South Vietnam by Senator Robert Kennedy were highlighted in articles in the North Vietnamese press over the weekend in an attempt to refute US statements in support of South Vietnam and to defend the right of the whole Vietnamese people to fight the Americans in all of Vietnam.

An authoritative "Commentator" article in the party daily, broadcast on 7 June over Hanoi's international service in English, strongly derided the idea of a US commitment to the Republic of Vietnam, and went on to quote remarks by such prominent Americans as John Kennedy, Walter Lippmann, and John K. Galbraith critical of the government of South Vietnam. In addition to quoting the late President Kennedy, the article quoted the late Senator Kennedy as saying that the US presence in Vietnam had led the Americans to rely on the same group as did the French. This had caused the disastrous decline of South Vietnam over the past 13 years.

Kennedy's statement about the 13 years of South Vietnamese decline was also featured in another article in the party daily, broadcast in English on 8 June over Hanoi Radio's international service. The article

attempted to refute the concept of a South Vietnamese nation. It argued strongly that Vietnam is one country, with one history and one people. It rejected the US claim of infiltration and aggression against the South and sharply pointed out that "only maniacs could think of Vietnamese, wherever they might live, who were fighting in their own country, infiltrating or invading another country."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 11 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
11 JUNE 1968

1. France

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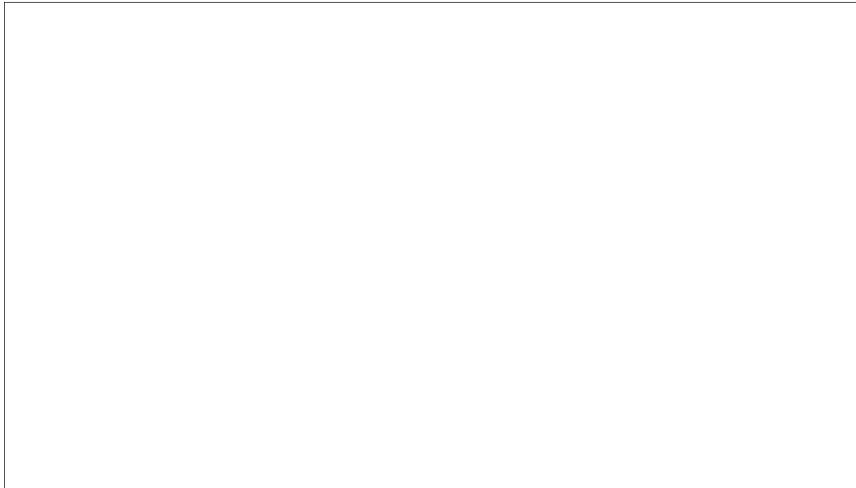
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The election campaign started off yesterday with a bang as Molotov cocktails were thrown into two Gaullist party buildings. On the labor scene, there are still important pockets of resistance, including the large auto industry. Clashes between students and police broke out again in Paris last night, and student leaders have called for a mass demonstration against "repression" later today.

2. South Vietnam

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3. North Korea

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There was a flurry of minor incidents along the Demilitarized Zone over the weekend. We often cannot find the reasons behind such clashes because the evidence rapidly disappears as the incidents die down. They could result from North Korean attempts to infiltrate agents into the South or more simply be continuing harassment.

4. Yugoslavia

Many of Belgrade's students have returned to class following Tito's assurances to them Sunday. He put his prestige on the line in promising to meet their "justified" demands. What Tito thinks is justified may not accord with views of either the students or hardliners in the party. The latter could make it difficult for him to make good his promises.

5. Israel

The Israelis have finally agreed to receive a US inspection group at their Dimona nuclear facility on 29 June. This may give some indication of the stage of development which the Israelis have attained at this facility.

6. Iceland

Police in Reykjavik are bracing for possible trouble during the NATO ministerial meeting scheduled for 24-26 June.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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16

11 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

11 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Photographic Mission Report: A high-level photographic mission on 3 June covered the Haiphong area with good quality photography. West of Haiphong it experienced a camera malfunction and encountered heavy cloud cover.

Activity had increased throughout the Haiphong port area since 22 May--the date of the last mission to cover this area. The pieces of rolling stock present increased from 147 on 22 May to 178 on 3 June. (These figures compare with an average of about 70 cars a day present during 1967. Repairs to the bridges account for this rise.) The volume of cargo in the area from the piers to the warehouses had increased by about 30 percent between the two missions. Around the warehouses, the cargo volume had increased by about ten percent with numerous unidentified small and large crates observed.

Eleven merchant ships were unloading in the inner harbor, and three others were being lightered at anchorage. There were a total of 21 merchant ships in the port area. The average number observed during May was sixteen.

The turnover of cargo which has been in open storage since April has been slow, but the new cargo being unloaded is moving out expeditiously. From 2 to 3 June, a 75 percent turnover in rolling stock was observed. The photography on 2 June came from a drone mission.

In spite of the increased level of ship arrivals in Haiphong, the average number of days for ships in port has dropped from 22 in March and 19 in April to 14 in May. The growth in merchant shipping arriving in Haiphong began in January of this year. This reflects the increased aid promised by Communist countries last October and Hanoi's need for increased foodstuffs.

Kep was the only major airfield covered on this mission. The extension to the main runway appears complete, and two MIG-21s and four MIG-15/17s were present. This is about the same number of aircraft that have been seen there over the past several months, and they are probably the aircraft flown by North Korean pilots.

* * *

New Hanoi Propaganda Effort: Hanoi is apparently gearing up for an extensive propaganda campaign in support of its negotiating team in Paris.

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Within the past few weeks, propaganda themes have been tailored increasingly to American and Western audiences. Hanoi Radio commentary is now frequently tied to American events. It is full of historical interpretations of the US role in Vietnam, amply illustrated by quotes from politically prominent government figures and replete with analogies between Vietnamese history and American history, especially the American war of independence.

Vietnamese nationalism is getting special attention. It received a high priority in the recent meetings of the North Vietnamese National Assembly, both in the speeches of the Hanoi leadership and in the publicity surrounding the delegates who represented provinces of South Vietnam in the Assembly. A long Nhan Dan commentary on 10 June, built around this theme, claimed that when North Vietnam was founded in 1945 it proclaimed the "independence of the Vietnamese people in the entire country." In language similar to that used by Xuan Thuy in Paris and other Hanoi leaders in interviews and speeches back home, the newspaper said: "Any place, any area,

any region in Vietnam is Vietnamese territory, and he who intrudes into any area encroaches on Vietnam and must be resisted by the entire Vietnamese people throughout the country."

Through all this, however, the fiction that there is no North Vietnamese Army presence in South Vietnam is still maintained. The commentary--probably one of the strongest Communist statements of the case for nationalism to date--generally side-stepped the issue, saying only that "the South Vietnamese who regrouped North under the Geneva agreements have always been ready to return to their native land to fight the enemy at the call of South Vietnam, but all Vietnamese throughout the country and in foreign countries have enthusiastically responded to the call of the Fatherland, eager to fulfill their duty toward the great front line--South Vietnam."

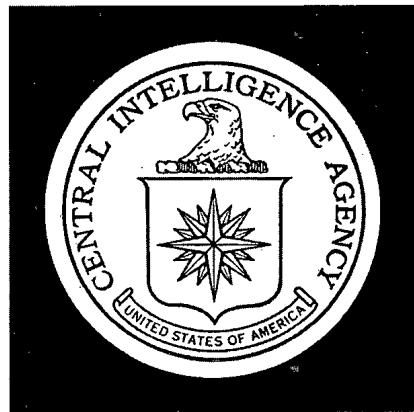
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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 12 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
12 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam

The persistent Communist shelling of Saigon is beginning to provoke demands by local politicians for retaliation against Hanoi. In its session yesterday, the Assembly's upper house approved a petition calling on the government to take all steps to prevent further attacks, including a warning to North Vietnam. The debate brought demands for "a bomb on Hanoi for every bomb on Saigon" and for immediate US termination of the Paris talks.

2. France

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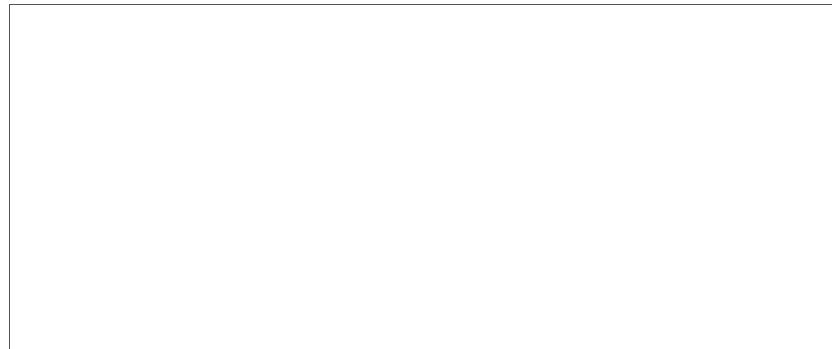
3. Soviet Union

Brezhnev has been out of action now for three weeks. We doubt he has been hospitalized,

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4. Soviet Union

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**5. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union**

The Czechs and Russians are going around and around again. This time it is over an article in a Czech newspaper (actually a reprint from the New York Times) alleging that Soviet officials were involved in the defection of General Sejna. Moscow says the piece was printed with the "one aim" of worsening Soviet-Czech relations; by implication it demands restoration of Czech press censorship, which was formally lifted last week.

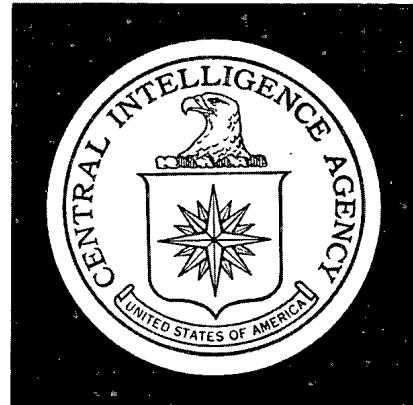
**6. East and West
Germany**

The Ulbricht regime has adopted new regulations which say that West Germans will need visas to enter East Germany. West Berliners, however, will apparently need to procure only an "annex" to their identity cards--a move intended to emphasize that West Berlin is not a part of the Federal Republic.

The new regulations are evidently intended more to enhance "legal" East German control over inter-German travel than to restrict such travel. If the East Germans succeed in implementing these regulations, their claims to sovereignty will be advanced, Bonn's claim to represent all Germans will be shattered, and the allied position in Berlin will be weakened in proportion to the amount of authority assumed by the East Germans.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes

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16
12 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

12 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Le Duc Tho Speaks Out: Le Duc Tho, special adviser to the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, utilized several of the standard Hanoi formulations in giving his views of the Paris talks to Charles Collingwood. In the interview he charged that the blame for the lack of progress in the discussions clearly rests on the US. He said that the North Vietnamese had come to Paris to "determine" with the US the unconditional cessation of the bombing. Tho stressed that until the "US gives up its viewpoint of reciprocity" and effects such a cessation, it will not be possible to proceed to the discussion of other problems.

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Liberation Front on Outside Aid: According to a gist of a statement by the Liberation Front presidium, broadcast over the Hanoi domestic radio on 11 June, the Front rejected the "US slanderous allegations on the South Vietnam problem at the Paris talks." The new Liberation Front statement also revived an old propaganda theme which has been dormant for years--the issue of foreign volunteers. The statement claimed that although the South Vietnamese people are relying mainly on their own strength, they "have the right to receive assistance in all aspects from their kith and kin northern compatriots." It also asserted that the "South Vietnamese people to date have reserved and in the future will reserve for themselves the right to appeal for and receive assistance in all aspects from their friends in the world, including assistance in weapons and volunteers."

This kind of language is similar to that used by the Hanoi leadership in recent weeks on the subject

of North Vietnamese Army presence in South Vietnam. It goes to great lengths to justify such a presence, without admitting that the North Vietnamese are actually there.

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

There is nothing significant to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
13 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam

Ky has pulled in his horns another notch. On 12 June he resigned from the directorship of the People's Self-Defense Force. He has gone into seclusion outside of Saigon and reportedly plans to stay away from the capital at least until the end of the week. Thereafter he says he will confine himself to the relatively innocuous duties assigned the vice president by the constitution.

Ky apparently made public his decision to leave this post without consulting Thieu. He is telling his friends he is convinced Thieu will now by-pass him on all important decisions. His letter of resignation showed no pique, however, and he assured Ambassador Bunker that he had no intention of mounting a coup.

2. France

The government's ban on demonstrations was respected in Paris last night, but there were clashes between police and student militants in several provincial cities.

In a further effort to break the back of the militant movement, the police are making large-scale arrests, and some foreign students are being expelled. One French official speculated yesterday that at some stage the security forces might try to clean out the Sorbonne. He thought such a move could produce a good many fatalities.

3. Berlin

Kiesinger told the three Western ambassadors yesterday that "not just protests but countermeasures are needed" in response to the latest East German controls on Berlin access. He said his government had not yet considered what steps Bonn and the allies might take, but he said German position papers would be made available.

The new East German restrictions went into operation last night.

4. Cambodia

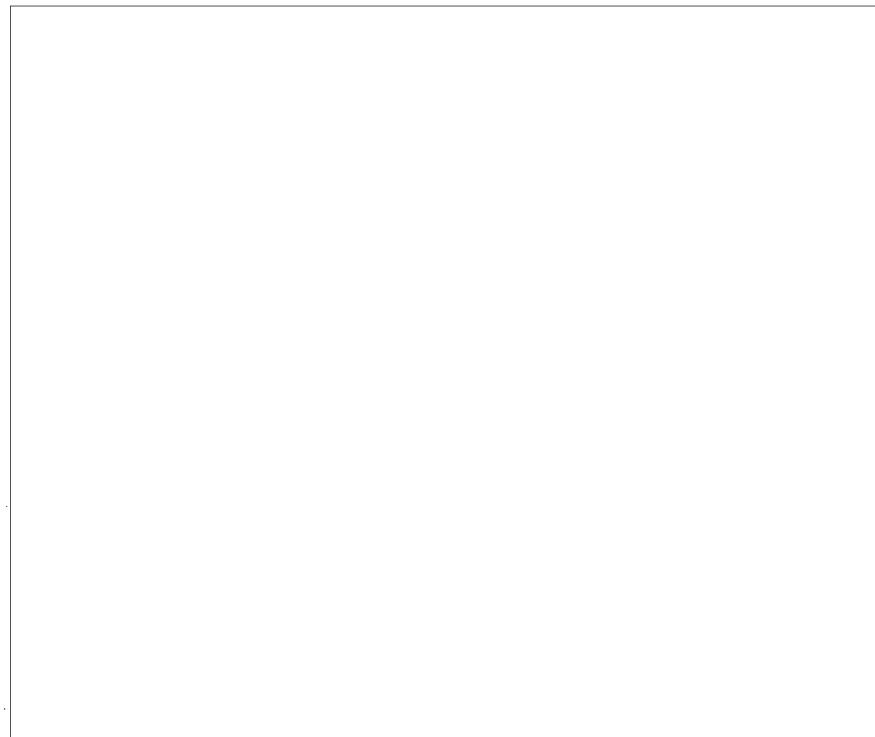
Sihanouk is still having little success against internal dissidents. A rebellion in the northeast, essentially tribal in origin but probably the recipient of some Communist support, seems to be spreading. The troops Sihanouk sent against it last month have been bogged down by rugged terrain and cholera.

In the south, Communist bands have recently made some harassing attacks on government forces. The bands are still small, but they seem to constitute the beginning of a full-fledged insurgent movement.

5. Pakistan -
Soviet Union

A delegation headed by the commander-in-chief of the Pakistani Army is leaving for Moscow on Saturday. We assume the delegation will be trying to get a firm Soviet commitment to supply arms in general and high-performance tactical aircraft in particular. We believe Kosygin avoided making such a commitment during his visit in May.

6. Communist China



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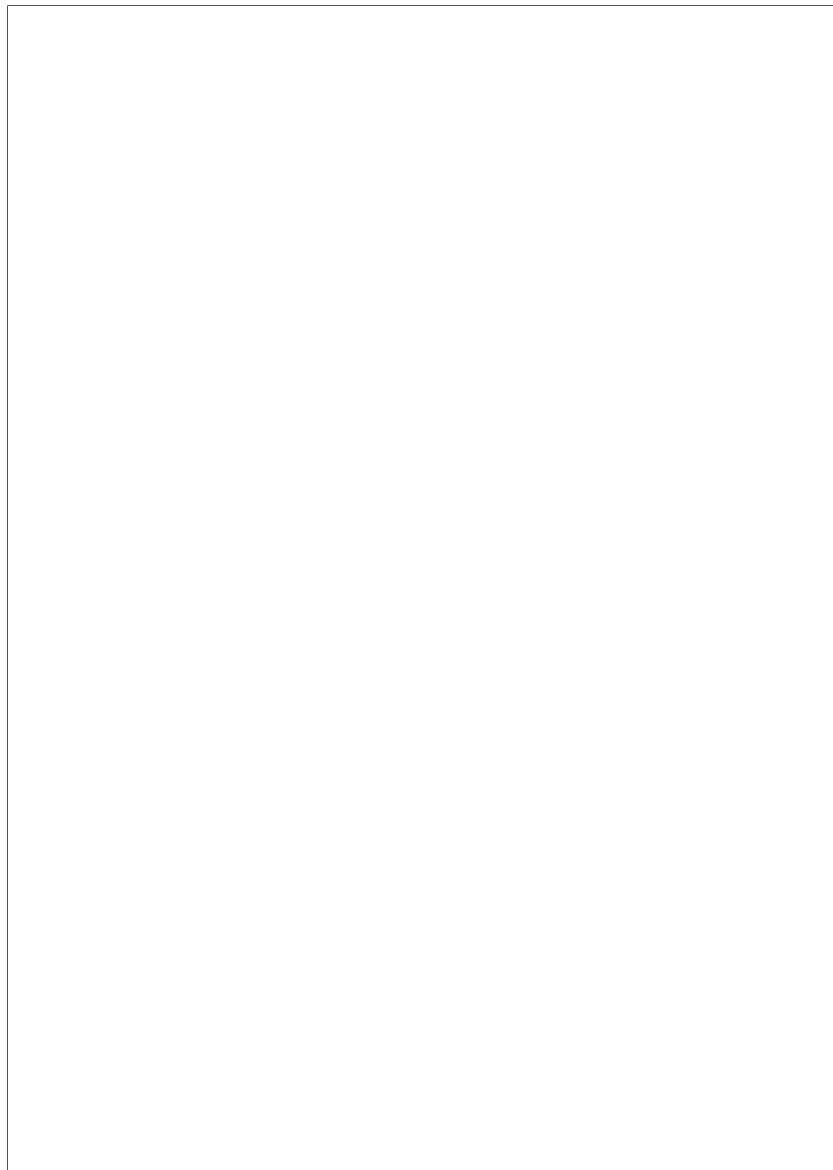
7. Czechoslovakia

The Czechs have published the report of their investigation of the Sejna defection case. The report comes down hard on General Sejna's "criminal activities"--embezzlement, for instance--with Novotny. It also condemns "gross shortcomings" in the defense ministry which permitted him to continue his activities and eventually to escape.

The report says the investigation turned up no proof that Sejna had been an agent of another government or that his defection had been organized with any outside assistance.

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8. Jordan



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16

13 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

13 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

More on the Liberation Front and Outside Aid:

[redacted] a Liberation Front statement reviving the old theme about the possible call for volunteers from outside South Vietnam. An analysis of the Front's propaganda over the past few years shows the subject was first raised in March 1965 and it became a regular drum beat that summer with the expanded US troop commitment.

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At that time the Front said it reserved the right to call for volunteers and materiel from North Vietnam and from other "friendly countries" whenever it chose. Many Communist countries immediately replied that they were ready to send volunteers when the call came.

Hanoi's propaganda response to this appeal has always been more cautious, however. It has talked in terms of the South Vietnamese who were regrouped to the North in 1954. These men, said Hanoi, were ready to answer the call when and if it came.

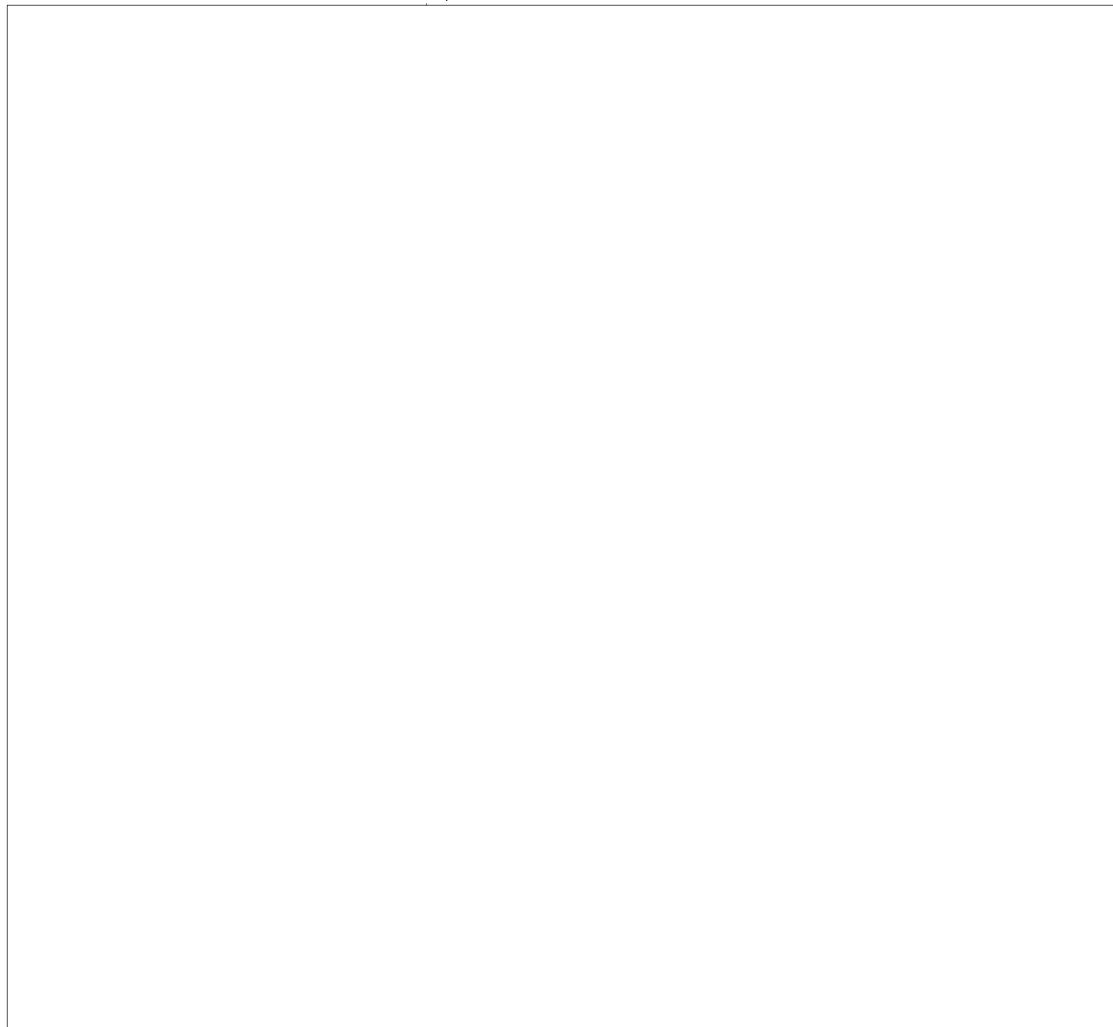
That call has never been publicly issued by the Front, and even the propaganda threat died down in about a year. The Front has seldom referred to it in the past two years, and only the most eager and revolutionary Communists--the Chinese, the Cubans, and the North Koreans--have kept the issue alive.

By raising this old ghost now, the Front is playing to Hanoi's lead, the theme that Vietnam is one country which all Vietnamese have a duty to defend.

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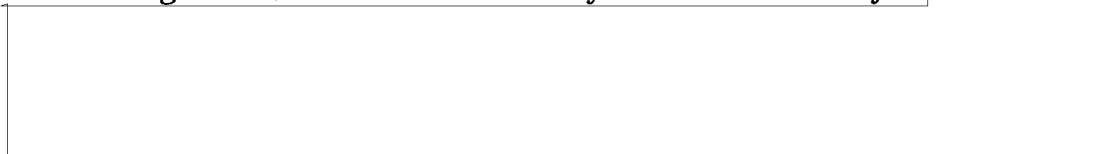
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Another Meeting on Vietnam: The "Stockholm Conference on Vietnam" plans to hold a liaison committee meeting in Rome next Tuesday and Wednesday.



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Unrest in Paris Delays Celebration of Ho's Birthday: The Vietnamese residents of Paris will celebrate Ho Chi Minh's birthday on 15 June. This affair was originally scheduled for 25 May but had to be postponed because of the student unrest and the general transportation strike. Ho's birthday, however, was on 19 May.

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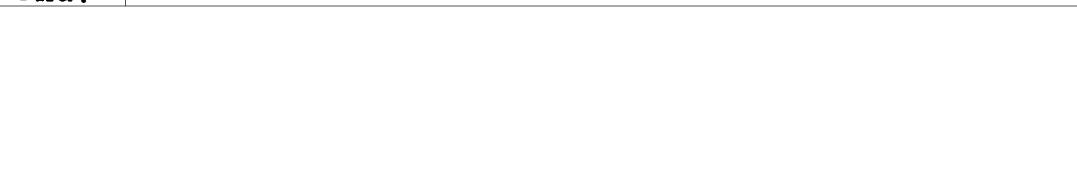
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Front Moves In On Paris: Two advance men for the Liberation Front arrived in Paris over the weekend.

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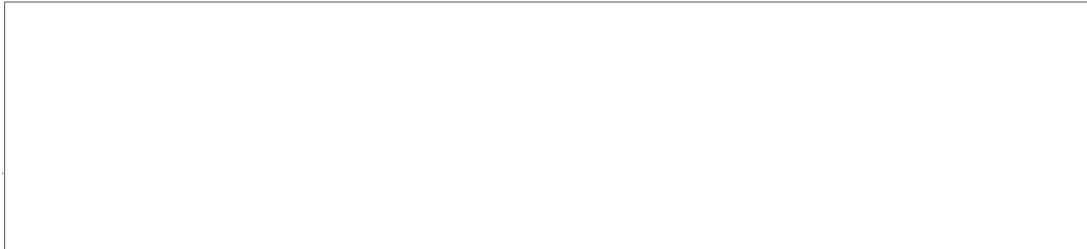
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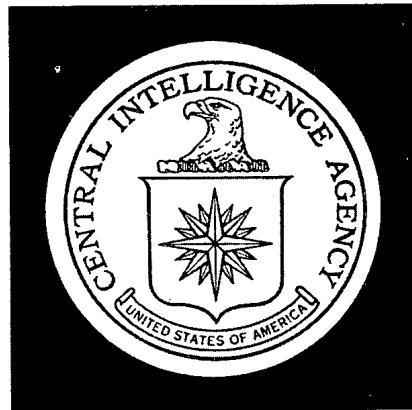


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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
14 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam

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Phan Quang Dan, Minister of State, has been fired, according to early morning reports from Saigon. Dan lost his job because of a recent speech at Stanford University in which he suggested talks between the Saigon government and the Liberation Front.

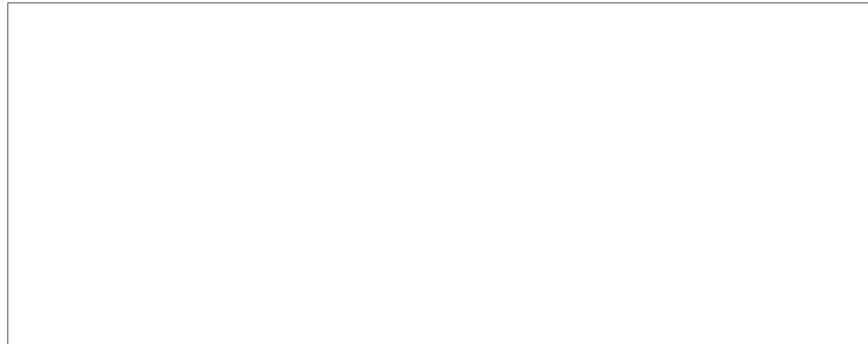
2. Berlin

There is considerable difference of opinion within the West German government over what Bonn should do to counter the latest East German travel controls. One group, including Kiesinger, is willing to consider counter-measures; others--those who seek closer ties in Eastern Europe--are inclined to view the controls as something with which the West Berliners will have to learn to live.

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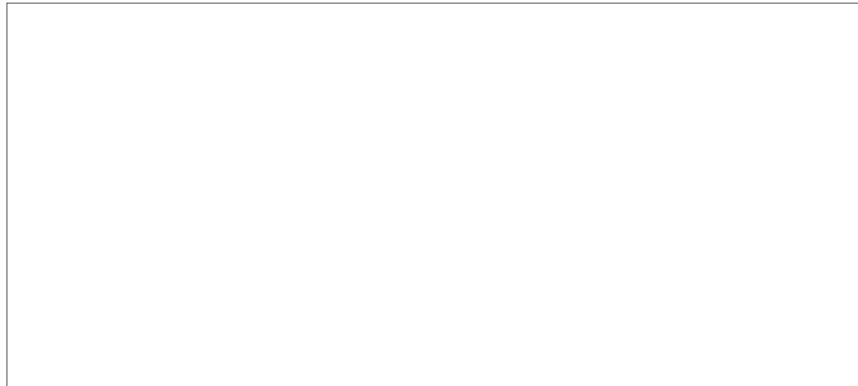
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3. Burma

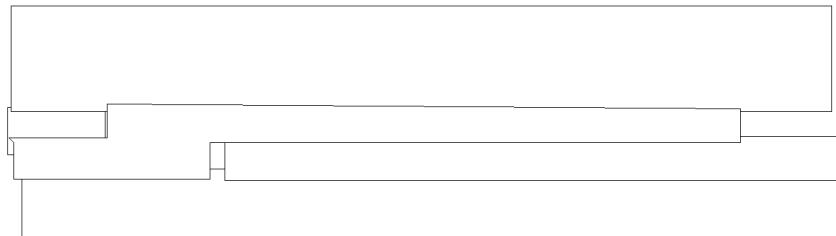


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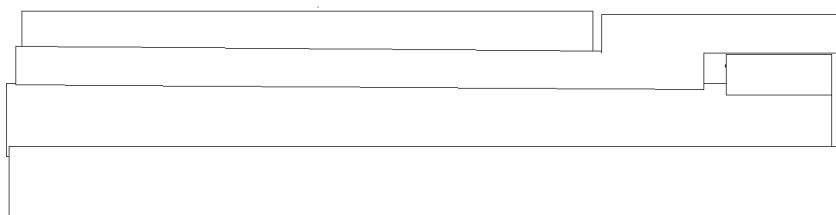
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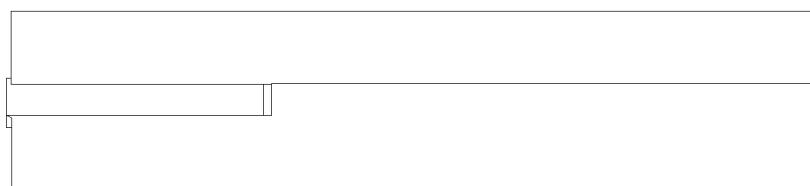


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5. France

Guy Mollet, who runs the French Socialist Party, expects a Gaullist election victory, followed by another serious crisis this fall or winter. He thinks the Gaullists and Communists will cut deeply into the center and non-Communist left, with the Gaullists winning--but not decisively. Mollet may be somewhat disheartened by the disarray in which the non-Communist left finds itself just before elections, but he has a keen ear for subterranean social and political rumblings.

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6. Communist China

Peking is quietly shifting to a less strident propaganda line on foreign affairs. Since the beginning of the Cultural Revolution the Chinese have harangued the underdeveloped countries on the virtues of violence. Now the tone is less on armed struggle and more on "good-neighboringness between countries with different social systems."

This change probably stems from Peking's desire to repair some of the damage its ranting has done to relations with uncommitted nations. There is no indication that the US and the Soviet Union are included in any propaganda amnesty.

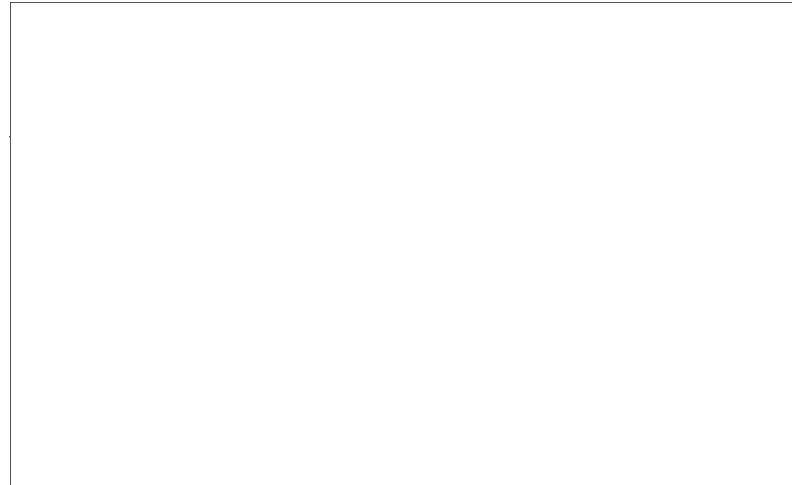
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While the Chinese may be cooling it abroad, the trouble at home is getting worse again. Broadcasts from Peking are encouraging the radicals and discouraging the army from trying to keep the peace. As a result, military units are largely standing on the sidelines while the Red Guard factions tear each other--and several major cities--apart.

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7. Soviet Union

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Brezhnev apparently is on the mend. He showed up for the first time since 30 May when he met with a Finnish delegation yesterday.

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1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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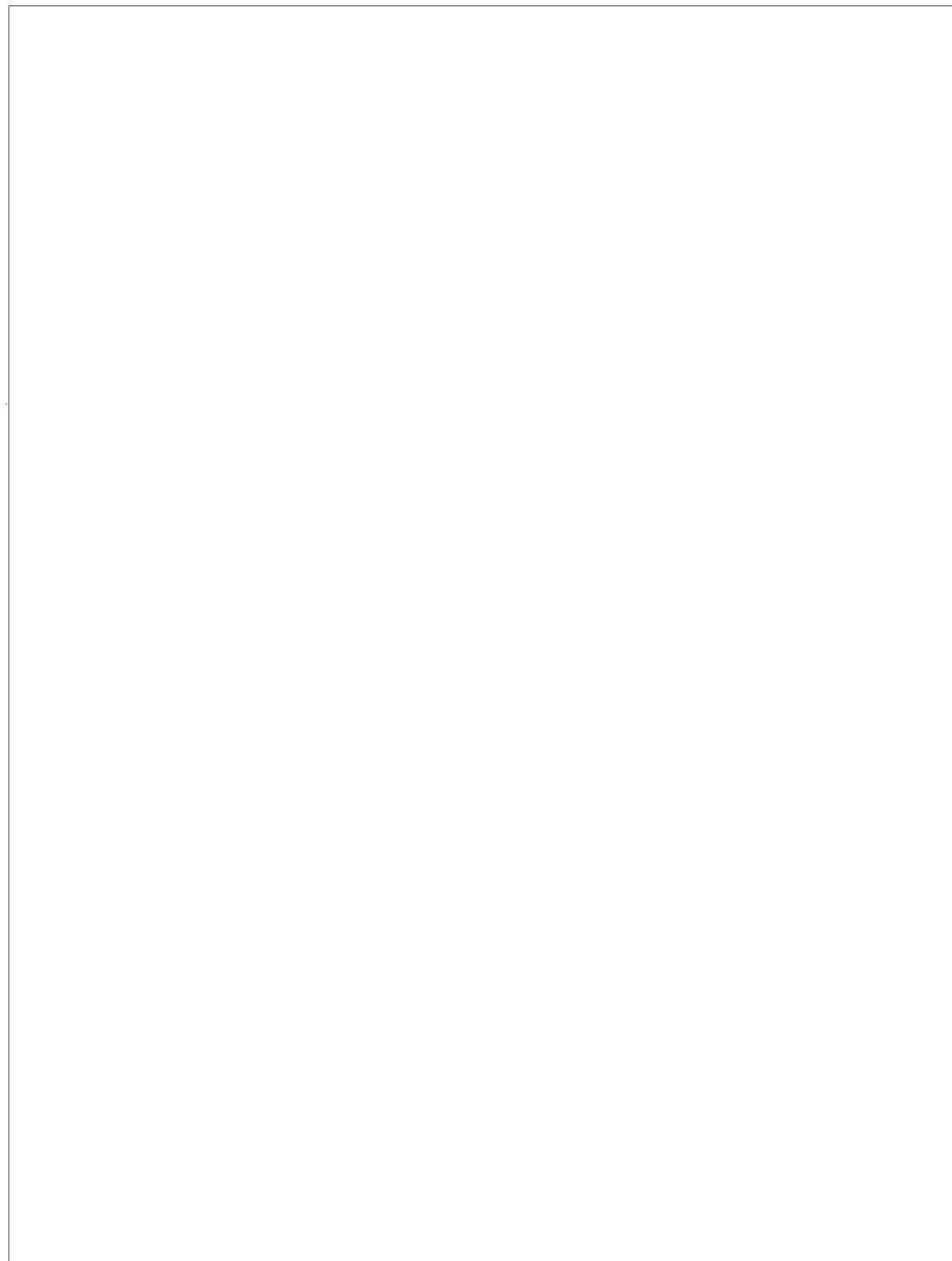
14 June 1968

**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only**

14 June 1968

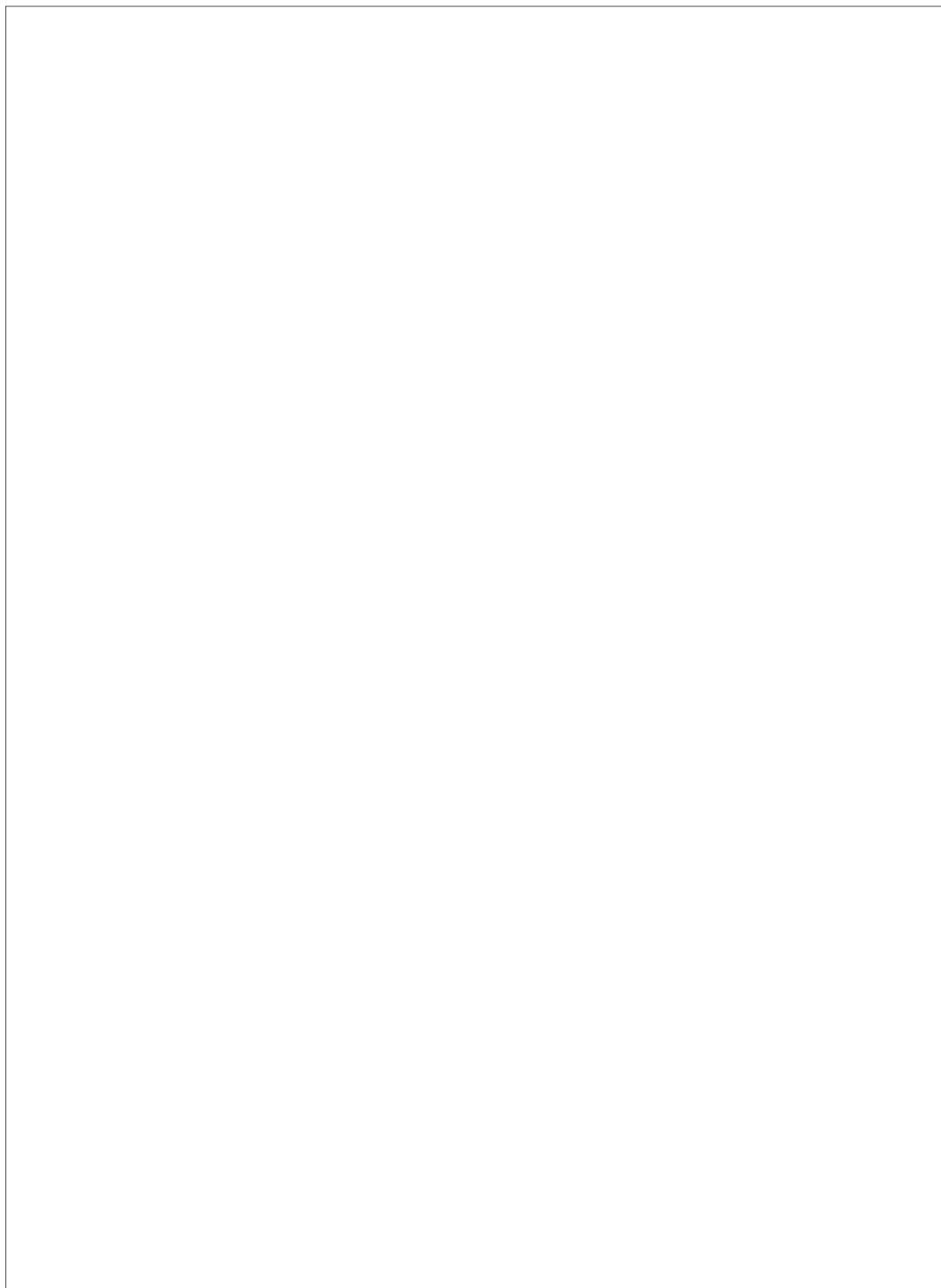
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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East European Aid: Nghi's aid-seeking mission has moved on from Rumania to Czechoslovakia. In addition to standard pacts on supplementary "non-refundable" aid for 1968 and "nonrefundable" aid

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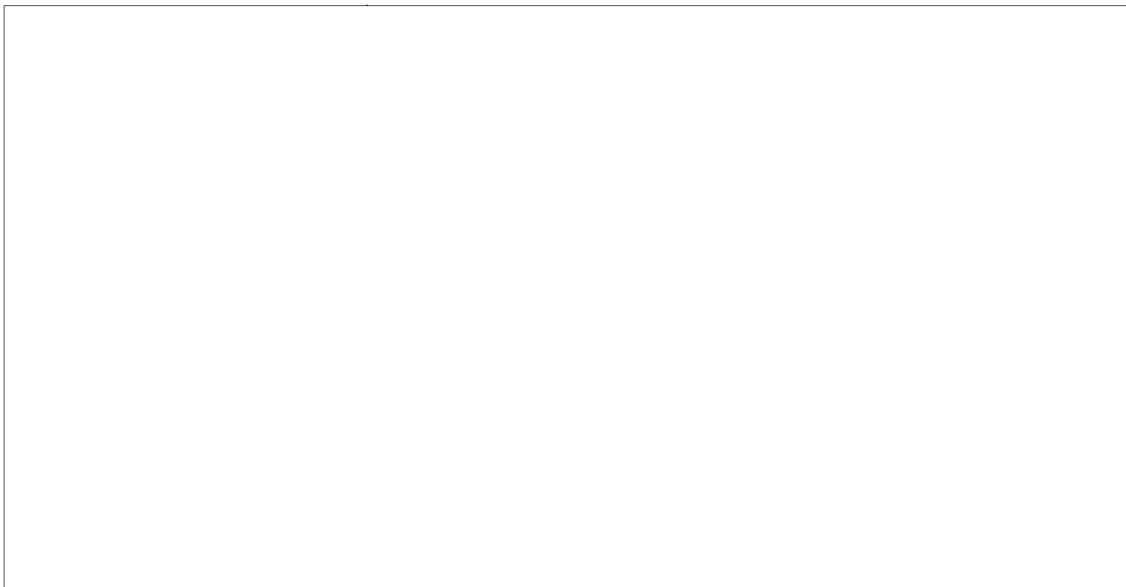
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for 1969, Rumania announced it had cancelled payments of "certain sums" due under previous credits extended to North Vietnam. Bucharest is the first Communist capital to cancel debts, although none of Hanoi's aid suppliers expects to be paid. Since 1967 most Communist countries have described their aid as "nonrefundable."

Nghi has now concluded agreements for East European assistance in the coming year with Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, and Rumania.

A Czech transport delegation signed an agreement in Hanoi on 12 June to help restore North Vietnam's transport network free of charge. The Czechs will supply rails and "framework"--presumably iron and steel structures--for rail and highway bridges.

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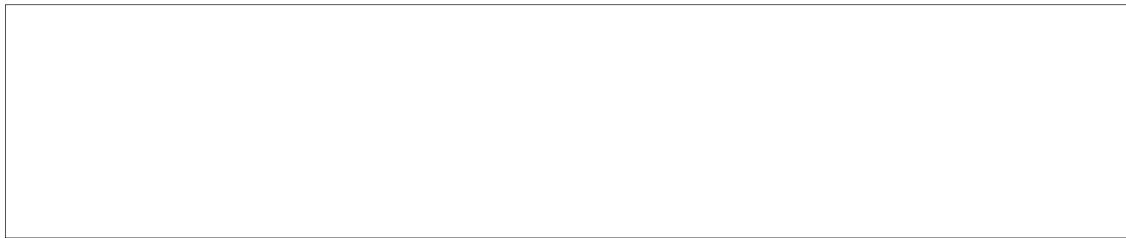


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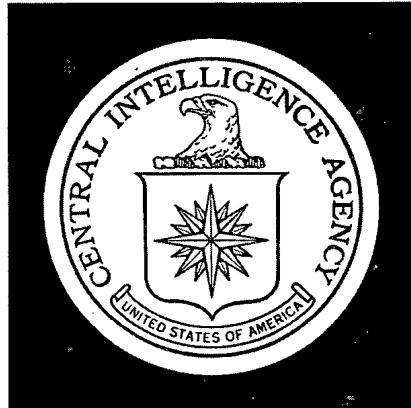
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The President's Daily Brief

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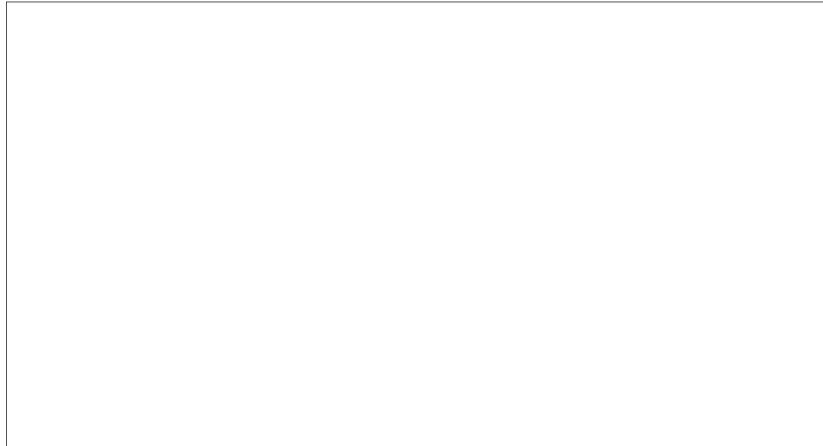


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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
15 JUNE 1968

1. West Germany



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2. Soviet Union

Following UN approval of the draft nonproliferation treaty and conclusion of the consular agreement, the Soviet Union is attempting to dispel any notion that it might work more closely with the US while the Vietnam war continues. Soviet press reaction to President Johnson's appeal for more cooperation has been uniformly unfriendly. Recent anti-US propaganda, for example the treatment of Senator Kennedy's assassination, has become more virulent.

There are many reasons behind this attitude. For one, the Soviets probably want to avoid giving Peking any sign of US-Soviet accommodation. They may also reckon that any move toward the US would be read as a weakening of their support for the North Vietnamese position in Paris, whereas continued coolness toward the US would weaken the US position. Other ingredients are Soviet anxiety over trends in Eastern Europe and over the impact of "alien ideas" in the Soviet Union.

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3. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia



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Pravda yesterday carried an article slurring a Czechoslovak party secretary. This was the first specifically anti-Czechoslovak article since Kosygin's visit last month, and the first Soviet attack on a high-level Czechoslovak personality since the new leadership came to power in January.

4. Philippines-
Malaysia

The thorny problem of the Philippine claim to part of Malaysian Borneo comes up for discussion in Bangkok this Monday. We do not see much prospect of progress.

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Hope that Malaysia would compromise faded last March following disclosure of Philippine subversion efforts. Over the longer run, the interests of both countries may help to mute the problem.

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5. Soviet Union -
Vietnam

The [redacted]

[redacted] that any resumption of bombing around Hanoi would probably result in the dispatch of Soviet "volunteer" air combat units to North Vietnam.

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This particular attaché has long pursued a tough line on Vietnam. He alluded to the possible arrival of Soviet combat pilots as long ago as April 1967. His return to the topic probably is his way of stressing the importance the Soviets attach to the bombing halt. Moscow publicly supports Hanoi's demands for a total halt, and few Soviet diplomats have missed an opportunity to remind us of this.

We would expect more threats of this type as the press speculates on a resumption of the bombing.

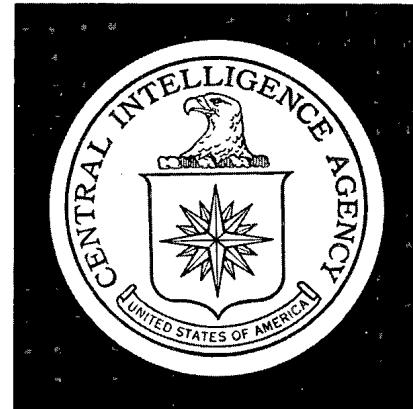
6. Kenya

Kenyatta's failing health is becoming more apparent. Since his recent stroke he has increasingly frequent irrational periods and seems unable to make decisions. Tribal leaders are already jockeying for position. As they see Kenyatta fading, this infighting will grow.

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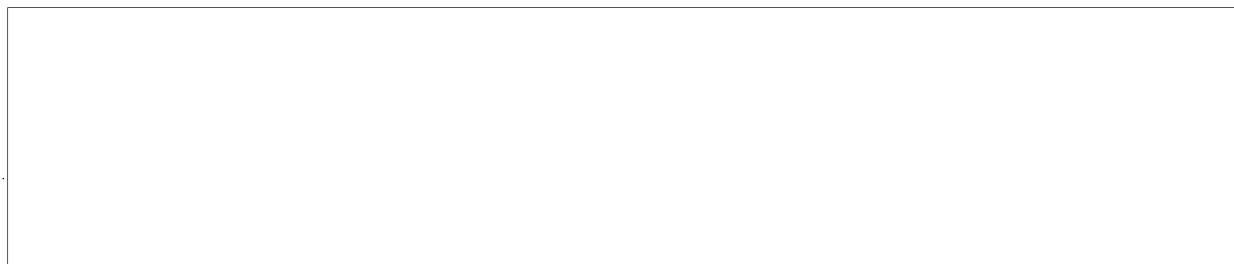
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1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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15 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

15 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Eaton's Thoughts: US industrialist Cyrus Eaton has been stressing the importance of his recent trip to Moscow and Paris, but he has given no indication that he really accomplished anything. According to

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a reliable FBI source, he informed Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov in New York that he had had a "splendid" time in Moscow and was feted by Kosygin, with whom he swapped unspecified ideas about the Paris talks. He said he was well received by Averell Harriman when he stopped off in Paris. Eaton alleged that Harriman made calls to Washington to set up appointments for him with such officials as Clark Clifford. Back in the US, he has been urging that the US stop the bombing as an act of good faith, claiming that he had assurances that movement in the peace talks would follow.

We do not think there is much substance behind the ideas Eaton peddles. Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin told Ambassador Thompson recently that if the Soviets wanted to pass a message to Washington, they would not use Eaton.

* * *

Hanoi on the Fighting in the South: Hanoi propaganda is portraying the current fighting in South Vietnamese urban centers as a new "high tide" of the revolutionary struggle which will hasten the collapse of the allies. Hanoi's army paper, in an article broadcast domestically in Vietnamese on 14 June, claimed that the fighting in urban areas, particularly in Saigon, represented a new development in guerrilla warfare. It praised the "infinitely resourceful and fruitful activities" of the guerrillas and claimed that they are "deep rooted" in the southern cities. It said they will play an important role in forcing the allies to accept an entirely new battlefield. The article claimed that in the cities the guerrillas represent all strata of society and have the advantage of surprise and knowledge of the area. It concluded by predicting that the struggle in the cities will grow in intensity and "aggravate the deadly wounds of the US aggressors and their henchmen." It warned that savage countermeasures could be expected, but said the allies will not be able to extricate themselves from their deadlock in the city battlefield.

* * *

Giap Views the Fighting: Defense Minister Giap, in an interview with an Algerian correspondent broadcast by the French Press Agency on 14 June, also made

favorable reference to the urban fighting in the South. He declined to draw a direct parallel between the current combat and that which preceded the collapse of the French in 1954, but he did say that the over-all military situation in the South is like "one long battle of Dien Bien Phu." He claimed that the Communists would soon enjoy certain victory. Giap also denounced US assertions of peaceful intentions in Vietnam, claiming that the US was continuing to give evidence of its military designs by furnishing the South Vietnamese with additional supplies and manpower.

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Liberation Front Spokesman on Help from Outside: In a press conference on 14 June reported by Tass, the Liberation Front representative in Moscow, Nguyen Van Tien, picked up the theme of Vietnamese nationalism and the right of the North to help the South. This, of course, has cropped up more than once in Hanoi's statements, and recently was also reflected in official Front propaganda. Tien stressed that the Vietnamese nation is united and that the people of the South have the right to rely on assistance from their Northern compatriots. He went on to endorse the Paris talks, claiming that the Front "fully supported" the North Vietnamese position concerning a solution of the Vietnamese problem.

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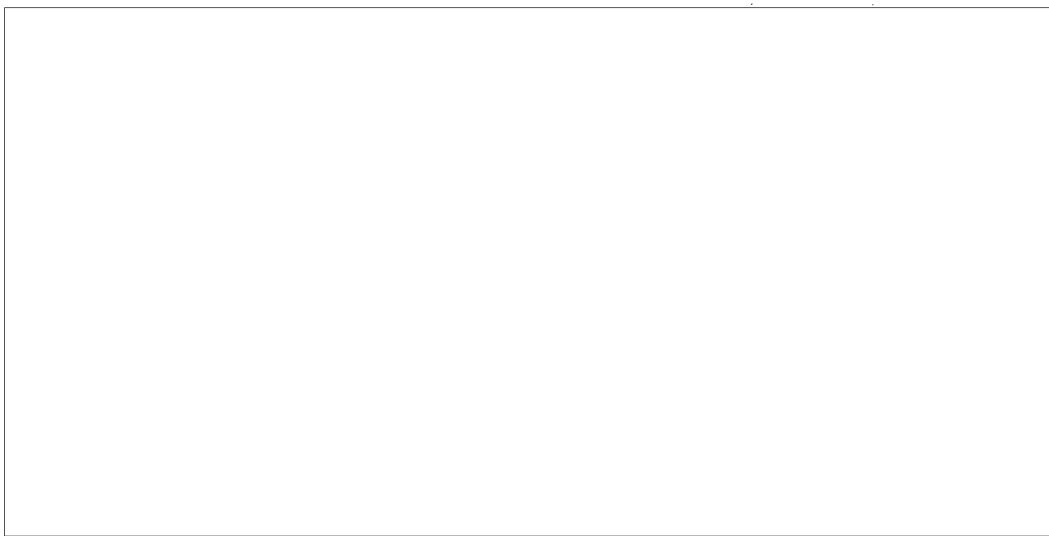
Appeals from Viet Cong Radio: The Viet Cong's clandestine radio has issued appeals from both the Viet Cong army and the Liberation Front itself for the people of Saigon to rise up and assist the Communists in their attacks in the capital city. The army appeal advises the local citizenry to stay away from military bases, training centers, supply bases, and "nerve centers" of both US and South Vietnamese installations. It also encourages them to join in the fighting on the side of "the people."

The Liberation Front appeal is more general but has much the same tone. It appeals to the people to join or to help the Communists and devotes special attention to "officers and men of the army, policemen and civil servants of the Saigon government" to desert their posts at "this decisive moment."

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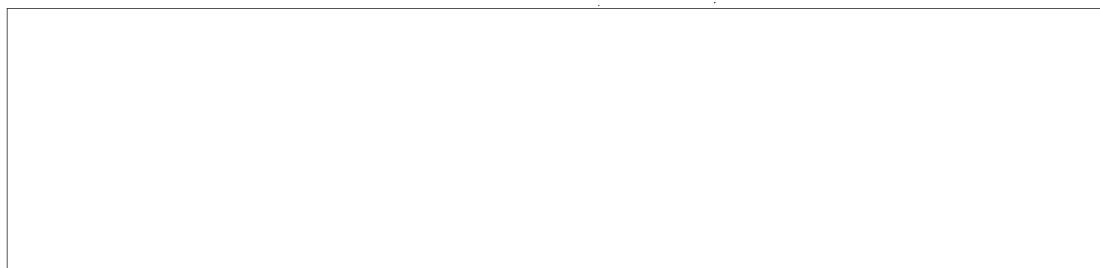
Relations with Sweden: Sweden keeps edging closer to some kind of formal ties with the North Vietnamese. According to press reports, Stockholm has for the first time supplied direct medical assistance to Hanoi. The aid comes in the form of funds for the construction of a hospital. While Scandinavian Red Cross societies have in the past given medical assistance to North Vietnam, none of the various governments has done so before now.

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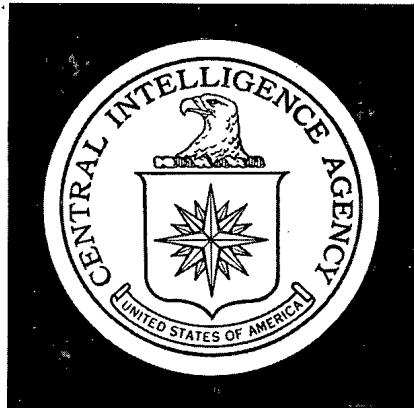
Visitors to North Vietnam: The North Vietnamese News Agency has announced that a delegation of British and Canadian women has completed a two-week visit to North Vietnam and has promised to return home and "step up" agitation against the Vietnamese war. The only names given were Hetty Worhaus for the British and Micky Murry for the Canadians.

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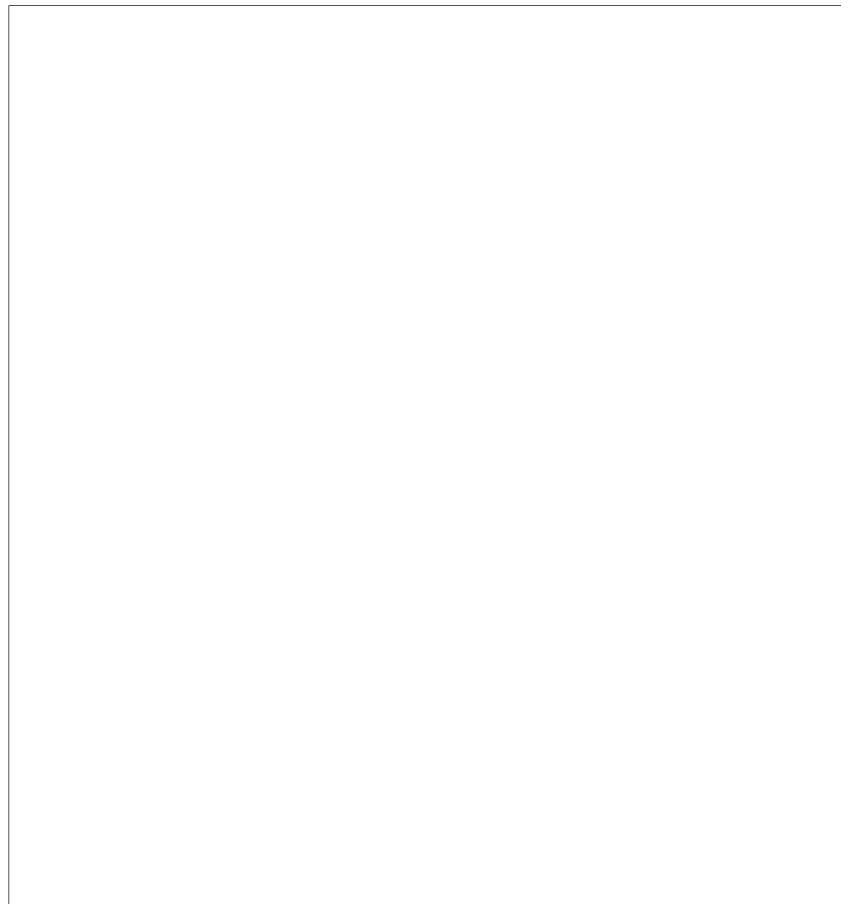


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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
17 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam

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2. Venezuela -
Soviet Union

The Venezuelans have seized a Soviet tug. The tug, which was towing a crane from the Black Sea to Siberia via the Panama Canal, was halted near an island off the Venezuelan coast and taken into a port near Caracas.

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We do not expect either Moscow or Caracas to treat this as a major incident, but it could set back the efforts both sides are making to improve economic and diplomatic relations.

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3. Berlin

As the West Germans and the allies seek ways of countering the new access restrictions, some differences in approach have cropped up between the two government parties in Bonn. Kiesinger's Christian Democrats apparently favor firm countermeasures against the East Germans; the Socialists are putting their emphasis on the need to shore up West Berlin's economy. Our embassy thinks the public mood leans toward the Christian Democrats' position.

"Unity Day" demonstrations commemorating the 1953 uprising are scheduled for today in West Berlin. The East Germans will be watching them closely. They are already annoyed by the morale-boosting visits to Berlin being made by high West German officials.

Pankow is getting the expected general protestations of support from Soviet media, but Moscow has not committed itself to any course of action. At the moment, the Soviets seem to be awaiting Western countermoves.

A government spokesman in Bonn has publicly acknowledged that Kiesinger is considering a trip to Washington. There still has been no decision, however.

4. Brazil

ex-President Goulart has agreed to join in a united front with the Communists. Both Goulart and the Communists, in turn, would like people to think they are backed by the reforming archbishop, Dom Helder. Goulart reportedly has already made overtures to the archbishop.

Dom Helder probably would not accept an open alliance with Goulart, much less with the Communists. He might agree to a private arrangement with Goulart, however, and this could be a big step in the spinning together of a new opposition force.

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5. Czechoslovakia

Prague has taken two steps which will not be received well in Moscow.

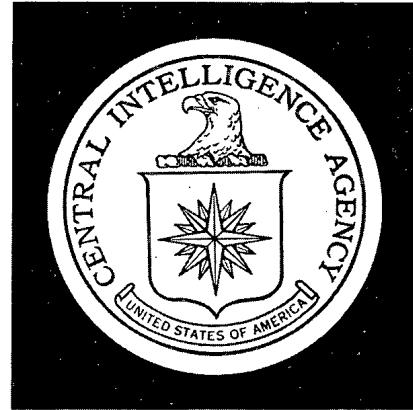
In an agreement signed this weekend, the Czechoslovak Communist Party in so many words renounced the "monopoly of political power" it has held since 1948. It will retain its leading role, but as long as the country's other parties stay within a vague concept of "socialism," they will be allowed to formulate their own programs. They will also participate in the drafting and implementation of national policies. The Soviets are sure to regard this as a major departure from the gospel as it is preached in Moscow.

As if this were not enough, Czechoslovakia on Saturday signed a friendship treaty with Hungary which opens the way a bit more for the eventual establishment of relations with West Germany. In his speech at the signing, Dubcek said it was in Czechoslovakia's interest to "normalize" relations with Bonn.

Dubcek, keeping one ear cocked toward Moscow, made it clear that he was not thinking of taking this step soon, however. He said in fact that there could be no diplomatic ties until East and West Germany had worked out a "realistic arrangement."

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17 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Hanoi Denies Times: Hanoi on 15 June took the unusual step of denying a New York Times story about the Paris talks. An English broadcast accused the Times of spreading the rumor that North Vietnam had agreed to respond to a bombing halt with "some gesture not yet made public."

"Sheer fabrication," said the North Vietnamese, adding that throughout the Paris talks their delegation had insisted that first and foremost the US must unconditionally stop its bombing and "other acts of war" before discussing other problems.

The denunciation appears to be an effort to say publicly, but on an unofficial level, that a change in the form of the US request for reciprocity will not be sufficient. The broadcast also could be aimed at quelling fears in some Communist quarters about secret deals between Hanoi and Washington.

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Delegation Woos Expatriates: The North Vietnamese negotiating team in Paris is now bending every effort to cultivate the Vietnamese community. At the party the delegation threw on 15 June to celebrate Ho Chi Minh's 78th birthday, the crowd numbered between 1,000 and 2,500 and included members of the French Communist Party as well as "diplomats from friendly countries." The birthday was last month, but the party was postponed because of the Paris disturbances.

The theme of the party--like the theme of Hanoi propaganda for the past two weeks--was Vietnamese nationalism and independence. The entertainment was traditional Vietnamese folk dancing and singing, and the speeches constituted a defense of Hanoi's right to help the South in the "struggle against American aggression and for national salvation." The main speaker of the evening was Xuan Thuy and he reportedly told his audience that "every Vietnamese whether North or South has a right and a duty to defend against foreign aggression." The occasion also served as a fund-raising benefit

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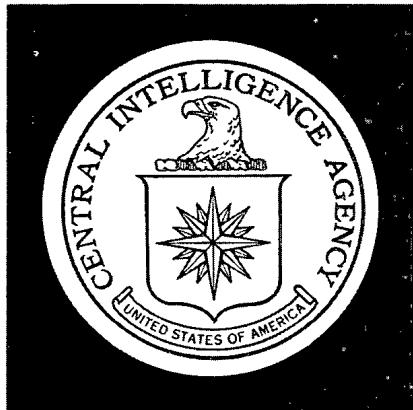
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

More on Dr. Spock: Hanoi propaganda gave Dr. Spock's trial special attention Saturday. Nhan Dan, the leading party newspaper, ran an editorial, and there was a special message to the US Coordinating Committee to End the War in Vietnam. Praising the baby doctor's "valiancy," Nhan Dan said that he represented the antiwar attitudes of millions of other Americans. His trial was termed a persecution. The editorial extended the hand of friendship to the "American people" who opposed the US policy in Vietnam.

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The special message, from the Vietnam Peace Committee, credited Dr. Spock with "great contributions to the noble humanitarian cause, and expressed the hope that the "American people" would have increased success in their "struggle for an end to US aggression in Vietnam."

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The President's Daily Brief

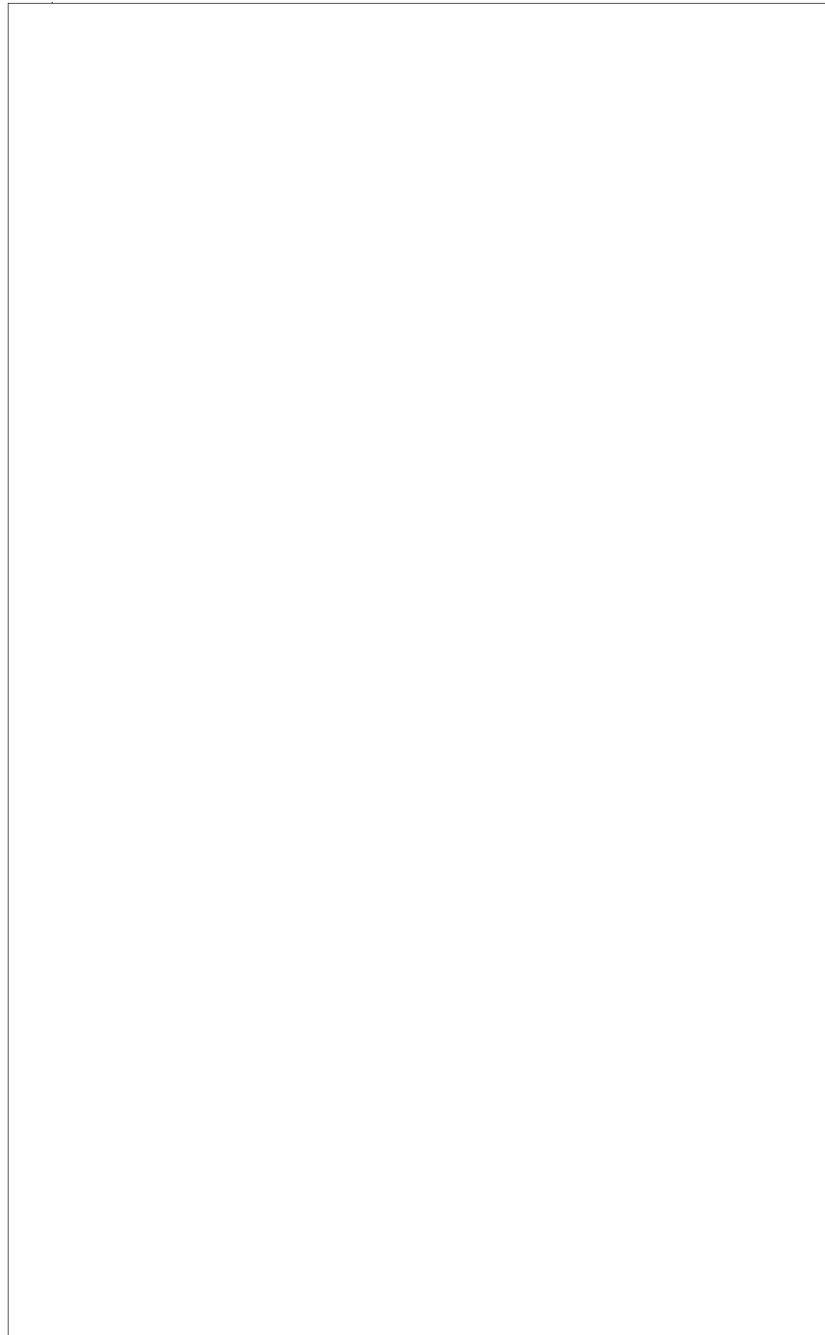
~~Top Secret 18 June 1968~~



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
18 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam



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At Annex we examine the uneasy political climate in Saigon in terms of how the Viet Cong may be viewing it and what they might hope to do about it.

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2. Canada

General elections are one week from today and Trudeau's Liberal Party still looks good for a small majority in the new parliament. The prime minister has run a well-organized campaign focused on foreign policy and national unity. He has stayed away from Canada's economic problems where the Liberals are most vulnerable.

Trudeau's edge might be a little larger had he not been pushing so hard for the unity of French and English-speaking Canada. This may put a few seats in Quebec in jeopardy. An unexpectedly large turn-out against Trudeau in the French-speaking province could even cost the Liberals a majority.

3. Rhodesia

After more than two and one half years, economic sanctions still have had little impact on Rhodesia. Economic growth has slowed a bit, but there have been no serious disruptions.

The UN's latest effort to cut off Rhodesia's remaining foreign trade--a resolution passed 29 May by the Security Council--will be no more than a minor irritant as the Rhodesians already have found there are plenty of people willing to buy and sell, UN resolutions or no.

4. Uruguay

The Communist-dominated National Labor Convention has called a 24-hour strike today. This is to protest the limited state of siege imposed last week. The strike is not illegal, and neither the government nor labor want trouble. Given the tensions involved, however, there could be riots, particularly if the police get heavy-handed.

5. Israel

In his latest effort to outmaneuver Moshe Dayan, Eshkol has put some serious strains on his own party and on the coalition government it dominates.

Last week Eshkol abruptly designated Labor Minister Yigal Allon deputy prime minister. Dayan boycotted the meeting at which Allon's appointment was approved by most leaders of the Israel Labor Party. Now the popular defense minister is crying foul and threatening to stay out of party meetings until there is a vote with all his followers present.

At least four of the other five political parties in the government are also angry because Eshkol failed to consult them. One or more may pull out of the coalition when the cabinet acts to approve Allon's appointment.

A hero of the 1948-49 war, Allon leads an important faction of the Labor Party. He has been Dayan's leading rival for succession to Eshkol--and the prime minister's latest move would seem for the moment to give him the inside track.

6. France

The French, who only a few months ago were leading the attack on the dollar, now are trying to get dollars to support the franc. In fact, today France will sell \$400 million in gold for dollars. The US has been offered \$200 million; Swiss and other European central banks the remaining \$200 million.

To make the sale, the French are dipping into their reserves. While these reserves are still ample, they have been hit for about \$1 billion during the crisis. The French hope to keep the franc pegged at 20.11 US cents.

ANNEX

Communist Views of Saigon Politics and Possible Courses of Action

Communist propaganda for the past few weeks has given heavy play to the continued "squabbling" between Thieu and Ky and has predicted even more serious and violent political crises ahead. The Communists' own scenario counts heavily on the weakening and ultimate collapse of the regime in Saigon. The Communists view the recent shake-ups in the government as resulting in Ky being "relegated to an inferior position." They credit their own military and psychological pressure for much of what has happened so far and are probably looking for ways to heat up the power struggle.

From a purely political point of view, the Communists are somewhat limited in their ability to force a confrontation between leaders in Saigon. They can spread rumors of coup plotting and, according to Ky, are now doing so. But these probably add little to those already rolling from Saigon's own rumor mills. We would expect new attacks, both by rocket and by ground forces, against the capital. The Communists, however, will be somewhat wary of moves which could have the effect of causing Saigon's factions to close ranks.

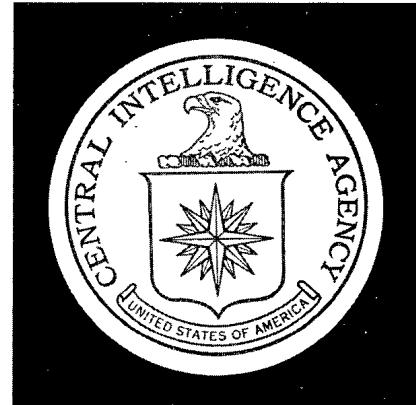
Ky told Ambassador Berger on 17 June that he had "intelligence" that the Communists planned to attack the presidential palace and Tan Son Nhut air base in South Vietnamese Army uniforms, allegedly in the guise of a Ky-sponsored coup. In such a scheme they would probably hope to dupe some Vietnamese Army troops into supporting their efforts--a remote possibility particularly if Tan Son Nhut, a Ky stronghold, were attacked.

Were Ky to stage a real coup attempt, the Communists would stand a far better chance of exploiting the disarray either militarily in and around Saigon and in the rural areas or politically in the aftermath, both at home and abroad. They might, under the circumstances, surface new members or recruits for their Alliance and might even regard the moment as propitious for proclaiming a rival Alliance

government. They would almost certainly try to exploit the tensions in the South Vietnamese Army by intensive appeals for defection, and they would probably attempt to step up sabotage and terrorism, hoping to pin much of the responsibility on either Thieu's or Ky's supporters. Ky, however, appears fully aware of these dangers and is declaring himself opposed to coup efforts.

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- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
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18 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

18 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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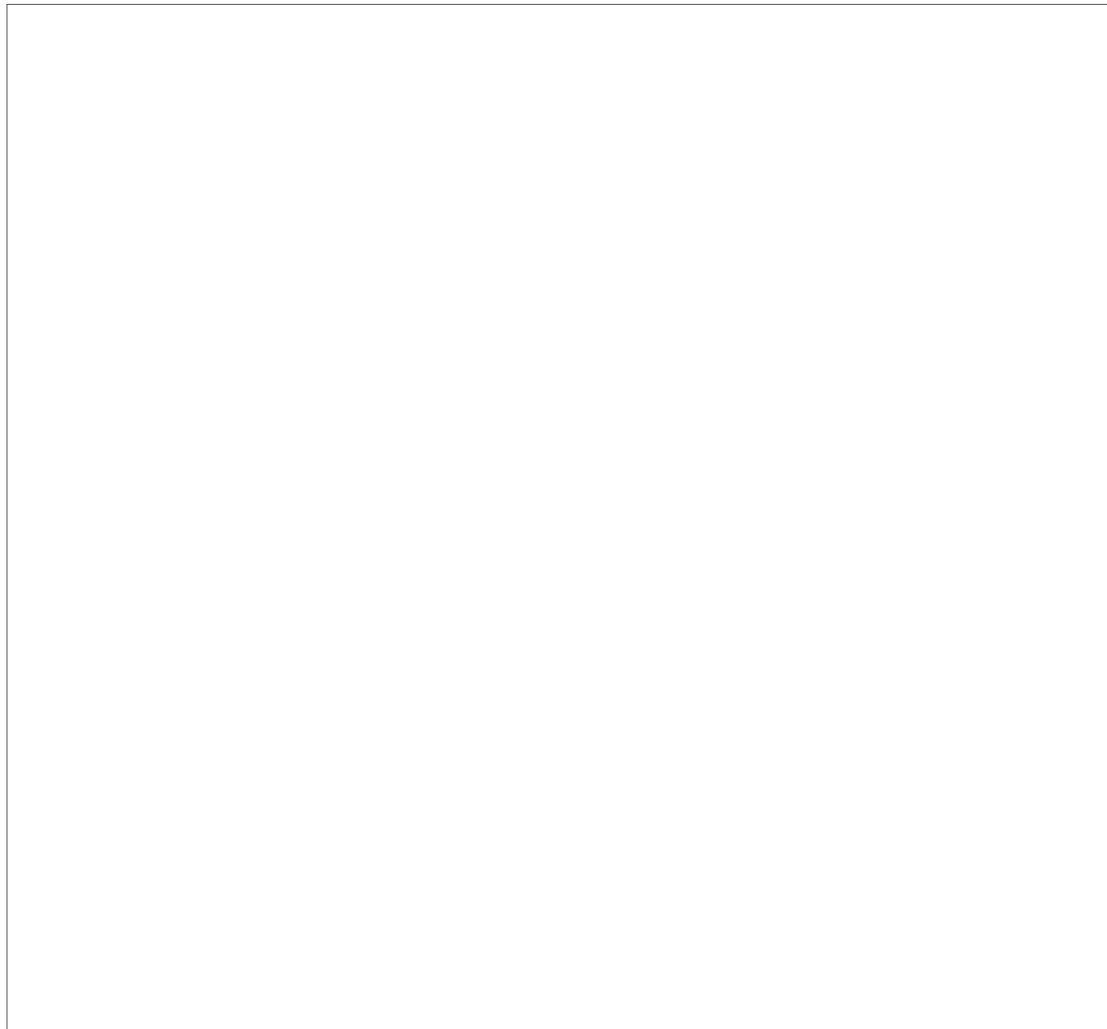
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Bombing Effects: The Communist head of Italy's biggest labor union recently returned from a trip to Hanoi and described North Vietnam as suffering "gravely" from US bombing, but determined to fight on for another 10 to 20 years if necessary.

Luciano Lama who is also a Communist member of Parliament told a news conference on 17 June that the bombings had not weakened the North Vietnamese spirit. He said that while the North Vietnamese do not expect "any immediate results" from the current talks, fruitful peace talks could begin when the Americans halt the bombing of the North.

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

Reaction to Possible McCarthy Visit to Paris:
North Vietnamese diplomats in Paris have hinted that they welcomed a reported suggestion by Senator Eugene McCarthy that he would like to visit Paris and look in on the peace talks, according to Western Press reports.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
19 JUNE 1968

1. West Germany

Willy Brandt traveled to East Berlin yesterday to talk for almost nine hours with the Soviet ambassador to East Germany. The trip was made at the ambassador's invitation, apparently to discuss East German moves against West Berlin.

2. South Vietnam

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3. Panama

With votes for the National Assembly still being counted, President-elect Arias is trying to sew up his coalition's control over it by rigging the results in two important provinces. He believes that otherwise his domestic programs and ratification of a canal treaty might go by the board. National Guard chief Vallarino is working behind the scenes to put in his own supporters. President Robles, now out of the picture, has apparently given up on blocking Arias and is making plans for a return to private life.

4. Guatemala

There are more rumblings of coup plotting by right-wing military officers. Their discontent stems from President Mendez' breakup of the military hierarchy in late March.

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5. Sierra Leone

Leftists around Prime Minister Stevens are doing their best to persuade him that the West is out to torpedo his new government. The US has been the principal whipping boy of cabinet radicals and the press, and the cabinet is now debating the future of the Peace Corps.

The foreign minister says the government hopes to "coax" aid from the US, failing which it would be free to oust the corps. We would not be surprised to see it try to play both sides of the street. Like most African governments, it is hard up for cash.

6. Malaysia

Communist terrorists on 17 June killed 15 Malaysian police and wounded 14 others in an ambush near the Thai border. The attack marked the 20th anniversary of the start of the twelve-year Communist insurgency and was the biggest since its end.

We do not believe that this signals a rebirth of the rebellion. It is a reminder, however, that a nucleus of the old movement remains, holed up mainly in southern Thailand and recruiting for the future.

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8. French Africa

France's ex-colonies in Africa are in for a period of belt-tightening. There will be considerable cutbacks in aid from Paris because of the domestic crisis.

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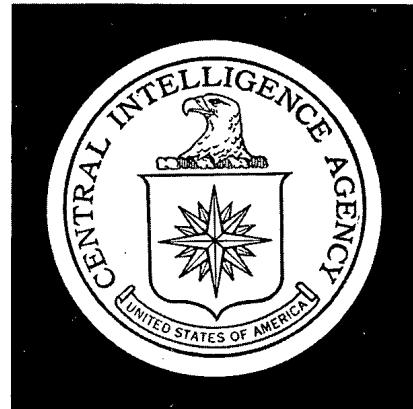


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19 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

19 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Soviets Support Hanoi in Paris Talks: Moscow has authoritatively reiterated its full support for Hanoi at the Paris talks. An unsigned editorial article in the 17 June issue of Pravda states that Moscow stands behind Hanoi's demand for "an end to the bombing and other US acts of war against the North," and charges that the US is blocking progress at Paris by putting forward proposals for "reciprocity and de-escalation" on the part of North Vietnam. The piece concludes by alleging that a peaceful solution to the war is available if only Washington will match Hanoi's good will with concrete actions.

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Views of the Economy:

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shortfall in planted acreage for the spring crop, adulterated rice rations, and a high percentage of women cultivating rice paddies. Industry and agriculture have been seriously disrupted for at least two years, and rising levels of imports have been necessary to sustain daily life. For quite some time, the food ration has been adulterated by up to 40 or 50 percent with imported rice substitutes

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Further food imports will be necessary to cover an estimated 200,000-ton shortfall in the spring harvest this year. The proportion of women in the agricultural labor force has always been high--60 percent before bombing began. The labor problem consists of a shortage of skilled workers, but foreign technical assistance has relieved some of the strain on skilled manpower.

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Air Raid Alerts: North Vietnam is keeping its population on the alert against a possible resumption of air attacks north of the 20th parallel. According to press reports, air raid alarms went off in the capital area on Monday for the first time in months

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Czech Aid: Hanoi's Politburo-level aid mission has signed a military and economic aid agreement with Czechoslovakia which

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includes both free assistance and long-term loans.

Some of the economic items were disclosed: ship motors, diesel motors, trucks, tractors, bicycles, and medical supplies. In terms of military assistance

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only "various kinds of capital investment" to strengthen the defense potential. The delegation is off to Berlin for its next stop.

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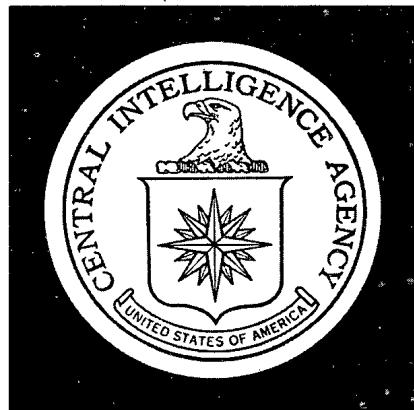
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
20 JUNE 1968

1. North Vietnam

There is no confirmation of press speculation that the North Vietnamese have been ferrying Styx coastal defense missiles into the Demilitarized Zone by helicopter. Hard evidence is lacking, but there are several reasons to doubt that this analysis is correct.

If in fact Styx missiles are in North Vietnam, they could be fired from less vulnerable positions farther north along the coast. In addition, the North Vietnamese in the past are known to have brought heavy artillery and equipment into the Demilitarized Zone by land; moving Styx missiles this way would be considerably less risky than by helicopter.

We also doubt that the North Vietnamese would want to expose their big helicopters (they have only four large enough for this kind of operation) in an area where the US has air and naval superiority.

2. Berlin

Willy Brandt's lengthy talk with Soviet Ambassador Abrasimov two days ago contained no surprises, according to Embassy Bonn. In briefing allied diplomats, the West German Foreign Office claimed that the Russian offered no compromises, and defended the East German measures in much the same tone as had other Soviet ambassadors in Western capitals. Abrasimov stressed, however, that Moscow wants no aggravation of the situation.

The Foreign Office also confirms that Bonn does not want to take counter-measures in interzonal trade at this time.

3. Soviet Union

Pravda yesterday carried a detailed reply to President Johnson's recent statements on improving US-Soviet relations. In essence, the article says that the US must first act to solve outstanding problems--above all the "aggression" in Vietnam. Then there are other obstacles:

--US support for Israel;

--Trade discrimination against the Soviets and their allies; and

--"Further militarization" of the US and its allies.

The article claims that the President's appeals are indicative of growing public sentiment in the US which must be reckoned with by those now in office and those running for office. It implies that the Soviets would respond favorably if the US shows that it is "really interested."

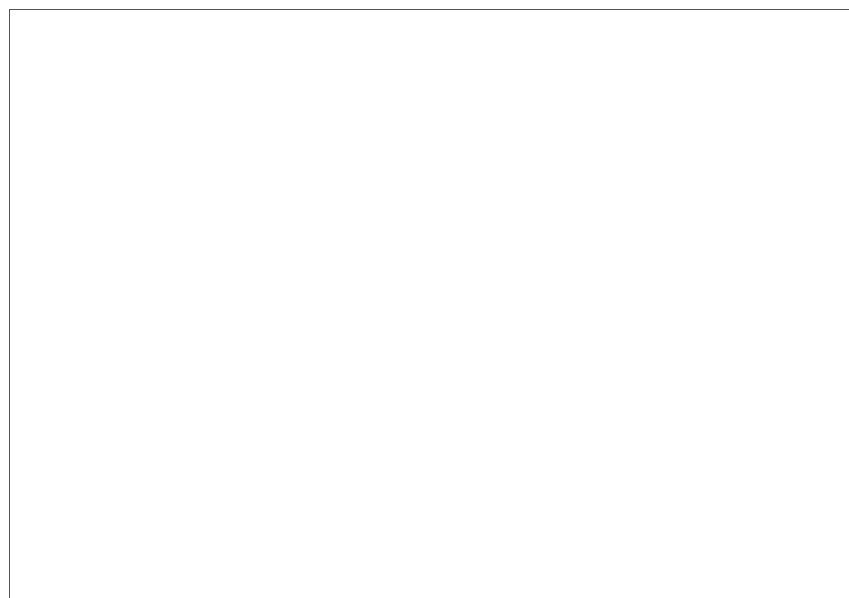
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5. Israel

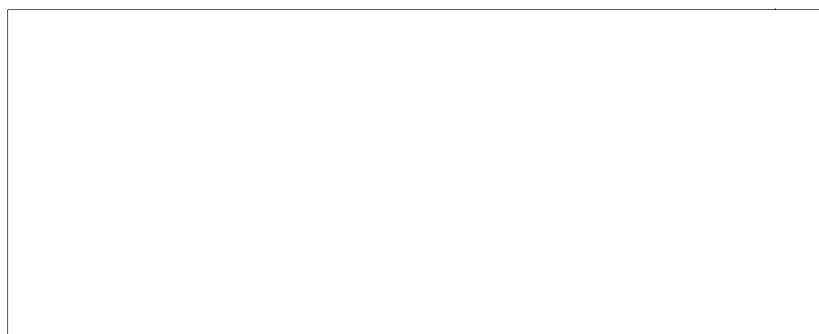
Moshe Dayan claims that 108 Israeli soldiers and 20 civilians have been killed by the Arabs since the end of the Six Day War. By comparison, about 700 Israelis were killed in the war itself. This steady drain can only buttress the case Dayan and other "hawks" have been making for punitive raids across the cease-fire lines.

6. Iraq

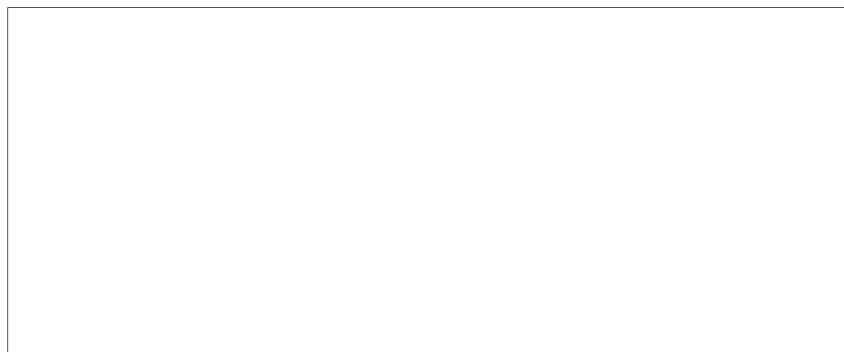
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**7. Panama**

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**8. Mexico**

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20 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

20 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Front Says Local Governments are Mushrooming:
The Communists continue to lay the groundwork for claiming extensive new territorial control since their Tet offensive. Liberation Radio claimed on 18 June that local "people's governments" are being set up "everywhere." The commentary maintained that these "governments" developed spontaneously in both urban and rural areas, in the wake of current Communist offensives. The broadcast makes no effort to tie these local organizations into either the Liberation Front or its new partner, the National Alliance. A wide variety of nomenclature is used for the "governments," and the movement is portrayed as having no direction. This recalls the way Liberation Radio talked about local chapters of the Alliance in the period of the Tet fighting.

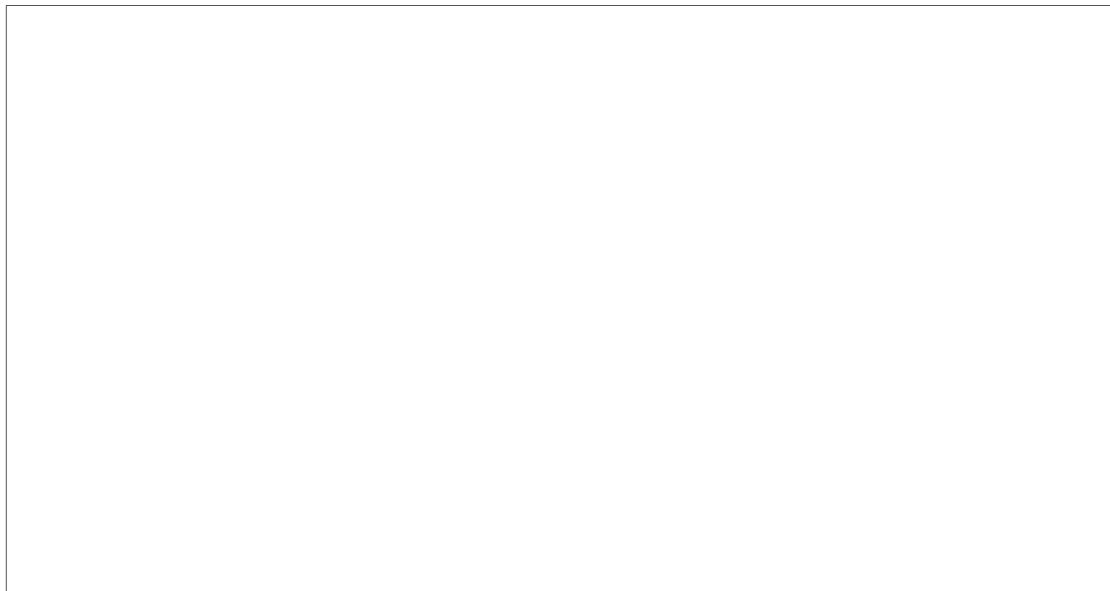
The commentary highlights the development of such groups in Saigon and the delta, but claims that they are coming to life all over Vietnam. In Saigon, the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth precincts all reportedly have "self-management committeees," and in the delta the people allegedly are electing "people's councils" and "people's revolutionary committees" at a rapid rate.

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Front Claims South Vietnamese Desertions: The Liberation Front, in a statement summarized in English on 19 June over Hanoi's international service, claimed that 1,200 South Vietnamese troops, militiamen, and other members of the "puppet army" have gone over to the Viet Cong. The mass desertion allegedly took place in the delta after "thousands" of local civilians visited government forces to paint a rosy picture of life on the Communist side. [redacted]

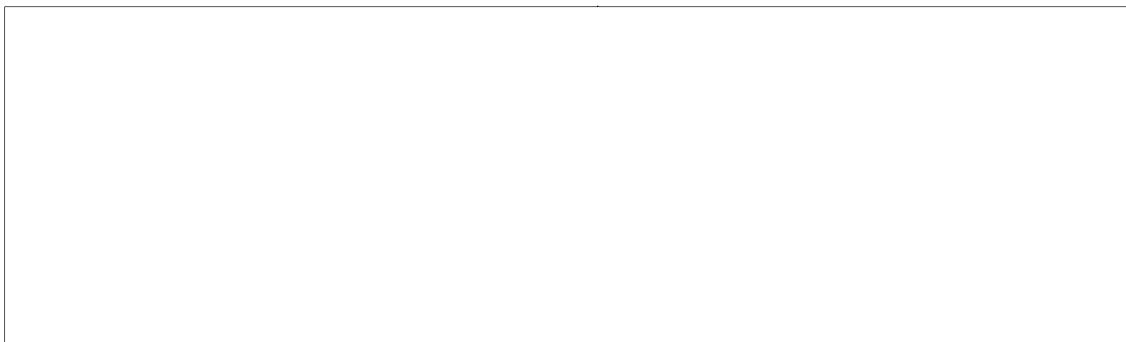
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[redacted] the Front's account may be intended to counter the surrender of about 120 Communist troops north of Saigon on Tuesday.

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

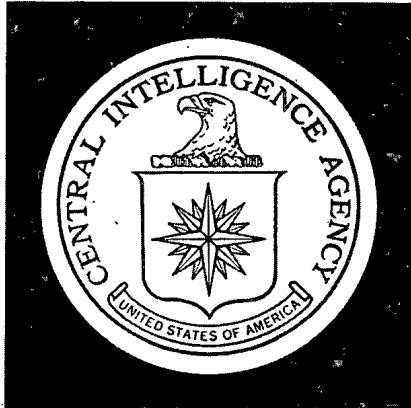
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McCarthy Welcome: The North Vietnamese delegation in Paris expressed willingness to meet with Senator McCarthy if he comes to Paris in July, according to a Reuters report of June 18. A North Vietnamese press spokesman said McCarthy is welcome to call on the delegation and added that the North Vietnamese have so far received everyone who has wanted to see them.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
21 JUNE 1968

1. Soviet Union

Ambassador Dobrynin says he has been ordered to fly home on Saturday. He has had to cancel a dinner engagement here on Wednesday in order to make the trip.

We suspect the Soviet leadership wants to have him on hand for the regular meeting of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) on Wednesday. These are often routine affairs, but in this case something may be said about the Paris talks or Soviet-American relations.

2. Arab States -
Israel

Egypt and Israel have both moved troops into a disputed area near the Suez Canal following the killing of five Egyptian soldiers there on Tuesday. Any clash would probably spread to other points along the canal.

There may also be incidents along the Israeli-Jordanian cease-fire line. The Israelis claim the Jordanians recently used mortar and artillery fire against settlements on the Israeli side, and they say they will feel forced to respond in kind unless the bombardment stops.

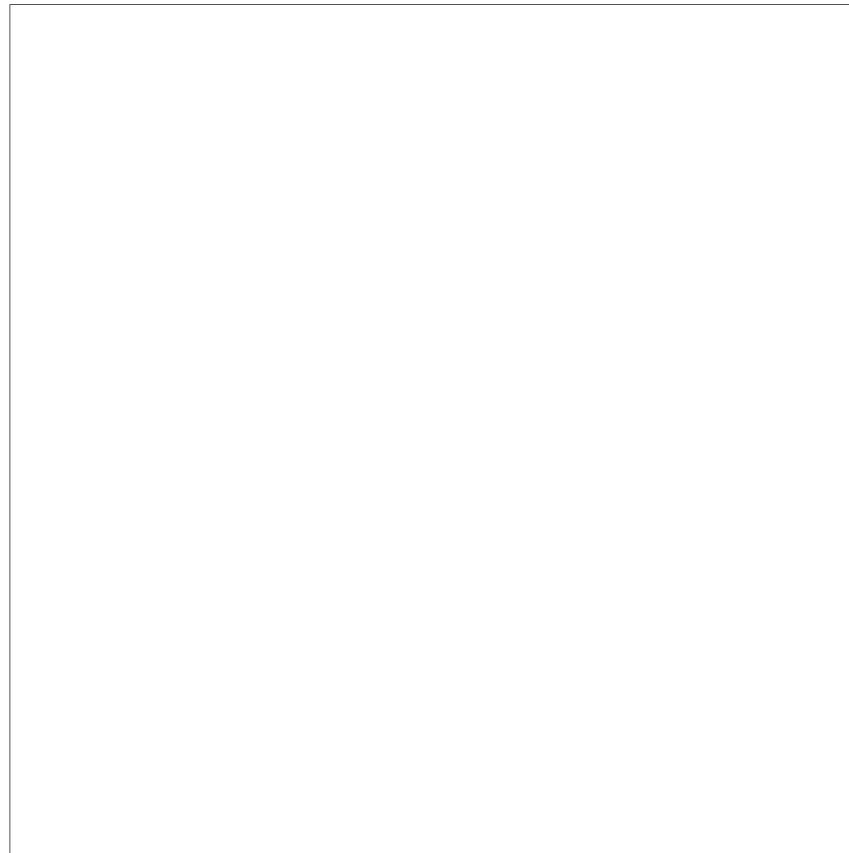
3. Soviet Union

The Soviet naval contingent in the Mediterranean has been reduced at least temporarily. The reduction is small--from a little more than 30 ships to a little under that number--and probably does not presage a major withdrawal.

The prolonged operation of the larger contingent has strained Soviet resources. Most of the ships now in the Mediterranean are in port or at anchor.

4. South Vietnam

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5. Poland

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[redacted] the long-disputed central committee meeting will probably be held in July or August. This suggests that although Gomulka is still not entirely sure of himself, he thinks he has won back a good deal of ground from the hardliners around Interior Minister Moczar.

We hear [redacted] that it was Gomulka who was responsible for bringing the anti-Semitic campaign to an almost complete halt last month. This was a campaign with which Moczar and his allies had been closely identified. As the meeting approaches, the friction between the two leadership groups will probably grow.

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6. Czechoslovakia

The Dubcek regime has hinted that it will permit the establishment of new political parties. Such parties and any other interest groups would have to operate within the framework of the National Front, a catch-all grouping which is dominated by the Communists. They apparently would have a definite voice in policy formation, however. The Czechoslovak interior minister says 70 new "organizations" have already requested the regime's sanction.

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The long-heralded Warsaw Pact exercise got under way in Czechoslovakia yesterday.

7. Greece

Papadopoulos shuffled his cabinet yesterday. The changes are confined to second-echelon ministries; the important portfolios remain in the same hands.

Our embassy believes a good many of the new men may be improvements over their predecessors. It also notes that Papadopoulos succeeded in keeping the revolutionary junta out of the line-up, perhaps at the cost of alienating some of its members.

* * *

King Constantine, meanwhile, has told Ambassador Ackley that he remains in desultory contact with Athens, but he showed no sense of urgency about a reconciliation. He has recently been traveling and talking to such diverse personalities as Harold Wilson and the Shah of Iran, both of whom gave him the congenial advice that he should bide his time.

8. France

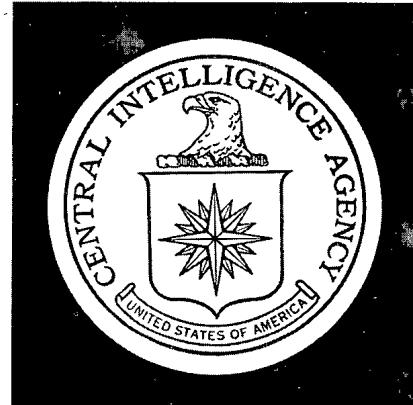
As Sunday's Assembly elections approach, the French voter seems strangely apathetic, possibly because he feels the election will solve nothing. The Gaullists are trumpeting warnings of the Communist peril, the Communists are trying to score a victory over the non-Communist left, and the center parties are urging voters to support a "third way" between left and right. Everyone, in short, is mouthing generalities and no one is dealing substantively with the social and economic issues which recently paralyzed France.

Predictions about the outcome are risky. Sunday will be just the first round of the elections, and a run-off is scheduled for 30 June. Between the two rounds, a complex bargaining process will take place among the parties which will determine which candidates will run on the second ballot. The Gaullists, with their "red peril" theme, are hoping the anti-Communist reflex is more powerful among voters than it has been in the past. If it is, they may get their absolute majority.

Even the French pollsters are shying away from this one. Our embassy has reported the results from only two samplings. Both of these indicate that the Gaullists and a small, far left party which has identified itself with student grievances may make modest gains, and that the Communists, the center, and Francois Mitterrand's leftist federation may lose a few seats.

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- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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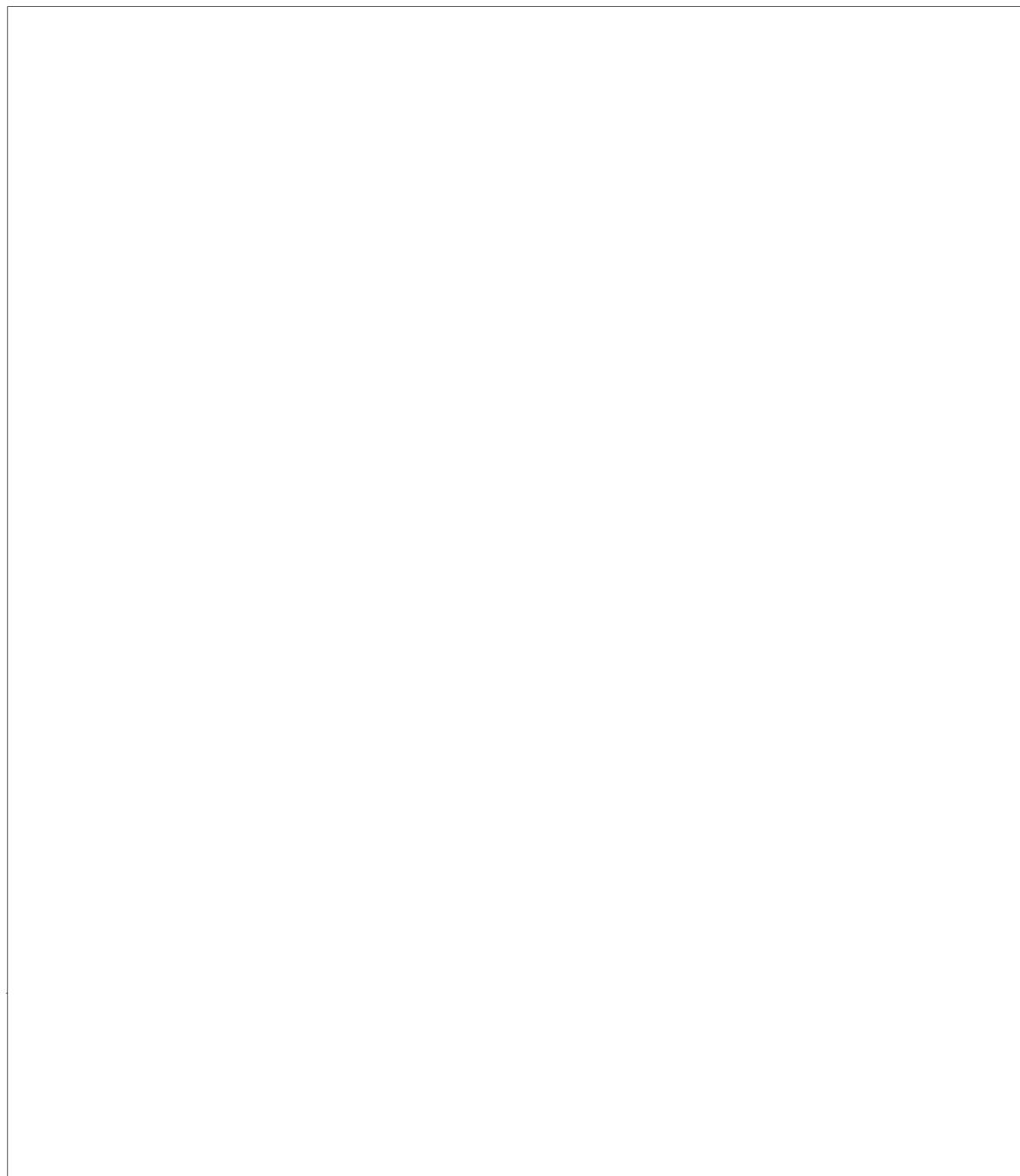
21 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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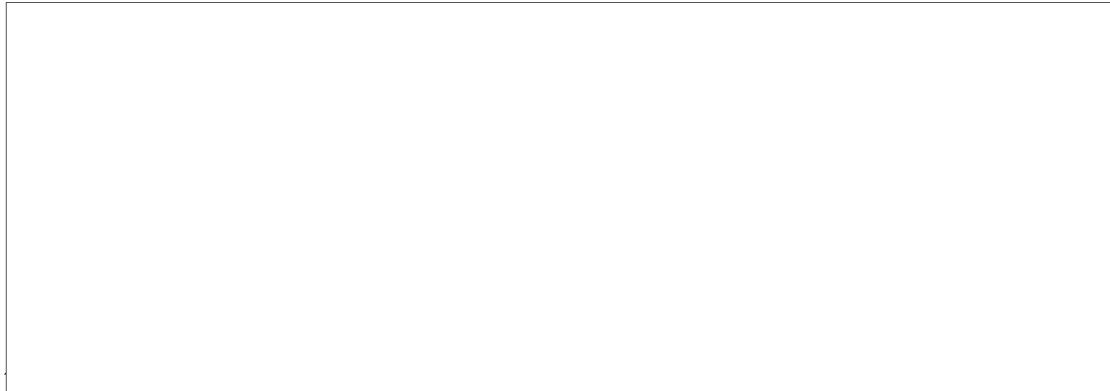
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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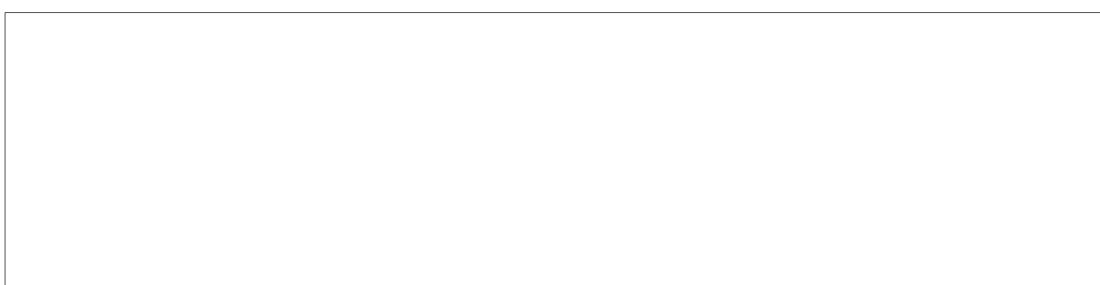


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UK-Schoenman: Ralph Schoenman, US citizen who is Lord Russell's secretary and an anti-Vietnam-war advocate, evaded British authorities and sneaked into the country last week. His whereabouts there are unknown. British authorities slapped an entry ban on him last March and he would be deported if found. The London press reports that the home office has begun an investigation to determine how Schoenman was able to evade immigration authorities.

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Repairs to Bridge Finished: The Paul Doumer Bridge appears to be open to traffic with repairs largely completed. Photography taken Tuesday showed the last of seven spans replaced and all decking finished. It also was noted that there are 19 road and rail by-passes around the bridge.

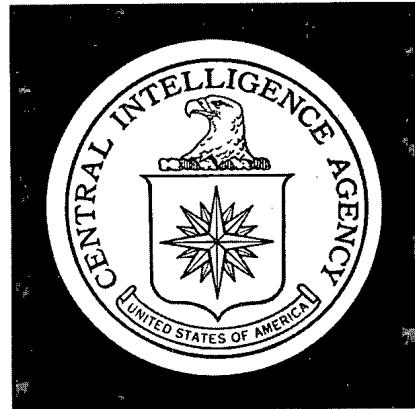
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
22 JUNE 1968

1. Korea

The South Koreans are tightening security even further in view of increased North Korean infiltration. There is some suspicion in Seoul that the North Koreans may try to stage a serious incident around 25 June, the day the Korean War began in 1950, or 27 July, the anniversary of the armistice.

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Early this morning seven North Korean infiltrators were killed in a series of clashes along the Demilitarized Zone. For their part, the North Koreans are claiming they sank "an enemy spy boat" in the Yellow Sea.

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2. Soviet Union

Moscow's foreign aid expenditures are holding at about the \$2 billion a year level reached in 1967. Big tab items are:

--About \$700 million in military and economic aid to North Vietnam;

--Over \$300 million to replace Arab military equipment; and

--Some \$500 million to keep the Cuban economy afloat.

3. Panama

As predicted, Robles has rescinded the decree of 18 June that would have permitted ships flying the Panamanian flag to trade with Communist countries. The decree had been pushed by the finance minister as retaliation for alleged US support of Arias.

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4. Czechoslovakia-
Italy

Prague asked the French for a \$100 million loan last month and more recently approached the Italians for an unspecified amount.

When they talked to the Italians, the Czechs said their prospects for a hard currency loan from Moscow were extremely poor, although the Russians were offering some help in the form of goods.

The French reaction is unknown, but the Italians seem willing to give the Czechs either a cash loan or credit for use in buying Italian products.

5. Philippines

The United States Intelligence Board has approved a National Intelligence Estimate on the Prospects for the Philippines. This estimate concludes that:

--Marcos has been unable to rise above a political system dominated by a wealthy and conservative oligarchy unresponsive to the needs of the people.

--Prospects for reform are not promising. Although the left does not pose an immediate threat, it may be able eventually to convert apathy and resignation into active opposition.

--Philippine frustrations are likely to have an increasingly anti-American cast.

--Nevertheless, the US-Philippine alliance is the cornerstone of Marcos' foreign policy and the Filipinos will continue to look to the US for security guarantees.

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16

22 June 1968

**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only**

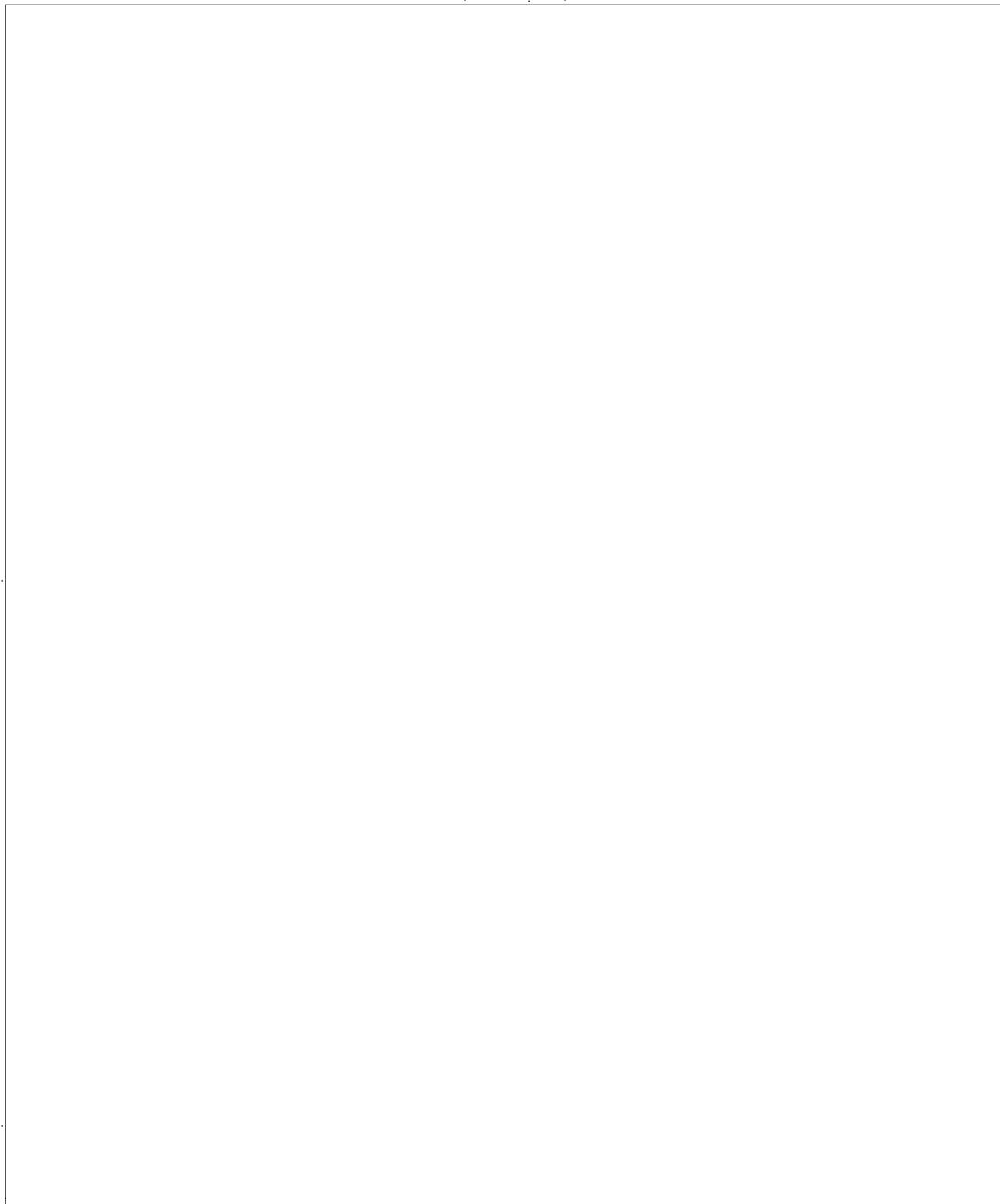
22 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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More on the "Right to Fight": The Liberation Front representative in Budapest has echoed Hanoi's line proclaiming the right of "all Vietnamese" to join the struggle in the South. In a press conference on 19 June, Dinh Ba Thi, the Front representative, declared that it was "the right of the Vietnamese people

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as a whole to fight against the enemy with united forces." Thi said that the Front, which "fully supports" Hanoi's position in the Paris talks, is relying primarily on its own strength, but acknowledged that the Viet Cong are receiving "all-around" assistance from their "brothers in the North."

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Press Office in Paris: The Liberation Front people who came to Paris last week to open a press office are beginning to receive a little more publicity. The press officer of the North Vietnamese delegation at the Paris talks acknowledged their presence in his press conference on Thursday

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The Front officials have been warned that the French expect to monitor all their releases for attacks against the French Government or any of its allies.

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New Landing Craft for the North: Recent photography shows that the Chinese are sending armed landing craft to North Vietnam. Photography of 2 June shows two [redacted] boats at Haiphong. They apparently have been there since at least October 1967.

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

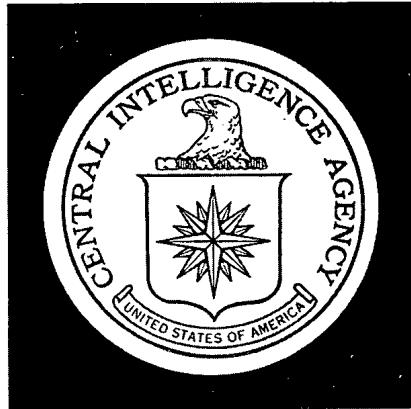
Hanoi Radio Quotes War Opponents: In a broadcast entitled "Many US Organizations and Personalities Condemn US Aggression in Vietnam," Hanoi domestic radio reported on 19 June that Senator Stephen Young and former Ambassador John Kenneth Galbraith had publicly denounced President Johnson's Vietnam policy on separate occasions. According to the broadcast, Senator Young in a Senate speech on 17 June declared that the war is "unconstitutional and immoral," and has "no congressional approval." He is said to have likened the South Vietnamese refugee camps he had seen on a recent trip to Vietnam to the concentration camp at Dachau and "other death camps of the Hitlerite Fascists in Germany."

The broadcast reported that Galbraith had "vigorously criticized" the administration's Vietnam policy at a meeting held on 15 June by the National Council of Americans for Democratic Action.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
24 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam

The Buddhists have launched a new peace campaign, with militant and moderate factions vying for the spotlight.

On Saturday, militant leader Thich Tinh Khiet released a statement calling for an immediate cease-fire and castigating the North Vietnamese for the shelling of Saigon. Yesterday the moderates came out with a somewhat similar statement.

This new effort comes at a time when there is increasing discussion among leftist students and politicians about the consequences of continued fighting and the need for a prompt end to the bloodshed. One labor organization, for example, has petitioned Thieu for an end to what is described as careless and indiscriminate allied air and artillery strikes.

2. Canada

The latest polls give Prime Minister Trudeau's Liberal Party some 46 percent of the vote in Tuesday's election. A district-by-district assessment by the embassy, however, shows the Liberals failing narrowly to win a majority and having to continue as a minority government as they have for the past five years.

Trudeau has kept the campaign focused on issues of his choosing--national unity and foreign policy--and has succeeded fairly well in downplaying economic questions on which the Liberals are most vulnerable.

All three major parties support a comprehensive review of Canada's foreign and defense commitments and favor recognition of Communist China.

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3. Uruguay

President Pacheco is finally saying that he will crack down on the labor leaders and other agitators responsible for the current wave of disorders. It is not clear just what he will do, but it is clear that if the government does not move quickly to alleviate the chaotic economic conditions, any measures against the agitators will likely produce more violence.

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4. Spain

Franco and company are showing continuing concern that the political unrest in France and elsewhere may spread their way. Monarchist celebrations planned for last Saturday and for today in a number of Spanish cities were abruptly cancelled. In recent months, the government has been quick to ban meetings that might produce political problems.

5. France

Final tallies just in on the first round of the French elections confirm press reports this morning that De Gaulle has indeed won a strong vote of confidence.

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24 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

24 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Demonstrations: Vietnamese Communist efforts to promote demonstrations in support of their stand in Paris are paying off. [redacted] on 21 June, representatives of the "Stockholm Conference on Vietnam" agreed to organize world-wide demonstrations next month to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Geneva agreements in 1954.

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Agricultural Conditions: [redacted]

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On 3 and 4 June, [redacted] the press said that "great efforts were required to remedy the situation" caused by cold weather and prolonged rain. The weather was said to be affecting not only the harvest of the early rice crop, but also the planting of the more important second crop. This same type of article appeared on 10 June. Other press pieces recently have dealt with lack of fertilizers and shortages of manpower.

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Propaganda Emphasizes Defections: The well-publicized defection of nearly 150 Communist troops just north of Saigon on 19 June seems to have hit the Communists where it hurts. The Liberation Front came back almost the next day with a report of 1,200 South Vietnamese troops who had staged a mass desertion in the delta. No specifics on date and place were supplied, and there is no confirmation from other sources. On the 21st, Hanoi radio broadcast a long commentary in English recounting all the alleged defections that had occurred among South Vietnamese troops since the Tet offensive. It represents a rehash of much of the propaganda issued earlier to support Communist claims of extensive popular support for their new front group, the

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National Alliance. Mass desertions of southern units or individuals, particularly in I Corps, were continually reported in the aftermath of the Tet fighting. Although the broadcast of the 21st is more specific on dates, unit designations, and places than the Liberation Front account on the 19th, it is still difficult to confirm. Much of the reported activity is not actual defections but what the commentary calls "mutinies and antiwar activities."

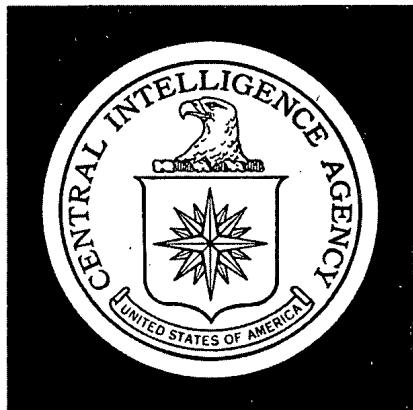
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 25 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
25 JUNE 1968

1. France

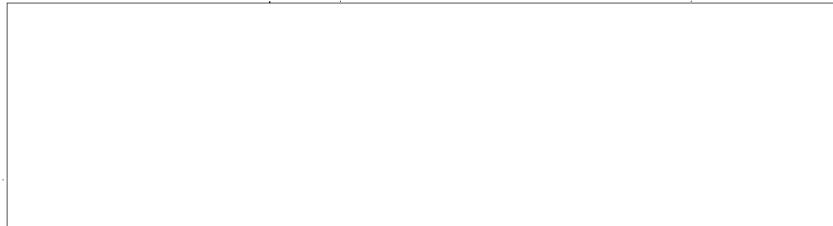
Today will be a day of intense bargaining as French politicians set up slates for the run-off elections this Sunday. The deadline for picking candidates is midnight tonight.

The Gaullists are pressing center candidates to withdraw in their favor; the Federation of the Left and the Communists are compromising on a single candidate in each constituency.

De Gaulle and his allies got 43.6 percent of the vote on Sunday and an unprecedented 142 Assembly seats assured. Only 12 opposition candidates managed to obtain the 50 percent of the vote necessary for election on the first round. The Gaullists, however, are anxious to avoid overconfidence, and they are urging their followers to get back and vote in the next ballot. The government also may have some problems with voters who shift sides just to keep De Gaulle from getting a landslide.

2. United Kingdom

Labor troubles have raised new threats to Britain's economic recovery program. Airline pilots and auto workers are out; railway workers are holding a "slowdown." The railway men have a tradition of brinksmanship, however, and may back down. If they do not, and the other strikes go on for any length of time, the pound could come under heavy pressure again.

3. Korea

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4. Berlin

The West Germans are still groping around for some way to get back at the East Germans for imposing travel restrictions. Bonn, however, is unwilling to resort to tough measures, such as counterrestrictions on interzone trade. The Germans would prefer that their allies make strong representations to the Soviets.

5. Lee Kuan Yew

Some of Lee's colleagues in government are questioning his plans for a long sabbatical that would include a rather lengthy stay in the US. Lee wants to take off from August to December and, among other things, "observe" the American elections. At the moment, Lee is somewhat undecided as to just what his timing will be. He does seem determined, however, to visit the US sometime during the summer.

6. Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo's Autonomous University is traditionally something of an extremist cauldron. Friday's shoot-out between rival student factions left one dead. Tension is at flash point and it could happen again. Balaguer may have to move against the university, but, for the moment, it does not appear that trouble will spread beyond the campus.

7. Czechoslovakia

The Czechs apparently have had to make the best of an unpleasant situation and allow some Soviet combat troops into the country to join the current Warsaw Pact exercise. Prague's earlier opposition to the entry of Russian troops was emphasized by press releases stating categorically that only staff elements would come to Czechoslovakia.

While the presence of Soviet troops on Czech soil has an undeniable psychological impact, the Russian units are not large and the Czechs apparently believe they will be pulled out when the exercise ends later this week.

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16
25 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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25 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

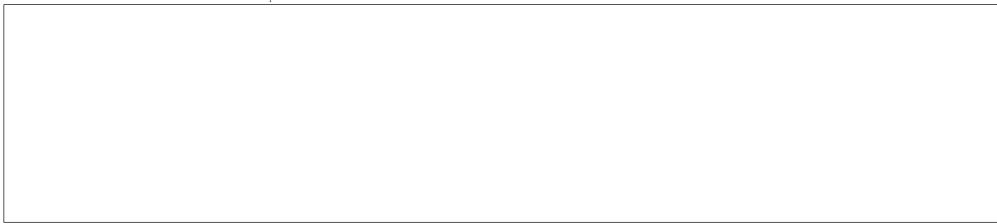
Peking-Hanoi Rail Service: There continue to be indications that rail service between China and North Vietnam is disrupted. The disruption of passenger service was initially noted in a message of 7 June when Chinese rail authorities in Peking requested Vietnamese officials in Hanoi to agree to cease coach service between the two capitals until further notice.

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Despite some disruption, high priority military shipments are probably getting through. The rail difficulties may result partly from civil disorders and partly from floods in south China. In any event North Vietnam undoubtedly has sufficient inventories to minimize the impact of delays.

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

Reaction to Vice President Humphrey's Statement: Xuan Thuy told a luncheon meeting of the Anglo-American press club on 24 June that Hanoi was not prepared to conclude an armistice, as suggested by Vice President Humphrey, before a total end to all US air raids on North Vietnam. Regarding Humphrey's statement that a cease-fire would enhance chances for the Paris talks, Xuan Thuy said, "We must not mix up aggressors and their victims." He added that the only objective of the Paris talks now is to agree on a cessation of the bombing.

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The President's Daily Brief

26 June
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
26 JUNE 1968

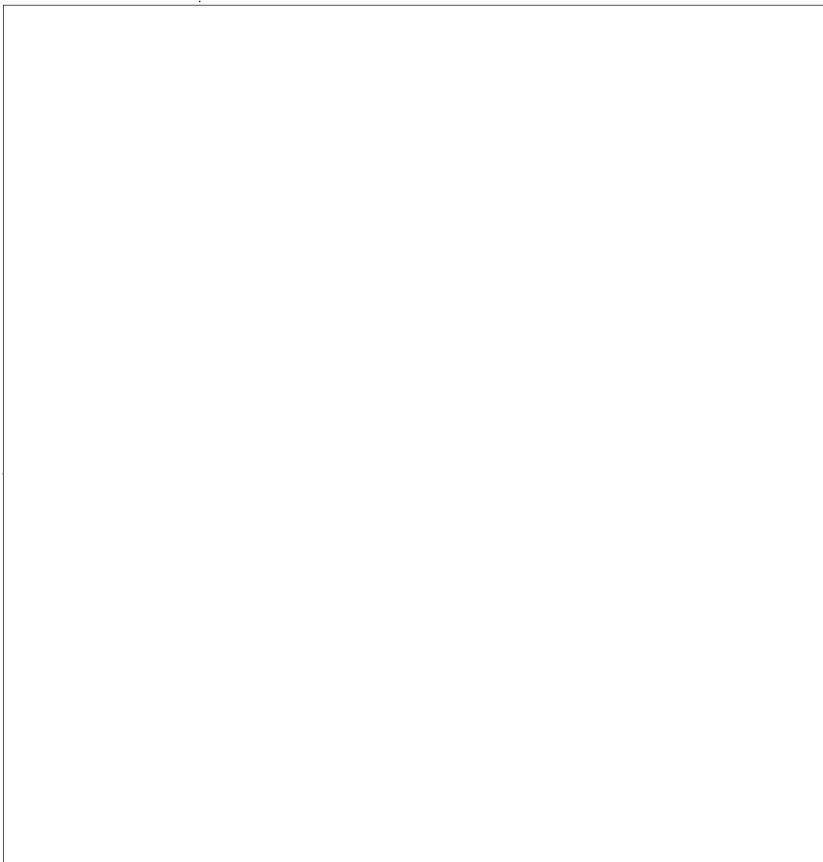
1. Canada



Trudeau's Liberal Party won handily in yesterday's election. Complete unofficial returns show that it will have 154 of the 264 parliamentary seats, ending six years of minority government in Canada. Trudeau can now move quickly to set in motion his promised review of Canada's foreign and domestic policies.

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2. Berlin

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East Germany meanwhile has denounced the allied counteraction of imposing fees for documentation of East Germans traveling to the West. It is certain also to take strong exception to plans of the West German parliament to hold two "work sessions" in West Berlin this fall.

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3. Czechoslovakia

The government's latest liberalization move is the abolition of the restricted zone along the East German border. This is in line with last week's general easing of restrictions on domestic and foreign travel. The East Germans also will not mistake Prague's intent to needle them at a time when they are playing their own game of greater controls.

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4. Communist China

Over the last few days 17 decomposed bodies, most of them bound hand and foot, have been found in Hong Kong waters. They apparently had drifted downstream from the Canton area, where travelers have reported increasing violence since May.

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5. Italy

The new government of Premier Leone, sworn in yesterday, is expected to pass its first hurdle next week when a vote of confidence is taken. Although it is a minority government composed entirely of Christian Democrats, other parties are not likely to force early elections.

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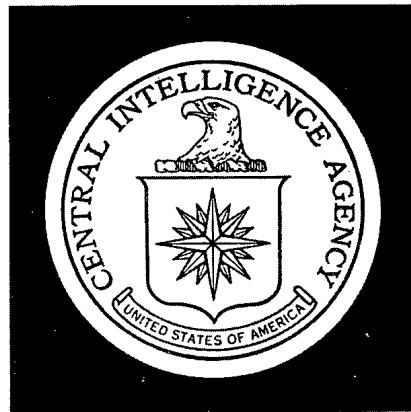
There are signs, however, that the Communists see a new opportunity in the present shaky state of affairs. They had previously worked to contain student protests, but Party secretary Longo now says he hopes that student strife can be coordinated with a general wave of worker protest.

6. Uruguay

President Pacheco threw down the gauntlet Monday when he ordered troops to move against striking Communist-led bank workers. This could lead to more strife if students and other labor leaders challenge the legality of his move.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 27 June 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
27 JUNE 1968

LATE ITEM

Soviet Union

Gromyko, addressing the Supreme Soviet in Moscow this morning, announced that the Soviet Union is ready to exchange opinions with the United States on limiting the development of both offensive and defensive rocket systems.

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
27 JUNE 1968

1. South Vietnam



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2. Middle East

The Jarring Mission is now essentially in recess. Jarring has left New York for a vacation in Sweden, but hopes to submit his report to U Thant by the end of July.

Procedural questions are still overshadowing substance in the search for a settlement. Neither the Arabs nor the Israelis have bridged the question of how the talks should be staged. The Israelis still insist on face-to-face talks with the Arabs before any implementation on the November Security Council resolution can be accomplished.

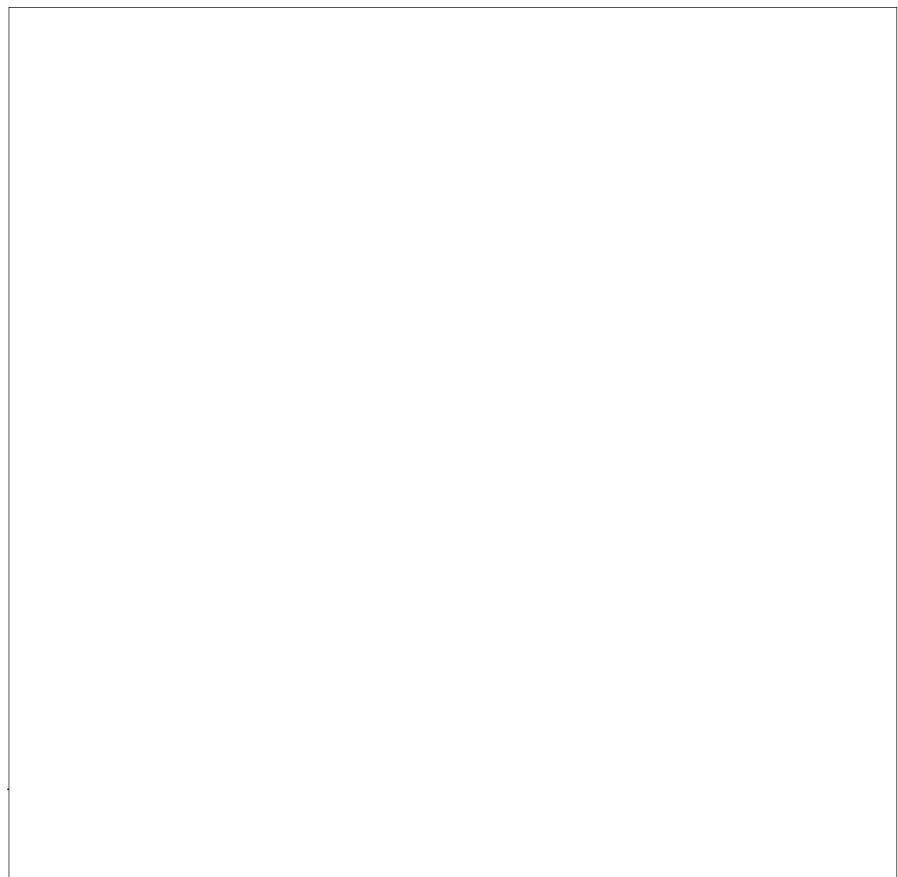
3. Communist China



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4. Communist World

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5. Warsaw Pact

Sejna, the Czech general who defected last winter, has reinforced our thinking that Warsaw Pact doctrine calls for a pre-emptive nuclear strike against the West in the event a NATO nuclear attack is thought imminent. Sejna says the Soviets would hope to hit the US "some hours" prior to a strike from the West.

Sejna brought out a top secret document on the question of a surprise NATO attack during a period of relatively low tensions. It shows that the Czechs do not anticipate receiving even a hint of this more than ten minutes before the launch of NATO missiles. At that time, unusual communications or aircraft activity might give some warning.

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6. Berlin

In its first assessment of West Berlin morale since the East German restrictions, the Berlin Mission comments that much of the population seems resigned about the city's future; many people are questioning whether to move or remain. Informed Berliners so far are more critical of Bonn than Washington for what they see as a lack of sufficient countermeasures.

Pan American and British European Airways meanwhile have reached tentative agreement on shuttle service between Hannover and Berlin beginning 1 August.

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7. Bolivia

[redacted] President Barrientos' finance minister intends to resign rather than sign the \$4.5 million special assistance loan now being negotiated with Washington. The minister believes the terms of the loan are too stringent and that this would have serious political repercussions.

Barrientos himself fears the "humiliating" conditions attached to the loan more than the long-range economic effects of failing to get the money. He will undoubtedly discuss this problem with President Johnson next week.

8. Brazil

The Costa e Silva administration managed to squeak through yesterday's major protest demonstrations without excessive violence, but dissatisfaction among the military with the President's inept handling of the student problem is bound to increase. In fact, there is already talk of a plot by "hard-liners" to push Costa e Silva out of office.

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16
27 June 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

27 June 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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"Go And Fight In South Vietnam": These were the words of a resolution passed by Hanoi's Central Military Affairs Committee according to notes found in the diary of a North Vietnamese soldier who followed these instructions. The notes apparently were taken during a briefing last fall. The resolution has never been made public.

As described in the diary, the resolution justifies Northern participation below the Demilitarized Zone on the grounds that "Vietnam should no longer be divided . . . there will be only one country."

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Wandering Vice Minister Returns: Hoang Van Loi, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, returned to Hanoi Tuesday after a prolonged road show in Africa and the Middle East. Loi was explaining Hanoi's position to national leaders in Algeria, Mali, Brazzaville, Congo, Guinea, Egypt, Syria, and Tanzania.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
28 JUNE 1968

1. Soviet Union

At Annex today we present our analysis of Gromyko's offer to discuss limitations on strategic weapons.

2. South Vietnam

Belief that some accommodation with the Liberation Front will have to be accepted by the government eventually is being voiced in Saigon. Over the past few weeks, student, labor, and religious groups have called for an end to the fighting and suggested negotiations with the Front.

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The Communists are trying to encourage and exploit these feelings. One of the Front's leading political cadre is reported to have said the Front was highly interested in promoting a peace campaign in Saigon.

3. Malaysia-
Philippines

Delegations of the two countries have been talking in Bangkok about Philippine claims to part of Malaysian Borneo. Both sides feel there has been no progress and are about ready to pack up.

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4. Czechoslovakia

Prague is announcing that the Warsaw Pact exercise will end this weekend and foreign troops will go home. Public statements about the nature of this exercise have changed often enough, however, to give the Czechs some reason to feel a bit uneasy about when their Soviet guests might leave.

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5. France

The Gaullists go down to the wire expecting to get more than the 92 additional seats they need to win in the second round for a majority. They are still worried about voter complacency, however, and are working hard to get their backers to the polls on Sunday.

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ANNEX

Soviet Offer to Discuss Strategic Weapons

Gromyko's offer to "exchange opinions" on the limitation of offensive and defensive strategic weapons comes after more than a year of hesitation in Moscow.

The issue has obviously been a controversial one within Soviet policymaking circles. Broad considerations of military posture, economic allocations, and foreign policy contributed to the long delay in moving toward a decision to talk.

Gromyko's statement does not by itself signify that any of these problems has been definitively resolved. The offer to discuss the question may be only another step--though a large one--by the Soviet leadership in the process of weighing all the factors before coming to a final decision on the future of Soviet weapons systems both offensive and defensive.

The movement in the Soviet position may have flowed from President Johnson's speech to the nation on 31 March. The prospect that an end of the Vietnam war might free the US to devote huge sums to more and better missile systems--which the USSR would be hard-pressed to match--could have played a large part in tilting the scales toward missile talks.

The negotiation of a strategic arms limitation agreement would have a distinct advantage for the Soviets at this time. Their current strategic attack programs will provide them with the most powerful deterrent they have ever had. In the early 1970s, however, the currently programmed US strategic missile systems will begin to erode this capability. Besides, there is the question of costs. Soviet defense expenditures are expected to increase some 10-15 percent by 1970-72. Soviet-American talks could make it possible for Moscow to hold expenditures to about the present levels, allowing much needed allocations to other areas of the economy.

Nevertheless, Gromyko intimated that there were lingering misgivings about the Soviet move within the USSR when he denounced those who regard the arms race as a "fatal inevitability." He charged that those, presumably dogmatic Communists or military leaders, who assert that disarmament is an illusion were "taking a stand close to the forces of the most dyed-in-the-wool imperialist reaction."

On the other questions affecting the climate of US-Soviet relations--the Vietnam war, the Paris peace talks, Middle East tensions, Berlin and Germany--Gromyko stood pat. The Soviet foreign minister noted that Soviet-American relations were "still burdened" by the war and US "aggressiveness." Throughout the speech he steered clear of any suggestion that the door to improved relations was about to be opened. His statements on disarmament were in fact put in the context of multilateral undertakings without mentioning the US by name.

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28 June 1968

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Antiwar Phone Campaign: The "Women's Strike for Peace" organization is urging all members and sympathizers to telephone the White House and the Pentagon with antiwar messages on 1 July. The objective is to tie up the telephone lines.

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Claims of Aircraft Shootdowns. Hanoi's domestic service in Vietnamese yesterday broadcast the highly inflated claim that the 3000th US aircraft had been shot down on 25 June. Following this announcement, a 20-minute communique of the armed forces' high command acclaiming this feat was broadcast. The communique asserted that the US had suffered one defeat after another in its air war against the North and that "since late March it has had to carry out so-called limited bombing of North Vietnam." It added that this limitation "is an admission of defeat by the Americans."

The occasion also brought a message of congratulations from Ho Chi Minh.

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

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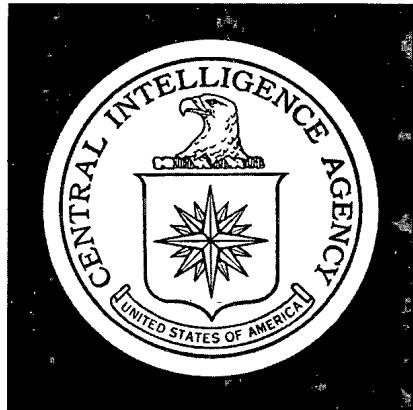
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Hanoi on Humphrey: Hanoi has rejected Vice President Humphrey's proposal for a cease-fire. In a domestic commentary of 26 June, Radio Hanoi said that "an immediate cease-fire is not a measure that leads toward peace" and promised that the Vietnamese people would continue to fight as long there were "US aggressors" in Vietnam.

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29 June 68

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
29 JUNE 1968

1. France

[redacted]

The internal crisis has forced the French to abandon development of an intercontinental ballistic missile for the present. With the 1969 military budget now pegged at the 1968 level, the Defense Ministry cannot cover the additional costs for this weapon resulting from recent economic concessions.

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2. Thailand

[redacted]

Communist insurgents in the northeast are being hard pressed by Thai army operations. Over-all Communist activity has leveled off well below the highs established in early 1967.

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[redacted] the army has forced armed bands out of their base areas, disrupted supply sources, and undermined insurgent morale. The bands, however, remain intact.

In the northern provinces, guerrillas have recently become more aggressive and for the first time have struck army truck convoys. While the northeast is still the key Communist target, it is increasingly clear that the north has also become a major one.

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3. Cuba

The United States Intelligence Board has approved a National Intelligence Estimate on Cuba: Castro's Problems and Prospects over the Next Year or Two. This estimate concludes that:

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--Castro's problems have taken a turn for the worse over the past year. A severe drought has depressed sugar production and agriculture generally. Living conditions have become more stringent, and there has been an increase in popular discontent.

--Nonetheless, there is little prospect that economic adversity will significantly weaken Castro's position over the next couple of years. Even if economic conditions deteriorated further, Castro would still have the advantages of wide appeal, political skill, and ultimately, a formidable military-security apparatus.

--Although the level of future Soviet aid to Cuba probably will fluctuate, it is unlikely that the Soviet Union will permit the Cuban economy to approach a critical condition.

--It is doubtful that either Castro's economic difficulties or his contentious relationship with the Soviet Union will cause him to turn to the US. He will, however, seek to expand his trade with other non-Communist countries.

4. Gold Sales

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