

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
1 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. North Vietnam

Celebrations in Hanoi yesterday of the twenty-second birthday of the North Vietnamese regime were notable chiefly for the first public appearance of Ho Chi Minh since last spring. Premier Pham Van Dong made the major speech, which was routine.

2. South Vietnam

The two most important civilian candidates for president say they will launch formal protests if the Thieu-Ky ticket wins. Tran Van Huong, who is still considered likely to be runner-up in Sunday's election, expects to lose but claims he has "hard evidence" of irregularities on behalf of the Thieu-Ky ticket. He hopes to document his charges after the election to a special legislative commission as well as to both houses of the US Congress and the foreign press.

Candidate Phan Khac Suu also intends to complain against Thieu and Ky--presumably charging them with fraud--if they win. His complaint would be made through existing legal machinery in the somewhat unrealistic hope that the legislature would eventually invalidate the elections.

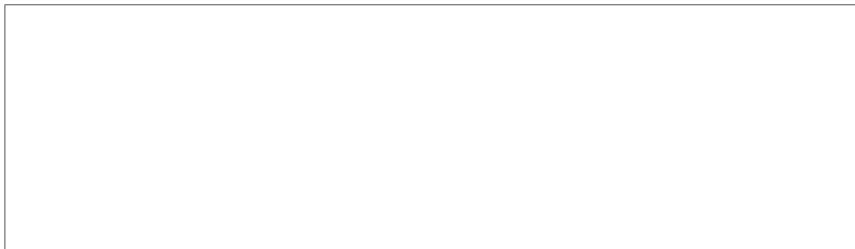
3. West Germany

The feeling is growing in Bonn that the year-long economic recession has passed its low point. Optimism, though still cautious, is buoyed by a substantial decline in unemployment and a healthy upswing in industrial orders.

4. Arab States

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Nasir has at least come part of the way toward accepting King Husayn's call for reason. He is now said to have implied to his fellow Arab leaders that the time has come to look for some kind of an accommodation with Israel. As usual, however, he is careful to evade responsibility for pushing this line. He claims that reluctance on the part of some Arabs to press on with the war has foreclosed another military round.



The Soviet leaders' message to the Arab chiefs of state contained the usual unspecific expressions of support for their cause, but seemed to appeal for caution and moderation.

5. Japan

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6. Paraguay

General Stroessner, already Latin America's most durable president, now has the way cleared for two more five-year terms. It was arranged by the convention that has just finished rewriting the constitution.

The President feels so secure on the home front that he intends to press on with his program of political liberalization. This has already brought on an aura of "coexistence" in the once violently hostile relations between the country's two traditional parties.

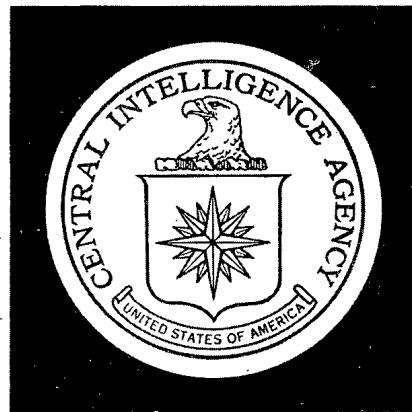
7. Vietnam

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Hanoi radio continues to broadcast Carmichael's revolutionary rantings and yesterday claimed he had been received by Premier Pham Van Dong. The man's actual whereabouts, however, are clouded by what looks very much like a purposeful effort to hide his departure date from Hanoi. He may or may not still be there.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
2 Sep 1967

1. South Vietnam

Lieutenant General Cao Van Vien, minister of defense and chief of the Joint General Staff, may get sacked after the election.

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Plans for a housecleaning in the armed forces are reaching sizable proportions with 200-300 officers reported on the list to get fired for corruption.

2. Communist China

Increasingly nasty Chinese treatment of foreign diplomats in Peking is leading several governments to consider pulling their representatives out of China altogether.

The sacking of the British Embassy on 22 August was merely the most dramatic event in a long string of such humiliations. The problem is particularly acute for the British and Indonesians. Peking has refused to permit any evacuation of personnel or dependents from these embassies, regarding them as useful hostages for Chinese Communist citizens in London and Djakarta.

The British are now proposing to the Chinese that tensions between the two countries can perhaps best be reduced by temporarily withdrawing all their personnel from each other's capitals. Peking may or may not be receptive to this idea, but as matters now stand pressures for reducing the foreign presence in China will keep on building up.

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3. Arab World

The oil producing states at the summit meeting said aloud what they had been saying to themselves all along--they were all feeling the pinch. They agreed to start the pumps again, although it still remains to be seen if the hard-nosed Syrians, who boycotted the summit and who wanted an embargo, go along.

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The Communist nations are far from united on this subject though:

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4. France

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5. Nicaragua

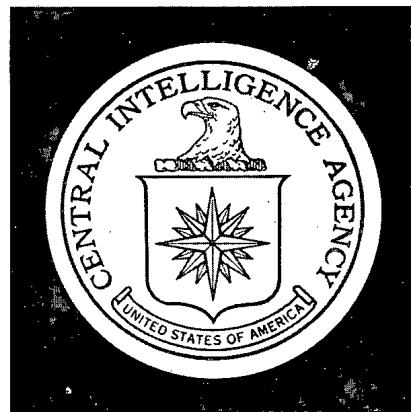
The National Guard is evidently well on its way to wiping out the rural guerrilla units of a small pro-Castro terrorist organization. Many guerrillas reportedly were killed in recent clashes with the guard, which is now trying to chase down the survivors. Members of the terrorist organization in Managua may try to change their luck by starting trouble there during the 14-15 September national holiday, but we doubt that they would be very successful.

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6. Peru

There are tenuous signs that the political quarrel which has kept Congress paralyzed for five weeks could be settled soon. Even when Congress resumes, however, there will be little prospect of an end to the legislative-versus-executive bickering that has plagued the Belaunde administration. Belaunde is now facing another crisis which could prove even more troublesome: an economic downturn is causing Peru's foreign exchange reserves to dip dangerously low.

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~~Top Secret~~ 4 September 1967



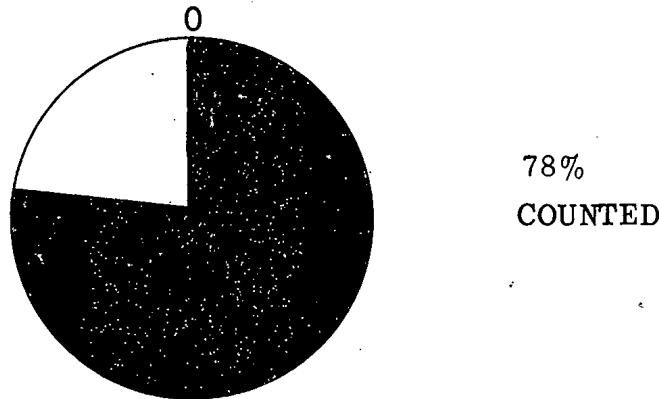
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DAILY BRIEF
4 SEPTEMBER 1967

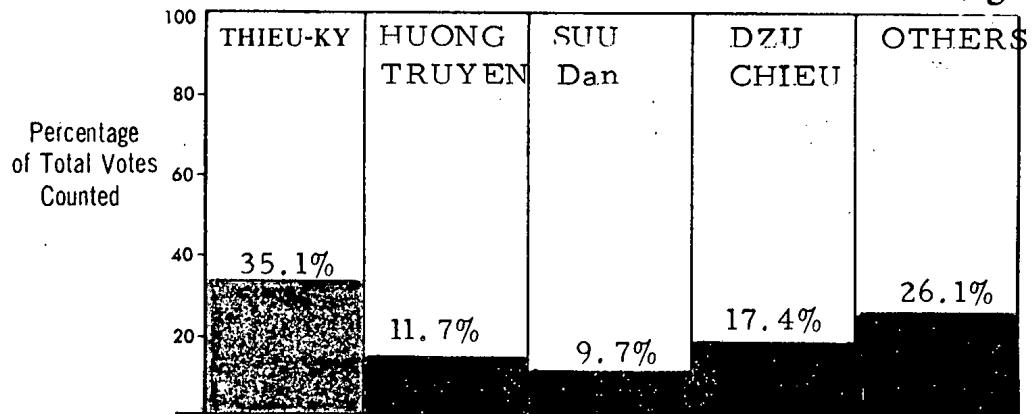
CIA ELECTION WATCH ADVISORY

ISSUED AT 6:00 AM EDT

3,792,573
VOTES COUNTED
OF 4,868,266 Cast



PRESIDENTIAL RETURNS AS OF Washington Time



South Vietnam

Thieu and Ky are in with about one-third of the vote. Nearly five million ballots were cast representing 83 percent of registered voters. This turnout in itself is a setback for the Viet Cong.

Perhaps the biggest surprise was the strong showing made by "peace candidate" Truong Dinh Dzu, who ran second with a particularly strong showing in the Mekong Delta. Returns for the senatorial election are not in yet.

Protests are expected from defeated candidates despite the absence of any widespread irregularities. The radical Budhists are planning demonstrations for Wednesday, but the government is aware of these plans.

2. Yemen

The war goes on despite the Khartoum agreement between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Saturday Egyptian bombers flew a strike against a royalist enclave

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3. Peru

President Belaunde has moved to ease the fiscal crisis by devaluing the Peruvian sol. This was done by unpegging the official exchange rate (26.80 sols to \$1 US) and, in effect, turning the currency loose to find its own level. Early reports have the rate now running at 35 to 45 sols to the dollar, but it is still too soon to tell where it will settle or if this move will be successful.

4. Congo

Most of Schramme's mercenaries are fed up and just want out of the Congo reports a newspaperman who was in Bukavu last week.

The correspondent, who described the mercenaries as a "scruffy lot," commented that one good infantry company from any "reasonable" army in the world could mop up Bukavu in short order. Congolese troops, however, sit outside the town, fire a few mortar rounds from time to time, and then scurry into the bush abandoning their weapons.

The journalist reports that Schramme is willing to negotiate now because of low morale, but, if he can get outside help, he still plans to set up a separate regime in the eastern Congo. The reporter said there seemed to be a good deal of contact between Schramme and "friendly elements" outside the Congo.

While waiting for something to happen, the mercenaries have converted the US Consulate into a club and are serving "Jack Daniels" across the bar.

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5. India

The past week has seen violence increase in West Bengal. Hunger is the basic thread from which this tapestry of riot and arson is woven, but the radical Communists are actively promoting violence for their own political ends. The American consul general in Calcutta feels the short-run prospects for anything like law and order in West Bengal are unfavorable.

6. Bolivia

The Bolivian Army claims to have killed nine guerrillas, including several Cubans, after a stiff little battle Thursday night.

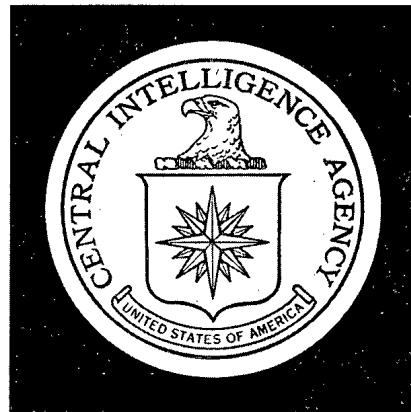
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Among those reported killed was the leader of the band, a Cuban known as "Joaquin."

While this action would suggest at least one success for the Bolivians, their overall score has been poor.

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The President's Daily Brief

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DAILY BRIEF
5 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Final but still unofficial figures give Thieu and Ky about 35 percent of the vote, better than a two-to-one lead over the runner-up ticket led by Truong Dinh Dzu. The vociferous Dzu, probably feeling a bit heady over his unexpected showing, has scheduled a press conference for tomorrow. He has promised a list of election irregularities, but we doubt that he can come up with anything very solid.

Some protest demonstrations are probably in the offing. Militant Buddhists and Saigon students are apparently gearing up for nonviolent demonstrations this week and some of the defeated candidates may send their supporters into the streets.

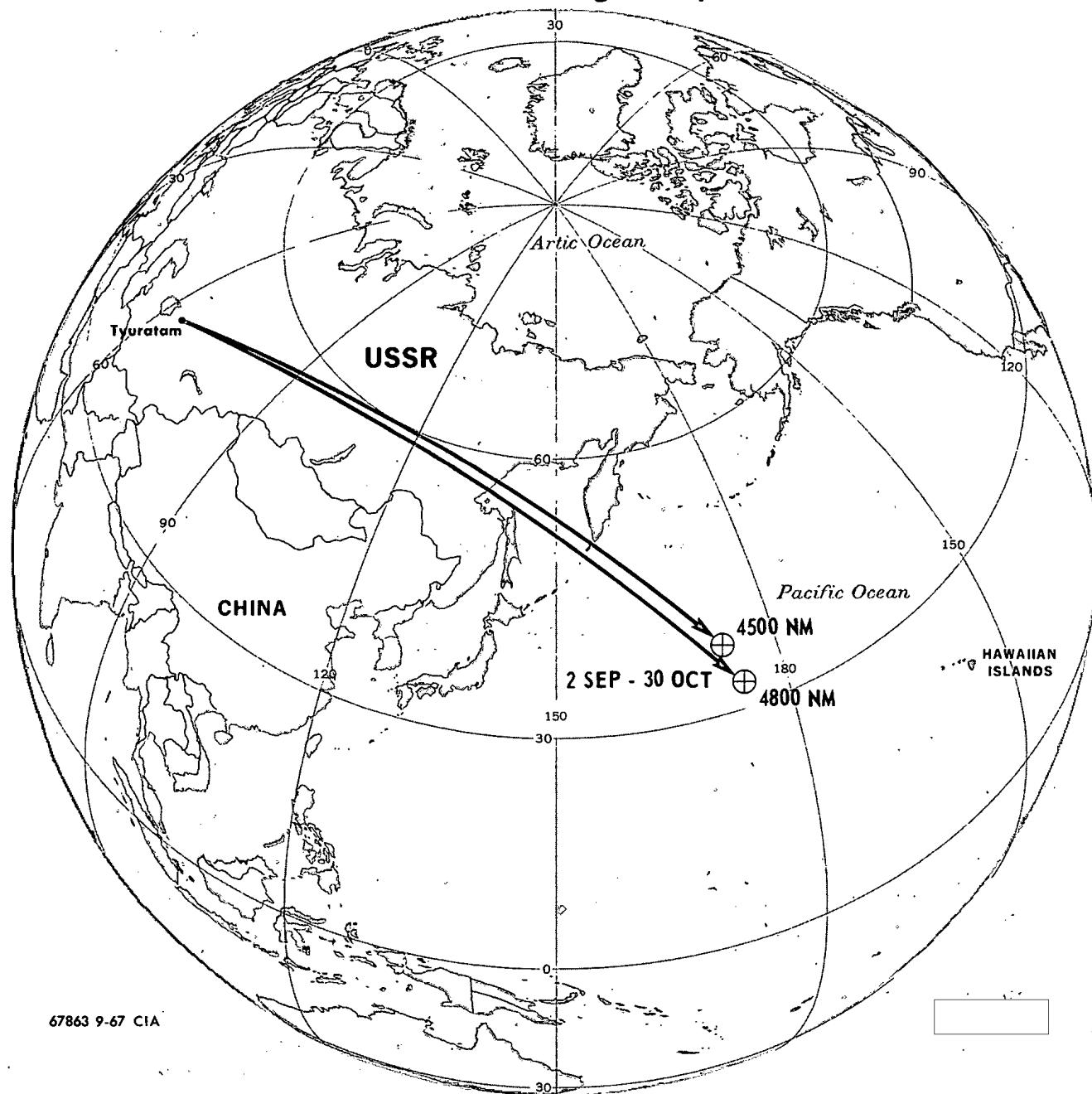
Election returns from the Senate races are still incomplete and probably will not be tabulated until late today.

2. Indonesia

The Indonesians and Malaysians, who formally re-established diplomatic relations last week, are now working toward much closer military cooperation in the drive against the guerrillas still operating along their common border in Borneo. Economic relations are also fast developing between the two countries, both members of the recently formed Association of Southeast Asian States.

Mutual suspicions still linger, particularly in Malaysia, but it is clear now that Sukarno's old policy of "confrontation" has been relegated-- along with its author--to the trash heap.

Soviet Extended-Range Impact Areas



3. Communist China

The upheaval inside China is becoming more intense and much bloodier. Not long ago, fists and rocks were the principal weapons. Now rifles, machine-guns, and even artillery and tanks are being used in hit-and-run battles in widely scattered parts of the country.

[REDACTED]

Posters seen in Canton claimed last week that 2,000 people had died there in recent fighting.

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The disorders are interfering increasingly with transportation, communications, and other government services. Some weather stations, including ones that had been supplying information for military use in the Vietnam border area, have apparently been shut down.

The regime continues issuing pronouncements designed to restore order, but with no apparent effect.

4. Soviet Union

On Saturday, Moscow announced the closure of two zones in the Pacific for eight weeks. The next day, an SS-9 was fired into one of the zones from Tyuratam. It looks like another series of ICBM practice shots is in the works (see map).

5. South America

High ranking Argentine and Peruvian army officers have been meeting to discuss the possibility of sending troops to help defeat the Cuban-supported guerrillas in Bolivia. Things would have to get very much worse in Bolivia, however, before President Barrientos swallowed his pride and permitted foreign troops to come in.

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6. Arab States

Saudi King Faysal is "pleased, but on the alert" about the deal with Nasir for ending the civil war in Yemen.

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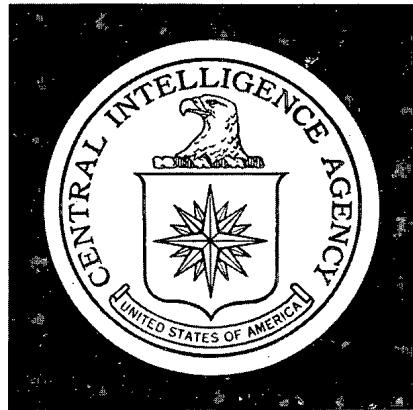
7. Nigeria

Ghana, alarmed by growing Soviet influence in Nigeria, has invited six African states to meet in Accra to search for a solution to the Nigerian civil war. African pressure for an end to the war is also building elsewhere on the continent, and the issue is likely to come up during the sessions of the Organization of African Unity now under way in Kinshasa.

The Nigerian Government, however, continues to insist that its struggle with Biafra is an internal matter and that outside mediation is not welcome.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 6 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
6 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Thieu, after some hesitation, is now said to have approved Nguyen Van Loc (who was originally to have been the vice-presidential candidate on Ky's ticket) as prime minister for the new government. Under the new constitution, however, the prime minister will not have anywhere near Ky's present power. He will in effect be chief administrator for the president.

Thieu and Ky will continue to run things, although they may have trouble dividing the power among themselves.

As for the new cabinet, the senior generals intend to reserve four important posts for military men. Thieu and Ky may offer positions in the new government to some of the principal losing candidates, but we doubt that any of them will accept.

We hear some grumbling from field grade officers over the power exercised so far by the senior generals and their evident intention to keep wielding this power. There is no sign, however, that this dissatisfaction has taken on any threatening tones.

2. Communist China

The death toll is climbing.

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[redacted] the rising casualty count in Canton, and believe conditions in Shanghai and Canton are probably similar to those in a number of other large Chinese cities.

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3. Arab States -
Israel

King Husayn has told the US Ambassador that he believes Nasir has had a real change of heart and is now sincerely supporting a moderate approach to an Arab-Israeli settlement.

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It is almost certain, according to Husayn, that the Arab states can agree amongst themselves on some formula for ending belligerency with Israel. The Arabs, however, are skeptical about Israel's desire for a negotiated peace. They believe the Israelis prefer occupying the captured territories instead.

Husayn also says that Syria is now isolated. She is being blamed as most responsible for provoking the hostilities.

One net gain from the conference was the departure of Palestinian firebrand Shuqayri. He left in a huff after his proposals for terrorism were rejected out of hand.

4. Thailand

The government has arrested a number of important members of the Thai Communist party. This means that Communist operations in and around Bangkok will be temporarily crippled, but the effect on the guerrilla movement in the northeast is not yet altogether clear.

5. Greece-Turkey

The meeting of the Turkish and Greek prime ministers this weekend could open the way for a major diplomatic effort to resolve the Cyprus problem. While the two prime ministers are likely to concentrate on this one issue, they will also discuss what they regard as an increasing Soviet presence in the Arab world and eastern Mediterranean.

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6. Cambodia

Cambodia's leftists still pose a real problem for Sihanouk despite his efforts to curtail their activities.

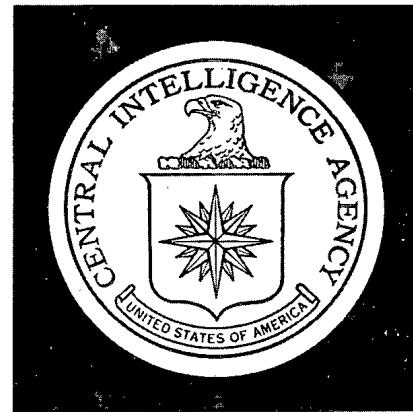
[redacted] the political situation is deteriorating and may even be reaching "critical" proportions. Although this may be somewhat overdrawn, it does reflect the growing concern within Sihanouk's entourage over the increased boldness of the Cambodian left.

Sihanouk himself is also worried, but he believes the leftists are controlled by the Communist Chinese and fears that a real crackdown would bring a further deterioration in relations with Peking.

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~~Top Secret~~ 7 September 1967



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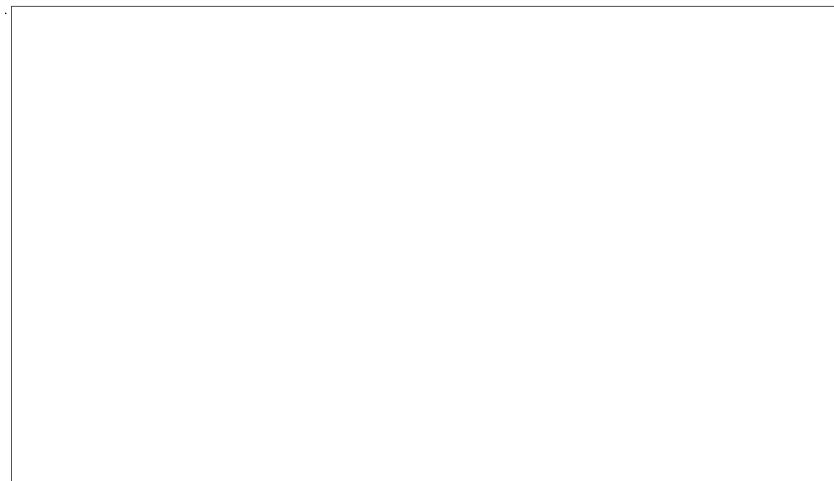
DAILY BRIEF
7 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

As defeated presidential candidates continue to insist the election was rigged, runner-up Truong Dinh Dzu claims he is going to organize a civilian opposition party. Yesterday Dzu also repeated his call for negotiations with the Communists.

Lower house elections are scheduled for 22 October and some 1,500 candidates have filed for the 137 seats at stake.

2. Communist China -
North Vietnam



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3. Latin America

The ministerial meeting of the Latin American Free Trade Association ended last Saturday after accomplishing nothing. Last minute objections by Peru scuttled a proposal for gradual elimination of tariffs against products of less developed countries. No agreement was reached on an automatic tariff cutting mechanism, and there was no real progress toward setting up a common market.

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4. Congo

The mercenaries are making threatening noises about leaving Bukavu for Goma, to the north, where there is a good airfield. Once there, they could either leave the Congo or await reinforcements from Angola. We cannot confirm any movement toward Goma

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Mobutu, feverishly hosting the Organization of African Unity conference, seems to have put the mercenaries out of mind for the moment.

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5. Nonproliferation Treaty

The Soviets have backed down from their insistence that the International Atomic Energy Agency be the sole administrator of any safeguards provision. A compromise Soviet proposal would permit the Common Market countries, which have their own safeguards system, to take up to two years to negotiate with the International Agency to determine how safeguards would apply. These countries could negotiate individually, or as a group.

The Common Market countries, while welcoming the concession, are likely to respond cautiously. France might torpedo the idea of any negotiations with the International Agency.

The Soviets are also saying that the problem of security guarantees to nonnuclear powers "would not be a difficult issue between the US and USSR."

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6. Cambodia

Sihanouk, in another jab at Cambodian leftists, has dissolved the Cambodian-Chinese Friendship Association--a noted tool of his Peking-leaning leftists. This action, however, (like other recent "crackdowns" on the left) was done in a way calculated to keep Peking from getting too worked up.

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SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

7 SEPTEMBER 1967

TOP SECRET

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

7 September 1967

Hanoi on elections: North Vietnamese propaganda media continue to charge the elections were fraudulent, but a note of sensitivity to the large turnout of voters can be detected.

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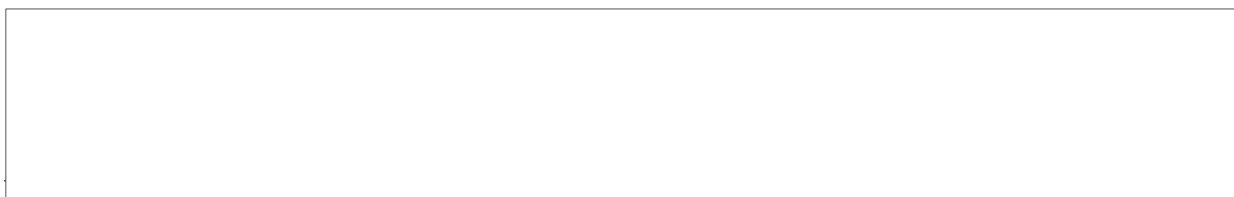
Schoenbrun pessimistic: Ex-CBS newsman David Schoenbrun touched down in Vientiane, Laos, Tuesday evening after a two-week visit to Hanoi. Schoenbrun was described by US Embassy officers as disillusioned and deeply depressed about the prospects for peace.

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Schoenbrun spoke of the "unswerving determination" of the leadership in Hanoi, the "inflexibility" of its terms for peace and negotiations, and the "remarkable organization and morale" of the people in the north. He was especially struck by the energy and morale of the people he observed on trips outside Hanoi, saying this was unlike anything he had seen before as a war correspondent.

During his visit, Schoenbrun had a two-and-a-quarter hour interview with Premier Pham Van Dong and shook hands with Ho Chi Minh. Schoenbrun found nothing new in Hanoi's peace terms and held out no hopes for any immediate settlement through negotiations.

Schoenbrun Talks with US Prisoners: Schoenbrun was allowed to visit five American prisoners being held in a villa near the main Red River bridge in Hanoi. He thought four of them were in "fairly good" physical and mental condition, were treated and cared for as well as possible, and showed no evidence of brainwashing. One, who was severely wounded when captured, said he had been immediately taken to a hospital and nursed back to complete health. Some of the prisoners had received mail and even packages sent through open international mail. Schoenbrun said the North Vietnamese argued that the prisoners are a burden to them--they eat twice as much as any Vietnamese, and the authorities are concerned they may be killed by US bombings.

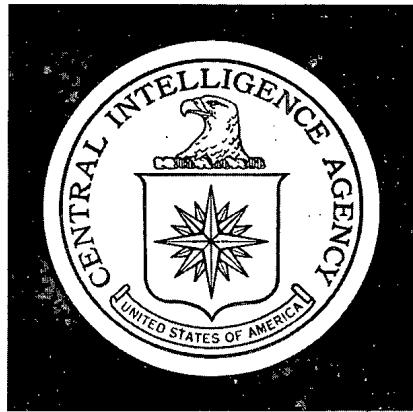


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The President's Daily Brief

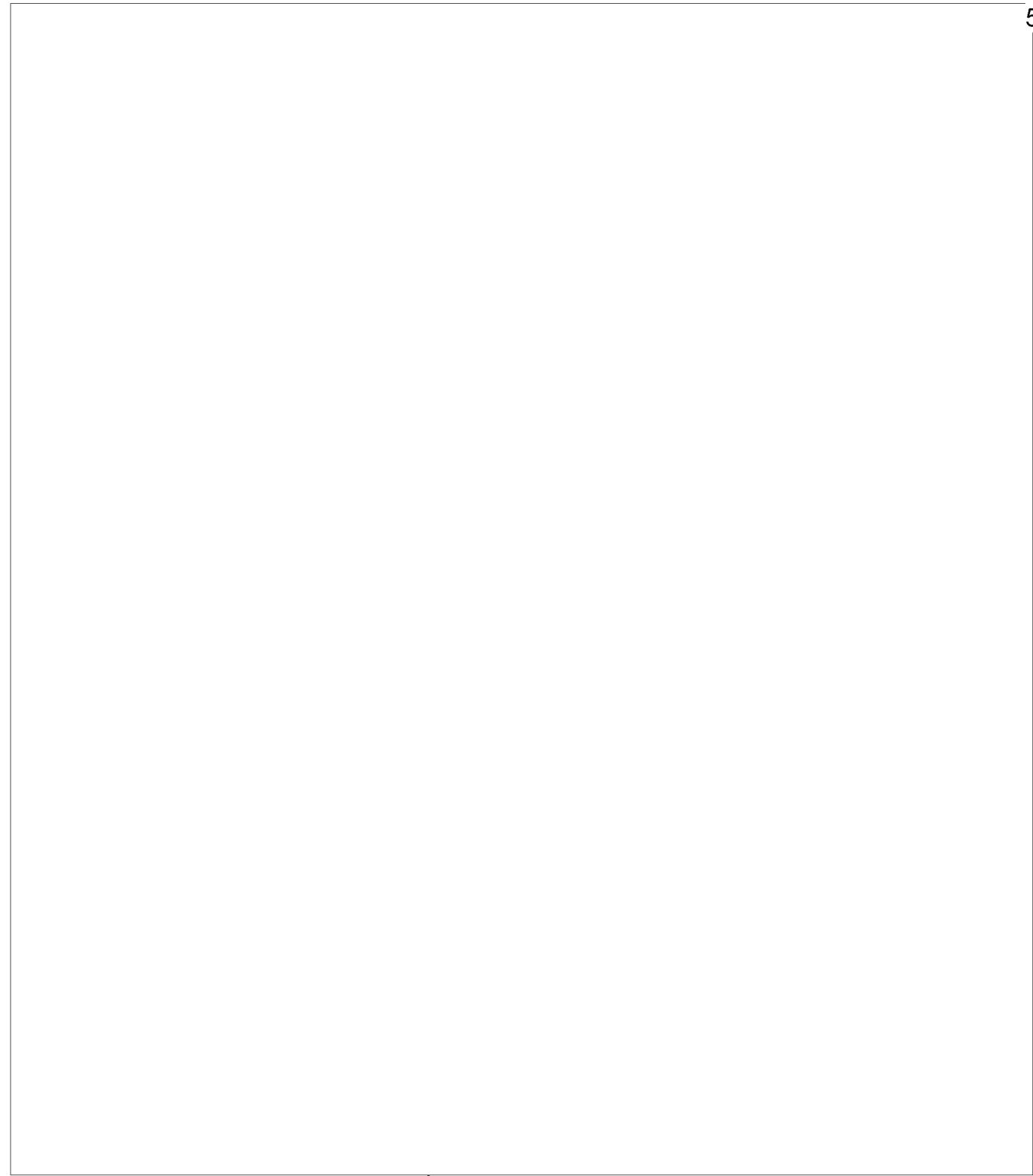
~~Top Secret~~ 8 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
8 SEPTEMBER 1967

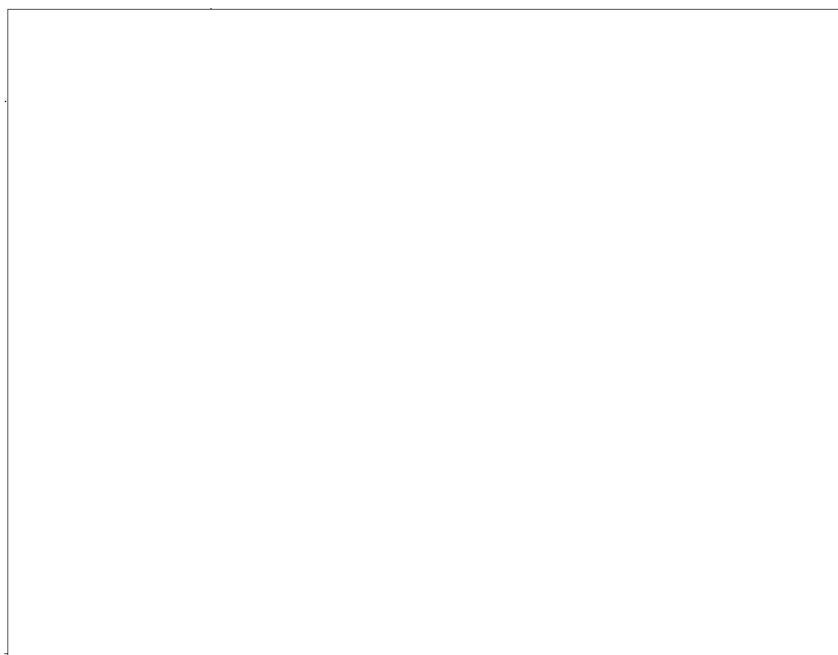
1. North Vietnam

The backlog of foreign flag ships waiting to unload at Haiphong has been significantly reduced. This is primarily because there have been fewer such ships arriving there in July and August. August arrivals were up a little from July's low, but still below the monthly average during the first half year. Food and petroleum products continue to dominate the incoming cargoes.

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2. Soviet Union



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3. Dominican Republic

President Balaguer is moving to tighten his control over Dominican military and security services.

Wednesday he replaced both the air force chief of staff and the head of the national police with trusted followers. In recent months there has been a good deal of grumbling about Balaguer in the armed forces and he intends to nip this before it goes further. There is a fair chance that some civilian cabinet-level changes will also be made before Balaguer is through.

4. Korea

Sabotage may be the next step in North Korea's campaign to increase tension in the South and create public pressure against any more troop commitments to Vietnam. Tuesday North Korean agents used explosives to derail a train north of Seoul. This is the first time in years that the Communists have tried this sort of thing, although they have been very active in recent months ambushing UN troops and infiltrating agents.

5. Nigeria

The war goes indecisively on with the federal forces currently holding a slight edge on their Biafran opponents. The federals recently recaptured several important positions taken by the Biafrans last month.

6. Poland

De Gaulle is drawing large crowds on his visit to Warsaw. Some Poles may anticipate another Quebec performance and are waiting around for the General to shout for a "free Poland." But, since this junket is part of De Gaulle's effort to woo Eastern Europe, we do not expect obviously discordant sounds.

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7. Ceylon

The Ceylonese are worried lest Peking use the current diplomatic hassle between the two countries as an excuse for not renewing the rice-for-rubber agreement. It all started over a batch of Mao buttons confiscated by the Ceylonese. The Chinese reacted in typical fashion and relations are distinctly cool.

China normally supplies about 25 percent of Ceylon's rice and if the deal is not renegotiated at the end of the year, the Ceylonese will be hard put to find an alternate source. They probably would turn to the US.

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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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

8 September 1967

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More from David Schoenbrun: [redacted] reports from David Schoenbrun on his trip to Hanoi suggest that the North Vietnamese were as effective in presenting their view of the war to him as they were with Harrison Salisbury last January. Nevertheless, Schoenbrun does provide some interesting sidelights.

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Schoenbrun's report of the North Vietnamese celebration of national day, for example, gives a good picture of how the government conducts public functions under the threat of bombings. This year's celebration of the 2 September anniversary was held on 30 August under a cloak of secrecy for security reasons. Correspondents received invitations only at the last minute and were led to the open air ceremony by a circuitous route.

At the celebration, Schoenbrun had a rare opportunity for close observation of President Ho Chi Minh. He described the 77-year-old leader as "stooped with cowed shoulders" and as having the appearance up close of being

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"quite feeble." During the ceremonies, however, he participated in periodic applause with apparent vigor. In various conversations with North Vietnamese officials, Schoenbrun received the impression that Ho had not lived in the capital since at least April, although where he lives was not specified.

[redacted] prior to his appearance at the national day festivities he had not attended any public function since last spring.

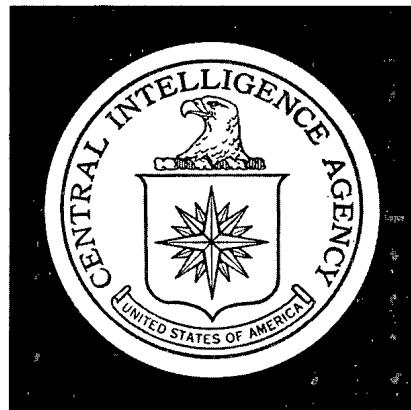
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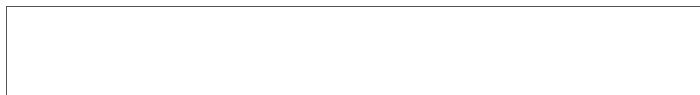
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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
9 SEPTEMBER 1967

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1. South Vietnam

Presidential runner-up Dzu may get himself arrested if he continues to harass the government. The Saigon police chief, miffed by Dzu's unauthorized (and hence illegal) press conference on Thursday, has said that, unless instructed otherwise by higher authority, he will arrest Dzu if he attempts any other illegal moves.

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2. Communist China

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3. China

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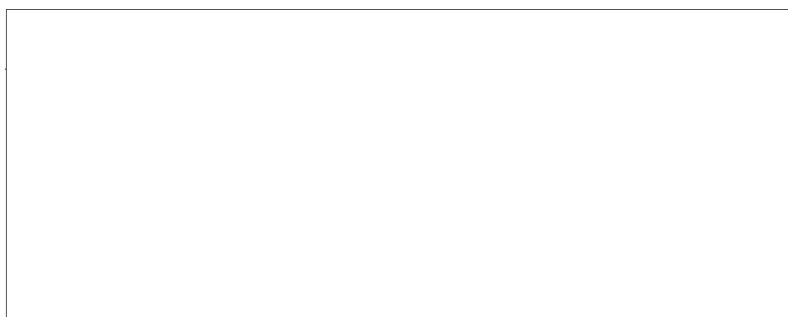
4. Japan

Public opinion is getting farther and farther out in front of Prime Minister Sato on the Okinawa issue. Fanned by the opposition parties and the press, the pressures for a quick reversion of the islands to Japan are becoming so strong that Sato may have trouble holding the line.

Sato is a tough customer, however. At last word, he was still expecting to come up with a formula that would be acceptable to the public without destroying the usefulness of the bases to the US.

5. Middle East

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6. Chile

President Frei has growing problems on the home front

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He has even lost control of his own Christian Democratic Party to a radical faction which is taking the same line as Chile's strong Marxist political alliance.

Last week, responding to pressures for more forceful leadership, Frei cracked down hard on leaders of a noisy but almost impotent rightist party.

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Yet, unless he does something to stop the present drift, the extremists could before long become the dominant political force in the country.

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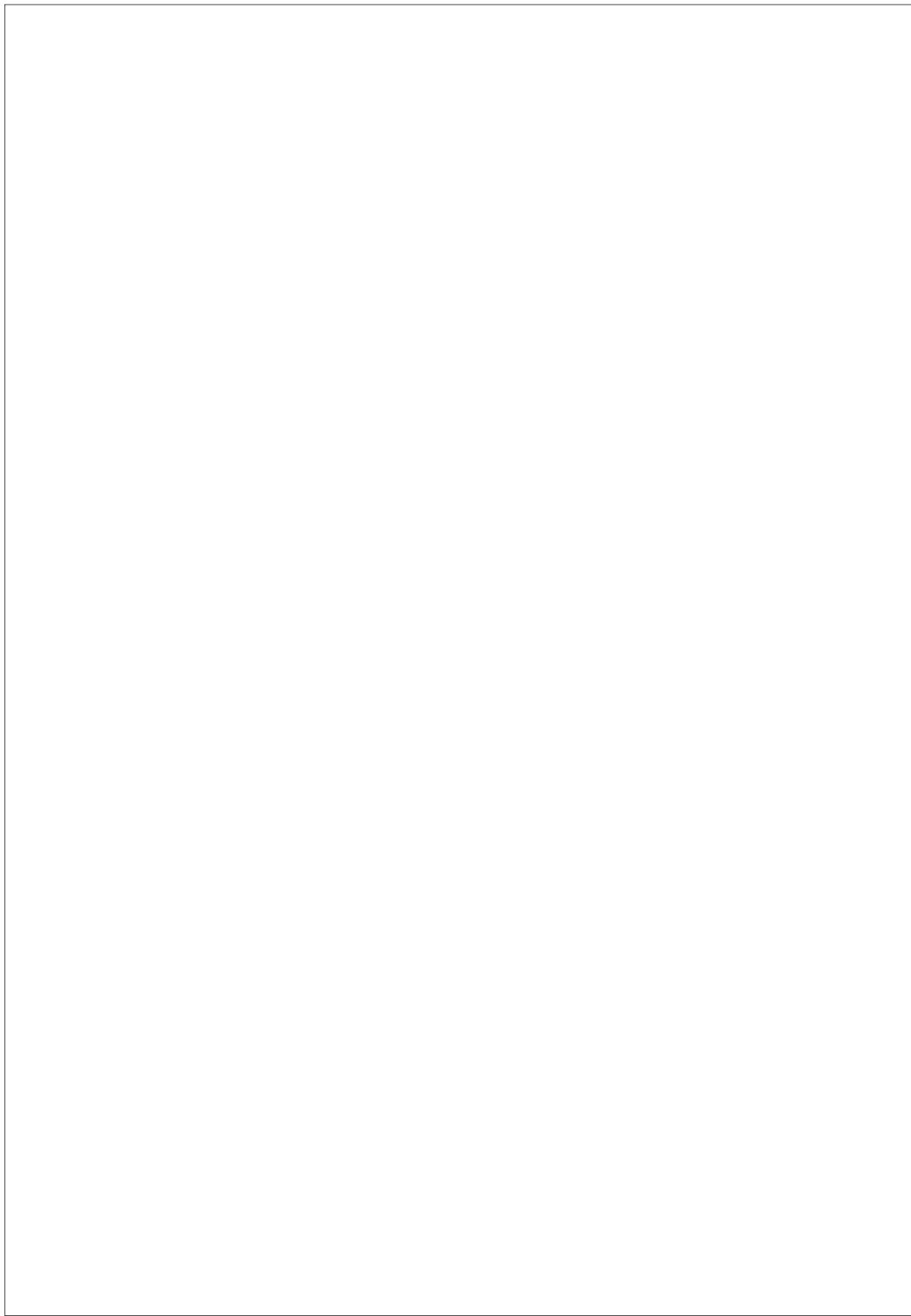
7. Cyprus

As the Greek and Turkish leaders prepare to meet this weekend, there are signs that Athens may be trying hard for settlement of the Cyprus problem. This might well involve important concessions to the Turks thoroughly unacceptable to Archbishop Makarios. Present leaders in Greece, however, are not above trying to impose a settlement on Cyprus by military force, if necessary. This, of course, could easily lead to considerable turmoil on the island.

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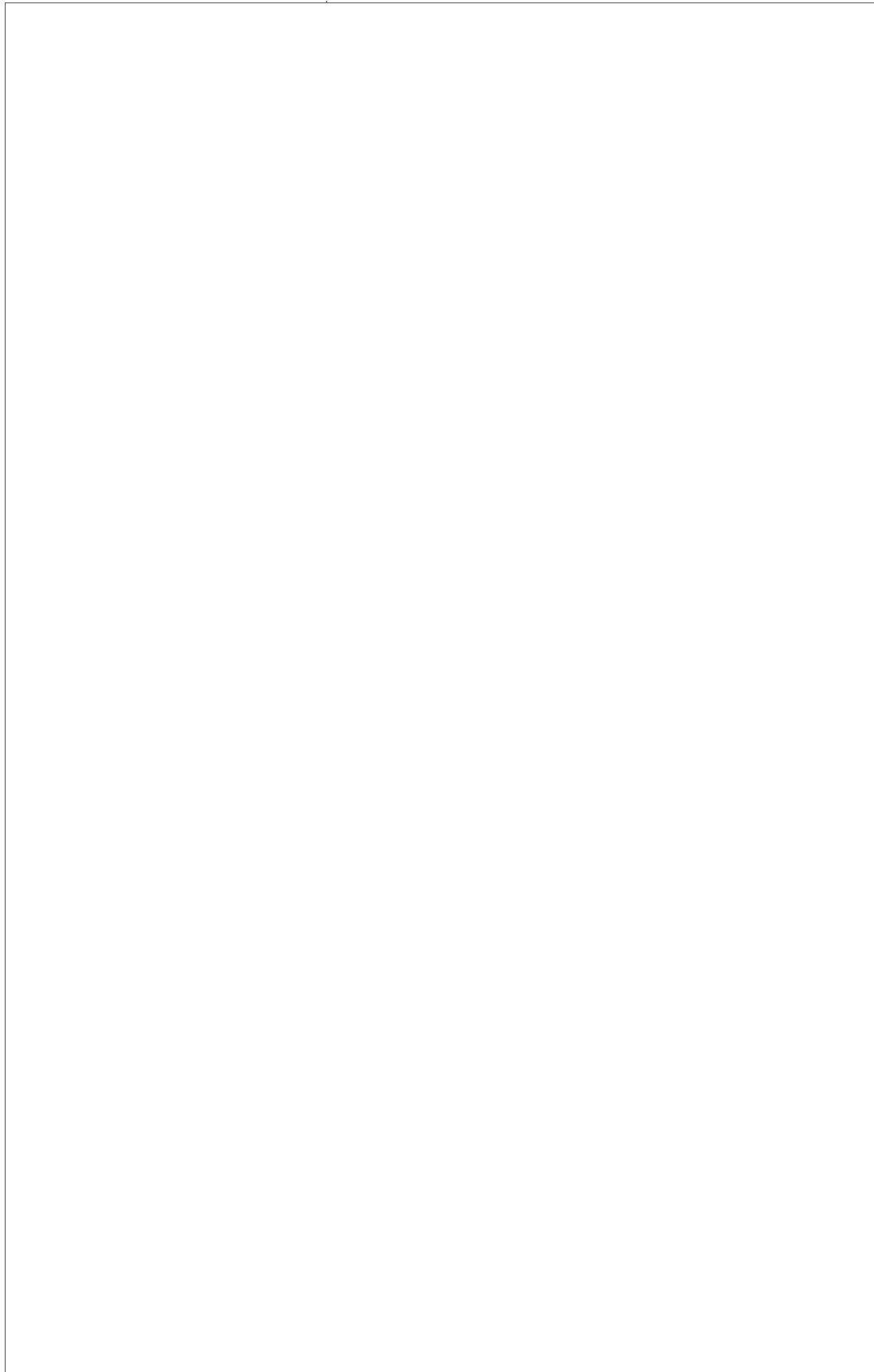


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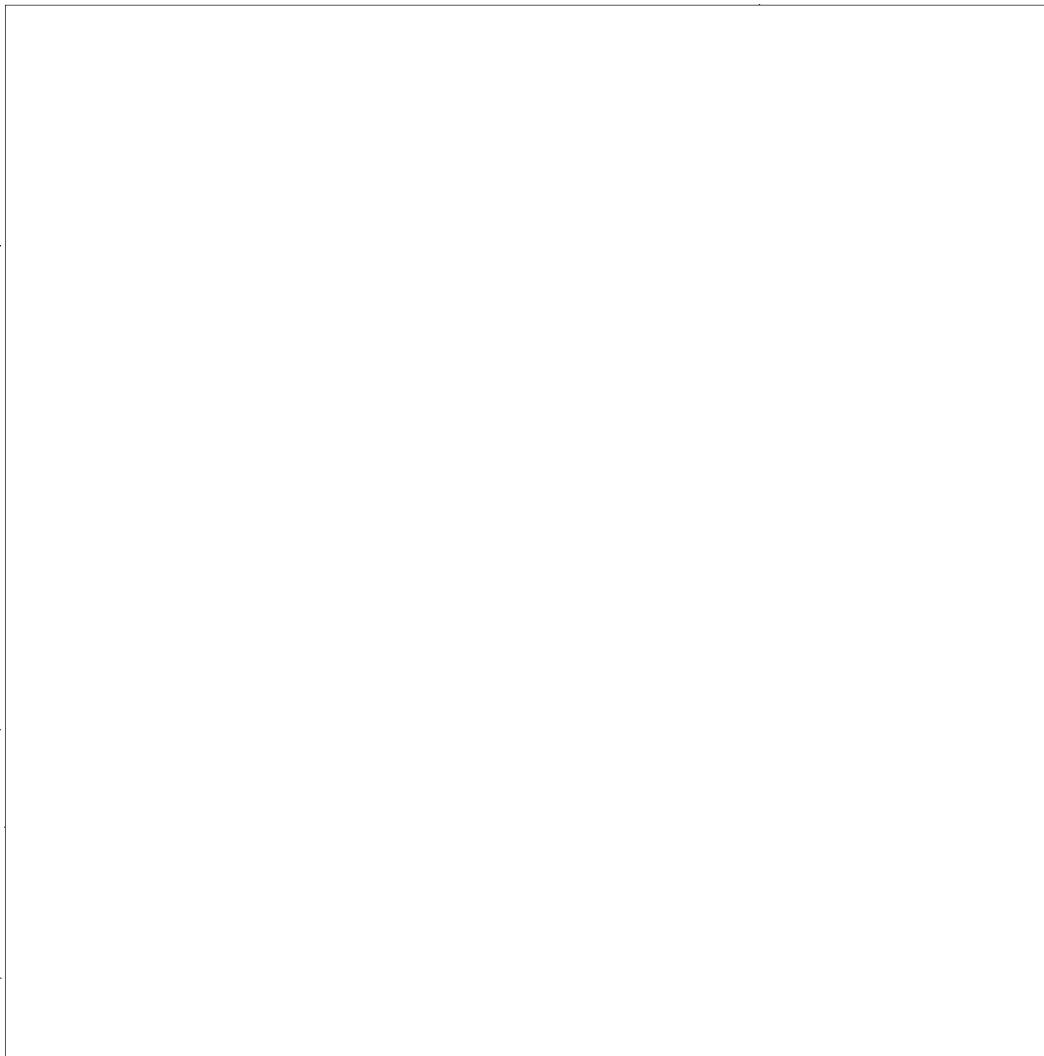


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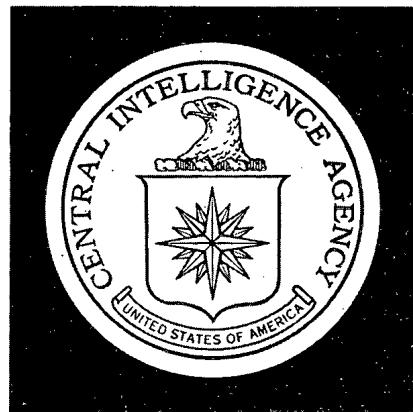


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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 11 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
11 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Some of the defeated civilian presidential candidates are losing their enthusiasm for contesting the election. The Revolutionary Dai Viet Party has decided to accept the results and participate in the government if asked. Candidate Tran Van Huong also has dropped plans to protest.

One official complaint on the senatorial elections has been lodged. This was by Tam Chau, the moderate Buddhist leader, who supported President Thieu's candidacy. He feels the Catholics got far too much representation. Tam Chau assured US officials, however, that he had no intention of organizing demonstrations to press home his point. The militant Buddhists have so far taken a wait-and-see attitude.

2. Communist China

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3. Communist China

A late June item in the [redacted]
press

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[redacted] mentions some 600 doctors and nurses leaving Peking for Sinkiang (i.e., Lop Nor) to care for "casualties" from China's sixth nuclear test earlier in the month.

This is the first report of casualties from any of the tests, but Chinese movies of the first three showed troops rushing into the test area immediately after detonation. It is possible that in June some zealots dashed in too soon or with inadequate preparation.

4. Congo

A reputable West German correspondent, fresh from 17 days with Schramme and his mercenaries in Bukavu, has given our embassy in Rwanda some of his impressions. These are the main points he made, and they ring pretty true:

--Schramme will not drive south toward Katanga, but may take over some eastern Congo towns such as Goma.

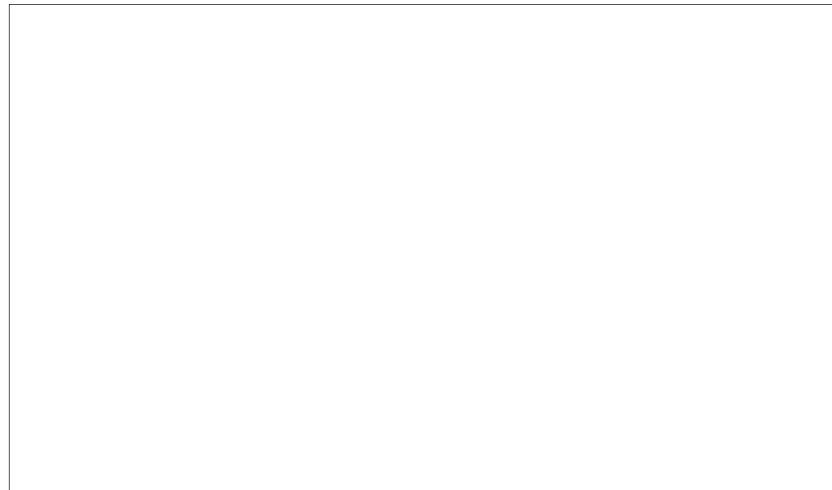
--Schramme is convinced that Mobutu's government is on the verge of disintegration from factors other than the mercenaries' capture of Bukavu. Hence, Schramme believes he is making progress merely by staying in Bukavu and letting his "oil spot" spread. He is capable of waiting it out there for many months if necessary, having recently received a "monster load" of munitions.

--The Congo Army around Bukavu is falling apart, with large numbers coming over to the mercenaries.

--There is no Communist influence on the mercenaries.

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5. France



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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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12

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

11 September 1967

Hanoi Condemns UN Role: A commentary in yesterday's issue of the party paper Nhan Dan made it unmistakably clear that Hanoi will have no part of any United Nations initiative on Vietnam.

The commentary accused the US of a "shopworn plot" to "legalize its war of aggression against Vietnam." As on previous occasions, Nhan Dan insisted that the United Nations has no right whatsoever to "interfere" in Vietnam. The Vietnamese question, the paper stated, can only be settled on the basis of the four-point stand of the North Vietnamese government and the five points of the Liberation Front.

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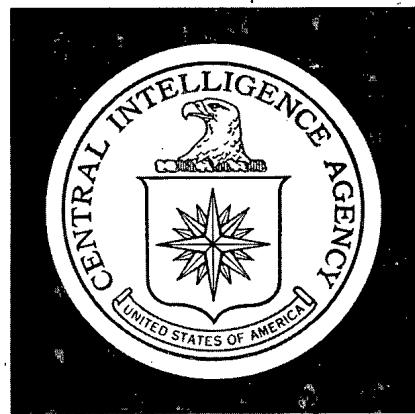
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Barrier: No Hanoi comment has yet been noted on Secretary McNamara's announcement about the barrier.

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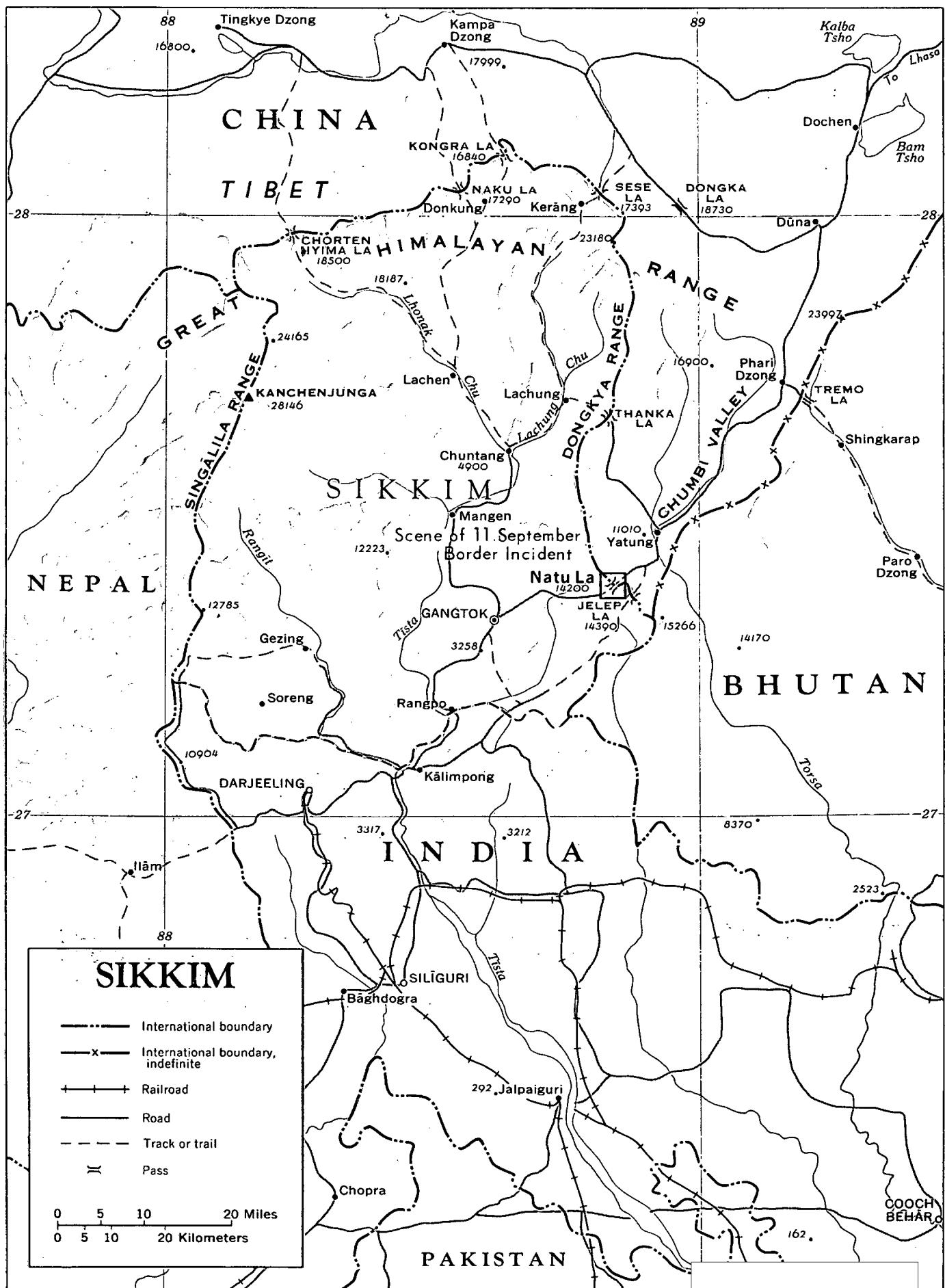


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~~Top Secret~~ 12 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
12 SEPTEMBER 1967

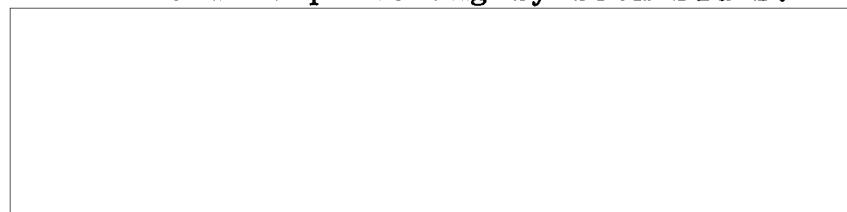
1. South Vietnam

There are rumors in Saigon that Ky intends to resign shortly both as premier and as vice president elect. Ambassador Bunker tried unsuccessfully yesterday to get in touch with Ky about this; he is trying again this morning.

2. India

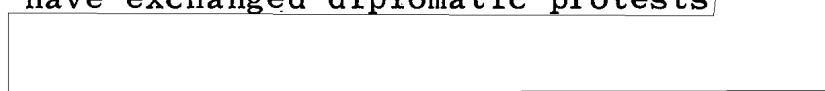
Indian and Chinese troops along the Sikkim-Tibet border were reported still shooting at each other early this morning. Fighting, however, apparently is not on the scale of yesterday's clash, the most serious in several years.

These skirmishes stem from aggressive forward patrolling by both sides.



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While we have seen no major troop deployments in the area by either side, we may be in for a period of somewhat greater tension. New Delhi and Peking have exchanged diplomatic protests



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3. Arab World

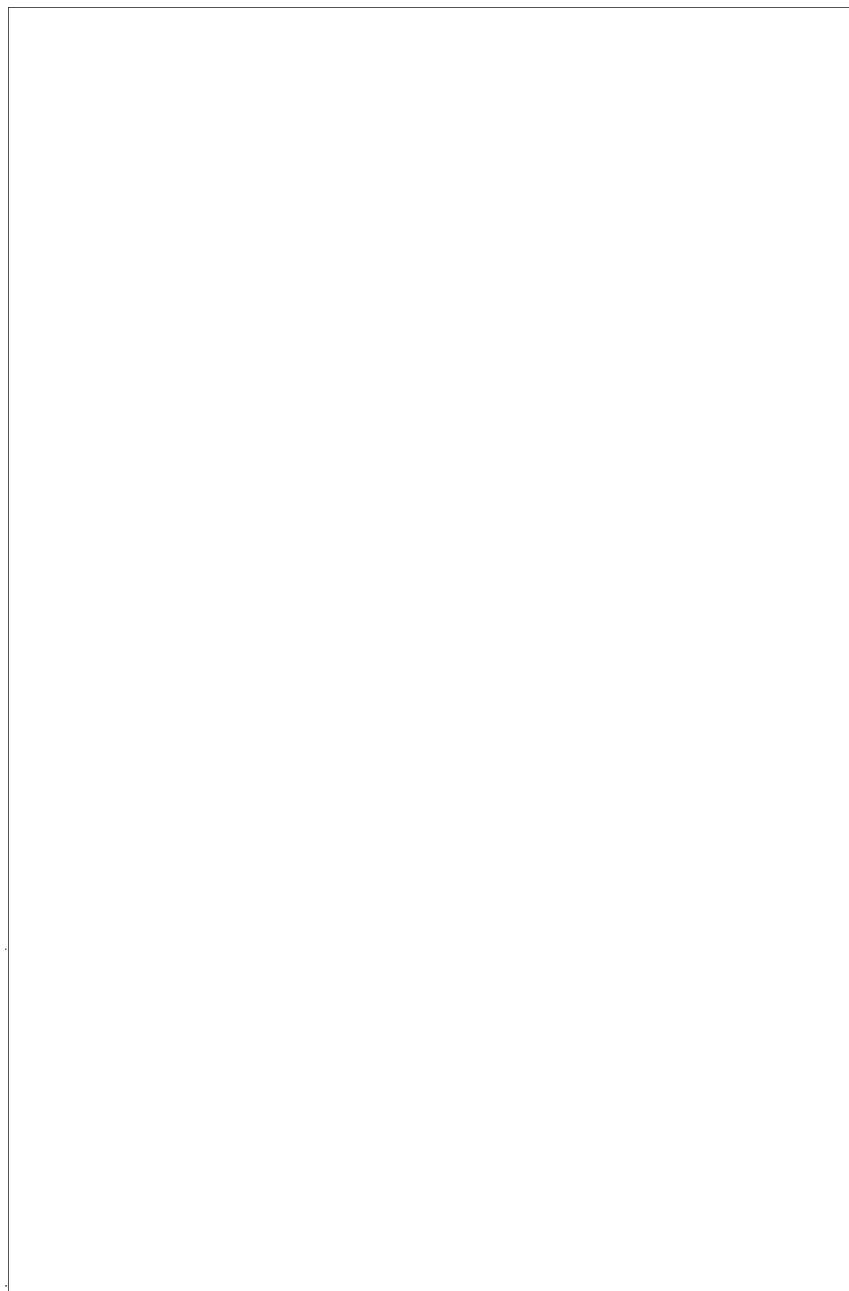


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4. Soviet Union

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5. Indonesia

The Soviets and Indonesians have signed their first contract for military hardware in more than two years. The contract is for several million dollars' worth of spare parts the Indonesians need to refurbish their badly neglected Soviet equipment bought in years gone by.

The Russians apparently reversed their previous stand and agreed to give the Indonesians more credit. Djakarta already owes Moscow nearly \$800 million. Despite this latest contract, relations between the two countries remain cool.

6. Yemen

The Egyptians are going ahead with plans to pull their troops out of Yemen.

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7. Brazil

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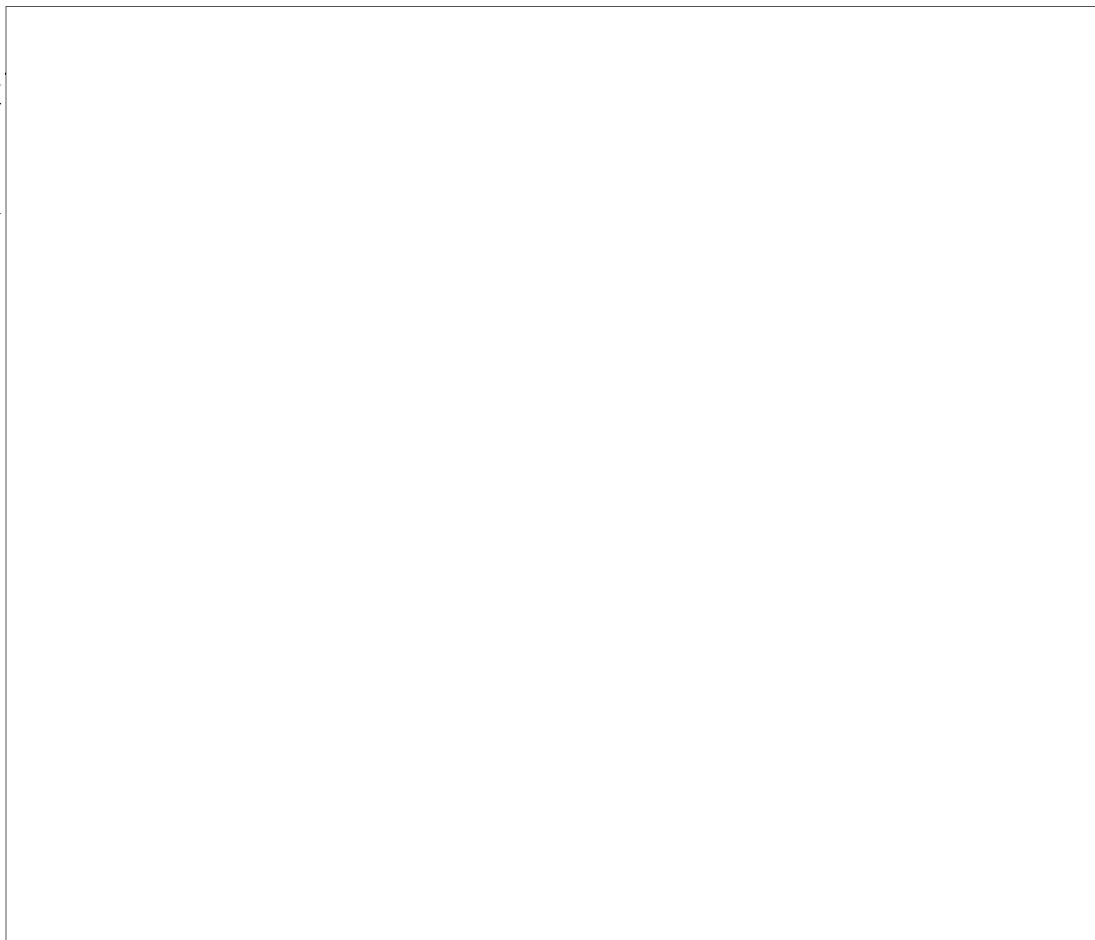


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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

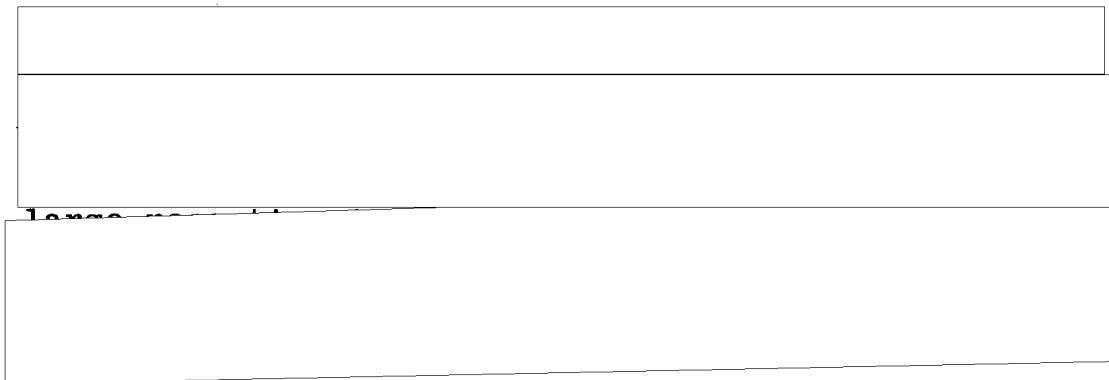
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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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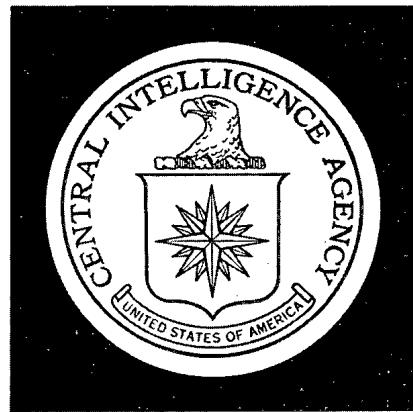
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Security consciousness in North Vietnam: Foreign observers on national day report that the meeting was surrounded by strict security precautions that accompany all large public meetings in Hanoi featuring the appearances of the top leadership. The North Vietnamese give visiting foreigners and diplomats as little as one hour notice, explaining that the danger of air raids makes such arrangements necessary.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
13 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

The senior generals are grappling
with the Thieu-Ky rivalry.

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2. India

New Delhi this morning says that sporadic fighting continues along the Sikkim-Tibet frontier. A sharp anti-Indian propaganda campaign out of Peking is likely to begin at any time.

3. Cambodia

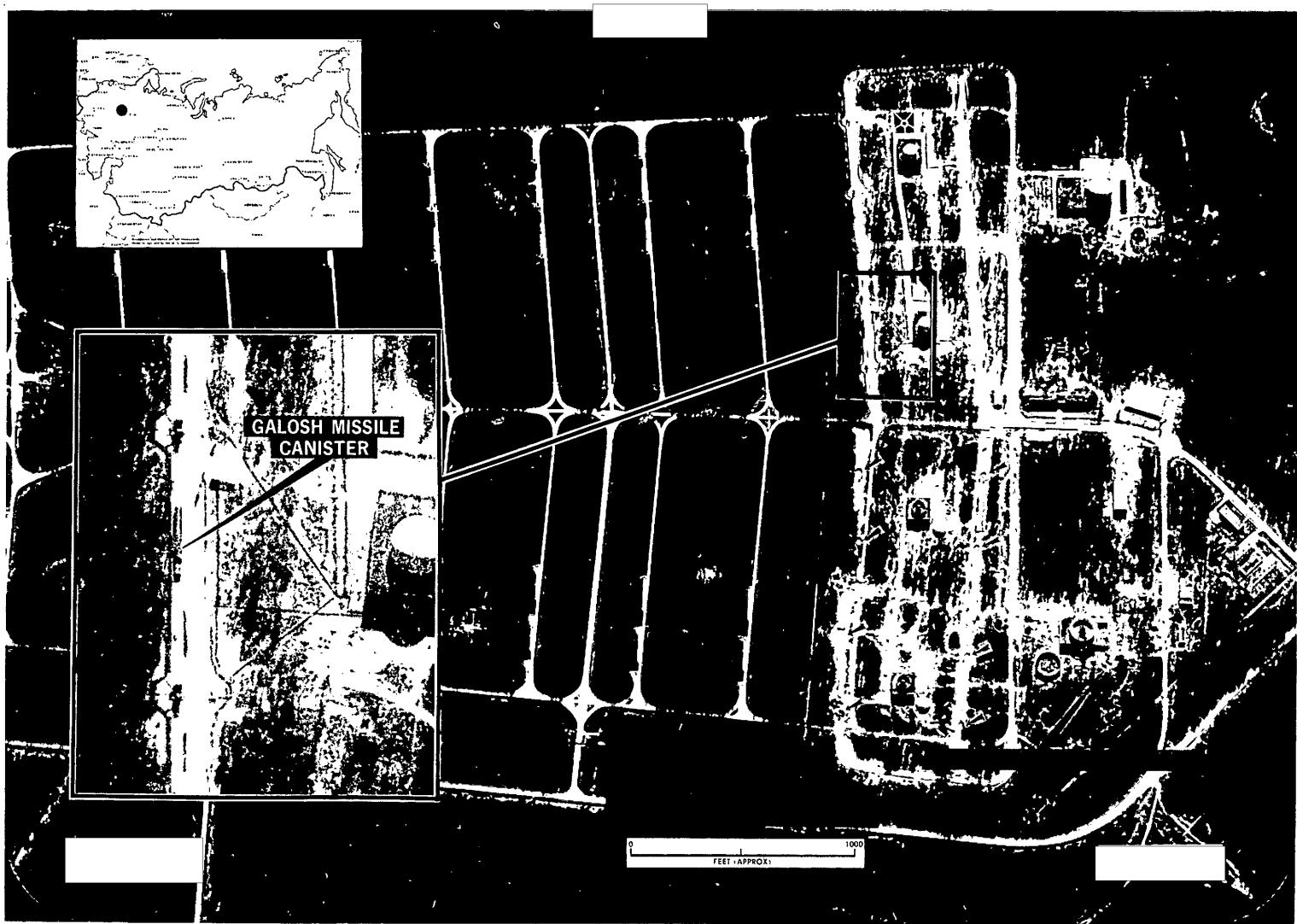
Sihanouk has made his first explicit attack against Chinese Communist activities in Cambodia. In a long and wrought-up press conference on Monday, Sihanouk blasted the Chinese for interfering in Cambodia's internal affairs.

Up to now, both sides have been careful to avoid an open rift. Times could well be changing.

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4. Soviet Union

The latest satellite photography spotted a Galosh missile cannister and prime mover at one of the antiballistic missile sites in Moscow, the first time we have seen this. It could mean that the site has a limited operational capability.

At the present rate of progress, however, it will probably be at least 1970 before the entire Moscow system becomes fully operational. (Photo)

5. Chile

Chile believes that the Organization of American States should refer Venezuela's complaint against Cuban intervention to the UN. The OAS will discuss the Venezuelan case at its foreign ministers' meeting which opens in Washington on 22 September.

The Chilean foreign minister, like many other Latin American leaders, doubts that the OAS can adopt more than token resolutions against Castro. Consideration of the complaint by the UN, however, would give world-wide publicity to the Venezuelan claim.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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

13 September 1967

North Vietnamese Reaction to Leaflet Drops: A North Vietnamese provincial journal early this month contained the admission that US leaflets dropped over the country are getting into the hands of the people. According to the article, however, the people gather up the leaflets and bring them to local police stations. The article praised a group of youngsters in the southernmost area of the country who had been active in picking up the leaflets. It reported that the "un-factual" leaflets are "psywar goods" which instantly become "waste paper" and "are despised even by our children who are vigilant against the US psywar measures."

North Vietnamese prisoners and fishermen picked up along the coast, however, have reported that the leaflets as well as air-dropped gift packets are sometimes well received, although the police and local security forces take firm measures to keep them from reaching the people. The vast number of leaflets dropped--1.5 million describing the election in South Vietnam alone--make it virtually impossible for the regime to confiscate them all.

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[redacted] parachuted radios and other items are reaching the people. [redacted] the North Vietnamese press regularly reports cases of persons bringing radios to police or militiamen as well as "festive bonfires" in which toys, drugs, and other items which are dropped are destroyed. The regime probably makes special efforts to round up the radios, since [redacted]

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[redacted] foreign radio broadcasts--including those from Saigon and the Voice of America--are not jammed by the North Vietnamese.

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Hanoi's Leaders Urge Increased Use of "Womanpower":
The North Vietnamese leadership continues to try to get increased mileage out of the country's underemployed womanpower. The regime has made special efforts to mobilize its entire population in support of war-related economic objectives ever since the bombings, and part of this job is trying to overcome the ingrained Vietnamese attitudes toward women.

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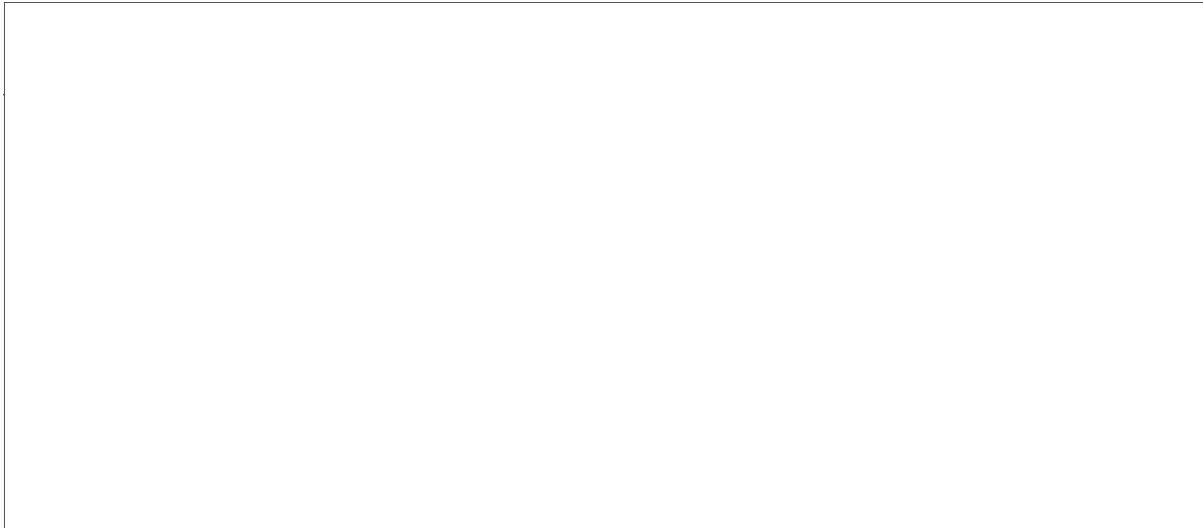
Although the size of North Vietnam's manpower reserve is believed to be sufficiently large to support present needs, there are frequent press references to manpower difficulties. Such difficulties are believed to be the result of poor management and temporary misallocation of manpower, rather than any significant labor shortage, and the increased emphasis on the use of women is probably intended to relieve seasonal or temporary manpower shortages, particularly in rural areas.

* * *

Repairs to Doumer Bridge Coming Slowly: Photography of 31 August revealed that repair work on the bridge--bombed on 11 August--had only recently gotten under way. Holes in undropped sections of the bridge had been filled, and a narrow span had been erected in the 250-foot bombed-out portion.

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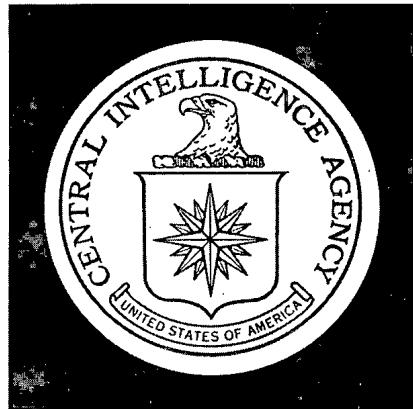


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DAILY BRIEF
14 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

The Thieu-Ky rivalry seems a bit less close to the precipice than it did a day or two ago.

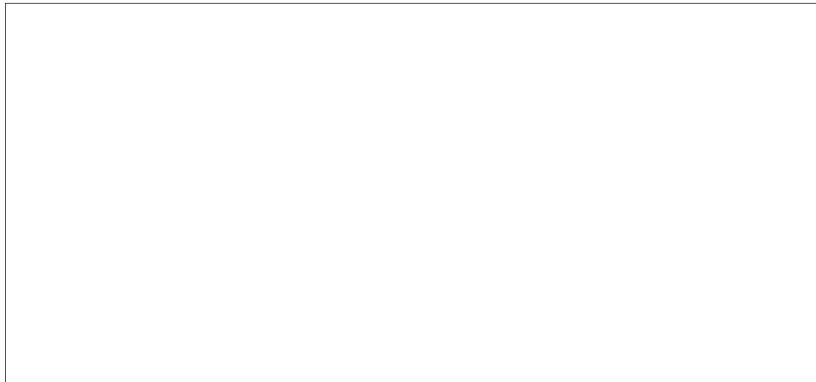
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[REDACTED]

2. India

Shelling broke out again this morning along the Sikkim-Tibet frontier for the fourth straight day. We still see no signs that either side is gearing up for a big operation, however.

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3. Hong Kong

The lull in Communist terrorism is continuing, the Communist press has become somewhat less inflammatory, and Peking's propaganda on Hong Kong has dropped off. We feel sure, however, that the Communists in the colony will return to the charge in due time.

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4. Korea

Yesterday the North Koreans sabotaged another South Korean train, the second such incident in nine days after many years without this sort of thing.

President Pak is furious, feeling that South Korea has been too patient in the face of steadily increasing Communist provocations. He

[redacted] may be thinking of stepping up retaliatory action. South Korean forces have raided the North on several occasions (the latest on 2 September) despite US attempts to discourage such action.

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5. Indonesia

[redacted]

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SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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

14 September 1967

Barge Shortage: The North Vietnamese have been losing barges to airstrikes faster than they can build them. To cover the deficit, Hanoi has ordered some 200 barges from Communist countries for delivery in 1967. At least 90 barges had been delivered by the end of July. The barges ordered by North Vietnam are for use on the inland waterways as well as for lightering cargo from freighters in port.

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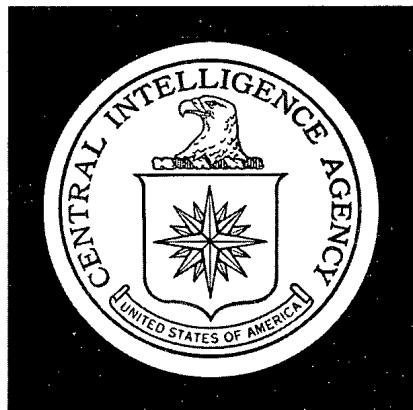
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On Haiphong Bombings: Hanoi reacted predictably to the recent raids on Haiphong. The Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning the raids as escalation and charging they put the lie to the US search for peace.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 15 September 1967



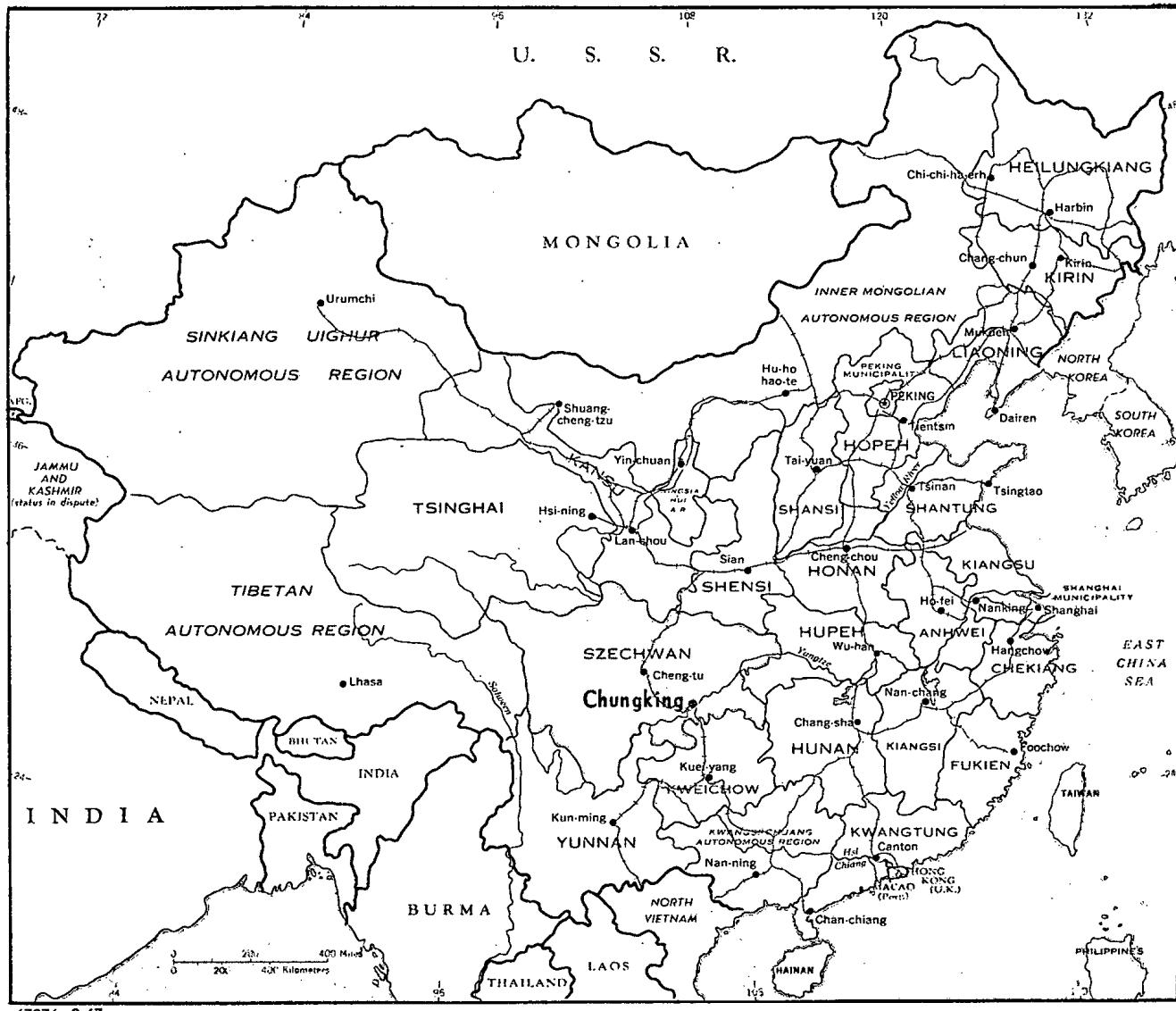
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LATE ITEM

South Vietnam

"Peace" candidate Truong Dinh Dzu was sentenced to nine months in prison today. He drew the sentence plus a heavy fine on charges of illegal foreign exchange manipulations and passing a bad check.

Claiming a frame-up, Dzu did not appear in court. Legal procedures probably will keep him out of jail for some months. He can be expected to use the time trying to make political capital with charges of government persecution.



DAILY BRIEF
15 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. Communist China

The strife-torn industrial province of Szechwan now seems virtually isolated from the rest of the country. Rail service has been suspended for more than a month, and telecommunications are disrupted. Some air and river traffic is still moving.

An effort was made in August to effect a ceasefire between the warring factions, but this seems to have broken down, and there are frequent references to armed struggle in many parts of the province.

Local officials are flailing around desperately in the midst of this chaos.

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2. India

The Chinese have added the blare of loudspeakers to the sound of sporadic gunfire along the Sikkim-Tibet frontier. Local troops are broadcasting threats to use aircraft to "annihilate" the Indians.

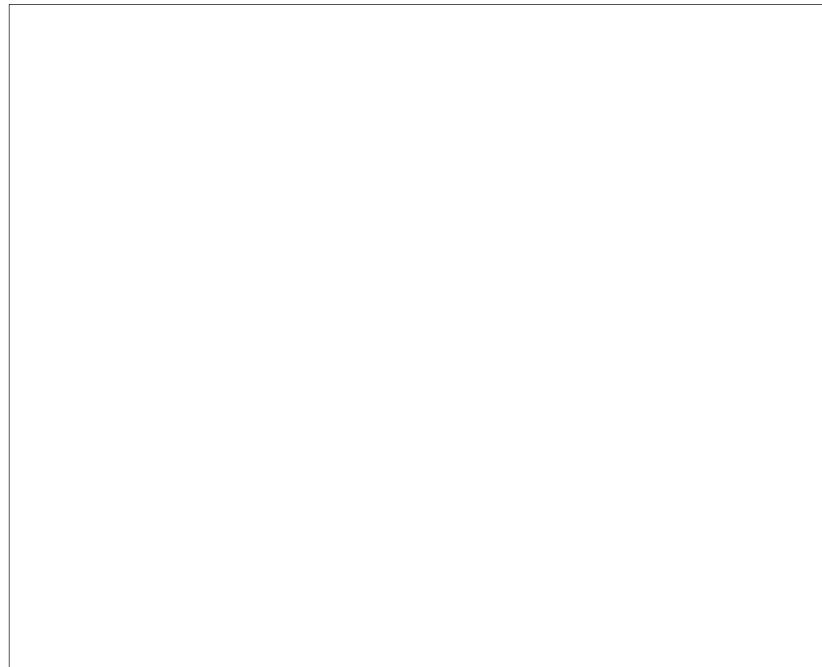
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3. Cambodia

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4. Congo

15 Sep + 67

The African summit wound up last night in Kinshasa. Nothing of great moment was accomplished. Resolutions were passed condemning the mercenaries in the Congo and supporting the Nigerian federal government in its war with Biafra. The delegates pledged new efforts to "liberate" southern Africa.

Mobutu now will turn back from his role as host to his own problems with Schramme and the mercenaries. He will probably ask for more US help against Schramme; so far Mobutu has not been filled in on US and Belgian planning aimed at evacuation of the mercenaries.

Elsewhere in the Congo several ugly incidents have been reported, including the murder of one Belgian technician.

5. Soviet Union

Since 6 June the Soviets have delivered between \$150 million and \$200 million in military equipment to the Arabs. The pace of shipments has slowed somewhat since early July, but we expect a continuing flow which in a year or so will replace most of the weapons lost in the war.

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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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

15 September 1967

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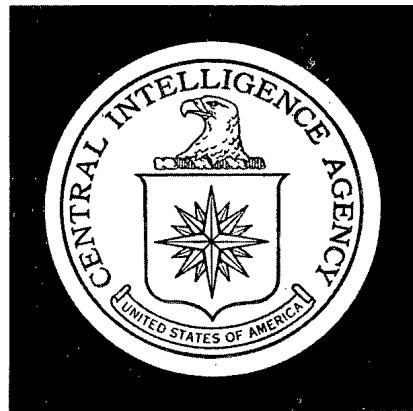
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Hanoi May Be Seeking Additional Cuban Assistance: Havana Radio announced the arrival in Cuba yesterday of Le Thanh Nghi, a North Vietnamese Politburo member. Nghi has been negotiating new extensions of economic and military assistance in various Communist capitals for several weeks. He undertakes these missions twice yearly but has never before visited Cuba.

* * *

Hanoi Evacuation Continuing: A Hanoi newspaper editorial of late August points up the continued departure of nonessential people from the capital city. The paper stated that "almost all agencies, enterprises, and handicraft cooperatives in the zones likely to be attacked have been evacuated or dispersed to new locations." The general evacuation movement was said to have been stepped up in various city districts, with many families making arrangements to reside outside Hanoi permanently. In addition, very few evacuated school children returned to visit their homes during their summer vacation. We had estimated that as of the end of last year more than a third of Hanoi's total population of 1,000,000 had left. This further evacuation may reduce the city's total to less than a half million.

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The President's Daily Brief

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LATE ITEM

South Vietnam

Preliminary press accounts state that senior military officers today announced the dismissal of four generals and one province chief. This looks like the beginning of a long-awaited purge aimed at weeding out [redacted] officers considered corrupt or inefficient.

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DAILY BRIEF
16 September 1967

1. South Vietnam

We keep getting reports of bitterness between Thieu and Ky--despite protestations from high ranking Vietnamese that the differences between the two men are being exaggerated.

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2. Egypt

Cairo's official news agency reports the suicide Thursday of former Field Marshal Amir, Nasir's erstwhile alter ego who was recently arrested for plotting against the regime. This presumably will increase the resentment of disgruntled military elements who have viewed Amir as their leader, and Nasir as his persecutor.

3. Soviet Union

We expect at least one Soviet space operation in the near future.

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We believe these will participate in a test of an unmanned Soyuz vehicle.

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Other ships continue to move into the Indian Ocean for what will probably be a circumlunar flight.

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4. Italy

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5. Poland

Unrest in the Polish armed forces over the regime's efforts to counter pro-Israeli sentiment has eased somewhat.

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The basic question of Poland's automatic commitment to Soviet policies remains topical

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6. Nonproliferation Treaty

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The foreign minister has [redacted] said publicly that Brazil would accept limitation on military nuclear development only within a treaty obligating all countries of the world.

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7. Communist China

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SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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

16 September 1967

Hanoi's Religious Problems: The regime continues to have problems with uncooperative elements among its diverse religious communities, especially the Catholics. Some concern that these problems may be affecting efforts to mobilize the population behind the war was expressed in the August issue of the Communist party journal Hoc Tap. The article reviews the history of Vietnam's religious groups and concludes that great progress has been made in reconciling their religious convictions with the demands of the revolution, but that "reactionaries" and "counterrevolutionary" elements still exist and are able to sow discord harmful to the cause of national unity.

The author accuses "US imperialists" of "taking advantage of religion" for espionage and psychological warfare activities, and implicitly acknowledges this as fertile ground for such efforts. Although claiming that counterrevolutionary influence among followers of religion has "weakened markedly" in recent years, the article notes that there are some "vulnerable spots."

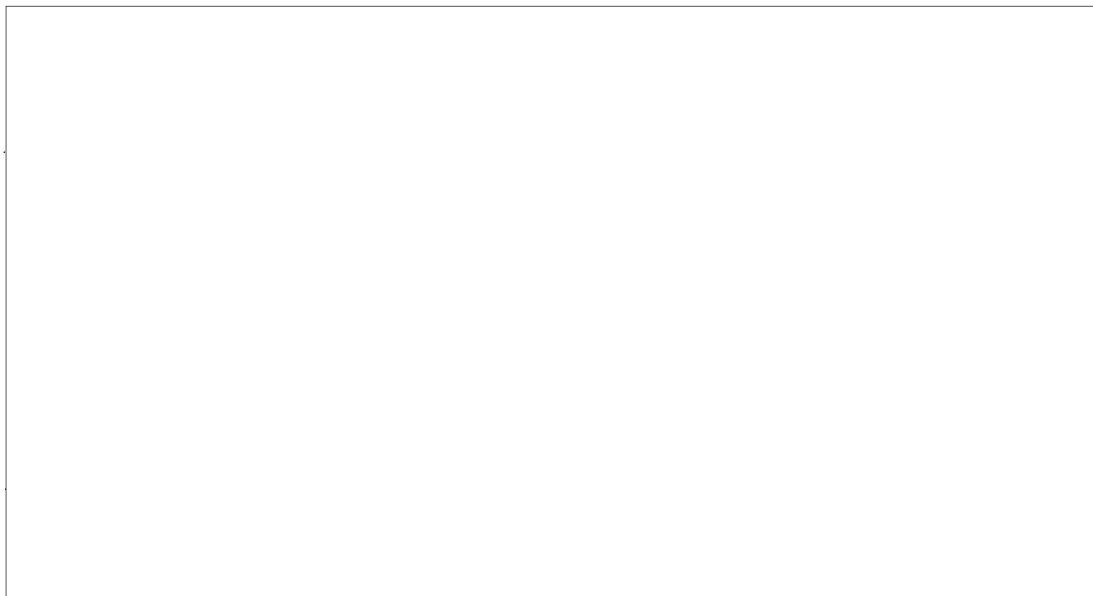
The article does not suggest that religious divisions in North Vietnam are significantly greater now than in the past, or that Hanoi is seriously concerned with the issues themselves. Hanoi readily acknowledges its problem with religious minorities as one which can only be overcome with time and persuasion. The Hoc Tap article also cautions overzealous cadres against letting measures designed to overcome religious problems end up aggravating them.

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US Bombings Reported Affecting Rice Production:

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[redacted] the North Vietnamese were complaining that US bombings were affecting their capability to harvest two annual rice crops. The North Vietnamese also claimed that they were required to increase their rice imports to offset a growing deficit. [redacted]

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[redacted] vegetables were in short supply but [redacted] the shortage of clothing material was apparently hurting morale more than the tight food situation.

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Hospitals Reorganized: [redacted]

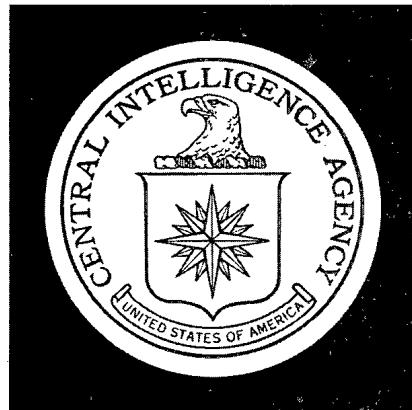
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[redacted] with the exception of hospitals in Haiphong and Hanoi, hospitals in North Vietnam have been reorganized into small clinics and mobile units servicing rural areas. The reorganization was reported to have lowered the standard of medical treatment but had brought medical aid to areas never before visited by medical teams.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 18 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
18 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. North Vietnam

Amid Western press reports that Hanoi is showing renewed interest in peace talks, the North Vietnamese foreign minister has twice in the past two weeks insisted that there has been no movement from his side.

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2. South Vietnam

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Page Denied

3. Soviet Union

The Soviets are still keeping their Mediterranean fleet near the level established during the Middle East crisis.

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4. Korea

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5. Bahamas

A review of Premier Pindling's first eight months in office shows that his government has taken effective hold. The investment climate has improved, and economic indicators are good. One critical problem is strained relations between the government and British officialdom. This could lead Pindling to opt for independence within a year.

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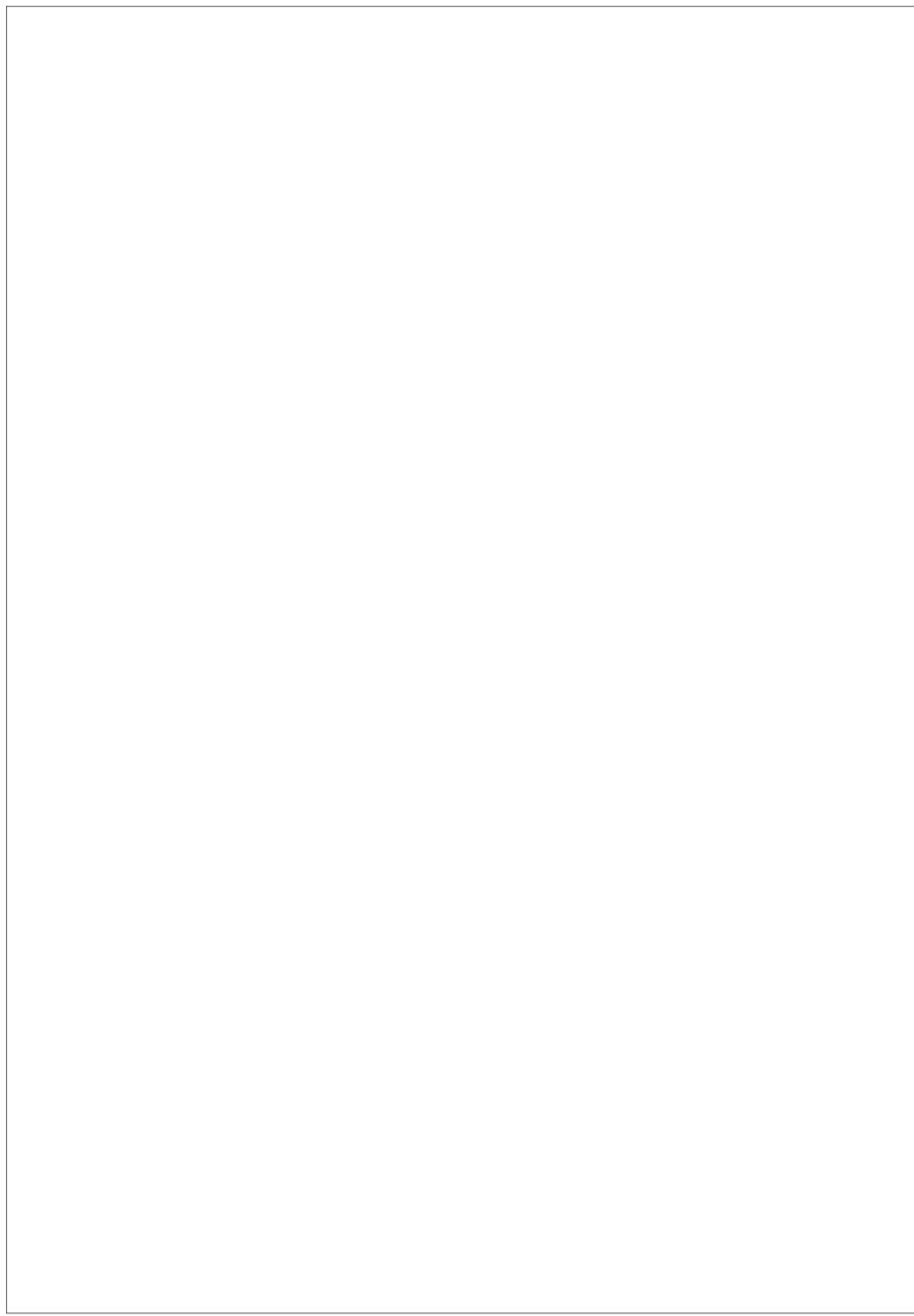
the Bahamian Government's best interests lie in close relations with the US.

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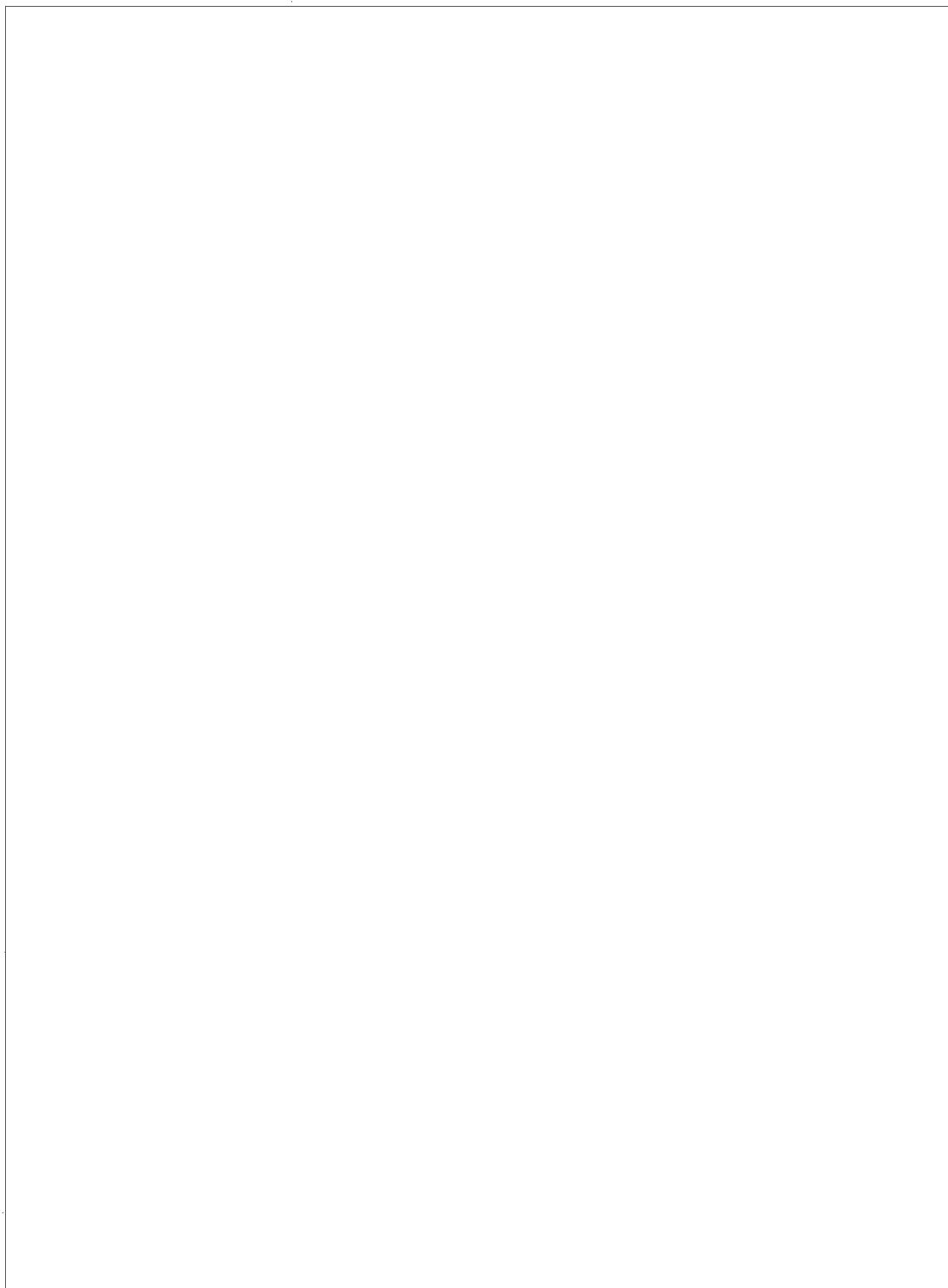
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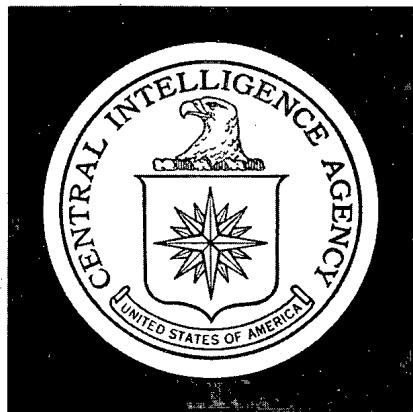


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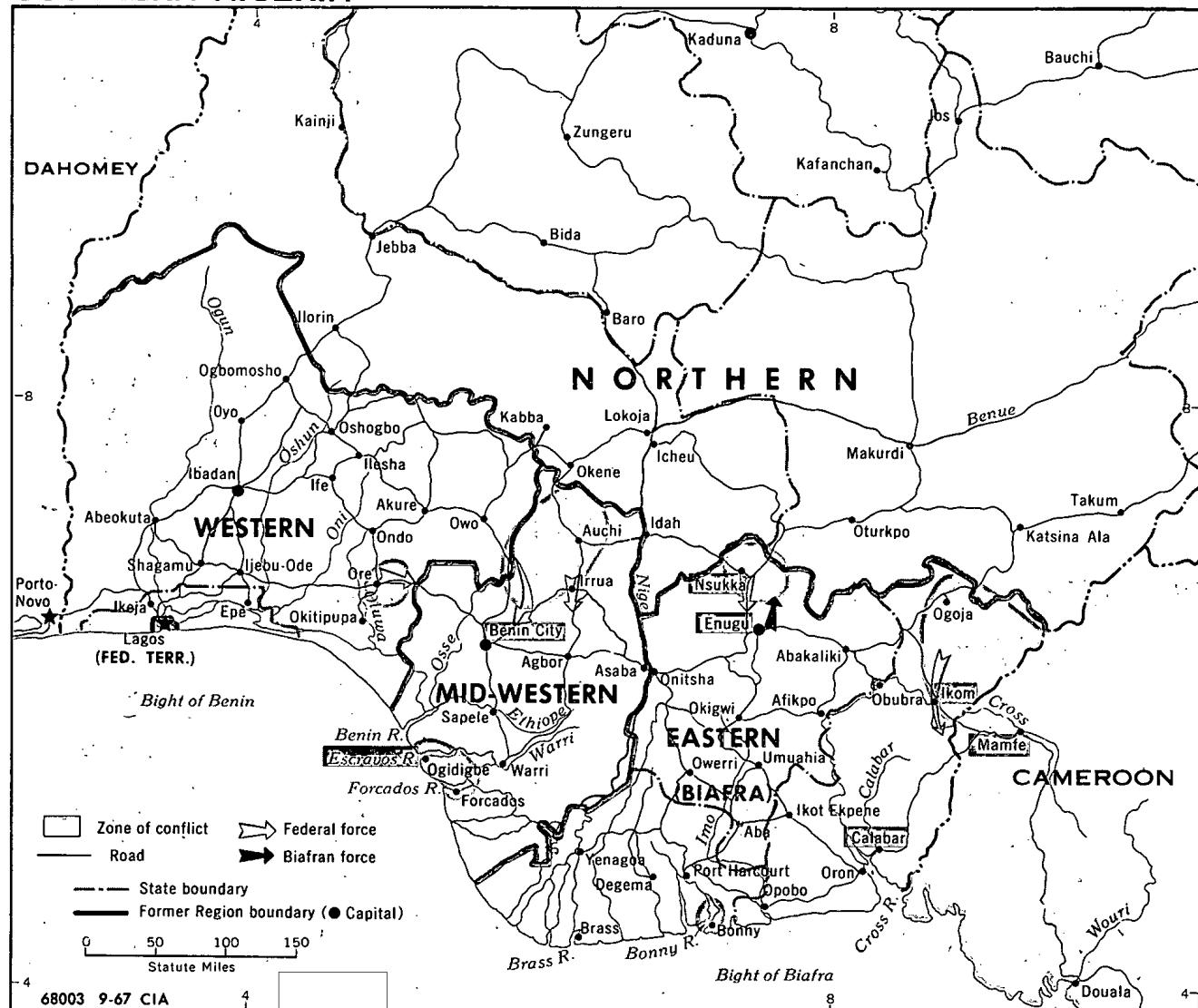
The President's Daily Brief

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SOUTHERN NIGERIA

DAILY BRIEF
19 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Rumors of impending Buddhist disturbances in the north appear exaggerated, but the militants continue stirring beneath the political surface. There is little doubt Tri Quang remains dedicated to overthrowing any government he cannot control. Tri Quang's power, however, no longer matches his ambitions and the militants will probably concentrate on trying to pressure the new legislature on religious issues.

2. South Vietnam

The week ending 5 September saw Saigon food prices jump 5.5 percent, raising the retail price index for all items 4 percent. Food prices now are almost 50 percent higher than on 3 January, while nonfood prices are only about 10 percent higher.

3. Syria

There has been a Syrian troop build-up along the cease-fire line during the last week. We believe the regime intends this as a demonstration of its militancy, in contrast to the current "moderation" of the other Arabs. Should the presence of this force provoke trouble, the Israelis could easily demolish the Syrians from the air and would probably not hesitate to do so.

4. Nigeria

Federal forces are pressing the Biafrans harder and harder. A column moving in from the northwest may be only 25 miles from the Biafran capital of Enugu, federal troops have captured a key town near the Cameroon border in the far east, and the Biafran position in the mid-Western state continues to worsen. Even so, we do not think Lagos has the follow-through for a knockout punch right now.

5. United Nations

The General Assembly that convenes today will inherit the Middle East crisis from the special session, and will probably do no better with it. There has been little change in the members' positions since last summer. The Soviets, probably still gun-shy from the special session, are unlikely to take the initiative; in fact, they may be backing away from the agreement reached with the US in the closing days last July. Tito's proposal looks like a nonstarter.

Prospects are brighter for the draft nonproliferation treaty, particularly since the Soviet compromise proposal on the safeguards issue meets many of the demands of the Common Market countries.

6. Communist China

Last week Chou En-lai, faced with Sihanouk's "decision" to withdraw his diplomatic mission from Peking, moved fast to smooth the Prince's ruffled feathers.

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Even so, relations are not likely to improve much any time soon. Yesterday Sihanouk again publicly vowed to stamp out subversive Chinese propaganda in Cambodia.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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

19 September 1967

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Hanoi Tightens Up On Food: [redacted]

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[redacted] The regime is exhorting people to observe strict rationing and they are warned against hoarding. The latest campaign is directed at "non-combatants" and seems intended to make sure that those who have a more active defense role get enough to eat.

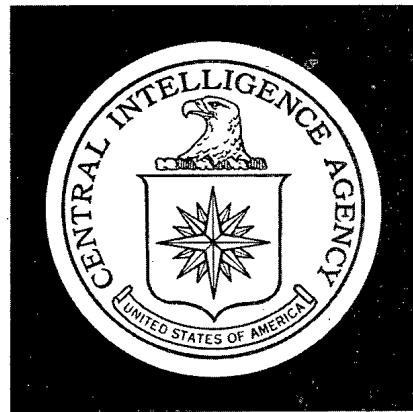
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While there are shortages of various commodities, particularly rice, substitutions have been made and the food situation in North Vietnam does not seem to be assuming crisis proportions.

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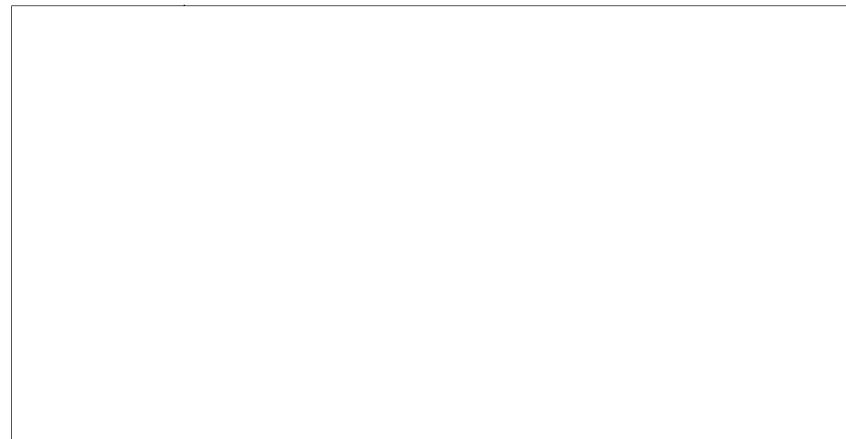
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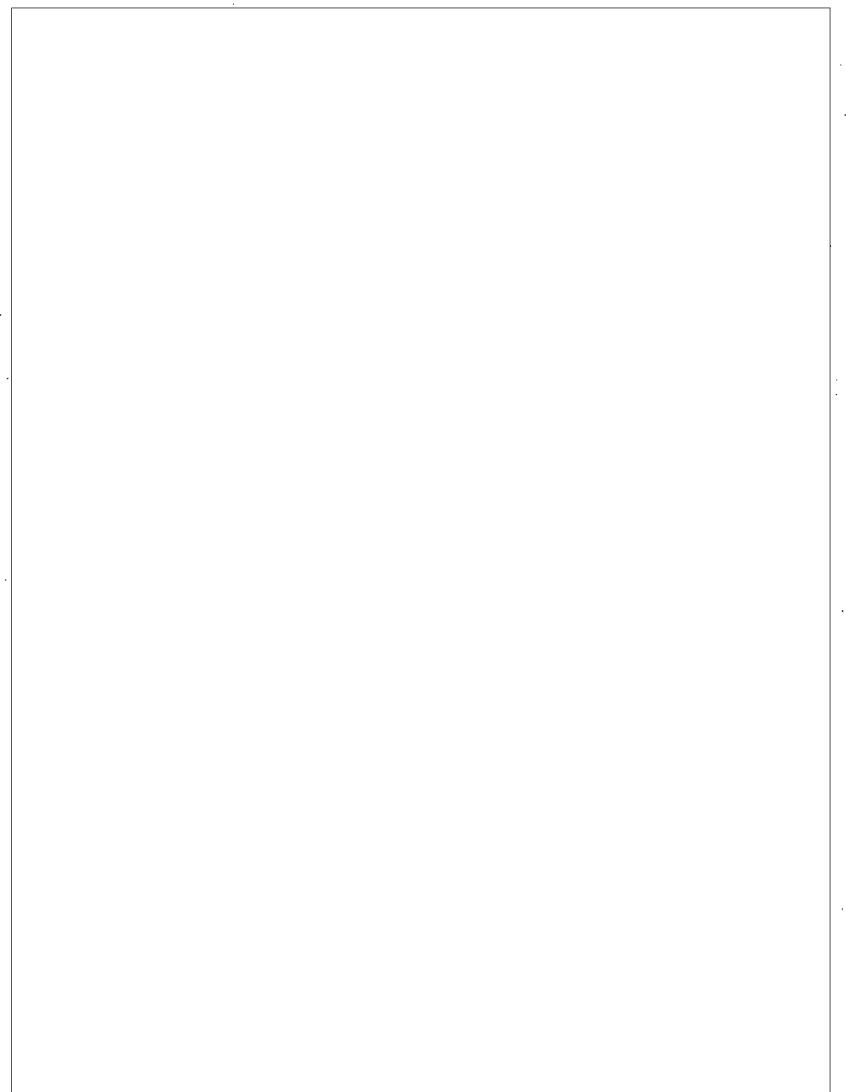
DAILY BRIEF
20 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam



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2. Brazil



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3. Congo

As yet there has been no comment from Colonel Schramme and the mercenaries on the latest plan for their evacuation. A journalist who was in Bukavu last week reports they probably will agree to get out unless they receive substantial outside reinforcement.

Mobutu set things in motion yesterday with a formal request for supervision of evacuation by the International Red Cross. He did not mention safeguards for the Katangese gendarmes with Schramme, however. [redacted] 50X1

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[redacted] This 50X1 could be a potential snag as Schramme has consistently held that his Katangese cohorts must be protected in any deal for evacuation. 50X1

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4. Singapore

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5. Bolivia

The government is showing a better ability to zero-in on the guerrillas. Over the weekend the Bolivians broke a major guerrilla support apparatus in La Paz, capturing a number of important documents as well as arresting many of the guerrillas' city helpers.

This raid follows the elimination of a guerrilla rear guard unit on 31 August. The two successes should bolster army morale and help stem some of the criticism aimed at President Barrientos.

6. Nigeria

The Mid-Western state declared its independence of the federal government early this morning. The Biafrans are probably behind this move and, aside from adding to the general confusion, it is not likely to have much effect on the civil war. Federal troops are already moving into the state in force, and independence may well be short-lived.

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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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

20 September 1967

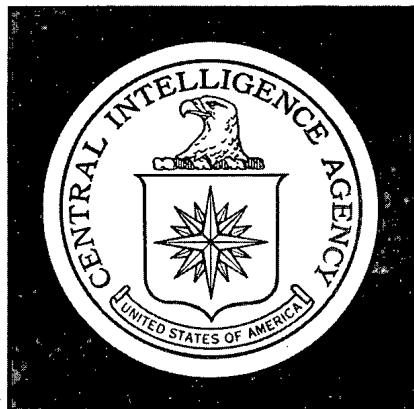
Hanoi on Anti-infiltration Barrier: Comment is still sparse on Hanoi radio, but what there is disparages the proposed barrier by quoting US and other Western press comments that the installation will be costly, futile, and will pin down large numbers of men in static defense.

Hanoi describes the barrier as an "attempt to curb the movement of South Vietnamese patriotic forces," thus avoiding even an oblique admission that North Vietnamese troops are moving into the South.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
21 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. Communist China

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2. Laos

Souvanna Phouma has expressed new reservations about the anti-infiltration barrier across the Demilitarized Zone. In a recent conversation with Ambassador Sullivan, Souvanna said he was "troubled" by the fact that the US had publicly announced that such a system would be installed, and was particularly disturbed by press speculation that the manned portion of the barrier would extend into Laos.

3. Greece

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4. Nigeria

Biafra has been shaken by a series of military reverses in recent days. There are no signs of imminent collapse, however, and fighting will probably go on for some time.

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5. Panama

The government coalition is split down the middle over President Robles' selection of David Samudio as its presidential candidate in next May's election. The confusions and divisions now boiling up in the feeble eight-party coalition could still be overcome, but this would require important concessions that no one now seems prepared to make.

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All of this is doing no good to the draft Canal treaties. Few politicians are prepared now to stick out their necks on the issue. The rabble-rousing newspapers owned by nephews of Arnulfo Arias are calling for a return to "the spirit of January 1964."

6. South Arabia

Britain has advanced South Arabia's independence date to sometime in November

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The territory still lacks any government to give independence to, but the two rival nationalist groups do seem somewhat closer to agreement.

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SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM

FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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

21 September 1967

North Vietnamese Conditions Last Month:

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--The material situation in North Vietnam is very precarious. Except for basic foodstuffs and war materials, there is nothing.

--Morale in the rural areas is very high, but much lower in large cities such as Hanoi and Vinh.

--In Hanoi, many civilians, particularly older segments of the population, would like to see an end to the war. They have had enough of living on a perpetual war footing and of continually receiving orders and instructions.

--The young people in general are fanaticized, probably because they have never known anything but war. The bombings have had no effect on the morale of the youth.

--Politically, the North Vietnamese are persuading themselves that as long as political and social troubles persist in South Vietnam they cannot lose.

--As long as action against North Vietnam is restricted to bombing, no change in the situation can be expected. Only an invasion and occupation of part of their territory can decide the North Vietnamese to change their attitude.

--Air raids on North Vietnam do not appear always to be very accurate

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Giap Analyzes the War: North Vietnamese Defense Minister Giap has published another in his series of analyses of the war. So far, only a portion of the first installment is available in Washington.

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The general tone of the article exudes confidence. He claims that the military situation has never been better, that his military forces are "invincible," and foreign aid "increasingly effective." Although there is nothing unusual or startling in this first part, it should be noted that Giap frequently keeps the heart of his analysis--such as current and future Communist strategy and predictions of future US actions--until the conclusion of his article.

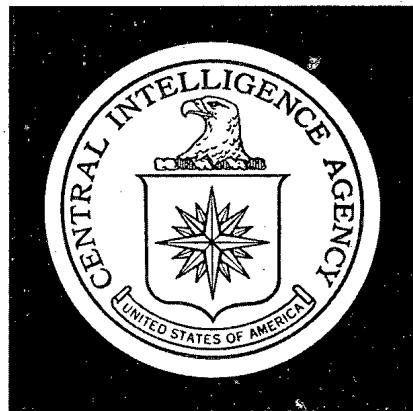
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The Rice Crop: The regime has turned out city dwellers in unusually large numbers this year to assist in transplanting the important tenth month rice crop. Some 120,000, for instance, have been sent to one province alone, according to the party journal.

It is too early to assess the prospects, but transplanting was delayed by a long drought which ended only in mid-August. A bumper harvest will be needed if North Vietnam is to overcome its dependence on food imports. The last three rice harvests were below average.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
22 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

Former minister of economy and one-time presidential candidate Au Truong Thanh was taken into custody this morning.

Police Director Loan took part yesterday in a raid on Thanh's home. The raid involved some manhandling of Thanh and several foreign correspondents. Loan would say only that he wished to question Thanh about US visas which he had requested.

Thanh attempted to enter the presidential race as a "peace candidate," but was disqualified early on suspicion of pro-Communist sympathies. Heavy-handed police measures toward Thanh, following closely upon the conviction of presidential runner-up Truong Dinh Dzu, will undoubtedly give rise to charges that the government is out to suppress opposition.

A recent defector, probably a Viet Cong major, claims that the Viet Cong were in fact ordered to get out the vote for Dzu. He says a directive applying to the entire country, issued nine days before the election, required all Viet Cong cadres not otherwise occupied to urge people to vote for Dzu. The defector added that the order was given because of Dzu's stated wish to follow the road of peace and neutrality.

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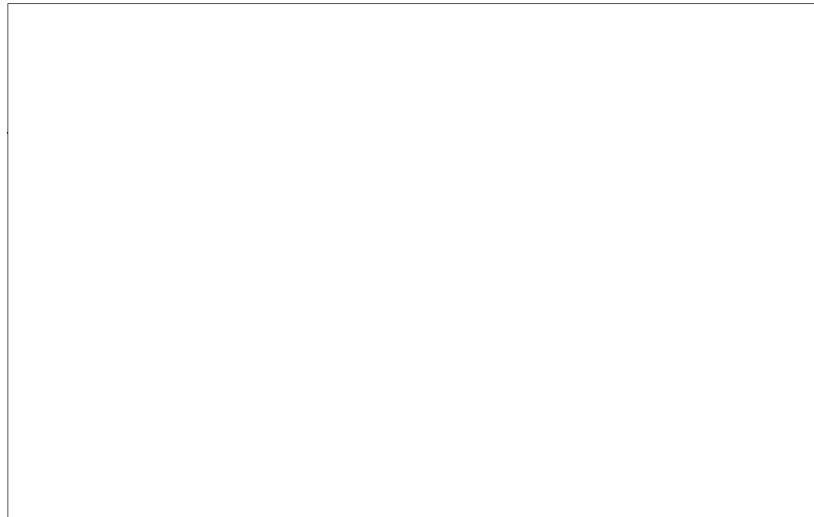
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3. Soviet Union

The Soviet satellite reconnaissance program has achieved a considerable level of sophistication. Satellites are routinely launched about twice each month from Tyuratam or Plesetsk.

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**4. Middle East**

The oil crisis caused by the Arab-Israeli war has passed. World-wide production of oil last month exceeded the level reached in May before the crisis, and the movement of oil to importing countries is nearly normal. The supply of tankers is still tight, but should catch up with demand early next year.

5. Communist China

Peking has commented publicly on Secretary McNamara's announcement of a limited US antiballistic missile system. In a broadcast on Wednesday, Peking radio said that this was "another anti-Chinese measure" adopted to intensify Washington's "collusion" with Moscow. It added that China had never been afraid of "blackmail," and now that the Chinese have their own nuclear weapons, Peking "certainly" would not be intimidated.

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6. Communist China

The internal situation is in no way improving. During the past week, a train was blown up on the Shanghai-Nanking railroad, fighting temporarily closed the Chang-chun airfield, and heavy fighting with machine-guns and artillery continued around Chungking. Canton city has been relatively quiet the past few days but clashes continue in the suburbs.

7. Nigeria

The African "consultative" mission set up to try to help solve the Nigerian crisis is not likely to get to Lagos until late October. Two of the heads of state involved have other commitments this month and Mobutu says he cannot leave the Congo as long as the mercenaries remain. On top of this, the federal Nigerian Government itself is cool to the whole idea--especially now that its military position is improving.

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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
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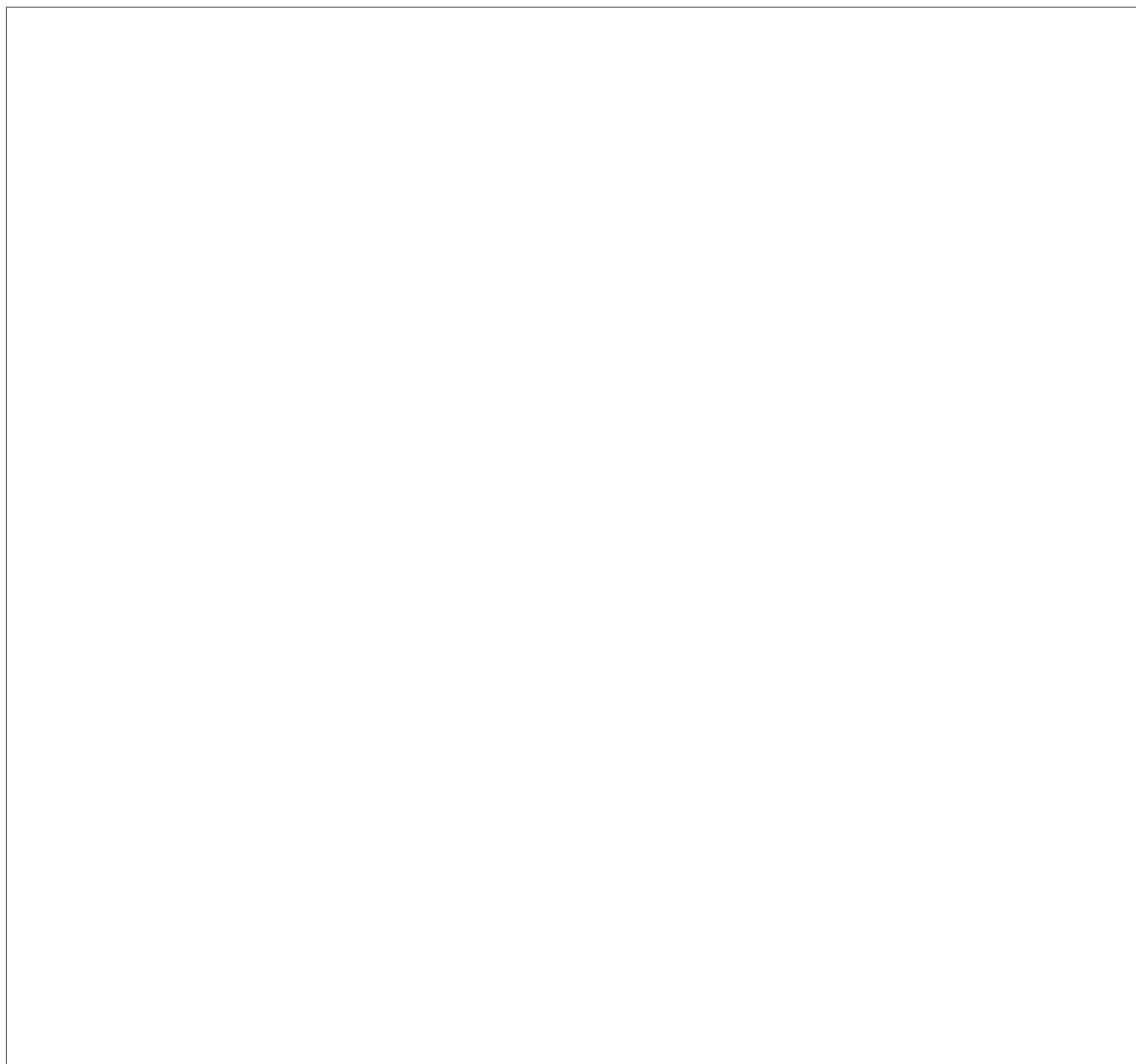
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**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only**

22 September 1967

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Canadian on Life in Hanoi: Canadian International Control Commission member Dier, in Saigon after a two-week visit to Hanoi, had a long talk with Senator Symington and Ambassador Bunker on 17 September. Among other things, Dier said the center of Hanoi had become a sanctuary for truck repair and maintenance because it was free of bomb attacks. He saw few signs of a power shortage and noted there seemed to be thousands of auxiliary generators in operation. At no time during his visit was the power off for more than an hour. Dier's observations probably were confined largely to the diplomatic quarter, however, where we know the North Vietnamese make a special effort to maintain power.

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A doctor connected with the Control Commission in Hanoi told Dier that there were signs of malnutrition showing up in small children.

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We think he exaggerates the effects of food shortages and that he probably bases his remarks on limited observations rather than on direct clinical examination. Other observers see evidence of food shortages, but nothing severe enough to cause signs of malnutrition.

Dier was shown an area of bomb damage in Hanoi in which 17 buildings were destroyed and 69 persons killed. He assumes this was caused by a bomb jettisoned over the city.

* * *

Women Visitors in Hanoi: Three women from the Women's Strike for Peace group, including Mrs. Dagmar Wilson, were in North Vietnam while Dier was there and he traveled with them both to and from Hanoi. He said the women had been taken all over the country, including places he could not go, and they returned more convinced than ever that the US was wrong. Dier attempted to rebut their unquestioning acceptance of the North Vietnamese line, but without results.

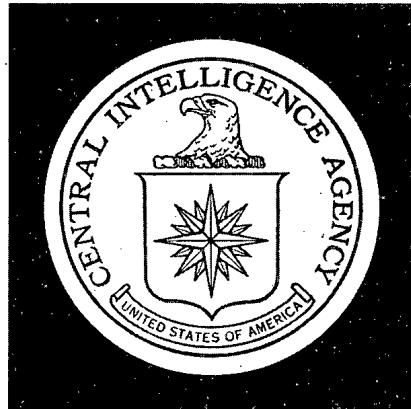
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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
23 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

It was more than just flimsy charges that led to the arrest yesterday of former economy minister Thanh. The US Embassy feels that the accusation that Thanh had been involved in pro-Communist activities merits careful investigation. It is based on information from a high-ranking Viet Cong officer captured last May.

Even so, an investigation into Thanh's past has now become immeasurably more difficult because of the storm that has blown up over the heavy-handed police action against him yesterday.

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2. Greece

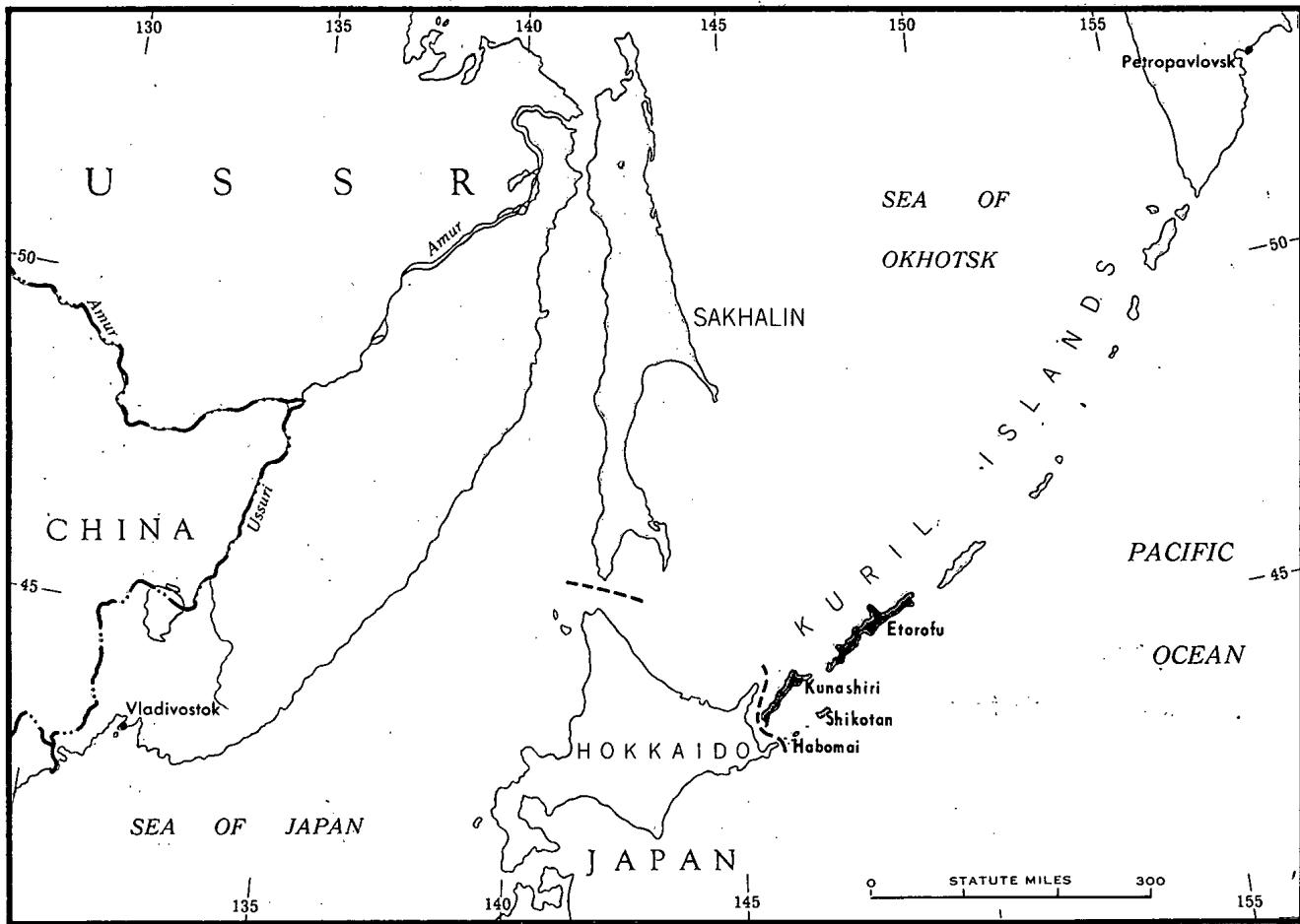


3. France

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4. Soviet Union

Yesterday Moscow made its first (and so far only) comment on Secretary McNamara's antiballistic missile announcement. Tass quoted a Soviet weekly which merely said that "this step promises huge profits for US corporations." This spare comment could mean that the Soviet leadership is still wrestling with how to react to the US announcement.

There has been strikingly little official reaction from the East Europeans, who appear to be awaiting their cue from Moscow.

5. Soviet Union

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6. Soviet Union

Moscow's offer to discuss with Japan the return of four islands seized at the end of World War II is a double-edged ploy. It is probably designed to embarrass the US while complicating life for Sato.

The Soviets presumably calculate that a hint of flexibility on a long dormant issue might encourage Sato to stiffen his position on the status of Okinawa during his Washington visit. For his part, Sato has no illusions that the Soviets will really concede anything but may see the talks as a way of deflecting domestic attention from the Okinawa issue.

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**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only
23 September 1967**

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Status of the Hanoi powerplant: Damage inflicted by air strikes against the Hanoi powerplant limits current operation to about one-half of installed capacity. This is in line with previous forecasts which predicted restoration to full capacity by no sooner than the end of the year.

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Giap's Analysis of the War--Continued: The last portion of the defense minister's analysis of the war is now in hand. It contains nothing startling and continues to profess confidence in ultimate victory.

Giap reaffirms that, although the Vietnamese Communists cannot hope to match the number of US and allied troops in the south, they can nonetheless wage the war successfully--by maintaining a "stalemate" until the US tires. He argues that this can be done by improving the quality of the Communist forces and by using superior tactics.

The North Vietnamese leader says he expects the US soon to increase its troop strength in the south by 50,000 and eventually by as many as another 100,000 to 200,000. This does not matter, he says. The Communists can counter this by giving a greater role to the irregulars and by increasing irregular strength. This is a subject that has been a controversial one in Hanoi. Giap has long argued that the guerrillas have a very important role to play, in conjunction with regular forces. His opponents have argued that the guerrilla role should be subordinate to that of the regulars.

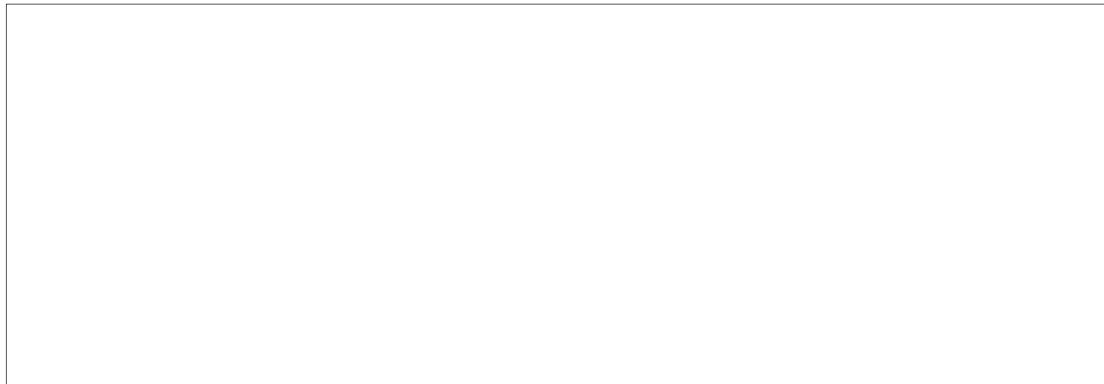
Giap dismisses the concept of a "barrier" across the northern portion of South Vietnam in a few sentences, stating that it would be ineffective.

The problem of how best to defend North Vietnam also gets some attention. Giap refers both to air defense and to ground invasion, which he mentions as a possibility. He admits that some air defense units have performed poorly and calls for disciplinary measures against those whose "negligence" has caused avoidable damage.

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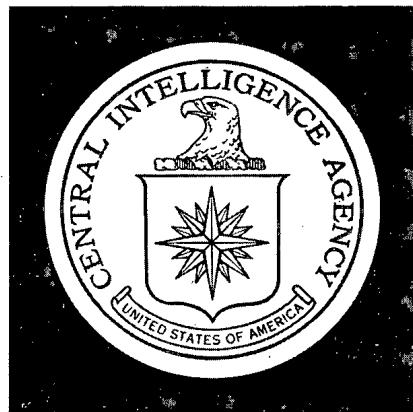


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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 25 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
25 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

The militant Buddhists launched their formal protest yesterday against the recent elections. They held a press conference and pledged their support for the "heroic campaign" to force the Provisional National Assembly to invalidate the elections.

Tri Quang and other militant monks were present, but the show was stolen by defeated "peace" candidate Truong Dinh Dzu. He left no doubt in his hard-hitting speech that he is fully committed to the militant Buddhist position on the elections.

A group of 200 students, also protesting the elections, paraded through Saigon yesterday. After a while, they were quietly but effectively dispersed by the police.

These were the first significant public efforts to put pressure on the Assemblymen who meet a week from today to validate the elections. We still expect Thieu and Ky to be declared the winners.

2. Soviet Union

Kosygin's announcement on Saturday of the new aid agreement with Hanoi underlines again Moscow's central role as economic and military supplier to the North Vietnamese war effort.

Soviet aid for North Vietnam--now almost all free--will continue to rise, but it does not represent a heavy burden for the Soviet Union. We feel that the estimates in the US press that the Soviet aid figure has already reached a billion dollars a year are exaggerations. It will be more on the order of 700 million when this year ends.

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3. Soviet Union

Some Soviet officials are [redacted] 50X1 dropping hints again on how we can bring about a settlement in Vietnam. The key, they say, would be US acceptance of the idea that the regime in Hanoi and the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam are distinct entities that do not always see eye to eye. A good first step, they go on, would be the initiation of secret talks between the Saigon government and the Viet Cong. Then, talks could begin between the US and the North Vietnamese.

It would be difficult to start with Hanoi, they argue, since it would be betraying an ally for Hanoi to stop aid to the Viet Cong just as it would be difficult for Moscow to stop helping Hanoi or for the US to make a deal with the Viet Cong against Saigon's wishes.

Joseph Kraft, who stopped over in Moscow last week, believes that Brezhnev at that time went out of his way publicly to build up the image of the National Liberation Front and to stress his hopes for a future "independent South Vietnam." Kraft speculates that Moscow was thus supporting an effort by Hanoi to give renewed emphasis to the idea that there are two wars going on in Vietnam--one in the north and one in the south, and that Hanoi is mainly concerned with the former.

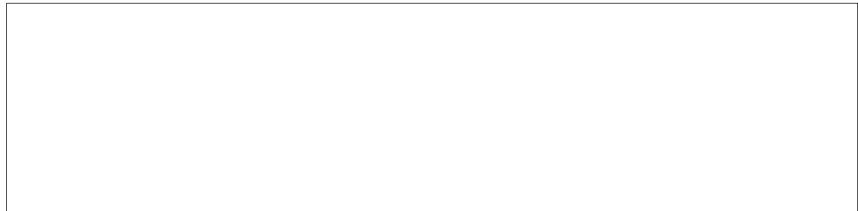
None of the Soviets, however, have come up with an answer to the clincher--how to stop the fighting in the south without a concurrent agreement about arms and men from the north. Furthermore, Front leaders in the south have continually insisted that they will never deal with Thieu and Ky.

[redacted] 50X1

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4. Brazil

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5. Panama



6. Guyana

The coalition government set up in 1964 to keep pro-Communist Cheddi Jagan out of power is now falling apart. The leader of the junior party in Prime Minister Burnham's two-party coalition intends to resign today. This is the culmination of a long feud which Ambassador Carlson likens to two goats butting each other on the edge of a cliff.

Burnham could probably muddle along for a while as head of a minority government. Prospects have definitely dimmed, however, for effective administration and political stability in this racially divided country. 50X1

7. Nigeria



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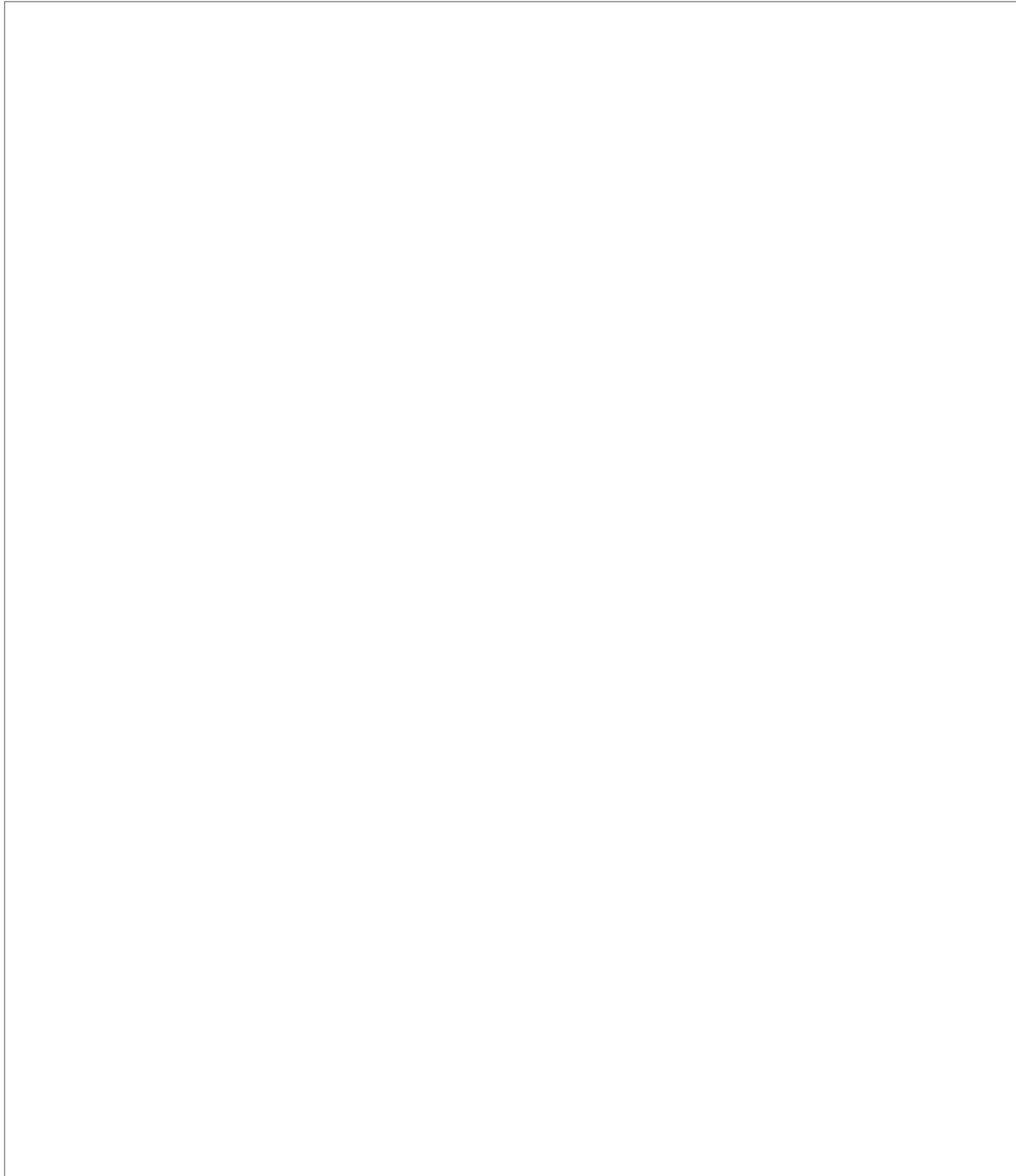
**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only**

25 September 1967



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The Chinese in North Vietnam: 

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[Redacted]

There may be a growing coolness between the Chinese and the North Vietnamese, but this has not been reflected in Chinese military and logistics support for North Vietnam.

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[Redacted]

Some of the Chinese activity seems to serve Chinese purposes more than Vietnamese.

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North Vietnamese Foreign Minister's Interview:

[Redacted]

Trinh had little new to say. He insisted that the Communists are winning the war, and he rejected any United Nations' action to arrange a settlement.

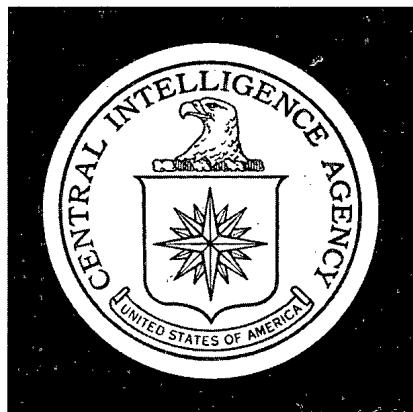
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Trinh expressed himself somewhat more directly than usual on the question of whether Hanoi would, in fact, talk if the bombing is stopped. In response to a question about the timing of US withdrawal from South Vietnam, he said it is too soon to talk about that and that first of all the US must stop bombing, "then talks will follow."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 26 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
26 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. Hungary

Cardinal Mindszenty has "reaffirmed most positively" that he will leave the US Embassy before the scheduled 10 October arrival of ambassador-designate Hillebrand, as a way of protesting what he considers US "appeasement" of the Kadar regime. The Cardinal says he will give himself up to the Hungarian police (who have been waiting in front of the building since 1956) if no arrangements have been made for him to leave the country.

As far as we know, the regime is unaware of the Cardinal's intention, and his sudden appearance on the sidewalk could be as awkward for the Hungarians as anyone else.

The Vatican intends to send a representative to the Cardinal, probably to urge him to stand fast until arrangements can be made for his departure and residence outside Hungary. There is no evidence, however, that the Vatican has yet begun negotiations with the Hungarians.

2. Congo

3. Communist China

Chinese foreign trade continues to fall off, due in no small part to the turmoil of the Cultural Revolution. Trade prospects with the Soviet Union and Japan--China's two top trading partners--are particularly dim right now.

Contracts with West European companies for entire industrial plants have also been affected.

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4. Cuba

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5. India

New Delhi is expecting a record crop in the coming year--but will still need to import six to seven million tons of grain. Import needs will be even higher if the winter rains fail to produce a good spring harvest, usually about a quarter of the total.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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26 September 1967

Observations in North Vietnam: [redacted]
misceLLaneous observations about life in North Viet-
nam [redacted]

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[redacted] an order was issued on 25 August
for all people except those engaged in essential ac-
tivities to evacuate Hanoi because of the increasing
frequency of air raids. [redacted] most government
offices had only skeleton staffs, with the rest dis-
persed outside Hanoi. Other signs of dispersal in-
cluded the lack of animals at the zoo, the dilapidated
condition of children's playgrounds, and the removal of
original works from the art museum.

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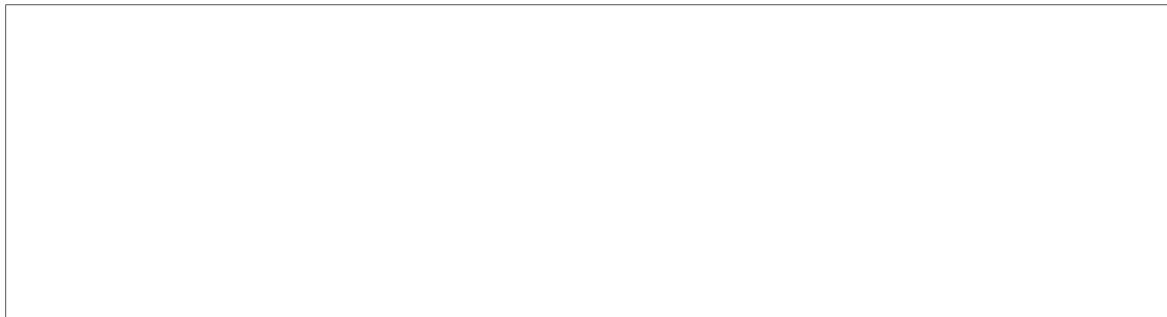
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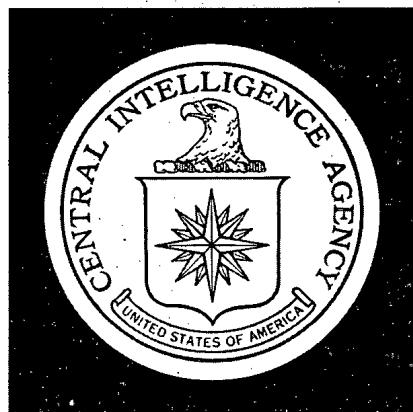
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Hanoi Comments on Soviet Aid Agreement: A North Vietnamese editorial of 24 September was effusive over the "valuable, great, sincere, and efficacious" support of Hanoi and the Viet Cong by the Soviet Union. In comparison with a similar editorial just about a year ago, marking a previous Soviet aid agreement, the current piece is an even more maudlin expression of Hanoi's thankfulness.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 27 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
27 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Thieu assured Ambassador Bunker yesterday that both he and Ky were working to make sure the national assembly validates the election. Thieu said he had been talking to a number of politicians insisting on an impressive majority to underscore support for the election.

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2. Communist China

The latest CIA assessment on what the Cultural Revolution is doing to the Chinese economy says, in part:

--The disorders are gradually undermining the entire economy. The regime is not yet faced with a general crisis, but industrial output and foreign trade are beginning to decline.

--Agriculture has been only slightly affected, but disorders in transport and poor discipline in the countryside could well bring serious problems in food procurement this winter.

--Defense industries apparently are starting to feel at least the indirect effects; for example, the effects of interruptions to the supply of raw materials.

--There is also the possibility that the revolution will move to a higher stage either in which plant and equipment are destroyed or in which agriculture becomes a main target of revolutionary activity. In either case, a major economic crisis could be triggered.

--The revolution still has had no noticeable effect on shipments to North Vietnam.

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3. West Germany

Ambassador McGhee believes Chinese nuclear advances and our resultant anti-ballistic missile deployment will add to the reservations which Chancellor Kiesinger has about the nonproliferation treaty. Kiesinger is apparently prepared to prevent export of critical items to China, but his cabinet may limit him in this regard.

4. Rumania

Premier Maurer is apparently en route to Hanoi again. This will make four trips there in four years. Bucharest probably considers this a good time for an exchange of views--a Rumanian has just been elected president of the UN General Assembly and Maurer himself has had talks recently with President Johnson and General De Gaulle.

5. Guyana

The United Force, the smaller party in the coalition, now plans to stay in the government even though its leader has resigned from the cabinet. We still believe that Prime Minister Burnham's coalition troubles are bound to increase.

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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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

27 September 1967

Peking Sensitive on Negotiations: Sometimes the Chinese omit things from their propaganda bombast and, by such omissions, reveal certain sensitivities.

Last week, for example, there was no Chinese mention of the Ashmore-Bundy exchange. This exchange, by revealing there had been contacts between Americans and North Vietnamese on the subject of peace talks, also revealed that Hanoi might not always follow Peking's advice against such talks. For the Chinese, who see Vietnam as classic Mao-type guerrilla war to the bitter end, this is not the sort of stuff to be publicized.

Instead, the Chinese last week used Ambassador Goldberg's UN statement as the point of departure for a propaganda reminder to Hanoi of the dangers of peace talks.

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North Vietnamese Condemn UN Statement: Hanoi, too, has publicly dismissed the importance of Ambassador Goldberg's United Nations address and defiantly restated its own hardline terms for negotiations and a settlement of the Vietnam conflict.

In its first commentary on the ambassador's statement, the party daily Nhan Dan labeled it a "trick" aimed at "hoodwinking" world opinion. It closed with a promise to fight on no matter how much the US escalates or how long the US drags on the war.

Hanoi seized on Goldberg's question concerning meaningful discussions without disadvantage to either side as an unacceptable demand for "reciprocity and bargains." "The Vietnamese people have nothing to bargain," said the commentary, and meaningful talks depend on the US giving up its "aggressive policy." Nhan Dan repeated Premier Phan Van Dong's recent national day

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statement that "if the US really wants to talk, it must first of all unconditionally stop the bombing."

Using virtually all of the toughest North Vietnamese formulations, Nhan Dan said that if the US sincerely respects the Geneva Agreements, it must recognize Hanoi's Four Points: stop its "aggression," withdraw its troops from South Vietnam, halt the bombing of the North "definitely and unconditionally," recognize the Liberation Front as the "sole genuine representative" of the South Vietnamese, and let the Vietnamese settle their own affairs themselves.

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Flooding: After an earlier drought, several provinces in central North Vietnam are now having trouble with floods.

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Economic Conditions in North Vietnam: [redacted]

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[redacted] there is a

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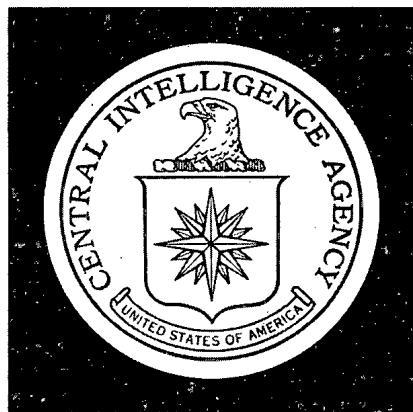
Sufficient supply of rice, vegetables, eggs, and poultry, but a shortage of meat and fish. (The latter are normally luxury items in many areas.) Ration coupons are necessary for rice, sugar, meat, clothing, shoes, soap, kerosene, and milk. Officials noted that an adequate rice ration is maintained because of its importance to people's morale.

Food rations are parceled out according to individual needs, with workers at the top of the list and children at the bottom. Monthly rations for sugar and for meat vary from about one to four pounds depending on individual priorities. The clothing ration is a little more than five yards of cloth a year; for soap, one pound a month. Individuals interviewed by the newsman in Hanoi estimated that around 25 percent of their monthly salaries was spent on basic necessities.

These comments are substantially in agreement with those from other observers. They add up to a situation in which the supply of many goods is tight, prices are often high, and individuals frequently are unable to obtain the quantities and types of food and other goods they want. Because of large-scale imports of foodstuffs and other essential products, however, the overall supply of consumer goods is certainly adequate for Hanoi's wartime situation and there is no sign of significant discontent as a result of shortages.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret 28 September 1967~~



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DAILY BRIEF
28 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Militant Buddhist Tri Quang personally led his followers in a march in Saigon today. The march, announced earlier in the week as a protest against the government's approval of the moderate Buddhist charter, had police sanction and apparently was peaceful.

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The signs are that the student protest movement against the elections is beginning to lose steam.

2. Singapore

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3. Soviet Union

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**4. Soviet Union**

Moscow has publicized the outlines of a 1968 budget that offers both guns and butter. It is designed to boost domestic morale as Russians celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution and it is also intended to lend substance to Soviet international commitments.

The defense and space budget apparently will go up about the same as it did last year—roughly eight percent. For the consumer, there will be a jump in minimum wages and some reductions in income tax.

Soviet budgets are in some respects like icebergs with a great deal below the surface. Actual allocations for both defense and consumer goods are not announced and this precludes immediate judgment on whether major policy changes are involved. The picture may get more clear when the budget is presented to the Supreme Soviet next month.

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5. Egypt

We do not think either the Israelis or the Egyptians plan large-scale attacks across the Suez Canal, despite yesterday's heavy exchange of gunfire. As always, it is hard to tell who started the shooting.

6. Yemen

Withdrawal of Egyptian forces seems to be going forward as planned. Advance parties and equipment are being shipped out

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7. Nigeria

At the moment, Biafra is losing the war. Federal artillery is shelling the Biafran capital and Biafran forces have been pushed out of most of Mid-West state.

8. West Berlin

The resignation of Mayor Albertz is not likely to have much effect on life in the city nor on the allied position there. Political factionalism and personal rivalries will continue, however, providing grist for East Germany's propaganda mill.

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28 SEP 1967

**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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

28 September 1967

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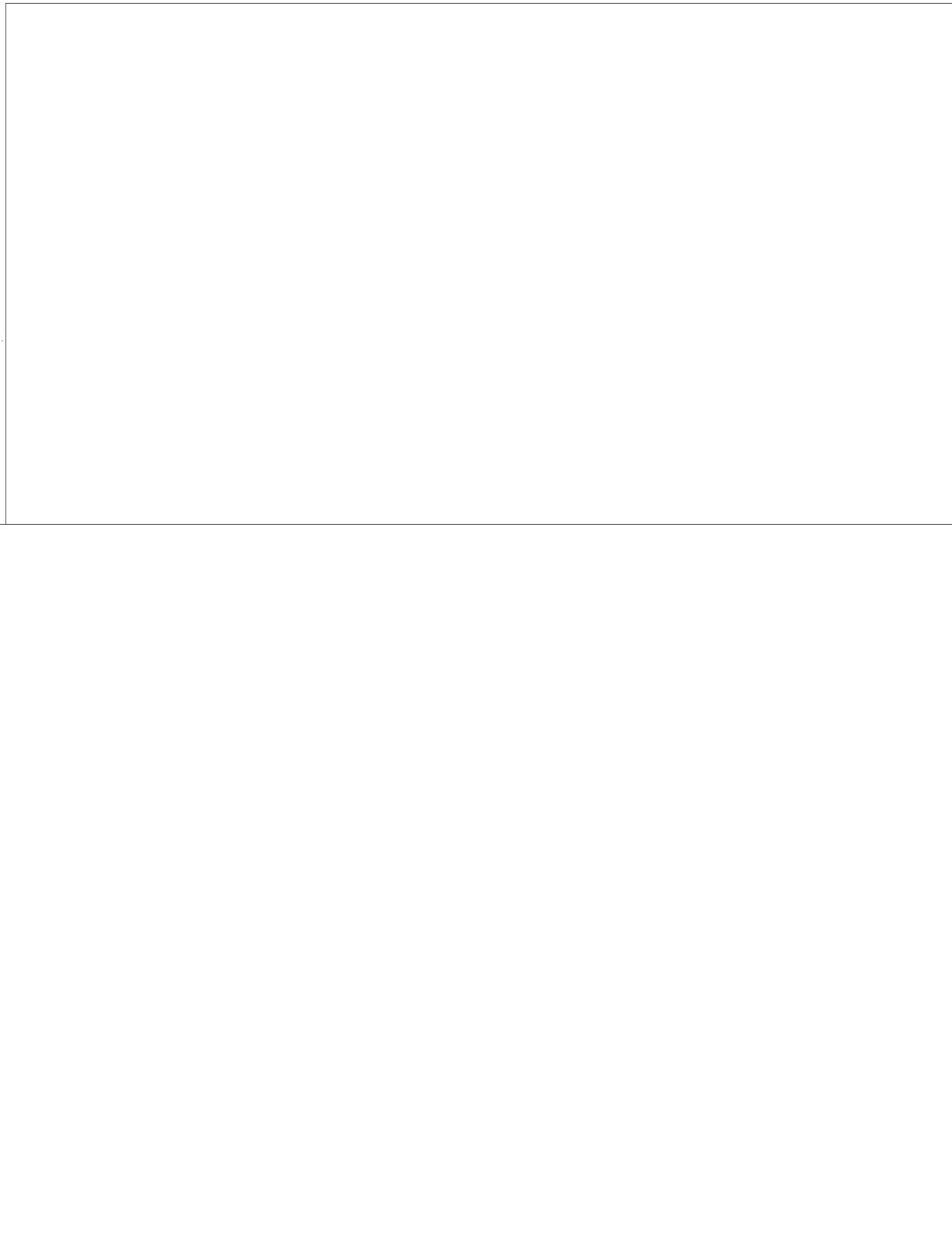
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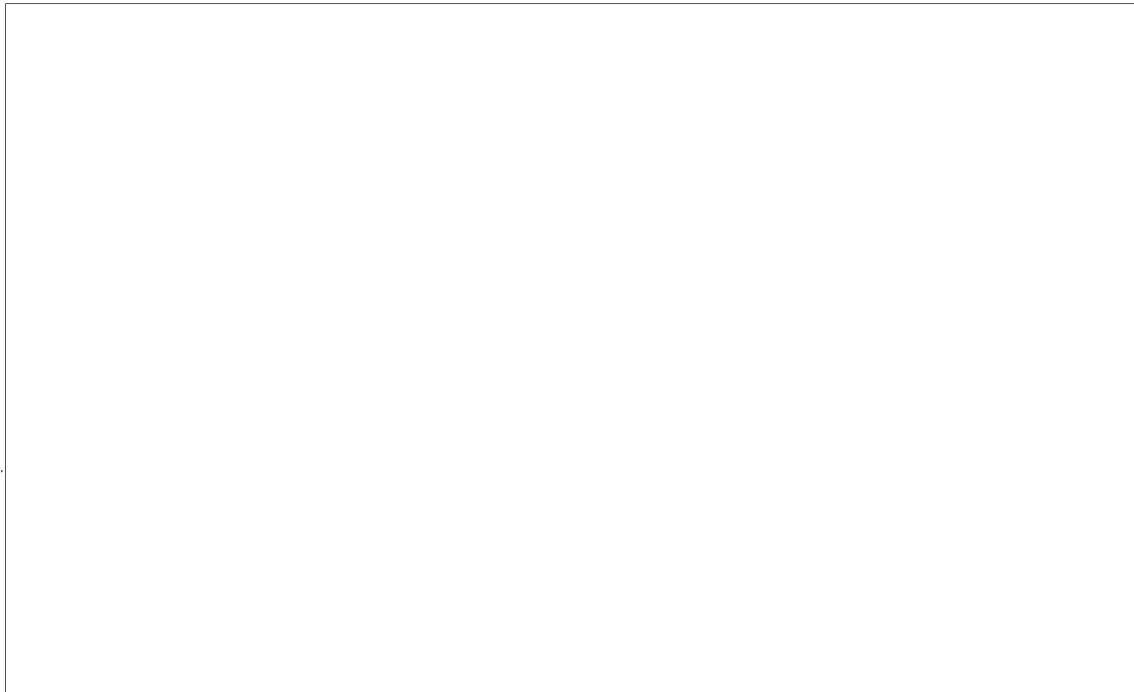
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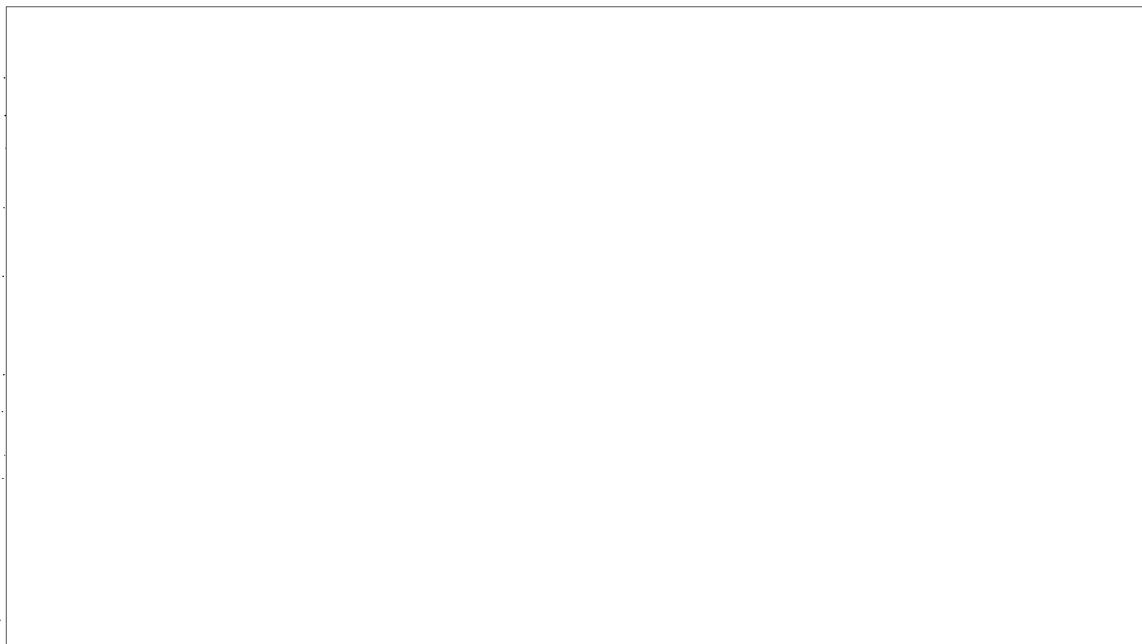


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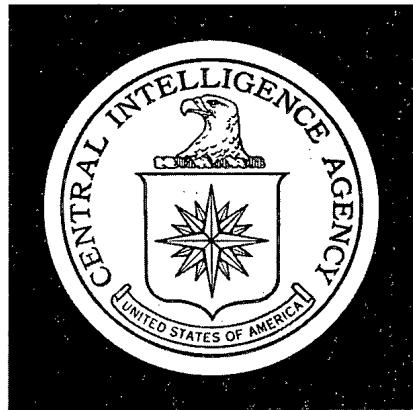
Hanoi's Industrial Mission to Paris: A ten-man North Vietnamese industrial and technological mission is scheduled to arrive in Paris next weekend. It is to find out what French industry can contribute to Hanoi's postwar reconstruction program.



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DAILY BRIEF
29 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. Soviet Union

The latest National Intelligence Estimate on Soviet foreign policy was formally approved yesterday. Its principal conclusions are:

--Soviet leaders have not outgrown a dogmatic attitude that the world should conform to their image of it. Their foreign policies, nevertheless, often reflect an understanding that there are definite limits to Moscow's ability to shape and exploit world events. This ambivalence will probably persist for some time.

--For instance, Soviet anxiety to avoid crises that could lead to a confrontation will probably continue to govern Moscow's policy toward the US. But at the same time, Moscow will be disinclined to seek a significant improvement in relations. The Soviets will remain reluctant to accept extensive arms control and disarmament measures and will probably continue to reject proposals to put real pressure on Hanoi for a settlement in Vietnam.

--Elsewhere, the Soviets are likely to take a prudent approach to China, follow ambiguous policies in the Arab States, and wage an active though wary campaign to expand Soviet influence in the Third World.

--There are apparently persistent disagreements within the Soviet leadership, some of which bear on foreign policy. Among them are the problems of resource allocation and of relations between the political and military hierarchies. There are no signs, however, of an early return to one-man rule.

2. South Vietnam

Ky seems finally to have swung into action to make sure the assembly validates the election. On Wednesday he met with the principal opponents of validation and plans another meeting with them today

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3. Communist China

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4. Arab States

King Husayn is going to Cairo tomorrow in hopes of getting Nasir's agreement on a plan for breaking the Middle East deadlock. The King will urge Nasir to accept the compromise US-Soviet resolution which all the Arabs opposed at the special United Nations General Assembly last summer. If he is successful, he intends to press for Soviet backing during his trip to Moscow next week.

Egyptian officials have already said they could buy a resolution "along the lines of" the US-Soviet resolution. The Soviets, for their part, will want assurances of broader Arab support before they take up the issue again. They have said they will not try to browbeat the wildmen in Syria and Algeria, who presumably still oppose the resolution.

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5. Peru

President Belaunde has some difficult days ahead of him. Prospects for economic improvement have not risen appreciably since devaluation early this month and government leaders are afraid the rising cost of living will lead to disorders. Wrangling has intensified within the President's own party, further eroding public confidence in the administration.

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6. Hong Kong

Relatively moderate Communist leaders seem to be gradually getting the upper hand over the militants who favor continued violence. Terrorism has been kept at a minimum for the past week. Moderate leaders still feel obliged, however, to stress that they favor efforts to erode British authority and to imply that limited terrorism is justified.

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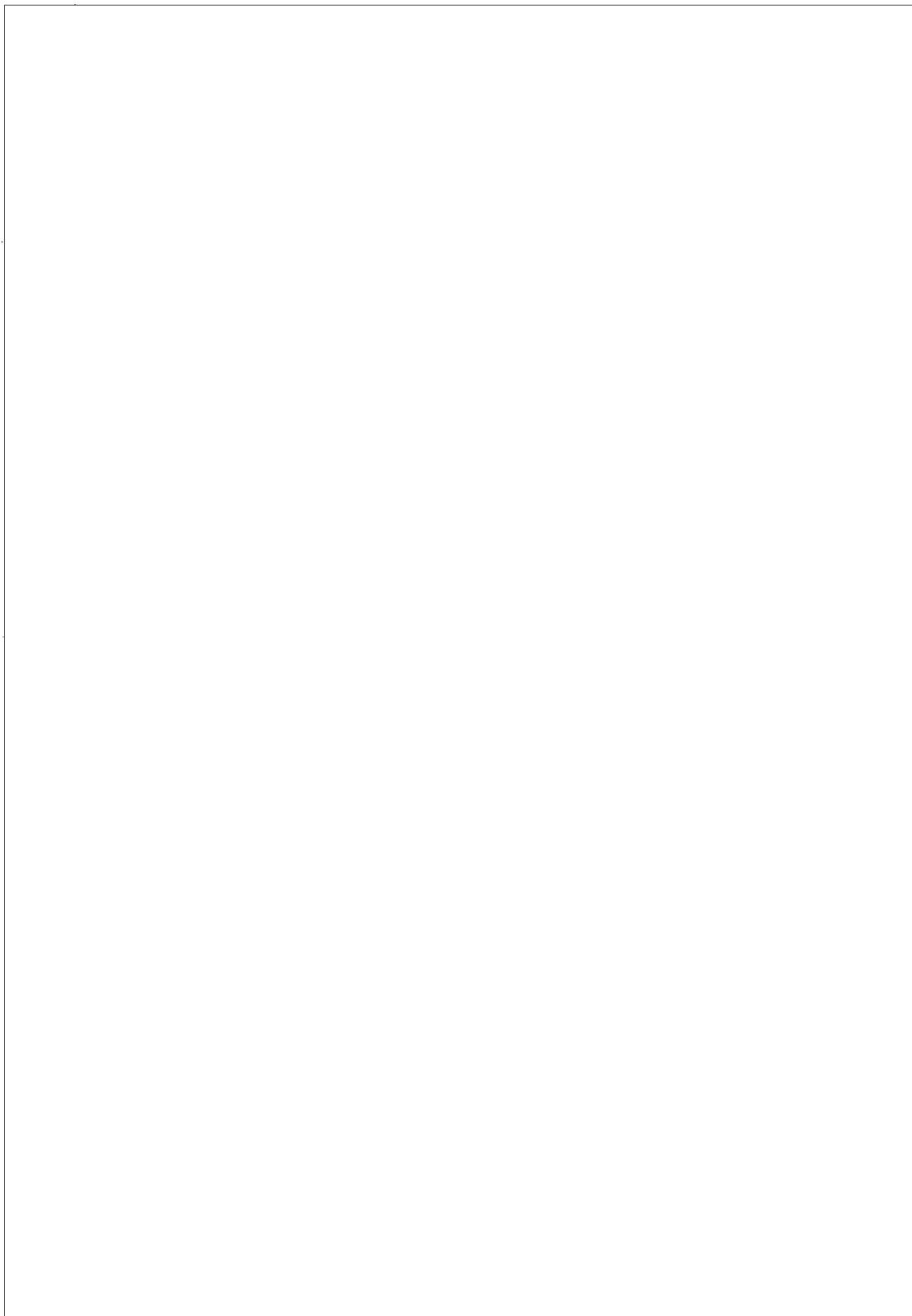
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29 SEP 1967

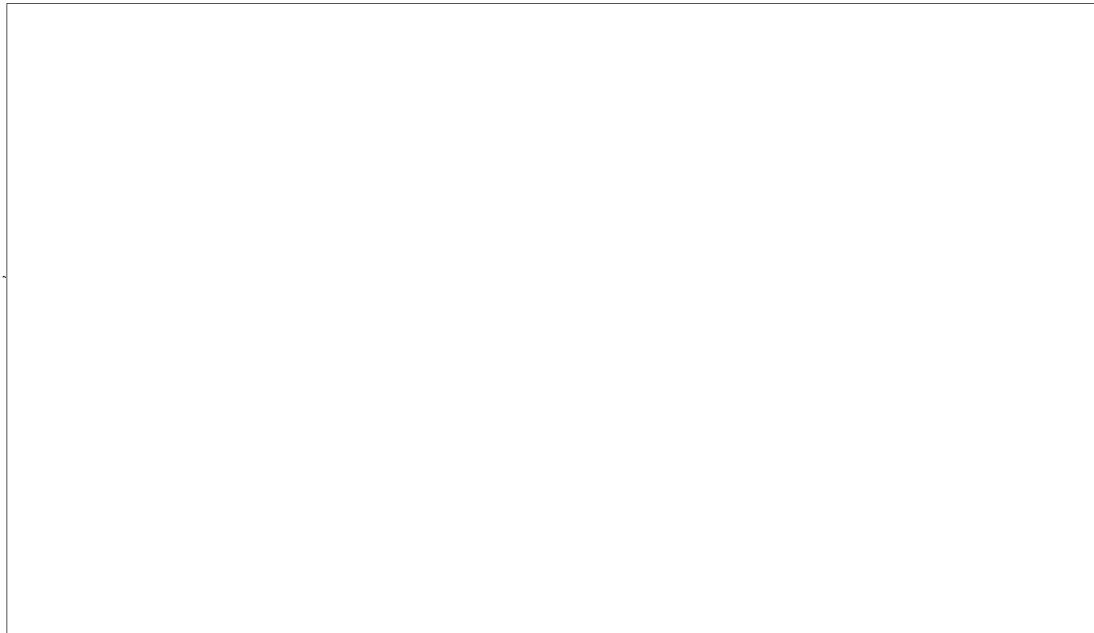
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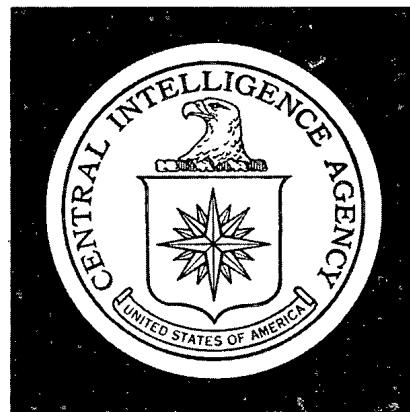


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DAILY BRIEF
30 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

The government is taking special security precautions against increased unrest as the National Assembly meets to rule on the election. There were more Buddhist and student demonstrations in Saigon this morning, but at last report this situation was simmering down.

The assembly's election committee recommended today (the vote was 16-2) that the election be invalidated. (The recommendation is not binding on the full assembly.)

Following this, Ambassador Bunker met with Thieu to express his concern over the committee's recommendation. The Ambassador stressed that Thieu and Ky should get together immediately and then meet with Ky's Democratic Alliance Bloc to persuade them to vote for validation. Bui Diem later told Bunker that the meeting with the Bloc would take place this afternoon.

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2. Communist China

Preparations for the seventh nuclear test at Lop Nor are probably under way.

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It is too early to determine the nature of the next event. It could well be the first Chinese test of a device containing plutonium.

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3. Philippines

The Huks expect to use the November elections to expand their influence. Their organization, sort of a cross between the Mafia and a pro-Communist underground, has already become something of a political factor in several areas of Luzon.

We know that the Huks have been making deals recently with a variety of incumbents and candidates at the town and village level. Their game is to provide their favorite candidates with strong-arm support during the campaign. In return, the politicians promise the Huks special privileges and jobs--mainly on local police forces.

4. Syria

The cabinet was shaken up quite a bit on Thursday but it is doubtful that this will produce a shift toward a more moderate line.

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5. Ecuador

President Arosemena flailed away again at the Alliance for Progress in particular and the international lending system in general at a public reception on Wednesday. This was something more than just another reflection of his displeasure with US policies. It seems that the Arosemena government has a \$30 million loan pending from private European bankers, but is encountering scepticism from some of Ecuador's best financial brains who feel this is a risky way to do business. Embassy Quito calls Arosemena's tactic of damning the Alliance to get support for the loan "calculated political opportunism."

6. Bolivia

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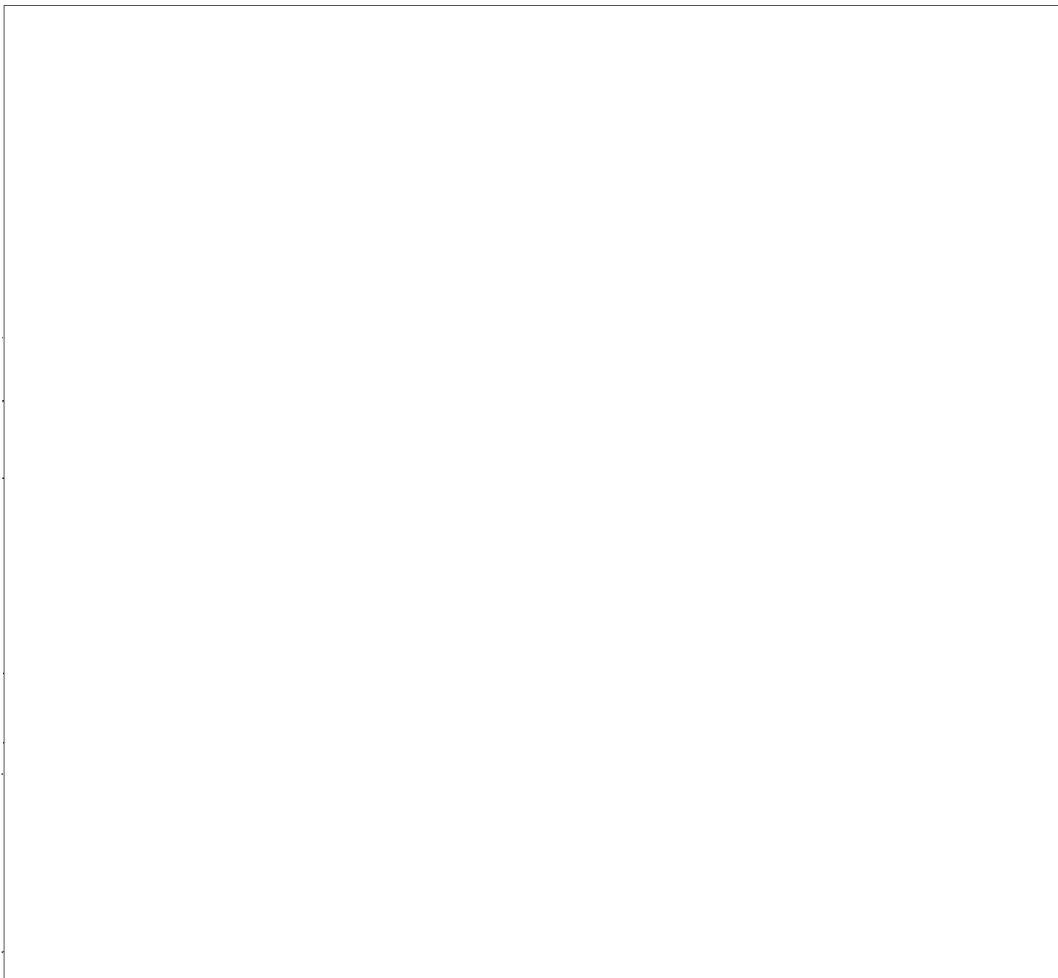
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Senior Chinese General Visits: Yang Te-chih, who led Chinese "volunteers" in Korea and now heads one of China's military regions, is leading a delegation now visiting in Hanoi. The announced purpose of his trip is to join in the Hanoi celebration of Communist China's national day on 1 October. Yang's is the first publicized visit of a senior Chinese military officer since 1961.

Both Peking and Hanoi soft-pedaled Yang's military background in announcing the visit suggesting they did not want to overemphasize that aspect. We suspect Yang will discuss the war in terms of China's materiel assistance, but we do not think he will offer major troop commitments--nor that Hanoi would accept right now if he did. Yang may also visit the Chinese engineer and antiaircraft units in Vietnam.

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