

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 November 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
1 NOVEMBER 1968

1. Vietnam
(As of 5:30 AM
EST)

As yet there has been no official comment on the bombing halt from North Vietnam or other Communist countries. The North Vietnamese delegation in Paris has scheduled a press conference later today, and this may provide Hanoi's first public reaction.

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Moscow, Warsaw, and Prague all carried brief, factual reports of the President's statement.

Saigon issued a terse announcement that the US had "unilaterally" decided to end the air attacks. Thieu plans an address to the nation on the subject tomorrow.

There have been no reports of major enemy military action in South Vietnam since the President spoke, although rocket attacks were made against Saigon, Hue, and My Tho a few hours before his broadcast. Evidence of offensive preparations was noted before the announcement when "N-Day" messages indicated assaults were planned in the highlands for around 5 November. Yesterday, however, one unit was told N-Day had been delayed.

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2. Israel-Egypt

Israeli helicopter-borne commandos struck two Nile bridges and a power station just north of Aswan early this morning. The Israelis stated that this was in retaliation for Egyptian artillery attacks across the Suez Canal last Saturday. No Israeli casualties were incurred in the strike 125 miles into Egyptian territory, according to the Israelis.

3. Israel-Jordan

Tomorrow is the 51st anniversary of the Balfour Declaration in which Britain recognized Jewish rights to a homeland in Palestine. West Bank Arabs plan a general strike. Given current tensions, the anniversary could well trigger major disturbances.

4. Communist China**5. Ecuador**

Political enemies are brewing trouble for Velasco. Students in Guayaquil are being encouraged to take to the streets, both slum dwellers and peasants have been urged to move onto privately owned land, and there is a rash of inspired strikes. As expected, Carlos Arosemena is up to his elbows stirring the pot.

6. Poland

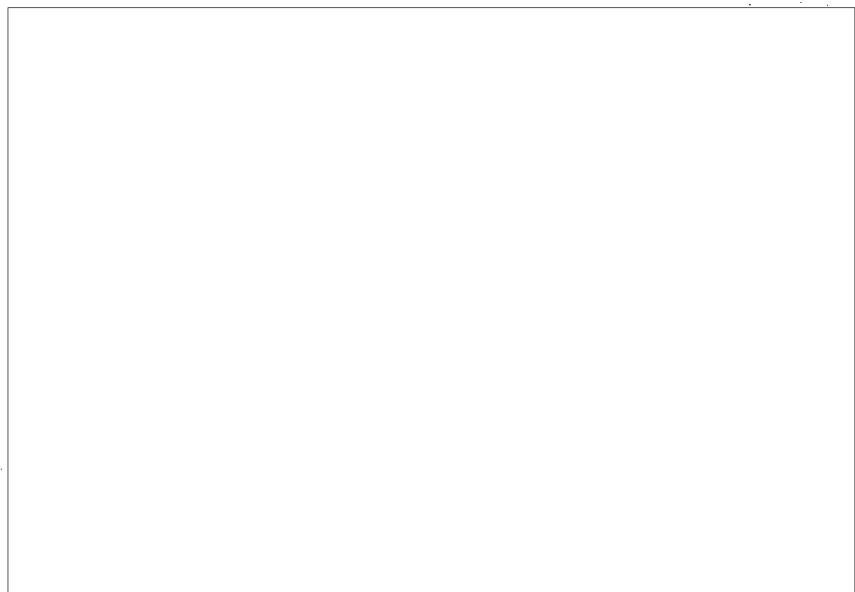
The Polish party opens its fifth congress on 11 November, and Gomulka's authority is seriously threatened. For 13 years he has ruled the party through an adroit manipulation of the factions within it. That system has been left in shambles by intellectual turmoil, student demonstrations, and the cumulative grievances of a decade. The real challenge to Gomulka comes from the party's right, itself split into two warring factions.

After the congress, we believe Gomulka will still be party first secretary, but his will no longer be the dominant voice. The party--and the country--will be run by a combination of elements ranging from anti-Semitic hardliners to rigid technocrats--without a Dubcek amongst them. They will continue contending for power among themselves.

7. Berlin

East Germany is threatening to block West German access to Berlin when Kiesinger's Christian Democratic Party meets in the city on Monday. The threat was made in an official statement yesterday. The East Germans could cut land access, but not travel by air--which is how most West Germans would go. The Christian Democrats are not likely to cave in before East German pressures.

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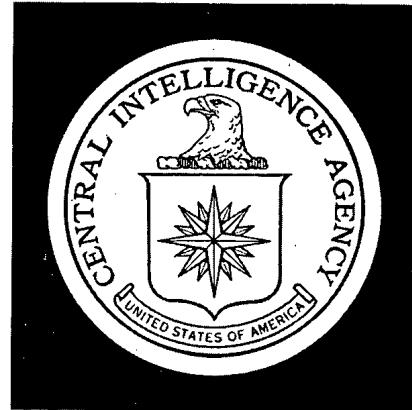
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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



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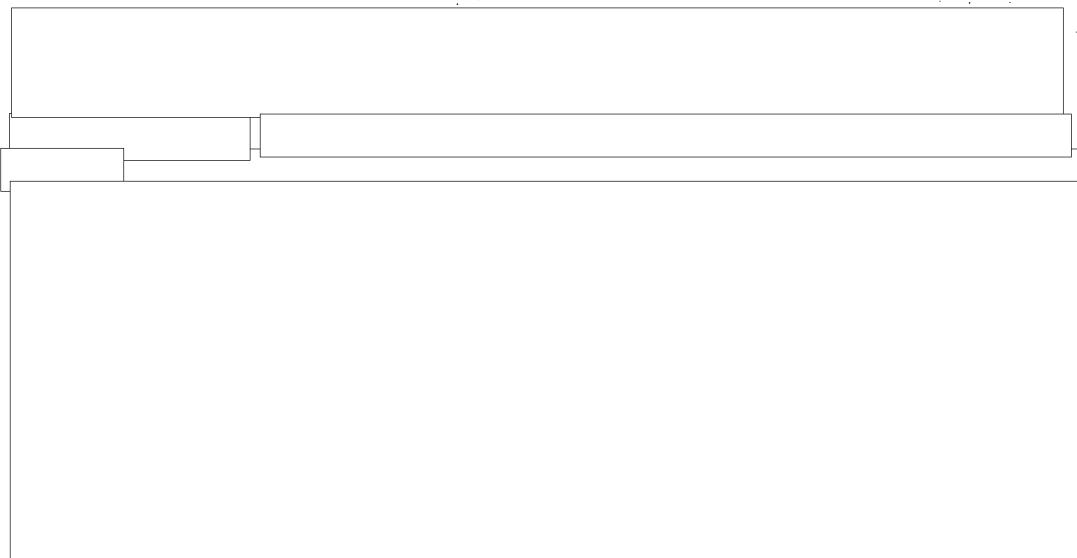
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1 November 1968

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

1 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Restoration of Production: The North Vietnamese regime is increasingly directing its attention to problems of restoration of production. A new regulation on economic management designed to restore the authority of local governments was issued in late October. Local authority has been largely by-passed during the last three years by party and military officials who took over all aspects of local administration to enforce wartime priorities. Since the reduction in US bombing, however, several politburo members have called on local party officials to relax their tight control and restore the position and authority of local governmental organizations.

The Council of Ministers' directive strengthens the authority of these local units beyond the position they held in the North Vietnamese administrative set-up in the first half of the 1960's, at least in the field of economic management. The North Vietnamese appear to have borrowed heavily from the approach to industrialization adopted by the Chinese Communists in

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the mid-1950's. National control is confined to important communications and marketing systems and to industrial installations which are either large-scale heavy industry producers or those which require sizable investment. Provincial and regional governments are expected to run agriculture, light industry, and some small-scale heavy industry.

The new management system implies that the regime intends to adopt the kind of decentralized program which has been advocated in earlier theoretical discussions of postwar economic development. Some spokesmen, for example, have argued that the forced evacuation of plants during the bombing could be used in a postwar period as a base for developing a decentralized industrialization program.

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Explosives Moving South: Movement of a record 2,200 tons of "explosives" and TNT was noted in North Vietnamese rear service messages between 16 and 21 October.

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The messages did not identify the types of explosives by tonnage, and it is not clear how these large shipments will be used. The dry season has just begun in the Laotian panhandle and the Communists are making extensive road repairs and improvements, partly by blasting. Explosives are also used to cope with bomb damage to Mu Gia Pass and Route 912--the two major North Vietnamese supply routes into the panhandle. It is likely, however, that a large part of the total 1,600 tons destined for Laos will ultimately be sent to South Vietnam, possibly in part for local production of Communist munitions.

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

Antiwar Protests: Citing various Western news agencies and US newspapers as sources, Hanoi reported several incidents of antiwar protest in the United States during a 30 October English language international broadcast.

The North Vietnamese reported on an antiwar rally held in Atlanta on 27 October and an address delivered there by retired US Army General Hester which condemned US policy. The broadcast mentioned antiwar and anti-draft demonstrations held at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and in Milwaukee. A Reuters dispatch about 105 US troops who have refused to go to Vietnam also was cited.

The broadcast included a brief summary of an article by John Knight in the Miami Herald which termed US involvement in Vietnam a mistake.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 November 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
2 NOVEMBER 1968

1. Vietnam

Hanoi has broadcast a qualified endorsement of a four-party meeting as one of the next steps in the Paris talks. This grudging and circumscribed approval, which puts the question of a political solution to the war in the background, leaves plenty of room for a complicated procedural wrangle in Paris. The broadcast runs through the full list of hardline Communist positions on a settlement and calls the bombing halt a "great victory," but "only the initial one."

On the other hand, the South Vietnamese have balked at attending the next session of the Paris talks under the arrangements described by President Johnson. Thieu yesterday objected specifically to the arrangements for the inclusion of the National Liberation Front at the talks in terms that leave him little room for further maneuver. Domestic political considerations no doubt weighed heavily in Thieu's calculations, and he may believe they require him to take this kind of independent position--at least for the moment.

The Communists initiated a mortar attack on Quang Tri city about three hours after the bombing halt took effect. This is the only significant action reported since the halt began; some 30 rounds fell on the city.

2. Egypt

The successful Israeli raid deep behind the Egyptian lines north of Aswan laid bare Egyptian vulnerability to Israel's highly professional military operations. Nasir, however, is not likely to get the message. Instead, he will probably decide this is no time to show weakness by relaxing Egypt's aggressive military posture.

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3. Communist China

The regime has just announced the conclusion of the first plenum of the party Central Committee in over two years. The biggest thing to come out of the session was a public commitment to convene at an unspecified future date the long-overdue ninth party congress.

While this is a big step toward closing out the Cultural Revolution, the party--and the country--are not yet out of the woods. The plenum was probably stormy, with various factions arguing over who would be given power in the reconstructed party apparatus.

The patronage question is a sticky one. Radical beneficiaries of the Cultural Revolution on one hand, and veteran party cadres on the other, are likely to be engaged in bitter political warfare for some time to come.

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4. Brazil



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5. Soviet Union

If the Soyuz spacecraft has a role in Soviet manned lunar missions--and we are not certain about this--Beregovoy's flight doesn't get them much closer to the moon. No significant advances were demonstrated, despite the long wait since Komarov crashed in April 1967. If the Soviets go by the book, additional manned flights will be necessary before they are ready for more advanced missions, such as construction of a manned earth space station or a manned circumlunar flight.

At Annex we speculate on some of the pressures facing the men running the Soviet circumlunar program.

6. Panama

Antijunta students and professors are planning to join a "silent march" of slum dwellers in Panama City on independence day--3 November--and they may attempt to stage protest demonstrations against the National Guard. The Communist Party, which nominally dominates the largest student federation, has been urging the students to cool it, but with little success. The Communists fear further repression if the students get out of hand.

The government should be able to control the situation, but serious clashes cannot be ruled out.

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7. Egypt -
Soviet Union

[redacted] 50X1

Egypt and the Soviets have concluded agreements for the building of Soviet-designed merchant ships at the new shipyard in Alexandria. The Soviets will supply the materials and supervise ship construction--in fact, it looks as if the entire shipyard will be under direct Soviet control.

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About two-thirds of yard capacity will be used for new merchant-ship construction, leaving the remaining third available for naval repairs and refits. This would supplement the facilities already available to Soviet naval vessels at the Egyptian Navy base in Alexandria.

8. Britain-Rhodesia

London's latest terms for a settlement in effect assure continued white rule in Rhodesia. As it now stands Wilson, and not Smith, has made most of the concessions. Further bargaining is still to come, but Wilson has already set aside his pledge not to grant independence before majority African rule--the heart of the British negotiating position.

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ANNEX

The Soviet Lunar Program: To Gamble or
Not to Gamble?

The announcement that NASA is considering flying Apollo 8 around the moon in December has probably created a dilemma for Soviet leaders.

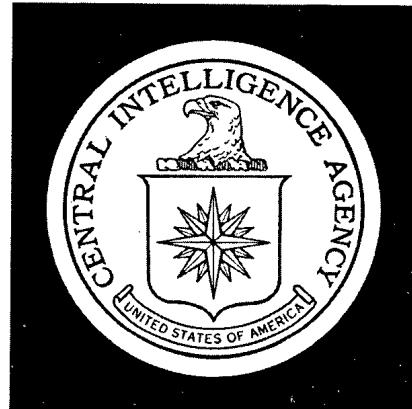
We believe that they realized some time ago they could not beat the US to a manned lunar landing and hoped instead to upstage the US effort by making the first manned flight around the moon. A successful moon flight by Apollo 8 would deny the Soviets this propaganda victory and could cause them to regard their entire manned circumlunar program as a failure.

They might, therefore, go for broke and attempt a manned circumlunar mission ahead of Apollo 8. This would be extremely risky, however, since it would mean accelerating greatly the pace of their program, which has been plagued by serious technical problems that resulted in the failure of two, and probably three, of their four flights to date.

The success of Zond 5 in September might encourage them to gamble on a manned flight. Last week's urgent Soviet demarches asking for immediate permission to station recovery aircraft in India and Ceylon suggests that they are at least keeping open the option of gambling on a manned circumlunar flight before Apollo 8. Aircraft in India and Ceylon would be within easy reach of the area of the Indian Ocean where Zond 5 was recovered. We need more information, however, before we can say with certainty that the Soviets plan to shoot the works.

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2 November 1968

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

2 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Chinese Position: Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Yi reportedly told Le Duc Tho that, although Peking remains opposed to negotiated settlement in Vietnam, it will "tolerate" any decision Hanoi takes in this regard.

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Chen's reported assurance to the North Vietnamese is in line with earlier [redacted] Chinese statements recognizing Peking's lack of decisive influence in Hanoi.

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[redacted] Although there has been a progressive deterioration in Sino-Vietnamese relations, such statements strongly indicate that Peking has grudgingly reconciled itself to Hanoi's negotiation tactics and will continue to support and encourage Hanoi's war effort while the talks continue.

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Indoctrination in the South: A long, exhortatory statement which was published in the Hanoi army journal on 26 October appears to contain the core of the political indoctrination program which has been under way for several weeks among Communists in the South. The article was written under the pseudonym "Chien Thang" (combatant), an unidentified but frequent North Vietnamese commentator on the battlefield situation in South Vietnam.

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Chien Thang invariably takes a tough and confident line, but this statement is unusually strident in its assertions that the Communists have won stronger military and political positions through their efforts of the past year. He argues that in war everything hinges on whether "the strategic position is good or bad," and he repeatedly asserts that the events of the past year have put the Communists in a favorable position and forced the allies into a weak and defensive one. This is the standard Hanoi line on the results of this year's "general offensive and general uprising," and this article probably is another effort to reassure Communists in the South about their prospects and the magnitude of their alleged accomplishments. Chien Thang reminds his readers, however, that difficult days still lie ahead, and he calls for a continuation of intensive military action.

Despite its militant tone and its emphasis on alleged military achievements, the article specifically rules out a military victory for the Communists. Instead, Chien Thang puts the goal in terms of frustrating the achievement of US military and political objectives. His language is not tempered by anything suggesting that the Communists are willing to compromise their own objectives, but he does leave room for tactical maneuvering and for greater emphasis on the political aspects of the struggle. He says, for instance, that the balance of power in Vietnam is determined not only by military power but also by political forces, "which possess very great strength." He calls these forces "an important offensive wedge, a vigorous blow directly affecting even the political objectives of the war." In what could be a hint that these forces are about to assume greater importance, he cites alleged "disharmony" between US military and political policies and claims that US strategy is "unable to cope with the situation on both the military and political fronts."

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Burchett Back: Wilfred Burchett, the Communist newsman occasionally used by Hanoi for contacts with Western newsmen, has returned to Phnom Penh from a few weeks in the North Vietnamese capital. He did not file any significant copy from Hanoi, but the timing of his visit suggests that he probably did get a reading on Hanoi's new propaganda objectives in the new phase of the talks which will open up in the wake of the US bombing halt.

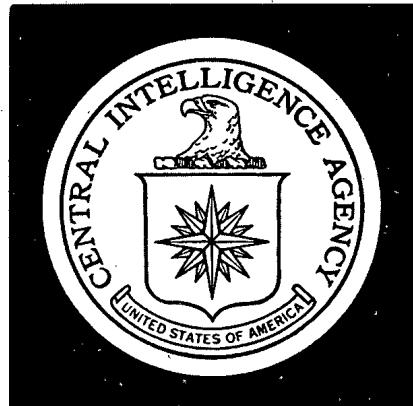
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 4 November 1968



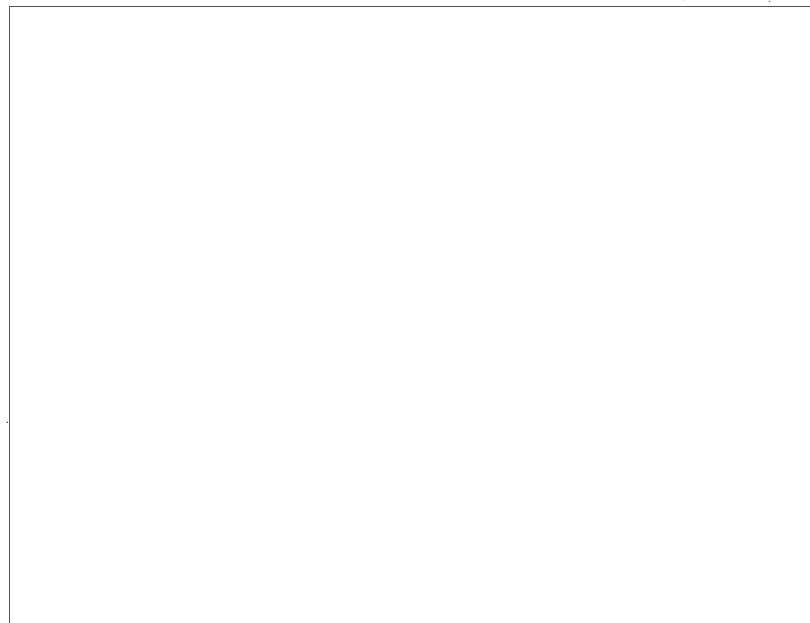
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
4 NOVEMBER 1968

1. South Vietnam

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The Vietnamese Communists are doing their best to exploit differences between the US and Saigon. Over the weekend, both the Front and Hanoi began inserting the word "unconditionally" in front of all references to the bombing halt.

The Front, in its first statement, has laid down five points which probably will represent its position in Paris. These points are a capsulated version of the Front political program and call for a US troop withdrawal, a coalition government, and new elections--in that order. These are followed by demands for the neutrality of South Vietnam and gradual steps toward reunification.

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2. Jordan

Various terrorist acts, including Saturday's mob scene at our embassy, goaded Husayn into sending his army against some of the smaller terrorist groups early this morning. There was shooting in various parts of Amman, and a curfew is in effect.

The larger groups so far seem to have heeded Husayn's warning to stay out of trouble, but he has asked us to get word to the Israelis that some of the terrorists may try to create diversions along the cease-fire line.

3. Egypt

The Egyptians are still pretending that the damage from Thursday's Israeli raid is minimal,

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4. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Signs of squabbling within the Czechoslovak party presidium are beginning to accumulate. Liberals are angry that Dubcek has failed to curb the conservatives, several members are at odds over a draft formulation of party tasks, and some are busy trying to fix the blame for the "mistakes" since last January. All this may force yet another postponement of the oft-scheduled Central Committee meeting.

We assume the Soviets hope that the bickering in the presidium, combined with the resurgence of the conservatives, will make Dubcek's position untenable.

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5. Australia

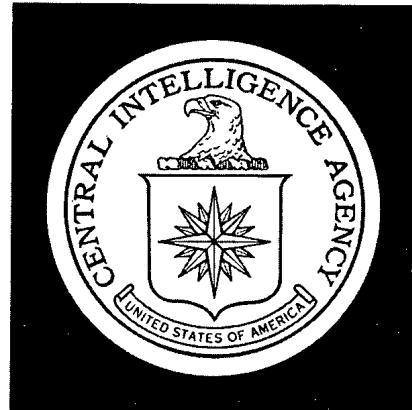
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Ambassador Crook comments that Gorton remains determined to reduce Australia's commitment in Malaysia unless he gets more backing from the US, and intends to concentrate more heavily on national problems in any case.

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4 November 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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4 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Ho Chi Minh Appeal: Yesterday Hanoi broadcast an appeal by Ho urging continued struggle in South Vietnam. Ho's message was close in tone and content to the official government statement made on Saturday.

Ho began by claiming the "unconditional" bombing halt was a "glorious victory" for the North. But it was only an "initial victory," he said. Ho followed this point with an exhortation to carry on the fight until final triumph was achieved. The message concluded with four demands:

- That the US end its "war of aggression against Vietnam";
- That all US and "satellite troops" be withdrawn from South Vietnam;
- That the internal affairs of South Vietnam be settled in accordance with the Front's program; and,
- That the question of reunification be settled by the Vietnamese, North and South, without interference.

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Peking Reports: There still has been no Chinese comment on the bombing halt. Saturday, however, Peking domestic service broadcast the verbatim text of the North Vietnamese statement.

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Hanoi Diplomat on Bombing Halt:

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The diplomat stated that cessation

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of the bombing would mean that the US respects the sovereignty of North Vietnam, but would not change the status of the US as "aggressors." The bombing halt should be followed by US recognition of the National Liberation Front, according to the diplomat. He claimed that a new offensive was in preparation and that the US would be forced to recognize the Front as the "legal" representative of the South Vietnamese people.

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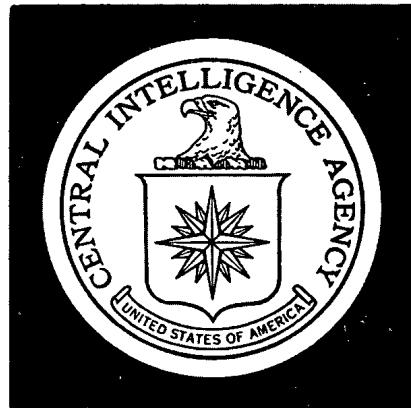
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

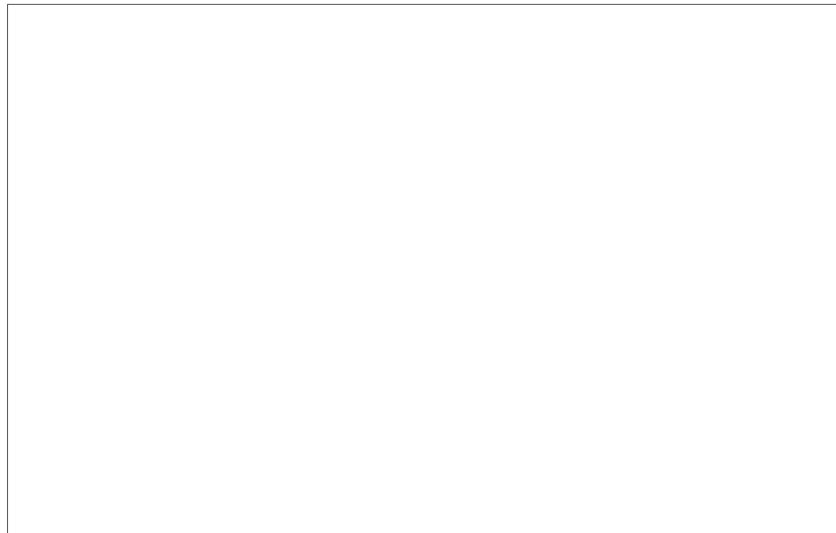
~~Top Secret~~ November 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
5 NOVEMBER 1968

1. Cambodia



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2. South Vietnam

In a television appearance yesterday, Thieu reaffirmed the position he took regarding the Paris negotiations on 2 November. He argued that North Vietnamese propaganda since the halt began indicated that the enemy is proving more stubborn than ever. Touching on what is probably one of his major preoccupations, Thieu contended that Saigon's stand was proof that his government was not weak.



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This morning some 2,000 members of the Catholic Greater Solidarity Force paraded past the US Embassy demonstrating support for the government.

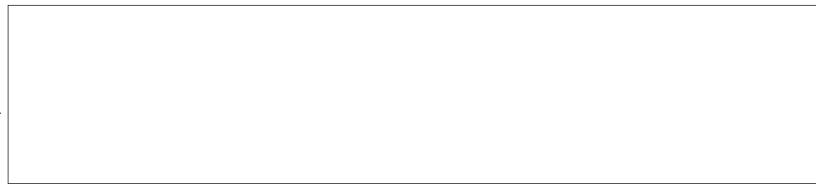
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Twelve rounds were reported fired from a Communist mortar in the southern part of the Demilitarized Zone this morning.

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3. Indonesia

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4. Jordan

The situation is even more fragile as Husayn moves to curtail terrorist activities in Amman. So far the King has cleaned out only the small splinter group responsible for Saturday's attack on our embassy.

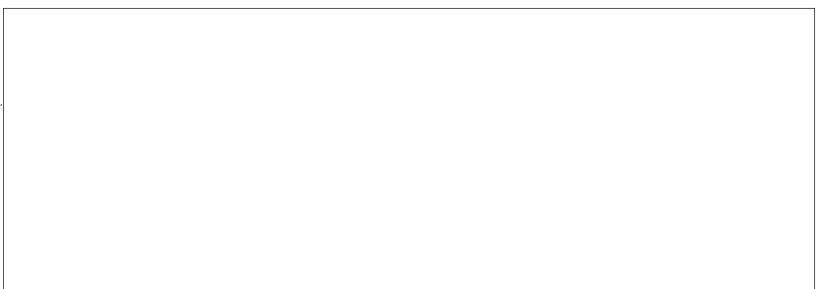
The larger terrorist organizations are not opposing Husayn yet, and he says he is aiming only at those who cause trouble in the city itself or challenge his authority. The terrorists are jumpy, however, and could well begin shooting if they believe they are threatened by Jordanian security forces.

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5. Venezuela

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6. Soviet Union - France - Italy

The Soviets are trying to flog the French and Italian Communist parties back into line by cutting off financial subsidies to their party newspapers, L'Humanite and L'Unita. Both parties were highly critical of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. The Soviet action will hurt, but neither party is likely to let it stop the presses.

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7. Dominican Republic

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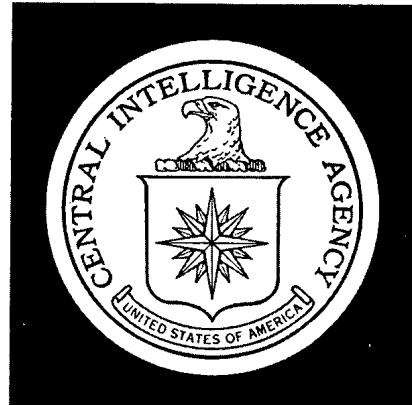
8. Japan

On 27 November, Sato has to stand for re-election as president of his Liberal Democratic Party. Several factions are challenging him, but right now he looks like the winner. Should Sato lose, he would also have to step down as prime minister.

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Air Defense: Hanoi's plans for air defense reaction to continuing flights by US aircraft over its territory remain unclear at this early date. There are signs that some air defense forces have orders to fire only if fired upon.

A message originated on 2 November by a North Vietnamese general believed to be associated with air defense matters cautioned personnel to remain vigilant, but ordered them not to fire on "any type of enemy aircraft that flies into the air space or waters of North Vietnam." The North Vietnamese message further states, however, that "if the enemy strikes, then we will strike back." "If not, even though they fly at low altitudes, you must tell the people to hold their fire."

It is unclear at the moment which air defense units this message is intended to include. US operational reports for 3 November show that an enemy surface-to-air battalion near Phuc Yen airfield launched two missiles at a high altitude US reconnaissance drone.

It may be that the North Vietnamese are still studying what the US intends to do in regard to aerial reconnaissance. A message on 3 November passed in surface-to-air communications referred to the US bombing halt and further stated that unknown personnel would meet from 2 to 6 November to evaluate the situation and implement a "new plan."

Meanwhile, a series of messages warning of a possible resumption of the bombing appeared in North Vietnamese military communications. A rear service unit in Thanh Hoa Province reported on 1 November that US aircraft had ceased bombing over all of North Vietnam. It instructed all hands, however, to keep to business as usual and be prepared to fight when "the enemy resumes bombing."

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A communique of 2 November passed to a logistics unit in southern North Vietnam attributed the bombing halt to the success enjoyed by Communist forces "in the South," but it further stated that units were to stay alert since after the presidential elections "American bombing in the North will resume."

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Paris Representation: The Vietnamese Communists are continuing to exploit Saigon's reluctance to join the Paris talks. Madame Binh, the head of the newly arrived Liberation Front delegation in Paris, assured newsmen that she was ready to attend next Wednesday's regularly scheduled meeting. Arguing along the same lines, the Hanoi party daily claimed on 4 November that the Front was fully competent to settle all the problems of South Vietnam. The newspaper commentary added that the "Thieu-Ky-Huong" clique was out of touch with the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people and would soon be overthrown. "A powerful mass movement is developing in the cities of South Vietnam, especially in Saigon, demanding their overthrow," said Hanoi.

The same line was picked up by North Vietnamese overseas representatives. The North Vietnamese consul general in New Delhi told a news conference yesterday that it made no difference whether Saigon showed up in Paris or not--the Liberation Front was "competent to settle all South Vietnamese problems."

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Communications: The Communists are continuing to augment their wire line communications network linking North Vietnam, Laos, and South Vietnam. A Communist rear service unit reported on 9 October that plans were being handed down for construction of wire lines in the Laos panhandle during the 1968-69 dry season, which has just started.

Overhead photography indicates that since late 1967 the Communists have completed at least 400 miles of open wire communication lines from North Vietnam into Laos and South Vietnam.

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[Redacted] Radios are continuing, however, to handle a large volume of communications and to provide backup for the wire line.

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Communist "Victory": The bombing halt continues to be treated as a Communist victory. A Hanoi broadcast reports that Pham Van Dong told a meeting of the Fatherland Front the cessation was "unconditional."

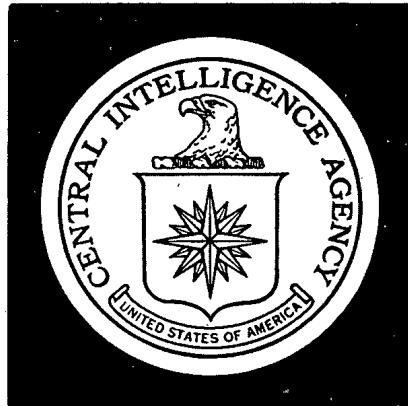
Communist propaganda in general is not focusing on the continuation of reconnaissance flights. A spokesman in Cairo claimed that North Vietnam would continue to shoot down such planes, but he did not dwell at length on the issue or demand that the flights be stopped. The Communists are now turning their propaganda guns on the issue of US troop withdrawal.

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

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
6 NOVEMBER 1968

1. South Vietnam

There are additional [] signals from some South Vietnamese leaders that they believe it is time to modify the government's position against talking with the Liberation Front in Paris. While such signals may indeed indicate a softening of the government's position, they may also be intended to serve personal political ends. They suggest, for instance, that Ky is leading the way out of the dilemma.

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[]
a council of government leaders including Thieu has accepted a formula proposed by Ky. This would involve sending a South Vietnamese delegation to Paris for "preliminary" talks but not for full-scale peace negotiations. If the Saigon delegation could hold direct talks with the North Vietnamese and get an agreement on the status of the Liberation Front representatives, the delegation would stay on for substantive talks. If not, it supposedly would withdraw.

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Meanwhile, as of Sunday, Ky was still preparing to go to Paris as chief of the delegation.

2. Peru

Velasco's troubles are deepening.

[] his trigger temper and unimpressive public appearances are convincing more and more people that he is unfitted for the post of chief of state.

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Should he be forced out, the US Embassy expects a continuation of the military government, but under more reasonable management.

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3. Czechoslovakia

Liberals and conservatives seem to be heading for a test of strength. The first encounter may take place on 7 November when the Czechs will reluctantly commemorate the Russian Revolution. Conservatives are planning a nationwide display of strength, and they may clash in the streets with students and young workers.

Many Czechs believe that the hard-liners, with Soviet support, will attempt to oust Dubcek when the central committee plenum meets on 14 November. Liberals, youths, intellectuals, and other supporters of reform are lining up to block such a move, and they seem to have the votes to do so.

The Soviet and East German press is giving propaganda support to the conservatives in increasingly strong terms.

4. Thailand

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Ambassador Unger comments that, while there is no evidence that Thanat will cease to be helpful regarding the present negotiations, underneath his official position he is bitter over what he sees as the first step toward a repetition of the Laos negotiations.

5. Soviet Union

It looks as if the Soviets will display several new tactical weapons systems at their annual parade on 7 November. The wraps will probably come off a new mobile surface-to-air missile launcher, a new tank, and a new assault gun. No new surface-to-surface missiles are expected.

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6. Berlin

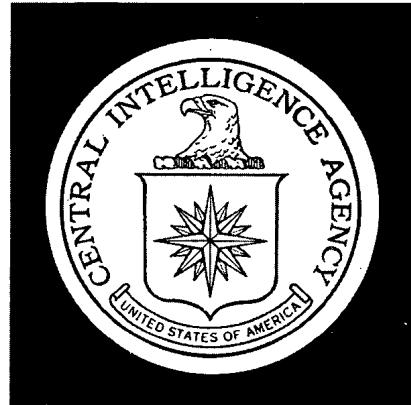
The leftist youth riot of 4 November was the most violent since Easter. The police used tear gas for the first time, but still suffered 120 injuries; the students were armed with everything from smoke bombs to Roman candles.

By provoking serious violence, followed by the inevitable charges of police brutality, radical elements may have fired up Berlin's youth protest movement again. The students had been relatively inactive in the past few months.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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



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6 November 1968

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

6 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Demilitarized Zone Developments: Additional Communist elements have been noted pulling back from the Demilitarized Zone. On 4 November, the headquarters of the B-5 Front, the senior North Vietnamese authority in the DMZ sector, was located in North Vietnam about 16 miles north of its position two days earlier in the southern half of the zone. Another radio, believed to be serving a regimental size North Vietnamese unit, was also located in North Vietnam on the 4th, some 18 miles north of its location near Khe Sanh in mid-September.

References to the bombing halt continue to be noted in North Vietnamese communications. One message claimed that the halt was "the greatest victory ever." Other messages, however, warned Communist units to guard against unwarranted optimism because "final victory" must still be sought.

* * *

Hanoi Broadcasts: Radio Hanoi has broadcast reports of Communist attacks on some cities in the South since the bombing halt. These accounts have so far not differed basically from several battlefield communiqués broadcast prior to 1 November. They attempt to portray a business-as-usual attitude toward the fighting in the South.

In international English language broadcasts on 4 November, Radio Hanoi described Viet Cong mortar attacks on My Tho city, Loc Ninh, and Cai Lay as attacks against "enemy positions" rather than as against the cities themselves. Similarly, Communist shellings of Bien Hoa and Ben Tre were carefully cast as attacks against the airfields in those cities rather than as attacks against the provincial capitals themselves.

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Communist broadcast facilities have not yet reported accounts of enemy actions against Quang Tri city and Vinh Long city, both of which occurred on 2 November.

The careful wording in these communiqés may be calculated to provide the Communists sufficient room to deny direct military actions against population centers as opposed to military targets. There are no suggestions, however, that they intend to refrain from attacks in populated areas.

* * *

Reaction to Aerial Reconnaissance: Hanoi protested continued US reconnaissance and "intensification" of the war in South Vietnam in a Foreign Ministry statement yesterday. The statement charged that this "proves" the US is persisting in "aggression" and encroachment upon the sovereignty and security of North Vietnam. It called for an end to such actions, but like other statements since the bombing stopped, it put the demand in the longer term context of a settlement and did not present it as a condition for continuing the Paris discussions.

* * *

New Missile: North Vietnam may be employing a new or modified surface-to-air missile in an attempt to deal with high-flying US reconnaissance aircraft. An intercepted message passed on 25 October from a regimental headquarters in Hanoi to a SAM support facility ordered the assembly of "18 number-two type missiles and fuses." The same support facility was again alerted on 27 October that a unit familiar with the new fusing techniques, and containing the necessary troops, equipment, and instruments, would arrive to assemble the missiles. The message further stated the missiles were to be in the hands of firing units by 29 October.

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

There is nothing of significance to report to-day.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 7 November 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
7 NOVEMBER 1968

1. Vietnam

Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, the Liberation Front representative at the Paris talks, is stressing that she is there to participate in "preparatory" discussions prior to the opening of "four-way" substantive talks. She also asserts that the Front delegation is willing to begin these preliminary talks without the presence of Saigon's representative, claiming that the Front speaks for the "people" of South Vietnam. We presume that the Communists intend to make the "preliminary" round a major phase of the talks.

2. Laos

No significant fighting has developed as the rains taper off, but signs still point to a Communist dry season offensive. In the North, the enemy is evidently setting the stage for its annual effort against government guerrilla positions. Roads are being constructed toward major government base areas, and the Communists have taken a number of outlying defensive positions in recent days.

In the Plaine des Jarres area, enemy forces have regained some positions lost last summer along the northern rim and have also moved on government forces positioned along the southern edge of the plain. In the South, most of the enemy's offensive activity will probably not start until the rice harvest is completed some time late this month.

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3. Election Reaction

There has been no high-level Communist comment yet on the US election results. Early commentaries by Moscow Radio predictably stressed that the election was not so much a victory for the Republicans as a vote of no confidence in current US policies. The first reaction from Peking merely said that the election would bring no changes in the "aggressive nature of US imperialism."

Wilson, De Gaulle, Kiesinger, and other Western leaders have all released standard congratulatory messages. French press reports out of Saigon claim that the South Vietnamese leaders "reacted with satisfaction and relief" to Mr. Nixon's victory. Radio Seoul used the same phrase to characterize South Korean reaction.

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4. Soviet Union

We see nothing new in the statements being made by Soviet leaders in connection with their anniversary celebrations in Moscow yesterday and today. On most foreign policy issues, the line is relatively calm.

5. Mexico

Students have decided to continue their strike, and street demonstrations are likely to resume. A mass student assembly is scheduled tonight at one of the schools where violence broke out earlier in the crisis, and the aggressive tone of smaller assemblies over the past several days suggests that the month-long truce may soon end.

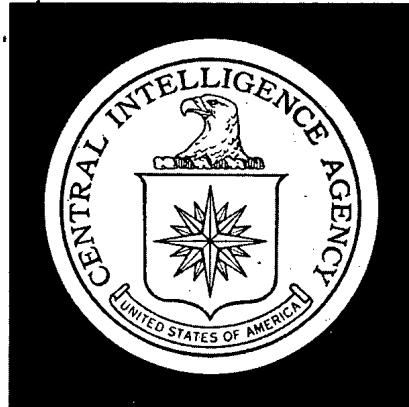
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6. Portugal

Ambassador Bennett made his first call on the new prime minister, Mr. Caetano, on Monday afternoon. Bennett came away quite impressed; he concludes: "I believe we can look forward to reasonable discussion and rational argumentation with Caetano, even though we may not always find agreement."

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7 November 1968

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

7 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

September Shipping: The number of ships calling at Haiphong was slightly higher in September than in August, but the total was well below the average for the first eight months of the year. Congestion reached record levels as storms and heavy rains disrupted port operations.

The number of arrivals in October is expected to decline, but congestion has continued.

North Vietnam imported slightly more in September than in August, but again the figures are well under this year's average.

Over-all imports during the first nine months of 1968 have been greater than for the full year of 1967.

* * *

Further Chinese Pullout: A Chinese Communist rear services unit in northwestern North Vietnam has not been heard in communications since 30 October. This unit was on the radio net serving construction units formerly in the northwest.

* * *

Propaganda Line on "Revolutionary Administration": The Communists continue to keep open the option of surfacing a governing apparatus as a rival of the South Vietnamese regime. A Liberation Radio broadcast on 31 October describing the Communist drive to establish a

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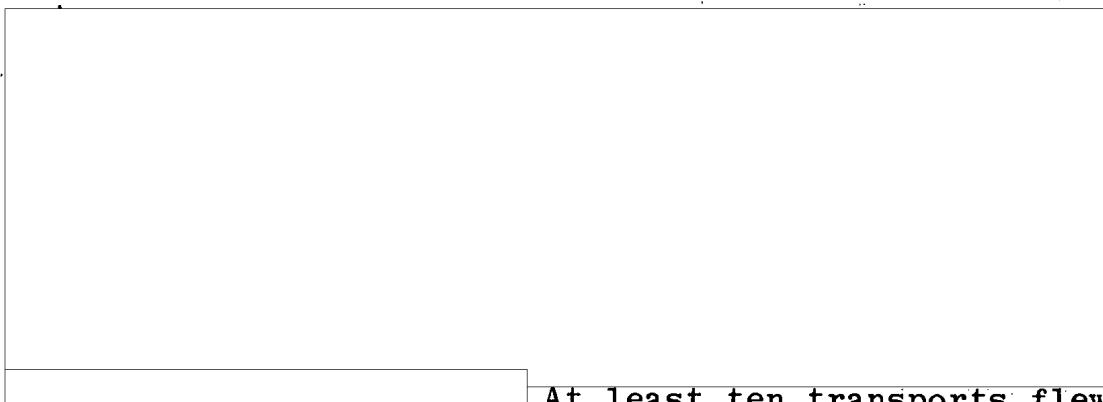
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"revolutionary administration" stressed the nationwide political importance of the campaign. It said this was a "new stage" in the war which will "decide the total triumph over the US." The drive was described as "the greatest, widest, and most intense political campaign in the history of our people's struggle...."

The broadcast laid heavy emphasis on the alleged legitimacy of the political institutions being created by the Communists in the countryside by repeatedly noting that "liberation committees" are being formed through a process of elections in which vast numbers of people are said to be participating. A special point is made of the opportunity this campaign provides for individuals who have previously not supported the Viet Cong to climb aboard the bandwagon. The campaign, it said, will "definitely determine who are our friends and who are our foes."

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At least ten transports flew from Hanoi to the Lang Son area on 6 November, although some of the aircraft were involved in practice bombing exercises.

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Film Production: A recent message has confirmed that North Vietnam is producing "war atrocity" television films for foreign audiences. A message of 1 November from a "North Vietnamese Television Films Workshop" states that a television unit of the North Vietnamese "war atrocities center" was to direct its attention to a "new situation" in the area of North Vietnam just north of the Demilitarized Zone.

-2-

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The training and equipment for North Vietnamese television films come largely from the East Germans under a 1967 cultural aid agreement, although the Soviets also seem to have provided some aid. The aid appears directed only at providing Hanoi with the means for producing films for foreign consumption. The North Vietnamese have no domestic television.

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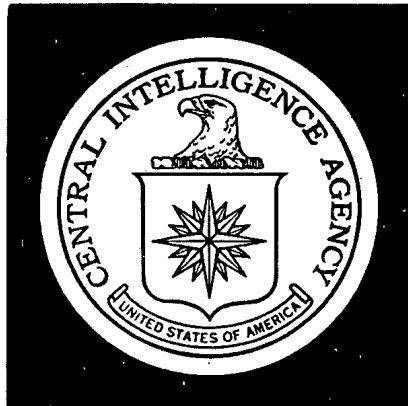
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

US Elections: Nothing has been heard so far from Hanoi on the US election results.

Protests Reported: Radio Hanoi broadcast several brief accounts of antiwar protests and demonstrations in the US and Britain in an English language international broadcast on 5 November. The broadcast highlighted a demonstration in New York last Saturday sponsored by a peace group composed of clergy and laymen. It included an account of a rally on the same day near the White House which was followed by a march on the presidential candidates' campaign headquarters nearby. Radio Hanoi also briefly reported protest demonstrations on 3 November at Fort Dix and in London.

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
8 NOVEMBER 1968

1. South Vietnam

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2. North Korea -
South Korea

The North Korean guerrillas who landed on the South Korean coast Sunday seem to be trapped in a South Korean dragnet. Problems of weather and terrain will impede the roundup, but all escape routes are blocked.

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3. Jarring Mission

The Jordanian and Egyptian foreign ministers have gone home complaining, as expected, that the latest Israeli document represents no forward movement. Nobody seems willing to let the Jarring mission die, but neither Cairo nor Tel Aviv is in a mood for any conciliatory moves. Jarring himself does not expect any developments for some time. He may transfer his base of operations to Europe.

4. West Germany -
Berlin

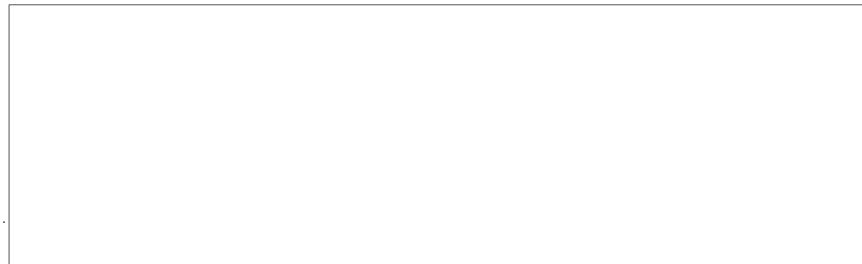
Tomorrow is the 50th anniversary of the abortive Communist revolution which broke out in Germany in 1918, and the radical students plan to celebrate with new demonstrations. They are finding it increasingly hard to provoke the police countermeasures which help to keep their movement glued together. Tomorrow's demonstrations may be the hardest test of police restraint yet.

5. Soviet Union

All signs indicate that the Soviets will try another unmanned circumlunar flight in the next few days. The space support ships should be on station by Saturday.

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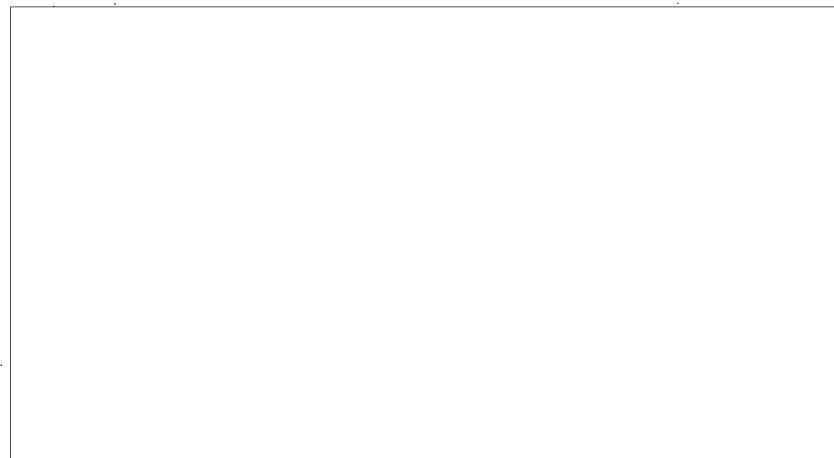
6. India -
Soviet Union



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7. Communist China -
Laos

Chinese construction crews apparently have resumed work on a road leading into Laos from southern China. This is the biggest spurt since 1963 in Peking's on-again, off-again road building program in Laos.



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8. Iran -
Saudi Arabia



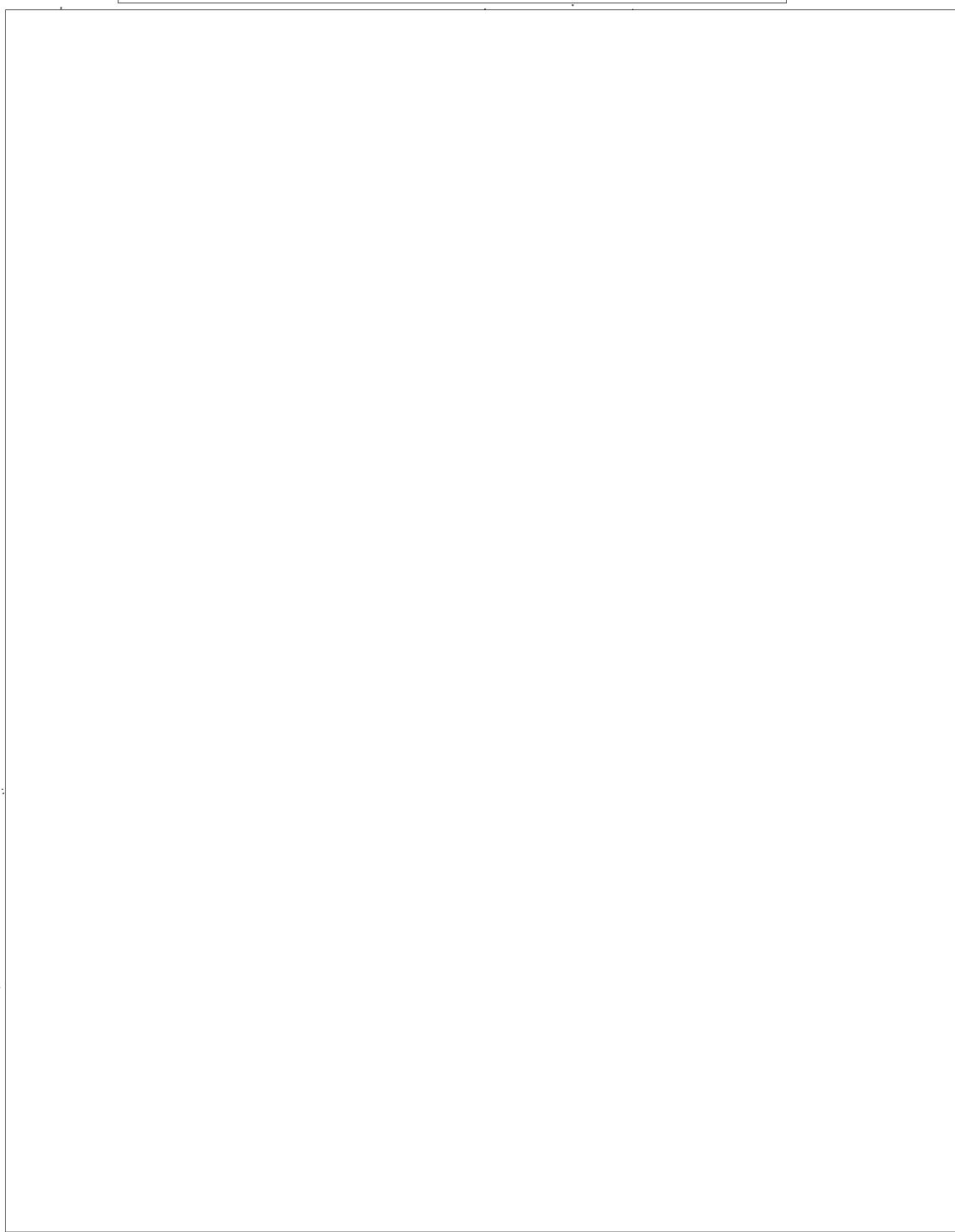
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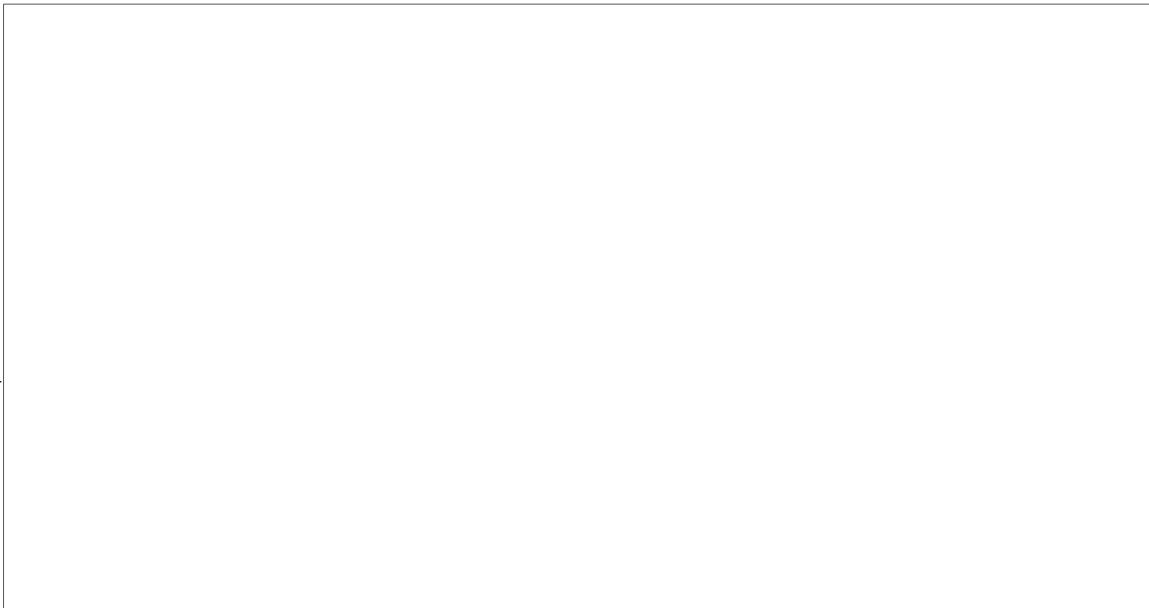
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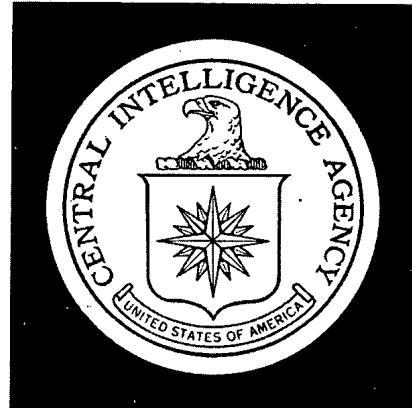
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8 November 1968

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

8 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese Participation: The Communists have recently made some unusually explicit references to North Vietnamese participation in the war in South Vietnam. A Viet Cong broadcast on 5 November lauded North Vietnam for forcing the US to stop the bombing and asserted that this "will certainly further encourage Northern armed forces and people to increase their aid to the South and join their strength...to completely defeat the US aggressors on the remaining half of the fatherland."

The following day, a similar theme was sounded in a radio account of a conference of Communist forces in South Vietnam. The conference reportedly adopted a resolution acclaiming the bombing halt and praising North Vietnam's "iron-like determination to join with" Communist forces in the South in achieving complete victory.

This language is unusual, but Hanoi has been increasingly candid concerning the role of North Vietnamese forces in the war in the South. The North Vietnamese spokesman in Paris took up the issue during a news conference on 6 November when he was asked if a recent propaganda statement implied that Hanoi is willing to discuss withdrawing its forces from South Vietnam. He claimed that some news agencies had maliciously misinterpreted the statement but then fell back on the standard line that "Vietnam is one" and that all Vietnamese have a "right" to oppose US "aggression" wherever it occurs.

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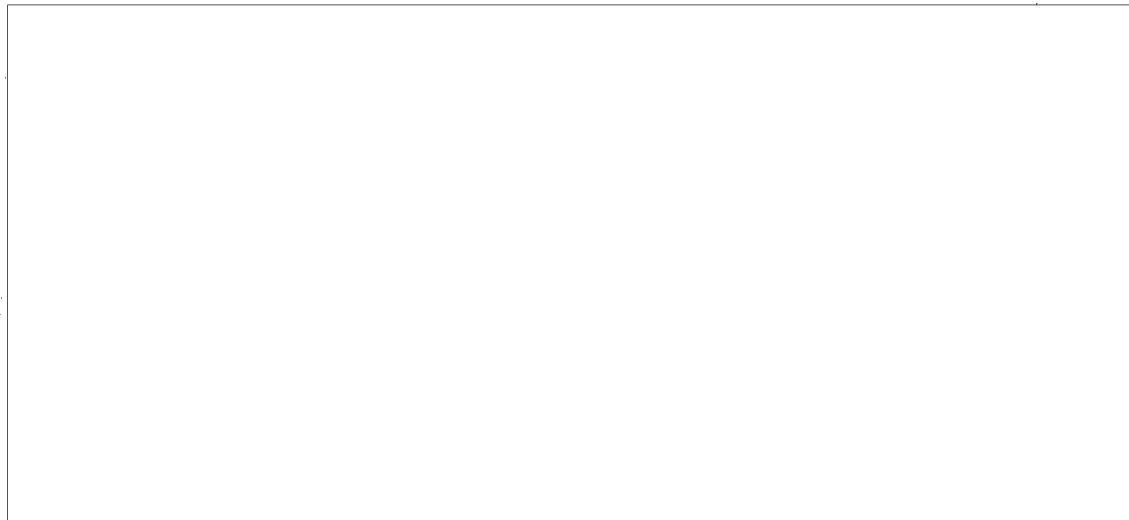
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Logistics: No significant increase in the number of trucks entering the Laotian panhandle from North Vietnam has been reported since the bombing halt, but photography reveals that the Communists are acting quickly to repair their logistic network.

When repairs now being made to damaged portions of the road network in both North Vietnam and Laos are completed, the Communists could increase the level of trucking into and through Laos.

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The problem of determining the extent to which the North Vietnamese are taking advantage of the bombing cessation may be complicated by the seasonal increase in truck traffic into Laos which normally occurs at this time of year with the advent of drier weather.

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

On Election: There has been no comment by Hanoi or by North Vietnamese spokesmen elsewhere about the Nixon election victory.

The Front representative in Phnom Penh, however, was quoted by UPI yesterday as saying the Communists anticipate no essential changes in US policy under the Nixon administration. He said that the Communists do not see "any fundamental differences" between the Johnson administration and the Republicans, and that any US Government will have to either stop its "aggression" or suffer greater defeats.

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
9 NOVEMBER 1968

1. West Germany

We think there is a fair chance, not quite 50-50, that West Germany will make an upward revaluation of the Deutsche mark this weekend. The issue has heated up again in the last few days because of a speech by a senior official stating the government now sees revaluation "as the only feasible alternative" to restrictive economic measures. This speech has triggered a rush to turn dollars in for marks at the German central bank.

2. Czechoslovakia

Dubcek may soon be forced to move against the demonstrators or face another confrontation with the Russians. Encouraged by the success of their flag burnings and marches, students are teaming up with workers throughout the country planning a series of "Ivan go home" days.

Moscow's official media have so far ignored the demonstrations, but there is no question about how the Soviets view the disturbances. If trouble continues, the Soviets may well put all their muscle behind the Czechoslovak conservatives in a final attempt to break up the present leadership.

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3. Warsaw Pact -
NATO

[Redacted]

As the Soviets reduce their troops in Czechoslovakia, some NATO members--the British and Canadians in particular--see a corresponding reduction in the threat. They are beginning to cavil over efforts to strengthen NATO defenses.

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4. Poland

The party congress opens Monday. We still predict Gomulka will keep his title as first secretary, but the congress will show his opponents have control of the basic power apparatus. The embassy reports unusually tight security measures have been clamped on Warsaw.

5. Israel-Egypt

Israeli forces along the Suez Canal apparently are being moved back out of Egyptian artillery range. This redeployment will give the Israelis more room to use their tanks should the Egyptians try crossing the canal where Israeli troops still patrol in small numbers.

6. Jordan

Husayn has made no further moves against the terrorists and with luck the delicate truce should continue.

7. Panama

Some of Arias' exiled backers, now in Costa Rica, are talking about starting an armed uprising. These men could run some nuisance raids along the border, but it is most unlikely they could spark a popular uprising against the junta.

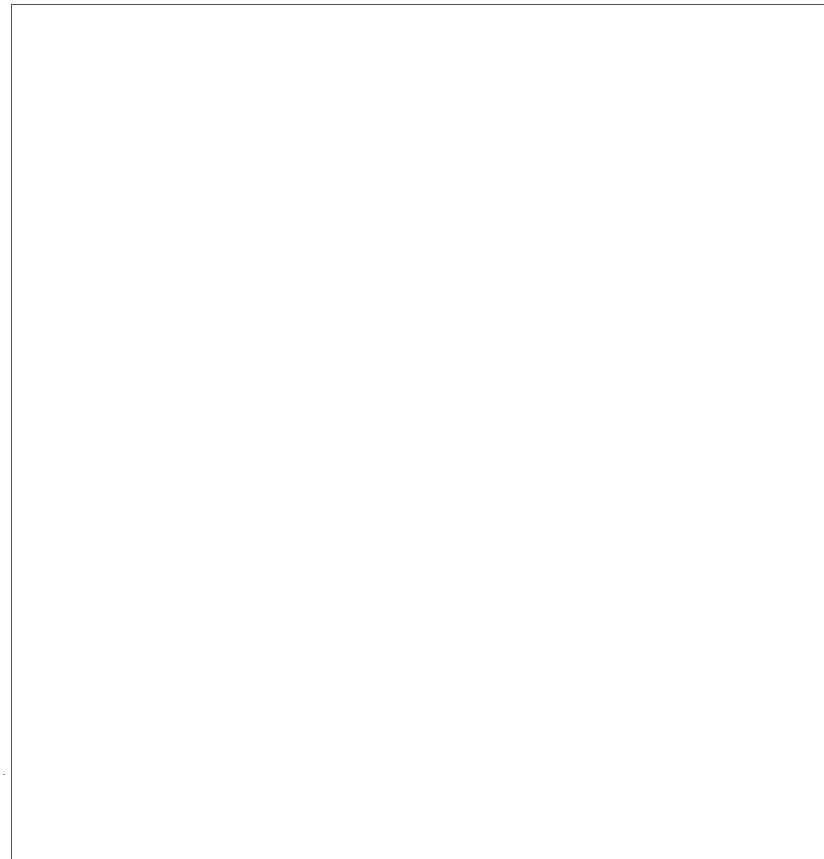
Meanwhile, the two Guard colonels who rule the junta are making some changes--mostly the appointment of friends and relatives to key posts.

8. Cuba

The Cubans are making their own transition preparations. Yesterday observation posts along the coast were told to be especially vigilant against invaders "because Richard Nixon has been elected President."

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9. South Korea



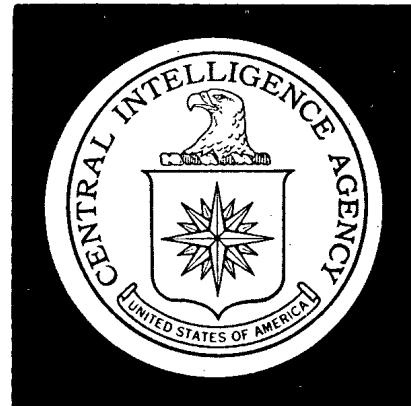
10. South Vietnam

Communist gunners fired four recoilless rifle rounds into downtown Can Tho last night. Five Vietnamese were wounded.

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9 November 1968

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

9 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Appeal to South Vietnamese Troops: Hanoi is doing its utmost to sow discord in South Vietnam and to fan fears that the US is moving toward an accommodation with the Communists. An appeal to South Vietnamese troops over Liberation Radio on 5 November picked up the theme of an impending US "sellout" in which the Saigon government would either go along as a "puppet" or be swept aside. The bombing halt is treated as a move "forced" on the US in "defiance" of Saigon's attitude. This means, said the broadcast, that the US has told the "Thieu-Ky clique" that "its role on the Saigon political stage is going to end." It calls on South Vietnamese forces to "arise," desert, or otherwise support formation of a new "peace cabinet."

An article in the 7 November Nhan Dan uses Hanoi's most vicious language to denigrate the South Vietnamese Government, but it never comes to grips with the problems raised by Saigon's absence in Paris. Somewhat unconvincingly, the article argues that the "Saigon administration's scheme not to take part in the conference in Paris" only reveals its "servile" nature.

* * *

Economic Conditions: The 5 November issue of the party journal Nhan Dan claims that during the four years of bombings, the economy had "satisfied an important part of the needs of combat, production, and the people's livelihood." Key branches of centrally run industry are said to have been "maintained" and local industry is said to have been developed "in several provinces." For the present, the article emphasized that "special attention" is needed for improving management over labor, materials, and capital. Every link in the production process, it is said, must be directed toward increasing labor output, improving the quality of products, saving raw materials, and cutting costs.

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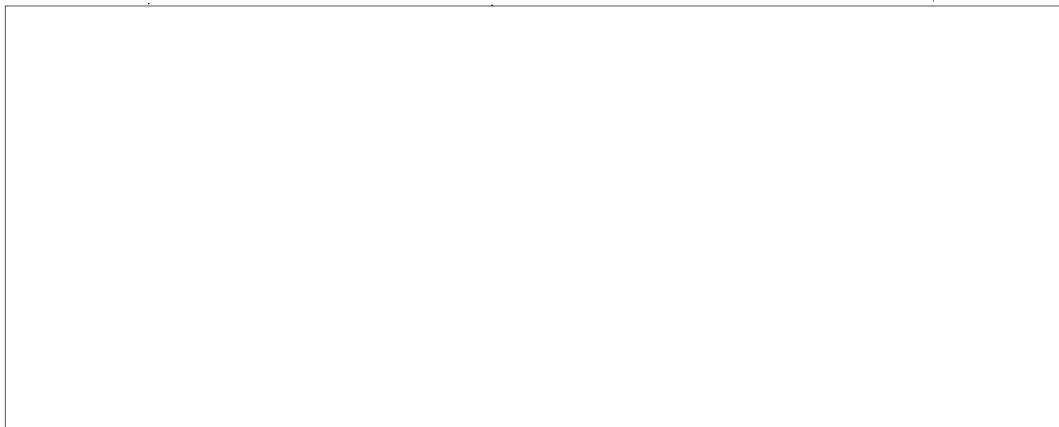
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The article tends to confirm that the economy has not been able to meet all its needs during the years of bombings, and that management--particularly over labor--has been one of the biggest headaches for Hanoi.

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Shipping Report for October: Cargo deliveries to North Vietnam by foreign-flag ships in October totaled about 163,800 tons, up some 29,000 tons from September and 24,000 tons over the average for the third quarter. There was some easing of congestion in Haiphong harbor, in part because of reduced levels of shipping over the previous few months. Improved weather conditions and the abatement of floods which had disrupted unloading of cargoes in September also permitted more efficient operation of the port.



* * *

Soviet Celebration in Hanoi: Hanoi's observance of the anniversary of the Soviet revolution on 7 November was similar to its treatment of the Chinese National Day celebration a month earlier. The North Vietnamese politburo turnout was about the same on the two occasions; Premier Pham Van Dong spoke at both receptions and his remarks were similar.

This is the latest illustration of Hanoi trying, in public at least, to balance its relations with Moscow and Peking.

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Hanoi Promotes Long-term Savings: Hanoi is seeking to promote long-term individual savings with appeals to patriotism and promises of prizes in order to soak up excess purchasing power and to boost local economic development. The monetary income of the people, especially of peasants, has been outrunning the supply of consumer goods, according to an official of the State Bank writing in the 17 September issue of the party daily Nhan Dan. He states that long-term savings "mobilized" in any province or city will be left at the disposal of local officials for making long-term loans to help economic development. This is apparently a promise to local cadres who are expected to push the savings program, that the central government will not pre-empt whatever funds are accumulated.

The regulations governing the savings accounts state that no withdrawals will be permitted for five years. There will, however, be annual drawings for cash prizes and a lump sum payment of two percent interest at the end of the five-year period. Those who leave their accounts intact after five years will be granted privileges in the purchase of "valuable" consumer goods.

* * *

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

US Elections: Hanoi Radio in a domestic service broadcast yesterday had this to say about the election results:

--Mr. Nixon won by the smallest margin in US history--14,600 votes.

--In Congress, the Democratic Party won the majority of seats and thereby "seized control of both houses."

--"The Nixon clique will not be able to avoid an impasse and failure when it assumes power. Meanwhile, the masses of the US people, including the Negroes, will further pursue their struggle for democracy, for the right to live in freedom, and for equality and

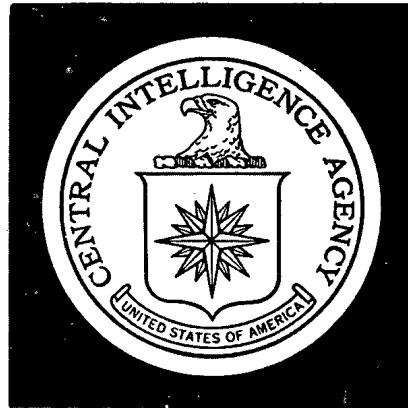
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against the injustices of the present US social system."

This confused account is mild by Hanoi's usual standards. The commentary contained no references to the president-elect's views on Vietnam, Communist demands for a settlement, or personal attacks on Mr. Nixon.

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The President's Daily Brief

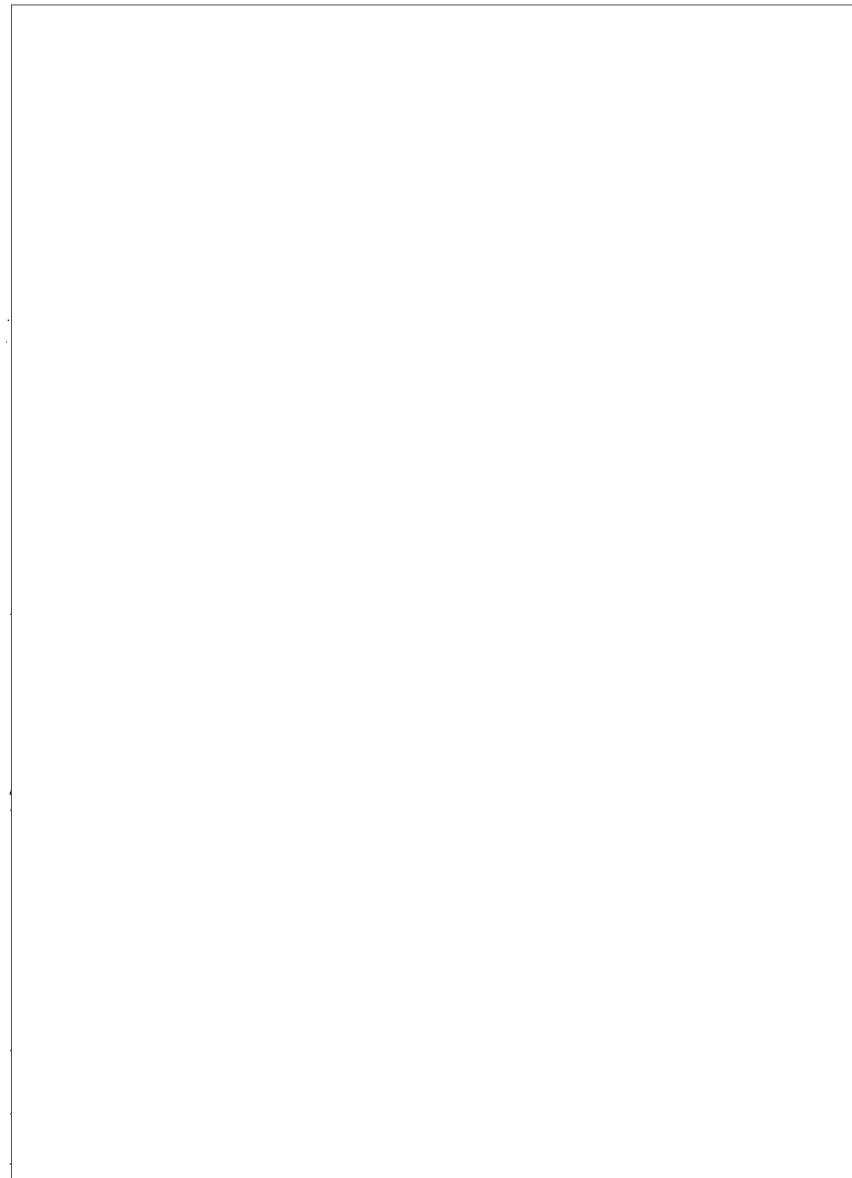
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
11 NOVEMBER 1968

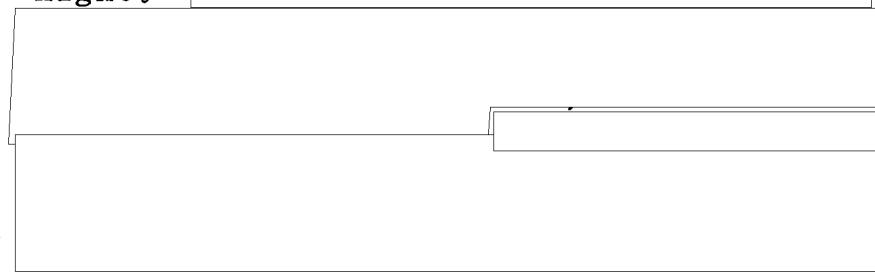
1. South Vietnam



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2. Soviet Union

The Soviets launched another unman-
ned circumlunar probe from Tyuratam last
night.



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3. Hungary

Cyrus Sulzberger was able to get an interview with Kadar in Budapest last week.

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The interview [redacted] will evidently appear in the Times this week.

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4. Spain

The Spaniards are taking a realistic approach in their preparations for resumption of negotiations for the US-Spanish bases agreement.

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5. Venezuela

[redacted] a small number of Cuban and Cuban-trained guerrillas have made two landings in eastern Venezuela since mid-September. They are now trying to join up with the Castro-supported Movement of the Revolutionary Left operating in that area. Although relatively quiet recently, these people have clashed twice this month with government troops, who claim to have killed a few guerrillas and captured several others.

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6. Haiti

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16

11 November 1968

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

11 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

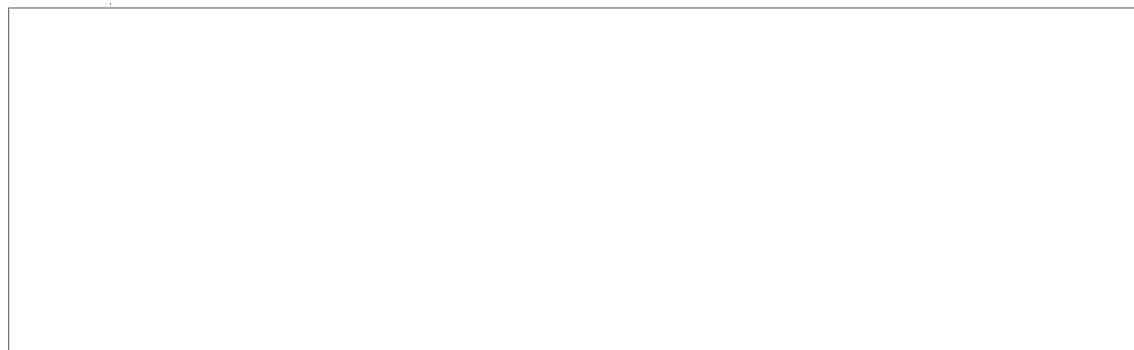
Nhan Dan on Saigon's Position: In an article in Nhan Dan on 10 November, Hanoi rejected Saigon's formula for expanded negotiations at Paris. Nhan Dan saw the move as an attempt to ignore the Liberation Front, the "genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people."

Although Hanoi apparently is still having some difficulty coming to grips with Saigon's refusal to come to Paris, its latest response is less cautious than its first reaction. The current article charges Saigon with trying to sabotage the quadripartite Paris conference and with challenging President Johnson's decision to talk with the Front. The "Thieu-Ky-Huong clique" has become increasingly arrogant toward its "lame-duck" masters in Washington, says Nhan Dan. Saigon thus is the "main obstacle," but the article insists that the US must still bear "full responsibility."

Liberation Radio came down even harder on Saigon's recalcitrance. It noted that the Thieu government's position is the subject of increasing ridicule around the world and has even "infuriated a number of US rulers."

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

Nhan Dan on the Elections: In a Nhan Dan article of 9 November, Hanoi abandoned its relatively mild position on the US elections. Its hard-hitting analysis saw Nixon's victory as a repudiation by the American people of the policies of the Democratic Party. According to Nhan Dan, the Great Society is in reality a "society of sickness, suffering, and death."

The Republicans did not escape Hanoi's vituperation, however. Nhan Dan went on to observe that the "oppressive policies" of the Democratic administration were merely adopted from the previous Republican administration. It concluded that Republican policies are in no way different from those of the Democrats.

* * *

Liberation Radio Comments: Liberation Radio also indulged in some vituperative commentary on the election. In a broadcast of 8 November it attributed the closeness of the vote to the perplexity of the electorate. It claimed that the American people saw more clearly than ever that "no matter who becomes President of the United States, the US Government's policy remains unchanged. Whether he is of the Republican Party or the Democratic Party, the US President only represents the interests of different US monopoly capitalist factions." The broadcast claimed that since "a very obdurate, cunning, and cruel fox" like President Johnson could not avoid a stalemate, President-elect Nixon would not be able to rescue his cause from "inevitable defeat."

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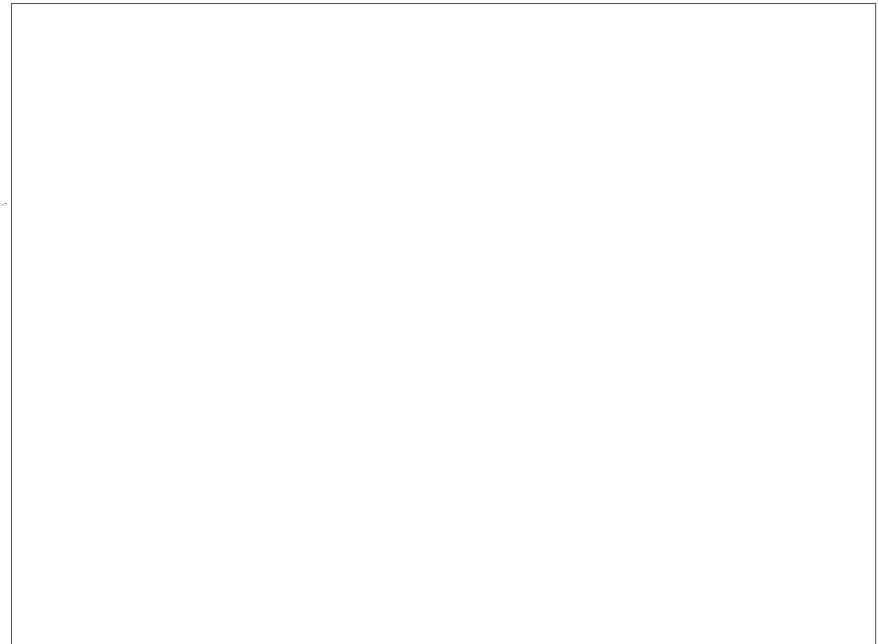


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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
12 NOVEMBER 1968

1. South Vietnam

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2. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The Czechoslovak Central Committee plenum is now set for Thursday, and one leading liberal told his associates it will be the occasion for major personnel shifts and "disillusionment for the nation."

The strength of the conservatives depends almost entirely on the amount of muscle Moscow is willing to put behind them, and this is still not clear. At the very least, however, it seems certain that the many unrepentant liberals in the media will be in for a rough time.

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**3. Soviet Union -
Cuba**

Moscow has offered to liberalize
the terms of its economic aid program
to Cuba [redacted]

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The Soviets are also willing to provide
new military equipment. The Cubans re-
gard these proposals as the most favor-
able to come out of Moscow in years.
Fidel Castro's qualified endorsement of
the invasion of Czechoslovakia probably
has something to do with the Soviet
largesse.

4. Pakistan

The shots which rang out in Ayub's
presence Sunday apparently were fired
into the air by a 17-year-old student
who merely wanted to disrupt the meet-
ing Ayub was about to address. This
was one of several displays of student
discontent over the past few days. The
unrest seems to be on the decline at
the moment.

5. Okinawa

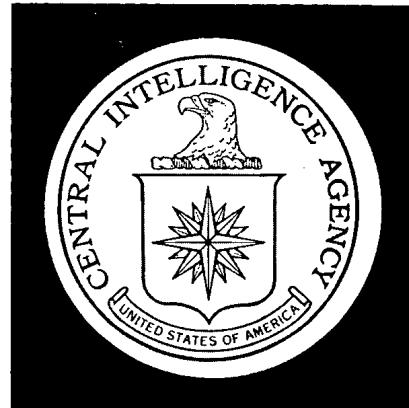
The victor in Okinawa's first elec-
tion for chief executive is a political-
ly inexperienced leftist, Chobyo Yara.
Yara, a respected figure but one with
no power base of his own, will have to
look for support to the three-party op-
position coalition. He himself seems
to be a moderate on US-Okinawa issues,
but the coalition contains radical so-
cialists and Communists who are not.

Conservatives still control the
Okinawa legislature.

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- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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16

12 November 1968

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

12 November 1968

**There is nothing of significance to report
today.**

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret 13 November 1968~~



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
13 NOVEMBER 1968

1. South Vietnam

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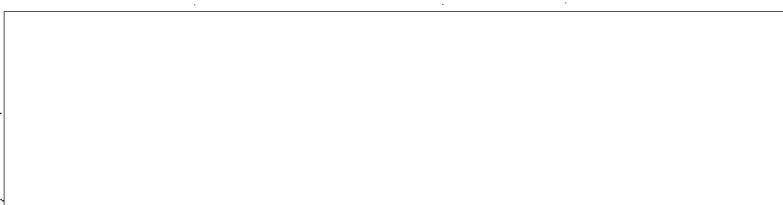
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2. South Vietnam

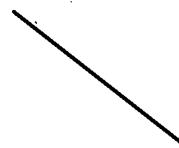
Denying that Thieu had reneged on any understandings at the last moment, South Vietnam's information minister commented on Secretary Clifford's statement saying the US and Hanoi could go ahead and negotiate without Saigon, "but their conclusions certainly will be of no validity at all."

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3. Soviet Union



The Soviets want to get a dialogue going with the US again. This came through clearly in Kosygin's surprise meeting with McNamara on Monday.

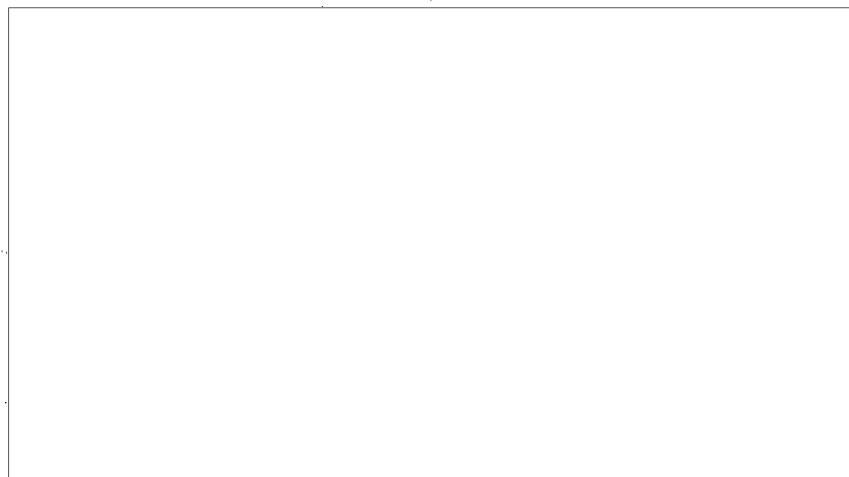
Stating that military budgets had reached impossible levels, Kosygin came down strongly in favor of bilateral talks on strategic arms limitation. As the Soviet premier put it, disarmament is an "imperative necessity" despite fundamental differences between the US and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, said Kosygin, will cooperate in seeking further disarmament measures, in trying to get adherence to the nonproliferation treaty, and in a "general lessening of tension."

Kosygin raised the Vietnam issue, but dropped it when McNamara said he was no longer qualified to comment. In an allusion to the Soviets' chronic truck shortage, the premier also asked about the purchase of US truck production technology, saying the Soviets have a high regard for American expertise.

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4. West Germany

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**5. West Berlin**

The East Germans may be preparing some new move to harass West German civilians traveling to Berlin. Yesterday Kiesinger told Lodge he had information that the East Germans would soon start requiring visas for West German travelers and perhaps insist on consular offices in West Germany and West Berlin. The East Germans had implicitly threatened access to West Berlin if the Christian Democrats held their convention in the city. Nothing happened during the convention, but Kiesinger is apprehensive they may make good on their threat now.

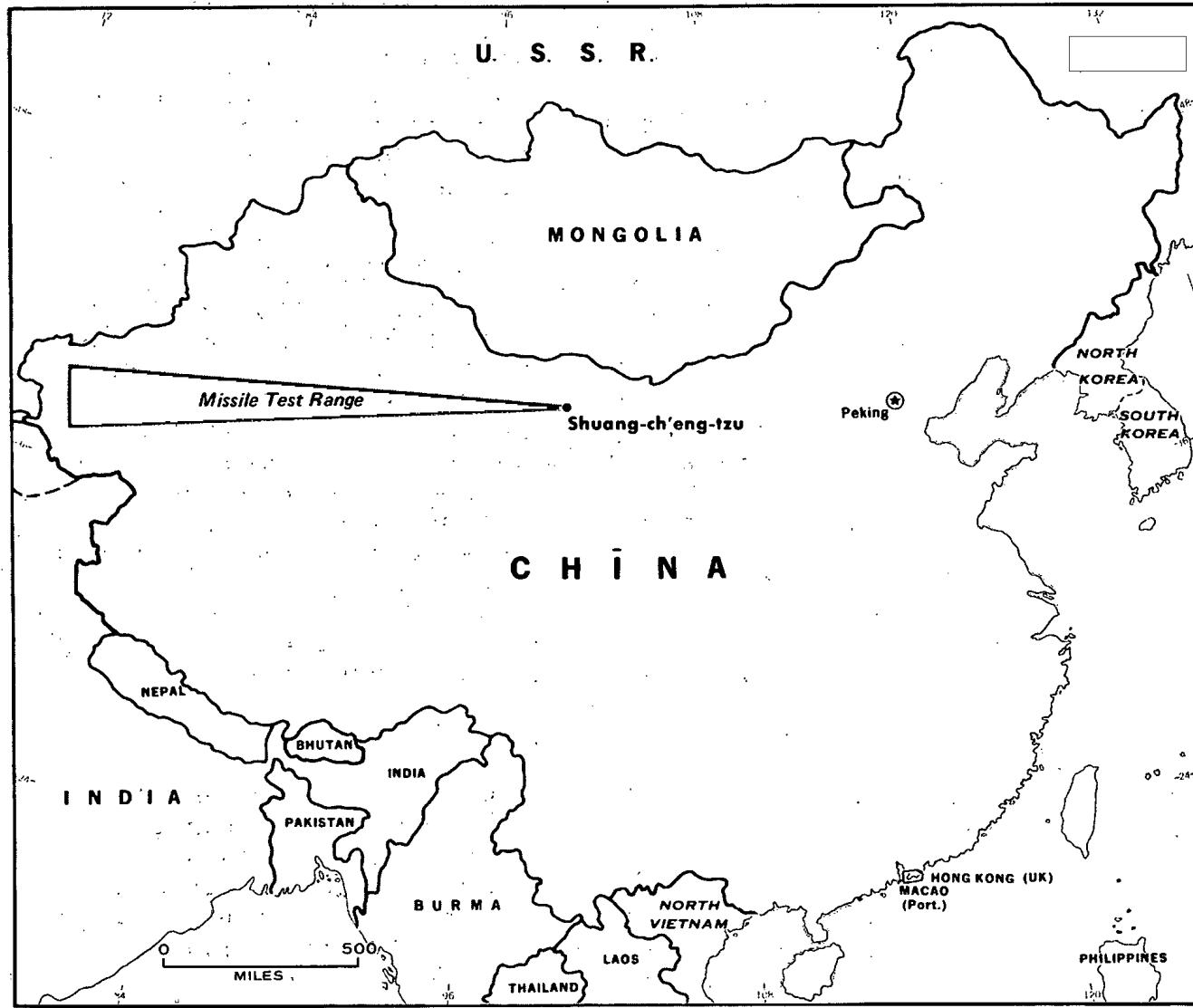
6. Argentina

Argentina will buy French Mirage III supersonic fighters for delivery in 1970. Last year Peru bought a less advanced version of the Mirage. With both Argentina and Peru improving their air forces, Chile has shown new interest in upgrading its own.

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The Argentines also have bought French tanks. The military says they would prefer American equipment, but claim US arms sale restrictions force them to buy in Europe.

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7. Communist China

Communications, weather reporting, and transport flights all fit a pattern suggesting the Chinese are about to run another test of their medium-range ballistic missile. Since August there has been little or no testing of this missile which has been in development for at least five years. We have detected no operational deployment as yet.

8. Venezuela

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13 November 1968

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

13 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Soviet Commercial Shipments to Haiphong: Moscow Radio is telling its domestic listeners about the large quantities of Soviet industrial equipment and foodstuffs being shipped to North Vietnam. A 10 November broadcast said there are ten ships from the Black Sea merchant fleet either unloading in Haiphong or on the way there.

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For its part, the Hanoi government is said to be worried about the size of its growing debt to the Soviet Union.

the Vietnamese hyper-sensitive about balancing their trade with other countries because of the mounting trade deficit incurred for Soviet commercial shipments.

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Council of Ministers Meeting: North Vietnam's Council of Ministers recently was convened to consider the current war situation and near-term economic policies, according to an announcement on Radio Hanoi's international service on 12 November. The brief account of the council's communique suggests the meeting was routine.

* * *

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

Liberation Radio on Nixon Administration:

Liberation Radio ridiculed what it called the Saigon government's expectations of a better deal from President-elect Nixon than it had gotten from President Johnson. The Front radio said Mr. Nixon's war policies were the same as the President's and would doom the US and Saigon to defeat. A second broadcast, examining prospects for the new US administration in its approach to the Vietnam war, forecast failure because the US has been exhausted by the war and by domestic problems. The commentator said Mr. Nixon could not continue President Johnson's policies because they have proven inadequate; the alternative, he implied, is for the US to withdraw from Vietnam.

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~~Top Secret 14 November 1968~~



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
14 NOVEMBER 1968

1. East Germany -
Berlin

The East Germans are pumping up West German fears with new rumors of further restrictions on travel to West Berlin. At practically no cost, the East Germans thus test West German and allied reactions to another slice at the West Berlin salami, put a little heat into allied relations, and drain off some more of the West Berliners' morale. In Bonn, some officials are predicting the imposition of new East German controls by tomorrow.

2. Czechoslovakia

Dubcek and his liberal Communist colleagues will be asking the party Central Committee today to approve further concessions to Moscow's requirements for "normalization." The party plenum will probably go along, and may even have to submit to the inclusion of Soviet-backed conservatives in its top leadership.

Student leaders are defiantly planning a general strike and street marches if the conservatives pick up much ground. Dubcek says he will answer protests with force.

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3. Yugoslavia

The Yugoslavs are feeling the pinch of Soviet economic retaliation for their opposition to the invasion of Czechoslovakia. Moscow has canceled negotiations on several important Yugoslav sales contracts and deferred talks on next year's trade protocols, and Soviet banks have refused to purchase Yugoslav commercial paper. These and other pressures, if continued, could put a sharp crimp in the Yugoslav economy, and a complete break in Warsaw Pact commercial relations would severely depress it.

Although Belgrade and its Warsaw Pact trading partners [redacted] agreed not to let politics interfere with trade relations, distrust of Moscow will lead the Yugoslavs to take out insurance by broadening their commercial contacts with the West. In a real crunch, they would have to reverse the liberal trend in their domestic economic management and appeal to the West for new credit assistance.

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4. United Kingdom

The latest British Gallup Poll shows another drop in the Labour government's popularity. Support for the Conservative Party was rated at 50.5 percent, for Labour only 32. The pollsters interpret their findings as anti-Labour reaction rather than a positive response to the Conservatives, even though the opposition party gained 10 percentage points on Labour since the last poll. Only 20 percent of those polled approved of the government's record, and 60 percent expressed positive disapproval. Thirty-one percent approved Wilson's personal record, a drop of 12 percent, and Conservative leader Heath gained one percent over the last poll to win the approval of 37 percent of the electorate.

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5. Guatemala

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6. Ecuador

President Velasco has finally declared Ecuador's "acceptance" of last year's Declaration of Punta del Este on the principles animating the Alliance for Progress. He did so at a weekend press conference in which he had some choice words for his predecessor, Otto Arosemena, for the grandstand play that left Ecuador's president the only nonsigner.

Velasco also went out of his way to stress that he is looking forward to meeting President-elect Nixon and the other American presidents at a new hemispheric conference to "revitalize" the Alliance.

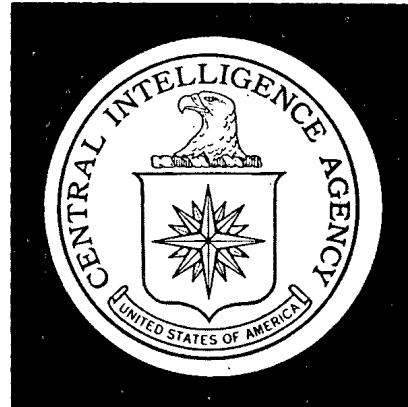
7. Pakistan

Ayub will be free with the truncheon if rioting continues following former foreign minister Bhutto's arrest. He has the forces necessary to contain any difficulties.

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14 November 1968

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

14 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Recent Developments: The North Vietnamese have stepped up daytime supply activity and road repairs in southern North Vietnam since the 1 November bombing halt. More than 200 trucks were noted in photography of 10 November at a ferry crossing just 11 miles south of the 19th Parallel. About 200 trucks were also noted within the Vinh city limits in 8 November photography. Before 1 November only light traffic was observed in both these areas. Farther south, photography during the past week has shown as many as 170 trucks--mostly moving south--on Route 15 leading to the Mu Gia Pass.

Recent photography also indicates that for the first time since the February 1967 Tet bombing halt, the Communists are using coastal freighters with capacities of up to 2,500 tons for moving cargo south of the 19th Parallel. Rear services communications on shipping off the coast of southern North Vietnam up to 10 November shows substantially more shipping capacity in use than was reported by pilots before 1 November. It cannot yet be determined whether an increase in daylight trucking and shipping means an increase in total supply activity or only some shift-over from night to day operations now that bombings have stopped.

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Photography prior to 1 November had shown that routes leading into the Laotian panhandle were extensively damaged and were apparently having difficulties at times supporting through traffic.

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Reaction to Reconnaissance Missions: US reconnaissance missions over North Vietnam are drawing mixed reactions from Communist air defense forces. There have been 15 unmanned reconnaissance flights north of the 19th Parallel since 1 November, most of which drew some kind of enemy reaction. Three of these aircraft were shot down.

The Communists are also making vigorous attempts to bring down manned US high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft. Intercepted communications on SAM links show that the North Vietnamese are constantly attempting to refine firing techniques against the fast-flying aircraft. To date, however, only a few SAM units involved in the reaction have succeeded in firing their missiles.

Tactical air reconnaissance missions below the 19th Parallel have drawn ground fire on about 20 occasions since 1 November. The firings for the most part have been limited to light antiaircraft barrages and tracer bullets. None of these manned missions has been downed, and only one aircraft has been hit.

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During the first quarter of 1965, an average of 12 Japanese ships per month called at North Vietnam, most of them in ballast to carry North Vietnamese coal back to Japan. Since March 1965, however, only one Japanese vessel has called at North Vietnam--in May 1968. Plans for further trips were canceled shortly

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thereafter, following informal US representations and informal pressure by the Japanese Government.

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Hon Gai - Kep Rail Line: Construction has resumed on the Hon Gai - Kep rail line after a three-month lull. Photography of mid-October reveals that bridges and other facilities have been worked on throughout the 66-mile route. However, most of the construction, including several rail spurs, three short bridges, and a causeway, has been concentrated in an area 30 miles west of Hon Gai.

This line has been under construction since June 1967, but work was interrupted by flooding during the 1968 rainy season.

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When completed, the line will connect North Vietnam's main coal producing area and the secondary port of Hon Gai with the main industrial areas of North Vietnam.

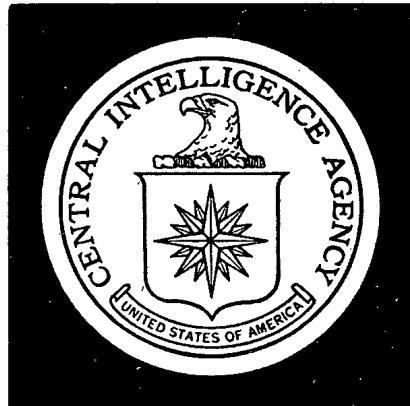
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret 15 November 1968~~



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
15 NOVEMBER 1968

1. South Vietnam

There is nothing new at hand to support the Associated Press story this morning that Prime Minister Huong has submitted his resignation to President Thieu. Reuters says that a spokesman for Huong has "strongly denied" the report.

2. France

The possibility of a forced devaluation of the franc is not nearly so absurd as De Gaulle pretends, but a lot could happen to save the franc over the next few weeks. France is suffering from a classic case of capital flight at a time when there is the need for financial pump-priming at home. The franc is leaving home to purchase the attractively hard German mark across the border.

The French, unwilling to dampen their economic recovery by strong deflationary measures, want the Germans to revalue the mark upwards; this would take most of the pressure off the franc. The Germans have been saying "make your own corrective measures," but have apparently agreed to meet with the French to discuss the problem.

If the run on the franc continues at its present rate, De Gaulle will be forced to sell back large chunks of his American gold and approve more stringent internal controls. His adamant views against devaluation suggest that he is ready to do both.

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3. World Communist Conference

Many of the world's Communist parties will meet in Budapest on Sunday to try to set a date for the international conference. Last spring a preparatory meeting agreed to set 25 November as the date, but it was dropped as a result of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. Six weeks of intensive Soviet lobbying followed, and the Soviets will now try to pin down a new date for the meeting.

The French Communist Party, which had been defiant since the invasion, gave in to severe tongue-lashings during talks in Moscow early this month.

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Talks between the Soviets and an Italian party delegation now in Moscow will probably be equally stormy, although the Italians may be less easy to win over.

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4. Middle East

We may well see more and more of the kind of thing that happened along the Israeli-Jordanian border on Wednesday when a minor small arms exchange quickly evolved into an extended fire-fight involving mortars, tanks, and artillery. Now that the Jarring mission is stalled, the Israelis have probably taken off the wraps on retaliation for border incidents.

5. Soviet Union

Zond-6.

passed around the moon,

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and is now returning to earth. The probe will reach the earth's atmosphere early Sunday morning.

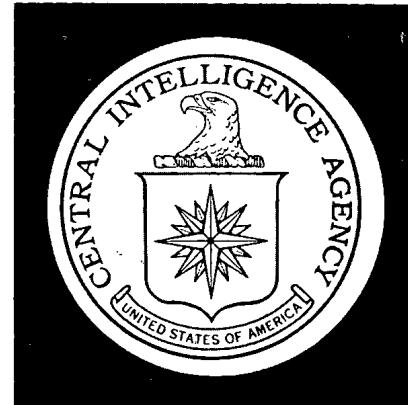
6. Peru

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16

15 November 1968

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

15 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Two Administrations in the South?: A Vietnamese Communist official has hinted strongly that the Communists may envision a temporary territorial arrangement between Saigon and the Front as part of a process leading to a political settlement.

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Although Communist propaganda frequently decries continued allied military activity in the South, the Communists previously have not directly tied the level of military activity there to prospects in Paris.

* * *

Hanoi Atmospherics: The North Vietnamese Government was slow in informing the citizens of Hanoi about the US bombing halt,

The diplomatic community and local citizens got their first information on the US action on 1 November from broadcasts originating in other countries. The government did not report it on the air until 2 November.

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[redacted] no public demonstrations or celebrations accompanying the announcement. The government's proclamation, in fact, called for continued vigilance and sacrifice, presumably to forestall a general mood of relaxation.

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Hanoi was also cautious in announcing its reaction to the diplomatic corps. Vietnamese officials reportedly tried to avoid entrapment by foreign diplomats at an Algerian reception on the evening of 1 November. The Vietnamese left the reception discreetly only about an hour after their arrival

[redacted] diplomats were told early on the morning of 2 November.

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Hanoi's statement was finally delivered to foreign correspondents and broadcast locally at about 10:00 that morning.

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. Hanoi Protests Alleged US Action in Cambodia; Hanoi has issued another of its periodic denunciations of alleged US violations of Cambodian territory. The foreign ministry statement, carried in a French language international broadcast on 14 November, charged that US helicopters twice violated Cambodian airspace on 6 November in areas opposite South Vietnam's III Corps and fired on Cambodian civilians.

The foreign office statement charged the US with numerous Cambodian border violations since June and, with righteous indignation, expressed its support of earlier Cambodian protests and demands that the US recognize Cambodia's borders.

More of this type of propaganda may be forthcoming as part of an effort by Hanoi to distract attention from the recent NBC exposé of Viet Cong activity in Cambodia.

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The depth of the channel into Haiphong harbor, which was 28 feet at average mean tide when Soviet dredging equipment was removed for safety in May 1965, now averages about 26 feet. The Soviet dredging equipment which began operating again last spring has kept conditions from getting any worse, but apparently has not yet caught up with the silt-ing of the previous three years. Large, heavily laden ships must either wait for an optimum high tide before entering the harbor or unload a portion of their cargo into lighters in order to clear the channel into the port.

* * *

New Missile Site: Photography of 10 November has disclosed a new surface-to-air missile site near Yen Bai airfield, northwest of Hanoi. This is the first active missile installation seen in this area for nearly a year. The purpose of the new site re-mains unclear at the moment, but it is probably in-tended to play an antireconnaissance role.

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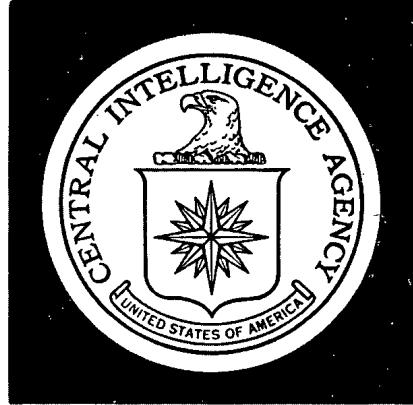
Work Continues on New Airfield: Photography also shows that the North Vietnamese are rapidly mov-ing ahead with construction on the recently discovered airfield at Duong Suong southwest of Hanoi. The pres-ence of some ten pieces of construction equipment sug-gests a fairly high priority has been assigned to this project. The construction of Yen Bai airfield took about two years to complete. Work on Duong Suong began in early October and could be completed as early as next summer.

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

There is nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret 16 November 1968~~



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
16 NOVEMBER 1968

1. Soviet Union -
Egypt

[redacted] observers in Egypt recently reported sighting two Soviet surface-to-surface missiles. They say they saw a ballistic missile which has a 160-mile range, but we suspect they may have sighted a 20-mile tactical rocket instead.

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[redacted] Either Soviet weapon system could carry nuclear or chemical warheads, but we think it highly unlikely that Moscow would give such warheads to the Egyptians.

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2. Czechoslovakia

Dubcek seems to have retreated from some basic tenets of his earlier philosophy in his speech opening the Central Committee meeting. Most notably, he implied that the "class struggle" would have to be reopened--an ominous hint of a return to repression.

Still caught between Moscow and the Czech population, Dubcek steered a middle course which will probably satisfy neither. First to be heard from will be the liberals, who hold a big majority in the Central Committee itself. Over 140 of the committee's 190 members have said they want to address the meeting.

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3. Panama

[REDACTED]

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4. Peru

Velasco told [REDACTED] that he would expel all US citizens if US aid and Peru's sugar quota were suspended. [REDACTED] advised him to calm down and recognize the realities of US law. [REDACTED]

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5. Venezuela

We will probably see more guerrilla activity as the elections of 1 December approach, but our embassy believes the security forces will be able to keep the terrorists from bringing off anything big.

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6. Congo (Kinshasa)

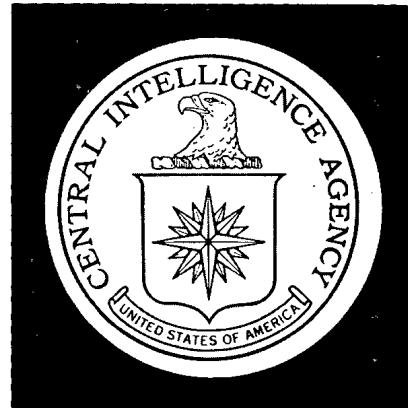
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16

16 November 1968

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

16 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Abuses of Demilitarized Zone: North Vietnam's response to US complaints about shellings from the Demilitarized Zone typically sidestepped the basis for the complaints and focused on alleged US violations of the understanding on which the bombing halt is based. By putting on the record charges that the US has intensified the war in the South and continued "illegal" flights over the North, Hanoi's spokesman in Paris established a basis for future threats to end or impede the Paris talks. For the moment, however, the Communists are stressing their desire to get on with the talks and avoiding any hint of imminent delaying tactics.

* * *

North Vietnamese Army Forces in South Vietnam: A CIA-DIA working group has recently concluded a joint review of all-source intelligence on the number of North Vietnamese Army personnel serving in South Vietnam. This group concluded that there were about 140,000-160,000 North Vietnamese in South Vietnam at the end of August. Of this total, about 130,000-140,000 were estimated to have been in combat units, either North Vietnamese Army units or as fillers in Viet Cong units, and 10,000-20,000 were in support organizations of the administrative services.

The uncertainties resulting from the widespread redeployment of forces during the past two months and the increasingly ambiguous nature of the information available on infiltration make it extremely difficult to provide a more current estimate. It is thought, however, that the August estimate provides a reasonable picture of the number of North Vietnamese forces committed in the South at the present time, including those units that have recently moved to sanctuary areas in North Vietnam, Cambodia, and the base areas in Laos.

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Le Duc Tho En Route to Paris: Hanoi has announced that Le Duc Tho is on his way back to Paris. He left Hanoi on 15 November, probably aboard one of North Vietnam's VIP aircraft.

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Soviets and Chinese Slug it Out: [redacted] another set-to between Soviet and Chinese Communist embassy personnel in Hanoi. According to an individual who [redacted]

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[redacted] had witnessed the event, the Chinese accosted the Soviets in public and berated them for getting the North Vietnamese to agree to an expansion of the Paris talks. One word led to another, and the Chinese finally started a brief fist fight. The embarrassed North Vietnamese have strengthened the guard details at both embassies out of concern that one side or the other might try to renew the fight.

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North Vietnamese Coastal Shipping: North Vietnam's small fleet of coastal merchant ships and tankers has ventured south of Haiphong for the first time since US bombing of the North began in 1965. Until the 1 November bombing halt, the eight large cargo ships were restricted to runs between Haiphong and the North Vietnamese coal ports, northward to Hong Kong and some Chinese ports. Since then, communications intercepts have shown nearly all of them to be operating off southern North Vietnam near Quang Khe or Dong Hoi.

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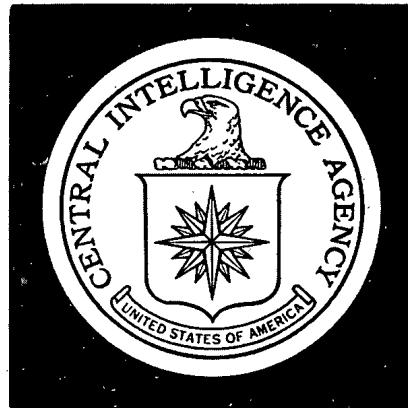
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 18 November 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
18 NOVEMBER 1968

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1. South Vietnam

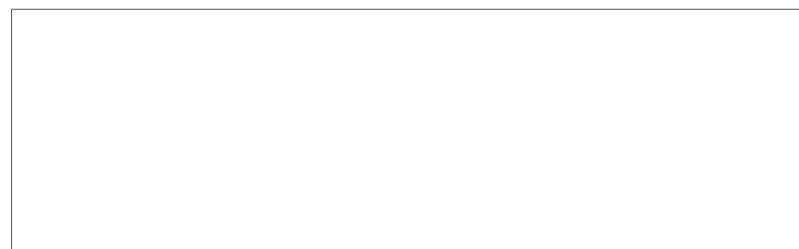
The eruption of Communist attacks in and around Da Nang city this weekend and in other military and civilian areas of I Corps had been widely anticipated

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[redacted] Da Nang in particular was targeted in [redacted]
[redacted] reports which also pointed toward the resumption of significant enemy offensive activity in the III Corps - Saigon area. A 15 November [redacted] report cited plans for a "general offensive and uprising" against Da Nang and other major urban centers between now and the end of November. Major attacks against other cities have yet to occur

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2. Soviet Union

Zond-6, the Russians' unmanned circumlunar probe, re-entered the earth's atmosphere early yesterday,

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3. Czechoslovakia

The Czechoslovak Communist Party met the expected bid for power by party conservatives with the creation of an eight-man executive committee. Both liberals and conservatives are represented on it, but the essentially moderate cast of the committee should prevent extremists of either faction from seizing control. Liberals Dubcek, Sloboda, Cernik, and Smrkovsky all retained their seats after the stormy central committee session, but what looks like a Soviet stooge has been installed in four top party posts in the person of Lubomir Strougal, a close friend of former party boss Novotny.

During the session Dubcek and other leaders made a quick flight to see Brezhnev in Warsaw and give him a status report on the proceedings. The plenum ended without resolving basic differences over the party's future course, but the Soviets now seem better placed for the next stage of the continuing struggle.

Prague's students have defied the government's warnings against protest activity, but they have so far confined their action to nonprovocative sit-ins in university buildings. Their call for a nationwide sit-in "just like the one in France" could lead to trouble, however.

4. France

The franc is going downhill fast, and is now considered to be in serious trouble. The big speculators are cashing in their francs, and some of their other currencies, for the popular Deutsche mark, just as in 1967-68 they tried to buy up all the gold in sight. The failure of the Western central bankers to announce agreed measures to shore up the franc or stem the tide against it may force the French to impose some very tough domestic controls.

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5. Poland

The party congress has endorsed a new factional balance under Gomulka's continued leadership. It gives significant but not decisive power to a young generation of hard-liners. Personnel shifts announced at the end of the six-day conclave on 16 November have infused new and forceful blood into the leadership, but more of Gomulka's tired old guard remain in circulation than the hard-line faction probably had hoped.

Three of the four newcomers to the leadership are youthful provincial party leaders associated with Gomulka's main factional rivals. None is a liberal. There will be no change for the present in Warsaw's domestic and foreign policies, but the newcomers may try to implement these policies more forcefully.

**6. Iran -
Saudi Arabia**

The Shah of Iran and King Faysal seem to have gotten along very well during the Shah's visit to Jidda, and they agreed on the need for cooperation in the Persian Gulf area to head off subversion by the Soviets and Arab radicals. Cordiality and understanding at the top could override much of the long-standing political, cultural, and religious differences that separate the two countries.

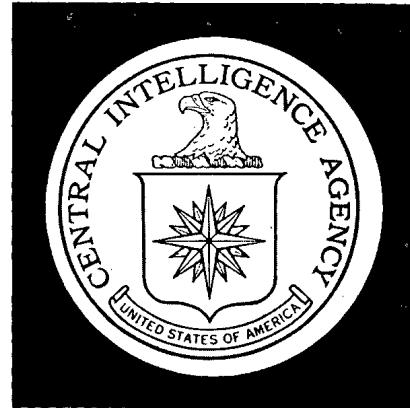
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- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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Political Attitudes

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16

18 November 1968

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

18 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

US Reconnaissance Flights: The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry issued a statement on 16 November which seems to confirm that Hanoi does not intend now to make continued US reconnaissance flights an obstacle to the Paris talks. Supporting remarks made the day before by a North Vietnamese spokesman in Paris, the foreign ministry statement denounced US reconnaissance flights but threatened no diplomatic retaliation. It dismissed US charges of North Vietnamese violations in the DMZ as a US trick aimed at convincing the world that Hanoi had agreed to conditions in order to obtain a bombing halt--but it went on to charge that the US, not North Vietnam, had recently launched attacks in the DMZ. The statement again repeated the Communist demand that the US move on to the next stage of the Paris talks, with or without Saigon.

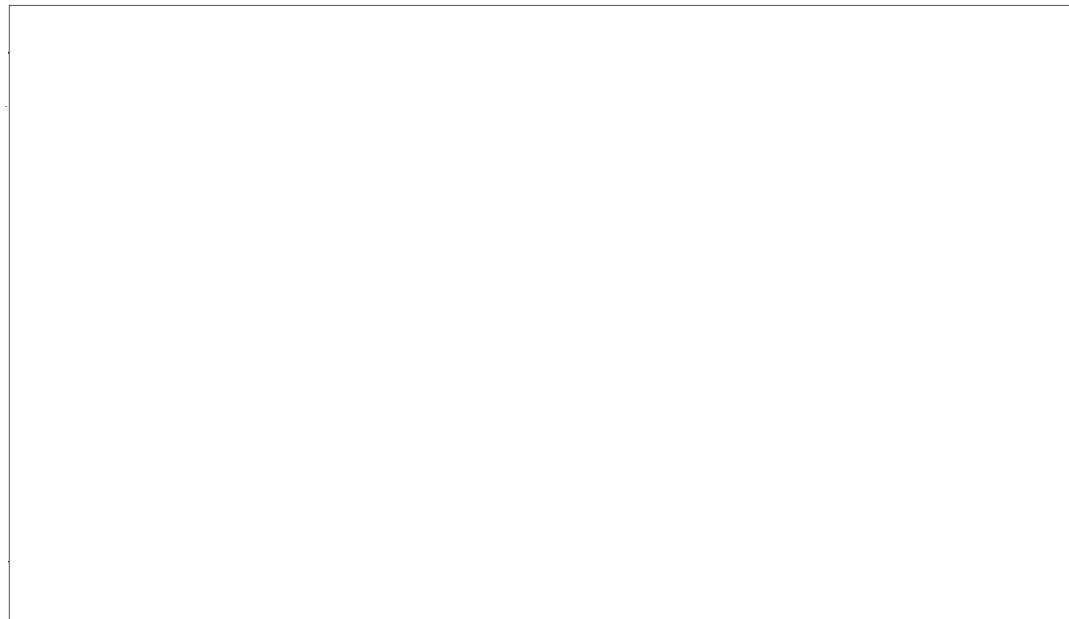
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Effects of Mining of North Vietnamese Rivers: River traffic in southern North Vietnam continues to be impeded somewhat by US "destructors" mines sown before the bombing halt. The North Vietnamese are improving their techniques for sweeping these mines, the latest wrinkle being a pair of sampans rigged to the bow of an amphibious truck. The sampans probably mount some kind of electromagnetic gear to detect and perhaps explode the sunken mines. Recent intercepts have referred to a "relatively safe" mine-clearing apparatus used in conjunction with amphibious vehicles.

* * *

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

Secretary Clifford and President Thieu: Eager to exploit any sign of friction between the US and its South Vietnamese allies, the Communists in a Liberation Radio broadcast beamed to South Vietnam on 15 November described Secretary Clifford's recent remarks as a "slap in the face" to President Thieu.

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The broadcast said Clifford's comments criticizing Thieu's attitude toward the expanded Paris talks clearly showed Thieu's position as a "puppet" who is president "in name only." It likened Thieu to a disobedient servant being scolded by his "master." The broadcast ended with the standard prediction that the future would bring the downfall of the Thieu government and the rise of a "people's peace cabinet."

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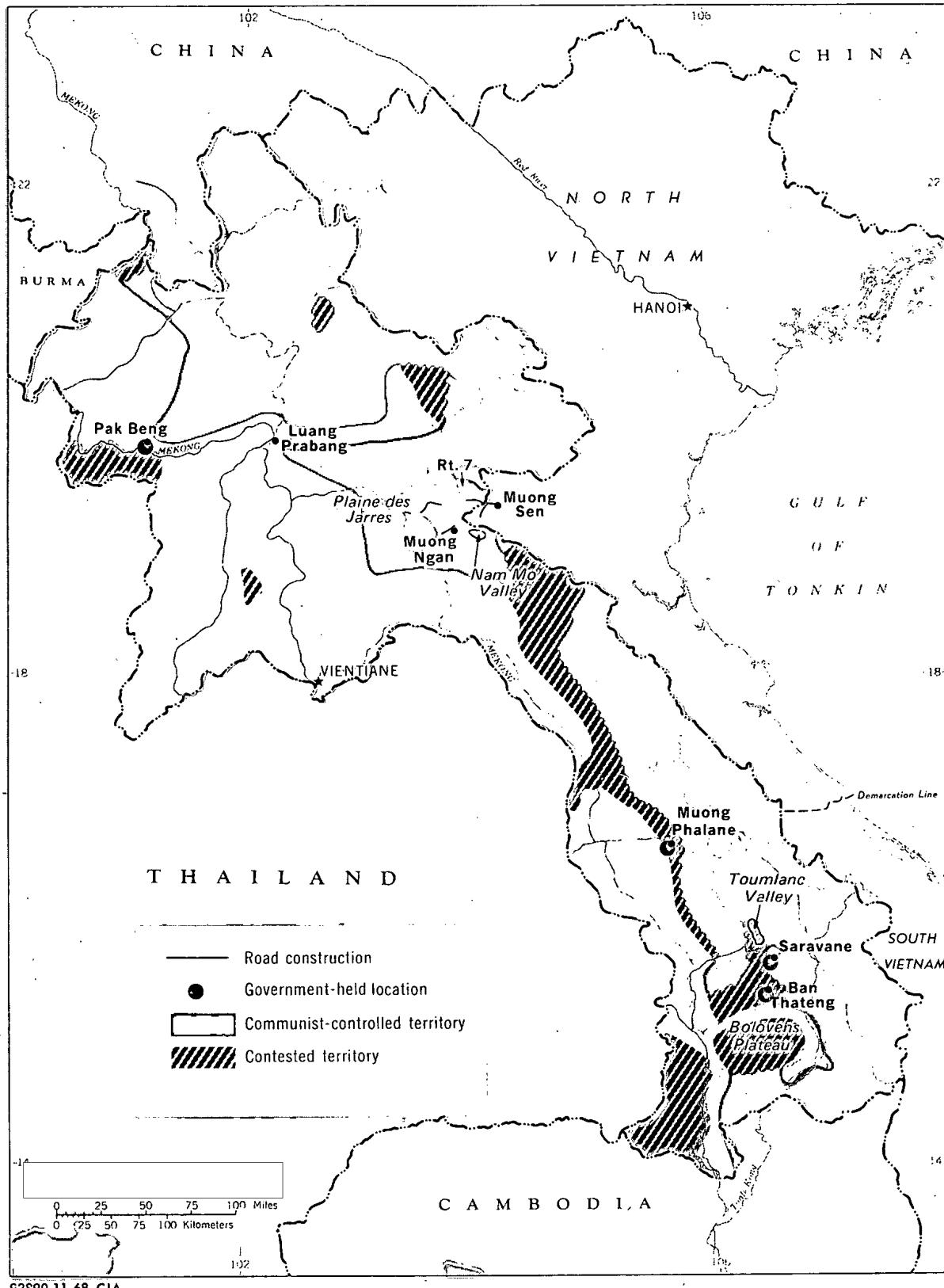
The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 November 1968



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LAOS: Current Situation



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
19 NOVEMBER 1968

1. Laos

The military situation is heating up as the Communists begin to put on the pressure in northern Laos. North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao troops have captured a number of outlying defensive positions in southwestern Luang Prabang Province. The Communists are also demonstrating new interest in government guerrilla positions near the North Vietnamese border south of Route 7. Three North Vietnamese battalions have recently deployed into Laos in this area.

In the south, the enemy is still active near Muong Phalane, but recent heavy casualties seem to have slowed their efforts.

Government forces are moving to clear enemy forces east of Ban Thateng as part of a longer range effort to ease the Communist threat in the Bolovens Plateau area. The North Vietnamese are extremely sensitive to encroachments into the vital infiltration corridor, however, and a sharp rebuff to government plans will probably not be long in coming.

2. France

De Gaulle has told Couve to ride out the wave of speculation against the franc, but some deflationary measures are being ordered up nonetheless. The size of the crunch will be known when Couve goes before the National Assembly today.

3. Soviet Union

The Soviets' recent purchase of color television technology and equipment in the US should permit them to begin mass production of color sets by 1970. By 1975 they will likely turn out 1 to 1.5 million color sets a year.

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4. Soviet Union

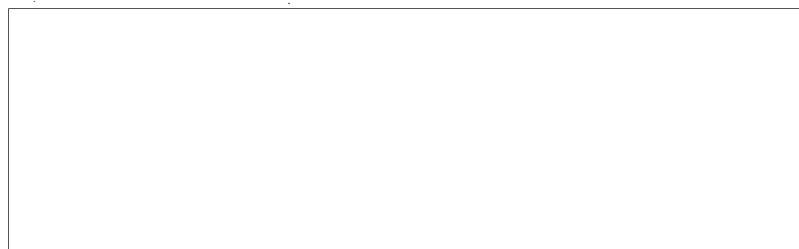
Zond-6 landed in the Soviet Union
on Sunday and was probably picked up
[redacted] after an extensive
search.

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5. Nigeria -
Communist China

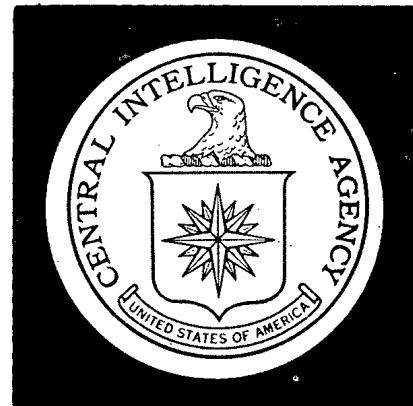
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Political Attitudes

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16

19 November 1968

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

19 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Propaganda: Hanoi's propaganda handling of issues surrounding the bombing halt has been extremely cautious. The North Vietnamese publicly acknowledge only one "understanding"--the agreement to expand the talks. Any other conditions or understandings are ignored or brushed off with the assertion that the US "unconditional" bombing halt met basic Communist demands for progress in Paris. Hanoi's moves since 1 November suggest an intent to continue denying any commitment to military restraint, while keeping Communist military activities limited enough to avoid US retaliation and at least temporarily within the bounds of what was agreed to in Paris.

The most recent instance of this approach came in Hanoi's response to a State Department protest of 13 November over North Vietnamese abuse of the Demilitarized Zone. Hanoi answered the charges on 16 November in a foreign ministry statement which avoided any implication of mutual commitments to restraint by saying that the US was trying to make the world believe that Hanoi had accepted conditions for a bombing halt. Turning the accusations around, the statement said the US was attacking the Demilitarized Zone in violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements. It made no mention, of course, of any understandings in Paris.

* * *

Ha Van Lau Comments on Timing of Cease-fire Discussions: Ha Van Lau has suggested an agenda for the expanded talks in Paris which includes first the withdrawal of US troops, then consideration of a political settlement in South Vietnam, and finally a cease-fire. In an interview with a French magazine this past weekend, Lau gave the usual exposition of Hanoi's line on terms for a settlement, but he went out of his way to lay to rest the rumor that the

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Communists intend to work for an immediate cease-fire in the next round of negotiations. He was quite specific in his timing, saying that a cease-fire was "unrealistic" before the issues of withdrawal or a political settlement have been resolved.

* * *

"New" North Vietnamese Missile?: On 6 November the Special Report noted the possibility that the North Vietnamese may be employing a new antiaircraft missile. Further analysis of this "new" missile's performance, as reported by the North Vietnamese themselves in intercepted communications, suggests that the "new" missile's range and velocity do not differ significantly from those of the standard Soviet missiles long in use in North Vietnam. It appears that the "new" aspect may be a modified fuzing and warhead system.

* * *

Relations with Sweden: Sweden has decided to grant diplomatic recognition to Hanoi but will await developments in Paris before taking definite action, according to an assessment by the US Embassy in Stockholm. An aide to the Swedish foreign minister told an embassy official that recognition was necessary to allow Scandinavian participation in Vietnam's postwar economic development. Recognition at this time would embarrass the US in Paris, he acknowledged, but he said that when the talks seem to be heading toward a settlement, Sweden will go ahead with its plans.

The aide reported that Stockholm has expressed to Hanoi and the Front the view that disparate elements, including the Front, Alliance, and right-wing Catholics in South Vietnam, should have a voice in a postwar settlement.

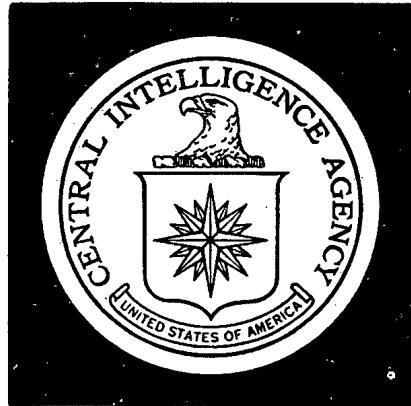
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 November 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
20 NOVEMBER 1968

1. France

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2. France

The speculators were not impressed either by Couve's interview on Monday or by the German measures announced yesterday. We estimate that by closing time yesterday, French reserves had fallen to about \$3.2 billion. Another ten days of heavy losses would practically eliminate the reserves; further decisive action would have to be taken well before such a point was reached.

3. Czechoslovakia

Lubomir Strougal looks like Moscow's future candidate for a successor to Dubcek. Over the weekend, Strougal gained four important party posts from which he can maneuver against the party first secretary. Moscow's man inside the Czechoslovak leadership is discussed at Annex.

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**4. Hungary -
Soviet Union**

Gromyko worked out a unique cultural agreement with the Hungarians during his recent visit to Budapest. The agreement, although it broadens the ties between the two countries, seems to be less rigid than previous pacts. It also gives the Hungarians more of a voice in the exchange process. They are to be permitted to scrutinize Soviet textbooks on Hungary, for instance, and the Soviets have agreed to loosen their controls over exchange visits. After years of literary pirating, Moscow has also agreed to copyright arrangements.

The Soviets extracted a price, of course--the two countries will be coordinating their positions even more closely in international cultural forums. Even so, if Moscow lives up to its commitments, the accord should lessen the Hungarians' resentment over their client status.

5. Italy

The Christian Democrats and the Socialists still seem far from agreement on a new government, and the Christian Democratic interim cabinet which resigned yesterday may be succeeded by another one of similar stripe.

6. Egypt-Israel

We are not the only ones looking for Soviet missiles in Egypt.

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Israeli planes have conducted an intensive reconnaissance of the canal area.

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7. Japan

Yesterday's B-52 crash in Okinawa is being exploited to the hilt by the Japanese press. From now on the government will be under even greater pressure to seek removal of the bombers and to stiffen Japan's position on the status of the bases after Okinawa reverts to Japan.

The crash may produce some political fallout for Sato, even though he still seems a shoo-in in next week's elections for the presidency of his party. He has been trying to duck the whole reversion issue, but his two challengers have been pushing for tighter controls on US military activity in Okinawa.

The newly elected Okinawan chief executive has reiterated that he will demand removal of the bombers.

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8. Mali

Yesterday's army coup seems to have been triggered by friction between the army and the governing party's para-military arm [redacted]

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~~TOP SECRET - CONTAINS SIGINT AND KEYHOLE MATERIAL~~

ANNEX

Lubomir Strougal: Czechoslovakia's
New Eminence Grise

Lubomir Strougal, elevated over the weekend to four top party posts, is not a fanatical Stalinist, but he is a heavy-handed conservative [redacted]

[redacted] A personal friend of former party boss Novotny, Strougal nevertheless turned on him last winter and helped remove Novotny from power. He was paid off with a deputy premiership, a position he still holds.

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Strougal was arrested by the Soviets on 21 August. Perhaps because of this, he initially (and uncharacteristically) condemned the invasion as illegal. Strougal, however, quickly saw the error of his ways and subsequently stated the intervention was necessitated by "serious mistakes" on the part of the Dubcek regime. Such agility has earned the 44-year-old Strougal a reputation for being a consistent winner in the internecine struggles that pass for politics in Czechoslovakia.

The son of a cement worker from Bohemia, Strougal holds a law degree. He seldom travels and he has been outside the Communist bloc only once, on a trip to Finland.

Along with Machiavellian pragmatism, Strougal has ability and energy; he is not a flamboyant political figure. All these are characteristics which would serve him well as Moscow's man inside the Czechoslovak leadership--and there is little doubt Strougal is exactly that. He now holds four key jobs: membership on the new (potentially all-powerful) Executive Committee of the party presidium, membership in the policy-making presidium itself, membership in the secretariat (which implements policy), and the chairmanship of the party's new bureau for the Czech lands (a counterpart of the Slovak party organization). Strougal has been in touch since the invasion with Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Kuznetsov, Moscow's on-the-scene architect of "normalization."

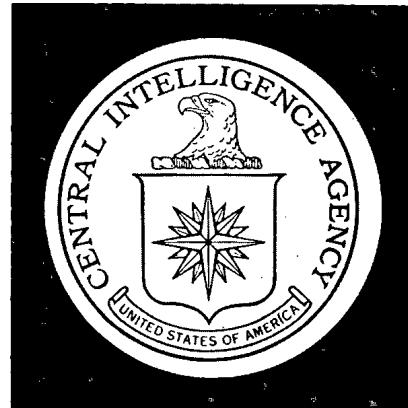
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~~TOP SECRET - CONTAINS SIGINT AND KEYHOLE MATERIAL~~

If the Soviets keep heavy pressure on the Czechoslovak regime, Strougal is in a good position to challenge Dubcek for the party leadership, perhaps as early as the next party congress in 1969. He is clearly the type of Communist about whom Moscow would feel confident. In the meantime, he presumably will continue to enjoy Soviet support and be in a position to bring other conservatives into positions of power and influence.

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16

20 November 1968

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

20 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Xuan Thuy Interview: Xuan Thuy's remarks to UPI yesterday, in which he demanded an "independent" role for the Front and rejected a "two-party conference," contained nothing new and do not, in themselves, foreshadow a procedural stalemate in Paris.

These points were also made in the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry statement on 16 November. They may well be intended to aggravate differences between Saigon and Washington and to make it more difficult for the South Vietnamese to move to Paris. On this and other issues raised by the bombing cessation, Hanoi feels free to adopt the toughest possible public stance, but it still avoids raising any new conditions for moving on in the talks.

* * *

Rail Progress: Dual gauging of the main China-North Vietnam rail line is probably completed to Hanoi.

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The North Vietnamese, however, have had ample time to finish the 15 or so miles of dual gauge construction remaining between Dong Dang and Hanoi as of June 1968. There has been no indication, however, of dual gauge construction south of Hanoi or on the line from Lao Cai.

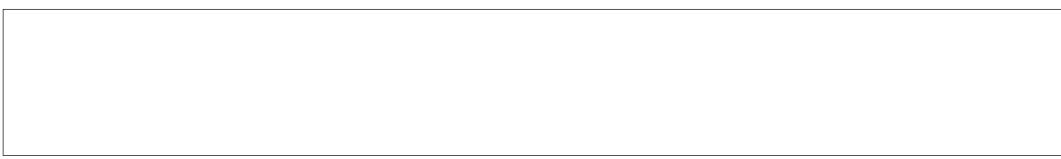
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The Communists have constantly repaired and improved the Dong Dang - Hanoi line since bombing began in 1965. The many improvements have included dual tracking, building of multiple crossings at main water obstacles, and opening of an alternate to the main rail line from China via Kep, Thai Nguyen, and Dong Anh.

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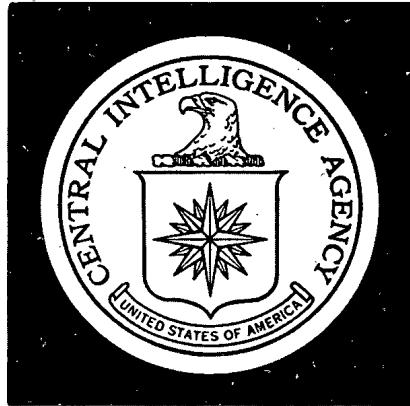
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

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23

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
21 NOVEMBER 1968

1. South Vietnam



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2. Australia

Most Australians, including a critical press, agree that Gorton put on an outstanding performance Tuesday when he defeated an opposition no confidence motion. This was his first major test since succeeding Holt. By a margin of 67-35, Gorton beat back a wide range of Labor Party challenges on his foreign, defense, and domestic policies.

Gorton does not have to hold general elections until November 1969, but he may decide to use the momentum of Tuesday's victory and call them for early next year.

3. Czechoslovakia

Students appear to be falling in line with rather pointed government suggestions that they stop their sit-ins and get back to class. Prague Radio is reporting that student committees are calling off their strikes today. The sit-ins have had distinctly anti-Soviet overtones.

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4. Communist China

Peking, where fear of foreign contamination sometimes becomes manic, is beginning another period of tighter security controls. Travelers going from Hong Kong into China are now being searched as they enter. Once inside, the visitors are encountering more frequent police checks.

The Chinese are clamping down on what gets out as well as what gets in. Foreign subscribers to Chinese publications are getting cancellation notices.

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5. Mexico

The net effect of Tuesday's demonstration was to harden the attitudes of both students and government. The students are refusing to end their classroom boycott and the government intends to close the national university if the strike goes beyond 27 November. The chance for renewed clashes is good.

6. Tanzania

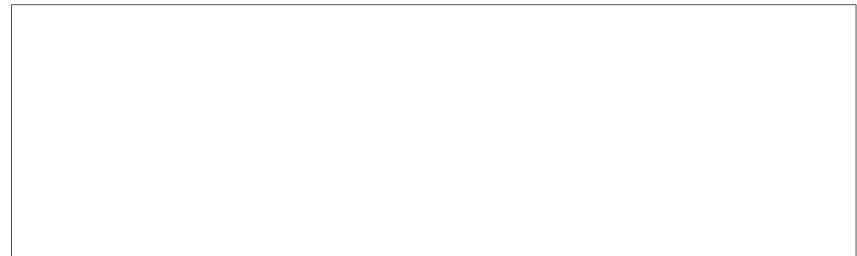
Yesterday morning Tanzanian police took over Zanzibar in what was described as an exercise. While the city was given back to the radical Zanzibar Government by nightfall, the operation clearly was intended as an object lesson. Tanzanian President Nyerere has had little but trouble from recalcitrant Zanzibar, where most members of the ruling clique have been bought by one Communist country or another

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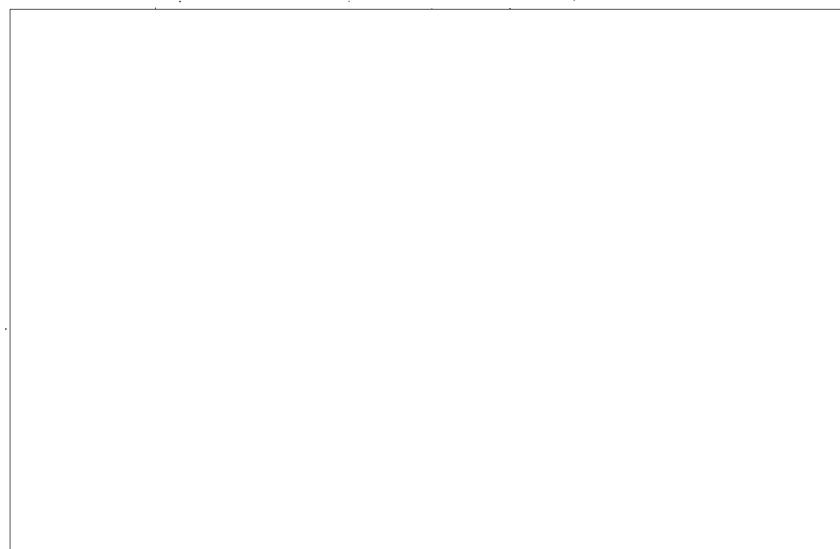
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7. Rumania



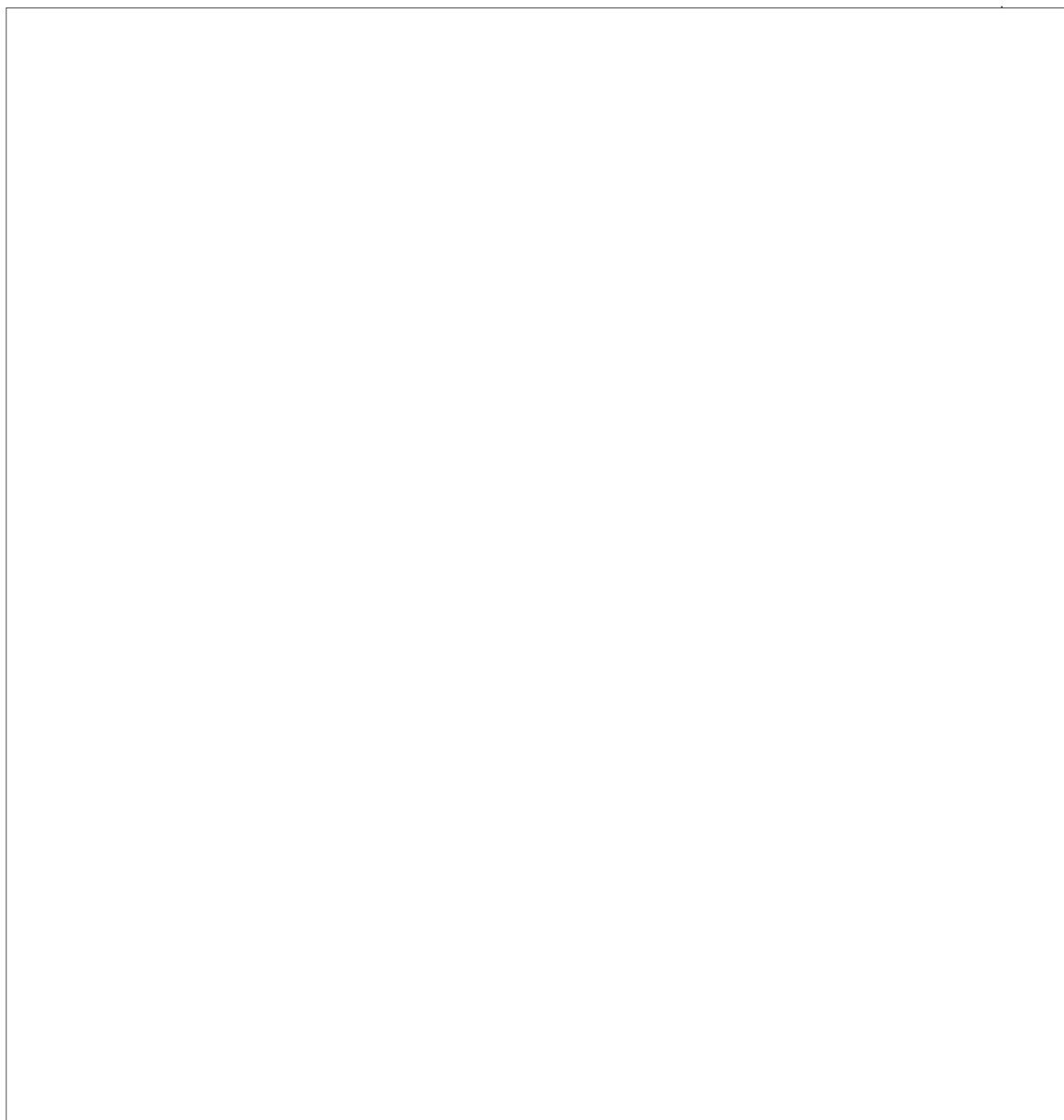
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8. Venezuela-Cuba



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ANNEX



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Political Attitudes



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16

21 November 1968

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

21 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Plays Up Viet Cong Attacks: Recent Hanoi Radio propaganda is giving increasing emphasis to the role of Viet Cong guerrilla and local forces in descriptions of the current fighting in the South. International service broadcasts in particular have specifically and consistently attributed Communist attacks to "regional army" units or local guerrillas. Such references reinforce the position of Hanoi's negotiators in Paris that military action in the South is under the direction of local Viet Cong commanders over whom Hanoi has no control.

* * *

North Vietnamese Ambassador's Views on Talks: North Vietnam's ambassador in Cambodia told a journalist earlier this month that Hanoi is in no hurry for the expanded Paris talks to begin, and that Saigon's boycott works to North Vietnam's advantage since it enhances Hanoi's image. He stated his belief that the US would soon withdraw its support for the "Thieu-Ky clique" and that a coalition government favorable to a peaceful settlement would succeed it.

He observed that Mr. Nixon's election would not significantly alter the situation in Vietnam since Communist fortunes were inexorably on the upswing. This has been the standard Communist line for some time now.

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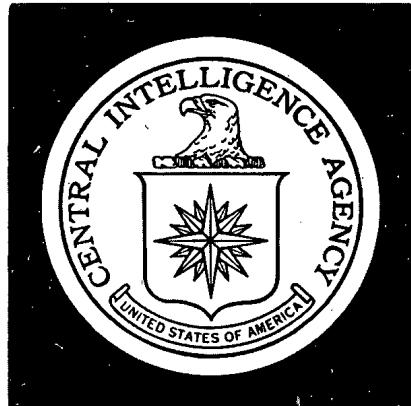
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**II: NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report to-day.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 November 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
22 NOVEMBER 1968

1. Rumania

Rumania appears to be coming under renewed pressure from Moscow to permit early Warsaw Pact military exercises on its soil. The Rumanians themselves have denied this, though they acknowledged that Warsaw Pact staff officers have been meeting in Rumania to plan a "future" exercise. Intensive efforts by the US and NATO intelligence apparatuses have been focused on the matter, producing fragmentary indications of unusual military activity by various Warsaw Pact forces, but nothing like what we would expect to see if major joint exercises--or an outright invasion of Rumania--were imminent. A special Watch Committee meeting of the United States Intelligence Board last night reviewed the evidence then available and concluded that:

--An invasion is unlikely, though the necessary military deployments could be carried out without our observing them.

--A Warsaw Pact exercise with Rumanian participation is equally unlikely, since there have been no preparations by Rumania for such an exercise.

--Warsaw Pact exercises in areas adjacent to Rumania look like the best explanation of what has been seen so far. The purpose of such activity might be to coerce the Rumanians into scheduling a major joint exercise in Rumania in the near future and, possibly, into agreeing to the establishment of a long-term Soviet military presence there.

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2. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The annual Moscow-Prague trade protocol was signed Wednesday, tightening the checkrein on Czechoslovakia's economic independence. The protocol provides for a ten percent increase in trade between the two countries, making Czechoslovakia more than ever dependent on the Soviet Union for its supply of raw materials and for its marketing of machinery and equipment.

* * *

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3. France

Senator Mansfield's call on De Gaulle Tuesday elicited a number of observations on the world situation.

Czechoslovakia: Moscow's main concern is not Czechoslovakia; it is China. Soviet actions in East Europe are designed to strengthen their own defenses against an eventual threat from China.

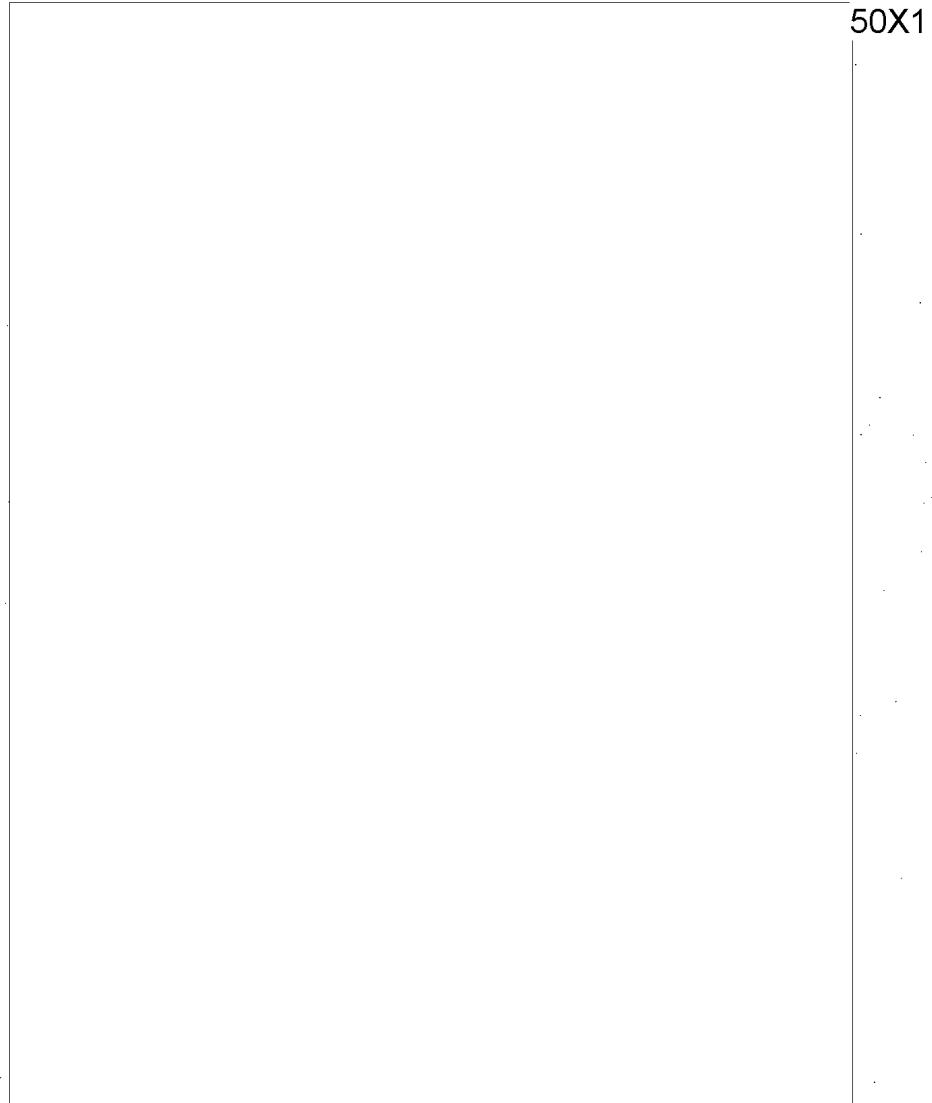
The Mediterranean: The Soviet naval presence in the Mediterranean is not a serious problem; nevertheless, the US Sixth Fleet should be maintained at its present strength.

Germany: "Never, never will Russia permit the reunification of Germany."

The next US administration: To Mansfield's suggestion that a Nixon-De Gaulle meeting in Paris next spring would be a good thing, "Yes, it is essential for our two nations to remain close together. There are many things to discuss."

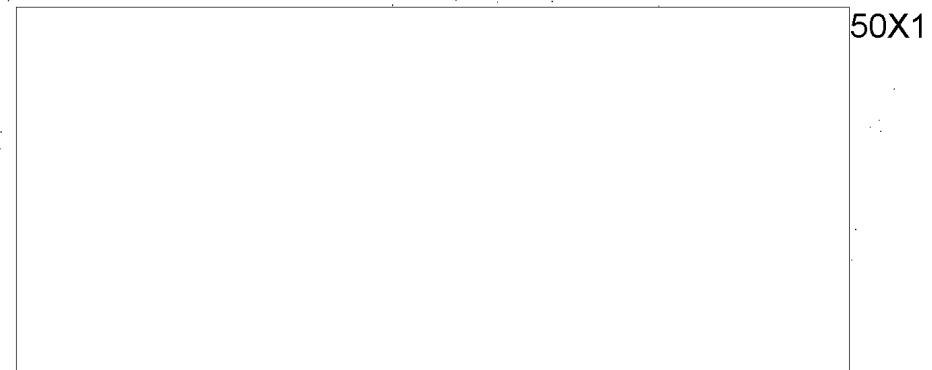
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4. South Vietnam



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5. Panama



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6. Nigeria

Civilian officials in Lagos are pressing the military leaders to request immediate delivery of all types of Soviet war materiel in order to push the war against Biafra to a quick conclusion. The Federal government has already accepted considerable amounts of Soviet equipment, including some 25 MIGs. It still prefers to rely on British and other Western sources for the bulk of its armament. Delays in British arms shipments are being blamed for the Nigerians' failure to overwhelm Biafran resistance, however, and there are fears that if the war is not ended soon, the French may intervene in Biafra's behalf. A massive injection of Soviet firepower could make a big difference to the stalled Federal offensive.

ANNEX

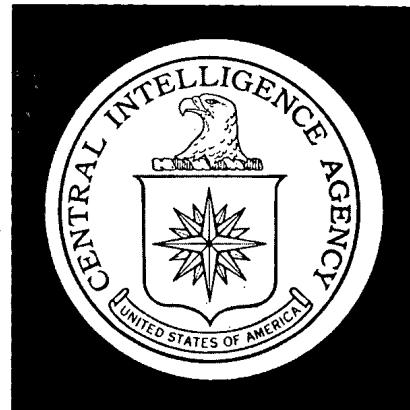
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Political Attitudes



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22 November 1968

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

22 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

More on Le Duc Tho: Hanoi's chief negotiator in the Paris talks has had unusually long discussions in both Peking and Moscow en route back to France. Le Duc Tho's stopover in Peking seems to have included a full day's discussion with top Chinese leaders.

Tho moved on to Moscow on 17 November and presumably is still there. There have been no announcements so far about his activities in the USSR.

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The length of Tho's stay in Moscow suggests that Hanoi is counting heavily on strong Soviet backing during the next phase of negotiations. The Soviets may also be counseling the Vietnamese on some matters, such as how to evaluate the Nixon election victory. Soviet - North Vietnamese relations have been cordial throughout the negotiations, but Hanoi still prefers to keep Moscow at arm's length. They are not, for example, attending the current Communist conference in Budapest despite Soviet desires to have the fullest possible participation from ruling parties.

In both Moscow and Peking, Le Duc Tho probably has been trying to obtain maximum support from Communist countries and Communist front groups for the new North Vietnamese negotiations priorities worked out in Hanoi during the past month. Now that the bombing has stopped, the Communists are reorienting their propaganda guidelines to support their new negotiating stance. If past actions are any guide, the Vietnamese Communists probably will single out one major objective--such as withdrawal of US forces--from their total package of demands and hammer on it until they obtain the last possible allied concession. In this kind of campaign, they count heavily on international support to sustain pressure on Washington.

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Communist Maneuvering: Communist actions both on the battlefield and in the political arena suggest that Hanoi is somewhat uncertain of the proper tactics for the present fluid situation. The Communists appear to believe that the best course is to wait out developments on the allied side before taking any significant new initiatives.

On the one hand, the Communists are conducting limited military actions in the South, such as shellings of population centers, which could be calculated to make it more difficult for Saigon to move to Paris. On the other hand, however, they are not conducting any significant military activities in the Demilitarized Zone. Nor have they really made the kind of propaganda hay out of the Paris stalemate, reconnaissance, or US actions in the DMZ which they might if their primary aim was to stall the opening of talks.

North Vietnam may be preparing to make a greater issue of US military action in the DMZ area, however. A North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a statement on 21 November which "sternly condemned" the US for "wantonly shelling" three villages in the northern half of the DMZ from positions inside the southern half of the zone. The statement said this occurred on 16, 17, 20 and 21 November and was accompanied by US naval gunfire. In the toughest language Hanoi has used to date on this subject, it said the alleged shellings were "extremely brazen provocative acts...which grossly encroached upon the sovereignty and security" of North Vietnam.

Intercepted messages suggest the North Vietnamese are collecting data to back up such charges, perhaps on a regular basis. On 20 November an unidentified North Vietnamese artillery regiment in the DMZ area ordered a subordinate to report daily on allied artillery fire from south of the Ben Hai River. The subordinate was also told to report the number of times and the number of rounds the allies had fired from south of the river for the period 14 through 18 November. Elements of another Northern regiment reported on 18 November that a South Vietnamese regiment was in the eastern DMZ.

Military Developments: Communications intercepts from infiltration-related elements within North Vietnam continue to provide an inconclusive picture of the activity in the manpower pipeline. The limited evidence available, however, fails to show any large-scale movement of troops toward South Vietnam since the suspension of bombing north of the Demilitarized Zone on 1 November.

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There is persuasive evidence [redacted] that the movement of casualties could be the first order of business in the infiltration system at this time. A message intercepted on 16 November has provided the first positive indication that the term "students"--

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which has been repeatedly noted in Rear Services communications in the past--is a cover term for sick and wounded personnel. When these references are combined with the reports which openly discuss casualty movements, the total number of disabled men being moved from the South is revealed to be substantial.

In recent days intercepted messages referring to the evacuation of large groups of disabled troops have become even more striking. On 8 November a commo-liaison station reported that it had received 315 sick and wounded personnel, dispatched 113, and was retaining 202 others. On the same date it was reported that 2,500 "students" were awaiting transport at three Rear Services stations within North Vietnam. On 16 November an unidentified station reported that between 1 and 15 November it had received 1,435 "students," 730 of whom were wounded and 705 sick.

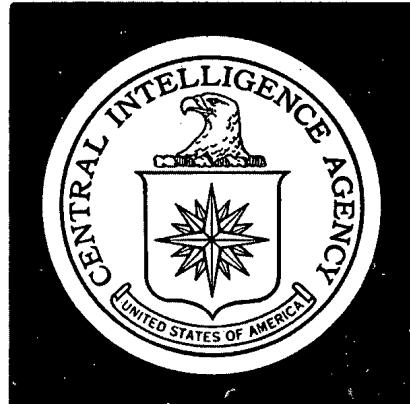
The degree of duplication involved in the intercepts received from various points in the pipeline, as the sick and wounded move north, is presently unknown. It may be high. The incomplete nature of many of the intercepts precludes acknowledgement of the time frame in which the numbers of disabled personnel are being counted. Moreover, increased collection assets focused on the Rear Services system in recent months may be providing a fuller view of an evacuation procedure which could have been operating for many years. Nevertheless, the evidence strongly suggests that a major effort to move out the wounded is now under way and that this project is a chief concern of the infiltration system at this time.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 November 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
23 NOVEMBER 1968

1. Rumania

The leadership in Bucharest continues a "business-as-usual" appearance; no alarming military moves have been noted in or around Rumania.

2. Israel

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The bombing of a Jewish market place in West Jerusalem yesterday-- killing 11 and wounding 55--will undoubtedly provoke a strong Israeli response. If, as seems likely, the Israelis determine that the bombing was an "outside" operation, they may well mount an air strike on one or more of the terrorist bases in Jordan.

3. United Kingdom

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4. Soviet Union

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5. Venezuela-Cuba

The Venezuelan Government is defending its seizure of the Cuban fishing boat on Wednesday as a necessary precaution against any Cuban-backed effort to disrupt the elections scheduled for 1 December. President Leoni told Ambassador Bernbaum on Thursday that he had information that local Communists, presumably with Cuban support, were intending to spark disturbances in connection with the election. There is no confirmation of press reports, however, that the Venezuelans have found evidence that the boat had been sent on a subversive mission.

Havana's ability to retaliate is extremely limited. Cuban action, however, could take the form of hijacking or forcing down one or more of the 24 Venezuelan flights that pass through Cuban air corridors each week.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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

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23 November 1968

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

23 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Hanoi Monitors Control: A recently intercepted message indicates that the North Vietnamese are collecting detailed information on actual Viet Cong control of rural areas in the South. A 13 November message from Hanoi's national intelligence organization to the military intelligence sections of three major Communist commands in South Vietnam sets down a series of reporting requirements dealing with the situation in the countryside. Hanoi instructed these subordinates to report, by province and district, the number of "strategic hamlets destroyed" by Communist forces but reoccupied by the allies from the beginning of the "general offensive" to mid-November.

Hanoi probably has several motives for requesting this kind of information. The statistics would help evaluate the long-range effectiveness of such spectacular but costly military adventures as the Tet attacks and provide a measure of Saigon's ability to recover. In the context of the current negotiations, however, the request also suggests Hanoi could be preparing plans for either a cease-fire or a defined system of territorial control in the South Vietnamese countryside.

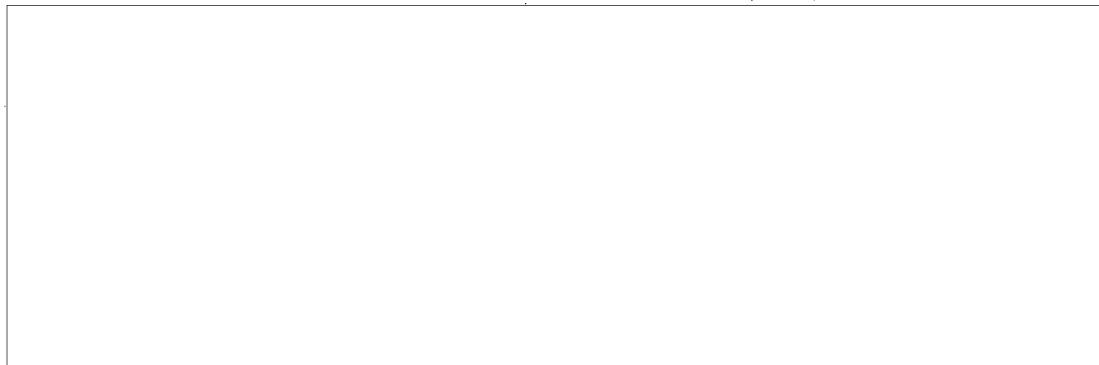
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Civil Air Route Arrangements: Scheduled civil air traffic between North Vietnam and Cambodia is to resume beginning the first of next year, after a three-year lapse.

A recently intercepted North Vietnamese message states that Royal Air Cambodia will stop at Hanoi every Tuesday en route to Canton. The flight returns to Phnom Penh via Hanoi the following day. The only flight now available to Hanoi is a Friday ICC flight which carries no commercial passengers.

Beginning in March, the new service is to be expanded to two flights per week. Heretofore, North Vietnamese flying westward were obliged to travel to Nanning or Canton first in order to make connections. The direct Cambodian link now offers an alternative route to and from North Vietnam.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 25 November 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
25 NOVEMBER 1968

LATE ITEM

France

The few foreign exchange markets heard from so far this morning report trading is light. Both the franc and sterling were up slightly in the West German market.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
25 NOVEMBER 1968

1. South Vietnam

[Redacted] 50X1

Thieu had some statesmanlike things to say about South Vietnam's negotiating position.

--"The United States, large and powerful as it is, cannot fight on without the support of its people; therefore, if the war drags on without an end in sight and we do not contribute effectively to its conclusion, we cannot expect unending American support."

--"Reality forces us to recognize that (the Hanoi leaders) are in fact the government of North Vietnam; therefore, we must negotiate with them." But, "we cannot allow ourselves to recognize the National Liberation Front."

--"The present situation forces us to strive for a limited objective.... Our 'limited objectives' are that the North Vietnamese cease their aggression. We want a peace designed to last, with effective international control against reaggression."

Thieu never said explicitly that the government would not negotiate with the Front, but he repeatedly and firmly ruled out any postwar coalition with it.

2. France

The measures announced by De Gaulle last night are likely to aggravate domestic problems and, in particular, lead to new worker-student discontent. Labor spokesmen already are complaining that workers will have to bear the brunt of austerity. If budget cuts deprive students of the new universities and facilities promised them, then trouble in that quarter is a good possibility.

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3. Balkans

The political and military situation remains quiet. [redacted]

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[redacted] report no evidence of unusual military moves in Hungary and Bulgaria; [redacted]

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[redacted] no unusual activity in areas next to Rumania.

Yesterday a confused British correspondent triggered concern with a London Observer story stating Yugoslav troops had gone on emergency alert because of an impending showdown with the Russians. Yugoslav troops are not on alert. The correspondent apparently was mixed up over public discussion of a proposed national defense law.

4. Czechoslovakia

Cracks are beginning to show in party unity and the population is becoming more alienated as the struggle about Czechoslovakia's future course continues. Over the weekend, party leaders fanned out around the country to explain unpopular decisions made at the recent central committee plenum. They were far from speaking with one voice, and their comments reflected the bitterness at the top where, as Slovak party chief Husak put it, divisions are "deep and dangerous."

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5. Mali

The new military junta is moving Mali away from the radical leftist policies of ousted President Keita and into the ranks of moderate African states.

In his first important policy statement since taking power, junta leader Traore reversed Keita's socialist commitment by pledging to keep private enterprise and appealing for private foreign investment. Traore, who has installed a provisional government in which moderate civilians predominate, will be looking to the West in general and France in particular for help.

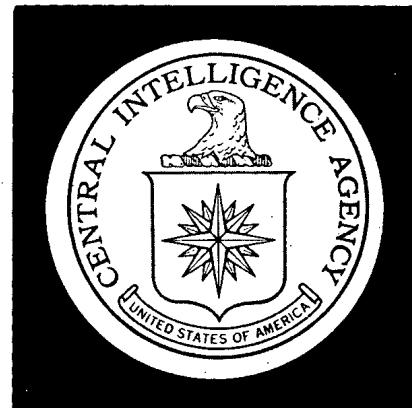
6. West Berlin

Tear gas and truncheons may be called into play today if radical students use the court appearance of one of their leaders as a pretext for violence. The students seem to be looking for trouble and the police are in a mood to oblige.

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16

25 November 1968

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

25 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Le Duc Tho's Return: The tough statement Le Duc Tho made at the Paris airport Saturday seems intended to raise the propaganda pressure on the US for forward movement in the Paris talks. As he stepped off the plane after some six weeks of consultations in Hanoi, Peking, and Moscow, Tho demanded the immediate opening of a "four-party conference" and refused to consider the next round of talks as a "two-sided affair." Other Hanoi spokesmen have pressed hard on this issue in the last few days, and though the calls for immediate talks were not accompanied by any dire threats, their reiteration has added to the noise level.

Tho's "summons" to the US was accompanied by the boast that if the US does not comply with the "legitimate demands of the Vietnamese people," these demands will be won on the battlefield.

* * *

Hanoi Propaganda Efforts in West Europe: Hanoi's propagandists continue to fan out over Western Europe.

[redacted] reports a scheduled visit of a North Vietnamese Red Cross delegation to West Germany within the next few weeks. Some of Hanoi's propaganda people in Paris have also invited West German organizations connected with the world peace movement to come to France to meet with them.

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

US Youth Activities: Hanoi Radio on its international service continues to play up domestic US opposition to the war. In an English language broadcast on 23 November, Hanoi pointed to a 16 November

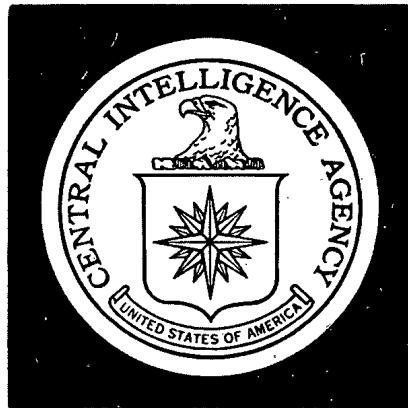
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statement by folk singer Joan Baez urging American youth to resist the draft. The same broadcast cited a denunciation of US draft laws by a 16 November meeting of Catholic bishops in Washington, and student protests at Notre Dame University aimed at CIA and Dow Chemical "recruiting" activities.

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
26 NOVEMBER 1968

1. France

French officials and editorial writers have responded warmly to President Johnson's message supporting De Gaulle's efforts to save the franc. Even Yankee-baiting Michel Debré is said to have called the President's move a brilliant one which will make it harder for the French to be insistent in their relations with the United States.

2. Soviet Union

Rumors out of Moscow notwithstanding, it now looks as if the Soviets will not attempt a flight around the moon in December. Movements and activities of key space support and recovery ships,

[redacted] make early 1969 a more likely period. Soviet announcements on the achievements of the Zond-5 and Zond-6 flights suggest that the next circumlunar capsule may well be manned.

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3. Philippines

Marcos, perhaps concerned that he has gone too far in abusing his friends, has lately made some private moves to assure US officials of his friendship. He has also dropped public references to his deliberately engineered dispute with Malaysia over Sabah, and has softened or clarified statements he made to the Manila Overseas Press Club November 20 about strengthening ties with "socialist countries."

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4. Asia-Pacific

South Korea's foreign minister called in Ambassador Porter Saturday to raise again his government's long-standing desire for a NATO-like regional defense organization. He did not touch on the essential--and unlikely--factor of Japanese participation, though he did acknowledge that a "Pacific-Asia Treaty Organization" would require US sea and air support. The South Koreans, and perhaps other non-Communist Asian governments, probably intend to press the idea with the next US administration, if only to guarantee a post-Vietnam American presence in the Pacific.

5. South Vietnam

Retail prices in Saigon continue the decline that has been evident since the high peak just after the Tet offensive. Prices jumped 70 percent in the single month between January and February, but have now gotten down to only 25 percent above the January level.

Recent declines are apparently a reflection of larger deliveries of food from the provinces because of better road conditions and the relatively low level of military activity in the delta and around Saigon.

6. Rumania

Bucharest's newspapers and radio-broadcasts this morning announced the opening "according to plan" of a Warsaw Pact staff officers' conference in the city under the direction of pact commander Yakubovsky. Though billed as an annual consultation on "problems related to combat training," the conference underscores Rumania's obligations to the pact. The military situation on Rumania's borders remains normal.

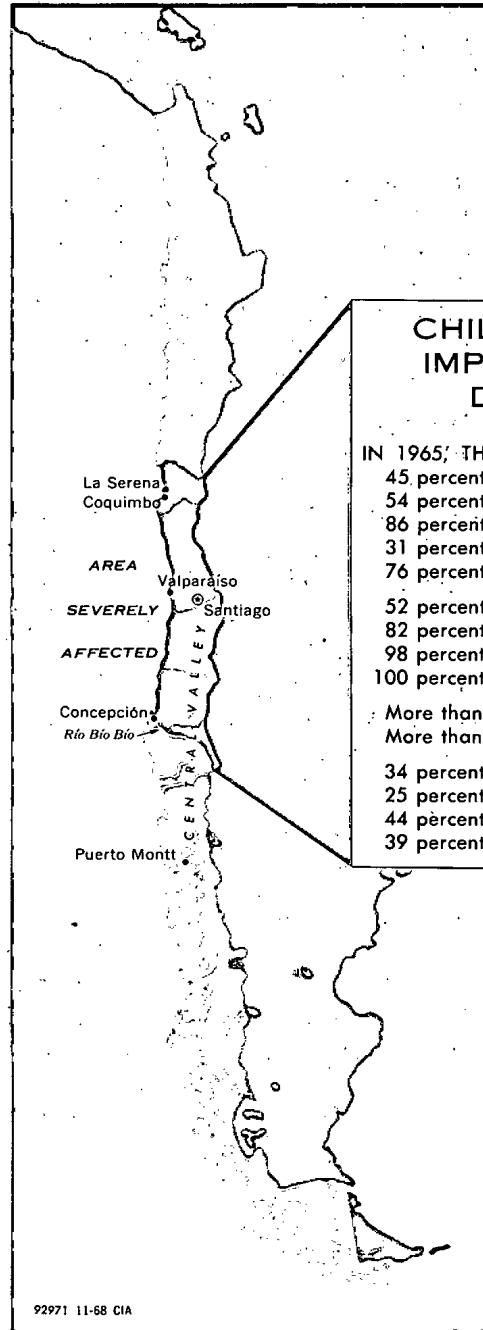
7. Egypt

Student dissatisfaction has again boiled over into the streets, requiring massive and forceful containment measures by security forces. Nasir cooled similar outbursts last February with promises of political and social reforms, but these have proved to be hollow. He is not likely to have any better ideas for soothing the present blow-up, when and if he gets the lid back on. The discontent afflicting Egypt's urban society is in fact incurable under present circumstances.

Unhappily for everyone, these domestic ills make it even less feasible for Egyptian leaders to attempt any bold initiatives or risky concessions in foreign affairs, particularly in regard to a settlement with Israel.

8. Peru

Moderates in the cabinet have grown increasingly dissatisfied with Velasco's performance and are particularly opposed to further nationalization measures against US companies. Velasco's radical advisers, however, want him to take over the rest of the International Petroleum Company's assets and cut deeper into the profits from other US firms. Velasco's scheduled retirement from the army in January could be the occasion for a move by the moderates to replace him as president.



CHILE: LOCATION AND IMPORTANCE OF THE DROUGHT AREA

IN 1965, THIS AREA ACCOUNTED FOR:

- 45 percent of the cultivated and fallow land
- 54 percent of the sown area
- 86 percent of the irrigated area
- 31 percent of the improved pasture
- 76 percent of the orchards and vineyards
- 52 percent of production of wheat
- 82 percent of production of barley
- 98 percent of production of corn
- 100 percent of production of rice
- More than 50 percent of production of vegetables
- More than 75 percent of production of fruit
- 34 percent of the cattle
- 25 percent of the sheep
- 44 percent of the hogs
- 39 percent of production of dairy products

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9. Chile

Chile's worst drought in 44 years is going to complicate the country's chronic economic, social, and political problems. In Santiago, the center of the drought area, rainfall this year has been little more than one-fifth the normal average, and less-than-normal snowfalls in the Andes mean there will be little water available during the rainless summer now approaching. The area affected accounts for the bulk of the country's agriculture, industry, and population.

President Frei's Christian Democratic government is counting heavily on assistance from the United States and other countries to mitigate the immediate consequences of the disaster, but a multiplier effect will be felt in virtually every aspect of Chilean national life for months and years to come.

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26 November 1968

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

26 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnam Opens a New Round of Aid Talks With its Communist Allies: Hanoi's chief foreign aid negotiator, Le Thanh Nghi, left Hanoi for Moscow, according to Hanoi Radio on 25 November. He makes a tour of Communist capitals about twice a year and his last trip was in June-July. This time he is scheduled to negotiate military and economic assistance for 1969, probably with heavy emphasis on economic aid. Hanoi is already seriously considering many of the problems of postwar reconstruction, but cannot move very far in this direction without extensive foreign assistance. The North Vietnamese are probably anxious to get commitments from their major allies on priority projects as soon as possible.

* * *

Hanoi's Reaction to Loss of US Aircraft: Hanoi's charges about continuing US "acts of force" against North Vietnam are likely to become harsher and more specific in the wake of the loss of three US aircraft over North Vietnam since Friday.

So far, North Vietnamese broadcasts have crowded about the shootdowns and the capture of US airmen

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A broadcast in English to Southeast Asia on Monday, however, claimed that US aircraft had been dropping leaflets and "demolition bombs" in the southern part of North Vietnam.

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Hanoi Has Problems With Younger Generation: The chief political officer in Hanoi's army has unveiled some new and unusual disciplinary problems among North Vietnamese young people. In a long speech addressed to youth in the military establishment, General Song Hao recently admitted that young North Vietnamese, apparently in significant numbers, are aping some of the mod fashions, manners, and ideas of youth in other parts of the world. He sounded a note of alarm about the extent to which these attitudes might be infecting the general population.

The sternness of Song Hao's lecture, the puritanical tone of his sermonizing, and the implied extent of youthful dilettantism suggest a genuine concern that

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significant popular attention has been diverted from the war effort in recent months and is perhaps related to general relaxation of tensions in the wake of the bombing restrictions last spring. Song Hao accused some young Vietnamese of falling down in their public duty--"admiring and fearing" Americans, doubting party leadership, and losing their "revolutionary zeal and fighting spirit." Equally dangerous, he said, is their private conduct which has become "decadent and reactionary" and includes "debauchery, robbery, cowboy rowdiness and queer dress."

Since early summer there have been isolated reports of modishly dressed young men appearing on the streets of the capital city. The local press acknowledged the problem and special disciplinary measures have been taken against anyone caught in such attire. The impression conveyed by these reports, however, was that the problem was minor and probably involved a few Thai repatriates or other small groups having recent contact with Western customs. Song Hao's speech put the problem in different perspective. He is addressing regular armed forces units which presumably have little opportunity to escape strict military discipline. Even making allowances for North Vietnam's frequent use of criticism as a device to exhort troops to better performance, Song Hao's speech is unusual. He did not describe the problems with the usual cliches about "bourgeois tendencies"; his charges and his recommendations were specific and forthright, and his target clearly labeled. Hanoi seems to be experiencing a new and relatively serious problem with its young people.

* * *

Cambodia Releases North Vietnamese Prisoners: A semiofficial Cambodian publication has announced that the government recently turned over six North Vietnamese prisoners to the Viet Cong representative in Cambodia. This is the first time Cambodia has publicly described Communist intruders as North Vietnamese. It underlines growing Cambodian annoyance at Communist incursions.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
27 NOVEMBER 1968

1. Communist China

Satellite photography of mid-November produced some "best ever" coverage of China. There was much action and some new construction at the plant near Peking which we believe is to produce strategic missiles.

China's only G-class ballistic missile submarine was at a naval dockyard. Some work, the significance of which is not clear, was going on around missile tube hatches and cowlings.

2. North Korea

In the ten months since the seizure of the Pueblo, Pyongyang has sharply improved its air defense system, especially for detection and tracking.

3. Jordan

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4. Okinawa

Okinawans are so inflamed over last week's B-52 accident that an aggressive antibase campaign may be in the offing. The extreme left is no longer alone in its opposition to US base operations. Moderates, formerly opposed only to [redacted] B-52s, now want the bases closed. Even the conservatives who dominate the legislature are pressing for removal of the bombers.

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5. Philippines

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6. Congo
(Brazzaville)

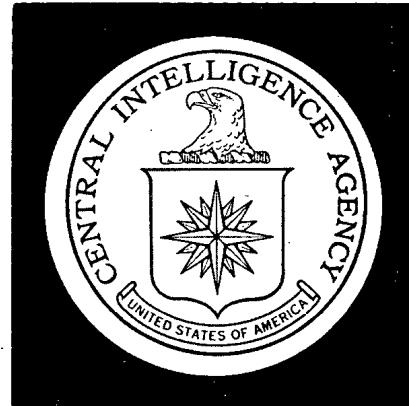
The tamer regime that installed itself in early September is now making noises about how pleased it would be to see the US Embassy, closed since August 1965, open again. The prime minister is said to feel this would counterbalance Soviet influence--and help the place out of its economic slump. But, he added, Brazzaville is "not in a position" to take the first step.

Incidentally, the French claim the Cuban advisers--nearly 1,000 were once in Brazzaville--have all gone home.

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- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of US Political Attitudes

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27 November 1968

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

27 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Propaganda: Hanoi is still building a head of steam in its propaganda reaction to recent shootdowns of three US aircraft over North Vietnam and to alleged US military actions in the Demilitarized Zone. The Communists are clearly laying a case in which they could use these issues to stall progress in Paris; in statements on 26 November they came close to, but stopped just short of, explicit threats along these lines.

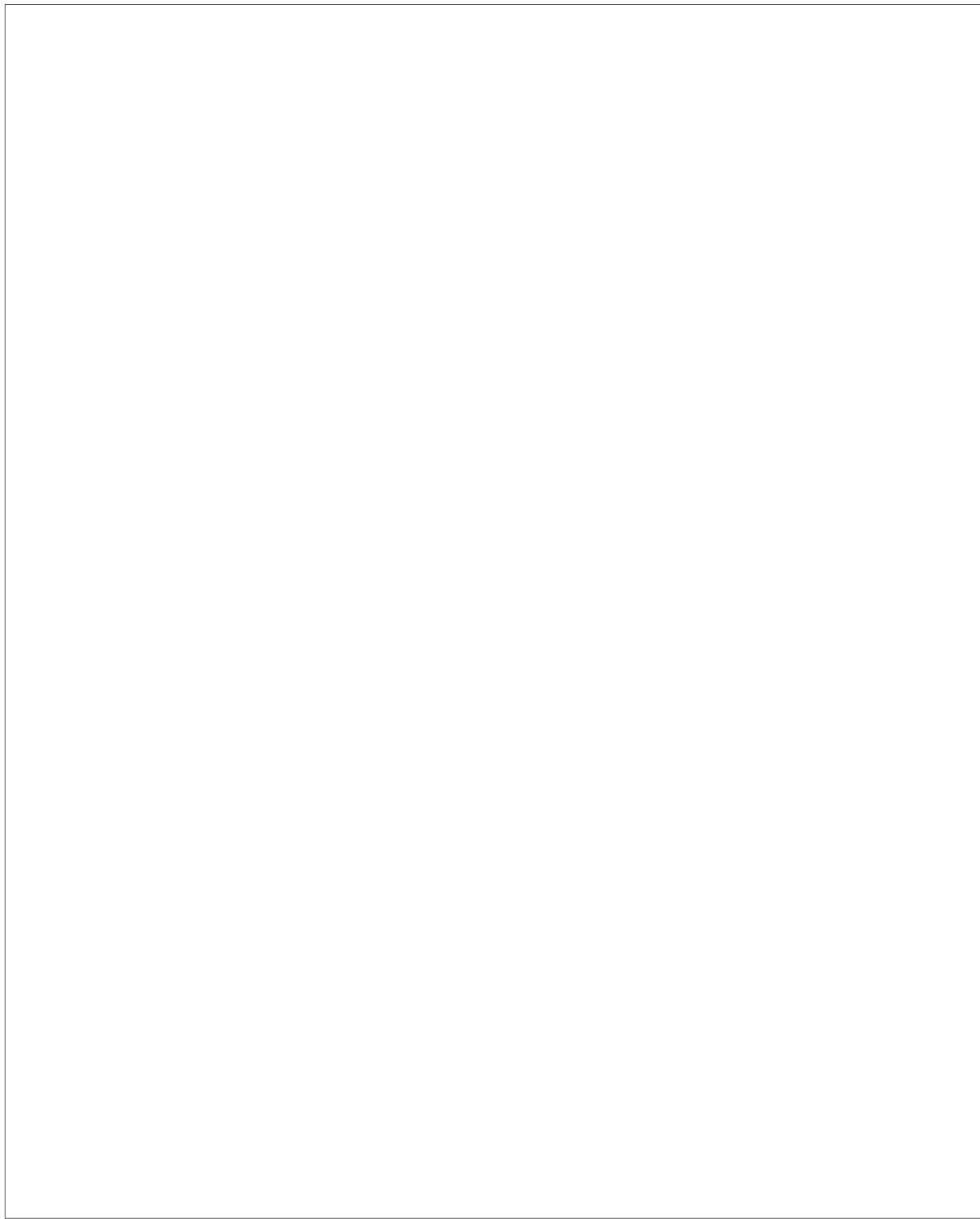
A North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman on 26 November charged that the US had bombed and strafed North Vietnamese territory following two shootdowns the day before. His statement said that these actions "grossly violated the sovereignty and security" of North Vietnam, and he lumped them with alleged US shellings north of the Demilitarized Zone. He called them "proof" that the US was not acting in accordance with President Johnson's order to end all bombardments of North Vietnam.

A French press account indicates that the North Vietnamese spokesman in Paris went even further at a news conference the same day. He said that both reconnaissance and "bombing raids" connected with pilot rescue efforts constitute "acts of war." These activities, he said, "are contrary to" US commitments to stop the bombing and acts "related to the use of force." He warned that such actions "jeopardize the search for peace," but by again calling on the US to "hold a four-power conference immediately," he indicated that Hanoi is not making them a roadblock to opening the next stage of talks in Paris.

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Conditions in Hanoi: A Western traveler who was in Hanoi late last week was told by a resident that the Hanoi police have been having trouble recently in

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enforcing the prescribed procedures during air raid alerts. The people are less disciplined since the end of the bombing, and a slowdown in the pace of work has become noticeable. These problems were probably behind Ho Chi Minh's recent communiqué directing the people to maintain discipline and vigilance and to work harder.

* * *

Hanoi's Public Attitude Toward Saigon:50X1
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For years the government leaders in Saigon had been dismissed only as "American puppets and lackeys." Suddenly, on 2 November, the South Vietnamese government was elevated to the status of "the Saigon administration" in an official declaration by Hanoi. Despite this promotion, however, the Saigon government was described later in the same document as "an instrument of the US imperialist aggressors."

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Two days later, the Hanoi propagandists felt obliged to face up to the quandary posed by President Thieu's refusal to come to Paris. Nhan Dan solved the problem this way: "No acts by the puppet clique to give pretense of 'opposition' to its masters, the US aggressors, can deceive anybody."

* * *

Hanoi's Industrial Planning: Hanoi's policy of dispersing large industries and encouraging smaller local industries under regional control is to be continued in the government's plans for post-war reconstruction and development. Last month the Council of Ministers formally reaffirmed the policy--originally necessitated by the US bombing--as a desirable system for the indefinite future.

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the Council of Ministers' action was an admission that the government had previously made a mistake by concentrating factories in the Hanoi and Haiphong areas, where some were far from their sources of raw materials or their markets.

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Hanoi-Moscow Aid Agreements Signed: Moscow showed its support for North Vietnam's present course of action on Monday by signing a new set of agreements on military aid with Hanoi. The agreements appear to have been negotiated rapidly and harmoniously. Hanoi's chief aid negotiator, Le Thanh Nghi, arrived in Moscow on the 21st and departed yesterday.

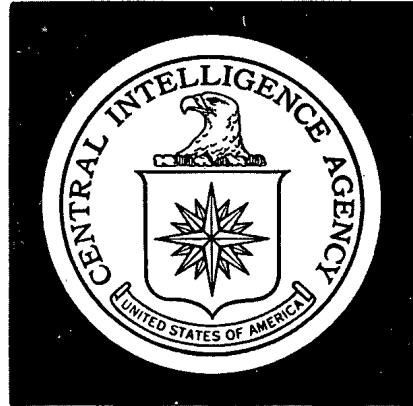
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
28 NOVEMBER 1968

1. West Germany

Britain's ratification of the Non-proliferation Treaty is not going down very well with the Germans. Their main complaint is that the British acted with indecent haste in light of what the Soviets have done in Czechoslovakia. The Germans themselves had hoped to hold off signing or ratifying the treaty until next year, perhaps after the parliamentary elections next fall. Now they may have to act before German public opinion is ready and before divisions over the treaty among the Christian Democrats are ironed out.

In addition to questions of timing, Bonn still has problems over some of the treaty's implications. The Czechoslovak invasion has made the Germans more anxious than ever to hold open the "European option"--control of nuclear weapons by a European combination. They also want reassurances that the treaty will not change NATO strategy and that West Germany could withdraw from the Nonproliferation Treaty if NATO ever broke up.

2. Japan

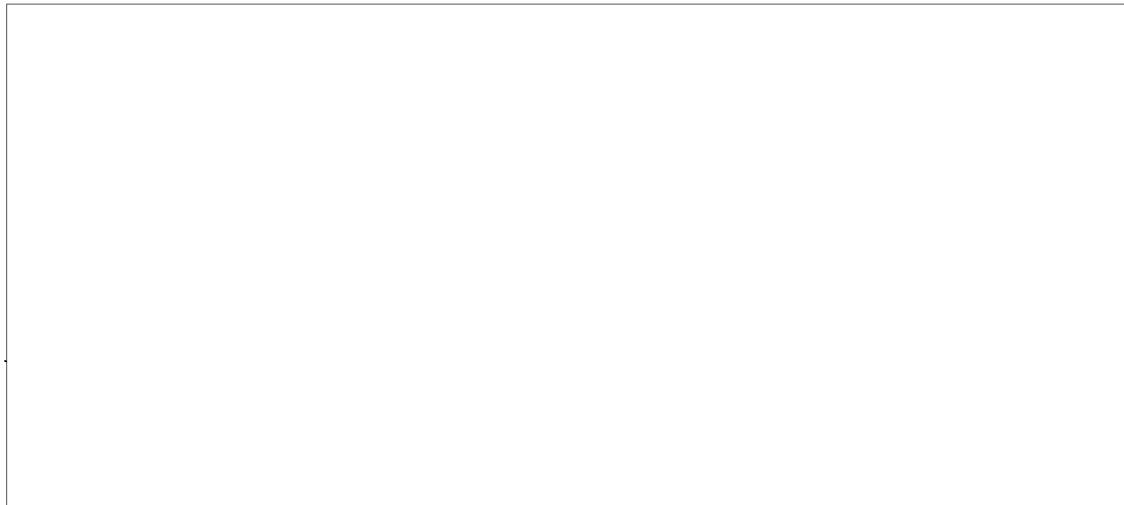
Sato came through his stiffest test for reelection as party leader with a surprising margin of victory.

This will strengthen his hand in dealing with the Okinawa reversion problem and a wide range of national security issues. Good politician that he is, Sato now intends to form a new cabinet which will better represent all the party's factions.

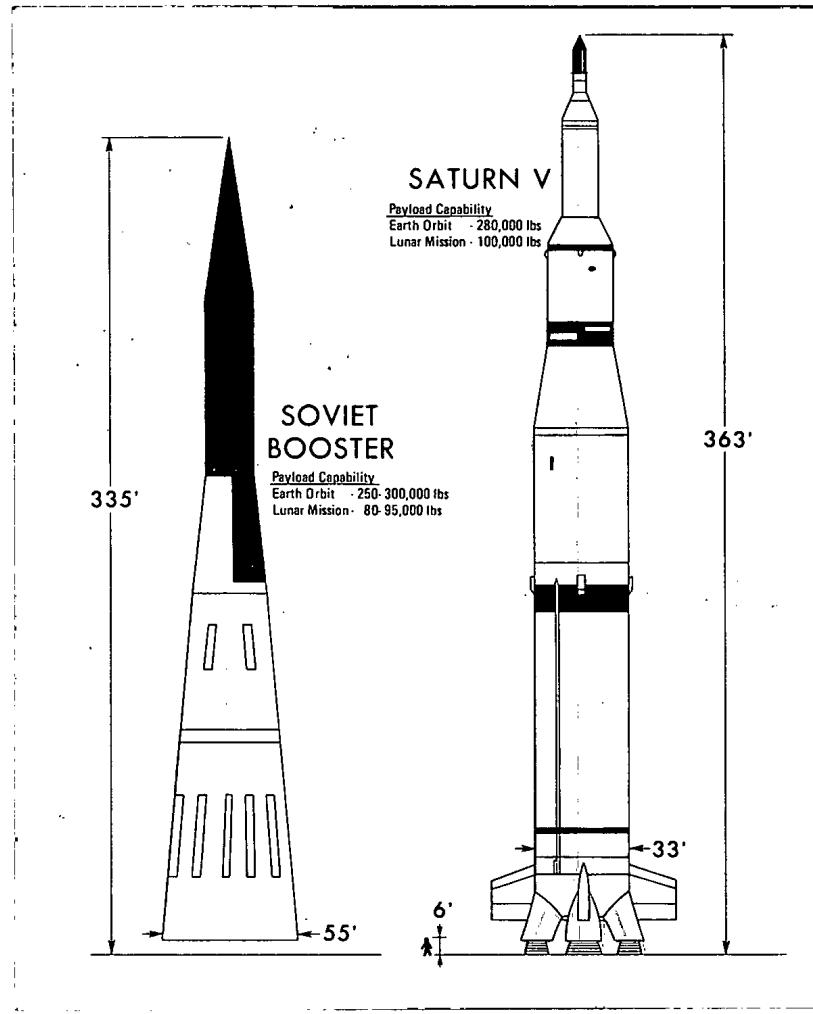
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New Soviet Booster Nears First Flight Test

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Comparison of Soviet booster
with US Saturn V



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3. Panama

Followers of ousted President Arnulfo Arias are intent on setting up a guerrilla movement in the mountains of western Panama. For some days they have been filtering in from Costa Rica and now, together with local recruits, they may number upwards of 200.

By most standards this is small stuff. Remote western Panama, however, is Arias' home territory and a stronghold of popular antimilitary sentiment. It is just possible that this may be the beginning of a long-term problem of some magnitude for the colonels in Panama City.

Arias and his entourage in the US are lobbying hard from Washington's Watergate Hotel. Senators Thurmond, Tower, Kennedy, and Smathers have so far been among those approached. Arias seems particularly anxious to get his views across to people close to President-elect Nixon.

One of Arias' talking points is that the colonels who threw him out are Communist influenced. They are surely no great democrats, but we have no evidence that they have put any Communists into key positions.

4. Soviet Union

Work is proceeding at the Soviet moon port at Tyuratam toward the first flight test of the new space booster. The huge booster has been photographed by satellite on its launch pad three times since August. A recent satellite mission, however, showed that it has been returned to the nearby assembly and checkout building. It is difficult to say when the first flight test will take place--it still could be several months away.

5. South Vietnam

The next few days may bring some scattered mortar and rocket attacks in several areas. The indicators are most extensive in the western highlands, but some signs of impending offensive operations also are appearing in several parts of I, II, and III Corps.

6. Arab States - Israel

Jarring leaves for the Middle East next week for another go at trying to involve the Israelis, Jordanians, and Egyptians in talks. None of the interested parties thinks he will have much luck. About all they seem to agree on is that Jarring should persevere.

The Jordanians are particularly bearish while the semi-official Israeli press predicts no break in the stalemate until the new administration takes over in Washington.

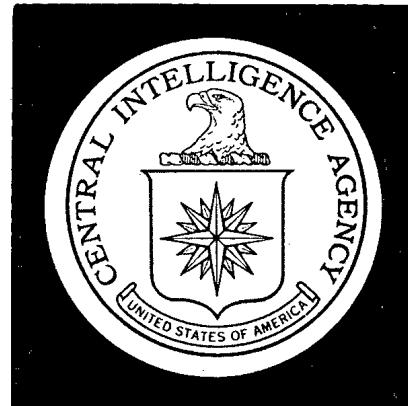
7. Communist China

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28 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese High Altitude Defenses: Further evidence of the importance the North Vietnamese attach to downing the SR-71 reconnaissance aircraft was reflected in a recent message from a surface-to-air missile battalion near Hanoi. The unit reported it had been able to pick up and track the SR-71 while other units had been unable to do so. (This could be an indication that this unit has been equipped with the modified radar which the Soviet Union has introduced in recent months.) The missile battalion also reported that all units should continue to practice because the destruction of the SR-71 was of extreme importance.

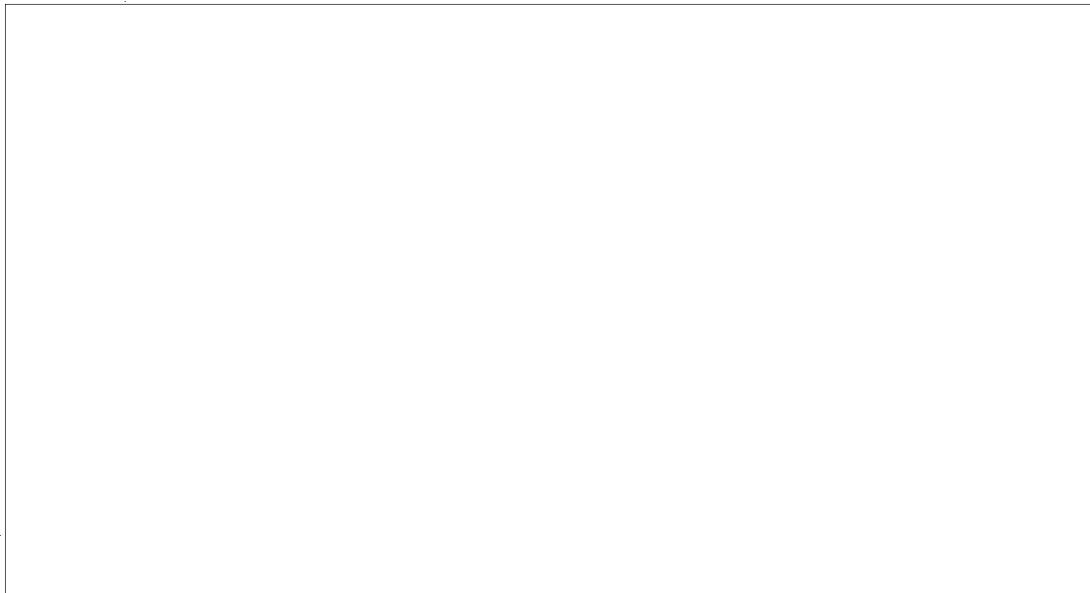
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Rice Crop in Trouble: The tenth month rice crop has ripened a week late this year, according to a 22 November Nhan Dan article. The article claims that the main cause for concern is "slack leadership over farming work by many party and administrative echelons and village cooperative managerial boards." Reportedly meetings have been postponed and cadres sent to help harvest the crop.

The tenth month rice crop normally constitutes about two-thirds of the average annual 4.5 million ton rice harvest. North Vietnam has suffered successive shortfalls in its rice crops since 1966. Cold weather earlier this year caused the late planting of the tenth month crop--usually harvested by mid-November--and three tropical storms during late summer caused widespread flooding in the important rice growing Red River delta region. There has been no indication of significant food shortages in North Vietnam's cities. Imports of foodstuffs have increased steadily during the past few years, however.

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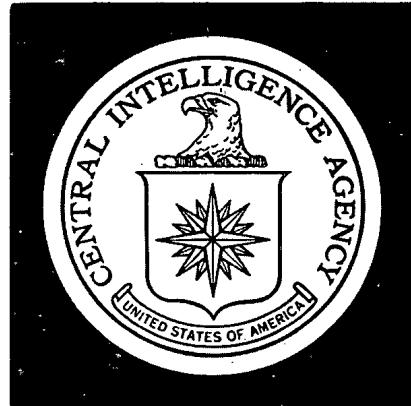
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report to-day.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 29 November 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
29 NOVEMBER 1968

1. Pakistan

Assessing the political situation,

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[redacted] the turmoil of the past two weeks suggests a more widespread opposition than anyone--including Ayub--had suspected.

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There is little doubt that Ayub can keep control, using the police and, if necessary, the army. But rough methods themselves will tend to cement the opposition, perhaps around the popular ex - air force chief Asghar Khan who stepped onto the political stage last week. The forecast is for a real test of strength between Ayub and his opponents before the national elections in September 1969.

2. Cambodia

Terror as a technique for controlling the population of isolated villages is becoming more prevalent as Cambodian guerrillas seek to secure base areas in widely separated parts of the country. Assassination, kidnaping, and forced propaganda meetings are all on the upswing despite the government's greater effort to root out the insurgents.

Cambodia's dissidents run a wide range from disaffected tribesmen to Communists, but officials in Phnom Penh suspect the Viet Cong may be aiding and abetting some of the trouble. There is growing evidence to suggest these fears are well founded.

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3. South Vietnam

The resignation of information minister Thien could be the first of several cabinet changes. The next may be the foreign minister, Tran Chanh Thanh. Both men have turned in less than sparkling performances and Thieu has lost confidence in them.

4. France

Cancellation of the 1969 nuclear tests for austerity reasons is not likely to affect development and deployment of strategic missile systems using fission warheads.

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The cancellation, however, will delay development of thermonuclear hardware.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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

Top Secret 50X1

16

29 November 1968

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

29 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Logistical Developments Since the Bombing Halt:
The North Vietnamese have been quick to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the bombing halt since 1 November.

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As yet there is no firm evidence that the North Vietnamese are undertaking a major logistical resupply effort in Laos that would jeopardize allied forces in the I or II Corps areas. More evidence is needed before the significance of the resupply effort north of the Demilitarized Zone can be fully evaluated.

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Large North Vietnamese coastal ships of up to 2,500 tons have been observed in southern waters for the first time since the bombing began in 1965. By using such coasters, the North Vietnamese are employing the most direct and effective method of moving large amounts of materiel from Haiphong to the southern Panhandle. Communications indicate that North Vietnamese coastal tracking stations since 1 November have tracked an average of 90 "supply vessels" a day south of the 20th Parallel, compared with about ten a day before the bombing halt.

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Status of US Airmen Downed in North Vietnam: The North Vietnamese captured two US pilots from the two aircraft shot down last Monday and a third airman was found dead, according to intercepted messages. In a conversation on 26 November, one speaker said that a US "spy" plane had been shot down by a missile; one of the pilots had been picked up and the other had died. The speaker also said that another aircraft had been shot down and the pilot had been picked up. The speakers discussed bringing the prisoners back to Hanoi, perhaps in an AN-2 transport. Other intercepts showed an AN-2 making a trip down to Vinh on 26 November, possibly in connection with the prisoners.

* * *

Army Paper on "Acts of War": Hanoi's army daily on 28 November denounced the US for continuing its "encroachments on the sovereignty and security" of North Vietnam. The article singled out alleged US rocketing and bombing of areas in the North after two aircraft were shot down on 25 November. It details the "dark schemes" of the US by pointing to continued reconnaissance "over various parts of North Vietnam including Hanoi and Haiphong," to artillery and naval gunfire against the northern part of the DMZ, and to bombings and strafings in southern North Vietnam on 25 and 26 November. The article concludes by promising that these "acts of war" will receive "due punishment." Like other North Vietnamese statements, it avoids saying these actions will prevent opening of the next stage of talks in Paris.

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Allied Statements Called "Unacceptable" Basis for Talks: US and South Vietnamese statements issued on 26 November are an "unacceptable" basis for the Paris talks and "must be rejected," according to a hard-line story filed by a Soviet correspondent in Hanoi and carried by TASS yesterday. The report repeatedly cites "Hanoi circles" and "Hanoi observers" and almost certainly was approved by North Vietnamese authorities. It says that the US statement shows that Washington is not yet ready to "renounce its aggressive schemes in Vietnam and is not yet prepared for a correct solution of the Vietnamese problem." The story probably is North Vietnamese-inspired rhetoric of a kind that will be heard frequently in the days immediately ahead.

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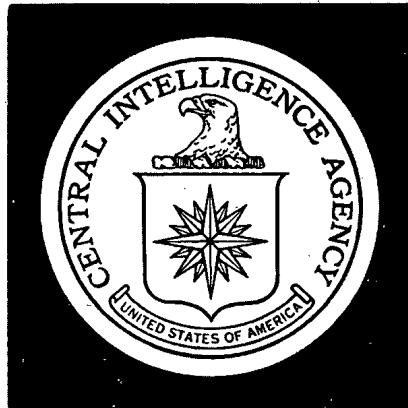
North Vietnamese Propaganda: Hanoi's propagandists seem more comfortable now that Saigon has agreed to go to Paris. They had trouble earlier grappling with the idea of a "puppet regime" balking at US wishes. Now, true to form, a Hanoi Radio commentary on 28 November says that Saigon has finally "complied with its master's order to attend the conference." In Hanoi's words: "A tail remains a tail. It cannot wag the dog's body." The rest of the commentary is the predictable line denigrating the South Vietnamese Government and rejecting the concept of "two-sided" talks.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 November 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
30 NOVEMBER 1968

1. Laos

The opening of the enemy's annual dry season campaign around the Bolovens Plateau has inspired the annual panicked reaction in Vientiane. The North Vietnamese and their Pathet Lao auxiliaries invariably press toward the plateau and the provincial capitals of Attapeu and Saravane as soon as the roads are dry and the rice harvest is in, but Hanoi's policy has always been to stop short of occupying the plain or the towns.

We think the same political considerations apply this year, although Hanoi may eventually choose to improve its future bargaining position on Laos by seizing a number of the government's advanced military bases.

2. Communist China

Peking's about-face in rejecting a US proposal for a Warsaw meeting in November and then, ten days later, accepting a February date probably reflects a desire to establish early contact with the next US administration.

The Chinese are taking a more active interest in European affairs as well. Their army chief of staff arrived in Albania Tuesday for a two-week visit

The visit serves to underscore Peking's current propaganda pose as the champion of Communist countries oppressed by Soviet revisionism. It could also mean a general revival of Chinese activity in foreign affairs and a return to the pragmatism and "personal diplomacy" that once marked Peking's foreign policy.

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3. Soviet Union

"Hooligans," drunkards, scofflaws, and other antisocial elements will be the main target of Russia's strengthened and renamed Ministry of Internal Affairs. Khruschev's experiments with auxiliary police, workers' courts, and other amateur law enforcement agencies have failed to stem the rise in common crime, juvenile delinquency, and alcoholic absenteeism. From now on the domestic police--reinforced with recruits from the best of the volunteer auxiliaries--will probably be cracking down hard on "non-political" crimes. Political offenses continue to be the responsibility of the security and intelligence service--the KGB. Indications are that these, too, are going to be dealt with more severely.

4. Rumania

Ceausescu has struck back publicly against the pressures Moscow and the Warsaw Pact powers have been putting on Rumania. Even as senior Pact officers were meeting in Bucharest, Ceausescu in two published speeches stoutly defended Rumania's political and economic rights against the "supra-national" concepts of the Warsaw Pact and the Council for Economic Mutual Assistance.

In almost belligerent terms, he spelled out Rumania's interpretation of its responsibilities and rights under the Warsaw Pact, refused to go along with any tightening of East European economic integration, and implicitly rejected the Soviet-proclaimed right of intervention to preserve the status quo in socialist states.

Meanwhile, Rumanian officials are being wrung through the rumor mill, and some of the wilder reports they have heard suggest that Moscow's disinformation specialists are doing the cranking. Among their genuine concerns is the possibility that Soviet troops will remain in their country after the projected joint exercises, and they are doing their best to determine the circumstances under which this might occur.

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5. Mexico

Hard-line student strikers in Mexico City are still holding out against the general back-to-class movement, and they could provoke further violent attacks on returning students. But security authorities remain firmly in control, and President Diaz Ordaz has resumed his normal schedule of visits around the country.

6. Argentina

Air force officers are in a state of shock over the Onganía government's denial that it would purchase the French Mirage III interceptor aircraft, a decision they thought was firm. The political leaders will now be looking to Washington for a satisfactory solution to their requirement for new supersonic interceptors.

7. Venezuela

Voters tomorrow will be choosing from among four evenly matched presidential candidates, none of whom is expected to win more than 30 percent of the vote. A plurality is sufficient to elect, however. All the seats in the National Congress have to be filled at the same time, and the winner in the presidential race will be spending the time between December and inauguration on 14 March putting together some kind of congressional majority. The tightness of the race and threatened terrorism have put the security forces in a high state of alert.

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16
30 November 1968

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

30 November 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Possible Nationwide "Administration" in the South: The enemy is continuing to lay the groundwork for a possible national "administration" in South Vietnam. Liberation Radio on 26 November proclaimed the establishment of another provincial level liberation committee in South Vietnam. The latest addition to the growing list of such administrations is Quang Nam. The broadcast also mentioned Dinh Tuong and Go Cong provinces for the first time in its list of provinces with similar administrations, although it left out Kontum and Quang Tri, which have been claimed in the past.

Liberation Radio went on to state that the building of province level "revolutionary administrations" is leading toward the creation of "favorable conditions for forming a higher echelon revolutionary administration." A Hanoi Radio broadcast of 27 November quoted a statement by the Mongolian foreign minister that "the NLF...in fact...is assuming the function of a government." This kind of statement is being made more frequently as the Communists continue to build up the diplomatic stature of the Front.

* * *

Communist Military Aid Deliveries: The value of Communist military aid to North Vietnam during the first half of 1968 is estimated at about \$275 million, somewhat below the level for the same period in 1967. The estimated drop in the value of military aid reflects the lower requirements for ammunition and

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surface-to-air missiles that resulted from the US bombing standdown in the northern portion of the country. Despite this decline, the continued receipt of additional jet fighters and equipment for missile-firing battalions during the first six months of 1968 emphasized the continued willingness of the Communist countries to meet North Vietnamese and Viet Cong needs for armaments.

The Soviet Union is the major supplier of military aid, providing about three-fourths of the total; Communist China provides most of the remainder, with small amounts from Eastern European countries and North Korea. Military aid from Eastern Europe increased in the first half of 1968 but still is only a small part of the total. The Soviets continue to supply ammunition and most of North Vietnam's air defense equipment; Communist China's aid is principally in ammunition and infantry weapons.

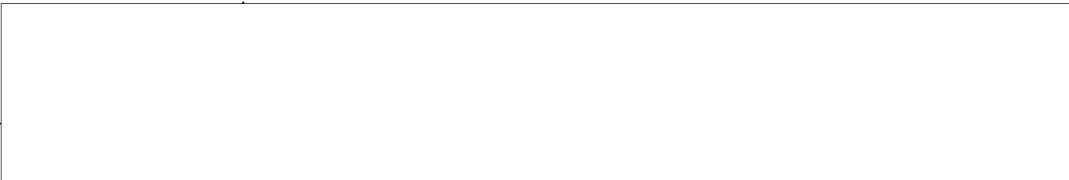
In addition, Chinese, Soviet, and North Korean military personnel have been stationed in North Vietnam to assist in training, maintenance, and construction activities; and North Vietnamese have gone to Communist China, the Soviet Union, and Czechoslovakia for military training.

* * *

Delegation in Eastern Europe: The North Vietnamese Communist Party delegation to the recent Polish party congress apparently has been looking for tips on reconstruction from their East European allies. A Warsaw broadcast said that the Poles assured their Vietnamese visitors that they would share their own experiences, making specific reference to the reconstruction of Hanoi. The North Vietnamese delegation, which includes Hanoi's minister of construction, then moved to East Germany where another broadcast indicates the delegates inspected new buildings in Berlin.

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