



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
1 JULY 1968

1. France

Voting essentially against Communism and in favor of the status quo, Frenchmen yesterday gave De Gaulle a resounding victory and an absolute majority in the new National Assembly. The Gaullists and their Independent Republican allies won 355 seats out of 487; the Communists fell from 73 to 33.

With this massive Gaullist majority, the Assembly could become even more of a rubber stamp than before--De Gaulle certainly has the power now to make some changes in France. Whether he will or not is problematic. Some [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1 fear the extent of his victory will send the General back to his tower of conservative self-satisfaction and the real problems may not be dealt with.

2. Uruguay

President Pacheco has ordered tight controls on wages and prices in an effort to rein in Uruguay's galloping inflation. Pacheco's decree, however, must get congressional approval and this is doubtful. Communist labor unions, already striking in protest over economic policies, have pledged themselves to sabotage any therapy Pacheco may try in order to meet International Monetary Fund recommendations.

3. Nonproliferation
Treaty

At least 45 nations should be on hand to sign the treaty today. Some 30 more signatures are expected by early August.

4. World Youth Festival

Orthodox Communists have a tiger by the tail in the Ninth World Youth Festival opening in Sofia, Bulgaria on 28 July. Student unrest, nationality conflicts, and ideological differences all promise to make this normally tame Soviet-sponsored show a considerably more interesting performance this year.

For example, the Italian delegation seems determined to hold a "Day of European Youth Revolt" despite an official veto. Czechoslovakia is sending a delegation of 400 even though there have been some pointed hints from Moscow that this might be a good year for the Czechs not to attend. The Somali delegation plans a tirade against Kenya and Ethiopia; the Moroccans and Tunsians are threatening a walk-out if any Israelis come.

If this is not enough to keep Festival officials awake at night, there is the prospect of Chinese-oriented delegations trying to take over the activities. There are even rumors that the Chinese themselves may attend.

And the official Festival slogan is "peace, friendship, and solidarity."

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No one views student turmoil with a more jaundiced eye than the conservative men in the Kremlin. Today, at Annex, we discuss their approach to the problem.

5. Czechoslovakia

Prague announced yesterday that the Warsaw Pact exercise was over. Soviet troops are still in Czechoslovakia,

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6. Haiti

The pall of fear that always hangs over Haiti has taken on darker tones as Duvalier proceeds with the trial of those captured after last month's abortive invasion. Names of government officials and businessmen are being mentioned in the courtroom as co-conspirators and no one is sure where Papa Doc's hand may fall next.

Now, as in past times of unusual tension, the rumors of impending coups are afloat in more than customary numbers.

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ANNEX

Moscow Turns Wary Eye On The New Left

The sort of ferment brewing for the World Youth Festival concerns the Kremlin. Student assaults on the political order in some West European countries have drawn apprehensive responses from Soviet leaders and have led them to take further measures to tighten discipline among Soviet youth.

Party Secretary Demichev, speaking to a social science conference on 19 June, lashed out at "revisionist ideologists" abroad who try to replace the class struggle in capitalist society with the struggle between generations and who proclaim young people to be the only true revolutionary force of our time.

A critique of the New Left doctrine of Herbert Marcuse had appeared earlier in Pravda. Correspondent Yury Zhukov hurled the epithet "werewolves" at Marcuse's followers, including the French radical student leader, Cohn-Bendit.

Such expressions display traditional Communist antipathy toward revolutionary movements not of the working class. The consequences of student agitation for Communist rule have been made plain to Soviet leaders by events in Eastern Europe. A Czechoslovak student proposal to create a student organization free of any ties with the Communist Party was sharply rebuked by a Soviet education official.

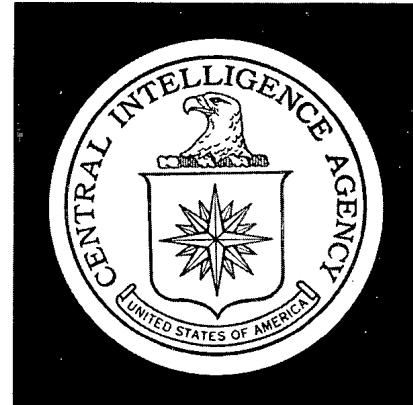
Even allowing for some overreaction on the part of a regime which tends to abhor the unconventional, Soviet leaders apparently judge that the ideological apathy and generational antagonisms of Soviet youth make the latter susceptible to the temptations of student radicalism in Europe. Youth and teacher conferences throughout the Soviet Union have made the younger generation the focal point of current efforts to shore up ideological defenses against the unorthodox concepts seeping in from the outside.

Such a program, however, instilling into youth "a purposeful, ordered system of views" as Demichev put it, represents the old authoritarian approach that has in the past worked to alienate students from party leadership both at home and abroad.

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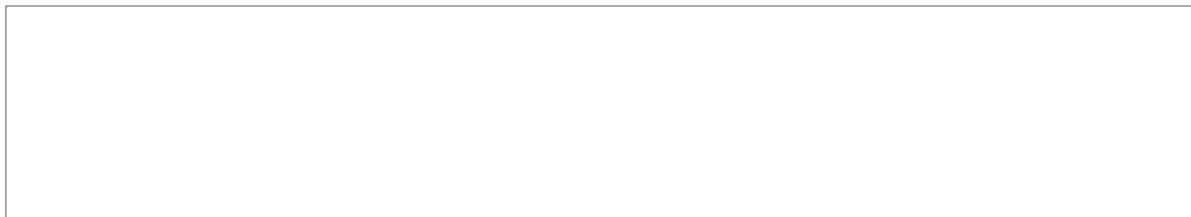
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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1 July 1968

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

1 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

May Shipping Report: In May, 52 foreign ships, the highest number of arrivals since March 1965, delivered a record volume of 221,000 tons of cargo. Bulk food imports of 96,500 tons surpassed the previous record volume by about 40 percent.

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North Vietnamese Negotiations Delegates on Peace Talks: On 20 June two members of Hanoi's delegation to Paris talks told [redacted] that in order to break the

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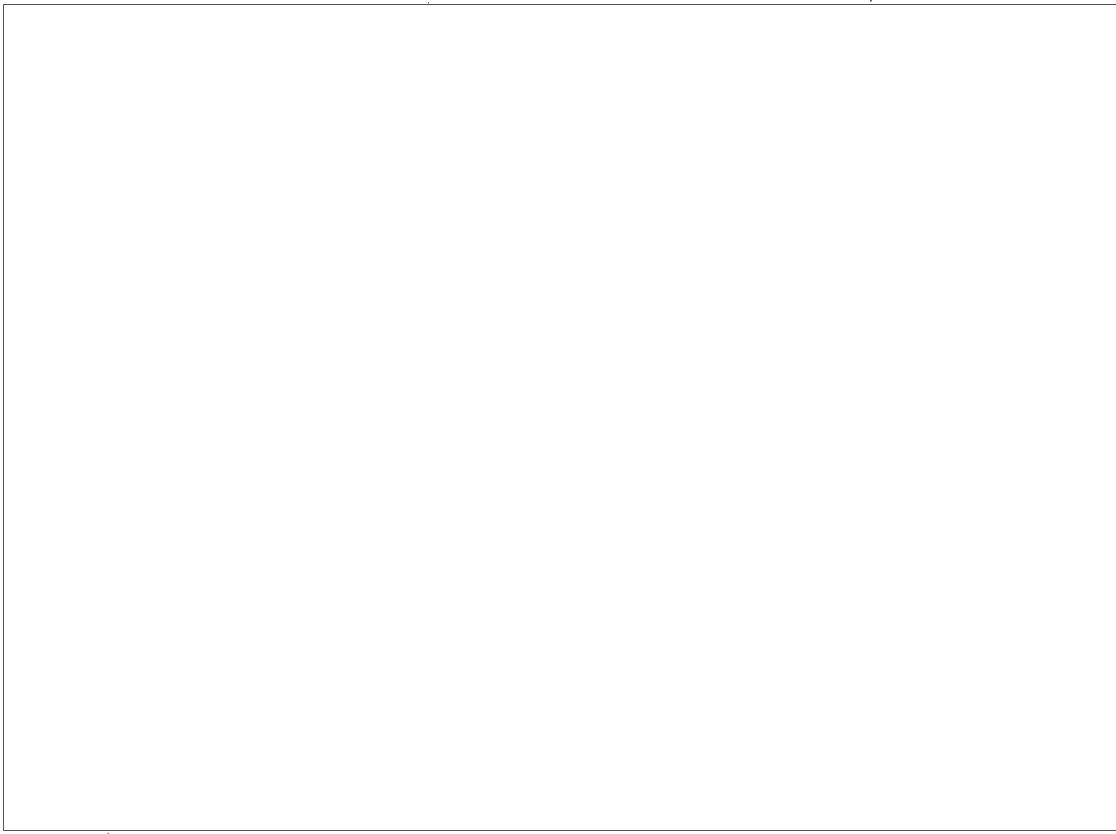
negotiations "stalemate" the Americans must cease unconditionally the bombing of the north. They said once the bombing has stopped the North Vietnamese were prepared to discuss any topic whatsoever.

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The officials went on to say that the subject of reunification of Vietnam was crucial to the North, but that the Americans steadfastly refused to enter into discussions on the matter. While Hanoi did not insist on a clear-cut timetable for reunification nor on immediate discussions on the means of effecting reunification, agreement on the principle that reunification will eventually take place was essential. Nevertheless, the North Vietnamese intended to remain in Paris and were convinced the Americans would also.

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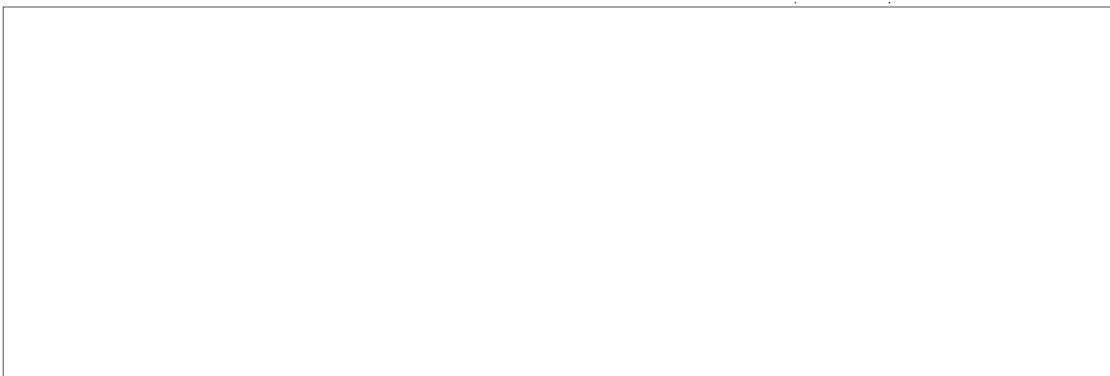
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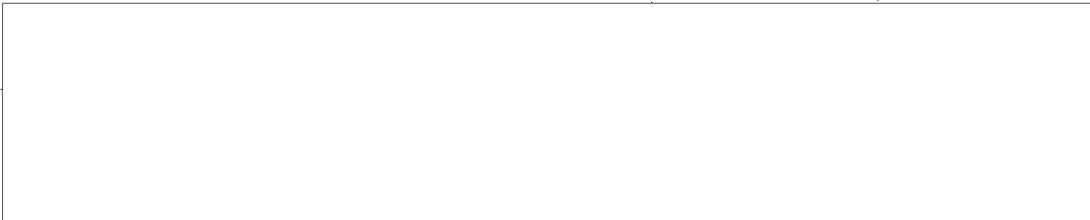
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Le Duc Tho to Hanoi: Tho left Paris on Saturday and stopped over in Moscow where he saw Kosygin. He also will stop in Peking. His trip home was described as "routine" by a North Vietnamese spokesman in Paris. The spokesman added that Tho would soon return to Paris.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
2 JULY 1968

1. Central America

Nicaragua is threatening to break up the Central American Common Market if the other countries do not ratify a tariff measure now pending approval in various Central American legislatures. The measure, a 30 percent external tariff surcharge, is opposed by conservative business interests. President Somoza meanwhile has unilaterally imposed the surcharge, and this is likely to harden opposition to it among the other countries.

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2. Soviet Union -
Egypt

[REDACTED]

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3. Czechoslovakia

There is still some byplay between Prague and Moscow over the status of the Warsaw Pact exercise. Prague is insisting that the exercise is over, but Moscow's news agency has retracted an earlier statement to this effect.

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4. Israel-Egypt

The Israelis

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apparently claim a right to exploitation east of the median line in the Gulf because of their occupation of the Sinai Peninsula.

A Standard Oil subsidiary which has a concession in this area granted by Egypt before the June war has already rejected an Israeli offer to cooperate. If Israel moved ahead on its own there would be a shrill reaction from Egypt, and further complications in attempts to promote a settlement between the two countries.

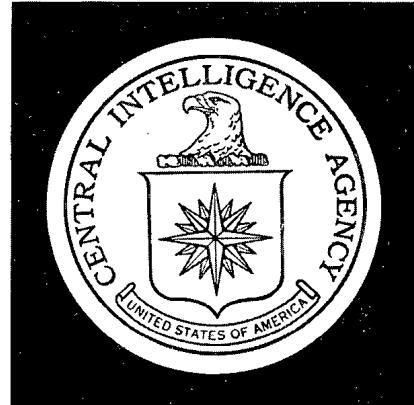
5. Communist China

Signs are multiplying that the Cultural Revolution is heating up again. There have been more frequent and nastier clashes recently between rival Red Guard groups. The most severe have been in Canton, nearby areas of Kwangtung Province, and Kwangsi Province, through which runs the rail line to North Vietnam. Other supposedly "pacified" provinces show increasing signs of instability as frictions grow between "old and new" officials and among mass organizations.

There is also a new rash of poster attacks against leading officials in Peking. Diplomats in the capital report continuing attacks against a prominent politburo member as well as lesser central and provincial leaders. Other posters have denounced alleged attacks against Chou En-lai, and some call for the defense of Mao's wife, whose political role has grown in recent months.

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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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2 July 1968

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

2 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Sino-Vietnamese Relations: Hanoi yesterday made a public effort to quell rumors of a serious disintegration of North Vietnamese - Chinese relations in a special Nhan Dan editorial commemorating the Chinese Communist Party anniversary. Although the language used to describe relations between the two countries is not as effusive as some that Hanoi has used in the past, the newspaper said that relations were "long-standing and very intimate," and were "developing vigorously and becoming more and more profound and lasting." In describing Peking's support for the war, Hanoi said China had provided "powerful support and great and precious assistance."

The most unusual aspect of the editorial was the wish that China's Cultural Revolution should be crowned with success. Hanoi has made little effort to conceal its distaste for the Cultural Revolution, and it is unusual to see this kind of a statement in either public or private commentary. In sum, Hanoi has made a special effort to please the Chinese.

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Propaganda on Captured Pilots: Radio Hanoi is increasing its exploitation of captured American pilots. The text of a statement attributed to Air Force Colonel John Peter Flynn broadcast over the international service in English dwells at length on the generous medical care he was given by his North Vietnamese captors. Although there are references to American attacks on North Vietnam, the statement is mostly nonpolitical, emphasizing the kindness and generosity of the captors, and designed to convince Western audiences that Hanoi's intentions are the best. Such testimony could be used effectively, for example, at anti-Vietnam war rallies.

Radio Hanoi beamed another broadcast on 29 June to American servicemen in South Vietnam. Attributed to an unidentified American pilot, the statement itself is heavy with propaganda, and the language employed suggests that it may have been written by North Vietnamese propagandists. The statement stresses the futility of bombing North Vietnam, asserting that the air attacks only deepen the resistance of the North Vietnamese people and block the path to peace.

Also on 29 June, Hanoi Radio broadcast the names of seven more US pilots it said had been shot down over North Vietnam and captured. The broadcast gave dates of capture, serial numbers and ranks, in addition to the names.

* * *

Hanoi Radio on Saigon Politics: Hanoi Radio continues to play up the differences between Thieu and Ky as foreshadowing political chaos in Saigon. In a broadcast beamed to South Vietnamese audiences on 30 June, Hanoi claims that the replacement of Police Chief Loan, the bombing accident which killed several high-ranking South Vietnamese officers in Saigon, and the replacement of corps commanders were all deliberately staged to undermine Ky's position and pre-empt his ability to stage a coup. The article concludes that the only recourse left to Ky is the assassination of Thieu, and strongly implies that this is a real possibility.

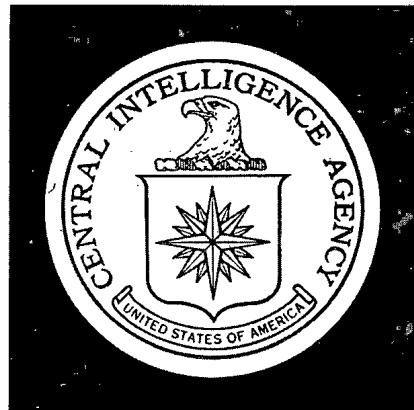
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing significant to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
3 JULY 1968

1. Communist China

Recent satellite photography has provided good evidence that China is producing medium range ballistic missiles at a plant just outside of Peking.

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2. Czechoslovakia

There are still no signs that any of the Russian military units deployed from the Soviet Union into central Czechoslovakia for the Warsaw Pact exercise have withdrawn. Some of the Soviet elements which deployed into western Czechoslovakia from East Germany, however, have returned to their bases.

3. Supersonic
Transports

Either the Soviet TU-144 or the Anglo-French Concorde may have the distinction of being the first supersonic transport to fly. The TU-144 is scheduled to fly before the end of the year, probably in the fall. The Concorde is at a comparable stage of development.

Both programs are already well behind their original schedules, however, and further delays could well crop up.

4. Philippines

Marcos is making little effort to assure a continued Philippine presence in Vietnam. We see no sign, for instance, that he is really trying to get the Philippine Congress to act on an appropriation bill for the Vietnam contingent. In fact, Embassy Manila quotes Marcos as saying that he will merely ask for a congressional decision on this "one way or the other."

5. Greece

The military rulers are evidently badly divided over certain provisions of their draft constitution--particularly those defining the role of the King. The embassy believes that Premier Papadopoulos now stands virtually alone against those in the junta who oppose any position of power for Constantine. The embassy cautions that this situation could provoke some of the hot heads in the leadership to try for a takeover.

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6. Mexico

The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) of President Ordaz faces a severe challenge in elections for governors and other officials in Chihuahua and Durango next Sunday.

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Last month the party evidently lost local elections in Tijuana and Mexicali, but the PRI-controlled state legislature voided both contests.

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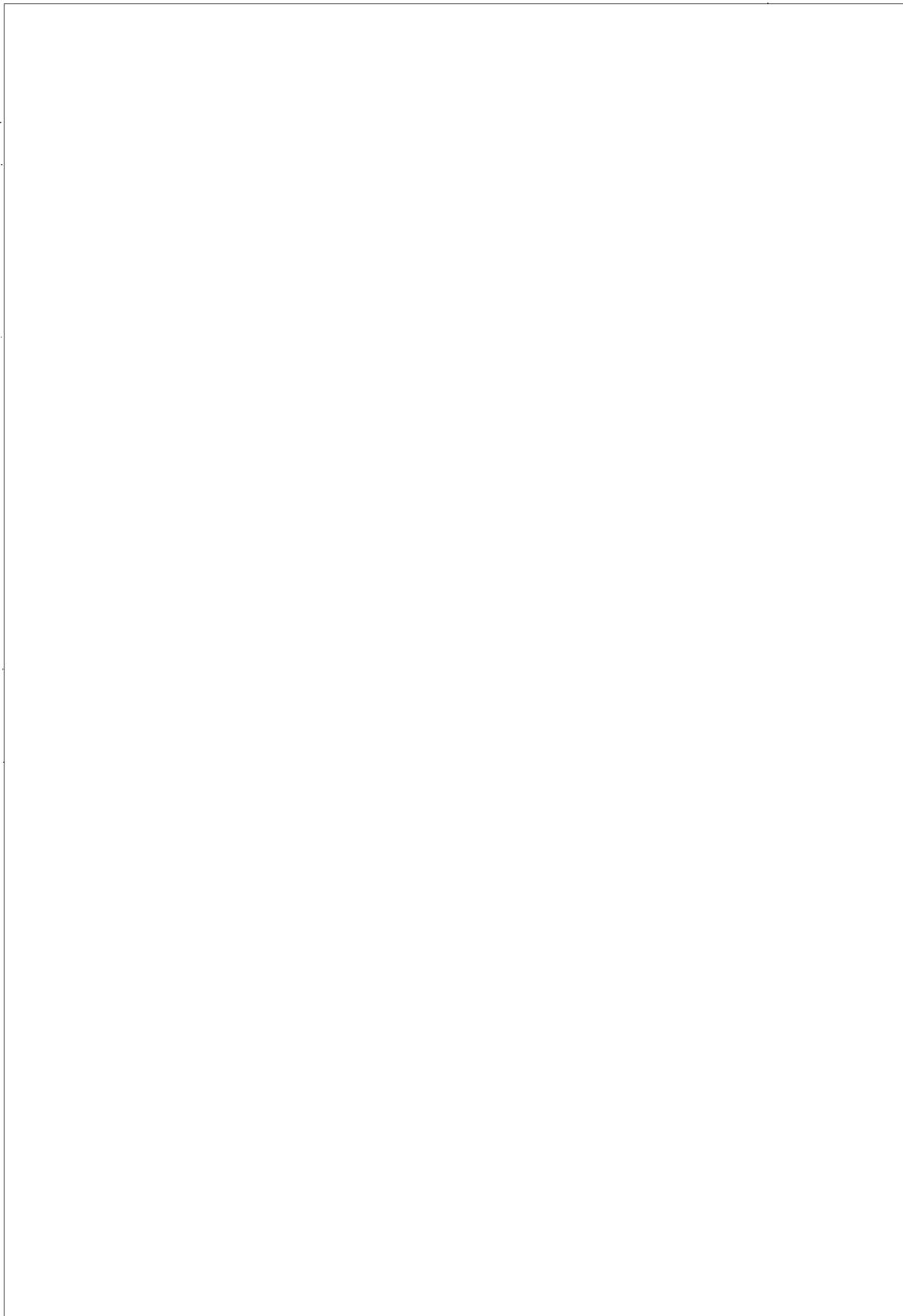
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Peking Breaks Silence on Vietnam: On 28 June Peking broke its silence on the Vietnam war by reporting Hanoi's claimed shootdown of a 3000th US plane. On 2 July the Chinese followed this up by reporting a press conference held by the North Vietnamese ambassador in Peking publicizing the event. Out of respect for Chinese sensibilities, the ambassador made no reference to the Paris talks but stressed the Vietnamese people's determination to "win even greater victories."

The highlighting of the alleged North Vietnamese shootdown and the coverage of the North Vietnamese press conference represent the first significant Chinese media coverage of Vietnam since Hanoi's agreement to peace talks. It seems clear that both Peking and Hanoi, despite their differences over the tactic of negotiation, are attempting to counter recent reports of increasing serious friction in Sino-North Vietnamese relations.

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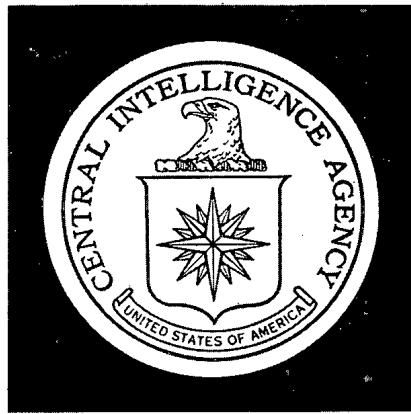
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 4 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
4 JULY 1968

1. South Vietnam

Ky and armed forces chief Vien apparently hold an extremely gloomy view of Saigon's prospects in the event of another Communist offensive. Although they may be genuinely concerned about weaknesses in the city's defenses, their thinking may be colored by personal frustration as Ky's military associates are removed by Thieu.

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2. Guatemala

Tight security has been clamped on Guatemala City following a bold rocket attack by Communist terrorists Sunday. The Communists have been lying low for the past few days, but we know [redacted]

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[redacted] they were planning more bombings "in the immediate future." These plans were made before President Johnson's trip was announced.

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The terrorists, however, may try to time some action with the President's stop.

3. Chile

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4. Soviet Union

Yesterday Brezhnev made one of his most vindictive public attacks on the US in particular and on the West in general. The speech before visiting Hungarian leaders, however, was intended more to shore up fellow Communists than to herald a new shift in Soviet attitudes toward this country. What Brezhnev was saying, in effect, was that if the Communist world has troubles, the West has more.

Despite his language--the US social system "arouses contempt and revulsion"--we note that Brezhnev placed the party stamp of approval on talks with the US on limitation of strategic weapons.

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5. Soviet Union -
Pakistan

Soviet arms sales to Pakistan are in the offing. The Pakistani military delegation which went to Moscow last month apparently got a commitment.

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The Indians will not like this, but there is not much they can do about it as they are dependent on Soviet military aid themselves. Moscow's move is intended to cut into the US and Chinese positions as military hardware suppliers to Pakistan.

6. Panama

The draft canal treaties may be in trouble when Arias becomes president on 1 October. He is talking about throwing them out and starting all over with a fresh round of negotiations. Arias says the present drafts are too complicated, but what he really wants is a treaty that has his personal imprint. While Arias understands the need for close relations with the US, he also is a nationalist who will push for greater concessions to Panamanian sovereignty.

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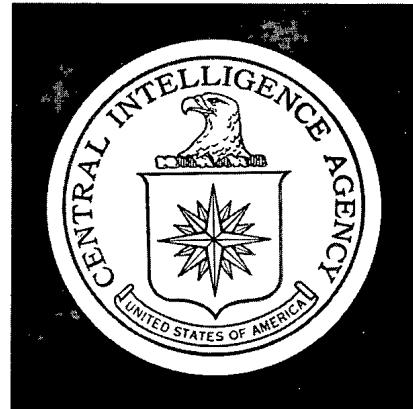
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7. Communist China

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4 July 1968

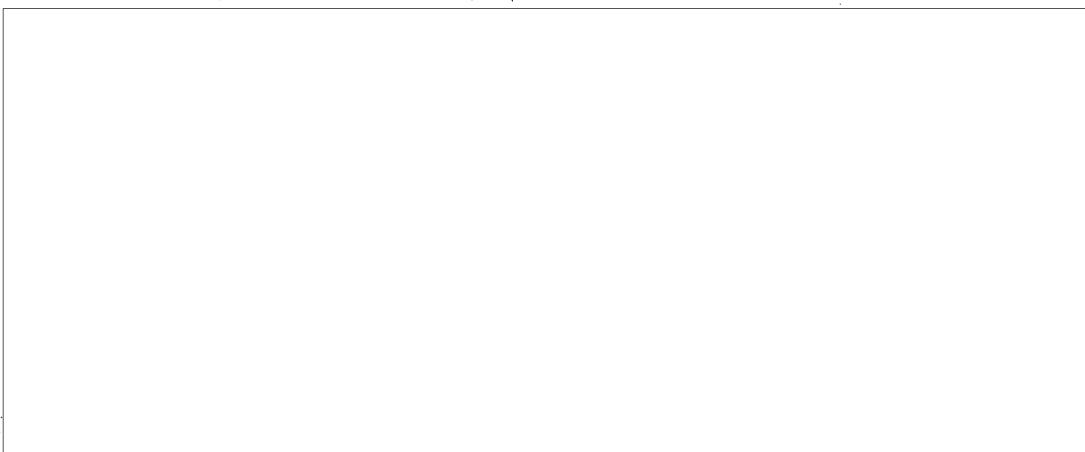
**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only**

4 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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American Fliers: Hanoi's 3 July announcement that it intends to release three more American fliers may be a move to improve the atmosphere for making some progress in the Paris talks. It is still too early to determine if the continuing lull in Communist military activity in South Vietnam also has this purpose, but the planned release of the pilots lends credence to this possibility. Hanoi may, however, simply bill the release as a gesture for the US Fourth of July celebrations or even in connection with the anniversary of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on 20 July.

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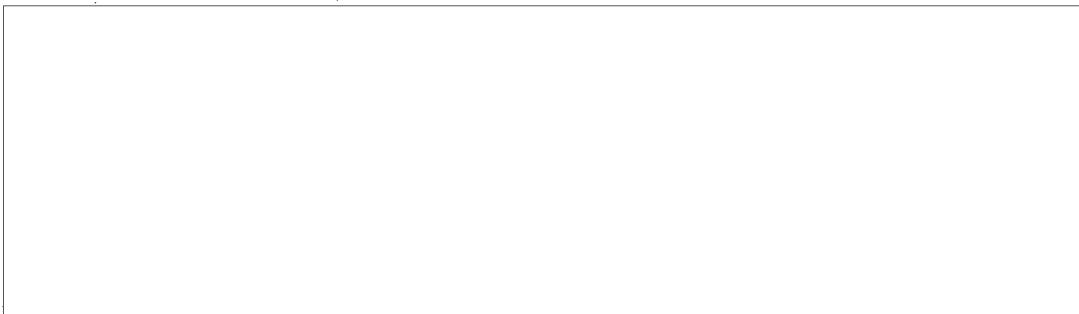
Release of South Vietnamese: In a move apparently coordinated with Hanoi's decision to release the pilots, Liberation Radio reported on 2 July that the Front had released eight South Vietnamese prisoners on 30 May. According to the broadcast, the prisoners were released in execution of the Front's "lenient humanitarian policy"--language identical to that employed in Hanoi's announcement of 3 July.

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Poles Protest Saigon Shelling: Members of the Polish International Control Commission delegation have told a US Embassy officer in Saigon that the Polish Government has protested the indiscriminate shelling of Saigon to the North Vietnamese and that General Giap did not reject the protest outright.

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The Poles also asserted that there would be no more such rocket attacks.



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Cuban Trade Official to Hanoi: [redacted]

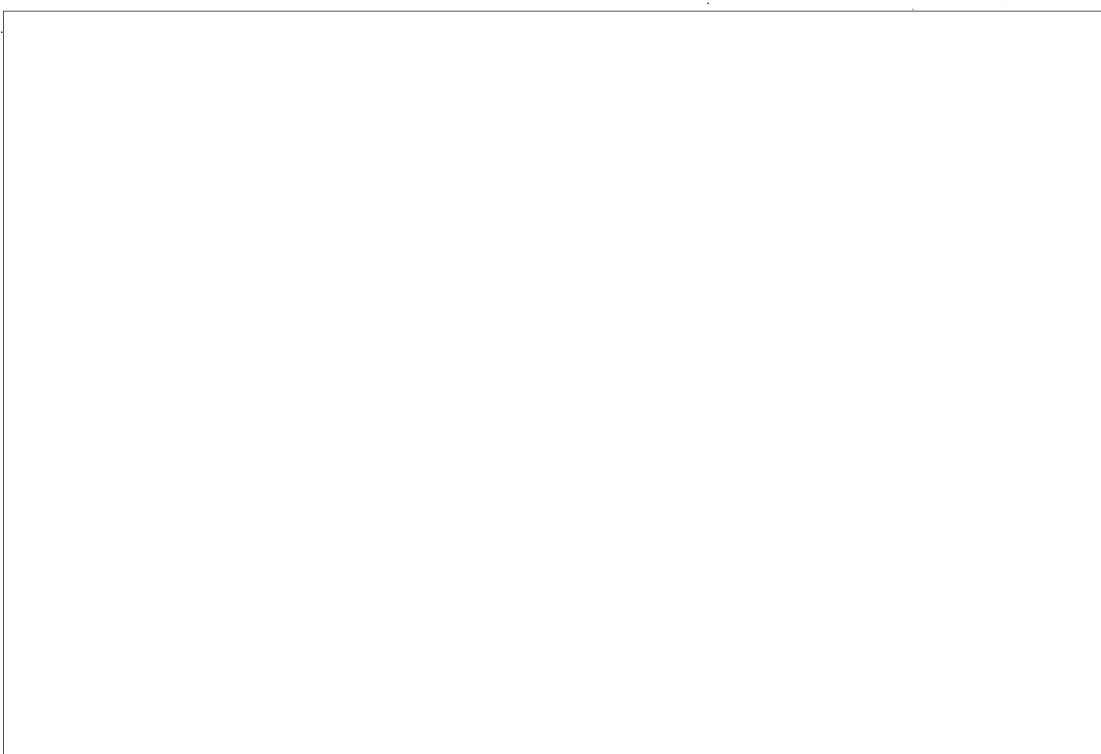
[redacted] Cuba's vice foreign trade minister will arrive in Hanoi on 8 July. The probable purpose is to sign the annual Cuban aid agreement. The visit is another facet of this year's North Vietnamese aid-seeking drive.

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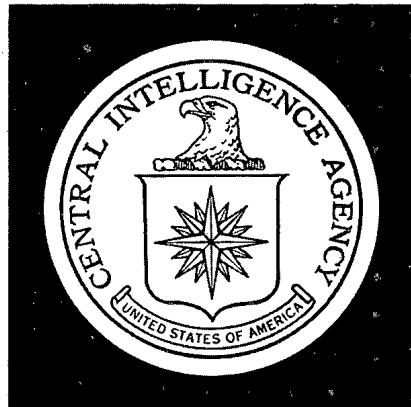
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
5 JULY 1968

1. Brazil

The question of how to handle student-led unrest is dividing the armed forces. Some key military figures are urging Costa e Silva to make cabinet changes and to take a harder line against any further disorders. Others oppose repression and want educational and social reforms.

Costa e Silva has a record of avoiding such tough decisions, and whether the prospect of a further loss of military support will persuade him to act is problematic. He maintains his narrow view of the country's problems, seeing them as products of a "vast, subversive plot," rather than of any ineptitude on the part of his administration.

2. Uruguay

The Communists evidently are determined to continue their campaign of protests and strikes, and the next week or two may be critical for the Pacheco government.

3. Soviet Union

Brezhnev made another speech yesterday attacking the West. Again, it was primarily for the benefit of fellow Communists, delivered this time to a Soviet national teachers congress. The troubles of Western society were emphasized to point up his warning to Soviet artists and educators that they must beware of efforts to subvert their faith in Communism.

4. Czechoslovakia

Soviet troops which participated in the Warsaw Pact exercise are still in Czechoslovakia, and there are no signs that they are preparing to withdraw. Prague continues to maintain, however, that all foreign troops will leave.

5. Cuba

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6. Egypt-Israel

McGeorge Bundy came away from a meeting with Nasir on Wednesday with the impression that there is no prospect for early improvement in the Middle East situation. On the Arab refugee problem, Nasir stressed that Egypt was prepared to accept compensation and repatriation as a solution--to which Bundy replied that repatriation was not now a practical alternative.

Nasir said his reason for linking the Suez Canal and refugee questions was that until there was a solution to the Palestine problem, he could not allow Israeli flags to pass through heavily populated areas of the canal. He had already told Jarring he was prepared to permit transit by Israeli cargoes.

Bundy told Nasir his remarks had indicated an underlying belief that no political solution was in sight. Nasir replied, "Then there is only one other solution."

7. Sierra Leone

Rumors have swept Freetown that an American-Belgian mercenary force is about to invade the country. Prime Minister Stevens has given credence to them over the radio and has deployed troops to strategic points. Wide acceptance of these rumors will encourage leftist elements around Stevens to step up their anti-US activities. The arrival of a new Peace Corps contingent has been delayed at Stevens' request for "security reasons."

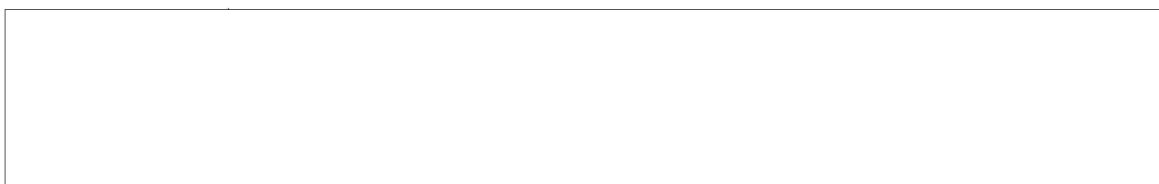
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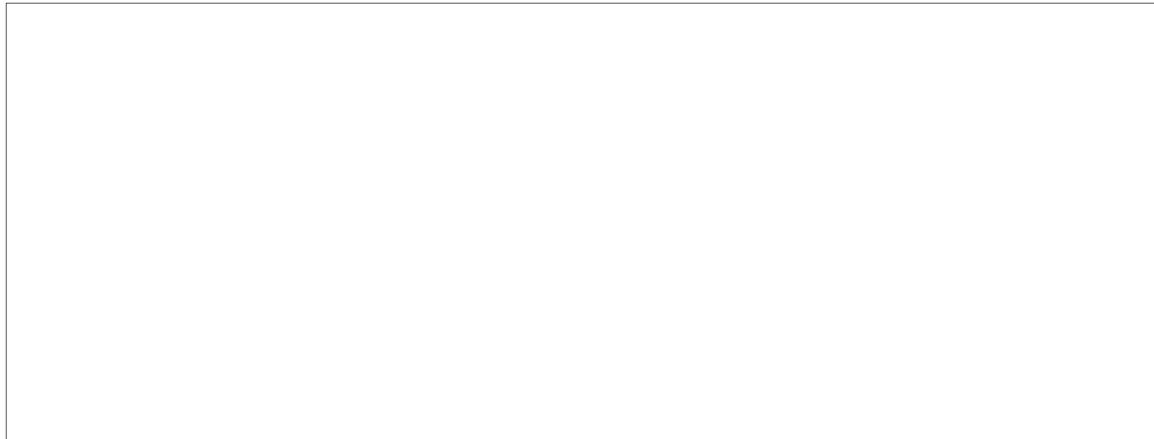
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Morale: [redacted] since the beginning of the Viet Cong - North Vietnamese offensive in the South and the letup in US bombing, there has been an air of celebration among the people of North Vietnam. The people believe not only that the war will be over soon but that it will be a definite victory for the North.

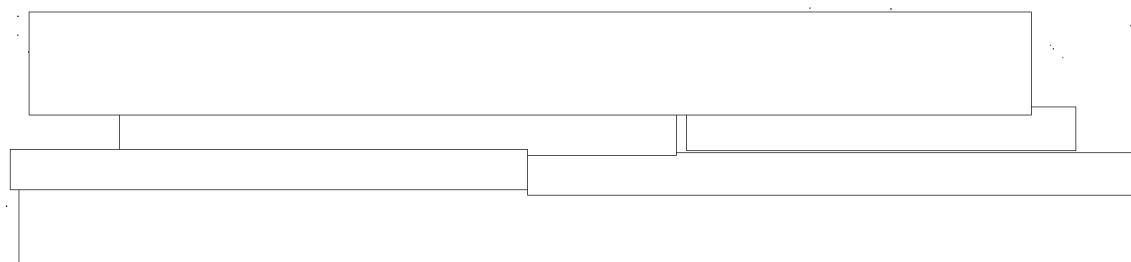
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Hanoi on Khe Sanh Withdrawal: Hanoi's army newspaper yesterday asserted that US Marines at Khe Sanh are trying to evacuate the area, but that they "cannot do it" because of continued attacks by Communist forces. The paper calls the withdrawal a "shameful defeat" for US military commanders and says this course was forced on them by Communist battlefield successes. The party daily Nhan Dan ran a similar item yesterday.

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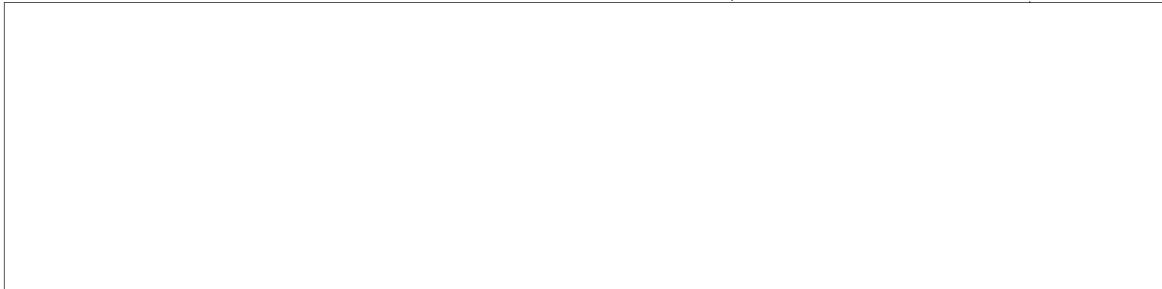
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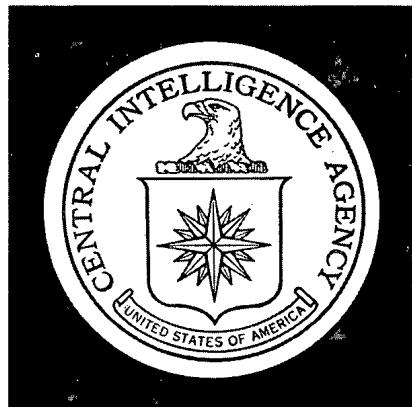
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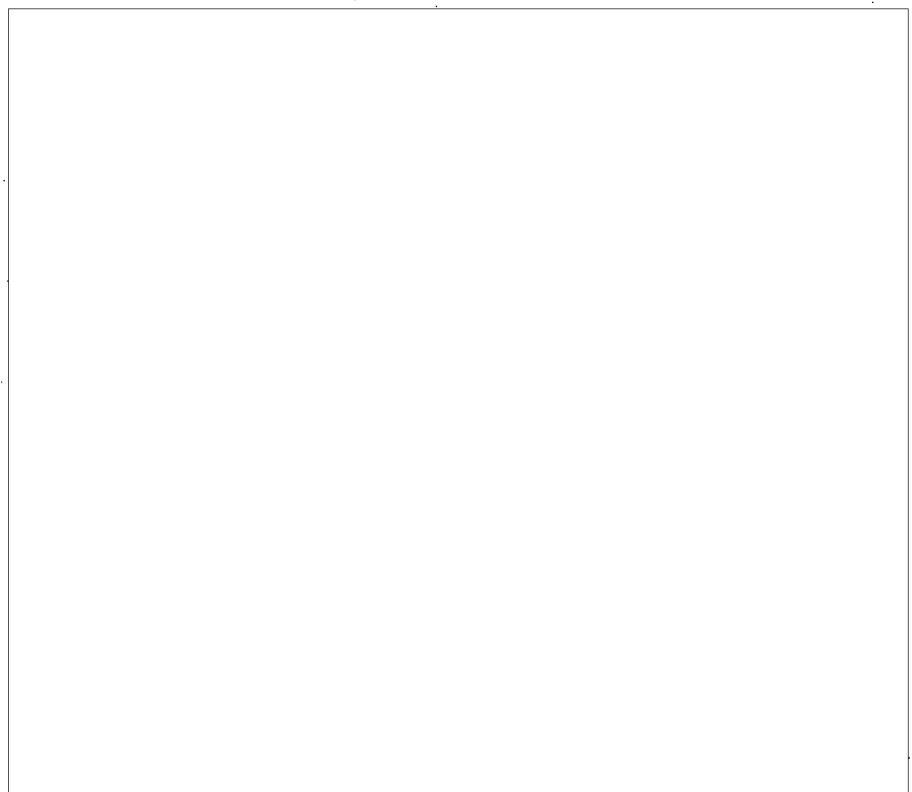
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THE PRESIDENT'S
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6 JULY 1968

1. South Vietnam



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2. France

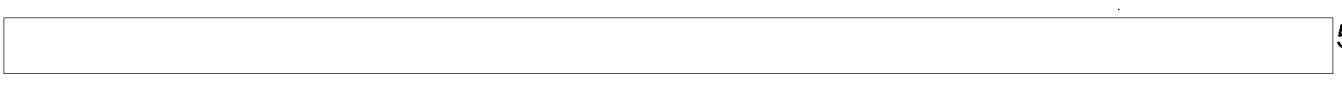
In the two months of May and June France lost more than 25 percent--about \$1.8 billion--of its reserves trying to support the franc. Reserves of gold and foreign exchange now stand at about \$5.2 billion, down from nearly \$7 billion on 1 May. Because of an adverse balance of payments, losses are likely to continue in coming months.

3. Middle East

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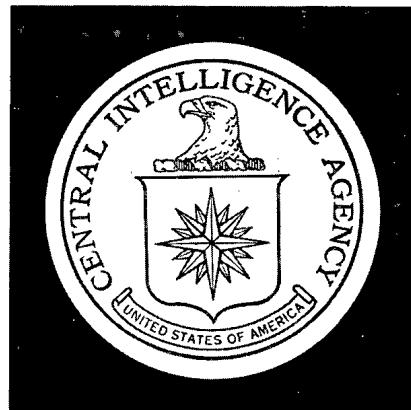
4. Berlin

The Berlin access problem is now essentially at a standoff. Bonn is being careful to comply with the new East German controls, and Pankow is seeing that the traffic gets processed in an expeditious manner. Recent reports from the East German side say that some officials there are beginning to have second thoughts about the usefulness of the new restrictions.

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6 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Captured Document Notes Dissidence: A notebook recently captured in South Vietnam has one of those extremely rare references to internal security problems in North Vietnam. The notebook reportedly belonged to a senior officer whose notes say that in North Vietnam "230,000 out of 300,000 who opposed the regime were sent to reformatories." According to the notes, taken during an indoctrination session last fall, there are three types of "reactionaries" in Hanoi: 1) supporters of South Vietnam; 2) supporters of Yugoslav policies; and 3) "neutralist-pacifists."

Dissident elements of the type described doubtless exist and punishment of politically unreliable individuals probably occurs regularly. A new decree against "counterrevolutionaries" was promulgated last fall. The notes about large numbers of people being sent to reformatories may not be current, however, and could refer to roundups of political prisoners during earlier years.

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Non-Communist Contacts: [redacted]

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[redacted] two North Vietnamese diplomats will visit Denmark beginning 7 July. The North Vietnamese ambassador in East Berlin and an attaché are expected to remain in Denmark for several days.

The visit is another sign of Hanoi's relatively new interest in cultivating better relations with non-Communist countries. In the past six months the North Vietnamese have vigorously pursued such contacts in an effort to sell their position on the war to the widest possible Western audience.

A Swedish Foreign Office official is on his way to Hanoi. The US Embassy in Vientiane reported on 5 July that Jean Christophe Oberg, ("Director of the cabinet" in the Swedish Foreign Office and personal representative of the Swedish Foreign Minister) was scheduled to take the 5 July ICC flight to Hanoi and stay about a week. The Swedish official did not volunteer the nature of his business.

Soviet Aid: Moscow and Hanoi signed a new economic and military aid agreement on 4 July climaxing the visit of North Vietnam's Deputy Premier Le Thanh Nghi to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. No time period was given but the agreement probably covers supplementary aid for 1968 and aid for 1969 as did agreements recently signed in Eastern Europe. Nghi has signed agreements with every Communist country in Europe and will now move on to Asian Communist capitals. He was due in North Korea yesterday.

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[Redacted]

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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
7 JULY 1968

1. Presidential Trip

Moscow and Peking wasted no time in playing up the anti-American demonstrations in San Salvador. The official press services of both countries carried items yesterday which read as though there was no one but protesters in the streets. The stories also were sharply critical of the Central American common market calling it a means of "plundering the people" and saying that the President's trip was aimed at salvaging it from bankruptcy.

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2. USSR-Czechoslovakia

Most of the Soviet troops brought into Czechoslovakia for a Warsaw Pact exercise which ended more than a week ago are lingering on. Czechoslovak spokesmen continue their almost daily forecasts that the Russians will soon go home. Marshal Yakubovsky, the Soviet who commands the Warsaw Pact, may not be so inclined. He is said to have been displeased with the results of the exercise and to want another one in Czechoslovakia in about a month. Prague rightly sees more than military training in this request and the issue has been sent to the highest Soviet and Czechoslovak levels for resolution.

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[Redacted] 50X1

3. USSR-EAR

Moscow has rolled out the red carpet for Nasser, but there are some signs that his talks with the Soviet leaders did not go all that smoothly. TASS labelled the first round of talks as a "frank exchange of opinions"—wording that often signifies differences of view. Even more intriguing is Nasser's decision to stay on in Moscow until mid-week although his hosts apparently thought he would move on to Belgrade yesterday.

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There is no clue yet what new military or economic aid Nasser will take home. The makeup of the Egyptian delegation suggests military aid will, at least, be discussed.

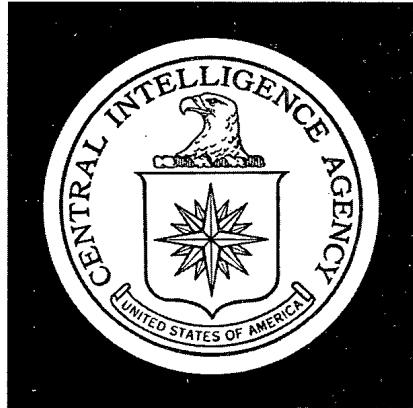
4. Poland

The party Central Committee will meet on Monday for the first time since the political crisis of last March. Party chief Gomulka appears to have improved his position in recent weeks, but he will still have to strike compromises on key issues with his hardline opponents. The meeting is expected to set a date for a party Congress later this year. It may also shift some jobs around.

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The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 8 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
8 JULY 1968

1. Guatemala

Communist terrorists last night threw a bomb at the residence of the US ambassador in Guatemala City. The explosion caused no injuries. Another explosive device found at Peace Corps headquarters was disarmed by Guatemalan security personnel. [redacted]

[redacted] the terrorists plan to carry out a series of bombings and attacks through today.

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2. Presidential Trip

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3. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

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4. Soviet Union -
Egypt

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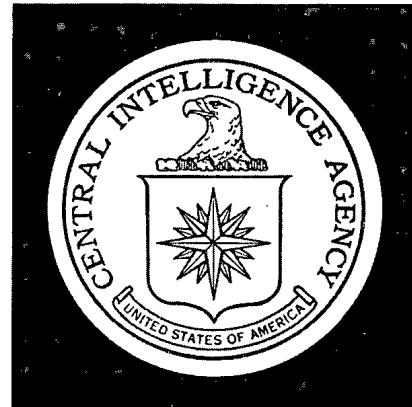
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6. Malaysia-
Thailand

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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

Top Secret
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8 July 1968

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

8 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Photographic Reconnaissance: Reconnaissance photography of 30 June showed that a high level of activity continues throughout the Haiphong port area, with indications that incoming cargo is being moved at an increased pace.

A total of 277 pieces of rolling stock, an increase of 100 since 3 June, were photographed in Haiphong--122 in the port area and 155 in the main rail yard. Twenty-six ships were photographed in the Haiphong area, 11 of which were discharging cargo.

Photography of most of the major airfields showed that there are now at least 46 fighter aircraft in North Vietnam, about 17 more than had previously been estimated.

The North Vietnamese are continuing to build blast walls around the generators and boilers at several power plants. At least three of six power plants photographed were in operation.

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Hanoi Radio Describes U Thant Meeting: U Thant met on 6 July with Xuan Thuy. Hanoi's international service in English on 7 July said that Thuy reiterated North Vietnam's position that the US "must bear full responsibility for the fact that the talks do not make progress."

The Hanoi broadcast said that Thuy denounced the US demand for reciprocity in return for an end to the bombing of North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese negotiator noted U Thant's "positive point" in demanding an unconditional end to the bombing, but also "expressed regret" that the Secretary General "confused the aggressor and those who oppose aggression."

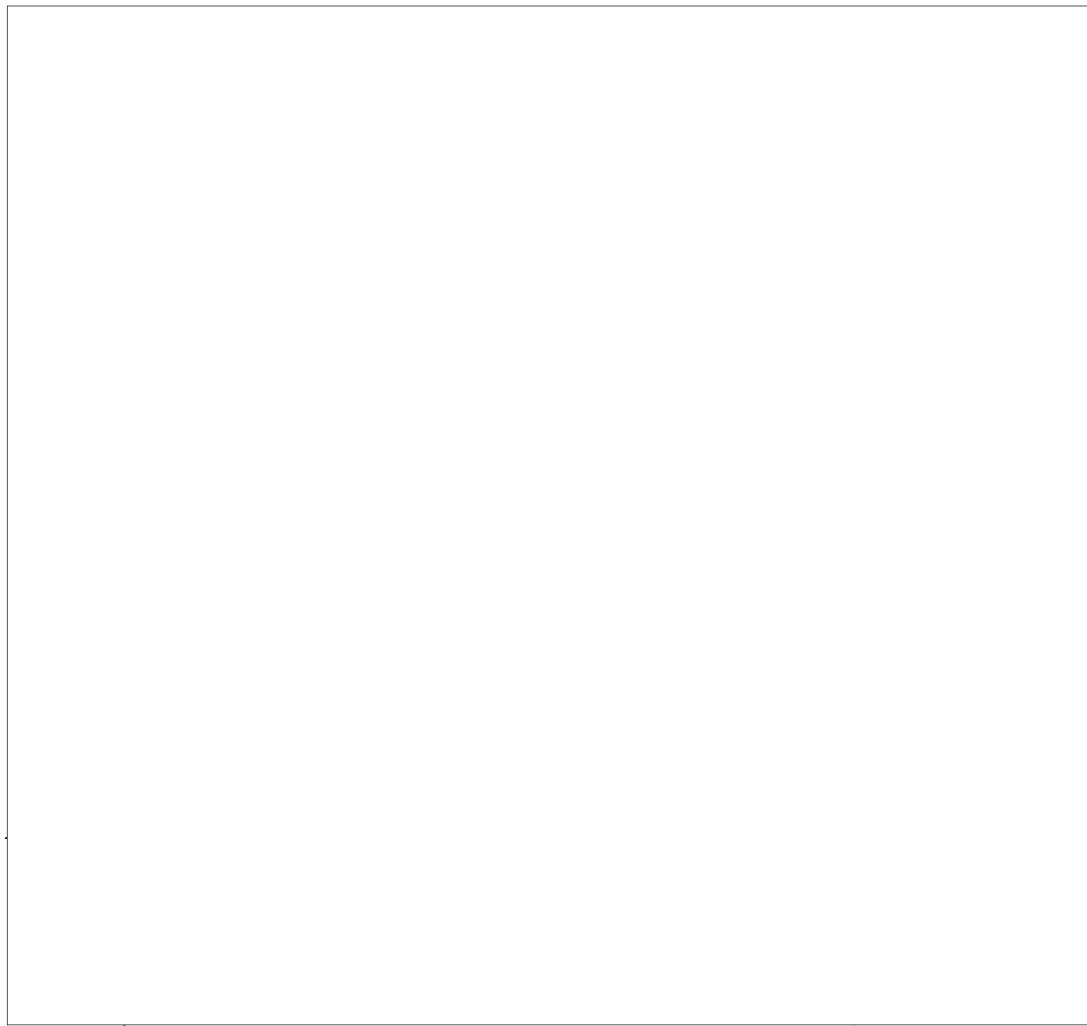
The broadcast also noted that Thant said his visit was aimed at hearing about the Paris talks and not at making any new proposals.

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Women's Group in Rome: A North Vietnamese women's group arrived in Rome on 3 July. This group will be in Italy about two weeks as the guest of the Italian Communist women's organization. The North Vietnamese women are meeting with assorted bands of leftist ladies. Their visit is being covered by the Communist newspapers, but is being largely ignored by the rest of the press.

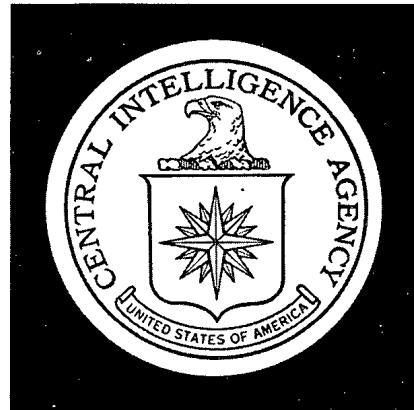
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
9 JULY 1968

1. Soviet Union

There are signs that the Soviets will try again to launch an unmanned spacecraft on a circumlunar mission later this month. Earlier attempts--

[redacted]
failed during launch.

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2. Israel

We presume that Golda Meir's resignation yesterday as secretary general of the Israel Labor Party was due mainly to age and poor health. Whatever the reason, her departure leaves an important void, and the selection of her successor will bring on a major intra-party struggle.

Mrs. Meir has long been a symbol of the party's old guard which has backed Prime Minister Eshkol. With her departure it may well become weaker. Her resignation will have no direct bearing on the course of Arab-Israeli relations.

3. Japan

Sato's Liberal Democrats did better than expected in Sunday's upper house elections. The chief opposition party--the Socialists--were set back for the second time in a row. Sato will undoubtedly be encouraged to keep his present course and maintain close ties with the US.

4. France

The French nuclear test on Sunday

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5. Communist China

The count of bodies recovered from the waters around Hong Kong is now over 60. Most of these victims of the factional fighting inside China had died violently before being dumped in the river.

6. Soviet Union-
Communist China

Sino-Soviet trade will probably hit rock bottom this year. Newly released Soviet statistics show a decline in 1967 to \$106 million--only one third the level of the year before, and about five percent of the 1959 figure.

7. South Korea

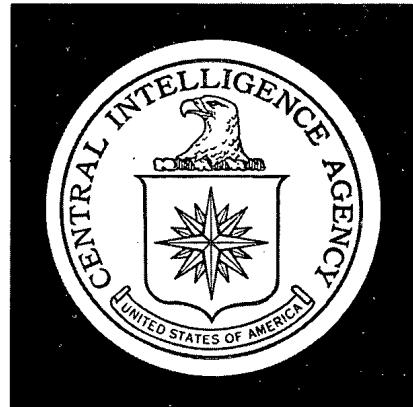
Contrary to usual practice, important legislation has recently been getting through the National Assembly without major partisan delay.

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9 July 1968

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

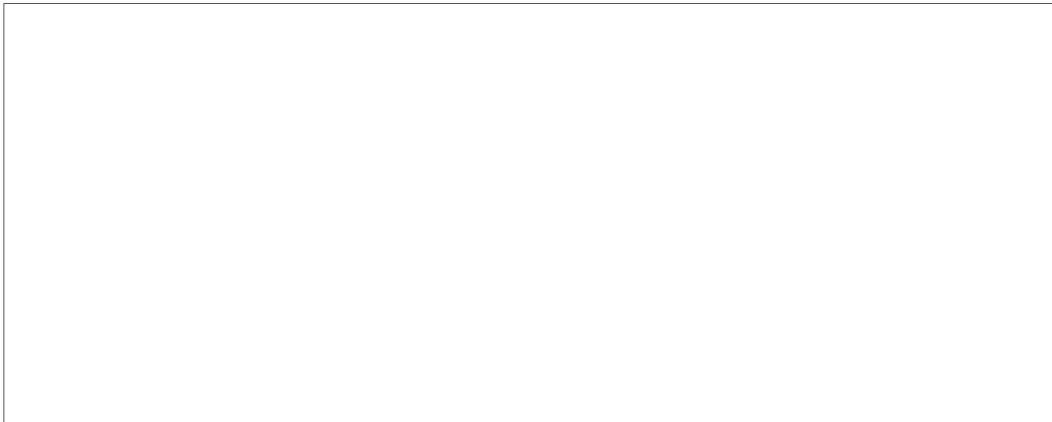
9 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Reply to Ashmore: Hanoi has turned down Harry Ashmore's proposal for a Southeast Asian conference. In the process it went out of its way to chide him for failing to produce results in his previous mediating efforts. According to a message to Ashmore from the Indonesian ambassador in Hanoi, the editor of Nan Dhan (Ashmore's contact during his visit to Hanoi in March) did not reject the idea totally, but he considered the present time "not opportune because bombings continue and no progress in Paris." The editor then voiced "disappointment with follow-up after your talks in Hanoi, especially Department of State's public disavowal of unofficial contacts in Hanoi and your failure to influence US Government's subsequent attitude." The Indonesians gave the text of this message to Ambassador Green in Djakarta.

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New Road Around Demilitarized Zone: The North Vietnamese have almost completed a new road into the Laos Panhandle. [redacted]

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The new road is apparently to connect with a route in Laos which is being extended northward. When the two roads are joined, the Communists will have a motor road which is shorter and more direct than the two existing entry roads from North Vietnam.

* * *

Roads in Laos: The road construction near the Demilitarized Zone is related to a more general Communist effort to upgrade the road network in Laos.

[redacted] as a result of this effort the network will for the first time be able to handle truck traffic all the way to the South Vietnamese border during the entire rainy season. In fact, the system can now handle more materiel, even in the rainy season, than is required by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces in South Vietnam.

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All Indochinese are Brothers: In words which recall Hanoi's recent line that all Vietnam is "one country," the North Vietnamese press spokesman in Paris yesterday voiced support for Laotian and Cambodian resistance to "American aggressors." "The Vietnamese people, the Laotian people, and the Khmer (Cambodian) people," he said, "are three brother peoples living on the soil of the Indochinese Peninsula. Their fates are closely tied to one another."

In expanding the "one country" idea to include Cambodia, the spokesman came out strongly in support of Prince Sihanouk. In doing so he had to ignore the inconvenient fact that the internal dissidence which has plagued Sihanouk for months has received considerable Communist support.

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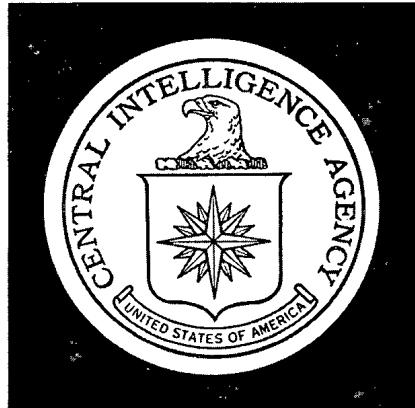
Propaganda on Bombings: In a broadcast yesterday charging that the US had "intensified" air and naval attacks on North Vietnamese territory during June, Hanoi's international service cited dozens of bombing and artillery fire statistics to prove its point. The broadcast accused the US of singling out such civilian targets as schools, churches, homes, and hospitals for attack.

In a French language item transmitted on Sunday to the North Vietnamese news agency in Paris, Hanoi complained that North Vietnam has been "continuously overflowed" by US attack and reconnaissance planes since the bombing limitation was announced. Citing the "colossal interception network" which protects American airspace from invading aircraft, the broadcast found it "very regrettable" that the "rulers of the White House do not recognize the rights of other countries" to defend their sovereignty. The broadcast warned Communist antiaircraft crews not to relax their vigilance, even in areas not being attacked, since "we should not exclude" the possibility that unlimited bombing might be resumed.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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~~Top Secret~~ 10 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
10 JULY 1968

1. France

Pompidou's replacement by Couve de Murville seems to indicate that De Gaulle plans to exercise even tighter control over the government's policies than he has in the past. Pompidou's relations with the president have been strained since the May crisis, and we think one reason is that he displayed too much independence then. He is also said to disagree with some of the more radical reforms De Gaulle is planning, particularly the scheme to let workers participate in the management of their enterprises.

Couve, on the other hand, is described by his opponents as the "best messenger boy in the government." He is essentially a gifted but very loyal and somewhat cynical bureaucrat.

Although Pompidou obviously can no longer be considered De Gaulle's heir-apparent, we would not count him out.

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For the time being we expect him to take his seat in the National Assembly and operate from there.

2. Soviet Union

Satellite photography of late June shows construction has started on four new groups of silos for the large Soviet ICBM, comparable to our Titan II. (There had apparently been a slow-down in new starts for this weapon in 1967.) This brings the number of launchers for this ICBM to some 230.

50X1

3. Soviet Union

We also learn from satellite photography that the Soviets have begun producing a third type of attack submarine. This latest class is being built in the Soviet Far East; we can not tell yet what sort of a propulsion system it will have. The other two types, both of them nuclear-powered, are being produced in the western Soviet Union.

4. Nationalist
China

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5. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

The Soviets and their conservative
allies in Eastern Europe are keeping up
the pressure on Prague.

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Pravda on Sunday added its voice to the chorus demanding that Prague return to orthodoxy. Brezhnev on Monday weighed in with his third speech in a week on Western "ideological subversion" in Communist Europe.

All this verbiage is backed up by Soviet forces along the border. Some troops and aircraft also remain in Czechoslovakia itself, and the Czech defense minister has now hinted publicly that he is having trouble persuading them to go.

In the face of this pressure the leaders in Prague continue to insist that what goes on inside Czechoslovakia is the business of the Czechs. They doubtless have been heartened by the rank-and-file backing they received over the weekend, when regional party organizations picked a solid pro-Dubcek majority for the party congress in September. They seem so sure of themselves, in fact, that it would take direct Soviet intervention--open or covert--to stop them.

Although neither side wants to push the dispute to the point of military conflict, they are skating on thin ice. Moscow's unwillingness to remove its troops is particularly disturbing.

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6. Poland

Hard-line opponents of Gomulka made some significant gains in the central committee meeting which ended yesterday. Interior Minister Moczar, their leader, was elected to the party secretariat and to a candidate membership on the politburo. Gomulka, whose authority was once nearly absolute, could not prevent open clashes between his supporters and Moczar followers.

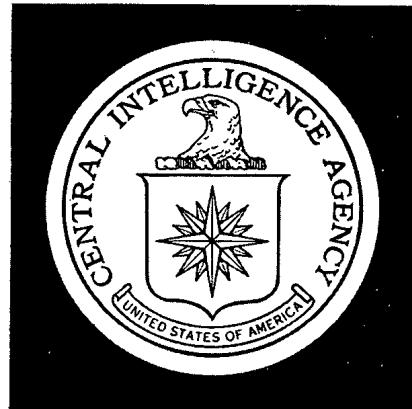
Further intense maneuvering can be expected between now and the party congress in November.

7. North Korea -
South Korea

Infiltration from North Korea has increased over the past two weeks or so. We expect it to continue at the present rate into the fall. Most of the infiltrators encountered so far seem to have been equipped for reconnaissance and have avoided contact with US or South Korean forces.

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10 July 1968

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

10 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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A large, empty rectangular box used for redacting sensitive information.

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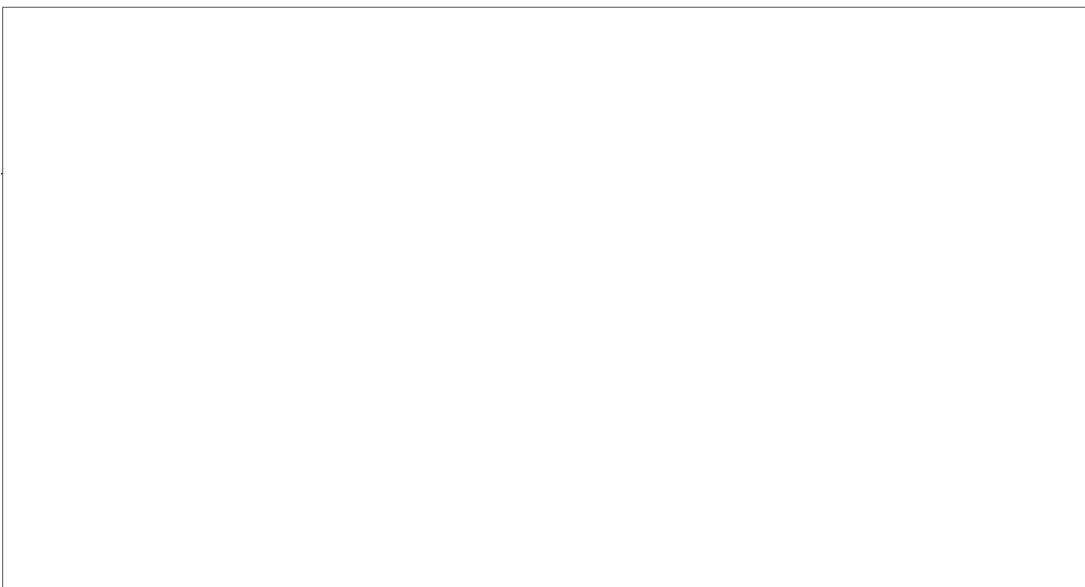
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More on Thant's Talk with Xuan Thuy: U Thant has told an American official that nothing new in Hanoi's position appeared during his talk with Xuan Thuy on 6 July. He said he foresees long, hard negotiations, and that at present he sees no role for the United Nations.

Describing the conversations, Thant said that Thuy reiterated only well-known North Vietnamese positions. Thuy predicted that the talks would continue despite the lack of progress and said that private talks at this stage would "not make any difference."

Thuy declared to Thant that the US has always distorted the Geneva Agreement, but "the whole world knows what it means." He praised Governor Harriman as "a good man" who "has to be guided by instructions from Washington."

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American Fliers: A French radio broadcast reported yesterday that three American pacifists will leave Paris this morning for Hanoi to pick up the three captured pilots North Vietnam is to release.

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The three--Anne Scheer, Vernon Grizzard and Stuart Meacham--will hold a press conference at Orly Airport before their departure. There is as yet nothing official from Hanoi on procedures for the release.

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Propaganda Efforts: In a Paris press conference on 8 July, the North Vietnamese charged that the US, while talking of its restraint, has continued and intensified the war. The charge was accompanied by a long recitation of statistics designed to show the growing ferocity of US attacks on North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese spokesman declared that the US, despite its modern weapons, cannot overcome the hatred and will of the Vietnamese people. He dodged questions concerning the release of American pilots, explaining that he did not know the details of the planned release.

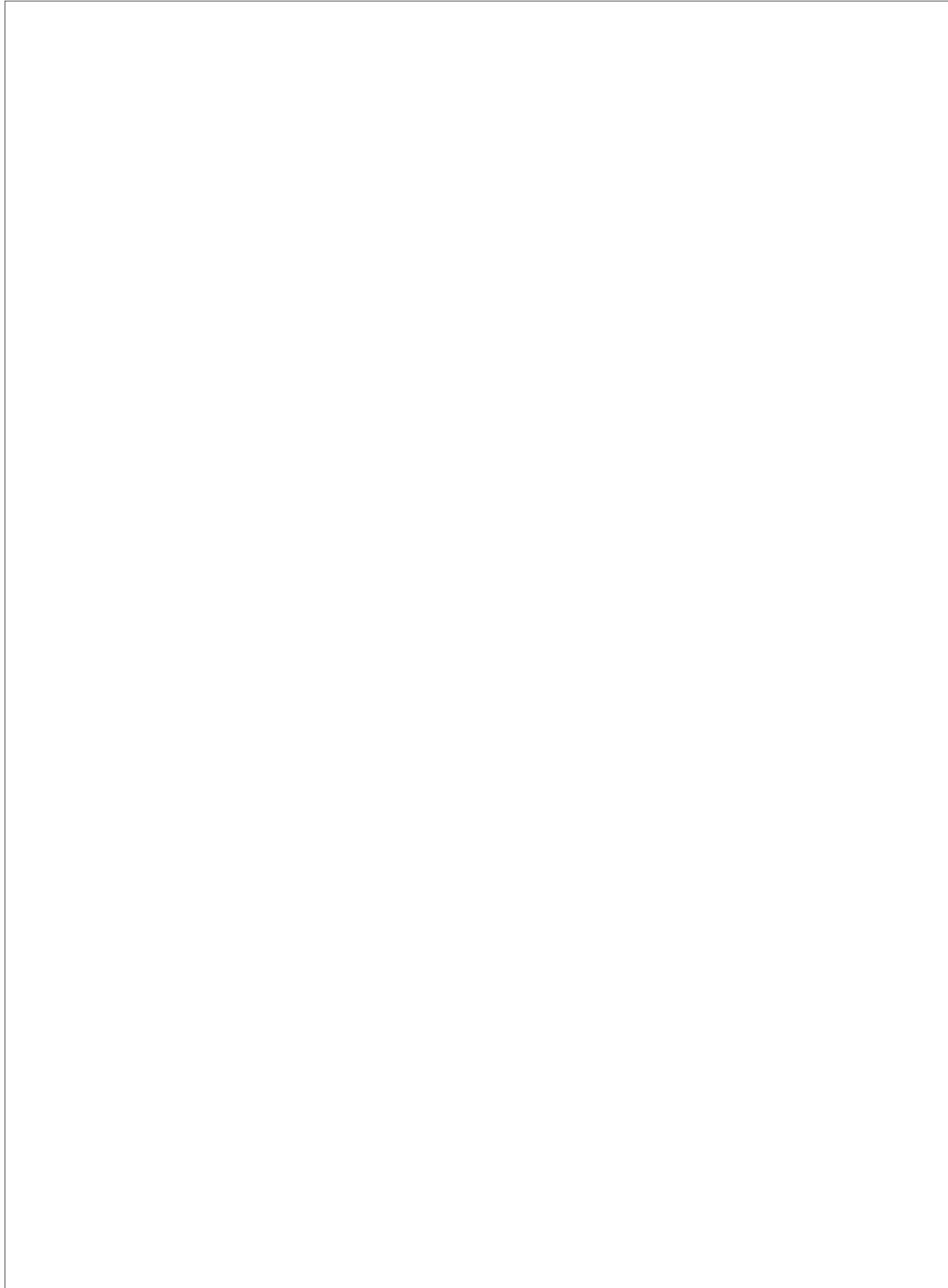
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Pyongyang and Peking Host North Vietnamese Delegation: Pyongyang took the occasion of the visit of the North Vietnamese government economic delegation to reiterate its support for Hanoi and to repeat its offer of "volunteers" if requested. A Pyongyang broadcast on 8 July asserted that discussions had proceeded well and that an agreement was reached that day for North Korea to provide free economic and military aid to North Vietnam. The delegation, headed by politburo member Le Thanh Nghi, had earlier visited Moscow and Eastern Europe. Yesterday it went on to Peking, where it was reported to have been greeted by 500 cheering Red Guards, and by an official Chinese delegation headed by Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien. The Red Guards, according to French Press Agency reports, were waving slogans denouncing US imperialism and supporting the "heroic fight of the Vietnamese people."

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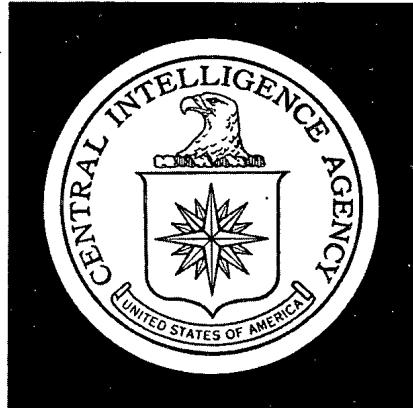
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 11 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
11 JULY 1968

1. Soviet Union -
Egypt

The Soviets may be moving toward a more active role in the search for a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute. In late June Kosygin gave Jarring every indication that Moscow wants to find a solution, and does not want the issue returned to the United Nations. The Soviets, and Jarring himself, are said to be interested in having the US and the Soviet Union "get in on the act" without interfering with the Jarring mission itself. Jarring expects to have more talks with Kosygin in Sweden over the next three days.

The Soviets [] also [] would like Jarring to draw up concrete proposals to put to either side.

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We see in Moscow's efforts not only a wish to encourage Jarring to be more active, but perhaps a willingness to press the Arabs to be more flexible. No such flexibility, however, was evident in the communique issued after Nasir's recent visit to Moscow.

2. Nigeria

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Federal troops now hold about two thirds of Biafra and are slowly pushing ahead against strong resistance. Gowon, who has never fully committed himself to a military solution, is now said to see no alternative.

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3. Pakistan

Ayub no longer seems on top of things. Ambassador Oehlert recently found him disinterested and lethargic and apparently hemmed in by his ministers and staff.

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In his talk with the ambassador, Ayub reneged on his earlier suggestion that "a smaller, less visible" installation might replace the Peshawar facility. Ayub said the Russians had predicted this very thing and had advised him that they would consider it "a very hostile act." Ayub of course is being careful not to upset Moscow at a time when a new military aid program is shaping up. However, anti-US elements in his Foreign Ministry probably helped matters along by leaking his idea for a smaller installation to the Russians.

4. Panama

The freewheeling finance minister is at it again. Last month he engineered a decree allowing Panamanian ships to trade with Communist countries. President Robles later withdrew the decree.

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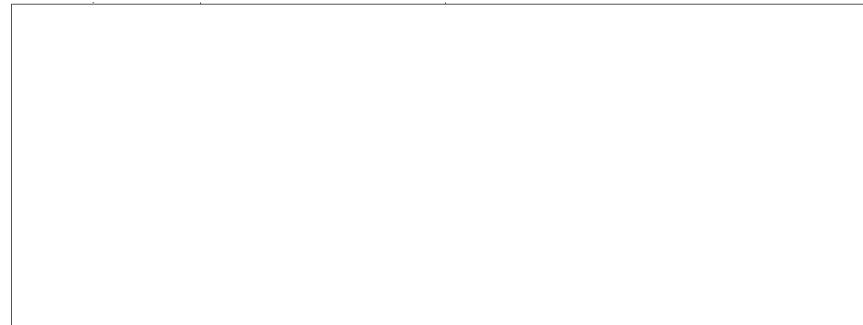
5. Presidential Trip

Overwhelmingly warm and friendly comments continue to characterize the press treatment of President Johnson's visit to Central America. In San Salvador, for example, the President came across exceptionally well and was judged "muy simpatico;" the crowd turnout was above everyone's expectations.

The uniformly favorable press coverage in Nicaragua stressed the President's unifying role in strengthening the Central Americans' commitment to the Common Market and to economic and social progress. Somoza told Ambassador Crockett that his private conversation with President Johnson on the plane had left him more enthused and dedicated than ever to these principles.

In Honduras, Ambassador Jova notes that officials from President Lopez on down were euphoric over the visit, and comments that the accomplishments of the short trip exceeded his expectations. Even one initially critical antigovernment newspaper joined in the heavily favorable press coverage.

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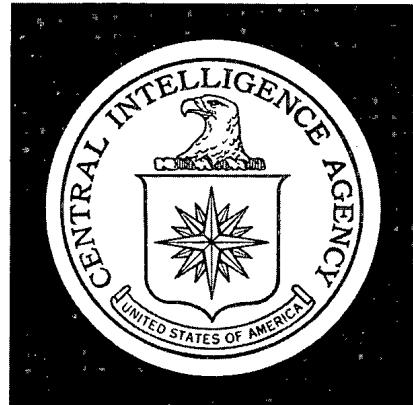
**6. Brazil -
East Germany**

East Germany has offered about 100 diesel-electric locomotives to the Brazilian federal railway in exchange for coffee. This offer is likely to be accepted unless Brazilian trade officials now in the US can arrange suitable financing for US equipment. While the federal government has never bought East German locomotives, the state of Sao Paulo purchased 83 last year.

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17

11 July 1968

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

11 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

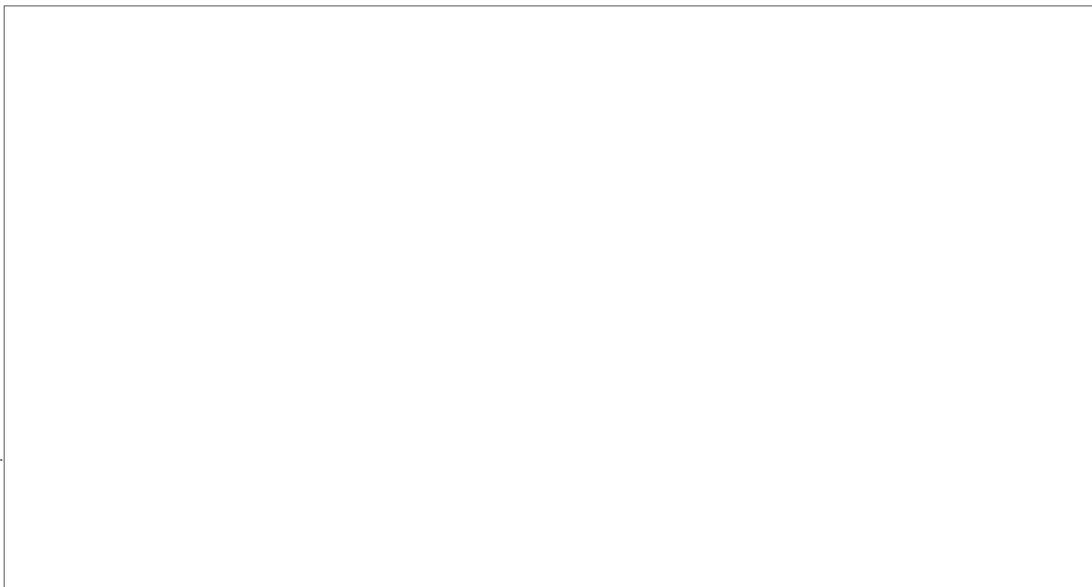
Copenhagen Visit a Bust: Danish officials say that the visit to Copenhagen earlier this week by Hanoi's ambassador to East Germany was a dull and unenlightening affair. The diplomat was on the usual propaganda junket, hoping to extract a joint communique favorable to Communist positions. His conversations with the Danes were especially sterile and consisted of rehashing of the standard North Vietnamese line. It took some five hours to thrash out an acceptable communique; the final version dropped the propaganda which the North Vietnamese had proposed and substituted a bland statement that the Hanoi official had present his government's views on the war.

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Chinese Receive North Vietnamese Aid Delegation: The North Vietnamese economic delegation headed by Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi arrived in Peking on 9 July to arrange this year's Sino - North Vietnamese aid agreement. In contrast with 1966 and 1967, the delegation arrived in Peking last instead of first on an itinerary which included East Europe, the Soviet Union and North Korea. Despite this, the North Vietnamese were given a friendly reception at the airport by Chinese Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien and "more than one thousand revolutionary people" armed with cymbals, gongs and portraits of Mao and Ho Chi-minh.

Although other North Vietnamese officials have recently stopped off in Peking, Nghi is the first ranking North Vietnamese visitor to be publicly acknowledged by the Chinese since Hanoi's acceptance of peace talks. A Peking dispatch covering the delegation's arrival consisted largely of banal salutes to Sino - North Vietnamese "fraternal friendship" and avoided the indirect criticism of the Paris talks contained in previous Chinese statements on Vietnam.

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Hanoi on Khe Sanh: Vietnamese Communist propaganda continues to whoop it up over the US deactivation of the base at Khe Sanh. On 9 July, Hanoi Radio's international service in English claimed that Communist forces have "taken complete control" of the central portion of the base and alleged that the Liberation Front's flag is now flying there while a "search for the remnants of the enemy" continues. Yesterday, the radio broadcast a summary of a Nhan Dan article describing the US "defeat" in such extravagant terms that even the most ardent listener must have been skeptical. There is nothing new in any of this, but the Communists are apparently going to use Khe Sanh in a continuous propaganda campaign, making it a symbol of Communist success and US failure.

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New Diplomatic Ties: Hanoi Radio announced on 10 July that Iraq and North Vietnam have agreed to establish diplomatic relations.

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Hanoi already has diplomatic ties with three other Arab states--Egypt, Syria, and Yemen. It seems likely that the North Vietnamese

ambassador who resides in Cairo and serves all three of these countries will be accredited to Baghdad as well.

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

Americans in Paris: A delegation of Americans described as "draft resisters and deserters" called

on the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris on 6 July and delivered a statement expressing the "American people's opposition to the US war in Vietnam," according to Hanoi Radio. The broadcast said the statement bore the signatures of 550 American members of peace movements in France.

The statement supported Hanoi's demand for a complete bombing halt and expressed the group's dedication to the victory of the Vietnamese people, "which will be the victory of the American people as well." Writing in the delegation's guestbook, two American visitors praised the courage and heroism of the Vietnamese people, the broadcast said.

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
12 JULY 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

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2. Soviet Union

Satellite photography shows that 15 to 20 of the Soviets' 57 SA-5 surface-to-air missile complexes are now operational. The SA-5 is capable of intercepting high-speed aircraft flying as far away as 75 miles and as high as 100,000 feet.

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**3. Sweden -
Soviet Union**

Swedish officials are playing Kosygin's visit (yesterday through Saturday) in low key. They expect nothing much to happen. Embassy Stockholm says it is unable to pinpoint any specific reason for the trip, but notes that the Russians probably consider they are doing well in Sweden and that a successful, uncontroversial visit will underline Soviet respect for Sweden's "neutrality."

4. India-Pakistan

New Dehli is badly disturbed by the news that the Soviet Union is willing to sell arms to Pakistan. The Indians have already made a formal protest

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It is not clear what kind of equipment the Soviets are prepared to sell. Kosygin is quoted as saying that the arms will be defensive, but acknowledged that the Pakistanis looked over some aircraft and equipment for a motorized brigade during their recent shopping trip to Moscow. Kosygin expects the arrangements to be buttoned up before the end of the year.

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5. Central America

Some summit meeting developments are beginning to draw counterfire in Central America.

The Salvadoran-Honduran prisoner exchange, for instance, is drawing political fire in El Salvador. The major opposition party is demanding that the amnesty decree, which released prisoners taken in last year's border clash, be declared unconstitutional. The same people are also opposing a new tariff surcharge that had received a ringing endorsement at the summit. They could block congressional ratification.

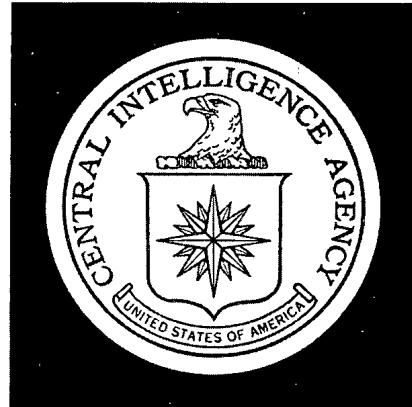
In Costa Rica, opposition deputies have protested what they consider insulting treatment during President Johnson's visit, attacking US security forces for their alleged infringement of the national sovereignty. They have introduced a motion to investigate the Costa Rican security agency, and university students have begun to campaign for its elimination. In a recent press conference, President Trejos remarked sceptically that it remains to be seen whether problems of economic integration can be overcome.

6. Philippines

The Senate deadlock over the \$9 million appropriation for the Philippine contingent in Vietnam seems to have been broken. Although opponents of Marcos in the Senate may come up with restrictive amendments to the bill, prospects are now rather good that the 1,800-man non-combatant force will be continued.

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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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12 July 1968

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

12 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Vice Premier in Peking: Both the Chinese and the North Vietnamese are using Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi's stop in Peking to play down their differences and emphasize Sino-Vietnamese unity. At a banquet on 10 July Nghi responded to his hosts' greetings with a speech which singled out Mao and the Cultural Revolution for special praise. In the past, Hanoi has not disguised its distaste for the excesses of the Cultural Revolution and Chinese adulation of Mao.

Chinese Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien, in his remarks, again warned of US "negotiation plots" and quoted two-year-old speeches of Ho Chi Minh promising to persist in "protracted war" until complete victory is won--a form of oblique criticism which has become commonplace in Chinese propaganda. Li pledged, however, that "any attempt to alienate China and Vietnam" would fail and promised more effective support. This relatively conciliatory language suggests that Peking, deeply concerned with the eventual outcome of the Paris talks, is trying to preserve as much influence in Hanoi as possible.

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More on Internal Security: Last week the Daily Report mentioned a captured notebook which contained comments on the security situation in North Vietnam. A more complete translation gives the following additional information, presumably disclosed at a security conference in North Vietnam last fall. Some 1,500 teenage pickpockets were operating in Hanoi, most of them children of party members. The children reportedly commit 30 to 40 percent as many crimes as professional criminals. As many as 50 criminals have been arrested in a single night in Hanoi, and prostitutes apparently abound. Ten of these ladies of the night were said to frequent European embassies, including those of Hanoi's Communist allies. The notes also assert that corruption is the gravest social problem in North Vietnam and state that the "majority of cadre are grafters."

These rare glimpses of North Vietnam's dirty laundry help to balance the usual accounts, often from sympathetic foreigners, which portray North Vietnam as a nation of efficient and selfless patriots. In assessing the accuracy of these notes, however, the US Embassy in Saigon aptly comments that Hanoi's penchant for exaggerating its successes may be matched by similar exaggeration of deficiencies when the purpose is to exhort the rank and file to do a better job.

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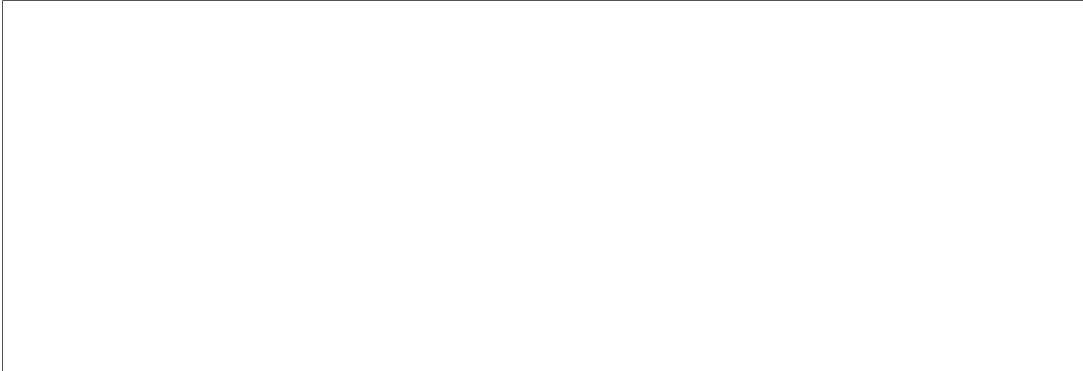
Hanoi Urges Preparations for Floods: A Hanoi domestic broadcast on 4 July stated that North Vietnam was currently in a season of heavy rainfall and needed to pay more attention to preventing and checking typhoon and flood damage and to protecting dams and dikes against "enemy strafing." Many villages reportedly had not yet organized antiflood

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and antityphoon units and many agricultural cooperatives had not yet made the "necessary preparations." Responsible cadres at the provincial and district levels were urged to take "adequate control" over this task.

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The Late Show: The North Vietnamese ambassador to Cairo made a surprise appearance on Zambian TV the other night. He apparently is in Lusaka on the usual propaganda mission and was given this chance to condemn US policies in Vietnam. The US ambassador raised the visit with a local foreign ministry official, who parried a query about the TV show by saying he does not have a set.

The North Vietnamese diplomat apparently had been pressing for such a visit. He was undeterred by the fact that the President and foreign minister were away and said he would talk to anyone. In stressing that Zambia's nonaligned policy remained intact, the foreign ministry official offered our ambassador equal TV time.

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

There is nothing significant to report today.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
13 JULY 1968

LATE ITEM

Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

The Czech news agency announced 50X1
this morning that Soviet troops, "es-
pecially communications and signals
units," have begun to leave Czecho-
slovakia.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
13 JULY 1968

1. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

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[Redacted] with Prague's assertions
that a troop withdrawal will begin today.
Quite clearly, the troops play an important part in the orchestration of Soviet pressure. We assume that unless Dubcek caves in, Moscow will want to keep some forces on the scene as long as it can--preferably until the Czech party congress in September. We have seen no sign of Dubcek's caving in, and we do not expect to. A retreat now would mean the demise of his regime and might even lead to a popular rebellion.

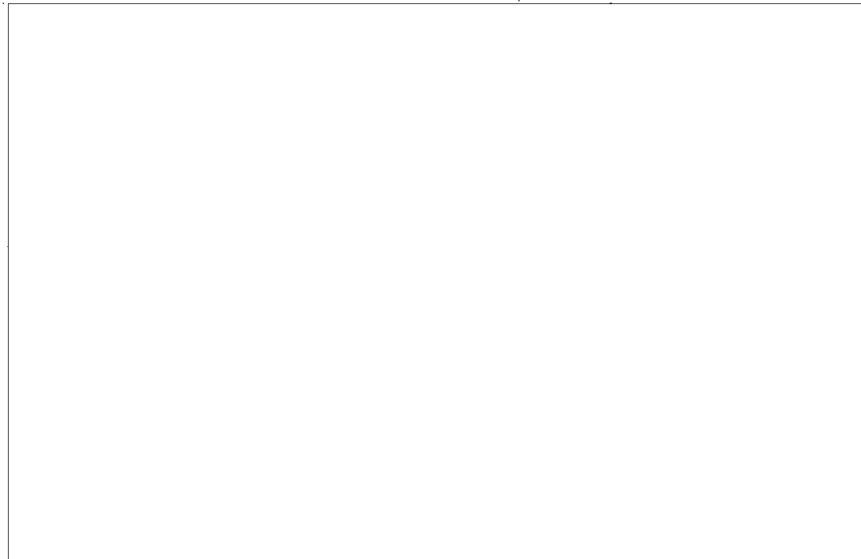
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2. Middle East

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3. Nigeria

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4. Greece

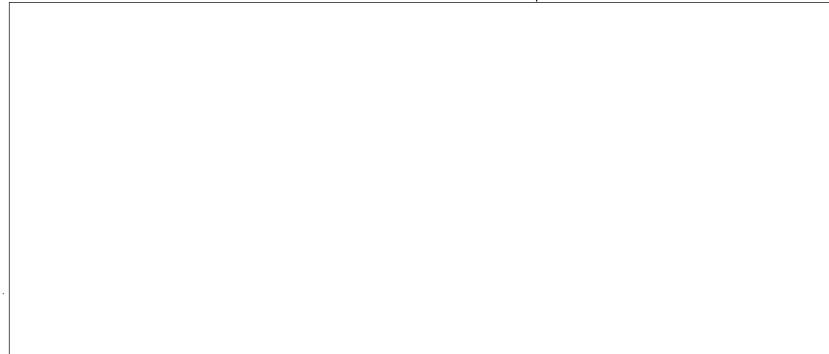
The Greek Government's draft constitution runs true to form. It is a loosely worded document which cuts back the prerogatives of both the monarchy and the legislature. A good many members of the government wanted these two institutions limited even more severely, but Papadopoulos held the line.

The populace is to vote on the draft in a referendum which is now scheduled for 29 September. If the vote is favorable, the constitution will probably be put into effect in stages.

Papadopoulos has sent an emissary to King Constantine with a copy of the draft. Constantine's reaction after a hasty reading is that he can live with it. He plans to make no public comment.

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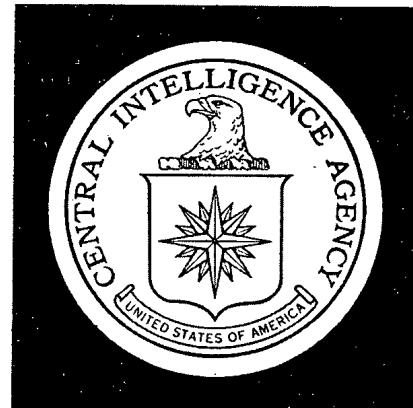
5. Communist China



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13 July 1968

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

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Comments of Swedish Diplomat: Sweden's Ambassador Petri, en route for home leave from his post in Peking, passed along some miscellaneous comments to the US Embassy in Moscow on 11 July. These were based mainly on conversations with the North Vietnamese ambassador to China and on his earlier trips to Hanoi.

Petri was told by his North Vietnamese colleague that the rail line from China to North Vietnam had been "broken" near Nan-ning for about three weeks. The flow of military supplies had been disrupted but the Chinese continued to send rice by sea. The North Vietnamese had considerable stockpiles of military supplies, however, and were not worried unless there was a prolonged disruption.

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Petri voiced the standard judgment that Hanoi would be "very flexible" about withdrawal of US forces from the South but adamant about not dealing with the present South Vietnamese Government. He saw no early break in the North Vietnam position at the talks but thought that eventually some move would be surfaced through a third party.

* * *

Sino-Vietnamese Differences: The North Vietnamese News Agency's treatment of the current visit of Vice Premier Le Thanh Nghi to Peking underscores the differences between the two countries about the Paris talks. Unlike Peking's account in yesterday's Daily Report, the North Vietnam agency did not carry the derogatory Chinese remarks about negotiations, but picked up a reference by Le Thanh Nghi to the Paris talks which the Chinese version had not carried.

These variations in coverage are the usual way differences are expressed. They do not alter the judgment that both Hanoi and Peking are using the occasion to stress unity.

* * *

POW Release: The trio of peace activists en route to pick up the three American fliers in Hanoi were interviewed during a stopover in Bangkok on 11 July. They said they feared US officials might insist the pilots be returned on a US military aircraft. They stressed that North Vietnamese officials had said the release was a "humanitarian gesture." One of the activists added that Governor Harriman was "not very sensitive" to the meaning of this. The group thought the pilots should be allowed to choose whether they want to go home via military or commercial aircraft. [redacted]

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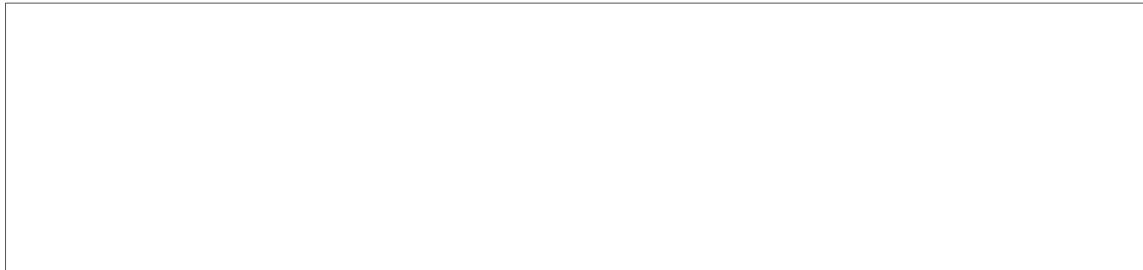
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Mongolian Aid: Hanoi radio's international service in English announced yesterday that a Mongolian delegation was received by Ho Chi Minh and Premier Pham Van Dong and had delivered a letter concerning Mongolia's so-called economic and military aid to North Vietnam for 1969. No details were given. The occasion was enlivened by a "grand meeting" held to celebrate the 47th anniversary of the founding of the Mongolian regime.

* * *

Moscow-Hanoi Aid Agreement: Soviet propaganda media have failed to make any substantive comment on the new economic and military aid agreement which climaxed the visit of Deputy Premier Le Thanh Nghi to Moscow on 4 July. A general canvass of opinion by the US Embassy reveals no hard information. Speculation centers around increased economic aid to restore industrial facilities now spared from bombing and more small arms to replace hardware lost during the Tet offensive.

These opinions generally coincide with our view that as well as arranging for continuing economic and military support, Hanoi also was attempting to find out how much assistance might be available for a relatively long-range rehabilitation plan. Some of the agreements concluded earlier during Le Thanh

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Nghi's tour of Eastern Europe call explicitly for the acquisition of complete plants. Construction work under way in Hanoi, however, continues to be limited to repairing bomb damage.

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

Hanoi Sponsors New Committee: On 11 July, Radio Hanoi's international service in English announced the founding of the Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People. It cited as reasons the "ceaseless struggle" of the American and Vietnamese people to end the war in Vietnam and the increased contacts between American antiwar groups and the Vietnamese people.

According to the broadcast, the committee hopes to:

--Develop friendship between Vietnamese and Americans;

--Support cultural and economic exchanges;

--Acquaint the Americans with the history and culture of the Vietnamese people and with their struggle to defend their independence and freedom;

--Encourage an exchange of views to increase understanding and to "coordinate struggles."

Hanoi may plan to promote the new solidarity committee by having it handle the visit of the three US pacifists coming to arrange the release of the captured pilots.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
15 JULY 1968

1. Czechoslovakia



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Broadcasts from Prague continue to report that Soviet troops are leaving, but give the impression that the withdrawals will take several days.

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There is still no word out of the Communist summit meeting in Poland. Brezhnev, Kosygin, and Podgorny were joined in Warsaw yesterday by top-level delegations from East Germany, Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria. The Poles, East Germans and Bulgarians in their party dailies have already backed the Pravda attack of last Thursday on the Czechs. The Hungarians, however, are apparently advocating somewhat more restraint.

In a move which could be a sign that the tension is lifting a bit, the Soviets announced this morning that their defense minister, Marshal Grechko, is leaving today for an official visit to Algeria.

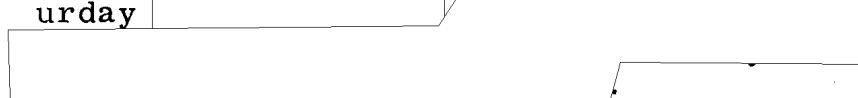


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2. France

The second French nuclear test in the current series did not come off Saturday



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3. Middle East -
Africa

The locus situation is now beginning to reach crisis proportions.

Major swarms have accumulated in Saudi Arabia and Eastern Africa. Ethiopia and the Sudan are so far the most heavily hit countries in Africa, and some swarms have already moved into Iran and Pakistan.

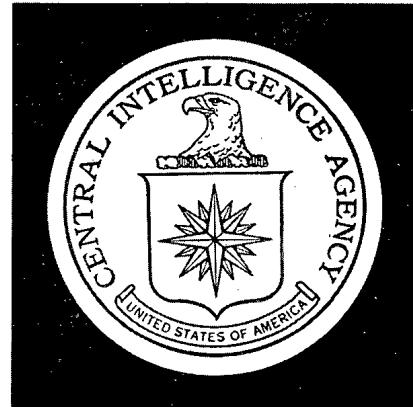
Crop damage will unquestionably be extensive if strong countermeasures are not taken soon. The countries involved, however, are generally unequipped to handle the problem.

4. Bolivia

On Saturday, in his first press conference since returning home, President Barrientos was frank and to the point. He said that the US has serious problems of its own and therefore has a lessened capacity to help Bolivia. He added that since the Communist countries are likewise not going to assist, the Bolivians must work out their problems for themselves.

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15 July 1968

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

15 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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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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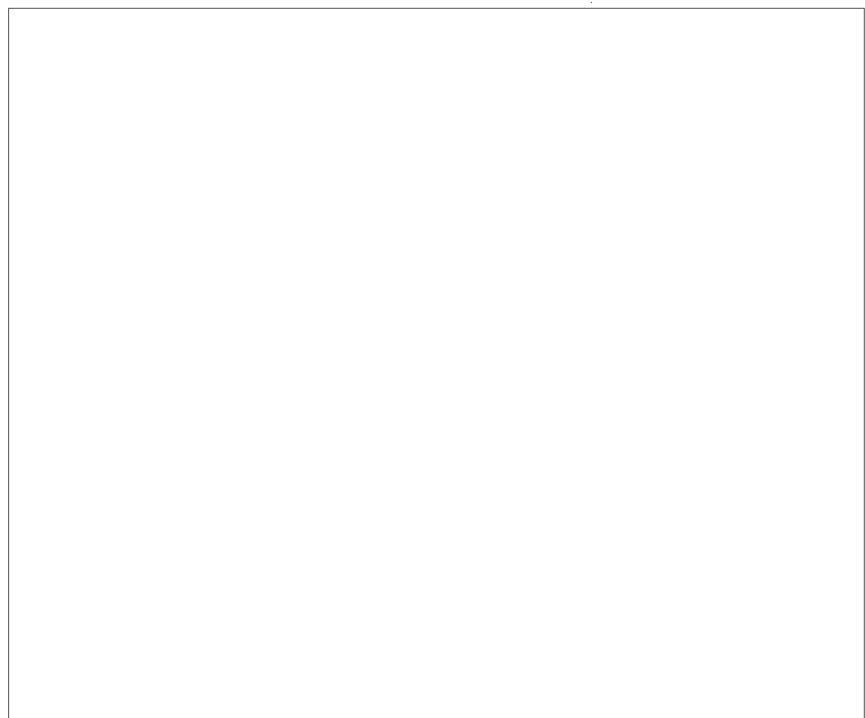


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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
16 JULY 1968

1. South Vietnam



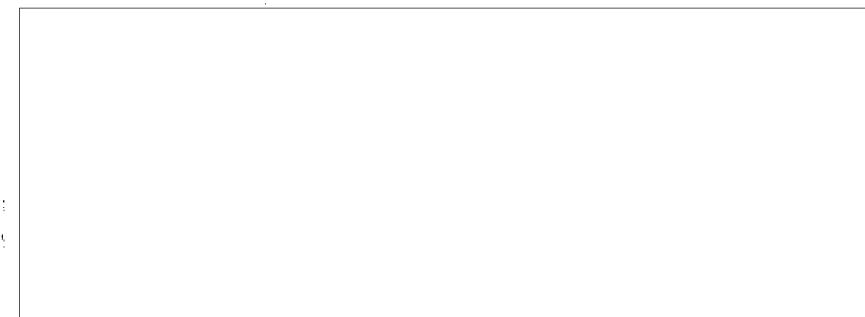
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2. Soviet Union



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3. Communist China



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4. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

The departure of Soviet troops is continuing at a leisurely pace. The Czechs are now saying it will be Sunday before the whole contingent has left Czechoslovakia. Moreover, some of the Soviet units which did leave over the weekend seem to have bivouacked just across the border.

Leaders from the five orthodox countries--the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, and Hungary--wound up their meeting in Warsaw yesterday afternoon. The meeting's final communiqué, while making the conferees' concern abundantly clear, is notably milder than recent pronouncements on Czechoslovakia in the orthodox party press.

[redacted] yester- 50X1
day's meeting dragged out much longer than had been planned, and we suspect that some haggling had to take place before the conference could reach the required "complete unanimity of views." Our guess is that the Hungarians exerted a moderating influence.

5. International
Communism

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6. France

De Gaulle apparently plans to postpone action on his reform program until the fall. This was the message which came through in the government's law-and-order Bastille Day pronouncements and in its crackdown on student rioters. It seems implicit in the mini-shakeup of the cabinet, in which most of the important ministers under Premier Couve turned out to be holdovers from the Pompidou days.

We also note that the government is pushing hard on orthodox fiscal measures designed to shore up the franc.

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7. France

The second test of the 1968 series was detonated yesterday. [redacted]

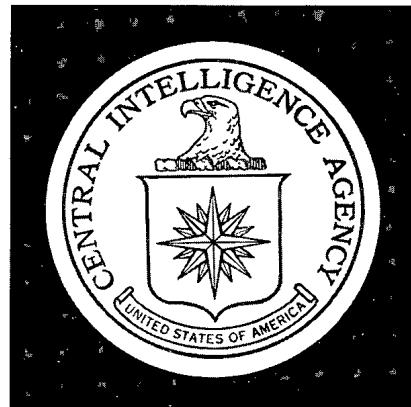
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8. West Germany

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16 July 1968

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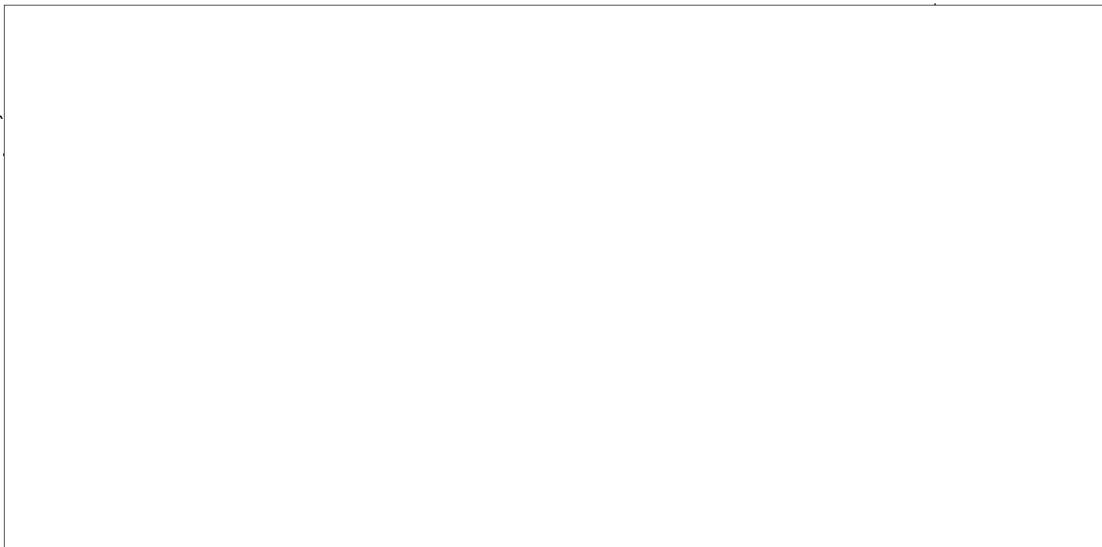
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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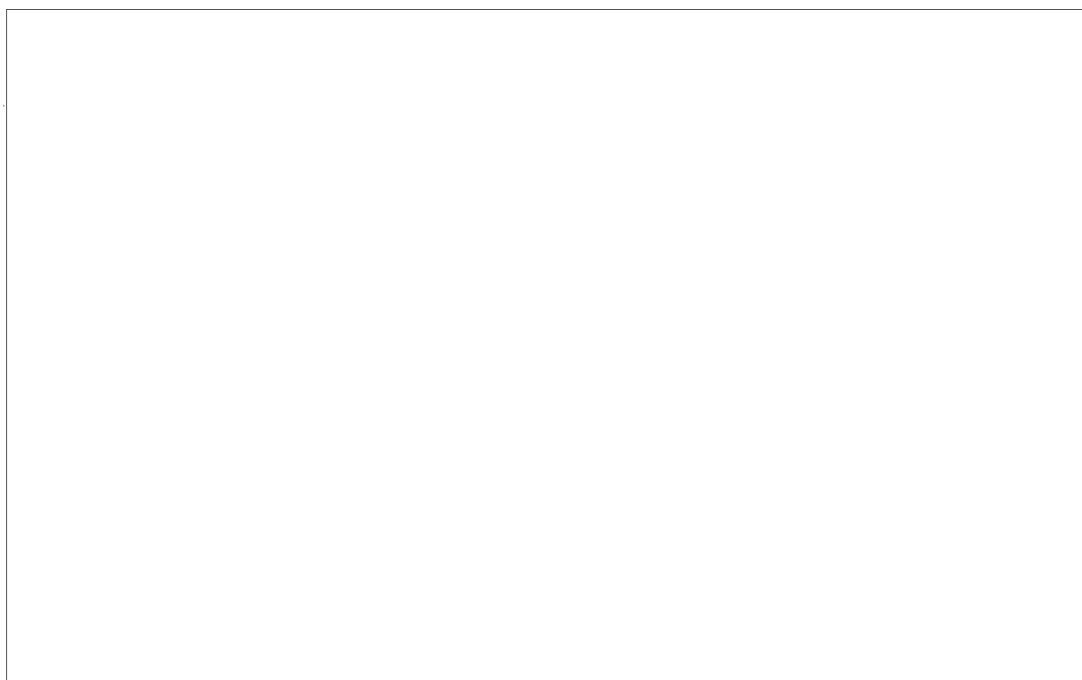
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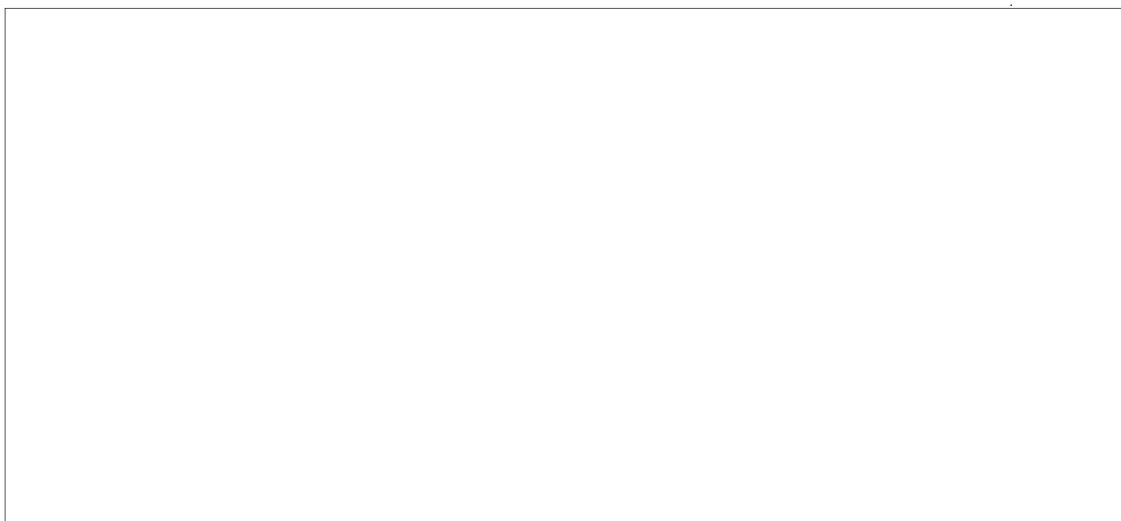
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Hanoi Propaganda: Nhan Dan, the party newspaper, has heaped scorn upon US "hypocrisy" and US "principles" expressed during the 10 July session of the Paris talks, according to an international service broadcast in English over Radio Hanoi. The article by "Commentator" charged that the highest American principle was the "principle of aggression." "Commentator" is a designation usually indicating high party authorship.

Picturing Vietnam as a nation which has never imposed its will upon other nations by force, the article cites "historical fact" to show that the US has engaged in wars during the 20th century only to serve the "dirty interests" of its "ruling financiers."

The article ridiculed the "billion dollars" in economic assistance to Southeast Asia offered by President Johnson as "rotten bait." It advised the US to devote its resources to coping with its own financial crises as well as its "economic, social and political confusion."

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Windup of Jurists' Conference: The World Conference of Jurists concluded on 10 July in Grenoble, France, with a propaganda blast at US "aggression"

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in Vietnam, according to a Hanoi international service broadcast in English on 13 July. The statement issued by the conference endorsed Hanoi's major positions down the line, including "recognition of the great importance of the founding of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces."

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Reaction to Death Sentences: The Liberation Front's radio has responded with outrage to the death sentences imposed last week by South Vietnam on ten leaders of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces who were tried in absentia. The Front broadcast described the "US aggressors and their lackeys" as a "clique of criminals who have drunk human blood without wincing," and denounced the trials as a "cheap psychological trick" and a "dirty farce" which clearly exposes the "panic of the US aggressors and their lackeys."

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

Statement of Solidarity Committee: The Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People, whose founding in Hanoi was noted last week, has extended the hand of "militant solidarity" to Americans engaged in the antiwar movement.

In a statement over Radio Hanoi's international service in English on 12 July, the committee emphasized the "common history" of struggle against tyranny shared by Vietnamese and Americans. It warmly praised the American people's "valiant acts against the US war in Vietnam," which, it said, the Vietnamese people regard as "precious encouragement" in their struggle for national liberation.

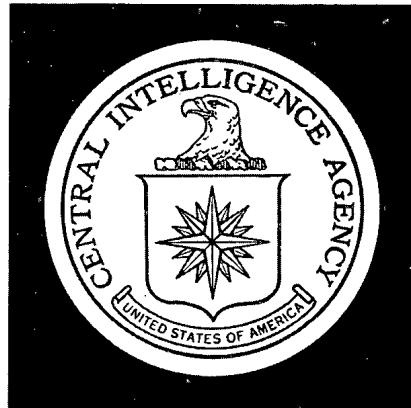
Declaring that the Vietnamese people have always clearly distinguished between the warlike US Government and the peace-loving American people, the statement expressed the solidarity committee's "warmest greetings and wishes" that organizations in the

US antiwar movement "will win greater achievements" in the struggle to end the war in Vietnam "being conducted by the US Government."

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Hanoi Quiet on US Elections: Analysis of North Vietnamese propaganda from 28 June through 12 July shows that it contains no reference to the US election campaign and no mention of any of the candidates as such.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
17 JULY 1968

1. Iraq

Baghdad radio announced this morning that a "military command council" has seized power. President Arif and Prime Minister Yahya, along with the army and air force chiefs, have been removed from office. The orientation of the command council is not yet clear, but one report indicates that it may be connected with the Baathist party, a strongly anti-Western organization that once briefly governed Iraq and is now in power in neighboring Syria.

Initial proclamations of the command council have a standard Arab "revolutionary" flavor. They denounce the Arif government for neglecting the army and thus contributing to the Arab defeat in June 1967.

2. North Korea

Recent satellite photography shows that at least 16 of North Korea's 27 SA-2 surface-to-air missile sites are now occupied. This is an increase of two since the beginning of the year. Thirteen new sites were constructed since the seizure of the Pueblo, but this is the first detected increase in firing units.

The Soviets probably supplied the new equipment under last year's aid agreement.

3. Uruguay

The Soviets have offered aircraft and other equipment to the Uruguayan air force, on credit terms dubbed "by one official "so liberal that they amounted to grant aid." Jet trainers and transports probably were involved. We know that key officers in the air force are unhappy with their present equipment and are looking for new sources of supply.

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4. Czechoslovakia

[redacted] members of the Soviet party's Central Committee have been summoned to Moscow for a meeting today. The apparent haste in calling the gathering suggests that exceptionally important matters are to be considered. At the least, Brezhnev would have the opportunity to report on last weekend's Warsaw meeting and to obtain a committee resolution that could serve as another element of pressure on the Czechs.

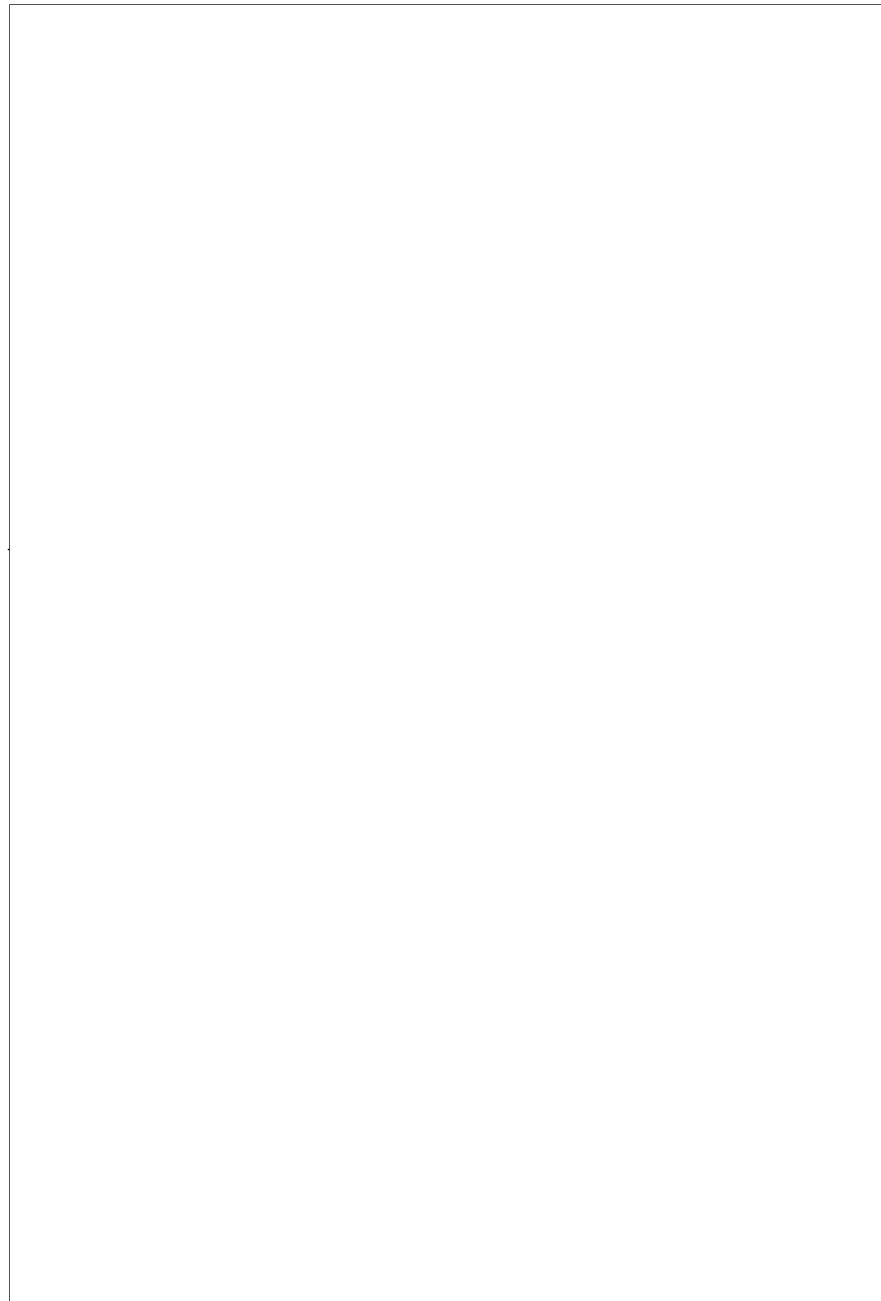
Prague meanwhile is standing its ground. In an outspoken press conference on 15 July, Dubcek's man in charge of security and defense pointedly suggested that changes be made in the Warsaw Pact organization in order to emphasize the equality of Pact members. The Czech party leadership met yesterday to prepare a reply to the still unpublished letter sent to them by the five Warsaw conferees.

A top Czech party spokesman has said that the French and Italian Communist parties have urged the Soviets not to intervene in Czech affairs. The British and Belgian parties apparently have taken a similar line. The Yugoslavs and Rumanians are continuing to give vocal support to the Czechs.

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5. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

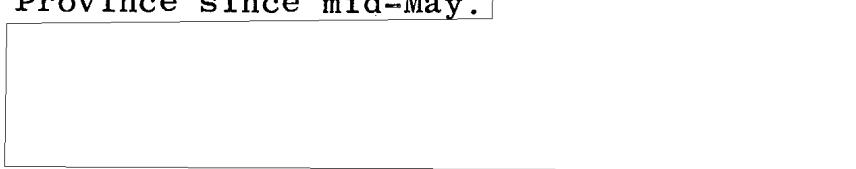
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6. Communist China -
North Vietnam

Peking is making new efforts to get traffic on the rail line to North Vietnam back to normal. Severe factional fighting has impeded traffic through Kwangsi Province since mid-May.

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7. Nigeria

The Biafrans are worried that publicity over their refugee problem is diverting attention from their aims of achieving a cease-fire and a political settlement.

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50X1**8. Indonesia**

The army drive against Communist insurgents in East Java, now in its seventh week, is producing results. The Communist party chief was captured recently and one of his top deputies killed. Together they were reported in charge of guerrilla activity in the area.

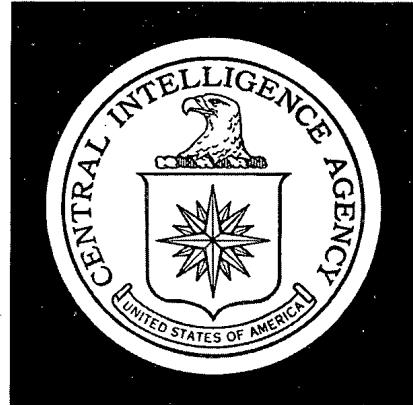
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50 to 60 suspected Communists are being executed each day. On a smaller scale, this recalls the bloodbath that followed the Communist coup attempt three years ago. The insurgents nonetheless can still field sizeable groups, and the government expects that military operations will be necessary for some time.

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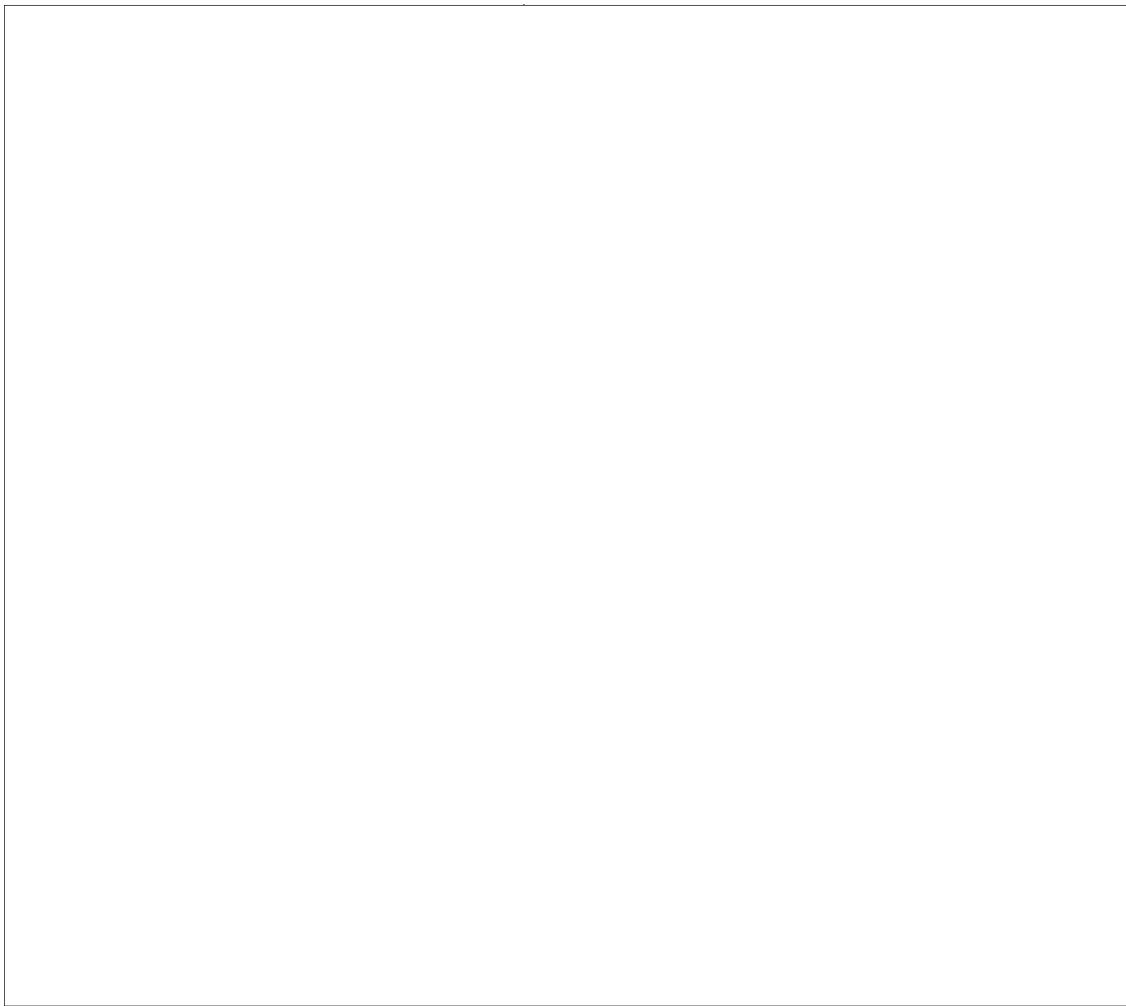
**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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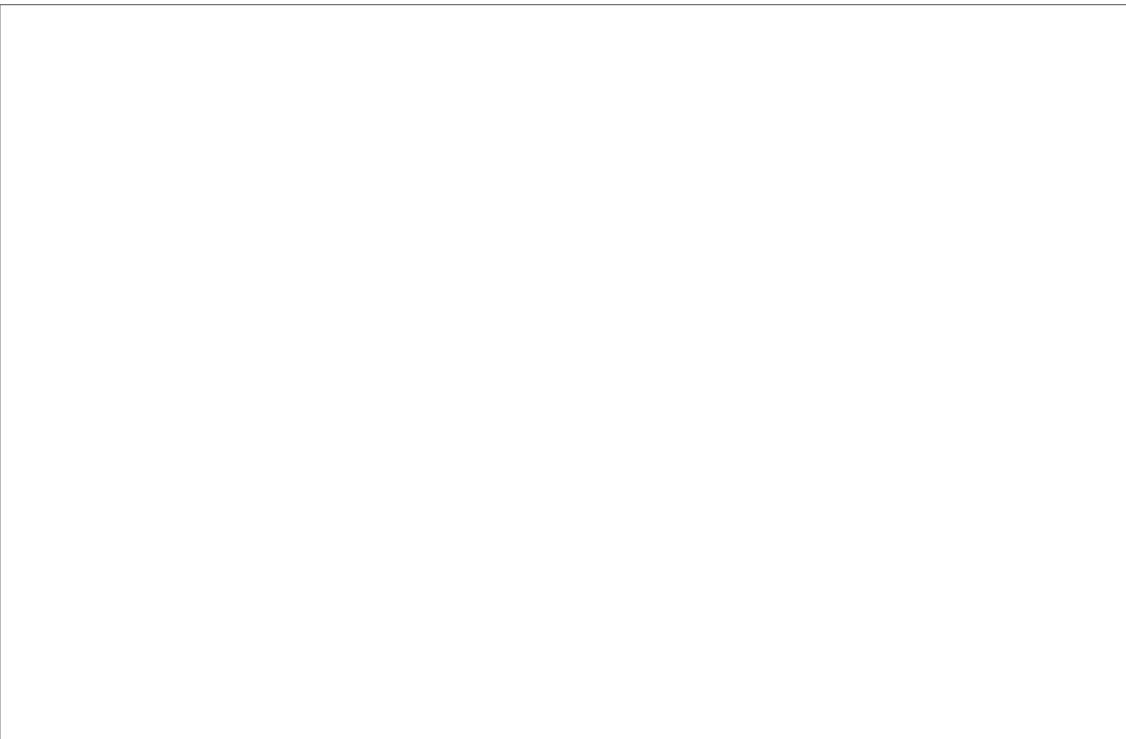
The Communist Youth Festival and Vietnam: The Communists' Ninth World Youth Festival, to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 28 July to 6 August, will heavily emphasize Vietnam, with a "Vietnam Day" scheduled for 29 July, according to Embassy Sofia.

The embassy notes that Vietnam is virtually the only unifying issue among the various delegations, several of which are widely divided on other issues. At least 150 Vietnamese delegates representing both North Vietnam and the Liberation Front are expected, and American deserters and draft resisters are to meet with delegates during the festival. A Vietnam information center will open in downtown Sofia on Vietnam Day.

to provide current information on the course of the war and to sell Viet Cong banners and medals made from downed US aircraft.

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Giap Shows: Hanoi's Defense Minister, Vo Nguyen Giap, made one of his relatively rare appearances recently. Hanoi Radio's domestic service noted on 15 July that Giap had been present at a recent regional military conference discussing new instructions concerning the region's "political tasks."

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

Hanoi on Dr. Spock: Citing Western reports as its source, Radio Hanoi yesterday said that Dr. Benjamin Spock recently received a standing ovation from

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an audience which he had addressed in Cleveland. Broadcast in English over Hanoi's international service, the announcement added that Spock had recently been fined and sentenced to prison "only because he opposed the dirty US war in Vietnam."

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
18 JULY 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

The split among European Communists over Czechoslovakia is sharper than ever. The French Communist Party, badly shaken over the prospect of heavier Soviet intervention, is now calling for a European Communist conference to take up the Czech problem. Several parties have already responded favorably.

There are reports that Tito will arrive in Prague today to give his support to Dubcek. Rumania's Ceausescu may arrive at about the same time.

The letter sent to the Czechs by the participants of the Soviet-sponsored meeting in Warsaw has now been published. It demands that the Czechs get their party back into orthodox line, but there is still no mention of what action will be taken if this is not done.

The meeting of the Soviet central committee yesterday was evidently called essentially to endorse the Warsaw letter.

2. Turkey

At last count, two US sailors had been hospitalized and 17 others treated for superficial injuries as a result of the anti-American riot in Istanbul yesterday. Not all of the sailors have been accounted for yet, however. The Turkish police and military bungled the job of controlling the mob.

3. Iraq

The right-wing Baathist group which took over in Baghdad yesterday seems to be well in control. The capital is apparently calm, and the curfew imposed during the coup was scheduled to be lifted during daylight hours today.

4. South Vietnam

Thieu's position on the question of negotiating with the Liberation Front has evolved a bit further.

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[redacted] He now says that Saigon might initiate the contacts, although he is inclined to think the first moves will be made by the Front or by Hanoi after they have taken further military punishment. He says his government has already begun quiet efforts to condition "opinion makers" in Saigon to the idea of direct contacts with the Front.

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Thieu clearly thinks the Communists will be the suppliants in any negotiations, and he believes his government will be in a position to accept or reject proposals made by the other side.

Thieu insists--as he did in June--that any contacts must be secret. He also makes it clear--as he did not do in June--that he is absolutely opposed to the idea of a coalition with the Front.

5. Nigeria

Direct political contacts between the two sides in the civil war are again in the offing.

The Biafrans have accepted an invitation to attend special meetings on Nigeria sponsored by the Organization of African Unity. A high-level federal Nigerian delegation is already attending the sessions being held next door in Niger.

The meetings are aimed essentially at finding a face-saving cease-fire formula, but we don't rate the chances of this as high.

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6. France

Ambassador Shriver made his initial call on Foreign Minister Debre on Monday. The meeting was largely a monologue by the Frenchman. These are his main points:

--As a result of President Johnson's historic decision of 31 March, the US has taken the first steps toward solving the Vietnam problem. This has deeply impressed De Gaulle: "The General feels old age coming on him and wants to see these great outstanding questions settled while he is still active."

--De Gaulle is firmly convinced that a profound reform of the international monetary system, a change in the privileged position of the dollar, and a change in the value of gold are indispensable.

--The General is also convinced that US congressmen and other prominent Americans are inclined to look too closely into French domestic affairs and make misjudgments. France is accused of nationalism and of blocking the formation of European institutions. Gaullism, however, is not nationalism in the Napoleonic sense, but patriotism which De Gaulle has rekindled in the French people.

Debre personally impressed Shriver as a most unlikely occupant of the top job in anybody's foreign ministry. "His candor is refreshing, and he is articulate and forceful, but he looks, talks and acts like a doctrinaire zealot--a political infighter rather than an effective spokesman of France."

7. Cambodia

The Cambodian navy's seizure yesterday of a US landing craft with ten US servicemen followed a number of serious border incidents. Sihanouk holds the US responsible for Cambodian casualties incurred during these incidents and only yesterday sent a sharply worded protest to U Thant requesting his intervention with Washington. Sihanouk has also threatened to bring to trial US personnel caught violating Cambodian territory.

Under these circumstances, Sihanouk will almost certainly feel himself compelled to win some kind of face-saving gesture from the US before he releases the servicemen. He will probably also use the incident to drive home the fact that the US is the only large nation that has refused formally to "recognize" Cambodia's borders.

8. Soviet Union -
Communist China

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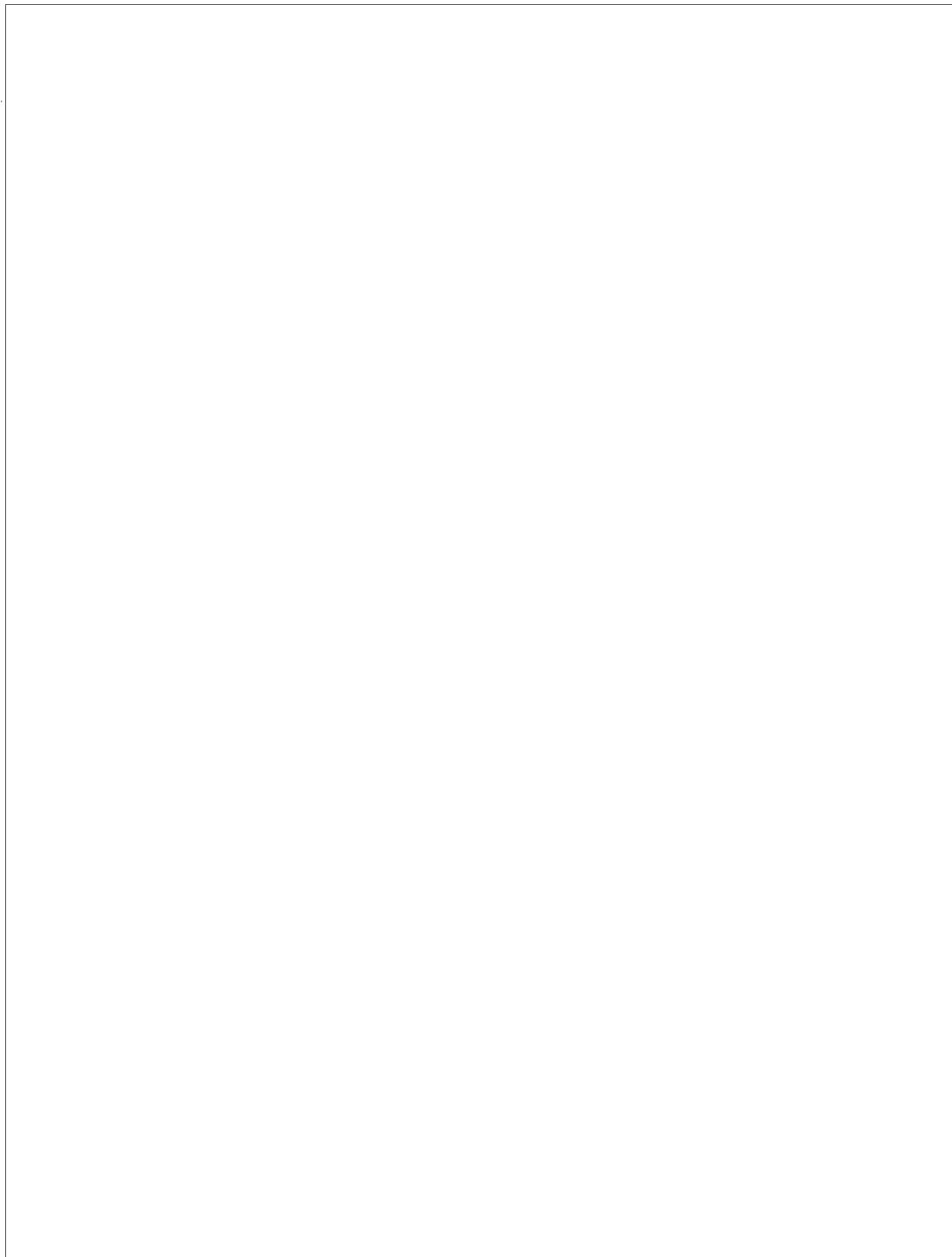
18 July 1968

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

18 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Shipping to North Vietnam: Cargo deliveries to North Vietnam by foreign-flag ships showed a 26 percent increase in the first half of 1968 over the same period last year.

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

There is nothing significant to report today.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
19 JULY 1968

LATE ITEM

Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Podgorny this morning added his voice to the Soviet chorus which has been warning about the "threat to socialism" in Czechoslovakia. Referring to the "notorious events in Czechoslovakia," he reiterated earlier Soviet declarations that the parties which met in Warsaw "will never put up with a split in the historical gains of socialism."

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
19 JULY 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Prague is sticking to its guns. The Czechs, in Dubcek's TV address yesterday and in a statement earlier in the day from the party presidium, made it clear in calm, measured tones that they do not plan to yield on any of the important points at issue. This stand presumably will get the endorsement of the party's central committee at its meeting today. The regime has already received a flood of protestations of support from around the country.

Tito, Rumanian party chief Ceausescu, and representatives of the French and Italian Communist parties will be arriving in Prague today, according to the Czech press agency.

Moscow has not yet had time to react to the latest statements from Prague, and we do not expect a considered reply until after the Czech central committee makes known its position today.

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Meanwhile, Soviet media are keeping up the flow of critical propaganda.

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There still has been no substantial change in the Soviet military posture in and around Czechoslovakia.

2. Chile

Frei has asked his congress for permission to visit Brazil in early September. According to press reports, Chilean diplomats in Washington are speculating that he may want to visit the US on the same trip. We have no other word on this.

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3. Turkey

Leftists are planning a mass anti-US demonstration for Saturday afternoon. The demonstration will also be protesting alleged police brutality in yesterday's disturbances. US sailors will again be ashore, but this time the Turkish security forces will be committed to protecting them.

Some Turks are drawing a disturbing analogy between yesterday's riots and the student unrest which eventually led to the army coup of 1960. We do not think too much should be made of this analogy. In 1960 the army sided with the students; this time we think it would be more inclined to help in their repression.

4. Egypt

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5. Brazil

Four thousand workers joined a wildcat strike in Sao Paulo on Wednesday and took possession of six metalworking plants. The city had a similar strike last month.

There are indications that the city's student organizations, long at odds with the government, helped organize the strike. The students are also continuing to demonstrate sporadically on their own.

It appears to us that this unrest is caused by a mixture of economic troubles and the generation gap problem familiar elsewhere. The Costa e Silva government, however, attributes the strikes and demonstrations to a Communist plot. It believes, in fact, that Brazil is now in the early stages of Communist-directed revolutionary warfare.

Accordingly, it has warned that if new disorders occur, the armed forces will be used and a state of siege declared.

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Measures such as these will not keep things under control for long.

6. Panama

Robles says he is so disgusted with the machinations of defeated candidate Samudio that he has decided to resign and leave the country. If he does so, his constitutional successor would be the first vice president, an Arias man. Such a move would probably end Samudio's efforts to get himself declared president-elect and would also smooth the transition to the new regime in October.

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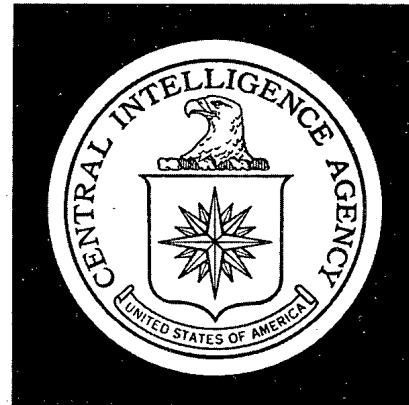
7. Philippines-
Malaysia

Marcos has gotten himself out on a limb in his relations with Malaysia and now is trying to wiggle back. It was his emissary who caused the Malaysians to walk out of the talks the two countries have been holding on Manila's claim to Sabah.

Now he is trying to find a way to avoid breaking relations. A break would carry the risk of isolation from his other neighbors, who generally support Malaysia. Domestic pressures may make a rupture unavoidable, however.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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19 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Turns Over American Fliers: Hanoi's newly created Committee for Solidarity with Progressive Americans presided over the release of the three American pilots to their pacifist escorts yesterday. The solidarity committee spokesman described the release as "a very significant action at the moment when the US Government is intensifying its criminal war of aggression against the Vietnamese people." A report of the release ceremony was carried in English in a Hanoi Radio broadcast to Southeast Asia.

The three American peace activists who received the three prisoners have made special pleas to US officials for having them return by commercial, not military, aircraft. Hanoi has made no effort to insist on this point, however, and probably does not care.

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Liberation Front Meeting: The Communists' Liberation Radio recently announced that the Liberation Front's central committee presidium held an enlarged conference on 11-13 July to "review" the situation and to set forth "immediate tasks" and policies. Such meetings take place periodically for these purposes. They are used primarily to transmit basic policies and orders formulated and passed on by the Communist leadership in Hanoi.

This Front session comes at a time when reports indicate that many Communist military units and commands are engaged in meetings to discuss new offensive operations and to conduct political indoctrinations. The meetings almost certainly are focused primarily on preparations for future military and political operations. The Front's communiqué contains the usual statement about mobilizing Communist resources to "surge forward" and to "launch relentless attacks."

Such rhetoric is not an accurate guide to immediate Communist intentions, however.

* * *

North Vietnam and the Issue of Restraint: North Vietnam's chief negotiator in Paris, Xuan Thuy, in a recent interview with David Schoenbrun came very close to arguing that the lack of Communist attacks on Saigon is intended by the Communists to be a form of military restraint. A North Vietnamese spokesman in Paris later parried newsmen's questions about the interview, and he made the usual argument that Communist military actions are part of a fight against "US aggression."

It is increasingly apparent that Hanoi does want the current Communist military posture in South Vietnam to be interpreted as a response to US demands for de-escalation. Selected Communist combat activities probably have been tailored to give an impression of military restraint. The time, scope, and duration of the current lull are consistent with an attempt to facilitate further Communist probes of US intentions while preparations for new offensive actions are under way.

* * *

Celebration of Geneva Agreements Anniversary: In an international service broadcast on 15 July Radio Hanoi announced that the anniversary of the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on 20 July will be marked by sympathetic "solidarity" demonstrations abroad. These will include rallies planned by the French peace movement and a "Week of Solidarity" scheduled by the North Koreans.

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Soviet Economic Aid: [redacted] the USSR has granted North Vietnam additional economic

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aid for 1968 and 1969, not for reconstruction but to satisfy Hanoi's current economic needs. During the recent visit to Moscow of North Vietnam's economic delegation, long-range Soviet assistance for reconstruction was discussed but no decisions were made

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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 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
20 JULY 1968

1. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

Dubcek impressively consolidated his internal position yesterday when the Central Committee unanimously endorsed the presidium's unyielding response to the Warsaw letter. In his speech to the committee, Dubcek said the party is resolved not to depart from the path it charted in January. He asserted that if the party reversed its course, socialism in Czechoslovakia and the "international Communist movement" would be discredited.

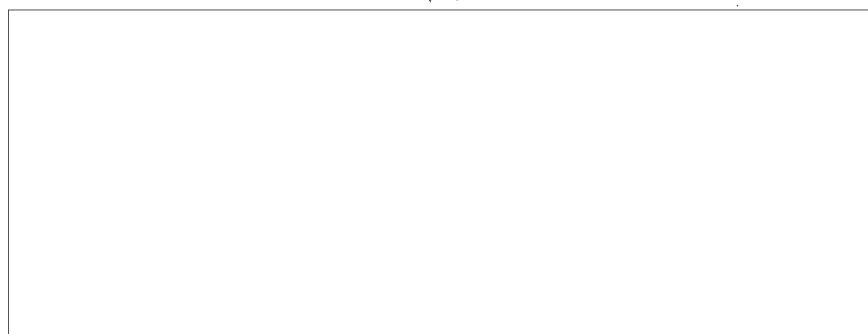
The next decision facing the Czechs is a response to yesterday's proposal from Moscow that there be a meeting of ranking officials on Russian soil early next week. Dubcek is not likely to send the full presidium, as Moscow suggested. He may counter the Soviets' alternative suggestion of a "broad representation" by proposing that Soviet leaders come to Czechoslovakia, possibly today or tomorrow.

The Soviet press continues its attacks on Dubcek's policies. Izvestia yesterday added its voice to warnings of the consequences to all Warsaw Pact countries of the Czech regime's failure to suppress anti-socialist elements.

Soviet troop withdrawal apparently is speeding up. Marshal Yakubovsky, the Warsaw Pact commander, left last night.

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2. Guatemala

Guatemala City may be in for a new round of terrorism.

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Several bombs were in fact set off on 18 July at several Guatemalan buildings, including the national palace and police headquarters. It is not clear, however, whether these were the work of the terrorists or of rightist elements.

In any case, the terrorists--who have operated independently of the Communist party since January--are hoping that attacks will bring further government repression of the party. They believe this could bring the more conservative party around to cooperating with them in antigovernment actions.

3. Middle East

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4. Cambodia

Sihanouk, up to his old tricks, is demanding one bulldozer as the ransom for each of the US servicemen captured with their landing craft Wednesday. He says that in any event he will keep the craft as a bonus.

5. Soviet Union

We reported earlier on preliminary preparations for an unmanned circumlunar mission. Space support ships are now nearing their stations, and we think the launch will occur in about five days.

6. Vietnam

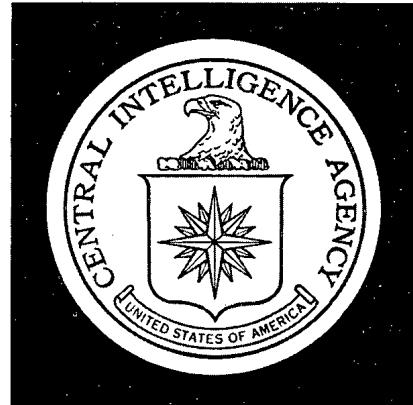
The three American fliers, who failed to arrive in Vientiane yesterday on the Control Commission plane, apparently are to held a while longer by Hanoi.

[redacted] They are said to be expected to arrive in Vientiane on the 26 July flight of the commission's plane.

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20 July 1968

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

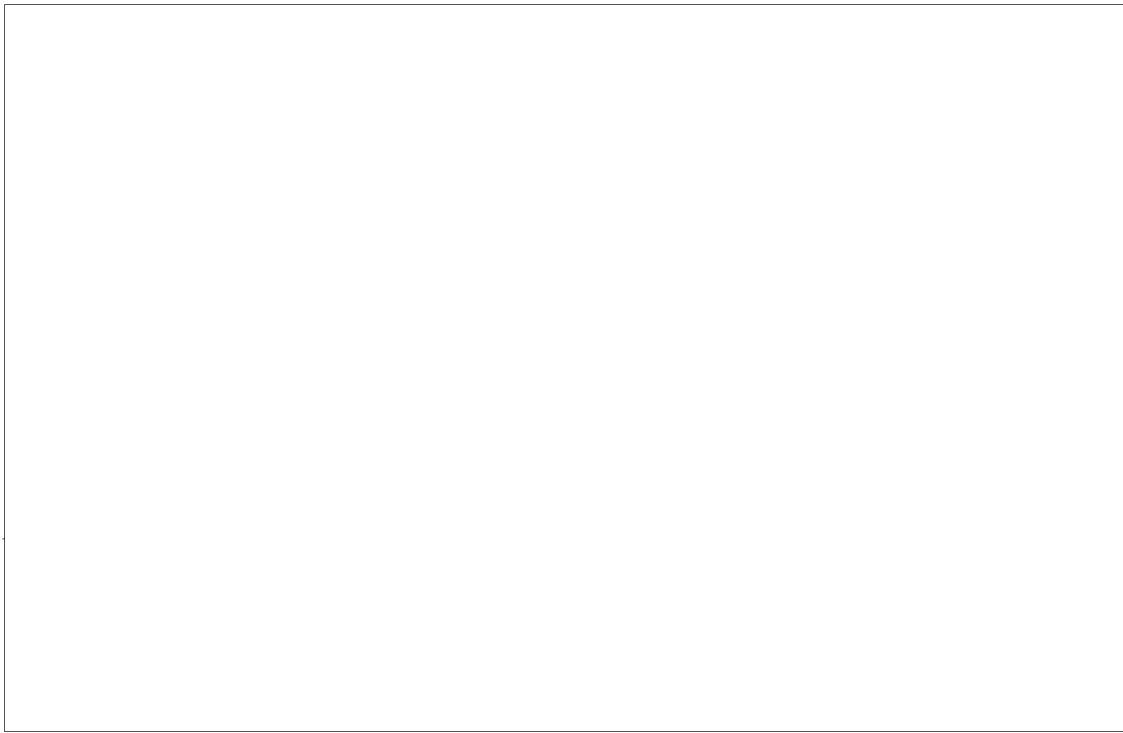
The Emerging Line on the Liberation Front: Hanoi has offered an additional incentive for US concessions in Paris by spelling out its position on a political settlement in terms designed to meet earlier US objections. In doing so, the Communists have furthered the impression that they are steadily preparing for a period of serious negotiations on the war.

The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry memorandum issued on 17 July seems to put a formal stamp on a position toward which Hanoi has been moving for several months. The change involves dropping the earlier insistence that the internal affairs of South Vietnam must be settled "in accordance with the program" of the National Liberation Front. This is point three of Hanoi's Four Points and has been blurred on many occasions recently, although the North Vietnamese delegation used the full formulation at the Paris talks just this week.

The new memorandum, however, merely states that point three "affirms the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination in their internal affairs," and drops the reference to the Front.. This had been done before, but Hanoi underscores the significance by noting elsewhere that the Four Points remain the "basis" for a "correct political solution" and they conform to the "spirit" of the Front's political program.

For several months the Communists have been muting their former insistence that the Front is the "sole genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people." At the same time they have been developing the concept embodied in the new peace alliance of a "third force" which would serve as a bridge between Communist and non-Communist elements in South Vietnam. The memorandum suggests that Hanoi is now playing down the central role of the Front in a political settlement.

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The Front Asks for More Help: In a statement commemorating the signing of the Geneva accords on 20 July 1954, the Liberation Front called upon friends and sympathizers around the world to give even stronger support to its struggle for "national salvation."

The statement, which was dated 14 July and broadcast over Hanoi Radio's international service in English on 19 July, summarized at length the history of US "criminal aggression" in Vietnam since the signing of the Geneva agreements. It concluded by thanking foreign governments, organizations and the "progressive people of the United States" for their encouragement and appealed to them for even greater support in the future.

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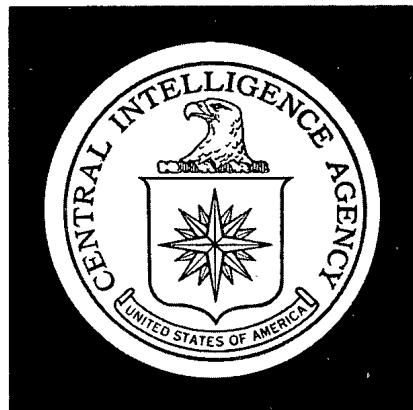
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
22 JULY 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

It seems clear that the two sides are headed for the negotiating table, but Czechoslovakia is stalling until Soviet troops are out of the country. At last report not all the troops had gone, although their departure was continuing.

A well-informed Czechoslovak source has told our embassy that Prague would be willing to make some concessions. These might include an end to Czech criticism of the Warsaw Pact structure, a moratorium on independent moves in foreign policy, and restraint in treating the role of the Soviets in the repressions of the past.

The regime made it clear in Friday's central committee resolution, however, that the basic principles underlying its policies were not negotiable. Certainly the concessions mentioned by the embassy source do not go to the heart of the complaints in last week's letter from Warsaw.

Moscow too has shown little inclination to yield on fundamental issues. Pravda did take pains yesterday to deny that the letter from Warsaw constituted an ultimatum to Prague. In general, however, the Soviets have kept up their drumfire of propaganda on the "counter-revolutionary threat" to Czechoslovakia.

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2. Malaysia-
Philippines

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The Malaysians have a report that a Philippine infiltration group is headed for Sabah. Although they themselves are dubious about the report's validity, they have moved ten naval craft to Sabah. The Filipinos, who have a flotilla of their own near Malaysian waters, apparently have not yet learned of the Malaysian move.

Although there is an obvious danger that these precautionary measures will lead to fighting, both sides seem to be working in private to ease their strained relations.

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3. Soviet Union

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We now tend to believe that the Caspian sea monster--the huge aircraft-like vehicle under development in a Caspian port--is an experimental airfoil ship, possibly a prototype of a high speed marine transport vehicle. It is 300 feet long and is powered by ten jet engines--eight in the nose and two in the tail assembly. The craft weighs between 500,000 and one million pounds. The C-5A, by contrast, is 246 feet long and weighs 323,000 pounds.

4. Soviet Union -
Venezuela

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Some of the Soviet tankers in the Cuban trade apparently will carry petroleum produced by Western firms in Venezuela on their trips back to Europe. These services

will provide Moscow with an additional source of foreign exchange and will in effect subsidize Soviet oil shipments to Cuba.

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5. Nigeria

Federal and Biafran representatives have agreed on an agenda for talks which are to take place soon in Addis Ababa, but neither side has budged significantly on substance. We think Lagos will persist in its demands for a Biafran renunciation of secession, since Gowon would be in trouble with his top advisers if he did anything else. As for the Biafrans, their campaign to bring world pressure to bear on Lagos is probably going well enough to discourage any concessions on their part.

Thus, although the chances have improved that relief supplies will start flowing soon, we do not think an end to the war is much closer than it was before the two sides agreed to meet.

6. India

Word of Soviet arms sales to Pakistan has given Mrs. Gandhi's critics a chance to pounce on her

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These critics, both in and out of the Congress Party, will be arguing that the arms sales spell the failure of her policy of close ties with the Soviets.

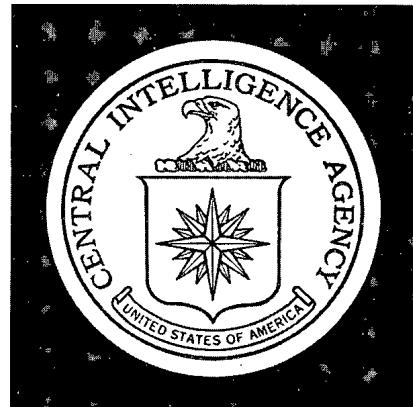
Since she is her own foreign minister, Mrs. Gandhi will have to take the brunt of the attack

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We do not expect a concerted move against her from inside the party, however, unless her performance is particularly poor. The Congress majority in Parliament is just too thin to permit extensive intraparty squabbling. Moreover, although she has alienated some important Congress figures, she remains a formidable power in party circles.

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22 July 1968

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

22 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Negotiations and the Liberation Front: Vietnamese Communist commentary during the weekend reinforces the impression that Hanoi is no longer insisting that a political settlement must be "in accordance with" the program of the National Liberation Front. This shift has been in train for months, but was formalized in a foreign ministry memorandum last week.

Xuan Thuy continued to obfuscate the issue during public appearances in Paris, but North Vietnamese propaganda is less obscure and seems to underline the change. A Hanoi broadcast in English on 20 July summarizing a Liberation Front press commentary concludes by saying that the internal affairs of South Vietnam should be settled in accordance with the "spirit" of the Front program. This language was not in the Front commentary the radio was reviewing, but it was used in the foreign ministry memorandum. Front broadcasts and commentary have simply avoided the "in accordance" formulation. The chief of the Front mission in Hanoi referred to a settlement "in keeping" with the Front program at a meeting on 20 July, according to a Hanoi broadcast.

Even Ho Chi Minh's much vaunted "appeal" on the anniversary of the Geneva Accords contains at least a hint of this shift in Communist tactics. The appeal is the usual propaganda fare for such occasions, but it gives special prominence in one passage to the new Communist front organization, the Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces. It mentions the National Liberation Front only in saying that the South Vietnamese are fighting under the Front's banner.

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The concept of a "third force" embodied in the Alliance is now a fundamental part of the Vietnamese Communist strategy for a settlement. Plans for using the concept are being kept deliberately vague, however.

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Such vague hints fit a growing pattern suggesting the Communists are angling for a political voice in South Vietnam via the Alliance concept, if not via the Alliance itself. There is no evidence that the Communists are changing their basic position of categorically refusing to deal with the so-called "Thieu-Ky clique," but their evolving tactics suggest they may be more flexible on this key issue than indicated by their standard position.

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Delay in Return of US Pilots: Rumors about the three American pilots released by Hanoi were widespread this weekend. Reports they were going to surface in Pakistan or in Europe did not pan out.

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Our best guess is that they will come out on the ICC flight from Hanoi to Vientiane next Friday.

The reason for the delay is not clear.

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At the ceremony last week in which the pilots were turned over to the pacifists, however, the Communists pointedly contrasted the release with "intensified" US air attacks in both North and South Vietnam. Hanoi may have delayed the pilots' travel in order to sound out US intentions further.

The only recent word from Hanoi on the pilots' status is a curiously phrased reply which the North

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Vietnamese news agency gave yesterday to a French press query. The agency said the three pacifists were still in Hanoi and that "we therefore presume" the pilots are still in North Vietnam, "since they should in principle leave with their compatriots under the latter's responsibility."

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North Vietnamese Meet Polish ICC Rep: Hanoi
Radio noted on 18 July that Premier Pham Van Dong had received Ambassador Stanislaw Dobrowolski, the new chief of the Polish delegation to the International Control Commission. The Pole has also called on Foreign Minister Trinh and a vice minister of defense. These are only courtesy calls, but the Poles may have picked up some tidbits about North Vietnam's current attitude toward the ICC, and more broadly, about the possibilities or re-establishing some of the military provisions of the Geneva Agreements.

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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
23 JULY 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

Prague has not responded yet to the Soviet decision to talk to the Czech leaders on their home ground. Czech officials, however, have consistently indicated that Prague will talk with the Soviets, but Prague radio has added that the Soviet troops must be gone first. The Czechs may delay answering the Soviet proposal until they are satisfied about this.

[redacted] continue to pinpoint the 50X1 presence of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia, although several more Soviet units have recently left the country. Other Russian contingents are set to leave today and tonight, according to Czech press releases.

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2. Soviet Union



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3. Egypt

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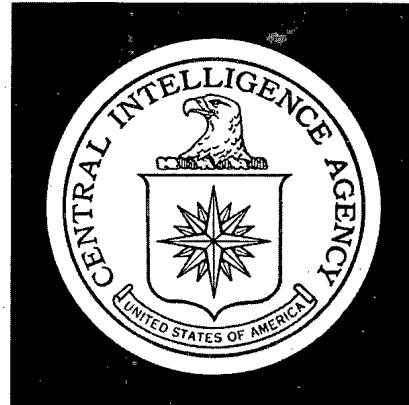
4. West Germany

Officials in Bonn are still afraid the East Germans are about to place more restrictions on access to Berlin. Foreign Ministry officials, for instance, are particularly worried that barge traffic to the city will be disrupted. Other possibilities are new mail and parcel post restrictions. In addition, there are rumors that when the Soviet ambassador to East Germany returned home last week, he was carrying a whole raft of proposals for future measures against the city.

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23 July 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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23 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Restrained on Honolulu: The North Vietnamese may be trying to get across the idea that they have a white hat in the closet and would put it on in exchange for some US concessions. To the possible hints already dropped--reduced Communist military activity and some measure of flexibility on the Front program--they now have added a notably low-key comment on the Honolulu meeting.

Yesterday Nhan Dan, the party daily, discussed the conference less in the traditional terms of America's evil intent and more as a tedious ritual the President had to go through to shore up the Thieu government. After all, Nhan Dan noted editorially, questions of war and peace would really be decided in Washington, not Honolulu.

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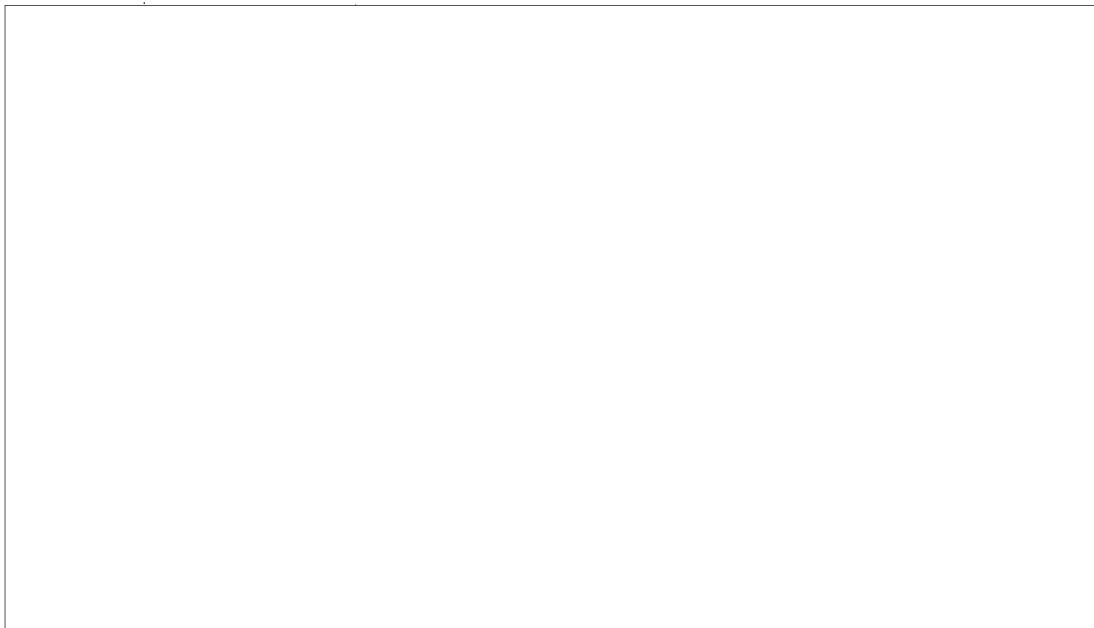
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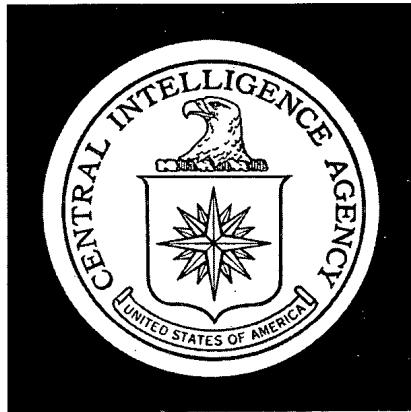
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing significant to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

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23

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
24 JULY 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

Moscow's announcement that a massive military exercise will be held near the Czechoslovakian border all but put a gun on the table for talks with the Czech presidium. Along with this threatening move, the Russians have turned up their propaganda against Prague. The Czechs, however, are maintaining at least an outward appearance of calm.

Neither side has said yet just where or when the meeting between Soviet politburo members and their Czech counterparts will take place

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Nor has Prague committed itself to send the whole 11-man presidium as requested by Moscow. The Soviets, aware that various factions are represented on the Czech presidium, hope that one or more members will cave in under pressure.

Some Soviet troops remain in Czechoslovakia.

2. Soviet Union

The Soviets apparently are postponing their latest attempt to get off an unmanned circumlunar flight. It had looked as if the launch would come this week, but several of the support ships are now moving off their stations in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. The ships are not headed home, however. We do not know just what caused the delay. The Russians may try again in August.

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3. Bolivia

Using the authority of the state of siege he declared Monday, Barrientos has clapped 40 opposition leaders in jail. This seems to have defused the Guevara diary crisis. Arguedas, the cabinet officer who claims he gave the diary to the Cubans, has been asked by the Chileans where he would like to go for asylum. Cuba has already publicly offered to take him in.

4. Chile

The worst drought in 100 years is adding to Frei's economic problems. Not only agriculture is being hurt badly; depleted reservoirs have meant reduced hydroelectric power and a corresponding cut in copper production. A loss in copper revenues at a time when Chile may have to buy more food abroad could easily set off a new round of inflation.

5. Communist China

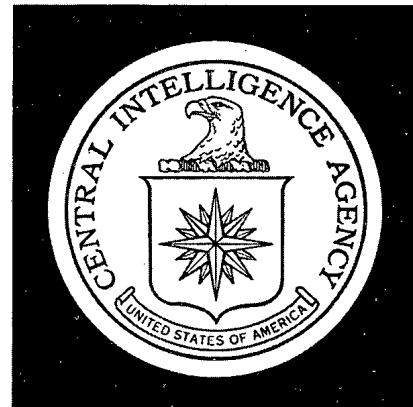
China has far more water than it needs. Flooding in central and south China has ended all chance for a good early rice harvest. About 25 million tons were ready for harvesting when the rains began in mid-June. Despite efforts to protect the dikes, some crop loss is inevitable and the trouble will be compounded by the delay in planting the next crop.

6. Iraq

As the dust settles in Baghdad after the coup, the new regime is beginning to look a little more moderate than its predecessor. There are not likely to be any marked shifts in attitude toward Israel or the US, however.

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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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50X1

17
24 July 1968

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

24 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Press Conference in Phnom Penh: North Vietnam's ambassador in Phnom Penh took the line at a press conference yesterday that the three US pilots are already free, as they have been handed over to members of American pacifist organizations. According to the French press agency, he refused to say when or by what route the pilots were to leave North Vietnam.

The ambassador also dismissed the Honolulu conference between Presidents Johnson and Thieu as a meeting of "master and valet." Everything is decided at the White House and the Pentagon, he said.

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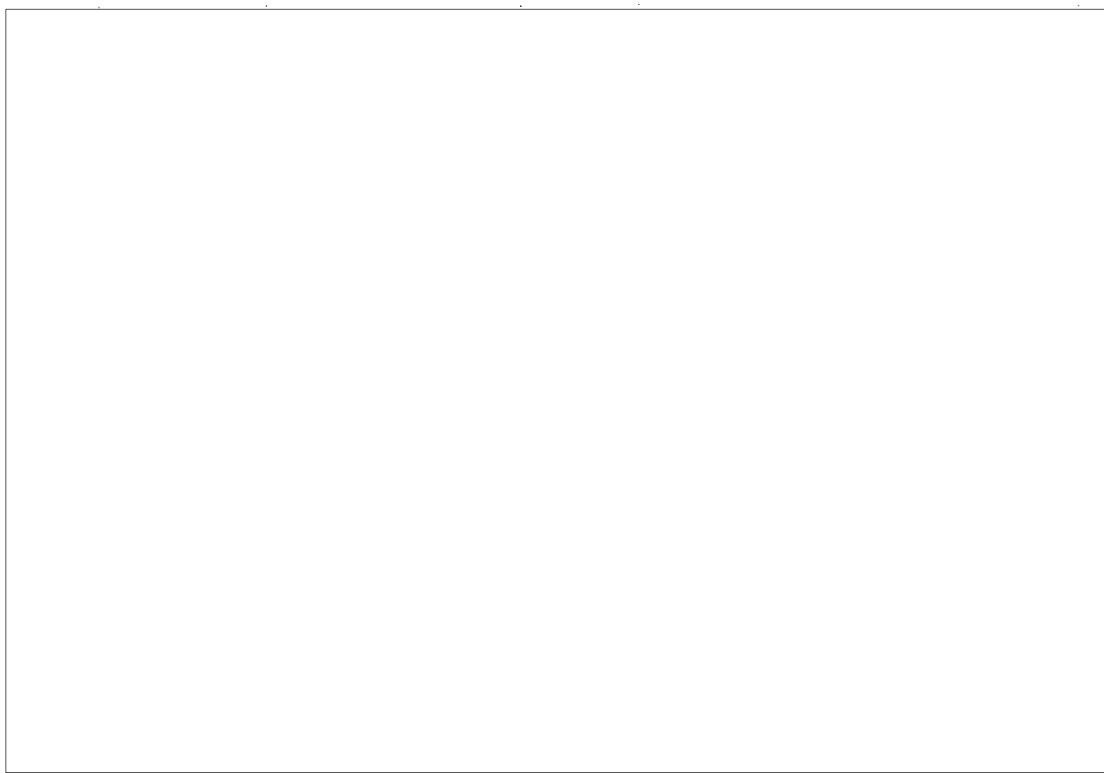
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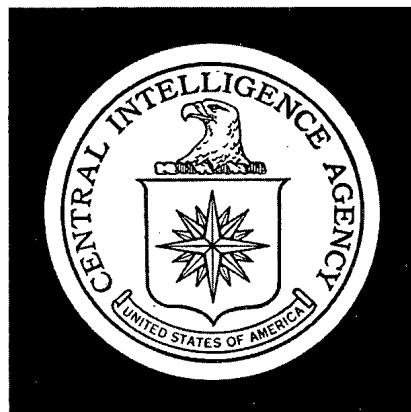
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report to-day.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 25 July 1968



50X1

23

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
25 JULY 1968

1. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

Official silence veils the subject of the top level Soviet-Czech meeting. While we have no evidence that the meeting has begun, we note that the entire Soviet politburo has been out of sight since Monday, and the Czech presidium dropped from public view on Tuesday. If indeed the meeting is in progress, Czech hints to the contrary could be in compliance with insistence from Moscow on tight security precautions.

Yesterday a Czech party spokesman admitted that some Soviet troops were still in Czechoslovakia and said, according to one account, that they "will remain until a communiqué is published." Another Czech source said on Tuesday that some 5,000 to 6,000 Soviet troops were still on Czech soil.

We have no further details on the extent and activity of the large military exercise on Soviet territory announced by Moscow on Tuesday.

2. Turkey

There were further clashes yesterday between students and police, and more are probably in the offing. These new outbreaks were triggered by the death of a student injured in last week's anti-US demonstrations.

The public, however, seems to be turning against the leftists. In addition, the Turkish military--which in the 1960 coup sided with radical students--is said to be fed up with leftist agitation. It blames local officials, rather than the Demirel government, for failure to cope with these outbreaks.

3. Malaysia-
Philippines

We are getting more concerned over the possibility of a military incident growing out of the dispute over Sabah. The Malaysians say that Manila has several armed groups, totaling about 1,500 men, standing ready to infiltrate Sabah from nearby islands.

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If the Filipinos did attempt infiltration, Malaysia at the least would be tempted to stir up secessionist sentiments among fellow Moslems in the southern Philippines.

4. Soviet Union -
Egypt

Soviet naval units in the Mediterranean recently put on a show of amphibious landing operations near Alexandria for senior Egyptian officers. Although these ships have been in the eastern Mediterranean since last summer's Arab-Israeli war, this is the first time we have detected this sort of activity.

5. Egypt

Nasir has announced that he is leaving shortly for a two- or three-week visit to the Soviet Union for medical treatment.

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6. World Youth
Festival

23 July 1968

As the 28 July start of the Ninth World Youth Festival in Sofia draws closer, its Soviet sponsors and Bulgarian hosts are getting more edgy. A number of issues--the Czech situation, artistic freedom in the Soviet Union, and the Cuban and Chinese approach to Marxism--could become highly volatile in the present atmosphere of worldwide student unrest. The Soviet radio is already acknowledging the possibility of disruptions by alleging Western efforts to divide the conference participants.

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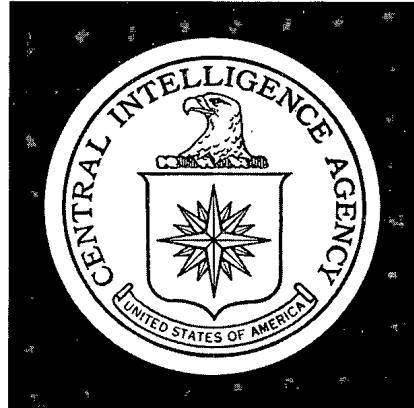
7. Cuba

Castro's replacement yesterday of his interior minister may be an attempt to get the reins of security control more firmly in his own hands. Fidel has been worried over increasing acts of sabotage since he imposed new austerity measures in March.

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17
25 July 1968

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

25 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Propaganda on Saigon "Siege": In its usual elliptical fashion, Hanoi has called attention to the lack of attacks on Saigon itself during the past month by boasting about the Communists' capability to conduct them and by playing up recent attacks in the city's environs. A Hanoi broadcast in English on 23 July quotes the North Vietnamese Army paper as saying that recent shellings on the outskirts of the capital, including those against the US supply base at Nha Be, belie allied "boasts" of heavy defenses around Saigon. The paper noted pointedly that Nha Be was only "six miles from the center of Saigon and included in the free bombing zone belt around the city." It described Saigon itself as under an "unbreakable siege" and Communist forces as able to move their "big guns very close to the enemy and strike with devastating blows." A US official was quoted as saying that "there is nothing you can do about it."

The paper seems to be trying to signal that the Communists have a capability to shell Saigon proper which they are not using at present because of political considerations.

* * *

Reconnaissance Report: A high-altitude photographic mission of 18 July turned up the following points of interest:

--Nineteen MIG-21s were photographed. Four more are known from intercepts to have been in the air at the time of the mission. This is the largest number of MIG-21s ever noted in North Vietnam.

--There are some signs that the cement plant in Haiphong is back in limited production.

--A record number of 41 ships was photographed in Haiphong harbor and its approaches. The amount of cargo in open storage ashore, however, has decreased, indicating a faster rate of turnover.

--Rail and highway transport is restricted at several points by flooding.

* * *

Chinese Economic Aid: The North Vietnamese economic delegation which has been on an extended visit to Communist China concluded an economic and technical aid agreement on Tuesday. The announcement of the signing ceremony, broadcast by Radio Peking's international service, gave no further details of the agreement.

Peking is the last stop for the traveling mission from Hanoi, which arrived on 10 July amid reports of serious friction between the two governments. Both sides put up a reasonably good front during the visit, probably reflecting a mutual desire to scotch reports of a serious split.

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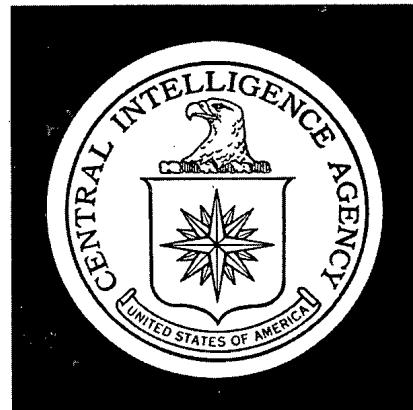
Followup to Honolulu Conference: A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Hanoi on 24 July issued a bland statement on the Honolulu conference similar in tone to earlier North Vietnamese press treatment. The spokesman accused the US of plotting to "intensify" the war and of trying to "doll up" the Saigon government, but showed little evidence of Communist concern. He contrasted the February 1966 Honolulu Conference with this one by claiming that after the former the US "frenziedly stepped up the war," whereas this time the US sought to "hold on to South Vietnam and maintain the puppet administration."

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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~~ 26 July 1968



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23

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
26 JULY 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

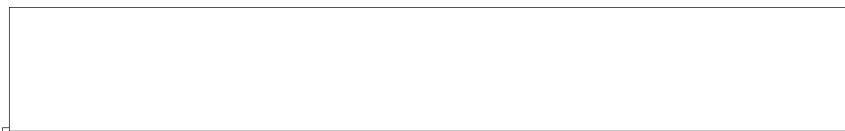
Prague has made a few conciliatory gestures, notably the removal of the general who headed the central committee's military-security department. This was the official who aroused Soviet ire by calling for revisions in the Warsaw Pact organization. At the same time the Czechs have reaffirmed their determination to carry out their reform program.

Soviet troops have begun moving southward in East Germany. This deployment may be part of a previously scheduled exercise, but it is doubtless also intended to add to the pressure on Czechoslovakia. Soviet propaganda has become a bit more intense in its criticism of the Czech leadership.

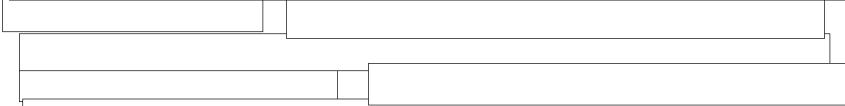
2. Communist China

Peking has given the army a mandate to restore order throughout China. We know that the military has in fact been intervening forcefully against unruly Red Guards in South China. Moreover, propaganda out of Peking has just recently begun to emphasize the army's role and to attack Red Guard "anarchism." In the past these themes appeared when the government turned to the army to get things back under some sort of control.

3. Soviet Union



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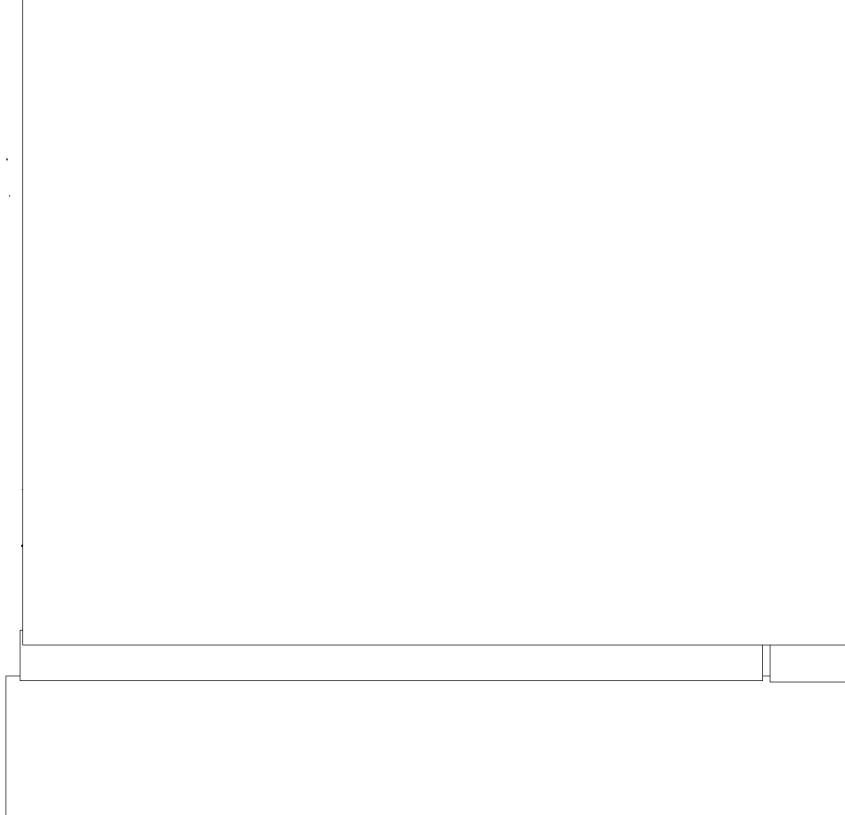


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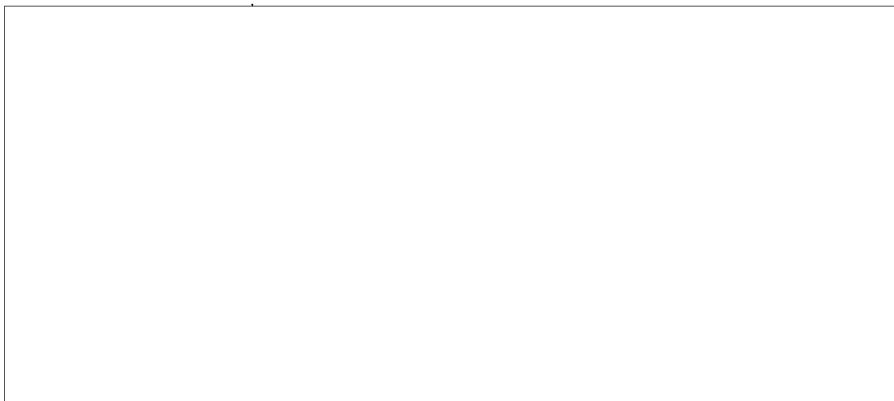
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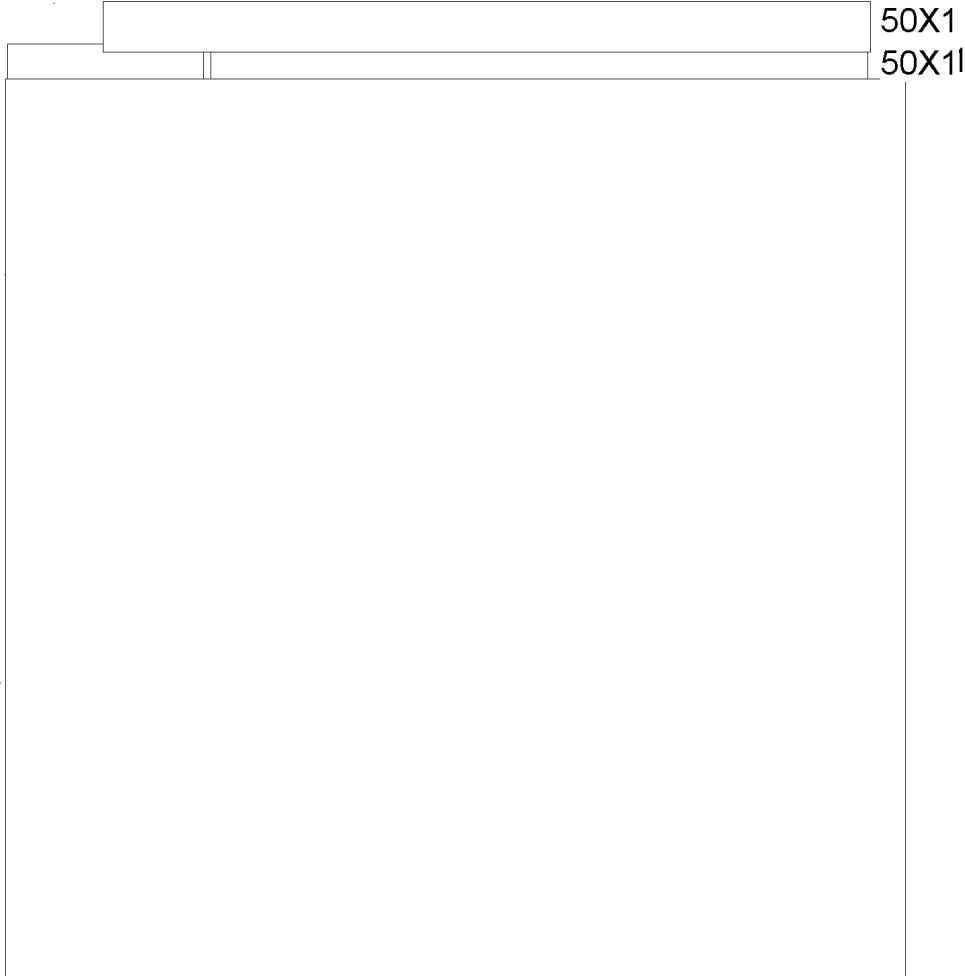


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4. Egypt -
Soviet Union



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5. Soviet Union -
Middle East

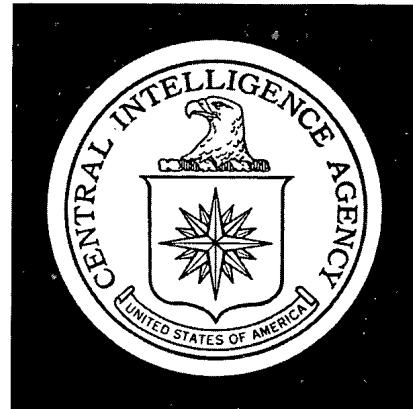
The pilgrimage of Arab military men to Moscow continues. A Syrian military delegation arrived there on Tuesday, and an Iraqi delegation is scheduled to follow before the end of this month. These visits come in the wake of the Soviets' recent exchanges with the Egyptians and Defense Minister Grechko's trip last week to Algiers.

All this will probably produce a new batch of arms agreements. The Soviets are not likely to agree to deliver equipment more sophisticated than the types that are on order now. We would expect the agreements to reflect Moscow's active participation in the enlarged training programs most Arab countries have undertaken.

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26 July 1968

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

26 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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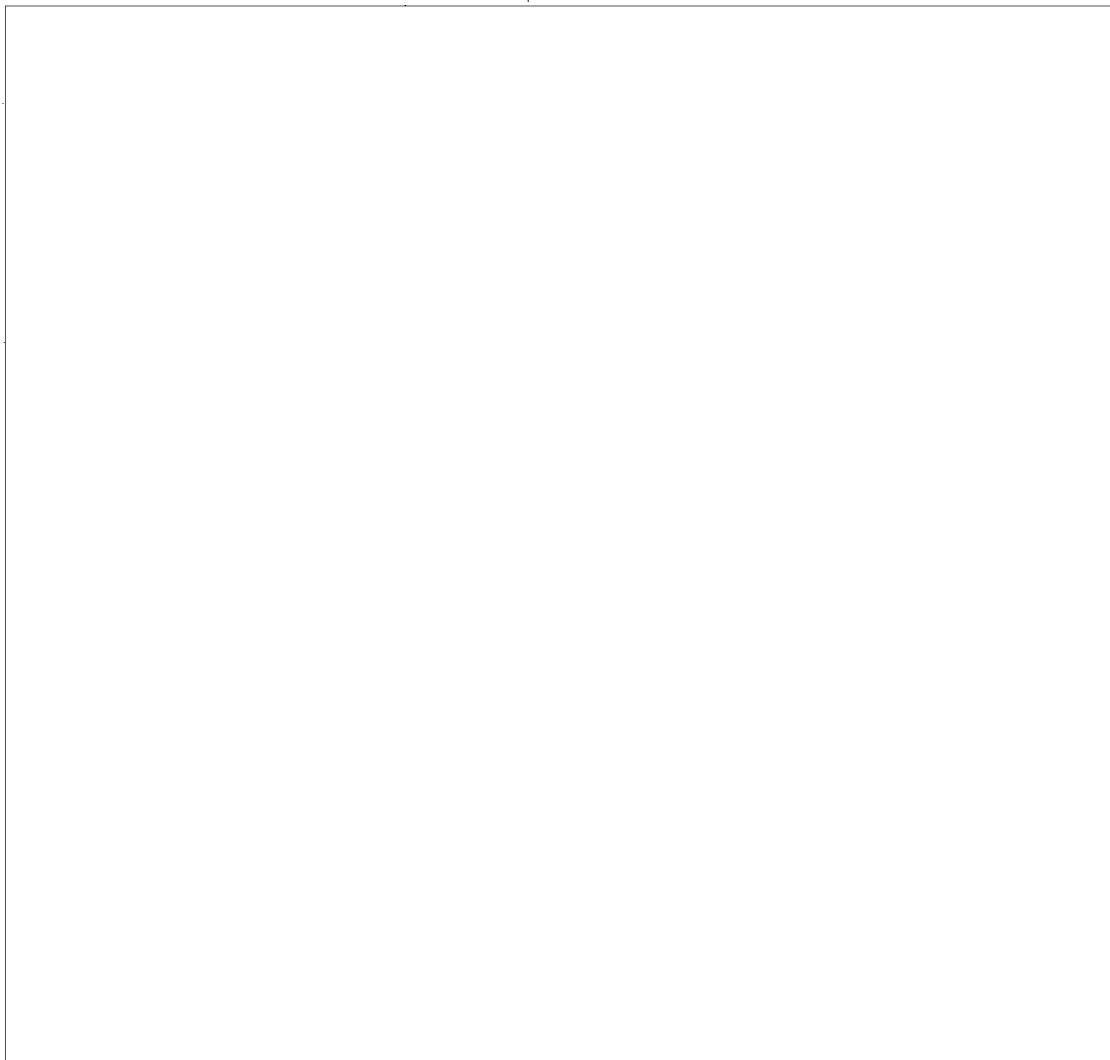
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Hanoi and the Liberation Front: In a long radio broadcast on 24 July praising the National Liberation Front, Hanoi again failed to assert that a political settlement must be "in accordance" with the Front's program. This point, once a fundamental feature of the North's position, was dropped formally in a 17 July Foreign Ministry memorandum. Its omission in this account is further evidence that this was a deliberate change in the Communist position, despite efforts by some North Vietnamese spokesmen to obscure the issue.

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More on the Honolulu Conference: With an air of bored resignation, a Liberation Radio commentary on 24 June described the Honolulu communique as a tired rehash of previous pronouncements. Continuing the theme of earlier Communist comment, it called the talks a desperate but futile US effort to refurbish the image of "country-seller" Thieu and to boost the sagging morale of the "disintegrating puppet forces." The commentary contained the standard denunciation of reciprocity as an "absurd" demand, and warned that nothing can halt the "stormy advance" of the Vietnamese people.

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North Vietnamese Light Industry Claims: North Vietnam's Ministry of Light Industry reports that as of the end of June, the ministry had achieved 57 percent of its planned gross output for all of 1968, and factories run by the ministry had increased their output by 4.4 percent compared with the same period last year. The same article reported gross output in light industry is scheduled to increase by 26 percent in 1968 over 1967.

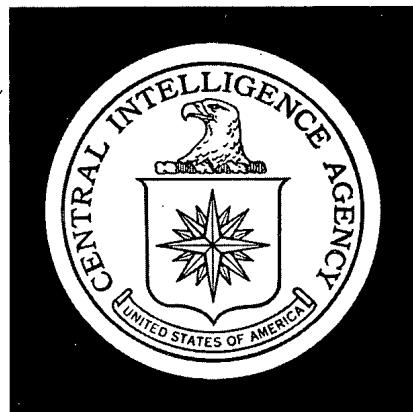
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Comment on New Anti-Vietnam Book: In an item transmitted to its Hanoi office, the Liberation Press Agency described the recent book by a US Marine officer [redacted] as a courageous exposé of US policy in Vietnam, which strips away official US "concealment" and "distortion" of its aggressive designs. 50X1

The article said that the book, titled The Betrayal, is making the "old-line authorities nervous and worried," and reported that the US Navy, after investigating the book for possible security leaks, has ordered the officer to stand trial by court martial.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 27 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
27 July 1968

1. South Vietnam



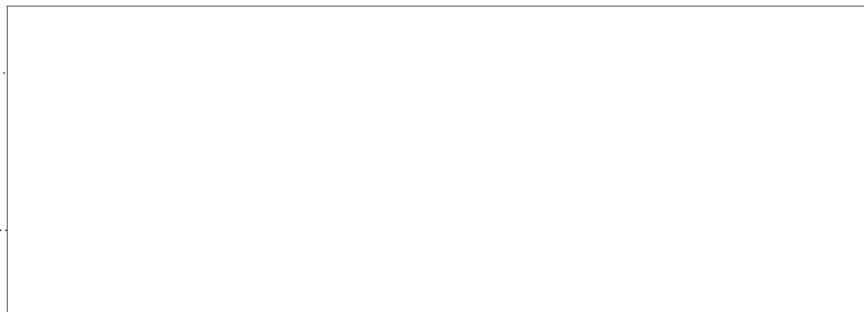
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Prime Minister Huong may be planning major governmental and military changes which would further the eclipse of Ky and his supporters.

50X1

A special assistant to Thieu says that Huong wants to appoint Interior Minister Khiem to head both the Defense Ministry and the Joint General Staff.

Khiem is anathema to Ky. The Vice President and his military supporters would almost certainly react badly to Khiem's assumption of top military posts, and to any meddling in military matters by the civilian prime minister. Their ability to do much about it is questionable.



2. North Vietnam

[redacted] the departure of the three US pilots has again been delayed for a week.

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3. Thailand

The raid on the US airbase at Udorn last night--evidently by Communist terrorists--seems to have been an isolated incident. Late reports say that several aircraft were damaged and that six US servicemen were wounded. At least two of the terrorists were killed. This is the first such attack against a US military installation in Thailand.

4. Czechoslovakia

Dubcek has made another halfway response to Soviet demands. By approving the establishment of advisory councils for radio and television he has not actually reimposed censorship, but he has given a nod in the direction of the Soviet demand for tighter control over the news media.

The time and place of the meeting with the Soviets still seems to be under negotiations. Key figures on both sides were publicly identified in their home capitals yesterday.

There are no significant changes in the status of Soviet forces in and around Czechoslovakia.

5. France

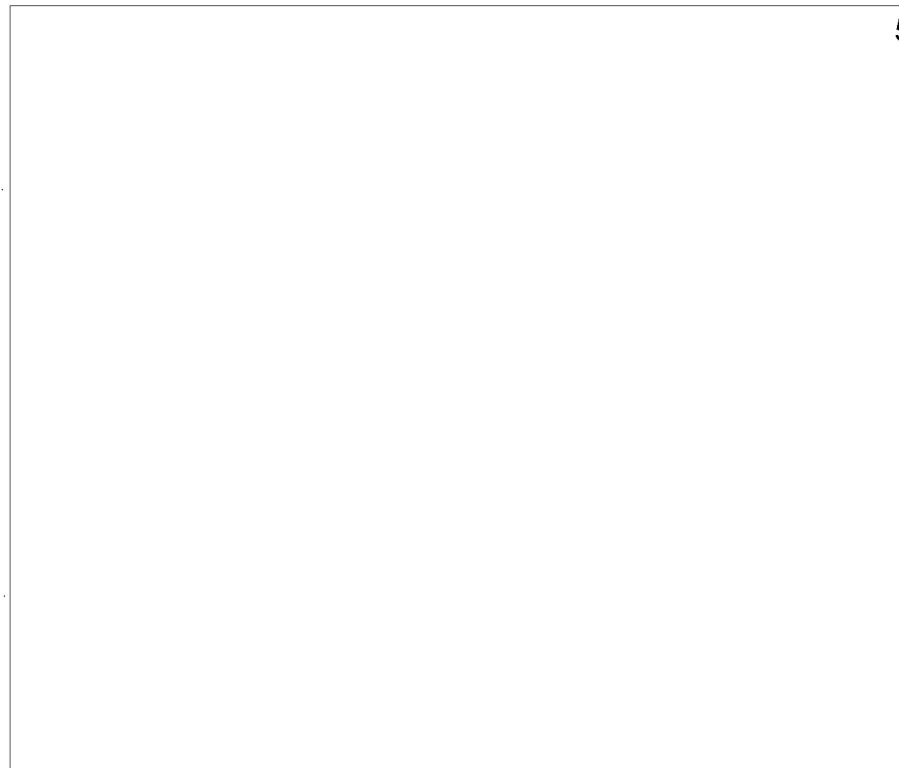
Paris seems to be trying to improve the atmosphere with Washington. De Gaulle and some of his ministers, for instance, have been making positive statements to US officials about Franco-American relations. They have also stopped criticizing US policies in public. Our military attaches have been encouraged by signs of increased friendliness; the French are also cooperating much more closely about security matters for the Paris talks.

We doubt that France wants a genuine rapprochement at this point, but these small steps to improve the climate may point to longer range policy adjustments.

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7. Guatemala

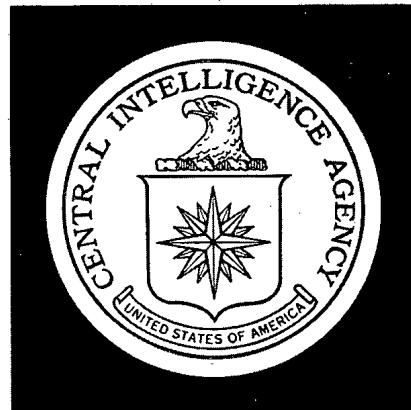
Communist terrorists in Guatemala are planning another wave of bombings, shootings and kidnappings--this time in hopes of disrupting local elections next month.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 29 July 1968



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23

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
29 JULY 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The meeting of Soviet and Czech leaders may now be under way. A Czech domestic broadcast last night announced the arrival of the presidium at the Czech village of Cierna, near the Soviet border, and said that the talks would take place today.

There has been no sign of give on the part of either Prague or Moscow. Dubcek on Saturday assured the nation that the presidium intended to stand firm. He noted in particular the massive expressions of public support that he had received in recent days. Moscow has continued its barrage of propaganda with the apparent aim of convincing Czech conservatives that intervention will be necessary if the "democratization" process is not reversed.

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[redacted] The Soviets are said to be determined to force Prague into retreat despite objections from Western Communist parties.

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Soviet demands will be presented against a backdrop of heavy military pressure. Late yesterday the Soviet military commander in East Germany declared all of East Germany south of Berlin to the Czech border a temporary restricted area.

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2. Philippines

By order of Marcos, the Philippine contingent in Vietnam is to be drawn down to 1,000 men from its present strength of 1,800 by mid-August. Marcos appears to think this is necessary in order to get Senate approval of funds for keeping a contingent in the field. Some of the votes he had previously lined up may now be turning soft.

3. Nigeria

The Biafrans have now agreed to discuss a political settlement with Nigeria at next week's talks in Addis Ababa. Ojukwu's worsening military situation probably was behind his agreement to put the political question first on the agenda.

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Gowon's successes in the field have made him more and more inclined to try for a military solution. He would have to see a considerable amount of give on the part of the Biafrans before he would abandon this line.

4. Mexico

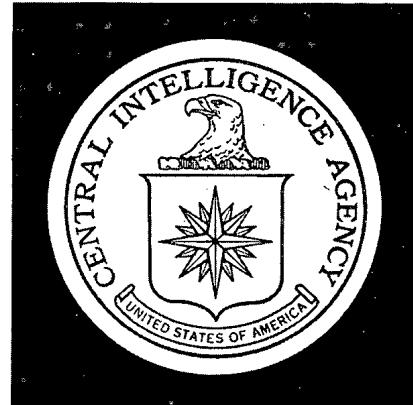
Communist agitators were behind Friday night's clash between several thousand students and police in downtown Mexico City. Scores were wounded and many arrested. In a raid on Communist Party headquarters, police seized a big quantity of inflammatory propaganda.

5. Bolivia

Barrientos on Saturday named a new cabinet composed almost entirely of military officers. This gives him a stronger whip in dealing with opposition groups that have been stirring up trouble over the Guevara diary issue. It also should damp down criticism from some segments of the military over his handling of recent political difficulties.

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29 July 1968

50X1

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

29 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

50X1

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Nhan Dan on Honolulu: The Honolulu meeting "marked another gain" for Thieu against "his opponent" Ky, according to a 27 July Hanoi international service broadcast in English. The broadcast reported a commentary in the Hanoi daily Nhan Dan stating that Thieu and Ky are trying to eliminate each other. The paper asserted that the "Honolulu farce" helped the South Vietnamese president, but that he still cannot get rid of Ky because President Johnson "has not yet decided to kill one of his running dogs."

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Rail Shipments Through China: Soviet propaganda continues to exploit the intermittent disruption of rail transport through China to North Vietnam. The Soviets are now claiming that cargoes for North Vietnam are being delayed in China.

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The Soviets have claimed that during June Chinese authorities refused to accept any rail shipments to North Vietnam of arms and ammunition from either the Soviets or East Europeans for "technical reasons." Railroad transport has been hindered and delayed during June and July by factional strife in Kwangsi Province and by floods. Intercepts have confirmed that in mid-June the Chinese were not accepting some type of low-priority rail freight because of the "extreme confusion" in Kwangsi Province.

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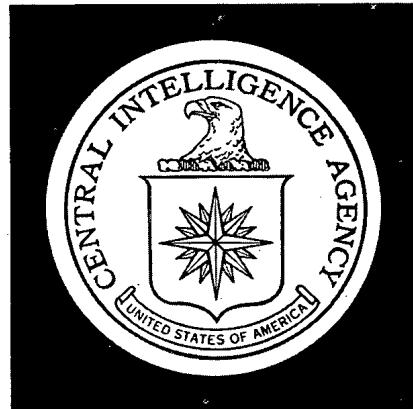
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Antiwar Protests: The North Vietnamese have presented another roundup of Western press reports on antiwar protest activities in the US.

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A 27 July Hanoi international service broadcast in English described a 23 July antiwar demonstration in New York outside the Waldorf-Astoria, where Vice President Humphrey was speaking. A protest against the use of toxic chemicals by US troops in Vietnam voiced by the American Association for the Advancement of Science was also reported. The broadcast noted that two more US soldiers who had served in Vietnam sought political asylum in Sweden on 25 July.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 July 1968



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23

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
30 JULY 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

There has been no change in the situation overnight. The confrontation at the border yesterday went on well into the night and was scheduled to resume at about 4:00 AM Washington time this morning. Neither side is putting out interim communiqués or announcements.

2. Laos

Ambassador Sullivan reports that he spent the weekend attending a royal Laotian wedding in Luang Prabang. The atmosphere "brimmed with Pollyannish hope" from most of the Lao and many of the diplomats. The reason for this unwanted optimism was the dramatic return (after four years) of the North Vietnamese ambassador bearing gifts from Ho Chi Minh. With him came the Pathet Lao representative, also bearing gifts.

The North Vietnamese was "very cagey" about his intentions. A number of people expect him to return quickly to Hanoi, but he told Sullivan that he will remain "for some time."

In any case, this conspicuous gesture flattered the King considerably. Ambassador Sullivan comments that if in fact the North Vietnamese does stay, this could be the beginning of a long-anticipated "peace offensive" in Laos.

3. Southern Yemen

Disturbances in upcountry areas are spreading, and there are signs that the army may be splitting up along tribal lines. This would seriously impair the army's effectiveness and could open the door to widespread tribal anarchy.

4. South Vietnam

Intelligence from all sources continues to suggest that another country-wide enemy offensive is not imminent but may be planned for the second or third week in August. The Communists are capable of mounting multiregimental attacks at any time in several areas--across the Demilitarized Zone, central I Corps, central highlands, and northwestern III Corps--but the information at hand indicates that enemy preparations for attacks against Saigon and key objectives in I Corps are not yet in the final stages.

5. India

Prime Minister Gandhi has emerged relatively unscathed from the critical parliamentary debate over Indo-Soviet relations. In meeting the domestic uproar over the Soviet decision to sell arms to Pakistan, Mrs. Gandhi blunted what could have been a heavily damaging issue to her.

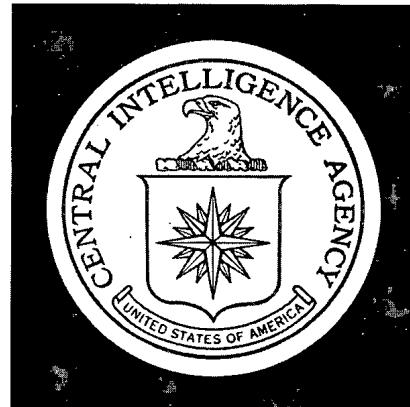
Extensive consultations before Parliament opened and full public backing from her most dangerous rivals within the Congress Party limited the effectiveness of the opposition attack. But it was her refusal to entertain even a mild opposition resolution condemning the Soviets that forced the opposition's hand. The opposition resorted to a motion implying censure, which helped to unite support behind her.

6. North Korea



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30 July 1968

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

30 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Le Duc Tho to Return to Paris: The North Vietnamese ambassador in Vientiane told Ambassador Sullivan over the weekend that he had talked with Le Duc Tho in Hanoi and that he expected Tho to go back to Paris in the "next week or two."

* * *

Hanoi and the Czech Situation: Hanoi media have not discussed or reported on the Czech situation [redacted]

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Hanoi's sympathies probably are with the Czechs, but the North Vietnamese also are concerned that the situation in Eastern Europe may weaken their own position in the war. A domestic broadcast on 28 July carries a nine-day-old Soviet press item accusing the US of "dark schemes" in Eastern Europe to undermine the capabilities of the Communist countries. The Hanoi account does not discuss Czechoslovakia but merely reports that the Soviet article called on Communist countries to strengthen their unity and to be ready to counter any "aggressive action against socialist positions."

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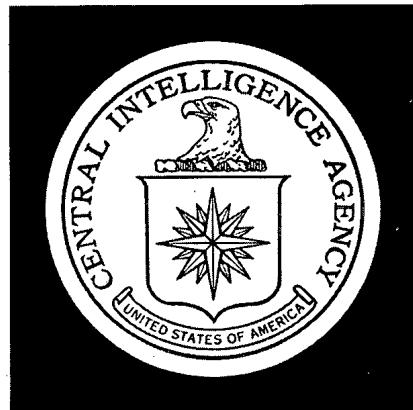
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on US Elections: North Vietnamese propaganda during the past month contained no reference at all to the US election campaign and no mention of any of the candidates as such.

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Hanoi's lack of propaganda coverage of the US election campaign indicates both serious interest in the subject and uncertainty about how to interpret the events thus far. There are many instances of Communists probing Westerners for interpretations of the campaign.

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~~Top Secret~~ 31 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
31 JULY 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

There is still nothing substantive out of the meeting in Cierna. Both sides say the talks have been "frank and comradely," which is the Communist way of saying that disagreement is serious but not total. The Soviet military build-up opposite Czechoslovakia continues relentlessly.

2. Mexico

Student demonstrations continued into the evening yesterday.

[redacted] the government's severe countermeasures have united the student body behind the demonstrators. The students are likely to become even more bitter when they learn that several demonstrators were killed. The government has so far managed to suppress this information.

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We see little chance that the government will modify its tough line. It continues to charge that Communists are at the root of the troubles

[redacted]
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The government closed the university yesterday, but university officials--many of whom seem to sympathize with the students--plan to reopen it today.

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3. Bolivia

In a characteristically headlong reaction to his current troubles, Barrientos has named a largely military cabinet whose members are distinguished by their loyalty to him and by little else. The make-up of the new team has angered his civilian supporters; his failure to consult the high command has alienated the military as well. Some military officers have begun talking about a coup, and civilian opposition groups are trying to rally antigovernment sentiment.

Barrientos is still ahead of his slow-moving critics, and our embassy believes he has begun to get his emotions back under control. It thinks he will be able to re-establish his dialogue with the principal power centers in Bolivia and find a way out of the present crisis. He is by no means out of the woods yet, however.

4. Algeria-Israel

The Algerians apparently are in a real dilemma over the hijacked Israeli airliner. They probably would prefer to let the plane and its remaining passengers go away quietly, but the Palestinian exile groups are pressing them to insist on some kind of concession from Israel. Moreover,

[redacted] believe that as soon as the plane is safe the Israelis will take retaliatory action against Egypt, the most prominent backer of the Palestinians.

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The cabinet will meet in Algiers tomorrow. Current indications are that the Algerians may risk the criticism of their fellow Arabs and come out with a somewhat less intransigent line.

5. Southern Yemen

Anti-American feeling is being whipped up in Aden by inflammatory broadcasts as the leftist government thrashes about for a scapegoat for the current unrest. The city is calm but tense, with a risk of demonstrations. The small US mission cannot expect strong protection from local security forces, which themselves are divided in their support of the government.

6. World Youth Festival

The Youth Festival is proving a handful for the hosts. When Bulgarian officials confiscated a truckload of Czech stationery and press handouts, the inventive Czechs began sending press invitations on Bulgarian toilet paper. At the opening parade on Sunday, a Czechoslovak group stopped in front of the reviewing stand and chanted "Our democracy is our affair" in Bulgarian at the assembled dignitaries.

Arab delegations chanted anti-Israeli slogans, and some Arab groups have not turned up at all, apparently because an Israeli delegation is present. The Israelis, the Czechs, and the Yugoslavs got a cool reception inside the stadium, but streetside spectators in Sofia greeted the Czechs warmly.

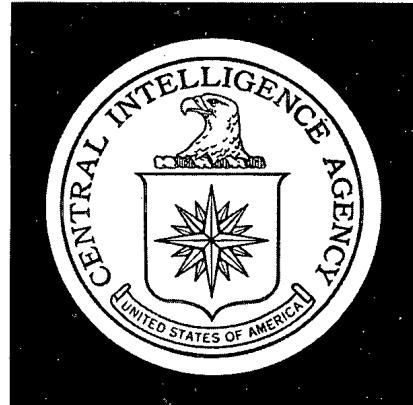
Strong-arm methods may be necessary if the Bulgarians are to keep even a semblance of order and unanimity, particularly if touchy questions of youthful restlessness in and out of the Communist world come to the surface.

* * *

The Bulgarians even got themselves in a box on the supposedly noncontroversial issue of Vietnam. They used the militia to turn back a group of West European "new leftists" who wanted to stage an antiwar rally in front of the US Embassy on Monday. For their trouble they heard the group's leader say the demonstration was also a protest against the lack of free discussion at the festival.

Top Secret

Top Secret



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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31 July 1968

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

31 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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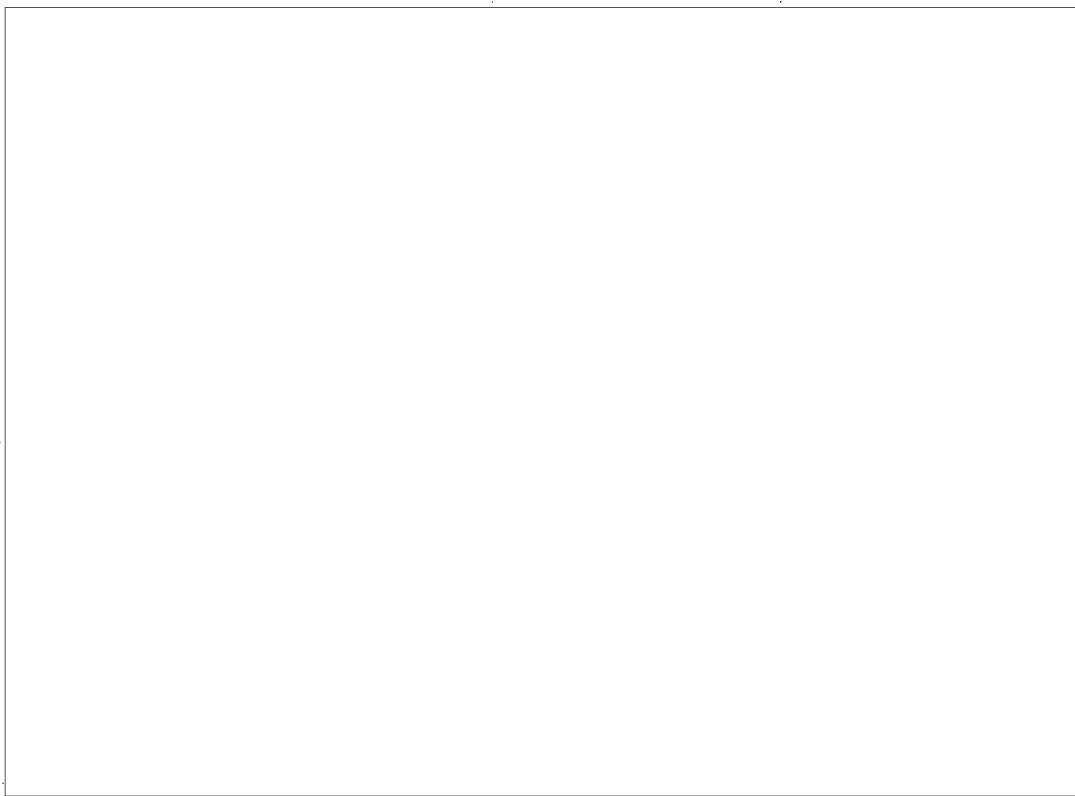
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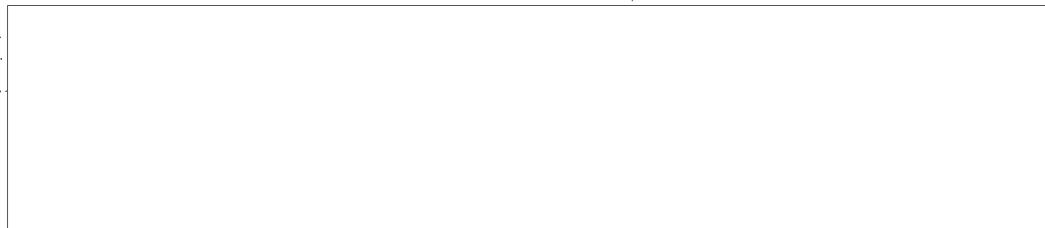
Indian Team to Vietnam: A six-man team of Indian officials from the ministries of External Affairs, Defense, and Finance is scheduled to arrive in Saigon this week on an inspection mission to North and South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Two members, including External Affairs Secretary T. N. Kaul, have obtained visas for Hanoi.

The Indian "inspection" is apparently a check into the administration of International Control Commission activities. Kaul's trip to Hanoi, however, could be of additional significance. As India's senior official supervising Indian policy for Southeast Asia, Kaul has been actively promoting plans for a behind-the-scenes Indian effort aimed at mediating a settlement of the Vietnam conflict.

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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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