



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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1 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
1 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. United Nations

U Thant's decision not to seek a new term as secretary general leaves a wide-open field for possible successors since no strong candidate has emerged. Several Latin Americans have been mentioned, and there is some sentiment among African delegations to press for an African candidate.

Close associates of U Thant testify to the sincerity of his desire to withdraw from his post. However, he may be willing to serve ad interim until a successor can be found. That search could be long and arduous.

2. South Vietnam

South Vietnam's Foreign Minister Do was so hopping mad over De Gaulle's Phnom Penh speech that he called in foreign correspondents to give them the benefit of "a few choice thoughts." Among other things, he defended the US presence in Vietnam and noted acidly that it had been France--not the US--that had sought to reimpose colonial domination after World War II.

So far, there has been no reaction to De Gaulle's speech from Peking, Moscow, or Hanoi.

3. South Vietnam

Radical Buddhist leader Tri Quang is once again raising the possibility of suicide unless Ky and Thieu resign.

Tri Quang has painted himself into a corner with his hunger strike and his unbending opposition to the government. It is possible he had decided martyrdom is the only way out of this predicament. However, he has by no means committed himself publicly to suicide. Should he die, there would be an immediate stir among the Buddhist faithful, but probably no serious lasting impact on the political scene.

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4. Brazil

Carlos Lacerda, the powerful perennial opponent of Brazilian governments, may have overstepped the bounds in his latest challenge to President Castello Branco. Lacerda's vitriolic attack, in the form of a magazine article, included charges of subservience to the United States and went so far as to call for a resort to violence if necessary.

Castello Branco can scarcely overlook this latest attack, although in the past he has deliberately ignored Lacerda's outbursts. He may charge Lacerda under the security law, even at the risk of making him a martyr.

Lacerda's blast comes at a time when public dissatisfaction with the government is widespread on the eve of gubernatorial elections due to start Saturday.

5. Burundi

The new government plans to renew diplomatic relations with Communist China and support Peking's entry into the UN. Relations were broken early last year when the former king became convinced the Chinese were trying to subvert his government.

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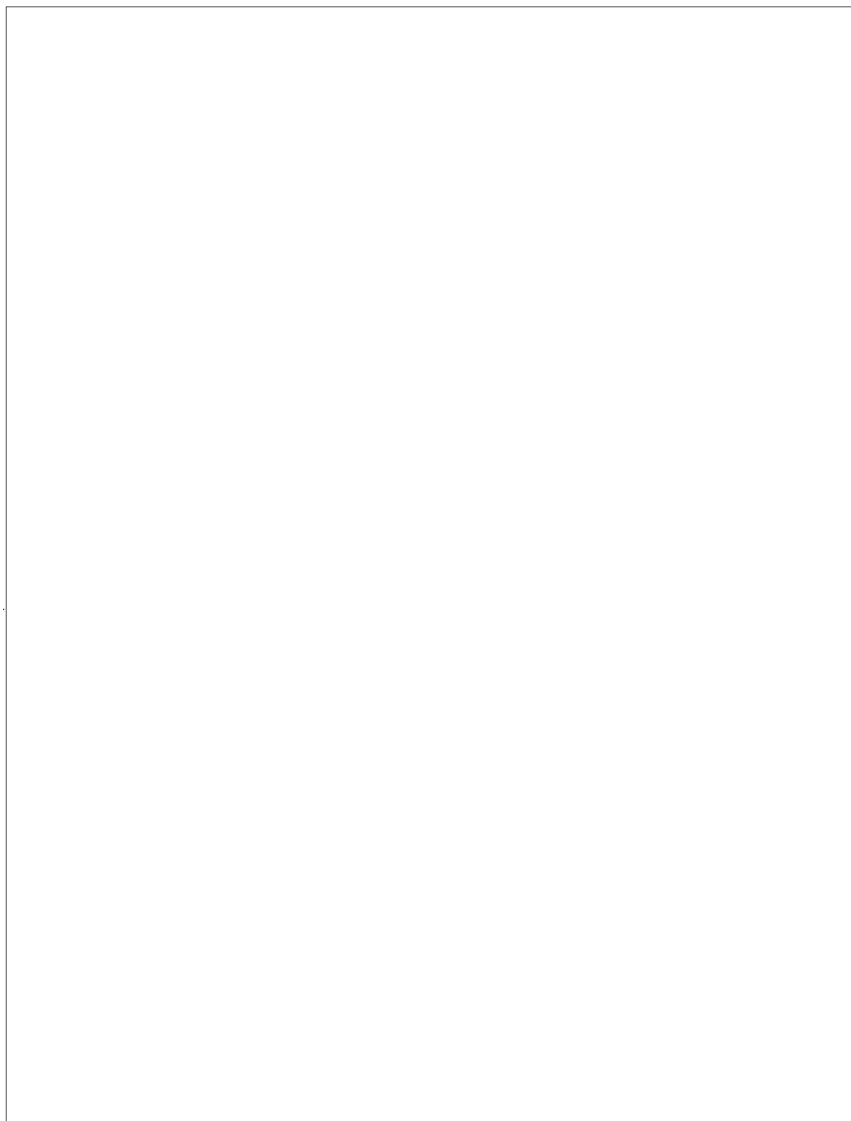
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2 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
2 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. Communist China



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2. United Nations

There is a general feeling at the UN that U Thant will agree to remain in office at least for a shortened term if a suitable successor cannot be found.

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3. Belgium-Congo

Despite strong public pressure for a hard line against Mobutu, the Belgian Government yesterday formally approved a conciliatory policy toward the Congo. This means that Brussels will maintain its technical assistance in health, education, and rural development.

Military and police aid, however, will be purely advisory, not operational as in the past. The problem with this is that the Congo's army and police have rarely been able to function without foreign leadership.

4. Ethiopia

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5. South Vietnam

Chief of State Thieu publicly declared today that he will not be a candidate for the presidency of a future elected government. This is similar to an earlier statement by Premier Ky. These could be intended as conciliatory gestures to the Buddhists.

The leaders in Saigon still, however, show no signs of giving in to another major Buddhist demand--that they quickly release political prisoners.

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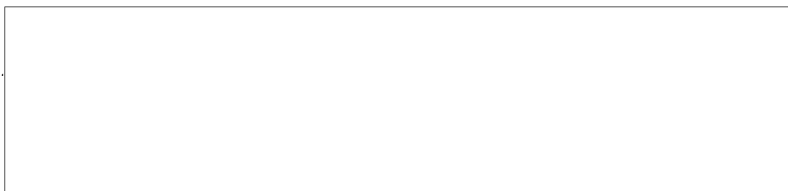
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DAILY BRIEF

3 September 1966

1. North Vietnam



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2. Soviet Union

Moscow has finally reacted to President Johnson's Idaho Falls speech. Pravda yesterday carried a long editorial which acknowledged the importance of the subject matter of the speech, but then went on to say that it also contained "further anti-Soviet, anti-Vietnamese, and anti-Communist statements," all of which only proves that the speech was intended mainly for its vote-getting effect.

3. Soviet Union

The Soviets at the UN have informed Ambassador Goldberg that they "will be glad" to resume the bilateral talks on outer space--probably sometime late next week.

4. Congo

Mobutu has been persuaded to send his foreign minister to Brussels tomorrow in order to see what can be done to reduce the friction with the Belgians.

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5. Cyprus

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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5 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
5 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. Vietnam

Predictably, Hanoi is giving high praise to De Gaulle's speech in Phnom Penh. The North Vietnamese propagandists are even able to make their points without departing too far from objectivity. Hanoi gives special stress to De Gaulle's implication that the war is an outgrowth of national resistance against the US.

Moscow's initial reaction has been brief. It seems to reflect some difficulty in determining how to bring De Gaulle's pronouncements into line with Moscow's own positions. In deference to North Vietnamese sensitivities, Moscow downplays De Gaulle's statement that a military solution is impossible and ignores his profession of hope that, as in 1954, agreement can be reached guaranteeing the neutrality of all Indochina.

2. South Vietnam

The encouraging trend toward price stability continues, and labor pressures for higher wages are easing off somewhat. Coming up in the near future, however, is the possibility of another major labor dispute. The big American construction consortium is thinking of an early 25-percent reduction in its total labor force--a move that would affect up to 10,000 Vietnamese workers.

The US Embassy, concerned over the effect of large layoffs during the pre-election period, is urging a program under which other US employers would hire those dismissed by the consortium.

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3. Dominican Republic



4. Communist China

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the large new launch pads under construction there were still far from complete in the latest satellite photography.

5. Yugoslavia

Tito, having moved against his conservative heir-apparent Rankovic this summer, is now preparing to move against the liberals.

If he has his way, the reorganization of the Yugoslav Communist Party, the details of which he announced last Thursday, will be directed largely against those who want to see the country evolve toward Western ways of doing business. Tito feels the party is getting lax and needs to re-establish its supremacy in Yugoslav affairs.

6. Nigeria

Intertribal tension, marked by sporadic violence, continues to plague Nigeria. No solution is in sight.

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7. Communist China

The Red Guards are being shaken down into a regular organization under even tighter army control. Press reports, as yet unverified by official Chinese news broadcasts, identify Lin Piao as commander of the guards, Marshal Ho Lung as his chief of staff, and Chou En-lai as an "adviser."

The current press coverage presents Mao in the role of chief inspiration for guard activity. For instance, the guards are demanding that postmasters not cancel stamps bearing Mao's picture because defacing it would be disrespectful. Such absurdities of superrevolutionary purity are intended both to screen and legitimize moves by the guards' leaders against their enemies inside the Communist Party machine.

Press reports continue to allege the growth of organized resistance to the Red Guard movement outside Peking, but we are unable to confirm such a development.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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6 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
6 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. Soviet Union

The Soviet ICBM deployment program continues at a vigorous pace. Satellite photography shows about 390 new dispersed "single-silo" launchers under construction at the present time.

This number, added to those already completed, brings a total of at least 660 launchers identified. Of these about 270 are now operational and, given the current rate of completion, all 660 should be operational by mid-1968. Although the number of operational launchers at present lies somewhat below our earlier estimate for mid-1966, the present pace of deployment will carry the Soviet force on the order of ten percent beyond the upper range of our estimates for mid-1968.

The new launchers come in two sizes. We have identified about 120 large silos for the SS-9, roughly comparable to an advanced Titan. There are also some 320 smaller silos for the SS-11, comparable to a liquid-fueled Minuteman.

2. Dominican Republic

In a speech last night Balaguer served notice that he intends to proceed with military reforms aimed at reducing the political potential of the armed forces. He also announced that General Wessin y Wessin has been given a job with the United Nations delegation, an honorable sinecure that may reduce dissidence among Wessin's rightist friends.

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3. South Vietnam

Leaders of the Buddhist Institute have finally clarified their stand on the upcoming elections. At a special news conference today, the institute not only called for complete "noncooperation" in the elections, but it also denounced ahead of time the constitutional assembly which will be elected.

The institute's leaders will lead a 72-hour hunger strike beginning on Thursday to back up their protest.

4. Indonesia

Foreign Minister Malik will not be visiting the Soviet Union this month as he had planned. Moscow has turned him down, claiming that Soviet leaders are otherwise occupied.

Malik had hoped to discuss rescheduling Indonesia's large debt to the Soviet Union and the possibility of new credits. Moscow probably wants to learn what concessions non-Communist creditors are prepared to make before committing itself. These creditors are scheduled to meet later this month in Tokyo.

5. West Germany

The Erhard government will not be in any shape to face a hard confrontation with France over the issue of French troops in Germany, in Ambassador McGhee's opinion.

With the question of the status of French forces largely resolved, the main point still up in the air is the mission of these forces. The ambassador feels that, in the end, Bonn will have to settle for De Gaulle's general assurance that France will fight if Germany is attacked.

6. South Africa

Verwoerd's assassination today is not expected to bring about any major policy changes. There has been little dissension within the ruling party over Verwoerd's apartheid policies except from a small group even further to the right. More liberal groups are virtually without influence.

Initial information on the assassin does not tie him in with any other person or group. A Portuguese citizen of Greek descent, he served in the US merchant marine during World War II. He was deported by the US in 1947

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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7 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
7 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. Vietnam

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2. United Nations

U Thant has passed the word that he would like to see the Security Council proceed cautiously in a serious search for his successor. Thant remarked to the Italian delegate that a move to draft him could only be made after such deliberations.

3. United Kingdom

Prime Minister Wilson won an unexpected measure of support today from British trade unions. The Trades Union Congress' vote to support Wilson's wage-price freeze gives him needed leverage for his austerity program. It will also help convince overseas observers that the program has a chance of success.

Britain's foreign exchange reserves fell again in August for the sixth straight month in spite of the government's measures.

4. NATO

As expected, France has rounded out its disengagement from NATO with formal notification that it will cease contributions to the general military budget and will pay nothing toward relocation expenses. Acceptance of the French terms would open the way for other NATO members to avoid financial contributions but the Fourteen Allies are in no position to force the French hand.

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5. Communist China

Foreign Minister Chen Yi's statements to visiting Japanese parliamentarians yesterday--if correctly reported by the press--are in marked contrast to previous ranting performances put on by Chen. His motives are unclear, but may be related to the current political turmoil in Peking.

Chinese Ambassador Wang in Warsaw today broke an 11-year precedent by releasing to the press the full text of his opening statement in his talk with Ambassador Gronouski. The statement reiterated Peking's standard attack on US aggression and reaffirmed Chinese support for North Vietnam.

Wang had earlier told Gronouski he would do this in retaliation for past leaks from the US side. This is probably not the whole story. The Chinese may have wanted to counter widespread press interpretation of Chen Yi's remarks as a softening of the Chinese attitude toward the US, or to reply to recent US statements on withdrawal from Vietnam.

6. Indonesia

Sukarno's involvement in financial corruption is receiving increasing attention in the trial of a former cabinet minister in Djakarta. Charges that Sukarno received bribes up to \$600,000, provided import licenses to several of his mistresses, and diverted state funds to his political supporters are being freely reported in the press. We suspect these stories understate the truth.

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7. Turkey

The Soviets are bringing heavy pressure on the Turks to cancel a scheduled courtesy visit to the Black Sea by the US guided missile destroyer Pratt. They claim that passage of the Pratt through the straits would be contrary to the Montreux Convention. The Soviets have raised no objections to earlier visits by similar destroyers.

The Convention was signed before guided missiles were heard of, but it does forbid passage of ships armed with guns larger than 203 millimeters. The Pratt's missiles, while defensive in nature, are of larger diameter than this.

The Turkish General Staff has ruled that the passage would indeed be contrary to the spirit of the Convention, and the Foreign Ministry has asked that the Pratt's visit be cancelled.

This affair is not intrinsically very important, but it is stirring up considerable public interest in Turkey and could well develop into a major tempest in the international teapot.

8. Ecuador

Interim President Yerovi is again threatening to quit, as he has in the past when problems have piled up. The country's current difficulties include a strike by port workers, a month-old teachers' strike, and threatened student demonstrations. Should Yerovi carry out his threat to resign before the constituent assembly scheduled in November, authority would revert to the military junta that put him in office.

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8 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
8 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

The government has announced that some 5,300,000 persons have registered to vote on Sunday. This is about thirteen percent above the registration for last year's local elections.

Public interest in the election is increasing, but awareness of the issues involved is spotty and there is some cynicism about the outcome. Ky, the eternal optimist, says he would regard a turnout of between 60 and 70 percent of those registered as satisfactory.

Communist efforts to sabotage the polling are continuing and may become more dramatic in the next day or two. Local officials doubt, however, that these will appreciably reduce the turnout.

2. North Vietnam

Foreign merchant shipping to North Vietnam in August was at the lowest level ever recorded. Hanoi's dwindling supplies of export commodities were in part responsible for a decline in calls by Free World, Chinese, and East European vessels.

Soviet shipping to North Vietnam was well above average in August, however. Soviet vessels have been bringing in a wide variety of items to bolster the economy and the war effort.

3. Soviet Union

Moscow wants to buy a million tons of French wheat despite the best Soviet grain harvest in five years. The Russians have said they will keep importing until last year's agricultural reform takes hold--and, as far as we can see, that day is a good 15 years away.

4. Communist China

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5. Somali Republic

Twenty Somalis from northeastern Kenya have been sent by the Somali Republic to the Soviet Union for six months of guerrilla training. This is the first indication of direct Soviet involvement in the Somali-run guerrilla war in Kenya. Heretofore the guerrillas have all been trained by the regular Somali Army.

6. Syria

Tanks are in the streets of Damascus as the Syrian capital buttons up for another round of squabbles among Baathist leaders. All members of the hierarchy are equally ill disposed toward the US and whatever shifts are made in the leadership are not likely to change that attitude.

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7. Colombia

A dynamic new leader is emerging in Latin America.

President Carlos Lleras Restrepo, in office just over a month, is wielding his new broom with rare vigor. He has moved quickly to set the stage for a wide range of social reforms and tax measures to buttress his economic development goals. On the inter-American scene, he has already become a leading spokesman for economic cooperation in the hemisphere.

Lleras faces many potential pitfalls, not the least of them the deeply ingrained conservatism of many of his countrymen. He is now struggling with Congress in an attempt to free himself of a constitutional requirement that important legislation must be approved by a two-thirds vote.

The outcome of this fight will have an important effect on Lleras' ability to realize his programs. It remains to be seen, here as well as elsewhere, whether or not the vigor of his approach sets up equally strong resistance.

Lleras had an important success this week which will bolster his prestige at this politically strategic moment. He successfully faced down a threatened Communist-led student strike.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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9 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
9 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. Thailand

Foreign Minister Thanat seems bent on transforming the present arrangements governing the US military presence in Thailand into a full-blown mutual security treaty.

He told Ambassador Martin this week that the cabinet had authorized him to make soundings about negotiating a more "satisfactory" agreement concerning mutual military obligations. Thanat claimed that criticism of Thailand by important elements in the US left him wondering if future administrations would defend Thailand.

Thanat is probably feeling hypersensitive right now because of Asian indifference to his recent Vietnam "peace initiatives." In any event, it is not clear how much support his plan has among the Thai military. We are inclined to the view that the military are unlikely to back any fundamental change in arrangements with the US.

2. Indonesia

An agreement settling the Netherlands' claim for property seized in Indonesia has finally been signed, after the Dutch scaled down their demands from over \$1 billion to \$167 million. Settlement of this irritating issue will encourage the Dutch to expand economic and cultural relations.

3. France

Preparations are going ahead for the third French nuclear test in the Pacific tomorrow.

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4. Africa

We have reports that the Guinean delegate to next week's meeting of the World Health Organization in Kinshasa (Leopoldville) will be one Kwame Nkrumah. But we are skeptical.

He would be as welcome as a skunk at a lawn party, and Touré, who has been keeping him under wraps even in Conakry, probably does not want to precipitate an Africa-wide uproar at this time.

5. South Vietnam

Prime Minister Ky has told Ambassador Lodge that he forestalled a coup attempt last week in which Defense Minister Co and Fourth Corps commander Quang were implicated. Lodge notes that Ky may be laying the groundwork for getting rid of the two generals who have been at odds with Ky and other military leaders for several months. Saigon's top security official recently scoffed at the possibility of a serious coup attempt.

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6. Egypt

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7. Syria

The regime now claims that it crushed an "imperialist-backed" coup attempt yesterday. Damascus was quiet today, but the political situation will remain fragile, with rival factions within the military regime jockeying for power.

8. Ecuador

A "hunger march" by Communist-dominated labor and student groups is scheduled for this evening in Quito. Should serious violence result, Yerovi, who is again in the mood to resign, might really throw in the sponge.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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10 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
10 September 1966

1. South Vietnam

Preparations for tomorrow's elections are moving along as well as can be expected. At the same time, the Communist anti-election effort is following established patterns. In some places, the Viet Cong are collecting identity cards from potential voters in order to keep them from casting ballots. Sporadic acts of terrorism, anti-election propaganda, and threats against potential voters are continuing--but not at an alarming rate.

A moderate Buddhist leader expressed skepticism today that the militant Buddhist anti-election effort would have much effect on the turnout. There is still no evidence that the Buddhist and the Communist anti-election efforts are in any way linked. Many Buddhists are dismayed by the parallel, however.

2. Burma

The Burmese press is giving heavy and exceedingly favorable play to Ne Win's US visit, outstripping the coverage given his trips to the USSR and Communist China.

The embassy in Rangoon comments that the theme of US peace efforts coupled with respect for Burmese neutrality has come through far better than expected. The press has also emphasized President Johnson's warm and personalized treatment of Ne Win.

The Burmese, in turn, obviously feel that they got their main points across.

3. North Vietnam

The number of combat-qualified fighter pilots in the North Vietnamese Air Force has steadily increased since the Soviets took full charge of the training program last December. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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4. France

At the North Atlantic Council meeting yesterday, the French representative clearly implied that France would not join in a Security Council appeal for U Thant to remain on the job. While evading a direct statement, the Frenchman plugged the line that Thant had made his decision and France doubted he would reverse it.

5. France

[REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] information about De Gaulle's 50X1
visit to Cambodia.

Sihanouk [REDACTED] was pleased because he obtained French recognition of present Cambodian borders and assurances of sizable French military and economic aid. He also felt close contact with De Gaulle had raised his stock with his own people.

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The French, for their part, are said to be satisfied that the visit added to their influence in Cambodia.

6. South Africa

The behind-the-scenes struggle to select Verwoerd's successor is in high gear. The field is narrowing to two, one of whom, Justice Minister Vorster, seems to be picking up strength by the minute. All contenders lack Verwoerd's subtlety, and would implement the ruling party's apartheid policy even more rigidly while displaying less imagination in foreign affairs.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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12 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
12 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

The Saigon embassy estimates that only two percent of the ballots cast in the election were not valid. However, in the Buddhist strongholds of Hué and Da Nang some 10 percent of ballots are said to have been invalidated.

2. North Vietnam



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3. Communist China

The teen-aged mobs which make up Mao's Red Guards are now being permitted to attack local and regional party offices in various parts of the country. This activity is explicitly endorsed by the top leaders in Peking as part of their effort to downgrade the authority of the regular party apparatus.

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4. Nationalist China

Chiang Kai-shek is showing extreme frustration over the inability of his regime to exploit the current turmoil on the mainland. Obsessed with an exaggerated notion of Taiwan's capabilities in this respect, he has been blasting his subordinates for their unimaginativeness. He probably feels they are willfully refusing to carry out his wishes.

Chiang's nerves have been rubbed raw by recent flagrant breaches of party discipline in his official family. He is holding the threat of his own resignation over the government, but this is probably only a tactic to tighten his personal control.

5. Egypt

The installation of the new cabinet today may well mark a significant shift to the left. Nasir's speech on the occasion stressed "self-reliance" and was, in effect, a repudiation of Western-style economic policies in favor of courses more in line with his "Arab socialist" ideas.

The new prime minister has shown an affinity for Soviet ways of doing things. He is chairman of the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Society.

6. Ethiopia

The death of Defense Minister Merid last weekend was an important loss to the Emperor. Merid, more than any other man, saved the Emperor at the time of the 1960 coup attempt. His death will affect the power balance seriously and set off a scramble among the elite for Merid's seat at the Emperor's table.

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7. France

Paris has spiked any hopes that it will permit the US to reoccupy bases in France before Paris itself declares war. This was the upshot of Couve de Murville's talk with Ambassador Bohlen on Friday. It is clear that Paris envisages a situation in which France could remain neutral while its NATO allies were at war.

8. Guatemala

The Communist guerrillas have publicly reiterated their goal of seizing power through violent revolution. This came in response to President Mendez' latest call for conciliation.

Mendez' appeal was accompanied by a warning that the full armed weight of the government would fall on any group rejecting his call for peace. Mendez [redacted] however, [redacted] feels the elimination of the guerrillas is a long-term problem and that his speech was directed mainly at the rightists.

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If he fails to act promptly against the Communists, growing discontent in the military will sharpen. Rightist politicians will then have an even more fertile field for their plotting.

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ANNEX

Mao's Red Guards in Action

Violent clashes between Red Guards and party authorities have been noted now in at least nine Chinese cities.

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The guards first denounced the provincial leaders--calling them, among other things, "rotten eggs," "bastards," and "dogs." Then they broke into party headquarters, beat up a number of army officers and others who tried to reason with them, and finally issued a "proclamation" condemning the entire Sinkiang party leadership.

The "masses," became so aroused that they "violently opposed" the guards. There were no details, however, on what kind of counteraction was taken.

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It is probably only a matter of time before official moves are taken against the Sinkiang party leaders for daring to stand up against the Red Guards. As People's Daily warned yesterday, resisting the guards is equivalent to opposing Mao himself.

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13 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
13 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

Hanoi's ability to earn foreign exchange is being reduced as its sea trade with the Free World declines. This is discussed at Annex.

2. United Nations

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3. West Germany

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The embassy in Bonn comments that Erhard's impending visit to the US played a part in bringing about party unity, but that dissidents made their point by serving notice that changes cannot be indefinitely delayed.

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4. United Kingdom

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5. Rhodesia

Prime Minister Wilson and African Commonwealth members are far apart in their ideas on how to bring the Rhodesian regime to terms. Wilson has refused to promise majority rule as a condition for Rhodesian independence, and he has not yielded to African demands for mandatory United Nations sanctions against shipment of oil to Rhodesia.

Wilson did ask the Commonwealth Conference to support sanctions against Rhodesian exports to be proposed at the forthcoming UN session. These would deny Rhodesia's access to world markets for its chrome, pig iron, and asbestos. Wilson also suggested that Commonwealth members provide airlift and other transport assistance to Zambia.

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6. Indonesia

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ANNEX

The Decline in Free World Shipping to North Vietnam

One of the most drastic consequences of the war for Hanoi has been the disruption of its small but important sea trade with the Free World.

In 1965, an average of 21 Free World ships per month arrived in North Vietnamese ports--the monthly average now is three. Most of these latter are under charter to Communist China or owned by Chinese-controlled companies.

Restrictive steps, formal or informal, taken by several of the major Western shipping nations are the main reason for the decline. A secondary cause is that Hanoi has a shortage of products available for export and is hampered in moving the export items it does have through normal ports. Coal is a prime example.

Seaborne export of coal from the port of Cam Pha was halted by air strikes in April. Normally 90 percent of North Vietnam's coal is shipped through Cam Pha. A prolonged reduction in coal exports will have a serious effect on Hanoi's foreign exchange earnings as 25 percent of those earnings are derived from sales of coal.

All told, we estimate the North Vietnamese have lost about \$11.5 million in exports since the air strikes began. This, in turn, further reduces their ability to make needed purchases in the non-Communist world.

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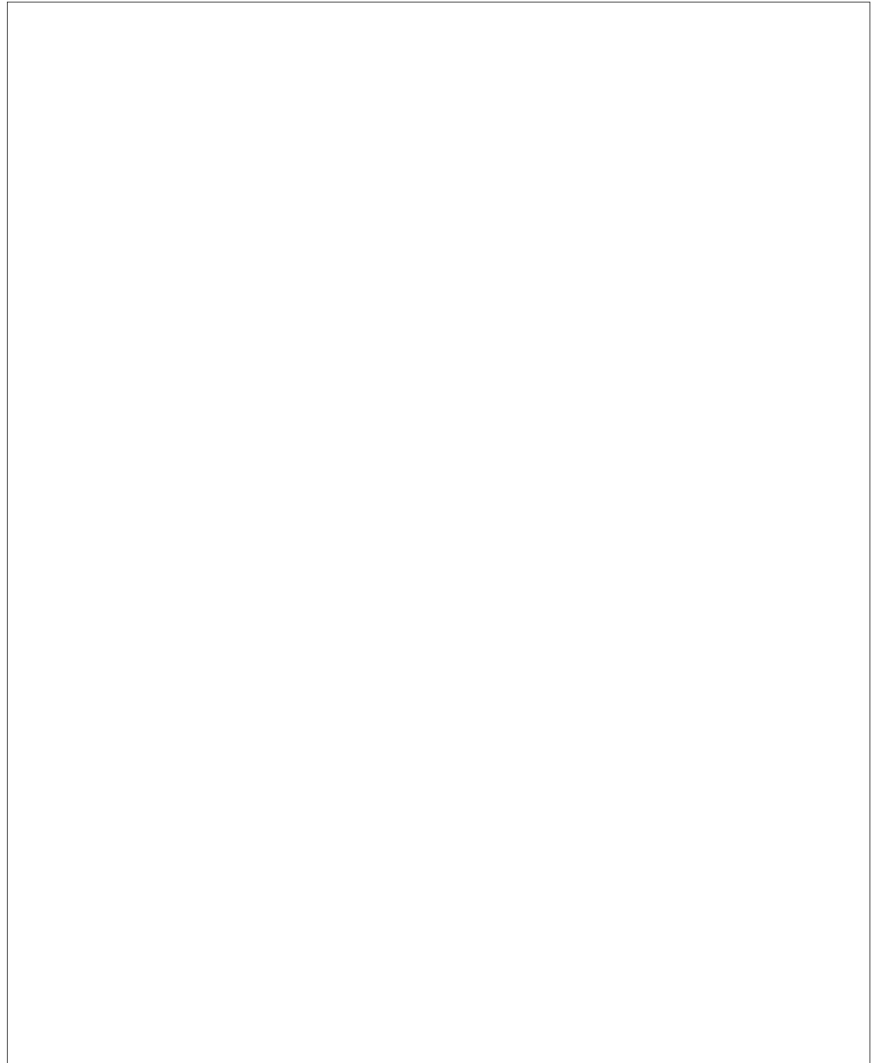
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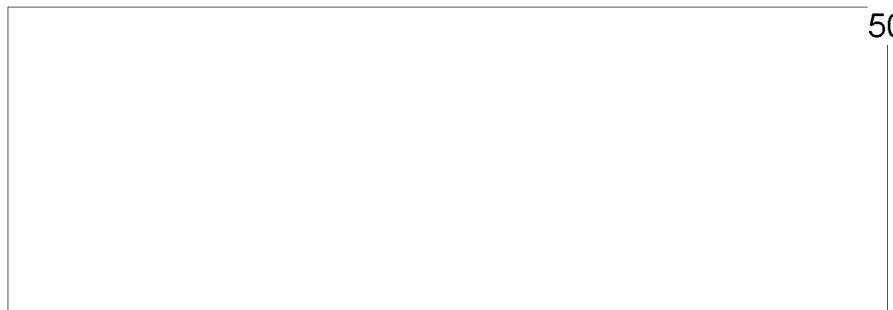
DAILY BRIEF
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1. Vietnam



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2. South Vietnam



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3. Communist China

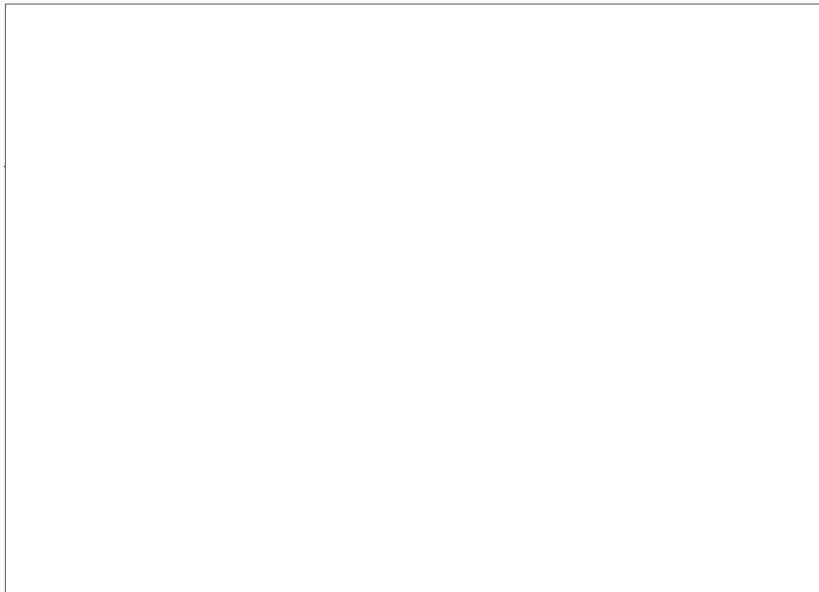
At Annex today we are discussing the difficulties encountered by foreign diplomats in Peking. The life these diplomats lead--isolated, harassed, and constantly watched--is illustrative of China's xenophobia.

4. Thailand

Tensions between Thailand and Cambodia are easing up a bit. Both sides are beginning to make sounds in favor of resuming diplomatic relations, which were broken off by Cambodia in 1961.

5. France

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6. French Somaliland

The unrest over French rule which erupted during De Gaulle's visit late last month is now described as being "much worse." There were new outbreaks both yesterday and today.

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7. Commonwealth

Officials in London are touting Lester Pearson as "the man of the Commonwealth Conference." They say he has done a first-rate job trying to find some common ground between the Africans and the others. He has been able to use his prestige with the Africans to talk forcefully to them about what is and is not practical.

The conference itself grinds on until tomorrow.

8. South Africa

The Cape Town embassy's initial comment on Balthazar Vorster as successor to Prime Minister Verwoerd is not quite as dismal as those carried by the New York Times and the Washington Post this morning. The embassy notes that the new man is not personally committed to Verwoerd's series of anti-American provocations and that his record suggests he may be a good deal more approachable than his predecessor was.

However, the embassy also points out that Vorster's ruthlessness in his final drive for power raises a number of questions about his integrity or judgement or both.

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ANNEX

Peking: Diplomatic Hardship Post

Surrounded by a maddening web of isolation, surveillance, and harassment, the foreign diplomatic corps in Peking is essentially a community of the blind.

All Communist countries restrict the activities of foreign missions, but none do so with the thoroughness and determination of the Chinese, who have succeeded in preventing all but the most superficial observations of China.

Diplomatic travel normally is limited to a radius of 18 miles around Peking, although an occasional "tour" to other parts of China is organized by the foreign ministry. These junkets are as carefully supervised as a girls' school outing to an art gallery and the diplomats are surrounded by swarms of "guides" from the security service.

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Most foreign embassies have been crammed into one small section of the city--a diplomatic ghetto where the eyes of the regime can be more easily focused and where diplomats can be isolated from the populace.

Isolation and surveillance are accompanied by studied neglect and open harassment. With native ingenuity, the Chinese have made life almost unbearable for diplomats from that growing list of nations whose relations with Peking are less than cordial.

Take, for instance, the Yugoslav and Indian representatives, who are often summoned to the foreign ministry in the middle of the night to handle

(Cont'd)

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ANNEX (Cont'd)

routine business. Then there is Mr. Jongejans, the Dutch chargé who has been declared persona non grata but whom the Chinese are keeping a virtual prisoner in his own legation building.

When it comes to comparing tales of harassment, Soviet diplomats can hold their own with any group in Peking. Late last month after two days of Red Guard demonstrations outside the Soviet Embassy, the chargé got into his car to see off a visiting dignitary--only to find the street deliberately blocked. He never made it to the airport.

There is little prospect for improvement while Mao and company remain in power. Foreign ambassadors will continue to be tolerated only because Peking wants its own representatives abroad.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



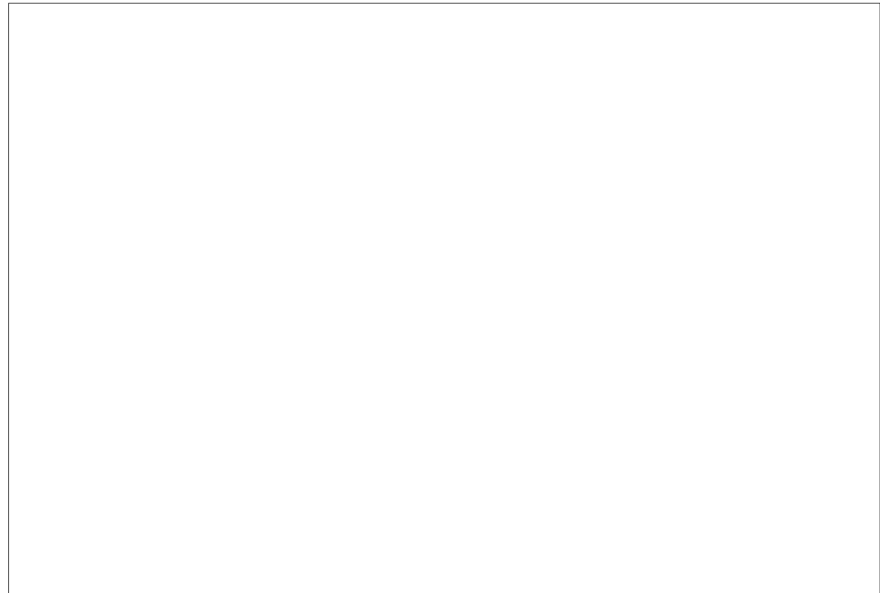
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15 SEPTEMBER 1966

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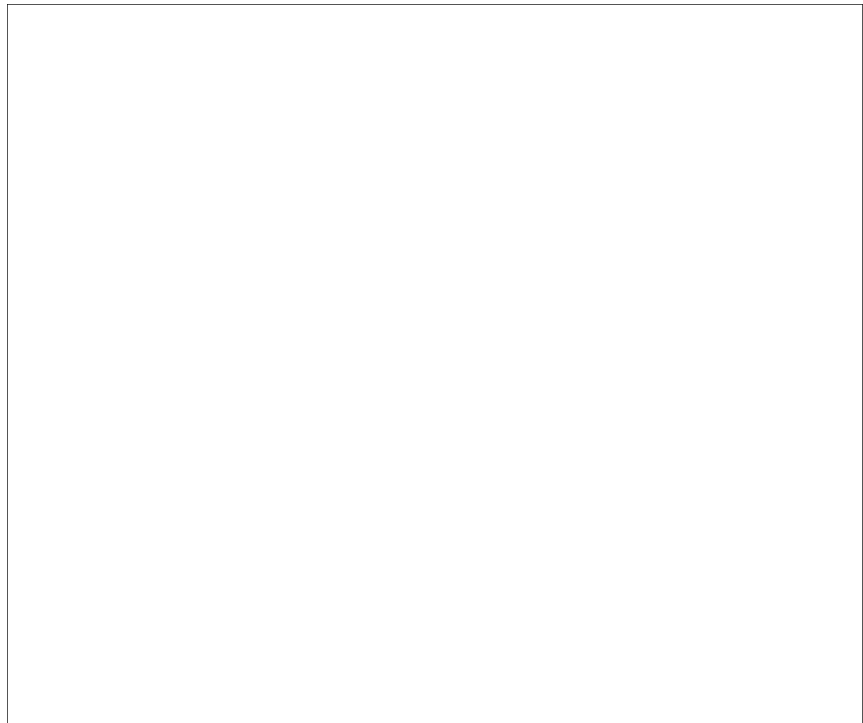
DAILY BRIEF
15 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. Vietnam



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2. Philippines



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3. Soviet Union

The Soviets have again shown a willingness to cooperate with the US in limited bilateral agreements in areas unrelated to Vietnam.

Yesterday Gromyko told Ambassador Kohler that he might be ready to sign a US-Soviet civil air transport agreement while in New York next week.

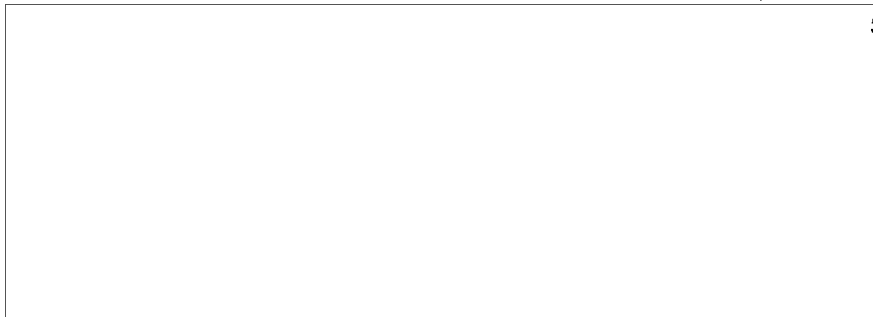
Earlier this week, the Soviets transmitted to the US, for the first time, cloud pictures taken by their meteorological satellite Cosmos 122. Although the original resolution of the pictures was probably good, they were not too clear after transmission to the US. They nevertheless meet the terms of the 1962 US-USSR agreement to exchange satellite weather data.

4. Rhodesia

The Commonwealth Conference's communiqué on Rhodesia appears to give Wilson another breathing spell--until Christmas.

The communiqué falls far short of African demands, however, and does not gloss over the serious differences between London and the Africans. The Africans still expect Smith to be in business at Christmas and will continue preparations to take the case to the UN.

5.



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6. South Vietnam

Tam Chau, who withdrew to the sidelines during the heat of the controversy between the Buddhists and the government, now intends to reassert his authority within the Buddhist movement. He has told our Saigon embassy he is "extremely happy" over the outcome of the election. He said he had always favored Buddhist participation in the election and confirmed that he made an election day statement urging Buddhists to vote.

Tam Chau has been a moderating and constructive influence in the Buddhist hierarchy. The failure of extremist Buddhists to sabotage the election should help his bid for leadership. In the past, however, his militant opponents have often been able to undercut him.

7. Thailand

Foreign Minister Thanat is pursuing his efforts to obtain a mutual security treaty with the US. He has now sent Ambassador Martin a formal note "inviting" the US to begin discussions on the matter.

Thanat claims to have cabinet authorization to press his scheme. The ambassador's talks with other ministers, however, suggest that Thanat may be proceeding largely on his own, gambling that the cabinet will take the easy way out and agree to whatever he accomplishes.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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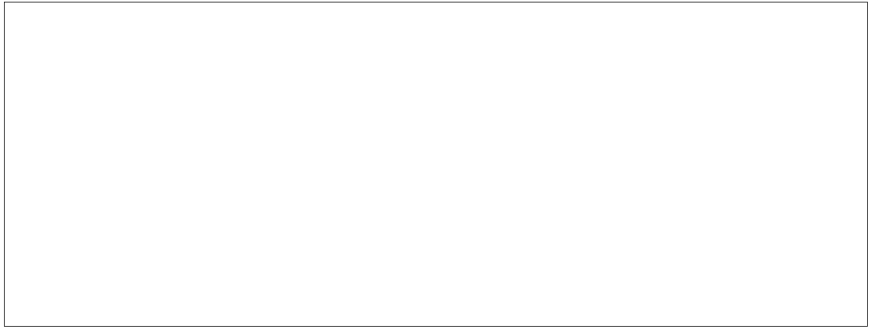
16 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
16 SEPTEMBER 1966

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1. West Germany

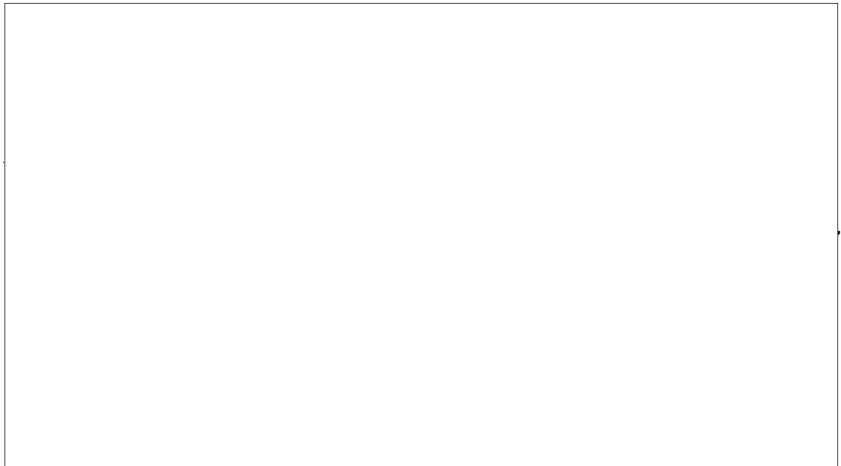


2. France

Paris is out to torpedo the US-supported proposal to give the World Bank a coordinating role in African development aid.

French economic officials have flatly stated that Paris sees no merit in the proposals. This attitude probably will not kill off preparatory discussions with other Common Market countries, but may ultimately cause them to shy away from effective support of the idea.

3. South Africa



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4. Nigeria

A very loose federation is the likely outcome of the constitutional talks under way this week in Lagos.

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5. North Vietnam

The key to North Vietnam's attitude toward the war is still Ho Chi Minh.

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6. Communist China

The mammoth Red Guard rally in Peking yesterday featured a call by Lin Piao for continued action by the guards against opponents in local party committees throughout the country. There was no hint of any let up but Chou En-lai urged the youthful militants to stay away from the farms and the factories.

The notes struck by Lin and Chou suggest concern in Peking over the disruptive effect of rampaging Red Guards on economic production. The present leadership seems to be trying to redirect their energies against the "main targets," its enemies among the party machine bureaucrats.

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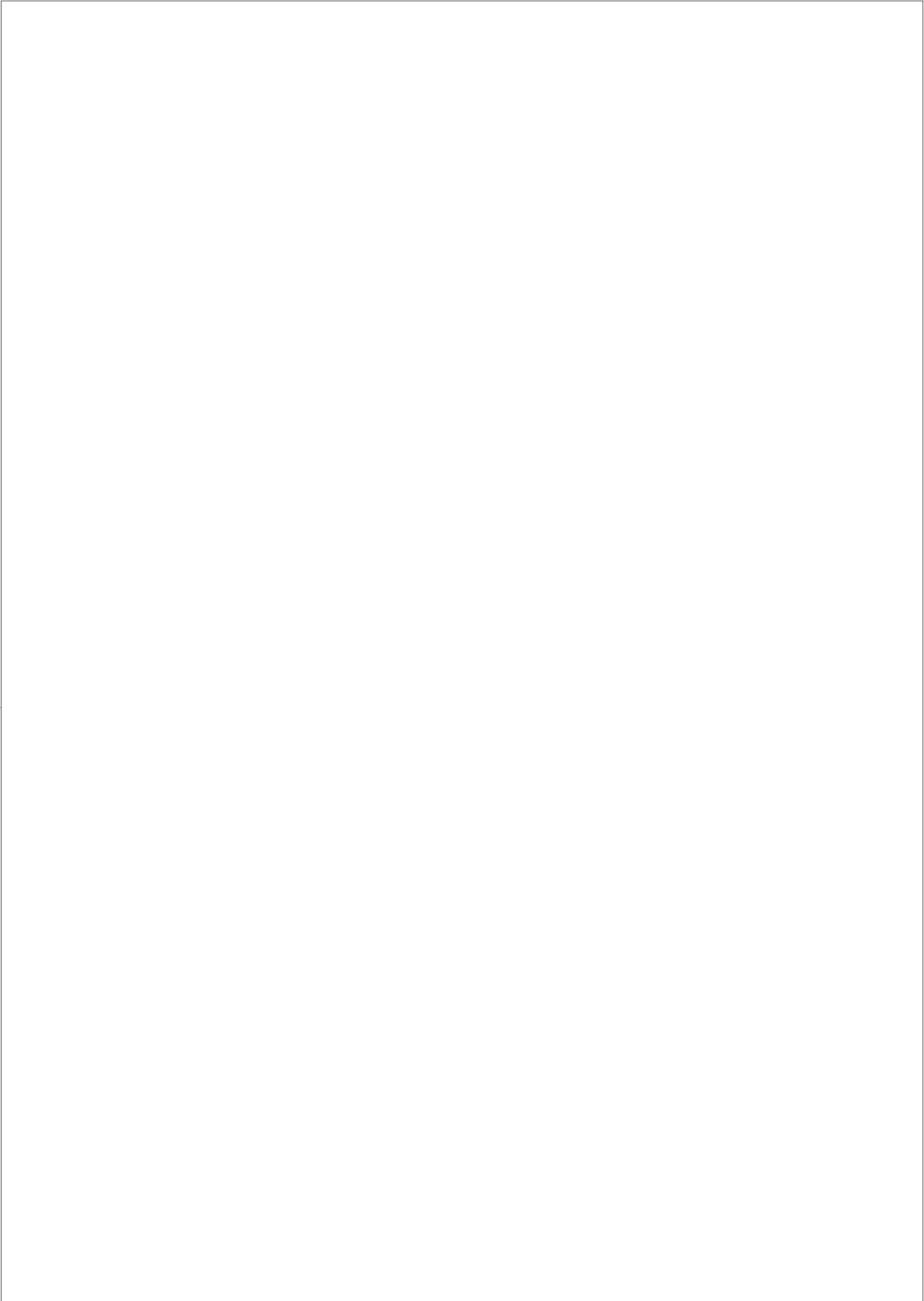
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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17 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
17 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

Chief of State Thieu recently made the first public reference to a need for US troops in the IV Corps area to assure the security of the Mekong Delta.

Thieu's statement was probably intended as another move in a campaign to remove IV Corps commander Quang and Defense Minister Co, with whom he has been closely associated. General Quang, who has long been at odds with other military leaders and whose ouster has been rumored for months, has boasted that he needs no US ground forces.

2. Vietnam

The Communist build-up in northernmost South Vietnam and the Demilitarized Zone raises the possibility of important changes in North Vietnamese strategy.

[REDACTED]

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3. Indonesia

The confrontation between Sukarno and Indonesia's real rulers is about to enter a sharper phase. Sukarno's close crony, former foreign minister Subandrio, is to go on trial soon, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Trial proceedings will further discredit Sukarno himself.

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If Sukarno resists, as he is likely to, he may well be sent abroad. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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4. Rhodesia

White Rhodesians were "shattered" when they read this week's communiqué from the Commonwealth Conference. A few cool heads still feel that something yet may be gained through talks with the British, but most look on the communiqué as an unacceptable ultimatum.

Defiance is the expected reaction. Ian Smith will probably be empowered at his party's conference next week to declare the country a republic at some time of his choosing. Such a move will not make much difference in practice but will dramatize the finality of separation.

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5. United Nations

One of the thorniest and most immediate issues to be faced after the General Assembly opens next week will be on South-West Africa.

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6. Ecuador

President Yerovi cannot seem to get the ball rolling on preparations for the promised constituent assembly elections next month. The public is apathetic and the politicians are squabbling ineffectually.

The old rabble rouser, ex-President Velasco, is watching eagerly from the sidelines. He has the kind of mob support which the leaders of a new coup effort would find most useful if they want to put on a show of popular backing.

7. Uruguay

For the first time the Communists have shown that they can engineer a major strike on a basically political issue. Last Thursday's 24-hour general strike in Montevideo was a success by any standard.

The Communists wanted to demonstrate labor's repudiation of a constitutional reform proposal designed to give Uruguay the strong executive it badly needs.

The proposal is supported by large factions of the two major political parties. It comes up for a vote in the general elections scheduled for November, and the Communists can now be expected to raise hell in the meantime.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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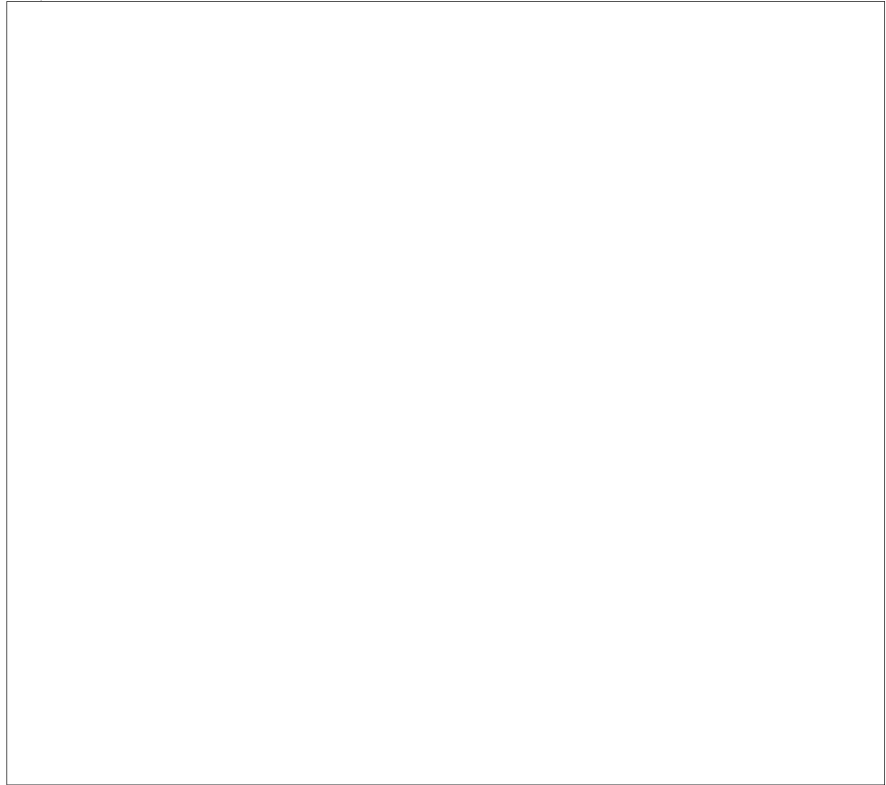
19 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
19 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

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2. Communist China

Peking is showing increasing concern over the autumn harvest which accounts for most of the year's production.

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In Canton, the rice ration has been cut by a third, the first time since the disaster years of 1960-61 that food shortages have been reported in a large city.

Communist China's grain production has remained static for the past five years while the population has grown by 14,000,000 a year. This year's total production is likely to be lower than last year's, and continued imports of grain will not help significantly to make up the difference.

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3. South Vietnam

Ky, in a confidential postscript to a conversation with Ambassador Lodge today, said "I am going to resign sometime. The more I am in politics, the more I find too many things I don't like." Ky said he had not thought of who would take his place.

Ky is probably worked up over the prospect of having to act against Defense Minister Co and General Quang. Although admitting that getting rid of them would probably not create as big a fuss as sacking General Thi had, he said he was nevertheless "sick to death" of having to deal with things like this.

Ky has been in moods like this before, and we think he is unlikely to resign without at least talking the matter over further with Lodge, who remonstrated vigorously with him.

4. Indonesia

Djakarta is moving [redacted] to bring some order into its relations with the rest of the world.

Foreign Minister Malik is on his way to New York where he will be on hand to ease Indonesia's re-entry into the United Nations if the opportunity arises. The principal barrier facing Malik is Sukarno. Suharto favors re-entry, and Sukarno will be bypassed eventually on this issue as on others.

[redacted]

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5. West Germany

Chancellor Erhard's political problems have kept him from making serious preparations for his Washington visit. Foreign Minister Schroeder told our embassy in Bonn on Sunday that Erhard's trip would be discussed at meetings on Tuesday and Thursday of this week, but that important parliamentary debates might interfere.

Schroeder said he hopes the US will understand that because of circumstances in Bonn, talks with the US and Britain on the offset and troop question had best be postponed until after the Washington talks. Schroeder also expressed the hope that talks between Erhard and President Johnson would have a stabilizing effect in Germany and Western Europe by clearing up "confusion" as to American intentions.

6. Vietnam

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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20 SEPTEMBER 1966

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**DAILY BRIEF
20 SEPTEMBER 1966**

1. North Vietnam

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2. North Vietnam

At Annex today is a brief discussion of North Vietnam's agricultural difficulties--between bad weather and the dislocation of war, prospects for the 1966 grain harvest are less than bright.

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3. Vietnam

4.

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5. Great Britain

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6. West Germany

After three meetings with Erhard during the past week, General Julius Klein says that the chancellor is "very much a harassed and anxious man" about his trip to Washington.

The majority of Erhard's advisers are counseling him to call the visit off, and if this is not possible, are telling him that he must come back with some success or he will be politically finished. Since prospects for success on the offset question are considered dim, the only idea the chancellor has had so far is to get President Johnson to agree to visit West Germany "to show his interest in Europe."

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ANNEX

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North Vietnam: Agricultural Difficulties

There are strong indications that belts will be worn tighter in North Vietnam this winter. The prospects for the 1966 grain harvest are not promising.

Grain, especially rice, is the country's major food source. There are two rice harvests each year--one in the spring that provides about one third of the supply and one in the fall that produces most of the remainder. This year the spring crop was well short of last year's and the regime is being conspicuously silent about the upcoming harvest. Usually Hanoi trumpets predictions of great success well in advance.

Rice is a tender crop to raise--abundant water is needed at one stage; too much at another stage will ruin the crop--and North Vietnam has been having some poor luck on weather. But a contributing factor is the dislocation caused by war. With the logistic system damaged by bombing, and the priority use of the system for movement of war supplies, food shipment from the villages to heavily populated areas takes second place. Then there are also war-related shortages of manpower.

There will be no starvation, but one immediate effect has been a rise in food prices on the free market. The regime is certainly capable of keeping the lid on inflation but this in turn creates problems with black markets and hoarding.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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21 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
21 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

Now that reporting from the provinces is almost complete, the original impression that the elections were reasonably honest and well run has been borne out. There was scattered small-scale padding of voting statistics but no evidence of rigging in favor of particular candidates. In fact, a number of candidates with official backing were soundly defeated.

The Italian ambassador in Saigon, acting as dean of the diplomatic corps, has thanked the foreign minister for courtesies extended to diplomatic observers and has commented on the order and freedom of the elections.

2. Communist China

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3. France

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4. Soviet Union

The Soviets seem to be setting up for more extended-range ICBM tests, probably of the SS-9. Three of their instrumentation ships are now deployed in the 4,500-mile impact area in the Pacific used for tests of this missile in late spring.

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5. Panama

A new series of extremist-led disturbances has begun.

Monday, National Guard units used tear gas to disperse 1,000 students demanding the release of several student leaders.

Arnulfo Arias and his Panamenista Party have decided to join with the students to foment trouble for the Robles administration.

Continued demonstrations would weaken Robles' position during the National Assembly session scheduled to open on 1 October, and ultimately jeopardize his plans to deal with the canal treaties.

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6. Brazil

A wave of student demonstrations in most of the principal cities threatens to mushroom into a major embarrassment to the government. Yesterday it took police several hours to disperse a student protest march in Sao Paulo, held in defiance of a government ban.

Agitation over minor issues began early this month. Inept action by university authorities and heavy-handedness by the security forces, who tend to regard student political activity as insurrection, alienated many of the students who normally favor the government.

The illegal National Union of Students has called for further demonstrations tomorrow, and political opponents of the government will try to keep the pot boiling.

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7. French Somaliland

De Gaulle has responded to the embarrassing riots during his visit to French Somaliland by announcing it can have a referendum on independence before next July.

This will stir up more trouble between Ethiopia and Somalia, both of whom are eager to swallow up the place. Somaliland's population is about half and half ethnic Somalis and Ethiopians, and the country lies across Ethiopia's only rail access to the sea.

Haile Selassie said categorically last week that French Somaliland is an integral part of Ethiopia, while the Somali Government has publicly warned that any Ethiopian sorties into the territory would mean war.

8. Nigeria

Supreme Commander Gowon has practically directed the constitutional conference to adopt his plan for a strong central government. He indicated that the army would not accept the loose federal arrangements most delegates seemed to favor.

When the conference finally convened yesterday, delegations from two of the four regions endorsed his idea, and one was opposed. The key Eastern delegation was noncommittal, however, and its tribal leaders may resist the plan by seceding--a move which Gowon says he will oppose with force. Thus Nigeria's future is as cloudy as ever.

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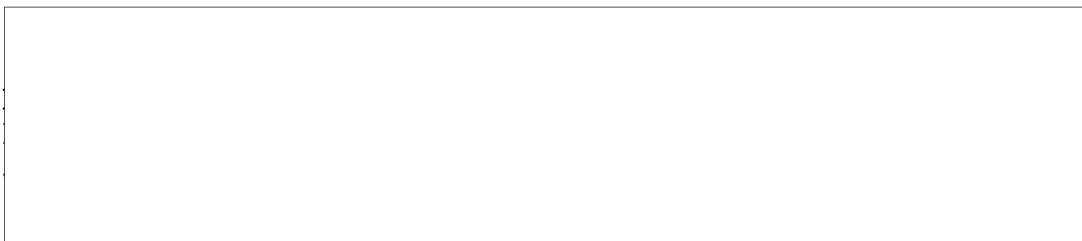
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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22 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
22 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. Soviet Union

The Soviets are continuing their gradual build-up of military forces on the Chinese border. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] another Soviet regiment has been moved to the Manchurian frontier.

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A review of both Soviet and Chinese military dispositions along the border is at Annex.

2. United Kingdom

There are presently good grounds for hope that Wilson's economic measures will bring about short-run stabilization of the economy and result in a balance-of-payments surplus next year. The London financial community and a large segment of business people there are confident of this. The bankers--reassured by the recent increase in credits from the Federal Reserve--say sterling is now safe for another six months.

Wilson must recognize that the tough political job of sticking by his short-run stabilization goals will be at longer term cost of a cutback in private investment and the postponement of economic growth.

3. France

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4. Iran

The Shah is now talking of developing Eastern Europe into a "significant" market for Iranian oil.

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This scheme is the economic side of the Shah's ambition to demonstrate his "independence" of the US. The growing consumption of petroleum products in Eastern Europe gives the Shah's idea some basis.

Before it can work, however, the Shah's government will have to get its hand on more of the oil produced in Iran.

5. Communist China

The turmoil in the educational system has forced China to send all foreign students home. The Chinese minister of higher education explained

yesterday that this is necessary since the professors will be devoting "all their efforts" to the "cultural revolution." He said that the students can return after a year.

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The decision must have been a last minute one. Classes normally begin in early September. This suggests that considerable uncertainty has existed in Peking over the duration of the current campaign to "purify" the party.

There are probably fewer than a thousand foreign students following academic courses in China now. The number has dropped sharply in recent years.

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6. South Korea

Today was a bizarre one in Seoul. The prime minister and his cabinet were driven out of the national assembly by a fireballing opposition member during a full dress session. Shouting "this is what I think of you," he hurled a full can of human excrement at the leadership. He hit his targets who, following repairs and perfuming, resigned.

Actually, the episode was an outgrowth of the publicity being given a big smuggling scandal involving some members of the government, the country's biggest business combine, and Japanese interests.

this time the opposition may make some headway in convincing the public that it deserves something better. Mass protest rallies are being scheduled.

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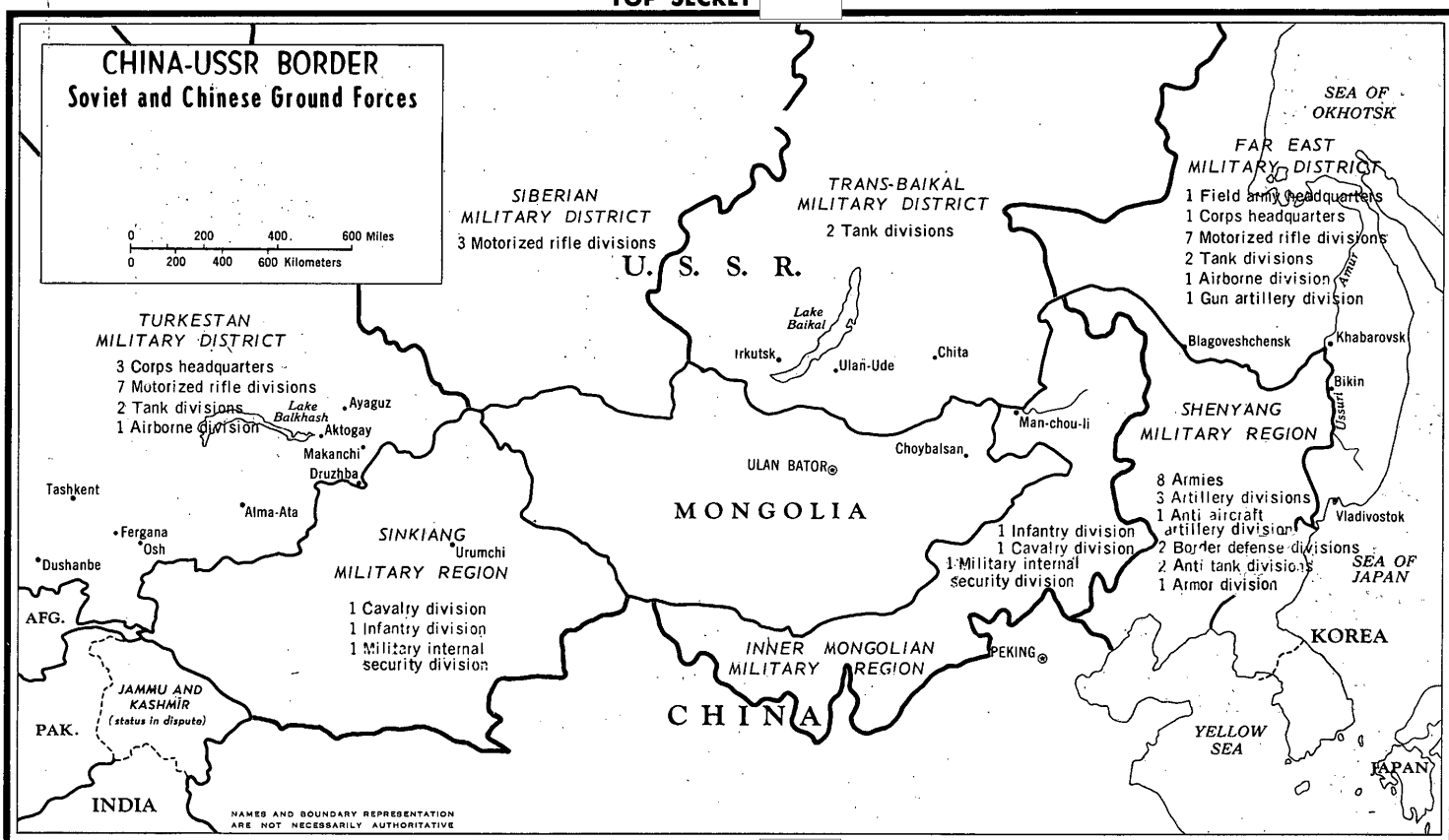
President Pak hopes to keep the lid on by promising a full investigation and by focusing attention on today's incident in the legislature. It is clear, though, that the government has been badly shaken by the strength of public reaction to the scandals.

7. North Vietnam

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ANNEX

Military Dispositions Along the Sino-Soviet Border

Military dispositions on both sides of the Sino-Soviet border have mirrored the worsening relations between Moscow and Peking over the past six years. Although the posture of both sides is not the kind that would be taken if hostilities were imminent, their frontiers have gradually come to resemble the boundaries between two hostile camps.

Until 1960 the area along the Turkestan-Sinkiang border, for instance, had been almost without defenses. Over the next five years, however, the Soviets brought in an airborne division and at least two other regimental-size units. Later they transferred an army corps headquarters from the Afghan border to the Sinkiang border and are now apparently bringing the corps up to the standard three-division strength.

Farther east, in Mongolia, the Soviet presence has also grown markedly--mostly in the past two years.

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Still farther east, on the Manchurian border, the Russians have put their emphasis on reorganizing and beefing up their border guard units. Some 75,000 of these elite troops are now stationed there--providing a sizable auxiliary to the regular ground forces. These latter forces are made up of an army and a corps headquarters, seven motorized divisions, and three other miscellaneous division-size components.

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On their side of the border, the Chinese have bent their efforts to tightening security controls. They have set up a number of new border defense outposts manned by special security forces and established a cordon sanitaire by moving local inhabitants out of the border area. Only modest numbers of regular Chinese are stationed in the border region--roughly 34,000 in Sinkiang and about 39,000 in Manchuria.

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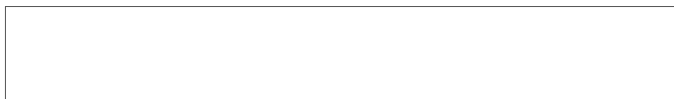
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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23 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
23 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

The constituent assembly, scheduled to convene next week, will not face completely smooth sailing.

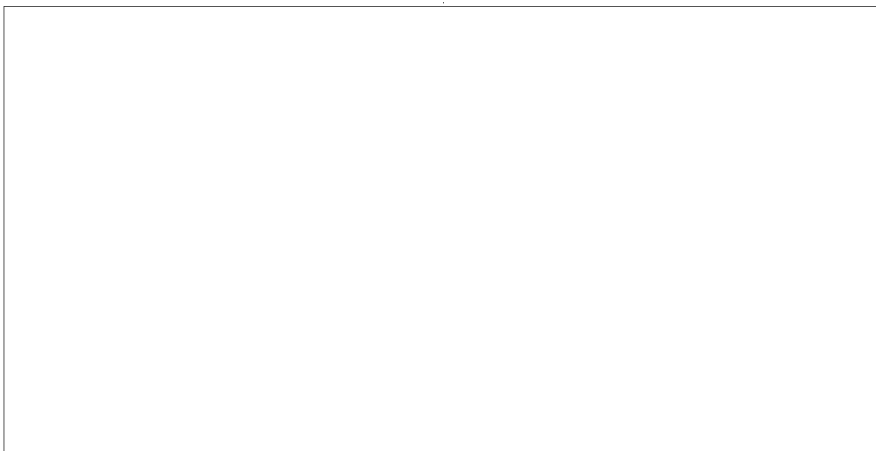
One thorny problem will be the election of its president. The assembly may be unable to agree on any of the five well-known politicians who now appear to be the chief candidates. In this case, regional differences among the delegates could produce a bitter struggle or even a stalemate. The generals might then have to settle the matter.

Secondly, there is the possibility that the assembly may challenge the charter article which gives the present military government veto power over any draft constitution passed by less than a two-thirds vote. A formal discussion of this issue by the assembly would surely antagonize the directorate.

Incidentally, the assembly is convening a day later than originally scheduled because an astrologer pointed out that the original day would not be favorable.

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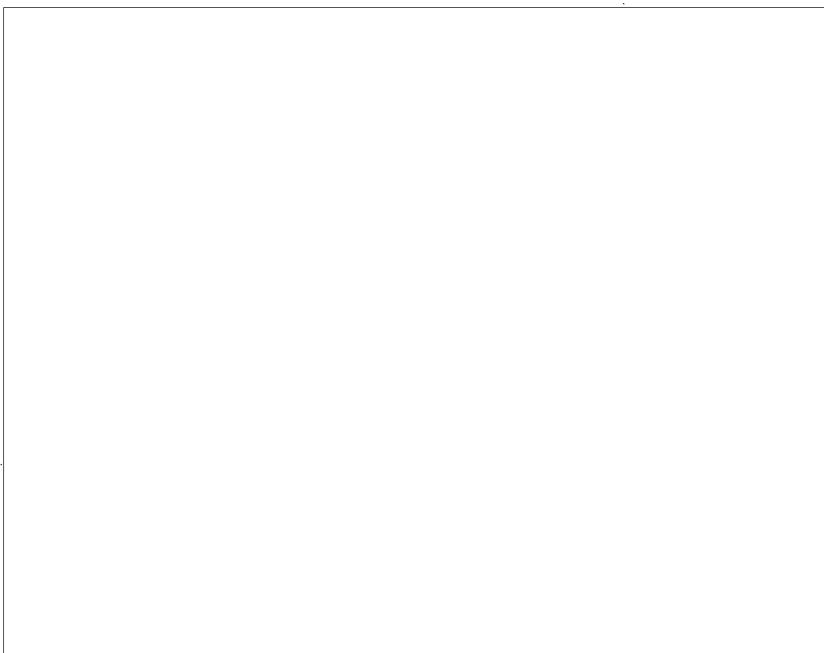
2. France



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3. Soviet Union



4. West Germany

Chancellor Erhard is suffering from bureaucratic as well as parliamentary harassment. He was to address a meeting of the civil servants' association yesterday but walked out when the association's president delivered a slashing attack on the government for failure to improve civil service pay and benefits. Erhard's departure was accompanied by scattered catcalls.

Although the chancellor's political backers continue to rally round him, he will be under heavy pressure to reorganize the cabinet soon after his return from Washington--whether or not the mission is regarded as a success.

5. Ethiopia

Emperor Haile Selassie intends to press the US for material and moral support of Ethiopian claims to French Somaliland. In a vague and incoherent talk with our ambassador in Addis Ababa, the Emperor threw out veiled hints that he might look to Moscow for help if the US failed to come through. The Russians, meanwhile, are busily building up Somalia, which also contends it must have French Somaliland. 50X1

6. Congo

Fighting broke out today in Kisan-gani (Stanleyville) between government and Katangan units there. Both sides are having logistic difficulties and this scrap could peter out for lack of ammunition, leaving another uneasy stalemate.

Whoever started the row, it springs from Mobutu's long-threatened campaign to take strong measures against the Katangan rebels. If the Katangans find themselves seriously threatened by government forces, they can fade into the bush and head south for their homeland, where separatist tendencies continue to cause trouble for Mobutu.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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24 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
24 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. Vietnam

Hanoi yesterday rejected a request by the International Control Commission to allow one of its teams to resume patrol activities in the Northeastern sector of the Demilitarized Zone.

2. North Vietnam

Road watchers near the Mu Gia Pass have reported that truck movements between North Vietnam and Laos have increased markedly in recent weeks. The rate of individual truck traffic alone--to say nothing of convoys--is double that of the preceding four months.

3. Congo

Nobody has yet gotten the advantage in the fighting in Kisangani (Stanleyville). Supplies are short on both sides and the commander of one unit of several hundred Katangans has declared his intention to stay out of the battle.

In Kinshasa, Mobutu has taken on another adversary. About 200 youths trotted up to the Portuguese Embassy in an orderly fashion this morning and then proceeded to tear the embassy apart. They burned cars, robbed private apartments, and abducted three Portuguese, including one woman.

The Congo delivered a letter to the UN Security Council yesterday charging that Portugal was permitting pro-Tshombé mercenaries to use Angola as an operational base.

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4. Guatemala

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5. Mexico

Mexico has officially admitted for the first time that the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City has been involved with Mexican revolutionaries. Foreign Minister Carillo Flores told Secretary of State Rusk this week that Cuba had behaved badly in supplying arms to opponents of the government.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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26 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
26 SEPTEMBER 1966

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1. North Vietnam

The top Communist in South Vietnam is a four-star North Vietnamese general, Nguyen Chi Thanh. Thanh, a member of the North Vietnamese politburo, is an outspoken advocate of the hard line with a reputation for brutality. He has both powerful enemies and powerful friends in Hanoi.

2. Communist China

3. South Vietnam

Tri Quang, now somewhat fattened up after the end of his "hunger strike," is moving to eliminate his relatively moderate antagonist, Tam Chau, from the chairmanship of the Buddhist Institute. A Buddhist congress to prepare for this is to be held within the next four weeks. Tam Chau's friends still hope he can stay on top, but feel he will have to display some uncharacteristic organizing skill to do so.

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4. United Nations

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5. Congo

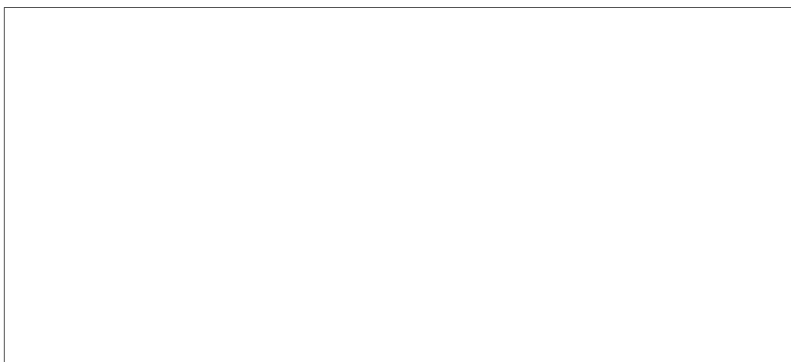
The Congolese Army is firmly in control of Kisangani (ex-Stanleyville)

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6. Haiti

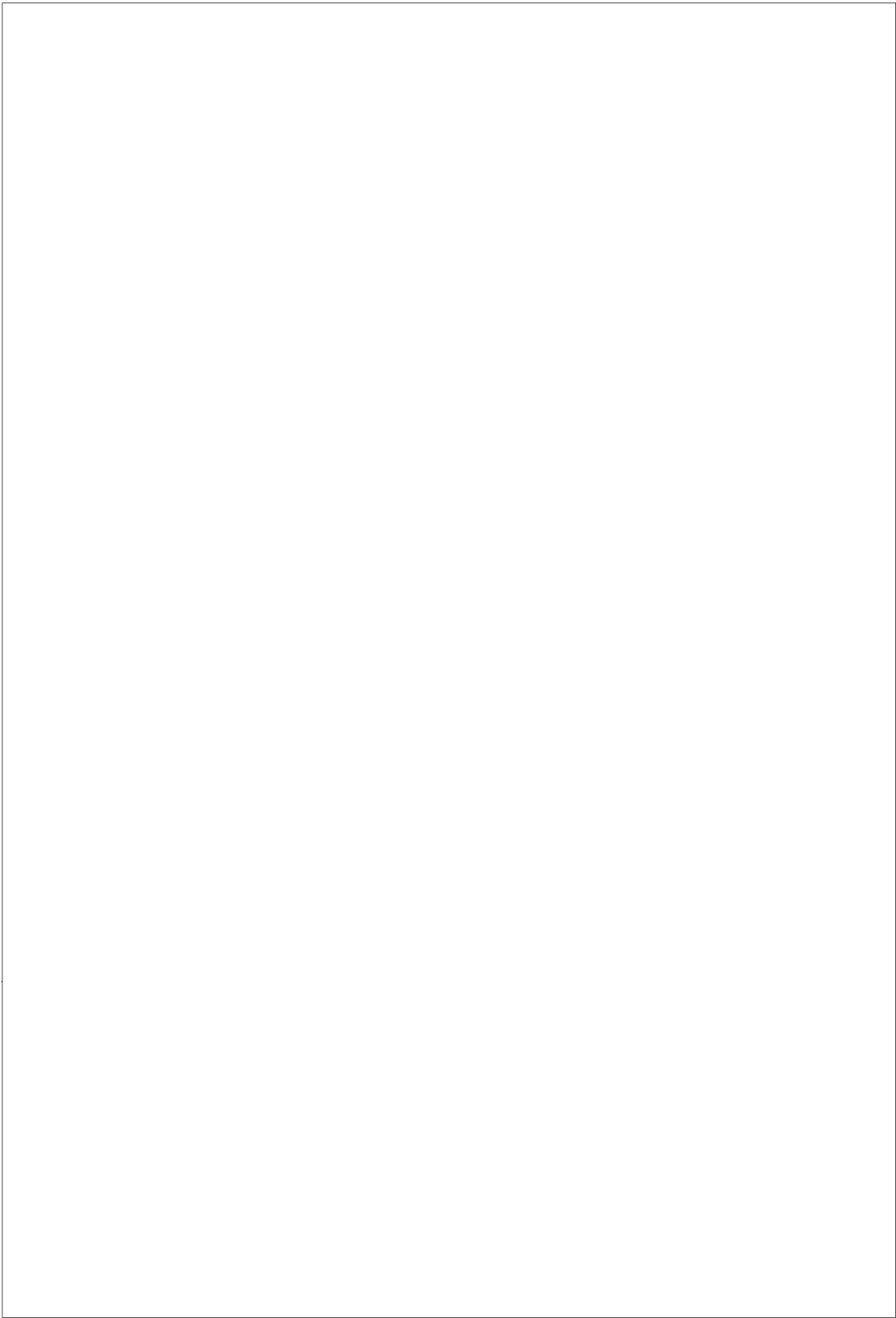
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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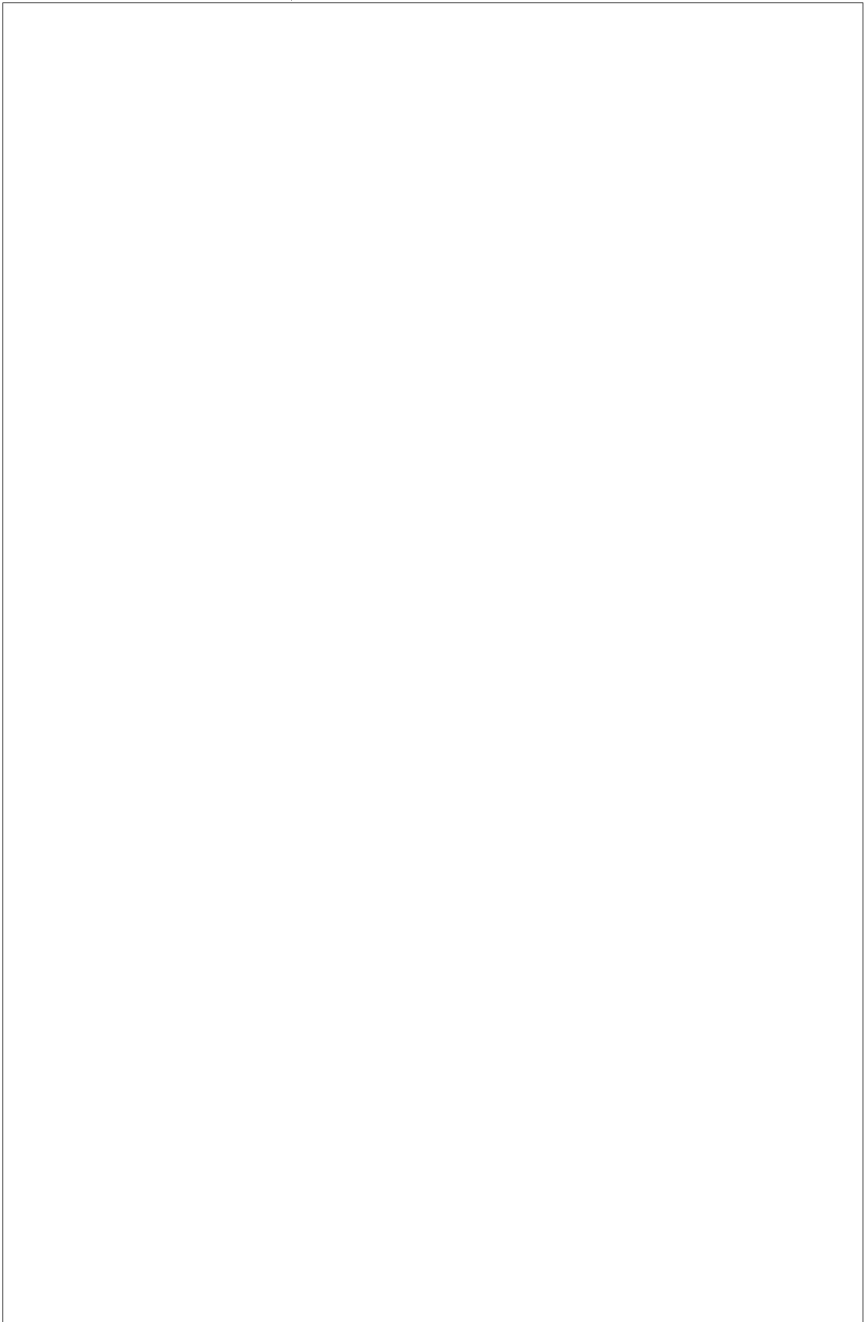
27 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
27 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

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2. Rumania

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Rumania's relations with the USSR and other Eastern European countries have sunk, despite recent outward signs of improvement.

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Relations will not deteriorate completely, but are unlikely to improve in view of Bucharest's nationalistic position and its refusal even to mention the Sino-Soviet dispute, let alone side with Moscow.

3. Nigeria

Violence is spreading, and becoming uglier.

In the North, Ibo tribesmen from the East are now beaten and disemboweled in broad daylight--some by soldiers. Some of these incidents have been witnessed by US officials and contract employees.

Last weekend in the Eastern Region, northerners were for the first time attacked and their property looted.

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The constitutional crisis is dragging on, and senior police officials are pessimistic about the long-range chances of maintaining law and order.

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4. France

Paris is extending its disengagement from NATO into the political field. The French have refused to participate in drafting a special report on East-West relations which the political advisers plan to submit to the North Atlantic Council.

The French representative, in a written opinion, claimed the report could create the impression that "two ideologically opposed blocs" existed and would destroy the climate of detente recently established in Europe.

5. Mexico

Communist students are trying to organize anti-US demonstrations during Secretary Rusk's two-day visit which begins on Friday. Mexican security officials are on to the scheme, however, and should be able to keep things under control.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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28 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
28 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. Vietnam

All Manila newspapers this morning headlined the announcement that President Johnson will attend the Manila conference. Some papers billed the conference as a "Summit Meeting," and there was a tendency to depict it as a personal diplomatic triumph for Marcos.

The South Koreans seem to be moving fast to thrust themselves into the thick of things. Their foreign minister has already asked his Vietnamese counterpart to come to Seoul to discuss "questions relevant to the conference."

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2. Communist China

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3. Communist China

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4. Soviet Union

The Soviets want to avoid overflying Chinese territory on their flights to Hanoi. The Soviet chargé in Laos told Premier Souvanna this morning that for this reason Moscow would like to route these flights by way of New Delhi, Rangoon, and over Laotian territory to Hanoi. Souvanna said he would consider the Soviet request, which he told Ambassador Sullivan he "presumed" would involve Soviet commercial, not military, aircraft.

Only a small quantity of the aid Moscow provides Hanoi comes by air. The bulk of it still comes overland through China, where it has been subjected to delays and harassment. One effect of a new air route circumventing China would be to obviate the kind of embarrassment to which high Soviet officials have been subjected during their refueling stops in China en route to and from North Vietnam.

5. South Korea

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6. Cuba

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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29 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
29 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

The prospect of emerging new political institutions in South Vietnam is beginning to interest important men outside the new Constituent Assembly and outside the government.

The influential retired General Tran Van Don is one of these people. One of the principal leaders of the anti-Diem coup, he has been on the sidelines since well before Ky came to power. Now he and some of his friends are discussing the idea of forming a political party to compete in the national elections promised for next year.

General Don told Ambassador Lodge last night that he is thinking very seriously of being a candidate for Congress under the new Constitution.

2. South Vietnam

The government may be preparing to release those Buddhist "strugglers" still in jail. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Some "struggle" leaders may, in fact, already have been freed.

3. Communist China

[REDACTED]

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4. West Germany

Political turmoil in Communist China is likely to cost Peking the large steel-rolling mill to be built by a German-led group of European firms.

If the deal is shelved, it will relieve the Erhard government of the credit guarantee it approved last March. The government's backing had aroused both domestic and international opposition.

5. Congo

The government's success in regaining control of Kisangani (Stanleyville) has prompted Mobutu to move further against Katangan separatism.

Former prime minister Tshombé has been formally charged with high treason and will be tried--presumably in absentia--by a special military tribunal. South Katangan governor Munongo was jailed in Kinshasa (Leopoldville) yesterday for hatching a plot against the government. Although Munongo was released, some of his alleged associates, both European and Congolese, remain in custody.

Our embassy in Kinshasa believes this sort of move against Munongo is very likely to cause more trouble than it would solve.

6. Egypt

Nasir has agreed to Damascus' request that he send troops to Syria to be used in the event of an Israeli attack. The Egyptians are insisting, however, that the force be kept at a separate base under Egyptian control.

The presence of these troops would discourage rash actions by the Syrian military against Israel or each other.

7. Canada

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8. Malaysia

When asked about the coming Manila conference during a press conference yesterday, the prime minister said simply, "We have not been invited. If invited, Malaysia will attend."

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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30 SEPTEMBER 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
30 SEPTEMBER 1966

1. Soviet Union

The forecast for Moscow's relations with Peking is cloudy and much, much colder. The Russians are developing an even tougher line on China and are planning against a possible break in relations--even though they probably do not intend to push matters that far themselves. The subject is discussed at Annex.

2. South Vietnam

Despite the considerable successes of US troops in the northernmost part of the country, it is clear that Communist forces there still have the capability to launch a major attack in the coming weeks.

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The Communists are also evidently planning new raids on US bases in the northern part of the country.

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3. Nigeria

The constitutional conference has recessed for two weeks. Lawlessness continues in many parts of the Northern Region and this could trigger a complete breakdown in the dialogue.

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4. Guatemala

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President Mendez Montenegro does not realize that his regime is in serious danger. In office now for three months, he cannot seem to get the ball rolling and he does not recognize that time is running out. He is still thinking of long-term reforms and is working cautiously and slowly toward them.

The military men, never happy over the president's moderately leftist views, are daily becoming more restive over his failure to act against the Communists. Some even suspect his motives.

For their part, the Communists expect a coup soon. A resulting rightist dictatorship would give them the kind of situation they think they could exploit. They seem to have made good use of the relative quiet of the past few months and are said to have considerably increased their store of weapons.

All this conjures up memories of the situation that prevailed in the Dominican Republic when Juan Bosch was president--a well-intentioned but ineffective president, a worried but disunited military leadership, and a well-organized extremist minority waiting to jump into the fray.

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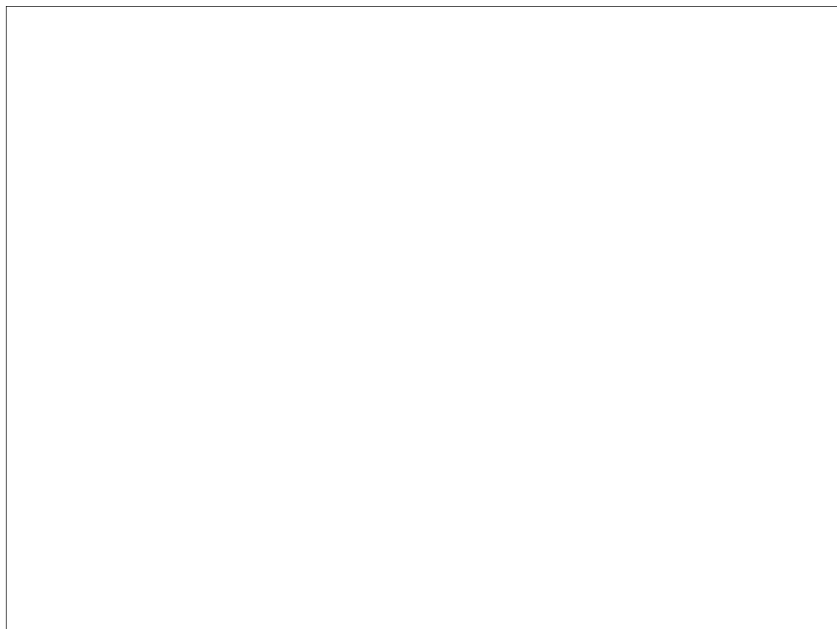
5. Panama

The National Assembly convenes tomorrow to begin a new session that promises to be stormy--both inside and outside the assembly building. Extremist-led students have been active in recent days. They, and a group of city slum-dwellers, plan further demonstrations for the benefit of the legislators, who are notoriously susceptible to outside pressures.

The security forces are likely to remain effective in mob control. But, as always in Panama, serious trouble could erupt with little warning.

The biggest threat to the government over the coming months will come from Arnulfo Arias, still the only man in the country with a mass following. He is encouraging the agitation with the hope that it will weaken the Robles administration before the all-out confrontation he hopes to have next year over the canal treaty.

6. Communist China



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ANNEX

Sino-Soviet Relations

Moscow is developing a tougher line toward Peking and, not certain how things will go in China, may now be facing up to the possibility of a break.

When Red Guards held anti-Soviet demonstrations in the streets of Peking last month, the Moscow press dropped its holier-than-thou reserve. Now Peking's domestic policies are ridiculed and Russian propagandists delight in dreaming up irritations for the Chinese.

For example, the Soviets announced on Wednesday that they would celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sun Yat-sen who drove the Manchus from the throne of China in 1911. "Sun Yat-sen," commented Radio Moscow, "regarded the alliance with Russia as the only correct road for China."

The Soviets have been making a very considerable effort to persuade their Communist allies that they too should join the chorus against Peking.

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The best indication of Moscow's planning against a possible break in relations was the call the Soviet chargé in Laos paid on Premier Souvanna Phouma the other day.

Stating flatly that the Soviets wanted to avoid flying over China en route to Hanoi, the chargé asked Souvanna for permission to overfly Laos.

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ANNEX (Cont'd)

For several years the Russians have been looking with some concern at their border with China and they have taken steps to strengthen their military defenses.

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The latest, and perhaps most interesting, Soviet move was a swing through Eastern Europe by the Soviet Party's First Secretary, Leonid Brezhnev, who talked with top leaders in Hungary, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia.

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The rumors abound as to just what Brezhnev said.

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We believe it is quite probable that the Kremlin has considered [] a final break with Peking. But, barring some irrational maneuver on the part of the Chinese such as the sacking of the Soviet Embassy, we do not think Moscow will opt for a complete rupture. In the long run, the Russians would gain little more than psychological satisfaction and for this they would be taking some fairly considerable risks.

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For one thing, the Russians would find it very difficult to get the other Communist states to translate their propaganda support into concrete actions against China. Severe arm-twisting on this score could do irreparable damage to the Soviets in Eastern Europe, and they know it.

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ANNEX (Cont'd)

An equally important factor the Soviets must consider is their support for North Vietnam. If all relations with Peking are broken, it would become impossible to ship equipment through China by rail--and this is the way most military supplies are going. Then the Russians would face the choice of either abandoning Hanoi, except for what little could be sent by air over circuitous routes, or of relying on shipment by sea. The last possibility would conjure up some unpleasant memories of the Cuban fiasco and of confrontation with the US.

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