

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
2 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

Last night Dubcek and his colleagues emerged from a two-day session called to name a new central committee. At an initial glance, it is hardly a central committee calculated to please the Russians--the majority would have been termed liberal before intervention, and 12 are holdovers from the extraordinary congress which was anathema to the Soviets.

This liberal weight in the new committee should help to restore some of the public confidence Dubcek has been losing. The pre-invasion liberals, however, may now be considerably more circumspect in exercising their philosophy. The Czechoslovak communique announcing the new committee pointed out it would serve "for a transient period" until a party congress--one acceptable to Moscow--can be convened. The Soviets have not yet commented on the central committee or its composition.

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2. Rumania

The situation remains unchanged with no abnormal Soviet or Bulgarian military moves [redacted] Bucharest is calm. Yesterday Associated Press carried a story alleging that Ceausescu had proposed a series of concessions to the Soviets including a formal declaration of loyalty to the Warsaw Pact and increased trade with Eastern Europe. [redacted]

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[redacted] We have seen nothing as yet to confirm it.

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Moscow has not reacted publicly to the President's statement. The Polish party paper, however, said yesterday any suggestion that further intervention in Eastern Europe might be contemplated was "completely fabricated."

3. France

The United States Intelligence Board has approved a National Intelligence Estimate entitled The Outlook for France. The estimate for the next year or so concludes:

--No effective threat to De Gaulle or his program is likely from within the political system.

--Student disorders and labor strikes are likely, but they probably can be contained.

--Despite serious problems, the economy is basically strong and a devaluation of the franc is not foreseen.

--France's foreign policy is unlikely to undergo any substantial change.

4. Communist China

Since the Cultural Revolution short-circuited China's bureaucracy, there has been ample evidence that Peking's representatives abroad are often in the dark about what policy currently is in vogue. [redacted]

5. Israel-Egypt

The Israelis are asking for a UN Security Council meeting on the Egyptian raid across the Suez Canal last Monday night. Informing Ambassador Barbour of this decision, an Israeli official said yesterday that Cairo's response through General Bull had been disappointing. The government, he said, had to face the question of "direct persuasion" or other means, and had chosen the Security Council as the most rational compromise.

Moshe Dayan had threatened "the most severe retaliation" unless the Egyptians apologized and made amends for the raid.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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



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16

2 September 1968

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

2 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

The Status of Infiltration: There has been a marked decline in August in the introduction of new North Vietnamese infiltration groups into the pipeline leading to South Vietnam.

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Poor weather conditions obtain along much of the infiltration route in North Vietnam and Laos during August. The weather this year has been unusually severe and may have hampered troop movement. It is also possible that many infiltrators may have been diverted to flood control or road repair and maintenance tasks.

Analysis of infiltration statistics during past years generally indicates that an increased tempo of military operations in the South is preceded by a relatively high rate of infiltration some two to four months beforehand. Arrivals in South Vietnam in July and August, for example, have probably been at an all-time high

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The trip into South Vietnam generally takes two to four months.

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Front in Sweden: The Liberation Front appears to be moving ahead with plans to establish an information office in Stockholm. A publication of the ruling Swedish Social Democratic Party reported on 28 August that quarters had been arranged to house the Front group expected to staff the office. The US Embassy has heard that the staffers were due in Stockholm before the end of August.

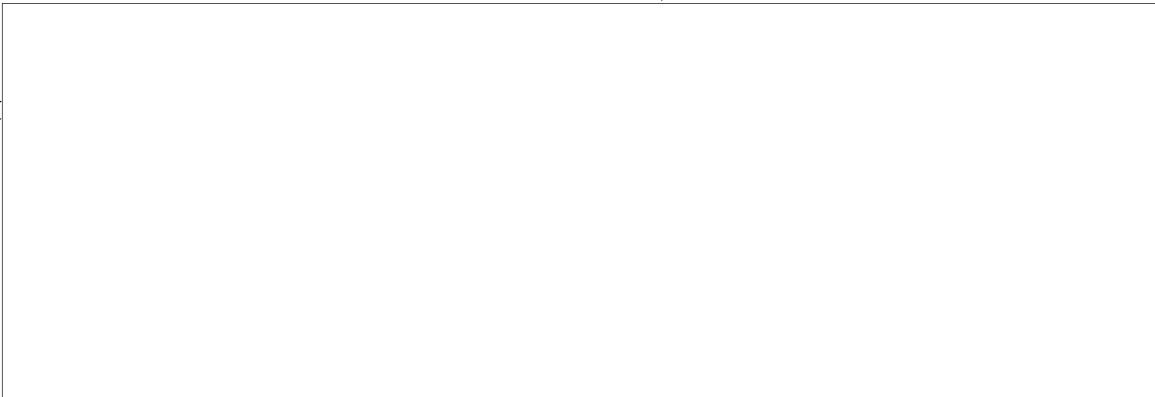
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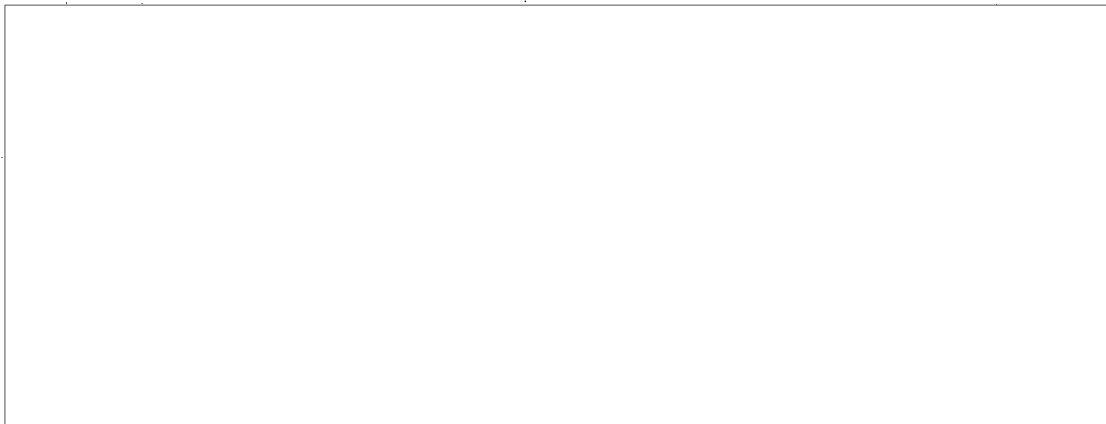
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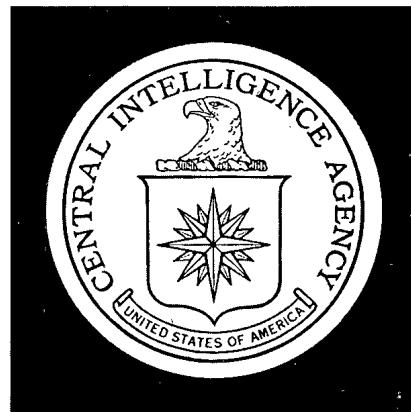
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret 3 September 1968~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
3 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

Prague and the rest of the country stayed relatively calm over the weekend. There have been no more demonstrations. There has also been no significant change in the deployment of Soviet and Warsaw Pact forces throughout the country.

2. Soviet Union

There were unconfirmed press reports yesterday of another meeting of the Soviet central committee. Communist sources said the meeting was called to deal with the hostile world reaction to the intervention in Czechoslovakia; they claimed that the Soviets were considering a conciliatory gesture.

Embassy Moscow notes that Soviet press commentary on Czechoslovakia over the weekend seemed to be taking some of the pressure off by giving greater emphasis to signs that the situation there is returning to normal. Initial Soviet commentary on the Czechoslovak central committee meeting was straightforward and gave no hint of displeasure over the personnel changes in the party hierarchy.

3. Rumania

The situation is quiet.

[redacted] have not been able to find any evidence of troop concentrations near the Rumanian border. Military activity in northeast Bulgaria is limited to a training exercise. The Rumanians, with their most recent careful commentary on Czechoslovakia, seem to be trying to avoid provoking the Soviets.

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4. Guatemala

Security forces are still on alert, but there has been no progress in the search for Ambassador Mein's killers. The US Embassy is taking special precautions

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50X1**5. Mexico**

President Diaz Ordaz delivered his state of the union address to the legislature on Sunday without incident. The threatened student disorders did not materialize. Diaz Ordaz announced minor concessions to the students but emphasized his intention to maintain peace and order.

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3 September 1968

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

3 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Anniversary Celebration: The Hanoi leadership turned out in full force to celebrate their 23rd anniversary yesterday. The broadcasts made a special point of describing Ho Chi Minh's "good health" as he appeared on the speaker's platform. All in-country members of the Politburo appeared with him--only Le Duc Tho (who is in Paris), Pham Hung (who is probably in South Vietnam), and Hoang Van Hoan (who may have returned to China) were missing.

Although only brief summaries of the major speeches are available, the occasion does not seem to have been used to restate any major policy issues. Premier Pham Van Dong gave the major address--as is usual on such occasions--and his emphasis appeared to be on assuring the people that they were on the road to final victory, but that some hard fighting probably lay ahead.

* * *

China Damns Soviets on North Vietnam Anniversary: Peking used the 23rd anniversary of the founding of North Vietnam to castigate the Soviet Union and to reiterate its charge that Moscow is the "number one accomplice of US imperialism in its war of aggression against Vietnam."

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the Vietnamese were warned that the Paris talks were a "hoax" and that Moscow was Washington's accomplice in perpetuating this hoax on the "heroic Vietnamese people."

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The celebration in Peking was attended by Foreign Minister Chen Yi and a number of other party and government officials. Peking's spokesman was Wu Te, Vice Chairman of the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee. He added to the usual charges against Moscow by attacking Russia's "armed aggression against Czechoslovakia"--a clear warning to Hanoi that Peking is far

from happy with North Vietnam's unqualified support of Moscow during the Czech confrontation.

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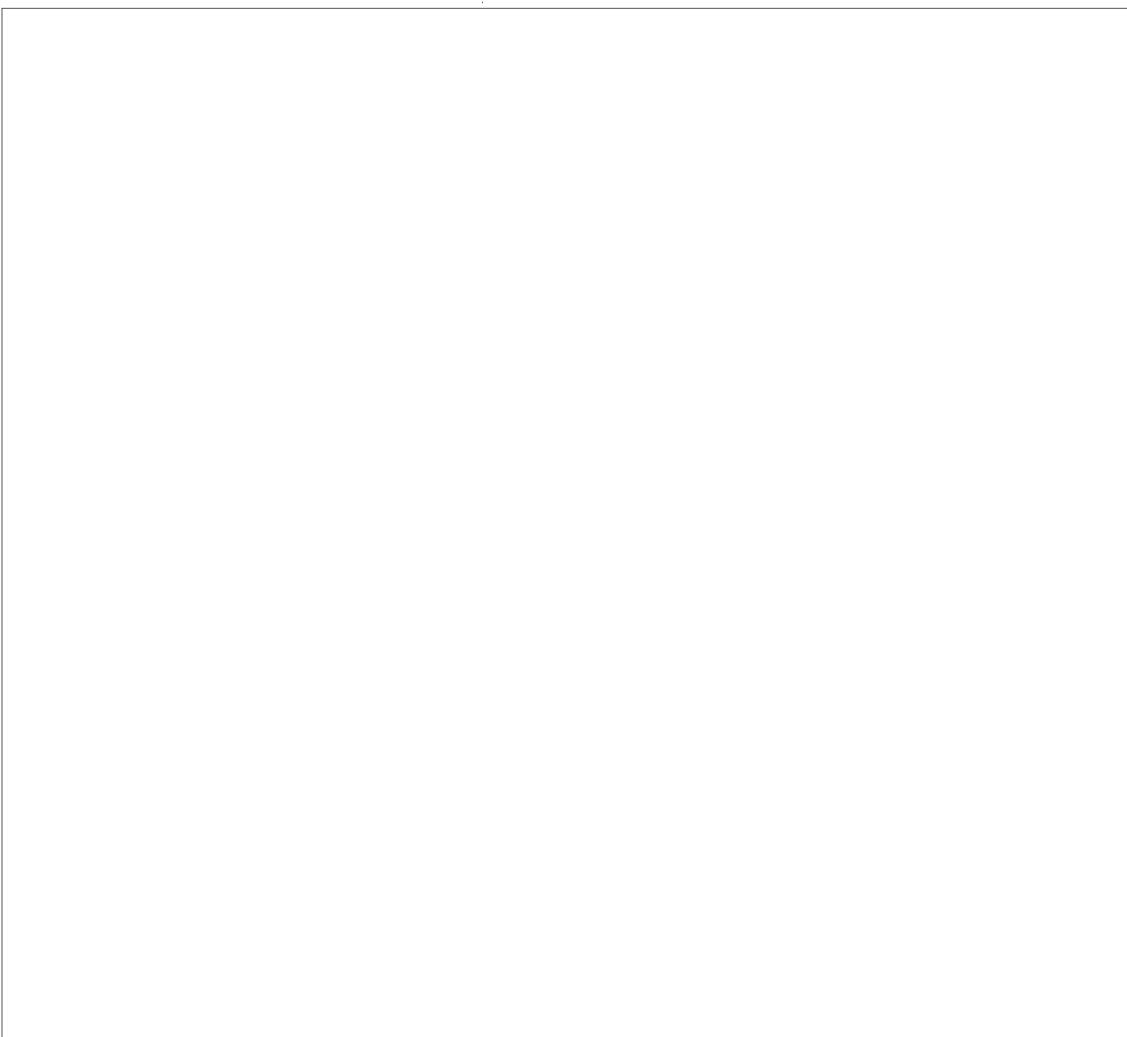
Soviets Pledge Unqualified Support: In marked contrast to Peking's lecturing, the Soviet leaders in their message of greeting on the occasion of the anniversary gave Hanoi a ringing endorsement of its efforts in the Paris peace talks and pointedly told the North Vietnamese they could always count on the Soviets "remaining on their side, fulfilling their international duty" and providing continuing military and economic assistance whichever course the Hanoi leadership pursued.

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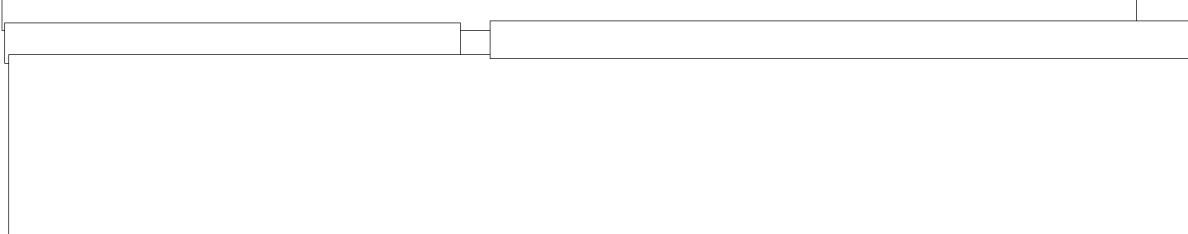
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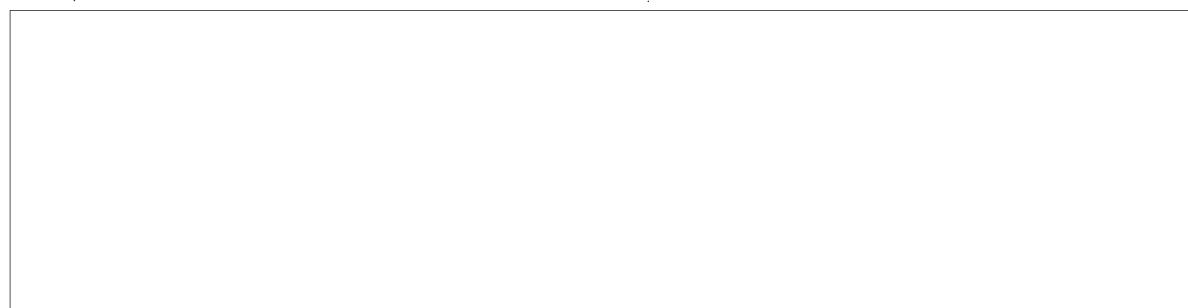
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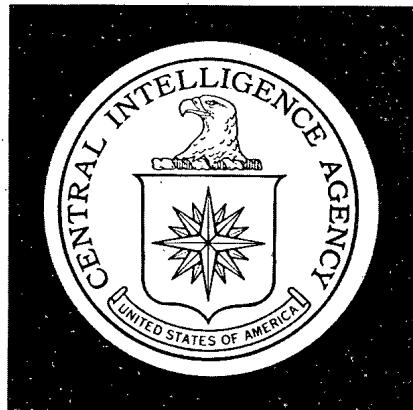
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret 4 September 1968~~



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
4 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Tensions in Czechoslovakia continue to subside slowly. The press reports that some Polish, Hungarian, and Bulgarian troops have left for home. Soviet soldiers have withdrawn from some important buildings in Prague.

Deputy Premier Sik, a liberal who has long been anathema to Moscow, resigned yesterday shortly after being vilified in Izvestia. Izvestia also criticized Foreign Minister Hajek in terms which suggest it expects him to follow suit.

There is still no indication that the Soviets or their associates are getting ready to move against Rumania or Yugoslavia.

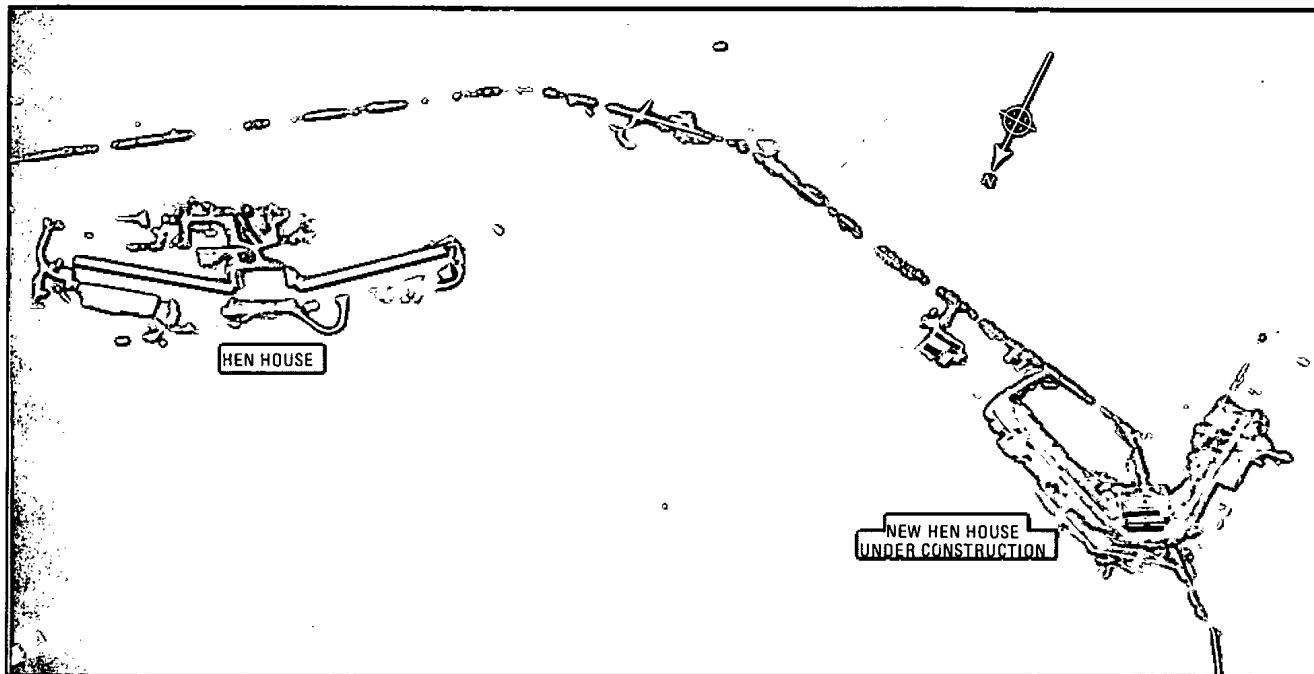
2. Poland

Gomulka probably secured his position over the short run by following the Soviet line on Czechoslovakia, but he also increased his isolation within the faction-ridden Polish leadership.

The central committee met again last week, and this time Gomulka's most prominent critics simply stayed away.

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New Skrunda Radar Covers Additional Missile Approach Routes to Moscow



SKRUNDA BALLISTIC MISSILE EARLY WARNING AND TRACKING FACILITY

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3. South Vietnam

[redacted] along with his chief aides, at any cost this month. A North Vietnamese delegate to the Paris talks remarked, [redacted] is really hurting us."

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[redacted] terrorists in South Vietnam have also been told to attack US Embassy personnel and in general increase their disruptive efforts.

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4. Soviet Union

Satellite photography discloses that the Soviets are at work in Latvia building another radar installation for detecting and tracking US intercontinental missiles. This giant installation, which should be operational in 1970, will cover part of the North Atlantic and western Europe. It will also fill some of the gaps in Soviet coverage of the Arctic Ocean.

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Two other radars of this type probably are already operational. Another installation near Moscow, which uses a different type of radar, has been undergoing checkout tests for over a year.

5. Communist China

[redacted]

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6. Congo
(Brazzaville)

Brazzaville, where the situation has teetered for years between confusion and chaos, seems to be outdoing itself at the moment. Not even the local inhabitants are really sure what is going on, but we believe we can discern the following developments:

--The army has moved to take over the government and has made a figure-head of President Massamba-Debat. The soldiers are deeply split by tribal and other loyalties, however, and they have little concept of how to run a government.

--Goon squads recruited from the single party's youth wing have retained their arms and engage in frequent shoot-ups with the army.

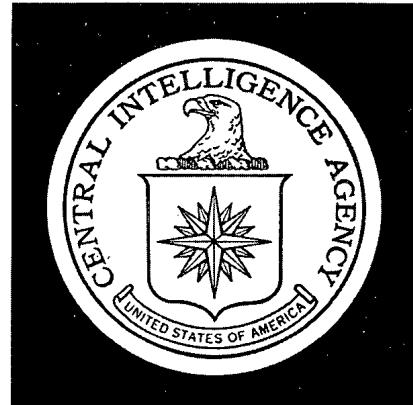
--Large numbers of civilian extremists, most of them espousing some kind of cloudy Maoist or Castroite ideology, are still at large.

--Agents from Mobutu's government across the river in Kinshasa are trying to bring Brazzaville into Kinshasa's sphere of influence.

At the moment heavily armed paratroopers are guarding the presidential palace in Brazzaville while the army tries to decide what to do with Massamba-Debat. Even the French, who in the past have been willing to shore up Massamba, seem to be holding back this time until the dust settles.

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4 September 1968

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4 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Premier's Statement on Liberation Front: Pham Van Dong used his national day speech on 2 September to make some more semantic changes in the standard formulation of Hanoi's demands for the Liberation Front. This is the second time in as many months that Hanoi has made an effort at an authoritative level to indicate that there is some flexibility in its political position on the Front. The Premier said that the US has to "recognize and talk" with the Front about problems in South Vietnam. By omitting earlier demands that any postwar settlement must be in accordance with the program of the Front, or that the South Vietnamese had to be left alone to settle their own affairs, the North Vietnamese Premier implied that Hanoi was no longer setting any conditions on talks between the US and the Viet Cong.

These same hints of flexibility appeared in mid-July in a Foreign Ministry statement which paraphrased Hanoi's original Four Points, dropped the exclusive role of the Front, and called for a settlement on the

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basis of self-determination. The Foreign Ministry statement was accompanied by official comments both in Paris and back in Hanoi that the restatement was not a change in Hanoi's position, and Pham Van Dong in his national day speech quickly followed up his paraphrasing of the issue by saying that his restatement "was in conformity with the main content of Hanoi's original Four Point stand."

As might be expected from a major speech on a Communist national day, Pham Van Dong's address exuded confidence in ultimate victory, urged the people on to greater military efforts, and exaggerated US military problems as well as US political intentions. He put special emphasis on the national character of the present war, calling it the "second Vietnamese patriotic war of independence." He also dramatized popular US opposition to the Vietnamese war, claiming at one point that Vietnam had become "the number one question in US political life, the key issue in the present presidential election campaign."

* * *

National Day Celebration in Paris: The North Vietnamese delegation in Paris celebrated their anniversary with a small reception attended by Communist diplomats, newsmen, and representatives of French leftist circles. The party was marred by the same Sino-Soviet polemics which characterized other Vietnamese celebrations around the world. According to Western press representatives in attendance, the Chinese chargé, while standing within a few feet of Ambassador Zorin, denounced the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia. Zorin asserted the Soviet troops would stay until "the threat" to the Soviet Union had subsided.

The party was also the occasion for the social debut of the Liberation Front representative in Paris. He told newsmen that the Front information office will officially open soon with the arrival of its new director from Prague, Pham Van Ba.

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Conference in Cairo: Hanoi is sending middle-level officials from both the North and the Liberation Front to an Afro-Asian solidarity meeting in Cairo scheduled to open on 7 September. The conference is to be focused on Vietnam in an attempt to drum up support for Hanoi. Some of the Vietnamese speakers have already arrived

The Vietnamese apparently intend also to tour several countries in this area after the conference.

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Air Activity: Since 27 August, Communist MIG fighters have continued to range south of the 19th parallel from Hanoi bases. There have been no recent engagements with US aircraft, however.

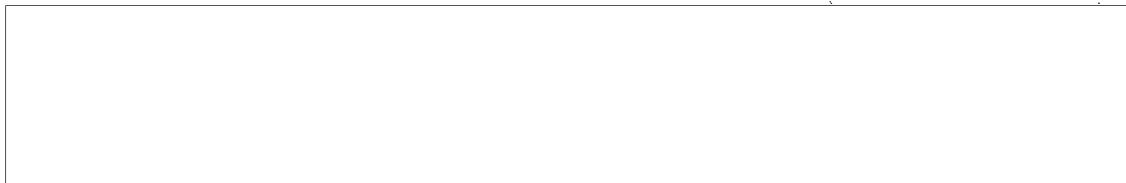
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The North Vietnamese Air Force apparently celebrated the national day by staging a fly-by over the heart of the capital. At least eight MIG-21 aircraft, in a tight formation in groups of four, made three passes each as part of the air show.

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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~~ 5 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
5 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The Soviets are continuing the slow process of reducing their visible presence. Soviet troops apparently have vacated radio and television stations in Prague but still occupy several newspaper offices. They are said to be planning to complete their withdrawal from the center of Prague today, but large concentrations of armor and troops were seen in downtown areas yesterday.

Pravda warned yesterday that Soviet forces had to remain in the country, citing "counterrevolutionary" activity as the reason.

In other Eastern European capitals, uncertainty over Soviet intentions is keeping tensions high. There is still no good evidence, however, that the Soviets are planning further military moves.

2. Israel

Daily firefights continue along the cease-fire line with Jordan. Last week there were incidents on the previously quiet Syrian frontier. In addition, terrorist bombs exploded yesterday in Tel Aviv. This was the first major incident in Tel Aviv, although bombings occurred last month in Jerusalem.

Israel probably is considering another major reprisal strike against some Arab state. Algeria's release of the hijacked Israeli plane has removed one restraint. The United Nations Security Council is now considering Israel's complaint against Egypt, however, and this may hold the Israelis back for the moment.

3. Philippines

Marcos has now approved the maintenance of the Philippine contingent in Vietnam at a strength of 1,500 men. In the absence of a congressional appropriation, money will be supplied from regular defense department funds. Marcos intends to resubmit the appropriation bill when congress convenes again, probably in November.

4. Soviet Union

The Soviets on Sunday successfully completed the eighth test of their largest space capsule--the Soyuz. This may be the final one before scheduling another manned flight.

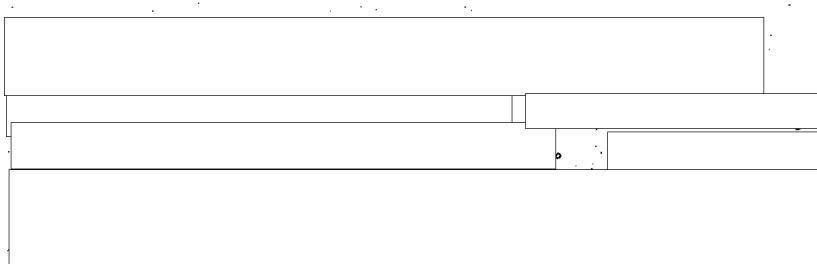
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[redacted] there was no evidence of any attempt to rendezvous and dock with another spacecraft.

The Soyuz spacecraft has not been manned since its third flight in April 1967, when Cosmonaut Komarov was killed on its re-entry.

5. Soviet Union

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6. Ethiopia

The country has made its first military purchase from the Soviet Union. The air force will probably be getting two large Soviet helicopters.

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[redacted] For some time the Soviets have been pushing their helicopters, with which they can compete favorably, in the Free World.

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5 September 1968

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Report on Truck Traffic Through Laos: Truck traffic moving south through Mu Gia Pass was 80 percent higher during the first eight months of 1968 than for

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the same time frame in 1967. The following table shows comparisons:

	<u>Average Number of Trucks per Day</u>	
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
January	22	25
February	34	41
March	16	37
April	30	52
May	16	17
June	3	19
July	0	15
August	0	11*

* For the period 1-27 August

Another notable feature is that this year, for the first time, traffic has continued during the monsoon season. The North Vietnamese have made extensive road improvements during the dry season.

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Flood Plan: The North Vietnamese are conducting a post mortem on the recent floods.

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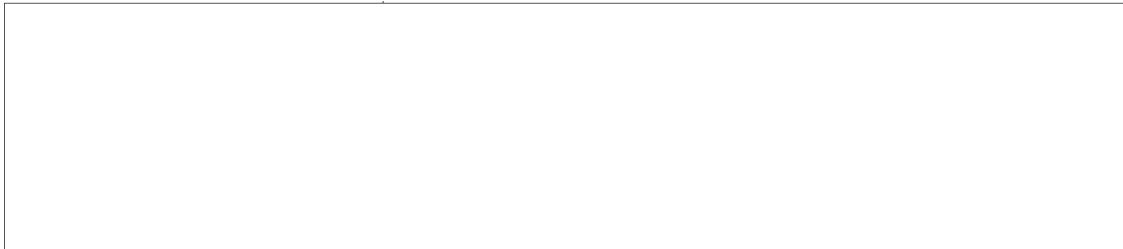
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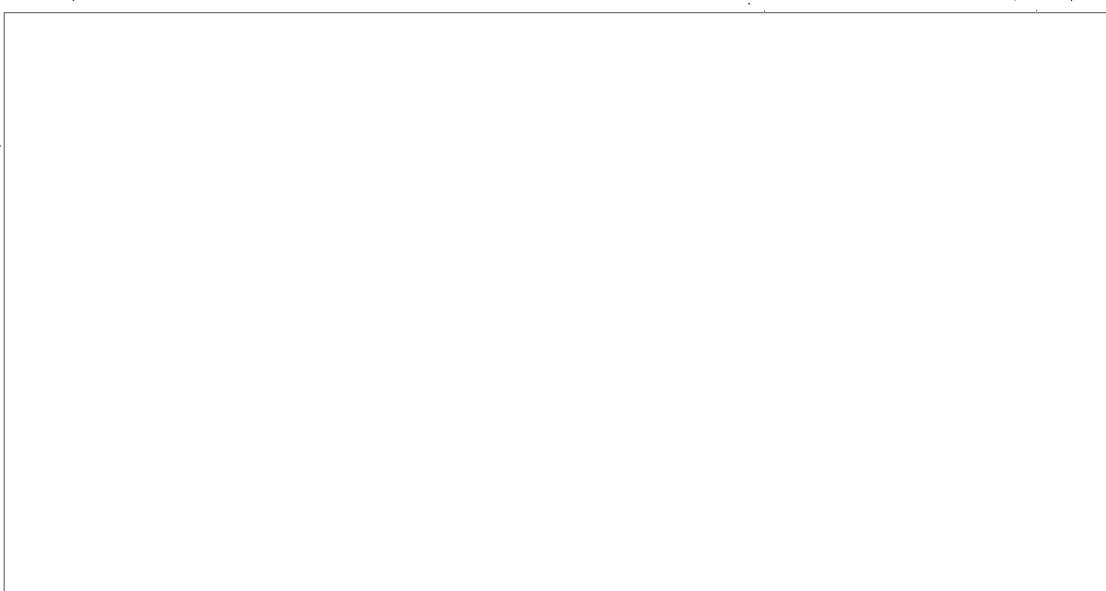
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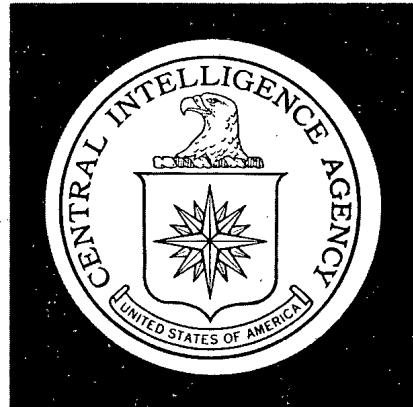
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
6 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Soviet Union

The Soviet military had a key role in the decision to invade Czechoslovakia [redacted]

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By this account--and much of it matches up with other reporting--Kosygin, Suslov, and Shelepin were opposed to intervention; Brezhnev could not make up his mind. The final decision was made after General Yakubovsky, Warsaw Pact forces commander, told the Politburo the Czechoslovak Army was preparing to back a "rightist" coup. Yakubovsky was supported by other military leaders, but not by the defense minister, Marshal Grechko. Grechko urged considerably more restraint.

2. Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovak leaders have taken to the hustings trying to hold popular support and yet establish conditions for Soviet troop withdrawal. Yesterday Dubcek, Cernik, and Svoboda visited factories where they urged workers not to provoke Russian soldiers and called for "unity, consideration, and reason." These themes also are being stressed by Prague press media.

The Moscow press, however, continues to hold that the "counterrevolutionary" threat has not ended. This is the rationale for what probably will become a lengthy presence on Czechoslovak soil.

There also are some indications that the Warsaw Five are tolerating Dubcek only temporarily. [redacted]

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3. Rumania

The nine-day truce in Soviet press attacks on Rumania was broken Wednesday when Pravda let it be known Moscow is still displeased with Bucharest's criticism. There are no new military developments relating to Rumania, however. The Bulgarians continue a military exercise; Yugoslav and Rumanian troops remain on alert.

4. Hungary

Party boss Janos Kadar is reported

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[redacted] to be a bitter man indeed. He is angry with the Soviets for making the Hungarians join the invasion, thus shattering his painstakingly rebuilt image of a reformed Hungary. He is equally angry with Dubcek for rejecting a last-minute appeal to "reason."

Kadar believes that as the crisis developed he stuck his neck out in support of Dubcek's reforms and in opposition to the hardliners. On 18 August, the Soviets sent Kadar to make one more try at getting the Czechoslovaks to mend their ways. Dubcek, who by this time was highly nervous and excited, flatly rejected Kadar's appeal, apparently in rather undiplomatic language.

Some aspects of the 18 August meeting have been leaked to the press by the Hungarians--a move which Kadar hopes might salvage some prestige.

5. Iran

An earthquake at home and the invasion of Czechoslovakia notwithstanding, the Shah is going ahead with plans to visit the Soviet Union later this month. He is aware that the timing is awkward, but he is seemingly determined to push ahead in his quest for better relations with Moscow. We do not expect any major new economic or military equipment contracts to emerge from this visit.

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6. North Korea

Next Monday the regime will put on a major show for its 20th anniversary. The occasion has sparked a number of rumors about the Pueblo crew.

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The Secretary-General of the Japanese Communist Party returned from North Korea Tuesday and remarked cryptically to newsmen that "it appears there will be some progress with regard to the Pueblo on 9 September." We are trying now to get this clarified, but, in present form, it could mean anything from release to a trial of the crew.

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The North Koreans have invited guests from about 90 countries to the celebration. One way or the other, the Pueblo case is likely to be a feature attraction.

7. Soviet Union

Satellite photography shows that the Soviets are slowly closing down some of their vulnerable surface launch pads for the SS-4, an early strategic missile with a 1,000-mile range. The SS-4 was sent to Cuba in 1962 and has been deployed extensively in European Russia.

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8. Soviet Union -
Egypt

[Redacted]

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9. Guatemala

The US Embassy feels the Guatemalan Government is making every effort to apprehend Ambassador Mein's killers but reports no new leads on their whereabouts. The terrorists continue to threaten further assassinations [Redacted]

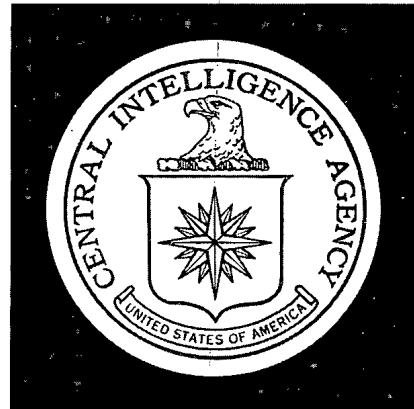
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[Redacted] The government is ready to meet violence with violence.

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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More on Western Trade: There are more signs that Hanoi is moving ahead with postwar economic planning.

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Hanoi will be sending a group of officials to France next month to negotiate purchase agreements with various French industrial firms.

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North Vietnam is said to be interested primarily in the fields of steel production, chemistry, electronics, and light industry.

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Indeed, the prospects for any significant North Vietnamese trade with non-Communist countries are clouded by Hanoi's extremely limited ability to generate foreign exchange through exports. It seems likely that the mission to France will be mainly another attempt to explore Western sources of support for postwar economic reconstruction.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
7 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

There is new evidence of Soviet impatience with the pace of Prague's return to orthodoxy. Yesterday Pravda said that despite "serious successes" in the Czech economy, changes in "political and public life" are "only in the initial stages," and that a "correct understanding" of the "normalization" is still lacking. To achieve this "normalization," Prague was advised to drive out the "right-wing antisocialist forces" completely.

To monitor on the spot the changes which Moscow is calling for, the Soviets have sent Vasily Kuznetsov, a deputy foreign minister and central committee member, to Prague as a special envoy. Radio Prague's description of Kuznetsov's initial meeting with President Svoboda suggests that the Russian was not satisfied with Czech efforts so far.

2. United Nations

Pressures to keep the Czech issue alive at the UN are now centering on the General Assembly. A number of members, including Canada, Britain, Brazil, Chile, and Yugoslavia are concerned that the UN not appear paralyzed on the matter.

3. Communist China

Local authorities all over China are now trying hard to finish off the Red Guards as a "revolutionary" force. In many areas, the people in authority are military men who had been under heavy attack by the Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution. These former targets, now free to strike back for the first time, are doing so with everything they can muster.

First-hand reports from Dairen and Canton say that former Red Guards are being paraded, forced to carry signs labeling them "counterrevolutionary," and sometimes beaten and whipped in public. Reports from both cities suggest that at times a lynching-party atmosphere exists, with "the masses" egged on to carry out executions on their own.

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4. Pakistan

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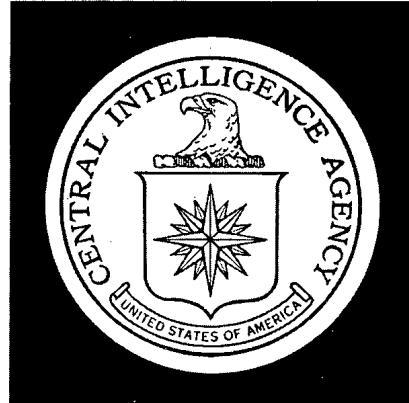
5. Sudan

The patchwork coalition government in Khartoum is more unstable than ever; the army may well be tempted before long to step in.

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7 September 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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7 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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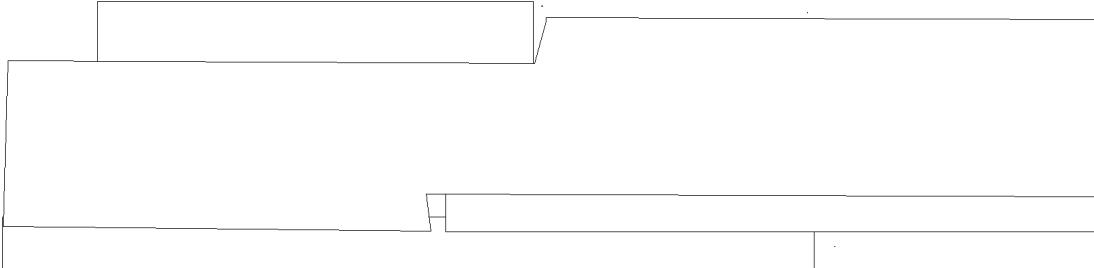
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Conditions in Hanoi Area: [redacted]

[redacted] there was a rice shortage caused by cold weather this spring. Although some rice reserves were being released, most Vietnamese were forced to eat bread as a substitute. The cold spell apparently had not affected the supply of meat and vegetables, as there were ample supplies of these items in Hanoi markets.

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

Hanoi on US Election and Antiwar Sentiment:

Hanoi media are keeping up a drumfire of propaganda concerning the US elections and antiwar sentiment in the United States. The essence of the message is that the recent nominating conventions of the two major parties proved nothing and that any American president will eventually have to bow to those forces opposing the war and find a way out. Chief negotiator Xuan Thuy made an unusually explicit argument along these lines at the formal session of the Paris talks this week.

The latest propaganda piece taking this line is a commentary in the party daily Nhan Dan on 6 September which was broadcast over the international service in English. Most of the editorial flayed the Democratic Party and its platform plank on Vietnam, probably because the Chicago meetings generated such extensive publicity for the antiwar protesters. The message of the editorial, however, was that the "scramble for the presidential chair" was unimportant--it was confined to US "monopoly circles." The only important part of the election process was the opportunity provided "progressive forces" opposing the war in Vietnam to press their position on the candidates.

Nhan Dan restated Hanoi's position on ending the war by quoting Premier Pham Van Dong's national day speech. This speech is being widely quoted as Hanoi's latest authoritative statement, and Nhan Dan repeated the Premier's peace terms in full--an immediate cessation of the bombing, withdrawal of US troops, and recognition of and negotiation with the Liberation Front on problems of South Vietnam.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
9 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov is continuing his talks with Czechoslovak officials. The Czechs have tried to put his visit in the best light, hoping that a Prague-Moscow dialogue will develop and that Soviet strong-arm tactics can be avoided. There is evidence, however, that Moscow sent Kuznetsov to check on how Moscow's demands are being met, rather than to negotiate their acceptability.

2. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

[redacted] Czech leaders put heavy blame for the Soviet invasion on the misleading reporting of Moscow's ambassador to Prague, a holdover from the Novotny days.

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Dubcek has asked for the Soviet ambassador's replacement, according to press reports. The Soviets, as well as the Czechs, have good reason to be dissatisfied with his performance.

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3. Soviet Union

We are getting indications that a full-scale stocktaking of the Czech situation by the Soviet leadership may be in the wind.

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4. Rumania

During a recent talk with Ambassador Davis, Foreign Minister Manescu said the "danger is not entirely over," but his remarks and manner suggested a calmer view of the situation. Manescu stressed the point that Rumania's leaders considered President Johnson's 30 August statement as having had a "cooling" effect on a dangerous trend.

The Bulgarian military exercise near the Rumanian border ended last Friday. Rumania and Yugoslavia, however, apparently have not reduced the alert status of their armed forces.

5. Portugal

It may be several days before the outcome of Salazar's brain surgery, following his accidental fall, is known. Initial reports are optimistic, and there is no plan to appoint an acting prime minister.

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6. Israel-Egypt

The heavy exchange of artillery fire yesterday along a major portion of the Suez Canal is reported to have caused a number of deaths on both sides. An incident at the southern end of the canal, in which Tel Aviv claims Egyptians opened fire on Israeli troops removing a mine along the waterway, apparently sparked the wider duel, which lasted for several hours.

Tensions are likely to increase further if the Israelis carry out their plans to hold a military exercise "shortly" near the canal.

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9 September 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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9 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Propaganda on the Military Situation: Recent propaganda on the fighting in South Vietnam has avoided unfounded optimism and relied heavily on the Communist contention that the situation is a "stalemate" which makes allied "defeat" inevitable.

This was the approach in a Hanoi press agency item on 6 September summing up military action in August. It was laced with the usual claims of Communist military successes but was relatively modest in assessing the over-all situation.

An even more sober tone is apparent in a message from Ho Chi Minh to Communist forces in South Vietnam which was broadcast by Hanoi on 8 September. Ho praised recent Communist military actions, saying they have "increasingly firmed up our position and strengthened our force." His final words contained more admonition than optimism, however. The southern comrades, Ho said, are determined to "overcome all difficulties and hardships and to bravely and perseveringly fight, and (they) will certainly score greater achievements."

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Conference on Vietnam: The special three-day anti-American Afro-Asian conference on Vietnam opened Saturday in Cairo with the usual speeches condemning US policy.

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Vietnamese Communist groups representing both North Vietnam and the Liberation Front were to be in attendance.

Ho Chi Minh's message to the gathering was carried by the North Vietnamese press agency on 8 September. It described the meeting as a sign of "great encouragement." Ho spelled out Hanoi's usual demands, including the formulation used by Pham Van Dong last week that the US must "recognize" the Liberation Front and "enter into talks" with it on problems of concern to South Vietnam.

* * *

Delegation to North Korea: The Hanoi delegation to the North Korean 20th anniversary celebration is headed by Foreign Minister Trinh. It is Trinh's first foreign trip since he attended the Soviets' 50th anniversary celebrations last fall.

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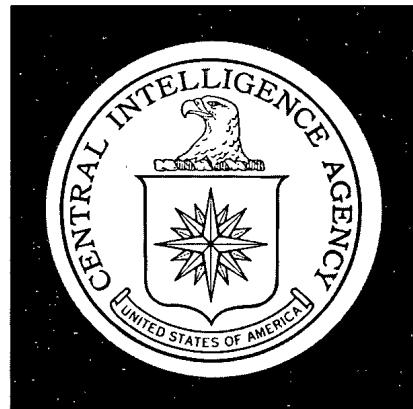
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

More on US Elections: North Vietnam's coverage of the US election campaign continued over the weekend. Hanoi Radio beamed a commentary to South Vietnam on Saturday entitled, "The Platform of a Donkey and Johnson's Pony." The treatment was the same as in other propaganda forums: the Democratic convention underscored the cleavages in the US over Vietnam policy, but the results offered no grounds for optimism.

The broadcast characterized the Democratic party platform as "reactionary" and Vice President Humphrey as a loyal "disciple" of President Johnson. The commentary charged that Humphrey was "pretending to be politically independent of Johnson," but it chalked this up as an attempt to "deceive" public opinion. In conclusion, the commentary lumped the President, Vice President, and Mr. Nixon all in the same "aggressive" camp and promised that the Communists would fight on unless the next US president "gives up his aggression."

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
10 SEPTEMBER 1968

LATE ITEM

Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Premier Cernik arrived in Moscow
this morning. He will be discussing
economic matters with Soviet leaders.

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
10 SEPTEMBER 1968

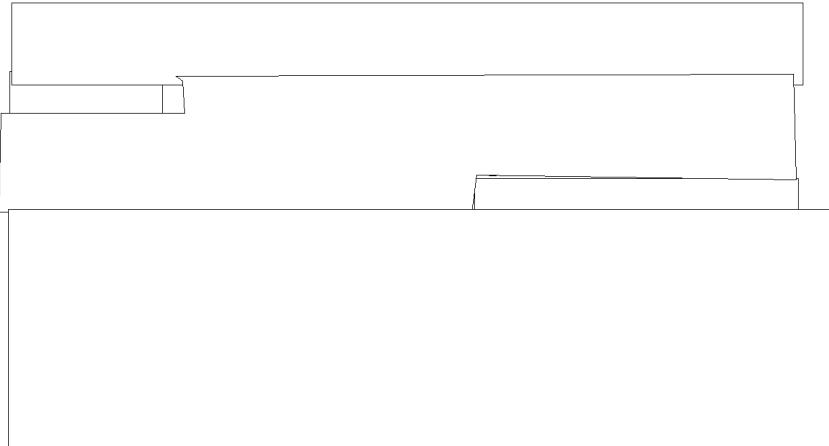
1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

There is little to indicate that talks between Kuznetsov and Czechoslovak leaders are resolving outstanding differences.

Prague, however, continues to provide newsmen with optimistic copy about the visit of the Soviet deputy foreign minister. This morning's Washington Post, for instance, quotes Czechoslovak sources stating Kuznetsov is offering a "compromise plan" including a timetable for withdrawal of foreign troops. Prague leaders would like such a compromise and it is undoubtedly being discussed, but thus far there is nothing to suggest this is Kuznetsov's mission.

The Soviets, meanwhile, have again turned a critical eye on the Czechoslovak press. After several days, during which Russian commentators had used a reasonably balanced line, TASS last night issued a statement blasting Czechoslovak newspapers for taking "antisocialist positions."

2. Soviet Union



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3. East Germany

The East Germans have interned Czechoslovak citizens who were visiting East Germany at the time of the invasion. The Czechoslovaks are being detained in camps on the Baltic coast where they apparently are being "re-educated."

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4. Panama

The French told Arias they will consider a larger investment in Panama. Among the projects discussed during Arias' Paris visit were a dam, industrial development in the Colon Free Zone, and more French technical aid. At present, French economic involvement in Panama is minimal. Arias is now in New York.

5. France

De Gaulle is preoccupied with France's own problems. This was clear from the short shrift given to foreign affairs in yesterday's presidential press conference. There was no mention of Vietnam nor substantive reference to the US.

For Frenchmen, there was little new in what the General had to say, although he left no doubts that he would move quickly and harshly if there are new outbreaks. As described by Ambassador Shriver, the conference was "poor food for hungry sheep."

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The second French thermonuclear device detonated Sunday [redacted]
[redacted] Press reports from 50X1
Paris state this will conclude the 1968 test series.

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6. Mexico

Mexican students have found they are able to exercise some influence on national affairs and they will be heard from again.

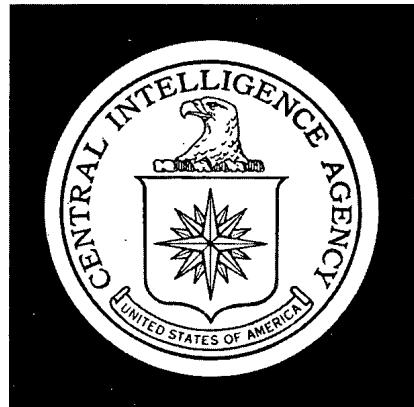
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Diaz Ordaz' main concern was restoring order before the Olympics open on 12 October, and he did not react to the disturbances with his usual dynamism. This may change after the Olympics, but, for now, the students feel they have put dents in the government's control apparatus.

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10 September 1968

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10 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Report from Hanoi: [redacted]

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[redacted] authorities [redacted] are actively preparing for the postwar period but trying to avoid giving any signs of this to the United States. [redacted] for instance, [redacted] a population census had recently been completed [redacted] [redacted] to assist postwar planning. The census was not publicized [redacted]

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These comments add to a growing body of evidence of increased attention in Hanoi to the problems and opportunities a postwar situation will bring. The evidence is too thin to support any solid conclusions about Communist intentions, however. Some reports could reflect only normal stocktaking by Hanoi in the wake of US bombing restrictions as well as contingency planning against the possibility of an early end to the war.

[redacted] also claimed that civil defense precautions against resumption of US air attacks have faltered. [redacted] that no more air raid shelters are being built in Hanoi, that government offices have resumed normal operations in the city, and that people are ignoring the regime's efforts to uphold population evacuation and dispersal policies.

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Hanoi Observations: [redacted]

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Communications: A conference of outstanding truck drivers was held in Hanoi in mid-August. With such slogans as "Let's love our trucks as our sons and prize fuel as our blood," the conference made front page news, and the First Secretary of the Lao Dong party, Le Duan, addressed the drivers with extravagant words of praise. For those of us who are not allowed to drive in Hanoi because it is "too dangerous," and have observed the almost incredible lack of road discipline, consideration, technique, and thought of the drivers in Hanoi, and the obvious inefficiency of the maintenance procedures, it was refreshing to read Nhan Dan's editorial on 14 August which launched out into an attack on lack of training, bad discipline, and disobedience of the rules. It commented, in a remarkable statement of the obvious, that political consciousness was not enough: technical training was also necessary.

Savings Campaign: The regime is making fresh efforts to encourage long-term saving. After a long period of attempting to achieve their objective by offering prizes to those depositors who drew a lucky number, the Council of Ministers has now decreed that depositors leaving their money in the bank for five years will be entitled to 2 percent on their deposit. Newspaper reports claim, in curious contrast, that savings are increasing.

Market Prices and Wages: There has been some talk [redacted] of rising prices, but [redacted] the tale does not seem to be substantiated. There are temporary changes due to weather conditions or seasonal disappearance of certain foods, but [redacted] no evidence of a long-term trend of rising prices on either the free market or the black market as a whole. There is no change in official prices for basic rations nor in wage rates.

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

Reaction to Mansfield/Goldberg Statements: The North Vietnamese delegation in Paris has responded quickly with at least qualified approval of statements made recently by

former Ambassador Goldberg and Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield. According to Western wire service reports, the North Vietnamese spokesman in Paris said that both Mansfield and Goldberg, when "faced with reality," had arrived at the "realistic position" that the bombing must stop before progress can be made in Paris. In response to a question, the spokesman emphasized that a bombing halt must be accompanied by the cessation of "all acts of war" against North Vietnam and the recognition and inclusion of the Liberation Front in any discussions affecting South Vietnam.

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
11 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

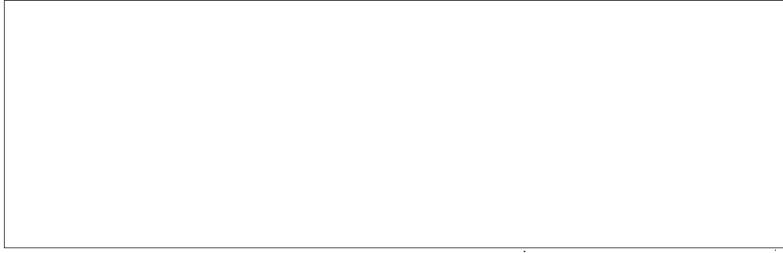
Premier Cernik's trip to Moscow lasted only seven hours, and his list of accomplishments seems to have been even shorter. A communique indicates Cernik discussed the Moscow agreement with Brezhnev, Kosygin, and Podgorny, but it sheds little further light on the political side of the talks.

On economic questions, the Soviets did promise to build another gas pipeline for Czechoslovakia, but apparently not much else. There seemed to be no meeting of minds on what the Czechoslovaks were most interested in: reparations for damages caused by the occupation or a Soviet hard currency credit.

National Assembly President Smrkovsky has told a steelworkers' rally that every detail of the Moscow agreement must be carried out. In the next breath, however, he promised that the Dubcek leadership would go on pushing internal reform and that there would be no persecution of intellectuals. Smrkovsky and other leaders in Prague have been pressing this theme recently, partly to persuade the many Czechoslovaks abroad to come home.

The cabinet, meanwhile, met to discuss some of the liberal reforms Dubcek proposed last April. Among other things, it approved a bill which calls for the continued subordination of all political groups to the Communist-controlled National Front. The bill does not rule out, however, the addition of new political organizations to the Front.

2. Soviet Union



3. Communist China

Peking last week finally announced the formation of revolutionary committees for Tibet and Sinkiang, thus completing the process for all provinces. The new committees both seem to be patchwork jobs in which radical and moderate elements are well represented. Their establishment has long been delayed, in part because local military authorities were split over which rival Red Guard factions to support in each province.

The fact that the top leadership in Peking was also unable to come down in favor of one faction or the other shows that divisions at the center persist.

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Authorities in Szechwan Province, China's largest grain producer, have called on the army to enforce collection of the fall harvest. This is the first time since the dark years immediately following collapse of the Great Leap Forward in 1958 that the army has had to be used to pry grain loose from the peasants.

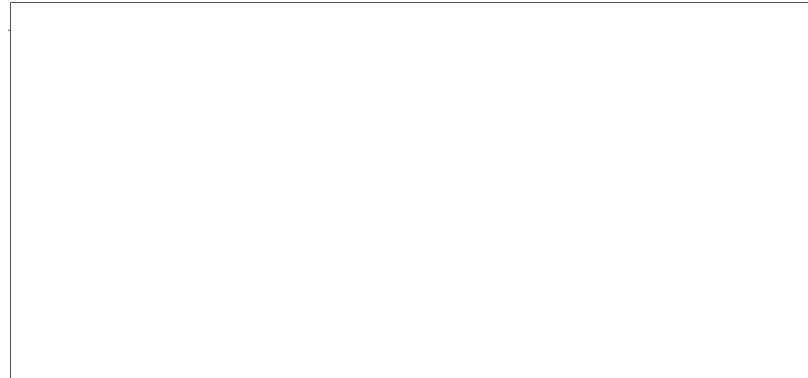
Last year the harvest was so bountiful that food production held up despite the Cultural Revolution. This year deficit provinces will feel the pinch because the crop is just average and imports from abroad are lagging.

4. Congo
(Brazzaville)

The fog appears to be lifting a bit. Army strongman Ngouabi seems to be gathering in the reins of power at the expense of rival military leaders.

President Massamba-Debat is still under heavy army guard at his palace while Ngouabi works out an alliance with ultraleftist civilians. So far, however, the new government has only made moderate-sounding pro-French public noises.

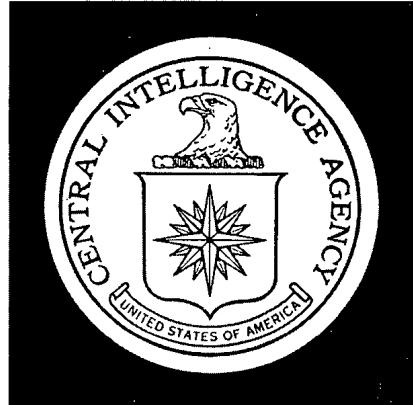
5. Iraq



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11 September 1968

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

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Logistics: Severe weather has apparently disrupted Communist supply movements in the Laos pan-handle and coastal North Vietnam south of Vinh.

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Hanoi's Treatment of Premier's Speech: An authoritative commentary in Nhan Dan on 10 September is typical of the twist the Communists have been giving Premier Pham Van Dong's National Day speech on 2 September. Dong's speech took a generally hard line and promised nothing new in terms of substance, but he did offer new semantic variations in the Communist formulations on two sticky issues: the question of North Vietnamese reciprocity for a US bombing halt and the role of the Liberation Front in negotiations. These are the aspects which have been picked up in subsequent commentaries. The Communists clearly want Dong's words to be taken as a significant modification in the North Vietnamese position.

Dong said that a bombing halt would have a "positive effect on the seeking, step by step, of a political settlement." This idea is not new, but it is a more attractive casting than the usual Communist formulation. The North Vietnamese have occasionally used this kind of language privately, but this is the first time an authoritative spokesman has done so publicly. They may be hoping that this language will be interpreted as a commitment to respond appropriately to a bombing halt, but that at the same time it will allow them to avoid backtracking on the issue of reciprocity. Dong's words also avoid binding North Vietnam to any specific military course after the bombing stops.

In speaking of the Liberation Front, Dong did not insist that the Front had to be recognized as the "sole" or even the "genuine" representative of the

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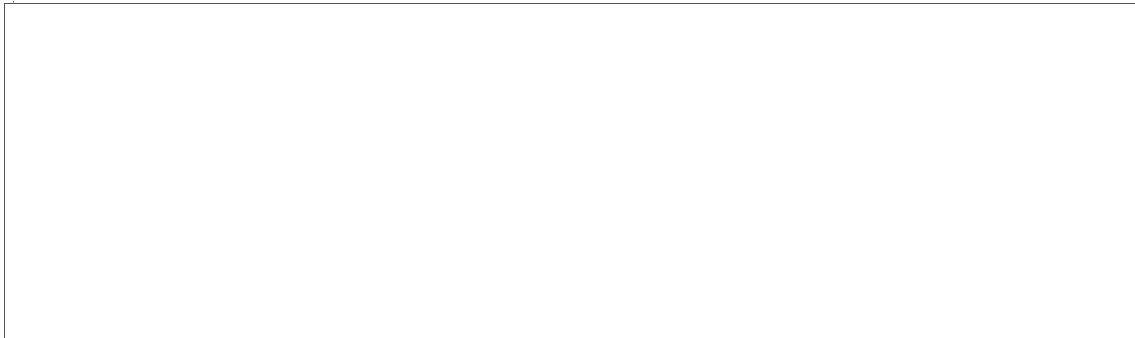
South Vietnamese. There was no talk of it having a "decisive voice" in any settlement, nor any demand that the settlement be in accord with its political program. Dong said only that the US must recognize and talk with the Front on problems involving South Vietnam. This language leaves a place for the Front as the Communist representative on matters affecting South Vietnam, but other parties are not excluded on either side.

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North Vietnamese Economic Policy: Hanoi on 30 August broadcast the text of a long speech by Le Duan on economic policy. Le Duan seems to regard regional industries as the main hope for satisfying the demand for consumer goods as well as the "first link" in the task of "economy building." In agriculture, he set forth five tons of paddy rice per hectare (about two and one-half acres), one laborer per hectare, and two pigs per hectare as goals for the near future, and specified that better organization of labor--to eliminate lax discipline--and improved farm implements are to be the keys to these goals.

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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~~ 12 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
12 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Israel-Egypt

The Israelis are stung by their losses in recent encounters with the Egyptians, and a retaliatory strike is in the cards.

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2. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

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3. North Korea -
South Korea

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4. Soviet Union

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5. Cambodia

Sihanouk's advisers [redacted]

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reportedly told him recently that his position was slipping, that he might not be allowed back in Cambodia if he took his annual vacation in France, and that the National Assembly might call his bluff this time if he submits one of his pro forma resignations.

All this is symptomatic of the Phnom Penh establishment's growing dissatisfaction with the Prince's heavy-handed rule. Severe economic problems, mismanaged domestic programs, and the insurgency in the countryside will add fuel to the grumbling. Sihanouk's power remains formidable, however.

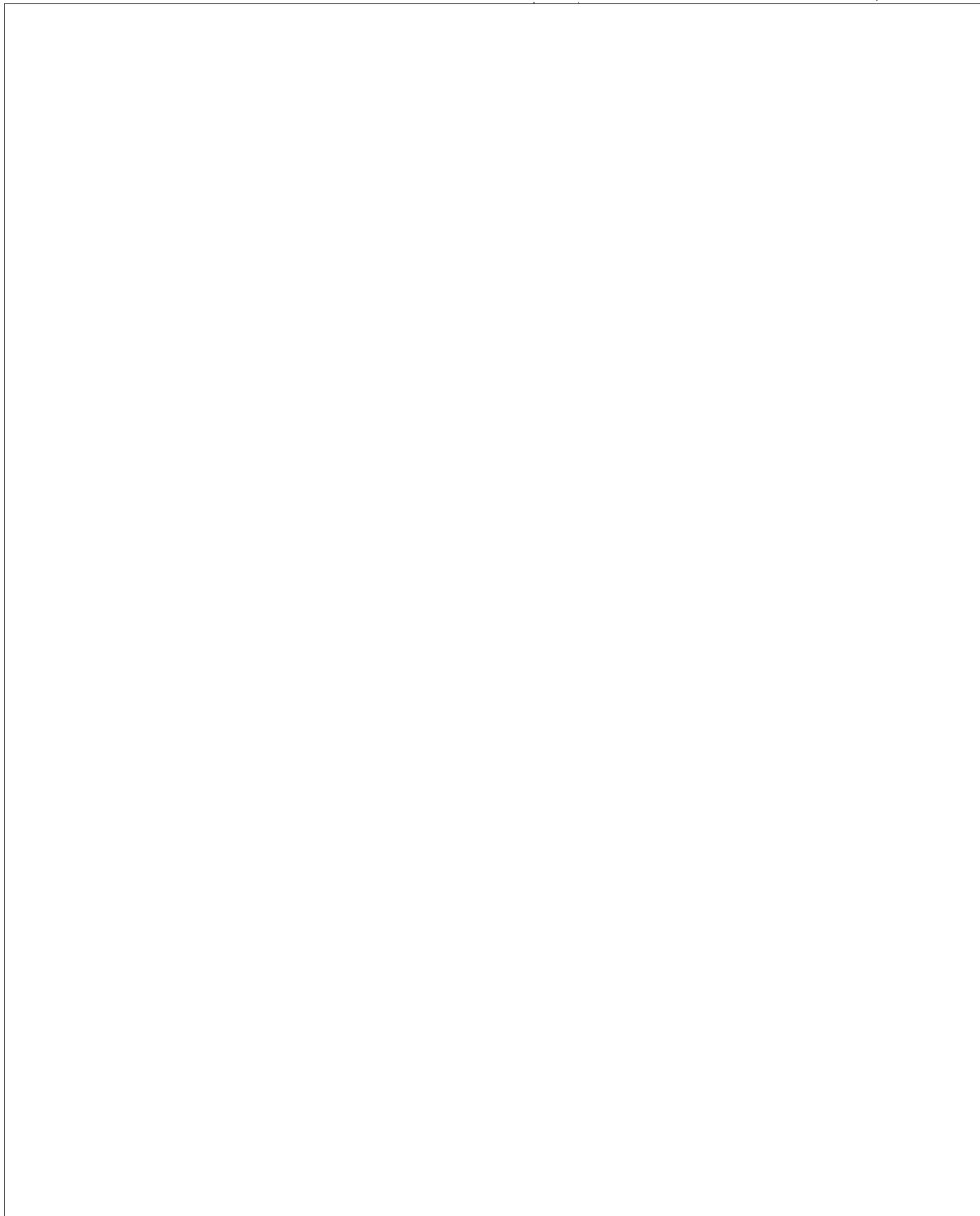
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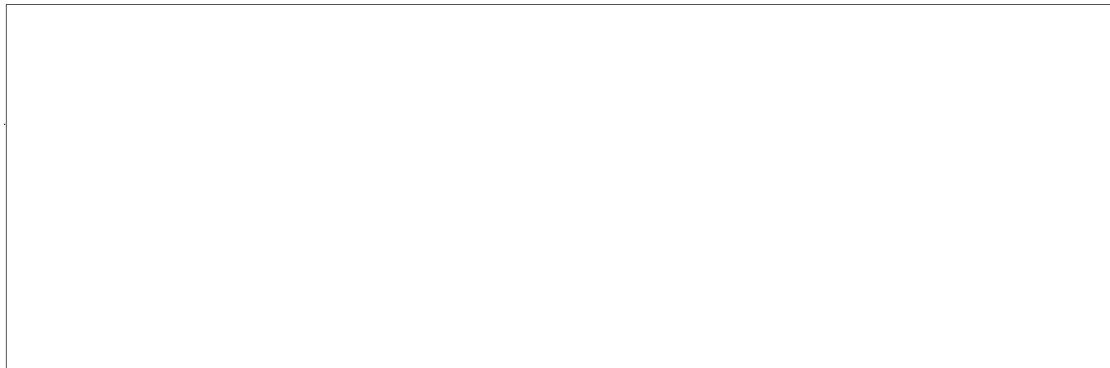


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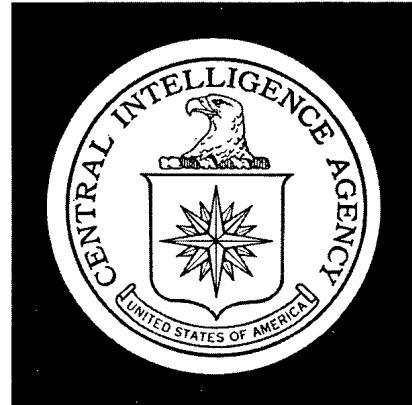
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12 September 1968

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

12 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Attitudes of Hanoi Delegates in Paris: George Kahin, director of Cornell's Southeast Asian program, interviewed North Vietnamese peace talk delegates during a recent visit to Paris in company with several other American professors. The delegates included Xuan Thuy and press spokesman Nguyen Thanh Le. On 9 September, Kahin gave the following impressions derived from the meetings to Governor Harriman:

--The North Vietnamese delegates are keenly interested in US politics and appear to have concluded that convention results foreshadow no dramatic changes in US policies.

--The delegates avoided a direct reply when asked if the "lull" had been politically significant. They did, however, call the American professors' attention to what they described as the "objective situation" during that period, namely, the country-wide decline in fighting and lower US casualties.

--When discussing South Vietnamese internal politics, the delegates made frequent reference to the Alliance. This gave the impression that Hanoi visualizes the Alliance as playing a complementary, if not co-equal, role with the Liberation Front in an eventual political solution in the South.

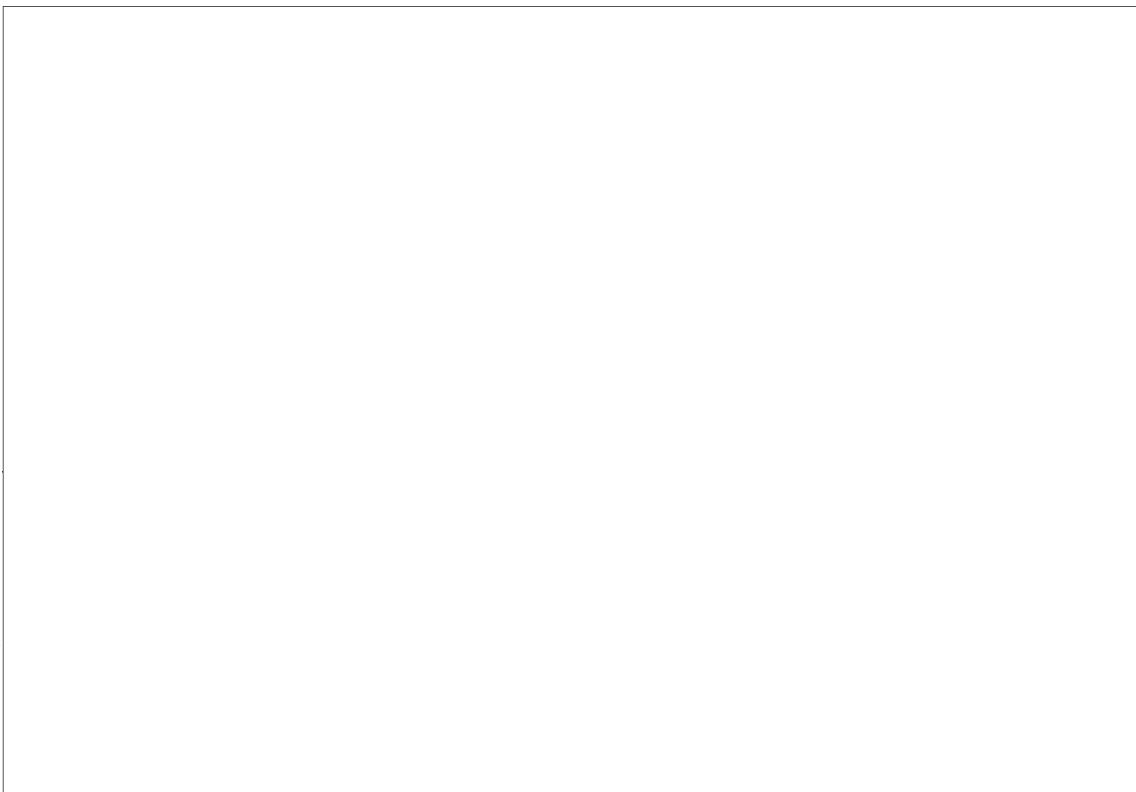
--The North Vietnamese said they found the Manila formulation on mutual troop withdrawals unacceptable because they understood "the other side" to apply to the Viet Cong as well as North Vietnamese forces.

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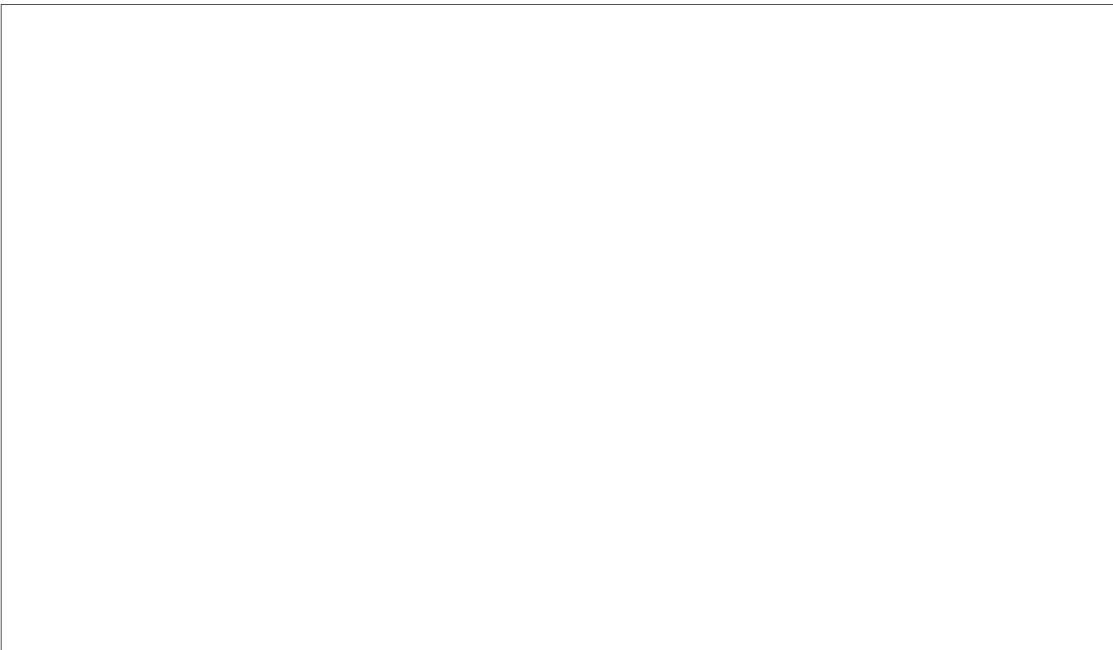
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Liberation Front Office in Paris: The French now expect 20 September to be the arrival date for the head of the Liberation Front's information office in Paris.

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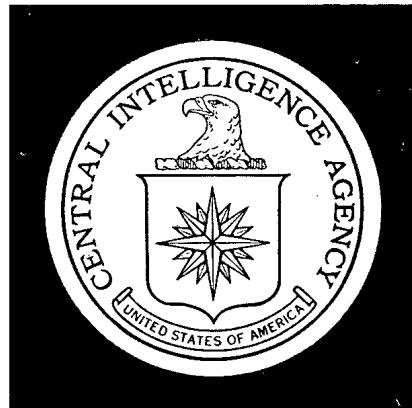
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
13 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Mexico

Student strikers are determined to continue their challenge to the government. All schools of the national university have rejected an appeal to return to classes. The strike committee, in expectation of a government crackdown, is making plans for a secret second team of leaders and underground printing presses.

A "silent march" to the capital's main plaza is scheduled for today. Another clash with security forces probably would result in the strike's spread to other universities throughout the country.

2. South Vietnam

Ky has accused "foreigners" (by which he means the US) of plotting to overthrow the present government so that a coalition with the Communists can be formed.

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[redacted] his remarks, as quoted in the Vietnamese press, look more like another intemperate outburst than the rationale for a move against Thieu. Given Ky's temperament, he might try it some time, but his power base has been pretty well eroded.

3. Czechoslovakia

Prague is moving to fulfill some of its commitments under the Moscow agreement. The National Assembly convenes today to consider press legislation even more restrictive than the censorship of Novotny days. Foreign Minister Hajek is reported about to resign, and there may be other cabinet-level changes.

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4. Soviet Union

Another attempt at an unmanned circumlunar flight probably will be made within the next few days. Both previous firings--in November 1967 and April 1968--failed when the booster of the vehicle malfunctioned.

5. Common Market

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**6. Philippines-
Malaysia**

The dispute over Sabah is still simmering. Marcos has little political choice but to sign the bill asserting Philippine right to the territory, and Malaysia has warned that a break in relations may follow.

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7. Bolivia

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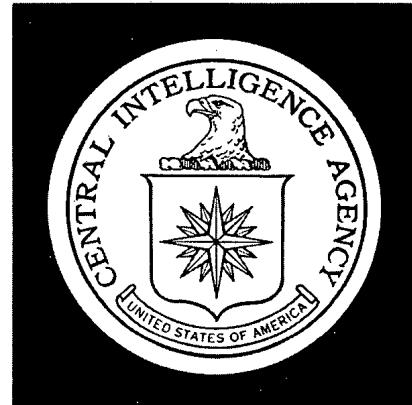


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13 September 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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13 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Facing Up to Internal Problems: The North Vietnamese may be starting to tackle some of the domestic problems which have been neglected during the war years. There is an increasing amount of fragmentary evidence that planning of this kind has begun.

For example, some highly critical comments on important North Vietnamese internal problems and policies have surfaced in the party press.

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The speech was recently carried in the party theoretical journal and over the domestic radio, suggesting that the problems he addressed are national in scope.

The first half of the speech was concerned with agricultural planning. Le Duan offered extensive advice on how the country's economic development, particularly agricultural production, should be improved. His comments had a distinct postwar flavor, doubtless in part because he was addressing an area no longer subject to US bombing.

In the second half of his talk, Le Duan took party members to task for a wide variety of sins, including mismanagement, incompetence, and failure to keep up with the times. He accused some unnamed party leaders--at least at the provincial level--of improper personal conduct, and of misunderstanding and misinterpreting party policy. He recommended expanding the party's ranks to include young people trained in economic management.

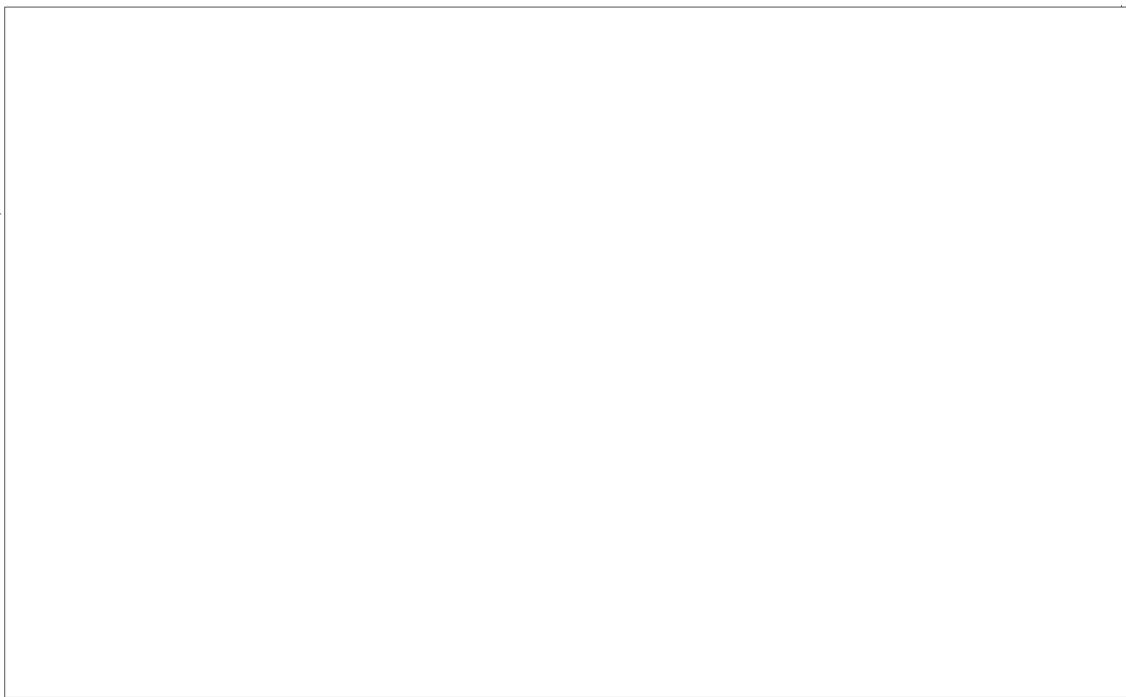
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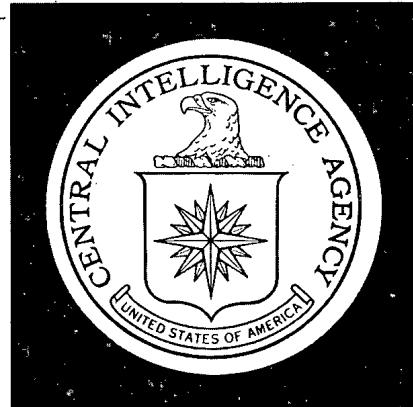
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Liberation Radio Commentary: Following Hanoi's lead, Liberation Radio has come out with a critical commentary on the US political scene. A broadcast on 2 September insisted the Vice President would closely follow President Johnson's policies and the Communists could hope for no change for the better in January. Nothing was said about Mr. Nixon.

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The President's Daily Brief

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23

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
14 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Middle East

A strong Israeli strike against Egypt, and possibly Jordan, seems likely in the near future. The subject is discussed at Annex today.

2. South Vietnam

[redacted] the Communists plan to close out the "third phase" of their general offensive with country-wide attacks between 15 and 25 September. Ac-

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[redacted] the Communists plan to move on Tay Ninh, Binh Duong, and Binh Long cities and will shell Saigon and Tan Son Nhut. They are also said to be mapping demolition operations in the capital.

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3. Congo

The Kinshasa Congolese are making plans to send troops across the river into Brazzaville this weekend. They would help the new government there get rid of radical leftists. There is an agreement between the two governments permitting such an action on request from Brazzaville.

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4. Czechoslovakia

The National Assembly remains in session to provide legislation covering Moscow's demands. Yesterday it passed measures restricting the right of assembly. No cabinet changes have been announced yet.

As for the party, we continue to get reports that Dubcek's days are numbered. Gustav Husak, who runs the Slovak party, is the most often mentioned candidate for Dubcek's job. Husak, too, is a liberal, but one who has endorsed the Moscow agreement and with whom the Russians may feel they can live. Those who know Husak describe him as extremely capable and "totally ambitious."

* * *

A Polish official reports the occupying troops will leave Czechoslovakia by 26 October, except for "a couple of Soviet divisions."

5. Haiti

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6. Mexico

There was no trouble during the students' "silent march" last night. The number of marchers was estimated at 75-80,000.

7. Ecuador

Carlos Julio Arosemena, the anti-American former president who was deposed by the army in 1963, is putting a number of his men in key positions in the Velasco administration. One of these Arosemena henchmen, a left-wing goon with a long terrorist record, has been named chief of the civilian security directorate.

8. [redacted]



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ANNEX**Israeli Strike Likely**

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On 26 August the Egyptians ambushed and killed three Israeli soldiers on the east bank of the canal; another ten Israeli soldiers were killed in the five-hour artillery duel last Sunday. Firing incidents have continued almost daily, with yesterday no exception.

Egyptian objectives are obscure.

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The Israelis have reacted both militarily and politically to the Suez situation. Moshe Dayan sent a warning to Cairo [redacted] and the problem was placed before the Security Council. Neither step seems to have had much effect. The warning was ignored and the move against Egypt in the Security Council is getting nowhere.

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Another major clash could involve the Jordanian front as well as the Suez.

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14 September 1968

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

14 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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North Vietnam's preoccupation with postwar problems is extensive, according to all available information. The topic is even beginning to appear in North Vietnamese periodicals.

[redacted] the construction of air raid shelters was continuing in Hanoi and the population remained tense because of the visits of "US reconnaissance planes"

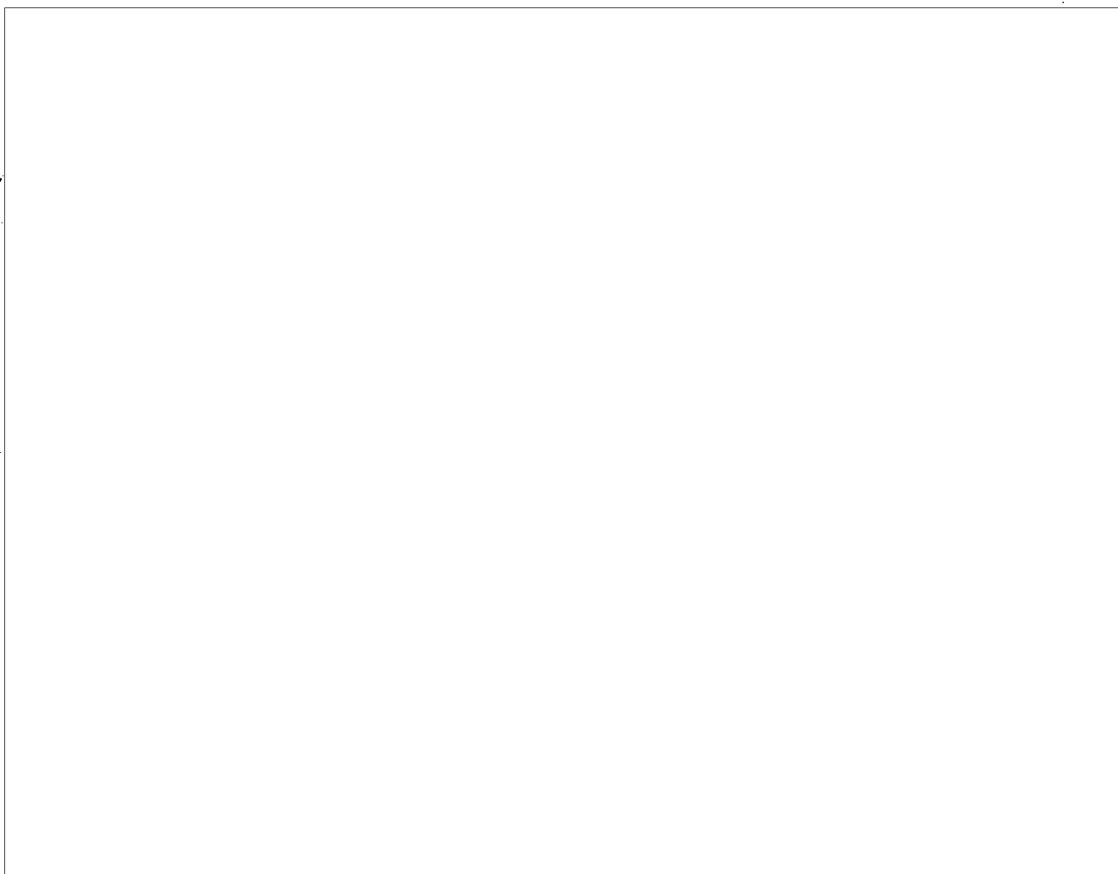
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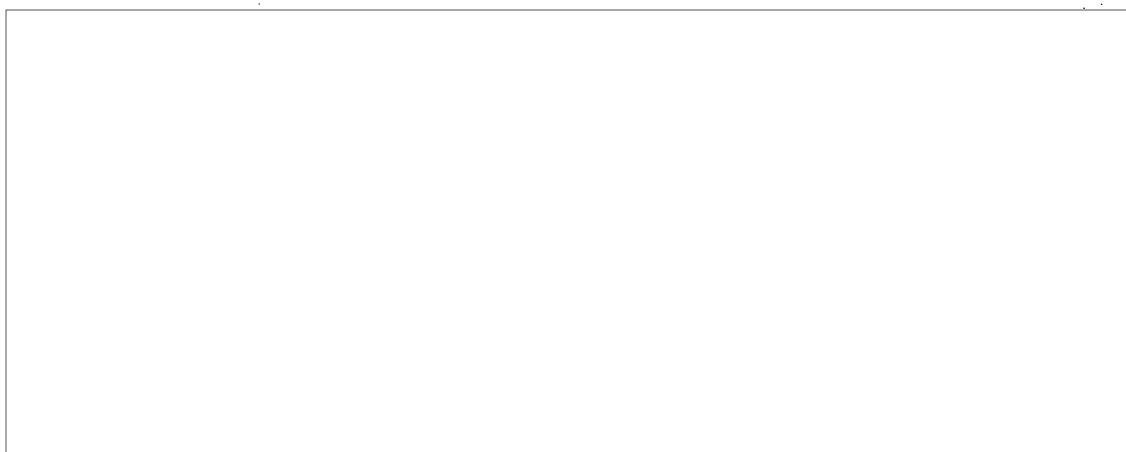
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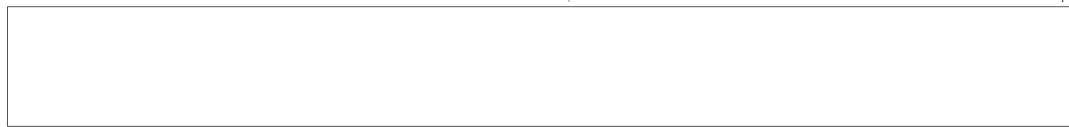
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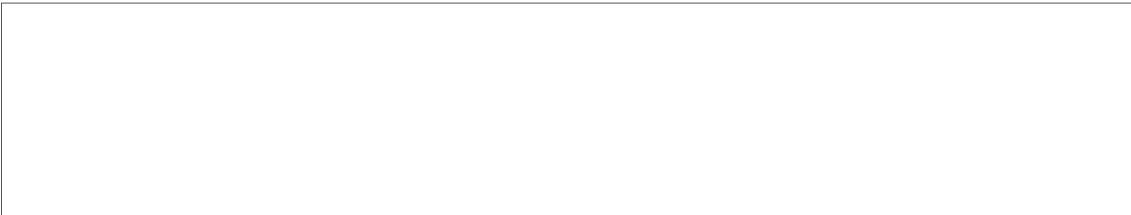
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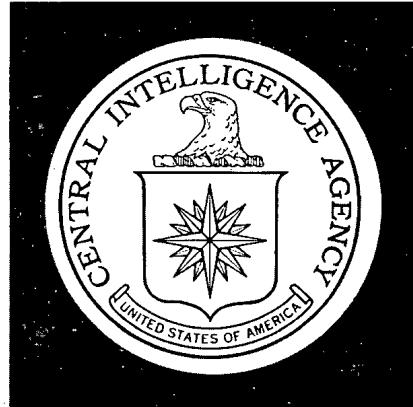
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Castigates Nixon: Hanoi Radio yesterday trained its sights on Mr. Nixon. It called him a "violent belligerent" who had favored sending US troops to South Vietnam to help the French in 1954. Nixon, it added, is "the true representative of the traditionally belligerent Republican Party, which in turn is the true representative of the US capitalists who are the most belligerent reactionaries in the United States and the entire world."



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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
16 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Israel -
Arab States

Nasir and Eban both made relatively mild public statements yesterday, apparently in hopes of cooling off the superheated atmosphere. We see no sign that tensions have abated much, however.

2. South Vietnam

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* * *

Thieu hopes to get "Big" Minh on his side when Minh returns from exile, but he has told Ambassador Bunker he is worried that opposition factions might try to exploit the naive general.

3. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

Soviet troops have now been almost entirely pulled out of Prague, but [redacted] they are encamped just outside the city. Amid recurrent rumors that Dubcek's days in office are numbered, the Czech leadership continues its exhortations to the populace to toe the line.

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4. Yugoslavia

Tito recently expressed the following views on Yugoslavia's current situation, according to a knowledgeable source of the US Embassy:

--Belgrade will have to re-examine all its foreign and domestic policies in the wake of the invasion of Czechoslovakia, which ushered in a "new era in international relations and relations among Communist parties."

--The Yugoslavs must assume that Moscow is hostile to them, and the country will have to stay "in an almost permanent state of military readiness."

--Recent military and civil measures have been a heavy expense, and more such measures are on the way. Social and economic reforms will have to be delayed. There is a good chance that the Soviets will make much use of economic pressure in applying the screws to Yugoslavia.

--Belgrade will not be asking the US for arms "for the time being."

--Tito is furious with Nasir for parroting the Soviet line on Czechoslovakia. He doubts that relations with Egypt will ever be the same.

5. Soviet Union

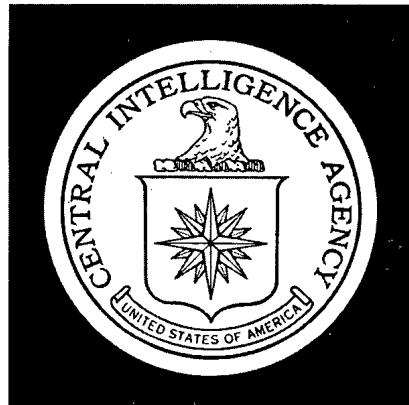
Yesterday the Soviets, after a frustrating year of false starts and malfunctions, finally launched a spacecraft toward the moon with their largest space booster. If all goes well, the craft will orbit the moon and return in about a week.

6. Sweden

The Czech crisis produced an upset victory at the polls yesterday for the Social Democrats, who picked up most of the votes lost by the Swedish Communists. They had earlier been in trouble with the electorate on domestic issues, and we believe that in the postelection period they will concentrate on these problems and give less prominence to their anti-US policy on Vietnam.

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16 September 1968

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

16 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Nhan Dan on US Responsibility: Hanoi's party daily Nhan Dan, in a 15 September article by Commentator, stated that if the US persists in its policy of "aggression and obduracy," it will have to bear the full responsibility for stalemate at the Paris talks and prolongation of the war. The article, broadcast over Hanoi's international service in English, declared "the so-called reciprocity" for a bombing halt "is none other than a scheme by the United States to force the Vietnamese people to give up their just struggle against US aggression and for independence and freedom." It castigated the "bellicosity of the Johnson administration" and called for an end to US "aggression" and for US recognition of and talks with the Liberation Front on matters related to South Vietnam.

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Review of Recent Activities South of the 20th Parallel: North Vietnamese military and logistics activities in the panhandle were hampered by heavy rains and flooding during the week of 2-8 September.

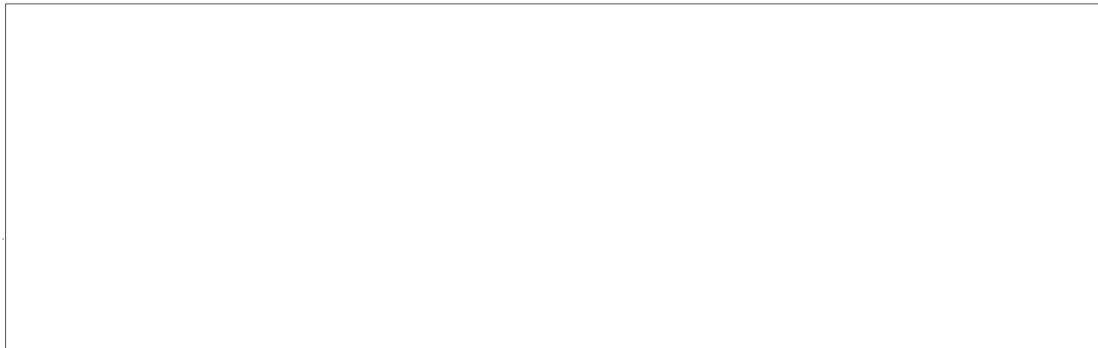
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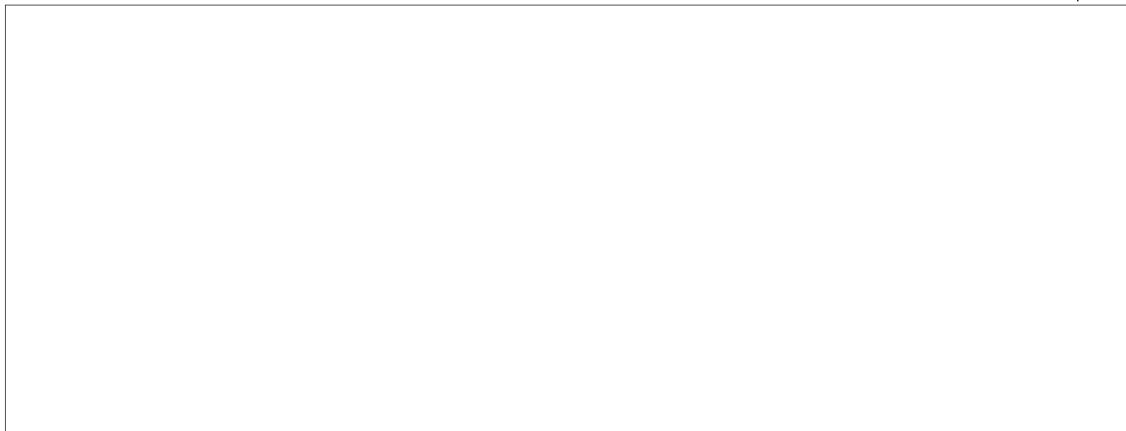


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Propaganda on Tay Ninh: Hanoi's international service in English yesterday painted a glowing picture of the Communists' military "successes" in Tay Ninh Province. Quoting a Nhan Dan editorial, it claimed that between 10 and 13 September, five battalions and four companies "totaling thousands of enemy" were wiped out or decimated. The defensive line of the "enemy" in Tay Ninh had been penetrated and his clear-and-hold strategy had failed, the editorial stressed.

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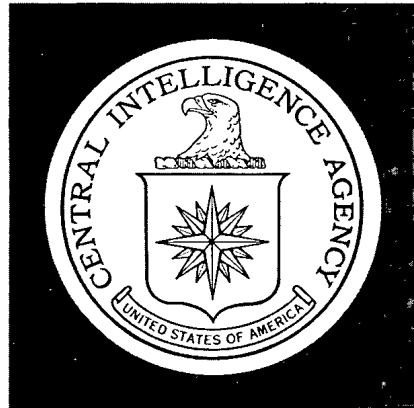
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
17 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Pravda yesterday gave Moscow's guarded approval to the trend of developments in Czechoslovakia. It reported favorably on the repressive measures recently adopted by the Prague regime, citing a growing "tendency" to understand the "only correct and possible course." At the same time, however, Pravda alleged that "antisocialist forces" still had considerable influence on the populace and attributed hostility shown the occupation forces to "subversive activity."

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2. Soviet Union

It appears the unmanned circum-lunar spacecraft will arrive in the vicinity of the moon early tomorrow.

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3. Communist China -
India

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4. Portugal

Salazar had a sudden and severe relapse yesterday, and the possibility of his recovery seems remote.

President Thomaz, as a loyal Salazar man, would be expected to consult with the major power groups supporting the regime before naming any successor. Should Salazar die, former minister of the presidency Marcelo Caetano seems most likely to be appointed as a transitional prime minister pending a consensus on a permanent successor. For the present, Salazar's duties have been shouldered by Minister of State Antonio da Mota Veiga.

5. South Vietnam

Saigon may have taken the first tentative step toward better relations with Cambodia. [redacted]

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[redacted] Foreign Minister Thanh recently sent a personal representative to take soundings in Phnom Penh. The emissary saw Prime Minister Penn Nouth, who was quite optimistic about the prospects for improved relations. Thanh plans to send his man back to Phnom Penh later this fall to pursue the subject.

Thanh is carrying a fragile glass, and almost any outburst by South Vietnamese leaders or by Sihanouk could shatter it.

6. Burma

Rangoon, long plagued by numerous insurgent groups, may have some good news for a change. [redacted]

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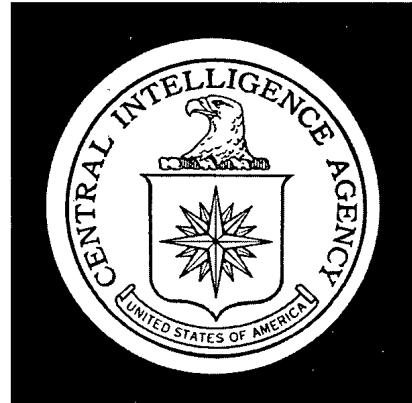
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[redacted] the anti-Communist Kachins, who have been fighting for their autonomy, have declared war on the pro-Peking White Flag insurgents. The Burmese Army has been hit hard by the White Flags recently and would welcome any diversion that the Kachins could provide.

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17 September 1968

**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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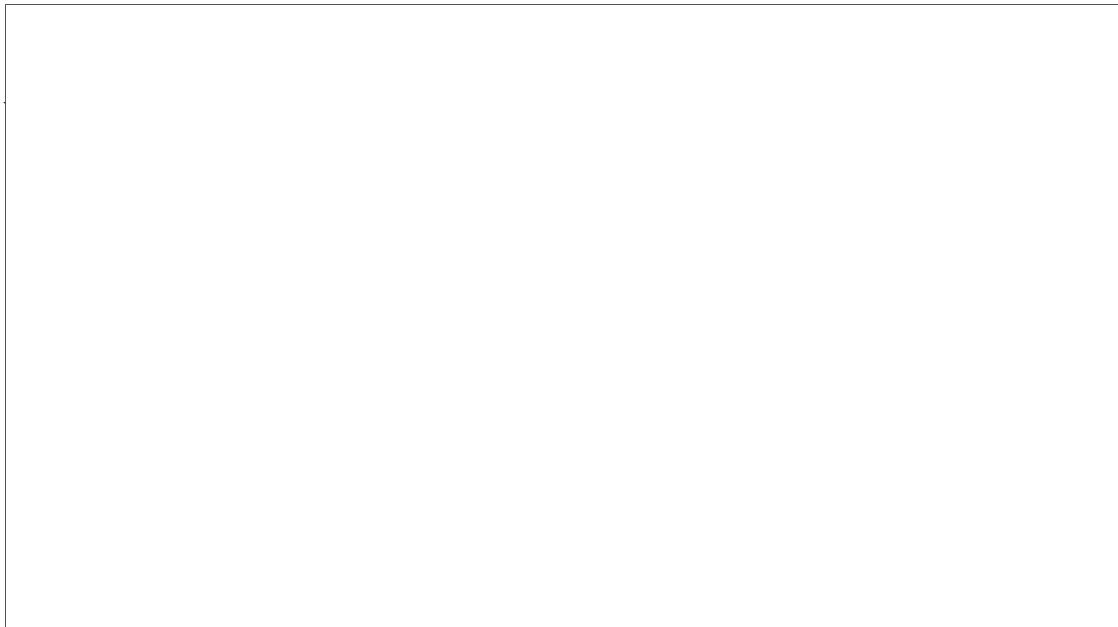
17 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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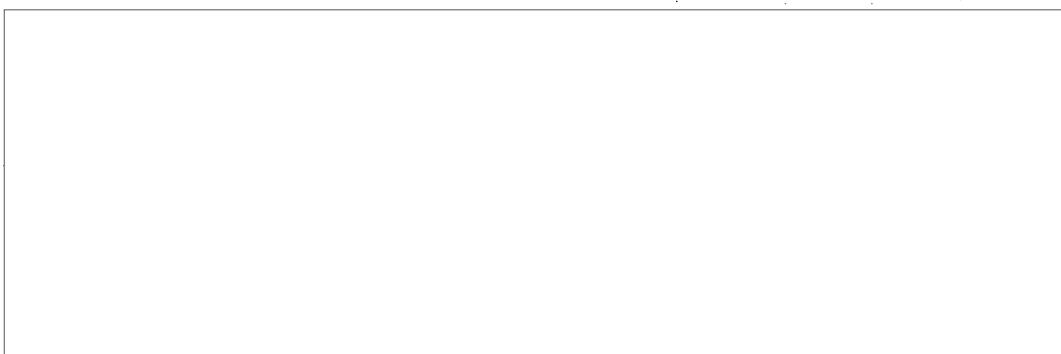
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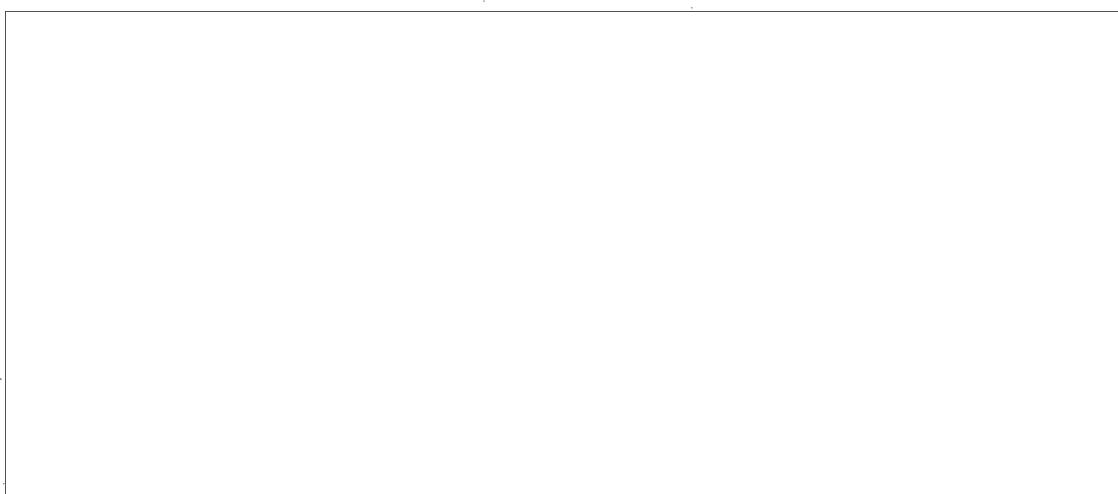
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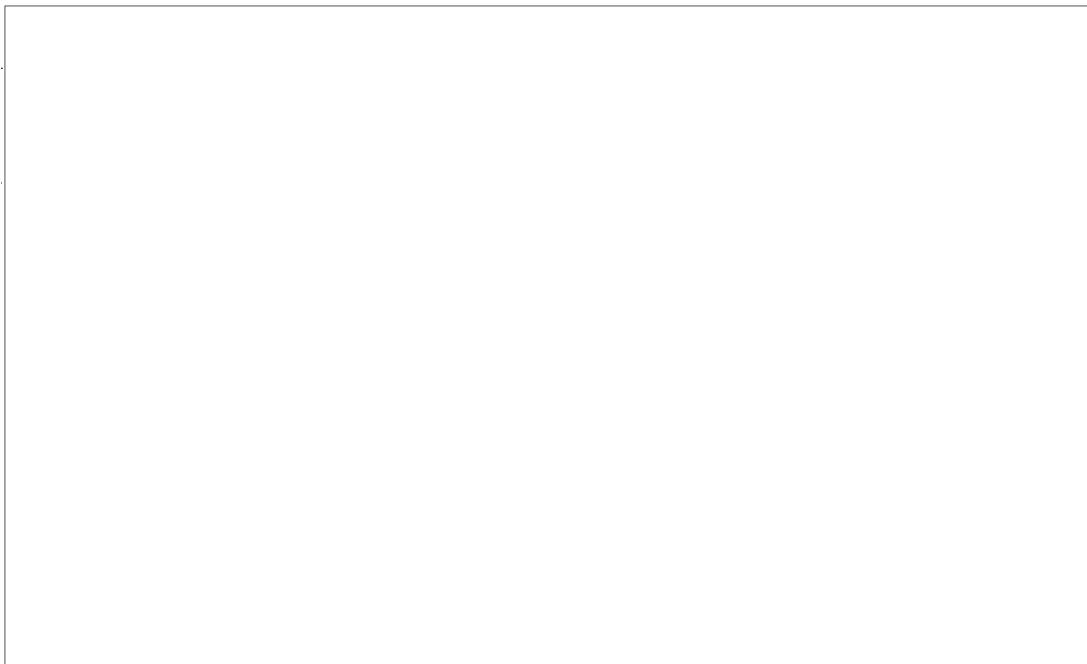
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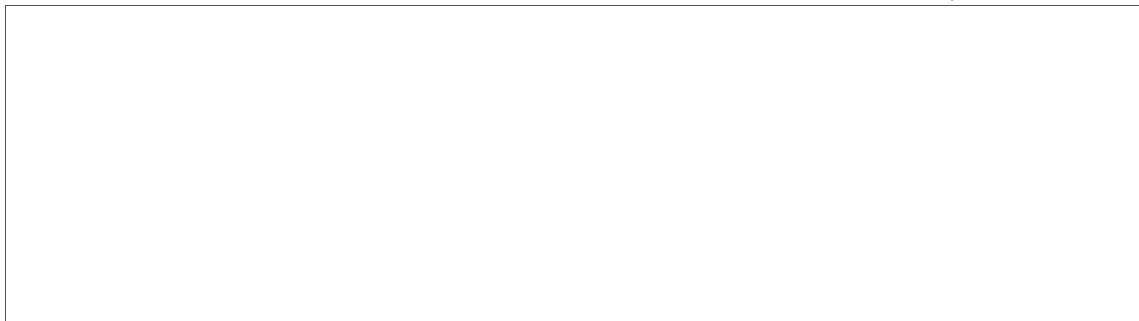
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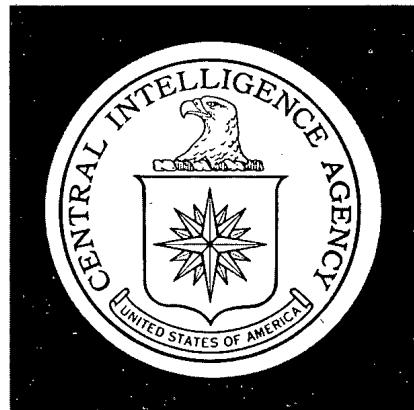
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Vice President: The Vice President's recent remarks on Vietnam were picked up by Hanoi on

Sunday. In a commentary broadcast for the North Vietnamese audience, the Vice President was charged with "trying to pretend that his policy is different from that of Johnson." Mr. Humphrey was described as "Johnson's faithful lieutenant."

Citing subsequent statements by the Vice President in Denver and Los Angeles, the broadcast claimed Mr. Humphrey had backed down on the troop withdrawal and bombing issues. "After being slapped in the face ...he cancelled his previous glib statements," Hanoi said.

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The President's Daily Brief

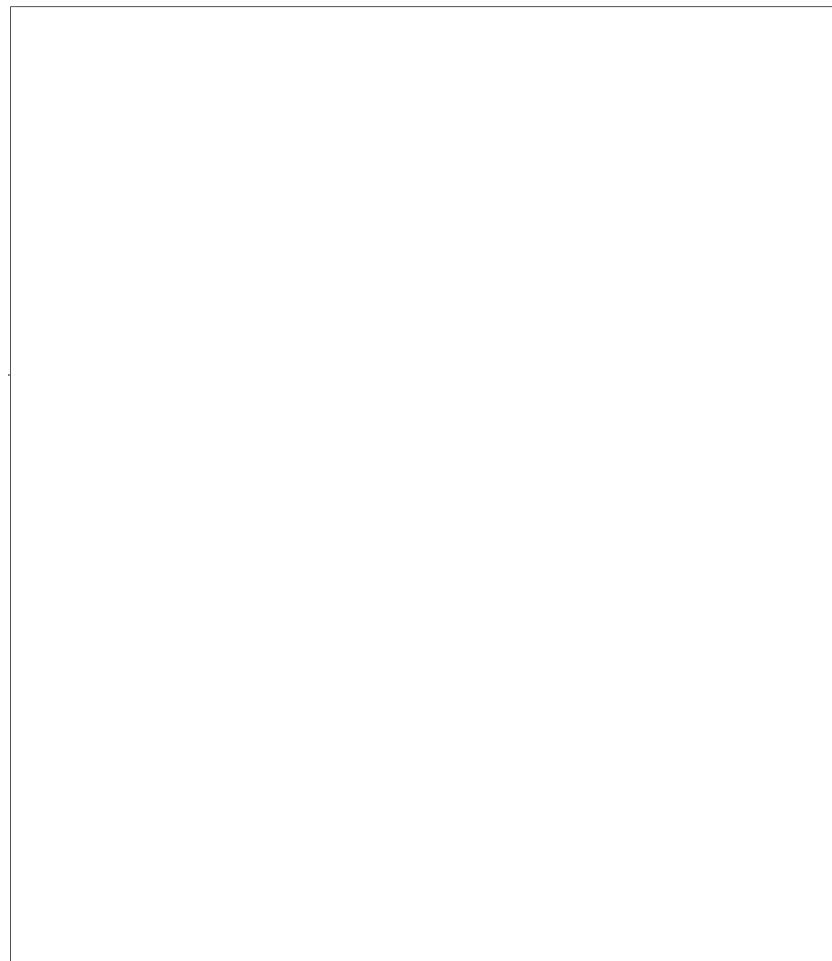
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
18 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Israel



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2. Middle East

The Suez Canal area has been comparatively quiet, but sporadic shooting continues along the Israel-Jordan border. The Israelis used Soviet artillery captured from the Arabs to shell a Jordanian town yesterday. They openly declared this was retaliation for Jordanian shelling.

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3. Philippines-
Malaysia

Marcos is looking for a way to sign the bill referring to Philippine sovereignty over Sabah without provoking an open break with Malaysia. He is thinking about a presidential letter interpreting the bill as merely a restatement of claim, not an expression of intent to assert sovereignty now. Malaysia may not swallow this.

4. Berlin

Access to East Berlin has been made less convenient for West Germans and West Berliners. In their latest demonstration of sovereignty, the East Germans have closed all but one crossing point to Germans from the West. Allied access to East Berlin is not affected.

5. Poland

Dissension in the leadership over Czechoslovakia undoubtedly continues. The acting foreign minister hinted

[redacted] last week that the invasion was a mistake. For the record, however, regime spokesmen all echo the standard line.

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6. Ecuador

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7. Portugal

Salazar is still alive and, in fact, has shown some improvement. It remains unlikely, however, that the 79-year-old prime minister will ever recover fully.

8. Soviet Union

Zond-5 has rounded the moon and is heading back toward earth. The return trip requires extreme precision. If it is successful, the circumlunar mission will be recovered Saturday.

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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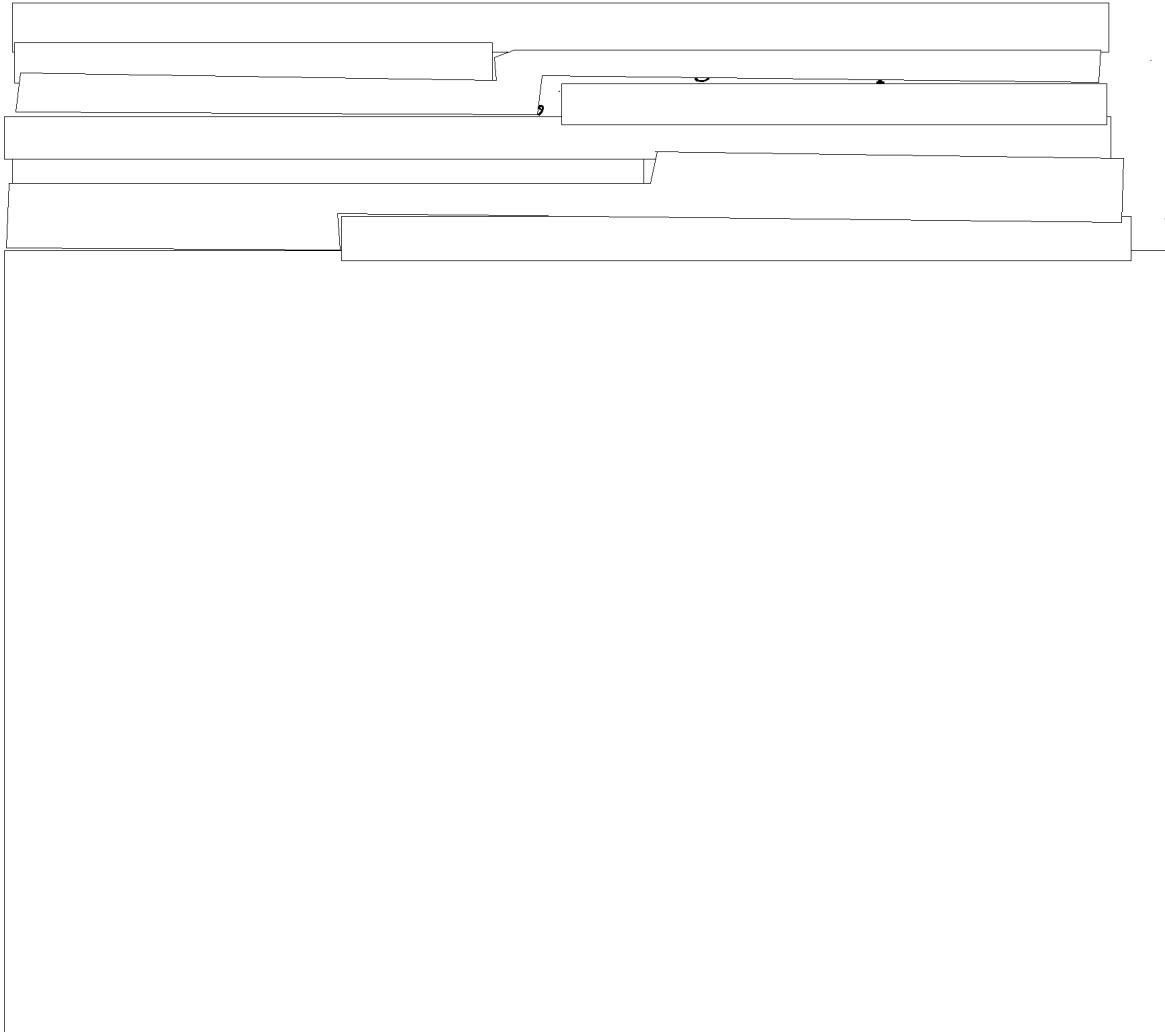
Postwar Planning: Hanoi's reconstruction efforts have been confined primarily to repairing bomb damage, but the North Vietnamese continue to discuss postwar planning in trade talks with Western businessmen.

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East Europeans Critical of North Vietnamese:
Hanoi's search for Free World trade and aid contacts may be in part a hedge against the possibility that

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

Hanoi on Reservists' Protests: A Hanoi news agency transmission in English on 16 September briefly notes that 113 US Army reservists recently refused to go to South Vietnam because the war is "illegal and unconstitutional."

* * *

Hanoi on US Policy: The daily flow of propaganda from Hanoi contains the same basic message: the US should recognize its "failure" in Vietnam and acknowledge it by stopping the bombing and negotiating a solution. An article in the party daily on 14 September

described American policymakers as ostriches who should "withdraw their heads from the sand and get moving." It claims that the American people have "begun to realize the truth" about Vietnam, but the "Johnson clique" is ignoring manifestations of popular discontent and still trying to win military victories in order to talk from a position of strength. The article cites President Johnson's New Orleans speech as evidence that the US is continuing an "aggressive and war-like policy."

The article ridicules Vice President Humphrey for trying to show that he would be "as soft as a reed" on Vietnam. It also blasts the Vice President for his suggestion that the three major candidates issue a joint statement telling the Communists that the next administration will make no greater concessions than the present one. It ridicules the notion that the Communists would await the results of the elections before deciding "whether or not they should fight aggression."

An article broadcast to Southeast Asia on 14 September says the Democratic Party is following in the "old track of the Johnson Administration" and that the Vice President is a "carbon copy" of the President. It asks why the US has not drawn proper conclusions from the war and recognized the foreign and domestic harm done by the "Vietnam adventure." It concludes with a promise to fight on no matter who is elected.

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
19 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

The US mission at the UN learns that Prague will oppose any but the most generalized discussion of the Czech situation when the General Assembly convenes next week. Czechoslovakia's foreign ministry and UN mission have apparently not come under Soviet influence, but at the UN, the Czechs will try to avoid antagonizing the Soviets as a matter of prudence.

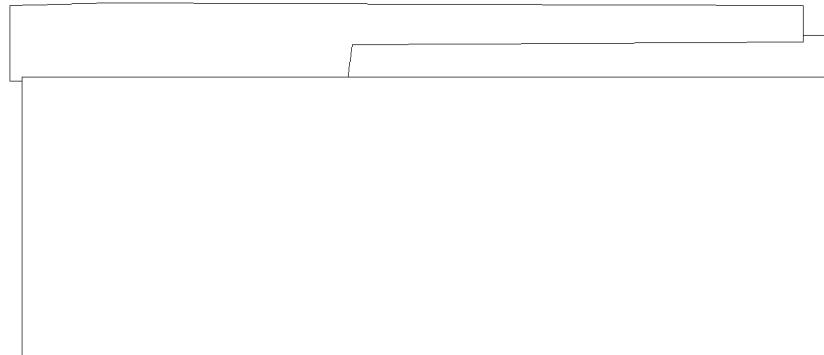
A member of Prague's UN mission predicts that they would not participate in debating an item specifically referring to the crisis, and might even walk out. They would take part, however, in debate on a general item which avoided referring directly to the situation but provided an opportunity to discuss it.

2. Panama

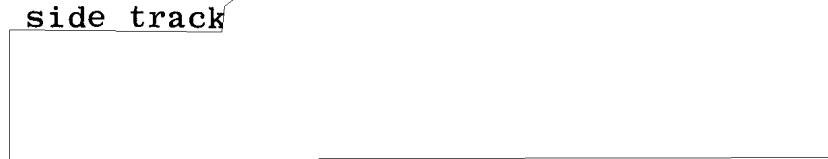
People around Arias are saying that as soon as he takes office next month he will move to cut back the size and authority of Vallarino's National Guard and will beef up the small secret police organization as a counter force. This kind of instant freewheeling would almost certainly start Arias off on a collision course with the Guard and sour relations with his powerful coalition partners to boot.

3. Portugal

President Thomaz is under increasing pressure to name a new prime minister despite his wish to hold off in the remote chance of getting guidance from Salazar. Marcelo Caetano still seems to be the front runner for the job, although there are reports he is already saying "no" unless he can have a free hand in naming a cabinet.

4. North Korea50X1
50X1**5. Sweden-Vietnam**

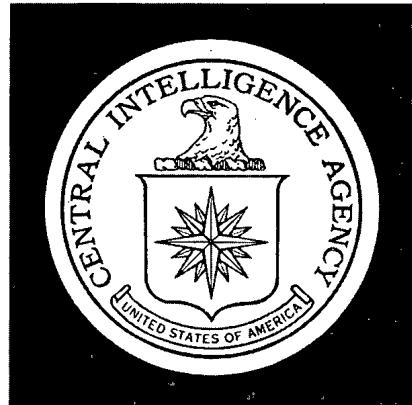
As the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam moves ahead with its plans to open an "information office" in Stockholm, the ruling Social Democrats in Sweden find themselves in competition with the local Communists in trying to win the Front's favor. As of now, the Social Democrats have the inside track



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19 September 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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19 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi on the Demilitarized Zone:

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[redacted] the Indian Foreign Ministry told US Embassy officials on 17 September that in recent conversations representatives of North Vietnam had shown a decided interest in ascertaining US minimum conditions for a bombing halt. The North Vietnamese reportedly complained that US remarks on restoring the zone were exceedingly vague and that Hanoi was being asked to pay a price without being told what the price was. The Indians were asked to "persuade" the US to define precisely what is wanted.

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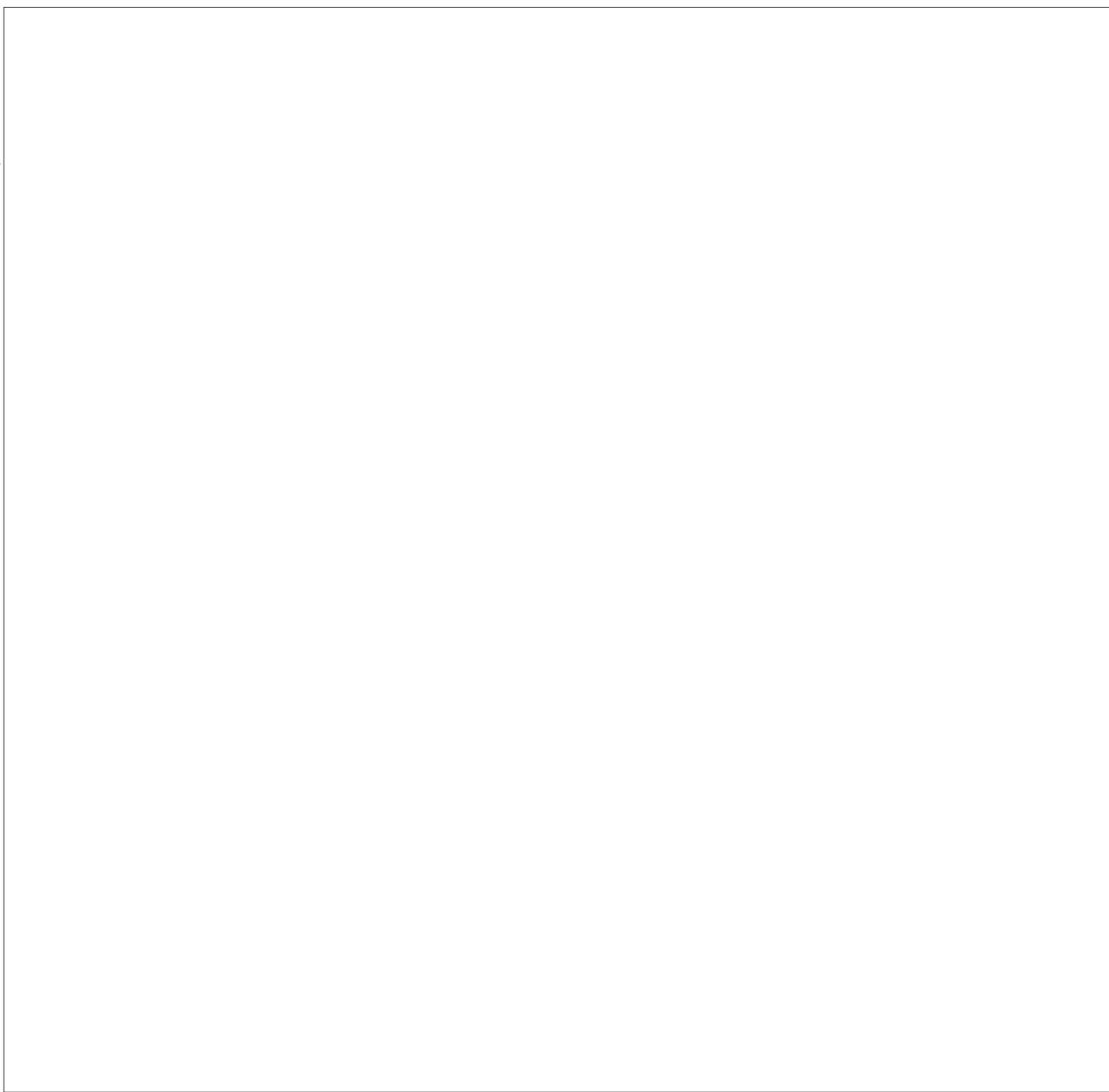
The Indians admitted that at no time in the conversations did Hanoi officials indicate that they would be willing seriously to consider meeting US terms.

[redacted] the Communists were probably more concerned with running down US motives than in spelling out their own position on the Demilitarized Zone. Hanoi frequently talks this way to Free World allies of the US as part of an effort to press for US concessions.

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French Correspondent Discusses his Work: The French press agency correspondent who returned from Hanoi in July after a six-month tour admitted to a member of the US Embassy that he had not been as successful in his Hanoi assignment as his two predecessors. He explained this by saying that his pro-Western bias had not endeared him to the Vietnamese and had prevented his developing close working relationships with North Vietnamese officials.



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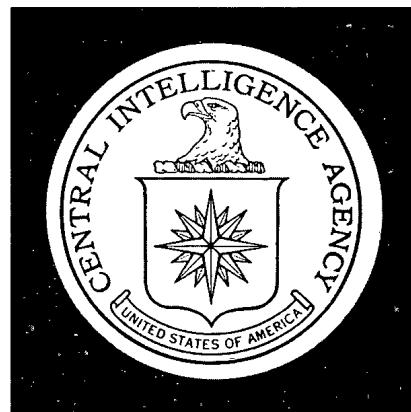
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
20 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Israel -
Arab States

It has been a week and a half since the clashes along the Suez Canal, and Israel has failed to retaliate. The Israelis have spent the time brooding about the significance of the incidents, and our embassy reports a growing conviction in official Tel Aviv circles that the gap between Israeli and Egyptian military capabilities has suddenly narrowed. In this mood the Israelis could be tempted to make a pre-emptive strike in order to restore their faith in Israel's preponderance.

* * *

Yesterday's terrorist ambush near the Jordan River, in which six Israeli soldiers including a lieutenant colonel were killed, will further whet the Israeli appetite for revenge.

2. Mexico

The Mexican press has generally supported the army's occupation of the National University, but the academic community is outraged. Further clashes between government forces and the militants seem almost inevitable.

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3. Nigeria

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4. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The next visit of the Czech leaders to Moscow--now apparently scheduled for next week--promises to be almost as difficult as their last one. Pravda intimated yesterday that the Soviets intend to permit no compromises.

Deputy Premier Sik and Foreign Minister Hajek, the two liberals most heavily criticized by Moscow, have now left the cabinet, but the Czechs have balanced their departure by easing out three pro-Soviet officials as well. Reports continue to accumulate that Dubcek's own job is still on the line.

5. Soviet Union

The circumlunar spacecraft returns to earth tomorrow. At Annex we examine some of the problems of its recovery.

6. Guatemala

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7. Soviet Union -
Germany

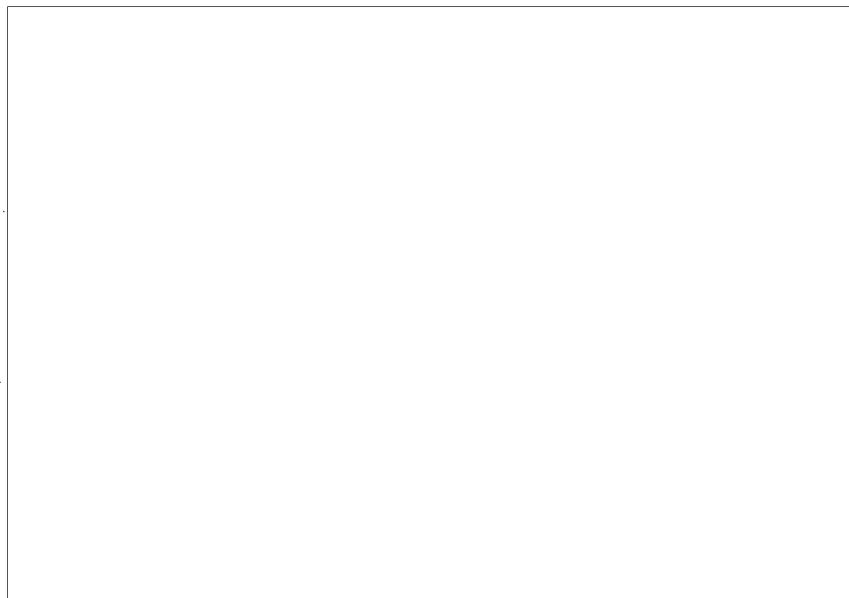
Berlin and West Germany have received much critical attention in Pravda and Izvestia recently. This is part of a Soviet campaign against the West German activities normally scheduled for West Berlin in the fall. It may also be an attempt to divert attention from Czechoslovakia.

Dobrynin has assured Secretary Rusk that the Soviets plan no moves against West Berlin in the wake of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. The East Germans have made no such commitment, however.

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8. Communist China -
India

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We have seen no sign that either
side is preparing for major operations,

[redacted] This is the
season for border clashes, however.
The Chinese have recently strengthened
their garrison in the border area.

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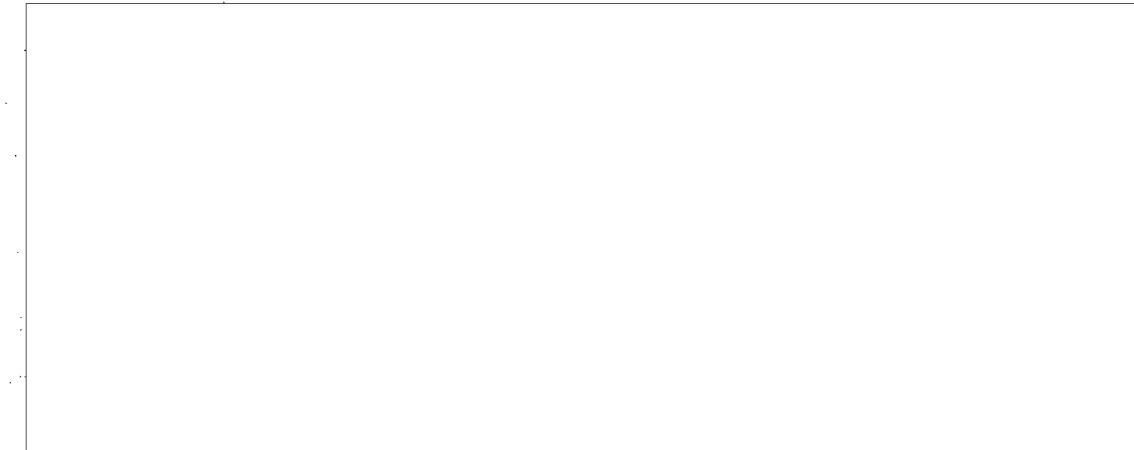
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ANNEX**The Return of the Soviet Circumlunar Spacecraft**

Zond 5, the Soviet unmanned circumlunar probe, continues on its return course with all systems apparently functioning well. The spacecraft is expected to re-enter the earth's atmosphere around noon tomorrow.

The re-entry phase is one of the most critical of the mission, with little room for error. If the angle of re-entry is too sharp, the spacecraft could burn up; if too wide, it could skip off the atmosphere, veer back into space and become irretrievable.

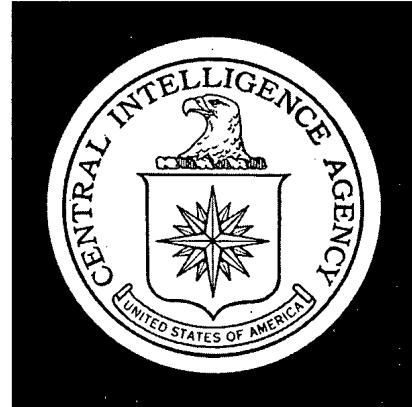
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20 September 1968

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

20 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Condition of Rice Crop:

[redacted] the recent typhoons, the latest of which hit the Hanoi area on 9 September, have caused serious flooding of the rice crop.

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[redacted] the pumps have not been able to clear the fields rapidly enough to prevent damage to the crop. This latest typhoon also may have come too late to permit replanting. In addition, the rice crop is threatened by worms and a lack of fertilizer.

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[redacted] the latest typhoon caused widespread damage in the Hanoi area; some sections of the capital were without electricity for more than five days.

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End of Cuban Visit: A Cuban delegation headed by a Central Committee member left for home on Monday after a visit to North Vietnam. Hanoi Radio's international service in English announced on 18 September that during the Cubans' two-week stay they toured the Hanoi-Haiphong area and were received by Ho Chi Minh and Pham Van Dong. The delegation pledged to strengthen the "militant solidarity and fraternal cooperation" between the two countries.

* * *

Liberation Front Office in Paris: A Western wire service yesterday reported that the arrival in Paris today of a senior Liberation Front official has been postponed. The change in plans was announced in Paris by a North Vietnamese spokesman who declined to offer any explanation other than "technical reasons."

The delay probably is explained by the statement of Etienne Manac'h of the French Foreign Office to an American Embassy officer on Tuesday that he was able to persuade Debré to postpone for several days the granting of visas to Liberation Front officials now waiting in Moscow. It was clear, however, that Manac'h expected them to arrive in Paris before the end of the month.

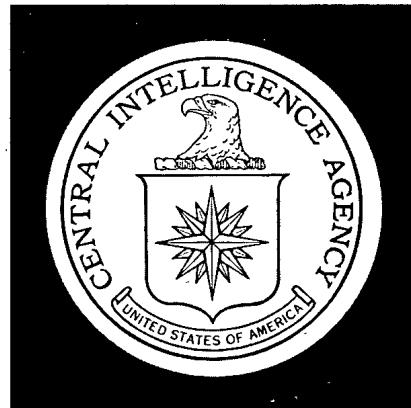
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Concern Over Nixon: Manac'h also told another embassy officer that he sees concern on the part of the North Vietnamese over the possibility of a Nixon electoral victory. He pointed to the recent Hanoi broadcast castigating Mr. Nixon [redacted]

[redacted] as evidence that Hanoi considers him an uncompromising hawk on Vietnam. Manac'h added that the North Vietnamese had been critical of both US presidential candidates, but the recent attack on Nixon had seemed to him of sufficient interest to ask the French delegation in Hanoi for a report on the subject.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
21 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Soviet Union -
Eastern Europe

The Warsaw Pact commander, Soviet Marshal Yakubovsky, arrived in Sofia Thursday ostensibly to discuss the strengthening of the pact with Bulgarian officials. The visit will probably cause nail-biting in Rumania, Yugoslavia, and even in Austria, but there is no evidence that the Soviets are about to take any military action.

The Rumanians may, however, come under greater pressure in the near future to fulfill their obligations under the Warsaw Pact, perhaps even to permit joint maneuvers to take place on their territory.

Meanwhile, the Soviet propaganda machine keeps grinding away at Berlin and West Germany.

2. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

There are signs of growing disagreement over how to carry out the Moscow accord. Dubcek and his colleagues are said to be resisting the removal of a number of Czech officials. The Czechs in fact have counterbalanced "resignations" of liberals by ousting conservatives favored by Moscow.

Prague has also announced the "temporary" postponement of some economic reforms attacked in the Soviet press--language which obviously will not please Moscow. Prague is also saying that nonparty people will share in the management of "social, economic, and other processes." This is clear defiance of Soviet insistence that the party increase its control.

3. Congo
(Brazzaville)

Chances of early military intervention by Kinshasa have faded. Mobutu

[redacted] is junketing around various North African capitals and seems to have lost his opportunity. Brazzaville's new leader, Ngouabi, appears to be consolidating his power position handily.

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4. Philippines

Manila's yellow press is whipping up anti-US sentiment, claiming the US has sided with Malaysia in the Sabah dispute. Several senators and congressmen have joined the assault. One has gone so far as to demand withdrawal of American bases, and demonstrators appeared at the American Embassy yesterday.

There is more smoke than fire in this. The Sabah issue, however, has touched a sensitive nationalistic nerve, and various elements on the Manila scene will try to manipulate it for their own ends.

5. Honduras

The labor movement, which had been bickering quietly with the government for six months, suddenly called a general strike Thursday. The government in response has declared a state of siege. As long as the army stands behind the government, the strikers have little chance of accomplishing very much, but President Lopez may order harsh measures which could furnish his opponents with martyrs and a new unity.

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21 September 1968

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

21 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Living Conditions: Notes made by a member of an infiltrating North Vietnamese unit describe severe privation in the provinces of southern North Vietnam through which he passed. According to the writer, the people he observed south of the 19th Parallel suffered acute shortages of food and clothing; women were dressed in rags, and children begged food from the North Vietnamese troops. The writer said the cost of living in the southern provinces was four times higher than that above the 19th Parallel. Agricultural workers, he wrote, earned only about 27 pounds of manioc and corn a month, and lack of manpower left many rice fields uncultivated.

Conditions in the North Vietnamese provinces still subject to bombing are undoubtedly severe. The government has probably evacuated a considerable number of the residents, contributing perhaps to the "lack of manpower" described in the notes, and to the hardships of those remaining.

The writer's bleak observations may also have been influenced by his own deteriorating morale. The notes disclose that his infiltration unit lost

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more than 60 percent of its original complement to desertions and sickness during the march south. This figure, of course, is most unusually high. Normally, desertions and sickness account for about 10 to 20 percent.

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

More on the US Campaign: In its latest commentary on the US presidential race, Radio Hanoi's domestic service on 18 September restated its contempt for all three major candidates and arrived at its standard conclusion: "They are all alike." The broadcast claimed that all candidates agree on continuing the "aggression against Vietnam," and all "demand reciprocity." It threatened "even heavier blows" by the Vietnamese people if the new president fails to meet Hanoi's demands.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
23 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Soviet Union -
Rumania

Satellite photography of mid-September shows that an army in the Odessa Military District, near the Rumanian border, has been mobilized. At least one of the army's three divisions has been brought to full combat strength and deployed to a training area near its home garrison. Signs of mobilization were also apparent at other places in the district.

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2. Soviet Union

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3. East Germany -
West Germany

The US Mission in Berlin expects that East Germany will soon start a new propaganda offensive against West Germany to try to counter wide-ranging East German dissatisfaction over the occupation of Czechoslovakia. In addition, the mission believes the odds are better than even that the East Germans will tighten their controls over West German traffic to Berlin and East Germany--paying special attention to devices most likely to divide West Germany from the allies.

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4. Austria -
Eastern Europe

Austrian Foreign Minister Waldheim has told Ambassador MacArthur that he and his cabinet strongly disagree with certain "alarmist views of some of the Austrian military establishment" that Rumania, Yugoslavia, and Austria will probably be invaded by the Soviets in the next few weeks.

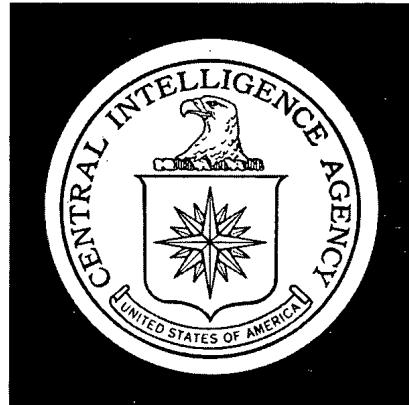
5. Mexico

Violence in Mexico City over the weekend was the most serious since the start of the student agitation two months ago. Some 1,500 people have been detained as a result of the bloody five-hour battle on Saturday.

The protest movement is now beginning to spread to other parts of the country; marches have already been planned for Monterrey and other cities. Security forces should be able to control the disturbances, but there is no sign that the students will be quieted before the Olympics begin on 12 October.

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23 September 1968

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

23 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Propaganda: Liberation Radio on 20 September accused the United States of "moving the peace conference toward a stalemate." The Communist commentary pointed to President Johnson's speech in New Orleans on 10 September as having "destroyed all the attractive and cunning hints made by himself and sly old Harriman in Paris" that the United States "is sincere in its search for peace" and that "it is willing to go further, and so forth."

Liberation Radio also attacked President Johnson's statement in New Orleans that the dispatch of American troops to South Vietnam was in the national interest of the United States. The broadcast charged that the President's statement "expressed the true, aggressive nature" of the US. It concluded by reaffirming the Communists' determination to "teach them (the US) more proper lessons."

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A Commentator article in Nhan Dan has picked up the same theme, announcing that the US has brought the Paris talks to a "deadlock" by refusing to meet Hanoi's conditions. Broadcast in English on Hanoi's international service on 22 September, the article scorned as "but another version of the claim for reciprocity" the US representative's argument that the US will end its attacks on North Vietnam when the Vietnamese people give reason to believe that they will join with the US in de-escalating the fighting.

"If the US really wants peace," concluded Commentator, it must "leave Vietnam to the Vietnamese." "First and foremost," however, it must "unconditionally halt the bombing and other acts of war" so that the Paris talks "may get out of the deadlock."

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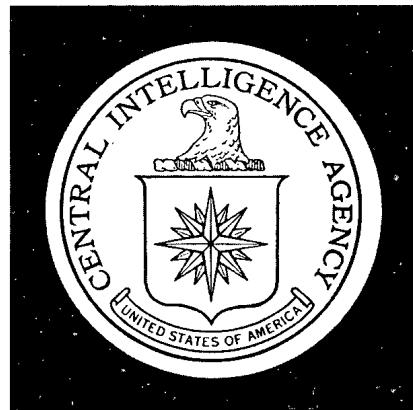
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Dick Gregory on the War: Hanoi's international service in English on Saturday quoted Dick Gregory to the effect that the US Government is doing "nothing whatsoever" to try to end the war in Vietnam. The report concerned a news conference it said Gregory held in Chicago on 11 September to discuss his recent meeting with North Vietnamese negotiators in Paris. According to the broadcast, Gregory "refuted the US allegations that there was some sign of progress at the conversations" and declared that "there will be no peace talks until the bombing ends."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
24 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Mexico

Students and security forces clashed again last night, and 52 people reportedly were wounded by gunfire.

Both sides appear primed for a showdown. Security officials expect Diaz Ordaz to order the army onto other campuses in Mexico City shortly, and the Mexican press reports that several leftists are to be tried for sedition. The students reportedly are planning another massive demonstration before the end of the month, and the Trotskyites and other far-out types among them are organizing classes in street warfare.

2. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

A Czechoslovak official has told our embassy the following:

--Dubcek is currently so popular that he cannot be removed, but he may yield to unrelenting Soviet animosity and step down voluntarily. This could occur after the next party congress, which the Czechs reportedly have tentatively scheduled for December.

--Dubcek and Svoboda are almost constantly at odds.

--Most Soviet troops will be out of Czechoslovakia by 28 October.

* * *

This morning's press is carrying conflicting reports about whether the Czech leadership is going ahead today with its oft-scheduled trip to Moscow. The trip apparently will not take place until the two sides have reached substantive agreement in Prague, and further delay would suggest that there still are issues to be resolved.

3. Rumania

The Rumanians may be learning to live with the Soviet forces mobilized near their border.

Sharp anti-Soviet polemics issued from Bucharest immediately after the invasion of Czechoslovakia, but having gotten on record, the Rumanians have since refrained from criticism of the Warsaw Five. Some Rumanian officials have remarked that as each day passed they were becoming less apprehensive.

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At the same time, Rumanian leaders periodically put out explicit reminders that the threat from Moscow still exists. This obviously is true, but Bucharest would not be above emphasizing the threat as a way of using the crisis in the Communist world to advance its own interests. The Rumanians may in fact believe that focusing world attention on the danger of Soviet intervention is a good way of keeping the Soviets from moving in.

4. Yugoslavia - Soviet Union

Pravda has attacked Tito personally for his government's increasingly liberal domestic policies. The Yugoslav press has responded with eulogies for Tito and new declarations of the country's determination to follow its own path, but Belgrade is nervous.

The Yugoslavs fear Moscow may try to exploit both their traditional internal rivalries and the controversies which have arisen over the government's economic and social reforms. They are also worried about possible Soviet economic reprisals.

Yugoslav fears notwithstanding, our estimate is that overt hostility from Moscow will unite the Yugoslavs as nothing else could.

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5. West Germany

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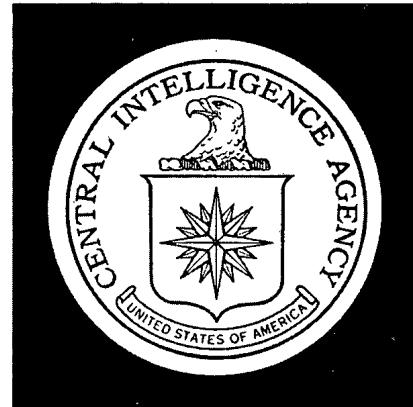
6. Peru

Controversy continues over the six-week-old agreement between the Belaunde government and the US-owned International Petroleum Company. The radical wing of Belaunde's own party is threatening to withdraw its support of the government unless the agreement is nullified, but the government has found an ally in the main opposition party, which strongly supports the agreement. Rumor has it that the military is thinking of taking a hand in the debate.

Some changes in the political line-up seem likely as a result of all this. We would expect to see more military faces in any reshuffled cabinet.

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24 September 1968

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

24 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Conditions in Hanoi: Hanoi remains on a war foot-
ing despite the absence of US bombing [redacted]

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[redacted] The city's civil de-
fense program, including construction of streetside
individual bomb shelters, continues.

[redacted] many industries remain dispersed
outside Hanoi. [redacted]

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Some evacuees, however, have returned to Hanoi.
[redacted] truck traffic in Hanoi, as
well as along the Hanoi-Haiphong road, is common dur-
ing the day, whereas prior to the bombing restric-
tions, trucks moved only during hours of twilight and
darkness.

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Bomb Damage in Hai Duong: [redacted]

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[redacted] as late as last May, bomb damage in Hai Duong
city was still hampering road and rail traffic between
Hanoi and Haiphong. [redacted] the destruction of Hai
Duong almost total. Goods passing through Hai Duong
by rail had to be off-loaded, taken across pontoon
bridges by truck, and then reloaded on trains before
continuing on to Hanoi or Haiphong.

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New Identification Card for Infiltrators: A new
infiltration document more sophisticated than those
seen during the past several years was found on 11
September near Con Thien, just below the eastern De-
militarized Zone area. It included a physical descrip-
tion of the bearer and his fingerprints in addition
to information routinely seen in earlier documents.

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The owner of the card apparently was a member of an infiltration group which entered the pipeline in North Vietnam during the May-June period of this year. A date on the pass suggests it may have been issued during May.

This new identification card may be part of a Communist effort to tighten security and control over infiltrating personnel. There have recently been indications of North Vietnamese concern over desertions from southbound infiltration groups.

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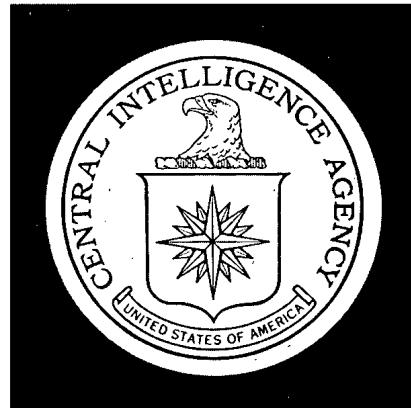
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 25 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
25 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. France

De Gaulle had a 50-minute talk with Ambassador Shriver on Monday. He concentrated--in characteristic De Gaulle fashion--on his thesis that US commitments to Western Europe are inadequate, making the following points:

--The US will not risk a nuclear war to defend Western Europe; this explains West German edginess.

--There probably would be further Soviet diplomatic, economic, and psychological pressures against West Germany, "looking toward the day when, having built a sufficient foundation, the Russians would invade Hanover or Hamburg."

--Moscow was worried by the threat of a revitalized Germany joining with other nations (De Gaulle mentioned Czechoslovakia, China, and "even East Germany") against the Soviet Union.

--France, looking to its own life and death, would not regard an invasion of West Germany as an invasion of France.

De Gaulle will be visiting Kiesinger later this week. We think he will continue to work on Bonn's edginess to shake its confidence in the US.

2. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

In recent days, one Soviet division that moved into Czechoslovakia has returned to garrison in Hungary, and elements of another probably have returned to the Soviet Union.

At Annex today we examine some recent developments in the Moscow-Prague relationship.

3. Israel -
Arab States

The Israelis have again gone to the United Nations following Sunday's alleged foray by Egyptians across the Suez Canal. Arab apprehension over an eventual Israeli retaliation remains high, however.

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4. Thailand

The wraps may be coming off anti-American sentiment. A group of Thai journalists recently gave our embassy people an earful on the "objectionable" behavior of Americans in Thailand and generally on US policy in Asia. An account of this session favorable to the journalists appeared in a newspaper owned by the deputy prime minister. The government may find it useful as legislative elections approach to give some nod to the dissenters.

5. Panama

Vallarino is still resisting pressure from Arias to avoid embarrassment and step down from his National Guard post before the inaugural on 1 October.

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Vallarino may hope in the meantime to temper Arias' plans to wield a heavy axe on the Guard.

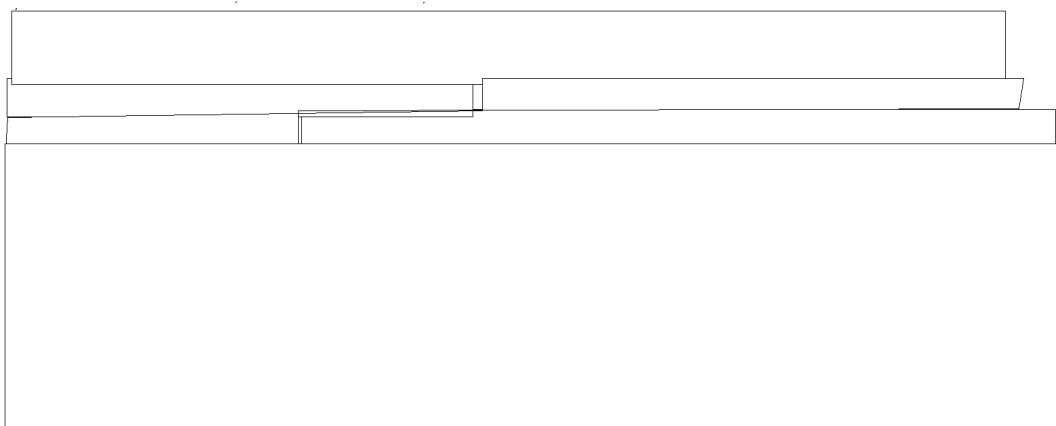
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ANNEX

Soviet-Czechoslovak Relations--A Month After

A month after their lightning military strike into Czechoslovakia, the Soviets are now reaching the point where they must decide if their political follow-through is doing the job.



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Clearly, the Soviets are not satisfied with the rate at which the Czechoslovaks have reimposed the limits which existed before January. The Soviet press has more than offset its praise for steps in the "right" direction with warnings that much, much more needs to be done. For all the cleverness of their resistance, the Czechoslovaks have not fooled the Soviets into thinking that washing the freedom signs from the statues in Wenceslas Square has removed the idea of freedom from Czechoslovak minds.

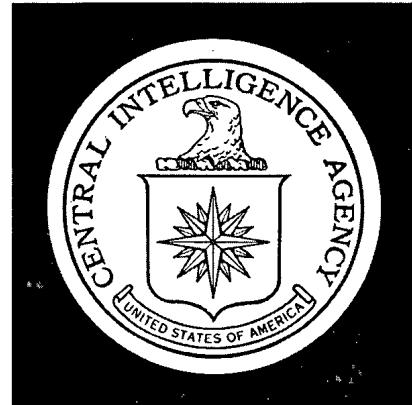
The Soviets may stick to nudging the Czechoslovaks along in the hope that the latter will move faster. Moscow has not, however, foreclosed the option of using its military presence to oust the top liberals, impose a conservative regime and repress any dissident forces which oppose it.

The Czechoslovaks are in fact playing a dangerous game. In the last analysis, Moscow has virtually all the high cards. If the Soviets get sufficiently frustrated, they will lose patience and play them.

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25 September 1968

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

25 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Le Duan on Reconstruction: North Vietnam's number two man appears to be increasingly concerned with problems of economic reconstruction. On 22 September, Hanoi Radio broadcast a speech the party first secretary had given to provincial authorities in northeastern Lang Son Province. No date was given for the tour, but this was the second time in recent weeks that Le Duan's trips into the countryside have been publicized. The first was an early summer visit to Nam Ha--an important agricultural province just south of Hanoi. In each case the main thrust of the secretary's remarks was the need to get the local economy going again and to develop plans for improving agricultural production. As in his earlier speech in Nam Ha, Le Duan devoted most of his remarks in Lang Son to detailed recommendations on production techniques.

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Another Mission to France:

[redacted] another North Vietnamese economic mission is scheduled to visit Paris next month. Nothing tangible has yet resulted from the last visit a year ago. [redacted] Hanoi's attempt to purchase French trucks on credit has been discouraged by the French Government [redacted]

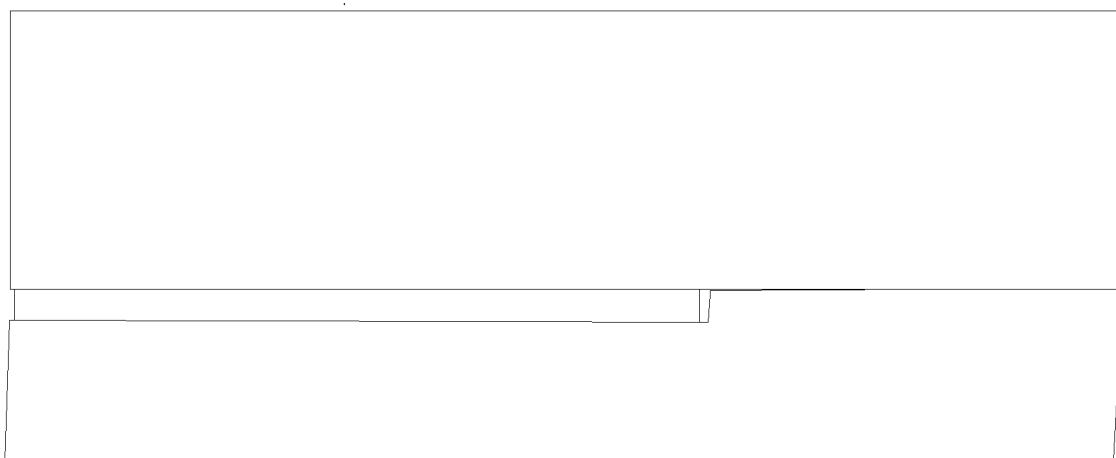
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On Bombing: Hanoi is turning up the volume on its propaganda portraying the US as out to destroy foodstuffs.

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[redacted] the Communists charged the bombing below the 19th Parallel is more intense than ever and is deliberately aimed at disrupting North Vietnam's agricultural production. The spokesman for the North Vietnamese delegation to the Paris talks had used much the same theme in his press briefing on 16 September. He contended air strikes are made on dams, irrigation systems, and farming communities.

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

On US Scene: Radio Hanoi played up several examples of Vietnam war dissent in the United States during an English language broadcast yesterday. Citing various Western news agency reports as sources, the broadcast mentioned recent antiwar demonstrations encountered by the presidential and vice presidential candidates during their campaign stops. The efforts by groups of army reservists to escape their Vietnam assignment also were reported.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 26 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
26 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

Prague persists in brinkmanship, making pronouncements clearly anathema to the Russians. Yesterday the main party paper carried articles which:

--supported economic reforms the Soviets oppose as a "return to capitalism";

--gave a stiff reply to East German criticism of Dubcek;

--stated some party statutes the Soviets call "counterrevolutionary" would remain valid.

The rumblings from Moscow were quick in coming. Last night Tass made its most specific attack since the Moscow agreement, charging "certain leaders" in Prague were acting in direct contradiction to that agreement. Tuesday Soviet troops reappeared in downtown Prague, an even more concrete sign of Soviet displeasure. It is obvious tempers are getting short.

2. Mexico

Several hundred students clashed with security forces in Mexico City last night. Public meetings in the city are now banned. The students, however, plan another mass march next week. The government, for its part, is determined to prevent disruption of the Olympics.

3. Sabah

Marcos is trying to keep the dispute from getting any worse. He has put a tight rein on the Philippine armed forces

[redacted] and he has begun efforts to reopen a dialogue with Kuala Lumpur. The agenda for any talks is likely to be a serious stumbling block.

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4. Argentina

An incipient Peronist-Castroite guerrilla movement has been uncovered. A training camp was captured in the northern part of the country last week, and this in turn led to the discovery of an arms cache in the far south. The movement appears well financed, but the police do not yet know by whom.

5. Algeria-Congo

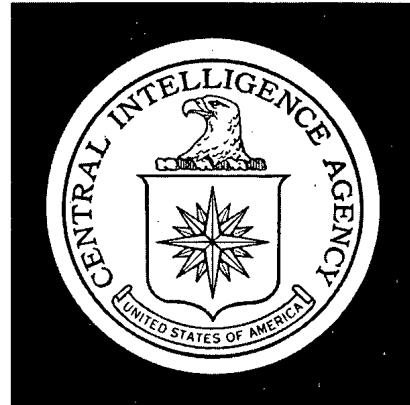
Boumediene, who has had Tshombé on his hands since the aerial kidnapping in June 1967, said recently he might turn the Congo's ex-premier loose. Boumediene was characteristically indecisive, however, when discussing the matter with Liberia's Tubman. Mobutu has said he does not care where Tshombé goes so long as he is kept out of Africa.

6. West Germany

The "neo-Nazi" National Democratic Party is expected to run well when local elections are held this Sunday in Lower Saxony. The party should make its best showing in rural areas where there is a strong reaction to disorder sparked by the New Left.

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26 September 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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26 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Use of Cambodian Air Facilities: Recently available information reinforces earlier indications that Communist cadres utilize Cambodian air facilities to travel most of the way between North and South Vietnam.

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[redacted] it seems likely that key personnel at least occasionally use these Cambodian air links. This offers the Communists increased convenience, speed, reliability, and security compared to other modes of travel. The Communists apparently move easily between Phnom Penh and border areas of South Vietnam.

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Reconnaissance Results: A mission of 17 September, which supplied good photography of 60 percent of the panhandle between the 17th and 20th Parallels, confirms that the logistic buildup south of the 20th Parallel continues unabated. In the sanctuary area between the 19th and 20th Parallels, there has been a clearly discernible buildup in logistic facilities. More rolling stock, trucks, and waterborne logistics craft are openly in use than in late August and early September. New transshipment and storage areas are in evidence, frequently protected by revetments in case the bombing should be resumed.

The rail line leading south from the 19th Parallel into Vinh, which was believed interdicted, has been in operation at least for a brief period. A military-type pipeline, first detected in July, is now about 30 miles in length with its northern end now at Cu Dai some 10 miles south of the 19th Parallel. Extensive petroleum bunkers have been constructed at Cu Dai, the present--although probably temporary--northern terminus of the pipeline. Although it is probably not yet in operation, the pipeline has the potential for pumping upwards of 1,000 tons of oil or gasoline a day southward through an exposed region of North Vietnam where US air attacks have taken a heavy toll of North Vietnamese trucks.

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Hanoi Dispatching More Political Cadres: A recently captured North Vietnamese political organizer claims that Hanoi is sending down groups of personnel whose principal duties are to help set up new liberation committees in the South. The source's group, which infiltrated last spring, allegedly contained 200 men, all of whom were destined for political assignments.

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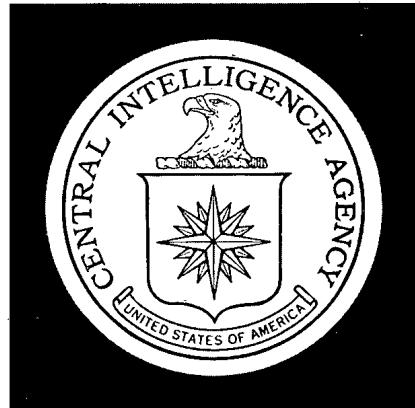
The prisoner's report goes with other signs that Hanoi is making an extensive effort to improve its political apparatus in the South. Although there is no way to know how many groups of this type have been deployed, the Communists are clearly preparing for a period of increased political competition with the Saigon government.

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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~~ 27 September 1968

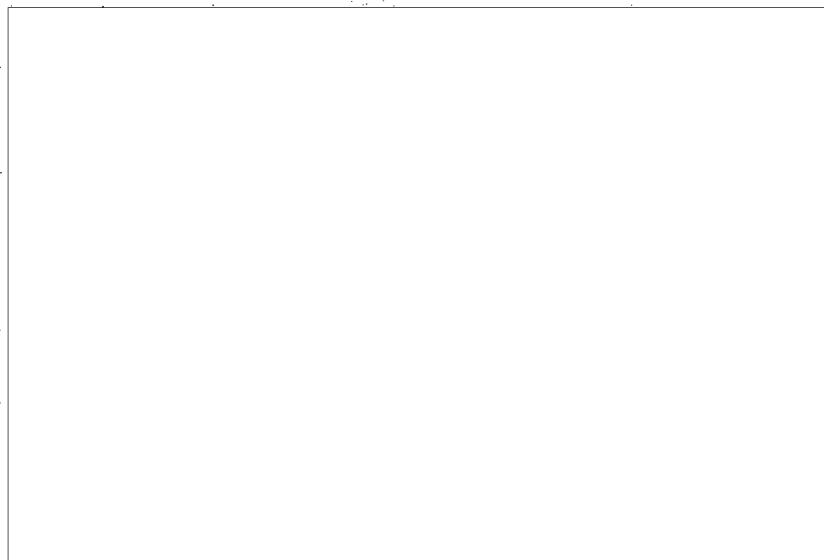


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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
27 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Panama

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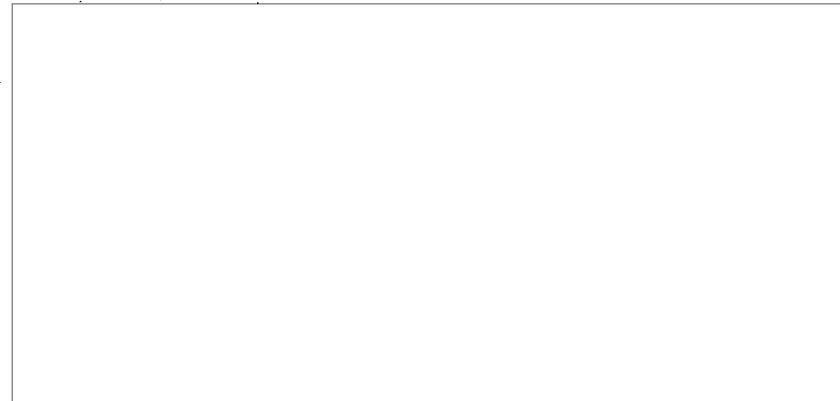
2. Mexico

The students are getting set for another large demonstration today. For the first time, there are signs that they are beginning to get significant labor support.

3. Guatemala

President Mendez has extended the state of siege for another thirty days. He says he will keep the siege in effect until Ambassador Mein's killers are caught.

4. Dominican Republic



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5. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov slipped quietly back to Moscow yesterday concluding a special three-week fact-finding mission in Czechoslovakia. We presume that before leaving he presented the Czech leadership with a final demand to live up to the Soviet view of the Moscow agreement. As for the Czechs, their top men were closeted yesterday in an all-day strategy session.

6. Yugoslavia

Tito has sent a "very tough" letter to Soviet President Podgorny damning the intervention in Czechoslovakia

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[redacted] Tito said that "even Stalin would not have gone this far" and warned that any similar action against Yugoslavia would meet fierce resistance--"even exceeding our efforts against the Germans in World War II."

7. Greece

A new draft constitution will be put to the electorate in a referendum on Sunday; a favorable vote seems assured. This almost surely will bring more pleadings from Athens for warmer US-Greek relations--particularly the resumption of military assistance shipments.

8. Nigeria

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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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27 September 1968

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

27 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Propaganda: Hanoi's domestic service on 24 September broadcast a scathing denunciation in Vietnamese of US insistence that the Saigon government must eventually be included in the Paris talks. The broadcast was a transmission of a Nhan Dan article which characterized the Thieu government as "marionettes" and "yes men" whom the US had tried to "daub with new paint." The article, which was full of sarcastic references to Saigon leaders, claimed that the US was using this group to stonewall the progress of the Paris talks. The article also took several swipes at Vice President Humphrey, claiming that he deserved as much of the blame for the "abscesses and rottenness of the puppet government" as President Johnson did.

The vindictive tone of the commentary can be partly explained by the fact that it was intended for Vietnamese audiences--Hanoi's international propaganda is usually more subtly stated--but it does serve to point up North Vietnam's strong public opposition to Saigon's presence at the peace talks.

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Hanoi Social Notes: Hanoi is refurbishing some of its public meeting and exhibition halls [redacted]

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Special effort apparently went into preparation for national day celebrations early this month. "Every house and building in the drab and dirty streets of Hanoi" was reportedly draped with colorful flags. Ba Dinh hall--used for a reception of more than 2,000 people--was decorated with flowers, bright costumes, and glittering draperies.

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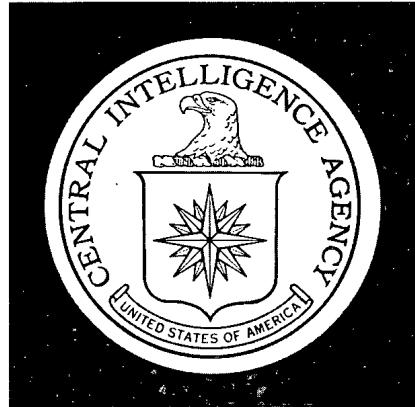
Children to Cuba: Amid much publicity, 200 young North Vietnamese arrived in Havana recently for study. Although Hanoi has been sending large numbers of students to Eastern European countries in the past year, not much publicity has been given to Cuban efforts to train North Vietnamese. The press stories give no indication of the type of training involved. The language used, however, indicates that they are very young children, and it is possible that they are being sent for some type of secondary education, perhaps to develop an area specialization.

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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
28 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Marshal Yakubovsky, the chief of the Warsaw Pact forces who has been making the rounds of Eastern Europe in recent days, finished his tour yesterday with quick visits to Prague and Bucharest. In Prague he may have discussed terms for the withdrawal of some of the occupying forces and perhaps the outline of a status-of-forces agreement as well.

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2. Soviet Union

The Soviet populace is having trouble swallowing the government's word on Czechoslovakia. Among laborers there is apparently some support for the intervention, but many people are confused by shifts in the official line and by hints in the Soviet press about the attitude of the Czechoslovak people.

There are good indications that the technocrats who man the upper-middle levels of the government are dissatisfied.

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Despite the unhappiness in quite high places, we see no major reshuffling of the present leadership immediately in prospect.

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3. Poland

The Polish intelligentsia is also showing some new life. A leading Polish author has written a moving letter recounting his own reaction to the intervention and has released it to the Western press. In so doing he may give new heart to the Polish intellectual community and encourage the intelligentsia in Czechoslovakia and Hungary as well. His letter will also deepen the splits which have existed in the Polish leadership since the riots last spring.

Other Polish authors are writing similar accounts, according to rumors in Warsaw.

4. Nigeria

Ojukwu told his fellow Biafrans Wednesday that "the war is far from ending. In fact, it is just beginning." Biafran forces thereupon retook a hotly contested town in southeastern Biafra.

Ojukwu also said guerrilla warfare will continue if the Biafrans can no longer field a conventional army. His determination could be undermined, however, by federal military successes and the peace efforts of other prominent Biafrans.

5. Malaysia-Britain

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6. Communist China

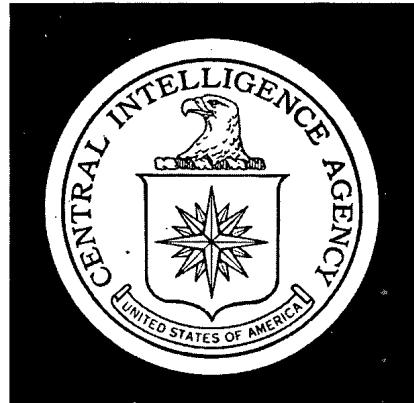
As part of its effort to get the Red Guards under control, the Peking government is shipping students by the hundreds of thousands to state farms in remote border regions. Hong Kong newspapers report more than 200,000 have been rounded up in Peking alone. So many students are being transferred that many have gotten only as far as the suburbs, where they are being held in hastily constructed detention camps until there is room on the farms.

7. North Vietnam

An article in the August issue of the army journal provides the clearest admission yet that troops from the North are fighting in the South. The article deals with the training of an infantry unit whose members pledge in writing "to go kill the American invaders and liberate the South."

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16

28 September 1968

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

28 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Truck Traffic Report: Observed truck movements through southern North Vietnam and to the Laos border have dropped markedly. For the third consecutive week pilot reports have indicated a decline in truck traffic south of the 19th Parallel in North Vietnam. During the week 16-22 September some 395 trucks were observed compared with a weekly average of 665 trucks sighted since 1 April. Weather in the area was generally favorable during most of last week.

The indicated fall-off in logistic activity may be due to the lingering effects of last month's severe storms which washed out bridges and flooded roads in North Vietnam's southern regions. The bombing of roads and bridges also is believed to have contributed to slowing traffic.

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Front Offices Elsewhere: The Communists are still having difficulty opening the Front information office in Paris. The French Foreign Office has informed the US Embassy that the arrival of the head of the mission has been again postponed. The holdup this

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time is due to a French desire to give the South Vietnamese ambassador in Paris a chance to explain the move to the government in Saigon. Barring further holdups, the French expect that the Front representative will be allowed to enter any time after 5 October.

The French also admitted that the Front has already exceeded its mandate by issuing a fancy announcement on the establishment of the mission which implied a degree of diplomatic status. The Foreign Office says that the Front's current representative has been taken to task and that the rights, privileges, and limitations of the Front's office will be carefully spelled out to the head of the mission as soon as he arrives. He will be reminded that he enjoys no diplomatic prerogatives of any kind.

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Makarios on Shipping: Yesterday Ambassador Belcher again spoke with Makarios about Cypriot-flag ships calling at North Vietnamese ports. The ambassador noted the Council of Ministers could simply declare North Vietnam out of bounds as not in the interest of the republic. Makarios, who apparently was not aware of this law, said he would try and do just that.

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Ships registered in Cyprus have made eleven voyages to North Vietnam this year. This is second only to the British in Free World shipping to North Vietnam. There are two Cypriot ships in Haiphong now.

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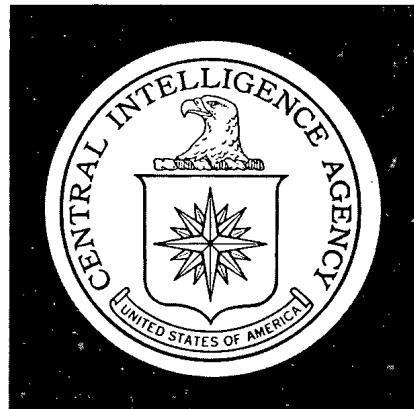
Pep Talk on Light Industrial Development: The July 1968 issue of the party theoretical journal carries an article which describes the difficulties encountered in the priority program for developing local industries to meet the needs for agricultural tools and for consumer goods. The article complained that cadres have not understood the importance of the program and have taken the attitude that such industries are uneconomical, have no future, and are designed only to meet emergency wartime needs. Other cadres reportedly desire large-scale industrial complexes with modern technology. Yet others overly rely on state assistance. The "confusion" which has resulted in implementation of the program has reportedly left products "few in number and low in quality."

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

On War Opposition: Radio Hanoi played up war opposition in the United States during an English language broadcast yesterday. The North Vietnamese broadcast was an account of a statement by the American Committee of the Professions which according to Hanoi called for an end to the bombing and recognition of the National Liberation Front as a "potent political force in South Vietnam." The Committee's statement, Hanoi said, supported North Vietnam's contention that the US has actually intensified the bombing.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 September 1968

[Redacted]

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
30 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Warsaw Pact

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2. World Communist
Conference

The preparatory committee meets today in Budapest with the chances better than even that the conference of world Communist parties will not be held in November. The Russians would like to have the conference, but they may find the wiser course is to postpone it in view of open opposition from important West European parties--notably the Italian and French--who have criticized the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

3. Peru

Belaunde and his vice president are unreconcilable in their bitter feud over the agreement between the government and the US-owned International Petroleum Company. Vice President Seoane--who is driving to succeed Belaunde in next June's election--feels the president gave away too much. The dispute irks the military and there are rumors of a coup. So far, however, the constitutionally-minded military are not ready to move.

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4. Ecuador

A lively political war is shaping up between Ecuador's aging President Velasco and Carlos Julio Arosemena who is scheming to recover the presidency he lost in 1963.

Velasco won a congressional skirmish over civil service appointments last week, but not before Arosemena had managed to get some highly dubious characters placed in key positions.

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5. Jerusalem

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6. Soviet Union

The Soviet birth rate dropped almost one third between 1960 and 1967. It has been below the US birth rate since 1963. The decline is likely to continue well into the next decade, and the Soviet Union may have trouble meeting its rising manpower requirements after 1980.

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7. Western Europe

Italy and the Benelux states are expected to go forward with their plans for closer economic links with Britain despite De Gaulle's latest rebuff. Kiesinger's unwillingness to really stand up to De Gaulle, however, will leave them uncertain on how much they can count on Bonn's support. The whole matter will be aired again in Rome on 21 and 22 October when the West European Union council meeting brings Britain and the Market members together.

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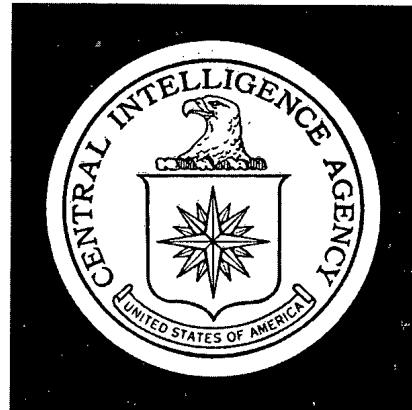
De Gaulle told former Governor Scranton "there could be no program on European unity because other members of the Common Market insist on a close association with the US for defense."

8. West Germany

Scranton told the embassy in Bonn that he had found both Kiesinger and Brandt "positive" on the need for an increased German defense effort as a result of Czechoslovakia.

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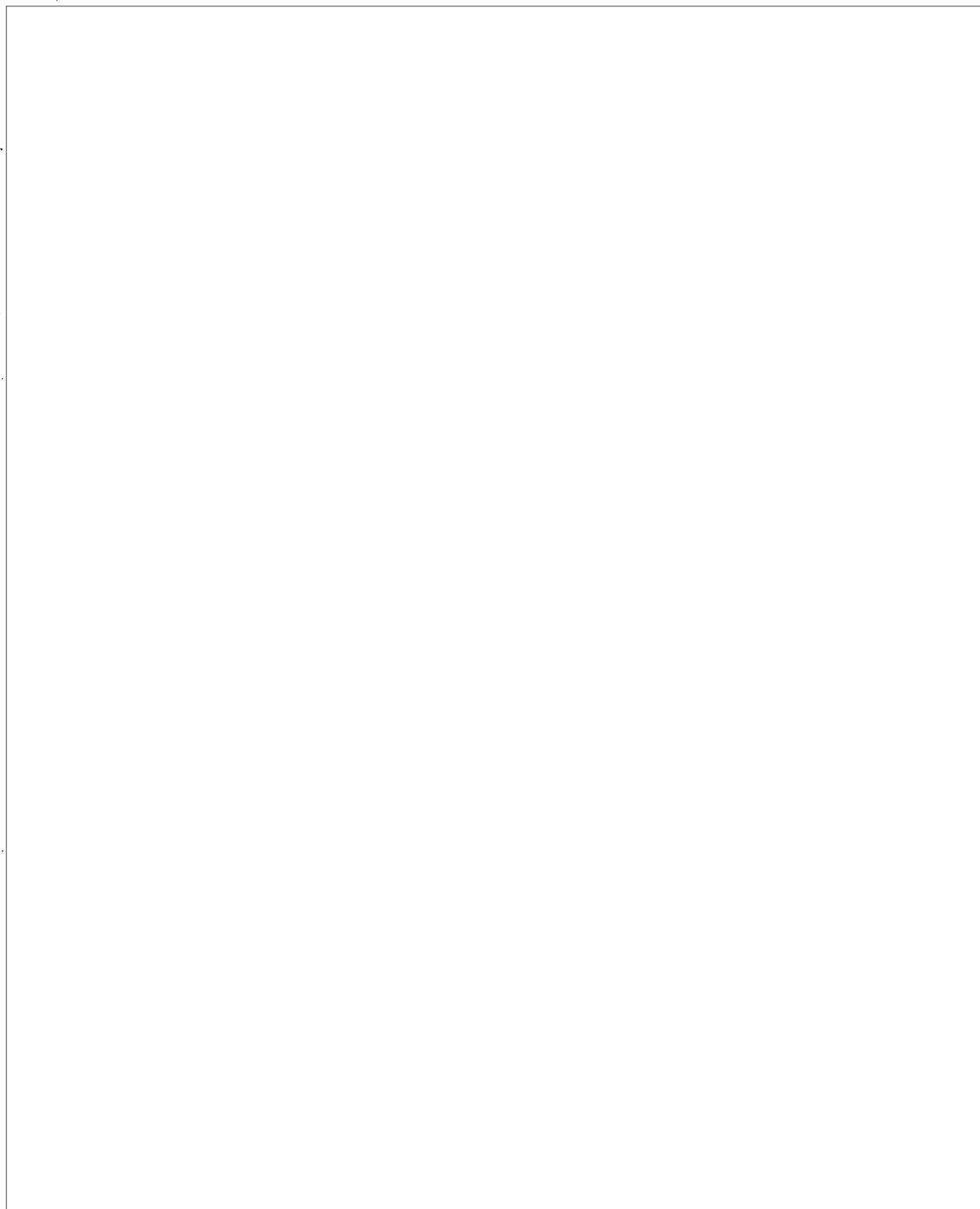
30 September 1968

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

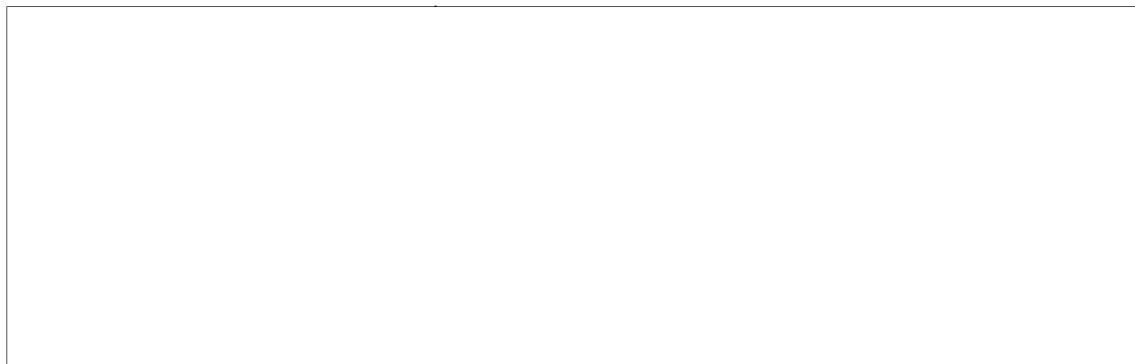
30 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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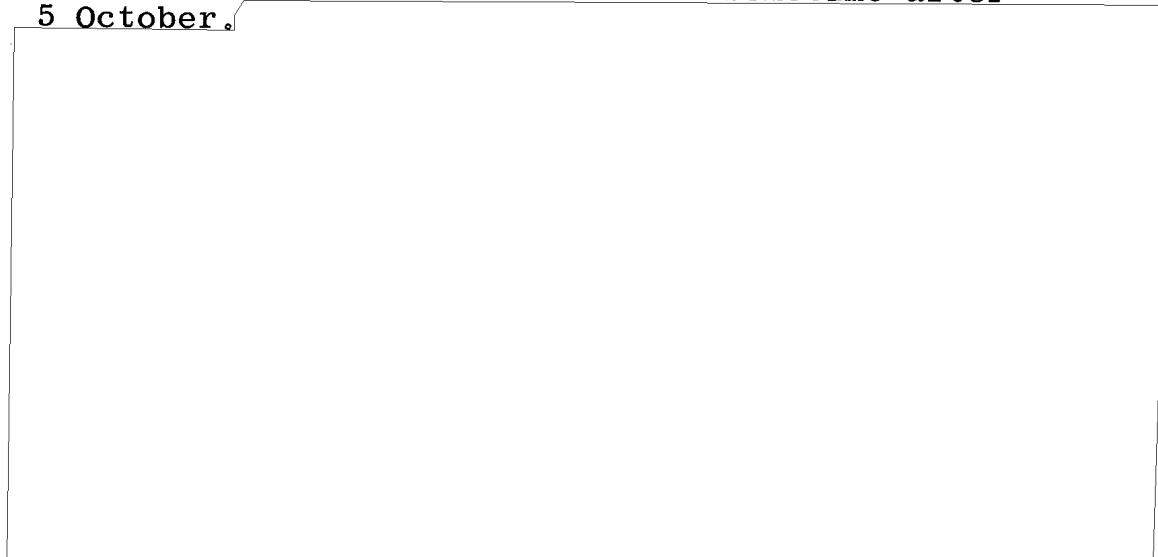
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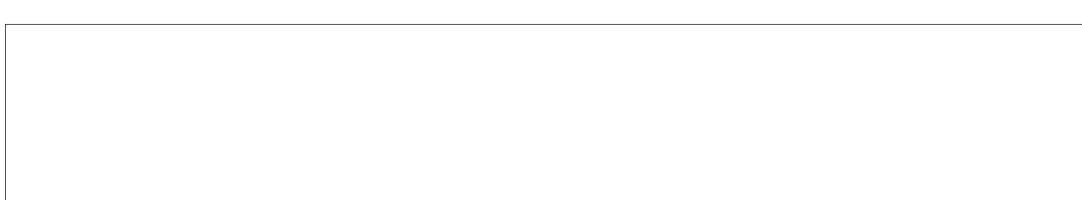
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More on Front Office in Paris: The Vietnamese Communists have secured French permission to open a Front information office in Paris sometime after 5 October.



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Education: [redacted]

[redacted] no schools had re-opened in Hanoi or Haiphong for the fall term. [redacted]
[redacted] dispersed schools

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in the nearby countryside and provinces would again handle the children evacuated from these two cities. In the southern part of the country where the bombing continues, underground classes would again be held. According to the party newspaper, one in three North Vietnamese will attend schools of some kind this year.

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

US Students Visit Front Mission in Havana: Radio Hanoi has publicized the recent visit of a Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) delegation to the National Liberation Front mission in Havana.

According to an English language international broadcast on 27 September, the SDS group expressed their support for "the valiant fight of the Vietnamese people against the US Government's aggression." Radio Hanoi called the delegation representatives of American students and said SDS welcomed the "big victories" achieved during the current Communist drive.

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