

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
1 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia-
Soviet Union

The confrontation at Cierna goes
into its fourth day [redacted]

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The meeting between Czechoslovak and Soviet leaders resumes at Cierna this morning. It had looked as if the talks would wind up late yesterday, but some snag developed, possibly over the wording of the final communiqué. Brezhnev, incidentally, recovered from whatever illness he was suffering and returned to the conference table yesterday afternoon.

Prague's reporting on the talks has been guardedly optimistic, although providing little substantive information.

2. Mexico

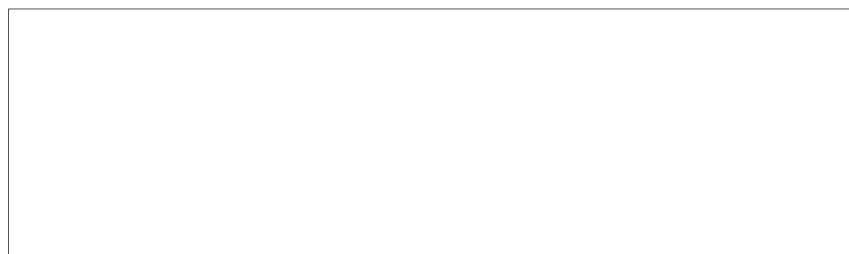
Relative calm prevails in Mexico City this morning, but the atmosphere remains tense. A student march is scheduled for this afternoon [redacted]

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There have been demonstrations in two provincial capitals with two students killed.

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3. Cambodia



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4. India

Food production hit a record high this year. It will not be enough to assure an adequate diet, but widespread famine is not the threat it was last year. The government estimates production for the crop year ending 30 June at about 96 million tons and plans to import another 7.5 million tons.

5. Nigeria

The French statement yesterday supporting Biafra, and coming as the two sides are about to sit down for peace talks, will do nothing to help matters. In fact, it could well prolong the war by encouraging the Biafrans to stand fast.

6. Nepal -
North Korea

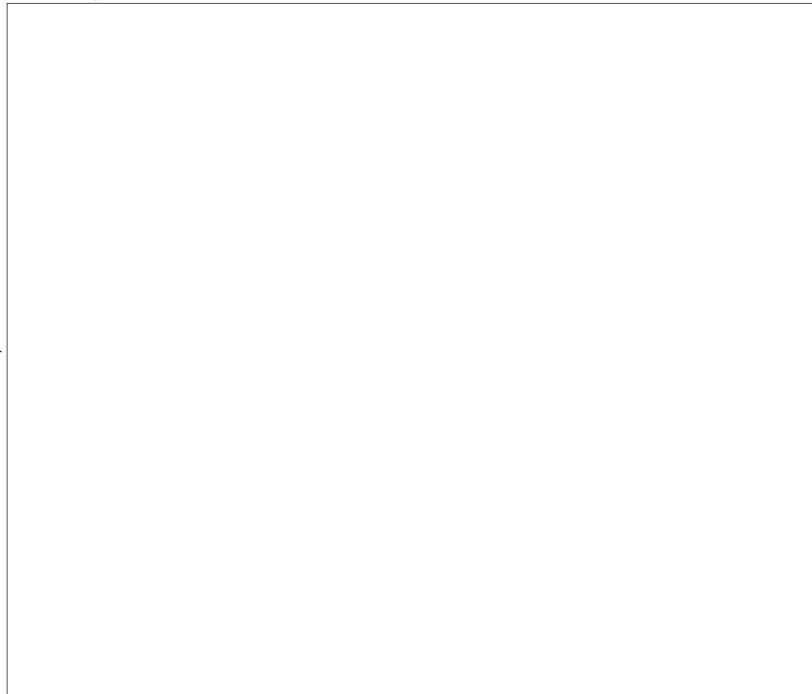
Operating with a boorishness more attuned to meetings at Panmunjom than to the niceties of diplomacy, a North Korean "good will" delegation to Nepal has queered the prospects for closer ties between the two countries.

The North Koreans arrived in Katmandu last week and began demanding things--an audience with the King, diplomatic relations with Pyongyang, and official status for the delegation. When the delegation's leader got a chilly reception, he refused to keep any further appointments. The attitude of the delegation makes any gestures to North Korea unlikely at this time.

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7. Middle East

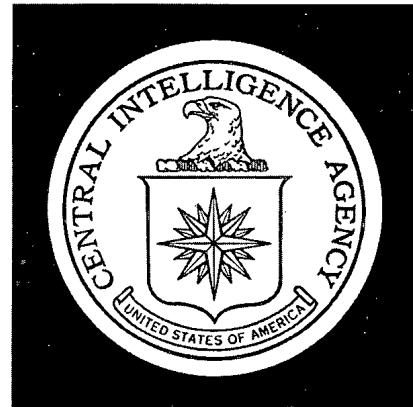


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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
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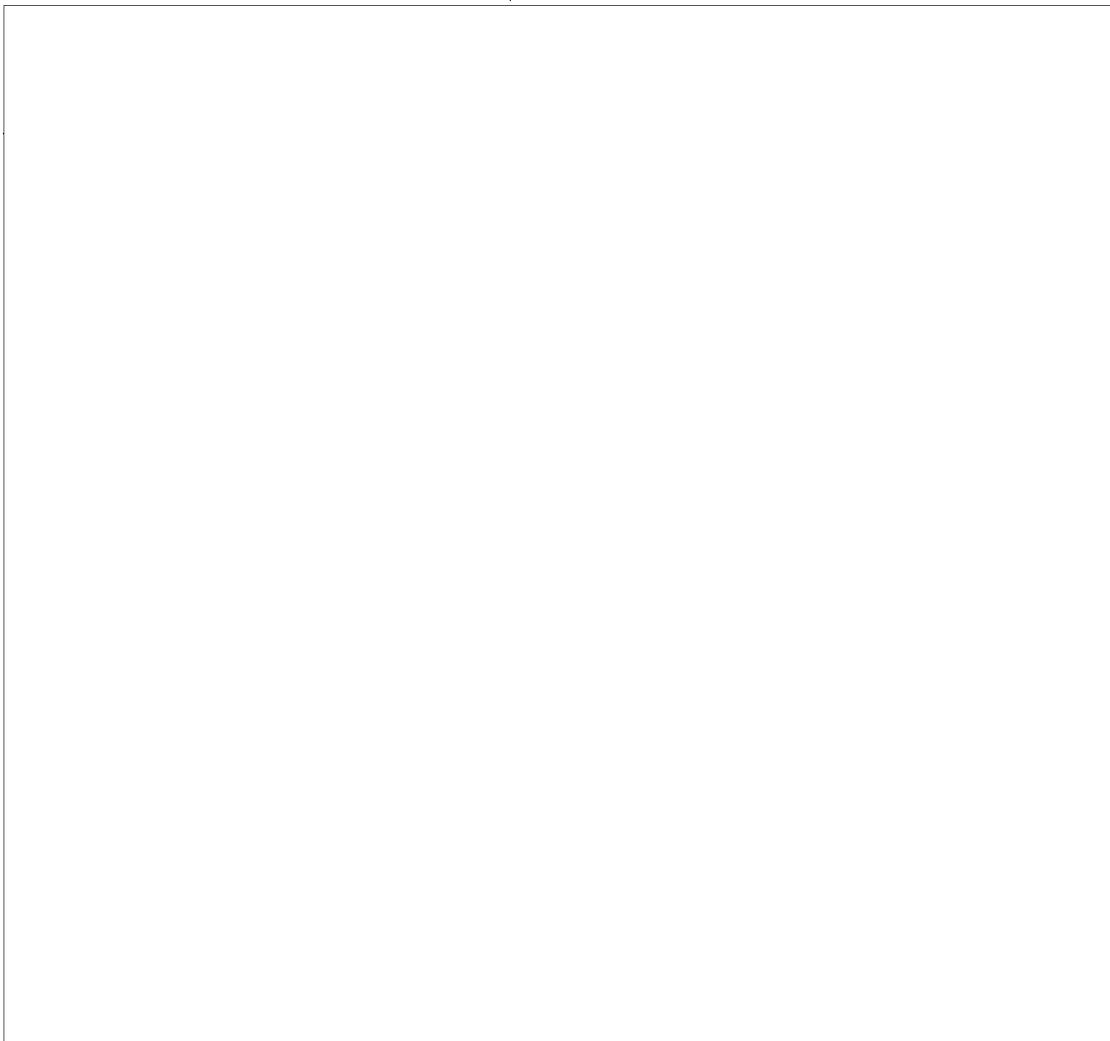
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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

1 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Reconnaissance Report: A high-altitude photographic mission was flown on 26 July. These are some points of interest:

--The number of MIG-21s continues to increase. In an 18 July mission, photography combined with intercepts showed a total of 23 MIG-21s. On 26 July,

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28 MIG-21s were photographed and intercepts indicate that several more were in the air at the time of the mission. It is possible that Hanoi is replacing some or all of its MIG-17 force with MIG-21s. Only about 20 MIG-17s were photographed and many of these were heavily damaged.

--At Haiphong port, there was no appreciable change in the level of material in open storage since 18 July. The turnover of cargo continues to be high. A minimum of accumulation from newly arrived material was evident in the port area.

--Good coverage of the major rail network was obtained. No activity was evident at the Vinh end of the Hanoi-Vinh rail line. Six trains were seen en route to Hanoi from Haiphong, more than have been seen before at one time.

--Photography of industrial installations shows that the pace of repair activity on damaged plants has increased.

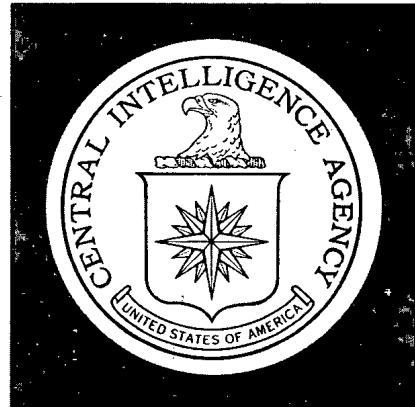
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

'There is nothing of significance to report
today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
2 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The Cierna meeting evidently resulted in some formula that will permit the Czechs and Soviets to step back from their direct confrontation.

President Svoboda intimated yesterday that the Czech side had gone some way toward meeting Soviet demands for a strengthening of Prague's links with the Warsaw Pact. We think this could include agreement for an extended Soviet military presence. Svoboda said the Russians in turn sanctioned Czechoslovakia's domestic reform program. How this will work out remains to be seen.

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A further meeting in Bratislava has been called for Saturday. This will involve the East Germans, Poles, Hungarians, and Bulgarians, in addition to the Soviets and Czechs, and it is probably meant to tie down the terms of the Cierna arrangement.

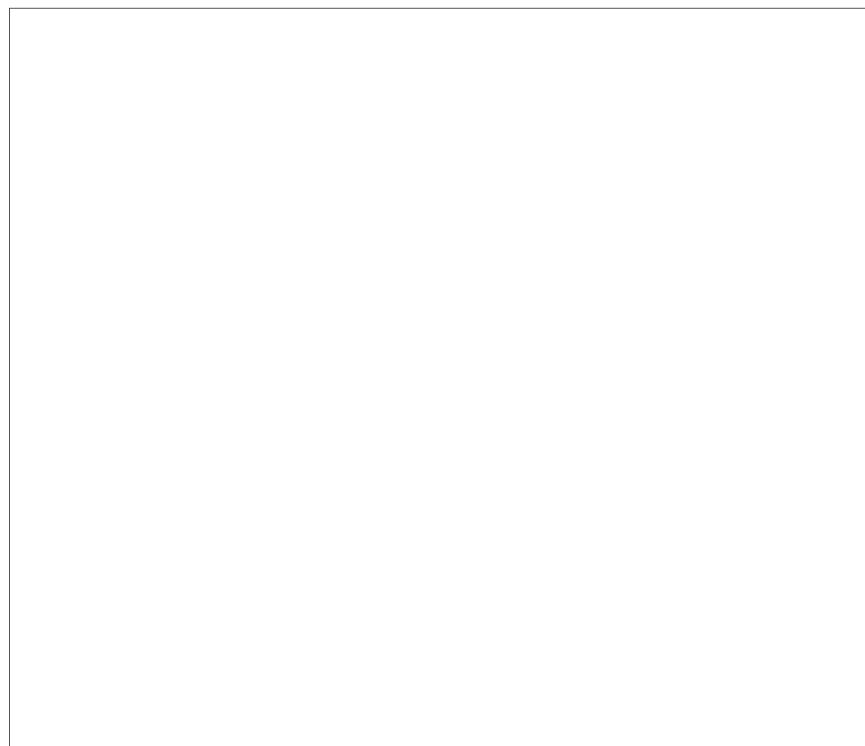
2. Mexico

Last night's massive march of students and teachers in Mexico City was largely peaceful. Further disorders are possible, however, when news of earlier student deaths spreads.

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3. Philippines

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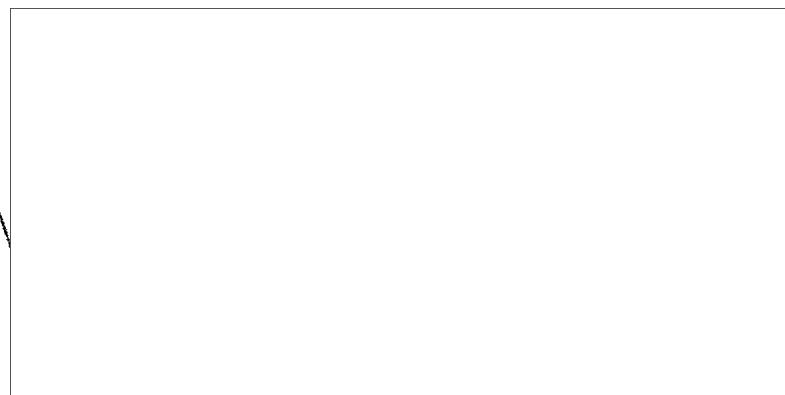
4. Israel-Jordan

New Israeli accusations of terrorist raids may be setting the stage for another retaliatory strike against Jordan. A Tel Aviv spokesman yesterday claimed that there have been 32 terrorist ambushes within the past two weeks, with many casualties, and accused Jordanian Army troops of cooperating with the terrorists.

5. France

2 August 1968

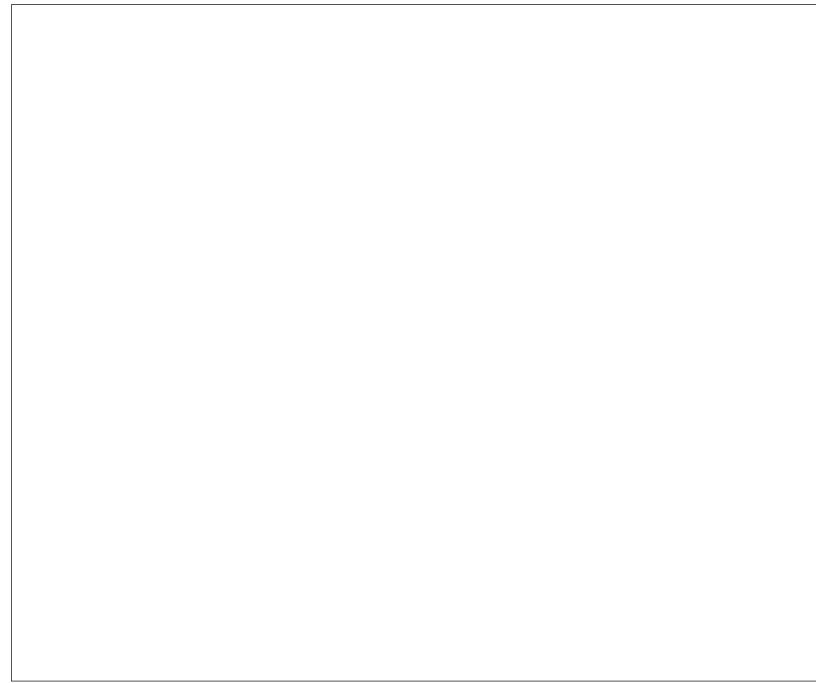
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6. Communist China -
North Vietnam

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7. Southern Yemen

Widespread tribal disorders are still plaguing the countryside. The government's problem of containing the dissidence has been compounded by the defection of its security chief to Yemen along with some army and security officers. Aden remains outwardly calm, but antigovernment comments are increasingly heard.

8. Guatemala

The wounding of three rightist political leaders in Guatemala City yesterday apparently was part of a Communist plan to set off a vendetta between the ruling party and its major rightist opposition. [redacted]

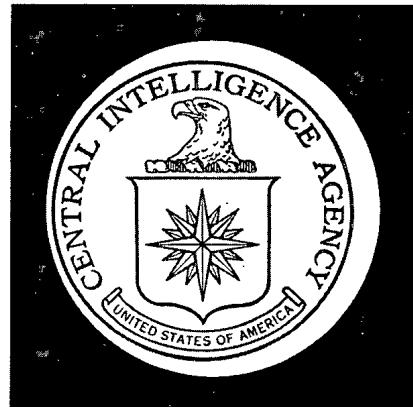
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2 August 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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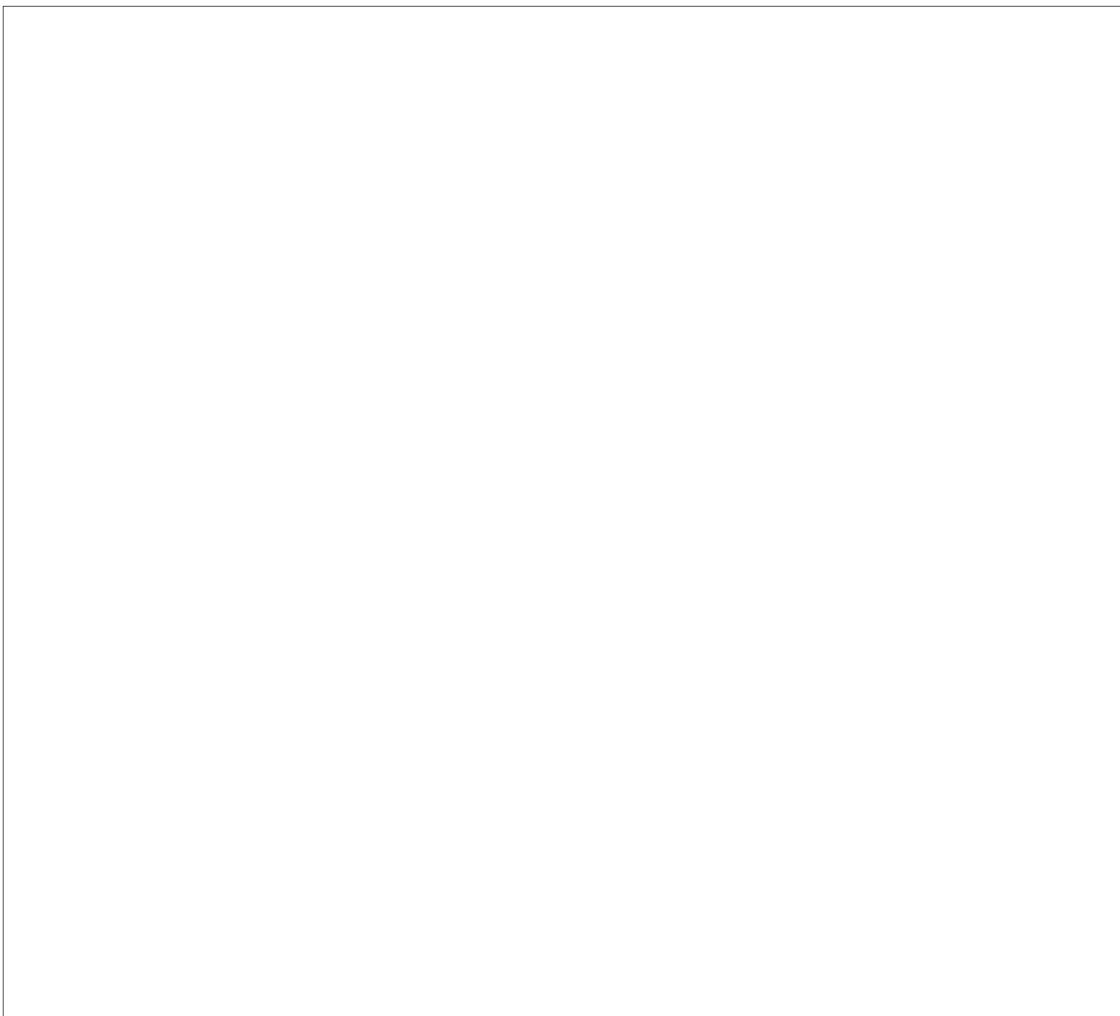
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2 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

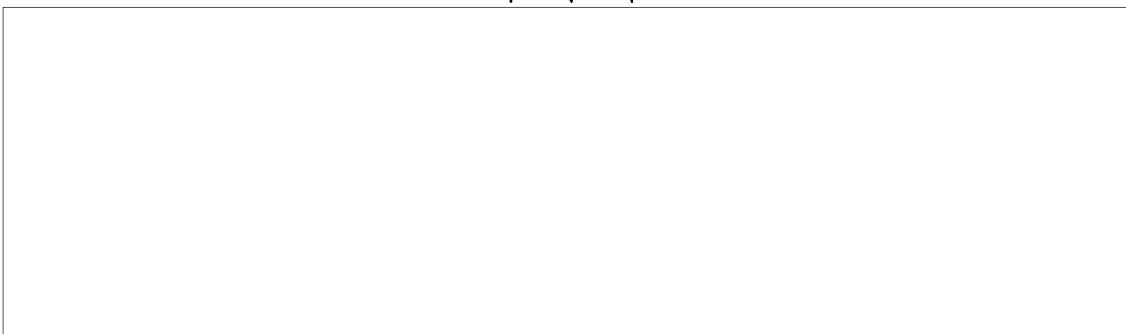
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
3 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

There have been no further anti-Soviet demonstrations in Prague. Dubcek was clearly alarmed by the one which took place following publication of the uninformative communiqué from Cierna, but his reassuring radio address to the Czech people yesterday has quieted things down at least temporarily.

Yesterday Czech Premier Cernik said that the Bratislava talks which start today will concern "things which unite us," European security--i.e., West Germany--economic cooperation, and Czechoslovakia's future role in the international Communist movement. The Czech people have been promised a report on the meeting by Dubcek as soon as possible after it is over, Saturday night or Sunday.

The status of Soviet forces in the area remains essentially unchanged.

2. South Vietnam

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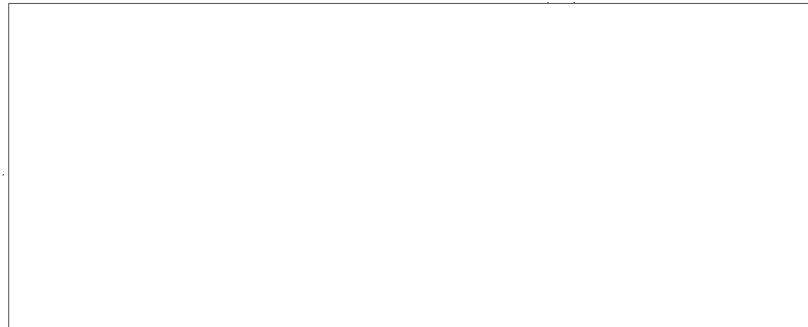
3. Soviet Union

Soviet spacecraft recovery forces are conducting exercises in the Indian Ocean again. This probably means that an unmanned circumlunar flight has been rescheduled for some time later this month or for September.

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4. Soviet Union -
Pakistan

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5. Middle East

Gunnar Jarring is leaving New York next week for more talks with the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli dispute. He will meet first with Abba Eban in London, and then will go to Cairo, where he will formally present the Egyptians with questions posed by the Israelis.

The questions are whether Egypt is prepared to establish a state of peace and incorporate it in a binding agreement, and, assuming a solution, what the nature of future Israeli-Egyptian relations would be. The Egyptians already have the questions and say that they add "nothing new." They do say, however, that they will not be "bashful" in responding and in asking questions of their own.

All in all, Jarring is encouraged that a dialogue may be developing. He believes that the prospects for his new efforts depend on what Eban tells him--particularly about the borders Israel will agree to as part of a settlement.

6. France

Ambassador Lucet, back in Paris on vacation, had an audience with De Gaulle early in the week. Later, in talking with Ambassador Shriver, he portrayed the General as optimistic about Franco-American relations--even passing on the quote that "there are no real problems between France and the US." As for the international monetary question, De Gaulle said France and the US "had differences of opinion only." Lucet described De Gaulle as very relaxed.

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7. Communist China

Mao has issued his strongest statement of the year in an effort to bring the violence under control. Mao says that the people are fed up with the fighting by the rival Red Guard factions. He warns that those who continue to disobey, strike at the army, disrupt communications, kill and burn "must be annihilated."

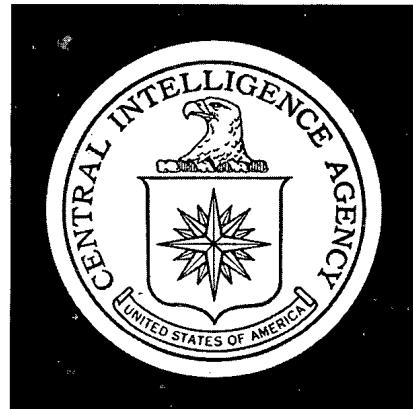
The new statement will almost certainly have an immediate calming effect, but unless further specific orders are issued, its long-range results are likely to be limited. Thus, while Mao at one point calls on all Red Guards to unite, at another point he calls on the militants to continue to "strike out." Ambiguous remarks such as these are good ammunition for any or all sides.

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3 August 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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3 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi on Liberation Front: During this week's session of the Paris talks, the Communists went back to their older and tougher language concerning the role of the Liberation Front in a political settlement. Propaganda media since then has reinforced a shift back to the harder line.

Hanoi radio in an English broadcast on 2 August said the Front was the "master of the situation" and, therefore, has a "decisive say in the settlement of the South Vietnam issue." The broadcast went on in even harsher and more uncompromising terms: "There is no other basis for a solution to the South Vietnam problem than the judicious stand of the Front."

Less categorical language has usually been used in recent months.

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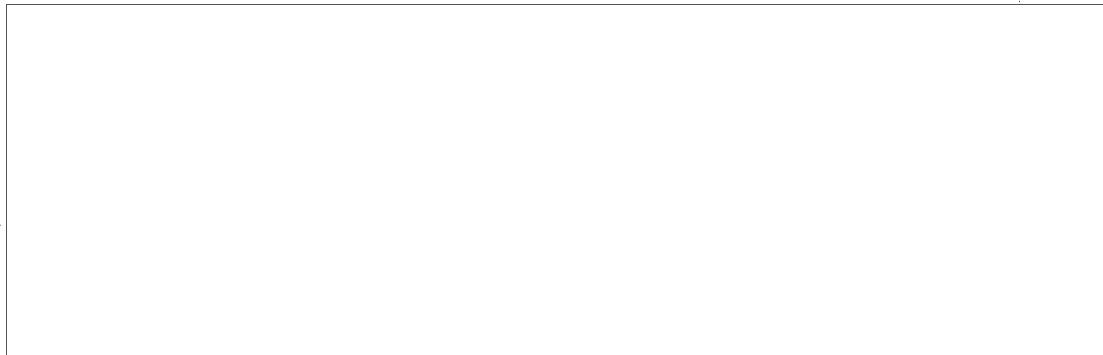
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Postwar Stance: North Vietnamese spokesmen increasingly make a point of stressing their plans for carving out an independent role for Vietnam in a postwar period, usually by stressing their interest in non-Communist trade.

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Reconnaissance Report: Almost no transport activity was noted in high-altitude photography of the panhandle taken last Sunday. The mission, however, was flown in mid-morning when most trucks and watercraft in this area are holed up waiting for darkness.

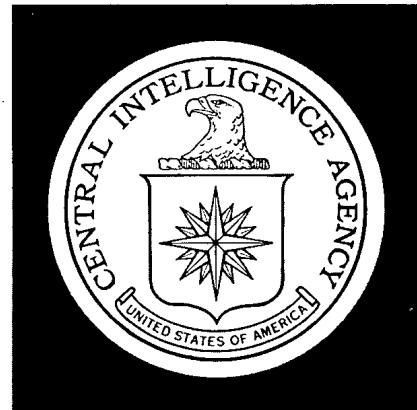
The mission got pictures of the Vinh airfield where some repair of bomb damage is under way. The main runway still could not be used by MIGs, however.

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

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
5 AUGUST 1968

1. Israel-Jordan

Jordan is calling for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to take up yesterday's Israeli attack. The Jordanians will ask for "coercive measures" against Israel. Last night, when Jordanian Foreign Minister Rifai told ambassadors of Security Council states about the planned UN appeal, he said 32 Jordanians had been killed in the raid.

The Israelis have officially stated that the air and artillery strikes were in retaliation for recent acts by the Arab terrorists. The Tel Aviv announcement said the attacks were launched against bases used by these terrorists.

2. Czechoslovakia-Soviet Union

From the things Dubcek said--and left unsaid--in his speech to the nation last night, it appears he has bought the right to continue his domestic reforms. The price, however, looks high and includes giving up thoughts of independent economic, defense, and foreign policies. Furthermore, the wording of the Bratislava declaration indicates that Dubcek's Soviet and East European colleagues will be keeping a close watch on developments in Czechoslovakia.

No participant at Bratislava came away completely satisfied. Hungarian party boss Kadar has been quoted saying "differences" still remain. The fact that Dubcek came off with his domestic program reasonably intact is certainly one of those differences and one that is likely to be felt in other East European countries where liberalism is considered an infectious disease.

3. South Vietnam

There is increasing evidence in all four corps areas that the Communists are nearly ready to attack. Prisoners report as many as eight battalions moving on Saigon. Pleiku and Da Nang may also be targets. Exact timing is not certain, although some Viet Cong units have been alerted for a "third round" offensive to begin within the next two weeks.

4. Brazil

Vacation is over, Brazilian students are returning to class, and the government has failed to do anything about the badly needed educational reforms. The prospects for a new round of riots are excellent. This time some labor unions may join the students.

Costa e Silva seems unwilling to take any decisive action that would help solve Brazil's growing problems.

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5. Canada

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6. Soviet Union

Moscow is trying to put together a new organization that would be open competition for the International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium (INTELSAT). The Russians [redacted]

[redacted] claim they are making their proposal to most United Nations members. Many of the 62 nations belonging to INTELSAT would be included.

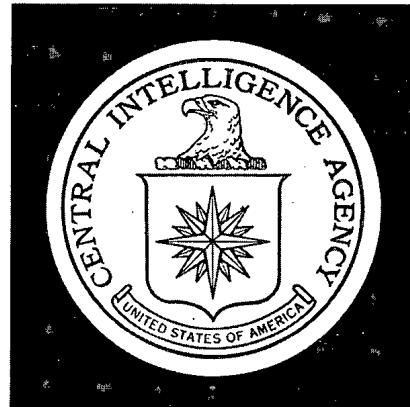
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The Soviet plan does not look as if it would cause defections from INTELSAT, but it does have some provisions that INTELSAT members would like to have in their contracts. In this respect, the existence of the Soviet plan as a second option will complicate negotiations for long-term INTELSAT agreements next year.

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5 August 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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5 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Shipping Report: Foreign flag merchant shipping to North Vietnam during July declined from the preceding record-breaking month. In July, 39 arrivals were recorded in North Vietnamese ports, including six tankers and three cargo ships. This is the lowest number of foreign flag arrivals since February 1968 when there were 29 arrivals.

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Dry cargo deliveries to North Vietnam during July totaled about 148,000 tons. This compares closely with the average monthly figure for dry cargo deliveries noted thus far in 1968. It is a significant decrease, however, when compared with the months of May and June.

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Hanoi Hints at Further Pilot Releases: During their conversations with Ambassador Sullivan in Vientiane, the three recently released US pilots stated that their decision to return home by commercial air rather than military resulted from several broad statements made to them by the North Vietnamese suggesting that three more pilots might be released if the present group's return was "satisfactory." The pilots got the impression, although the North Vietnamese did not spell it out, that returning home commercially would be one of the conditions for a "satisfactory" rating.

Hanoi has never set out any specific conditions for releasing pilots, but the North Vietnamese have muttered unpleasantly in the past over the use of government aircraft for returnees.

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Still No Evidence of North Vietnamese Involvement in Udorn Attack: Ambassador Unger has poured cold water on Thai allegations that Hanoi was responsible for the 26 July attack. He states that, contrary to Deputy Prime Minister Praphat's claims, there were no documents that proved Hanoi's involvement found on the bodies of the two terrorists killed in the attack. While the attack on the air base would have Hanoi's blessing, local Communists seem to have been the ones who carried it out.

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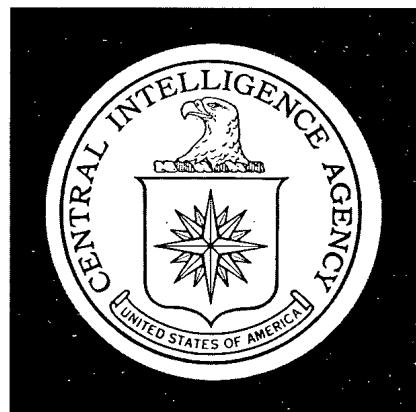
Hanoi Calls on Population for Further Efforts: In an editorial on 3 August, Nan Danh quotes an appeal from President Ho for "our 31 million compatriots" to overcome all hardships and sacrifices and for the Northern compatriots to heighten their vigilance against "espionage and psychological war tricks" of the US "aggressor." By strengthening local and national security, by "developing production," and by wholeheartedly helping the kith and kin in the South, the Northern compatriots and combatants will fulfill the "great rear's duties toward the great front line."

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

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~~Top Secret~~ 6 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
6 AUGUST 1968

1. South Vietnam

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2. Bolivia

Barrientos seems to have big-mouthed himself out of a tight spot over the weekend. By tough talking and threatening to resign, he has backed down the politicians and probably the military malcontents as well. Tension has dropped, but could easily flare up again if the opposition succeeds in raking up the ashes of the Guevara diary case. More student demonstrations are another likely source of serious trouble.

3. Israel-Jordan

The Israeli attack on Sunday against terrorist bases in Jordan has made Jarring's job even harder. The incident can only harden the already fixed bargaining positions on both sides. For Jordan, prospects now are for increased terrorist activity which will bring more violent retaliation from Israel, which in turn will sour public opinion in Jordan toward any peace moves.

4. Pakistan

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**5. South Korea**

President Pak's shuffling of several senior military commanders on Sunday was probably rooted in his dissatisfaction with the minister of defense. A public controversy involving leaks of military information to the press provided Pak with a convenient excuse to move. The new defense minister was most recently chairman of the joint chiefs; a firm friend of the US.

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6 August 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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6 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Hanoi on Bombing Anniversary: Nhan Dan commemorated the fourth anniversary of the first US air attacks on North Vietnam with an editorial saying that President Johnson had finally limited the bombings because of "great setbacks" in the war. The editorial

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says the bombing was started in an attempt to "save" the US war effort from "complete failure," but argues that it has not done the job. It concludes by saying that the US is now "feverishly escalating" the war and "threatening" to end the bombing limitation.

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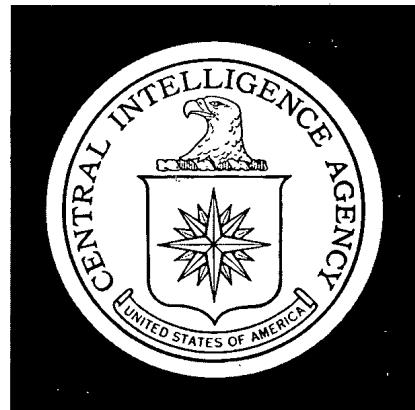
Liberation Front Sending Out More Representatives: Hanoi's international service announced in English on Sunday that the Liberation Front had named envoys to Albania, Bulgaria, and Rumania, and had accredited its man in Moscow to Mongolia. With these appointments, the Front has a quasi-diplomatic representative accredited to every Communist country.

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

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~~Top Secret~~ 7 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
7 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The Soviets are not letting Prague forget that they are watching. Although yesterday's official Soviet communique avoided the harsh language of July, it reminded the Czechs that carrying the provisions of the Bratislava agreement into action was the "prime international task" for the agreement's signers. Moscow, the communique said, "will be doing, for its part, everything in its power to this end."

There is still no sign that the Soviets and their conservative allies have moved any of their troops away from the Czechoslovak border.

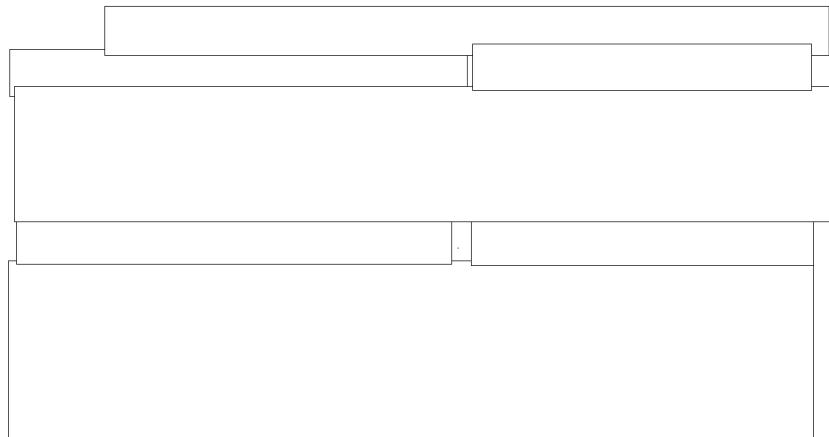
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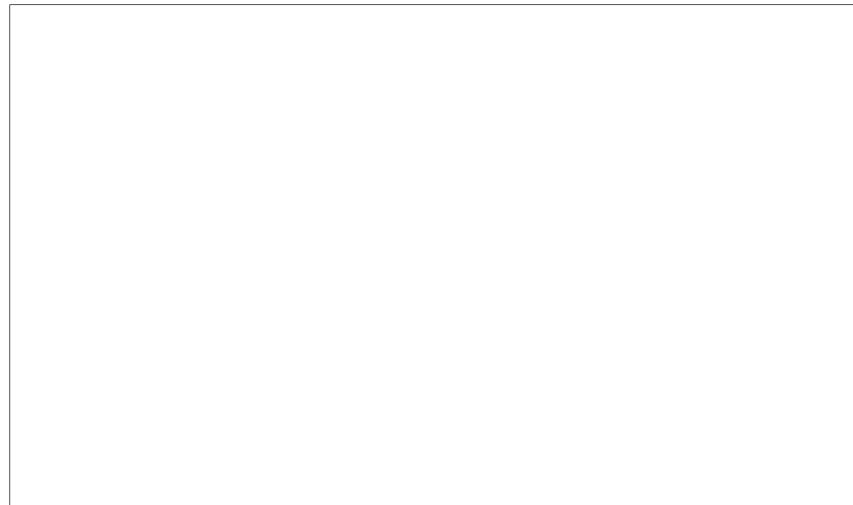
2. Soviet Union

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3. Iraq

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4. Panama



5. Ecuador

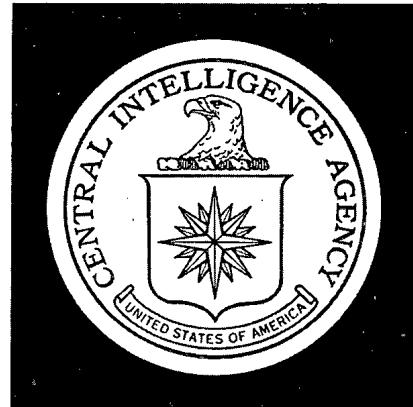
President-elect Velasco is now threatening not to take office on 1 September. His reason is that outgoing President Arosemena has signed a bill giving tenure to most public employees, and Velasco had been counting on passing out government jobs wholesale to his supporters.

Our embassy believes Velasco will eventually be prevailed on to assume the presidency, but not even his close associates can predict with any confidence what he will do. He may not even know himself.

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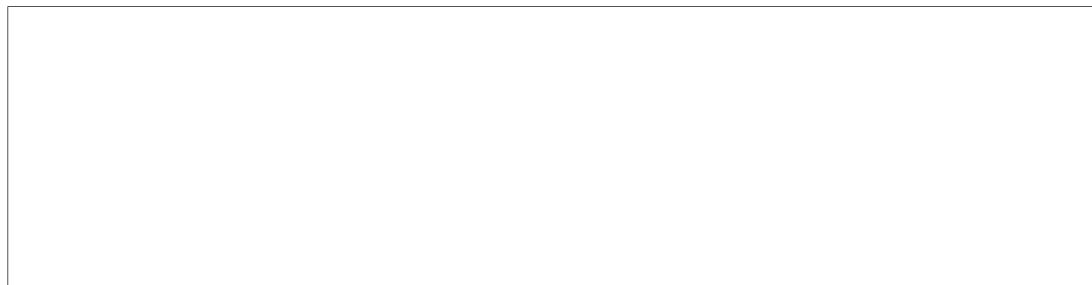
Propaganda May Herald Offensive: Recent North Vietnamese propaganda reinforces indications that the Communists are on the verge of another offensive in South Vietnam. Some Hanoi domestic broadcasts seem designed to brace the North Vietnamese for another major effort and possibly for a resumption of heavier and more wide-ranging US air attacks.

Hanoi is arguing that because the US is still bent on a military solution, additional Communist military pressure is required. The North Vietnamese use statements by top US leaders as evidence for their conclusion.

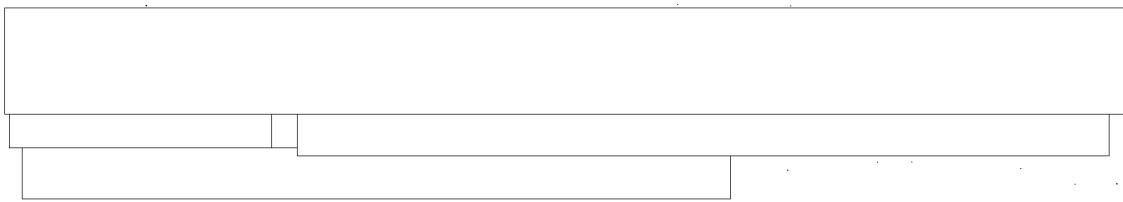
In one recent domestic broadcast, Hanoi radio said that President Johnson on 31 July had mentioned the possibility of "increasing military measures." Listeners were told the Johnson administration was in a "vicious cycle" which could only be broken by Communist military force. An editorial in Nhan Dan on 3 August called on the populace to be ready for new US "escalation" and emphasized once again that this required special measures to maintain internal security and public order. Other commentary over the past week or so has been in a similar vein.

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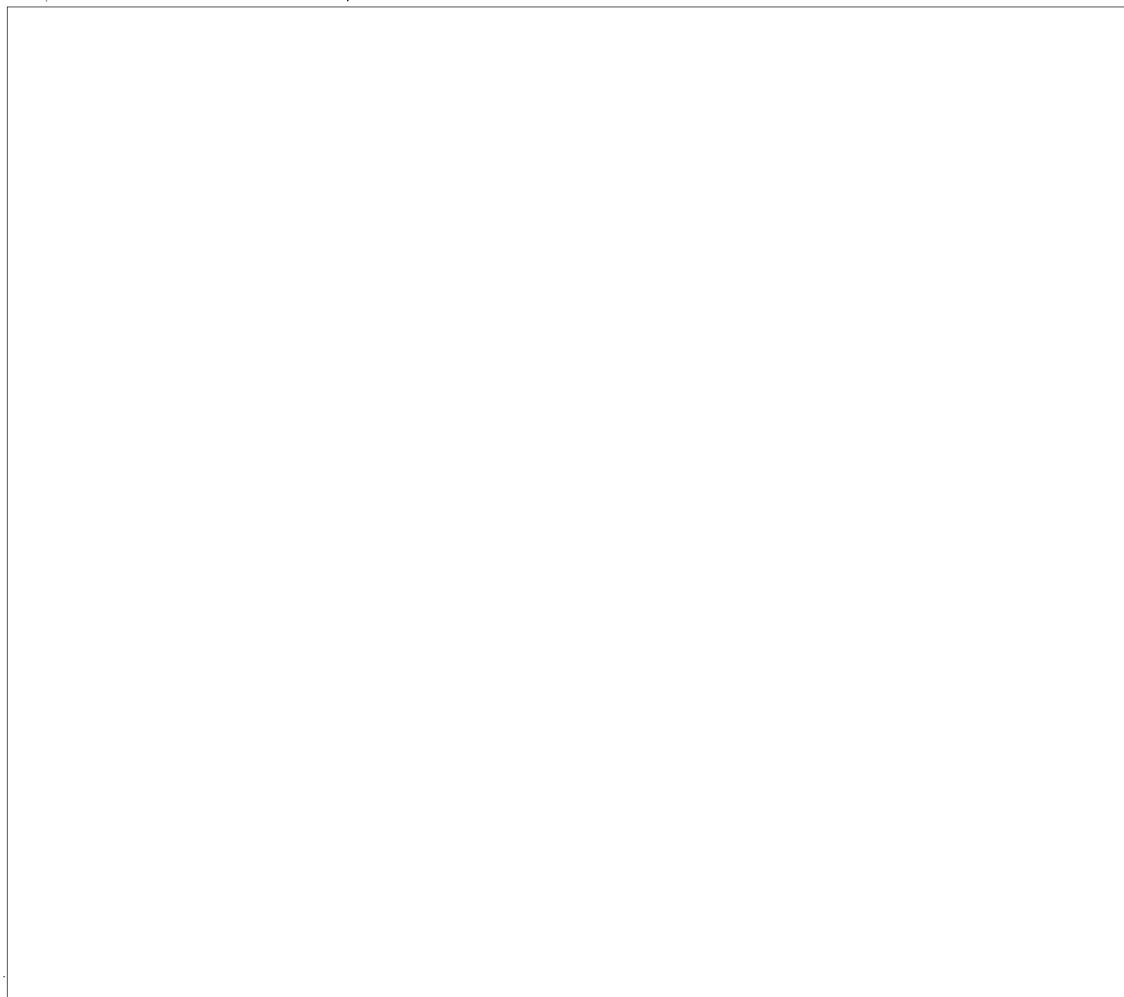
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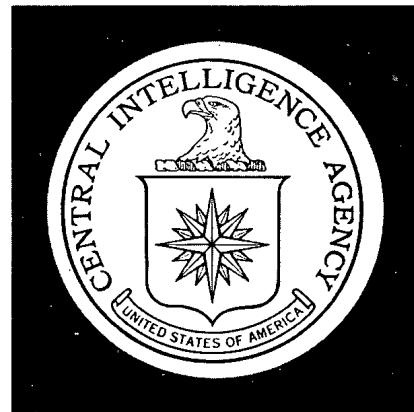


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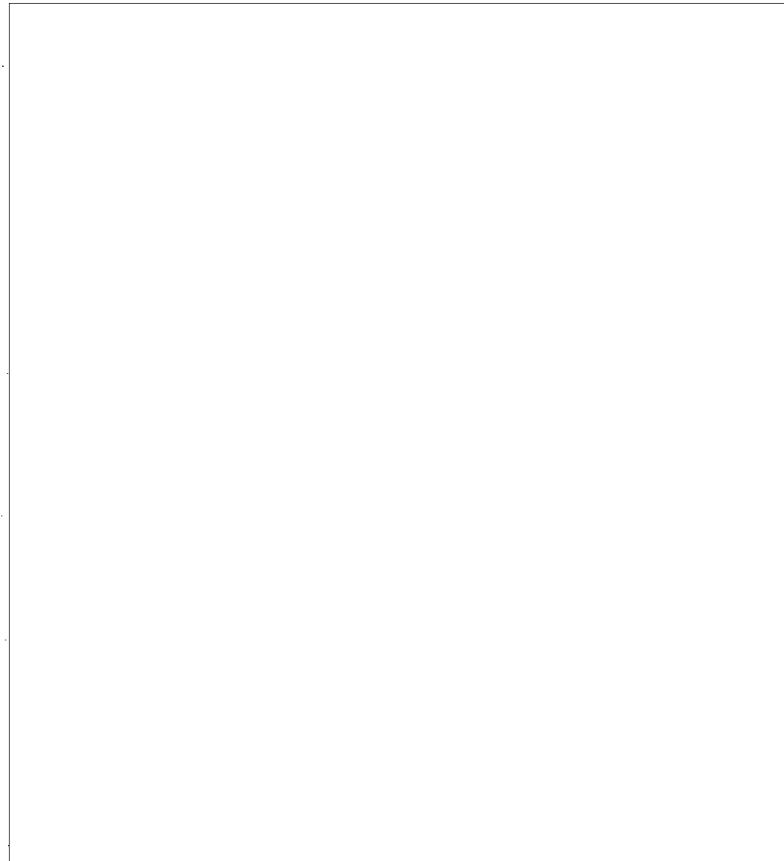
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
8 AUGUST 1968

1. South Vietnam



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2. Suez Canal

The Egyptians are courting trouble along the canal. UN officers assigned to the truce supervision detail have noted a series of relatively minor, but seemingly premeditated provocations. These include Egyptian soldiers touching briefly on Israel's side of the canal, advancing positions closer to those held by Israeli troops, and shooting at Israeli aircraft.

The UN officers asked Cairo for an explanation; they received no answer at all. General Bull, the Norwegian who heads up the UN truce observers, told the Egyptians he was "extremely concerned."

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3. France

The US gained and the Soviet Union lost ground in French public opinion over the past year, but Frenchmen still prefer to be independent of both superpowers. These are the results of two polls taken by the French in late July. In terms of popularity, it looks this way:

1967

Good opinion of US	22%
Good opinion of USSR	28%

1968

Good opinion of US	35%
Good opinion of USSR	24%

As for France's alignment, 53 percent thought France should remain independent. In this second poll, however, 19 percent did feel France should be closely allied with the US--a rise of 6 percent.

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5. Syria

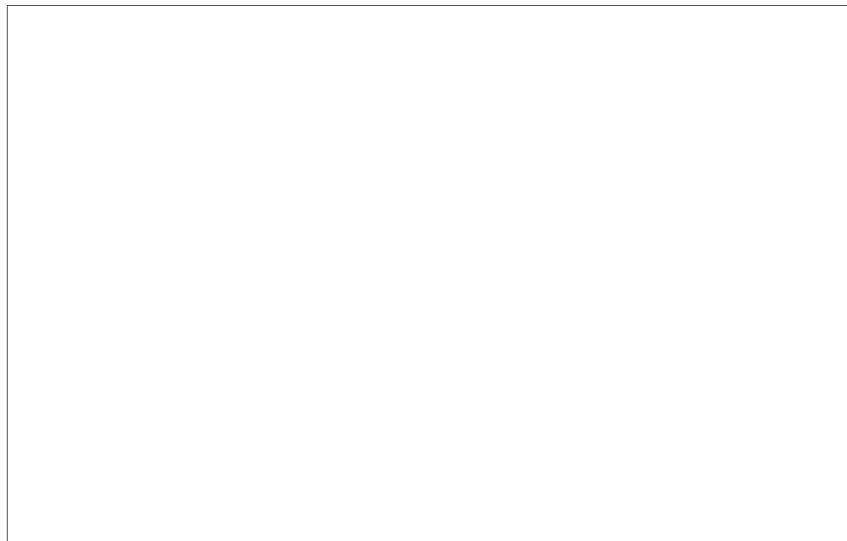
The situation in Syria is getting yeasty again

The present ruling military group has managed to muddle through for three years--something of a record--

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6. Cambodia



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7. Mexico

A nationwide student strike has been threatened unless, by tonight, Diaz Ordaz meets a series of student demands. This ultimatum called for disbanding the riot police, indemnifying injured students, and releasing political prisoners.

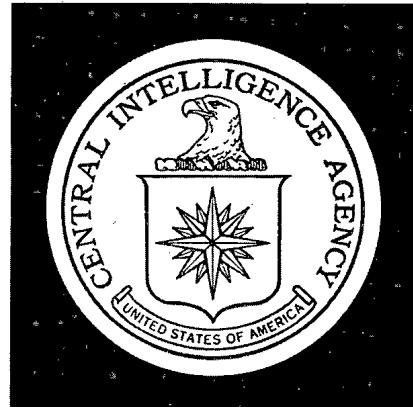
If a strike is called, the students will try to enlist support from workers and peasants. They are not likely to be successful as neither the workers nor the peasants have much patience with the students. The students, however, are quite capable of starting new riots without help.

Diaz Ordaz has the muscle to crack heads, but he may try instead to offer some concessions that will take the heat off through October and the Olympics.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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8 August 1968

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

8 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

More on the Course of the War: Vietnamese Communist propaganda continues to promise additional military pressure because of the "obdurate attitude" of the United States. An article in Hanoi's army newspaper on 3 August takes the same line as other recent propaganda statements: the US claims to have exercised restraint, but in fact has stepped up the war. It cites many details of US air attacks to underline its point. The paper also condemns President Johnson's statements on 31 July calling on the Communists to exercise restraint and notes that "he even threatened that there was always the possibility of timely actions and new military measures by the United States."

The article concludes that the "Johnson clique" is still "very stubborn and bellicose" and that recent US statements and actions constitute a "most brazen and imprudent challenge." The paper said that allied forces in South Vietnam are "fearfully awaiting" attacks by Communist forces and promised that such attacks would be forthcoming.

A statement from the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front broadcast over the Viet Cong radio on 6 August contains the same message: as long as the US pursues its "aggression" in South Vietnam, Communist forces will continue to fight. It says the Communists are determined to step up the so-called "general offensive and uprisings."

* * *

Hanoi Captures "Spy Group": Hanoi radio announced on 7 August that a 12-man "spy-commando" group was recently "put out of action" in a northwestern province of North Vietnam. The radio said the group was on an allied intelligence mission designed to pinpoint targets for US air attacks, set up counterrevolutionary bases, and conduct sabotage operations. [redacted] the

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announcement says this mission was conducted by the US and Saigon authorities after President Johnson announced restrictions on the bombing.

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[redacted] North Vietnam picked up a similar group earlier this year and lately has been stressing the need for security and vigilance against sabotage and espionage.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
9 AUGUST 1968

1. South Vietnam

In talking recently with George Carver, Prime Minister Huong said he is confident of his ability to curb the corruption pervading the Saigon establishment; the prime minister believes it must be eliminated if the government is to survive.

Huong said that he has the complete support of President Thieu in this task and that the people, now that they see he means business, are volunteering information about corruption. One of the major problems is that his inspection staff is too small to give adequate attention to all the information it is receiving.

Turning to another subject, Huong claimed that covert Communist agitators are working among such groups as the Buddhists, the Catholics, students, and the military. He said that the Buddhists are inherently susceptible to Communist propaganda and that he has proof that some of the Buddhist leaders are Communist agents.

2. Mexico

The call has gone out for a nationwide student strike. Students in Mexico City are set for a mass demonstration today

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3. Israel-Jordan

The Israelis are getting tougher than ever in their public statements and will certainly launch more and harder attacks against Jordan as terrorist incidents continue.

[redacted] Israeli soldiers, including reservists, were very much in evidence on the streets of Jerusalem on Wednesday.

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4. Iraq

The new "moderate" regime in Iraq is in trouble. We can identify several seriously disgruntled elements inside the country

[redacted] Some combination of such groups could try for a takeover at any time.

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5. Nigeria

The peace talks in Addis Ababa will probably add up to nothing. Anticipating this, Gowon's federal forces are preparing for a major push against the Biafran heartland; it could come as soon as Sunday.

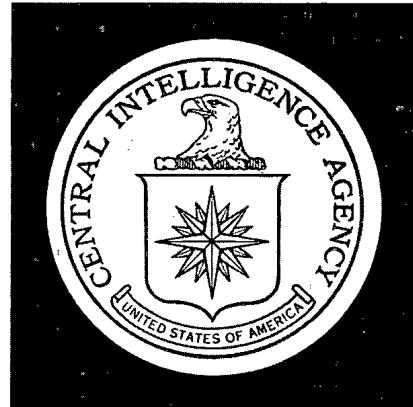
6. Communist China

The touchy issue of how far to go in damping the Cultural Revolution may be creating new strains in Peking. On Tuesday, two nationally prominent newspapers in Shanghai denounced unnamed forces who were allegedly trying to engineer the dismissal of members of Mao's Cultural Revolution group. Using unusually lurid language, one paper accused these "enemies" of following the traditional tactics of "eliminating those who are close to the emperor" in order to get at his leading lieutenant--possibly a reference to Lin Piao or to Mao's unpopular wife.

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9 August 1968

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

9 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi's Next Tactics: We suspect Hanoi has reached some new decisions on how to move next in the Paris talks and in the war in South Vietnam. Le Duc Tho probably is returning to Paris armed with these decisions. The evidence on future tactics is inconclusive, but the weight of it suggests that stepped-up Communist military activity is likely.

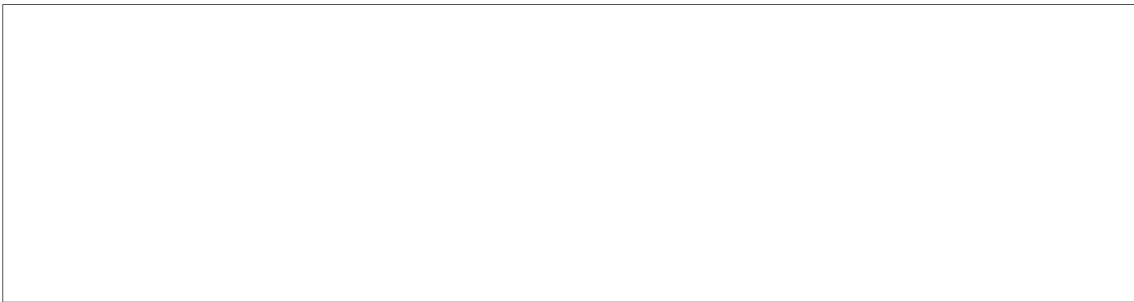
Recent propaganda supports military indications which point toward another strong Communist military push in South Vietnam. Taken at face value, this evidence suggests that Hanoi concluded from the Honolulu conference and from tough statements by President Johnson and Secretary Rusk that its efforts to extract concessions from the US have failed and that additional Communist military pressure is required.

On the other hand, the North Vietnamese have recently begun to encourage others to regard the Communist military posture during the past month or so as evidence of "restraint" in response to US demands. In the most direct public statement yet on this issue, the official spokesman for Hanoi's delegation in Paris told a newsman on 7 August to "closely study the situation in South Vietnam during the last few months."

This latter approach puts the Communists in a position to go either way: they could prolong the military lull in South Vietnam in the hope of increasing pressure for unilateral US concessions; or they could proceed with major military efforts and claim this action was required because the US failed to respond to a period of Communist "restraint."

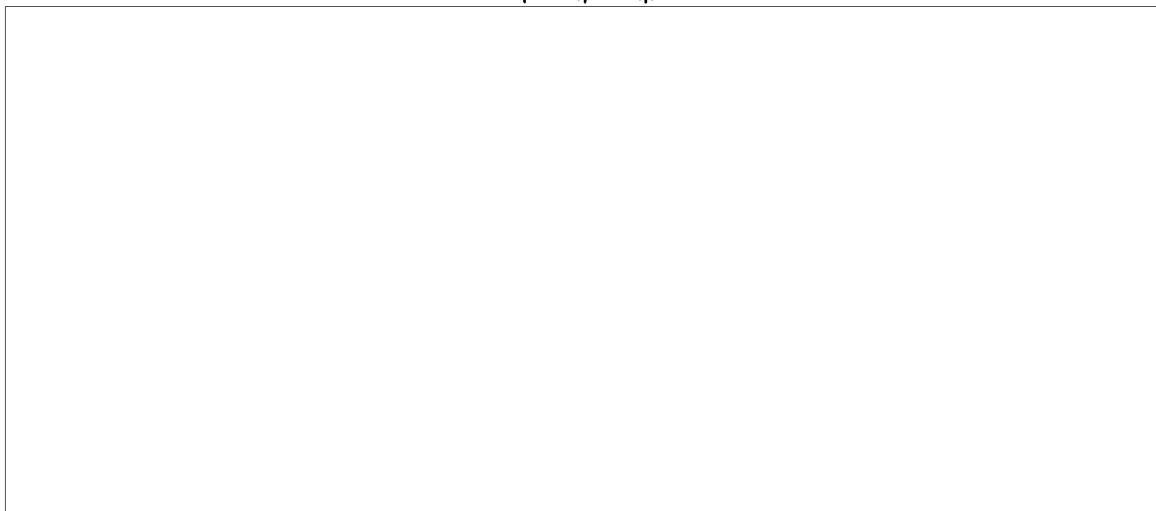
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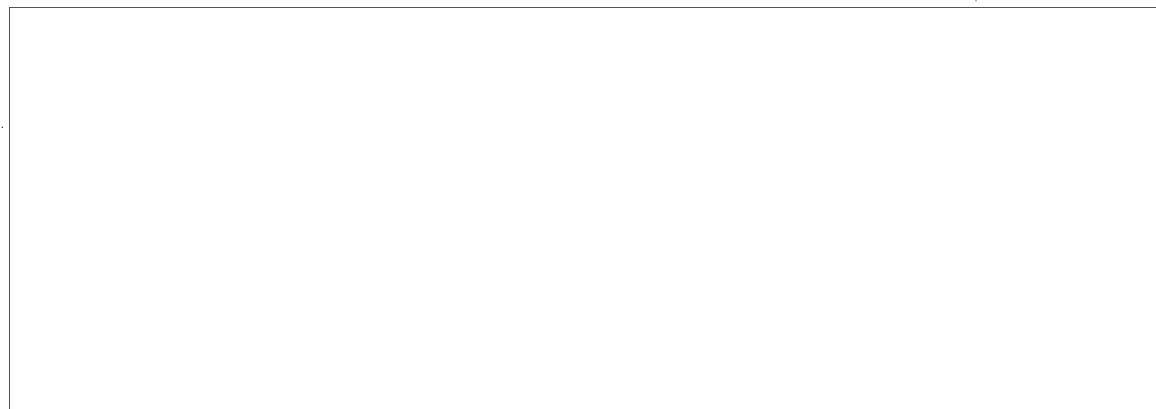
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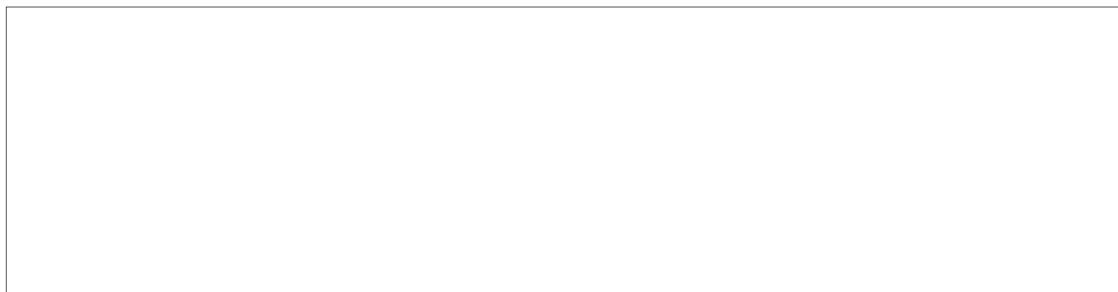
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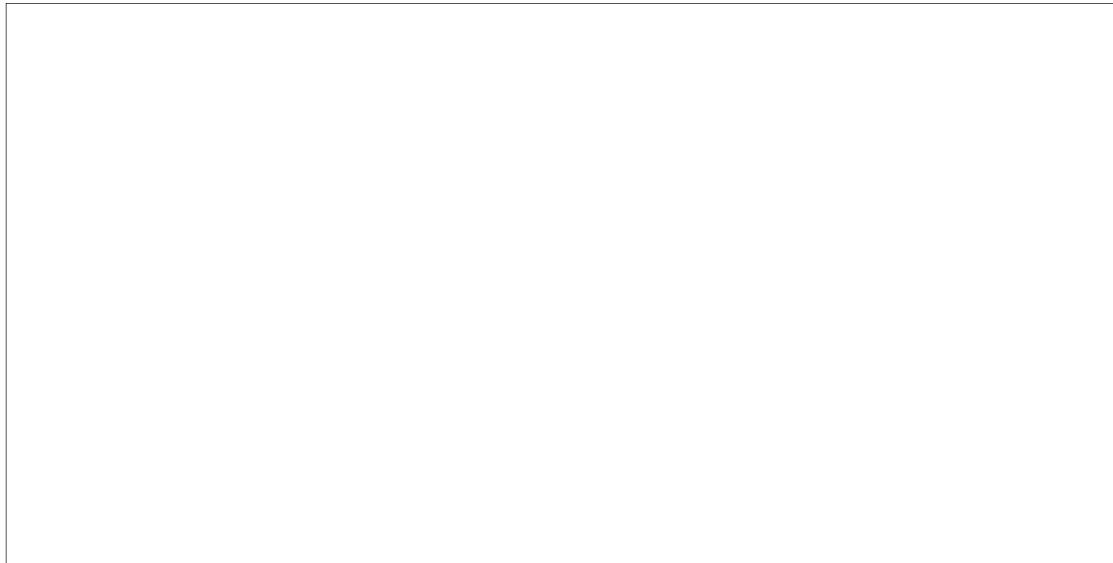
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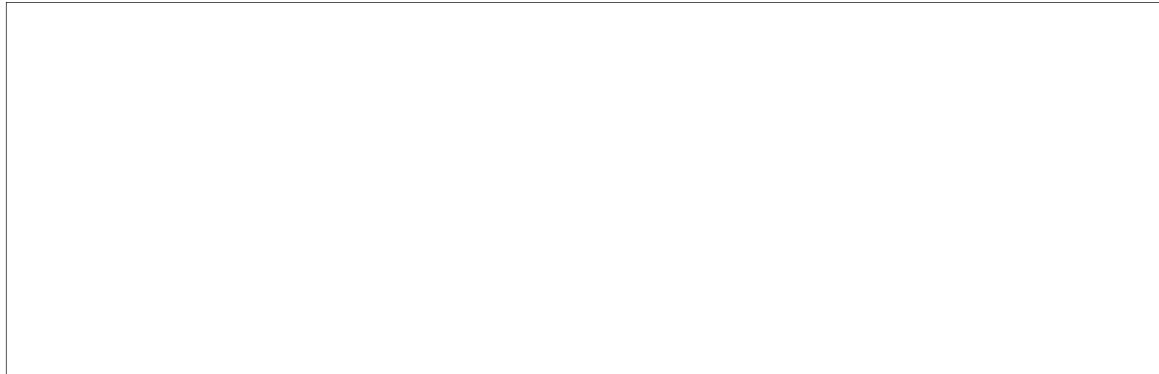
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North Vietnamese Agricultural Problems: According to a Nhan Dan article of 14 June on conditions in Nam Ha Province in the Red River Delta, "never before has a season begun as early as this year's, never before has there been a season in which labor problems have reached such levels." While nowhere claiming a labor shortage, the article asserted that without the achievement of more "complex" supervision of labor, the requirements in harvesting the fifth-month crop simultaneously with planting the tenth-month crop will not be met. There is also an allusion to the need for better incentives for individual peasants. We know from other sources that the weather this year has been unusually cold and wet.

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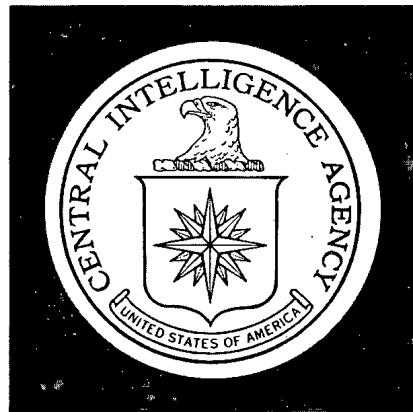
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 August 1968



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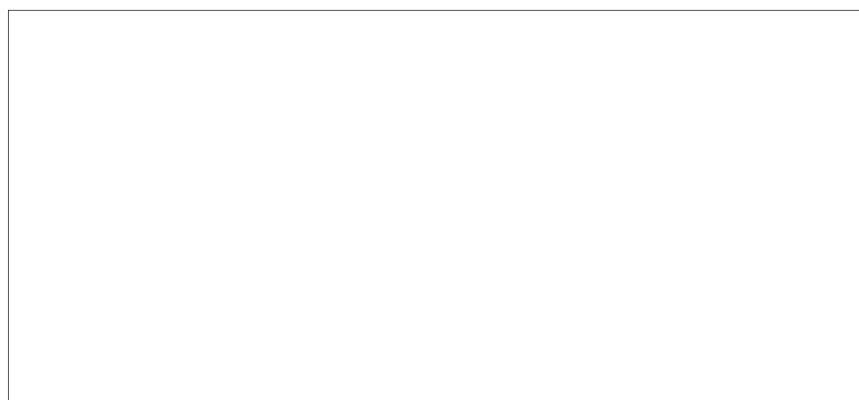
THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
10 AUGUST 1968

1. South Vietnam

Communist military preparations in at least three areas have now reached the stage where an offensive could be kicked off at any time, perhaps even this weekend. Da Nang, Chu Lai, and the provinces northwest of Saigon are likely targets.

* * *

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2. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Czech conservatives are again being removed from party positions, news media are showing little inclination to heed Dubcek's call for restraint, and the Czech populace gave Tito a hero's welcome on his arrival yesterday in Prague. None of this will sit well in Moscow, although the Soviets and their allies are showing restraint in their public reaction.

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3. Jordan

In the wake of recent Israeli attacks, more and more Jordanians are criticizing their government's helplessness. A good many are coming to regard the terrorists as the only people who are doing anything to hurt the Israelis.

This is the beginning of a vicious circle: Israeli attacks weaken Husayn domestically and make the terrorists more popular; the terrorists, knowing Husayn cannot touch them, grow bolder; and their boldness stimulates more Israeli attacks.

4. Israel**5. Laos**

Government troops are making modest gains in their cautious attempts to retake some of the territory lost to the Communists during the dry season. We suspect that most of the gains are coming in fringe areas which the Communists consider nonessential; the presence of a good many North Vietnamese troops indicates that for the most part the Communists intend to hold what they have.

6. Greece

Andreas Papandreou is beginning to work more strenuously against the new constitution as the plebiscite of 29 September approaches. His movement and a Communist-instigated "Patriotic Front" issued a joint statement early this month on the need to coordinate resistance to the Papadopoulos regime, and he says he has put out feelers to conservative former premier Karamanlis as well.

The regime is publicizing the joint statement as an example of Communist efforts to undermine Greece's "struggle for democracy" and is charging that Papandreou would cooperate with "any enemy of Greece."

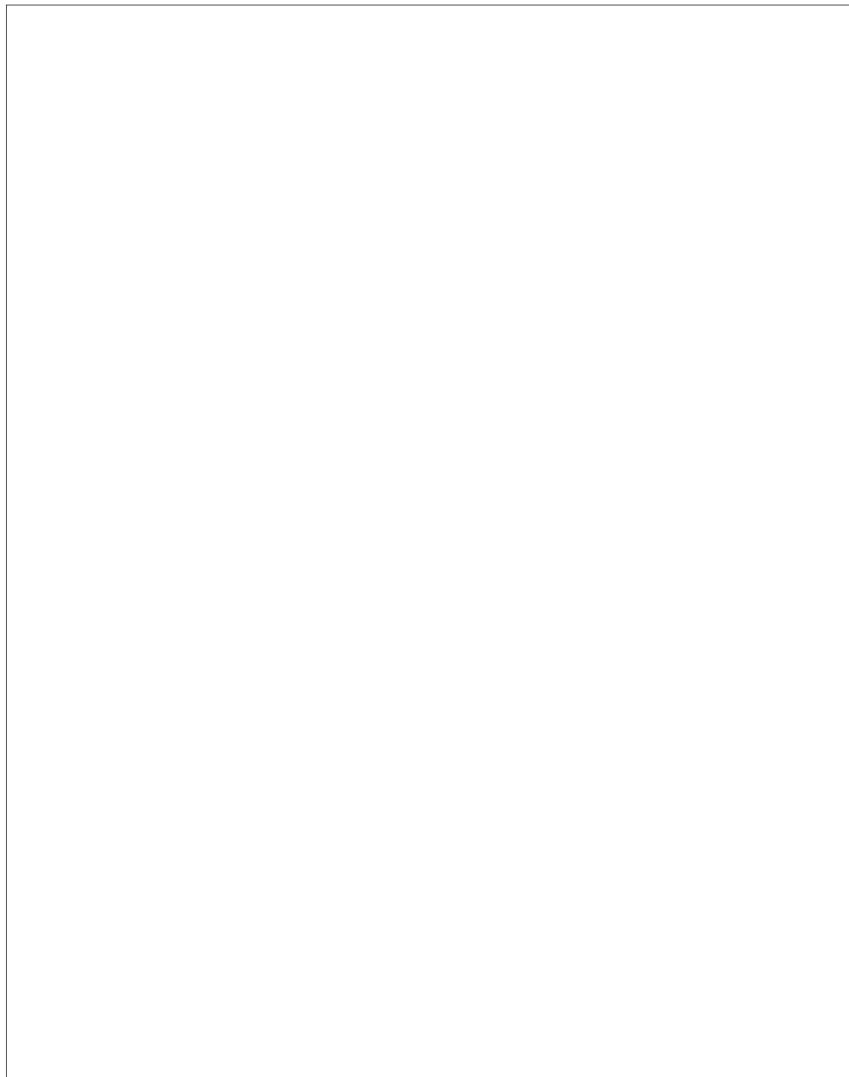
7. Communist China

As part of their efforts to bring the worst excesses of the Cultural Revolution under control, the Chinese have begun forming "worker-peasant Mao-thought propaganda teams." These teams have been made the object of a propaganda ballyhoo which seems unreal even by Peking's standards.

We learn from the Chinese news agency, for instance, that the team at the university in Peking was recently favored with a gift of mangoes from Mao. Thereupon the members of the team flocked to the campus, "tears of happiness" in their eyes, to "touch and smell" the mangoes. They finally decided at an emergency meeting to embalm the fruit and place it in a glass crypt, on the theory that in this way Mao's mangoes would be "implanted in our hearts." The countryside as far away as Shanghai is said to be reverberating with joy over the incident.

8. Nigeria

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10 August 1968

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

10 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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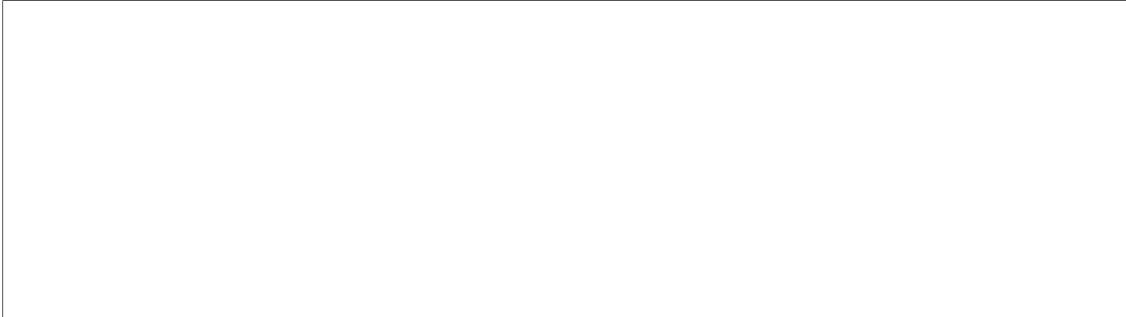
Infiltration: North Vietnamese infiltration activity appears to be proceeding at about the same rate in August as in the past two months.

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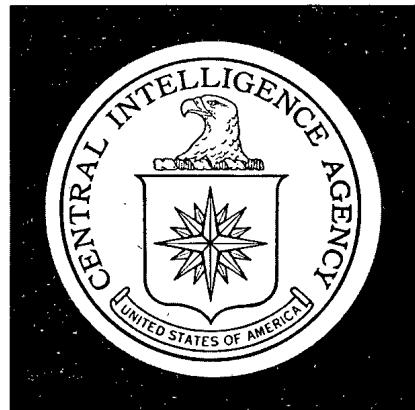
**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report today.



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The President's Daily Brief

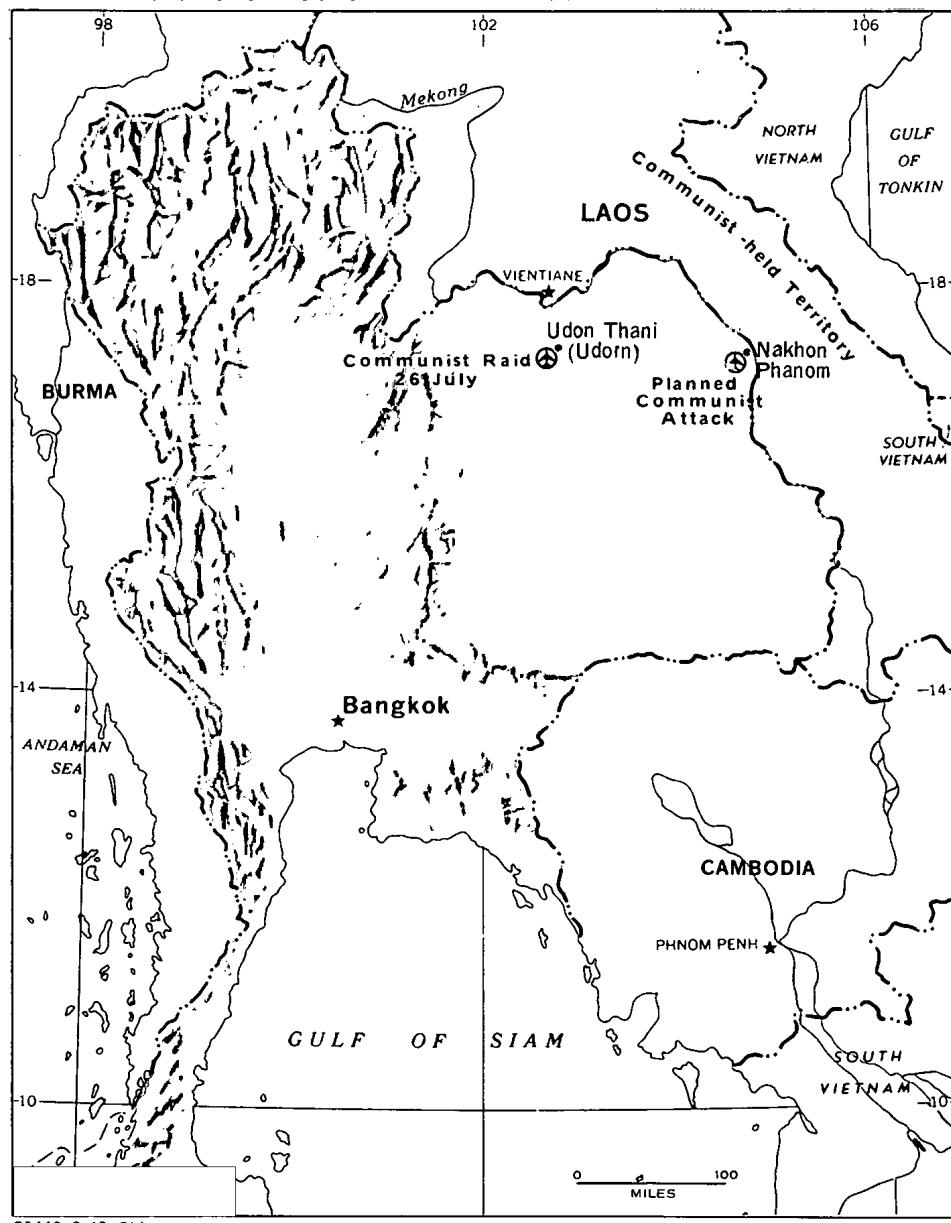
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Indications of Planned Communist Attack in Thailand



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
12 AUGUST 1968

1. South Vietnam

No significant enemy action took place over the weekend, but signs of early and possibly widespread attacks continue to multiply. Although Saigon is still high on the Communist target list, it now looks as if any big push against the city would come five to ten days after the offensive is kicked off elsewhere.

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2. Thailand

The Communists may be gearing up for an attack on Nakhon Phanom airbase.

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Thai insurgents operating near the base met early this month to discuss an attack and are caching automatic weapons. A 27-man demolition team is also said to have established itself north of the base and a team of North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao operatives is allegedly slated to arrive soon to help out.

Some of these reports may amount only to groundless scuttlebutt stimulated by the raid against Udorn on 26 July. Nevertheless, Nakhon Phanom, just across the Mekong from Communist-held territory in Laos and used extensively for air attacks in the Lao infiltration corridor, would be an obvious Communist target.

Thai security authorities in any event are taking no chances. They are reinforcing the garrison defending the airbase and have placed it on alert.

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3. Czechoslovakia

Ulbricht follows Tito with a somewhat different mission. The East German Communist leader is probably making the trip to Prague to foster the impression back home that relations with Czechoslovakia, sorely strained by Pankow's opposition to Dubcek's reform-minded regime, are improving. Ulbricht would thus hope to allay some of the unrest which lies just below the surface in East Germany.

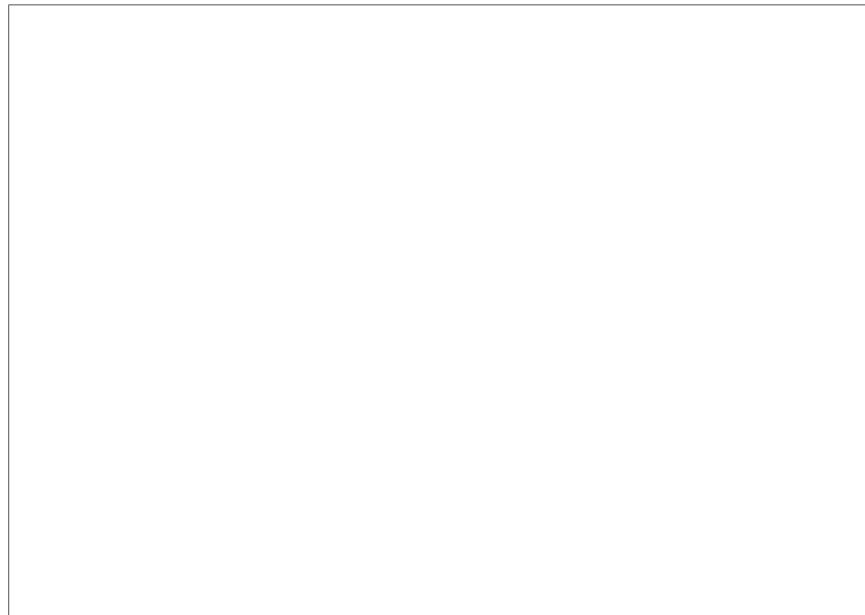
During Tito's triumphant visit, the Czechoslovaks published the drafts of some new statutes they plan to present for approval at the Communist Party congress next month which are bound to upset Dubcek's opponents at Bratislava. One calls for a federal system of two Communist parties--one for the Czechs and one for the Slovaks--which would be only loosely administered by a central party organization. Another would, among other things, permit greater participation by non-Communist groups within the National Front.

Soviet, Polish, and East German forces continue their war of nerves along Czechoslovakia's frontiers. The completion of a rear services exercise on 10 August was followed the next day by the start of a joint communications exercise. However, there have been no significant changes in the deployment of Soviet, Polish, and East German ground forces.



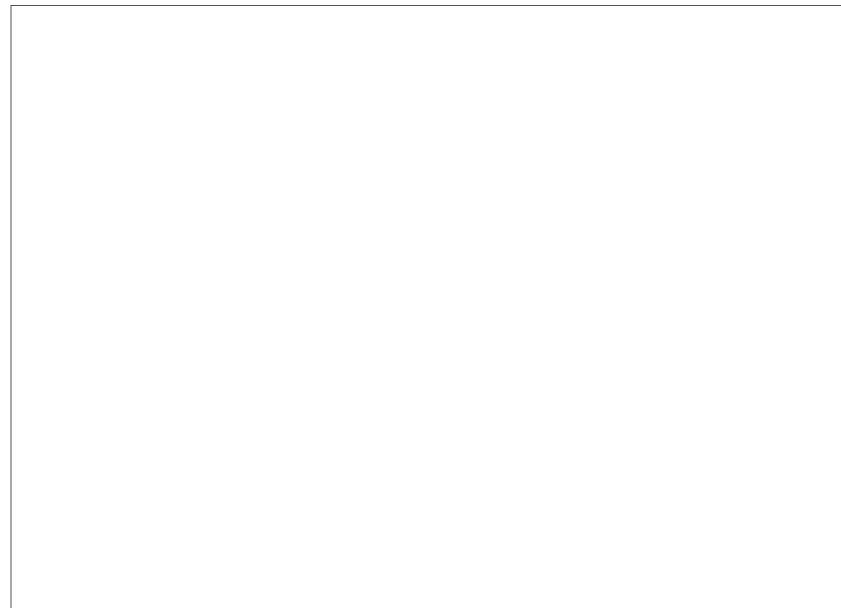
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4. Jordan

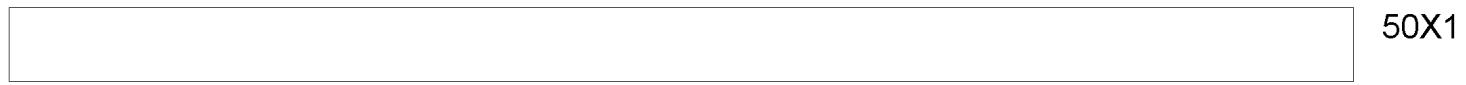


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5. Communist China



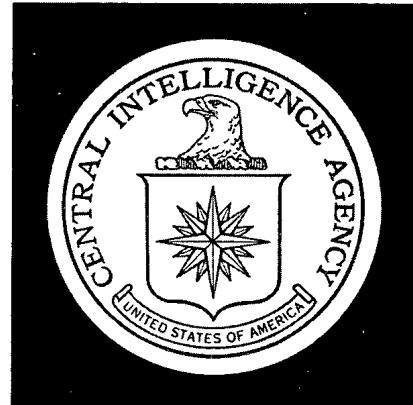
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12 August 1968

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

12 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Le Duc Tho in Moscow: Le Duc Tho arrived in Moscow Saturday and will stay there "two or three days" before going on to Paris. according to the Soviet news agency.

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Tho may well be returning to Paris armed with new North Vietnamese decisions on both the military and the diplomatic front. His lengthy sojourn in Moscow indicates that he may be spelling out in some detail whatever new tactical departures Hanoi has decided on and may be trying to line up Soviet support for them. Similar Soviet - North Vietnamese exchanges took place when Le Duc Tho passed through Moscow going to and returning from the Paris talks in June.

* * *

Hanoi on Prisoner Releases: The Communists seem to be involved in some new maneuvering on the prisoner issue. The North Vietnamese press agency issued a statement on 11 August demanding that the US and Saigon "immediately set free all those whom they have illegally arrested" and return them to North Vietnam through the Demilitarized Zone or in North Vietnamese territorial waters. Hanoi used its usual elliptical language to avoid acknowledging North Vietnamese forces in South Vietnam, but the statement clearly refers to North Vietnamese prisoners in allied custody, including the 14 sailors the US is preparing to release.

US and North Vietnamese embassy officers in Laos discussed the procedures for releasing these 14 prisoners on 10 August. The Communists claimed that the US plan to return the prisoners via Vientiane presented unspecified problems and that Hanoi preferred they be freed near the Demilitarized Zone or in nearby North

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Vietnamese waters. The North Vietnamese said that the military problems this would cause could be solved by the US stopping its bombing and other attacks in the area. They acknowledged implicitly that Communist military activities would also have to be curtailed.

Although Hanoi accepted three North Vietnamese sailors through Vientiane earlier this year, it may wish to shun further use of this channel because of the publicity which can be focused on Vientiane.

On the other hand, Ambassador Sullivan speculates that the Communists may, among other possibilities, wish to use the prisoners to arrange a temporary cease-fire in the Demilitarized Zone as a means of meeting one of the US suggestions for "reciprocity." Another possibility is that Hanoi is preparing for a large-scale exchange of prisoners in connection with the Paris talks. The US pilots held in North Vietnam probably are considered a trump card by the Communists, and one which they undoubtedly will play eventually in an attempt to extract US concessions.

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Pole on North Vietnamese Intentions: The Polish commissioner to the International Control Commission in Laos took a rather rosy view of North Vietnamese intentions in a recent chat with Ambassador Sullivan. He suggested that the first "phase" of the Paris talks was now over and "serious negotiations should begin soon." The Pole agreed with Sullivan's suggestion that North Vietnamese stalling might be connected with the US political campaign. But he said that "nominations are now over (sic), negotiations can begin." He doubted

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that a "third wave" of Communist attacks in South Vietnam was in the cards because they would be against Hanoi's best interests. Sullivan correctly notes that the Pole is unlikely to have any inside information to back up such views.

* * *

More on Revolutionary Administrations: Communist propaganda continues to give heavy play to the establishment of new administrative organizations in South Vietnam to consolidate Communist control of the countryside. A Viet Cong broadcast on 10 August claimed that "hundreds of persons" in Binh Long and Phuoc Long provinces in northern III Corps have set up these "revolutionary administrations." The broadcast said that "incomplete statistics" show that "hundreds of villages" in these two provinces had held elections for village "people's councils" and "people's liberation committees." The local people were said to be happy to have an "administration that really represents them."

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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~~ 13 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
13 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
East Germany

Ulbricht made yesterday's trip to Czechoslovakia as short as possible, but much of it must have been painful to him even so. He ventured only as far as a Czech spa 12 miles from his East German sanctuary. His plane was met by a small, silent crowd. ("One person forgot himself and clapped," noted a US Embassy officer.) The people in town followed him with cries of "Long live Dubcek!" Dubcek and his lieutenants went out of their way to make sure Ulbricht was aware of the enthusiastic support the Czechs have been giving their leaders.

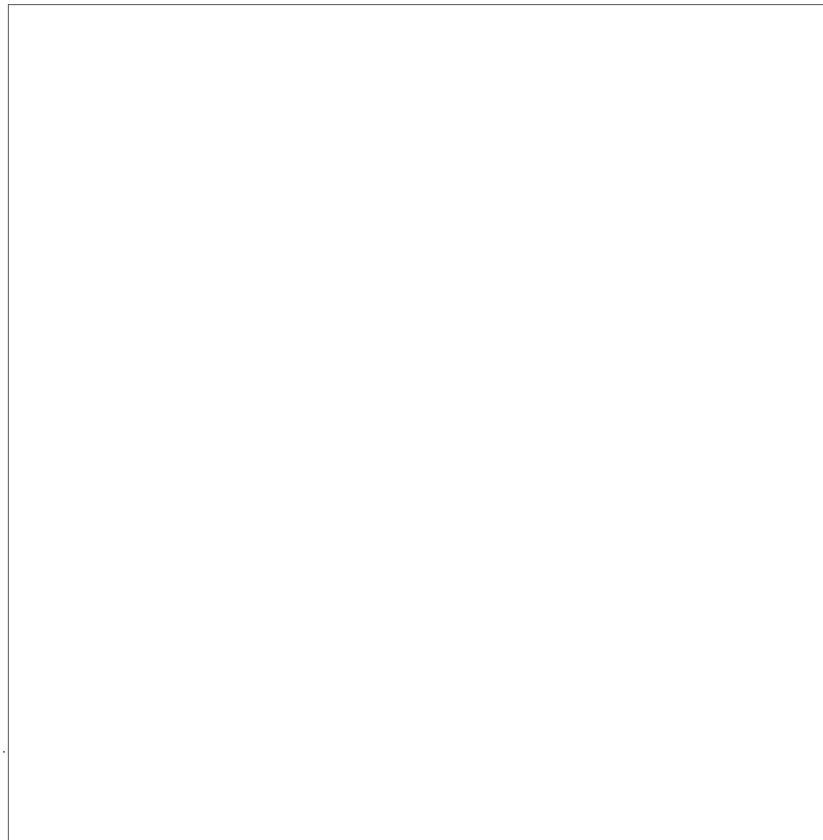
The East German and Czech delegations talked for seven hours yesterday, but we cannot conceive that they have anything useful to say to each other.

Ulbricht goes home today. A more congenial guest, Rumania's Ceausescu, is due in Prague on Thursday.

2. France

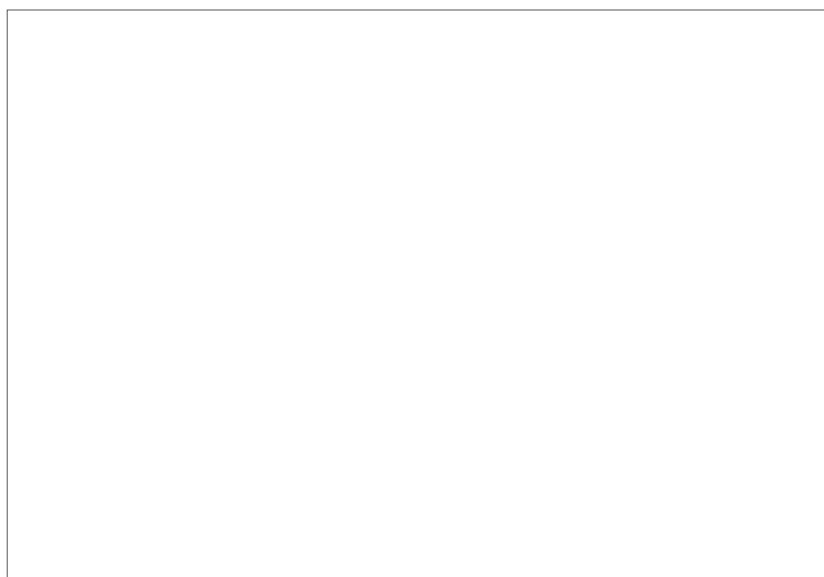
Couve de Murville was unusually forthcoming in discussing French domestic policies with Ambassador Shriver on Saturday. Couve's principal points are noted at Annex.

3. Nigeria



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4. Afghanistan



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ANNEX

Couve Discusses Domestic Policy

Couve de Murville gave Ambassador Shriver a preview of the government's domestic programs in a conversation on Saturday. Among the high points:

--France is in for more austerity. The next government budget will show a large deficit, and further tax increases are on the way. Tax credits will be granted for new investment, however.

--France will be moving out from behind its protectionist barriers, and the French will have to "accustom ourselves to the rigors as well as enjoy the advantages of an open economy." One bitter pill will be a higher unemployment rate.

--The educational system will be decentralized, and the government plans to involve professors, administrators, and students at each university in the process of reform. As a result the universities, which now are all cut to the same centuries-old pattern, will develop a diversity much like that in the US.

--Couve also foresees the growth of specialized schools and institutions similar to our junior colleges to take care of students who cannot be absorbed by the existing universities.

The economic measures Couve talked of are fairly orthodox, albeit a bit more international in orientation than De Gaulle's previous policies. Recent proposals from radical Gaullists--including De Gaulle's own vague promise that the workers would be permitted to participate in the management of their enterprises--were not mentioned by Couve at all.

Ambassador Shriver notes that Couve seemed to be making a special effort to seem forthcoming. Twice he prefaced his remarks with the statement, "Perhaps it is indiscreet for me to say this, but...."

At the end of their talk, Couve said he has "always believed in being completely frank and aboveboard." When the ambassador asked if there were any problems in Franco-American relations, Couve laughed and replied, "Everything's fine. We have no problems with the US."

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13 August 1968

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

13 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese Propaganda Travels: A North Vietnamese delegation was scheduled to leave Cairo on 11 August for Sudan and a tour of Africa. In Cairo the delegation participated in the meetings of the preparatory committee for an international conference in support of North Vietnam. The conference, sponsored by the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, is planned for 7-9 September.

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Clarification: The North Vietnamese foreign ministry issued a note on 10 August clarifying what it called "distortions" of an interview Premier Pham Van Dong gave to a Filipino newsman recently.

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The foreign ministry said that the premier "reiterated the sacred right to self-defense of the entire Vietnamese people," and that all other interpretations are "ill-intentioned distortions." Hanoi continues to be unusually frank in discussing this issue, but clearly wishes to avoid going all the way and acknowledging that its troops are in the South.

* * *

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

Hanoi on US Elections: North Vietnam has broken a long silence on the US election campaign by publishing an article in the army newspaper on 10 August.

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The article takes the same Marxist-Leninist approach General Giap used nearly a year ago in arguing that US elections were merely a capitalist farce and would not result in any change in US policy in Vietnam. This tack in the army newspaper probably is intended to caution military forces and the general populace that strenuous military efforts are still necessary and that no false hopes should be raised because of the Paris talks and the elections.

Such propaganda provides no clues to Hanoi's real attitude. The North Vietnamese leadership is intensely interested in this year's US elections. Even though for the past several months the subject has hardly been mentioned in Vietnamese Communist propaganda, North Vietnamese officials both at home and abroad have probed on the subject at every opportunity.

The new article is a fairly complete review of US election developments in the past few months. It has derogatory comments for all the leading personalities. Senator McCarthy is called a "second-rate politician with little experience or money," and the Kennedy, Humphrey and Rockefeller "cliques" are all upbraided for spending large sums of money.

The article comments that the Vietnam war has exerted a strong effect on the elections and claims that this is the first time such a foreign issue "has become decisive" in the US. It notes that the Republican platform "discoursed on the Vietnam problem," and pledged to "step up the peace talks" and to "avoid a fake surrender." Mr. Nixon, says the paper, has promised to settle the war through "peaceful talks," but still maintains his "aggressive design." The paper concludes by condemning both the Republican and Democratic parties and claiming that President Johnson argued against expanding the war during the 1964 campaign and then "immediately turned aside and reneged on his commitment."

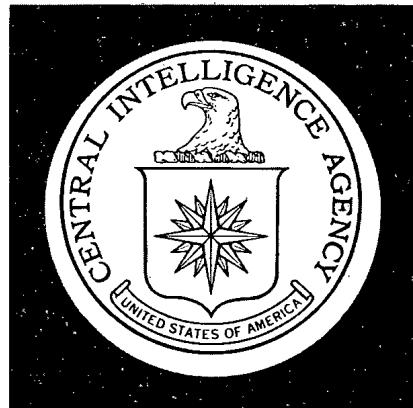
This more freewheeling approach to the US elections was also introduced in Paris on 12 August when the spokesman for the North Vietnamese delegation told a news conference that Nixon's Vietnam policy was "impudent." The spokesman dismissed the Republican platform by saying it does not call for a full

bombing halt and the withdrawal of US forces. He also described as "inaccurate" Vice President Humphrey's declaration that peace is closer than at any time in the past. He added that "the Paris talks have so far failed to progress by one inch or one millimeter."

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Hanoi Quotes Senator Clark: Hanoi's press agency carried an item in English on 12 August saying that Senator Joseph Clark had concluded from a recent tour of South Vietnam that the war is a "stalemate."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
14 AUGUST 1968

1. South Vietnam

Indications of Communist plans for an offensive continue to pile up. One intercepted message instructed a Viet Cong unit to complete its battle preparations by 20 August, then "wait for orders." A single prisoner also has said an offensive would begin on that date. Experience during the Tet offensive, however, showed that the precise time of attack is not usually given to field commanders until just before the action is to begin. Indeed, Hanoi may not have made the final political decision to launch an attack.

2. Southeast Asia

The recent ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations--Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines--surfaced disquiet over the future course of US policy in Southeast Asia. The Thais tell us that the consensus of the meeting was that, whatever happens in Vietnam, the US will "withdraw" from the region and the Communist threat will increase. Thailand is pleased that the other members have come around to its view that the goal of the association should be to work out both joint and national programs to confine Communism to Vietnam. It recognizes the difficulties in translating this goal into action.

3. Korea

Improved South Korean security measures are making it more difficult for the North Koreans to infiltrate across the Demilitarized Zone. Nonetheless they keep trying, and 26 infiltrators have been killed and two captured so far this month. Equipment found at the scene of the clashes indicates that the intruders were probably on missions to observe and photograph obstacles and installations near the zone.

4. Indonesia

The Indonesian Army appears to have dealt a severe blow to the Communist organization in southeast Java. During the army's sweeps this summer, a dozen members each of the party's central committee and the East Java regional committee were captured.

The party, stripped of almost all its pre-coup leaders, may now have to curtail both political and terrorist activity, although the army is not too sanguine about this. The Communists are still well organized in East and Central Java.

5. Jordan-USSR

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6. Greece

Prime Minister Papadopoulos was unharmed when a small bomb exploded near his car on Tuesday. This was the first reported attempt to assassinate a junta member since the April 1967 coup. Police have arrested a former army lieutenant [redacted]

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The government now will probably keep an even stricter watch over the opposition as the plebiscite on the new constitution, set for 29 September, approaches.

Surprisingly, the head of the government press office has blamed not Communists but "people with fascist tendencies" for the assassination attempt.

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7. Uruguay

A recent decision of the Communist Party to sanction violent demonstrations against the government adds another unsettling element to the situation in Montevideo. The government has had its hands full with rebellious students at the national university. A demonstration by some 2,000 students on the night of 12 August resulted in an intensely violent clash with police and the Metropolitan Guard. Some students fired at the police at point blank range. The next morning students erected barricades.

Today the Communists and the trade union federation intend to join with the students in demonstrations and a general work stoppage. President Pacheco has taken advantage of the situation to ask the senate's permission to fire the university's left-leaning rector and his council. Even if the legislators agree, the students are hardly likely to calm down.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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

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50X1

16

14 August 1968

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

14 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Xuan Thuy's Health and the State of the "Weather":
Xuan Thuy has been suffering a diplomatic illness for
the past month.. Newsmen in Paris asked about Thuy's
health at the North Vietnamese press conference on

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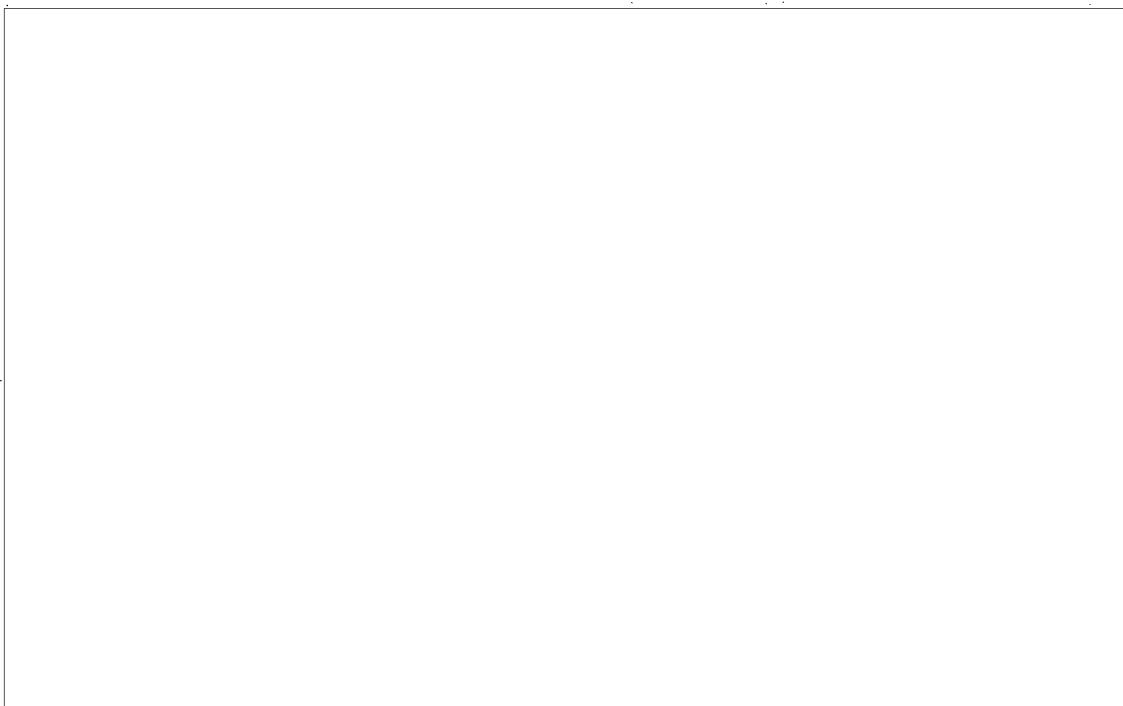
12 August. They were told crisply that his ill health is "caused by the weather and will be decided by the weather," a statement which produced a burst of laughter.

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Truck Traffic Down in Laos: The southwest monsoon finally has set in after one of the driest Julys on record. Communist truck traffic has shown a corresponding drop as key parts of the road net become impassable.

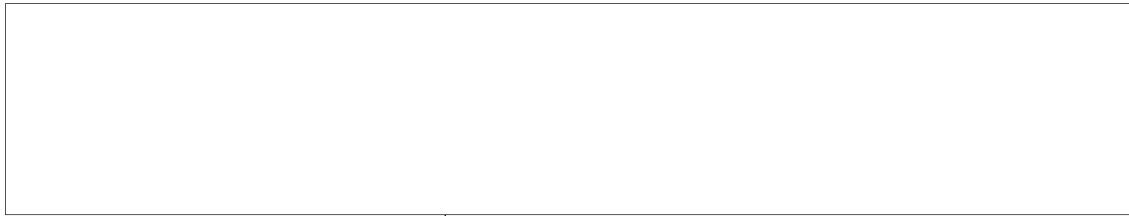
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Radio Hanoi Greatly Expands Broadcasting Effort: On 1 August, Radio Hanoi expanded its international service schedule, doubling its output in the Cambodian, Lao, and Thai languages, and increasing its transmissions in the mountain (Montagnard) languages beamed to North and South Vietnam. It also introduced additional facilities in the service to South Vietnam.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 15 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
15 AUGUST 1968

1. Poland

The Soviets have moved additional divisions into Poland since the end of July,

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[redacted] the moves are a sign that Moscow remains deeply uneasy about developments in Czechoslovakia.

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[redacted] another reason for the move is to back up Gomulka, who has been involved in a protracted power struggle.

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2. Soviet Union

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3. Dominican Republic

There could be trouble tomorrow when one of Balaguer's men replaces the leftist mayor of Santo Domingo. Some of the Communists have called for an "armed uprising"; the extreme right would like to see disorder, which it could then blame on the left. Nothing very serious is likely

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4. Mexico

Diaz Ordaz has kept carefully out of the student situation. He may be reserving the weight of his personal involvement for critical developments.

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The mayor, who figures prominently in speculation on a successor to Diaz Ordaz, has been the target of student hostility. He also has been the official spokesman on the crisis. With that background, he could end up as the official scapegoat.

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August 15, 1968

When he takes office, Arias told US Embassy officers, he will fire National Guard Commandant Vallarino. All top Guard officers routinely submit their resignations to a new president and Arias, who feels Vallarino dabbled too much in the electoral process, intends to take up his option. Vallarino, however, has considerable power in his own right and could turn the tables on Arias.

6. Cuba

As estimated, sugar production this year was far below what Castro had hoped for. The goal had been 7.5 million tons. Between 5.1 and 5.2 million tons were harvested. This was a million tons below last year's 6.1 to 6.2 million ton crop, and Castro has fired the minister in charge.

Besides hurting Cuba's ability to earn foreign exchange, the shortage this year will make it even harder to reach the objectives set for 1970 which are based on yearly increases in production.

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7. Communist China -
Australia

The Chinese, their harvest hurt by bad weather and the Cultural Revolution, have asked for immediate negotiations on Australian wheat. The Chinese probably want to insure there will be no break in deliveries this December when the present one-million-ton contract with Australia expires. Chinese grain imports for 1968 will run about 3.6 million tons, .6 million down from 1967.

8. Burma

Communist guerrillas, using Chinese sanctuary and some Chinese equipment, are becoming more active in the rugged border area of northeastern Burma. The guerrillas, a mixture of Burmese and tribal insurgents, have destroyed bridges and inflicted heavy casualties in several recent encounters with Burmese troops. The Burmese Army is not too effective in this terrain and could be hard pressed in a sustained guerrilla campaign.

9. Congo

Mobutu's pursuit of grandeur is carrying him to new follies that make some of his other Alice-in-Wonderland performances seem almost rational by comparison. He is at the moment:

--Planning to build three replicas of St. Peter's Cathedral in the Congo;

--Buying a British jet airliner for his personal use at a cost of about \$5 million;

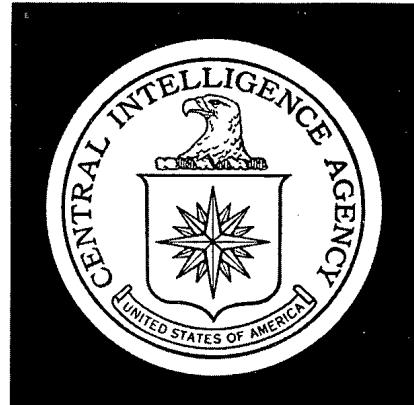
--Discussing the conversion of his residence into an imitation Versailles;

--Acquiring an expensive villa in Switzerland.

Ambassador McBride feels Mobutu's personal expenditures are the most serious problem now facing the Congo.

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15 August 1968

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

15 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Alliance Holds a Conference: The Vietnam Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces held its second conference on 30 and 31 July and adopted a political program, according to a Liberation Radio broadcast on 14 August. Despite a claim that the Alliance had an "urgent reason" for publicizing the program, the broadcast gave few details on the program beyond the tantalizing statement that it is intended to serve as "a basis for bringing together broader and larger numbers of patriotic forces and individuals who are eagerly seeking a way out in the South Vietnam situation at present, as well as for the lasting future."

This sounds as though the Communists still hope to use the Alliance to muster the widest possible South Vietnamese support for an early settlement. Several additional persons were surfaced as members of the Alliance, but these appear to be of even lesser note and influence than known Alliance members.

* * *

Food Shortages: The deteriorating food situation is causing Hanoi continued anxiety, but the Soviet Union and China appear willing to go on underwriting North Vietnamese food supplies. Nhan Dan on 2 August called for a strengthening of controls over food distribution in order to overcome "present shortcomings" and for a new distribution of manpower in order to "solve the food problem in a more steady manner." The article is one of several items during the past month pointing out a need for solving distribution and production problems.

The "shortcomings" in distribution probably have to do with the substitutes being used to adulterate the "rice" ration. The adulterants are largely imported wheat flour, imported and domestic corn, and domestic manioc and sweet potatoes. These substitutes

made up about 40 percent of the ration in early 1968, and the proportion had increased to about 50 percent by mid-year

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[redacted] Since the substitutes are less palatable to the North Vietnamese than rice, the fair apportionment of them among individuals becomes an important matter of policy.

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Allusions to manpower distribution problems in agriculture are of long standing. The loss of rural workers to the war effort and the overburdening of those remaining with war-related tasks have apparently lowered the quality of management in farm work. The burdens lifted by the cessation of bombings in northern North Vietnam--where the important farm lands are located--have been balanced by backlogged chores needing attention and by an overlapping of spring harvesting and planting work caused by bad spring weather. The fifth-month rice crop this year not only was below average but was harvested a month late, delaying the planting of the more important tenth-month crop and endangering its output.

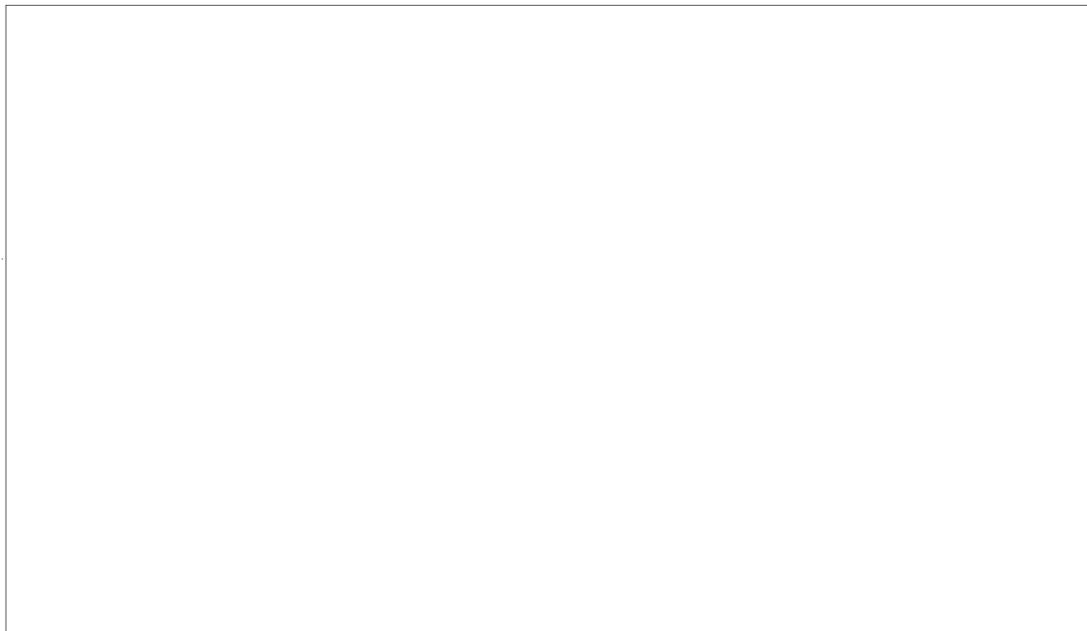
The shortfalls in domestic food production have been partially covered by increasing imports of food from Communist countries. These imports amounted to about 440,000 tons during the first seven months of 1968, compared to about 460,000 tons for all of 1967 and only 80,000 tons for all of 1966.

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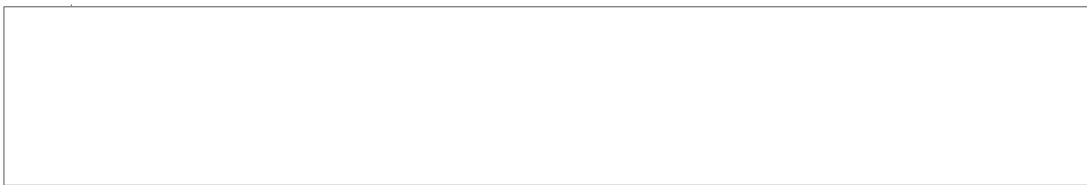
No Trade Fair in Hanoi: North Vietnam has apparently shelved any plans to hold a trade fair in Hanoi until the end of the war.

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Hanoi will step up its participation in foreign trade fairs while postponing plans for its own for the duration.

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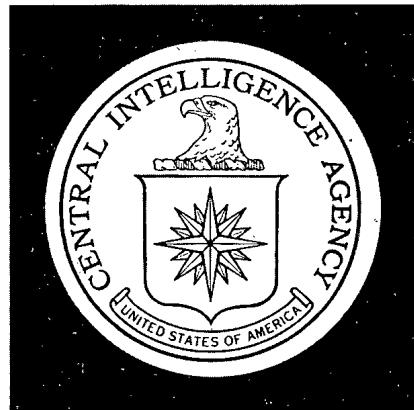
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
16 AUGUST 1968

1. Jordan

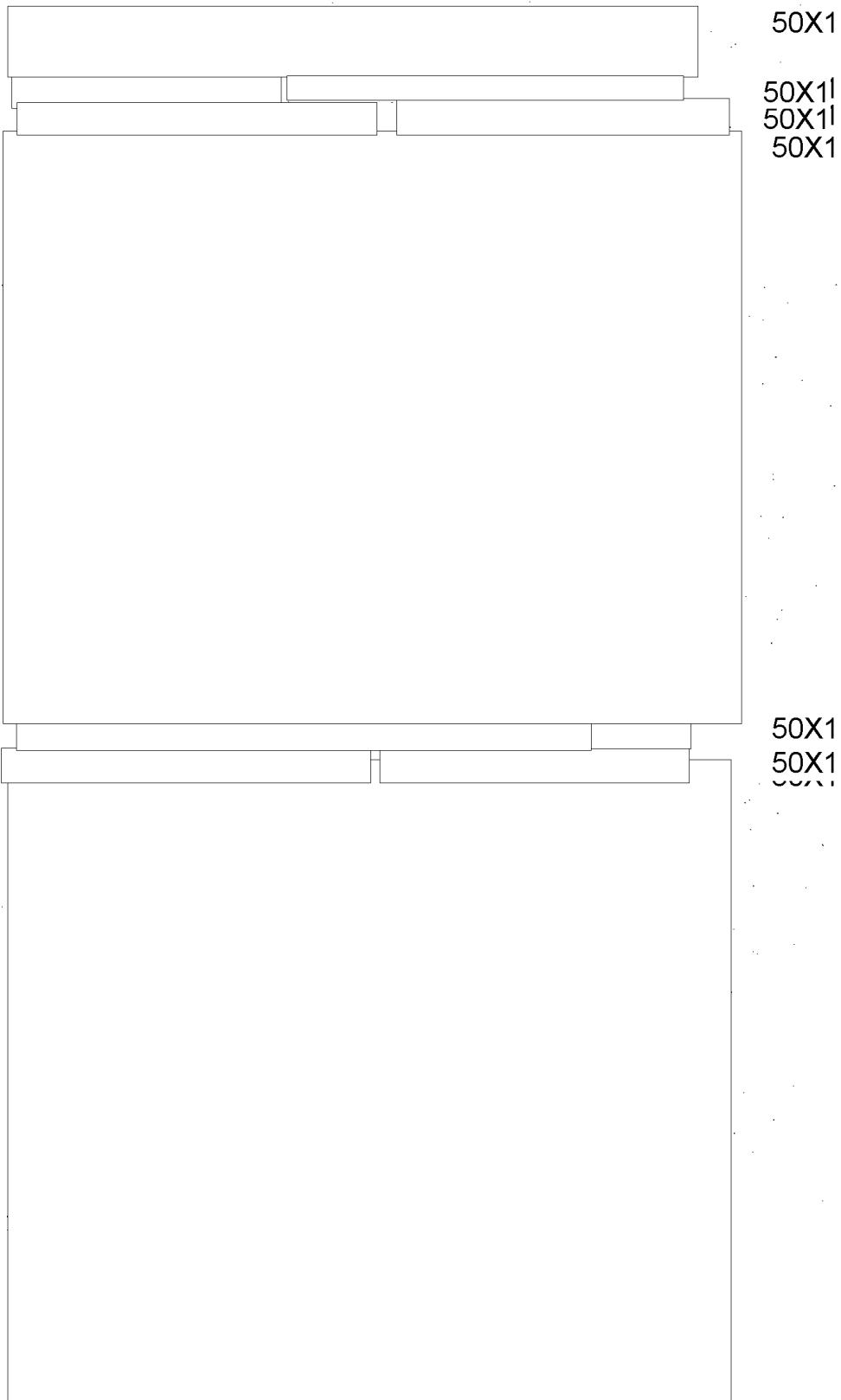
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2. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

Defense Minister Grechko, along with the Soviet Army's political chief and the Soviet commander of Warsaw Pact forces, were in East Germany on Tuesday, according to Tass. The pact's chief of staff, also a Soviet general, is in Poland. All of them are participating in the current military exercises now going on opposite Czechoslovakia. The well-publicized presence of all this brass underlines the importance the Soviets attach to the exercises as a means of keeping the pressure on Prague.

The Soviets apparently plan to keep troops near the Czech border for some time to come. A travel restriction for southeastern East Germany, first proclaimed when Soviet forces moved there last May, has been extended to 1 September.

3. Soviet Union



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4. Greece

Papadopoulos' would-be assassin not only failed to kill the premier; he also botched an attempt to set off bombs at various points in downtown Athens.

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[redacted] His ties to the left in general are well established, however, and the government is taking the occasion to begin a wholesale roundup of leftists.

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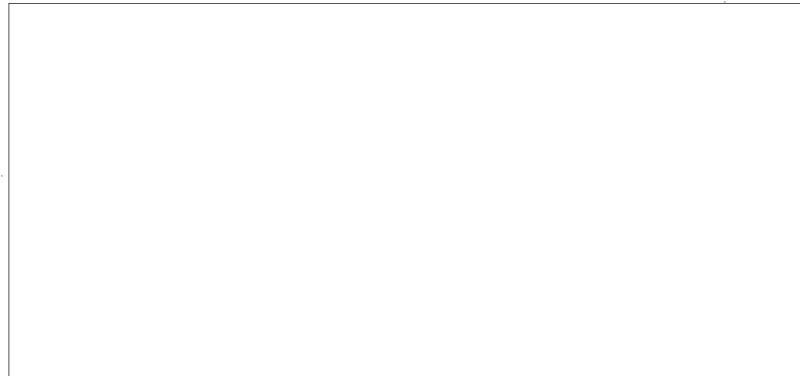
5. Bolivia

For the second time in two weeks Barrientos is talking of resigning. This time his complaint is that the military is deserting him. We believe he will let himself be dissuaded again, although nothing is certain when he is as worked up as he is at present. If he did resign, the Armed Forces chief, General Ovando, would probably take over, although the latter is not the legal successor.

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6. Laos

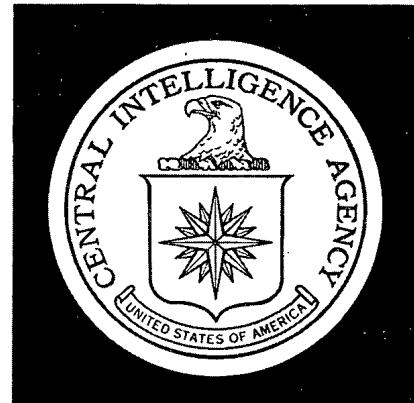
Souvanna was pleased by the discussions he had with the US delegation during his recent stay in Paris.



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16 August 1968

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

16 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese Welcomed in Sudan: The three-man North Vietnamese delegation which is touring Africa was welcomed in Khartoum on 14 August by Foreign Minister Shaykh Ali Abd Al-Rahman.

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One Sudanese commentator says that the Arabs are indebted to the North Vietnamese, not only because they are beating the joint enemy, but because Fatah members are being trained with the Vietnamese in guerrilla fighting.

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The Sudanese foreign ministry and the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization announced a lengthy program for the visitors. The delegation will visit Omdurman on 15 August and also meet with Prime Minister Mahjub.

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Hanoi Continues to Insist on US Concessions:
North Vietnamese officials continue to suggest [redacted]
[redacted] that all that is required for progress in the Paris talks is additional US concessions. Most reports

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say that nothing short of a full bombing halt would produce results on the Communist side, but others suggest that the Communists are looking for undefined US "gestures" short of such a step.

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North Vietnamese Discuss Rebuilding

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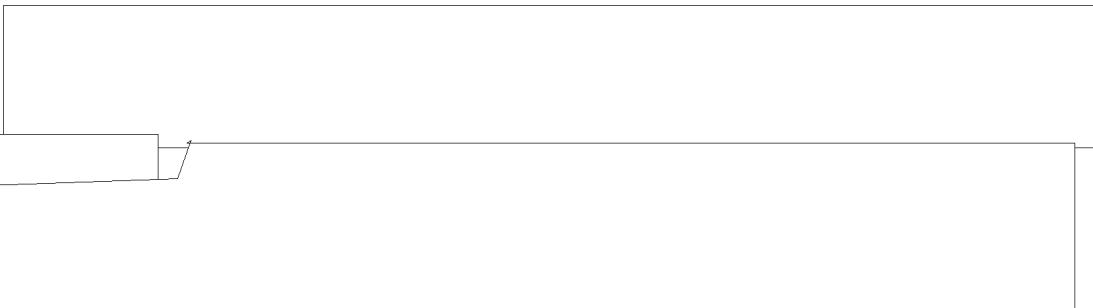
Hanoi's reconstruction efforts so far have been confined to repairing bomb damage, but Hanoi has been developing plans for economic rehabilitation. A recent aid-seeking mission to Communist countries was partially oriented toward long-range economic projects. Hanoi also has previously discussed rebuilding efforts with French and Japanese firms.

* * *

More From the Alliance: On 15 August the Viet Cong radio carried a long communiqué about the second conference of the Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces, but it contained nothing not already covered in the original announcement. A political program for the Alliance was adopted at the conference, however, and presumably will be published soon.

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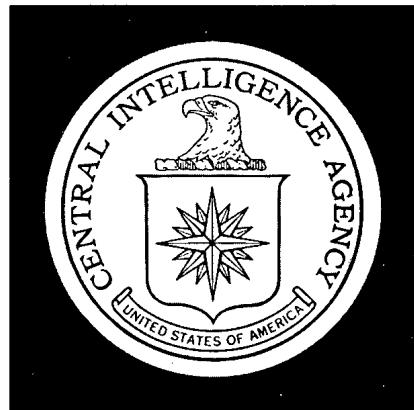
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Reports Chicago Demonstrations: Hanoi's international service in English reported that some 5,000 persons demonstrated in Chicago on 10 August against the war in Vietnam and US domestic policies. According to the 14 August broadcast, some demonstrators carried signs reading "Victory for the Viet Cong." The broadcast reported that American peace activist David Dellinger predicted that some 30,000 to 40,000 persons would gather in Chicago during the Democratic convention to protest the war and domestic racial oppression.

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The President's Daily Brief

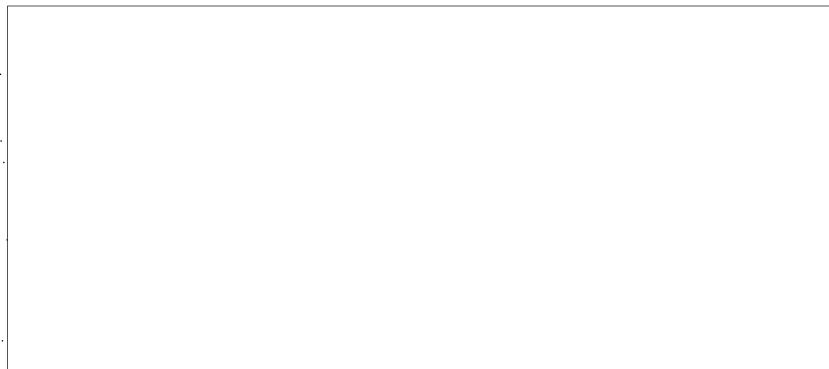
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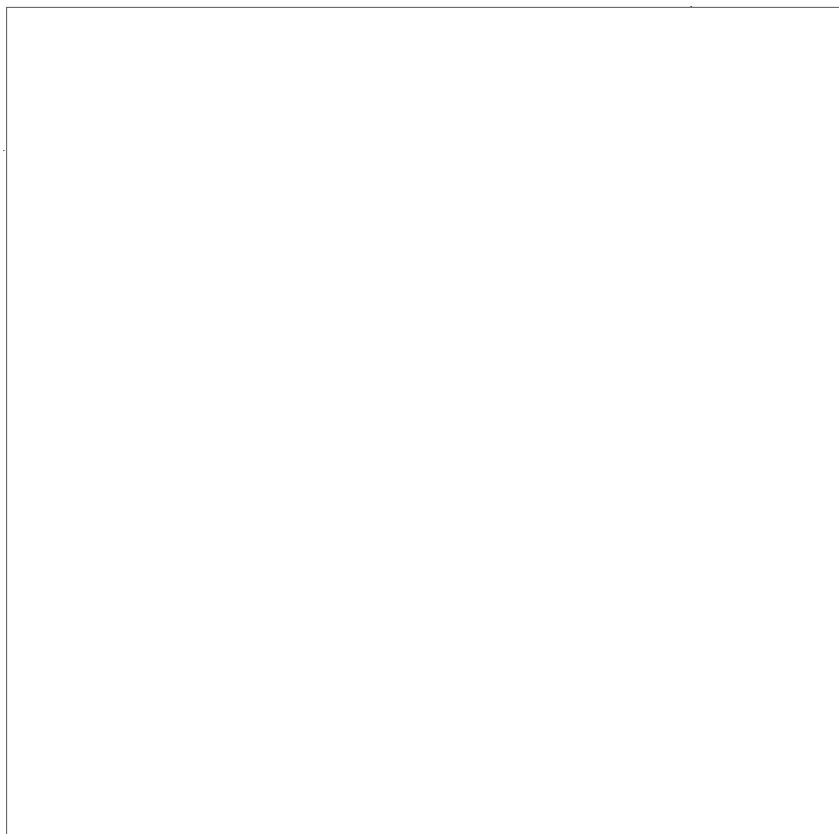
**THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
17 AUGUST 1968**

1. Vietnam



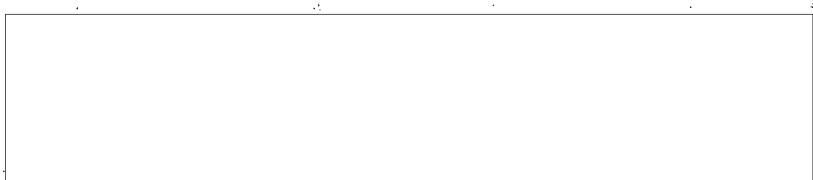
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2. Israel



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3. Israel-Jordan



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4. Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovak journalists do not yet understand that they are not to criticize the Soviet Union. Less than 24 hours after Dubcek cautioned the press to exercise self-restraint, a liberal Czech journal criticized Soviet "psychological warfare" during the recent confrontation. There have been other offensive articles. Soviet media replied in terms which suggest that Moscow feels the Czech press is out of line with agreements made at Bratislava. Dubcek is to talk with Prague newsmen today to explain--again--the regime's concept of freedom of the press.

**5. Czechoslovakia -
East Germany****6. Poland**

The factional struggle in the Polish Communist Party is beginning to show the impact of Czechoslovakia's liberal course. Edward Gierek, leader of Poland's key industrial province and a major contender for power, spoke to a large group of party activists on 15 August and called for freedom to criticize the party and its policies without fear of reprisals. His position is a direct swipe at Gomulka and is also an echo of a provision in the new draft of the Czech party statutes.

7. Nigeria

Gowon is adamant about not accepting the proposal of the International Red Cross Committee to land relief supplies at an airstrip in Biafra. The probable reason for Gowon's position is that he does not want Biafran claims to sovereignty to be bolstered by direct Biafran contacts with the outside world. He contends, however, that Ojukwu selected a particular airstrip which would impede the advance of Federal forces, and he is irritated with the way the Red Cross representative has handled matters. Gowon told Ambassador Mathews that his offer of a land corridor was still open.

8. Soviet Union

Moscow's proposal this week for a new communications satellite system called Intersputnik seems aimed more at obtaining improved terms for Soviet entrance into INTELSAT than at actually setting up a new system, the prospects for which are not very good.

The Soviets object to INTELSAT's weighted voting system, which assures a dominant voice for the US. France and numerous small states in INTELSAT also dislike this system. By proposing a one nation, one vote formula, the Soviets probably hope to stir up enough dissatisfaction so that the control formula will be altered in next year's INTELSAT negotiations.

9. Arab States

Syria, faced with a new wave of coup plotting within and outside the country, has adopted trade restrictions to get its neighbors to crack down on Syrian exiles. The neighbors are retaliating. Saudi Arabia and Iraq have gotten nowhere with diplomatic protests

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[redacted] Lebanon is reacting mildly, but seems determined not to curtail the activities of Syrian exiles. The situation is the latest evidence of growing Arab disunity.

10. Algeria-Israel

The Algerians have been sharply stung by the decision of the International Federation of Airline Pilots Association to boycott flights into Algeria in retaliation for Algeria's failure to release the hijacked El Al airliner. They are trying to enlist international support for their position and may demand that the Arab states adopt a counterboycott which would seriously disrupt international air travel.

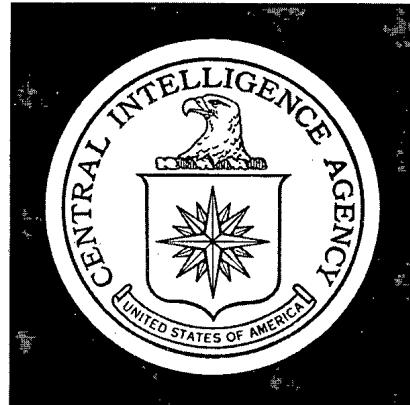
The airline boycott, scheduled to go into effect at midnight Sunday, could further damage relations between Algeria and France. The vast majority of flights into and within Algeria are flown by members of the French airline pilots organization which endorsed the boycott.

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17 August 1968

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

17 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

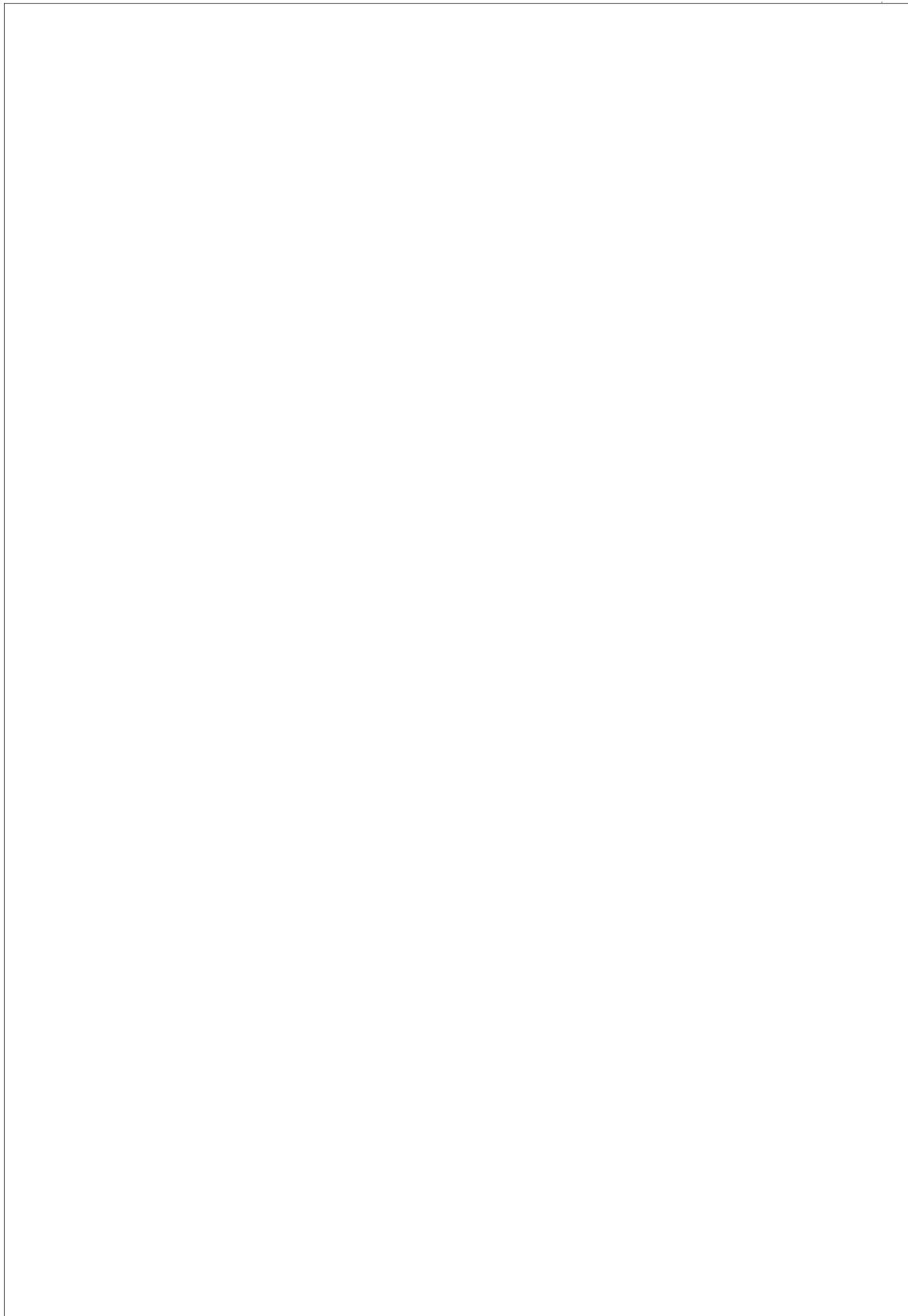
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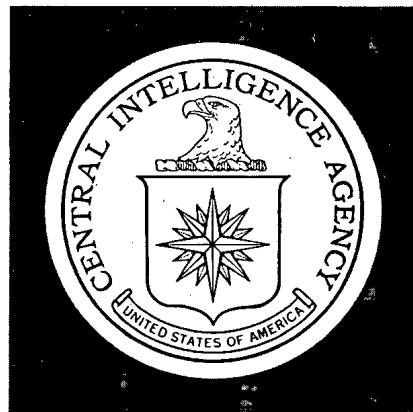
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report to-day.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
19 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Moscow has stepped up the pressure again. According to an informant of our embassy in Prague, the Soviets are once more demanding that their troops be stationed in Czechoslovakia. One despondent Czech official says there are numerous Soviet agents ready to provoke incidents in Prague. He thinks the situation in some ways is worse than it was before last month's meeting in Warsaw.

We also note that the Soviet media have increased their criticism of the Czechs. They are edging closer to an open charge that Dubcek does not have things under control.

By Soviet standards this charge has some validity. In a recent meeting with 70 editors, representatives of the government apparently failed to persuade the newsmen to accept some restrictions on their freedom. This failure presumably will generate more pressure from Moscow.

2. South Vietnam

Communist-initiated military activity has dropped almost to zero since the attacks Sunday morning. This suggests that Sunday's action was a one-shot affair. We may see more of this type of harassment before a full-scale offensive gets under way. Communist forces remain in a high state of readiness.

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3. South Vietnam

Nguyen Luu Vien, an old associate of Premier Huong, told a US observer recently that Thieu and Huong want to name him interior minister. We also hear they may fire Defense Minister Vy, who allegedly is involved in a case of corruption being scrutinized by the legislature.

These reports add substance to earlier information that Thieu and Huong are planning to move Interior Minister Khiem to the defense ministry, make him head of the Joint General Staff as well, and replace him at Interior with Vien. Khiem is anathema to Ky, but we believe Ky would go along with the appointments.

4. West Germany

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5. Bolivia

Student demonstrations are adding to Barrientos' woes. On Friday the National Guard broke up a student march and surrounded the university, but the demonstrators are undeterred. There are even rumors that they plan to "rescue" Antonio Arguedas, the controversial ex-minister who returned to La Paz Saturday and is now in government custody.

6. Syria -
International
Communism

Even the close friends of the Communists came in for ham-handed treatment at the recent youth festival in Bulgaria. The Syrian delegation, for instance, was formed by the festival's organizers out of locally available Syrian Communist students.

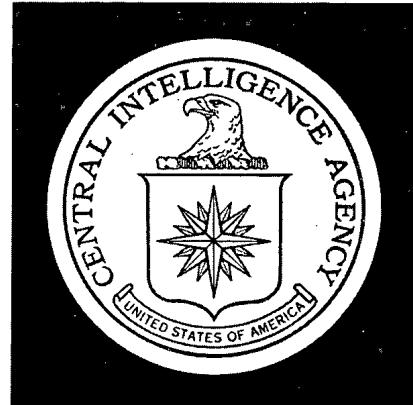
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We had noted the thin representation from the Arab world and had attributed it to the presence of an Israeli delegation, but this incident leads us to think there may have been other reasons as well.

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19 August 1968

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

19 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hien's Activities in Laos: Le Van Hien, Hanoi's ambassador to Laos who returned to Vientiane last month, appears to be attempting to recruit support for North Vietnam among Vietnamese nationals in Laos. He has called a meeting of Vientiane's Vietnamese community for 24 August.

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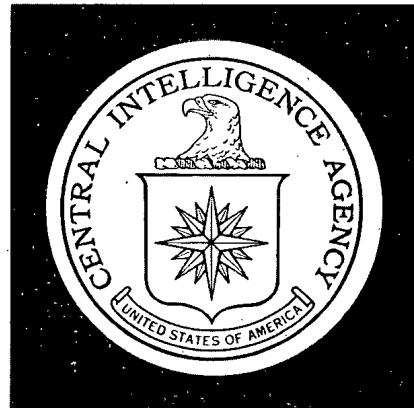
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

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The President's Daily Brief

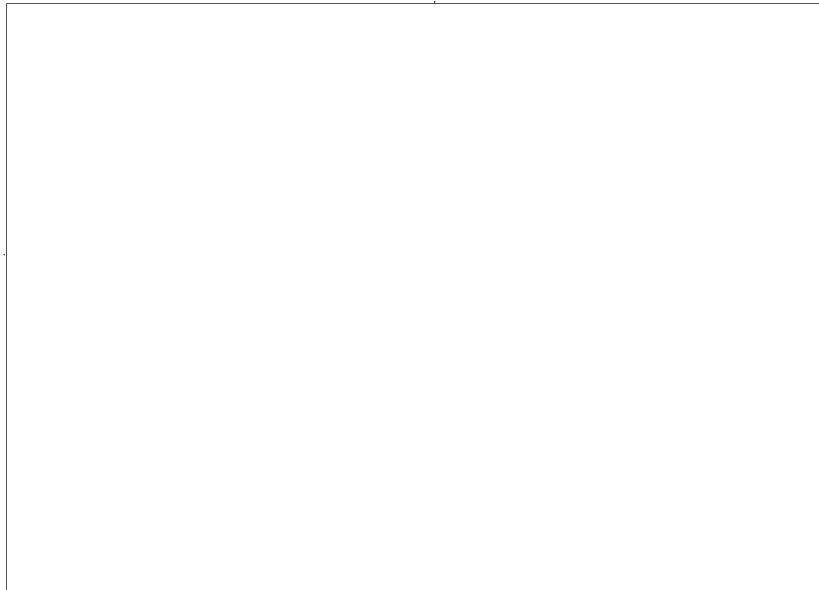
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
20 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia



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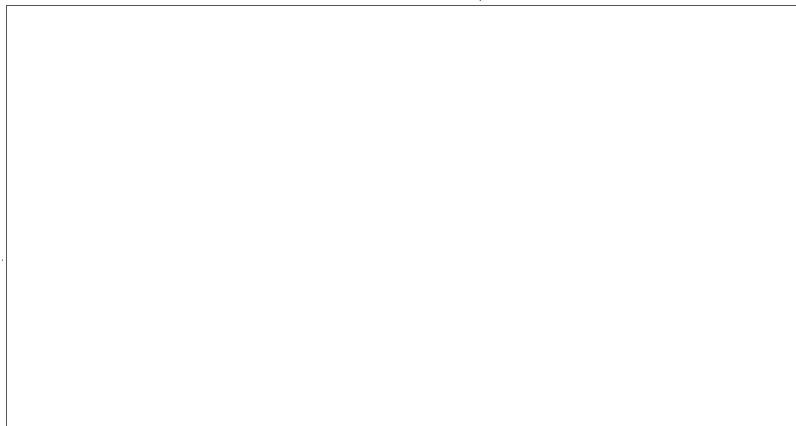
2. Communist China

The army may have new authority to impose order on fighting factionalists. Recent editorials in the major Peking newspapers have contained the most forthright statements against the Red Guards since the latest decision to restore order was taken in July. The word now is that the "vanguard" role played by the Red Guards is ended, and they must subordinate themselves to the working class. This directive is being widely disseminated. It will probably prompt "worker-peasant teams"-- supported by the army--to use harsher measures in their current efforts to bring under control university students, who are the backbone of the various Red Guard movements.

There is no indication that the emergence of this new line signals further changes in the Chinese leadership, but a report that the army has increased its patrolling of Peking streets may be a sign of tension.

3. Communist China

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**4. Israel-Jordan**

The question of which comes first--direct negotiations or the exchange of substantive positions through some sort of intermediary--is still bedeviling Jarring's effort to find a Middle East settlement. The Jordanians had understood that Eban was willing to get into substantive matters in indirect explorations with Jordan. Jarring has now told Husayn and Foreign Minister Rifai that Eban has reverted to insistence on direct negotiations. The Jordanians say that they could enter joint meetings if Israel would accept the principle of withdrawal by giving a prior indication of what lines it would propose as "secure and recognized boundaries"--even if such an Israeli proposal were unacceptable to Jordan.

Jarring will talk with the Israelis today. If he gets something from them, he will return to Amman on Friday.

**5. Australia -
Southeast Asia**

Prime Minister Gorton appears to have made up his mind to pull all of Australia's forces out of Singapore and Malaysia by 1971, except for some advisers and a small air contingent. Gorton told Ambassador Crook he does not see "any sense" in an Australian troop commitment there. Gorton's policy could split his government, since some of its members do not believe in the "Fortress Australia" concept of defense.

6. Greece

The embassy comments that the Greek regime has been shaken and sobered but not panicked by the attempt last week on the life of Papadopoulos. Its internal strength is undiminished and its position vis-a-vis Andreas Papandreu has probably been improved. The government apparently intends to hold the constitutional referendum on schedule-- 29 September. Former political leaders in Greece seem to recognize that there is no alternative to approving the constitution and then, hopefully, moving on to general elections.

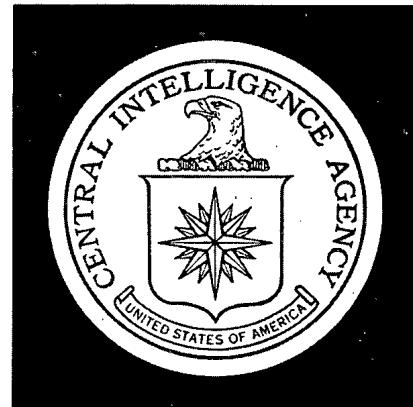
7. Nigeria

Beginning today the Red Cross is resuming direct relief flights to Biafra. The International Committee of the Red Cross is providing the co-ordinating umbrella for national Red Cross societies, which will supply chartered aircraft.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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

Top Secret
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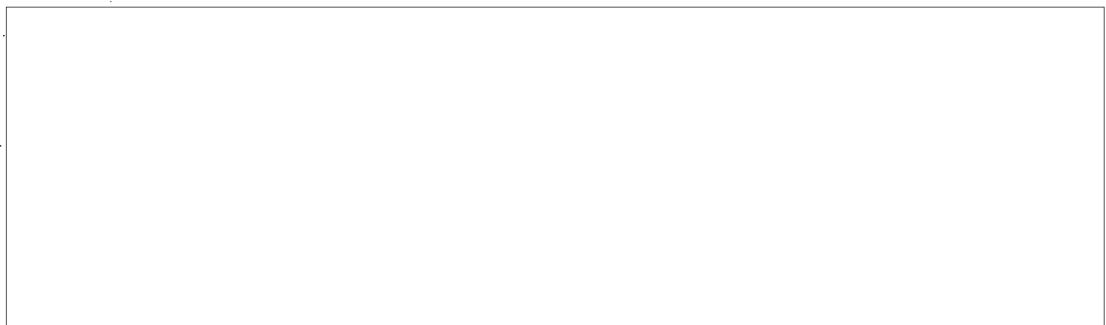
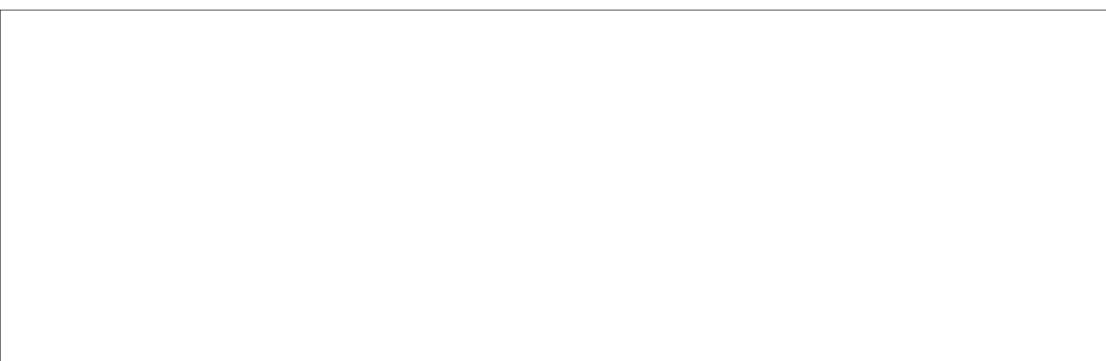
20 August 1968

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

20 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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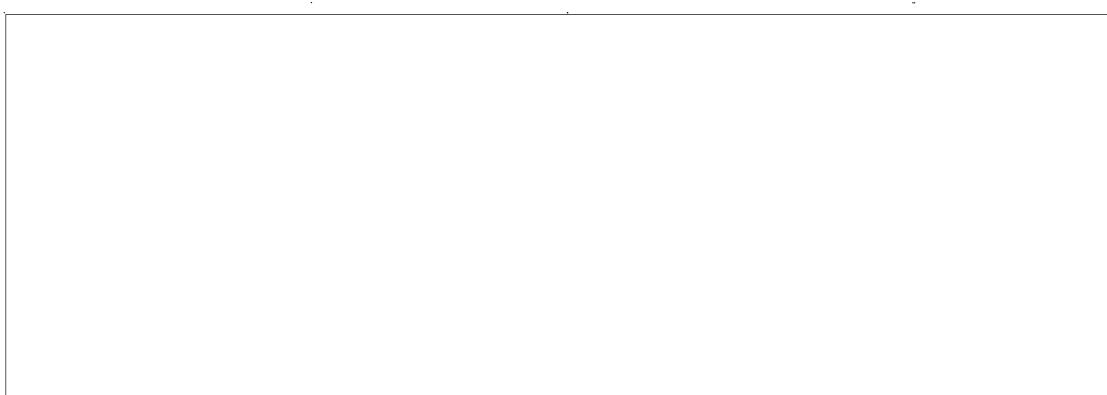


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Communist Strategy Claims: Radio Hanoi has broadcast a military commentary from its army paper contending that the new style Communist military offensive used during Tet has forced the US to abandon offensive operations in South Vietnam. There are no more "search and destroy" operations, claims Chinh Binh, one of Hanoi's principal writers on the war in the South. US troops can no longer be spared for forays into Communist-controlled territory, he says, because they have to be deployed defensively to protect bases, population centers, and important communications lines already under allied control. This process, the author boasts, has made it possible for the Viet Cong to increase their control of the countryside.

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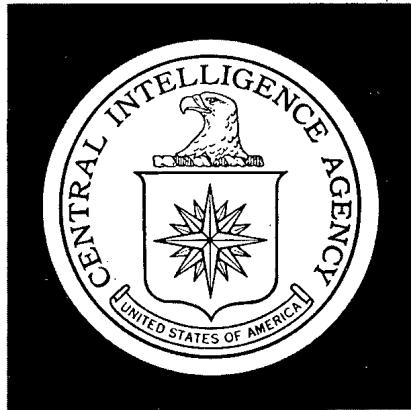
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

More on the Republicans: On 15 August, in a commentary on the results of the Republican Party convention, Radio Hanoi concluded that so far as Vietnam is concerned, the Republicans have "no more to offer than the Johnson administration." Noting the party's "reactionary" platform plank on Vietnam and Nixon's approval of President Johnson's "obdurate" stand on reciprocity, the domestic service broadcast dismissed both parties as birds of "the same feather."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
21 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union
(As of 5:30 AM
EDT)

Soviet and other Eastern European forces have now occupied Prague and other major population centers. This well-coordinated operation used extensive airlift as well as overland movement.

Some gunfire has been reported from Prague where citizens apparently shot at Soviet troops. There are no indications that Czechoslovak military units are resisting

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The National Assembly has demanded that "allied" forces be withdrawn, but the Soviets insist the intervention was at the request of the Czechoslovak Government. The whereabouts of Dubcek and other key party members are unknown, but they presumably are holed up in the central committee building, which is surrounded by Soviet troops.

So far there has been little reaction from other capitals except those of the Soviet allies who predictably echoed the Russian line.

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In light of last night's developments, it is a good guess that this moderate faction in the Politburo was overruled in the last 24 hours or so, and that the intervention was then ordered.

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2. France

There is a mood of uneasiness and uncertainty in France as fall approaches, and with it the prospects of renewed violence.

The government has announced plans that would seem to go a long way toward meeting the student demands of last spring, but the Latin Quarter is astir again with pressure for more and faster educational reform. Already there is agitation to seize the universities when classes resume.

Agriculture is another problem area. Rising production costs could spark violent farmer demonstrations like those of 1967. On the labor front, things look brighter and serious worker discontent does not seem to be brewing now.

3. Soviet Union

The regime is walking carefully where some of its more prominent intellectual dissenters are concerned. Physicist Andrey Sakharov, whose essay proposing Soviet-US cooperation was published last month in the New York Times, was recently ordered to recant. Sakharov refused to do so--and got away with it. Other prestigious mavericks also have been handled with care.

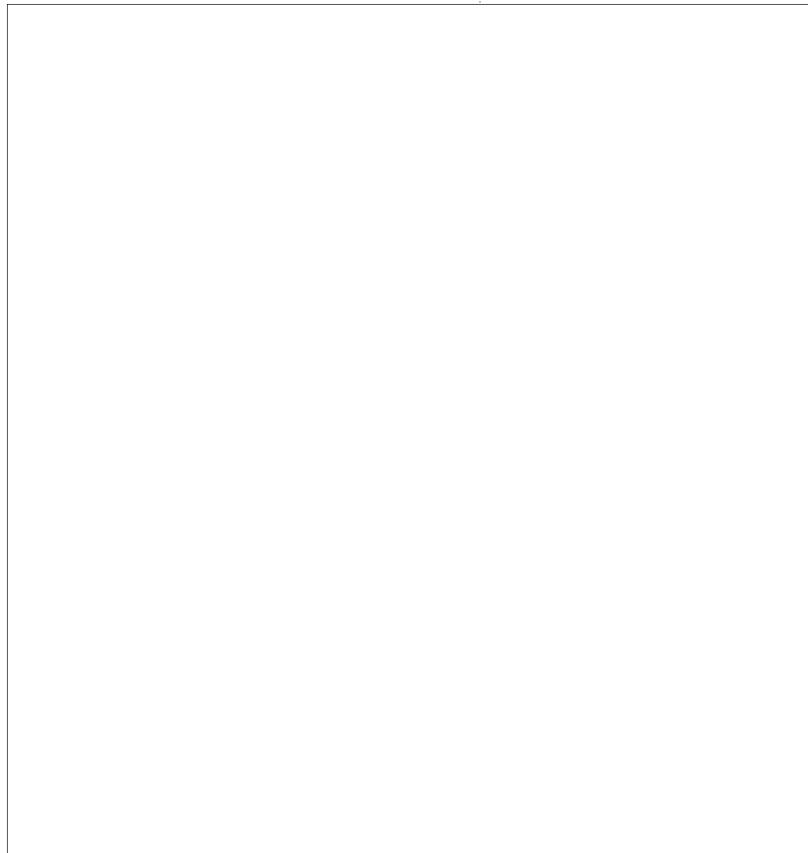
The Soviet leaders probably hope they can avoid creating martyrs--as they did with the trial of two intellectuals earlier this year. Lesser known members of the intelligensia are still quietly going to jail.

4. Communist China

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5. South Vietnam

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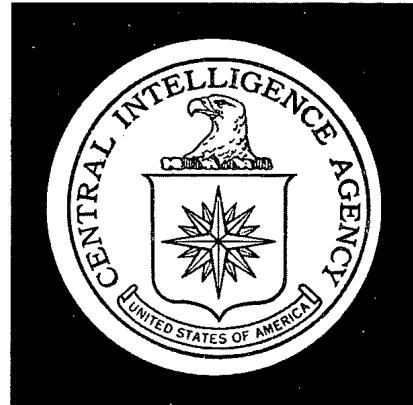
6. Bolivia

General Vasquez, the recently fired army chief of staff, openly broke with Barrientos last night. In a radio address he announced his intention to "raise the standard of rebellion." Vasquez may get some support from already rebellious students, but he is not likely to find much in the army, which has gone on full alert. The US Embassy suspects the army may use this as an opportunity to take over the government.

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

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16

21 August 1968

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

21 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Propaganda On Tay Ninh: Communist propaganda has so far played the recent Viet Cong attacks in the Tay Ninh area in low key. Hanoi's international service in English on 19 August described the fighting only as a "series" of Communist attacks. An even more authoritative commentary in the Hanoi party daily the next day said that the Tay Ninh attacks had contributed to the current "general offensive"--an expression the Communists use to characterize the fighting since Tet. There is still no effort, at least in radio propaganda, to term the action a kickoff for a new offensive or to characterize it as the much-heralded "third phase" of the general offensive. Liberation Radio has not yet commented significantly on the fighting.

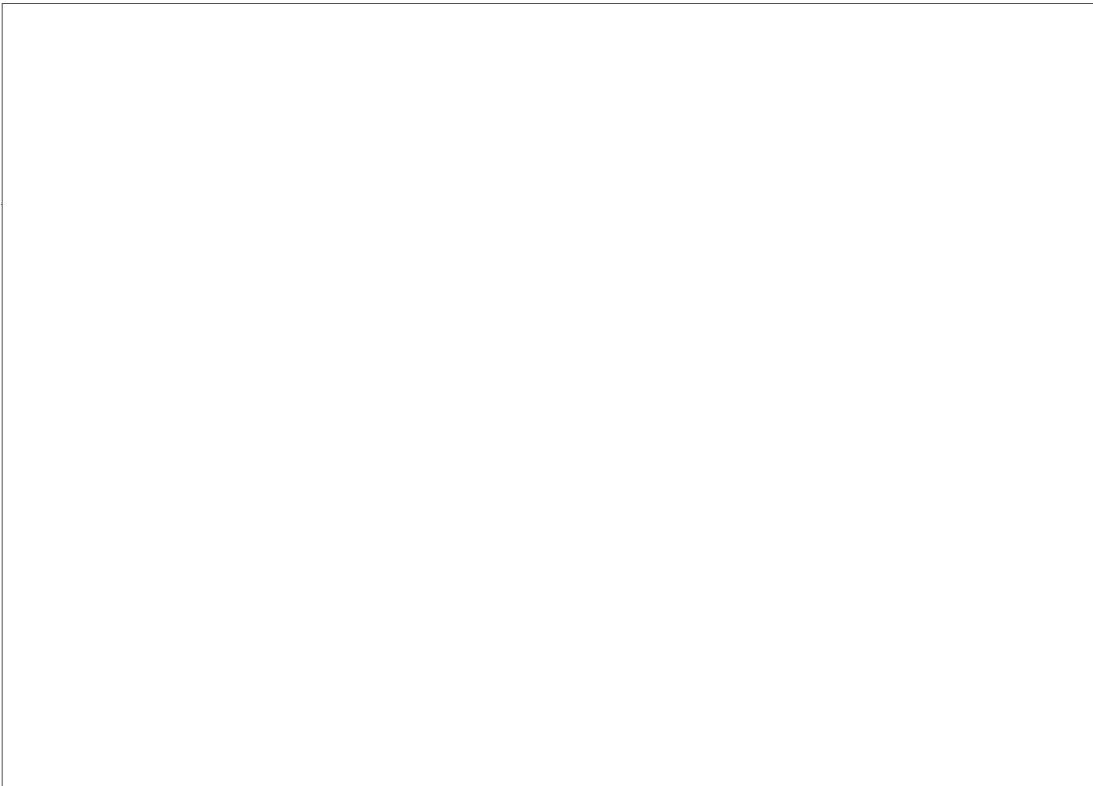
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Hien to the Boat Races: King Savang, Premier Souvanna, and most of the diplomatic corps in Vientiane will be attending the annual boat races in Luang Prabang which begin on Friday. North Vietnamese Ambassador Hien, the dean of the corps, plans to attend too. Since his return to Laos, Hien has paid court to the King while studiously ignoring Souvanna and his government, and this will be the first time the ambassador and the premier have appeared at the same function. The US Embassy comments that it will be interesting to watch Savang, Souvanna, and Hien maneuvering at close quarters.

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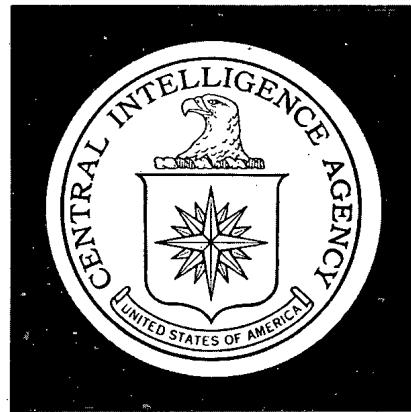
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

More on US Elections: North Vietnam's army newspaper has again scored the election campaign as "bally-hoo" being generated by US political parties to fool the voters. In a propagandistic analysis of the US political scene, it found little substance in the Republican platform and charged that the party had not yet faced the "most important Vietnam problems," which, it went on to say, could be easily resolved by US withdrawal.

Despite the intense private interest shown by North Vietnamese officials in the US presidential campaign, this propaganda commentary again offers only standard Marxist contempt for the US electoral process, while giving no clue to Hanoi's true attitudes toward different candidates.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 August 1968



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LATE ITEM

Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The loyalist radio in Prague, quoting "military circles of the Soviet occupation army," reported this morning that a new government was to be formed at the Soviet Embassy in Prague between 0400 and 0500 EDT. We have no further word on this.

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
22 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Soviet military control of Czechoslovakia is virtually unchallenged, and prominent Czechoslovak reformers including Dubcek are in Soviet custody.

The Soviet strategy clearly is to salvage some of the more conservative members of the existing regime as the nucleus for a new, more malleable government. To this end, Pravda this morning charged that Dubcek was the leader of a minority faction which supported counterrevolution. Czechoslovak officials met yesterday with unidentified Soviets in Prague, and another meeting is scheduled for this morning.

As part of this strategy the Soviets have tried to maintain a low profile. They have permitted the important organs of government to function, and all day yesterday they allowed the Czechoslovak media to put out commentary hostile to Moscow. (The flow has since diminished, but several independent radio stations are still functioning.)

Any government the Soviets put together will need their military backing for some time. The Czech populace is almost uniformly behind Dubcek.

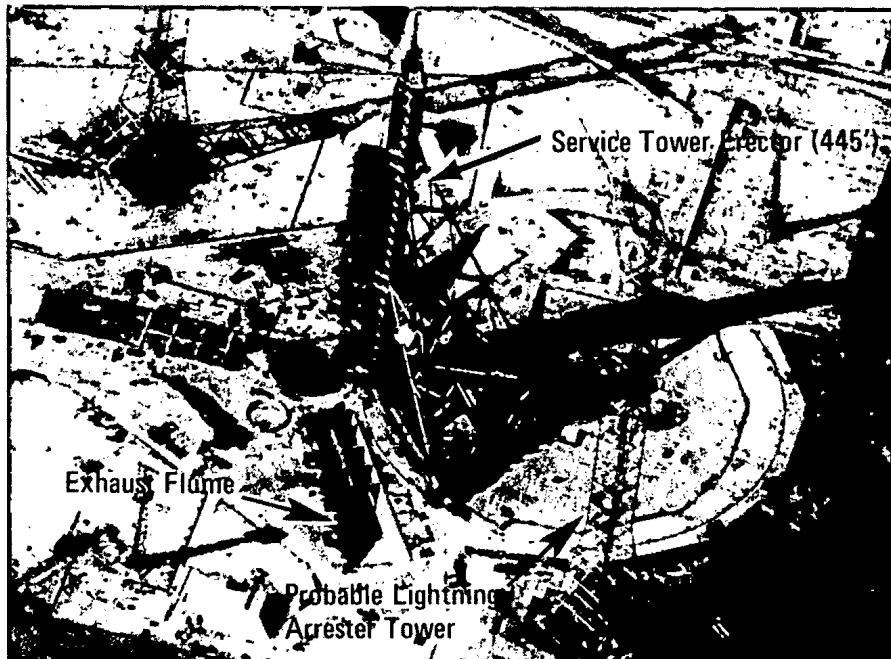
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2. South Vietnam

The Communists resumed the bombardment of Saigon yesterday. They are keeping up the pressure throughout III Corps and initiated several hit-and-run attacks in the delta. There have been scattered engagements elsewhere in South Vietnam, and indications continue to pile up that more attacks are set for the near future. The situation in I Corps is particularly ominous.

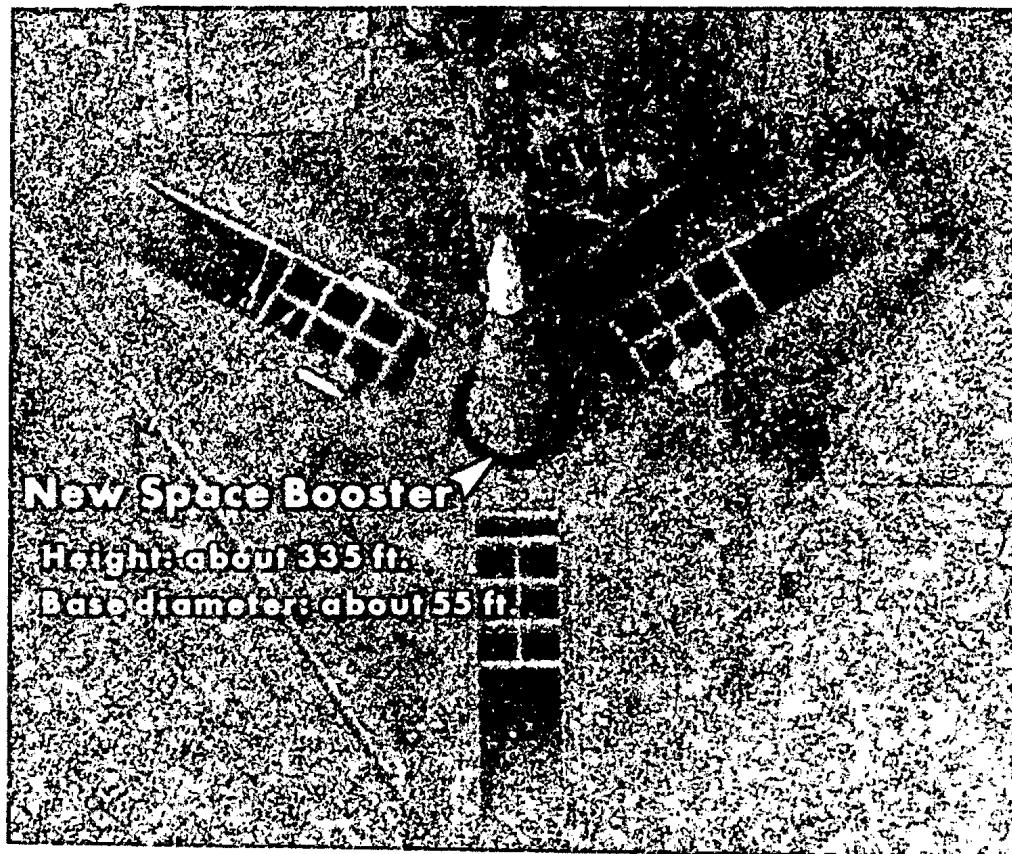
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Huge Soviet Space Booster Erected on Launch Pad at Tyuratam



16 March 1968—Pad Nearing Completion

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11 August 1968—Missile In Place

91776 8-68 CIA TCS 2605/68

3. Israel -
Arab States

Although we have little specific evidence, we are concerned that there could soon be more Israeli military action against the Arabs.

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4. Soviet Union

In addition, the newest and biggest Soviet space booster--seen erected on its pad in recent satellite photography--may be due for its first flight test.

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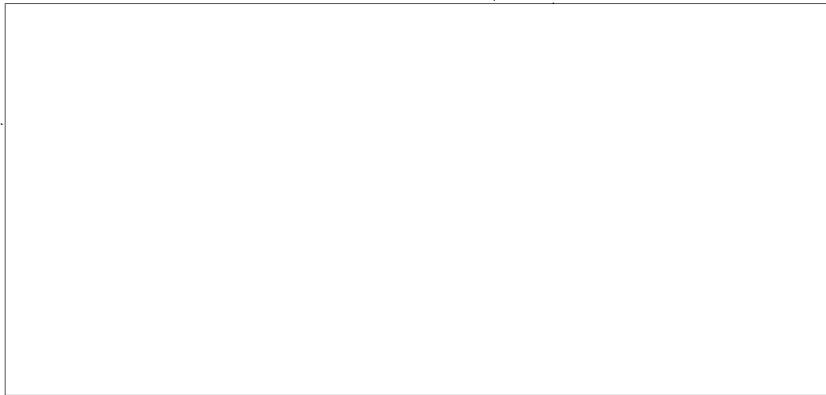
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5. India

Deputy Prime Minister Desai, long Mrs. Gandhi's chief rival, now says an open split with her is fast approaching. He and the ambitious home minister, Y. B. Chavan, apparently are waiting for an opportune moment for a cabinet showdown with her.

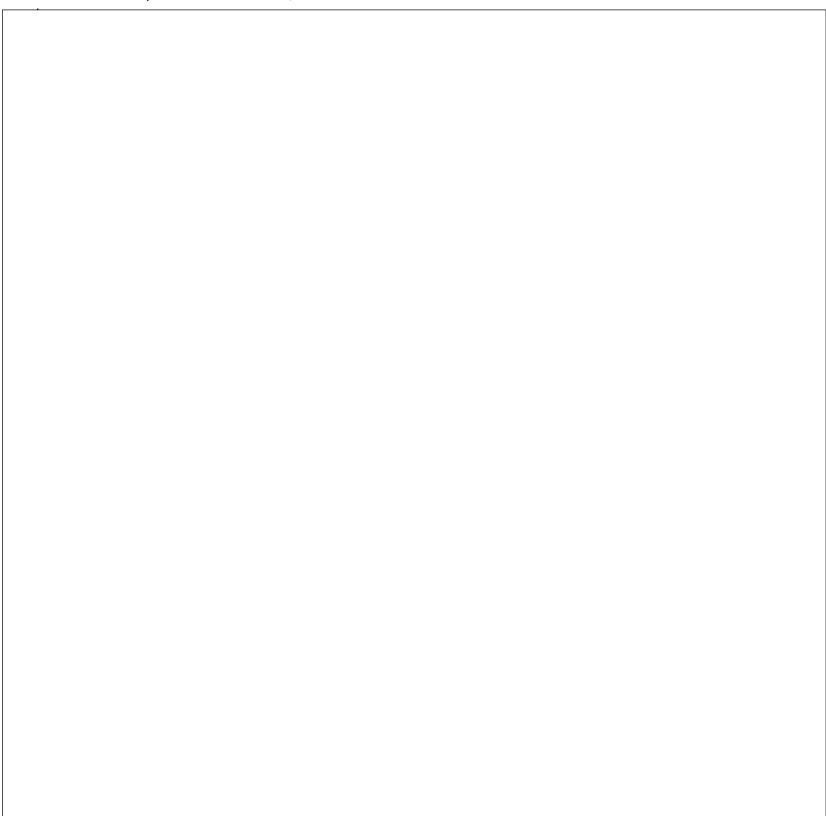
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6. Egypt



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7. Mexico



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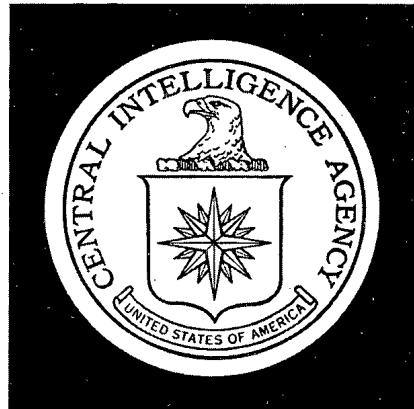
8. Bolivia

Barrientos apparently has foiled the coup attempt by former army chief of staff Vasquez. Vasquez himself is still at large in the La Paz area, but the security forces have rounded up most of his followers.

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



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16

22 August 1968

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

22 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Promptly Supports Soviet Invasion: Hanoi has provided strong propaganda support for the Soviet military action in Czechoslovakia. A statement broadcast on the domestic radio service on 21 August is an unequivocal and unusually prompt endorsement, describing the Soviet move as a "noble effort" in response to a request from the "party faithful" in Czechoslovakia. Hanoi says the action is sanctioned by recent agreements among the six Communist countries (USSR, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, East Germany, and Hungary) at Bratislava, and was necessitated by domestically inspired "counterrevolutionary" activities in Czechoslovakia.

Hanoi's prompt reaction is in marked contrast to its propaganda treatment of Soviet-Czech differences before they reached the point of military intervention. Although North Vietnamese authorities have manifested an extreme interest in keeping abreast of developments, there has been little significant public commentary and no previous gesture of support to either side.

The war in Vietnam dictates Hanoi's attitude on any issue, including those involving relations between Communist countries. The North Vietnamese look askance at any development which tends to erode Communist unity and which may deflect Communist attention from support of their war effort. Any sympathy the North Vietnamese may have for Czech aspirations for independence has been muffled by concern that trouble in East Europe might lessen Soviet interest and ability to back up the Communist effort in Vietnam.

* * *

New Polish ICC Member Comments on Hanoi: The new Polish member of the International Control Commission, Ambassador Dobrowski, paid his courtesy call on Ambassador Bunker on 21 August. He said he had been in

Vietnam about a month and had visited Hanoi. He said the prime minister had impressed him as a "very intelligent and able man" and the North Vietnamese leaders as "practical, just like the Poles."

Dobrowski found in Hanoi a "genuine desire" for peace, but an absolute unwillingness to engage in any discussions in Paris until all bombing stopped. He said the North Vietnamese had stopped the shelling of Saigon and he was puzzled as to why we had failed to recognize this as a sign. The Pole added that Hanoi had had "two successes this year," but even so, was seeking a political settlement in order to end the war.

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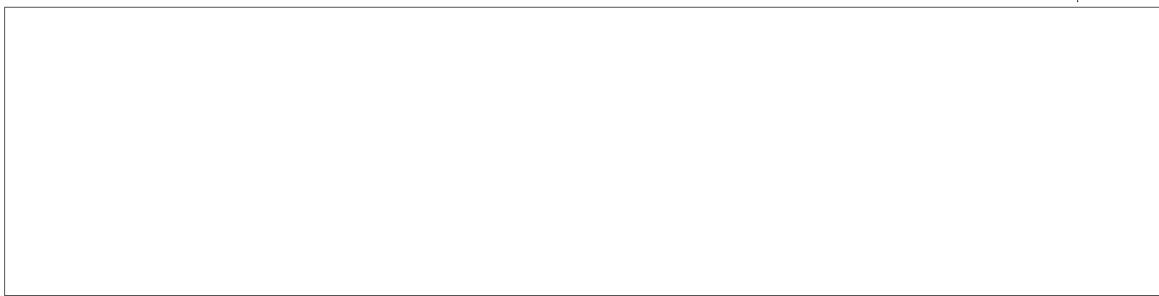
Heavy Weather in North Vietnam: Heavy rains and storms since mid-August have combined to cause floods in scattered areas of North Vietnam. Seasonally heavy rains--up to seven inches in three days--were reported falling in several districts of Son La Province and along the Song Ma River in neighboring Thanh Hoa Province. Moreover, tropical storms off the coast of southern North Vietnam in mid-August have moved inland bringing heavy rains and flood conditions to that area.

Pilot reports during the past week have indicated muddy roads and flooding throughout southern North Vietnam. The number of truck sightings was also greatly reduced, probably because of the poor weather. The effects of the weather on logistic activities, however, should be only temporary.

It is still too early to determine the impact of the past weeks of heavy rains on the important tenth-month rice crops, which may be as much as a month behind schedule because of delays in the harvesting of the spring rice crop caused by cold weather. The tenth-month crop is about two-thirds of the average 4.5-million-ton yearly harvest, and is usually harvested about mid-November.

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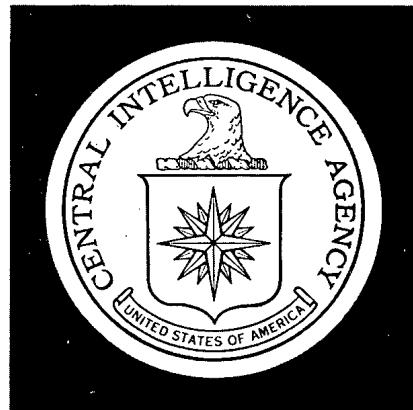
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
23 AUGUST 1968

LATE ITEMS

Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

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Israel-Jordan

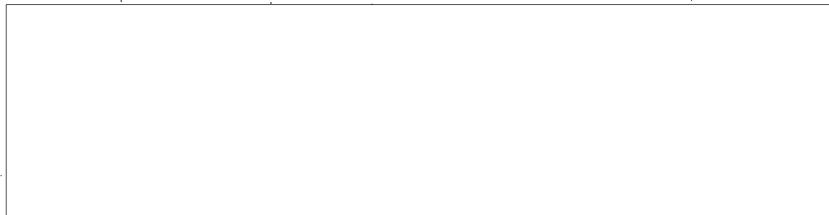
A small Israeli force struck Jordan in the area south of the Dead Sea early this morning. The area, near Petra, has been the scene of previous Israeli attacks against Arab terrorist bases. This new blow will increase sympathy for the terrorists and further undermine King Husayn's position.

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
23 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The Soviets have not yet wrung acknowledgment of their authority from the Czechoslovak people. So far, the Czechs have refrained from large-scale violence against their occupiers, but in other ways they are manifesting their refusal to knuckle under.

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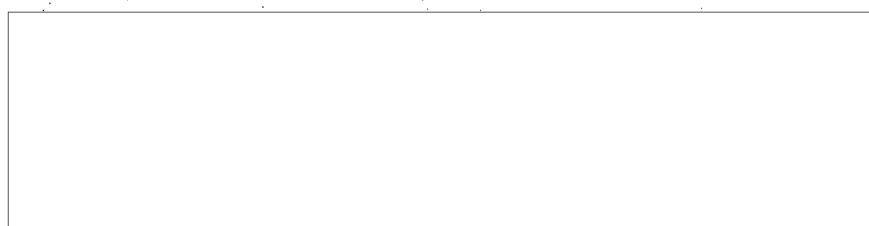


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The Soviets have not felt able to announce the formation of a new, "trustworthy" government, apparently estimating that the imposition of a narrowly-based regime would provoke active resistance.

A special congress of the Czech Communist Party has called for an unlimited general strike, to start today, unless the Soviets begin talks on a withdrawal of forces and the release of arrested leaders.

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2. Rumania -
Soviet Union

Rumanian Embassy officials in Bonn and Washington have expressed fears of a possible Soviet invasion of their country. Ceausescu is reported to have announced yesterday that "we are now in a state of full mobilization." The previous day he announced the establishment of "armed guards of workers, peasants, and intellectuals" to defend national independence.

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3. Soviet Union

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4. South Vietnam

Beginning with Tet, major Communist offensives have had serious and lasting effects on the economy

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Recession in the cities stems from a widespread undermining of business and consumer confidence. Afraid and uncertain, people just are not buying.

Rural incomes are declining because of the difficulty and cost of getting through to markets, particularly Saigon. For example, rice production in the Delta is up, but deliveries to Saigon are well below what they were at this time last year. There also has been a sharp drop in the price farmers are getting for their products.

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5. Turkey

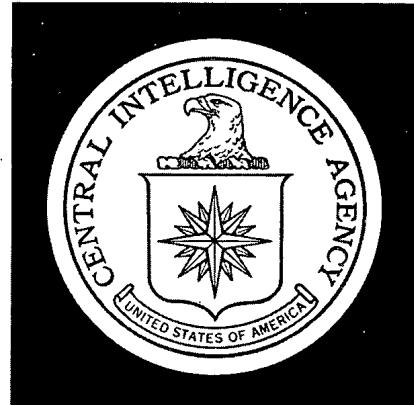
Some of the anti-US Turkish press has begun carping about the projected US Navy courtesy call at Izmir, scheduled for 27 August - 9 September. Turkish authorities appear determined to maintain order and avoid a repetition of the kind of attacks made last month by leftists on US Navy personnel in Istanbul.

6. Southern Yemen

The return from exile of left-wing leaders may presage a new orientation of the National Liberation Front government. The left-wing party leaders fled the country last spring after they failed to impose their policies. The following months of "moderation," however, did not pay off for the government in air support from Yemen or Egypt, or pilots from the Soviet Union. If the regime does turn left, it may be courting trouble again with the conservative army.

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



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16

23 August 1968

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

23 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

More on Flooding: A Western traveler to Hanoi reports indications of considerable flooding around the North Vietnamese capital. He says the road between the city and Gia Lam airport is impassable because of flooding, and residents have mentioned deaths and damage caused by rising waters. The source noted increased helicopter activity, doubtless connected with flood relief work. He said that the International Control Commission flight from Laos was unable to land at Gia Lam last Friday because of the flooding. This latter point is confirmed by recent communications intercepts which show that aircraft have been hastily evacuated from Gia Lam by helicopter and that use of the air base has been sharply curtailed. The ICC flight has been unable to land in its last three attempts, undoubtedly because of flood problems.

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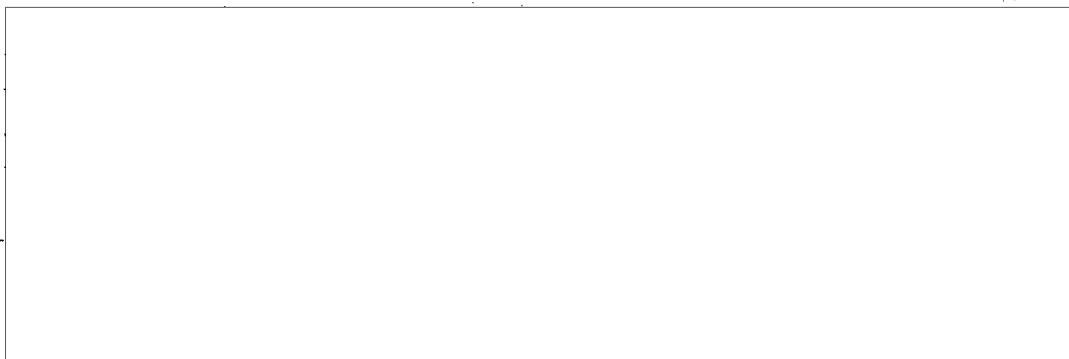
Hanoi Interest in Czechoslovakia: The North Vietnamese want to keep their toes on the latest Soviet line about Czechoslovakia. [redacted]

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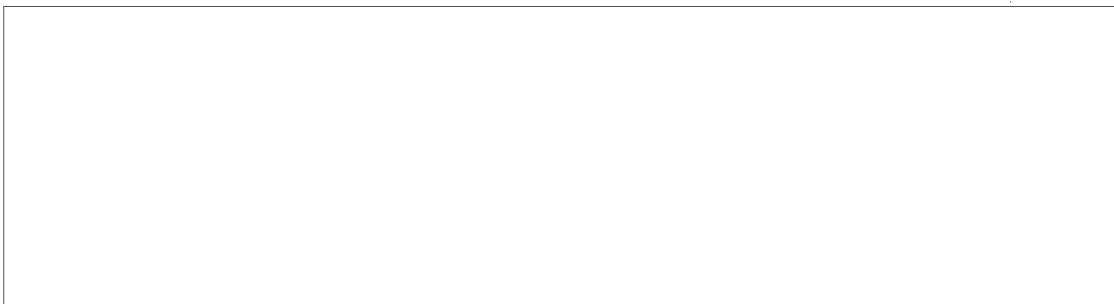
More MIG-21s: Analysis of photography taken on 26 July shows three more MIG-21 jet fighters in North Vietnam. Camouflaged and dispersed near Phuc Yen airfield, these additional aircraft bring the MIG-21 count in the country to at least 28 first-line fighters. Three additional MIG-21s are there, but their operating condition appears questionable.

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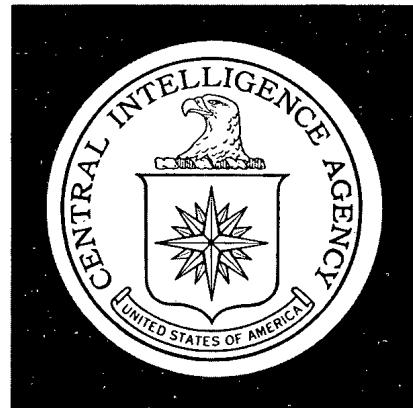
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
24 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia
(As of 5:00 AM
EDT)

There were no major changes in the situation overnight.

Main interest is focused on Moscow where Svoboda remains for a second day of talks with Soviet leaders. There are no real clues on how these talks are going, although Svoboda, who originally had planned to return to Prague last night, may have found the Russians willing to negotiate some concessions in order to get an acceptable regime in Prague as quickly as possible.

In Czechoslovakia the Soviets continue their efforts to round up liberal party and government leaders where and when they can find them. There has been some shooting in Prague, but the embassy reports it "hardly of the dramatic proportions" being reported by the press services this morning.

The extraordinary congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party adjourned yesterday after designating another liberal acting first secretary pending Dubcek's return. There are unconfirmed reports that Dubcek has been taken to Moscow and is now with the Svoboda delegation.

* * *

Outrage at the invasion of Czechoslovakia is not confined to the Free World. Many bloc representatives have been embarrassed and some openly critical.

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2. Rumania

The Rumanians are deeply concerned over the possibility of a Soviet invasion.

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3. Communist China

Red Guard fighting has destroyed the heart of Nanning, the important South China city on the rail line to North Vietnam. Satellite photography taken on 11 August shows fire-gutted buildings covering an area one mile by one-half mile in the center of the city. The destruction probably took place in late July when Red Guard factions fought it out in Nanning. There is no sign of damage to the rail line.

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4. South Vietnam

The country-wide attacks of the past few days follow a pattern prisoners said would characterize the opening phase of the "third offensive." The Communists appear to be probing--and perhaps feinting--to screen troop movements.

This approach, certainly more cautious than the slam-bang tactics of the Tet or the May-June offensives, seems designed to cut down casualties while preserving the capability to launch major attacks against key targets.

* * *

Huong now says he has succeeded in damping down the frictions that have plagued his government. As a result, he has decided that the cabinet reshuffle which has been in the works for several weeks is no longer necessary.

5. Algeria

Plots and rumors of plots against Boumediene continue to point up the uneasy political situation. Boumediene's chronic inability to come to grips with the country's many problems only fuels the intrigues.

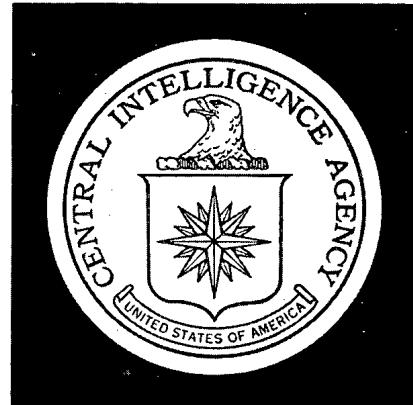
Coup plotters in exile, however, lack backing in Algeria and those in the regime spend as much time plotting against each other as they do against Boumediene. If some of these diverse groups could pull themselves together, they might be able to pull him down.

6. Nationalist China

Chiang Kai-shek has given effective control of the Kuomintang Party to his son. This pretty well ties up the succession for Chiang Ching-kuo, who also runs the defense and security establishments.

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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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24 August 1968

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

24 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Propaganda: Communist propaganda is giving heavy play to the current fighting in South Vietnam, but the treatment falls well short of the emphasis given to the opening phases of offensives earlier this year. As of 23 August, the new fighting was still not being characterized as a new country-wide general offensive. The Liberation Front's first significant commentary on the fighting, broadcast late on 20 August, addressed itself only to the attacks on Tay Ninh Province. It characterized these as the prelude to a general offensive throughout the province. This treatment is in marked contrast to the radio commentary which accompanied not only the Tet fighting but also the second round of action in early May. In the May attacks, the Communists were on the air within twenty-four hours calling the outbreak of fighting a "new phase" and "another general offensive."

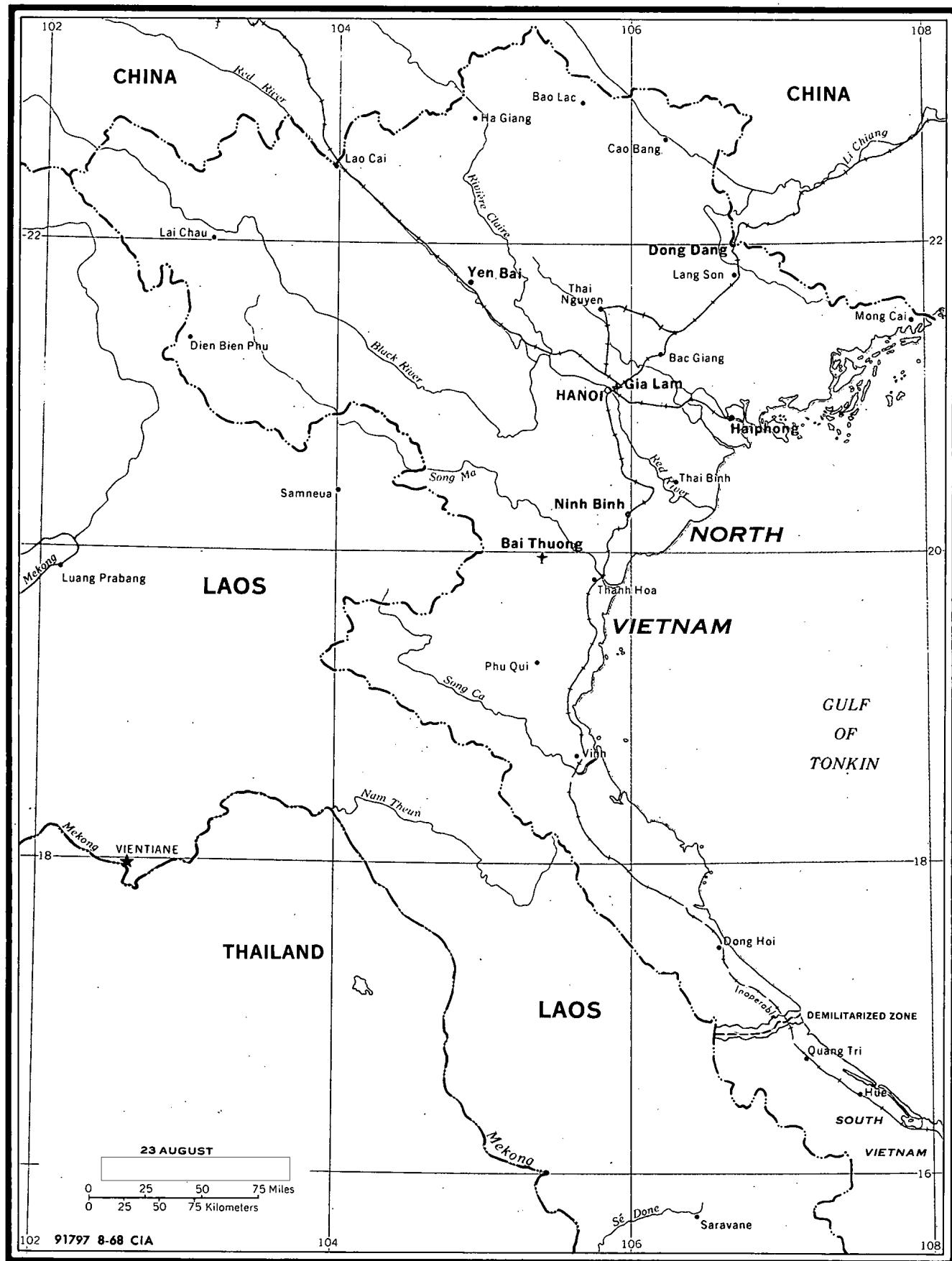
Some of the propaganda commentary seems to say that this time the Communists are trying to avoid the mistakes and excessive losses of earlier offensives by tailoring their tactics to more modest objectives than were set before. References to skillful use of infantry and artillery, timely attacks in many places at the same time, and proper use of the three kinds of Communist forces (guerrilla, regional, and main force) all suggest a more careful and deliberate employment of military resources than has been true in earlier offensives this year. Although deductions based on propaganda are far from conclusive, the Communists' treatment of the attacks so far suggests they are trying to sustain a more effective offensive effort than they were able to mount earlier this year.

The conclusion of the Liberation Front commentary on 20 August also suggests the Communists are sensitive to charges that the lull in the fighting in June and July showed weakness. In a defensive rebuttal of this charge, the commentary said that the scale of the

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AID: AG & LMR

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new fighting gives the lie to the contention that there is a "lull in the fighting" and that the Viet Cong "are not in a position to stage large-scale attacks."

This statement could be interpreted as an official denial--by southern Communists at least--that the lull of the past two months is related to the peace talks in Paris. The broadcast, however, was in Vietnamese for domestic consumption and was probably aimed at putting the best possible face on recent Communist activity.

* * *

Floods: Photography of 18 August confirms that there has been widespread flooding in northern North Vietnam. The flooding has extensively damaged the rail lines from Hanoi to Haiphong and Yen Bai and the line to the south as well. Photography did not cover the rail line from Dong Dang to Hanoi

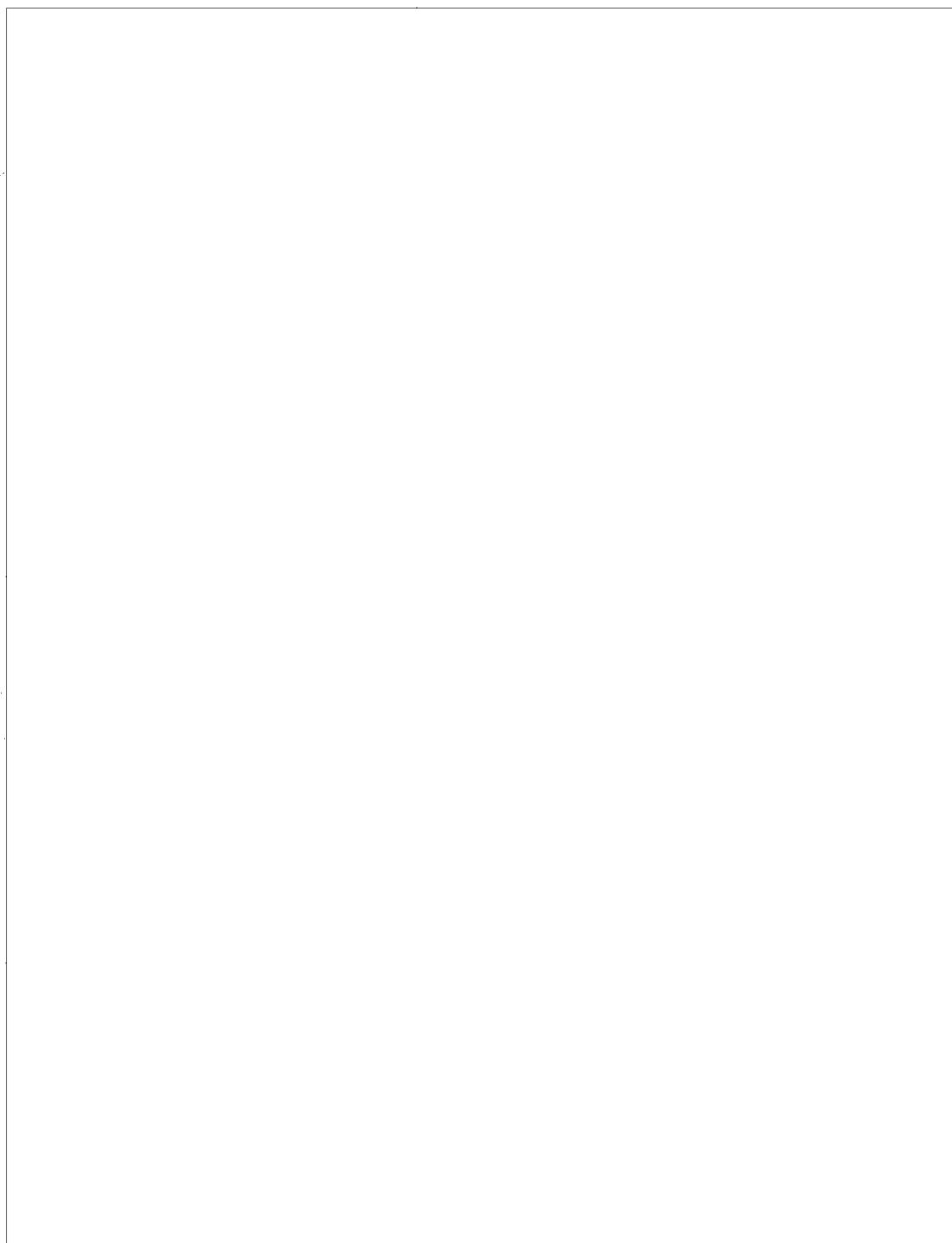
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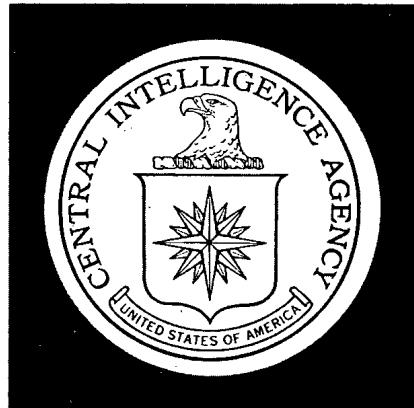
**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 26 August 1968



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23

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
26 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

There is little hard information on the talks in Moscow, which have entered their fourth day and continue to be described by the Soviets as "frank and comradely." The reported arrival in Moscow of Ulbricht, Gomulka, Kadar, and Zhivkov suggests that an agreement is nearly ready for them to endorse.

Unconfirmed press reports claim that the major elements of an agreement have been worked out and include the release of all Czechoslovaks under arrest, an enforced limit on the freedom of the press and radio, and the maintenance of some Warsaw Pact forces in Czechoslovakia for an indefinite period.

The situation in Prague and throughout the country remains tense, with the populace becoming gloomier and the occupiers growing edgier. Soviet troops--some new ones were brought in Saturday night--are dealing more roughly with the populace, and there were several incidents of violence yesterday.

Nonetheless, the people of Prague continue to show their nonacceptance of the occupation in unmistakable and sometimes ingenious ways. On Friday night in the main business district there was suddenly a new neon sign reading simply, "Dubcek." Another sign--honored only in the breach--appeals for a ban on miniskirts during the occupation, obviously to deprive the Soviet troops of one of the glories of Prague.

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2. Yugoslavia-
Rumania

Relations between Eastern Europe's independent-minded and orthodox Communist regimes have been severely damaged by the invasion of Czechoslovakia. Tito told Ambassador Elbrick on 23 August that Yugoslav-Soviet relations from now on would be devoid of the trust and confidence that had been slowly building up.

Rumanian leader Ceausescu has for the first time been attacked by name by the Soviet and Hungarian press. Mostly low-level Soviet bloc types showed up for Rumanian National Day celebrations at various diplomatic posts last Friday.

Tito and Ceausescu met Saturday at a Yugoslav border town, presumably to coordinate contingency plans concerning the Czech crisis. They will probably not risk provoking the Soviets by over-dramatizing their position. Rumanian Premier Maurer does not see any "immediate" danger of Soviet armed intervention. There is, in fact, still no hard evidence that the Soviets intend to carry their intervention in Eastern Europe beyond Czechoslovakia.

3. South Vietnam

The Communists appear to be in the initial phase of their long-expected "third general offensive." Over the weekend, there were widespread ground assaults and shellings throughout much of South Vietnam. The tactical emphasis continued to be on secondary allied targets, suggesting that the main event is yet to come--an all-out thrust against Saigon, Ban Me Thuot, Da Nang, the Tam Ky-Chu Lai area, and Hue.

4. Soviet Union

An SS-9 ICBM launched from Tyuratam last Friday may have had four separate re-entry vehicles.

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We expect to have more data on this event in a few days.

5. France

The French detonated their first thermonuclear device on 24 August at the Pacific test site and probably are now capable of developing thermonuclear warheads for their ballistic missile systems. The device had a yield of about 2.3 megatons.

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[redacted] a second thermonuclear explosion may be planned for mid-to-late September. The tests are extremely expensive, however, and another may not be necessary in view of the success the French have already had.

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This test series, begun on 7 July, has included the explosion of three nuclear devices ranging in yield from 150 to 530 kilotons. These were probably the prototype submarine-launched ballistic missile warhead.

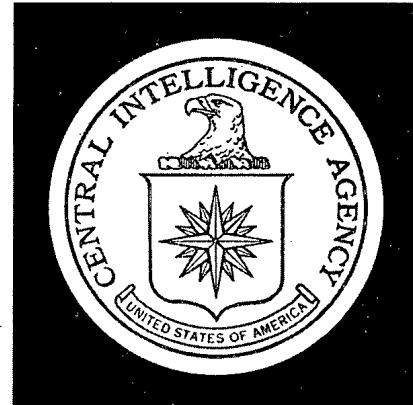
6. Australia

In the Cabinet's forthcoming review of Australian defense policy, Defense Minister Fairhall will come down hard against Gorton's "fortress Australia" concept. Fairhall wants to keep at least air and naval units in the Malaysian and Singapore areas as long as there is trouble on the Asian mainland. Embassy Canberra believes that the Cabinet still works largely by consensus, and that Gorton's defense views may yet be brought closer to US interests.

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26 August 1968

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

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

French Diplomat in Mongolia Talks to North Vietnamese: The French ambassador to Mongolia, Georges Perruche, talked with a US official in Paris on 23 August. He said he had recently asked the North Vietnamese ambassador in Ulan Bator and his deputy chief of mission flatly if the North Vietnamese were serious in their negotiations in Paris and wanted the talks to make progress. He was assured that they did. He claims that he then defended the reasonableness of the US position and urged the Vietnamese to meet the obviously reasonable requirement for reciprocity.

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about the possibility of a dangerous flood. [redacted]

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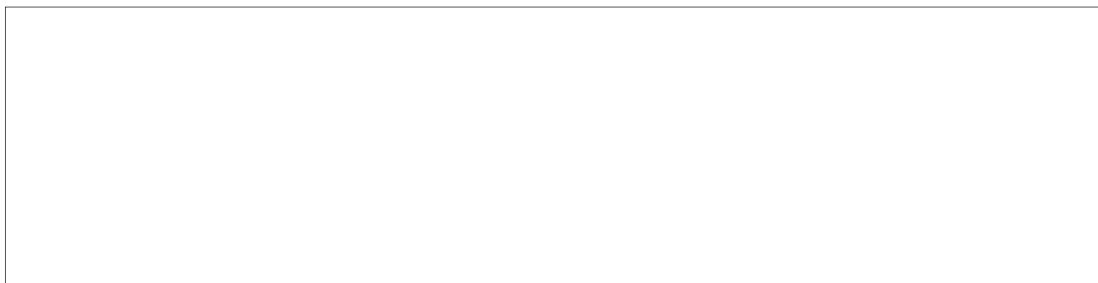
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

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23

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
27 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

The Moscow talks have ended and Svoboda returned to Prague late last night. With him were Dubcek and Premier Cernik.

No communiqué has been issued yet, although one may be forthcoming later today. A Western press report--unconfirmed, but sourced to the Czechoslovakian Embassy in Moscow--states the Czechoslovaks agreed to foreign troops remaining in the western border area and to cracking down on the press. The Russians, according to this report, agreed the pre-invasion leadership could keep their jobs.

There were fewer incidents in Czechoslovakia last night, and Soviet military equipment in Prague was somewhat less in evidence.

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2. East Germany

The Ulbricht regime faces growing defiance as East Germans rally behind Dubcek and the Czechoslovaks. Throughout East Germany officials have been harassed by inflammatory leaflets, hostile wall paintings, and anonymous telephone calls. There have been resignations from the party in protest over the German role in Czechoslovakia. Reacting in character, the regime is arresting dissenters and tightening the already formidable security apparatus.

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3. NATO

The invasion of Czechoslovakia has jarred some NATO members considerably. The West Germans want a review of the NATO system for advance warning of attack, and the Italians are calling for a 20-year extension of the treaty. Both countries have seized on the Czechoslovak crisis as an excuse to postpone signing the Nonproliferation Treaty.

4. Communist China

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5. Nigeria

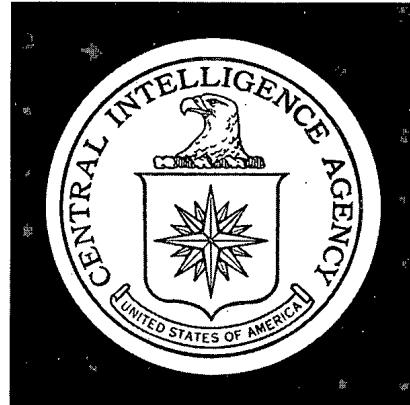
Federal troops continue their slow drive into Biafra, but are meeting stiff resistance and getting bogged down in heavy rains. There are reports the Biafrans are importing 300 French mercenaries. If true, this will make things considerably tougher for the federals.

6. Soviet Union -
Egypt

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Shipping: Hanoi is pricing Japanese oil tankers,

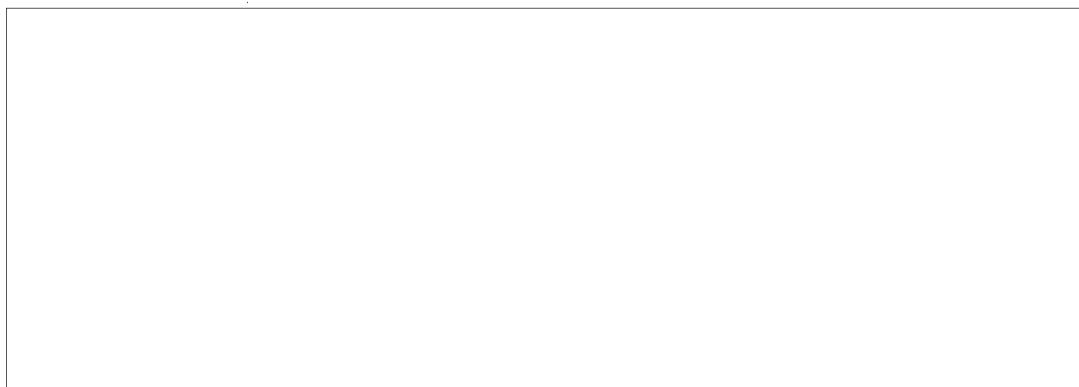
[redacted] The North Vietnamese are looking

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for small ships in the 1,000 to 3,000 ton class and
are not asking for extended credit terms.

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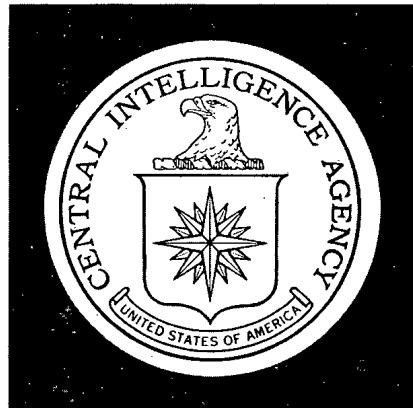
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

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There is nothing of significance to report today.

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23

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
28 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Czechoslovak leaders returned from Moscow faced with the hard task of convincing their people that the agreement hammered out with the Soviets is the best that could be hoped for. According to the communiqué issued after the four-day meeting, present Czech leaders will remain in power. Soviet troops, however, will remain in Czechoslovakia until the situation returns to "normal."

Dubcek made it plain, in an emotional speech to the nation, that new restrictions would have to be clamped on press and radio media. He indicated that the occupation troops would soon begin a phased withdrawal from urban centers to less conspicuous areas. Both he and Svoboda appealed for discipline and understanding from the Czechoslovak people.

Initial public reaction to the Moscow agreement was one of protest. Crowds marched in Prague shouting, "We want the truth." The demonstrators dispersed after a parliamentary deputy assured them that no agreement infringing Czechoslovakia's sovereignty would be ratified.

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2. Rumania

The atmosphere in Bucharest is more relaxed than over the weekend, when Rumanian armed forces appeared to be in an initial state of alert.

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3. Israel-Egypt

Tel Aviv is taking a grim view of an incident along the Suez Canal Monday night. Two Israeli soldiers were killed and a third captured by Egyptian troops who crossed to the Israeli side.

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The UN truce supervisory chief is taking their protest to Cairo today. Hopes for an early release of the Algerian-held Israeli plane may also deter a military reprisal.

4. Soviet Union

A mobile missile launcher has been seen in satellite photography at Plesetsk, the missile and space test center north of Moscow.

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When photographed early this month, the launcher was in firing position at a pad designed for solid fuel missiles. So far, however, we have not identified any flight tests for this missile.

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5. Communist China

Satellite photography shows that construction at the intercontinental ballistic missile launch facility in western China has moved ahead considerably over the last several months.

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28 August 1968

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

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Propaganda Support: Communist propaganda continues its exhortations on behalf of the current Communist military push. In South Vietnam, Liberation Radio reminded the residents of Saigon that 25 August was the anniversary of Communist uprisings in the capital city 23 years ago. It called on the people of the capital city to "encircle and fight (the enemy) more fiercely" and conveyed the impression that the Communists were engaged in an unrelenting offensive in the cities. The broadcast was probably laying the groundwork for claims of popular support in future attacks.

According to a domestic broadcast of 26 August, General Vo Nguyen Giap has urged sick and wounded soldiers to recover quickly and return to the battlefield or new training responsibilities as soon as possible. At a meeting to honor representatives of sick and wounded soldiers and survivors of "fallen heroes," Giap lavished praise on the sacrifices of soldiers and their families, describing them as "shining examples of revolutionary heroism and warm patriotism." He reminded his audience that the "imperialists are stubborn" and that the struggle required still more sacrifice and renewed commitment on everybody's part.

* * *

Chinh's Speech: Hanoi Radio has broadcast excerpts from a speech Politburo member Truong Chinh gave on the occasion of Karl Marx's birthday. Chinh was addressing a major party gathering apparently called to discuss in depth some of the major problems facing the North Vietnamese party and to disseminate the official line decreed by the Politburo. The radio-broadcast emphasized that Truong Chinh was speaking on behalf of the party leadership. The excerpts of the speech which Hanoi has made available suggest that it is the latest in a long series of articles which

try to demonstrate to the rank and file that the leadership is aware of and has the answers to the major problems facing Vietnam.

Chinh's speech is mostly a reiteration of familiar positions on such topics as the necessity of armed revolution and the leading role of the Communist Party. Taken in the context of present circumstances, some of his points provide further evidence that Hanoi has long-range plans for the unification of North and South Vietnam. Others seem to reflect a concern over the adverse effects of the regime's harsh measures on the populace.

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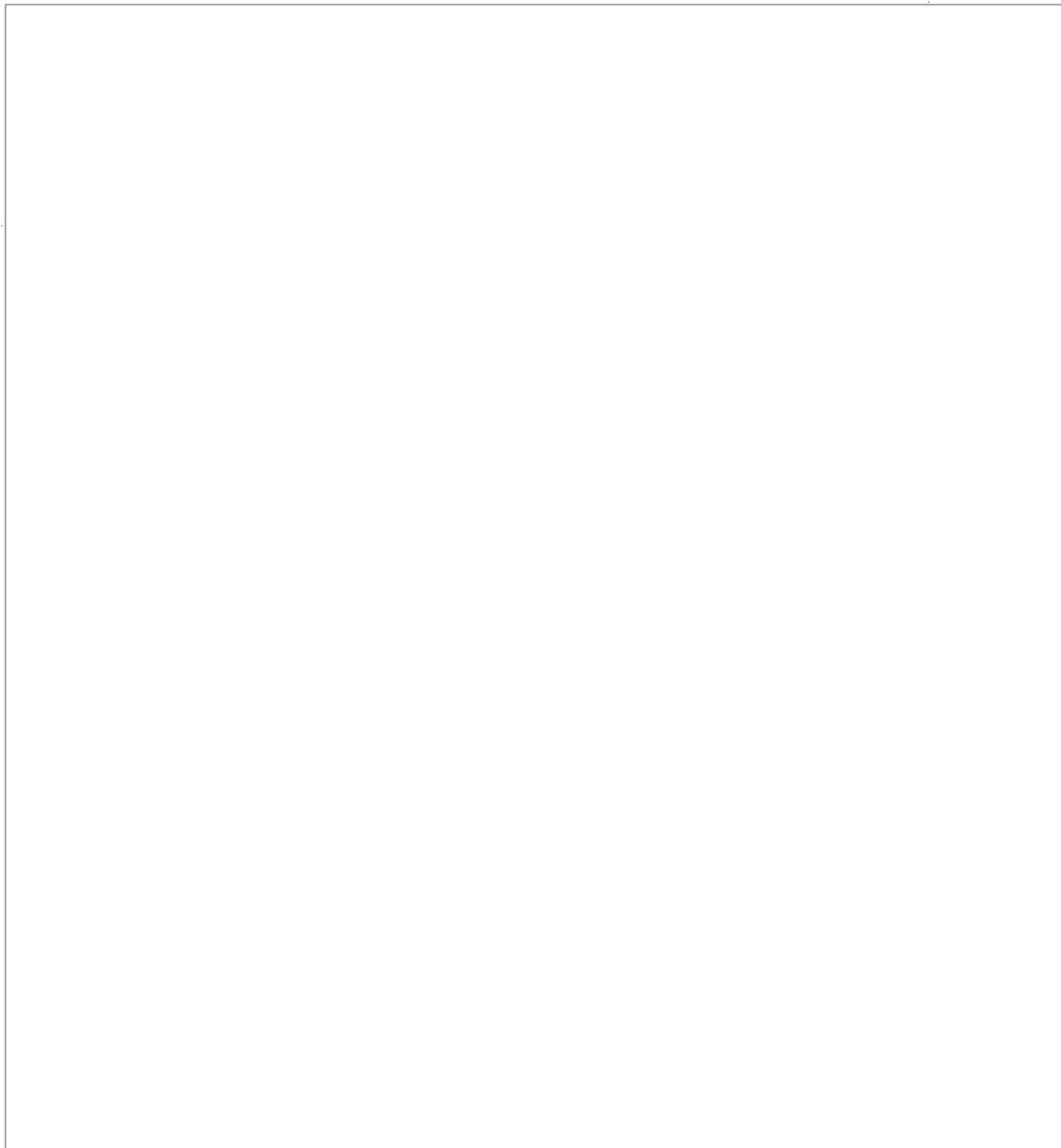
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Tropical Storm Impedes Southward Flow of Supplies: Mid-August storm activity off the southern coast of North Vietnam may have impeded the southward flow of supplies through Thanh Hoa Province. Heavy rain and flood warnings were frequently passed over the North Vietnamese civil network beginning about 11 August. Weather data subsequently showed that tropical storm "Rose" moved inland on 13 August. In the aftermath, flooding was reported in several areas of North Vietnam and especially along the Song Ma River in Thanh Hoa Province.

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Vietnamese Students Arriving in Moscow: Tass has announced that 500 North Vietnamese students arrived in Moscow on 20 August to begin a six-year program of study. The Soviet press had earlier announced the arrival of 295 North Vietnamese youths.

The students were probably sent under the agreement formally signed with North Vietnam in July 1967 which provides for the education and training of 6,000 Vietnamese students in Soviet professional and technical schools and enterprises in the period 1967-69.

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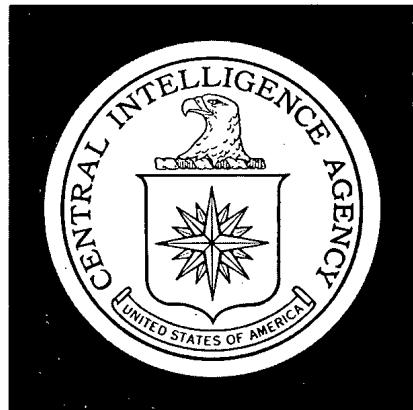
Tass further announced that a total of 1,500 Vietnamese will begin studies in the USSR in September. There are about 6,000 Vietnamese students in the USSR for various types of education and training.

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

Hanoi Comments on the Democratic Convention: Both the Hanoi press and North Vietnamese spokesmen in Paris emphasized the importance of antiwar sentiment in the US as the Democratic National Convention opened. The Hanoi press representative in Paris spoke almost exclusively of the upcoming election at his weekly news conference on 26 August and called the attention of reporters to the long line of "statesmen, labor leaders, intellectuals, and generals" who had appeared before the platform committee advocating changes in US policy on Vietnam. He said he was confident that during the election campaign the American people would demand a change in US policy from its present and future leaders. He had praise for all those who pressed for an unconditional cessation of the bombing and for recognition of the Liberation Front. A Hanoi party daily on 27 August took virtually the same line, stating that the Democratic Party was deeply divided on Vietnam as it met to choose its new leader.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
29 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The Czechoslovak populace so far has heeded the leadership's appeals for order, although the people are making no effort to hide the fact that the pill is a bitter one. We still anticipate some hostile encounters between Czechoslovak youth and Soviet soldiers. Moscow moved more ground troops into the country the first part of this week.

Czech Premier Cernik has confirmed that the foreign troops are to be withdrawn in stages, but that the pace of withdrawal is to be the subject of negotiations between Prague and the interventionist states. We have no further word on yesterday's Yugoslav press report that the Czechs will meet the Soviets and the Eastern European leaders in Dresden in 10 or 15 days.

Although the Czech leaders seem to have quieted the first emotional reactions to the Moscow agreement, they still have to get the formal endorsement of the party and legislature. Their first task is to deal with the new central committee, elected by a secret party congress early in the occupation and promptly branded illegal by the Soviets. This issue also illustrates the fundamental dilemma they face--how to satisfy Moscow without being repudiated as quislings by their vigilant compatriots.

2. South Vietnam

A forward element of COSVN may have moved from the Cambodian border to within about 20 miles of Saigon. This element made a similar move at the time of the Tet offensive. There are other indications.

of moves which would be preliminary to a major attack on Saigon.

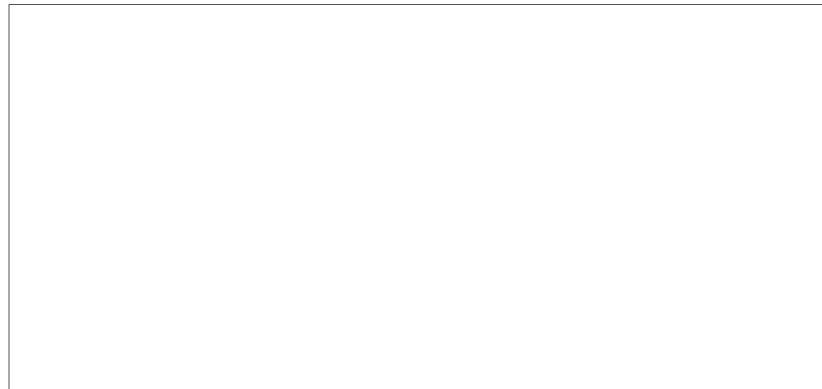
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3. Bulgaria-Rumania

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4. Mexico

The government, which had been bending over backward to avoid a confrontation with the students, got tough yesterday. Word came down from Diaz Ordaz that student disorders must be stopped, and several demonstrators were injured in clashes with the security forces.

If the students run true to type, these measures will merely whet their appetite for combat. The government expects more trouble

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The embassy reported earlier yesterday that Mexican labor leaders fear they may not be able to keep the workers from joining the students if the unrest continues much longer.

5. Guatemala

Ambassador Mein's assassins apparently were members of the pro-Castro terrorist organization in Guatemala which has been trying to zero in on him and other US officials for some time. This time they may have been trying to kidnap rather than to kill him. The government has declared a state of siege, but no significant leads have turned up so far.

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6. Jordan-Israel

Husayn's brother, Prince Muhammad, said yesterday that the Israelis have moved over 100 tanks into Israeli-held Syrian territory just north of Jordan. If a force of this size attacks, he added, Jordan will ask the other Arab states for help.

The Jordanians clearly are worried that Israel may try to seize strategic high ground which is now held by Jordan, but we have no other word of an Israeli buildup. Muhammad, who is minding the store while Husayn is attending the wedding of another brother in Pakistan, is somewhat erratic and may have inflated the reports he has received of Israeli activity.

7. Soviet Union

Satellite photography indicates that the Soviets may be building their big Y-class ballistic missile submarine at the Komsomolsk shipyard in eastern Siberia. Until now this submarine has been produced only at the Severodvinsk yard in European Russia.

8. Pakistan - Soviet Union

Ayub's defense minister has now told Ambassador Oehlert that the Soviets have agreed in principle to sell Pakistan any military hardware it wants, including tanks. The defense minister says that Ayub is reluctant to buy Soviet tanks but will do so if Pakistan's two-year search for similar US equipment does not bear fruit soon.

Ayub's reluctance to jeopardize a potential supply source is apparent in his mild criticism of Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia.

9. Finland -
Soviet Union

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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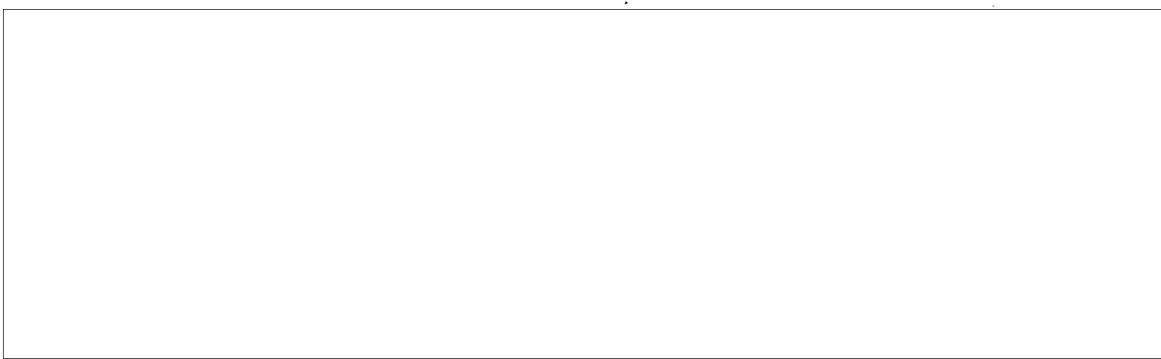
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Truck Count Down: The number of trucks sighted by US pilots south of the 19th parallel in North Vietnam during the week of 12-18 August, totaled 577, about a 29 percent decrease from both the previous seven-day period and the weekly average noted since 1 April. This reduction is probably due, in large part, to the poor weather conditions over southern North Vietnam during the first half of the week which restricted US aircraft coverage and hindered Communist truck operations.

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

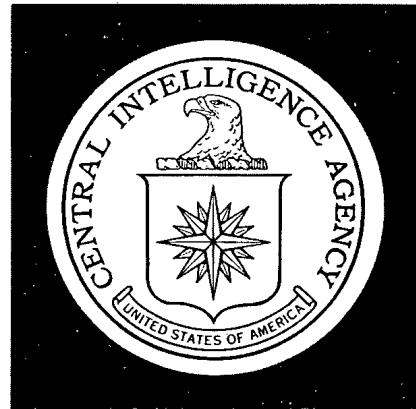
Reply to Ambassador Harriman: In a direct comment on the Democratic convention, Xuan Thuy charged in his formal presentation yesterday that the administration's

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Vietnam policy was responsible for the magnitude of the protest movement in Chicago. "US authorities," he said, "have had to use barbed wires and tens of thousands of troops and police agents to cope with the indignation of the American people." He added that American youth protesting "No, no, we won't go to Vietnam" had struck fear into the hearts of US officials.

Despite all this, Xuan Thuy's press aide later denied that Hanoi had ever interfered in US politics.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
30 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Two versions of the "complete" Moscow agreement were passed to the US Embassy in Prague yesterday. Both contain references to a gradual troop withdrawal, an end to anti-Soviet propaganda, and an annulment of the special party congress called after the invasion. One version

[redacted] states Moscow will control implementation of the Cierna and Bratislava agreements, that Soviet advisers will be assigned throughout the defense establishment, and that Prague's foreign policy must be coordinated with the "Warsaw Five." This report looks plausible.

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2. Guatemala

Ambassador Mein's killers are still at large, although the government is conducting a massive manhunt. House-to-house searches are continuing in Guatemala City, police are rounding up known extremists, the country's borders have been closed, and a curfew imposed. A state of siege has been declared, suspending political and some civil liberties for 30 days.

The Communist terrorists responsible for the murder issued a bulletin yesterday stating the ambassador had been "executed" during a kidnap attempt. The Communists said they had planned the kidnapping in retaliation for the capture of their leader, Camilo Sanchez. The bulletin warned Ambassador Mein's death "is only the first of a series of measures" unless Camilo is produced alive and in court.

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3. Israel-Egypt

Moshe Dayan is now threatening "the most severe retaliation" unless Egypt apologizes and makes amends for the Monday night raid across the Suez Canal.

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Cairo is not likely to accept Dayan's terms. The chances are considerably better than even that the Israelis will hit Egypt or Jordan or both within the next few weeks.

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Both Egypt and Jordan have increased their alert measures. A firing incident yesterday in the northern Suez Canal area probably has made the Egyptians even more nervous.

4. Panama

Arias leaves tomorrow on a trip that will take him to Germany, France, and the US before his inauguration on 1 October. He is likely to bring up the subject of more US aid--in the \$40 million range--and he may also sound out the French on economic assistance.

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The United States Intelligence Board has just approved a National Intelligence Estimate entitled Panama: Prospects for Relations with the US. This estimate concludes that Arias apparently is convinced that reasonably harmonious relations with the US are essential. He is committed, however, to renegotiating the present canal treaty drafts. The major areas of contention during these negotiations will probably be over issues of Panamanian sovereignty and the size of the US presence.

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5. Philippines

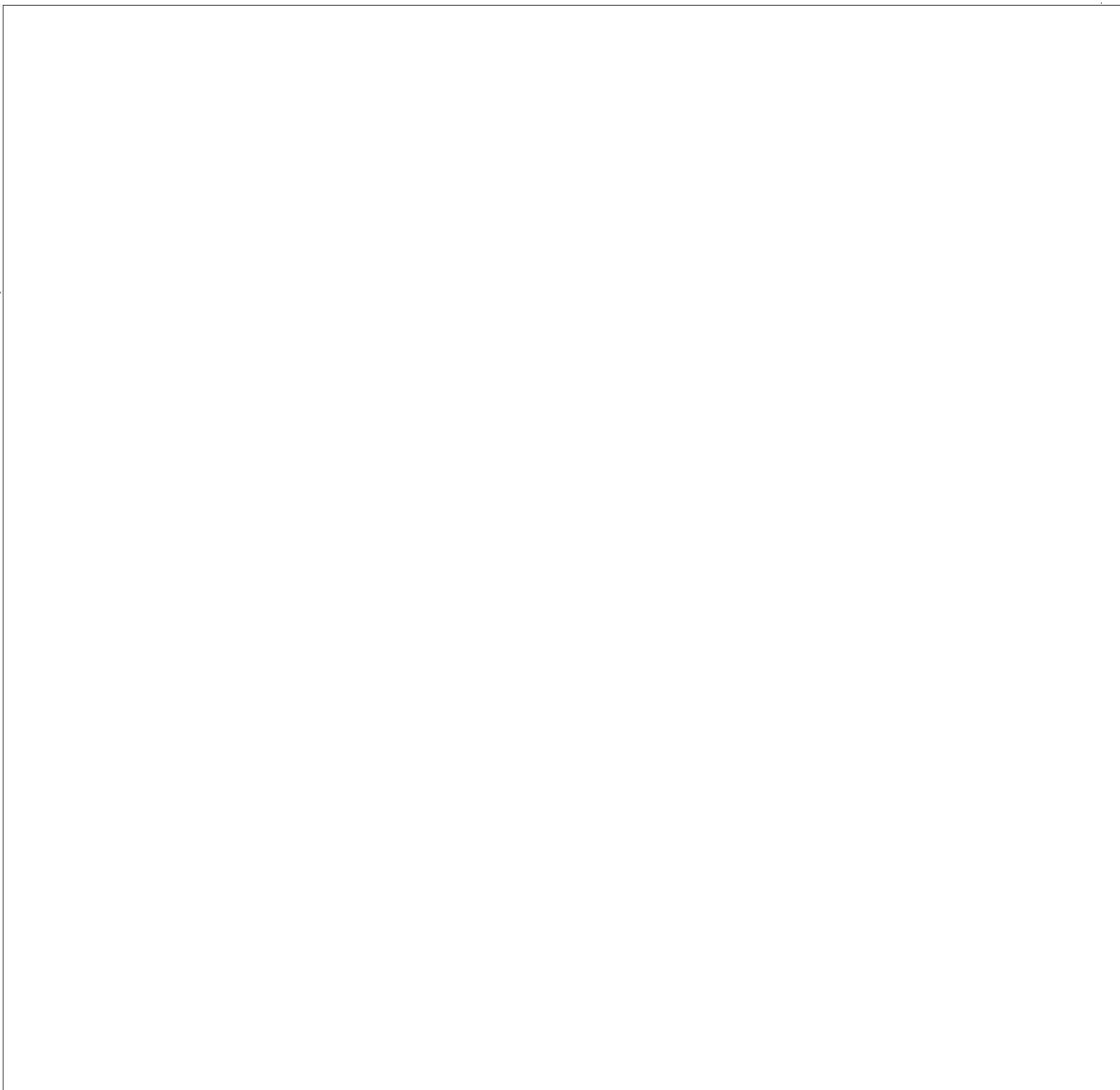
Relations with Malaysia will sour even more if Marcos signs a bill tossed in his lap yesterday by the congress. This bill has a rider describing Sabah as "territory over which the Republic of the Philippines has acquired dominion and sovereignty." The Malaysians, who hold this disputed portion of northern Borneo, are already saying the bill puts the lie to Manila's claims of friendship. If Marcos ignores or vetoes the bill, he becomes the target of wrath at home.



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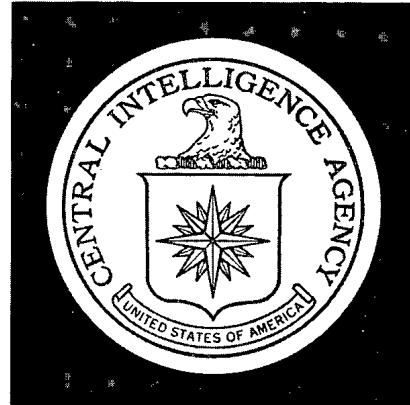
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30 August 1968

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

30 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Artilleryman Describes Air Defense: Excerpts from a recently captured document have provided further insight into enemy antiaircraft tactics used against US aircraft bombing in the Hanoi area during 1967. The document apparently belonged to an artilleryman previously attached to a light antiaircraft battery near Hanoi.

According to the document, US Air Force planes "attack fiercely" but their raids are "quite short." They tend to fly a tight formation as they approach the target, but then fan out into small groups in a perpendicular line for their final attack.

On the other hand, US Navy planes break off in many directions when approaching their targets and use "diversionary tactics," launching simultaneous strikes at both primary and secondary targets. Such tactics, according to the document, are confusing and make it difficult to differentiate between the attacking and the diversionary aircraft.

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The document indicates that the enemy makes extensive efforts to instill a strong sense of discipline in antiaircraft troops, both in regard to firing tactics and in the necessity to stick to their guns even when their position has been hit by US flak suppression attacks. One passage, for example, states that "no matter how great the losses are, the company should be determined to fight until the end, even if only one or two guns are available."

Tactics vary with the clock. In daytime, batteries apparently open up after receiving a signal, even before they see or hear approaching enemy aircraft. This creates what is commonly referred to as a "flak trap" by US pilots. Batteries are allowed to fire at departing enemy aircraft only if they are within range of their guns. Antiaircraft crews operating during darkness are instructed not to fire until they actually observe the enemy.

These same notes provide the first tenuous indication that the North Vietnamese may be transferring some experienced antiaircraft personnel from Hanoi's air defense system to South Vietnam. They appear to have been written by a first-line field officer, and were captured in western Thua Thien Province on 28 May, when the bombing restriction was two months old.

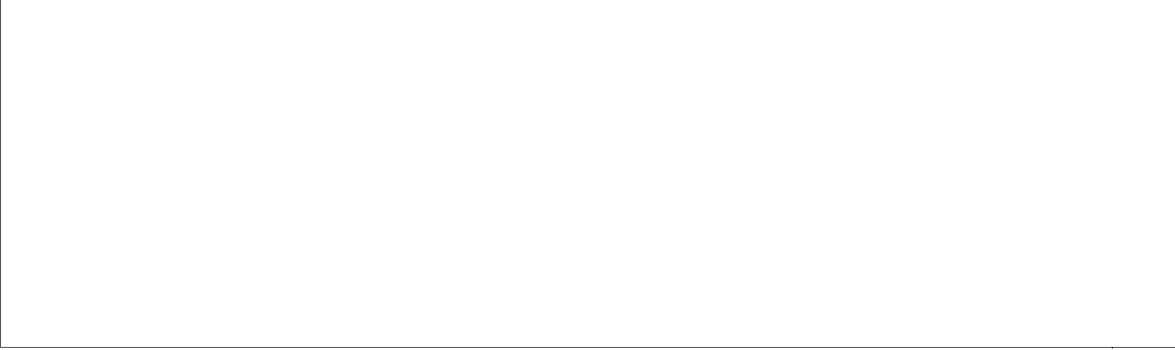
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Havana and Hanoi Sign Economic Pact: The governments of Cuba and North Vietnam have signed an economic cooperation agreement in Hanoi--winding up North Vietnam's annual economic aid campaign. No details of the protocol were given in the Hanoi Radio announcement.

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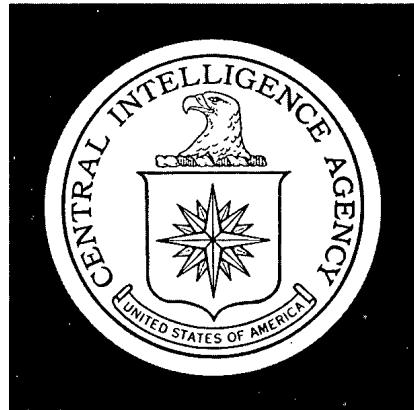


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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on American Politics: Further comment on the US political scene was broadcast on 28 August by Radio Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam. The radio quoted an article by "Commentator" in the party daily charging that "violent" eruptions at the Democratic convention had forced the Johnson administration to "step up its deceitful propaganda" to "soothe" public opinion and defend US policy on Vietnam. Citing the "growing indignation" of US and world opinion at US "stubbornness," the article predicted that the Johnson administration would encounter continually stiffening opposition if it persists in its refusal to end unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against North Vietnam.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
31 AUGUST 1968

1. Rumania

(As of 5:00 AM
EDT)

[redacted] the movement of some Soviet forces toward the Rumanian border. It is too early to say whether this is meant as a pressure tactic or in fact indicates an intent to move into the country.

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2. Czechoslovakia

The Soviets appear on the verge of making new arrests. Pravda today called for the liquidation of 40,000 "counter-revolutionaries" in Czechoslovakia, warning that the struggle is far from over. This follows reports that Prime Minister Cernik advised the nation's intellectuals yesterday to "get out while they can," as he could guarantee the safety of no one, including himself.

Soviet security forces continue their takeover of key posts in important ministries.

The Czech Government has established an office to control press, radio and television media while formal legislation on information control is being drawn up. The press is already exercising restraint.

3. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

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[redacted]

As yet we have noted no cracks in the public show of unity among the Soviet leaders. Neither is there any sign of lessening resolve to bring the Czechs to heel. Political infighting may well occur, however, if Soviet aims are not quickly and cleanly achieved.

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4. Warsaw Pact -
NATO

The Soviet ground force buildup resulting from intervention in Czechoslovakia has not weakened the over-all strength of Warsaw Pact ground forces facing NATO.

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By contrast, the Warsaw Pact's offensive air capabilities have been reduced. The Czech Air Force of some 600 aircraft, now probably eliminated from Pact planning, has been the most effective of the East European air arms.

5. South Vietnam

[redacted] captured prisoners, and [redacted] increasingly refer to 2 September as the date for launching attacks. The present Communist deployment suggests that they hope to hit allied bases and urban centers throughout the country.

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50X1

The major target still appears to be Saigon, although almost every provincial capital and major urban center in the country could be hit with artillery fire and with at least small unit ground attacks.

The Communists' timetable, however, may be upset in some areas of the country by allied pre-emptive attacks.

6. Dominican Republic

[redacted] Communist terrorists are planning attacks on US personnel. These extremists have been told to observe the habits and homes of Americans (also of local police and military officers) in preparation for shootings and bombings.

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Earlier plans did not come to much, but the Communists are capable of assassination attempts and other violence.

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7. Guatemala

The intensive search for Ambassador Mein's killers continues. There have been threats by the Communist terrorists against other foreign diplomats.

8. Mexico

Sunday--when Diaz Ordaz gives his state of the union address--may be a day of disorder. Students are planning demonstrations. They are also preparing to "defend" the university campus with arms and molotov cocktails. The government, however, seems determined to deal firmly with the protesters.

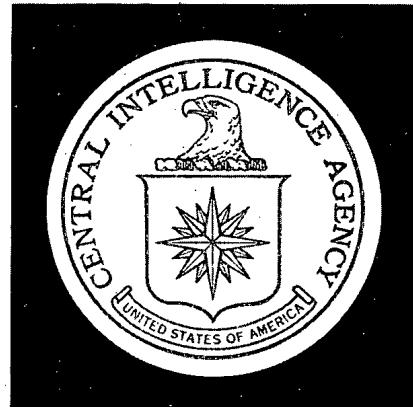
One small bomb exploded at Ambassador Freeman's residence yesterday, with no damage.

9. Arab States

Recent satellite photography shows that the Arabs are continuing to improve their air defense capabilities. In Egypt, two new surface-to-air missile sites near Cairo have been seen, and new runways are being built at two fighter bases. Egypt, Iraq, and Syria are building more protective shelters for their aircraft.

Top Secret

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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



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31 August 1968

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

31 August 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

"Liberation Committees" Established: On 28 August Liberation Radio proclaimed the establishment of a "temporary people's liberation committee" in Ca Mau Province--the Communist equivalent of the government's An Xuyen Province. The committee was set up at a five-day meeting in mid-August. Although this committee is made to appear a genuine creation of the Ca Mau "people," the broadcast gives the first open admission of Communist direction and participation in such activities. The five-day meeting included "all representatives from the National Liberation Front provincial committee," along with representatives from already established district and village administrations and from "mass organizations" in the province.

Except for the bogus Thua-Thien-Hue "revolutionary administration," which was a paper government set up by the National Alliance shortly after Tet and almost unheard of since that time, the new Ca Mau liberation committee is the first pretense of a government presence above the district level. Its creation may set the pattern for the establishment of additional province administrations throughout the country, with the Communists first claiming extensive programs at the hamlet and village levels before capping it with a provincial organization.

The claims for Ca Mau were followed up on 29 August by a Hanoi broadcast which claimed that similar local "self-governing regimes" were gradually being set up on a country-wide basis. The broadcast made it clear that these organizations were all democratically elected, anti-US, and anti-Saigon, and were carrying out the Liberation Front's political program.

It is possible that at some time in the near future these "revolutionary administrations" might be used to form a national administration. The Communists' hopes for a national administration have always

foundered on an inability to produce any personalities of national stature, and they may be trying to get around this difficulty by emphasizing their political control over large parts of the countryside. The new rural governments are clearly intended to give the impression to both domestic and foreign audiences that Communist political control is widespread and democratically based.

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Liberation Front on "Uprisings": Liberation Radio on 27 August broadcast a commentary which claimed that "uprisings" have been occurring throughout South Vietnam since 18 August. Tay Ninh, "all the provinces"

in the delta and around Saigon, and towns and provinces throughout I Corps were cited as areas in which the people had risen up against the "puppet administration."

Some passages of the commentary suggest that notwithstanding their bravado, the Communists are dissatisfied with the political side of their current operations--or in Viet Cong jargon, with the "uprising" aspect of the "general offensive and uprising" campaign. Several references are made to the Saigon government's efforts to "cover up the facts" and "impair the influence of the uprisings." The commentary then warned, "The enemy can by no means gauge the strength of our compatriots' uprising movement in the days ahead." This could be an effort by Hanoi to prod its party officials in the South to show more results in the political field.

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Logistics: US pilots reported a high level of waterborne logistics craft activity in southern North Vietnam during the week of 19-25 August, continuing a trend which has been noted since late July.

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

North Vietnamese on the Candidates: In an interview with a Japanese journalist on 16 August transmitted by Hanoi's news agency, Paris negotiator Xuan Thuy prefaced comments on the US campaign by saying he did not wish to "interfere" in US domestic affairs, but could not remain silent on the Vietnam policies being espoused by "various circles." While characterizing the Johnson-Humphrey approach to the conflict as "completely" discredited, Thuy appeared--by the greater length of his criticism--to find Nixon's position even less palatable.

According to a wire service report, however, Vice President Humphrey was severely handled in an English language broadcast by a Radio Hanoi broadcast beamed at US servicemen in Vietnam. Commenting on his nomination, the broadcast reportedly described Humphrey as a greedy opportunist unconcerned with the war's cost in human lives so long as he gets "the big money the presidency would give him."

Hanoi on Demonstrations: The antiwar demonstrations in Chicago continue to provide Radio Hanoi with abundant propaganda material. In broadcasts on 28 and 30 August, its international service in English described in particular detail the activities of one group of demonstrators who allegedly carried flags of the Liberation Front and chanted "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh!" The broadcasts attempted to show widespread opposition to the war within the Democratic Party and from many sectors of US society, citing the "demands" of lawyers, businessmen, women, and war veterans that the US end its involvement in Vietnam.

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