

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
2 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Both Vietnamese and American officials now feel there is a good chance that the full assembly will give its approval to the election by today's deadline (noon Washington; midnight Saigon).

Thieu and Ky were active over the weekend in their somewhat belated campaign to get out the vote for validation. Main efforts have been directed at the Democratic Alliance Bloc, whose members have been the principal hold-outs. In what amounts to outright blackmail, the bloc has been trying to barter its votes in exchange for positions in the new government and other concessions, including money. One approach was actually made to US officials asking that Ambassador Bunker carry the bloc's demands to Thieu.

Both Thieu and Ky talked with members of the bloc on Saturday and, while they apparently made no promises, noted that a vote for rejection would threaten grave consequences. At last report, bloc leader Le Phuoc Sang was reported urging validation.

Yesterday Thieu told an American official that he thought about 50 of the estimated 90 deputies who will be present for the final vote would ballot in favor of validation.

This morning police broke up a student march. Two US newsmen were roughed up in the melee.

2. Indonesia

The students who ransacked the Chinese Communist Embassy in Djakarta yesterday have done nothing to help the lot of the four Indonesian diplomats still in Peking. The Chinese have been holding the Indonesian representatives as hostages refusing to give them exit visas. If the Chinese follow through true to form, the Red Guards will now be loosed on the Indonesians in Peking.

3. Communist China

National Day celebrations in Peking yesterday reflected an effort by the leadership to present a facade of unity while continuing to throttle back the Cultural Revolution.

Except for nine men clearly in disgrace, the entire Politburo turned out for a rally that, by past standards, was a relatively tame affair. Lin Piao was the speaker of the day--Mao was there, but silent--and his ten-minute speech was cast in tones of general moderation. So were the editorials in major newspapers.

The turn toward normalcy seems to be taking hold outside the capital. Reports from the provinces indicate order is being restored in major trouble spots.

4. India

Local tension between Chinese and Indian troops facing each other across the Sikkim border probably was responsible for yesterday's clash. This is the same situation that led to a more serious firefight last month. The site of this latest shooting is a little over three miles from the location of the earlier fight. No further firing has been reported overnight.

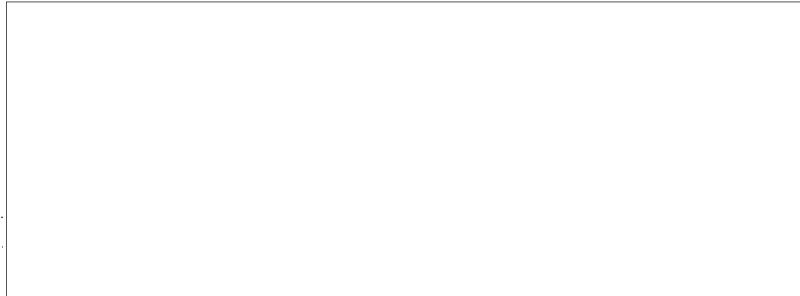
5. South Korea

President Pak is moving to break the political impasse which has paralyzed the National Assembly since June.

He intends to go ahead with legislative business, particularly the budget, in hopes this will force the opposition party to end its boycott and take its assembly seats. If that tactic does not work, Pak seems determined to proceed without the opposition. Such a move would generate a very considerable hue and cry and holds some danger for political stability.

6. Soviet Union

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SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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~~TOP SECRET~~

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

2 October 1967

Reaction to the President's Speech: So far,
there has been no press comment by Hanoi.

Reaction elsewhere in the world has followed generally predictable lines. The Czechs provided an interesting note when they remarked "the only different aspect in the speech was its more accommodating tone."

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Chinese National Day: The 1 October Chinese National Day celebrations in Hanoi were marked by standard Communist oratory. The Chinese, on the one hand, continued to pledge all-out support for the struggle of the Vietnamese against "US imperialism," while the Vietnamese stressed the deep friendship and militant solidarity that unite both peoples.

As expected, Chinese attacks on Soviet "modern revisionism" caused Soviet and bloc diplomats to walk out of the reception. The walkout immediately preceded a speech by Premier Pham Van Dong, who ignored the incident. The North Vietnamese premier voiced Hanoi's profound gratitude for China's aid while at the same time mentioning the aid and vigorous support received "from the fraternal socialist countries."

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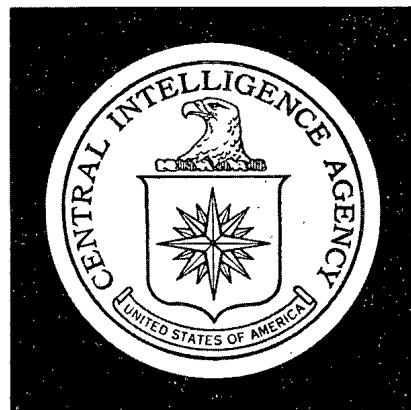
Soviet Trade: Recently released figures for 1966 indicate that Soviet trade with North Vietnam showed an over-all decline of 11 percent from 1965. The Soviet trade figures, however, do not present a complete picture since grant aid is excluded and most of the Soviet aid is believed to be in the form of grants. A comparison of shipping indicates that during 1966, 122 Soviet ships carrying commercial cargoes called at ports in North Vietnam--an increase of 54 percent over 1965--and the high volume of Soviet shipping into North Vietnam continued during the first six months of this year.

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Bloc Aid: Since 1954 the Communist countries have supplied an estimated \$1.4 billion in economic aid to North Vietnam. From 1954 through June 1967, the bloc countries are estimated to have supplied a nearly equal value of military aid.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
3 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

There is no hard information yet as to what student and Buddhist agitators are planning now that the elections have been legalized.

Ambassador Bunker notes that at no time in the past few days have the opposition groups been able to evoke any real popular response to their campaign against the election results. He doubts that there will be any major effort now to mount demonstrations against the assembly's validation of the Thieu-Ky victory.

Tri Quang says he will stay out in front of Independence Palace until the government meets his demands. He is said to be planning now to focus his protest on the official charter recently granted by the government to moderate Buddhist elements. The charter, in effect, gives financial control of the Buddhist church to his principal rival.

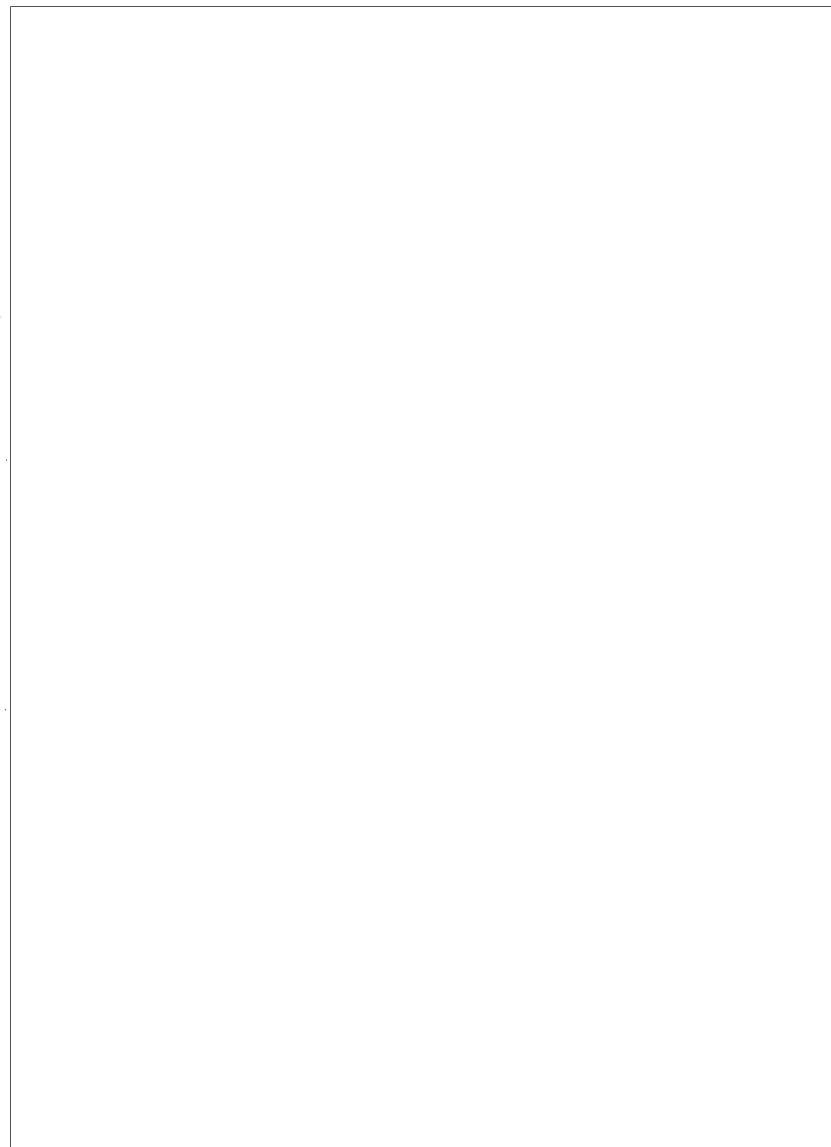
This issue, and not the elections, may have been the principal motive for the suicide of a Buddhist nun in the delta town of Can Tho early today.

2. Communist China

Moderation on the home front has brought on greater restraint in foreign policy. The wild xenophobia of a month ago has gradually subsided. Foreign diplomats in Peking, at least for now, are no longer living in constant fear of new onslaughts of Red Guard violence.

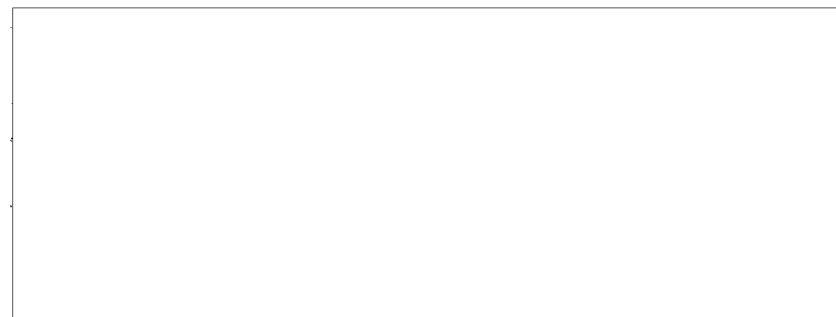
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3. Arab States



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4. Egypt



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London announced today that it will send a representative to Cairo later this month for talks aimed at improving relations.

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3 OCT 1967

**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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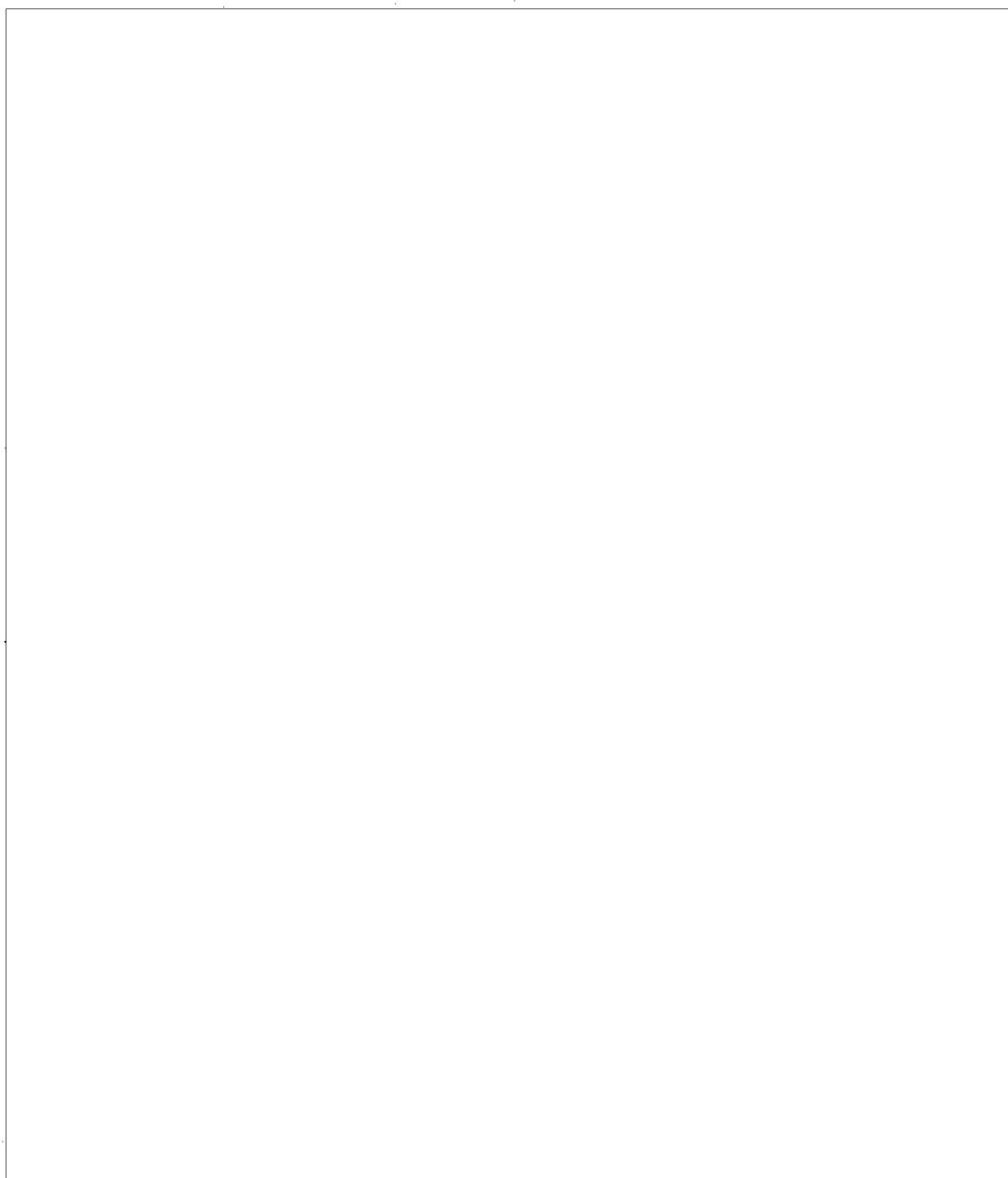
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**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only**

3 October 1967

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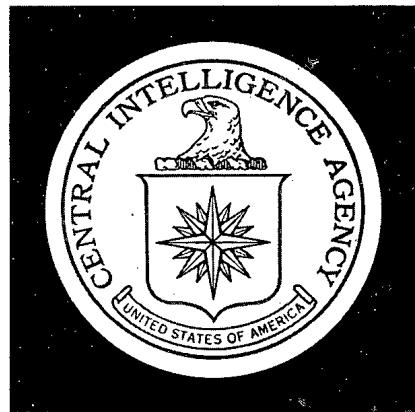
Hanoi Comment on President's Address: First reaction to the Friday night address came today in a radio broadcast quoting an editorial from Hanoi's official daily newspaper. The President's address was dismissed as "basically one and the same" as recent speeches by Secretary Rusk and Ambassador Goldberg. It contained "nothing new," Hanoi maintained.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 4 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
4 OCTOBER 1967

1. Soviet Union

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2. Soviet Union

Although Secretary McNamara's speech on antiballistic missiles is now two weeks old, Moscow has not yet developed a public line on the issue. About all Pravda will say is that the ABM decision is an "attempt by US militarists to intensify the new atomic arms race on the pretext of creating an alleged limited ABM defense."

Embassy Moscow says that for the present the Soviet press is clearly shying away from any discussion of the problem.

3. Australia -
New Zealand

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4. South Korea

The cabinet shifts announced yesterday were prompted for the most part by internal political considerations. No important change in governmental policy is likely to result.

5. Nigeria

Federal forces continue to threaten Enugu, the capital of the secessionist regime, but the Biafrans seem determined to fight on. The Biafrans (Ibos) from past experience have reason to believe that they will be slaughtered if they give up. The battle for the city will therefore probably be the bloodiest of the war. US and UK personnel have been evacuated.

6. Congo

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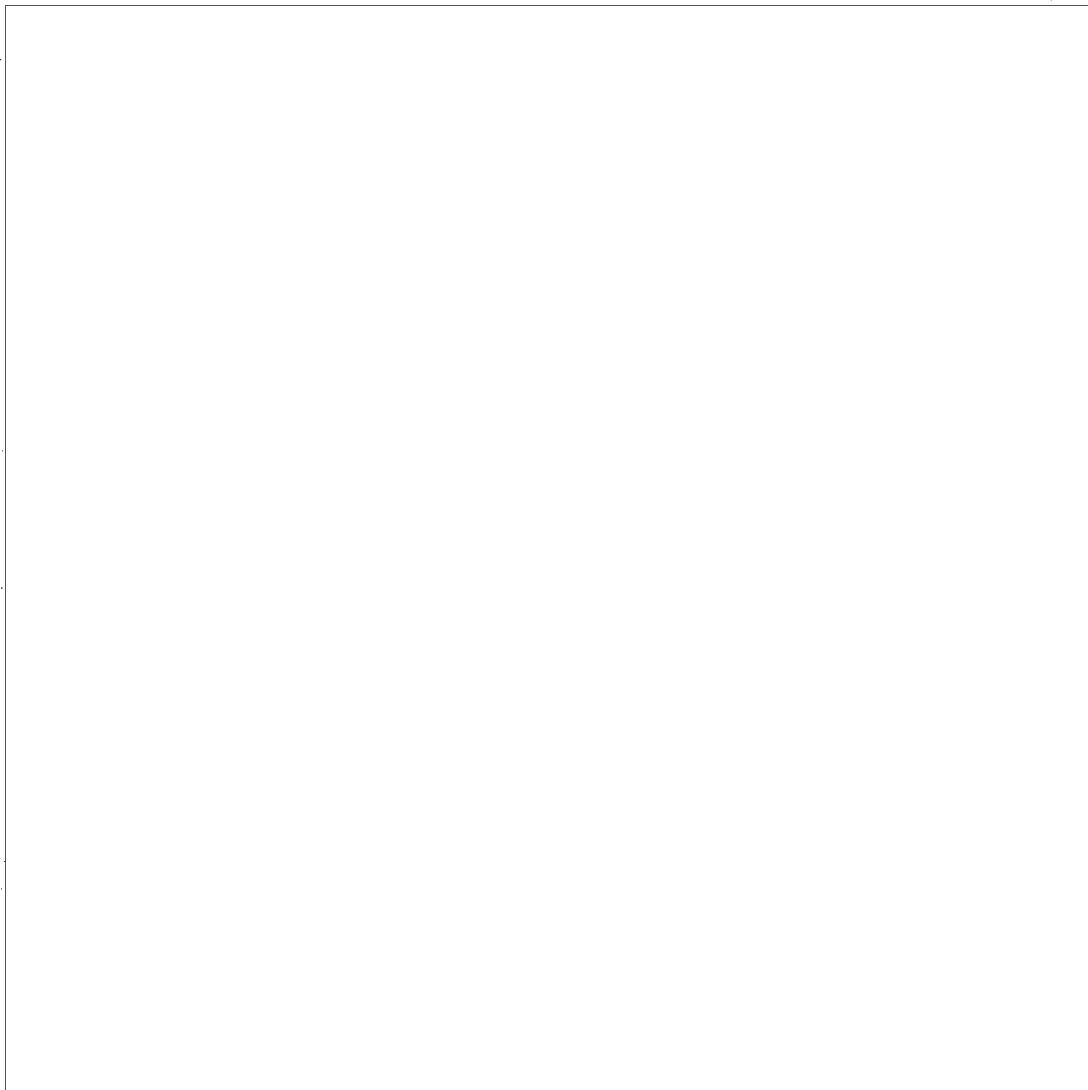
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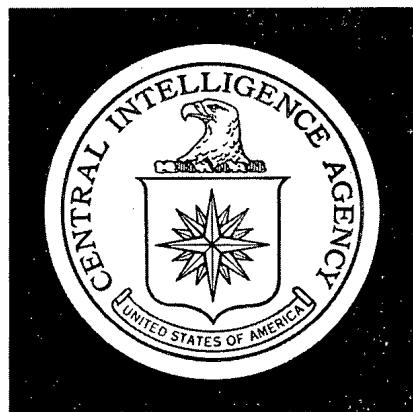


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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 5 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
5 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Ky's main duty in the new government will be rooting out corruption and incompetence, Thieu told an American official yesterday. In pursuing this objective, Ky would use the authority of the president and would be empowered to investigate the province chiefs. Thieu admitted such a role "will necessarily involve more power than what is provided for in the constitution."

A couple of high province officials in Quang Ngai got into trouble yesterday with Revolutionary Development workers. Corruption in the provincial government appears to be behind the incident, although political factionalism may also have played a part. In any event, the two officials got their heads shaved--a sign of disgrace.

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Truong Dinh Dzu was released from prison yesterday morning. The defeated presidential candidate had been arrested last Friday. He still remains under sentence for illegal financial activities.

2. Yemen

The Yemeni republicans are screaming "sell out" over the withdrawal of Egyptian troops (over 700 have already left). On Tuesday, a demonstration protesting the withdrawal grew into a riot in which the Egyptians killed five Yemenis and wounded 25 before restoring order. Such antics are unlikely to deter the Egyptians, who now plan to finish the evacuation by 1 January.

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3. Communist China

Further analysis of Sunday's National Day celebrations strengthens our impression that a shift in the Peking power balance has occurred.

Military figures, including many who had been out of view for a year and some who have been under political attack, were given unusual prominence. The Cultural Revolution group, given high billing during most of the year, was not even mentioned.

High-level political and military meetings appear to have been going on for some days now. As best we can reconstruct things, some sort of policy turn was made in late August and these meetings are to pass the new line and implement a drive for social order.

4. Soviet Union

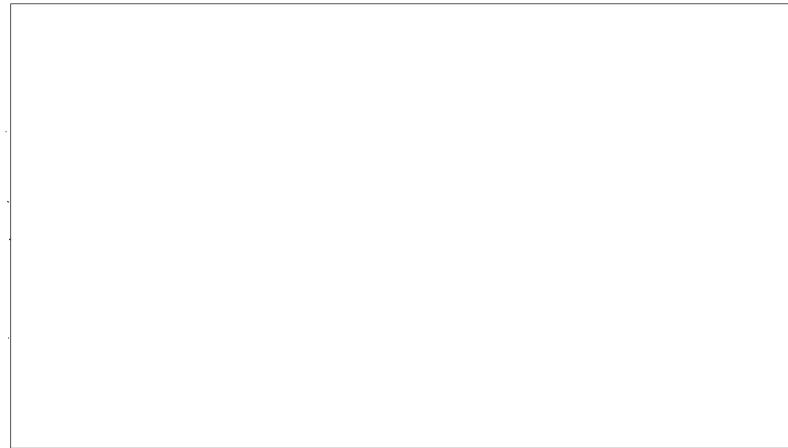
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5. Nigeria

Enugu apparently fell to federal forces yesterday, and Ojukwu and other top Biafran leaders have dropped out of sight for the moment. Guerrilla resistance will probably continue, but some Ibo officers may now be in the mood to dump Ojukwu and negotiate with Lagos.

6. Egypt

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7. Cameroon

The army has no money for its usual large scale anti-insurgent operations during the rainy season now at hand. Expenditures for the quarter were locked into the government's new computer by its French keeper, who then left for leave in Paris. No one else in the country knows how to readjust the Monster--which keeps rejecting frantic requests for extraordinary expenditures.

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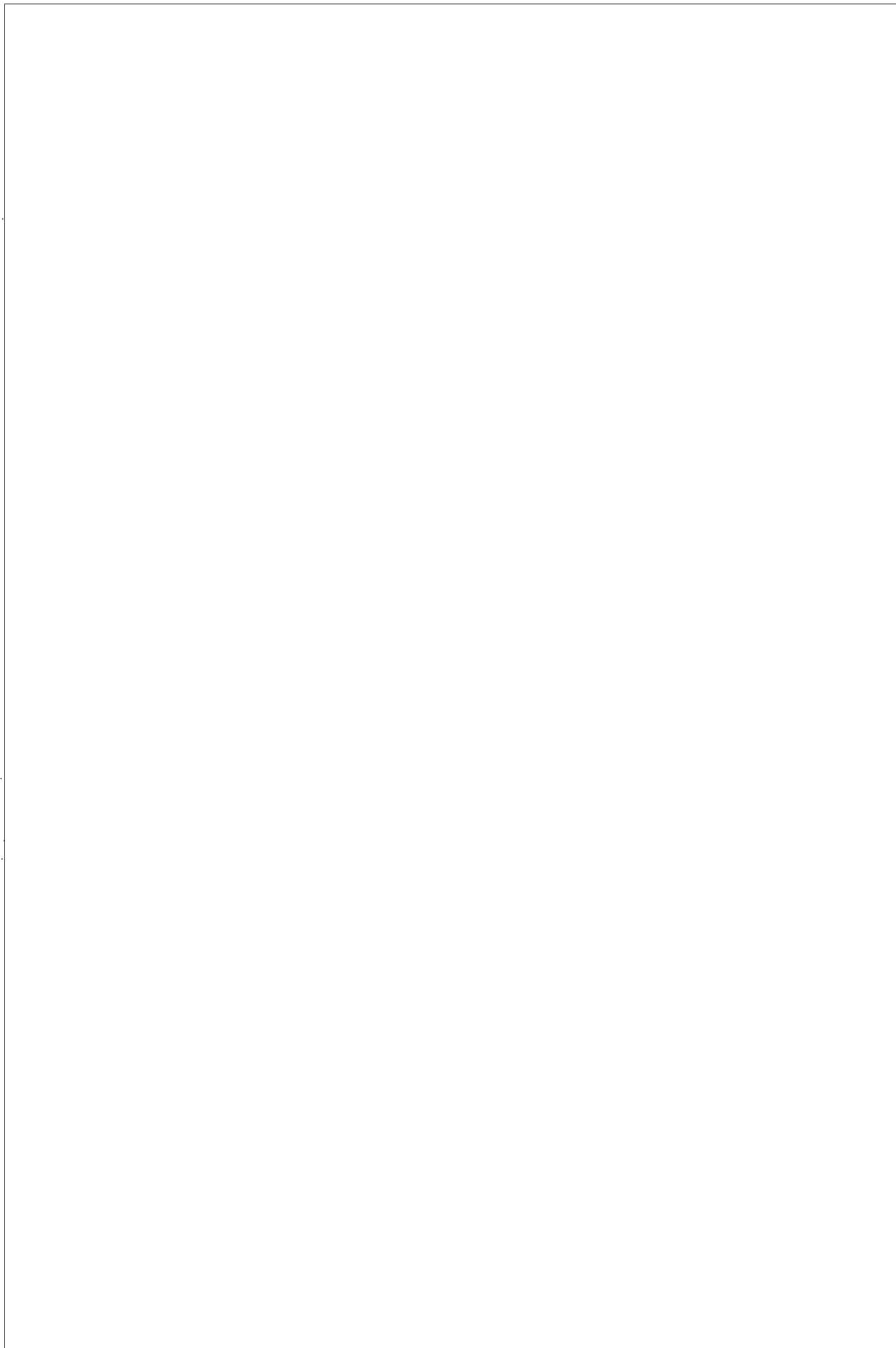
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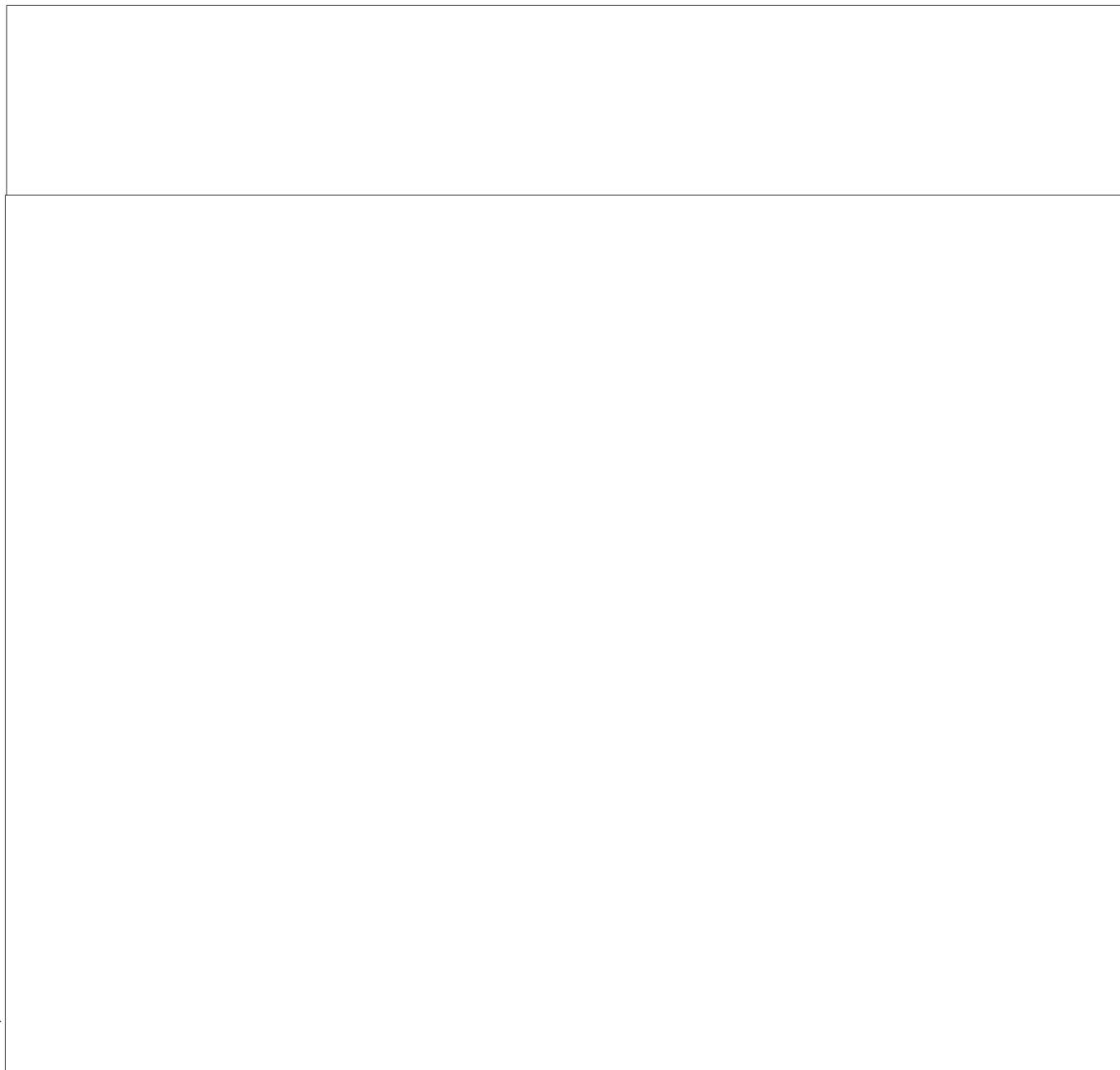
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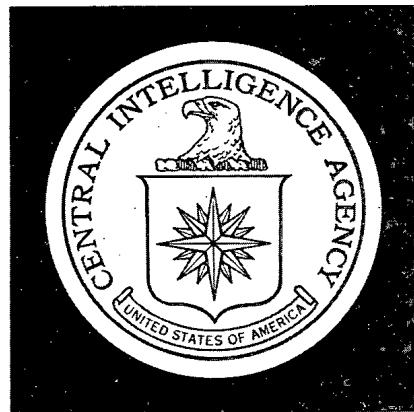
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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 6 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
6 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

The campaign officially opens today for the 22 October lower house election. A total of 1,240 candidates are running, an average of about nine per seat. So far, no clear-cut political divisions have come to light among the candidates. The contests will probably be influenced more by local factors than by national issues.

2. France

Tension between angry farmers and the government remains high.

Protesting increased feed prices and decreased cattle prices, these small livestock farmers are caught between the hammer of De Gaulle's EEC-based pricing policy and the anvil of their inherent farming inefficiency.

De Gaulle may offer a few minor concessions. He is unlikely, however, to make any real changes in agricultural policy.

The government faces a censure motion next Tuesday over economic and social policies. The farmers' revolt may cause some defections from the Gaullist ranks, but probably not enough to carry the motion.

3. Peru

The Peruvians are trying to cover their own tracks with false charges that Chile has bought missiles and other military hardware from the Soviet Union. Chile has not. Peru is contracting to buy supersonic fighter-bombers and tanks from France.

4. Brazil

The Brazilians too are negotiating for French military jets. Rio hopes to get a package deal that would include 20 fighters and an aircraft factory on long-term credit. If the US F-5s which Brazil has tried to purchase are not forthcoming, the deal may well go through.

5. Greece

Constantine showed "distaste and regret" when he told Ambassador Talbot on Wednesday that the military junta has decided to stay in power for four years. The King intends to work to get this decision revised downward. We doubt he will have much luck.

The junta of late has chosen to ignore the King's suggestions. It is possible that a showdown between the King and the regime is shaping up. Constantine, however, is not likely to bring it on without a better power base than he seems to have now. In the end, we suspect the King will have no choice but to learn to live with the junta.

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6. Communist China

There are more signs of an upcoming Chinese nuclear test.

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

6 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Preparations for Observance of the Soviet Fiftieth Anniversary: Now that the celebrations of Chinese National Day are over, Hanoi is beginning to beat the drums in preparation for even larger celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Soviet Revolution next month. Having already adopted resolutions on the anniversary, published articles about it in the party journal, and sent delegations to Moscow for preliminary ceremonies, Hanoi is now commencing its propaganda outpouring for the festivities. A broadcast on 5 October carried instructions to all the armed forces in North Vietnam on the celebration of the 50th anniversary. The instructions declared that the key point of the celebration was the promotion of the study of Marxism-Leninism among all party members. All army units are to hold discussions, talks, and book and newspaper readings, and to launch short-term "emulation drives" with the aim of defeating the US aggressors.

Hanoi's commemoration of the Soviet anniversary probably will be quite extensive and as a result will cause a good deal of irritation in Peking. Perhaps to forestall Peking's anger, Hanoi's celebration of Chinese National Day this year was much more elaborate than in previous years. Hanoi included two Politburo members in its delegation to the festivities in Peking; last year no delegation was sent.

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The Educational System Carries On: Another of Hanoi's efforts to demonstrate that the bombings, while causing serious damage, have not destroyed the ability

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[Redacted]

of the state to carry on was clearly evident in a statement on 4 October by Hanoi's Education Ministry. After recounting a long list of alleged US bombing crimes directed against schools and other educational institutions, the statement declared that despite "these heavy obstacles" the North Vietnamese educational service "is developing with every passing day." To support this assertion, the ministry claimed that in the present school year (1967-68) the number of pupils attending primary and secondary school has risen to over 3.6 million--an increase of 10 percent over last year. This number, when added to the number of pupils in other schools, the statement alleged, brings to 5.6 million the number of people attending classes, or about one out of every four people in North Vietnam.

While our information on the actual number of pupils enrolled in the country is sketchy, we believe the above figures are highly exaggerated and probably include a large number of those enrolled part-time. Hanoi's own statistics for enrollment of primary and secondary pupils in 1965-66 was 2.3 million. Since that time, the regime has closed or dismantled many of its educational institutions and evacuated the pupils to the countryside.

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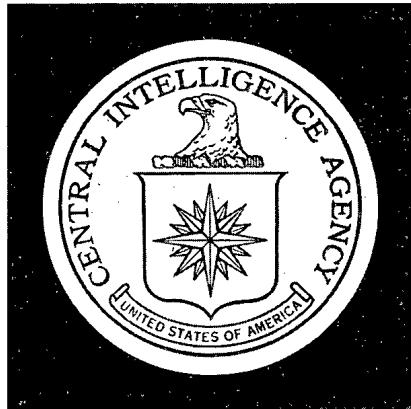
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WAR

A Hanoi broadcast on 4 October in English to American servicemen in South Vietnam has used some critical remarks on the war made at a recent Democratic gathering in California in an attempt to demonstrate that "Johnson's war in Vietnam is the most unpopular in US history and is being opposed by increasing numbers of his party members."

The article recounted that on 1 October "33,000 Democrats" of California gathered at Long Beach and adopted a resolution expressing disagreement with "Johnson's policy in Vietnam." The broadcast noted that the resolution demands "unconditional end to the US bombing of North Vietnam, and withdrawal of US troops from Vietnam." Additionally, the broadcast stated that the Democrats declared they would support any candidate for the 1968 presidential election who approves of an end to the US war in Vietnam, and declared their opposition to President Johnson's candidacy. The broadcast closed with the question, "Is there any valid reason for American GI's like you to continue fighting this war?"

On 2 October a Hanoi broadcast described the actions of "people in many countries" who are demanding an end to the "US aggressive war" in Vietnam. The broadcast notes that some 320 prominent Americans, including scientist Linus Pauling and poets Robert Lowell and Allen Ginsberg, recently signed a statement condemning "Johnson's war" and supporting "the antidraft movement among the American youth." The broadcast also states that the Women's Strike for Peace has decided to launch "a drive of broad mass mobilization" to demand that the US Government stop the war and bring US troops home.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 7 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
7 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

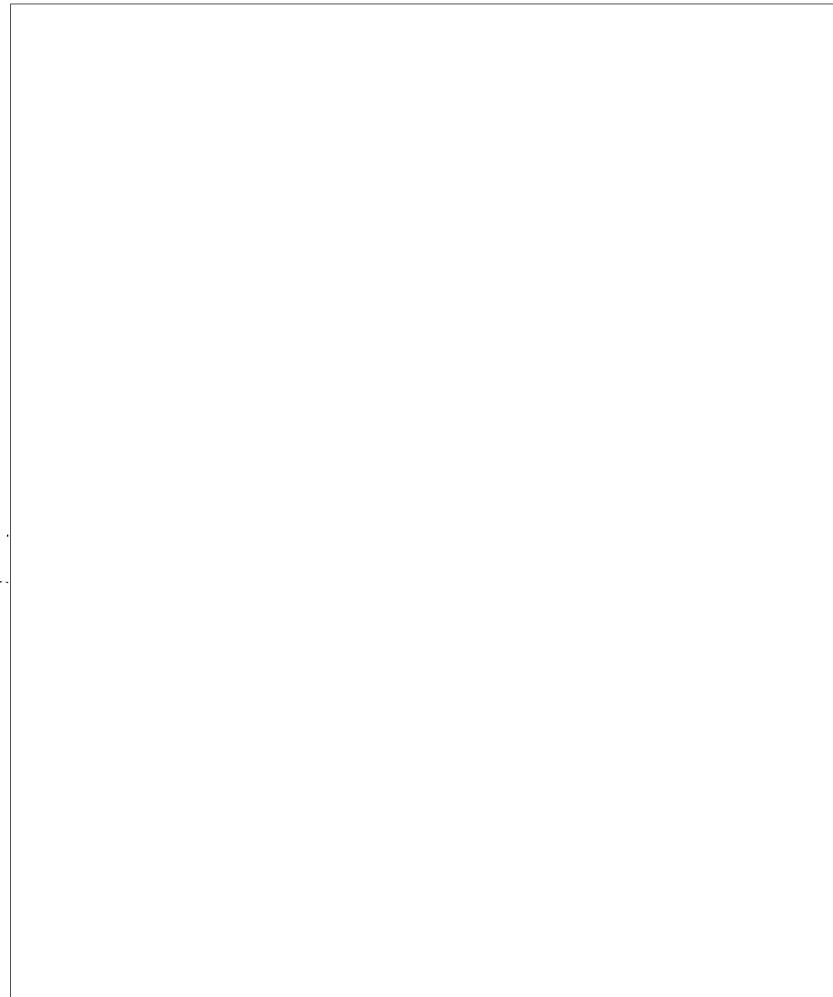
More antigovernment demonstrations appear in the offing, despite the hard-line policy against this kind of activity announced yesterday by Thieu. Specifically, student leaders plan another rally in Saigon today, and there is talk of a general strike of businesses and transportation workers in Hue. Continued pressure on the security forces could wear down their restraint, and provoke an incident around which students and Buddhists might be able to generate some real mass support.

2. Soviet Union

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3. Middle East

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**4. Nonproliferation Treaty**

Moscow remains cooperative, but pressure is building up among the non-aligned states and other critics of the treaty for early referral of the draft to the UN General Assembly. The current status of the treaty is summarized in today's Annex.

5. Panama

Two fairly powerful bombs exploded in Panama City early this week, but damage was minimal. These were more sophisticated than the Molotov cocktails used in the past. Most likely perpetrators are members of a small pro-Castro terrorist group. There are no signs that Arnulfo Arias' opposition party was involved.

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6. Algeria-Morocco

The danger of new military clashes
between these hostile neighbors is
beginning to alarm [redacted]

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ANNEX

Status of the Nonproliferation Treaty

A month after offering a compromise Article III (safeguards), Moscow still is marking time and maintaining a positive attitude toward joint efforts with the US to achieve a complete text of the treaty. Soviet delegates have given the US the impression that they are prepared to be flexible about considering some interpretations and changes for which they have shown little enthusiasm in the past.

The Soviets share our reluctance to send the draft to the United Nations until the Europeans have agreed on a satisfactory safeguards article. It had been hoped that this could be done by the end of this month, but this now seems increasingly unlikely. At the moment, progress is held up awaiting EURATOM response to the proposed article. Chances are slim that a final position will be ready before late this month. Meanwhile, the non-aligned states are pressing hard for early referral of the treaty to the General Assembly where they will have a larger forum for airing their grievances against its provisions.

One of the main problems bothering the non-aligned states is the question of security assurances. This is particularly pertinent for India, worried about the growing Chinese nuclear capability, but it has also been raised by others. For their part, the Italians, West Germans, and the Japanese want the treaty to have a limited duration and the first two insist on changes in the procedures for amending the treaty. The more basic problem of nondiscrimination in peaceful uses of nuclear energy is also sure to be given wide play by Brazil, India, Japan, Italy and Sweden. These countries are also demanding that the obligations they would assume under the treaty be "balanced" by commitments by the nuclear powers to cut back their own nuclear capabilities.

In the interim, talks between the Soviet and US ambassadors in Geneva are moving ahead to map joint strategy on how to meet some of these objections.

If it appears that a complete treaty text cannot be forwarded to the UN General Assembly, the Soviets have hinted at another tack that could be taken. This would involve adjournment of the Geneva sessions after hearing presentations by the nonaligned. The Soviet and US delegations would then work out a complete text in New York and reconvene the disarmament conference there to review it.

The Soviet Union also has agreed, at US urging, not to push at the conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency for a general resolution favoring the treaty. The US feared that this would provide an occasion for countries critical of the Soviet-US draft to register their reservations and further complicate the already difficult and drawn-out negotiations.

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SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM

FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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TOP SECRET

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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7 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Doumer Bridge in operation: Rail and highway traffic have been restored on the Doumer bridge,

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Hanoi gets more aid agreements: East Germany has joined other Communist countries in outlining its support for North Vietnam. An aid agreement

*This report carries a second section on North Vietnamese Reflections of US Political Attitudes Toward the War.

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signed on 5 October provides for credits to cover East German goods and services to be delivered during 1968-1970. A trade agreement for next year calling for a substantial increase over 1967 also was signed. Under it East Germany will supply light industrial goods, trucks, medical and various consumer goods.

North Vietnam also signed a 1968 trade agreement with Communist China on 5 October. Although details are not available, the trade pact undoubtedly recognizes North Vietnam's inability to sustain exports, but assures Hanoi that necessary goods will be supplied under the traditional trade protocol. These agreements further round out the efforts of the recent aid-seeking mission led by Deputy Premier Le Thanh Nghi, which also produced agreements with the Soviet Union, Communist China, North Korea, Mongolia, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Cuba.

* * *

Mao meets with Vietnamese Delegation: The New China News Agency reported on 5 October that Chairman Mao had that afternoon received members of the Vietnamese delegation to the National Day celebrations headed by Politburo members Le Thanh Nghi and Hoang Van Hoan. Also present were Lin Piao and Chou En-lai. The last time Mao publicly met with Vietnamese leaders was in July 1965--close to the high point in Sino-Vietnamese relations. Mao had previously received the other principal foreign visitors to the 1967 National Day ceremonies and a failure to meet with the Vietnamese delegation would have appeared as a slap in the face to Hanoi. However, the Chinese are apparently relatively satisfied with Hanoi's unyielding stance toward negotiations--Peking in fact used National Day to demonstrate it was reasonably confident of Vietnamese determination to continue the war.

* * *

Hanoi on the Chinese presence in North Vietnam: North Vietnam has extolled the extensive presence of Chinese engineering, construction, and other personnel in North Vietnam and has also publicly alluded for the first time to Chinese personnel engaging in combat on behalf of Vietnam. These

admissions were contained in an article in the party daily Nhan Dan by Minister of Communications and Transport Phan Trong Tue written on the occasion of Chinese National Day and broadcast domestically in North Vietnam on 2 October.

The article stated that the Chinese have sent many outstanding scientific and technical cadres and many skilled technical workers to "directly help the Vietnamese in the communications and transport fields as well as in many other technical areas of our economy." The article praised the Chinese railroad authority for giving "priority treatment" to trains transporting aid goods from China to Vietnam and transhipping aid from other fraternal countries. Tue also praised the Chinese for "fighting courageously" on behalf of Vietnam--a clear and unprecedented allusion to the Chinese antiaircraft units operating in North Vietnam.

Tue's enthusiastic and detailed expression for China's aid to Vietnam is in keeping with other recent Hanoi statements which have stressed Sino-Vietnamese solidarity. These statements probably stem from Hanoi's pleasure with the moderating developments on the Chinese domestic scene.

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

A commentary by the Viet Cong's Liberation Press Agency broadcast clandestinely in Vietnamese to South Vietnam on 4 October contained a lengthy and harshly worded attack on recent statements on the war by President Johnson and UN Ambassador Goldberg. The broadcast described "Johnson and his clique in the US administration" as a "band of cunning, deceitful, insolent, and stupid people." It further asserted that the peace offensive which the "Johnson clique has advertized for a long time" is merely an "old trick accompanied by ambiguous arguments which are disastrously indecisive."

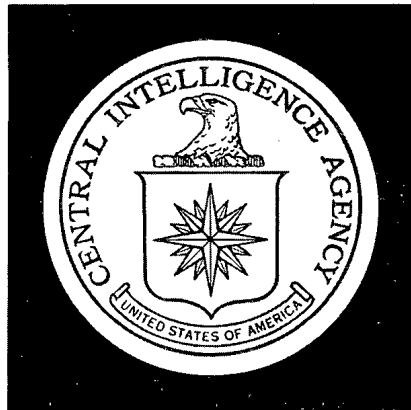
The broadcast further asserted that the current US peace effort was put forth "for the absurd reason of continuing the war of aggression." Going on in the same vein, the broadcast recounted in vindictive language the "insolent deeds" of the US

"aggressors" and emphasized that "Johnson's deceitful arguments about peace negotiations have not been able to deceive US and world public opinion nor can they provide him with any hope of maintaining his presidency for another term." The broadcast closed by restating the Communists' determination to continue the war until a settlement on their terms can be achieved.

A Hanoi broadcast in English on 5 October contained a condensed version of the Viet Cong statement including the strongly worded references to the President and the "US peace fraud." It made no mention of the 1968 presidential election, however.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
9 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Relations between Thieu and Ky have improved considerably, and the two are getting on with the business of planning their new government. They apparently have agreed on a Ky protégé, Nguyen Van Loc, as prime minister, and they are considering a major revamping of the revolutionary development program which would include abolishing the ministry itself and transferring its functions to a special staff in the president's office.

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The militant Buddhists called off a scheduled protest march yesterday when it became apparent that the government would move forcefully to back up its prohibition of illegal demonstrations. A letter from Thieu, portrayed by the Buddhists as "conciliatory," provided a face-saving way to postpone the march.

2. Philippines

Chances for keeping the Philippine Civic Action Group in Vietnam are improving. A bill to provide the necessary funds will come up in the January session of Congress

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3. Hong Kong

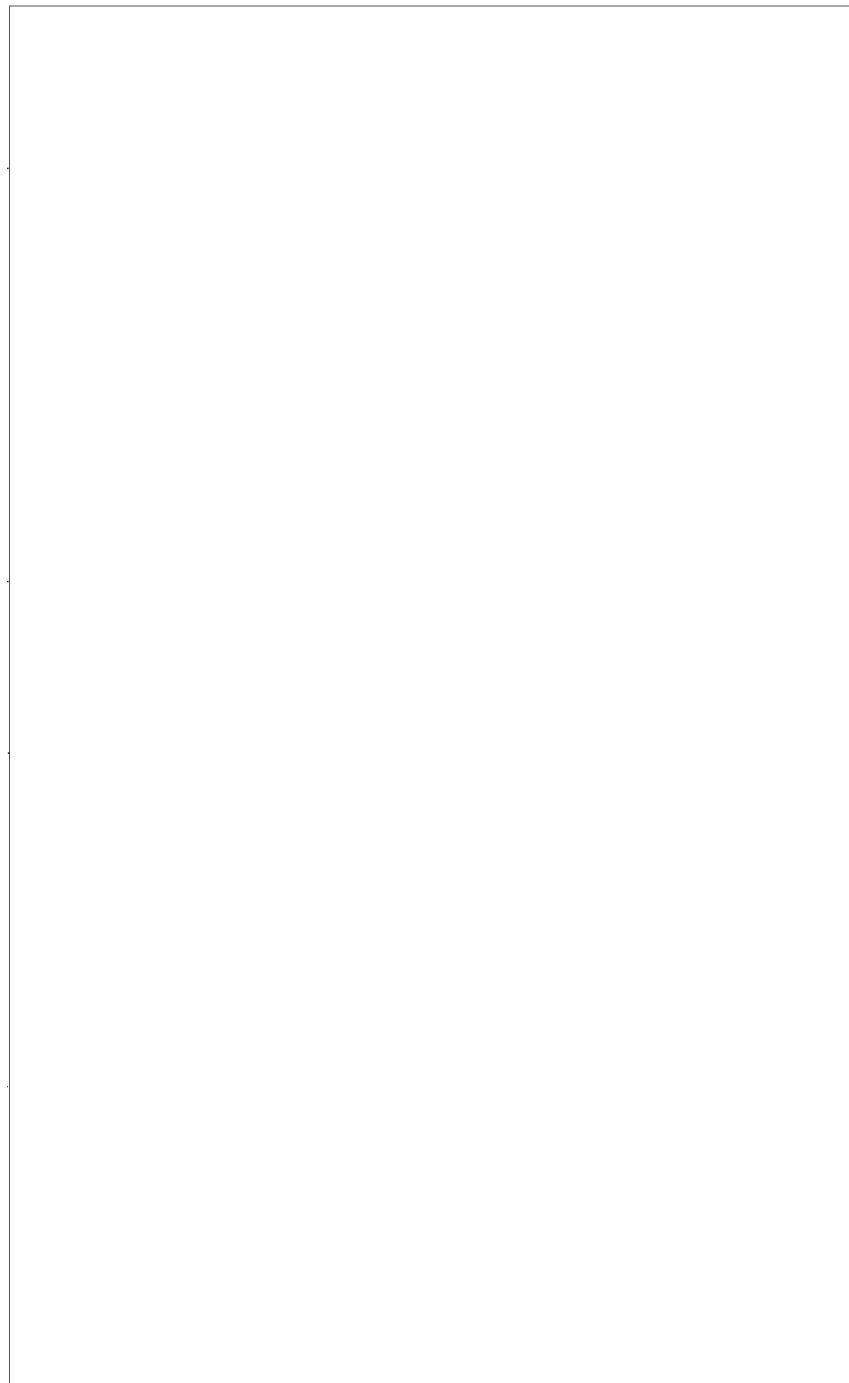
Tuesday is the big Nationalist China holiday celebrating the anniversary of Sun Yat-sen's 1911 revolution. Nationalists in Hong Kong are planning more festivities than usual, and authorities in the colony are somewhat concerned that groups of more militant Communists may make trouble.

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4. Jordan -
Soviet Union

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5. Soviet Union

The Soviets are working on a new naval ballistic missile.

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6. Hungary

There has been some progress in arranging for the departure of Cardinal Mindszenty as a result of negotiations between the Vatican and the Hungarian Government.

The Hungarians are willing to let the Cardinal go in peace if he will promise not to make antiregime statements once he is in the West and if he will renounce all rights over his diocese. The Cardinal has agreed to the first of these conditions, but so far is refusing to renounce his diocese. The Vatican representative who saw Mindszenty in Budapest on 5 October believes he can persuade the Cardinal to accept this point too.

The Cardinal, meanwhile, still insists he will walk out the door of the US Embassy when Ambassador Hillenbrand arrives. The ambassador's arrival is tentatively scheduled for 10 October.

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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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

9 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

More Bloc Aid: Hanoi announced that on 6 October agreements had been signed in Budapest on Hungary's economic and military aid to North Vietnam. The announcement did not specify the types of material the North Vietnamese would receive. Seven other Communist countries, including the Soviet Union and Communist China, have recently signed new aid and trade agreements with Hanoi.

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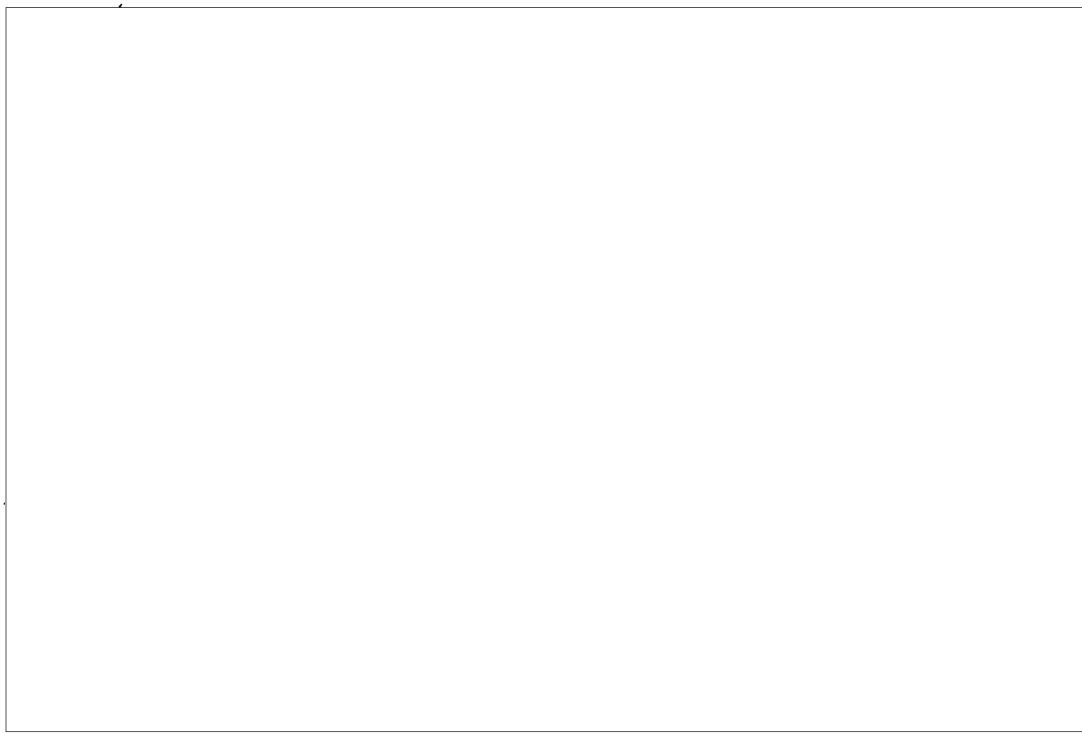
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WAR

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Viet Cong on Antiwar Sentiment in US:

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"Resolution 13"--the
document describing Viet Cong military, economic, and
political goals. [redacted] this res-
olution also discusses antiwar sentiment in the US.

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The resolution also states, as a matter of Viet Cong policy, that the longer the war goes on, the stronger the US doves will become. The Viet Cong therefore say they are inclined to fight at least until the 1968 election, which they feel President Johnson will lose to a dove candidate.

This line almost certainly is not an accurate reflection of Vietnamese Communist capabilities to exploit the US protest movement, or of their expectations from it. The Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese use evidence of antiwar sentiment in the US mainly as a propaganda device aimed at boosting the morale of their people. In private they have shown a more realistic understanding of the character and depth of the US opposition.

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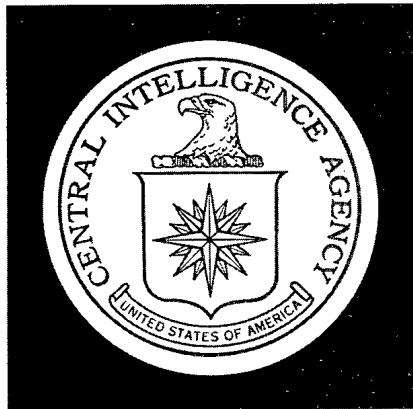
Hanoi on War Protests in the US: In a broadcast to a domestic audience on 4 October, Hanoi radio rounds up a series of reports from the US concerning protests against the war. The broadcast takes note of the demonstration planned for Washington on 21 October and quotes Mrs. Dagmar Wilson of the "Women's Strike for Peace" as predicting that American mothers will voice their protest against sending their sons to fight in Vietnam.

The broadcast also claims that the recent conference of "Businessmen for Peace in Vietnam" condemned the "aggressive policy of the Johnson clique" and demanded an end to the war.

It also cites a resolution of 21 American bishops opposing the war, the sixth national congress of the "Women's Strike for Peace," and the actions of individuals refusing induction into military service as examples of the antiwar effort in the United States.

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The President's Daily Brief

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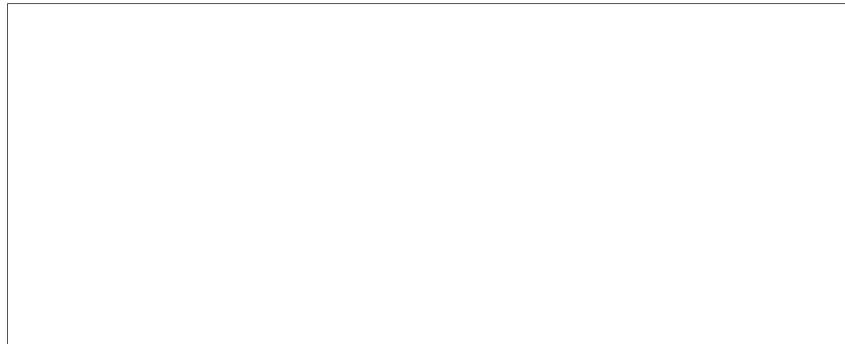
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DAILY BRIEF
10 OCTOBER 1967

1. North Vietnam

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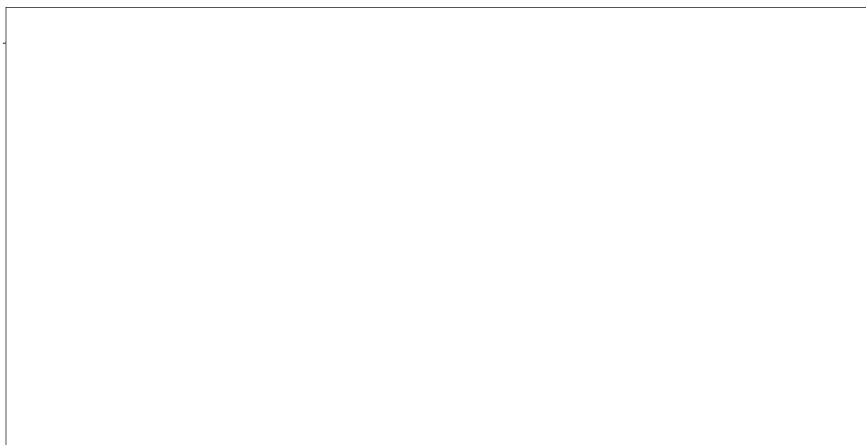


2. Burma

The Burmese are throwing out all Chinese Communist aid technicians. This move follows months of diplomatic bombast from Peking over anti-Chinese riots in Rangoon last summer. The Chinese, who now describe Ne Win in terms usually reserved only for US and Soviet leaders, will undoubtedly become even more shrill and perhaps will step up their public support for Burma's Communists.

3. Communist China

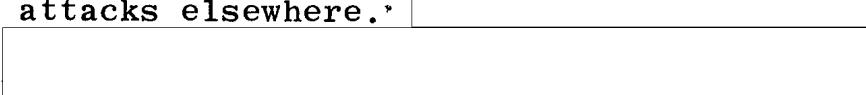
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4. Nigeria

Biafran leaders show no signs of giving up. A few Biafrans are still holding out in their capital of Enugu and Biafran troops have mounted small attacks elsewhere.

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5. Uruguay

At a late cabinet meeting last night, President Gestido finally moved to combat the Communist-inspired labor trouble plaguing Uruguay. Gestido declared a limited state of siege and took other security measures. Four cabinet members resigned in protest.

Gestido has made a good first step, but if he hopes to halt the country's decline, he will have to follow it up with politically unattractive and sorely needed economic reforms.

6. Czechoslovakia

The Czech Government and party leadership continues to deal ineffectually with a multitude of economic problems, intellectual discontent, and even some rumblings from the public.

Urban Czech youth and intellectuals are pushing for more freedom and in some instances virtually defying the government do anything about it. The current fashion among the long-haired set in Prague, for example, is to wear US Army jackets complete with divisional insignia. Thunderings about "socialist morality" from above seem only to result in raising the mini-skirt level and in reducing the number of baths.

Solutions for these and other problems will be hard to find because the country's leaders are divided on how to deal with them. Party boss Novotny, who it is rumored will lose his party chairmanship, is fearful of an open fight in the party and has hesitated to initiate repressive measures that would upset the delicate balance between liberal and conservative elements within his regime.

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10 OCT 1967

**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only*

10 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

The Hard Life of a North Vietnamese Soldier:
The personal history statement of a North Vietnamese soldier who recently rallied to the South Vietnamese Government in Quang Ngai Province provides what is probably a typical vignette of the hardships and anxieties borne by individual North Vietnamese who are sent to South Vietnam.

The soldier recounted that in early 1965 he was "very unhappy" when informed that he would have to go South to fight, chiefly because he felt that he might not return. Efforts by his family to have the assignment changed resulted only in his being accused of having "weak ideology." After a farewell visit to his family, which was "as sad as a funeral," the soldier left on his assignment.

While enroute to the South, the soldier received the impression that any fight there would be brief since he had been told that four-fifths of the country and three-fourths of the people had been liberated. His group was not warned of the potential hardships during the trek South. The long marches and constant rain were a great strain, especially while carrying a 65-pound pack. Many in the group, including this soldier, suffered from malaria from which three died and 12 had to be left behind.

The troops were warned that if they tried to desert, they would be sent back to the North where they would be humiliated and their families' lives probably affected. Nonetheless, four of the group deserted. After reaching the South, the soldier experienced a shortage of food and noticed that the "liberated area" was for the most part unpopulated wild country. Most of his associates now do not expect to return to the North but are resigned to being killed or maimed in combat.

*This report carries a second section on North Vietnamese Reflections of US Political Attitudes Toward the War.

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Sea Deliveries to North Vietnam in September:
For the third month in a row, cargo deliveries to North Vietnamese ports were lower than the unusually high monthly average set during the first half of the year. The drop-off has permitted a further reduction in the backlog of ships waiting in Haiphong to unload.

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Treatment of Prisoners: A captured North Vietnamese private who infiltrated South Vietnam early this year said during his interrogation that American prisoners in North Vietnam are generally well treated and receive a ration allowance three times that of a North Vietnamese soldier. The soldier did say, however, there had been some cases of mistreatment by local militia units making initial captures. All American pilots, he said, were sent to Hanoi.

* * *

Still More Bloc Aid: Yesterday Czechoslovakia joined the parade of Communist countries announcing new economic agreements with North Vietnam. Two agreements, one for trade and the other for aid, were announced. The latter referred vaguely to "medical and technical aid, machinery, and other supplies."

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

Viet Cong on "American Negroes' Struggle": A 30 September Viet Cong clandestine broadcast aimed at South Vietnamese Government troops cites the American Negroes' "struggle for democratic freedom" as an example for the Vietnamese. The broadcast states that recent uprisings in New York and Detroit show that the Negroes have already used and will continue to use violence to oppose their "barbarous repressions."

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The broadcast notes that the Negroes have endured many hardships and states that the Vietnamese "should stand up and struggle for your own democratic freedoms." Only by resorting to "just force" as the American Negroes have done, according to the Viet Cong, will the South Vietnamese be able to "liberate" themselves from US "repressive force."

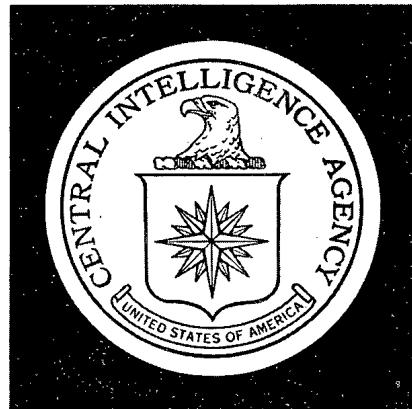
The "struggle" by the American Negroes "considerably contributes" to a "further increase" in US weakness, according to the Viet Cong. The broadcast cites recent demonstrations in Milwaukee and a protest meeting in Chicago as examples of the Negroes' "struggle." Noting that the Negroes have continued their efforts despite the "Johnson clique's farce" of signing many civil rights laws, the broadcast claims that many Negroes still cannot attend the same schools, take the same buses, go to the same theaters, or eat at the same restaurants as whites.

The broadcast also claims that Negro servicemen in Vietnam are not granted equal treatment. According to the Viet Cong, "everyone knows that American Negro youths are the first to be rushed to the South Vietnam battlefield." In addition, the broadcast asserts that "a number of Negro troops have been chained to their armored vehicles so they cannot escape death when their vehicles are set ablaze."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 11 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
11 OCTOBER 1967

1. Soviet Union

Moscow's announcement of a 15 percent increase in the defense budget does not mean that actual military outlays will go up that much next year. We doubt that they will.

Some of the announced increase probably reflects accounting changes which shift defense expenditures into the military budget from other budget categories. Also, major price changes put into effect in mid-year may have generated an "inflationary" effect on the defense budget.

The over-all Soviet budget for 1968 will be 12 percent larger than this year's. The defense share of this larger pie will go up from 13.2 to 13.5 percent.

2. Soviet Union

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3. Middle East

Arab terrorists from Syria have again been slipping across Jordan into Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, despite Jordanian and Syrian efforts to stop them. The Israelis are warning publicly that they may have to strike back. If they do, it will be without warning. Syrian alarm at this prospect led President Atasi early this week to seek an urgent conference with the leaders of Iraq, presumably to ask for Iraqi aid if an attack comes.

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4. Egypt

People who have talked with Nasir recently have found him still deeply despondent over his shattered dreams for the country.

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Nasir

[redacted] does not seem to be active in the day-to-day business of government.

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Nasir is still the idol of the Egyptian masses, but his hold on the reins of power has clearly slipped. This is evident in the subsurface maneuverings under way among various contending government factions. We regard these as symptoms of his weakening prestige and influence rather than the development of clear-cut moves to oust him.

Nasir probably recognizes that none of his potential successors have the guts to assume responsibility for working out a postwar settlement. For this reason, he may well be around at least as long as he thinks such a settlement is possible.

5. Uruguay

President Gestido is moving with unprecedented force to back up the security measures he declared Monday night. Several union leaders have been jailed, [redacted] and all pro-strike rallies and propaganda have been banned. The Communists may still try to pull off the general strike they had scheduled for today, but their chances of success are now greatly diminished.

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6. Ecuador

President Arosemena is certainly not getting any kudos from other Latin American capitals for his abrupt move against Ambassador Coerr.

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Arosemena's latest gambit was dictated, as is most everything he does, by his calculation of how best to further his own political fortunes. His foreign minister said as much on Monday when he privately called the move "absolutely essential from a political standpoint." Now, he went on, the President can have the upper hand when Congress meets next month.

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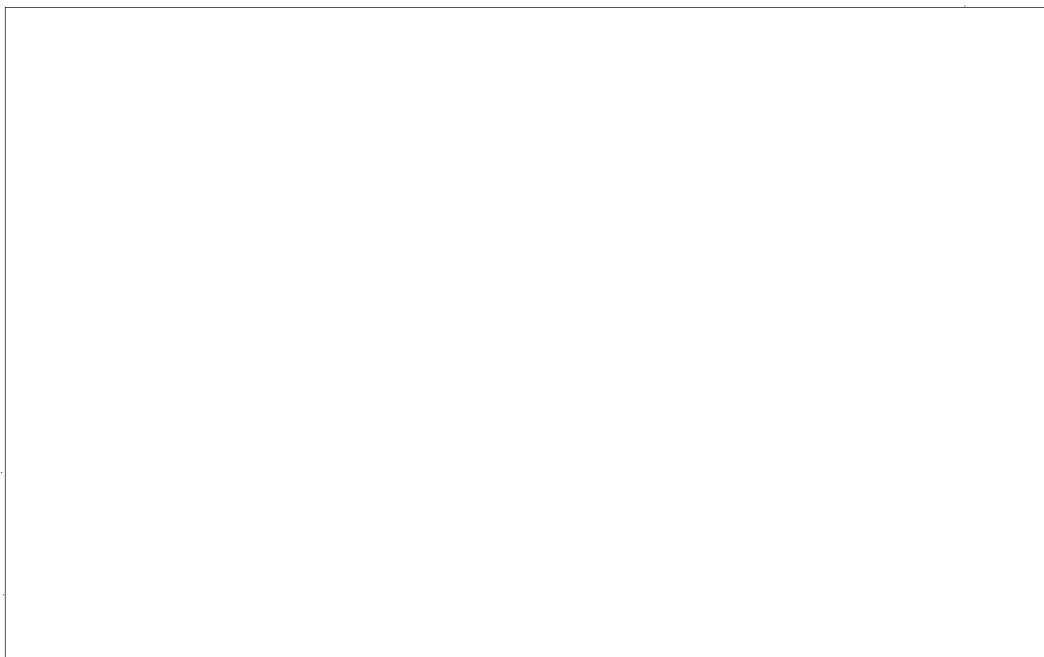
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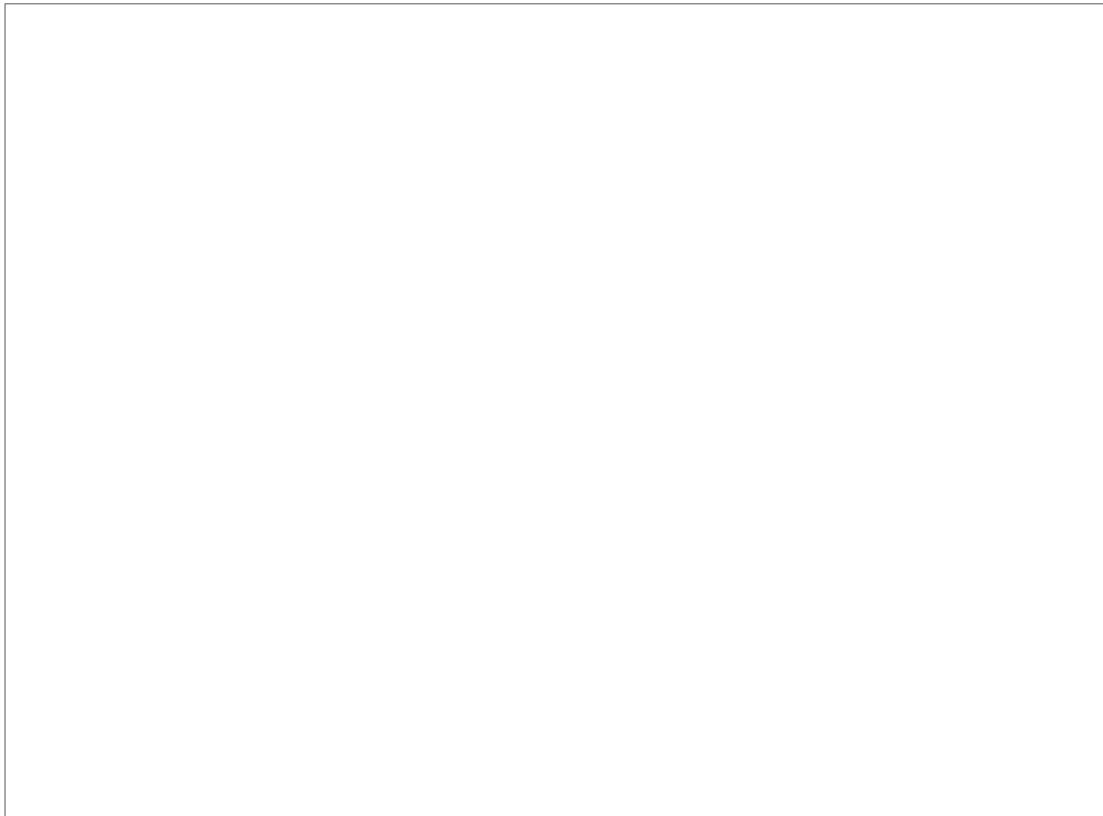
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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

11 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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

More Comments on the San Antonio Speech: Hanoi has offered another rebuttal to President Johnson's 29 September San Antonio speech in the 3 October issue of the army daily paper. This rebuttal has also been broadcast throughout North Vietnam.

The article claimed at the outset that just as Ambassador Goldberg's earlier speech on Vietnam had been an effort to "fool world public opinion," the President in his statement tried "to fool US public opinion." It ridiculed the President's declarations that the US is "ready to stop immediately the aerial

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bombing and naval shelling of the North should this lead quickly to fruitful talks," and that "the US wants North Vietnam not to misuse this pause or bombing restriction during the talks."

Hanoi claimed that the President's statement, "despite its new gloss," was the same old "100 percent aggressive US stand." "This is but a conditional pause," the article contended, and "by demanding a similar act or fruitful talks, Johnson is insolently posing prerequisites for the talks." Moreover, the article asserted that the US wants not only a conditional pause, but talks in accordance with the "American conditions."

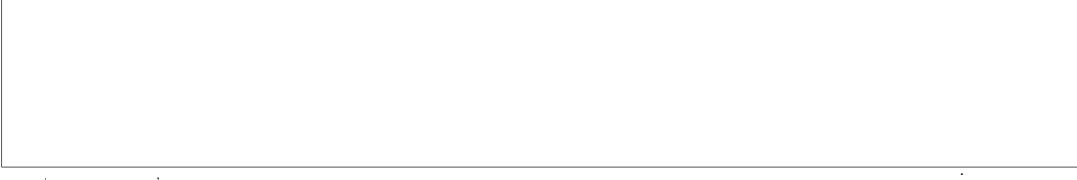
The article also restated Hanoi's long-standing demand that the bombings must be stopped unconditionally before any talks can be held and underscored Hanoi's determination to fight for "5, 10, 20 or more years until final victory can be achieved."

* * *

Hanoi on "Peaceful Settlement": In its customary fashion, Hanoi is once again claiming that current US statements about a peaceful settlement of the war are merely shields behind which "the US imperialists have further escalated the war." In a domestic broadcast on 5 October, Hanoi offered a wrap-up of the US "criminal escalation" alleging that the latest bombing raids have been mainly directed against densely populated areas, as well as economic and civilian establishments including a number of schools. The broadcast pointed out, however, that the furious struggle by the Vietnamese people in both the North and South is forcing the US to pay a heavy price for its aggression, and that the people of Vietnam are resolved to fight and win "no matter how much longer we will have to fight and no matter what hardships we will have to undergo."

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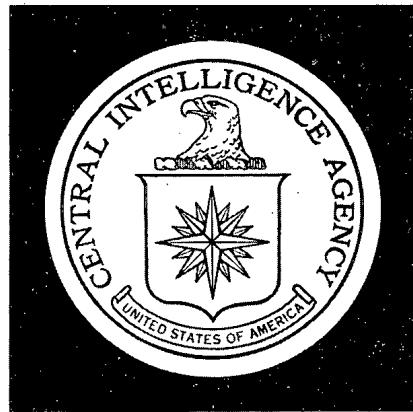
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The President's Daily Brief

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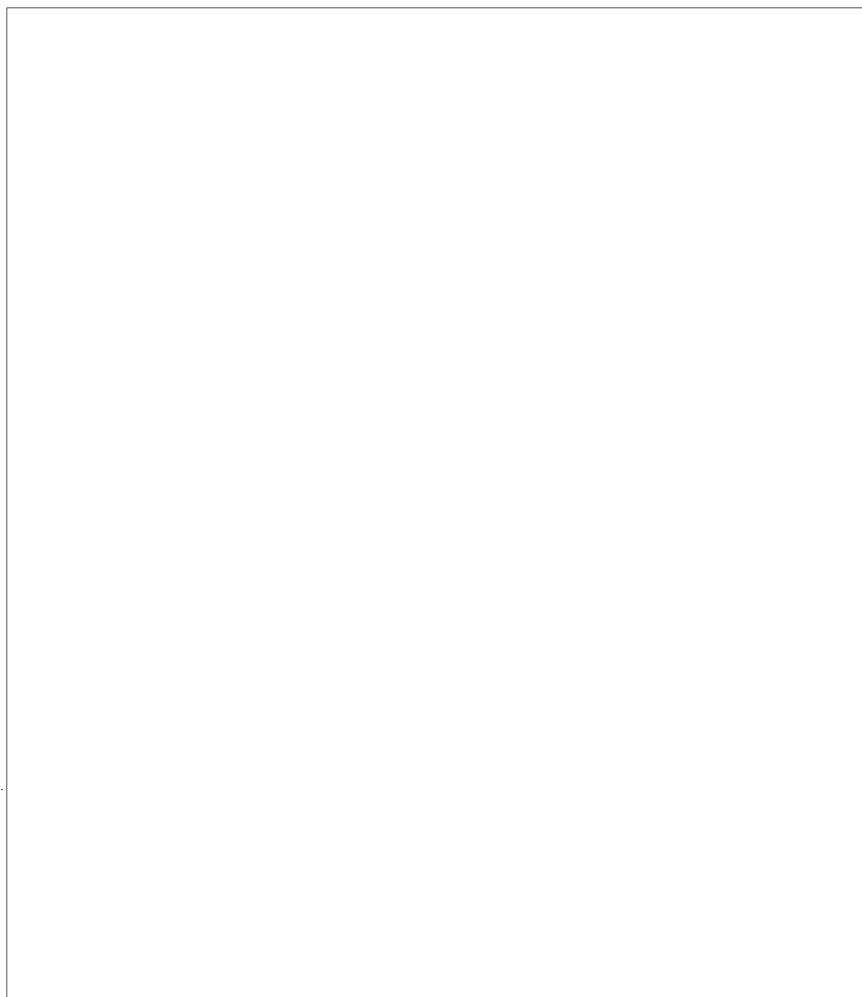


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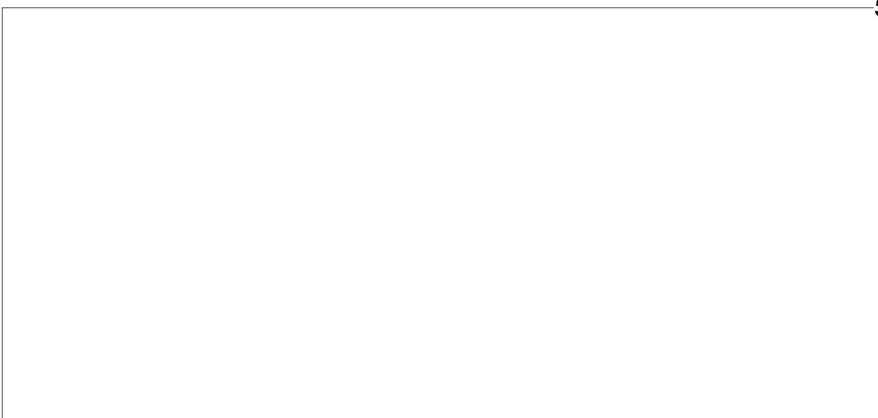
DAILY BRIEF
12 OCTOBER 1967

1. Cuba



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2. Soviet Union



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3. Congo

The mercenary evacuation plan is bogged down. Brussels is being niggardly about financing the operation, and the International Red Cross representatives seem more interested in "Swiss thoroughness" than action. Mobutu, now immersed in other matters, is apparently not aware of the almost total lack of progress.

4. Communist China

The leadership has--apparently with some success--mounted a major campaign to force rival Red Guard groups into a united front.

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Tension between Red Guard units nevertheless remains high and we think these united front groups will be fragile at best. The army, however, is taking strong measures to suppress actual fighting between rival groups.

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5. Nigeria

A new effort is under way to arrange direct peace talks in London between Biafra and the federal government. There are signs that Gowon is willing to send representatives, but Ojukwu may insist that a cease-fire precede any meeting. The apparently crumbling condition of the Biafran Army, police, and militia, however, could soon make Ojukwu less choosy.

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12 OCT 1967

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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

12 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Hanoi Claims Production Increases: Hanoi continues its efforts to show that it is providing for the country's essential economic needs, despite US bombings. North Vietnam's minister of light industry stated recently that production of consumer goods is increasing to meet the people's demands for food-stuffs, clothing, and household needs such as sauce, sugar, salt, cloth, paper and earthenware. The minister also confidently predicted that the trend would continue during the rest of the year.

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

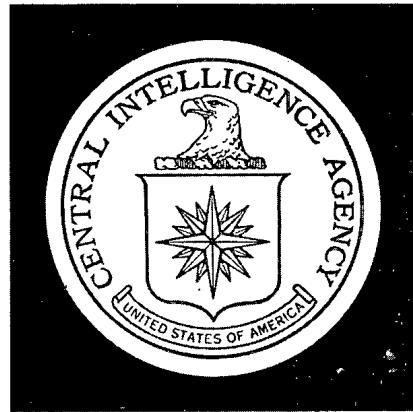
Hanoi on US Opposition: A roundup of antiwar activities in the US was carried by Hanoi's international news service on 11 October. It reports on the "peace torch marathon" in which a gas torch is being carried from Hiroshima, Japan, to Washington for the big antiwar demonstration planned for 21 October. It also covers a student demonstration against "the dirty war in Vietnam" which took place when Mrs. Johnson arrived in Williamstown, Massachusetts, to address the local college.

Quotes are included from a letter published in the London Times by an American professor, who condemns US bombings of North Vietnam and accuses the US of blocking "the road of national self-determination of the Vietnamese people."

The broadcast also notes briefly the 500,000-signature petition handed to Congress by the "Negotiations Now" Group, but for some reason adds that this was only half the signatures the group planned to obtain. Hanoi includes no commentary of its own.

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The President's Daily Brief

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DAILY BRIEF
13 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

An overambitious reporter who garbled his facts was apparently responsible for yesterday's story about Thieu's plans to suggest a meeting with Ho Chi Minh. Embassy Saigon reports the correspondent, a Vietnamese working for Reuters, called on Thieu's press officer for a routine review during which the subject of talks with the North came up. The press officer repeated the position taken by Thieu last August. The correspondent took it from there with ruffles and flourishes.

2. Thailand

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3. South Korea

The opposition party's boycott of the National Assembly, which has blocked legislative business since June, seems to be breaking up. Government pressure coaxed one member of the opposition back to his seat and others will probably follow.

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4. Greece

The King is concerned that the crunch may be just around the corner. Embassy Athens reports that the junta has proposed putting Papadopoulos in as deputy premier but the King refuses.

Some officials have warned Constantine that this move represents the long-planned "phase two" of the revolution--a move aimed at increasing Papadopoulos' control of the armed forces, if not the country as a whole. These people are telling the King that he must resist this gambit.

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There is no hint yet as to the next move from either side.

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5. Iraq

The political situation is still unsettled. So far, five cabinet members have resigned over the state of siege imposed on Monday, but President Gestido has not stepped in to fill the vacancies. The government is maintaining its tough stand against the Communists, and the one-day general strike on Wednesday was only partially effective.

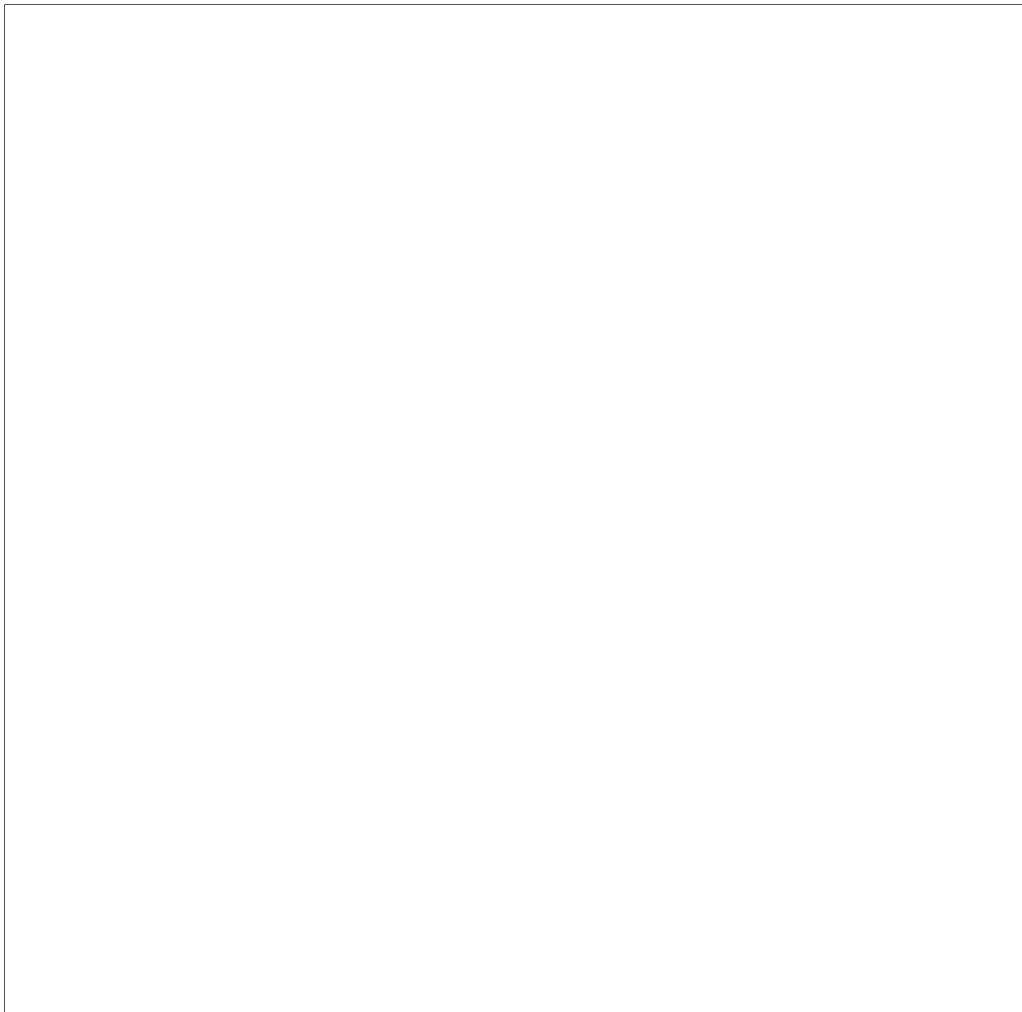
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13 Oct 67

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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13 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Military Conscription: A North Vietnamese national recently reported that since January the authorities in his village in Nghe An Province had been "very severe" on conscription. All of the men in his village between the ages of 17 and 35 were required to take physical examinations; all except those who were crippled or in very poor health had to be prepared to serve. Since January, four villagers had been drafted, including one who was 35 and had three children. Three of the four had not been heard from since being drafted.

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This report is similar to others, particularly from the southern provinces of North Vietnam, which reflect some lowering in draft standards. The reports are believed to reflect local policies, however, and cannot be considered indicative of conditions throughout the country.

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Indians Know Not Whereof They Speak: On 6 October the Indian defense minister stated before the UN General Assembly that India was sure an end to the bombing would lead to an international conference on Vietnam.

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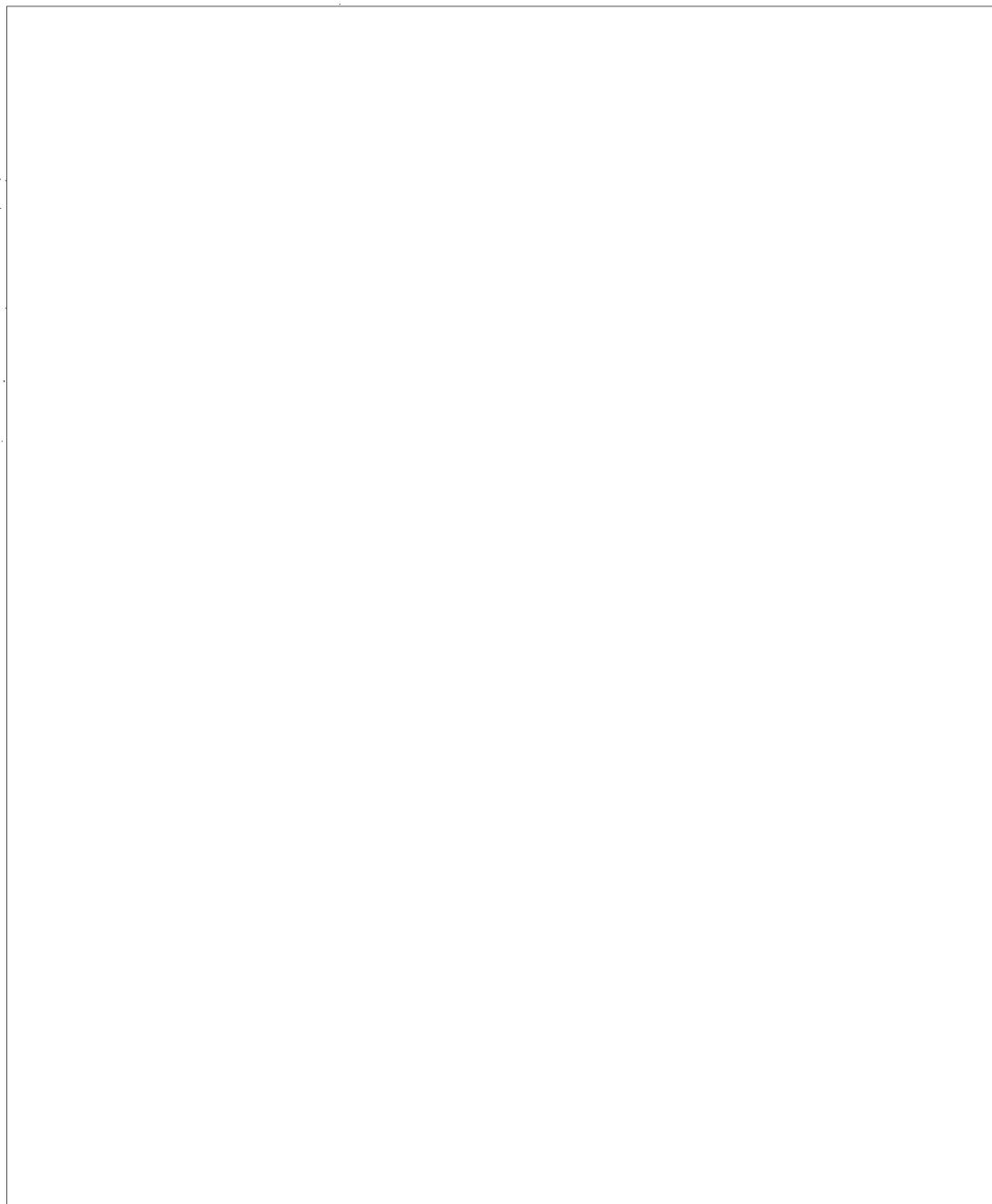
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[redacted] this was but one of a series of ill-advised speeches on foreign policy made by Indian officials over the past few months.

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

Hanoi on Domestic Criticism: Hanoi propaganda is taking note of the current domestic debate on the Vietnam issue. A North Vietnamese broadcast beamed to South Vietnam on 10 October quoted Western sources as stating that "Johnson, the top warmonger, has again

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brazenly called for a continued escalation of the aggressive war in Vietnam, although his clique was badly defeated and deeply bogged down in a seriously deadlocked situation."

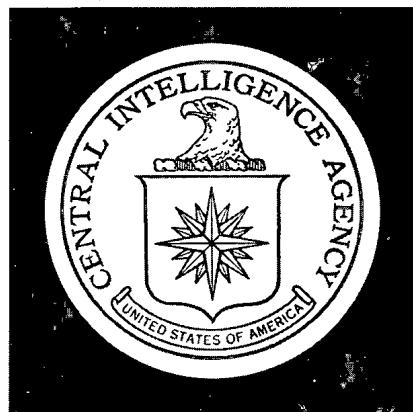
The broadcast continued by taking note of press criticisms of the administration's position on the war. It noted that the New York Times reported on 8 October that 245 previously pro-Johnson state governors and congressmen have protested "Johnson's war policy." The Times was also quoted as saying that more and more people in American political circles realize the failure of the "Johnson clique in Vietnam."

Finally, the broadcast reported an 8 October statement by "former President Kennedy's personal representative" (presumably Arthur Schlesinger) to the effect that "Johnson's present war escalation in Vietnam is a tragic failure." The representative was further quoted as saying that the American people should vote to remove Johnson from power unless he abandons his escalation of the war in Vietnam.

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The President's Daily Brief

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DAILY BRIEF
14 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

The retail price index for Saigon fell eleven points during the week ending 2 October. This brings prices back down to about what they were just before the elections in early September. Even so, the prices are now about 30 percent higher than they were at the beginning of the year.

2. Vietnam
Demonstrations

Plans for antiwar demonstrations on 20-21 October are being drawn up in many countries to parallel those in the US. The sponsoring organizations are a mixed bag of pacifists, professional peace agitators, and Communists. Communist influence in some cases--Belgium, for example--is marked.

So far, it is hard to get a feel for the likely size of the demonstrations in Western Europe. In Japan, however, the prime agitator--a trade union organization--can put impressive numbers in the streets.

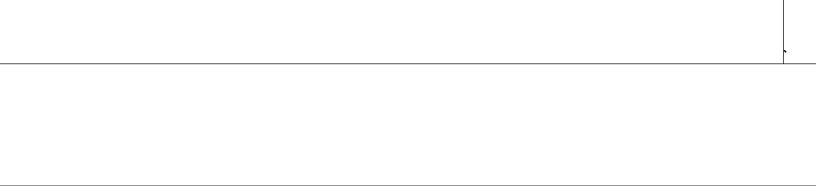
In Communist countries, only Hungary and Cuba are known to be planning to participate.

3. Communist China

4. Communist China

We see more signs that the Red
Guards are being defused.

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5. Bolivia

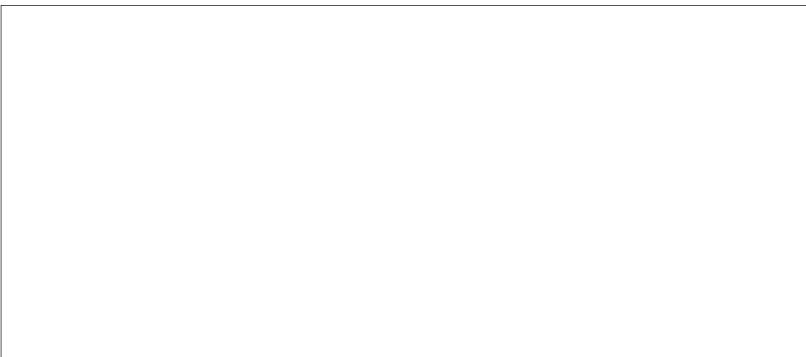
Fingerprints taken from the body
of "Che" Guevara

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[redacted] confirm that
the slain leader was indeed Guevara.

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6. Algeria



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14 OCT 1967

**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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

14 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Wilfred Burchett Back in Hanoi: The North Vietnamese chargé in Laos in a 12 October conversation with Ambassador Sullivan hinted that Hanoi may once again use Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett as a medium for publicizing an important official statement on the war. The chargé also claimed that the 28 January offer of talks with the US in return for a bombing halt, which was given in an interview with Burchett, had been "misunderstood" by the US. When asked how these misunderstandings could be cleared up, the chargé replied that "it is too late now, as too many other things have happened since that time." He expressed the hope, however, that the US would not "misunderstand" any new statement given Burchett and that it would be given careful study.

Burchett has been in Hanoi recently and is now scheduled to travel to France. There has been no announcement from Hanoi of his meeting with officials there although on previous occasions such meetings have not been made public until several days or weeks after the journalist's departure.

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Hanoi's Post War Planning:

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Despite the demands for manpower at home, the North Vietnamese have continued to send large numbers of students for technical training throughout the Communist world. By doing so, Hanoi probably hopes to maintain a pool of skilled technicians to play a key role in rebuilding the country when the war is over.

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Albanian Aid Agreement: Hanoi announced on 12 October that it had signed an agreement for "non refund economic aid for 1968" with an Albanian delegation currently in North Vietnam. This is the last and probably the least of the current round of aid pacts which Hanoi has secured from the bloc. In the past Albania has exported to North Vietnam such war-related mineral and industrial products as bitumen, plywood and chromium ore.

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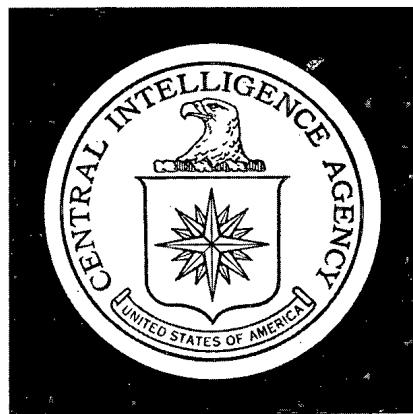
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

We have received no significant North Vietnamese commentary on this subject in the past 24 hours.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 16 October 1967



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23

DAILY BRIEF
16 OCTOBER 1967

1. Hong Kong

The violence of the past two days indicates that the more moderate Communist leaders in the colony are increasingly hard put to keep the militants in line. This latest terrorism--four killed and some 50 wounded since Friday--is largely the work of the Communist labor unions. Their leaders have been in conflict with Communists in commercial circles who want to carry on a long-term political struggle instead.

Peking has yet to comment on these latest incidents.

2. Congo

Rebel leader Schramme's backers in Angola have stepped up their efforts to mount a military operation against Kinshasa.

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The ability of the plotters to mount such an incursion is still questionable, but if it does get under way, Mobutu will have real trouble stopping it.

3. Nigeria

Secret talks between federal and Biafran representatives may begin in London this week. At this stage, both sides regard any discussions as purely exploratory.

4. Singapore

Ambassador Bruce reports that Lee Kuan Yew has been telling people in London that he is somewhat concerned about his US trip. He feels that he "might be put on the spot" to commit himself publicly on Vietnam to a greater degree than he would like.

5. Communist China

Peking has announced that Chinese scientists have just built a "huge transistorized universal computer." For its first performance, it has been programmed to sing "The East is Red, the Sun is Rising, China has produced a man called Mao Tse-tung." Later, the computer will be put to work on more mundane tasks such as the problems of the national economy and advanced weapons development.

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16 OCT 1967

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SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM

FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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TOP SECRET

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

16 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Doumer Bridge:

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Photography of 4 October indicates that the repaired rail supports may not be as strong as the original trusswork but are probably adequate to carry light loads at reduced speeds.

* * *

Return of French Dead: The French Foreign Ministry has informed the US Embassy in Paris that the remains of 120 French soldiers buried in North Vietnam will be dug up from two cemeteries in the city of Nam Dinh this week, and that a similar operation will take place at Hai Duong. Shipment of the remains to France will take place at the end of the year.

After considerable negotiation, France succeeded in conducting a similar evacuation in the spring of 1966. All in all, this is another small sign of improvement in Hanoi's relations with the French.

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Le Duan to Moscow: The US Embassy in Paris learned from the French Foreign Office on Friday that North Vietnamese Party Secretary Le Duan was currently in Peking and scheduled to travel from there to Moscow. The purpose of the trip is to discuss North Vietnam's representation at the Soviet 50th anniversary celebrations next month with Soviet and Chinese officials. The French speculated that Le Duan will tell the Soviets and Chinese that Hanoi will send a high-level delegation to the celebrations only if it can be assured that no Sino-Soviet recriminations will develop as occurred during the recent Chinese National Day festivities in Hanoi. Although this is the only report of such a trip thus far,

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Hanoi's continuing efforts to maintain a balanced position in the Sino-Soviet controversy may well have prompted such advance preparations.

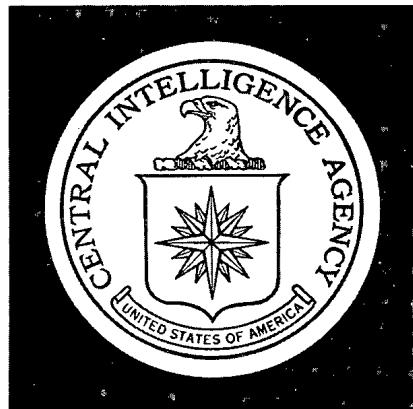
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing significant to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 17 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
17 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

The Communist terror campaign against Saigon's Chinese community continues. Seven attempts--five of them successful--have been made to assassinate men of Chinese ancestry since the 19 September bombing of the Chinese Nationalist Embassy. We suspect the campaign may be designed to impress Chinese businessmen with the advisability of resuming--or continuing--payment of "protection money" to the Viet Cong.

2. Soviet Union

The Soviets are having major maintenance problems with the icebreaker Lenin, their only nuclear-powered surface ship. [REDACTED]

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3. Laos

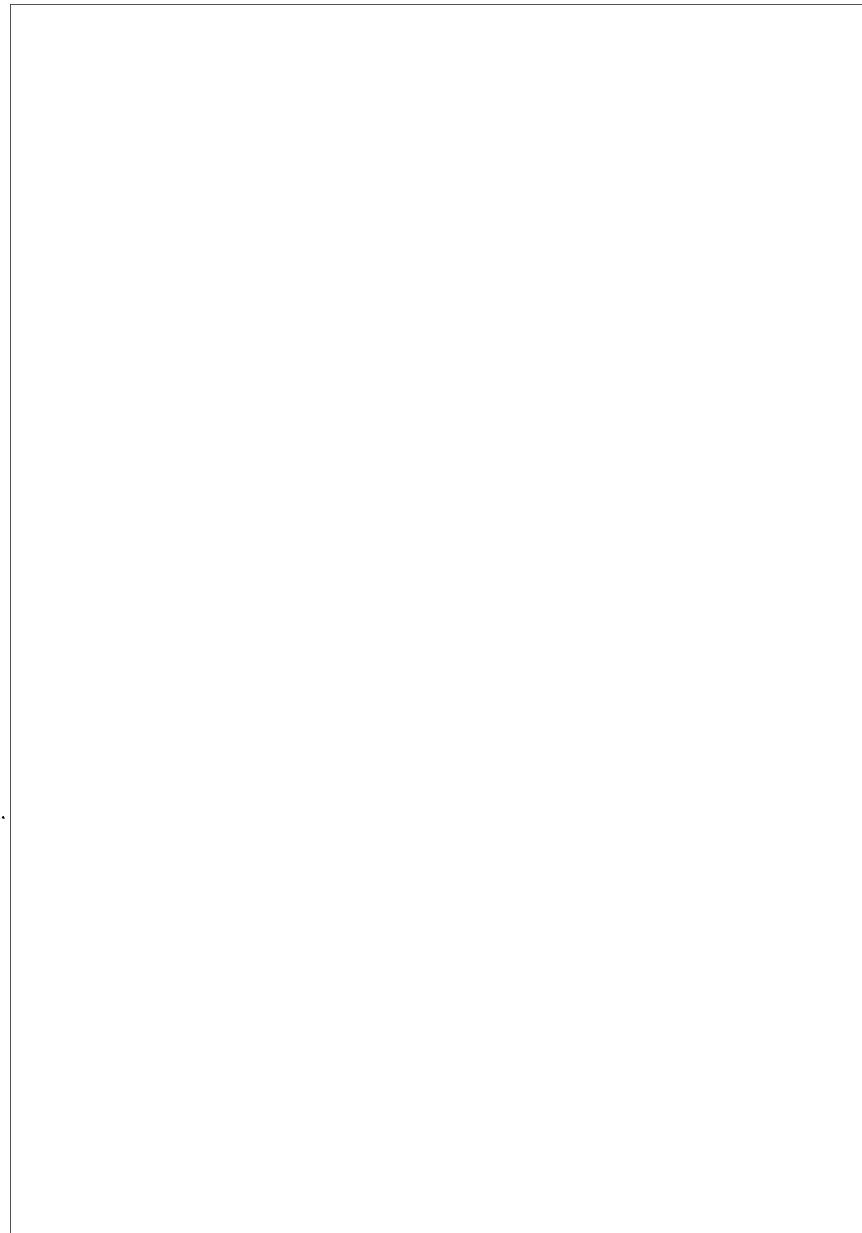
The Communists are stepping up their harassment of government positions in the north. This action has upset plans for a government offensive in the area, but is not likely to get beyond the "little war" stage. The government, determined to hold, has sent in reinforcements, and we doubt that the Communists are willing to pay the price of a direct assault.

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4. Jordan -
Soviet Union

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5. India

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The Indians [] are buying
new SU-7 fighter-bombers from the So-
viets. []

[] The Indians claim
they need these supersonic jets to
counter Pakistan's purchases of French
fighter-bombers and to replace older In-
dian aircraft.

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17 OCT 1967

**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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TOP SECRET

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

17 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Chinese Military Delegation May be in Hanoi:

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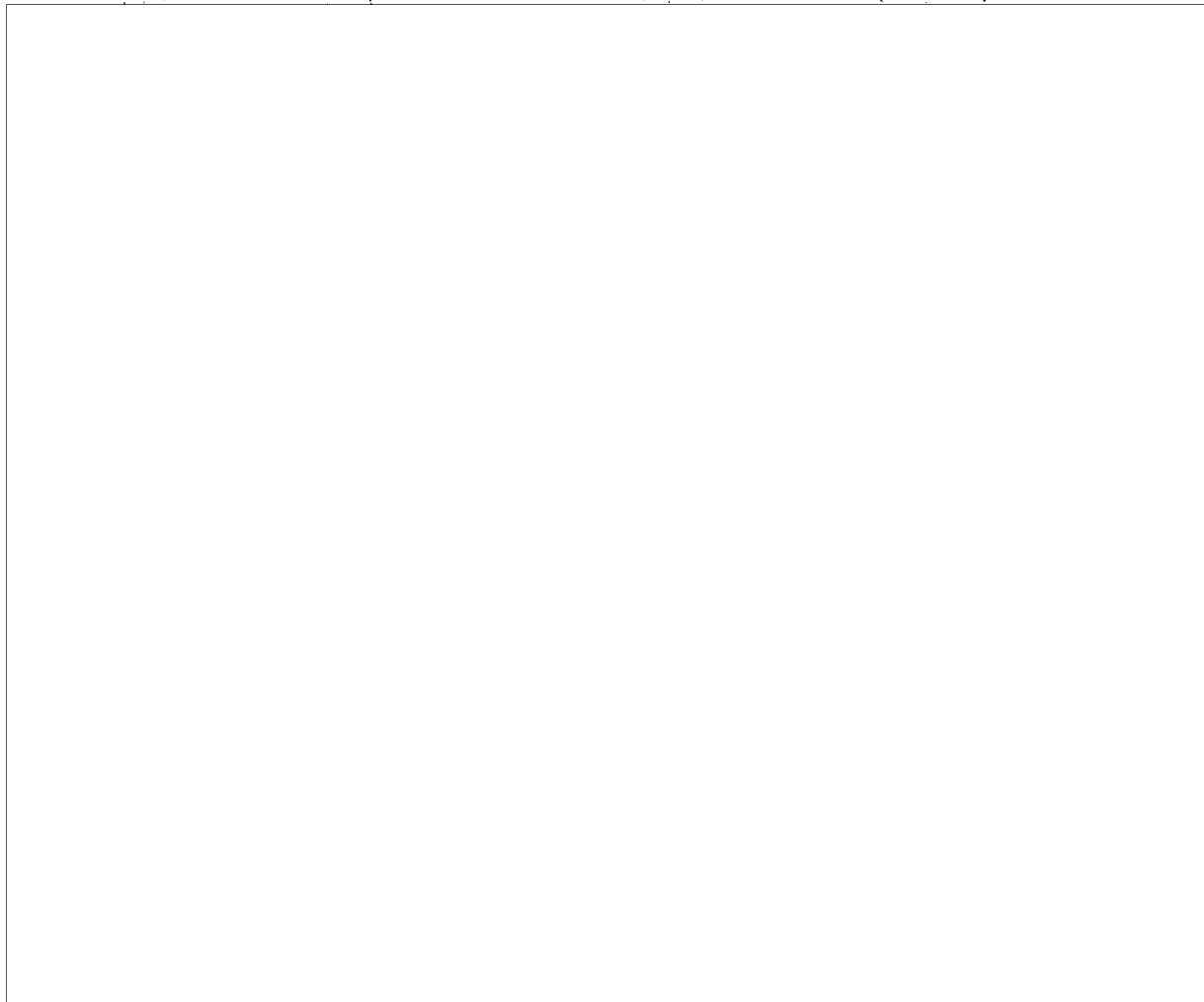
No high-level Chinese military officer is known to have visited Hanoi since 1961, except for Yang Te-chih, the commander of the Tsinan Military Region, who headed the Chinese National Day delegation which visited Hanoi from 27 September to 10 October. Yang's visit was publicized and the Chinese did not mention his military status. It is likely, however, that other Chinese military delegations have made unpublicized visits to Hanoi.

If a Chinese military delegation did arrive, it would probably be reviewing Peking's military assistance programs and inspecting the Chinese logistic and antiaircraft units now in the country.

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North Vietnam's Industrial Problems: An August article in a North Vietnamese journal seems to reflect the troubles encountered in keeping up some semblance of production in key industries. The

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article reported that a conference called by the Ministry of Heavy Industries had stressed the need to achieve "as best we can" the plan for producing equipment for agriculture, transportation, and communications and to make a greater contribution to the development of local industries. These, evidently, are the priority areas in Hanoi's wartime industrial planning.

The article went on with some propaganda claims that "heavy" industrial output had risen considerably since 1964. This is pure fantasy. What "heavy" industries there are have either been shut down or cut back and very little new capital investment is being put into them.

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Propaganda on Haiphong Bombing: Hanoi propaganda statements on the recent raids on targets in the Haiphong area have drawn a picture of great physical destruction, especially to civilian installations. An international broadcast in English on 13 October accused the US of "monstrous crimes" and claimed that all hamlets near the city have been napalmed, and that schools, clinics, and hospitals have been damaged or destroyed. The broadcast also asserted, however, that despite the "barbaric US raids," adequate measures for evacuation had kept civilian deaths down. The broadcast ended on a confident note by claiming that even though the city

had become the "Pentagon's main target" and that one-third of the population had been evacuated, life continues to go on in a normal fashion in the port city.

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

Hanoi Claims "President in Desperation" Over Vietnam: In a 13 October English language broadcast to American servicemen in South Vietnam, Hanoi asserted that President Johnson is "painfully anxious" about the "impasse" of the war and that US criticism of his Vietnam policy is growing stronger. The broadcast claimed that the President has to deliver speech after speech on Vietnam "to ward off further woes" and that by doing so, he hopes to stay in the White House for another term. According to Hanoi, President Johnson hopes to avoid becoming the first president to lose a war. Hanoi stated that the President cannot hide the truth and that American newsmen in South Vietnam have used the word stalemate to describe the war situation.

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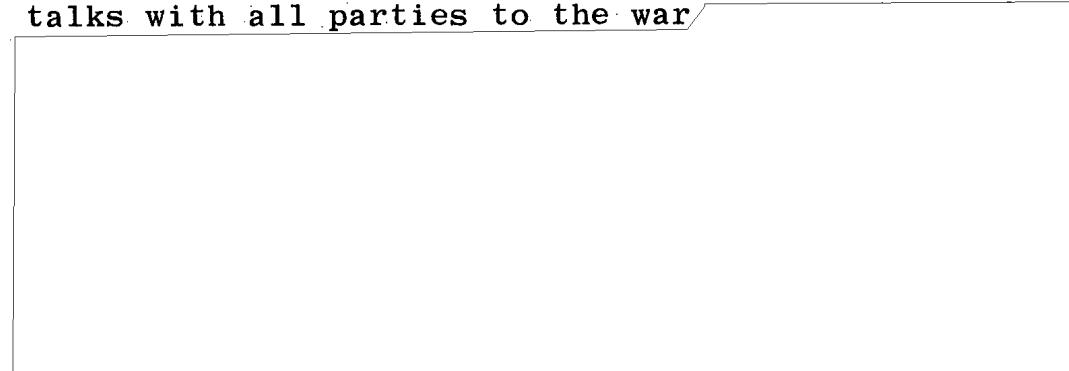
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Hanoi Reports on Appeals to US Antiwar Groups:
A 16 October Hanoi broadcast describes two appeals by Vietnamese Communist groups to sympathizers in the US calling for stepped-up efforts against the war. One appeal by the newly formed "South Vietnam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People," called the US antiwar movement "a coordinated action of the two peoples (US and Vietnamese) against their common enemy." Hanoi also stated that a North Vietnamese women's leader sent a letter to American women hailing their "courageous and sustained" struggle against the war. The letter expressed confidence that American women would increase their efforts and compel the US Government to accept Communist conditions for peace in Vietnam.

* * *

Martin Luther King Asked to Participate in Peace Efforts: A number of Nobel Peace Prize winners, who announced several weeks ago that they were seeking talks with all parties to the war



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Hanoi Cites US Paper on Increased Expenditures for Vietnam: A 12 October Hanoi broadcast to South Vietnam cites a recent New York Post article reporting that the war is draining US economic strength. The broadcast quotes the Post as stating that the war has caused a substantial decrease in US financial

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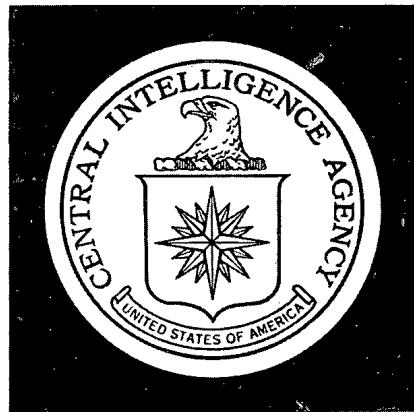
and moral strength and that no sources of supply are inexhaustible. The broadcast also notes that Arthur Schlesinger recently said that the US has spent \$90 billion on the Vietnam war during the last 32 months of "escalation."

* * *

Hanoi on US Burnings: Hanoi's international broadcasting service on 14 October routinely noted the suicide of Miss Hiroko Hayasuki, a Japanese-American woman who burned herself to death in San Diego last Thursday. So far we have not received any North Vietnamese commentary on the two other burnings which occurred on Sunday. Hanoi's treatment of the woman's death was relatively restrained in contrast to its extensive propaganda coverage of earlier burnings in the US. The broadcast said Miss Hayasuki was the sixth American citizen to have used suicide by fire as a "protest against Johnson's unjust, illegal, and immoral war in Vietnam."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 18 October 1967



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Soviet Union

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DAILY BRIEF
18 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

The new Senate, in office just a week today, is off to an energetic start. It has elected temporary presiding officers, named a rules drafting committee, and decided to ask the executive to grant amnesty to certain prisoners before the National Day celebrations on 1 November.

It is expected to choose its permanent chairman within two weeks. Likely winner is Tran Van Don, a retired general and nominal Buddhist, who headed the front-running slate in the senatorial elections. His selection could ease Buddhist unhappiness over the disproportionately heavy Catholic representation in the Senate.

The reluctance of many Catholic senators to take undue advantage of their numbers has become evident in the failure of a Catholic-led political bloc in the Senate to attract more than a handful of adherents.

2. Middle East

Danger is rising of a new Israeli retaliatory raid into Jordan or Syria. The Israelis yesterday were seething over King Husayn's "evasive" reply to their request for a meeting between senior military commanders of both sides to discuss control of terrorist infiltration. The Israelis reject Husayn's claim that he is doing all he can to stop the infiltrators. They say he is actually condoning terrorist movement across Jordan.

3. France

De Gaulle added last weekend to the conditions which might cause him to take France out of the Atlantic Alliance. He told Secretary General Brosio that if the Alliance is subjected to "substantial transformation"--if it becomes a political alliance to "control and direct East-West relations"--then France might withdraw. He said this in reference to the Harmel Study on the future tasks of the Alliance, which is now nearing completion.

De Gaulle went on to say that his legal view is that the treaty cannot be denounced until 1969, with withdrawal taking place in 1970. Only "unforeseeable and extraordinary" events would raise the question of France's adherence during 1968.

4. Sino-Soviet Relations

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5. Cuba

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6. Cuba -
Soviet Union

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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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TOP SECRET

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

18 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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International Control Commission Problem: [redacted]

[redacted] the French-owned air-

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line that carries the International Control Commission (ICC) members to Saigon, Phnom Penh, Hanoi, and Vientiane has canceled future flights into Hanoi until the Commission pays its bill. The scheduled courier flight to Hanoi last Friday was, in fact, canceled for this reason. An earlier press story had stated that the Commission, which is made up of diplomats from Canada, India, and Poland, owes the airline over one-half million dollars.

The ICC has been in financial difficulty for some time, and although its debt to the airline is probably exaggerated in the press story, its overall debt may well be close to \$300,000. Money may not be the sole motive behind the airline's cancellation, however. Recently the company, its pilots, and other personnel connected with the flights have been protesting the dangers related to flying in and out of Hanoi.

The Hanoi leg of these flights represents the only non-Communist air link with North Vietnam and its loss would further weaken the already tenuous presence of the ICC in the North Vietnamese capital.

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[redacted] the
people [redacted] under greater strain because of the war
than they were [redacted] a year
earlier. [redacted] a large percentage of
women working in industrial plants and in other non-
military functions. Other evidence has also pointed
to some increase in the use of female labor through-
out all segments of the North Vietnamese economy be-
cause of manpower shortages. The percentage of
women in the North Vietnamese economy has always
been high, however.

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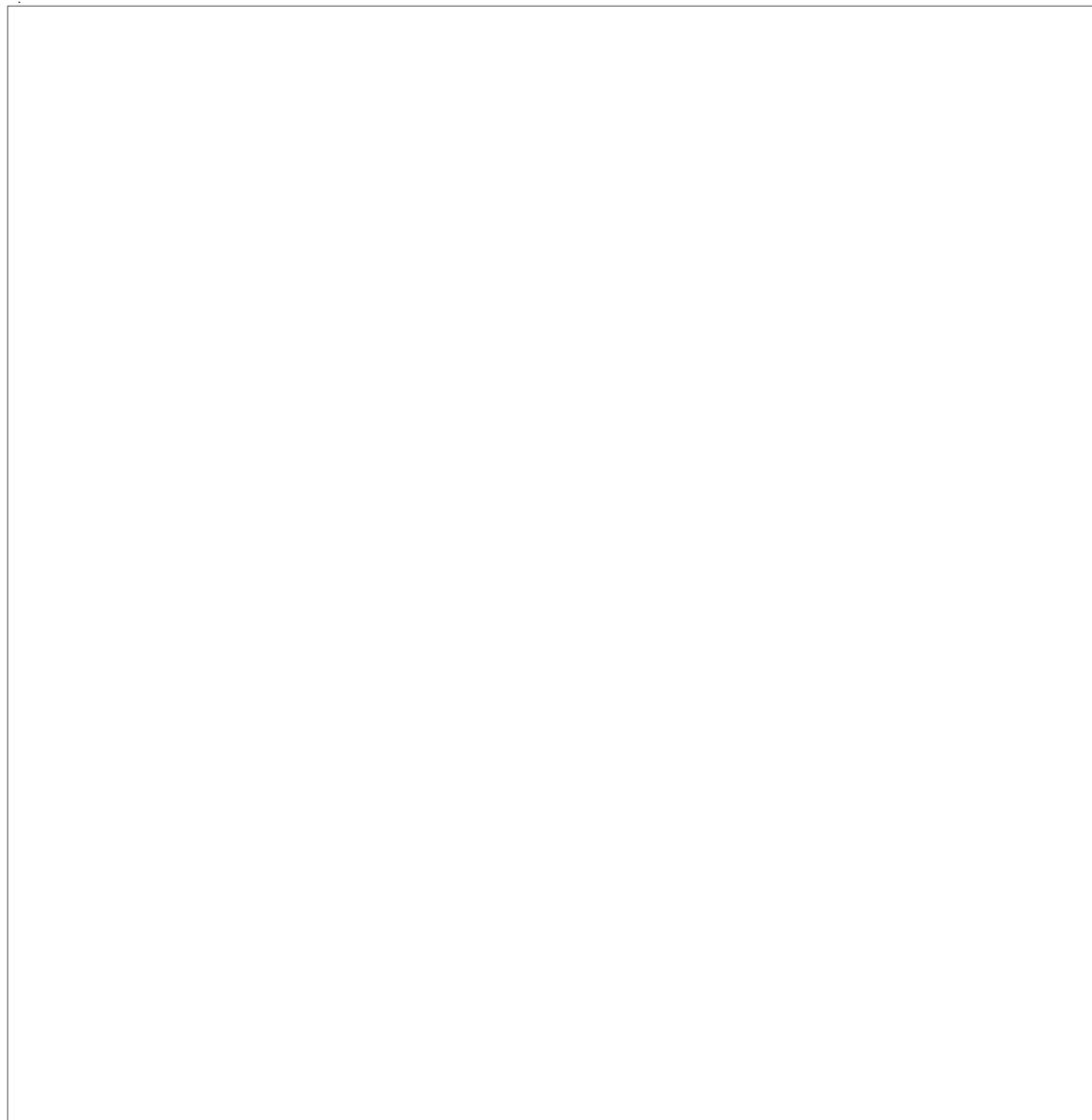
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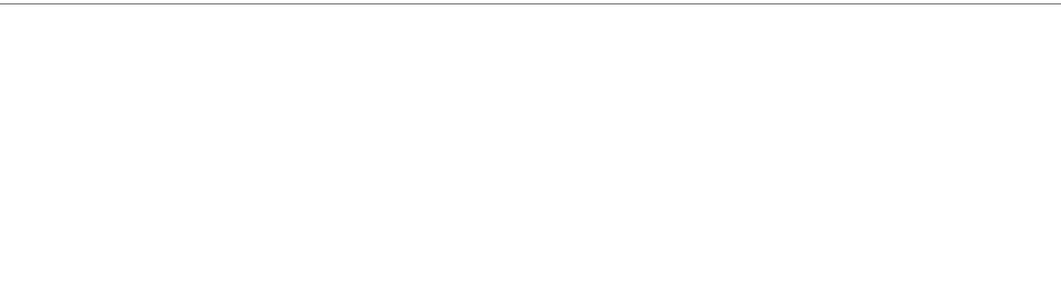
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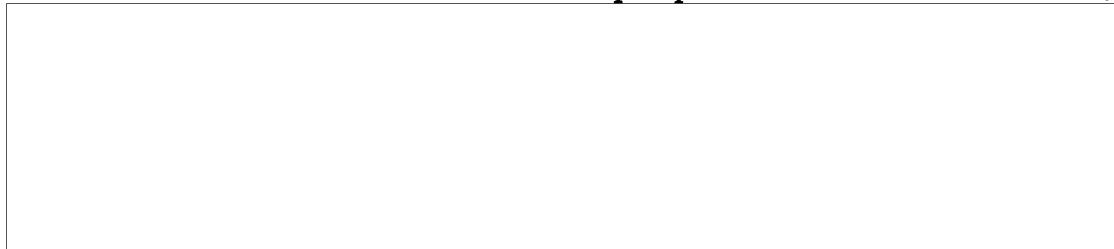


II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Supports Antiwar Drive in US: In an effort to align itself with the war protest drive in the US, the Liberation Front on 16 October announced the founding of a committee to demonstrate "solidarity" with Americans who oppose the war.

According to a Hanoi broadcast yesterday, the "South Vietnam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People" was founded to help the Americans understand their government's "policy of aggression" in South Vietnam and to help them join with the Vietnamese people in demanding that the US end the war. The broadcast stated that the committee will establish permanent offices in Prague, Algiers, and Hanoi in order to contact "the progressive organizations and individuals" in the US.

The new committee also issued an appeal to the American people, broadcast by Hanoi on 16 October, calling for a stepped-up antiwar effort. It claimed that the US antiwar movement is growing stronger and has attracted "more and more people of various strata."



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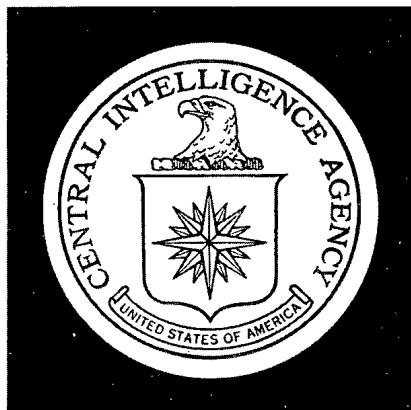
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Viet Cong Claim US Deadlocked Over Vietnam: A clandestine Viet Cong broadcast to South Vietnam on 9 October asserted that in addition to a military deadlock in Vietnam, the US Government is faced with increased opposition to its policy at home. The broadcast claimed that although President Johnson and Secretary of State Rusk have often tried to argue that there is no military stalemate, a recent Christian Science Monitor article admitted that there is a deadlock. The broadcast also stated that the antiwar movement in the US has attained its highest level and noted that tens of thousands of people have demonstrated against President Johnson's aggressive policy and the proposed tax increase. According to the Viet Cong, many influential congressmen and distinguished intellectuals, writers, and artists in the US have demanded that the President end the war.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 October 1967



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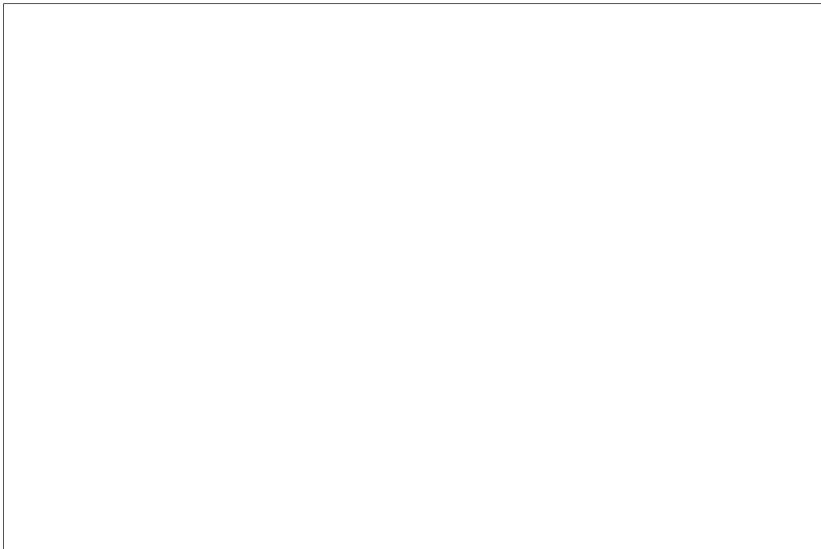
DAILY BRIEF
19 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Thieu has told Ambassador Bunker he feels obligated to follow up on his campaign promise to approach Ho Chi Minh with a peace proposal. Thieu plans to cover the peace theme in a general way in his inaugural address, and follow this with a direct message to Ho. Thieu is thinking in terms of either a proposal for direct discussions (and asking the US to halt the bombing if he gets a favorable response) or a bombing halt to be followed immediately by a message to Ho proposing talks.

2. Soviet Union

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3. Soviet Union

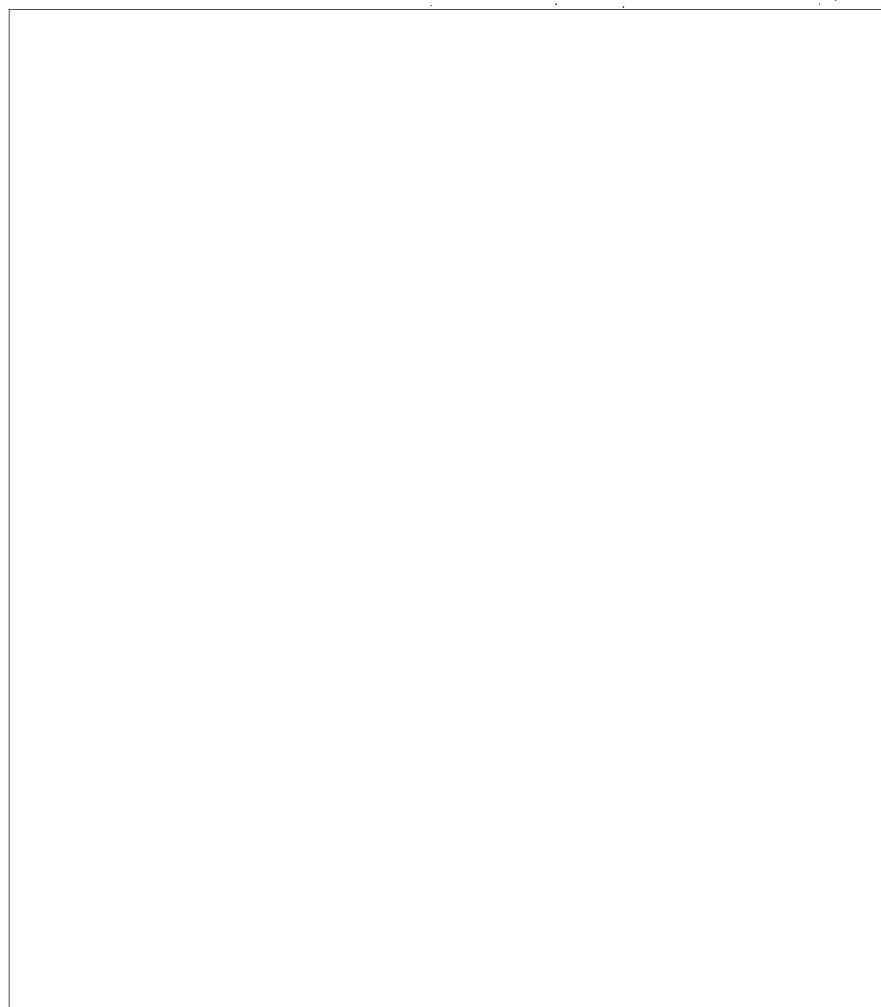
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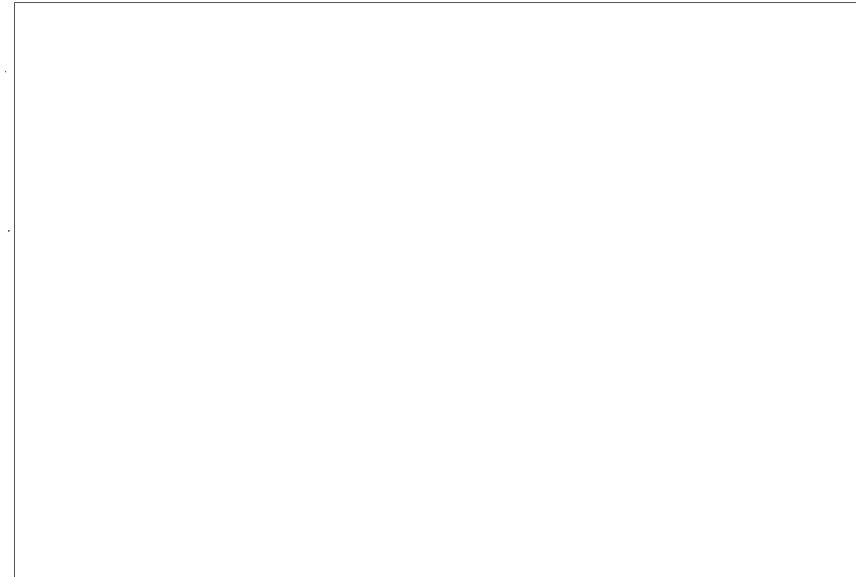
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4. West Germany



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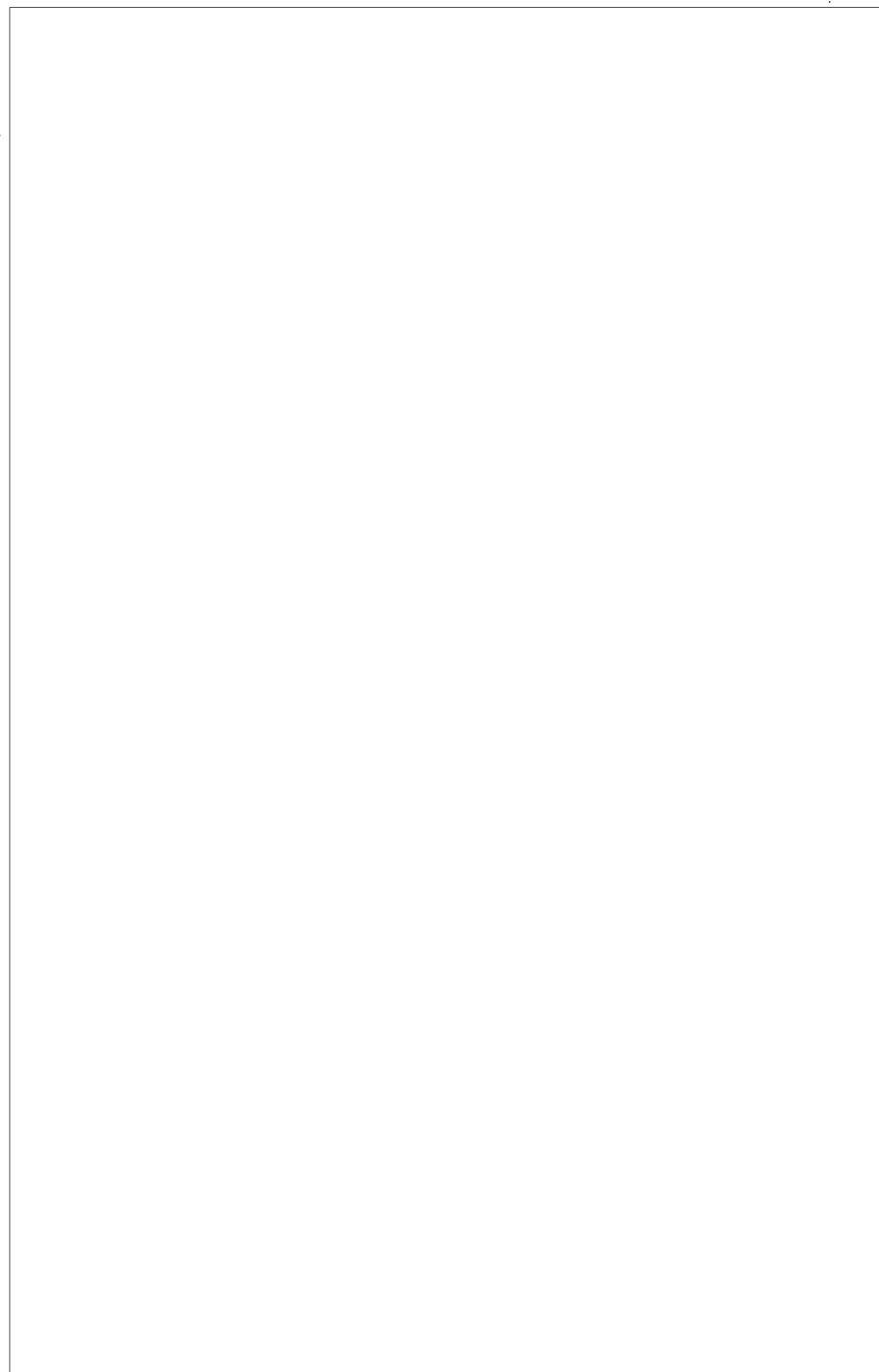
5. Communist China



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6. Pakistan -
Soviet Union



7. Sierra Leone

The leader of this small West African country is on the verge of being ousted. The other members of the junta have decided he is getting too autocratic. The new number one man is likely to be a diplomat known throughout the country as Uncle Ambrose--the name he was known by when he starred on children's TV.

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**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**

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TOP SECRET

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

19 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Burchett Leaves Hanoi: Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett arrived in Laos from Hanoi Tuesday evening. This was well ahead of the schedule he had set himself in conversations with the Vientiane press corps before leaving. Burchett has offered no explanation for his early return and has given no indication that he has stories of any magnitude.

[redacted] residents of Hanoi and the Red River Valley, who had feared US bombing of the dikes and dams during the height of the flood season, were relaxing because the high-water peak has passed and because their secondary dikes and dams were all in place to protect against possible bomb damage.

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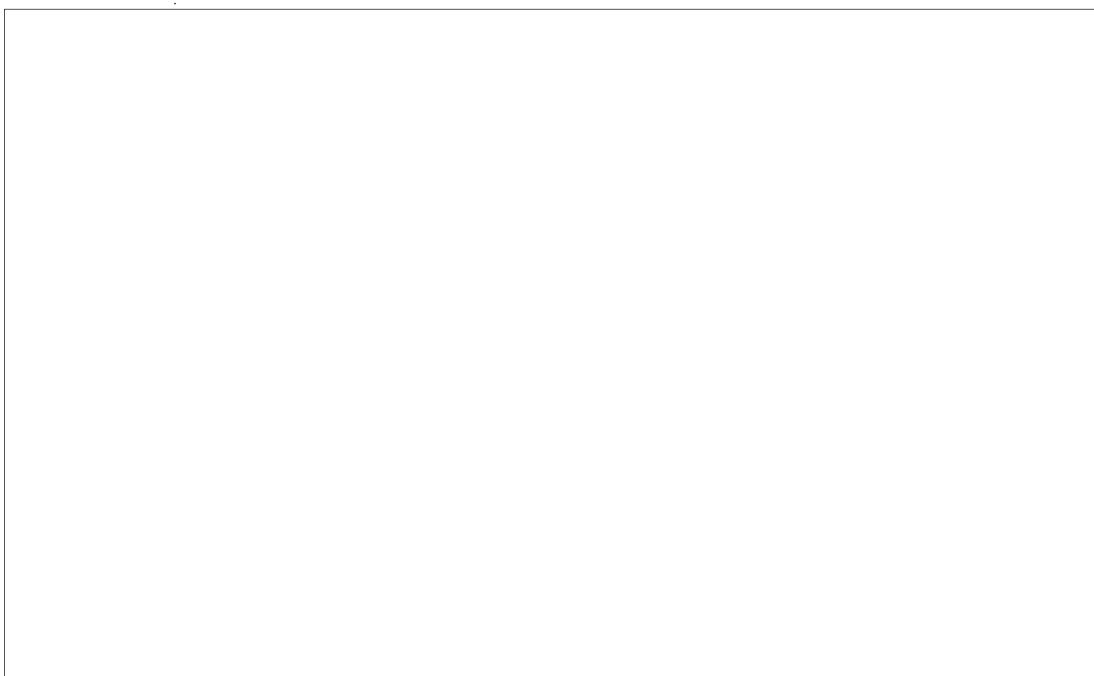
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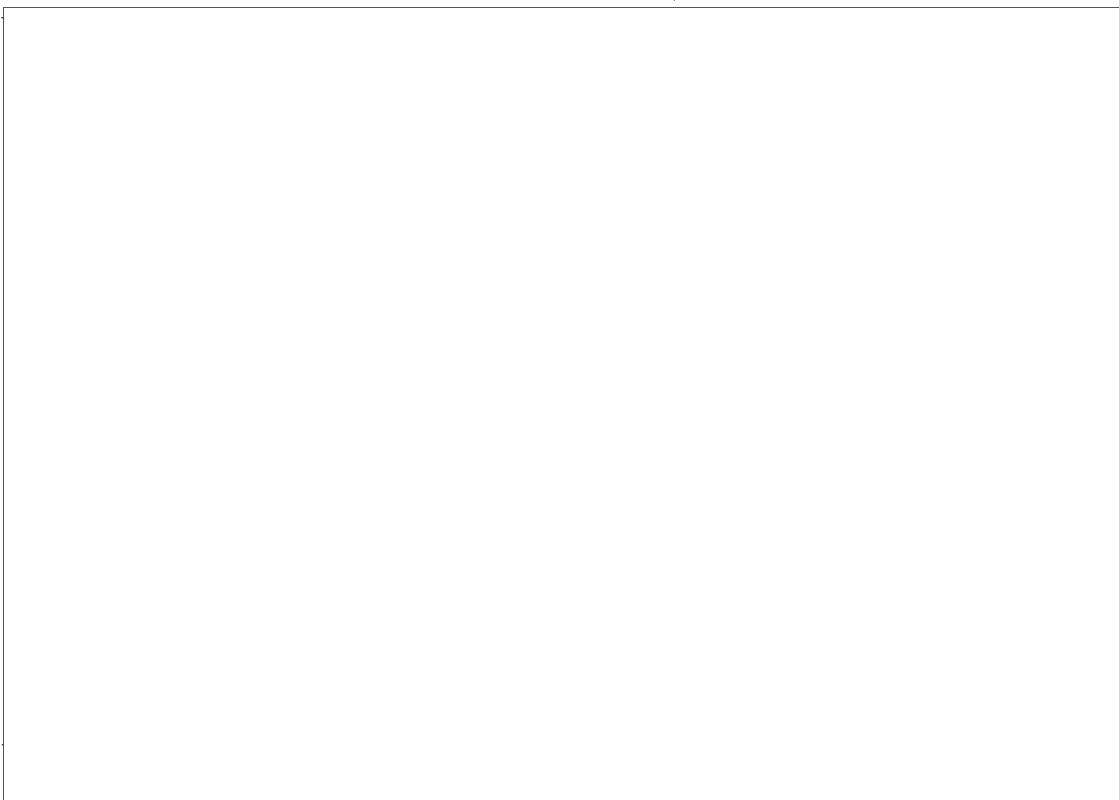
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

More Viet Cong Support for US Antiwar Movement: The Viet Cong continues to play up the establishment of a committee to support the US antiwar movement. According to an 18 October Hanoi broadcast, the Viet Cong radio stated that the new committee will aid the "common struggle" of the US and Vietnamese people against the US Government's policy of "aggression" in South Vietnam. The broadcast notes that the Viet Cong makes a clear distinction between the American people and the "US imperialists" and has never borne any enmity toward the American people. The Viet Cong also expresses "full support" for this week's protest drive by US antiwar groups.

Hanoi radio also said on 17 October that the "Vietnam Peace Committee"--which complements the Viet Cong "committee"--has sent a message of greeting to the American National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. The message said that the

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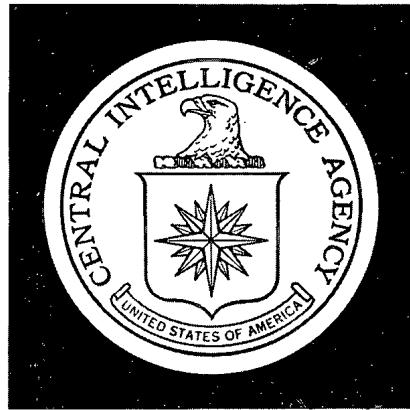
Vietnamese people "welcome your initiative to launch new waves of struggle" to oppose "the war of aggression conducted by the US Government," and concluded that "from the all-out fight to bring complete victory to our fatherland, we convey to the American people our warmest feelings."

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Hanoi on US Self-Immolations: A 17 October Hanoi broadcast reported that while President Johnson is trying to "blur the political essence of the Vietnam problem" seven Americans have resorted to self-immolation to tell the President that he is the aggressor. The broadcast stated that Mrs. Florence Beaumont burned herself to death in Los Angeles on 15 October to protest US aggression in Vietnam.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
20 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

In a talk with Ambassador Bunker yesterday, Ky expressed growing impatience with what he regards as Thieu's overcautious approach to the formation of the new government. Ky is especially put off by Thieu's delay in deciding on the cabinet and getting it in place.

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2. Vietnam
Demonstrations

The world-wide demonstrations this weekend, in support of those in the US, are unlikely to generate much popular support. Planning for the marches is fuzzy, and security officials in most Free World countries feel they can prevent damage to US installations. In Communist countries, the demonstrations will probably be tightly controlled, but there will be room for bombastic anti-US diatribes in Havana.

Two possible hot points are Tokyo and West Berlin. The Japanese trade organization, the Communists, and the Socialists together may get tens of thousands into the streets.

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West Berlin police expect some 6,000 to demonstrate, led by leftist students.

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3. Vietnam

The Viet Cong radio broadcast a commentary late Wednesday ridiculing president-elect Thieu's "babbling statements about peace negotiations." Since US leaders "cannot deceive anyone" on this issue, "what can the vile lackeys do?" the broadcast asked.

4. Communist China

Peking appears to be making an effort to put its governmental and party machinery, badly battered by the Cultural Revolution, back into working condition. References to the party are becoming more frequent, and important leaders who were reduced in the press and radio to faceless "responsible officials" at the height of the revolution, now generally rate a full listing of their party and governmental titles.

5. Nigeria

Stiffened resistance by the Biafrans, who seemed to be on the ropes a week ago, is producing the bloodiest fighting so far. (Some 1,000 federals were killed in one night late last week.) Ojukwu, meanwhile, seems to be backing away from the projected "peace talks" in London,

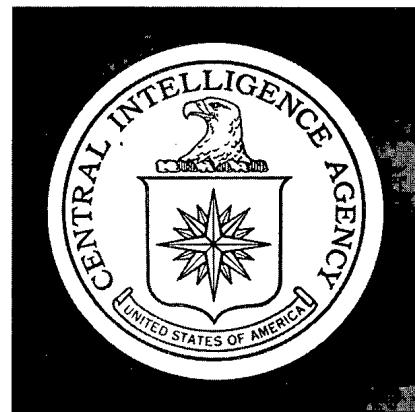
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6. Greece

The King and junta leader Papadopoulos still seem to be trying to stare each other down--or wait each other out--on the issue of Papadopoulos becoming deputy prime minister. We believe they are likely to postpone the confrontation neither wants right now by a relatively harmless reshuffling of the cabinet.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

Top Secret

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17
20 October 1967

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

20 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

US Pacifists Report on Hanoi Trip: Another dispatch from Australian Communist journalist Wilfred Burchett filed prior to his leaving Hanoi on 18 October reports the views of seven Americans who have been in Hanoi for the past 18 days. The group reportedly came away feeling that Hanoi was prepared for a long war involving great sacrifices and that the regime was confident of its ability to endure and to achieve ultimate victory. Burchett reported that the Americans accepted Hanoi's contention that if the bombings are stopped there could be talks, and found the Vietnamese definitely not holding out for "a 1968 repudiation of Johnson" before negotiating.

The press dispatch also stated that the Americans talked with three US prisoners of war and carried away letters to the families of 30 others. Finally, Burchett reported that the group has been given a message of greetings to the US antiwar movement by Premier Pham Van Dong which will be read at the 21 October protest demonstration in Washington.

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More North Vietnamese Comments on War: Mai Van Bo, North Vietnam's chief representative in France and probably the most authoritative Vietnamese Communist spokesman in the West, said recently that he does not believe the US will risk an invasion of North Vietnam, but he warned that if this took place, the US would encounter guerrilla action which would tie down large numbers of American soldiers. The US would be "surrounded, isolated and destroyed," and Hanoi would not have to call for foreign volunteers if the US attempted even to occupy only a limited section of the North.

Bo also stressed that the North Vietnamese regime is bent on carrying on "until final victory" as expressed in General Giap's latest article. However, he acknowledged that while the majority of the people

in the North share the government's determination, there are "a few individuals who are becoming weary of the war and would like to see it end at almost any price."

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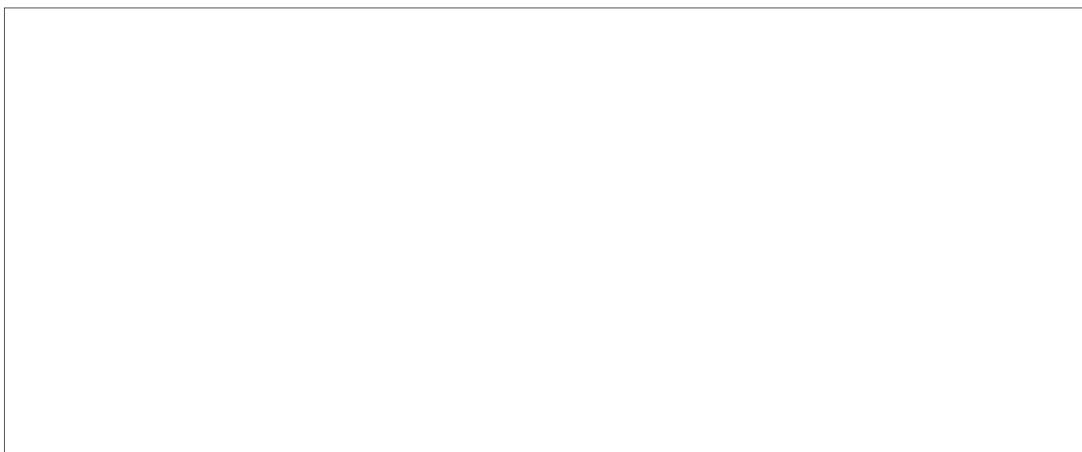
Hanoi Condemns US Statement on the War: Hanoi has published a rejection of Secretary of State Rusk's press conference of 12 October as well as a general condemnation of other recent US statements on the war. An authoritative Nhan Dan article broadcast by Hanoi on 19 October claimed that Rusk's statements in effect conceded that the American people were demanding an end to the war. The article ridiculed Rusk's reference to the "American commitment in Vietnam" and rejected his suggestion that there are two Vietnams. Taking note of the current antiwar movement in the US, Nhan Dan claimed that this week's protests show that the American antiwar movement is making progress.

The broadcast asserted that everyone has seen that all recent US statements on the war are "sheer deception" and pointed to the recent call for an end to the bombing by many delegates at the United Nations as evidence of growing US isolation. It closed with a prediction that a continuation of the present "reactionary" policy would only lead to heavier military and political setbacks for the US.

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Chinese Anti-Soviet Tirade Embarrasses Hanoi Leaders: Top North Vietnamese leaders were visibly embarrassed by a blatantly anti-Soviet speech delivered by the Chinese charge d'affaires during the Chinese National Day reception on 29 September. Premier Pham Van Dong was even seen to sink his head in his hands during the tirade. Ho Chi Minh, Le Duan, and General Giap were also present. The Soviet representative and his East European friends walked out early in the speech, but not the Rumanian, who remained "smiling narrowly."

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More from David Schoenbrun: U Thant says he has talked with David Schoenbrun recently and is now more than ever convinced that the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam is "very independent" of Hanoi. Thant told Ambassador Goldberg that Schoenbrun had been even more explicit on this than Harrison Salisbury had been.

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Hanoi's Comment on "Che" Guevara: Hanoi has paid its tribute to the late guerrilla leader. According to a Hanoi international broadcast on 19 October, that day's issue of the party daily, Nhan Dan, front-paged his portrait and biography and contained a message of condolence from the Vietnam Workers Party to the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party.

Nhan Dan described Guevara as a "staunch revolutionary," claiming that he set a shining example of high revolutionary ardor. The paper asserted that the entire Vietnamese armed forces and people are resolved to "turn their hatred for the US imperialists and their lackeys who have murdered comrade Guevara into strength to defeat the US aggressors and the Thieu-Ky traitors."

* * *

Russian Correspondent on Conditions in North Vietnam: A Pravda correspondent, in Laos on a holiday from Hanoi, gave a US Embassy official there some

reflections on conditions in Hanoi. (Incidentally, he arrived in Vientiane on 17 October via the International Control Commission plane from Hanoi, which seems to be running on schedule again.) The correspondent claimed morale was high and determination unshaken despite hardships of bombing. As for the bombing, he claimed the military effects are "one tenth" of what the US thinks, and civilian damage and loss of life higher than Hanoi admits. He noted that pellet antipersonnel bombs with delayed fuses cause "particular horror" in cities.

The correspondent added that he had filed an eyewitness dispatch to Pravda about the destruction of a village by bombing which, to judge by his description, was a juicy "atrocity" story. For reasons unknown to him, Pravda did not publish the story.

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

Hanoi Reports Antiwar Activities of US Negroes: A Hanoi Vietnamese language broadcast of 15 October cites a US news service article stating that the antiwar movement by US Negroes is developing on an "unprecedented scale." The article asserts that "progressive" Negroes in the US have strengthened their relations with "patriots" in the US and the world, and that the antidraft movement among Negroes has caused draft officials to ignore hundreds of cases of refusal to submit to medical examinations for military service. In addition, the morale of Negroes serving in Vietnam is said to be "very low."

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More Comments on US Antiwar Pressures: Mai Van Bo, Hanoi's man in Paris whose comments were summarized earlier in this paper, also had something to say about antiwar pressures in the US and the Free World. He said the war is "less and less popular" in the US and pointed to recent speeches in the United Nations as proof of "many countries demanding peace." These factors, Bo went on, "create disquiet in the American electorate" and lead to the conclusion that "some day Washington will give up." Bo said the main Communist hope for eventual victory, however, lies in

frustrating the US military effort and in waiting "perhaps for a long time," for a political victory.

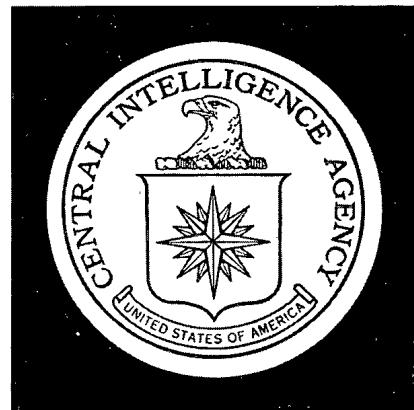
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More on Immolations in the US: Yesterday Hanoi radio returned to the US burnings, noting that "in only four days, two US citizens immolated themselves to oppose Johnson's war in Vietnam." From this Hanoi generalizes that "the American people have realized more and more clearly that the war conducted by the US administration in a country thousands of miles away, which has no enmity toward them, is only a dirty colonialist war. This war is against the independence and freedom of the Vietnamese people, against peace and justice, and runs counter to the genuine interests of the American people. It has wasted thousands of American lives and its burden is weighing heavily on the American taxpayers. It betrays the tradition of democracy of the American people and ruins the US reputation."

In conclusion, the broadcast said, "the Vietnamese people bow in respect before the sacrifices of Miss Hiroko and Mrs. Beaumont. They highly appreciate the American people's movement to end the Johnson war in Vietnam."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
21 OCTOBER 1967

1. Soviet Union

The Soviet public is beginning to be exposed to some of the real issues raised in Secretary McNamara's speech on antiballistic missiles a month ago. It is a contentious problem for Soviet policy makers and the commentators are dealing with it only by indirection and implication. Thus far, all the comment in the Soviet press seems to be shaded toward the side of those who would prefer negotiations to a new arms race.

Some Soviet writers have seized on stories in the foreign press which stress that participants in an ABM arms race would receive very little added security in return for the enormous cost of the system. As one commentator put it, "the illusion of nuclear invulnerability" created by full-scale ABM deployment could reduce the restraint of the nuclear powers in generating and coping with new world crises.

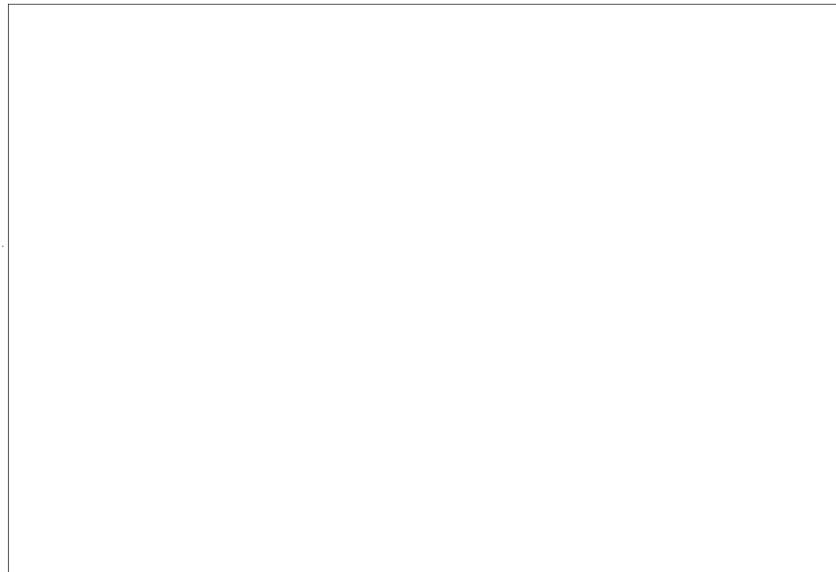
An article in an important Soviet weekly went on at length to describe the US decision as the product of US domestic politics--a move to head off future campaign slogans about an "ABM gap." The implication is that Moscow's own ABM system may have had a role in the US decision.

Soviet military publications, which might be expected to reflect views favoring full-scale ABM deployment, have remained silent.

Soviet commentators have yet to make any mention of Secretary McNamara's invitation for strategic arms talks. Moscow seems still unwilling or unable to commit itself on this.

2. Middle East

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**3. Communist China**

The Chinese are unaccountably dragging their feet on negotiations for Canadian wheat. Agreements on fall deliveries have usually been concluded by early summer. Peking may be just holding out for lower prices, but unless the Chinese get down to business soon it will be difficult to arrange deliveries for the peak period of need in the early spring.

About 2.6 million tons of Canadian wheat were imported in the crop year ending last June--but none since then. Current deliveries, coming only from a 1.5 million ton Australian contract, are to end in December.

The Chinese fall grain harvest, the year's biggest, is expected to be at least average this year and perhaps a little larger. Even so, the Chinese people will be tightening their belts next year unless talks are soon begun for Canadian wheat.

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4. United Kingdom

The British pound is once again in difficulty. It is taking a beating on foreign exchange markets

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Three factors seem mainly responsible: the release of very disappointing trade figures for September, the possibility of devaluation to meet Common Market conditions for British membership, and the continuing lethargy of the British economy. The growing rail and dock strikes are not helping.

5. Iran

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6. Algeria

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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21 October 1967

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

21 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Hanoi's "Present Thinking" on Peace Talks: The number two man in the Yugoslav embassy in Moscow called on his US counterpart on Wednesday to pass on what he said was Hanoi's present thinking on how to begin work toward a political settlement of the war. The Yugoslav stated that he had recently learned from a high Soviet official that not long ago Hanoi had reconfirmed to Moscow that it would definitely engage in talks following an unconditional bombing halt. The US Embassy believes the Yugoslav's talk with the high Soviet official probably took place on 16 October.

It strikes us that, if the Russians are trying to tell us something this way, they are following a curious route. The high Soviet official in

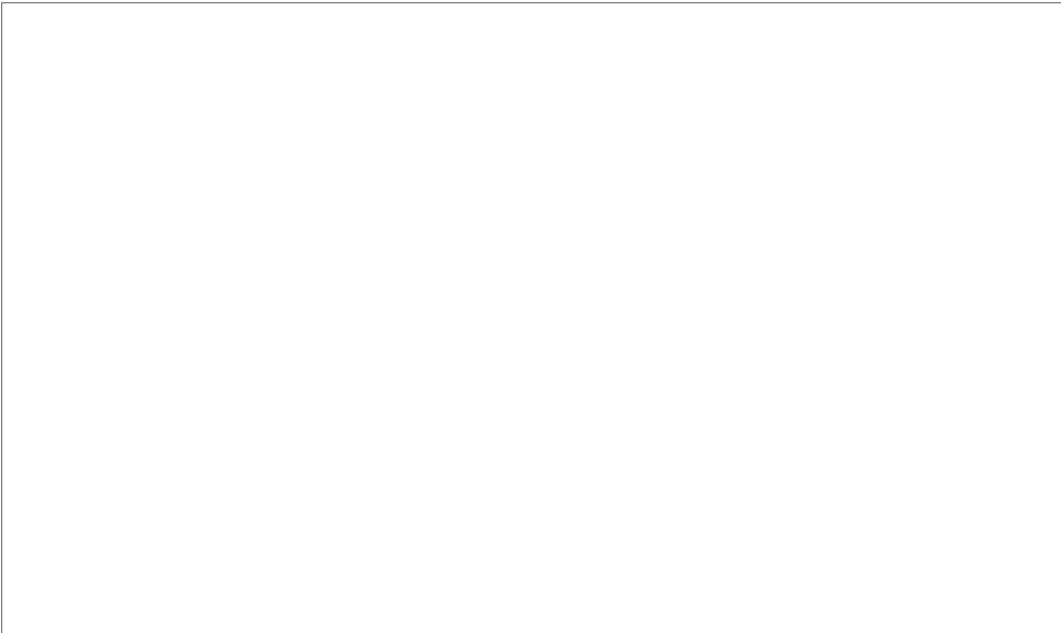
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question does not belong to the inner circle in Moscow, nor is there any particularly good reason why the Russians should need to use a Yugoslav go-between.

The Russians' reticence on the question of negotiations on Vietnam has been due to their urge to stay exactly in step with Hanoi and we think that, if and when Hanoi indicates to Moscow that it is ready to talk, the Russians will relay the signal clearly. Thus, if there is a serious purpose behind the Soviet-Yugoslav conversation, it should be followed by a more direct approach at a higher level.

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Polish and Rumanian Views: Embassy Rome learns that Polish and Rumanian diplomats in the Italian capital have been saying recently that a suspension of the bombing of North Vietnam would serve no purpose. They also say they are unable to account for Hanoi's rigidity.

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Hanoi "Refutes" Statements of Souvanna Phouma: North Vietnam's Foreign Ministry issued a statement broadcast by Hanoi on 20 October "refuting" alleged "lies" attributed to Laotian Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma. The statement claimed that while preparing to meet President Johnson, Souvanna had recently made repeated "slanders" against North Vietnam which "reverse black and white." The North Vietnamese were annoyed at Souvanna's assertions that Northern troops are fighting in Laos.

According to Hanoi, these statements cannot defend US "crimes" such as conducting bombing raids in Laos and "scheming" to bring more US and "satellite" troops into Laos, nor can they cover Souvanna's "collusion" with the US. The statement repeated Hanoi's standard line on Laos--that North Vietnam respects the 1962 Geneva Agreements and demands that the US, the "Vientiane authorities," and other parties concerned do the same.

* * *

First Chinese Reference to Secretary Rusk's Press Conference: A People's Daily Commentary yesterday asserted that President Johnson and Secretary Rusk had recently pressed for negotiations on Vietnam in order to enable the US to gain what it "could not gain on the battlefield." The article quoted Secretary Rusk's comments at his 12 October press conference that any time Hanoi was interested in talks he would immediately set out for negotiations to settle the Vietnam question.

The People's Daily Commentary repeats Peking's standard opposition to US statements concerning negotiations on the war. It is noteworthy in that it contains the first specific reference the Chinese have made to Secretary Rusk's press conference; however, the article avoids any reference to the Secretary's comments on China as a possible danger to world peace.

* * *

Soviet Comment on Hanoi's Engineers: A recent article in the leading Soviet military newspaper talks about bridge construction and traffic movements in North Vietnam.

For one thing, the article claims that the efficiency of North Vietnamese engineering troops has improved greatly. For example, a 100 meter pontoon bridge used to take three hours to set up; now it takes only 26 minutes. Also, 78 vehicles were recently moved across the Red River in three hours as compared with only a couple of dozen a night not so long ago.

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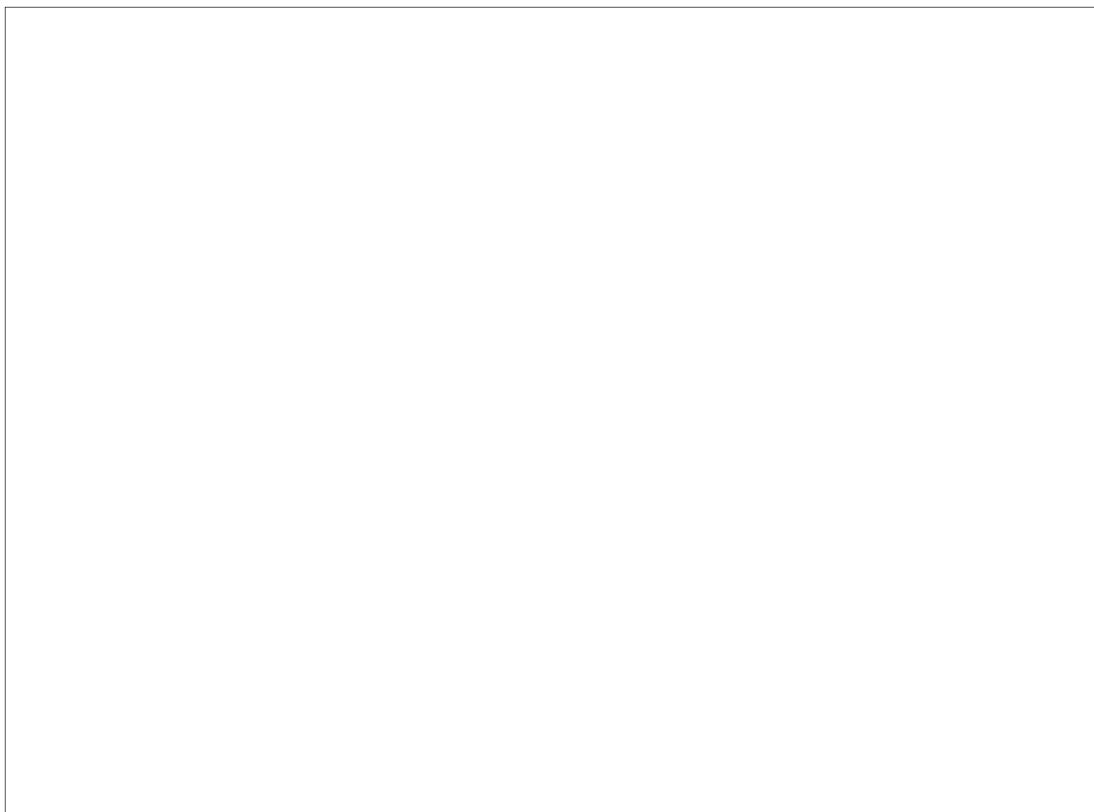
Hanoi Power Plant: Recent photography shows that repairs to the Hanoi Power Plant are proceeding slowly and that the plant cannot be completely restored before the end of the year.

Photography indicates that as of 18 October at least one of the three boilers damaged by air attacks was still unrepairs. In addition, one and possibly two of the plant's six turbine generators remain unrepairs.

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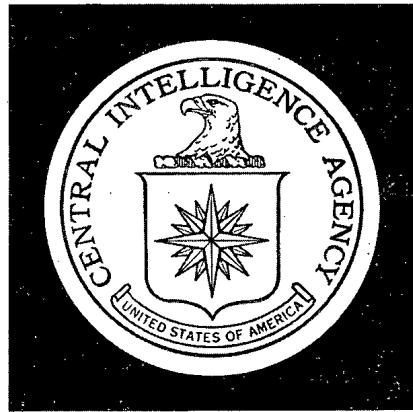


II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

North Vietnamese Line on Embassy Saigon:
Hanoi, in a broadcast beamed to South Vietnam, has quoted a "recent New York Times article" to the effect that Ambassador Bunker--"ringleader of US authorities in Saigon"--has openly ordered his "lackeys Thieu and Ky" to carry out obediently all US instructions and not make any trouble for the Americans. The broadcast went on to assert that the article showed that the US embassy was putting strong pressures on the South Vietnamese government to accept all US political and military policies and claimed that "this brazen and arrogant pressure" was resulting in a strongly developed anti-US movement in all the southern cities.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
23 OCTOBER 1967

1. Middle East

Israel is under great pressure to retaliate for the sinking of its destroyer on Saturday. It is already taking a much harsher line against the Arabs.

The Israeli protest lodged with the UN Security Council did not call for an emergency meeting of that body. This could mean that the Israelis plan a counterstrike before the Council can exercise a restraining influence. The next Israeli move, sure to be a carefully calculated one, was almost certainly discussed at yesterday's cabinet meeting.

The Egyptians are bracing for the expected blow

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2. South Vietnam

About 73 percent of the registered voters cast ballots in yesterday's lower house elections. This very satisfying turnout is only about ten percent lower than that recorded in last month's presidential and senatorial voting.

Viet Cong harassment, minimal throughout the country, did not prevent balloting at any polling place.

3. Communist China

Peking has issued a nation-wide directive ordering the immediate reopening of all schools from primary grades through the universities. This is another big step in the push toward moderation and the return of normality.

Order has been re-established in much of the country, though violence still sputters in a few areas. The army appears to be dealing quickly and firmly with those Red Guard extremists who still resist the reigning in of the Cultural Revolution.

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4. Soviet Union

Moscow has slammed the door on Japanese hopes that it might be willing to talk soon about returning some of the islands seized from Japan at the end of World War II. A Soviet vice foreign minister bluntly told the Japanese ambassador recently that Japanese press speculation on the issue has been wide of the mark, that Moscow regards the islands as Soviet territory and has no intention of giving them back.

5. Latin America

Reports are filtering in on the reaction of Latin American radical leftists to "Che" Guevara's death. These reinforce our view that Guevara's fate was the sharpest psychological blow ever suffered by Castro's guerrilla warfare program in the hemisphere. Extremists are disheartened and the Moscow-line parties now have effective new ammunition for arguing against the Castro guerrilla warfare line.

The defeat in Bolivia comes at a time when rebel groups in Venezuela, Colombia, and Guatemala are also suffering reverses at the hands of the military. Nothing we have seen, however, suggests that Castro has any intention of discontinuing his efforts to export revolution.

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6. South Arabia

The threat of new violence is rising rapidly.

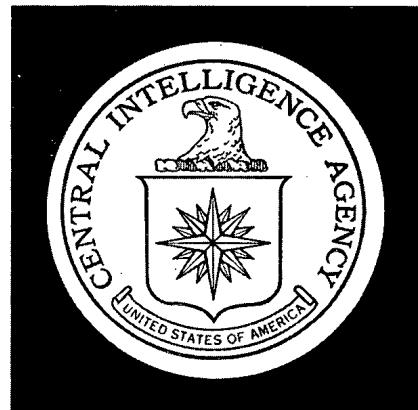
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Much of the tension is being generated by the delay in reaching agreement on a government by the two rival nationalist factions meeting in Cairo. The talks drag on inconclusively as the factions continue jockeying for dominance back home.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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23 October 1967

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

23 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Giap on Soviet and Chinese Aid: The determination of the North Vietnamese to remain neutral in the Sino-Soviet dispute is again evident in an article on Soviet and Chinese aid to Vietnam written for the Soviet military newspaper Red Star by Hanoi's Defense Minister Vo Nguyen Giap. The full text of the article is not yet available in Washington, but it appears from the press dispatches and limited Soviet broadcast excerpts that it was written in connection with the upcoming anniversary celebrations of the Soviet revolution.

According to the press, Giap thanked Moscow and Peking equally for their assistance, describing the backing of both as wholehearted. His decision to underscore Hanoi's position on this question may be related to apparent North Vietnamese fears that Sino-Soviet enmity over each other's policy on the war will again break into the open during the Soviet anniversary fetes, thus embarrassing the Vietnamese who would like to see the two powers close ranks on Vietnam.

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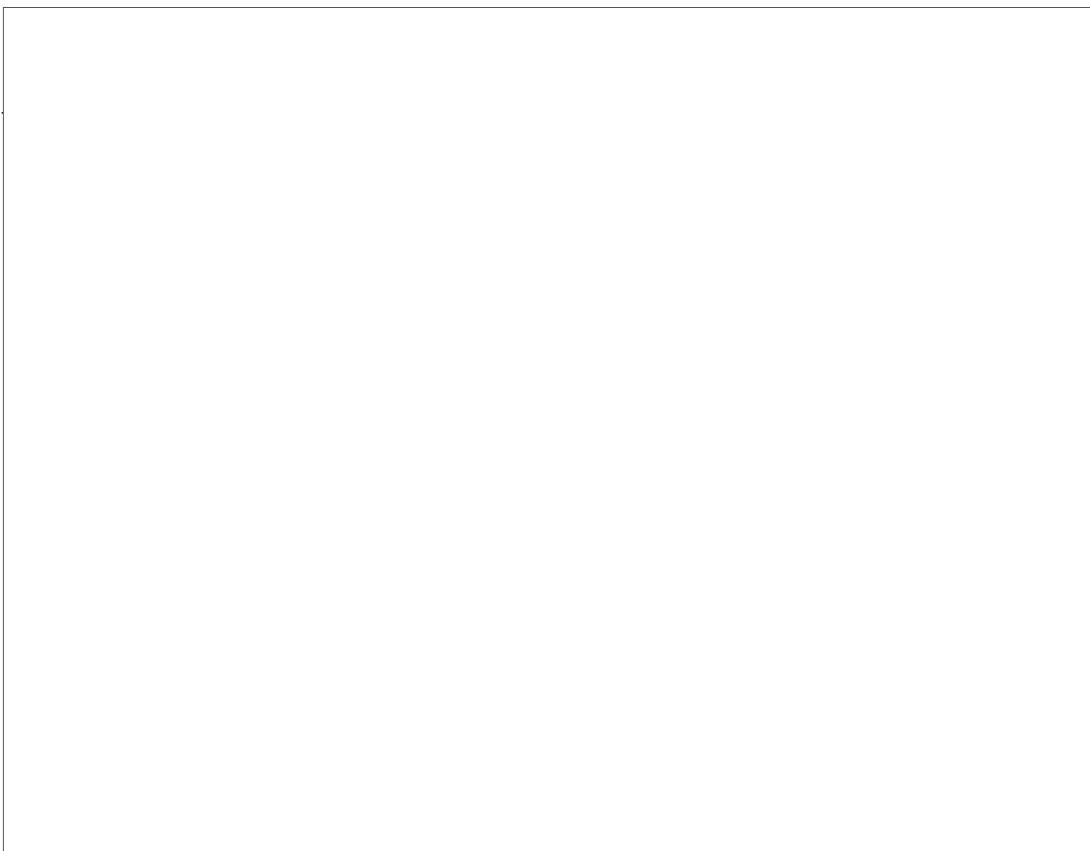
In his Red Star article, Giap made it clear that the Vietnamese regard their war as the central foreign policy issue for the Communist camp at present. "It is through Vietnam," Giap asserted, "that the battlefront of the struggle against aggressive American imperialism...is passing today." This refrain has been a standard theme of the Vietnamese during the past few years in their frequent efforts to enlist more support from the Communist powers.

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Giap claimed that the support so far has reinforced Hanoi's determination to persist in the war and "fulfill" its duty to the socialist camp. As for allied opposition in the war, Giap reiterated his past claims that the bombing has failed and that it cannot stop the North Vietnamese from "supporting their brothers" in the South. This generalized admission of North Vietnamese material backing for the Viet Cong is standard terminology for the North Vietnamese.

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A Soviet News Account of Haiphong Bombing: A Soviet news dispatch goes on at length to describe the "barbaric" US air raids on Haiphong designed to "isolate the city from the rest of the country." He quotes Haiphong city officials as claiming that residential areas, schools, hospitals, industrial enterprises, and transport services have been "wrecked"

by the raids. Transportation is the "main problem," according to the dispatch, and the city is "mobilizing all its forces to solve it." Thanks to this great effort, the report goes on, communication between Haiphong and the rest of the country has never been interrupted.

* * *

A Czech Reporter on Conditions in Hanoi: A Czech news dispatch from Hanoi described the capital as relatively quiet at present, braced for a resumption of US air raids as soon as the weather clears. The Paul Doumer Bridge is described as open to limited traffic. Cars must slow down in places along the bridge where there are "uneven spots" in the road. The dispatch claims that the bridge was repaired with relative speed because the bombing had been foreseen and repair materials had been assembled in the vicinity prior to the bombing.

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Soviet Freighter Captain Claims US Harassment of his Ship: The master of the Soviet freighter Bakuriani, interviewed by an East German reporter in Haiphong, talked of "continuing US provocations" against Soviet merchant vessels in the Tonkin Gulf. He said helicopters of the US Seventh Fleet had circled low over his ship taking photographs and that US warplanes had "constantly" flown over from about 30 miles off Haiphong until the ship reached port.

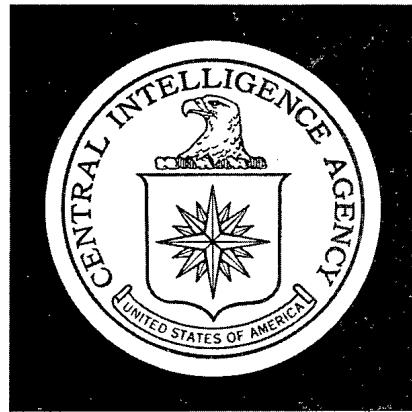
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on the US Antiwar Demonstrations: North Vietnamese propaganda over the weekend contained a steady flow of material designed to exploit the American antiwar protests. The tone of the commentary was set by a 20 October Hanoi broadcast containing the remarks of Premier Pham Van Dong to a US antiwar group which has been visiting Hanoi. Dong called the American demonstrations part of the "common struggle" by the Vietnamese against US "aggression"

in Vietnam and termed the protesters "comrades in arms" with the Vietnamese.

Although the recent Hanoi commentary on the demonstrations has been plentiful in volume, it has not been phrased in such a way as to suggest that the North Vietnamese are changing their assessment of the effectiveness of the protests. The evidence indicates strongly that they still regard antiwar sentiment in the US as important, but not a determining influence on American policy. US strategy in Vietnam, Hanoi apparently estimates, will continue to be shaped primarily by the development of the military and political situations within South Vietnam and by the balance of forces there between the Communists and the allies.

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~~Top Secret~~ 24 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
24 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Nearly complete, but unofficial, returns show Catholics doing well in the lower house elections. Catholic candidates (who will probably work well with Thieu) have taken about 20 percent of the seats. Official returns will be released on Thursday.

About 20 Buddhists have also won, but in most cases it is not known whether they are actively aligned with the militant or moderate factions of the Buddhist church. In Saigon, however, two of the winners are very probably connected with the militants.

Former province chiefs, army officers, and other officials--most of whom are likely to be friendly to the government--have also done well, and nearly 20 Constituent Assembly deputies have been returned. Ethnic Chinese swept all four of the seats in one Saigon electoral district.

2. North Vietnam

3. Israel

Tel Aviv almost certainly feels its Navy has lost face, and that letting the Egyptian action go unavenged would encourage the Arabs to further military action. Any retaliatory action--and we think an air raid the most likely--would probably be against Egypt alone. The Israelis would probably prefer to strike the Egyptian Navy, but its ships are being dispersed. Air strikes against naval bases would be a logical second choice.

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4. Soviet Union

A major space event appears likely on 25 or 26 October.

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We believe the event canceled in September was a circumlunar flight with a return to earth landing. The Soviets will probably call the same play again, using an unmanned Soyuz capsule.

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5. India

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6. Soviet Union

Moscow seems to be encouraging Nigeria to ask for economic assistance.

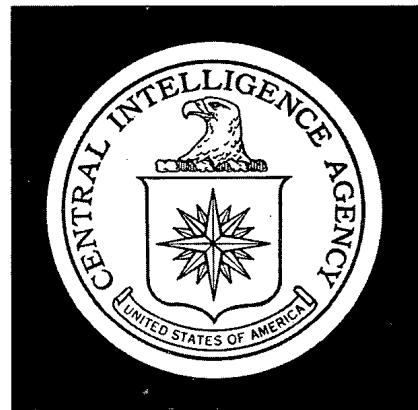
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Lagos has not yet reacted officially. But we doubt that the Nigerians, who insist that the military assistance Moscow provided last summer was a purely commercial deal, are ready to accept economic assistance. This picture could change, however, if Nigeria's traditional sources of assistance falter in the aftermath of the war with Biafra.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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24 October 1967

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

24 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Hanoi Prepares for Soviet Anniversary: North Vietnam is stepping up its activities in preparation for the Soviet Union's 50th anniversary next month, according to a recent Hanoi broadcast. An "emulation drive" has been launched within the armed forces and among the civilian population to record achievements in honor of the "grand date." A number of talks on the Russian Revolution have been held and many books on the subject have recently been published in North Vietnam. In addition, Hanoi has issued four commemorative stamps in honor of the occasion. North Vietnamese delegations have even been sent to the Soviet Union to attend seminars on the revolution.

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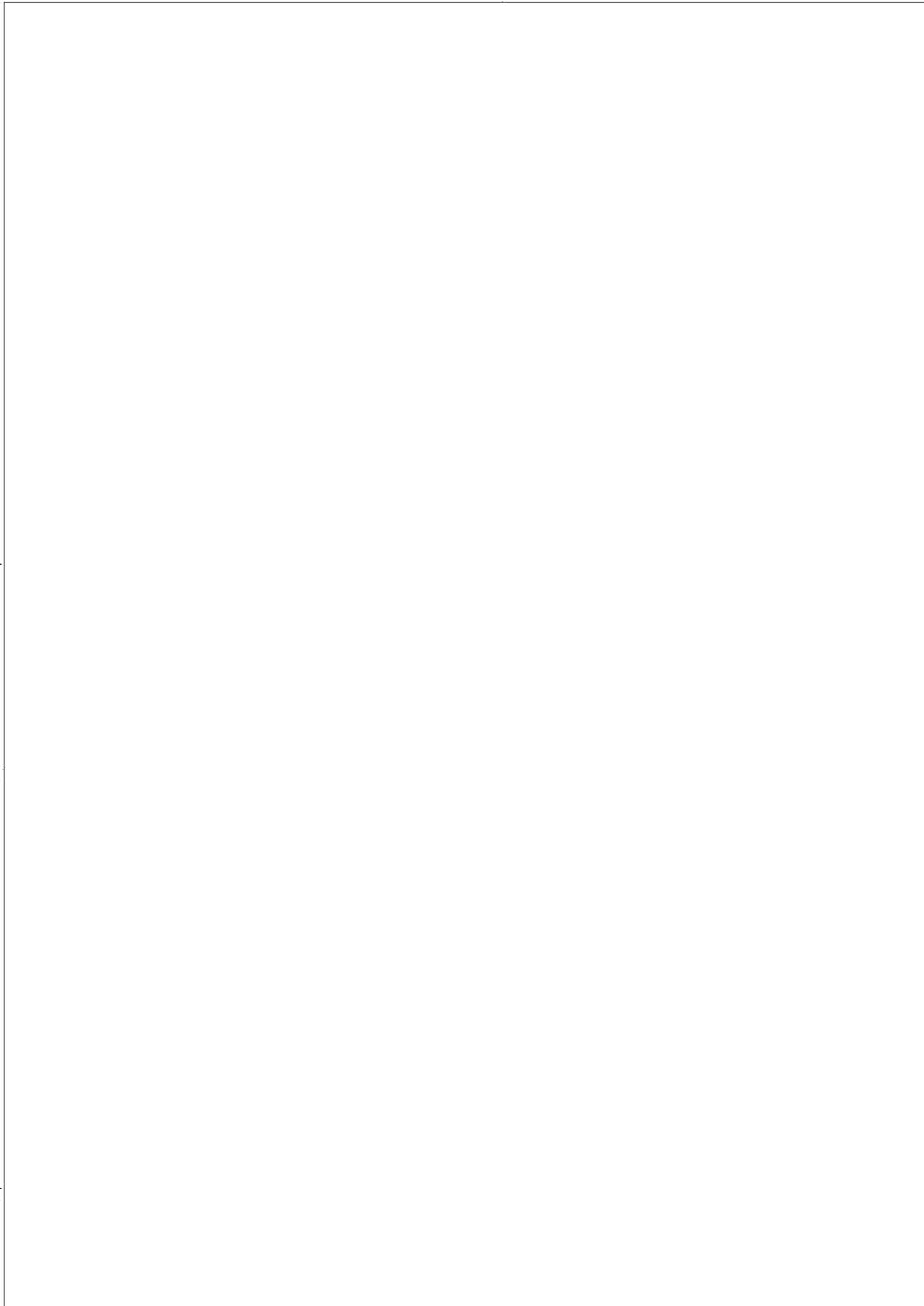
More Indonesian Accounts of Hanoi's Position:

The US embassies in Djakarta and Vientiane both have passed along accounts of Hanoi's position on negotiations from the Indonesian ambassador in North Vietnam. Both reports confirm earlier indications that the Indonesian ambassador is often imprecise in his analysis of Hanoi's actual stand on important matters. In one cable to his home office which was shown our ambassador to Djakarta by the Indonesian foreign minister, the Indonesian ambassador reported that Rumanian Premier Maurer on his recent trip to Hanoi received no reply when he inquired as to whether a cessation of US bombing would result in a reciprocal gesture from Hanoi. Yet the Indonesian told Ambassador Sullivan that Maurer received "positive" assurances that talks would take place soon if the bombing stopped.

In his 23 October conversation with US Ambassador Sullivan in Vientiane, the Indonesian ambassador to Hanoi claimed that North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong and Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh had taken a hard line against negotiations with him in late September, but he veered back toward the standard Indonesian line that talks may yet be in the offing by telling Ambassador Sullivan that he saw some "nuances" in the Burchett article from Hanoi which he felt constituted "forward movement" on North Vietnam's part. The "nuances" he mentioned, however, turn out to be either misreadings of Burchett or insignificant semantic problems.

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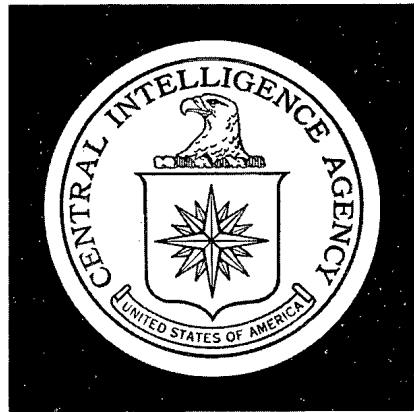
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Further Hanoi Commentary on Antiwar Rally: A Hanoi broadcast on Sunday quoted "Western reports" stating that last weekend's demonstrations in Washington involved about 200,000 people and represented the largest antiwar rally in the US capital's history. The broadcast asserted that Washington was a "besieged city"--saying that it took 4,800 police and national guardsmen, 4,000 military police, and 6,000 paratroopers to suppress the demonstrators. It claimed that the Pentagon was turned into a "barbed wire-ringed fortress," but all "repressive measures" could not prevent the people from demonstrating against the US "dirty war" in Vietnam. The broadcast also reported that hundreds of thousands of demonstrators marched in protest against US "aggression" in European and Asian cities last Saturday.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 25 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
25 OCTOBER 1967

1. Israel-Egypt

Israel's shelling of the two Egyptian oil refineries at Suez yesterday probably will not satisfy Israeli desire to avenge the sinking of the Eilat.

The Israeli decision to shell the refineries, however, was almost certainly in part a response to the attack on the Israeli destroyer. The refineries turned out an estimated 114,000 barrels per day, two thirds of Egypt's daily output of petroleum products.

Extensive damage to these facilities would force Egypt to spend scarce foreign exchange to buy refined products. This would be a severe blow to its already weakened economy. No assessment of the actual damage, however, is yet available.

There is no evidence to confirm Egypt's claim of shooting down an Israeli Mirage fighter.

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2. Israel-Jordan

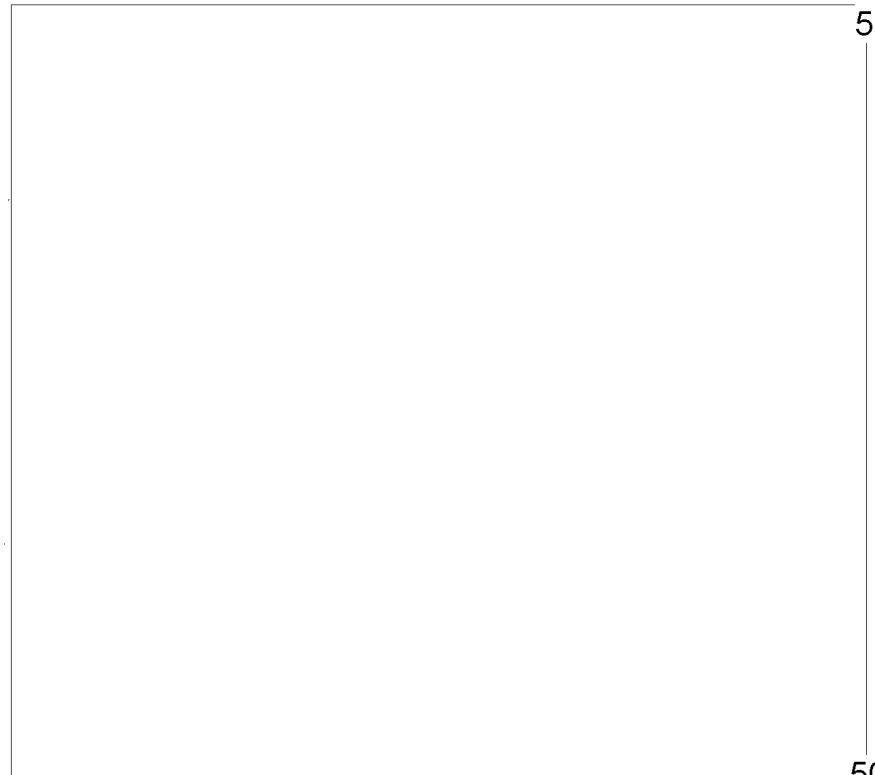


3. Soviet Union



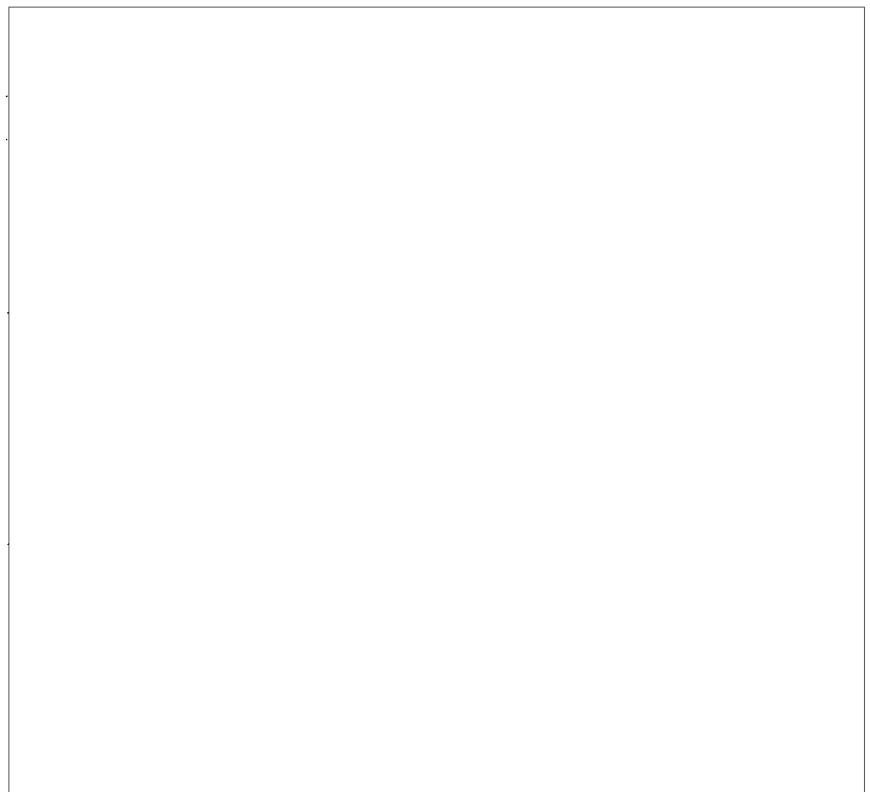
4. India - Pakistan -
Soviet Union

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5. France



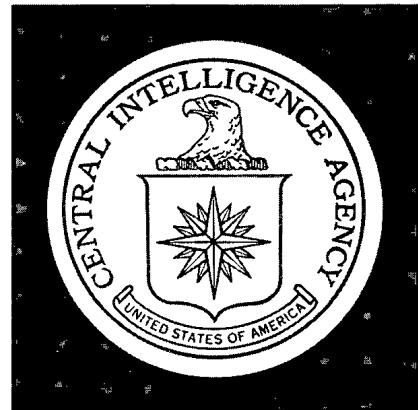
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6. Greece

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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25 October 1967

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

25 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Coal Exports: Coal shipments from Hon Gai north of Haiphong continue. Although the export cargoes tend to fluctuate from month to month, they have averaged 11,200 tons each month since the first of the year. Some problems are apparently being encountered in processing coal for shipment.

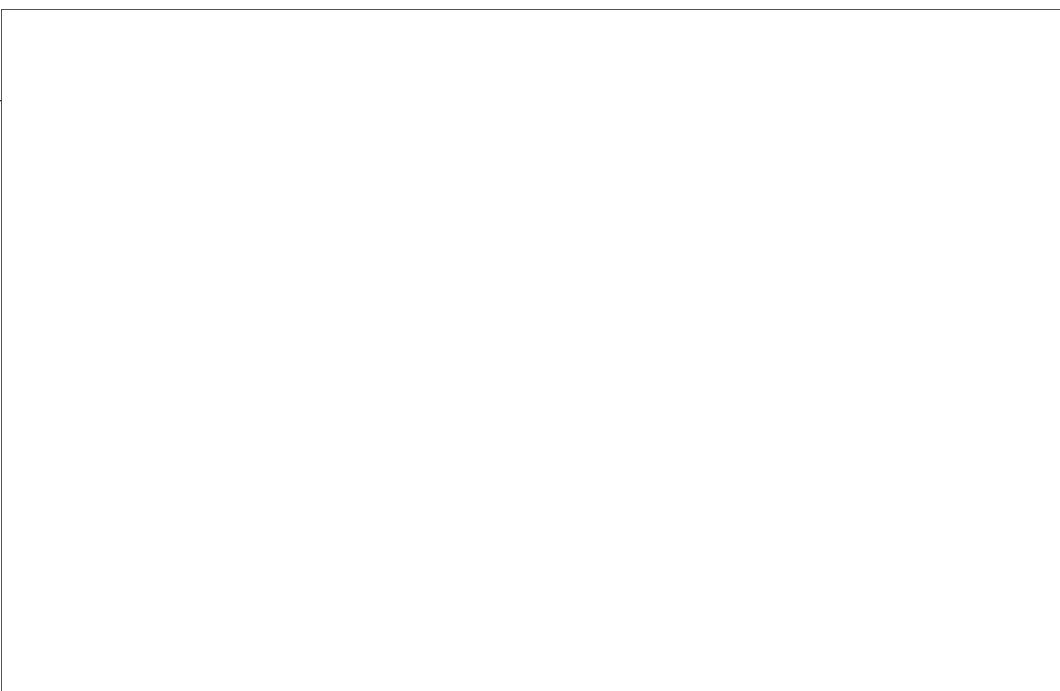
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Shipments from Cam Pha, North Vietnam's other major coal-loading point, have dropped off steadily this year. From a January figure of 62,000 tons, they were down to just over 1,000 tons at the end of September. The port, however, probably could handle more.

This year coal has accounted for 75 percent of North Vietnam's seaborne exports.

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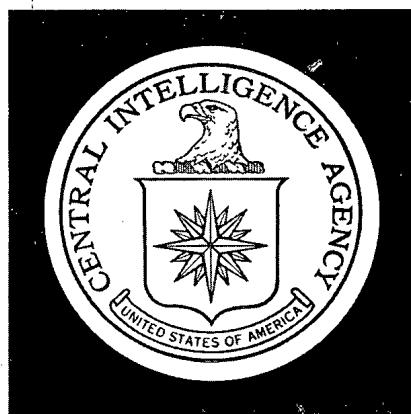
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Continues to Play Up US Antiwar Demonstrations: A 23 October Hanoi international service broadcast in English reported that 200 American youths held a demonstration in front of the White House on Sunday and clashed with police sent to quash their demands. The broadcast quoted an Associated Press article to the effect that at least 400 people were arrested during the weekend demonstrations. Hanoi also cited "foreign news agency reports" of "desperate acts of repression" by the administration against the demonstrators. The broadcast claimed that in addition to

nightsticks, bayonets, and rifle butts, the administration ordered the use of tear gas and a temporarily blinding chemical liquid to "repress" the demonstrators.

Another 23 October Hanoi international broadcast in English stated that a committee for "solidarity" with the American people held a mass meeting somewhere in South Vietnam on 21 October. The meeting was called to welcome the antiwar demonstrations in the US. According to Hanoi, it passed a resolution praising the "staunch spirit of struggle" of the American people.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 26 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
26 OCTOBER 1967

1. North Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

The 137 deputies elected to the lower house last Sunday seem to cover a broad spectrum of religious, occupational, regional, and political colorations. Thirty-five are Catholics and 46 are Buddhists. Only a few of the latter are clearly identified with either the militant or the Buddhist moderate factions; most may be just nominal Buddhists unresponsive to either faction.

By regional origin, 32 are North Vietnamese, 44 come from the central part of the country, and 57 from the area around Saigon and the Delta. Active or retired military men account for only 34 of the 137 total.

3. Peru

President Belaunde told Ambassador Jones on Tuesday that Peru would not back out of the deal to buy French Mirage fighter-bombers. Belaunde said it was a waste of time to discuss substituting F-5s. He added that if this meant an end to economic relations between Peru and the US, the sooner he knew about it the better.

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4. Egypt

Eyewitnesses describe the destruction at the Suez refinery as "extensive if not total." Production facilities are completely out of commission, at least temporarily, and perhaps half of Egypt's storage capacity has been destroyed or damaged. Rebuilding may take two years.

Petroleum provides about two thirds of Egypt's total energy requirements, so a very large share of the country's remaining industrial production will suffer. To keep its present level of consumption, Egypt would have to import about \$5 million worth of refined products each month.

All in all, the damage done by Israeli shelling is a major blow to the Egyptian economy.

5. Chile

We are expecting some anti-American demonstrations in Chile early next week when assorted youth groups hold a three-day "conference" on Vietnam. These groups represent various shades of the political left; Communist organizers have been imported. While there reportedly will be an effort to restrain violence, volatile Latin youngsters could get out of hand very quickly.

6. Greece

The few Communist extremists who have not yet been caught in the junta's nets may try to stir up trouble Saturday when Greeks celebrate "Oxi" Day.

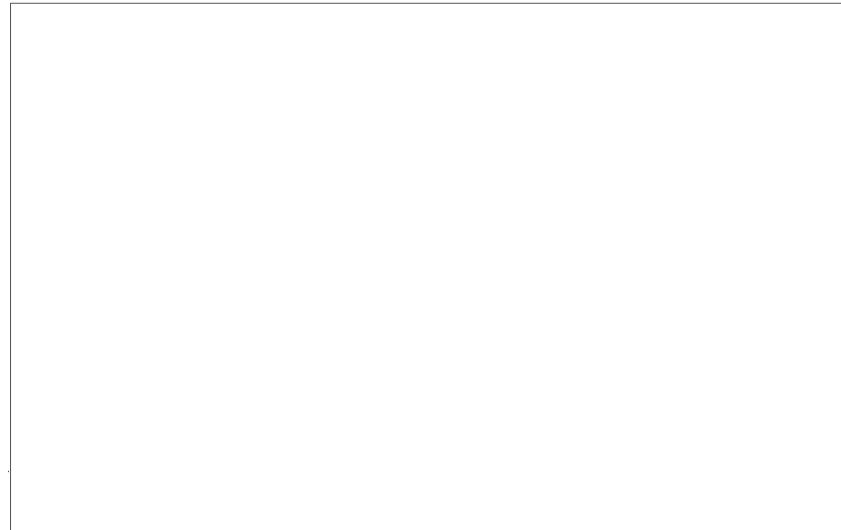
Oxi means "no" and is a national holiday marking the date in 1940 when Mussolini's ultimatum was rejected. The military regime will be very much on the alert.

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7. Communist China

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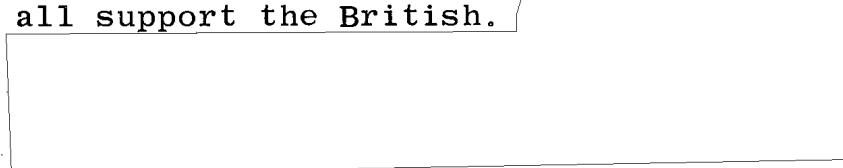


8. Congo

There are one or two hundred European mercenaries in Portuguese Angola, and Ambassador McBride in Kinshasa is quite concerned they may invade the western Congo. These mercenaries could move north and take the Congolese capital with little opposition, but so far they have given few indications of when--or if--they plan to move. The ambassador's concern is sharpened by the slow, bureaucratic pace with which the International Red Cross is working on evacuation of Schramme's mercenaries from the eastern Congo.

9. United Kingdom

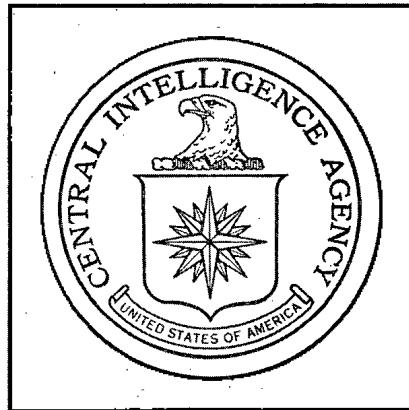
The meeting of the European Community's Council in Luxembourg earlier this week left the sides as sharply drawn as ever over Britain's bid for membership. Without flatly saying no, the French left no doubt as to their strong and continuing opposition. The other five members all support the British.



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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

Top Secret

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15

26 October 1967

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

26 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Photography of North Vietnam:

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graphs [redacted] showed no unusual buildup of supplies in Haiphong. This indicates that the North Vietnamese had still been able to move supplies out of the port city. The pictures do show, however, that the Hanoi-Haiphong rail line remains blocked at Haiphong and at a point midway between the two cities.

The mission found no evidence of surface-to-surface missile deployment.

* * *

AFP on Bombings in Hanoi Area: The French news agency correspondent in Hanoi has reported on yesterday's bombing raids near the city. The article states that US planes dropped their loads straight above the center of the city, but that the bombs angled north, falling around the Paul Doumer Bridge and farther north. The report claims that bombs fell in a residential area and states that it was announced that a projectile hit offices of the Government Cultural Services. The article also notes that the population of Hanoi watched as two planes were shot down, one by a surface-to-air missile and the other by antiaircraft fire. The correspondent said one span of the Doumer bridge had "sunk sideways into the water."

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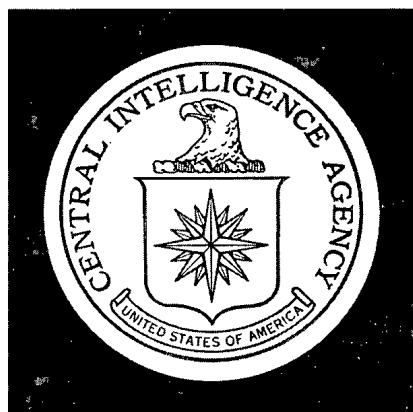
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Further Hanoi Commentary on US Antiwar Movement: North Vietnam is maintaining a drumbeat of propaganda on the antiwar movement in the US. The Hanoi daily Nhan Dan, in a 25 October editorial, asserts that the movement "has taken an important step forward" through the recent week of nationwide protest. The editorial notes the "unprecedented scale and fierceness" of the demonstrations and claims that the American people have made it clear that the US is conducting an "immoral and criminal" war in Vietnam. Hanoi exults that President Johnson's administration has shown "utter confusion" in the face of the widespread demonstrations, and predicts "still stronger development" of the antiwar movement in the months ahead. The Nhan Dan editorial concludes with an assertion that by coordinating actions and "stepping up the struggle" the Vietnamese and American people can defeat the US "aggressors."

The Army daily, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, in a 24 October article, also gloats over the recent demonstrations. The article claims that they have occurred in more than 30 major US cities and have dealt "new staggering blows" to the US administration. The administration is described as "frenzied and panic stricken" and the article claims that "flagrant and barbaric terrorism and repression" were used against the demonstrators.

A 25 October Hanoi broadcast in English reports that a mass meeting was held in Hanoi the previous evening to "welcome the success" of the antiwar demonstrations in the US. The keynote speaker at the meeting stated that the US antiwar movement is a "great encouragement" to the Vietnamese people and is "driving US imperialism into further isolation." The meeting sent a message to an antiwar group in the US, hailing their recent success and condemning the "fascist suppression" of the demonstrations by US authorities.

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DAILY BRIEF
27 OCTOBER 1967

1. Soviet Union -
Middle East

[REDACTED] Moscow is
"annoyed" at the sinking of the Israeli
destroyer and the refinery shelling.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
Renewal of fighting on any scale
would delay withdrawal of Israeli troops,
one of Moscow's main goals since the end
of the six-day war. The Soviets are also
anxious to have the Suez Canal reopened.

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[REDACTED]
Egyptian newspapers are claiming
that three Soviet naval vessels will ar-
rive in Port Said today.

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[REDACTED]

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2. United Kingdom -
Egypt

The two countries have agreed to restore full diplomatic relations some time during the first half of December.

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3. South Vietnam

President-elect Thieu will finally announce Nguyen Van Loc as prime minister at the inaugural ceremonies on 31 October. Loc is Ky's candidate for the post.

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4. South Korea

An angry President Pak, fed up with opposition stalling, has publicly slammed the door on further government concessions to end the opposition's five-month-old boycott of the legislature. The squabble is now likely to heat up, with opposition hard-liners calling for street demonstrations.

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5. Indonesia

Djakarta is suspending diplomatic relations with Peking. This stops just short of a formal break, but involves closing the Indonesian Embassy in Peking. Chinese diplomats in Indonesia have been told to pack up and get out by next Monday.

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6. Ecuador

Extremists are planning to rally in Quito this evening to protest the death of "Che" Guevara. The US and Bolivian embassies are targets and some incidents are likely.

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7. Peru

President Belaunde has his back to the wall as strikes over high living costs edge closer to widespread violence. Military leaders, still the final political arbiters in Peru, are predicting a military takeover unless present trends are quickly reversed.

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[redacted] a military regime would most likely shift the country's international orientation away from the US and toward Western Europe, particularly France. The French have, in fact, been increasing their influence among Peruvian officers, partly because of the recent sale of Mirage fighter-bombers.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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27 October 1967

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

27 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Preliminary Assessment of Recent Bomb Damage:
Photography of Phuc Yen taken yesterday shows 47 new craters on the runway, heavy damage to taxiways and parking aprons, and five destroyed MIG-15/17s.
Earlier photographs showed at least one MIG-21 destroyed and several others damaged. Four more MIGs have been shot down in air engagements since Tuesday.

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In poststrike photography of the Paul Doumer Bridge, two sections near the center appear to be down and a third section near the northern approach also appears damaged. Altogether, the new damage seems about equivalent to that of last August, which required about six weeks to repair for limited traffic.

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Hanoi Avoids Comment on Phuc Yen Raids: North Vietnamese propaganda has made no mention as yet of the two successive days of air strikes against Phuc Yen airfield. Rather, Hanoi has predictably charged that the raids were targeted against populated areas in the center of Hanoi. An international broadcast in English on 25 October claimed that these latest raids have been particularly savage in employing steel pellet bombs on a number of civilian sections of the city. Hanoi's silence is not unusual, however; the North Vietnamese have never mentioned earlier strikes against other airfields.

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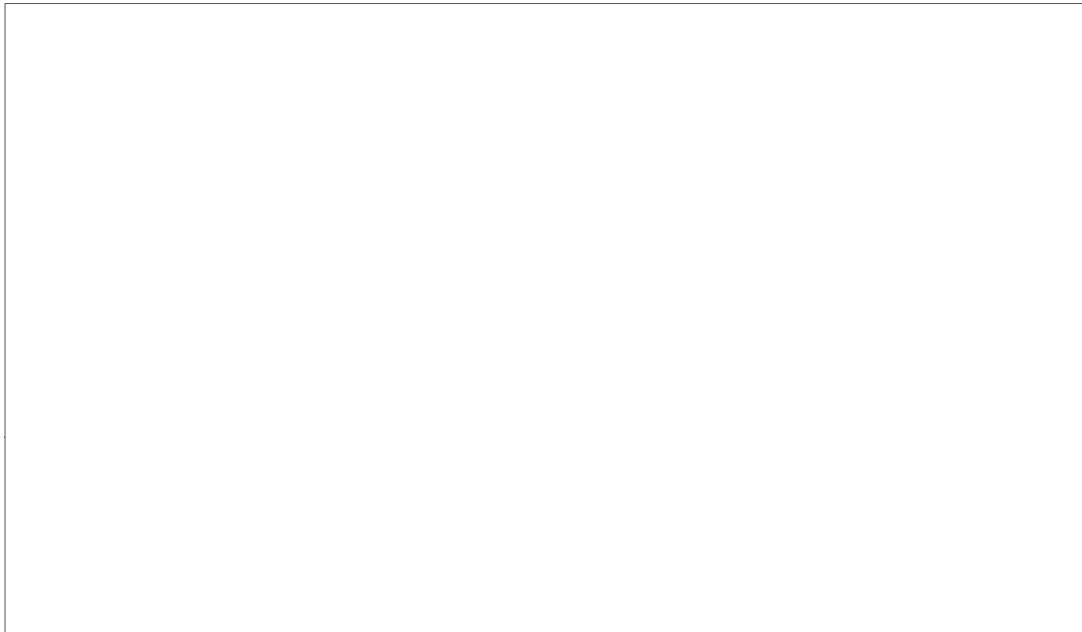
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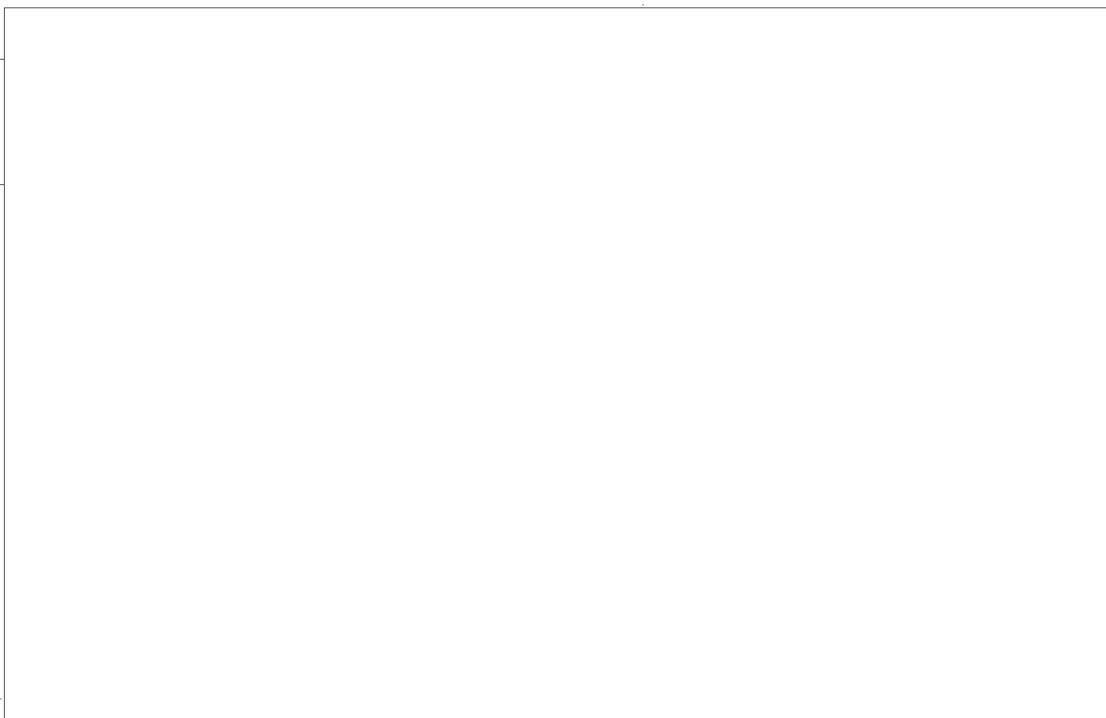
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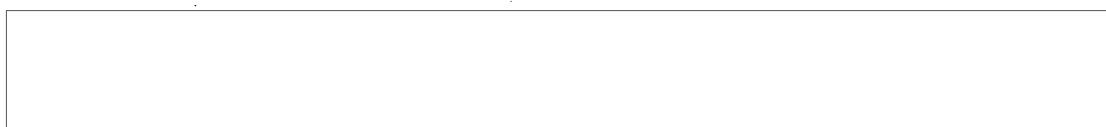
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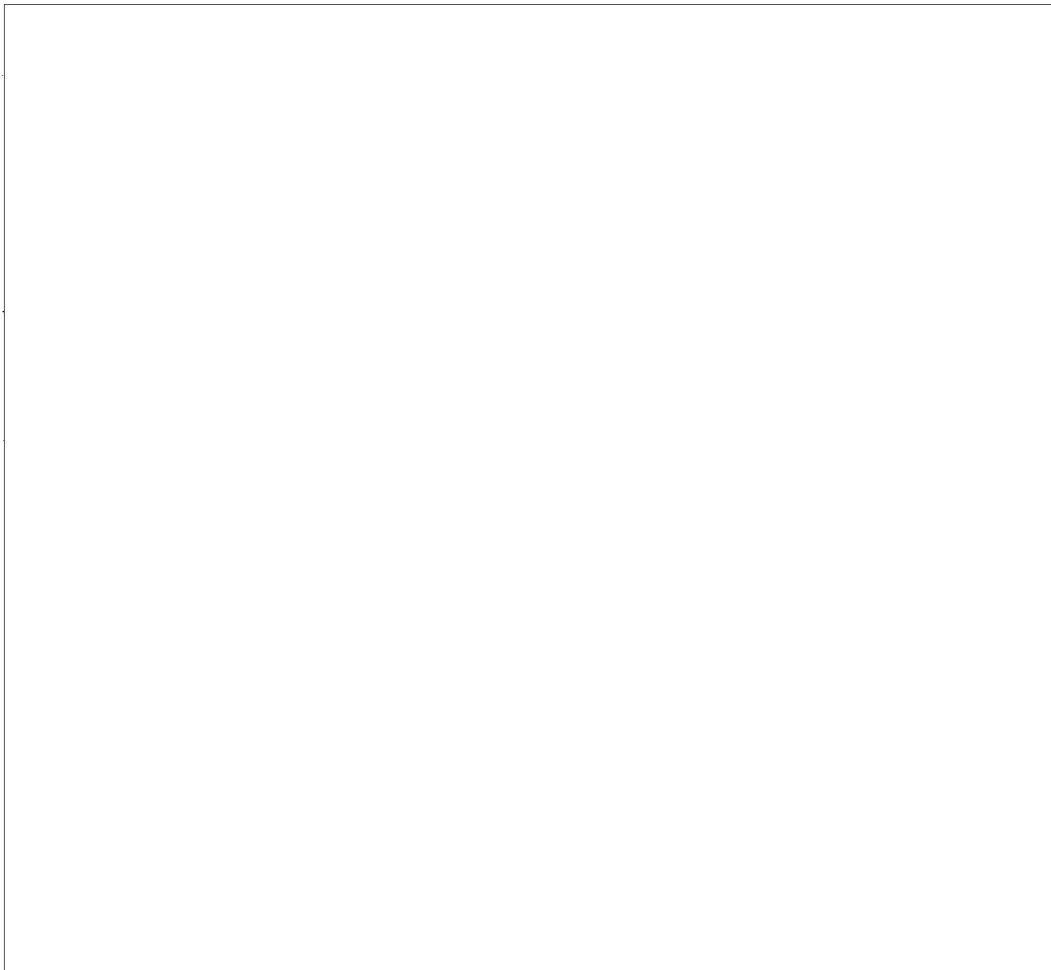
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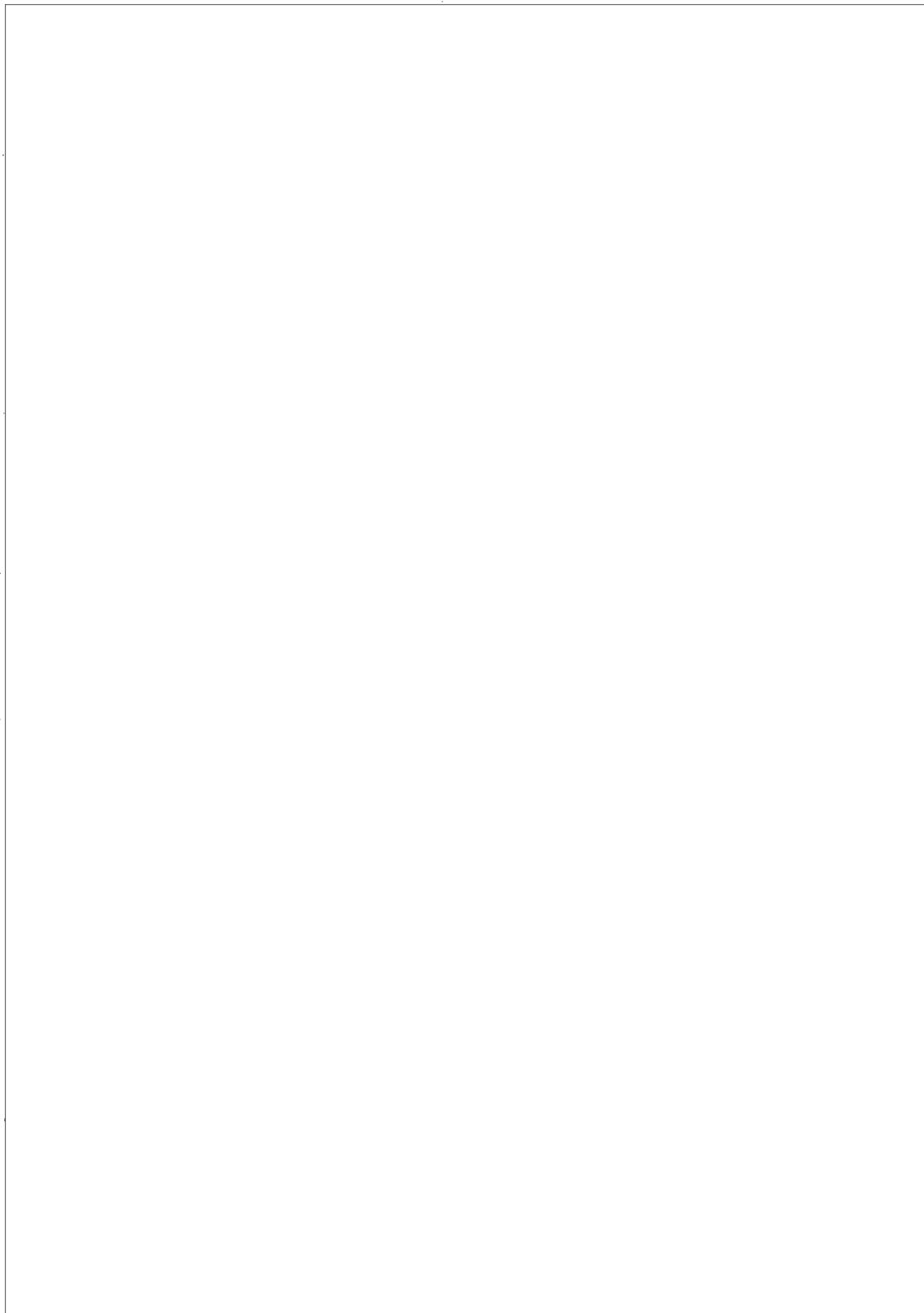
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French Official's Comments on North's Attitudes: Etienne Manac'h, the chief of the Far East Section of the French Foreign Office, has told US Embassy officials of a talk he had with Mai Van Bo, Hanoi's representative in Paris, on 6 October. In discussing President Johnson's speech of 29 September, Manac'h commented that in his view the portion calling for "reciprocity" was more flexible than any previous US statement. Bo's rejoinder was that there was nothing new in the speech and that its effect on North Vietnam was "nil" because the US was still demanding preconditions for a bombing halt. On the basis of his conversation with Bo, Manac'h felt that Hanoi's present position on entering into a dialogue with the US was "very hard."

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Manac'h also informed the embassy that North Vietnamese Party First Secretary Le Duan was currently in Moscow, where he would probably remain until the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

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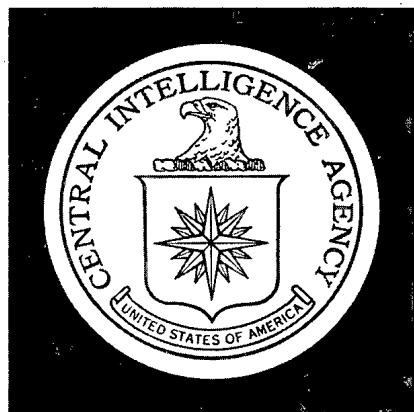
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 28 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
28 OCTOBER 1967

1. North Vietnam

North Vietnam lost or evacuated nearly all of its fighters as a result of US air action during 24-27 October.

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North Vietnam still has substantial reserves of fighter aircraft in China and presumably could receive additional MIGs from Peking if requested. Hanoi's ability to resume fighter operations will depend less on the repair of runways and revetments than on the replacement of equipment and personnel probably lost in the raids on Phuc Yen.

2. Laos

The annual movement of supplies from North Vietnam into the Laos panhandle appears to be under way as the rainy season draws to a close. Supplies moved through the panhandle road network are estimated to have risen during each of the past three years, reaching a high of about 30,000 tons during the 1966-67 season. The Communists probably intend to ship this much or more during the coming dry period.

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3. Soviet Union

The launch yesterday of a Soyuz-type spacecraft probably means that Soviet manned space flights could resume in the near future--possibly before the anniversary celebrations next month.

This is the first launch directly connected with the manned space program since the death of the Russian cosmonaut last April. It is probably a check-out of modifications and improvements made as a result of the investigation of the Soyuz disaster.

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4. Soviet Union

Disagreement in the Soviet leadership over economic priorities has again broken into the open. Politburo member Dmitri Polyansky, the top agricultural man, has written an article saying that agricultural investment is being slighted.

Polyansky makes this statement just after the economic plan for 1968 and projections for 1969-70 have been made public. His statement of dissent now--after the government has formulated its policy--is a rather venturesome move. We suspect he lost out in the Politburo voting on next year's plan, but that he intends to resume the debate in hopes of changing the 1969-70 figures which are still not firm.

Polyansky fails to say with whom in particular he is arguing; we surmise it is Kosygin who has been pushing consumer goods--not agriculture--in recent statements.

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5. Soviet Union -
Middle East



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6. Common Market



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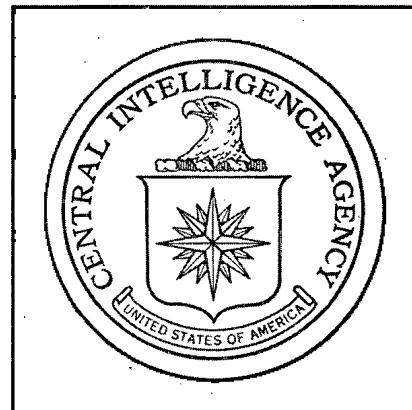
7. Denmark

Despite official disapproval, the organizers of the second session of Bertrand Russell's "International War Crimes Tribunal" have succeeded in securing facilities outside Copenhagen for its meeting in late November. The decision to hold this meeting in Denmark has created difficulties for Prime Minister Krag who, although he finds the whole business personally distasteful, has taken the position that he cannot legally prevent it.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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28 October 1967

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

28 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Maurer on His Trip to Hanoi: Rumanian Prime Minister Maurer in a 25 October conversation with the American ambassador in Bucharest gave a detailed account of the impressions he formed during his recent, secret trip to North Vietnam. Maurer's basic conclusion from his four days in Hanoi was that the North Vietnamese are now more flexible in their attitude toward negotiations and that there definitely would be talks if the US unilaterally and unconditionally stopped the bombings without demanding any form of reciprocity or prior guarantee of such talks.

The Rumanian offered no evidence for his assertions that talks will follow a bombing cessation, and he does not appear to have been given any assurances in this regard by the North Vietnamese. Rather, his report, taken together with other recent information on his trip, suggests that Hanoi's current position on the war is the same now as it was when first outlined last January by Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh--there could be talks with the US if the bombing is stopped unconditionally.

Maurer's account of his visit was almost deliberately optimistic but showed in the last analysis that the North Vietnamese are taking their usual inflexible stand even in conversations with their allies. Maurer's testimony makes it clear that not only will there be no reciprocity on Hanoi's part for a bombing halt, but that the North Vietnamese intend to continue fighting in the south and to maintain their supply operations to their forces in South Vietnam during any talks.

Maurer also spelled out in terms unusually frank for a Communist leader the fact that the Communists believe once talks begin, the pressures on the US for compromises leading to an end of the war will be irresistible. This, of course, is what Hanoi has in

mind by insisting that the fighting in the south will continue while talks are being conducted.

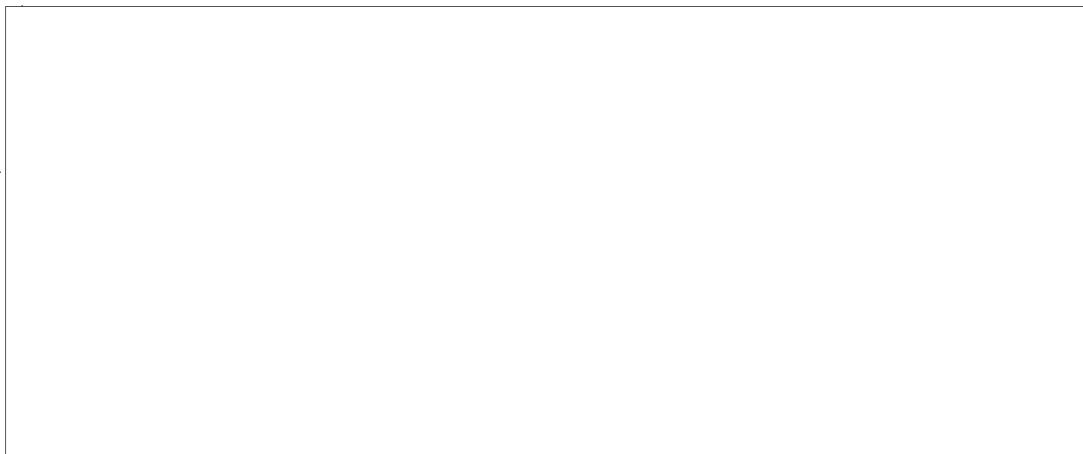
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More from Nobel Committee: Duncan Wood, a member of the Nobel prize committee, has passed along to the US mission in Geneva some more observations on talks held earlier this month with Vietnamese Communist representatives in Moscow. Wood expressed general discouragement at the negative results of the meetings, which were initiated by the Nobel group to sound out the Communists on prospects for a negotiated settlement of the war.

Wood's comments indicate the group was given a hard-line position by the Vietnamese. The North Vietnamese ambassador, for example, made it quite clear that in any future talks with the US, there could be no discussion of matters related to South Vietnam. In response to Wood's question about what postbombing talks might entail, the ambassador replied: "Oh, we'd talk about relations between our two countries."

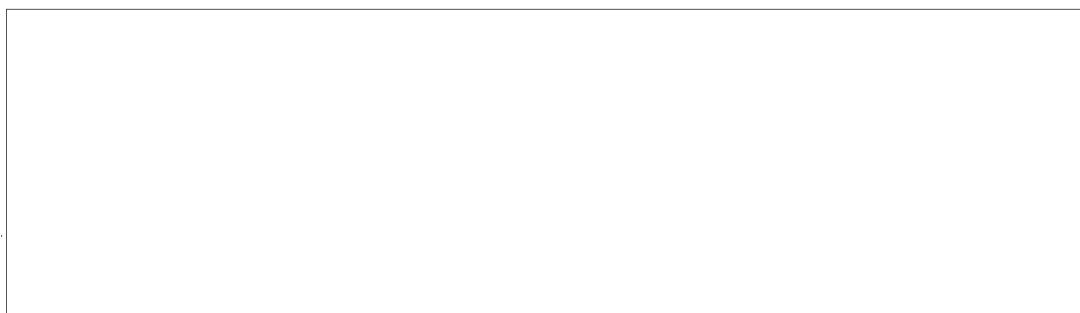
Wood also apparently received the standard Communist line on the future of South Vietnam as most recently outlined in the new program of the Liberation Front. He was told that North Vietnam would accept an "independent, democratic, neutral, prosperous South Vietnam with reunification a matter to be discussed between the North and South." Wood expressed a realistic assessment of this position in stating that in his understanding, an "independent and democratic" government meant a coalition of elements in the south "who had seen the light" and were acceptable to the Liberation Front.

Wood received no response when he asked the Communist representatives if a provisional executive might be set up during a cease-fire period and whether, if the bombings were stopped, they would discuss in negotiations with the US the mutual freezing of forces in the south.



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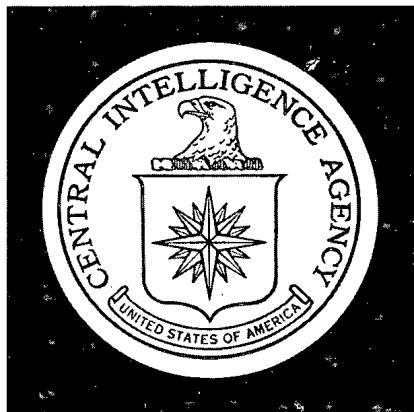
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Hanoi Continues to Send Students Abroad: Despite the demands which the war has made on its manpower, North Vietnam continues to send students abroad for training. A 24 October Hungarian broadcast reported that 332 students had arrived in Budapest to receive training in the chemical and telecommunication industries or to study at Hungarian universities. The group is part of some 1,000 North Vietnamese students who will receive training in Hungary during a three-year period.

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

Nothing of significance to report.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 October 1967



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LATE ITEM

Soviet Union

Early this morning, the Soviets launched what appears to be another unmanned Soyuz-type spacecraft. We suspect there will be an attempt to rendezvous with the Soyuz capsule now in orbit. All this looks very much like a dress rehearsal for a manned event, perhaps within the next few days.

DAILY BRIEF
30 OCTOBER 1967

1. North Vietnam

Phuc Yen airfield appears to be back in service, at least for limited fighter operations. A first look at high-altitude photography from a mission flown early Saturday morning shows all craters on the main runway filled and the runway apparently usable. Intercepted messages scheduling MIG-17 flights out of Phuc Yen on Saturday and Sunday back up the evidence in the photography.

While fighters may be able to land and take off from Phuc Yen, there are not many left around to do so. Judging from the photography, there may have been only six MIGs in North Vietnam capable of getting into the air Saturday morning. The weekend flight schedules out of Phuc Yen indicate some of those have gone to China.

Aside from one bomb crater in the area, there was no visible damage to the Hanoi power plant. No smoke, however, was coming from any of the boiler-house stacks.

The Canal des Rapides and Lang Son bridges were both heavily damaged, with spans destroyed.

2. Soviet Union

The Soviets have made no attempt to bring down the unmanned Soyuz-type spacecraft they launched on Friday.

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3. Soviet Union

On Saturday the Soviets had another successful test of their fractional orbit bombardment weapon, the SS-X-6. The payload made nearly a full revolution around the earth before it was brought down in the Soviet Union. This shot is the seventh success in a row.

4. South Vietnam

Thieu is still revising his inaugural address, but he intends to steer clear of using the speech to commit his government to a detailed set of goals. He told an American official on Saturday that the Vietnamese people have listened to too many speeches loaded with promises later broken. Thieu said his address would be brief and touch only lightly on general policies.

Thieu hopes to get the new cabinet installed about 3 November, and at that time he plans to issue a statement outlining government programs for the next four years.

There is still some chance that the militant Buddhists may try to embarrass the government during the inauguration

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5. Jordan

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6. France

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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30 October 1967

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

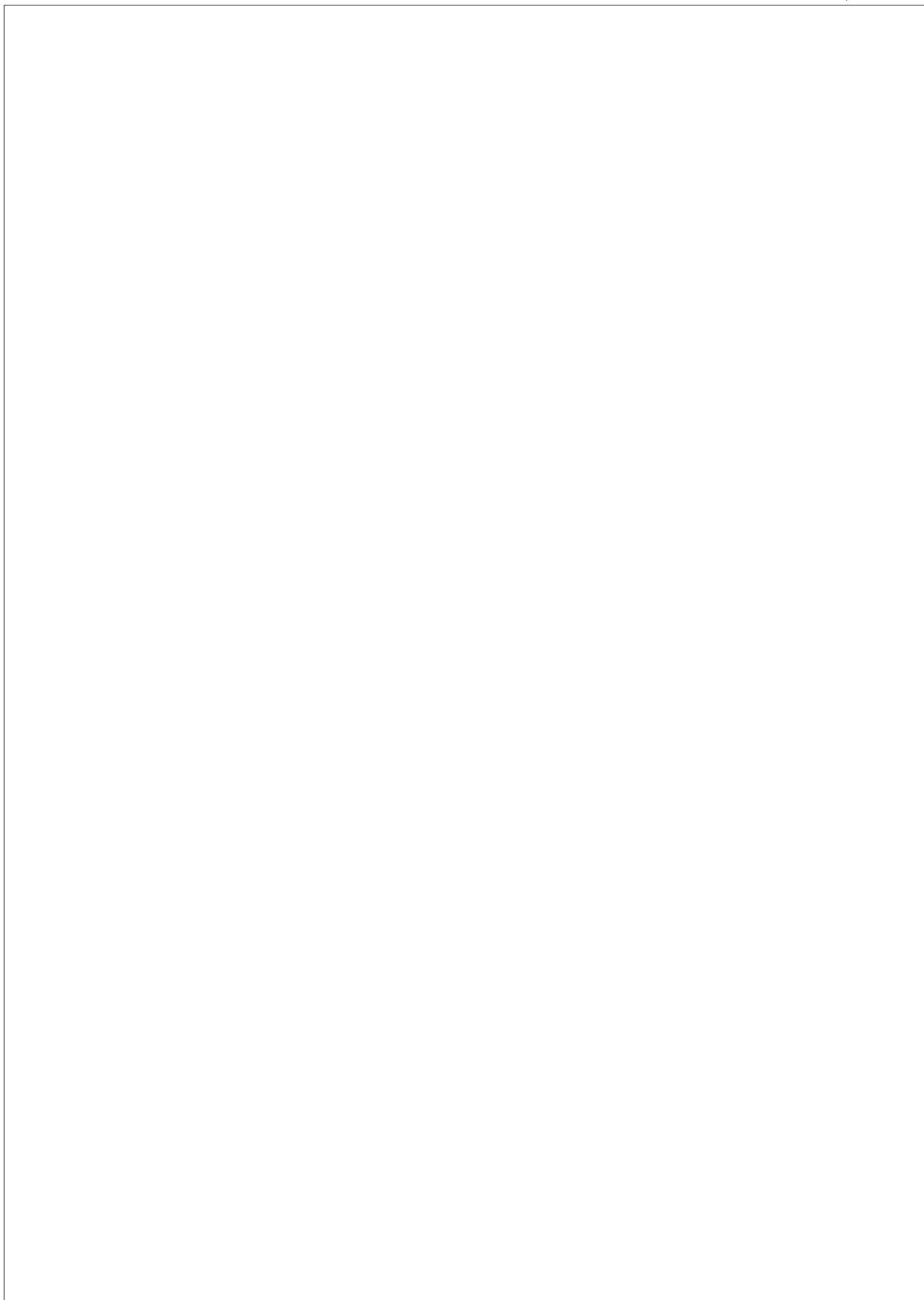
30 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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

Hanoi Rehashes "Week of Protest": Hanoi radio on 25 October carried commentary on antiwar activities in the US during the 15-21 October "week of protest" for the benefit of its domestic audience. It called antidraft activities of American youth "most remarkable," and went on to note specific events across the country.

The broadcast said "our people highly appreciate the strenuous struggle of the American people" against the war and consider it a "precious contribution to our fight against the US aggressors." By "coordinating our efforts on two fronts, we will certainly defeat... the US ruling clique in Vietnam."

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Hanoi on Recent US Antiwar Events: Hanoi's international broadcast on 28 October covered several recent manifestations of US opposition to the war, but without commentary. The broadcast noted a peace march in Hawaii on 22 October, the hunger strike of some of the Pentagon demonstrators, the release of folk singer Joan Baez from an Oakland jail, and US student protests against the Dow Chemical Company for making napalm for use in Vietnam.

* * *

Hanoi on Vice President's Trip to Saigon: In a sarcastic commentary, a Hanoi broadcast in Vietnamese to South Vietnam ridicules Vice President Humphrey's trip and hints darkly that he will be in danger. The broadcast says "other people have reminded" the Vice President that there are "not only rotten eggs and tomatoes in Vietnam but some terrible things,"

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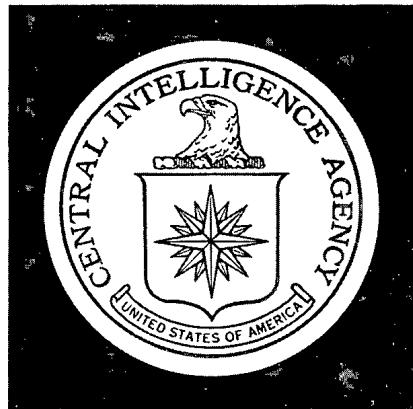
and that "people should take precautions." The broadcast concludes by warning that "Mr. Humphrey had better be ready to get away quickly, for, who knows, this thorny land might be the place to bury not only his reputation but his career."

This is standard stuff for such a visit.

* * *

Liberation Front Praises US Antiwar Group: Hanoi radio's international service on 28 October reports on a message sent by the chief of the National Liberation Front congratulating the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam on the "week of protest." The Front's message praises the "valiant struggle" in the US as an "active contribution to the South Vietnamese people's struggle for national independence and peace." It condemns US authorities for "repressing" the struggle and for "strangling" democratic freedoms in the US. The message promises that the Communists will "unite closely with progressive people in North America to compel the US government to end its aggression in South Vietnam."

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 31 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
31 OCTOBER 1967

1. Soviet Union -
Vietnam

Kosygin has rejected the idea of an early five-power meeting on Vietnam. His statement, in reply to a letter from the head of the World Federation of UN Associations, reflected Moscow's customary care not to get out of step with Hanoi.

Kosygin did keep alive the Soviet contention that the Geneva apparatus could some day provide the means for a settlement. He said only that a five-power meeting would be "unrealistic" while "American bombs are falling" and without the participation of North Vietnam and the Liberation Front.

2. Soviet Union

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3. Thailand

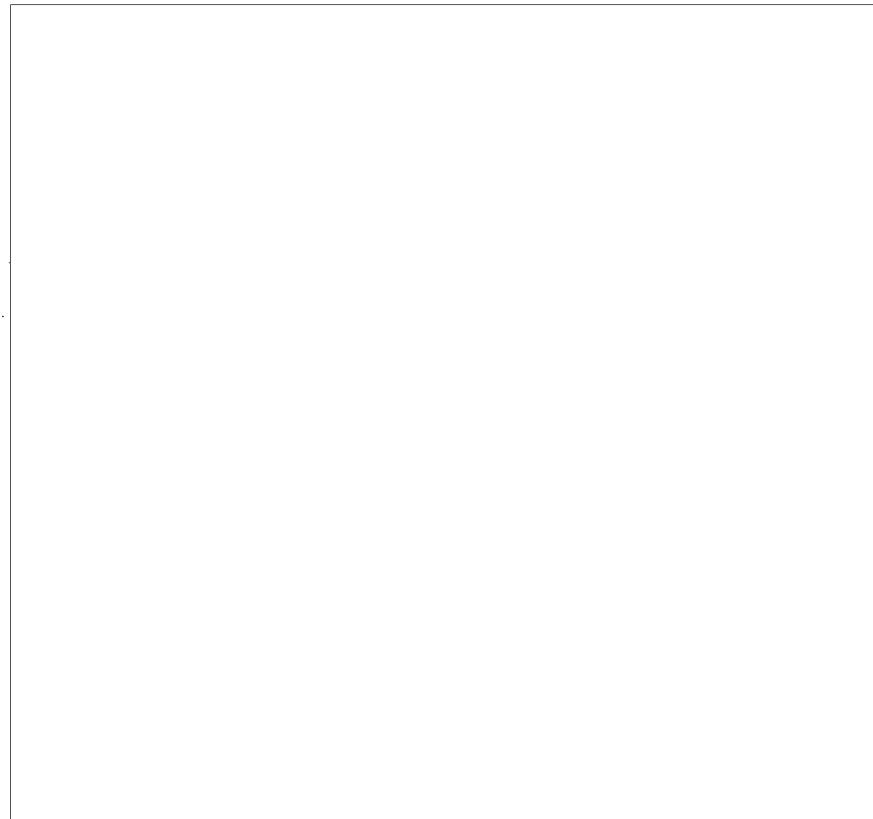
Communist insurgents have recently increased operations in areas which had been relatively quiet. This may in part be a Communist effort to take the heat off the main center of insurgent strength in the northeast where government forces have been making some headway.

4. Congo

The Congolese military has launched an offensive against the mercenaries in Bukavu, and has apparently suffered heavy casualties in the process. Mercenary leader Schramme now has a perfect excuse to back out of last month's evacuation agreement.

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5. Jordan-France



6. Uruguay

President Gestido, who has had more than his share of troubles recently with the leaders of rival factions within his party, has decided to settle one score personally. He has challenged a leading critic and recent finance minister to a duel and has taken temporary leave of office to await developments.

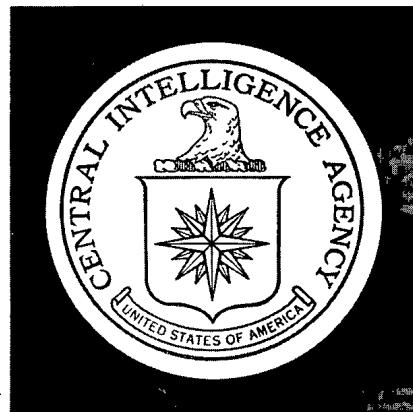
In Uruguayan politics, the challenge is more important than the confrontation; in fact, the duel itself may never come off.

At issue is Gestido's new economic policy, outlined in a major speech last week. It has been savagely criticized by his prospective dueling antagonist and by other supernationalists who insist that the solution to the country's economic mess is more and more state controls. By his gesture, Gestido has put these opponents on the defensive, at least for a time.

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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31 October 1967

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

31 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi's Latest Balancing Act in the Sino-Soviet Dispute: Ho Chi Minh's article on the 50th anniversary of the USSR, published in Pravda on 28 October, is a further indication that Hanoi is making a decided effort to preserve its neutral stance in the Sino-Soviet dispute. While Ho lauded the many achievements of the Soviets during the past half century and pointed to the example they have set for the Vietnamese, he also had warm words of praise for the progress and importance of the Chinese and their revolution. The article also took a decidedly hard line in urging the broadening of world revolution and expressed confidence in the inevitable victory of the Vietnamese "revolution" despite heavy losses.

The balanced praise in Ho's article was similarly expressed by Defense Minister Giap in an article written for a recent issue of the Soviet Army paper Red Star.

Neither article has as yet been broadcast by Hanoi. Although both were published in toto in the Soviet papers--probably at Hanoi's insistence--Moscow has omitted the references favorable to China in its domestic broadcasts.

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More Hanoi Comment on Bombing: The North Vietnamese Government issued another propaganda blast yesterday on the recent US raids in the Hanoi area. Again, Hanoi made no reference to the military or industrial targets of the raids, but referred only to attacks on the central city and its suburbs.

The new raids are described as "a brazen challenge to world public opinion, including public opinion in the US."

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

Hanoi Broadcasts Statements of American Visitors: North Vietnam is exploiting recent visits to Hanoi by Americans opposed to the war by broadcasting their statements to American servicemen in South Vietnam. Two recent Hanoi English language broadcasts to US troops relayed recorded messages from Stokely Carmichael and Tom Hayden, the latter self-described as "active in the antiwar movement in the United States." In a statement broadcast by Hanoi on 29 October, Carmichael attempted to appeal to Negro troops with vitriolic anti-white gibes and assertions such as "our enemy is not the Vietnamese." Hayden's statement, broadcast by Hanoi on 29 October, contains a defense of the US antiwar movement, as well as criticisms of President Johnson's Vietnam policy.

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Hanoi on US Antiwar Movement: The Hanoi international radio service on 27 October broadcast a description of an antiwar demonstration held earlier that week in Los Angeles by several hundred Americans. The transmission also quoted a Tass report to the effect that more than 300 "writers and personalities" announced on 25 October that they would not pay taxes to the US Government because of the Vietnam war.

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