

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
1 OCTOBER 1968

1. Mexico

Troops withdrew from the National University yesterday, but the students are still in a defiant mood. Another rally is scheduled for tomorrow.

2. Tanzania-Nigeria

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3. United Kingdom -
Rhodesia

Nothing much came of the latest attempt to reach a meeting of minds. In recent talks in Salisbury, Wilson's special emissary found Ian Smith as dead set as ever against concessions to black Rhodesians. If Smith remains adamant, Wilson will want this put on the public record, preferably by Smith himself.

4. Burma

Ne Win is showing signs of weariness in trying to cope with Burma's economic mess. He [redacted] may finally be ready to leaven his military dictatorship with some civilian "outs." Much depends on the price these people will put on their participation. If it goes too high, Ne Win is likely to fall back on his old circle of military cronies, whose poor advice has turned Burma's economy into a shambles.

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5. Communist China

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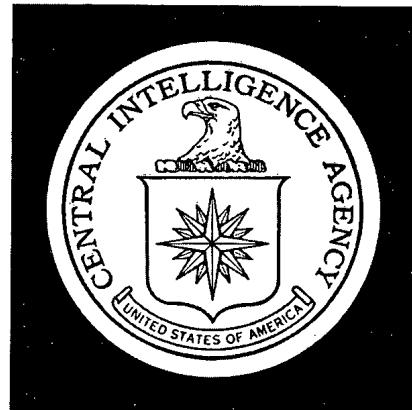
6. Indonesia

During the past week Sukarno had another degrading session at the hands of Suharto's interrogators. Although Sukarno is pretty much whipped by now, the army is still trying to tie him in more firmly with the Communist coup attempt of 1965. We still do not expect him to go on trial, however.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
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1 October 1968

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

1 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Foreign Shipping During August: Foreign shipping to North Vietnam in August--34 ship arrivals and imports of 133,000 tons--was at its lowest level since February. Soviet arrivals were down sharply, but Chinese arrivals returned to levels comparable to those in the first half of 1968.

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De Quirielle Returning to Hanoi: The Quai's North Vietnam desk officer has told Embassy Paris that De Quirielle, the French representative in Hanoi who has been in France on vacation for the last two months, will leave for North Vietnam around 9 October. Prior to his departure he has an appointment with De Gaulle. The source felt this should facilitate De Quirielle having a meeting with Pham Van Dong or other high-ranking officials upon his return to Hanoi. At the request of the North Vietnamese, who consider De Quirielle a particularly able representative, the French have extended De Quirielle's assignment in Hanoi despite his more than two years of service there.

The embassy has been trying to see De Quirielle during his stay in France but has been told no direct contact is preferred. The French fear that if such contact became known, it might undermine De Quirielle's position with the North Vietnamese.

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

More Attacks on US Leaders: The Vietnam policies of President Johnson and views of presidential candidates Nixon and Humphrey were denounced in a Radio Hanoi English language international broadcast on 30 September. The commentary charged that all three men failed to recognize the Hanoi government's four-point program--including US recognition of the National Liberation Front "as the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people"--as the basis for resolving the Vietnam problem.

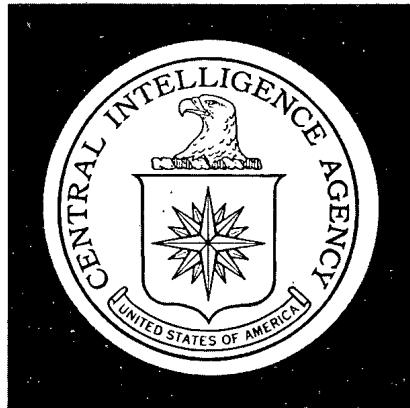
This formulation on the role of the Front is somewhat harder than that laid down by Pham Van Dong on 2 September and widely quoted in Communist propaganda since that time. The North Vietnamese prime minister had indicated the Front must be recognized and consulted, but he stopped short of calling for acknowledgement of the Liberation Front as the "authentic representative" of the South Vietnamese.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
2 OCTOBER 1968

1. Communist China

Peking's National Day celebrations yesterday were used to reaffirm the current policy of stabilization. Speeches by Lin Piao and Chou En-lai were notable mainly for the slight attention given to Vietnam, a major theme last year.

On domestic affairs, both men gave short shrift to the Red Guards and indicated that the industrial workers backed by the army now have the leading role in society. Mao was present at the rally but as usual did not speak.

2. Czechoslovakia

The Czechs have taken several more steps to comply with Moscow's demands. Barracks and apartments are being provided for the occupation troops, "anti-Socialist" Western press correspondents are being told to get out, and Czech students are being warned to keep a "cool head" and not offend the Russians.

3. Poland

The Polish military, badly divided over the Czech venture, is getting a partial housecleaning. A number of high-ranking officers have been shunted to secondary slots and some 25 new generals are about to be appointed. The losers, of course, are the diehard nationalists who spoke out against Poland's role in the invasion.

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4. Philippines

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[redacted] The government probably also stimulated the work slowdowns at US bases and the boycotts of Malaysian and British products. These are all part of the Marcos game of building up the Sabah issue into a cause célèbre to boost his chances for re-election.

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5. West Germany - France

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6. Israel

Labor Party Secretary General Pinhas Sapir has apparently superseded Deputy Prime Minister Allon as the heir apparent to Prime Minister Eshkol.

The naming of Allon as deputy prime minister last June aroused speculation that he was being groomed to take over when Eshkol decides to step down.

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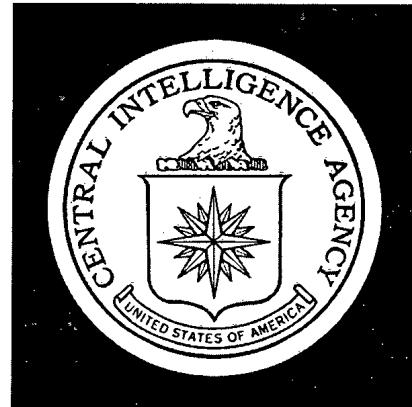
[redacted] Eshkol was seriously annoyed with Allon's arranging, apparently on his own initiative, a meeting with President Johnson last month.

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2 October 1968

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

2 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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

Comment on Humphrey Speech: The first North Vietnamese reaction to Vice President Humphrey's speech of 30 September has come from Paris. According to Western press accounts, Le Duc Tho said yesterday, "There is nothing new here. It is still the same demand for reciprocity which we reject."

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According to the press, North Vietnamese spokesmen also said it was necessary to see what the reaction to the speech was in the US. "We should expect President Johnson to undercut his Vice President again," they said.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 3 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
3 OCTOBER 1968

LATE ITEMS

Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

A Czechoslovak delegation left for Moscow this morning, according to Radio Prague. Dubcek, Premier Cernik, and Slovak leader Husak are on the delegation, but Svoboda and National Assembly leader Smrkovsky stayed in Prague.

Peru

The army began moving into strategic points in Lima early this morning. Our embassy reports a power play is obviously in progress, but it has no details yet.

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
3 OCTOBER 1968

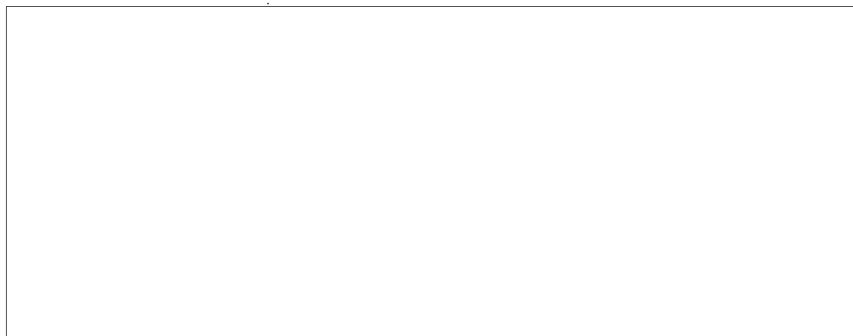
1. Mexico

Last night's battle was the worst yet in Mexico City's current crisis. There apparently was firing on both sides as the army tried to break up a student demonstration. An undetermined number of people were killed or wounded in the shooting and the mass panic which followed.

The students now have a new batch of martyrs and will probably try to press their campaign. With the Olympics scheduled to start a week from Saturday, the government is likely to grow even more sensitive to threats of disorders and more inclined toward Draconian measures.

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2. Soviet Union



3. Australia

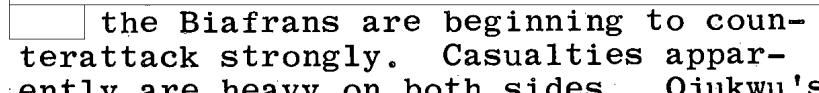


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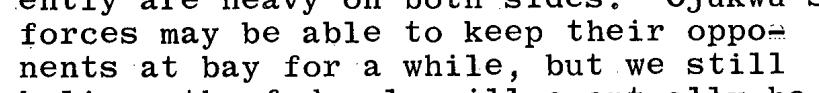
4. Nigeria



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5. Jordan-Egypt

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6. Albania-Yugoslavia

The Albanians, jolted by recent events in Eastern Europe and uncertain how far they can rely on Communist China in a pinch, have made an unprecedented effort to improve relations with the Yugoslavs. Details of Tirana's approach are unavailable, but some sort of marriage of convenience seems in the making.

7. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovak leaders apparently still expect to go to Moscow soon to discuss implementation of the Moscow agreement, and possibly also to head off a purge. Soviet officials are still saying privately that Dubcek and some other leaders will have to go, and a group of ousted pro-Moscow conservatives seems to be trying to sell itself to the Soviets as the nucleus of a new regime.

There is still no evidence, however, that Moscow plans to push for Dubcek's removal in the near future. Nor have the Soviets been able to make a dent in the unity of the present Czechoslovak leadership.

A Czechoslovak official has told the National Assembly that illness, first Dubcek's and then Brezhnev's, is the reason the Moscow talks have been delayed. Brezhnev is alleged to have had the flu.

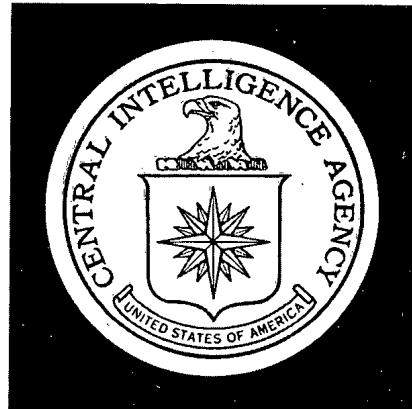
More than one source has reported that the forces occupying Czechoslovakia will be reduced soon, but that nine Soviet divisions are to remain as a garrison.

8. Greece-Cyprus

9. Nationalist
China

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

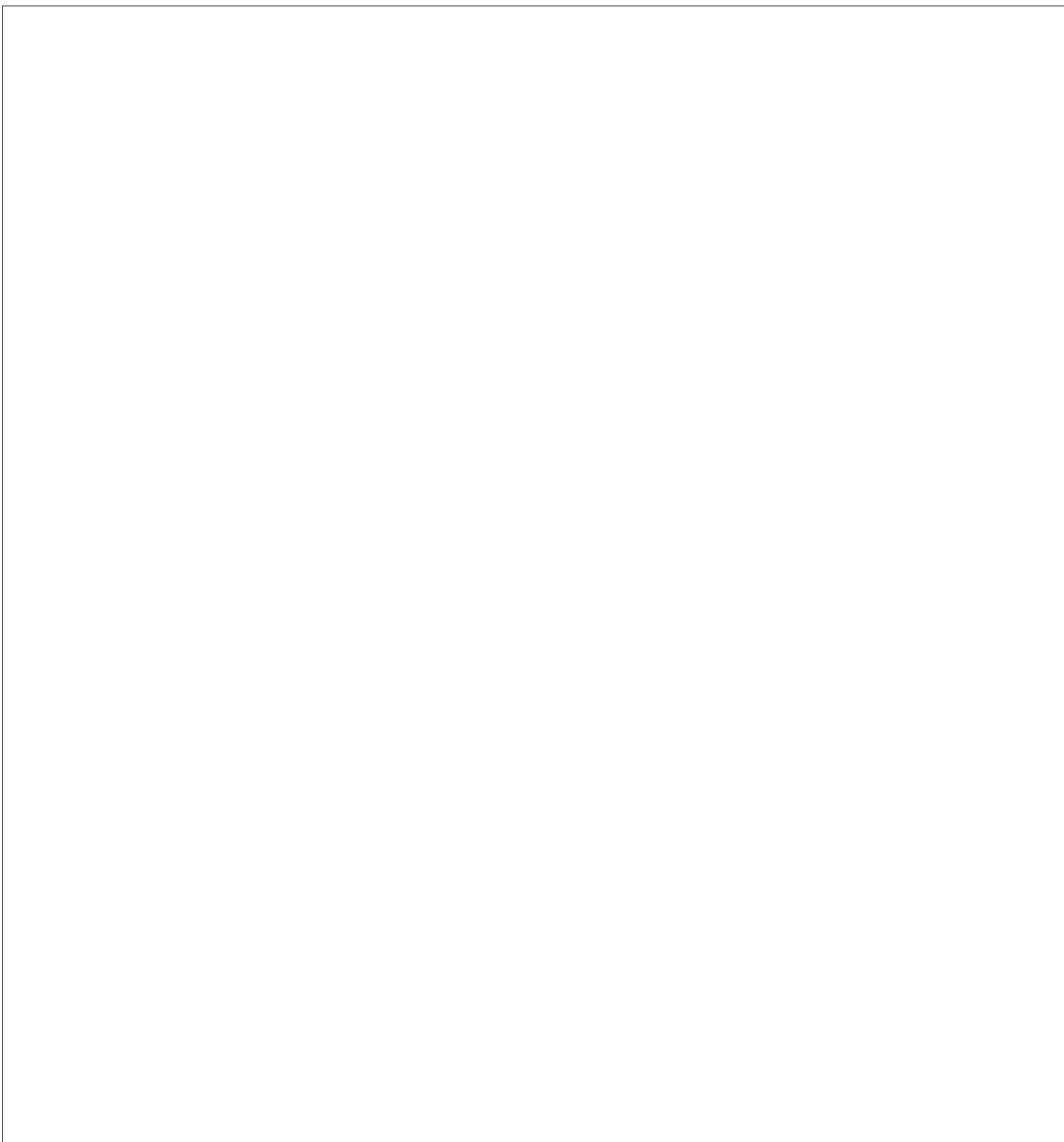
Free World Shipping: Free World shipping to North Vietnam, which dropped steadily from early 1965 until the end of 1967, has increased significantly during 1968. During the first eight months of 1968, an average of twelve Free World ships a month called at North Vietnamese ports, compared with six a month during 1967. Since the cessation of US air strikes north of the 20th Parallel, Free World arrivals have averaged 14 a month and have accounted for 31 percent of total arrivals.

During the first eight months of 1968, the volume of cargoes carried by Free World ships to North Vietnam was more than twice that carried in the comparable period of 1967. From January to August 1968 these ships have carried 32 percent of North Vietnam's total seaborne imports. They carried about 23 percent of seaborne imports during all of 1967.

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Reaction to New Jersey: The initial reaction of the North Vietnamese Government to shore bombardments by the New Jersey was routine and brief. In a four-paragraph statement broadcast by Radio Hanoi yesterday, the Foreign Ministry termed the bombardment an escalation of the war, sabotage of the 1954 Geneva accords and a "gross encroachment" on North Vietnam's sovereignty.

Demonstrations Planned: Various sources indicate the World Council of Peace is busily organizing anti-war activities in several countries for the week of 15-21 October ("Vietnam Solidarity Week").

The peace organization's secretariat has asked the "South Vietnam Peace Committee" in Hanoi to furnish delegations for activities in Finland, Italy, and other unspecified countries.

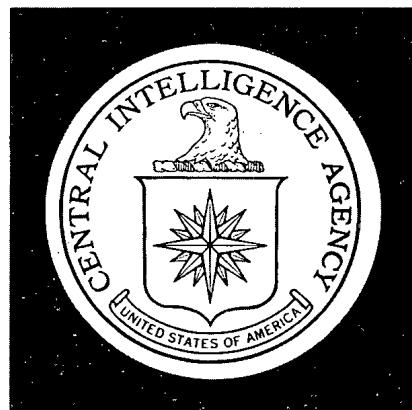
[redacted] various national committees are being requested to plan demonstrations, meetings, and news conferences. These committees are also being asked to send delegations to Paris to protest to the US mission at the Paris talks. The council has suggested letters and cables be sent to the US presidential candidates.

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

More on Reaction to Vice President: North Vietnamese spokesmen in Paris disparaged Vice President Humphrey's speech on Vietnam as adding nothing new to the US position on a bombing halt. As noted yesterday, Le Duc Tho called it "the same demand for reciprocity" which has been continually rejected by Hanoi. In the official Wednesday meeting, Xuan Thuy charged the Vice President had been forced to speak out on the bombing issue because of the "pressure of public opinion." Xuan Thuy implied the Vice President's position on the bombing was even harder than President Johnson's because he had threatened to resume the bombing if Hanoi did not respect the Demilitarized Zone.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret 4 October 1968~~



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
4 OCTOBER 1968

1. Mexico

No new outbreaks have been reported from Mexico City this morning. Neither has there been any student reaction to the announcement that the Olympic games would go on, although earlier yesterday some plans to sabotage Olympic installations were being considered.

It now seems clear the battle Wednesday night was a premeditated provocation by well-armed students. They remain in an ugly mood--a mood matched by government security forces. It is hard to see how more trouble can be avoided.

2. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Dubcek, Cernik, and Slovak party boss Husak got a bleak reception in Moscow. Although met by top Soviet leaders, they got none of the honors normally given such a delegation. This, and other signs of growing Soviet irritability, point toward some tough hours for the trio from Prague.

Svoboda's absence from the delegation will weaken it. While the Soviets may feel the combination before them is one that will crumble under pressure, we note that the delegation included none of the conservatives either. Any concessions in Moscow also are subject to approval by the Czechoslovak presidium.

3. Nonproliferation Treaty

The British have about finished polling their dependent territories and will be in a position to sign the treaty when parliament returns 14 October.

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4. Latin America

Terrorist attacks against US personnel and facilities are expected in various Latin American countries next week in connection with the first anniversary of Che Guevara's death on 9 October.

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All US Embassies have been alerted. Local security forces are taking precautions.

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5. NATO

The Defense Planning Committee has produced a paper urging early improvement in the Alliance's defenses--and recommending the Europeans pick up the ticket for the major share of that improvement. Several members are already prepared to raise their contributions. Italy and Greece have pledged to upgrade both the quality and quantity of their committed forces; the Germans are offering to call up a limited number of reserves.

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6. Peru

The armed forces seem to have the situation firmly in hand. There have been some minor clashes with students, and the opposition party is planning to call a general strike. While a strike would increase the possibility of clashes, it is not likely to reverse the coup.

An all-military government has been formed under General Velasco, the army commander who led the takeover.

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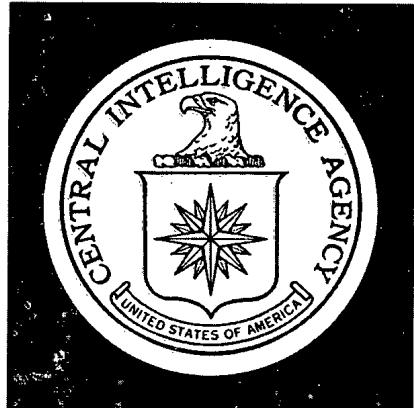
7. Iraq

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4 October 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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4 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Food Situation: According to the mid-August issue of the party journal Nhan Dan, the tenth-month rice crop about to be harvested was planted late and suffered from flooding caused by heavy rains and

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summer typhoons. This is a virtual admission that the government is expecting a disappointing autumn rice crop, which usually accounts for almost two-thirds of the annual rice output. The early crop accounting for the other third is estimated to have been 200,000 tons short of the 1,500,000-ton average of recent years.

Food delivered by sea to North Vietnam during the first nine months of this year totaled 562,000 tons, a 72-percent increase over the same period of 1967. These food imports--mostly aid from the Soviet Union and Communist China--have been crucial for maintaining the level of rations in the cities.

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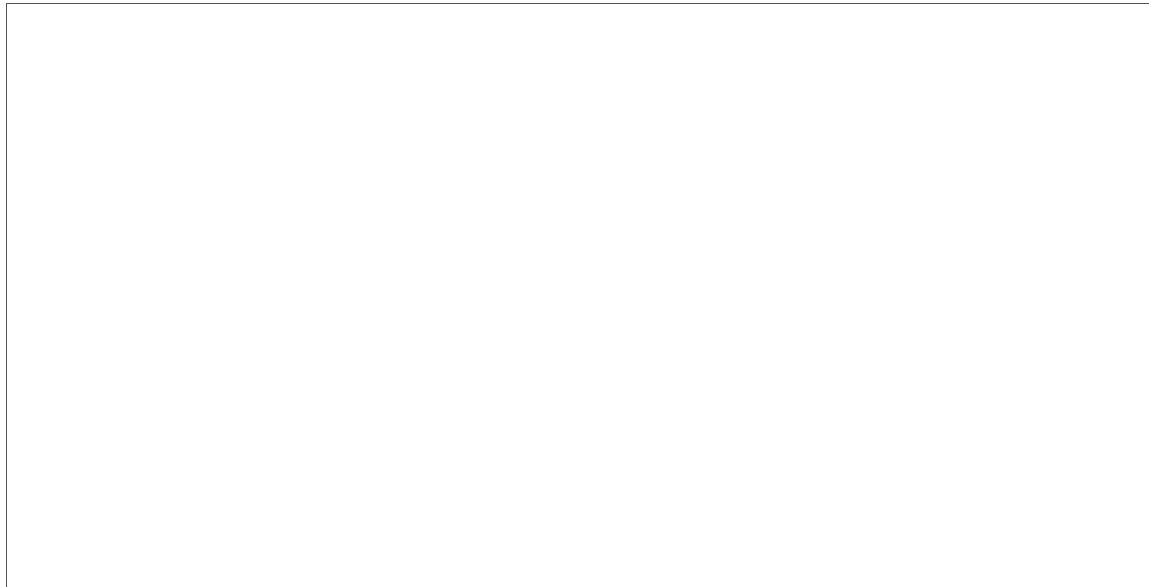
Observations from Hanoi: A Western traveler to Hanoi states that as of mid-September recruiting for the military services had been increased. Some 16-year-olds, as well as some physically disabled persons, are now being drafted. Those with physical disabilities are assigned to the home guard. All others are classified as fit for foreign service--either in South Vietnam or Laos--after a three-month intensive training course.

Hanoi residents also told the source there has been an increase in military police activities in the city. These people believe that the new check points and augmented surveillance procedures are related to the increase in conscription.

The traveler also learned that many Vietnamese trainees studying in Eastern Europe are returning home with specialties which have little or no relation to Vietnamese needs. The example given--perhaps overemphasized for purposes of illustration--was that of interior decorator.

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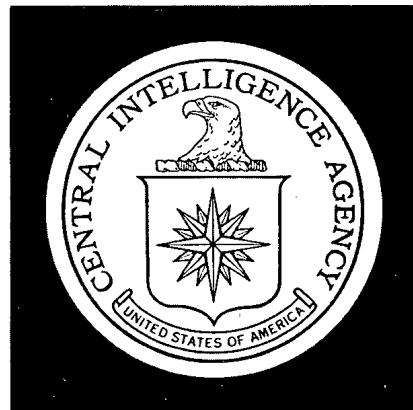
Propaganda on the Demilitarized Zone: Hanoi propaganda is stressing charges of increased US activities in the Demilitarized Zone. The latest tirade was an article in the army journal, broadcast over Radio Hanoi's domestic service on 1 October, claiming that the "resumption of aggressive activities" in the zone had been roundly defeated during the past month.

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

Comment on Ambassador Ball's Resignation: Hanoi Radio claimed on 29 September that Ambassador Ball's resignation from his United Nations' post was so precipitous that the Secretary of State was forced to make a speech in Ball's place at the opening of the General Assembly. The broadcast, to Vietnamese audiences in South Vietnam, alleged the only thing anyone knows about Mr. Wiggins is that he is a hawk on Vietnam.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 5 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
5 OCTOBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

The Soviets have considerably tightened the reins on Czechoslovakia as a result of the summit talks concluded yesterday. They now seem determined to insist on Czechoslovak compliance with the Moscow agreement of August. Conservative, pro-Soviet personalities appear certain to enter the Prague government, Dubcek's days as party chief are numbered, and a Soviet garrison will remain in Czechoslovakia for the indefinite future.

The communiqué states that Prague "will reinforce the party and state organs with men firmly adhering to positions of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism." The two sides will consider and sign a treaty on the "temporary" stationing of Soviet troops, probably 100,000 strong.

The concessions made to Moscow are bound to alienate President Svoboda, thus destroying the unified Prague leadership. They also will erode Dubcek's domestic support, probably greasing the way for his replacement by Slovak party secretary Husak.

2. Soviet Union

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3. Soviet Union

The major conclusions of NIE 11-8-68, Soviet Strategic Attack Forces, are given at Annex.

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4. European Community - Members of the European Community United Kingdom are showing a new willingness to move ahead on cooperation with Britain even without France. Belgian Foreign Minister Harmel has announced a Benelux plan for using the framework of the Western European Union for cooperation in areas not covered by the Community treaties. 50X1

5. Nigeria

The French-facilitated airlift of weapons to Biafra continues to grow. A ten-plane shuttle under French supervision is making seven or eight flights a night into Biafra from Gabon carrying relief supplies and French-made arms. Our defense attaché in the Ivory Coast has seen French Air Force transports and other French planes with military cargoes which appear to be destined for the Biafrans. This is probably why the Biafrans are still in the fight.

6. Chile

High school students made a rock-throwing attack on the US consulate in Santiago yesterday and were joined by some well-known Communist adults. The demonstration arose out of mixed motives--to protest alleged US involvement in the Peruvian coup and to express sympathy with student demonstrations in Mexico and Uruguay.

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7. United Kingdom - Rhodesia

At British initiative, there will be another meeting between Wilson and Ian Smith aboard a British naval vessel, beginning about 9 October. No preliminary progress has been made on the main points at issue on the Rhodesian question. Wilson no doubt calculates that if the talks get nowhere, he can make sure that they break down on grounds politically favorable to London.

8. Israel

The Jerusalem Post says that Prime Minister Eshkol made a speech yesterday in which he declared that Israel had the know-how to make atom bombs. He said, according to the paper, that it was a long way from this to producing nuclear weapons. The Post, which often reflects government thinking, commented on this statement by saying that the fate of Czechoslovakia and Biafra strengthened Israeli resolve to have a nuclear deterrent of its own. Such frankness is unprecedented in the Israeli press.

9. Mexico

There is a general feeling of insecurity in Mexico City following the extreme violence of 2 October. The capital is rife with rumors of revolution and military takeover, and the government expects a major act of sabotage before the opening of the Olympics on 12 October. The lack of confidence is reflected in substantial losses in the Bank of Mexico's net reserve position. Hospital interns have begun a work stoppage in support of the student strike, and members of the social security agency are planning to demonstrate their sympathy with the students.

ANNEX

Soviet Strategic Attack Forces

NIE 11-8-68 was approved by USIB on 3 October. It estimates the strength and capabilities of Soviet strategic attack forces through mid-1970 and the general trends in those forces over the next ten years. Some of its major conclusions are:

--Current programs will bring further improvements in the Soviet strategic position, already the most favorable of the postwar period, but the Soviets face the complication of projected improvements in US forces.

--In planning their future strategic forces, the Soviets are almost certainly exploring a number of alternatives, including a strategic arms control agreement. If they do not get one, they will try to maintain and if possible improve their relative strategic position.

--The great improvement in the Soviet strategic position results primarily from the rapid and extensive ICBM deployment of the past few years. The Soviet ICBM force now has about 900 operational launchers, with the prospect that it will surpass the US force in numbers by 1970.

--We believe the Soviet ICBM force goal over the next decade will be somewhere between 1,100 and 1,500 ICBM launchers (Air Force and Army estimate between 1,200 and 1,800). Such a force would probably embody significant qualitative improvements, including sophisticated re-entry systems, such as multiple re-entry vehicles, multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicles, and probably mobile systems.

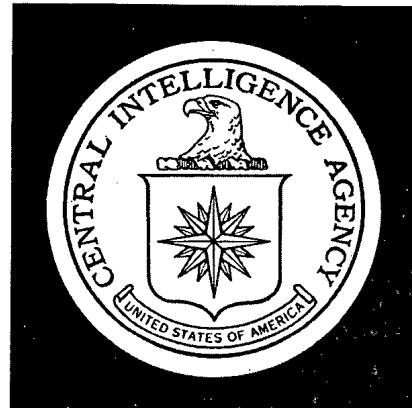
--There has been little change in the size of the MRBM/IRBM force, which still stands at about 700 launchers. New MRBMs and IRBMs will probably supersede present systems within ten years.

--We believe the Soviets are building toward a ballistic missile submarine force that will confront the US with a threat roughly comparable to that which the Polaris force presents the Soviet Union. The Soviets could reach that position by the mid-nineteen seventies.

--Attrition and retirement will gradually reduce the Soviet heavy bomber force. The medium bomber force will probably also decline, but more gradually, and a follow-on medium bomber may be introduced. (Air Force believes this underestimates the role of strategic bombers.)

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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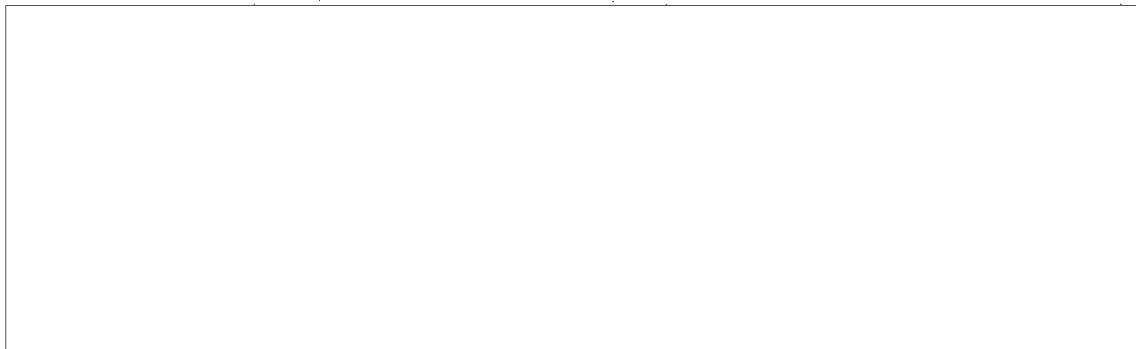
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Lebanon Tries to Curb Shipping to North Vietnam:
The Lebanese Government has told the US Embassy that it has imposed fines totaling over \$12,000 on a Lebanese-flag ship which twice this year violated Beirut's ban on voyages to North Vietnam.

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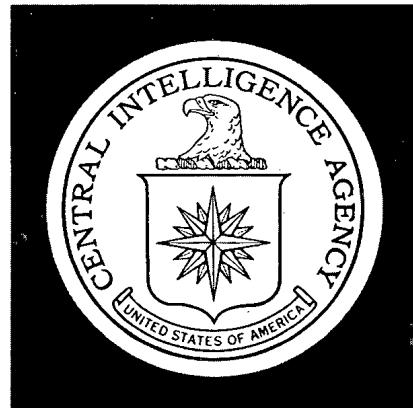
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
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7 OCTOBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Dubcek is ready to resign, according to press reports. We have no confirmation, but it seems clear that the Soviets have finally managed to undermine both the unity of the liberal leadership and the extent of its popular support. With these two crucial props gone, the leadership can hardly resist Moscow's pressure for wholesale "normalization," and it would not be surprising if Dubcek chose to bow out rather than preside over this process.

2. Warsaw Pact

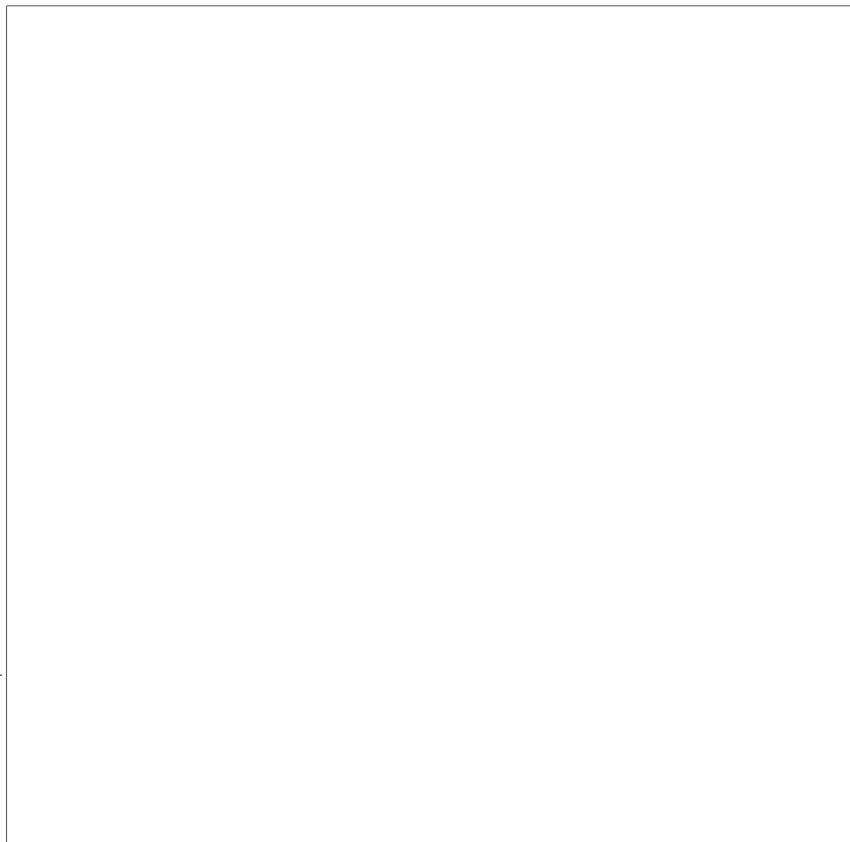
We have little to confirm current rumors that a Warsaw Pact exercise will soon take place, but we would not be surprised if one did occur. Autumn has been a time for military exercises in Pact countries even in periods of relatively little tension.

3. Peru

The new military government, while making it clear to all and sundry who is boss, has generally been acting with restraint. Peru has been calm since the coup.

All the members of the cabinet are military men. Most of them are professionally competent, although few have any experience in government. They are still feeling their way on most issues, but the government's abrogation of the agreement with the US-owned International Petroleum Company indicates it will be more nationalistic than its predecessor.

4. North Korea



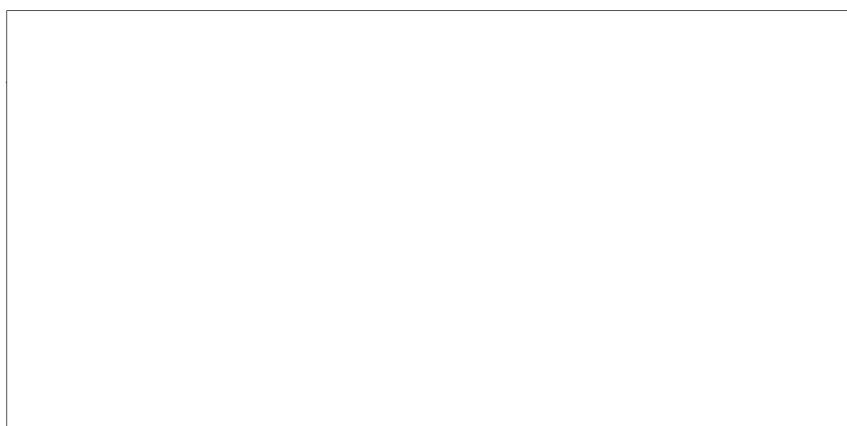
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5. Communist China



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6. Soviet Union



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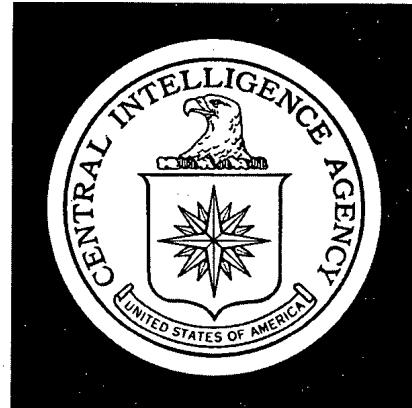
7. The Netherlands

The Dutch, who have long tried to get US propulsion technology for a nuclear-powered submarine they plan to build, are beginning to press harder. The chairman of the parliamentary defense committee told our ambassador that the Netherlands might have to look for technical assistance to France, which he said was willing to consider such a deal for an unspecified price.

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7 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese Regrouping: A partial repositioning of North Vietnamese combat units from the northern portion of South Vietnam to base areas in Laos and north of the Demilitarized Zone has been under way since early August. Similar, although somewhat less extensive, moves in this area have been noted in the past when the weather has made it difficult for the enemy to keep his troops supplied or when enemy units have taken extremely heavy casualties. This year, successful allied spoiling operations and destruction of important caches of enemy food and munitions, coupled with the effects of Typhoon Bess, have made it unusually difficult for the North Vietnamese to keep their full complement of units in operation in this region.

All indications are that the current repositioning of North Vietnamese forces fits in with past enemy military practice and can be explained on the basis of the enemy's military needs. The evidence indicates that the North Vietnamese continue to pump supplies into the area north of the zone and, as in the past, they are keeping some units active in a harassing role despite the current pullback of major units.

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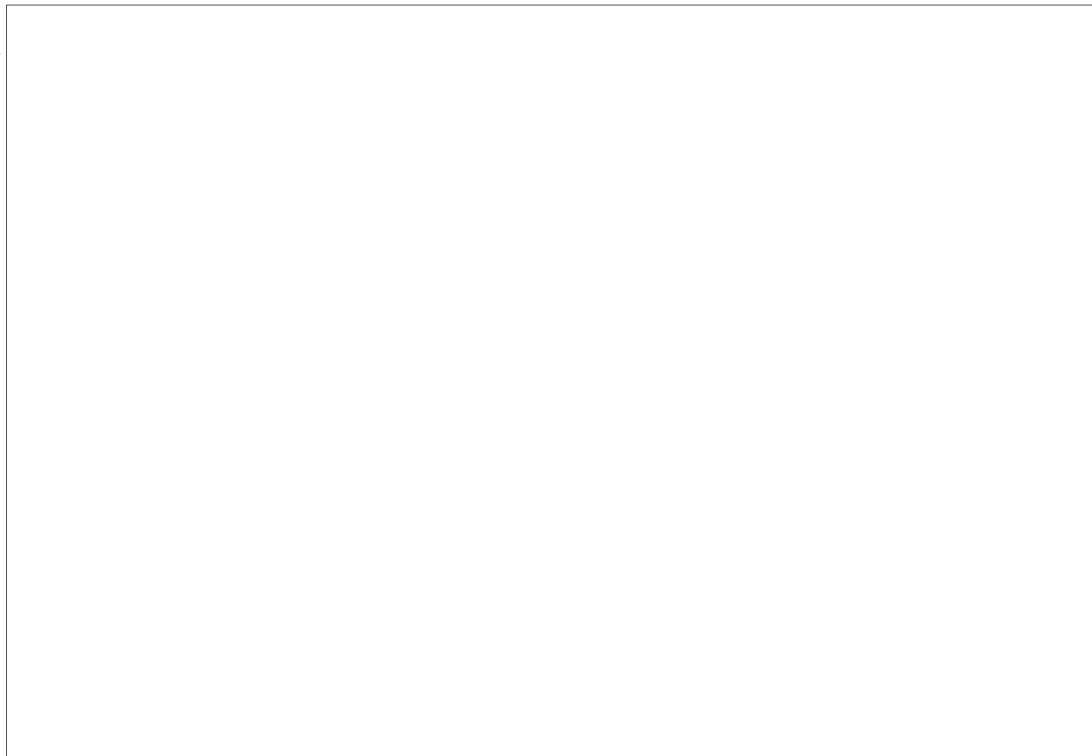
Logistics: With continuing poor weather in the North Vietnamese panhandle hampering both enemy truck movements and allied air operations, pilots reported sighting 32 percent fewer trucks during 23-29 September--362 compared with 532 during the previous week. The sightings were about 58 percent below the weekly average of 858 since April.

There were no reports of convoy movements or of large concentrations of vehicles. The typical sighting consisted of one to five trucks. Sightings during September were about 42 percent below August's

total and about 60 percent below the July figure. The decline in truck sightings during September can probably be attributed to poor weather, widespread flood damage, and air interdiction along critical route segments.

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Alleged Attacks on Dikes: Hanoi's Ministry of Water Conservancy has again charged the US with intensifying attacks on dikes and water conservation projects in North Vietnam. The statement, broadcast by Hanoi Radio's international service in English on 5 October, alleges that US planes made more than 30 attacks on such targets in southern North Vietnam during September. The US was attempting to destroy essential public utility works, the statement claims. The attacks were characterized as "utterly odious crimes running counter to international law and human morality."

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More Cash for the Fatherland: Hanoi is trying to squeeze more donations from Vietnamese living in Thailand. A captured pro-Communist Vietnamese stated he had attended a meeting where a letter was read asking the Vietnamese in Thailand to earn and save more money so that it could be contributed to North Vietnam. The letter said victory was near and every effort should be made for the final push.

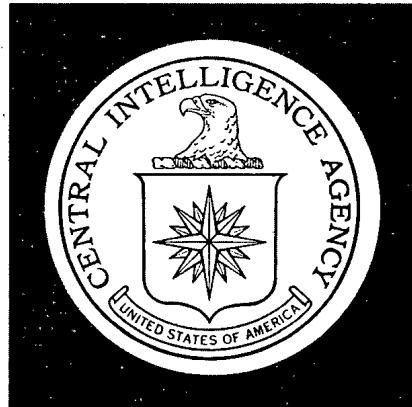
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret 8~~ October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
8 OCTOBER 1968

1. South Vietnam

Interior Minister Khiem is apprehensive about fresh reports of coup plotting. Thieu, he says, shares this anxiety.

Khiem told Ambassador Berger yesterday that six or so junior officers are being investigated in connection with the present reports. Khiem said the plotters are implying that Ky supports them.

There is no evidence that such powerful figures as Ky are involved. Thieu, however, takes rumors of intrigue seriously. He knows his attitudes on peace and postwar political competition are ahead of some of his colleagues who consider him too responsive to American influence. Under these circumstances, Thieu can be expected to examine carefully any coup reports--even those involving a small group of junior officers.

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2. Mexico

A temporary truce may follow last night's decision by student leaders to suspend mass rallies. If observed, this ban will smooth things out for the Olympics, but the students by no means have given up, and any armistice will be uneasy at best.

The government has not abandoned its charges that leftists are responsible for the disorders. Some [redacted] [redacted] however, are saying the students' principal assistance is coming from enemies of Diaz Ordaz in his own party.

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Meanwhile, in Veracruz, the Cuban consul is spreading rumors that the US is behind the trouble and hopes to use it as a pretext for military intervention.

3. Peru

Stresses are appearing in the new military government. The services are bickering over government appointments. The plans for the coup appear to have been better than the plans for how to govern afterward.

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4. Laos

The rainy season is coming to a close and, if the pattern of past years is followed, it will be the Communists' turn to begin offensive probing. Their strength is greater now than at any time since 1963. Government forces made some modest gains during their traditional wet season campaign, but there were no major changes this summer in the real estate held by the two sides.

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5. Turkey

Leftist students are busily organizing a new anti-Western campaign to coincide with the opening of the universities early next month. The US, NATO, and the Demirel regime will be the main targets. There are indications that the students are getting some help from foreign Communist sources. Clashes with rightist students and the security forces are almost a foregone conclusion.

6. West Germany - France

The Kiesinger - De Gaulle meetings of 27-28 September left the Germans quite discouraged over the future of relations with France. De Gaulle

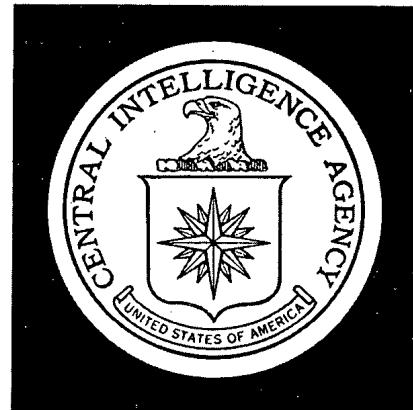
would make no firm pledge to back West Germany in event of attack, and the Germans sense France is withdrawing from international commitments across the board. The US Embassy believes Bonn may now give priority to its own defense needs and put relations with the US ahead of those with France.

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16

8 October 1968

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

8 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Fatherland Front Reactivated: Hanoi is dragging its main mass organization, the Fatherland Front, out of moth balls. The Front has had little publicity and even less responsibility in the past few years, but the Communists appear to be turning to it more frequently in the past few months in an effort to generate increasing popular support for regime objectives.

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Full coverage of a new "enlarged 16th congress" of the Front was given over the domestic radio on 6 October. The party sent politburo member Truong Chinh to give the pep talk, and he succeeded in getting the group to pledge renewed efforts to help mobilize the people for "support of the South and defense of the North." The Front offered to bend its best efforts toward educating the people in the proper political views and spurring them on to greater military and economic feats.

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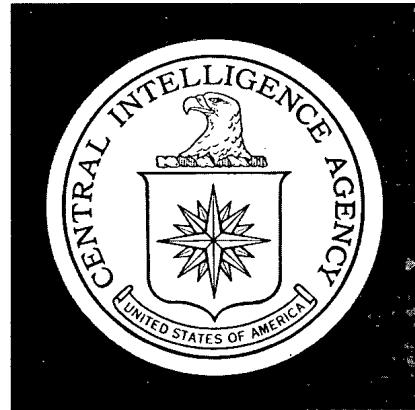
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report to-day.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
9 OCTOBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

A new crunch may be coming on Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovaks are still struggling to come up with a mutually satisfactory mix of what they want and what the Soviets demand. There is as yet no convincing evidence that such a formula can be found. The communiqué issued after yesterday's presidium meeting looks both ways, suggesting that Prague will make the immediate policy changes demanded by Moscow regarding personnel, ideology, propaganda, censorship, and economic centralization, and yet emphasizing that many of Dubcek's liberal policies will be continued and that there will be no top-level party purge.

[redacted] Deputy Premier Hamouz,
[redacted] who is leading a delegation to negotiate a treaty for the indefinite stationing of Soviet troops.

[redacted] President Svoboda, possibly engaged in one last effort to persuade Moscow to soften its demands on Prague or face a new political crisis.

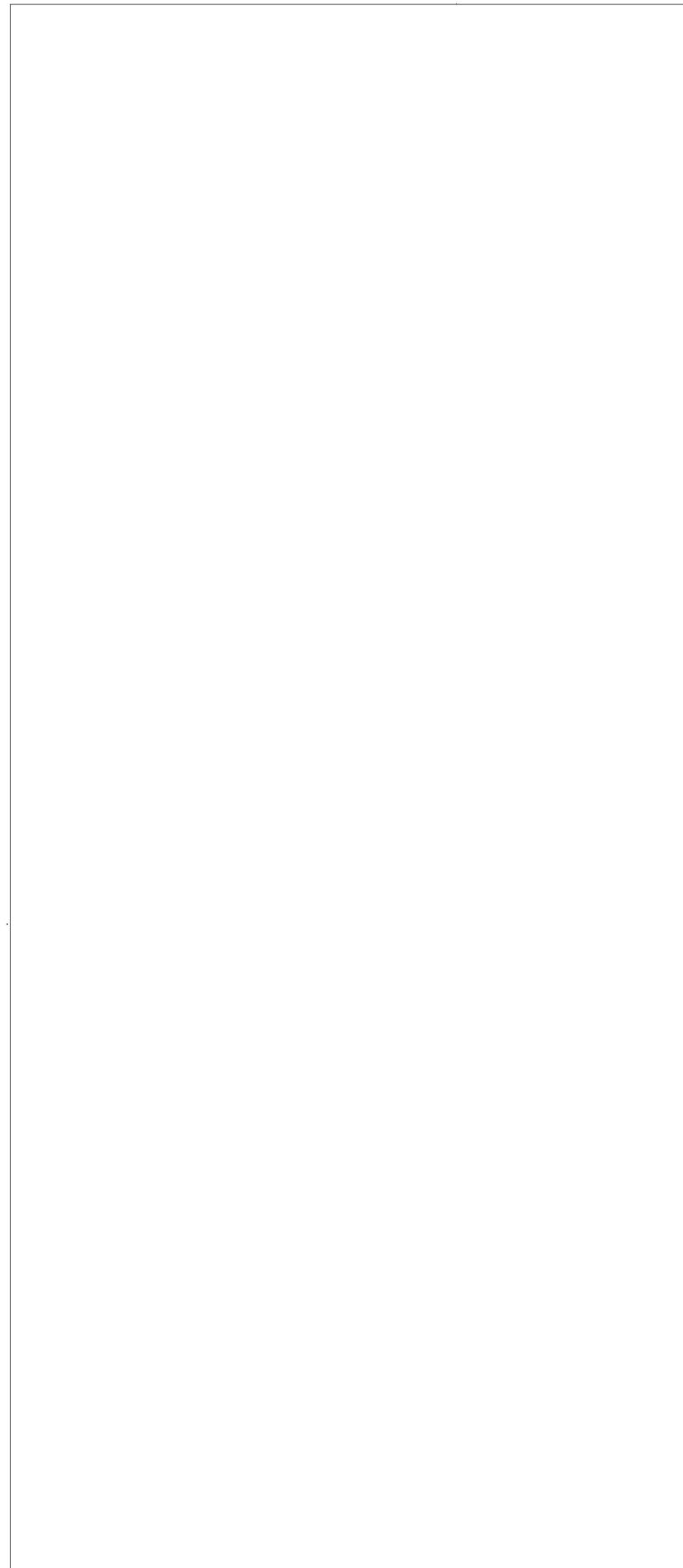
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2. South Vietnam

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3. Yugoslavia-Albania

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4. World Confederation of Labor

The International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, which claims 13 million workers--mostly Catholic--in its federated unions, has "de-confessionalized" itself to become the World Confederation of Labor. The move, under consideration for years, is designed to open the doors to the millions of Moslem, Buddhist, and other "third world" workers who would not enroll under a Christian banner. The organization will now be in a better position to challenge the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions--often regarded as dominated by the US--and to offer an alternative to the Communist-led World Federation of Trade Unions.

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5. NATO

There is growing interest in formalizing within NATO a bloc that could speak for Europe. Kiesinger appears to be more receptive to the notion of a European caucus in NATO since his recent frosty meeting with De Gaulle [redacted]

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[redacted] Belgian Foreign Minister Harmel will restate his own caucus proposal at the 21 October meeting of the Western European Union, which Harmel regards as the logical forum for European interests within NATO.

6. Italy

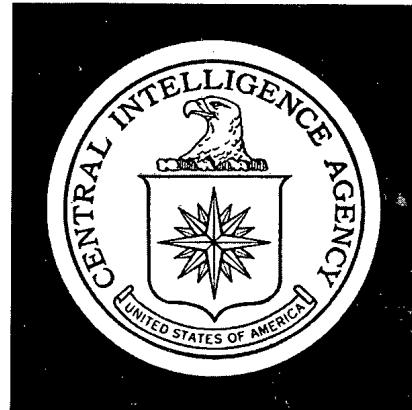
The Italian Government plans to include Communists in the new delegation it will soon appoint to the parliament of the European Communities. No other Community member includes Communists in its delegation, though all except West Germany have Communists in their legislatures. Prime Minister Leone, however, promised to make the Italian delegation more representative of the Rome parliament, which is about one-fourth Communist.

The few Communists who are expected to join the Italian group are not likely to be disruptive; their party is at pains to show that it can work with non-Communists. Leone's move could confirm the Italian party in its present position of relative autonomy within the international Communist movement, a status favorable to the party's domestic strength.

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9 October 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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9 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Support for Hanoi: The antiwar demonstration planned for London in late October is expected to be one of the largest on record. The organizer of the demonstration--a committee of left-wing and antiwar groups--expects to be able to muster some 100,000 people in London 27 October for a march from Charing Cross to Hyde Park.

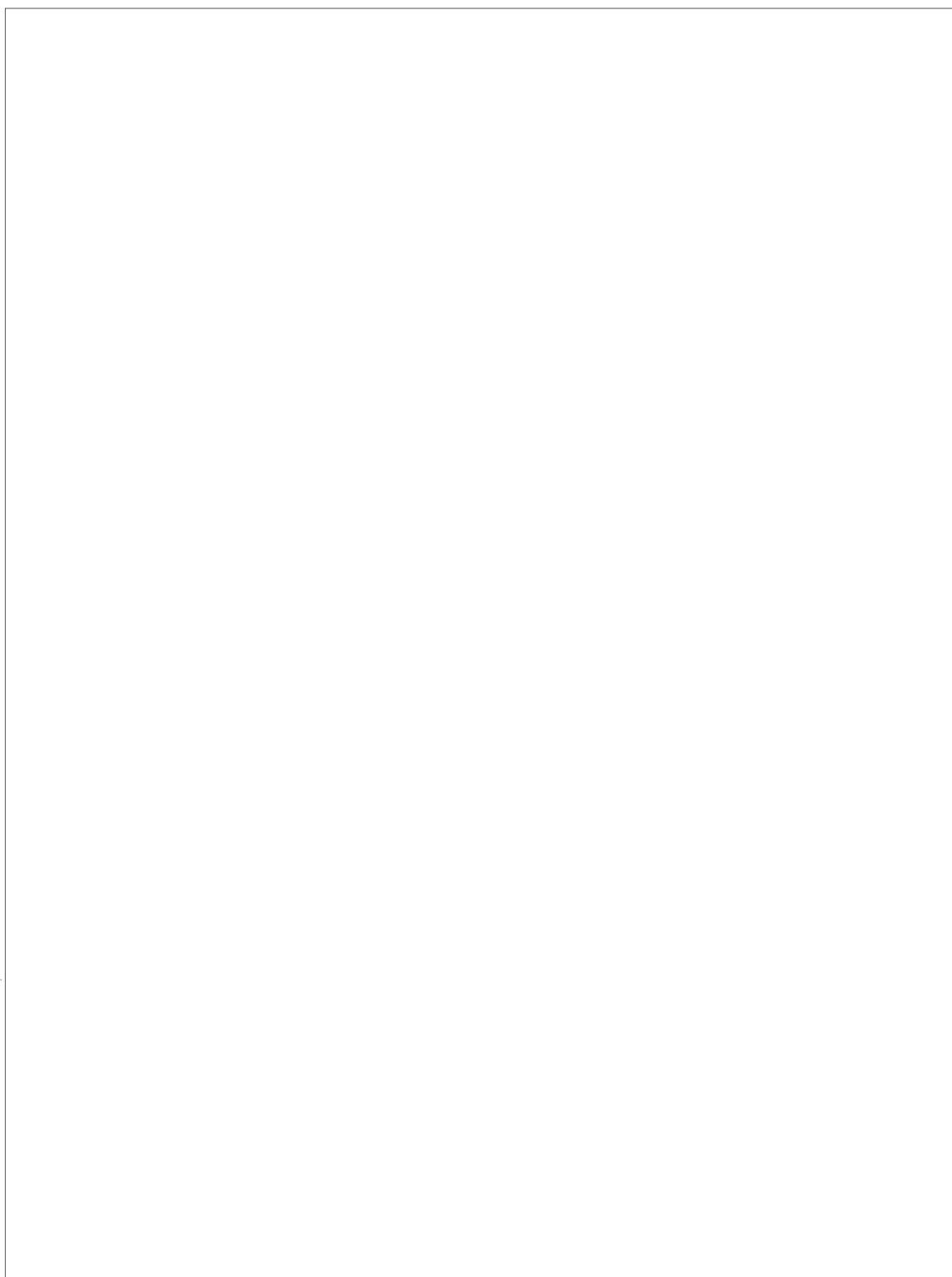
The demonstrations in London are part of a worldwide effort to dramatize popular support for Hanoi throughout the Free World during a week of "solidarity with Vietnam." Hanoi will send official representatives to some of the more important meetings.

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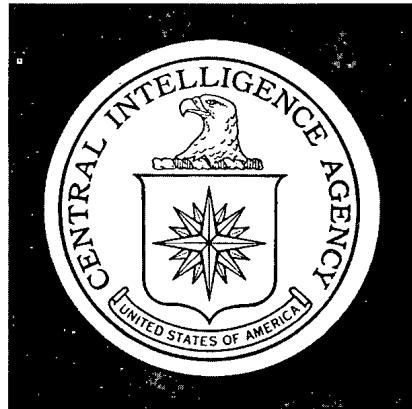
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

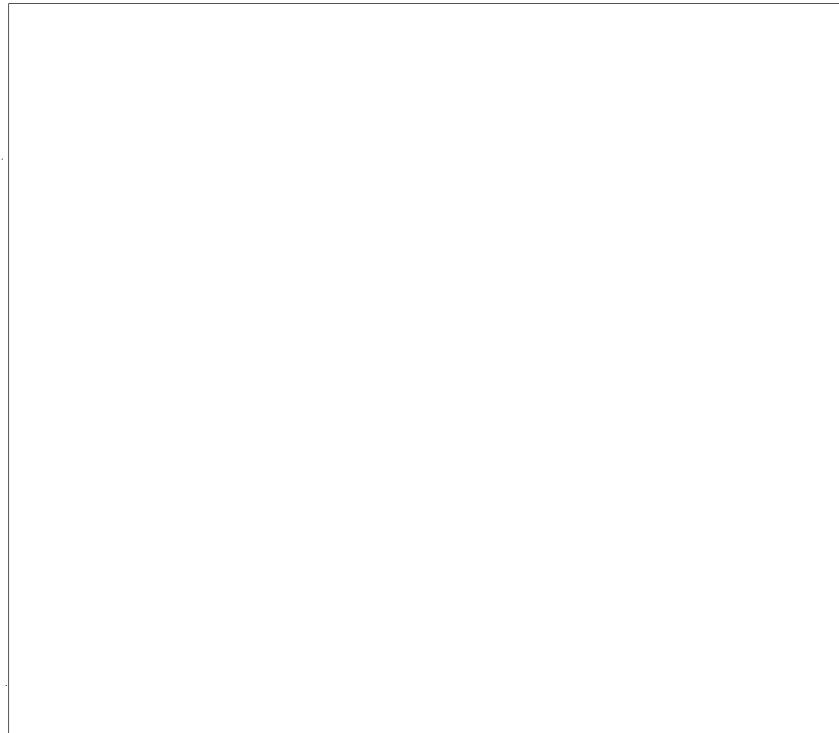
~~Top Secret~~ 10 October 1968



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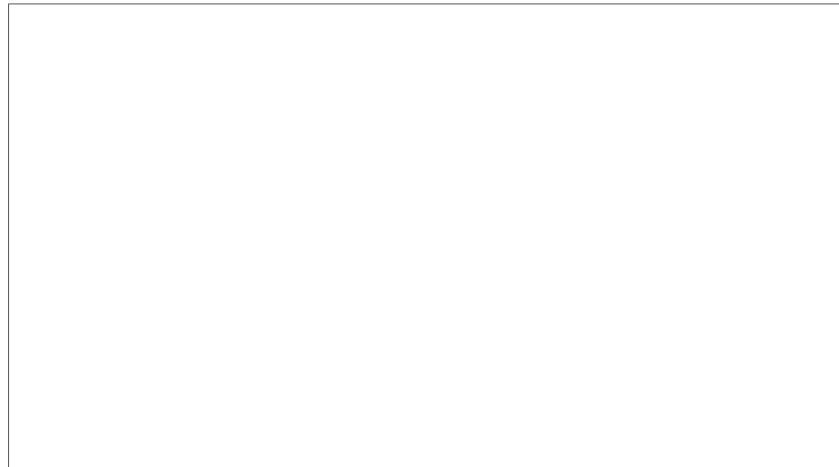
THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
10 OCTOBER 1968

1. South Vietnam



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2. Panama



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3. Portugal

The Portuguese foreign minister called in Ambassador Bennett on Monday to make it "unequivocally clear" that the policy of the Caetano government with respect to its overseas territories "will not change in the slightest."

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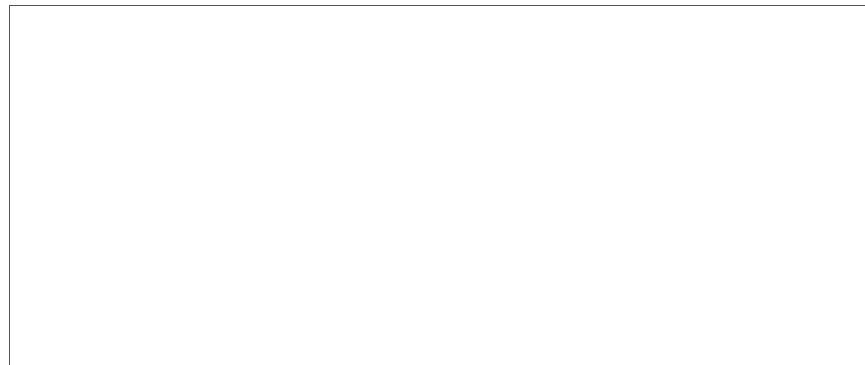
4. Brazil

Bloody student rioting erupted again in Sao Paulo on Tuesday when a massive police effort was needed to break up a demonstration. The embassy in Rio sustained minor damage in another outburst yesterday. The students are protesting "dictatorship," police brutality, and the killing of a fellow student, in addition to their usual demands for educational reform. More on the student problem in Latin America is at Annex.

5. Soviet Union - Finland

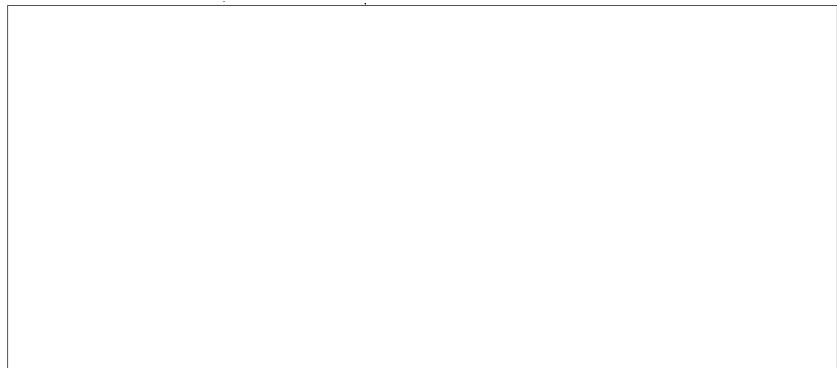
We presume that Kosygin made his trip to Finland--announced yesterday--to warn Kekkonen about the anti-Soviet sentiment that has developed since the occupation of Czechoslovakia. Kosygin certainly was the right man for the job. He and Kekkonen were the ones who held a pup tent summit meeting last summer during a fishing trip to the Soviet Far East.

6. Soviet Union - Middle East



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7. Jordan-Britain



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ANNEX

Latin American Students

The anniversary of Che Guevara's arrest and execution this week has produced only faint rumblings among the students of Latin America; there has been no sign of coordinated action throughout the continent. In Mexico, where the student problem is the most serious, the agitators have been lying low since the major violence of a week ago and are now trying to decide on future strategy. Their demands, however, are unchanged--disbanding the riot police, freeing all political prisoners, compensating students hurt in clashes with security forces, and firing the mayor of Mexico City.

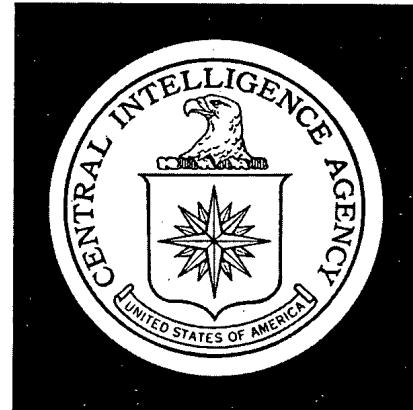
In Uruguay, the situation has its own national flavor. The students started rioting to protest against a government raid on the national university. Later they changed their tactics and demonstrated against the government's refusal to lift a state of siege which had been imposed during the summer. They also joined with labor to demand an end to a wage freeze. There were student fatalities as a result of some of these demonstrations, producing student "martyrs" and in turn more rioting as the students protested government "brutality." Disorders have eased somewhat recently, but it is likely that the radical leadership will soon drum up more demonstrations with more violence.

In Brazil, students have repeatedly asked the government to implement badly needed educational reforms. Better teachers, better facilities, and an updated curriculum are high on their list of demands. In response, the Costa e Silva government has conducted numerous studies of the archaic educational system. So far, however, it has failed to make any changes. There will eventually be some action, but this is likely to be too little and too late to satisfy the students.

At this point, we have no evidence that the student riots in the various Latin American countries are interrelated or directed from abroad. It is true, however, that local Communists, Trotskyites, Castroites, and other extremists on the left have been quick--and evidently well prepared--to exploit the student grievances.

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10 October 1968

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

10 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hard Line in Paris: In discussing Hanoi's position on negotiations [redacted]

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[redacted] in Paris on 7 October, a North Vietnamese press spokesman took an extremely hard line.

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He said that Hanoi considered the Paris talks a good propaganda forum and would continue them as long as they served North Vietnamese purposes. According to the spokesman, the talks gain time for the Communist military effort which he called the key element of Hanoi's strategy.

The North Vietnamese press officer claimed Hanoi could never agree to restoration of the Demilitarized Zone since Vietnam was one country and Hanoi had to fight the Americans "wherever they are." He also restated North Vietnam's position on the bombing halt, indicating the US had to cease aerial reconnaissance and naval bombardments as well.

The spokesman repeated that Hanoi would not negotiate with the present Saigon leadership. He said the National Liberation Front, along with South Vietnamese elements which call for US withdrawal from Vietnam, would be the parties to any discussion on a coalition government.

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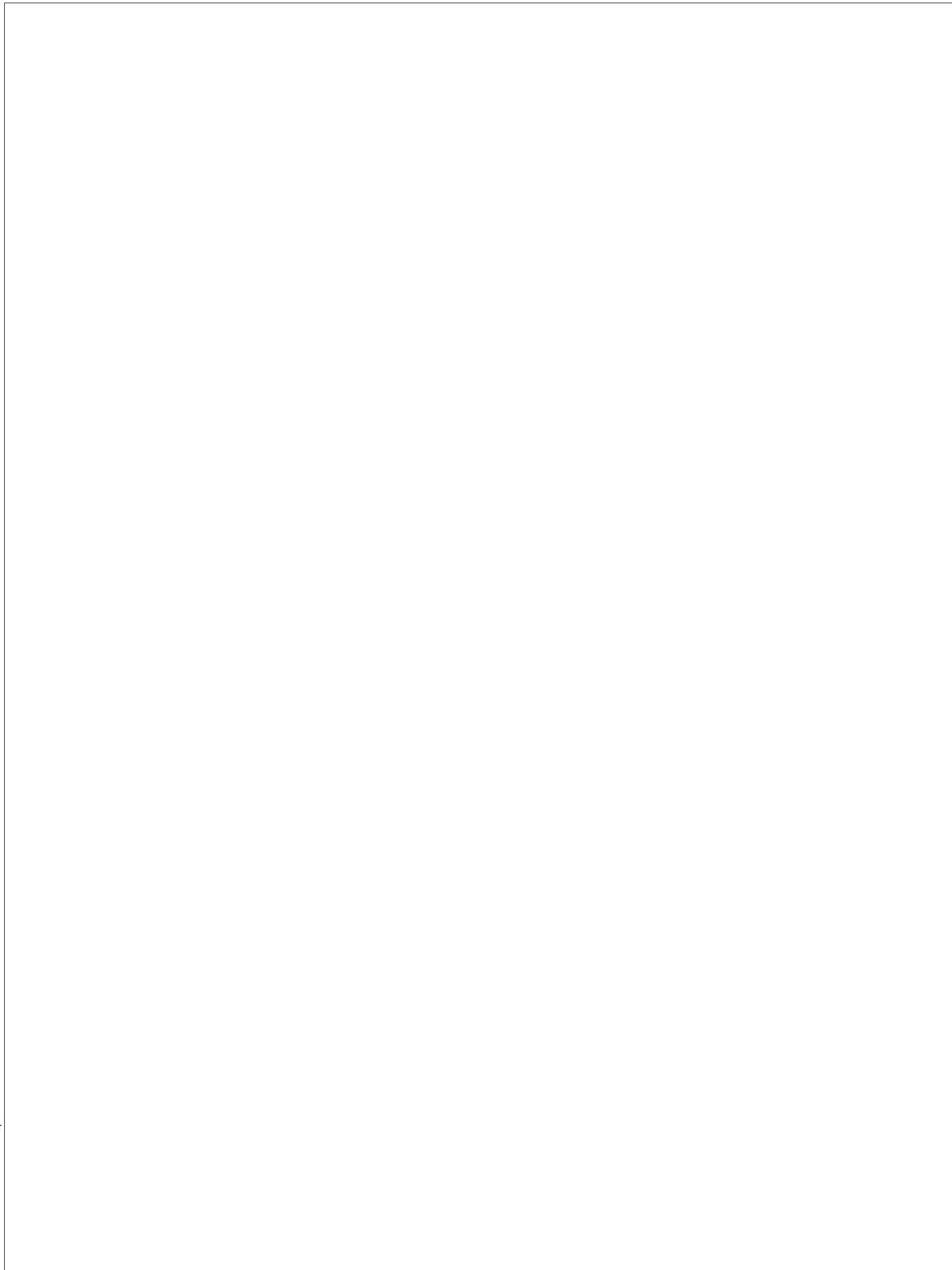
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Hard Line in Djakarta: Representatives of both the Liberation Front and the Hanoi government recently told leftist newsmen in Djakarta that the Communists plan additional large-scale attacks in South Vietnam. In the meantime the Communists are concentrating on keeping the pressure on Danang and Tay Ninh. The correspondents claimed that Hanoi had little hope of achieving any important US concessions in the Paris talks, and had now decided to pursue a military victory in South Vietnam.

These two officials frequently volunteer their own version of future Communist intentions. Although they probably do not stray too far from the general tone of the regime's current line, they are not apt to be well informed of the details of future military plans.

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Pipeline Under Construction: The Communists are constructing a pipeline system in southern North Vietnam. Aerial photography of 8 September has located an additional two miles of pipeline in Ha Tinh Province. A total of 32 miles of line has now been observed in Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces since late July. Much of the pipeline construction appears to have been done since the bombing halt.

The pipeline has been under heavy air attack since first located and probably has never been operational. Nevertheless, the importance attached by the Communists to the line is suggested by the speedy repair or by-passing of damaged sections.

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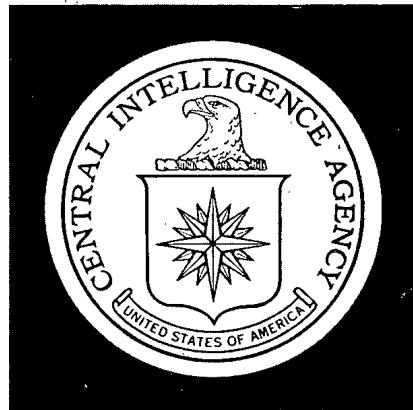
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III. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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~~Top Secret~~ 11 October 1968



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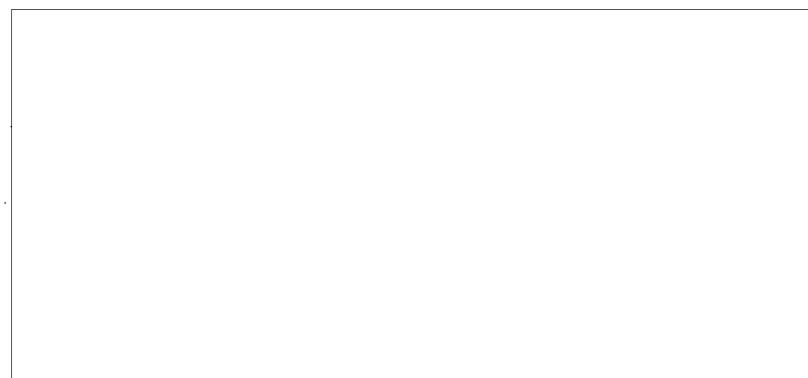
THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
11 OCTOBER 1968

1. South Vietnam



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2. Soviet Union -
Finland

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3. Mexico

The radical fringe is still trying to disrupt the opening of the Olympic games, but most of the students are cowed and disorganized after last week's crackdown. Tight security is being maintained in Mexico City.

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Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

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5. Rumania

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6. Soviet Union -
Communist China

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7. North Korea -
South Korea

North Korean infiltration activity along the Demilitarized Zone is declining. Even at its peak in August and September, it never reached last year's levels, and a record number of those who did try to cross were killed. Infiltration will probably continue at its current low-to-moderate rate until winter sets in.

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8. Israel-Egypt

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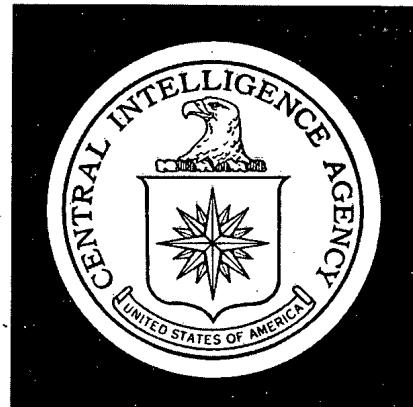
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11 October 1968

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

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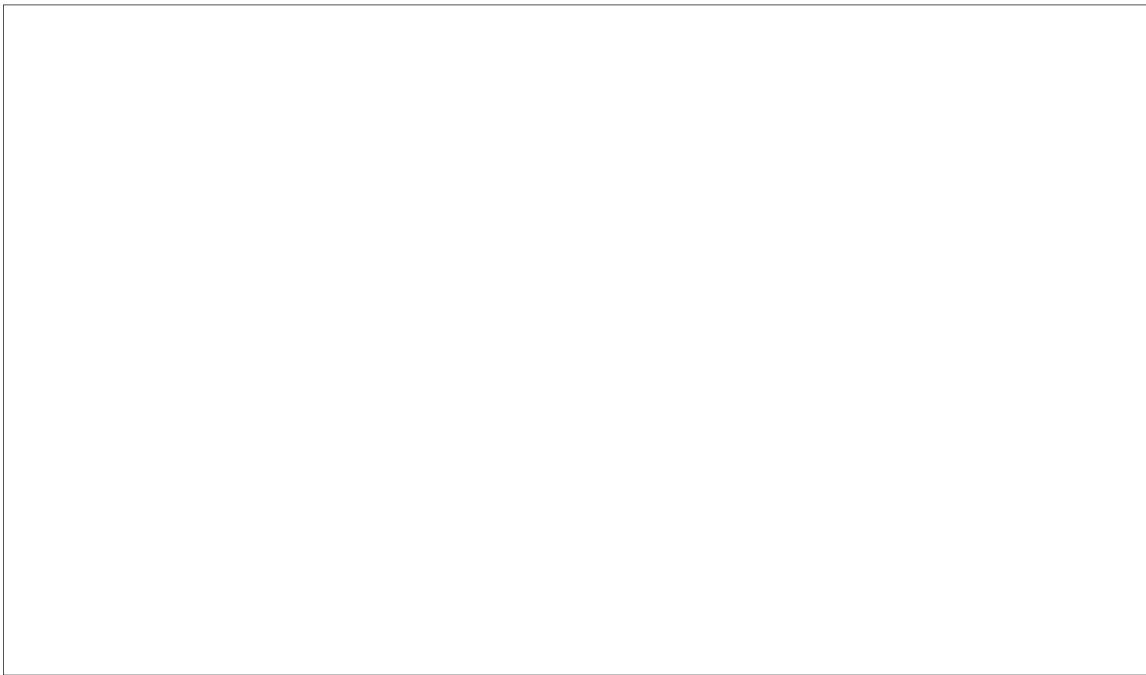
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Malaria continues to be the main disease problem among North Vietnamese units operating outside North Vietnam. Inadequate drug supplies, poor health training, and the increased difficulty of preventing and treating drug-resistant malaria are some of the major factors in the rising incidence of this disease. The current wave of influenza, which began in Communist China, has reached several countries in the Far East and isolated cases have been reported elsewhere.

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Problems in Marketing: Hanoi is taking measures to improve its domestic marketing operations. Widespread irregularities in the market, including theft from state warehouses, blackmarketing in rationed goods, and an uncontrolled expansion of the free market were recently discussed

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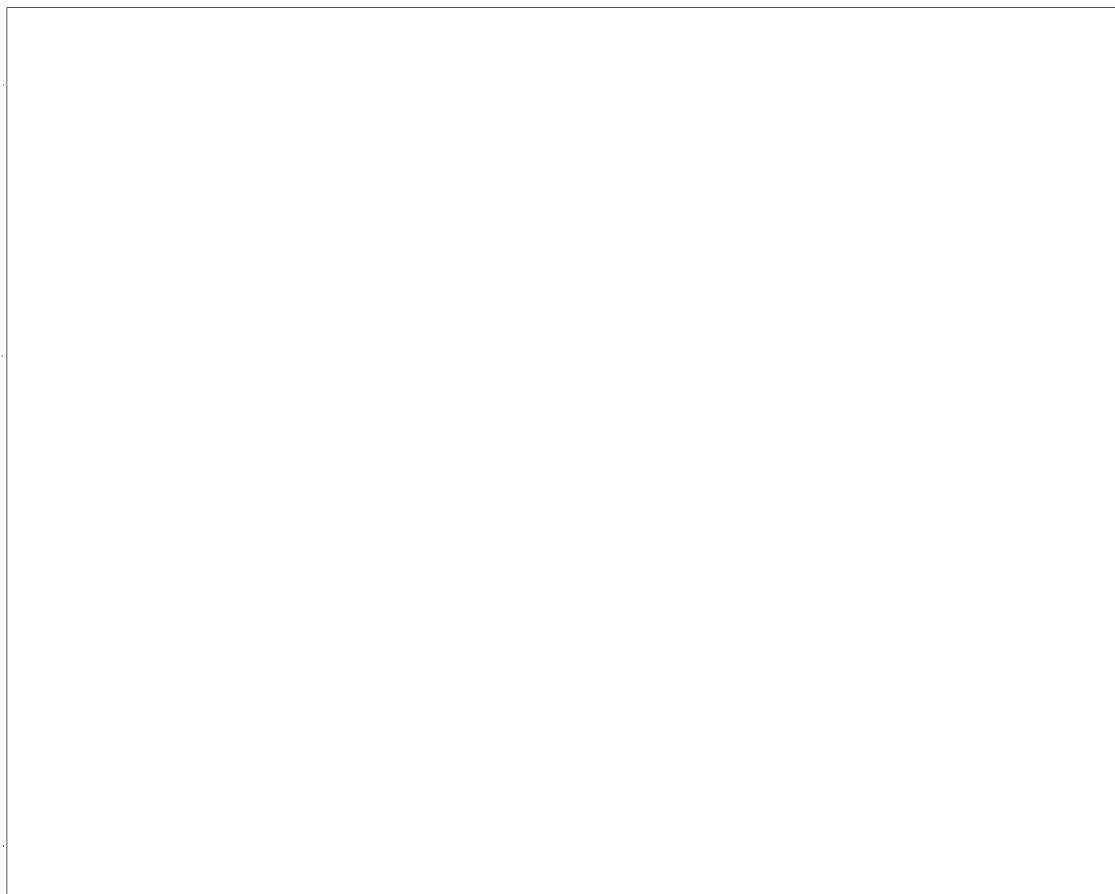
[these problems had reached serious proportions in North Vietnam and had to be brought under control.]

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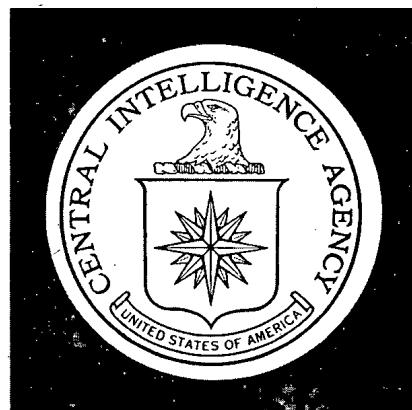
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Vice President: Hanoi Radio on 7 October quoted several Western press accounts of antiwar demonstrations in the US. The broadcast, over the domestic service, claimed that everywhere Vice President Humphrey went he was dogged by young demonstrators demanding an end to the war. The war demonstrators have made the Vice President miserable, said the commentator, and they are punishing him for contributing to President Johnson's "aggressive war."

On 6 October both the Hanoi party daily and the army daily devoted special articles to Vice President Humphrey, claiming that there was no fundamental difference between him and the President. Both articles tried to portray the Democratic leaders as completely estranged from large segments of the American public who were demanding an end to the war.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 12 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
12 OCTOBER 1968

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

Sporadic gunfire is reported in Panama City this morning following the National Guard coup. The Guard moved swiftly last night and now controls key government and radio installations. Arias, however, escaped to the Canal Zone where he has asked for asylum. Members of his Panamenista Party are being arrested.

The Guard's move was triggered by Arias' changes in the command structure. Commandant Vallarino, who was being re-tired as head of the Guard, was not immediately involved in the coup, and his role is still unclear. The front man at the moment is a Lt. Col. Torrijos who apparently has assumed control of the government. Torrijos is an old enemy of Arias and a ring-leader of opposition to the President.

No trouble has been reported in or along the borders of the Canal Zone.

2. South Vietnam

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3. Berlin

The Soviets are dropping thinly veiled threats that "some unpleasantness" could attend a forthcoming convention of Kiesinger's Christian Democratic Union in West Berlin set for 2 November. Such unpleasantness probably would take the form of East German harassment of access routes into the city.

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4. Spain

The Spanish military is optimistic
on base negotiations with the US.

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The military wants the base agree-
ment renewed because they want American
military aid. Their current optimism,
however, may be premature.

5. Ghana

Two Soviet fishing trawlers were
seized by the Ghanaian Navy Thursday
night. The Ghanaians suspect the
trawlers were involved in some sort of
intelligence activity, possibly landing
men and materiel on the beach.

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6. Nigeria

[Redacted]

7. Cyprus

There is little progress in the
talks between leaders of the Turkish
and Greek Cypriot communities. Now in
their fourth month, the talks first
snagged on the question of Turkish
Cypriot local autonomy. That was
shelved and now they are hung up on
lesser issues. Continuing the dialogue,
however, helps to keep things calm.

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8. USS Pueblo

The crew has not lost its sense of humor. Both the Washington Star and the New York Times yesterday carried pictures of crewmen giving the middle finger to their captors. Then an examination of the long petition broadcast by Pyongyang on Tuesday revealed this paragraph:

"We, as conscientious human beings who were cast upon the rocks and shoals of immorality by the tidal wave of Washington's naughty policies, know that neither the frequency nor the distances of these transgressions into the territorial waters of this sovereign peace-loving nation matter because, in the final analysis, penetration however slight is sufficient to complete the act."

The last line is close to a verbatim quote for the legal definition of rape; "the rocks and shoals" is an obvious reference to the old Navy regulations.

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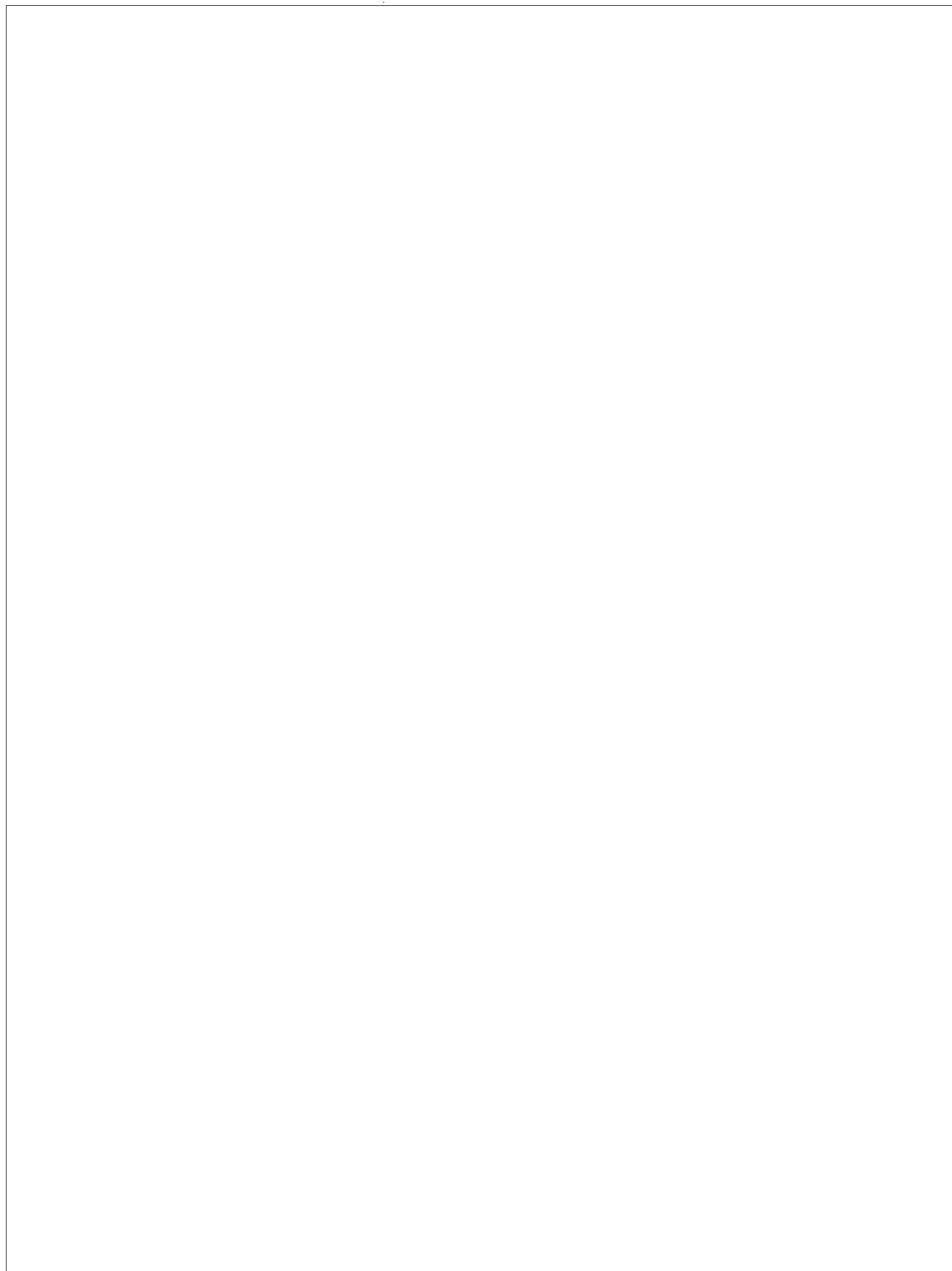
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12 October 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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12 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Front Officials Arrive in Paris: The Liberation Front officials who will officially open the information office in Paris finally arrived on 11 October. According to Western press reports, the Communists had prepared an elaborate reception at the airport, but the two officials were hustled out of the airport through another entrance and were not allowed to make a grand entrance. Hanoi's permanent diplomatic

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representative in Paris, Mai Van Bo, and a prominent member of the North Vietnamese delegation to the peace talks, Ha Van Lau, were at the airport to greet the delegation.

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On Repatriation: North Vietnam's Foreign Ministry has scored the repatriation of Vietnamese from northeast Thailand to South Vietnam.

In a statement broadcast on 9 October, the ministry charged this program violated agreements between the North Vietnamese and Thai Red Cross organizations as well as international law. The statement indicated the Vietnamese were being forced to repatriate and said the Thai Government will "bear full responsibility for all consequences" unless the program is halted.

The Vietnamese involved in this repatriation from Thailand's troubled northeast are generally sympathetic to Hanoi and have been unwilling to voluntarily submit to the move.

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Radio Reports Saigon Rumors: Hanoi Radio reported the coup rumors in Saigon in a brief broadcast on its international service yesterday. It was sourced largely to Western press accounts and concluded that the coup rumors were probably a ploy by President Thieu to replace more of the Ky men still in the cabinet.

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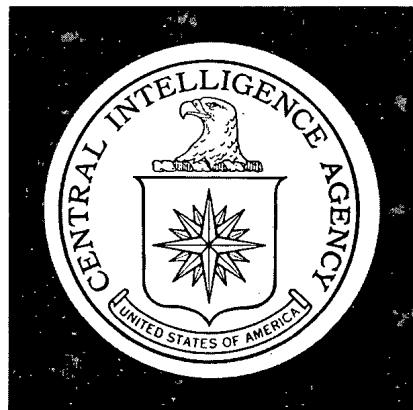
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Radio Notes Baltimore Rally: Hanoi Radio, in its international service, has publicized an anti-war rally held in Baltimore on 7 October. The broadcast on 11 October claimed that more than 2,000 people gathered in front of the court house in support of nine young Americans on trial for burning draft cards.

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
14 OCTOBER 1968

1. Panama

Shooting occurred last night in Panama City following the formal installation of the junta and cabinet; more clashes between Arias forces and the National Guard can be expected today.

Arias yesterday issued a highly inflammatory statement telling his followers to take up arms against the Guard. In addition, leaflets were circulated urging people to go into the streets. Some reports say that Arias supporters hope to organize disturbances or a general strike today. Communist elements probably would join in, but they are remaining aloof for the time being until other forces take the initiative. In the past, efforts by Arias to foment a general strike have failed.

guardsmen moved quickly over the weekend to round up potential troublemakers.

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2. Brazil

Police have broken up a congress of the illegal National Student Union and arrested nearly one thousand students, including the Rio and Sao Paulo regional leaders. Some extreme leftist students are barricaded in the University of Sao Paulo, however, and trouble could develop if police try to force them out. If charges can be made to stick against the arrested leaders, student antigovernment activities will be severely handicapped.

The government still has no definite information on the murderers of the US Army officer who was shot to death in Sao Paulo on 12 October. Leaflets left near the body denounced US involvement in Vietnam and in the death of Che Guevara.

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3. Czechoslovakia

In an emotional speech on Friday, Dubcek bowed to nearly all of the Soviet demands. He said that no opposition to the Soviets will be permitted and that personal safety will be guaranteed only to law-abiding citizens. He claimed his policies will be guided by the principles of Communist Party supremacy and alliance with the Soviet Union. He pointedly admitted his regime's failure in the past to appreciate the Soviet view.

Dubcek made it clear that while he will not resign voluntarily, Soviet dictates will be implemented with or without him. In other remarks showing a growing division in the leadership, he implicitly blamed several of his colleagues for bringing on the Russian intervention.

4. Poland

Gomulka has also been speech making recently. In an agitated and stumbling performance on 8 October, he may well have caused the party rank and file to wonder if he is still up to the task of running the country. Judging from excerpts shown on Warsaw television, the 63-year-old Gomulka wandered from his text a number of times to give rambling answers to unexpected criticism and to speak imprecisely about the situation in Czechoslovakia and the unsatisfactory economic situation at home.

Gomulka spoke to the party organization in Silesia, which is led by one of his rivals, politburo member Edward Gierek. Gomulka's bewildered performance may have been partially caused by the surprisingly frank discussion which he encountered. It is also possible that the subsequent telecast of the speech was a deliberate attempt to damage his image.

5. Dominican Republic

Political maneuvering is already under way in anticipation of the presidential election next May. Much of the jockeying centers around President Balaguer, whose partisans are already moving to secure his re-election. Although Balaguer's recent actions suggest he is toying with running again, the drift and stagnation that characterizes his administration does not suggest that he has yet made a decision.

The former provisional president and current ambassador to the US, Garcia Godoy, has begun a campaign to organize a moderate "movement of national unity" behind his candidacy. Then there is Juan Bosch; his recent statements that he intends to leave his self-imposed European exile and return home have led to speculation that he too will run again.

6. Guatemala

The Communists

[redacted] plan to set off some bombs in the capital this week to commemorate the revolution of 20 October 1944. Judging from previous Communist actions, the bombings will probably be for propaganda effect and the targets selected are likely to be those where the risks of getting caught are minimal. No US installations are believed to have been targeted.

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14 October 1968

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

14 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Propaganda: The Vietnamese Communists in both Paris and Hanoi issued pessimistic assessments of the possibility of any progress in the Paris talks. In propaganda commentary this weekend, the authoritative Nhan Dan called the Paris peace talks "deadlocked," saying there has been no progress in five months and there is little prospect of improvement in the future. President Johnson steadfastly refuses to meet Hanoi's demand for an unconditional cessation of the bombing, said the Communist daily, and Communist reading of the statements of the major presidential candidates is that they both would continue this policy. President Johnson and his Vice President were called "obdurate and stubborn" and Nixon was characterized as "warlike and colonial." Without an unconditional cessation of the bombing and some significant change in official US thinking, said Hanoi, there will be no progress in Paris and the war will be "prolonged."

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Xuan Thuy Interview: In Paris, Xuan Thuy told a [redacted] correspondent virtually the same thing in an interview on Friday. Thuy also characterized the talks as "deadlocked" and said a halt in the air strikes was an "absolute condition for progress in the current negotiations."

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Thuy consistently avoided rising to the bait of his interviewer's pointed questions. He used the occasion to restate Hanoi's determination to persevere in its objectives, both in Paris and on the ground in South Vietnam. He refused to be drawn out on the kind of representation which Hanoi envisaged for postbombing talks and ducked the question why both the regular news conference and his own previously scheduled private interviews had been canceled last Monday. This cancellation had caused considerable press speculation that Hanoi was cautiously avoiding any inflammatory statements in the hope of encouraging new US concessions. Xuan Thuy said merely that both he and his press spokesman had been "busy with some work."

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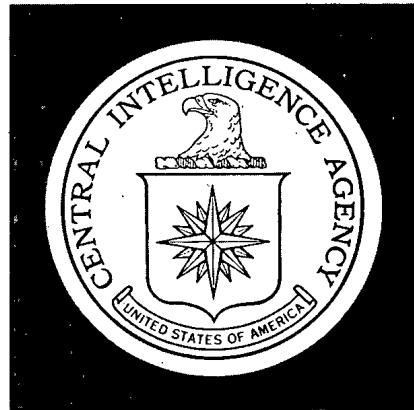
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
15 OCTOBER 1968

1. Panama

Efforts by Arias and others to stir up trouble for the junta have had little success. Panama as a whole remains calm.

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bers of Arias' own coalition, convinced his cause is doomed, hope he can be persuaded to clear the way for a civilian government by leaving the country.

2. Syria

Plotting is the nearest thing to a Syrian national sport, and reports of impending coups appear constantly.

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We think it highly unlikely that any new government would modify Syria's anti-US foreign policy or end the country's chronic instability.

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3. Communist China

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4. Sabah

Now that Marcos has outdone his domestic opponents in pressing the Sabah claim, prominent opposition politicians in Manila are beginning to question the claim's validity. This typically Filipino by-play may take some of the heat out of the issue.

Marcos himself has reduced tensions a bit by raising the idea of arbitration, and the Malaysian deputy prime minister has agreed to meet the Philippine foreign minister late this month. Marcos has asked both the British ambassador and Ambassador Williams to help arrange a summit meeting with Prime Minister Rahman.

All this does not mean an early solution of the dispute, but it may permit the two sides to have another try at a cooling-off period.

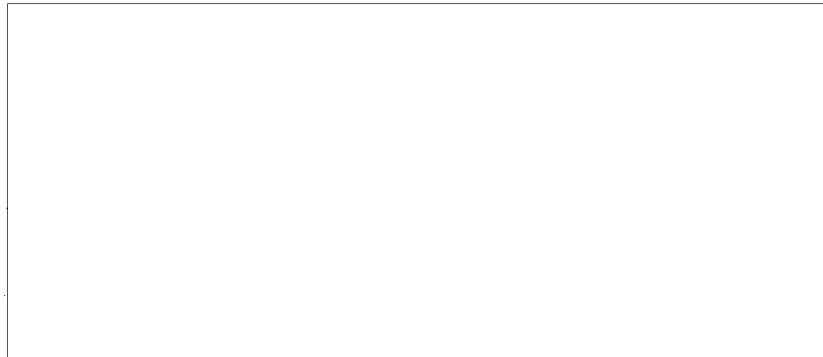
5. Soviet Union

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6. North Korea

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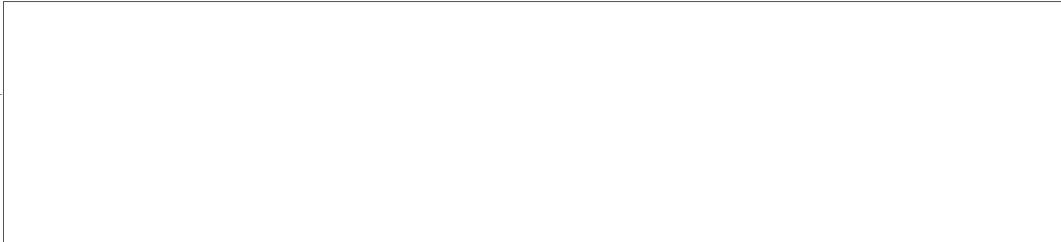
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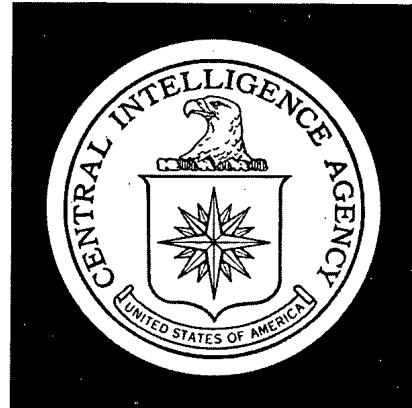
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15 October 1968

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

Le Duc Tho Back to Hanoi: After spending the last two months in Paris, North Vietnamese politburo member Le Duc Tho left France for Hanoi [redacted] on 14 October. A North Vietnamese spokesman said the trip was for consultation. He professed ignorance in response to questions about when or if Tho would return to Paris.

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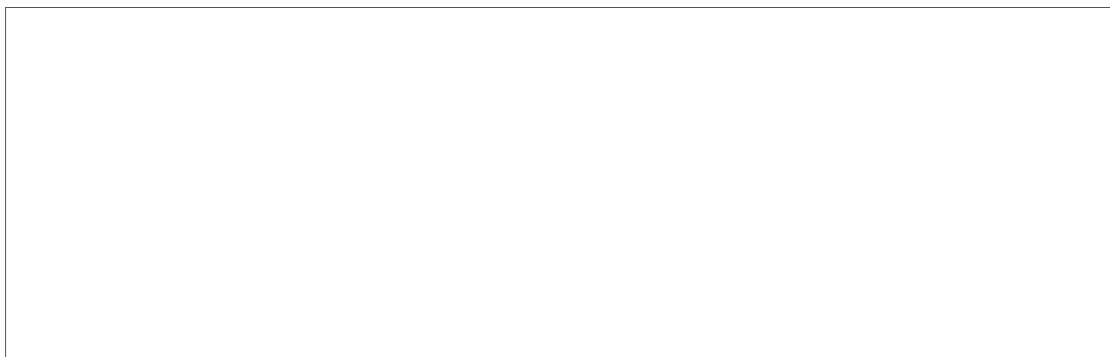
Front Officials Arrive in Sweden: Two Liberation Front officials arrived in Stockholm on 14 October to set up a Front information office there, according to a French news agency dispatch. One of the Communist arrivals will be the first chief of the new office; the other is a Front Central Committee member. This is the second such office to be opened in a non-Communist European country--Paris was the first.

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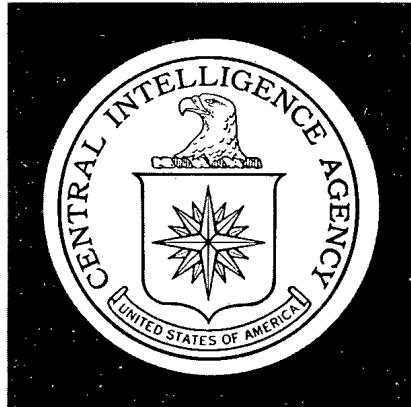
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Le on Bundy: Nguyen Thanh Le, the spokesman for Hanoi's Paris delegation, has provided the first Vietnamese Communist reaction to McGeorge Bundy's recent speech on Vietnam. At his regular press briefing yesterday, Le was asked if he had any comment on Bundy's proposals. He replied, "With regard to the statement by Mr. Bundy on the unconditional cessation of bombing, we consider it a realistic measure which has positive effects."

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
16 OCTOBER 1968

1. Panama

Most members of the new junta are warming to the idea that Arias' first vice president, Raul Arango, be elevated to the presidency. Arango is said to be willing, and other politicians, including members of Arias' coalition, are now believed to favor a "constitutional solution" along these lines.

The kid glove tactics used by the National Guard so far have prevented the outbreak of serious rioting.

2. South Vietnam

Major enemy units still are resting and refitting in their base areas getting ready for the next round, which the Communists are calling their winter-spring offensive.

In the meantime, unseasonably late rains in the delta and around Saigon are flooding out routine guerrilla activities of local Communist forces.

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3. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Press accounts of a firm agreement on thinning out occupation troops seem premature. The communique covering the Cernik-Kosygin talks in Moscow says nothing about a "status-of-forces" treaty. It just states that the two sides discussed among other things "the conditions of a temporary stationing of Soviet troops."

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4. Arab States -
Israel

The Arabs profess to see nothing new in Eban's nine-point peace plan. They claim the Israelis still are ignoring the Security Council resolution of November 1967, especially the parts dealing with withdrawal from occupied territories.

Meanwhile, Jarring keeps plugging away trying to generate a substantive exchange between the two camps.

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5. Jordan

King Husayn and his government may find themselves in over their heads if they seriously enforce new restrictions on Palestinian terrorist activities.

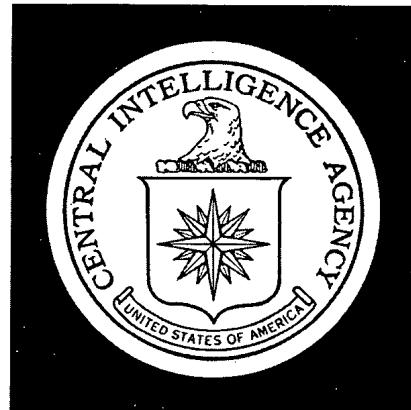
Among the new rules taking effect yesterday was a requirement that all terrorist operations must be cleared with Jordanian military authorities. Terrorists are also forbidden to wear uniforms or carry arms in town, and their vehicles will be subject to search.

The terrorists, who enjoy wide popular support in Jordan, told the government beforehand that they would not go along with the new regulations.

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Vietnam Solidarity Activities Accelerating: Communist front organizations throughout the world are preparing in earnest to promote various Vietnam solidarity activities through the rest of the year.

On 11 October, the headquarters of the international students' organization in Prague set mid-November as the date for student demonstrations in both Free World and Communist countries. The magic day is 27 October for London, where several left-wing groups plan two demonstrations, one reported to be targeted against the American Embassy. The World Peace Council is doing its part by sponsoring a Vietnamese delegation tour of a number of west European countries, the first stop being Brussels on 24 October. In Paris, the North Vietnamese have asked the French Communist Party to prepare another "ship for Vietnam" to be filled with medical supplies and food.

The Swedish Vietnam committee is sponsoring an international conference in Stockholm during December to coordinate the "support Vietnam" activities of a number of groups. According to a TASS dispatch, this conference will be attended not only by Hanoi and Liberation Front representatives but by the Alliance as well. This would be the international debut of the Alliance. The Stockholm conference is intended to be a pretty big show. The Front people who just arrived in the Swedish capital are already plugging it as a major landmark in international support for Hanoi.

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Le Duc Tho in Moscow: Press reports indicate that North Vietnamese politburo member Le Duc Tho, who arrived in Moscow yesterday en route home from the Paris talks, met with Soviet Premier Kosygin on 15 October. This is Tho's fourth stopover in Moscow.

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since the Paris talks began and his third such meeting with Kosygin. Kosygin was on vacation outside Moscow during Tho's last visit (10-13 August), and Tho met with First Deputy Premier Mazurov. On past trips Tho has generally spent two or three days in Moscow, and if he follows the previous pattern, he probably will make a shorter stop in Peking before returning to Hanoi.

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North Vietnamese and Front Activities in France: The combined North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front delegation which is visiting several European countries will participate in social events and meetings with workers in the Paris area this week. The activities have been organized by the French Peace Movement as "International Week of Solidarity with Vietnam."

The Communist Party newspaper, Humanité, reports that meetings will be held all over France in the coming weeks, culminating on 23 November, to produce petitions in support of North Vietnam and the Front. Humanité invites its readers to contribute funds for quinine urgently needed by North Vietnam and penicillin needed by the Front.

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The Front is Being Built Up Internationally: The Vietnamese Communists are steadily building their case for presenting the National Liberation Front as a functioning political entity with some of the trappings of a legitimate government. Growing Communist claims about the extent of the Front's "governing" role in South Vietnam have been accompanied by an accelerated effort to expand the Front's diplomatic representation. In the past two months the Communists have implemented or moved to implement virtually all the agreements they have been able to obtain for setting up permanent Front missions abroad.

Last August, Front missions were set up almost simultaneously in Albania, Bulgaria, Mongolia, and Rumania--the only Communist countries where Front offices had not been established previously. Last week two representatives arrived in Paris to head up a new Front office there, and this week two other officials arrived in Stockholm to open a similar mission in Sweden.

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The Communists appear to be marshaling all the assets they can to enhance the status of the Front and to be ready to put it forward as a principal party to negotiations involving South Vietnam.

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Doumer Bridge in Bad Condition: A regular traveler in the Hanoi area reports that in late September the Paul Doumer Bridge was showing signs of fatigue under the continuing heavy traffic load. He says that the vibration of the bridge is extremely noticeable and the roadbed is badly pitted. He saw no signs, however, of preparation to make repairs. The foundations of the bridge were apparently repaired with more speed than efficiency last spring, and the recent flooding in the Hanoi area probably further weakened the main supports.

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

Hanoi Gloats Over Komer's Departure: Hanoi Radio in its domestic broadcast on 14 October took exceptional delight in reporting the recall of Ambassador Komer. The report did not reveal that Mr. Komer had been appointed to a new post as ambassador to Turkey, but went to great lengths to disparage his efforts to improve the pacification program in South Vietnam.

San Francisco Rally: In its international service on 15 October, Hanoi Radio publicized the antiwar rally held in San Francisco on 12 October, emphasizing the role played by service veterans of the Vietnam war.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
17 OCTOBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Moscow now has a status-of-forces agreement which it can cite as legal authority for the continued presence of its forces in Czechoslovakia. The agreement was signed last night in Prague by Premiers Kosygin and Cernik. The text of the treaty has not yet been published, but it will probably allow the Soviets to maintain some 100,000 troops in occupation. Kosygin said yesterday that other Warsaw Pact forces will be withdrawn by stages within the next few months.

Having gained one major goal, Moscow may now try to pressure Prague into a formal admission that the intervention was justified by the existence of a "counterrevolutionary" situation. Such an admission would open the gates to a broad purge of the Czechoslovak party and government.

2. Soviet Union

The Soviets will probably try another circumlunar mission this year, but not this month. Soviet space support ships in the Atlantic and Indian oceans have left their stations for nearby ports,

3. Soviet Union

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4. Communist China -
United Kingdom

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5. United Kingdom -
Rhodesia

The Rhodesians are keeping the door open to further negotiations on the terms offered by Wilson in the talks at Gibraltar. Although Wilson made concessions of form, he did not yield on the basic question of ultimate majority rule in Rhodesia.

The Rhodesians are no more ready now than before to accept this. Yet Ian Smith, now back in Salisbury, stated yesterday that there is "a distinct possibility" of settlement if London will drop its demand that Rhodesia accept the final authority of the British Privy Council.

This authority is important in providing London a means of seeing that the terms of an agreement are carried out. Smith will probably continue negotiations with Commonwealth Secretary Thomson in Salisbury.

6. Guyana

Prime Minister Burnham is still not publicizing his plan to dissolve parliament next month and call for elections in December. He feels that conditions are favorable to him this year, while they might not be next March, by which time elections must be held. The junior party in Burnham's coalition government could withdraw even before the dissolution of parliament, since the partners are at loggerheads over a proposed election law.

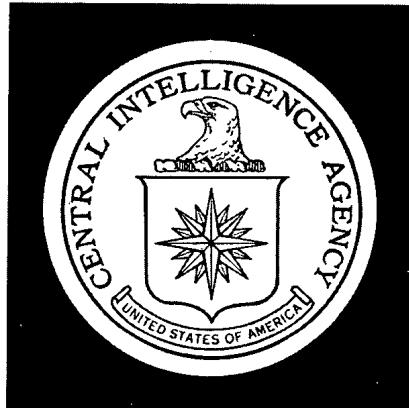
Cheddi Jagan admits his party has no chance in an election run by Burnham, but he will stay in the race just the same. Cheddi is looking further into the future and is trying to convert his party into a tightly knit Communist organization.

7. Philippines-Malaysia

The Philippine-Malaysian ministerial talks planned for next week in Tokyo have been scuttled by a provocative speech made by Philippine Foreign Secretary Ramos at the UN on Tuesday, apparently on instructions from President Marcos. Ramos asserted that Malaysia has no authority to represent or speak for Sabah. The reaction of Malaysian Prime Minister Rahman was to call off the Tokyo meeting.

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17 October 1968

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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17 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Le Duc Tho Moves On: Le Duc Tho left Moscow on 16 October after two days of consultations with the Soviets.

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Radio Commentary on Paris Talks: A Hanoi Radio domestic commentary on 15 October reviews the Paris talks in familiar hard-line terms and carries on the theme that a bombing halt will create favorable conditions for a "correct" settlement of the war. It offers no clues to Hanoi's current tactics and promises nothing specific for a postbombing period.

After reaffirming Hanoi's "sacred right" of "fighting and chasing the aggressors anywhere," the broadcast stresses that "the Vietnamese people" have always been ready to move toward a "correct settlement" on the basis of the Four Points and the political program of the Liberation Front. Such a settlement, it said, must be based on the "independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity" of Vietnam "as recognized by the Geneva Agreements." It also requires, according to the broadcast, that the US end its "aggression," withdraw its troops from the South and "recognize" and "talk" with the Front about "the related problems in South Vietnam."

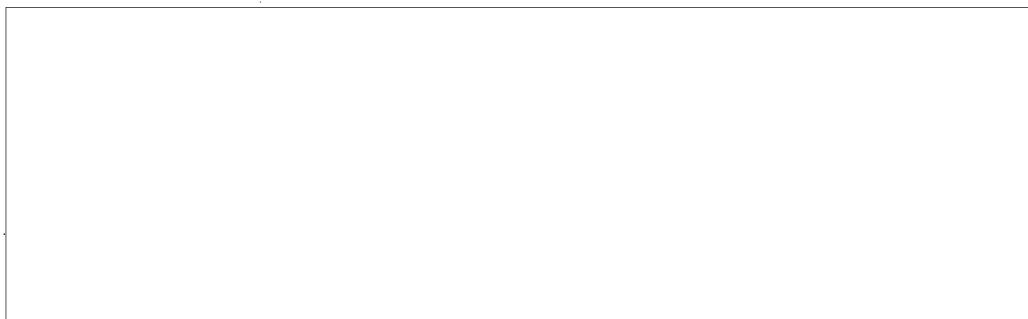
The broadcast gave short shrift to the matter of South Vietnamese representation, saying only that the US had used the Paris talks to "make propaganda in favor of the Saigon puppet regime." On the bombing issue, the broadcast quoted President Johnson's speech of 10 October expressing hope for an early end to the war. Seemingly in response to the President,

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it said that "if the United States ends the bombing of North Vietnam soon, it will have conditions for correctly settling the Vietnam problem."

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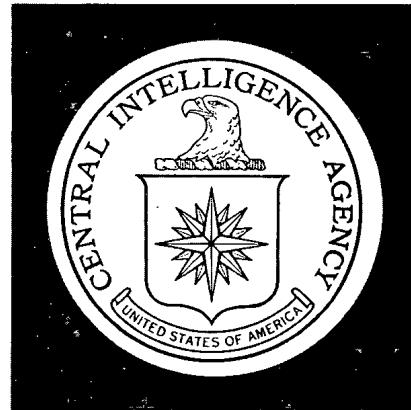
Coal Industry Problems: In a "recent" speech to coal miners, Pham Van Dong stated that their industry had "failed to achieve progress in the past few years" even though "the amount of equipment and material supplies to the mining areas have been further increased." Pham accused the workers of failing to work satisfactorily, of not working all the workday, and of failing to uphold labor discipline. He also accused them of failing to regard coal production as a revolutionary or anti-US struggle and hence falling into "bureaucratic or unrealistic" leadership practices.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
18 OCTOBER 1968

1. Panama

There has been nothing new reported overnight on the question of Arias' leaving the Canal Zone. Panama City is quiet.

2. Czechoslovakia

There is growing concern in Czech party circles that pro-Soviet conservatives are about to make a bid for power. The party's weekly journal, for instance, yesterday attacked "discredited or evidently incompetent" people who are trying to make a comeback. The journal warned that Czechoslovakia must either stick with Dubcek's policies or face a return to Stalinism. Dubcek, meanwhile, remained well in the background during Kosygin's stay in Prague.

3. France

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4. Communist China

The messy business of putting the Communist Party back together again has become the central issue in China. The big questions now are who is to be recruited, who is to be promoted, and who is to be purged. Until the leadership is able to control the infighting, however, progress toward rebuilding will be slow indeed.

5. South Korea

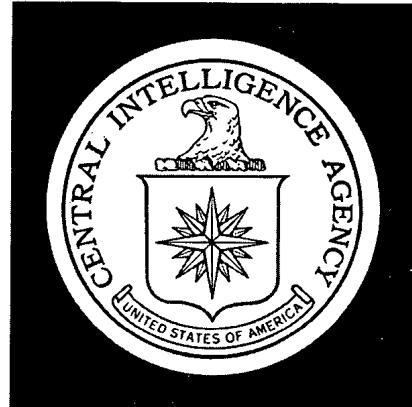
President Pak has expanded his private informant network both in the military and in the civilian government. He has also re-established an army security command with primary responsibility to guard against coup plotting. These moves look like the first steps to discourage opposition to Pak's running for a third term in 1971. Pak still has to get the two-term limitation amended out of the constitution, and much of the officer corps may fight this.

**6. Nigeria -
Soviet Union**

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18 October 1968

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

18 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Le Duc Tho Arrives in Hanoi: Le Duc Tho completed his trip from Paris to Hanoi on Thursday.

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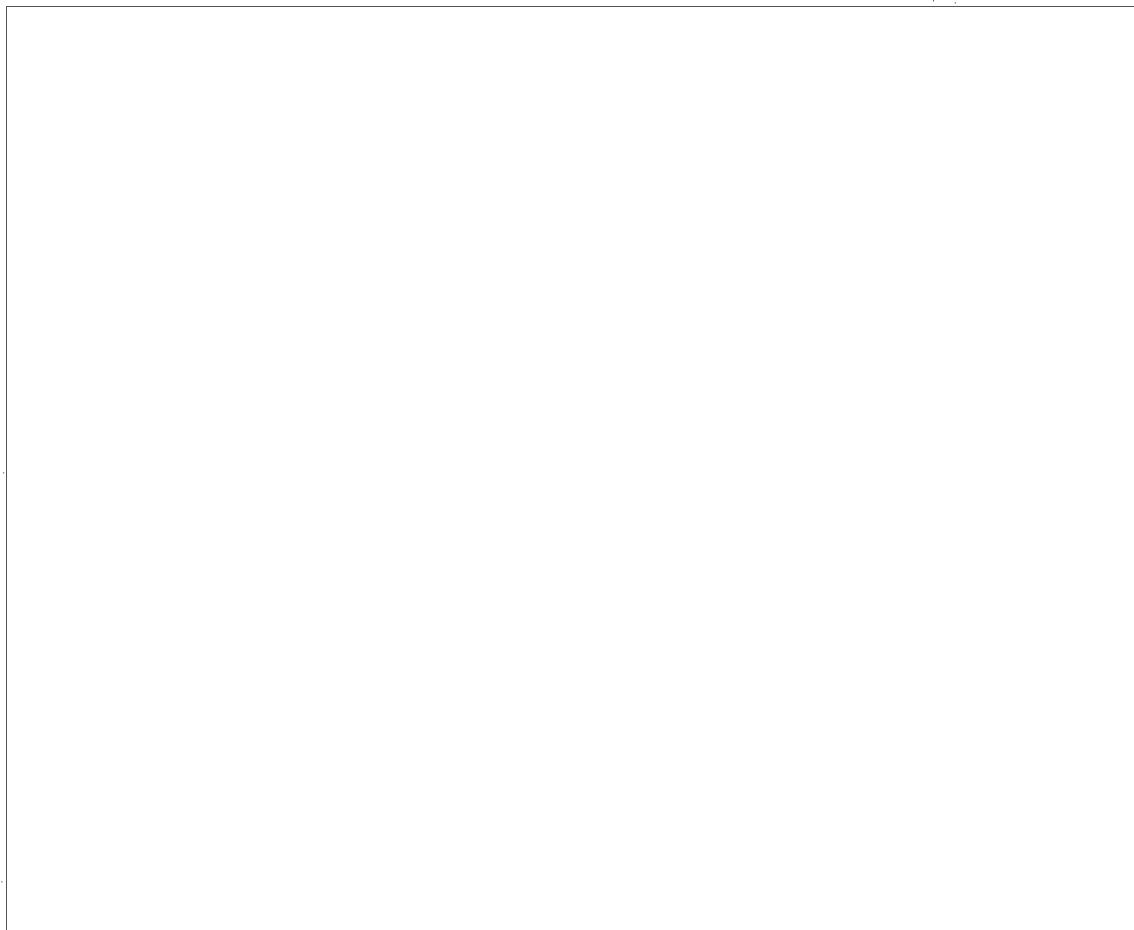
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Nhan Dan Line is Tough: An authoritative "Commentator" article in the North Vietnamese party daily on 17 October takes the usual unyielding line on the Paris talks. All blame for the "stalemate" is heaped on the US for refusing to stop the bombing. The concept of reciprocity is firmly rejected, and in two places the article scores President Johnson for calling on North Vietnam to "meet the minimal requirements of fairness" by exercising military restraint.

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Pro-Hanoi Meetings in Paris: The French Interior Ministry has turned down the Foreign Ministry's request that pro-Hanoi meetings scheduled for this weekend in Paris be banned.

The US Embassy has been informed that the meetings will

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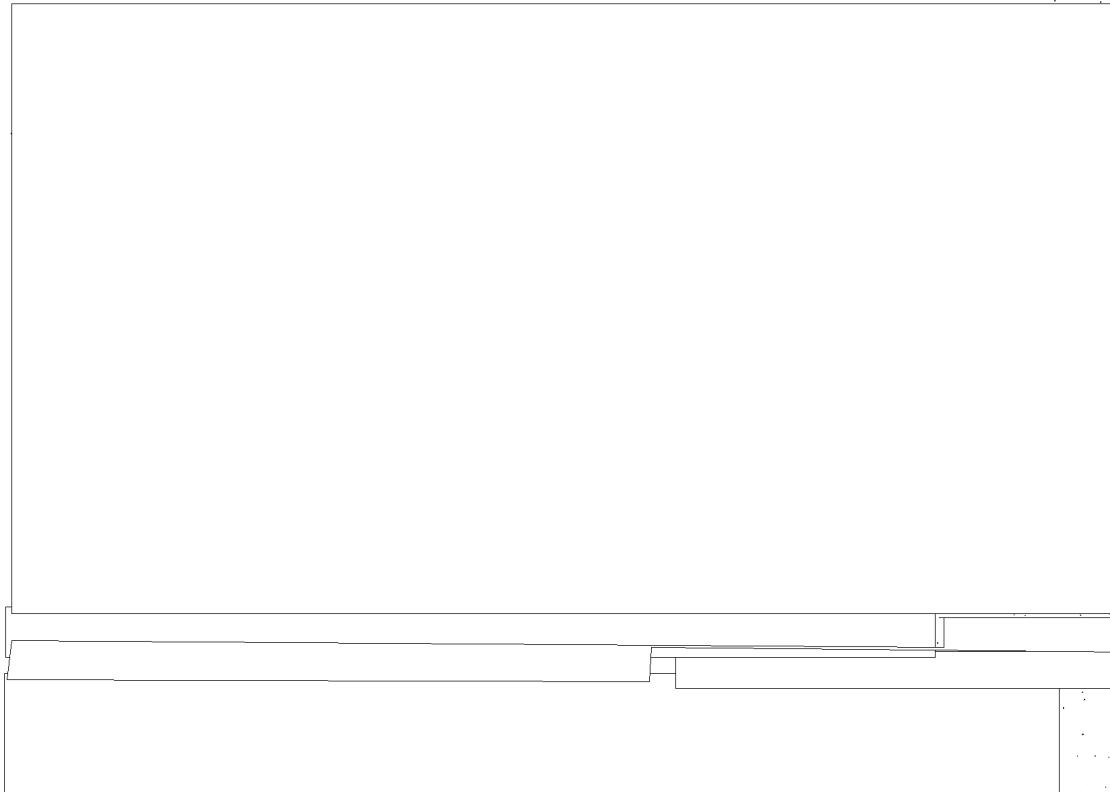
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be held inside a building and admission will be by invitation only. (Presumably, therefore, they will not technically be "public.") A Foreign Ministry official was clearly embarrassed by the decision, but he said it had been made at a "very high level" and nothing more could be done about it.

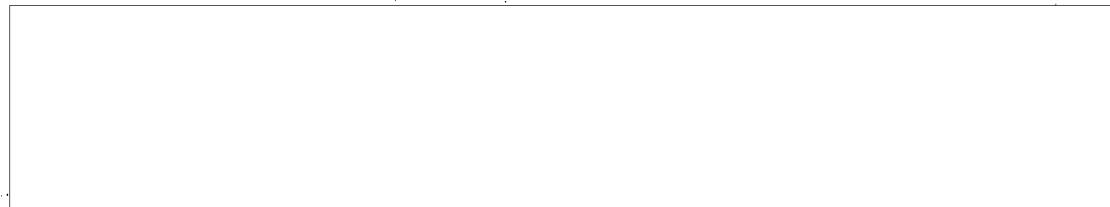
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Burchett to Make "Documentary": Wilfred Burchett's current trip to Hanoi apparently has to do with a "documentary" for the Russell War Crimes Tribunal. The film is to "denounce the myth" of the partial bombing halt.



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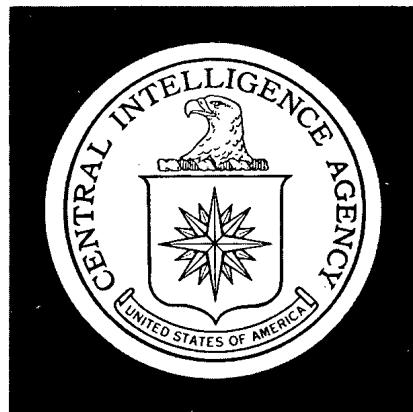
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
19 OCTOBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Premier Cernik yesterday gave the Czechoslovak legislature an elaborate rationalization for the status-of-forces agreement with Moscow, but the legislators succeeded in making their unhappiness plain before voting the required approval. No such indecorum was evident in Moscow, where the Soviets also went through the motions of getting legislative sanction for the treaty.

As described by Cernik, the agreement resembles Soviet-Polish and Soviet-Hungarian treaties already on the books. There still seem to be some points which will require further negotiation, however, and the rumor mills are buzzing with speculation about secret clauses. One rumor has it that the Czechoslovaks will be allowed only low-key celebrations of their national day on 28 October, while the conservatives will be encouraged to make as much as they can of the Soviet national holiday on 7 November.

If Cernik's interpretation of the treaty holds up, most of the occupying forces could be out of Czechoslovakia by mid-December. Some Warsaw Pact forces have in fact been noted withdrawing from their positions in and near Czechoslovakia. One Soviet unit, either for logistical reasons or to show the flag, seems to be moving to its home base via the Berlin area.

2. Vietnam

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3. Panama

The junta apparently favors a return to constitutionality but has not decided how to go about it. Junta members feel their job is not made any easier by Arias' presence in the Canal Zone. Arias has passed the word to US officials that he will leave the Zone only if compelled to do so.

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4. Brazil

Student unrest shows no sign of petering out. Demonstrations have now hit ten Brazilian cities. Machinegun-toting rightist students turned up in Rio earlier this week, enlivening the already explosive atmosphere with such slogans as "for every democrat killed, five Communists will die."

Military and civilian hardliners in the government think a unique opportunity has presented itself to smash the militant movement, but Costa e Silva is taking a gentler line. Most of the students arrested last weekend apparently are being turned over to authorities in the states, who will probably set them free.

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[redacted] many military officers are now highly irritated with the government in general and Costa e Silva in particular.

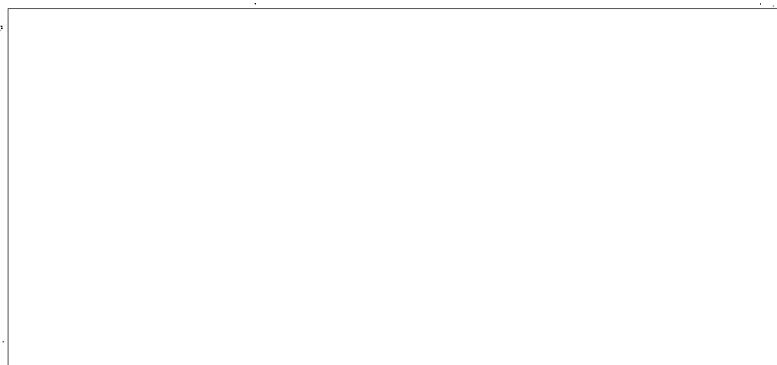
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5. Arab States -
Israel

Eban has given Jarring a long document detailing Tel Aviv's views on a settlement with Egypt. We have not yet seen the document, but Egyptian Foreign Minister Riyad told Jarring it was "very long and depressing." He promised a written reply, however, and another high Egyptian official told US officials that Cairo wanted to keep the Jarring mission going.

6. Israel-Egypt

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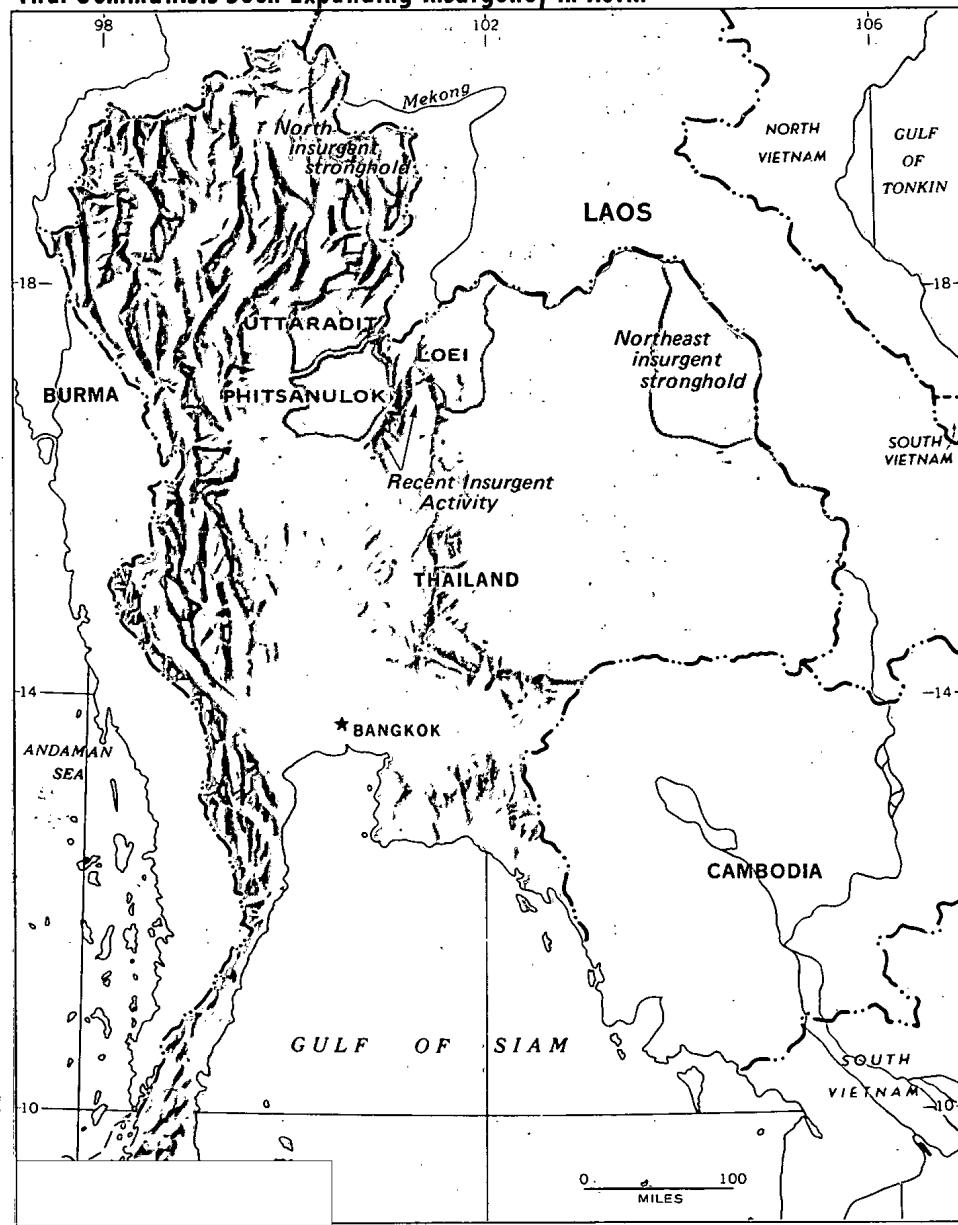
7. Greece

Former prime minister Karamanlis apparently is trying to bring various exiled Greek politicians together in an effort to bring down the junta. He says he expects broad public support when his plans are announced in Greece.

Karamanlis himself may be acceptable to the junta, but some of his prospective associates--including Andreas Papandreou--are not. Karamanlis will have trouble enough just keeping his disputatious friends united.

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Thai Communists Seen Expanding Insurgency in North



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8. Thailand

Communist insurgents are now active in three previously quiet provinces in north-central Thailand. The Communists have been recruiting for some time in the three provinces, which are strategically located between the insurgents' main stronghold in the northeast and their smaller base in the north.



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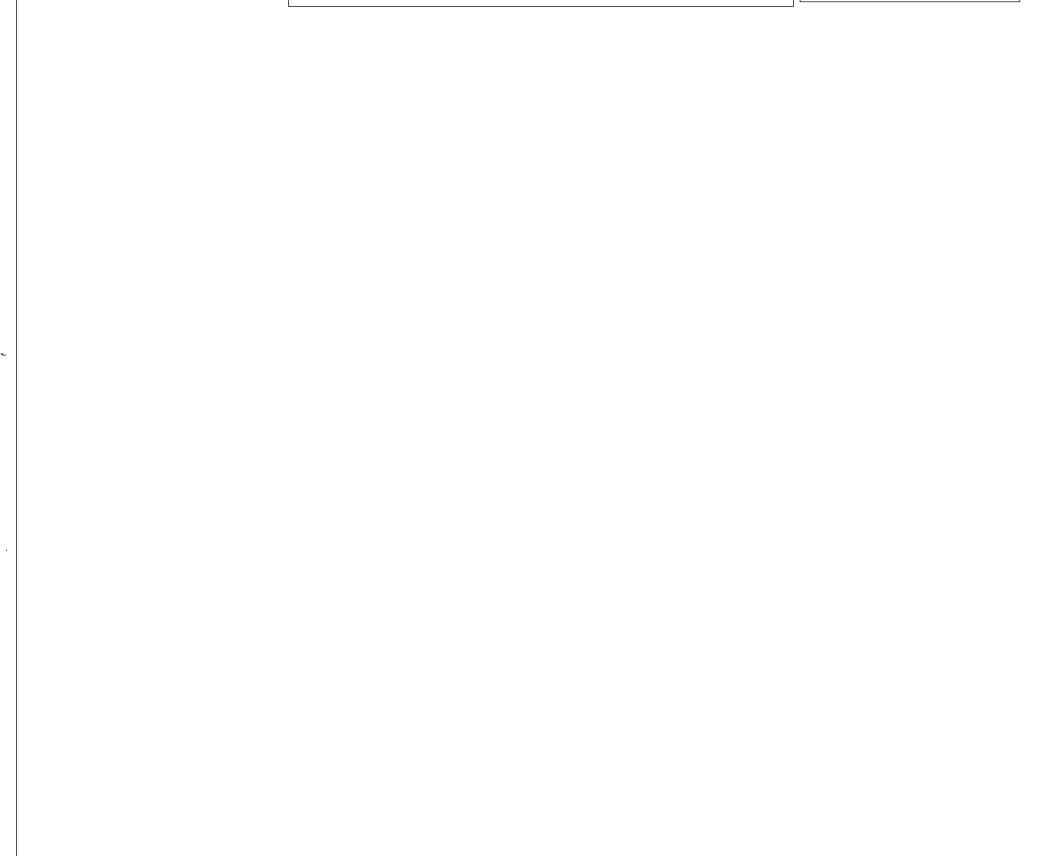
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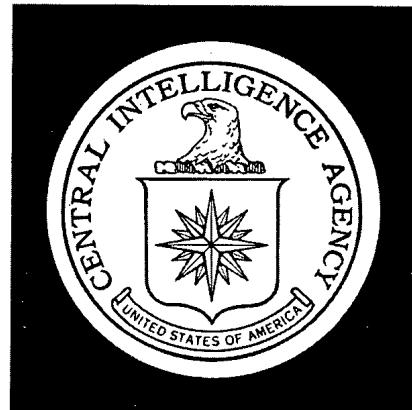


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16

19 October 1968

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

19 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese - Front Group May Not Be Allowed in the Netherlands: The Dutch Communist Party paper reports that a six-man joint North Vietnamese - Front group will attend a one-day "truth festival" on 26 October in Amsterdam. The group may not get into the country, however. A Foreign Ministry official has told us that though he is unaware of a final Dutch Government decision, it is doubtful that visas will be issued to the group in view of the possibility that it will be involved in political activity and disturbances.

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De Quirielie Finds Front Representative More Moderate: A French Foreign Ministry official told a US Embassy officer on 18 October that on his way back to Hanoi, French representative De Quirielie saw Front representative Hieu in Phnom Penh around 10 October. Compared to previous meetings, De Quirielie found Hieu making fewer inflated claims about Front military victories in the South and being more moderate as to Front military objectives. Hieu said that the Front objective now was to "maintain military pressure but not to take the initiative in new areas." The French official wondered whether Hieu's line indicates that the Front is hurting.

The French have also informed us that De Quirielie will probably meet soon with Pham Van Dong or Foreign Minister Trinh to get a first-hand reading of North Vietnamese thinking.

* * *

Front Representatives "Discreet" in Paris So Far: The members of the newly opened Front information office have been "very discreet" since their arrival in Paris last week [redacted]

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[redacted] representatives of the new office will probably be received by a member of the ministry's Asian Division or Press Division. [redacted]

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US Captives Allegedly Denounce War: Radio Hanoi broadcast on 16 October a bitter denunciation of US Vietnam policy allegedly signed by seven US soldiers and Marines taken prisoner in South Vietnam. The broadcast, addressed in English to American servicemen in Vietnam, was in the form of a demand that the US stop the bombing, stop supporting the Saigon government, and withdraw its forces and allied forces from Vietnam.

* * *

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

Hanoi Attacks LeMay: General LeMay's purpose in Vietnam is to discuss intensification of the war with US military and Vietnamese officials, according to a Radio Hanoi domestic broadcast on the 17th.

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The broadcast attacked LeMay as a "well-known warmonger" who commanded US aircraft which dropped nuclear weapons during World War II. Radio Hanoi also recalled LeMay's earlier remarks about bombing North Vietnam back to the stone age.

Citing statistics from Newsweek magazine, the broadcast reported the US has doubled its B-52 force used to bomb Vietnam since last year. This, and the bombardments of the New Jersey, "fully exposed the Johnson clique's insidious arguments about de-escalation," the broadcast concluded.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret 21 October 1968~~



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
21 OCTOBER 1968

1. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

At least some of the Soviet divisions reported Saturday morning to be returning to the USSR now appear to have reached their home stations in the Baltic Military District. Some Soviet fighter planes also flew back to Poland Saturday. They had been in Czechoslovakia since late August.

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2. Czechoslovakia

The new status-of-forces treaty with Moscow is threatening the facade of unity the top leadership has tried to maintain.

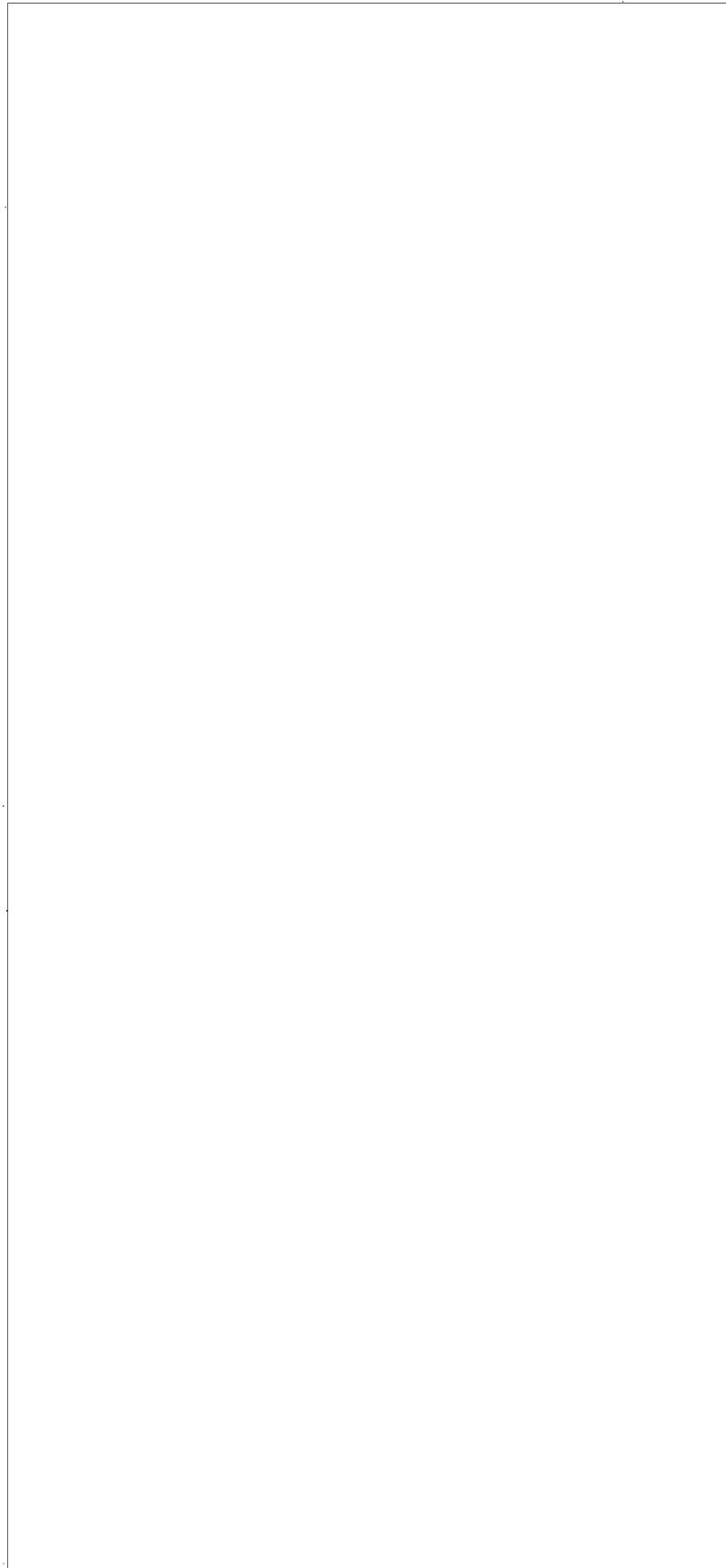
Although Dubcek is said to be resigned to the agreement, President Sloboda, among others, is described as violently opposed. Premier Cernik on the other hand appears to be using the treaty as a means of currying favor with the Soviets. We have it on good authority that he has an eye on Dubcek's job as party first secretary. He may have some competition, however. Slovak party boss Husak, thought to be Moscow's fair-haired boy, gave a speech Saturday supporting the treaty.

This polarization is also becoming more pronounced at lower party levels. The conservatives are becoming more open in their attacks on the post-January leadership, while as yet unreconstructed liberals are organizing a faction in the central committee to counter them.

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3. Egypt



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4. Cambodia

Sihanouk's security forces are trying harder, but they still seem to be making little headway against Cambodia's various dissident groups. In the northeast especially, tribal rebels

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[redacted] appear to have gotten their second wind. A number of new attacks have been reported recently, and the dissidents seem to be waging a fresh campaign to cut the main roads and intimidate progovernment villagers.

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The government has brought up army reinforcements, and Cambodian intercepts indicate some of the air force's T-28s may see some rare action against dissident positions along the main road into South Vietnam's western highlands.

5. Communist Parties

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The Italian Communists, meanwhile, have an operative making the rounds in Latin America trying to persuade Communist parties there to come out against the Soviets on Czechoslovakia. All except the Mexican party have supported the Soviet intervention.

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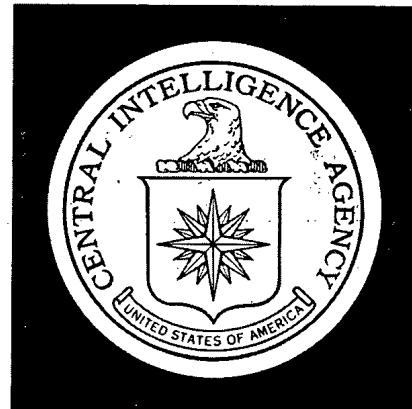
6. Soviet Union

One indirect cost to Moscow of its intervention in Czechoslovakia may be a smaller than expected grain crop this year. Poor weather is part of the answer, but another factor has been a shortage of trucks to haul the grain to elevators. The Soviets normally avoid transport bottlenecks during the harvest by requisitioning military trucks, but there were fewer available this year because of the partial mobilization of the armed forces.

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16

21 October 1968

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

21 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Peking Speaks Up: Peking's uneasiness about North Vietnam's current tactics and the possibility of progress in the Paris talks have finally prompted the Chinese Communists to acknowledge publicly that Hanoi is engaged in negotiations with the United States. A New China News Agency (NCNA) release on 19 October marks the first time Chinese Communist media have referred directly to the Paris talks. This belated response is underscored by the item's lead, which says that the talks started on 13 May and that 26 official meetings have been held so far.

NCNA rounds up recent Western press reports concerning the talks and says that these indicate that President Johnson is preparing to "dish out a big plot and fraud of 'halting all bombings' of North Vietnam." NCNA includes a sprinkling from most recent press speculation, but leaves its readers dangling by saying that these reports "remain to be confirmed by the further development of the situation."

* * *

Hanoi Propaganda: North Vietnamese propaganda during the weekend offered no clues to Hanoi's intentions. An article in the army paper on 19 October went to great lengths to describe the US position in Vietnam as "hopeless" and to link US foreign and domestic problems to the Vietnam war. It argued that the next US administration will face the same "painful choice" as President Johnson in deciding whether to continue or to stop the war, but it failed to mention the bombing issue or the usual arguments against reciprocal restraint on the part of Hanoi.

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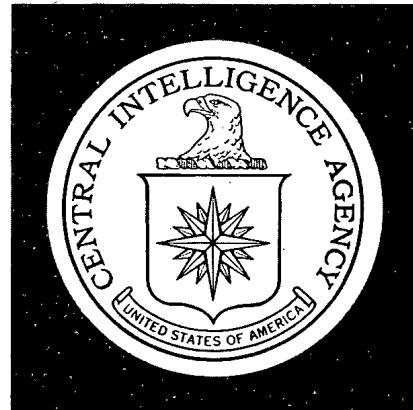
**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 22 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
22 OCTOBER 1968

1. Panama

Arias will arrive at Dulles International at about 8 o'clock this morning. He left the Canal Zone last night aboard a US military plane. The general strike which his supporters called on his behalf yesterday was far from successful; this probably caused Arias to give in.

Arias may still try to arouse his supporters by making inflammatory statements from outside the country, but the Guard has plenty of muscle to use against any troublemakers. Intensive violence in the capital, however, could easily spill over into the Zone.

2. Soviet Union

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3. Warsaw Pact -
Czechoslovakia

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Hungarian and Polish press reports state that troops from these countries are [REDACTED] returning home.

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4. Czechoslovakia

Conservatives in the Czech party held a number of secret meetings throughout the country over the weekend. At one, some 400 Communist "veterans" passed a resolution requesting their district party organization to cooperate fully with the occupation forces. This was probably the procedure in many of the meetings.

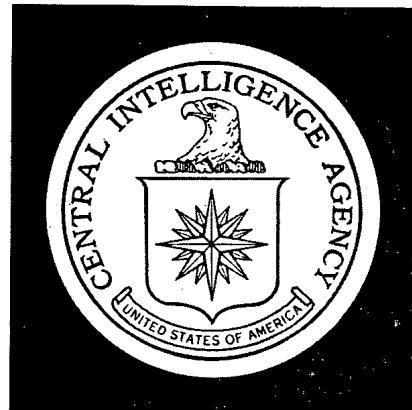
Faced with Dubcek's capitulation, the resistance of the Czech press and radio is beginning to fade. All newspapers carried reports of the ratification of the status-of-forces agreement and a full text of the treaty without comment. Even the most outspoken publications are now considerably subdued.

5. Jordan

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16

22 October 1968

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

22 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Communists Anticipate More Air Strikes in Laos:
Communists anticipate that further restrictions on US bombings of North Vietnam will lead to increased air strikes against their forces in Laos. A warning to this effect was carried in a North Vietnamese rear services message of 20 October addressed to an engineer battalion and an antiaircraft battalion positioned in the Laos panhandle. The message stated that in the near future "the enemy may lower their activity in North Vietnam." In this event, said the message, "the enemy may concentrate their strikes on our positions."

The message underscores the Communists' concern for maintaining the flow of supplies through the Lao-tian corridor. In this connection, intercepted communications during the past week have shown increased difficulties because of bombing operations and flooding on Route 912, a main North Vietnamese road link with Laos.

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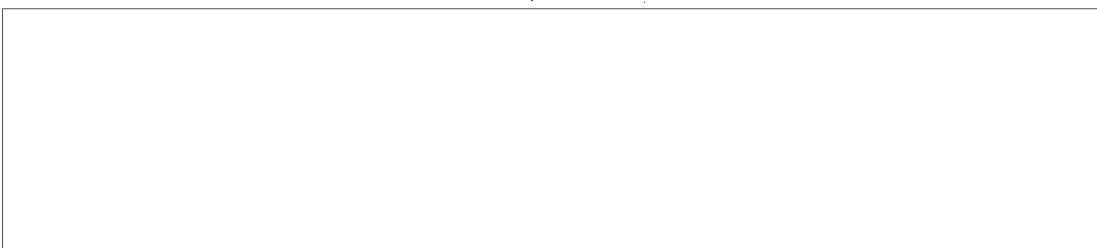
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MK-36 Destructors Harass the North Vietnamese: North Vietnamese messages over the past several weeks have given further evidence of the effectiveness of the MK-36 destructor. The messages have mentioned blocked rivers, impassable roads, and destroyed materiel. One message of 2 October refers to the building of "rafts to destroy magnetic bombs"; the very next day the same unit was "rebuilding rafts that had been destroyed by bombs." Aerial photography in mid-October disclosed what appeared to be a crude North Vietnamese sweeping rig--two oil drums towed by a sampan--on a stream near the Demilitarized Zone.

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

Front on the US Campaign: The Front's radio scored the Vietnam views of the three US presidential candidates in a Vietnamese language broadcast on 19 October. The commentary claimed that the Vietnam programs of the candidates are insufficient to resolve the war or to ease the "crisis of confidence" of the American people caused by the Johnson administration's "aggressive war policy."

The broadcast denounced Vice President Humphrey's proposals as indistinguishable from those of the current administration, Mr. Nixon's as belligerent and aggressive, and Governor Wallace's as "brutal and stupid" and worthy of condemnation by American and world opinion.

The commentary, which was often couched in vitriolic terms, charged that the campaign's rhetoric concerning Vietnam had generated violent disputes and raging conflicts within high levels of the administration. This, coupled with the inadequacies of the candidates' positions and the developing antiwar movement in the US, has made the present campaign the tensest in US history, concluded Liberation Radio.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
23 OCTOBER 1968

1. Panama

With Arias out of the Canal Zone, tensions continue to abate in Panama. The flow of messages recognizing the junta has begun.

Arias' exploits yesterday will doubtless prompt the junta to keep a wary eye on him for some time to come.

2. South Vietnam

We have another example of the sort of coup-plot rumors that are peddled to Thieu.

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There is no other information that would suggest there is any more substance to this story than to the earlier ones which triggered alerts, and, considering the furor he stirred earlier this month, Thieu probably will move this time with more circumspection. He is not clapping Ky's Air Force friends in jail, but, given Thieu's highly suspicious frame of mind, he can be counted on to keep a close watch on them.

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3. Warsaw Pact -
Czechoslovakia

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[redacted] two more Soviet divisions will pull out of Czechoslovakia early next week.



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4. Israel -
Arab States

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[redacted] The Israeli cabinet is thinking of making a statement to Jarring on the territorial question, but Deputy Premier Allon told our charge yesterday that he thought the cabinet would not authorize any new moves without advance assurance of support from the US. Allon made it clear that any Israeli statement would propose substantial changes in prewar boundaries.

Allon last week put a further chill in the atmosphere by announcing that more agricultural and urban settlements were to be established in those occupied areas which are "vital for Israeli security or of special historical significance for Jews."

5. North Korea -
South Korea

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More North Korean infiltrators were killed in the week ending last Monday than in any other seven-day period this year. In previous years, infiltration has slackened off in the fall, in part because the disappearing foliage makes the effort more hazardous. Pyongyang's persistence this year probably can be traced to dissatisfaction with the results of the regular-season campaign.

6. Japan

The far left's emphasis on violence, coupled with police restraint, seems to have further eroded the leftists' popular support. The Japanese press and public, which have often criticized the government's control measures in the past, generally approved of the way Monday night's riots were handled.

7. Western Europe

A four-nation consortium which is trying to develop an all-European combat aircraft is having its troubles. The four--Britain, West Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands--are currently hung up on basic performance specifications; they have managed to agree that the plane should have a swing-wing but are arguing over almost everything else. Once these disputes are ironed out, the haggling will begin again over assignment of design responsibilities for the plane's various components.

8. Bolivia

Barrientos says Cuban guerrillas are active again in Bolivia. He told Ambassador Castro his troops are not equipped to meet the challenge. Moreover, he said, his inability to keep the Army paid and supplied is causing a rift between himself and the military.

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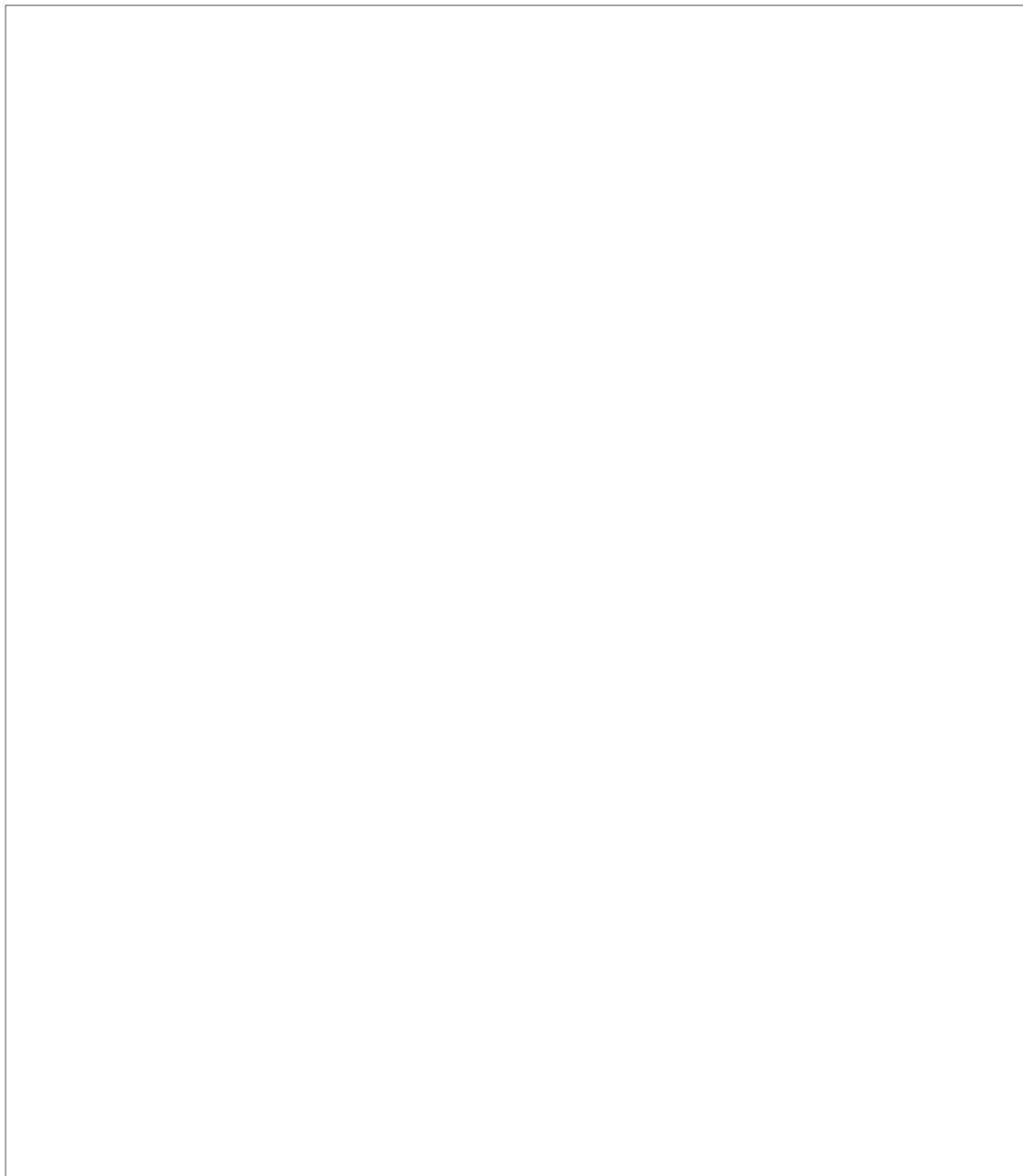
23 October 1968

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

23 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Logistics: A message intercepted on 26 September indicates that the North Vietnamese are shipping about 10,000 rounds of 76-millimeter ammunition to South Vietnam--two to three times more than has been noted in any previous month.

* * *

London Demonstration: The antiwar march scheduled for this coming Sunday is causing some uneasiness in both government and public quarters. The number and mood of the marchers are subject to a wide range of estimates. Police are guessing at about 25,000, while press speculation puts the figure at 100,000. The march, organized by a mixed bag of leftists, is supposed to wend its way peacefully to Hyde Park, but some of the radicals are planning to split off and head for the US Embassy. American firms also have been threatened.

The embassy is in close contact with police and believes they will be able to control the march.

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Front Commentary: Hanoi yesterday broadcast, on its international service in English, one of the Front's toughest statements in some time. The broadcast did not refer to current press speculation on

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new diplomatic initiatives, but it did restate all the old terms on negotiations. The commentary said the bombing must be stopped unconditionally, immediately, and without reciprocity.

Front propaganda is often more rabid than Hanoi's.

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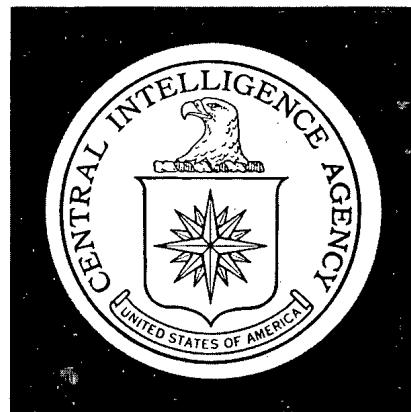
On Released Sailors: Hanoi ungraciously acknowledged the return of the 14 North Vietnamese sailors in a domestic broadcast yesterday. The Communists used the occasion to chastise the US for the "illegal seizure of North Vietnamese citizens" and said that all such citizens held by the US should be returned immediately and without any special agreement between the two sides.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

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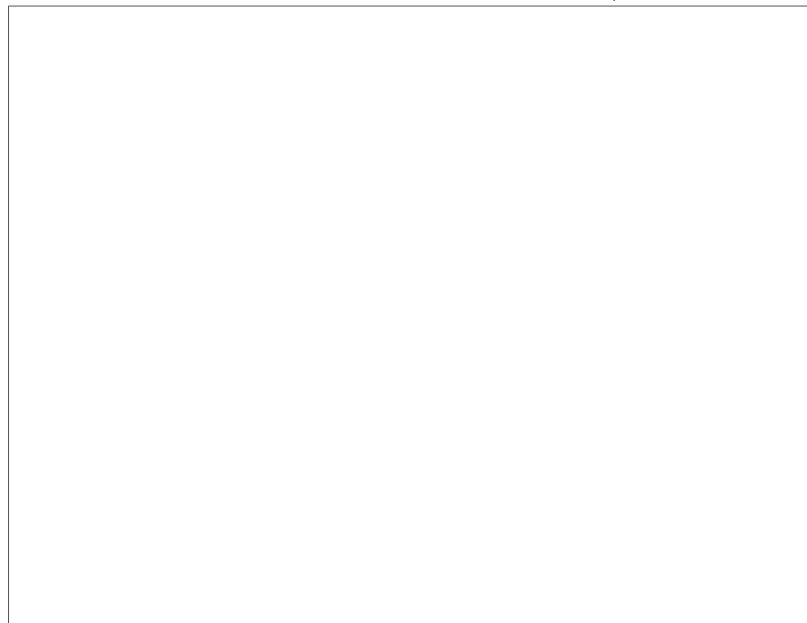
THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
24 OCTOBER 1968

1. South Vietnam

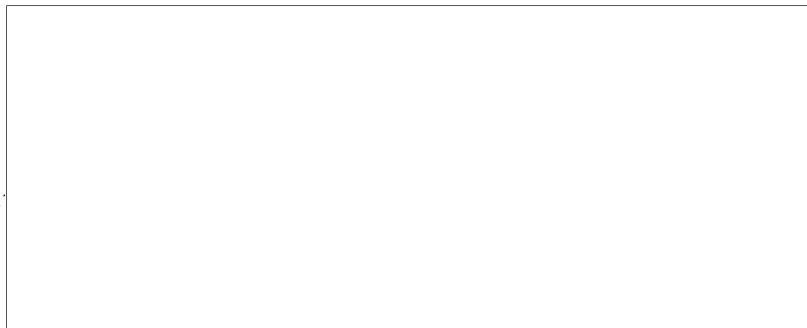
While major enemy forces remain relatively inactive, the unusual volume of Communist communications in several parts of the country suggests preparations for a new round of attacks. The areas involved are III Corps - Saigon; the northern provinces of Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, and Binh Dinh; and western Pleiku Province.

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2. South Korea



3. Guatemala



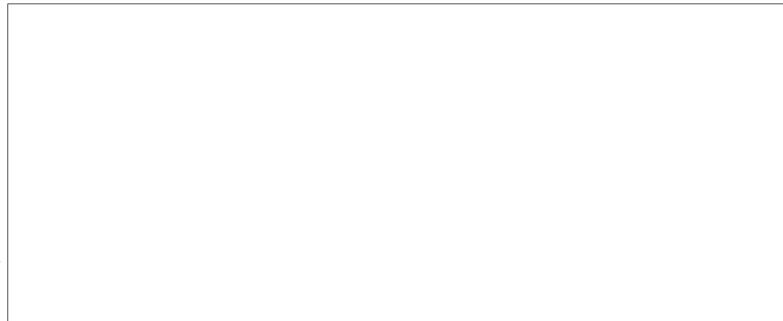
At Annex today we examine another dimension of the Latin American problem--the prospects for military coups in five countries. One of these is Guatemala, where some elements of the military are unhappy with Mendez.

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4. Soviet Union

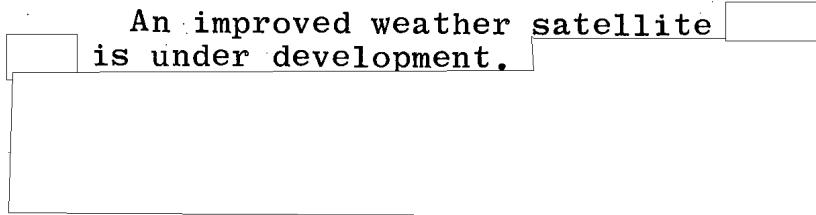


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An improved weather satellite [redacted]
[redacted] is under development.

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5. Western Europe

The five Common Market members favoring closer ties with Britain have again retreated with tattered colors from an encounter with the French. The friendly Five had hoped to use the framework of the Western European Union as a means for expanding cooperation with the British. When the meeting of the Union's council ended in Rome on Tuesday, however, a French veto was stamped on that scheme. Despite some earlier talk about getting tough with the French, the Five, as usual, put up no fight.

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ANNEX

Latin America: The Prospects For
More Military Coups

The recent coups in Peru and Panama resemble those in Brazil in 1964 and Argentina in 1966. Some common threads run through all of them. In each case, military leaders moved in the belief that the civilian government was threatening, or was about to threaten, military influence and prestige. In all but Panama, the economy was deteriorating rapidly. Seeing themselves as the ultimate protectors of the nation, military leaders felt they had to act to rescue the country from inept civilians.

The military establishments in some other Latin American countries probably would react the same way to similar conditions. At present there are five that stand out as the most vulnerable.

--Bolivia: The Barrientos administration is closely linked with the military. General Ovando, armed forces commander, expects to succeed Barrientos and will not stand around idly waiting for the elections scheduled for 1970 if Barrientos appears to be losing his grip before then. The government often seems to be teetering on the brink of collapse and a series of bad breaks for Barrientos could touch off a coup in fairly quick order.

--Brazil: Costa e Silva is the military's man, and, for that reason, anything he does is generally viewed as reflecting to the credit or discredit of the armed forces.

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--Ecuador: When Velasco was inaugurated last month, he inherited a near-catastrophic fiscal situation and a high level of social and political instability throughout the country. Velasco brought with

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him a mercurial and abrasive temperament and no proven talent for administrative leadership. To top it off, he almost immediately made it clear that his policies will be directed against the vested interests of the powerful oligarchy. Velasco will be hard pressed to keep the country on even keel and a real or seriously threatened breakdown in public order would invite a military coup.

--Guatemala: Since last March, President Men-dez has been moving cautiously to cut down the power of the military officers behind the right-wing vigilante groups that had been carrying on a heavy-handed counterguerrilla campaign. This month, civilian vigilantes were made to turn back the weapons they had been issued. Some rightists, military and civilian, look on this as an unwarranted relaxation of pressure against the Communists. A new wave of Communist-led violence could prompt a military coup.

--Venezuela: Venezuelan military officers have in recent years proclaimed themselves to be fervent advocates of the democratic way, but

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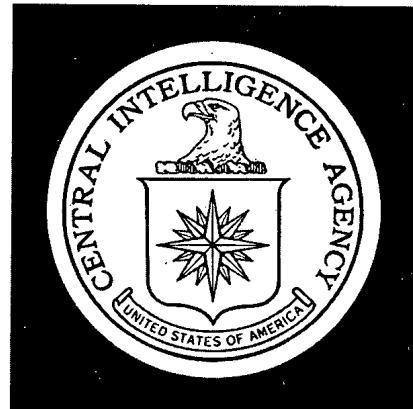
[redacted] they may change their minds.

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Specifically, they might well move to prevent a government elected with Communist support from coming to power. Presidential hopeful Prieto, a leading candidate in the elections scheduled for 1 December, might fill that bill in the minds of many military officers.

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16

24 October 1968

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

24 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Possible Propaganda Shift: North Vietnam may be taking some limited steps to prepare its Communist friends for a rapid shift in propaganda emphasis in case a bombing halt should occur soon.

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[redacted] the next few months would be critical and [redacted] Communist propaganda slogans might change quickly to meet new situations.

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[redacted] It suggests at least some belief in Vietnamese Communist circles that some progress in the Paris talks is likely before long and that key sympathizers had better be tipped off to expect a change of pace.

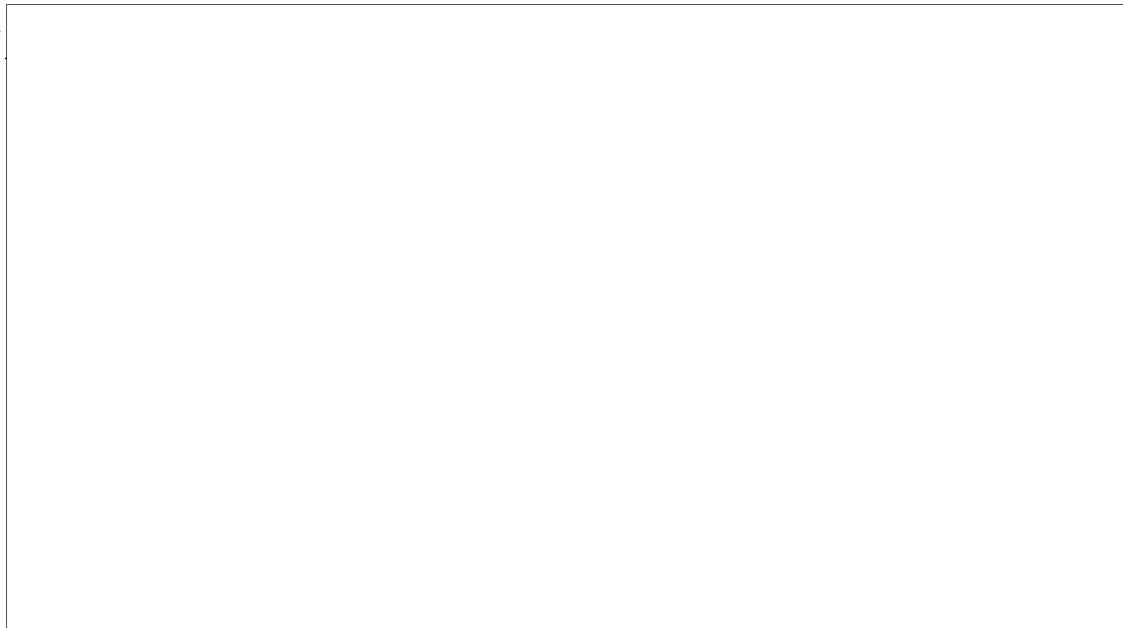
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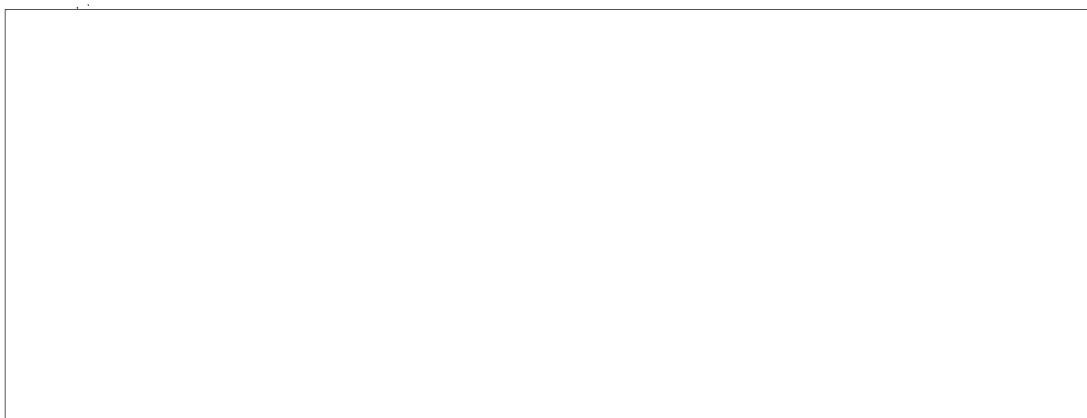
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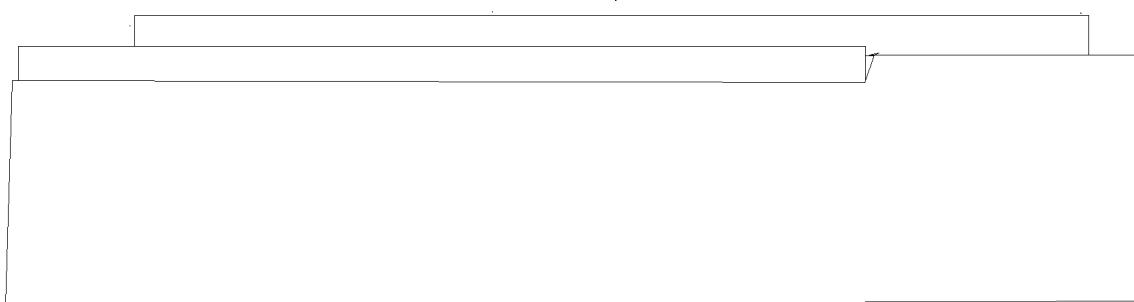
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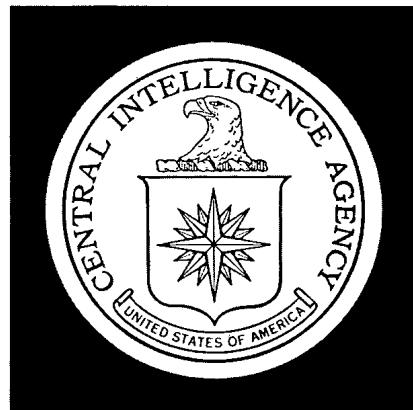
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

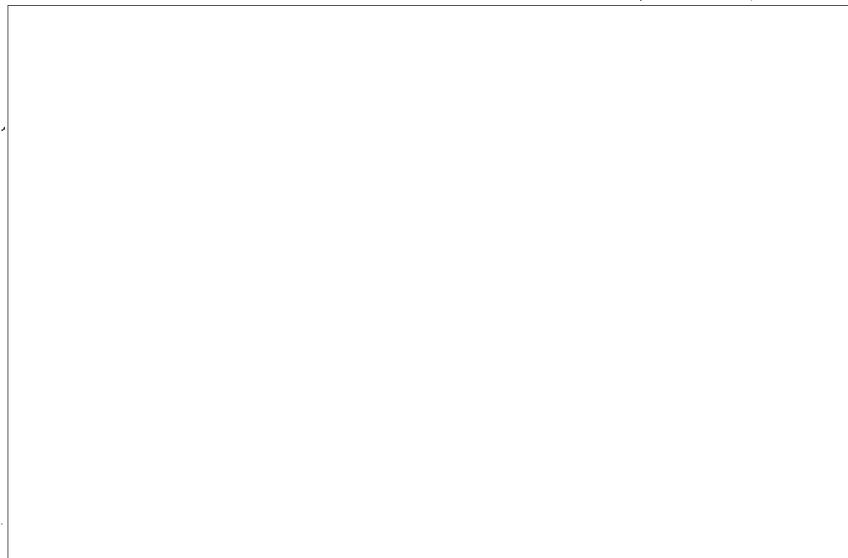
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
25 OCTOBER 1968

1.



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2. Czechoslovakia

The withdrawal of non-Soviet occupation forces from Czechoslovakia probably will be completed early next month.

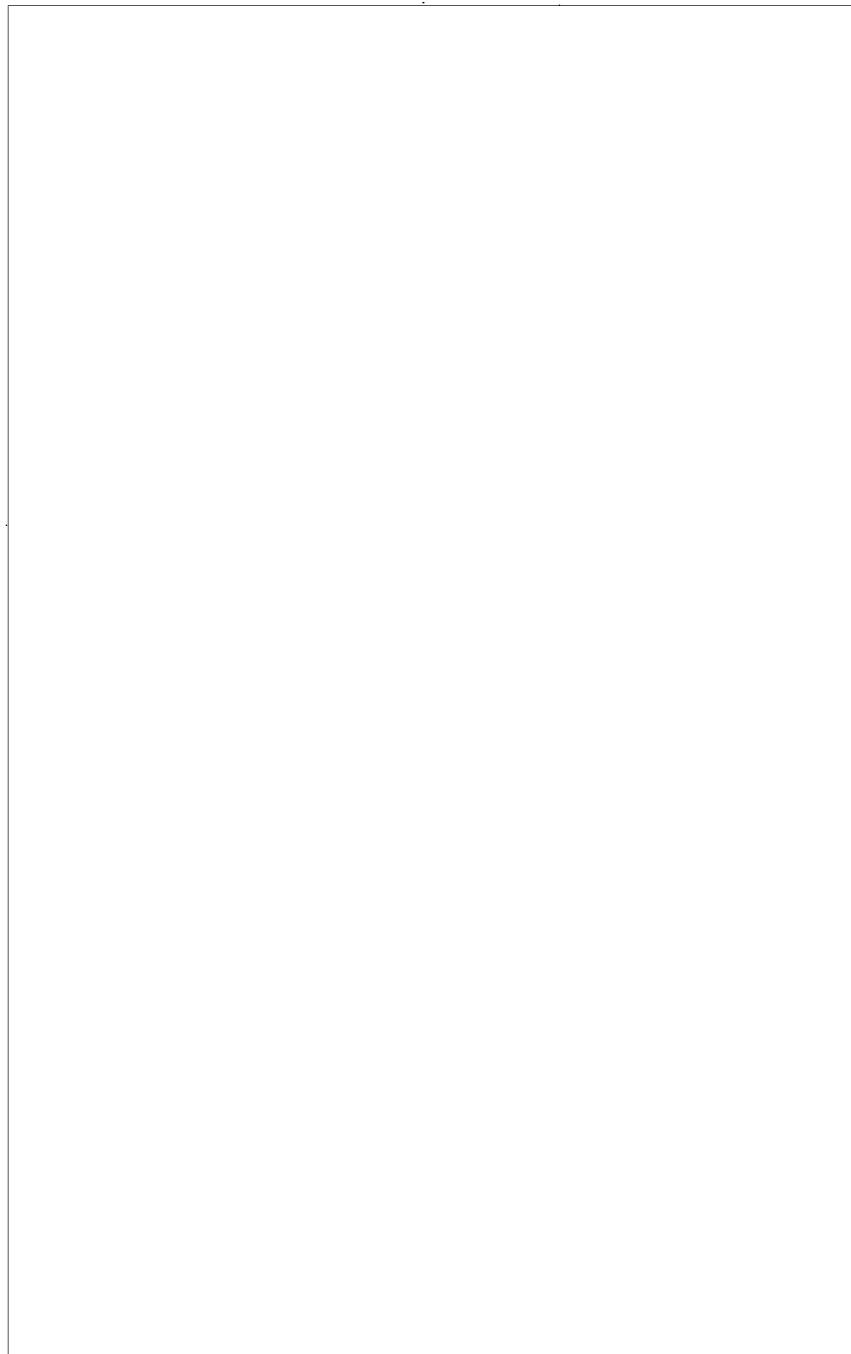
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[] Polish, Hungarian, and Bulgarian units began leaving the country earlier this week.

Some of the Soviet units in western Czechoslovakia seem to be preparing to return to their home garrisons in East Germany as part of the reduction of the Soviet force level.

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3. Rumania

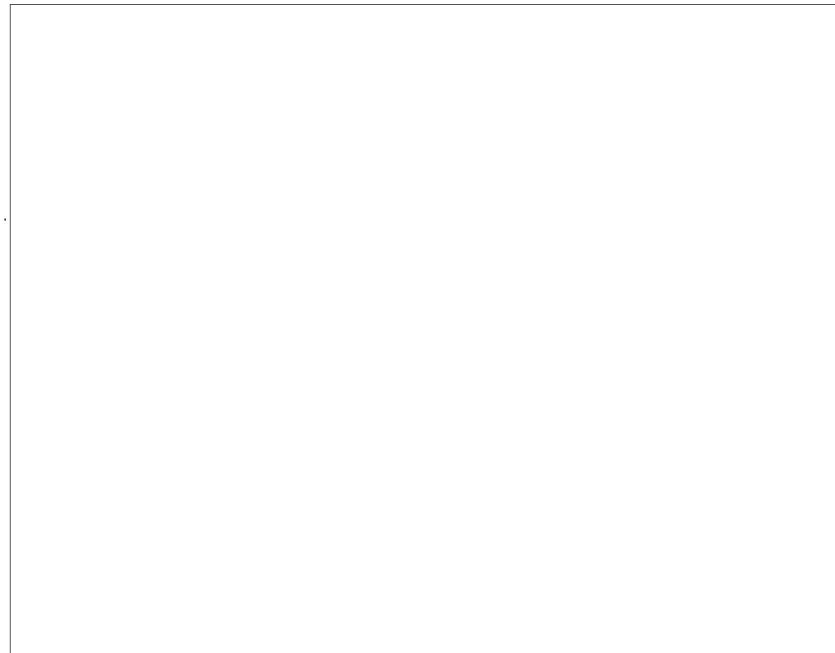


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4. Saudi Arabia

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5. Ghana -
Soviet Union

The Ghanaians are going to hold on for some time to the two Soviet trawlers they seized in Ghanaian waters earlier this month. They are convinced that the Soviet vessels were engaged in hanky-panky [redacted]

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50X1

The Soviets are resigned to a good deal of bad publicity as a result of this incident and are not yet making an issue of the seizure, but they will probably begin to yell if the ships are not released fairly soon.

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6. Peru

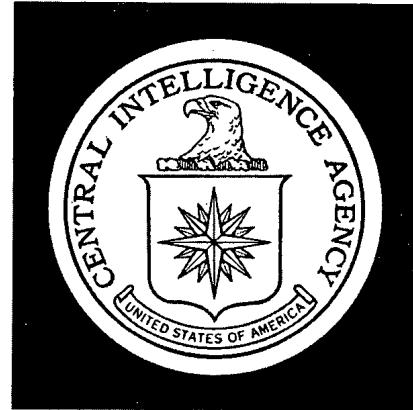
Preliminary talks on a Soviet loan to Peru have begun at the Soviet Embassy in Chile. The military government is expecting economic missions from the Soviet Union and other East European countries and has also approved a Soviet request to conduct "maritime biological exploration" off the Peruvian coast.

Peru is indeed seeking new markets and other sources of foreign aid, but it is probably publicizing these overtures to the Soviets as a means of pressuring the US to maintain normal diplomatic and economic ties.

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- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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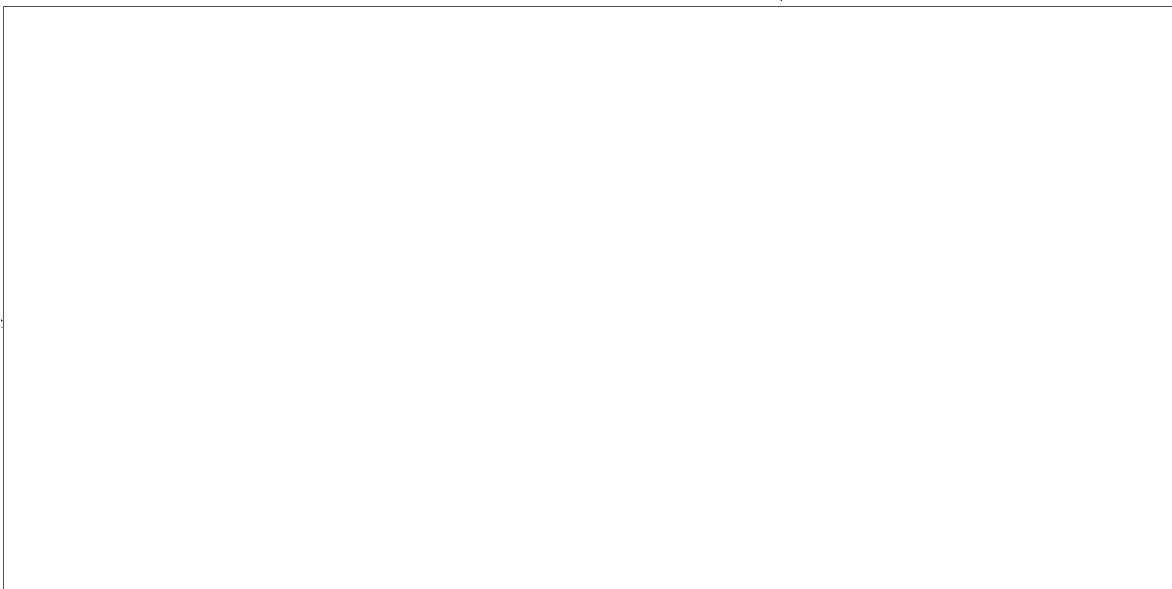
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16
25 October 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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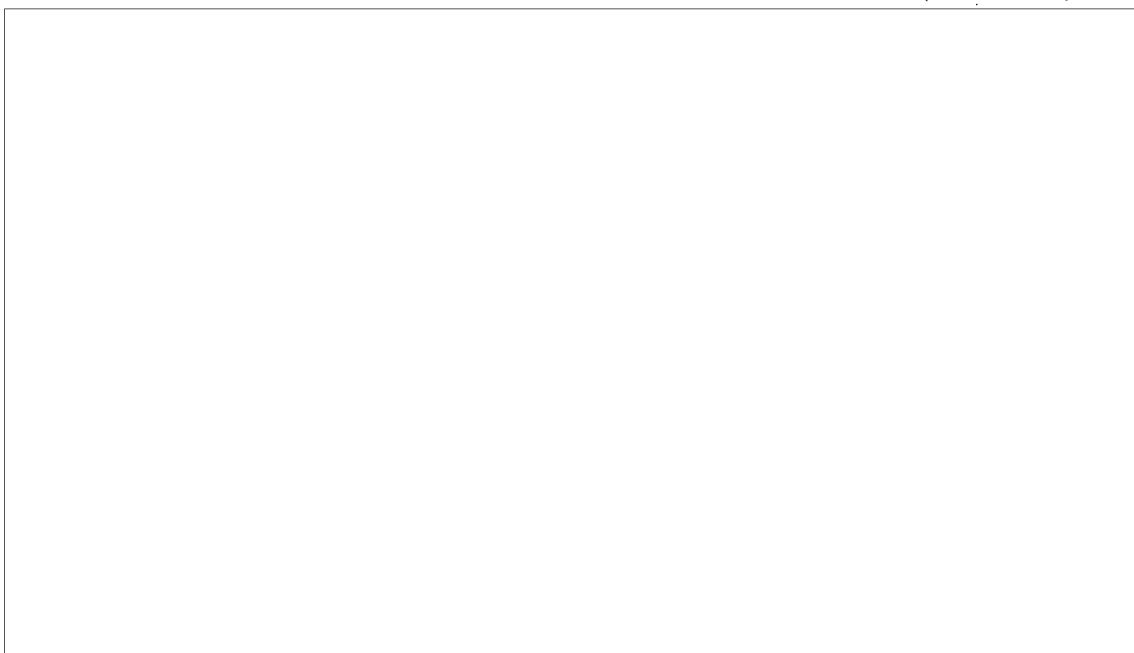
25 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Soviets Protest "Near Bombing" of Their Hydrographic Ship: Moscow evidently intends to treat an alleged incident in the Tonkin Gulf in low key. A Soviet Foreign Ministry official called in the US chargé on the evening of 23 October to register a mild protest against the "near bombing" of the Soviet vessel. He referred to the action as a "new provocation" and demanded that the guilty parties be punished and steps be taken to prevent a recurrence. When queried, he added that he knew of no plans to publicize the incident or the protest at this time. The Soviets protested and publicized two other "near misses" in Haiphong harbor in the summer of 1966.

Preliminary field reports indicate that two US Navy A-4s jettisoned eight bombs, the nearest some three and a half nautical miles from the Soviet hydrographic vessel Peleng in international waters in the Tonkin Gulf on the morning of 23 October.

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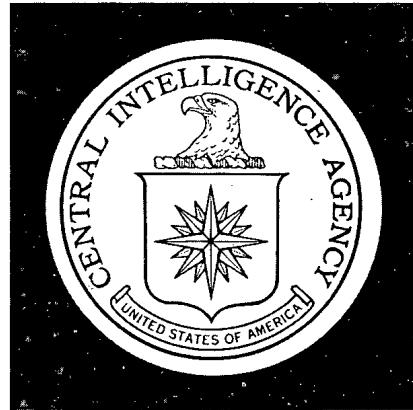
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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The President's Daily Brief

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
26 OCTOBER 1968

LATE ITEM

Soviet Union

The Soviets put up another space-craft this morning; it is evidently manned.

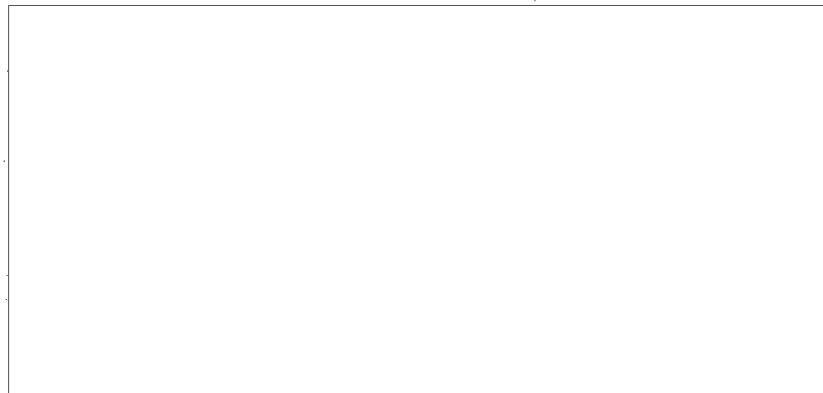
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
26 OCTOBER 1968

1. United Kingdom

The anti-Vietnam demonstration in London tomorrow will be large and probably violent. British police estimate that as many as 30,000 people will take part.

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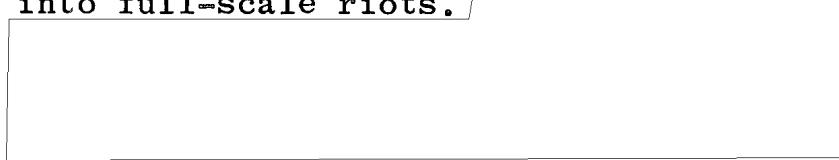


2. Czechoslovakia

Dubcek and company are also plagued by student problems as the 50th anniversary of the first republic approaches. They are particularly afraid that anti-Soviet student demonstrations next Monday will bring reprisals by the occupation forces. Prague leaders have visited schools to caution students against clashes with pro-Soviet groups who intend to parade in the streets. National Assembly President Smrkovsky has told the students: "If you demonstrate, we all may be sorry."

Czech young people have remained staunchly loyal to Dubcek, but this time they could be taunted by the opposition into full-scale riots.

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3. Soviet Union

The Russians orbited an unmanned Soyuz spacecraft from Tyuratam yesterday.

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[redacted]
the Soviets
are expected to launch a manned Sovuz
spacecraft [redacted]

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4. France

An adviser close to the French defense minister is probing for US interest in greater cooperation in nuclear defense matters. He has told a US Embassy official that France hopes to persuade the next US administration to grant France equality with the UK in access to nuclear knowledge and equipment. The Frenchman also said that the possibility of future military cooperation in the NATO context was under study and was not excluded.

5. Portugal

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6. Middle East

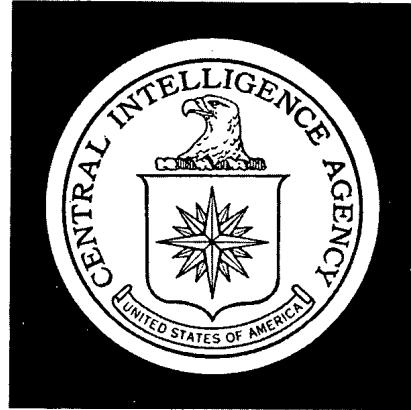
Border incidents and exchanges of fire are still occurring with regularity along most of the Arab-Israeli borders. The Israeli-Jordanian border is the hottest sector, with fire fights breaking out at the rate of two or three a day. Clashes on the Israeli-Syrian border occur less often; there have been two short fire fights in the past week.

Egyptian-Israeli tensions resulting from cross-canal ambushes of Israeli troops and artillery duels have quieted, although there are almost daily exchanges of small arms fire across the canal.

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16

26 October 1968

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

26 October 1968

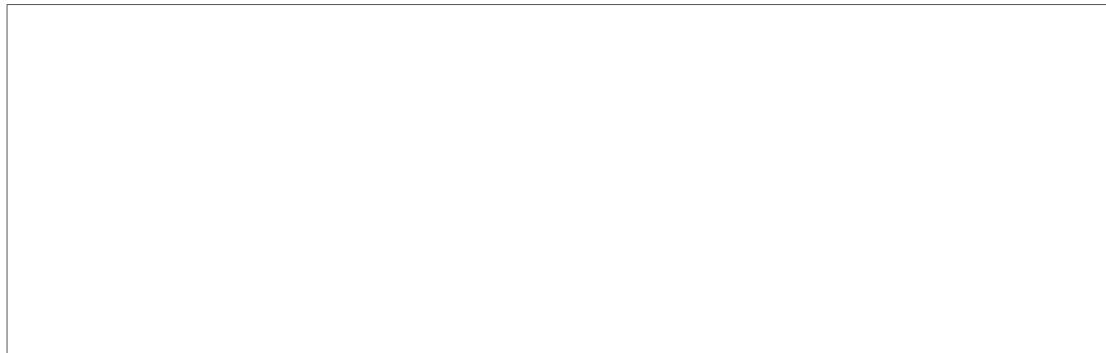
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

The President's Press Conference: Hanoi is keeping up its barrage of propaganda attacks on the US negotiating position. Yesterday a radio commentary beamed to South Vietnamese audiences zeroed in on President Johnson's 24 October press conference. The press conference proved, said Hanoi, that the US still refuses to either stop the bombing or recognize the Liberation Front. Only when the US stops the bombing unconditionally can discussions of "substantial matters" begin, it repeated.

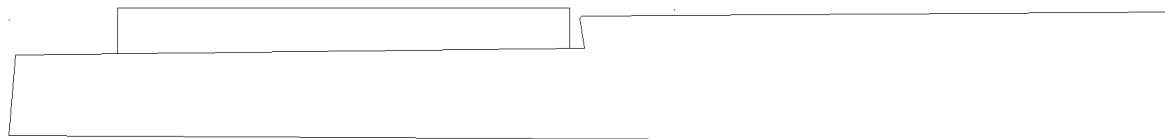
As for press speculation about a possible breakthrough in the talks, this was "fabricated news" and the rumors that Hanoi had accepted a number of US conditions in exchange for a bombing halt are "deceitful arguments of a psychological warfare nature aimed at sowing confusion," according to the radio commentary.

According to Hanoi radio today, Nhan Dan has come out with a similar statement.

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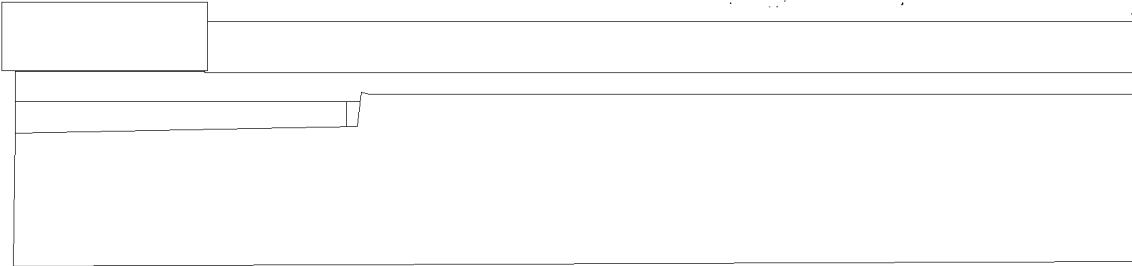
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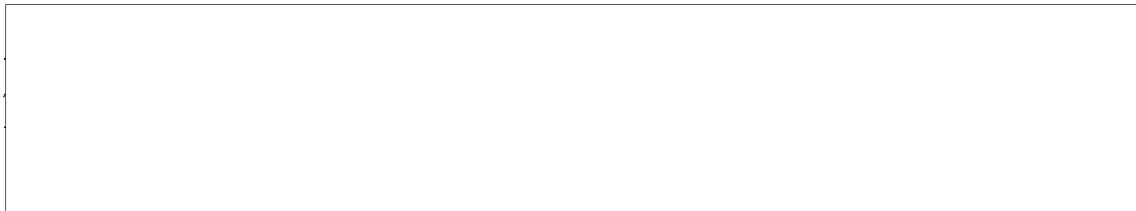
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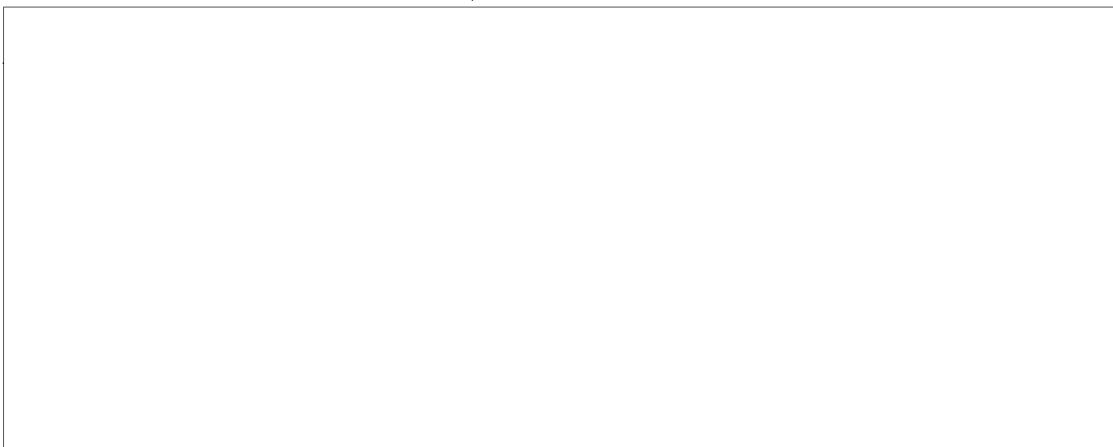
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Haiphong Dredging: [REDACTED] the Vietnam-
ese have four dredgers active in the harbor to remove
the silt.

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Stockholm Demonstration: A group of Americans
active in the antiwar movement will participate in
a Stockholm rally on 27 October. Their host will be
the American Deserters' Committee. The purpose of
the visit is to demonstrate support for deserters,

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to coordinate and improve deserter activities, and to counter recent signs of less lenient treatment of US deserters in Sweden.

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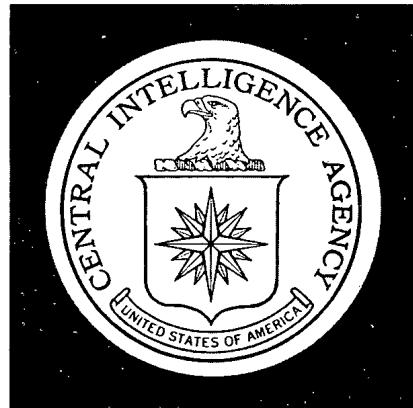
New Zealand Demonstrations: Antiwar demonstrations are planned for Monday in Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington. The demonstrations are part of the world-wide week of protest. In Auckland the demonstrators plan to march on the US Consulate and deliver a letter damning the war. Wellington protesters also intend to demonstrate at the airport when Holyoake returns 31 October.

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

"GI Protest Week": Hanoi so far has said little about the protest week organized by US antiwar groups. The first noted mention was yesterday in an international English language broadcast. This one cited the American press as the source for news on several incidents involving servicemen opposed to the war. In one such incident, an Air Force nurse allegedly passed out antiwar tracts and, in another, soldiers stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington, are supposedly deserting to form protest groups.

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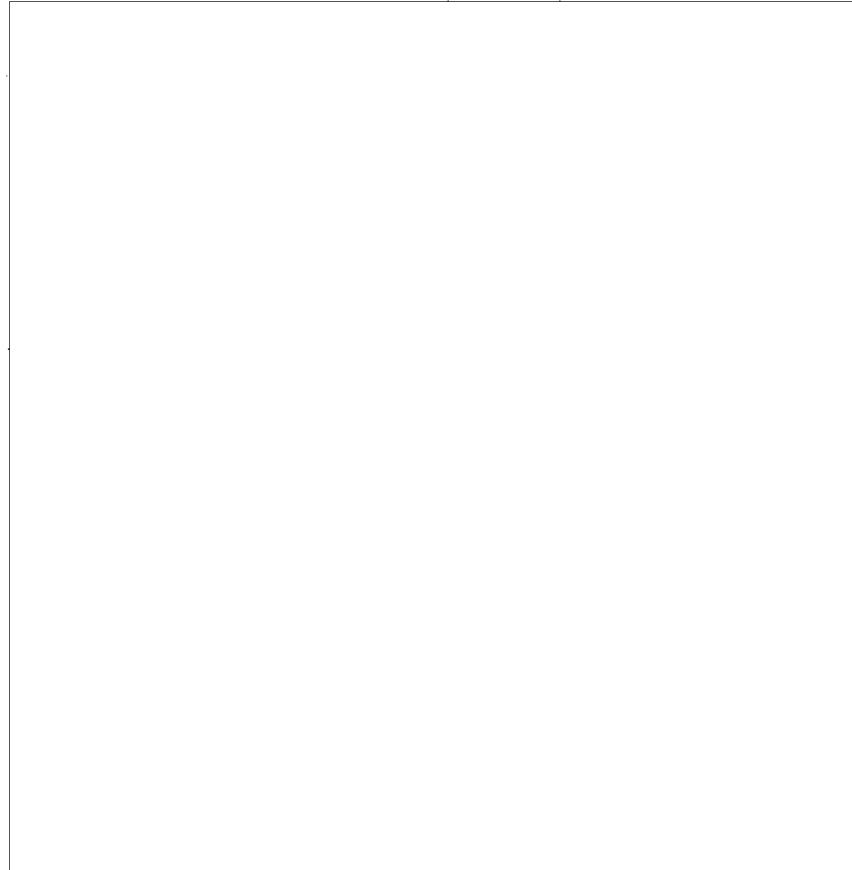


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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
28 OCTOBER 1968

1. Egypt-Israel

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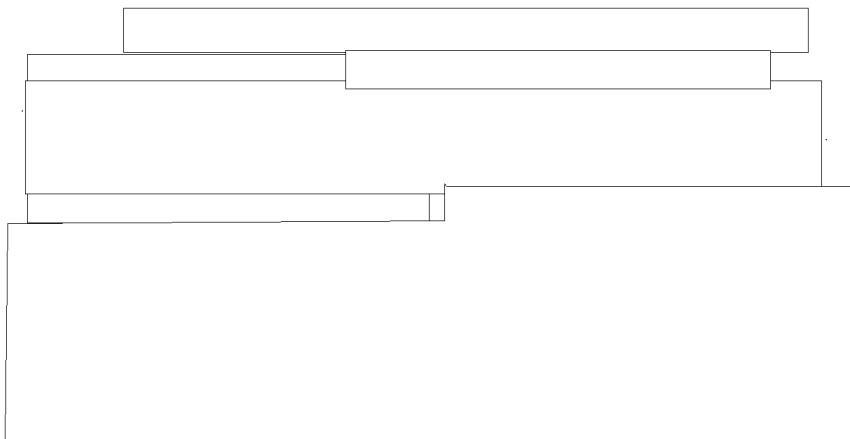
2. Soviet Union

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3. Czechoslovakia

The National Assembly passed a federalization bill yesterday giving the Slovaks near equality in all aspects of national life. The bill sets up separate Czech and Slovak governments subordinate to a skeletal federal government in Prague. It also paves the way for similar divisions in other nationwide organizations. The plan goes into effect 1 January.

This has been an extremely controversial issue and implementation is going to result in confusion and quite possibly in a rekindling of traditional antagonisms between the Czechs and Slovaks.

While there may be some divide-and-conquer advantages for Moscow in the federalization, it was in the legislative hopper long before 20 August. In fact, some Russians, including Moscow's special emissary Kuznetsov, have urged the plan be shelved indefinitely. They probably fear internal instability and a further weakening of the Communist Party's control.

* * *

Withdrawal of Pact forces from Czechoslovakia is continuing.

4. Laos

With the shift of the monsoon winds comes the almost ritualistic change of roles in Laotian warfare. This year is no exception. As the rains end, it becomes the Communists' turn to move out trying to recapture positions taken by government troops and loyal guerrillas during their rainy season offensive. The Communists are moving now, pushing in an outpost or two, probing around more important bases.

No major actions have taken place yet, although, if the enemy follows his usual pattern, some serious attacks can be expected against the northern redoubts of the tough little Meo guerrillas.

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5. Cyprus

Pressure from Athens has forced Minister of Interior and Defense Georkatzis to resign. Georkatzis is charged with having aided the group which tried to assassinate Papadopoulos. A political storm is brewing over the resignation, however, as powerful factions call for general elections and a whole new government.

There is a good chance that the intercommunal talks will be suspended and some chance, if the atmosphere becomes sufficiently charged, that firebrands could stir fresh trouble between Turk and Greek Cypriots.

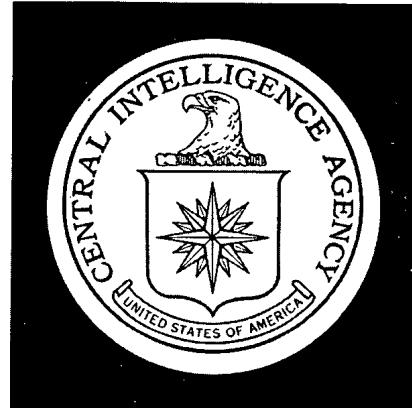
6. France

A former minister in the French Government saw De Gaulle last week and subsequently told an American official that he had never seen the General so gloomy. De Gaulle, he said, seems convinced the world is on the brink of war.

Ambassador Shriver comments these attacks of depression usually follow some blow to one of De Gaulle's pet policies--in this instance, the damage done his concept of detente by the invasion of Czechoslovakia--and are compounded by his frustration with France's impotence in shaping the course of major world events.

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28 October 1968

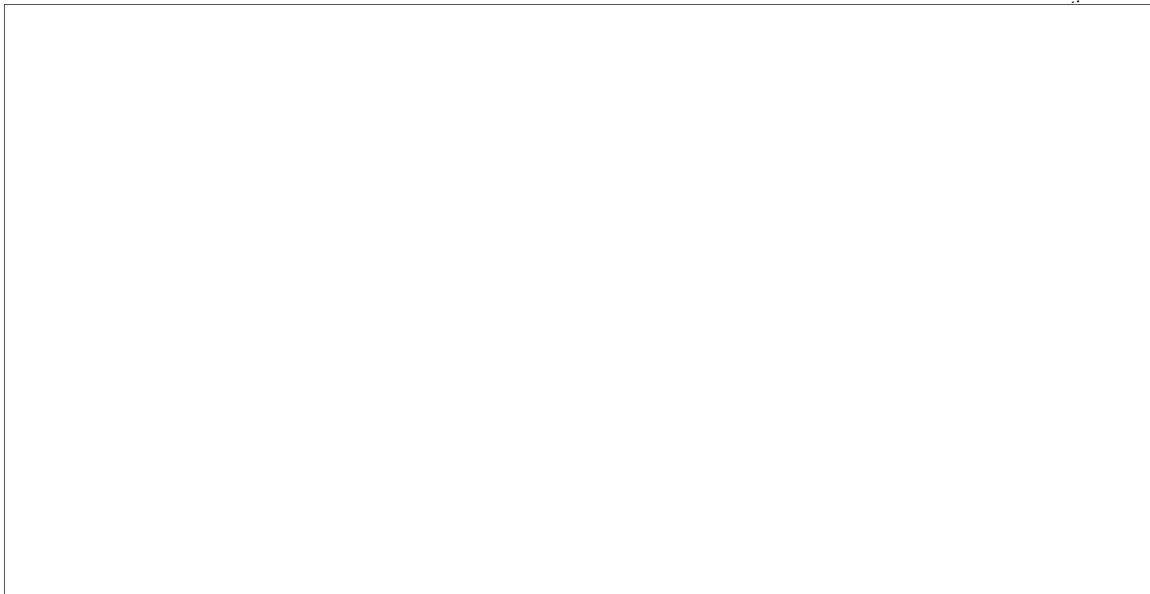
**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only**

28 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

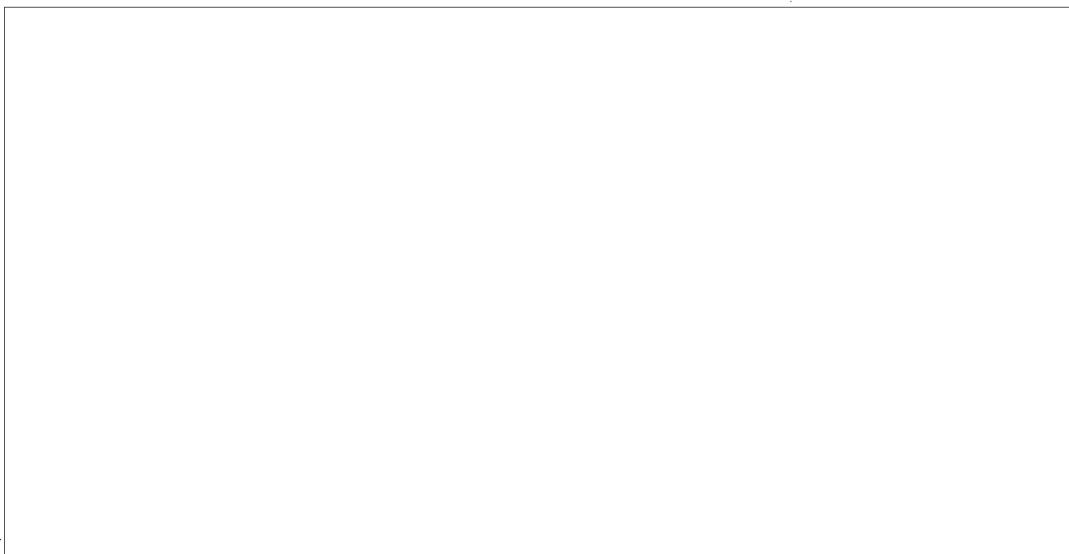
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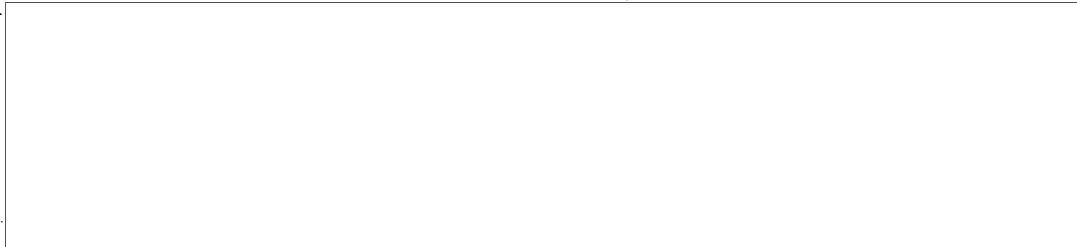
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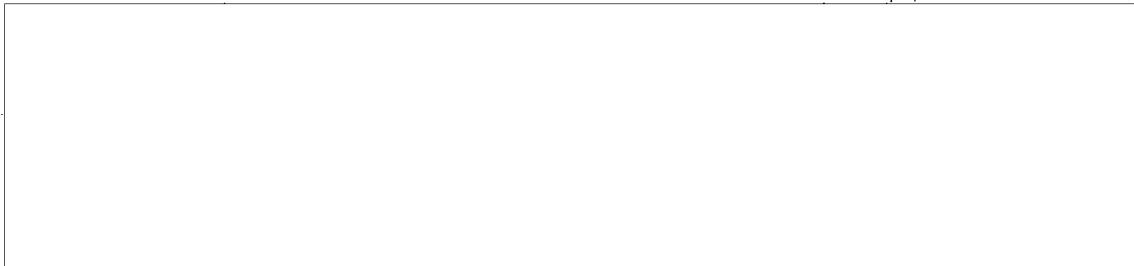
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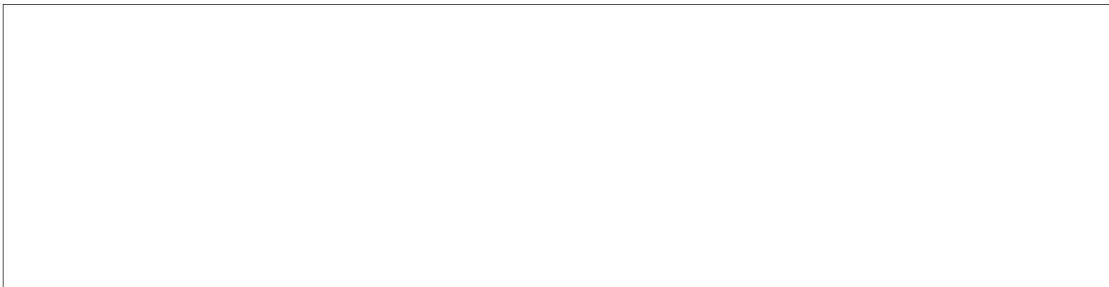
Comment on Chinese Aid: Despite Peking's disapproval of any negotiations between Hanoi and the US, Chinese economic aid apparently continues unhampered by politics. A Western diplomat in Peking reports the North Vietnamese ambassador has expressed his satisfaction with China's assistance, noting in some cases the Chinese had made shipping available for North Vietnam - bound goods at the expense of China's own shipping needs.

* * *

Logistics: The beginning of the dry season in the Laos panhandle has brought an increase in truck traffic and stepped-up repair and construction work.

A Mu Gia Pass roadwatch team observed an average of 16 trucks per day moving south between 1 and 17 October, compared with 13 per day during the June through September rainy season.

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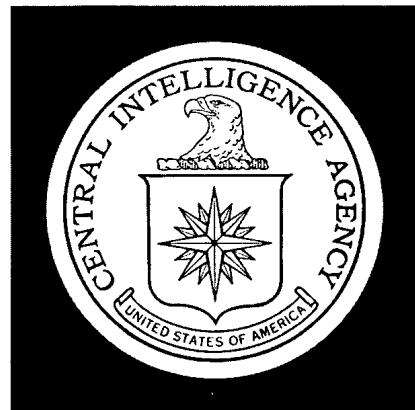
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report
today.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
29 OCTOBER 1968

1. Israel-Arabs

The comparatively heavy weekend casualties along the Suez Canal have been a shock to the Israeli public, and many are saying "this puts an end to all the talk of peace." The government will have to take this mood into account. It may well conclude that Sunday's retaliatory shelling of the Suez refinery, which damaged at most four storage tanks, was not a sufficiently vivid example of the eye-for-an-eye principle to discourage the Egyptians. The Israelis are probably also worried that the relative effectiveness of the Egyptian shelling on Saturday means that Soviet advisers have finally drummed some military techniques into Egyptian gunners.

* * *

The Jordanian and Egyptian foreign ministers have threatened to leave New York for home unless Eban shows a little give in his negotiating position. This threat is primarily a means of applying still more pressure on Jarring to induce new concessions from Eban, but the two Arabs are perfectly capable of carrying it out.

Eban, who was due in New York on Sunday, has been delayed in Israel

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2. Czechoslovakia

Defying a ban on public demonstrations, several thousand students and young workers filtered through police barriers yesterday to march on Hradcany Castle and protest the Soviet occupation. Others demonstrated in downtown Prague. Soviet reactions were restrained; no troops were seen in the area, although Soviet Army staff cars monitored the demonstrations.

In a further effort to project an image of political normality, the Soviet press gave the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Czech republic--the occasion for the demonstrations--standard, fairly low-key treatment.

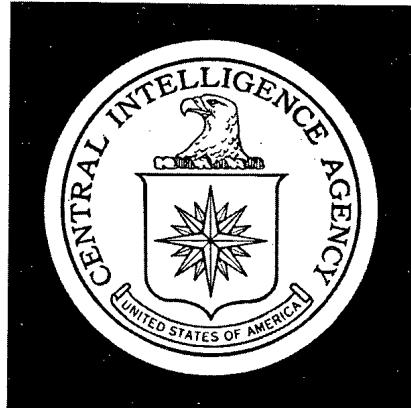
**3. South Asia -
Soviet Union -
Communist China****4. Peru**

Service rivalries have led to the first open break in the unity of the revolutionary government. The minister of aviation--an original member of the three-member junta--has departed in a huff over air force promotion policies.

President Velasco still has personal control over the government, but continuing bickering among the military seems likely to prove a major headache for him.

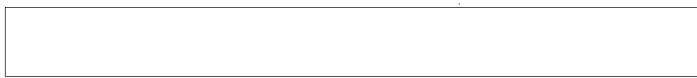
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16

29 October 1968

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

29 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Scuttlebutt:

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[redacted] diplomatic circles in the North Vietnamese capital are full of rumors about Sino-Vietnamese frictions.

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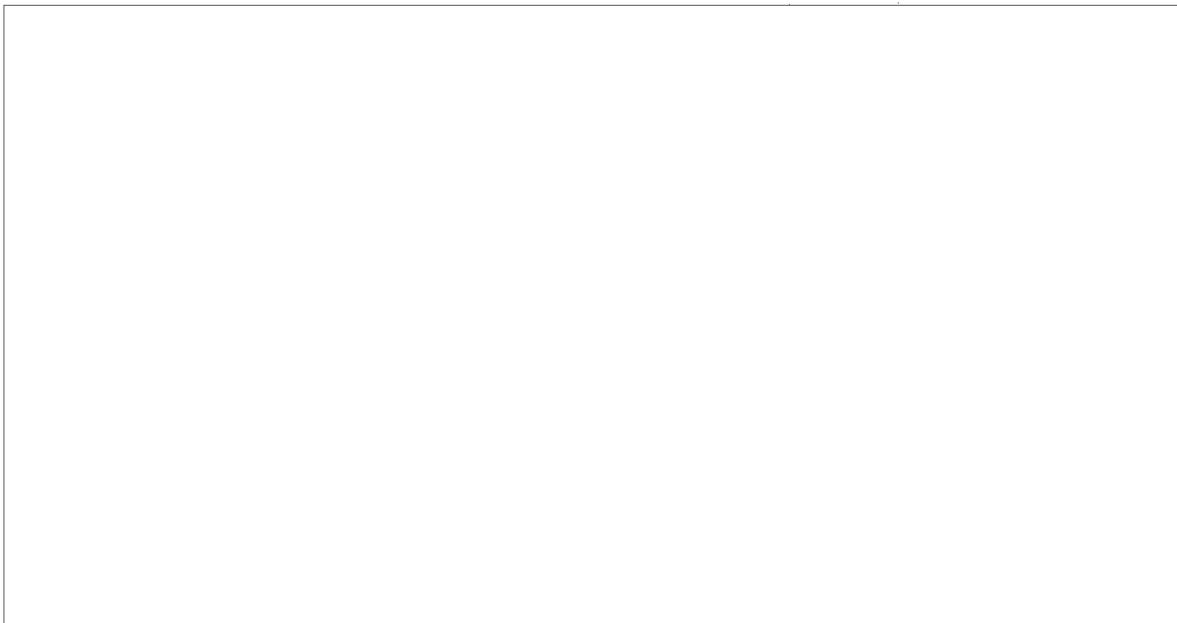
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[redacted] the Chinese have put up signs along the border area which promise not to abandon the Vietnamese to the "revisionists." [redacted] Chinese are now being seen more frequently in downtown Hanoi and that some of them are wearing Mao buttons.

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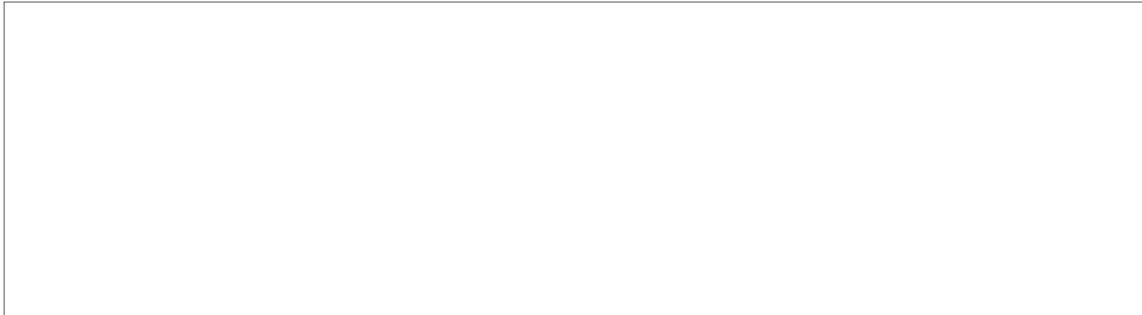
One rumor claims that Chinese laborers in North Vietnam are being withdrawn only to be replaced by Chinese combat troops. Another says that Ho Chi Minh himself has gone to Peking to discuss the Paris peace talks. There is no confirmation of any of this reporting and the last two suggestions seem most unlikely. The report is a good illustration, however, of the extent to which the Soviets are fanning the fires.

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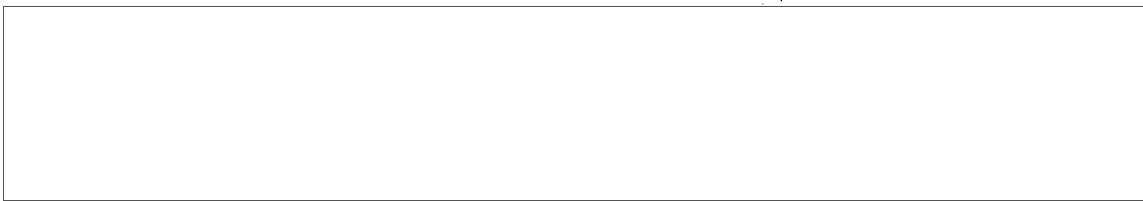
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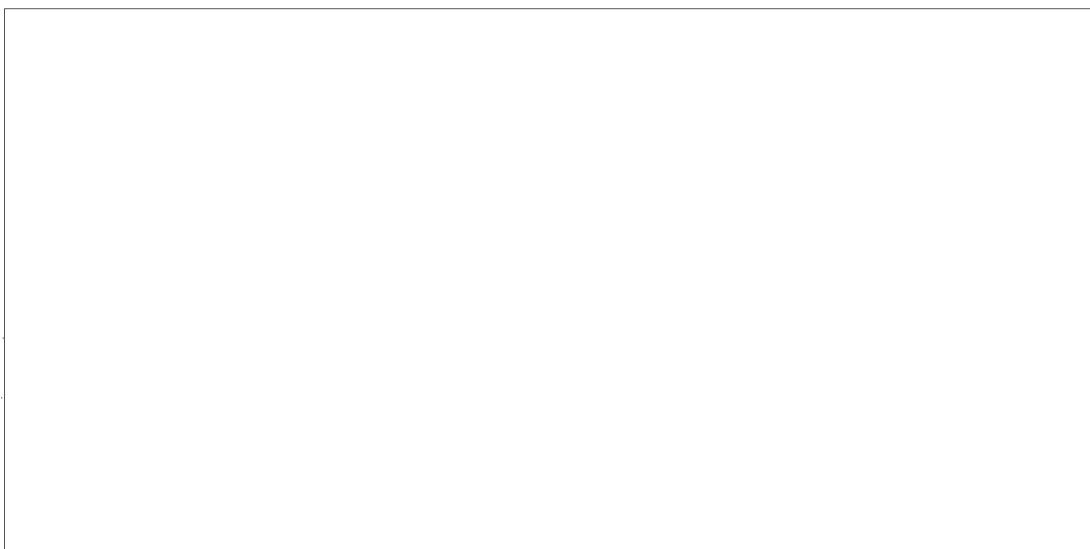
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Front Office in Stockholm: The Swedish Committee on Vietnam has announced that the Liberation Front opened an information office in Stockholm yesterday, its second in the West. A similar office was opened in Paris earlier this month.

The Communists have indicated the importance they attach to the Stockholm office by sending one of their more experienced overseas representatives to head it.

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Le Phuong, formerly in charge of the Front's relations with the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization and a frequent delegate to leftist international front meetings, is the number one man.

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Delegation Turned Down: The Dutch have rejected visa requests by a combined North Vietnamese - Liberation Front delegation which had hoped to visit the Netherlands.

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Doumer Bridge: [redacted]

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[redacted] The Doumer bridge has been open to rail and vehicle traffic since late June, after heavy damage from December bombings was repaired. However, [redacted] sources in Hanoi reported that through late September the bridge showed a noticeable sway and pronounced vibration under heavy traffic.

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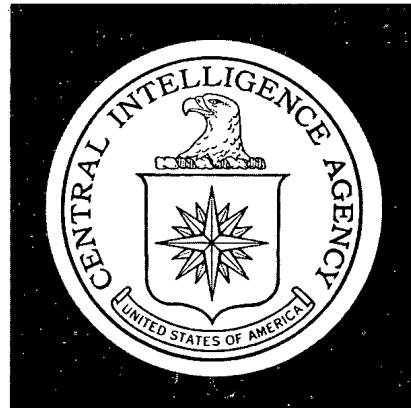
The piers supporting the bridge were only temporarily repaired last June to expedite traffic. The rising waters of the Red River during the heavy rains of September may have strained the piers. There has been no indication that traffic has been diverted from the bridge. There are, however, some 19 rail and highway by-passes across the Red River.

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

Bryn Mawr Petition: Hanoi Radio on 28 October publicized a petition by Bryn Mawr College students calling for a halt to the bombing. Over its international service, the radio claimed that the petition was published in the New York Times and signed by 1,000 "former" Bryn Mawr students. The broadcast also publicized the desertion of ten more US soldiers to Sweden.

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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
30 OCTOBER 1968

1. Soviet Union

The Russian cosmonaut and his Soyuz 3 spacecraft were brought down--apparently successfully--inside the Soviet Union

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2. Rumania -
Warsaw Pact

Rumanian authorities have evidently accepted in principle a Soviet proposal to hold joint maneuvers in Rumania sometime next year. Bucharest is obviously worried about this kind of involvement and says it will demand a formal government-to-government accord spelling out the number of Soviet troops and when they will enter and leave. This is hardly adequate insurance.

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The Rumanians and the Soviets continue to cooperate on some military matters.

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3. Czechoslovakia

There were anti-Soviet demonstrations in Bratislava last night after the Czech leaders arrived to witness the signing of the federalization bill today. Soviet troops did not intervene, however, and so far the occupation command seems content to let the local authorities handle the situation. More demonstrations in Bratislava are expected today.

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4. Israel

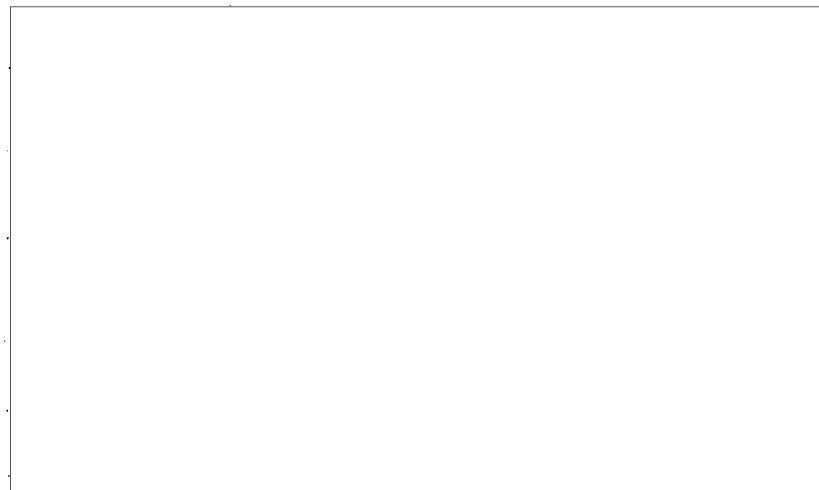
Contacts of the embassy in Tel Aviv say that previous talk of a cabinet crisis over peace terms has evaporated, and that they see no spectacular developments when the cabinet meets to discuss the problem tomorrow.

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5. Portugal

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6. Soviet Union -
Antarctica

The Soviets are continuing their impressive research activities in Antarctica. The diversity of this effort, which covers many branches of science but concentrates on geophysics, rivals that of any other country.

The fourteenth annual Soviet Antarctic expedition is now getting under way with 300 members--100 more than last year.

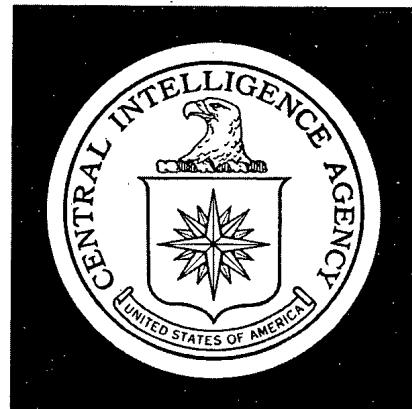
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16

30 October 1968

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

30 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Propaganda: Both Liberation Radio and Hanoi continue to denounce press rumors that there is some bargaining going on between Washington and Hanoi about conditions for a bombing halt. Communist commentaries are still hammering home the theme that has dominated their propaganda for more than a week-- the relative strength and importance of the Front compared with Saigon. The Liberation Front commentary on the 28th was harsher in tone and in its denunciation of President Johnson's recent comments, but

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even Nhan Dan said on 29 October that "no beautiful words can turn the moribund puppets into a force to reckon with." Both commentaries insisted that the US stop the bombing without conditions.

In Paris the newly arrived Front representative, in a brief appearance on French television and radio on 29 October, laughed at the suggestion that a representative of the Front should sit as part of the Hanoi delegation at the peace talks. The Front exercises real power in South Vietnam, he said, and the US must deal with it.

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[Redacted area]

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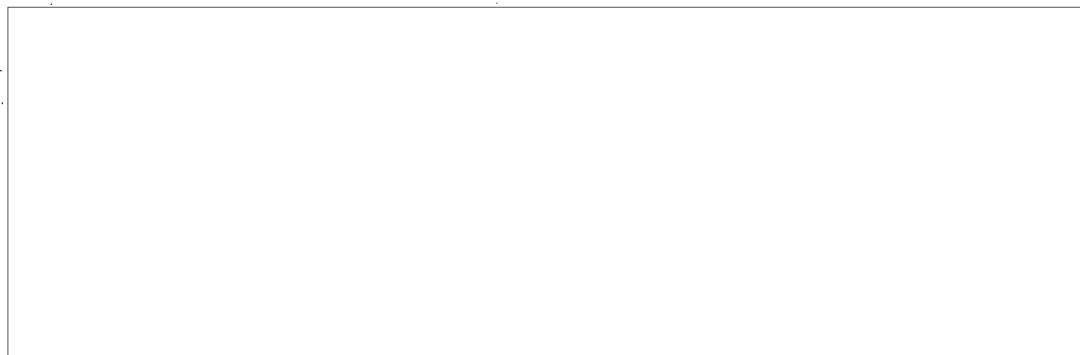
Delegation Has Its Troubles: The delegation which visited Belgium is the same one which was recently refused entry to the Netherlands. It has in fact encountered heavy going in more than one country on its West European tour. In Belgium the delegates met with a labor leader who supported the US position, and with leaders of a teachers' union who accused the Front of committing atrocities in South Vietnam. Their public appearances were dominated by

pro-Peking Communists, much to the dismay of the pro-Soviet Communists who sponsored the visit.

The delegation left on Sunday for Rome, muttering about the restrictions the Italian Government was placing on their activities.

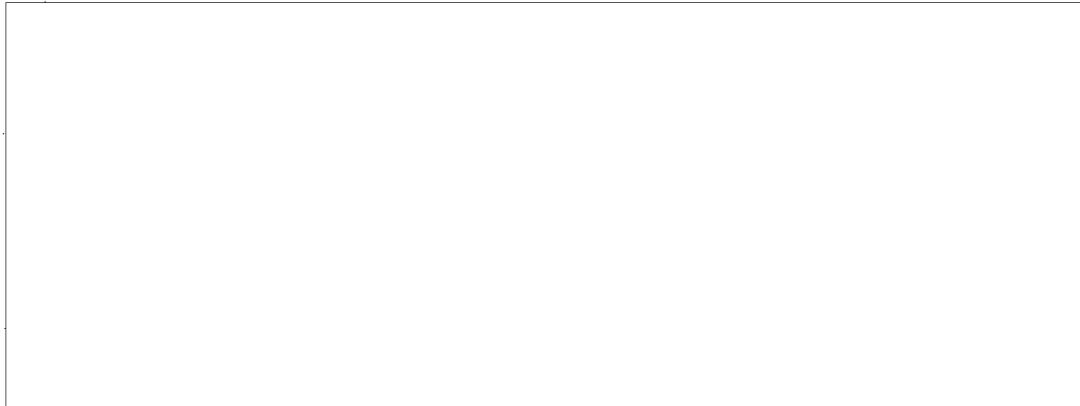
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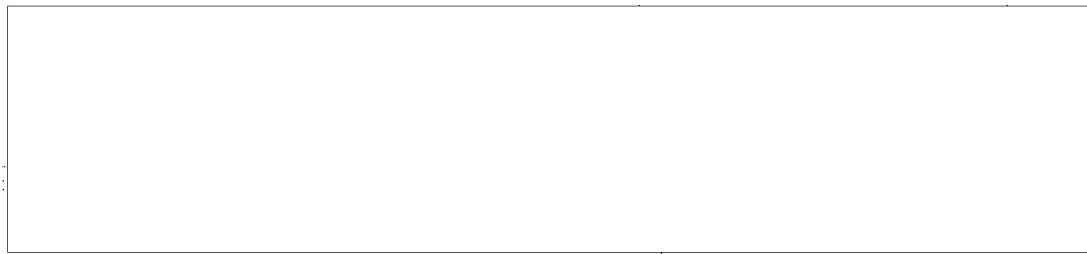
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**II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR**

There is nothing of significance to report today.

Top Secret



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 31 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
31 OCTOBER 1968

1. Israel-Egypt

Eban is now expected in New York on Saturday, but we still do not believe he will be bringing any significant new proposals with him.

UN officials, meanwhile, say they think the Israelis are preparing for "a real go" in the southern Suez Canal area. The Israelis deny they intend to start anything, but they make it clear they are ready for a major retaliation against any further Egyptian "provocation."

2. Warsaw Pact

Defense ministers from all the Warsaw Pact states, including Czechoslovakia and Rumania, met in Moscow on Tuesday and Wednesday. We do not know what they discussed, but their press release says they achieved an "identity of views." Whatever the substance of the talks, the Soviets doubtless regard this show of unity as a political plus.

We do not at the moment have any good sign of a link between the military caucus and a meeting of the Soviet party Central Committee which was also in progress in Moscow yesterday. The party people were said to be talking mainly about Soviet agricultural policy and, while this may be true, there was bound to be discussion of the Czechoslovak problem as well.

3. Soviet Union

The helicopter carrier Moskva is scheduled to return to the Black Sea from the Mediterranean by 6 November. This is part of a general rotation which will bring the size of the Soviet Mediterranean fleet back down to the level of recent months.

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4. Mexico

Looking back on the recent student unrest, our embassy in Mexico City makes the following observations:

--Essentially, the Mexican social and political structure withstood the student onslaught very well. The government will, however, have trouble bringing the next generation back into the fold with its traditional--and heretofore highly successful--blend of control and flexibility.

--The government may now ride closer herd on the intellectuals, and particularly on the leftists who have long used the universities as sanctuaries. On the other hand, the disturbances may also produce some needed reforms in the universities.

--The political center of gravity has shifted to the right in the wake of the unrest. The governing party's basic structure remains intact, however, and we may soon see some counterbalancing move to placate the Mexican establishment's left wing.

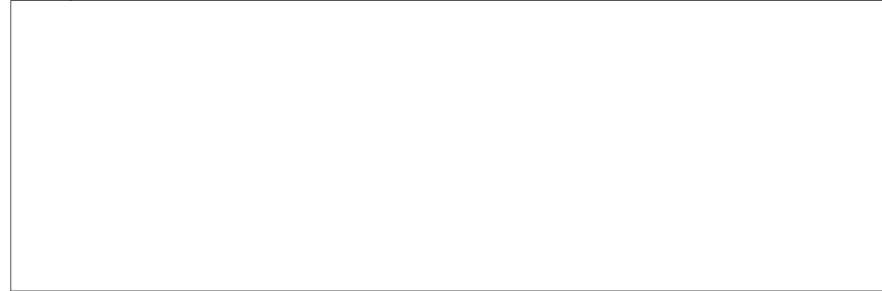
5. Colombia

Students and police fought it out around the university in Bogota yesterday. Police arrested 23, and 27 policemen were wounded. Rumor has it that the students plan more trouble in Bogota, and disturbances may break out in other cities as well.

The Ford Foundation was one of the prime targets of yesterday's demonstrators, and any further unrest could also have a heavy anti-American flavor.

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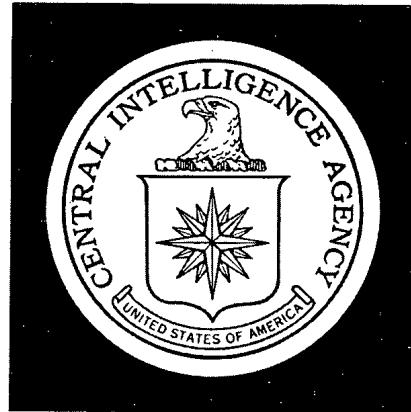
6. Peru



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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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



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31 October 1968

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

31 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Observations on Life in Hanoi: A recent Western traveler to Hanoi reports more signs of friction between the Chinese and Soviets in the city. He claims that in mid-October the Chinese set up a roadblock near the Doumer bridge, in an apparent effort to block the Soviets' access to Gia Lam airport. North Vietnamese guards came along, however, and had a fist fight with the Chinese. Later in the day the roadblock was gone. A few days later roadblocks appeared at the entrance and exit to the street where the Soviet Embassy is located. The source also said that the Czech press

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secretary was recently reprimanded by the foreign ministry for filing stories about Soviet-Chinese encounters, and the North Vietnamese - Chinese fracas at the bridge.

By way of miscellaneous information, the source said that the local militia are still being trained in street fighting although not very effectively. The bulk of the rail traffic moves at night, although the rail yards seem to operate normally both day and night. Some yards that were bombed out are said to have been back in operation for several months.

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Japanese Film to Show US Prisoners: The Japanese Communist Party is sponsoring production of a film documentary on North Vietnam, to include interviews with US prisoners of war [redacted]

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[redacted] The project, reportedly authorized by Hanoi in late October, is to be directed by a leftist Japanese film director who has left for Hanoi. He plans to remain in North Vietnam for about four months, according to the source.

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The documentary may include footage from Communist-controlled regions of South Vietnam. [redacted]

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Tightened Rice Ration in Hanoi: [redacted]

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[redacted] as of mid-September the rice ration consisted of 40 percent rice and 60 percent wheat, as compared to a 50-50 mixture earlier in the year. There have been other isolated reports to this effect, but there is no firm indication that this change in proportion is widespread.

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