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## II. ASIA-AFRICA

*MD* **Iraq:** The regime's cancellation of its 1954 military assistance agreement with the United States and of an "economic assistance" agreement--apparently one related to the Baghdad Pact--seems to be another of Prime Minister Qasim's relatively innocuous gestures against "Western imperialism." Neither the military assistance program, which had involved American expenditures of about \$48,000,000, nor agreements related to the Baghdad Pact have been recognized in practice by Iraq since the July 1958 revolution. Qasim explained the cancellations as a step to remove "factors of animosity" between the Iraqi and American peoples.

*DK* **South Vietnam:** The Diem government has urgently requested American advice on coping with new Communist sabotage apparently aimed at disrupting the vital agricultural and land development programs. Communist bands, operating mainly in the delta region west and south of Saigon, in recent months have damaged or destroyed about 40 tractors and a dredge, mostly US aid equipment. Saigon fears the Communists may extend their sabotage to key railway and highway bridges.

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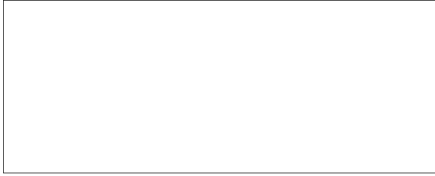
DAILY BRIEF

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