



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 11 September 1967



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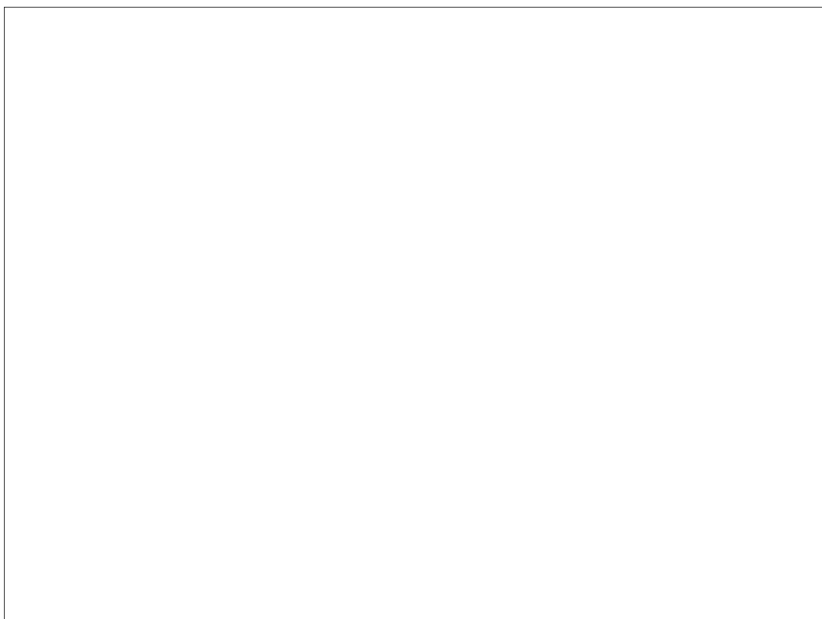
DAILY BRIEF
11 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Some of the defeated civilian presidential candidates are losing their enthusiasm for contesting the election. The Revolutionary Dai Viet Party has decided to accept the results and participate in the government if asked. Candidate Tran Van Huong also has dropped plans to protest.

One official complaint on the senatorial elections has been lodged. This was by Tam Chau, the moderate Buddhist leader, who supported President Thieu's candidacy. He feels the Catholics got far too much representation. Tam Chau assured US officials, however, that he had no intention of organizing demonstrations to press home his point. The militant Buddhists have so far taken a wait-and-see attitude.

2. Communist China



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3. Communist China

A late June item in the [redacted] press [redacted] mentions some 600 doctors and nurses leaving Peking for Sinkiang (i.e., Lop Nor) to care for "casualties" from China's sixth nuclear test earlier in the month.

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This is the first report of casualties from any of the tests, but Chinese movies of the first three showed troops rushing into the test area immediately after detonation. It is possible that in June some zealots dashed in too soon or with inadequate preparation.

4. Congo

A reputable West German correspondent, fresh from 17 days with Schramme and his mercenaries in Bukavu, has given our embassy in Rwanda some of his impressions. These are the main points he made, and they ring pretty true:

--Schramme will not drive south toward Katanga, but may take over some eastern Congo towns such as Goma.

--Schramme is convinced that Mobutu's government is on the verge of disintegration from factors other than the mercenaries' capture of Bukavu. Hence, Schramme believes he is making progress merely by staying in Bukavu and letting his "oil spot" spread. He is capable of waiting it out there for many months if necessary, having recently received a "monster load" of munitions.

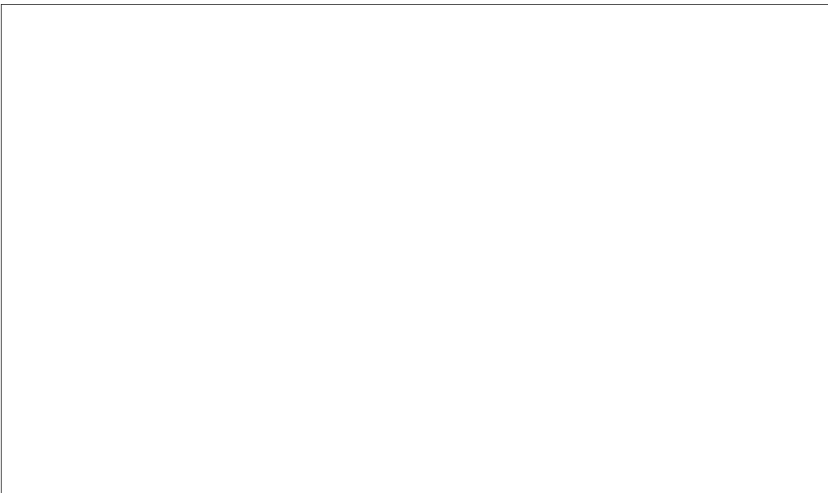
--The Congo Army around Bukavu is falling apart, with large numbers coming over to the mercenaries.

--There is no Communist influence on the mercenaries.

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5. France



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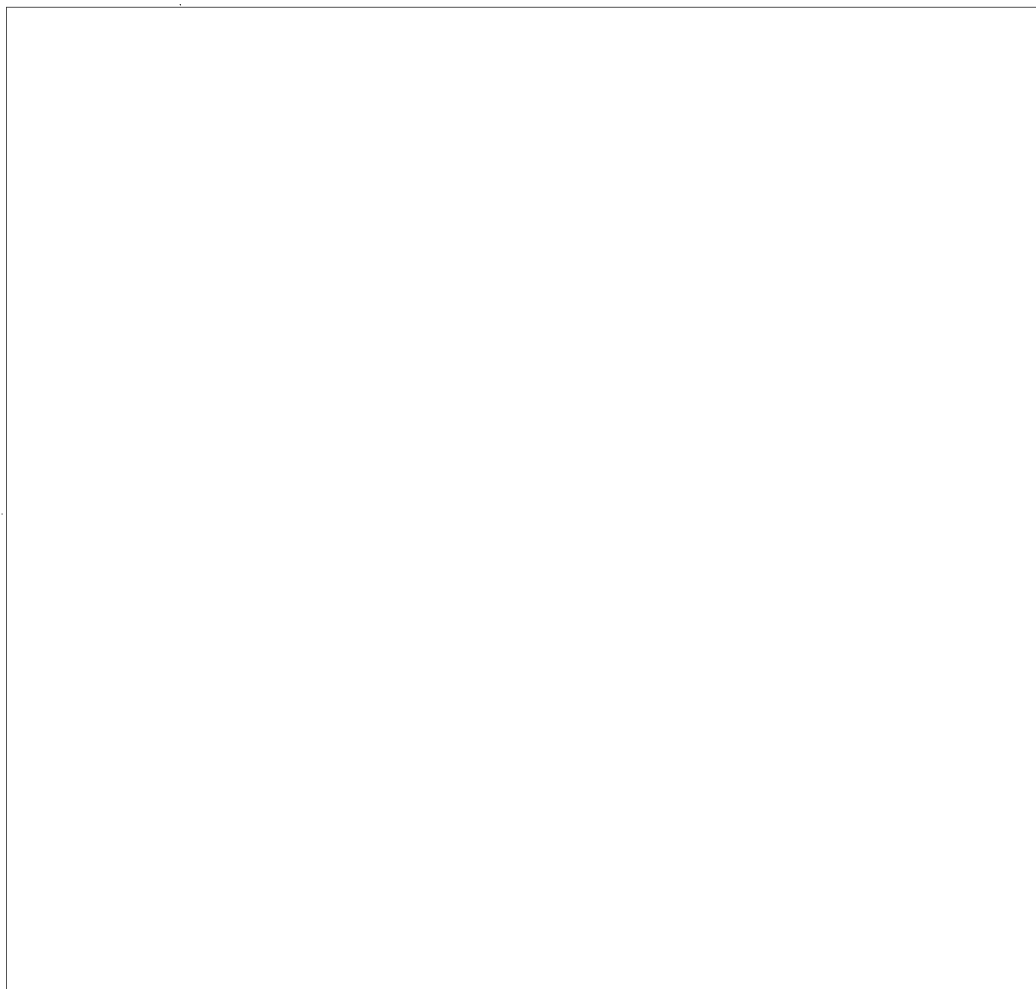
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SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM

FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

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

11 September 1967

Hanoi Condemns UN Role: A commentary in yesterday's issue of the party paper Nhan Dan made it unmistakably clear that Hanoi will have no part of any United Nations initiative on Vietnam.

The commentary accused the US of a "shopworn plot" to "legalize its war of aggression against Vietnam." As on previous occasions, Nhan Dan insisted that the United Nations has no right whatsoever to "interfere" in Vietnam. The Vietnamese question, the paper stated, can only be settled on the basis of the four-point stand of the North Vietnamese government and the five points of the Liberation Front.

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Barrier: No Hanoi comment has yet been noted on Secretary McNamara's announcement about the barrier.

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