

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 September 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
30 SEPTEMBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

The government is taking special security precautions against increased unrest as the National Assembly meets to rule on the election. There were more Buddhist and student demonstrations in Saigon this morning, but at last report this situation was simmering down.

The assembly's election committee recommended today (the vote was 16-2) that the election be invalidated. (The recommendation is not binding on the full assembly.)

Following this, Ambassador Bunker met with Thieu to express his concern over the committee's recommendation. The Ambassador stressed that Thieu and Ky should get together immediately and then meet with Ky's Democratic Alliance Bloc to persuade them to vote for validation. Bui Diem later told Bunker that the meeting with the Bloc would take place this afternoon.

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2. Communist China

Preparations for the seventh nuclear test at Lop Nor are probably under way. [REDACTED]

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It is too early to determine the nature of the next event. It could well be the first Chinese test of a device containing plutonium.

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3. Philippines

The Huks expect to use the November elections to expand their influence. Their organization, sort of a cross between the Mafia and a pro-Communist underground, has already become something of a political factor in several areas of Luzon.

We know that the Huks have been making deals recently with a variety of incumbents and candidates at the town and village level. Their game is to provide their favorite candidates with strong-arm support during the campaign. In return, the politicians promise the Huks special privileges and jobs--mainly on local police forces.

4. Syria

The cabinet was shaken up quite a bit on Thursday but it is doubtful that this will produce a shift toward a more moderate line. [REDACTED]

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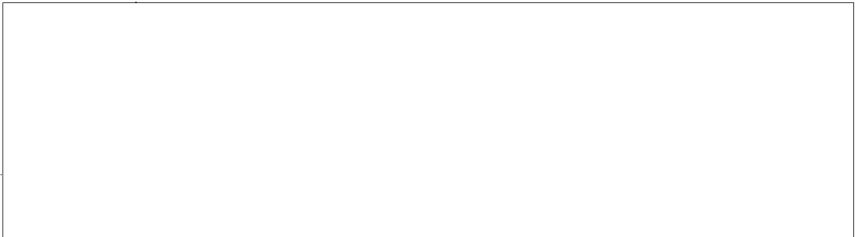
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5. Ecuador

President Arosemena flailed away again at the Alliance for Progress in particular and the international lending system in general at a public reception on Wednesday. This was something more than just another reflection of his displeasure with US policies. It seems that the Arosemena government has a \$30 million loan pending from private European bankers, but is encountering scepticism from some of Ecuador's best financial brains who feel this is a risky way to do business. Embassy Quito calls Arosemena's tactic of damning the Alliance to get support for the loan "calculated political opportunism."

6. Bolivia



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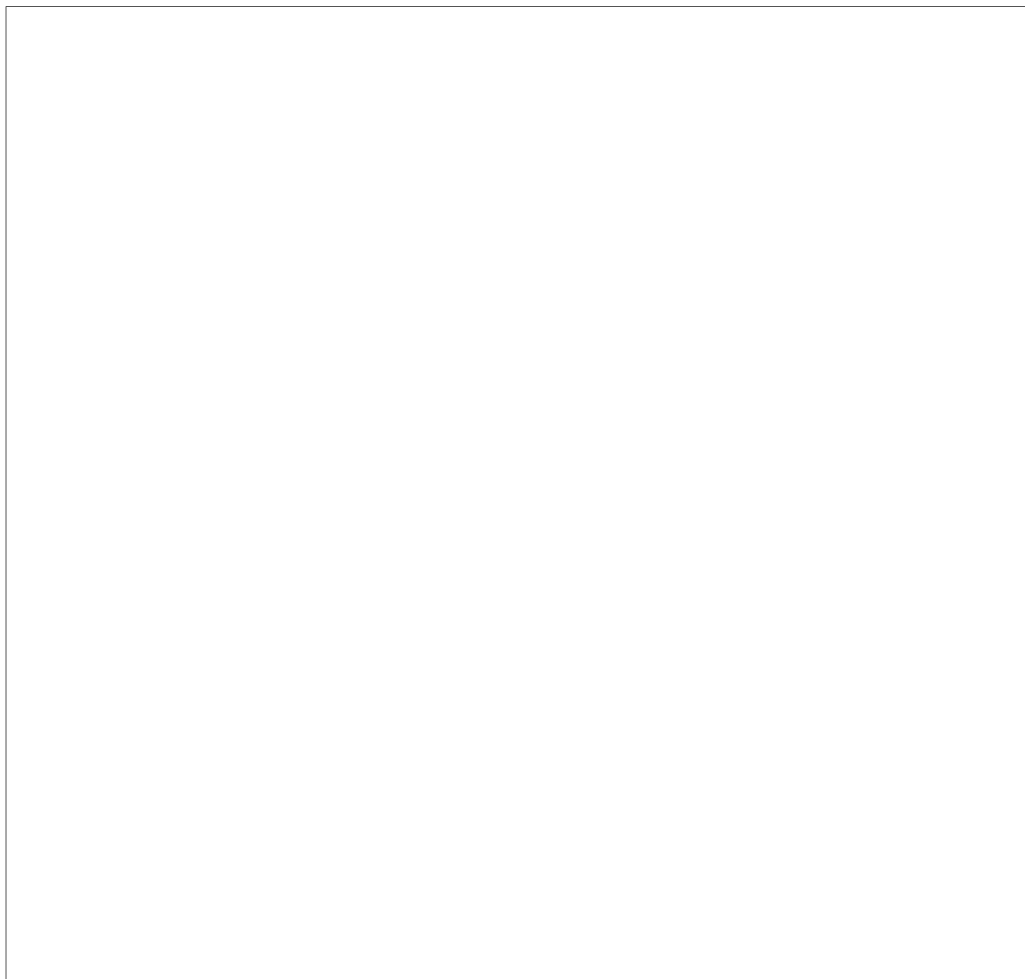
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30 SEP 1957

SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM

FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY



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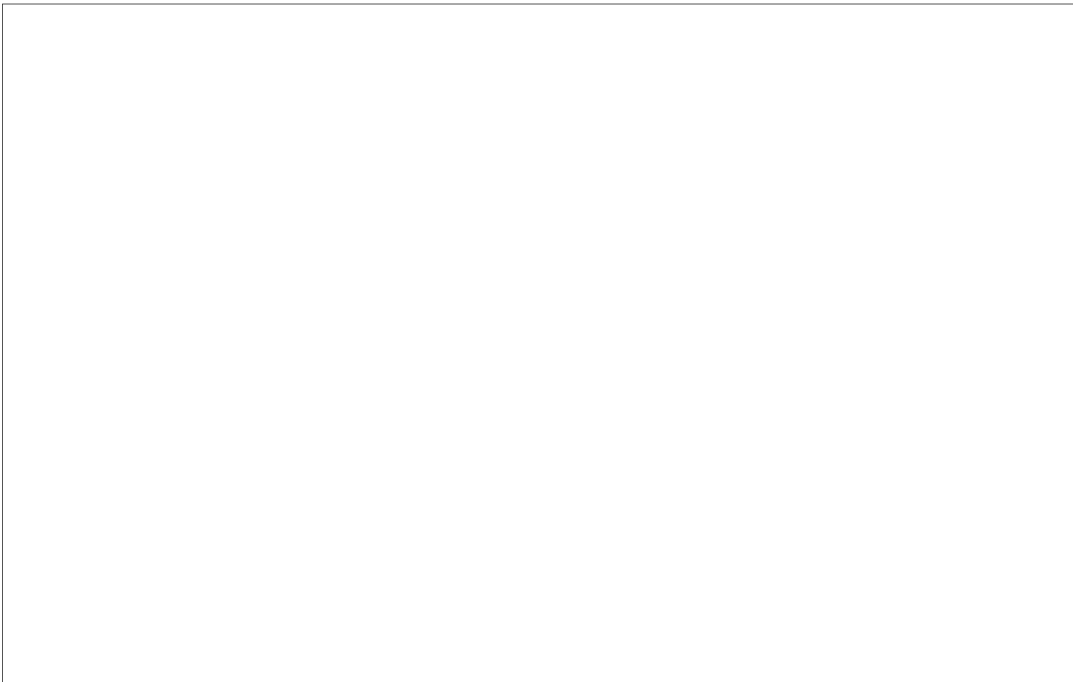
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Senior Chinese General Visits: Yang Te-chih, who led Chinese "volunteers" in Korea and now heads one of China's military regions, is leading a delegation now visiting in Hanoi. The announced purpose of his trip is to join in the Hanoi celebration of Communist China's national day on 1 October. Yang's is the first publicized visit of a senior Chinese military officer since 1961.

Both Peking and Hanoi soft-pedaled Yang's military background in announcing the visit suggesting they did not want to overemphasize that aspect. We suspect Yang will discuss the war in terms of China's materiel assistance, but we do not think he will offer major troop commitments--nor that Hanoi would accept right now if he did. Yang may also visit the Chinese engineer and anti-aircraft units in Vietnam.

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