

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 19 October 1967



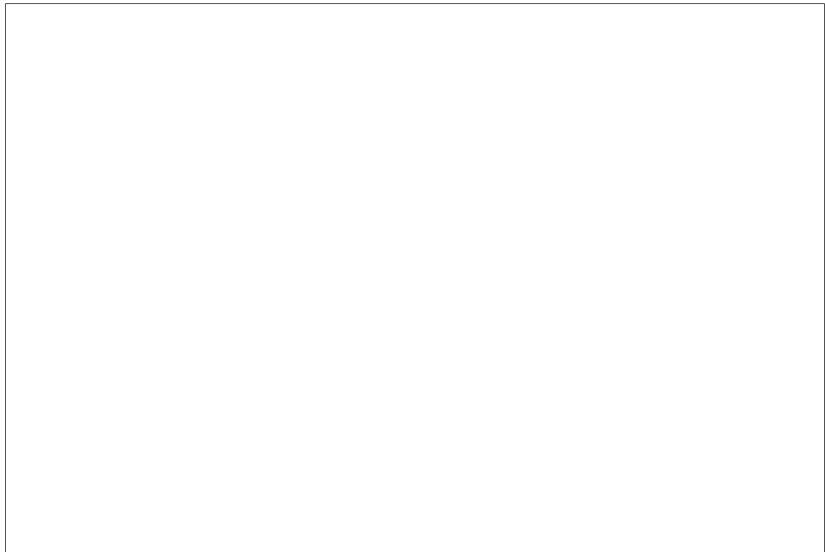
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DAILY BRIEF
19 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

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

2. Soviet Union



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3. Soviet Union



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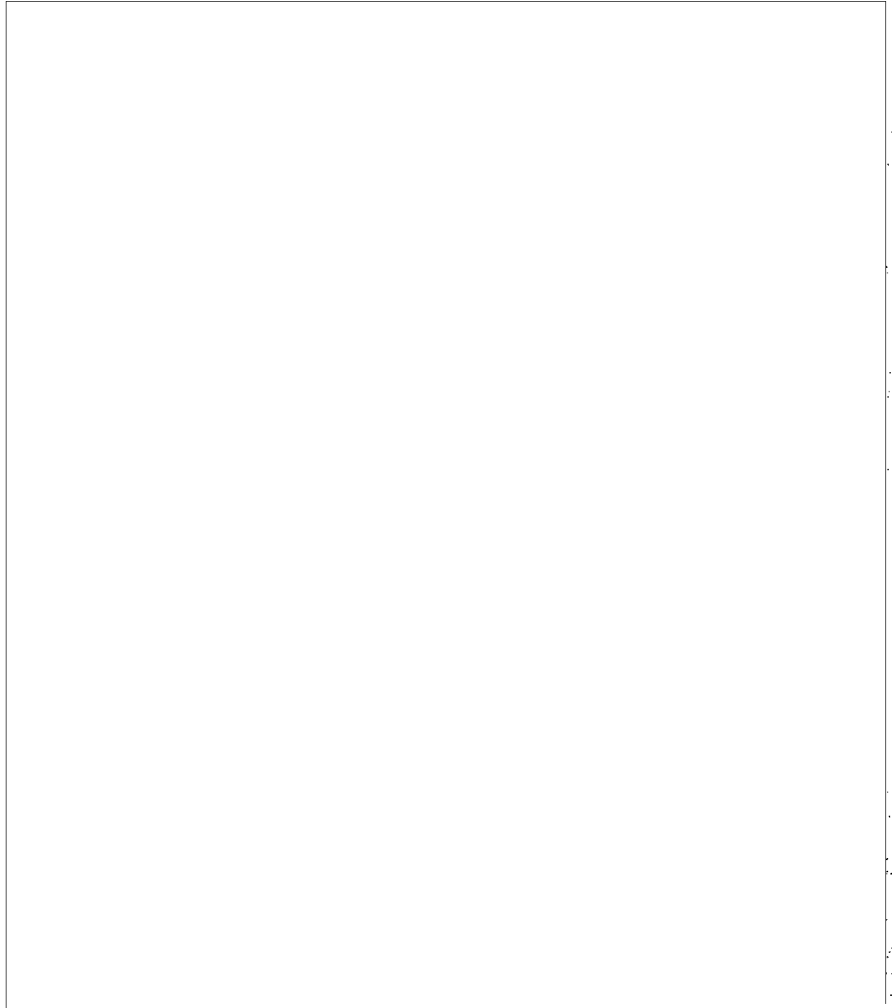


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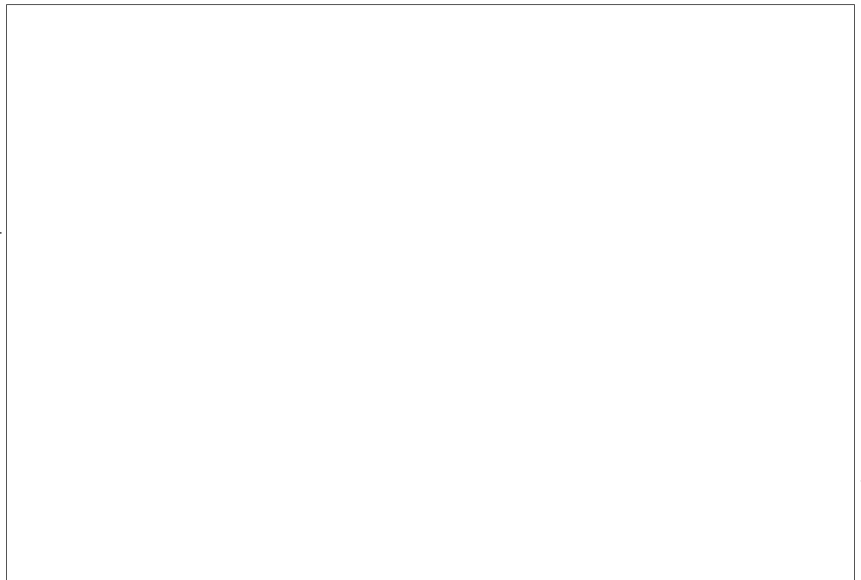
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4. West Germany



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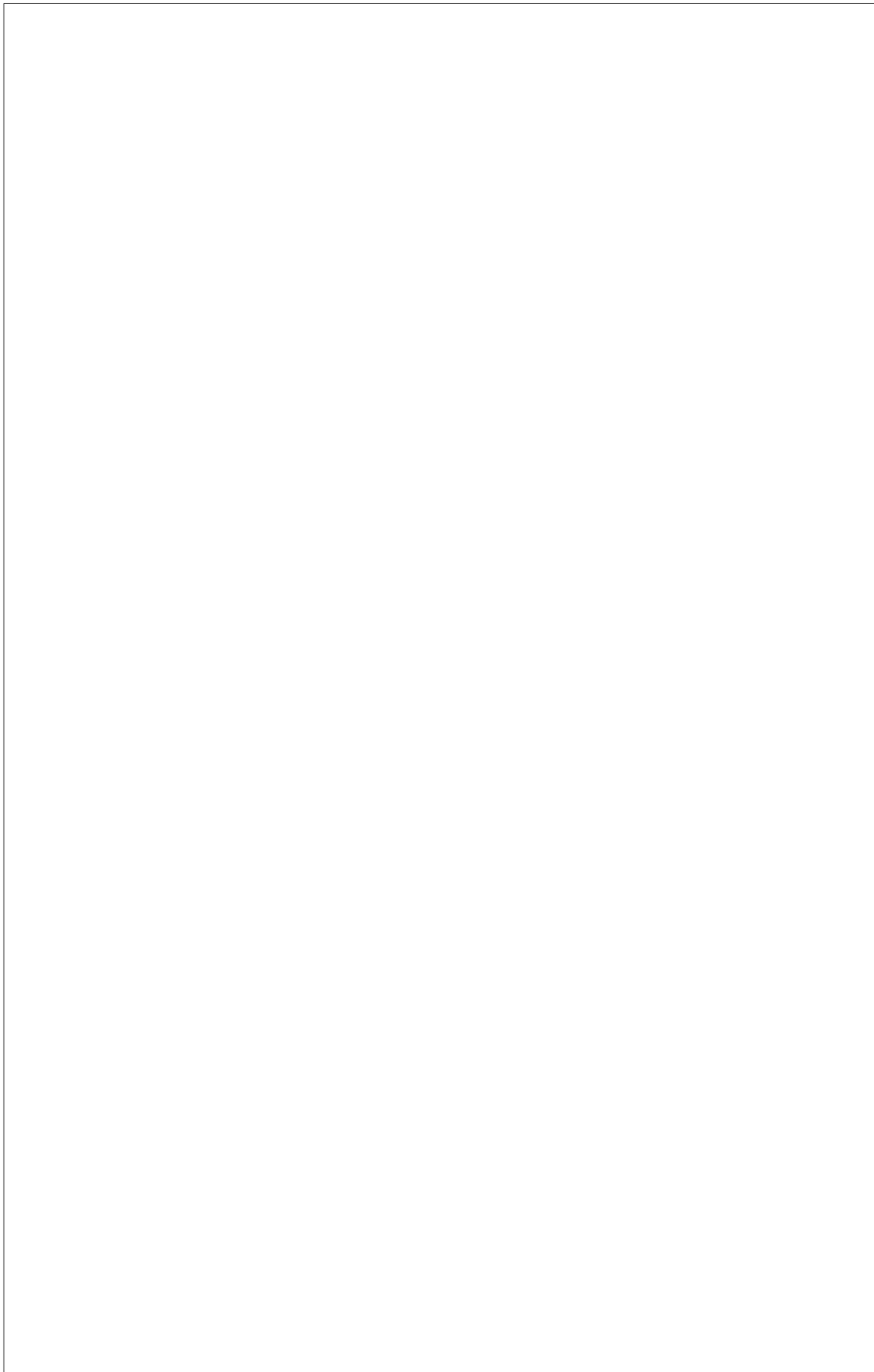
5. Communist China



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6. Pakistan -
Soviet Union



7. Sierra Leone

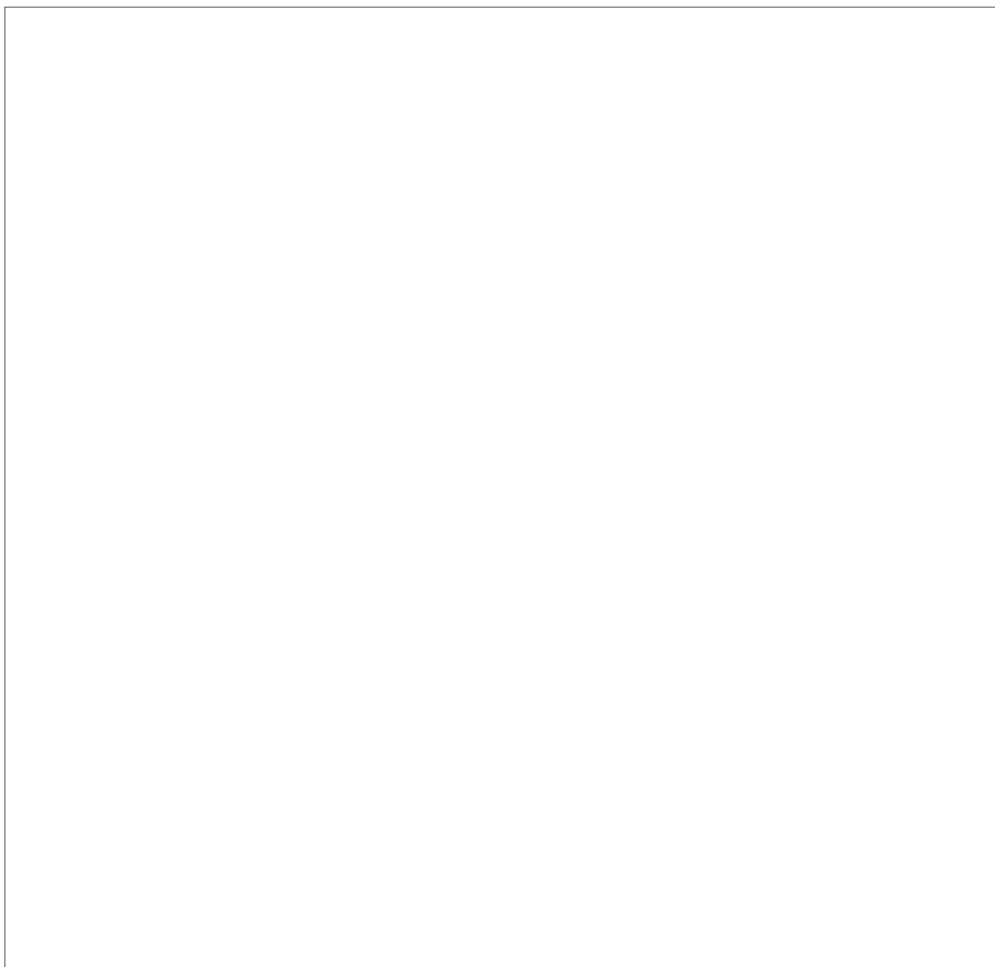
The leader of this small West African country is on the verge of being ousted. The other members of the junta have decided he is getting too autocratic. The new number one man is likely to be a diplomat known throughout the country as Uncle Ambrose--the name he was known by when he starred on children's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

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



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

19 October 1967

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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

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

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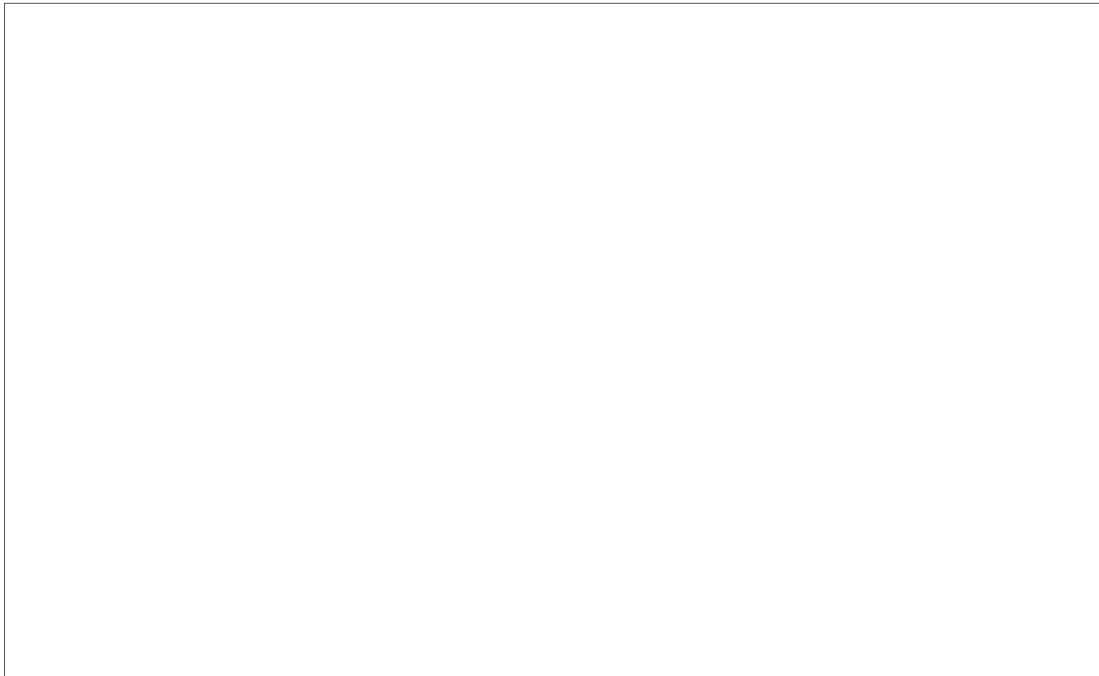
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

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

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

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

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

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