



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 30 April 1968



THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
30 APRIL 1968

1. South Vietnam

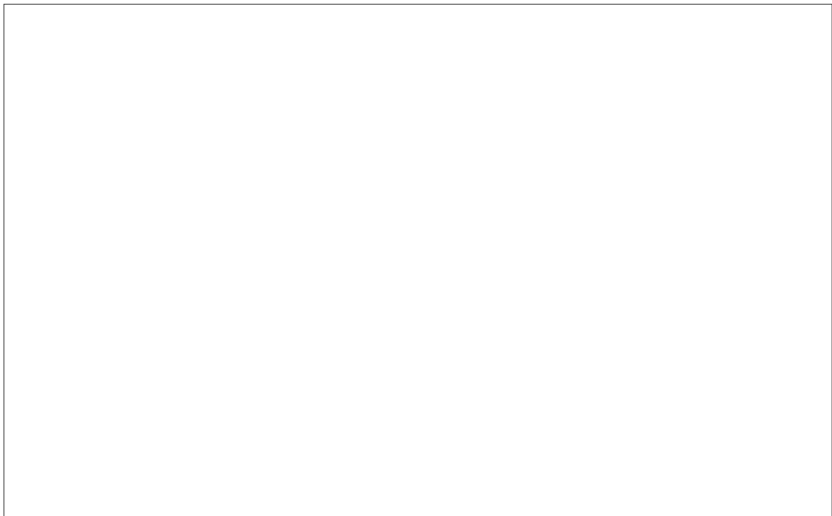
There are signs of continuing Communist battle preparations over much of South Vietnam, but these preparations still appear incomplete in several areas, including Saigon. Allied spoiling operations may have upset the Communist schedule.

2. May Day

We are watching West Germany in general and West Berlin in particular for May Day violence. There may also be flare-ups in France, Spain, Britain, and Austria.

The demonstrations may not even be limited to the non-Communist part of Europe. In Poland the students reportedly will be trying to get some antigovernment demonstrations going against the backdrop of the traditional Communist May Day festivities.

3. Panama



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4. France -
Soviet Union

Matters of real substance are cropping up more and more frequently in the increasingly cordial ties between Paris and Moscow. For instance:

--The Soviets let French Defense Minister Messmer watch some of their military exercises during his recent visit to Moscow. We assume they are hoping the French will do the same for Messmer's opposite number, Marshal Grechko, when he returns the visit. A Soviet defense minister watching French troops in action would certainly raise the hackles of many NATO members.

--Our embassy in Paris has been told that contacts between scientists of the two countries have become more frequent and more fruitful. The embassy's contact says the Frenchmen are seeing a good deal more of what the Russians are doing than other Westerners see.

--We understand the two countries are considering the establishment of a French consulate in Leningrad and a Soviet consulate in Marseille. The Supreme Soviet recently ratified a Franco-Soviet consular convention, and Paris may follow suit any day.

5. South Korea -
South Vietnam

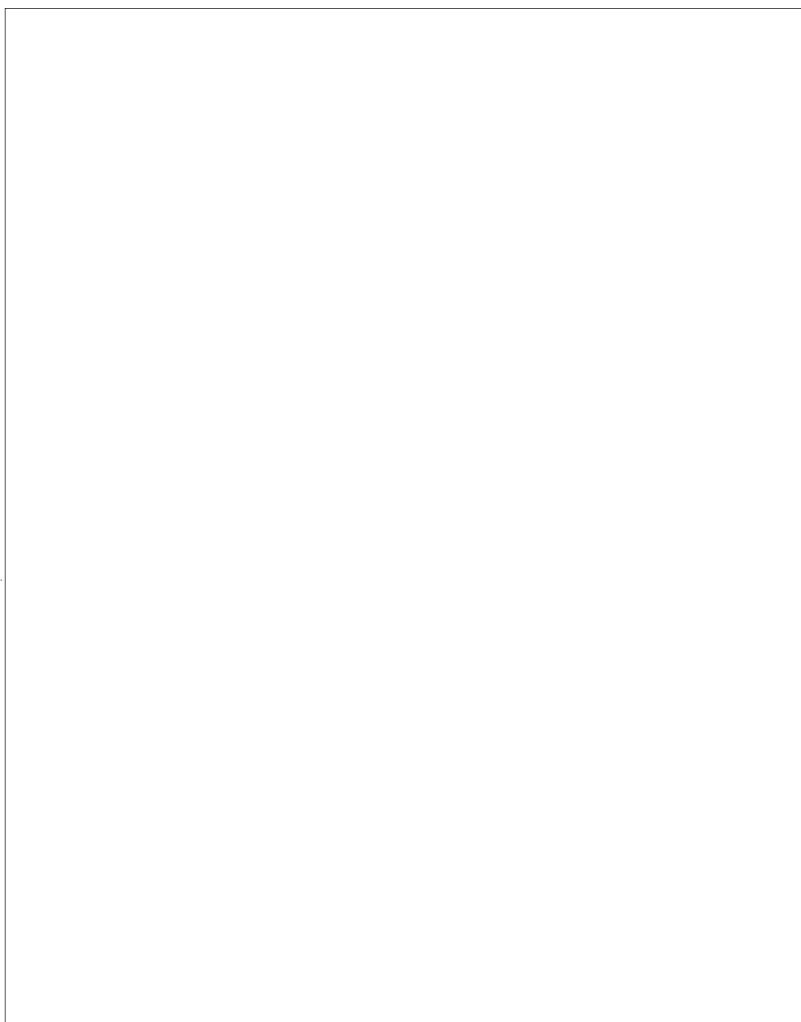
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6. Soviet Union -
India



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

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnam Refutes US Spokesmen: Hanoi has warned again that the US "must bear full responsibility" for the delay in opening bilateral talks. On 29 April, a statement by a Foreign Ministry spokesman takes the usual line that the US has raised one condition after another in delaying selection of a site. This statement is aimed specifically at Assistant Secretary Bundy's remarks of 28 April.

Reflecting North Vietnamese sensitivity to reports of official dealings between the US and Hanoi, the statement says that Bundy "cooked up" a story about "private discussions" in Vientiane while ruling out North Vietnam's choices of venue. Bundy's "crafty arguments," the statement said, are "another proof" that the US is deliberately delaying talks; Vice President Humphrey is charged with saying the same thing in a "roundabout way" by claiming selection of a suitable site is a long and difficult procedure.

The statement concludes by charging that the US is using this time to step up the pace of the war. The statement is being broadcast in Vietnamese and English.

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More Talk on Talks: Among the rumors going around in Warsaw is one that claims serious disagreement at the highest levels of the US Government prevented acceptance of the Polish capital as a talk site.

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

Hanoi on US Antiwar Demonstrations: North Vietnam's news agency carried a roundup of US antiwar demonstrations in English on its international service on 29 April. VNA noted that "huge demonstrations" demanding an end to the war were held recently in several US cities as part of the current ten days of resistance organized by the "National Mobilization Committee." The broadcast reported antiwar meetings in Washington and New York, and various student boycotts protesting the war. On 28 April the North Vietnamese carried a similar item, also in English, focused on student strikes at some 26 universities and colleges. As usual, Hanoi added no commentary of its own.

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