

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 6 July 1968

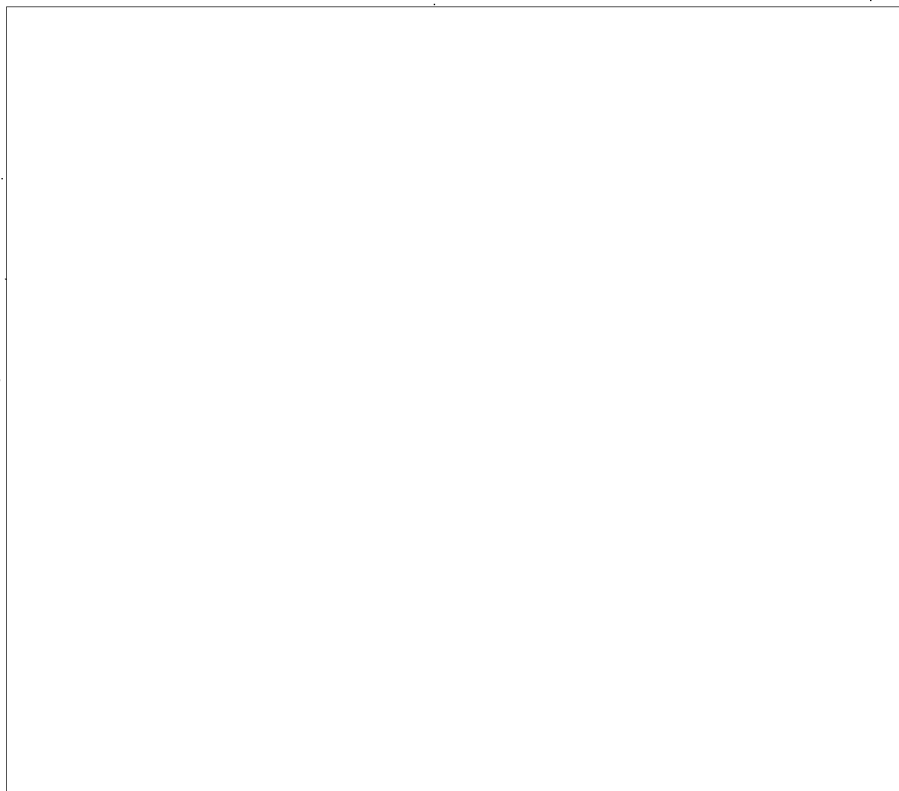


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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
6 JULY 1968

1. South Vietnam

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2. France

In the two months of May and June France lost more than 25 percent--about \$1.8 billion--of its reserves trying to support the franc. Reserves of gold and foreign exchange now stand at about \$5.2 billion, down from nearly \$7 billion on 1 May. Because of an adverse balance of payments, losses are likely to continue in coming months.

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3. Middle East



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4. Berlin

The Berlin access problem is now essentially at a standoff. Bonn is being careful to comply with the new East German controls, and Pankow is seeing that the traffic gets processed in an expeditious manner. Recent reports from the East German side say that some officials there are beginning to have second thoughts about the usefulness of the new restrictions.

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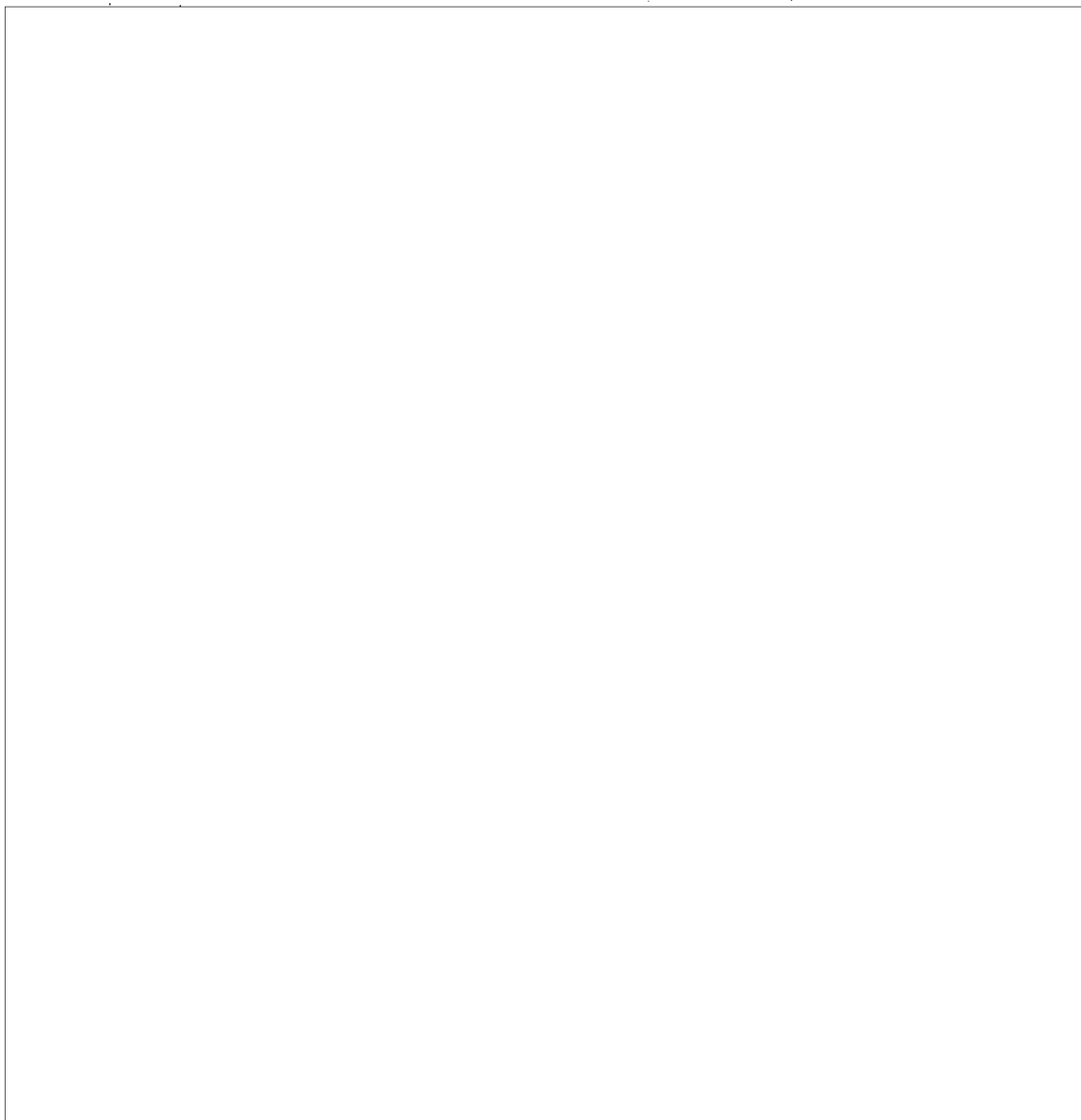
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**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only**

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Captured Document Notes Dissidence: A notebook recently captured in South Vietnam has one of those extremely rare references to internal security problems in North Vietnam. The notebook reportedly belonged to a senior officer whose notes say that in North Vietnam "230,000 out of 300,000 who opposed the regime were sent to reformatories." According to the notes, taken during an indoctrination session last fall, there are three types of "reactionaries" in Hanoi: 1) supporters of South Vietnam; 2) supporters of Yugoslav policies; and 3) "neutralist-pacifists."

Dissident elements of the type described doubtless exist and punishment of politically unreliable individuals probably occurs regularly. A new decree against "counterrevolutionaries" was promulgated last fall. The notes about large numbers of people being sent to reformatories may not be current, however, and could refer to roundups of political prisoners during earlier years.

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Non-Communist Contacts: [redacted]

[redacted] two North Vietnamese diplomats will visit Denmark beginning 7 July. The North Vietnamese ambassador in East Berlin and an attaché are expected to remain in Denmark for several days.

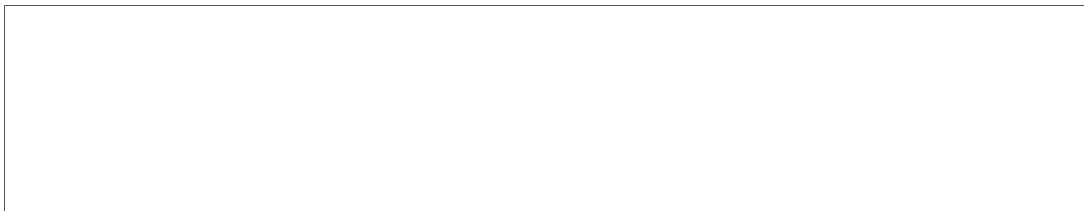
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The visit is another sign of Hanoi's relatively new interest in cultivating better relations with non-Communist countries. In the past six months the North Vietnamese have vigorously pursued such contacts in an effort to sell their position on the war to the widest possible Western audience.

A Swedish Foreign Office official is on his way to Hanoi. The US Embassy in Vientiane reported on 5 July that Jean Christophe Oberg, ("Director of the cabinet" in the Swedish Foreign Office and personal representative of the Swedish Foreign Minister) was scheduled to take the 5 July ICC flight to Hanoi and stay about a week. The Swedish official did not volunteer the nature of his business.

Soviet Aid: Moscow and Hanoi signed a new economic and military aid agreement on 4 July climaxing the visit of North Vietnam's Deputy Premier Le Thanh Nghi to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. No time period was given but the agreement probably covers supplementary aid for 1968 and aid for 1969 as did agreements recently signed in Eastern Europe. Nghi has signed agreements with every Communist country in Europe and will now move on to Asian Communist capitals. He was due in North Korea yesterday.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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**THE PRESIDENT'S
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1. Presidential Trip

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Moscow and Peking wasted no time in playing up the anti-American demonstrations in San Salvador. The official press services of both countries carried items yesterday which read as though there was no one but protesters in the streets. The stories also were sharply critical of the Central American common market calling it a means of "plundering the people" and saying that the President's trip was aimed at salvaging it from bankruptcy.

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2. USSR-Czechoslovakia

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Most of the Soviet troops brought into Czechoslovakia for a Warsaw Pact exercise which ended more than a week ago are lingering on. Czechoslovak spokesmen continue their almost daily forecasts that the Russians will soon go home. Marshal Yakubovsky, the Soviet who commands the Warsaw Pact, may not be so inclined. He is said to have been displeased with the results of the exercise and to want another one in Czechoslovakia in about a month. Prague rightly sees more than military training in this request and the issue has been sent to the highest Soviet and Czechoslovak levels for resolution.

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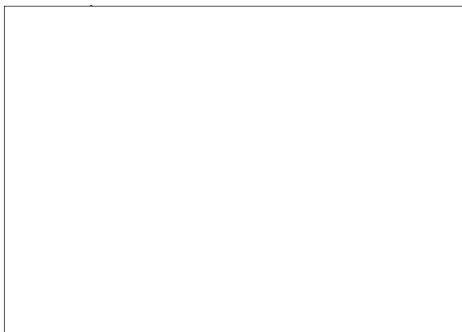
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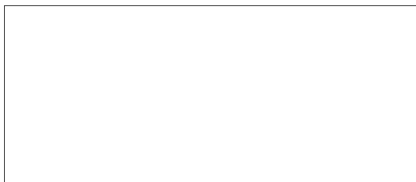
3. USSR-UAR



Moscow has rolled out the red carpet for Nasser, but there are some signs that his talks with the Soviet leaders did not go all that smoothly. TASS labelled the first round of talks as a "frank exchange of opinions"—wording that often signifies differences of view. Even more intriguing is Nasser's decision to stay on in Moscow until mid-week although his hosts apparently thought he would move on to Belgrade yesterday.. 50X1

There is no clue yet what new military or economic aid Nasser will take home. The makeup of the Egyptian delegation suggests military aid will, at least, be discussed.

4. Poland



The party Central Committee will meet on Monday for the first time since the political crisis of last March. Party chief Gomulka appears to have improved his position in recent weeks, but he will still have to strike compromises on key issues with his hardline opponents. The meeting is expected to set a date for a party Congress later this year. It may also shift some jobs around. 50X1



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