



The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 1 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
1 AUGUST 1968

1. Czechoslovakia-
Soviet Union

The confrontation at Cierna goes
into its fourth day

[Redacted]

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The meeting between Czechoslovak and Soviet leaders resumes at Cierna this morning. It had looked as if the talks would wind up late yesterday, but some snag developed, possibly over the wording of the final communiqué. Brezhnev, incidentally, recovered from whatever illness he was suffering and returned to the conference table yesterday afternoon.

Prague's reporting on the talks has been guardedly optimistic, although providing little substantive information.

2. Mexico

Relative calm prevails in Mexico City this morning, but the atmosphere remains tense. A student march is scheduled for this afternoon

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There have been demonstrations in two provincial capitals with two students killed.

[Redacted]

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3. Cambodia



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4. India

Food production hit a record high this year. It will not be enough to assure an adequate diet, but widespread famine is not the threat it was last year. The government estimates production for the crop year ending 30 June at about 96 million tons and plans to import another 7.5 million tons.

5. Nigeria

The French statement yesterday supporting Biafra, and coming as the two sides are about to sit down for peace talks, will do nothing to help matters. In fact, it could well prolong the war by encouraging the Biafrans to stand fast.

6. Nepal - North Korea

Operating with a boorishness more attuned to meetings at Panmunjom than to the niceties of diplomacy, a North Korean "good will" delegation to Nepal has queered the prospects for closer ties between the two countries.

The North Koreans arrived in Katmandu last week and began demanding things--an audience with the King, diplomatic relations with Pyongyang, and official status for the delegation. When the delegation's leader got a chilly reception, he refused to keep any further appointments. The attitude of the delegation makes any gestures to North Korea unlikely at this time.

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7. Middle East

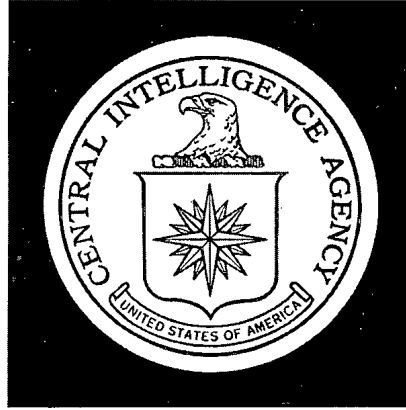
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 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



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Reconnaissance Report: A high-altitude photographic mission was flown on 26 July. These are some points of interest:

--The number of MIG-21s continues to increase. In an 18 July mission, photography combined with intercepts showed a total of 23 MIG-21s. On 26 July,

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28 MIG-21s were photographed and intercepts indicate that several more were in the air at the time of the mission. It is possible that Hanoi is replacing some or all of its MIG-17 force with MIG-21s. Only about 20 MIG-17s were photographed and many of these were heavily damaged.

--At Haiphong port, there was no appreciable change in the level of material in open storage since 18 July. The turnover of cargo continues to be high. A minimum of accumulation from newly arrived material was evident in the port area.

--Good coverage of the major rail network was obtained. No activity was evident at the Vinh end of the Hanoi-Vinh rail line. Six trains were seen en route to Hanoi from Haiphong, more than have been seen before at one time.

--Photography of industrial installations shows that the pace of repair activity on damaged plants has increased.

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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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