



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 17 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
17 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Pravda yesterday gave Moscow's guarded approval to the trend of developments in Czechoslovakia. It reported favorably on the repressive measures recently adopted by the Prague regime, citing a growing "tendency" to understand the "only correct and possible course." At the same time, however, Pravda alleged that "antisocialist forces" still had considerable influence on the populace and attributed hostility shown the occupation forces to "subversive activity."

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2. Soviet Union

It appears the unmanned circum-lunar spacecraft will arrive in the vicinity of the moon early tomorrow.

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3. Communist China -
India

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4. Portugal

Salazar had a sudden and severe relapse yesterday, and the possibility of his recovery seems remote.

President Thomaz, as a loyal Salazar man, would be expected to consult with the major power groups supporting the regime before naming any successor. Should Salazar die, former minister of the presidency Marcelo Caetano seems most likely to be appointed as a transitional prime minister pending a consensus on a permanent successor. For the present, Salazar's duties have been shouldered by Minister of State Antonio da Mota Veiga.

5. South Vietnam

Saigon may have taken the first tentative step toward better relations with Cambodia. [redacted]

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[redacted] Foreign Minister Thanh recently sent a personal representative to take soundings in Phnom Penh. The emissary saw Prime Minister Penn Nouth, who was quite optimistic about the prospects for improved relations. Thanh plans to send his man back to Phnom Penh later this fall to pursue the subject.

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Thanh is carrying a fragile glass, and almost any outburst by South Vietnamese leaders or by Sihanouk could shatter it.

6. Burma

Rangoon, long plagued by numerous insurgent groups, may have some good news for a change. [redacted]

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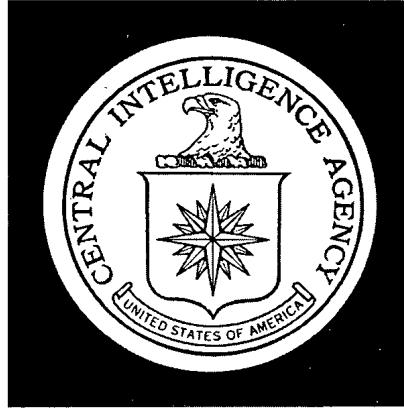
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[redacted] the anti-Communist Kachins, who have been fighting for their autonomy, have declared war on the pro-Peking White Flag insurgents. The Burmese Army has been hit hard by the White Flags recently and would welcome any diversion that the Kachins could provide.

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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

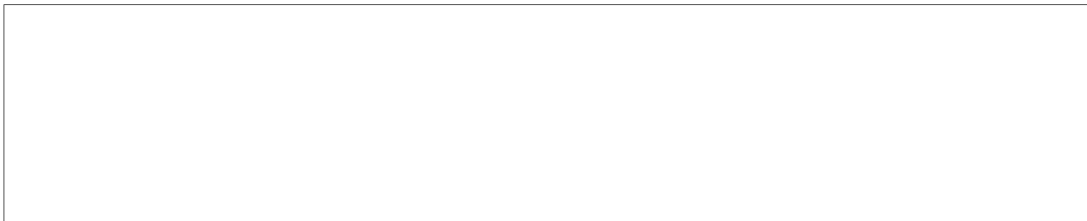
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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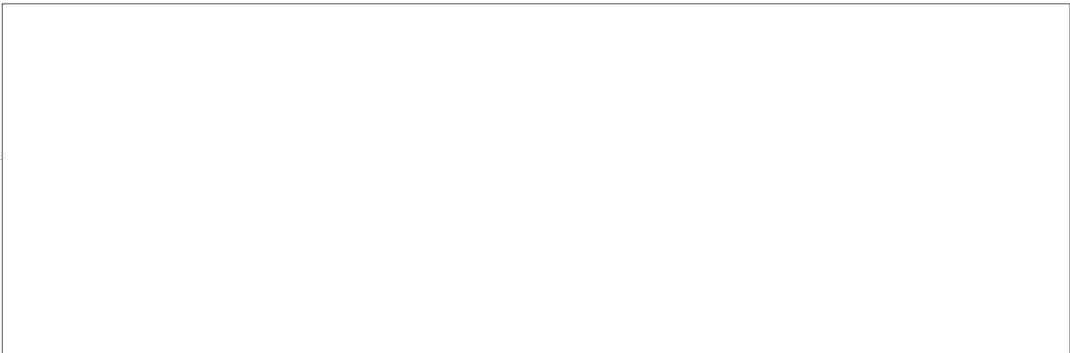


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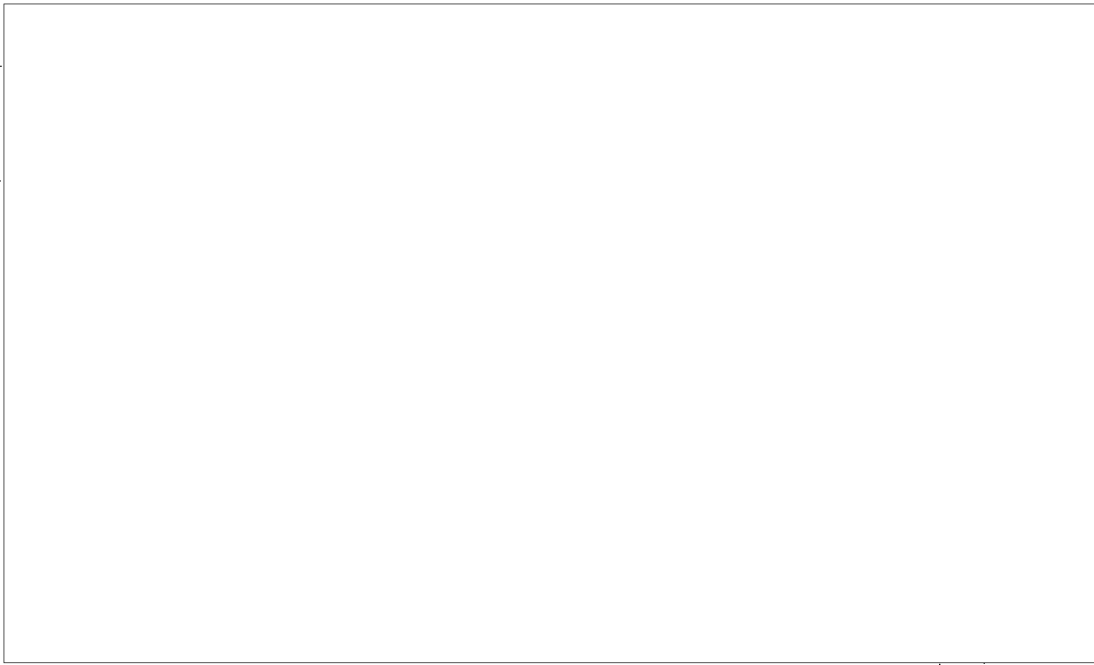


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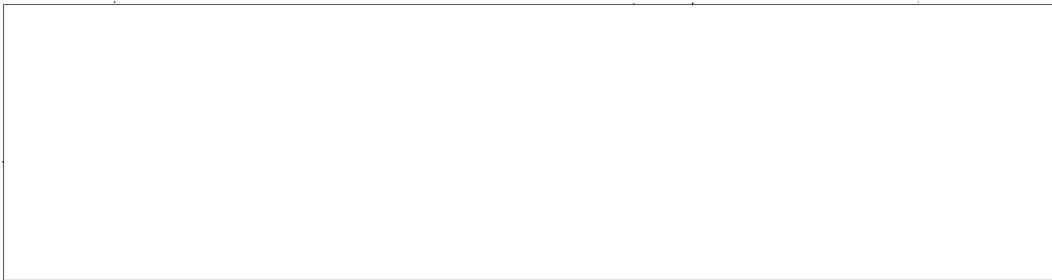


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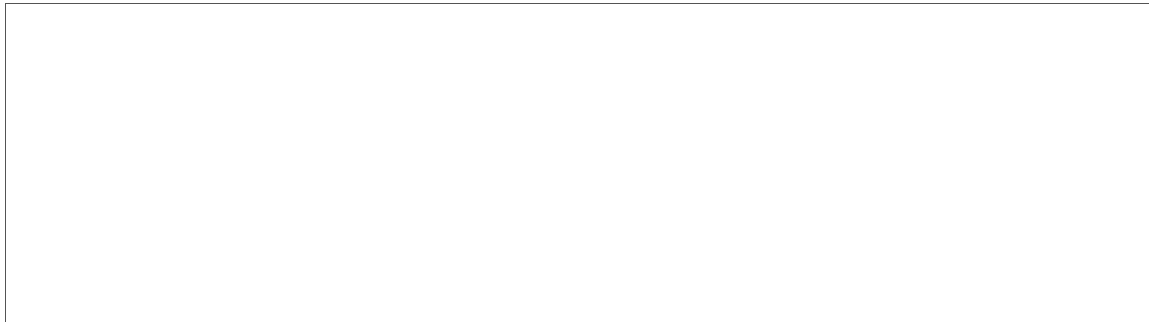
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Vice President: The Vice President's recent remarks on Vietnam were picked up by Hanoi on

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Sunday. In a commentary broadcast for the North Vietnamese audience, the Vice President was charged with "trying to pretend that his policy is different from that of Johnson." Mr. Humphrey was described as "Johnson's faithful lieutenant."

Citing subsequent statements by the Vice President in Denver and Los Angeles, the broadcast claimed Mr. Humphrey had backed down on the troop withdrawal and bombing issues. "After being slapped in the face ...he cancelled his previous glib statements," Hanoi said.

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