

# *The President's Daily Brief*

~~*Top Secret*~~ 16 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S  
DAILY BRIEF  
16 OCTOBER 1968

1. Panama

Most members of the new junta are warming to the idea that Arias' first vice president, Raul Arango, be elevated to the presidency. Arango is said to be willing, and other politicians, including members of Arias' coalition, are now believed to favor a "constitutional solution" along these lines.

The kid glove tactics used by the National Guard so far have prevented the outbreak of serious rioting.

2. South Vietnam

Major enemy units still are resting and refitting in their base areas getting ready for the next round, which the Communists are calling their winter-spring offensive.

In the meantime, unseasonably late rains in the delta and around Saigon are flooding out routine guerrilla activities of local Communist forces.

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3. Czechoslovakia -  
Soviet Union

Press accounts of a firm agreement on thinning out occupation troops seem premature. The communiqué covering the Cernik-Kosygin talks in Moscow says nothing about a "status-of-forces" treaty. It just states that the two sides discussed among other things "the conditions of a temporary stationing of Soviet troops."

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4. Arab States -  
Israel

The Arabs profess to see nothing new in Eban's nine-point peace plan. They claim the Israelis still are ignoring the Security Council resolution of November 1967, especially the parts dealing with withdrawal from occupied territories.

Meanwhile, Jarring keeps plugging away trying to generate a substantive exchange between the two camps.

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5. Jordan

King Husayn and his government may find themselves in over their heads if they seriously enforce new restrictions on Palestinian terrorist activities.

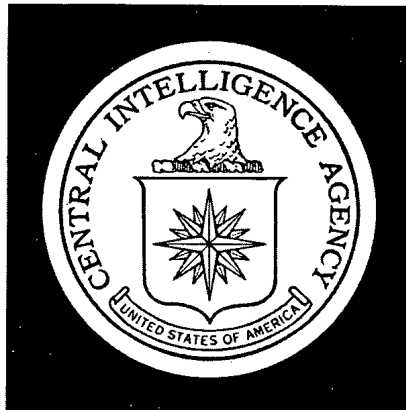
Among the new rules taking effect yesterday was a requirement that all terrorist operations must be cleared with Jordanian military authorities. Terrorists are also forbidden to wear uniforms or carry arms in town, and their vehicles will be subject to search.

The terrorists, who enjoy wide popular support in Jordan, told the government beforehand that they would not go along with the new regulations.

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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

Vietnam Solidarity Activities Accelerating: Communist front organizations throughout the world are preparing in earnest to promote various Vietnam solidarity activities through the rest of the year.

On 11 October, the headquarters of the international students' organization in Prague set mid-November as the date for student demonstrations in both Free World and Communist countries. The magic day is 27 October for London, where several left-wing groups plan two demonstrations, one reported to be targeted against the American Embassy. The World Peace Council is doing its part by sponsoring a Vietnamese delegation tour of a number of west European countries, the first stop being Brussels on 24 October. In Paris, the North Vietnamese have asked the French Communist Party to prepare another "ship for Vietnam" to be filled with medical supplies and food.

The Swedish Vietnam committee is sponsoring an international conference in Stockholm during December to coordinate the "support Vietnam" activities of a number of groups. According to a TASS dispatch, this conference will be attended not only by Hanoi and Liberation Front representatives but by the Alliance as well. This would be the international debut of the Alliance. The Stockholm conference is intended to be a pretty big show. The Front people who just arrived in the Swedish capital are already plugging it as a major landmark in international support for Hanoi.

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Le Duc Tho in Moscow: Press reports indicate that North Vietnamese politburo member Le Duc Tho, who arrived in Moscow yesterday en route home from the Paris talks, met with Soviet Premier Kosygin on 15 October. This is Tho's fourth stopover in Moscow

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since the Paris talks began and his third such meeting with Kosygin. Kosygin was on vacation outside Moscow during Tho's last visit (10-13 August), and Tho met with First Deputy Premier Mazurov. On past trips Tho has generally spent two or three days in Moscow, and if he follows the previous pattern, he probably will make a shorter stop in Peking before returning to Hanoi.

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North Vietnamese and Front Activities in France: The combined North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front delegation which is visiting several European countries will participate in social events and meetings with workers in the Paris area this week. The activities have been organized by the French Peace Movement as "International Week of Solidarity with Vietnam."

The Communist Party newspaper, Humanité, reports that meetings will be held all over France in the coming weeks, culminating on 23 November, to produce petitions in support of North Vietnam and the Front. Humanité invites its readers to contribute funds for quinine urgently needed by North Vietnam and penicillin needed by the Front.

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The Front is Being Built Up Internationally: The Vietnamese Communists are steadily building their case for presenting the National Liberation Front as a functioning political entity with some of the trappings of a legitimate government. Growing Communist claims about the extent of the Front's "governing" role in South Vietnam have been accompanied by an accelerated effort to expand the Front's diplomatic representation. In the past two months the Communists have implemented or moved to implement virtually all the agreements they have been able to obtain for setting up permanent Front missions abroad.

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Last August, Front missions were set up almost simultaneously in Albania, Bulgaria, Mongolia, and Rumania--the only Communist countries where Front offices had not been established previously. Last week two representatives arrived in Paris to head up a new Front office there, and this week two other officials arrived in Stockholm to open a similar mission in Sweden.

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The Communists appear to be marshaling all the assets they can to enhance the status of the Front and to be ready to put it forward as a principal party to negotiations involving South Vietnam.

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Doumer Bridge in Bad Condition: A regular traveler in the Hanoi area reports that in late September the Paul Doumer Bridge was showing signs of fatigue under the continuing heavy traffic load. He says that the vibration of the bridge is extremely noticeable and the roadbed is badly pitted. He saw no signs, however, of preparation to make repairs. The foundations of the bridge were apparently repaired with more speed than efficiency last spring, and the recent flooding in the Hanoi area probably further weakened the main supports.

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

Hanoi Gloats Over Komer's Departure: Hanoi Radio in its domestic broadcast on 14 October took exceptional delight in reporting the recall of Ambassador Komer. The report did not reveal that Mr. Komer had been appointed to a new post as ambassador to Turkey, but went to great lengths to disparage his efforts to improve the pacification program in South Vietnam.

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San Francisco Rally: In its international service on 15 October, Hanoi Radio publicized the antiwar rally held in San Francisco on 12 October, emphasizing the role played by service veterans of the Vietnam war.

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