

# *The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 19 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S  
DAILY BRIEF  
19 OCTOBER 1968

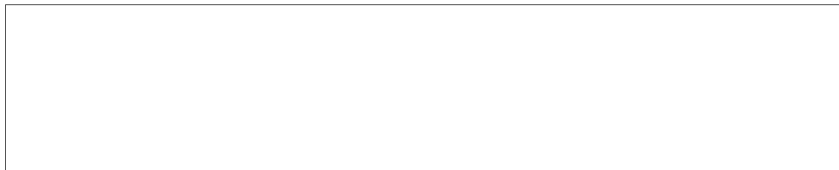
1. Czechoslovakia -  
Soviet Union

Premier Cernik yesterday gave the Czechoslovak legislature an elaborate rationalization for the status-of-forces agreement with Moscow, but the legislators succeeded in making their unhappiness plain before voting the required approval. No such indecorum was evident in Moscow, where the Soviets also went through the motions of getting legislative sanction for the treaty.

As described by Cernik, the agreement resembles Soviet-Polish and Soviet-Hungarian treaties already on the books. There still seem to be some points which will require further negotiation, however, and the rumor mills are buzzing with speculation about secret clauses. One rumor has it that the Czechoslovaks will be allowed only low-key celebrations of their national day on 28 October, while the conservatives will be encouraged to make as much as they can of the Soviet national holiday on 7 November.

If Cernik's interpretation of the treaty holds up, most of the occupying forces could be out of Czechoslovakia by mid-December. Some Warsaw Pact forces have in fact been noted withdrawing from their positions in and near Czechoslovakia. One Soviet unit, either for logistical reasons or to show the flag, seems to be moving to its home base via the Berlin area.

2. Vietnam



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### 3. Panama

The junta apparently favors a return to constitutionality but has not decided how to go about it. Junta members feel their job is not made any easier by Arias' presence in the Canal Zone. Arias has passed the word to US officials that he will leave the Zone only if compelled to do so.




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### 4. Brazil

Student unrest shows no sign of petering out. Demonstrations have now hit ten Brazilian cities. Machinegun-toting rightist students turned up in Rio earlier this week, enlivening the already explosive atmosphere with such slogans as "for every democrat killed, five Communists will die."

Military and civilian hardliners in the government think a unique opportunity has presented itself to smash the militant movement, but Costa e Silva is taking a gentler line. Most of the students arrested last weekend apparently are being turned over to authorities in the states, who will probably set them free.

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 many military officers are now highly irritated with the government in general and Costa e Silva in particular.

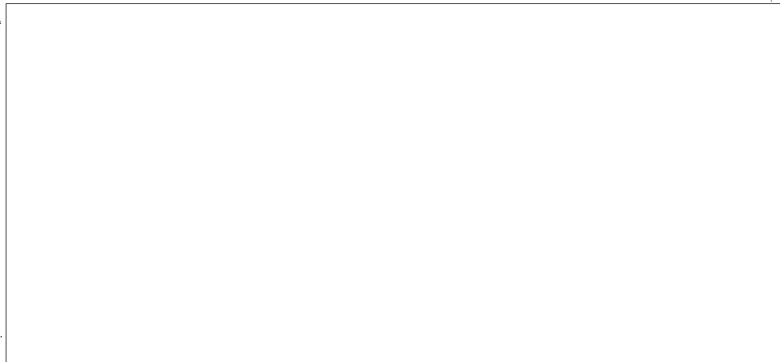


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5. Arab States -  
Israel

Eban has given Jarring a long document detailing Tel Aviv's views on a settlement with Egypt. We have not yet seen the document, but Egyptian Foreign Minister Riyad told Jarring it was "very long and depressing." He promised a written reply, however, and another high Egyptian official told US officials that Cairo wanted to keep the Jarring mission going.

6. Israel-Egypt



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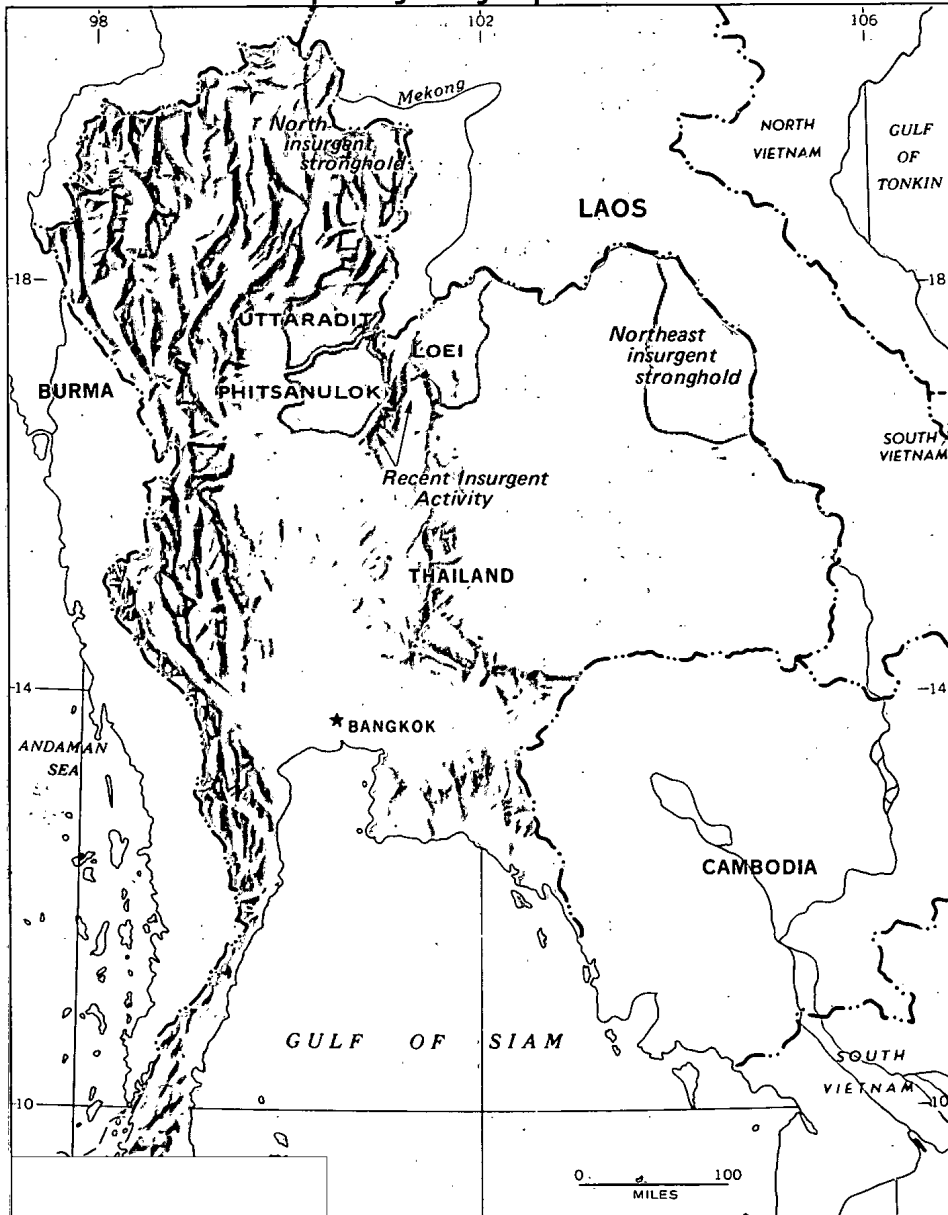
7. Greece

Former prime minister Karamanlis apparently is trying to bring various exiled Greek politicians together in an effort to bring down the junta. He says he expects broad public support when his plans are announced in Greece.

Karamanlis himself may be acceptable to the junta, but some of his prospective associates--including Andreas Papandreou--are not. Karamanlis will have trouble enough just keeping his disputatious friends united.

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### Thai Communists Seen Expanding Insurgency in North



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## 8. Thailand

Communist insurgents are now active in three previously quiet provinces in north-central Thailand. The Communists have been recruiting for some time in the three provinces, which are strategically located between the insurgents' main stronghold in the northeast and their smaller base in the north.

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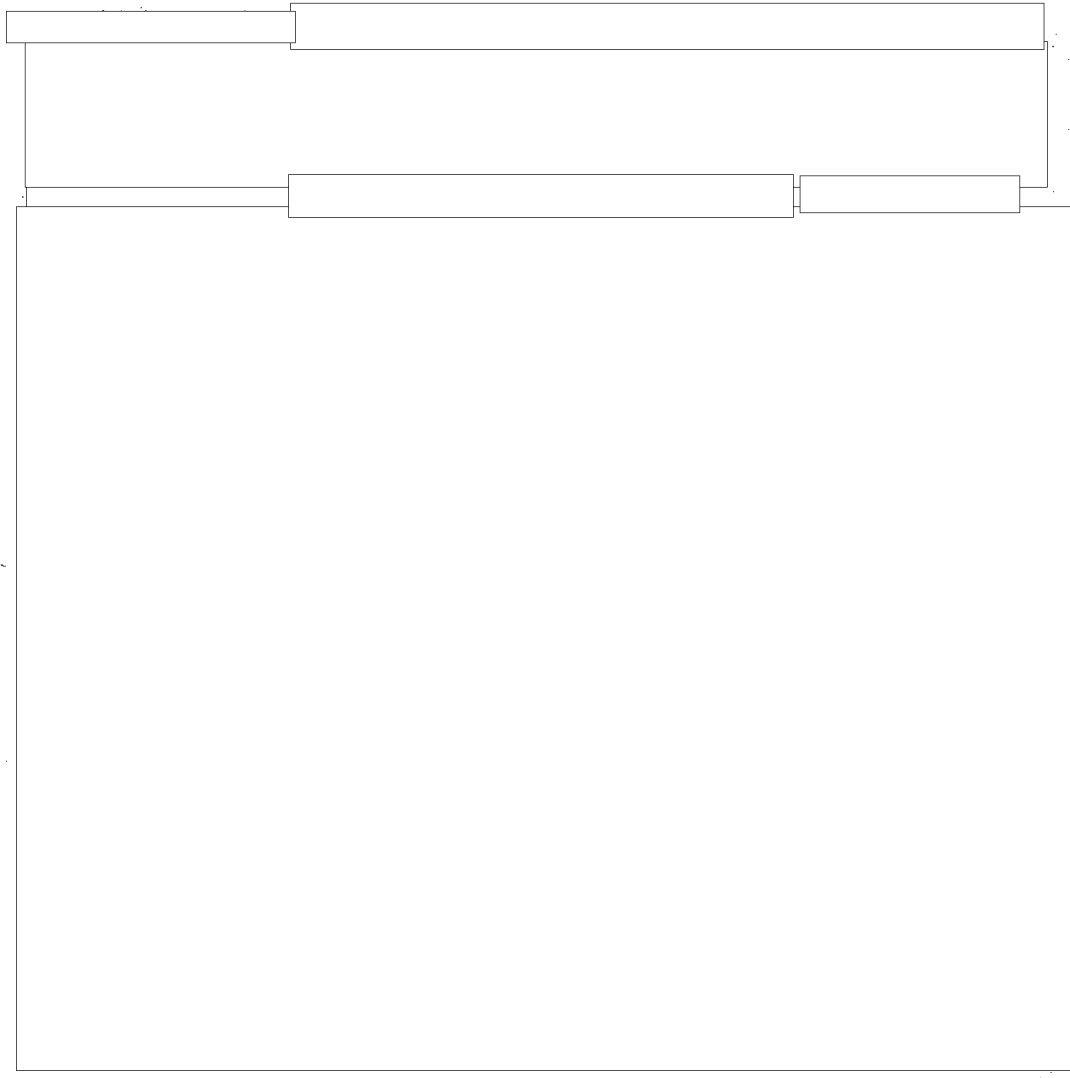


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*FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY*

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
  
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S  
Political Attitudes



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19 October 1968

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

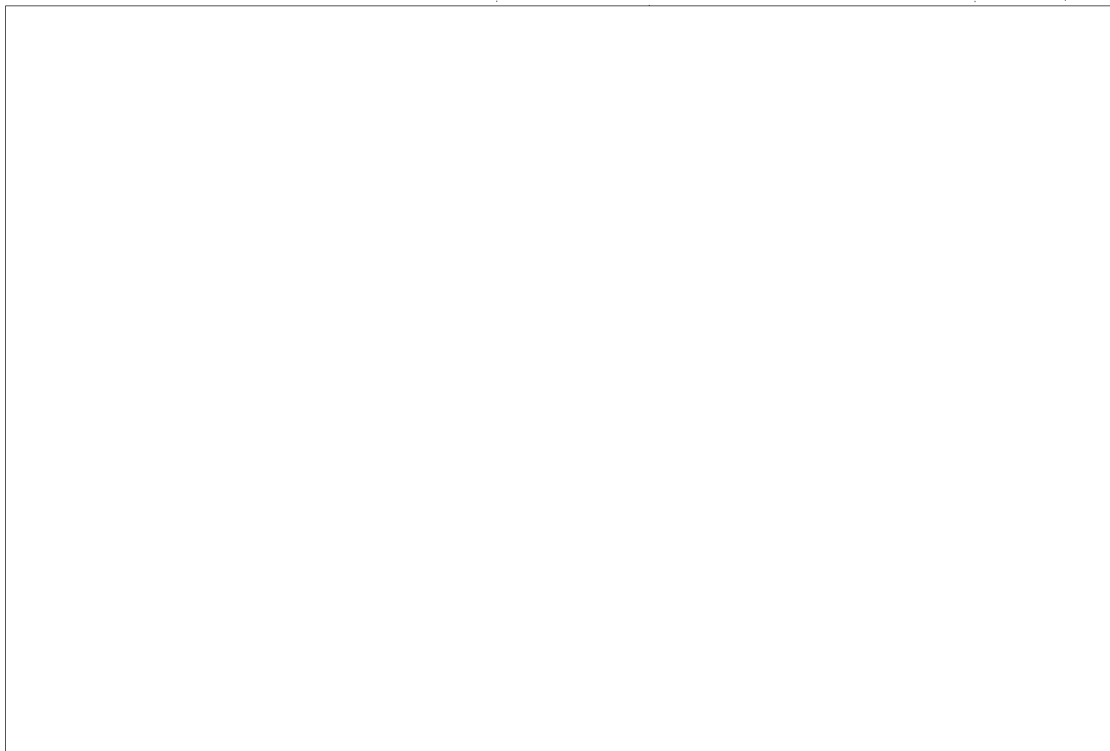
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese - Front Group May Not Be Allowed in the Netherlands: The Dutch Communist Party paper reports that a six-man joint North Vietnamese - Front group will attend a one-day "truth festival" on 26 October in Amsterdam. The group may not get into the country, however. A Foreign Ministry official has told us that though he is unaware of a final Dutch Government decision, it is doubtful that visas will be issued to the group in view of the possibility that it will be involved in political activity and disturbances.

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De Quirielle Finds Front Representative More Moderate: A French Foreign Ministry official told a US Embassy officer on 18 October that on his way back to Hanoi, French representative De Quirielle saw Front representative Hieu in Phnom Penh around 10 October. Compared to previous meetings, De Quirielle found Hieu making fewer inflated claims about Front military victories in the South and being more moderate as to Front military objectives. Hieu said that the Front objective now was to "maintain military pressure but not to take the initiative in new areas." The French official wondered whether Hieu's line indicates that the Front is hurting.

The French have also informed us that De Quirielle will probably meet soon with Pham Van Dong or Foreign Minister Trinh to get a first-hand reading of North Vietnamese thinking.

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Front Representatives "Discreet" in Paris So Far: The members of the newly opened Front information office have been "very discreet" since their arrival in Paris last week

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[redacted] representatives of the new office will probably be received by a member of the ministry's Asian Division or Press Division.

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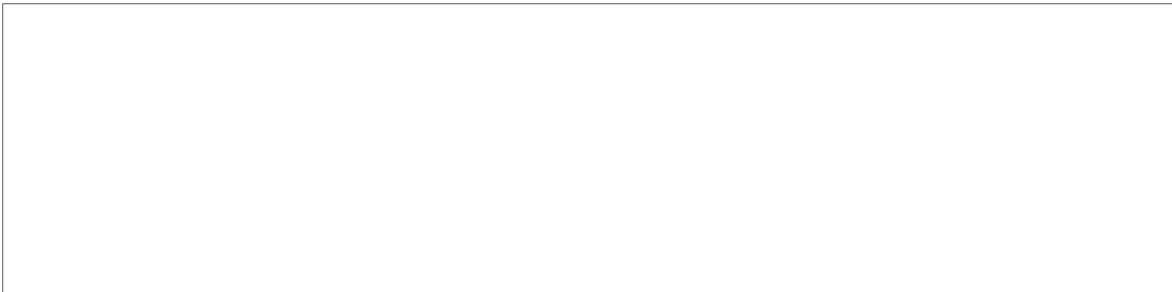
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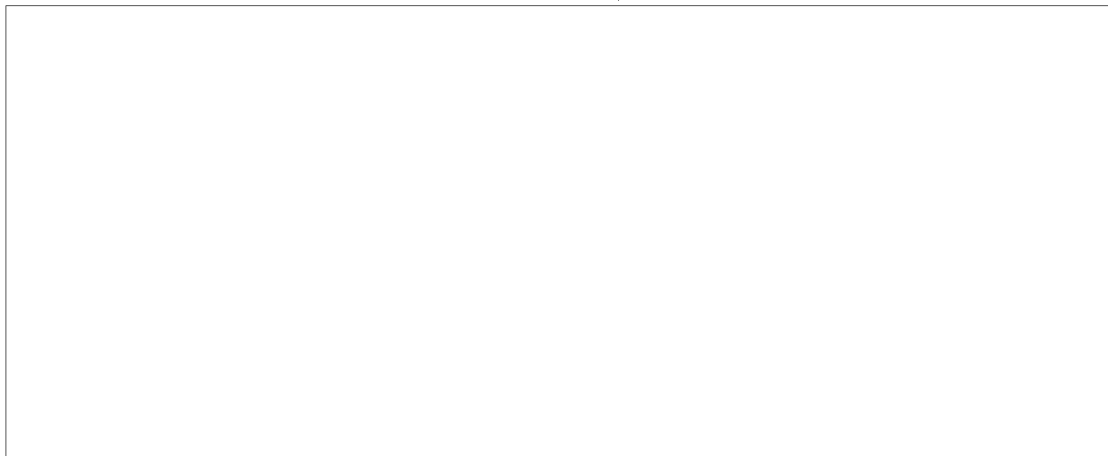
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US Captives Allegedly Denounce War: Radio Hanoi broadcast on 16 October a bitter denunciation of US Vietnam policy allegedly signed by seven US soldiers and Marines taken prisoner in South Vietnam. The broadcast, addressed in English to American servicemen in Vietnam, was in the form of a demand that the US stop the bombing, stop supporting the Saigon government, and withdraw its forces and allied forces from Vietnam.

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

Hanoi Attacks LeMay: General LeMay's purpose in Vietnam is to discuss intensification of the war with US military and Vietnamese officials, according to a Radio Hanoi domestic broadcast on the 17th.

The broadcast attacked LeMay as a "well-known warmonger" who commanded US aircraft which dropped nuclear weapons during World War II. Radio Hanoi also recalled LeMay's earlier remarks about bombing North Vietnam back to the stone age.

Citing statistics from Newsweek magazine, the broadcast reported the US has doubled its B-52 force used to bomb Vietnam since last year. This, and the bombardments of the New Jersey, "fully exposed the Johnson clique's insidious arguments about de-escalation," the broadcast concluded.

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