



*The President's Daily Brief*

25 September 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

VIETNAM

North Vietnam filled its two top government positions by moving 81-year-old Ton Duc Thang from the vice presidency to the presidency and assigning the vice-presidential chair to party stalwart Nguyen Luong Bang. Unfortunately, these moves give no real clue to the government's policies or intentions. The new president is likely to be a mere figurehead. Bang was one of the founders of the party and has served ably in a number of party posts. He's not had much to do with governing, however, so his policy predilections are unknown.

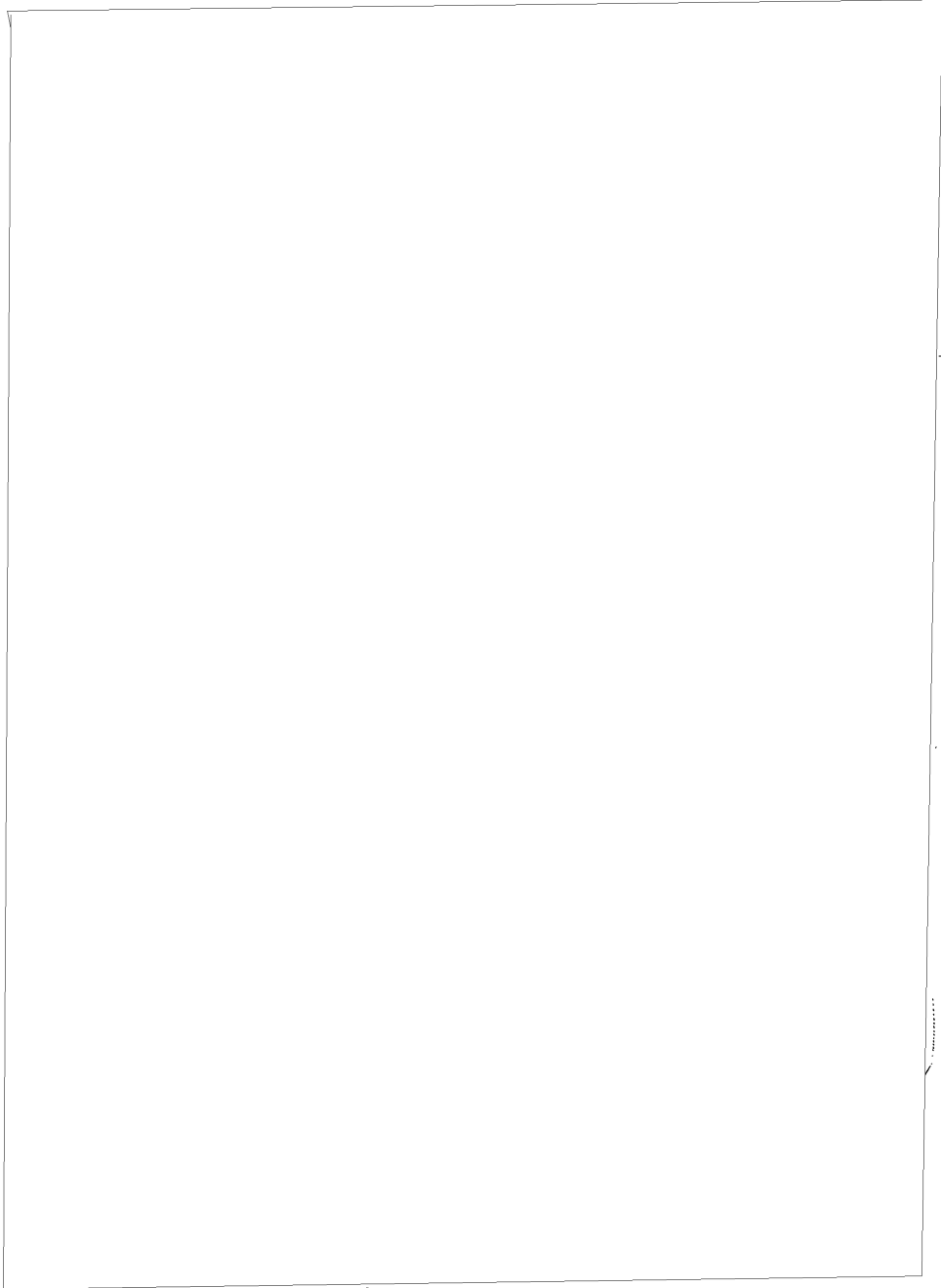
CANADA-USSR

Gromyko will apparently now stop off in Ottawa after all. The latest word is that he will squeeze the visit in during the first three days in October on his way home from the UN session. The Canadians have a number of things to talk about--the wheat agreement, technical and scientific exchanges, European security, the Middle East, Asian collective security, and Vietnam. They might also touch on their efforts to establish diplomatic relations with Communist China and on the treaty to limit military uses of the seabeds. The invitation to Gromyko serves another purpose for the Canadians--it will help to deflect recent Soviet overtures for a high-level Canadian visit to Moscow.

EGYPT-USSR

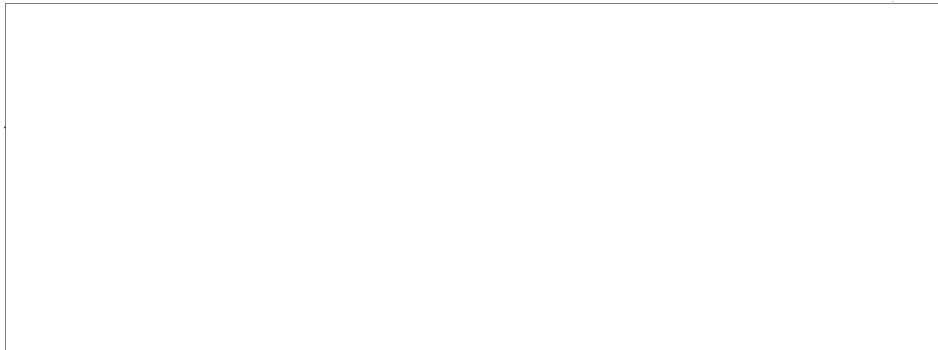
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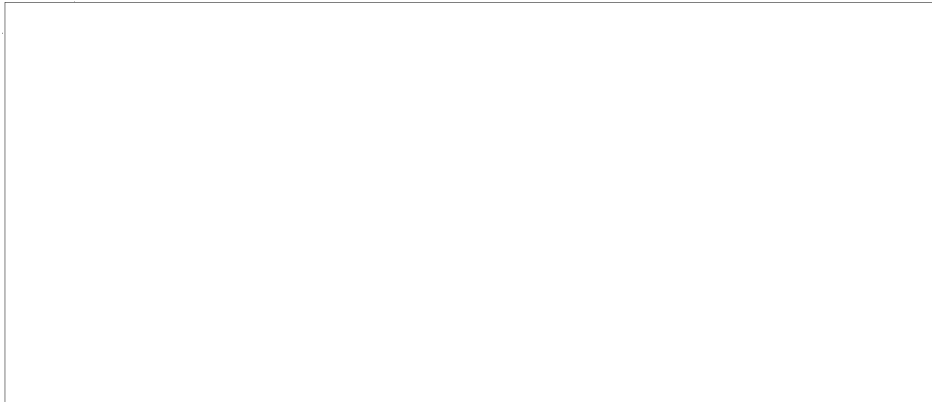


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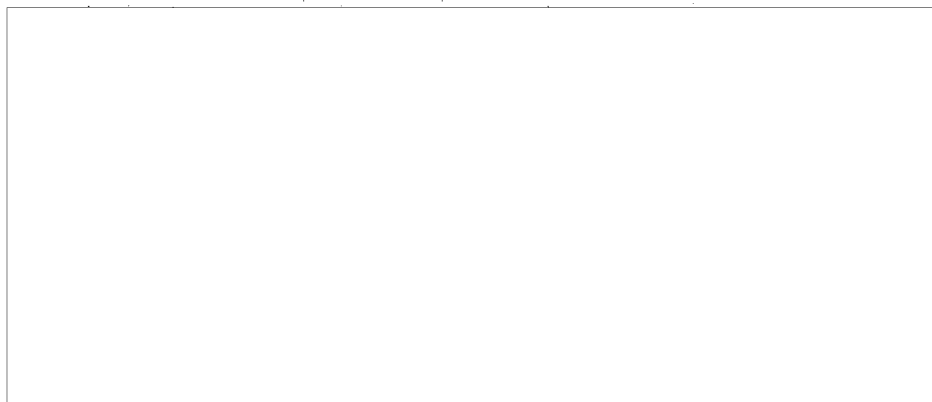
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KOREA

South Korea's improved coastal defense operations have thwarted three North Korean infiltration efforts over the past week.

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Thus far this year, there have been 22 encounters with North Korean sea infiltrators, compared with 19 last year and 46 in 1967. Activity along the Demilitarized Zone has been relatively low, however. Pyongyang's emphasis on agent infiltration, rather than commando raids, suggests that the North Koreans are hoping to exploit unrest over the third term issue and build up their subversive apparatus in the South.

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The party's 183-man central committee may drop as many as 60 members--all of them reformers--in today's meeting. They may even be expelled from the party. Dubcek, however, seems to rate a little better treatment. The moderates, led by Husak, cannot prevent Dubcek's demotion, but they may prevent his expulsion.



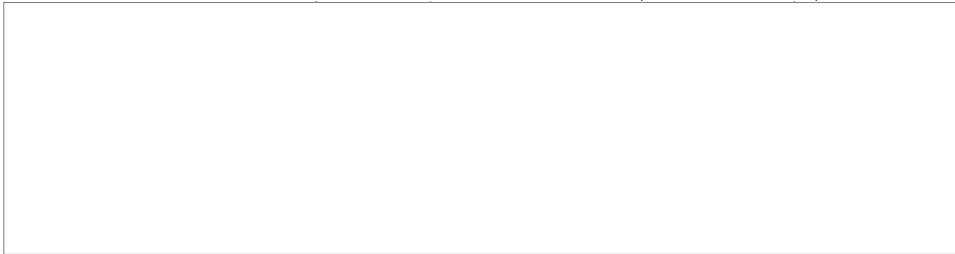
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BOLIVIA

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BRAZIL

The army high command reportedly has offered the presidency to four-star General Emilio Medici, the favorite candidate of President Costa e Silva's followers and probably of

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the majority of the army generals. Three-star General Albuquerque Lima, a nationalist with strong support from younger officers, can still give Medici some tough opposition, however, for the army's decision must be ratified by the armed forces joint command. Albuquerque Lima still may be able to sell the idea that military unity is more important than the traditional factors of rank and seniority.

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