

# The President's Daily Brief

*November 2, 1976*



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*Top Secret* 25X1

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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China: A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday denied that various high-level Chinese officials had been promoted as earlier reported. (*Page 1*)

USSR:



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Notes: USSR-China; USSR; USSR-Yugoslavia; South Africa; Iran; Burundi (*Pages 3, 4, and 5*)

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CHINA: A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday denied claims that Li Hsien-nien had been named as premier, Yeh Chien-ying as chairman of the National People's Congress, and Chen Hsi-lien as defense minister.

Word of the promotions reported appeared in wall posters in Shanghai but we have had no eyewitness account of the alleged posters.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] There are no indications that similar posters have appeared elsewhere in China. 25X1

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Hua Kuo-feng is still premier, Yeh Chien-ying remains minister of defense, and the de facto head-of-state job is still open. Li Hsien-nien was publicly identified as vice premier during a public appearance yesterday.

\* \* \*

[Redacted]

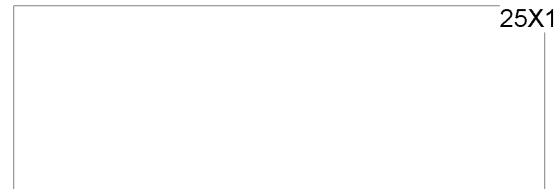
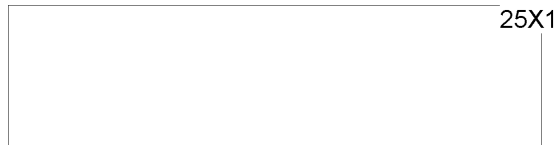
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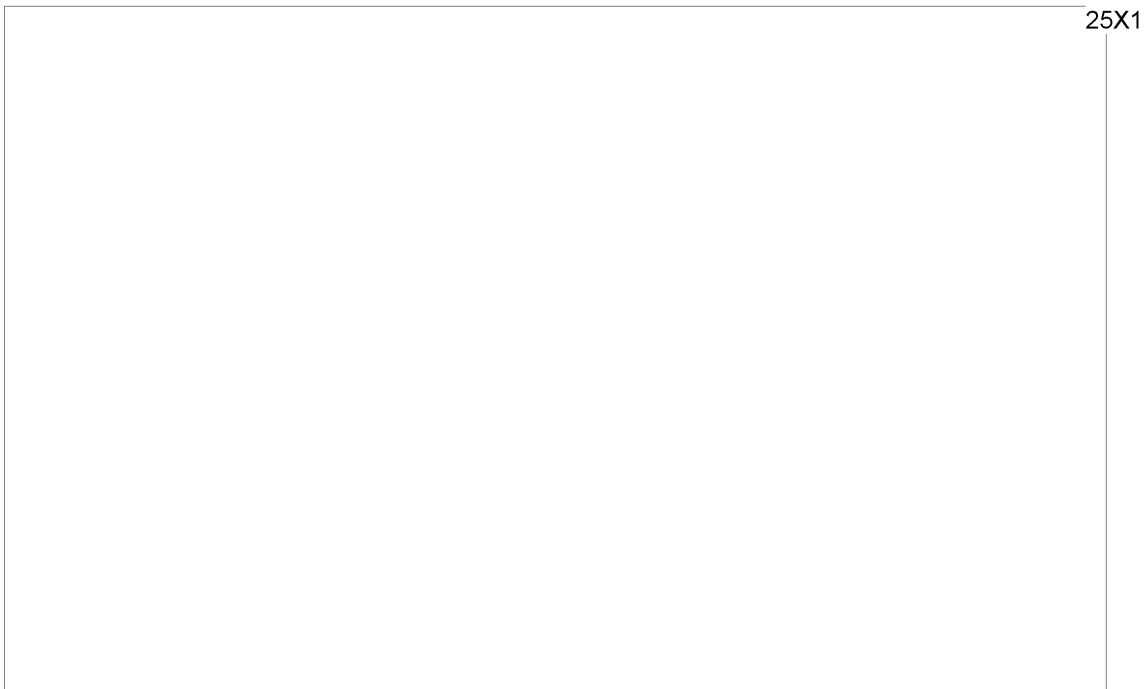
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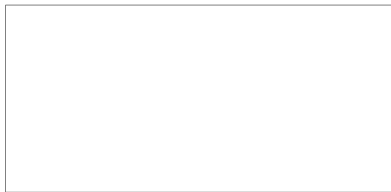
● Soviet Journalist Victor Louis has published a second article in France-Soir implying that the Chinese are moving in the direction the Soviets want and that there is no need for any Soviet action against China.

Louis appears to be trying to undo the damage caused by the article he wrote on October 14 in which he said the Chinese must respond within a month to Soviet gestures for better relations.

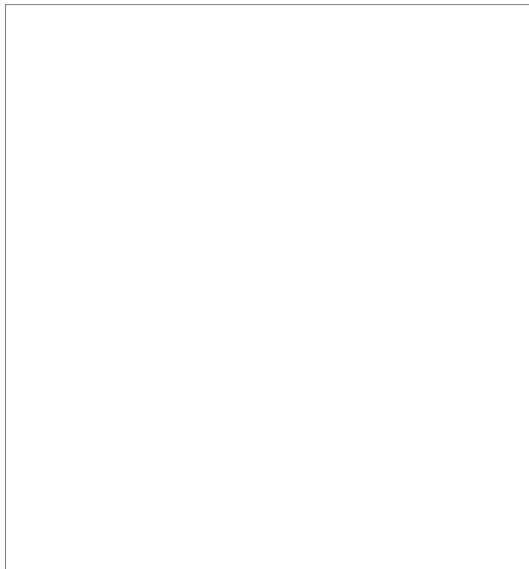
Louis asserted in his most recent article that although it had been less than a month since Mao's death, certain changes in Chinese behavior along the border augur well for Sino-Soviet relations.

We have detected no change in Chinese propaganda broadcasts to the USSR, and a considerable body of evidence suggests that there has been absolutely no change in the behavior of either side along the border rivers.

\* \* \*



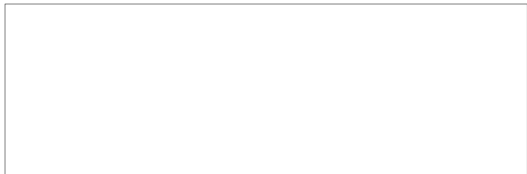
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*Soviet party Chief Brezhnev will visit Yugoslavia in mid-November, according to an announcement from Moscow.*

Belgrade will expect Brezhnev to reaffirm past Soviet promises to respect Yugoslav independence and to treat the Yugoslav party as an autonomous co-equal. Brezhnev probably will express Soviet interest in increased use of Yugoslav naval facilities in the Adriatic.

\* \* \*

*Only a small minority of the black industrial workers in the Johannesburg area of South Africa appears to be heeding the call for a five-day strike.*

Although the strike was supposed to begin yesterday, employers have reported only scattered absenteeism--not enough to lower production significantly.

It is not yet clear why participation in the current strike is far below the roughly 75-percent level that was maintained during a three-day strike in September. Workers appear to be concerned about losing their pay, because of clear warnings from employers that strikers would be docked for absenteeism.

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Iran has canceled its multi-billion dollar liquefied natural gas project involving El Paso Natural Gas and a consortium of European countries.

All parties probably were satisfied to see plans for the project terminated. Inflation has eroded the companies' anticipated profits and projected capital investment had risen considerably. Iranian officials now believe that use of the gas for reinjection, domestic household needs, and firing projected steel mills will be more profitable than exports.

\* \* \*

Burundi President Micombero and Chief of Staff General Ndabemeye were ousted yesterday in a military coup, according to the US embassy in Bujumbura.

The embassy's tentative view is that most of the officer corps probably jointly planned a peaceful takeover when the senior officers became fed up with Micombero's [redacted] absenteeism, and general misrule and by the scope of corruption.

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