

The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 15 November 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
15 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Syria

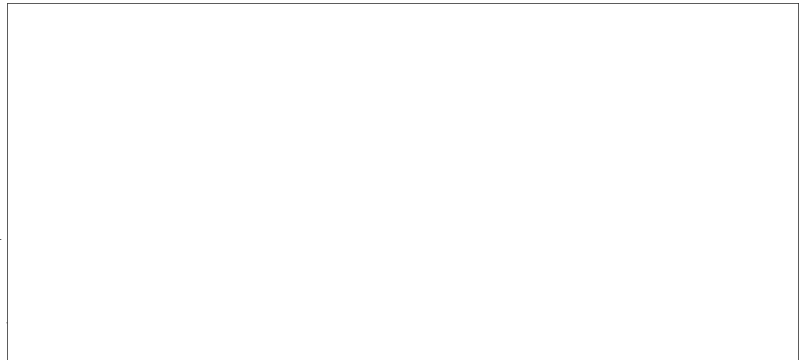
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2. Dominican Republic

The political calm of the past six months is threatened by feuding between senior military officers.

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Whichever way Balaguer moves, he is going to displease one military faction or the other.

3. Communist China

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Brawling between rival Red Guards is increasing again despite government efforts to quash disorder.



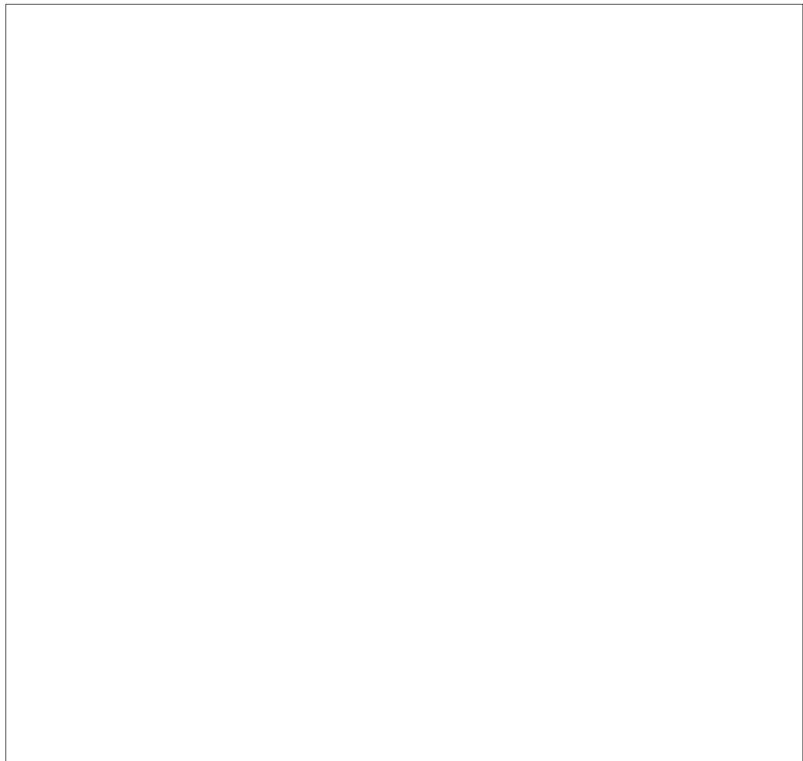
4. United Nations

Brazil has now taken a cut at a draft resolution on the Middle East. The text, which may be tabled soon, calls for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territory, but provides for demilitarized zones.

The Brazilians think they have a good chance to get their resolution adopted. It would not be acceptable to Israel, however, because it goes too far on withdrawal and does not provide for direct negotiations between the Israelis and Arabs.

5. Soviet Union

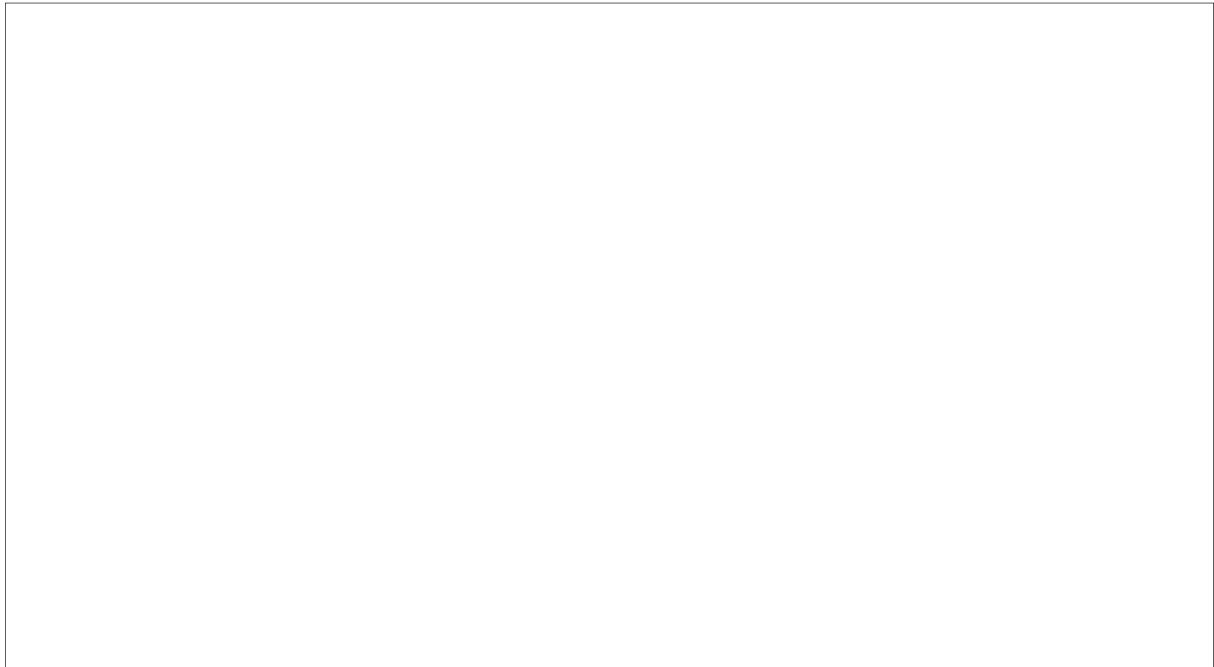
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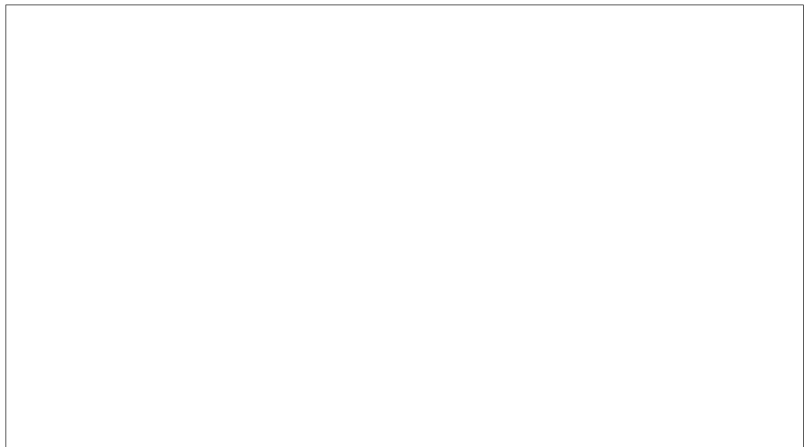
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6. Soviet Union

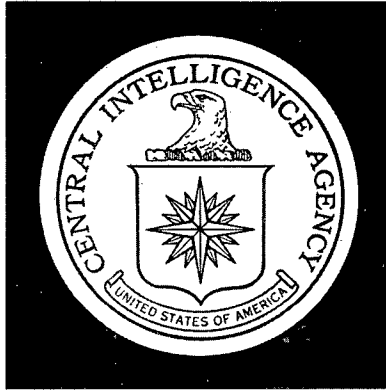


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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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15 November 1967

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

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Power Plant: Repair work to the Hanoi Power Plant since it was last struck on 26 October has apparently progressed at a slightly faster rate than expected. Between one-third and one-half of the plant's normal capacity had apparently been restored in the first two weeks after the most recent bombings. [redacted] smoke coming from two of the plant's seven stacks and probably also from two others. One of the seven stacks was destroyed by bombings and never repaired.

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At the time of the October strike the plant was operating at about one-half to two-thirds of its normal capacity. During recent months, Hanoi's essential power needs seem to have been adequately met by the power plant's undamaged capacity and by diesel power units scattered throughout the city. Complete restoration will probably require another six months.

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Situation in Hanoi: We have another report [redacted] on the situation in Hanoi in late October. [redacted] medical facilities still in operation in Hanoi had reduced staffs. He said that much of the medical equipment had been removed to temporary hospital installations set up in hillside caves outside of Hanoi.

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[redacted] small one- and two-man workshops which had been set up in temporary shelters and shallow caves throughout Hanoi. The workshops, which could be easily dismantled and moved, were producing spare parts for antiaircraft weapons, generators, and printing presses. [redacted]

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[redacted] numerous gasoline-powered electric generators had been placed under trees and were frequently moved from one location to another.

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Residents of Hanoi were prohibited from gathering in public places during the daytime, [redacted]

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Although the authorities attempted to boost morale by limiting working hours and holding evening political indoctrination sessions, [redacted]

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[redacted] described the spirit of the population remaining in Hanoi as "subdued."

Coal briquettes for heating and cooking were no longer available in Hanoi, [redacted]. Powdered coal was substituted for the briquettes and was also in short supply.

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[redacted] North Vietnam's Foreign Ministry had provided all embassies in Hanoi with small rowboats for use in evacuation if the US bombed the Red River dikes and the city was flooded. Each embassy was told that alternate accommodations had been prepared in the mountains to the northeast of Hanoi.

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Life in Hanoi: A Soviet correspondent for Pravda reported on 14 November that life goes on in a "well-organized" and "normal" manner in the North Vietnamese capital. He stated that Hanoi has absorbed and dealt with practically all the consequences of bombing and that needs for electricity and water are "in the main satisfied."

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Assessment of Effects of Bombing: [redacted] official tells us that his superiors are convinced that US bombing is having a marked effect on the morale of the North Vietnamese people and government. They believe the bombings around Hanoi are creating serious strains on the regime and on its willingness to continue the war. [redacted] officials couple this conclusion with their continuing hope that a US bombing pause will lead to negotiations toward a peaceful settlement of the war.

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These views come directly from the [redacted] consul general in Hanoi, who reported recently that the air attacks were creating a "nightmare" situation for inhabitants of the capital. We strongly believe

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that he is exaggerating the psychological effects of the bombing, and that his opinions are colored by concern for his own safety. Reliable Western observers continue to report that the North Vietnamese are holding up well in the face of the bombings. These observers frequently are struck with the population's stoical acceptance of air attacks and by the thoroughness, efficiency, and imagination which characterize North Vietnamese civil defense efforts. There have been a number of recent reports of temporary panic or hysteria because of the bombings, but we have no convincing evidence on which to alter our basic conclusion that popular and official morale remain good.

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More on the Role of Women: Last month, Hanoi put on a particularly intensive propaganda campaign to "liberate the full revolutionary capacity" of North Vietnamese women. The importance of woman-power in industry was stressed.

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[redacted] as a further encouragement, Hanoi has promised that women would be given the leading administrative positions in any production unit with more than 70 percent female membership.

The Hanoi press claimed that Hanoi's engineering plant, set up with Soviet assistance just outside the city limits, has 30 percent female employees and that many executive positions are held by women.

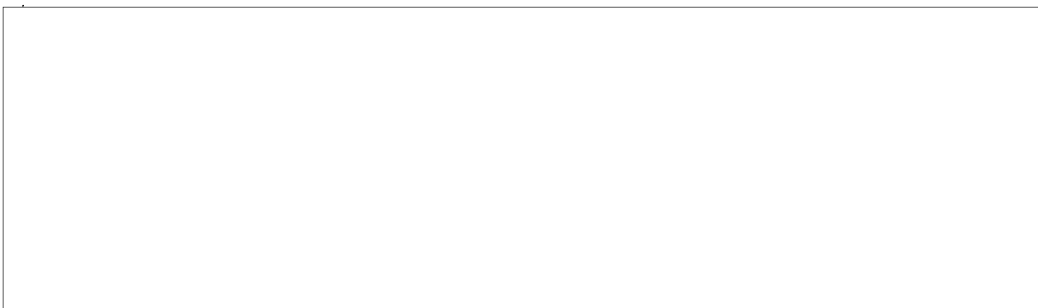
[redacted] women do, in fact, make up a significant proportion of factory work forces in Hanoi, as well as of the militia and the armed forces.

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[redacted]

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Quakers Will Not Deliver Medicine to North Vietnam: The yacht Phoenix sailed for Da Nang from Hong Kong yesterday after plans to deliver medical supplies to North Vietnam were changed. The American Quaker crew said it had been informed by the North Vietnamese that it would not now be convenient for the ship to come to Haiphong because of intensified US raids. The crewmen announced that they had decided instead to go to South Vietnam and deliver the medicines to the militant Buddhists and the South Vietnamese Red Cross. Saigon authorities have agreed to grant visas to the crew provided the medicines are turned over only to South Vietnam's Red Cross.

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Week of "Solidarity" with Vietnamese People: The International Union of Students (IUS), a Communist Front based in Prague, has declared the week of 10-17 November as the "week of world solidarity with Vietnam." On 12 November

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IUS announced that the week would be observed in numerous countries with demonstrations before American embassies and a student strike on 17 November. Hanoi can be expected to play up the demonstrations in its propaganda, as it has similar events in the past.

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

Hanoi Blasts Latest US "Phony Peace Talk": Hanoi has condemned President Johnson's Veterans Day weekend appeal as "phony peace talk designed to mask a widening of the criminal aggression against the

Vietnamese people." An article in the party daily, Nhan Dan, of 14 November rejected the President's call for peace talks aboard a "neutral ship in a neutral sea" and other recent statements by US leaders about settling the war. Nhan Dan claimed that the President "shed crocodile tears" over the deaths of American servicemen in the South, but that the real aim of his speaking tour was to justify an "accentuation and extension of the Vietnam war." The article claimed that "the cream of the administration" has been mobilized for more than a month to justify "the criminal acts committed in Vietnam." Referring specifically to the President's call for peace talks, Nhan Dan said that "a neutral ship is not necessary since the US can get enough ships to take every one of its soldiers away from Vietnam." Nhan Dan concluded by reiterating Hanoi's long-standing contention that a settlement of the war must be based on its four points and the political program of the Liberation Front.

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Hanoi on US Antiwar Protests: On 14 November, Hanoi International Service broadcast in English on recent opposition to President Johnson's Vietnam policy. The broadcast states that the President faced "angry crowds of antiwar demonstrators" in front of the Bruton Parish Church on 12 November. According to Hanoi, opposition to the President's policy within the Democratic Party is also growing. The broadcast states that some Democrats are planning a national campaign aimed at defeating the President in next year's primaries, but makes no mention of Senator Eugene McCarthy. In addition, Hanoi notes an 11 November antiwar protest meeting in New York's Union Square and an antiwar meeting of labor leaders in Chicago.

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Hanoi's Appeal to US Soldiers: Hanoi has issued an appeal to US servicemen in South Vietnam to heed the Liberation Front's offer of lenient treatment for those US soldiers who "cross over to the people's side." An English language broadcast on 14 November claimed that the Front would help such soldiers return to their families "when conditions permit" and pointed to the recent release

of three US servicemen in Cambodia as an example of such treatment. The broadcast also discounted allegations that the Front employed terrorist tactics or brainwashing against captured US soldiers and claimed that soldiers previously released by the Front had in fact received brainwashing only after they had been returned to US control.

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Puerto Rican Servicemen Now Singled Out by Hanoi: In another of its broadcasts to US servicemen in South Vietnam, Hanoi on 13 November appealed to soldiers of Puerto Rican extraction to recognize the fact that their homeland is a dependent territory of the US and that they, like "other colored Americans," are suffering racial brutality and being used to fight other colored people far from home. The broadcast went on to recount the story of a young Puerto Rican in New York who defied the draft regulations and concluded by asking, "How can you justify fighting for those who deny your country's independence and against the people who do no harm to your own people."

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