

The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 3 November 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
3 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Soviet Union

A small group of US scientists has been invited to Moscow in late December for informal talks with members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. The subject is to be arms control, and the antiballistic missile race in particular.

We do not know when the Soviet scientists got permission to do this, but they seem to have been trying since late last year. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Soviet military, [redacted]

[redacted] opposed any such talks.

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Moscow's decision to give them a go-ahead, however, seems consistent with its cautious public approach to Secretary McNamara's antiballistic missile announcement.

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[redacted] the Soviet Academy, who extended the invitation, wants to keep the Chinese Communists from getting wind of the talks. [redacted]

[redacted] Peking could seriously embarrass the USSR with charges of Soviet-American "collusion."

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2. Peru

President Belaunde has another crisis to face as the Peruvian economy continues its downward spiral. General lack of confidence in the economy has brought a run on the Central Bank, and reserves are now dangerously low. Further devaluation may be necessary, a step which would be extremely unpopular.

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3. Cambodia

Sihanouk's friendship with China appears to be on again.

Sihanouk has been complaining mightily about Peking's propaganda activities in his country. In fact, he has threatened to end Chinese aid programs in Cambodia. A suave letter from Chou En-lai, however, seems to have turned the tide. Sihanouk announced on Wednesday that he is willing to let bygones be bygones--so long as the Chinese cut out the export of Mao-think to Cambodia.

We suspect Sihanouk, always acutely aware of Cambodia's exposed position, is grateful for an opportunity to balance off the visit by Mrs. Kennedy.

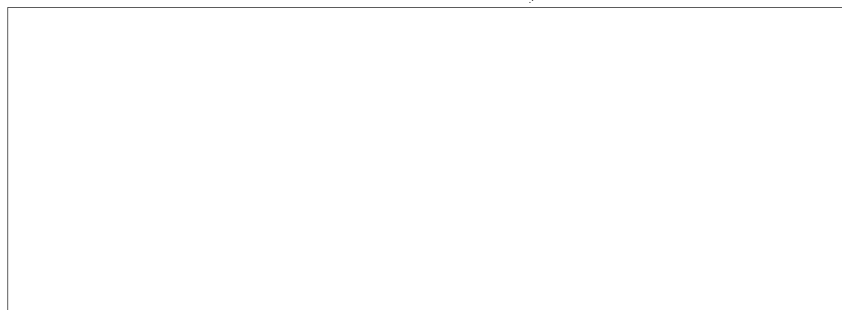
4. Israel

Arab terrorists continue to infiltrate Israeli-held territory. While Tel Aviv holds the Syrians chiefly responsible, the terrorists are using Jordanian territory. At least twice this month Jordanian troops--probably without authorization from Amman--have covered the retreat of infiltrators with machine-gun fire. There is an increasingly good chance the Israelis will retaliate. When they do, they are not likely to draw fine distinctions between Syria and Jordan.

5. France

De Gaulle apparently believes he can make some political mileage at US expense by selling weapons to selected Arab states while maintaining his embargo on arms sales to Israel.

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



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6. Congo

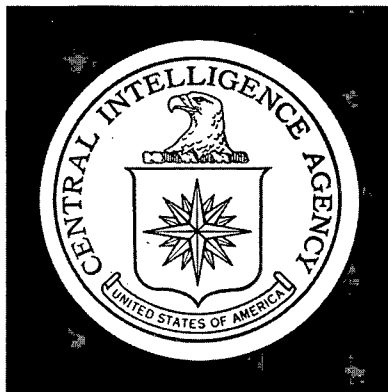
The white mercenary invasion of copper-rich Katanga Province remains shrouded in rumor and conjecture.

The Congolese claim the invaders entered the country at Dilolo, seized a train, and set out toward Lubumbashi, the provincial capital. Late yesterday they were reported about 70 miles west of Kolwezi. Congolese troops have been ordered to tear up the tracks and ambush the invasion force, but an effective defense is unlikely.

Although so far there has been none of the inflammatory propaganda that whipped up antiwhite sentiment last summer, the behavior of Congolese troops is unpredictable. The American consul in Lubumbashi is evacuating dependents this morning.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

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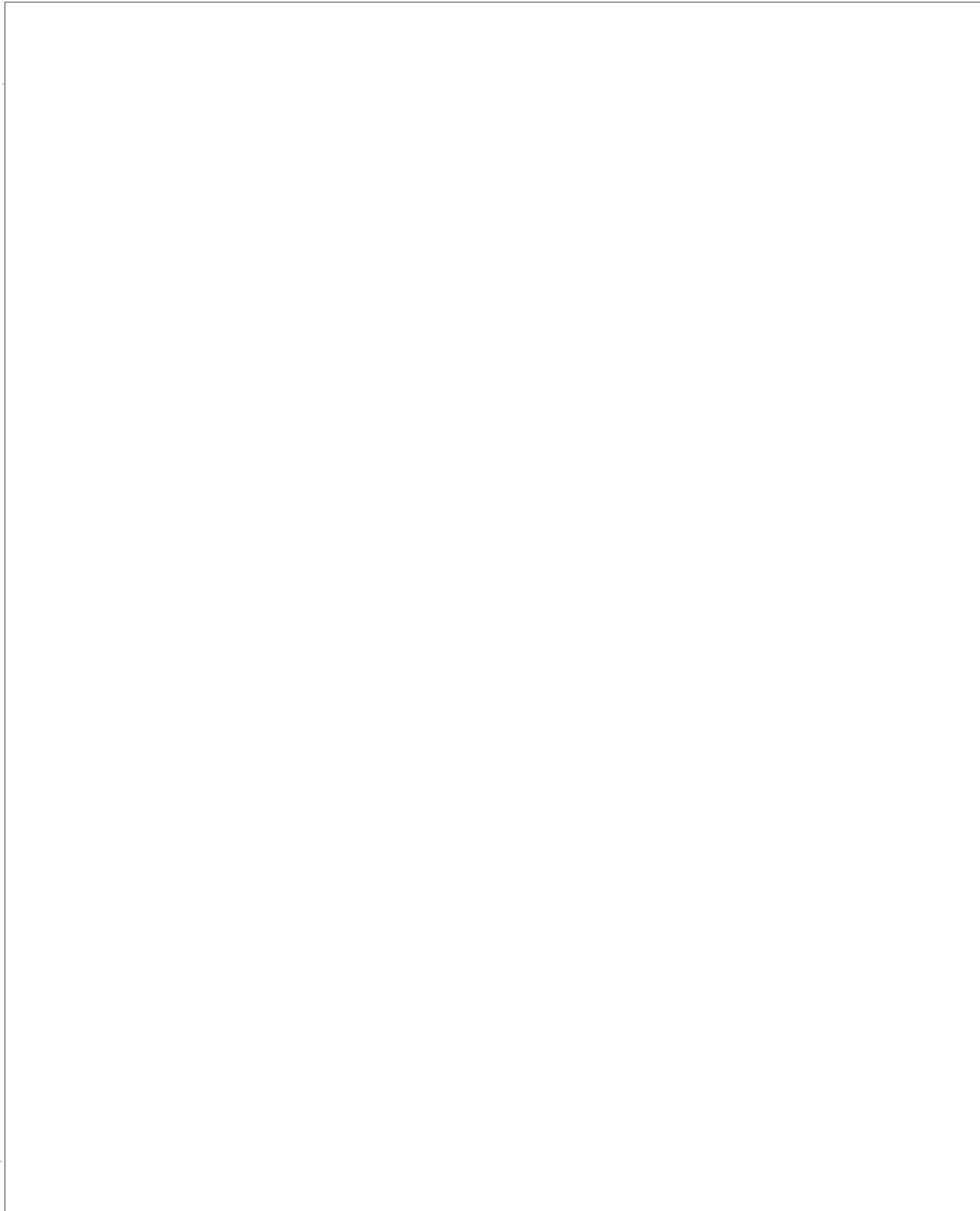
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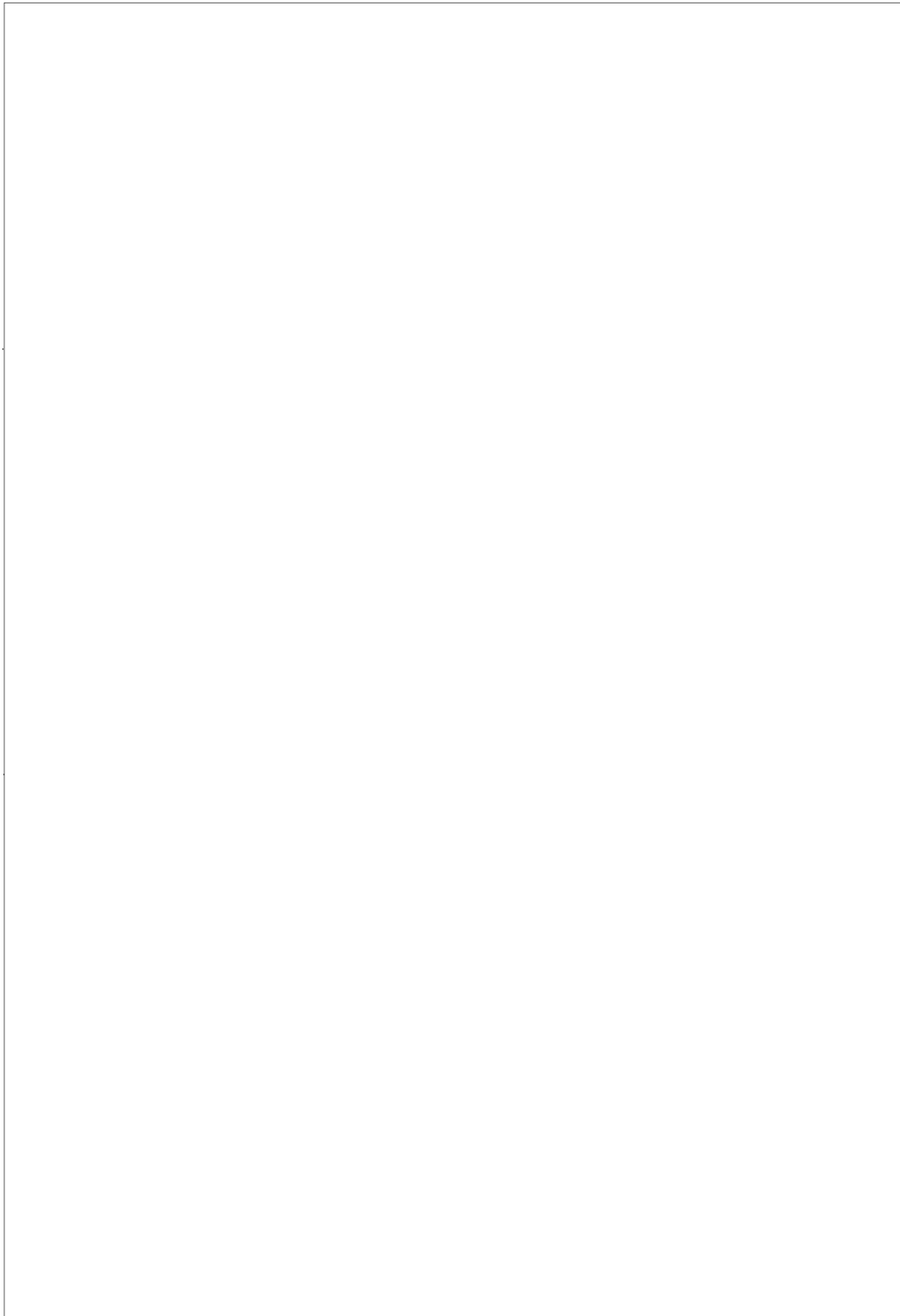
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



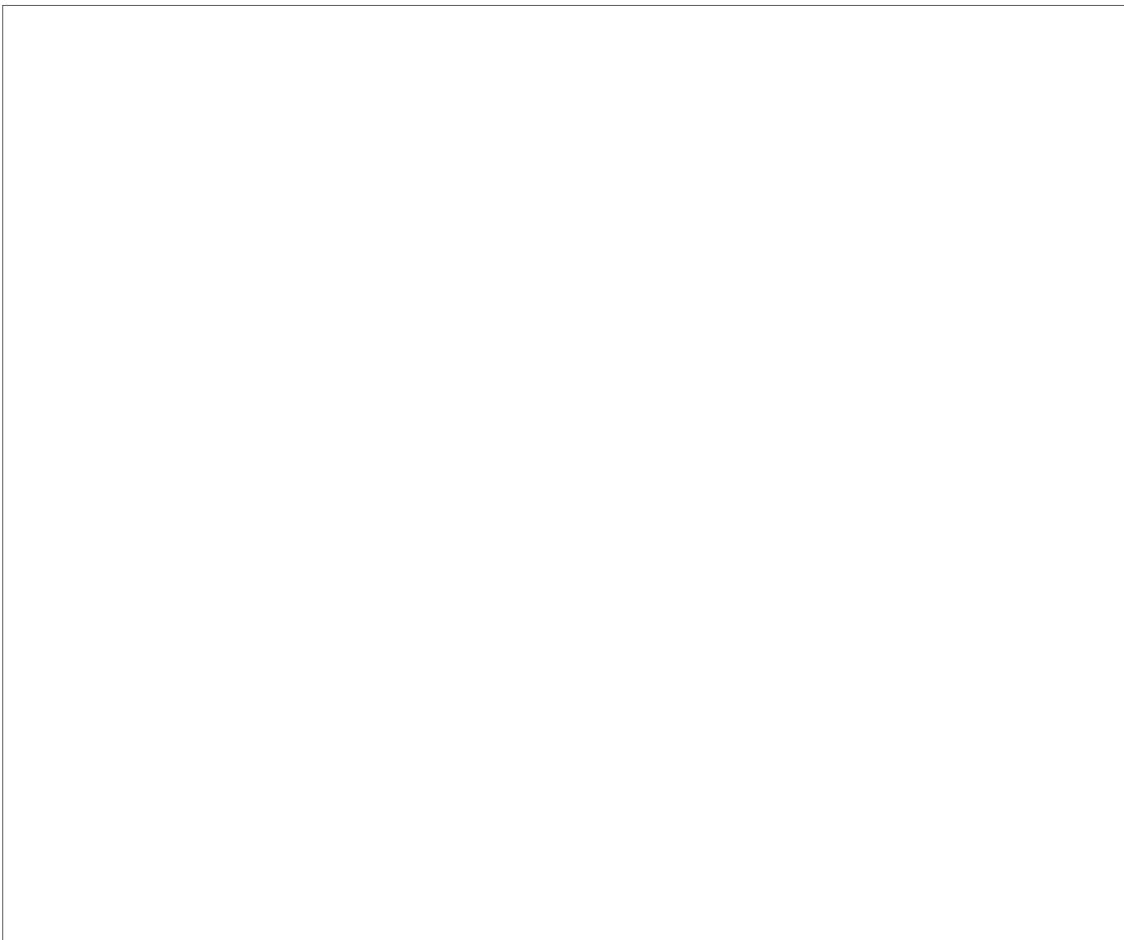
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Hanoi's Version of Recent Bombings: [redacted]

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[redacted] forwarded to [redacted] the official line Hanoi is giving out on the most recent bombings. The 24 to 29 October raids are called "the most intensive and illegal thus far... even more intense than the bombing of Haiphong."

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[redacted] were told that the use of anti-personnel bombs in the recent attacks "is intended to intimidate the people" and force the government to the conference table. Since the US has "run out of objectives, the intense attacks on the capital only make clearer US weaknesses," the North Vietnamese [redacted]

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Paul Doumer Bridge: Details of the effects of the latest attacks on the Doumer bridge [redacted]

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[redacted] the 25-26 October air strikes dropped two spans of the bridge. [redacted] in addition that the central piling on the island in the middle of the river had been cracked.

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[redacted] a trip across the river on one of the ferries substituting for the bridge. Each ferry boat reportedly can carry 20 cars and 40 to 50 passengers and makes the crossing in about 45 minutes, traveling upstream part way and then returning with the current. [redacted] people wanting to cross the river must wait about three hours.

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Effects of Bombing: [redacted]

[redacted] bombing attacks against Hanoi and the coastal cities of Haiphong, Thai Binh, and Hon Gai were "devastating" and that hardly a building in any of these cities remained untouched. [redacted] the bombings have had a "telling effect" on production of coal at Hong Gai and that coal exports to Japan in 1967 will definitely be affected. [redacted]

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[redacted] the North Vietnamese are experiencing difficulties in meeting commitments for coal shipments to Japan.

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[redacted] although the bombing has adversely affected the lives of the North Vietnamese, they do not seem to be disheartened. They appear resigned to a prolonged war and "fully confident" of ultimate victory. [redacted]

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[redacted] although not plentiful, food, plain clothing, other daily necessities, and even luxury items such as liquor and tobacco could be purchased from peddlers.

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French Newsmen Arrive in Hanoi: A three-man team from the French television system arrived in Hanoi on 31 October, according to a French news service report from the North Vietnamese capital. The report stated that the team will remain in North Vietnam for about a month.

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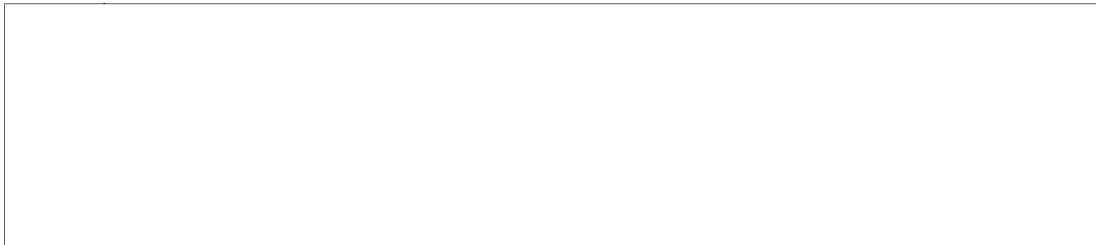
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Shakeup of Economic Officials in Hanoi: North Vietnam announced on 2 November a series of changes in its governmental structure. The chief one is a readjustment in the economic establishment by the promotion of second echelon technicians to more important positions. Politburo member Le Thanh Nghi, who was appointed minister of heavy industry last February, was replaced in that role by Nguyen Huu Mai, who has been vice minister of communications and transport since 1955. Nghi probably is being relieved of his routine tasks in order to concentrate on more important matters.

Other changes in the economic field involved Hoang An, who relinquished his post as minister of agriculture to a man who has been vice minister of agriculture since 1960, and Hoang Quoc Tinh, who has been acting minister of home trade and has now been appointed to that position in his own right.

The most unusual of the shifts is the appointment of Nguyen Con, chairman of the state planning commission, to the post of vice premier. There is nothing in Con's background or present duties that single him out for elevation to such a relatively major post. Con's appointment brings to seven the number of vice premiers, five of whom are members of the party's Politburo.

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

Hanoi on Recent US Antiwar Activity: A Hanoi domestic service broadcast on 1 November in Vietnamese summed up recent antiwar protests in the US. The broadcast reported that Secretary of State Rusk was jeered and booed at Indiana University on 24 October and that almost every sentence of his speech

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on Vietnam was interrupted by shouts of "murderer, stop bombing North Vietnam." Hanoi also reported that the chairmen of 34 Democratic youth organizations sent a joint letter to the Democratic Party condemning President Johnson's Vietnam policy. The broadcast cited an article by George Gallup in a recent issue of the Washington Post, which alleged that 25 percent of the people think the government has concealed the truth about Vietnam.

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Hanoi Reports Remarks of American Visitor:

Hanoi has again exploited the visit of an American who is opposed to the war by broadcasting his impressions of North Vietnam. On 1 November, in a broadcast in English to Southeast Asia, Hanoi reported the remarks of Robert Allen, a staff reporter for the National Guardian, who was recently in North Vietnam. Allen's statement, which was read by a North Vietnamese announcer, indicates that he was greatly impressed by the North Vietnamese people, who have "strength, courage, and determination to win" despite the US bombings.

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