

The President's Daily Brief

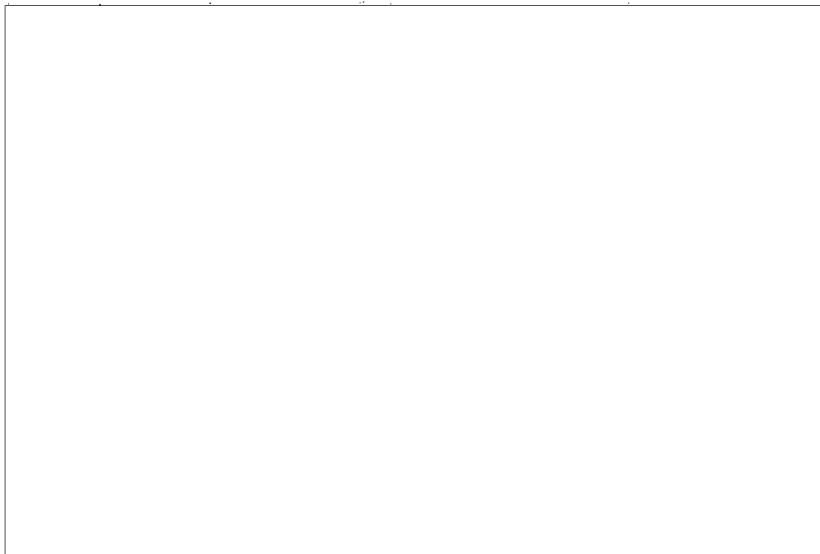
~~Top Secret~~ 27 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
27 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Panama



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2. Mexico

The students are getting set for another large demonstration today. For the first time, there are signs that they are beginning to get significant labor support.

3. Guatemala

President Mendez has extended the state of siege for another thirty days. He says he will keep the siege in effect until Ambassador Mein's killers are caught.

4. Dominican Republic



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5. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov slipped quietly back to Moscow yesterday concluding a special three-week fact-finding mission in Czechoslovakia. We presume that before leaving he presented the Czech leadership with a final demand to live up to the Soviet view of the Moscow agreement. As for the Czechs, their top men were closeted yesterday in an all-day strategy session.

6. Yugoslavia

Tito has sent a "very tough" letter to Soviet President Podgorny damning the intervention in Czechoslovakia [redacted]

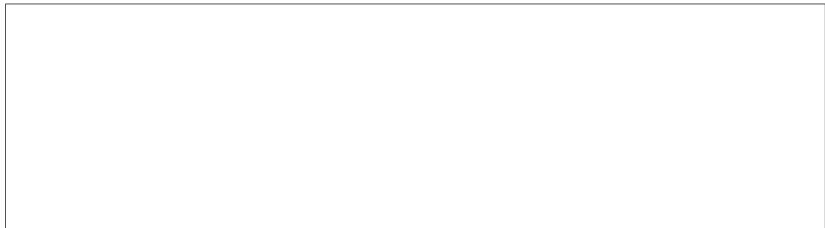
[redacted] Tito said that "even Stalin would not have gone this far" and warned that any similar action against Yugoslavia would meet fierce resistance--"even exceeding our efforts against the Germans in World War II."

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7. Greece

A new draft constitution will be put to the electorate in a referendum on Sunday; a favorable vote seems assured. This almost surely will bring more pleadings from Athens for warmer US-Greek relations--particularly the resumption of military assistance shipments.

8. Nigeria



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

27 September 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Propaganda: Hanoi's domestic service on 24 September broadcast a scathing denunciation in Vietnamese of US insistence that the Saigon government must eventually be included in the Paris talks. The broadcast was a transmission of a Nhan Dan article which characterized the Thieu government as "marionettes" and "yes men" whom the US had tried to "daub with new paint." The article, which was full of sarcastic references to Saigon leaders, claimed that the US was using this group to stonewall the progress of the Paris talks. The article also took several swipes at Vice President Humphrey, claiming that he deserved as much of the blame for the "abscesses and rottenness of the puppet government" as President Johnson did.

The vindictive tone of the commentary can be partly explained by the fact that it was intended for Vietnamese audiences--Hanoi's international propaganda is usually more subtly stated--but it does serve to point up North Vietnam's strong public opposition to Saigon's presence at the peace talks.

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Hanoi Social Notes: Hanoi is refurbishing some of its public meeting and exhibition halls [redacted]

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[redacted]
Special effort apparently went into preparation for national day celebrations early this month. "Every house and building in the drab and dirty streets of Hanoi" was reportedly draped with colorful flags. Ba Dinh hall--used for a reception of more than 2,000 people--was decorated with flowers, bright costumes, and glittering draperies.

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Children to Cuba: Amid much publicity, 200 young North Vietnamese arrived in Havana recently for study. Although Hanoi has been sending large numbers of students to Eastern European countries in the past year, not much publicity has been given to Cuban efforts to train North Vietnamese. The press stories give no indication of the type of training involved. The language used, however, indicates that they are very young children, and it is possible that they are being sent for some type of secondary education, perhaps to develop an area specialization.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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