

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 4 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
4 OCTOBER 1968

1. Mexico

No new outbreaks have been reported from Mexico City this morning. Neither has there been any student reaction to the announcement that the Olympic games would go on, although earlier yesterday some plans to sabotage Olympic installations were being considered.

It now seems clear the battle Wednesday night was a premeditated provocation by well-armed students. They remain in an ugly mood--a mood matched by government security forces. It is hard to see how more trouble can be avoided.

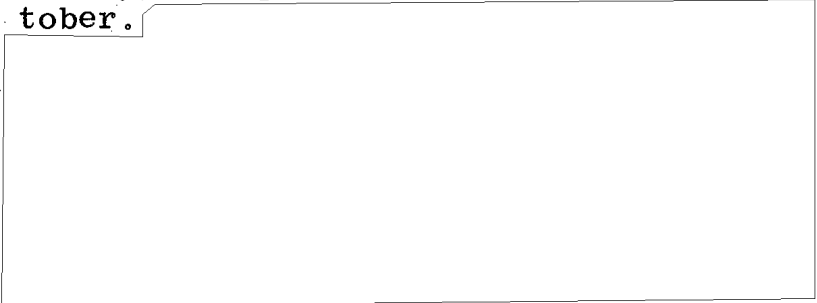
2. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Dubcek, Cernik, and Slovak party boss Husak got a bleak reception in Moscow. Although met by top Soviet leaders, they got none of the honors normally given such a delegation. This, and other signs of growing Soviet irritability, point toward some tough hours for the trio from Prague.

Svoboda's absence from the delegation will weaken it. While the Soviets may feel the combination before them is one that will crumble under pressure, we note that the delegation included none of the conservatives either. Any concessions in Moscow also are subject to approval by the Czechoslovak presidium.

3. Nonproliferation Treaty

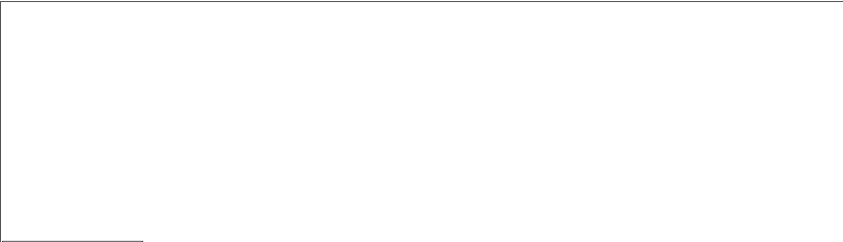
The British have about finished polling their dependent territories and will be in a position to sign the treaty when parliament returns 14 October.



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4. Latin America

Terrorist attacks against US personnel and facilities are expected in various Latin American countries next week in connection with the first anniversary of Che Guevara's death on 9 October.



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All US Embassies have been alerted. Local security forces are taking precautions.

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5. NATO

The Defense Planning Committee has produced a paper urging early improvement in the Alliance's defenses--and recommending the Europeans pick up the ticket for the major share of that improvement. Several members are already prepared to raise their contributions. Italy and Greece have pledged to upgrade both the quality and quantity of their committed forces; the Germans are offering to call up a limited number of reserves.

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6. Peru

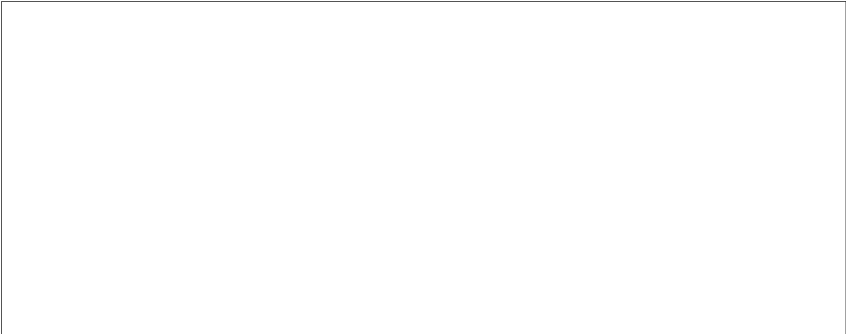
The armed forces seem to have the situation firmly in hand. There have been some minor clashes with students, and the opposition party is planning to call a general strike. While a strike would increase the possibility of clashes, it is not likely to reverse the coup.

An all-military government has been formed under General Velasco, the army commander who led the takeover.



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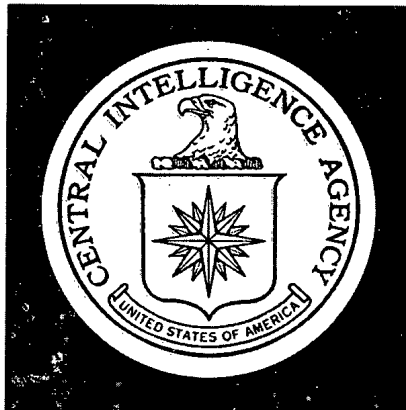
7. Iraq



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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

4 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Food Situation: According to the mid-August issue of the party journal Nhan Dan, the tenth-month rice crop about to be harvested was planted late and suffered from flooding caused by heavy rains and

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summer typhoons. This is a virtual admission that the government is expecting a disappointing autumn rice crop, which usually accounts for almost two-thirds of the annual rice output. The early crop accounting for the other third is estimated to have been 200,000 tons short of the 1,500,000-ton average of recent years.

Food delivered by sea to North Vietnam during the first nine months of this year totaled 562,000 tons, a 72-percent increase over the same period of 1967. These food imports--mostly aid from the Soviet Union and Communist China--have been crucial for maintaining the level of rations in the cities.

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Observations from Hanoi: A Western traveler to Hanoi states that as of mid-September recruiting for the military services had been increased. Some 16-year-olds, as well as some physically disabled persons, are now being drafted. Those with physical disabilities are assigned to the home guard. All others are classified as fit for foreign service--either in South Vietnam or Laos--after a three-month intensive training course.

Hanoi residents also told the source there has been an increase in military police activities in the city. These people believe that the new check points and augmented surveillance procedures are related to the increase in conscription.

The traveler also learned that many Vietnamese trainees studying in Eastern Europe are returning home with specialties which have little or no relation to Vietnamese needs. The example given--perhaps overemphasized for purposes of illustration--was that of interior decorator.

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Propaganda on the Demilitarized Zone: Hanoi propaganda is stressing charges of increased US activities in the Demilitarized Zone. The latest tirade was an article in the army journal, broadcast over Radio Hanoi's domestic service on 1 October, claiming that the "resumption of aggressive activities" in the zone had been roundly defeated during the past month.

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

Comment on Ambassador Ball's Resignation: Hanoi Radio claimed on 29 September that Ambassador Ball's resignation from his United Nations' post was so precipitous that the Secretary of State was forced to make a speech in Ball's place at the opening of the General Assembly. The broadcast, to Vietnamese audiences in South Vietnam, alleged the only thing anyone knows about Mr. Wiggins is that he is a hawk on Vietnam.

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