

The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 5 August 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
5 AUGUST 1967

1. France

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[redacted]
[redacted] De Gaulle has given the order to begin development of an intercontinental ballistic missile. We have no confirmation of this report [redacted]

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[redacted]

The French have been working on rocket motors large enough to be used as boosters, and have scientists and technicians now engaged on the intermediate range missile who would probably soon be free to work on the project.

Such a program, however, would strain the military budget, where cuts in funds for the conventional forces have already been made to support the strategic weapons systems being deployed against the USSR.

2. Soviet Union

Soviet leaders have revived their campaign for a world conference of Communist parties. Party Secretary Ponomarev was sent to Rome last week [redacted]

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[redacted]

Ponomarev's strong pitch did not generate much enthusiasm for Moscow's project among the Italians. Italian party leader Longo declined to help prepare for a preliminary meeting the Soviets want next month. Longo suggested only that further bilateral talks be held in November.

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[redacted]

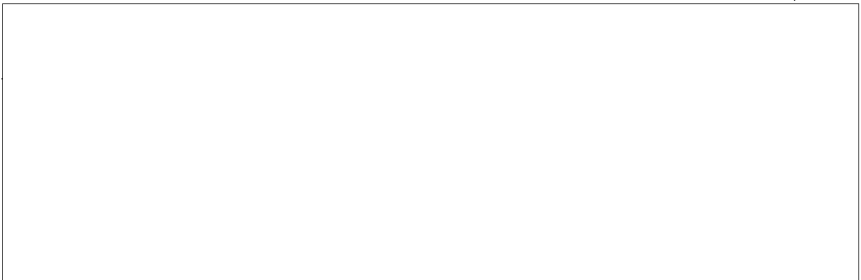
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[redacted]

3. Soviet Union

Moscow has agreed to send Egypt 350,000 tons of wheat over the next six months. Virtually all of an earlier promised 650,000 tons has already been shipped. This leaves Moscow providing almost half of Cairo's annual import requirement; Soviet stocks are apparently equal to the task.

4. Cuba



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5. South Vietnam

Retail prices in Saigon rose almost four percent during the week ending 24 July, the second straight week of rising prices. The price index is now above the previous all-time high reached during the rice crisis last March.

Part of the reason is sporadic Communist raiding of supply routes into Saigon.

6. Panama

Opposition to the Canal treaties (which has been greater than President Robles expected) shows signs of spreading to the National Guard, whose feathers are usually not ruffled by political matters. A group of officers claims the treaties are so unpopular they could be ratified only if the Guard "fires on the people to maintain order." Progovernment party leaders and deputies, for their part, continue to grumble about the treaties and may not support them in their present form.

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7. Dominican Republic

Juan Bosch, still in self-imposed exile in Europe, has now decided to withdraw from any active role in the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party. He resigned as head of the party last October.

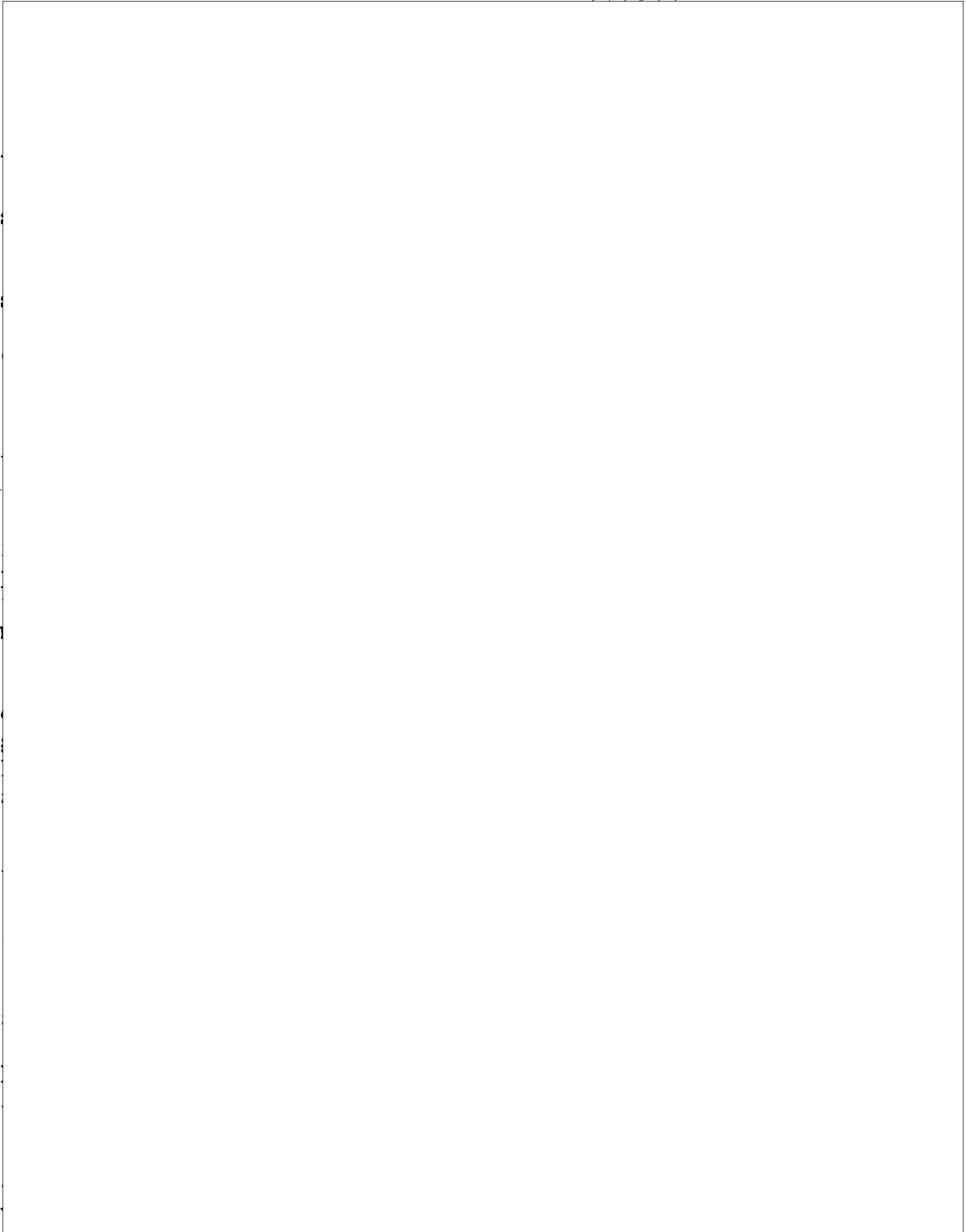
Bosch is probably unhappy with the more moderate line the party has recently taken. We do not think his action will disrupt the relative political tranquility that has prevailed since mid-May.

8. Burma

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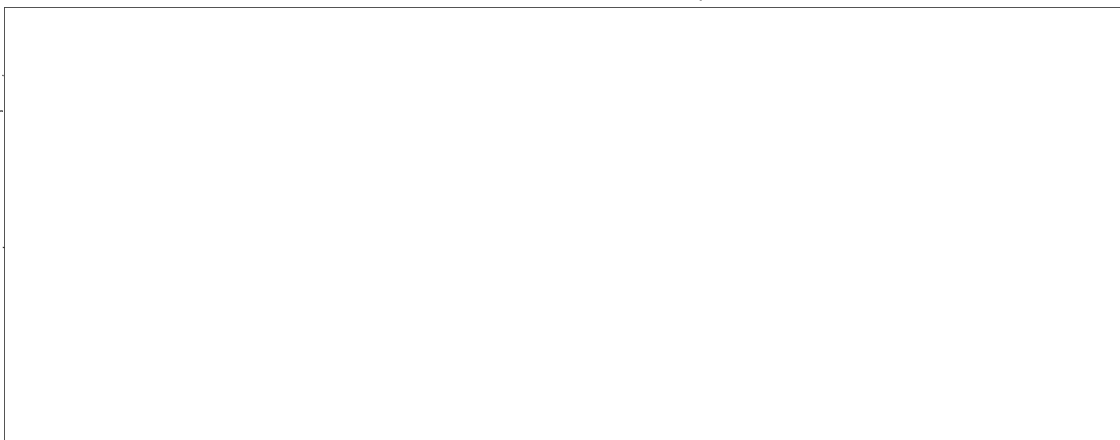


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