

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 August 1967



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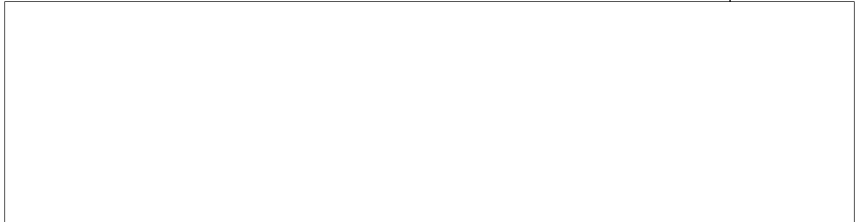
DAILY BRIEF
9 AUGUST 1967

1. South Vietnam

The government has closed down a well-known newspaper after its publisher and a reporter were arrested on suspicion of Communist activity. The case against these two looks good, but closing a newspaper at this point in the campaign is very likely to bring on more charges of government press censorship and unfair tactics.

Disruption of the election has been made a top priority mission for Viet Cong units. The Communists have tried to break up elections before and have been markedly unsuccessful. We doubt their chances are any better now.


2. Soviet Union -
Arab States



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3. Soviet Union

Several Soviet journalists say Moscow is about to agree to submission of a joint US-Soviet draft nonproliferation treaty to the Geneva disarmament conference--with the crucial provision on safeguards left open. One of the journalists says the Soviets will then propose that debate continue in Geneva until the delegates agree on an acceptable formulation on safeguards. This tactic would avoid getting the UN General Assembly in on the act.

 Moscow hopes final agreement will coincide with the Soviet Union's 50th Anniversary celebrations in November.

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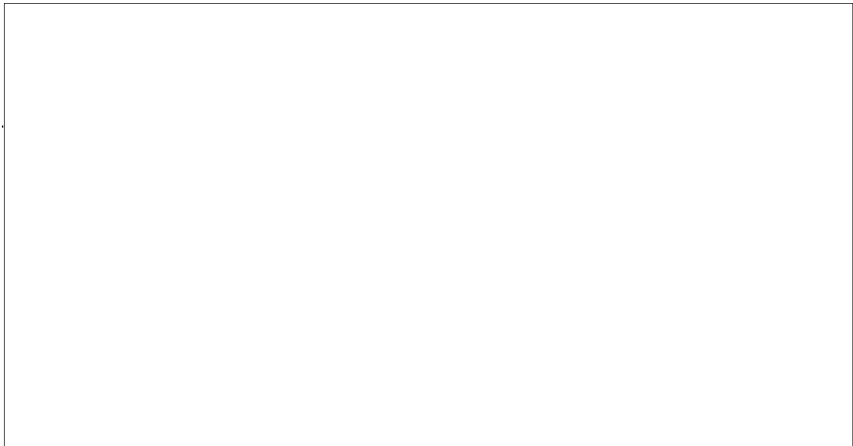
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4. Southeast Asia

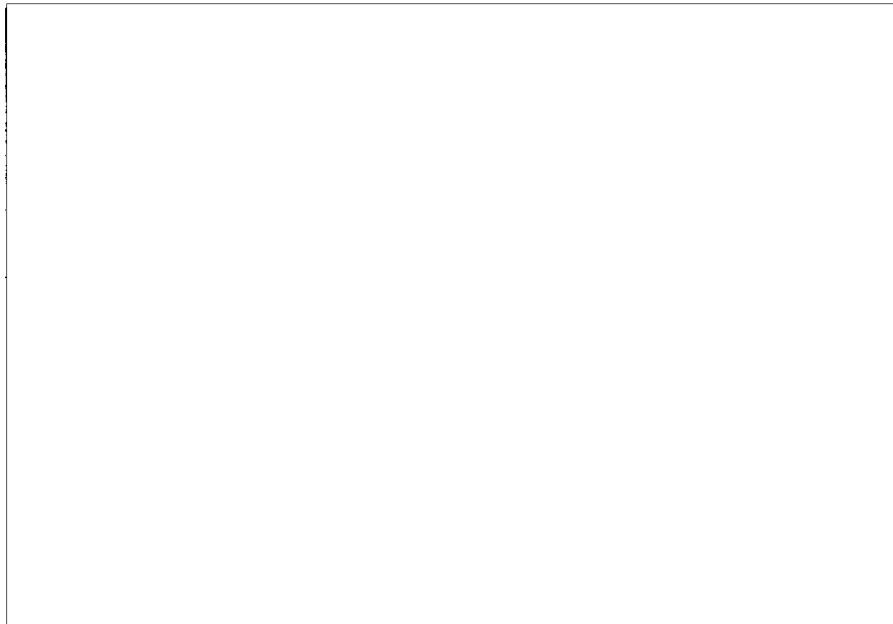
A new five-nation regional organization will apparently be a loose grouping working for economic cooperation. Called the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, it is composed of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore. It was a Thai idea, but the Indonesians were early backers.

The pact is a step in the right direction, but old rivalries will continue to plague relations among its members.

5. Soviet Union



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6. Panama

Ratification of the Canal treaties may have to be deferred until after the May 1968 elections. President Robles told Ambassador Adair on Monday that there is now simply not enough time to call a special session of the legislature for the purpose. As for the regular session beginning in October, the president said he would have to wait and see what the climate is then.

He may well be reluctant to hazard ratification by the regular session in what is likely to be a supercharged pre-election atmosphere.

Robles is still optimistic over ultimate ratification, but feels the issue is too important and too sensitive for Panama to deal with hastily.

7. Cuba

Stokely Carmichael is apparently staying in Cuba longer than he had planned. We do not know yet how he is spending his time there, but Cuban radios assert that he has been very impressed by some of the anti-US propaganda shows being put on for the benefit of Havana's foreign visitors.

8. Uruguay

There is no sign of any break in the dangerous confrontation between the government and the Communist-dominated unions. The present "truce" was agreed to by the Communists only to demonstrate their "reasonableness." They continue to press for 40 percent wage hikes for public employees and intend very soon to resume their campaign of strikes, slow-downs, and demonstrations.

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