

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
9 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

Relations between Thieu and Ky have improved considerably, and the two are getting on with the business of planning their new government. They apparently have agreed on a Ky protégé, Nguyen Van Loc, as prime minister, and they are considering a major revamping of the revolutionary development program which would include abolishing the ministry itself and transferring its functions to a special staff in the president's office.

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The militant Buddhists called off a scheduled protest march yesterday when it became apparent that the government would move forcefully to back up its prohibition of illegal demonstrations. A letter from Thieu, portrayed by the Buddhists as "conciliatory," provided a face-saving way to postpone the march.

2. Philippines

Chances for keeping the Philippine Civic Action Group in Vietnam are improving. A bill to provide the necessary funds will come up in the January session of Congress

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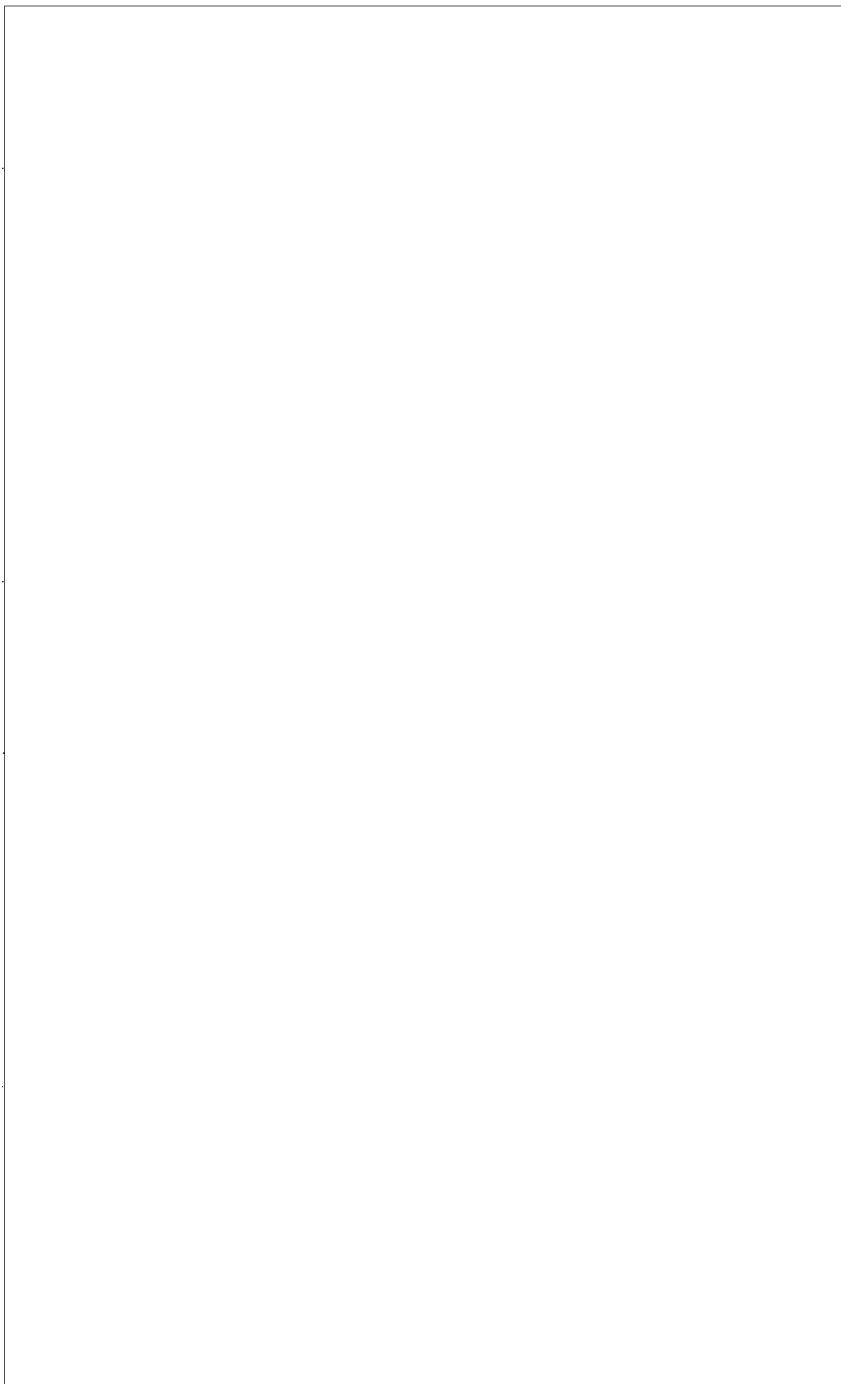
3. Hong Kong

Tuesday is the big Nationalist China holiday celebrating the anniversary of Sun Yat-sen's 1911 revolution. Nationalists in Hong Kong are planning more festivities than usual, and authorities in the colony are somewhat concerned that groups of more militant Communists may make trouble.

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4. Jordan -
Soviet Union



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5. Soviet Union

The Soviets are working on a new naval ballistic missile.

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6. Hungary

There has been some progress in arranging for the departure of Cardinal Mindszenty as a result of negotiations between the Vatican and the Hungarian Government.

The Hungarians are willing to let the Cardinal go in peace if he will promise not to make antiregime statements once he is in the West and if he will renounce all rights over his diocese. The Cardinal has agreed to the first of these conditions, but so far is refusing to renounce his diocese. The Vatican representative who saw Mindszenty in Budapest on 5 October believes he can persuade the Cardinal to accept this point too.

The Cardinal, meanwhile, still insists he will walk out the door of the US Embassy when Ambassador Hillenbrand arrives. The ambassador's arrival is tentatively scheduled for 10 October.

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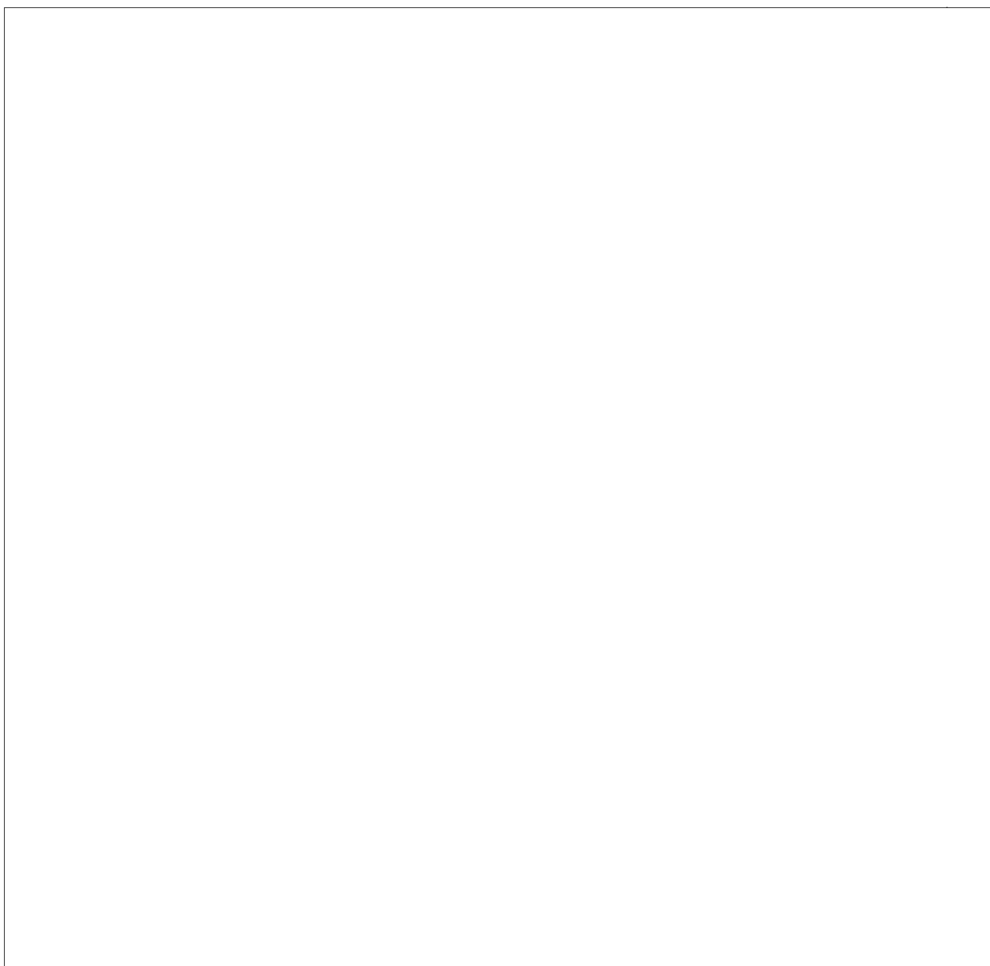
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SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM

FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY



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

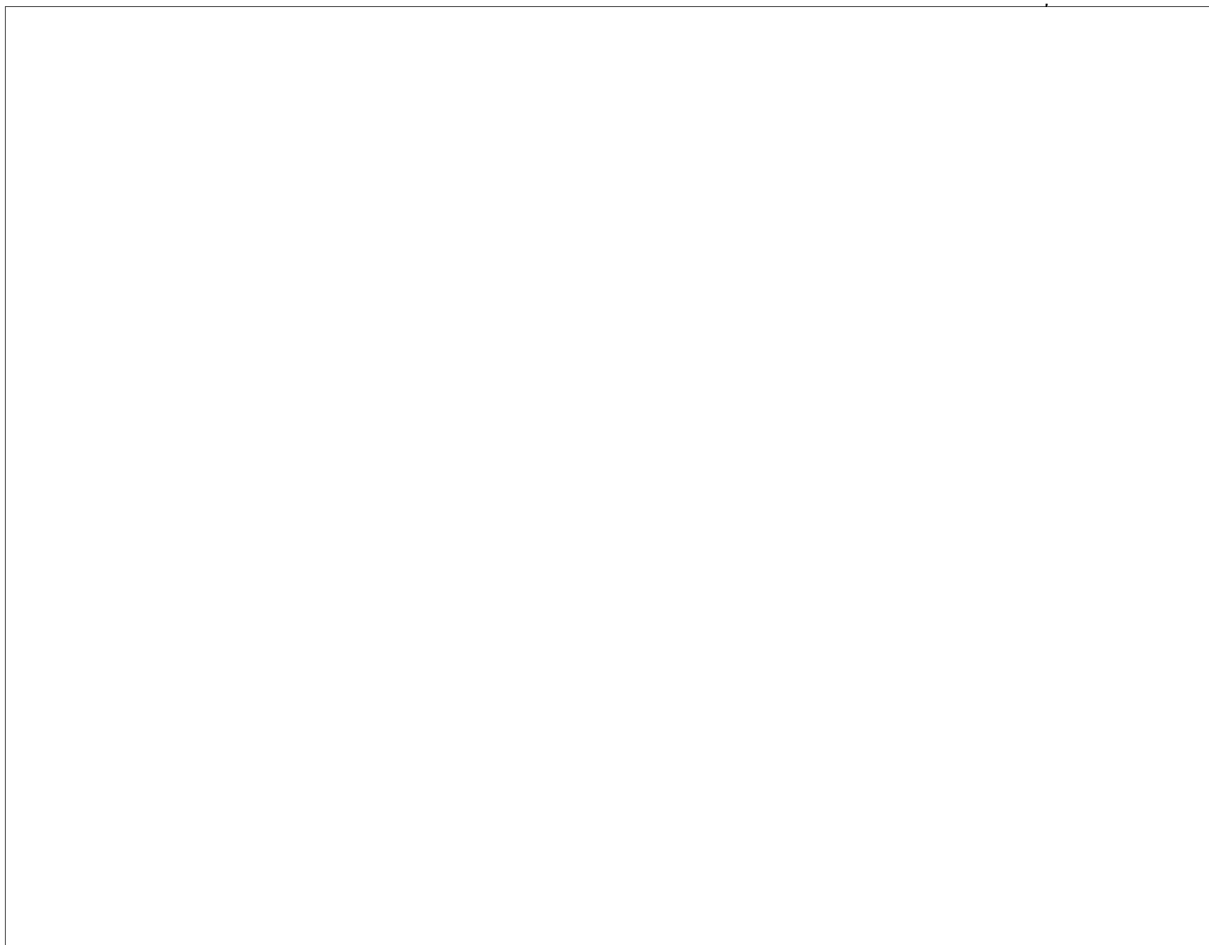
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

More Bloc Aid: Hanoi announced that on 6 October agreements had been signed in Budapest on Hungary's economic and military aid to North Vietnam. The announcement did not specify the types of material the North Vietnamese would receive. Seven other Communist countries, including the Soviet Union and Communist China, have recently signed new aid and trade agreements with Hanoi.

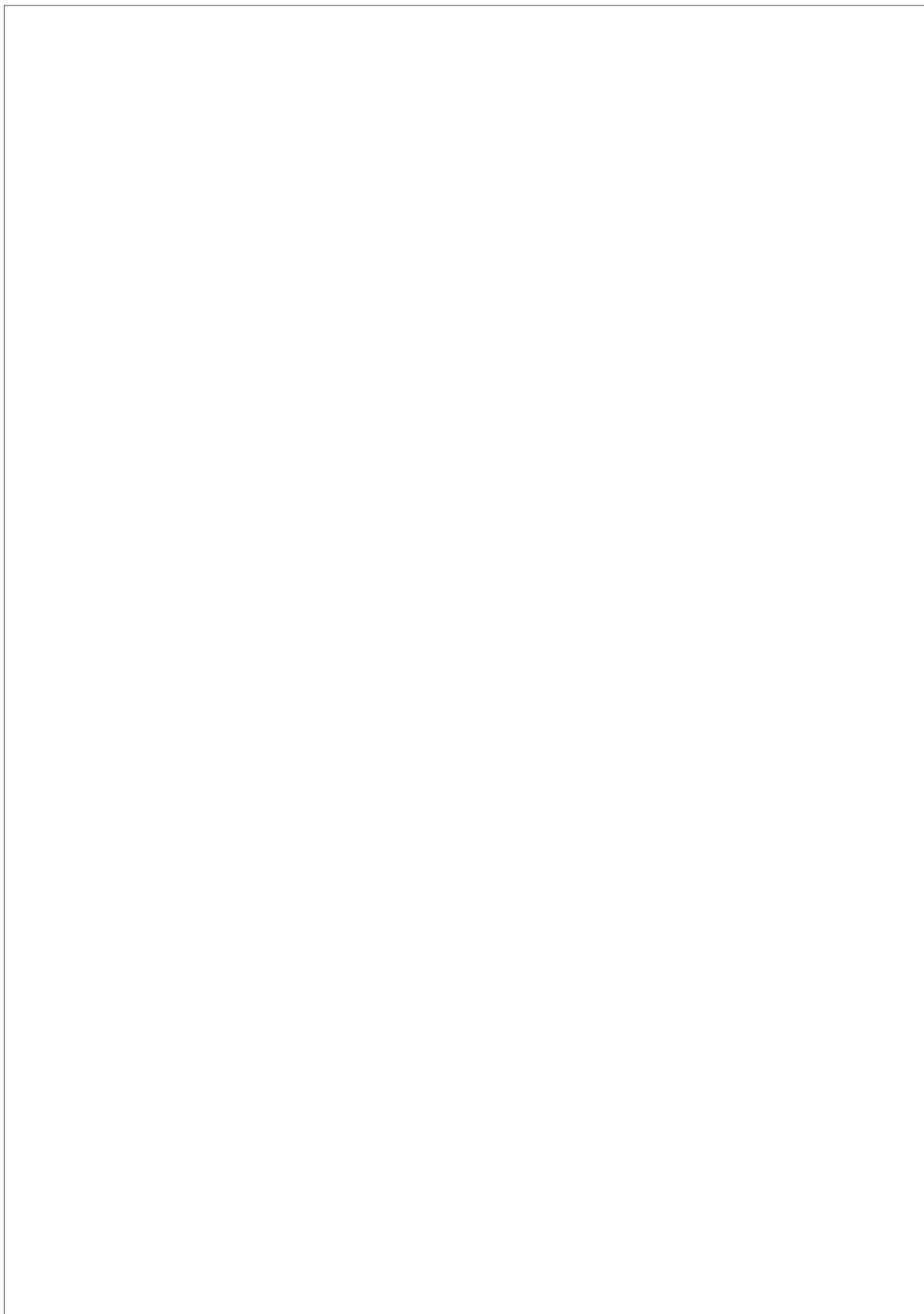
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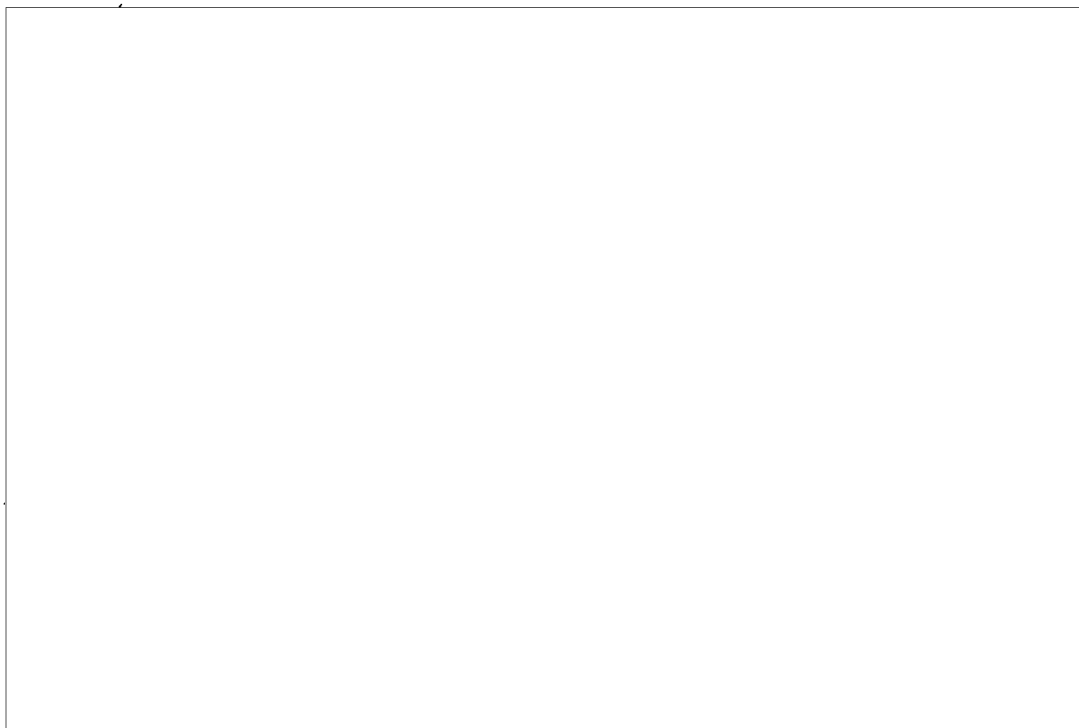


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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WAR

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Viet Cong on Antiwar Sentiment in US:

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"Resolution 13"--the document describing Viet Cong military, economic, and political goals. this resolution also discusses antiwar sentiment in the US.

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The resolution also states, as a matter of Viet Cong policy, that the longer the war goes on, the stronger the US doves will become. The Viet Cong therefore say they are inclined to fight at least until the 1968 election, which they feel President Johnson will lose to a dove candidate.

This line almost certainly is not an accurate reflection of Vietnamese Communist capabilities to exploit the US protest movement, or of their expectations from it. The Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese use evidence of antiwar sentiment in the US mainly as a propaganda device aimed at boosting the morale of their people. In private they have shown a more realistic understanding of the character and depth of the US opposition.

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Hanoi on War Protests in the US: In a broadcast to a domestic audience on 4 October, Hanoi radio rounds up a series of reports from the US concerning protests against the war. The broadcast takes note of the demonstration planned for Washington on 21 October and quotes Mrs. Dagmar Wilson of the "Women's Strike for Peace" as predicting that American mothers will voice their protest against sending their sons to fight in Vietnam.

The broadcast also claims that the recent conference of "Businessmen for Peace in Vietnam" condemned the "aggressive policy of the Johnson clique" and demanded an end to the war.

It also cites a resolution of 21 American bishops opposing the war, the sixth national congress of the "Women's Strike for Peace," and the actions of individuals refusing induction into military service as examples of the antiwar effort in the United States.

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