

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
14 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

The retail price index for Saigon fell eleven points during the week ending 2 October. This brings prices back down to about what they were just before the elections in early September. Even so, the prices are now about 30 percent higher than they were at the beginning of the year.

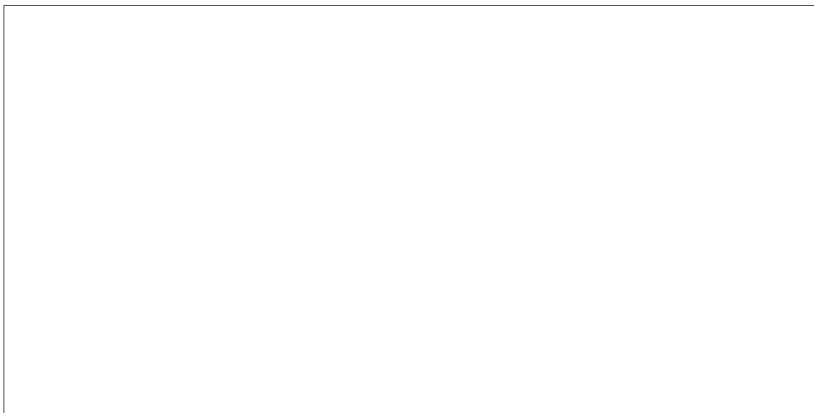
2. Vietnam
Demonstrations

Plans for antiwar demonstrations on 20-21 October are being drawn up in many countries to parallel those in the US. The sponsoring organizations are a mixed bag of pacifists, professional peace agitators, and Communists. Communist influence in some cases--Belgium, for example--is marked.

So far, it is hard to get a feel for the likely size of the demonstrations in Western Europe. In Japan, however, the prime agitator--a trade union organization--can put impressive numbers in the streets.

In Communist countries, only Hungary and Cuba are known to be planning to participate.

3. Communist China



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4. Communist China

We see more signs that the Red
Guards are being defused.

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5. Bolivia

Fingerprints taken from the body
of "Che" Guevara

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confirm that
the slain leader was indeed Guevara.

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6. Algeria

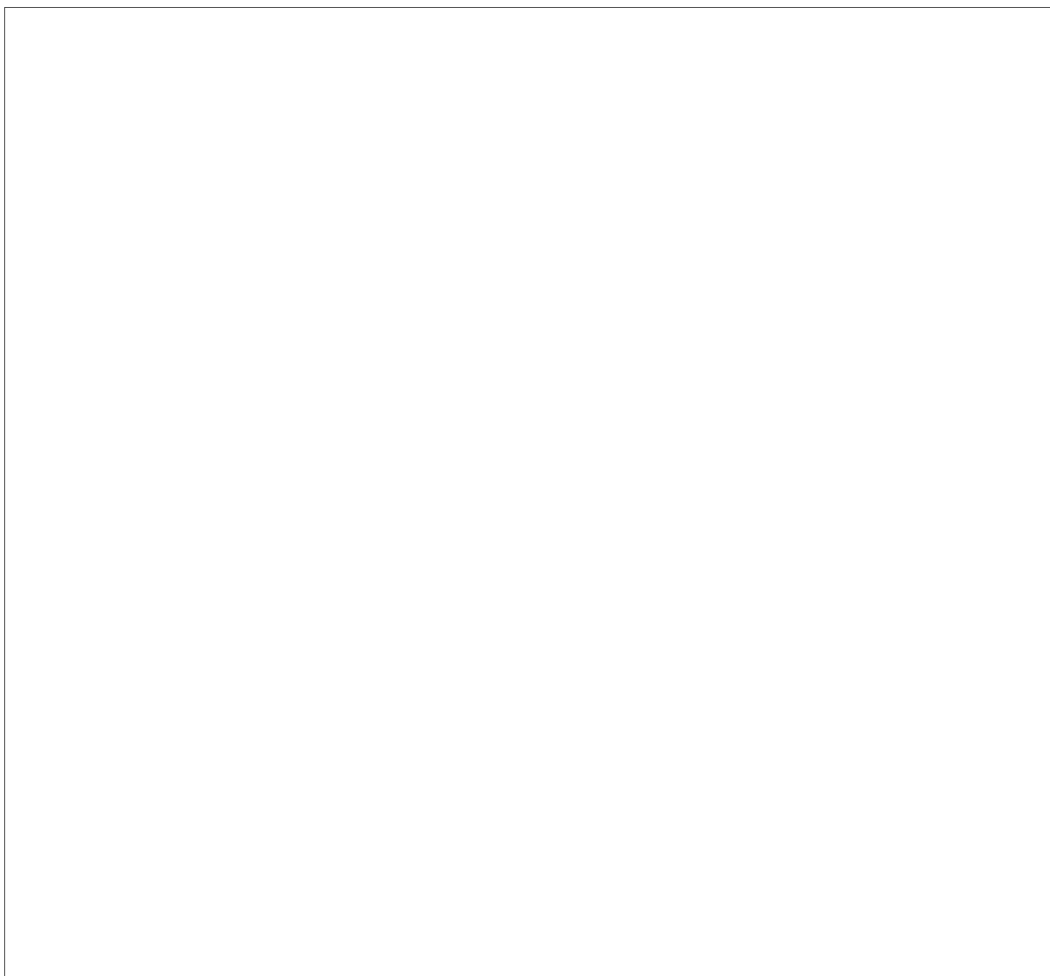
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14 OCT 1967

**SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY**



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TOP SECRET

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

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Wilfred Burchett Back in Hanoi: The North Vietnamese chargé in Laos in a 12 October conversation with Ambassador Sullivan hinted that Hanoi may once again use Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett as a medium for publicizing an important official statement on the war. The chargé also claimed that the 28 January offer of talks with the US in return for a bombing halt, which was given in an interview with Burchett, had been "misunderstood" by the US. When asked how these misunderstandings could be cleared up, the chargé replied that "it is too late now, as too many other things have happened since that time." He expressed the hope, however, that the US would not "misunderstand" any new statement given Burchett and that it would be given careful study.

Burchett has been in Hanoi recently and is now scheduled to travel to France. There has been no announcement from Hanoi of his meeting with officials there although on previous occasions such meetings have not been made public until several days or weeks after the journalist's departure.

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Hanoi's Post War Planning:

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Despite the demands for manpower at home, the North Vietnamese have continued to send large numbers of students for technical training throughout the Communist world. By doing so, Hanoi probably hopes to maintain a pool of skilled technicians to play a key role in rebuilding the country when the war is over.

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Albanian Aid Agreement: Hanoi announced on 12 October that it had signed an agreement for "non refund economic aid for 1968" with an Albanian delegation currently in North Vietnam. This is the last and probably the least of the current round of aid pacts which Hanoi has secured from the bloc. In the past Albania has exported to North Vietnam such war-related mineral and industrial products as bitumen, plywood and chromium ore.

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

We have received no significant North Vietnamese commentary on this subject in the past 24 hours.

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