

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 31 October 1967



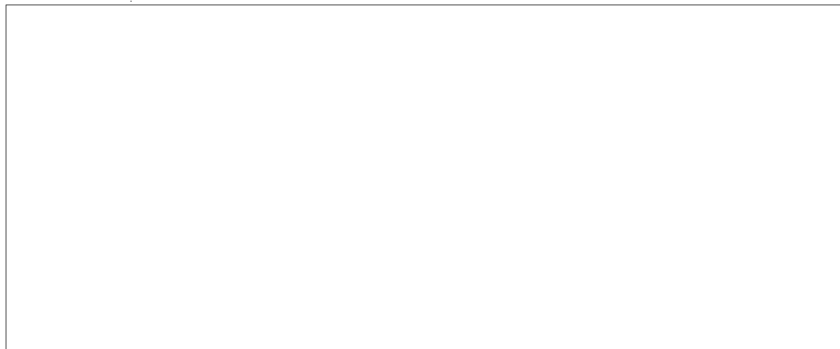
DAILY BRIEF
31 OCTOBER 1967

1. Soviet Union -
Vietnam

Kosygin has rejected the idea of an early five-power meeting on Vietnam. His statement, in reply to a letter from the head of the World Federation of UN Associations, reflected Moscow's customary care not to get out of step with Hanoi.

Kosygin did keep alive the Soviet contention that the Geneva apparatus could some day provide the means for a settlement. He said only that a five-power meeting would be "unrealistic" while "American bombs are falling" and without the participation of North Vietnam and the Liberation Front.

2. Soviet Union



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3. Thailand

Communist insurgents have recently increased operations in areas which had been relatively quiet. This may in part be a Communist effort to take the heat off the main center of insurgent strength in the northeast where government forces have been making some headway.

4. Congo

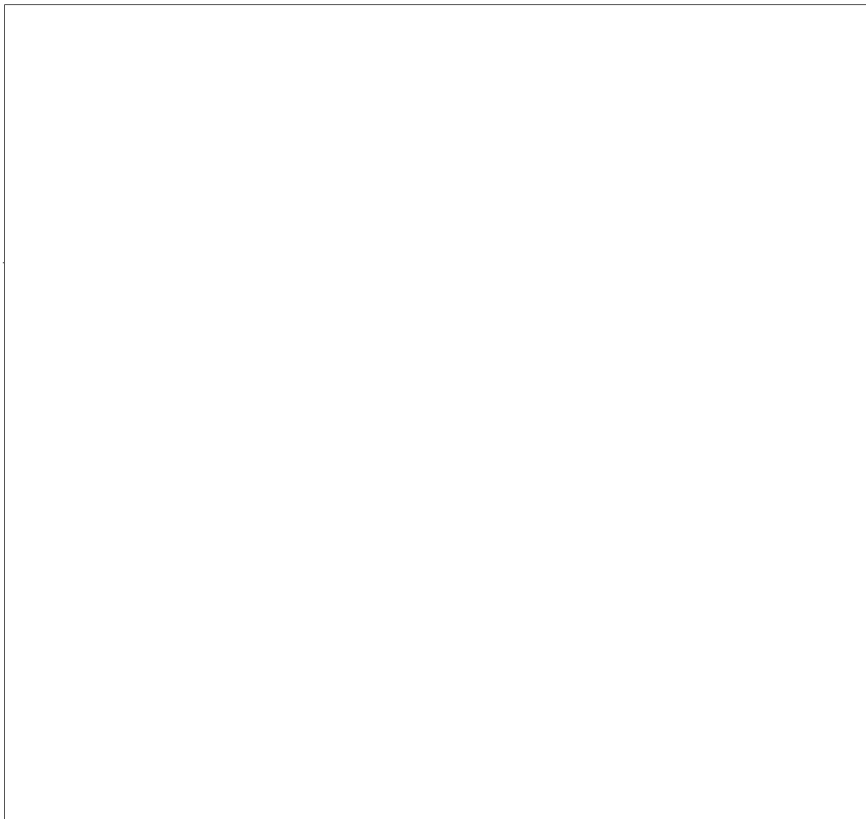
The Congolese military has launched an offensive against the mercenaries in Bukavu, and has apparently suffered heavy casualties in the process. Mercenary leader Schramme now has a perfect excuse to back out of last month's evacuation agreement.



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5. Jordan-France



6. Uruguay

President Gestido, who has had more than his share of troubles recently with the leaders of rival factions within his party, has decided to settle one score personally. He has challenged a leading critic and recent finance minister to a duel and has taken temporary leave of office to await developments.

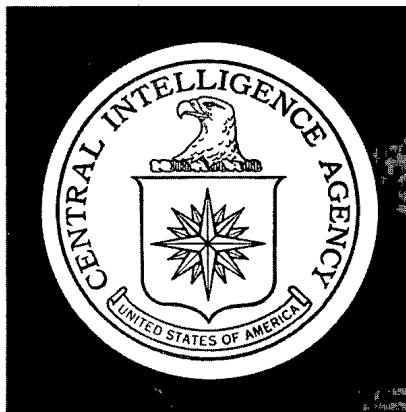
In Uruguayan politics, the challenge is more important than the confrontation; in fact, the duel itself may never come off.

At issue is Gestido's new economic policy, outlined in a major speech last week. It has been savagely criticized by his prospective dueling antagonist and by other supernationalists who insist that the solution to the country's economic mess is more and more state controls. By his gesture, Gestido has put these opponents on the defensive, at least for a time.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

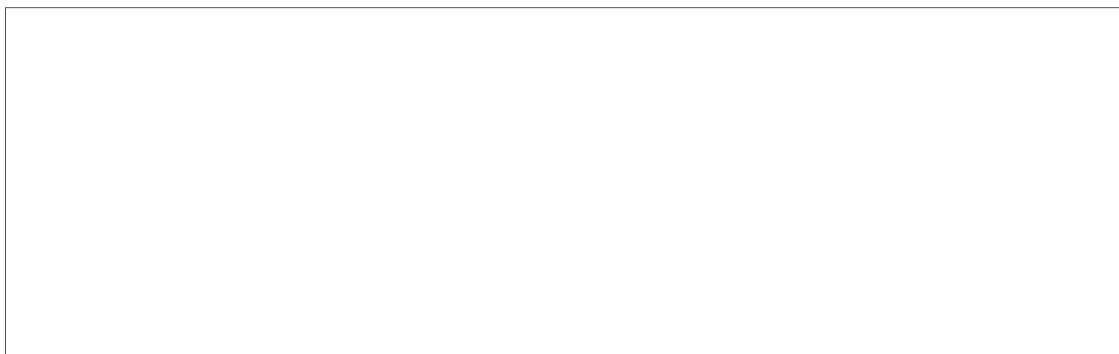
Hanoi's Latest Balancing Act in the Sino-Soviet Dispute: Ho Chi Minh's article on the 50th anniversary of the USSR, published in Pravda on 28 October, is a further indication that Hanoi is making a decided effort to preserve its neutral stance in the Sino-Soviet dispute. While Ho lauded the many achievements of the Soviets during the past half century and pointed to the example they have set for the Vietnamese, he also had warm words of praise for the progress and importance of the Chinese and their revolution. The article also took a decidedly hard line in urging the broadening of world revolution and expressed confidence in the inevitable victory of the Vietnamese "revolution" despite heavy losses.

The balanced praise in Ho's article was similarly expressed by Defense Minister Giap in an article written for a recent issue of the Soviet Army paper Red Star.

Neither article has as yet been broadcast by Hanoi. Although both were published in toto in the Soviet papers--probably at Hanoi's insistence--Moscow has omitted the references favorable to China in its domestic broadcasts.

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More Hanoi Comment on Bombing: The North Vietnamese Government issued another propaganda blast yesterday on the recent US raids in the Hanoi area. Again, Hanoi made no reference to the military or industrial targets of the raids, but referred only to attacks on the central city and its suburbs.

The new raids are described as "a brazen challenge to world public opinion, including public opinion in the US."

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

Hanoi Broadcasts Statements of American Visitors:
North Vietnam is exploiting recent visits to Hanoi by Americans opposed to the war by broadcasting their statements to American servicemen in South Vietnam. Two recent Hanoi English language broadcasts to US troops relayed recorded messages from Stokely Carmichael and Tom Hayden, the latter self-described as "active in the antiwar movement in the United States." In a statement broadcast by Hanoi on 29 October, Carmichael attempted to appeal to Negro troops with vitriolic anti-white gibes and assertions such as "our enemy is not the Vietnamese." Hayden's statement, broadcast by Hanoi on 29 October, contains a defense of the US antiwar movement, as well as criticisms of President Johnson's Vietnam policy.

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Hanoi on US Antiwar Movement: The Hanoi international radio service on 27 October broadcast a description of an antiwar demonstration held earlier that week in Los Angeles by several hundred Americans. The transmission also quoted a Tass report to the effect that more than 300 "writers and personalities" announced on 25 October that they would not pay taxes to the US Government because of the Vietnam war.

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