



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 November 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
14 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Soviet Union

Ambassador Thompson notes that during the Soviet anniversary celebration Brezhnev emerged more than ever as the "first among equals" in the leadership. He ran the show (as befitted his job description), and the seemingly endless speeches contained only scanty references to the principle of "collective leadership." The ambassador adds, however, that it would be premature to infer that Brezhnev's leadership is unquestioned or that his views necessarily carry the day.

As for Kosygin, he appeared tired and ill. The Moscow rumor mill says he has offered to resign.

2. Soviet Union

A "preparatory" meeting for the world Communist conference Moscow wants so badly has finally been scheduled for Budapest, possibly late this year. The Soviets, however, had to promise that the session will steer clear of ideological discussions aimed at Peking. Hence, the meeting will do little more than strengthen Soviet claim to leadership of the Communist movement and keep the Chinese on the defensive. Having this kind of a meeting is no guarantee that a full-dress international conference will ever come off.

3. Algeria

Army chief of staff Z'Biri is apparently still at loggerheads with Boumediene. We reported last week that Z'Biri's chances would depend on which way the regional military commanders jumped. None of them have jumped yet.

4. Iraq

When Ex-Secretary of the Treasury Anderson was recently in Baghdad, Iraqis without exception told him they would follow Nasir's lead on an Arab-Israeli settlement. The man in the street still regards Nasir as "the only Arab leader."

Iraqi moderates told Anderson that unless a "reasonable" Arab-Israeli solution was secured soon (by the US), they would have no chance of survival in the militant radicalism that would dominate the Arab world.

5. South Vietnam

A halt in bombing North Vietnam would not lead to talks with the National Liberation Front, a Front spokesman said last week. Interviewed by a Japanese reporter in Moscow, Dang Cham Thi took the same line both Hanoi and the Front have taken in trying to draw a sharp distinction between the air war in the North and the guerrilla war in the South. To talk with the Front, Dang said, the US would have to accept the Front's conditions.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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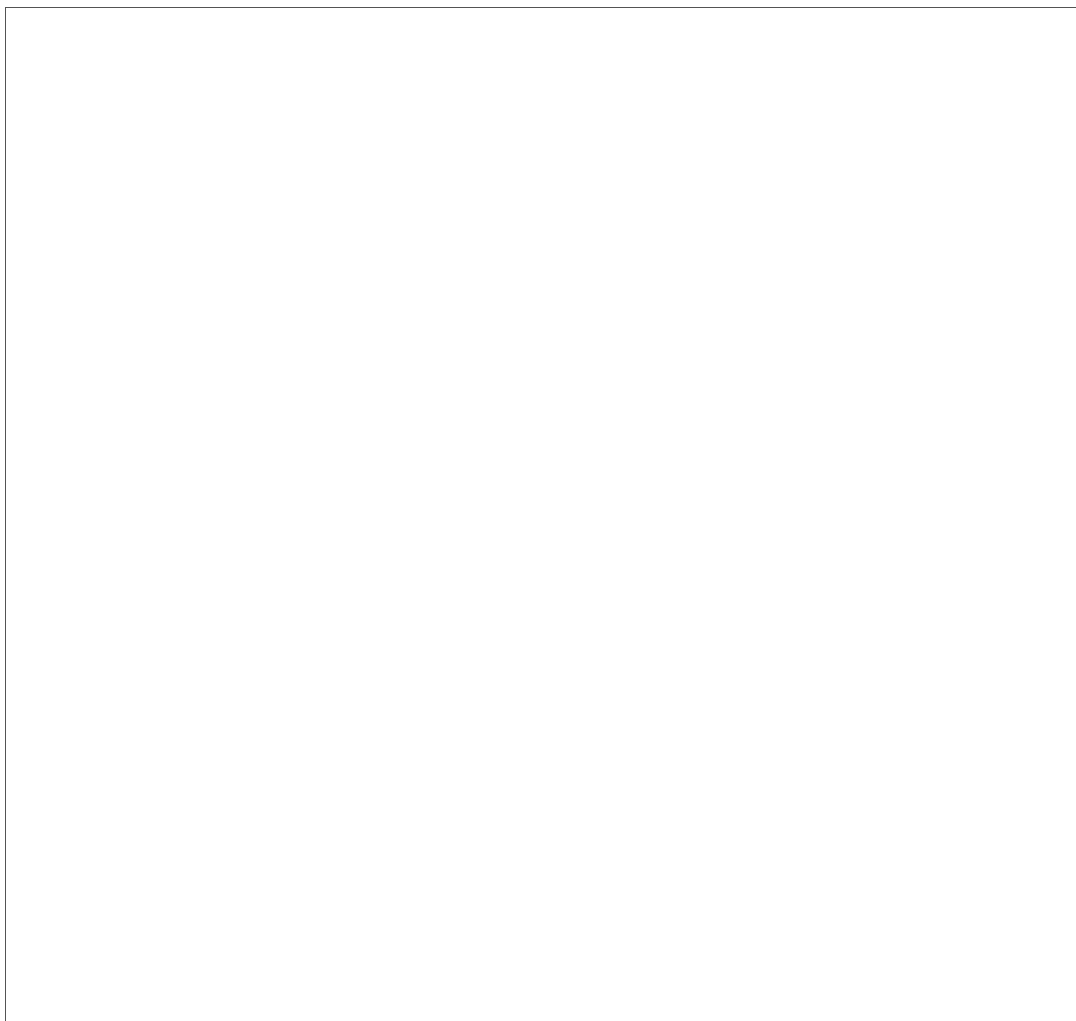
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Aid to North Vietnam: A Western press report from Moscow quotes Soviet officials telling visiting Japanese that the Soviet Union is now providing some 80 to 85 percent of all foreign aid going into North Vietnam. This almost certainly is a considerable exaggeration by the Soviets, who frequently try

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to play down the significance of Chinese Communist support for Hanoi. [REDACTED]

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Ho Cannot Now Accept Order of Lenin: Hanoi radio in English this morning finally acknowledged the Order of Lenin the Soviet Union conferred on Ho Chi Minh as part of the Soviet anniversary celebration. Hanoi first quoted the Soviet message to Ho, and then gave Ho's reasons for declining the award.

What purported to be Ho's message read:

"Dear Comrades: It was with boundless emotion that I learned of your decision to confer on me a Lenin Order, and I wish to thank you with all my heart.

"May I make the following suggestion: At present the U.S. aggressors are stepping up their war of aggression against our fatherland, Vietnam. They are massacring in the most barbarous manner tens of thousands of my compatriots in the South as well as in the North. Our armed forces and people throughout the country are shedding their blood to fight off U.S. aggression and save the country.

"In these circumstances, my mind would not be at rest should I accept now the particularly great honor of receiving a Lenin Order. For this reason, while thanking you with all my heart, may I ask you to postpone the presentation of that infinitely high and noble award until the day our people have driven off the U.S. imperialist aggressors and completely liberated our fatherland, Vietnam. Then I shall, on behalf of all my compatriots, receive with honor and joy the Order bearing the name of the Great Lenin.

"With Communist greetings, Ho Chi Minh."

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North Vietnamese Delegation Still in Moscow:

Although most foreign delegations to the anniversary celebrations in Moscow had left by last weekend, the North Vietnamese delegation apparently was still there as of yesterday. The Soviet press reported that Foreign Minister Trinh met with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Novikov yesterday. We assume that other members of the delegation, including Defense Minister Giap and Party First Secretary Le Duan, are also engaged in substantive discussions with the Soviets now that the festivities have ended.

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

Hanoi Broadcasts Interview with "Women's Strike for Peace" Officials: Hanoi is continuing to broadcast taped interviews with Dagmar Wilson. The latest, as all the others, was in English to US troops in the South. The theme of this 11 November program was marked only by its lack of anything new.

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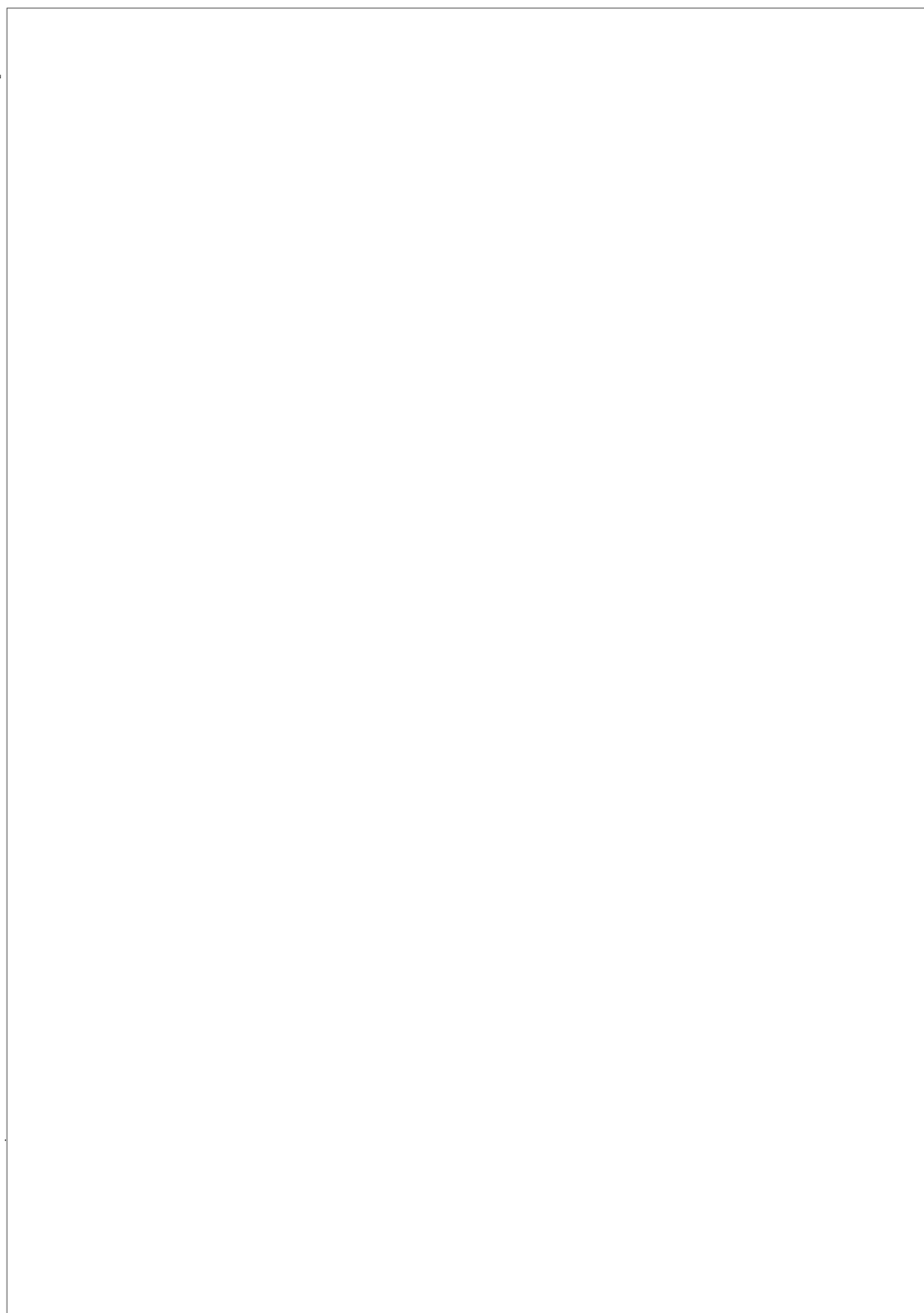
Hanoi Broadcasts Another Carmichael Statement:

North Vietnam has broadcast another recorded message from Stokely Carmichael to American Negro troops in South Vietnam. The statement was broadcast by Hanoi in English on 12 November, and is the third message from Carmichael to be presented by Hanoi since late October. Carmichael asserts that "black people" are fighting for "liberation" in the US and that Negroes should not fight in Vietnam.

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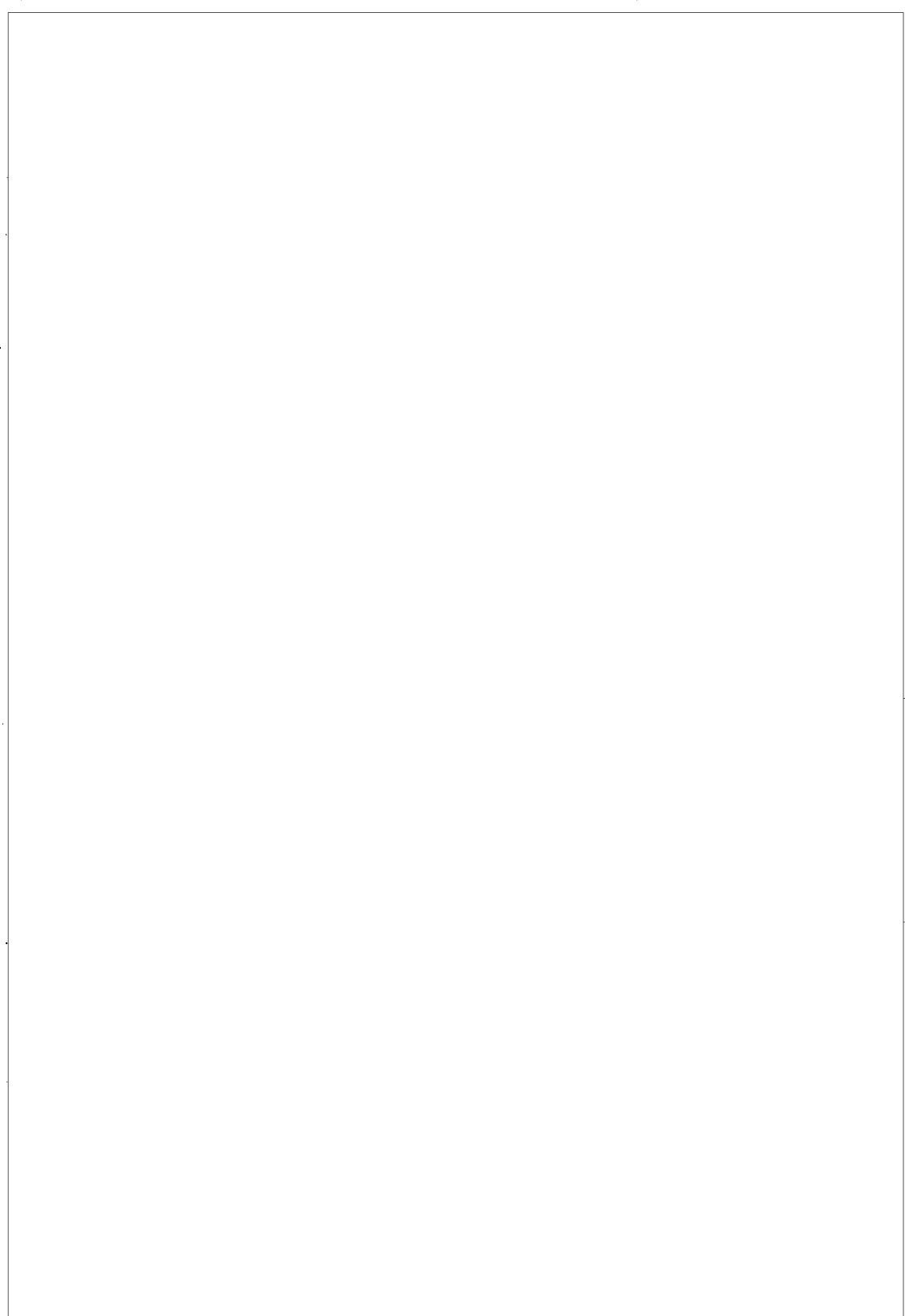
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