

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 August 1968



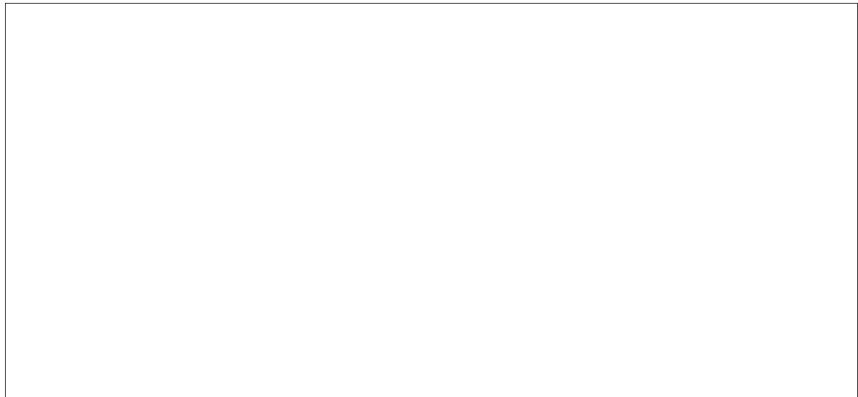
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
10 AUGUST 1968

1. South Vietnam

Communist military preparations in at least three areas have now reached the stage where an offensive could be kicked off at any time, perhaps even this weekend. Da Nang, Chu Lai, and the provinces northwest of Saigon are likely targets.

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2. Czechoslovakia -
Soviet Union

Czech conservatives are again being removed from party positions, news media are showing little inclination to heed Dubcek's call for restraint, and the Czech populace gave Tito a hero's welcome on his arrival yesterday in Prague. None of this will sit well in Moscow, although the Soviets and their allies are showing restraint in their public reaction.



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3. Jordan

In the wake of recent Israeli attacks, more and more Jordanians are criticizing their government's helplessness. A good many are coming to regard the terrorists as the only people who are doing anything to hurt the Israelis.

This is the beginning of a vicious circle: Israeli attacks weaken Husayn domestically and make the terrorists more popular; the terrorists, knowing Husayn cannot touch them, grow bolder; and their boldness stimulates more Israeli attacks.

4. Israel

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5. Laos

Government troops are making modest gains in their cautious attempts to retake some of the territory lost to the Communists during the dry season. We suspect that most of the gains are coming in fringe areas which the Communists consider nonessential; the presence of a good many North Vietnamese troops indicates that for the most part the Communists intend to hold what they have.

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6. Greece

Andreas Papandreou is beginning to work more strenuously against the new constitution as the plebiscite of 29 September approaches. His movement and a Communist-instigated "Patriotic Front" issued a joint statement early this month on the need to coordinate resistance to the Papadopoulos regime, and he says he has put out feelers to conservative former premier Karamanlis as well.

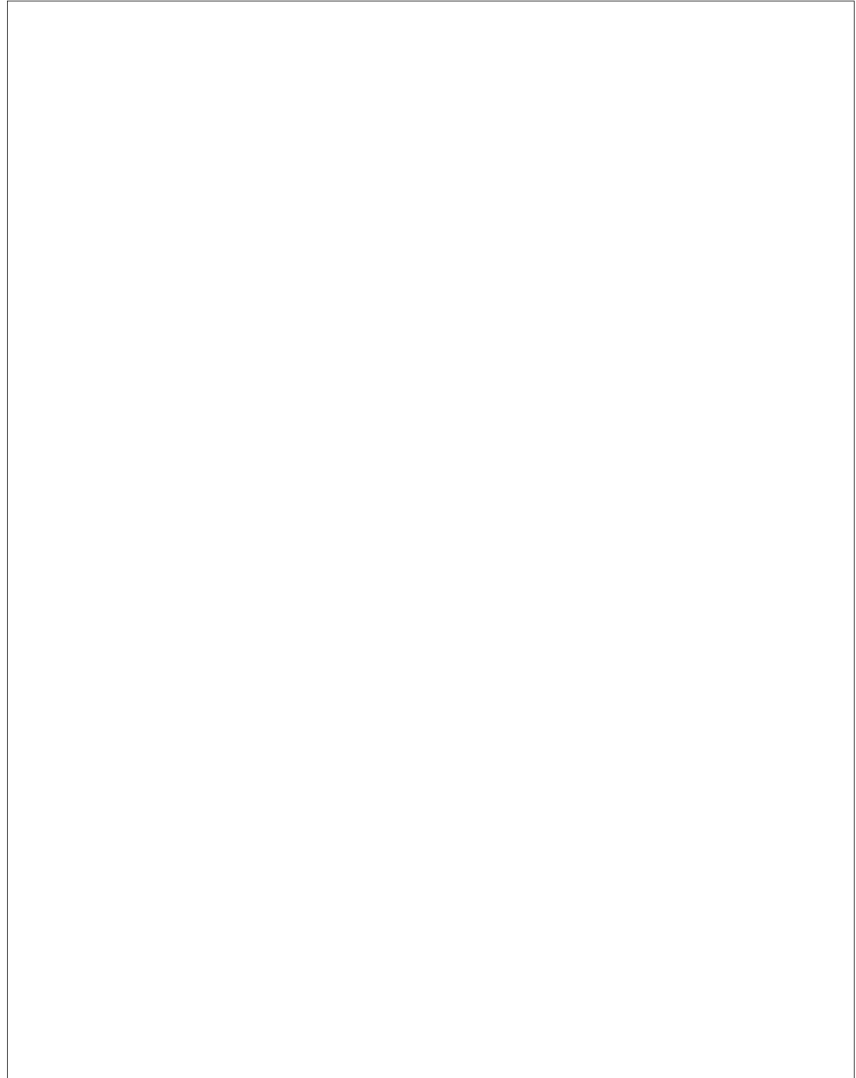
The regime is publicizing the joint statement as an example of Communist efforts to undermine Greece's "struggle for democracy" and is charging that Papandreou would cooperate with "any enemy of Greece."

7. Communist China

As part of their efforts to bring the worst excesses of the Cultural Revolution under control, the Chinese have begun forming "worker-peasant Mao-thought propaganda teams." These teams have been made the object of a propaganda ballyhoo which seems unreal even by Peking's standards.

We learn from the Chinese news agency, for instance, that the team at the university in Peking was recently favored with a gift of mangoes from Mao. Thereupon the members of the team flocked to the campus, "tears of happiness" in their eyes, to "touch and smell" the mangoes. They finally decided at an emergency meeting to embalm the fruit and place it in a glass crypt, on the theory that in this way Mao's mangoes would be "emplanted in our hearts." The countryside as far away as Shanghai is said to be reverberating with joy over the incident.

8. Nigeria

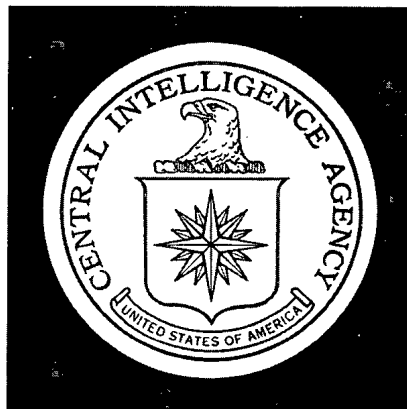


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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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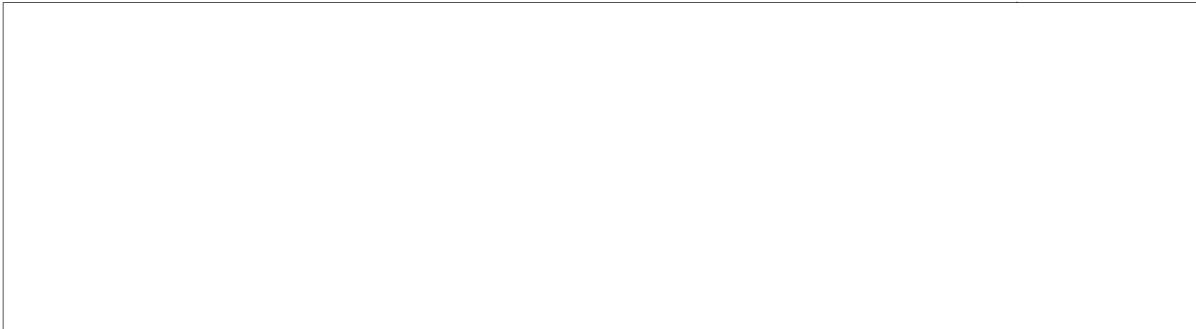
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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

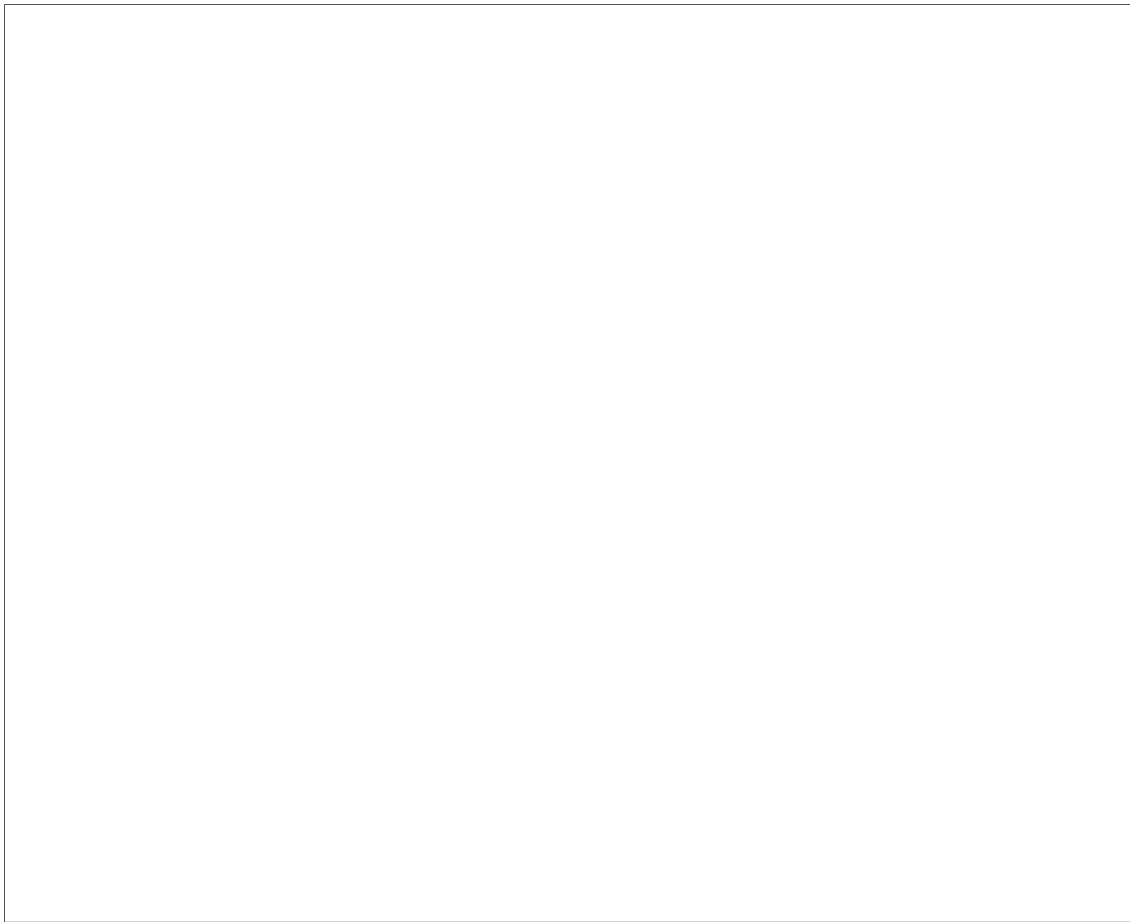
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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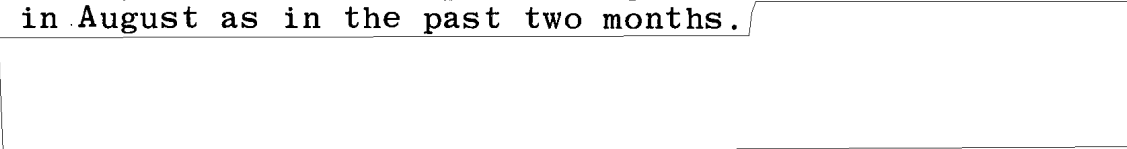
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Infiltration: North Vietnamese infiltration activity appears to be proceeding at about the same rate in August as in the past two months.



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

There is nothing of significance to report today.



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