

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 14 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
14 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Middle East

A strong Israeli strike against Egypt, and possibly Jordan, seems likely in the near future. The subject is discussed at Annex today.

2. South Vietnam

[redacted] the Communists plan to close out the "third phase" of their general offensive with country-wide attacks between 15 and 25 September. Ac-

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[redacted] the Communists plan to move on Tay Ninh, Binh Duong, and Binh Long cities and will shell Saigon and Tan Son Nhut. They are also said to be mapping demolition operations in the capital.

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[redacted]

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3. Congo

The Kinshasa Congolese are making plans to send troops across the river into Brazzaville this weekend. They would help the new government there get rid of radical leftists. There is an agreement between the two governments permitting such an action on request from Brazzaville.

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4. Czechoslovakia

The National Assembly remains in session to provide legislation covering Moscow's demands. Yesterday it passed measures restricting the right of assembly. No cabinet changes have been announced yet.

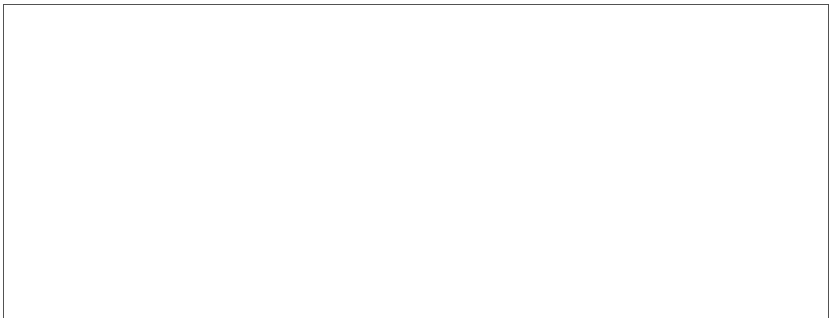
As for the party, we continue to get reports that Dubcek's days are numbered. Gustav Husak, who runs the Slovak party, is the most often mentioned candidate for Dubcek's job. Husak, too, is a liberal, but one who has endorsed the Moscow agreement and with whom the Russians may feel they can live. Those who know Husak describe him as extremely capable and "totally ambitious."

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A Polish official reports the occupying troops will leave Czechoslovakia by 26 October, except for "a couple of Soviet divisions."

5. Haiti

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6. Mexico

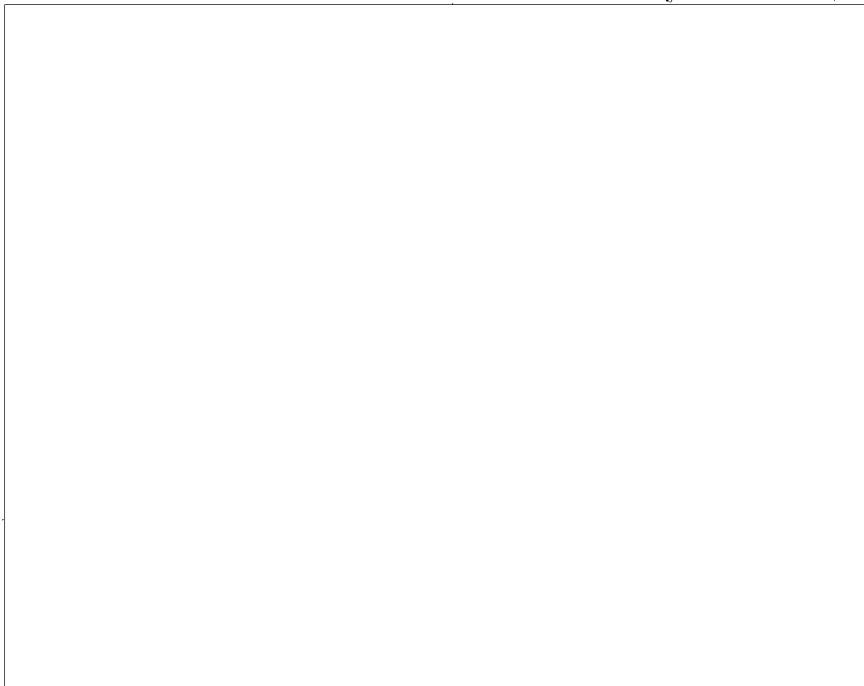
There was no trouble during the students' "silent march" last night. The number of marchers was estimated at 75-80,000.

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7. Ecuador

Carlos Julio Arosemena, the anti-American former president who was deposed by the army in 1963, is putting a number of his men in key positions in the Velasco administration. One of these Arosemena henchmen, a left-wing goon with a long terrorist record, has been named chief of the civilian security directorate.

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ANNEX

Israeli Strike Likely

[Redacted]

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On 26 August the Egyptians ambushed and killed three Israeli soldiers on the east bank of the canal; another ten Israeli soldiers were killed in the five-hour artillery duel last Sunday. Firing incidents have continued almost daily, with yesterday no exception.

Egyptian objectives are obscure.

[Redacted]

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The Israelis have reacted both militarily and politically to the Suez situation. Moshe Dayan sent a warning to Cairo [Redacted] and the problem was placed before the Security Council. Neither step seems to have had much effect. The warning was ignored and the move against Egypt in the Security Council is getting nowhere.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Another major clash could involve the Jordanian front as well as the Suez.

[Redacted]

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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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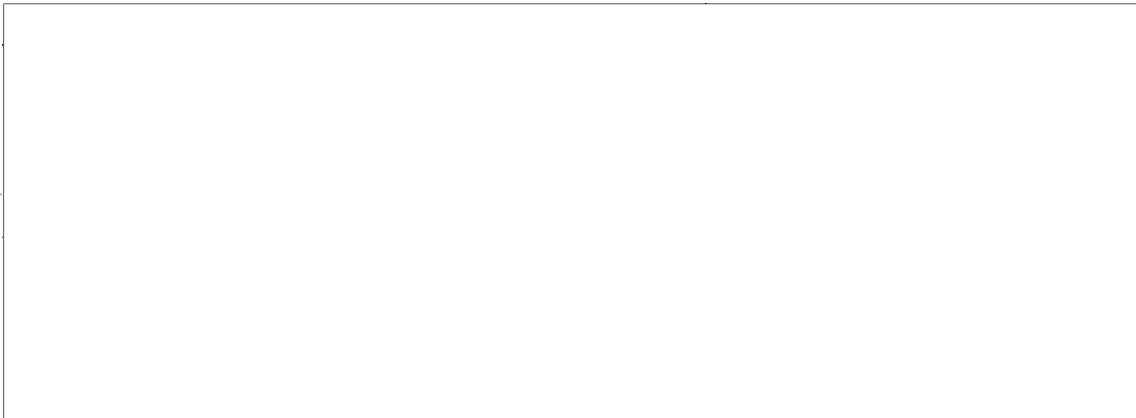
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14 September 1968

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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North Vietnam's preoccupation with postwar problems is extensive, according to all available information. The topic is even beginning to appear in North Vietnamese periodicals.

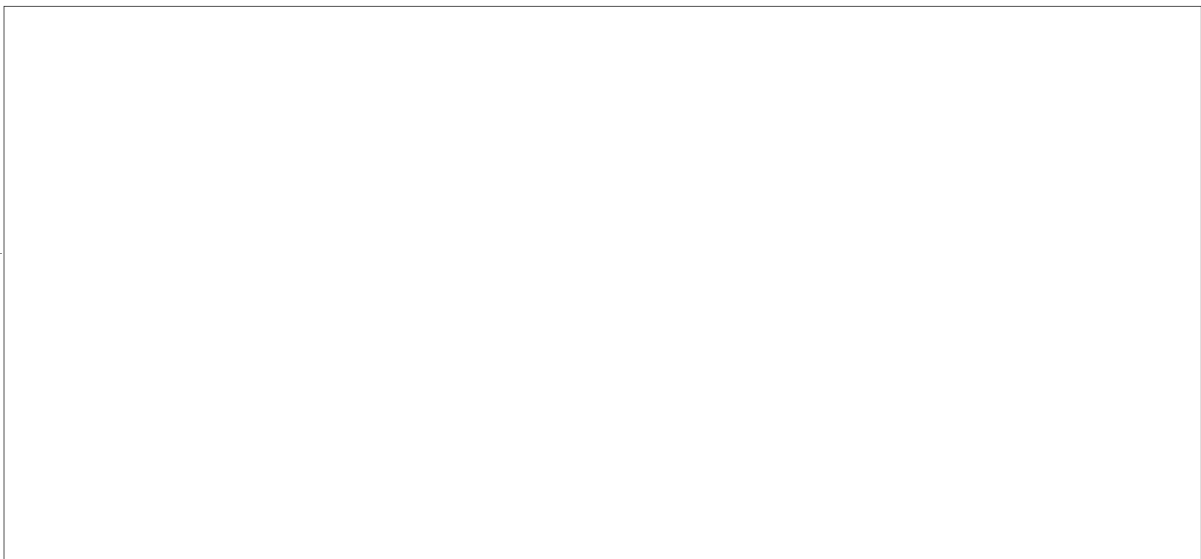
[redacted] the construction of air raid shelters was continuing in Hanoi and the population remained tense because of the visits of "US reconnaissance planes"



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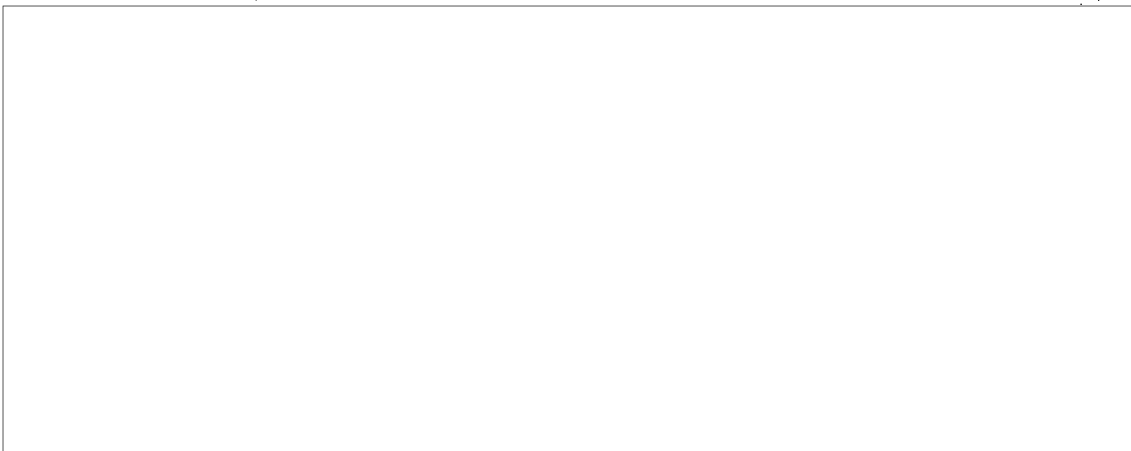
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Castigates Nixon: Hanoi Radio yesterday trained its sights on Mr. Nixon. It called him a "violent belligerent" who had favored sending US troops to South Vietnam to help the French in 1954. Nixon, it added, is "the true representative of the traditionally belligerent Republican Party, which in turn is the true representative of the US capitalists who are the most belligerent reactionaries in the United States and the entire world."

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