

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 26 October 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
26 OCTOBER 1968

LATE ITEM

Soviet Union

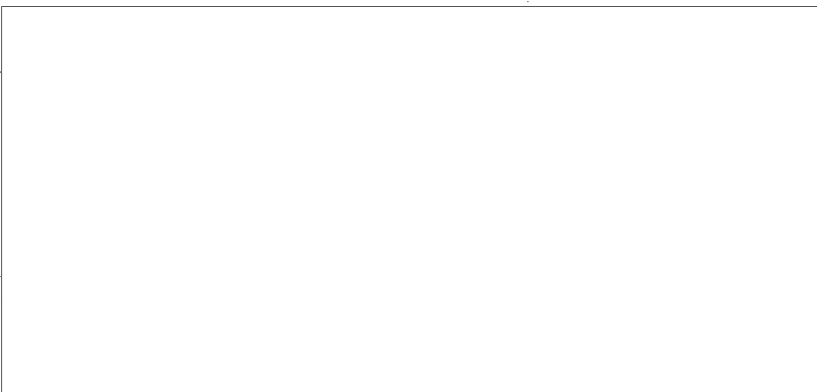
The Soviets put up another space-
craft this morning; it is evidently
manned.

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1. United Kingdom

The anti-Vietnam demonstration in London tomorrow will be large and probably violent. British police estimate that as many as 30,000 people will take part.

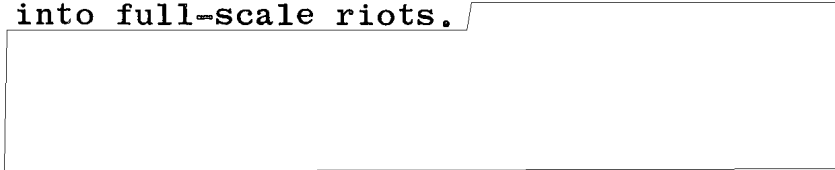


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2. Czechoslovakia

Dubcek and company are also plagued by student problems as the 50th anniversary of the first republic approaches. They are particularly afraid that anti-Soviet student demonstrations next Monday will bring reprisals by the occupation forces. Prague leaders have visited schools to caution students against clashes with pro-Soviet groups who intend to parade in the streets. National Assembly President Smrkovsky has told the students: "If you demonstrate, we all may be sorry."

Czech young people have remained staunchly loyal to Dubcek, but this time they could be taunted by the opposition into full-scale riots.



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3. Soviet Union

The Russians orbited an unmanned Soyuz spacecraft from Tyuratam yesterday.

[Redacted]

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the Soviets are expected to launch a manned Soyuz spacecraft [Redacted]

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4. France

An adviser close to the French defense minister is probing for US interest in greater cooperation in nuclear defense matters. He has told a US Embassy official that France hopes to persuade the next US administration to grant France equality with the UK in access to nuclear knowledge and equipment. The Frenchman also said that the possibility of future military cooperation in the NATO context was under study and was not excluded.

5. Portugal

[Redacted]

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6. Middle East

Border incidents and exchanges of fire are still occurring with regularity along most of the Arab-Israeli borders. The Israeli-Jordanian border is the hottest sector, with fire fights breaking out at the rate of two or three a day. Clashes on the Israeli-Syrian border occur less often; there have been two short fire fights in the past week.

Egyptian-Israeli tensions resulting from cross-canal ambushes of Israeli troops and artillery duels have quieted, although there are almost daily exchanges of small arms fire across the canal.

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

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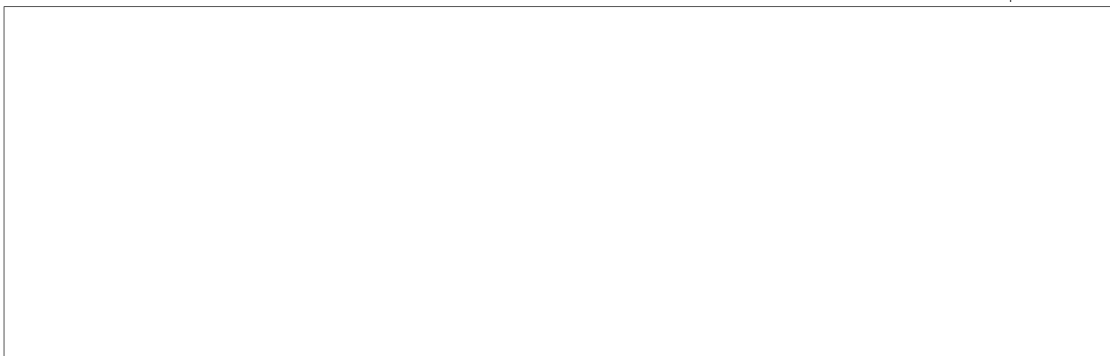
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

The President's Press Conference: Hanoi is keeping up its barrage of propaganda attacks on the US negotiating position. Yesterday a radio commentary beamed to South Vietnamese audiences zeroed in on President Johnson's 24 October press conference. The press conference proved, said Hanoi, that the US still refuses to either stop the bombing or recognize the Liberation Front. Only when the US stops the bombing unconditionally can discussions of "substantial matters" begin, it repeated.

As for press speculation about a possible breakthrough in the talks, this was "fabricated news" and the rumors that Hanoi had accepted a number of US conditions in exchange for a bombing halt are "deceitful arguments of a psychological warfare nature aimed at sowing confusion," according to the radio commentary.

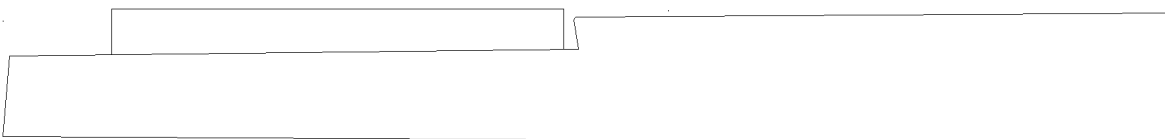
According to Hanoi radio today, Nhan Dan has come out with a similar statement.

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Haiphong Dredging:

[Redacted] the Vietnam-
ese have four dredgers active in the harbor to remove
the silt.

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[Redacted]

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Stockholm Demonstration: A group of Americans active in the antiwar movement will participate in a Stockholm rally on 27 October. Their host will be the American Deserters' Committee. The purpose of the visit is to demonstrate support for deserters,

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to coordinate and improve deserter activities, and to counter recent signs of less lenient treatment of US deserters in Sweden.

* * *

New Zealand Demonstrations: Antiwar demonstrations are planned for Monday in Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington. The demonstrations are part of the world-wide week of protest. In Auckland the demonstrators plan to march on the US Consulate and deliver a letter damning the war. Wellington protesters also intend to demonstrate at the airport when Holyoake returns 31 October.

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

"GI Protest Week": Hanoi so far has said little about the protest week organized by US antiwar groups. The first noted mention was yesterday in an international English language broadcast. This one cited the American press as the source for news on several incidents involving servicemen opposed to the war. In one such incident, an Air Force nurse allegedly passed out antiwar tracts and, in another, soldiers stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington, are supposedly deserting to form protest groups.

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