



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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17 OCTOBER 1966

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1. North Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh may have made another secret trip to Peking last month. We have no reason to discount the report, which comes from French press representatives in Hanoi. Ho was, in fact, out of public sight during the time he is said to have been in Peking.

As to the possible reasons for a Ho trip in September, we note that the timing would have permitted high-level Hanoi-Peking consultations just prior to last month's deluge of East European visitors to Hanoi.

2. South Vietnam

Minister of Economy Thanh has joined the six southern cabinet members in a threat to resign unless the security forces are curbed. Thanh is one of Ky's most able economic experts, but this will carry little weight with Ky if he feels Thanh is out of line.

The controversy is fast coming to a head. The dissidents recognize that Ky's desire to have his house in order during the Manila conference gives them more leverage now than they are likely to have for some time.

3. Soviet Union

Cuba's president and deputy premier arrived in Moscow today to join the meeting of East European Communist leaders. Rumania is also sending a high-level delegation, ending speculation that Bucharest might boycott the gathering because of differences with Moscow over treatment of the Chinese.

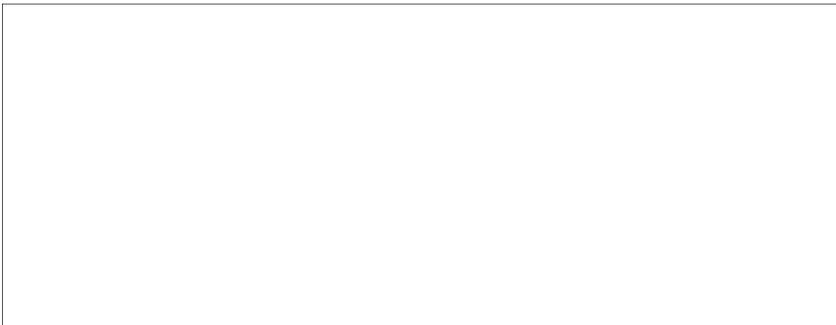
The assembling Communist leaders were greeted by three separate articles in today's Pravda calling for "unanimous condemnation of the political course taken by the Chinese leadership."

4. Dominican Republic

Balaguer's see-saw may be acquiring too much weight on the right. Both moderate and extreme leftists have been further alienated by his order to disarm former rebel military personnel, his appointment of a rightist interior minister, and his intention to dissolve a leftist labor union.

Balaguer may not intend to mount a coordinated campaign against the left, but his recent acts could be so interpreted. If the moderate leftists think he has it in for them, their tolerance for his regime could dry up quickly.

5. Malaysia



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