

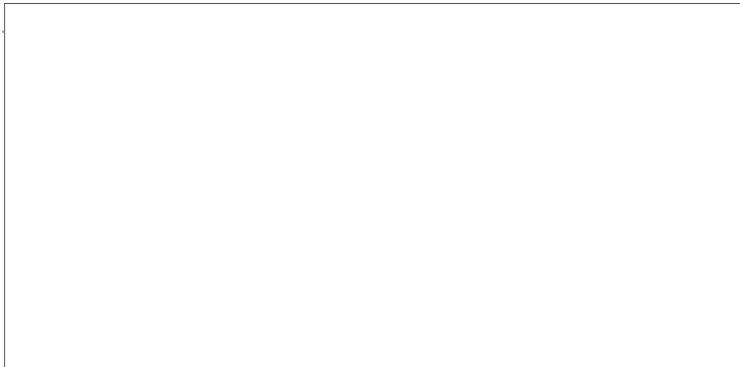
The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 18 October 1967



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Soviet Union



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DAILY BRIEF
18 OCTOBER 1967

1. South Vietnam

The new Senate, in office just a week today, is off to an energetic start. It has elected temporary presiding officers, named a rules drafting committee, and decided to ask the executive to grant amnesty to certain prisoners before the National Day celebrations on 1 November.

It is expected to choose its permanent chairman within two weeks. Likely winner is Tran Van Don, a retired general and nominal Buddhist, who headed the front-running slate in the senatorial elections. His selection could ease Buddhist unhappiness over the disproportionately heavy Catholic representation in the Senate.

The reluctance of many Catholic senators to take undue advantage of their numbers has become evident in the failure of a Catholic-led political bloc in the Senate to attract more than a handful of adherents.

2. Middle East

Danger is rising of a new Israeli retaliatory raid into Jordan or Syria. The Israelis yesterday were seething over King Husayn's "evasive" reply to their request for a meeting between senior military commanders of both sides to discuss control of terrorist infiltration. The Israelis reject Husayn's claim that he is doing all he can to stop the infiltrators. They say he is actually condoning terrorist movement across Jordan.

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3. France

De Gaulle added last weekend to the conditions which might cause him to take France out of the Atlantic Alliance. He told Secretary General Brosio that if the Alliance is subjected to "substantial transformation"-- if it becomes a political alliance to "control and direct East-West relations"-- then France might withdraw. He said this in reference to the Harmel Study on the future tasks of the Alliance, which is now nearing completion.

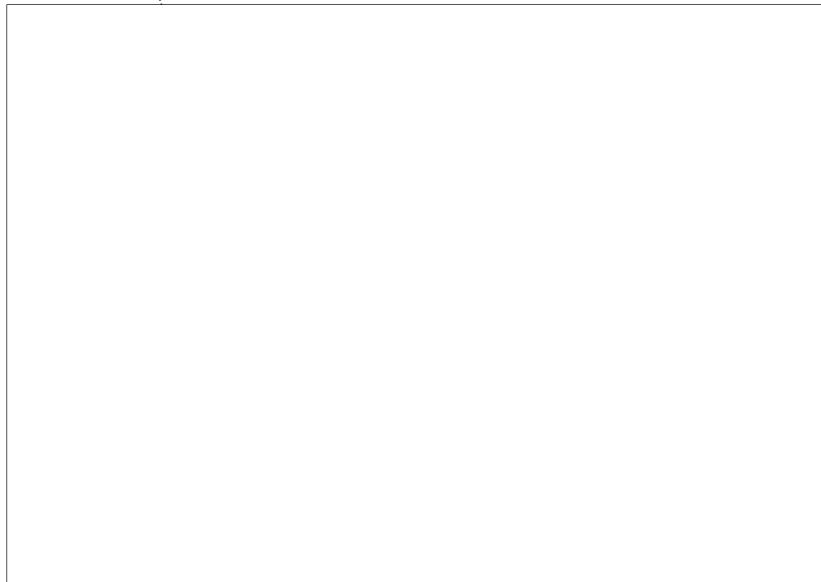
De Gaulle went on to say that his legal view is that the treaty cannot be denounced until 1969, with withdrawal taking place in 1970. Only "unforeseeable and extraordinary" events would raise the question of France's adherence during 1968.

4. Sino-Soviet Relations



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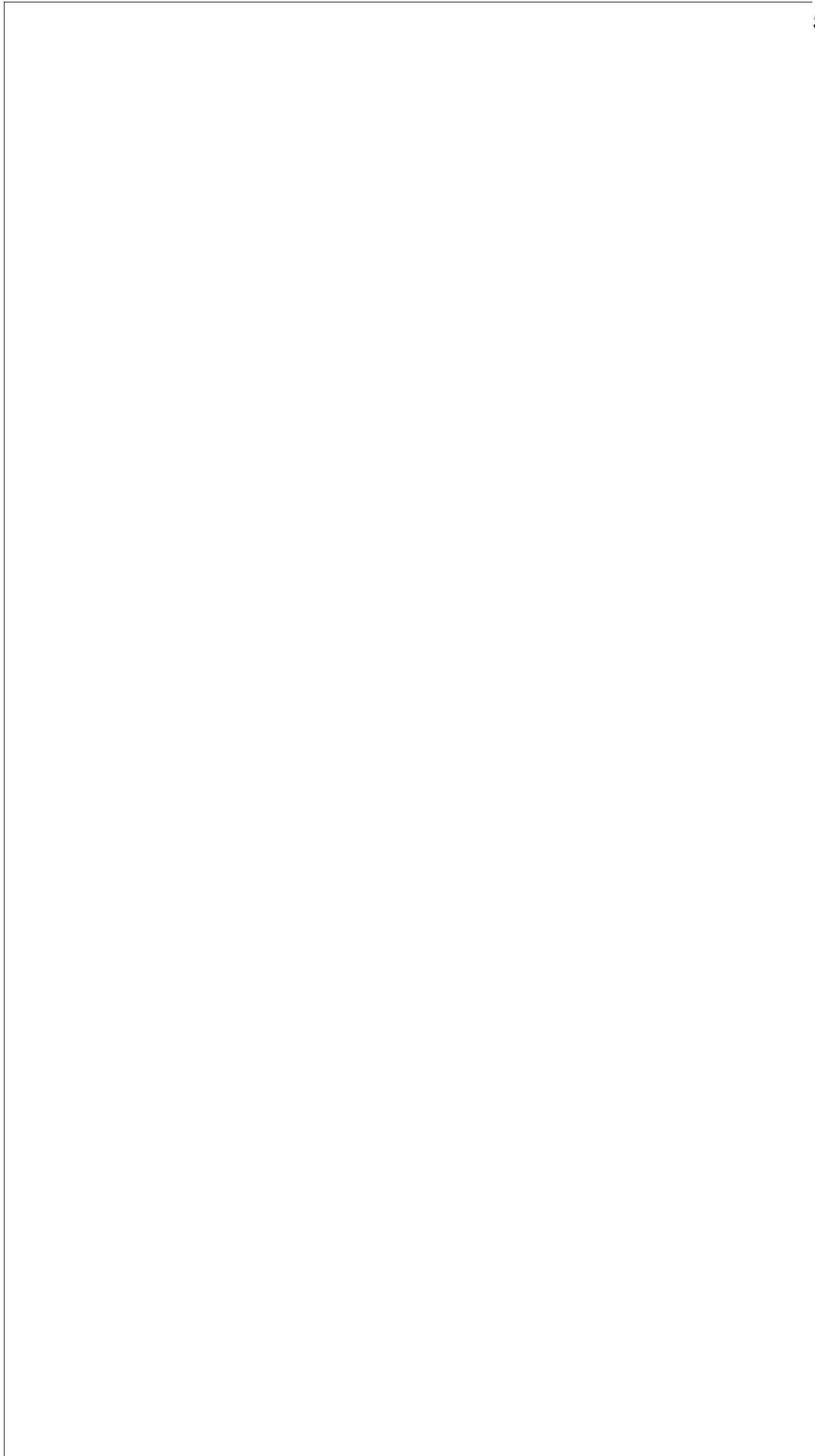
5. Cuba



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6. Cuba -
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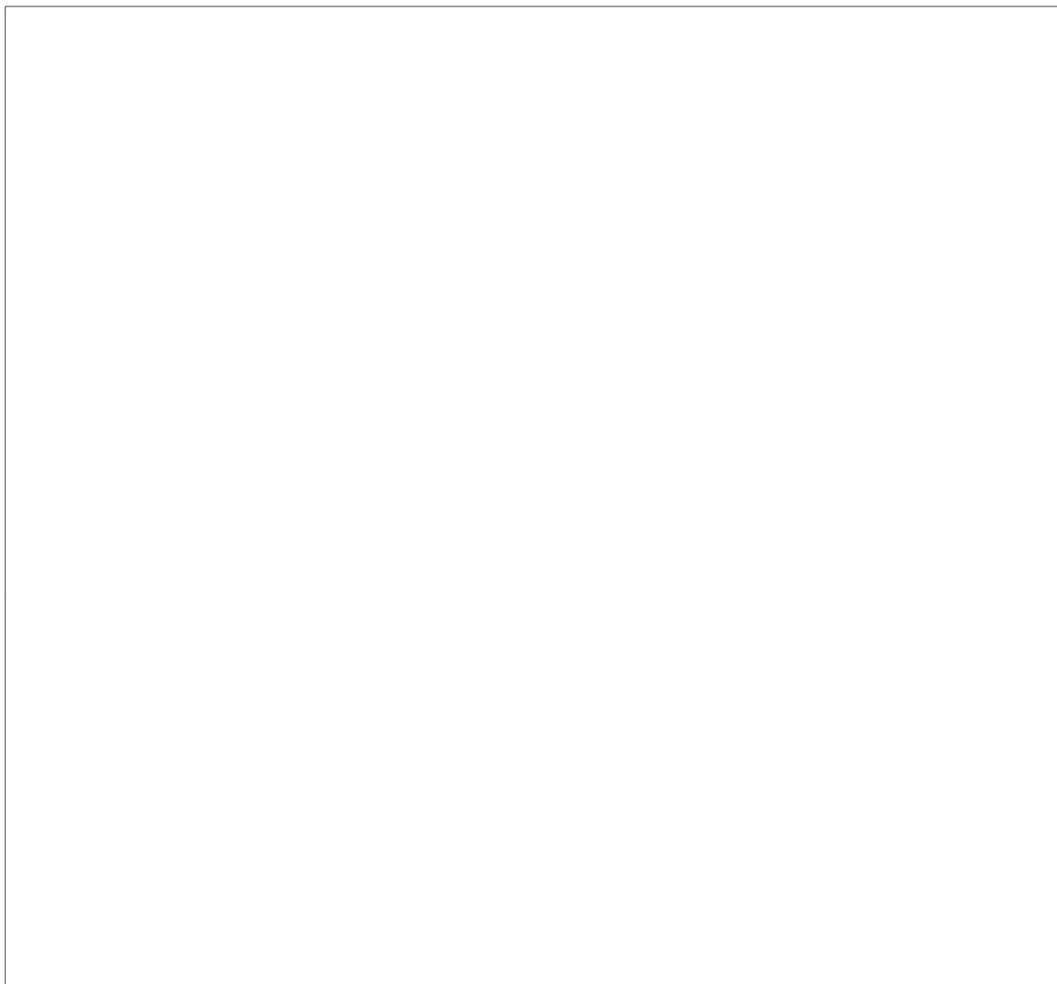
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SPECIAL DAILY REPORT ON NORTH VIETNAM

FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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International Control Commission Problem:

the French-owned airline that carries the International Control Commission (ICC) members to Saigon, Phnom Penh, Hanoi, and Vientiane has canceled future flights into Hanoi until the Commission pays its bill. The scheduled courier flight to Hanoi last Friday was, in fact, canceled for this reason. An earlier press story had stated that the Commission, which is made up of diplomats from Canada, India, and Poland, owes the airline over one-half million dollars.

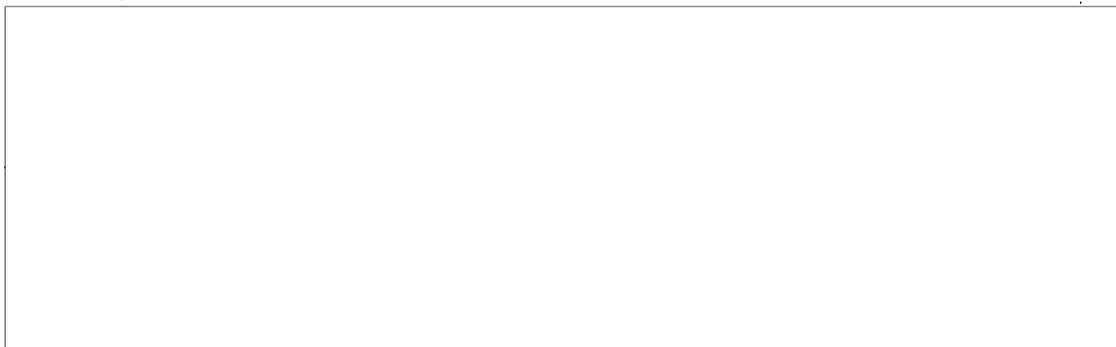
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The ICC has been in financial difficulty for some time, and although its debt to the airline is probably exaggerated in the press story, its overall debt may well be close to \$300,000. Money may not be the sole motive behind the airline's cancellation, however. Recently the company, its pilots, and other personnel connected with the flights have been protesting the dangers related to flying in and out of Hanoi.

The Hanoi leg of these flights represents the only non-Communist air link with North Vietnam and its loss would further weaken the already tenuous presence of the ICC in the North Vietnamese capital.

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[redacted] the
people [redacted] under greater strain because of the war
than they were [redacted] a year
earlier. [redacted] a large percentage of
women working in industrial plants and in other non-
military functions. Other evidence has also pointed
to some increase in the use of female labor through-
out all segments of the North Vietnamese economy be-
cause of manpower shortages. The percentage of
women in the North Vietnamese economy has always
been high, however.

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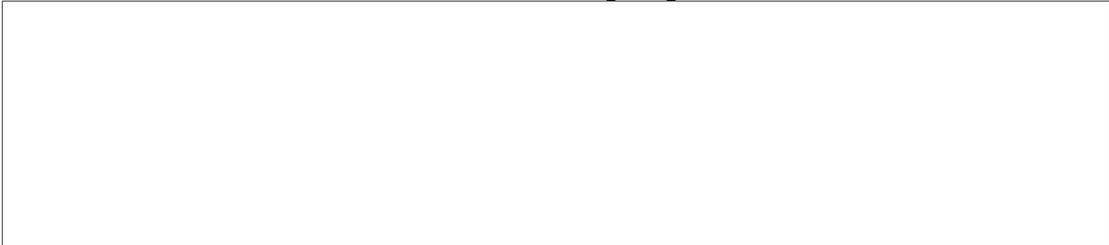


II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Supports Antiwar Drive in US: In an effort to align itself with the war protest drive in the US, the Liberation Front on 16 October announced the founding of a committee to demonstrate "solidarity" with Americans who oppose the war.

According to a Hanoi broadcast yesterday, the "South Vietnam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People" was founded to help the Americans understand their government's "policy of aggression" in South Vietnam and to help them join with the Vietnamese people in demanding that the US end the war. The broadcast stated that the committee will establish permanent offices in Prague, Algiers, and Hanoi in order to contact "the progressive organizations and individuals" in the US.

The new committee also issued an appeal to the American people, broadcast by Hanoi on 16 October, calling for a stepped-up antiwar effort. It claimed that the US antiwar movement is growing stronger and has attracted "more and more people of various strata."



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Viet Cong Claim US Deadlocked Over Vietnam: A clandestine Viet Cong broadcast to South Vietnam on 9 October asserted that in addition to a military deadlock in Vietnam, the US Government is faced with increased opposition to its policy at home. The broadcast claimed that although President Johnson and Secretary of State Rusk have often tried to argue that there is no military stalemate, a recent Christian Science Monitor article admitted that there is a deadlock. The broadcast also stated that the antiwar movement in the US has attained its highest level and noted that tens of thousands of people have demonstrated against President Johnson's aggressive policy and the proposed tax increase. According to the Viet Cong, many influential congressmen and distinguished intellectuals, writers, and artists in the US have demanded that the President end the war.

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