

# *The President's Daily Brief*

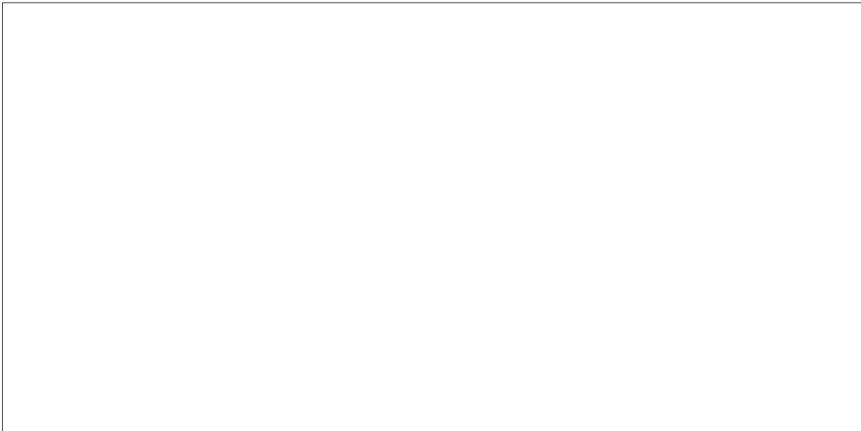
~~Top Secret~~ 26 October 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
26 OCTOBER 1967

1. North Vietnam



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2. South Vietnam

The 137 deputies elected to the lower house last Sunday seem to cover a broad spectrum of religious, occupational, regional, and political colorations. Thirty-five are Catholics and 46 are Buddhists. Only a few of the latter are clearly identified with either the militant or the Buddhist moderate factions; most may be just nominal Buddhists unresponsive to either faction.

By regional origin, 32 are North Vietnamese, 44 come from the central part of the country, and 57 from the area around Saigon and the Delta. Active or retired military men account for only 34 of the 137 total.

3. Peru

President Belaunde told Ambassador Jones on Tuesday that Peru would not back out of the deal to buy French Mirage fighter-bombers. Belaunde said it was a waste of time to discuss substituting F-5s. He added that if this meant an end to economic relations between Peru and the US, the sooner he knew about it the better.

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#### 4. Egypt

Eyewitnesses describe the destruction at the Suez refinery as "extensive if not total." Production facilities are completely out of commission, at least temporarily, and perhaps half of Egypt's storage capacity has been destroyed or damaged. Rebuilding may take two years.

Petroleum provides about two thirds of Egypt's total energy requirements, so a very large share of the country's remaining industrial production will suffer. To keep its present level of consumption, Egypt would have to import about \$5 million worth of refined products each month.

All in all, the damage done by Israeli shelling is a major blow to the Egyptian economy.

#### 5. Chile

We are expecting some anti-American demonstrations in Chile early next week when assorted youth groups hold a three-day "conference" on Vietnam. These groups represent various shades of the political left; Communist organizers have been imported. While there reportedly will be an effort to restrain violence, volatile Latin youngsters could get out of hand very quickly.

#### 6. Greece

The few Communist extremists who have not yet been caught in the junta's nets may try to stir up trouble Saturday when Greeks celebrate "Oxi" Day.

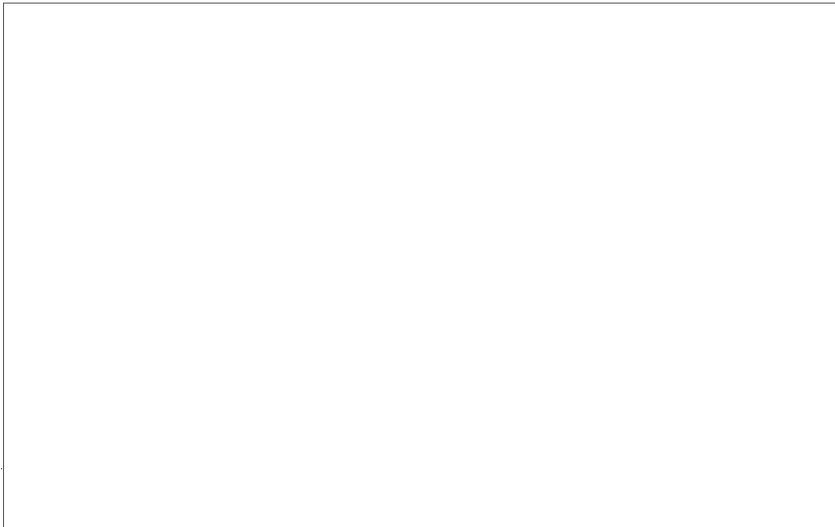
Oxi means "no" and is a national holiday marking the date in 1940 when Mussolini's ultimatum was rejected. The military regime will be very much on the alert.

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7. Communist China



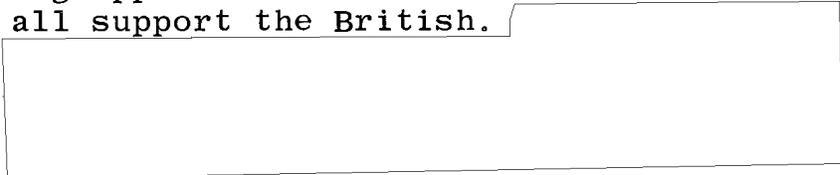
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8. Congo

There are one or two hundred European mercenaries in Portuguese Angola, and Ambassador McBride in Kinshasa is quite concerned they may invade the western Congo. These mercenaries could move north and take the Congolese capital with little opposition, but so far they have given few indications of when--or if--they plan to move. The ambassador's concern is sharpened by the slow, bureaucratic pace with which the International Red Cross is working on evacuation of Schramme's mercenaries from the eastern Congo.

9. United Kingdom

The meeting of the European Community's Council in Luxembourg earlier this week left the sides as sharply drawn as ever over Britain's bid for membership. Without flatly saying no, the French left no doubt as to their strong and continuing opposition. The other five members all support the British.

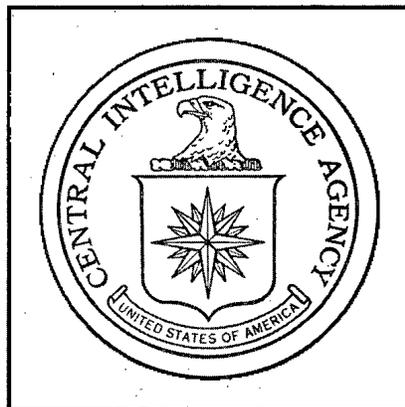


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*FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY*

## Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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26 October 1967

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Photography of North Vietnam:

graphs [redacted] photo- showed no unusual buildup of supplies in Haiphong. This indicates that the North Vietnamese had still been able to move supplies out of the port city. The pictures do show, however, that the Hanoi-Haiphong rail line remains blocked at Haiphong and at a point midway between the two cities.

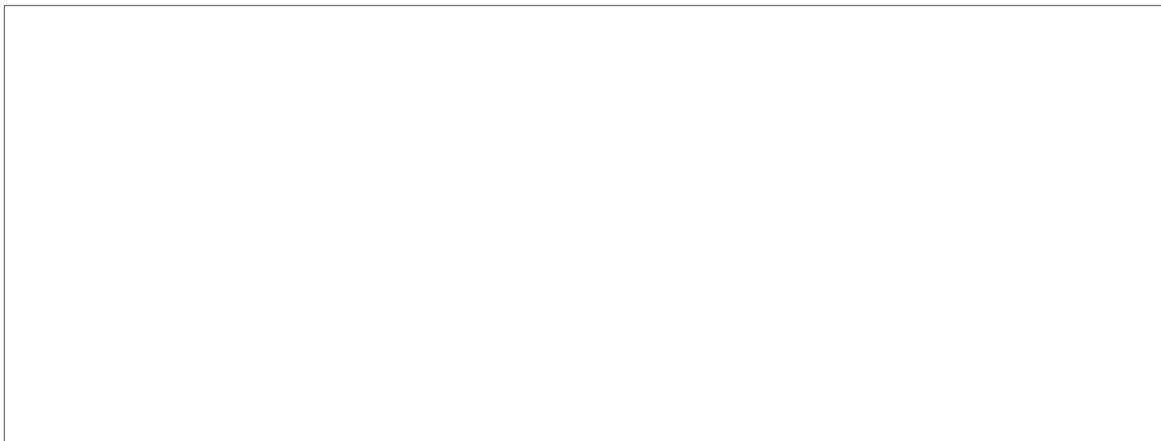
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The mission found no evidence of surface-to-surface missile deployment.

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AFP on Bombings in Hanoi Area: The French news agency correspondent in Hanoi has reported on yesterday's bombing raids near the city. The article states that US planes dropped their loads straight above the center of the city, but that the bombs angled north, falling around the Paul Doumer Bridge and farther north. The report claims that bombs fell in a residential area and states that it was announced that a projectile hit offices of the Government Cultural Services. The article also notes that the population of Hanoi watched as two planes were shot down, one by a surface-to-air missile and the other by anti-aircraft fire. The correspondent said one span of the Doumer bridge had "sunk sideways into the water."

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

Further Hanoi Commentary on US Antiwar Movement: North Vietnam is maintaining a drumbeat of propaganda on the antiwar movement in the US. The Hanoi daily Nhan Dan, in a 25 October editorial, asserts that the movement "has taken an important step forward" through the recent week of nationwide protest. The editorial notes the "unprecedented scale and fierceness" of the demonstrations and claims that the American people have made it clear that the US is conducting an "immoral and criminal" war in Vietnam. Hanoi exults that President Johnson's administration has shown "utter confusion" in the face of the widespread demonstrations, and predicts "still stronger development" of the antiwar movement in the months ahead. The Nhan Dan editorial concludes with an assertion that by coordinating actions and "stepping up the struggle" the Vietnamese and American people can defeat the US "aggressors."

The Army daily, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, in a 24 October article, also gloats over the recent demonstrations. The article claims that they have occurred in more than 30 major US cities and have dealt "new staggering blows" to the US administration. The administration is described as "frenzied and panic stricken" and the article claims that "flagrant and barbaric terrorism and repression" were used against the demonstrators.

A 25 October Hanoi broadcast in English reports that a mass meeting was held in Hanoi the previous evening to "welcome the success" of the antiwar demonstrations in the US. The keynote speaker at the meeting stated that the US antiwar movement is a "great encouragement" to the Vietnamese people and is "driving US imperialism into further isolation." The meeting sent a message to an antiwar group in the US, hailing their recent success and condemning the "fascist suppression" of the demonstrations by US authorities.

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