



The President's Daily Brief

24 June 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

It now develops that Thieu's assistant for legislative liaison--Nguyen Cao Thang--was behind the recent no confidence motion against Prime Minister Huong in the lower house. Thang and Huong have long been political enemies, but what set Thang off this time was the promulgation of higher taxes on pharmaceutical products. Thang is a wealthy pharmaceutical importer.

The no confidence motion is not expected to get anywhere in the upper house, but the incident provides yet another example of Thieu's problems in harnessing the disparate and often contending elements which support him. Huong will most likely weather this latest storm, but growing criticism of his performance may soon prompt Thieu to make major changes.

MIDDLE EAST

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Egyptian Air Force officers think they will need 400 trained pilots before they can hope to gain air superiority in any offensive against Israel. At present, however, there are at most only 120. A number of Egyptians are being trained in the Soviet Union, but it will be months before they can be considered combat-ready.

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An oil pipeline in the Israeli port of Haifa was blown up this morning, according to Jerusalem radio.

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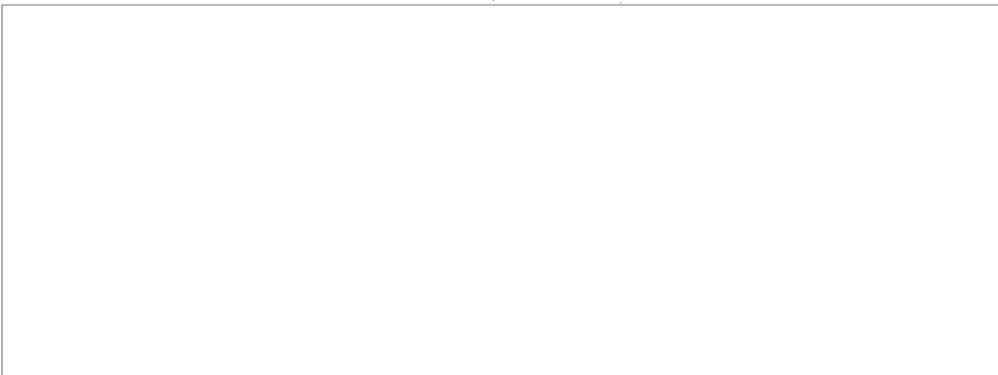
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There is nothing significant to report on Europe or Soviet Affairs.

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

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SUDAN - SOVIET UNION



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