



The President's Daily Brief



1 October 1969

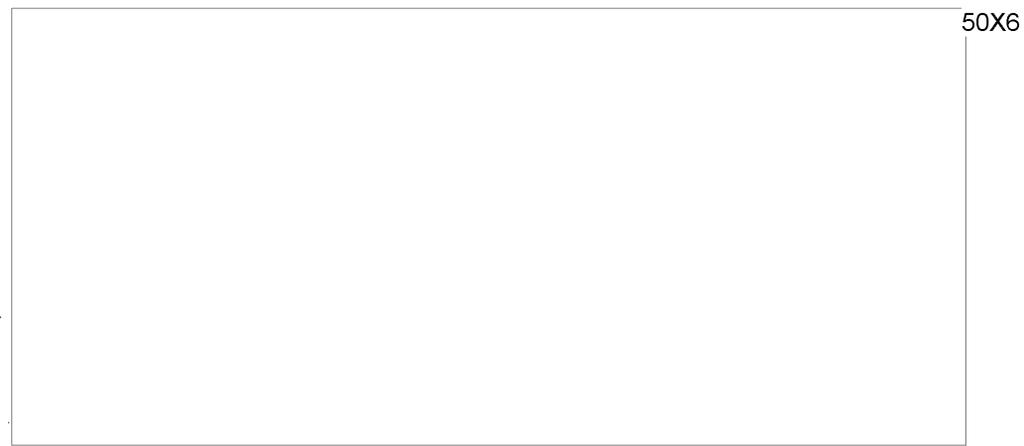
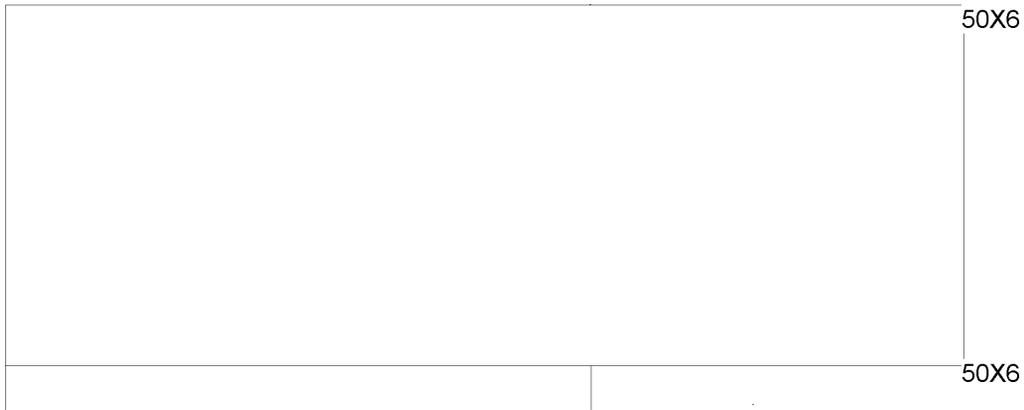
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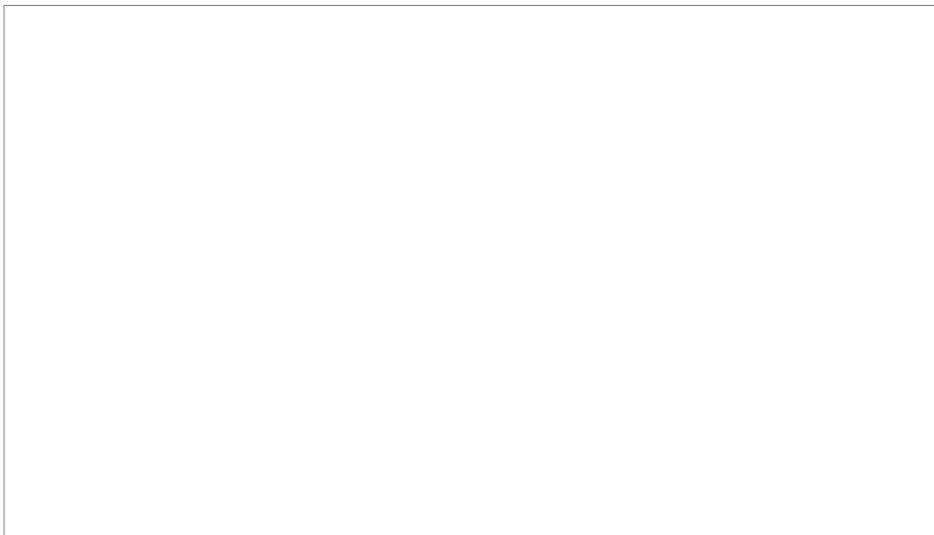
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WEST GERMANY



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ISRAEL

What promises to be a fairly quiet Knesset election campaign opened Sunday. Quiet or not, it is bringing to light some significant developments. We believe, for instance, that the elections may mark the end of the slim parliamentary majority now held by the Labor Party/MAPAM alignment. Mrs. Meir will doubtless stay on as premier, but the Labor Party's hope of attaining an absolute majority may have gone a-glimmering. With it will go the prospect of constitutional reforms designed to eliminate the smaller parties from the legislature.

Widespread fear of domination by a "monolithic" Labor Party has in fact been one of the factors contributing to the recent decline in the party's following. There are two more

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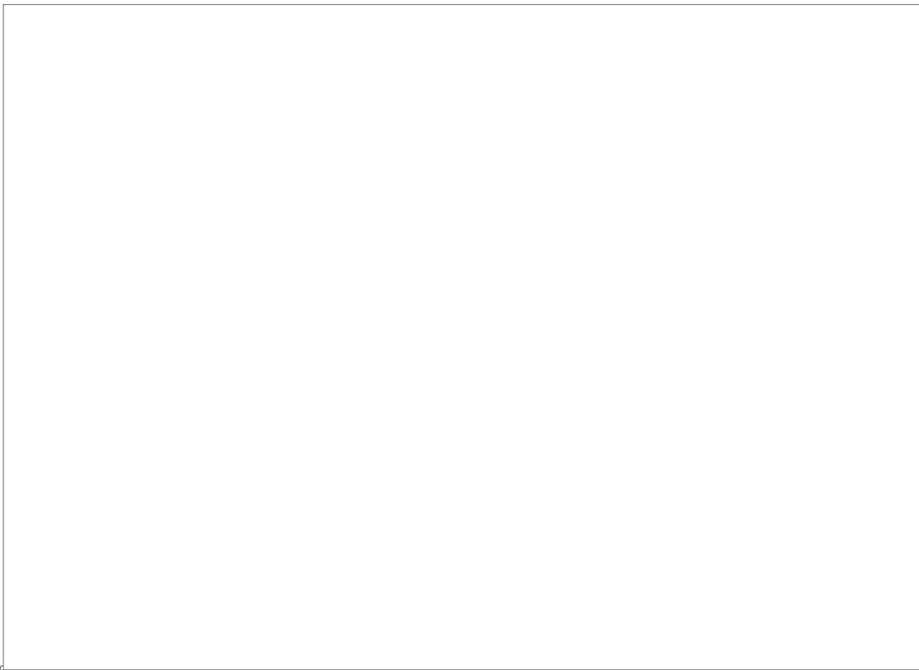
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immediate reasons, however; a growing feeling in the electorate that the present government is not sufficiently militant toward the Arab states or sufficiently assiduous in promoting Israel's security, and a general failure by the Labor Party's old guard to appeal to the younger generation. In an effort to minimize the losses on both these latter scores, Dayan is being pushed more and more to the front. We note, for example, that he is in the fourth spot on the list of the alignment's candidates; earlier reports had him occupying a place in the twenties or thirties.

SOVIET UNION

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COMMUNIST CHINA



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Preliminary accounts of the anniversary observance in Peking today, broadcast over Peking Radio's domestic service, include the announcement that both Mao Tse-tung and Lin Piao were present. Neither had appeared in public since mid-May. Mao was described as being "in excellent health and full of vigor;" Lin was said to be "also in good spirits."

PANAMA

The Panamanians are again making noises about the canal issue after some months of relative quiet. The controlled

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local press is emphasizing Foreign Minister Pitty's recent remarks at the UN that the "unjust" 1903 treaty must be abrogated. This may be followed, according to a knowledgeable source of the US Embassy, by similar criticism of the 1967 draft treaty. By this two-pronged tactic the government hopes to rally popular support both for itself and for renegotiating the old treaty.

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