



*The President's Daily Brief*



2 October 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

WEST GERMANY

Brandt is pulling out all the stops in his pursuit of the chancellorship. He has sent a personal message to Prime Minister Wilson, asking London's help in his fight to get full voting rights for the West Berlin Bundestag delegation. Wilson could find it hard to say no to a fellow socialist, even though until now his government has opposed such a change in the status of Berlin's deputies.

For what it is worth, a long-time East German contact of the US Mission in Berlin says the East Berlin delegates in the East German Volkskammer were allowed to vote and had their votes counted "for the first time" when the Nonproliferation Treaty was voted on. This was "our gift to Brandt," he added.

USSR

The Soviets are preparing for a manned space flight which may involve two Soyuz spacecraft in near-earth orbits.

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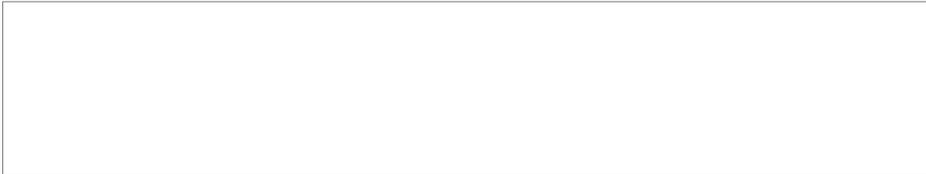
The Soyuz mission last January involved the rendezvous and docking of two manned spacecraft and the transfer of crew members from one craft to another. The upcoming mission may include further progress toward establishing a near-earth space station.

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USSR - COMMUNIST CHINA

The tone of Soviet treatment of China's 20th anniversary dramatizes earlier evidence that Moscow wants talks on border problems. In contrast, for example, to last year's cold and terse message to the Chinese people on their national day, this year's congratulations are conciliatory, asserting a desire for normalization of relations and settlement of vexing problems by means of negotiations. The Soviets may even intend such phrases to signal anticipation of talks.

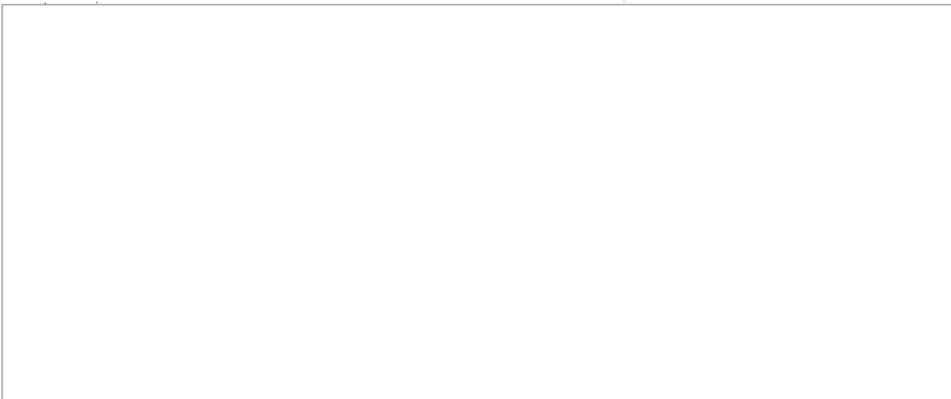
For their part, the Chinese yesterday published an authoritative editorial referring to their desire for settlement of border disputes through negotiations. This merely reiterates China's official position, but its timing could be an indicator that talks are in prospect.



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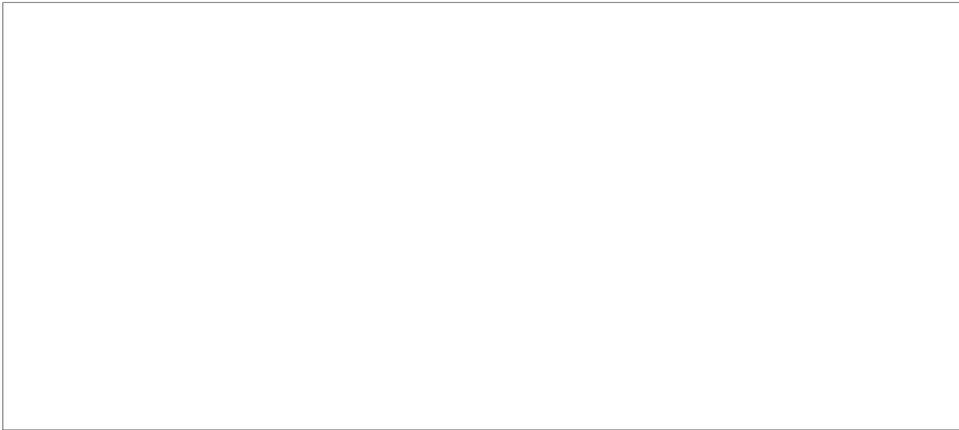
LEBANON-USSR

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**BOLIVIA**

The Bolivians are continuing to talk of the need for an "ideological confederation" with Peru. They are getting very little encouragement indeed from Lima, and Foreign Minister Mercado is on record as saying that the "Peruvian revolution is not for export." Apparently the Peruvians fear that too close an identification with Bolivia will hinder their own efforts to appear more respectable.

**ARGENTINA**

The Ongania government has been finding itself caught more and more often between the only two political forces that matter in Argentina: labor and the military. Over the last four months there has been a series of strikes, including three general strikes, and each time the government has had trouble keeping the situation in hand. Last weekend it headed off yet another general strike, but it did so only by threatening to move against the unions if the strike came off and then by offering them a substantial wage increase.

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The military is watching this sparring with increasing distaste--a distaste enhanced by the fact that it has occasionally been called on to perform unpalatable police work against the strikers. The unions of course are still strongholds of Peronism, and labor's new militancy would raise the army's hackles for this reason alone. But in addition, labor unrest could jeopardize the economic reform dear to the hearts of the generals.

Ongania still has a good deal going for him; things are not really out of control, and in any case there is nobody at the moment of comparable stature to whom the military could turn. If he cannot keep the unions in line, however, the army is likely to start looking a bit harder for a replacement.

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