



The President's Daily Brief

7 October 1969



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~~Top Secret~~

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

The format of *THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF* has been changed. One major objective of the new format is to make more readily apparent the distinction between the essential facts of a situation and CIA's best analytic judgment as to the implications of these facts. To this end, regular typeface will be used to present the facts, and italics for our analytic comment. Italics will also be used to sketch in essential background information, to point up the intelligence problems associated with certain developments, and on occasion for the Director of Central Intelligence's personal observations on particularly sensitive matters.

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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The background to South Vietnamese [redacted]

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[redacted] Soviets [redacted]

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Israel. [redacted]

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Italy's effort to establish diplomatic relations with Communist China is stymied. (Page 5)

General Emilio Medici will be Brazil's next President. (Page 6)

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VIETNAM

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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LIBYA-USSR

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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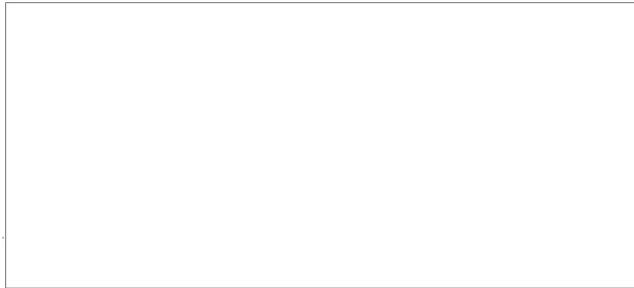
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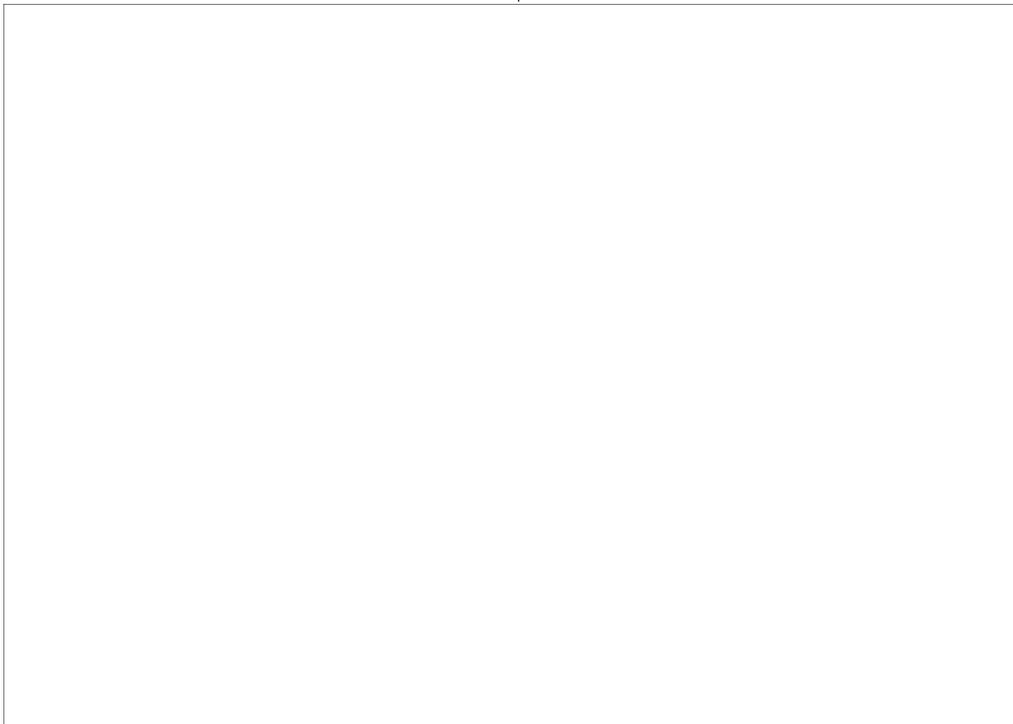
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SOVIET UNION

The latest satellite photography shows a new group of six SS-9 ICBM silos under construction at the Imeni Gastello complex.



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ISRAEL-FEDAYEEN

In spite of stringent countermeasures by Israeli security forces, fedayeen guerrillas are an increasing threat in the occupied territories and within Israel itself.



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CHINA-ITALY

Italian efforts to establish diplomatic relations with Communist China have been stalled. According to a sensitive State Department report from Rome, the Chinese insist that the Italians must first publicly endorse Peking's claim to sovereignty over Taiwan.

A similar Chinese demand also has stalemated Sino-Canadian negotiations on recognition. So far Peking has shown no inclination to compromise with either country, clearly believing that time is on its side.

For their part, the Italians and the Canadians are reluctant to meet China's demand. They hope to be able to maintain trade and other informal contacts with Taiwan even after they recognize Peking. It looks as if these negotiations will be protracted.

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BRAZIL

The joint high command of the armed services yesterday selected General Emilio Medici to succeed ailing President Costa e Silva. Reportedly, he will be inaugurated on 15 November.

The 63-year-old Medici is a firm supporter of Costa e Silva. During the President's first two years in office, Medici was one of his closest advisers as well as head of the National Intelligence Service. Medici is generally well regarded among his contemporaries as a career soldier and as a political moderate, but some younger officers have been concerned by his lack of dynamic qualities. He strongly backed the executive's assumption of sharply increased authoritarian powers last December, but he apparently also agreed with Costa e Silva's more recent intention to permit a slight return to political normalcy.

Medici is an advocate of good relations with the US.

The long delay in choosing Costa e Silva's successor had been generating criticism and discontent among the military. Even now the armed forces are by no means united. Many officers are opposed to the presidential ambitions of General Albuquerque Lima, who may not yet be resigned to defeat, and whose younger officer supporters have been making known their unhappiness.

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LATIN AMERICA

[redacted] leftist terrorists in almost all Latin countries may attack US personnel and installations this week in commemoration of the capture and death of Che Guevara, observed generally about 8 October. In Mexico, for example, the embassy has learned that extremists have discussed plans to kidnap Ambassador McBride or another US official--to be exchanged, as in Brazil, for political prisoners. Less specific threats in Venezuela have caused a military alert, and in violence-prone Ecuador the security forces are bracing for disorderly demonstrations by students and others. Other countries lack precise information, but most have instituted extra precautions.

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Yesterday's bombings of branch offices of several US firms in Argentina may have been linked only to wage negotiations now in progress, but the burning of the USIS library in Buenos Aires last night was probably the work of extreme leftists.

It also appears that terrorists may be seeking easier targets than US officials. The son and the secretary of the honorary Swiss Consul in Cali, Colombia, who also manages a large US business there, were kidnapped on Monday, and were being held for \$300,000 ransom.

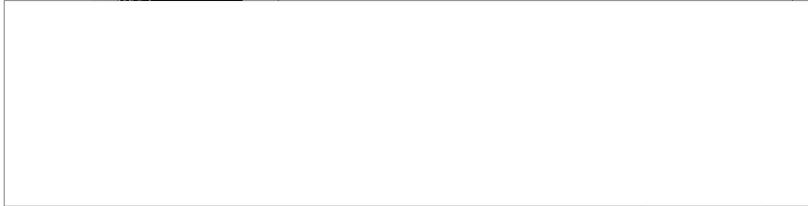
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NOTES

USSR-Egypt:

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USSR: The next Soviet manned space shot could be launched at any time. Soviet space support ships have now reached positions in the Atlantic and Pacific from where they will support the upcoming Soyuz mission (see *The President's Daily Brief* of 2 October 1969).

East Germany: Brezhnev and leaders of all the Warsaw Pact states (save Romania, which sent a lower level representative commensurate with East Germany's treatment of its own recent festivities) are gathered in East Berlin, but it does not appear that a summit conference is in progress. The activities of the visitors and the strenuous schedules of the East German leaders tend to indicate that the primary purpose of this turnout is to demonstrate solidarity with Pankow on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. East German party boss Ulbricht was looking fit and natty for his 76 years; apparently he is fully recovered from his indisposition of July and August.

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