



The President's Daily Brief

20 October 1969

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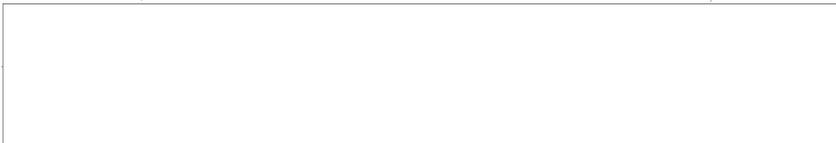
FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

President Thieu's cabinet discusses the Vietnamization program. Also, Thieu reportedly favors forming a new party. (Page 1)



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Japanese police are braced for "International Antiwar Day." (Page 5)

Anti-American sentiment is sweeping Bolivia in the wake of the nationalization of Gulf Oil. (Page 6)

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VIETNAM

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Widespread uneasiness about Vietnamization in lower echelons of the South Vietnamese Government clearly is shared by some of the men at the top. Thieu seems to be fairly confident about US intentions concerning Vietnam, but he is apprehensive about the effects of domestic American sentiment against the war. Instead of simply wringing his hands, however, he seems to be trying hard to come to grips with the realities of Vietnamization and to implement programs of his own which could help it to succeed.

* * *

Minister of State Phan Quang Dan is hinting that President Thieu has blessed his idea of forming a "government party." Dan recently told the US Embassy that he believes the only way to generate popular support for the government is to form a political party from the bottom up.

(continued)

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The party would extend to government functionaries at the hamlet level. Dan observed that Thieu had had "bitter experiences" in his efforts to broaden the government's base by working through the leadership of existing political parties. Dan charged that South Vietnam's politicians are "constitutionally incapable of acting in concert."

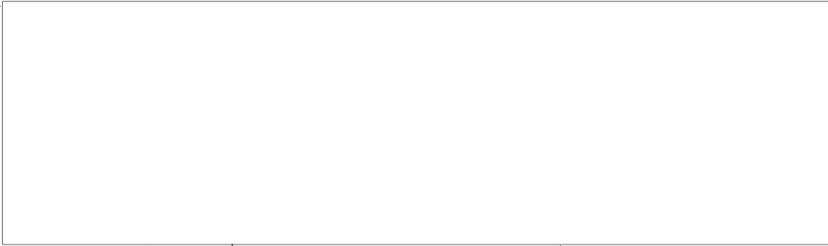
Although it is not clear where Dan's proposal fits into Thieu's political planning, there is evidence that the President has for some time been thinking along similar lines. He has brought back into the government some former members of the Diem Government's elite Can Lao Party

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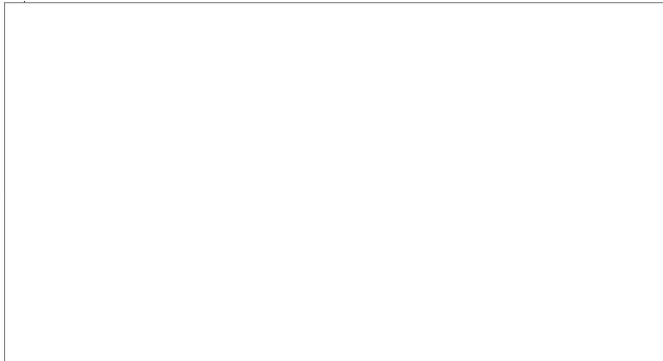
Thieu also seems to be giving short shrift to the politicians in the progovernment National Social Democratic Front.

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USSR



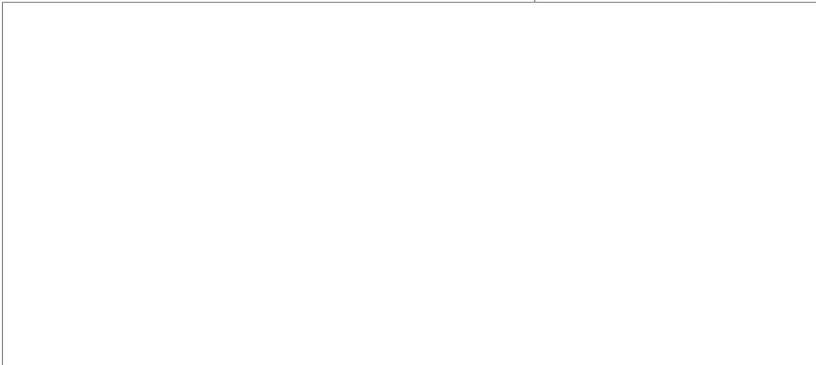
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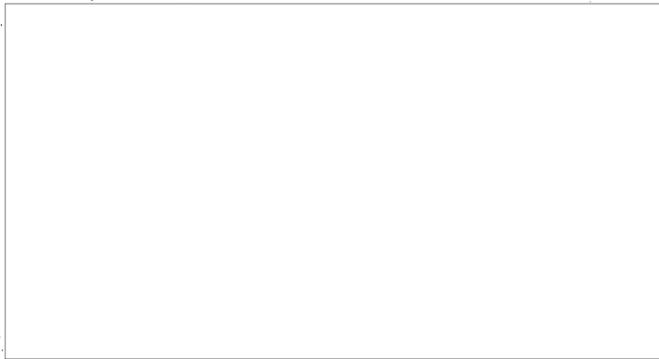
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USSR - MIDDLE EAST



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JAPAN

Japanese police are bracing themselves for a massive turnout of demonstrators on "International Antiwar Day" tomorrow. The demonstrations will be focused, as in the past, against the US-Japan security treaty. A countrywide total of more than 300,000 is expected, the largest since the antitreaty rallies of 1960, with about 80,000 in Tokyo.

Although the majority will be nonviolent members of the traditional left, there will also be sizable numbers of student and labor extremists, against whom the police will have to concentrate most of their resources. Security authorities expect these radicals to mount hit-and-run attacks on rail stations, government offices, and the US Embassy.

As a warmup for Tuesday's demonstrations, radical students staged a series of raids in Tokyo over the weekend. One group threw molotov cocktails onto the grounds of Sato's residence; another temporarily occupied one floor of the headquarters of the prime minister's party.

The radical left views its nonviolent demonstrations earlier this month as an experiment that failed because significant numbers of uncommitted Japanese did not rally to the antitreaty cause. It apparently hopes that this time, by returning to violent tactics carried out by widely dispersed groups, it can stretch the capabilities of the police to the fullest. The outcome of tomorrow's trial of strength will have an important bearing on the scope of leftist protests when Sato leaves for Washington in November.

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BOLIVIA

Bolivians generally are overjoyed at their government's decision to nationalize Gulf--so much so that editorialists and political leaders are calling for the nationalization of other US-owned industries. A wave of anti-American sentiment has swept the country, accentuated by some attacks on official US installations. Army guards have been provided to prevent further damage.

The government is already seeking aid to operate the Gulf facilities. Diplomatic relations were established with Romania within hours of the expropriation, and we have reports that agreements for technical aid were signed almost immediately.

Ovando is the kind of leader who finds out where the parade is going and then gets in front of it. In spite of his previously expressed reluctance to nationalize Gulf, he could not resist pressure from the militant leftists in the government. Now that Ovando has taken his first step, the leftists, under the leadership of anti-American Minister of Mines Quiroga, can push him along faster and farther than he wants to to. Quiroga wants to be president, and

the leftists have a scheme to take over altogether if Ovando resists being their front man.

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