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[North Vietnam: Truong Chinh appears to stand "first among equals" in North Vietnam's new leadership.

In a recent speech, Chinh chastised the staff of a prominent pictorial magazine for overemphasizing the war and ignoring "the building of socialism" in North Vietnam. He charged that this had been going on since 1966, and his words left no doubt that this emphasis was going to be changed in the future.

Truong Chinh for more than a year has been pushing this theme and touched on it in a speech to the National Assembly last month. That address was the only other significant policy statement by an individual leader to be broadcast by the regime since Ho Chi Minh's death. Moreover, it is among the study documents of a current politburo indoctrination campaign.

Chinh's latest remarks are the best evidence to date that he may be the dominant figure among Hanoi's leaders.



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Arab States: Reaction to the Lebanese Government's crackdown on fedayeen activities may bring armed conflict in Lebanon and Jordan.

Demonstrations occurred in Lebanon's major cities of Beirut and Tripoli yesterday. Further outbursts, including some in refugee camps, are a distinct possibility, particularly if the Voice of Fatah or leftist Lebanese leaders further incite the populace. Following an attack by fedayeen on seven soldiers near a refugee camp in Tripoli, which also occurred yesterday, the Lebanese Army Command ordered army and gendarmerie units to enter all refugee camps and disarm armed occupants. Other units are standing by to bring any civil disturbances that might erupt in major urban centers under immediate control.

Major fedayeen political leaders met in Amman yesterday and called upon the heads of Arab states to intervene with Lebanon on behalf of the guerrillas. The radical governments of Iraq and Syria had already voiced their support. Iraq offered its army's assistance, and Syria threatened to take firmer action, closing its border with Lebanon. Later in the day Lebanese posts along the Syrian border reported Syrian Army and fedayeen units supported by tanks and armored cars massing at border positions. Libya has withdrawn its ambassador from Beirut, and Algeria has hinted it might also break relations. Egyptian President Nasir has informed Hilu of his concern and has asked him to end the army-fedayeen confrontation. Lebanon last night announced it would submit the fedayeen question to the Arab League. It is unlikely, however, that the Lebanese will be successful in gaining League support for their position.

Jordan's King Husayn, who has been having his own problems with the fedayeen, reportedly met with his advisers to review the political and military situation in his country. There was a large demonstration yesterday in Amman protesting the Lebanese

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Government's actions. In addition, recent fedayeen broadcasts to Jordan have been calling on the army, the bedouin, and the East Bank's population to stand behind the guerrillas. The fedayeen, fearing a coordinated crackdown on their activities in both Lebanon and Jordan and emboldened by the actions of the radical Arab states, might decide to challenge both the Lebanese and Jordanian Governments at this time. Amman, however, is confident that it can deal effectively with any serious disturbances that might erupt.

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Somali Republic: Reformist army colonels seem to be the real force within the revolutionary council.

Several knowledgeable sources have told the US Embassy they doubt that the army and police commanders, under whose names the council's initial orders were issued, were involved in planning the coup. General Siad, the army chief, was presumably included on the council to preserve army unity. Although the membership of the council is still not known, several colonels and lieutenant colonels rumored to be influential junta members are known to be enemies of Siad.

In a statement broadcast yesterday, the council said it had prepared a new constitution for the "Democratic Republic of Somalia," and that the council would elect a new president. The statement did not elaborate on specific provisions of the new constitution nor did it say when the president would be named.

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Chile: The one-day army revolt that ended early yesterday will have prolonged repercussions.

General Roberto Viaux received concessions from the government before he surrendered. Unpopular retired General Marambio has been replaced as defense minister by Sergio Ossa, a civilian who is a close associate of President Frei. Army commander Castillo is reportedly on his way out as well. In his surrender speech Viaux also claimed that the President had agreed to solve the problems such as inadequate pay and equipment that had touched off the dissidence.

Viaux's complaints that the armed forces have been generally shortchanged in recent years are widely shared. If he and the officers who joined him are court-martialed, they could become martyrs, which would have important political implications.



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USSR: In an unusual statement, the Soviet party's Central Committee has expressed general approval of the controversial Shchekino experiment, but has stopped short of decreeing its extension to other enterprises.

The experiment's use of monetary incentives and enterprise initiative to effect economic improvements--including laying off excess workers--is a departure from orthodox Soviet concepts of management. It has already generated heated debate between traditionalists and modernizers.

The aim of the experiment, begun two years ago, is to raise output while using fewer workers. At the Shchekino Chemical Combine, the labor force has been reduced while the funds available for paying wages have remained the same. Savings in the wage fund have been distributed as increased pay to the remaining workers.

The Central Committee in early October gave major credit to the combine's party organization for initiating the experiment, and urged party and government organizations to take measures to follow the Shchekino example. The Central Committee, however, did not pronounce directly on the heart of the experiment, which is the assurance managers are given that they will not be penalized financially by releasing redundant workers. A manager's income is dependent in part on the size of the wage fund of his plant.

In August, an official of the State Committee overseeing the experiment said it did not merit immediate general adoption. He termed "harebrained" the suggestion that it demonstrates that enterprise independence should be even further expanded. The labor union newspaper has not discussed the experiment. It has been, however, featuring articles defending workers' rights in cases of dismissal and reassignment.

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France-USSR: Franco-Soviet economic cooperation was reaffirmed during the fourth session of the "Grande Commission," but no major breakthroughs were announced.

The "Grande Commission" is a body set up in 1966 at the ministerial level to explore new areas of Franco-Soviet cooperation. Preliminary agreement was reached at this session on the French providing a gas desulfurization plant and several cellulose plants to the USSR, and on joint machine tool production. Negotiations at a lower level are to be resumed in the near future on the purchase of Soviet natural gas, the exploitation and purchase of Soviet nonferrous minerals, particularly copper, and on the amount of credits and interest rates to be included in a new financial protocol.

According to French press reports, some disagreements were noted as the Soviets attempted to increase their exports to France. In particular, the Soviets made their purchase of a French truck factory contingent on the annual French purchase of 10,000 to 20,000 trucks--a condition the French are unwilling to accept. The USSR also requested the termination of French import restrictions on Soviet products.

The recent talks were aimed primarily at arranging trade goals for their 1970-74 trade pact which seeks to double the level of trade by 1974. Trade has grown rapidly between the two countries, but earlier French trade imbalances now have given way to large Soviet trade deficits.

France was among the USSR's principal Western suppliers last year, with exports of some \$295 million, while its imports were only \$137 million. France probably will achieve another large trade surplus with the USSR this year. The 1974 trade goal may prove overly ambitious unless France is willing to increase its imports from the USSR.

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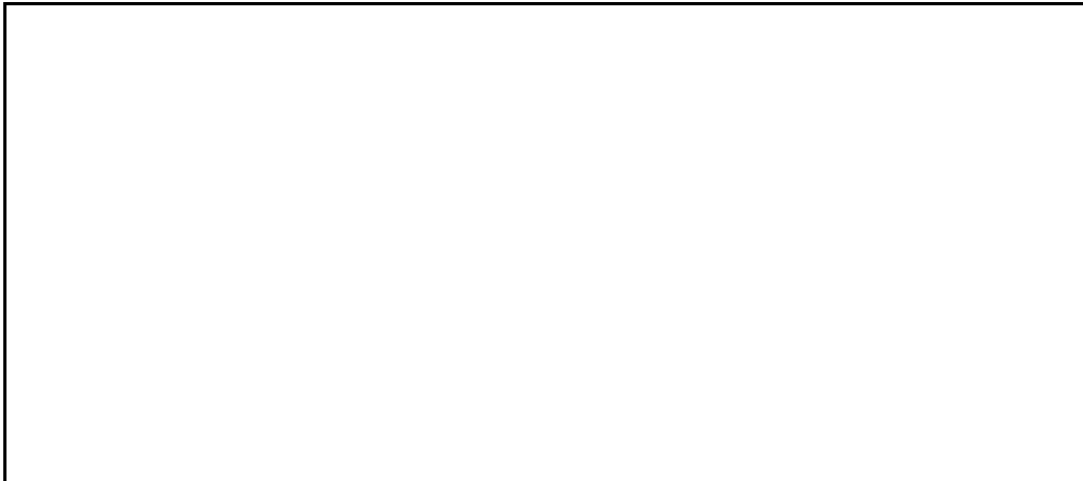
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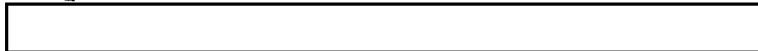
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Nigeria: The Biafrans have reacted negatively to another Red Cross move to initiate relief flights during daylight hours. Red Cross flights have been suspended since June, although religious agencies have continued to fly considerable amounts of relief supplies to the secessionists at night. A Red Cross mission that recently visited Biafra reported the food situation was still bad there. There are no signs, however, that the Biafrans are willing to sacrifice military and possible political gains for food relief.



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Bolivia: The US-owned South American Placers Company may be the next firm expropriated by the Ovando government. Workers have occupied the small mining company's facilities since 18 October, and are demanding that it be nationalized. Minister of Mines Quiroga has told the press that he requested the miners to abandon their occupation, but he was later overheard saying that the workers should stay on until further notice.

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[redacted] a decree to nationalize the company has already been drawn up, and there is speculation that the US-owned Matilde Mines will also be nationalized. Action against the companies could come on 31 October, the seventeenth anniversary of the nationalization of Bolivia's tin mines.

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Dominican Republic: The opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party is threatening to stage a "mass protest" if the government does not immediately release all persons arrested after last Sunday's clash between police and party sympathizers. The public ultimatum is probably designed to enlist popular sympathy for the party's contention that the incident was just another repressive police action designed to ensure President Balaguer's re-election next year. Whether the prisoners are released or not, it is possible that some elements of the party will try to stage a demonstration in the next few days. It is doubtful, however, that the government will issue a demonstration permit, and any illegal protests are likely to breed further violence.

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