



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 4 June 1968



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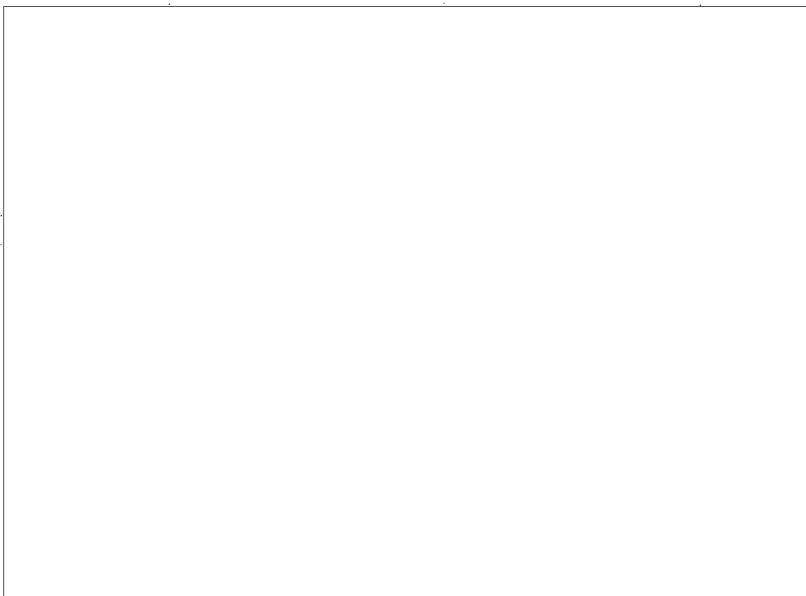
THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
4 JUNE 1968

1. North Vietnam

Hanoi has "corrected" its English language broadcast of 1 June which had seemed to suggest a little more flexibility on the issue of a US bombing halt. The "correction," broadcast yesterday, repeated Hanoi's familiar position that the bombing issue must be "determined" before other questions can be taken up.

That formulation, however, still leaves the hint that there might be a phase after an agreement to halt bombing and before an actual cessation, and that substantive talks could take place during that time.

2. South Vietnam



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3. France

This is a day of decision. Thousands of French workers are voting on the accords hammered out over the long holiday weekend by their union leaders. In some key industries they have already turned thumbs down to generous settlement offers. It is too early to forecast a trend, but government hopes for an early, massive return-to-work movement have clearly been frustrated.

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4. Australia

Prime Minister Gorton found his US visit "immensely helpful" and reassuring, according to a member of his staff. The staffman added that Gorton now favors keeping Australian troops in Malaysia and Singapore after 1971. This is a clear shift from his thinking just before his departure for the US.

British plans for assisting Malaysia and Singapore after 1971 will presumably be clarified at next week's five-nation conference in Kuala Lumpur. Gorton will then have a better framework for working out Australia's future defense plans.

5. Japan

A militant student group is preparing for a major "mobilization" this Friday against the US Embassy and outlying consulates. This is "retaliation" for the crash of the US jet last weekend. The students involved are a particularly wild-eyed bunch with a record of violence on anti-US issues.

The Japanese police will be able to cope with them, but probably not without some bloodshed.

6. East Germany

Ulbricht apparently got what he hoped for from Moscow--reassurance of continued Soviet backing for his tough line against Czechoslovakia and West Germany. This is clearly reflected in the communiqué issued after last week's talks in Moscow.

The Soviets have exacted a price, however. Economic agreements worked out last month have the effect of even more closely tying the East German economy to the Soviet's.

7. Arab States -
Israel

The Israelis are preparing for trouble tomorrow, the first anniversary of the war. A general strike has been called in Israeli-occupied Jordan, and Arab terrorists may try something dramatic against Israel.

In Jordan proper, the day will be observed with a mass rally in the capital.

its security procedures will be put to a real test. In Egypt, Nasir has scheduled an anniversary speech which could touch off demonstrations.

Any violence in these or other Arab states could quickly take on anti-US manifestations.

8. Yugoslavia

The government has adopted a fairly conciliatory attitude as it faces the unfamiliar experience of bloody student rioting in the capital. Student demands have so far been concerned mainly with their own affairs at the University, and Tito is anxious to keep it that way.

9. Cuba

[Redacted]

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10. Chile

Strains are growing inside the powerful Communist-Socialist political alliance. The problem: mounting irritation among the more pragmatic Communists over the reckless extremism of their Socialist allies.

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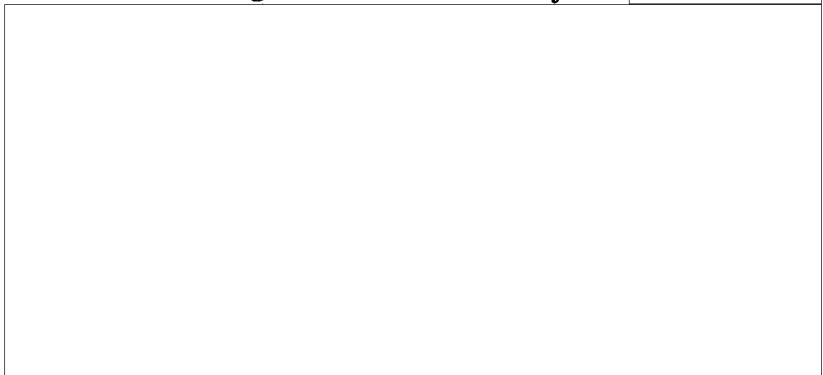
11. Panama

It is not all over yet. [redacted]
[redacted] Arnulfo Arias' people have
gotten wind that the Supreme Court in-
tends to issue a ruling on Wednesday
invalidating Arias' victory. [redacted]

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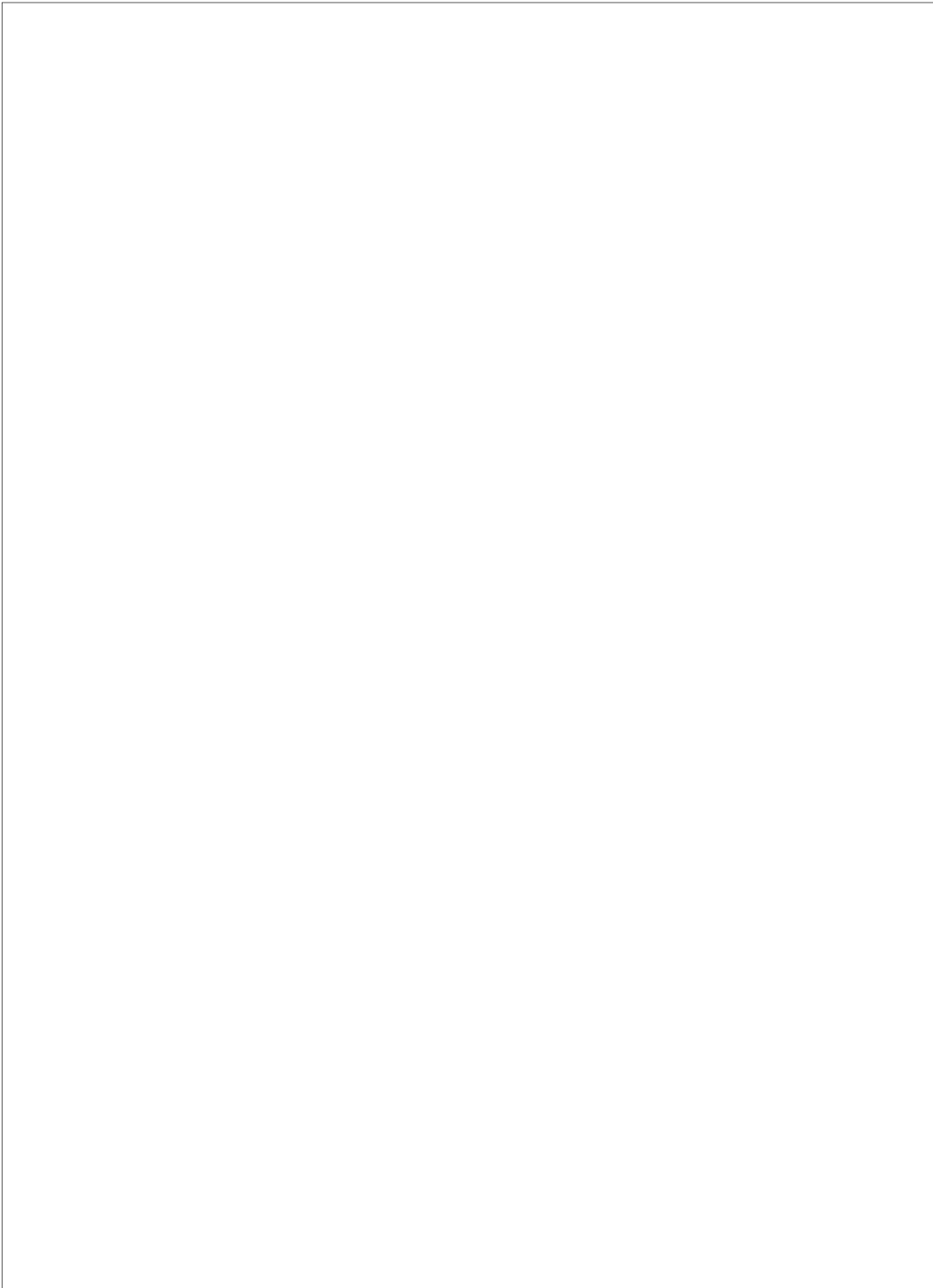
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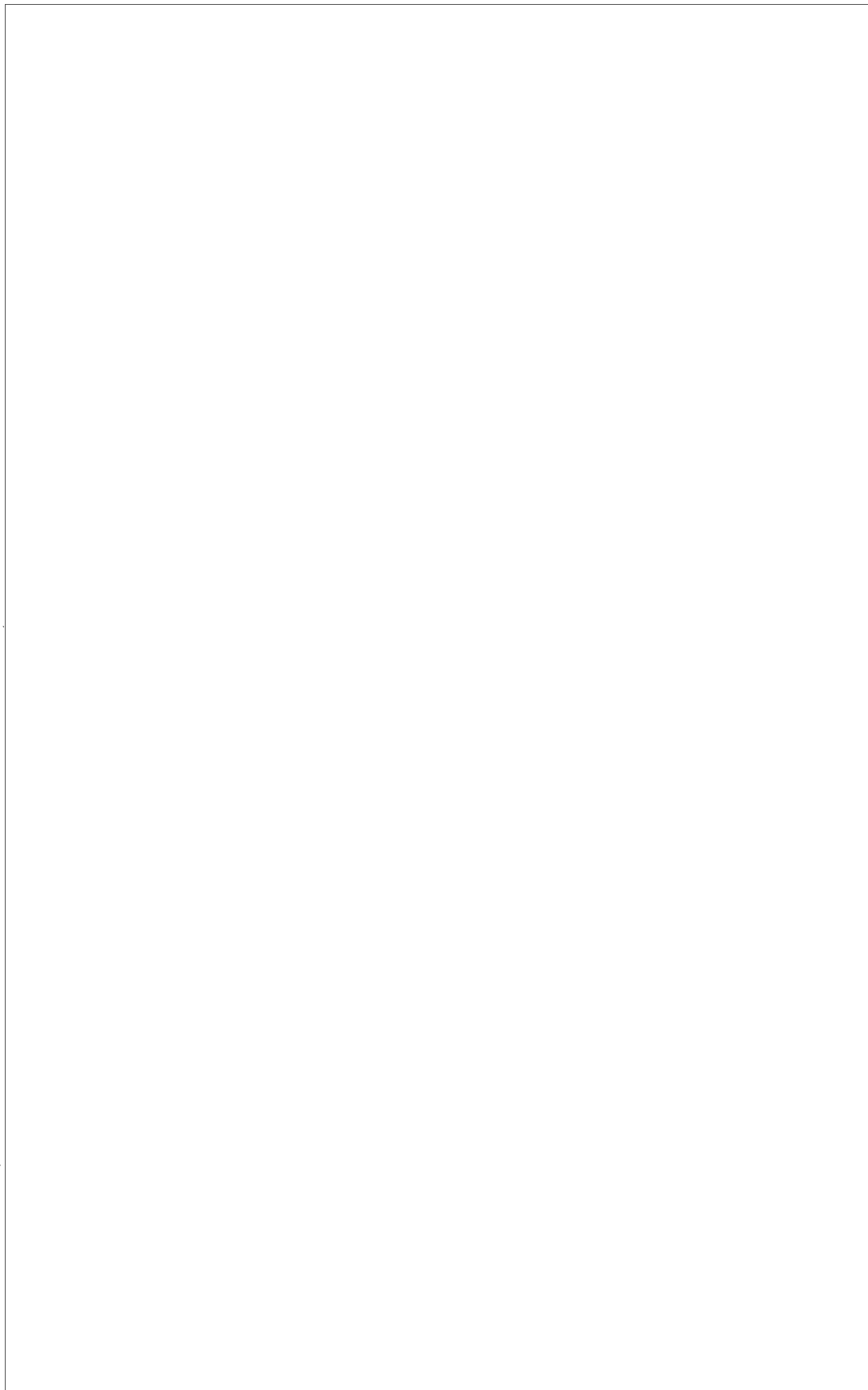
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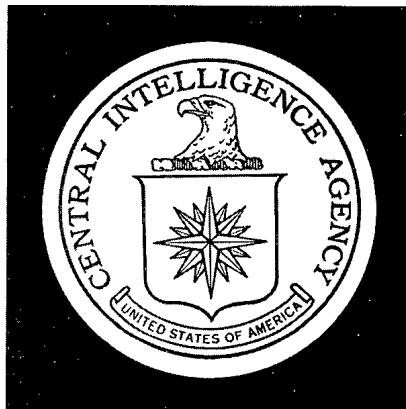
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

4 June 1968

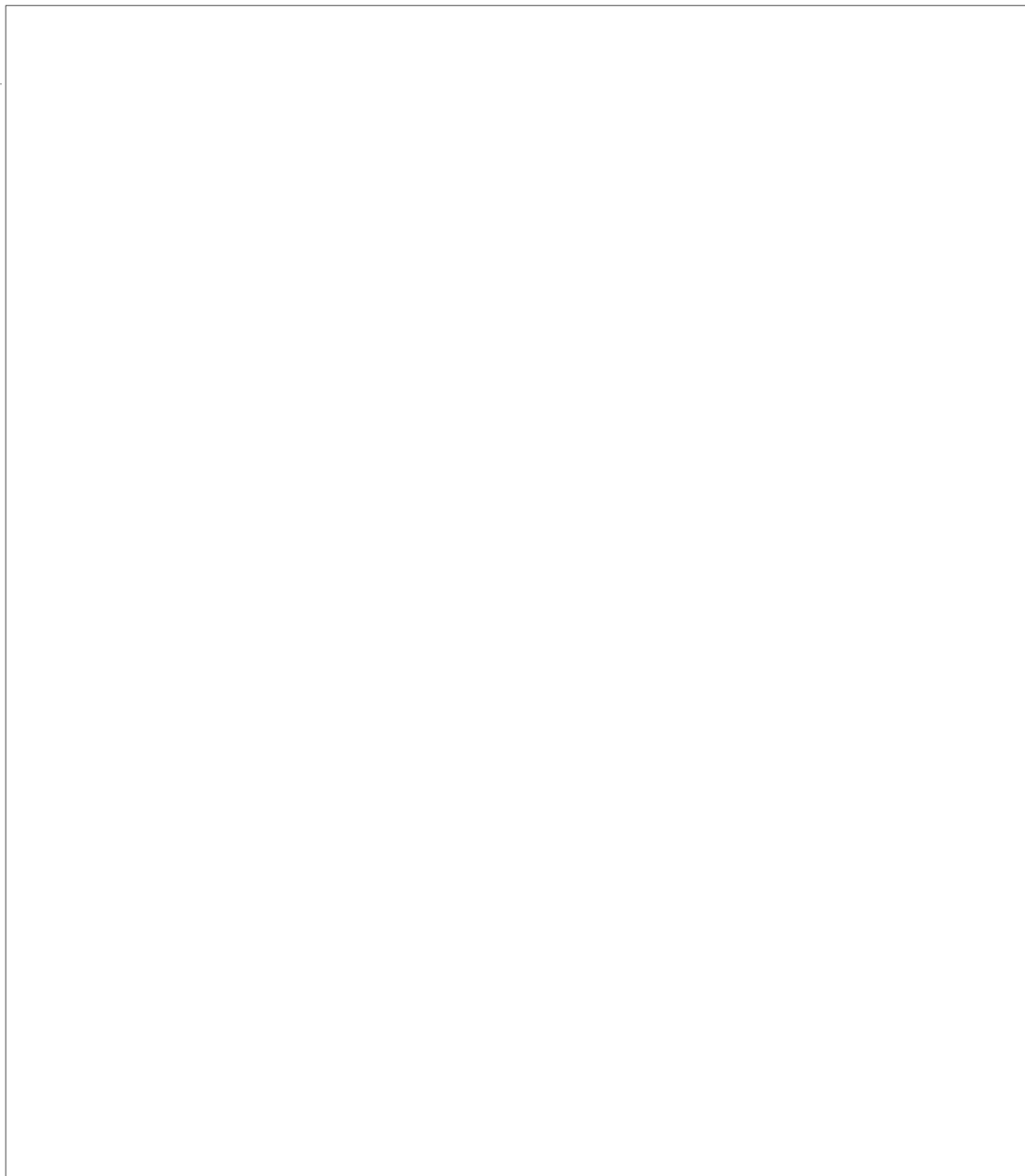
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Front Thanks Chou for Weapons: The president of the presidium of the Liberation Front's Central Committee recently sent a message to Chou En-lai, thanking him for some weapons the Chinese had presented to a visiting Vietnamese "art ensemble." The letter, as broadcast in English over Hanoi's international service on 2 June, took the occasion to reiterate the Front's standard militant line on the war and to praise Chinese solidarity.

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The letter doubtless was designed to serve both as a reminder to US negotiators of the Front's own hard line on the war, and as a gesture toward the even more hawkish regime in Peking. In general, Sino-Vietnamese relations remain as touchy as ever.

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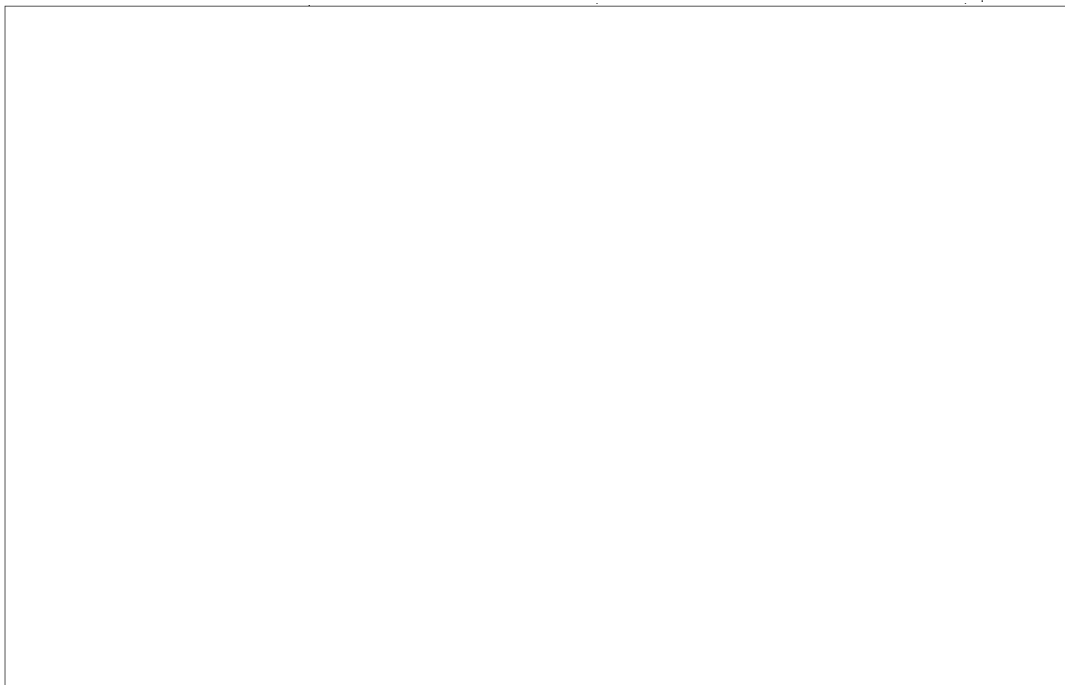
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

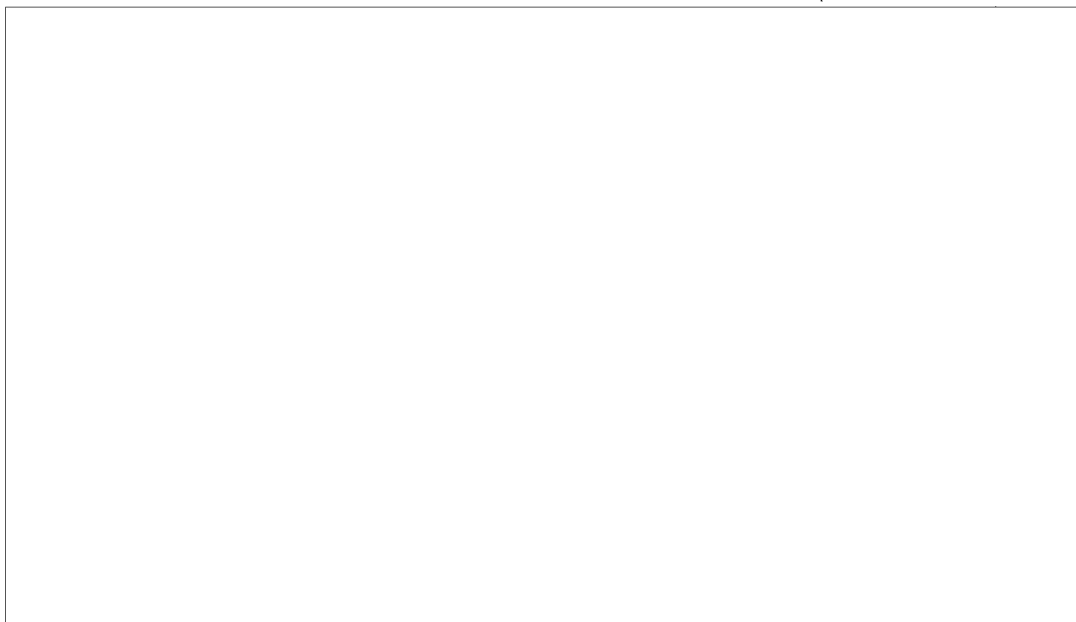
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Protest of Spock Trial: The Liberation Front's Committee for Solidarity with the American People has issued a statement protesting the trial of Dr. Spock and four other opponents of the war. According to the statement, which Hanoi quoted in its international service in English on 3 June, the defendants "are not guilty of any crime. On the contrary, they are genuine patriots who are defending the honor of the United States...." It termed the trial a "vile act" aimed at halting the growing popular opposition to the war.

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