



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
9 AUGUST 1968

1. South Vietnam

In talking recently with George Carver, Prime Minister Huong said he is confident of his ability to curb the corruption pervading the Saigon establishment; the prime minister believes it must be eliminated if the government is to survive.

Huong said that he has the complete support of President Thieu in this task and that the people, now that they see he means business, are volunteering information about corruption. One of the major problems is that his inspection staff is too small to give adequate attention to all the information it is receiving.

Turning to another subject, Huong claimed that covert Communist agitators are working among such groups as the Buddhists, the Catholics, students, and the military. He said that the Buddhists are inherently susceptible to Communist propaganda and that he has proof that some of the Buddhist leaders are Communist agents.

2. Mexico

The call has gone out for a nationwide student strike. Students in Mexico City are set for a mass demonstration today

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3. Israel-Jordan

The Israelis are getting tougher than ever in their public statements and will certainly launch more and harder attacks against Jordan as terrorist incidents continue.

Israeli soldiers, including reservists, were very much in evidence on the streets of Jerusalem on Wednesday.

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4. Iraq

The new "moderate" regime in Iraq is in trouble. We can identify several seriously disgruntled elements inside the country

Some combination of such groups could try for a takeover at any time.

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5. Nigeria

The peace talks in Addis Ababa will probably add up to nothing. Anticipating this, Gowon's federal forces are preparing for a major push against the Biafran heartland; it could come as soon as Sunday.

6. Communist China

The touchy issue of how far to go in damping the Cultural Revolution may be creating new strains in Peking. On Tuesday, two nationally prominent newspapers in Shanghai denounced unnamed forces who were allegedly trying to engineer the dismissal of members of Mao's Cultural Revolution group. Using unusually lurid language, one paper accused these "enemies" of following the traditional tactics of "eliminating those who are close to the emperor" in order to get at his leading lieutenant-- possibly a reference to Lin Piao or to Mao's unpopular wife.

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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

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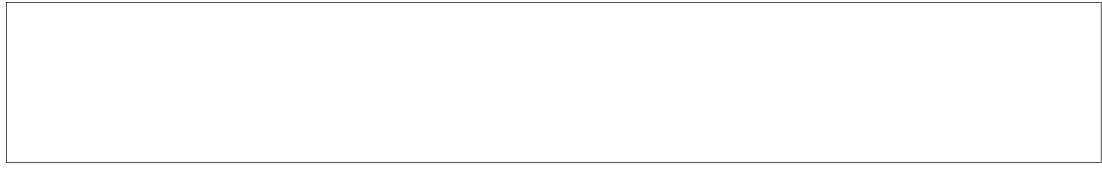
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi's Next Tactics: We suspect Hanoi has reached some new decisions on how to move next in the Paris talks and in the war in South Vietnam. Le Duc Tho probably is returning to Paris armed with these decisions. The evidence on future tactics is inconclusive, but the weight of it suggests that stepped-up Communist military activity is likely.

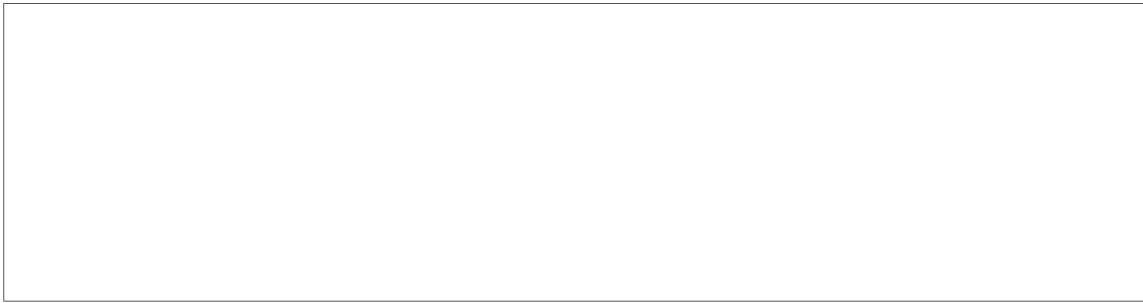
Recent propaganda supports military indications which point toward another strong Communist military push in South Vietnam. Taken at face value, this evidence suggests that Hanoi concluded from the Honolulu conference and from tough statements by President Johnson and Secretary Rusk that its efforts to extract concessions from the US have failed and that additional Communist military pressure is required.

On the other hand, the North Vietnamese have recently begun to encourage others to regard the Communist military posture during the past month or so as evidence of "restraint" in response to US demands. In the most direct public statement yet on this issue, the official spokesman for Hanoi's delegation in Paris told a newsman on 7 August to "closely study the situation in South Vietnam during the last few months."

This latter approach puts the Communists in a position to go either way: they could prolong the military lull in South Vietnam in the hope of increasing pressure for unilateral US concessions; or they could proceed with major military efforts and claim this action was required because the US failed to respond to a period of Communist "restraint."

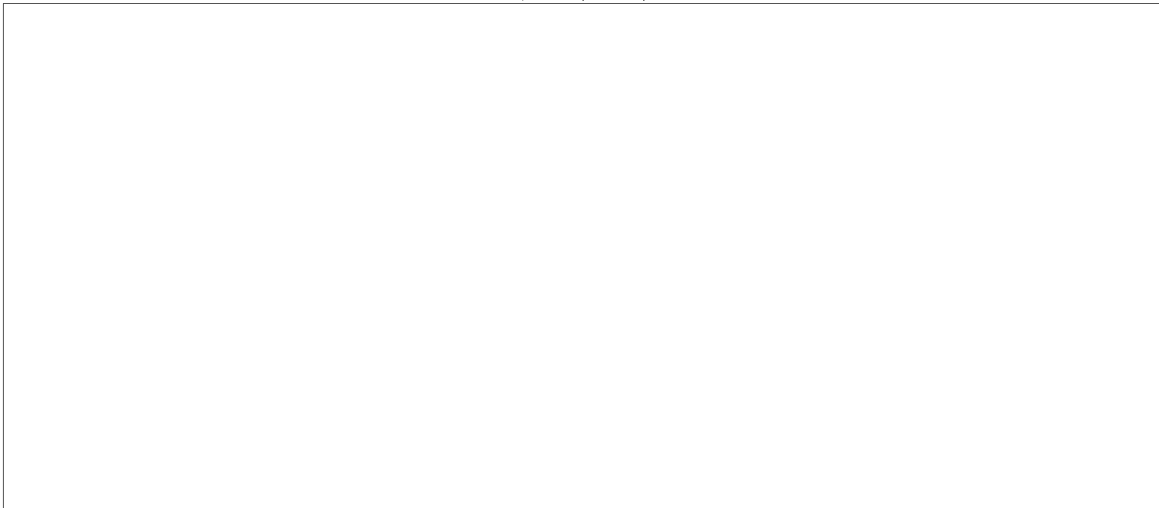


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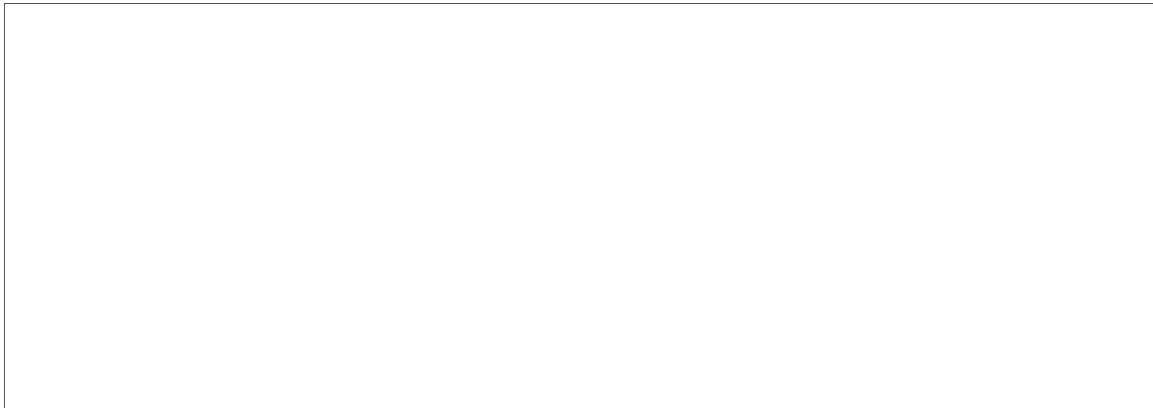
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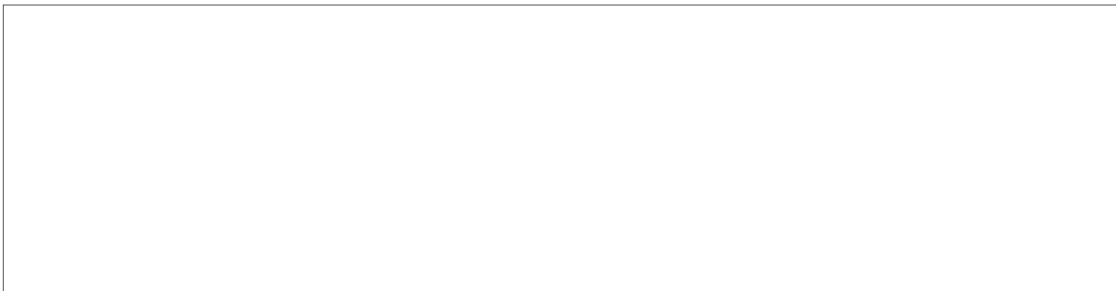
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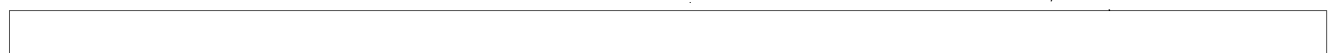


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North Vietnamese Agricultural Problems: According to a Nhan Dan article of 14 June on conditions in Nam Ha Province in the Red River Delta, "never before has a season begun as early as this year's, never before has there been a season in which labor problems have reached such levels." While nowhere claiming a labor shortage, the article asserted that without the achievement of more "complex" supervision of labor, the requirements in harvesting the fifth-month crop simultaneously with planting the tenth-month crop will not be met. There is also an allusion to the need for better incentives for individual peasants. We know from other sources that the weather this year has been unusually cold and wet.

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

There is nothing of significance to report today.



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