

The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 2 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
2 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

Last night Dubcek and his colleagues emerged from a two-day session called to name a new central committee. At an initial glance, it is hardly a central committee calculated to please the Russians--the majority would have been termed liberal before intervention, and 12 are holdovers from the extraordinary congress which was anathema to the Soviets.

This liberal weight in the new committee should help to restore some of the public confidence Dubcek has been losing. The pre-invasion liberals, however, may now be considerably more circumspect in exercising their philosophy. The Czechoslovak communiqué announcing the new committee pointed out it would serve "for a transient period" until a party congress--one acceptable to Moscow--can be convened. The Soviets have not yet commented on the central committee or its composition.

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2. Rumania

The situation remains unchanged with no abnormal Soviet or Bulgarian military moves [redacted] Bucharest is calm. Yesterday Associated Press carried a story alleging that Ceausescu had proposed a series of concessions to the Soviets including a formal declaration of loyalty to the Warsaw Pact and increased trade with Eastern Europe. [redacted]

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[redacted] We have seen nothing as yet to confirm it.

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Moscow has not reacted publicly to the President's statement. The Polish party paper, however, said yesterday any suggestion that further intervention in Eastern Europe might be contemplated was "completely fabricated."

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3. France

The United States Intelligence Board has approved a National Intelligence Estimate entitled The Outlook for France. The estimate for the next year or so concludes:

--No effective threat to De Gaulle or his program is likely from within the political system.

--Student disorders and labor strikes are likely, but they probably can be contained.

--Despite serious problems, the economy is basically strong and a devaluation of the franc is not foreseen.

--France's foreign policy is unlikely to undergo any substantial change.

4. Communist China

Since the Cultural Revolution short-circuited China's bureaucracy, there has been ample evidence that Peking's representatives abroad are often in the dark about what policy currently is in vogue.

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5. Israel-Egypt

The Israelis are asking for a UN Security Council meeting on the Egyptian raid across the Suez Canal last Monday night. Informing Ambassador Barbour of this decision, an Israeli official said yesterday that Cairo's response through General Bull had been disappointing. The government, he said, had to face the question of "direct persuasion" or other means, and had chosen the Security Council as the most rational compromise.

Moshe Dayan had threatened "the most severe retaliation" unless the Egyptians apologized and made amends for the raid.

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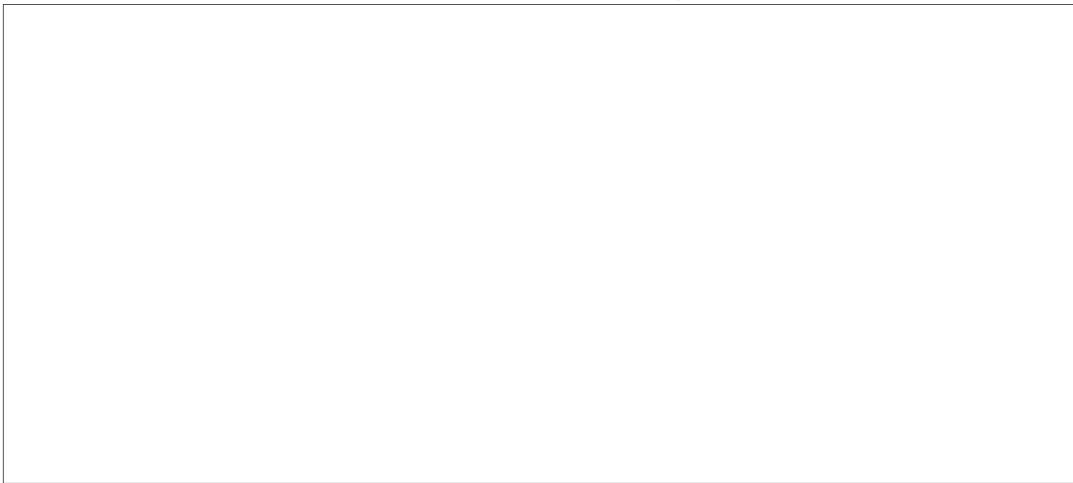
Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

The Status of Infiltration: There has been a marked decline in August in the introduction of new North Vietnamese infiltration groups into the pipeline leading to South Vietnam.

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Poor weather conditions obtain along much of the infiltration route in North Vietnam and Laos during August. The weather this year has been unusually severe and may have hampered troop movement. It is also possible that many infiltrators may have been diverted to flood control or road repair and maintenance tasks.

Analysis of infiltration statistics during past years generally indicates that an increased tempo of military operations in the South is preceded by a relatively high rate of infiltration some two to four months beforehand. Arrivals in South Vietnam in July and August, for example, have probably been at an all-time high [redacted]

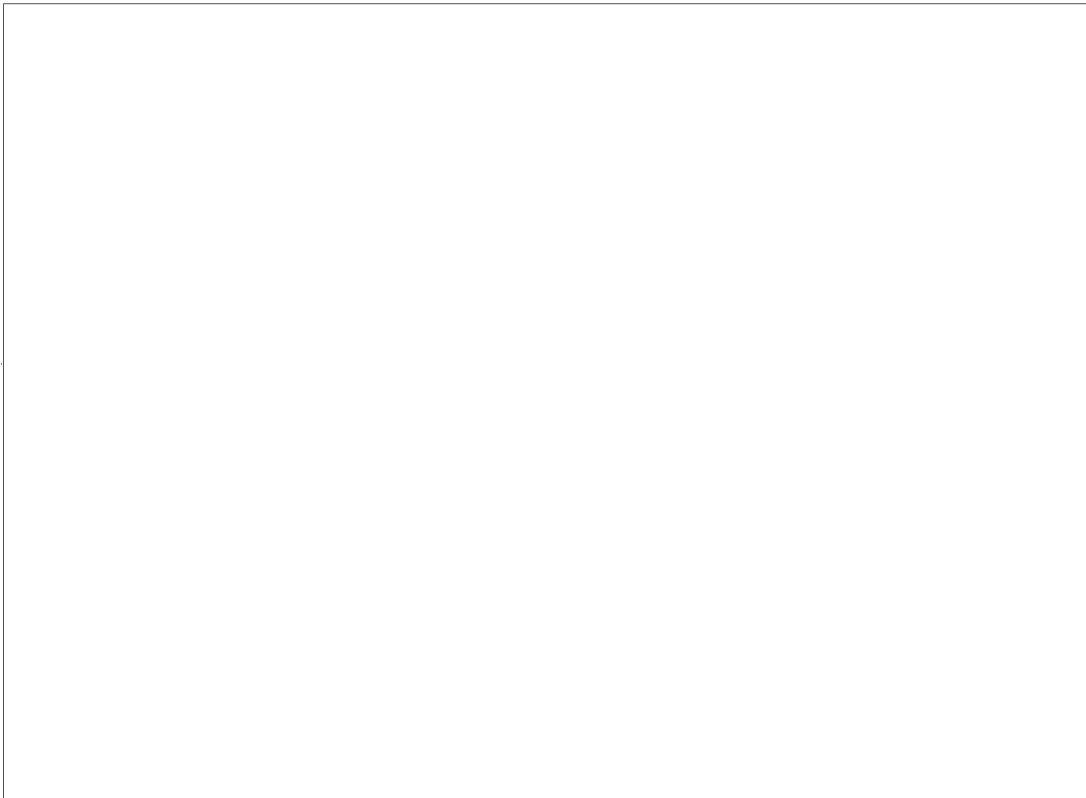
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[redacted] The trip into South Vietnam generally takes two to four months.

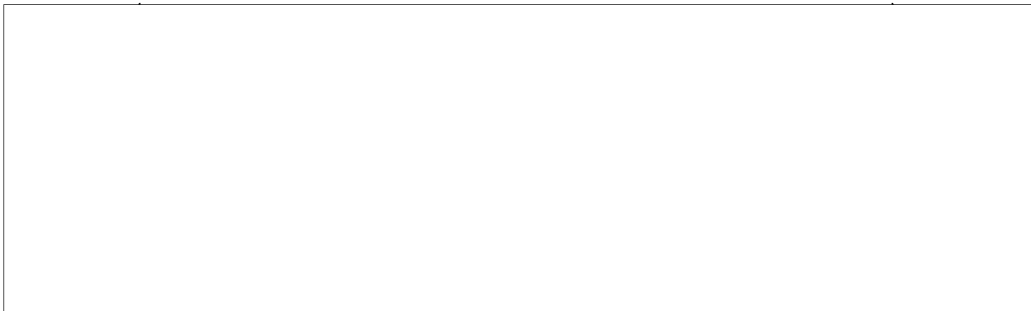
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Front in Sweden: The Liberation Front appears to be moving ahead with plans to establish an information office in Stockholm. A publication of the ruling Swedish Social Democratic Party reported on 28 August that quarters had been arranged to house the Front group expected to staff the office. The US Embassy has heard that the staffers were due in Stockholm before the end of August.

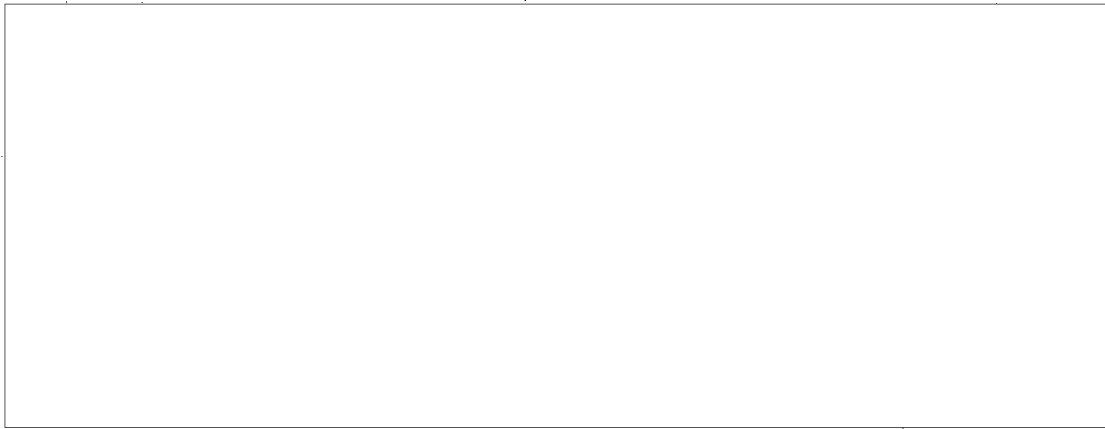
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report today.

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