



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 26 September 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
26 SEPTEMBER 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

Prague persists in brinkmanship, making pronouncements clearly anathema to the Russians. Yesterday the main party paper carried articles which:

--supported economic reforms the Soviets oppose as a "return to capitalism";

--gave a stiff reply to East German criticism of Dubcek;

--stated some party statutes the Soviets call "counterrevolutionary" would remain valid.

The rumblings from Moscow were quick in coming. Last night Tass made its most specific attack since the Moscow agreement, charging "certain leaders" in Prague were acting in direct contradiction to that agreement. Tuesday Soviet troops reappeared in downtown Prague, an even more concrete sign of Soviet displeasure. It is obvious tempers are getting short.

2. Mexico

Several hundred students clashed with security forces in Mexico City last night. Public meetings in the city are now banned. The students, however, plan another mass march next week. The government, for its part, is determined to prevent disruption of the Olympics.

3. Sabah

Marcos is trying to keep the dispute from getting any worse. He has put a tight rein on the Philippine armed forces

and he has begun efforts to reopen a dialogue with Kuala Lumpur. The agenda for any talks is likely to be a serious stumbling block.

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4. Argentina

An incipient Peronist-Castroite guerrilla movement has been uncovered. A training camp was captured in the northern part of the country last week, and this in turn led to the discovery of an arms cache in the far south. The movement appears well financed, but the police do not yet know by whom.

5. Algeria-Congo

Boumediene, who has had Tshombé on his hands since the aerial kidnapping in June 1967, said recently he might turn the Congo's ex-premier loose. Boumediene was characteristically indecisive, however, when discussing the matter with Liberia's Tubman. Mobutu has said he does not care where Tshombé goes so long as he is kept out of Africa.

6. West Germany

The "neo-Nazi" National Democratic Party is expected to run well when local elections are held this Sunday in Lower Saxony. The party should make its best showing in rural areas where there is a strong reaction to disorder sparked by the New Left.

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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

Use of Cambodian Air Facilities: Recently available information reinforces earlier indications that Communist cadres utilize Cambodian air facilities to travel most of the way between North and South Vietnam.

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[Redacted] it seems likely that key personnel at least occasionally use these Cambodian air links. This offers the Communists increased convenience, speed, reliability, and security compared to other modes of travel. The Communists apparently move easily between Phnom Penh and border areas of South Vietnam.

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Reconnaissance Results: A mission of 17 September, which supplied good photography of 60 percent of the panhandle between the 17th and 20th Parallels, confirms that the logistic buildup south of the 20th Parallel continues unabated. In the sanctuary area between the 19th and 20th Parallels, there has been a clearly discernible buildup in logistic facilities. More rolling stock, trucks, and waterborne logistics craft are openly in use than in late August and early September. New transshipment and storage areas are in evidence, frequently protected by revetments in case the bombing should be resumed.

The rail line leading south from the 19th Parallel into Vinh, which was believed interdicted, has been in operation at least for a brief period. A military-type pipeline, first detected in July, is now about 30 miles in length with its northern end now at Cu Dai some 10 miles south of the 19th Parallel. Extensive petroleum bunkers have been constructed at Cu Dai, the present--although probably temporary--northern terminus of the pipeline. Although it is probably not yet in operation, the pipeline has the potential for pumping upwards of 1,000 tons of oil or gasoline a day southward through an exposed region of North Vietnam where US air attacks have taken a heavy toll of North Vietnamese trucks.

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Hanoi Dispatching More Political Cadres: A recently captured North Vietnamese political organizer claims that Hanoi is sending down groups of personnel whose principal duties are to help set up new liberation committees in the South. The source's group, which infiltrated last spring, allegedly contained 200 men, all of whom were destined for political assignments.

The prisoner's report goes with other signs that Hanoi is making an extensive effort to improve its political apparatus in the South. Although there is no way to know how many groups of this type have been deployed, the Communists are clearly preparing for a period of increased political competition with the Saigon government.

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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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