



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 October 1968



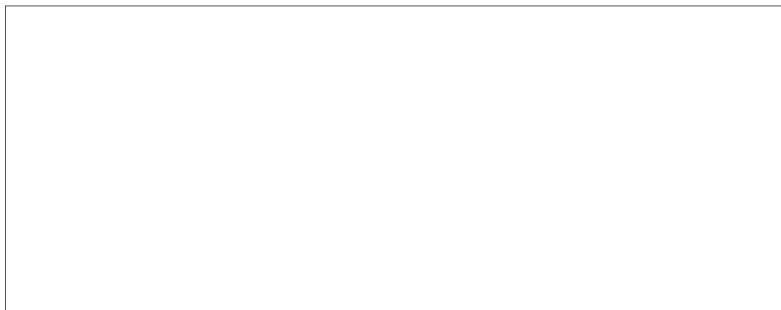
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
1 OCTOBER 1968

1. Mexico

Troops withdrew from the National University yesterday, but the students are still in a defiant mood. Another rally is scheduled for tomorrow.

2. Tanzania-Nigeria




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3. United Kingdom -
Rhodesia

Nothing much came of the latest attempt to reach a meeting of minds. In recent talks in Salisbury, Wilson's special emissary found Ian Smith as dead set as ever against concessions to black Rhodesians. If Smith remains adamant, Wilson will want this put on the public record, preferably by Smith himself.

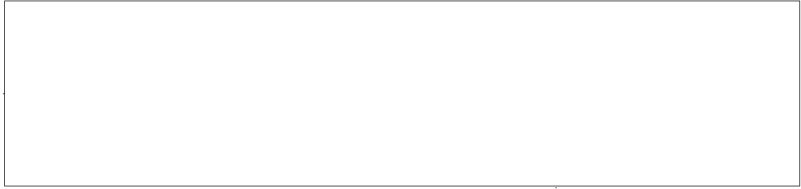
4. Burma

Ne Win is showing signs of weariness in trying to cope with Burma's economic mess. He  may finally be ready to leaven his military dictatorship with some civilian "outs." Much depends on the price these people will put on their participation. If it goes too high, Ne Win is likely to fall back on his old circle of military cronies, whose poor advice has turned Burma's economy into a shambles.

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5. Communist China



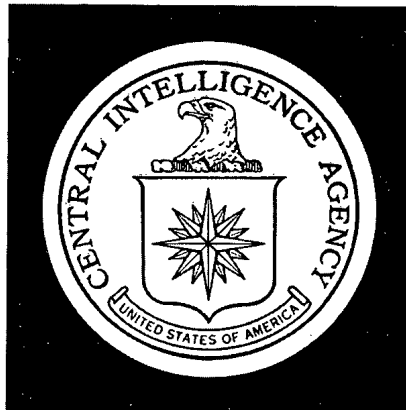
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6. Indonesia

During the past week Sukarno had another degrading session at the hands of Suharto's interrogators. Although Sukarno is pretty much whipped by now, the army is still trying to tie him in more firmly with the Communist coup attempt of 1965. We still do not expect him to go on trial, however.

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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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1 October 1968

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

1 October 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Foreign Shipping During August: Foreign shipping to North Vietnam in August--34 ship arrivals and imports of 133,000 tons--was at its lowest level since February. Soviet arrivals were down sharply, but Chinese arrivals returned to levels comparable to those in the first half of 1968.

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De Quirielle Returning to Hanoi: The Quai's North Vietnam desk officer has told Embassy Paris that De Quirielle, the French representative in Hanoi who has been in France on vacation for the last two months, will leave for North Vietnam around 9 October. Prior to his departure he has an appointment with De Gaulle. The source felt this should facilitate De Quirielle having a meeting with Pham Van Dong or other high-ranking officials upon his return to Hanoi. At the request of the North Vietnamese, who consider De Quirielle a particularly able representative, the French have extended De Quirielle's assignment in Hanoi despite his more than two years of service there.

The embassy has been trying to see De Quirielle during his stay in France but has been told no direct contact is preferred. The French fear that if such contact became known, it might undermine De Quirielle's position with the North Vietnamese.

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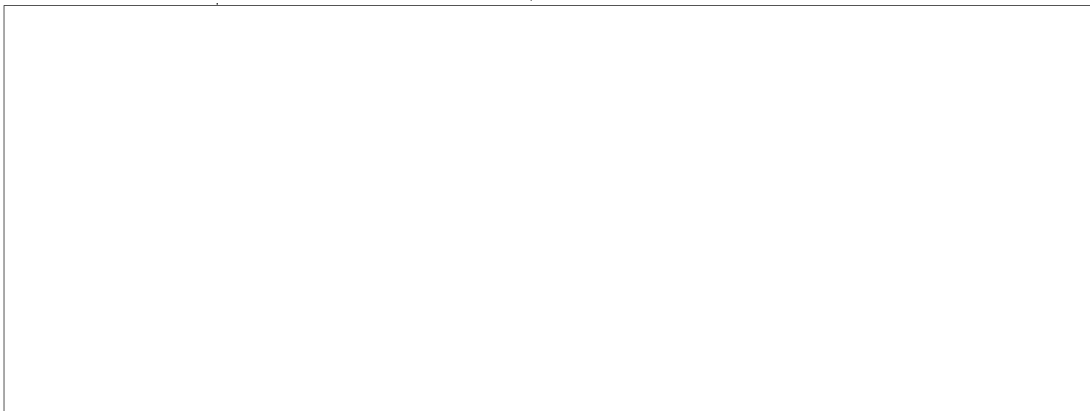
II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

More Attacks on US Leaders: The Vietnam policies of President Johnson and views of presidential candidates Nixon and Humphrey were denounced in a Radio Hanoi English language international broadcast on 30 September. The commentary charged that all three men failed to recognize the Hanoi government's four-point program--including US recognition of the National Liberation Front "as the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people"--as the basis for resolving the Vietnam problem.

This formulation on the role of the Front is somewhat harder than that laid down by Pham Van Dong on 2 September and widely quoted in Communist propaganda since that time. The North Vietnamese prime minister had indicated the Front must be recognized and consulted, but he stopped short of calling for acknowledgement of the Liberation Front as the "authentic representative" of the South Vietnamese.

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