



*The President's Daily Brief*



28 June 1969

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~~Top Secret~~

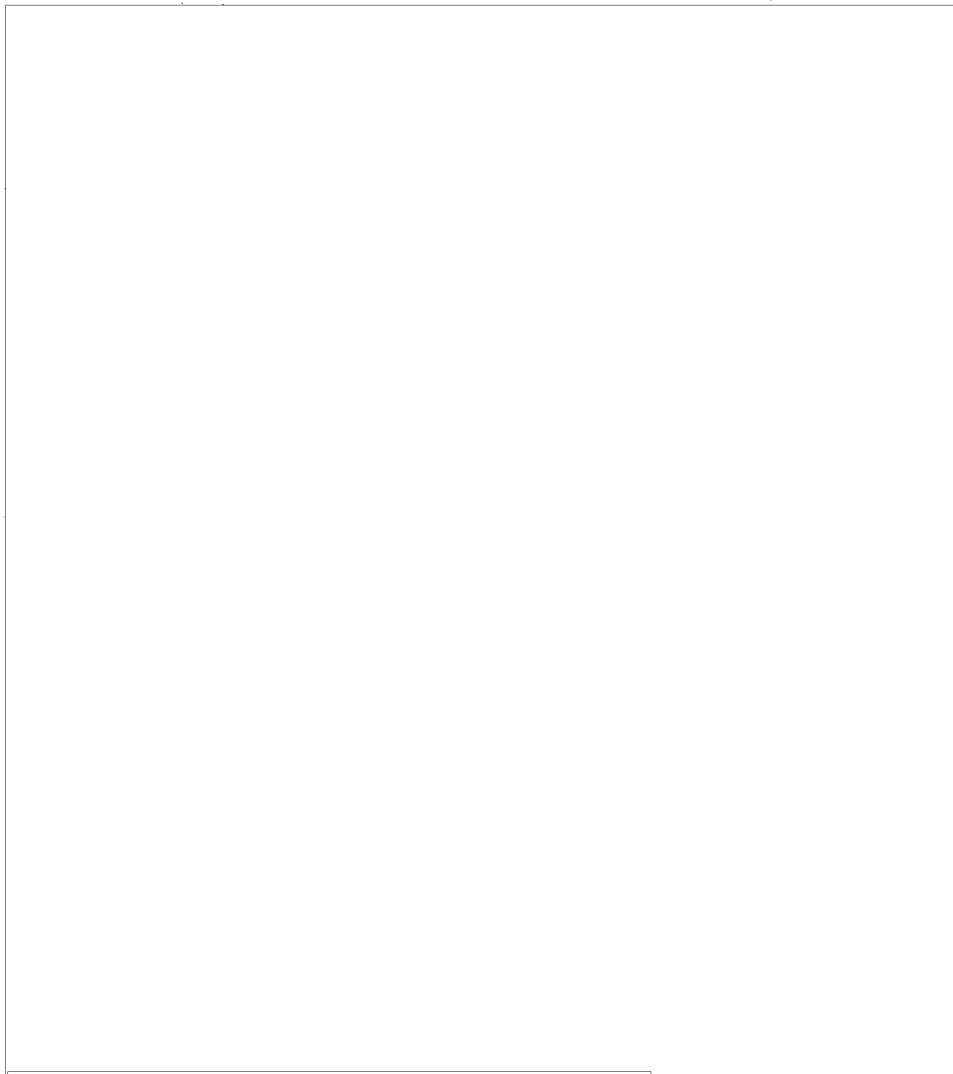
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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

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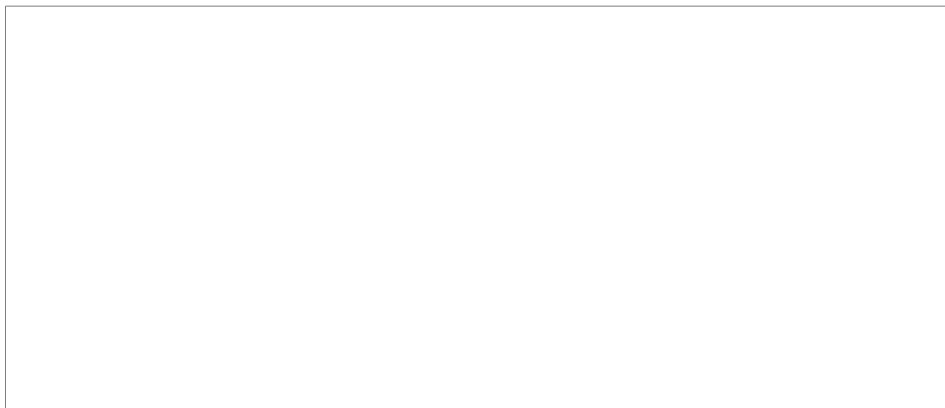
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The Communists stepped up their shelling of Ben Het on the night of 26 June. There are indications from intercepts and other sources that they hope to increase the pressure still further.

MIDDLE EAST

The Israelis are still preventing the repair of the Jordanian irrigation canal they blew up on Monday. They told the embassy in Tel Aviv that they would stop shooting at the repair crews as soon as the area is quiet. This warning apparently is aimed mainly at Jordanian Army units. Although the fedayeen also have a base in the area, they have been fairly quiet recently.

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Lebanon has now been without a government for over two months, and seems unlikely to have one soon. Caretaker Prime Minister Karami is still trying to put together a new cabinet,

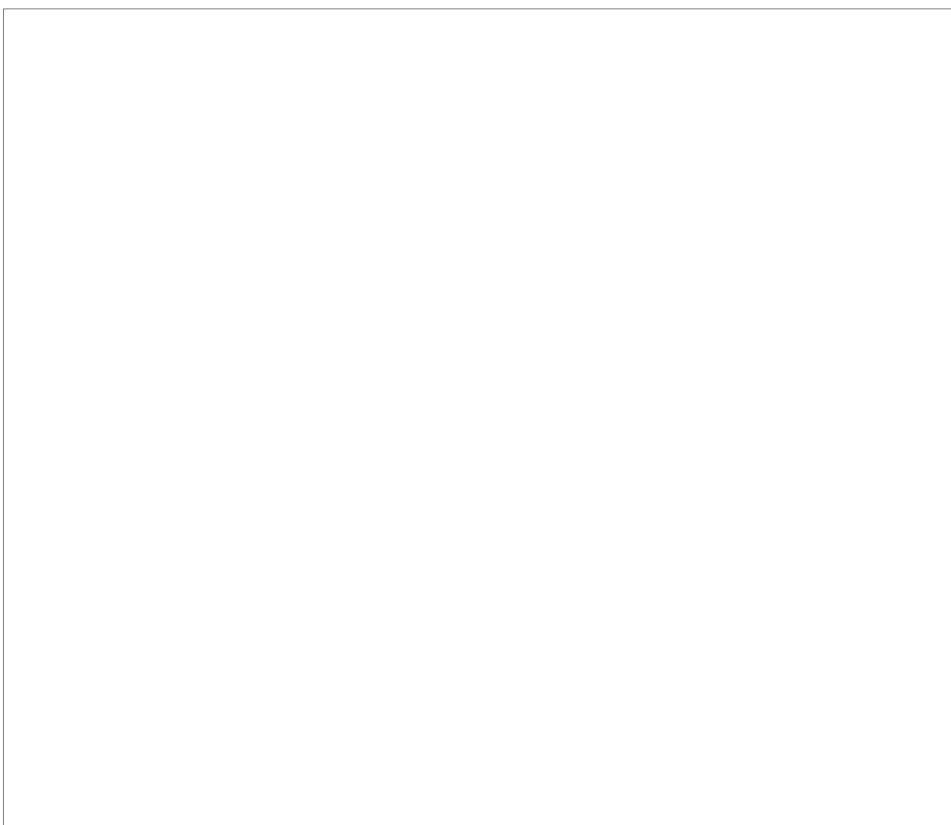
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but his efforts have been vastly complicated by President Hilu's refusal to moderate his hard line on the fedayeen.

The fedayeen themselves, meanwhile, seem to be lying low and biding their time. The number of Arab guerrillas inside Lebanon has stabilized at around 2,000, and they do not seem anxious at the moment for more clashes with the Lebanese. The Lebanese Army apparently is under orders not to provoke a new confrontation.

SOVIET AFFAIRS

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There is nothing significant to report on Europe.

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

LAOS

The evacuation of government forces from Muong Soui on Friday was triggered by the wholesale desertion of neutralist troops. Enemy pressure on the post had actually eased before the neutralists decamped.

The Communists have mounted several small-scale attacks against government positions west of Muong Soui, but there are no signs that they are moving large numbers of troops into the area. In the light of past Communist practice, and given the poor weather, we believe they will focus their immediate attention on consolidation of their newly won positions.

ARGENTINA

One demonstrator was killed last night in Buenos Aires when police clashed with students protesting Governor Rockefeller's forthcoming visit.

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