



The President's Daily Brief

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3 July 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM



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Hanoi radio announced today that North Vietnam would re-lease three American prisoners of war, apparently pilots, and allow others to receive gifts from their families on 4 July, "on the occasion of the American People's Independence Day."

MIDDLE EAST

The Israeli Air Force has made arrangements



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to buy 67 Canadian-manufactured

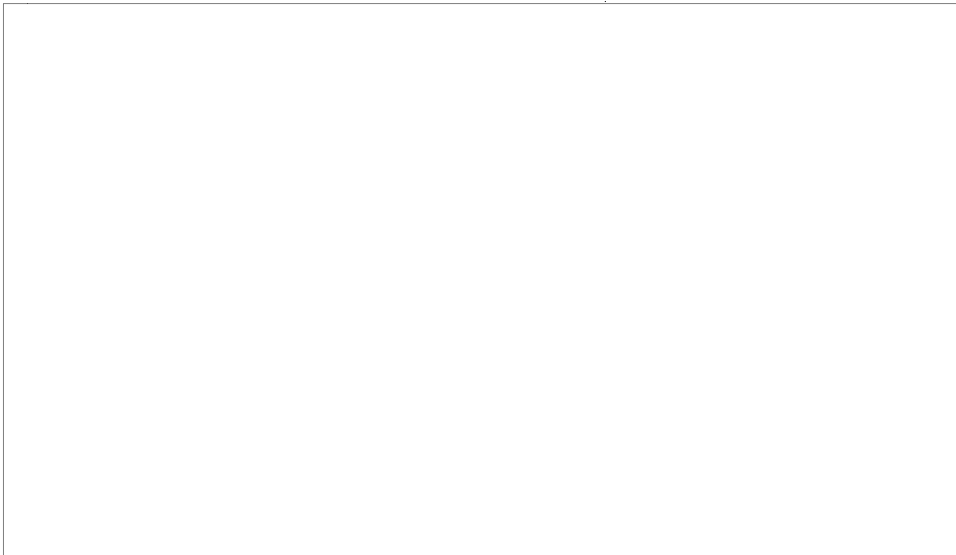
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F-86 Sabrejets and 72 additional engines for US \$4 million. These 20-year-old planes will give Israel a cheap means of expanding its ground support aircraft inventory, which was found to be inadequate during the Six Day War.

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SOVIET AFFAIRS

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Preparations for a major Soviet lunar operation are nearly complete. One space support ship has reached Havana while others are heading for their re-entry positions in the Indian Ocean.

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and ships in the south Atlantic have already conducted practice sessions

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According to a press report from Moscow, unofficial Communist sources, perhaps inspired by the Soviet space agency, revealed plans late yesterday for the launch of an unmanned lunar probe on 10 July. The probe, which would thus be six days prior to the scheduled launch of Apollo 11, would attempt to return a sample of the lunar surface to earth.

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EUROPE

In the course of a tour d'horizon with Austrian Chancellor Klaus in Stuttgart last Sunday, Kiesinger said that he was confident the CDU would win a plurality in the September elections. He also reported that a recent poll showed the German public wants the Grand Coalition to continue and that 35 percent want Kiesinger to head the next government--about twice the percentage of the next choice. Franz Josef Strauss got about 6 percent.

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

There is nothing of significance to report.

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