The President's Daily Brief

24 September 1969

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SOVIET AFFAIRS

The Soviets failed yesterday in an attempt to send an unmanned probe from Tyuratam toward the moon. An SL-12 booster succeeded only in placing the probe in a temporary parking orbit.

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The mission of this probe probably was to be similar to that intended for Luna-15, which crashed on the moon during an attempted soft landing last July. This latest mishap may delay Soviet plans for a manned circumlunar flight, which would also use the SL-12 booster.
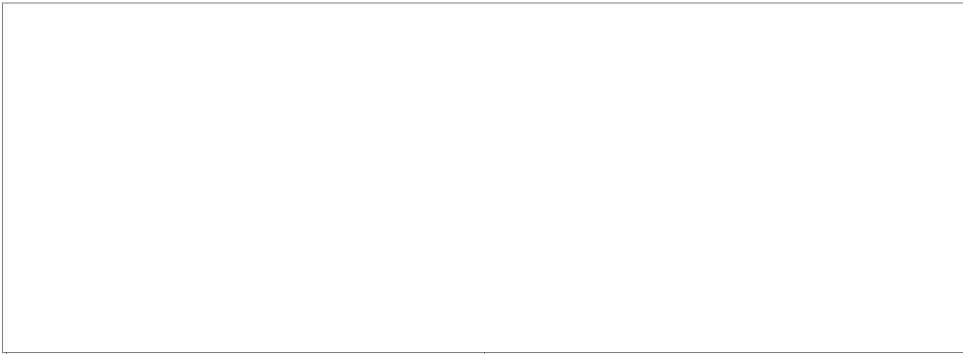
COMMUNIST CHINA

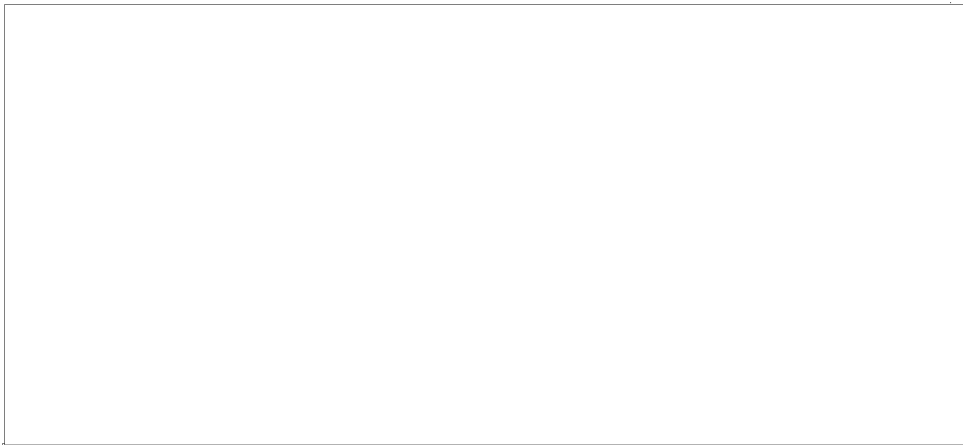50X1

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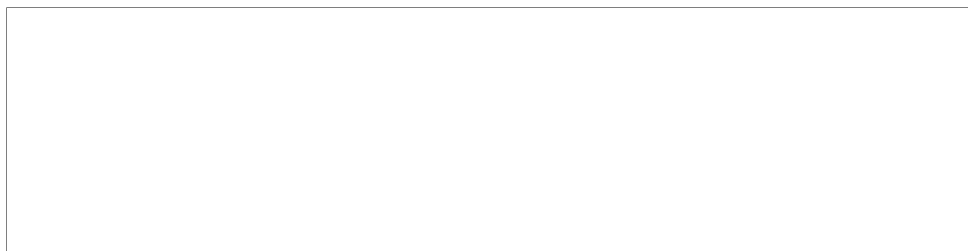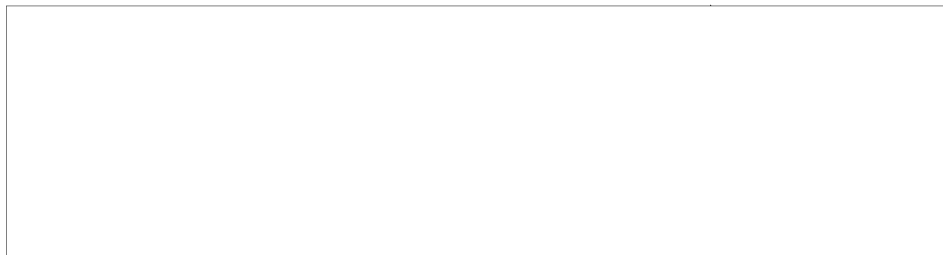50X1

MIDDLE EAST

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VIETNAM

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CAMBODIA

Fighting between Cambodian security forces and Vietnamese Communist elements has increased substantially along the southeastern border in recent weeks.

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Phnom Penh appears to be reacting

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to a substantial increase in Communist use of infiltration
routes into the Mekong Delta and a shifting of base areas as
a result of recent flooding.

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ITALY

The seven-week-old Rumor government is facing its first
test in trying to cope with widespread one-day strikes. It
is now preparing to face hostile interrogations on the labor
situation in the reconvened Chamber of Deputies. The govern-
ment's major concern at the moment is to obtain a labor set-
tlement conducive to continuing Italy's economic growth.
While management is prepared to grant 25 percent wage in-
creases over the next two years, it is reluctant to give in
to other union demands, such as the right to assemble on
plant premises during working hours and the right to negoti-
ate piece-work rates. Both unions and political leaders are
almost compelled to back labor demands through fear of being
outflanked on the left by pro-Chinese "worker power" organi-
zations, which seem to have contributed to the recent wild-
cat strikes.

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