



The President's Daily Brief

1 October 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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(information as of 2000 EDT 30 September)

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in the Middle East is discussed on Page 1.

North Vietnam

(Page 2)

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Cambodian authorities are anticipating some terrorist attacks around Phnom Penh during the current religious holidays. (Page 3)

Allende appears increasingly confident of victory in the congressional runoff elections and plans to reject demands for democratic guarantees. (Page 3)

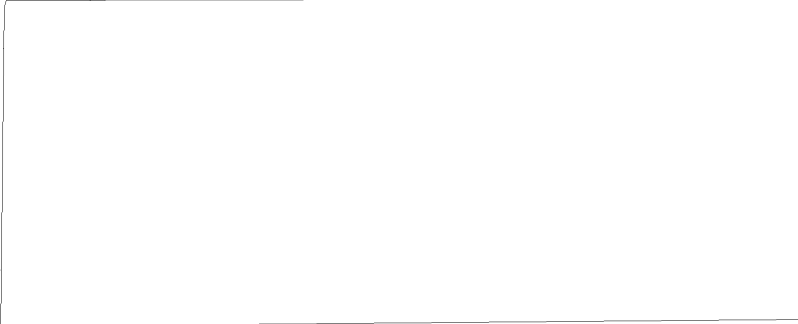
The latest information on North Vietnamese infiltration appears on Page 3.

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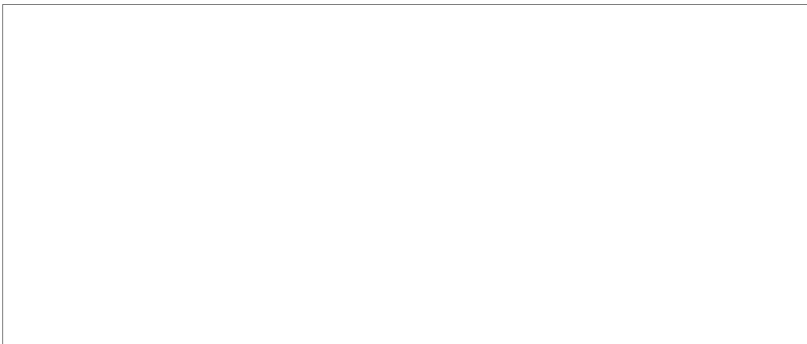
MIDDLE EAST

Demonstrations of grief over the death of Nasir will continue today throughout the Middle East; some may take a violent turn with anti-US overtones. Meanwhile, speculation and rumors of a struggle for power in Egypt have already appeared.



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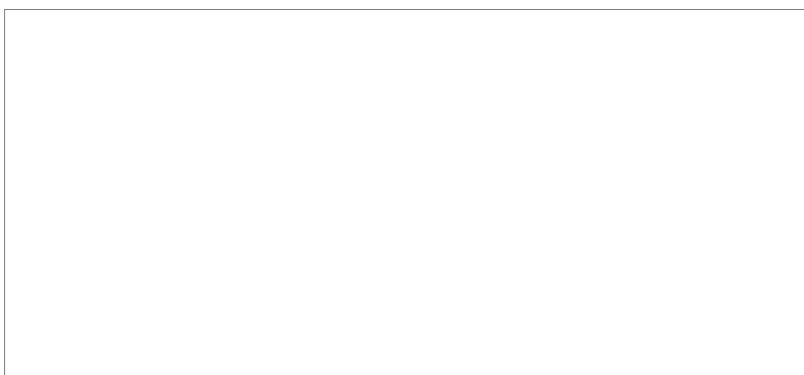
In a conversation with Ambassador Brown, King Husayn has expressed fear that radical elements in Syria and Iraq will try to fill the leadership vacuum created by Nasir's death. The King and two of his close advisers are also concerned that Egypt will turn inward and withdraw from Arab world affairs. Husayn sees Libya and Sudan tending to go their own way and slipping out of Egypt's orbit. Algeria, he thinks, will try to expand its role in the Arab world but is too far away to act effectively. The King has no special insight on who will replace Nasir but said the obvious choices were Anwar Sadat, Ali Sabri and Zakariya Muhyeddin. He speculated that this might be the time for an unknown military figure to begin thinking about making his move.



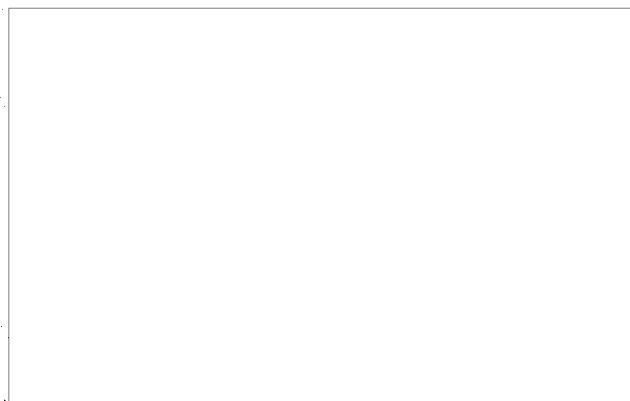
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VIETNAM



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NOTES

Cambodia: Military authorities in Phnom Penh are concerned that the enemy will take advantage of the current religious holiday that ends 2 October by staging some sort of attack near the capital. They claim that the Communists are moving ammunition into an area just three miles southeast of the city on the west bank of the Mekong. Although the enemy is capable of launching terrorist attacks on Phnom Penh, there are no reliable indications that any large-scale action against the city is imminent. Meanwhile, the Communists continue to harass the government column on Route 6, and government troops have not yet moved in force beyond Tang Kouk.

Chile: Salvador Allende plans to reject the democratic guarantees recently demanded of him by a commission of the Christian Democratic Party. According to sources of the US Embassy, Allende now is sure that his defeated rival, Radomiro Tomic, will deliver enough Christian Democratic votes to ensure his victory in the congressional runoff on 24 October anyway. In his mood of growing confidence, Allende is warning bankers and businessmen against maneuvers that could weaken the economy, and the Communist Party press is accusing the US of plotting with Chilean rightists against him.

North Vietnam: Communications intelligence has provided additional evidence on the southward deployment of enemy troops [redacted]

[redacted] During September, at least 11,000 enemy troops started south, including substantial numbers from regular North Vietnamese infantry units. Only two battalion-sized replacement groups, involving 800 - 1,200 men, are earmarked for duty in South Vietnam. Some appear to be headed for southern Laos, probably to ensure the viability of the infiltration and logistic routes in the face of increasing guerrilla interdiction operations. Some of the troops may be used in Communist dry-season offensive operations in southern Laos, Cambodia, or possibly South Vietnam.

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