

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 20 November 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
20 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Greece-Turkey

Turkey is prepared to risk war with Greece now rather than to permit the Turkish community on Cyprus to continue living under the threat of hostile action. The Turkish foreign minister laid it on the line last night to Ambassador Hart and the British chargé. Either the "illegal" Greek troops leave the island quickly, or Turkish forces will land there. He gave no time limit, but said it is a question of hours, not days.

The foreign minister implied that it is up to the US and Britain to force the Greeks to take out their troops. He said this is the only peaceful way out and repeated that Turkey's only purpose is to protect the Turkish minority on the island.

Both Greek and Turkish military forces remain on a high state of alert. There are "hawks" on each side pressing for rapid pre-emptive military action against the other.

2. United Kingdom

Wilson will probably be able to ride out the domestic storm unleashed by devaluation and the imposition of new economic restrictions. Immediate political reactions were very harsh, however, and criticism of the government will mount as new taxes and other measures begin to be felt. The danger of a serious revolt in the Labor Party will be very real if the economic picture is not considerably brighter by next spring.

3. Soviet Union

All signs point to an impending Soviet space spectacular late this week.

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4. Soviet Union

The facts are not all in yet, but it is clear that the US Army attaché and his British colleague were given some pretty rough treatment on Friday by Soviet goons in Kishinev, a town near the Rumanian border. They were forcibly detained in a hotel room and their notes and film seized--though nothing the attaché considers unusually incriminating. Both officers were roughed up, especially the Britisher. Our attaché thinks they may have been drugged.

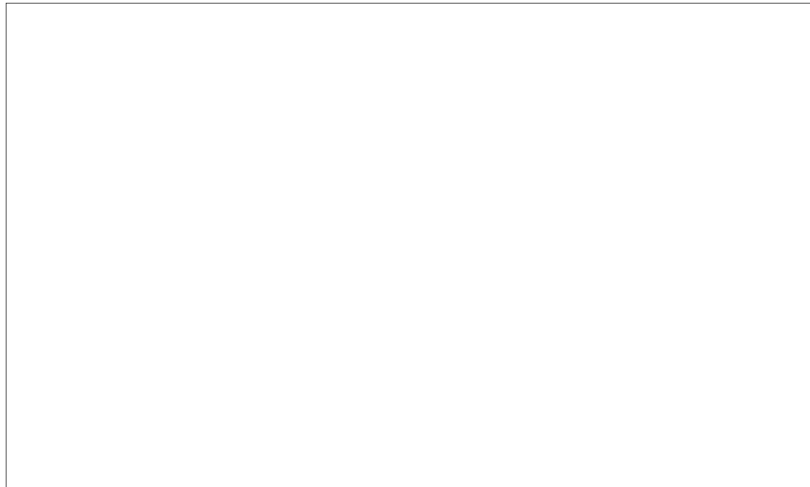
The Department of State knows of no incident here that might have triggered the action.

5. Soviet Union -
Jordan

Moscow is already following up on its offer of economic assistance to King Husayn. A Soviet delegation is ready to come next month to survey potential aid projects.

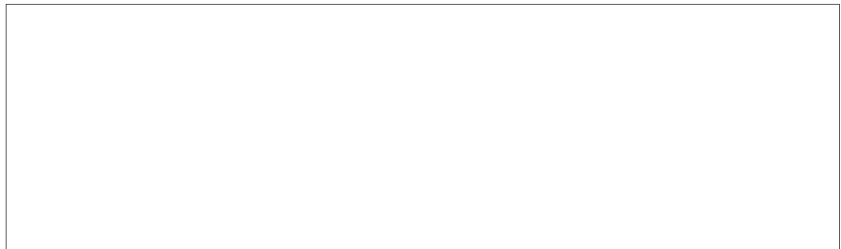
6. West Germany

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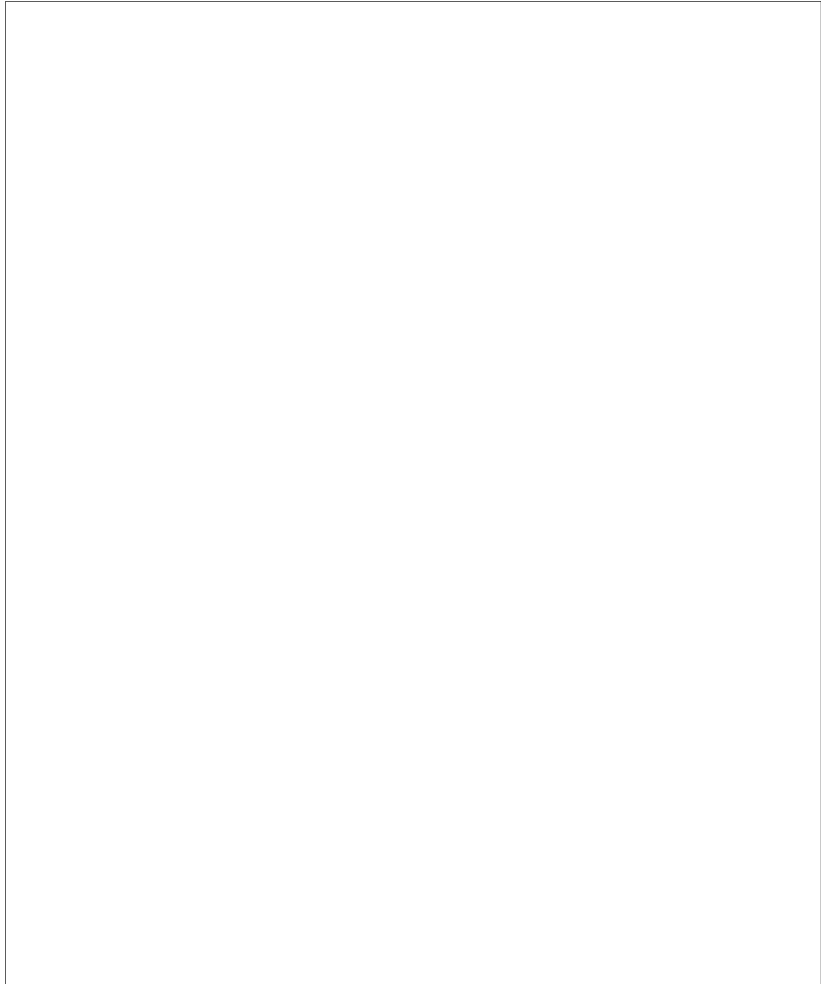
7. Venezuela

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8. France

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9. United Nations

Prospects improved over the weekend for early passage of a Security Council resolution sending a mediator to the Middle East. The British draft resolution has been endorsed by Israel and several Arab states. Egypt is still insisting on some changes, however. If it comes around, a Soviet veto is unlikely.

10. Singapore

Here is a final note on Lee Kuan Yew's reactions to his US trip. When Foreign Minister Hasluck stopped over recently on his way back to Australia, he found Lee grumbling bitterly over what he considered a snub by Senators Fulbright and Robert Kennedy.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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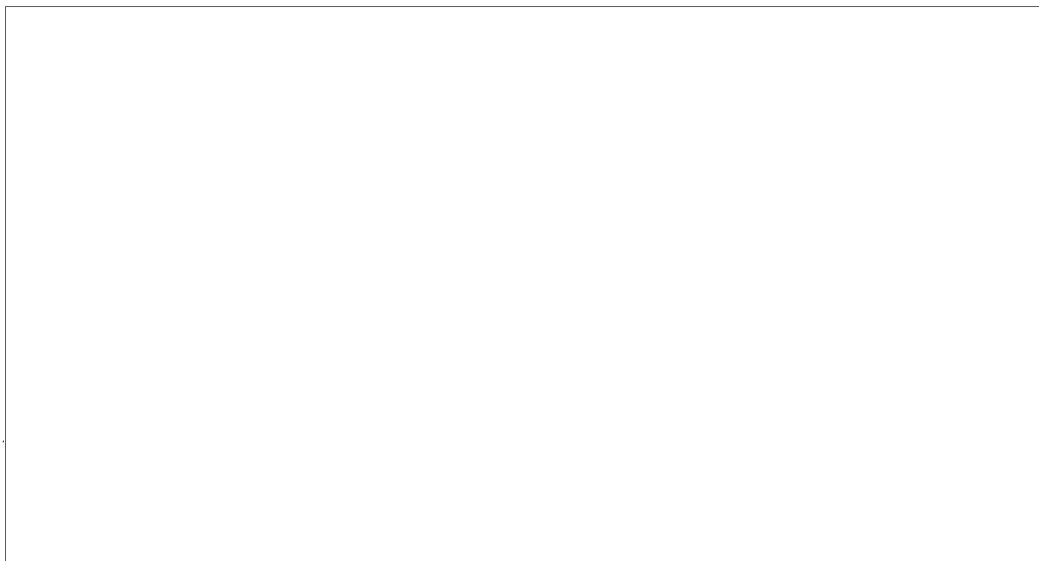
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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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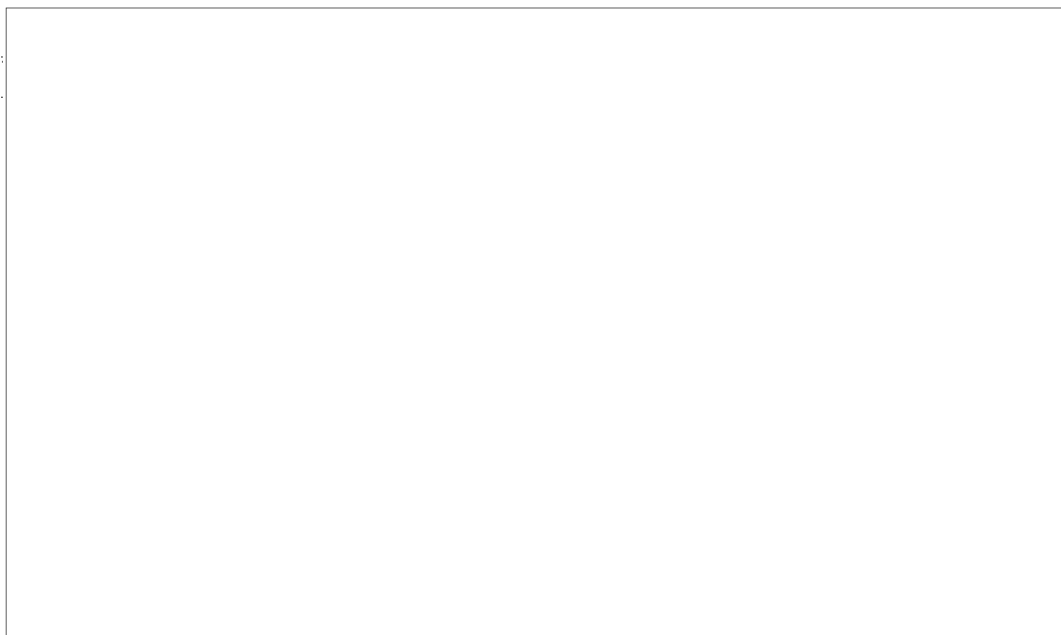
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



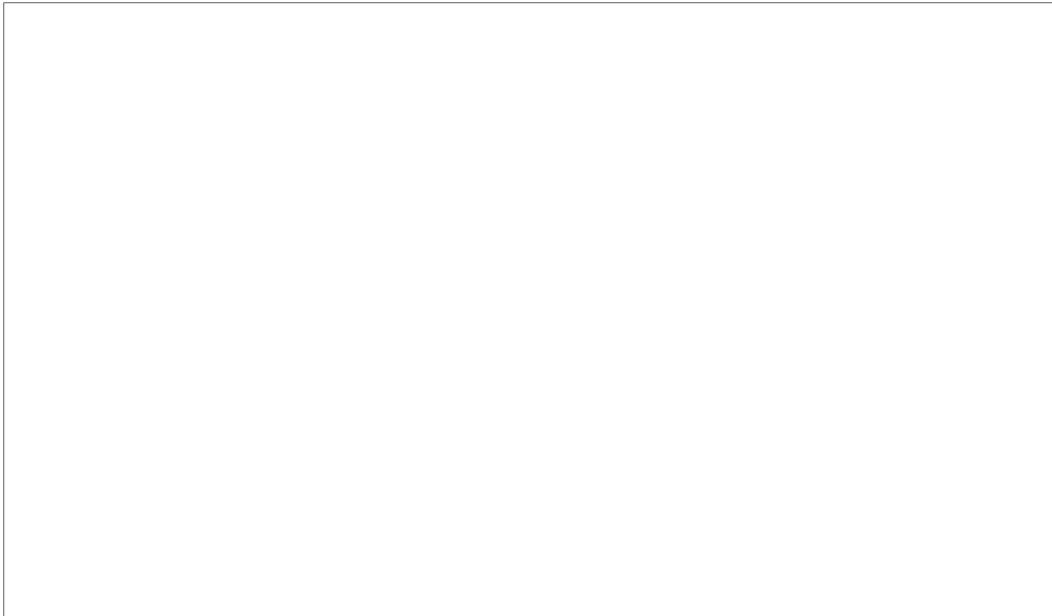
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Hanoi's Account of the Friday Raid: Hanoi broadcast a statement yesterday claiming that at least 33 civilians were killed and another 158 wounded in the capital city on Friday. More than 100 of the casualties were hit in a single area of less than a half mile square as a result of six steel pellet bombs, according to the broadcast.

The Hanoi radio also charged that the Bac Mai hospital, which is adjacent to the airfield, was hit by a large number of steel pellet bombs and by two 750-pound bombs. One patient and several medical personnel were killed, Hanoi asserted.

The French News Agency man in Hanoi seems to confirm the relatively small casualty figure at the hospital. He reports seeing a number of small holes in the hospital area from pellet bombs, but concluded that casualties were minimal because the patients had either taken shelter or been transferred to safer places.

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Hanoi Figures on Earlier Bomb Casualties: Last Wednesday, Hanoi's domestic radio service broadcast another commentary bitterly condemning the raids around the capital. In seven days, the broadcast

claimed, some 200 residents of Hanoi were killed or wounded in the attacks. Another 200 casualties resulted from the series of recent raids on Haiphong, the broadcast went on.

The US Embassy in Saigon comments that this broadcast did not distinguish between civilian and military casualties. If Hanoi's relatively low figures are accepted, the embassy points out, it would mean either that the North Vietnamese shelter system offers extraordinary protection or that the US bombing of military targets is very precise indeed.

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Pham Van Dong's Interview: US press reports from Tokyo last night tell of an interview between Premier Pham Van Dong and French newsman Olivier Todd which was broadcast by Hanoi radio. Dong was asked whether it would be useful and possible for members of the US Congress to come to Hanoi to observe at first hand the effects of the bombings. The North Vietnamese leader replied: "That is an interesting idea to be closely studied. It raises a

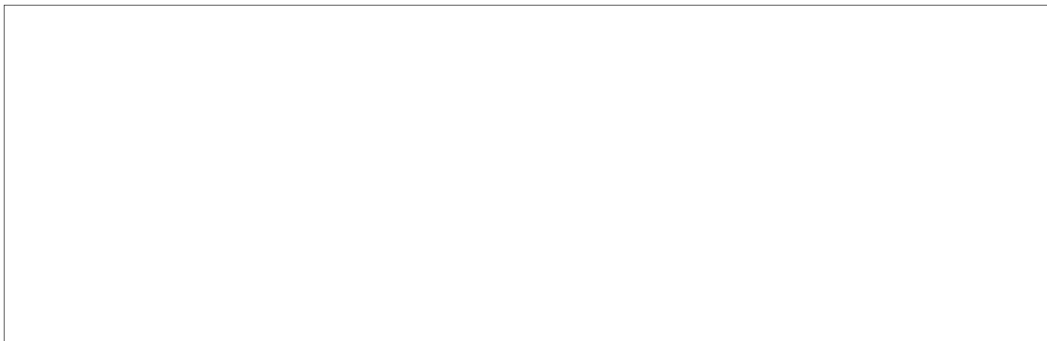
number of problems to us and also to those eventual guests. We attach, you know, importance to the security of all our guests. Besides, under present circumstances, one may wonder whether American politicians would want to come here. If requests are made, we will consider them very carefully. In any case, everything must be clear, unequivocal."

Pham Van Dong also used the opportunity to reiterate Hanoi's uncompromising stand. "Our struggle is a struggle of principle," he said, and "there can not be any compromise." The North Vietnamese, he went on, "will never negotiate under bombs, or the threat of bombs."

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North Vietnamese Return from Moscow: The high-powered North Vietnamese delegation to the Soviet anniversary celebrations in Moscow arrived back in Hanoi on 17 November. All the top Russian leaders turned out to see the delegation off for Hanoi. The Vietnamese stayed on nearly a week after most of the other delegations had left, and we assume they took this opportunity to review the war and related issues with the Soviet leaders. We have no hints of what this may have involved.

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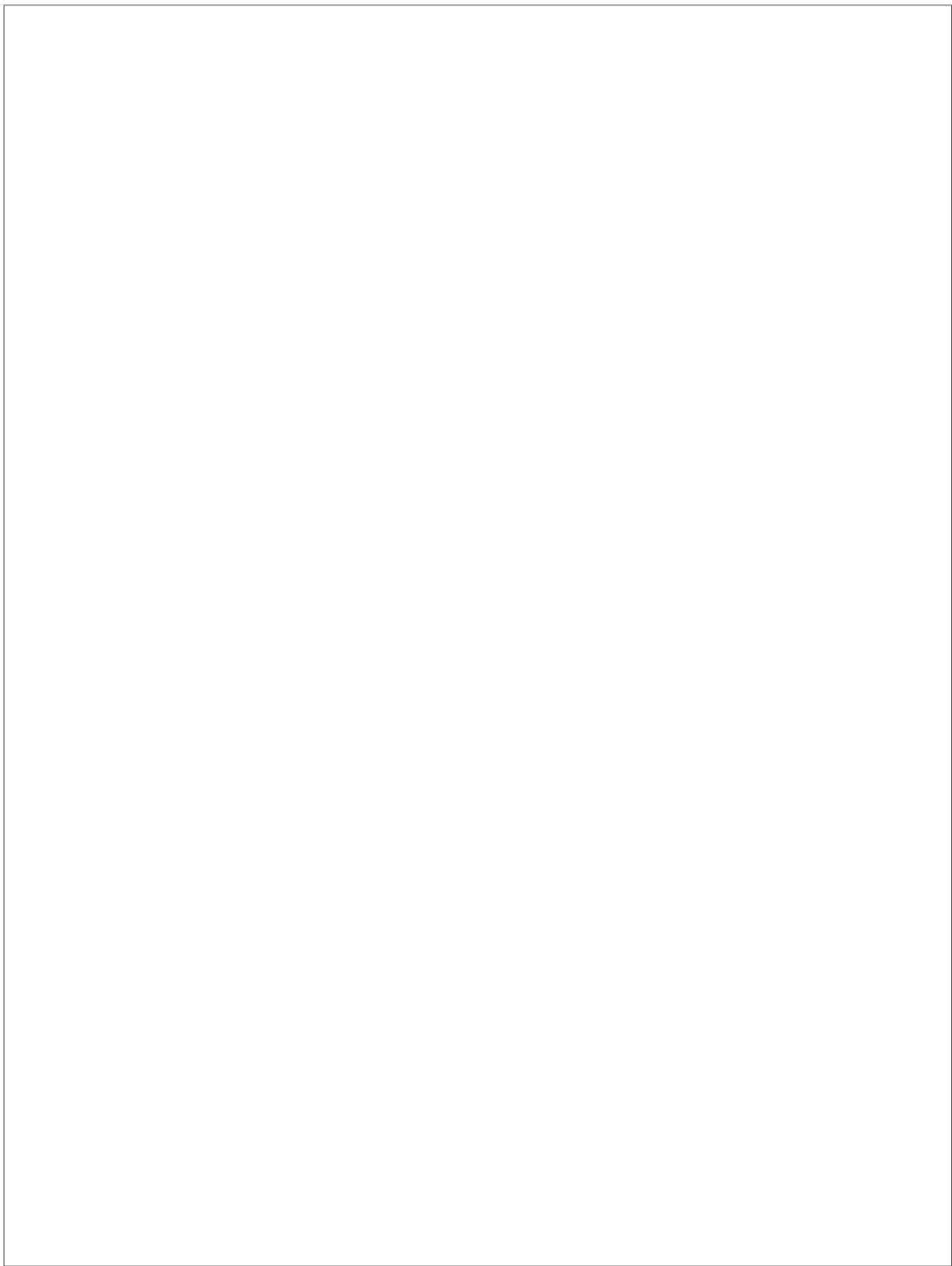


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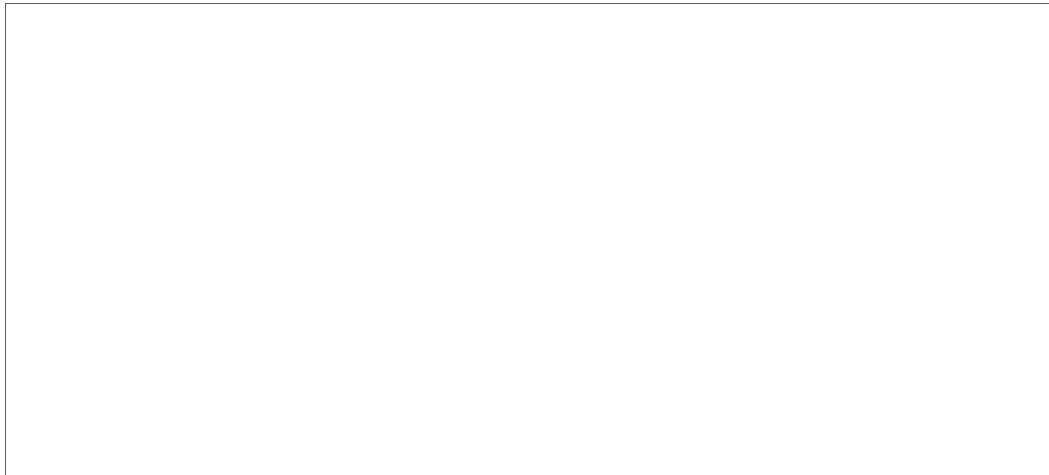
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There was nothing of significance to report today.

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