

The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 8 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
8 JULY 1968

1. Guatemala

Communist terrorists last night threw a bomb at the residence of the US ambassador in Guatemala City. The explosion caused no injuries. Another explosive device found at Peace Corps headquarters was disarmed by Guatemalan security personnel. [redacted] the terrorists plan to carry out a series of bombings and attacks through today.

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2. Presidential Trip

Moscow and Peking wasted no time in playing up the anti-American demonstrations in San Salvador. The official press services of both countries carried items Saturday which read as though there was no one but protesters in the streets. The stories also were sharply critical of the Central American Common Market, calling it a means of "plundering the people" and saying that the President's trip was aimed at salvaging it from bankruptcy.

3. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

The Soviet troops brought into Czechoslovakia for a Warsaw Pact exercise which ended more than a week ago are lingering on. Czechoslovak spokesmen continue their almost daily forecasts that the Russians will soon go home. Marshal Yakubovsky, the Soviet who commands the Warsaw Pact, may not be so inclined. He is said to have been displeased with the results of the exercise and to want another one in Czechoslovakia in about a month. Prague rightly sees more than military training in this request and the issue has been sent to the highest Soviet and Czechoslovak levels for resolution.

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4. Soviet Union -
Egypt

Moscow has rolled out the red carpet for Nasir, but there are some signs that his talks with the Soviet leaders did not go all that smoothly. TASS labeled the first round of talks as a "frank exchange of opinions"--wording that often signifies differences of view. Even more intriguing is Nasir's decision to stay on in Moscow until mid-week although his hosts apparently thought he would move on to Belgrade two days ago.

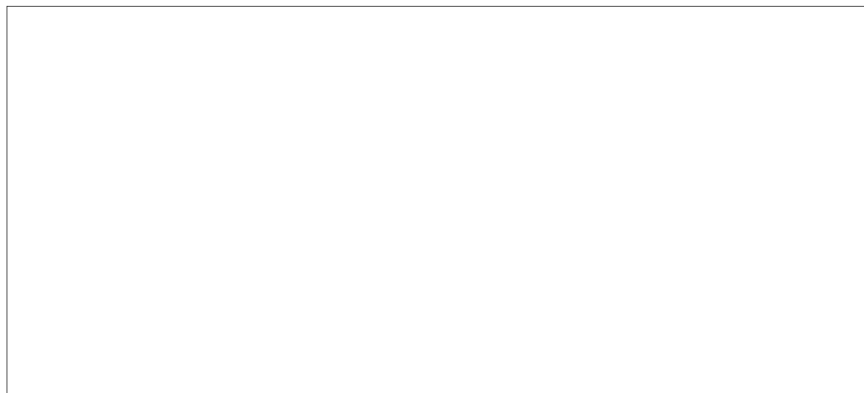
There is no clue yet what new military or economic aid Nasir will take home. The makeup of the Egyptian delegation suggests military aid will, at least, be discussed.

5. Poland

The party Central Committee meets today for the first time since the political crisis of last March. Party chief Gomulka appears to have improved his position in recent weeks, but he will have to strike compromises on key issues with his hardline opponents. The meeting is expected to set a date for a party Congress later this year. It may also shift some jobs around.

6. Malaysia-
Thailand

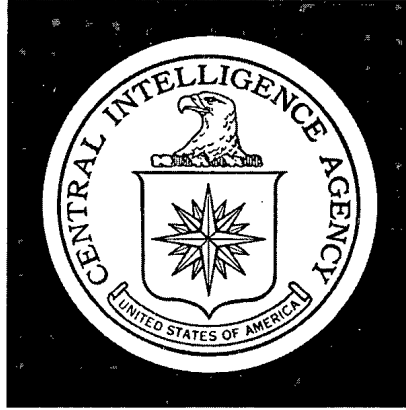
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

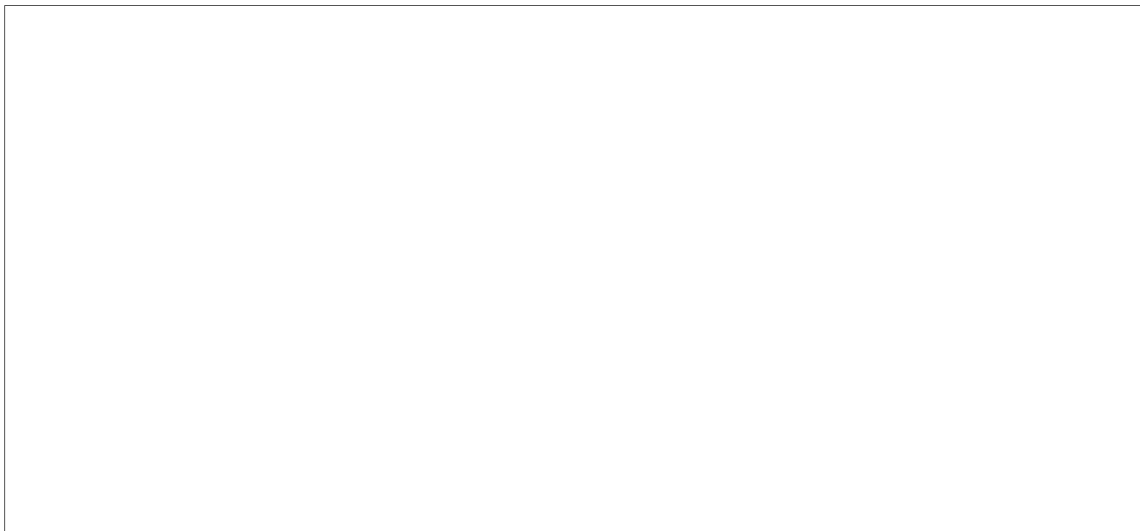
Photographic Reconnaissance: Reconnaissance photography of 30 June showed that a high level of activity continues throughout the Haiphong port area, with indications that incoming cargo is being moved at an increased pace.

A total of 277 pieces of rolling stock, an increase of 100 since 3 June, were photographed in Haiphong--122 in the port area and 155 in the main rail yard. Twenty-six ships were photographed in the Haiphong area, 11 of which were discharging cargo.

Photography of most of the major airfields showed that there are now at least 46 fighter aircraft in North Vietnam, about 17 more than had previously been estimated.

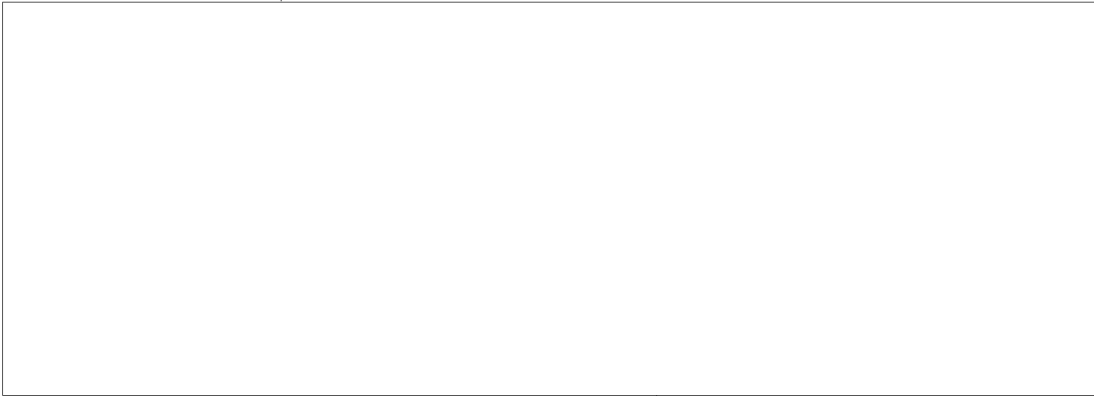
The North Vietnamese are continuing to build blast walls around the generators and boilers at several power plants. At least three of six power plants photographed were in operation.

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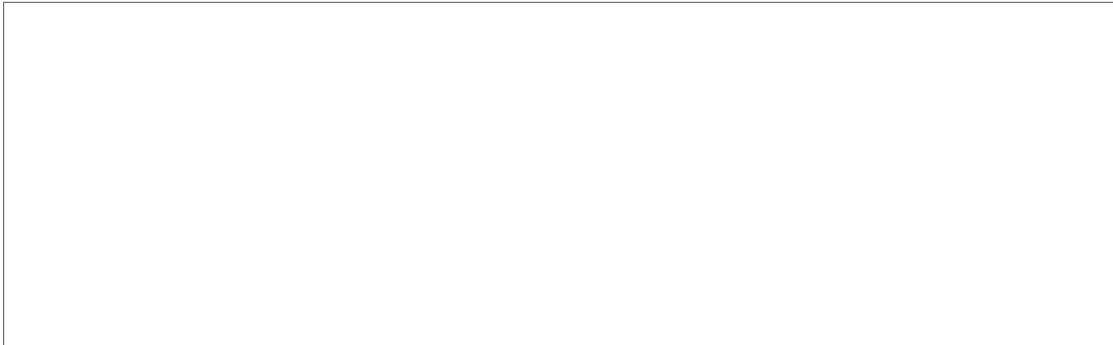
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Hanoi Radio Describes U Thant Meeting: U Thant met on 6 July with Xuan Thuy. Hanoi's international service in English on 7 July said that Thuy reiterated North Vietnam's position that the US "must bear full responsibility for the fact that the talks do not make progress."

The Hanoi broadcast said that Thuy denounced the US demand for reciprocity in return for an end to the bombing of North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese negotiator noted U Thant's "positive point" in demanding an unconditional end to the bombing, but also "expressed regret" that the Secretary General "confused the aggressor and those who oppose aggression."

The broadcast also noted that Thant said his visit was aimed at hearing about the Paris talks and not at making any new proposals.

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Women's Group in Rome: A North Vietnamese women's group arrived in Rome on 3 July. This group will be in Italy about two weeks as the guest of the Italian Communist women's organization. The North Vietnamese women are meeting with assorted bands of leftist ladies. Their visit is being covered by the Communist newspapers, but is being largely ignored by the rest of the press.

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

There is nothing of significance to report to-
day.

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