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The President's Daily Brief

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Top Secret 15 November 1967

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DAILY BRIEF 15 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Syria

The Soviets have tried--without much apparent success--to get the Syrians to behave more rationally.

The British tell us the Soviet ambassador in Damascus called on the Syrian prime minister in late September to caution against continued extremism. The Russian said Syria was only isolating herself from the other Arabs and provoking the Israelis.

Another report on what apparently was the same meeting states that the Soviet diplomat pointedly warned against Syrian-backed terrorist operations. According to this version, he said no one, including the Soviet Union, would come to Syria's aid if the Israelis struck in retaliation for terrorist activities.

Despite the Soviet approach, the terrorists continue their forays into Israeli-held territory.

The political calm of the past six months is threatened by feuding between senior military officers.

Some of Balaguer's military advisers have held talks with the political opposition, apparently with the President's blessing although their purpose is unclear. General Perez, who runs the armed forces, is most unhappy about this, particularly as one of the presidential advisers is his archenemy, Colonel Nivar. Perez is now threatening to resign unless Balaguer fires Nivar.

Whichever way Balaguer moves, he is going to displease one military faction or the other.

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2. Dominican Republic

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3. Communist China

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Brawling between rival Red Guards is increasing again despite government efforts to quash disorder. We have reports of street fights in Canton and serious outbreaks of violence in scattered parts of east China. Things are not as bad as they were last summer, but the regime is finding a Cultural Revolution harder to stop than to start.

4. United Nations

Brazil has now taken a cut at a draft resolution on the Middle East. The text, which may be tabled soon, calls for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territory, but provides for demilitarized zones.

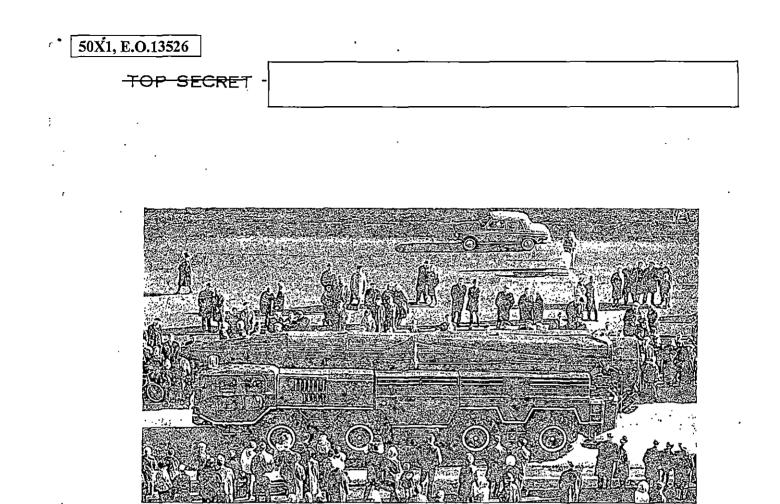
The Brazilians think they have a good chance to get their resolution adopted. It would not be acceptable to Israel, however, because it goes too far on withdrawal and does not provide for direct negotiations between the Israelis and Arabs.

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5. Soviet Union



6. Soviet Union

SFCRE

The missiles look like the one in the photo above, which first appeared in the Moscow parade last week.

We are still examining this missile to determine its operational characteristics, including its range, but the sites are clearly directed against China.

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