

THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
8 NOVEMBER 1968

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1. South Vietnam

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Face is obviously of great concern
to Thieu.

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Thieu appears quite adamant about
not accepting the Front as a separate
and equal entity.

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South Vietnam's Security Council
met yesterday and adopted a plan for
presentation to the US. In essence,
the plan is a face-saving device that
proposes the South Vietnamese head the
joint US - South Vietnamese delegation
in Paris.

This formula looks like a fishing
expedition to see what comes back from
Washington. Thieu virtually admitted
this at the meeting when he said he
did not think the Americans would buy
the proposition, but he thought they
might come up with an acceptable coun-
terproposal.

2. North Korea -
South Korea

The North Korean guerrillas who landed on the South Korean coast Sunday seem to be trapped in a South Korean dragnet. Problems of weather and terrain will impede the roundup, but all escape routes are blocked.

The South Koreans say two teams of 30 men each were committed to the infiltration attempt--the largest such operation since the Korean war.

3. Jarring Mission

The Jordanian and Egyptian foreign ministers have gone home complaining, as expected, that the latest Israeli document represents no forward movement. Nobody seems willing to let the Jarring mission die, but neither Cairo nor Tel Aviv is in a mood for any conciliatory moves. Jarring himself does not expect any developments for some time. He may transfer his base of operations to Europe.

4. West Germany -
Berlin

Tomorrow is the 50th anniversary of the abortive Communist revolution which broke out in Germany in 1918, and the radical students plan to celebrate with new demonstrations. They are finding it increasingly hard to provoke the police countermeasures which help to keep their movement glued together. Tomorrow's demonstrations may be the hardest test of police restraint yet.

5. Soviet Union

All signs indicate that the Soviets will try another unmanned circumlunar flight in the next few days. The space support ships should be on station by Saturday.

6. India -
Soviet Union

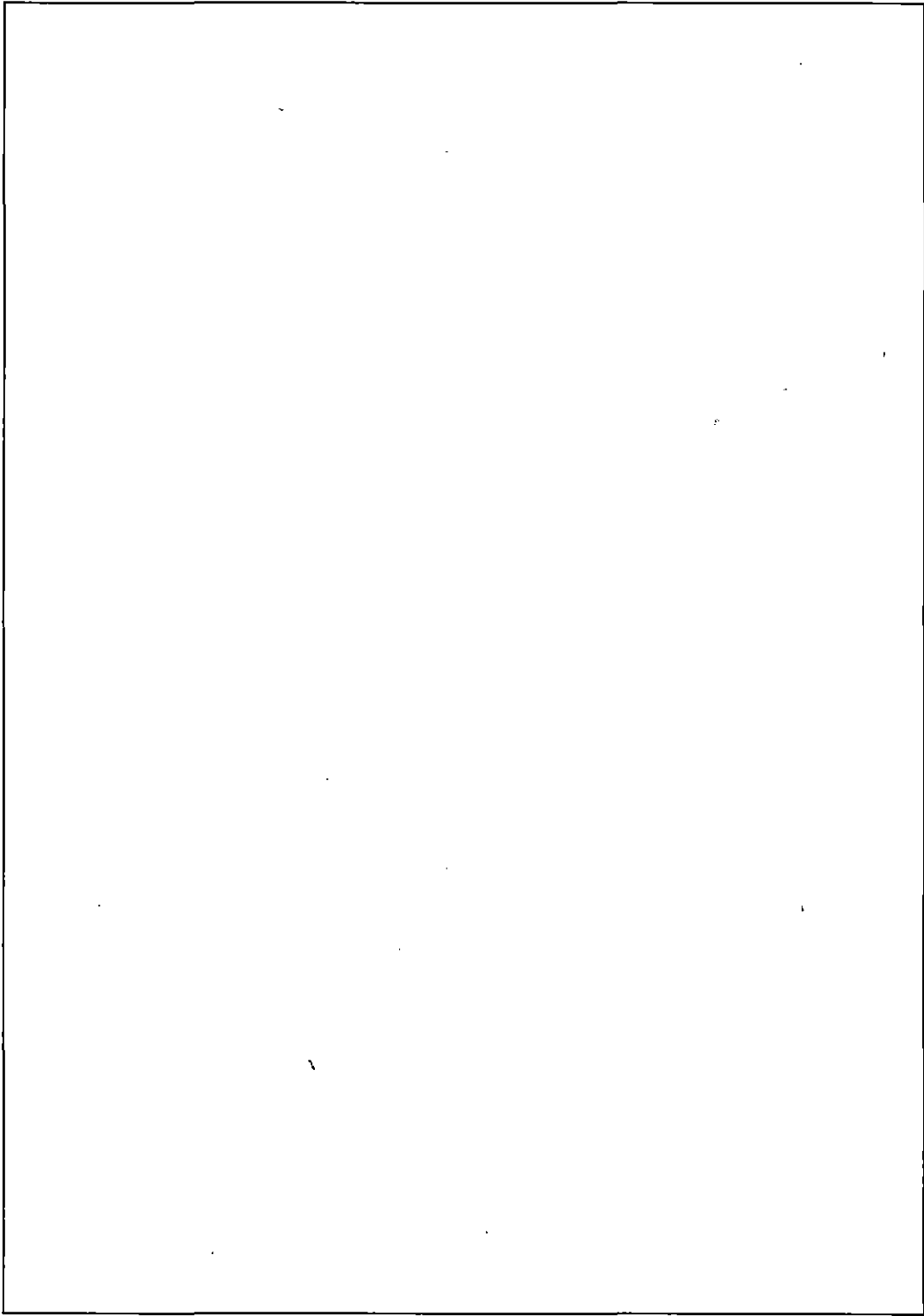
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7. Communist China -
Laos

Chinese construction crews apparently have resumed work on a road leading into Laos from southern China. This is the biggest spurt since 1963 in Peking's on-again, off-again road building program in Laos.

8. Iran -
Saudi Arabia

The Shah arrives in Saudi Arabia tomorrow to discuss the problems of the Persian Gulf with Faysal. The two men have much in common--notably a fear that unless Iran and Saudi Arabia cooperate, the Soviets and radical Arabs will move into the area as the British move out. Both men are extremely sensitive to real or imagined slights, however. They have a long history of national antipathies and territorial rivalries to overcome if they are to work together effectively.



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