

~~Top Secret~~ 34



FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam

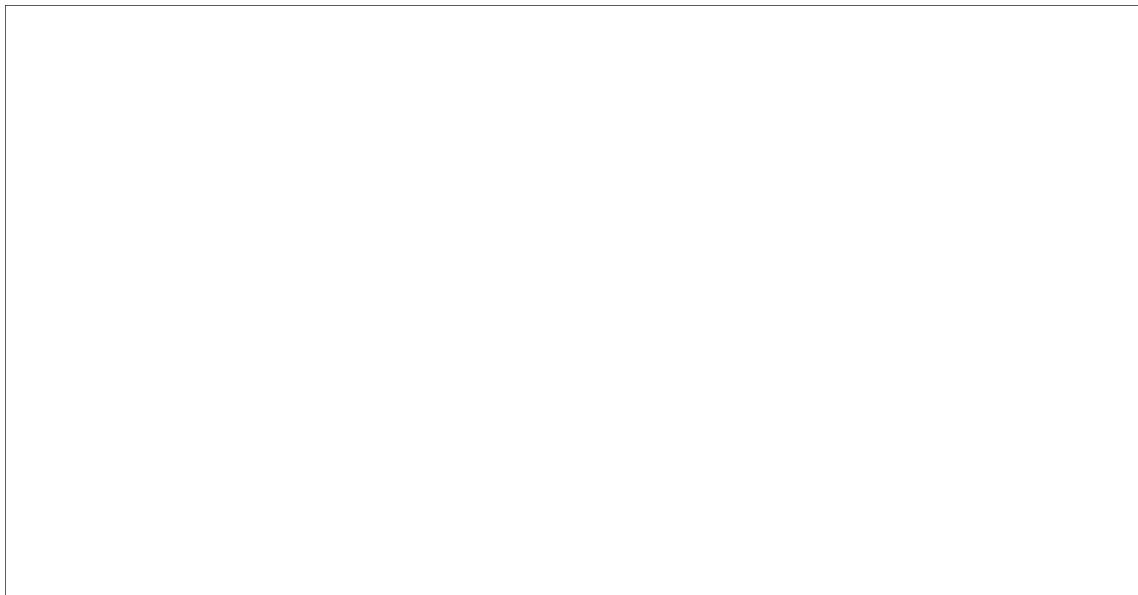
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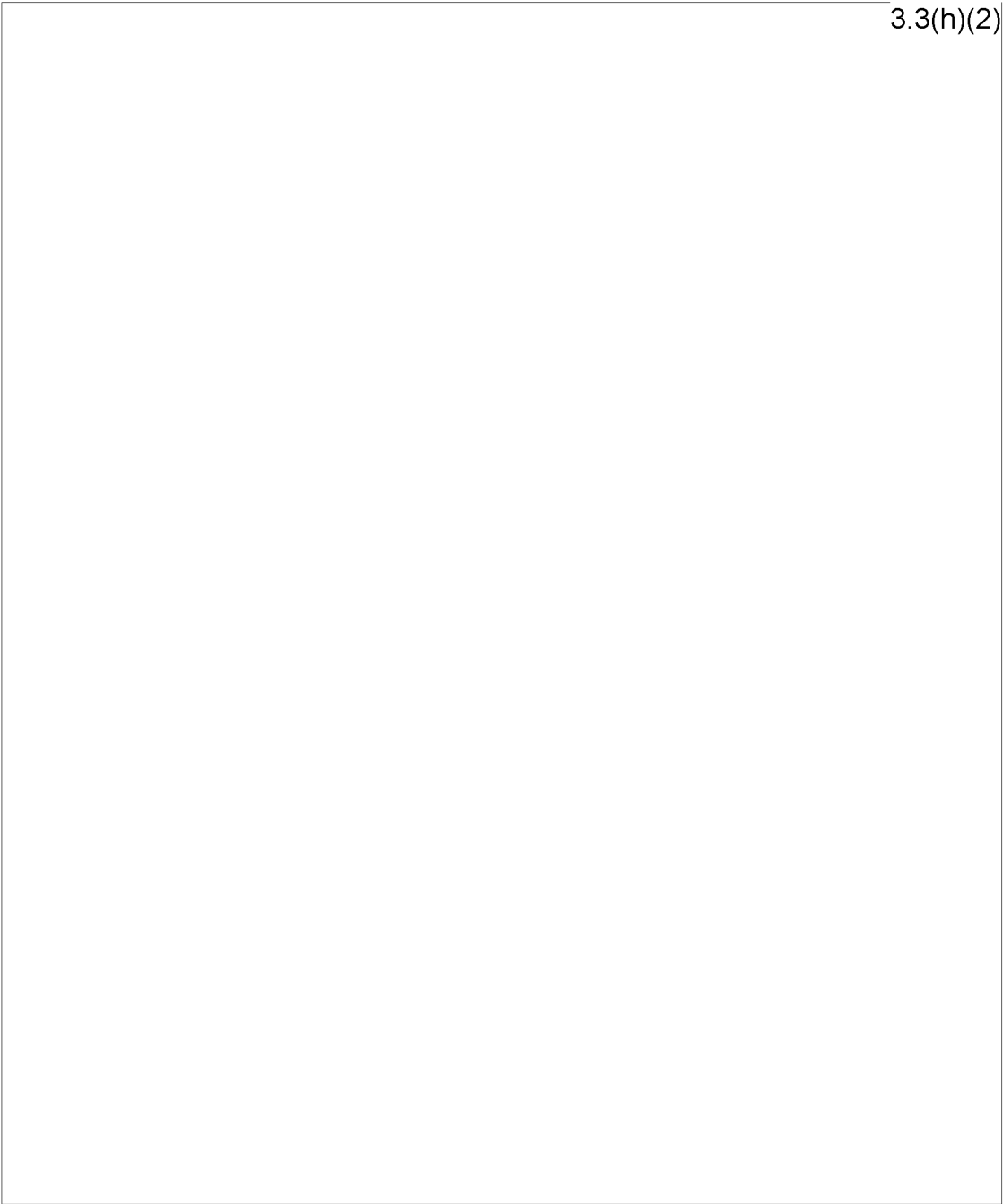
I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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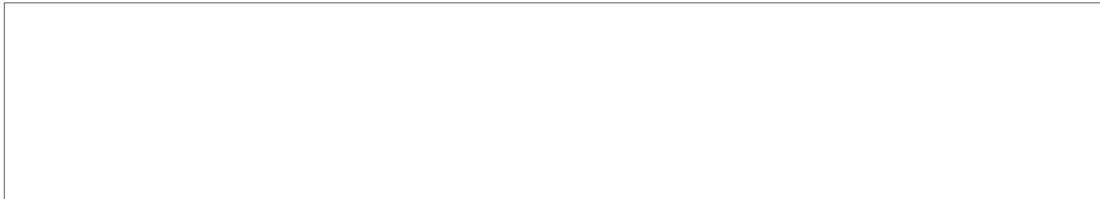
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Release Sought for Captured West German Doctors: Monsignor George Hussler, an official of the West German office of the Catholic charitable organization Caritas, has contacted North Vietnamese officials in East Berlin regarding the release of five West German doctors who disappeared from Hue during the Tet offensive and may have been taken prisoner by the Viet Cong. Hussler, who visited Hanoi in late 1966, is presently organizing a shipment of eight tons of medical supplies to North Vietnam and feels that this may facilitate his gaining the release of the doctors. (The West Germans are preparing a similar shipment for South Vietnam.) North Vietnamese officials in East Berlin told Hussler that his request would be forwarded to appropriate authorities.



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The last US newsman to travel to Hanoi was David Schoenbrun, who went principally as an academician and not as a reporter.

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The Budapest Conference: Although the North Vietnamese are unwilling to participate in the current meeting of Communist parties in Budapest because of its Sino-Soviet overtones, Ho Chi Minh, according to several press reports, has sent a letter to the conference requesting a pledge of support. Hanoi propaganda, however, has as yet avoided giving the conference any publicity.

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

Hanoi Quotes Western Press on Westmoreland:
In its English language broadcast on Monday, Hanoi radio rounded up several critical articles in the Western press on General Westmoreland. It reported that the General has admitted that the Tet offensive had placed his forces on the defensive, but ridiculed his claim that the US still maintained the initiative in its sweep operations. Quoting an Associated Press source, the radio said that US strategy in the war had failed, and that many US officers were unhappy with Westmoreland's strategy. The error he has fallen into, according to Hanoi, is that he is permitting the enemy to choose the conditions for battle. Summing up, the Hanoi statement pointed out that Westmoreland had few reserves to insure a stronger defense of Saigon or Khe Sanh and warned that the recent dispatch of 10,000 additional troops falls far short of what is really needed to hold out against new enemy thrusts, "let alone to make any gains."

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