

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 23 December 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
23 DECEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

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2. South Vietnam

Tri Quang is slinking around in another series of maneuvers aimed at rebuilding his political power. The latest machinations of the radical Buddhist monk include a proposal that Vietnamese Buddhists and Catholics join in a campaign for acceptance of the Pope's appeal to extend the Christmas truce. Tri Quang is not likely to make much progress in this quarter, but he can be expected to continue his efforts to make trouble.

3. Macao

A new incident today--a set-to between a Portuguese foreman and a Chinese workman--may bring on further demonstrations in the colony. The Chinese could well use this as a pretext for inflicting more humiliations on the local authorities.

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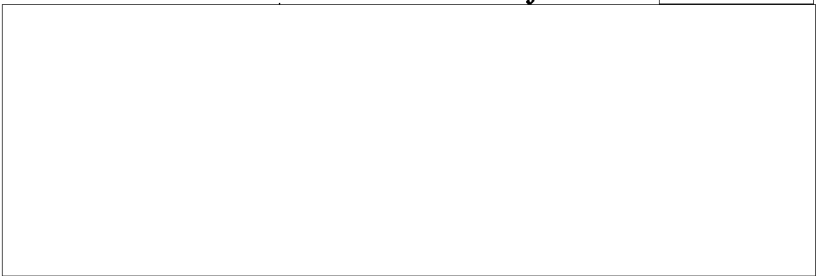
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4. Panama

The Robles government now seems optimistic about reaching a canal settlement with the US next year.

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5. Bahamas

Tension in the Bahamas is rising as the islands prepare to elect a new government early next month.

The elections were called following talk that some government ministers have been using their positions to fill their pockets--particularly through gambling concessions. The opposition party now is calling for an investigation by a royal commission; Prime Minister Wilson is said to be personally concerned.

The opposition party is not particularly strong and [redacted] party extremists plan a campaign of violence if they lose. On top of this, there is more tension building because of a strike of construction and electrical workers which may well spread to other trades.

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6. Syria

The parent companies of Iraq Petroleum voted today to pay the \$10.3 million in back transit payments demanded by Syria. This decision was pushed by Shell and British Petroleum over the objections of Mobil and Standard of New Jersey. The action was taken after the French member of the consortium hinted it was prepared to make a separate settlement with Syria. The French hoped thereby to get to market all of the oil from the pipeline.

Iraq Petroleum will not announce the decision until next Thursday.

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