

The President's Daily Brief

Top Secret 29 December 1966

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DAILY BRIEF 29 DECEMBER 1966

1. Jordan

Husavn's enemies have launched what could become a serious terrorist campaign inside Jordan. There have been several bomb explosions this week in the capital city. A Jordanian policeman was assassinated near the Syrian border early yesterday.

So far Jordanian authorities have few clues as to the perpetrators. Palestine Liberation Organization, which this week announced the formation of a revolutionary council aimed at overthrowing the King, is a leading suspect. So is the Syrian Government.

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2. Turkey

The Turks were wary hosts during Kosygin's recent visit. The government treated him as it felt protocol required, but did not extend itself. If Kosygin was seeking anything at all in the way of political concessions, he was disappointed.

3. Chile

President Frei is in for increased trouble from Congress. The Senate has just elected Salvador Allende as its president. Allende, two-time presidential candidate of the Communist-Socialist popular front, will be a nuisance in his new post.

This will be especially so during the upcoming debate over granting the president permission to leave the country for his US trip. It is likely now that the debate will be muddied up with anti-US invective.

4. Laos

Premier Souvanna has seen to it that the new National Assembly elected next week will be easier to get along with than its predecessor. He has chosen candidates pledged to support him for most of the assembly seats.

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As usual, the Communists will boycott the elections, and the parts of the country they control will not participate. Souvanna, although disillusioned with both neutralists and Communists, remains determined to preserve at least the facade of tripartite government despite the boycott.

5. South Vietnam

At last report, a "general strike" in support of the striking dockworkers was to begin in Saigon at 5:00 PM Washington time this evening. South Vietnamese troops will be used to operate essential facilities in the city if the strike proves effective.

No progress has been made in getting the dockworkers back on the job. A US military offer to hire for jobs elsewhere sizable numbers of the stevedores laid off last week at the military port was rejected this afternoon by union leaders.

So far, the government has taken no real steps to end the strike. Ky, however, is expected to authorize police director Loan to take some action—as yet unspecified—if the strike drags on.

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