



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 17 January 1967

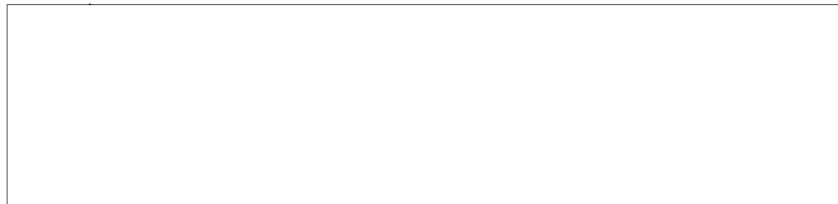


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DAILY BRIEF
17 JANUARY 1967

1. South Vietnam

Ky and the governing military Directorate are in sharp disagreement with the constituent assembly over several points in the draft constitution.



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Representatives of the assembly and the government are meeting in an effort to find common ground. The outlook is for compromise, with the executive branch coming off a bit better than the legislative in terms of power.

2. Australia

Security officials are taking every precaution to head off possible violence during Prime Minister Ky's five-day visit. Ky arrives tonight, Washington time, amidst a great deal of left-wing ferment. There are plans for big anti-Ky demonstrations, but the Australians hope to prevent too much of this by limiting Ky's public appearances.

3. Israel-Syria

The border is quiet for the moment, as UN officials are trying to implement U Thant's proposal--accepted by both sides--for a meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission. Eshkol, however, is still threatening "deterrent" action if the UN and "world powers" do not restrain Syria.

A shooting incident today on the Israeli-Jordanian border, although apparently unrelated to the trouble with Syria, will nevertheless further stir up the Israelis.

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4. Communist China

The Malians expect a visit from Foreign Minister Chen Yi next month. They figure he will also visit Tanzania, Congo (Brazzaville), and Guinea-- other places where Peking's stock is at least above rock bottom.

No senior Chinese leader has visited Africa since 1965, when both Chen and Chou En-lai barnstormed there. Waning Chinese influence on the continent and African concern over events in China may have convinced Peking that it is time to show the flag again. Whether Chen can afford to leave Peking is another matter.

A recent Chinese delegation to Mali-- where Chinese aid has been significant-- got only a cool, but correct, reception.

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5. Bahamas

Premier Pindling was extremely friendly in talking with our consul general yesterday. Pindling said that "neither the State nor Defense" departments "had anything to be concerned about" relative to his government. He would like to come to Washington "within the month" to explain his position firsthand. He also asked if the US had any aid programs for "dependent territories."

6. Indonesia

Foreign Minister Malik's public plea yesterday for Sukarno to resign will neither sway Sukarno nor spur Suharto to move against the President any faster.

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7. West Germany

Kiesinger's talks with De Gaulle last week improved the climate of Franco-German relations. There were also some immediate accomplishments, such as:

- A French promise to help Bonn establish diplomatic relations with the East European countries;
- French agreement to dissuade Afro-Asian countries from in turn recognizing East Germany;
- Agreement to form a joint working group to expand cooperation in industrial, scientific, cultural, and military fields.

Both sides, however, admit differences on key political problems such as British entry to the Common Market, the future of NATO, and relations with the US. The rosy "harmonization" of foreign policies envisioned in the 1963 friendship treaty is still a long way off.

8. Chile

President Frei's expected difficulties with Congress are upon him. Today the Senate refused to give him permission to leave the country for his US trip, calling it "injurious to national dignity."

This may scratch the trip. There are parliamentary maneuvers Frei could resort to, but we think he will be leery of trying them unless he feels certain of success.

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