

## *The President's Daily Brief*

1 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

1 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

East Germany's rejection of Bonn's negotiation offers has frustrated Chancellor Brandt's inner-German policies. (Page 1)

Enemy units stationed near Saigon and in the Mekong Delta are preparing for another round of intensive military activity. (Page 2)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY**

East Germany has rejected Bonn's offer to ne-  
gotiate Berlin matters [redacted]

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[redacted] Pankow has also broken off the recently resumed discussions on bilateral transportation and postal issues as reported in The President's Daily Brief of 26 November.

East Germany insists that it can discuss Berlin matters only with West Berlin city officials. Pankow also repeated its position that broader talks with Bonn cannot take place until West Germany signs a formal treaty recognizing East Germany's sovereignty.

*East German motives are not entirely clear. They may be afraid of undercutting their own argument that other Eastern European states should delay entering bilateral negotiations with West Germany. The subject of how to deal with Bonn's Eastern policy reportedly will be discussed at the Warsaw Pact summit early this week.*

*Meanwhile, East Germany's rigid posture poses a difficult dilemma for the new Brandt government which has made progress in inner-German relations a major objective. This problem has produced a clash between Egon Bahr, a key advisor to Chancellor Brandt, and conservative officials in the foreign ministry. Bahr is also against the current Allied attempts to sound out the Soviets on Berlin because he thinks they will conflict with Bonn's negotiations with the East.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

SOUTH VIETNAM

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The Communists seem to be preparing for another round of greater military activity. [redacted]  
[redacted] statements by prisoners and recent ralliers suggest that the next "high point" may come as early as this week.

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A prisoner recently captured north of Saigon claims his unit is set to participate in a country-wide offensive that will begin shortly.

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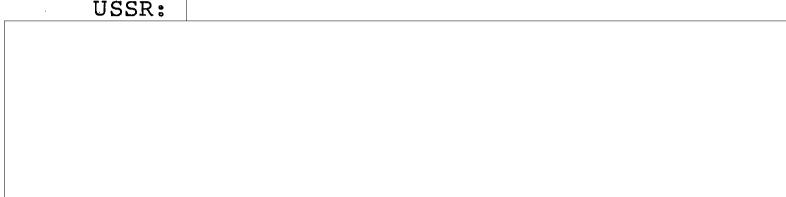
*Prisoners claim that the Communists will emphasize guerrilla and commando tactics in the coming offensive. Their hope of course would be to inflict heavy losses on the allies at relatively little cost to themselves.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

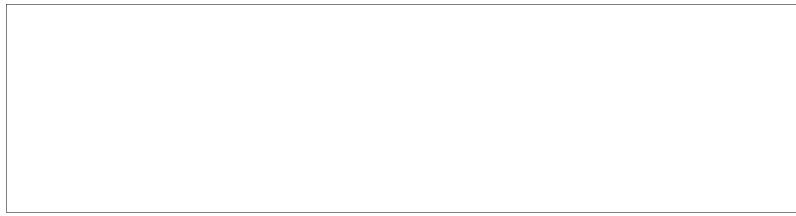
*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTES

USSR:



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## *The President's Daily Brief*

*2 December 1969*

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

2 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted]

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South

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Vietnam. (Page 1)

A member of Hanoi's Paris delegation has hinted that David Dellinger will be getting more names of American prisoners in North Vietnam. (Page 2)

In Belgrade the regime is casting about for ways to bring news and cultural media under better control. (Page 3)

The Romanians expect the imminent Warsaw Pact meeting in Moscow to focus primarily on Bonn's new eastern policy. (Page 5)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

SOUTH VIETNAM



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**NORTH VIETNAM**

According to our Paris delegation, a western newsman recently received oblique confirmation from a member of the North Vietnamese delegation that the names of 59 American prisoners released by peace activist David Dellinger came "straight from Hanoi." The official insisted that North Vietnam will "never" supply names of prisoners directly to US Government representatives, but he said that he thought Dellinger "will be getting more names."

Hanoi has been under pressure from non-Communist quarters to ease its prisoner policies, at least to the extent of providing a full list of names and allowing regular correspondence with relatives. Mindful of the potential the prisoner issue has for fostering sentiment against the war in the United States, the Communists may now want to give critics of American policy an example of their alleged concern for victims of the war. Such a move might seem especially appealing to them at a time when alleged US atrocities in South Vietnam are making headlines.

Beyond these propaganda motives, North Vietnam considers American prisoners useful bargaining capital that will not be given up easily or soon. The Communists have long made it clear that they regard the prisoner issue as essentially a post-war matter, which they will not discuss, much less resolve, before the main issues of the war are settled. Even at that point, the North Vietnamese probably would hope to extract a price for returning Americans captured during the bombing years. There is evidence, for example, that they will try to link the prisoners with a demand for reparations for damage caused by US air attacks.

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**YUGOSLAVIA**

The regime is embarked on an effort that could lead to Communist Party censorship of news and cultural media. Up to now, Yugoslav media have been subjected only to loose post facto party controls, but on 26 November the party's executive bureau adopted a "special document" recommending that "democratic social machinery" be created to regularize the presentation of information. The document also calls for passage of a law laying down precise policy lines to be followed by censorship authorities at various levels.

*The party feels obliged to take this action because of embarrassing articles and a play which in Tito's view went beyond constructive criticism and aroused his ire. The debates leading to the acceptance of this document indicate there is much concern about the idea of formal censorship. Adoption of a new law, incorporating more stringent guidelines is likely to be accompanied by controversy.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

RHODESIA

The new constitution, approved by referendum last June and passed by Parliament recently, was signed into law over the weekend. General elections will be held early next year, and Rhodesia will then become a republic without formal declaration. Final action on the constitution provides a measure of the confidence Rhodesia's leaders have that the country's economic and political isolation is nearing an end. Their optimism has been buoyed by the healthiness of the economy and the likelihood that the effects of UN sanctions will grow even weaker as time passes.

*Under these circumstances, the Rhodesians see no need for any settlement with the UK. For its part, the British Government will issue appropriate expressions of dismay and may retaliate in token fashion.*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTES

Albania-USSR: Whatever hope there may have been for a reconciliation between Albania and the USSR was destroyed last Friday by party chief Enver Hoxha. In a speech marking the 25th anniversary of Albania's "liberation," Hoxha excoriated the Soviet leadership, denounced the occupation of Czechoslovakia as "the starting point for even bigger adventures" against Romania, Yugoslavia, and Albania, and decried "armed provocations" against Communist China. Thus far, the USSR has taken no public notice of Hoxha's remarks.

Romania - Warsaw Pact: Foreign Minister Manescu told Ambassador Meeker yesterday that he and Ceausescu would be leaving for Moscow today for the Warsaw Pact meeting. Although the meeting was ostensibly called to deal with the broad question of European security, Manescu thought it actually would be centered more narrowly on Brandt's eastern policy. Manescu also called to Meeker's attention Romania's refusal to participate in the recent Warsaw Pact statement on the Middle East, commenting that he saw no utility in condemning Israel.

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

3 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

3 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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South Vietnam

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(Page 1)

The election year is already well started in Chile.  
(Page 2)

The European Communities end their summit meeting.  
(Page 3)

Soviets

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(Page 4)

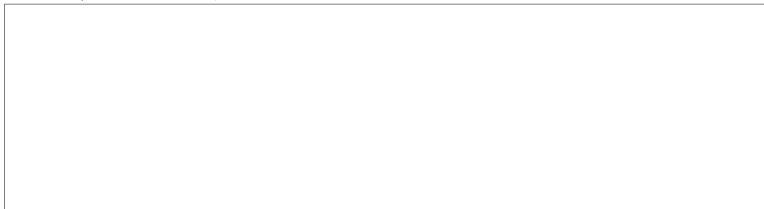
Cuba scorns diplomatic relations with its neighbors.  
(Page 5)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

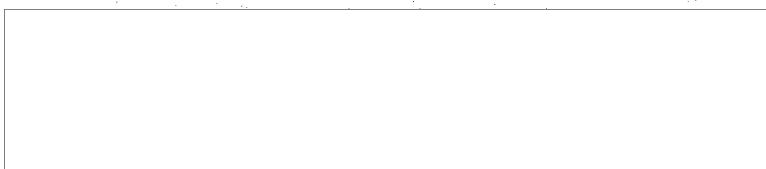
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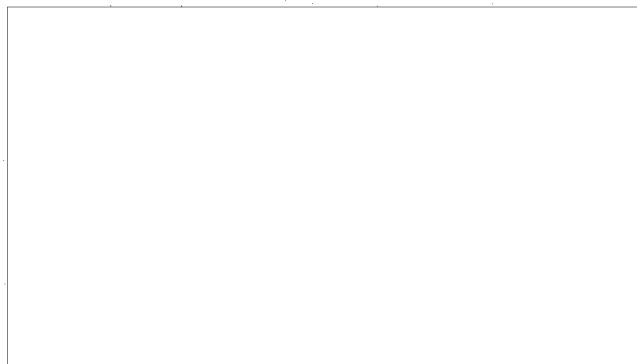
SOUTH VIETNAM



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**CHILE**

The presidential campaign in Chile has begun, although the election is ten months away. Of seven declared candidates, three are presently considered the real contenders. These are former president Jorge Alessandri on the right, Radomiro Tomic of the governing Christian Democratic Party, and Socialist Senator Salvador Allende on the far left.

Alessandri, now 73 years old, is an independent with a nationalistic and paternalistic image that carries his appeal far beyond the conservative National Party that nominated him. The ambitious and combative Tomic, rebuffed in a pitch for Communist support, is now courting middle class backing and trying to reorganize the lower class groups that figured in Frei's victory in 1964. Allende suffers from overexposure and lukewarm support from his own party, but he is ahead of the other four candidates of the far left because of his vote-getting prowess --demonstrated in three previous presidential tries.

Chileans are obsessed with politics. Their numerous, opinionated, and articulate newspapers foster this interest and accentuate divisions. Acrimonious political jokes are a national avocation, and political judgments are harsh and changeable. The Frei government's "revolution in liberty" has alienated both right and left, and the majority of Chileans who belong to no political party are seeking a new solution. There is strong evidence of widespread desire for a pause in innovation and for order and security. This desire has made most observers see Alessandri leading the race, but it is balanced by an equally apparent fear of retrogression. An imponderable factor is the consistent and growing strength of the Chilean leftist forces--led by the largest, best organized, and most influential orthodox Communist party in Latin America outside of Cuba.

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

A communiqué issued at the end of the summit meeting in The Hague includes an agreement in principle on opening membership negotiations with Britain, Denmark, Norway, and Ireland. The members also expressed their wish to agree upon definitive agricultural financing arrangements by the end of this year, and to see the EC Council reduce farm surpluses and cut the costs of the Common Agricultural Policy. In addition, they recommended that national contributions to the farm fund be phased out, and replaced by the Communities' "own resources."

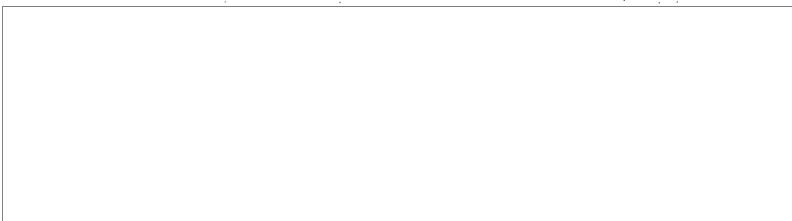
The agreement was reached after Brandt and Pompidou had stated their countries' positions strongly in Monday's session. Brandt, expressing West Germany's new assertiveness in foreign affairs, delivered a dramatic plea for the enlargement of the Communities. Pompidou, while making it clear that the French veto on British accession had been removed, stressed the conditions that would have to be met before negotiations could begin.

*The effect of the resolution of these problems on the future shape of the Communities is far from clear. Despite urging by EC Commission President Rey, no commitments seem to have been made to strengthen community institutions. Moreover, the arrangements for increased political cooperation suggested by both Pompidou and Brandt could, unless carefully circumscribed, detract from existing institutions.*

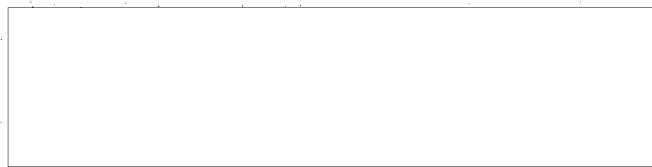
**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

USSR



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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

CUBA

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Cuban Foreign Minister Roa said recently that Castro has no desire to re-establish diplomatic relations with other Latin American countries. He believes that virtually all existing governments in Latin America are "rotten" and doomed to fall within a few years. Roa claimed, however, that Castro would welcome commercial relations with the rest of Latin America--if the deals worked to Cuba's advantage--but believes that few countries have much to offer.

*Castro's real interest in resuming relations with any Latin American country would be the effect such a move would have on undermining the OAS sanctions or the US economic denial campaign. In a speech last July he offered to resume ties, but only with those governments willing to acknowledge the "immorality" of the OAS sanctions against Cuba and to renounce them publicly.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

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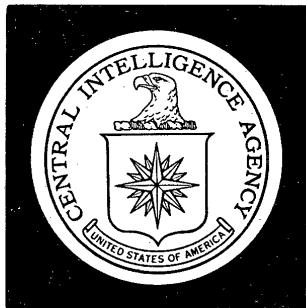
**NOTES**

UN - Arms Control: The Soviets have indicated they will press to a vote their own draft CBW resolution. This would have the General Assembly commend the USSR's proposed convention which bans the production, development, and stockpiling of CBW agents and requires the destruction of existing stocks. Soviet disarmament expert Alexey Roschin described as wholly unacceptable the Canadian proposal that would evenhandedly refer all CBW resolutions to the Geneva disarmament talks for further consideration. Roschin also noted that the Soviet position was in line with the Swedish initiative that would have the General Assembly interpret the Geneva Protocol of 1925 as prohibiting the use of tear gas and herbicides in war. These CBW resolutions--and any others that may be introduced--will come up for voting in the General Assembly in about ten days.

Venezuela: President Caldera is increasingly concerned that the revised US petroleum import program will further reduce his country's share of US markets. Caldera's concern is genuine. From 1962 to 1968, Venezuela's share of US crude oil imports dropped from 41.1 percent to 26.6 percent, and its share of the refined product also dropped significantly. A further reduction of oil exports to the US would have an immediate impact on the country's social and economic programs, which depend heavily on oil revenues for financing.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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# *The President's Daily Brief*

4 December 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

4 December 1969

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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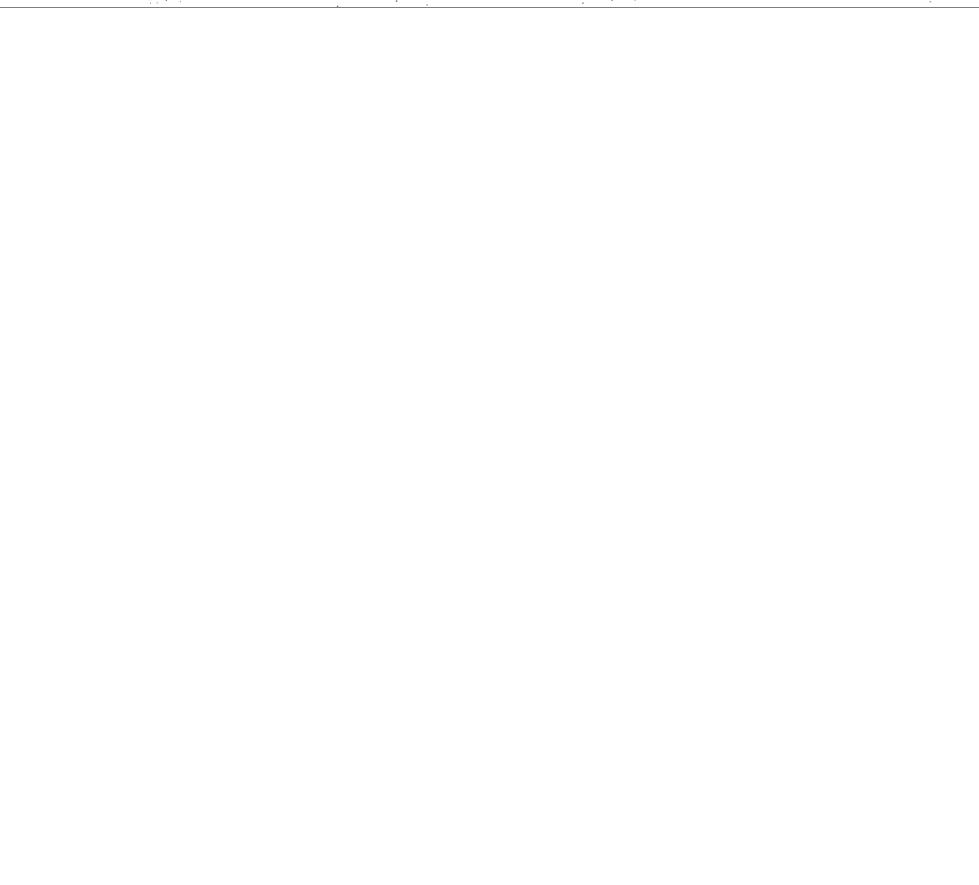
North Vietnam	50X1
(Page 1)	50X1
Libya	50X1
(Page 2)	50X1

In its search for new air routes in Southeast Asia,  
Aeroflot has asked Laos for landing rights. (Page 3) 50X1

Brazilian security officials anticipate terrorist  
acts today. (Page 4)

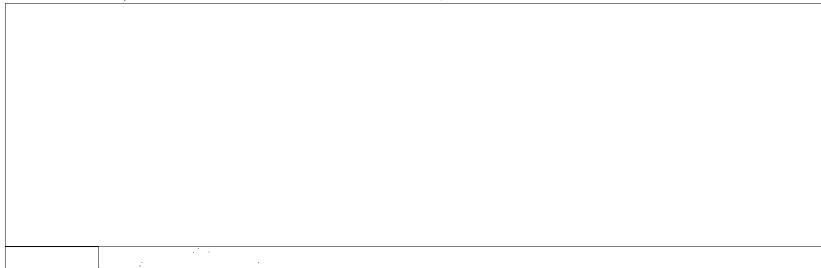
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NORTH VIETNAM



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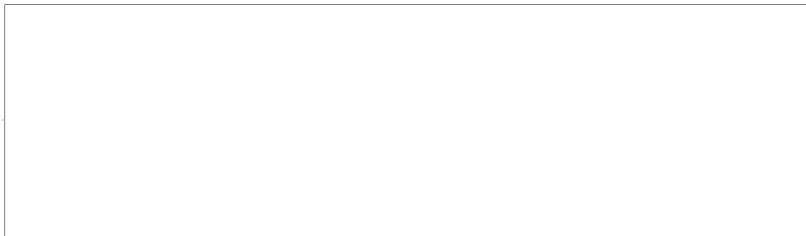
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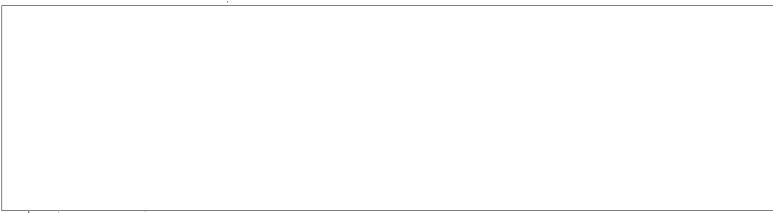
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LIBYA



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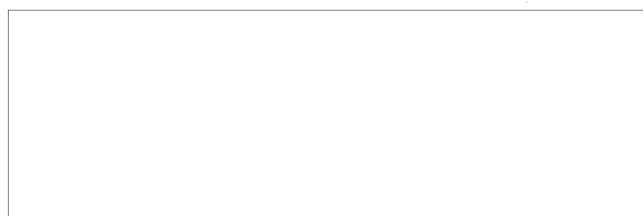
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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**USSR-FAR EAST**

Aeroflot has asked the Laotians for landing rights in Vientiane in their latest bid for new air routes in Southeast Asia. The Soviets want to use Vientiane as a stopover for onward flights to Hanoi and Phnom Penh. Moscow signed a new civil air agreement with Malaysia on 27 November and is currently negotiating landing right privileges with Thailand and Cambodia, as reported in The President's Daily Brief of 29 November.

*The Laotians appear amenable to the Vientiane-Hanoi route but are reluctant to let the Soviets duplicate their profitable air route to Phnom Penh. If Laos concurs, Aeroflot could transport passengers, including Communist officials, between Vientiane and Hanoi, a route now served only by weekly flights of the International Control Commission.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

BRAZIL

Today is the first-month anniversary of the death of dissident Communist leader Carlos Marighella.

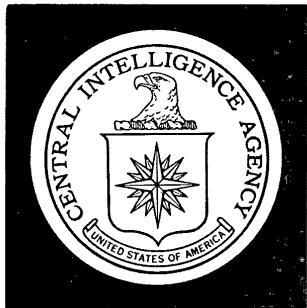
[redacted] security officials expect leftist extremists to mark the occasion with terrorist actions. Such acts might include the sabotage of vital public services, the assassination or kidnaping of important civil or military officials or their dependents, or the hijacking of another airliner.

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*The followers of Marighella who have warned that his death will be avenged by bloodshed may feel obliged to carry out some operation at this time to demonstrate that his loss has not crippled their operations.*

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

5 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

5 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Sino-Soviet border talks are stalled, but they are not likely to come to a full stop in the near future. (Page 1)

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vinogradov is having difficulty understanding his Arab allies. (Page 2)

Moscow

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(Page 3)

50X1

Some members of the Fatah General Command are planning to remove Yasir Arafat from his leadership role. (Page 4)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR**

According to Western diplomatic sources in Peking, the Chinese have insisted that the Soviets agree on a mutual withdrawal of heavy military units 100 kilometers from tense border areas. The initial Chinese negotiating package is also said to include a proposal for a Sino-Soviet commission to oversee such a withdrawal and the removal of all Soviet forces from Mongolia.

Peking obviously realizes that Moscow has no intention of diluting its military advantage by taking such drastic steps. Although the Chinese may be prepared to compromise, they probably intend to press for some form of preliminary agreement on a military stand-down and disengagement along the frontier before the talks go any further.

*The impasse has been accompanied by an increase in the exchange of polemics. In spite of the deadlock, Peking and Moscow seem to have little to gain by breaking off the discussions. Both sides probably are prepared for a protracted stalemate.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**USSR - MIDDLE EAST**

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vinogradov, who is in charge of Near Eastern affairs, recently complained [redacted] that he has the toughest job in the Foreign Ministry. He said he finds the job particularly difficult because he has no experience in the area and it is hard for him to understand the Arab mentality. Vinogradov frankly admitted that Nasir had miscalculated in provoking war in 1967, and added wryly that "blunder" was a more apt description. Vinogradov insisted, however, that Israel stop demanding direct negotiations, which he said the Arabs "will not and cannot" accept.

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*Vinogradov's candid remarks have the ring of sincerity. His view that the Arabs will not negotiate directly with Tel Aviv is probably accurate. Dealing with the Arabs is often a trying experience for the Russians, and Vinogradov probably is not looking forward to the next round of bilateral consultations which may begin today. On 3 December an Egyptian foreign ministry official said he expected to be going to Moscow on 5 December as part of a UAR delegation.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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USSR



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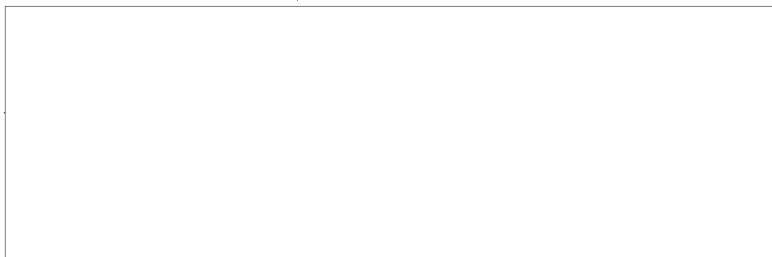


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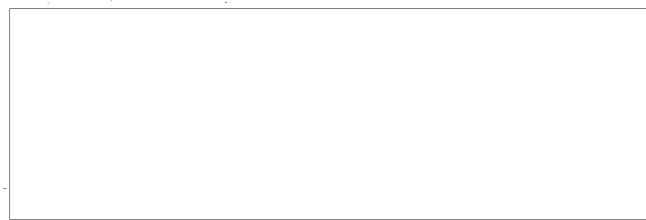
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ARAB STATES



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTE

South Vietnam: An intercepted enemy message has disclosed the text of what appears to be a forthcoming Communist announcement calling for two three-day cease-fires to mark both Christmas and New Years. The message indicated the necessary decisions on this matter had been taken, but it did not specify the timing of the announcement. Unlike many previous years the South Vietnamese Government has publicized its cease-fire plans first. Yesterday Saigon announced that its forces would observe a 24-hour truce on both holidays.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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# *The President's Daily Brief*

6 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

6 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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Reaction of Europe's leaders to the Hague summit meeting is for the most part favorable. (Page 2)

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[Redacted]  
North Vietnam [Redacted]

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In Laos, North Vietnamese units are beginning to attack government positions near the Plaine des Jarres in greater strength, and in the northwest Pathet Lao elements have overrun several important government positions near Pak Beng. (Page 4).

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The new federal offensive in Nigeria so far has not broken the military stalemate. (Page 5)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

EASTERN EUROPE - GERMANY

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

Most European leaders, although fully aware of the tough problems remaining, believe the Hague summit meeting gave new impetus to European integration.

Willy Brandt, whose contribution to the meeting has been praised even by his Christian Democrat opponents, has commented that the summit justified modest expectations for moving from stagnation to greater cooperation in Europe. Brandt mentioned as the summit's primary achievement the informal agreement, not embodied in the official communiqué, that negotiations with membership applicants could begin "at the latest" by the middle of 1970.

Pompidou is said to have told the French cabinet that the summit's results were "positive," that negotiations with the British could start "quickly," and that the French want them to succeed. In the view of our embassy in Paris, Pompidou has successfully managed a major change in French European policy without the appearance of an open break with Gaullist foreign policy. His performance at the summit was hailed by nearly all French media as a triumph.

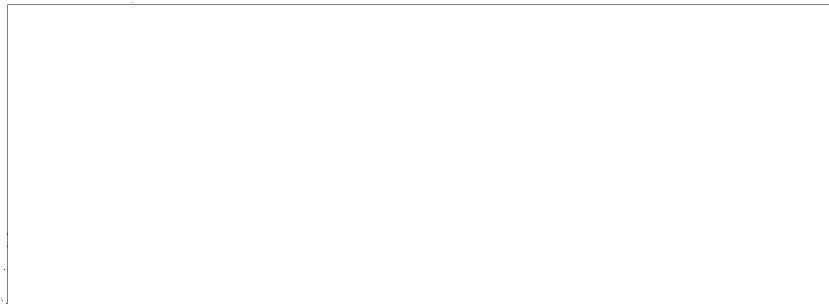
Leaders of Belgium and Luxembourg also reacted favorably to the results of the summit, but Dutch Foreign Minister Luns termed the results "just acceptable."

The British reaction has been sober. A top Foreign Office expert said that London was "reasonably pleased" with the results. He added that, although the British had hoped for an earlier date, they are convinced that the informal agreement to open negotiations by next July is a "solemn commitment."

Whether this commitment can be honored remains to be seen. Brussels will be the scene of almost continual hard bargaining between now and the end of 1970. The Communities may have to stop the official clock to meet the 31 December deadline for agreement on how to finance future community activities. Difficult negotiations will also be required to achieve a common negotiating position by next July.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

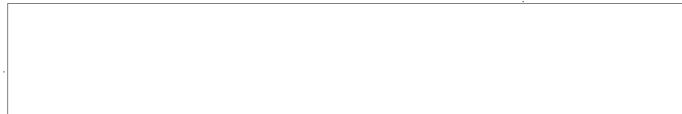
NORTH VIETNAM



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*



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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

LAOS

North Vietnamese units of battalion strength recently have carried out concerted attacks on numerous government positions near the Plaine des Jarres. Vang Pao's guerrillas have turned back most of these assaults, but their ability to stand up to sustained pressure, after many months of combat, is doubtful.

*This new aggressiveness is the first clear sign that Hanoi has been able to move sufficient quantities of supplies to front-line troops in the north despite heavy bombing of the roads.*

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In northwestern Laos, Pathet Lao troops have overrun several important government positions near Pak Beng.

*With these gains, the Pathet Lao have come close to wiping out the last vestiges of government control in the Nam Beng Valley, the site of Chinese road building activity. Photography [redacted] shows that the road is now motorable for about 17 miles southwest of Muong Sai.*

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Southern Laos remains quiet

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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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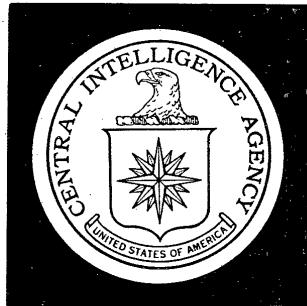
Nigeria: The Biafrans have held against the first phase of the new federal offensive which began last month. The Nigerians gained some ground in the south but made no major breakthrough. Both sides suffered heavy casualties and front-line Biafran units had serious ammunition shortages. The fighting has tapered off, but secessionist field commanders expect more attacks soon by reinforced federal forces.

Haile Selassie, meanwhile, is persevering in his attempts to bring the two parties together for peace talks. The Nigerians seem willing, but the Biafrans, who have long thought the Emperor to favor the federal government, want broader talks in which African leaders, friendlier to their cause, are included.

Brazil: In a talk with Ambassador Elbrick, Foreign Minister Gibson urged early approval of Brazil's requests to buy US military equipment, particularly aircraft. He said Brazil is determined to establish a strong air force, and that it will soon have to decide where to obtain the new aircraft. The air force apparently has contracted for Italian jet trainers, and has carried on extensive negotiations for British MK55 Lightning jet fighters; this contract may soon be signed whether or not US aircraft are available. The minister added that application of sanctions against Brazil under the Conte or Symington legislation would strain US-Brazilian relations.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

*8 December 1969*

*26*

*Top Secret*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

8 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Syria's release of the two Israeli hijacking victims removes a major factor inhibiting Israeli retaliation against Syria and Egypt. (Page 1)

[Redacted] 50X1

The Soviets [Redacted]

(Page 3)

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50X1

In Colombia, the two major parties have agreed on a National Front candidate in next year's presidential elections. (Page 3)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**ISRAEL - ARAB STATES**

Syria's release of the two Israeli passengers held in Damascus since the TWA hijacking last August removes a major factor inhibiting Israeli retaliation against Syria and Egypt. The release as finally worked out involved a three-sided swap of the two passengers held in Damascus and two Israeli pilots held by Egypt for 58 Egyptian and 13 Syrian prisoners held by Israel.

*Israel has several scores to settle, especially with Egypt. There have been several Egyptian attacks on Israeli forces this fall, the most galling on 16 November when Egyptian frogmen attacked two Israeli merchant ships in the Port of Elat.*

*Israel continues to pound Egyptian positions along the canal daily, but has not carried out any major action there since early September. The temptation to hit Egypt before the Arab summit meeting set for 20 December will now be stronger.*

*If the Israelis should attempt ground operations directly across the canal, they would probably run the risk of heavy casualties.*

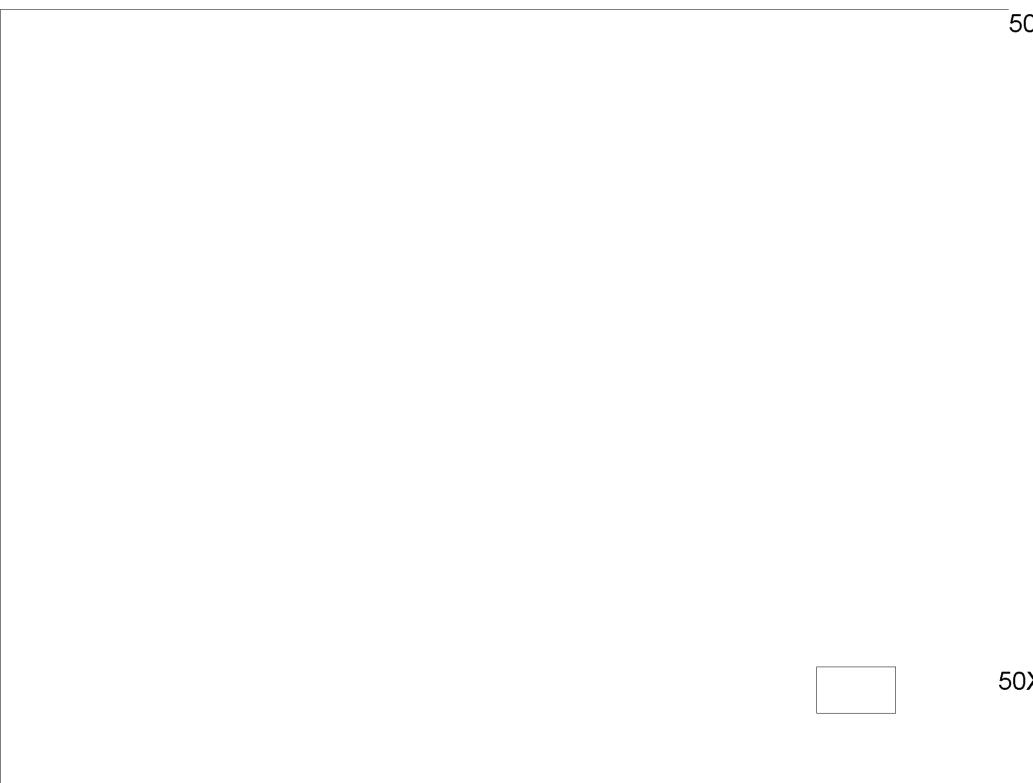
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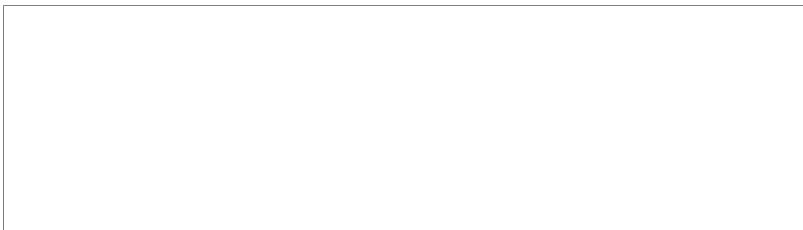


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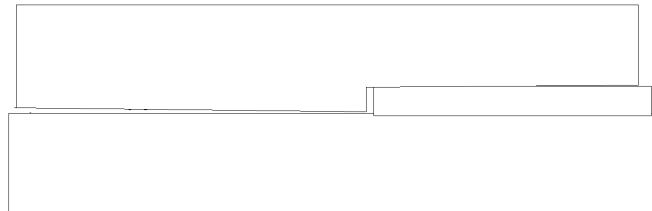


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JAPAN-USSR



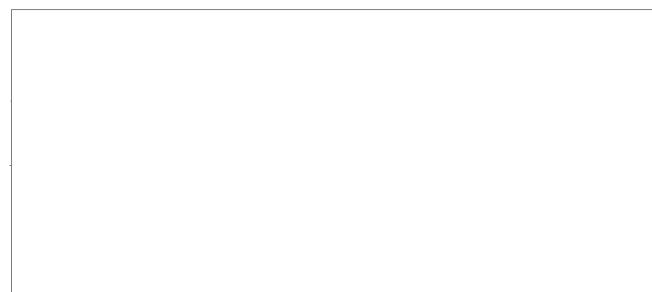
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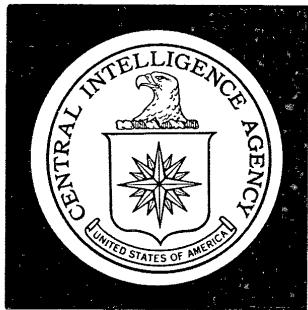
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Colombia: The two major parties have finally agreed on a National Front candidate--Misael Pastrana--in next April's presidential elections, after earlier failure to get together (see The President's Daily Brief of 13 November). For the first time since the Front system was established in 1958, however, the election outcome is uncertain. Ex-dictator Rojas Pinilla, currently without regular party connections, will be a contender. There probably will be other candidates from the disaffected ranks of the major parties, where political infighting over the selection of Pastrana has left bad feeling.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*Top Secret*



# *The President's Daily Brief*

9 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

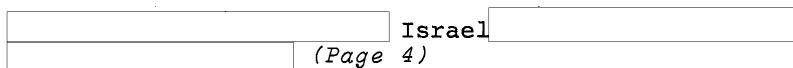


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Prime Minister Wilson is being pressured by both major parties to reconsider his policy of supplying arms to Nigeria. (Page 2)

President Balaguer's silence on whether he will seek re-election is making the uncertain political atmosphere in the Dominican Republic even more ticklish. (Page 3)

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(Page 4)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

SOUTH VIETNAM

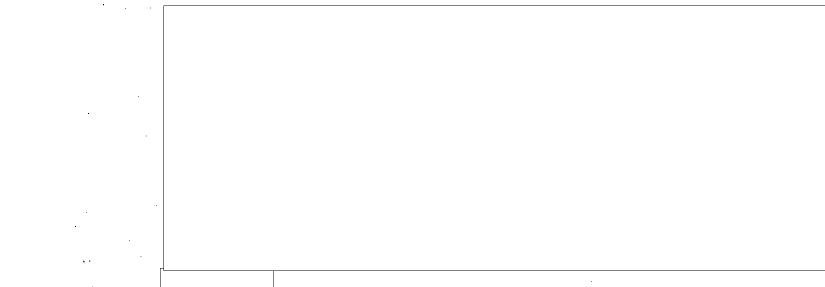


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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

UNITED KINGDOM

Prime Minister Wilson's policy of supplying arms to Federal forces in Nigeria will come under strong attack from both major parties in parliament today.

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*In the past Wilson has parried parliamentary criticism on this issue by arguing that other countries supplying arms to Nigeria would not agree to an arms embargo. The current challenge to Wilson's policy appears more serious, however, and he may try to buy time by offering to discuss the matter with the belligerents or with the various foreign powers supplying arms to Nigeria and Biafra.*

British Parliamentary Undersecretary Maurice Foley, who is now in Lagos, may already be exploring these problems with the Nigerians. Foley told our ambassador on 7 December that his visit to Nigeria was a direct result of domestic political pressures, particularly the movement for an arms embargo.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

President Balaguer's steadfast refusal to announce whether he will seek re-election next May is contributing to the country's uncertain political atmosphere. Political turmoil persists giving rise to gloomy predictions that violence will intensify as campaigning continues.

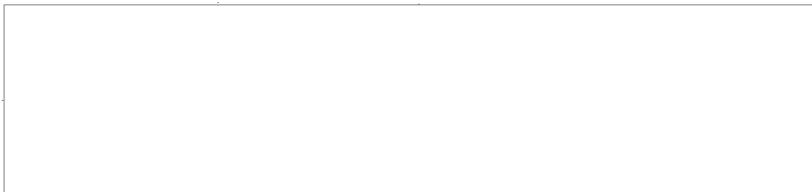
*Balaguer will find it difficult to maintain political calm regardless of his decision on re-election. If he decides not to run, many military and political leaders now committed to Balaguer's re-election would be inclined to plot a pre-emptive move against the government in order to ensure their own entrenched positions.*

*If the President decides to run, as seems likely, the announcement of his candidacy could spark a campaign of systematic violence from some factions on the left. A significant portion of the major opposition party has called for violent revolution if Balaguer opts for re-election. The armed forces are already restive because of Communist-sponsored disorders, and a higher level of violence could prompt increased dissatisfaction with Balaguer's leadership.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

ISRAEL



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTE

Chile: The jittery Frei government has brought  
troop reinforcements into Santiago and intensified  
other security precautions [redacted]

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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# *The President's Daily Brief*

*10 December 1969*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

10 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

At Warsaw's urging, Polish-West German economic talks, recessed in October, are being resumed today, rather than in January as originally planned. (Page 1)

In Libya, negotiations on the evacuation of British troops have begun on a harsh note. (Page 2)

Cuban "fence-jumpers" are continuing to sneak into the US Naval Base at Guantanamo at the rate of about 70 a month. (Page 3)

[redacted] an SS-11 ICBM firing last September indicates that one result of the current test program may be improvement in the missile's accuracy. (Page 4) 50X1

Harold Wilson has beaten back a challenge in the House of Commons to his policy of supplying arms to the federal government in Nigeria. (Page 4)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

WEST GERMANY - POLAND

Polish negotiators have asked that the economic talks between the two nations, recessed in October, be resumed today instead of in January as originally planned. The [redacted] Germans [redacted]

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[redacted] agreed to meet. The talks will have to coast along in neutral until the Germans make up their minds how far they are willing to go to meet Polish demands. The major issue is the amount of credit the Germans will offer. A German official described the credit only as large enough to be "interesting" to the Poles but nowhere near the billion-dollar figure informally hinted at by Warsaw.

*The Poles' eagerness may reflect their fear of Soviet or East German disapproval of the bilateral negotiation as well as their desire for the benefits of expanded trade. The Brandt government [redacted]*

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*[redacted] does not want to appear reluctant in fulfilling its promise of renewed interest in Eastern Europe.*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

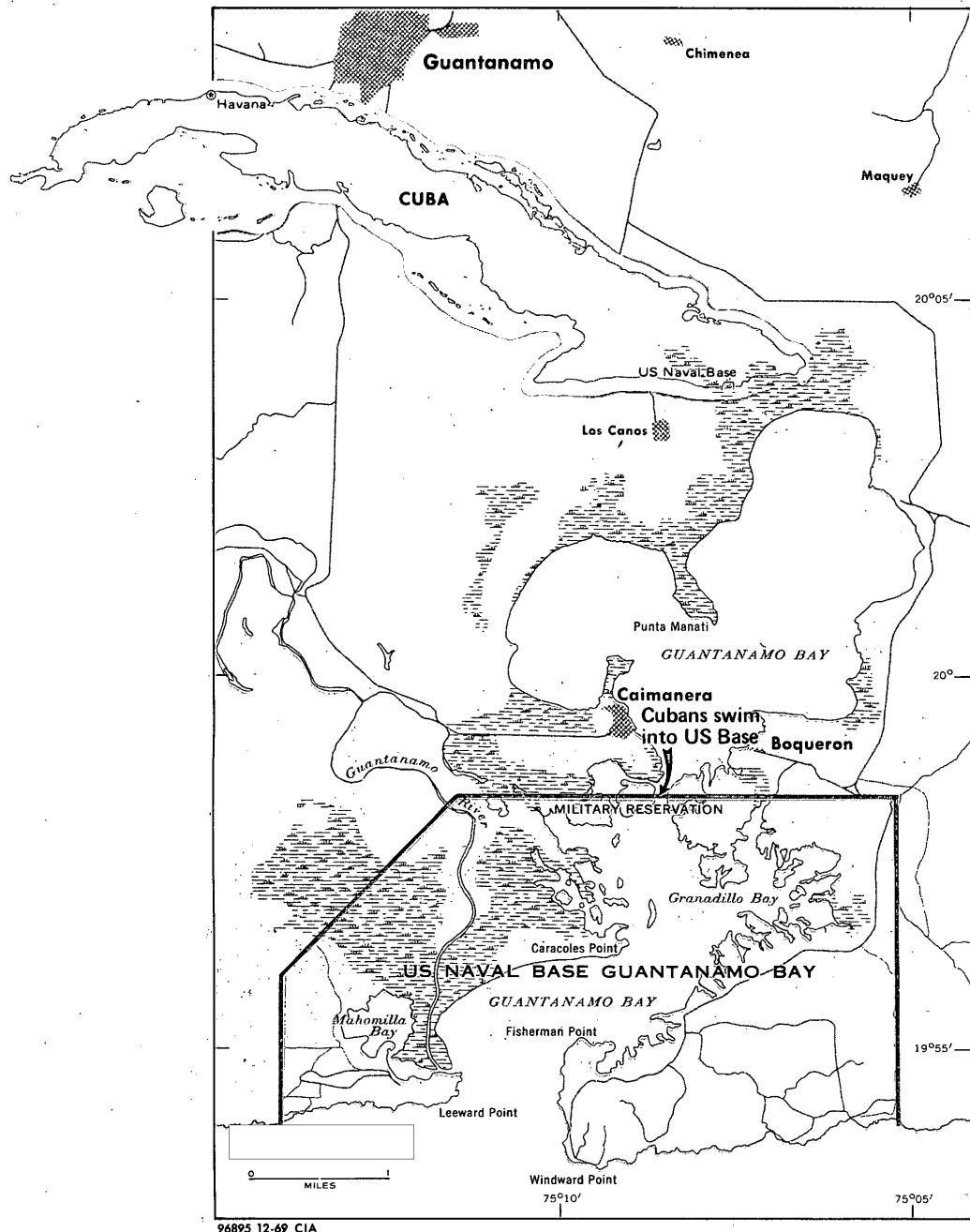
*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**LIBYA**

Negotiations on the evacuation of British troops from Libya began on a harsh note Monday. Captain Abd-al-Salam Jalud, the chief Libyan negotiator and a member of the ruling military junta, said his side saw only one purpose for the negotiations--to determine the date when there will be a complete and immediate withdrawal of all British troops. All other matters were "side issues." Jalud also asserted the British-Libyan mutual defense treaty that was to remain in force until 1973 no longer exists. He further announced that once foreign troops were withdrawn, no others would be allowed to enter.

*These negotiations give a foretaste of what the US can expect when our own Wheelus Air Base negotiations begin. It is doubtful that the Libyans will be willing to allow a transitional or any other type of US presence at Wheelus.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*



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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

CUBA

Each month thus far in 1969, an average of seventy disenchanted Cubans have sneaked into the US Naval Base at Guantanamo. Seventy-three "fence-jumpers" entered in November--61 men (16 or older), 8 women, and 4 children. Fence-jumpers come in when and how they can; a significant number swim in.

Blue collar workers make up the largest occupational group in most months--42 of them in November. The rest of the November group included 6 students, 8 military deserters, and 5 "professionals"--a commercial artist, a dental assistant, a dental technician, a jeweler, and an optometrist.

The reasons the fence-jumpers have for defecting are varied and personal--only a few are ideologically motivated. Many, particularly students and military deserters, want to escape the hard work in the cane fields.

*We do not know how many would-be fence-jumpers have been caught by security forces on the Cuban side of the fence. There are no indications that any special security measures have been ordered to reduce the flow, nor is there evidence that organized assistance is available for those planning to defect.*

*Castro could have most fence-jumpers kept out of the naval base if he wanted to. The fact that they are still coming at a fairly steady rate seems to indicate that security officials are purposely looking the other way. More than likely, Castro sees the base as a convenient dumping ground for Cubans who are not responsive to revolutionary ideology.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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NOTES

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USSR: [redacted]  
an SS-11 firing on 29 September suggests that one result of the current test program will be improvement in missile accuracy. [redacted]

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United Kingdom: Prime Minister Wilson yesterday beat back a challenge to his policy of supplying arms to the Nigerians by a vote of 254 to 84 in the House of Commons. Despite Wilson's usual clever footwork, the size of the vote against his position on this issue makes it clear that it will continue to be troublesome. This will be especially so, if as is expected, Wilson calls for national elections some time next year.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*Top Secret*



# *The President's Daily Brief*

*11 December 1969*

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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF**

11 December 1969

**PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS**

The Libyan junta has quashed a plot and arrested two  
of its own members. (Page 1)

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[REDACTED] West and East Germany [REDACTED]

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(Page 2)

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Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov may return  
to Moscow, leaving the Sino-Soviet talks in Peking  
in the hands of lesser officials. (Page 3)

[REDACTED] 50X1

South Korean aircraft lands in North Korea. (Page 5)

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**LIBYA**

Defense Minister Hawwaz and Interior Minister Ahmad have been arrested for plotting to overthrow the Revolutionary Command Council. Both men were concerned about the growing influence of Egypt in Libyan affairs, and they feared Council President Qaddafi was toying with a plan to form a union with Egypt and the Sudan. About 100 army and police officers were arrested shortly before Hawwaz and Ahmad--presumably because they were part of the same group of plotters.

*The roundup of army and police officers is an effective warning to any others who may be plotting. More importantly, the arrest of such key figures as Hawwaz and Ahmad demonstrates the Council's ability to deal with threats against it.*

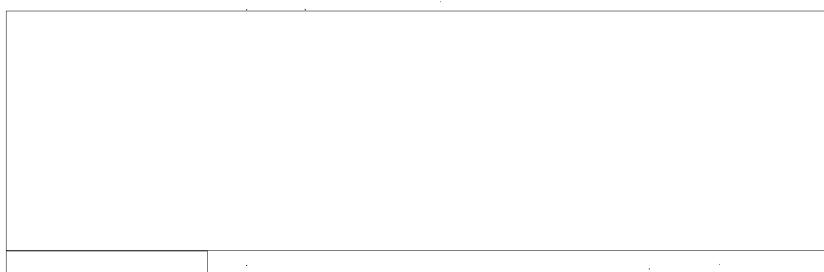
**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

WEST GERMANY - EAST GERMANY

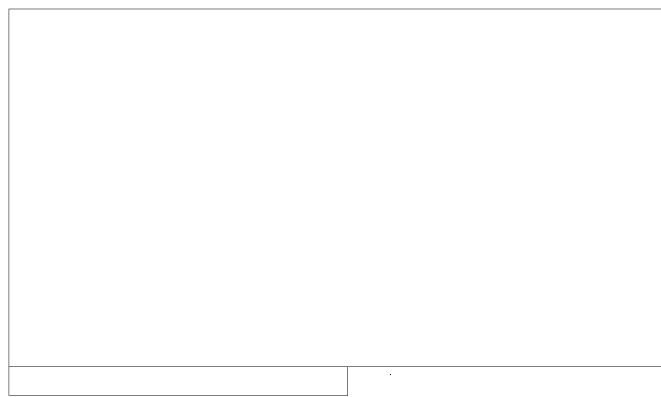


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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**USSR - COMMUNIST CHINA**

First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov may soon leave the Peking talks, according to Berezhkov, the editor of the journal of Moscow's institute for US studies. Commenting to a US Embassy official that "two months" of negotiations at the Vice-Minister level was enough, Berezhkov said that the question of reducing the talks to a lower level is now being discussed in Peking.

Berezhkov has proved well informed in the past, and his remarks add credibility to previous speculation that Kuznetsov, who had been expected to lead the Soviet SALT delegation, will soon be returning. Lowering the level of the Peking talks would probably mean that both sides feel they have clearly laid out their basic positions and recognize that continuing negotiations will be slow and tedious.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*



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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

UN-SUEZ



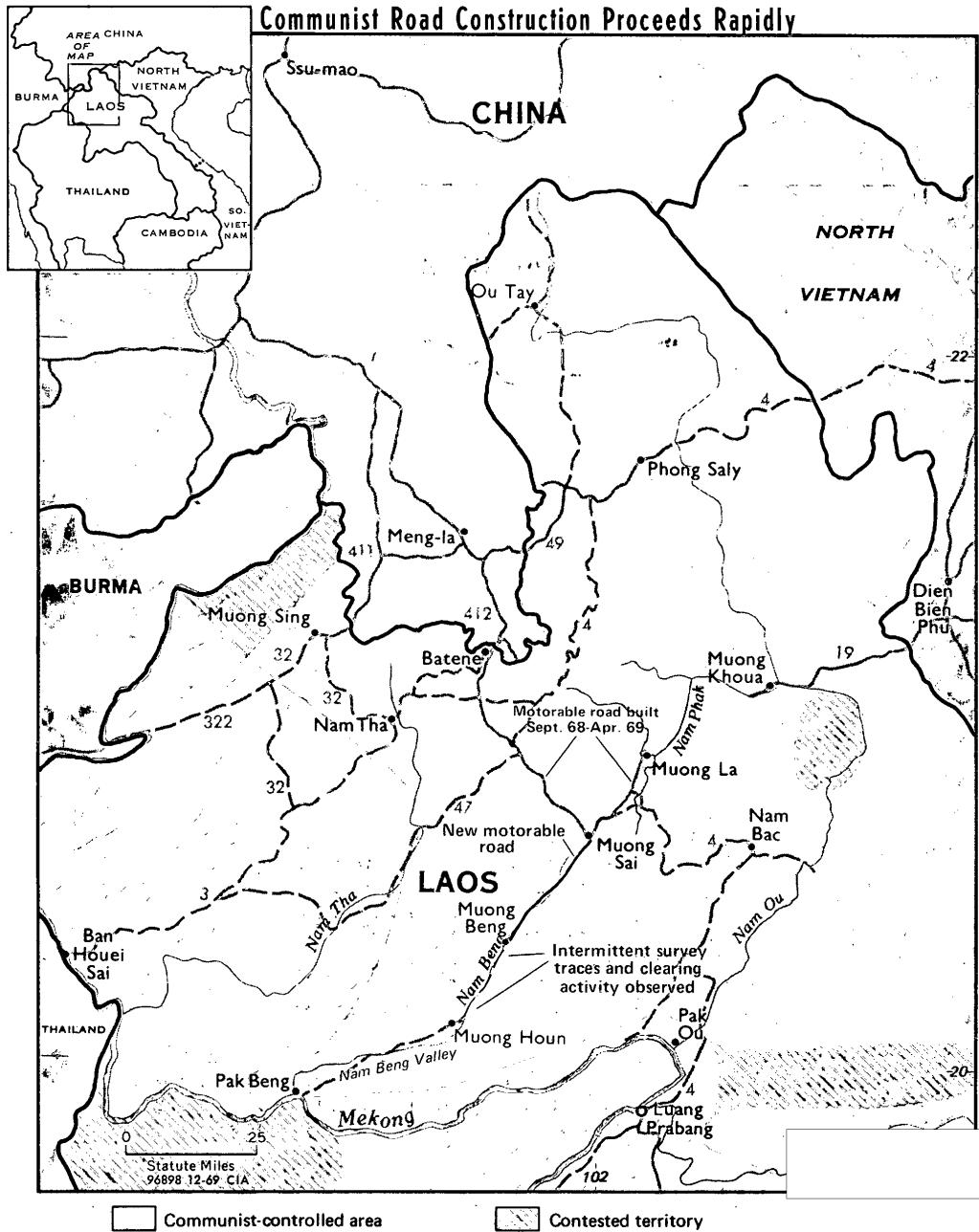
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The Egyptians recently insisted that UN observers reduce the illumination of their posts in the area at night, a move that would expose the truce teams even more to the sporadic shelling that goes on there.

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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

## **Communist Road Construction Proceeds Rapidly**



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Communist-controlled area

## Contested territory

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTES

North Korea - South Korea: A South Korean commercial airliner was forced to land at Sondok air-base, 35 miles north of Wonsan in North Korea early this morning. [redacted]

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[redacted] It is still unclear whether the South Korean aircraft went astray or was hijacked. No US nationals are known to be [redacted] on board the aircraft.

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Laos: Communist road construction in the northwest is moving ahead rapidly. [redacted]

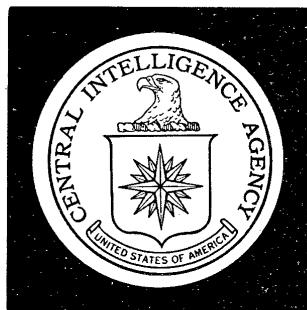
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[redacted] Chinese engineers have extended the motorable limit of the new road southwest of Muong Sai some 10 miles in little over one week. Within a two-month period approximately 27 miles of new road have been constructed. Chinese engineers have claimed that the road would be completed to Muong Houn by May 1970, according to a local villager. With the road apparently now half way to Muong Houn, this would seem a conservative estimate. There is no evidence at this time of road construction activity south of Muong Houn.

Lebanon: President Hilu anticipates that the Arab summit conference will present him with some new problems. Chief among these would be a demand that his Mirage squadron be moved to Egypt or Syria-- which would be impossible under the agreement with France. He also fears that foreign Arab troops would be stationed in Lebanon, further complicating his domestic problems.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*Top Secret*



# *The President's Daily Brief*

12 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF**

12 December 1969

**PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS**

Thieu's political opponents are likely to exploit the alerting of certain South Vietnamese military units following coup rumors yesterday. (Page 1)

Mrs. Meir's new coalition government includes a larger number of proponents of a militant anti-Arab policy. (Page 3)

The Libyan Government may try to implicate the US in the recent coup plotting. (Page 4)

South Korea is reacting in low key to the hijacking of its airliner. (Page 4)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**SOUTH VIETNAM**

South Vietnamese Air Force units at the Tan Son Nhut headquarters complex were put on alert yesterday and the National Police guard force there was doubled. These steps were taken as a result of new coup rumors in Saigon.

We have no evidence to substantiate these rumors, and top leaders in Saigon do not appear unduly concerned. Even these limited precautionary measures, however, will undercut government efforts to develop an image of stability, confidence, and constitutionality. Opponents of the government almost certainly will seek to exploit this nervousness; considerable behind-the-scenes political maneuvering is likely.

The coup rumors, and any plotting which may have occurred, seem to be an outgrowth of the bitter reaction against the government following the tax and price hike in late October. This reaction has been particularly strong within government and military circles.

For most of the past year, key military leaders apparently have recognized that the overthrow of the constitutional government would entail a serious risk of losing US support for the war effort. The recent flurry of rumors, however, suggests that some military officers again think that a coup might be a practical possibility. Those opposition elements who fear Vietnamisation is a prelude to a deal with the Communists, rather than a way to continue the fight in the absence of progress on negotiations, may also be persuaded to think in terms of a coup.

*(continued)*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*The government's failure to keep opposition elements convinced of its stability is caused in part by Thieu's growing suspiciousness and his consequent tendency to isolate himself from all but a small circle of advisers.*

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*Thieu's handling of the austerity tax, his public position on the My Lai affair, and his recent remarks about beheading some National Assemblymen, all point to an insensitivity to the political situation.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**ISRAEL**

Every major party is represented in Mrs. Meir's new coalition government. More than half of the ministerial offices went to members of Mrs. Meir's Labor-Mapam Alignment, including the key portfolios of defense, foreign affairs, and finance. The rightist Gahal party made the biggest gain in the 24-member cabinet, getting six posts compared to its previous two.

*Mrs. Meir could have formed a smaller coalition government but preferred to project an image of national unity. As a result, the Gahal party has obtained considerable leverage to promote its militant anti-Arab policy. By broadening the representation in her government, Mrs. Meir has sacrificed flexibility. It seems certain that Israel will remain uncompromising in its attitude toward a peace settlement.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTES

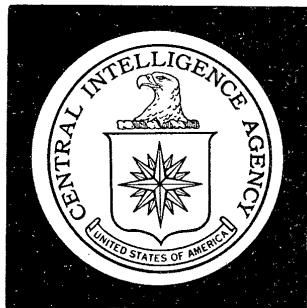
Libya: The military junta may attempt to implicate the US in the coup plotting that led to the recent arrest of two cabinet members. Speaking over Libyan television yesterday, junta leader Qaddafi noted that the plot coincided with the beginning of negotiations on US withdrawal from Wheelus Air Base. He alleged that the plotters had "income or support from the base." Qaddafi also alluded to former minister of defense Hawwaz's recent dealings with two US firms that have been having problems with the Libyan Government. Moreover, the only other person singled out as a conspirator by Qaddafi was an unnamed major said to have returned to Libya from the US shortly after the September revolution. Qaddafi's speech suggests that the Libyans will probably be extremely uncompromising in next week's negotiations.

South Korea - North Korea: South Korea intends to use normal diplomatic machinery to negotiate the return of its hijacked airliner from North Korea. The Seoul government has indicated to US officials that it will seek the release of the passengers, crew, and plane through the International Red Cross and the Korean Military Armistice Commission. In an earlier hijacking case in 1958, this low key approach resulted in the release of the crew and passengers within a month. The plane was never returned.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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*Return to PAB*



# *The President's Daily Brief*

*13 December 1969*

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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF**

13 December 1969

**PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS**

The Chinese may see some indirect benefits in talking with Ambassador Stoessel in Warsaw and appear to be interested in sounding out the US position on various issues. (Page 1)

The large movement of supplies into northern Laos by the Communists may be the initial phase of an expanded offensive. (Page 2)

The Hungarians are preparing for bilateral negotiations with West Germany and Bonn is certain to be receptive in order to further its Eastern policy.

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(Page 3)

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Japan

(Page 4)

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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**COMMUNIST CHINA**

Ambassador Stoessel had his meeting with the Chinese Chargé in Warsaw on Thursday. The Chinese listened attentively to our proposal for renewing the suspended Sino-US ambassadorial talks in mid-January and stated that he would report the proposal to Peking "as rapidly as possible." The meeting was conducted in a cordial and relaxed atmosphere and was free of polemics.

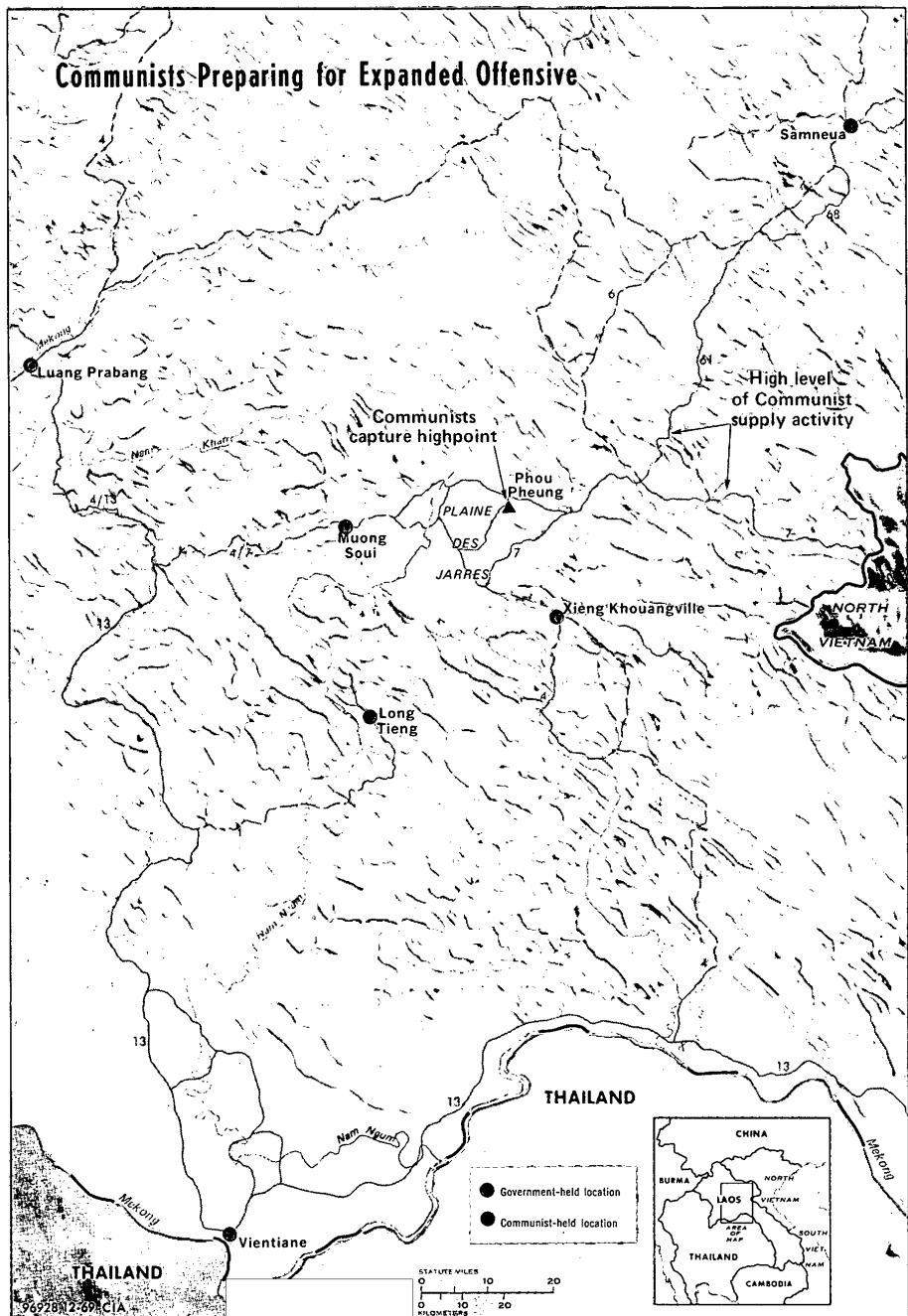
*The Chinese were clearly interested in what we had to say. Peking may have expected a formal demarche rather than a simple request for renewal of the ambassadorial talks.*

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Although the Chinese have recently stepped up their virulent propaganda attacks against the US and almost certainly do not expect great improvement in Sino-US relations, Peking can gain some indirect benefits in talking to the US. The Chinese probably hope that the prospects of improved relations between Peking and Washington may cause Moscow to take a softer line in the Sino-Soviet border talks. At the same time, Peking may hope to insure US neutrality in the Sino-Soviet dispute while increasing its room for international maneuver against Moscow.

Peking seems to be genuinely interested in sounding out the US position on bilateral issues and Asian affairs. A number of high-ranking Chinese officials have recently expressed unusual interest in Washington's Asian policy and Vietnam in particular.

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**



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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**LAOS**

Since early October the North Vietnamese have moved three times as much supplies into northern Laos as they did in a similar period last year. Moreover, a recently intercepted enemy message has revealed plans to "greatly increase" December shipments. To support this effort, North Vietnamese engineers have been directed to keep the roads open for at least 25 days during December. An additional 1,000 North Vietnamese troops are moving toward north Laos.

*These troops are likely replacements for heavy casualties which have been suffered by units of the 312th Division in fighting near the Plaine des Jarres. The Communists have not been able to make any significant inroads into government territory in their latest attacks but the unusually heavy build up of supplies suggests a stronger effort may be in the offing.*

*Hanoi's concern with the government's most recent gains has been reflected in vociferous propaganda from other Communist capitals. Emphasizing the government's occupation of the Plaine des Jarres as a serious escalation of the war, the Communists make it clear that the Plaine must be recaptured. They have hinted that Vang Pao's headquarters at Long Tieng may be a target.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**HUNGARY - WEST GERMANY**

The Hungarians are showing considerable interest in improving relations with West Germany. A West German official told Ambassador Rush in Bonn on 11 December that Budapest wants to begin talks on a long term economic agreement before the end of the year. Hungary is also interested in expanding cultural relations.

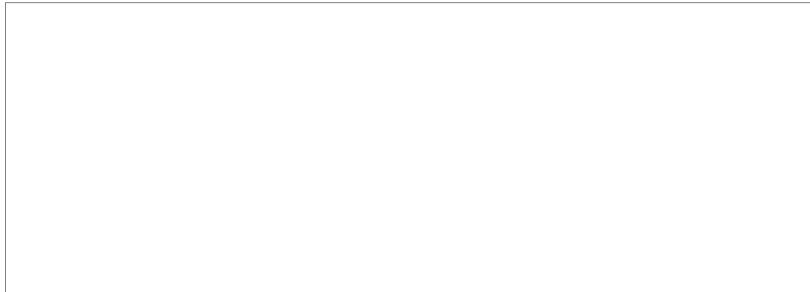
*The Hungarians probably intend to lag slightly behind the Poles, who on 10 December resumed negotiations with Bonn on long-range trade and credit matters. If successful, the Polish-West German economic agreement could become a model for all of Eastern Europe. The Poles will also set a precedent for other Eastern European countries in their upcoming political talks with Bonn.*

*The Hungarians clearly are anxious to move under the umbrella of the recent Warsaw Pact conference decisions. Economic issues are the most vital to Hungary and probably will be the focus of its first initiative. Bonn is anxious to make ostpolitik a viable policy and welcomes such approaches.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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JAPAN



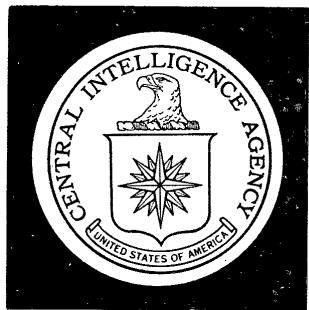
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# *The President's Daily Brief*

15 December 1969

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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF**

15 December 1969

**PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS**

Moscow  West Germans. (Page 1)

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The Communists seem ready to step up the fighting in South Vietnam. (Page 2)

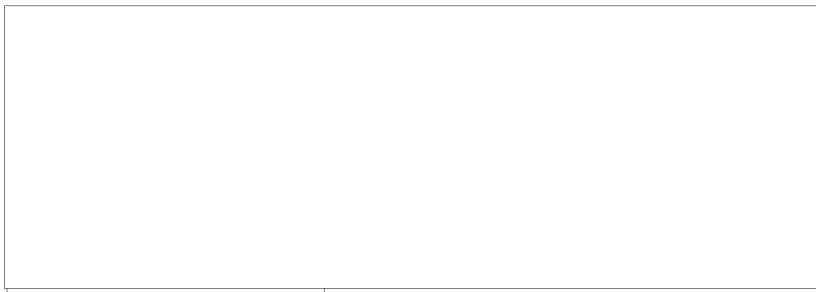
Coup in Panama. (Page 3)

Aspects of Soviet policy in the Middle East are discussed at Annex.

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

USSR - WEST GERMANY



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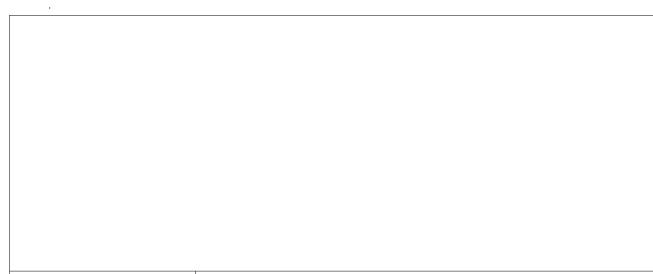
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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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SOUTH VIETNAM

A number of signs point to Communist plans to increase their military activity in the period before Christmas.

[redacted] renewed attacks will begin in mid-December and will be concentrated in Tay Ninh Province and the upper Mekong Delta region. [redacted] a line noted in captured documents [redacted] says the Communists intend to make the delta a primary battlefield during their winter-spring campaign.

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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PANAMA

The chief of staff of the National Guard, Col. Sanjur, seized control of the Provisional Junta Government during the night. Guard Commandant General Torrijos is in Mexico on an informal visit, and will not be allowed to return.

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTES

USSR-Egypt: [redacted]

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[redacted] the USSR promised the UAR "everything it asked for"--including arms--during the course of high-level Soviet-Egyptian talks in Moscow last week. The communiqué issued at the end of the visit did not provide a clear signal of such intentions. It did, however, refer to certain unspecified "practical steps" aimed at enhancing Soviet-Egyptian cooperation.

USSR - Communist China: The announcement that First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov and his deputy are returning to Moscow, ostensibly to participate in the coming session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, may signal a Soviet decision to downgrade its delegation to the talks in Peking. The Russians have been toying with this idea for some time; the other six members of the Soviet delegation are apparently remaining in Peking. A Chinese news agency statement on 13 December claimed, however, that the Soviet negotiators would be gone for only one week, and the talks would be "temporarily recessed in their absence." This appears to be a thinly veiled threat that the talks could break down completely if the two Russians do not return to Peking. Nevertheless, neither side has much to gain in allowing the talks to end at this time, and some compromise on this issue may still be arranged.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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### THE SOVIETS AND THE FEDAYEEN

*In the wake of Kosygin's careful promises of support to the Palestinians, we have reached the following conclusions about Soviet policy toward the fedayeen.*

Two points stand out in Premier Kosygin's speech of 10 December: the high-level, official endorsement of the Arab fedayeen, and the seemingly contradictory emphasis on the need for a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli crisis.

For months the Soviets have been giving propaganda support to the fedayeen, along with small amounts of arms channeled through Arab governments or other third parties. Now, by Kosygin's remarks, the fedayeen are recognized as engaged in a "just national liberation struggle," a meaningful phrase in the Soviet lexicon. So engaged, the fedayeen must be given support.

How much support, and to what end, no Soviet has yet spelled out. The Soviets, however, have given every sign that they have mounted the fedayeen bandwagon with some reluctance. [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted] The Soviets' past behavior toward uncontrollable extremist groups shows that Moscow is uncomfortable in such company.

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The Soviets do not want to go through another June war, which the activities of the fedayeen could ultimately provoke. Thus, Moscow's support is given more than a little grudgingly, with a purely opportunistic view toward tactical advantage.

(continued)

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

The advantage of such a policy is clear. A pro-fedayeen posture revalidates Soviet credentials, in the Arab world and elsewhere, as the champion of revolutionary forces--these credentials lost some validity in June 1967. The fedayeen stand for the kind of resolute opposition to Israel most popular among the Arab people. The Soviets can ignore this only at great risk.

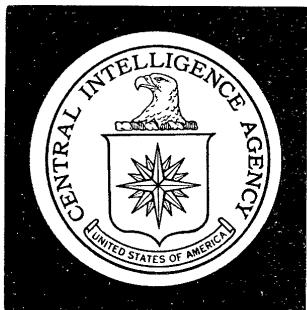
Just as important right now, however, is how Soviet support for the fedayeen--and for a certain level of Arab militancy in general--relates to the bargaining for a political settlement. Tension has been Moscow's handmaiden in the Middle East from the beginning of Soviet penetration there. The Soviets realize that the tension now being created by Arab militancy adds to the pressures on Israel--and on the US--to make concessions. The apparent contradiction between support for militancy and Kosygin's pointed reiteration of Moscow's intention to go on working for a settlement tends to fade when considered in this light.

Kosygin's speech is, in sum, a brief delineation of Moscow's dualistic strategy in the Middle East--arm for war, negotiate for peace. The Soviets are arming and backing the fedayeen, just as they have armed and backed Arab governments for years. In this connection, they are careful to keep their dealings with the fedayeen in line with the governments who are uneasy about the guerrillas. The Soviets also want a negotiated settlement--satisfactory to the Arabs, and yet allowing for Israel's existence--but they recognize the enormous obstacles. They cannot stand still, however, while the efforts to overcome these obstacles drag on.

We can expect more statements of support, more heavy propaganda, and perhaps increased clandestine supply of arms and financial aid to the fedayeen. We can also expect Soviet spokesmen to accent the danger inherent in the Middle East situation--as did the Warsaw Pact declaration last month. All these efforts are designed to give the negotiating advantage to Moscow and its friends, but without the intention of pushing the situation to the point of full-scale hostilities.

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*Top Secret*



# *The President's Daily Brief*

*16 December 1969*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

16 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Ambassador Schaetzel sees the recent European Communities summit meeting as a turning point in European affairs. (Page 1)

In Panama, opposition to the ouster of General Torrijos is developing. (Page 2)

Sihanouk takes the Communists to task in a speech on Cambodian border problems. (Page 3)

With an eye to next week's general elections, Sato calls for official talks between Tokyo and Peking. (Page 4)

Ulbricht has hinted that Pankow is willing to negotiate with Bonn. (Page 6)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

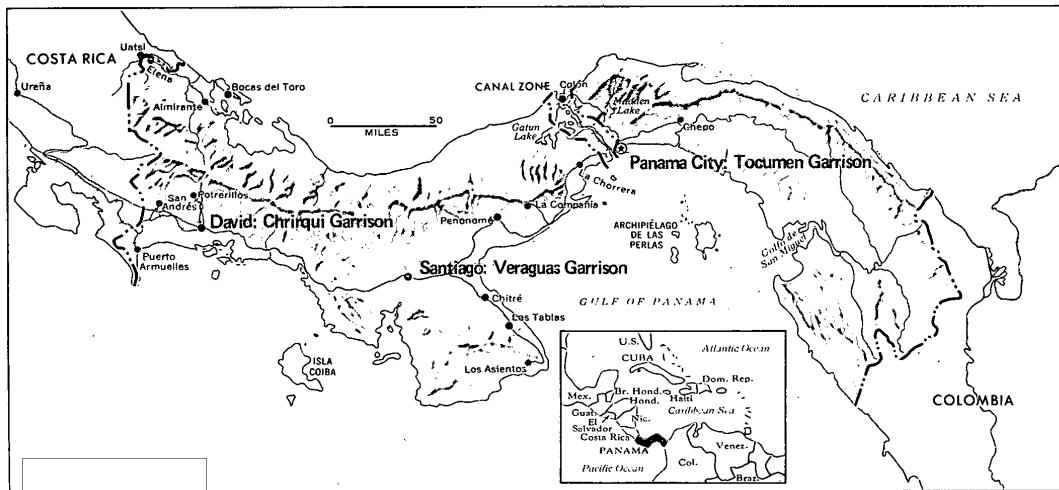
## EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Ambassador Schaetzel views the recent EC summit as a turning point in European affairs. He senses a new hope among Europeans that the problems associated with the closer integration of the European Communities can be solved. In the opinion of the ambassador, this optimism stems from a complete reversal of French policy which, as stated by President Pompidou at the summit meeting, now favors the expansion of the EC membership. Pompidou's EC colleagues realize that he cannot accomplish such a shift quickly, however, and that progress probably will be spasmodic.

*Although European diplomatic circles generally agree that French policy has "turned around," the events of the next several months will be the definitive test. Even if the Six are closer to a common view on the future of the Communities than they have been for years, agreement on essential details will not be readily achieved. We remain optimistic that the UK will not retreat when faced with the real possibility of entry, even though some British officials continue to doubt the value of EC membership.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

PANAMA: Support Developing for Ousted General Torrijos



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

PANAMA

Opposition to the ouster of General Torrijos is developing. There are indications that the Chiriqui, Veraguas, and Tocumen National Guard garrisons will not join Colonels Silvera and Sanjur, who yesterday removed Torrijos from his post as Guard commandant.

Torrijos, who was in Mexico when the dissident officers moved against him, last night was in El Salvador conferring with the Panamanian ambassador. He may try to go to Panama's second largest city, David, where the majority of his support now exists. Silvera and Sanjur apparently hope to isolate these forces before Torrijos arrives.

*Silvera and Sanjur have been able thus far to gain the backing of the majority of the National Guard. If Torrijos and his supporters seriously contest this seizure of power, however, the splits within the Guard may widen, and armed clashes could result.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

## CAMBODIA

In a speech yesterday, broadcast over the domestic radio service, Sihanouk charged that the Viet Cong respect Cambodian territory only "on paper." He accused them of triggering the Dak Dam incident by firing at Americans "from our territory." Sihanouk noted that if Cambodia were to break relations with the US, it would also have to do so with "the Viet Minh and the Viet Cong," because "they still continue to commit aggression against our territory...."

*Sihanouk's criticisms of the Communists, although generally in line with his recent views, are expressed in a more forthright than usual fashion. As such, they are a good measure of his frustration over continued Communist use of Cambodian territory. Moreover, he is clearly trying to strike a more realistic balance in assigning blame for border violations. The speech, by implication, also suggests the importance Sihanouk attaches to maintaining his renewed relations with the United States.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

JAPAN - COMMUNIST CHINA

Prime Minister Sato has called for official talks between Tokyo and Peking while campaigning for the general elections scheduled for 27 December. Another high official on Saturday said that the government was "considering" talks at the ambassadorial level.

*Despite its campaign oratory, the Sato administration will move cautiously in any effort to broaden its ties with Peking.*

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*Sato undoubtedly felt the need to make some response to the announcement of new US - Communist China contacts in Warsaw in order to avoid criticism from the opposition parties on the China issue. Important elements within Sato's party also support closer ties with Peking.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**THAILAND**

The Thai are highly upset over what they view as US interference in Saigon with a deal for the sale of 20,000 tons of Thai rice. Some cabinet officials view South Vietnamese withdrawal from the rice negotiations--with the assertion that it was at US "orders"--and the substitution of a US rice delivery to Saigon as clear evidence of US chicanery. Foreign Minister Thanat has warned Ambassador Unger that a formal protest may be levied if there is not a "responsive" reply to his strong verbal protest.

Bangkok is reacting strongly to each new sign that suggests a downgrading of Thai interests by Washington. Thai leaders are apprehensive over what they believe to be a weakening in the US commitment to Thailand's security, and they are dismayed over criticism in the US of Thailand's role in the Vietnam war.

Bangkok is apparently prepared to pursue the rice issue forcefully in an effort to regain an appearance of equality in its partnership with the US. Although the Thai have been careful in the past to keep differences with the US hidden, both Thanat and Prime Minister Thamom have made the issue a central theme in recent press conferences. Thamom has also said his government plans to put the controversy on the top of its list of things to discuss during Vice President Agnew's visit to Bangkok.

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY**

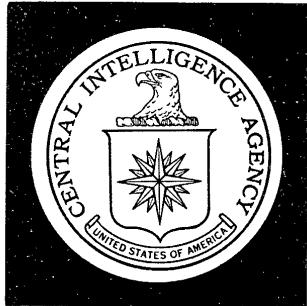
Speaking at a party plenum on 13 December, East German leader Ulbricht indirectly acknowledged Chancellor Brandt's offer in October to begin talks without discrimination and said that negotiations can be started. Available excerpts of Ulbricht's long speech indicate that he did not demand that Bonn extend de jure recognition to East Germany. He did say, however, that normalization of relations "means" recognition of East Germany as an equal, sovereign state.

*Ulbricht seemed to be inviting an approach from Bonn. Although ambiguous, his statements suggest that Pankow now may be willing to accept de facto recognition. Brandt has acknowledged the existence of two German states but maintains that relations between the two Germanies have a "special" quality and that Bonn cannot give full de jure recognition.*

*The timing of Ulbricht's speech--one week after the East Germans were given short shrift by their allies at the Warsaw Pact summit in Moscow--suggests that the East Germans may have decided that they must begin negotiations with Bonn to protect their own interests. The East Germans also want to give the impression that they are not the ones who are blocking progress on East-West German negotiations.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*Top Secret*



# *The President's Daily Brief*

17 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] North Vietnamese [redacted]

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Panamanian strongman General Torrijos is back in power. (Page 2)

The Soviet industrial growth rate is lagging. (Page 3)

Libya insists that all US forces be evacuated from Wheelus Air Base well before the end of 1970. (Page 4)

Moscow is displeased with Japanese foreign policy on several fronts. (Page 5)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NORTH VIETNAM

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**PANAMA**

Panamanian strongman General Torrijos has successfully engineered a coup. Torrijos returned to Panama late Monday night and was able to rally supporters in the western provinces. Troops loyal to Torrijos moved on National Guard headquarters in Panama City and by yesterday afternoon they had gained control of the city.

Colonels Silvera and Sanjur, leaders of the attempt to overthrow Torrijos, have been arrested and will be tried for subversion. The titular leaders of the Provisional Junta Government, Pinilla and Urrutia, who supported Torrijos' ouster, have been detained but they have not been removed from office.

*Changes in the Guard hierarchy and in the government are likely in the next few weeks as Torrijos consolidates his position. There are indications that some members of the oligarchy supported the removal of Torrijos and the general may take steps to exclude the traditional oligarchy-dominated parties from participation in the political process.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**USSR**

Partial reports from yesterday's Supreme Soviet session forecast a low rate of growth in industrial production and a modest increase in defense spending for 1970. State plan chairman Baibakov announced a disappointing industrial growth rate of 7.0 percent for 1969, the lowest since 1946. The small increase of 6.3 percent Baibakov proposed for industrial production in 1970 indicates little hope for improved performance during this last year of the current five-year plan period (1966-70).

Finance Minister Garbuzov said that defense spending will be 17.9 billion rubles in 1970, an increase of only one percent over the amount planned for this year. This increase in defense expenditures is the smallest since 1965, and the defense portion of the total budget--12.4 percent--is the lowest in many years.

*Funds for military research and development and the space program are not included in the published defense budget. These programs are largely financed by the science budget, which has not yet been announced. The figures announced so far, however, are consistent with intelligence estimates of total Soviet spending for defense and space programs in 1970 of about 22.2 billion rubles, or the equivalent of about \$66.5 billion if the programs were purchased in the US. The small increment in defense spending is also consistent with the moderate image the Soviets are attempting to project at the preliminary Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**LIBYA**

In the opening round of negotiations on the status of Wheelus Air Base on Monday, Libya rejected a US proposal to phase withdrawal over a one-year period. Junta leader Qaddafi asserted that there was no justification whatever for a continuing US presence in the country and demanded that all US forces be evacuated well before the end of 1970. The Libyan delegation also charged the US with using the base to train Israelis as well as to engage in sabotage and smuggling.

*The Libyans were successful in obtaining British agreement for a speedy withdrawal from UK bases by using a similar tough approach. We expect them to be equally hardnosed in the next round of talks with US negotiators on Thursday.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**USSR-JAPAN**

A stinging editorial in yesterday's Pravda denounced the "American-Japanese deal" struck at the recent talks between President Nixon and Premier Sato as a "new military-political alliance" which is "openly aggressive in nature." It also warned against Japanese revanchism on the northern territories issue, and claimed that it "may lead to dangerous aggravation of tension in the Far East."

*The editorial was unsigned, which often signifies that it originated at very high party levels. It was prompted by next week's Japanese election, the Okinawa agreement, and Sato's announced willingness to hold high-level talks with Peking. In addition, Sato has made it clear that his administration intends to intensify its campaign to get back the northern territories.*

*Moscow has been placed on the defensive by the Okinawa agreement and Tokyo's agitation on the northern territories. Japan's recognition in the Okinawa accords of a legitimate US security and peace-keeping role in Asia, as well as the planned renewal of the US-Japanese security treaty next year, undoubtedly provoked the charge of a "new military-political alliance."*

*Sato's willingness to talk with Peking can only be regarded with uneasiness in Moscow. Russian unhappiness with Sato's present course, however, is not likely to affect Soviet efforts to encourage economic contacts with Japan, and Moscow will be careful about going beyond words to show its displeasure.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

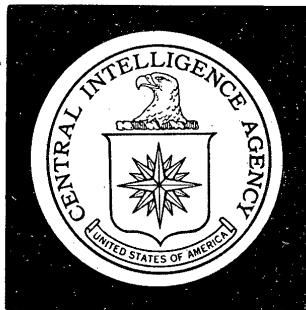
*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTE

Somalia: The government has requested the recall of the 60 Peace Corps volunteers stationed in Somalia. Since the coup in October, the Supreme Revolutionary Council has taken a number of steps to limit the activities and movements of the foreign diplomatic community, but US activities have been more sharply restricted than those of other missions. This latest move may reflect the growing influence of junior officers on the Council who are believed to be not only strongly nationalistic but also anti-US.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

18 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

18 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Arab summit conference, opening Saturday in Rabat, promises to be a stormy affair because of divergent viewpoints on the conflict with Israel. (Page 1)

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[redacted] Libya [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 2) [redacted]

50X1

Soviet attempts to develop markets in Western Europe for natural gas are beginning to pay off. (Page 3)

Negotiations between Pankow and Bonn have been brought a step closer with the East German parliament's action "authorizing" government and party leaders to take the "necessary measures" for establishing relations with West Germany. (Page 4)

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**ARAB STATES**

The Arab summit conference, which opens in Rabat on Saturday, is likely to be stormy. The participants have sharply differing viewpoints on the Arab-Israeli confrontation.

Egypt and Jordan, having concluded that a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is unlikely, are expected to demand more financial assistance from the oil-rich states to increase their military capabilities.

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Another thorny problem will be the wording of the communiqué to be issued at the end of the conference.

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The fedayeen probably will be represented by Yasir Arafat, leader of Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Organization. His main effort is likely to be directed toward obtaining greater financial support.

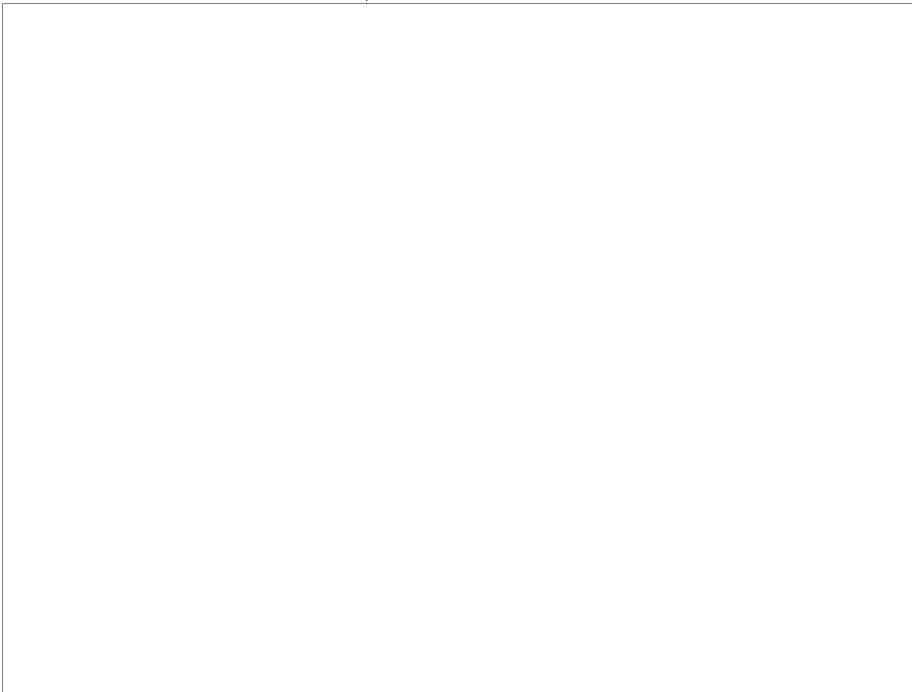
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*The US is likely to receive more verbal abuse. Tangible expression of radical Arab displeasure, such as the breaking of diplomatic relations, may be suggested, but the more moderate states are unlikely to go along with such proposals.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

LIBYA



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**USSR - WESTERN EUROPE**

Moscow this month has concluded two major agreements for the sale of natural gas in Western Europe. On 19 December the USSR and Italy signed a 20-year agreement for the delivery of gas beginning in 1973. The Soviets will receive an initial credit from Italy of some \$200 million with which to buy pipe and other equipment for the USSR's natural gas pipeline systems. The gas will come over a pipeline extending from Czechoslovakia through Austria.

The second agreement was signed with a West German firm earlier in the month. It calls for the delivery of natural gas to Bavaria via a pipeline through Czechoslovakia for a 20-year period, also beginning in 1973.

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*These agreements are particularly advantageous to the USSR because they provide it with Western credits for the immediate delivery of pipe and other equipment needed to spur the lagging construction of oil and gas pipeline networks from Siberia and Central Asia. By the time Soviet deliveries to West Europe begin in the early 1970s, the USSR's natural gas imports from Iran, scheduled to begin next year, and increased flows from Afghanistan will more than offset gas exports to Western Europe. What is more, these deals come at a time when Soviet hard currency earnings from petroleum deliveries to the West appear to be leveling off.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

## EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY

The East German parliament yesterday "authorized" both the Council of State, headed by party leader Ulbricht, and the government, headed by Premier Stoph, to take "the necessary measures" for establishing relations with West Germany. This suggests that the East Germans may propose negotiations on several levels.

Ulbricht last week had indicated that Pankow was willing to negotiate with Bonn and would not impose preconditions for beginning talks. He hinted, however, that Pankow would await a proposal from Bonn to begin negotiations. Yesterday's action suggests that the East Germans may now believe that they must take the initiative.

With Poland and other Eastern European states about to follow Moscow's example in negotiating bilaterally with the Federal Republic, the East German action is probably a defensive one. Even if there are high-level talks, no early breakthrough should be expected.

The parliament's resolution specified that relations between the two Germanies should be governed and secured by agreements valid under international law. Bonn, on the other hand, has indicated that it is only willing to accept "binding agreements" with the East Germans--but not formal state treaties, which it considers would be tantamount to de jure recognition. The Brandt government insists that relations between East and West Germany must be of a special type.

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

## ECUADOR

A month-long strike of teachers has closed 75 percent of the country's public schools. The teachers are demanding the payment of back salaries, a guarantee that they will be paid on time in the future, and the dismissal of the minister of education. Students have joined them in their demonstrations, primarily because they, too, want to dump the minister. President Velasco announced on 1 December that he was borrowing from the next year's budget to pay delinquent salaries, but the strike continued.

The government's stand has hardened into what Velasco has termed "a principle of authority." The President has received the public support of his military leaders, who regard students as their natural enemies and have let it be known that they would sanction strong-arm measures to break up the strike.

University classes have already been suspended for the holidays, and on Wednesday the government declared a three-week holiday in the elementary and secondary schools to begin at once. That may be enough time for teachers and students to cool off.

*During his past four attempts to govern Ecuador, Velasco has not been prone to compromise. It appears, however, that a peaceful settlement of the strike calls for just that quality.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

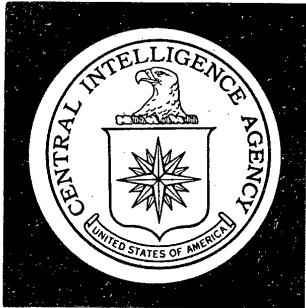
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South Vietnam:

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# *The President's Daily Brief*

19 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Vietnam is having trouble recruiting qualified men for its army. (*Page 1*)

Turkish students are protesting the Sixth Fleet visit to Izmir. (*Page 2*)

Egyptian troops are in Libya. (*Page 3*)

New Soviet fighter beginning operational training. 50X1  
(*Page 4*)

Romania [redacted] Bolivia [redacted] 50X1  
[redacted] (*Page 5*) 50X1

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**NORTH VIETNAM**

During the past year, Hanoi has put special emphasis on programs to ensure the army of an adequate supply of qualified and well-motivated manpower. An authoritative North Vietnamese editorial on 15 December indicates that Hanoi once again is trying to get out the recruits. In calling for education of the people in "love of country" and the "great requirement of the battlefield," the editorial suggests that there has been some slippage in programs to round up military manpower for duty in South Vietnam.

*An even more difficult problem for Hanoi, however, is to overcome growing realization in the North of the dangers and hardships which Communist forces in South Vietnam must suffer. The return of thousands of wounded from southern battlefields during the past year and a half, in particular, probably has had a profound impact. Accounts of the real situation in South Vietnam undoubtedly have contributed to the growing problem of desertion and draft dodging in North Vietnam during the past year.*

*The evidence to date does not suggest that Hanoi is having difficulty fulfilling its draft quotas--the regime's instruments of control almost certainly are capable of providing the raw manpower needed by the army, if necessary through reliance on stronger coercive measures. Nonetheless, it is clear that North Vietnam, whose well-disciplined and indoctrinated troops have provided the Communists with one of their strongest assets in the past, is facing new problems of morale and motivation among those segments of the population it must rely on most to carry on the war in the South.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**TURKEY**

Anti-US demonstrations by Turkish students appear almost certain during the three-day visit, beginning today, by units of the Sixth Fleet to the port of Izmir. Student organizations from as far away as Ankara and Istanbul may send representatives to participate.

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The students are free to do so because they are involved in a nationwide boycott of classes over academic grievances. Izmir officials believe the demonstrations will be nonviolent, but they have warned that individual extremists may try to provoke incidents with sailors on shore leave.

*Both Izmir and Istanbul were the scenes of anti-US demonstrations early this year during similar visits by US naval vessels. If substantial numbers of out-of-town students come to Izmir, Turkish Army units might have to be called to help the local police.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

LIBYA

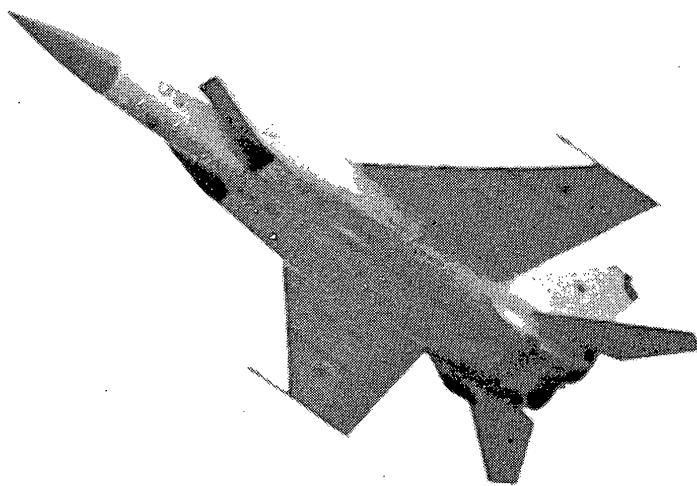
Embassy Tripoli has received additional reports confirming that a movement of Egyptian troops into Libya is under way. These reports also suggest that they are bringing antiaircraft guns with them. [redacted] [redacted] there are rumors in Tripoli that an indefinite number of Egyptian warships are momentarily expected in Libyan waters, allegedly to participate in joint Egyptian-Libyan naval exercises.

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*These troops are probably being brought into Libya to shore up the regime of President Qaddafi. It is possible that plans for their movement into Libya were made during an unpublicized visit Qaddafi made to Cairo earlier this month.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

## Soviet FOXBAT Enters Operational Training



Length	65 feet
Span	44 feet
Gross weight	65,000 pounds
Combat radius	420-800 nm*
Maximum speed	1700 knots
Combat altitude ceiling	75,000 feet
Armament	2-4 air-to-air missiles

\*Range varies with armament, speed, and altitude. External fuel tanks may add 160 to 300 more miles.

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

USSR

Foxbat fighter aircraft--the most expensive and one of the largest interceptors thus far developed by the Soviets--have been conducting [redacted]

[redacted] practice [redacted]  
on a daily basis [redacted]

Com-

puted ground speeds of 1,500 knots and altitudes of 70,000 feet have been noted on some flights.

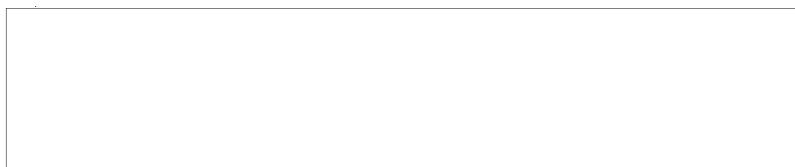
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The flight activity [redacted] indicates the Foxbat has completed interceptor weapons testing and has begun operational training. The number of flights and the relatively brief period between them indicates that operational testing and training is being conducted rather than research and development. Series production of the Foxbat probably began early in 1969. Operational deployment of the Foxbat is expected to begin by mid-1970.

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

BOLIVIA-ROMANIA



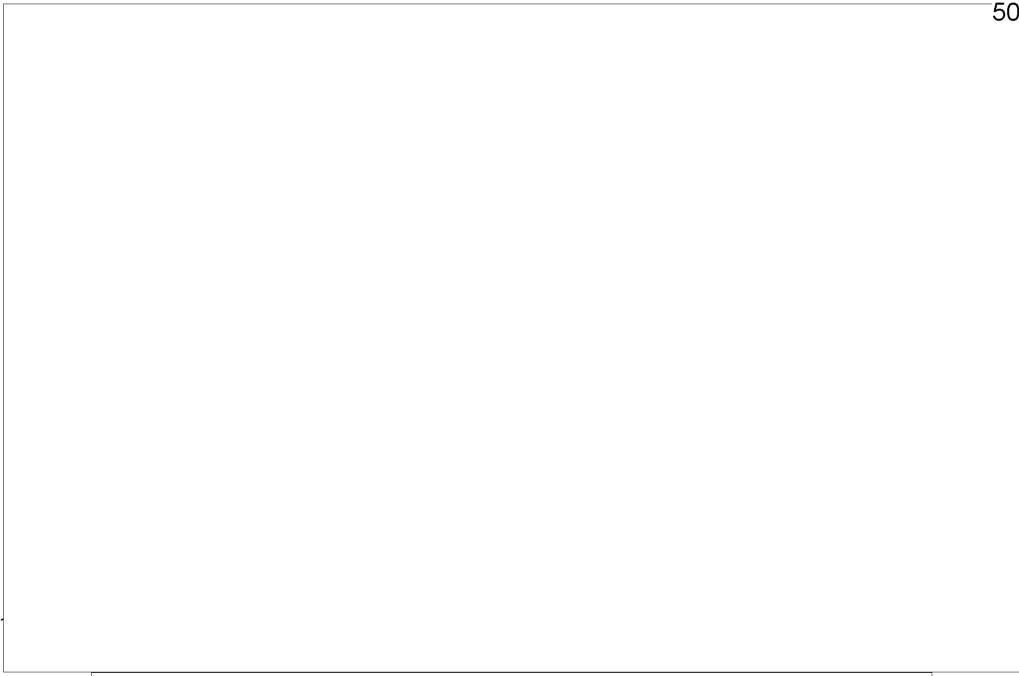
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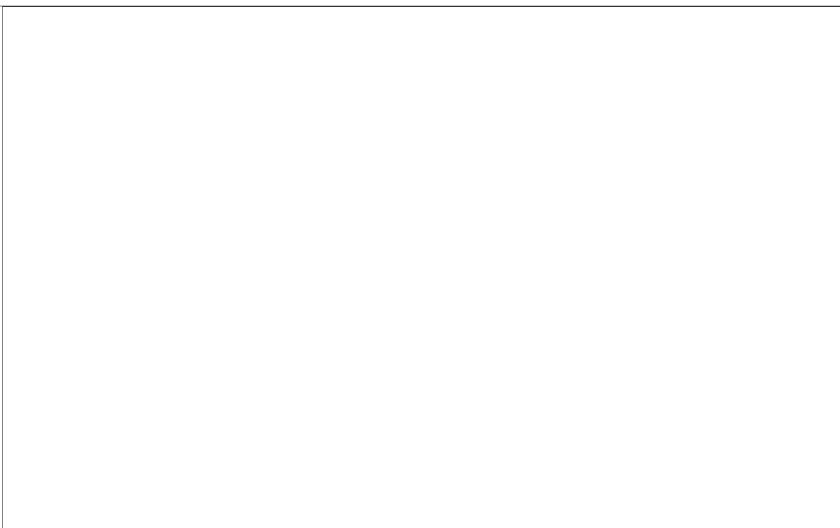
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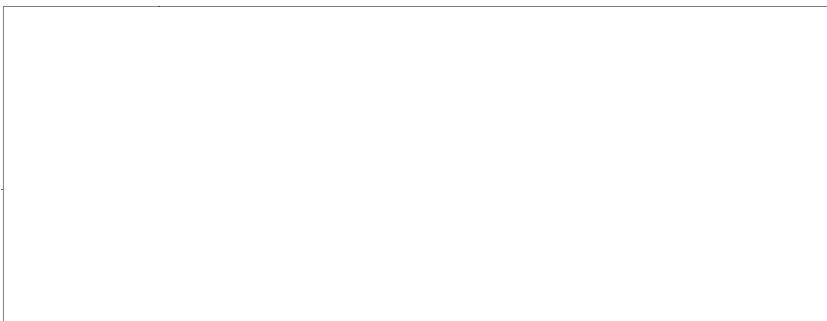
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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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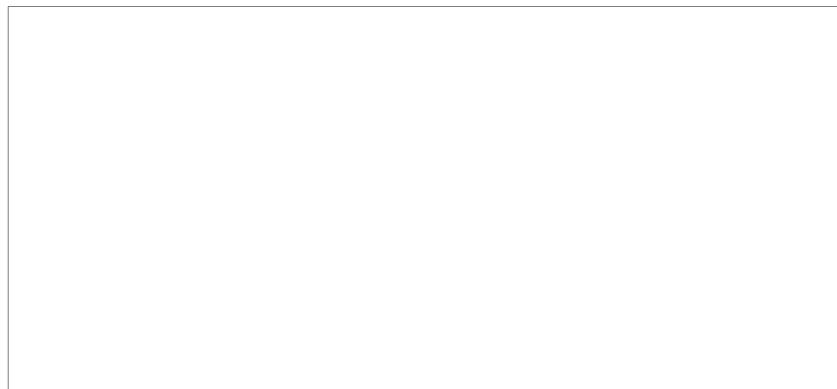


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USSR: The latest satellite photography shows the start of a sixth group of SS-13 silos at the Yoshkar-Ola ICBM complex about 400 miles east of Moscow. This is the second SS-13 group begun this year and maintains the deployment rate of two groups per year for this missile system. Completion of the six groups at Yoshkar-Ola--the sole SS-13 deployment complex--will bring the total number of launchers to 60. Two of the groups are now operational and the other four should be operational by the end of 1971.



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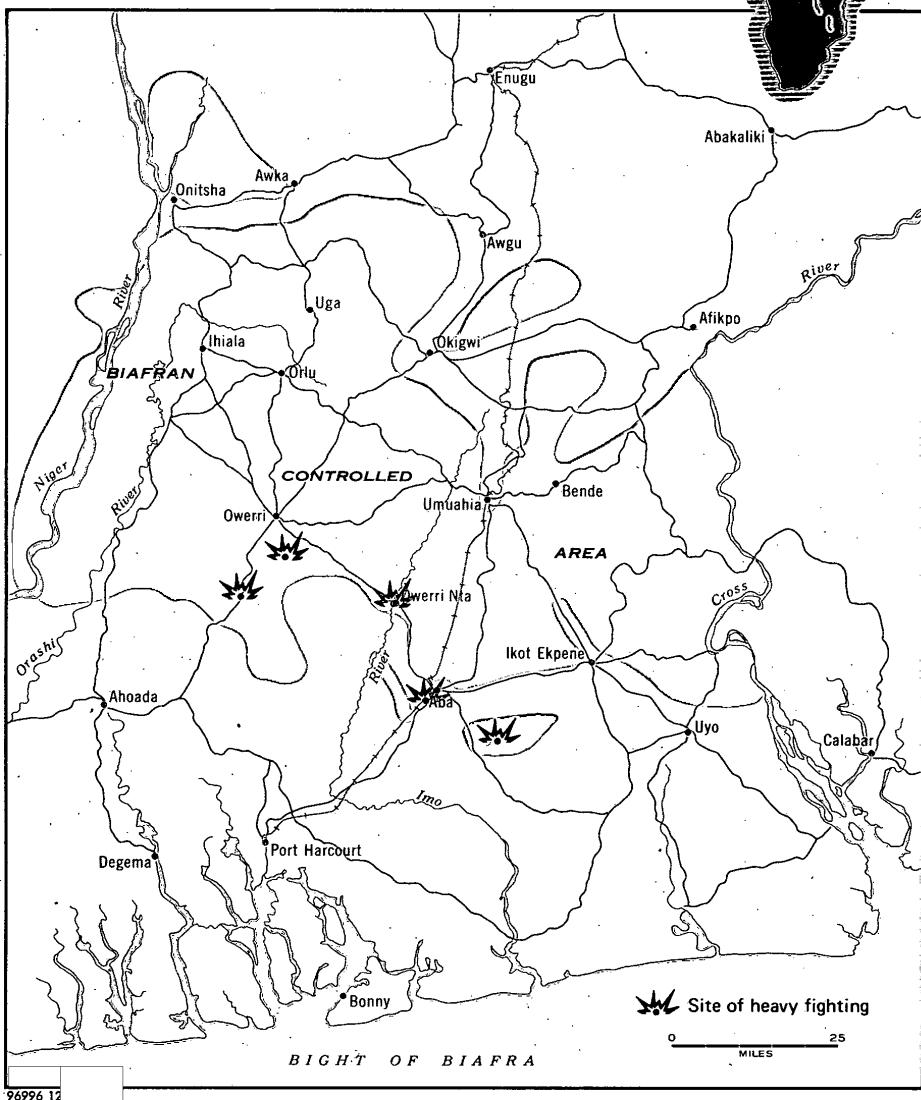
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(continued)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*



**SOUTHEASTERN NIGERIA**



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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South China Sea: [redacted]

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Nigeria: The over-all military situation remains essentially unchanged, although Federal troops have made further inroads on Biafra's southern front and are keeping up the pressure on the secessionists. Fighting in the north remains at a low level [redacted]

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Meanwhile, Emperor Haile Selassie's latest attempt to get the two sides together has broken down over procedural problems. A Biafran delegation left Addis Ababa after the Emperor publicly linked the negotiations to the Organization of African Unity, which has consistently backed federal Nigeria. Despite the Biafrans' refusal to negotiate under OAU auspices--a position consistent with their past policy--their willingness to go to Addis Ababa should give them a propaganda victory. The Federals failed even to send a delegation to Addis Ababa.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

*Top Secret*



# *The President's Daily Brief*

20 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

20 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

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Soviet position on date for resuming arms talks influenced by US stand on European security conference.  
(Page 2)

Soviet [Redacted]  
[Redacted] (Page 3)

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[Redacted] French [Redacted]  
Middle East. (Page 4)

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[Redacted]  
Two factions of India's Congress Party meeting separately to resolve organizational and policy problems.  
(Page 6)

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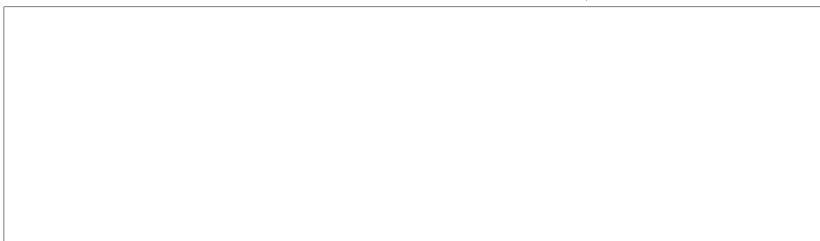
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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

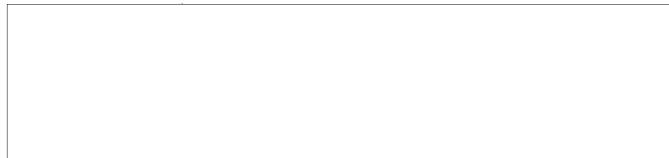
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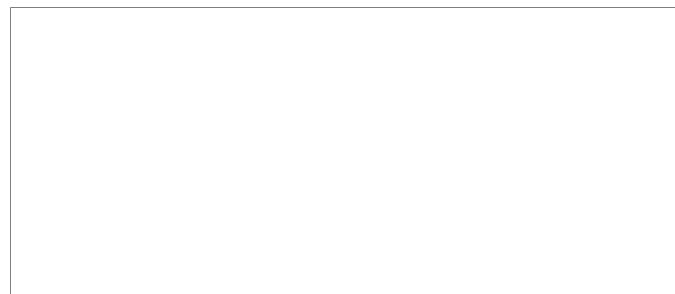
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**USSR-SALT-ESC**

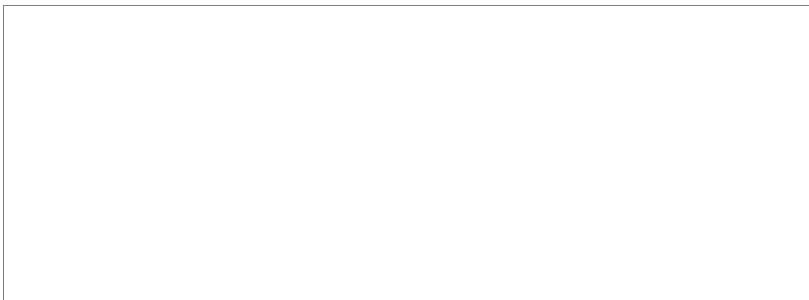
On 18 December, N.S. Kishilov, the general secretary of the Soviet delegation to SALT, told an ACDA official in Helsinki that the Soviets are holding back on a date for resuming the arms talks because of US opposition to a European security conference. Kishilov cited Secretary Rogers' remarks to the NATO council earlier this month, which he described as the "hardest yet," and the NATO communiqué itself. He said that the "German problem" was the main security problem in Europe and that a conference setting would enable "our two Germanies" to start talking with each other.

*Kishilov's remarks are a measure of Moscow's interest in a security conference and do not constitute an effort to downplay the arms talks with the US. In citing the German problem, Kishilov was pointing to Moscow's main reason for holding such a conference. Moscow's sensitivity to previous US references to "linkage" apparently does not prevent the Soviets from adopting this tactic for themselves.*

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USSR-CHINA



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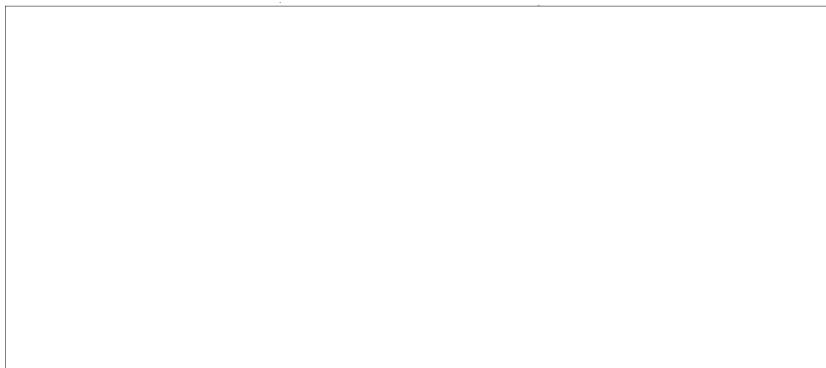


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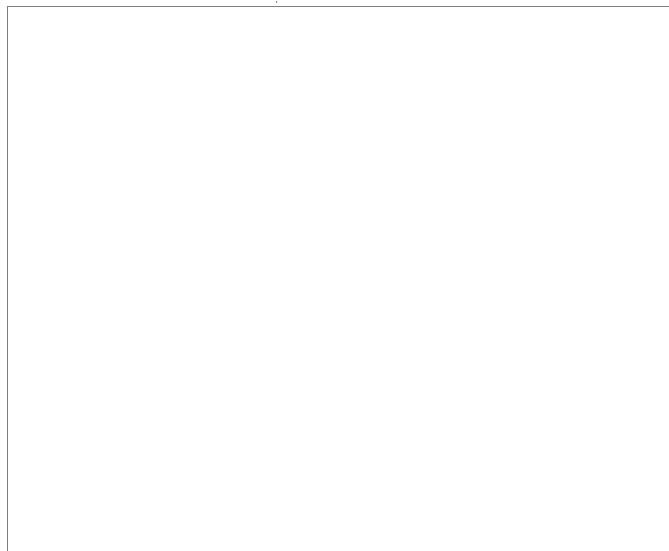
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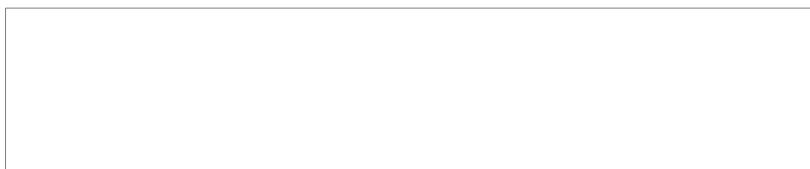
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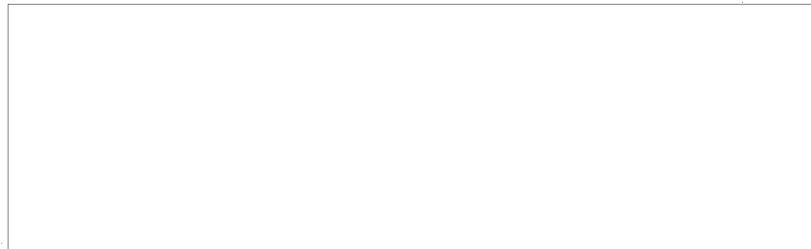


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JORDAN



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

## INDIA

The two rival Congress parties are scheduled to hold plenary sessions of their top policy-making bodies during the next ten days. The old-guard faction, now in opposition in Parliament, is meeting currently while Mrs. Gandhi's group will gather in Bombay from 26 to 28 December. Both parties face similar organizational and policy problems in the wake of the formal split in Congress ranks last month.

*Of the two parties, Mrs. Gandhi's appears to have a significant edge at the present time. It is in power, has retained the traditional name of the party, and has the support of a majority of state organizations and of rank and file members of the formerly united Congress. It is expected to deal more specifically with policy issues at the convention than will the old-guard opposition. Presumably Mrs. Gandhi and her followers will concentrate on economic problems and, to enhance the party's popular appeal, may issue statements calling for increasingly radical economic measures.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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NOTES

Guatemala: A spate of Communist-perpetrated violence, culminating in the assassination of a prominent right-wing politician, has led President Mendez to decree a "state of precaution" for the next 15 days. Security forces will be given extraordinary powers to arrest suspects, enter homes or search vehicles without warrants. The declaration, however, does not prohibit campaigning for the general elections on 1 March. The army has not yet been called upon to augment the security forces but long military leaves are being canceled.

The Embassy reports that all segments of society are blaming the Communists for the attacks.

*Additional political assassinations could provoke reprisals against leftists by right-wing extremists.*

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USSR-Czechoslovakia: [redacted]

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

22 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

22 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In South Vietnam, an apparent government attempt to force the ouster of three deputies from the Lower House through demonstrations may well backfire.  
*(Page 1)*

There has been little change in the military situation in Laos, but casualties continue to mount on both sides. *(Page 2)*

Pravda's editorial on the 90th anniversary of Stalin's birth contains criticism of the dead dictator that could also be taken to reflect on some of Moscow's current leaders. *(Page 3)*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**SOUTH VIETNAM**

A number of deputies claim to see the hand of the government in two demonstrations over the weekend calling for the expulsion from the Lower House of three members accused of pro-Communist activities. In the first and more serious incident, about 1,000 demonstrators marched on the Lower House Saturday. Some 100 of them broke into the chamber while an interpellation of the finance minister was in progress. They interrupted the session with anti-Communist and antineutralist harangues, and caused some property damage.

Yesterday, some 3,000 northern Catholic refugees from nearby villages marched through Bien Hoa city just north of Saigon demanding the removal of the three deputies.

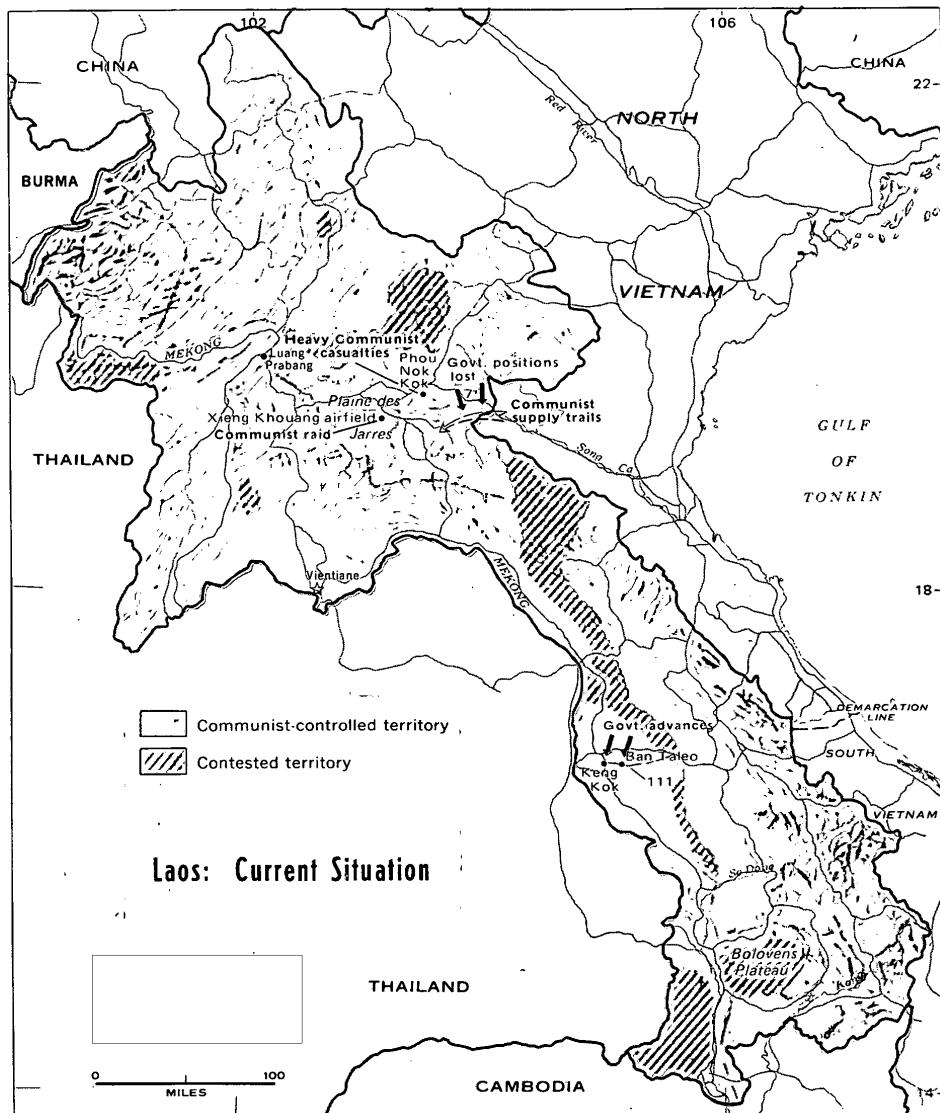
*There is indeed evidence that the deputies' charges may be well founded.* [redacted]

[redacted] Thieu has encouraged certain civil servants, politicians, and military officers to promote such activities. Press reports indicate some of the participants in the march on the Lower House were paid and that the few police on hand made only half-hearted attempts to interfere.

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Whatever the case, the incidents are almost certain to rekindle Lower House resentment toward the executive and complicate Thieu's efforts to smooth working relations between the two branches of government.

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**



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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**LAOS**

North Vietnamese commandos struck Xieng Khouang airfield, an important government support base on the Plaine des Jarres, on 18 December. Defenders held off the attackers, but paid a high price--43 killed.

In eastern Xieng Khouang Province, Communist troops have pushed government guerrillas out of a number of positions astride an important network of supply trails. They have had less success trying to clear government troops from the Route 7 area northeast of the Plaine, losing more than 40 troops on 19 December.

*Most of this activity stems from Communist efforts to secure their supply lines, which have been under steady aerial and ground harassment since early September. The importance they attach to securing the Route 7 area can be judged from the fact that more than 500 North Vietnamese troops have been killed in the past two months trying to overrun Phou Nok Kok, a highpoint overlooking Route 7.*

In the south, government guerrillas have re-occupied several key positions near Route 111 in recent days.

*These limited gains should ease the pressure farther west where less aggressive government units have been attempting to thwart a Communist threat to Ban Taleo and Keng Kok.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

USSR

Pravda's editorial on the 90th anniversary of Stalin's birth is the first formal commemoration of the dead dictator's birthday since 1955. It notes that it was while Stalin was the Communist Party's General Secretary that the USSR's socioeconomic transformation took place and victory over Germany was achieved. It also praises Stalin for his part in the struggle against opposition elements within the party.

But the commentary then charges Stalin with theoretical and political errors "which became chronic in the last period of his life." The editorial goes on to say that errors connected with the cult of personality were harmful, quickly adding that the party has already corrected these mistakes.

Pravda's commentary is one of the most objective accounts of Stalin's role to appear in the Soviet press in several years. Criticism of Stalin's performance during his later years, by implication at least, affects many of the USSR's present rulers. They, as well as Stalin, must take some responsibility for decisions reached at that time which have had a great bearing on major unsolved problems now troubling the Soviet leadership.

*It is too early to say just what the new line suggested by the editorial portends and for whom, but it will certainly be a factor in the maneuvering prior to the party congress now scheduled to be held sometime next year.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTES

Libya: The Libyans want the US to begin the evacuation of Wheelus Field by 1 June 1970, and conclude the transfer within the month. Many details of the phaseout remain unsettled, but the negotiators expect to meet again on Tuesday for final talks leading to signature of an agreement before Christmas. Libyan leader Qaddafi's presence at the Arab summit meeting in Rabat, however, and the announced visit of both Nasir and Numayari of Sudan to Libya at the conclusion of the summit, may cause the Libyans to delay until these leaders are able to attend the signing ceremonies.

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South China Sea: [redacted]

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

*23 December 1969*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

23 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Poland is ready for political negotiations with West Germany. (Page 1)

Libyan and Sudanese leaders are eager for some kind of union with Egypt, but Nasir is cautious. (Page 2)

Communist China is releasing some foreigners, holding others. (Page 3)

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**POLAND - WEST GERMANY**

After four weeks of study, Warsaw has responded  
to Bonn's call for political negotiations.

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The Poles have ignored the sensitivities of the East Germans, who believe border recognition is unnecessary and a slight to their sovereignty. In a speech last week, party boss Ulbricht reminded the Poles that the Zgorzelec treaty between Poland and East Germany established the Oder-Neisse line as the border in 1950. Ulbricht's subsequent demarche to West German President Heinemann calling for talks on outstanding issues, including recognition of the Oder-Neisse line, probably was intended to undercut the Poles on this issue.

Warsaw and Bonn are already talking of economic matters. This is another factor that may rankle the East Germans, whose special Interzonal Trade Agreement now gives them certain advantages in trade with West Germany not enjoyed by other Eastern European countries.

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**ARAB STATES**

Nasir, Qaddafi of Libya, and Numayri of Sudan are to meet in Tripoli after the Arab summit to discuss some form of union. [redacted]  
[redacted] the meeting is being held at the request of the Libyans and the Sudanese.

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With traditional Arab radicals such as Algeria losing their enthusiasm, the new military regimes in Tripoli and Khartoum have become the most active advocates of Arab militancy and unity. Their current efforts are likely to get pro forma support and not much else from Egypt, which has been wary of such schemes since its "union" with Syria between 1958 and 1961. Cairo will be willing to discuss economic and military cooperation, but not even the prospect of more direct access to Libya's oil revenues is likely to lure it into union with its inexperienced and unstable neighbors.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**NOTES**

Communist China: On 20 December, Peking announced the release of a prominent Japanese journalist who had been detained for 18 months under suspicion of espionage. Since the release of Reuters correspondent Anthony Grey last October, Peking has acted on several similar cases. Thus far, six British citizens, six Japanese, seven Germans, and two Americans have been freed. The Chinese appear to be making a distinction between aliens they believe have engaged in serious espionage and those who have allegedly committed minor offenses or were victims of the antiforeign feeling of the past three years. On 22 October, for example, Peking announced that a German technician accused of being a US spy had been sentenced to ten years in prison.

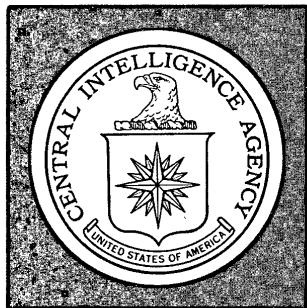
South China Sea: Analysis of additional data from overseas seismic stations indicates that the underwater disturbance south of Hainan Island on 19 December was an earthquake. This suggests that the seismic event in that area on 17 December, for which less information was available, probably was also an earthquake. If the Chinese had set off an explosion so near international shipping lanes, they probably would have restricted the area to all shipping. The Chinese are showing concern over the possibility of additional earthquakes, and they are warning the coastal regions and fishing craft of the possibility of tidal waves.

Peru: The controversial investment contract between the Velasco government and the US-owned Southern Peru Copper Company was signed Friday. A high official of the company told the US ambassador that the firm still must find financing for about \$200 million of the \$355-million project, but he claimed this could be done easily in Europe, Japan, or the US.

USSR: Key space support ships have moved out of their monitoring positions, indicating that Soviet plans for an unmanned lunar mission this month have been abandoned. Continuing problems with the SL-12 space booster are probably a major reason.

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

24 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The final session of the Arab summit turned into a shambles yesterday. (Page 1)

Israel, claiming that the fedayeen are firing rockets from Lebanese territory at Israeli settlements [redacted]

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(Page 2)

Further evidence that more North Vietnamese units have moved into IV Corps has been uncovered in captured documents. (Page 3)

Peking has stepped up its anti-Soviet propaganda. (Page 4)

The European Communities' milestone agreement on financing arrangements is assessed on Page 5.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**ARAB STATES**

*Self-interest, mutual distrust, and an inability to cover up the gap between rhetoric and performance turned the final session of the Arab summit yesterday into a shambles. The meeting was boycotted by Syria, Iraq, and South Yemen, and the conferees could not even agree on a final communiqué. As the participants return to their capitals and begin to issue their own versions of what went on, the following is our preliminary reconstruction of the events leading up to the breakdown.*

All reports indicate that the conference was proceeding reasonably well until the participants began to debate an Egyptian call for all Arab countries to commit troops and provide weapons to reinforce Egypt, Jordan, and Syria along the cease-fire lines. The Egyptian plan may have been a genuine reflection of what Cairo thought was necessary to defeat Israel, but it apparently made very steep demands on some of the contributors.

Thus, although everyone supported the plan in principle, most potential contributors found reasons not to come through with the required amounts of support. The Saudis and Kuwaitis claimed they had no troops to spare, although they did agree to provide the financial assistance demanded in the Egyptian plan. The Libyans said they were re-equipping their own army and could not provide much money; they did offer the fedayeen some of their cast-off weapons. Morocco's King Hassan pleaded a paucity of resources and reserved his position. On the other hand, Algerian President Boumediene, a long-time critic of the Egyptian military, told Nasir, "We are prepared to give you anything you want if we are going to war with Israel, but if we are not going to fight then we are not prepared to give."

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*One point that is still not clear is the amount of support the conferees agreed to give the fedayeen. According to early press reports, Yasir Arafat was being granted most of what he had asked for, but there is no indication whether this decision survived the final hassle, or whether the conference came to any conclusions at all.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

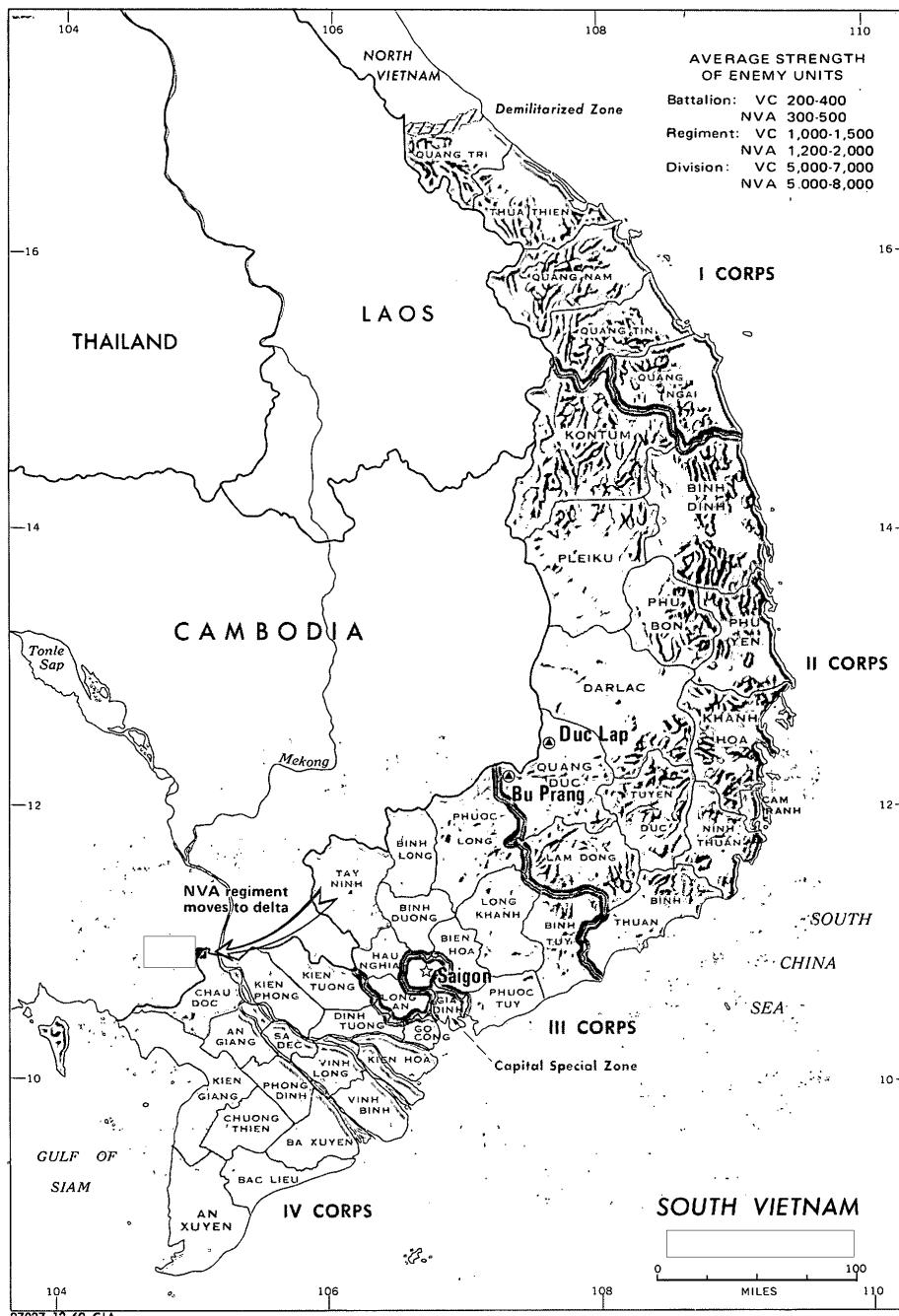
**LEBANON-ISRAEL**

Israel is claiming that fedayeen fired rockets from Lebanese territory at Israeli settlements near the border on both Sunday and Monday nights. [redacted]

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*If Israel carries out its threat, Lebanon would find it hard to resist demands by other Arab states to station their troops on Lebanese territory.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**



**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**VIETNAM**

Enemy documents captured recently in Chau Doc Province provide further evidence that another large North Vietnamese unit has shifted from the III Corps area to the delta. It now appears that between October and December the 101D Regiment moved some 80 miles southwest from its former position in Tay Ninh Province to Chau Doc. The 101D would be the fourth regular enemy regiment to shift from III to IV Corps since early last summer.

*This shift is reflected in the pattern of sharp clashes in the delta and lighter combat elsewhere which has prevailed since early December, when the enemy pulled back from Bu Prang and Duc Lap in the southern highlands.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**COMMUNIST CHINA - USSR**

People's Daily of 22 December contains the strongest direct Chinese attack on the USSR since the beginning of the border talks. The article denounces Moscow's current efforts to negotiate a "renunciation of force" treaty with West Germany, and accuses the Soviets of "collusion" with both West Germany and the US. Peking warns the Communist states of Eastern Europe that Moscow is selling out their interests in order to divide up Europe with the United States.

Chinese commentaries on the Soviet Union have become more strident in recent weeks. The Chinese are still holding themselves in, however; Peking has yet, for instance, to revive direct attacks against Soviet military activity along the Chinese frontier.

Polemics at this level probably will not keep Moscow from sending Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov back to Peking soon in order to try once again to achieve some progress in the border talks. Peking's criticism, however, suggests that Kuznetsov will not find the Chinese any more forthcoming.

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

## EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The milestone agreement on EC financing arrangements which emerged from a marathon negotiating session of the Council of Ministers last weekend came far earlier than many observers had anticipated. The plan calls for the gradual allocation of receipts from customs duties to the EC beginning in 1971, in addition to the agricultural levies and member state contributions presently in effect. By 1975 all such duties and levies, plus a portion of each country's turnover or transaction tax will constitute the EC's "own resources."

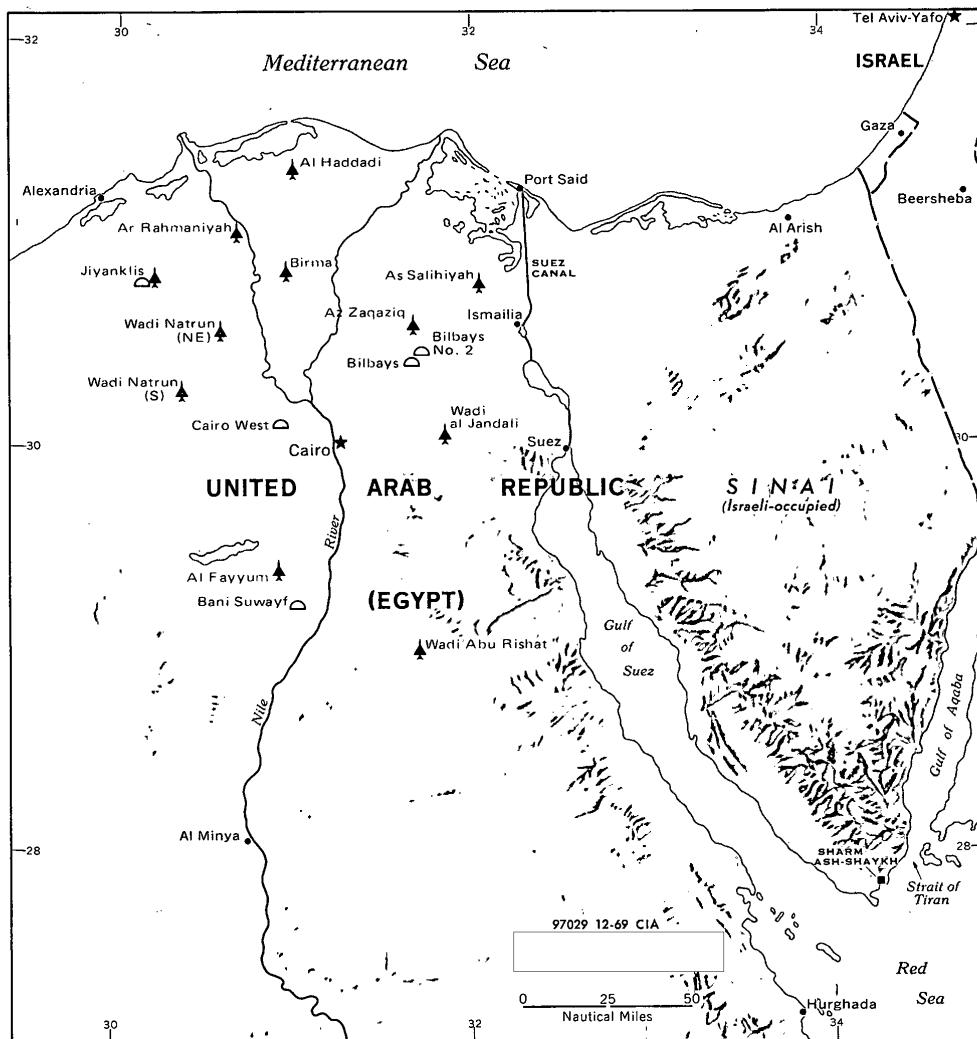
The plan will slightly strengthen the budgetary powers of the European Parliament in 1971-1974. After 1975 the Parliament will be able to overrule the member governments by a three-fifths majority vote.

*The agreement, which still must be approved by the six national parliaments, augurs well both for the internal development of the EC and for its expansion to include new members. The French seemed eager to obtain agreement on a financing plan even though it will eventually increase the authority of the European Parliament, which De Gaulle opposed for so long. The current plan, however, satisfies the condition upon which France had insisted before the Six begin work on a common position to enter into negotiations with the UK.*

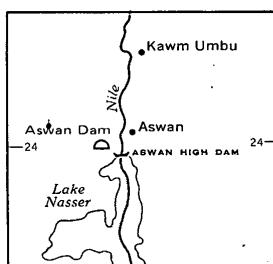
*The next test for the "spirit of The Hague"-- which seems to have predominated in the Communities since the EC summit-- may come when the ministers attempt to face the dilemma of EC agricultural surpluses. Progress on agricultural surpluses will be necessary both for the future of the common agricultural policy and for British entry.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

## EGYPT: New Airfield and Shelter Construction



- ▲ Airfield built since June 1967 War
- ▲ Airfield identified since August 1969
- Airfield with 3 large aircraft shelters



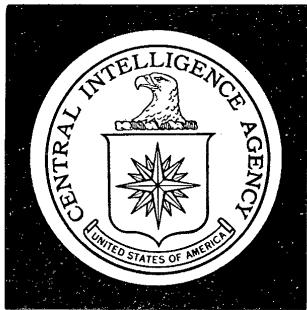
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**NOTE**

Egypt: Satellite photography since August shows two new airfields some 45-50 nautical miles north-west of Cairo and another 65 nautical miles south-east of the city. This makes 11 new airfields that have been built in Egypt since the end of the 1967 war.

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# *The President's Daily Brief*

26 December 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

26 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[REDACTED] General Giap's recent article on the war suggests that Hanoi will respond to the allied Vietnamization program by dragging out the fighting indefinitely. (Page 1)

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Moscow and Bonn [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] (Page 2)

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Bangkok is publicizing the possibility of a withdrawal of Thai troops from Vietnam. (Page 3)

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Cyprus. (Page 4)

Moscow has offered a \$30 million credit to Peru to finance the purchase of agricultural machinery. (Page 5)

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**NORTH VIETNAM**

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\* \* \*

These are our preliminary thoughts about the long, theoretical article on the war written by North Vietnam's Defense Minister Vo Nguyen Giap. A more complete analysis will follow when we receive the full text.

The article is one of the clearest indications to date that Hanoi's principal response to the allied Vietnamization program will be to try to drag out the fighting indefinitely. Giap repeatedly stresses the need for the Communists to preserve and to build up their forces, to safeguard and to expand base areas, and to be in a position to take advantage of whatever opportunities may come their way in the course of further protracted warfare. Giap calls for strong military action, of course, but his stress on fundamentals and on adequate preparations suggests that Hanoi believes that much more spadework is needed before the Communists will be ready to attempt another head-on military challenge.

\* \* \*

Enemy violations of the 24 hour allied truce did not involve any major combat activity.

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

USSR - WEST GERMANY



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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**THAILAND-US**

There appears to be less than meets the eye in recent reports that Thailand is considering withdrawing some of its troops from South Vietnam. Both Deputy Prime Minister Praphat and Foreign Minister Thanat have given private assurances to Ambassador Unger that their government fully appreciates the need for Thailand to keep troops in Vietnam for the time being. They claim there is no plan for withdrawal.

Thanat recently implied to Unger, however, that the Thai believe they are obliged to portray their participation in the Vietnam war as being in step with allied policies. He claimed that his intention in raising the possibility of a troop withdrawal was to reaffirm the temporary nature of the Thai presence in Vietnam and to underline Thai confidence in the Vietnamization program. Thanat discussed the possible withdrawal of Thai forces with Saigon's ambassador yesterday, according to the Bangkok press.

Thanat announced to the press earlier this week that during the recent ASEAN meeting in Kuala Lumpur he had brought up the possibility of pulling out troops with South Vietnam's Foreign Minister Lam. A few days earlier, a group of Thai legislators, seemingly with the blessing of at least some government leaders, sent an open letter to Prime Minister Thanom calling for withdrawal of the Thai troops.

In the light of Thailand's growing dissatisfaction with the US on other matters, the manner in which the Thai have raised the troop issue--direct discussions with Saigon and in the press--may be designed in part as a not so subtle reminder to Washington of the importance Bangkok attaches to being involved in decision making on matters of mutual interest.

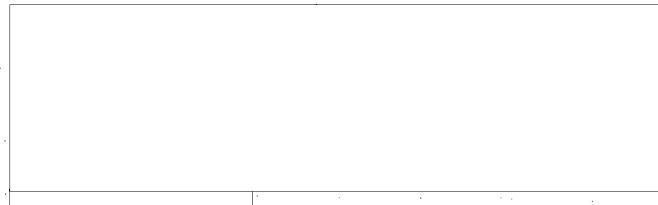
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CYPRUS



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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**USSR-PERU**

Moscow has offered a \$30 million credit to Peru to finance the purchase of agricultural machinery. The credit--Russia's first to Peru--was announced by Peru's Foreign Minister Mercado on 20 December and confirmed by the Soviet commercial attaché.

*Repayment terms probably will be typical of Soviet trade credits--10 years or less--rather than the extension of long-term aid.*

*The sale of Western equipment to private farmers could be hurt by the Soviet credit offer. In the past, however, the poor quality of Soviet machinery and lack of service eventually led other Latin American countries back to traditional US and West European suppliers.*

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# *The President's Daily Brief*

27 December 1969

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**THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF**

27 December 1969

**PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS**

Arab leaders return from Rabat with reports on the summit. (Page 1)

[redacted] (Page 2)

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Pakistan [redacted]

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Moscow. (Page 3)

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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

ARAB STATES

[redacted] the ill-fated summit conference in Rabat emphasizes how fundamental the differences are between radical and conservative Arab regimes. The leaders of the conservative Arab countries, especially King Faysal of Saudi Arabia, were bitterly attacked for their failure to provide additional funds to the radical states.

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[redacted]  
Egypt's Nasir, at least in his public statements, has played down the differences and claimed the conference had its positive aspects. He did not elaborate, however.

*An open break between the radical leaders and the conservatives seems unlikely. For one thing, Nasir and the other radicals remain dependent on Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for financial support of their military adventures.*

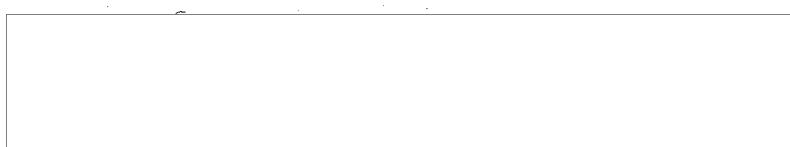
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SOUTH VIETNAM



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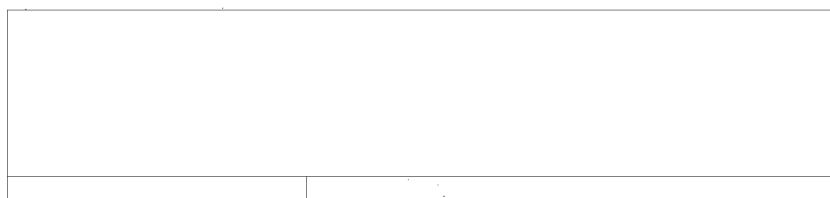
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PAKISTAN - USSR



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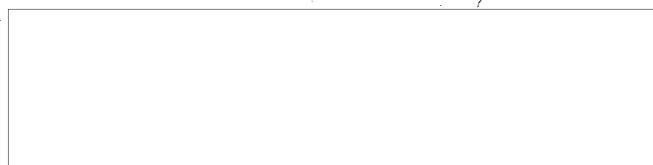


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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**NOTES**

Philippines: [redacted]

[redacted] a demonstration against Vice President Agnew, planned for 29 December at the Manila airport, probably will be limited to about 120 participants. The main reasons for the small turnout, according to a spokesman of the pro-Communist youth group organizing the affair, are lack of funds and the dispersal of students because of school vacations. Another demonstration, scheduled for 30 December during the inauguration ceremony, is not aimed specifically at the Vice President. Local police authorities have been alerted to take all necessary steps.

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Israel-Egypt: Israeli pounding of the Egyptian side of the Suez Canal, which has gone on almost daily for four months, reached a climax Thursday with an air operation lasting eight and a half hours. [redacted] the Thursday assault destroyed SA-2 sites that the Egyptians have been trying to rebuild after earlier strikes. It was followed on Friday by a three-and-a-half hour attack on targets near the southern end of the canal. All this suggests an increased Israeli effort to "educate" the Egyptians.

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

29 December 1969

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

29 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

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[redacted] Jordan [redacted] (Page 1)

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The Saigon government's campaign against opposition elements continues. (Page 2)

Prime Minister Sato's party won an impressive victory in Japan's national elections. (Page 3)

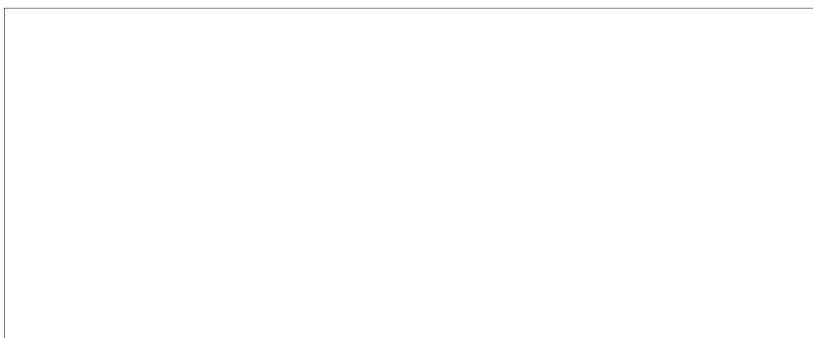
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JORDAN



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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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**SOUTH VIETNAM**

The Saigon government is maintaining pressure on opposition elements. A Buddhist newspaper was closed on 27 December for publishing an article which allegedly incited dissension and promoted religious discrimination. Another round of demonstrations against the National Assembly's Lower House is planned for early this week unless the chamber acts against the three deputies accused by the government of pro-Communist affiliations and activities. A special committee of the House has completed its investigation of government charges and will report to the full chamber on 30 December.

*There are no solid indications that the House intends to make the three deputies available to government prosecution by lifting their parliamentary immunity. Regardless of how the affair is resolved it is certain to further impair relations between the executive and the legislature.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

JAPAN

The landslide election victory of Prime Minister Sato's Liberal Democratic Party exceeded the most optimistic forecasts of the party leadership. The total strength of the Liberal Democratic Party in the 486-seat lower house was boosted to 300 when a dozen successful independent candidates joined the party following the election. The Socialist Party, the largest opposition group, suffered a humiliating defeat, winning only 90 seats as compared with 140 in the 1967 general elections.

*Ruling Liberal Democratic leaders will interpret these results as a mandate for maintaining Sato's policies of continued close security ties with the United States and as approval for the agreement on reversion of Okinawa to Japanese control.*

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## *The President's Daily Brief*

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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF**

30 December 1969

**PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS**

The final installment of General Giap's recent theoretical article on the war provides further evidence that Hanoi is now concentrating on protecting and building up its forces for the longer term struggle. Party first secretary Le Duan's failure to play an active public role, in contrast to General Giap and other ranking North Vietnamese leaders, has called into question his political standing within the post-Ho regime. (Page 1)

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

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**NORTH VIETNAM**

We have received the final installment of Defense Minister Giap's article, the summary version of which was reviewed in The President's Daily Brief. The article contains little that was not covered before.

Basically, Giap calls for continued strong military action by the Communists but urges adequate political preparations before engaging in "climactic phases of the struggle"--indicating his belief that the Communists are not ready for an all-out military effort.

As he has in past articles and utterances, Giap stresses guerrilla warfare, but he also cites the need for big-unit actions and for such tactics as attacks on cities. He makes clear, however, that large-scale actions and urban attacks must be carried out "rationally"--that is, not in ways that will decimate Communist forces or undercut Communist capabilities for dragging out the war indefinitely.

*Giap's article fits in with other evidence that the Communists are now concentrating on protecting their over-all position for the longer term struggle. Giap seems to echo the gradual, step-by-step strategy for the war set forth by Hanoi after the costly 1968 offensives and reflected in Communist military tactics since last spring.*

\* \* \*

First secretary Le Duan, the ranking Communist party official among Ho Chi Minh's successors, has not played a significant public role since Ho's funeral last September. His absenteeism was most notable during the recent celebrations in Hanoi of three important Communist anniversaries. Defense Minister Giap, National Assembly chairman Truong Chinh, and Premier Pham Van Dong played important parts as usual. Whatever Le Duan has been doing since Ho's death has gone virtually unnoticed in North Vietnam's press and radio. His activities have been noted only twice in recent months, neither time a significant occasion.

(continued)

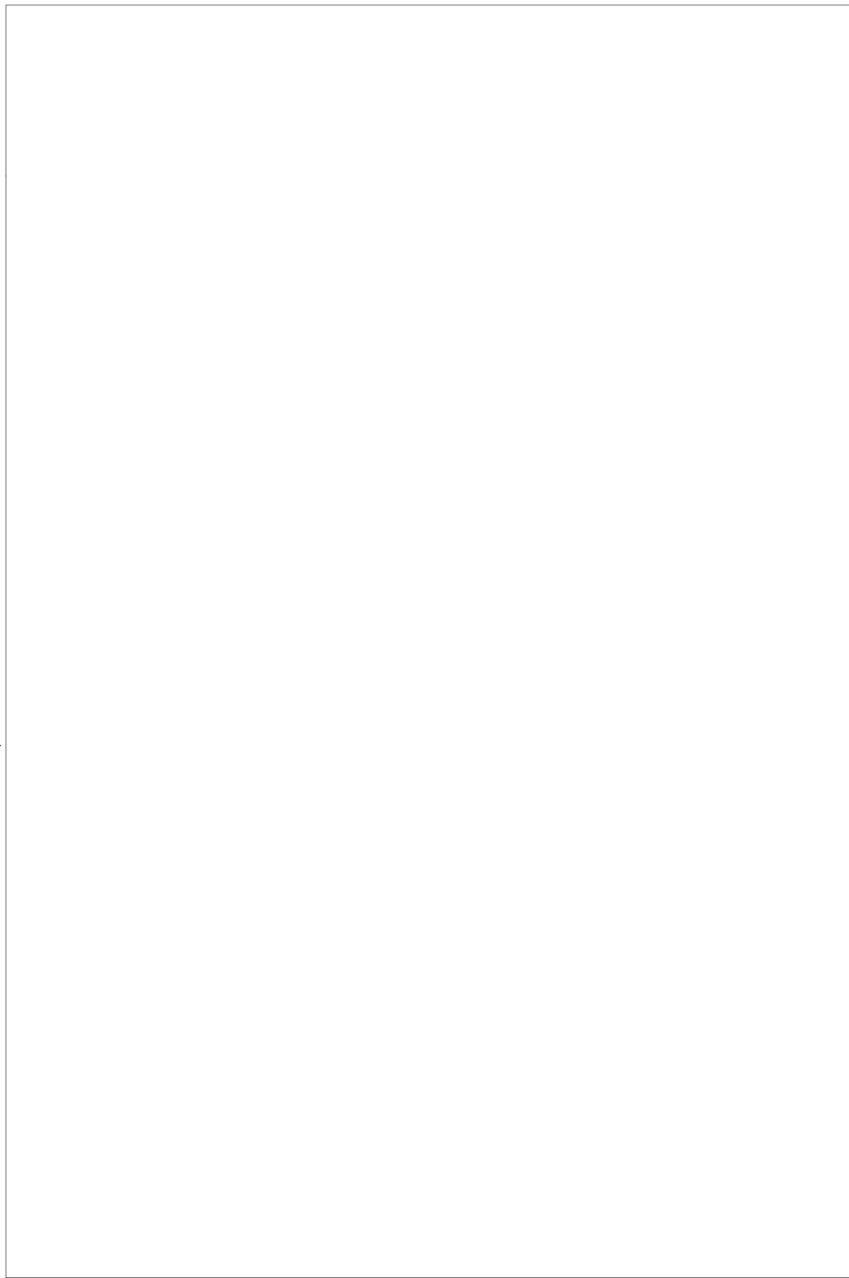
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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

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We do not have a firm explanation for Le Duan's removal from the public eye. There have been reports that he has been making an extended tour of the countryside, but such a trip has never been mentioned in official media. Le Duan may be preoccupied with behind-the-scene work in connection with the war or other secret party matters, but his absenteeism also could imply that his standing in the post-Ho regime is less than his nominal party position would suggest.

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NOTES

<u>France-Israel:</u>	

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Israel: The armed forces began major military exercises in the Sinai on 29 December. The maneuvers will last for several days. Since taking Sinai, the Israelis have often conducted exercises in the Peninsula and are building elaborate defensive positions along the Suez Canal and at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba. We have no indication that the exercises are a prelude to a major thrust into Egypt, but at a minimum they serve to impress the Arabs.

Ethiopia: No further trouble has been reported from Addis Ababa following the serious clash yesterday between university students and police. This latest incident, however, has given new dimension to the tension that has been building since last fall between students and the government. A major confrontation could be forthcoming.

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**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF**

31 December 1969

**PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS**

West German leaders face hazards at home with their response to East Germany. (Page 1)

Pakistan prepares for renewed political activity.  
(Page 2)

Opposition activity in Sudan has not yet coalesced.  
(Page 3)

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY**

Brandt is trying to circumvent the difficulties presented by the highly demanding East German approach to negotiations. He looks upon the maximum-terms treaty proposed by the East Germans as "only a draft," and a West German counterproposal will be offered. Brandt will delineate the West German position in his "state of the nation" speech on 14 January.

*Brandt faces a formidable dilemma. To overcome the pessimism of the conservative press and criticism from conservative Foreign Ministry professionals and to strengthen his position before the public, he has to take a firm stand with the East Germans. At the same time, he must avoid being provoked by Ulbricht's demands, for a sharp reply now would destroy any chance for Brandt's Ostpolitik to succeed.*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**PAKISTAN**

As promised by Yahya last month, Pakistanis tomorrow will be free to resume full political activity. This will signal the start of preparations for the election of a constituent assembly in October. Public gatherings will again be permitted, but the regime has warned that troublemakers will not be tolerated.

Pakistanis have not enjoyed complete political freedom since Ayub seized control in 1958. The current restrictions, however, have been in effect only since March 1969, when Yahya assumed power and declared martial law.

Security conditions, particularly in East Pakistan, are shaky at best. We are not sanguine about the government's ability to keep the lid on once campaigning begins and the bitter rivalries between political factions come out in the open again. The government, however, derives some comfort from its belief that it is not likely to be the target of political attacks--initially at least--and therefore can play the role of referee between competing groups.

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SUDAN



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*Sudanese authorities have recently given wide publicity to such security measures as a series of political arrests and the dismissal of 15 university lecturers. The latter move may backfire--185 other university faculty members have resigned in protest.*



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Meanwhile, the government is pursuing its primary foreign policy of enlarging its commitment to the Arab cause in the struggle with Israel. Sudan's leaders have been courting President Nasir, and seem determined to create some direct tie with Egypt and Libya.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

**FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY**

**NOTES**

New Zealand: Two Molotov cocktails were found in the driveway of Ambassador Franzheim's residence on Monday. A New Zealand security official thinks this may have been the work of the Progressive Youth Movement, a Vietnam protest organization. The incident raises the possibility, for the first time, that local militants may try something more violent during Vice President Agnew's visit than the provocative demonstrations heretofore expected.

Ethiopia:

Monday's

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violence between troops and university students was caused by the killing of the president of the student union. Radical students claimed the troops were responsible, and triggered off the riot.

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The university has been closed to prevent a recurrence of the riot, and several suspects have already been arrested.

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