



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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6 DECEMBER 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Rhodesia

The emotional fervor that led the African foreign ministers to adopt their strong resolutions at last week's conference seems to be dissipating only slowly.

President Nyerere of Tanzania has, in fact, so boxed himself in with post-conference public statements that he will find it very difficult to avoid a diplomatic break with Britain if, as seems likely, the 15 December deadline passes without strong British military action against Rhodesia.

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Most of the foreign ministers at the conference are much less responsible than are their presidents, however. Several of the latter seem to be coming to recognize that the threat to break with Britain may do more harm than good to their interests.

US Ambassador Korry in Addis Ababa believes that many African governments could be made to have second thoughts on the deadline threat if some face-saving alternative were to be opened up to them.

Ambassador Korry got the impression that Communist diplomats and newsmen were more active at the conference site than ever before. They were probably trying to convince the Africans of their readiness to help against Rhodesia.

The British, meanwhile, are standing firm against the African pressure to send ground troops into Rhodesia.

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2. Indonesia

Sukarno made a remarkably defensive and impassioned speech yesterday. He complained that anti-Communist elements are trying to force his hand and to bypass him in dealing with the problems of the country.

Admitting that he had neglected Indonesian economic development, Sukarno said that was because of the overriding need to safeguard "the nation and the revolution." He challenged his opponents either to depose him or to give him free rein in running the country.

Sukarno evidently calculates that this emotional appeal will result in some expression of support for his position. Even if it does, his open admission of weakness seems in the longer run likely to benefit his opponents.

Army leaders have largely ignored earlier presidential criticism and are unlikely to retreat in the face of the latest blast.

3. Laos

Roadwatch teams in the Laotian panhandle continue to report substantial numbers of southbound trucks, some containing troops.

Late last month one team saw 21 cargo trucks moving south. A week later the same group spotted 154 trucks-- 17 of them carried about 20 men each. On 3 December, another team reported 30 trucks going south.

4. Nepal

The internal situation in Nepal continues to slide slowly downhill. The country, already in the grip of inflation, now faces a serious food shortage. Direct criticism of the King and his government, not frequent in the past, is growing and opposition circles are beginning to stir.

So far the King, who seems supremely confident of his own power and skill, has been unwilling to take the reform measures needed to arrest this process.

Southwestern China



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5. Pakistan

Finance Minister Shoaib does not believe President Ayub will ask during his US trip for an immediate resumption of US military or economic aid. Ayub apparently assumes that the US would not grant such a request at this time and that Pakistan can stand continued suspension of economic aid better than India can.

Pakistani officials have been assuring domestic newsmen that the US visit will bring no retreat from their position on Kashmir.

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[redacted] the newsmen were also assured that no consideration would cause Pakistan to abandon its friendship with China.

6. Communist China

[redacted] Communist air activity in the area opposite Taiwan last month was the highest for any month since September 1958--during the Taiwan Strait crisis. This could merely reflect good flying weather during November and Communist sensitivity following the defection of the bomber crew last month.

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7. United Kingdom

British gold and currency reserves rose again last month and reached the highest level since June 1962. London financial circles warn, however, that there can be no relaxation since large regular surpluses will be needed to pay off debts coming due through 1970.

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8. Communist China



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9. France

The election result was a sharp blow to De Gaulle's personal prestige and leadership. Much of the opposition press attributes it to popular hostility to De Gaulle's foreign policies.

The rebuff to De Gaulle has sparked speculation that he may withdraw, refusing to compete in the 19 December runoff. No one knows the answer to this but De Gaulle himself. Most observers, however, expect him to stay in and to win handily over Mitterrand.

The percentages drawn by each candidate, however, suggest that De Gaulle was unable to attract votes away from traditional voting patterns, and not that the voters repudiated his policies. Mitterrand, for instance, drew about the same percentage as the Socialist and Communist parties together did in the parliamentary elections of 1962.

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10. Dominican Republic

Garcia Godoy's recent moves in setting up machinery for next year's election seem carefully calculated to assure the public that the elections on 1 June will be free and impartially conducted.

Another encouraging development is the growing confidence which Garcia Godoy apparently has in armed forces leader Rivera Caminero and other military chiefs. He told a US official last weekend that he now recognizes that many of the coup rumors he had been receiving actually originated with Juan Bosch.

The president is still working on the thorny problem of reintegrating eligible former rebel military men into the armed forces. He now says he hopes to reach a solution this week.

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11. Guatemala

[redacted] the growing sense of insecurity among wealthier elements in the country is definitely increasing the chances of trouble.

12. Venezuela

[redacted]

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