



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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9 DECEMBER 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

DAILY BRIEF
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1. Soviet Union

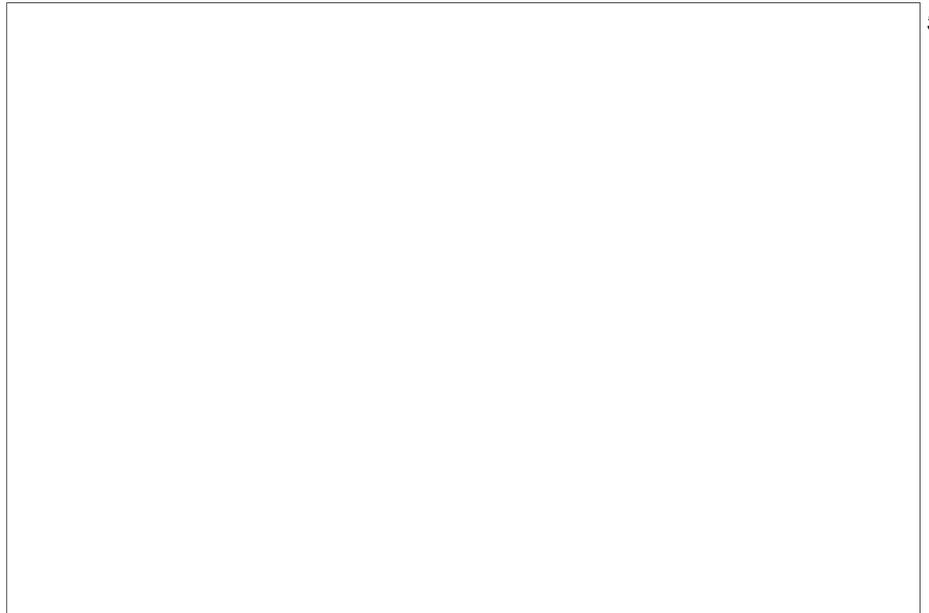
The first substantial recasting of the Soviet hierarchy since Khrushchev's fall took place in the Kremlin this week.

Following an unheralded Central Committee plenum Monday, it was announced today that the aging Mikoyan had retired from his titular post as chief of state and that Nikolay Podgorny would replace him.

Contrary to press reporting, the removal of Aleksandr Shelepin from his government posts could be a promotion. In fact, with Podgorny out of the way in a ceremonial sinecure, he may emerge as the most powerful figure in the Soviet party after Brezhnev.

In fact, these shifts all bear Brezhnev's stamp and should, for the short run at least, strengthen his grip over the party. Last year Podgorny was regarded as a potential rival to Brezhnev for the top spot.

2. Soviet Union



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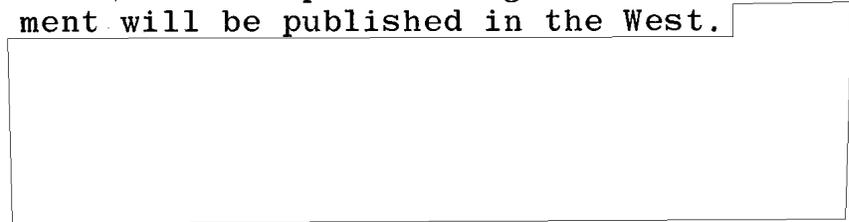
3. East Germany

The suicide last week of planning chief Apel has sent shock waves through the East German party and government.



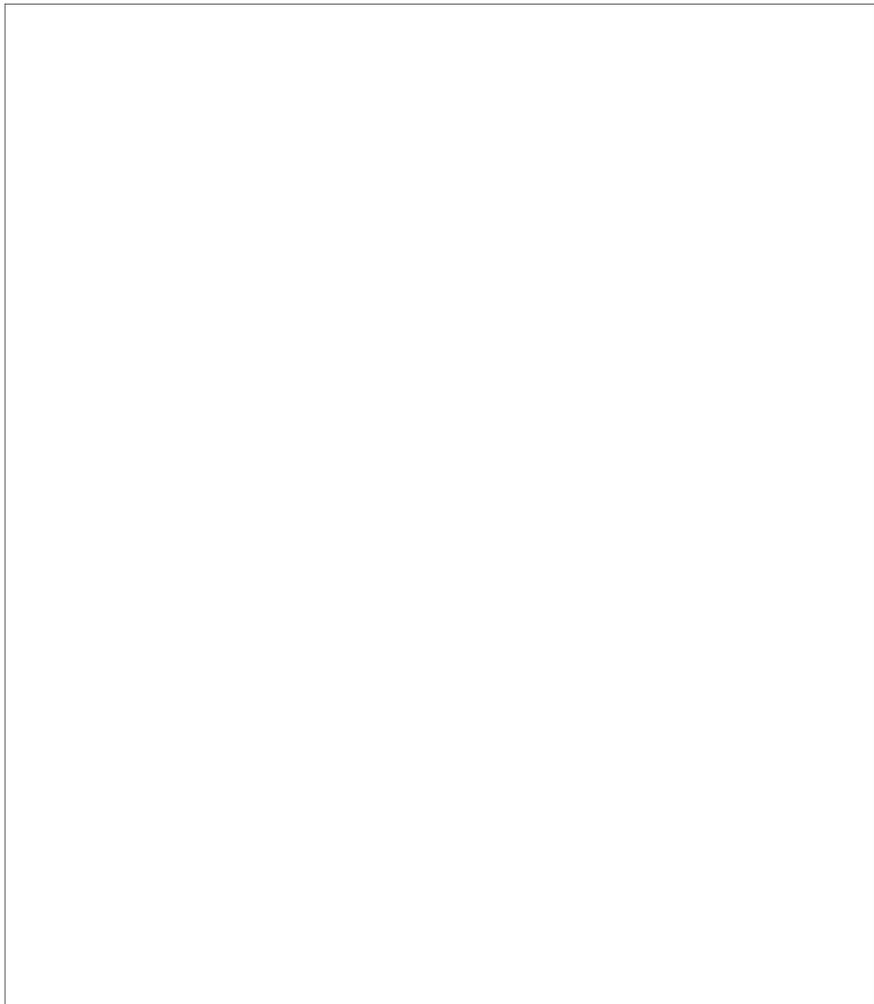
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The East Germans are clearly apprehensive that Apel's alleged last testament will be published in the West.



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4. Communist China



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5. Communist China



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6. North Vietnam

A "trial" of US airmen captured in North Vietnam may be held soon.

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Over a month ago, Hanoi radio broadcast a resolution by a local political group calling for captured American pilots to be hailed before the courts as "war criminals." In South Vietnam, Viet Cong "people's courts" have already "tried" US servicemen.

7. South Vietnam

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8. Rhodesia

The US consul in Salisbury reports that life in Rhodesia goes on much as before independence.



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We see, however, first signs that economic sanctions are beginning to squeeze. Smith said yesterday that Zambia would henceforth have to pay for Rhodesian products with currencies other than sterling. There will be pressure on Kaunda to counter by curtailing this trade. If he does, the economic war is likely to get under way in earnest.

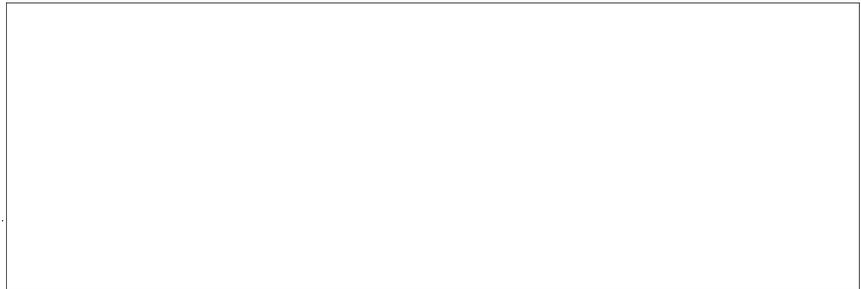
So far, Kaunda has been a tower of moderation among black Africans. He recognizes better than most that the situation in his country is fragile and that the current racial harmony could disintegrate swiftly. This could lead to a massive exodus of Europeans and a virtual closure of the copper mines.

Most Africans are still steamed up about what they regard as British passivity.



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9. India-Pakistan



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10. Uruguay

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[Redacted] Most public workers were out on a 24-hour strike today and there were reports of scattered violence.

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted] The government is taking stern measures to contain the threat from the left and appears to have full army backing.

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