



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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16 DECEMBER 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Rhodesia

Several more African states have broken relations with Britain, but Tanzania and Ghana are the only Commonwealth members in this group. Other Commonwealth states are unlikely to follow suit, at least for a time, and even Nyerere has declared that he will not take Tanzania out of the Commonwealth except as a "last resort."

Other African governments are hoping that the special Organization of African Unity meeting set for next Tuesday will provide them with a means of gracefully getting off the hook.

Plans are simultaneously moving ahead for the meeting of Commonwealth heads of government on 10 January. Nigerian Premier Balewa, who initiated the idea, insists that it be a meeting of all Commonwealth members, not just the African members.

The prime goal of all these African efforts is, of course, to further pressure the British to use military force against the Smith regime in Rhodesia.

2. Iran-Iraq

The long-standing frictions between these countries seem to be moving toward another peak. Recently a group of Iraqi irregulars attacked an Iranian border post, perhaps in retaliation for Iran's continuing support for the Kurdish rebels in Iraq.



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3. France

De Gaulle's recent campaign speech on foreign policy suggests that he is giving no thought to modifying this policy in any important respect.

The speech was evidently in response to some in his entourage who feel that foreign policy issues cost him many votes on 5 December. But the general's "reassurances" to those Frenchmen who are disturbed by these policies contained more sound than substance.

It still looks like a close race on Sunday, though most observers are giving De Gaulle the edge. His margin may be cut by Jean Lecanuet's public appeal today urging his followers not to vote for De Gaulle. Lecanuet, whose middle-of-the-road followers gave him third place with 15 percent of the 5 December vote, gave them freedom to cast a blank ballot or vote for Mitterrand.

4. North Vietnam

Communist propaganda reaction to the bombing of the Uong Bi power plant has so far been sparse.

Peking and Moscow have merely picked up North Vietnam's protest yesterday to the International Control Commission. Hanoi has not yet followed through with any further substantive comment.

The North Vietnamese occasionally wait several days before sounding off fully about US strikes against new targets in their country.

5. Bolivia

General Barrientos [redacted] plans to run for the presidency next year. He now acts confident of his position, has chosen a running mate, and plans on an election date in September. General Ovando, his fellow co-president, is apparently going along with the plan, at least for the time being.

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6. Dominican Republic

Garcia Godoy says he intends to hold firm against the demands of striking government employees and seems confident he can. He recognizes that this is really a show of strength by the extreme leftists who dominate the principal labor groups involved. About a third of the government's employees were out yesterday.

A demonstration by striking workers in downtown Santo Domingo got out of hand this afternoon. Brazilian troops of the Inter-American Peace Force were obliged to use tear gas to quell the mob.

Placards carried by the demonstrators revealed that Communist groups were playing a prominent role in the affair. It may have been a deliberate effort to provoke a clash with the peace force.

7. South Vietnam

The Viet Cong are maintaining their campaign of terror in and around Saigon. Four Americans were wounded today by a grenade thrown into a US Army intelligence compound near Saigon's main airport. Hanoi radio described the incident as "the latest in a series of attacks in the city in celebration of the fifth anniversary of the National Liberation Front on 20 December."

The Viet Cong also machine gunned and threw grenades into a church some five miles south of the capital early this morning.

8. Communist China

Intercepted communications [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] indicate that Peking's 50X1
summer conscription drive for the armed
forces was conducted on schedule and that
the winter program is now under way.



9. Indonesia

The army, assuming an ever widening role in governmental affairs, seems now to be building a case against Sukarno himself. This apparently is to be ready for use if Sukarno should reject the figure-head role which army leaders evidently envisage for him.

Adam Malik, political adviser to the army leaders, has recently restated the circumstantial evidence that Sukarno was personally involved in the 30 September affair. Anonymous circulars to the same effect have been appearing around Jakarta.

Army commander Suharto announced today that cabinet ministers--presumably Communists--would be among those brought before the military tribunal set up to try those implicated in the 30 September attempt.

On the economic side, the army-controlled Supreme Operations Command has now assumed responsibility for the extremely difficult financial problems.



10. West Germany

Chancellor Erhard continues under pressure from some of his advisers to seek US support for West German participation in an Alliance nuclear sharing arrangement. He remains wary, however, of putting too much stress on this issue in view of the lingering concern among many European countries over Germany's long-term aspirations.

Kurt Birrenbach, one of Erhard's influential advisers, claims that widespread domestic support exists for a plan which would give Germany and Italy part ownership of a new weapons system built around British and US Polaris submarines. Decisions would be made jointly by the four participants. A US veto would be balanced by one for the other three acting as a unit.

Birrenbach may be overestimating support for the plan. Some leaders in Bonn have expressed satisfaction with the possibilities being opened up by the Alliance Special Committee.

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