



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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15 OCTOBER 1966

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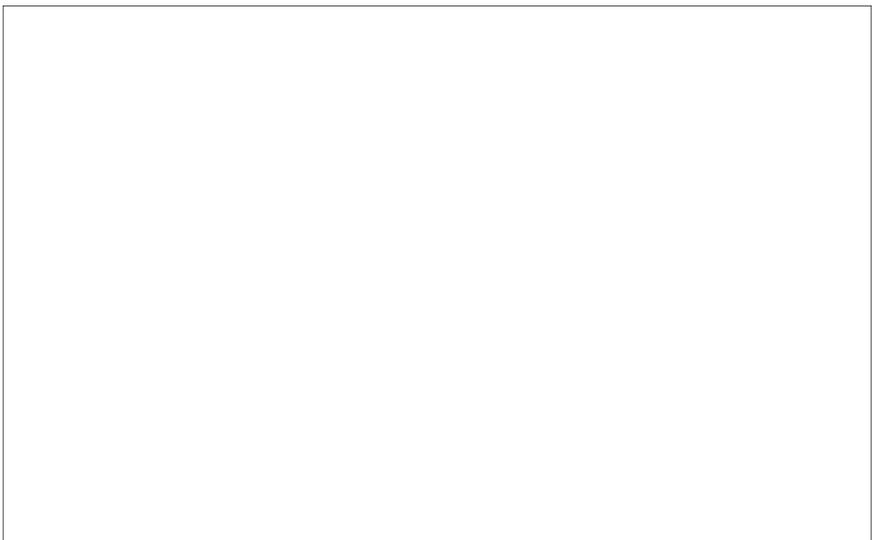
1. South Vietnam

Ky can count on the support of most of the military if the latent cabinet crisis comes to a head, according to the calculations of Saigon military politicians.

If military leaders become too obvious in their backing of Ky, however, relations between civilians and military in the government would worsen. Distrust between the two groups has already had a part in bringing on the cabinet difficulties.

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2. Laos



3. West Germany

The beleaguered Erhard is now losing support among big businessmen. It is hard to judge just how far this has gone, but the trend is unmistakable. The considerable influence which these industrialists have in banking circles may well mean even more trouble for Erhard in his efforts to resolve the offset issue.

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4. Rhodesia

Wilson has sent off another emissary to Rhodesia with his "final offer" for a settlement. There has been no basic change in Wilson's terms. He expects simply to get a clear-cut rejection from Smith which will serve to clear the decks for the action he has promised in the United Nations before the end of the year.

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5. Ecuador

Tomorrow's constituent assembly election will probably spark only scattered violence. The public is generally apathetic and the voting is expected to be light.

The assembly is supposed to select a provisional president of the republic sometime after it convenes on 3 November. This may be difficult since it now seems unlikely that any party or existing coalition can get a majority in the assembly.

6. Poland

Gomulka has eased off attacks against the Catholic church in recent weeks after what must have been a basic policy decision to moderate the long dispute that has caused dissension in and out of the party. This amounts to a tacit admission that the church has won the latest round.

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7. France

French officials are [redacted]

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[redacted] pleased [redacted] with Foreign Minister Couve de Murville's recent trip to Washington.

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Couve was particularly satisfied with his "rather warm" talk with President Johnson.

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