



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 21 November 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
21 NOVEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

Tri Quang seems to be moving to get himself back into the mainstream of political action. He has been relatively quiet in the weeks since he gave up his hunger strike. He must be itching to get back into action.

Tri Quang let it be known last week that he is prepared to take part "constructively" in the political process--provided a "satisfactory" constitution is adopted. He also pointedly sided with the constituent assembly's current effort to have its charter amended.

2. South Vietnam

Food prices are rising again. By the middle of this month the Saigon working class had to pay 30 percent more for its rice than it paid last June. Recent flood damage in the delta has added to the problem by pushing up vegetable prices.

Reports from the provinces also tell of general increases in retail prices and the hoarding by merchants in anticipation of still higher prices during the holidays. The feeling is prevalent in the provinces that the recent resignation of Economy Minister Thanh will not help the fight against inflation.

3. Soviet Union

The Russians may be cranking up for another lunar mission within the next day or so. [redacted]

[redacted] the position of their tracking ships point in this direction. So far in 1966, the Soviets have launched five lunar probes. [redacted]

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4. Nationalist China



5. Togo

President Grunitzky is back in the saddle after an abortive coup fizzled out early this morning. The picture is still murky. More than one group apparently moved against Grunitzky. As of tonight, he seems to have the army's support, although some military men were involved in the coup attempt. Lome, the capital, is calm and there appears to be no danger to Americans.

6. Jordan

Bitterness and anger over the 13 November Israeli attack remain the predominant public emotions in Jordan. Anti-regime demonstrations took place again yesterday and there could be trouble tomorrow.



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7. West Germany

Franz Joseph Strauss will find his hand significantly strengthened by yesterday's Bavarian elections.

Strauss should be able to parlay his party's victory into a key cabinet role for himself when a new national government is formed in Bonn. On the other side, the smallest of the three coalition parties lost ground in Bavaria and will no longer be so attractive a partner to the two major parties. The Socialists and Christian Democrats may now turn to a "grand coalition."

The far right-wing National Democratic Party with its neo-Nazi overtones captured 15 legislative seats, demonstrating strength among refugee, farmer, and small business groups. Though this success was minor, it sent a shiver through the major parties who now appear to agree that the National Democrats must be openly combatted.

The final score in the 204-seat Bavarian legislature: Christian Socialists--110; Socialists--79; National Democratic Party--15.

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