

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 26 November 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
26 NOVEMBER 1966

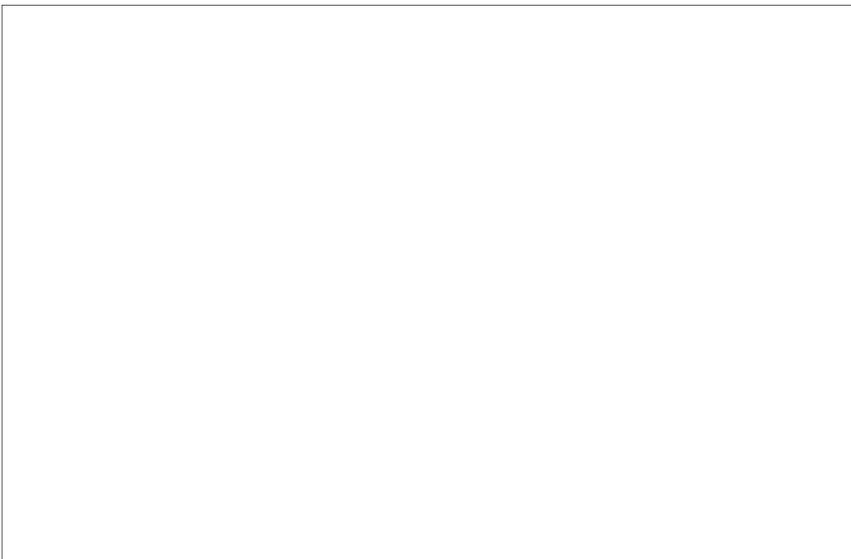
1. West Germany

The West German Socialists have apparently agreed to form a "grand coalition" with the Christian Democrats. This will mean Kiesinger will be chancellor and Socialist leader Brandt most probably vice chancellor and foreign minister.

A new government under Kiesinger will continue to work closely with the US, but it probably will be more assertive of German national interests. We also would expect an effort to improve relations with Paris and a greater flexibility toward relations with Eastern Europe.

2. Vietnam

We see some signs that the Cambodians are indeed trying to limit Viet Cong use of their territory as a sanctuary.



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A Cambodian soldier captured last week in Tay Ninh claims he was part of a team sent across the border to warn the Viet Cong they would be fired on if they attempted to enter Cambodia.

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3. France

General De Gaulle ranged over a wide field of subjects in a Thanksgiving Day chat with Ambassador Bohlen. No new or startling trends in De Gaulle's thinking emerged, although Bohlen believes the French President is edging toward acceptance of two Germanies.

De Gaulle continues to believe the best thing for Europe is De Gaulle. Speaking in "complete friendship," he lectured the ambassador on the need for a US withdrawal in Vietnam.

When Bohlen remarked that the American public was puzzled by present French policies, De Gaulle replied he was out to "restore France's personality" in international affairs.

4. Syria

Damascus is threatening to take over the pipeline that carries oil from northern Iraq through Syria to the Mediterranean.

The Syrians have tried a bit of Bedouin brigandage by demanding more money for transit fees, but the Western companies that own the pipeline can get oil elsewhere and are holding firm.

If the pipeline is shut down, Iraq will lose about 40 percent of its government revenue. However, the radical Syrian regime, abysmally ignorant of economics, apparently does not recognize that Syria too will suffer.

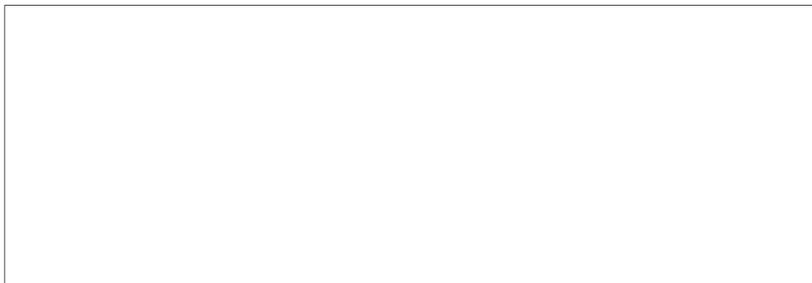
5. Jordan

As of 1200 noon EST, the situation is quiet, but tense.

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6. Communist China



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7. El Salvador



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