

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 6 March 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
6 MARCH 1967

1. France

De Gaulle followers made out well yesterday in the first round of voting. They received almost 38 percent of the vote. In the first round of the 1962 election they polled about 36 percent.

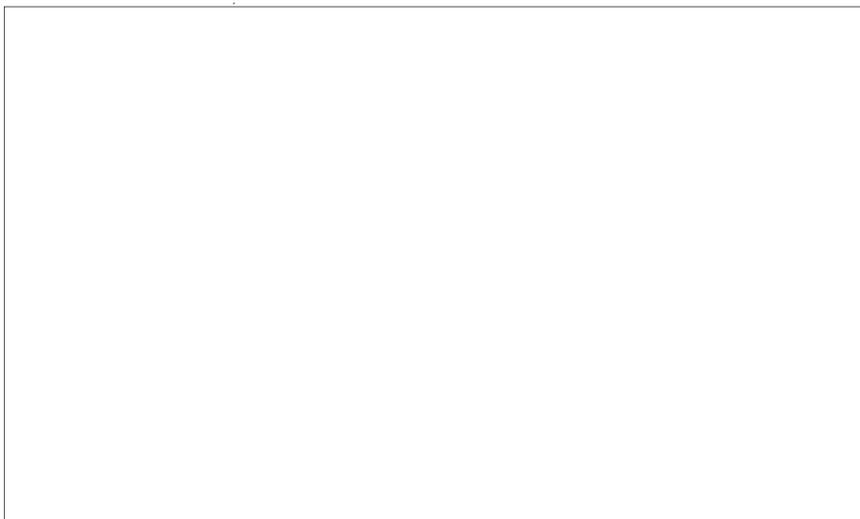
The Communists maintained about the level of 1962, while the Leftist Federation fell short of its expectations. The Federation's slippage will encourage the Communists to stay in the race for the second round next Sunday-- a development that can only help the Gaullists.

2. Venezuela

Communist terrorists have again shown their ability to stage something spectacular. The murder of the brother of Venezuela's foreign minister caused the government to suspend constitutional guarantees on Saturday, only two days after they had been restored. Nonetheless, government operations since mid-December have probably disrupted the terrorists' ability to mount a major campaign--at least for the present.

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3. Communist China



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4. Indonesia

The Congress, Indonesia's top policy-making body, meets in special session starting on Tuesday to decide Sukarno's future. General Suharto will probably work for a "consensus" instead of an open vote in the Congress--a tough job involving not only the accommodation of pro- and anti-Sukarno forces but also adjustments between military and civilian groups.

The Congress convenes at a time of increasing distrust and rivalry between the military commanders and civilian political elements. Thus the real question at issue is not so much the disposal of Sukarno as the relations of these two main groups in the post-Sukarno period. Indeed, there is some possibility of a lasting--and probably disastrous--political split.

5. China-Japan

Peking is delaying the renewal of visas for Japanese newsmen in China; the object is to force the correspondents to sweeten up their reporting of China's cultural revolution. Peking has already warned the Japanese that their reporting of events on China--the most detailed and informative of any correspondents--is "unfriendly."

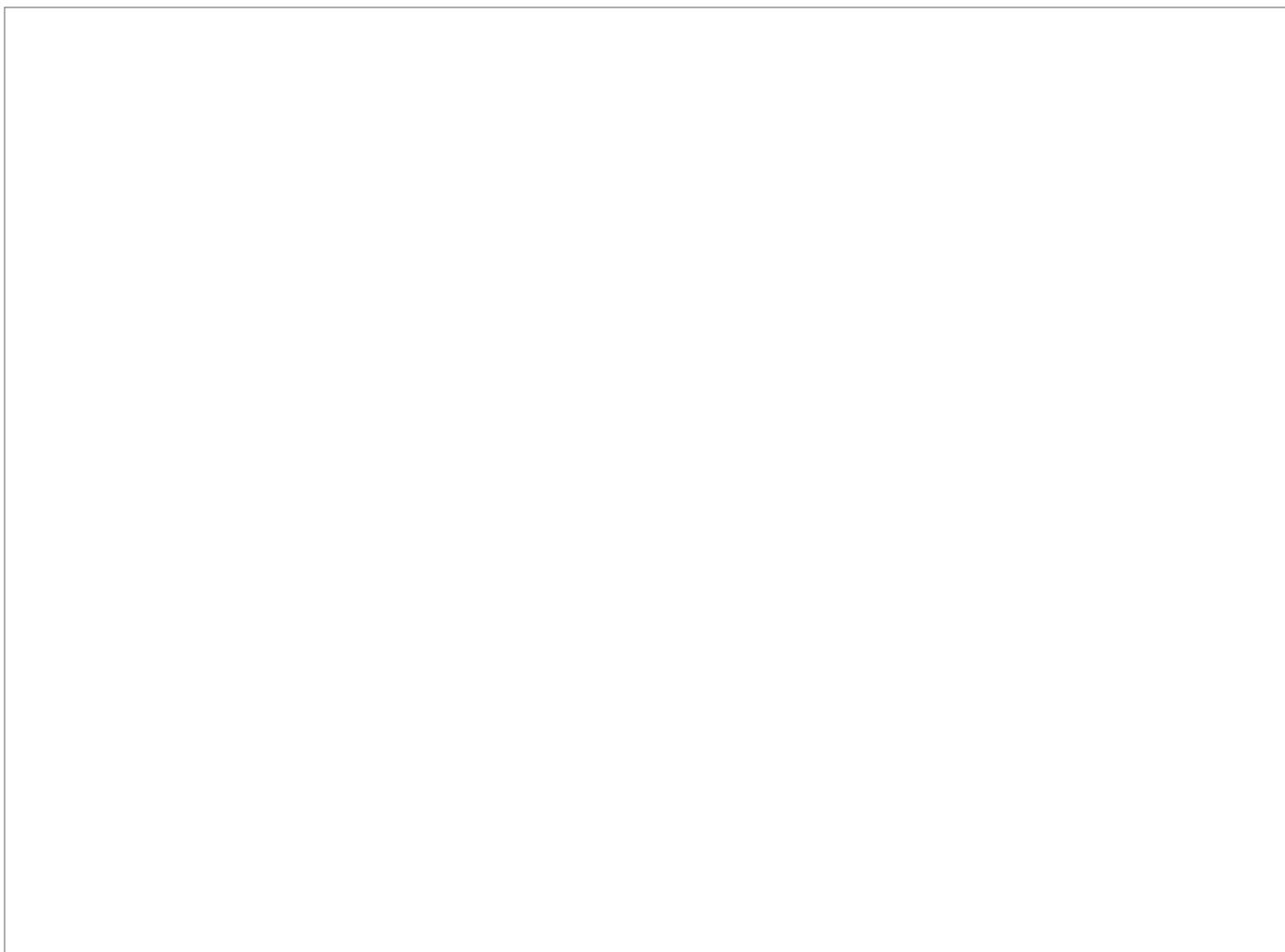
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6. Canada

The Canadian government is concerned that Castro may decide to represent Cuba at "Expo 67" in Montreal. Ottawa has already warned Havana informally of the security problem which would arise.

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7. Vietnam

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8. North Vietnam

To date, Communist propaganda has not given extensive coverage to Senator Kennedy's Vietnam speech. Hanoi has claimed, however, that even the Western press sees the speech as an example of the "continuous and severe criticism" which President Johnson faces on Vietnam from within his "own political faction."

Moscow's only commentary took a different tack. Saturday Izvestia quoted its correspondent in Washington to the effect that the senator's disagreement with US policy should not be exaggerated, that opposition in the US Senate is "irresolute and small," and that it does not influence the White House.

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