

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 June 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
2 JUNE 1967

1. Arab States -
Israel

Ambassador Barbour says there is no doubt that the Nasir-Husayn pact is heightening the fears in Tel Aviv that time is working against Israel. Press commentary, for instance, is generally along the line that the agreement tightens the time frame in which diplomacy should be allowed to operate.

From the security standpoint, the major Israeli fears are that the pact will strengthen enemy air power and that Husayn will be unable to control the militant Palestine Liberation Organization along the Israeli frontier.

The new Israeli cabinet will be presented to parliament for approval on Monday--General Moshe Dayan will in fact be the new Defense Minister. Another activist will serve as Minister Without Portfolio.

War fever in Jordan, especially among the Palestinian element, continues to mount. Embassy Amman believes that even if fighting can be avoided there will soon be a surge of anti-American sentiment throughout the country.

2. Rhodesia

Ian Smith is willing to settle with the British along the lines of their near agreement last December [redacted]

[redacted] Smith is said to be willing even to sack some of his cabinet members of the very far right--one of Wilson's conditions last year.

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An offer by Smith would put Wilson in a very difficult position. He probably would drop his previous requirement for "majority," i.e. African, rule of Rhodesia if he could reach an otherwise acceptable agreement. His advisers almost certainly would back him in a compromise with Smith, as would most of the British public and the opposition conservatives. Labor's left wing, however, would have yet another grievance.

3. United Kingdom

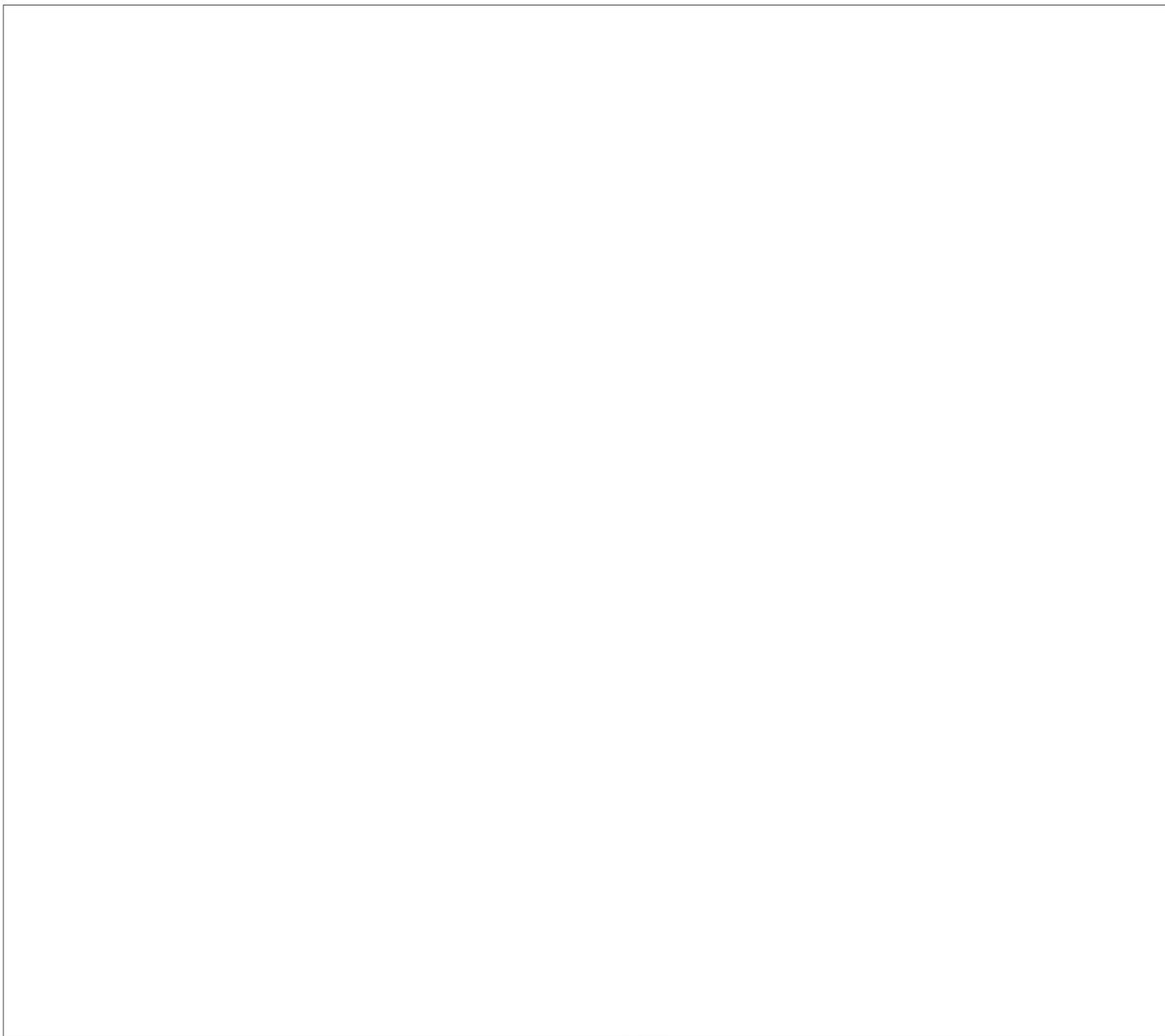
There could be some give in Prime Minister Wilson's decision to announce complete British withdrawal from the Asian mainland by 1975.

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This of course would represent a considerable victory for the Asian Commonwealth governments, which have argued that an announcement that Britain intends to withdraw would be almost as dangerous to stability as withdrawal itself. If Wilson feels hard pressed enough by his domestic critics, however, he may well decide that an announcement on withdrawal is the best way to improve the climate at home.

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4. Nigeria

A federal military effort to thwart the East's secession seems increasingly likely.

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Any such invasion would likely run into immediate trouble because of the federal army's logistical deficiencies and because the Eastern Army would be fighting on home ground. If Gowon delays until after the heavy rains begin-- usually in June--his troops will face even greater problems.

5. Greece

Colonel George Papadopoulos, one of the military triumvirate, has been making a heavy-handed play to get his brother installed as private secretary to the King. So far he has not succeeded, but Ambassador Talbot sees the attempt as a sure sign that the colonel is now bent on neutralizing the palace.

6. Communist China

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