

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 June 1967



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LATE ITEM

United Nations

Kosygin is scheduling a press conference at the UN for 8:00 PM EDT tomorrow.

DAILY BRIEF
24 JUNE 1967

1. United Nations:

All eyes were on Glassboro yesterday with little of substance accomplished on the banks of the East River.

So far, commentary on the New Jersey summit meeting has been almost all favorable and optimistic. Those UN delegates who have expressed themselves have taken heart from the cordiality of the meeting and from the announcement it will continue tomorrow. The Western press has been laudatory; as yet there has been no real comment by Communist or Arab news media.

The General Assembly stands recessed until Monday. Jordan's King Husayn is to address the Assembly either Monday or Tuesday.

Husayn arrives in New York tonight and he apparently has some specific proposals to broker there and in Washington. For one thing, Husayn seems to be thinking in terms of trying to get Israeli occupation troops replaced by UN forces. In exchange, Husayn would urge such Arab concessions as right of passage through the Strait of Tiran.

2. Lebanon

Pro-Western Christian elements have asked the US and British embassies for arms to protect themselves against anticipated attacks by radical Moslems. No commitments have been made to these groups, but the US chargé comments that our position in Lebanon would suffer badly if these pro-Western factions lose out to Nasir's supporters.

3. South Vietnam

A thoroughly embittered Foreign Minister Do told a US Embassy officer this week that he has just decided to resign. He explained that he can no longer work with Prime Minister Ky, who he is convinced is fast becoming a dictator. Do said he will probably file as a candidate for the upper house before the 1 July deadline.

Do has been one of the most effective members of the cabinet. His present mood is partially a result of the Ky-Thieu rivalry; he has made no secret of his sympathy for Thieu.

4. South Vietnam

The price of rice went down again in Saigon during the second week of June. This is good news, but the type used by the working class still costs over 40 percent more than it did at the beginning of the year.

5. West Germany

Kiesinger's friendship for De Gaulle shows signs of cooling.

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Our Embassy believes Kiesinger's new look at De Gaulle has left him more convinced of the need for keeping US troops in Germany and, perhaps, has given him a healthier appreciation of the offset arrangement.

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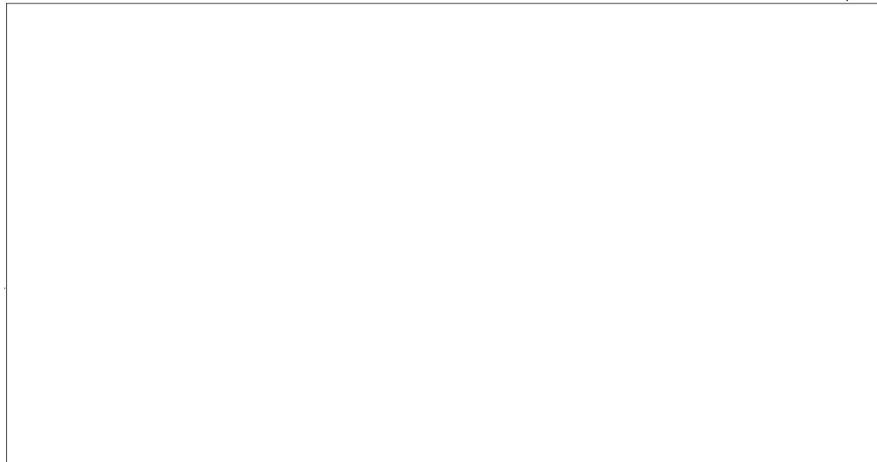
6. France

De Gaulle did little to win friends with his petulant statement Wednesday linking the Middle East and Vietnam.

Even normally pro-Gaullist French newspapers were critical and the only support came from the French Communist Party paper. French diplomats at the UN, including Couve de Murville, were caught off base and embarrassed.

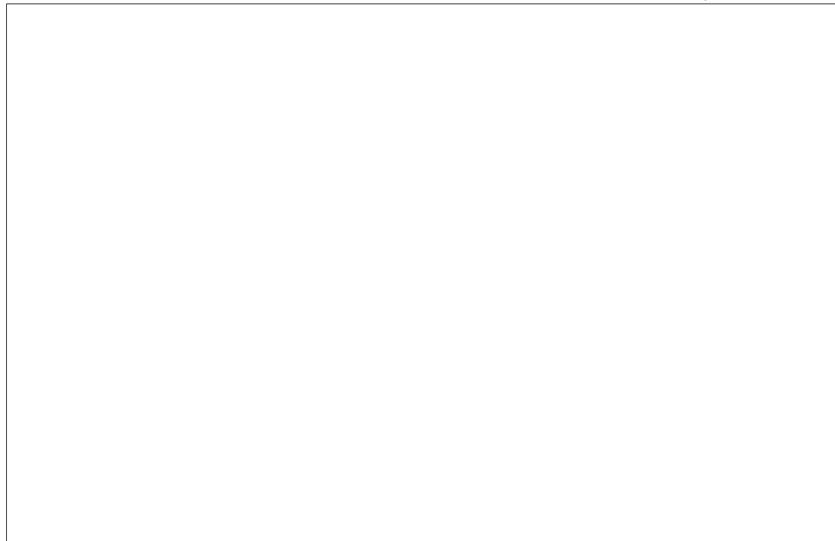
Ambassador Bohlen comments that the statement seems to reflect De Gaulle's bruised ego--his realization that, despite his ambitions for a grand French role in international affairs, major issues will be settled in Washington and Moscow, not in Paris.

7. Panama



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8. Soviet Union



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