



The President's Daily Brief

9 May 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

EUROPE

One of France's most reliable polls this week shows that unless interim President Poher enters the race, Pompidou could win an absolute majority on the first ballot. But with Poher in the race, Pompidou would get only 42 percent and Poher 35 percent. Defferre, the Socialist, and Duclos, the Communist, would get about 12 percent each.

These findings could well impel Poher to enter the race before the deadline for filing on 13 May.

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Poher has been playing a careful waiting game, but pressures for him to run have been building, and there is even some chance that Defferre may pull out and swing Socialist support over to the interim President.

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The speculative flight to the Deutschemark continued yesterday, with the Bundesbank taking in about \$1,240 million worth of foreign exchange--almost twice as much as on Wednesday.

VIETNAM

As a package, the proposals put forth by the NLF yesterday are an attempt to retake the initiative from Thieu. The Communists probably consider that their

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proposals constitute a framework in which meaningful negotiations can begin. Fuller analysis will be provided later.

SOVIET AFFAIRS

There is nothing significant to report.

MIDDLE EAST

There is nothing significant to report.

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

IRAN-CONSORTIUM

The annual hassle over oil revenues between Iran and the Western consortium which produces most of its oil seems to be moving toward compromise.

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[Redacted] the annual confrontations over the next three years or so figure to get stickier. The crux of the problem is that the Shah is demanding annual production increases of 15-16 percent in a period when the oil companies estimate world-wide oil consumption will be increasing only about 6-7 percent a year.

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