



The President's Daily Brief



23 May 1969

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

SOVIET AFFAIRS

Satellite photography over the period [redacted] shows no new ICBM groups in the Soviet Union. 50X1 50X1

This mission, plus its predecessor [redacted], has provided extensive photographic coverage of all six SS-9 complexes. [redacted] 50X1 50X1

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The Soviets are working hard to narrow areas of difference with other Communist parties as 5 June, the day the world conference of Communist parties is supposed to begin, approaches. Representatives from some 70 parties are now gathering in Moscow for a final preparatory session. Several parties--most notably the Rumanian--still have strong reservations about some of the documents which

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are to be approved at the June meeting. Nevertheless, differences among the parties will probably be papered over enough to permit the conference to open on schedule.

EUROPE

Franz-Josef Strauss has staked out his position on the question of Europe's organization in the post - De Gaulle era. During his visit to London this week he advocated immediate steps toward European federation. He urged that negotiations to admit Britain to the European Communities be started right after the French elections, and he topped this by asserting that moves toward political union should not have to wait until full British membership in the Communities is achieved. Strauss also proposed that the French and British nuclear weapons arsenals be pooled as a first step toward a European nuclear force.

The British Government and press, not suprisingly, have welcomed these comments, although Prime Minister Wilson did react negatively to Strauss' proposal for the pooling of French and British nuclear weapons.

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The Pompidou forces are hammering away at one of the few chinks they have found in Poher's armor: they are trying to persuade the election-weary French populace that

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a Poher victory would inevitably lead to the dissolution of the Gaullist-dominated Assembly and yet another round of elections. They are also trying to plant the thought that a vote for Poher is a vote for the instability of the Fourth Republic. They may be having some luck; the latest polls show that Poher's first-ballot support has dropped 7 percent.

It is true that Poher might be forced to dissolve the Assembly; he could not govern with centrist support alone. There are some signs, however, that he is working toward a broad coalition which would be acceptable to many Gaullists, particularly those who would rather cooperate with the government than risk their seats in new elections.

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MIDDLE EAST

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VIETNAM

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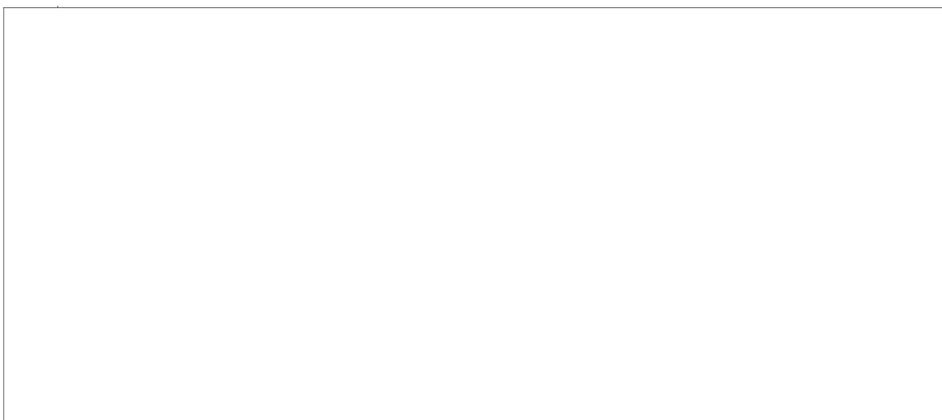
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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

SOUTH KOREA

Prime Minister Chong Il-kwon yesterday asked that President Pak be invited to Midway for a brief meeting with President Nixon after the President meets with Thieu on 8 June. Chong told Ambassador Porter that Pak would be interested in discussing two subjects: South Korean security problems in the light of his recent letter to the President; and Vietnam. If Hawaii is more convenient than Midway, Pak would be willing to fly there.

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