



The President's Daily Brief

27 May 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

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EUROPE

As advertised, Canadian Defense Minister Cadieux yesterday came up with the cabinet's plan, which he labeled "non-negotiable," for Ottawa's phased cutback in forces committed to NATO. The total manpower reduction will be from 10,000 at present to 3,500 by 1972. Furthermore, the Canadians plan to remove all their combat aircraft except for reconnaissance planes and helicopters. Ambassador Cleveland plans to encourage our European allies to be "voluble in their protestations."

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Chancellor Kiesinger is likely to press hard for a complete break with Cambodia over Phnom Penh's recognition of East Germany, even though this would put the CDU on a collision course with its coalition partner. Foreign Minister Brandt strongly opposes such a move because he thinks Bonn will have to reconcile itself to third-country recognition of Pankow. The SPD succeeded in stalling cabinet action on the issue two weeks ago. Kiesinger, however, is irked by the Cambodian ambassador's failure to answer a request for an explanation of his government's action and by Sihanouk's reported remark that he refused to send his representative to Bonn

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France's first nuclear-powered ballistic-missile submarine began sea trials last week. The submarine was launched in March 1967, received its nuclear reactor in February, and is scheduled to become operational in 1971. Plans call for the construction of three or four more of these submarines.

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There is nothing significant to report on Soviet Affairs or Vietnam.

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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

LATIN AMERICA

We currently consider demonstrations a virtual certainty and violence a possibility in four of the five countries on Governor Rockefeller's forthcoming trip. Trinidad-Tobago is the single exception. The situations in Bolivia and Venezuela are particularly touchy.

SUDAN

The new government seems to be settling in.

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[Redacted]

The conservative Ansar sect appears to be intimidated.

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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In a talk yesterday to the diplomatic corps, Prime Minister Awadalla worked hard to convey an impression of nonaligned "socialist" respectability. He did make it clear that the new regime will be more militant than its predecessors on Arab-Israeli issues.

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