



The President's Daily Brief



29 May 1969

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~~*Top Secret*~~

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

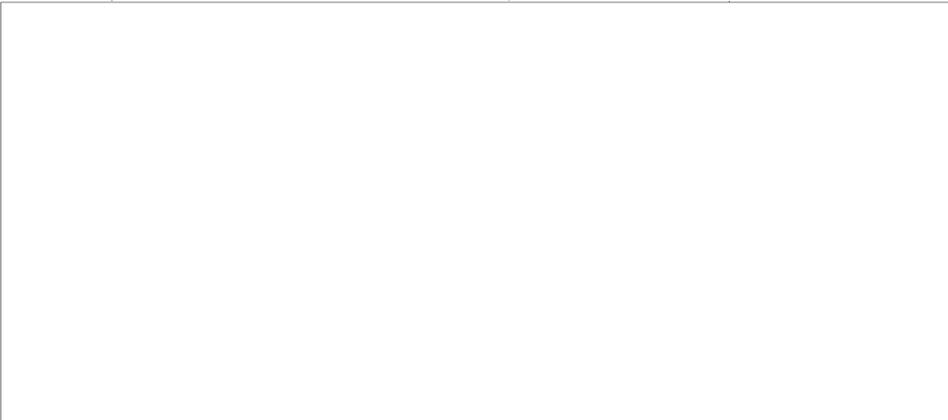
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EUROPE

Poher is slipping at the polls, but this reflects gains for leftist candidates rather than for Pompidou. The latest tallies of the reputable French Institute of Public Opinion show Pompidou holding at 41 percent, Poher down to 27 percent, Duclos rising to 16 percent and Defferre with 8 percent. A run-off on 15 June between Pompidou and Poher remains almost certain. Poher still looks like the winner on this second ballot unless the Gaullists can scare enough centrist votes away from Poher by raising the spectre of Communist strength on the Left, but the odds are evening up.

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There is nothing significant to report on the Middle East and Soviet Affairs.

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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

SUDAN

The new regime is making a clean sweep of virtually all persons holding important posts under the former government. Nearly all senior army officers have been retired and most members of the previous cabinet are under house arrest. Moreover, Major General al-Numayri, who heads the new revolutionary council, has hinted that nationalization of banks, factories and other economic enterprises may be in the offing. These measures will further alienate the important Ansar and Khatmiyya sects, whose followers comprise some two-thirds of the army. The head of the Umma Party, the political arm of the Ansars, is reported to have fled from Khartoum to a traditional Ansar stronghold upcountry, presumably to rally opposition to the new regime.

CAMBODIA

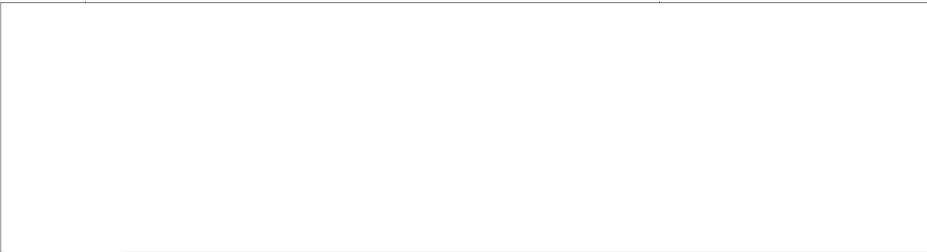
Sihanouk, upset by the increasing use of Cambodian territory by Vietnamese Communist forces, is mounting a greater effort to limit their activities. Cambodian military messages now reflect almost daily clashes in nearly every border province--most of them begun by the Cambodians. In addition to public protests against Communist border violations, Sihanouk has ordered representations made to Vietnamese Communist diplomats in Phnom Penh.

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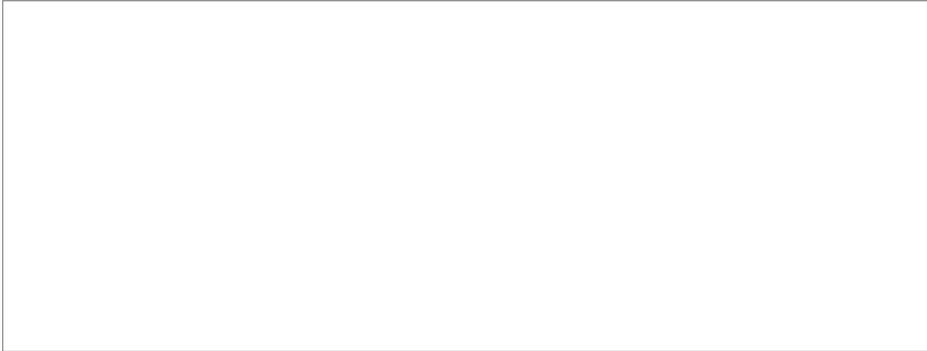
Sihanouk has also taken pains to make it clear he is willing to meet the Communists half-way. Several recent steps, such as the raising of the NLF's representative in Phnom Penh to ambassadorial status, seem aimed at reassuring Hanoi that Cambodia's sympathy for its effort in South Vietnam has not changed.

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