

The President's Daily Brief

30 May 1969

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

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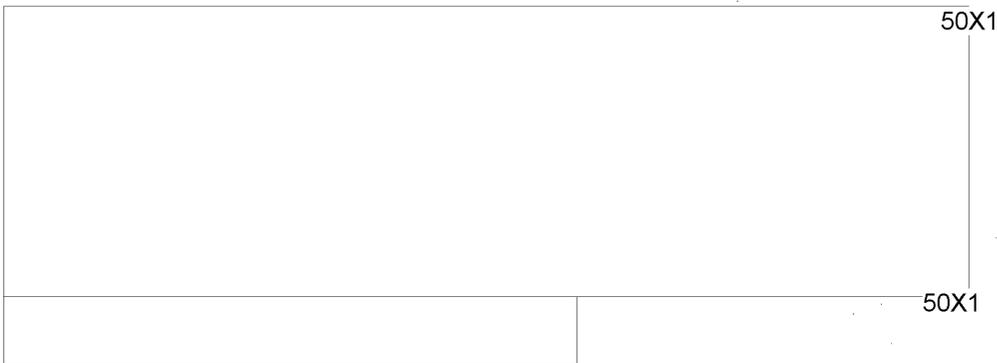


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MIDDLE EAST

Over the past few days the embassy in Paris has picked up bits and pieces which shed some light on the direction of France's post - De Gaulle arms supply policy in the Middle East. The embassy reports that:

--Both the Quai and the Israeli embassy expect the embargo on arms supply to Israel to be relaxed whether Poher or Pompidou is elected. Poher, it is agreed, is likely to be more forthcoming than Pompidou.

--The relaxation of the embargo on Israel will be accompanied by a campaign for a general embargo on all arms to the Middle East. The success of this campaign, along with developments in the four-power talks, will help determine whether France resumes delivery of the Mirage fighter-bombers it has been keeping out of Israeli hands.

--Defense Minister Messmer apparently has succeeded in blocking a government decision to provide arms and ammunition to Lebanon. Instead, the French seem to have picked up President Hilu's requests for demonstrations of international support and are pushing for a four-power declaration backing Lebanese independence and integrity.

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The Israelis are pushing the Jordanian button this week. They claim the Jordanian Army is initiating artillery bombardments and that Iraqi forces in Jordan are showing new aggressiveness. We cannot tell what the Israelis plan to do about

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all this, but one Israeli officer recently said publicly,
"We've been treating the Jordanians with kid gloves so far."

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

II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

ECUADOR

There were no incidents at Quito airport as Governor Rockefeller arrived yesterday. Later, however, numerous bands of students roamed the streets of the capital, attacking stores, buildings and automobiles. Quito Radio reported many injuries among the demonstrators as police and army troops, using tear gas, attempted to restore order. Security forces maintained a heavy guard around the Presidential Palace while Governor Rockefeller conferred there.

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