



The President's Daily Brief

31 December 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

West German leaders face hazards at home with their response to East Germany. (Page 1)

Pakistan prepares for renewed political activity. (Page 2)

Opposition activity in Sudan has not yet coalesced. (Page 3)

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EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY

Brandt is trying to circumvent the difficulties presented by the highly demanding East German approach to negotiations. He looks upon the maximum-terms treaty proposed by the East Germans as "only a draft," and a West German counterproposal will be offered. Brandt will delineate the West German position in his "state of the nation" speech on 14 January.

Brandt faces a formidable dilemma. To overcome the pessimism of the conservative press and criticism from conservative Foreign Ministry professionals and to strengthen his position before the public, he has to take a firm stand with the East Germans. At the same time, he must avoid being provoked by Ulbricht's demands, for a sharp reply now would destroy any chance for Brandt's Ostpolitik to succeed.

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PAKISTAN

As promised by Yahya last month, Pakistanis tomorrow will be free to resume full political activity. This will signal the start of preparations for the election of a constituent assembly in October. Public gatherings will again be permitted, but the regime has warned that troublemakers will not be tolerated.

Pakistanis have not enjoyed complete political freedom since Ayub seized control in 1958. The current restrictions, however, have been in effect only since March 1969, when Yahya assumed power and declared martial law.

Security conditions, particularly in East Pakistan, are shaky at best. We are not sanguine about the government's ability to keep the lid on once campaigning begins and the bitter rivalries between political factions come out in the open again. The government, however, derives some comfort from its belief that it is not likely to be the target of political attacks--initially at least--and therefore can play the role of referee between competing groups.

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SUDAN

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Sudanese authorities [REDACTED] have recently given wide publicity to such security measures as a series of political arrests and the dismissal of 15 university lecturers. The latter move may backfire--185 other university faculty members have resigned in protest.

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Meanwhile, the government is pursuing its primary foreign policy of enlarging its commitment to the Arab cause in the struggle with Israel. Sudan's leaders have been courting President Nasir, and seem determined to create some direct tie with Egypt and Libya.

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NOTES

New Zealand: Two Molotov cocktails were found in the driveway of Ambassador Franzheim's residence on Monday. A New Zealand security official thinks this may have been the work of the Progressive Youth Movement, a Vietnam protest organization. The incident raises the possibility, for the first time, that local militants may try something more violent during Vice President Agnew's visit than the provocative demonstrations heretofore expected.

Ethiopia: [redacted]

[redacted] Monday's violence between troops and university students was caused by the killing of the president of the student union. Radical students claimed the troops were responsible, and triggered off the riot. [redacted]

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[redacted] The university has been closed to prevent a recurrence of the riot, and several suspects have already been arrested.

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