

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 10 January 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
10 JANUARY 1967

1. South Vietnam

There is likely to be some rather rough jockeying among the top generals in Saigon before the question of who is to be the constitutional president is decided later this year.

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Ky made it very clear that he wants to be president and that he considers Chief of State Thieu his principal competitor. Ky went on and on to explain why Thieu could not win an election and why, even if he did, he would be a poor president. The whole problem, Ky concluded, requires "considerable thought."

In the same conversation, Ky revealed that he intends "very soon" to move against General Co, deputy prime minister and minister of defense. Co is to be accused of profiteering and brought to trial. There is certainly plenty of dirt that can be used against the corrupt Co, but Ky may not find this prominent southerner a pushover.

2. Vietnam

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3. Dominican Republic

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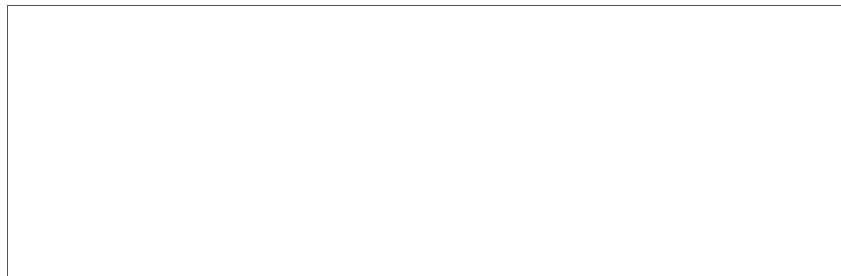
4. France

The formation of a "National Center for the Fifth Republic" was announced in France over the weekend. This is a group which hopes to unite a motley crew of Gaullists who for one reason or another have fallen out with De Gaulle personally or with his administration; it says its goal is to give the electorate another choice besides the present "sterile" opposition and the "absolutist" (Gaullist) majority.

Ambassador Bohlen believes this could be one of the most promising developments for the real opposition in quite some time because it will show that the General's followers are not as organized and united as they boast.

5. Jordan

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6. Ethiopia

Emperor Haile Selassie will have a fairly impressive shopping list when he comes to Washington next month.

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The Emperor hopes in particular to impress President Johnson with the seriousness of Ethiopia's military problems. He will concentrate on the Soviet-assisted military and guerrilla threat from Somalia.

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7. Egypt

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8. Macao

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9. Panama

Panama has been quiet today. The various patriotic groups which have been planning demonstrations to commemorate the 1964 riots failed to hit the streets.

10. Communist China

Posters went up in Peking today railing at Chou En-lai for "going soft" in the campaign against Liu Shao-chi and company. This is the second such attack against Chou; last week posters calling for the "burning" of Chou were torn down almost at once. If the new posters stay, it would suggest a break between Chou and the Mao - Lin Piao group.

Monitored radiobroadcasts indicate the struggle also continues in Shanghai and Foochow. Few details of the situation in either city are available

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