



*The President's Daily Brief*

24 January 1970

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The dispatch of 4,000-5,000 Libyan troops to Egypt is to be completed this weekend. *(Page 1)*

In South Vietnam, the Communists may be getting set for an attack on a provincial capital in the delta. *(Page 2)*

The leftist front in Chile has put forward Socialist Senator Salvador Allende as its candidate in the presidential elections next September. *(Page 3)*

In Moscow, a Russian translation of John Kenneth Galbraith's The New Industrial State has enjoyed a brisk sale. *(Page 4)*

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[Redacted] *(Page 5)*

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LIBYA

The transfer of between 4,000 and 5,000 Libyan troops to Egypt for duty along the Suez Canal is to be completed this weekend. This force includes some units of the Cyrenaican police.

The junta also has launched a large-scale recruitment program to enlist young Libyans between the ages of 17 and 25. Members of the provincial police forces who are not needed for basic police functions will be formed into regular army units. In addition, the Libyans have submitted a shopping list to the US officials for large quantities of bombs, rockets, and smaller ammunition.

*The materiel requested could be used by both Mirage and MIG aircraft.*



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SOUTH VIETNAM

The Communists may be preparing to attack the provincial capital of Chau Doc in the delta. Radio stations serving the headquarters of two North Vietnamese regiments have been heard within seven miles of the town. Another regiment remains in the Seven Mountains area less than 20 miles to the south. A variety of reports from agents and ralliers claim the Communists will try to seize and temporarily hold Chau Doc.



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*There is a chance that the three North Vietnamese units may merely be pausing before moving further south into IV Corps. We think it more likely, however, that the Communists view Chau Doc as a tempting target for a quick hit-and-run show of strength.*

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CHILE

The leftist front has chosen Socialist Senator Salvador Allende to be its candidate in the presidential elections next September. Allende's candidacy was proclaimed officially at a rally in Santiago Thursday. His position had been strengthened earlier this week when the candidates of the Radical and Communist parties withdrew.

*The September election is shaping up more and more as a three-way race between Allende, former president Jorge Alessandri--an independent conservative--and Christian Democrat Radomiro Tomic.*

*The pro-Castro Allende is a bit shop-worn, having run and lost three times before. In each case, however, he showed considerable vote-getting ability. If the leftist parties can submerge their differences, he might be in a strong position to win the presidency. His main rival is likely to be Alessandri; even President Frei does not give his party colleague, Tomic, much chance.*

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USSR

A Russian translation of John Kenneth Galbraith's book, The New Industrial State, has unexpectedly appeared in Moscow bookstores. The Soviet edition has a lengthy introduction which characterizes Galbraith as a more dangerous enemy of socialism than his conservative colleagues and warns readers not to underestimate the antisocialist theme of his book. It calls particular attention to Galbraith's convergence theory which is said to "proclaim the absorption of socialism by a slightly altered and improved capitalism."

*The Soviets apparently permitted publication of this limited edition so that their scholarly propagandists could refute the book's arguments more effectively. This tactic may boomerang. The book has been a big hit in Moscow, selling out within a few days of its appearance. We suspect that many of the purchasers agree with Galbraith's theory and will not be swayed by the introduction.*

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NOTES

USSR-Egypt: [redacted]

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Iran-Iraq: Iranian armed forces are on the alert following the coup debacle in Baghdad and its aftermath. [redacted] substantial numbers of Iranian troops are being moved into defensive positions closer to the border area, opposite apparently reinforced Iraqi forces. Trouble could erupt inadvertently, although it appears unlikely that either side intends to provoke it.

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