



*The President's Daily Brief*

24 November 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 November 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[Redacted]

[Redacted] South

Vietnam [Redacted]

[Redacted] (Page 1)

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Soviet commentators have expressed relief and pleasure at Chancellor Brandt's victory in the West German elections. (Page 3)

The US country team in Buenos Aires believes that the Peronist movement may be peacefully reintegrated into Argentine political life. (Page 4)

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SOUTH VIETNAM

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USSR - WEST GERMANY

Moscow is evidently quite pleased with Chancellor Brandt's election victory last Sunday. Soviet press comment reflects relief and pleasure that Moscow's heavy investment in resolving the German problem has paid off, and that the German electorate endorsed Brandt's "realistic" foreign policies.

Although Moscow has not made a formal public statement on the election, a West German Embassy official in Moscow says that party chief Brezhnev sent his personal congratulations to Brandt soon after the outcome was known. The US Embassy in Moscow observes that Brezhnev had more at stake in the election than did any other Soviet leader, and that the way is now clear for Brezhnev to accept a long-standing invitation to visit Bonn.

Soviet press commentary indicates that the USSR now looks for rapid completion of remaining steps in the rapprochement process, including signature and ratification of the inter-German treaty, UN membership for both German states, and the normalization of West Germany's relations with Czechoslovakia.

*Specific mention of the West German - Czechoslovak talks and the absence of any endorsement of Prague's views suggest that the kind of Soviet arm twisting applied to East Germany in recent years may now be in store for Czechoslovakia.*

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

NOTE

Argentina: A week has passed since the return of Peron, and according to an assessment by the US country team in Buenos Aires, it may be possible peacefully to reintegrate the Peronist movement into Argentine politics. The former dictator has demonstrated that after 17 years in exile he is still adept politically and can influence developments in Argentina. For his part, Lanusse has shown that he is capable of maintaining public order despite widespread fears that Peron's return might lead to civil war. Lanusse has kept the support of the armed forces, his power base, even though Peron's maneuvering has caused nervousness among some general officers. [REDACTED]

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