

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 28 December 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
28 DECEMBER 1966

1. South Vietnam

Yesterday's attempted assassination of a constituent assembly member will generate some unwholesome thoughts about the military government.

The attempt follows by only 20 days the assassination of another deputy. We have no evidence that the two crimes were linked or that the government was involved in either. But both men were outspoken critics of the present military regime, and some people still have lingering suspicions about the first incident.

It is quite possible that both men were attacked by the Viet Cong to create just this sort of effect.

2. South Vietnam

The government is beginning to take a larger role in dealing with the dock-workers' strike.

The Ministry of Labor and the Saigon Port Authority have publicly called on the workers to return. 50X1

The government is considering using Vietnamese troops to help operate the Port of Saigon.

3. Communist China

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4. Bolivia

President Barrientos has been storming around saying he would not attend an American summit meeting unless the subject of Bolivia's access to the sea was on the agenda. Now, Barrientos shows signs of give.

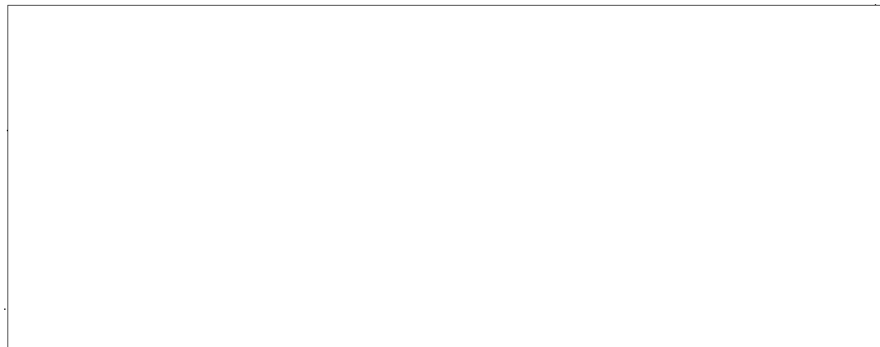
What he would like, Barrientos told a US Embassy officer recently, is an indication from Chile's President Frei that the two countries could begin talks about regional integration, including access to the sea.

Once Frei broke the ice, Barrientos said, diplomatic relations could be restored--they were broken in 1962--and the summit agenda conditions dropped.

In another conversation, the Bolivian foreign minister told Ambassador Henderson that spadework had already been done on exploratory talks and that at some point the US may be asked to exercise its good offices.

5. Cuba

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6. Soviet Union

Moscow's ambitions for a world-wide communications satellite system were underscored yesterday with the announcement that a station will be built in Cuba. This station will be hooked into the Molniya satellites which carry television as well as commercial and military communications. France also has agreed to participate.

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7. Sudan

The government moved quickly this morning to quash a coup attempt led by a young Sudanese lieutenant. The lieutenant is the nephew of the top Sudanese Communist. While this is only circumstantial evidence that the Communists had a hand in the coup, it has provided the government with an excuse to start rounding up Communist leaders.

The Sudan has been plagued with demonstrations by both Communists and anti-Communists since a court decision to legalize the Sudan Communist Party last week.

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