



*The President's Daily Brief*

~~Top Secret~~ 19 July 1967



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DAILY BRIEF  
19 JULY 1967

1. West Germany

Kiesinger has given Ambassador McGhee a run-down on his recent meeting with De Gaulle.

When Kiesinger said he could not understand De Gaulle's anti-American attitude, the General replied he was not hostile to America--he merely wants to prevent US domination of Europe. When Kiesinger said Europe should also be independent of the Soviet Union, De Gaulle replied that "whiskey might conquer the world, but never vodka."

As for the Middle East, De Gaulle said the Soviets made a great blunder by believing they could create a situation that would force the US to engage itself there. De Gaulle claimed he had told Foreign Minister Eban that Israel must not strike first, but added that he was "afraid" President Johnson had not been so firm with Eban. De Gaulle said his present policy was based on a desire "not to drive the Arabs into the arms of the Soviets."

De Gaulle was adamant against UK entry to the Common Market, and felt that China poses a "very real" problem for the Soviets.

Kiesinger thinks that, on the whole, the meeting has improved German-French relations.

2. South Vietnam

The Assembly's approval yesterday of the Thieu-Ky ticket (overriding the recommendation of its special committee) was expected. Even so, the military--in no mood to take chances--put on the pressure by threatening to void the constitution and arrest the assemblymen.

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### 3. France

De Gaulle is still fishing in the troubled Mid-East waters.

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Up till now De Gaulle has badgered the Africans only on issues directly affecting France.

### 4. Common Market

There are some signs that the long-term outlook for British entry may have improved.

London seems to have convinced the Five that it would not become an ally of De Gaulle's nationalism. Some of the Five have been encouraged to take a stronger stand by what they see as increasing opposition to De Gaulle within France. Glassboro and the Middle East crisis seem to have brought home to many Europeans the necessity for uniting if Europe is ever to play a major role in world affairs.

None of this means that De Gaulle will not fight furiously in the early rounds, but it may encourage the British and the Five to stay in the ring.

### 5. Cyprus

King Constantine, when recently asked about rumors of a Greek coup in Cyprus, said nothing had been decided.

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his remarks reinforce our belief that the military government has as yet no firm policy on the Cyprus problem.

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6. Nigeria

Eastern troops are now raiding behind the federal forces, who may be overextended and short on supplies. We still see no quick end to this war.

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