



*The President's Daily Brief*

*2 February 1970*

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The negotiating instructions that West Germany's Egon Bahr took with him to Moscow are noted on *Page 1*.

In South Vietnam, the increase in enemy activity that was expected to occur prior to Tet has begun. (*Page 2*)

President Marcos may be faced with more student demonstrations. (*Page 3*)

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WEST GERMANY - USSR

The West Germans have briefed the three Western allies on the instructions State Secretary Bahr carried with him to Moscow on 30 January for the resumption of the FRG-USSR talks. Bahr is authorized to clarify an earlier renunciation of territorial claims by stating that West Germany does not claim any territory other than that presently covered by the Federal Republic's constitution. Bonn's negotiators will maintain that neither German state should work for the overthrow of the other, nor try to separate it from its allies. With regard to any future East-West German agreement, Bonn will continue to insist that this relationship be of a special character, reflecting a common German background. This agreement, Bahr will say, should respect four-power rights and have full legal force based on equal rights and obligations.

*The instructions seem to represent the maximum concessions West Germany can afford in meeting Moscow's demands for a recognition of the European status quo. In view of Gromyko's stringent demands at the last bilateral session in December, Bahr's immediate task will be to determine whether Moscow is seriously interested in negotiating an agreement. We expect Bahr to stress the importance of these talks for the stability of Central Europe, and impress upon Gromyko the limits to Bonn's concessions.*

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SOUTH VIETNAM

The anticipated pre-Tet increase in Communist harassing attacks got under way over the weekend. This spurt of activity, consisting mainly of shellings and sapper attacks in the northern half of the country, caused relatively few casualties and little damage.

*Similar enemy activity is likely to occur in other sectors of South Vietnam during the next few days, before the Communists' unilateral four-day cease-fire begins on 5 February. [redacted] suggest that there will also be a period of increased activity following the lunar New Year holiday period.*

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PHILIPPINES

In Manila, rumors of further student demonstrations persist following last week's riots sparked by the belief that President Marcos will make a bid for a third term. Strong security precautions are in evidence, particularly near the presidential palace. Marcos has thus far attempted to obscure the fact that his political ambition was the target of the rioters by laying the blame on a Communist plot to take over the government.

*Marcos, barely into his second four-year term, is widely believed to be planning to pack next year's constitutional convention in order to abolish the two-term limit. The students' opposition is shared by powerful families in the oligarchy, who view Marcos' ambitions as a threat to their own political fortunes and are themselves maneuvering to block him.*

*Ceremonies being planned to honor the five students killed last week could be the occasion for more disturbances. Although Marcos will probably try for the time being to blur the issue of student protests, he may be forced eventually to still the outcry with firm public assurances that he will not try to prolong his tenure.*

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NOTES

Malagasy Republic: President Tsiranana is again seriously ill and is expected to remain hospitalized in Paris for the next several weeks. Not surprisingly, the President's confinement has produced coup rumors.



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European Communities - Spain: Agreement was reached last week on all but a few minor details of a preferential trade arrangement between the European Communities and Spain. It is similar to other EC preferential trade agreements that are coming under increasing criticism from other contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.



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