



The President's Daily Brief

8 November 1972

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

West Germany's Chancellor Brandt is trying to make the treaty of reconciliation with East Germany into an election campaign asset. *(Page 1)*

The Soviet party's foreign policy apparatus seems to be rivaling the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the conduct of relations between states. *(Page 2)*

Soviet media have prepared the population for President Nixon's re-election. *(Page 4)*

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

WEST GERMANY

Chancellor Brandt is determined to make the treaty of reconciliation with East Germany into an asset in the final days of West Germany's close election campaign. He has announced that the treaty will be initialed today, but not signed until after a new government takes power.

The inter-German treaty is not as strong a document to campaign on as Brandt had hoped. Its strengths are in its psychological impact on the voter as a symbol of the end to cold war with fellow Germans, and in the many practical improvements in communication and travel between the two states. The most popular aspect is likely to be an exchange of letters providing for reunification of families and easier contact with relatives and friends on both sides of the border. West Berlin will be represented in Pankow by Bonn, thus ending fears there that the government might have disregarded the city's interests to achieve a treaty.

From Brandt's point of view, the accord's weaknesses are in its failure to include specific references to eventual reunification of the two Germanies and in the fact that the document is not a final peace treaty ending World War II. Both concepts have long been held as basic to West Germany's policy toward the East; indeed, reunification is stated as a national goal in Bonn's constitution. The government settled for a compromise clause in the document that refers indirectly to the "national question," and for a supplementary letter suggesting that the accord leaves open the question of a peace treaty for all Germany.

Rainer Barzel, the Christian Democratic candidate for chancellor, homed in on this portion of the treaty yesterday, saying that the section on national unity will be particularly scrutinized by his party. He also reserved the right to reopen negotiations with East Germany, if he should be elected.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

USSR

We believe there is a shift in relationships under way in Moscow affecting the conduct of Soviet foreign policy. The party Central Committee's International Department, which has heretofore concentrated on inter-party relations, has begun to rival the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the conduct of relations between states.

The most compelling evidence of the shift is the increasing prominence of candidate member of the politburo Boris Ponomarev, who oversees the operations of the International Department. Ponomarev has become more and more conspicuous in Soviet diplomacy. He was most recently in evidence during the visit of Italian Premier Andreotti during October, despite the fact that he holds no government position that would justify his participation in the talks.

Until 1970, Ponomarev was rarely seen in a public role not related to his formal responsibilities for dealing with foreign Communists and leftist movements. The only exceptions concerned relations with Arab and African states, and these exceptions may well have been justified by the allegedly "socialist" and "anti-imperialist" nature of many of the governments involved. Since then, his activities have become more diversified, and his competence seems to have broadened to include relations with the West and Japan. During September, for example, in the absence of Foreign Minister Gromyko Ponomarev was the senior Soviet official to confer with a visiting Japanese parliamentary delegation.

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Because Ponomarev rose through the ranks of the party as an associate of Mikhail Suslov, the party's ideologist, his new stature could signify an enhancement of Suslov's influence on the formulation of foreign policy. On the other hand, the rise in prominence of the International Department parallels the

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

growing involvement of General Secretary Brezhnev in foreign policy, and could mean that Brezhnev is using Ponomarev and his staff rather than turning to the Foreign Ministry. Many of the men recently appointed to Brezhnev's growing staff of personal foreign policy advisers are veterans of the Central Committee's foreign policy apparatus.

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NOTES

USSR: Soviet media have for some weeks been preparing the Soviet people for the re-election of President Nixon. In commentaries aimed primarily at the Soviet domestic audience, the media have pointed at length to the President's lead in pre-election polls and have stressed voter "dissatisfaction" with various positions of Senator McGovern. The recent improvement in US-Soviet relations has invariably been advanced as one of the primary reasons for the public support of the President.

The US Embassy in Moscow observes that the upturn in US-Soviet relations has resulted in more balanced and thorough treatment of the campaign than in the past, with fewer polemics calling the US election process a sham.

Chile: Kennecott Copper Corporation continues to seek attachment of copper shipments from its expropriated Chilean mine. After favorable court decisions in France and the Netherlands, the company now has a similar case pending in Sweden.

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Laos: The month-old peace talks in Vientiane have yet to register any substantive progress. Both sides are marking time, waiting for Prime Minister Souvanna to return on Thursday from abroad and for further developments in the Vietnam negotiations. To fill in the time, during their weekly meetings government and Lao Communist negotiators have discussed minor procedural matters. Each time both sides have rehearsed their basic positions without any significant change.

Iran: The Shah announced last weekend his intention to expand the Iranian Navy's striking force "several times over" within two years and to extend its defensive operations into the Indian Ocean. This is the first public announcement of the Shah's naval policy and will likely be followed by efforts to obtain more modern naval equipment from the US, Britain, and France.

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