



The President's Daily Brief

27 December 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In the domestic portion of his speech last Thursday, Soviet party chief Brezhnev devoted primary attention to relations among the various Soviet nationalities. He also revived the promise of a new state constitution. (Page 1)

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USSR

In the domestic portion of his speech last Thursday saluting the USSR's 50th anniversary, Brezhnev devoted primary attention to relations among the various Soviet nationalities. He warned of the dangers of persisting nationalistic tendencies that "interweave" with special local or regional interests--presumably a reference to recent problems in the Ukrainian and Georgian republics, where party chiefs were removed earlier this year. Brezhnev also spoke frankly of "objective problems" that arise in attempts to achieve a balance between the interests of individual nationalities and the interests of the Soviet Union as a whole.

Brezhnev's only other exceptional theme was a statement that the time is ripe for a new state constitution. He said that the draft of the new version will be submitted for nationwide discussion before the next party congress, due to be held in 1976.

A new constitution was one of Khrushchev's pet projects. He repeatedly promised to replace the current one, adopted in 1936, but the proposal appeared to have fallen by the wayside after his ouster. This is the first time Brezhnev has mentioned a new constitution since 1966.

Although Brezhnev looked haggard and tired by the final day of the celebration, he delivered his three-and-one-half hour speech with vigor and appeared to have recovered from the illness that sidelined him during part of October and November.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTES

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Saudi Arabia: [redacted] 25X1
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Vietnam: The weekly flight of the International Control Commission aircraft from Saigon that was reported yesterday as arriving in Hanoi on 25 December, actually landed in Vientiane.

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