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2 April 1958



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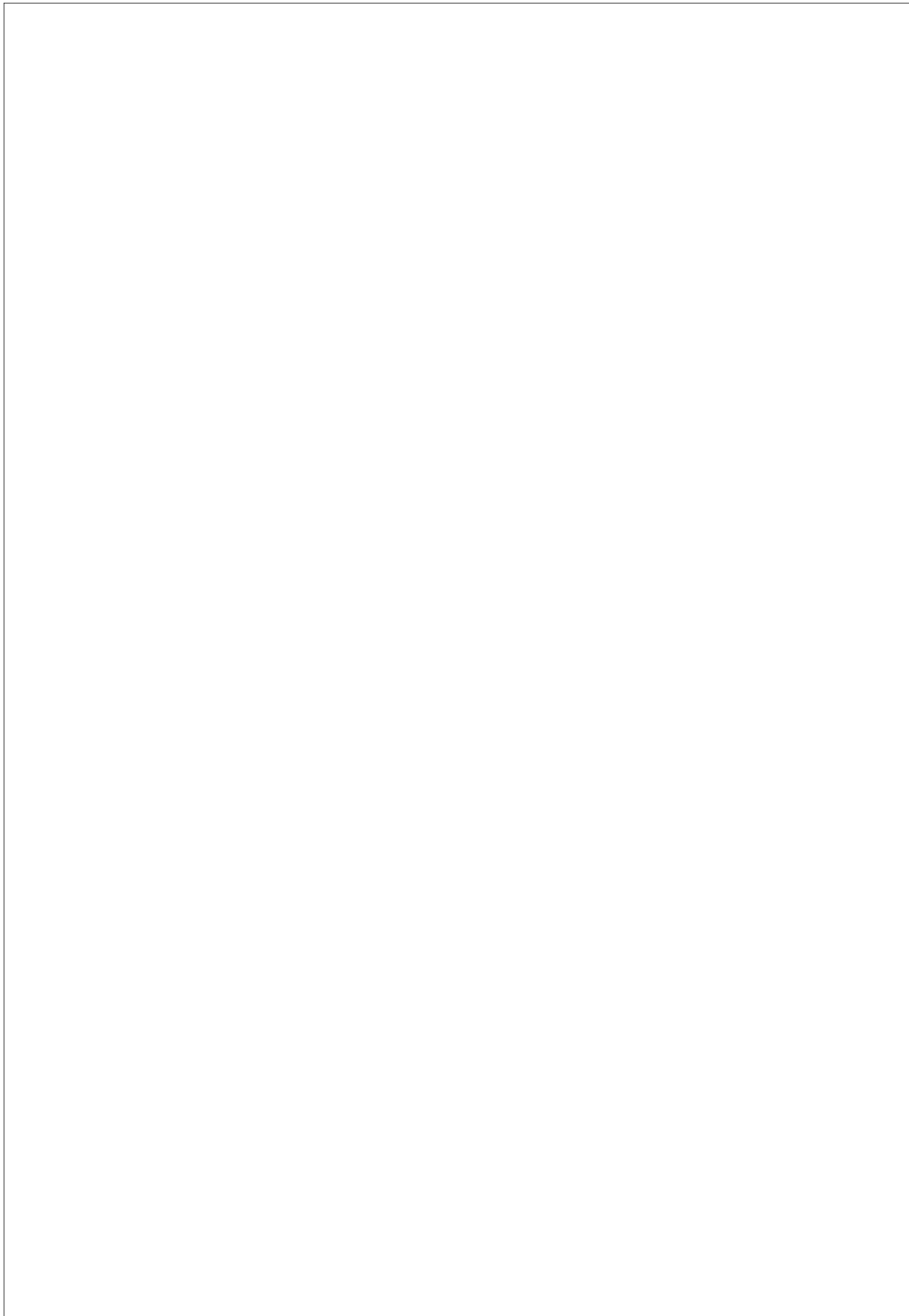
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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2 APRIL 1958

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR - Mikoyan and Frol Kozlov will have most of day-to-day responsibility in Khrushchev's new government. ①

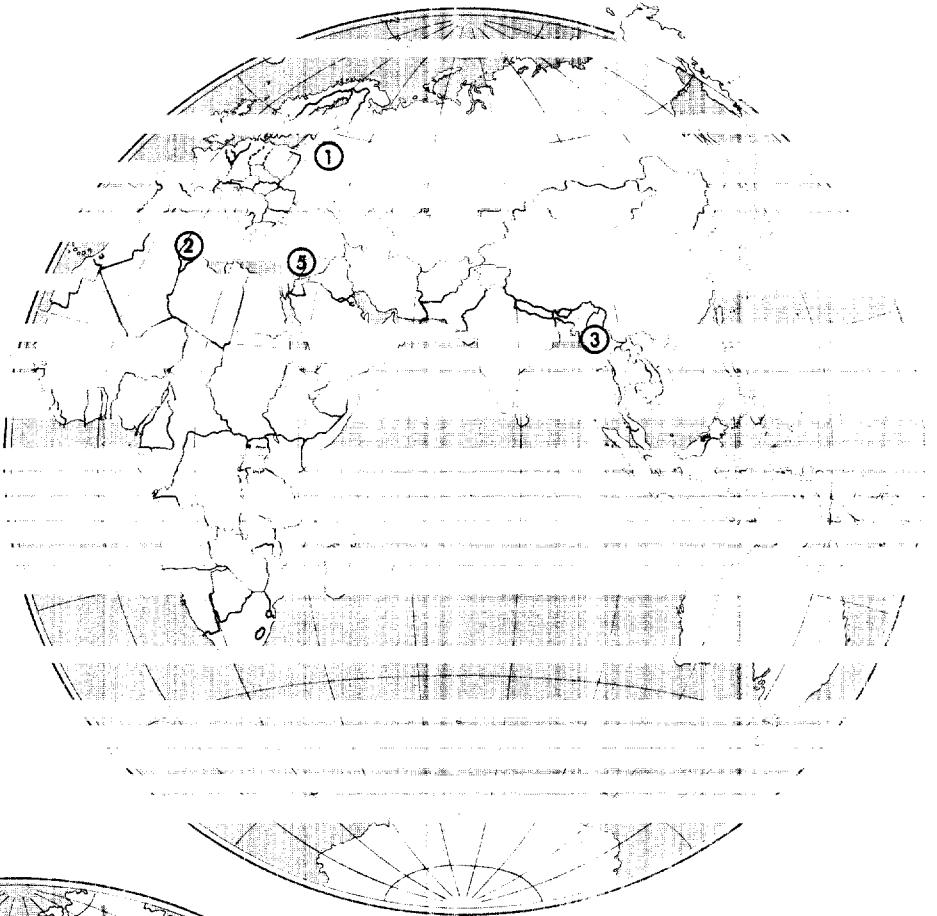
II. ASIA-AFRICA

Tunisian officials warn that Bourguiba may feel compelled to withdraw concessions made to good offices mission. ②

Burma asks United Arab Republic to permit overflight of military planes being ferried to Burma, probably F-51 piston fighters purchased from Israel. ③

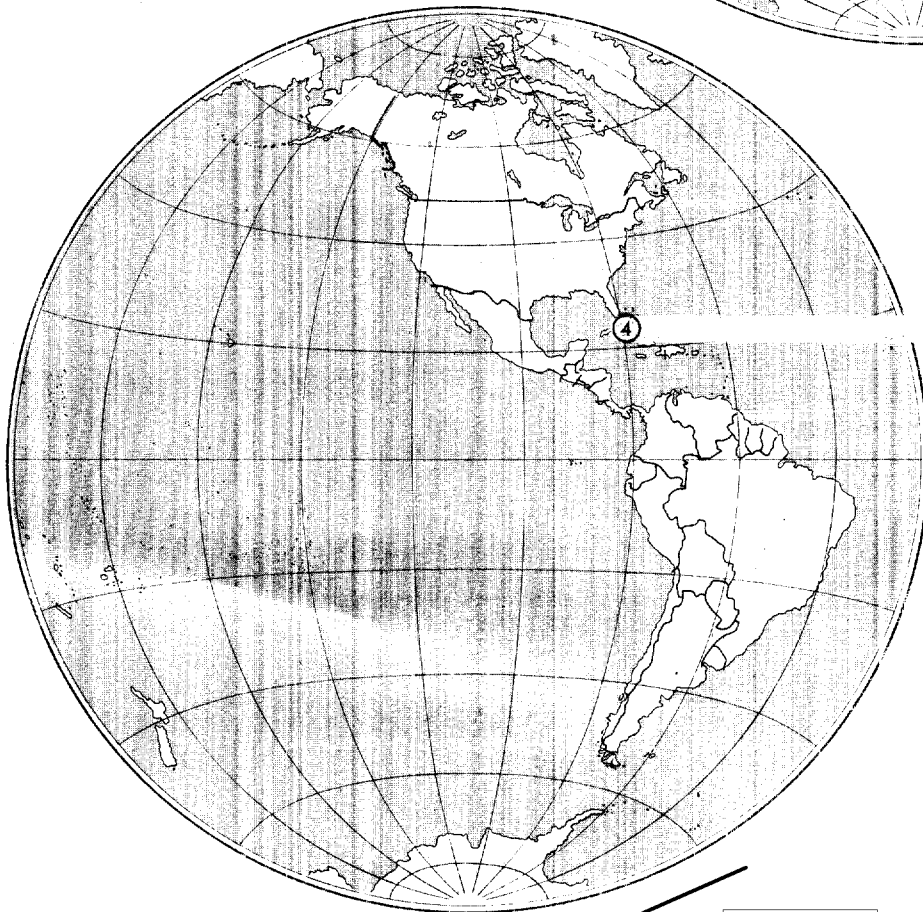
III. THE WEST

Cuba - Castro sets 12 April as "target date" for ousting Batista, but his capability for overthrowing government in next few weeks is not impressive. ④



LATE ITEM

⑤ Lebanese Army commander opposes President Chamoun's re-election.



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2 April 1958

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

yes

* USSR Council of Ministers: Two men--First Deputy Premiers Mikoyan and Frol Kozlov--will probably be delegated most of the day-to-day responsibilities in the new Khrushchev government. Mikoyan will continue to provide much of the behind-the-scenes brain work for Khrushchev. Kozlov, former Leningrad party boss and more recently premier of the Russian Republic (RSFSR), is perhaps being groomed by Khrushchev as the next Soviet premier [redacted] (Page 1)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

no

Tunisia: President Bourguiba and officials in his government are feeling mounting anxiety over the direction taken in the good offices negotiations. This has been encouraged by speculation in the French press as well as statements made by French officials regarding a commission to supervise the Algerian-Tunisian border, which was endorsed by French Premier Gaillard on 25 March but rejected by Bourguiba on 26 March. Tunisian officials warn that the government might be confronted by a situation compelling it to withdraw the concessions Bourguiba has already made to the good offices mission. [redacted] (Page 2)

no

Israel-Burma: Burma is seeking diplomatic clearance from the UAR for overflight of Syria by "military planes" being ferried to Burma. [redacted]

[redacted] It is probable, however, that they are F-51 piston fighters sold by Israel and staged

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through Cyprus, with Burmese markings. In 1955, 25 British-made piston fighter-bombers were transferred from Israel to Burma by this means. A Burmese army mission is now visiting Israel.

III. THE WEST

yes
no

Cuba: In setting 12 April as the "target date" for ousting Batista, Castro appears to be relying not so much on his estimated 1,200 rebels deployed in Oriente Province as on spontaneous popular support for a general strike. Since the leadership of Cuba's powerful organized labor movement remains opposed to Castro's strike plan, his apparent capability for overthrowing the government during the next few weeks is not impressive.

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LATE ITEM

no

* Lebanon: Lebanese Foreign Minister Malik has stated that army commander General Shihab is opposed to President Chamoun's ambitions to succeed himself since he fears that Chamoun's efforts will lead to civil disorders. Shihab believes that "Nasirism" is the wave of the future and that Chamoun's strong pro-Western policy is compromising Lebanon's "traditional" position as a neutral.

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Khrushchev's Council of Ministers

Premier Khrushchev has retained virtually intact the former Council of Ministers, reinforcing the belief that Bulganin's demotion from premier to chairman of the State Bank stemmed from his disloyalty to Khrushchev during last June's leadership crisis. Refurbishing of the "inner cabinet" by the appointment of party presidium members Kozlov and Mikoyan as first deputy chairmen, and Iosif Kuzmin, Dmitri Ustinov, Alexander Zasyadko, and Alexei Kosygin as deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers indicates that Khrushchev intends to delegate the day-to-day operational duties of the government on a broad basis. Bulganin had only four deputies and no first deputies.

The elevation of Mikoyan from deputy to first deputy premier places him in a key position of government responsibility where he will continue to provide much of the behind-the-scenes brain work for Khrushchev. Mikoyan, the cautious Armenian whose ability for survival in the Soviet leadership is unmatched, probably would not be considered for a front-man position. There are some indications that Kozlov, who was transferred from party boss of Leningrad to chairman of the RSFSR (Russian Republic) Council of Ministers last December, was being groomed to replace Bulganin as premier, but was designated first deputy when Khrushchev himself decided to assume the top government job. He nevertheless has clearly been promoted and is presumably in line for the premiership should Khrushchev decide to relinquish it.

Of the four deputy chairmen, apparently only Kuzmin, chairman of Gosplan, will retain a portfolio. Zasyadko, judging by his background as a coal expert, will probably supervise the heavy industry sector. Kosygin will most likely bear primary responsibility for light industry, while Ustinov will oversee the defense industries.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Tunisian Government Concern Over Aims of Good
Offices Mission

President Habib Bourguiba and officials in his government are increasingly concerned over the course of the good offices negotiations. Spasmodic fears expressed earlier this year that the mission might side with France have been revived and encouraged by speculative articles appearing in the press in France and by statements made by public figures in Paris regarding the mission and its proposal of a neutral commission to supervise the Algerian-Tunisian border.

Premier Gaillard on 25 March conditioned his acceptance of other proposals of the good offices mission on Bourguiba's acceptance of border supervision, but Bourguiba rejected this condition on the grounds that he could make no further concessions to the French viewpoint without placing his government in a difficult position domestically. Warning that public opinion might force withdrawal of concessions already made to the good offices commission, the Tunisian defense secretary hinted strongly that tighter restrictions on French troops and civilians might be reimposed.

Meanwhile, the influential Tunis weekly organ of Bourguiba's Neo-Destour party criticizes the good offices mission for dealing solely with "false problems" while ignoring the real issue, Algeria. In its latest editorial, it suggests that if France were to evacuate all troops, including those at Bizerte, "Tunisia and the FLN"--the Algerian National Liberation Front directing the Algerian rebellion--would accept all control commissions, even UN forces on the border. Bourguiba may, consequently, make a counterproposal conditioning acceptance of a UN commission to investigate border incidents on total evacuation of French forces in Tunisia.

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III. THE WEST

The Cuban Rebellion

The much-publicized "final phase" of Cuban rebel leader Fidel Castro's 16-month rebellion against President Batista is scheduled to take place before 15 April, with 12 April the target date for overthrowing Batista, [REDACTED]

Castro is said to have 1,200 men deployed in Oriente Province. The number of rebels is relatively unimportant in view of the government's 35,000-man military establishment and its apparently successful campaign to recruit 7,000 additional soldiers; and Castro to date has had limited success in inducing defections from the armed forces. Unrest in the army, however, could lead to an attempt by dissident elements to effect a military coup.

Lacking a real military potential, Castro is depending on popular support, apparently hoping to inspire a general strike and a spontaneous uprising. Although he has made some inroads in organized labor, probably receiving strongest support among traditionally dissident members of the telephone, transport, electric, and bank workers' unions, the powerful leader of Cuba's organized labor movement remains adamant in his opposition to a politically inspired general strike. Unless labor leadership shows some sign of wavering, it seems unlikely that a strike attempt would be successful.

Although Castro's apparent capability for overthrowing the government during the next few weeks is not impressive, tension and dissatisfaction with the government are growing. Batista's assumption of emergency powers on 31 March and his implied intention to use extreme repressive measures will probably create additional resentment and could provoke some popular support for the rebel movement. [REDACTED]

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LATE ITEM

Lebanese Army Commander Asserts Opposition to Chamoun's Re-election

Lebanese Army Commander General Shihab is "dead set" against the re-election of President Chamoun, particularly since he fears Chamoun's ambitions will lead to civil disorders, [REDACTED]

As a result of various pressures the general's attitude may change by the first of May, when Chamoun intends to force the required succession amendment through parliament. [REDACTED]

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