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29 April 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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29 APRIL 1958

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR - Precise character of 27 April Tyura Tam range activity still undetermined.

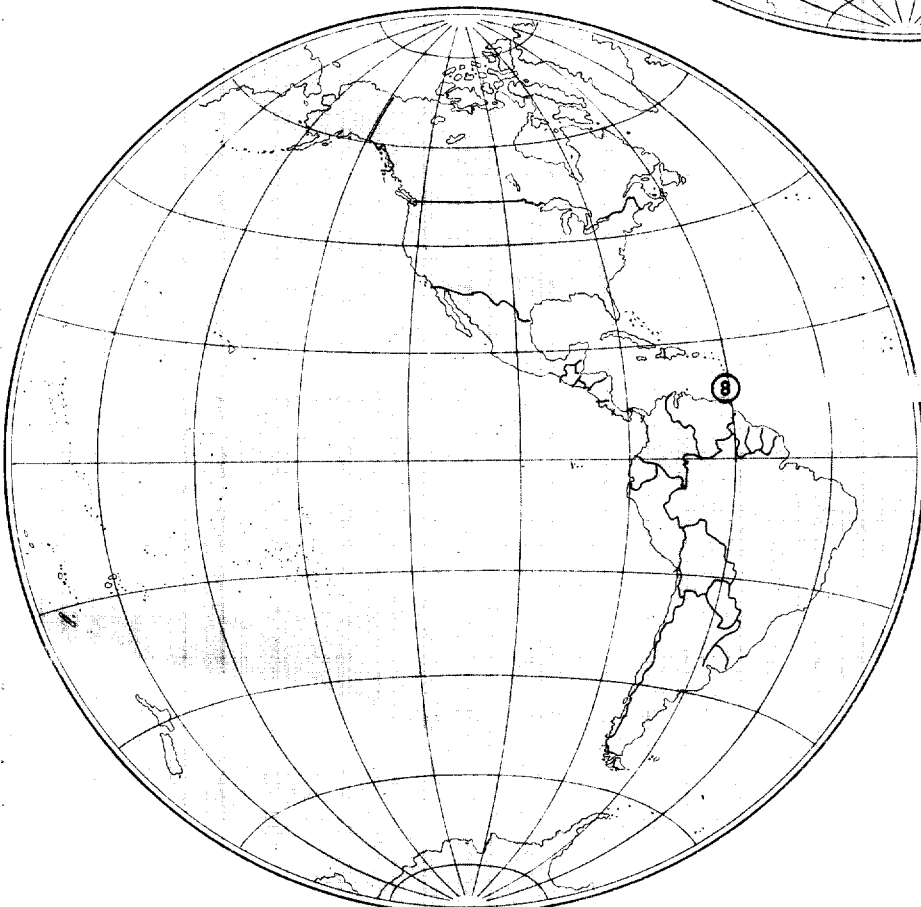
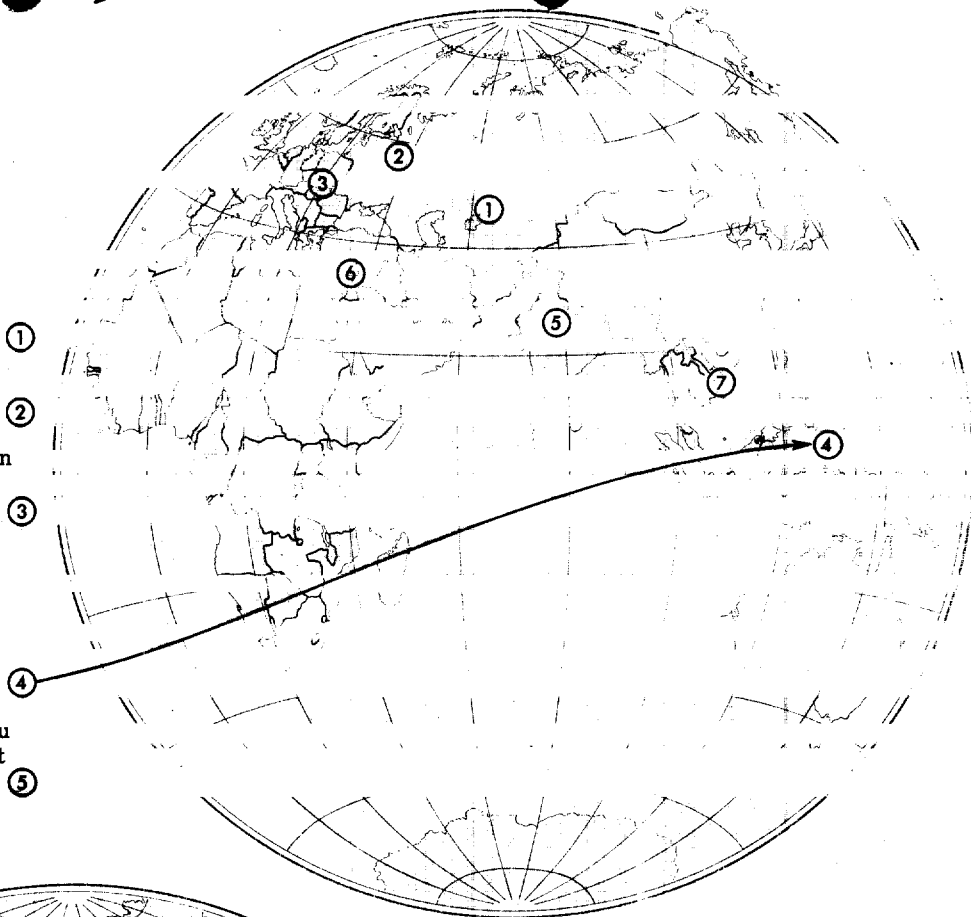
Egypt negotiating purchase of Soviet jet airliners.

Recent troop withdrawals from Eastern Europe leave Soviet military strength in that area unimpaired.

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Indonesia - North Celebes dissidents land on Morotai Island; dissident air activity continues.

Despite rumors to the contrary, Nehru is probably not considering retirement at this time.



Lebanese Government bargaining for more American aid, partly in an effort to improve relations with Nasir.

Top South Vietnamese officials and American civilians targeted in Communist assassination plans.

III. THE WEST

Two major parties in West Indies Federation wooing Communist leader in British Guiana; his entry into federation would give him the balance-of-power position.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

29 April 1958

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

No

Tyura Tam Activity of 27 April: As of 2200 EDT 28 April, insufficient information precluded a determination of whether the Tyura Tam range activity of 27 April was a launching of some type of space vehicle or was a unique rangewide practice countdown. [redacted]
[redacted] (Page 1)

no

USSR - UAR: Moscow has agreed to provide the UAR with four TU-104 jet airliners in 1959. A formal agreement of purchase, however, has not been concluded. The USSR is asking about \$3,000,000 for each airliner, but the Egyptian negotiator in Moscow has recommended an offer of only \$2,000,000. The deal may be concluded during Nasir's visit to Moscow beginning 29 April. [redacted]
(Page 2)

yes

Eastern Europe - Soviet military strength: Recent withdrawals from East Germany and Hungary have left Soviet military strength in the Eastern European area unimpaired; 48 air regiments and at least 28 ground line divisions remain. The bulk of this strength is in East Germany, where the

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capability of the ground forces was recently improved by an extensive reorganization and by a new system of accepting only trained personnel. The 24th Air Army in East Germany is probably the best of the Soviet tactical air armies. In Hungary, the USSR maintains twice its prerebellion strength; in Poland and Rumania, Soviet strength has not been reduced. [REDACTED] (Page 3)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

yes
 *Indonesia: North Celebes dissident troops landed on Morotai Island on 28 April and are advancing against light resistance, [REDACTED] Dissident aircraft, singly and in pairs, have carried out several successful attacks in the last few days on shipping and ground installations in the Borneo, Celebes, and Moluccas areas. President Sukarno, apparently contemplating an early end of the military campaign, is said to be planning another interregional conference. In this and other ways, he will exert every effort to maintain his power position and to promote his political theories, with the strong backing of the Indonesian Communist party. Some army circles have recently shown signs of uneasiness about government policies, and one ranking officer recently has suggested that elections be postponed for several years--presumably to limit further Communist gains--and that Indonesia should look to the army for leadership. [REDACTED] (Map)

yes
India: Prime Minister Nehru's decision to take a prolonged vacation this summer probably is not a prelude to his retirement, despite rumors to that effect. During his absence, the 68-year-old prime minister will keep in touch with major problems. Other Indian

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DAILY BRIEF

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leaders hope his absence will increase the confidence of members of the cabinet in their ability to run their departments without Nehru's constant guidance. []

no *Lebanon: The government is bargaining to obtain additional American economic aid this fiscal year. Foreign Minister Malik has "predicted" that if Lebanon does not immediately receive "substantial" aid--about \$15,000,000 in his view--"Point Four can pack up and go home." Rejection of the US aid might lead to a general repudiation of the "Eisenhower Doctrine." During the next two weeks, the government will consider its reply to a parliamentary committee resolution that Lebanon should obtain an amount of aid large enough to "justify" its continued acceptance. This resolution apparently was proposed largely as part of an effort to improve Lebanon's relations with Nasir and the UAR. []

no South Vietnam: President Diem, his brother, and several cabinet members have been marked as targets for assassination by the Communist underground in Saigon. Further statements by a Communist defector, who earlier reported that American general officers were to be assassinated, have revealed that these broader plans are aimed at US civilians as well as South Vietnamese government officials. []

III. THE WEST

yes West Indies: Each of the two principal political parties in the new West Indies Federation is trying to bolster its position by courting Cheddi Jagan, Communist minister of trade and industry in British Guiana. If British Guiana, which is politically dominated by Jagan, decides to join the federation, Jagan would hold the balance of power in the federal legislative assembly inaugurated on 22 April. []

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Current Analysis of Tyura Tam Range Operation Of 27 April

Based on information and analysis available on 27 April, the Guided Missile Intelligence Committee (GMIC) concluded that the eight-hour countdown at the Soviet Union's Tyura Tam ballistic missile test range, terminating at approximately 0300 EDT, 27 April, could have been one of several types of operations, but most likely was the launching of a type of space vehicle. The possibility of a practice launching, however, could not be eliminated.

The search for transmission of signals related to any type of space vehicle is continuing. There is still no information sufficient to change GMIC's previous conclusion concerning a possible launching, although the possibility of a practice countdown has been increased somewhat. If this activity turns out to be a unique rangewide practice, it is likely that it was in preparation for an early launching of a space vehicle in celebration of May Day.

It is expected that the continued analysis and search for signal data, as well as the passage of time, will permit a more definitive statement within several days. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*The JCS member of GMIC considers that rangewide practice is the more likely possibility.

[REDACTED]

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Egypt Negotiating for Soviet Jet Airliners

Moscow has agreed to provide the UAR with four TU-104 jet airliners in 1959. A formal agreement of purchase, however, has not been concluded. The USSR is asking about \$3,000,000 for each airliner, but the Egyptian negotiator in Moscow has recommended an offer of only \$2,000,000. The deal may be concluded during Nasir's visit to Moscow beginning 29 April.

The UAR crews for the planes are to be trained in the Soviet Union during 1958 if the purchase agreement is concluded. Misrair--the Egyptian civil airline--already has arranged to send technicians to the Soviet Union to examine the jet airliners.

The TU-104, a highly publicized two-engine jet which was the first of the late-model Soviet transports, may have already been phased out of production, although a modified version, the TU-104A, is probably still being produced. The TU-104 has been criticized in the USSR because it is costly to operate, noisy, and requires very long runways.

The USSR has announced completion of test flights of two new turboprop transport aircraft, the IL-18/Moskva and the AN-10/Ukraina. These two aircraft will probably be put into service on routes now equipped with Soviet TU-104 and TU-104A jet transports.

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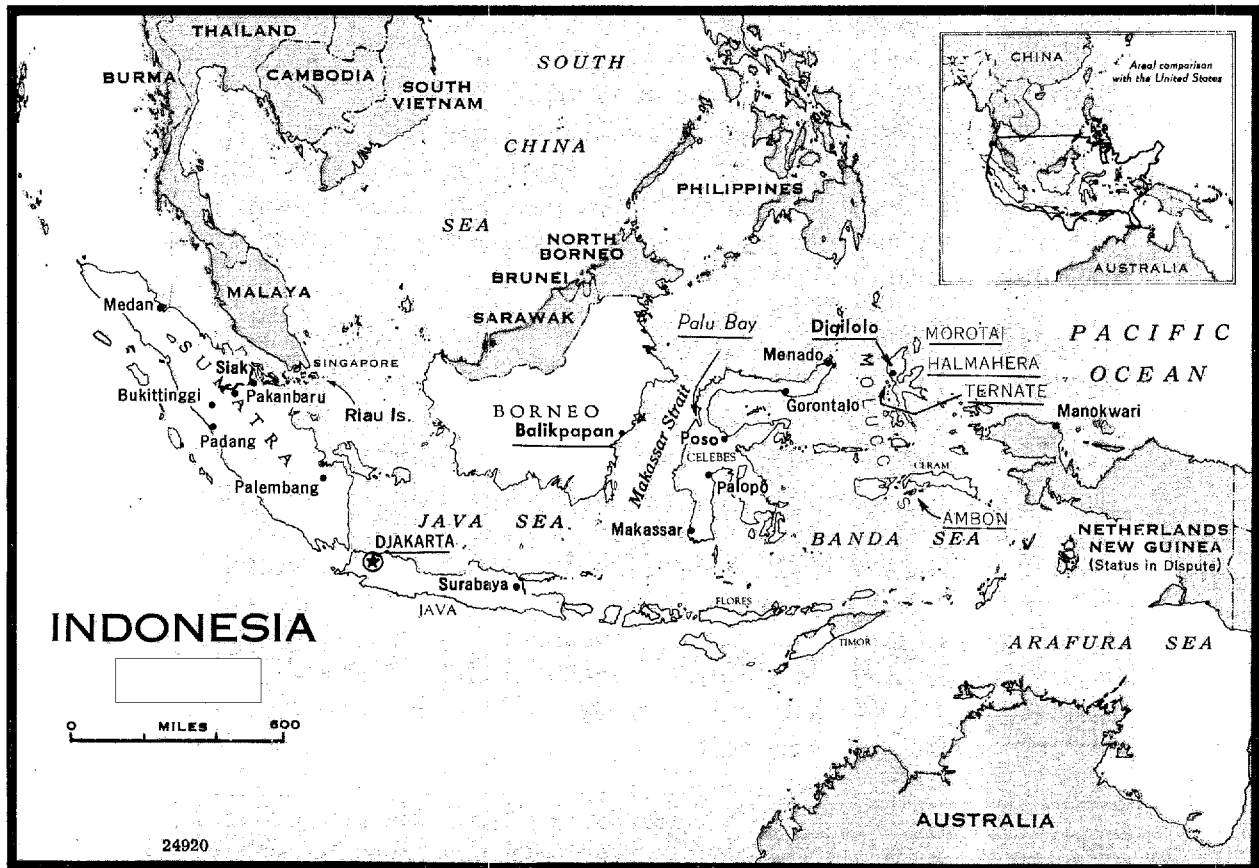
Soviet Troop Strength in Eastern Europe

The USSR has taken pains to demonstrate good faith in regard to the troop withdrawals from East Germany and Hungary which it announced earlier this year. Sufficient trains have left the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG) to transport the 41,000 men designated for withdrawal. The type and number of units involved also agree with those specified to be withdrawn. However, to maintain combat efficiency, some shifts of experienced personnel and modern equipment were made to units scheduled to remain in East Germany and Hungary, where reorganizations took place during 1957.

In East Germany some 345,000 Soviet troops are organized into 20 line divisions and 22 air regiments with a total of 955 aircraft. In Hungary at least 60,000 troops--about twice the prerebellion strength--are organized into four or more line divisions and nine air regiments having 305 aircraft. In Poland and Rumania, where the USSR has announced no plans for the withdrawal of troops, no change in strength has been noted. Stationed in each country are 35,000 ground troops organized into two line divisions with support elements. In Poland there are also 14 Soviet air regiments with 446 aircraft; in Rumania there are five air regiments with 190 aircraft.

In January, the USSR announced that those troops withdrawn from East Germany and Hungary would be demobilized. However, some units withdrawn under previous programs evidently have been relocated within the USSR.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Indonesia

Dissident troops of Lt. Col. Sumual's command in North Celebes made a successful landing on Morotai Island on 28 April, [redacted] Supported by two F-51's, which effectively silenced the light resistance initially made by central government troops, dissident forces were last reported advancing on a nearby airfield.

Dissident planes, singly and in pairs, have also carried out a series of successful strikes over the past few days against government targets on Borneo and East Indonesian islands. On 27 April, a B-26 aircraft severely damaged a radio station on Ambon Island, set afire three large fuel storage tanks, and strafed the airfield there. A B-26 aircraft bombed and strafed the Balikpapan area of Borneo on 28 April, scoring hits on the airfield and fuel tanks nearby and blowing up a gunboat. Also hit was a "large freighter-tanker," presumably the British tanker press sources have reported sunk. On the same day, a B-26 attacked the Palu Bay area in Celebes, apparently sinking two freighters and strafing four others. Ternate Island and the port of Djailolo, on Halmahera Island, have also been recent targets.

President Sukarno, apparently confident that the military campaign against the dissidents will soon be concluded, is reported planning another interregional conference. Sukarno can be expected to make every effort to ensure his own personal power and the acceptance of his system of "guided democracy." Some army leaders, however, apparently are maneuvering to improve the army's position, and a public statement by Brigadier General Djatikusumo, a deputy chief of staff, has strongly suggested that Indonesia look to the army for leadership. Djatikusumo reportedly further stated that "the Communists are getting too strong and we must stop them," and proposed that national elections-- scheduled for 1959--be postponed for five years. [redacted]

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III. THE WEST

West Indies Federation Politicians Court British Guiana Communist Leader

Each of the two principal political parties in the new West Indies Federation is trying to bolster its position by courting Cheddi Jagan, Communist minister of trade and industry in British Guiana. If British Guiana, which is politically dominated by Jagan, decides to join the federation, Jagan would hold the balance of power in the federal legislative assembly inaugurated on 22 April.

Leaders of the opposition Democratic Labor party believe that, if they obtain Jagan's support, the entry of British Guiana, which would have 8 to 10 seats in the legislature, would help overcome the narrow margin of the governing Federal Labor party. In Trinidad, Jagan, an East Indian, could easily swing the many East Indian voters whichever way he chooses.

Jagan has been noncommittal so far and appears willing to bargain further. He may be sufficiently tempted by the opportunities for exercising wider influence to modify his previous conditions for bringing British Guiana into the federation. The Democratic Labor party gained the impression that Jagan hopes in any case to get the West Indies legislature to urge the British to advance British Guiana rapidly toward complete self-government. Functioning as chief minister, he has so far cooperated with the British governor, but meanwhile has added more Communists to the leadership of his party and stepped up its propaganda activity.

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leaders hope his absence will increase the confidence of members of the cabinet in their ability to run their departments without [REDACTED]