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9 August 1958

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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9 AUGUST 1958

**I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC**

Some Soviet military units resuming normal activities after precautionary measures during Middle Eastern situation.

**II. ASIA-AFRICA**

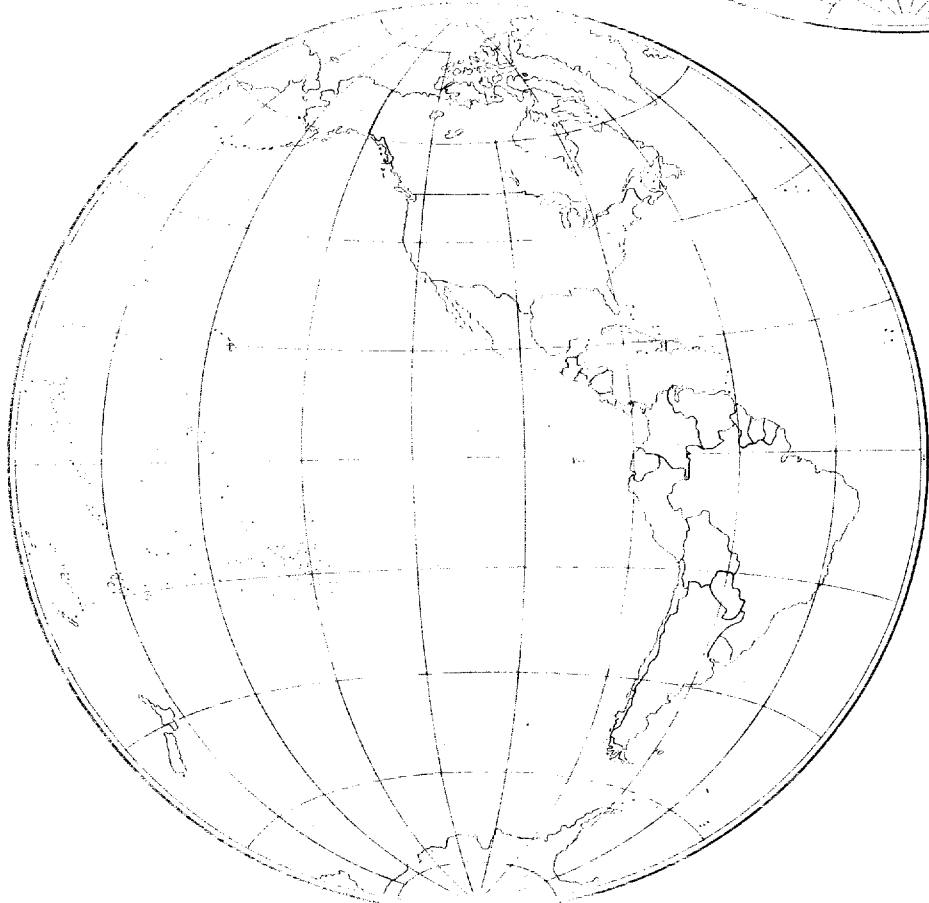
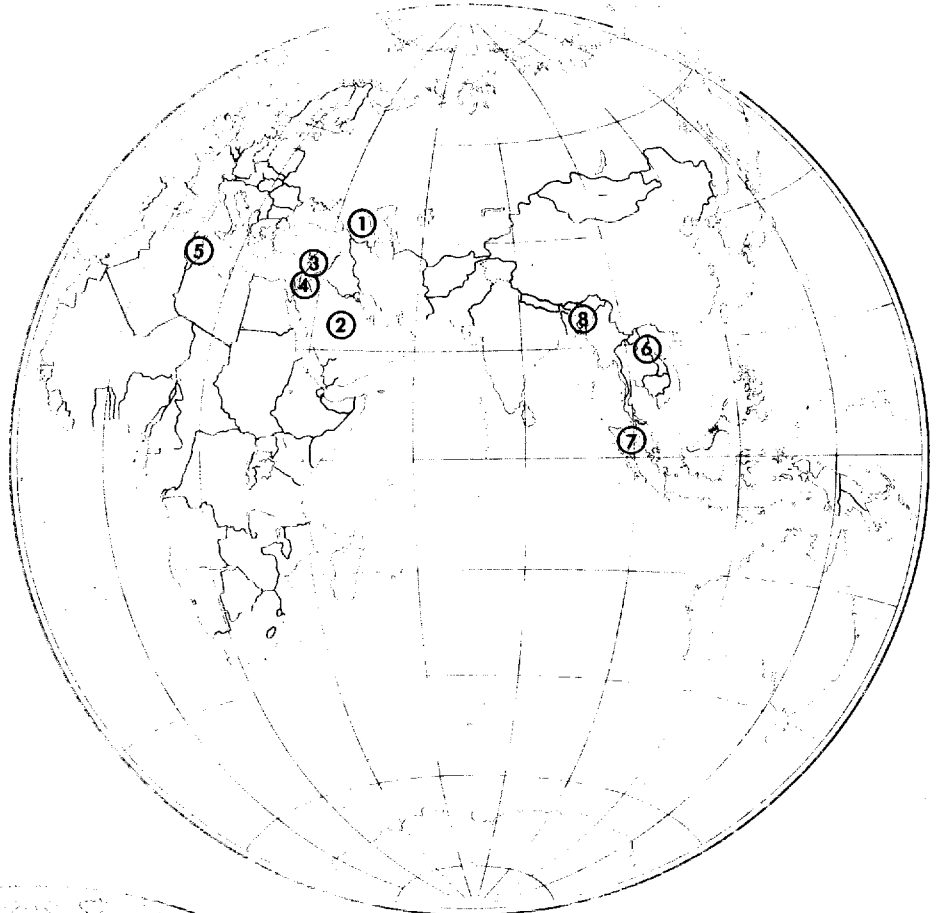
Crown Prince Faysal of Saudi Arabia to visit Cairo shortly for further discussions.

General Shihab now states he wants bulk of US forces to remain in Lebanon for the time being and to use their presence to bargain with opposition.

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- ④ Jordan - King Husayn has word that uprising against him is imminent.
- ⑤ Tunisia - Bourguiba may lose support of important labor elements.
- ⑥ Laotian government authority breaking down in rural areas where Communist strength is growing.
- ⑦ Indonesian dissidents have stepped up guerrilla activity against government forces in North and Central Sumatra.
- ⑧ More border clashes likely between Pakistan and India.

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

9 August 1958

## DAILY BRIEF

## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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Soviet military activity: Some of the Soviet air and naval units [redacted]

*no*

[redacted] began to return to normal activities and their home bases on 6 August. On 7 August, Soviet aircraft began leaving Bulgaria. However, some Northern Fleet submarines have continued to operate in the North Atlantic - Norwegian Sea area; some Black Sea Fleet units have remained at sea. [redacted]

The Soviet bloc press announced on 6 and 7 August that maneuvers in Bulgaria, Transcaucasus, and Turkestan had ended and that Marshals Skripko, Grechko, and Meretskov [redacted]

## II. ASIA-AFRICA

*no*

Saudi Arabia - UAR: The visit of UAR Vice President Amir to Saudi Arabia resulted in agreement that Saudi Crown Prince Faysal would visit Egypt shortly. An aide to King Saud has expressed the opinion that any matters of importance would probably be taken up during Faysal's visit to Cairo, observing that Faysal and Nasir held similar views. A Saudi Government accommodation with Nasir may take the form of some type of association with the United Arab States--the UAR-Yemen arrangement--or a revival of the Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi military alliance. King Saud, meanwhile, is attempting to purchase a "long-range aircraft" on a priority basis, suggesting that he is again considering a European visit, or making preparations for escape in the event of trouble. [redacted]

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*No*

Lebanon: General Shihab has said he hopes the United States will not make more than a token withdrawal of American forces in Lebanon until the peace and security of the country have been assured. Despite his public statements favoring early departure of the Americans, the general says [redacted] he wishes to use any exodus as a bargaining point to extract concessions from opposition leaders. [redacted]

*No*

Jordan: King Husayn has received information that a popular uprising against him is imminent. [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
(Page 1)

*OK*

Tunisia: President Bourguiba may lose the support of Tunisia's principal labor leader, Ahmed ben Salah, who is also secretary of health and social affairs. This leader and the other labor union officials who held government posts are considering resigning because of their dissatisfaction with the lack of progress on land reform, unemployment problems, and promulgating a constitution. [redacted]  
(Page 3)

*OK*

Laos: Government authority is breaking down in some rural areas. Some officials have resigned because they fear the growing strength of the Communist-dominated Neo Lao Hak Zat (NLHZ) party. [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted] If the situation is allowed to deteriorate further, it may lead to a military solution imposed by the army and crown. [redacted] (Page 4)

*No*

Indonesia: Indonesian dissidents in North and Central Sumatra are stepping up their guerrilla operations against the central government. Their aim is to recapture major communications centers, possibly including Medan, and to

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time "successes" to coincide roughly with Indonesian independence day on 17 August. [redacted] (Page 5) (Map)

70  
India - Pakistan: Increased tension and troop activity on both sides of the East Pakistani - Indian border have resulted in new shooting incidents. These incidents may be attempts to influence a meeting between Indian and Pakistani officials scheduled for 23 August on the border and related issues. Border clashes and mutual recriminations will probably continue for the time being, but both governments have shown a desire to keep such incidents localized. [redacted]

[redacted] (Page 6) (Map)

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC  
No Back-up Material.

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Tension Rising in Jordan

King Husayn has received information that a popular uprising against him is imminent, which could possibly involve a prolonged campaign of terrorism and guerrilla warfare. The UAR-sponsored Jordanian clandestine radio, which is located in Syria, has raised exhortations to rebellion to a shrill pitch, with such calls as "on to the revolution, Jordanian people," urging the population to "chop off the heads and destroy those who plan intrigues to keep Palestine in the hands of outlaws," and generally urging immediate violent destruction of the pro-Western regime of King Husayn.

Other reports indicate that Syria may have recently reinforced its troops along the Jordanian border. [redacted]

[redacted] Syria

has brought its military strength along the Jordanian border up to two brigades and that small arms and ammunition have been stockpiled near the border, from where they are smuggled into Jordan.

Syria's recent closure of the Jordanian border, which now is partially lifted, may have been partly intended to obscure troop movements. Syrian troops would probably be intended also for psychological pressure, rather than for overt military operations against Jordan, and to cover infiltration of paramilitary elements. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] a group of Syrian and Palestinian raiders, along with their officers, had infiltrated northern Jordan for sabotage activity during the week of 10-16 August. [redacted]

[redacted]

A possible new element of risk for King Husayn may arise from the scheduled transfer of control over the security of Amman from the King's uncle to Deputy Chief of Staff Sadiq Shara, who has been suspected of involvement in conspiracy against the regime. Shara's increased authority in the army apparently stems from the insistence of Prime Minister Rifai, who overcame misgivings of the King. Rifai's sponsorship of Shara and his efforts to curb countersubversive activities in the army by the King's uncle suggest that he might be considering preparing the ground for transition to a less anti-Nasir government.

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Tunisian Labor Union Leaders May Pull Out of Government

Tunisia's popular labor leader, Ahmed ben Salah, secretary of state for health and social affairs and former head of the dominant Neo-Destour - affiliated trade union, the Tunisian General Union of Labor (UGTT), is reported dissatisfied with internal developments and may leave the government. He is disappointed with the government's lack of progress toward land reform, reducing unemployment, and promulgating a constitution. If he resigns, other UGTT officials would also leave, among whom are the secretaries of state for agriculture, commerce and industry, and education, youth, and sports, and the under secretary for information.

Ben Salah and his cohorts might form a labor party in opposition to Bourguiba's Neo-Destour party, thereby ending the quasi-one-party political system in Tunisia. Such a break seems unlikely, however, while Bourguiba is hospitalized following surgery on 8 August.

Bourguiba in late 1956 forced Ben Salah to resign as head of the UGTT because he feared him as a potential political rival and because he felt Ben Salah's economic views were discouraging foreign investment. Ben Salah, who is described as an anti-Communist Marxist, was advocating nationalization of industry and collectivization of agriculture. Ben Salah was partially restored to favor by the following July and accepted the comparatively minor post of secretary of state for health when the Tunisian Republic was founded. He proved an exceptionally able administrator and was rewarded with the additional portfolio of social affairs in the minor cabinet reshuffle last May. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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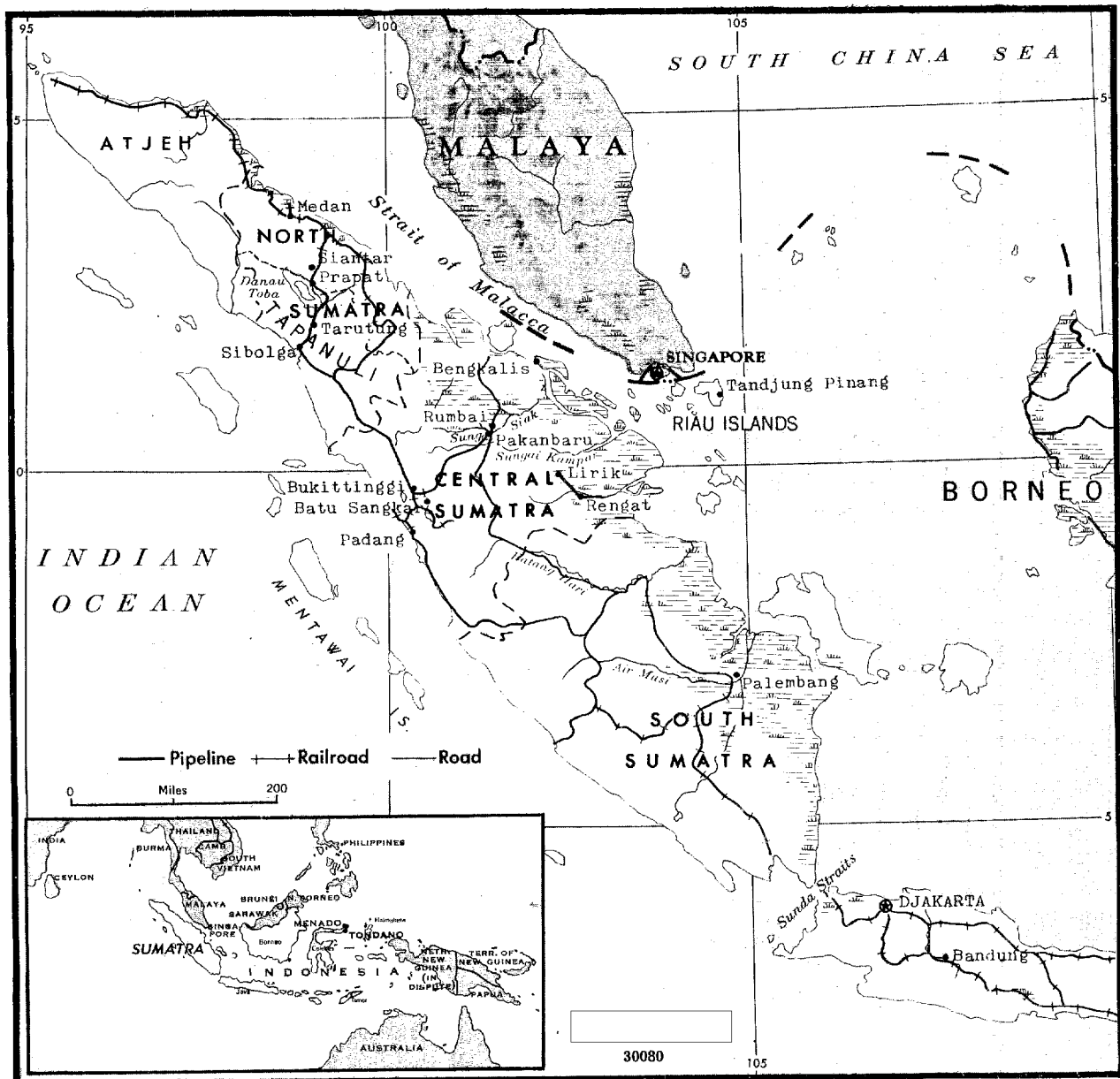
Government Authority Disintegrating in Laos

General Ouane, chief of staff of the Laotian Army, predicts a nationwide breakdown in government authority within three to four months unless the present trend is reversed. He told an American official on 5 August that royal government officials in remote areas are resigning out of fear of the growing strength of the Communist-dominated Neo Lao Hak Zat (NLHZ). Members of the auto-defense force--special part-time volunteers--stationed in outlying areas are turning in their arms in increasing numbers, commenting that the royal government is not strong enough to protect them. Ouane was depressed over the continuation of the cabinet crisis and stated that he would not wait much longer before using the army to set up an anti-Communist government.

After its success in the 4 May supplementary elections, the NLHZ stepped up its propaganda activities in the villages and began an all-out campaign to discredit royal government officials throughout the provinces. This campaign is apparently meeting with success, [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]



Indonesian Dissidents Accelerate Operations in Sumatra

Indonesian dissidents in North and Central Sumatra have launched their most ambitious operation to date in an effort to recover major population centers and establish a secure operational base. Although Djakarta forces have so far repulsed all attacks, the dissidents have scored temporary gains and have evidenced considerably improved coordination and discipline.

On 1 August, North Sumatran dissidents launched a series of simultaneous attacks on towns on the Sibolga-Prapat road which are to continue through 17 August, Indonesian independence day, "in order to prevent Sukarno from making a victory speech." This effort may also include an attack on Medan.

Dissidents in Central Sumatra apparently kept their former capital, Bukittinggi, under almost continuous attack from 23 to 28 July and resumed operations on 6 August. [redacted] the dissident attacking force was numerically superior to the defending government troops. Nearby towns have also been under heavy assault.

Army Chief of Staff Nasution has promised increased air support, accelerated arms shipments, and relief forces to government troops in Sumatra and has ordered that towns "are absolutely not to be vacated." [redacted]

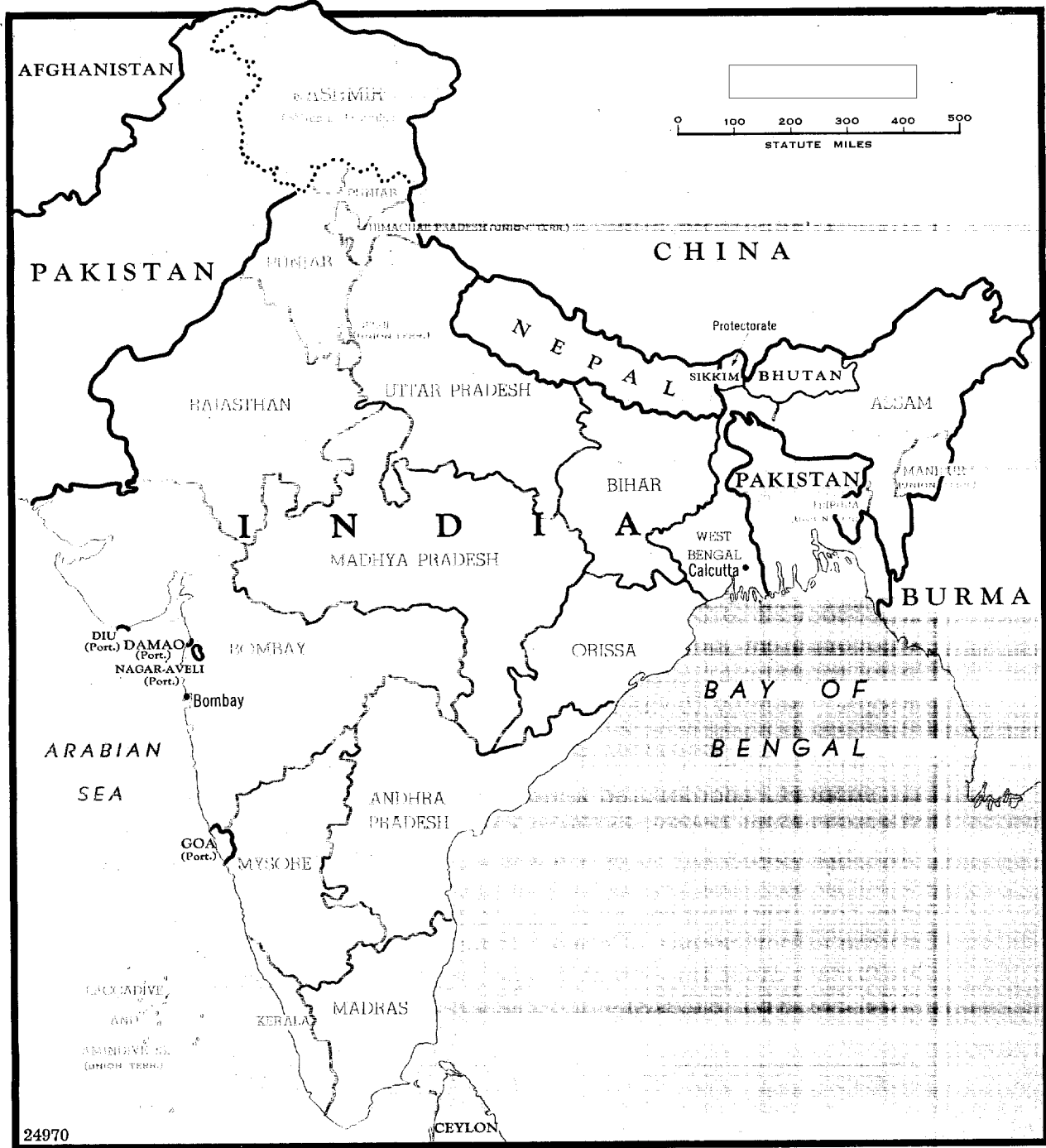
[redacted] three groups of dissidents in his area have antiaircraft weapons, a factor which could diminish the effectiveness of government air power, heretofore Djakarta's most important weapon against the dissidents.

[redacted]

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### Indian-Pakistani Border Incidents

Increased tension and troop activity on both sides of the East Pakistani - Indian border have resulted in a new shooting incident. The Pakistani Foreign Ministry on 7 August handed the Indian high commissioner a note demanding that India withdraw its forces from territory inside the Pakistani border. India has rejected the Pakistani charges, and the Indian press is accusing Pakistan of aggression. Border clashes and mutual recriminations will probably increase as each side tries to provoke the other while strengthening its own position and as both governments try publicly to put the onus of violence on the other. Both governments, however, have shown a desire to keep such incidents localized.

The present series of border shooting incidents, which began in March, may have been stimulated at least in part by Pakistan's use of troops to halt smuggling into India. Pakistan on 3 August sealed the border with Tripura, an Indian union territory, cutting off Indian transit traffic crossing East Pakistan to that territory. Recently, India and Pakistan have moved to reinforce police and military units near the border, and local hostilities may increase further.

Border incidents have accompanied the chronic dispute over the undemarcated sections of the eastern and western borders since partition in 1947. These and related border problems are to be dealt with at a conference of senior officials from both countries scheduled for 23 August, but it is unlikely that a solution satisfactory to both sides will be reached in the near future.

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