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20 January 1959

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CENTRAL

INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN



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20 JANUARY 1959

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Moscow trying to stampede West German Socialists into renewed pressure on Bonn and West to negotiate with USSR.

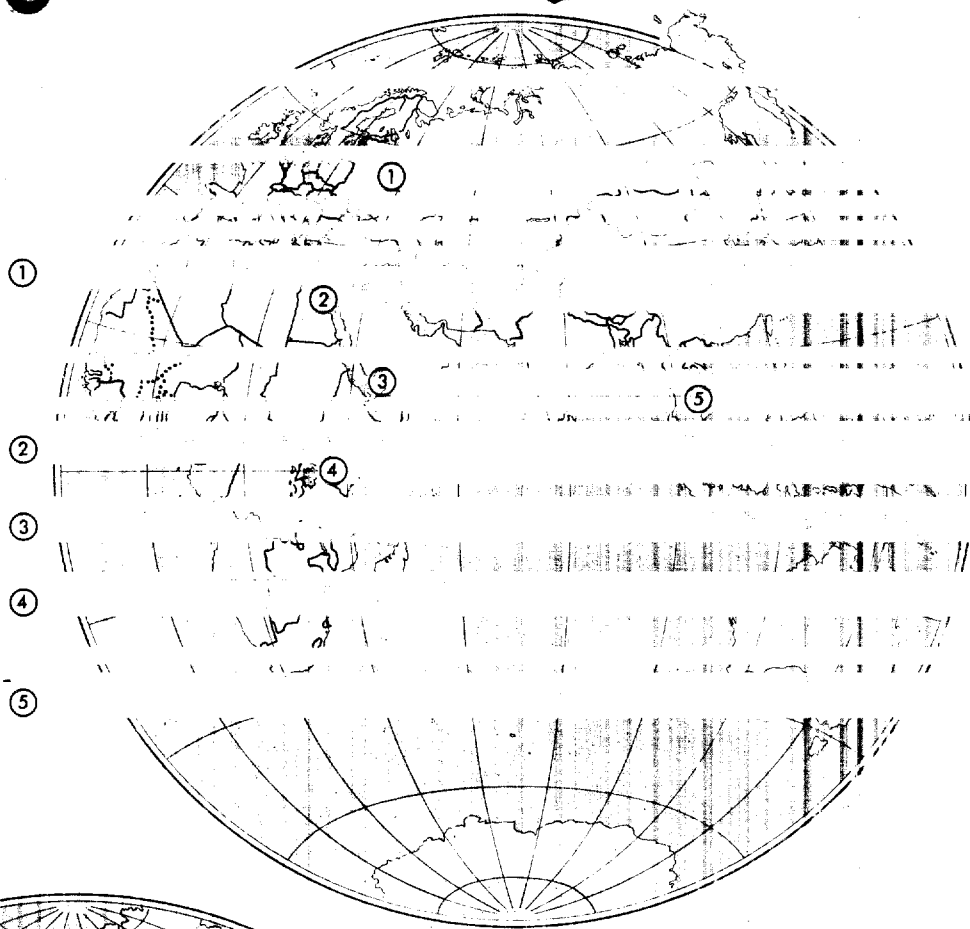
II. ASIA-AFRICA

Nasir seeks to muzzle Communist line at forthcoming Afro-Asian Youth Conference in Cairo.

Yemen - Badr obtaining Soviet wheat to reduce impact of US shipment.

Kenya - African nationalists plan agitation to mar visit by Queen Mother.

Cambodia - Sihanouk accuses Thailand of plotting his overthrow, implies complicity of US and South Vietnam.



III. THE WEST

6 Argentina - Strikes led by Peronistas and Communists reach serious proportions, add anti-American overtones.



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

20 January 1959

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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USSR: [Moscow is attempting to encourage West German opposition parties to make a major public issue of Chancellor Adenauer's rejection of any negotiations on a German peace treaty. Soviet propaganda attacks on Adenauer's alleged intransigence have been accompanied by private warnings to Social Democratic leaders by Soviet Ambassador Smirnov that the USSR's peace treaty offer is the "last chance" for reunification.] [redacted]
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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Afro-Asian Youth Conference: Nasir appears to be making a special effort to use the Afro-Asian Youth Conference scheduled for 2-8 February for purely UAR propaganda rather than allow pro-Communist elements to dominate. A seven-day UAR youth festival has been arranged to coincide with the conference, and its program seems to be designed to overshadow the conference in some respects. In the conference itself, behind-the-scenes contests seem likely to occur between African and Arab elements and among opposing groups within the Arab world. [redacted] (Page 3)

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Yemen: Crown Prince Badr is reported to have persuaded the Imam to accept 10,000 tons of Soviet wheat and blocked formal acceptance of 15,000 tons of American wheat until the deal with Moscow was approved. Yemeni

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officials, seeking to anticipate possible famine conditions, had previously estimated that 15,000 tons are the maximum which Yemen's port facilities can unload during the period when both US and Soviet shipments are to arrive. Badr, who is Yemeni foreign minister, pleaded illness for four days to delay the telegram authorizing Yemen's ambassador in Washington to sign a wheat agreement with the US., [redacted]

Kenya: [Some African political leaders in the British colony of Kenya are reported planning increased agitation and perhaps a civil disobedience campaign to coincide with the visit of Queen Mother Elizabeth, who begins a three-week tour of Kenya and Uganda on 5 February. British authorities have restricted African public meetings until after the visit.] [redacted]

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Cambodia: Premier Sihanouk in a recent speech has accused Thailand of plotting his overthrow, hinting that the US and South Vietnam support the Thai plot. This speech, which outlined the role in the plotting of former Cambodian royal counselor Sam Sary may foreshadow charges against the West and SEATO. [The Cambodian queen, who has much influence over her son Sihanouk, is said to feel that Cambodia's policies must be adjusted in light of Communist China's overwhelming power.] [redacted]

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III. THE WEST

Argentina: Peronistas and Communists are intensifying their strike efforts to undermine President Frondizi's policies and embarrass him during his visit to Washington which begins on 20 January. An anti-US note has been injected into the agitation. Serious as the strikes are, the military seems capable of controlling the situation. The state of siege ordered on 11 November is still in effect. [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR Says Germany Faces Last Chance for Reunification

[Moscow is attempting to encourage West German opposition parties to make a major public issue of Chancellor Adenauer's rejection of any negotiations on a German peace treaty. In addition to propaganda attacks on Adenauer's alleged intransigence, Soviet Ambassador Smirnov has again approached Social Democratic leaders, this time to warn that the Soviet peace treaty offer is the last chance for reunification and that the USSR and the United States will reach an agreement on the permanent division of Germany if the Bonn government maintains its present attitude.]

[Smirnov's overture was probably intended to exploit the Social Democrats' earlier public statements to the effect that the question of unification has reached a turning point. Thus far, however, they have abided by their understanding with the government not to bring this issue to public debate in the Bundestag. The SPD in past campaigns against Adenauer's foreign policy has been careful to differentiate its position from that of the USSR.]

[the vital requirement is to force Adenauer to abandon his "cold war" position. He indicated approval of major Social Democratic foreign policy positions, and said previous SPD suggestions, presumably on European security and disengagement, are interesting and negotiable. He denied any Soviet intention to impose an Ulbricht-type regime on a united Germany and said the USSR only desires a German state whose socio-economic system cannot generate a fascist political development. Smirnov also warned that if the Adenauer government continues to reject Soviet proposals as propaganda, the USSR may some day break diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic.]

[Chairman Ollenhauer got the impression that if the West agrees to a peace conference, the USSR would withdraw its Berlin "ultimatum" and that Moscow would favor negotiations on European security, based on the Rapacki Plan, before taking up]

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[the drafting of a peace treaty with German participation. Smirnov indicated his belief that the United States and France would be agreeable to this procedure but declined to discuss details until he learned the results of Mikoyan's talks in the United States. Smirnov reiterated the Soviet position that if the West advances no counterproposals, the USSR will settle the Berlin question unilaterally after the six-month grace period expires on 27 May.]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

UAR to Host Afro-Asian Youth Conference in February

Cairo is expected to entertain nearly 500 delegates from about 50 countries during the 2-8 February meeting of the Afro-Asian Youth Conference. The meeting, subsidized largely by the UAR Government, is being cosponsored by the UAR Higher Council for Youth Welfare and the permanent secretariat of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Council (AAPSC), whose headquarters are in Cairo.

The UAR apparently hopes to monopolize the sessions for its own propaganda purposes and has arranged for a concurrent "UAR youth festival," bringing some 2,500 Syrian youths to Cairo for the event. UAR efforts to dominate the conference will probably meet resistance from several pro-Western and neutralist delegations. The UAR itself will probably be wary of the Communist and pro-Communist delegations, remembering the efforts of such groups to control the full-scale Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference held in Cairo in December 1957.

The youth conference will be followed immediately by the annual council meeting of the AAPSC which, along with its permanent secretariat in Cairo, was formed to act as permanent liaison between "solidarity" movements in various countries.

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Kenya Africans May Launch Civil Disobedience Campaign
During Queen Mother's Visit

[The 14 elected African members of Kenya's Legislative Council, who are the principal leaders of African nationalism in this British crown colony, appear to be planning a campaign of increased agitation and perhaps civil disobedience during Queen Mother Elizabeth's visit to Kenya during February.]

[The African leaders have already announced their intention not to associate themselves "in any way" with the royal visit.

[they also plan to exploit the occasion by presenting the government with a grandiose petition incorporating the nationalists' demands. Such a petition would undoubtedly highlight long-standing demand for early round-table constitutional talks through which the nationalists hope to secure greater immediate representation in the government and assurances that Kenya will be permitted to evolve as an essentially African state.]

[In addition, the African leaders are said to be considering ordering a boycott of British goods, flouting the recently imposed ban on all African public meetings until after the visit, and staging public burnings of the passbooks still in use to control the movements of Africans belonging to tribes from which the Mau Mau organization recruited its followers. There is evidence, however, of some disagreement among the Africans as to the wisdom of employing such tactics at this time, and whatever measures are adopted are unlikely to be either complete or colony-wide.]

[Nevertheless, given the steady rise in political tension in Kenya in recent months, any stepped-up African agitation could provoke at least localized disorders. British authorities in Nairobi expressed the view last month that the nationalists would attempt a civil disobedience campaign early in 1959 and that they were prepared to meet any such contingency.]

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Anti-Western Campaign Developing in Cambodia

Cambodian Premier Sihanouk's recent denunciations of a "foreign plot" against his government may foreshadow open charges against the West and SEATO. In speeches in various provincial centers, Sihanouk has directly accused Thailand of a military conspiracy against him and has made thinly veiled accusations of American and South Vietnamese involvement. Cambodia's official press depicts the plot as aimed at destroying the country's independence and monarchical system, creating a government "exclusively favorable to the West," and undermining Cambodia's friendship for its "great neighbor," i. e., Communist China.

These developments suggest that a closer accommodation of Cambodia with the Sino-Soviet bloc may be in the offing. Strong criticism of the West preceded Sihanouk's initiation of political and economic relations with the bloc in 1956. Sihanouk, moreover, has often stated he would turn to the Communists for support in the event he felt threatened by the West. [His mother, influential Queen Kossamak, is said to have recommended recently that Cambodia adjust its foreign policies in recognition of Peiping's "overwhelming power."] [She reportedly feels that this would offset threats from Western-backed Thailand and South Vietnam.]

[Apparently undeterred by the knowledge that Sihanouk is now alerted, Vietnamese and Thai plotters against the Phnom Penh regime are proceeding with their preparations.]

"guerrilla warfare training must be carefully carried out with up-to-date weapons."

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III. THE WEST

Argentine Strikers Warned of Firm Measures

In an effort to combat the Peronista- and Communist-inspired agitation and strikes, the Argentine Government has threatened a general mobilization of labor under army control, a step possible under the state of siege in effect since 11 November. The agitation appears to be primarily politically motivated, and aimed at undermining President Frondizi and embarrassing him during his visit to Washington. Recent bitter attacks against the US-backed austerity and stabilization program initiated on 1 January have included the bombing of the USIS office at La Plata on 18 January.

The pro-Peron unions, supported by the Communists, called for a general strike on 17 January allegedly to protest the forceful ouster of sit-down strikers from a government-owned packing plant in Buenos Aires. Some 50 Peronista unions, including many important industrial unions, have supported the strike, cutting off newspapers, transport, and communication facilities in several provincial cities as well as Buenos Aires. Excluded are the railroads, which have been under army control since late November.

The anti-Peronista unions have declared a state of alert but are not expected to join the strike now. These unions controlled almost two thirds of the rank and file before the union elections, which have been under way for several months and have helped confuse the trade union situation.

The military endorses firm action against Communist and Peronista agitation and seems capable of controlling the situation.

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The Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs

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