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2 June 1959



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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2 JUNE 1959

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR seeks to use West German Socialists to discredit Bonn's position at Geneva.

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Sudan--Leaders of abortive 22 May coup arrested.

Kuwait agrees to weapons stockpile for emergency use by British troops.

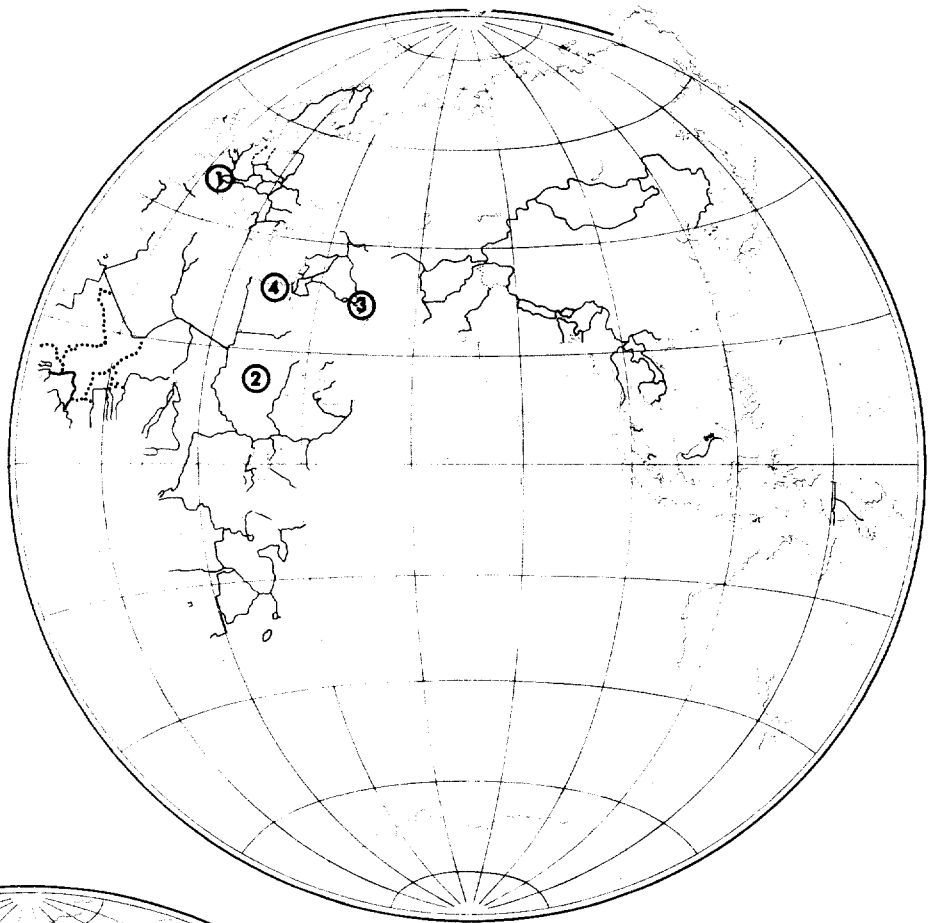
Jordanian attaché offers to work with UAR against Amman government.

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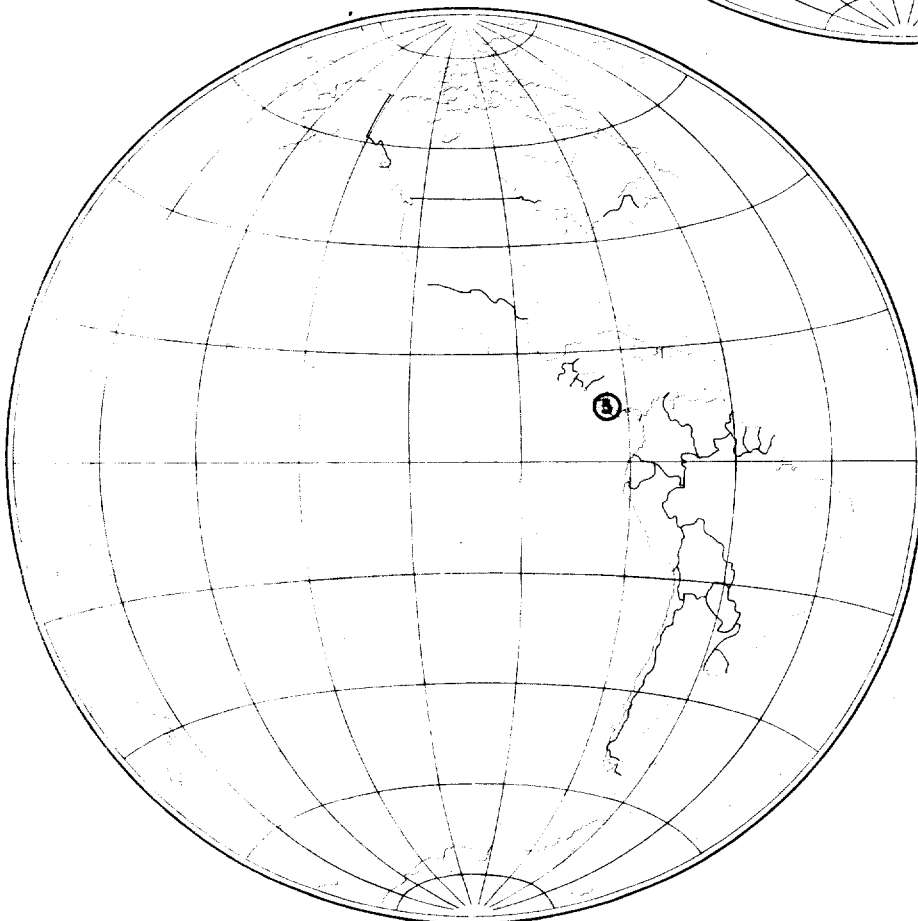
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III. THE WEST

⑤ Nicaragua--Unity of opposition elements prompts Somoza to declare state of siege.



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

2 June 1959

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR-Geneva: (Soviet officials are urging the West German Social Democrats (SPD) to push their plan for reunification and disengagement more actively as a means of "getting the conference off dead center." Foreign Minister Gromyko has endorsed the idea of an all-German committee, a feature of the SPD plan which calls for East-West parity in such a committee, as well as a neutral Central European zone, including Germany, free of foreign troops and nuclear weapons. Gromyko probably believes the plan can be exploited to embarrass the Bonn government and bring further pressure on the Western position. SPD party chiefs have instructed their representatives at Geneva to press the plan in discussions with the various delegations. East German propaganda is urging increased SPD activity at Geneva.)

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Sudan: Brigadiers Shannan and Abdullah, the two senior army officers who forced their way into the Supreme Council in March and were the leading personalities behind the abortive coup on 22 May, have been arrested along with a number of junior officers. This action would appear to indicate that General Abboud and his supporters are more determined and more confident of their strength than before the army commanders' conference held late last week. Clashes between loyal and dissident troops are still possible, however.

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Kuwait-UK: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Kuwait
 will permit Britain to stockpile tanks as well as other military equipment for use by British troops who would be brought in during an emergency. This arrangement is intended to assure timely and effective assistance against any possible military threat from Iraq.) [REDACTED]

no
 Jordan: Colonel Salih Shara, Jordanian military attaché in West Germany and brother of Jordan's recently arrested army chief of staff, has approached UAR representatives in Bonn with proposals for political action against the Jordanian Government, according to a UAR message on 22 May. None of the proposals is urgent, the message said. Colonel Shara was "exiled" to Bonn last winter because of implication in an antiregime conspiracy uncovered in June 1958. (TOP SECRET EIDER) (Page 4)

III. THE WEST

no
 Nicaragua: President Somoza's imposition on 30 May of a modified state of siege is designed to cope with current invasion attempts and with a general strike threatened, in an unusual show of unity, by opposition groups ranging from Communists to wealthy landowners. [REDACTED]

OK
some changes
 A Costa Rican airplane, said to be carrying 50 to 60 revolutionaries to Nicaragua, was shot down by the Nicaraguan air force on 1 June. The Costa Rican Government reportedly has seized the airlines employed for this flight in an effort to put an end to air incursions into Nicaragua from Costa Rica. [REDACTED]
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DAILY BRIEF

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[REDACTED]

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

[REDACTED]

USSR Seeks to Capitalize on West German Social Democratic Unification Plan

(Soviet and East German officials are urging the West German Social Democrats (SPD) to push their plan for reunification and disengagement more actively as a means of breaking the deadlock at Geneva. In meetings on 20 and 24 May Soviet Ambassador to West Germany Smirnov expressed the belief that the plan could serve as a means of getting the conference "off dead center" and declared that the SPD press should be mobilized to give the plan international publicity.)

(Soviet leaders probably believe that the idea of an all-German committee with equal representation as well as other elements of the SPD plan--prohibition of nuclear weapons and withdrawal of foreign troops from a zone in Central Europe including Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary and withdrawal of these states from NATO and the Warsaw Pact--can be exploited to embarrass the Bonn government and bring further pressure on the Western position.)

(Foreign Minister Gromyko on 18 May endorsed the idea of an all-German committee and on 25 May suggested a four-power declaration favoring talks by the two German states on reunification: [REDACTED])

(An East German party (SED) propaganda directive of 26 May called for popularization of Gromyko's proposal of the preceding day for all-German negotiations on reunification and indicated that the party will seek to get the SPD to expound and publicize its plan at Geneva.) [REDACTED]

(Since the plan was first formulated in March, the SPD has consistently rejected joint activity with the SED in promoting it. The SPD appears, however, to have sounded out East German reactions through intermediaries in Geneva. Prior to the conference Deputy Chairman Wehner, who drafted the plan, instructed)

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

(SPD press representatives in Geneva to develop contacts with bloc delegations. A Free Democratic party representative in Geneva held talks with the East Germans during the week of 11-15 May and informed Wehner of the results. Wehner may be attempting to establish the SPD plan as the basis for future all German discussions hoping to force Bonn into discussing a peace treaty and military disengagement prior to unification.)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

~~SECRET~~ [Redacted]

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Sudanese Internal Situation

The Abboud government, after a period of investigation and cautious maneuvering, has undertaken strong measures against the perpetrators of the 22 May coup attempt. Former Supreme Council member Brigadier Erwa, whom Abboud sent to investigate the dissident movement in the Eastern Command, returned to Khartoum with his report on 28 May. On 29 May a meeting of army commanders and Supreme Council members took place in Khartoum.

[redacted] nine officers of the Eastern Command had been arrested, including the two in charge of the movement of troops toward Khartoum on 22 May. Several leaders of the junior officers' movement in the Northern Command and in the Khartoum area had previously been placed in custody. The government has announced that these officers--15 in all--are shortly to be sent to detention camps in the southern Sudan)

Brigadiers Shannan and Abdullah, members of the Supreme Military Council and the leading personalities behind the coup attempt, are known to have been placed under arrest early in the morning of 1 June. Thus, while there is still some possibility of a clash between dissident and loyal military units, it appears that Abboud and his supporters have successfully reasserted their authority.

This period of military jousting has not prevented the Abboud government from forceful action against Sudanese Communists, who apparently tried to take advantage of the situation to step up their activities. At least 24 prominent Communists and Communist-front leaders have been arrested and sent to a detention camp in the southern Sudan. [redacted]

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Developments in Jordan

The Jordanian military attaché in West Germany, Colonel Salih Shara, who is a brother of Jordan's recently arrested army chief of staff, has approached UAR representatives in Bonn with proposals for political action against the Jordanian Government, according to a UAR message from Bonn on 22 May. The Egyptians instructed Shara to submit his proposals, none of which required urgent implementation, in writing.

Colonel Shara was implicated in the antiregime conspiracy uncovered in June 1958, but Jordanian authorities were hesitant to take action against him because of the favor his brother enjoyed with Premier Rifai. The problem was finally met by dispatching Colonel Shara to Bonn last winter. Now that the Bedouin officer faction has succeeded in bringing about the resignation of Premier Rifai and the arrest of Major General Sadiq Shara, Colonel Shara's position has probably become untenable. His approach to UAR authorities may well be preliminary to defection to join the other antimonarchical Jordanian officers and officials in exile in the UAR.

[]
Following the installation of the Majalli cabinet in Jordan, Cairo advised Damascus on 9 May that "it had been decided not to carry out any action in Jordan at present." The UAR presumably remains interested, however, in supporting potential opposition groups in Jordan. []

[]
(Rumors continue in Amman, meanwhile, of further retirements of army officers including some Christians who are not acceptable to the Bedouin officer clique. On the other hand, a new chief of staff has not yet been appointed, and it is possible that the most notorious Bedouin intriguer, Colonel Abdulla Majalli, may be neutralized by appointment as military attaché in London. Plans to transfer all political intelligence functions to the police may be an indication that the government is seeking to prevent complete domination by the army.) []

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III. THE WEST

Opposition to Somoza Government is Widespread

Efforts by Nicaraguan President Luis Somoza to provide a transition period of increasing political freedom following his father's long dictatorship have not satisfied the many groups which oppose him and his brother, National Guard commandant General Anastasio Somoza, Jr. A recently formed civic action association representing widely disparate economic and political groups inside the country threatened on 29 May to call a general strike to press demands for concessions by the government. Revolutionary action was reportedly being planned at the same time by non-Communist groups, [REDACTED]

Communist-dominated Nicaraguan revolutionary groups in Cuba and Central America say they have been excluded from the Conservative plans, which they fear will succeed before they are ready to act, leaving them with no stake in the revolution. However, the leading non-Communist revolutionary leader, Enrique Lacayo Farfan, is said recently to have urged unity with the Communist exiles, and several Communists are influential in the civic action association, which has the support of the opposition political union led by the Conservative party.

President Somoza is evidently bitter over the repudiation of his policies and says he now realizes the truth of his father's frequent warning that "you can't feed too much meat to a baby." His decision to declare a state of siege and to arrest numerous opposition leaders was taken at the urging of military and other advisers who have feared that Luis' moderation posed a threat to their control over the government. [REDACTED]

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