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7 August 1959

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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7 AUGUST 1959

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Laos--Military lull continues; Hanoi calls Laotian letter to Hammarskjold 'provocative and dangerous.'

India--Kerala tension eases as federal officials take over from Communist regime.

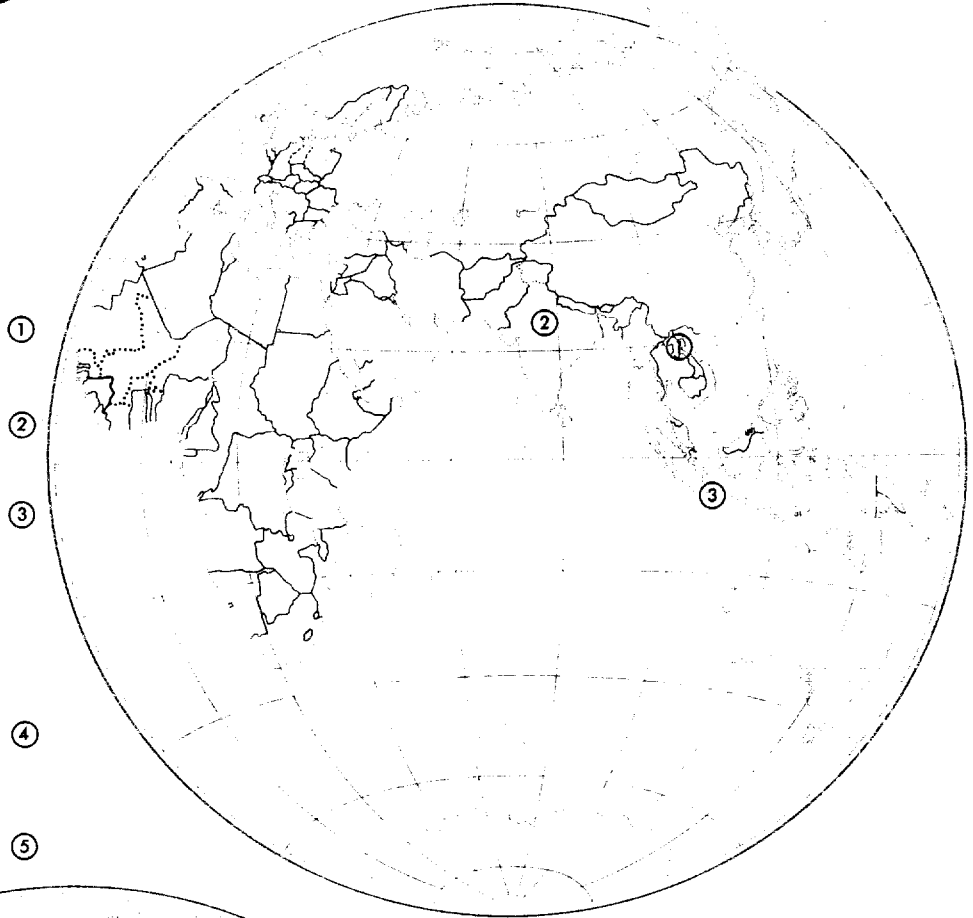
Indonesia--Nasution assigning army officers to government ministries.



III. THE WEST

Virulence of Trinidad premier's campaign against US Chaguaramas naval base is weakening London's advocacy of tripartite review of 1941 bases agreement.

Guatemala--Recriminations between Ydigoras and leftists may mark end of President's attempts to bridge rift between right and left.



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7 August 1959

**DAILY BRIEF****I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC**  

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**II. ASIA-AFRICA**

Laos: The lull in the fighting in Laos over the past three days apparently continues. The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has called Laos' recent letter to the UN secretary general and the Laotian foreign minister's reported reference to possible recourse to SEATO "provocative and dangerous moves."

India: Tension in Kerala State has declined rapidly following the dismissal of the Communist government. Representatives of the central government are setting up new administrative machinery for the period of President's Rule and making preparations for the state elections, which are likely to be held within six months but are not yet scheduled. Political parties are holding meetings to discuss election plans, but probably will need several weeks to work out party alliances and platforms. Communist party leaders have attacked Nehru in Parliament as a "dirty murderer of democracy," but have kept their street demonstrations nonviolent.

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Indonesia: Defense Minister Nasution is apparently already carrying out his plan to expand military influence in Indonesian government departments. [redacted]

[redacted]  
the former first assistant to Nasution in his capacity as army chief has been assigned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry and that "this measure was taken in view of present requirements for several army personnel in government ministries and democratic organizations." Military officers also have a key role in the investigative body recently established by the cabinet to "supervise the state apparatus." [redacted]

### III. THE WEST

Britain - West Indies: [The virulence of the campaign by Trinidad's anti-US Premier Eric Williams to force the United States to give up its naval base at Chaguaramas is causing London to reconsider its position favoring a conference to review the US-UK 1941 Caribbean bases agreement. Williams appears to be gaining local support for his stand, however, and might carry out his threat of calling elections on the Chaguaramas issue.] [redacted] (Page 1)

Guatemala: Political tensions remain dangerously high. Bitter public recriminations between President Ydigoras and the leader of the leftist non-Communist Revolutionary party (PR) appear to mark the end of Ydigoras' policy of attempting to bridge the deep political rift between the left and the right. Extreme rightists, alarmed at the PR's burgeoning popular strength, are pressing Ydigoras to crack down on the party, and some are reported to be considering attempting to overthrow the government if Ydigoras does not take sufficiently strong measures against the PR. [redacted] (Page 2)

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DAILY BRIEF

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## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

## II. ASIA-AFRICA

## III. THE WEST

Britain Reconsidering Stand for Caribbean Bases Conference

[Trinidad's Premier Eric Williams' increasingly violent campaign to force the United States to give up its naval base at Chaguaramas is leading British Foreign and Colonial Office officials to reconsider Britain's position favoring a tripartite conference of the United States, Britain, and the West Indies Federation to review the US-UK 1941 Caribbean bases agreement.]

[London, which previously sought to placate Williams because he might eventually become the federal prime minister, now apparently sees little hope of moderating his position that "either I break Chaguaramas or Chaguaramas breaks me." In an effort to checkmate him, the Colonial Office is contemplating calling West Indian leaders including Williams to London to "read him the riot act," according to the American Embassy in London.]

[Williams' obsession with the issue and his most recent tactic of linking it with alleged US-UK exploitation of West Indian racial problems have gained him additional local support. The influential Torchlight, a Grenada newspaper, for instance, has reversed its policy of defending the US position on Chaguaramas. Trinidad's opposition party, which is pro-US, is also showing increasing signs of disintegration.]

[In view of such support and faced with a British effort to undermine him, Williams may carry out his threat to call an election on the base question. The American consul general in Port of Spain fears that an election in the immediate future would strengthen Williams' position not only in Trinidad but in the federation as a whole.]

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### Guatemalan Political Tension Remains High

Guatemalan President Ydigoras appears to have abandoned his attempt to bridge the deep political rift between the left and the right. The President has precipitated a bitter public quarrel with Mario Mendez Montenegro, leader of the leftist non-Communist Revolutionary party (PR), in an apparent effort to undermine Mendez within his own party and possibly to provoke him into violent action that would justify strong government moves against his party.

The PR's rapidly growing political strength--as demonstrated in the Guatemala City election victory on 5 July and an earlier provincial by-election--indicates that it is likely to be the strongest single party in the congressional elections late this year. This has alarmed Guatemalan rightists who have long been pressing Ydigoras to take strong measures against the party--even to outlawing it--"before it is too late." There is strong evidence that the bombings in the capital last month were initiated by some of Ydigoras' own followers who, by blaming the bombings on the PR, hoped to justify annulment of the PR municipal election victory. Subsequent bombings were probably perpetrated by a rival group in an attempt to force a showdown between Ydigoras and the PR. An extreme rightist group is reported  to be considering plans to oust Ydigoras if the President does not take sufficiently strong measures against the PR.

Mario Mendez Montenegro has proven a resourceful, aggressive leader of the leftist forces and was primarily responsible for purging his party of Communists and pro-Communists. To the extent that Ydigoras' tactics weaken Mendez' position as PR leader, they will strengthen those of Mendez' rivals among the leftists who are disposed to work with the Communists.

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Scientific Adviser to the President

Director of the Budget

Office of Defense and Civilian Mobilization

Special Assistant for Security Operations Coordination

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The Secretary of State

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The Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs

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Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

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Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army

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