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17 March 1960

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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17 MARCH 1960

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Peiping protests reception of Chinese Nationalist representatives by Guinea's President.

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Jordan--Husayn may announce plebiscite for West Bank area; confident that inhabitants would endorse status quo.

Turkey's ruling party asks foreign firms in Istanbul for contributions.

Iran to propose joint command structure for CENTO with Shah as commander in chief.

Communists reported holding key advisory positions in Guinea's air and sea transport.

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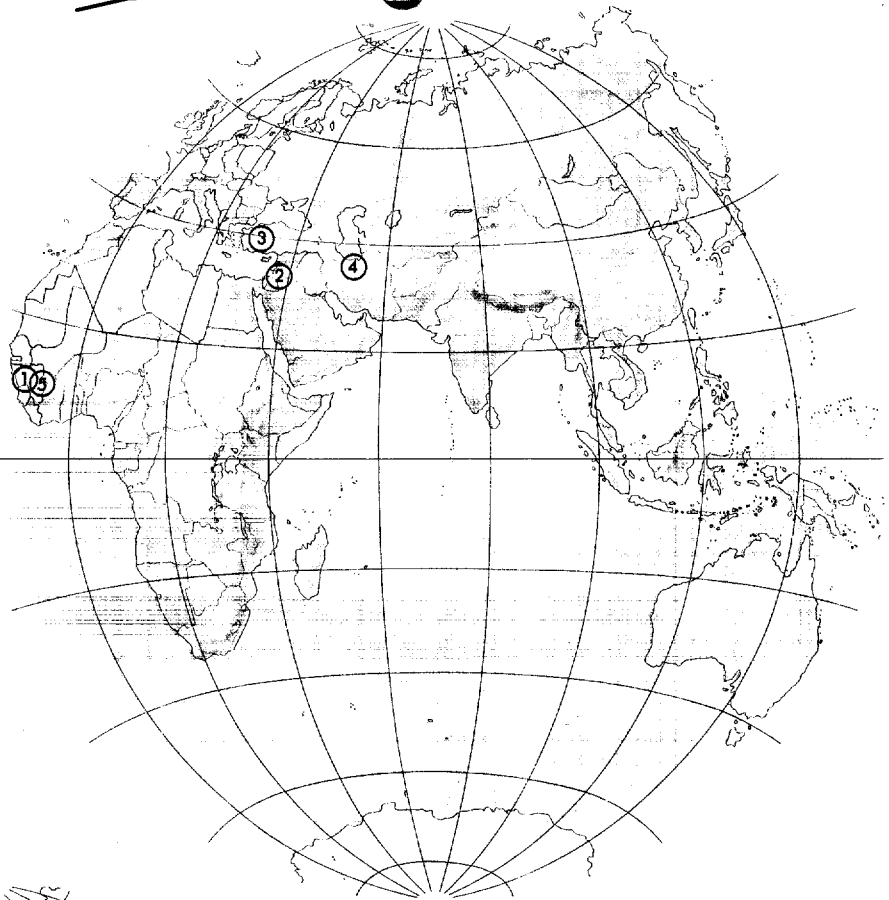
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**III. THE WEST**

⑥ Castro government using its diplomatic posts to distribute anti-American literature.

⑦ Argentina declares "situation of serious emergency" following increase in terrorist bombings.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

17 March 1960

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

SIRAB

OK

*Communist China - Guinea: Communist China has strongly protested an audience given Chinese Nationalist representatives recently by Guinea's President Touré and has threatened that any recurrence would result in a severance of relations with Conakry. This threat reflects Peiping's apprehension that the concept of "two Chinas" is gaining ground among the emergent African nations where the Communists are actively competing with the Nationalists for recognition. [redacted]

[redacted] (Page 1)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

4/10

Jordan-UAR-Iraq: King Husayn plans shortly to announce his willingness to conduct a plebiscite in Jordan's West Bank area, formerly part of Palestine. The inhabitants are to be allowed the choice of a separate Palestinian state, affiliation with another Arab state, or continued association with Jordan. Husayn, who is reacting to UAR and Iraqi pressures for a separate Palestine "entity," is obviously confident that such a plebiscite would endorse the status quo. [redacted] (Page 2)

OK

Turkey-US: Several US and other foreign firms in Istanbul have been asked to contribute funds to Turkey's ruling Democratic party, apparently in preparation for the anticipated national elections later this year. From the strong manner in which the requests were made, the firms understood that failure to contribute could lead to increased operating difficulties. [redacted] (Page 3)

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OK
Iran: [The government intends to propose, possibly during scheduled CENTO meetings in late March or in late April, that a joint command structure be established for CENTO with the Shah as commander in chief. Such a proposal may be favored by some of the other full members of the pact, since it would give the Shah additional prestige and reduce his doubts about the value of pact membership to Iran.] [redacted]
 (Page 4)

OK
Guinea: [Communists are now reported to hold key advisory positions in Guinea's air and sea transport. A team of Soviet specialists, replacing French port personnel, has recently been assigned to the Conakry port authority to deal with immigration, customs, and storage problems. Czechs have for some time been training local customs and immigration personnel as well as serving in the Conakry airport traffic control tower.] [redacted]
 [redacted] (Page 5)

III. THE WEST

NO
Cuba: The Castro government is using its diplomatic posts to distribute anti-American propaganda. The posts are circulating notes to other diplomatic missions, as well as public handouts, in an attempt to arouse sentiment against alleged US actions toward Cuba. [redacted] (Page 6)

OK
Argentina: A presidential decree effective 16 March declared a "situation of serious emergency" and ordered that terrorists and saboteurs be tried in military courts. The government has arrested a number of Peronista leaders as a result of terrorists bombings which it believes to be part of a revolutionary plot to prevent the 27 March congressional elections. [redacted]
 (Page 7)

IV. WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS

NO
 A. [No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against the continental US or its possessions in the immediate future.] [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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- B. [No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action against US forces abroad, US allies, or areas peripheral to the Orbit in the immediate future.]
- C. [The following developments are susceptible of direct exploitation by Soviet/Communist hostile action which could jeopardize the security of the US in the immediate future: None.]

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Peiping Protests Guinea's Reception of Chinese Nationalist Officials

Guinea, the first nation in tropical Africa to recognize Communist China, received a harsh Chinese note threatening to break diplomatic ties if Chinese Nationalist officials are again given official reception. The note, shown the US ambassador on President Touré's authority, berated both the Guinean leader and his government for an audience which Touré granted a Chinese Nationalist economic delegation on 30 January. Touré does not plan to reply until the Chinese Communist ambassador, who was appointed on 4 March, arrives.

Peiping's willingness to threaten a break in relations shows its apprehension that the concept of "two Chinas" may be gaining ground among the emergent African nations where Communist and Nationalist China are in active competition for recognition. A January agreement to exchange diplomatic envoys between Taipei and the newly independent Cameroun Republic undoubtedly increased Peiping's concern.

Members of the Chinese Nationalist mission, which was headed by Minister of Economic Affairs Yang Chi-tseng, were agreeably surprised at the friendliness of the reception given them in Guinea. Apparently in an effort to demonstrate to the West that Guinea will follow its policy of positive neutrality, President Touré expressed Guinea's willingness to cooperate with Nationalist China. On this, as on numerous previous occasions, Touré referred to Guinea's policy of cooperating with all friendly states.

The Chinese Nationalists' two-month African tour, intended to expand relations, also covered Cameroun, Nigeria, Togo, Ghana, Tunisia, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Jordan May Offer Plebiscite to West Jordan

[King Husayn has said that he will soon announce his willingness to conduct a plebiscite in Jordan's West Bank region, formerly part of Palestine. The inhabitants could choose a separate Palestine state, affiliation with another Arab state, or continued association with Jordan. The King said that a day or two after his projected announcement, a "large and representative" assembly of people from the West Bank would be convened in Jerusalem. Husayn asserted that if this assembly elects to have a plebiscite, he would call on the Arab League, and possibly the UN, to conduct and supervise it.]

[King Husayn has been considering a West Bank plebiscite for some time as a means of undercutting UAR and Iraqi pressures for a separate Palestine "entity" or state, which he fears would jeopardize Jordanian control of the West Bank and encourage separatist tendencies among the Palestinian two thirds of Jordan's population. Jordan annexed the West Bank in 1950, following the Arab-Israeli war]

[Earlier this month, Husayn was inclined to defer his plans for a plebiscite for a month or so. Another Arab League meeting on the Palestine issue, scheduled for 31 March, may have induced the King to update consideration of a plebiscite in hopes that the move would support Jordan's opposition to any separate Palestine "entity." Husayn appears overly confident that a free plebiscite would endorse the status quo for the West Bank, but his regime probably is capable of controlling the outcome if it is deemed necessary. West Jordanians in general may well prefer their present status as Jordanian citizens to the uncertainties of political independence at this time.]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Turkey

American and other foreign firms in Turkey have recently been approached for financial contributions to the Democratic party, which has ruled the country since 1950. Most of the American firms have been informed that 10,000 Turkish lira--about \$15,000---is expected from each. The money apparently is to help meet the party's expenses during the national electoral campaign anticipated later this year by many political observers.

Hints for financial support were used with little effect during the 1957 campaign. The present requests were strong enough, however, that the foreign firms inferred noncompliance would bring reprisals such as reduction in bank credit and curtailment of import licenses. Most American firms are reported resigned to making the contributions.

Once the attempt becomes known, the opposition in Turkey can be expected to denounce it. In addition, acquiescence by the companies--particularly American--would give the opposition further "evidence" that the United States is backing the Menderes regime. Meanwhile, criticism by newspapers in the West probably would lead to new claims from Ankara that the Western--particularly American--press is again demonstrating its basic hostility to the Turkish Government.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Iranian Delegation to Propose Shah as CENTO Commander
In Chief at Forthcoming Pact Meetings

[Iran's intention to propose formally that a joint CENTO command structure be established with the Shah as commander in chief may be favored by some members of the pact, particularly Turkey and Pakistan, as a means of convincing the Shah that pact membership is of value to Iran. Turkish President Bayar and Pakistani President Ayub favor such a command structure and may have given assurances of support during their private discussions with the Shah in late February.]

*Not
Releasable*

[The Shah, who believes that Iran has been treated as a junior member of the pact because it is the only member which does not belong to either NATO or SEATO, is seeking the position of commander in chief for the additional prestige involved.]

[The proposal, which possibly will be made during scheduled CENTO meetings in late March or in late April, will include a provision for a deputy commander from a member country to exercise actual command and take instructions from the pact's Permanent Military Deputies Group in Ankara. Iran will request that the peacetime headquarters of the joint command be located in Tehran with the understanding that it would move to Shiraz in southern Iran during wartime.]

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~~SECRET~~New Bloc Gain in Guinea Reported:

[Soviet specialists were assigned on 15 March as "technical and administrative advisers" to the authority which ministers the port facilities in Conakry, Guinea's capital, These advisers, who are said to be replacements for remaining French port personnel, will reportedly be concerned with immigration, customs, lighterage, storage, and transit problems.]

[Penetration of the administrative apparatus controlling Guinea's only significant seaport would give the bloc a virtual monopoly over key advisory positions connected with Guinea's sea and air transportation facilities. Since at least mid-1959 Czech personnel have been assigned to Guinea's customs and immigration service--some in a training capacity--while other Czech nationals have been handling the control tower at the Conakry airport. Prague recently initiated steps toward early establishment of a regular weekly air service to Conakry.]

[Bloc technicians and advisers have been arriving regularly in Conakry since shortly after Guinea became independent in October 1958. Late last month the American Embassy in Conakry estimated that about 100 such personnel from bloc countries were residing in Guinea.]

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III. THE WEST

Cuban Efforts to Stimulate Anti-US Opinion Abroad

[Diplomatic posts of the Cuban Government are circulating notes to other diplomatic missions, as well as public handouts, in an attempt to arouse sentiment against alleged US actions toward Cuba.] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] propaganda is sent regularly to Cuban missions in Europe and Latin America and possibly elsewhere. Cuban diplomats have also been instructed to air mail to Havana daily all local press comment on Cuba. [REDACTED]

Hundreds of thousands of copies of a booklet viciously attacking US "acquiescence" in an October 1959 "bombing attack" on Havana have been circulated abroad. The proliferation of Cuban diplomatic posts under Castro, particularly in neutralist countries, is expanding the audience for such propaganda. However, the Cuban tactics may prove counterproductive in many countries. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Argentina Decrees Emergency Measures to Counter Terrorism

In view of the terrorist bombings, which the Argentine Government considers part of a revolutionary plot to prevent the 27 March congressional elections, President Frondizi issued a decree effective 16 March declaring a "situation of serious emergency" and providing for the trial of terrorists in military courts. Provincial police are also under military orders during the emergency. The armed forces, whose personnel have been among the targets of the numerous bombings over the past year, suggested declaring martial law. However, this was rejected by Frondizi, who further specified that application of the decree was limited to terrorism and sabotage and excluded other normal political or labor activities.

Troops are guarding public utilities which have been terrorist targets over the past year, and a number of Peronistas have been arrested. Earlier in the year Peronista leaders reportedly threatened large-scale sabotage and general strikes, and there have been reports of joint Peronista-Communist plotting against the government.

Frondizi, prodded by the armed forces, requested the provincial electoral courts to bar Peronista and Communist candidates from the elections, in face of the defiant boasting of Justicialista leaders that their party is synonymous with the outlawed Peronista party and "recognizes the same chief." Without awaiting the court decisions, the Peronistas and Communists decided to urge a blank vote to underscore rejection of Frondizi's policies. The government insists that the elections will be held on schedule.

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Scientific Adviser to the President
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