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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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12 MAY 1960

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Soviet Premier Khrushchev likely to visit Mexico after Mexican President's trip to USSR. (1)

Moscow offers Ethiopia arms and military equipment. (2)

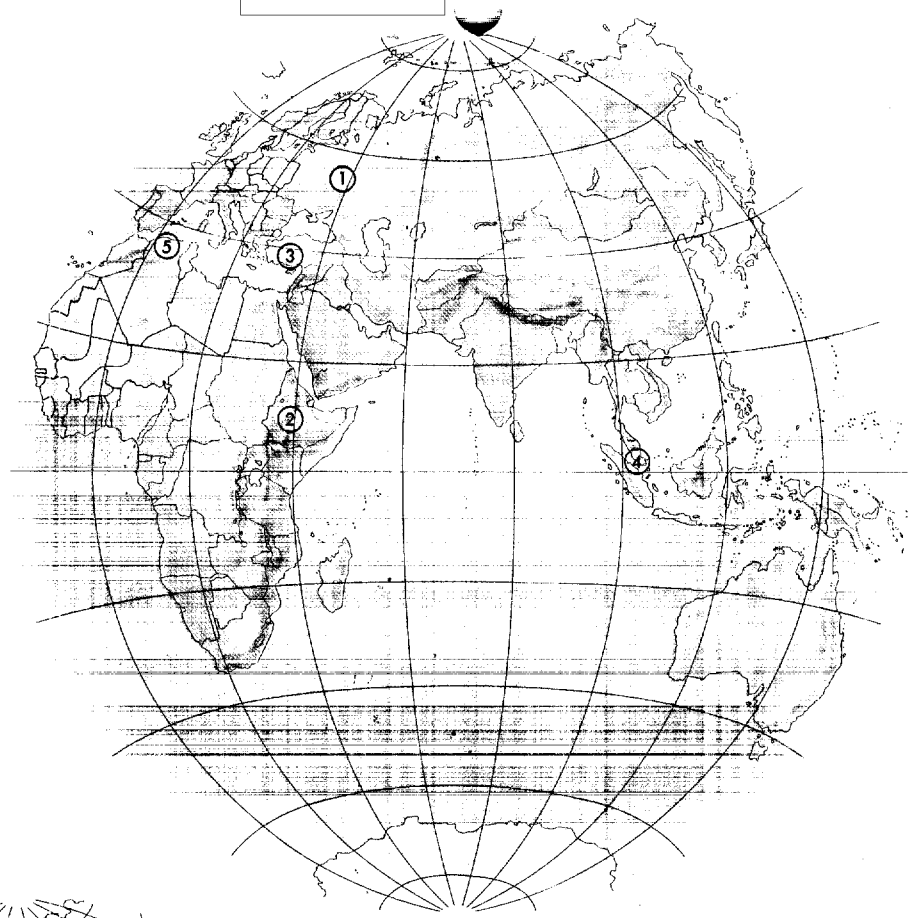
II. ASIA-AFRICA

Turkey remains quiet as opposition party waits to see extent of government's repressive measures. (3)

Singapore government intent upon permitting establishment of permanent Soviet trade office; UK and Malaya opposed and may force showdown with Singapore. (4)

III. THE WEST

French supervisor of forthcoming Algerian cantonal elections says recent contacts with rebels now broken off and FLN apparently has decided on "all-out war." (5)



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

12 May 1960

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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USSR-Mexico: Soviet First Deputy Premier Mikoyan made it clear to a Mexican parliamentary delegation in Moscow that, after Mexican President Lopez Mateos' trip to the USSR, Khrushchev would "without any doubt" visit Mexico, [redacted] Lopez Mateos accepted in principle the invitation to visit the Soviet Union extended to him by Mikoyan on the occasion of the opening of the Soviet exhibit in Mexico City last November, but no date for the trip has been announced. Khrushchev may hope to combine a visit to Mexico with a trip to several other Latin American countries. [redacted]

NO

USSR-Ethiopia: Moscow offered last month to provide Ethiopia with arms and military equipment, [redacted] but the Emperor is reluctant to accept until he has first discussed the prospect of additional American military aid with US embassy officials. A high-ranking Soviet military delegation, which recently represented the USSR at a military ceremony in Addis Ababa, is still in the country. [redacted] (Page 1)

NO

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Turkey: Turkey remains quiet, with the opposition Republic People's party (RPP) waiting to see how far the government will go in carrying out repressive measures. The RPP considers the next two weeks as most critical, and RPP leader Inonu has given "firm instructions" that there should be no demonstrations or riots until local reactions become clear. The RPP is "particularly worried" about

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possible demonstrations in eastern Turkey as news of the Ankara and Istanbul incidents reaches there. RPP spokesmen have expressed the hope of some unofficial sign of American disapproval of the government's actions. A top-level RPP spokesman has denied that any feelers have been put out for a meeting between Prime Minister Menderes and Inonu, and both sides seem too far apart at present to make such a meeting useful.

Singapore: The Singapore government apparently is intent on permitting a Soviet trade official, who has been granted a six-month entry permit, to establish a permanent Soviet trade office. The local minister of finance hopes this concession will encourage Soviet assistance to Singapore, possibly including the construction of a large steel complex. Malaya and the United Kingdom are disturbed over these developments and may force a showdown at the 19 May meeting of the Singapore Internal Security Council, the regulatory body consisting of representatives from Singapore, Malaya, and the UK and responsible for internal security decisions. (Page 2)

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III. THE WEST

France-Algeria: Lucien Neuwirth, stanch Gaullist charged with supervising the 29 May cantonal elections in Algeria, now is "very gloomy" in contrast with his earlier optimism on the Algerian problem. He charges that military and civilian authorities in Algeria are undermining the government's policies and taking an uncooperative and negative attitude toward the elections. He said that recent contacts with the rebels have been broken off and that the FLN seems to have decided on "all-out war." Neuwirth said also that there definitely would be a general protest strike in Algiers on 13 May, including a mass meeting by European settlers in protest against government policy. (Page 4)

NO

IV. WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the United States Intelligence Board concludes that:

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

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.

NO

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.

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Moscow Offers Arms to Ethiopia

The Soviet Union is reliably reported to have recently offered the Ethiopian Government arms and military equipment. Moscow apparently is anxious to pursue the initial gains resulting from its $100,000,000 economic aid agreement with Addis Ababa signed last July. The Soviet arms offer reportedly includes tanks and is designed to re-equip the entire Ethiopian Army as well as the Imperial Bodyguard and the police.

A high-ranking Soviet military delegation is in Ethiopia to attend the recent ceremonies commemorating the 25th anniversary of the military school at Addis Ababa. The Soviet army general heading the delegation is a cavalry and mountain-warfare expert who accompanied Haile Selassie on his tour of Soviet military installations during the Emperor's visit to the USSR last summer. The delegation includes an air force major general.

Emperor Haile Selassie would hesitate to accept sizable quantities of military equipment from Moscow because of his reluctance to have an influx of instructors from the USSR and to become dependent on the bloc for ammunition and spare parts. Apparently using this offer to obtain more American arms, he pressed the American ambassador on 11 May for stepped-up military aid deliveries.

The Emperor, recently expressed his "profound disillusionment with the United States, from which he has asked in vain for eight years for aid which Ethiopia needs so badly." However, the Ethiopians were apparently "weary" of the Soviet Union, which had forced the invitation for the military delegation.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Singapore Government Encouraging Soviet Trade Activities

The leftist People's Action party (PAP) government of Singapore seems intent on permitting a Soviet official who has been granted a six-month entry permit to establish a trade office on this strategic island. Singapore Finance Minister Goh Keng Swee is planning to admit only the one official now, but expects that arrangements will have to be made later for an office staff. He says the main purpose of these moves is to sell more rubber, but that he hopes to interest the USSR in setting up factories in Singapore, perhaps including a large steel complex.

The British are disturbed over Singapore's unilateral approval of the official's entry permit and intend to raise the issue at the 19 May meeting of the Singapore Internal Security Council (SISC), the regulatory body responsible for decisions on internal security, consisting of one representative from Malaya, three from Singapore, and three from the UK. The British are planning to take the position that the official must not extend his stay, must not be permitted a staff, and must have no privileged communications.

While the UK has the ultimate right to force Singapore to abide by SISC decisions, it may find it politically difficult to do so. If, during the next few months, the British are faced with additional unilateral actions, such as the extension of the official's visa or enlargement of the trade office, they may be unwilling to risk alienating the PAP government, which they feel is the best that can be obtained under present political conditions in Singapore.

Malaya can be expected to take a considerably stronger position and reportedly is prepared to take such retaliatory

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action as closing the causeway connecting Singapore with the mainland.]

[Singapore's responsiveness to Soviet overtures and its failure to keep Malaya fully informed of these developments have markedly increased Kuala Lumpur's distrust of the Chinese-dominated government of Singapore. The PAP government's hopes of establishing a limited common market arrangement are likely to be indefinitely postponed. The British Commission in Singapore recently told local officials that granting the Soviet official an entry permit would in itself mean the end of Singapore's hopes for merger with Malaya.]

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III. THE WEST

[redacted]

French Election Supervisor Describes Outlook in Algeria As "Very Gloomy"

[UNR party whip Lucien Neuwirth, a stanch Gaullist appointed by Premier Debré to supervise the 29 May cantonal elections in Algeria, reports that the situation there is "very gloomy." Two weeks earlier he had expressed considerable optimism on chances for a settlement.]

[Following his report to De Gaulle on his recent visit to Algeria, Neuwirth told US embassy officials in Paris that military and civilian authorities in Algeria are undermining government policies and taking an uncooperative and negative attitude toward the elections. He was confident there would be "a number" of representative candidates, but he feared that participation of the Moslem electorate would be very low.]

[Paris at one time hoped that these elections would produce Moslem spokesmen who, with representatives chosen in previous elections, would be able to negotiate a settlement. More recently, however, the government has tended to play down the significance of the elections, and the speaker of the assembly is reported to have said it was a mistake to schedule them.]

[Neuwirth told embassy officials also that secret contacts with the Algerian rebels, which he had considered "hopeful," had been broken off five days previously, and that now it appeared that the FLN had decided on "all-out war." He previously said that the cantonal elections might be postponed if "preliminary understanding" could be reached with the FLN.]

[Neuwirth's statements indicated further that discontent among the European settler elements over the government's Algerian policy has not appreciably abated since the January "revolt." He said there will definitely be a protest strike in Algiers on 13 May, including a mass meeting to protest the government's policy.] [redacted]

[redacted]

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