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16 April 1960

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# CENTRAL

# INTELLIGENCE

# BULLETIN



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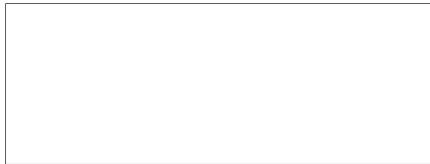
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LATE ITEM



\*Possible Soviet Lunar Probe

A vehicle of undetermined characteristics and objectives was successfully launched from Tyura Tam about 1507Z (1007 EDT), 15 April 1960, after a smooth two-hour count-down. [redacted] it at least traveled to the vicinity of Kamchatka. [redacted]  
[redacted]

NSA preliminary evaluation [redacted] [redacted] has led to their conclusion that this could be a lunar probe attempt of undetermined purpose and success. However, the lack of participation of the KGB communications network, previously associated with all space attempts, and the appearance of at least one indicator heretofore specific only to ICBM tests, indicate the possibility that the vehicle may be an ICBM.

The Soviets have publicly announced their previous successful space events within a few hours after launching. If this is a space vehicle, lack of such an announcement could mean either a vehicle failure or that a major objective is to be accomplished at a later stage in the flight. [redacted]  
[redacted]

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16 APRIL 1960

### I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

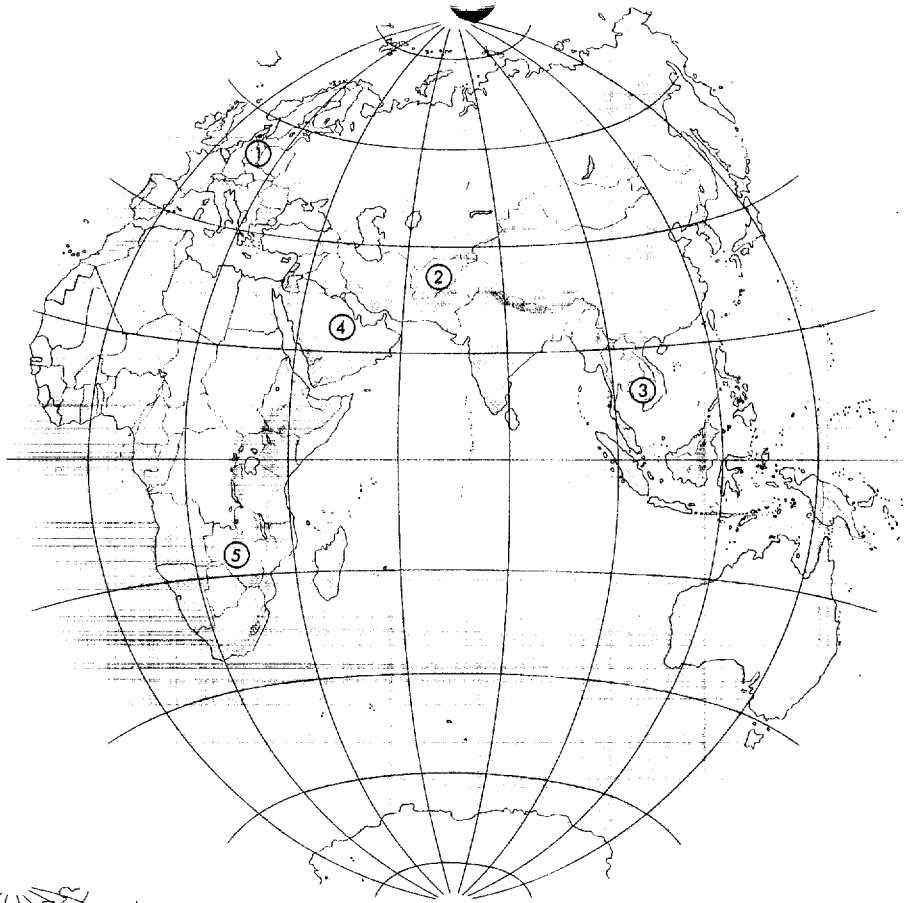
East German announcement on completion of agricultural collectivization probably overstates picture in many areas; local authorities instructed to frustrate plans for public church protests on Easter Sunday. ①

### II. ASIA-AFRICA

Afghan premier leaves Vienna for Moscow; will probably discuss Soviet aid programs and may discuss support for Kabul in its difficulties with Pakistan. ②

Recent death of Cambodian King leads to test of strength between Sihanouk and palace circles. ③

Saudi Crown Prince Faysal expected to go abroad soon for health reasons; King Saud already preparing moves to regain domination over government. ④



⑤ Prospects for Rhodesia-Nyasaland Federation termed "extremely bleak"; Hastings Banda seems determined to detach Nyasaland, and white prime minister of Southern Rhodesia seeks end to British restrictions on racial legislation.

### III. THE WEST

⑥ Venezuelan President concerned over reports of plotting by dissident military groups; period of rising tension likely.



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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

16 April 1960

## DAILY BRIEF

## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

*SIRAB*

*OK - delete sent A*

East Germany: The Ulbricht regime's announcement on 14 April that it has completed agricultural collectivization probably represents little more than a paper accomplishment in many areas. The full impact of the program will probably not be felt by the farmers until after the fall harvest, when the regime attempts to regiment their lives and property. Meanwhile, the Evangelical Church is planning to have protests against the collectivization program read from pulpits throughout the nation on Easter Sunday. Local authorities have been instructed to block the reading of these protests, by "state means" if necessary. [redacted] (Page 1)

## II. ASIA-AFRICA

*NO*

Afghanistan-USSR: [On 14 April Afghan Prime Minister Daud left Vienna for Moscow. Daud made a similar trip to Moscow in 1959, an action which led to the agreement on the Kushka-Kandahar road project. In Moscow, Daud will probably discuss the Soviet assistance programs in Afghanistan, and may also discuss support for Kabul in its difficulties with Pakistan.] [redacted]

*OK*

Cambodia: The death of King Suramarit on 3 April has led to a test of strength between Prince Sihanouk and palace circles on the succession to the throne. Since Suramarit did not designate an heir, the new King must be chosen by the Council of the Crown from among eligible princes. Sihanouk, who resigned pro forma as premier on 11 April, is now refusing to form a new government. He is expected to win out over his palace opponents in controlling the selection of Suramarit's successor. [redacted] (Page 2)

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NO  
Saudi Arabia: [Crown Prince Faysal's health has continued to deteriorate, and he will probably go abroad before the middle of May for several months for medical treatment. King Saud, who is already preparing moves to regain domination over the government, has proposed a clandestine meeting with the American ambassador, presumably to seek some type of US support for his plans. The removal of Faysal, whether through illness or by action of the King, would quickly and sharply reduce Saudi Arabian political and economic stability.]

(Page 3)

OK  
Rhodesia and Nyasaland: [The political future of the white-dominated Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland appears "extremely bleak," in the opinion of well-informed British Labor party officials following discussions with Nyasaland African leader Hastings Banda. Banda, just recently released from prison, appears determined to take Nyasaland out of the federation, and this will probably be an issue at the constitutional discussions scheduled for London in July. Meanwhile, the white prime minister of Southern Rhodesia, who will be in London later this month, has stated publicly that he is "not prepared to take no for an answer" in his efforts to secure the removal of British restrictions on Southern Rhodesia's power to enact racial legislation.]

(Page 4)

### III. THE WEST

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Venezuela: President Betancourt, who may be under pressure from certain elements in the armed forces to make changes in the government, has shown considerable concern over numerous reports of plotting by dissident military groups, and his coalition regime is taking extensive security precautions. The uneasy atmosphere in Caracas on the eve of the 19 April national holiday is intensified by depressed economic conditions and dissension within the coalition. Betancourt, who is believed to have the loyalty of most top military leaders, is probably capable of controlling the situation for the present, but a period of rising tension is likely.

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DAILY BRIEF

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~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

### East German Regime Announces Full Collectivization

The Ulbricht regime announced on 14 April that it has completed the collectivization of all but insignificant strips of East Germany's agricultural land. The announcement followed a three-month, all-out drive to force independent farmers to sign statements that they were "voluntarily" joining collectives to show their support for the regime.

The speed and scope of this drive indicates that "collectivization" is still largely on paper in many areas. The regime appears to be delaying any drastic reorganization of the whole agricultural system until after the harvest, when a further drive to regiment the farmers and communize their property in actuality may be expected.

Many farmers have already fled to West Berlin and West Germany, despite the regime's actions in blocking their savings deposits and intensifying controls on travel. Others are planning to go as soon as they can acquire sufficient funds to support them when they reach the West. Flights would be greatly increased if farmers became convinced that West Berlin might be cut off as a result of developments at the summit meeting. [REDACTED]

Meanwhile, the regime is seeking to crush the strong resistance of Evangelical Church leaders, who are continuing their public denunciation of the police methods used by the regime against the farmers. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], the party leadership in at least one district is preparing to use "state means," if necessary, to prevent the reading of a protest from Evangelical Church pulpits on Easter Sunday. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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## II. ASIA-AFRICA

Cambodian Political Situation Unsettled

Events since the death of King Suramarit on 3 April have resulted in a highly unsettled political situation in Cambodia. The Council of the Crown has not yet chosen a successor to the throne from among the eligible princes, apparently because of a clash of interests between powerful palace elements and Prince Sihanouk, who abdicated the throne in 1955 to take an active part in politics. The constitution was hastily modified to create a three-man regency council to act in the interregnum, and Prince Monireth, Sihanouk's uncle and frequent critic, was named council chairman.

Sihanouk submitted a pro forma resignation as premier on 11 April and has balked at forming a new government. In a rambling explanation of his actions to the Cambodian public, Sihanouk hit strongly at palace intrigue and corruption and expressed a preference to serve the nation "outside the government."

These unusual developments have given rise to a flood of rumors ranging from speculation on the formation of a republican form of government to a possible army coup. These rumors are considered exaggerated, but there are unusually large numbers of troops at the palace, internal security officers training abroad have been recalled, and Sihanouk has ordered armed forces chief General Lon Nol to postpone a visit to the United States.

Sihanouk's views in this showdown are expected to prevail, since he enjoys broad popular support and the loyalty of the military. The conflict may, however, weaken the institution of the monarchy, which is a major factor in national unity and a bulwark against Communism. It may also further damage relations with South Vietnam and Thailand, if Sihanouk uses Cambodia's disputes with these countries to rally greater support behind him.

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~~TOP SECRET~~Political Maneuvering in Saudi Arabia 

[Crown Prince Faysal, who has maintained political stability in Saudi Arabia and brought financial order out of chaos, is again seriously ill. He has been advised to go abroad for several months of medical treatment and will probably leave in the next few weeks.]

[King Saud, whose rule of the country from late 1953 until early 1958 was characterized by political ineptness, widespread corruption, and enormous royal expenditures, is already preparing moves to regain domination over the government. He has proposed a clandestine meeting with the American ambassador, presumably to seek some sort of US support. If the King follows through with his plans, he will force a showdown with the same group of senior princes who eased him out of power in favor of Faysal in March 1958.]

[The result of determined action by the King to displace Faysal and regain power, whether or not successful, will be to increase dissension within the royal family and to reduce political stability. The way might be opened to organized plotting by antiroyalist groups in the bureaucracy, army, and merchant class. While there are several among the senior princes who could undoubtedly do a better job of governing than King Saud, there is none who has anything approaching the ability, drive, and honesty of Faysal.]

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[REDACTED]

Future of Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland Appears Gloomy

[Growing political and racial problems imperil the existence of the white-dominated Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Ranking members of the British Labor party, who include James Callaghan, the party's spokesman on colonial affairs, characterized the federation's prospects as "extremely bleak" following conversations with Nyasaland nationalist leader Dr. Hastings Banda. Some Conservative MPs have expressed similar views.]

[Pressure by Nyasaland nationalists for early self-government and secession of the protectorate from the federation has increased since Banda's recent release from prison. British officials have agreed to discuss Nyasaland's future in July with Banda, although any concessions satisfactory to him would probably be considered unacceptable by the federation government. At present, there is little agitation in Nyasaland, in compliance with Banda's call for calm. If he is dissatisfied with London's offer in July, however, he will probably spur a renewal of nationalist violence.]

[White groups in Northern and Southern Rhodesia--the federation's other two territories--are increasing their demands for continued dominance. In Northern Rhodesia a white politician has gained impressive support for his recently organized association to oppose rapid Africanization of the area. He calls for formation of a self-governing state in the small, mineral-rich Copperbelt area--to be linked with Southern Rhodesia--if Britain should accede to black pressure for an African regime on Northern Rhodesia's 80,000 white settlers.]

[The prime minister of Southern Rhodesia, Sir Edgar Whitehead, said on 13 April he "would not take no for an answer" from London when he demands the removal of Britain's veto powers over his government's right to legislate on racial affairs. The matter will be discussed when he visits London in late April to discuss the political evolution of this self-governing colony.] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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### III. THE WEST

#### Subversive Activity in Venezuela

Numerous reports of plotting by dissident Venezuelan military groups, including exiled followers of former Dictator Perez Jimenez who have Dominican support, have caused President Betancourt considerable concern, and his regime is taking extensive precautions throughout the country. [According to some of these reports, incursions are being planned from the Dominican Republic to foment unrest in Venezuela and possibly to coincide with a projected invasion attempt on 18 April from the Colombian border in co-ordination with opposition Venezuelan military elements. [redacted] Betancourt has recently met with top military leaders to make certain of their support in return for extensive changes in the composition of his government and for outlawing the Venezuelan Communist party (PCV)--which is excluded from the coalition.]

The uneasy atmosphere in Caracas on the eve of the 19 April national holiday is intensified by unfavorable economic conditions, including the marked decline in foreign exchange and bank deposits, high unemployment, an increasing rate of business failures, tight credit, and a general lowering of business confidence. Politically, there is dissension within the three-party coalition, and radical elements in Betancourt's own Democratic Action party (AD) may be moving to set up a new political group. [redacted] the Democratic Republican Union party (URD), [redacted] his group might withdraw from the government if the dissident AD faction and the PCV remain outside the coalition. The present party strife has in some degree been brought to a head by the division of attitudes toward Fidel Castro's regime. The URD, AD radicals, and Communists are staunch Castro supporters, while Betancourt and most of his government have been critical of him.

Betancourt, who is believed to command the loyalty of the majority of the top military leaders, is probably capable of controlling the situation for the present, but these adverse political

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developments could touch off a prolonged period of unrest.

[redacted] the government has alerted the security forces against a border invasion, sabotage at oil installations, and terrorist acts aimed to bring about "an uprising in the military." [redacted]

[redacted]

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