

STATINTL

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt



9 June 1966

No. 1361/66

Copy No. 23

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

WILL THAT RUN AGAIN?

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

WARNING

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

~~SECRET~~

25X1



No. 1361/66

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
9 June 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM*

Will Thant Run Again?

1. Later this month Secretary General Thant is expected to announce his decision on whether to offer to continue in office after his first full five-year term expires on 3 November. The trend of speculation in New York is that there is a strong possibility Thant has decided not to run again. During the past year he has commented to his close friends and colleagues that he does not desire to continue in office, and he has said he would be happy if the Security Council could find someone else. However, as in the past, Thant may be engaged in a maneuver to strengthen his position by worrying the major powers about the difficulties they would have in choosing a successor.

2. The Secretary General is chosen by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. At present, all the permanent members are supporting Thant's re-election. During his European trip last month, both Britain and France urged Thant to stay on. The US recently publicly announced support for his candidacy. The USSR has yet to do so, but it has been generally satisfied with Thant, and for lack of other suitable candidates Moscow would probably not veto his re-election. However, the Russians will bargain for personnel changes in the Secretariat before they give him formal support.

*Prepared by the Office of Current Intelligence



25X1

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

25X6

4. Another major factor in a decision not to run would be his disillusionment with the present state of the United Nations, and the frustration he has experienced as Secretary General. Thant is particularly upset about the failure of the members to resolve the peacekeeping and financial problems brought about by the Article 19 crisis of last year. No progress has been made in the Committee of 33 on the constitutional problems involved in the authorization of peacekeeping operations, nor the problems of financing them. This has contributed to the already grave problems in financing UN peacekeeping operations--especially the operation in Cyprus. The failure of members to make voluntary contributions to alleviate the UN's financial situation has further disturbed Thant, who has threatened not to seek re-election on these grounds alone.

5. Thant is also worried by the attempts of some of the major powers to limit the role of the Secretary General in peacekeeping functions. During the Kashmir crisis of last fall, Thant came under heavy attack from the French and the Soviets who claimed that he had exceeded the powers given him by the Security Council in setting up the UN observer missions there. Thant complained bitterly that if the Secretary General had to go to the Council to get authorization for every aspect in the administration of a peacekeeping operation, then little would be left of that position's authority in such matters. Thant has been careful since these attacks to acquire Council authorization, as evidenced in part by his handling of the question of UN observers for the South Vietnamese elections.

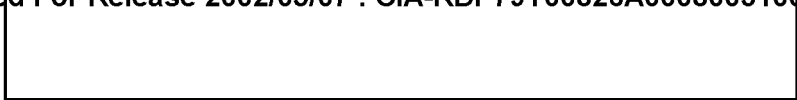
-2-

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

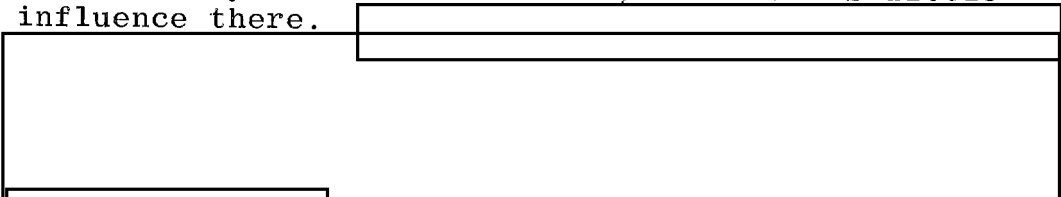
25X1



6. Another factor is Thant's frustration with the Vietnam problem. Thant believes that the UN, and more especially its Secretary General, should be able to play some sort of a mediary role in the conflict, but he realizes this is impossible because of the violent opposition of Peking and Hanoi, as well as the inability of the Security Council to take any action. Thant's frustration is perhaps reflected in his reaction to Saigon's recent request for UN observers. Initially, Thant foresaw a large-scale UN operation in Vietnam--one that included a 6,000-member observer mission which would actually supervise the elections. However, realizing that this would never be approved by the Council, even if desired by the South Vietnamese, Thant washed his hands of the whole affair by turning the matter over to the Council president with the knowledge that any kind of UN role would not be accepted by the permanent members.

7. The last straw for Thant could be the reported Soviet pressure to exact concessions in return for support. Although the Soviets have little reason to be unhappy with Thant, they will undoubtedly want to play this game for all it is worth. This is an opportune time for the Soviets to try to strengthen the position of their nationals in the Secretariat, particularly that of Nestorenko, who now has little influence there.

25X6

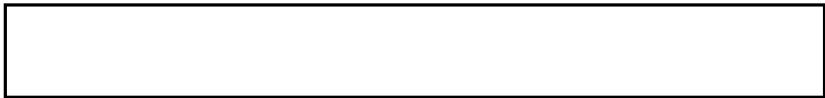


25X6

With Thant so hesitant about running in the first place and so touchy about his relationship with the Soviet Union, any Soviet pressure could well be the determining factor in his decision to leave.

25X6

8. Thant could decide to accept a shortened second term of two or three years' duration, but if he decides not to run, a crisis will develop at the UN. At the moment there are no qualified candidates who would be acceptable to all the members. Several names have been mentioned--Adebo of Nigeria, Slim of



25X1

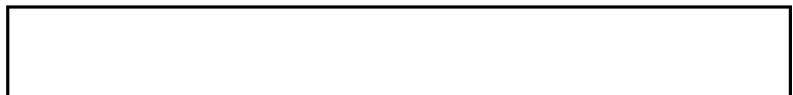
SECRET

SECRET

25X1



Tunisia, Mateos of Mexico, Endalkatchew Makonnen of Ethiopia, and Prebisch of Argentina--but none are strong candidates. Thant himself has said that if it were politically possible, the best man would be Schurman, the former Netherlands representative. He said that it would be useful to have a European administrator come in to tighten up the organization. UN members will be hard put to find a successor to Thant.



25X1

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET