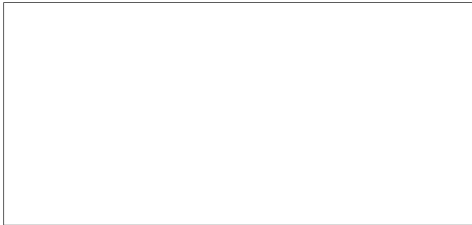


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16 August 1955



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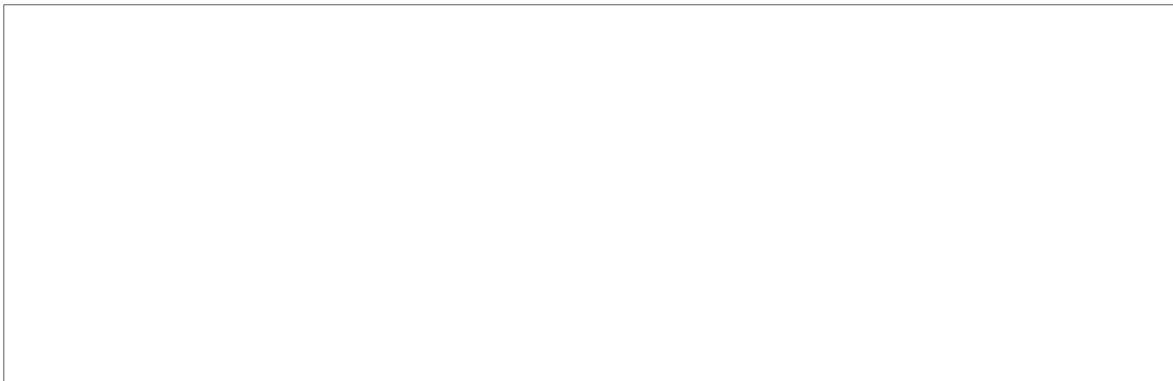
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1. INDONESIAN PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY MAY SUGGEST OWN RESIGNATION ON 17 AUGUST

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[redacted] President Sukarno's speech on 17 August--Indonesian independence day--"may be in the nature of an abdication speech," according to information passed to the American ambassador in Djakarta by the British embassy.

Comment

Any offer to "abdicate" would probably be a gesture rather than evidence of bona fide intention to resign.

Sukarno offered in a speech on 24 June to "leave the palace for the sake of national unity." On his return from Mecca on 5 August, he waived his authority as chief of state for ten days. Since the installation of a Masjumi-led cabinet, which assumed office on 12 August, is to some extent a repudiation of Sukarno, he may repeat his offer to resign or may suggest an indefinite suspension of his presidential responsibilities. Either action would serve his purposes by crystallizing opposition to the cabinet.

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3. COMMENT ON ARGENTINE REPORT OF PLOT AGAINST PERON

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The Argentine government's announcement on 15 August of a plot to assassinate President Peron, Army Minister Lucero and other top officials suggests that it either feared an attack on high officials was imminent or felt compelled to set the stage for stronger measures to quell continuing agitation and resistance by the opposition to its proposals for "pacification" of the country. Earlier in the day Catholic sympathizers had clashed with police, and more demonstrations followed the announcement.

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 the government was worried about such attacks, which allegedly were to be preceded by sabotage of public utilities and action against the police. The opposition was also reported to be organizing armed groups, including retired military and naval men. In the government communiqué announcing the plot, the latter were implicated along with "Catholic clergy members of the Democratic Party, nationalists, and even Communists." Alleged leaders are Mario Amadeo, a Catholic lawyer who was also reported involved in the 16 June revolt, and Michael Torino, a Radical leader who was imprisoned after the government closed his newspaper in 1950.

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The government announcement could provoke further disturbances. Organized labor has said that it would call a nation-wide strike if another attempt against Peron were made. At the same time opposition groups, including dissident military elements, may view this as the beginning of new severe controls and attempt further resistance. 

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