

TOP SECRET



18 May 1956

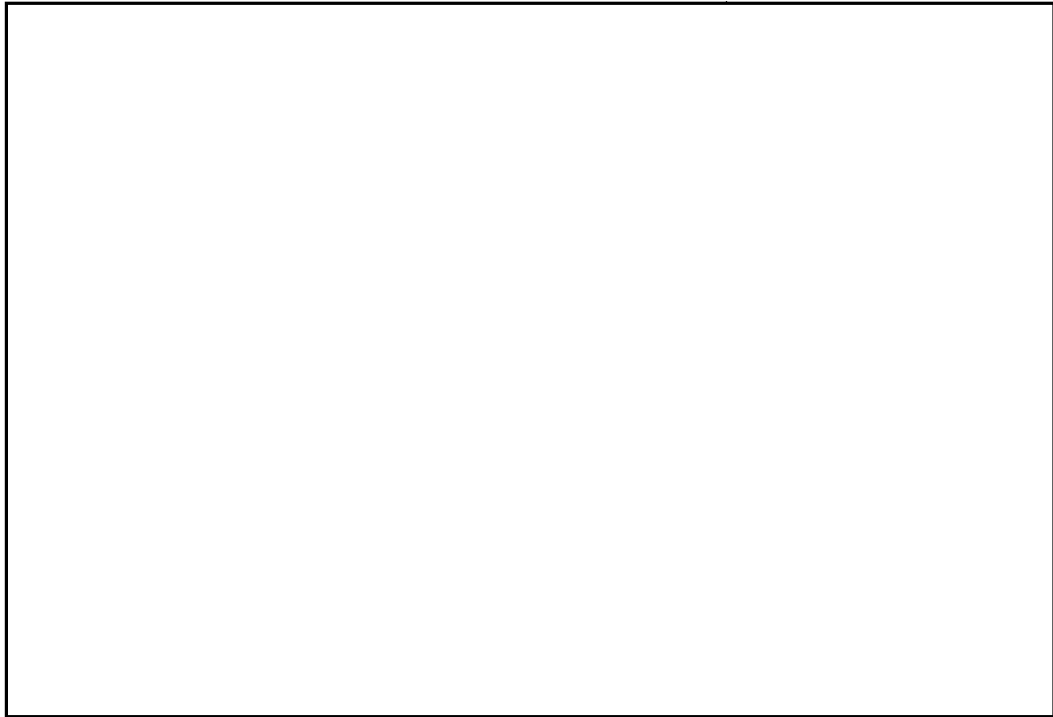


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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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CONTENTS

[Redacted]

2. POSTELECTION VIOLENCE FEARED IN SOUTH KOREA

25X1A [Redacted]

3. MOROCCAN SECURITY SITUATION APPROACHING CRITICAL STAGE

[Redacted]

25X1A

4. USSR TO PARTICIPATE IN ZURICH AIR SHOW (page 6).

[Redacted]

25X1A

5. MAO TSE-TUNG EXPRESSES INTEREST IN VISIT TO INDONESIA

[Redacted]

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION

[Redacted]

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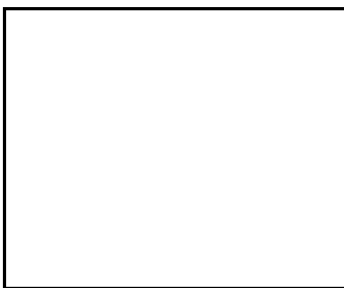
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2. POSTELECTION VIOLENCE FEARED IN SOUTH KOREA

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Indications of fraud in connection with South Korea's closely contested vice-presidential race may lead to violent demonstrations, according to the American embassy in Seoul. Tension is rising following government efforts to delay the vote count. A crowd of 10,000 has already demonstrated in Taegu.

Numerous reports have reached the embassy concerning violence planned for 19 May in connection with the funeral of the late Democratic presidential candidate, Sin Ik-hui. Chargé Strom observes that the violence may exceed that which followed Sin's death, when police fired into a demonstrating crowd in front of Rhee's residence.

Comment The action of the government's Central Election Committee in ceasing to issue returns on 17 May has lent credibility to widespread rumors that an effort is being made to fix the vote in order to give victory to Rhee's running mate, Yi Ki-pung. Returns at that time indicated that opposition candidate Chang Myon was leading Yi by about 80,000 votes out of nearly 9,000,000 cast, after at one time enjoying a lead of 415,000 votes.

**3. MOROCCAN SECURITY SITUATION APPROACHING
CRITICAL STAGE**

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The uncontrolled security situation in Morocco is now approaching such a critical stage that many European residents are trying to leave the country,

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The deliberate policy of nonco-operation with the local government on the part of French officials is

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contributing to this situation. The rapidly increasing number of unemployed Moroccans, labor strikes, and Communist propaganda and activities are other factors.



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Comment

Tactics employed by local French officials indicate an attempt to prevent establishment of a stable government under the sultan. Aside from prolonging local disorders, such tactics may cripple the various negotiations between the two governments.



4. USSR TO PARTICIPATE IN ZURICH AIR SHOW

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The Soviet air attaché in Bern has announced that, in keeping with the USSR's "long-term peace-loving activities," Soviet participation in the 26 May air show in Zurich would be limited to one TU-104 jet transport and a large helicopter. Two parachutists are scheduled to make exhibition jumps. The attaché further stated that his government had reservations about even sending the helicopter and parachutists because of their military aspects.

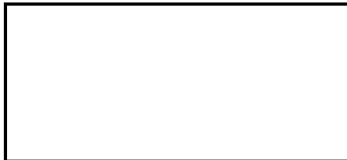
Comment

This would be the first participation by the USSR in an international air show.

Soviet propaganda may be expected to contrast the peaceful nature of the Soviet display with the predominantly military displays by other nations.

5. MAO TSE-TUNG EXPRESSES INTEREST IN VISIT TO INDONESIA

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Chairman Mao Tse-tung told a delegation of Indonesian newspapermen now in Peiping he would be "very pleased" to visit Indonesia "if the opportunity arose," according to a broadcast from Djakarta on 15 May.

Comment

The Chinese Communists may believe a state visit to Indonesia by Mao, following President Sukarno's trip to Peiping in late September, would help counteract the effect of Sukarno's visit to the United States.

Mao has never visited a non-Communist country. The Indonesians would be flattered by the prospect of such a visit and an invitation might be delivered in person by Sukarno.



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25X1A

18 May 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 7



THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 17 May)

An Israeli military spokesman stated that Syrian positions near Lake Tiberias fired with mortar and automatic weapons into Israeli territory. Egypt charged that Israeli planes violated Egyptian air space over the Gaza strip.

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The Egyptian newspaper Al Akhbar reported on 17 May that Egypt had decided to sell the Israeli ship Bat Galim. The ship was seized by Egypt in September 1954 when it attempted to run the Egyptian blockade of the Suez Canal. If this is under serious consideration by Egypt, Israel can be expected to raise again publicly and in the UN the question of the Egyptian blockade.

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According to information reaching the American embassy in Cairo, Prime Minister Nasr is becoming convinced that the Western powers decided at the recent NATO meeting in Paris to supply Israel with arms bit by bit until its arms strength exceeded that of the Arabs. His advisers are telling him that past official American statements were merely aimed at lulling Egypt into complacency. Ambassador Byroade believes that any appreciable arms delivery to Israel will result in Egypt ordering more equipment from the Soviet bloc and that talks on this subject may already be under way. The Chinese Nationalist ambassador, in commenting to Ambassador Byroade on the Egyptian recognition of Communist China, stated that he felt that Cairo's precipitate action in this matter was due to its "frustration and concern" over the West's new policy of arming Israel.

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