

23 February 1957

Copy No. 131

**CURRENT
INTELLIGENCE
BULLETIN**

DOCUMENT NO. _____
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NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: _____ REVIEWER: _____

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Approved For Release 2002/11/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A003000030001-4

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CONTENTS

[Redacted]

25X1A

c. 10

2. ISRAELI LEADERS IN PARIS

[Redacted]

25X1A

c. 10

3. KISHI TO BECOME NEW JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

[Redacted]

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25X1A

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25X1A

2. ISRAELI LEADERS IN PARIS

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[REDACTED]

The American ambassador in Paris reports that Mehaem Begin, ex-Stern gang leader, member of the Knesset, and head of the Herut Party, is now in Paris where he is meeting with various political figures, including DeGaulle.

The American air attaché in Israel reports that Col. Weizmann, the nephew of Israel's first president and a top Israeli air force commander, will depart for Paris on 24 February for a three-week stay. [REDACTED]

Comment

These visits are indicative of the extensive efforts being made to broaden the basis of French-Israeli political and military collaboration. Both Begin and Weizmann visited France last summer, and Begin has been given credit for helping promote French support for the Israeli invasion of Sinai. The present contacts are part of the larger effort and do not necessarily suggest that a new military venture is being planned.

Premier Mollet said on 22 February that France will continue to give Israel "all the aid we can."

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3. KISHI TO BECOME NEW JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

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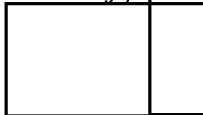


Japan's Prime Minister Tanzan Ishibashi was to submit his resignation on 23 February. He will be replaced by his foreign minister, Nobusuke Kishi. The new government, which is expected to win easy Diet approval, almost certainly will continue its co-operation with the United States, but Kishi, like his predecessor, believes strongly in increasing the independent position of Japan.

Ishibashi's resignation followed an announcement on 22 February that illness would prevent his resumption of duties for two months. Government and Liberal-Democratic Party leaders, under heavy criticism from the Socialists and from dissidents within conservative ranks because of the executive and legislative standstill since Ishibashi's illness, decided to form a new cabinet. All ministers reportedly will retain their posts in the new government.

Kishi, a bureaucrat turned politician, is 61 and is comparatively young for a Japanese prime minister. He was the principal planner in Japan's pre-war economic development of Manchuria, a member of the wartime Tojo cabinet, and in recent years one of the conservatives' principal political organizers. He enjoys wide support within the Liberal Democratic Party,

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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