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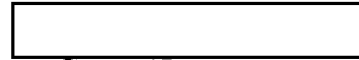
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State Dept.
review
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11 September 1957

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**CURRENT
INTELLIGENCE
BULLETIN**

CLASSIFIED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 7-4-80 REVIEWER:

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**OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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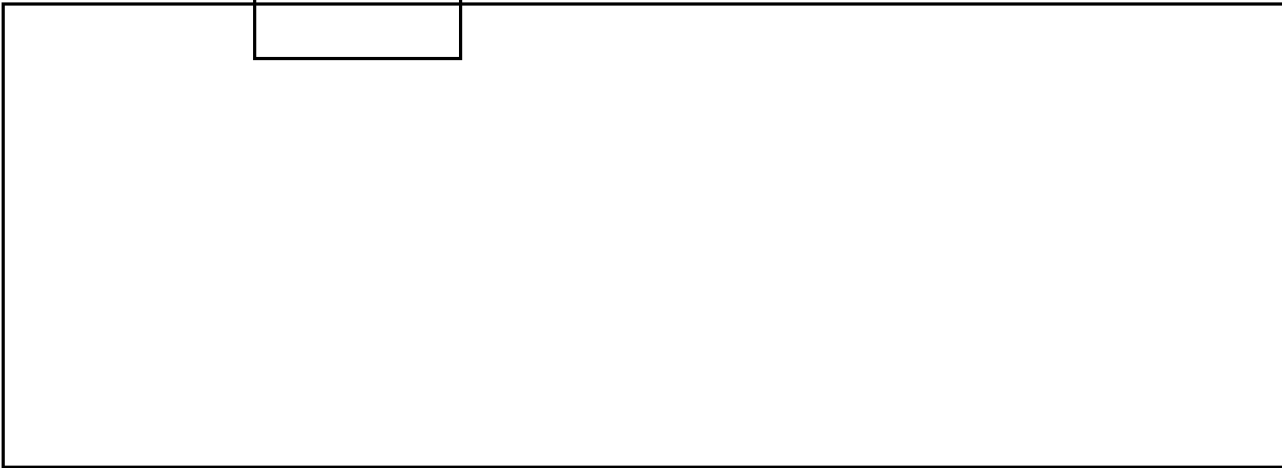
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4. AMBASSADOR REPORTS TUNISIA MAY ALTER PRO-WEST ATTITUDE

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American Ambassador Jones in Tunis reports the rapid deterioration within the past few days of Tunisia's pro-Western orientation. The inability of the Tunisians

to prevent incursions under France's policy of "hot pursuit" is likely to result in demands from all levels of the Neo-Destour party and government that President Bourghiba take action to secure arms. The group, which has always argued that Bourghiba's policy is too pro-West, is using Western refusal to sell arms to Tunisia as evidence that this policy does not pay.

The Tunisians are aware of the American airlift of arms to the Middle East. They argue that Tunisia is the best friend the United States has in the Arab world. Ambassador Jones anticipates that the Tunisian public may soon believe the United States and France are collaborating to keep Tunisia helpless and unarmed for the benefit of France.

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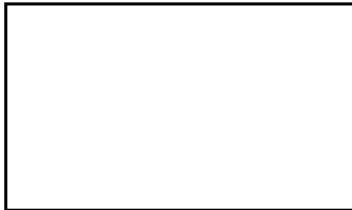
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6. AFGHANISTAN SEEKS AMERICAN AID IN EXPLORING FOR URANIUM

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Afghan Foreign Minister Naim on 3 September asked American Ambassador Mills whether the United States could aid Afghanistan in exploring for fissionable materials either by air survey or by other means. He stated that there were indications of such materials in the northern



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part of the country, though he seemed uninformed on the precise location. If such materials are found, he said, his government would like the United States to assist in developing them.

In 1955, privately employed American geologists discovered deposits of uranium in the Chakhansur area along the Helmand River, near the Iranian border in the southwestern tip of Afghanistan. These deposits may as yet be unknown to the Afghan government. There is no known connection between these deposits in southwestern Afghanistan and others near Ferghana in the Soviet Uzbek Republic northeast of Afghanistan. However, the Hindu Kush mountain range which rises near Ferghana and runs through Afghanistan may contain additional deposits of uranium.

Ambassador Mills notes that Afghanistan is apparently offering the United States the first opportunity to assist in exploration and development. He comments that Kabul will probably turn to the USSR if the United States displays no interest.

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7. SARIT FOLLOWERS REPORTEDLY RESIGN FROM
THAI GOVERNMENT PARTY

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Forty-six appointed members of the Thai National Assembly led by Army Commander in Chief Sarit have resigned en masse from the governing Seri-Manangkhasila party, according to press reports. Reports state that 18 other appointed deputies are planning to take similar action.

Sarit, who recently resigned as defense minister, may have ordered them to leave the government party as a pressure tactic to hasten Police Director General Phao's promised resignation as interior minister. Their mass resignation might also signal the beginning of a long-rumored effort by Sarit to overthrow Premier Phibun by parliamentary means.

Even if they threw in their lot with the opposition, the votes of the 46 officers would not tip the balance against the government. Should Sarit exert his maximum influence, however, it is possible that enough additional Seri-Manangkhasila members would bolt the party to result in the government's downfall.

Before Sarit undertook any action to overthrow the government in the assembly, he would probably make preparations to prevent countermeasures by the Phao faction.

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