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25 November 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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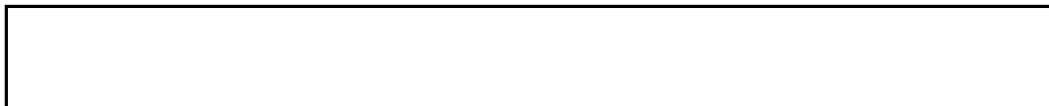
CONTENTS

1. USSR-Finland: Khrushchev's speech suggests that Moscow will continue to press Finland for military talks. (Page *i*)



25X1

4. Albania: Regime may have issued informal feeler through emigré group for diplomatic ties with US. (Page *iii*)
5. Dominican Republic: President Balaguer and moderate opposition groups still disagree on a coalition government. (Page *iii*)
6. USSR: Comment on Khrushchev's statement that this year's harvest in New Lands has been "wrecked." (Page *iv*)



25X1



25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

25 November 1961

DAILY BRIEF

*USSR-Finland: Khrushchev's speech at a luncheon following his talks with President Kekkonen on 24 November seems intended as a further justification of the necessity for formal negotiations on the basis of the 1948 mutual assistance treaty. Moscow apparently has not relented on its demands for consultations on defense measures and for a guarantee of Finnish neutrality. Khrushchev said the current situation requires "further all-round cooperation" between Finland and the USSR. He also said that Moscow must be able to have "firm confidence" in Finland's neutral policy. Claiming that Northern Europe could no longer be considered an area of tranquillity, Khrushchev asserted that the USSR is compelled to take "all necessary measures" to curb West German "militarists" before it is too late. At the same time Khrushchev went to some lengths to make it clear that the USSR wants Finland to remain under Kekkonen's leadership. He indicated Moscow's "complete faith" in Kekkonen's policies and "grave concern" over the activities of the "right-wing groups" in Finland.

This further pressure from Khrushchev will arouse additional apprehension among the Finns as to Moscow's ultimate objectives. Even prior to Khrushchev's statement, public concern in Finland had been reflected in scarce buying, some fall in stock-market quotations, and reports--as yet unconfirmed--of a rise in bank withdrawals. [REDACTED]

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

25X1



Albania-US: An article in the 17 November issue of Liria, a weekly newspaper published in Boston by a Communist-dominated Albanian emigré group, may be another informal feeler by the Albanian regime for establishing diplomatic relations with the US. The paper's assertion that the USSR had prevented Albania from seeking diplomatic ties with the US during the past 17 years could be intended as an alibi for Tirana's past indifference and frequent hostility toward ties with the United States. The article also stated that Greece was responsible for Washington's lack of "any great interest" in recognizing the Hoxha regime.

The emigré group which publishes Liria has no formal ties with the Communist regime in Albania, but its leaders are believed to be in contact with Albanian representatives to the UN, and in general they support Tirana's propaganda lines. Liria was the medium of an earlier Albanian feeler to the US; last July, it editorially proclaimed that Tirana was interested in developing "diplomatic, friendly, and trade relations" with the United States. 

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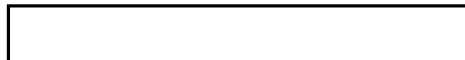
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*Dominican Republic: The moderate opposition groups, which are supported by the bulk of the population, have thus far been unable to agree among themselves and with President Balaguer on a coalition regime. The military, now under the decisive leadership of General Rodriguez Echevarria, will be tempted to assume by default many of the functions of civil government unless an effective coalition is soon formed. Although opposition leaders give President Balaguer credit for

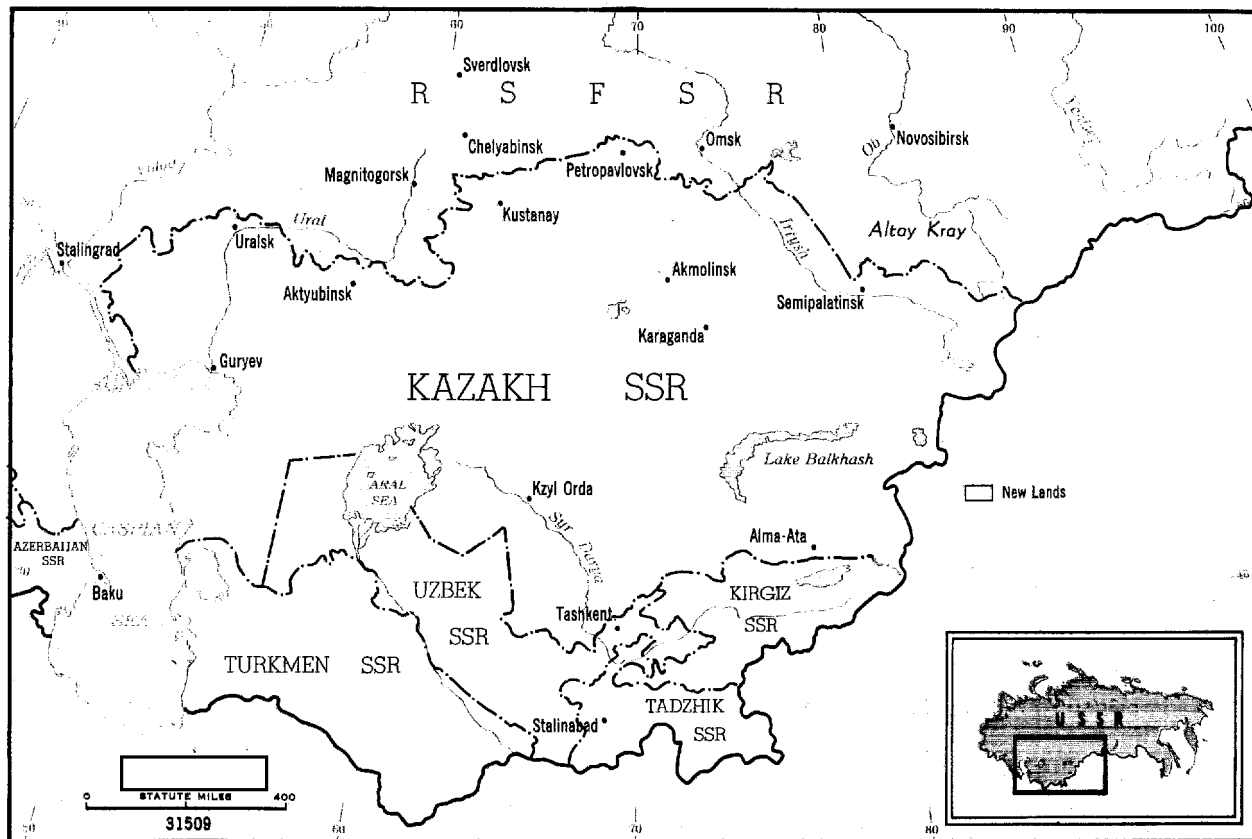
25 Nov 61

DAILY BRIEF

iii



25X1



25X1



25X1

his role in the dissolution of the Trujillo era, they generally feel that this has not canceled out his life-long association with the late dictator. They also resent his "weak handling" of the murder of the late dictator's assassins, apparently carried out last week by the fleeing Trujillos.

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USSR: Khrushchev on 21 November reportedly interrupted the speech of Kazakhstan party chief Kunayev to say that this year's New Lands harvest had been "wrecked" and had not merely "decreased," as Kunayev had described it. There has been considerable evidence in the Soviet press for some months that drought conditions would result in a mediocre harvest in the New Lands, well below the planned level. Total state grain purchases this year from the New Lands in Kazakhstan will be the lowest since 1957 and will constitute about one-seventh of total state grain purchases. Better than average conditions elsewhere in the USSR, however, will result in a total grain harvest somewhat larger than last year's.

(Map)

25X1

25X1

25X1

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25X1

[Large Redacted Area]

25 Nov 61

DAILY BRIEF

iv

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25X1

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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