

22 October 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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Laos: General Ma's mutiny has collapsed.

Ma fled his Savannakhet headquarters for Thailand yesterday and is now in the custody of Thai military authorities at Udorn. He was accompanied by over half of the 20-plane Lao Air Force contingent based at Savannakhet. Thai authorities have been instructed by Bangkok to impound the planes.

The failure of key regional commanders to support Ma following his air strikes against military installations in Vientiane made his position untenable. Despite their own past differences with the military leadership in Vientiane, these commanders apparently calculated that Ma's effort was doomed to failure.

Ma's action does not appear to be directly related to the recent shake-up in the neutralist military leadership. It does, however, appear to reflect the difficulties that have arisen from an attempt by the Lao Army General Staff during the past few months to tighten its control over independent non-Communist military elements in Laos.

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NATO- France: The Fourteen appear ready to accept Paris' terms for negotiating the status of French forces in Germany.

At a meeting on 10 October, all the Fourteen except the US, UK, and the Netherlands supported Germany's proposal that talks between SACEUR and the French military begin at once. The British and Dutch representatives are asking for instructions to go along with the majority.

Under this arrangement, the same as that proposed by the French last June and rejected then by the other members, the Fourteen and the French would issue separate instructions to their military representatives.

Meanwhile, the way appears clear for Alliance approval of the North Atlantic Council's move from Paris to Brussels. At the meeting on 19 October Canada and Denmark, the last two active opponents of the move, announced they would go along with the majority.

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NOTE

*USSR: TASS announced this morning that Molniya 1/4, the communications satellite launched on 20 October, is being used for meteorological and mapping purposes. The satellite is carrying a television camera system with wide and narrow-angle lenses and will observe cloud cover in the northern hemisphere. The Molniya 1/4 orbit provides eight hours of coverage over the Soviet Union--three of them could provide continuous real-time weather coverage of the USSR and adjacent areas. Molniya 1/3, launched on 25 April, also carried an experimental television camera system but the pictures obtained from it were not suitable for weather forecasting purposes.

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