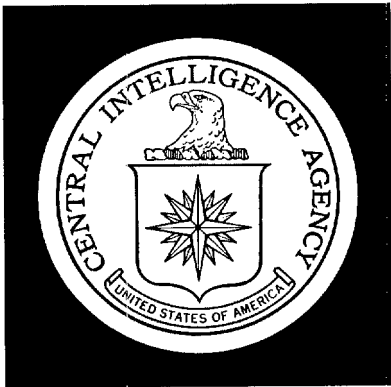




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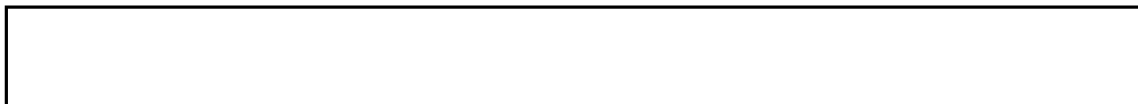
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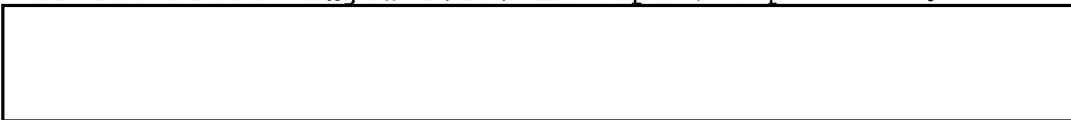
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Japan: The inability of the Japan Socialist Party to pull out of its decline as a political force will further weaken leftist opposition to the US-Japan Security Treaty.

At the party's national convention this week, moderate Socialists again failed to dislodge the party's ideologically hidebound leadership, which has done little to broaden the appeal of the party. The Socialists, who remain the largest opposition party despite their heavy losses in last December's elections, emerged from the convention with the split between the old-style Marxists and the moderates wider and more bitter than ever.

The Socialists were so occupied with their leadership fight and repelling an invasion of radical students that the 1970 antitreaty "struggle" question was nearly overlooked. Indications from the Communists and the Sohyo labor federation that their participation in the "struggle" will be limited suggest strongly that the treaty issue is no longer an effective rallying point for the traditional left.

Some Japanese political observers argue that only a split in the party and a realignment of the moderate left can save the Socialists. Unless the Socialists, who are already burdened with a massive financial debt, can restructure their organization, it seems inevitable that they will continue to lose electoral support. In this event the Buddhist-based Komeito might eventually move into position as the second major force in Japanese politics.



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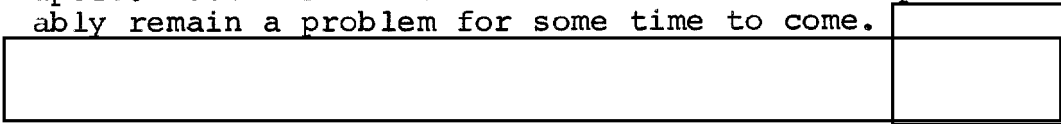
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Malaysia: Recent terrorist incidents reflect a continuing Communist capability for harassing the Malaysian Government.

On 20 April, a 30-man unit of the Thai-based Malaysian Communists killed seven of the nine members of a government patrol in an ambush just inside Malaysia. This clash is the most serious since last December, when the terrorists blew up a railroad bridge in northern Malaysia.

The government has played down the incident, and one official claimed that the security forces foiled a Communist plan to establish bridgeheads on the Malaysian side of the border. At the same time, the government has been publicizing its "success" in its antiterrorist campaign in Sarawak, where it claims some 58 terrorists have been killed.

Communist Party capabilities within Malaysia were demonstrated yesterday when a number of booby traps attached to Communist flags were set off in various parts of the country. One such bomb was planted in Singapore as well. These incidents coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Malayan Communist Party. The Communists' success in carrying out such actions suggests that the party has at least some organization in existence, although Communist movements and Communist-oriented groups have been largely suppressed both in Malaysia and Singapore. Such minor Communist harassment will probably remain a problem for some time to come.



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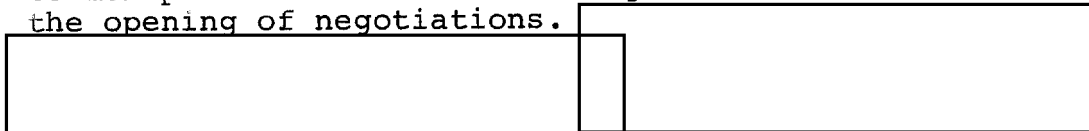
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European Communities: Prospects continue to improve that negotiations with Britain and the other applicants for membership will open on schedule this June or July.

A vital preliminary step was taken this week when the Council of Ministers formally adopted the EC financing regulations that were drafted in January. The French had made it clear that they would not agree to the opening of membership negotiations until the Council had taken this action. The regulations must now be ratified by the parliaments of the EC's member states.

Recent conversations of UK Minister for European Affairs Thomson in Bonn and Paris have also shown that negotiations will most probably start on schedule. In Bonn, Foreign Minister Scheel shared Thomson's hope that a ceremonial opening session could be held in June with substantive talks beginning in July. In Paris, Foreign Minister Schumann said that the sooner negotiations begin the better, but he predicted that the ceremonial opening would not occur before July.

Schumann and Scheel both emphasized the work the EC still must do to develop a common negotiating position before meeting with the British. The Council did move forward at its recent meeting by adopting three papers dealing with the transition period for the British, with the Coal and Steel Community, and with economic and monetary union. Both the permanent representatives and the Council will be grappling with the remaining elements of the common position at their meetings between now and the opening of negotiations.



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Yugoslavia-USSR: Belgrade has instructed its embassy in Moscow to ask that the Soviets sharply curb their propaganda activities in Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslavs decided to make the demarche,

[redacted] after a careful study revealed the "enormous operation" the Soviets have mounted, sending people into "almost every village, showing films and passing out books."

[redacted] Since Yugoslavia has neither the funds nor the interest in running such a campaign in the Soviet Union, Moscow's program accordingly should be scaled down.

Looking beyond the diplomatic phraseology of the request, two events early this year may be indicative of the activity that led directly to the Yugoslav action. In early February the influential Belgrade daily Politika accused the Soviet Embassy in Belgrade of meddling in Yugoslav internal affairs by reprinting in the embassy bulletin Soviet press attacks on Politika's Moscow correspondent. Later that month a retired Soviet Army officer, Colonel Nikola Grujic, a Yugoslav by birth, was arrested in Yugoslavia for making statements against the regime and was given 24 hours to leave the country. The Yugoslav press, in publicizing this incident, suggests that the Grujic case is not isolated.

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Cuba: Fidel Castro has delivered his first major statement on foreign policy in some time.

In a speech primarily devoted to an observance of Lenin's birth centennial, Castro said he wanted to clarify Havana's position on several issues. He reaffirmed his country's revolutionary spirit and stated that "Cuba will never deny support to a revolutionary movement." He said that Cuba had supported "phonies" in the past, but that in the future "that type of pseudorevolutionary can expect no aid from Cuba." Presumably Castro was referring to failures such as that of Venezuela's Douglas Bravo to sustain his guerrilla movement.

Several of his remarks involved the US, but their tone was relatively moderate. He again accused Washington of "hatching" plots against his government, but seemed more moderate in his accusations against the US than earlier this week. Referring to the current anti-Castro operation in eastern Cuba, he stated that only four members of the group remained and that they would be eliminated within the next few days.

Castro also referred to two specific issues currently receiving much international attention--hijacking and kidnaping. He stated that Cuba had promulgated a hijacking law and that if the US wanted to solve this matter, it must "abide by the letter of the law--article by article, without removing a single comma...." This law would require full reciprocity, including the return of refugees who steal boats to escape to the US. As to the kidnaping, Castro said he has had no trouble with such incidents in Havana and implicitly washed his hands of the problem.

Castro also restated his rejection of the Organization of American States, declaring that "Cuba will return to the OAS the day on which it

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throws out the United States...." Castro said he appreciated the recent friendly statements and actions by some Latin American governments. He added that if any Latin American country were willing to repudiate the sanctions of the OAS and wished to establish relations with Cuba, he would be willing to reciprocate with relations similar to those Cuba has with Mexico.

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Laos: The Communists continue to maneuver in the Long Tieng area but the military situation there remains quiet. In recent days the Communists have launched several unsuccessful attacks against Tha Tam Bleung, an important blocking position ten miles to the north. The attacks on the outpost presumably are aimed at forestalling government attempts to clear enemy forces from nearby staging areas.

[Redacted]

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Trinidad: The government seems more confident of its position, and events may be moving toward a negotiated settlement of the military rebellion. Although there has been no official word on the progress or details of talks to end the mutiny, spokesmen from both sides have struck a moderate tone. The government yesterday arrested Geddes Granger, the last of the important black power radicals still at large and the leader of the recent demonstrations. Police have been increasingly successful in maintaining order. Yesterday the curfew in force in the capital was extended to the entire country. The general situation, however, remains unsettled.

[Redacted]

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Colombia: The country has remained tranquil for the past two days, but serious disturbances could occur in the cities following the release of final election returns on Sunday. These are virtually certain to confirm the election of National Front candidate Misael Pastrana.

[Redacted]

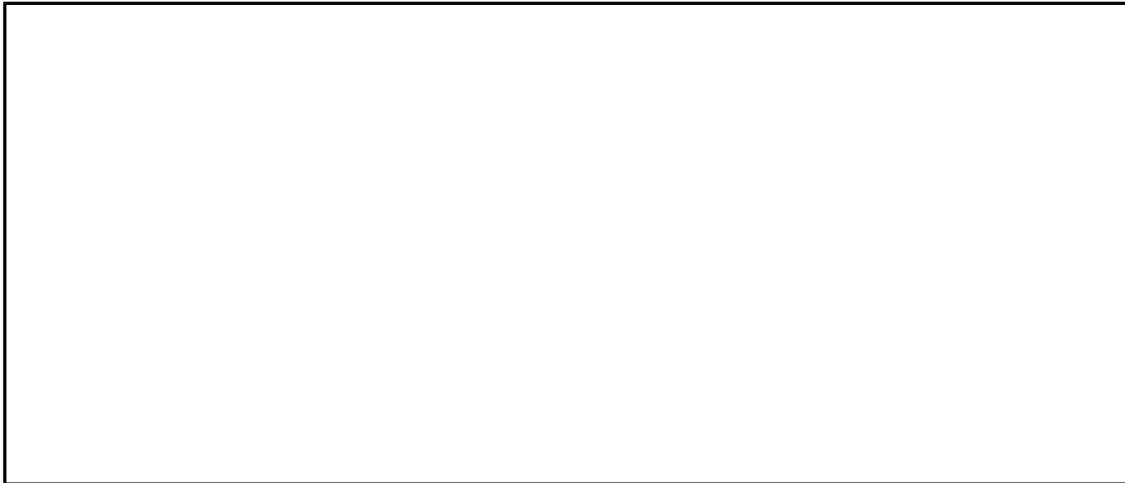
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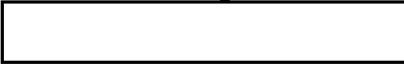
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South Africa: Prime Minister Vorster's ruling National Party achieved its primary objective in Wednesday's parliamentary election by crushing the challenge from the new ultraconservative Afrikaner party. With returns almost complete, the Nationalists have won a comfortable, but slightly reduced, majority in parliament. More important to Vorster, the ultraconservatives, who had bolted the National Party last fall because they believed it was undermining apartheid, failed to win any seats at all. The United Party, the official opposition composed mainly of English-speaking whites, benefited from the split in Afrikaner ranks by picking up at least seven seats. It is in no position to challenge the entrenched Nationalists, however.



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