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DIRECTORATE OF
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17 March 1972

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS



25X1

GUATEMALA-UK: London modifies plan for troop reinforcement. [redacted] (Page 6)

25X1

CEYLON: Concern about internal security is growing. [redacted] (Page 7)

25X1



25X1



25X1

Next 5 Page(s) In Document Exempt

GUATEMALA-UK: LONDON HAS SUBSTANTIALLY MODIFIED ITS POSITION ON TROOP REINFORCEMENTS IN BRITISH HONDURAS IN AN ELEVENTH HOUR EFFORT TO EASE ITS PROBLEMS WITH GUATEMALA.

25X1

[REDACTED]

THE UK WILL SHORTLY INFORM THE ARANA GOVERNMENT THAT GURKHA TROOPS WILL NOT BE SENT TO THE COLONY AND THAT THE TOTAL GARRISON WILL BE UNDER 600 MEN RATHER THAN 700-1,000 AS GUATEMALA HAD THOUGHT. BRITISH HONDURAN PREMIER PRICE WILL BE IN LONDON ON MONDAY, AND THE BRITISH WILL PROBABLY SEEK TO CONVINCHE HIM THAT HE MUST DEFER ANY INDEPENDENCE PLANS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND CURB HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT PROVOKE GUATEMALA.

PRESIDENT ARANA HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT PRICE WOULD SEEK INDEPENDENCE THIS YEAR, AND HE REACTED SHARPLY LAST WEEK WHEN THE BRITISH SHOWED LITTLE FLEXIBILITY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER HERRERA. SINCE THAT INITIAL REACTION, GUATEMALA HAS MAINTAINED AN OMINOUS SILENCE WAITING FOR THE FINAL BRITISH DECISION. THIS LATEST CONCESSION MAY EASE THE SITUATION AND PERSUADE ARANA TO FORGO RECOURSE TO THE OAS. ARANA AND HIS ADVISERS MAY STILL PRESS FOR FURTHER BRITISH ADJUSTMENTS. THEY HAVE FEW TRUMP CARDS TO PLAY, HOWEVER, AND MAY DECIDE TO INTERPRET THE BRITISH COMPROMISE AS A SUFFICIENT MORAL VICTORY.

25X1

17 Mar 72

Central Intelligence Bulletin

6

25X1

CEYLON: GOVERNMENT CONCERN ABOUT THE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION IS GROWING.

THE AUTHORITIES CLAIM THEY NOW HAVE FIRM EVIDENCE OF INSURGENT PLANS FOR SABOTAGING UTILITIES, ATTACKING HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND ASSAULTING GOVERNMENT DETENTION CAMPS IN ORDER TO FREE THOUSANDS OF REBELS ARRESTED DURING THE UPRISING LAST YEAR. GOVERNMENT FORCES ARE ON FULL ALERT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED INCREASE IN ARMY AND POLICE PATROLLING IN COLOMBO AND OTHER URBAN AREAS.

IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THE US CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE AND HER HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER HAVE ACCUSED MEMBERS OF THE CEYLON COMMUNIST PARTY/MOSCOW (CCP/M), A JUNIOR PARTNER IN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION, OF COMPLICITY WITH THE REBELS. MRS. BANDARANAIKE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ABLE TO TURN BACK THE THREAT IF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND ARMS PROMISED BY WESTERN COUNTRIES ARRIVE SOON, AND THE REBELS DO NOT RECEIVE FOREIGN ARMS ASSISTANCE. THE HOME MINISTER ALLEGED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS FURNISHED MONEY AND ARMS TO THE INSURGENTS, BUT NO INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE TO CONFIRM THIS.

REBEL BANDS IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN ORGANIZING, RECRUITING, AND ROBBING AT AN INCREASED PACE IN RECENT WEEKS, BUT THE AUTHORITIES MIGHT BE EXAGGERATING BOTH THE SCALE AND THE IMMEDIACY OF THE THREAT. THEY MAY BE TRYING TO PAVE THE WAY FOR REDUCING OR ELIMINATING CCP/M PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT AND POSSIBLY FOR TAKING STRINGENT STEPS TO HALT THE DECLINE IN THE ECONOMIC AND SECURITY SITUATION.

17 Mar 72

Central Intelligence Bulletin

7

25X1

25X1

25X1

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25X1



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