

Bled

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

1. Greece considers abandoning plans for naval maneuvers with Yugoslavia: Greek Minister of Defense Mavros told Ambassador Peurifoy on 6 August that adverse Italian reaction to the planned joint Greek-Yugoslav naval maneuvers had caused Greece to "stall indefinitely on concrete arrangements." Mavros indicated, however, that he was willing to approach the Italians again to attempt to convince them that the maneuvers would not be contrary to Italian interest. He suggested that the United States try to persuade Italy to withdraw its objections. (TS Athens 468, 6 Aug 52)

Comment: Greece has been anxious to proceed with Greek-Yugoslav defense planning and welcomed the Yugoslav suggestion to hold naval maneuvers.

LATIN AMERICA

2. American Ambassador sees danger in Czech missions in Latin America: Ambassador Briggs believes that the primary purpose of the Czech missions in Latin America is propaganda, espionage, and "other Kremlin purposes," rather than trade and normal diplomatic activity. He feels that it would be "greatly to our advantage to encourage termination" of these missions, or if this proves impractical, the reduction of the personnel to the number of Latin American officials stationed in Prague. (TS S/S Prague 72, 6 Aug 52)

Comment: Czechoslovakia now has missions in Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Ecuador, and also maintains relations with several other Latin American countries. While these missions are in some cases engaged in illegal activities, they have also been active commercially in procuring dollars and raw materials. Covert activities of any terminated Czech missions could be taken over by Soviet missions in three of

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the countries, and a Polish mission in a fourth.

Brazilian officials have recently stated that there is no apparent reason for breaking relations with the Satellites so long as the United States does not do so. A similar reaction could probably be expected from Mexico and Uruguay and also from Argentina, which receives significant quantities of manufactured goods from Czechoslovakia.

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