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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
11 February 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)  
SUBJECT: Afro-Asian Conference Developments

There have been increasing reports, mostly speculative, regarding the attitudes that will be assumed at the conference by various non-Communist countries.

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The American embassy in Djakarta reports that the Indonesians are aware that the conference may well turn into a polemic controversy between Communist and anti-Communist countries. Since Indonesia's objectives are largely limited to the acquiring of prestige and an endorsement of their claims to West New Guinea, its delegation is likely to try to keep discussion of controversial matters to a minimum.

On the other hand, the Indonesians will find it difficult to avoid associating themselves with the "five coexistence principles" which Communist China is expected to offer as a general platform for the meeting. India and Burma have already subscribed to the "five principles," and should Peiping offer an attractive solution of the overseas Chinese problem--which appears to be in the making--Indonesia probably would find it impossible not to accept them too. Moreover, Indonesia--like Burma--probably will go along with the Communists and other neutralists in such matters as colonialism, racial discrimination, seating Peiping in the UN and banning of nuclear and mass-destruction weapons.

In Damascus, the "great debate" on Syrian foreign policy continues and may result in the emergence of an anti-Western government. It is therefore impossible to judge the makeup or inclinations of the Syrian delegation at Bandung. In any event, Syria can be expected to support, and might well sponsor, a resolution placing the conference on record as backing the Arab position regarding Palestine and North Africa.

State Dept. review completed

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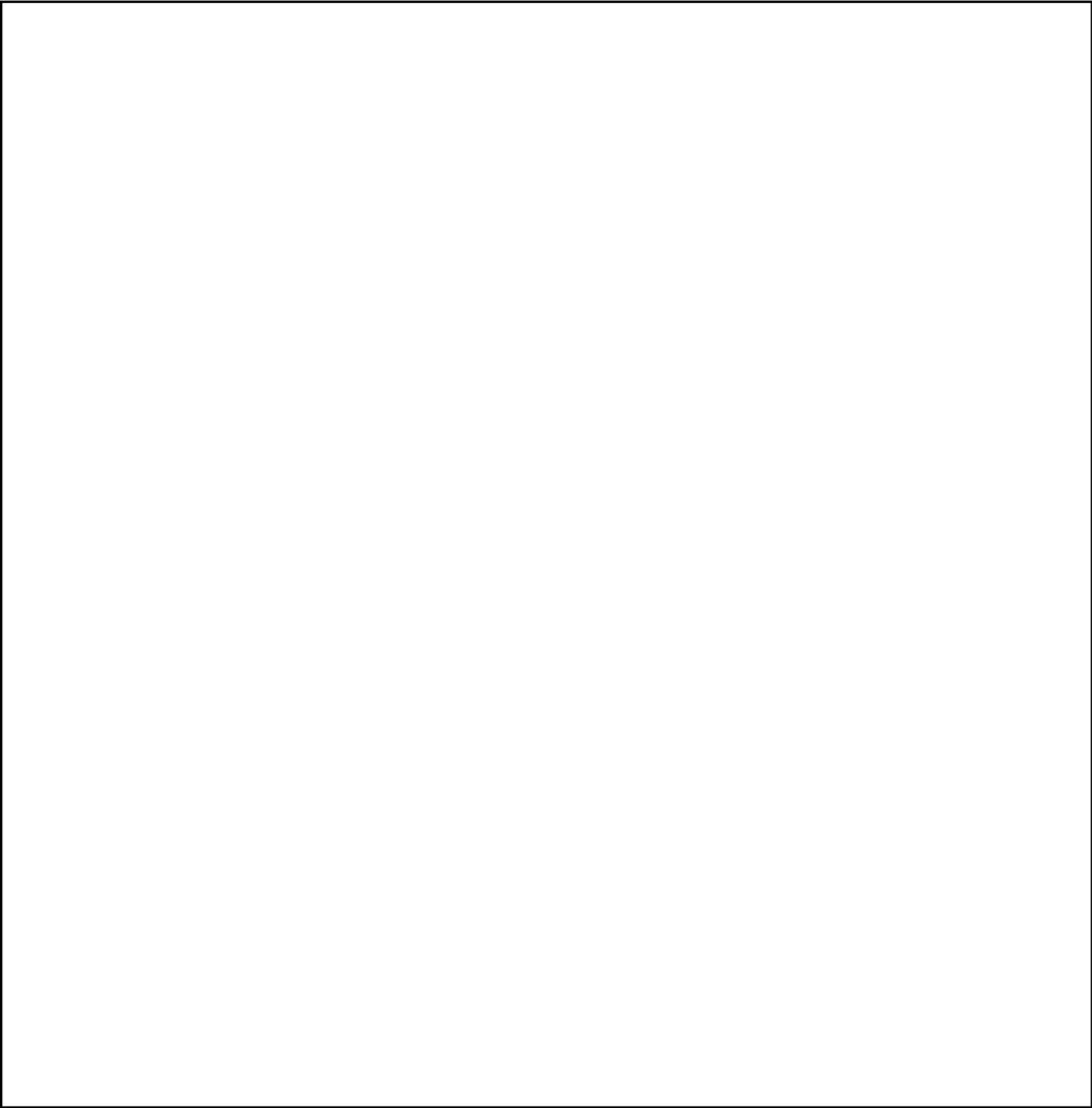
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Libyan Premier Ben Halim can be expected to side with the West, according to Ambassador Tappin. Ben Halim has indicated, however, that he would be in an awkward position regarding "French imperialism" if he had not obtained a satisfactory solution of the Fezzan problem beforehand. The ambassador also cautions that Ben Halim sided with Egypt on the Iraq-Turkey pact and might take his cue from the Egyptians during the conference.

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Communist comment on the conference has fallen off considerably. The Viet Minh regime has at last indicated that it welcomed the meeting and an article in IZVESTIA reports the old charge that the US is attempting--without success--to sabotage the conference by discouraging attendance. According to the Japanese consul general in Hong Kong, Chou En-lai recently told the leader of a Japanese trade delegation that he hoped that Japan would send a top-level representative to Bandung where the matter of developing Sino-Japanese friendship could be discussed.

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