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SECURITY INFORMATION

3.5(c)

4 February 1953

[Redacted]

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Copy No. 59

**CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**

DOCUMENT NO. 28  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.   
 DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2009  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 1986-79 REVIEWER: [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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**Office of Current Intelligence**

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

[Redacted]

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**SUMMARY**

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**SOUTHEAST ASIA**

**1. Reduction in Viet Minh military operations indicated:**

[Redacted]

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**Comment:** The bulk of the Viet Minh forces engaged in the fall campaign in western Tonkin have withdrawn to the northwest of the French defense perimeter where, [Redacted] they are undergoing additional training and are being resupplied.

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The pattern of previous campaigns suggests that the Viet Minh will not undertake another major offensive in Tonkin before March at the earliest.

**2. Burmese Communists anticipate additional defections:**

[Redacted]

The Burmese Communist Party expects more of its members to surrender to the government in the near future, [Redacted]

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Comment: Although the Burmese Communists have been on the defensive against constantly growing government pressure during the past three years, less than 10 percent of all insurgents who have surrendered have been Communists. Recently, however, there has been a slight but noticeable increase in Communist defections.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

3. Kuwait firm offers two tankers to move Iranian oil:



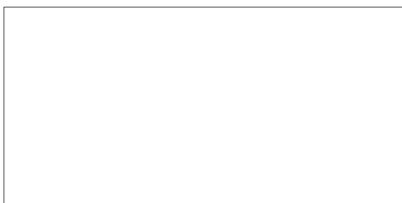
A Kuwait firm notified the National Iranian Oil Company [redacted] that it had an option on two 10,000-ton tankers and was prepared to conclude financial arrangements.

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Comment: This is another of several offers to buy oil or to furnish tankers that Iran has received since early December.

The Kuwait firm claims to represent a large American company.

4. Arabs reportedly oppose Turkish sponsorship of MEDO:



Arab circles in Paris oppose Turkey as a sponsoring member of MEDO because it might be entrusted with the defense of the Suez Canal zone and other strategic areas, [redacted]

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[redacted] if Turkey cannot be excluded from the initial phase, the addition of Greece and Italy as sponsoring members of MEDO would emphasize that the Nagib government "has freely chosen its partners."

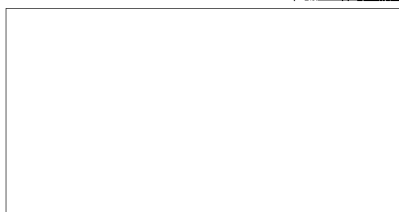
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Comment: Turkey has shown an interest in assuming a helpful role in the Near East; reports from Arab sources, however, often reflect resentment and suspicion.

Should the Arabs insist on the inclusion of Greece and Italy in MEDO, Middle East defense plans would be complicated still further, since Britain, the United States, and Turkey have objected to their membership.

#### LATIN AMERICA

##### 5. Brazil disturbed over IBRD's attitude on railway loans:



Brazilian Finance Minister Lafer foresees "grave political results" if the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development refuses to change its attitude on certain Brazilian railway

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loan applications recommended by the Joint Brazil-United States Economic Development Commission and the commission is then labeled a failure.

Lafer said that the commission, which he hopes will not be allowed to expire on the scheduled date of 31 March, is regarded by President Vargas and his administration as well as by the public as the measure of US sincerity in helping Brazil solve its economic problems.

Comment: Most competent observers agree with Lafer's evaluation of the commission's importance for Brazil's economic development and the improvement of its relations with the United States.

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The proposed railway reorganization, impossible without foreign economic assistance, would greatly increase Brazil's ability to make strategic minerals available for Western defense.

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