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SECURITY INFORMATION

25 August 1953

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3.5(c)

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S U M M A R Y

S O U T H E A S T A S I A

- 1. 3.3(h)(2)

E A S T E R N E U R O P E

- 2. Yugoslav government reportedly sees no real improvement in relations with Soviet bloc (page 3).

W E S T E R N E U R O P E

- 3. American embassy in Paris optimistic on Laniel's position (page 5).

** - 760 articles selected*

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3.5(c)

- 2 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

25 Aug 53

3.5(c)

~~TOP SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

SOUTHEAST ASIA

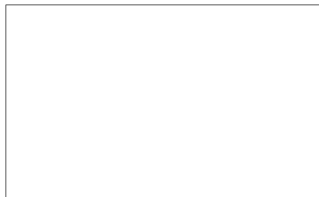
1.

3.3(h)(2)



EASTERN EUROPE

2. Yugoslav government reportedly sees no real improvement in relations with Soviet bloc:



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Soviet bloc gestures to Yugoslavia since the death of Stalin have led to nothing more concrete than have the "gestures of appeasement" made by Moscow to the Western world.



3.3(h)(2)

the Yugoslav-Rumanian negotiations had not been encouraging. An agreement reached on 31 May by a Yugoslav-Rumanian commission concerning the administration of the Iron Gate had not yet been approved in Bucharest. There had been no Orbit policy change

~~TOP SECRET~~



3.5(c)

25 Aug 53

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

3.3(h)(2)

~~SECRET~~
4

~~TOP SECRET~~

SECURITY INFORMATION

in the Danubian Commission, and Communist propaganda, although somewhat less abusive politically, was more critical than ever when dealing with Yugoslav social and economic measures.

Comment: Yugoslav press releases of 24 August allege that negotiations with Albania are stalled because of the latter's hindering tactics.

WESTERN EUROPE

3. American embassy in Paris optimistic on Laniel's position:

3.3(h)(2)

The American embassy in Paris does not foresee an early fall of the Laniel government, even if the French National Assembly should be reconvened in special session.

The broadly based right-center coalition has come through the labor crisis virtually intact and can afford some defections without risk.

The time does not appear ripe for a left-center coalition, although the long-term trend may continue in this direction, particularly if the Indochina situation deteriorates. The Socialists, whose participation would be necessary, do not seem desirous of overthrowing Laniel at this time.

Comment: Despite the parliamentary steering committee's refusal to reconvene the National Assembly, the government will be forced to do so if the Communists are successful in their call for a general strike. A reversal of the steering committee's stand might make Laniel's position untenable and would hasten the trend toward a left-center government.

- 5 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

3.5(c)

25 Aug 53