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fied exit before this takes place.

2. PATHET LAO ATTACK REPORTED

According to information given the American embassy in Vientiane by the Laotian defense minister, approximately 1,000 Pathet Lao troops attacked government forces in southwestern Sam Neua Province on 5 December. The defense minister thinks

this may be the start of the Pathet Lao offensive he has been expecting.

The Hanoi radio has already taken cognizance of military action in the area by quoting a Pathet Lao report that the royal government has launched 'violent attacks.'

Whether this action is only a continuation of the localized incidents which have occurred frequently over the past months or is actually the beginning of a Communist attempt to drive royal forces from the disputed northern provinces cannot now be determined. In the past, early reports on Pathet attacks have often exaggerated the numbers of troops involved.

	The government	may use an attack su	ch
as this as an excuse	to launch an offer	nsive of its own. The	Э
defense minister has	s favored a strong	military response to)
any Pathet Lao actio	on, and has been p	lanning to take the of	<u>'</u> -
fensive against the (Communists after	the 25 December nat	ional
assembly elections.			

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3. BRITAIN TO PRESS JORDAN TO JOIN BAGHDAD PACT

General Sir Gerald Templer, chief of the British Imperial General Staff, was to arrive in Amman on 6 or 7 December to urge Jordan to join the Baghdad pact.

Templer is empowered to offer revision of the Anglo-Jordanian treaty and additional military aid as inducements.

Comment

The British regard adherence of another Arab state to the Baghdad pact as essential if Iraq is to remain an effective participant in 'northern tier' defense. Their success in obtaining Iraqi adherence to the pact through simultaneous revision of the Anglo-Iraqi treaty has probably encouraged them to try the same formula with Jordan.

Jordan would probably join the pact if the West paid a substantial price. Domestic opinion, however, particularly among Jordan's large population of refugees from Palestine, appears to be vehemently opposed to any tie which might seem to distract the country from hostility toward Israel.

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4. URUGUAYA VISIT PEIR	AN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE PING	то
	Uruguay's honorary consul in H Kong told American consul gene Drumwright on 6 December tha	eral t he
the Chinese	had instructions from Monteviding to discuss the question of 'relations' e Communist government. He said he way for Peiping and would be there two or	' with as leav-
Comment		
Uruguay. guayan inte	sted in establishing economic relations probably reflectest in such overtures. The Uruguayar rned over markets for their agricultura	ct Uru- ns have
Should Uru American (No government in the western in the matter in the matter of the matter o	nist China. er Latin on of recog-

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION [Information as of 1700, 6 December)
An exchange of mortar and automatic weapons fire across the Egyptian-Israeli border south of Gaza is the only military activity reported.
Four IL-28 jet bombers were observed at Cairo West military airport on 3 December. The attaché noted considerable construction activity at this airport, including what appeared to be the length-
ening of a runway. three IL-28's and at least eight MIG-15's were sighted
at Dikheila airfield west of Alexandria, apparently an assembly area for the MIG's. The number of MIG-15's now in Egypt is not
known,
that 34 would be delivered by the end of November. The number of IL-28's which have arrived in Egypt is believed to be much smaller.
reports increased flights by the Egyptian air force using British-type jet fighters and conventional training aircraft. In addition the Egyptian air force appears to be contacting retired officers, presumably with the idea of utilizing them to help handle an influx of new equipment.

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