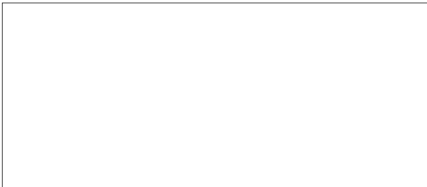


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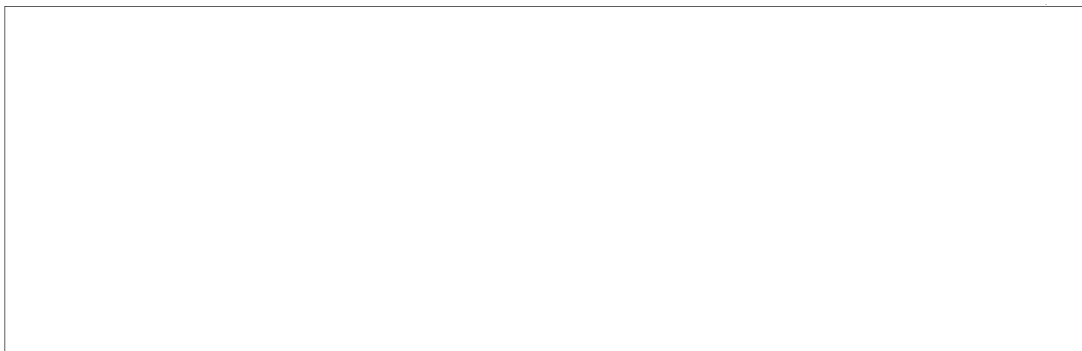
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CONTENTS

1. EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI FRONTIER SITUATION (page 3).

2. ISRAEL OUTLINES RECENT SOVIET BLOC APPROACHES
(page 5).

3. PARIS REPORTEDLY WILLING TO PROCEED WITH
ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SYRIA (page 6).

4. WEST GERMAN CABINET REPORTEDLY DESIGNATES
ADENAUER'S SUCCESSOR (page 7).

5. BURMA EXPANDING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH
SOVIET BLOC (page 8).

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~~TOP SECRET~~**1. EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI FRONTIER SITUATION**

Mobilization in Israel continues at an accelerated rate, according to the American army attaché in Tel Aviv. There has been no public announcement of mobilization. The attaché reports that the movement of equipment has now reached "massive proportions" but that mobilization of personnel has not kept pace with the call-up of civilian vehicles--heavy trucks, wreckers, cars and buses. Large convoys of empty vehicles are apparently heading south, presumably toward the Egyptian frontier, and approximately one company of tanks with new French guns is moving north from Tel Aviv, probably toward the Syrian frontier.

American observers believe this mobilization is a precautionary measure against aggression by one or more of the Arab states. UN truce observers in the area say that the situation is extremely tense and that fighting may break out at any time.

Egypt. [redacted]

[redacted] has two platoons in the EI Auja demilitarized zone, backed by one Egyptian division in reserve. [redacted]

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[redacted] Egypt has moved an armored group and several national guard brigades into Sinai.

[redacted] Egyptian strength in the Gaza strip is approximately two divisions.

[redacted] Cairo believes Israel may try to occupy the strip to protect the oil discovery made "one kilometer" from the Gaza area.



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2. ISRAEL OUTLINES RECENT SOVIET BLOC APPROACHES

[redacted] Israeli Foreign Ministry official Herzog has told the American embassy in Tel Aviv that the Soviet bloc has made three approaches to Israel in recent weeks, two in New York and one in Jerusalem. All three approaches included (1) a strong condemnation of Israel's "pro-Western orientation," (2) a warning against concluding a security pact with the United States, (3) a hint of apprehension that such a pact would involve American military bases in Israel, and (4) an indication that if Israel behaved "properly" the Soviet bloc might permit "some" emigration of Jews to Israel.

Of the three approaches, Herzog stated, one made by a member of the Polish UN delegation included a hint that Soviet arms might be available to Israel. The other two approaches were made by Soviet officials.

Comment

[redacted] Moscow has informed Tel Aviv that it is prepared to deliver arms to all the Middle East powers, including Israel, in return for a commitment from them not to tolerate foreign bases on their territory.

The Soviet Union is unlikely to permit any large number of Jews to emigrate to Israel. However, Israel's dedication to bringing Jews to the "homeland" would compel it to give maximum consideration to any seemingly bona fide Soviet offer on Jewish emigration. [redacted]

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3. PARIS REPORTEDLY WILLING TO PROCEED WITH ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SYRIA

[redacted] [redacted] the French government is willing to proceed without conditions with the proposed arms contract with Syria.

The original proposal for a French-Syrian arms contract had been canceled by Paris on 5 September because Damascus refused to accept as a condition the cessation of radio attacks on French North African policy. [redacted]

Comment

[redacted] prompt aid from France might still prevent Syria from turning to the Orbit. French Foreign Ministry officials recently complained to American officials that they were under pressure of arms manufacturers to reactivate the canceled contract for the delivery of arms to Syria.

France is concerned over maintaining its traditional influence in Syria, where it fears Iraqi domination. However, negotiations for extensive French equipment are apparently also under way with Israel.

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4. WEST GERMAN CABINET REPORTEDLY DESIGNATES ADENAUER'S SUCCESSOR

[Redacted]

The West German cabinet on 28 October, [Redacted]

[Redacted] tentatively designated Finance Minister Fritz Schaeffer, as successor

to Adenauer, should the chancellor die in office. Schaeffer is to consult soon with Christian Democratic leaders and the opposition Social Democrats on the problems that would arise. [Redacted]

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5. BURMA EXPANDING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOVIET BLOC



A Burmese purchasing mission in Moscow [redacted] trade agreements with Poland were about to be concluded and that the mission should try to visit Warsaw.

[redacted] Burma's willingness to accept a Hungarian industrial mission, as proposed by the Hungarian premier to a Burmese purchasing mission in Budapest. [redacted]

Comment

Rumania is sending an economic mission to Burma in November [redacted]

[redacted] the Rumanian ambassador had indicated Rumania would give sympathetic consideration to any Burmese request for petroleum and mining experts.

Premier Nu, presently in the USSR, [redacted] made several requests for Soviet economic and technical assistance.

These developments give the Sino-Soviet bloc an excellent opportunity to expand the toehold in the Burmese market that was established a year ago when Communist China agreed to import a substantial quantity of Burmese rice.

Since the emergence of a buyers' market for rice last year, Burmese economic policy has been strongly influenced by the fact that the Orbit was the only new market in which to dispose of Rangoon's large surplus. (Concurred in by ORR)