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12 May 1956

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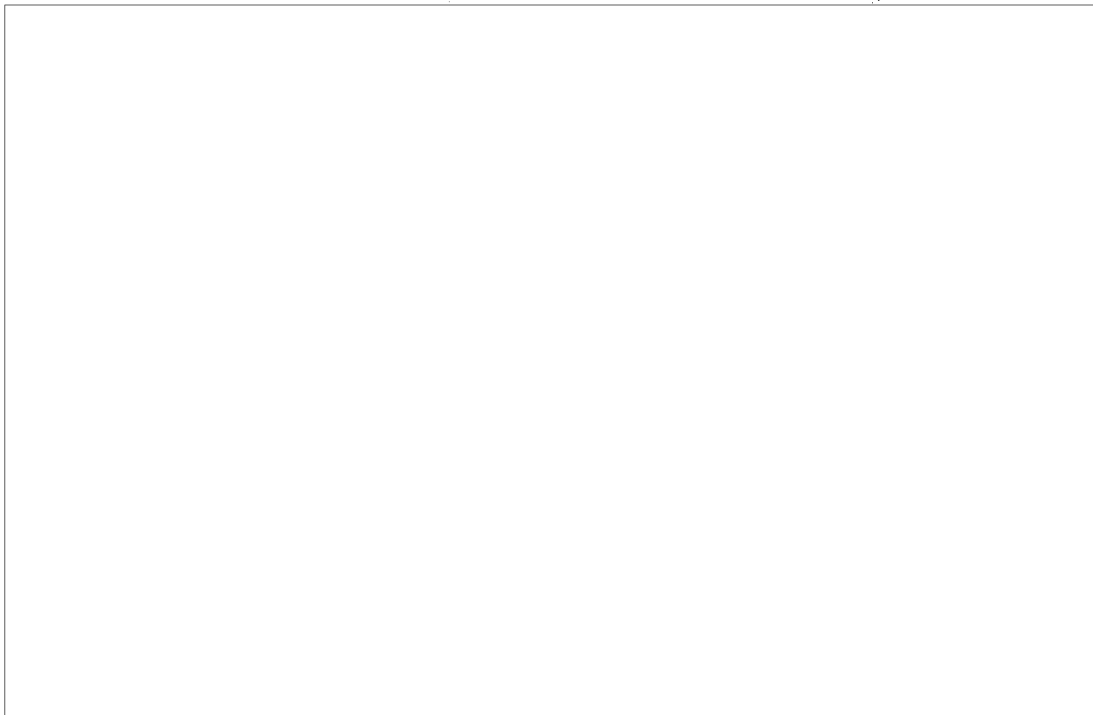
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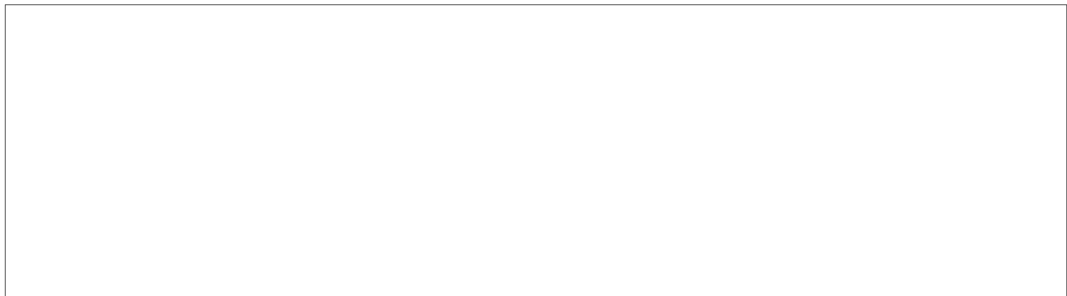
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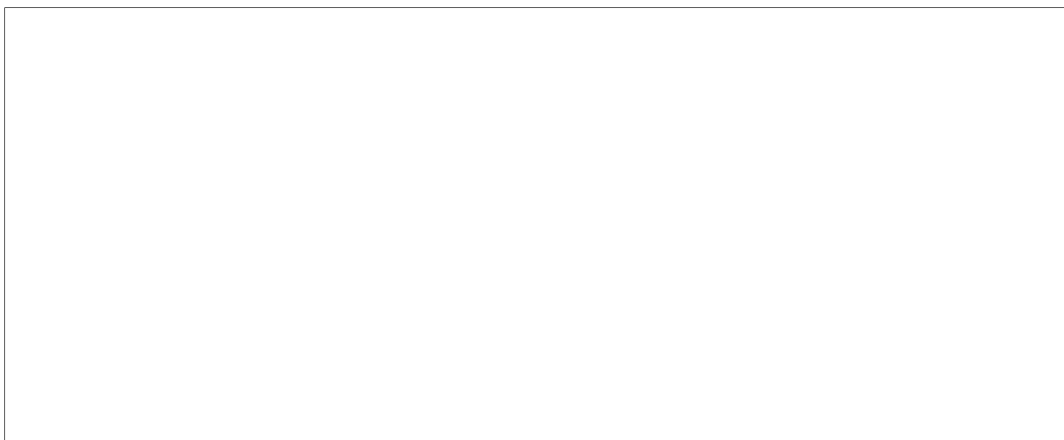
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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
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**1. PORTUGUESE PREMIER SEES NO NEED FOR HASTE
IN RENEWING AZORES AGREEMENT**



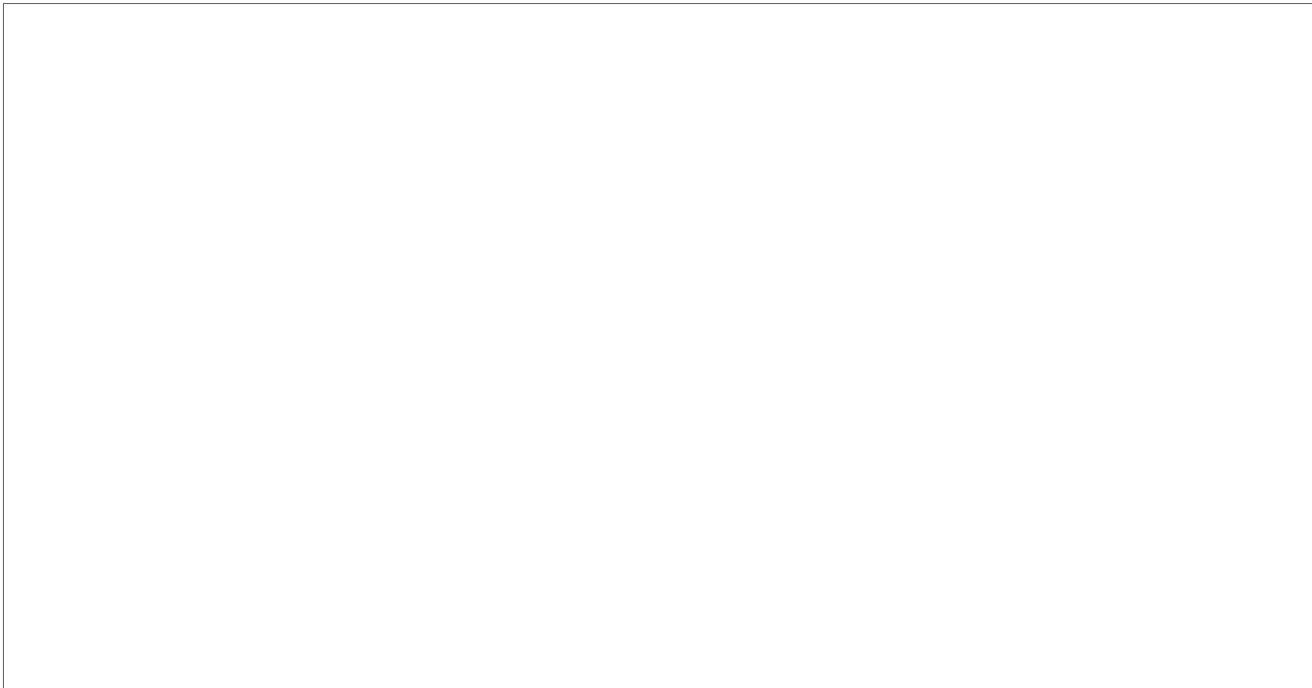
Comment

Ambassador Bonbright in Lisbon reported late in April that when the Portuguese defense minister pressed Salazar for a prompt decision on the Azores agreement, the latter reportedly said that the threat of war in Europe was receding. Foreign Minister Cunha has been dragging his feet on the issue, hoping to find in a development such as the Soviet visit to Britain or the UN disarmament talks something that might justify their reluctance to reach an early agreement.

The Portuguese position is that the present Azores bases agreement, due to expire at the end of 1956, should be extended only for a minimum period of time and in any event for not more than five years.

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**2. TOP POLISH COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY INVITED
TO PARIS**



Comment

The Quai d'Orsay officials, aware that Polish premier Josef Cyrankiewicz is a former Socialist, are sensitive to the effect of such an invitation on Western opinion. They complain frequently of Pineau's failure to consult them on Orbit relations. The government is still intent on lessening East-West tension, however, and will continue to explore all means to that end.

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3. PAKISTAN'S PRIME MINISTER DELAYS TRIP TO COMMUNIST CHINA



Pakistani prime minister Chaudhri Mohammad Ali has postponed his departure for Communist China from 15 May to 2 June in order to be on hand when the crisis is reached in the po-

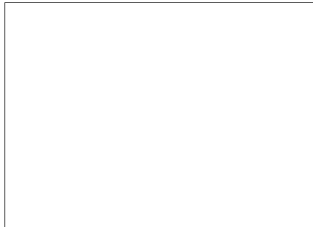
litical struggle between the Moslem League and other political forces in Pakistan.

The postponement reflects the uncertainty of the outcome of the struggle for control of the government, and is probably designed to avoid the embarrassment which would result from a major political change during the prime minister's absence from the country.

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3. PAKISTAN'S PRIME MINISTER DELAYS TRIP TO COMMUNIST CHINA



Pakistani prime minister Chaudhri Mohammad Ali has postponed his departure for Communist China from 15 May to 2 June in order to be on hand when the crisis is reached in the political struggle between the Moslem League and other political forces in Pakistan.


The postponement reflects the uncertainty of the outcome of the struggle for control of the government, and is probably designed to avoid the embarrassment which would result from a major political change during the prime minister's absence from the country.




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4. SINGAPORE INTERNAL SECURITY ISSUE TEMPORARILY POSTPONED

 The Singapore delegation at the self-government talks in London has agreed to postpone temporarily discussion of internal security and the delegates

 are considering less controversial points at issue, according to the staff of the British commissioner general for Southeast Asia. This move seems to increase the chances for eventual acceptance by Singapore of the British position, which links external defense to internal security with final control in British hands.

Comment

The British regard it as foolhardy to meet Singapore's demand for complete local control of internal security. Communist subversion has progressed to a dangerous extent in Singapore, there is no strong non-Communist political organization, and the colony has no local military force.

Compromise on the security issue now appears more likely than when the talks began. However, any settlement based on compromise will probably become a focal point for Communist agitation in Singapore. Local authorities are apprehensive that Communists may instigate new violence on 14 May, the anniversary of last year's riots.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 11 May)

The foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan will meet in Cairo next week to discuss the Palestine problem and Secretary General Hammarskjold's report to the UN Security Council on his mission to the Near East. (Press)

Israel's Foreign Minister Sharett told American chargé White that the UN secretary general had agreed that if Israel started work on Jordan water diversion in the demilitarized zone at Banat Yacov, whether justly or unjustly, and the Arabs

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resorted to violence, the Arabs would be the aggressors. Sharett, however, left the general impression that a short period remains before the Israeli cabinet makes a decision on resumption of work in the demilitarized zone. Pressures to proceed with the project will increase rapidly if the cease-fire collapses.

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