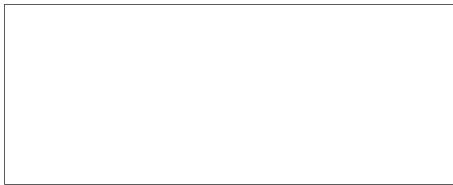


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5 June 1956



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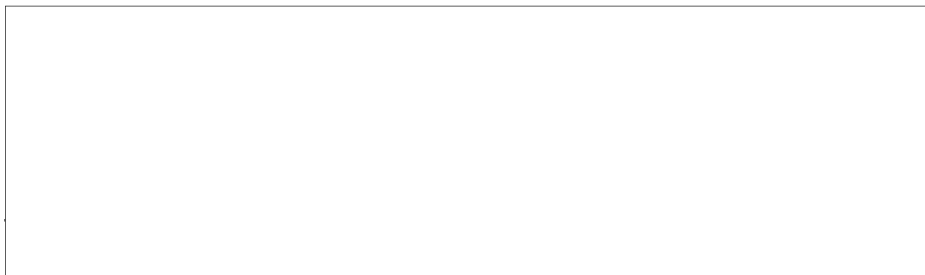
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~**1. ROME WILL PROTEST TITO-TOGLIATTI COMMUNIQUE**

The Italian chargé in Belgrade has been instructed to protest the communiqué which was issued at the conclusion of President Tito's meeting with Italian

Communist Party chief Togliatti. According to the American embassy in Rome, the Foreign Ministry considers that the communiqué constitutes Yugoslav interference in Italian internal affairs because Tito, as head of state, indicated a desire for closer relations with a party in opposition to the Rome government. The chargé also is to say that Italian public opinion will find it very difficult to understand this communiqué in view of the friendly relations between Italy and Yugoslavia.

Comment

Italian-Yugoslav relations, which have been much improved since the October 1954 Trieste settlement, may worsen if Rome is led to believe that Tito wants to resume close contacts with the Italian Communist Party or to attempt to strengthen Yugoslav influence in Albania. Despite Italy's suspicion, Yugoslavia has thus far refrained from any action in Albania which would jeopardize its relations with Italy or its Balkan pact allies.

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2. SOUTH KOREAN ARMY CHIEF MAY BE REMOVED

Comment on: [redacted]

[redacted] The imminent replacement of South Korean army chief of staff Chong Il-kwon, [redacted]

[redacted] would remove from power the second member of a triumvirate, which has exerted a moderating influence on President Rhee. The triumvirate consisted of Chong, assembly speaker Yi Ki-pung, and the recently fired former defense minister, Son Won-il.

Son himself has told the American chargé that Chong may be replaced as chief of staff, since positions are needed for persons who successfully delivered votes for Rhee and Yi in the elections. Son attributes his own removal to the current power struggle within Rhee's Liberal Party.

Yi Ki-pung, unsuccessful vice-presidential candidate, is confronted by strong opposition within the South Korean assembly, although his re-election as speaker appears probable. His prestige will suffer, however, should he be unable to prevent the removal of Chong as chief of staff, regarded as one of the most important posts in Korea. [redacted]

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3. THE BOMBAY RIOTS


Comment on:



The extensive rioting in Bombay reflects the intensity of feeling which still exists in some parts of India on the issue of re-organizing the country's political divisions along linguistic lines.

Marathi-speaking opponents of the government's plan to exclude Bombay from the proposed Maharashtra state and make it a separate bi-lingual unit took advantage of Prime Minister Nehru's presence in the city at a Congress Party committee meeting to attempt to repeat last January's disturbances, which were directed by the Communists.

Anxious to avoid a repetition of the bloodshed that resulted in 200 deaths in January, the Bombay police this time were ready to handle the demonstrators. Although more than 1,000 have been arrested, only one death has been reported so far.

Nehru's refusal to consider inclusion of Bombay in Maharashtra and his statement that he was determined to put down tendencies toward "violence, indiscipline, and adventurism" indicate that the prime minister considers it essential to maintain public decorum as well as the authority of the government. Nehru, always sensitive to world opinion, will be particularly annoyed by the antagonism manifested toward himself in the riots shortly before his departure on a series of foreign visits, including the United States. 

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4. SOVIET-BUILT DESTROYERS MAY BE EN ROUTE TO EGYPT

Comment on:

Two destroyers of the Soviet Skoryy class, which have left the Baltic and transited the English Channel, probably are being delivered to the Egyptian navy. They reportedly were engaged in elementary training exercises at Gdynia, apparently with some Egyptian crewmen, for the past two months.

The vessels, flying Polish flags, are believed to have been transferred from the USSR to the Poles this year for delivery to Egypt as part of the Soviet bloc-Egyptian arms deal. Skoryy destroyers are larger

and more modern than any warships yet transferred by the Soviet Union to any of its Satellites. Two more Egyptian destroyers purchased from Britain are not expected to arrive in Egyptian waters prior to September.

Israel's two destroyers, recently purchased from Britain, are expected to arrive in Israeli waters about 11 June, according to the American army attaché in Tel Aviv.

THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 4 June)

An Israeli military spokesman stated on 4 June that Jordanian forces on the outskirts of Jerusalem fired into Israeli territory for the second day. No casualties were reported. On 3 June an Israeli worker was reported killed in a clash in the same area. (Press)

[redacted] told the American army attaché in Tel Aviv on 1 June that Israel was attempting to purchase \$30,000,000 worth of military equipment from Japan.

[redacted]

French premier Guy Mollét told the National Assembly on 2 June that the present government would not enter into more contracts for the supply of arms to the Arab states. Mollet said that small arms were not being delivered to the Arab states regardless of contracts by previous governments because they might reach the insurgents in Algeria. (Press)

Egypt and Saudi Arabia have in the past contracted for heavy combat equipment, including tanks and artillery from France. [redacted]

(See page 6 for another article on the Arab-Israeli situation.)

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