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11 May 1956

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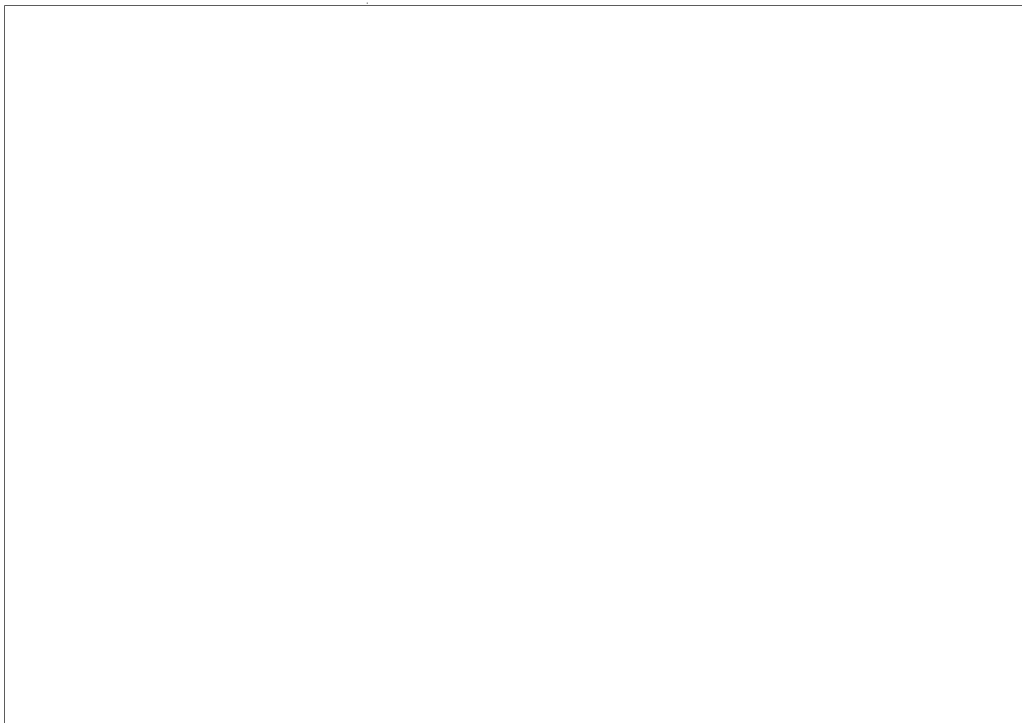


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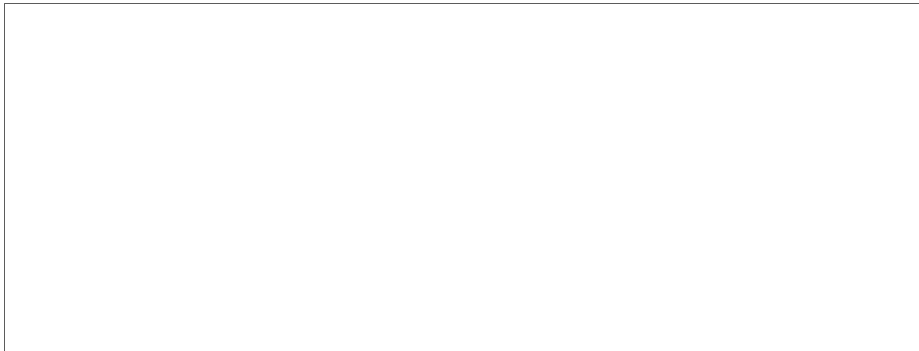
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**OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**



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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION

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1. SOVIETS DISPLAY JET HEAVY BOMBERS EQUIPPED FOR IN-FLIGHT REFUELING



Photographs of BISONs participating in rehearsals for the annual May Day air show in Moscow show two aircraft equipped with nose booms. The booms, similar to one seen during the Soviet

Air Force Day Show on 3 July last year, are about one foot in diameter and about 13 feet long.

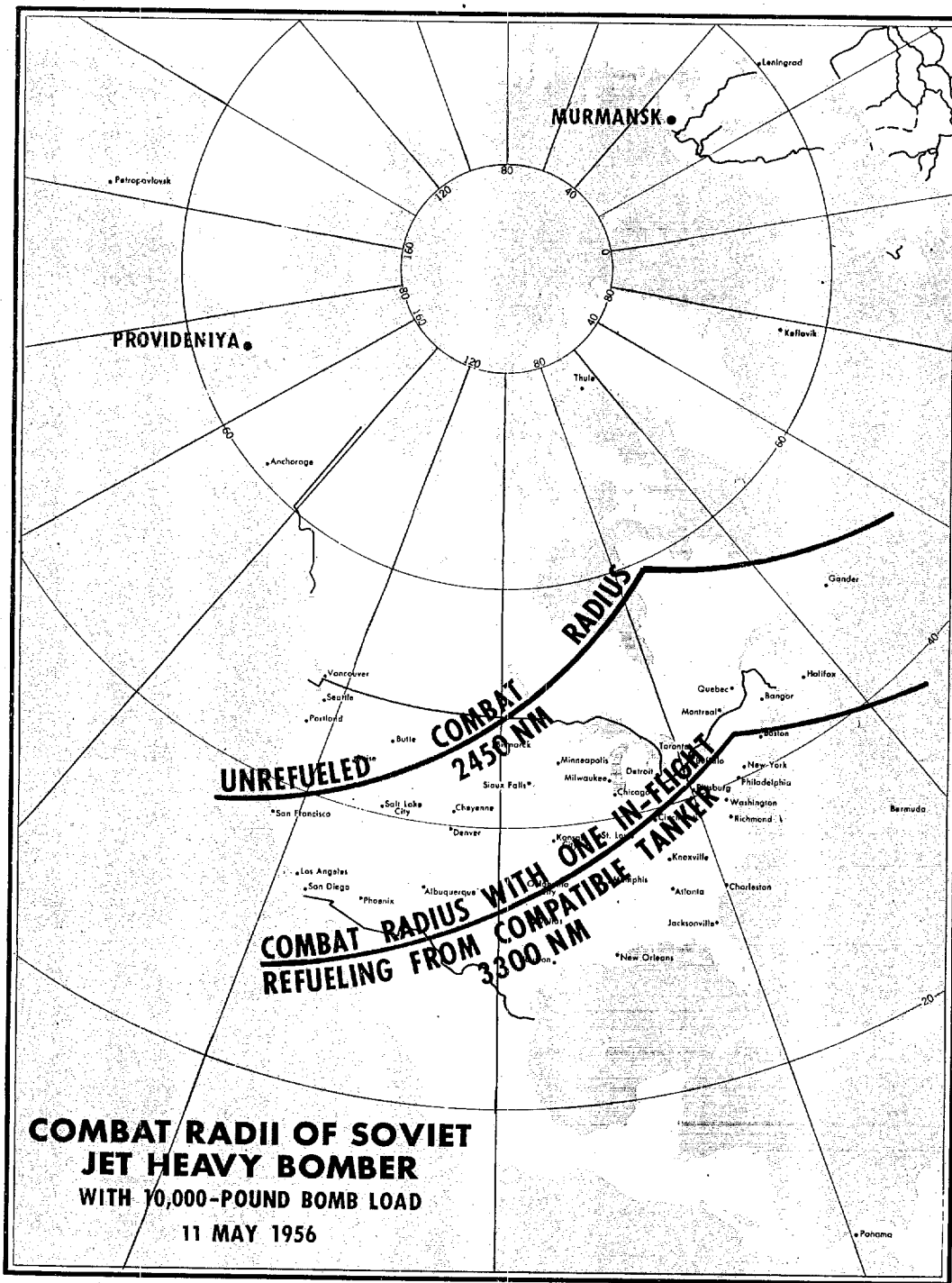
Comment

This equipment is probably the probe element of a probe-and-drogue in-flight refueling system. With one in-flight refueling from a compatible tanker, i. e., a tanker with similar performance characteristics, the combat radius of the BISON could be extended from 2,450 to 3,300 nautical miles. (See map, p. 4.)

The absence of squadron markings on both probe-equipped aircraft, which were interspersed among about 20 other BISONs when observed, suggests they are still under the control of the Ministry of Aviation Industry rather than the Long Range Air Force.

The aerial tanker element of the refueling system has not been identified. Of known Soviet aircraft, another BISON or a BEAR would be best suited for this role. (Prepared by OSI)

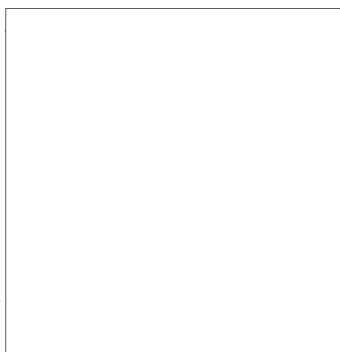
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**2. USSR MAKES FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN
DEPENDENT ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS**



A Japanese-Soviet fisheries agreement will be signed in Moscow on 11 May, according to an announcement by Japanese foreign minister Shigemitsu. He later informed Ambassador Allison that Premier Bulganin had made clear to the Japanese negotiator in Moscow, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Kono, that implementation of the agreement would depend on the reopening of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Japan. Shigemitsu clearly implied that the Japanese government would probably accede to Bulganin's condition.

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3. BRITISH PRESTIGE SEEN DECLINING IN IRAQ

Ambassador Gallman reports from Iraq that a steady decline of British prestige there is one of the most significant developments in the area since the summer of 1955. Gallman

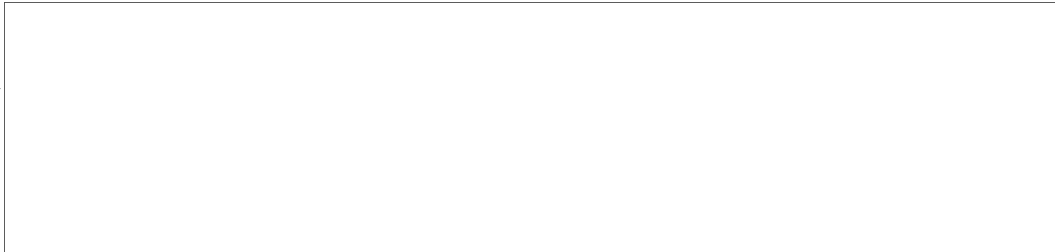
attributes this in part to the worsening British position in Jordan, Cyprus, and the Persian Gulf sheikdoms, but also to the conduct of British officials and businessmen in Iraq. He says British ambassador Wright is increasingly criticized by Iraqis for his "unwarranted interference" in internal affairs.

Gallman adds that a generally pro-British Iraqi news correspondent told him that Wright's "high-handed and arrogant" conduct is building up real trouble for Britain in Iraq. The correspondent said that he had warned British embassy officials that "Britain will lose this, her last foothold in the Middle East," unless Wright and others in the embassy change their tactics.

Comment

The decline in British prestige in Iraq has accompanied a loss of influence by the British throughout the Middle East. Iraq tends to blame Britain for its failure to obtain an influential position in the Middle East through the medium of the Baghdad pact. Iraq's present leaders almost certainly wish to continue their cordial relationships with Britain. They are not likely, however, to maintain this position should strong popular pressure develop.

4. SPAIN TO APPOINT AMBASSADOR IN RABAT



Comment

Spain has been eager to curry favor with the Arab states by being the first to accord Morocco diplomatic recognition. The sultan particularly desires the presence of accredited ambassadors at post-Ramadan celebrations on 12 May. France has insisted on delaying diplomatic exchanges until fall. Spain's action will probably force Paris to alter its schedule radically.

The British government issued a statement on 10 May recognizing Morocco and Tunisia as sovereign and independent states, but deferring an exchange of ambassadors until French-Moroccan negotiations are concluded.

5. FRENCH-MOROCCAN TENSION NEARS BREAKING POINT

[REDACTED]

Consul General Porter in Rabat believes that the failure of the Moroccans to reach an agreement with Paris regarding foreign affairs may bring current tension to a breaking point. Many French residents in Morocco insist that the situation is more serious now than it was prior to the Oued Zem massacre on 20 August.

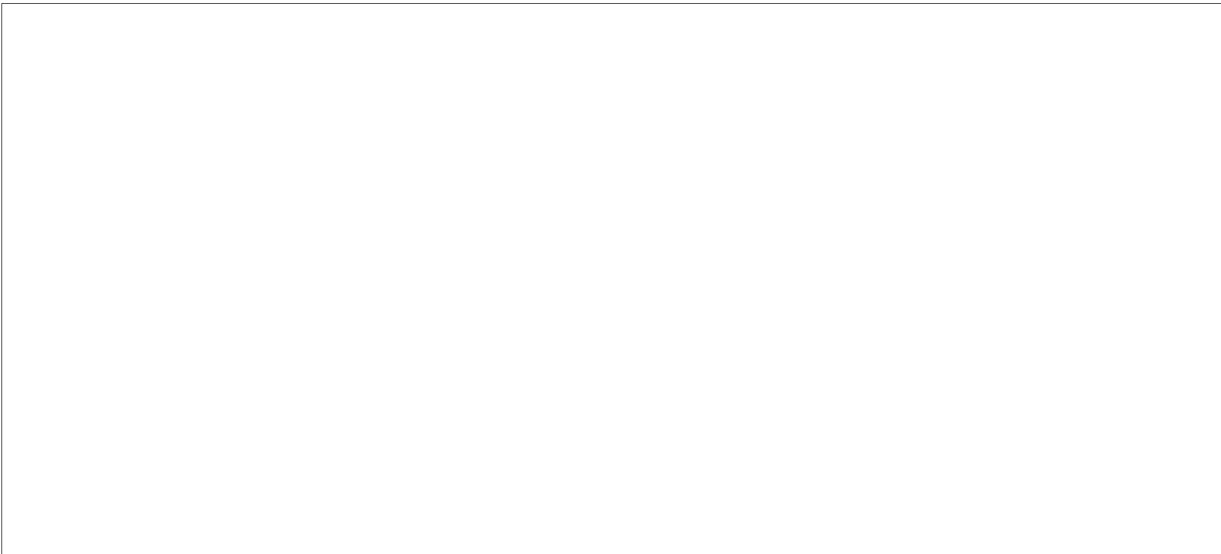
[REDACTED]

The Moroccan population and elements of the "Liberation Army" are becoming restive. The French military forces, smarting under continued Moroccan harassment, have thus far been restrained by their high command.

Comment

The sultan does not have the security forces necessary to prevent widespread attacks on French residents and is relying on personal appeals for order.

6. NEW COUP IN CUBA REPORTED IMMINENT

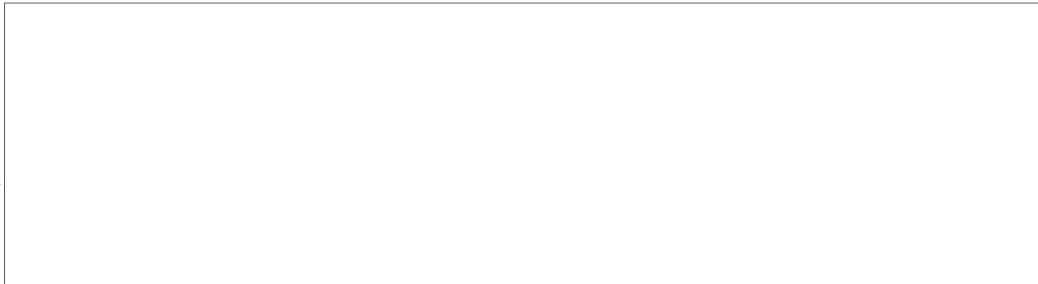


Comment

There have been previous reports that officers who served under former president Prio were planning a general revolt, which would be set off by the assassination of President Batista. On 9 May the Cuban police expelled Prio from Cuba on charges of inciting uprisings and [redacted] the entire Prio "clique" is to be deported.

Popular dissatisfaction with the Batista regime has been mounting, and Batista, in an effort to strengthen his position, is reorganizing the military and has suspended constitutional guarantees.

7. ARMY MAY SEIZE CONTROL IN ECUADOR



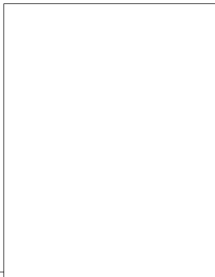
Comment

The approach of the 3 June national elections for president, vice president and congress has occasioned numerous reports of plots to gain control of the government by force. The army is the most important factor in Ecuadoran politics.

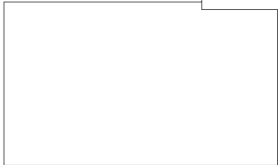
In the past 30 years Ecuador has had some 22 presidents, only one of whom was regularly elected and served out his four-year term. Velasco was ousted from the presidency in 1935 and again in 1947 because of his dictatorial measures.

8. PRE-ELECTION TENSION INCREASING IN SOUTH KOREA

Comment on:



Reports that Cho Pong-am, President Rhee's remaining opponent in South Korea's presidential race, has gone into hiding for fear of assassination reflect increasing tension in South Korea prior to the 15 May presidential elections.

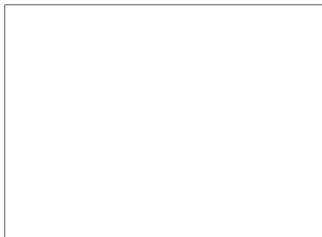


Latest indications point to a close race between Chang Myon and Rhee's running mate, Yi Ki-pung, with victory for Yi dependent on the extent of police aid in rural areas. Both Yi and Chang are regarded as political moderates and friendly toward the United States. However, election of Chang would arouse Rhee's ire, and might prompt him to block Chang's inauguration or amend the rules of succession.

Opposition anxiety concerning possible fraud in connection with vote-counting procedures suggests that large-scale irregularities might lead to postelection violence in opposition strongholds such as Seoul and Pusan.



9. HUNGARY RELAXES CONTROLS ON AUSTRIAN BORDER



The announced Hungarian decision on 9 May to "abolish the technical barrier along the western frontier of the country is a possibly important step in the Soviet bloc campaign to reduce international tensions and to convince the Satellite people that past harsh policies are being abandoned. The Hungarian announcement was preceded by Austrian Communist proposals to Hungary, on the eve of general elections in Austria, that restrictions on the Austro-Hungarian border be lifted since they represented a "remnant of the cold war." This maneuver is unlikely to improve the chances of the Communists in the election.

The "technical barriers" the Hungarians intend to abolish are presumably the mine fields and barbed wire fences. While the Hungarian action is likely to encourage many Hungarians to attempt to escape to the West, the regime's 15,000-man frontier border guard will probably be able to maintain relatively strict control of the border.



THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 10 May)

Clashes and incidents continue on the Jordanian and Egyptian borders with Israel. An Israel military spokesman reported that the Tel Aviv-Beersheba railway was cut two miles north of Beersheba, and that Jordanian infiltrators had attacked a civilian truck 10 miles north of Tel Aviv. Israeli patrols killed a Jordanian infiltrator in a clash south of Jerusalem, and engaged in a skirmish with Jordanians 40 miles north of Jerusalem. Egypt charged that armed Israelis killed an Arab farmer and wounded a National Guardsman near Gaza. (Press)

[redacted]
[redacted] the six Vampire jet fighters with Syrian markings which landed for refueling in Athens on 26 April, presumably on their way to Syria, were delivered to Syrian air force officers training in Egypt. [redacted] they were delivered under an old contract and added that 12 more aircraft were included in the contract for future delivery. [redacted]

[redacted] told the American army attaché in Damascus that Israel had released the Syrian vessel Feisal and crew and that it was on its way back to Syria. Israel captured the vessel in August 1955 for violating Israeli territorial waters. Israel agreed at the time of the Israeli-Syrian prisoner exchange of 29 March to release the vessel and its crew in the near future.