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8 June 1956

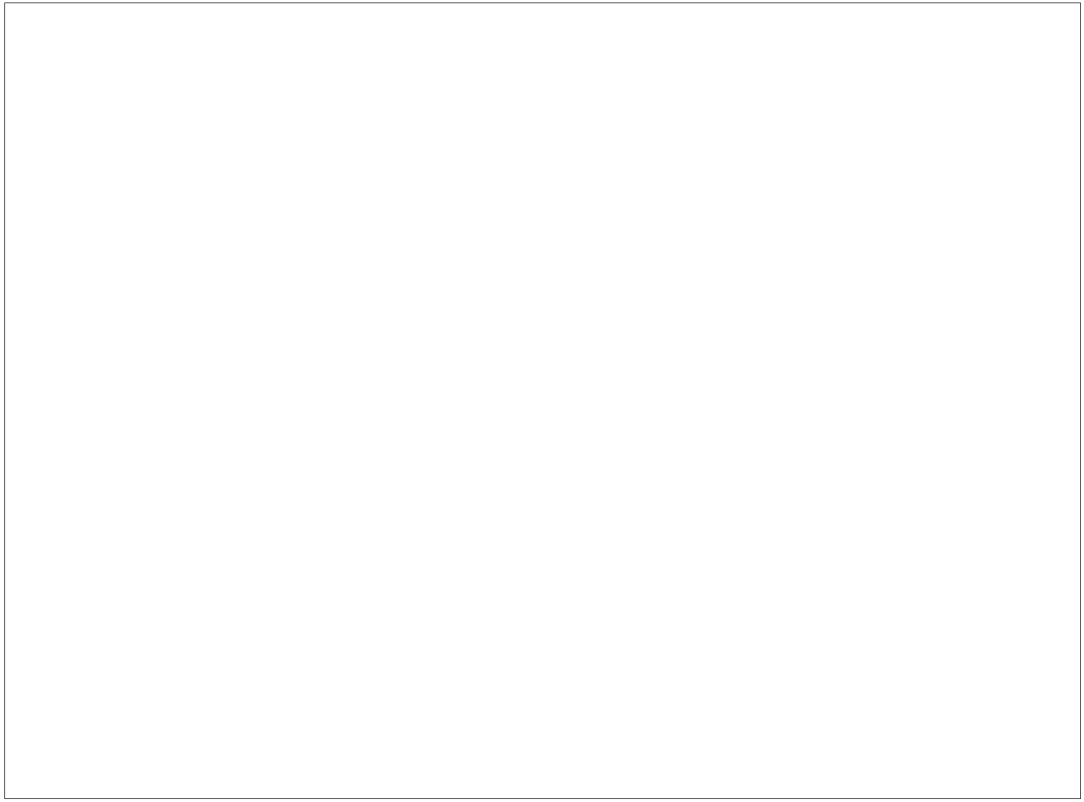


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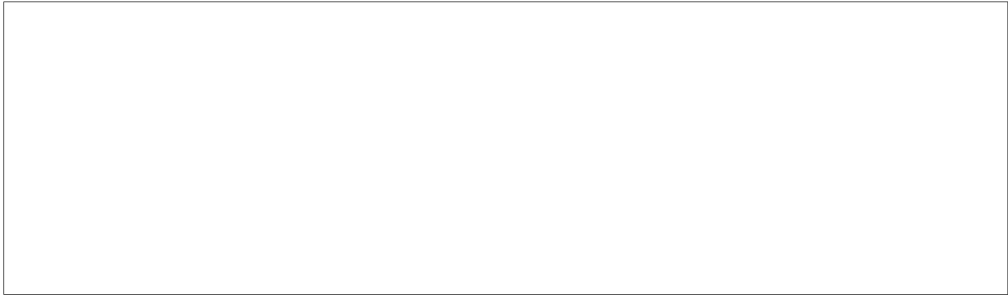
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1. WIDESPREAD ANTI-REGIME STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA



Protest meetings and parades held last month by university students in several Czechoslovak cities seem to have confronted the regime with its boldest and most extensive open opposition since the Pilsen currency riots of 1953. The timing of demonstrations and demands for greater political and cultural freedom by students in Prague, Bratislava, Pilsen,

Banska Bystrica and other centers indicates that the protest movement was well organized and co-ordinated. Prague students, for example, apparently distributed leaflets among factory workers in order to publicize their demands, and employed both aircraft and motorcycle couriers in order to maintain contact with colleagues in other areas of the country.

The regime was caught off guard by the extent of the student activities and its lack of control over the country's youth; the police did not act until the end of May, when about 30 of the student leaders reportedly were arrested-- although this action has since been denied by Premier Siroky. The crisis has apparently been brought under control, but official statements remain equivocal, carefully attempting to distinguish between "honest" student complaints and discontent inspired by "bourgeois provocateurs."

Siroky's statements concerning the "enormous activity of imperialist agents" in Czechoslovakia may foreshadow an attempt to exonerate the students and blame the incidents on foreign agents. 

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2. ALGERIAN NATIONALISTS REPORTED SEEKING ARMS FROM CZECHS

[REDACTED]

The Algerian nationalists are arranging to get arms from Czechoslovakia, [REDACTED]. The arms would reportedly be channeled through Syria and be furnished free. [REDACTED]

Comment

[REDACTED] unconfirmed that the USSR had agreed to supply free, via Egypt, any arms needed by the Algerian nationalists. Moscow's overt involvement in any such deal would mark a shift in the careful balance the USSR has been maintaining between sympathy for French interests and Arab nationalism on the Algerian question. If a Czech deal should be made, Moscow probably would insist that any arms reaching Algeria were sent by Arab nations.

[REDACTED] at least one 12-ton consignment of arms and ammunition intended for Algeria is being readied in Damascus for shipment by air to an unspecified destination.

Algerian nationalist leader Ben Bella publicly stated in Cairo in late February that the rebels would accept arms from the Soviet bloc. Thus far, however, no arms identifiable as of Communist manufacture have been found in rebel hands. [REDACTED] (Concurred in by ORR)

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3. POLISH WRITERS SAY CRITICISM IN POLAND TOOK ANTI-RUSSIAN TURN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the criticism of the party leadership in Poland had become so anti-Russian that one [REDACTED] "would have thought the critics were Americans," [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] many of the critics themselves were alarmed by the pace of developments and feared that if it continued, a riot like that of 17 June 1953 in Berlin would occur. [REDACTED] it was felt that, with the USSR on Poland's doorstep, action must be taken gradually. [REDACTED]

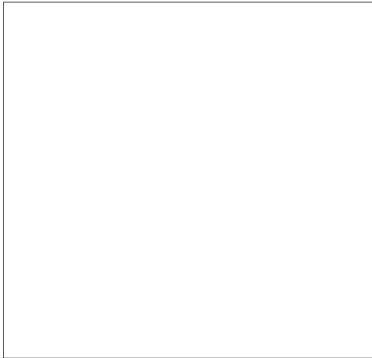
Comment Several Poles in official positions have recently stressed to Western observers their determination to achieve increased internal freedom and a measure of independence within the framework of their alliance with the USSR.

Differences among Polish leaders about the extent to which criticism should be permitted have undoubtedly made it more difficult for the regime to control the criticism.

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4. YUGOSLAV-SOVIET AGREEMENT TO INCREASE TRADE



The protocol signed in Belgrade on 6 June calls for an expansion of \$20,000,000 each way in this year's Yugoslav-Soviet trade. A Yugoslav request for 100,000 tons of wheat from the USSR presumably accounts for slightly less than half of the increase. According to the announcement, other Soviet exports will be oil, aluminum and machinery, in exchange for Yugoslav steel, agricultural products, textiles and footwear.

With this agreement, Yugoslav-Soviet trade is scheduled to amount to \$55,000,000 each way, which is slightly more than Yugoslavia's trade with China and all the Satellites. About one third of Yugoslavia's total scheduled trade will be with the Sino-Soviet bloc. (Concurred in by ORR)

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**5. REVOLT AGAINST ECUADORAN GOVERNMENT
REPORTED PLANNED** [redacted]

[redacted] The Concentration of Popular Forces (CFP), the party of defeated presidential candidate Carlos Guevara Moreno, will initiate a revolt in Guayaquil [redacted]

[redacted] with strong army support, [redacted]

Comment

Guevara, a demagogue whose main strength is in Guayaquil, is reported to have said he would attempt a coup if he lost the election. To stage a successful coup, Guevara would need the support of the Ecuadoran armed forces, which at present seem inclined to support constitutional procedures and in any case are reported opposed to Guevara.

The government has reinforced police patrols in the face of rumors of possible demonstrations by followers of the three defeated presidential candidates, and some arrests have been reported.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 7 June)

Jordan Arab Legion sources charged that Israeli soldiers crossed into Jordanian territory on 6 June at Habla in the Qalqiliya area. Two Israelis were seriously wounded in the clash. An Egyptian military spokesman said that Israeli armored cars opened fire on Egyptian territory at the Gaza strip. (Press)

The Jordanian army is recruiting and training fedayeen at five schools, [redacted] the graduates will be sent gradually into Israel, adding that these fedayeen have no connection with Egypt's fedayeen activities, which are under the control of the Egyptian military attaché. [redacted]

[redacted]

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