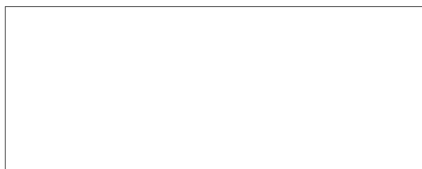


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*CO/ED*

23 September 1956




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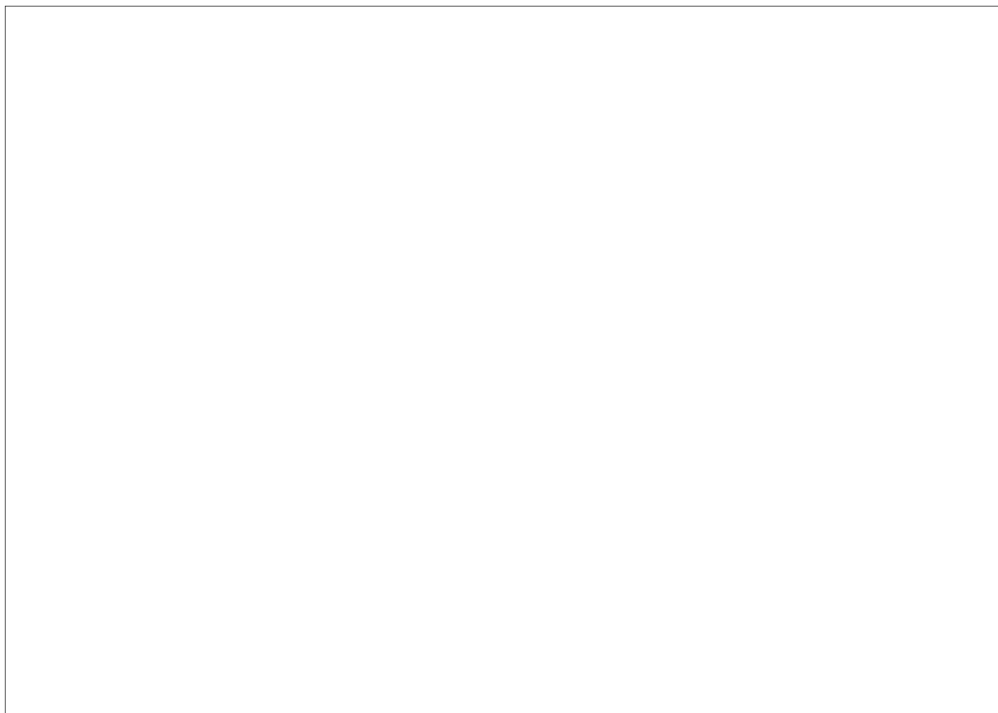
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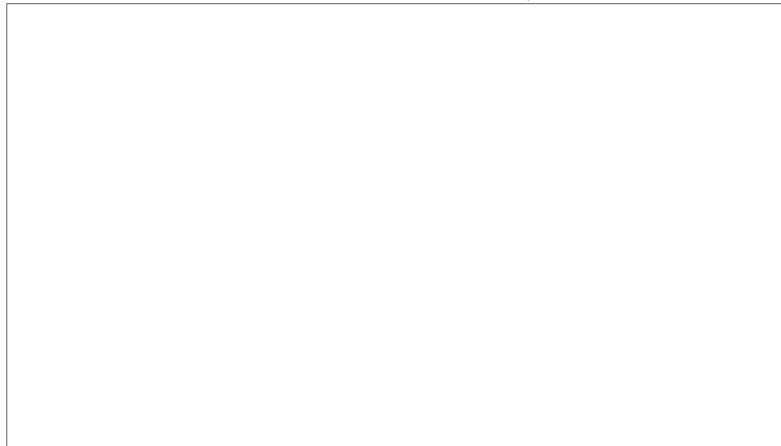
# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 39  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.   
 DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2029  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 21 Dec 79 REVIEWER: 

## OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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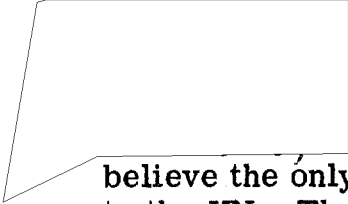
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## 1. OUTCOME OF SECOND SUEZ CONFERENCE THREATENS MOLLET GOVERNMENT



The American embassy in Paris reports that the French public and government officials are disillusioned and discouraged by the second London conference and now believe the only course open is referral of the Suez question to the UN. The embassy expects the National Assembly to hold a bitter and prolonged debate when it convenes on 2 October, with Suez likely to become the focal point of growing exasperation and frustration on a variety of problems.

The embassy emphasizes there is a worsening social climate as workers, farmers and business men become increasingly antagonistic over price rises and wage problems.

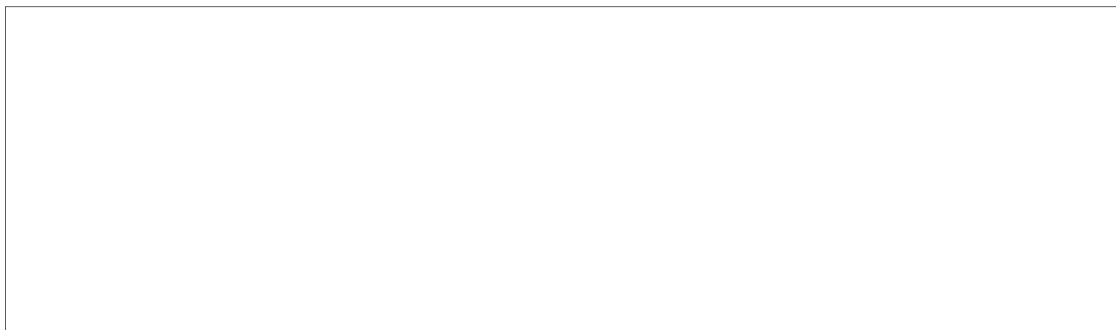
### Comment

Foreign Minister Pineau won grudging cabinet support for the new Suez Canal users' association with the proviso that France maintain freedom of action to refuse co-operation in any measures it considers contrary to its essential interests. Premier Mollet had received nearly unanimous non-Communist support in early August for his strong stand against Egyptian nationalization of the canal, but he has been running into increasing political opposition at home as France and the West have avoided recourse to force.

Success for Nasr is likely to further weaken France's position in Algeria and Mollet may seek more direct American and British support in North Africa.

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2. SOVIET-SPANISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MAY BE ESTABLISHED SOON

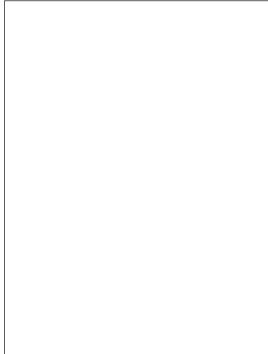


**Comment**                      Resumption of diplomatic relations between Spain and the Soviet Union has been under consideration for some time. Madrid probably anticipates increased trade opportunities and wider acceptance in international circles to result from formal relations with Moscow, but no change is expected in Spain's relations with the United States or in its anti-Communist policy.

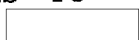
General Franco had reportedly demanded as preconditions the return of Spanish war prisoners and restitution of Spanish gold sent to the Soviet Union by the Republican government during the civil war. About 500 Spanish civilian refugees from the civil war are scheduled to embark from Odessa this week, the first of an estimated 1,300 who have received exit permits from the USSR.


### 3. ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF NICARAGUAN PRESIDENT SOMOZA

Comment on:

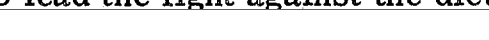




The attempted assassination of Nicaraguan president Somoza on 22 September by a member of an opposition party will probably result in serious repression of the opposition. Somoza's condition is serious but not critical. Should Somoza die, a chaotic situation would probably develop. Martial law has been declared in the entire country.

Leaders of the opposition Conservative Party have long considered the assassination of Somoza the only way to bring about a change in government. Somoza, Nicaraguan strong man since 1934, was planning his "re-election" to another six-year term next February. 

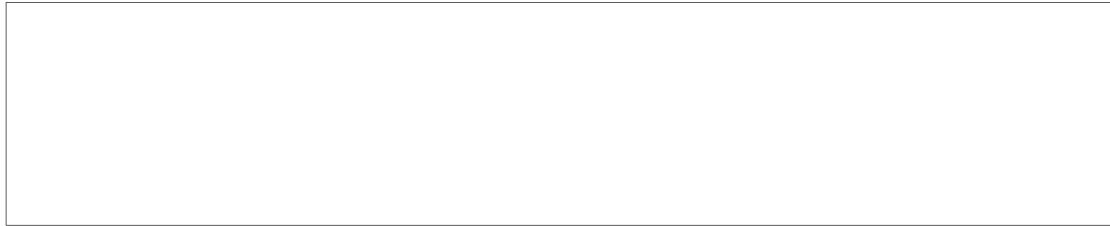


It is not known whether the assassination attempt was co-ordinated with the revolutionary plans of exiles outside Nicaragua. Some of these exiles, who were recently reported in Costa Rica and Mexico, probably include Communist sympathizers.

Even if the assassination attempt were purely of a local political nature, the Nicaraguan government will probably seek to implicate Somoza's hated enemy, President Figueres of Costa Rica, and, even in the absence of conclusive evidence of Costa Rican complicity, might go so far as to launch an attack on Costa Rica. The Nicaraguan exiles in Costa Rica and high Costa Rican officials were involved in the April 1954 attempt to assassinate Somoza. Figueres feels impelled to lead the fight against the dictators of the Caribbean area and,  is known to have given moral and financial support in a recent effort to have the president and security chief of Venezuela assassinated. 



#### 4. SOVIET BLOC TO SUPPORT ARMS DELIVERIES TO JORDAN



Comment                      Syria is to act as the intermediary in this latest extension of bloc arms supply to the Arab states by procuring about \$7,000,000 worth of arms through its purchasing mission in Prague and forwarding them to Jordan. The cost of this deal is to be borne chiefly by Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria, with provisions for other Arab states to contribute to the program.

Although bloc pricing policies on arms sales in the Middle East in many cases bear little relation to cost, the discount feature indicates a Soviet desire to influence the uncertain alignment of Jordan. The British have warned Jordan that they would have to reconsider the Anglo-Jordan treaty if substantial numbers of non-British arms were acquired.

~~SECRET~~

## 5. BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT DECLARES STATE OF SIEGE

The Bolivian government has declared a state of siege as a result of civil disorders in La Paz on 22 September. Anti-government elements had organized a hunger march and a crowd set fire to the progovernment newspaper building and the government radio station. Other fires and rioting reportedly resulted in eight deaths.

The antigovernment action during the day was reported led by Unzaga de la Vega, leader of the major rightist opposition party, while disorders occurring on the night of 22 September were directed by a member of a leftist splinter party. The Communists were apparently not involved.

Bolivia's spiraling inflation -- in which the already high cost of living rose 17 percent between April and June of this year -- has been generally recognized as the major problem facing the new government which took office on 6 August. Although the government won over 80 percent of the total vote in last June's election, its chief opposition polled about 40 percent of the vote in the inflation-plagued urban areas. A monetary stabilization council, made up of high-ranking Bolivian officials with an American adviser, was recently set up.

No one of Bolivia's three armed groups-- the civilian militia, the carabineros, or the army -- appears to have defected to the opposition. Consequently, the government is believed capable of maintaining itself in power.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION  
(Information as of 1700, 23 September)

Jordanian forces were reported to have killed six persons and wounded 23 others inside Israel on 23 September, apparently for approaching prohibited military zones in the Jerusalem area. In one incident, according to an Israeli military spokesman, Jordanian machine gun fire killed three and wounded 17 members of an Israeli archeological convention who were part of a group viewing tombs within Jordan from a water tower in Israel. Apparently referring to a separate incident, a Jordanian military source announced with "deep regret" that three French tourists in Israeli territory were killed and six wounded when they approached a prohibited military zone. The shootings possibly indicate a breakdown in discipline among the bitter, poorly led and poorly equipped Palestinian Arabs of the Jordan National Guard, the force which mans the border. [redacted]

[redacted] it is primarily forces of the National Guard -- that is, Palestinians recruited during the last two months" -- who are on guard in Jerusalem. Tension in West Jordan soared following two Israeli raids during the second week of September, bringing forth new pressure for revenge against Israel. The recently publicized decision by Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia to supply arms to the National Guard, and the arrival of at least token shipments in Jordan, may also have promoted cockiness in West Jordan. The incidents raise the prospect of a serious new round of Israeli retaliatory raids, and confront the Amman government with a test of its ability to maintain control in West Jordan. [redacted]

Jordan has requested that the Iraqi army chief of staff, General Rafiq Arif, join the current Iraqi-Jordanian military talks in Amman, [redacted]

[redacted] Nuri stated that he had consented to this, and added that Iraq had already supplied Jordan with 1,000 rifles from its limited arms supply, but had no additional small arms in reserve. [redacted]



[Redacted]

[Redacted] Egyptian army engineers were preparing a "model settlement" which, upon completion, could be studied by a Syrian engineer officer. The field agency comments that the "model settlement" may be intended for use in training for attacks on Israeli border settlements.

[Redacted]