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# 1. ANTILEFTISTS FORCE RESIGNATION OF SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF

The resignation on 7 July of General Shawqat Shuqayr, Syrian chief of staff, appears to be the initial result of a move by rightist army and civilian elements to eliminate leftist influence in the Syrian army. Shuqayr's resignation was forced by a group of antileftist senior officers, the minister of defense, and apparently a faction split off from the "little RCC" junior officer group. The leaders of the action, Brigadier General Tawfiq Nizam al-Din, Shuqayr's deputy, and Colonel Omar

Kabbani, a high staff officer, have become chief and deputy chief of staff respectively. Brigadier General Aziz Abd al-Karim, chief of the Syrian air force, is reported to have been appointed assistant chief of staff.

Although the antileftist group has assumed at least temporary control in an action which has been bloodless up to now, its strength and staying power have not yet been determined. The group may not continue to retain the support of the "little RCC" faction led by Colonel Nufouri, Syrian G-1. Moreover, the antileftists have not yet moved against Colonel Sarraj, Syrian G-2, and top leader of the "little RCC," but they plan to do so. The antileftist action may precipitate a countermove by army supporters of the Communist Party and the leftist Arab Socialist Resurrection Party (ASRP) before the rightists can consolidate their position. Moreover, Egypt, which has backed the ASRP and Shuqayr, and which probably suspects an Iraqi-Turkish maneuver, may directly encourage an ASRP-led countermove.

Shuqayr, chief of staff since July 1953, had little personal following and remained in power principally because of his professional ability and political agility. Since February 1954, he has associated with and supported the ASRP and has been marked as a target for removal by both rightists and "little RCC" elements.

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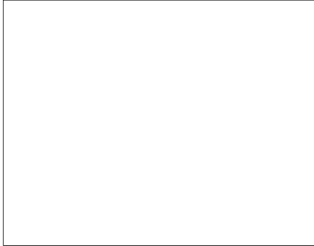
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## 2. SOVIET AID AGREEMENT WITH CAMBODIA



The Soviet Union's pledge of economic and technical assistance to Cambodia highlights the increasing success of the Sino-Soviet bloc in exploiting Cambodia's neutralism and its desire for economic expansion. The agreement follows closely the conclusion of negotiations for a \$22,400,000 Communist Chinese economic aid program in Cambodia.

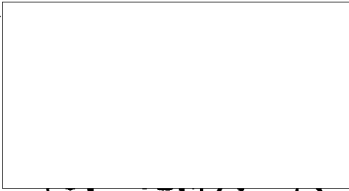
The USSR, according to a joint communiqué, has expressed its readiness to send technicians to train Cambodian personnel, to provide industrial equipment, and, as a gift, to build and equip a hospital in Phnom Penh. Prince Sihanouk, leader of the Cambodian delegation, is said to be fully satisfied with the results of the Moscow talks-- suggesting that the aid will be on favorable long-range terms and will dovetail with other Cambodian foreign aid arrangements.

Although Sihanouk's concept of neutralism in playing both sides to advance his country's economic development has occasioned some criticism in Cambodia, his political influence has thus far effectively overcome such objections. The prospect of increased Soviet and Chinese ties with Cambodia may prove disturbing to India, in view of Nehru's hopes to expand his own influence there. 

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### 3. FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY SEEN ADJUSTING TO DE-STALINIZATION CAMPAIGN

 The American embassy in Paris is inclined to believe that the French Communist Party leadership is successfully orienting the party in the new situation brought about by de-Stalinization. Maurice Thorez is said to "continue to believe" that the best chance for the future success of the party lies in close, although better-disguised, ties with Moscow.

Most reliable observers appear to agree that major changes in party leadership in the near future are probably unlikely. Thorez has re-established party discipline among the rank and file.

#### Comment

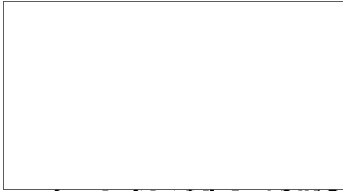
The Stalin issue does not seem to have weakened the Communist party in France.

In a 1 July assembly by-election the Communists ran second and maintained the same percentage of votes as in the national elections in January. On 6 July the party's central committee unanimously approved the 30 June resolution of the Soviet central committee which "shows how the cult of the personality of Stalin has been surmounted in the USSR."

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#### 4. COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS CONFERENCE

 The Commonwealth prime ministers, in their London conference which ended on 6 July, apparently were unanimous in the belief that the international situation has entered a period of transition as a result of significant shifts in the policy of the Soviet Union. According to the Commonwealth Relations Office, they were unable, however, to agree on an assessment of the dimensions or the "sincerity" of the Soviet shifts and even Indian prime minister Nehru concurred that the changes should be evaluated cautiously.

With regard to the Chinese UN membership question, the prime ministers agreed that Peiping at some time and in some way should be brought in, but showed no willingness to force the issue.

The problem of British bases on Ceylon was settled in principle, leaving Britain some communications and storage facilities and some responsibility for development of Ceylon's armed forces.

Private talks between Nehru and Prime Minister Mohammad Ali of Pakistan resulted in no progress toward settlement of the Kashmir problem.

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**5. NORWEGIAN MINISTERS CONCERNED BY IMPACT ON  
SCANDINAVIA OF NEW SOVIET LINE**



On 4 July, Norway proposed that a NATO ministerial meeting be held in September to discuss "primarily defense problems."

**Comment**

Both the Norwegian and Danish governments are certain to face increased parliamentary pressure for a general reduction in defense spending when the parliaments reconvene this fall. It appears likely that Denmark will reduce its defense expenditures by some five percent, and would follow Norway's lead if Oslo sought a larger reduction.



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**6. YUGOSLAVS DISCLAIM ANY IMMEDIATE INTENTION  
TO RECOGNIZE EAST GERMANY**



Yugoslav foreign secretary Popovic on 5 July told the Greek ambassador in Belgrade that his government had no immediate intention of recognizing East

Germany in view of the attitude of Yugoslavia's "Western friends." He said he looked forward to the day when circumstances would permit his government to do so.

**Comment**

This is the frankest statement of Yugoslav intentions toward East Germany since Tito's Moscow visit, during which he formally acknowledged the existence of two "sovereign" German states.

Yugoslavia is undoubtedly fearful that to extend diplomatic recognition to East Germany now would seriously jeopardize West German ratification of the favorable financial settlement recently concluded with Bonn. Also, Belgrade is probably concerned that the move would be regarded by the West as proof that Yugoslavia had in fact solidly aligned itself with the Soviet bloc.

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## 7. SOVIET AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES GERMAN REUNIFICATION WITH WEST GERMAN SOCIALISTS

Soviet ambassador Zorin reportedly had a long but largely inconclusive discussion in June with the leaders of the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD),

### Comment

The USSR has been maintaining publicly that unification is strictly a matter for discussion between the two German states. Except for a few left-wingers, the Social Democrats oppose such discussions. The other views attributed to Zorin seem to echo the SPD's own line. Since Moscow has never hinted that any of the present East German leaders might be dropped, it appears that if Zorin did so, he was attempting to convince the SPD that some progress toward unification might be made, and thus increase their criticism of the Bonn government.

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**THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION**  
(Information as of 1700, 8 July)

Refuting reports from Arab capitals of Israeli troops massing on the Jordanian border, the American embassy in Tel Aviv reported that, while routine maneuvers were in progress, there was no unusual disposition of Israeli forces on the borders as of 7 July, and that usual week-end leaves were granted army personnel. While the borders could be reinforced in a matter of hours under Israel's system of mobilization, the embassy considers that troops are not deployed in a manner to justify Jordan's charges.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Awareness that Jordan's inadequately supplied forces could not cope with a determined Israeli attack may have induced Hussain to publicize Israel's threat in the hope of forestalling any Israeli action. A successful Israeli blow against Jordan could bring a disastrous popular reaction against both the king and his young chief of staff. [REDACTED]

Prolongation of the alert, despite reassurances that Israeli troops were not massed, may also reflect uneasiness in

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Jordan over the consequences of current political maneuvering in Syria. Jordan's principal immediate political question appeared temporarily settled with the king's proclamation of a date (21 October) for election of a new lower house of the legislature. There had been reports from Jordan that the king might attempt to use the "crisis" with Israel to postpone elections and rule by decree.

[REDACTED]

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official has expressed the view that allegations of Israeli troop concentrations may have been intended to disguise the reason for movement of Iraqi troops to the Jordan border, which he considered to be one phase of an effort to offset the extension of Egyptian influence in Jordan.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Israeli maneuvers of unknown size are being held in the area of the Northern Command, which borders on Syria and Jordan, according to the American army attaché in Tel Aviv. A "substantial" northward movement of troops and materiel has taken place--including possibly a battalion of tanks and requisitioned civilian vehicles. These maneuvers are further confirmed by an invitation to foreign military attachés to view "brigade maneuvers in the northern area on 9 and 10 July." The attaché believes that the belated invitation may be intended to reassure foreign embassies in view of Arab charges of Israeli troop concentrations.

[REDACTED]

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