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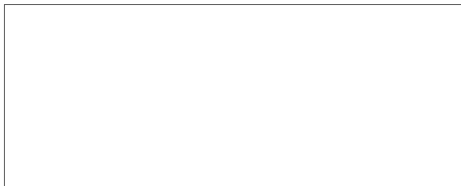
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27 March 1957

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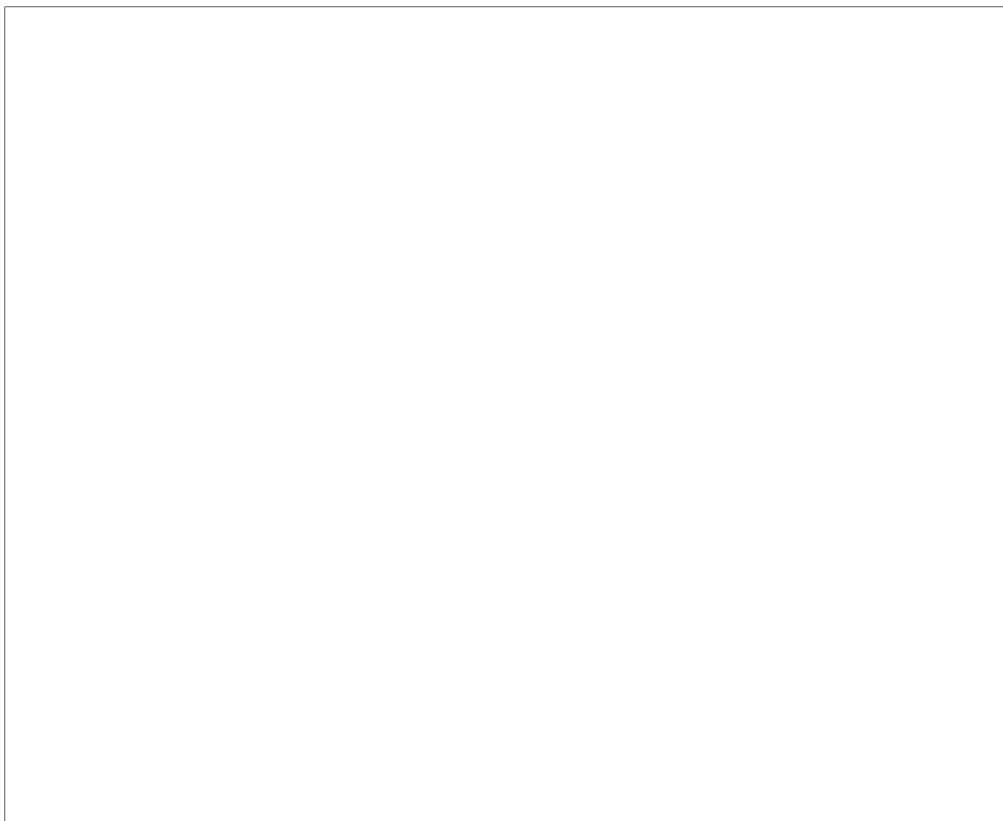
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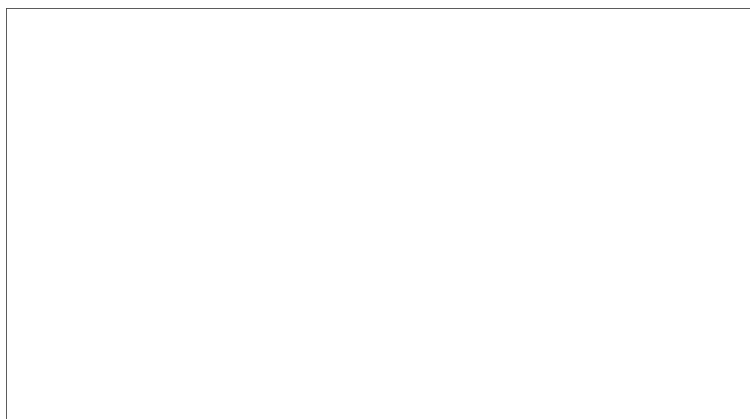
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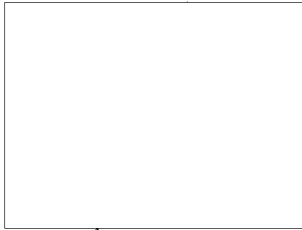
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1. HAMMARSKJOLD-NASR TALKS

Comment on:

[REDACTED] Egyptian president Nasr apparently has agreed with UN Secretary General Hammarskjold that Egypt will not press for the evacuation of the UNEF from the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba and will not seek to station troops there itself for the time being, [REDACTED]

165 [REDACTED] Nasr feels that if necessary the Straits of Tiran can be closed by mines, and he meanwhile plans to let the Saudis bear the burden of argument on this issue.

These reports also indicate that Hammarskjold and Nasr were considering an agreement covering UNEF police powers in the Gaza strip. The reports are contradictory however, on the question of the future status of the UNEF if Israel refuses, as it has done so far, to permit UN units to be stationed on its soil. [REDACTED] Nasr is willing to let the UNEF stay regardless; the [REDACTED] report claims that "everything" hinges on this issue. The latter seems more likely in the light of the attitude Nasr has previously adopted.

No significant new progress is reported from the talks on the Suez Canal. India's roving diplomat Krishna Menon, who visited Cairo last week, is reported to have complicated Hammarskjold's task by hardening Nasr against the Western "imperialist" proposals for payment of tolls to an international agency. [REDACTED]


2. USSR CALLS FOR "TEMPORARY" BAN ON TESTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Comment on:



Soviet Foreign Ministry press chief Leonid Ilychev told a news conference in Moscow on 26 March that the USSR is prepared to conclude an agreement for the "temporary" suspension of nuclear

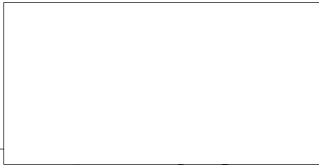

tests. The new proposal was made primarily in response to the Bermuda proposal for registration of tests with the UN and international observation of tests. Ilychev asserted that the registration of nuclear tests "does not solve the basic problem of the removal of the harmful influence of atomic and hydrogen explosions on human health." Ilychev repeated Moscow's 18 March proposal that the problem of terminating tests should be treated separately from other problems of disarmament.

Moscow's new proposal is intended to exploit growing sentiment among numerous groups and several governments for a complete cessation of nuclear tests. Ilychev gave special attention to a note sent by the Japanese government to the powers on the subcommittee requesting a suspension of all nuclear tests. He said the Japanese appeal to the USSR "gives reason to believe that the Soviet proposals on a permanent--or at least temporary--cessation of atomic and hydrogen tests will be supported by the Japanese government!" 

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3. THE SITUATION IN JORDAN

Comment on:


 Capitalizing on conservative fears of growing leftist power in Jordan, the opportunistic army chief of staff, General Nuwar, is reported to have approached conservative ex-prime minister Samir Rifai, who is favored by the king, for support in a plan to suspend the constitution, dismiss the cabinet and legislature, and install direct rule by the throne with army support. Nuwar claimed that once order had been restored, new elections would be held and representative government reinstated.

Nuwar has long favored establishment of a military regime which would place the army in virtual control of the country. Rifai is reported to have recently indicated willingness to co-operate with him to curb growing leftist power. Conservatives in Jordan have been considering drastic measures to counter leftist gains, and both the population and the government are becoming aware of Jordan's growing economic crisis.

With termination of the Anglo-Jordanian treaty, Jordanian nationalists are promoting as the next objective a "federal union" of Jordan with Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia. Jordan has joined with Egypt and Syria in a student military training program, which would train leftist paramilitary action groups. Nabulsi has also publicly reaffirmed his government's determination to recognize the Chinese Communist government.

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4. AFGHAN PRIME MINISTER TO VISIT NEAR EAST AND EUROPE

Comment on:

[redacted]
Afghan prime minister Daud is planning to visit Egypt, Turkey, Austria, and Poland in the latter half of April,

[redacted]
The Iraqi government has also invited him to visit Baghdad after his trip to Turkey.

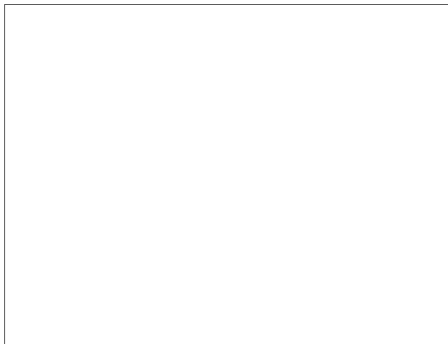
The prime minister's probable itinerary suggests that he intends to make a serious study of the possible benefits to be derived from the American proposals for the Middle East and of the advisability of maintaining close ties with the USSR.

A Moscow news broadcast of 25 March stated that Foreign Minister Naim will visit the USSR in June. His visit may be designed to reassure the USSR that Afghanistan wishes to continue its close relations for the time being.

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5. ACTION BY RHEE STRENGTHENS YI KI-PUNG AS SUCCESSOR

Reference:



Announcement that President Rhee has adopted the 21-year-old son of his friend and political associate, Assembly speaker and Liberal Party chairman Yi Ki-pung, has been interpreted as an open demonstration of Rhee's desire that the Assembly speaker succeed him in the presidency. It may encourage new attempts by Rhee's followers to remove the Democratic vice-

president, Chang Myon, from the succession, either by legislation or by violence.

Rhee's action, a customary Korean method by which a childless couple acquires an heir, will tend to solidify the party behind Yi despite his defeat in the 1956 vice-presidential election.

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