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11 September 1957

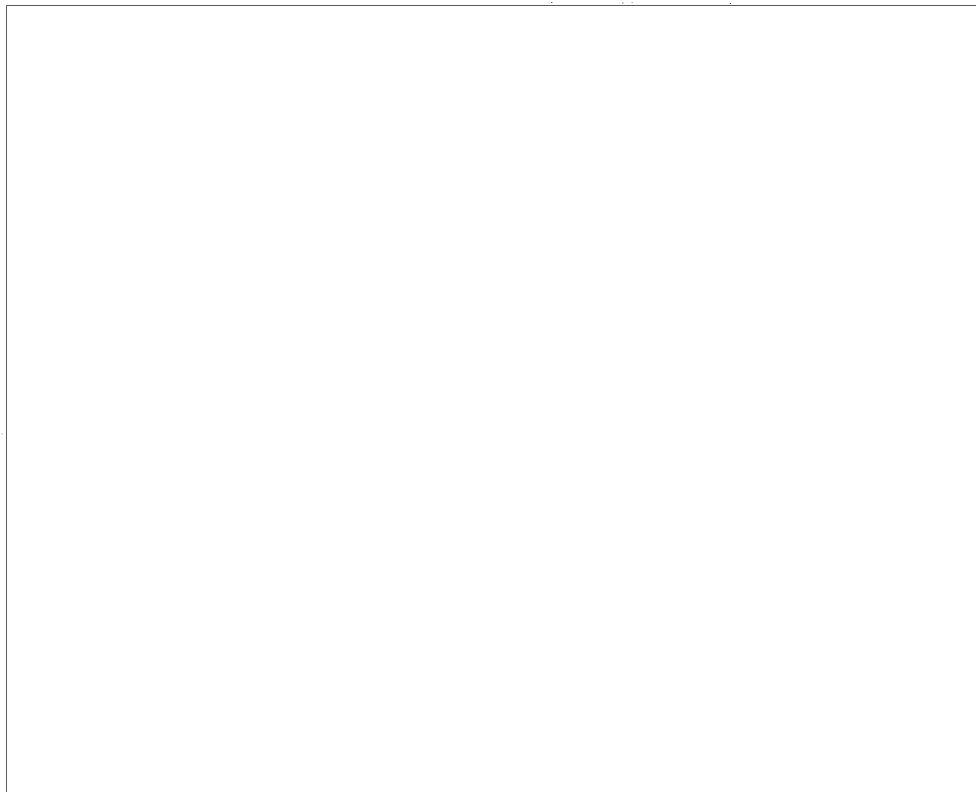


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# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

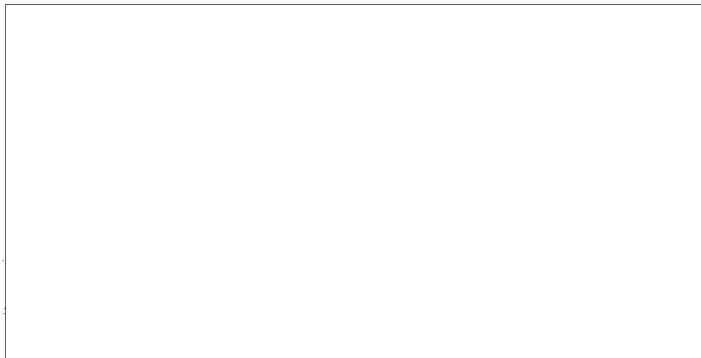
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## OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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**1. USSR BRIEFS SYRIA ON AMERICAN AND TURKISH  
MILITARY MOVES**

Comment on:

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[Redacted]

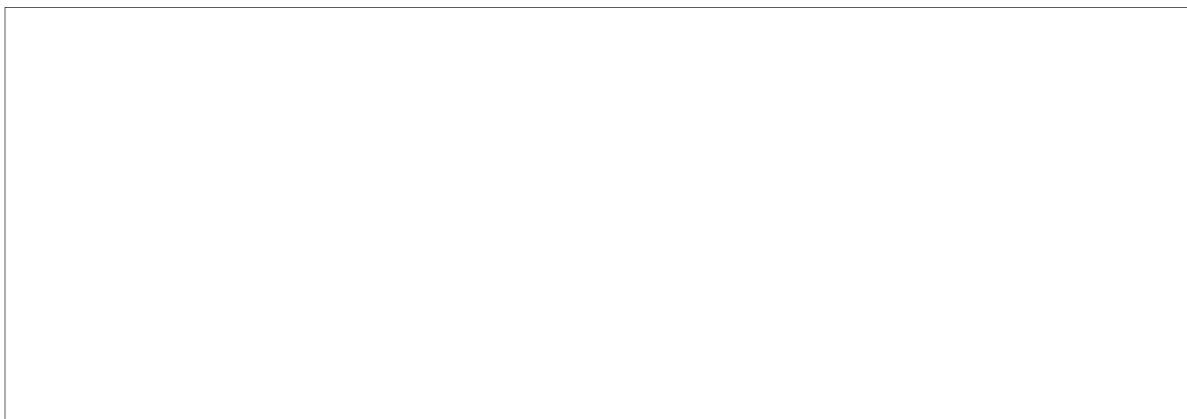
[Redacted]

The USSR has avoided any suggestion of further diplomatic or military moves to support Syria. Soviet propaganda is bitterly attacking the West, particularly the United States, for exerting pressure on Syria. On 10 September, Izvestia charged "it is obvious that preparations are being made by the United States to attack Syria."

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## 2. NASIR-SAUD DIFFERENCES REPORTED



### Comment

Egyptian subversive activities in Saudi Arabia resulted in friction between the two states last April. Since that time Nasir has publicly maintained a conciliatory attitude in dealings with Saud. Accordingly, an open break between the two is unlikely despite the report of new difficulties.

Saud has expressed a belief that the recent Syrian developments were more attributable to Egyptian than to Soviet influence. His visit with Lebanese and other Near Eastern officials may have been an effort to obtain first-hand knowledge of the Syrian situation.

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### 3. SUMATRAN COMMANDERS CONSIDERING EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT

Four military commanders in Sumatra plan to proclaim an emergency government if they are dissatisfied with the outcome of the national round-table conference now in progress in Djakarta,

[redacted]

[redacted] The commanders had originally considered taking the step after learning of Communist election victories in Java, but reportedly decided to postpone action until after the conference.

#### Comment

Some Djakarta leaders have expressed fear that the national conference will only widen the split between the non-Javanese provinces and the central government and prompt President Sukarno to take some drastic action. In his recent tour of East Indonesia, Sukarno strongly denounced the regional leaders and insisted on the maintenance of a highly centralized government.

It is not clear whether the planned emergency government would be totally independent or would continue some nominal tie with Djakarta.

The officers mentioned in the report command all of Sumatra except the area around Medan. The projected plan to declare an emergency government might also be connected with a reported plan by disaffected commanders to seize the Medan area sometime in September.

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#### 4. AMBASSADOR REPORTS TUNISIA MAY ALTER PRO-WEST ATTITUDE

##### Reference:



American Ambassador Jones in Tunis reports the rapid deterioration within the past few days of Tunisia's pro-Western orientation. The inability of the Tunisians to prevent incursions under France's policy of "hot pursuit" is likely to result in demands from all levels of the Neo-Destour party and government that President Bourghiba take action to secure arms. The group, which has always argued that Bourghiba's policy is too pro-West, is using Western refusal to sell arms to Tunisia as evidence that this policy does not pay.

The Tunisians are aware of the American airlift of arms to the Middle East. They argue that Tunisia is the best friend the United States has in the Arab world. Ambassador Jones anticipates that the Tunisian public may soon believe the United States and France are collaborating to keep Tunisia helpless and unarmed for the benefit of France.

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5. USSR TO INCREASE OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO EGYPTIAN NAVY

[redacted] [redacted] experts for the repair of submarines and for training their crews would arrive in Egypt the latter part of this month. [redacted]

[redacted] a Russian mission to discuss establishment of two submarine bases would be in Egypt "the beginning of December and the beginning of April," instead of this month as originally scheduled.

Comment

Egypt now may intend to establish two submarine bases, one on the Mediterranean and another on the Red Sea. [redacted]

Despite the training received by Egyptian officers and men in Poland, Egypt apparently is incapable of effectively operating and maintaining its three recently acquired submarines. The need for assistance provides the USSR with an opportunity for placing additional technical personnel with the Egyptian military establishment.

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### 6. AFGHANISTAN SEEKS AMERICAN AID IN EXPLORING FOR URANIUM

Reference:



Afghan Foreign Minister Naim on 3 September asked American Ambassador Mills whether the United States could aid Afghanistan in exploring for fissionable materials either by air survey or by other means. He stated that there were indications of such materials in the northern



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part of the country, though he seemed uninformed on the precise location. If such materials are found, he said, his government would like the United States to assist in developing them.

In 1955, privately employed American geologists discovered deposits of uranium in the Chakhansur area along the Helmand River, near the Iranian border in the southwestern tip of Afghanistan. These deposits may as yet be unknown to the Afghan government. There is no known connection between these deposits in southwestern Afghanistan and others near Ferghana in the Soviet Uzbek Republic northeast of Afghanistan. However, the Hindu Kush mountain range which rises near Ferghana and runs through Afghanistan may contain additional deposits of uranium.


Ambassador Mills notes that Afghanistan is apparently offering the United States the first opportunity to assist in exploration and development. He comments that Kabul will probably turn to the USSR if the United States displays no interest.

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## 7. SARIT FOLLOWERS REPORTEDLY RESIGN FROM THAI GOVERNMENT PARTY

### Comment on:

 Forty-six appointed members of the Thai National Assembly led by Army Commander in Chief Sarit have resigned en masse from the governing Seri-Manangkhasila party, according to press reports. Reports state that 18 other appointed deputies are planning to take similar action.

Sarit, who recently resigned as defense minister, may have ordered them to leave the government party as a pressure tactic to hasten Police Director General Phao's promised resignation as interior minister. Their mass resignation might also signal the beginning of a long-rumored effort by Sarit to overthrow Premier Phibun by parliamentary means.

Even if they threw in their lot with the opposition, the votes of the 46 officers would not tip the balance against the government. Should Sarit exert his maximum influence, however, it is possible that enough additional Seri-Manangkhasila members would bolt the party to result in the government's downfall.

Before Sarit undertook any action to overthrow the government in the assembly, he would probably make preparations to prevent countermeasures by the Phao faction.



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