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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

9 June 1960

PART I

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

EAST-WEST RELATIONS

Khrushchev maintained his campaign last week to blame the United States for the collapse of the summit meeting. While his intemperate attacks on President Eisenhower during his press conference on 3 June were intended for this purpose, they reflect his sensitivity to charges that his pre-summit policy has been proved wrong and that he allowed himself to be deceived by the President. Khrushchev last week also used questions posed by Izvestia and Pravda to refute statements by Secretary Herter and White House Press Secretary Hagerty concerning his refusal to agree to bilateral discussions in Paris on the U-2 incident.

Khrushchev at the same time reaffirmed during the press conference his intention to work for better Soviet-US relations. He predicted that an improvement will come about "in a more tangible way" after the US elections. He also stated that the USSR would not impose any restrictions on cultural exchanges.

Khrushchev did not modify his earlier position that the status quo in West Berlin would be maintained until another summit meeting takes place in "six to eight months." However, he warned the West against believing that conclusion of a separate treaty with East Germany could be delayed by postponing a summit conference beyond the time period he has suggested. He indicated that, before taking any unilateral action, Moscow would go through the normal steps of calling a peace con-

ference of wartime allies. As to the timing, he stated only that the USSR would initiate this process "when we see that enough time has passed."

Disarmament

Khrushchev has again turned to the disarmament proposals as a means of refurbishing the image of the USSR as the champion of peaceful coexistence. In his letter to President Eisenhower on 2 June, he stated that "recent events not only have not lessened but, on the contrary, have strengthened the Soviet Government's determination to achieve a radical solution of the disarmament problem."

Khrushchev's new proposals, which he said had been prepared for presentation to the summit meeting, are designed to appear responsive to Western views on a number of important issues. However, in an effort to exploit Western differences resulting from France's insistence on giving top priority to measures for controlling nuclear weapons delivery systems, the new Soviet plan provides, as the first stage toward complete disarmament, for the prohibition and destruction of all means for the delivery of nuclear weapons. The USSR insists, however, that these measures must be accompanied by the liquidation of foreign military bases and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the territory of other states.

To counter Western criticism of the vague and ambiguous control provisions contained in the

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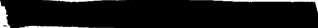

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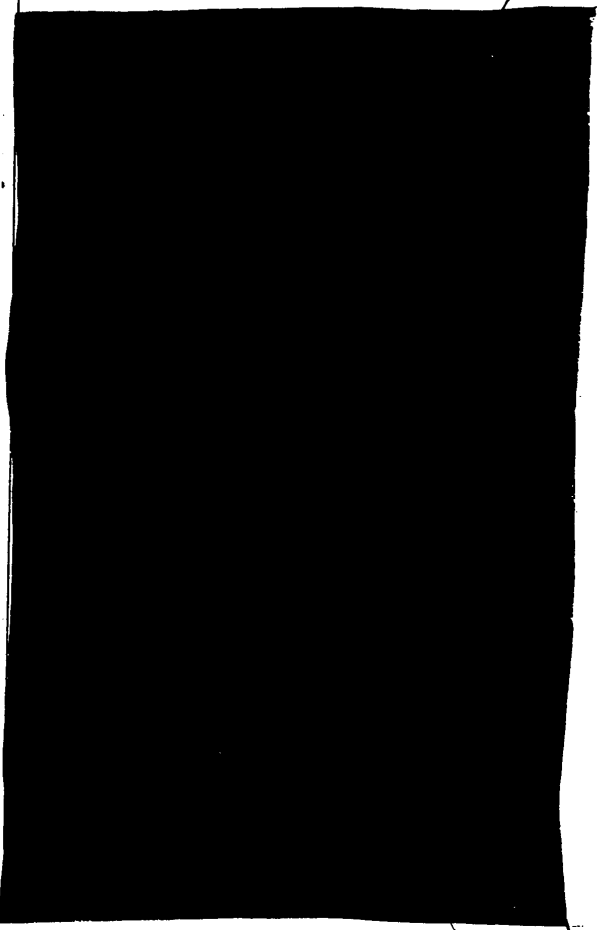
plan Khrushchev placed before the United Nations last September, the new proposals include details on the nature and functions of a control system. They spell out control measures for each of the three stages in the Soviet program and outline the composition and voting procedures of the proposed International Control Organization. Moscow now provides for on-site inspection of successive disarmament steps, missile launching sites, and plants and installations engaged in military production.

The Soviet Union apparently regards the renewed negotiations on disarmament in Geneva as a holding operation until it can bring the issue before the larger propaganda forum of the UN General Assembly. Soviet chief delegate Zorin's moderate statements on his arrival for the reopening of the talks and at the initial session on 7 June were designed to reinforce the impression of Soviet sincerity in seeking a speedy agreement with an effective control system. He expounded on the new Soviet proposals at some length, but he offered no new points of substance or significant clarifications.

At a news conference on 7 June, Zorin anticipated that a stalemate might be reached in the talks when he again warned of the USSR's intentions to turn over its plan to the General Assembly, which reconvenes in September, if no agreement can be reached in Geneva.

A member of the Soviet delegation  told an American official  that he saw no hope for progress at the disarmament

talks. He said Moscow has not requested a special meeting of the UN General Assembly to deal with the problem because the USSR could not yet muster the votes required to convene one. Moscow's propagandists are asserting that while the Soviet Union has brought specific and broad new proposals to the resumed negotiations, the West has come empty-handed. They point, as did Zorin, to certain "forces" in the West which they allege are obstructing an agreement, and identify them as the same forces responsible for thwarting the summit conference.



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