

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE REVIEW

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



21 - 24 MARCH 1964 50X1

~~TOP SECRET~~

24 March 1964

1. Cyprus: The situation has been reasonably quiet over the last few days but we do not know how long it will stay that way.

For example, in Nicosia yesterday, Greek Cypriot irregulars [redacted] continued to construct fortifications on their side of the "green line," opposite British headquarters.

The next ten days will see two Greek Cypriot holidays; either occasion could spark more trouble.

Gyani should be taking over the UN force by the end of the week and advance contingents from Sweden, Finland and Ireland are due in shortly.

Agreement seems almost certain on the Finn, Sukari Tuomioja, as UN mediator. He is presently Finnish Ambassador to Sweden and has had a taste of this sort of service in Laos as a UN observer there in 1959. Tuomioja has his work cut out for him.

Embassy Nicosia reports it is finding more and more Greek Cypriots espousing union with Greece as the only solution to the Cyprus problem.

2. Panama-US: Although popular support for pressuring the US on the Canal issue continues, the Panamanian press and radio are in general taking a cautiously favorable line on President Johnson's statement of Saturday.

(Cont'd)

For The President Only - Top Secret

Chiari's official statement at noon on 24 March was non-committal.

Another favorable omen over the weekend was the failure of the Communist-led youth congress to get off the ground. The National Guard remained on alert and let it be known that the students activities were to be confined to the campus.

3. Libya: Over the weekend, King Idris withdrew his threat to abdicate after an impressive array of Libyan notables had followed him to Tobruk to urge him to change his mind.

It remains to be seen, however, how long the King will be able to continue as a central, stabilizing force in Libyan politics and not be swept up by the tide of Arab nationalism now running in his country.

A harmless secondary school demonstration in Benghazi Monday started out rejoicing at the King's decision not to abdicate, but quickly turned into a nationalist demonstration against US and UK bases.

4. De Gaulle - Latin America: De Gaulle plans to visit ten countries of continental South America during his fall trip.

Also, a visit to Central America may be scheduled, but only if a single stopping point can be agreed upon.

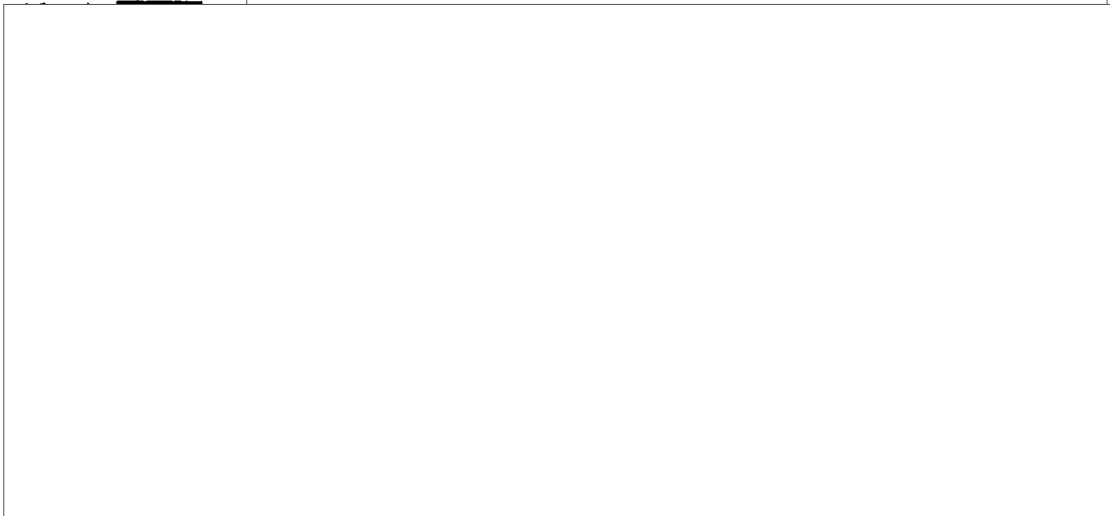
The general is now back in Paris after his latest swing.

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Cuba:

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6.

South Vietnam: General Khanh has brought off an unanimous vote of confidence in his rule by the Military Revolutionary Council (MRC).

[redacted] on the strength of this vote he would replace some cabinet officials who were not measuring up [redacted]

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7.

Laos: The neutralists and rightists are squabbling again. Rightists owing allegiance to Phoumi's rival General Kouprasith seized 17 neutralists in Vientiane in the last few days after a rightist officer had been assassinated.

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This understandably upset Souvanna, who threatened that if his men were not released he would pull out of Vientiane and go back to the Plaine des Jarres.

The incident has contributed to the tense atmosphere of the Laotian capital where rumors of a coup move by Kouprasith persist. Phoumi's units normally stationed in Vientiane as insurance against such a move are engaged in anti-Communist operations in the south.

8. Cambodia: Despite South Vietnam's apology and our own note of explanation and regret to Cambodia, Sihanouk has gone ahead with his plans to postpone the bilateral talks with Saigon on the border problem.



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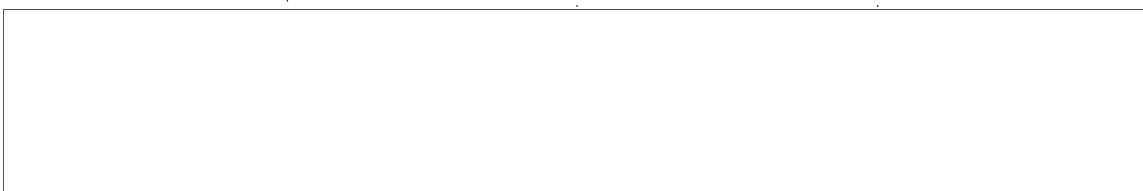
Meanwhile, he is awaiting some reply from the USSR and France to his request for a Geneva conference on Cambodia's neutrality.

The French have suggested to us, that they are now willing to attempt to get Sihanouk reinterested in a quadrapartite meeting, rather than a Geneva type conference.

9. Indonesia: Djakarta continues to infiltrate guerrillas both regular and irregular into Malaysian Borneo to form "pockets" of occupied territory, but neither side has reported any serious clashes recently.

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Present Malaysian policy is to get the observer teams to the area of conflict as soon as possible even if only to the Malaysian side of the border.

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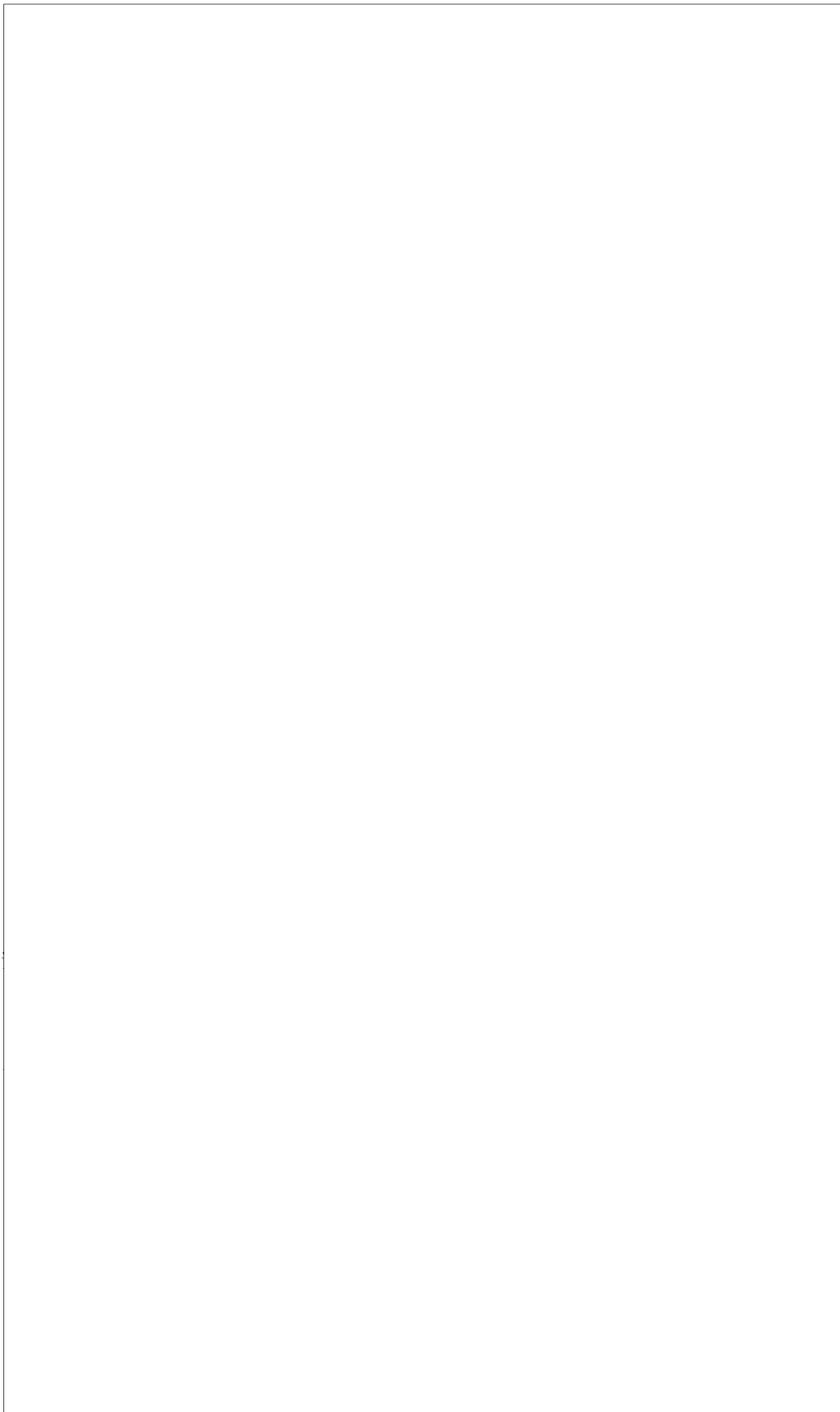
10. Ceylon: Mrs. Bandaranaike's government is in trouble.

She has already had to prorogue parliament to stave off a no-confidence vote and is now operating under emergency powers to quell labor unrest and silence public criticism.

With defections threatening from her own party, she may try to lure some opposition leaders, including some of Ceylon's peculiar collection of Marxists, into a coalition in order to stay in power.

Failing this, she is considering some form of extra-constitutional rule, but this, too, holds little promise for stability.

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11. USSR:

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12. Saudi Arabia: Faysal seems to have successfully stood off the latest challenge from Saud. The prince has told the king quite flatly that he either agree to keep his fingers out of the pie or else get out of the country. There are indications Saud is planning to leave.

13. Syria: The Baathist regime is still on its anti-US drive.

For the past several weeks government-controlled propaganda and public statements by Syrian leaders have been directed against American policies.

At the same time Syria is demonstrating a much cozier attitude toward the USSR and Communist China.

These maneuverings are probably a response to what the Syrians consider US support for Israel.

14. Zanzibar: The leftward drift in Zanzibar continues.

Charge Carlucci feels that the British may well wash their hands of the whole thing. Most of their expatriate officials still in the administration are due to leave this summer.

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Communist representatives, meanwhile, are swarming to the island. There are 6 Soviet, 15 East German, and 12 Chinese Communist officials already there, and embassies are to be established by Poland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Cuba.

Prime Minister Babu is on his way to the trade conference in Geneva.

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15. India-Pakistan: Communal disturbances have broken out again in Eastern India.

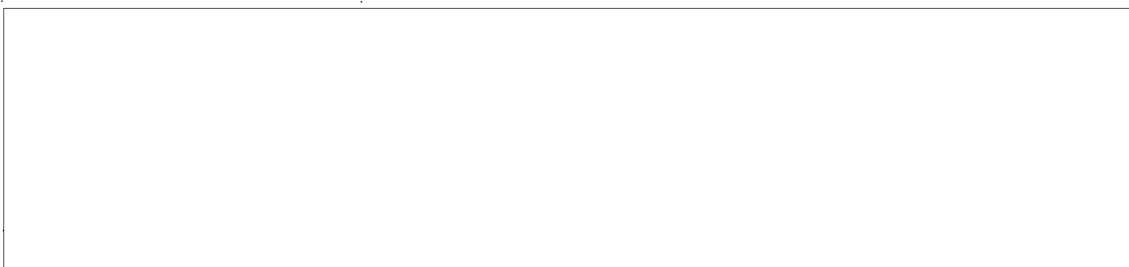
This is the area through which special trains move as they take Indian refugees from East Pakistan to rehabilitation centers in central India.

As they proceed along the route, the refugees spread tales of brutality toward Hindus in East Pakistan. These spark the local Hindus to take it out on the Moslems in the area and general lawlessness ensues.

In most cases local authorities have been slow to react and law and order have only been restored when troops appear on the scene.

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An Indian spokesman reported today that 24 armed Pakistanis were killed when a large group of Pakistanis crossed the ceasefire line in Kashmir into Indian territory.