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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

WEEKLY SUMMARY

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52

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AGENCY ARCHIVE

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FAR EAST

The retreat from the more radical aims and measures of the Cultural Revolution in China has gathered speed. The most influential force in the current drive to restore order and discipline appears to be Chou En-lai and leading members of the government bureaucracy, working in conjunction with the armed forces. The authoritative Red Flag has joined the chorus attacking ultraleftists and in a recent article identified "anarchism" as the chief current danger. Chou is apparently working to restore the authority of party cadres and organizations and troops have been used in some places to disband pro-Mao revolutionary groups and to arrest some of the leaders. There are signs of grave concern in Peking concerning the dislocations in the economy caused by the political chaos of the past months. Agriculture is high on the list of tasks to be tackled and the army has been ordered to help the peasants with spring planting.

Saigon's Constituent Assembly has completed its work on some of the most controversial parts of South Vietnam's new constitution dealing with legislative and executive powers. Neither Premier Ky nor Chief of State Thieu has yet emerged as a clear front-runner as the military leaders' candidate for the presidency, however.

With Indonesia's Congress scheduled to convene in special session on 7 March, it is unclear just how far the country's rulers intend to carry the destruction of President Sukarno's position. General Suharto may approve stripping him of his title, but evidently does not want him brought to trial for involvement in the abortive 1965 coup attempt lest the unity of the armed forces be disrupted.

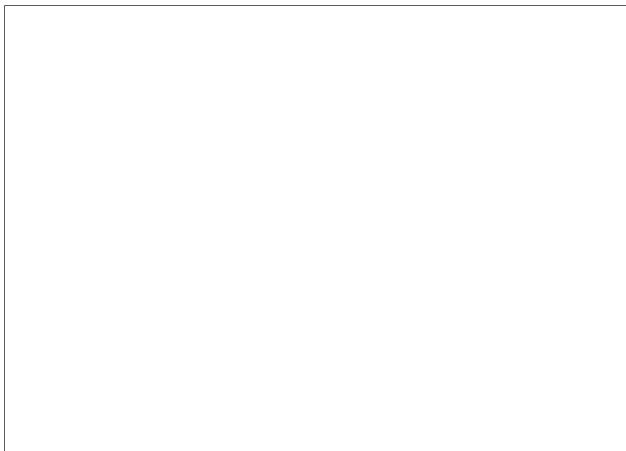
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INDONESIAN CONGRESS PREPARES TO ACT ON SUKARNO

As the Indonesian Congress prepares to convene in special session on 7 March, Indonesian leaders are still at odds over how much, if any, further action should be taken against President Sukarno.



Pressures to bring Sukarno to trial may increase now that the trial of Brig. Gen. Supardjo, the highest ranking officer in-

involved in the coup attempt, has revealed that Sukarno tried to protect him after the coup failed. Hard liners may use this to build up an anti-Sukarno atmosphere on the eve of the Congress session.

The uncertainty about Sukarno's fate now centers on whether the Congress will deny him even the titular presidency, as formally requested last month by the Parliament which constitutes almost half of the membership of the Congress. A statement issued by congressional leaders on 24 February implied that no further action was necessary. It noted that Congress had previously decreed that Suharto should take over as acting president if Sukarno were unable to fulfill his duties, and asserted that Sukarno's transfer of authority last week was simply a "clearing action" in accord with that decree.

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