

**TOP SECRET**



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29 May 1956



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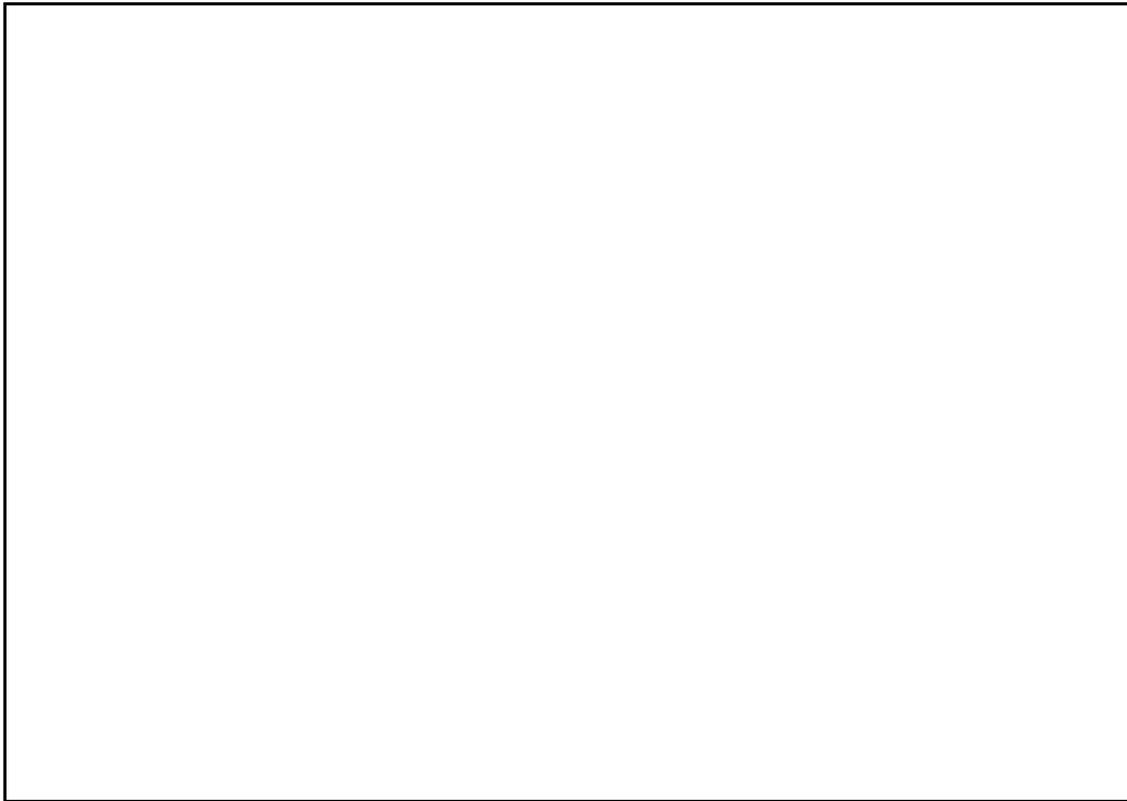
# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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**OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE**  
**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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[redacted]

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**1. EGYPT URGING OTHER ARAB STATES TO  
RECOGNIZE PEIPING**

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Libyan prime minister Ben Halim told Ambassador Tappin on 23 May that the Egyptians were applying pressure on Libya and other Arab states to follow Egypt's lead in recognizing Communist China. The Egyptian ambassador, Ben Halim said, had told him that other Arab states, including Lebanon and Syria, were giving the matter serious consideration. The prime minister said he had told the Egyptians Libya would not recognize Peiping.

The government-controlled Cairo radio reported on 25 May that the Arab League secretariat had been informed Saudi Arabia would soon recognize Communist China and had nearly completed arrangements for re-establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

**Comment**

Although Egypt is almost certainly working to bring other Arab states to follow its lead, only Syria and possibly the Sudan are likely to recognize Communist China in the immediate future.

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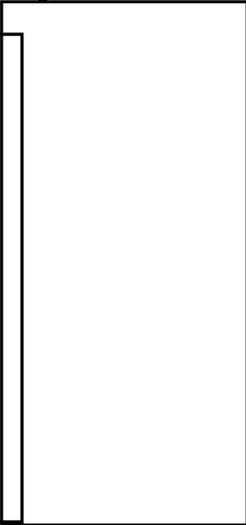
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**3. EAST GERMAN STUDENTS STAGE ANTIREGIME DEMONSTRATIONS**

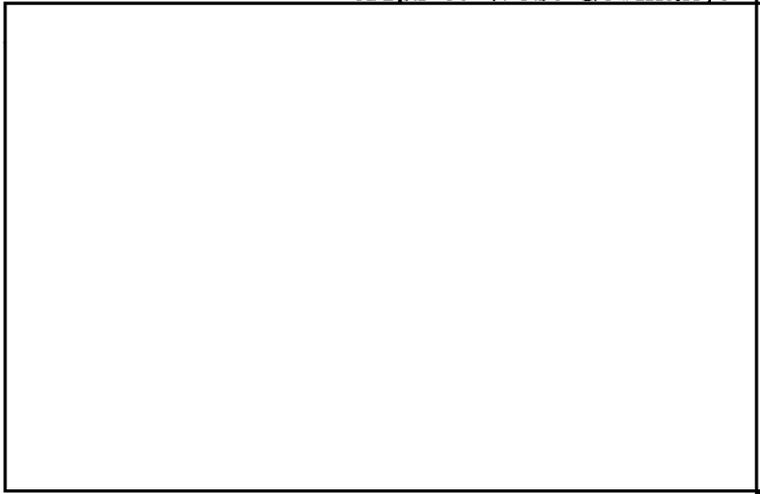
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East German university students demonstrated in Dresden between 24 and 27 May to protest the regime's opposition to students taking vacation trips to West Germany.



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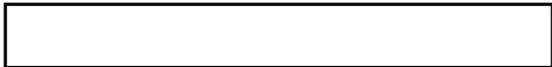
**Comment**

Keeping East German youth in line has been one of the major problems of the regime. Other reports indicate that university students have been increasingly critical of the party and its policies since the Soviet Twentieth Party Congress.



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#### 4. MARSHAL ROKOSSOWSKY MAY BE REPLACED

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[REDACTED] Polish minister of defense Marshal Konstanty Rokossowsky was to be replaced by Lt. Gen. Zygmunt Berling at a plenary meeting of the central committee of the Polish United Workers (Communist) Party scheduled to meet on 27 May, according to rumors reaching the American embassy in Warsaw on 25 May.

#### Comment

The removal of Marshal Rokossowsky, a World War II Soviet general, would be a logical part of the present campaign to build up the appearance of Polish independence. Such a move would be welcomed by the Polish people to whom he symbolizes Poland's subservience to the USSR. He was in command of the Soviet forces that refused to come to the aid of the Poles at the time of the Warsaw uprising against the Germans in 1944.

General Berling, presently under secretary of the Ministry of State, was the commander of the Kosciuszko Division which was organized in the Soviet Union during World War II. He was removed from this position late in 1944, reportedly for attempting to send forces to aid in the Warsaw uprising, and has occupied only minor posts during the past decade. However, he was recently awarded the Banner of Labor First Class. [REDACTED]

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**5. ALBANIA REFUSES TO MAKE CONCESSION TO TITO**

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Albanian Communist Party boss Enver Hoxha announced on 25 May to his party's third congress that the execution in 1949 of Koci Xoxe, former interior minister and the leading Albanian Titoist, was "completely justified." He denounced Xoxe's activities as having been hostile to the party and state, and claimed that Xoxe's crimes, along with fabrications by Beria and other "misunderstandings," were the cause of the bad relations with Yugoslavia.

**Comment**

The failure to rehabilitate Koci Xoxe indicates the extreme sensitivity with which the Tirana regime still regards its relations with Yugoslavia. Albania's refusal, unique among the Satellites, to make any significant concessions to Yugoslavia presumably stems from a fear that any move in this direction would be interpreted as an invitation for the resumption of Yugoslav influence in Albania.

The strong support of Xoxe's condemnation suggests that no major effort to placate Tito, such as demotion of Tito's archenemy, Premier Mehmet Shehu, will be made at the congress. 

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**THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION**  
(Information as of 1700, 28 May)

An Israeli army spokesman stated on 28 May that Israeli troops in the El Auja area were fired on by Egyptian forces on the night of 27 May. No casualties were reported. [redacted]

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Egyptian ambassador to the United States Hussein, now in Cairo for consultations, told Ambassador Byroade, following his meeting with Prime Minister Nasr last week, that (1) he personally was completely reassured that Nasr had no intention of attacking Israel but that (2) Nasr's feelings "were intense" on the question of arms for Israel and he believed there was a definite decision made to try to keep Israel as strong as the Arab states. Nasr apparently feels that the British are behind the rumors of a plan for a UN arms embargo, and that they envisage a plan whereby Israel could circumvent it as in the past. Hussein, on Nasr's orders, stated that Egyptian recognition of Communist China was not "to slap the United States," but was related solely to establishing a new source of arms because of Nasr's feelings on the question of arms for Israel.

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[redacted]

Major General Nuwar, new commander in chief of the Jordan Arab Legion, told the press on 25 May that the days of meeting Israeli aggression with complaints are gone forever. Hereafter, aggression would be met with force.

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[redacted]

that Greece on 27 May granted clearance for landing and refueling of six French-built Ouragan jet fighters en route to Israel. These planes have not yet been reported as landing in Athens. They are apparently French deliveries to Israel in addition to the 24 Mysteres already agreed upon. A strong Arab reaction, particularly from Egypt, is likely should this become public.

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army was in the process of receiving enough Czech SU-100 assault guns for a regiment. [redacted] Syria had been tentatively offered more T-34 tanks but he had refused and had selected the SU-100's instead, presumably to use as tank destroyers. The attaché comments that a Syrian armored regiment has 54 tanks or tank destroyers. [redacted]

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