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16 February 1959

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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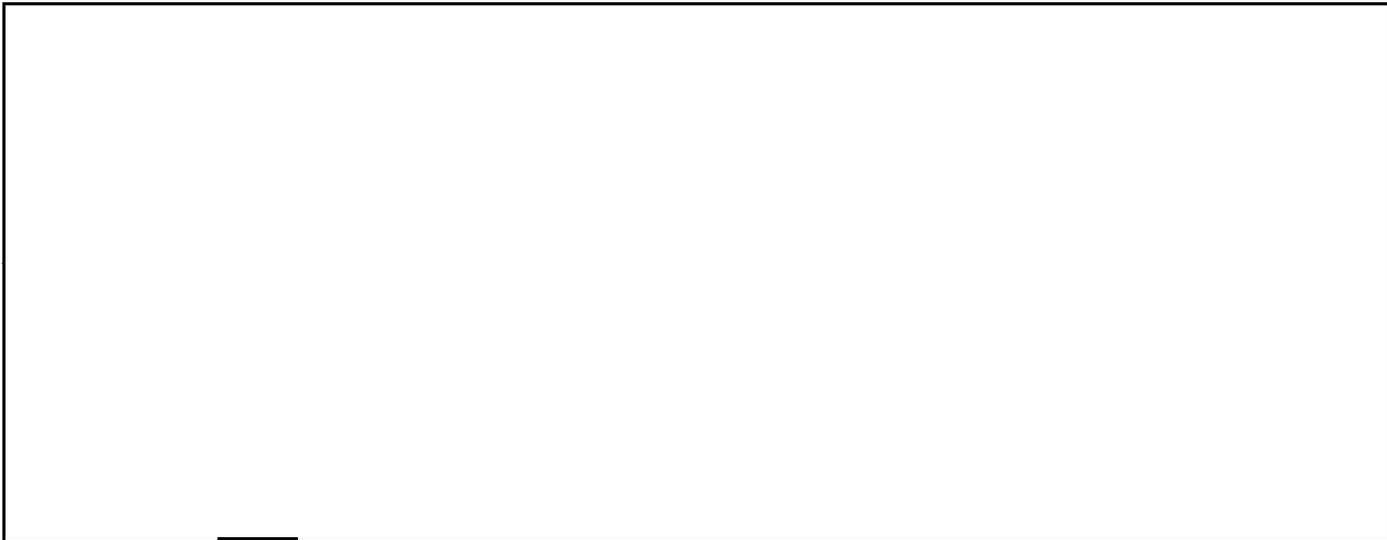
# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

16 February 1959

## DAILY BRIEF

### I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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**Communist China:** Chu Teh appears to be the likely successor to Mao Tse-tung as chairman of the Chinese People's Republic.

*ok* [redacted] The naming of Chu--a highly respected but rather unimportant party elder--would maintain the present balance among the top leadership, which might be upset if either Liu Shao-chi or Chou En-lai, Mao's principal lieutenants, were selected.

### II. ASIA-AFRICA

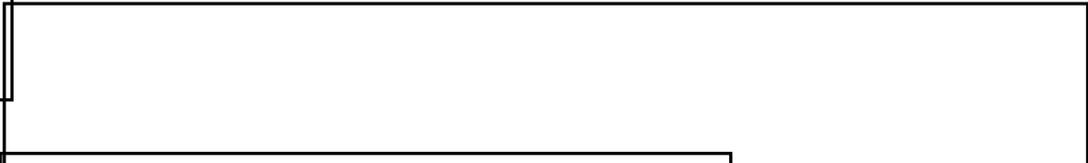
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*ok* **Laos:** Dissension between conservative leaders of Premier Phoui's political party and young reformists in his cabinet is threatening the stability of the Phoui government.

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

25X1

Peiping Preparing for Transfer of Mao's Government Role To Chu Teh



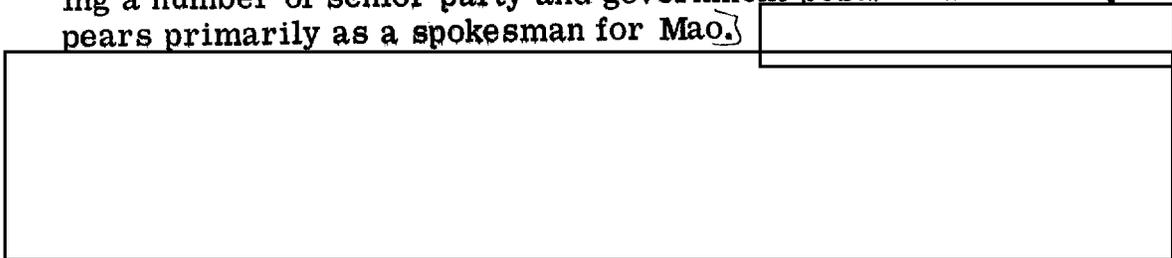
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The 72-year-old Chu, the present vice chairman and a highly respected but rather unimportant party figure, is a logical choice to succeed Mao Tse-tung in the largely ceremonial government post.

The naming of Chu to the chairmanship would maintain the balance within the Chinese top leadership which might be upset if either Liu Shao-chi or Chou En-lai, Mao's principal lieutenants, were selected. Chu has been described as a sort of "lubricating oil" among the leadership--a man who would be willing to remain a figurehead and permit the real political power to lie elsewhere.

Chu has been closely associated with Mao since the early days of the party and probably ranks next to him in popularity. Regarded as the "grand old man" of the Chinese Communist Army, Chu commanded Peiping's forces from 1928 to 1945, and nominally until 1954. He now is an elder statesman of the regime, occupying a number of senior party and government posts in which he appears primarily as a spokesman for Mao.

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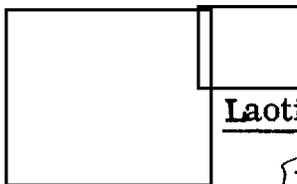
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II. ASIA-AFRICA

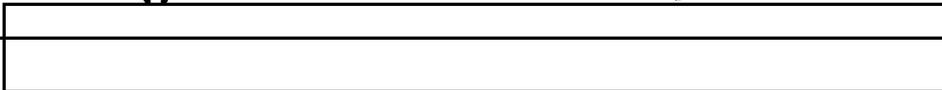
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Laotian Premier Threatened by Political Bickering

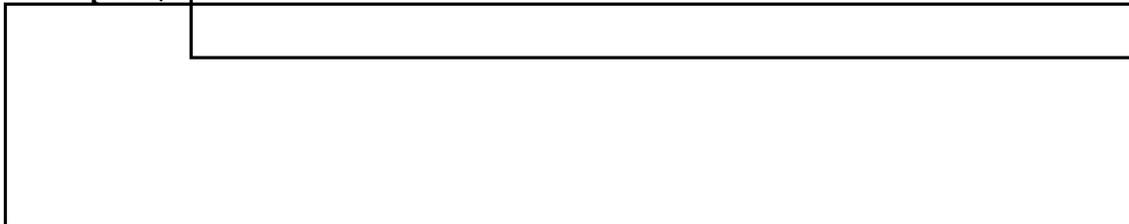
{Dissension between conservative leaders of Premier Phoui's political party and young reformists in his cabinet is threatening government stability in Laos. The young reformers and army leaders are reported opposing the premier's efforts to fulfill his pledges to give executive and diplomatic posts to party members who voted him full powers on 14 January. Phoui fears an ultimatum from his party supporters either to fulfill his pledges or to resign from the party.}

{The reformists and their army supporters are withholding funds with which to satisfy the party leaders' demands and are urging Phoui to discard his conservative support. Although the reformers represent leadership and strength in the Vientiane area and within the army, the party represents the traditional local leadership, and the reformers have little grass-roots support.



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