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21 November 1960



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CENTRAL

INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

21 November 1960

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR-China: The meeting of Communist parties in Moscow is apparently still continuing after some ten days of efforts to arrive at formulas acceptable to both Moscow and Peiping. The Polish ambassador told Ambassador Thompson in Moscow on 18 November that the conference would go over to the following week, "in view of the large number of speakers." [The chief Indian delegate reportedly wrote a letter to his associates in New Delhi last week predicting that the declaration of unity at the end of the conference would be a mere formality, since "inwardly the Chinese are as hard as ever!"]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Morocco-USSR-UAR: [A Moroccan military mission is expected to depart for Moscow within the next few days to take "formal delivery" of the Soviet arms package--including jet aircraft [redacted] Meanwhile, the King and crown prince, who prefer not to have Soviet pilots or technicians, have requested UAR pilots trained in Soviet aircraft and have been assured by the UAR ambassador that Cairo would provide them. Rabat's abrupt acceptance of the standing Soviet arms offer--apparently taken on the prince's initiative without consultation with the Moroccan Council of Ministers--followed Paris' cancellation of promised assistance to the Moroccan Air Force, arising from French irritation over being hustled prematurely out of Rabat military installations. [redacted]

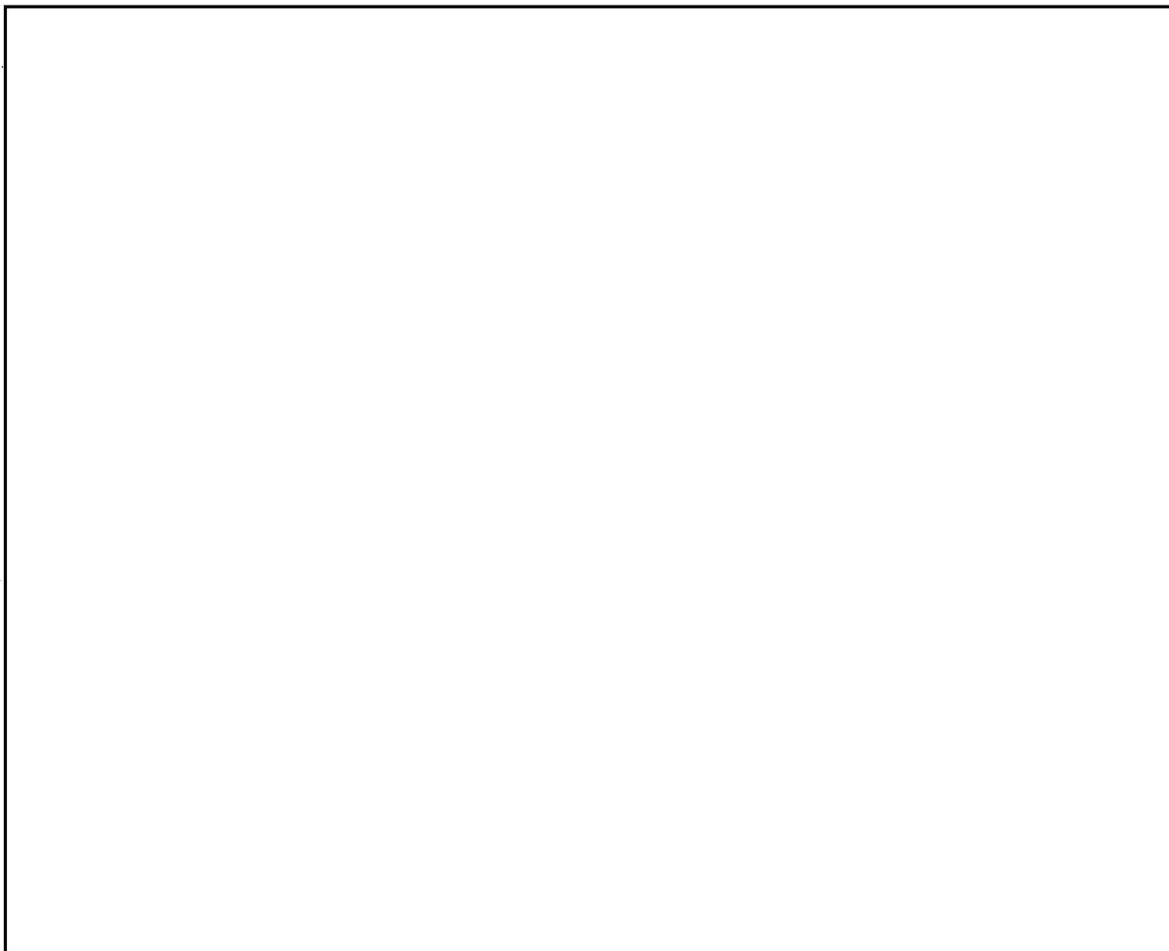
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Senegal-USSR: Senegal's pro-Western President Senghor told the American ambassador in Dakar on 16 November that he anticipated the opening of a Soviet embassy in Senegal "in the foreseeable future," following a recent "approach" by the Soviet ambassador in Paris. Senghor professed an intention to "stave off" the Soviet Union as long as possible, but added that Senegal could not disregard Moscow's wishes--an apparent acknowledgment that his conservative, pro-French regime feels vulnerable to militant African nationalism. The USSR, which had no diplomatic missions in West Africa until early 1959, now has embassies in Guinea, Ghana, and

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Togo and is expected to open one at any time in Mali, where it recently sent two delegations for economic aid talks.

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*Laos: Premier Souvanna Phouma, following a two-day visit to Sam Neua, announced in Vientiane yesterday that he had signed an agreement with Pathet Lao leader Prince Souphannouvong on ways to end civil strife in Laos. This agreement presumably formalizes the accords reached recently between government and Pathet Lao negotiators in Vientiane looking toward formation of a coalition government and the establishment of ties with North Vietnam and Communist China. Souvanna reportedly also said he had obtained Souphannouvong's agreement to the inclusion of General Phoumi's Savannakhet Revolutionary Committee in a government of national unity. It seems highly unlikely, however, that Phoumi would agree at this time to a coalition with the Pathet Lao, although he reportedly has indicated willingness in principle to negotiate with Vientiane.

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[redacted] a skirmish between Vientiane and Phoumi forces southeast of Pak Sane on 19-20 November as the heaviest fighting in that area since late September. Although the two sides are said to have broken off action, the clash may be indicative of growing tensions in the area which could lead to more extensive hostilities.

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El Salvador: Liberals and other anti-Communist elements in El Salvador are now facing an open challenge from Communist and Communist-influenced groups, which have moved rapidly to consolidate their positions in the provisional government and in the politically potent labor and student organizations. These groups, [redacted]

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[redacted] are bringing peasants from the countryside into the capital to swell their ranks. [redacted]

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Though the government claims to have suppressed on 16 November a countercoup plot in which leftist groups charge United States implication, highly placed army officers are probably still planning a countercoup. They are weakened, however, by internal dissension in the army. [redacted]

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