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31 January 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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Congo: (The Leopoldville government does not appear to have decided on a procedure to get rid of Tshombé legally.)

Ambassador Gullion reports that much of the steam has gone out of the proposal to convene a Katangan assembly for this purpose. Leopoldville politicians had hoped that such a session would produce a majority against Tshombé, but there seems to be considerable opposition in some areas of northern Katanga to any move to reunify the province. Moreover, Tshombé himself is reported to be making quiet overtures to members of the Baluba tribal group, which Leopoldville had envisaged as the core of an anti-Tshombé coalition.

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France - USSR - Common Market: Other members of the EEC are almost certain to reject France's recent proposal that the EEC grant tariff concessions on certain imports from the USSR.

The French proposal springs from negotiations with the USSR which were broken off last summer but resumed on 21 January at Soviet initiative. Moscow was previously seeking equal treatment with EEC members but apparently now will settle for special treatment on a list of some 18 exports, including caviar, vodka, and canned crab.

Paris wants the tariff concessions to help balance its trade with the USSR. The other EEC countries, in addition to being currently unreceptive to France, are insisting that the EEC must not offer unilateral tariff concessions without reciprocity.

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Peru: Recent political developments suggest that the military junta might intervene in the 9 June election or possibly cancel it altogether.

The junta is determined to prevent the establishment of a government dominated by the leftist, anti-Communist APRA. Its efforts to unite the parties of Fernando Belaunde and Manuel Odria in an anti-APRA coalition have failed thus far, and the junta leaders may soon attempt to intervene more directly, possibly by outlawing APRA because of its Marxist origin.

The US Embassy believes the registration of voters cannot be completed by the 12 February deadline. Failure to complete this process would call into question the legality of the June election and might give the junta a pretext for canceling it altogether.

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NOTES

USSR: A continuing Soviet interest in mine warfare at sea is reflected in the recent appearance of a new class of small mine sweeper. The Soviet Navy maintains the world's largest fleet of mine sweepers, some 400 vessels, and has equipped practically all of its air, surface, and submarine units for carrying out mine-laying operations.

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DAILY BRIEF

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