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1 April 1963
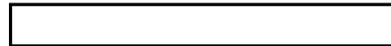
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CENTRAL

INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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DAILY BRIEF

*Guatemala: (The ouster of President Ydigoras by Minister of Defense Peralta apparently was accomplished by agreement among all the top Guatemalan military commanders. The "national unity" cabinet, which reportedly will be formed within a few days, will probably include representatives from most parties of the center and right. However, the present cabinet, which is composed mainly of military officers, may continue for an indefinite period.)

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(Ex-president Arevalo reportedly has returned to Mexico. Many of his leading supporters have been arrested and he may lie low, waiting for another opportunity to make political propaganda. His surreptitious entry into Guatemala on 27 March probably increased Arevalo's popular appeal.)

(Late on 31 March the ministry of defense announced that Communist groups were reportedly planning to stage demonstrations today and that drastic measures would be taken against agitators.)

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*Syria: (Large demonstrations for Syrian union
with Egypt took place over the weekend in both Da-
mascus and Aleppo. This has served to raise ten-
sion considerably and may provoke action against
the Baathist-led regime by either pro- or anti-Nasir
army elements.)

(The demonstrations, probably Egyptian-insti-
gated, are an effort to pressure the regime into
agreeing to Nasir's terms for a close union of the
two countries. Negotiations in Cairo on the ques-
tion of unity have gone on intermittently for over
two weeks with no real progress having been made.
They are scheduled to be resumed on 6 April.)

(Dissension in the Syrian army high command
reportedly has increased during the past several   25X1
days over this question.))

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USSR-India: Indian pilots who tested the MIG-21 (Fishbed) jet fighter in the USSR consider it "obsolete" in comparison with the British Lightning and French Mirage.

They acknowledge that the MIG-21 is a rugged plane with good take-off capabilities, but say that engine handling has proved difficult and it has been necessary to introduce safeguards to prevent surging and flameouts. The version supplied to India is equipped with an optical gunsight, range-only radar, and a power supply inadequate for its fire control system. The space in its nose is insufficient to accommodate search radar and associated electronics systems.

The pilots submitted a report to this effect before India agreed to buy the Soviet fighter, but it was apparently suppressed by Krishna Menon.

This version of the MIG-21 is a single-engine delta-wing fighter with a maximum speed of Mach 2.0 at 36,000 feet with two air-to-air missiles. It is used as a daytime interceptor in clear-air-mass conditions and in a ground-support role. It has been given to European satellite countries, North Korea, and a number of nonaligned nations, and is in Cuba.

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The Soviets also have in operation an all-weather development of this fighter.

1 Apr 63   DAILY BRIEF   5

Congo: Tensions are high in Elisabethville and further disorders may occur.

The murder of two Belgian residents within a week has incensed the community. The first was shot in the back by a Congo army soldier; the second may have been killed by Baluba tribal thugs, but the local press charges Ethiopian UN troops were involved.

Strains between the Katangans and central government authorities are also increasing. Minister Resident Ileo decreed on 28 March that Katangan gendarmes found in uniform are subject to arrest. Ileo says also he plans to dissolve Tshombé's presidential guard company "by force if necessary" and to expel some of the Katangan leader's top Belgian advisers.

The arrival of advance parties of two more ANC battalions scheduled to come into South Katanga has precipitated rumors--denied by Ileo--that Leopoldville plans to arrest Tshombé and his ministers.

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NOTES

Cuba-Algeria: (Fidel Castro will visit Algeria   25X1
in connection with a planned trip to the USSR on 1
May,
This stopover, the only one now planned, will be
undertaken in view of the "special relationship" that
Castro has been cultivating with the Algerian Govern-
ment in general and Premier Ben Bella and army   25X1
chief Colonel Houari Boumedienne in particular.
Boumedienne evidently intends to visit Havana for
the May Day celebrations there and may stay until
after Castro's return.)

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Canada-Yugoslavia: Canada has agreed to sell
Yugoslavia wheat--presumably the 200,000 tons being
discussed in January--on credit. Public announce-
ment of the sale prior to Canada's 8 April election
would further strengthen Diefenbaker's political posi-
tion in the prairie provinces. Belgrade is attempting
to reduce its dependence on US surplus food aid and   25X1
hopes soon to end it.

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      The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs
      The Scientific Adviser to the President
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The Department of State
      The Secretary of State
      The Under Secretary of State
      The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
      The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
      The Counselor and Chairman of the Policy Planning Council
      The Director of Intelligence and Research
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