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20 July 1965

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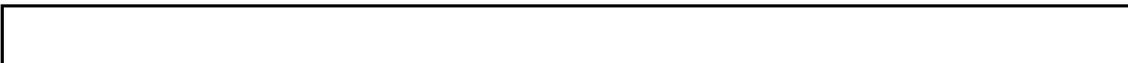


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

STATE review(s) completed.

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*Dominican Republic: Rebel charges have once again gained an international stage.

The UN Security Council is scheduled to meet today to hear charges made by the Caamano government against the Inter-American Peace Force (IAPF) and the Government of National Reconstruction (GNR) headed by Antonio Imbert. The meeting was originally called to hear rebel predictions of an IAPF attack on the rebel zone during the temporary absence of OAS committee members. The return of committee member Ellsworth Bunker to Santo Domingo yesterday, however, has seriously undercut the rebel charge. In an attempt to discredit the GNR, pro-rebel speakers will probably publicize the report of the OAS Human Rights Commission which strongly indicts the GNR for atrocities committed during the rebellion.

In Santo Domingo, ex-president Joaquin Balaguer, after nearly three and a half years of exile, has declared himself a candidate for the presidency in the next election and is busy strengthening his Reformist Party. The former Trujillo lackey, who largely avoided being connected with the brutality of the Trujillo era, has substantial popular support both for his stand against the dictator's family in late 1961 and his association with stability prior to Trujillo's assassination.

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Congo: President Kasavubu may have edged the Congo a step closer to a government crisis by unilaterally naming a new minister of interior.

On 17 July Kasavubu assigned the key interior ministry to Victor Nendaka, former surete chief and a member of a group of politicians supporting the president against Premier Tshombé.

In this latest maneuver President Kasavubu has apparently departed from his carefully nurtured position of legality. The constitution specifies that the president is to invest cabinet ministers only after nomination by the premier.

Kasavubu's action is an obvious rebuff to Premier Tshombé, who last week declared that he was "temporarily" adding the interior portfolio to those he already held. On 18 July Tshombé talked to Ambassador Godley about resigning. However, he is unlikely to resign or to resort to extra-legal methods at this time. Tshombé may attempt later to use Kasavubu's action as ammunition against the president in their continuing feud.

Army General Mobutu, widely believed to be the mediator between the Kasavubu and Tshombé camps, is apparently encouraging the premier to stay on.

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AREA	1963	1964	1965
Southern Urals	84	134	99
Northeast Urals	63	117	58
Western Kazakhstan	131	229	140
Kustany	68	190	86
Tselinograd	40	142	55
Northern Kazakhstan	43	162	78
Pavlodar	40	87	49
Western Siberia	57	111	60
Altay Kray	62	129	78

* as of 30 June 1965

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USSR: Prospects for the Soviet wheat crop have deteriorated in recent weeks.

Rainfall during the spring and early summer has been well below average in the New Lands, the major producer of spring wheat. Continuation of this drought during July would result in a much below average spring wheat crop, which normally accounts for almost two thirds of total Soviet wheat production. Since the winter wheat crop is estimated to be no better than average, a poor spring wheat crop would result in the need for significant wheat imports by the USSR.

The situation does not appear as bad as in 1963 when a severe drought affecting both winter and spring wheat forced the Soviet Union to import about 12 million tons of wheat. Despite a good 1964 crop, the USSR contracted to buy 3.2 million tons of wheat for the crop year 1964-65. About one million tons of this are known to be allocated to fulfill Soviet export obligations. The intended disposition of an additional 300,000 tons of wheat purchased since 1 July 1965 is not yet known.

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NOTES

Greece: [The resignation of Premier Athanasiadis-Novas appears more likely amid increasing reports that former deputy premier Stephanopoulos has been selected as premier designate. Stephanopoulos, however, will be faced with the intricate task of garnering sizable support from his own Center Union Party led by former premier Papandreu who, at last report, was opposed to his appointment. The army and the security forces remain on the alert as pro-Papandreu demonstrations continue.]

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*Ecuador: The junta appears to have averted the threatened renewal last night of violent demonstrations by announcing several concessions to Guayaquil local interest groups. The resignation of the cabinet on 17 July will enable the junta to assemble a new government soon, possibly including broader political representation. However, a full solution to the crisis does not appear in sight since the politicians intransigently demand an interim civilian government to handle the transition to constitutional rule. The junta, with military backing, seems disposed to cling to power by force rather than to permit the potential rise of a civilian regime which might negate reforms it has introduced.

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