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19 August 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Malaysia: [Singapore's secession from Malaysia last week is producing serious strains in other parts of the federation.]

[In Sabah strong sentiment appears to be developing for increased autonomy, if not an actual break from Malaysia. Sabah Chief Minister Peter Lo, who expressed continued support for Malaysia following Singapore's withdrawal, is coming under heavy pressure from separatist elements. Former chief minister Donald Stephens has become a leader in the secessionist movement and has resigned as minister of Sabah affairs in the central Malaysian Government.]

[Thus far moderate elements in the ruling Sabah Alliance Party have been successful in preventing precipitate action, but state council meetings are still debating the issue.]

[Any wavering in Sabah's support for Malaysia will undercut the ability of Sarawak leaders to silence vociferous separatist elements in that state. Sarawak's powerful opposition parties are clamoring for a plebiscite, which they apparently believe would favor withdrawal.]

[Although Malaysian leader Tunku Abdul Rahman has issued statements aimed at conciliating aroused sentiment in Sabah and Sarawak, there is some uncertainty over the depth and firmness of Malaysia's actual interest in these backward Borneo states.]

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India-Pakistan: India's cancellation of a meeting between the foreign ministers of both countries is the first political repercussion of the present Kashmir imbroglio.

In announcing that he had asked Pakistani Foreign Minister Bhutto not to come to New Delhi this week, Indian Prime Minister Shastri defended the Rann of Kutch agreement, the subject of the meeting, and disclaimed any intention to back out of it. Karachi radio claims that India also suggested that both sides now proceed to arbitration of the Kutch dispute, the next stage envisaged in the cease-fire agreement, and that Pakistan has agreed. Continued tension over Kashmir, however, will impede agreement on the choices for the three-man arbitration panel.

In Kashmir the situation remains essentially unchanged. [India continues to airlift additional armed police and has reportedly deployed about a brigade from Bombay to just south of Kashmir. While there are some signs of an increased alert posture--there is one report that leaves have been canceled in the Indian Army--the present state of armed forces readiness on both sides is considerably below that attained during the recent Kutch crisis.]

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UN: [UN members generally are pleased with the new US position on Article 19.]

[In public Moscow has maintained a polite silence on the US move. However, Makeev, a high-level member of the Soviet UN delegation, has stressed privately that Moscow considers it "most important" to resolve the issue "which has been an important obstacle to US-Soviet relations." Repeating a position which the USSR has taken since last April, Makeev said that Moscow wants "official assurance" that the US will not raise Article 19 sometime in the future.]

[There is some uncertainty whether contributions will be forthcoming to restore UN solvency. The USSR, in particular, may not make a substantial contribution unless it receives the guarantee on Article 19.]

[Referring to the US reservation on the right to opt out of future assessments, Undersecretary Bunche has expressed the view that if all members exercised this option, the "UN would be finished."]

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*Greece: King Constantine has named Elias Tsirimokos to head a new government in an attempt to end the month long political crisis.

Tsirimokos, an interior minister in the Papandreou government, [is] a leading member of the left wing of the Center Union party.

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He has been critical of US policy toward Greece in the past.

The premier-designate announced that the new government would be sworn in today and would appear in parliament early next week for debate preceding a confidence vote, for which a total affirmative vote of 151 is necessary. Whether Tsirimokos can obtain the support of the necessary deputies is still regarded as problematical.

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Former deputy premier Stephanopoulos, who was also reported as a leading candidate for a new mandate, apparently will not participate in the Tsirimokos cabinet. However, he has announced that he will support Tsirimokos' attempt to obtain parliamentary approval.

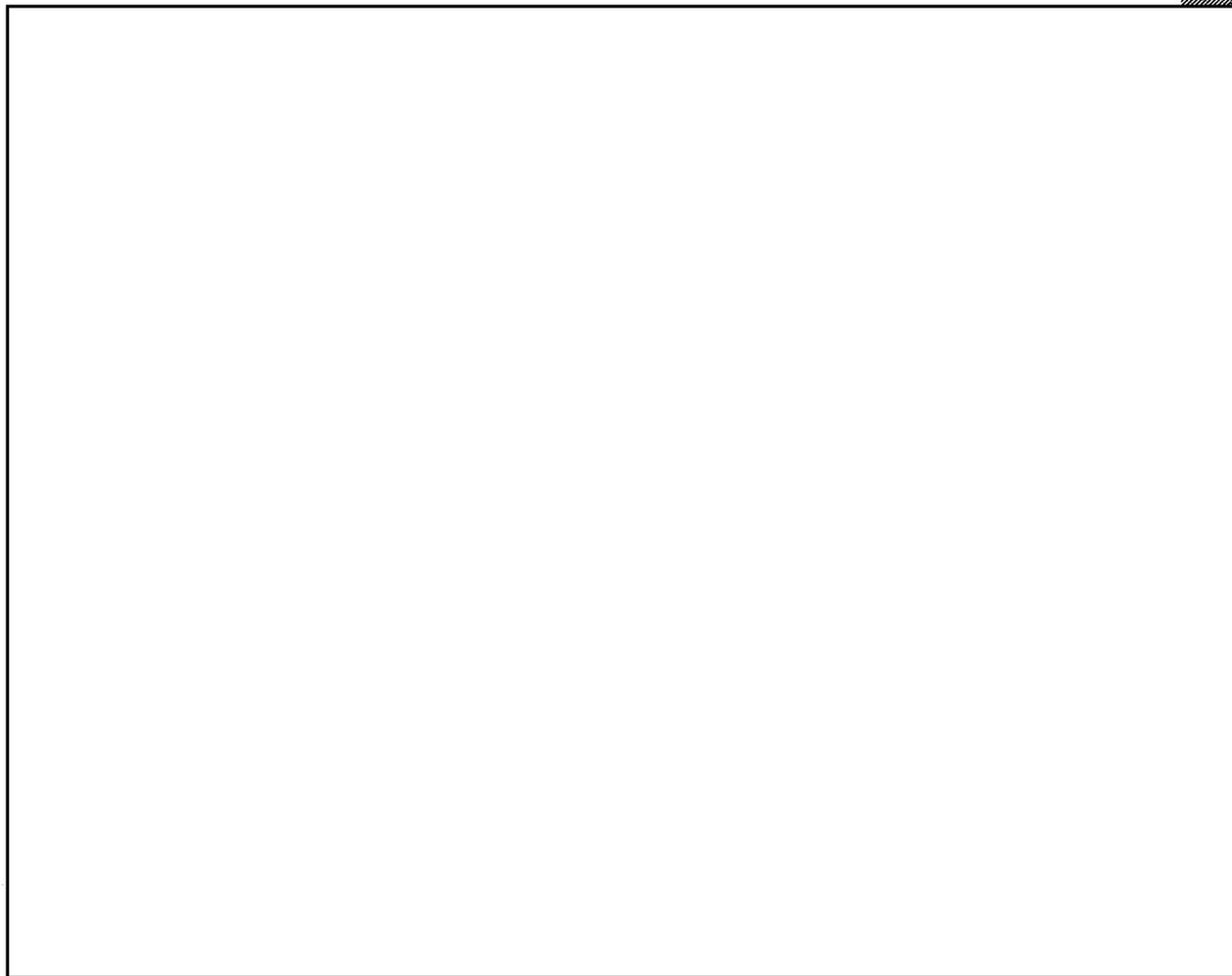
Former premier Papandreou has condemned the latest action of the king and has predicted a severe denunciation of the new government in parliament. Athens police units were alerted as pro-Papandreou demonstrations continued last night.

Although the Tsirimokos government may win a vote of confidence, its chances for long-term success are doubtful in view of continuing heavy popular support for Papandreou.

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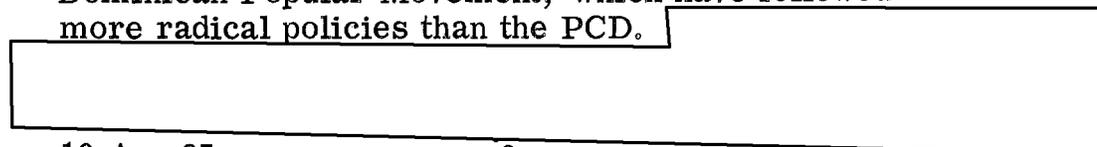
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Dominican Republic: The Moscow-oriented Dominican Communist Party (PCD) has begun to advocate a policy of armed insurrection, stating that the party's task is to organize for it, especially among the laboring class. At the same time it continues to call for the formation of a popular front to fight against "the US invader." The PCD's increased militancy is probably part of an attempt to compete with the pro-Castro 14th of June Group and the Peiping-oriented Dominican Popular Movement, which have followed more radical policies than the PCD.

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