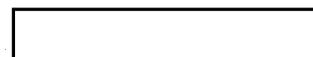
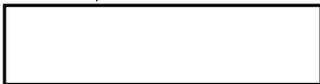


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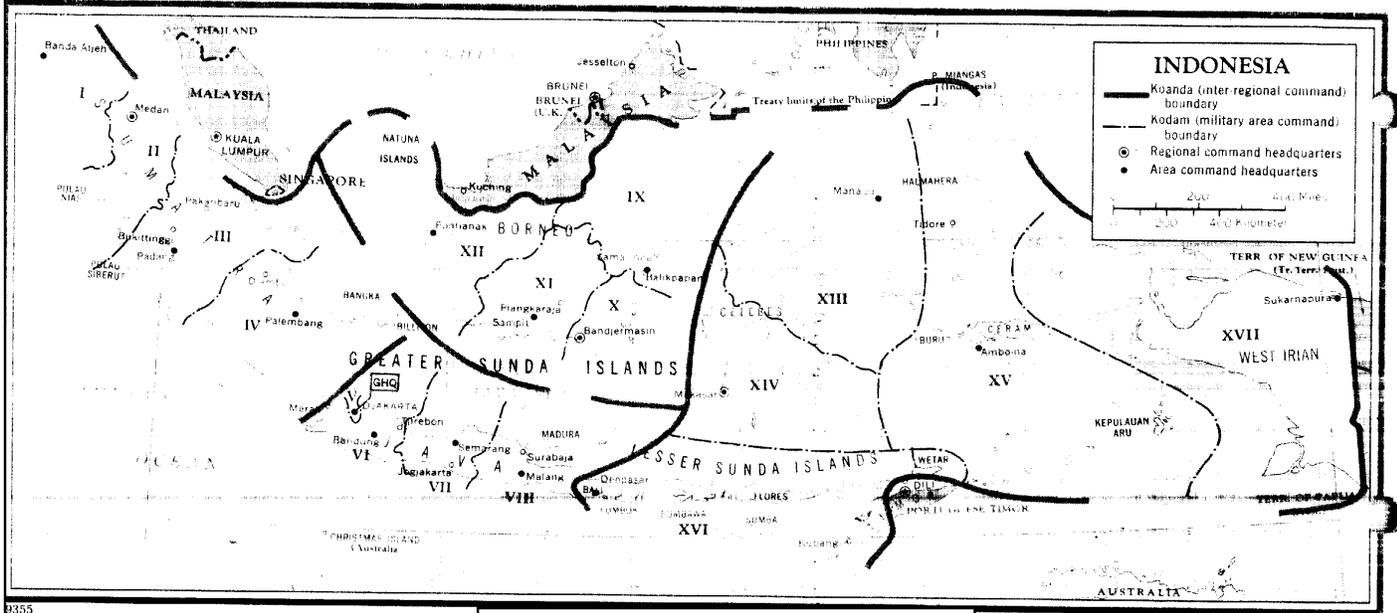
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Indonesia: [The army is taking further steps to strengthen its position vis-a-vis Sukarno.]

[the army is moving "its people" into all aspects of the governmental framework. It apparently does not intend to turn the political control of the country over to civilian elements. The army is also arming and training Moslem youths in central Java as a counterweight to Communist influence in that area.]

[The army is allowing Moslem and other anti-Communist groups to take the lead in the campaign against First Deputy Premier Subandrio, preferring to remain in the background on this issue. It has, however, announced an impending reorganization of the Supreme Operations Command, the chief military policy-making body, on which Subandrio has served as Sukarno's chief deputy. Army chief of staff Suharto is to carry out the reorganization, and it is likely that Subandrio will be removed in the reshuffle.]

[It appears that Suharto is assuming an increasingly active role in army and national affairs. He, rather than Defense Minister Nasution, is reported giving day-to-day orders to the army and is dealing directly with Sukarno. The US Embassy feels that he may be emerging as a "strong man" in the present Indonesian context, although the army apparently has plans for Nasution eventually to succeed Sukarno upon the latter's death.]

[Sukarno still retains much prestige and still has considerable room to maneuver. The embassy comments, however, that the atmosphere at the Presidential Palace is one of increasing "unreality" in contrast to the businesslike bustle at army headquarters.]

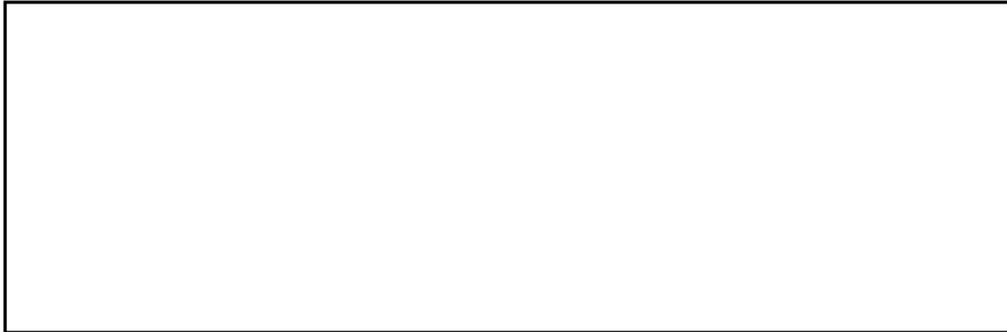
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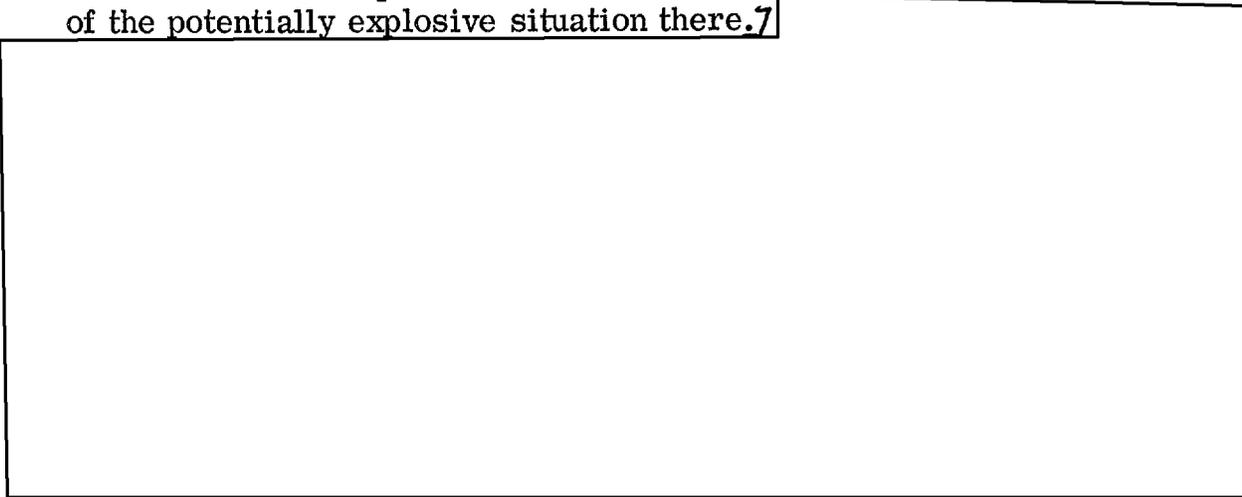
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The PKI itself is said to believe that at the moment it is losing the struggle with the army and religious groups. However, the PKI still has many assets, including Sukarno and the politicians close to him. This relatively sanguine assessment may be an attempt to bolster party morale.]



[The military continues to fear a PKI uprising on or about 10 November, which is a national holiday. In particular, it feels that its forces are spread too thin in East Java, but it remains reluctant to reinforce East Java with troops drawn from Central Java because of the potentially explosive situation there.]



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France: De Gaulle's announcement that he will seek re-election on 5 December stressed the choice between his own strong, dynamic France and the weak, unstable France of the Fourth Republic.

De Gaulle will try to make this choice the key campaign issue. In his speech to the nation he said a massive endorsement would give him new confidence to complete the task of France's renewal.

Among unfinished business De Gaulle listed the "recovery of independence without renouncing friendships" and the reasonable and equitable union of Western Europe without submerging France's identity. He asked the voters to make their choice without regard to "foreign influences." Opposition candidates can now attack his foreign policy only at the risk of seeming to identify themselves with those outside France.

There appears no doubt that De Gaulle will win re-election. However, the heavy registration of new voters and the large turnout expected in the first direct election of a French president since 1848 are major uncertainties in any estimate of the size of his majority.

In a recent public opinion poll De Gaulle was favored by 44 percent of the respondents. Francois Mitterand, who has the support of the Communist and Socialist parties as well as several other smaller left-wing groups, was backed by 16 percent, 32 percent were undecided and the remainder was split among half a dozen other candidates.

November 16 is the final day for the formal submission of candidacies. While additional candidates may enter the race before then, the man given the best chance of making a respectable showing against De Gaulle--former premier Antoine Pinay--announced on 3 November that he would not be a candidate regardless of De Gaulle's decision.

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 The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
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