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*Ghana: [Key members of the ruling National Liberation Council (NLC) are thinking seriously of forcing the resignation of General Ankrah in the next week or two.]



[The animosity of certain NLC members toward Ankrah became evident early last summer. They contend that he is ineffectual and too impressed with his own importance. They also charge Ankrah with favoritism toward his fellow Ga tribesmen and alleged collusion with K. A. Busia, currently the front-running aspirant to leadership of an eventual new civilian regime. Although they now seem determined to remove Ankrah, the NLC under Harlley's moderating influence has patched up similar squabbles in the past.]

[Ankrah's ouster would not affect the regime's pro-Western orientation, but would damage the country's internal stability. It would intensify existing tribal frictions and encourage the more ambitious NLC members to intrigue further for their own advancement.]

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Dominican Republic: President Balaguer is attempting to solidify his control of the armed forces.

He named a new army chief of staff on 15 February to replace General Perdomo, who has been at odds with the minister of defense and is suspected of being in contact with exiled General Wessin. The new army chief, General Juan Perez Guillen, appears to have been chosen with an eye to enhancing the position of the minister of defense. Perez Guillen

[redacted] is not popular with younger officers.

In a second major change, Balaguer named Colonel Nivar--who has been an influential military adviser to the President but who has used the position for his own aggrandizement and enrichment--to a secondary army command. [redacted]

[redacted]

Although Balaguer appears to retain substantial military support and seems to have strengthened his hand through these changes, there is an outside chance that an [redacted] officer such as Nivar might attempt to unify other dissatisfied military personnel against the President. [redacted]

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NOTES

UK-Malta: [The disagreement over Britain's planned cutback of its forces in Malta continues. The Maltese Government has announced that unless London accepts at least the substance of its terms for reopening negotiations by 21 February it will go ahead with its threat to force the removal of all British forces from the island. The US ambassador in Malta believes, however, that the Maltese might come to terms if the British offer to concentrate the bulk of the force reductions in the last two years rather than the first two years of the 1967-70 period.]

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Jordan: [King Husayn's search for funds to cover military costs this year appears to have been successful. He was promised more than \$23 million in aid by Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Qatar, and Bahrain during his recent tour of the Arabian peninsula. The Kuwaitis were noncommittal, but Husayn still hopes to get help from them too. These pledges almost equal the United Arab Command's annual allocation to Jordan for defense costs--an arrangement now jeopardized by the split between Arab leaders.]

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Dominican Republic: President Balaguer wants the OAS to sanction an attitude of "greater belligerency" toward Cuba by those member states that wish to pursue such a policy, according to Minister of Finance Martinez. Martinez told Ambassador Crimmins that Foreign Minister Amiama has instructions to raise the issue at the Inter-American Conference now being held in Buenos Aires.]

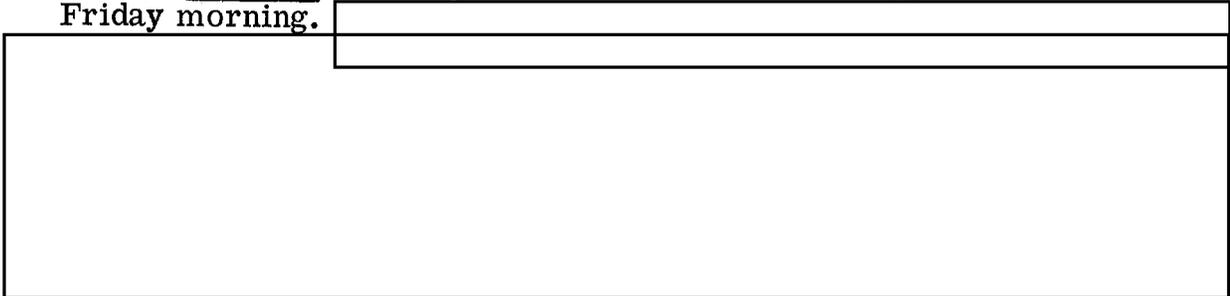
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USSR-US: The Soviets continue to harass two US destroyers operating in the Black Sea. The ships have been overflown repeatedly by Soviet aircraft, including the supersonic-dash Blinder medium bombers in their first surveillance of US naval forces. Surface units have not been encountered since a Soviet tanker forced the USS Hawkins to change course to avoid a collision Friday morning.

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