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Central Intelligence Bulletin

DEPT OF STATE review(s) completed.

Top Secret

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12 May 1967



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Approved For Release 2003/04/18 : CIA-RDP79T00975A009900110001-0

Approved For Release 2003/04/18 : CIA-RDP79T00975A009900110001-0

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Communist China - Hong Kong: The Hong Kong Government and the Chinese Communist apparatus in the colony appear to be moving toward a test of strength.

Following a clash yesterday between police and hundreds of rioters in an antiforeign demonstration, the Hong Kong Government mobilized the police reserve, alerted the British Army garrison, and imposed a curfew in part of Kowloon. Another Communist-led riot is expected in Kowloon today. In contrast to their earlier efforts to avoid involvement, the Hong Kong authorities apparently now believe they must take a stronger line to prevent erosion of the government's authority.

The Chinese Communists have sharply increased their activity in Hong Kong over the past four months. Although the local party apparatus is probably responsible for the day to day conduct of operations in the colony, the increase in Communist activity has almost certainly been cleared with Peking.

[Redacted]

The Chinese Communists clearly intend to put pressure on the Hong Kong authorities. They almost certainly do not wish to challenge British control at this time, however, because of the colony's economic importance to Peking. Nevertheless, an unforeseen incident could lead to a major confrontation.

[Redacted]

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Guatemala: Terrorism by right-wing groups is increasing.

Bombings have occurred at several homes in the capital and at the building housing the faculty of economics at the University of San Carlos. In addition, there have been several kidnappings and assassinations.

Some of the increased activity may be the work of the Anti-Communist Council of Guatemala (CADEG). This new organization purports to include all the existing right-wing terrorist groups, some of which may be phantom organizations established to cloak army involvement in "vigilante" activities. Among a published list of 21 "Communists" that CADEG has targeted for liquidation, the US Embassy finds a number whom it considers anti-Communist or at least non-Communist.

Public opinion regarding right-wing terrorism is mixed. Ambassador Mein comments that there is growing concern about the breakdown in respect for legal process and that criticism now is being heard about "indiscriminate vigilantism." [redacted]

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NOTES

European Communists: At the recent Karlovy Vary conference, the USSR urged Western European Communist parties to pursue a more active "united front" policy. [redacted]

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Soviet party chief Brezhnev also called for a broad anti-German "peace front," bringing together not only political parties but also youth elements, labor activists, intellectuals, and religious organizations. [redacted]

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