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22 December 1960

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



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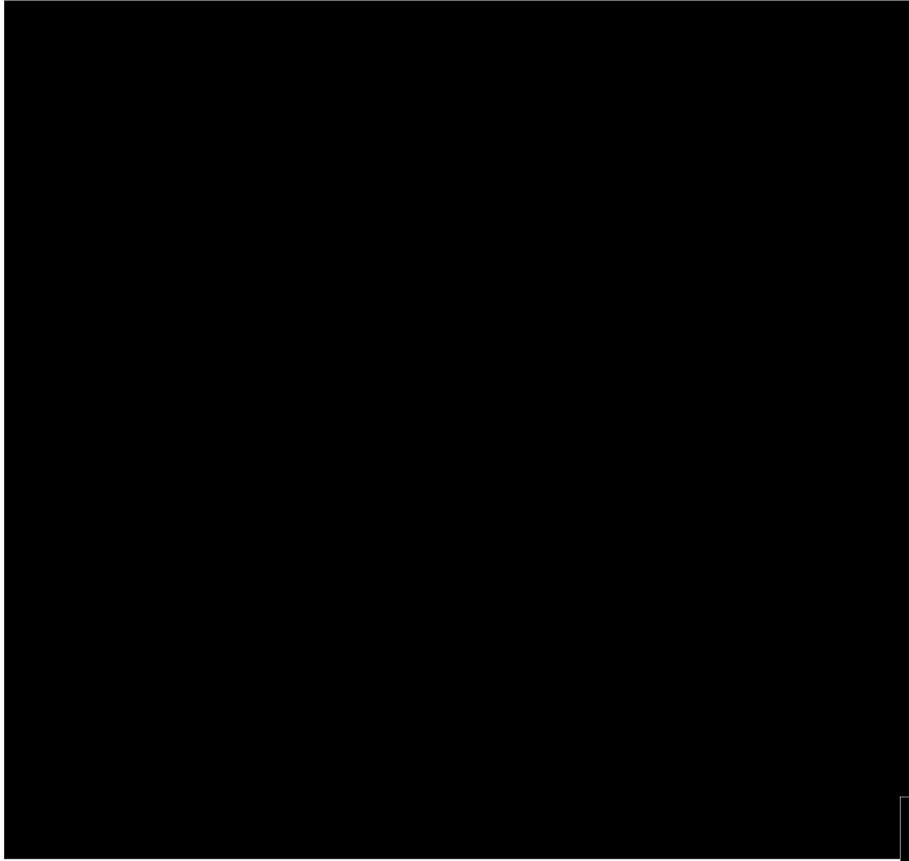
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THE WEEK IN BRIEF ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PART I

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST



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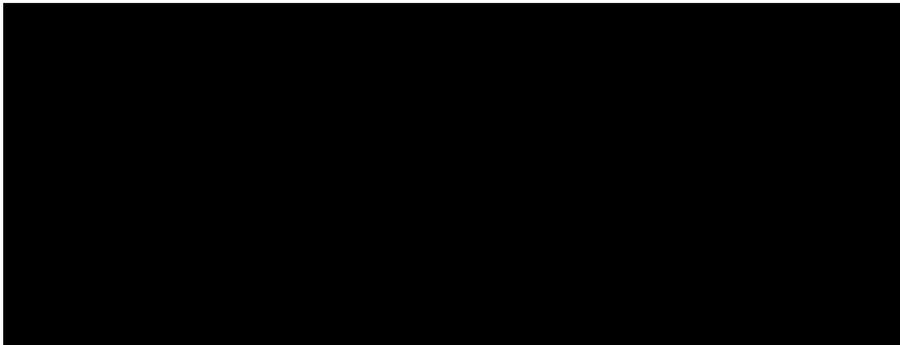
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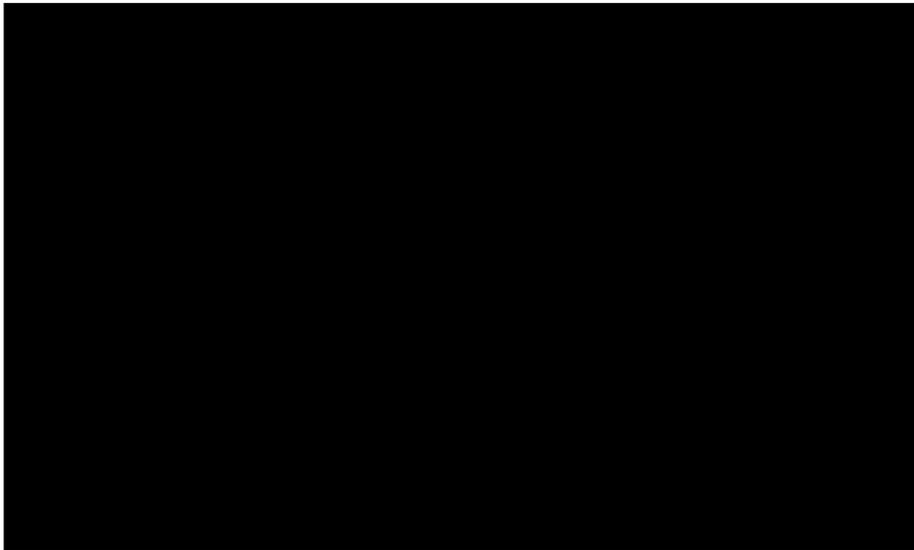
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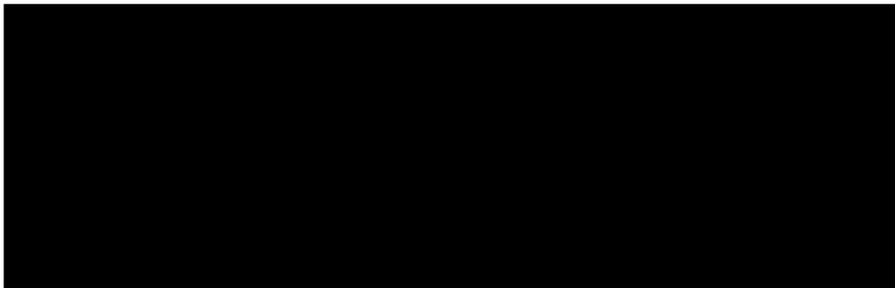
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PART II

NOTES AND COMMENTS



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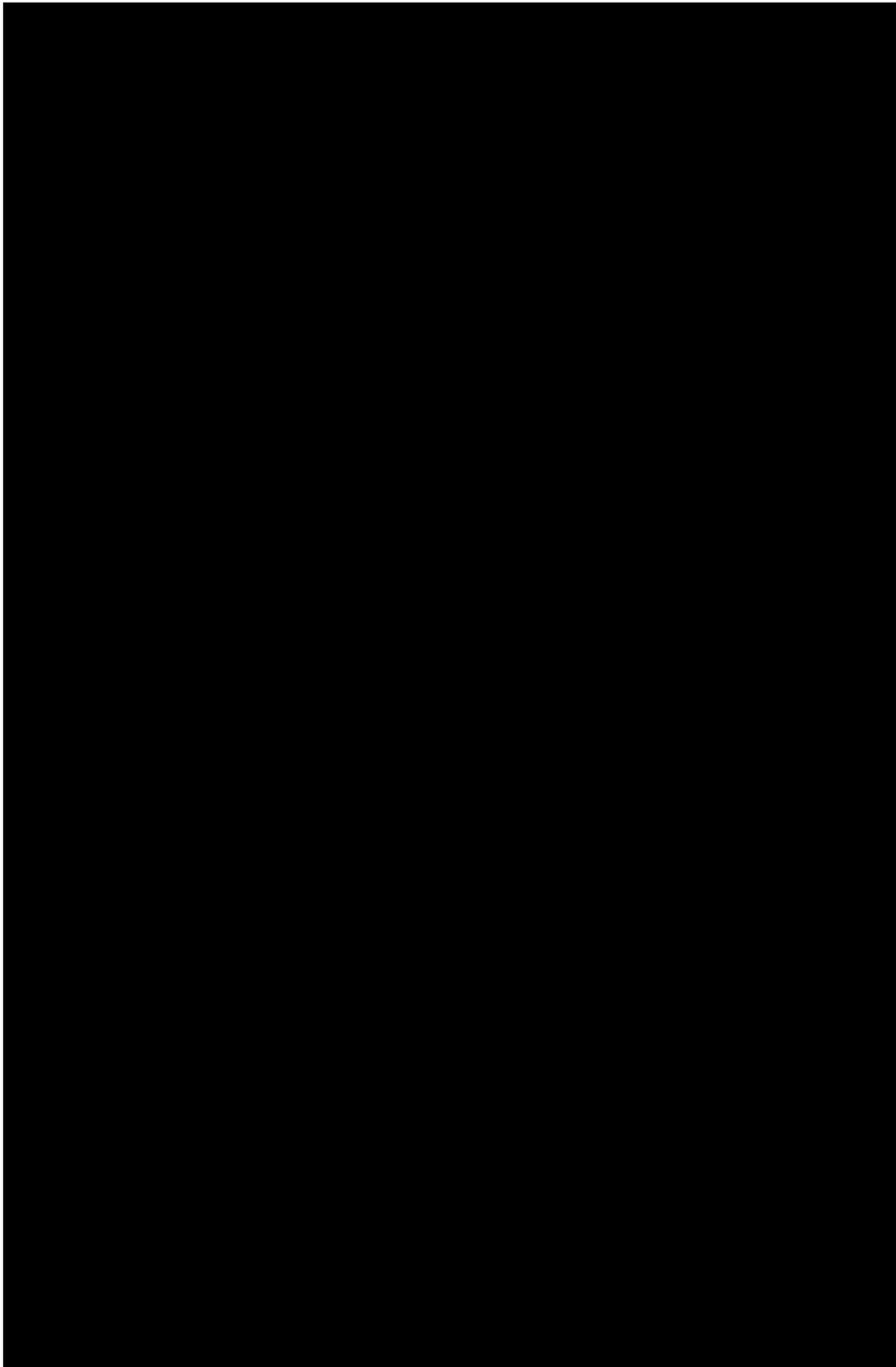
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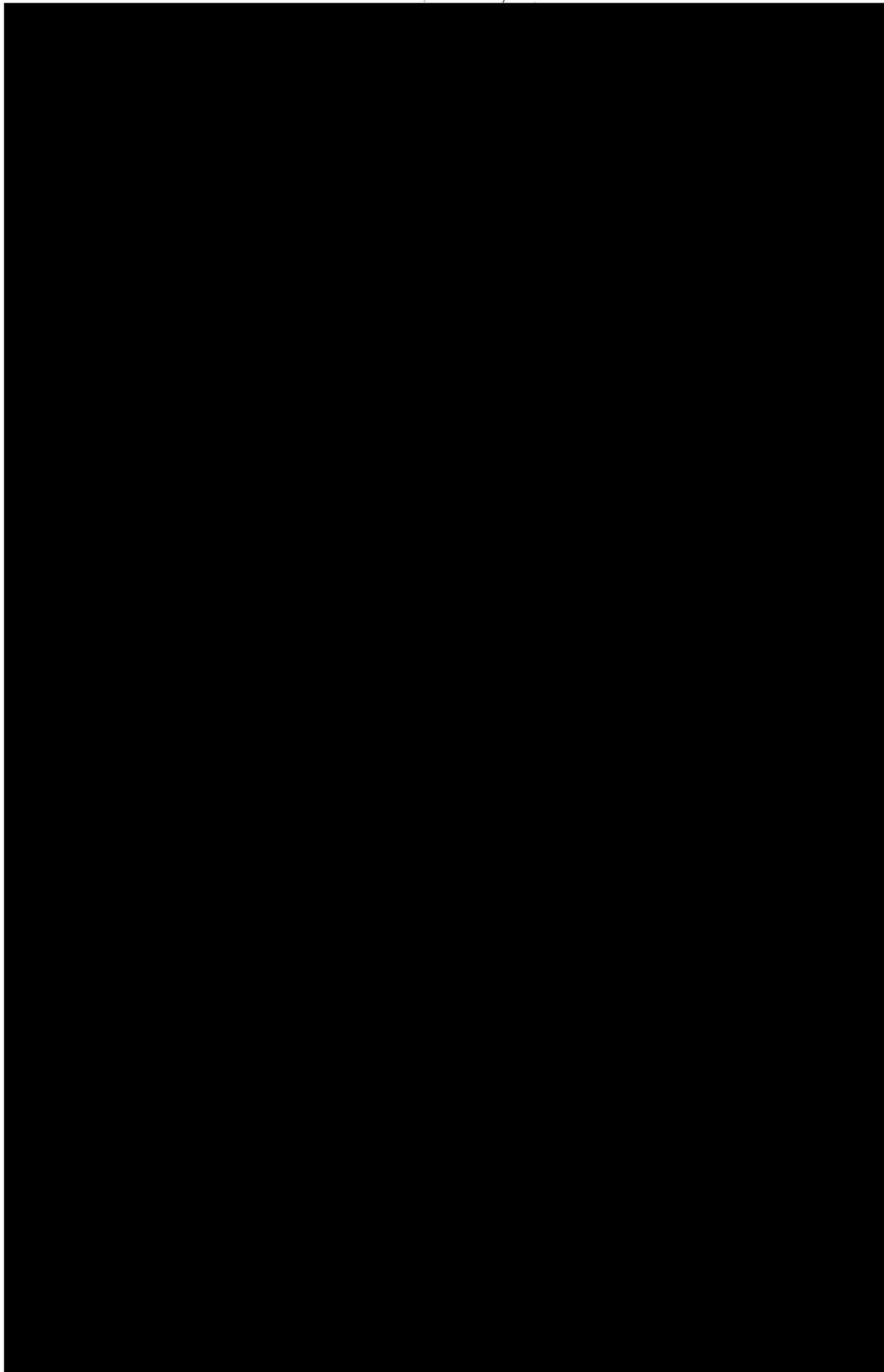
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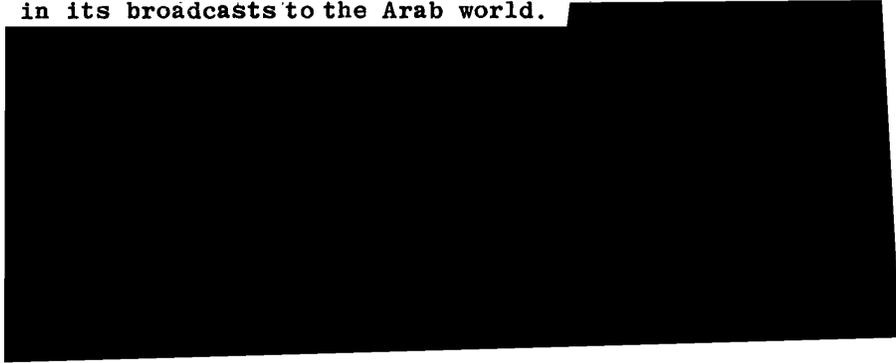
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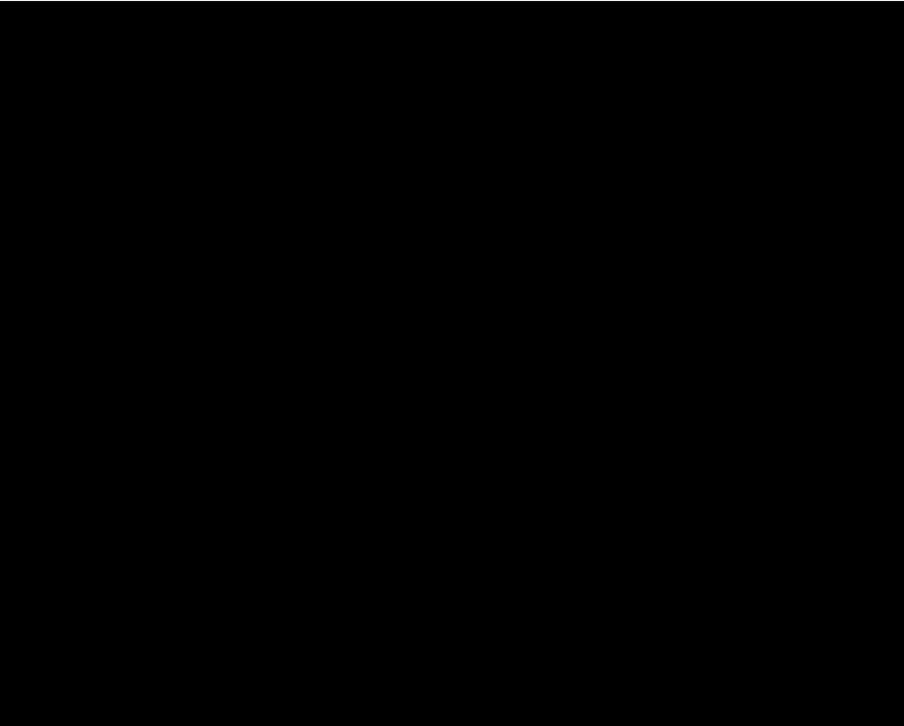


MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS Page 12

The Arab press has begun a major propaganda campaign against Israeli activity in nuclear weapons development, and Radio Moscow has been quick to exploit the subject in its broadcasts to the Arab world.



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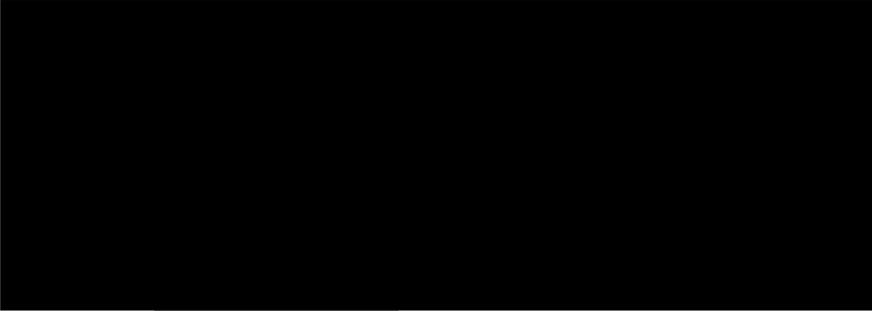
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PART III



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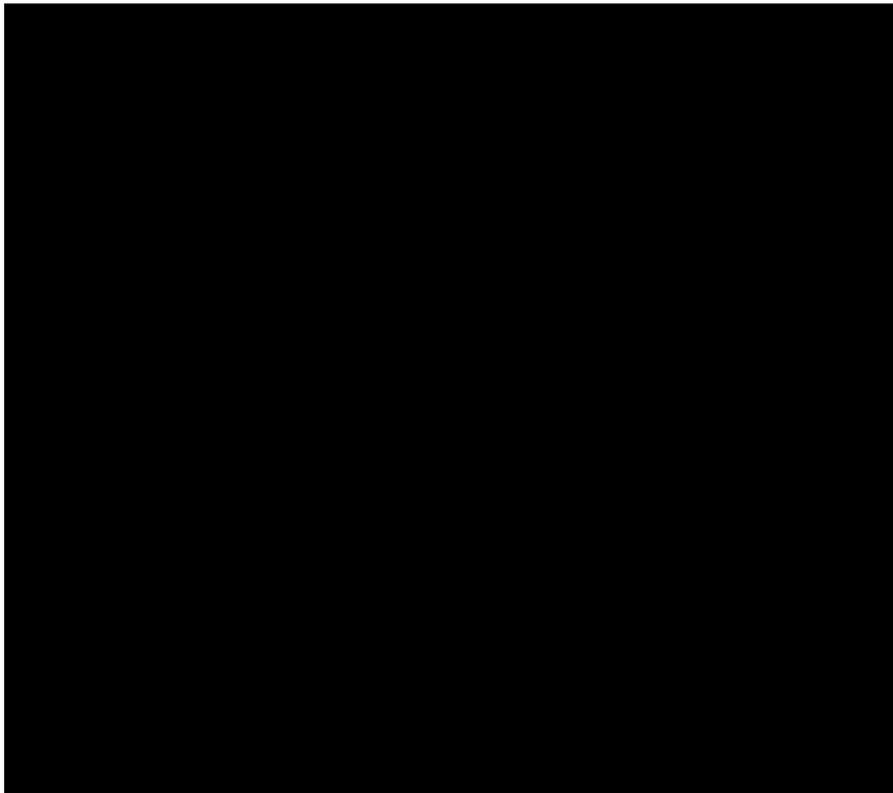
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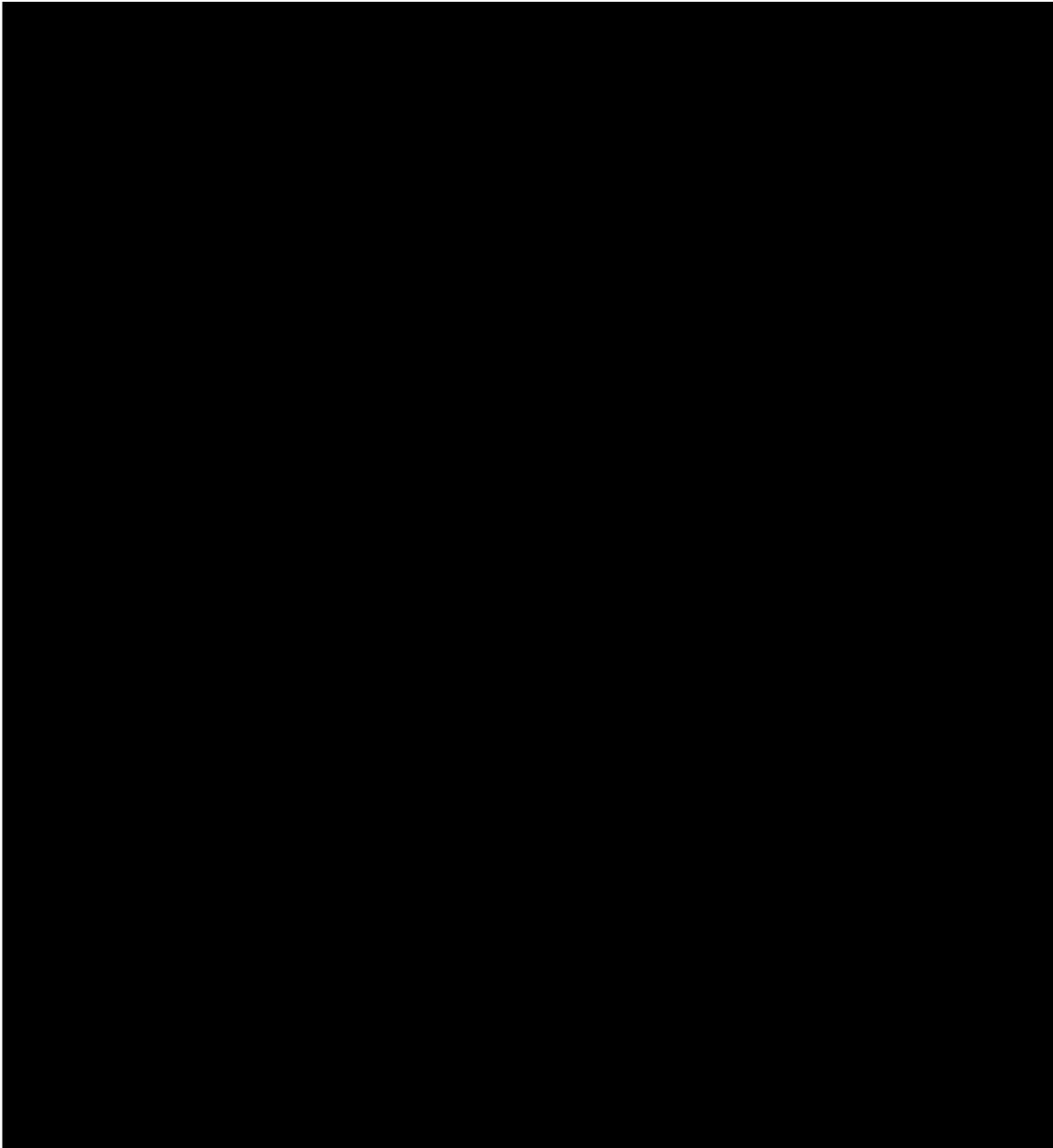
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THE WEEK IN BRIEF

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MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

During the past few days, Arab newspapers have begun a major propaganda campaign against Israeli activity in nuclear weapons development. The Arab press reaction includes strong attacks

against France and the United States for aiding the Israeli effort.

Arab press coverage began on 17 December when Beirut

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newspapers picked up a story carried the day before in the London Daily Express. Amman radio on 19 December suggested that the report that Israel was making an atomic bomb might have been planted by Tel Aviv as a psychological warfare measure. Amman added, however, that the Arab states must "base their offensive and defensive policies on the assumption that if Israel does not have the bomb now, it may have it in the future."

The Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram, which is edited by a confidant of President Nasir, rounded up Western press reporting on the subject and said that if Israel's production of an atomic bomb is merely talk in other capitals, "it constitutes in our Arab capitals a question of life or death." The paper claimed that if Israel does get an atomic bomb, the UAR will get one too, "whatever the price." Baghdad radio has asserted that all the "imperialist states," and not France alone, are responsible for helping Israel develop an atomic bomb.

Lebanese press commentary has been typically impetuous. One paper advises that the problem immediately be raised at the United Nations. Another suggests that the time is fast approaching for Arab military action against Israel; it also urges the UAR to "carry out the necessary contacts with the Soviet Union to obtain atomic bombs, because we cannot afford to allow the balance of power between us and the enemy to be disturbed in such a dangerous manner." Prime Minister Salam, replying on 20 December to questions members of the Lebanese parliament, said that his cabinet shared their concern over "this latest Zionist menace" and was consulting with other Arab governments about appropriate countermeasures.

Radio Moscow, in Arabic broadcasts, has accused the Western powers--and particularly the United States--of responsibility for "placing atomic weapons in the hands of Israel." The Soviet broadcasts allege that this is an attempt to use Israel, "the only pillar for the United States in the Middle East," to frighten the Arab and African peoples and "compel them to give up the struggle for freedom and national independence."

The Israeli Atomic Energy Commission has denied that Israel is engaged in the production of atomic weapons and has claimed that its nuclear research program is intended only for the purposes of industry, agriculture, medicine, and science. Prime Minister Ben-Gurion stated on 21 December that the "so-called secret" reactor being built in the Negev is "dedicated entirely to peaceful purposes" and is due for completion in three or four years.



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