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31 May 1960

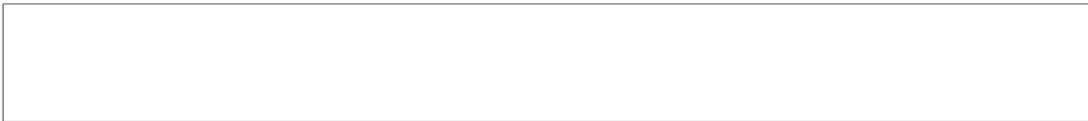


Copy No. C 68

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



DOCUMENT NO. 26
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 10-2
6 JUN 1980
DATE: _____ REVIEWER: _____



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APPROVED FOR
RELEASE DATE:
13-Oct-2011

II. ASIA-AFRICA

New Government Formed in Turkey

A provisional government of 15 civilians and three military cabinet members has been formed in Turkey. Retired General Cemal Gursel, who headed the coup against the former government, is prime minister as well as commander in chief of the armed forces. General officers also head the interior and communications ministries. The cabinet appears to be composed of nonpartisan personalities with a reputation for integrity and ability.

A seven-man committee of law professors from Ankara and Istanbul universities are beginning work on the draft of a new constitution and electoral law which will be reviewed before adoption by a larger committee representing a wide segment of Turkish opinion. One report suggests that a bicameral legislature will replace the present unicameral one and that a court with power to review the constitutionality of all legislation will be formed.

Prime Minister Gursel has told American officers that he will require one to three months to restore the situation to normal before elections, but that he is firmly determined to hand over power to the new parliament as soon as it is elected. Early elections seem mandatory, lest there be consolidation of military control which would then be difficult to give up. While the elections might be free in general, it seems clear that the present government will not permit members of the previous administration to win positions of influence.