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3 May 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

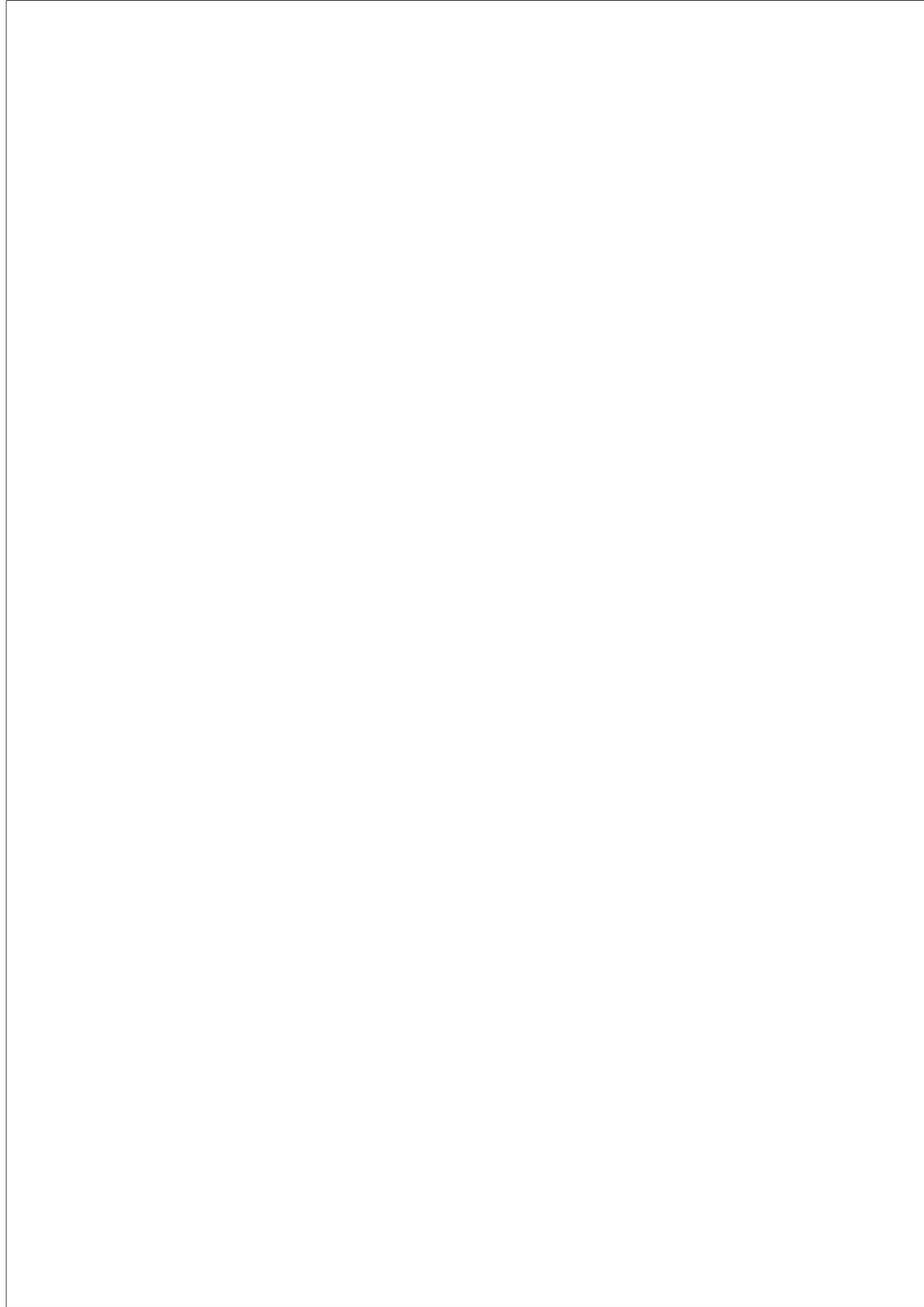


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3 MAY 1958

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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USSR likely to maintain unilateral nuclear test suspension in effort to improve summit bargaining position. ①

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Indonesia - Political and military leaders in Djakarta state they are seeking peaceful settlement with North Celebes dissidents and planning new cabinet free from Communist influence. They have not yet approached Sukarno. ②

Iraq - Government intimidation of opposition in 5 May election may increase antagonism toward Nuri Said regime. ③

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②

③

III. THE WEST

British thermonuclear test on 28 April estimated at about two megatons. ④

Adenauer has strengthened position for state elections by stealing opposition thunder on disarmament issue. ⑤

Colombia - Attempted military coup crushed on eve of presidential election. ⑥

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

3 May 1958

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

no

Soviet tactics on nuclear test issue: Reacting to the first shot in the current British test series, Khrushchev stated on 30 April that "our policy remains unchanged." This declaration is somewhat ambiguous since the USSR need not use the British tests as a pretext for renouncing its own unilateral decision to suspend tests. On the other hand, the USSR has already declared that it will "act freely in the question of testing" should the other nuclear powers resume testing. In view of the Soviet insistence that the test suspension issue should have top priority in summit talks, it is unlikely that the Soviet leaders will at this time revoke the commitment to suspend tests, an action which would weaken their bargaining position. Khrushchev also said that the USSR "will hardly agree" to send representatives to observe some of the tests in the current US series in the Pacific because this action would offer "a sort of moral support" for the position of "cold war" advocates on developing "clean" bombs. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

II. ASIA-AFRICA

[REDACTED]

Indonesia: Anti-Communist political and military leaders in Djakarta state they are trying to arrange a peaceful settlement with the dissidents in North Celebes, to be followed by the formation of a new central government cabinet dominated by the army and free from Communist influence. As yet

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these leaders have apparently not sought Sukarno's support; should he actively oppose, their plans would be seriously jeopardized. Dissident air attacks on government installations and shipping in East Indonesia continue. [redacted]

[redacted] loss of one of the government's six corvettes. [redacted] (Page 1)
(Map)

no Iraq: All but 20 of the 145 seats in the Iraqi parliament will be uncontested in the 5 May elections. The wholesale withdrawal of nongovernment candidates, largely as a result of government pressures, and the boycott by antigovernment elements suggest that there will be growing frustration with and antagonism toward the Nuri Said regime.

[redacted] (Page 3)

III. THE WEST

no British thermonuclear test: The Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee (JAEIC) announces that the Atomic Energy Detection System has obtained the following data on the thermonuclear test conducted by the United Kingdom on 28 April 1958 near Christmas Island:

The explosion occurred at 1900 hours, 5 minutes and 7 seconds GMT. Preliminary estimate of the yield range is one half to 5 megatons, with a best estimate of about 2 megatons. A rough estimate of the height of burst is about 10,000 feet above the sea.

This is the 17th test conducted by the UK. and is one of a series still to be completed. [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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no
West Germany: Adenauer seems to have considerably strengthened his political position for the five state elections scheduled for this year by his new emphasis on disarmament as the main topic of a summit conference and by his handling of the recent Mikoyan visit. The American Embassy reports that the opposition Social Democrats, who had hoped to exploit the nuclear weapons issue in the state elections, are furious because Adenauer has stolen their thunder. [REDACTED] (Page 4)

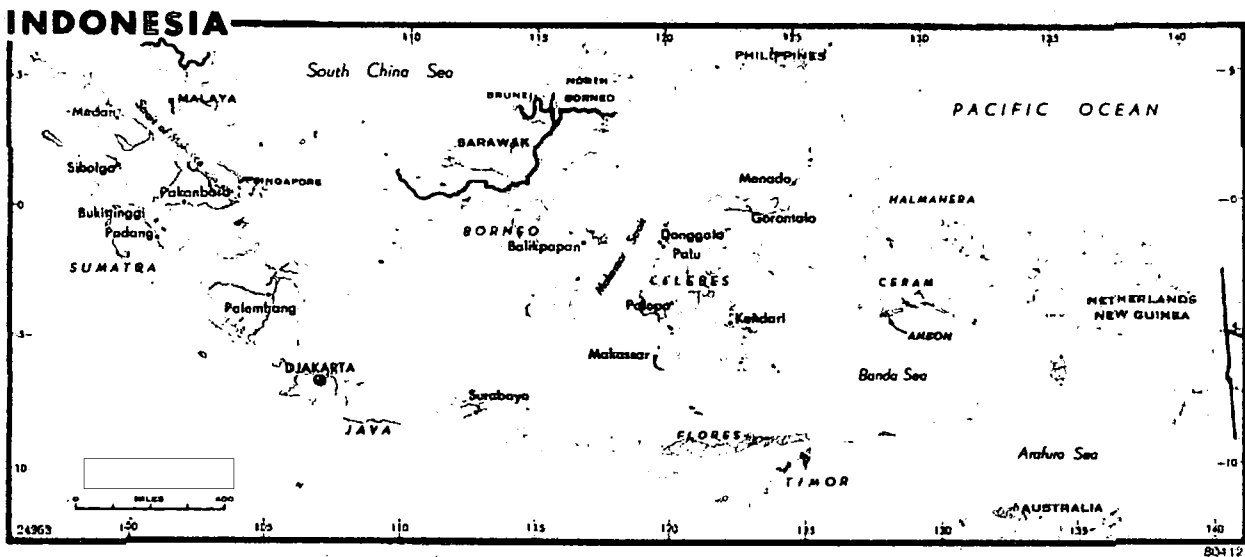
[REDACTED] *Colombia: Loyal troops in Bogota on 2 May quickly put down an attempt by military followers of former dictator Rojas Pinilla to stage a coup initiated by the kidnaping of four members of the ruling junta and the leading candidate in the 4 May presidential election. Civilian and military extremists will probably continue efforts to instigate violence in an attempt to keep the military junta from turning over control to the elected president on 7 August. [REDACTED] (Page 5)

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC
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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Situation in Indonesia

Political and military leaders in Indonesia have conveyed to American officials within the last few days their thinking on how Indonesia should stop continuing Communists gains. Both groups are thinking in terms of a new nonleftist cabinet, led by the army if President Sukarno should refuse to cooperate in curbing Communist strength.

Foreign Minister Subandrio admitted to the American ambassador on 30 April that President Sukarno is not yet convinced that positive action must be taken against the Communists, but that he and others are "working on" the President. Subandrio said the Indonesian masses are becoming more and more subservient to Communist organization and that Indonesia now faces its last opportunity to curb Communist strength by democratic means. The non-Communist political parties have put up little or no effective opposition to the Communists, and the only effective weapon within the democratic framework to which the masses have always responded is the voice of Sukarno. Without Sukarno, Subandrio said, the army remains the only answer.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] efforts are under way to stop the fighting in North Celebes. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] rebel leaders will be informed that a new cabinet dominated by the army and free from leftist influence is definitely planned. Army Chief of Staff General Nasution, [REDACTED] wants American support and American weapons but will act to form a new cabinet even if this support is not available. He intends to run the country for the

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next five years. [redacted]

[redacted] Sukarno would either be in agreement with army plans or the army would be in a position to influence him.

The army's attack on North Celebes has been postponed pending the outcome of talks with the dissidents, according to the South Celebes officer. Should the talks fail, however, military action is set for 15 May.

Dissident air strikes continue against government installations and shipping in East Indonesian areas. The Ambon harbor and airfield were bombed and strafed again on 30 April and 1 May. [redacted]

[redacted] the Hang Tuah, one of the government's six corvettes, was sinking in Balikpapan harbor as the result of damage from air attack on 28 April. [redacted]

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Iraqi Elections

The Nuri Said regime has assured itself of a landslide victory in the 5 May election of the new 145-seat Iraqi parliament which will approve the constitution of the union with Jordan. Wholesale withdrawals of nongovernment candidates, in large part due to government pressure, and a boycott by antigovernment groups have left only 20 seats contested. Additional withdrawals may occur.

The elections are being tightly controlled by Prime Minister Nuri Said. One Kurdish candidate told the American consul that he was waiting for "instructions from Baghdad" before even making the cash deposit required of each candidate. There are no national issues and no campaigning, and the government is discouraging handbills, speeches, and political rallies. Public reaction is apathetic, and frustration and antagonism toward the present regime are growing. The new parliament, which will be subservient to Nuri, will consist largely of conservative businessmen, tribal sheiks, and landowners.

Although the new parliament ostensibly will elect 15 of its members to the 40-man Arab Union "super-parliament," Crown Prince Abd al-Ilah is reported to have in effect made the appointments some time ago. Five additional deputies to the Arab Union legislature will be picked from the membership of the palace-appointed Iraqi Senate.

While the outcome of the elections will have little direct effect on US security interests, such rigged elections are basically damaging to Western interests over the long term since the resentment they create locally is directed toward Britain and the United States as well as toward the pro-Western Iraqi regime.

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III. THE WEST

Adenauer's Improved Domestic Political Position

Chancellor Adenauer's new political initiative--stressing disarmament as the major topic of a summit conference and de-emphasizing German reunification--seems thus far to have been an effective move against the opposition Social Democratic party (SPD), which has been planning to use the nuclear weapons issue against him in five impending state elections. Since the SPD itself has insisted for some time that the immediate problem is to make some sort of progress toward disarmament, it cannot effectively attack the chancellor's new position.

The American Embassy in Bonn reports that the SPD is furious that Adenauer has undercut its active "fight against atomic death." Adenauer has now initiated a major government publicity campaign stressing a Bonn cabinet declaration that it will "fight against atomic death all over the world" by attempting to bring about a world-wide disarmament agreement. SPD leaders may now feel that their whole election campaign argument against the government's decision to accept nuclear weapons will be less effective. The public response to the May Day "atom death" demonstrations staged by the party did not come up to its expectations.

Adenauer has also weakened the SPD's argument that the government is too inflexible to negotiate seriously with the USSR. The West German public has welcomed the new treaty with the USSR, particularly the repatriation aspects, and there has been considerable favorable publicity on Adenauer's handling of the recent visit of Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan.

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Colombian Preelection Violence Increasing

The attempted military coup d'etat in Bogota in which the leading presidential candidate and four members of the five-man junta were kidnaped was put down on 2 May by loyal military units.

Earlier, troops were sent to crush an armed revolt of traditionally conservative peasants in the northeastern provinces. The revolts occurred just two days before the presidential elections, in which the joint candidate of the bi-partisan Liberal-Conservative National Front, Lleras Camargo, is virtually certain to be elected.

The attempted coup was instigated by military conservative extremists, followers of former dictator Rojas Pinilla who hoped to oust the junta before it turns over its control to the Liberal leader Lleras. The disturbances were probably welcomed by extremist civilian elements of the Conservative party who feel that the National Front candidacy of Lleras is a sell out to the Liberals. This dissident minority has nominated Jorge Leyva, a longtime foe of bipartisan government, as the opposition candidate and will probably continue to foment violence in an attempt to encourage further political instability in order to bloc Lleras from taking over the presidency on 7 August.

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