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17 September 1958

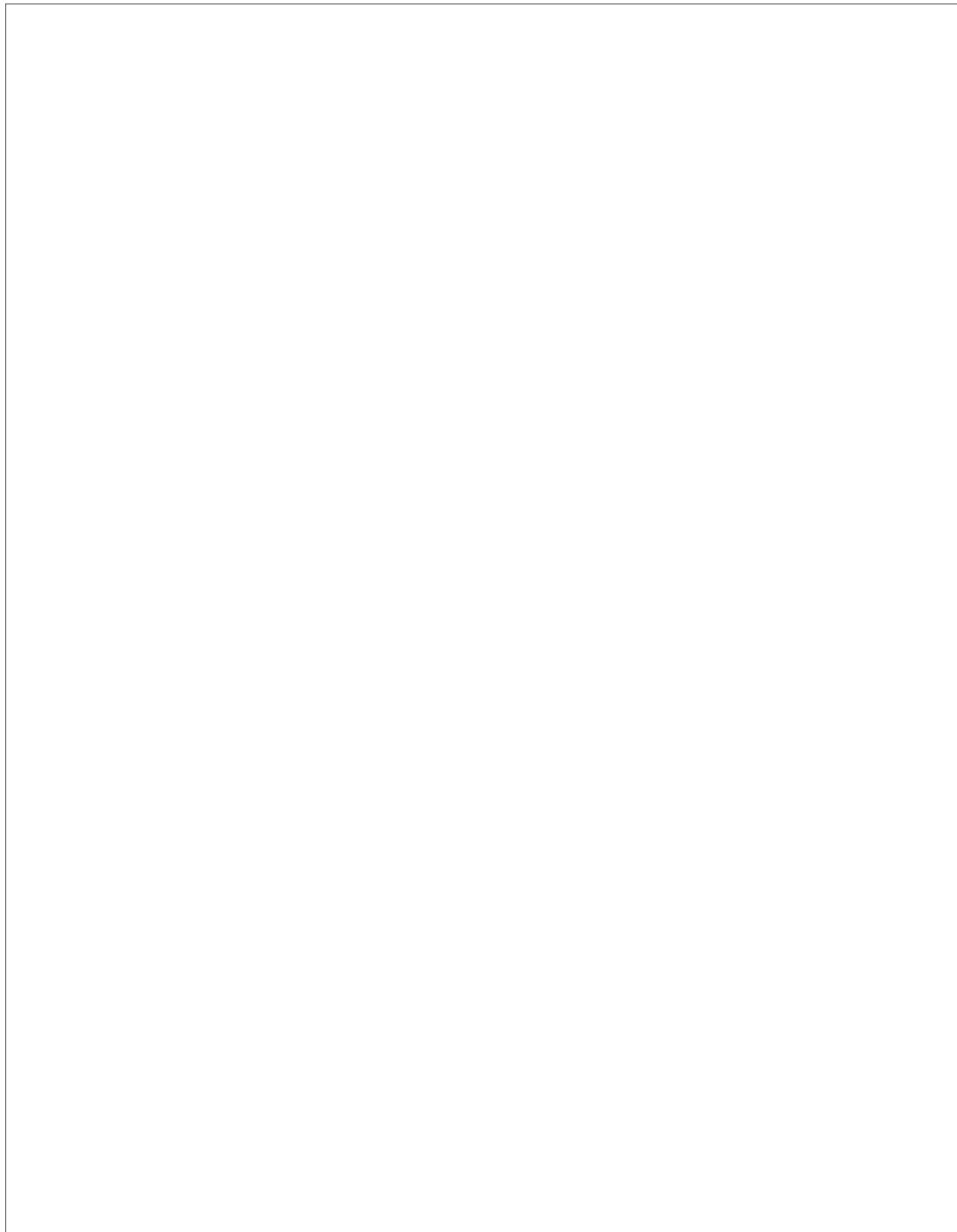
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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17 SEPTEMBER 1958

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Taiwan - Soviet note warns Japan; no significant military activity noted. ①

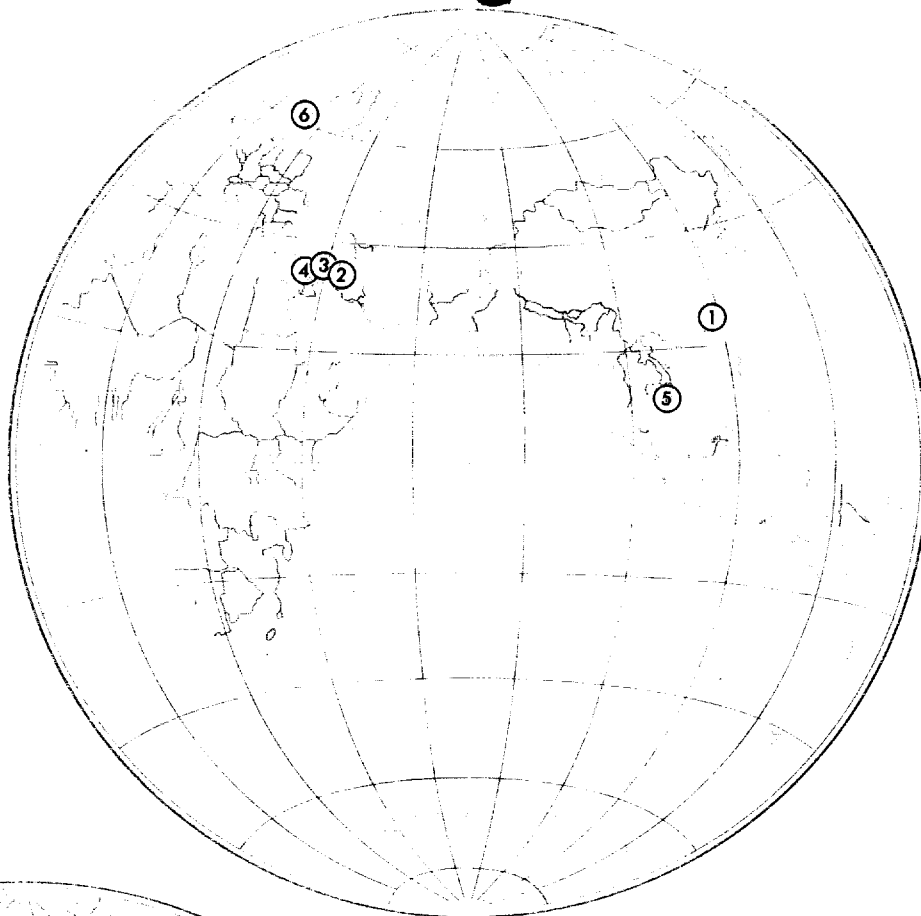
II. ASIA-AFRICA

Cairo concerned over Arif's dismissal. ②

Suppression of newspaper in Damascus seen as move by Nasir against UAR Vice President Hawrani. ③

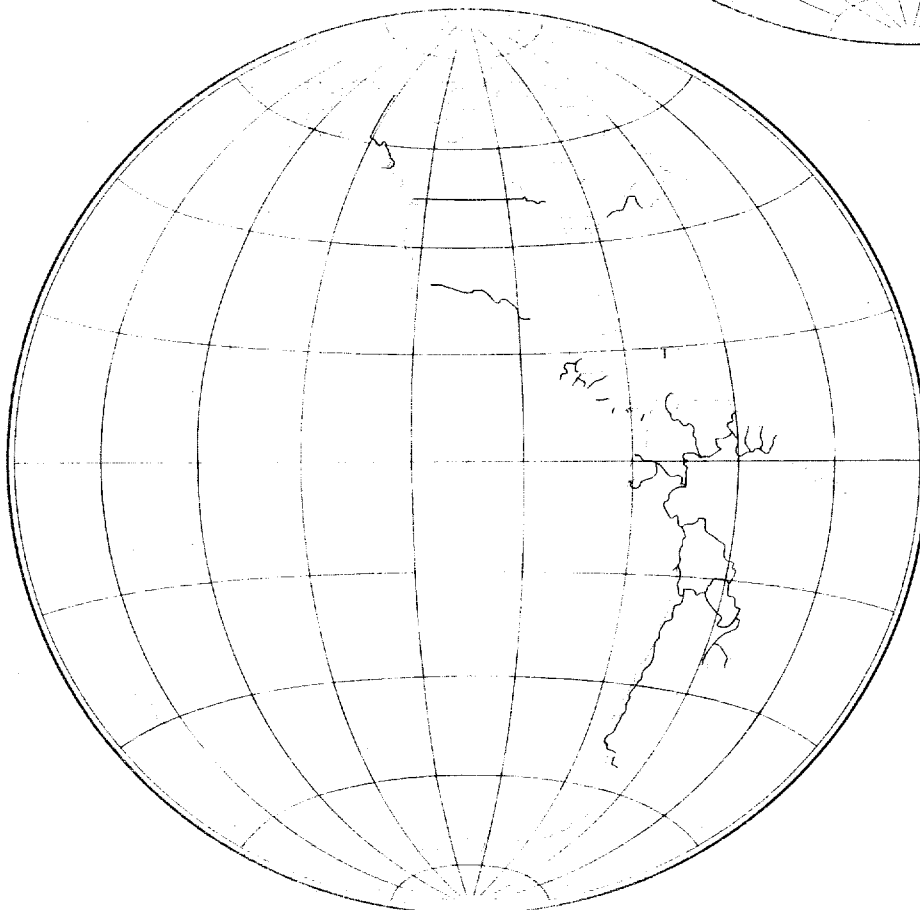
Lebanese rebels told "battle" must go on till country joins UAR; Shihab plans neutral policy. ④

South Vietnam expects upsurge in Communist terrorism. ⑤



III. THE WEST

⑥ Scandinavian representatives "to go all out" for Peking's representation in UN.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

17 September 1958

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

*Taiwan Strait situation: There was no significant intelligence on Chinese Communist military activity on 16 September. A Soviet note to Japan warned it against permitting American forces to use bases there for "aggressive acts," in an apparent attempt to exploit Japanese fears of becoming involved in a US-Communist war.

II. ASIA-AFRICA

No Iraq: UAR [] great concern over the dismissal of Deputy Premier ARU as deputy commander of the Iraqi Army. The Egyptians are labeling many of Qasim's supporters Communist sympathizers. Events in Iraq may have led to a decision by Cairo to slow up arms deliveries to the Baghdad government. [] (Page 1)

OK UAR-Syria: The suppression of the Baathist socialist newspaper in Damascus appears to be a move by Nasir against UAR Vice President Akram Hawrani, who used the paper to advance his views. Despite Nasir's efforts to suppress political parties, the strongly Arab nationalist Baath party has continued its political activities. Nasir may attempt to blame its leader, Hawrani, for Syria's economic and administrative woes. [] (Page 2)

OK Lebanon: UAR minister of interior for Syria, Sarraj, is reported to have told certain rebel leaders that he is disturbed by factionalism within the rebel leadership since "the battle is not over." There are reports that Syrian military personnel,

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previously withdrawn from Lebanon, are being surreptitiously returned and some of the local rebel forces are being redeployed. Meanwhile, President-elect Shihab states he is planning a neutral independent status for Lebanon. Shihab is in continuing liaison with Cairo and Damascus. (SECRET) (NOFORN Except UK) (Page 3)

South Vietnam: President Diem anticipates an upsurge in Communist terrorism and guerrilla activities. Americans and other foreigners in Vietnam--likely targets for assassination attempts--have been advised to take extra precautions, particularly when traveling in the provinces where numerous local officials have been killed within the last year.

(Page 5)

III. THE WEST

OK
Communist China - UN: According to Foreign Minister Unden, Sweden intends "to go all out" for Peiping's admission to the UN. He states that Norway and Denmark are "in full agreement." While all three countries recognize Mao's regime and have consistently opposed the moratorium on its entry into the UN, the emergence of two NATO countries as leaders in this campaign would further undermine Taipei's prestige.

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17 Sept 58

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

No back-up material

II. ASIA-AFRICA

UAR Concerned Over Iraqi Situation

[redacted] great concern over the Iraqi internal situation and especially the dismissal of Vice Premier Colonel Arif as deputy commander of the Iraqi armed forces. [redacted] Arif is "carrying on his work" in the Interior Ministry and that "his morale is outwardly high," but that "he is angry at the behavior of Prime Minister Abd al-Karim" (Qasim) toward him. [redacted] several photographs of UAR President Nasir have been removed from public places by Iraqi army officers close to Qasim. [redacted] allegations that those who are supporting the prime minister are "Communist sympathizers" and that the Communists are opposing union with the UAR by exploiting Qasim's name and proclaiming his leadership.

Rashid al-Gaylani, the leader of the 1941 Iraqi revolt, apparently is working with UAR representatives in Baghdad to promote sentiment for union and has contacted many army officers toward this end. [redacted]

Iraqi Baathists, concerned over their lack of a well-known leader, are trying to enlist Gaylani as a party leader.

Possibly alarmed at the setback to its aspirations in Iraq, Cairo has ordered Damascus to delay the dispatch of arms shipments destined for Iraq until the situation is clarified. The speech by Prime Minister Qasim on 16 September contained a veiled warning to "foreign conspirators who want to restore the old regime in another form," presumably aimed at supporters of union with the UAR. The UAR can be expected to increase its efforts to bring about union, and might promote a counter-coup against the Qasim bloc. [redacted]

[redacted]

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Nasir Moves Against Akram Hawrani

The suppression of al-Rai al-Amm, the Syrian Baathist party newspaper, on 11 September appears to be Nasir's first move in a systematic plan to cut down the influence of UAR Vice President Akram Hawrani and other Baathist leaders.

Hawrani was in the forefront of those who pressed for Syrian union with Egypt and had hoped that his party would dominate the Syrian political scene after union. However, Nasir ordered the dissolution of parties, which the Baath has attempted to resist. Its continued activities at times have run counter to Nasir's policies in the country.

Hawrani, who has helped engineer at least five military coups in Syria but subsequently fell out with coup leaders, may in time break with Nasir and attempt to work against Syria's union with the UAR, possibly with Iraqi Baathists. Open criticism toward the regime has been growing since early summer. Syrians who now dislike the UAR hold the Baath responsible because Hawrani was a moving force for union with Egypt. Nasir, through Abdul Hamid Sarraj, minister of interior for Syria, has overruled Hawrani on several occasions and may attempt to make him the scapegoat for Syria's economic and administrative woes. Lately Nasir has become increasingly irritated with the Baathist leader's attempts to thwart policy by publishing articles in al-Rai al-Amm.

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Lebanese Situation

Col. Sarraj, UAR minister of interior for Syria, is reported to have told certain Lebanese rebel leaders that he is disturbed by factionalism within the rebel leadership since "the battle is not over." Sarraj claimed that Nasir is blaming him for the "inconclusive results" of UAR subversive efforts in Lebanon and that terrorist acts must continue until the Christians are prepared to accept incorporation into the UAR. He insisted that the "liquidation" of President Chamoun was necessary to break the back of Christian resistance to such a union. The minister of interior now may be planning to continue operations in order to recoup lost prestige in Nasir's eyes.

In a reported meeting with Sarraj, one of the rebel leaders, speaking on behalf of his brother, Tripoli rebel leader Rashid Karame, stated that the present plan is to cooperate with General Shihab until pro-UAR elements are strong enough to take over. The army is to be infiltrated by pro-UAR elements and then a revolt from within the army would be brought about. The change-over would be made palatable to foreign powers and the UN under the facade of being an internal affair. Sarraj is said to have demurred at this long-range plan and to have urged that an "indirect" UAR take-over be brought about within the next six months.

Syrian commandos and paramilitary forces, who had recently been recalled to Syria from Lebanon, now are rejoining the forces of Druze leader Kamal Jumblatt, [redacted]

[redacted] while others are infiltrating back to Beirut.

President-elect Shihab has given some indications that he may serve as president in a more "constitutional" manner than President Chamoun and his predecessor President Bishara al-Khuri. In practice, the presidency is the strongest office in Lebanon despite its theoretical impotency. Shihab's abdication of the extensive presidential powers to a pro-UAR Moslem

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prime minister would facilitate opposition plans to dominate Lebanon's foreign and domestic policies should a coup appear infeasible.

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South Vietnamese Government Anticipates Upsurge
In Communist Violence

President Diem, on the basis of captured documents []
[] anticipates a sharp upsurge in Communist guerrilla activity and terrorism. Americans and other foreigners in Vietnam may be targets of assassination attempt.

Diem reports he has information that Communist cadres have been ordered by Hanoi to concentrate on disrupting three major economic programs now being implemented by his government--land reform, resettlement - land development, and agricultural credit. He believes the damaging raid last month on the large Michelin rubber plantation by a Communist-led band of some 400 rebels was part of this campaign.

The Vietnamese Government is taking all possible security measures within the limitations of the difficult terrain, which favors guerrilla warfare. Americans and other foreigners have been advised to take extra precautions, particularly when traveling in the provinces where numerous assassinations of minor Vietnamese officials have already occurred.

Saigon officials are also concerned over recent movements by North Vietnamese Communist forces along the Laotian border and near the 17th parallel, which they feel are related to Chinese Communist intentions in the Taiwan area. Diem has placed his army on semialert and is considering civil defense measures. []

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II. THE WEST

Scandinavians to Push for Peiping's Entry Into UN

Swedish Foreign Minister Uden told the British ambassador on 12 September that Sweden intends "to go all out" for Communist China's admission to the UN. Uden claims to have the complete support of Norway and Denmark. While the Scandinavians have already recognized Peiping and for several years have consistently opposed the UN moratorium on Chinese representation, the emergence of two NATO countries as leaders in the fight for Peiping's entry would further weaken Taipei's status at the UN.

The Scandinavian leaders are deeply concerned over the Far East crisis, and Uden in a 14 September speech stated that "it is indeed tragic that a trial of strength between two fighting Chinese parties about a few small islands... may be able to jeopardize world peace." He added that it was "absurd" that Chiang Kai-shek should represent the largest country in Asia at the UN.

Uden apparently believes that with Communist China's entry the UN would provide the proper forum for discussion and negotiations regarding the offshore islands. The Norwegians and Danes are increasingly concerned over the danger of war, but out of consideration for their NATO ties may be less active than Sweden in pressing for Peiping's admission.

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The Vice President

Executive Offices of the White House

Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

Scientific Adviser to the President

Director of the Budget

Office of Defense and Civilian Mobilization

Special Assistant for Security Operations Coordination

Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities

Special Assistant for Foreign Economic Policy

Special Adviser to the President

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of State

The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary for Administration

The Counselor

Director, International Cooperation Administration

The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

The Director, The Joint Staff

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Assistant to Secretary of Defense for Special Operations

Deputy Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff

Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army

Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of the Navy

Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

The Department of the Interior

The Secretary of the Interior

Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Director

Atomic Energy Commission

The Chairman

National Security Agency

The Director

National Indications Center

The Director

United States Information Agency

The Director

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