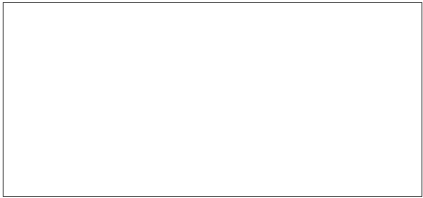


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16 December 1958



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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

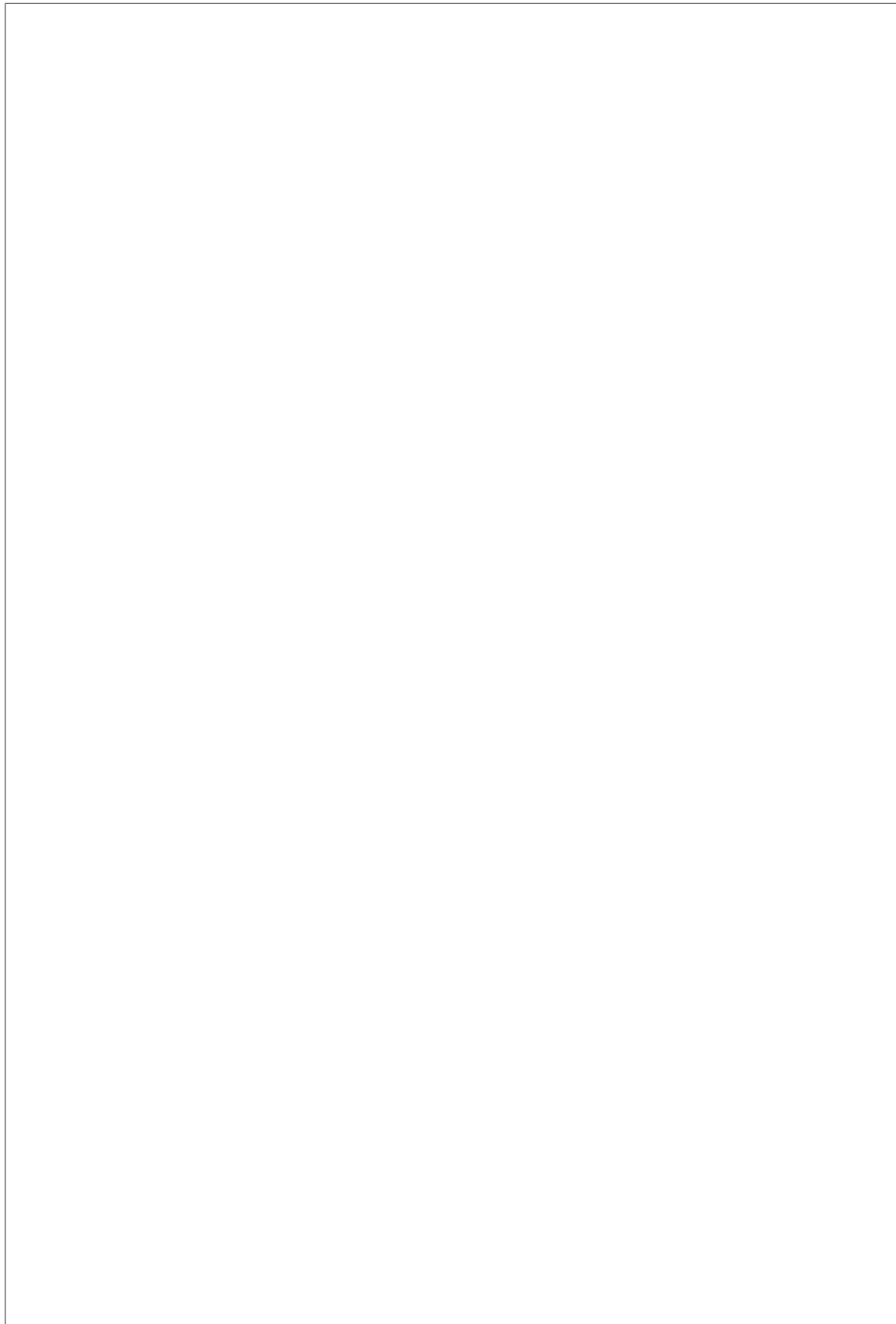


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16 DECEMBER 1958

**I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC**

Khrushchev addresses central committee on agricultural problems.

**II. ASIA-AFRICA**

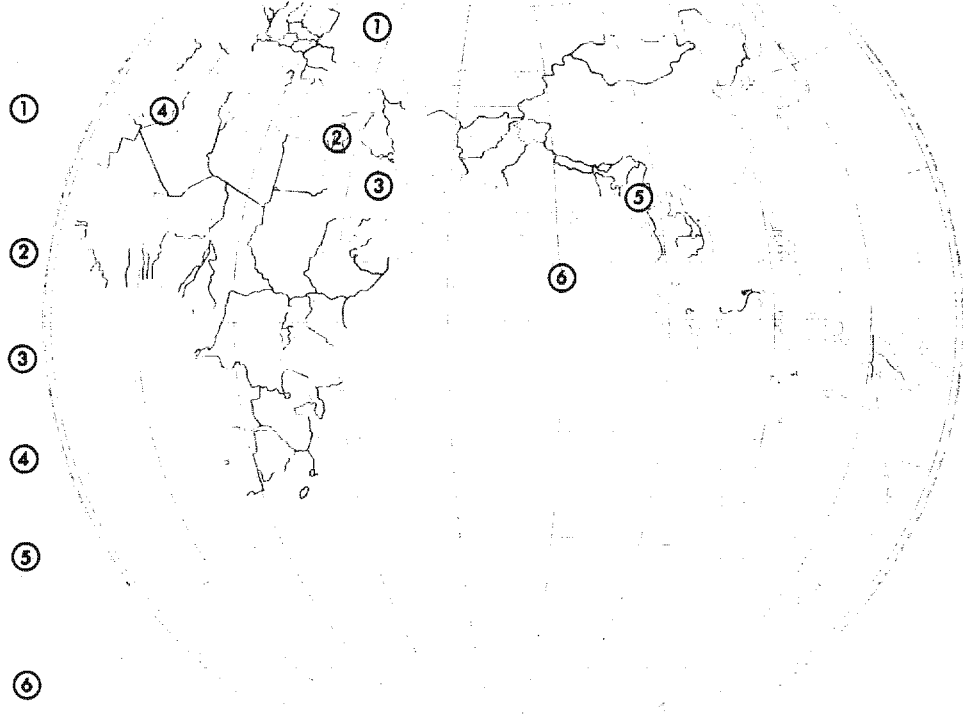
New border incidents between Israel and Syria; both sides maintain precautionary alerts.

Dissatisfaction growing in Saudi Arabian Army as a result of Fay-sal's economy program.

Morocco - Organized Rif resistance complicates King's problems in dealing with instability.

Burma - Army leaders considering ways of extending tenure beyond six-month period.

Ceylon - Political tension arising out of disclosure of assassination plot makes Bandaranaike government more vulnerable.



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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

16 December 1958

## DAILY BRIEF

SIRAB

## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

70

\*USSR: Moscow radio has announced that the anticipated meeting of the Soviet party central committee on agricultural problems has begun. Breaking precedent by reporting the proceedings of a central committee meeting still under way, the broadcast gave a brief summary of Khrushchev's opening speech. The summary suggests that the speech was a routine recital of Soviet achievements in agriculture over the last five years. During the meeting, the committee will probably lay down new guidelines for the long-range development of agriculture. It may also approve personnel changes such as the appointment of a successor to General Serov as head of the Committee of State Security.

## II. ASIA-AFRICA

70

UAR-Israel: Both sides are maintaining a state of precautionary alert, but tension does not seem to have increased. The Israelis and Syrians exchanged fire on the night of 13-14 December, when, [redacted] a Syrian outpost was surprised by an Israeli patrol. Israel next night accused Syria of firing on Israeli territory south of Lake Hula on 14-15 December and charged Egypt with making reconnaissance flights over Israel. [redacted] (Page 1)

[redacted]

Saudi Arabia: Dissatisfaction in the Saudi Army is growing as a result of curtailment of military perquisites under Crown Prince Faysal's economy program. While available evidence does not indicate an organized conspiracy, the internal situation is conducive to plotting against the monarchy.

[redacted] Page 3)

i

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*[Redacted]*

Morocco: Organized resistance in the Rif region of northern Morocco poses an increasingly serious problem for the King in his prolonged effort to find a new government. Leaders of the Rif organization oppose the Istiqlal party and support tribal representation in the government. Although the Rif are believed loyal to the King, some leaders are reported to be in touch with the Algerian rebels and Egyptians. *[Redacted]*  
(Page 5)

*ok*

Burma: In the few weeks that General Ne Win has been premier, the army has taken control of key government ministries and administrative agencies. Important army leaders are also considering various "constitutional" means to ensure retention of power by the military beyond the announced six-month period to end in April. *[Redacted]* (Page 7)

*no*

Ceylon: The political situation is tense, despite the fact that the explosive communal problem remains under control. The recent disclosure of a plot to assassinate many top political leaders, with which Prime Minister Bandaranaike and other government officials apparently were associated, has set off new attacks on the government from both the left and the right. Bandaranaike's personal position will become even more vulnerable as his implication in the plot is more widely publicized, and the situation invites further plotting by both right and left groups. *[Redacted]* (Page 8)

16 Dec 58

DAILY BRIEF

ii

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC  
(No Back-up Material)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Israeli-Syrian Border Situation

Minor incidents are continuing along the Israeli-Syrian border. An exchange of fire occurred on the night of 13-14 December when, [redacted] a Syrian outpost engaged an Israeli patrol. Such probes by Israeli forces would logically precede the "retaliation" Israeli officials have said may be necessary if the UN Security Council fails to take "satisfactory" action on Israel's complaint over the 6 December border incident. Israel has also accused Syria of firing on Israeli territory on the night of 14-15 December and charged that Egyptian planes made reconnaissance flights over Israel.

[redacted]

Israel has refused to allow a UN truce team to inspect areas near the border although the UAR had agreed. The Israelis also sought to postpone further Security Council consideration of their complaint.

Israeli Foreign Minister Meir has implied that if the Security Council fails to support Israel, Tel Aviv's only alternative will be to take unilateral action. She said the Israeli Government had already been criticized by the public and the Knesset in Israel for referring the matter to the Security Council. In New York, Israeli Ambassador Eban has said that what is at stake is "momentous" and that "we stand at a crossroad."

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The British have been "in close touch" with Israel on this situation and were the only ones who agreed to Tel Aviv's request for a delay in the Security Council meeting. Ever since Tel Aviv allowed the British to overfly Israel in order to rush paratroopers to Jordan last July, relations between Israel and Britain have become increasingly close. London sold two submarines to Israel in October and is arranging to sell 60 tanks. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### Disaffection in Saudi Arabian Army

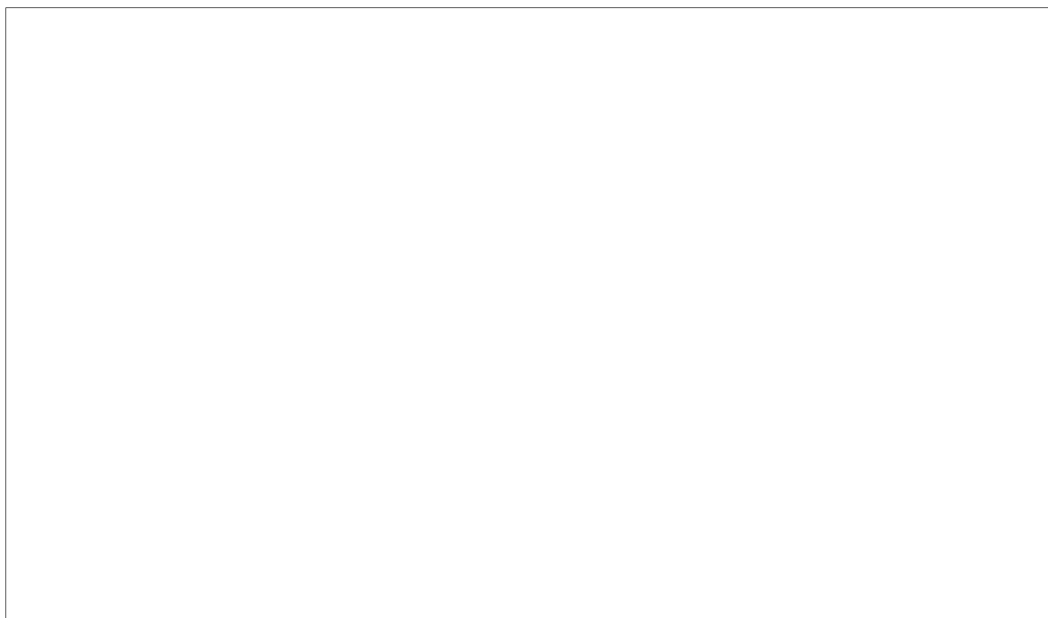
Curtailement of perquisites enjoyed by officers of the Saudi Army and apprehension over a proposed new Saudi income tax, both the result of Crown Prince Faysal's efforts to develop a balanced budget, have caused grumbling and disaffection in the Saudi armed forces.

The royal princes apparently succeeded in thwarting Faysal's attempts to impose a major reduction in allowances to the huge royal family. Economies have been effected, however, in payments to military and civilian officials, and perquisites reduced include officers' fringe allowances, the right to purchase foreign automobiles at a subsidized low price, and the use of military vehicles for recreational purposes. The Council of Ministers has proposed an income tax on nonroyal Saudi citizens, but King Saud recently stated that because of adverse popular opinion he would attempt to forestall imposition of the tax.

Reduction in the army officers' privileges may alienate an important source of the regime's support. Although criticism of the royal family by Saudi officers is increasing, the officer corps remains fragmented along regional lines, and no leader has yet appeared with outstanding ability and following.

Many Saudi officers are reported to be pro-UAR, and two of the three senior officers in the Royal Guard regiment are reported to be opportunistic individuals of uncertain loyalty to the King. The King's military aide has expressed the belief that the disorganized Saudi security forces, as presently constituted, would be incapable of coping with a serious internal security problem.





Tribal Dissidence in Morocco

The continuing tribal dissidence in the Rif region of northern Morocco, and to a lesser extent in other outlying areas, poses an increasingly serious threat to the government. These tribes are strongly anti-Istiqlal, but are believed to be loyal to the King. A Royal Commission of Inquiry dispatched to the Rif last month is said to have reported on 9 December that a large-scale revolt may occur by next March.

An American news correspondent who recently spent two days with the Beni Ouriaghel--the tribe of Abd-el-Krim, the famed Riffian warrior of the 1920's--was impressed with the ability of the leaders and their organization, which is known as the "Riffian Front of Liberation and Purification." He believes that the group has contacts with and may have been inspired by both the Algerians and the Egyptians. [redacted]

[redacted] Abd-el-Krim's sons, one of whom is a Moroccan Army officer assigned to General Staff headquarters in Rabat, are implicated in Riffian dissidence. [redacted] this indicates "involvement on the part of the UAR."

[redacted] the Spanish and French were aiding the dissidents "in the hope that a revolt would force Rabat to request military aid," which would be conditioned on Morocco's abandonment of a policy of annexation of Spanish-controlled Ifni and French-governed Mauretania. [redacted]

[redacted] the Algerian rebels are closely following the activities of Moroccan tribal partisans, but give no indication that they are supporting the tribes. [redacted] representatives of the Moroccan Popular Movement, involved in the tribal dissidence, had requested help and support from the Algerian rebels

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in Morocco and were referred to the rebels' provisional government. Subsequently the Algerian rebels reported that the Moroccan partisans seemed generally favorable to Algeria and that their weak points were lack of organization and insufficient weapons.



## Burmese Army's Political Activities and Plans

Col. Maung Maung, an influential army officer who is one of General Ne Win's closest political advisers, is reliably reported to have stated recently that six months was too short a time in which to establish stability in Burma, and that it would be impossible to hold elections before 1960. Maung Maung indicated that the army was searching for "constitutional" means of extending the tenure of the Ne Win government beyond the six-month period stipulated under the terms of the "transfer of power" agreement which enabled Ne Win to come to power with a semblance of constitutionality in late October. The general tenor of Maung Maung's remarks suggests that the army is determined to remain in power indefinitely beyond the achievement of its stated objectives of pacifying the country and limiting the Communist threat.

In the short time Ne Win has been in office, the army has moved rapidly to establish its control over major government ministries and other administrative agencies. Army colonels assigned as "liaison officers" to the key Home, Defense, and Information Ministries are said to dominate them, and the army has openly assumed responsibility for governing the city of Rangoon and the government-owned railways and civil airline. The army has also undertaken such politically popular campaigns as a cleanup of Rangoon's streets and the reduction of consumer prices. Preoccupation with these matters, however, may have delayed the campaign of the strongly anti-Communist army to stamp out Communist guerrillas.

The growing interest of the army in political and economic policies is probably also reflected in the government's alleged decision not to renew en masse the contracts of 22 Soviet agricultural technicians who have been working in Burma for two years. Instead, three of the Russians will be offered contracts in their individual capacities to carry out one of six previously scheduled joint projects. The remaining five projects are said to have been canceled.



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### The Situation in Ceylon

The political situation in Ceylon continues to deteriorate despite the fact that the explosive Tamil problem remains under control for the present. Exposure on 20 November of a coup plot--allegedly led by a senior police official, supported by several cabinet ministers, and implicating Prime Minister Bandaranaike--has set off new attacks on the government from both right and left.

It now is apparent that the prime minister at least acquiesced in the plot to assassinate most other top political leaders and establish himself at the head of a conservative "dictatorial regime." Bandaranaike's personal prestige, already eroded by Ceylon's chronically unstable political and economic conditions, will be further undermined by his slowness in appointing a commission to investigate the coup charges. If charges against him are documented during an inquiry, he is likely to be faced with strong pressure for his resignation.

The Bandaranaike government has been further weakened by the renewal of open conflict within the cabinet between moderate elements--several of whom were implicated in the recent plotting--and far-leftist Minister of Agriculture Philip Gunawardena.

If either rightist or leftist groups seek to exploit the tensions over the exposed conspiracy, they may stimulate their opponents to plot another coup.



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**Executive Offices of the White House**

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**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**

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**The Department of State**

**The Secretary of State**

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**The Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs**

**The Deputy Under Secretary for Administration**

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**Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army**

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