

~~TOP SECRET~~

16 March 1959

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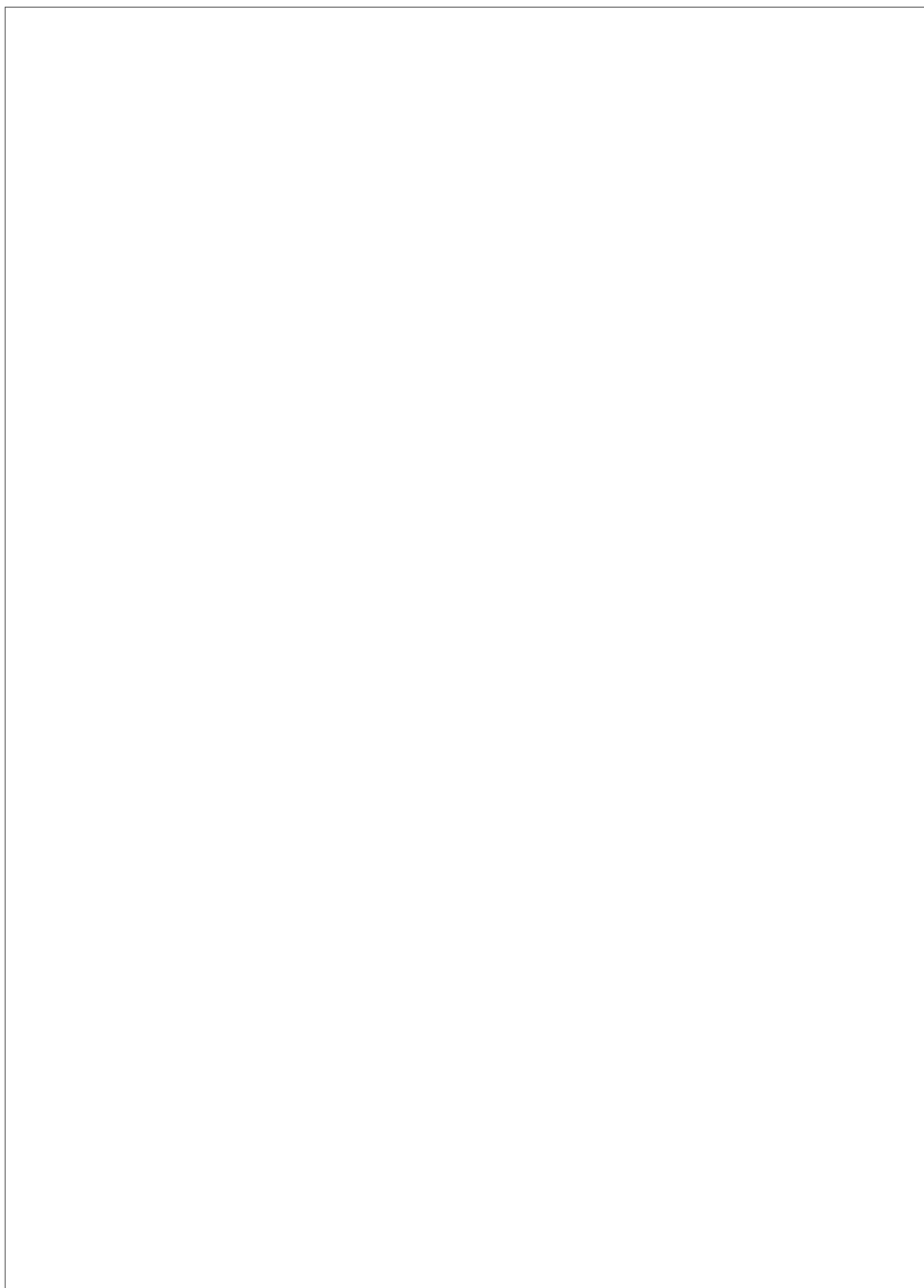
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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16 MARCH 1959

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Tibet - Rebels reported holding Dalai Lama.

Yugoslavia confirms recall of its minister to Albania.

II. ASIA-AFRICA

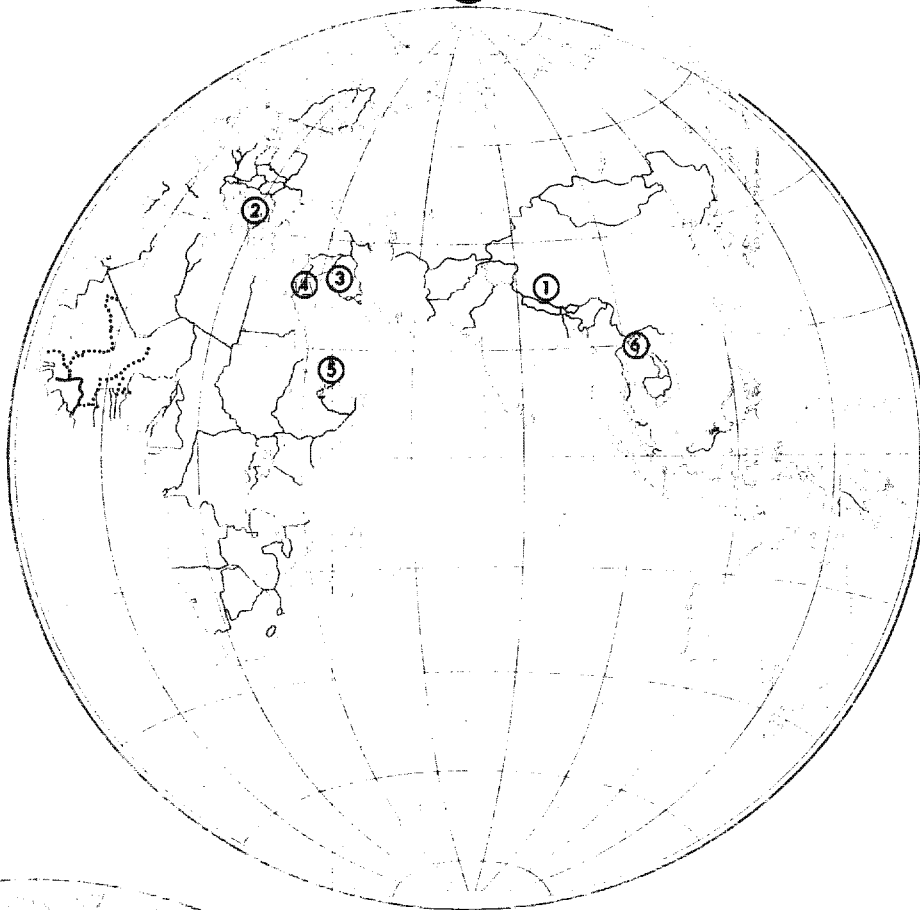
Iraqi-UAR - Situation report.

Jordan - Imminent arrest of ten army officers to tighten security.

Yemen - Imam indicates willingness to accept American aid.

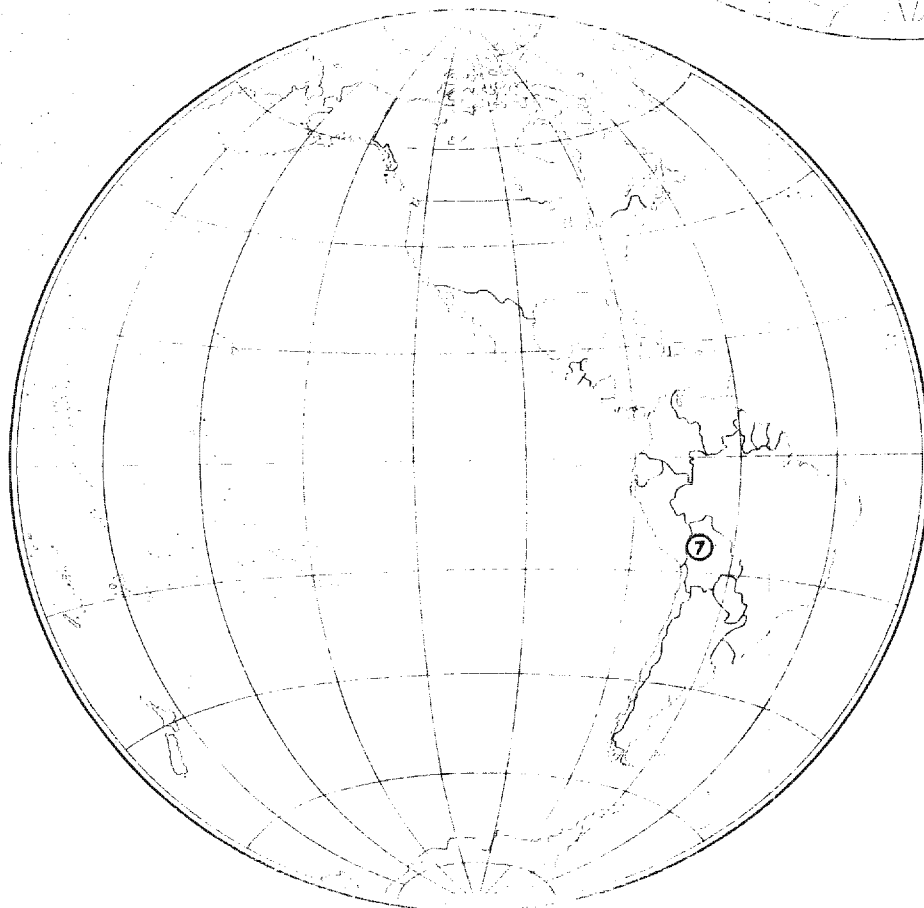
Laos delays asking for American training personnel; fears offense to French.

- ①
- ②
- ③
- ④
- ⑤
- ⑥



III. THE WEST

⑦ Bolivia - General strike alert set; armed violence may break out.



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

16 March 1959

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

S/RAB

NO

Tibet: As of 13 March the Dalai Lama was being held captive by Tibetan rebels in his home in Lhasa, according to a Chinese Communist message intercepted by the Chinese Nationalists. The rebels detained the Dalai Lama in order to prevent him from attending a social function of the Chinese military command. The message indicates that Peiping will attempt to "persuade" the rebels to give in, but will undertake more forceful action should the unrest continue. [redacted]

OK

check change

end of 2nd PP

to read "followed

by suspension

of their relations"

NO

Yugoslavia-Albania: Yugoslavia on 14 March officially confirmed the recall of its minister to Albania. Albania probably will retaliate in kind. [redacted] (Page 1)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Iraq-UAR: The Qasim government has restored order in Mosul, but tension is continuing along portions of the Iraqi-Syrian frontier, and the UAR may be encouraging dissidence by Shammar bedouin in northern Iraq. A limited number of UAR troops and tanks arrived at the Iraqi border northwest of Mosul on 14 March, apparently to assist police in discouraging reprisal raids into Syria. Authorities in northern Iraq are also concerned that dissident bedouin may attempt to sabotage oil installations. Anti-Qasim elements are now reported plotting Qasim's assassination this week, while Syrian security forces have been alerted against an attempt by Iraqi Communists against Nasir. [redacted] (Page 2)

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OK

as necessary

*Jordan: [Premier Rifai has approved a proposal by armed forces chief Habis Majalli to arrest about ten army and police officers, including the commander of the 3rd Brigade, suspected of plotting against the government. Majalli also desires to arrest Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff Sadiq Shara, when the latter returns from his trip with King Husayn to Taiwan and the United States. While Majalli may justify the imminent arrests ~~because of the need~~ to tighten security prior to Rifai's departure about 17 March to join the King in Washington, he appears to be using the arrests to strengthen further the position of his bedouin faction in the army.]

NO

Yemen: [The Imam of Yemen has indicated willingness to accept certain American economic aid projects which were rejected last year as the result of the influence of pro-Soviet Crown Prince Badr. Programs specifically mentioned included road and airfield construction and provision of agricultural experts. At least 350 Sino-Soviet bloc personnel now are in Yemen in connection with bloc military and economic aid. The Imam's present willingness to receive American aid may reflect concern on his part over reports of plotting to overthrow the monarchy. A major factor, however, is his desire to establish a better balance in Yemen's relations with the bloc and the West.]

(Page 4)

NO

Laos: [Laos is reluctant to take the initiative in ending the French monopoly on military training by calling on the United States for training personnel. The cabinet, preoccupied during the past several weeks by factional disputes, is now divided on this issue. The Laotian authorities do not want to offend the French. Their equivocation on this issue may also reflect concern over the more strident tone Peiping interjected into its intensive propaganda last week when it charged that Laos had aided remnant Chinese Nationalist troops in forays into China.]

(Page 5)

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DAILY BRIEF

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III. THE WEST

OK
Bolivia: Armed violence may break out in Bolivia as a result of the tin miners' dissatisfaction with the government's decree of 13 March related to wages and commissary prices. The decree is opposed by the national labor organization, whose members form a powerful civilian militia. It has called a general strike alert for the evening of 16 March. The government probably can count on the weak regular armed forces and some factions of the civilian militia, but the US chargé in La Paz believes that the outcome of a showdown is doubtful. He adds that recent consultations between the Czech chargé and Bolivian congressional leaders could foreshadow a financial aid offer from the Soviet bloc. [redacted] Page 6)

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DAILY BRIEF

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Yugoslavia "Freezes" Relations With Albania

Yugoslavia on 14 March officially announced the withdrawal of its minister to Albania and his appointment to the Foreign Ministry in Belgrade. Belgrade's initiative was foreshadowed in Tito's speeches on 6 and 7 March against the bloc, when he made it clear he would give blow for blow in reply to future attacks against Yugoslavia. Although Belgrade desires to avoid initiating a break in relations, its motivation appears to be to make all attacks on Yugoslavia as unrewarding as possible in the belief that Moscow also probably does not desire to initiate a break.

Tirana's relations with Belgrade generally have been the worst of any of the satellites, and the Albanians are certain to retaliate in kind and may suspend relations by withdrawing their entire diplomatic force from Belgrade. While this tactic was used by a number of satellites in the 1948 dispute with Yugoslavia, a similar "freeze" in Belgrade's relations with Peiping last summer was not followed by such action from other bloc members.

Belgrade's relations with Tirana have often been a bellwether of its relations with the rest of the bloc, and the present developments may forecast an intensification of Yugoslavia's dispute with the bloc. Neither Moscow nor Belgrade seems willing, however, to shoulder the blame for a break in diplomatic relations because of the resulting damage to its international position.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Iraq-UAR Developments

[redacted]
[redacted] the city was quiet and that the army was in complete control of the town. [redacted]

[redacted] tension is continuing along portions of the Iraqi-Syrian frontier north and west of Mosul, and that scattered clashes were occurring between pro- and anti-Qasim Iraqi tribal groups. The Qasim regime has been generally supported by the Kurds, Yazidis, and Christians, while the Shammar bedouin, who reside on both sides of the border, have opposed the Baghdad government.

Fear of Iraqi reprisal raids on Shammar villages in Syria prompted the Syrian frontier police [redacted] to request the army to assume responsibility for security along the border. When a limited number of Syrian army troops and vehicles, including tanks, arrived at a Syrian frontier post northwest of Mosul on 14 March, nearby Iraqi outposts likewise appealed for reinforcements. While there is no indication of major troop movements toward the border, [redacted] the UAR may encourage continued Shammar dissidence in Iraq.

[redacted] concern over gatherings of armed bedouin, and possible incursions from Syria. Authorities in northern Iraq also fear that dissident bedouin may attempt to sabotage oil installations. Iraqi aircraft have attacked dissident bedouin groups, and UAR charges that they have attacked points on the Syrian side of the border may well be true. [redacted] reported reconnaissance of Syrian villages by Iraqi aircraft. A Syrian Air Force exercise by elements of two jet fighter squadrons, which began on 14 March, may be aimed at countering Iraqi aerial incursions.

The Qasim government is attempting to ensure the loyalty of the security forces by giving bonus payments to loyal troops,

~~SECRET~~ [redacted]

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in addition to the pay raise in January. A very large government housing program for government officials has been announced, and other perquisites are being considered.

Nasir has given permission for UAR teachers and technicians to withdraw from Iraq. The UAR Embassy in Baghdad had advised that UAR nationals were no longer safe in Iraq, and that no action was being taken by responsible Iraqi officials because authority was being exercised by the various Communist organizations.

Initial Egyptian reaction to the failure of the Mosul uprising was to express pessimism over prospects for hurting Qasim. Minister of State Ali Sabri expressed belief that another Arab nationalist counterrevolution in Iraq was unlikely for some time in view of Communist strength there.

Nasir must consider the cause lost in Iraq, or he would not have so violently attacked the regime there. Late on 13 March, however,

Nasir instructed his press adviser in Cairo to concentrate on an objective attack, free from insults, against the Communists and Qasim and his activity against Arab unity.

the Iraqi nationalist movement now plans to assassinate Qasim within a week, prior to the return of the Iraqi economic delegation from Moscow. Earlier, Syrian security forces were alerted against an attempt against Nasir by Iraqi Communists.

Continuing his speech-making in Syria on 15 March, Nasir declared that the Arab people had not shed their blood against imperialism to hand over Iraq to the Communists. He added that there was more tyranny in Iraq today than at the time of Nuri Said, but that the Iraqi and Arab people would defeat this new "red dictatorship." An obliging member of the Higher Islamic Council in Syria has issued a decree declaring that since Qasim and his adherents are "dissidents to religion and Arab nationalism, a holy jihad against them becomes a public duty." In Beirut on 15 March, bombs were thrown at the Soviet cultural center and at the home of a leading Lebanese Communist.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~Yemen Seeks Additional American Economic Aid

[Yemen's Deputy Foreign Minister Al-Amri has told Ambassador Hare that the Imam of Yemen is now willing to accept some American economic aid projects which had been rejected last year under the influence of pro-Soviet Crown Prince Badr. Projects in which the Yemenis were specifically interested include construction of a modern road to link the northern and southern capitals of Sana and Taiz, and provision of agricultural experts. The Imam also reportedly suggested that the United States undertake to construct modern airfields at Sana, Taiz, and Hodeida, rather than to make an aerial survey of Yemen as earlier proposed.]

[At least 350 Sino-Soviet bloc personnel, mostly Chinese Communists, are now in Yemen in connection with bloc military and economic aid. In addition to providing about \$30,000,000 worth of military aid, including piston aircraft, the bloc is engaged in port- and road-construction work, and development of small consumer-goods factories.]

[The Imam's motive in seeking the new American aid may reflect satisfaction with the recent prompt and effective response to his request for relief grain deliveries. He may also be more anxious than before to cultivate American support in view of the widespread reports of antiregime plotting in Yemen.]

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Laos Equivocates on Requesting American Military
Training Personnel [redacted]

[The Laotian Government is reluctant to take any initiative to bring American military training personnel into Laos to supplement the efforts of the inadequate French military training mission. France has made it clear it wishes to maintain its monopoly over Laotian Army training, and the Laotian Government is equivocating in informing France that it wants American personnel to supplement the 80 additional men France has offered to send. The cabinet, which has been almost paralyzed for the past several weeks by bitter factional disputes, is reported divided on the issue.]

[Top Laotian staff officers have been disturbed over the decline in the Laotian Army's capabilities which they attribute to the performance of the French mission and are not satisfied with France's recent offer to send additional men. The Laotian foreign minister has indicated that Laos' hesitancy stems from deference to France's sensitivity over its exclusive position, a marked switch in view of the cabinet's 21 February decision to terminate the French mission, a decision later reversed on American advice.]

[Laos' position may reflect its concern over Communist propaganda charges that Laos is becoming an American military base. These charges took on a more strident tone last week when Peiping accused Laos of aiding remnant Chinese Nationalist troops in forays into China.] [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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~~SECRET~~

III. THE WEST

Armed Violence Threatens in Bolivia

Armed violence may break out in Bolivia as a result of the government's wage decree of 13 March for tin miners which had been insisted on by the International Monetary Fund as a prerequisite for continuing financial aid. The US chargé in La Paz notes that recent consultations between the Czech chargé and Bolivian congressional leaders could foreshadow a financial aid offer from the Soviet bloc, which would be very difficult for the Bolivian Government to refuse under present circumstances.

The miners' wage decree is opposed by the national labor organization, which has called a general strike for the evening of 16 March and whose members form a powerful civilian militia. The Siles government probably has the support of the weak regular armed forces and some factions of the civilian militia. Siles apparently sought to increase his support from armed civilians by appointing Indian leader José Rojas to the cabinet on 13 March. The US chargé in La Paz was recently told that President Siles is extremely nervous. On the one hand, he threatens to resign and turn the government over to the labor leaders if they continue their defiance, and on the other hand, he insists he will impose government authority at any price. The chargé believes the outcome of a showdown is doubtful.

The evacuation of nonessential Americans from La Paz has begun. The rightist opposition party may join the miners' militia if it attacks the US Embassy in retaliation for supporting the International Monetary Fund on the wage question.

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