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17 April 1959

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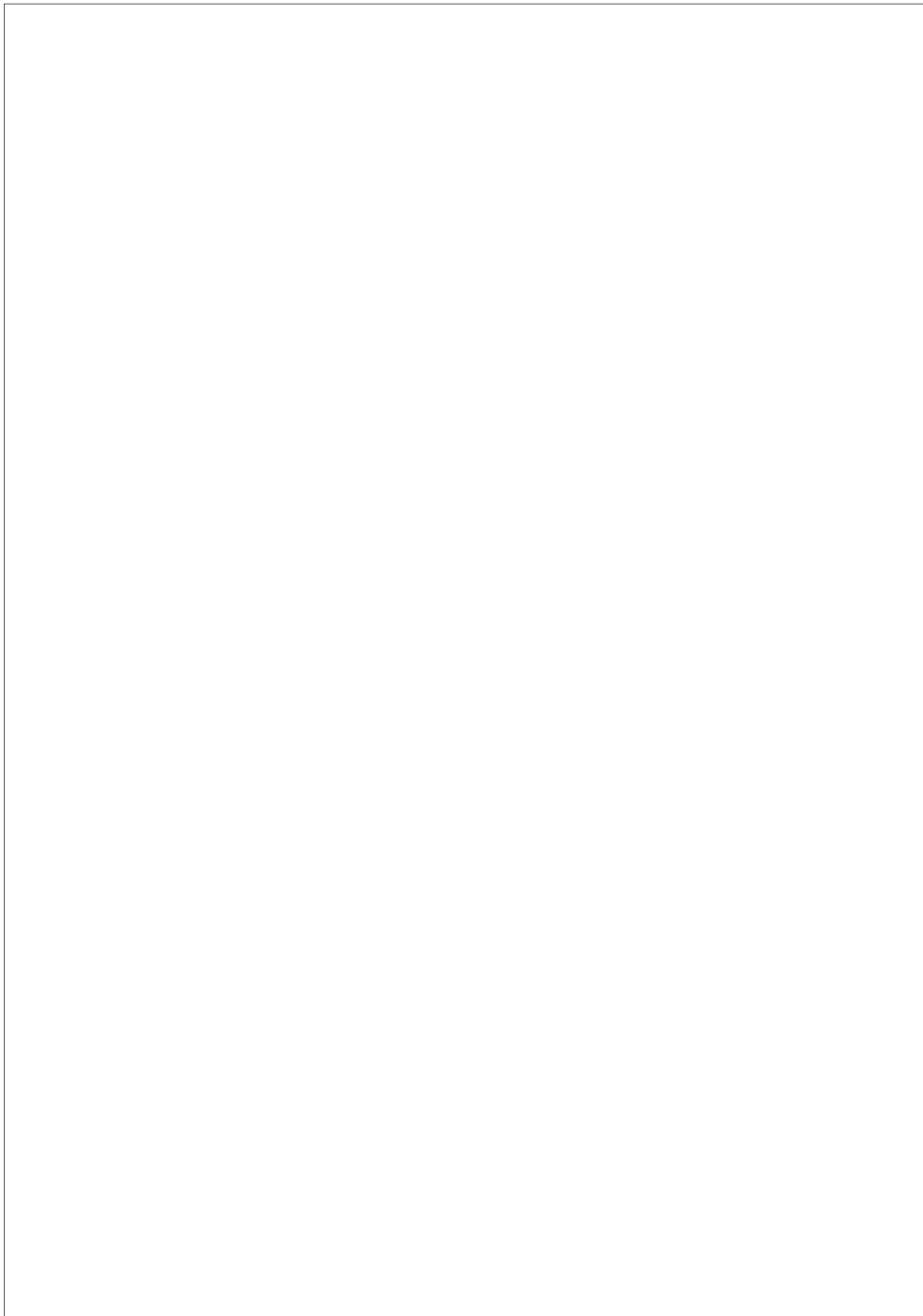
INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN



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17 APRIL 1959

**I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC**

Khrushchev reportedly fainted at East Berlin reception last month.

USSR - Reassignment of Ignatov indicates Khrushchev is continuing shake-up of top Soviet officialdom.

East German premier rejects inclusion of East Berlin in any free-city proposal.

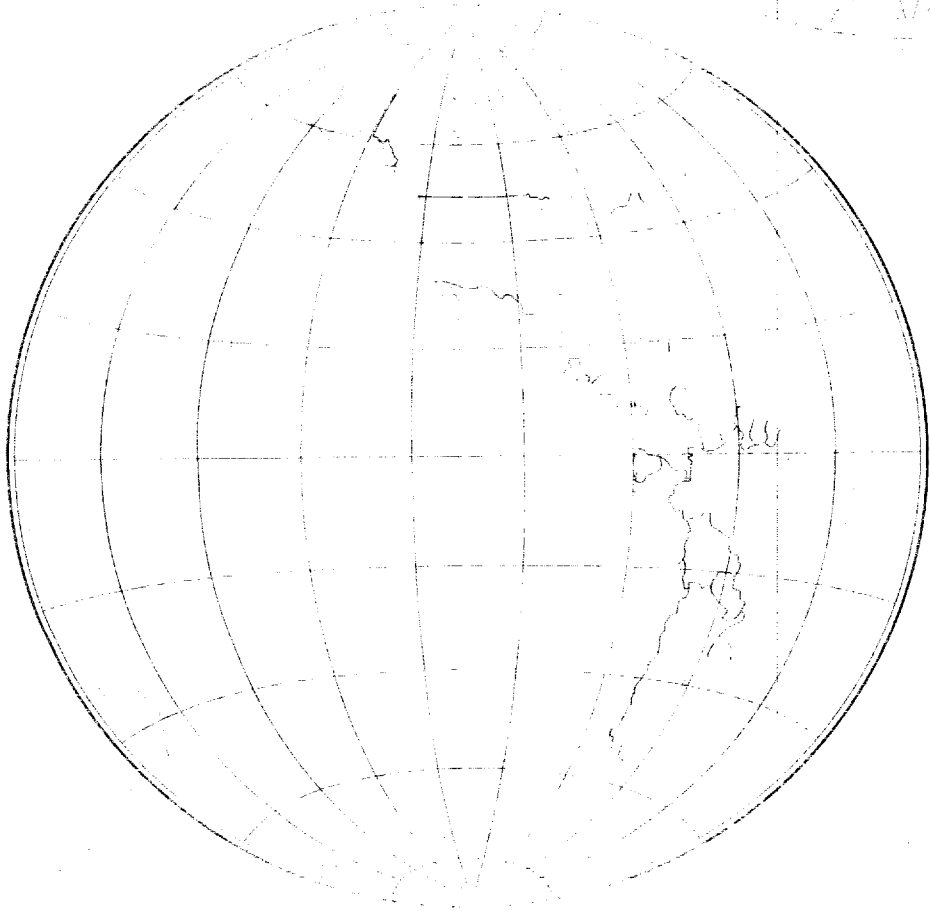
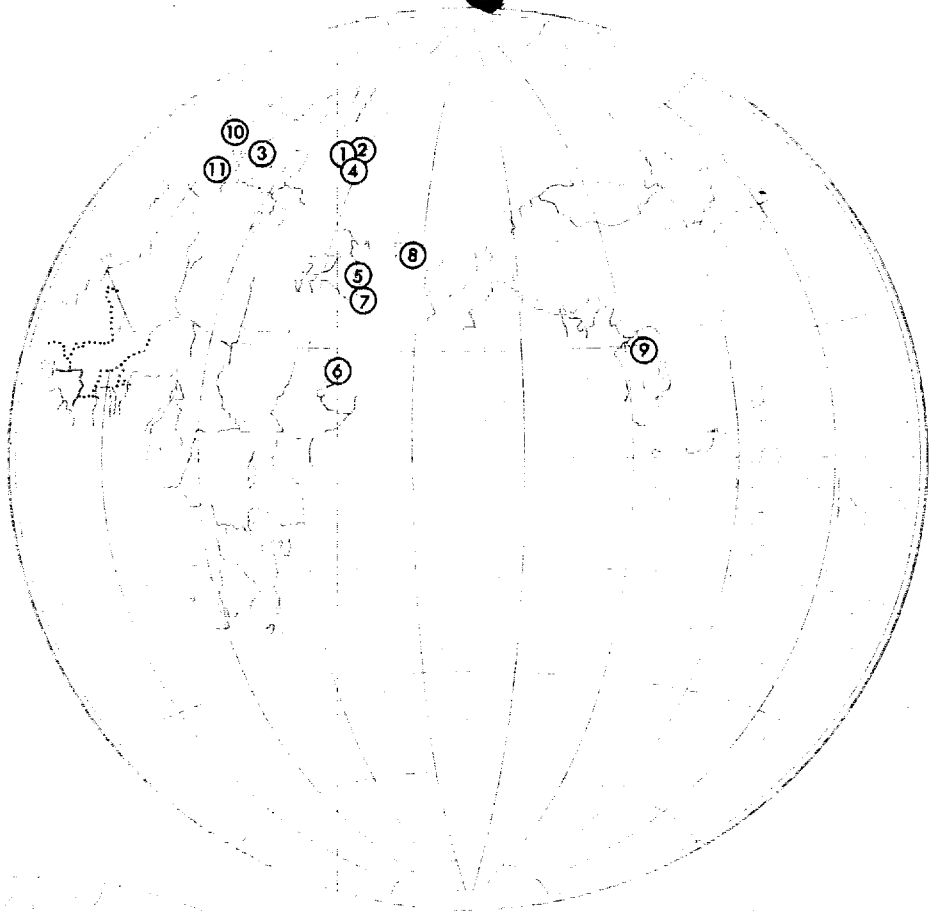
Soviet internal propaganda suggests concern over impact of American exhibition in Moscow this summer.

**II. ASIA-AFRICA**

Iraq reinforces troops on Iranian frontier after clash with Kurds in border region.

Imam leaves Yemen for medical treatment in Italy.

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- ⑦ Kuwait security forces being re-organized; UK plans airlift from Cyprus if required by any emergency in Kuwait.
- ⑧ Iran continues efforts for detente with USSR.
- ⑨ Laos likely to oppose French bid for continued monopoly on combat training.

**III. THE WEST**

- ⑩ UK re-examining decision to sell heavy arms to Iraq.
- ⑪ French official outlines De Gaulle's views on tripartite global coordination.

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

17 April 1959

## DAILY BRIEF

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## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

\*Khrushchev: (Khrushchev fainted at a reception in East Berlin on 10 March, [redacted])

[redacted] Khrushchev was said to be pale and trembling as he left the building some time later. [redacted]

[redacted] six days earlier, in Leipzig, Khrushchev looked "old, sick, and had a very pale complexion," [redacted] his chin trembled constantly when he was not talking. Khrushchev, 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighing 220 pounds, is 65 years old today, 17 April. He apparently has a chronic kidney ailment, but is not known to have had fainting spells in the past. Khrushchev has been on vacation since about 25 March.) [redacted]

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USSR: Khrushchev appears to be carrying his quiet shake-up of Soviet officialdom into the highest levels of the party. TASS has announced that N. G. Ignatov, a member of both the party presidium and secretariat, has been given an inconsequential job in the Russian Republic, probably signifying the eclipse of his high party career. The Ignatov shift follows closely behind the demotion of several second-echelon officials including I. I. Kuzmin, Soviet planning boss. [redacted]

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[redacted] (Page 1)

East Germany - Berlin: Speaking to the East German parliament on 16 April, Premier Grotewohl categorically rejected any solution of the Berlin problem which would include East Berlin in a free city under international control. Acceptance of such proposals, he said, would violate the sovereignty of the GDR. Grotewohl emphasized that a German peace treaty is more important than reunification, but suggested that negotiations between the two German states prior to the foreign

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ministers' conference could pave the way for a confederation which might sign a peace treaty. Grotewohl set the level of East German participation in the foreign ministers' conference with the announcement that Foreign Minister Bolz will be the East German regime's "representative." [redacted]

MO USSR propaganda: A recent burst of propaganda in the USSR on US economic problems is related, in the opinion of the American Embassy in Moscow, to Soviet concern over the potential impact of the American exhibition scheduled to be held in Moscow this summer. The embassy expects, beside the usual effort to discredit the capitalist system, a growing volume of propaganda designed to convince the Soviet citizen that what he will see at the exhibition are the fruits enjoyed by the favored few at the expense of the exploited American worker. [redacted]

## II. ASIA-AFRICA

MO Iraq-Iran: Baghdad [redacted] ordered detachments of an armored regiment to the Iraqi-Iranian border area following minor clashes between Iraqi border units and Kurdish tribesmen. Iraqi frontier officials, reporting that armed Iranian Kurdish tribesmen are preparing for raids on Iraqi villages, claim that regular Iranian Army personnel are planning to support these attacks. During recent months many Iraqi Kurds living in the border area have taken refuge in Iran. Several key tribal chiefs have requested arms and assurances of "safe haven" for operations into Iraq. [redacted]

MO Yemen: The Imam departed Yemeh' by air' on 16 April to obtain medical treatment in Italy, leaving his son, Crown Prince Badr, in charge of the government. The Imam's serious condition, and the prospect of his departure abroad, had already led to maneuvering by those ambitious to succeed him. The Imam's brother and head of Yemen's UN delegation in New York, Prince Hasan, who is supported by most of Yemen's northern tribal and army leaders, requested on 14 April that he be

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given an opportunity to meet with the Imam in Italy [redacted]

[redacted] Badr, in an attempt to strengthen his position, for the eventuality of the Imam's death, had purged key government officials there and appointed two Egyptian officers in charge of the police. The Sana populace, including the governor, were reported extremely apprehensive over Badr's intentions. [redacted]

*OK* Kuwait: Kuwait's military forces are to be reorganized and consolidated about 1 May into a 1,500-man army and a 1,700-man security force, absorbing the police. [redacted] British military plans for providing emergency assistance to Kuwait, in accordance with agreements, call for an airlift of the parachute battalion from Cyprus over Israel and Jordan, and thence along the Saudi-Iraqi frontier to Kuwait. [redacted] (Page 2)

Iran-USSR: The Iranian Government [redacted] advised its new ambassador to Moscow when presenting his credentials to express Iran's "good will and eagerness to have friendly relations with the Soviet Government" and to request that the USSR also "show fully this good will and eagerness," [redacted]

*MO* [redacted] Tehran said, apparently in an attempt to reach a propaganda truce, that it would suspend its anti-Soviet broadcasts for three days. [redacted] the ambassador was told to send Russian texts of Moscow radio attacks on Iran as evidence in case Iran decides to make an international issue of the Soviet propaganda campaign. [redacted]

*MO* Laos: (The Laotian Government almost certainly will resist the proposal Paris has made to Washington which would expand the French military mission in Laos and maintain France's monopoly over combat training while turning logistical training over to the US. American officials in the field consider the French plan cumbersome, expensive, and too slow in achieving results. De Gaulle personally approved the proposal, however, and will probably oppose modification on the grounds that France has already made significant concessions.) [redacted]

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### III. THE WEST

*MO* Britain-Iraq: (Britain is increasingly concerned over the growth of Communist influence in Iraq as well as over the harassment of the Iraq Petroleum Company. London is re-examining its decision to sell Iraq large quantities of heavy arms, to be delivered in mid-1960.)

*MO* France: (A Foreign Ministry official now says that De Gaulle wants global French-British-American cooperation to go beyond consultation and include fixed decisions even on specific questions of strategy. He also wants a division of geographic areas of responsibility--with Africa going to France. This statement suggests that Paris will soon renew its demand for blanket endorsement of France's North African policies.)

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## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

### Top Soviet Leader Apparently Demoted

The shake-up of Soviet party and government officials which has been proceeding quietly for several months appears now to be reaching into the top levels of the party. The announcement on 16 April that Nikolay Ignatov, a member of both the party presidium and secretariat, has been appointed chairman of the presidium of the Russian Republic's Supreme Soviet, probably signals a sharp political decline for him. The post, which makes Ignatov titular president of one of the USSR's 15 republics, is largely ceremonial and without political significance. It was previously occupied by low-ranking Mikhail Tarasov.

Ignatov, now 58, has been at or near the top of the party hierarchy for many years. He was brought into the presidium from a leading provincial party post in June 1957, following the removal of the "antiparty group," and became a party secretary in December 1957. Although he has remained relatively inconspicuous, there are indications that he has had some responsibilities in agriculture. He still retains his party posts, but removal from them may follow.

Since last December, a number of second-ranking figures have lost their jobs. These include party and government leaders in the Turkmen, Uzbek, and Belorussian Republics, and Moscow Oblast, as well as Soviet planning chief I. I. Kuzmin. Although not completely similar in detail, all of these cases are apparently part of a drive, lead by Khrushchev, to replace inefficient or corrupt leaders without respect to issues of political loyalty.

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## II. ASIA-AFRICA

Kuwait to Reorganize Armed Forces

(A reorganization and consolidation of Kuwait's military units is scheduled to take place about 1 May. It appears motivated principally by the growing internal and external threat from Iraq, and should materially improve the effectiveness and control of Kuwait's forces.)

(These forces at present consist of three separate entities --a 1,000-man state police, 1,200-man public security force, and a 1,000-man frontier force--with little or no effective coordination among them. The reorganization will create a 1,500-man army from the old frontier force augmented by 500 personnel from the public security force. The army will consist of three battalion-sized units, partly mobile and equipped with light armored vehicles. The remainder of the public security force will be united with the police into a force of about 1,700 men. One member of the ruling Subah family will be given a post in each major unit in an attempt to assure its loyalty to the ruler. Sheik Abdulla Mubarak, the deputy ruler, will remain in control of all the forces.)

(British forces in the Persian Gulf, which might assist Kuwait, will remain small. An infantry battalion headquarters and two companies are based at Bahrein; the battalion's other two companies will be stationed in East Africa. An armored car company will be based at Sharja in the Trucial States. However, British military planning to provide emergency assistance to Kuwait, in accordance with existing agreements, includes airlift of the parachute battalion on Cyprus over Israel, Jordan, and thence along the Saudi-Iraqi frontier to Kuwait. Such a move presumably would require a prior understanding with Israel.

four additional infantry battalions on Cyprus could be airlifted to Kuwait if needed, and that there are sufficient aircraft and supplies in Kenya and Cyprus to support such an operation.)

In a statement to the press on 13 April, UAR Minister of State Kamal Rifat, who directs clandestine activities, declared that the UAR would stand by the "Kuwaiti people" if Iraq's leaders were "foolhardy enough" to invade Kuwait.

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## III. THE WEST

Paris Wants Tripartite Areas of Responsibility

(French President de Gaulle's objective in pressing for French-British-American discussions on global policy is described by a Foreign Ministry official as "not consultation, but decisions." The official said De Gaulle wants the three powers to agree on a joint strategy to be followed in specific situations and also wants a division of geographic areas of responsibility in which "France would be responsible for Africa.")

(Several months ago the French position was presented as involving common decisions on matters of world-wide importance through the process of organized consultation. Later French statements, such as that made to General Norstad by Chief of Staff General Ely in March, centered more on the desirability of the three powers' making national interests and policies known so as to enable them to refrain from acting against each other.)

(The views now attributed to De Gaulle, however, suggest that Paris may next demand a blanket US-British advance endorsement of and support for its policies in Africa, particularly North Africa, as regards both objectives and implementation.)

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**Scientific Adviser to the President**

**Director of the Budget**

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**Special Assistant for Foreign Economic Policy**

**Executive Secretary, National Security Council**

**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**

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**Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy**

**Chief of Staff, United States Air Force**

**Assistant to Secretary of Defense for Special Operations**

**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**

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**National Indications Center**

**The Director**

**United States Information Agency**

**The Director**

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