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10 January 1959



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CENTRAL

INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN

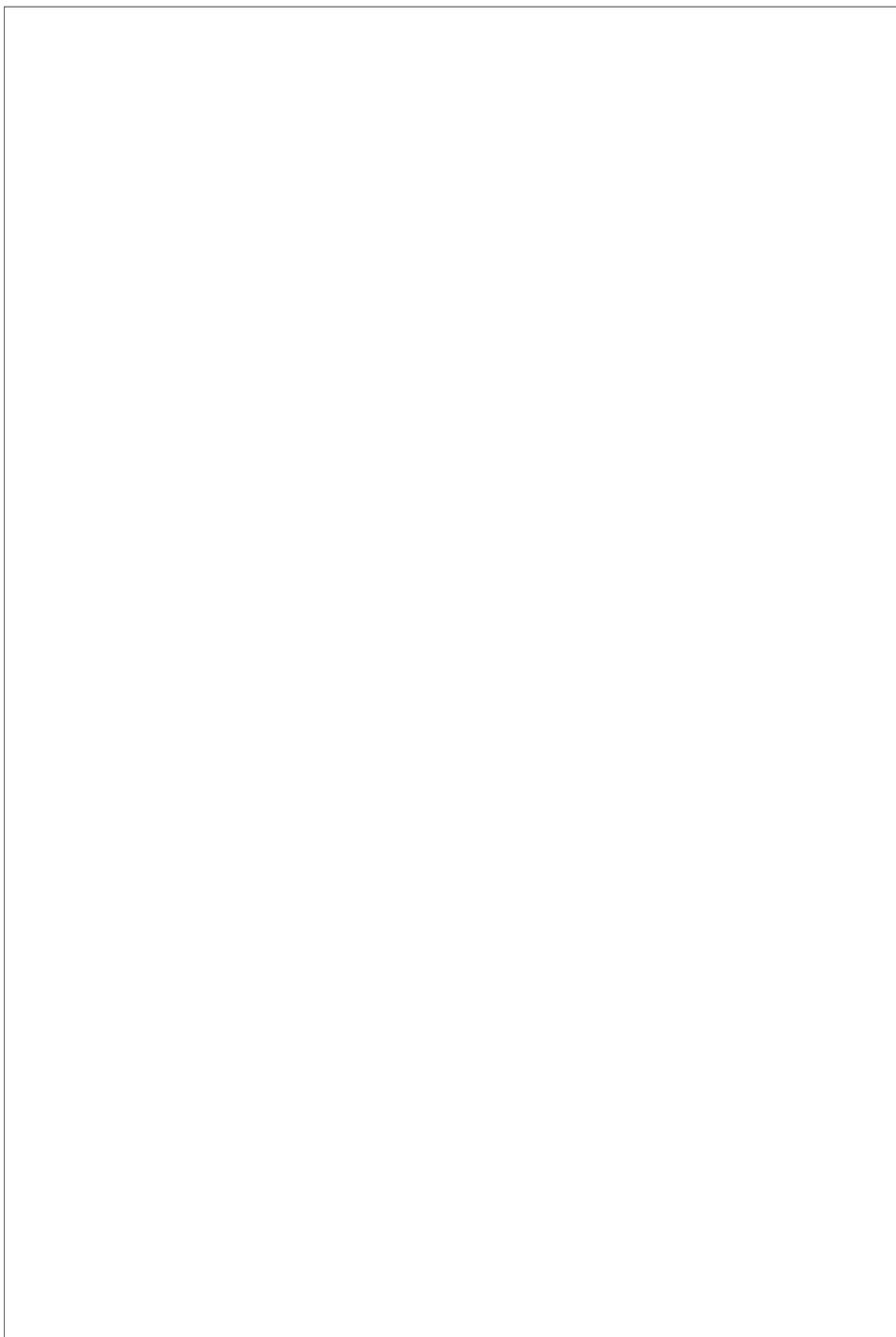


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10 JANUARY 1959

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

GMIC statement on tests of new Soviet air-launched vehicle. [redacted]

①

USSR to propose draft German peace treaty and call for conference to conclude such a treaty.

②

Soviet submarines in South Atlantic probably destined for Pacific Fleet. [redacted]

③

II. ASIA-AFRICA

UAR-Iraq - Press war between Cairo and Baghdad subsides; anti-Communist campaign within UAR continues.

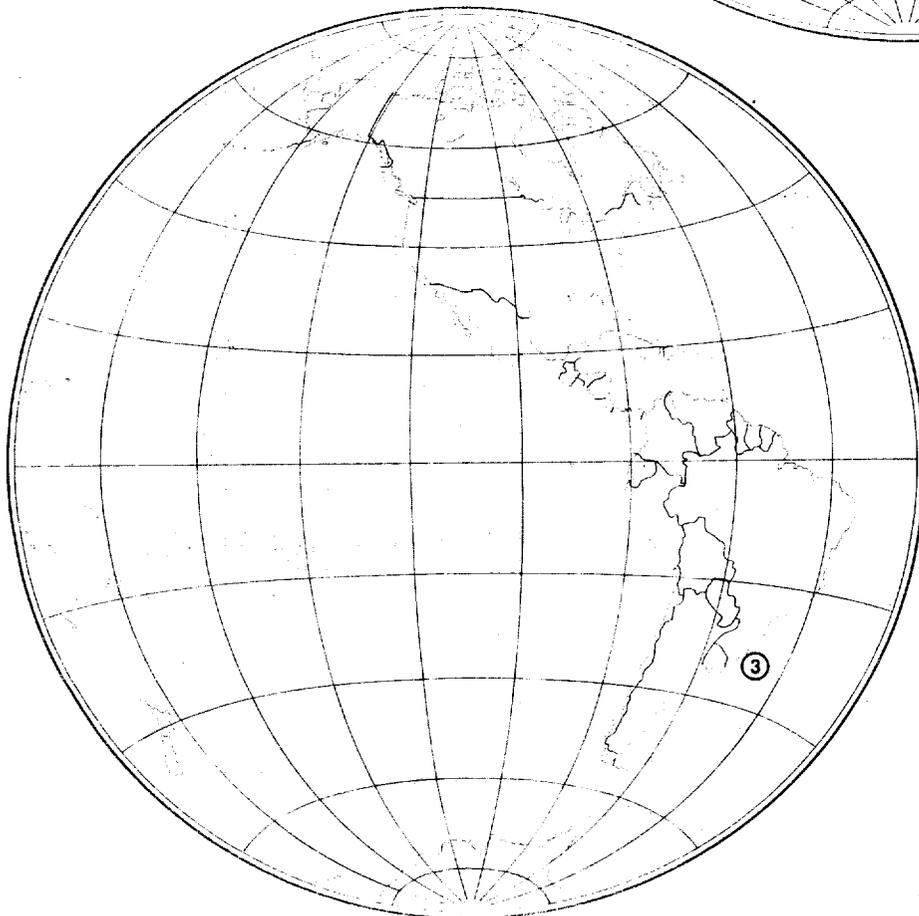
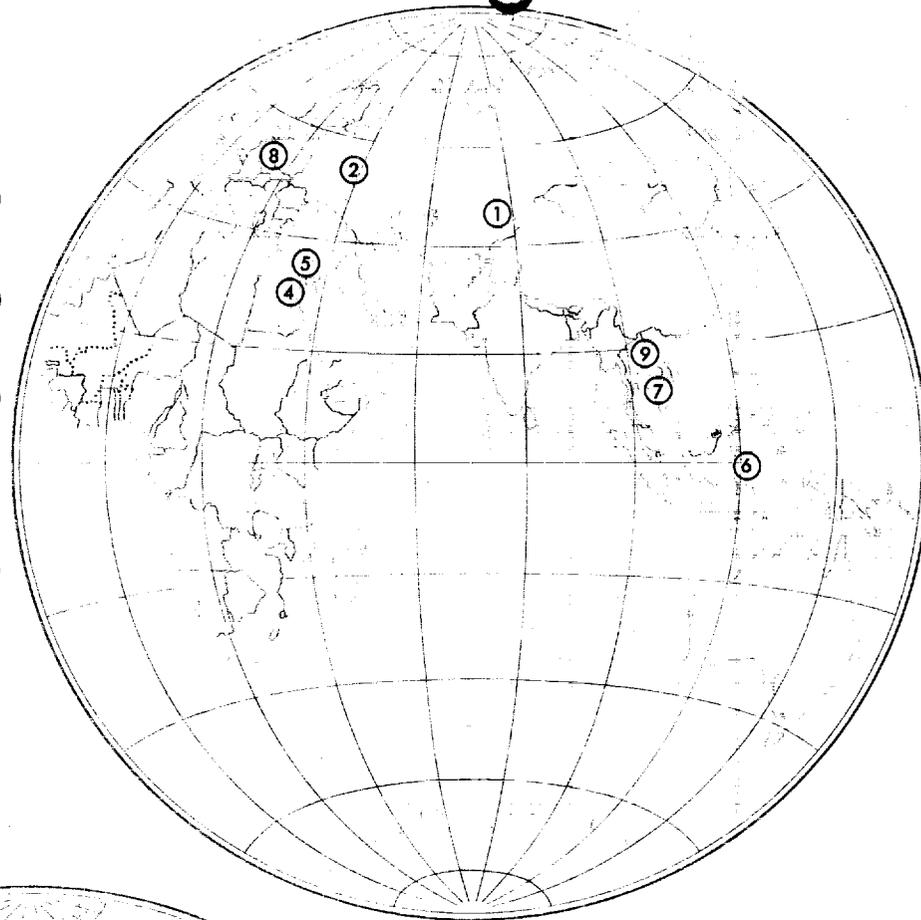
④

Greek-Turkish negotiations on Cyprus may be deadlocked; new outbreak of terrorism possible.

⑤

Indonesia - Rebel supply ship, believed to be carrying arms from Nationalist China, apparently unloaded in North Celebes in late December. [redacted]

⑥



⑦ Cambodia - Burmese minister concerned over continued improvement of Chinese Communist position in Cambodia.

III. THE WEST

⑧ West Berlin Mayor Brandt to visit Far East to counter East German Premier Grotewohl's tour.

LATE ITEM

⑨ Laos - Phou wins party approval to call special assembly session 12 January in bid for full power.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

10 January 1959

DAILY BRIEF

SIRAB

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR: The Guided Missile Intelligence Committee concludes, [redacted] that a new aerodynamic vehicle of supersonic performance is being tested on the Vladimirovka - Lake Balkhash Test Range.

NO

[redacted] (Page 1)

USSR: [Moscow is preparing further public moves on Berlin and the German question. The aide-memoire which Mikoyan handed to Secretary Dulles on 5 January stated that the USSR, "in the very near future," would present the Western powers with a draft German peace treaty and also propose the convening of a conference within "approximately two months" to conclude a treaty. Mikoyan has pointedly reiterated previous Soviet denials that the Soviet note of 27 November on Berlin represents an ultimatum. Communist diplomats in Western Europe are again hinting at a compromise which would include East Berlin in the free city.] [redacted] (Page 2)

OK

USSR: The Soviet tanker Vilyuisk, which was associated with a detachment of Northern Fleet submarines, is in the South Atlantic off the southern coast of Brazil. The submarines are believed to be en route to the Pacific Ocean via Cape Horn. Choice of this route was probably occasioned by the failure of the 1958 Northern Sea Route naval transit and a desire for familiarization in more distant areas. [redacted]

OK

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

NO

UAR-IRAQ: The press war between Cairo and the leftist newspapers in Baghdad has subsided after an "agreement" between one of Nasir's top advisers and the Iraqi ambassador in Cairo. The anti-Communist campaign within the UAR continues, however, and Syrian Interior Minister Sarraj has protested against the proposed arrest or dismissal of some of his own officers. Cairo still remains in doubt as to the whereabouts of Syria's top Communist, Khalid Bakdash, although it now seems likely that he is in Baghdad. [redacted]

(Page 4)

OK

OK
S/S

Cyprus: [Greek-Turkish negotiations on the Cyprus issue may have reached a deadlock. While notes continue to be exchanged between Athens and Ankara in an attempt to reach agreement, the positions of the two governments have become more inflexible. Meanwhile the anti-EOKA operations recently launched by the British, combined with possible steps toward implementation of the controversial Macmillan Plan for Cyprus, may spark a new outbreak of terrorism on the island.] [redacted]

(Page 5)

NO

Indonesia: [A rebel supply ship, believed to be carrying 700,000 rounds of ammunition and other equipment from Nationalist China, apparently unloaded its cargo in late December in North Celebes despite attacks by government forces. [redacted]

[redacted] rebel capabilities and activity in North Celebes have increased over the past few months.] [redacted]

(Page 6)

OK
delete
2

Cambodia: [Burma's minister in Cambodia is said to have reported that Premier Sihanouk is going along with the Chinese Communist. He is concerned over the continued improvement of Peiping's position in Cambodia.] Sihanouk's official newspaper has commented favorably on the Chinese Communist communes. [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

ii

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III. THE WEST

OK
West Germany: The Bonn Foreign Ministry is arranging an extensive good-will tour of the Far East by West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt next month. The purpose is to gain support for the western position on Berlin in key neutralist countries and to counteract the effect of East German Premier Grotewohl's tour. The Foreign Ministry considers talks with Nehru the most important aspect of the trip. [REDACTED]

(Page 8)

LATE ITEM

NO
*Laos: [Prime Minister Phoui Sananikone's party voted 26-2 in an 8 January caucus to support his plan to call the National Assembly into special session on 12 January. Phoui has thus cleared a major hurdle in his drive to assume full powers and form a new government. The outcome remains in doubt, however, because of Phoui's narrow assembly majority and the lack of party discipline. If Phoui fails in the assembly test, there would be strong pressure for an outright seizure of power by the military.] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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DAILY BRIEF

iii

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~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

GMIC Statement of 1200 EST, 9 January 1959

There are indications that the USSR is conducting research and development flight tests on the Vladimirovka - Lake Balkhash Test Range (VLBTR) of an air-launched aerodynamic vehicle. Preliminary calculations indicate that it may have a range of about 250 nautical miles and a speed in the low supersonic region (800-1200 knots).

[redacted] on 9 December 1958 the USSR conducted tests with a "KH-20" vehicle. Similarities of this operation with events on 17 June 1958, 29 July 1958, 22 October 1958, and possibly on 17 March 1958 indicate tests were probably carried out on these dates also. It appears that the "KH-20" was launched by a BEAR (TU-95 or TU-95K) at an altitude of about 11,000 meters after a 200-nautical-mile run in.

There are at present insufficient data to state with certainty that the "KH-20" is an air-to-surface missile, as the possibility also exists that the "KH-20" could be a manned research aircraft.

If the "KH-20" is an air-to-surface missile, it would be the first such missile identified which would have capabilities beyond the K/S subsonic 55-nautical-mile-range air-to-surface missile estimated to have been available for first operational use about 1956-1957. Such a weapon system development is not inconsistent with the NIE 11-5-58 estimated supersonic air-to-surface missile with a range of at least 100 nautical miles and an availability in 1960-1961. [redacted]

[redacted]

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USSR Preparing Further Moves on Berlin and the German Question

[The Soviet leaders are preparing further public initiatives on both Berlin and the German question designed to force the West to agree to high-level talks. There are growing indications that one of Moscow's main purposes in precipitating a Berlin crisis was to increase pressure on the Western powers to enter negotiations on the wider German question under conditions favorable to the USSR.]

[The aide-memoire which Mikoyan handed to Secretary Dulles on 5 January stated that the USSR, "in the very near future," would present the Western governments with a draft German peace treaty and propose convening a conference within "approximately two months." Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov in Paris said, when he called on President de Gaulle on 7 January to present a copy of the aide-memoire, that the USSR would soon propose a conference to discuss both Germany and Berlin.]

[The Soviet leaders probably believe such a proposal will go far toward appearing to meet the Western position that Berlin can be discussed only in the wider framework of the German problem and European security.]

[The USSR may soon put forward further modifications of its Berlin proposals. The aide-memoire repeated the substance of the original Soviet note but added a proposal for the creation of a "permanent international commission" to implement the free-city status of West Berlin. Communist diplomats in Western Europe are again circulating hints regarding a compromise solution which would include East Berlin in the free city. According to press reports, a Soviet source in Berlin has stated that Mikoyan will propose a compromise when he meets with President Eisenhower.]

[] if the West rejects an offer to include East Berlin in a free city, Khrushchev will offer to turn over all of Berlin to the Federal]

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[Republic with free access guaranteed by a treaty, presumably signed by East Germany. West Germany, [redacted], would be permitted to station military forces in Berlin after all Allied military and civilian personnel had been withdrawn and Western and Soviet forces in both German states had been reduced. Reports of this nature probably are designed to strengthen West German dissatisfaction with Adenauer's opposition to any negotiations or arrangements which would imply recognition of the East German regime, but undoubtedly do not reflect serious Soviet policy intentions.]

[In his talks with American leaders, Mikoyan has been trying to give the impression of flexibility on the Berlin question. At a private dinner on 5 January, he denied that the USSR would advance the six-month deadline for agreement on a free-city status for West Berlin and took the position that the Western notes of 31 December did not represent a rejection of the Soviet proposals. He said, "We were delighted to see that you proposed negotiating the propositions."]

[Mikoyan told [redacted] that the six-month time limit was proposed because without such a limit no progress in negotiations was in sight.] [redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

UAR-Iraqi Press War Subsides

The newspaper war between Cairo and Baghdad over Communist activity in Iraq has subsided at least temporarily. Cessation of the exchange apparently followed an agreement reached in Cairo between the Iraqi ambassador, Faiq al-Sammarai, and Nasir's minister of presidential affairs, Ali Sabri. [REDACTED] Premier Qasim reportedly ordered Iraqi newspapermen "not to oppose the UAR in any way." While the press and radio of these two capitals have abandoned the subject, those subsidized by the UAR are still engaged in bitter exchanges with Beirut's leftist newspapers, whose reports first triggered the exchange between Cairo and Baghdad.

Nasir's campaign against Communism in the UAR is continuing. In Syria, however, the roundup of Communists has met some resistance from Syrian Minister of Interior Sarraj, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sarraj refused to allow the "dismissal of his Communist officers," and Nasir's representative in Damascus advised Cairo to avoid forcing the issue until Vice President Marshal Amir talked to Sarraj, in order not to create an "unnecessarily unpleasant situation." Sarraj's opposition to Cairo's desires might also be conditioned partially by the loss of face he may be suffering from the fact that Nasir has had to send a high-level, three-man delegation to iron out internal, political, and economic difficulties in Syria.

[The present whereabouts of Khalid Bakdash, Syria's top Communist, is still uncertain. He was reliably reported in Baghdad on 7 January, allegedly to resolve policy and doctrinal disputes among Iraqi Communists. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bakdash had been in Baghdad and attended a meeting of the Communist party central committee. [REDACTED]

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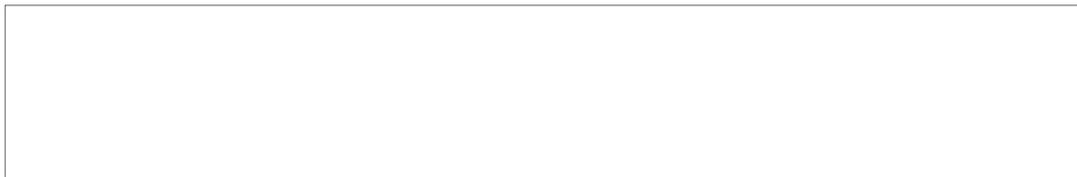
Cyprus Situation



[Negotiations between Greece and Turkey to resolve their dispute over Cyprus, under way since mid-December, appear to have reached an impasse over such issues as the Turkish-proposed establishment of Greek and Turkish military bases on the island and the ethnic composition of the future Cypriot armed forces. A stiffening of attitudes on both sides has recently been noted.]

[Some agreement on a settlement based on guaranteed independence for Cyprus apparently had been reached earlier, and there continues to be evidence of a genuine desire for a rapprochement in both Greece and Turkey. If present differences can be resolved, the Greek and Turkish prime ministers are expected to meet--probably in a third country. Failure to reach some agreement will cause adverse public reaction in both countries.]

[On Cyprus, the British forces have launched a new security drive against EOKA which may lead to renewed Greek Cypriot violence. EOKA leader Grivas, in proclaiming a truce on 24 December, stated that EOKA operations would not be renewed provided the British reciprocated. In the implementation of the Macmillan Plan for Cyprus, meanwhile, the British appear to be caught between a desire not to jeopardize possible success of present Greek-Turkish negotiations and a fear that postponement of implementation will be regarded by the Turks as vacillation. Action to implement the plan at this time would be regarded with deep hostility in Greece and among Greek Cypriots.]



Dissident Supply Ship in North Celebes Withstands Government Attack

[A dissident supply ship anchored at a small port in North Celebes, as of 31 December, had successfully withstood attack by two government ships and a B-25, [redacted]

[redacted] the dissident vessel was more heavily armed than the government ships, whose heaviest armament was 37-millimeter, and that nearby rebel land defenses were "very strong." The B-25 apparently attacked on both 26 and 31 December and, although inflicting some damage, was unable to prevent the vessel's unloading and eventually was itself hit by rebel antiaircraft fire.]

[The dissident craft is presumed to be a supply ship which left Taiwan on 8 December loaded with 700,000 rounds of small-arms ammunition, 27,000,000 counterfeit rupiahs, fuel, and uniforms.]

[redacted] dissidents in North Celebes were continuing large-scale attacks. [redacted] rebel capacities and activities in the area have noticeably increased in recent months. [redacted]

[redacted]

Burmese Concerned Over Leftist Gains in Cambodia

[The Burmese Foreign Office is becoming increasingly concerned over the trend of events in Cambodia. [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] Burma's minister in Phnom Penh, Sein Bwa, is concerned over the continued improvement of Communist China's position in Cambodia. He says the tenor of Sein Bwa's reporting is that Cambodian Premier Sihanouk "is going along with the Chinese!" [redacted]

Sein Bwa has been urgently recalled to Rangoon for consultations concerning Burma's handling of Thai interests during the Cambodian-Thai rupture. [redacted]

Sihanouk's recent statements have been highly complimentary toward Peiping. In an 8 January speech, Sihanouk disclosed that the recently introduced manual labor movement in Cambodia was patterned after Peiping's practices which he had studied during his visit last August. Last month, the official newspaper of Sihanouk's government came out with support for China's commune program in marked contrast to strong criticism prevailing in other capitals in Southeast Asia. This stand could only have been taken with Sihanouk's approval.

Sihanouk's attitude has greatly facilitated the expansion of bloc influence in Cambodia since relations with the Sino-Soviet bloc were initiated in 1956. For example, Cambodian security officials are hesitant to take action against Communist agents for fear of arousing Sihanouk's possible displeasure. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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III. THE WEST

Bonn Foreign Ministry Arranging Far East Tour For West Berlin Mayor

West German Foreign Minister Brentano has persuaded West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt to follow up his visit to the United States in February with an extensive good-will tour of the Far East in an effort to gain support in key neutralist countries for the Western position on Berlin. The Foreign Ministry also sees the trip as an effective means of counteracting the visit of East German Premier Grotewohl to India, Burma, and other countries.

Foreign Ministry officials feel that the most important aspect of Brandt's visit will be personal talks with Nehru, in which he can attempt to neutralize any effect Grotewohl may have had. The Foreign Ministry arranged the Far Eastern trip in the belief that a visit from a prominent figure in West Germany's main opposition party would have a beneficial effect. Federal press chief von Eckardt may also visit some Far Eastern countries.

Bonn has been concerned over the warm reception given to Grotewohl by Nasir and reports that an agreement was reached with Cairo to exchange consulates. Although the West German ambassador received assurances from Egyptian officials that no firm agreement had yet been reached on this subject, the West German press has already launched a campaign calling for abandonment of Bonn's policy of breaking relations with any state recognizing East Germany. Visits by Brandt to Arab states are not planned at present.

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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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