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4 January 1961



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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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4 JANUARY 1961

I. SPECIAL ITEM

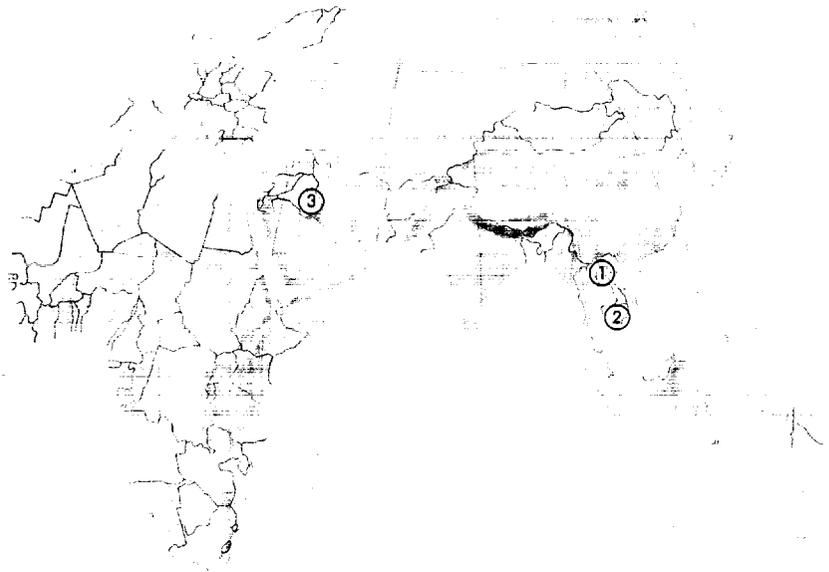
Situation in Laos. ①

II. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

III. ASIA-AFRICA

Cambodian Prince Sihanouk reportedly "overwhelmed" by recent visit to Communist China; may tighten Cambodian ties with bloc. ②

Iraqi foreign relations line criticizes Western attitudes as forcing Arabs toward closer ties with Sino-Soviet bloc. ③



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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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## DAILY BRIEF

### I. SPECIAL ITEM

*Sirab*

\*The Situation in Laos: [The military situation in Xieng Khouang Province is obscure. [redacted] the reoccupation of Xieng Khouang town by paratroopers dropped nearby on 1 January [redacted] in general the Pathet Lao advance has been stalled. Hanoi radio, however, asserts that Xieng Khouang town is still in Pathet Lao hands. Meanwhile, government troops north of Vientiane are reported preparing to attack Vang Vieng, site of the Kong Le - Pathet Lao build-up prior to their drive eastward toward Xieng Khouang. It is not clear how many antigovernment troops remain at Vang Vieng, an area considered by Western observers to be highly defensible.]

*OK delete P's 4+6*

The National Assembly has convened in Vientiane to give belated approval to the provisional government of Prince Boun Oum. Such action would bring the Boun Oum government's creation into full conformity with normal constitutional recognition. Moscow has quickly attacked the assembly session as a device to give a "semblance of legality" to the Boun Oum regime.

A summary version of an article appearing in the New Year's edition of Red Flag, the major theoretical journal of the Chinese Communist party, apparently addressing itself to Laos, implies that local wars can be contained when the bloc is victorious but that if the West "gets what it wants," local wars may become world war. Peiping, however, does not pledge itself to any specific course of action in the present case of Laos. North Vietnam has termed latest US military

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moves in the Pacific as "brazen acts of provocation." [redacted]

The airlift into Laos by Soviet IL-14s continued through 3 January with ten aircraft making at least 12 but possibly 15 sorties. [redacted] Six Soviet transports were reported on the Xieng Khouang airfield on 2 January, according to a Laotian intercept. [redacted]

[Photos of the Sam Neua airfield area [redacted]

[redacted] considerable development of the area has taken place since the Communists gained control on 28 September. Warehouse-type buildings have been constructed, and 35 vehicles were noted in the area.] [redacted]

*BIA/FBIS 3 Jan - CIA/FBIS 1 Jan - CIA/FBIS 3 Jan*  
Cambodia ? Communist China: Prince Sihanouk was so

"overwhelmed" by his reception in Communist China that, he may move Cambodia into closer ties with the bloc, and with Peiping in particular, to the ultimate exclusion of the West. It is doubtful that Sihanouk would intentionally compromise Cambodia's neutral position, but [redacted]

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[redacted] reports that the Chinese reception and the amount of aid pledged to Cambodia have brought the prince "into utmost

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DAILY BRIEF

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[redacted] sympathy with the Chinese Communists." [redacted]  
[redacted] although Cambodia  
signed no military agreements with the bloc, Mao Tse-tung  
reiterated Communist China's intention to come to Cambodia's  
aid in the event of any aggressive attacks. [redacted]

Iraq The Iraqi Government is developing a foreign rela-  
tions line paralleling that of Nasir in its emphasis that West-  
ern attitudes are forcing the Arabs toward closer association  
with Sino-Soviet bloc policy. Reports that Israel, with French  
assistance, is constructing an atomic bomb have intensified  
Iraqi anti-Western sentiment. In the past few days even Iraq's  
relatively pro-Western foreign minister has made unprecedent-  
edly strong and specific attacks on the United States regarding  
the Congo and Algerian issues. [redacted] (Page 1)

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DAILY BRIEF

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## Growing Arab Resentment Toward Western Powers

Iraq, like the UAR, is developing a foreign policy line which emphasizes that Western attitudes on such issues as Algeria, the Congo, and Israeli nuclear progress are forcing the Arabs into closer association with Sino-Soviet bloc policies. In the past few days even Iraq's relatively pro-Western foreign minister has made unprecedentedly strong specific and public attacks on the United States.

Prime Minister Qasim has declared that if France and "other imperialist states" are determined to help Israel obtain atomic weapons, it will mean "the perpetuation of aggression on our homeland for many decades." The Iraqi press and radio have intensified their attacks on the Western powers and have called upon all Arab League states to institute an immediate political and economic boycott of France. [redacted]

In late December the UAR made an attempt to stimulate a significant direct Iraqi economic move against the French. [redacted] Cairo ordered that articles be planted in the Beirut press attacking Qasim for failing to nationalize France's 23.75-percent share of the Iraq Petroleum Company. [redacted]

A similar but less vehement reaction has been evident in other Arab states. Saudi press coverage has been heavy and generally in line with the UAR position. Prime Minister Talhuni of Jordan has talked of "freezing differences" with the UAR and other Arab states in order to join a united front in the face of "the new Israeli threat." The Sudanese Government, which still differs sharply with the UAR and Iraq on policy toward the Congo, on 31 December severed diplomatic relations with France following the third French nuclear test in the Sahara.

A meeting of Arab League foreign ministers has tentatively been scheduled for 15 January in Beirut to discuss these world

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problems. It is likely to be characterized by an unusual measure of agreement on a strong anti-Western line.

[redacted] The chiefs of the Arab missions in Washington have decided to recommend to their governments that the issue of Israel's erection of an atomic reactor capable of producing atomic weapons be presented to the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations. [redacted]



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