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11 August 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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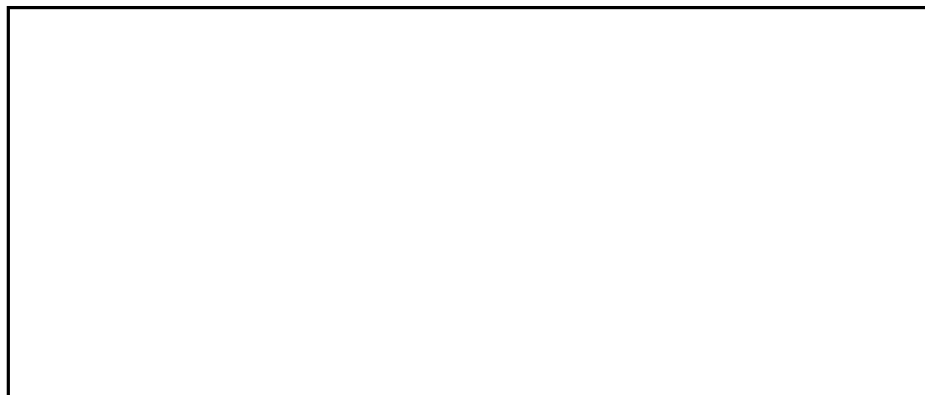
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Laos: [A Phoumi military post in Sayaboury Province west of Luang Prabang was attacked and overrun by an undetermined number of Pathet Lao troops on 9-10 August.] [A Lao aircraft which attempted to locate the company-size garrison was hit twice by ground fire on 10 August.] [Although sporadic skirmishing is the present pattern in Laos, this action occurred in Vientiane-controlled territory which had previously been quiet.]

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(Map)

India - Communist China: [The Indian Government appears to be about to retreat from its present aggressive Chinese border policy.]

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On 6 August, Nehru told Ambassador Galbraith that there would probably be discussions with the Chinese early this fall.]

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Somali Republic: The Somali Government has apparently decided to send 50 pilots and mechanics to the Soviet Union for training. The Somali prime minister told American officials on 7 August that he could no longer wait for favorable responses from Italy and Britain to his requests for training.

According to other sources, [] jet fighters, probably British-built Vampires but possibly MIG-15's originally provided to Cairo by Moscow, are expected to arrive soon as part of a UAR military assistance program. Some Somali cadets reportedly have been receiving flight training in Egypt.

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The USSR devoted considerable attention to Somalia. It has extended some \$52 million in economic aid for various projects, including harbor construction on the Red Sea coast. Earlier this year the Soviets gave the Mogadiscio government a 50-kilowatt radio station. []

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Angola: Portugal's military and political problems in Angola appear to be increasing. All reports coming to the US Consulate General in Luanda indicate that the military situation is stagnating and possibly worsening. The rebels are using road mines, making Portuguese tactics ineffective and reportedly causing a drop in field morale. In the absence of authoritative information for the public on army activities in the fighting zone, alarmist rumors are spreading in Luanda. There is considerable tension in the capital, and any isolated incident could precipitate violence between whites and Africans there.

The basic policy differences between officials in Lisbon and Luanda remain unresolved. The governor of Angola, General Deslandes, has emerged from his recent dispute with Lisbon with increased popularity as an advocate of reforms.

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West Germany: The visit of General Yakubovsky, commander in chief of Soviet forces in East Germany, to USAREUR headquarters in Heidelberg has created suspicion of US intentions, according to the US Embassy in Bonn. The embassy cites press comment that the visit had the purpose of forewarning US authorities of new Soviet moves affecting Berlin and of softening them up for such moves. The consensus of most newspapers was that the visit signaled a Soviet intention to establish a direct link at the commander-in-chief level as a first step toward eliminating the Berlin commandants and changing other aspects of the four-power status of the city. It was also alleged that US authorities see merit in such moves.

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Netherlands: Dutch Foreign Minister Luns told Ambassador Rice on 9 August that there had been "great consternation" in the Dutch cabinet when it learned that in a memorandum to Indonesian Foreign Minister Subandrio on 31 July, Secretary General Thant had promised to raise the Indonesian flag on 1 January alongside that of the United Nations in West New Guinea. Luns also complained of further Indonesian parachute drops in the territory and indicated that the Dutch were in a position to protect themselves from such incursions.]

[Rice believes that Luns and his allies in the cabinet would regard the flag-raising action as the final humiliation and might choose to dissociate themselves from any agreement. Nevertheless, the embassy is inclined to believe there will not be a serious cabinet crisis and suggests that the Dutch would find it more palatable if all three flags flew over the territory beginning 1 January.]

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British Guiana: Premier Jagan has been seeking foreign assistance in creating a national army and is trying to obtain arms from private sources, according to a British Colonial Office official in London. Jagan evidently intends to recruit the army from the colony's East Indian population in order to offset the strength of the largely Negro police force.]

[Jagan has obtained an offer of technical assistance as the result of a visit to British Guiana by an Israeli diplomat in June, and two Israeli officers have been named to advise on army organization. Their request for visas, however, has been held up by London, which opposes Jagan's plans for an army.]

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Argentina: (Information as of 0430 EDT) The military crisis continues to threaten President Guido's government. General Eduardo Senorans, whom Guido appointed Secretary of War yesterday, resigned early this morning. Guido broadcast an order to dissident troops moving on Buenos Aires to remain where they were, and invited their leader, General Federico Toranzo Montero, to appear at the presidential residence. Toranzo Montero reportedly has accepted the invitation. Loyal and dissident forces have been moving tanks and other armored vehicles into Buenos Aires but, according to press reports, there has been little actual fighting. [REDACTED]

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Sino-Indian Border Dispute

[India's policy along the border this year has called for the establishment of new outposts, stepped-up patrolling, probes of Chinese-claimed areas, and occasional isolation of an advance Chinese post. While the Indian show of force has been stronger than ever before, the units involved have been small and lightly armed because of difficulties of terrain and supply, and Indian forces are somewhat overextended.]

[The Indians, in particular Krishna Menon, have probably persuaded themselves that they have successfully asserted Indian sovereignty in this area at little cost, whereas further moves under their present policy might prove costly. This conclusion could well have been reinforced in Menon's mind by the ease with which the Chinese deployed several hundred soldiers around an isolated Indian post last month and by the stiff Chinese attitude in subsequent conversations in Geneva. For Menon, who has been credited publicly for India's stiffer line, defeat at the hands of the Chinese constitutes an obvious political danger.]

[The Chinese will probably welcome the kind of de facto truce outlined by Nehru. They have long sought to bring the Indians into negotiations on the basis of the status quo in Ladakh and recently "approved" an Indian call for renewed border discussions, provided no strings were attached. The onset of winter might well force each side to withdraw its troops from forward positions. The Chinese have twice rejected Indian proposals that both sides withdraw from positions now held, and they would probably do so again. Thus, any disagreement before winter would likely be a result of a unilateral Indian withdrawal.]

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