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9 November 1962

### CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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## DAILY BRIEF

<u>NATO-Cuba:</u> British and other Western shipowners who will hold an "emergency meeting" in London next week are unlikely to withdraw voluntarily their ships from trade with Cuba.)

A spokesman for British shipping interests declared as recently as 30 October that it is "for our government to decide where to draw the line in these matters." Thus far, the British Government has declined to interfere with "peaceful" trade with Cuba. Some of the shipping companies evidently feel that unless government action is taken they would be liable for heavy damages if they breach existing contracts.

Nevertheless, the US Embassy in London has recently noted an increasing reluctance among shipowners to make new commitments regarding shipping to Cuba, and some cargoes for or from Cuba have actually been refused.)

(Eight NATO countries have responded in a generally favorable way to US requests that overflight and landing rights for bloc aircraft bound for Cuba be denied.)

(Typical of this response, the UK delegation at a NATO meeting on 6 November took the position that facilities would be denied to bloc countries not)

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USSR: Moscow has made a new proposal for controls over underground nuclear tests.

While this proposal may have been in preparation prior to the Cuban crisis, it is timed to convey the impression that the USSR wishes to prevent any further aggravation of tensions and to begin repairing US-Soviet relations.

(The "compromise" proposal was presented by First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov to Ambassador Dean on 7 November. It is based on a suggestion advanced at the recent Pugwash Conference that automatic, unmanned seismic stations be used to police a ban on underground tests. Kuznetsov said the USSR would agree to installation of automatic seismic stations along Soviet borders on the territory of states adjoining the USSR, if these countries consent. The Soviet Government would also allow two or three such stations on its territory if the other nuclear powers would do likewise.

(While he asserted that the sealed instruments installed on Soviet territory should be transported from and to the "international center" by Soviet personnel and planes, Kuznetsov indicated that if the US should insist on participation of foreign personnel, the USSR might accept such an arrangement.)

(He reaffirmed his government's unwillingness to accept on-site inspections on Soviet territory.)

(\_Soviet leaders probably hope that when the new proposal is made public--presumably later this month when the Geneva disarmament talks resume and the

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current Soviet test series is concluded--it will gain wide support and will buttress Moscow's current propaganda campaign presenting Khrushchev as the leading peacemaker.

\*India - Communist China: Clashes which occurred at two places in the Northeast Frontier Agency on 6 and 7 November appear to have stemmed from the heavy patrolling which both sides have engaged in since the Chinese offensive halted on 28 October.

Heavy fighting occurred in both areas during the early days of the Chinese push, and could be renewed at any time.

Indian authorities continue to be concerned about the Sikkim area where Indian forces have been heavily reinforced and may already have received Westernsupplied weapons.

The Indian Communist Party's split continues, with leaders of the nationalistic right wing pledging renewed support for the Indian war effort. The Nehru government is beginning to round up left-wing dissenters from the party line.

Nehru's review of the situation at the opening of Parliament on 8 November consisted largely of a rehash of his earlier statements and pledges to drive the Chinese out of Indian territory. Negotiations on Peiping's terms were again ruled out. The government's two resolutions designed to promote domestic political unity and to rally public support for the defense effort will receive overwhelming approval when debate concludes this weekend.

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Laos: (Souvanna Phouma is again threatening to resign unless he gets support from all factions in the coalition government.)

At a recent diplomatic gathering, he told several envoys, including the new Soviet ambassador, that he was "up against a wall" in his efforts to achieve national reconciliation.

When Pathet Lao leader Souphannouvong returns to Vientiane, Souvanna intends to call a meeting of Lao leaders and make it clear that he will quit unless both left and right make concessions. Souphannouvong returned to Xieng Khouang on 7 November via Hanoi after spending over a month in Moscow and Peiping for medical treatment.

General Phoumi, meanwhile, confirms that he is going to Moscow about 20 November in his capacity as finance minister to conclude a trade agreement and negotiate additional economic accords.

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