

7 March 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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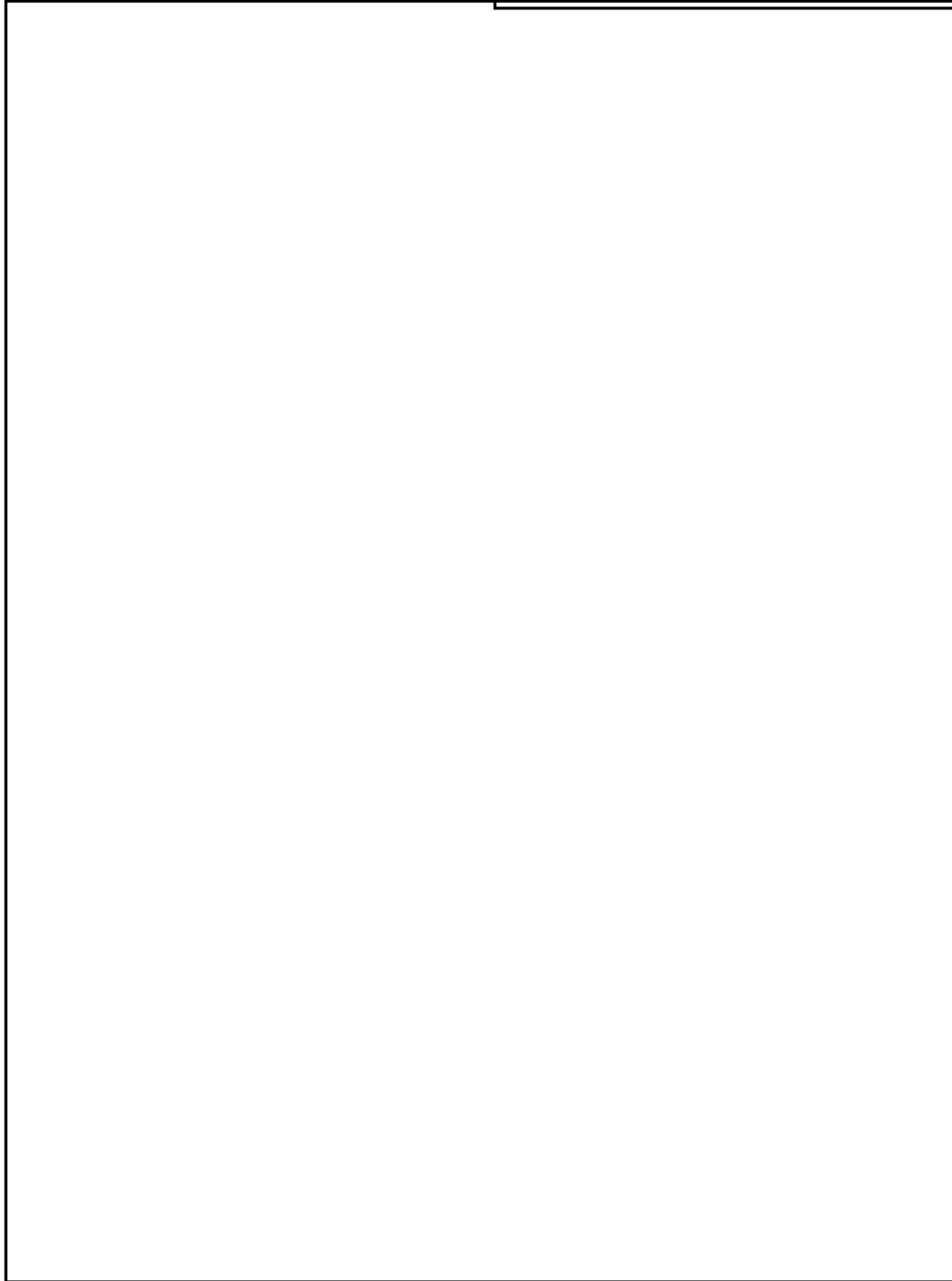
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Communist China - USSR

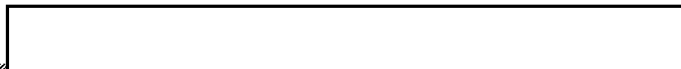
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[Since the Sino-Soviet split broke into the open, the Chinese have repeatedly implied that the Russians were unfaithful to their treaty obligations. Peking's propaganda has called the Soviets "untrustworthy cowards" and denigrated Soviet military strength as a "tin-pointed spear."

[In an interview with Egyptian newsmen last spring, Chou En-lai implied that the USSR might not come to China's assistance if the US attacked and claimed that in any case Peking would prefer the Soviets to stand clear. In his widely publicized interview last September, Foreign Minister Chen Yi went so far as to suggest that the Soviets might even join the US and its allies if they attacked China. Chou told a foreign diplomat in November that the USSR would not come to Peking's assistance, or even seek to prevent a US attack.

[The Soviets have been more cautious in implying that China's growing hostility toward the USSR was tending to undercut the validity of the treaty. Moscow has issued a number of guarded public warnings to this effect since September 1963--noting that Soviet power would not necessarily be available to "unfriendly" socialist states or those which embarked on irresponsible pursuit of their own special aims and interests. [redacted] the Russians have recently given wide circulation to an official document which charges that China is trying to provoke a war between the USSR and the US. This accusation may be intended in part to prepare the ground for the Soviets to disavow any obligation to support China militarily should it become embroiled in a war with the US. For the moment, however, neither side is willing to bear the onus of publicly disavowing the 1950 treaty. Both Moscow and Peking paid lip service to its validity in commemorating the 16th anniversary of the agreement on 14 February.]

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NOTES

Congo: The reconvening of the legislature early this week will give the Congo's disgruntled politicians a platform from which to attack President Mobutu. Former premier Tshombé, one of the few politicians with significant popular support, reportedly will return from Europe to attend the session and gauge Mobutu's strength. Although the Mobutu regime has lost much of its luster, the opposing politicians still appear to lack the resources to overthrow it.

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Ghana: Nkrumah appears to have accepted for now his inability to reverse the recent army coup in Ghana, although he apparently harbors illusions that the public does not support it. In a private conversation on 4 March (with the US chargé) Nkrumah said his only plan was to join his family in Cairo soon. Nkrumah professed not to believe the US was involved in the coup and seemed not to take his designation as "President of Guinea" seriously.

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*Guatemala: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST) Julio Cesar Mendez of the Revolutionary Party (PR) has taken the lead in early presidential returns from Guatemala City. Thus far the PR leads with about 55 percent of the vote. Heavy security forces patrolled the city and, although the polling places were crowded, no untoward incidents have been reported.

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