

Top Secret



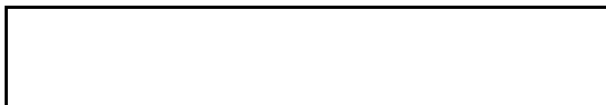
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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India: The Congress Party, forced to impose direct rule from New Delhi on the politically unstable state of Rajasthan, hopes to avoid doing so in the neighboring state of Uttar Pradesh.

Efforts by Congress and the opposition in Rajasthan to form a state government resulted in considerable violence when neither side was able to win a clear majority. Anti-Congress feeling ran so high that even if a Congress government had been formed civil disorders probably would have continued.

C. B. Gupta, leader of the Congress Party in Uttar Pradesh, has been given a mandate by the governor to form a government and is scheduled to submit his list of ministers soon. The Uttar Pradesh Assembly is scheduled to meet on 17 March, at which time the new government must obtain a vote of confidence.

As in Rajasthan, neither the Congress Party nor the opposition coalition won an absolute majority in the state legislature in the recent elections. Gupta and the opposition have been competing strenuously for the support of enough independents to ensure a majority. Gupta claims to have control of 217 seats of the total of 425.

Anti-Congress disorders may break out in Uttar Pradesh, as the opposition appears unreconciled to a Congress government. A general work stoppage in the state capital, called on 13 March by the opposition, was only partially successful, apparently because many members of the opposition parties were arrested.

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Cuba: Fidel Castro reassumed the role of an embattled revolutionary in his speech on 13 March.

Castro went to great lengths to rebut official Venezuelan charges that Cuba was responsible for the assassination last week of the brother of Venezuela's foreign minister. Castro denied any knowledge of who killed him, and blasted the orthodox Venezuelan Communists for blaming the shooting on the dissident Communist Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN). He also defended his program for exporting revolution and attacked by implication the pro-Moscow Communist parties in Latin America, which he again castigated for impeding the progress of armed revolution.

The Cuban leader also implicitly attacked recent Soviet economic and diplomatic overtures to several "oligarchy governments" in Latin America. He has long nursed a grudge against Moscow for its efforts to improve state-to-state relationships with a number of Latin American governments, especially Chile and Colombia. This resentment was apparent in his statement, "whoever helps those oligarchies where guerrillas are fighting will be helping to repress the revolution." He went on to assert that "we will be a satellite of no one ideologically, internally, or externally."

Castro's speech was similar in tone to others he has given in the past when impatient with the lack of results from his external and internal programs, although the latter recently have been looking better--at least as regards the sugar harvest. His main scapegoats this time were the orthodox Latin American Communists, particularly the Venezuelan party, and Moscow's "errant" policies.

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 13 March 1967 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

Memorandum to Holders of NIE 11-14-66, "Capabilities of the Soviet General Purpose Forces"

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