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Historical

7 March 1951

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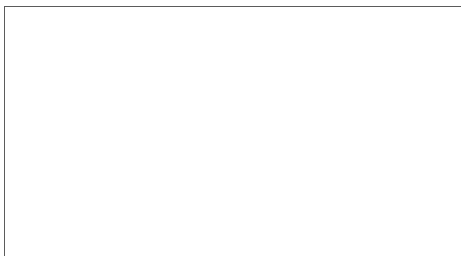
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NEAR EAST

1. Moslems react vigorously to recent events in Morocco:



Recent events in French Morocco have resulted in a violent Moslem reaction from Tunisia to India. The success of the French in imposing their demands on the Sultan, forcing him to denounce the Nationalist party and restricting his already limited

*NORTH AFRICA
EGYPT
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powers, has caused a wave of denunciations by Moslem political groups and newspapers, not only against French actions in North Africa, but also against the continued presence of British troops in the Suez Canal area and against the US air base agreement for Morocco. In Egypt a state of emergency was proclaimed on 4 March as a result of anti-French student demonstrations; and the Arab League has summoned its Political Committee to a special meeting on 10 March in Cairo to discuss the Moroccan situation.

Comment: There are indications that Arab hostility, initially aroused against the French alone, is now being directed to a considerable extent against the West as a whole. The re-emergence of popular criticism against the British base in Egypt may become sufficiently substantial to counter-act the gradual progress being made by Egypt and the UK on the difficult treaty issue.

EASTERN EUROPE

2. Soviet officer appears as new Commander-in-Chief of Polish Air Force:



The government-controlled Polish press revealed on 27 February that Colonel General Ivan Lukich Turkel, a high-ranking Soviet Air Force officer, is now Commander-in-

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Chief of the Polish Air Force. No mention was made of the officer previously believed to hold that post. US Embassy Warsaw notes that this press reference indicates a sudden change in the top command of

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the Polish Air Force, and that, with the reported appointment of Soviet Admiral V. S. Cherokov to command the Polish Navy, all major branches of the Polish Armed Forces are now under direct Soviet control.

Comment: It is probable that the appointment of General Turkel, who is believed to have been Inspector General of the Soviet Air Force, will hasten the current strengthening of the Polish Air Force. After his appointment as Poland's Minister of Defense in November 1949, Soviet Marshal Rokossovsky began a thorough reorganization of the Polish Armed Forces. Recent information has indicated that the Air Force is now in process of reorganization and expansion, apparently at a more rapid rate than that of any other European Satellite. There have been indications that a Polish equivalent to the Soviet Fighter Defense Force is being created. In February 1951, new Soviet-type jet aircraft appeared at the Warsaw/Bornerowo airfield, which is occupied by a Polish fighter unit. No other European Satellite is known to have received Soviet-built jet aircraft.

3. Soviet troops reported in Albania near Yugoslav border:



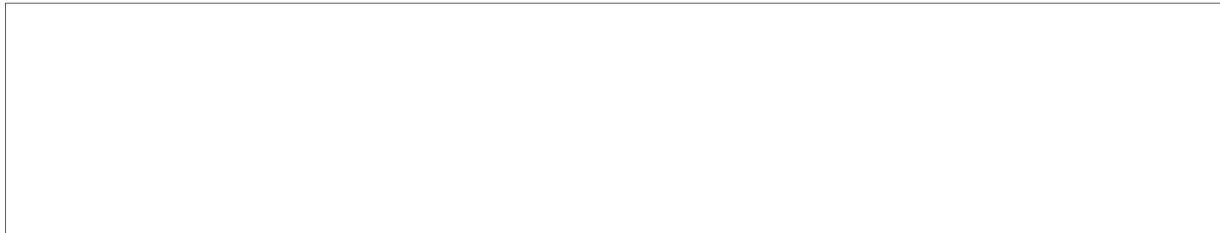
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USSR
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2,000 Soviet troops are encamped north of Shkoder (Scutari), near the Yugoslav border.

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Their mission and the date of their arrival are unknown.

Comment: Although Soviet military and civilian advisers and technicians, probably to the number of several thousand, are active in Albania, the presence of Soviet troop units has never been confirmed.



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During the past winter, Albanian troops have reportedly been working on fortifications in the northern border area, and problems concerning the border with Yugoslavia are frequently given prominence in Albanian propaganda.

WESTERN EUROPE

4. Italian Christian Democrats involved in Trieste agitation:



US Ambassador Dunn believes that recent Italian irredentist activities in Trieste originated chiefly in the Christian Democratic Party. The party can be restrained from a

ITALY
TRIESTE

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“provocative anti-Allied Military Government campaign” by British representations and reassurances as to present UK policy when Premier de Gasperi visits London in mid-March. At that time De Gasperi is expected to urge that the 1948 declaration of the Western powers regarding Trieste be reaffirmed and that Italian representatives be included in any substantive discussions of the problem.

Comment: The Christian Democrats are increasingly anxious to improve their position for the forthcoming communal elections in Trieste and Italy by championing nationalist causes.

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