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SECURITY INFORMATION

8 January 1952

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Office of Current Intelligence

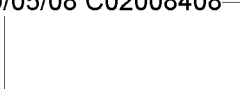
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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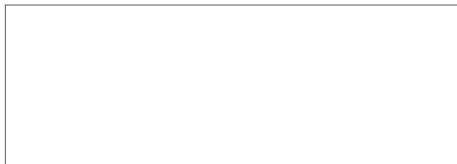
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GENERAL

1. London Embassy reports basic British position toward USSR:

The US Embassy in London reports that, 3.3(h)(2)
 although it is impossible to predict what Prime
 Minister Churchill may say in the Washington
 talks about USSR - Western relations, he and

Foreign Secretary Eden have with them a paper, approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, outlining a position which British officials feel is close to that of the United States.

The Embassy reports that this paper views relations with Russia in three stages: (1) the current phase, in which agreement is impossible and during which the West should build up its strength while keeping channels of negotiation open; (2) the period after "parity of strength" is reached, in which limited agreements may be possible; and (3) a period in which the Soviet empire will start crumbling because of its own internal weaknesses.

FAR EAST

2. Plan to remove Burmese Premier reported:

The Burmese Commander in Chief, Ne Win, and 3.3(h)(2)
 leaders of the Burma Socialist Party are
 reliably reported to be planning a bloodless
 coup to remove Premier Thakin Nu from office.
 The action is to be announced on 9 January.

Justification for the coup is said to be documentary evidence that the Premier is plotting with the hill tribes against Ne Win.

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Comment: This report, if correct, means that Ne Win has forsaken his neutral political position which, heretofore, has served to restrain the Socialists from taking precipitate action against Thakin Nu.


The Socialist Party is the majority party in Parliament and has been reported by numerous sources to be maneuvering for several months to replace the non-party Premier. Socialist leaders are strongly inclined to the left and are critical of Thakin Nu's increasingly pro-Western and anti-Communist attitude.

The plotters may hope to reduce the risk of an adverse public reaction to removal of the widely respected Premier by linking him with the hill peoples, for whom the Burmans hold a historical antipathy.

EASTERN EUROPE

3. French Ambassador discounts mass arrests in Czechoslovakia:

3.3(h)(2)

 The French Ambassador in Prague reports that although there has been a number of arrests in connection with the Slansky affair, the numbers cited in the Western press are exaggerated. He points out that the government appears to be proceeding with a purge of individuals rather than with mass arrests. The Ambassador discounts recurrent rumors that the common Jewish origin of many of the arrested persons was responsible for their removal.

Comment: The French Ambassador's opinion agrees with that of the US Embassy in Prague, which estimated that no more than 150 persons had been arrested following Slansky's fall.

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WESTERN EUROPE

4. German church leaders disturbed over Niemoeller trip to Moscow:


 Protestant Church leaders in West Germany, mixed in their reaction to Pastor Niemoeller's current visit to Moscow, point out that the trip will be a substantial Soviet propaganda victory even if the USSR goes no further than to talk about concessions such as the release of German prisoners of war.

3.3(h)(2)

Church officials, wholly surprised by the suddenness of Niemoeller's trip, are not hopeful of great results, but feel that the average churchman with relatives still held in the USSR will be enthusiastic. Niemoeller critics are more than ever convinced that, unwittingly or not, he is playing the Soviet game. Bishop Dibelius, the head of the Protestant Church, although agreeing partially with criticism of the visit, wishes to refrain from public censure in order not to publicize church differences.

Comment: Niemoeller's trip coincides with current Soviet pressure to prevent West German integration with the West. His public statements since the end of the war, particularly his neutralist views, have aroused considerable criticism. In April 1951, after a rebuke from Bishop Dibelius, he stated that he would refrain from political utterances. He has nevertheless continued to speak, with the support of a minority of Evangelical Church leaders.

5. Ireland rejects Mutual Security Act terms:

 Ireland is not prepared to accept the terms of the Mutual Security Act because of the implied involvement in collective Western defense. Although Irish officials hope that projects already approved under ECA will be carried out without a new agreement, they are prepared to sacrifice the financial benefits involved, amounting to about one million dollars, rather than sign the MSA agreement.

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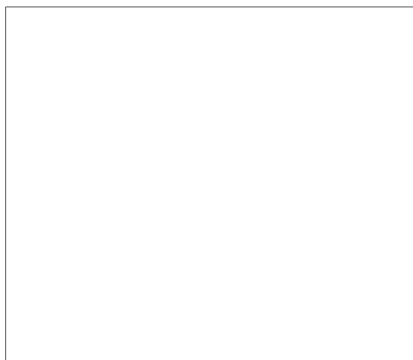
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The Embassy believes that pressure on the Irish Government would be undesirable in view of possible "internal political repercussions."

Comment: The Irish Government replied to the original submission of the MSA agreement with a statement on Partition -- the perennial excuse for not joining Western defense plans -- and a renewed request to buy US arms. The amount of money involved is evidently not enough to make the Irish Government run the risk of domestic political attack for appearing to violate its neutrality policy.

LATIN AMERICA

6. American supply of Chilean copper threatened:



According to a reliable source the Chilean Ambassador in Washington has been instructed by President Gonzalez Videla to inform the United States that any effort to disturb the favorable sale by Chile of its quota of copper produced from American-controlled mines could lead Chile to dispose of its total production. Legislation already passed by the Chamber of Deputies and pending before the Senate would authorize the President to take such action.

3.3(h)(2)

The Chilean Ambassador, as a result of the recent statement on copper by the US Defense Production Administrator, had previously informed his government that the moment was opportune for notifying the United States that any attempt to fix a copper price disadvantageous to Chile could lead the latter to withdraw from the International Materials Conference.

Comment: The US-Chilean copper agreement provides that eighty percent of the large production of US-controlled mines may be purchased by the United States at 27.5 cents per pound, and that

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Chile may freely dispose of the remaining production. The minimum price for "free disposal" copper is 54 cents per pound. Chile accepted the International Materials Conference recommendations on copper allocation only with respect to eighty percent of the large mine production.

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