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SECURITY INFORMATION

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15 May 1952

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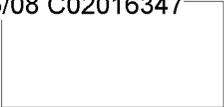
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOVIET UNION

1. Possible presence of jet light bomber aircraft in Soviet Far East:

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	<p>Soviet Far Eastern [redacted] the appearance on 26 April of possible IL-28 twin-jet light bombers in the southern part of the Maritime Military District. [redacted]</p>
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3.3(h)(2)

that one and possibly two aircraft of this type were active in an area 120 miles north of Vladivostok.

Comment: This is the most reliable evidence of the presence of Soviet jet light bombers in the Far East. There is no evidence that such aircraft are permanently stationed in the area.

FAR EAST

2. More effective Communist training with AA rockets reported in Korea:

	<p>A garbled and fragmentary Chinese Communist message of 4 May states that an unidentified Communist unit commenced anti-aircraft firing on 3 May with equipment tentatively identified by translation as "rocket launchers." The unit reported that it expended rounds of ammunition at various altitudes from 10,800 to 24,600 feet. The message stated further that two of the launchers "performed splendidly" and that it was estimated that "we either hit and damaged or hit and dropped" each of the targets.</p>
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3.3(h)(2)

Comment: [redacted]

[redacted] the Communist forces are training with AA rockets possessing vertical range and accuracy characteristics in excess of those of any known Soviet or Chinese rocket. During the last three months, there have been a series of sightings of Communist AA rockets at steadily increasing vertical ranges, but this is the first indication of a ground-launched rocket attaining 24,600 feet.

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The USAF reports that rockets directed against UN aircraft to date have been ineffective and inaccurate. [redacted] suggests that the enemy may have new equipment which will increase his AA capability.

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3. Japanese deny visas to Soviet nationals:

[redacted] The Japanese Foreign Office requested the Japanese embassy and consulates in the United States on 30 April to suspend issuing entry and transit visas to Soviet nationals.

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: The Japanese Government has also refused to extend diplomatic privileges to the Soviet Mission in Tokyo, has rejected recent Soviet trade offers, and has been unwilling to sell real estate in Japan to the USSR. These decisions may indicate a government intention to avoid all relations with the USSR until the latter moves to settle outstanding mutual problems such as fisheries, repatriation and the regularization of future relations.

SOUTH ASIA

4. Comment on new Indian Cabinet:

Cabinet changes announced by Prime Minister Nehru on 13 May suggest that somewhat abler executives have been placed in certain key posts, but that no major revisions of Indian domestic or foreign policies are foreshadowed. There are six newcomers in the cabinet, while several of its older members have shifted positions.

Home Minister Katju is a respected Congress Party member of long standing, friendly to the United States. Defense Minister Ayyangar [redacted] but he replaces a much less competent man. He may be expected to reflect the Prime Minister's views on defense. Kidwai probably brings greater administrative ability to his post as Food Minister than his predecessor, but there is little reason to believe that he will be more successful.

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

5. Health of Jordan's King is deteriorating:

The health of King Talal of Jordan has seriously deteriorated,

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The King's mental state has become so serious that the Prime Minister is trying to persuade him to go to Switzerland for medical treatment. The Prime Minister hopes that Talal may somehow continue in power at least until May 1953, when the Crown Prince comes of age.

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: There have been other reports in past months that Talal's mental health has been poor. Should he not be able to carry on as King until his son takes over, Jordan would be ruled either by a council appointed by the Council of Ministers or by a regency. Talal's younger brother, Prince Naif, who was Regent for a short time after King Abdullah's death, may try to re-enter the picture.

6. Ankara complains of anti-Turkish propaganda in Arab states:

The Turkish Foreign Minister on 9 May told Ambassador McGhee emphatically that anti-Turkish propaganda in certain Arab states was being inspired by "friends," presumably British in the case of Iraq. He added that such action was against the common interest, but that Turkey did not intend to lodge a protest or to make it a public issue.

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Comment: Turkish Foreign Office officials have previously expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of cooperation on Middle East defense planning from the British and particularly from the French in Damascus. British and French officials in Syria have not favored a Turkish plan to train Syrian officers in Turkey.

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WESTERN EUROPE

7. Communists sponsor international conference against German agreements 3.3(h)(2)

 A Communist-sponsored international conference "for the peaceful solution of the German problem" is scheduled to meet in Paris from 13 to 15 June. Representatives from all Western European countries, including German Pastor Niemoeller, and delegates from Poland and Czechoslovakia are allegedly planning to attend.

The American Embassy in Paris believes that the preponderance of professors and theologians among the foreign representatives suggests that many are not aware of the actual nature of the conference.

Comment: This conference, which is being widely publicized by the French Communist press, undoubtedly will challenge the legality of the contractual agreements scheduled to be signed late this month between the Western powers and Germany.

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