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SECURITY INFORMATION

3 May 1953

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Hooper

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Copy No. 80

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 31
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C 2009
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE 12/21/77 REVIEWER: [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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~~TOP SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

~~TOP SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

SUMMARY

GENERAL

- 1. May Day celebrations emphasize peace (page 3).

FAR EAST

- 2. Long detention of Korean war prisoners might reduce opposition to repatriation (page 3).
- 3. Peiping propaganda may be designed to deter Thailand from aiding French (page 4).

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- 4. 3.3(h)(2)

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

- 5. 3.3(h)(2)

EASTERN EUROPE

- 6. Religious orders to be abolished in Czechoslovakia (page 6).

LATIN AMERICA

- 7. Deposed Cuban president plans early revolt (page 7).

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SECURITY INFORMATION

GENERAL

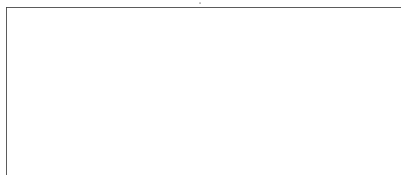
1. May Day celebrations emphasize peace:

May Day celebrations throughout the Communist Orbit played down the past theme of military strength and stressed instead the current campaign of conciliation. Major speeches offered no concessions on any important issues and left the current state of divisive issues between East and West essentially unchanged.

Editorials and speeches from Moscow reiterated the collective character of the new Soviet Government. In Communist China, contrary to the past practice of featuring Stalin along with Mao, Malenkov and other Soviet leaders were given secondary rank following portraits of Mao and his lieutenants.

FAR EAST

2. Long detention of Korean war prisoners might reduce opposition to repatriation:



Ambassador Briggs fears that a long detention^{3.3(h)(2)} of Communist prisoners now unwilling to be repatriated might cause many of them to change their minds. He notes that this would create serious embarrassment for the United States and a propaganda victory for the Communists.

Briggs recommends that the Chinese and North Korean prisoners be handled separately. He urges that the neutral trustee be given the power of final decision, making possible a speedy transfer to South Korean authorities of the 32,000 North Koreans who are opposed to repatriation. He also suggests that the Chinese prisoners, most of whom say they want to go to Formosa, be retained initially in Korea. He fears that an attempt to send them elsewhere would make them apprehensive that eventually they would be returned to Communist control.

- 3 -

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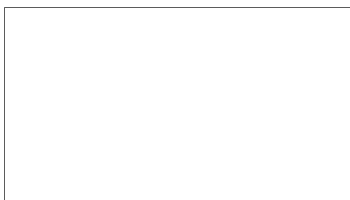
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SECURITY INFORMATION

Comment: President Rhee informed General Clark on 27 April that his people would never permit removal of North Korean prisoners from Korea, and that the prisoners themselves would resist it. Although Chou En-lai appeared interested last October in a distinction between Chinese and Korean prisoners, Peiping now insists that all prisoners must be physically removed from Korea so as to free them from "apprehensions."

3. Peiping propaganda may be designed to deter Thailand from aiding French:



The American consul general at Hong Kong believes that recent Chinese Communist propaganda attacks on Thailand, alleging Thai military aid to the French, are designed both to deter the Thais from giving aid to Laos and to prepare the ground for possible future action against Thailand from Laos.

3.3(h)(2)

He comments that there is no doubt that the Chinese Communists intend eventually to bring about the downfall of the Thai Government, but he does not foresee any early Chinese military action.

Comment: The Chinese Communist press, after failing to mention the Laos invasion until 29 April, now reports it as the work of a "Laotian People's Liberation Army."

As yet no "liberation" movement has developed in Thailand for Peiping to support. The "Thai Autonomous Government" established in Southwest China last February can be used in a long-range program to subvert the Thai Government.

- 4 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

3.5(c)

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SECURITY INFORMATION

SOUTHEAST ASIA

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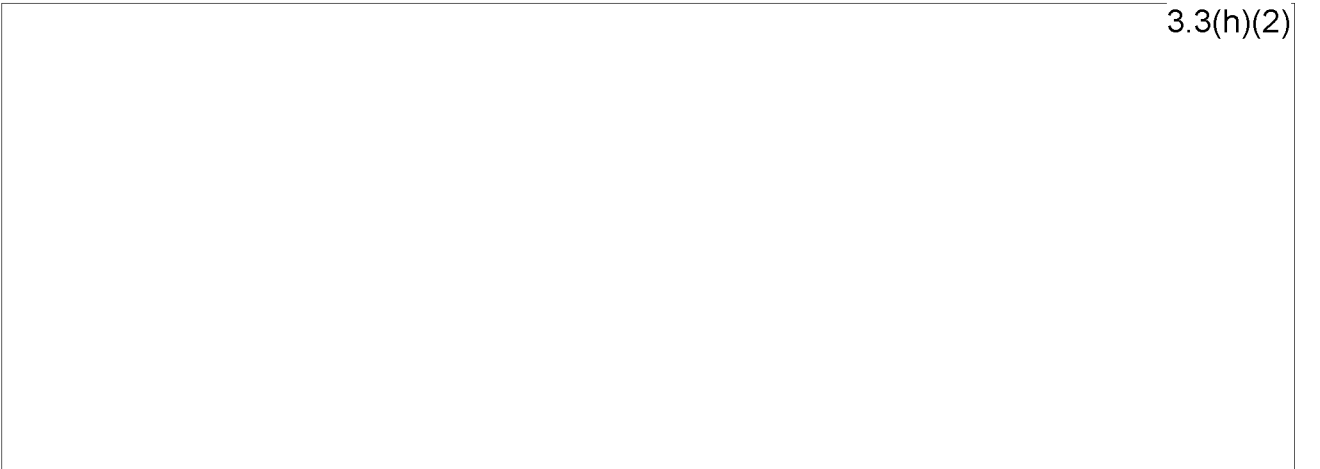
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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

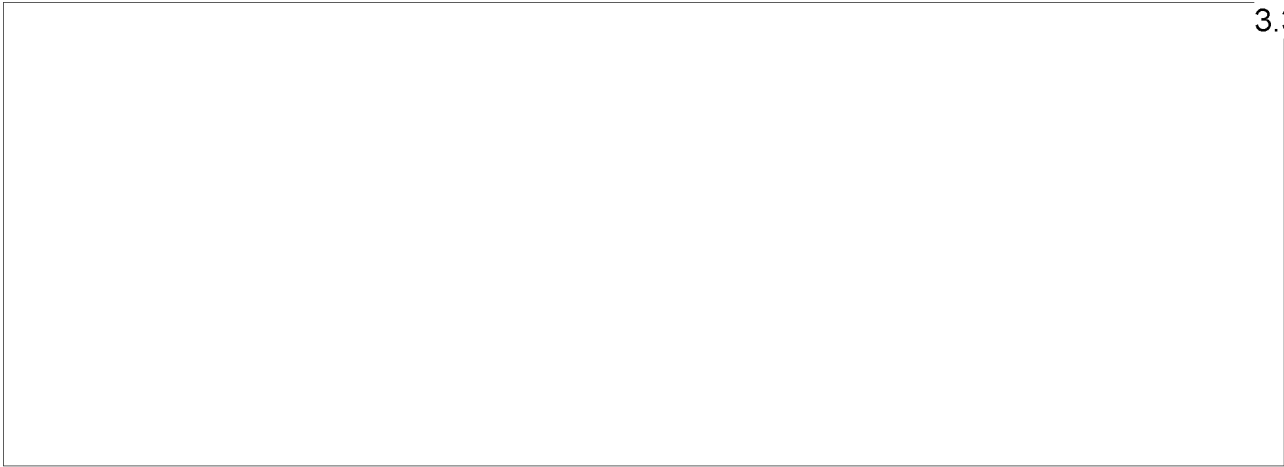
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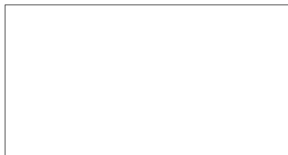
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SECURITY INFORMATION



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EASTERN EUROPE

6. Religious orders to be abolished in Czechoslovakia:



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all orders of monks and nuns in monasteries, hospitals, and other charitable institutions will be officially abolished in the near future. The disbanding of religious groups is to be conducted by "persuasive" means and members of the orders will be encouraged to enter civilian pursuits.



3.3(h)(2)

Comment: The effort to recruit monks and nuns for work abroad as collaborators illustrates the scope of State Security Police activities outside Czechoslovakia. The Security Police have compiled lists of all aliens residing in Czechoslovakia, particularly Americans, and indicated that certain of these were being considered for collaboration work abroad.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

LATIN AMERICA**7. Deposed Cuban president plans early revolt:**

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Comment: Ever since his ouster in March 1952, Prio has been planning a return to power. He reportedly has spent considerable sums acquiring war materiel, built up his forces in Cuba and abroad, and directed operations from Mexico City and Miami.

Present plans reportedly call for an armed revolt by conspiratorial groups within Cuba who will then be joined by invasion forces, containing Caribbean Legion elements, from Mexico and Guatemala.

Such a counterrevolutionary effort probably could not take place without Batista's knowledge and would lead only to bloodshed and failure.

- 7 -

~~TOP SECRET~~ []

3.5(c)