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SECURITY INFORMATION

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GENERAL

1. Russian newspapermen emphasize need for Eisenhower-Stalin meeting:

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reporters emphasized the necessity of an Eisenhower-Stalin meeting. They pointed out the need for secrecy in the preparations, intimating that the British and French should be excluded.

[Redacted]

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: Soviet UN delegate Zorin, referring to the Reston letter to Stalin as "obviously inspired" and as mentioning a "new approach" to peace in Korea, recently stated that the Soviet Government would be interested in learning what the United States had in mind. Other Communist officials have hinted indirectly at the importance of Stalin's indication that he would welcome a meeting with Eisenhower.

2. Western tires transshipped to China via Lebanon:

[Redacted]

A shipment of 784 sets of Western truck tires from a Lebanese firm was included in the cargo of two Polish-flag ships en route to China in December, [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Comment: [Redacted]

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[Redacted] Lebanon is being used as a transshipment center for goods destined for Communist China.

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SOVIET UNION

3. Soviet civilian guard functions transferred to MGB:

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[REDACTED] a widespread reorganization of the civilian guard system of various ministries throughout the USSR. It is believed that this responsibility has now been transferred to the Chief Directorate of Militia. The guards presumably will be given other work within their respective ministries, released to the Ministry of Labor reserves, or transferred to the Militia.

Comment: Transfer of this function to the Militia would be a further step in the trend toward centralization of all internal police powers in the Ministry of State Security.

Heretofore the responsibility of guarding the various industrial installations in the USSR has been the duty of the ministry concerned with the particular enterprise.

4. GCI equipment possibly employed in Chukotsk:

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[REDACTED]

Comment: Soviet air defense capabilities in the Chukotsk would be greatly improved by the efficient employment of GCI equipment.

Other recently noted evidence of strengthened air defenses in this area includes the deployment of jet fighters to Provideniya and the improvement of air defense communications,

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FAR EAST

5. Troop strength in South China may have been reduced:

The American Consul General at Hong Kong believes that many Chinese Communist troop movements in South China coastal areas are intended to conceal a lack of strength further inland. He cites apparently unnecessary movements of troops along the border of Hong Kong and Macao as evidence of some sort of deceptive plan,

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: There are indications that Chinese Communist troop strength along the South China coast has been greatly reduced in recent months. At least three of the armies stationed in Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces in early 1952 have recently been reported in Korea. Another Chinese Communist Army completed a move from the mainland to Hainan Island last fall.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

6. Mossadeq reportedly optimistic over oil settlement:

Minister of Court Ala told Ambassador Henderson on 18 January that Prime Minister Mossadeq was optimistic over progress toward an oil settlement, but that he was disturbed by internal political squabbling.

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Ala stated that the Shah's relations with Mossadeq have improved and that the Shah believes an oil settlement with him would have more authority than one with another Prime Minister.

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Comment: It is unlikely that an oil settlement will soon be reached. Mossadeq's distrust of the British and of his political opposition will lead him to a minute examination of plans to end the dispute lest they appear to contain concessions which could be used against him.

WESTERN EUROPE

7. Icelandic Foreign Minister postpones negotiations on military facilities:

 The Icelandic Foreign Minister has concluded that it would be unwise to grant the United States request for additional military facilities before the general elections in June. He is convinced that any pre-election concessions would "materially" strengthen the Communist Party.

3.3(h)(2)

American Minister Lawson believes that any further protests by him would avail little and that a last resort approach through NATO is "decidedly questionable."

Comment: The Communists, who control about 20 percent of the electorate, consistently try to exploit the widespread xenophobia of the Icelanders. Communist influence and strength is furthered by the fact that the Social Democrats enjoy little support from labor.

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