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SECURITY INFORMATION

23 June 1953

US OFFICIALS ONLY

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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FAR EAST

1. South Korean prime minister indicates no European support for Korea:



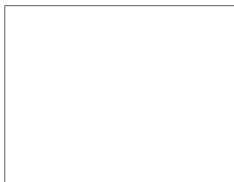
South Korean prime minister Paek Tu-chin 3.3(h)(2)
intends to inform President Rhee that no
European support for the Republic of Korea
is possible, and that he can depend only on
the United States for support. He also told Ambassador Allison and
General Clark in Tokyo that he fully understands that the United States
is firmly determined to complete the armistice agreement.

Paek emphasized that conflict between South
Korea and the United States is inconceivable and must not be permitted.

Comment: Paek has been in Europe during
most of the recent period of agitation against the armistice, and his
return to Korea may have some moderating influence on President
Rhee's attitude. Paek, a highly capable financial administrator, re-
portedly holds the respect and confidence of Rhee.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

2. Vietnam army seen poorly prepared against enemy infiltration:




Adequate measures have not been taken to 3.3(h)(2)
guard against Viet Minh infiltration of regular
Vietnamese army battalions now being formed,



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 the former French commander, General Salan, had opposed the
training of counterespionage units within the Vietnamese army, fearing
they would work more against the French than the Viet Minh. The new
command shares this fear but, in view of the critical situation, has ap-
proved the initiation of such training.

Comment: The problem of the loyalty of the
Vietnamese army has a considerably wider scope than the mere appre-
hension of enemy agents. The troops, being under French command

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and uncertain whether they are being used to further Vietnamese interests, are generally susceptible to subversion.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

3. Comment on proposed Syrian constitution:

The proclamation by General Shishakli that Syrians will vote on a new constitution on 10 July is an effort to reduce domestic criticism and to acquire respectability abroad. It will not vitally affect Shishakli's position or Syria's generally pro-Western orientation.

This constitution, the fourth since Syria was separated from the Ottoman Empire after World War I, probably has no more chance of survival than its predecessors. The first two failed because of Syrian-French discord, and political immaturity wrecked the third. The fourth is tied to Shishakli, a military dictator who has not achieved popular support.

4.



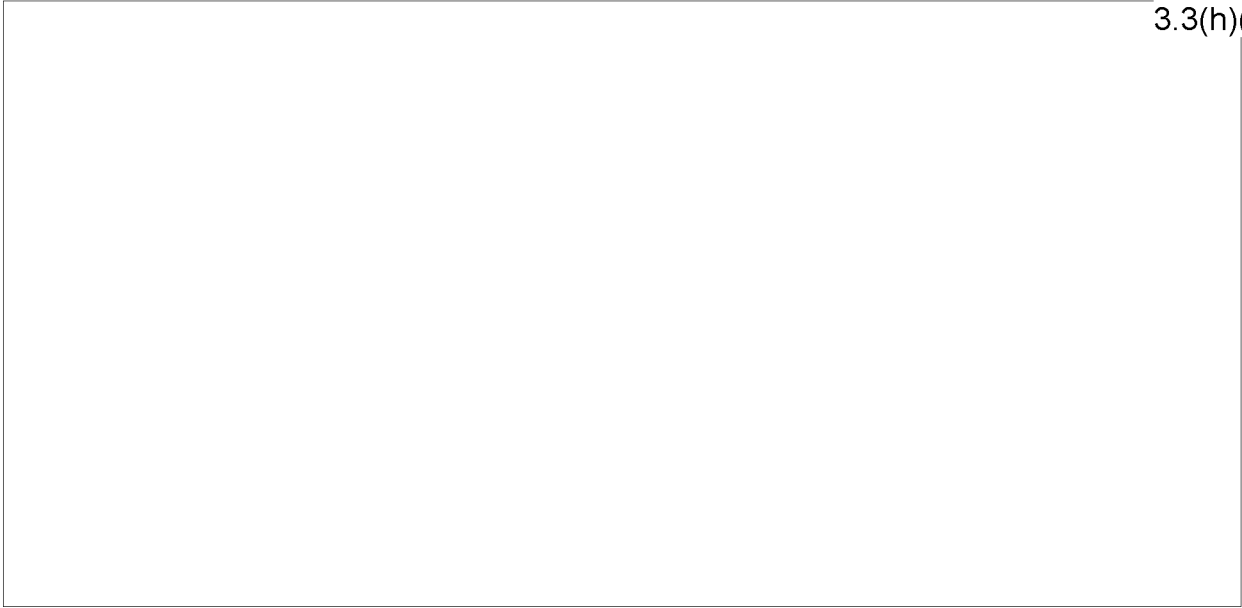
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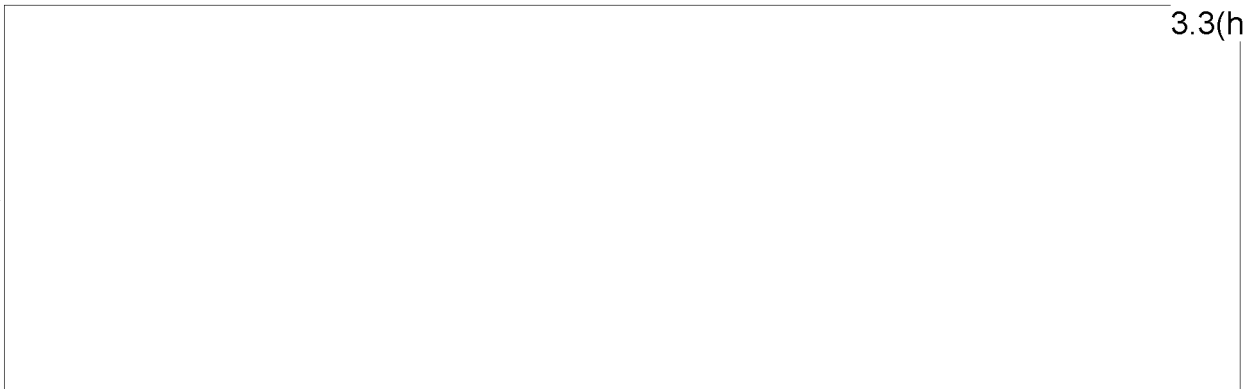
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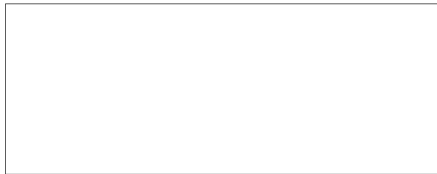
6. Egypt reportedly trying to prevent Libyan-Western base agreements:

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Comment: Egypt is in no position to offer substantial economic assistance to Libya, but there are indications that the Egyptians have convinced Libyan advisers to King Idriss of Cairo's intention to give aid. Such efforts will encourage Libya's tendency to delay agreements with the West and enlarge its demands for Western financing.

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American officials in Berlin believe that the riots in East Germany have increased Communist recognition of the need to slow the tempo of socialization and to meet popular demands. They expect the government to make an example of "foreign agents" and ringleaders, with strict punishments, while announcing specific new benefits for the "misled" workers.

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The officials believe there will be a serious attempt to improve the living standard of the whole population, with the top economic priority assigned to consumers' goods at the expense of heavy industry.

Comment: Concessions since the rioting, together with numerous announcements of the implementation of the new conciliatory policy, indicate that further economic benefits for all classes can be expected.

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