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11 July 1956

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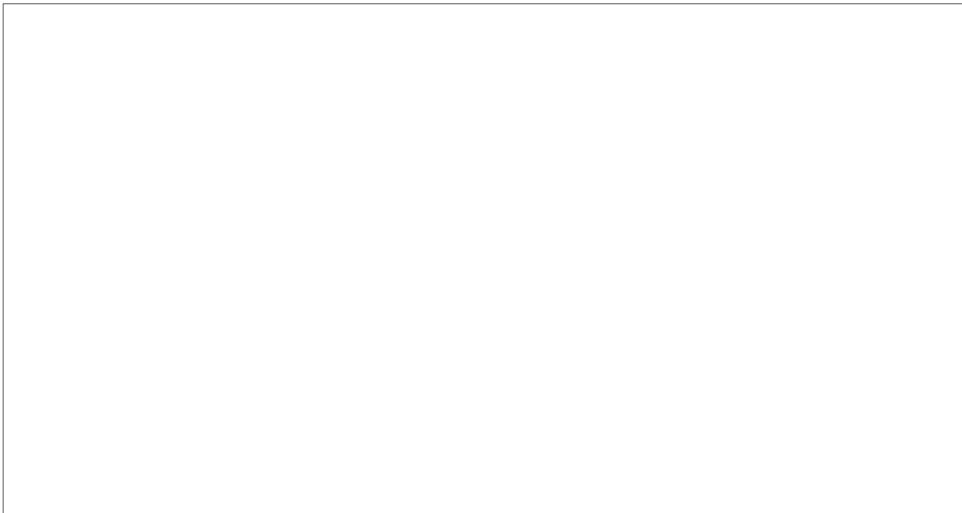
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1. SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT POSSIBLY ILL

[redacted] A report from the American air attaché in South Korea suggests that President Rhee is ill, and that this fact is being withheld from even his close associates. The attaché reports that on 7 July he was the only person allowed to greet the president prior to flying him out of Seoul, and that unusual precautions were taken to shield the president from the view of onlookers. The attaché states that Rhee's face was badly swollen, and that both his physical and mental condition appeared poorer than at any time in the past two years.

Comment

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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**2. EAST GERMAN PARTY BOSS ULBRICHT
RUMORED PURGED**

[redacted] [redacted], rumors are circulating that First Secretary Ulbricht and Justice Minister Benjamin have been removed from their posts and arrested.

Comment Even though Ulbricht is widely hated in the party, there appears to be little possibility that internal opposition alone could bring about his downfall, since he is in firm control of the regime, including the secret police and armed forces. [redacted]

[redacted]

Benjamin was recently under fire for her connection with past trials and sentences in East Germany which are now being repudiated.

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3. EXPULSION OF LIBERAL PARTY LEADERS MAY BRING DISTURBANCES IN HONDURAS

[REDACTED] Acting with the approval of his cabinet, Honduran chief of state Lozano on 9 July exiled to Guatemala Liberal Party chief Villeda Morales and two other Liberal leaders, Francisco Milla Bermudez and Oscar Flores. This action reportedly followed Milla Bermudez's attempt to promote a general strike for 25 July. A

[REDACTED] number of student arrests reportedly were ordered after students voted to begin a three-day strike on 9 July.

[REDACTED]

Comment

The Liberal Party, with Villeda as its presidential candidate, polled 48 percent of the vote in the 1954 elections. Since May 1956 Villeda's Communist-influenced faction of the party has been increasingly aggressive in attacks on the government. A threatened general strike in mid-June was probably promoted by Villeda and Gonzalo Carias, son of an ex-dictator, who apparently have a working agreement to oust Lozano.

Key armed forces officials declared their loyalty to the Lozano government on 13 June.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 10 July)

Secretary General Hammarskjold has announced that he will visit Jerusalem on 19-20 July, and Cairo on 21-22 July. (Press)

The American air attaché in Moscow reported on 7 July that [redacted] 9 submarines, 6 destroyers and 60 coastal and mine vessels are scheduled for delivery to Egypt by the Soviet bloc. [redacted] 3 subs, 3 destroyers and 4 coastal mine layers have already arrived in Egypt. On 10 July a Cairo paper with official connections stated that Egypt is to receive "several" submarines from abroad within the next few days. No submarines are known to have been delivered to Egypt, however, although they are reportedly involved in the Soviet bloc arms deal. Egypt is known to have received 2 destroyers and 4 coastal mine sweepers from the Soviet bloc. [redacted]

[redacted]

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