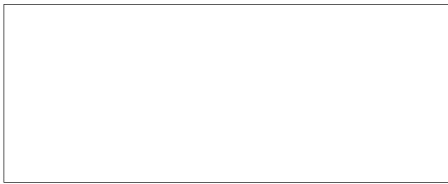


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25 August 1956

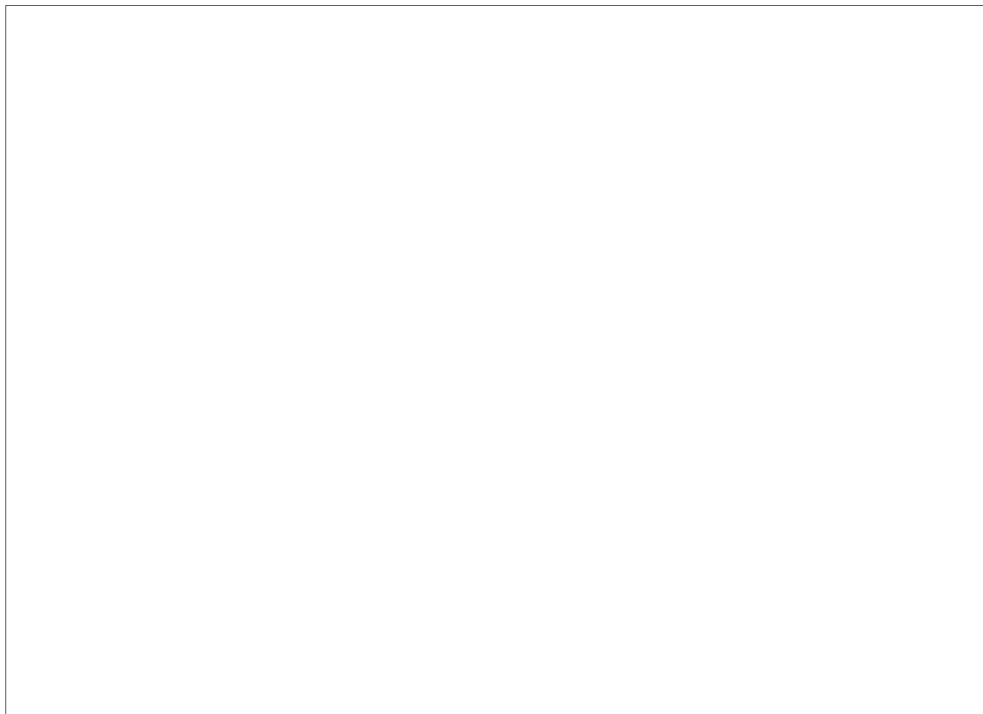


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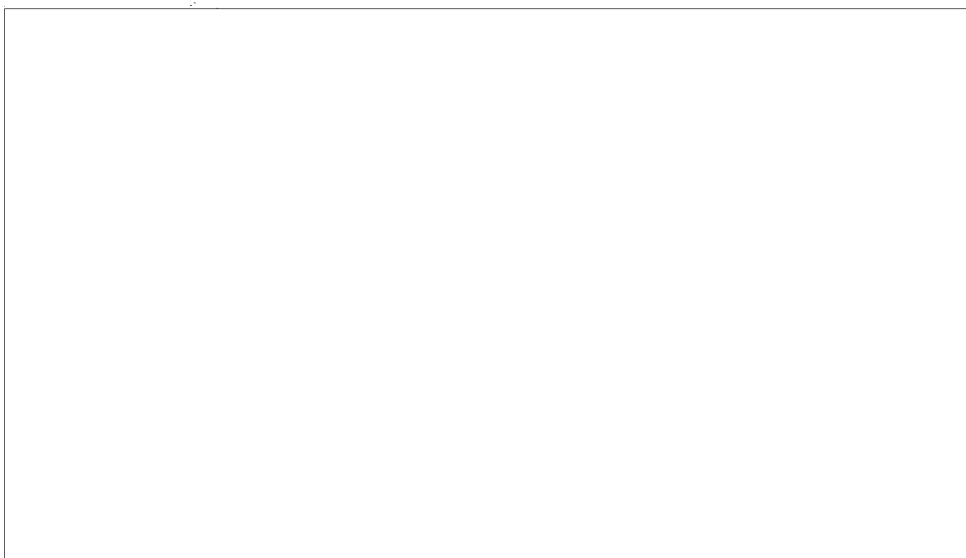
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CONTENTS

1. CAIRO REPORTEDLY REVISES OPINION OF US ROLE
IN SUEZ CRISIS [redacted] (page 3).

2. PARTY MODERATES MAY REPLACE GERO IN HUNGARY
[redacted] (page 4).

3. THAI PREMIER MAKES STRONG PLEA FOR INCREASED
US AID [redacted] (page 5).

4. JAPAN THREATENS ACTION WHICH WOULD WEAKEN
CHINA EMBARGO [redacted] (page 6).

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
[redacted] (page 7)

25 Aug 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 2

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. CAIRO REPORTEDLY REVISES OPINION OF US ROLE IN SUEZ CRISIS

[REDACTED]

The Egyptian government within the past three days has revised its opinion regarding the role being played by the United States in the Suez situation and has concluded that American leadership in the London conference established the basis for future French and British military action, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Egyptian source. The Egyptians still believe the United States would not participate in such action, but they now feel American material and moral support would be given.

[REDACTED] a tendency in Cairo as of 23 August to blame the United States for what the Egyptians consider an unfavorable turn in developments at the London conference. There were indications that the regime was about to give the signal for a press attack on the United States to replace the relatively friendly treatment accorded previously. [REDACTED]

Comment

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The United States had been portrayed since the crisis began as the major restraining force on the British and French.

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2. PARTY MODERATES MAY REPLACE GERO IN HUNGARY

[redacted] The position of Erno Gero as leader of the Hungarian Communist Party is "transitory," [redacted]

[redacted] Nagy would re-join the party on the basis of a compromise, in which the party will admit that Rakosi, in 1955, was guilty of injustice against Nagy, while Nagy will agree to revise his "extremist" views.

Comment


A recent article in the Yugoslav newspaper Borba implied that Nagy already has been readmitted to the party, and added that the process developing in Hungary demands his complete rehabilitation. The return of Nagy to public life would be viewed by the moderates as favorable to their efforts to speed liberalization, and welcomed by the local population who remember Nagy's milder economic policies.

The appointment of the doctrinaire Gero to replace Rakosi in July probably was designed to restrain moderate elements within the party during the initial stages of policy transformation. A more popular leadership, presumably formed from the moderate elements within the party, would be essential for a lasting solution of the problem of party factionalism and in order to gain some popular support for the regime.

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3. THAI PREMIER MAKES STRONG PLEA FOR INCREASED US AID

 Premier Phibun, on the occasion of a courtesy call of Ambassador Bishop and American aid officials in Bangkok on 20 August, said that Thailand must have increased American economic assistance in the training of skilled labor, in the development of communications facilities, and in the development of electric power.

Bishop points out that Phibun previously had always left to his subordinates the discussion of aid problems. In the ambassador's opinion, Phibun's vigorous and detailed presentation of Thailand's aid requirements on this occasion indicates the Thai government is now determined to test American intentions regarding increased assistance.

Comment

During the past six months, Thai officials and the press have complained that the American aid program has placed too much emphasis on military assistance. Thai officials, moreover, have complained that America gives more aid to neutrals than to Thailand.

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4. JAPAN THREATENS ACTION WHICH WOULD WEAKEN CHINA EMBARGO

[REDACTED] Japan will soon follow the British lead in liberal use of the exceptions procedure for trade with Communist China unless immediate action is

taken to obtain uniform observance of the embargo. Shigeto Nikai, chief of the COCOM section in the Japanese Foreign Ministry, has told American officials that Japan recognizes this move would probably lead to the elimination of the embargo.

Nikai said that Japanese trade representatives in China had recently informed the Foreign Ministry that British and French commercial agents are offering to sell China a wide range of commodities on the China differential list. Nikai said that his government might not long be able to maintain a firm line on the China embargo.

Comment

Peiping is pressuring Japan to dissociate itself from the American position on the China embargo and is trying to draw Tokyo into closer trade relations. Although China's ability to obtain embargoed items from Britain and France may be exaggerated, the argument will have a telling effect on the Japanese business community. [REDACTED]

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 24 August)

Two Israeli soldiers were wounded in a clash with Egyptian forces near Kissufim in the Gaza strip. This follows another clash on 23 August in the same area. (Press)

The American air attaché in Cairo reports that 19 IL-28 Soviet light bombers, purchased by Egypt from the Soviet bloc, were observed at Luxor airport, about 350 miles south of Cairo. The attaché states that the bombers were probably moved from Cairo West airport.

The American embassy in Amman reports that previous Jordanian claims regarding Israeli mobilization and preparations for war have been partly based on reports acquired by a new intelligence net set up after the ouster of General Glubb. The net is headed by inexperienced officers who, under pressure to supply information, are in contact with a very large number of new sources, many unreliable and discredited by older intelligence networks. The embassy comments that one result of this will probably be continued alarmist reports from Jordan regarding Israeli preparations for war.

According to the American air attaché in Baghdad, Iraq is trying to obtain 10 Mark VI Hunter fighter aircraft for its air force. Iraq has also selected 10 jet-trained pilots to go to the United Kingdom for several months' training on the Hunters. Iraq now has 23 jet fighters.

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