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4 December 1956



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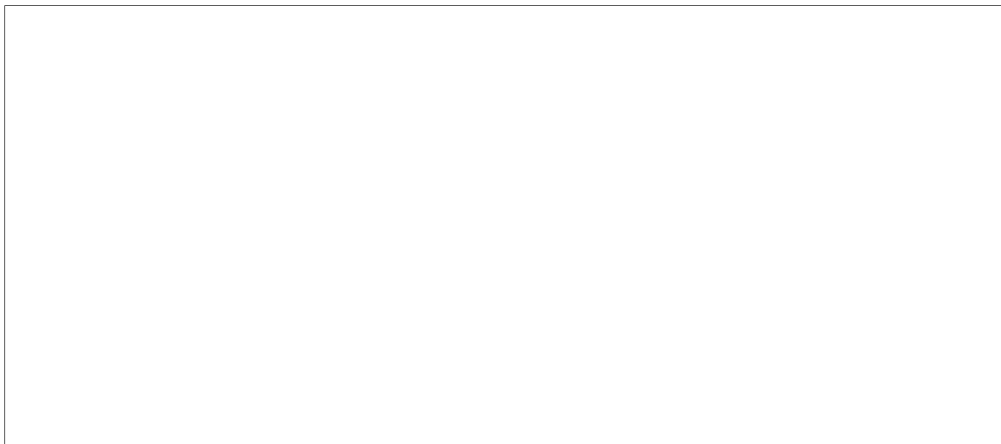
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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

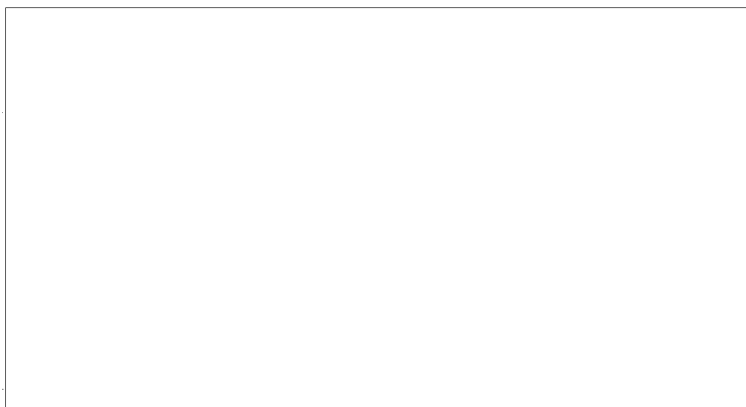
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1. BRITISH AND FRENCH ANNOUNCE DECISION TO WITHDRAW FORCES FROM EGYPT



Foreign Secretary Lloyd and Foreign Minister Pineau have announced that Britain and France will withdraw their troops from the Suez Canal zone "without delay." Lloyd told the American embassy in London on 2 December that the French were opposed to announcing a specific date for completion of the withdrawal, but that Secretary General Hammarskjold was being informed that the withdrawal would be finished by 18 December.

Lloyd told the embassy that the Conservative government "may well fall" because of the decision. He indicated that he was "less than sanguine" about the results of the cabinet's week-end efforts to marshal its parliamentary support. In this connection, Lloyd stated that it would be helpful if the UN could utilize some of the canal clearing equipment assembled by Britain and France.

Comment

Lloyd's tone suggests that the cabinet group now handling affairs doubts that it can continue in office much longer. The French government has indicated it still hopes to delay completion of the withdrawal to ease its position in the foreign policy debate scheduled to begin 18 December.

The Nasr regime, while hailing the Anglo-French announcement as a victory for Egypt, is likely to continue pressing for a public commitment on a specific withdrawal deadline before agreeing to canal clearing operations by the UN. Its propaganda in this respect will make the British Conservatives' problem still more difficult.

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2. SYRIAN ARMY OFFICERS PLANNING COUP IN IRAQ

[REDACTED] Some Syrian army officers are trying to instigate a military coup by the Iraqi army, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The coup was expected "shortly." [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Syrians had told the Iraqi officers with whom they were in contact that they could enter the Syrian army if the coup failed.

Comment

Army discontent with the Nuri government is particularly widespread among the junior officers. Some officers are probably thinking in terms of a coup in the present unsettled situation.

Prime Minister Nuri Said is, however, fully aware of the threat. In mid-November, some 40 army officers were arrested for antigovernment activities. Nuri is reported to have placed loyal officers in all key army positions, and every army unit down to platoon level reportedly has a member of the Iraqi G-2 serving as an informer.

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3. FRENCH DISCOUNT SHISHAKLI'S COUP CAPABILITIES IN SYRIA

[REDACTED] A French mission which was sent to Syria to examine the possibilities of a successful coup in Syria by former dictator Shishakli has returned to France believing that he "now has no supporters

left in Syria," [REDACTED]

Comment

French foreign minister Pineau told Ambassador Lodge on 14 November that the British and French were in touch with Shishakli and that France favored an autonomous Syria under the former leader, probably the last major political asset the French had there.

Shishakli, who has lived in Paris since his ouster in February 1954, has been involved in various conspiracies aimed at reversing the leftist drift in Syria, including an Iraqi attempt. The Iraqis, however, appear to have dropped him too. Reports of Shishakli's most recent visit to the area support the French mission's evaluation of his strength.

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4. CHOU DISCUSSES AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY WITH NEHRU

Conversations between Chou En-lai and Prime Minister Nehru have been devoted primarily to discussions of US foreign policy and Soviet policy in Eastern Europe,

Chou argued that US policy has undergone no basic change. As evidence he pointed out that the American attitude in the ambassadorial-level meetings at Geneva remains the same.

Chou told Nehru that public unrest and revolt in Eastern Europe were the result of mistakes on the part of both Soviet and Satellite leaders. He emphasized that it would be difficult for the USSR to consider withdrawing its troops from Eastern Europe unless Moscow had assurance that American troops would be pulled out of Western Europe.

Nehru differed with Chou on both problems. The Indian leader argued that Washington's foreign policy had changed, citing among other things the American stand on Suez at the UN. Nehru saw the unrest in the Eastern European Satellites as a genuine expression of majority opinion, instead of counterrevolutionary activity as claimed by Chou.

Comment The trend of these discussions suggests that Chou is seeking to encourage further efforts by Nehru to foster a rapprochement between Communist China and the United States during his coming visit to Washington--probably in the expectation that an American rebuff would damage US prestige with the Afro-Asian nations.

Chou and Nehru did not explore the Sino-Indian border situation in detail in their first round of talks, although there was a brief discussion of Peiping's boundary dispute with Burma. Discussion of the Indian border question,

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reported earlier as a subject of great interest to New Delhi, may have been deferred until Chou's next meeting with the Indian leader on 29 December after Nehru has returned from Washington.

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5. POLISH COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY SEEK CONTACTS WITH SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Polish United Workers' (Communist) Party (PZPR) wants close contact with the Socialist International. He said that former Polish Socialists who had never joined the PZPR were now doing so and that many now held important posts. He thought that most PZPR members were no longer Marxist-Leninist in outlook but "reformist in the Western sense!" [REDACTED]

Comment Although the Soviet Union has been interested in improving bloc relations with individual Socialist parties, it is less likely to favor bloc relations with the Socialist International, particularly in the case of Poland.

 The Gomulka regime has openly encouraged Socialist participation in party affairs as a means of winning additional popular favor, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

 Leaders of the Socialist International will probably want to encourage any signs of independence within the Soviet bloc, but they have in general discouraged formal Socialist-Communist contacts. Last September they postponed indefinitely the question of establishing ties with the Yugoslav party.

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6. FRENCH ENVOY PREDICTS UPHEAVAL IN BULGARIA




The French Foreign Ministry believes Bulgaria is "ripe for troubles and will probably be the next Satellite to blow up!" According to the French minister in

Sofia, arrests have taken place, although on a smaller scale than rumored, and at least one concentration camp has been reopened. The minister reports that the Yugoslav ambassador in Bulgaria estimates the number arrested at 1,200, with 300 of these in Sofia.

Comment

Discontent among workers, students and intellectuals is reportedly widespread,

There is no indication, however, that these dissident elements have gained control of organizations similar to those through which Polish and Hungarian dissidents operated.

Although some factionalism exists at the middle and upper levels of the party, it does not appear to be sufficiently strong to challenge party leaders, who are making a determined effort to control the situation through arrests and minor economic concessions. Premier Yugov reiterated on 1 December the necessity for continuing the present ideological indoctrination, which he admitted was being opposed by elements among Bulgarian youth. 

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[REDACTED] New uprisings in North Vietnam similar to the recent riots near Vinh are considered likely in the near future, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Popular discontent is allegedly very strong in the vicinity of Haiphong, North Vietnam's primary port. [REDACTED] heavy taxation seems to be the main complaint and that there appears to be a willingness to risk harsh repression in case of an uprising because "nothing could be worse" than present conditions. "How can I get to South Vietnam?" is the most common question asked of foreigners.

[REDACTED] the regular army appears loyal to the regime, which is very attentive to the welfare of the troops. [REDACTED]

Comment

While new outbreaks during the next few months are quite possible, Hanoi appears confident of the army's ability to keep the situation from getting out of hand. Nevertheless, the apparent inability of the Communists to consolidate their control over the population or to obtain Vietnamese unification foreshadows continued severe internal problems for the Viet Minh leadership.

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