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10 March 1957



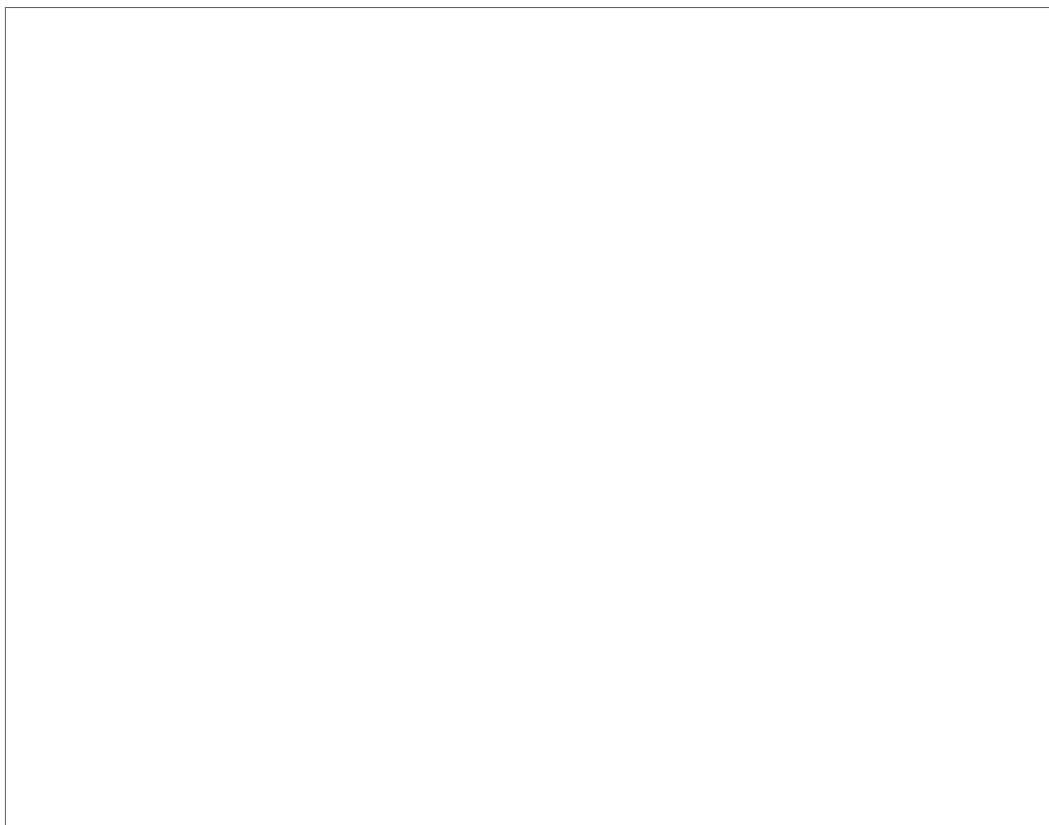
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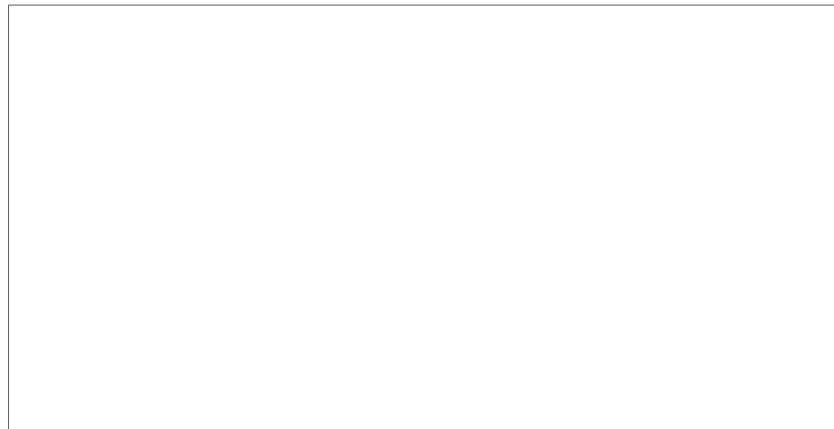
# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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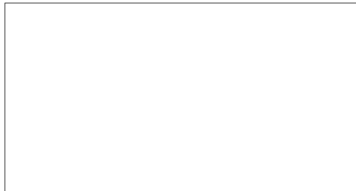
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1. ISRAELIS ROUTE SHIPPING TO TEST PASSAGE OF  
SUEZ AND AQABA




The American embassy in Tel Aviv reports that the Israeli government apparently has decided to route merchant shipping under Israeli charter through the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba in the near future. The well-informed Jerusalem Post stated on 8 March that the "highest authority in the government" has ordered the Commerce Ministry to re-route the Danish freighter Brigitte Toft from South Africa to Eilat via the Tiran Straits instead of to Haifa.

According to another Israeli press statement, the government will attempt "next month" to send another merchant vessel from Haifa to Burma via the Suez Canal.

Comment

According to a press statement ascribed to an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman, the Brigitte Toft is scheduled to arrive at Eilat about 20 March. The attempt to send this vessel through the Tiran Straits would be in line with Israeli foreign minister Meir's statement to the UN secretary general on 5 March that Israel would exercise "next week" its right to navigate the gulf freely.

Egyptian press and government spokesmen have insisted that the Suez Canal is still barred to Israeli shipping, but President Nasr, in an interview on 9 March, reportedly stated, "We have not decided on this issue yet." 

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## 2. JAVANESE OFFICER IN EAST INDONESIA SUGGESTS COUNTERCOUP

[redacted]

Colonel Sudirman, Javanese operational commander in Celebes, has resigned, [redacted]

[redacted] apparently from Sudirman's successor, to the army commander in East Java. This officer pointed out that he and Javanese troops under his command were responsible to Djakarta rather than to Colonel Samual, territorial commander in East Indonesia who carried out a bloodless coup on 2 March. He said that although "on principle, I am not going to meddle with political views on the formation of autonomous areas. it is hoped that we will use this opportunity to take over this undisciplined organization."

Colonel Samual informed Djakarta [redacted] that he had decided to send Javanese troops in the Operational Command back to East Java.

### Comment

Sudirman commanded the South and Southeast Celebes Operational Command, which was carved out of the East Indonesian territorial command in July 1956 and made directly responsible to the army chief of

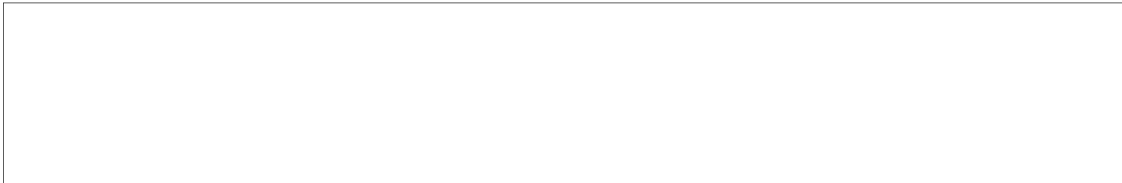


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staff in attempt to gain more effective control over dissidents in that area. It is largely composed of troops detailed from East Java.


The success of a countercoup in East Indonesia similar to that of Colonel Ginting in North Sumatra would depend on these East Javanese forces. Of 40 infantry battalions in East Indonesia, 18 are Javanese, and nine of these are in the operational command.



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### 3. HUNGARIAN REGIME ARRESTING THOUSANDS TO FORESTALL POSSIBLE 15 MARCH REVOLT



The American legation in Budapest reported on 8 March that, during the last few days, thousands, and perhaps tens of thousands, of Hungarians have been arrested in order to reduce the likelihood of serious trouble on 15 March, a Hungarian national holiday. It is rumored that old concentration camps are being reopened to hold the prison overflow.

The legation notes that the pattern of arrests indicates that the regime plans to arrest virtually all potential troublemakers. Some of those arrested might be held until after 4 April.

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#### 4. THAI ARMY MOVES TO FORESTALL POSSIBLE COUP BY POLICE

[redacted]  
[redacted] Army security measures have been increased in Bangkok as a precaution against a possible hostile move by police director general Phao's followers,

[redacted] who are fearful of losing their jobs if their chief is dismissed, [redacted] Troops in Bangkok have been placed on 24-hour duty [redacted]

[redacted] witnessed the issue of live ammunition to tanks and various strong points around the city. The king's bodyguard is also reported to have been doubled to guard against his being kidnaped and held hostage by Phao's men.

#### Comment

[redacted] Phao has submitted his resignation from all his official positions; the premier gave no indication, however, that the resignations had been accepted. [redacted] Phao's action was probably taken at a time when he was in a "gloomy mood" over the "current confused situation." In addition to its fear of violent action by Phao's followers, the government is also concerned over the possibility of disturbances in connection with the convening of the National Assembly on 14 March.

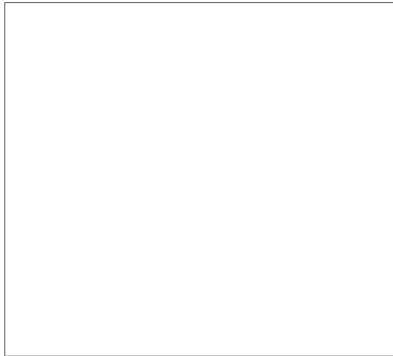
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## 5. POWERFUL ARGENTINE NAVAL OFFICIAL ARRESTED

### Comment on:



The 30-day "disciplinary" arrest of Rear Admiral Arturo Rial, the powerful under secretary of the navy, reflects a new intensity in the differences over political and economic issues among top military leaders, whose unity is the key factor in Argentine stability. Rial, the first important navy official to be arrested, has many supporters among top commanders in all branches of the armed forces. According to a press report of 10 March, a group of naval officers has demanded that the arrest be deferred.

The official reason given for Rial's arrest was his failure to safeguard confidential correspondence to President Aramburu--a reference to five reportedly critical letters published this week by an opposition political organ. Aramburu's willingness to arrest so important a figure suggests that differences among the ruling military factions are sharper than he had previously been willing to admit.

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6. JAPAN EXPECTED TO REJECT US PROPOSAL FOR STRICTER TRADE CONTROLS

[redacted]  
[redacted] Japanese prime minister Nobusuke Kishi has drafted a reply to a US proposal for stricter enforcement of COCOM and CHINCOM trade controls which states

[redacted] that Japan is not in sympathy with the proposal, [redacted]  
[redacted]

Comment

The Japanese government may claim it was forced to take a stronger stand against the American proposal than it actually desired because information concerning this proposal had "inadvertently" been leaked to the Japanese press. In fact, however, Japan has long sought a relaxation of controls against China and probably has taken particular objection to the US attempt to gain stricter enforcement of these controls.

[redacted]

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