

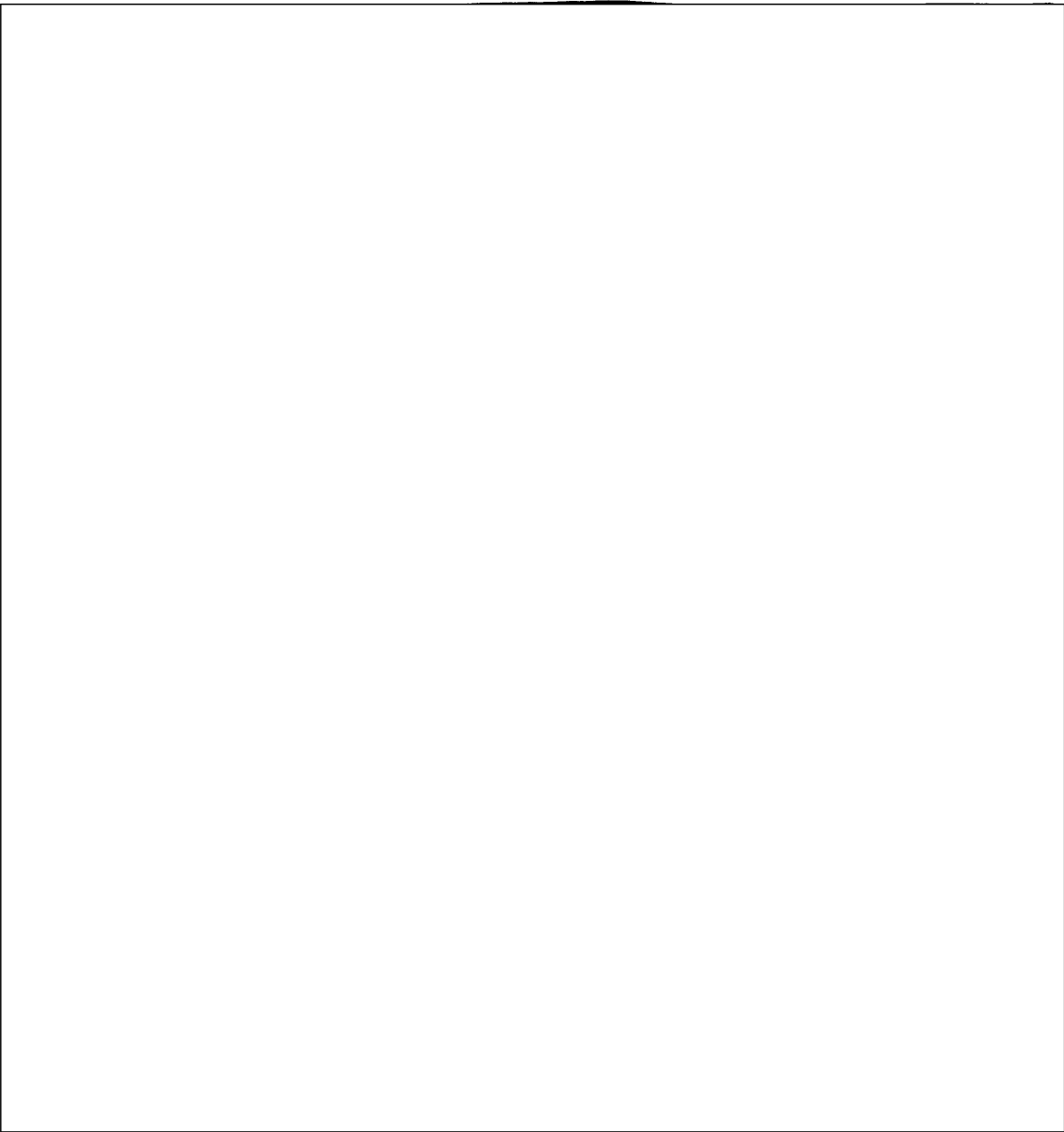
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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

26 March 1959

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NUCLEAR TEST TALKS

<p>The USSR on 19 March agreed at the Geneva talks to the Western draft articles on duration of the proposed treaty for cessation of nuclear testing and on</p>	<p>periodic review of the control system. As late as 16 March, Soviet chief delegate Tsarapkin had told Ambassador Wadsworth privately that, under the Western</p>
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terms of reference, the USSR could not agree to a treaty. He had contended at the conference that the American duration article had been designed to make withdrawal from the treaty "as easy as possible" and therefore was "harmful and dangerous to international relations."

Tsarapkin stated that linking the right of withdrawal from the treaty to the effectiveness of the control system was unacceptable to the USSR and that the only violation of the terms of the treaty in the Soviet view would be a nuclear test itself. Soviet propaganda had also strongly criticized the American draft duration article before 19 March, calling it another effort "aimed at preventing at any cost a total, unconditional, and permanent cessation of tests."

The Soviet leaders probably believed this demonstration of willingness to make concessions in important East-West negotiations, occurring during Prime Minister Macmillan's Washington visit, would increase pressure on the West to agree to Soviet demands on the agenda and composition of high-level East-West talks.

The Soviet leaders probably also believe their concession on these important points will place the USSR in a better position to demand concessions from the West on the issue of voting in the control commission.

Soviet propaganda since 19 March, while failing to exploit Moscow's concession, has focused on the "impasse" it claims has been created by the West's "unrealistic" position on voting procedures in the control commission and on the composition of the control bodies.

In another effort to discredit the Western attitude toward the talks, Moscow also charged that the three-week recess proposed by the West "can in no way cause satisfaction" and "runs counter to public sentiment," noting that the Soviet delegation had urged that the talks continue uninterruptedly.

On 24 March, Moscow published Khrushchev's reply of 20 March to a letter on the test cessation question from 22 well-known Americans. He charged the United States and Britain with "doing everything they can to prevent an agreement" and stated that the talks therefore are "now faced with failure." He made no mention of the USSR's acceptance of the Western article on duration. Moscow has further asserted that the American announcement at this time of its September high-altitude tests is calculated "to undermine the authority of the Geneva experts' conference and therefore to make the reaching of agreement on stopping tests more difficult."

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