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28 June 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Afro-Asian Conference - Algeria: Postponement of the scheduled 29 June Afro-Asian "summit" conference appears to have satisfied and relieved most if not all of the delegations in Algiers.

Few heads of state or government would have attended, and some countries had already announced that they would consider the results of the conference invalid.

The fixing of a definite date and place--5 November in Algiers--saved face for Algeria. Most members of the preparatory committee, which made the postponement decision, reportedly favored an indefinite postponement.

Lack of support from Nasir for a conference may have been crucial.

Boumedienne reportedly was too absorbed with establishing his new regime to care much about the conference. He probably wants the host of newsmen gathered for the conference to leave Algiers, since their reporting of the relatively minor student demonstrations has exaggerated the scope of opposition to his regime.

In any contemplated action against demonstrators, Boumedienne will probably be restrained because he needs recognition from other countries, most of whom have continued their wait-and-see attitude.

The USSR still has not formally recognized the new regime, and there is no firm indication of the

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Soviet leadership's assessment of the situation or its attitude toward Boumedienne. While the Soviet press continues to avoid direct comment on Boumedienne's take-over, its selection of Western press reports for publication has increasingly reflected a critical attitude.

Boumedienne probably also desires an early clarification of Nasir's attitude. Aware of Nasir's personal attachment to Ben Bella, Boumedienne may fear that Egypt might side with or even foment pro - Ben Bella opposition. An intercepted Egyptian message appears to confirm press speculation that some Egyptians working at the conference site were arrested following the 26 June explosion that wrecked part of the facilities.

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