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29 December 1955

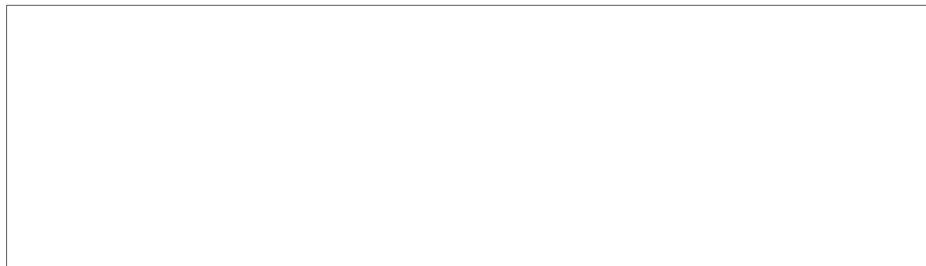
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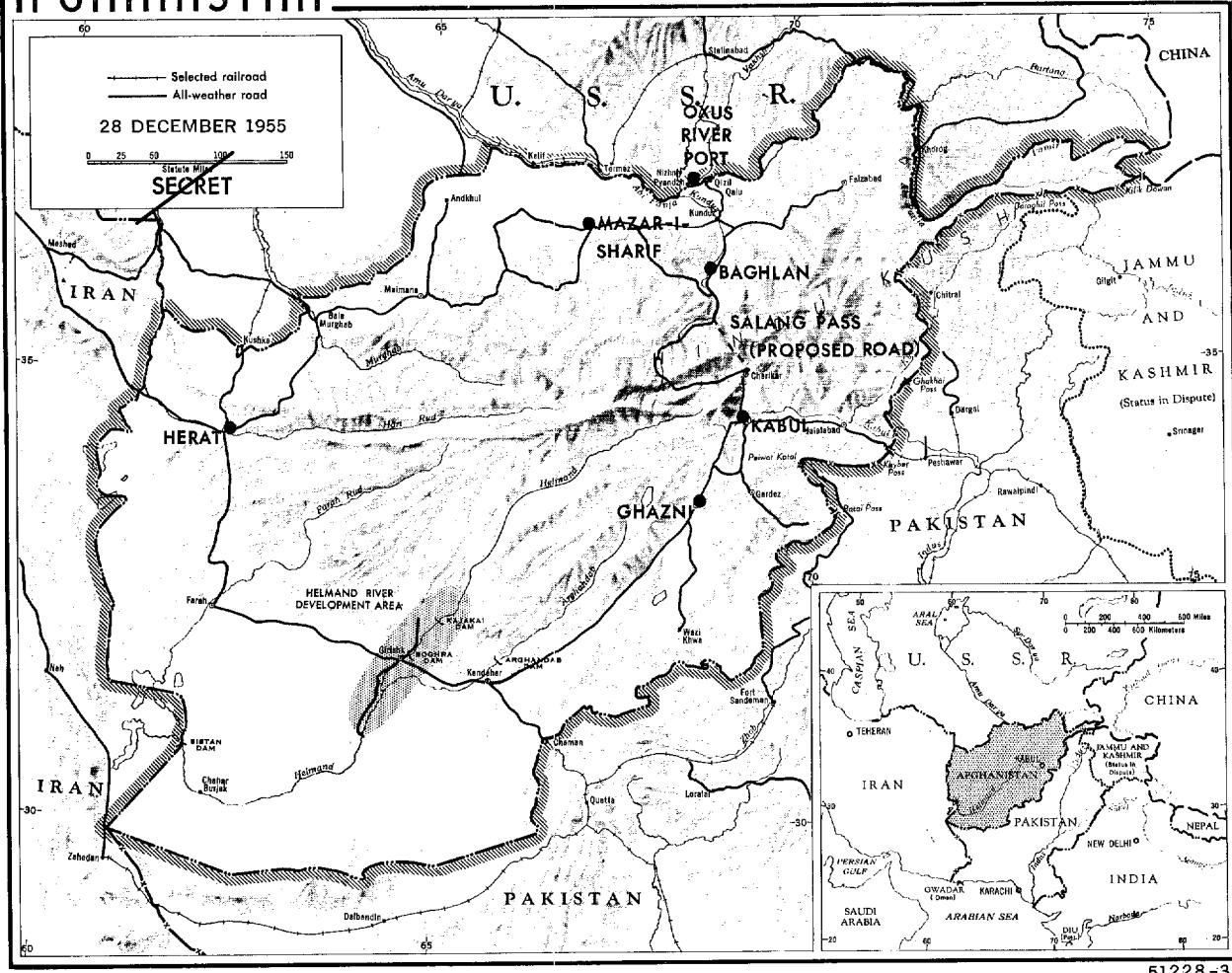
THE TAIWAN STRAIT

[redacted] (page 9)

1. PROVISIONS OF \$100,000,000 SOVIET CREDIT TO AFGHANISTAN REPORTED

Among the projects to be undertaken under the announced \$100,000,000 Soviet credit to Afghanistan, which will run for 10 years, are construction of air-fields at Kabul, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif and Baghlan, improvement of the Oxus River port facilities, construction

AFGHANISTAN



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of a dam in the Ghazni area and road construction including the Salang pass area

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[redacted] some
funds may be made available for purchases in the West.
[redacted]

Comment The joint Soviet-Afghan economic communique issued on 18 December referred only in general terms to development of agriculture, irrigation, construction of hydroelectric stations and construction of the Kabul airport.

The USSR is already participating in the Oxus port development and Soviet technicians reportedly will arrive in Kabul in January to begin construction of the Kabul airport.

A road through the Salang pass area would considerably shorten the route to the Soviet border. If Moscow constructs the Ghazni dam, this will be the first Communist-financed project south of Kabul, a part of the country where Afghan projects have been carried on with Western aid.

(Prepared by ORR)

**2. GREECE MAY PROTEST SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S
INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC POLITICS**

The activities of Soviet ambassador Sergeyev during his extended tour of northern Greece greatly disturb the Athens government. According to the American embassy in Athens, these activities amount to an "active and flagrant interference in domestic affairs by public electioneering for leftist candidates."

Sergeyev and his staff have been meeting with leftist politicians and have been carrying on a propaganda campaign among the tobacco workers in the area. Foreign Minister Theotokis claims that the USSR is providing financial assistance for leftists' pre-electoral campaign. Theotokis will try to get cabinet approval for a warning to Sergeyev that if he does not stop these activities, he will be declared persona non grata.

Comment

Sergeyev's purpose is to exploit Greek bitterness over the Cyprus issue and encourage the election of a government which would be neutral in East-West relations.

Rumors have been circulating in Greece that the USSR, in advance of the elections scheduled for February, might announce support for Greek claims to northern Epirus--now a part of Albania.

3. JORDAN'S KING SAYS HE MAY HAVE TO ACCEPT ARAB SUBSIDY

Jordan's King Hussain has told the American embassy that public opinion may force him into a position where he would have to accept an

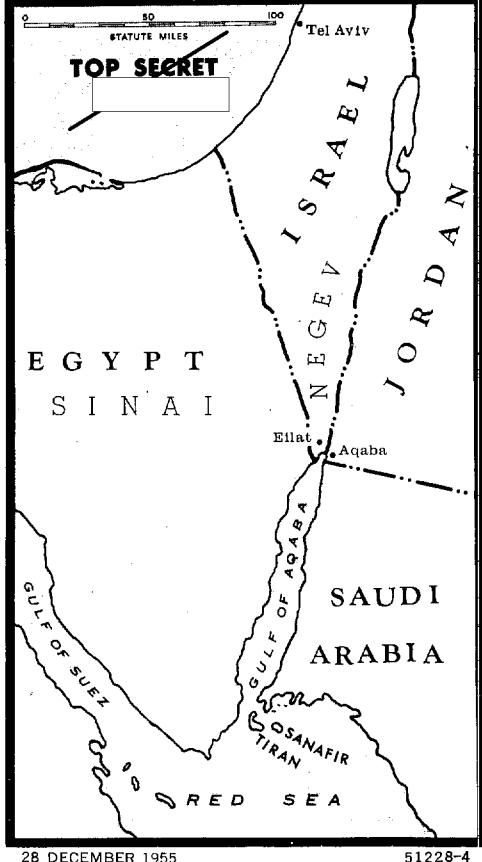
Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi Arabian offer to replace the British subsidy Jordan now receives. Hussain said he has information that the three countries might get the money for the subsidy from Moscow.

Comment Pressure on the king to accept an Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi offer probably is strong, but such a step would place Jordan's Hashemite monarchy at the mercy of its traditional enemy, the house of Saud.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
 (Information as of 1700, 28 December)



28 DECEMBER 1955

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The Israeli army is known to have been drawing up plans for an action to break the Egyptian blockade of entry to the Gulf of Aqaba. It appears unlikely that Israel would mount such an operation in the immediate future, not only because of logistic problems, but because Tel Aviv now seems to be making a considerable effort to convince Western opinion of its peaceful intentions.

has informed the American army

attaché in Tel Aviv that there have been recent drastic cutbacks in heavy construction projects throughout the country, and that Israeli construction engineers in reserve status are reluctant to engage in planning because they believe they may be recalled to active duty soon. The assistant army attaché has observed that a high Israeli officer concerned with supply is preoccupied with problems of movement and storage in the Negev area of southern Israel. This officer said divisional

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maneuvers are to be held in the Negev in January or February. The attaché concludes from these indications that substantial military action may take place.

BIWEEKLY SUMMARY
15-28 December 1955

THE TAIWAN STRAIT

Report of the IAC Current Intelligence Group
for the Taiwan Strait Problem

1. Chinese Communist jet fighters since 23 December have made a number of patrol sweeps to the immediate area of the Matsus. Ground force activity has been limited to artillery exchanges in the Quemoy area. Most of the Communist fire during the period appeared to be in retaliation for Nationalist shelling.
2. There has been an increase in the tempo of operations by the Chinese Communist navy in the Matsu area. According to reports of the past week, there was an increase in the movement of lightly armed Chinese Communist patrol craft and small coasters near the Peiling Peninsula, north of Matsu, and there are unconfirmed reports of torpedo boats in the area. The Nationalist Defense Ministry has warned the navy to be "on the alert."
3. The Chinese Nationalists have grown uneasy as a result of the increased Communist air and naval activity in the Matsu area. Nationalist press dispatches insist a Matsu attack may be forthcoming. Their fear of torpedo boat attacks on naval ships has led the Nationalists to prepare plans for air or commando attacks on torpedo boat bases.
4. The Nationalists believe the Communists may soon increase artillery fire in an effort to slowly strangle the Quemoys. The Nationalist chief of staff has said he will order stepped-up artillery attacks and perhaps launch air strikes against Communist artillery in the area if Communist shelling increases.
5. Although Chinese Communist propaganda gives no indication of imminent hostile action, it continues to accuse the United States of building a large military potential on Taiwan and threatening

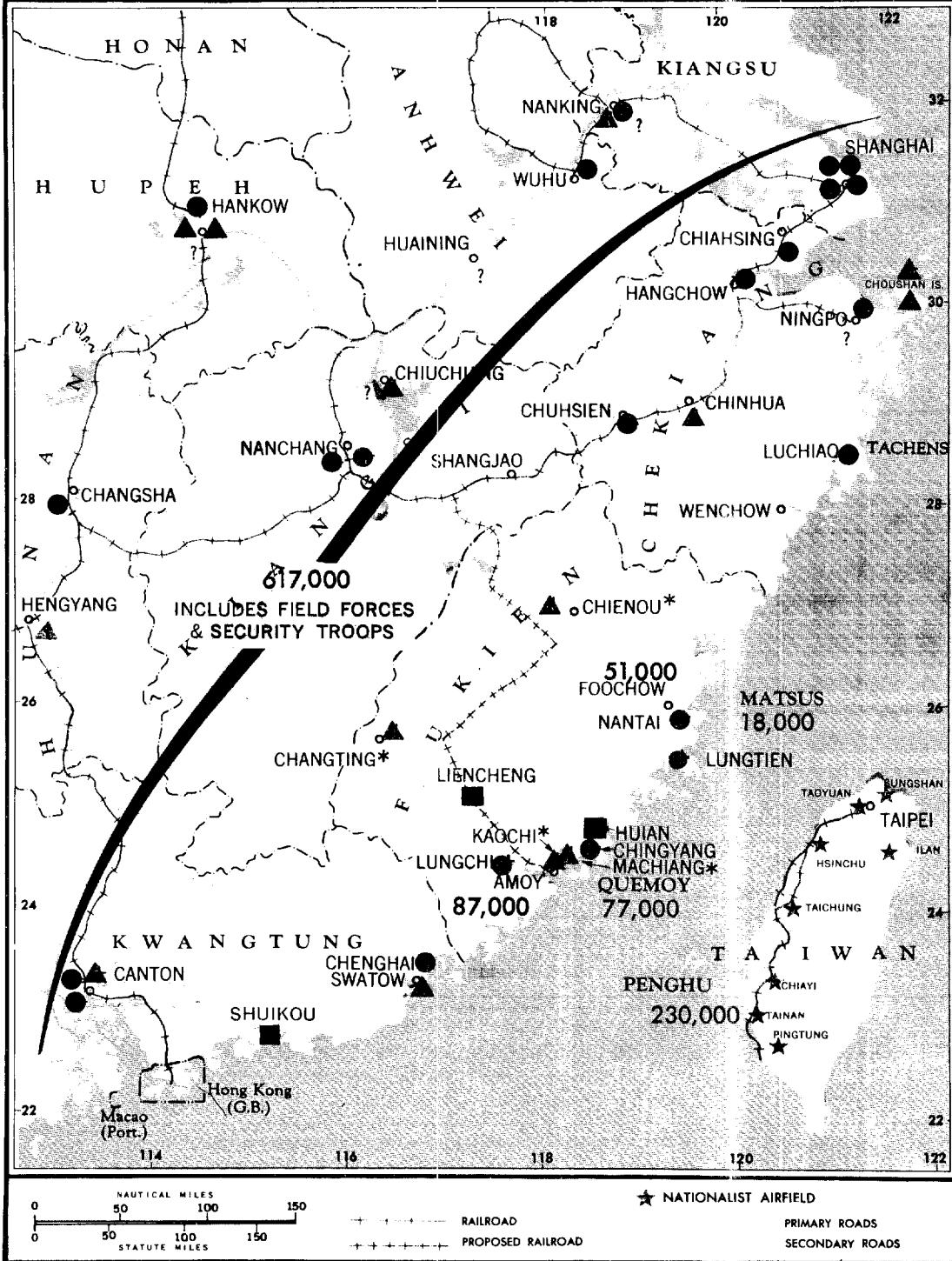
aggression in the Taiwan Strait area. Using the instance of Army Secretary Brucker's visit to Taiwan this month, Peiping on 19 December denounced what it called "war preparations" designed to "perpetuate America's occupation of Taiwan."

TAIWAN STRAIT SITUATION

29 DECEMBER 1955

CHINESE COMMUNIST AIRFIELD LEGEND:

DESIGNATIONS	PRIMARY AIRFIELD CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT IN AREA WITH PREPARED RUNWAY GENERALLY 5000 FEET OR LONGER.	SECONDARY AIRFIELD AUXILIARY OR EMERGENCY BASES OR FIELDS OF LESSER IMPORTANCE. RUNWAYS GENERALLY LESS THAN 5000 FEET.	USABILITY			
			+	I	?	█
ACTIVE BASE FOR MILITARY & CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. SOME BASES USED BY PISTON TYPES MAY BE USABLE BY JETS	●	▲	MIG-15	TU-2, IL-10	UNKNOWN	UNDER CONSTRUCTION
INACTIVE BASES CAPABLE OF USE BY AIRCRAFT	●	▲	MIG-17	LA-9/11		
CURRENT STATUS UNDETERMINED			TU-4	LI-2		
			IL-28	ETC.		

* FIELDS NOT CONSIDERED CAPABLE
OF SUPPORTING SUSTAINED OPERATIONS AT PRESENT.~~SECRET~~