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6 December 1958

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CENTRAL

INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN



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6 DECEMBER 1958

## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Soviet delegation to Guinea expected to offer aid and press for exchange of diplomatic representatives.

East Germany seeking agreement from various Middle and Far East countries for official visit by Premier Grotewohl.

## II. ASIA-AFRICA

Israel believes 3 December border clash with Syria justifies retaliation.

Tunisia sending two army officers to Prague reportedly to purchase arms; may hope this will speed up US-UK arms deliveries.

French jamming of Radio Tunis leaves Radio Cairo without competition in southern Tunisia where Nasir is reportedly promoting anti-Bourguiba activity.

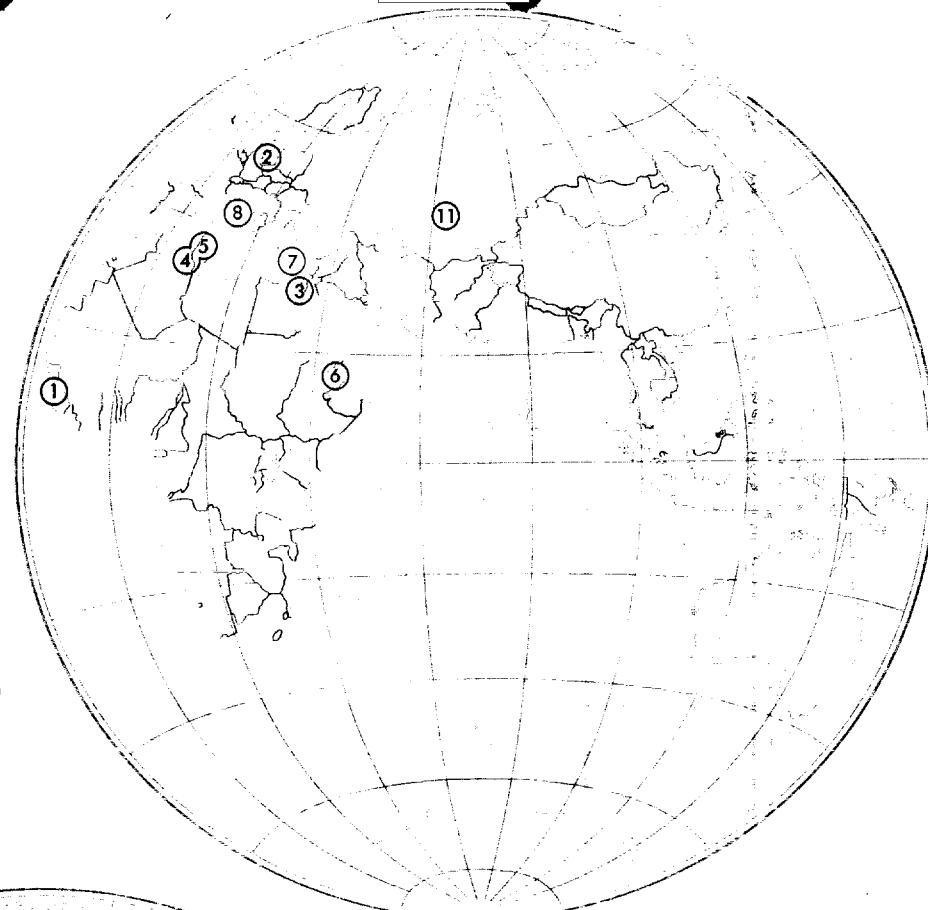
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(6) Yemen - Agitation continuing against the Imam.

(7) Cyprus - Renewal of EOKA terrorism expected; may be directed against Americans.

## III. THE WEST

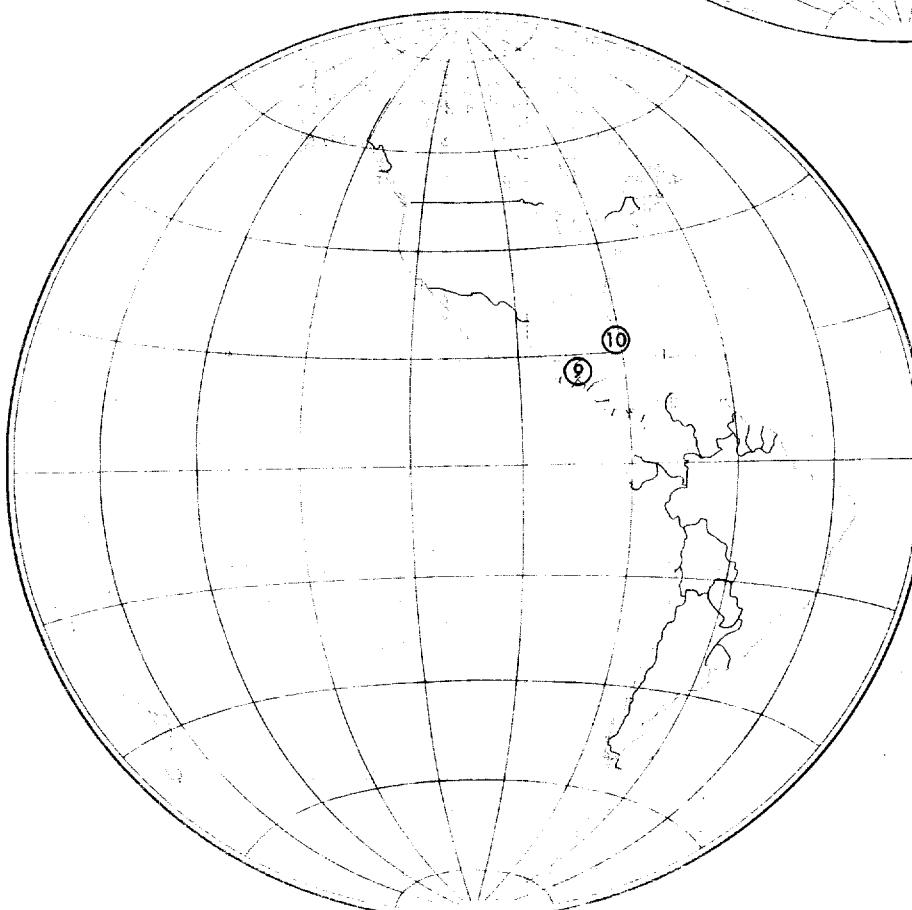
(8) Italy - Premier Fanfani's chances of winning confidence vote only slightly better than even.

(9) Honduras - Government crisis coming to a head; violence could erupt at any time.

(10) Cuba - Most immediate and serious problem arising from stepped-up rebel activities is threat to economy.

## LATE ITEM

(11) Soviet launching of 4 December possibly an earth satellite.

~~TOP SECRET~~

*SIRAB*

# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

6 December 1958

## DAILY BRIEF

### I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

*OK*

USSR-Guinea: The two-man Soviet delegation which arrived in Guinea earlier this week can be expected to offer assistance on economic problems and to press for an early exchange of diplomatic representatives. Premier Toure is likely to be receptive to such Soviet proposals, especially as he is anxious to hasten the establishment of major Western missions in Conakry. Ghana and Liberia may then find it necessary to implement their earlier decisions in principle to accept Soviet representation. [redacted] (Page 1)

*PO*

East Germany: In a new move to gain some measure of de facto recognition outside the Communist bloc, East Germany is attempting to persuade various Middle and Far East countries to agree to an official visit to their capitals by Premier Grotewohl. [redacted]

(Page 2)

### II. ASIA-AFRICA

*OK*

Israel-Syria: The Israelis apparently regard the 3 December border clash with Syria as one of the most serious since 1948. The incident, which in Israeli minds amply justifies "retaliation" against Syria, follows a period during which Israeli officers have spoken more openly of the need for "action" regarding the border situation. Although Israel has submitted a formal complaint on the incident to the UN Security Council, it would not necessarily wait for UN action before taking steps of its own. [redacted] (Page 3)

*ND*

Tunisia: The government is sending two army officers to Prague, reportedly to purchase arms. Arms talks are presumably also continuing in Tunis with Czech and Yugoslav representatives. This may be in part a move to speed up US-UK arms deliveries, and it is expected that Tunisia will also continue to press the US and UK for equipment for an army of 20,000 men.

(Page 4)

*OK*

Tunisia-France: The jamming recently undertaken by the French military in Algeria against Radio Tunis, is so effective that its broadcasts are barely audible in southern Tunisia. Elimination of Radio Tunis, which is one of the few stations normally heard there at night, leaves Radio Cairo without a real competitor in an area where Nasir is reported to be promoting anti-Bourguiba activity.

(Page 5)

Yemen: Clandestine distribution of "Free Yemen" pamphlets indicates that agitation is continuing against the Imam. The latter, in an effort to restore his domestic prestige, has been meeting with tribal and military leaders. Serious crop shortages are likely to increase unrest.

(Page 6)

*ND*

Cyprus-Greece: Greek bitterness toward NATO and particularly the US is mounting following passage of a resolution on Cyprus by the UN General Assembly's Political Committee. With Archbishop Makarios firmly opposed to tripartite talks among Greece, Turkey, and Britain, there is little likelihood that the negotiations called for in the resolution will take place in the near future. On Cyprus, EOKA can be expected to renew its campaign of terrorism as best it can, and Americans may be among the targets.

(Page 7)

### III. THE WEST

*ND*

Italy: Premier Fanfani's decision to call for a vote of confidence following two parliamentary defeats is an attempt

6 Dec 58

DAILY BRIEF

ii

~~TOP SECRET~~

to whip into line right-wing Christian Democrats who have repeatedly voted against him on secret ballots. They oppose his socio-economic reform program and deeply resent his authoritarian way of running the party. His chances of winning a confidence vote seem only slightly better than even, and his position will still be precarious because his coalition lacks a parliamentary majority. [redacted] (Page 8)

*NC*  
[redacted]

Cuba: The most immediate and serious problem arising from the current increase in revolutionary activities is the threat to the nation's economy particularly to the sugar industry. Business and commerce, which have suffered throughout the island during the two-year-old civil war, are experiencing a marked decline and the government's financial position is deteriorating. The rebels have stepped up their military activities since the 3 November elections. [redacted]

*no*  
[redacted]

Honduras: President Villeda apparently is doing nothing to arrest the crisis which is fast coming to a head. The military are known to be plotting against his administration, and armed members of his own Liberal party have been patrolling the streets of the capital at night. Violence could erupt at any time. [redacted]

#### LATE ITEM

*no*  
[redacted]

\*USSR: Analysis of recently received communications intelligence pertaining to the launching of 4 December, from the rangehead of the Tyura Tam missile test range, suggests that this launching may have placed another artificial earth satellite in orbit. [redacted] (Page 9)

## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

### Moscow Sends Delegation to Guinea

The arrival in Guinea earlier this week of the first official Soviet visitors reflects increasing Communist attention to that country following Moscow's swift recognition in October. The two-man delegation, which was received by Premier Toure on 5 December, can be expected to press for rapid exchange of diplomatic missions as a means of facilitating possible Soviet assistance on economic problems. A Soviet mission in Guinea would increase pressure on both Ghana and Liberia to implement their earlier decisions in principle to accept Soviet representation.

Premier Toure, a left-wing nationalist who has collaborated with Communists in the past, may well be receptive to such Soviet proposals. He has already signed trade and cultural accords with East Germany and apparently envisages the early conclusion of similar agreements with Czechoslovakia.

Toure may also see in the Soviet visit an opportunity to advance his campaign to hasten the establishment in Conakry of diplomatic missions from major Western countries. France has asked that such action be postponed pending regularization of its own relations with Guinea, and there has been no official Western representative resident there since the withdrawal late last month of the French official assigned to liquidate most of France's responsibilities in Guinea.

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### East Germany Probes for Recognition From Uncommitted Countries

East Germany appears to be making a concerted attempt to secure a degree of recognition from several Middle Eastern countries by requesting them to receive Premier Grotewohl on an official visit. Its tactic is to suggest at each capital that some neighboring country will give a top-level reception to Grotewohl.

For example, the East German trade representative in Rangoon has apparently sought to gain assent for Grotewohl to visit Rangoon on the basis that he would be received by Nehru. A high Indian Foreign Office official has stated, however, that Grotewohl will be treated as a "distinguished visitor" but will not be received by Nehru,

West German refusal to maintain diplomatic relations with any country which recognizes East Germany has hitherto been the main deterrent to the grant of recognition by several countries, including the UAR. To date, Yugoslavia is the only country outside the bloc to recognize the Ulbricht regime --a move which brought prompt severance of ties by Bonn.

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## II. ASIA-AFRICA

### Israeli-Syrian Border

The artillery duel on 3 December between Syrian and Israeli forces, which an Israeli official said caused more damage to Israeli property than any Syrian action since the 1948 war, is being used by Tel Aviv to justify its complaint to the UN Security Council and possible "retaliation." An emergency cabinet session, attended by the army chief of staff, was held in Tel Aviv on 4 December; Prime Minister Ben-Gurion subsequently commented in threatening terms concerning the border situation. Tel Aviv radio contends that Cairo has unleashed "an outburst of abuse and invective almost without precedent," including an assertion that Israeli settlements will suffer "even more than in the past."

Key Israeli Defense Force leaders have asserted that sufficient justification for a retaliatory raid existed even prior to the 3 December clash. Israel's complaint to the UN would not necessarily deter direct action by Israeli forces even prior to any UN decision in view of what the Israelis profess to be "failures" of the UN truce mechanism.

The Syrian bombardment of seven Israeli border settlements on 3 December followed an incident on the same day during which Israeli shepherds were fired on, probably because the Syrians thought they were trespassing on Arab lands. The Syrian artillery fire was accurate and might be regarded by Israel as indicative of increased proficiency on the part of the UAR First Army in the use of its new Soviet weapons. Israeli officials have previously suggested that the achievement of such a proficiency would be a turning point in the balance of military power between Israel and the UAR.

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### Tunisian Arms Purchasing Mission to Czechoslovakia

Two Tunisian Army officers will go to Prague soon probably to buy a limited quantity of arms from Czechoslovakia. They were recently issued transit visas by the Italian Embassy in Tunis. President Bourguiba declared on 13 November that he was seeking arms from Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Sweden. At that time he was irritated over published reports that the French had been asked to approve American and British arms sales to Tunisia.

Subsequently, Foreign Secretary Mokaddem confirmed that discussions regarding the purchase of minimum amounts of arms were under way in Tunis with Czech and Yugoslav representatives. He added that to break off these talks would be "impolite." [redacted]

The Tunisians will continue to press for speedy delivery of American and British equipment for 4,800 men. Eventually they probably will seek additional arms and heavy equipment for the army of 20,000 men which Bourguiba revealed on 13 November was Tunisia's immediate objective. [redacted]

[redacted]

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### Tunis Blames France for Jamming Broadcasts

The jamming station which is interfering with Arab-language broadcasts of Radio Tunis has been pinpointed at Collo, near Philippeville in eastern Algeria, by British naval units at Malta. The French Embassy in Tunis denies that France is responsible, but French military authorities in eastern Algeria may be conducting a local operation to prevent Algerians--and consequently other listeners--from receiving this station. In accordance with Tunisia's policy, its broadcasts support Algerian independence, the National Liberation Front, and the provisional government.

Tunisian Foreign Secretary Mokadem, who accompanied President Bourguiba during the early stages of his three-week trip through the southern provinces, confirms that Radio Tunis' Arab programs are hardly audible in southern Tunisia. Even without interference, however, these broadcasts can be heard only at night in that area. Anti-Bourguiba broadcasts from Cairo, on the other hand, are readily heard throughout the poverty-stricken southern area where the President's prestige is probably the lowest. Mokadem says that the French are doing themselves and the West a disservice by hampering the Tunis government's efforts to give Tunisians in the south a correct version of the UAR's role in the anti-Bourguiba conspiracy. [redacted]

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## Developments in Yemen

A plot against Crown Prince Badr was apparently uncovered in mid-November [redacted]

[redacted] Subsequent arrests included the commander of Badr's bodyguard, his former private secretary, and at least one other army officer. The first two individuals are [redacted] to have been involved in earlier antimonarchical intrigues.

[redacted]  
[redacted] the crown prince was warned of the discovery of a "dangerous plot" in which the "amirs," presumably jealous patrician rivals, had distributed money among army officers and were attempting to bribe members of Badr's bodyguard to assassinate him. The arrests did not halt agitation against the regime, however, [redacted]  
the crown prince that large numbers of subversive leaflets were found on the previous night in most of the streets of Sana, the northern capital.

The long indisposition of the disease-ridden Imam and the ineptitude of Crown Prince Badr has reduced the government's authority and encouraged new unrest. In an attempt to recoup his prestige, the Imam has been making public appearances and belatedly striving to improve his relations with tribal and military leaders. It is unlikely, however, that he will be able to maintain this active pace.

Dissatisfaction and unrest may also increase this winter as a result of a serious drought-induced crop shortage, and a reported lack of grain reserves. [redacted]

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Cyprus-Greece

Relations between Greece and most of its allies will be further embittered by the 4 December vote in the Political Committee of the UN General Assembly which favored an Iranian resolution calling for negotiations on the Cyprus issue by the three governments concerned and representatives of the Cypriots. Greek Foreign Minister Averoff has called American support for the Iranian resolution an unneutral act in a dispute among three friends of the United States. In Greece, there will be new pressures on the government to sever its ties with NATO. Iceland was the only NATO member to vote with Greece; Italy abstained, and all other members voted for the resolution.

In the unlikely event that the resolution passes the plenary session of the General Assembly by the required two-thirds vote, there will still be little possibility that a conference can be held in the near future. Archbishop Makarios is believed adamantly opposed, and Greek Government leaders have indicated that no conference is possible unless partition as a final solution is ruled out in advance--a condition not met by the Iranian resolution. Athens and the Greek Cypriot leadership now may concentrate attention on the next British elections in the hope that a Labor party victory would mean a change in British policy toward a Cyprus settlement.

Failure of the Greek appeal at the UN will probably lead to another round of violence on Cyprus. Bitterness over US support of the Iranian resolution could lead to incidents involving American personnel. [redacted]

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### III. THE WEST

#### Italian Premier Facing Serious Dissension in His Party

Premier Fanfani's call on 4 December for a vote of confidence is an attempt to whip into line right-wing members of his Christian Democratic party who have shown growing hostility toward him in recent weeks. The immediate point at issue is the government's proposal to retain a four-cent gasoline tax, which has been defeated in two parliamentary votes--314 to 263 and 323 to 239. In these and other recent secret ballots it has been clear that some Christian Democrats were voting against the Fanfani coalition--which, even with the abstention of the six Republican representatives, has only a three-vote margin in the 596-seat chamber.

The deep resentment against Fanfani in the party springs from a number of factors: (1) desire of party "notables" like former Prime Minister Scelba to return to power; (2) widespread irritation over Fanfani's authoritarian methods of running the party; and (3) right-wing dislike of Fanfani's socio-economic reform program and of his alliance with the Social Democratic party. Right-wing party elements further fear that Fanfani's position may be strengthened by the possible parliamentary support of Nenni Socialist deputies after the Nenni Socialists' January congress.

At the same time, in a confidence vote, even right-wing opponents will hesitate to stand up and be counted in open opposition to a prime minister who is a member of their own party. The party's National Council, with the exception of Scelba, voted unanimous confidence in Fanfani last month.

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**LATE ITEM****Soviet Launching of 4 December Possibly an Earth Satellite**

[redacted] the launching of 4 December, from the rangehead of the Tyura Tam missile test range, suggests that this launching may have placed another artificial earth satellite in orbit.

Since 2315 hours Zebra, 4 December--shortly after the launch--and continuing into 6 December, Klyuchi observation stations have maintained hourly contacts with the control station apparently for the purpose of reporting visual or radar sightings of a space vehicle. Several of the contacts reported are believed to be related to the passage of Sputnik III; however, two sightings which occurred at 1617 and 2030 hours Zebra on 5 December are believed to be unrelated to Sputnik III and may reflect the passage of a hitherto unreported satellite. If these are consecutive passes, the orbital period seems to be on the order of 4 hours and 13 minutes, indicating a very wide-ranging satellite.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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The Director

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The Director

## United States Information Agency

The Director

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