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1. JORDAN AND SYRIA REPORTEDLY SIGN MILITARY ALLIANCE

Comment on:

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Jordan and Syria are reported to have concluded a "united frontier agreement." The agreement would have the effect of making an Israeli attack on either party an attack on both.

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A meeting between the Syrian army chief of staff and the new commander of Jordan's Arab Legion was reported to have been followed on 24 March by a meeting of Syrian prime minister Ghazzi and Jordanian foreign minister Khalidi.

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Pro-Egyptian elements in the new Jordanian army command apparently are moving quickly to swing Jordan into the Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi Arabian camp.

Any closer ties between Syria and Jordan will almost certainly lead London further to reconsider British relations with Jordan. Under the Anglo-Jordanian treaty Britain is obligated to come to Jordan's defense if the country is attacked.

These events will convince Israel that it has been encircled by the "long arm" of Egyptian prime minister Nasr. [redacted]

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4. AMBASSADOR RIDDLEBERGER COMMENTS ON YUGOSLAV-SOVIET RELATIONS

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Ambassador Riddleberger believes that the Sixth Plenum of the Yugoslav Communist Party, held in mid-March, concluded in secret session, that the changes in the Soviet Communist Party were real and that the time had come to move toward the establishment of party relations.

In the ambassador's opinion, the Yugoslavs have no clear idea how rapidly party relations may develop, but they probably will not abandon the cautious policy they have adopted in approaching this problem. The evolution of Soviet policy will have to go a long way, he believes, before Belgrade would permit ideological reconciliation with the USSR to jeopardize its ties with the West.

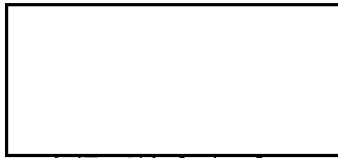
Comment

Yugoslav leaders have made it clear that they now consider the way open to establishing party relations with all Communist parties. In mid-March, a delegation of the Yugoslav party's central committee attended the funeral of Polish party leader Bierut. On its return, the delegation stopped off in Prague for conversations with members of the politburo of the Czech party.

The Yugoslavs apparently believe that the West can be persuaded that interparty relationships with the other Communist parties do not mean that Belgrade has returned to the Soviet fold. Yugoslavia still considers its interests best served by maintaining a position between East and West.

5. BRITISH ENVOY IN PEIPING FORESEES NO BREAK IN
SINO-SOVIET ALLIANCE

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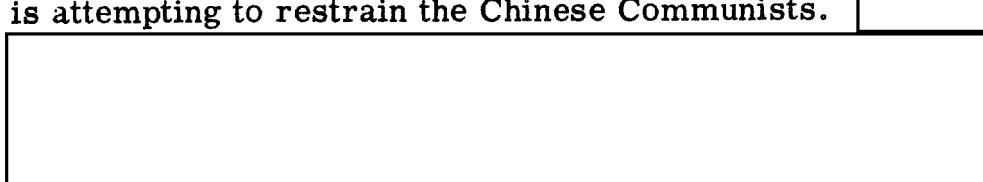


The USSR cannot afford to allow a Chinese Communist defeat as long as the Sino-Soviet alliance exists, according to a study prepared by the British embassy in Peiping. The Soviet Union is therefore expected to restrain Communist China in the international field as long as Chinese industrial and military weakness continues.

The embassy does not foresee the Chinese Communists taking the initiative to break away from the alliance until China is industrially more self-sufficient--perhaps in 10 or 15 years. The relaxation of embargo measures and admission of Peiping to the UN therefore would not materially encourage Communist China to break with the USSR, in the opinion of the British embassy.

Comment

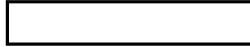
There have been various reports but no conclusive evidence that the Soviet Union is attempting to restrain the Chinese Communists.



Such issues as embargoes and UN representation have not been the primary factors in cementing the Sino-Soviet alliance. Mao Tse-tung espoused the policy of "lean to one side" (toward the Soviet Union) in 1949 and concluded the Sino-Soviet alliance in February 1950, before the issues of embargoes and UN representation became acute.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 24 March)



Israeli reaction to the American call
for a UN Security Council meeting has been critical. An
Israeli Foreign Ministry official saw the move as primarily
a device to further postpone granting arms to Israel, and
several newspapers dwelt on the opportunity the meeting
might provide to enhance the Soviet Union's role in the
Near East.

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The Egyptian press has played up
speculative reports regarding the United States' intentions
in calling the meeting. The American embassy in Cairo
believes the Egyptian regime is still studying the line it
will adopt on the question. The embassy feels, however,
that Cairo will claim that Egypt has accepted all recent
proposals by UN officials concerning border tension.

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