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11 September 1956

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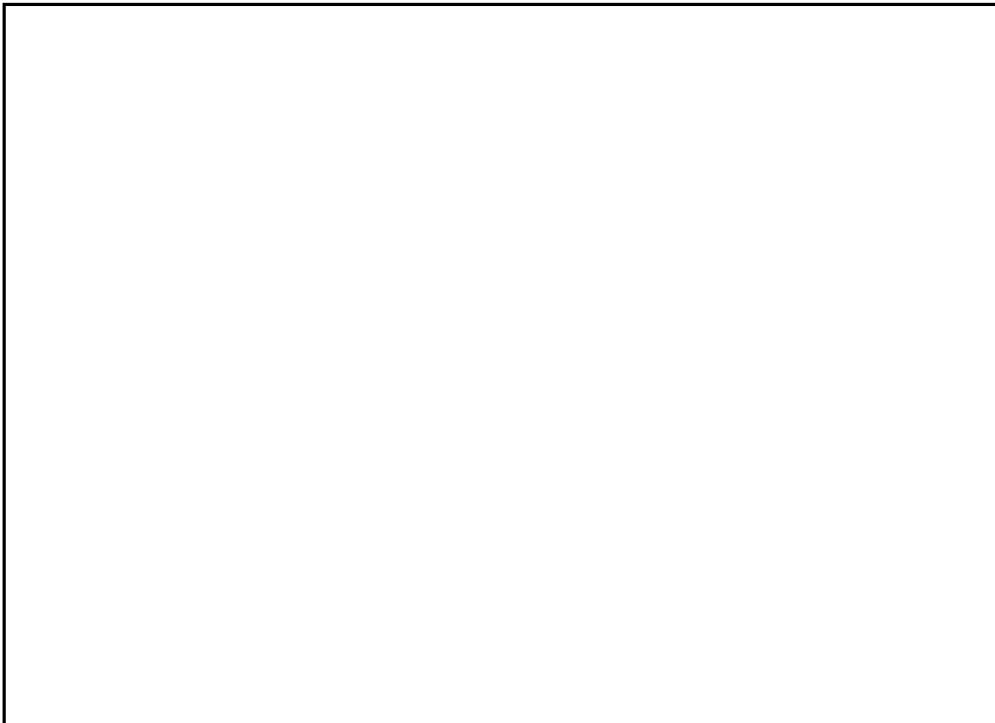
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State Dept. review completed

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25X1A

CONTENTS

25X1A 3. CHOU EN-LAI REPORTEDLY PLANS SWING THROUGH
 SOUTHERN ASIA [REDACTED]

4. COMMUNIST CHINA BUILDS FIRST JET PLANES

25X1

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION

25X1A

25X1

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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3. CHOU EN-LAI REPORTEDLY PLANS SWING THROUGH SOUTHERN ASIA

25X1A

Chinese Communist premier Chou En-lai will visit North Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Burma, India and possibly Nepal in November and December.

25X1
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[redacted] the tour may be extended to include Indonesia, Ceylon, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

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Comment

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The Chinese have been working steadily for better relations with the other countries on Chou's reported itinerary.

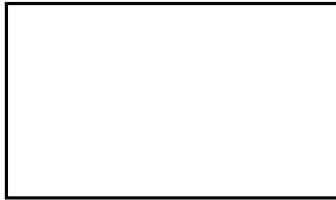
His extended trip would provide an opportunity to deal with a number of problems in southern Asia. Outstanding among these is the current border dispute with Burma, which has produced an unfavorable reaction throughout the area.

Chou will probably also seek to reduce Indonesian dissatisfaction with some provisions of the dual nationality treaty negotiated last year and will attempt to capitalize on recent Chinese Communist efforts to establish closer ties with Laos and Cambodia.

25X1A

4. COMMUNIST CHINA BUILDS FIRST JET PLANES

25X1A



Peiping radio announced on 8 September production "on an experimental basis" of its first jet planes. The Chinese claim with the assistance of Soviet experts to have completed trial production of a "new type of jet aircraft" 17 months ahead of schedule. Mass production is to follow "soon."

Comment An all-out program with Soviet support has been under way since 1955 or earlier. The new aircraft plant which reportedly has recently been completed at Mukden will probably be the site for future series production of jet aircraft.

Final assembly of the air frames was probably accomplished by the Chinese from Soviet subassemblies. The test aircraft are undoubtedly equipped with Soviet electronics gear, instruments and other components. The jet engines, however, may have been mainly of Chinese manufacture, since Peiping announced last June that it had succeeded in the "trial production" of jet engines.

25X1A

11 Sept 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

25X1A Page 6

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002700280001-1

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002700280001-1

25X1A

THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 10 September)

Jordan charged that an Israeli military force, estimated at 100 men, penetrated 200 yards into Jordan on the morning of 10 September and opened fire on Arab farmers and a Jordan National Guard patrol about 22 miles southwest of Jerusalem. Jordan claims that after exchanging fire for one and one half hours, the Israelis withdrew leaving six dead in Jordan. Jordan admitted one man wounded. Subsequently a spokesman for the UN truce supervisory organization stated that two Israeli soldiers were missing and one wounded as a result of the clash.

25X1A

Infiltrators, meanwhile, dynamited a section of the Tel Aviv-Beersheba rail line in southern Israel, 12 and one half miles north of Beersheba, on the night of 9-10 September. This is the first such incident in several months. Tracks of the infiltrators were lost inside Israel and the location of the incident is such that they could have come from either Egyptian or Jordanian territory.

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