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8 December 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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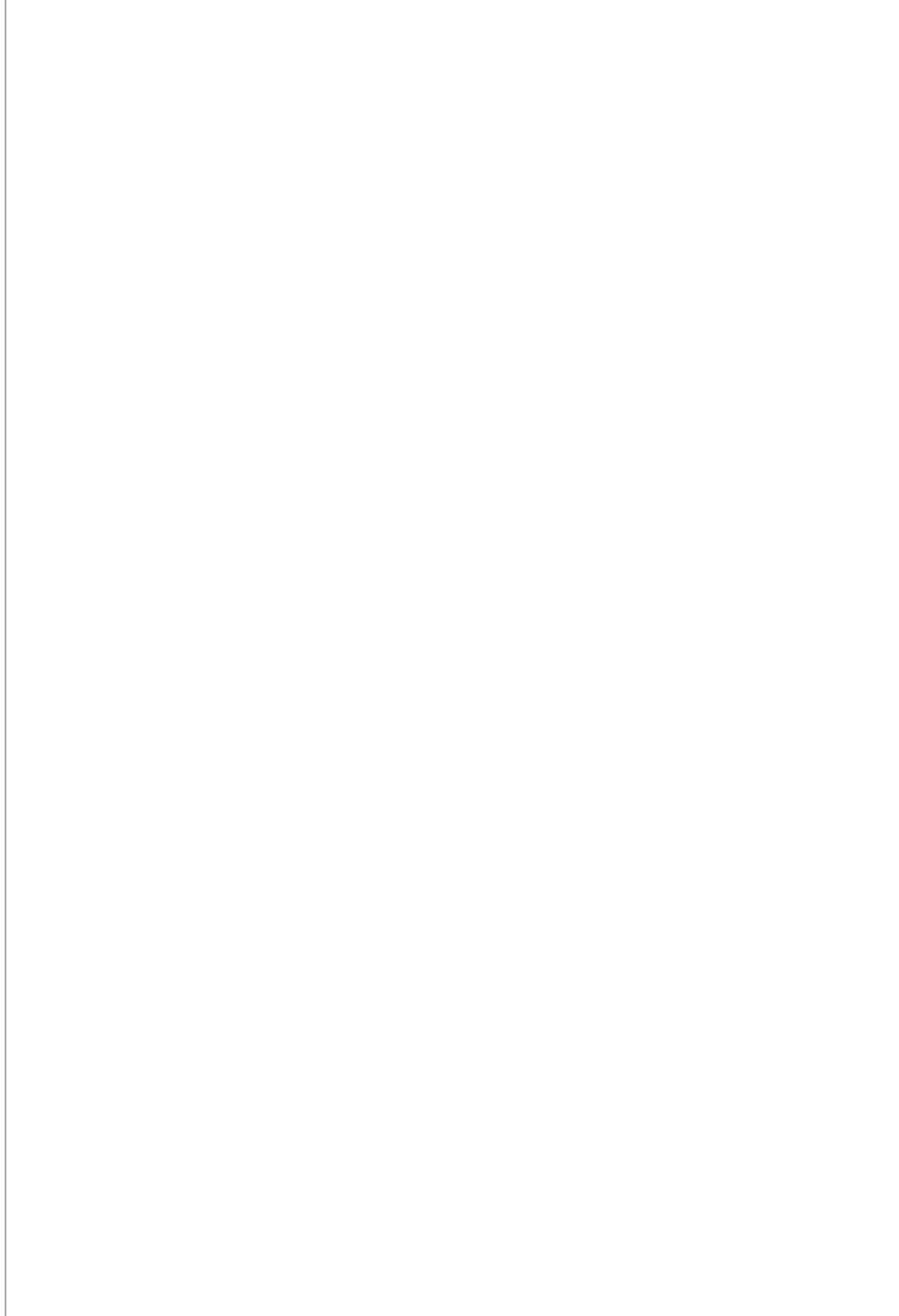
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8 December 1958

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Khrushchev claims USSR has a highly efficient nuclear bomb and a 7,500-nautical-mile missile; he disparages Chinese communes.

USSR "leaking" hints that East Berlin may be included in free-city proposals. ②

Soviet space operation on 4 December probably failed. ③

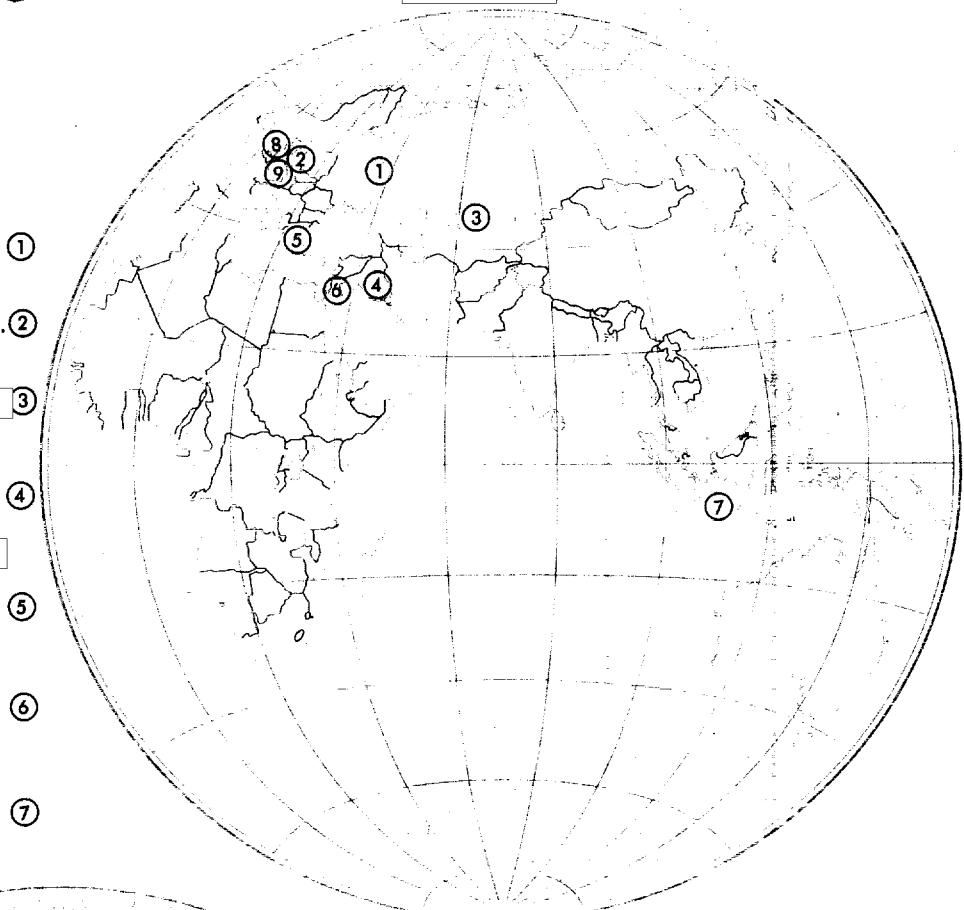
II. ASIA - AFRICA

UAR-supported overthrow of Iraqi premier apparently scheduled for 10 December. ④

Greek Government arrests leaders of Communist-front political opposition.

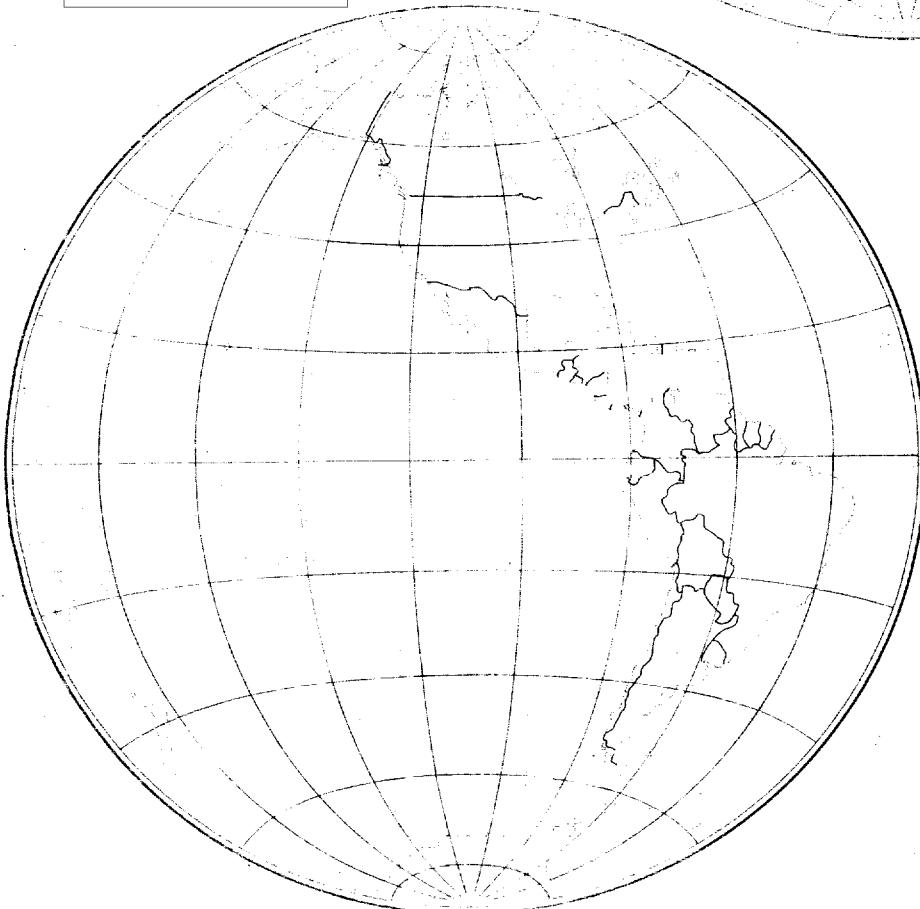
Jordan - King Husayn warned that Syrians plotting to assassinate him.

Indonesia - Army headquarters advises commanders that dissidents may step up military activity this month.

**III. THE WEST**

⑧ Netherlands Government coalition under heavy pressure.

⑨ Anti-Communist parties win overwhelming election victory in West Berlin.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**8 December 1958****DAILY BRIEF****I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC**

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USSR: Khrushchev strongly disparaged the Chinese Communist communes in his recent conversation with Senator Humphrey, describing them as simply a means of applying massive amounts of labor in agriculture. Stating that the USSR unsuccessfully experimented with a "similar" organization in its early days, he added that the Soviet regime had since shifted to methods which recognized the importance of incentives. In discussing internal political affairs, Khrushchev said that he intended to reduce the role of the secret police further. He also admitted that, before the meeting of the central committee in June 1957--which gave him his victory over the "antiparty group"--there had been a majority of seven to four against him in the party presidium.

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He also bragged that the USSR now has a 7,500-nautical-mile rocket and a five-megaton bomb using only one tenth the fissionable material formerly required.

(Pages 2 and 3)

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USSR - Berlin: The Kremlin is probing for Western disunity on Berlin by unofficially hinting that it might agree to include East Berlin in the "free city" and to place air and land access routes under United Nations control. Soviet sources have suggested that the USSR would also be willing to remove the East German capital to another city. Such ideas will probably be given further attention through Kremlin "leaks" in various Western capitals.

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USSR - Space Venture: Although there is still doubt as to the type of space operation which the USSR attempted on 4 December, and insufficient evidence to determine confidently the degree of success achieved, GMIC believes that available data indicate the vehicle probably failed to attain its objective. [redacted] (Page 4)

II. ASIA - AFRICA

***Iraq:** The UAR-supported overthrow of Iraqi Premier Qasim appears scheduled for the night of 10 December,

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 The coup is to be accompanied by an uprising of Iraqi tribes, and fedayeen of unknown nationality are to participate. The Iraqi conspirators are pressing Cairo to expedite delivery of essential supplies, possibly weapons, explosives or funds. The Iraqi conspirators have requested that UAR troops stationed at Habbaniya air base in western Iraq not interfere during the coup.

Premier Qasim had been warned earlier of the conspiracy, but he may not retain enough army support to cope with it. At least some important army officers are known to be among the conspirators.

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Greece: The arrest on 5 December of a leader of the Communist-front United Democratic Left (EDA) may signal an all-out offensive by the Greek Government against the major opposition party in the Chamber of Deputies. The simultaneous announcement that 13 members of a clandestine Communist organization had been arrested--the arrests actually having taken place more than a month ago--indicates that the Karamanlis government is trying to divert public attention from its recent failure to win UN backing on the Cyprus issue. Arrests of other EDA leaders and the closing of the party newspaper Avgi are probable.

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Jordan: Former Lebanese President Chamoun informed King Husayn [redacted] of a reported Syrian plot to assassinate the Jordanian monarch and effect a military coup. Husayn's security officials have been unable to identify the Jordanian officers allegedly involved in the plot and have sent an official to Beirut for further details. [redacted] (Page 6)

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Indonesia: Army headquarters in Djakarta has advised its territorial commanders that dissident forces in Sumatra and North Celebes may step up their military activity this month. The dissidents are short of ammunition and generally lack the capability of sustaining a concerted military offensive, but they still are capable of mounting sporadic campaigns against population centers and of harassing substantial portions of Sumatra and North Celebes. This activity would probably be an attempt to bolster their waning prestige. [redacted]
 (Page 7)

III. THE WEST

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The Netherlands: The coalition government of Willem Drees has been under heavy pressure recently, primarily because Drees' own Labor party is increasingly perturbed over apparent losses of electoral support. Foreign Minister Luns believes the cabinet may resign this week as a result of disagreement about changes in tax laws. [redacted]
 (Page 8)

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***West Berlin Election:** The unprecedented absolute majority achieved by the Social Democratic party (SPD) in the 7 December election in West Berlin may lead SPD Mayor Willy Brandt into an open clash with Chancellor Adenauer on the Berlin question. Brandt, who now will be able to claim a much greater voice in Bonn's deliberations over counterproposals to the Khrushchev "free-city" proposals, has already differed with Bonn by indicating a willingness to include all

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of Berlin as a free city and to negotiate the question of West German atomic weapons. The failure of the East German Communists to approach even their poor 1954 performance in strong working-class districts, and the record 90 percent obtained by the two major non-Communist parties--unequalled in earlier West German or West Berlin elections--will be interpreted in Bonn as a repudiation of Khrushchev's Berlin plan.

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Khrushchev Disapproves of Chinese Communes

Khrushchev strongly disparaged the Chinese Communist communes in his conversation with Senator Humphrey on 1 December, and commented that they were only a means of using massive amounts of labor in agriculture. In the first comment on the new Chinese development by a top Soviet leader, he said that communes had been tried in the Soviet Union but they did not work because it was found that incentives were necessary. He added, however, that the Chinese were doing extremely well and he anticipated no difficulty with them.

Khrushchev, apparently referring to the use of the secret police for domestic political purposes, stated that he had already reduced its role from what it was under Stalin and that he intended to reduce it still further. The only example offered, however, was that he was going to substitute ordinary police for the secret police as Kremlin guards.

He also confirmed previous reports that he had been in the minority in the party presidium in June 1957 when Malenkov, Molotov, et al, sought his ouster. He admitted that the vote had been seven to four against him and that he had won only by convoking a meeting of the central committee. A report early in July 1957 listed the seven against Khrushchev as Malenkov, Molotov, Kaganovich, Pervukhin, Saburov, Bulganin, and Voroshilov, with only Mikoyan, Suslov, and Kirichenko supporting him.

With the recent elimination of Bulganin, whom Khrushchev described to Humphrey as stupid and incompetent, only Voroshilov and Pervukhin, of the seven opponents, still remain in the party presidium. Voroshilov, however, is approaching senility, and Pervukhin has already been demoted from full to candidate member of the presidium and sent to East Germany as the Soviet ambassador.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Khrushchev Claims Rocket With 7,500-Nautical-Mile Range

In his talks with Senator Hubert Humphrey on 3 December, Premier Khrushchev stated that the USSR now has a rocket which can travel 7,500 nautical miles. He was probably referring to the Soviet ICBM with a reduced-weight payload, which could achieve this distance.

The success the USSR has had in orbiting Sputniks I, II, and III indicates that it can launch a rocket to fly 7,500 nautical miles. The rockets would have payloads greater than the satellite weights in each case. The Sputnik II rocket vehicle is most likely of the Soviet ICBM configuration, although whether the configuration is 1.5-stage, two-stage, or a clustered arrangement cannot be determined on the basis of present evidence. A minimum rocket-propulsion system to orbit Sputnik II (1,100 pounds) could deliver a 1,500-2,000-pound nose cone to 7,500 nautical miles, and a maximum rocket-propulsion system could deliver a nose cone of about 7,000 pounds to 7,500 nautical miles.

A missile with a range of 7,000 nautical miles could reach any point in the US from any point in the USSR. (The maximum distance between extreme points in the US and USSR is about 7,000 nautical miles.) In the early stages of development, an ICBM would probably be designed for a specific maximum range and a specific warhead weight. In a later stage, a smaller warhead could be selected to achieve a longer range with the same vehicle. The USSR is believed to have reduced the warhead weight of the 700-nautical-mile missile to increase its range to 1,100 nautical miles.

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Khrushchev Discusses Soviet Nuclear Weapons With Senator Humphrey

Soviet Premier Khrushchev recently told Senator Humphrey that a Soviet hydrogen bomb yielding five megatons had used only a tenth as much fissionable material as had formerly been required. He also emphasized that the Soviet Union has so many weapons in stockpile that production of fissionable materials for weapon purposes could cease, and that some existing weapons would be dismantled.

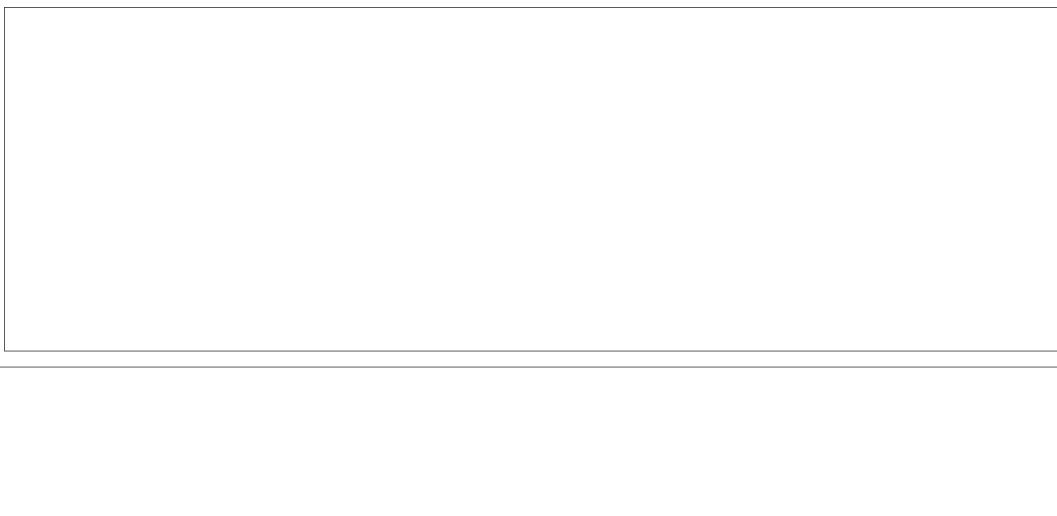
While the Soviet Union has made substantial progress in improving thermonuclear weapons designs, it has not achieved an increase in efficiency of the order claimed by Khrushchev. It may be true that the Soviet Union is dismantling some of the older models of nuclear weapons, but these will undoubtedly be replaced by weapons of latest design. Such a program is normal to any weapons-development and stockpiling program. Khrushchev gave no date by which production of fissionable materials for weapons purposes would allegedly cease; present intelligence indicates plans for an expansion of such production at least through 1961. [redacted]

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Supplemental GMIC Statement on 4 December Launching
at Tyura Tam

Seventy-two hours after the culmination of the countdown at about 1219 EST on 4 December there is still doubt as to the type of operation which was attempted and insufficient evidence for us to determine confidently the degree of success achieved.

It is considered definite that a vehicle left the launching pad, and it was not an ICBM test vehicle. There is no real evidence as to the specific type of space vehicle; and some conflicting information as to what actually happened after launch.



The consensus concerning the operation is that some type of space vehicle was launched at about 1219 EST on 4 December. which probably failed prior to attaining its objective. [redacted]

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II. ASIA - AFRICA

Greece

The arrest on 5 December of Manolis Glezos, member of the executive committee of the Communist-front United Democratic Left (EDA) and director of the pro-Communist Athens newspaper Avgi, may presage an intensified anti-Communist campaign by the Greek Government. Glezos was arrested on the charge that he had been in contact with Constantine Koligiannis, a leader of the illegal Communist party of Greece (KKE). Further arrests and possible exile of top leaders of EDA and the closure of Avgi may take place within the next few days.

EDA has been harassed to some degree by the government since the elections of May 1958, in which it received 25 percent of the popular vote to become the second largest party in the Greek Chamber of Deputies. The arrest of top leaders such as Glezos, however, indicates that the campaign to discredit and neutralize EDA by demonstrating its close association with the KKE is being intensified.

The Karamanlis government simultaneously announced the arrest of several members of a clandestine Communist network in Greece. One of those arrested furnished the information upon which the Glezos arrest was made. News of these arrests, which actually took place in October and early November, had been suppressed pending the outcome of the Cyprus debate in the United Nations. Failure to receive adequate support for the Greek case before the UN has apparently convinced Karamanlis that this is the time to divert public attention with a stepped-up anti-Communist campaign. First reports from Athens indicate, however, that the reason for the move is transparently clear to the public.

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King Husayn Alerted to Syrian Plotting

The Jordanian ambassador in Beirut has learned from an emissary of former Lebanese President Chamoun of a reported Syrian plot to assassinate King Husayn and stage a military coup in Jordan.

[redacted] naming two alleged Jordanian army officers as involved in the plot, as well as a former Syrian deputy who had been supplied with 1,500,000 Syrian pounds (about \$425,000) for undertaking the mission. Jordanian authorities are reported unable to identify the officers or locate the Syrian and have sent a security official to Beirut for further details.

King Husayn [redacted] he was disturbed by indications that a "group," principally Bedouin, was reversing its previously loyal position and was possibly becoming involved in antiregime activities. He had been informed that a Syrian plot to overthrow him was well under way, using members of the large Bani Sakhir tribe and certain army elements. The report also implicated Saudi Prince Faysal, who was said to be paying Bani Sakhir tribesmen.

Husayn is also concerned by the possibility of adverse public reaction to the methods being employed by his palace "Special Police," following the death of a suspect who had been beaten and tortured. The British ambassador believes the palace police organization is dominated by the vicious Colonel Abdullah Majalli, who is using it to intimidate civilian and military elements while he maneuvers Bani Sakhir men into the security forces preparatory to taking over Jordan if the opportunity arises.

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Indonesian Dissident Activity

There are indications that dissident forces in Sumatra and North Celebes may soon stage a combined military and political show of force to bolster their waning prestige. Army Chief of Staff Nasution advised all territorial commanders on 1 December of a report alleging that the dissidents were preparing for "large-scale" operations on the "whole front." Djakarta also has a report, for which it is seeking confirmation, that the dissidents intend shortly to declare a separate state of Sumatra.

The dissidents lack the capability of sustaining a concerted military offensive on a broad front, but they probably still retain the ability to mount coordinated attacks on a limited number of towns and other objectives, carefully selected to yield maximum propaganda value. While their fortunes have progressively declined, the dissidents, who probably number no more than 7,000, still control substantial portions of the hinterland in Sumatra and North Celebes, and have on occasion temporarily occupied major towns, particularly in North Sumatra. Their most serious problem has been a chronic shortage of ammunition.

[redacted] the Chinese Nationalists have agreed to [redacted] support for the rebels, and will provide ammunition, medical supplies, materiel, and Indonesian currency. Chinese Nationalist security boss Chiang Ching-kuo is said to have stated in mid-November that his government would resume its "positive support" to the dissidents if the Indonesian Government continued its repressive measures against pro-Kuomintang Chinese in Indonesia.

Declaration of a separate state of Sumatra would constitute a marked change in the rationale for the revolt of the Sumatran dissidents. Heretofore, in conjunction with the North Celebes dissidents, they had claimed to speak for all Indonesians as a rival government to President Sukarno's Djakarta regime.
[redacted]

[redacted]

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III. THE WEST

Netherlands Government Increasingly Shaky

The Dutch Government may collapse on or about 11 December in the wake of a parliamentary debate on changes in the tax laws. Foreign Minister Luns, who has previously expressed concern over the government's prospects, told Ambassador Young on 5 December that he considered an early crisis a "serious possibility."

Prime Minister Drees' coalition of Labor, Catholic, Christian Historical, and Anti-Revolutionary parties, which was put together after months of negotiation following the 1956 elections, has come under increasing pressure during the past year. In the local elections last spring, Drees' Labor party lost its status as the largest Dutch party, and Labor leaders have recently seemed increasingly anxious to divorce the party from the government in preparation for the 1960 elections. There has also been some public criticism that multiparty governments are by nature inflexible because they cannot deviate readily from their agreed program.

If the Drees government falls, the crisis will probably be prolonged and may well lead to new elections prior to the expiration of the parliamentary term. Criticism--primarily from Labor--of the size of the Dutch contribution to NATO and the government's policies in the dispute with Indonesia over West New Guinea suggests that these issues will figure in the campaign if new elections are held. [redacted]

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The Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary for Administration

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The Director

Atomic Energy Commission

The Chairman

National Security Agency

The Director

National Indications Center

The Director

United States Information Agency

The Director

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