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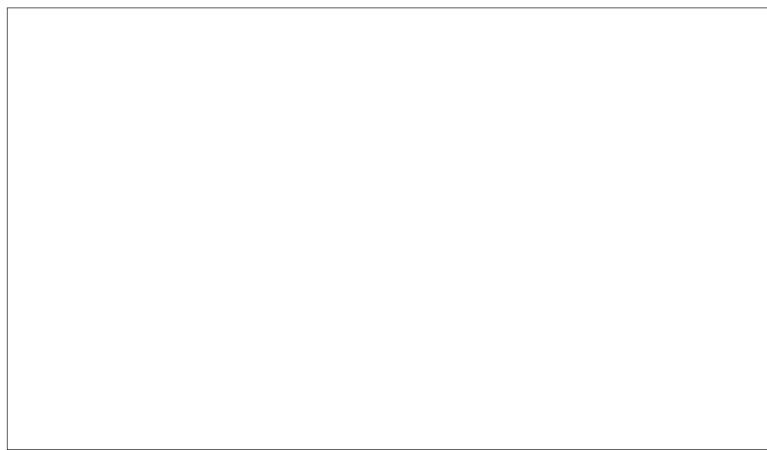
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1. FIRST INDICATIONS OF CALL-UP OF ISRAELI RESERVES

Comment on:

First signs of a call-up of Israeli reserves were observed on the night of 21 February, [redacted]

Jordan army intelligence reported limited Israeli mobilization, particularly in the Jerusalem corridor, as early as 17 February, but no substantiating evidence had been noted previously by attachés.

Arab nervousness over Israeli intentions has been encouraged by the Soviet military attaché in Damascus who advised the Egyptian military attaché there on 19 February of the alleged arrival in Israel in early February of large shipments of tanks and aircraft from Italy.

A limited mobilization from the relatively low level of 55,000 army personnel maintained since December would be consistent with Israel's present unyielding diplomatic posture, and with its interest in the current critical situation in Jordan. The number of incidents along Israel's border with Jordan have recently increased, according to reports from Tel Aviv. Most of the mobilization measures are reported to have occurred at night; similar procedures were followed in previous covert mobilizations.

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2. ISRAELI LEADERS IN PARIS

The American ambassador in Paris reports that Mehadem Begin, ex-Stern gang leader, member of the Knesset, and head of the Herut Party, is now in Paris where he is meeting with various political figures, including DeGaulle.

The American air attaché in Israel reports that Col. Weizmann, the nephew of Israel's first president and a top Israeli air force commander, will depart for Paris on 24 February for a three-week stay.

Comment

These visits are indicative of the extensive efforts being made to broaden the basis of French-Israeli political and military collaboration. Both Begin and Weizmann visited France last summer, and Begin has been given credit for helping promote French support for the Israeli invasion of Sinai. The present contacts are part of the larger effort and do not necessarily suggest that a new military venture is being planned.

Premier Mollet said on 22 February that France will continue to give Israel "all the aid we can."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3. KISHI TO BECOME NEW JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER

Comment on:

[Redacted]

Japan's Prime Minister Tanzan Ishibashi was to submit his resignation on 23 February. He will be replaced by his foreign minister, Nobusuke Kishi. The new government, which is expected to win easy Diet approval, almost certainly will continue its co-operation with the United States, but Kishi, like his predecessor, believes strongly in increasing the independent position of Japan.

Ishibashi's resignation followed an announcement on 22 February that illness would prevent his resumption of duties for two months. Government and Liberal-Democratic Party leaders, under heavy criticism from the Socialists and from dissidents within conservative ranks because of the executive and legislative standstill since Ishibashi's illness, decided to form a new cabinet. All ministers reportedly will retain their posts in the new government.

Kishi, a bureaucrat turned politician, is 61 and is comparatively young for a Japanese prime minister. He was the principal planner in Japan's pre-war economic development of Manchuria, a member of the wartime Tojo cabinet, and in recent years one of the conservatives' principal political organizers. He enjoys wide support within the Liberal Democratic Party, and should be able to give Japan a greater degree of stability and more effective government than his two predecessors.

[Redacted]

**4. INDIA PLANS TO USE THREAT OF "WESTERN IMPERIALISM"
TO PREVENT UN ACTION ON KASHMIR**

Comment on:

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India apparently feels that its only hope of preventing Pakistan from obtaining a two-thirds vote on Kashmir in the General Assembly lies in raising the spectre of a new Western imperialism before the Asian-African nations.

The foreign ministry instructed its missions to stress that the Anglo-American resolution on Kashmir is designed "to create permanent differences among the Asian-African nations and to destroy their solidarity and strength." The "colonial and imperialistic powers and their friends" were described as using the Kashmir issue to "safeguard their colonial interests and their imperial domination in the African-Asian region."

The willingness of the Indian government to resort to such arguments indicates how serious it regards the threat of General Assembly action to its position in Kashmir. If the General Assembly should support Pakistan on Kashmir--as seems likely--India would be forced to agree to a plebiscite in Kashmir or lose prestige with reference to its role as a world mediator, either of which would be a major defeat for Indian foreign policy.

~~TOP SECRET~~

5. THAI UNDERGROUND CADRES RETURNING FROM TRAINING IN COMMUNIST CHINA

[redacted] Thai cadres who have been undergoing training in Communist China have completed their course and are prepared to return to Thailand by a clandestine route through northern Laos, [redacted]

[redacted] Communist authorities in Laos, stated that the cadres have reported to the "men responsible for the communications lines between Upper Laos and Thailand," and gave instructions to maintain utmost secrecy concerning their trip.

Comment

[redacted] the long-standing suspicion that Peiping is training Thais-- and probably other Southeast Asians--for clandestine Communist activities in their homelands. This training is probably being conducted in the Thai Autonomous Area which was established in southwestern Yunnan in 1953.

~~TOP SECRET~~