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24 June 1961

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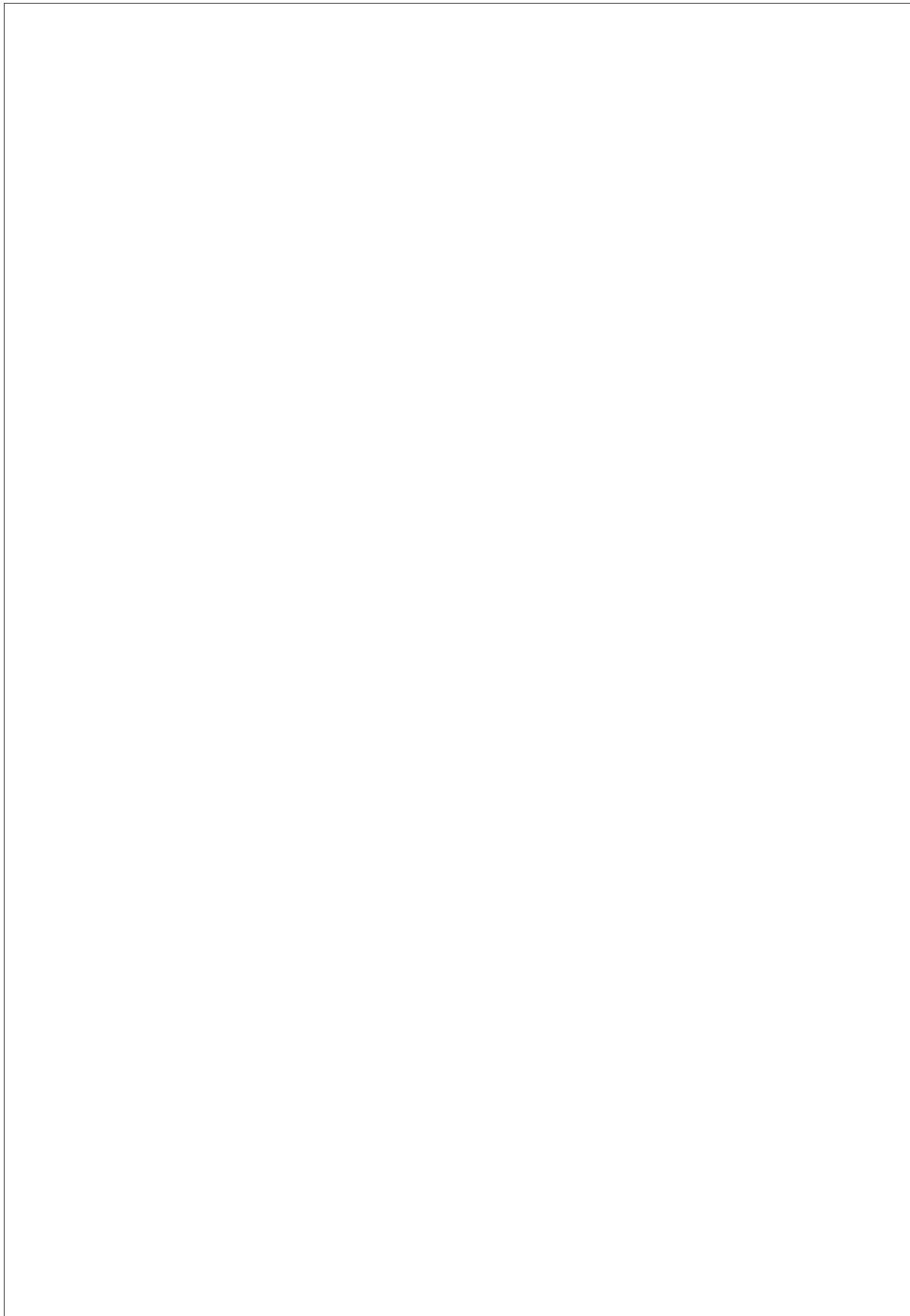
INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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DAILY BRIEF

First
Laos: The three princes apparently plan an early return to Laos after a stopover in Geneva to discuss with Sihanouk certain unspecified proposals Cambodia plans to bring before the conference next week. They presumably will resume their discussions on the formation of a coalition government, although they may have difficulty in agreeing on a neutral site in Laos to conduct their talks. The announcement in Zurich that all three sides will be represented at Geneva pending agreement on a unified delegation in effect means merely that the Boun Oum government delegation has finally decided to participate in the conference after having boycotted it since its outset.

In Laos, the Namone talks remain in abeyance as the result of the impasse over ICC attendance. []
 Military activity remains restricted to scattered, minor skirmishes. Bloc airlift operations continue to be scheduled through 24 June. [] (Backup, Page 1)

USSR-Berlin:

[] the purpose of Khrushchev's deadline on Berlin was to force the West into negotiations before the end of the year. [] the USSR does not demand that final agreement be reached before the deadline, but that "meaningful" negotiations must have begun. Otherwise, [] the bloc will definitely convolve a peace conference and sign a treaty this year. This line suggests that Moscow is engaging in an operation similar to that of November and December 1958, when Soviet spokesmen gave [] assurances that Khrushchev's six-month deadline could be extended if negotiations were arranged. []

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***Thailand:** The Thai Army and the intelligence branch of the Thai police were ordered on alert status on 23 June. The US Embassy and the service attachés consider the alert "purely precautionary" in connection with the attendance of the King, Prime Minister Sarit, and most of the cabinet at a ceremony on 24 June in northwest Thailand.

[redacted] alleged Communists arrested in southern and north-eastern Thailand assert that a "revolution" is planned to coincide with the King's trip. 7

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Greece: Recent reports from Greece assert that several army officers, some retired and some on active duty, are plotting to overthrow the government. General George Grivas, hero of the underground movement on Cyprus from 1955 to 1959, is the alleged leader of these officers and the one who would become head of government following a coup. Aims of this group reportedly include elimination of corruption in government, and a firmer anti-Communist policy in both domestic and foreign affairs. Grivas, who has been generally unsuccessful in his attempts to create a political following, is not considered to have the army support necessary for staging a successful coup.

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(Backup, Page 2)

***South Korea:** A South Korean ex post facto capital punishment law promulgated on 22 June gives the ruling inner circle the power to intimidate all public opposition as well as a tool to discourage factional dissidence within the ruling junta itself. The measure, the full text of which is not yet available here, appears to be so broadly drawn that almost all senior civilian and military officials who served the Rhee and Chang Myon governments could be accused of some act making them liable to the death penalty or long prison terms. The law reportedly grants the Special Revolutionary Courts the authority to sentence persons for major crimes of corruption, anti-revolutionary acts of any kind, election and political irregularities, Communist collaboration or sympathies, and for nonpolitical crimes such as murder and smuggling committed during the last three and a half years.

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Angola: The Portuguese military offensive in northern Angola, which reportedly began about a week ago, apparently has had little success so far. The Lisbon press reports continued terrorist attacks in the interior. The rebels are attempting to interfere with coffee exports by forcing the closure of the principal port north of Luanda, and they may also be trying to seize control of a port of entry for arms. The Portuguese are becoming increasingly concerned over the growth of white separatist sentiment in the southern part of the province.

the Communist-influenced Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) plans to initiate military action in July, emphasizing sabotage. The MPLA reportedly hopes by this means to wrest leadership of the rebellion from Holden Roberto's Angolan Peoples' Union. 7

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*South Africa: The executive committee of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), as a result of a series of secret meetings following the ANC's unsuccessful attempt to call a general strike last month, has adopted a policy of sabotage on a national scale,

ANC President Albert Luthuli, who heretofore has resisted advocates of an extreme course, reportedly gave enthusiastic endorsement to the new policy, stipulating only that no "unnecessary" loss of life should occur. The ANC reportedly plans to start its sabotage campaign with an "incident in the Transvaal on 26 June," a traditional date for African nationalist demonstrations. The failure of the recent strike call demonstrated the ANC's inability to foment mass action in the African community. The extent and effectiveness of its underground organization is unknown, although its leaders have been far more active than those of other African nationalist groups. It may be able to carry out scattered acts of sabotage, which would have a further depressing effect on the country's economy and on the morale of the white population. 7

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Laotian Developments

A Moscow TASS commentary on the recently concluded Zurich talks characterized the discussions as a "good beginning" and emphasized that the talks have shown that the Laotians can solve their internal problems by themselves. TASS implied that the communique issued by the Laotian factions at Zurich cut the ground from under those who "dreamed of a dismemberment of the Kingdom on the pattern of Vietnam." The Moscow commentary also pointed out, however, that effective implementation of the decisions reached in Zurich to form a coalition government depends on the "honesty and good will" of the signatories and scored Boun Oum for insisting that the King of Laos should be the prime minister.

[redacted]
[redacted] names of four students for possible study
in Hungary. [redacted] the
proposed courses of study for the students were electrical en-
gineering, radioelectrical engineering, and mining engineering.

Airlift operations on 22 June involved a total of 19 sorties, of which probably 18 were into Laos. The AN-10 which arrived at Peiping from Moscow on 23 June was scheduled to fly on to Canton. Since the AN-10 is primarily a passenger-carrying aircraft, it is likely that its mission is associated with either rotation or evacuation of Soviet aircrews which have been flying airlift missions from Hanoi. Previous information indicated that at least some of the Soviet transports have been turned over to the North Vietnamese.

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[Redacted]

Secret Military Organization Reportedly Plots Overthrow of Greek Government

[A secret military group, which aims to overthrow the Greek Government, allegedly approached General Grivas shortly after his return from Cyprus in 1959 and proposed that he become head of the movement. Grivas reportedly accepted and, subsequently, entered politics as part of the plan.]

[According to this report, the plotters now plan to wait for a major government crisis and then expose alleged political and economic scandals of the present administration. The group believes only ten days will be necessary to convince the people of the need for overthrowing the government. The coup--a bloodless one if present hopes for support from the police, gendarmerie, and army are realized--would be followed by installation of a caretaker government under Grivas. He would be surrounded, however, by what are termed "respected nonpolitical personalities" in key government posts. After the formation of parties "above personal interests," elections would be held.]

[The new regime's program would include the total neutralization of Communists and fellow travelers in Greece; its foreign policy would be pro-American. Economic measures envisioned include tax reform, relief for farmers and workers, and industrial expansion. Basic to the entire program would be elimination of the graft and corruption which the plotters claim permeate the present bureaucracy.]

[Reports of plotting among the Greek military have been recurrent for many years. Senior Greek military officers retired for political reasons frequently have become embroiled in anti-government activities. The report outlined above is more detailed than most and, taken in conjunction with several others recently received, indicates that the organization may be more extensive than previously suspected. The government is aware of some of the plots, and investigations are under way. It has not been established that there is any relationship between the present pro-Grivas groups within the armed forces and the traditional rightist]

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[secret military organization, the Sacred Bond of Greek Officers (IDEA), which is favorable to the monarchy.]

[The possibility of a successful coup against the present right-of-center government appears remote at this time. This would be particularly true of one led by Grivas--who has little popular support. He is not believed to have the support of the King, who exercises considerable power in time of crisis, or of the top military leaders, all of whom are believed loyal to Premier Karamanlis. Among prominent politicians, only Sophocles Venizelos has actively supported Grivas' political aspirations, and his support reportedly is likely to be withdrawn. Greek leftists regard Grivas as a fascist and would use any means at their command to prevent him from assuming power. Should the present administration fail to win control of the government following the next elections--scheduled by May 1962--the likelihood of a military coup would be increased.]

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