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18 June 1958

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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18 JUNE 1958

## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR - Indications are that a central committee plenum is in session. ①

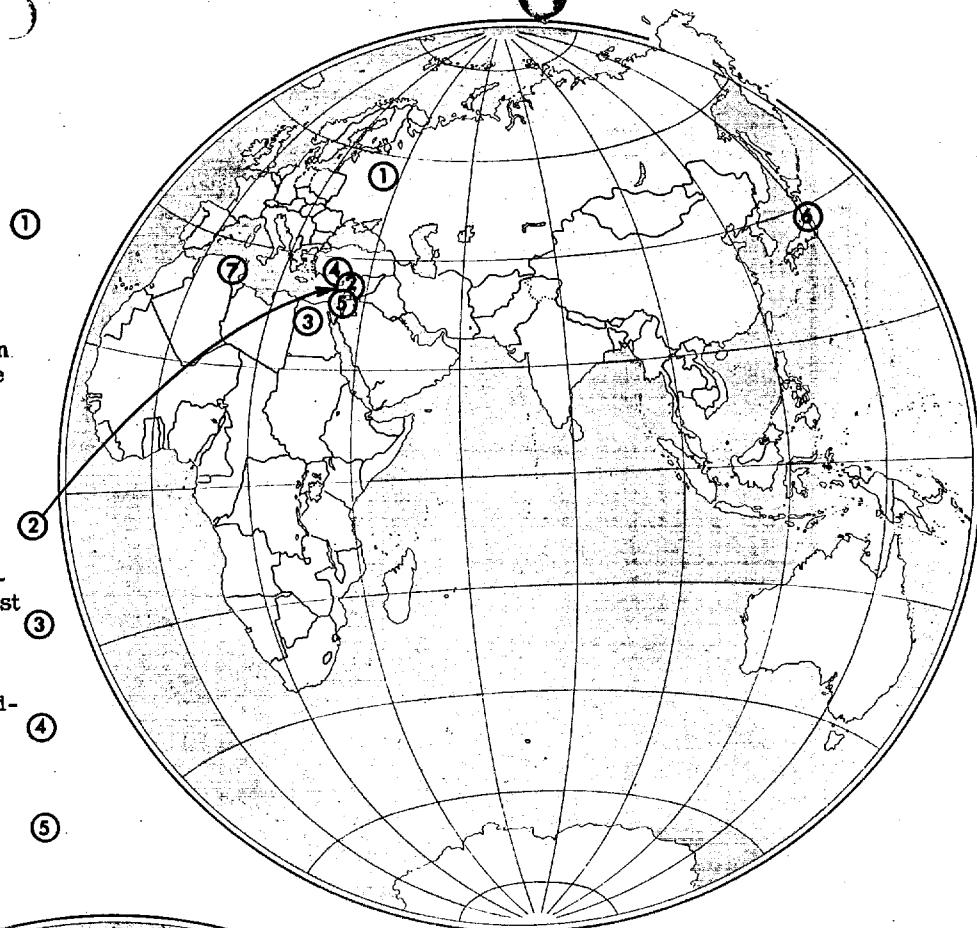
## II. ASIA-AFRICA

Lebanon - Cabinet authorizes Chamoun to call for Western intervention. Some army officers still planning to oust Chamoun. Jordanian prime minister states his country will take any action Lebanon requests to save the country, and believes only armed intervention will suffice.

UAR starts propaganda aimed at stirring up Kurdish tribal minority against Iraqi Government.

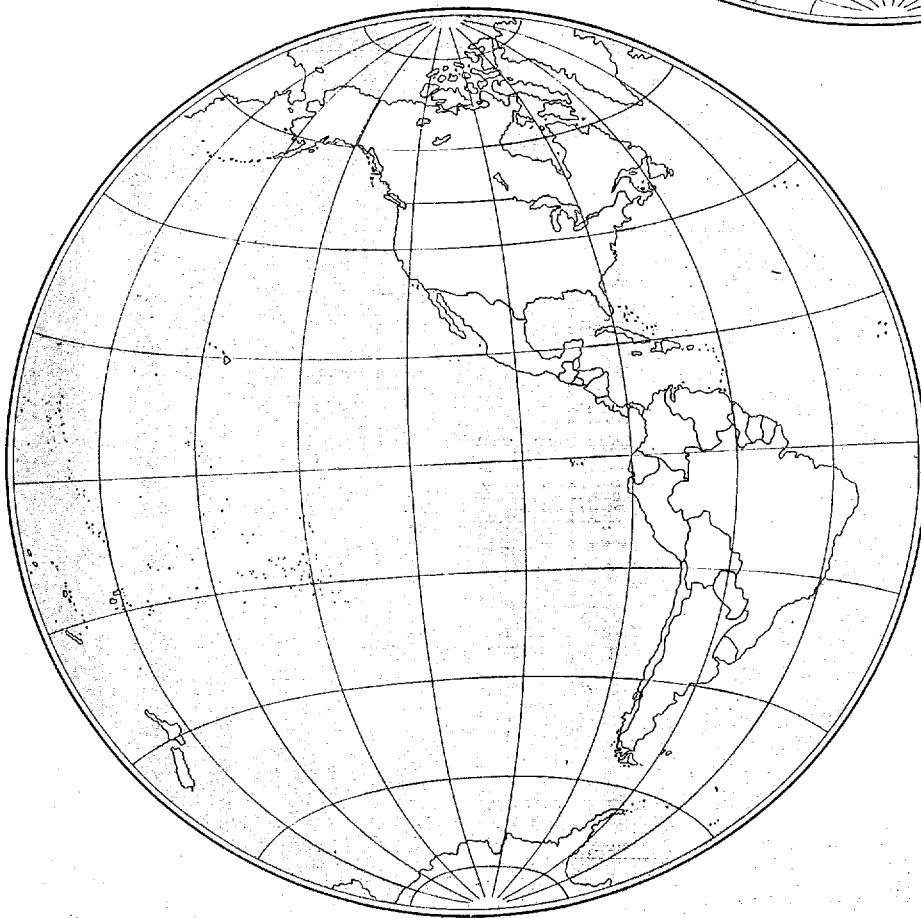
Cyprus - Further negotiations under consideration; Greek terrorist organization warns it is poised for action.

Israeli police activity in Mt. Scopus area may provoke new incident with Jordan.



⑥ Japan has begun concerted effort to launch its Asian economic development program.

⑦ Tunisia will probably renew requests for American aid now that agreement with France on evacuation and Bizerte issues has been reached.

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

18 June 1958

## DAILY BRIEF

*SIR AB*

### I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

*No*

\*USSR: The unusual haste with which several Soviet ambassadors associated with the central committee have returned to Moscow, plus the failure of the top Soviet leaders to appear in public since 12 June, increases the likelihood that a central committee plenum is meeting on matters of more than routine importance. The Soviet leaders are presently facing a number of pressing problems requiring decisions in the fields of satellite affairs, Soviet policy toward the West, and internal economic matters. Any latent disagreements among the leaders could come to the surface with political consequences for Khrushchev or for those elements which are not behind him all the way. The executions in Hungary will increase the sensitivity among Soviet officials in the USSR to the consequences of political error.

*No*

### II. ASIA-AFRICA

\*Lebanon: President Chamoun has been authorized by the cabinet to call for Western intervention when and if he feels it necessary. He is still hesitant to dismiss General Shihab, despite the army commander's continued failure to act decisively against the rebels. Some army officers are completing plans to force Chamoun out.

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Chamoun shows signs of being under great tension, and he believes that the most critical point in the situation has been reached. There has been no major change in the military situation, but a new rebel military effort in Beirut is expected shortly. The Jordanian prime minister states his government will take any action the Lebanese might request "to preserve Lebanon's independence." He believes that "nothing short of armed intervention will save the situation."

**UAR - Iraq:** The UAR has started radio broadcasts directed toward the Kurdish minority in northern Iraq. This propaganda is apparently designed to arouse minority sentiment among the Kurds against the pro-Western Baghdad government, and may also be aimed at forestalling the possible use of the Kurds by Iraq in connection with the Lebanese situation.

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**\*Cyprus:** The postponement of the British policy statement, at the request of the North Atlantic Council, is designed to allow Greece, Turkey, and Britain to agree to further negotiations, possibly to include Greek and Turkish Cypriots, using the British plan as a basis for discussions. At the 16 June meeting of the council, the Greek representative said Athens had not closed the door on further discussions of the proposals, and the Turkish representative expressed Ankara's willingness to join a tripartite conference. Tension continues on Cyprus. EOKA, which was quiet during communal clashes last week, has warned that its forces are "poised for action." Governor Foot, however, believes his force can cope with any situation that arises.

**No Israel-Jordan:** Israeli police activities in the Mt. Scopus area of Jerusalem may provoke a new incident there. Prime Minister Ben-Gurion asserts "there is a limit to what Israel will put up with" in safeguarding its rights on Mt. Scopus.

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DAILY BRIEF

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Israel also intends to protest the recent delivery of military aircraft to Jordan and Iraq. [redacted]  
**DISSEMINATION)**

Japan: Prime Minister Kishi's new government has evidently already begun a concerted effort to carry out an Asian economic development program. [redacted]

No [redacted] Japan is planning to establish "model plants" in selected Asian countries and in Egypt and Chile. [redacted]

Foreign Minister Fujiyama has announced that he will visit Washington this summer to confer with American leaders, probably in a further attempt to gain US assistance. [redacted]

[redacted] (Page 4)

No [redacted] Tunisia: The Bourguiba government will probably make a new request to the United States for arms and assistance in training its military forces now that an agreement has apparently been reached with France on the evacuation of French forces and the provisional status of the Bizerte base. [redacted]

[redacted] (Page 5)

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## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC No Back-up Material

## II. ASIA-AFRICA

### Lebanese Situation

President Chamoun has secured permission from the Lebanese cabinet to request foreign intervention at his discretion. The President said that, although he was not necessarily planning to request intervention, the power to do so was essential in light of the precarious situation. Chamoun stated that interrogation of members of the Syrian armed forces captured in Tripoli by the Lebanese Army revealed that over 25 Syrian military personnel were in the Beirut Moslem quarter working with opposition leader Saib Salam.

Chamoun is still unwilling to dismiss army commander General Shihab, despite Shihab's reluctance to take effective action against the rebels. However, Chamoun does have plans to replace certain general staff officers with men on whom he can rely. Their presence would assure Chamoun of effective control if Shihab should resign or be dismissed.

A group of anti-Chamoun officers has decided to carry out a coup against the president regardless of Western support or opposition. On the night of 17 June the group was distributing articles to the local press which would give a favorable propaganda background for a coup. The timing of the coup has not been set. While the success of a coup is possible, it would depend on secrecy and many variable factors which could disrupt the plan.

Some indication that the coup plans may already be known outside the group of plotters can be inferred from the expressed attitudes of some supporters of Chamoun who hint that they would prefer a military coup to foreign intervention. They have intimated that they would give the coup tacit approval by standing aside in the event it is carried out.

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The military situation remains essentially unchanged, with some fighting in Tripoli. An unsuccessful attack was made on the Iraq Petroleum Company terminal at Tripoli. [redacted]

[redacted] rebel forces are planning to seize a number of tall buildings in the European section of Beirut, particularly near the American University, where they can fire from the rooftops. [redacted] the opposition will make a major effort using UAR fedayeen on 18 June. A primary target is to be the presidential palace. Ammunition was being distributed in large quantities in the Moslem quarter on 17 June.

Lebanese authorities are now telling the press that if the UN does not pledge to guard Lebanon's borders and "do it fast," they will ask the United States and Great Britain for armed forces to do the job. Jordanian Prime Minister Rifai said that his government will take any action requested by Beirut "to preserve Lebanon's independence," but commented that, in his opinion, "nothing short of armed intervention will save the situation." [redacted]

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### UAR Initiates Kurdish-language Broadcasts

The UAR has begun Kurdish-language broadcasts, presumably beamed primarily at the Kurdish minority of 800,-000 in Iraq. This propaganda is apparently designed to arouse minority sentiment among the Kurds against the pro-Western Baghdad government, and may also be aimed at forestalling the use of the Kurds by Iraq in connection with the Lebanese situation.

The broadcasts, which have a strong, clear signal in northern Iraq, are ostensibly designed to "strengthen relations between the Kurdish nation and the UAR," and include newscasts, commentary, and Kurdish national songs. The newscasts, which are almost verbatim translations from Cairo's Voice of the Arabs, have recently emphasized the "rebel cause" in Lebanon and stressed that "Kurds also want independence."

[redacted] Nasir and Kamal Rifat, his chief of clandestine operations, had met with Kurdish leaders in Syria and that Nasir had discussed the Kurdish question with Soviet leaders during his trip to the USSR. Initiation of these broadcasts will tend to confirm the Iraqis' belief that their government is likely to be Nasir's next target, and might lead them to revive their threat of protesting UAR activity to the UN Security Council.

Most of the Kurdish tribal leaders have been reported disillusioned over outside attempts to exploit their long-standing desire for a separate national state, and an offer of assistance from the UAR would probably be viewed with considerable suspicion. However, in addition to their standard catalogue of grievances, the Iraqi Kurds this year have been disturbed by the formation of the Arab Union between Iraq and Jordan.

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## Kishi Government Renews Program for Asian Economic Development

The government of Japanese Prime Minister Kishi, whose new cabinet supports his plan for an Asian economic development program, apparently has begun a concerted effort to implement such a program and probably will make a strong attempt to gain US assistance.

Foreign Minister Fujiyama,

[redacted] has initiated a study of methods for developing industries in various countries. He is contemplating the establishment of "model plants" in Burma, Indonesia, India, Egypt, and Chile, utilizing Japanese funds and technical services. Kishi has announced that he favors a deferred-payments system in trade with Southeast Asia and also stated, "There is considerable room for US cooperation in pushing Japanese exports to Southeast Asia."

Kishi may send Fujiyama to Washington this summer to confer with US officials. Economic problems, especially Asian development and restrictions on Japanese exports to the US, would be a major topic in such discussions.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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Tunisia Probably Will Renew Request for American  
Military Aid

The Tunisian Government probably will renew its request to the United States for arms and assistance in training its military forces as soon as it reaches an agreement with France on the evacuation of French forces and a provisional status for Bizerte. Such an agreement was reported to have been signed in Tunis on 17 June.

The Tunisian Government, which resents its almost total dependence on France for its materiel, will react adversely to the slightest implication that France is tacitly conceded by other Western powers the exclusive responsibility for supplying and training the Tunisian Army. Bourguiba and other Tunisian officials were embittered by US and UK refusal to supply the small arms and ammunition he requested on 16 May and seriously question the practicability of pursuing an openly pro-Western course.

Tunisia last week officially asked Iraq for small arms, "no matter what kind or in what quantity," and may have made a similar approach to the United Arab Republic. On two occasions during its prolonged crisis with France, it has borrowed arms from the Algerian rebels based in Tunisia, and Bourguiba is reported to fear that the Algerians might exploit the Tunisian military weakness. [redacted]

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