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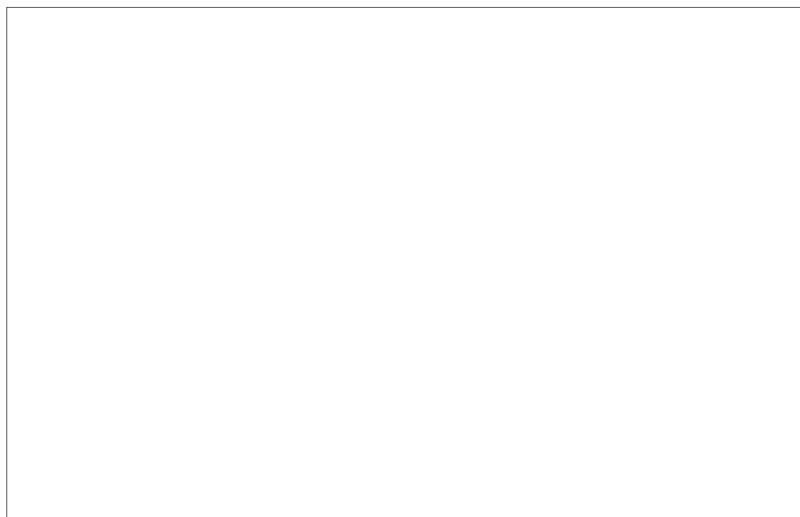
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1. NEW STRAINS DEVELOP IN TUNISIAN-FRENCH RELATIONS

Comment on: [redacted]

[redacted] The decision of the Mollet government to suspend the first installment of a \$34,000,000 loan to Tunisia has further strained Tunisian-French relations. The initial payment, provided for by the economic convention signed in Paris on 20 April, amounted to \$5,700,000 and was to have been made by 5 May. Tunisian treasury funds are expected to be exhausted early in June.

The reason advanced for Paris' failure to honor its commitment was Tunisian support for Algerian independence. Bourghiba indirectly suggested to the American ambassador on 22 May that the United States increase its economic aid to tide Tunisia over this crisis. He is unlikely to capitulate to French pressure and renounce his support for the Algerians. [redacted]

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2. ARMY REGIME IN HAITI THREATENED BY GENERAL STRIKE

Comment on:

The military government led by Brigadier General Leon Cantave, which seized power in Haiti on 21 May, appears to be tottering in the face of a general strike in the capital city and the refusal of most senior colonels to support his regime. Contave threatened on 23 May to use force to break the strike, which the American embassy believes has wide popular support. The strike appears to be in support of the executive council ousted by Cantave which still regards itself as the legal government, though its members are in hiding.

Cantave seemed to the American ambassador on 21 May to be frightened at the trend of events. He admitted that the strike could cause his downfall and feared that, in such an event, civil war would ensue between the Negroes and the mulatto minority.

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3. ARGENTINE ARMY DISSENSION INCREASES POLITICAL TENSION

Comment on:

A split over army policies and over President Aramburu's political program is widening within the army, largest of the three armed services which dominate the Argentine government. Aramburu's appointment on 20 May of Lieutenant General V. J. Majo as war minister prompted strong protests from both major opposing army groups,

[redacted] Aramburu reportedly chose the 66-year-old Majo, a capable officer who retired in 1950, as a neutral officer in the divided army.

The efforts of both groups to force out Majo resulted in the arrest of some 20 officers, including the army commander in chief, whose duties have now been assigned to Majo. Aramburu may make other arrests and changes in command in order to maintain army discipline and implement his program, especially the election on 28 July of a constituent assembly to revise the constitution prior to general elections, now scheduled for 28 February.

Tension resulting from the army conflict is expected to continue and could lead to efforts to exploit dissidence in the other services. The navy and air force, however, are reported backing Aramburu and have ordered their men to stay out of politics.

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4. DEVELOPMENTS IN JORDAN

Comment on:

The possible existence of a movement among Jordanian army officers to organize an "operation to remedy the present situation"

were retired following the dismissal of General Glubb in March 1956. [] had previously advised Cairo that King Hussain's attempts to strengthen the political reliability of the Jordanian army by increasing the proportion of Bedouin troops could lead to serious friction between the Bedouin and Palestinian Arab elements. [] also informed Cairo [] that the government's attempt to dismiss the army's chief signal officer had provoked a "secret revolt" among signal personnel, which forced the army command to recall the officer to avoid a more serious reaction.

it is likely that army opposition to the government's increasing favoritism for the Bedouins will increase the government's difficulties.

Cairo radio reported on 22 May that the refugee "Jordanian National Conference" in Damascus--representing Jordan's left-wing political groups--had issued its "first appeal to the Jordanian people" denouncing the "imperialist conspiracy . . . to annihilate liberated Arab nationalism."

According to press reports from Beirut, Jordan announced that the curfew in Amman would be ended on 25 May--the curfew having been lifted previously in the other centers.

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5. EGYPTIAN NAVY ORDERED TO SEIZE ISRAELI SHIPS

[redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] instructions for the seizure of Israeli ships.

[redacted] any such ships attempting Suez Canal transit are "to be seized and taken to a place selected by the canal company, and kept under surveillance until the necessary instructions have been issued!"

Comment

President Nasr reportedly stated on 17 May that any Israeli ship entering Egypt's territorial waters, with the intent of transiting the Suez Canal, would be seized.

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6. WEST GERMAN DIPLOMAT LINKS REUNIFICATION TALKS TO DISARMAMENT AGREEMENT

Herbert Blankenhorn, West Germany's ambassador to NATO, told American embassy officials in Paris on 22 May that if even a limited agreement on disarmament is reached in the next few months, a high-level four-power meeting will be essential, preferably before the end of the year, to determine the Soviet position on German unification.

Blankenhorn, who has been briefing Chancellor Adenauer for his trip to the United States, did not indicate whether the chancellor shared these views.

Comment

Although Adenauer has expressed approval of an inspection zone in Europe without German unification, he still insists that a major disarmament agreement must be tied to German unification. Assurance that a high-level meeting on reunification would follow any disarmament agreement would strengthen Adenauer's position during the West German election campaign.

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**Watch Report 355, 23 May 1957
of the
Intelligence Advisory Committee**

Conclusions on Indications of Hostilities

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the Intelligence Advisory Committee concludes that:

- A. No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against the continental US or its possessions in the immediate future.
- B. No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against US forces abroad, US allies or areas peripheral to the Orbit in the immediate future.
- C. Early deliberate initiation of hostilities by Israel or the Arab states is not probable. Although tensions continue between the Arab states and Israel and among certain Arab states themselves, these are not likely to lead to serious conflict in the immediate future.

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