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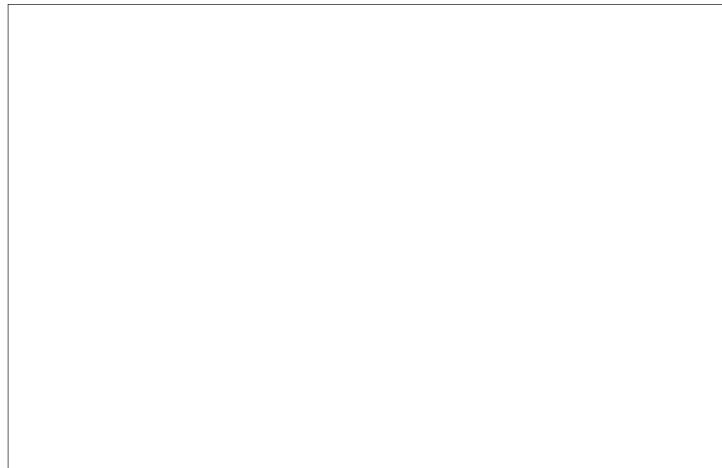
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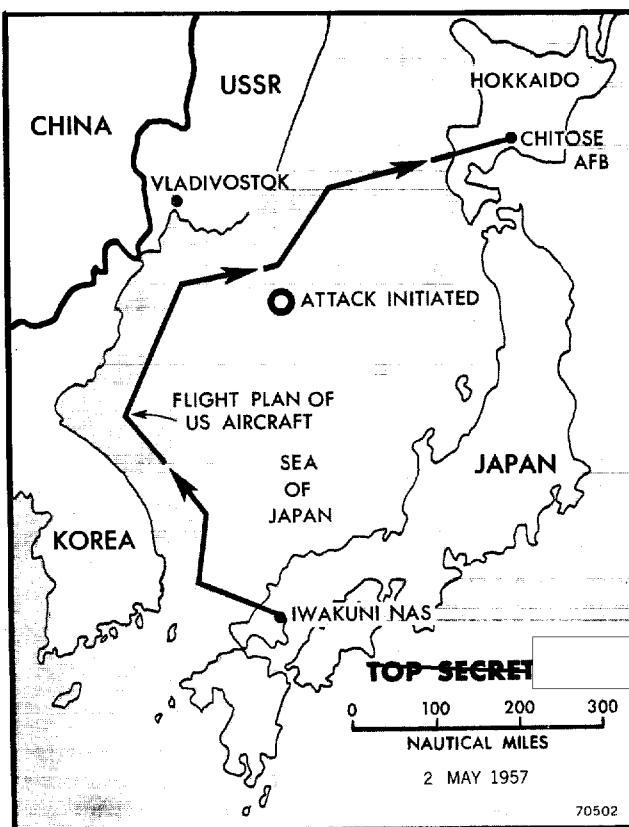
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1. SOVIET FIGHTER ATTACK ON US RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT

A US reconnaissance aircraft over the Sea of Japan was attacked by Soviet aircraft while over international waters approximately 115 nautical miles from the nearest Soviet territory. The attack took place at 1415 GMT 2 May while the aircraft was on a mission between the Naval Air Station at Iwakuni, Japan and Chitose

Air Force Base on Hokkaido. Fighter cover and air/sea rescue aircraft were dispatched to escort the returning reconnaissance plane, but were recalled when the attacked plane reported it was undamaged and out of immediate danger. The Navy plane broke off its planned mission and returned to base at 1845 GMT without further incident.



Comment The location given for this attack is considerably farther offshore than the site of any previous similar incident. It follows closely the Soviet fighter reaction stimulated in the southern Kamchatka/northern Kuriles area by an Air Force RB-50 reconnaissance mission over the Sea of Okhotsk on 30 April 1957. This report is based upon preliminary information and no explanation for the apparent increase in Soviet sensitivity to these long-established flights is in evidence at the present time.

2. THE SITUATION IN JORDAN

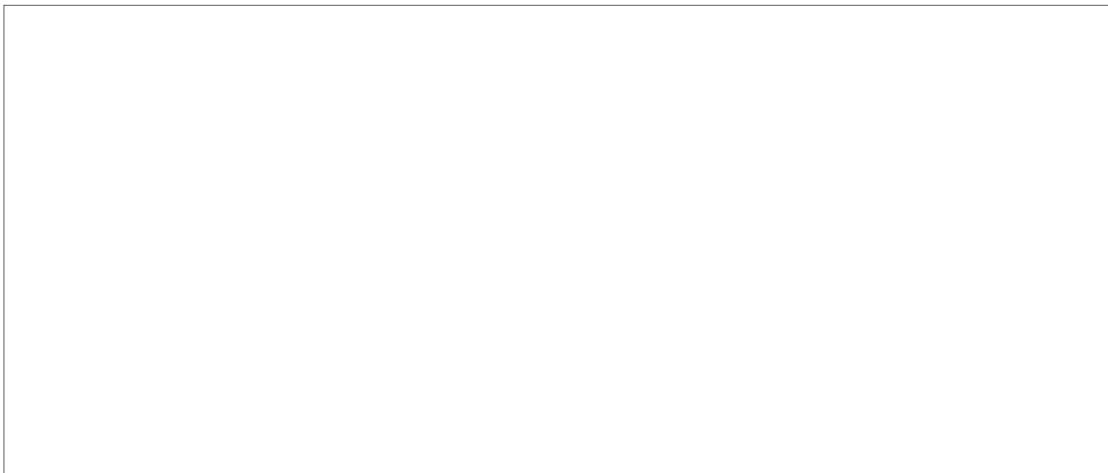
Comment on:

Jordan's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Samir Rifai, who is actual leader of the present cabinet, expressed confidence on 1 May that for the moment Jordan was well under control. He foresaw no difficulty in "quietly" following up recent arrests of opposition figures with trials and convictions.

Rifai considers that it will be necessary to condition the public to accept the new regime prior to the next regular session of the legislature, when the cabinet must obtain a vote of confidence. If it appears that a vote of confidence cannot be obtained, Rifai stated that the legislature would be dissolved, under the pretext that it was no longer representative since the political parties had been dissolved. Rifai added that martial law would be continued as long as necessary; that new elections could be postponed indefinitely; and that new election laws would be promulgated to ensure the election of a congenial parliament. If the legislature is dissolved, Rifai expects to be appointed prime minister, and professes confidence that he could then serve during the full four-year life of the next parliament. He added that his principal objective would be to strengthen relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and to overcome the obstacles to a federation of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq.

Rifai's optimism must be balanced against the fact that the majority of Jordan's population, the Palestinian Arabs, may remain more responsive to Nasr's brand of Arab nationalism than to that of King Hussain.

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Iraqi chief of staff Rafiq informed the American air attaché on 30 April that Syria had conducted aerial reconnaissance of Iraqi troop dispositions at H-3 pumping station, 50 miles inside Iraq, on two occasions in four days. On 30 April, six MIG-type aircraft and two Meteor jet fighters from Syria had made passes over the area. Rafiq stated that he had placed all antiaircraft units at H-3 on a 24-hour alert with orders to fire on any aircraft approaching their positions [redacted]

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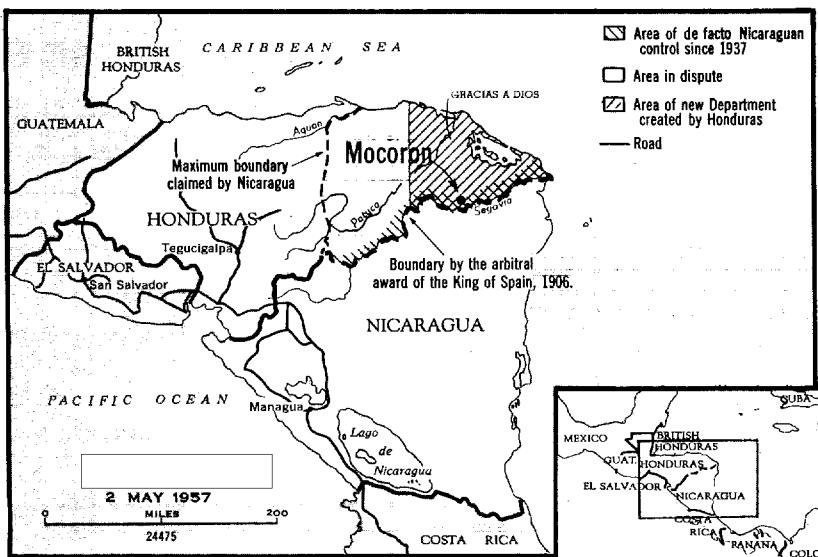
3. NICARAGUA TO ATTEMPT RECAPTURE OF TOWN SEIZED BY HONDURANS

Comment on:

Nicaraguan president Somoza told Ambassador Whelan early on 2 May that his government will limit military hostilities for the present to the recapture of the town of Mocoron from the Honduran force which seized it on 1 May. Somoza hopes for action by the Organization of American States (OAS) to bring the fighting to an end. Preparing for

the possibility of wider action, however, he decreed a "general mobilization" early on 2 May and ordered 1,500 troops to positions along the border, including a "sizable body" to the point where the Inter-American Highway crosses the frontier. At this point, Nicaraguan forces would be

in position to move rapidly against the Honduran capital, a move already threatened by President Somoza. Ambassador Whelan fears that Somoza may be forced by "internal domestic realities" to take drastic action.



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Alfonso XIII of Spain awarded Honduras by arbitration in 1906, which the Nicaraguans claim is rightfully theirs and over which they have exercised jurisdiction for 20 years.

After an emergency session on 2 May, the Council of the OAS voted unanimously, with Honduras and Nicaragua abstaining, to send a five-man fact-finding committee to the area immediately. The disputants were asked to desist from any act which might aggravate the situation.

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4. MILITARY COUP MAY BE IMMINENT IN COLOMBIA

Comment on:

[Redacted] Colombian president Rojas may be replaced in a few days by a military junta, according to widespread reports. His re-election plans and methods of governing have reportedly caused serious discontent among high officials of the armed forces, which have constituted the only effective support of the regime. A new governing body, which the American embassy believes to be under consideration at the moment, would probably be pro-US in orientation.

In April, Rojas packed the National Constituent Assembly, which is the only legal basis of his regime, with his own followers as a means of perpetuating his dictatorship and ensuring his re-election. The two major political parties then united to propose a joint presidential candidate and demand free elections. Meanwhile, the powerful Catholic Church has apparently taken a unified stand against Rojas' "re-election!" Important business, banking, and labor elements have also openly or indirectly swelled the growing opposition. The assembly did not meet on 1 May to vote the re-election of Rojas, as scheduled, which probably indicates that he is confronted by serious difficulties.

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5. SYRIAN COMMUNIST THREATENS TO CUT PIPELINES

Syrian Communist leader Khalid Bakh-dash insisted at a recent meeting in Damascus that the oil pipelines between Iraq and the Mediterranean must be cut again if the United States continues its present actions in the Middle East.

Comment Last November the Syrian army blew up the Iraqi pipeline and would have cut the Tapline pipe running from Saudi Arabia if Nasr had not intervened. Leftist Colonel Sarraj has boasted that he controls the pipelines running through Syria.

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6. IRAN NOT PLANNING STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF ISRAELI OIL BOYCOTT

Reference:

Iranian foreign minister Ardalan has told the American embassy that Tehran "does not contemplate rigorous enforcement" of the ban on shipping Iranian oil to Israel.

Ardalan said he had told Arab representatives that Israel is an important potential market for Iranian exports and that any boycott of Israel would entail a "substantial sacrifice" for Iran.

Although Tehran will continue to make gestures of solidarity with the Arab states, it is not likely to undertake any action which would reduce income from oil sources.

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7. NASR REGIME ARRESTS WAFDISTS AND RETIRED OFFICERS

Reference: [redacted]

[redacted] The Nasr regime has again moved to counter the effectiveness of present or potential sources of opposition. Many Wafdist and recently retired army officers were arrested during the few days prior to 1 May, [redacted] The Wafdist are reportedly undergoing interrogation at an army barracks in Cairo. [redacted]

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8. THAI CULTURAL MISSION IN PEIPING

A Thai cultural troupe, under the leadership of a well-known pro-Communist playwright, arrived in Peiping on 30 April, according to a Chinese Communist radio announcement. The group will give performances in Peiping and other major Chinese cities, and is reportedly exploring the possibility of going on to the USSR and Poland.

The American embassy notes that despite specific official denials, there is a growing feeling in the Chinese community in Bangkok that the government's China policy is in the process of being revised in Peiping's favor.

The troupe left Bangkok quietly in two groups last week end with passports validated for Hong Kong. The embassy comments that the secrecy maintained in the preparations for departure of this party of 48 indicates collusion by the Thai government. In this connection, several Thai officials, all of whom are closely identified with Thailand's ruling triumvirate, have publicly indicated that they see no harm in the mission since it is purely "cultural."

Comment

Although the official Thai policy is to refrain from recognizing Communist China until it is seated in the United Nations, Bangkok seems anxious to develop more normal relations with Peiping. Unofficial Thai contacts with Communist China have suddenly increased in the past few weeks. In addition to the cultural troupe, there are a Thai basketball team, a labor delegation and possibly two correspondents now in China.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9. PAKISTANI PRESIDENT SAYS HE MAY TAKE OVER
ADMINISTRATION OF EAST PAKISTAN

Comment on:

Pakistani president Mirza informed Ambassador Hildreth on 30 April that he was greatly disturbed by the disloyal activities of certain East Pakistani officials, by the strength of pro-Communist provincial Awami League leader Bhashani, and by Indian subversive activities in the province. Mirza said he was considering taking over the administration of the province.

Mirza probably is worried over the inability of Prime Minister Suhrawardy to oust Bhashani from his influential position in the East Pakistan Awami League. He is unlikely to act, however, before Suhrawardy returns from his Far Eastern tour about 8 May. Suhrawardy will probably try to convince Mirza that another recourse to authoritarian rule would not be in Pakistan's best interests, especially while the Kashmir case is pending in the UN. Short of an actual breakdown of law and order, Mirza is unlikely to act without Suhrawardy's concurrence.

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10. SYRIAN BY-ELECTIONS

Reference: [redacted]

"As of 30 April, the Syrian parliamentary by-elections scheduled for 4 May appeared to be taking on increased significance, as a test of leftist versus rightist strength.

In three out of four of the contests, the number of candidates has been reduced to a single proleftist government candidate and a prorightist opposition candidate. In the all-important Damascus contest, the rightist candidate seems to be the more popular.

It has been reported that both sides are planning to "import" thousands of supporters into Damascus from other Syrian cities and possibly from Lebanon.

The introduction of large numbers of partisans could set the stage for violence. The tempers of both rightist and leftist groups reportedly have been raised considerably by events in Jordan. [redacted]

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11. PERVUKHIN'S APPOINTMENT

Comment on:

The appointment of Mikhail Pervukhin as USSR Minister of Medium Machine Building, the ministry currently operating the Soviet atomic energy program, moves him from a top economic planning

position as chairman of the short-range planning commission to direction of a single economic ministry. Thus he will apparently not receive one of the top administrative posts in the governmental reorganization, to be formally adopted at next week's Supreme Soviet session, in which the short-range planning commission is to be abolished.

Pervukhin's appointment to a single ministry may reflect dissatisfaction with his conservative appraisal of the economic potentialities of the USSR, as reflected in the 1957 plan which reduced the scheduled rate of growth to a level below that required to meet the 1960 Five Year Plan goals.

As a seasoned industrialist of long experience he will bring very considerable technical ability to the direction of the Soviet atomic energy program.

Pervukhin retains his position on the party presidium, as did Malenkov, Molotov, and Kaganovich when they were transferred to head individual ministries. He will probably continue, as they did, to exercise a role in general policy formulation. Proceedings of the Supreme Soviet meeting may clarify his present status in the hierarchy.

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ANNEX

**Watch Report 352, 2 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.** Deliberate initiation of Arab-Israeli hostilities is unlikely in the immediate future. Unsettled issues and tensions continue to constitute possibilities for violence in the Middle East. Should there be major incidents in Jordan, such as the death of the King or civil war, military intervention by neighboring Arab states probably would occur and Israeli intervention would be a possibility.

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