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14 August 1959

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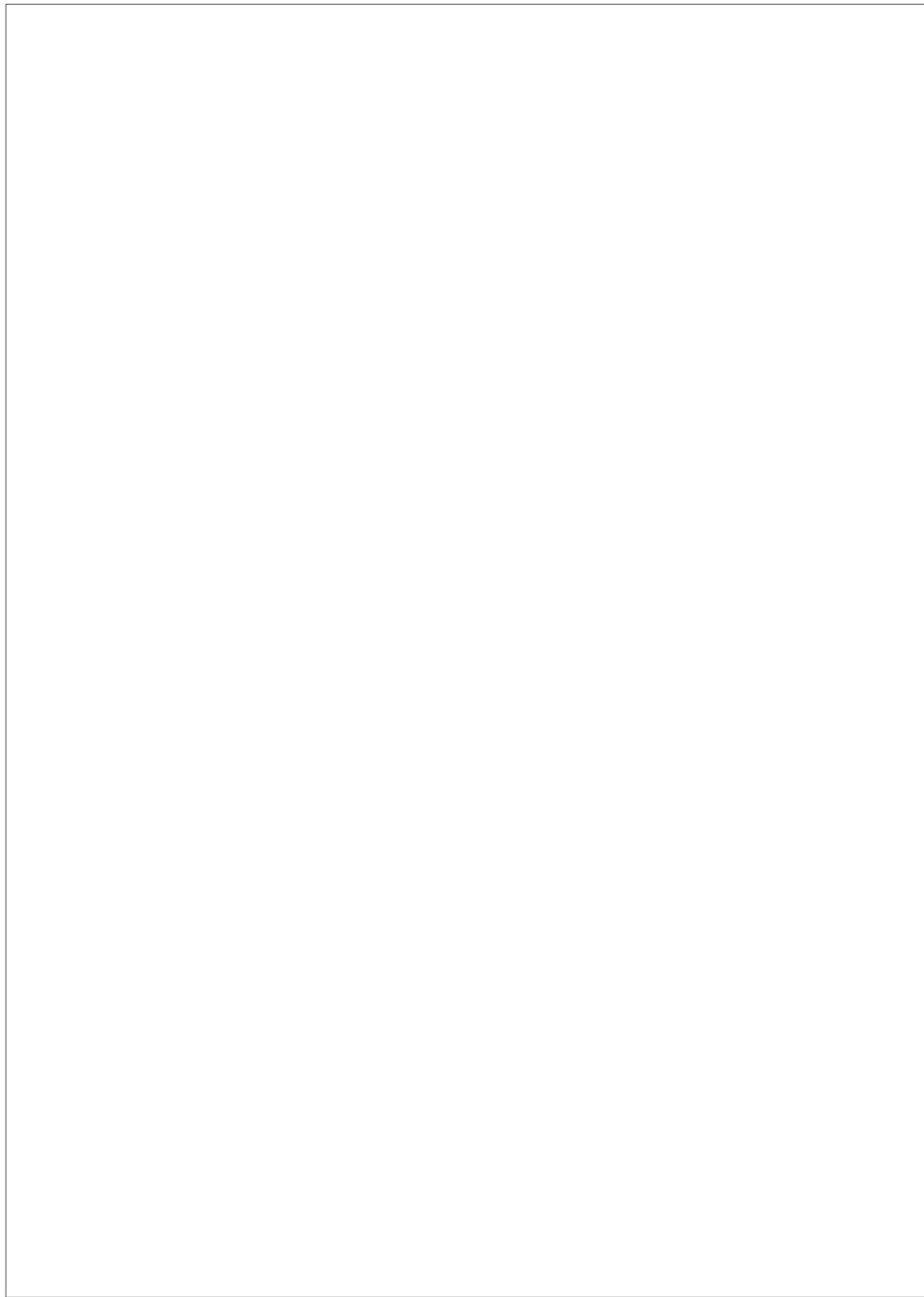
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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14 AUGUST 1959

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Soviet Northern Fleet probably beginning maneuvers.

Peiping delegation to negotiate arms agreement due in Djakarta soon.

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Laos--Communists still hold many villages scattered through Sam Neua.

Nehru reiterates insistence on Indian rights in Tibet.

Two former French West African states threaten secession by 1961 unless French Community becomes commonwealth of independent nations.

UAR apparently financing Yemeni group which plans action against Imam.

LATE ITEM

⑦ Test ICBM launched from Tyura Tam Missile Test Range.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

14 August 1959

DAILY BRIEF

SIRAB

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

NO Soviet Navy: The deployment of Soviet Northern Fleet submarines from the Kola Gulf and Northern Fleet Air Force reconnaissance flights scheduled over the Norwegian Sea on 11 and 12 August indicate that a combined surface/submarine/air exercise is impending. At least two naval units now leaving the Baltic are expected to move up the Norwegian coast in the role of targets for the submarines. Exercises of this type generally occur at least twice annually, in the spring and summer, and in the past have involved up to 40 Northern Fleet submarines.

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NO Communist China - Indonesia: A Chinese Communist delegation with full authority to sign an arms agreement with Indonesia is expected in Djakarta some time "after 17 August,"

Peiping on 7 July promised to provide Indonesia with military assistance "to the limit, in accord with its ability," and an Indonesian Army purchasing mission recently visited Communist Chinese military sites after a three-month stay in the USSR.

(Page 1)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

OK Laos: Communist rebels apparently continue to hold many villages in widely scattered areas throughout Sam Neua Province and are moving about the area in small bands to intimidate the populace. *Use 1/2* the airfield at Sam Neua town is rapidly becoming unusable because of heavy *3 P.M. on 10 Aug*

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rains and improper maintenance. Loss of the field would isolate the province except for airdrops and jungle tracks.

South Vietnam, continuing to manifest apprehension over the Laotian situation, placed its troops immediately south of the truce line on alert status on 12 August.

(Page 2) (Map)

DK
India: Prime Minister Nehru, reviewing current problems in Sino-Indian relations before Parliament on 13 August, reiterated his government's determination to resist any infringement by Peiping of Indian rights in the Tibetan region. He noted that representations had been made to Peiping regarding the treatment of persons of Indian origin residing in Tibet and Indian traders in the area, and repeated earlier assurances in response to opposition queries that India's frontier would be defended against any Chinese encroachment. Nehru's comments probably were prompted by his irritation with Peiping as well as by his need to appease continuing anti-Chinese sentiment in India. New Delhi apparently does not, however, intend to alter its basic policy toward Communist China.

ZD
Mali Federation: The leaders of Mali--a federation of the French Community states of Senegal and Soudan--threaten to withdraw from the Paris-centered Community by 1961 at the latest unless President de Gaulle agrees to transform the Community into a commonwealth of independent nations. Mali's secession would probably be followed by close association with Guinea in forming the nucleus of a West African federation. Such a development would probably have considerable appeal to nationalists in several other autonomous French republics in West Africa.

(Page 4) (Map)

ZD
Yemen:

the UAR has given financial aid to a group which is planning "action" against the Imam. The "action" is not set for any specific time, however, and apparently will depend on the development of a favorable situation.

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DAILY BRIEF

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[redacted] the Imam's initial speech on his arrival in Yemen contained nothing but "threats to take revenge," and the UAR representatives believe it probable that "several people" will be executed during the next few days. [redacted]

IV. SIGNIFICANT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

(Available during the preceding week)

Political Stability in the European Satellites. NIE 12-59.
11 Aug 59. (SECRET)

LATE ITEM

*Soviet ICBM test: [A test ICBM was successfully launched from Tyura Tam to the Kamchatka Peninsula area at 2314 Z on 13 August 1959 (1914 EDT). For the second time in succession, a four-hour countdown was used. However, there were delays totaling almost nine hours, and the launching occurred 12 hours 45 minutes after initiation of the countdown.]

NO
Continuing use of the four-hour countdown, previously associated with TTMTR practice activity, rather than the eight-hour launching countdown will hamper early assessment of the nature of future countdowns at Tyura Tam.]

14 Aug 59

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Chinese Communist - Indonesian Arms Negotiations

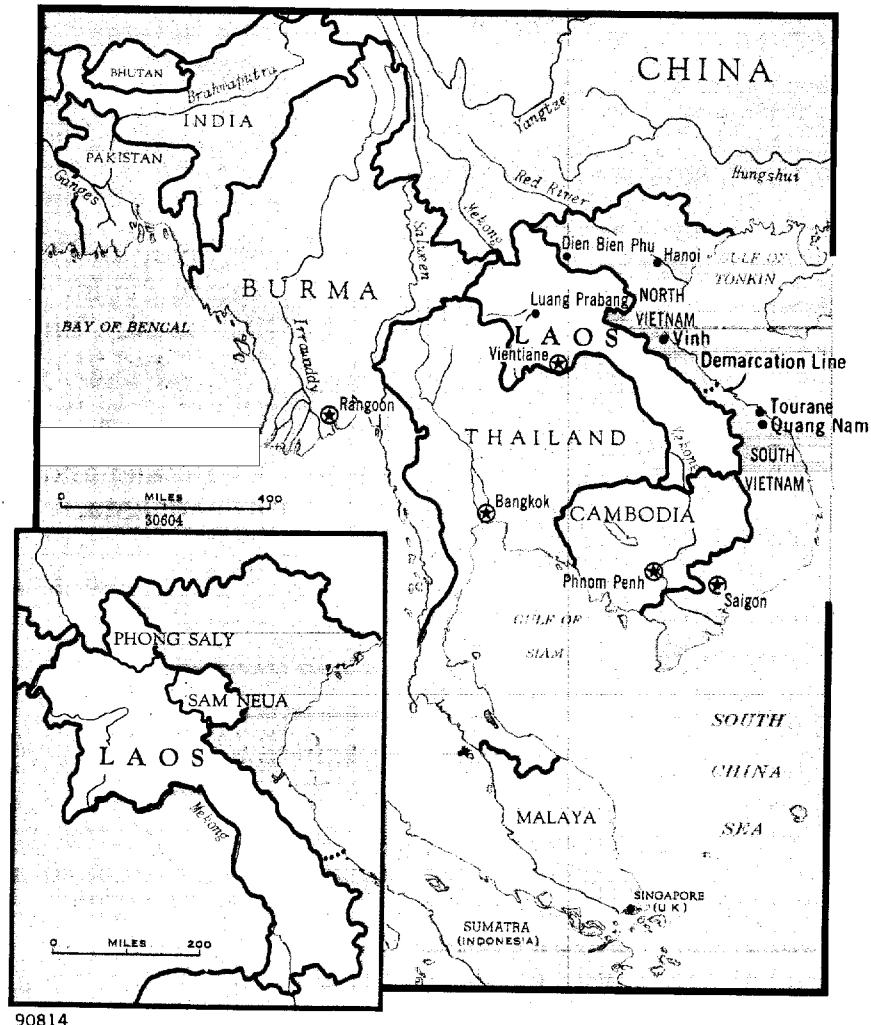
Final negotiations for the purchase of arms from Communist China are scheduled to begin in Djakarta sometime after 17 August.

The Chinese are to be represented by a delegation with "full power from its government" to conclude an arms agreement and to arrange for the delivery of these arms to Indonesian ports. Peiping, after reviewing a list of Indonesian arms requirements, informed Djakarta on 7 July that it was willing to give military assistance to Indonesia "to the limit, in accord with its capacity."

An Indonesian military mission arrived in Peiping on 4 July, after a stay of almost three months in the Soviet Union, where military purchases probably were discussed. The mission apparently spent three weeks touring China and visiting military sites, and presumably returned to Djakarta in late July. These circumstances suggest that Peiping is collaborating with Moscow in supplying arms to Indonesia just as Poland and Czechoslovakia did under their 1958 arms deals with Indonesia.

The bloc has provided Indonesia with about \$175,000,000 in military assistance since the beginning of 1958. Two W-class submarines now en route to Indonesia from the Soviet Far East comprise the final delivery of bloc arms under existing agreements. The bloc previously supplied Indochina with four Skoryy-class destroyers and other naval vessels, as well as jet aircraft--including 20 IL-28 bombers and 60 MIG-17 fighters. Thus far, however, only limited amounts of bloc land armaments have been purchased by Djakarta, and the impending agreement presumably will deal largely if not entirely with land armaments. Peiping has previously supplied the Indonesian Air Force with combat aircraft.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Situation in Laos

Communist rebel bands are reported holding a number of villages and threatening others throughout widely scattered areas of Sam Neua Province. Partisan groups reportedly are circulating through the province propagandizing the population and liquidating government sympathizers.

The combination of heavy rain and improper maintenance is rapidly making the Sam Neua airfield unusable, [redacted] The province will be dependent on air drops and movement over jungle tracks if the airfield becomes inoperable.

[South Vietnam, apprehensive over the Laotian situation, on 12 August alerted its First Corps stationed adjacent to the 1954 demarcation line. The corps' advance tactical command post at Tourane has been moved to a point close to the demarcation line. President Diem has been conferring in recent days with commanding officers of the various military regions about the combat readiness of the 145,000-man South Vietnamese armed forces.] [redacted]

[North Vietnamese troop strength in the Vinh area has apparently been reduced, [redacted] only a battalion of troops there on 1 and 2 August. The 324th Division, with a strength of about 9,000, had been located there. [redacted] report that camps] [redacted]

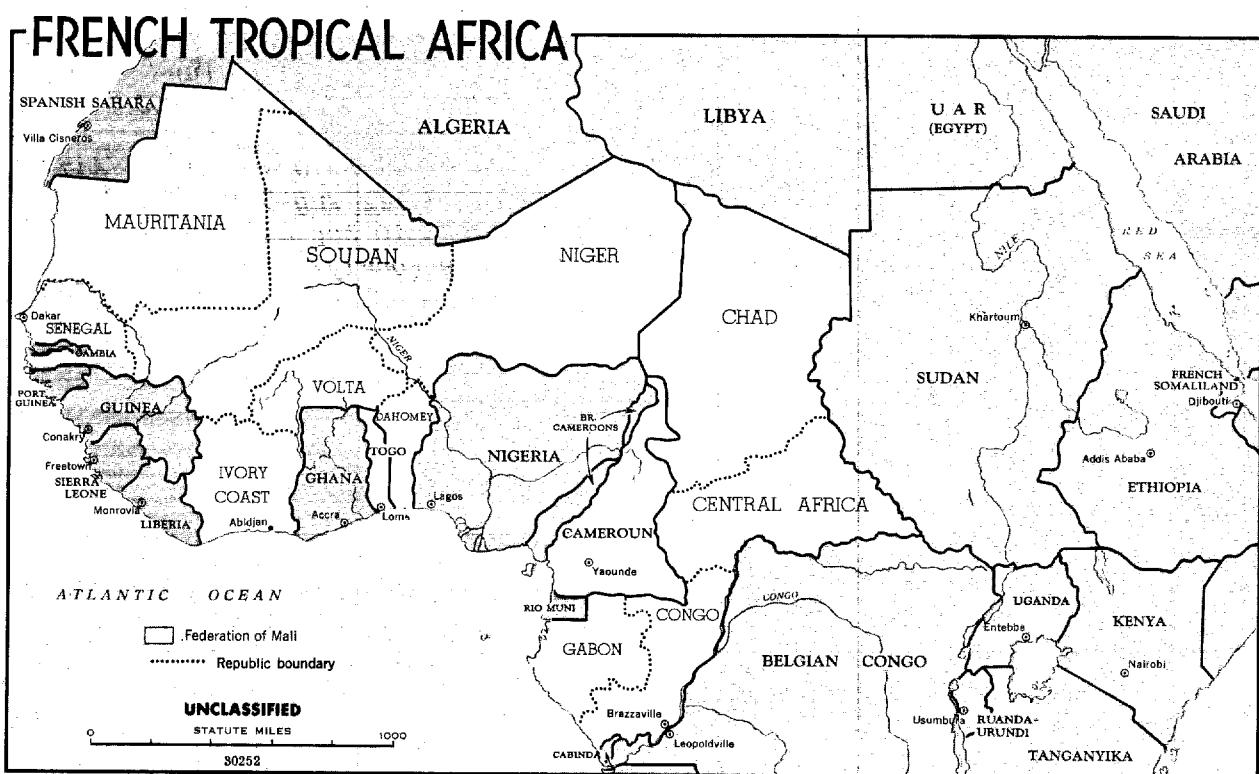
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[where troops are usually located are now nearly deserted suggests that the 324th Division may have been redeployed.]

On 13 August, Moscow replied to Western charges of Soviet involvement in Laos; Radio Moscow claimed that the presence of US military advisers and the "persecution of progressive leaders" violated the Geneva agreements and have "led" to the crisis.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~French Community Faces Dissension in West Africa

The process of defining the future status of the autonomous republics of the French Community in West Africa may cause serious difficulties between them and Paris. At present the powers of the Community are centered at Paris, but some African leaders, particularly those of the Federation of Mali--comprising the republics of Senegal and Soudan--demand rapid independence and transformation of the Community into a commonwealth of fully independent nations.

Mali President Keita recently stated that at least Soudan--and probably Senegal--is preparing for independence in 1960 or early 1961 because the Mali leaders do not believe the Community structure will be changed to their liking. Keita believes that an independent Mali--which, according to President Sekou Touré of Guinea, will eventually also include his country--will have considerable appeal in the name of African unity to other West African autonomous republics.

[With respect to the Republic of the Ivory Coast, Premier Houphouet-Boigny, the main proponent of the present organization of the Community and a leading pro-French African spokesman, has recently indicated that serious difficulties have arisen between his government and Paris.]

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