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25 May 1956

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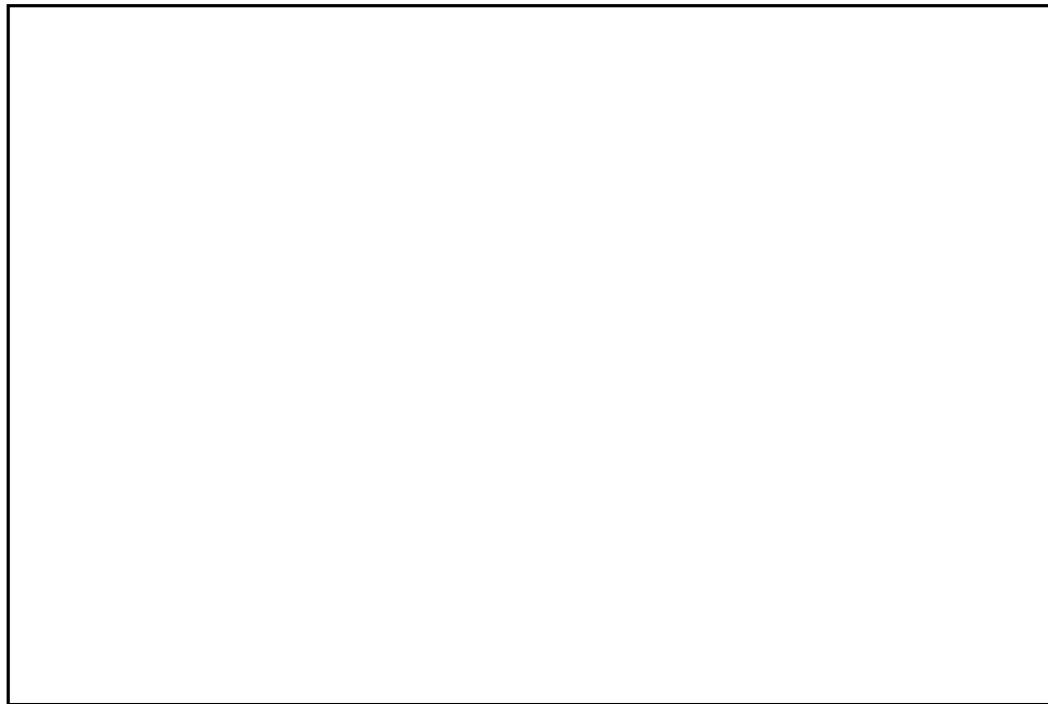
CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. *53*
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TG S *2501*
NEXT REVIEW DATE:
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 16-76 M REVIEWER:

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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Dept. review completed

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Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002500530001-5

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1. MARSHAL ZHUKOV CITES CHANGES IN SOVIET ARMED FORCES

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In a recent speech to political officers of the Soviet army, Marshal Zhukov said, [redacted]

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[redacted] that a basic transformation in the Soviet armed forces had resulted from new scientific achievements in the field of armaments and military equipment. He made the point that while the numerical strength of the Soviet forces has been reduced, qualitative strength has been raised.

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He said that relations among branches of the armed forces have changed substantially, and that the importance of aviation, tank and mechanized forces has increased significantly. The navy is being rearmed with rocket equipment and "in the near future" will be powered with atomic energy. [redacted]

Comment

Zhukov's statement reflects the impact of modern scientific and technical developments--especially the development of nuclear weapons--on the organization of the Soviet armed forces.

At the 20th Party Congress, Zhukov, while reaffirming the traditional Soviet concept of combined arms, stressed the importance of air power in future wars and said that the USSR was giving "special attention" to developing the Soviet air forces. For three years the ground forces have been undergoing a reorganization which has emphasized increased firepower and mobility.

Khrushchev recently stated that the most suitable naval weapon was the guided-missile submarine and that this weapon would be emphasized in the future development of the Soviet navy. Zhukov's speech, however, is the first statement by a high-ranking official that the Soviet navy will utilize atomic propulsion. (Concurred in by OSI)

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2. EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PREDICTS "NEW PHASE" OF POLICY

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Egypt's Foreign Minister Fawzi told Ambassador Byroade on 23 May that the United States would see in the next few weeks evidence of a new phase of Egyptian foreign policy which would please the United States. Fawzi said he would not be more specific, since it was premature to inform other governments about these plans. He made these statements in the context of remarks about Egypt's attitude toward the Baghdad pact.

Fawzi stated that the Aswan High Dam project remained of paramount importance and that Egypt wanted to accomplish it in exclusive co-operation with the International Bank, the United States and Britain.

Comment

Fawzi is usually more optimistic on the prospects for improving Egypt's relations with the West than are more influential members of the Nasr regime. However, it is possible that Nasr is considering what he conceives to be pro-American gestures to offset the bad effects he may feel were created by Egypt's recognition of Communist China.

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3. CHINESE COMMUNISTS SEEK DEFLECTION OF NATIONALIST DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN CAIRO

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Nationalist China's former ambassador to Egypt, Ho Feng-shang, has informed an American embassy official that the Chinese Communists are making "very active" efforts to induce him and members of his staff to defect and take the embassy files with them. He stated that the Communists were offering large sums of money and important positions in the new Chinese Communist embassy and that he himself had been offered the position of Peiping's ambassador to Egypt.

Comment

Peiping would count on publicity concerning the defection of embassy personnel in Cairo to depress morale on Taiwan and among Nationalist diplomatic personnel in other posts.

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4. NUWAR BECOMES HEAD OF JORDAN'S ARAB LEGION

King Hussain's promotion of his young ultranationalist adviser, Lieutenant Colonel Nuwar, to major general and chief of staff of the Arab Legion indicates that Nuwar and his associates in the "Free Officers' Movement" are now in a position to assert their power and influence openly. Nuwar's promotion follows the installation of a new Jordani-

an cabinet in which key appointments were reportedly influenced by Nuwar's group of Legion officers. Significant among the appointments is that of former major general Ajluni, reportedly the choice of Nuwar's group, as minister of defense and interior.

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Nuwar is expected to bring Jordan closer to Egypt in military and probably political matters.

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5. USSR REPORTED PROMISING ARAB STATES
"VOLUNTEERS" IF ISRAEL ATTACKS

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Lebanese president Chamoun told Ambassador Heath in Beirut on 23 May that he was "authentically informed" that Soviet ambassador Kisilev had promised

Premier Nasr that the USSR would support the Arab states with unlimited armaments and "Moslem Soviet volunteer specialists" in the event of an Israeli attack on any Arab state. Kisilev reportedly stated during a discussion with Nasr regarding the Anglo-Soviet talks in London that the Soviet volunteers would service and employ the modern armaments which the USSR would send. Kisilev also indicated that the USSR would approve of all Moslem countries making a common "holy war" against Israel if Israel attacked.

Comment

The reported Kisilev conversation with Nasr took place at a time when Egypt was concerned over the Soviet statement of impartiality in the Middle East situation.

Rumors that Soviet "Moslem" volunteers would participate in an Arab-Israeli war have been widespread. The Lebanese have a definite interest in relaying or exaggerating such reports in the hope that the West will prevent Israel from precipitating war.

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6. JAPAN NEARING DECISION TO EXCHANGE TRADE MISSIONS WITH PEIPING

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The Japanese government is moving rapidly toward the exchange of unofficial trade representatives with Communist China. A high Japanese official confirmed to the American embassy on 23 May that Foreign Minister Shigemitsu and Minister of International Trade and Industry Ishibashi had agreed in principle to the exchange.

No cabinet decision has yet been reached, but the restraining influence of the Foreign Ministry has been weakened by Shigemitsu's recent change in attitude on relations with the Communist bloc, and early government approval is likely. According to the Foreign Ministry, Shigemitsu's new approach is influenced by his fear of isolation within the government party and his desire to be identified with a more popular foreign policy for the forthcoming upper house elections.

The Chinese Communists have been insisting on official status for their mission, but in the face of continued Japanese resistance may decide to abandon this demand for the time being. In any event Peiping would probably count on the activities of its mission to bring additional pressure on Tokyo for restoration of Sino-Japanese diplomatic relations and the abolition of strategic trade controls.

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8. HONDURAN GOVERNMENT TAKING STEPS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE IN CAPITAL

The Honduran government expects violence during the convention, beginning on 25 May, of the Communist-influenced faction of the Liberal Party led by Ramon Villeda Morales. Police have been ordered to set up road-blocks outside the capital and permit only bona fide delegates to pass. They will also patrol the capital and disband any unauthorized gatherings. They have been issued tear gas grenades. About 500 Villedistas are expected.

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Chief of State Lozano has announced that elections for a constituent assembly will be held in October. The assembly is expected to elect a president and re-establish constitutional government. Lozano wants to head the new administration, but is being strongly challenged by the Villedistas.

The Communists, who apparently support Villeda, are reportedly planning a general strike in the important north coast area during the election. While the Communists are probably capable of instigating localized strikes, they probably could not promote a general walkout.

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