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1. CZECH TRADE MISSION EXPECTED IN BOGOTA

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[REDACTED] A nine-man Czechoslovak trade mission is expected to arrive in Bogota within a few days to sell aircraft, trucks and automobiles and to negotiate a \$20,000,000 arms deal initiated by a private Colombian firm, accord-

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In response to an inquiry, the Colombian foreign minister told Ambassador Bonsal on 5 May that "two or three" Czechs had been granted visas to visit Colombia to investigate trade possibilities with private individuals but that no official trade mission or government-to-government negotiations are contemplated.

Comment

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Colombian air force officers, reportedly on personal orders from President Rojas, have been seeking aircraft from other than US sources since last summer.

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[REDACTED] (Concurred in by ORR)

2. PRO-EGYPTIAN MAY BECOME COMMANDER OF JORDAN'S ARAB LEGION

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[redacted] told Ambassador Mallory on 6 May that he expects Lieutenant Colonel Ali Nuwar to replace Major General Radhi Innab as commander of the Arab Legion in the near future.

The ambassador stated that promotion of "this hot-eyed, anti-Western fanatic" would increase political instability in Jordan and widen dissension in the Arab Legion. Mallory said that Nuwar's rapid rise has created much personal resentment and jealousy and there are already signs of anti-Nuwar groupings.

Comment

The recent series of arrests of Arab Legion officers was directed primarily against the anti-Nuwar group. The accession of Nuwar and his clique to top positions in the Legion, with Egyptian and Syrian encouragement, would indicate Jordan's closer alignment with Cairo.

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3. POLISH LEADER JAKUB BERMAN DISMISSED

Comment on:

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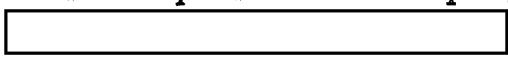


The removal of Jakub Berman from his post as deputy premier of the Council of Ministers and member of the politburo of the Polish United Workers (Communist) Party on 6 May indicates that the new party leadership is rapidly extending its control over the party and the government. First Secretary Edward Ochab, a militant Moscow-oriented Communist, is emerging as the most powerful of the new leaders. Other newcomers to power since the war such as Zenon Nowak and Roman Zambrowski, both members of the politburo, and Wladyslaw Matwin, member of the party secretariat, will exercise increased power.

Berman, a close associate of Stalin, was a member of the triumvirate that ruled Poland until the death of former first secretary Boleslaw Bierut in March and which included economic czar Hilary Minc, who reportedly is ill in Moscow. A recent high-ranking Polish defector stated that the promotion of Ochab to the position of first secretary two months ago might mean the removal of Berman as a result of the enmity existing between the two men.

Berman controlled intellectual and propaganda matters during the Stalin era. A recent writers' conference reportedly demanded that the politburo members responsible for Stalinist practices be removed, and the new leadership has been attempting to placate such groups.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 7 May)

Israel has charged that Egyptian troops have violated the cease-fire agreements by opening fire on Israeli settlers at Nirim, near the Gaza strip, and by crossing the demarcation line into Israel in the same area. No casualties were reported.

(See also item 2, p. 4.)