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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

21 December 1959

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Soviet Submarines: The four Soviet W-class submarines which left the Baltic on 5 December reached Albania on 18 December. This raises to eight the number of Soviet long-range submarines currently based at Valona Bay. The T-43-class minesweeper which escorted the units from the Baltic is scheduled to enter the Black Sea on 26 December.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Turkey: Turkish security forces arrested 30 "key members" of a Kurdish underground organization on 17 December,

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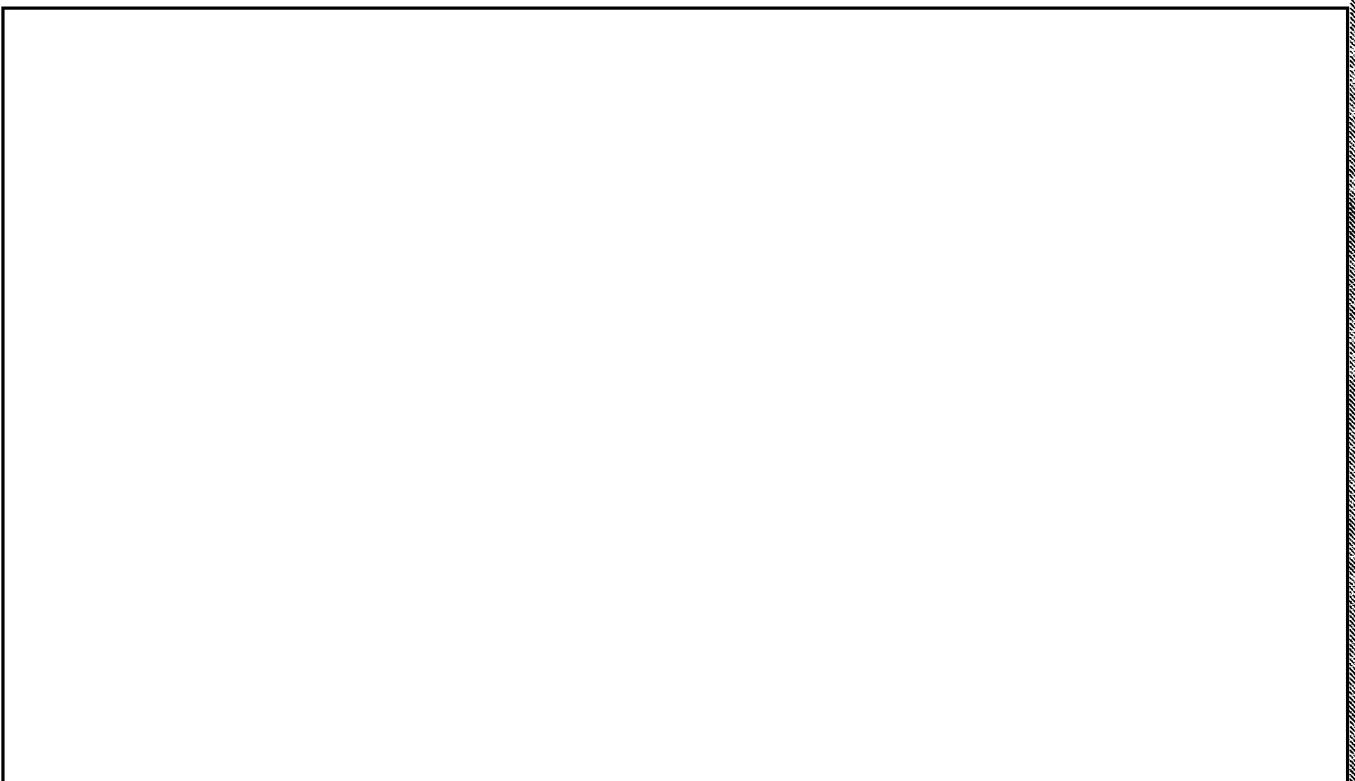
Many of those arrested are university students, and at least some are believed to have Communist connections. The government-imposed press ban on information relating to the arrests is indicative of Ankara's sensitivity to the Kurdish problem and also reflects Turkish sensitivity to any expression of political opposition.

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III. THE WEST

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Cuba:

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the government is planning to instigate, possibly with Cuban Communist party assistance, mass demonstrations of support for Castro on 22 or 23 December by spreading false rumors of counterrevolutionary activity. The purpose would be to smoke out or intimidate bona fide opposition.

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some tightening of military precautions and a general increase in tension have been noted recently, and Castro used similar tactics successfully in the revolt simulated by his agent, William Morgan, last summer. If such mass demonstrations do occur, anti-American violence is possible.

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21 Dec 59

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Turkish Security Forces Arrest Kurdish Underground Leaders

Thirty "key members" of a Kurdish underground organization in Turkey were arrested on 17 December, [redacted]

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[redacted] The action was ordered by Premier Menderes following four years of monitoring Kurdish activities by the security and police services.

Two of the Kurds were arrested in Diyarbakir, a Kurdish center in eastern Turkey, while the rest were detained in Istanbul and Ankara. Many were reported to be young university students. All 30, after being placed in jails in Istanbul by 20 December, will be tried for "engaging in activities dangerous to the security of the nation." A search of their homes revealed at least one document indicating a link with Iranian Communists, and one of the Kurds arrested is described by the Turkish official as a known Communist sympathizer.

The Turkish Government has imposed a press ban on all information related to the arrests beyond the fact that such action has been taken. Representatives of the press were informed, however, that the arrests involved a secret political organization "with foreign connections." With this treatment, the limited Kurdish organization could serve as a pretext for a general tightening of controls on domestic political opposition.

Ankara has always been extremely sensitive on matters involving the estimated 2,000,000 members of the Kurdish minority in Turkey. Officials frequently have denied publicly that there is a Kurdish nationalist movement in Turkey, maintaining that this minority has been assimilated into the Turkish nation. Reports [redacted]

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of a movement for an autonomous Kurdistan have persisted, however, and some Turkish leaders privately concede that a problem exists.

While the Kurds hardly pose a serious threat to the security of a nation of 26,000,000, and in general are relatively inactive at present, they do present a potential target for Communist exploitation. This threat is largely countered at present by the apparent effectiveness of the Turkish security system and by the personal and tribal rivalries which exist throughout the Kurdish population.

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