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CONTENTS

- no 1. EVALUATION OF THE SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL ICBM TEST [redacted] (page 3).
- ok 2. POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET MISSILE ANNOUNCEMENT (Secret) (page 4).
- ok 3. FURTHER ACTION AGAINST MALENKOV INDICATED (Secret) (page 5).
- no 4. JORDANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PROPOSES FEDERATION WITH IRAQ (Secret) (page 6).
- no 5. BRITAIN SEEKING RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA [redacted] (page 7).
- no 6. PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER UNDER INCREASING POLITICAL PRESSURE [redacted] (page 8).
- ok 7. INDONESIAN ARMY IN JAVA REPORTEDLY VOTED FOR COMMUNISTS (Confidential) (page 9).
- ok 8. ARREST OF KEY OPPOSITION LEADER MAY PROVOKE SERIOUS UNREST IN VENEZUELA (Confidential) (page 10).
- ok 9. GOMULKA REPORTEDLY TO VISIT TITO (Confidential) (page 11).

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. EVALUATION OF THE SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL ICBM TEST

Aside from the TASS announcement there is no evidence of the successful launching in the USSR of an ICBM test vehicle to extreme ranges.

possible launching sites for testing ICBM's or earth satellites have not reflected the full scope of activities which would be expected to occur during the launching of an ICBM test vehicle. However, since it has been estimated that the USSR could, in the relatively near future, have the capability to launch an ICBM test vehicle, the Soviet claim cannot be completely discounted.

It is also possible that ICBM components have been flight tested to ranges of 950 nautical miles or less. In this context, activities at Kapustin Yar, consisting of two unusual multistage missile firings on 16 and 24 May 1957 and six firings to 950 nautical miles during the period 22 June-15 August 1957, could possibly be related to a test firing of ICBM components. The Soviet statement could be based on these tests and could be timed to exploit its propaganda value.

The most recent Soviet nuclear test occurred on 22 August at the Semipalatinsk proving grounds. An earlier series of five tests was concluded at the same location in April. There is no evidence that the Soviet nuclear explosion on 22 August was associated with the firing of an ICBM test vehicle.

2. POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET MISSILE ANNOUNCEMENT

Comment on:

[Redacted]

The Soviet announcement on 26 August of a successful test of an intercontinental ballistic missile and a series of nuclear and thermonuclear explosions

"in recent days" is probably intended to help set the stage for a major Soviet offensive at the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly for a suspension of nuclear weapons tests and a pledge not to use nuclear weapons or missiles carrying nuclear warheads. The USSR probably anticipates an early recess in the London disarmament talks and believes that the General Assembly will provide a more effective forum to seek support for its position from many small non-nuclear powers.

The TASS announcement of the test included the standard charge that the Western powers were creating obstacles to a disarmament agreement, particularly a cessation of tests. The Soviet proposals of 30 April and 7 June for a partial disarmament agreement called for renunciation of the use for military purposes of both nuclear weapons and missiles of any range carrying nuclear warheads. Soviet spokesmen in the past have played down the problem of inspection and control of missile experiments, stressing that the danger comes from the nuclear warheads.

In addition, Moscow probably calculates that its announcement will add substance to the Soviet warnings last spring that NATO members and other countries which permitted American guided missile bases on their territories would be subjected to Soviet nuclear devastation in the event of war.

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3. FURTHER ACTION AGAINST MALENKOV INDICATED

Comment on:

A new attack on former Soviet Premier Georgy Malenkov by Party Secretary Khrushchev in heretofore unpublicized speeches appears intended to prepare the way for further punitive action against

Malenkov. Summaries of these speeches were reprinted in the party journal Kommunist and partially broadcast by Radio Moscow on 27 August. Characterizing him as Beria's "shadow," Khrushchev accused Malenkov of "taking advantage of Stalin's weaknesses in the last years of his life. In many instances he incited him to take action which was deserving of stern condemnation."

Khrushchev seems to be preparing a case in which Malenkov will be accused of masterminding some of the worst excesses of the latter part of the Stalin era. Malenkov, the leading rival of Khrushchev among those indicted at the June plenum of the central committee, is the logical victim of the main attack. He was also singled out as the most heinous member of the "anti-party group" in the propaganda barrage following the June plenum, being the one member of the opposition, for instance, charged with complicity in the notorious "Leningrad affair."

The return to the offensive against Malenkov after a period of relative quiet may stem from the need to silence any continuing opposition to Khrushchev's policies and to try to create a new wave of popular indignation against Malenkov that apparently was not achieved during the initial effort.

As further information on the speeches carried in Kommunist becomes available, the status of the remaining members of the "anti-party group" may be clarified. Molotov and Kaganovich have reportedly been further criticized in secret letters from the central committee to party organizations throughout the country, but they have not been accused of misdeeds as severe as those of Malenkov. The diverse treatment thus far accorded Molotov, Kaganovich, and Shepilov suggests that each case is being considered separately and that the fate of these other leading opponents is not necessarily wrapped up with that of Malenkov. [redacted]

4. JORDANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PROPOSES FEDERATION WITH IRAQ

The Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Samir Rifai, has told Ambassador Mallory he believes a federation between Jordan and Iraq may be the only remaining political move by which pro-Western Arabs could resist the pressure which will be generated by the consolidation of the leftist regime in Syria. Rifai said he expects the leftists' position in Syria to be consolidated within the next two months.

Rifai argued that the idea of Arab unity is so popular that prompt government action, without prior public discussion or fanfare, could at this time put Jordan and Iraq into federal arrangements which might include joint customs, education, and military establishments. He admitted that King Saud's blessing would be necessary for the move to succeed.

The American embassy in Amman notes that early Jordanian hopes for a reversal of leftist gains in Syria have given way to fear that the present Jordanian government may not endure, and to some tendencies toward appeasement.

Comment

Jordan's King Hussain warned, before his departure for Turkey last week, that Jordan might be obliged to reduce the intensity of its anti-Syrian campaign unless more support were forthcoming from other Arab states. Rifai's federation idea is a measure of the desperation which pro-Western Jordanians apparently feel in the face of increasing indications of their government's economic and political weaknesses.

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5. BRITAIN SEEKING RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA

Comment on:

Britain is actively seeking to re-establish diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia in the hope that eventually it will be possible to work with King Saud toward solving area problems.

The British have already conveyed to Saud through King Hussain of Jordan and other Middle Eastern leaders their desire to restore relations. A high Saudi official recently told the Iraqis he would be willing to meet Britain's Foreign Secretary Lloyd while passing through London in early September.

To help prevent future trouble in the Persian Gulf area, Britain may now wish to re-establish diplomatic contact before the Sultan of Muscat comes to London for discussions in October.

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6. PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER UNDER INCREASING POLITICAL PRESSURE

Comment on:

	Relations between Pakistani Prime Minister Suhrawardy and President Mirza apparently have reached a critical stage as a result of political wrangling among members of the government coalition

Mirza, along with his Republican followers who form the major component of the coalition, are exerting strong pressure on Suhrawardy to oust M. A. Gurmani, governor of West Pakistan, "or resign yourself." Gurmani is a leading Republican party politician who has incurred the enmity of other Republicans by intriguing against them in provincial politics and by offering Suhrawardy the support of his parliamentary followers in a realigned coalition excluding the Republican party. Mirza reportedly also fears Gurmani as a prospective rival candidate for president in the elections tentatively scheduled for next year.

Suhrawardy apparently was inclined to refuse the Republican demands and risk his position until 26 August when Gen. Ayub Khan, commander in chief of the Pakistani army and a mainstay of the present government, urged Suhrawardy to oust Gurmani so that nothing will "drive you and Mirza apart." Despite his reluctance to desert Gurmani and lay himself open to further demands by Mirza and his Republican colleagues, Suhrawardy may feel he can no longer resist such powerful pressures and still remain in office. His chances of lining up majority parliamentary support outside the Republican party, and without the cooperation of Mirza, appear limited.

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7. INDONESIAN ARMY IN JAVA REPORTEDLY VOTED FOR COMMUNISTS

[redacted] Over 60 percent of the votes cast by the Indonesian army and police in Java during recent local elections were for the Communist party, [redacted]

[redacted] The armed forces and police vote can be ascertained because they voted separately from the general public. Reportedly very few police voted. (NOFORN)

Comment Even if exaggerated, this report is indicative of gains made by the Communists in penetrating army units in Java. Enlisted men and noncommissioned officers, like the general population, undoubtedly were influenced by the Communist party's campaign tactic of identifying itself with President Sukarno and his concept of "guided democracy."

The officer corps in Java, however, is still believed to be largely anti-Communist.

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8. ARREST OF KEY OPPOSITION LEADER MAY PROVOKE SERIOUS UNREST IN VENEZUELA

Comment on:

The arrest of Rafael Caldera, chief Venezuelan opposition leader and head of the Catholic-oriented COPEI party, has provoked widespread concern in Venezuela and may seriously compound

President Perez' problems in seeking another five-year term in the December elections. The church, which has been at odds with the government since last May and in August openly protested against the regime's authoritarian political policies, is apparently determined to insist on Caldera's release. The church and the principal opposition factions would probably support Caldera's presidential candidacy in the event he is allowed to run.

The American embassy in Caracas comments that Caldera's arrest is a serious official blunder since his "martyrdom" might lead to a surge of popular support or even demonstrations in his behalf. The arrest further indicates the government's lack of confidence in Perez' popular support for re-election.

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9. GOMULKA REPORTEDLY TO VISIT TITO

[Redacted] Polish Party First Secretary Gomulka plans to visit Marshal Tito in Yugoslavia in September or early October, according to information obtained by [Redacted]

Western journalists [Redacted]

Comment

The possibility of a Tito-Gomulka meeting was suggested by reports that Tito's chief of protocol visited Warsaw last month. Shortly after Gomulka's rise to power in October 1956, the Yugoslavs expressed their willingness to consult with the Poles at any time at the highest level, but indicated their understanding that the Polish political situation might well make such a move impossible at that time.

Gomulka may feel that the Tito-Khrushchev talks earlier this month, as well as Moscow's favorable comment on Ho Chi Minh's visit to Yugoslavia, preclude any Soviet objection to a meeting with Tito. An atmosphere more favorable to Polish-Yugoslav talks has resulted from the rebuff administered to Soviet "dogmatists" at the Soviet party plenum in June and the subsequent lessening of domestic opposition from Stalinist elements in the Polish party. The Poles are studying some economic aspects of the Yugoslav system to determine their applicability in Poland.

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