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24 April 1956

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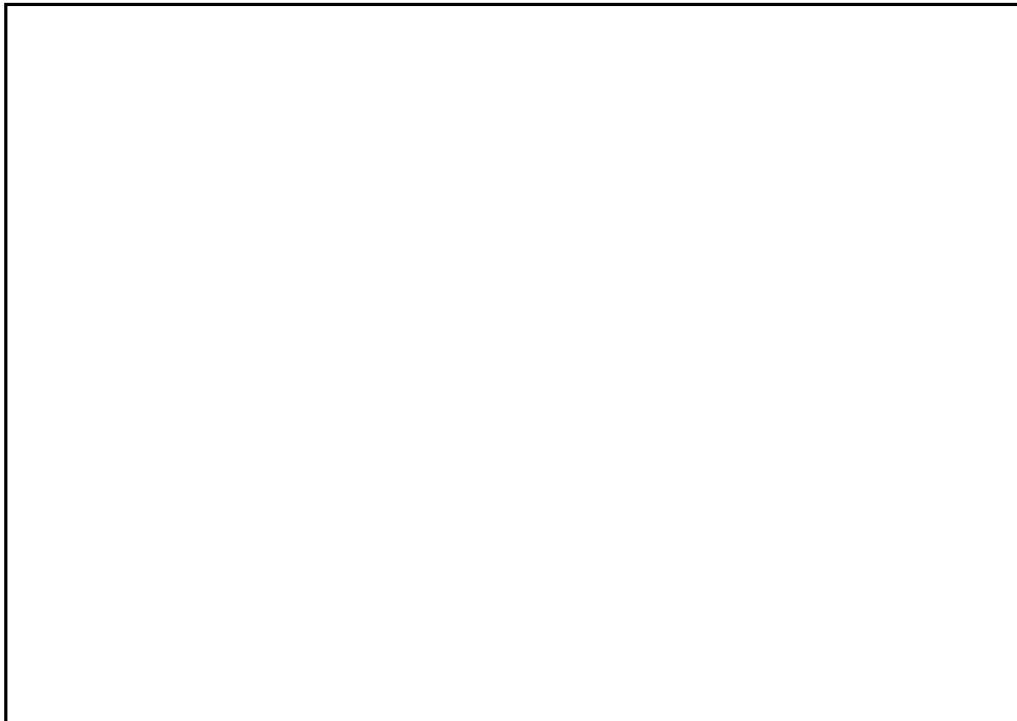
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25X1A [redacted]

1. LEADING CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS MAY  
BE DISMISSED

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Communist sources are saying that Vice Premiers Kopecky and Cepicka, Slovak party first secretary Bacilek, and Minister of Culture Stoll will soon

be dismissed,

informed the American embassy that he expects the announcement of the dismissals before 1 May.

Comment

Kopecky, Cepicka, and Bacilek are members of the Czech politburo. As former heads respectively of the ministries of culture, justice, and security during the Stalin era, they are vulnerable in the current Soviet bloc program to restore legality and to encourage intraparty criticism. According to press reports, Cepicka, now defense minister, has already asked to be relieved.

In his report to the Czech central committee on 29-30 March, party first secretary Novotny warned that Czech adjustments to the Soviet 20th Party Congress would not be "without personal difficulties, problems and perhaps pain" for some members and officials of the party. Officials connected with the ministries of security, justice and culture in Poland have recently been dismissed.

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**3. SINGAPORE CHIEF MINISTER THREATENS TO RESIGN  
IF BRITISH REFUSE DEMANDS**

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[redacted] Singapore's Chief Minister Marshall, who is in London for self-government talks, told an official of the American embassy that he had been forced by the deteriorating situation in Singapore to make demands which went further than the proposals he made several months ago. He stated that if the British refuse his demands, he will probably resign before he leaves London.

Marshall hopes that even if the negotiations fail, the British Colonial Office will make the pretense of continuing discussions beyond 14 May, the anniversary of the arrest of Singapore students two years ago. Otherwise he fears subversive elements may incite riots on both 1 and 14 May.

**Comment**

The British sources have said that they will not grant Marshall's demands on the critical issue of internal defense. Even if Marshall were to receive the concessions he has demanded, the British feel there is a strong possibility that left-wing elements would force him out of office and that it would then be only a matter of time before effective power would pass into the hands of the Communists.

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## 5. NEW CRISIS IN ATHENS OVER CYPRUS ISSUE

Comment on:

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The proffered resignation of Greek foreign minister Theotokis on 22 April resulted from charges by the Cyprus ethnarchy that he had not supported the

Cypriots' demand for self-determination with sufficient vigor. The opposition has kept Prime Minister Karamanlis on the defensive on the Cyprus issue and a refusal to accept the resignation might lead to his government's overthrow. Because Greek public attention centers on this issue, Cypriot leaders may be able to force Athens to follow their views, particularly since Theotokis' moderation has not elicited any new British move toward reopening negotiations on the problem.

\* Karamanlis and Theotokis reportedly believe London has been trying to force them out of office, presumably to make way for a weak coalition of center parties.

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**THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION**  
(Information as of 1700, 23 April)

Isolated incidents continued along the Israeli frontier. Israel charged that on Sunday Syrians fired on an Israeli fishing boat on Lake Tiberias, and that Jordanians opened fire on an Israeli patrol inside Israeli territory on Monday morning. [redacted]

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UN secretary general Hammarskjold is scheduled to fly from Damascus to Amman on Tuesday to continue discussions with governments involved in the Arab-Israeli crisis. [redacted]

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While in Syria on Monday, Hammarskjold is believed to have conveyed an Israeli offer to permit Syrian farmers to water their livestock in Lake Tiberias, to refrain from sending police boats within 250 meters of the eastern shore, and to have Israeli authorities grant Syrians individual licenses to fish in the Israeli-controlled lake. The Israelis report that the secretary general agreed to ask the Syrians to recognize their obligation under the armistice agreement to refrain from firing across or into the demilitarized zone separating the two countries along the Jordan River. Israel hopes to be able to resume the work of diverting Jordan River water within this zone, and Foreign Minister Sharett is reported to have declared to Hammarskjold that Israel would not permit a third work season to pass without completing work on the diversion canal which begins at Banat Yacov bridge. Syria has repeatedly declared that resumption of work within the demilitarized zone by Israel would be an act of aggression. The Cairo press has reported that Syria would ask Hammarskjold for guarantees that Israel would not again attempt to divert the course of the Jordan River. [redacted]

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25X1A [redacted]

