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26 December 1958

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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26 DECEMBER 1958

**I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC**

Shelepin's appointment as chief of Soviet security police intended to emphasize party control.

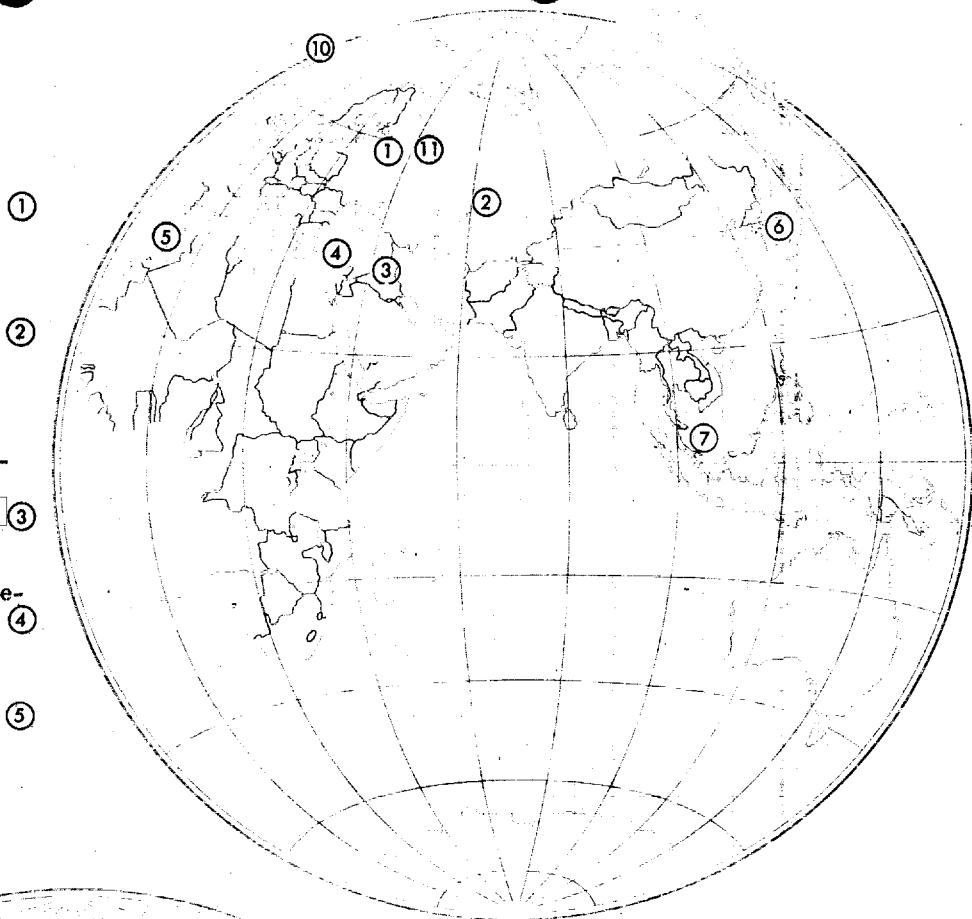
GMC statement on 24 December activity at Tyura Tam Missile Test Range. (page i. Daily Brief)

**II. ASIA-AFRICA**

Iraqi division commanders, previously reported planning to oust Qasim, meeting in Baghdad.

Greek and Turkish foreign ministers reach measure of agreement on framework of Cyprus' settlement.

New Moroccan Government faces Berber resistance and foreign bases issues.



⑥ South Korea - Rhee uses strongarm tactics to pass legislation restricting civil liberties; police break up demonstration in Pusan.

⑦ Re-election of leftist mayor in Singapore underscores extremist control of city's affairs.

**III. THE WEST**

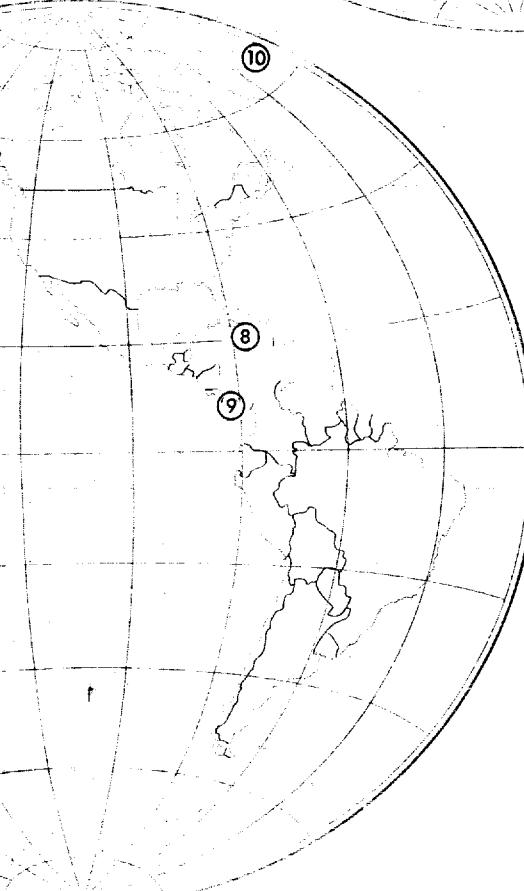
⑧ Cuban rebels intensify and widen activity; put Santiago, second largest city, under heavy pressure.

⑨ Return of ex-President Arias is new threat to stability of De la Guardia administration in Panama.

⑩ Minority Icelandic Government will probably serve as caretaker until spring elections.

**LATE ITEM**

⑪ USSR - Gromyko unyielding on Berlin and pessimistic on prospects for agreement at Geneva.



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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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## DAILY BRIEF

## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

\*USSR: Aleksandr N. Shelepin, until April 1958 head of the Soviet youth organization Komsomol and recently a high official in the party apparatus under Khrushchev, has been named to succeed General Serov as chief of the Soviet secret police (KGB). The appointment of an official apparently far removed from the security service is probably intended to emphasize party control over the KGB and seems to be in line with Khrushchev's private statements that he planned to downgrade the police further. The Supreme Soviet announcement made no mention of a new position for Serov.

Soviet missile activity: Guided Missile Intelligence Committee statement of 1500 EST, 24 December 1958:

At approximately 1100 EST, 24 December, the Soviets launched a vehicle on the Tyura Tam Missile Test Range, believed to be an ICBM test vehicle, but there are indications that it failed to reach the impact area in the vicinity of the Kamchatka peninsula.

It is noted that the last successful ICBM was in late May and there was a probable unsuccessful ICBM in mid-July.

It may be several days before sufficient data is available to state definitely the degree of success achieved or, perhaps, this data will never be known, as is the present situation with the last three Soviet space ventures.

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## II. ASIA-AFRICA

\*Iraq: The four Iraqi divisional commanders, who have been reported planning to oust Prime Minister Qasim, are now meeting in Baghdad.

The ostensible reason for the meeting, scheduled to last until 30 December, is probably the Iraqi army maneuvers scheduled to be held near Habbanivah on 29-30 December.

Cyprus: The Greek and Turkish foreign ministers have apparently reached a wide measure of agreement on the general framework of a Cyprus settlement, which would be based on guaranteed independence. Further progress now depends largely on Greek Premier Karamanlis' ability to accept such a solution despite expected strong criticism from his political opposition in Athens and possibly from Archbishop Makarios. On Cyprus, EOKA has offered to cease all terrorist activities provided the British reciprocate. The government recently released over 500 detainees and lifted some long-standing curfews on the movement of Greek Cypriots.

Morocco: King Mohamed V ended Morocco's month-long government crisis on 24 December by investing a broadly representative cabinet under Abdallah Ibrahim, a leader of the Istiqlal party's left wing. The new government appears to reflect more adequately than its predecessors the major elements of Moroccan society and thus may be able to deal more successfully with the pressing problem of Berber tribal dissidence.

New difficulties with France will probably follow if the new leaders extend more energetic support to the Algerian rebels or move to expropriate French-held agricultural lands. They can be expected to renew at an early date Moroccan pressure for the evacuation of French and Spanish troops and the American air bases.

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**\*South Korea:** The action taken by the Rhee administration in forcefully evicting opposition Democrats and independents from the South Korean National Assembly in order to ram through a bill designed to curtail civil liberties can be expected to provoke bitterness and resentment throughout South Korea. (SECRET) The South Korean police, who have been alerted to prevent popular demonstrations, broke up a protest meeting in Pusan on 25 December. The South Korean armed forces have been instructed by Minister of Defense Kim Chong-vol to remain aloof. (TOP SECRET EIDER)

**Singapore:** The re-election on 23 December of Singapore's left wing mayor, an official of the Communist-infiltrated People's Action party, underscores the likelihood that extreme leftists will control the Singapore Government following the achievement of internal self-rule next year.

### III. THE WEST

**Cuba:** Rebel activity is intensifying and spreading. An attack on a sugar mill in Matanzas province is the first outbreak of such activity in this area. The government has placed all its security forces on a full alert status at least until after 1 January. Meanwhile, the Cuban army commander in besieged Santiago, the second largest city, is under pressure either to surrender the city or declare it an open city in order to avert further bloodshed.

**Panama:** A new threat to political stability has arisen with the return of ex-president Arnulfo Arias and his strong condemnation of the government and the National Guard leaders in his initial press interview. Various factions critical of President de la Guardia are seeking the collaboration of Arias who has long been adept at stirring up

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mob action and apparently now regards conditions as ripe for his return to power.

Iceland: The minority government of Social Democratic Prime Minister Emil Jonsson formed on 23 December is expected to be kept in office by Conservative parliamentary support until new elections are held, probably next spring. This government is unlikely to be able to take effective action on the country's serious economic problems, however, primarily because of opposition from the Communists who no longer have cabinet representation, but still dominate the trade union movement.

#### LATE ITEM

\*USSR: In a speech to the Supreme Soviet on 25 December, Foreign Minister Gromyko struck a firm and unyielding tone on both Berlin and the Geneva nuclear test talks. He reiterated Khrushchev's warnings that if the West rejects the Soviet proposal for converting West Berlin into a demilitarized free city, the USSR will transfer control over Allied access to the East Germans. In a further effort to maintain a crisis atmosphere on this issue, Gromyko said West Berlin "may become a second Sarajevo." His remarks on the prospects for agreement at Geneva were very pessimistic. He charged the United States and Britain have decided to prevent an agreement and attacked the West's insistence on linking extension of a one-year test suspension to progress on other disarmament measures, and Western views on decision-making procedures in the control organ. He warned that no agreement will be possible if the West does not abandon these "invalid conditions."

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