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1 May 1956

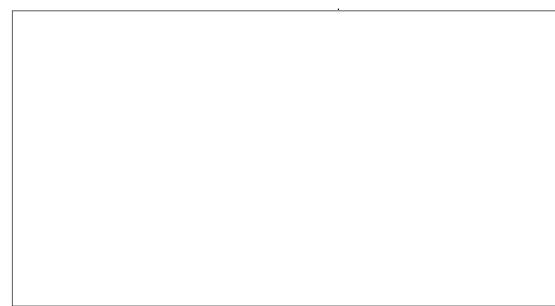
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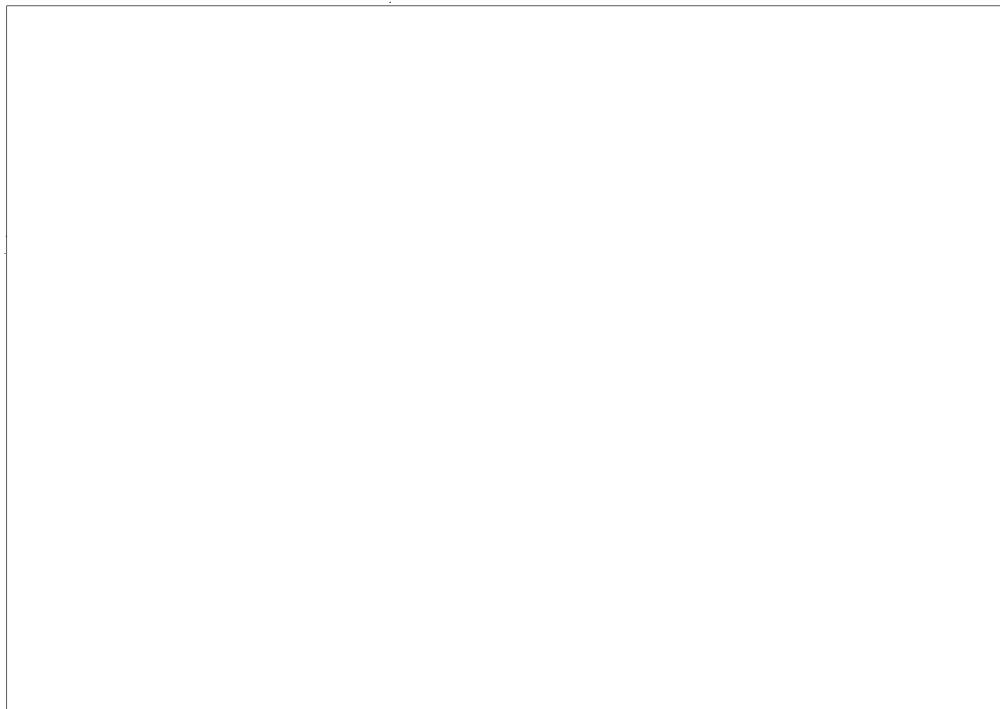
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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



**OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**



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**1. CHINESE NATIONALIST PATROLS SEARCH FOR
SOVIET VESSELS NEAR TAIWAN**

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[redacted] Chinese Nationalist air and naval units are now searching waters south and east of Taiwan for a Soviet tanker and cargo ship believed by [redacted]

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the Ministry of National Defense to be en route from Singapore to Tientsin. Air Force planes made a "near maximum" search effort on 29 and 30 April. Three Nationalist naval vessels are on patrol with orders to "identify and inquire destination," but their captains have been cautioned not to shoot. Two Nationalist destroyers are standing by on harbor alert.

Nationalist defense minister Yu Ta-wei has assured the US Taiwan Defense Command he will "exert his best influence to avoid any untoward incident." [redacted]

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Comment

Two Soviet ships left Singapore last week bound north via the South China sea and may now be near Taiwan. If Nationalist patrols sight these vessels they may detain them, despite the defense minister's assurances. (Concurred in by ORR)

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**2. ARREST OF ARAB LEGION OFFICERS PRESAGES
NEW UNREST IN JORDAN**

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[Redacted]

The recent arrest of a group of prominent Arab Legion officers on grounds of treason could, according to the American embassy in Amman, presage a development of internal difficulties so severe as to lead eventually to removal of the king.

Nine Legion officers are reported to have been arrested between 21 and 24 April, and further arrests, within the pro-Iraqi faction, may have occurred. Most prominent of those arrested is Lieutenant Colonel Mahmoud Roussan, former military attaché in Washington, and one of the originators of the Free Officers' Movement. Following Glubb's removal Roussan is reported to have attempted to organize a group within the Legion to counter the clique controlled by Lieutenant Colonel Ali Nuwar, anti-Western former aide-de-camp to the king and the Legion's assistant chief of staff for operations.

The embassy comments that Nuwar may be exploiting the arrests in a power play against Roussan's group.

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25X1**Comment****Israeli military spokesmen in Jerusalem**

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that they had observed signs of a major crisis in the Legion. Establishment of Nuwar's primacy in the Legion would be followed by closer military relations with Egypt, which King Hussain could not safely oppose.

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3. NORTH KOREAN PARTY CONGRESS REAFFIRMS KIM IL-SUNG'S POWERS



Premier Kim Il-sung and Soviet-oriented Koreans retained the most important posts in the election of

the North Korean Communist Party central committee on 29 April. Kim was re-elected chairman of the central committee, and unlike leaders of the European Satellite Communist parties, is concurrently premier and commander in chief of the armed forces.

The USSR may regard a continuation of Kim's powers as essential to stability in North Korea, despite the statement of the chief Soviet delegate to the congress, who called for the "firm establishment of... collective leadership from top to bottom." No explicit criticism of past policies of the party leadership occurred at the congress. On the contrary, Kim Il-sung stated at the closing session on 29 April that since 1948, "all" the work implemented by the party's central committee was "entirely correct."

Two prominent Soviet-oriented Koreans, Pak Chang-ok and Pak Yong-pin, who had previously been denounced in a party organ for "conspiring" against party policy regarding literature and art, were not mentioned in connection with the congress. Although this tends to confirm the existence of factionalism among the North Korean leadership, the party elections underscore the dominance of Soviet-oriented Koreans over those trained in China or locally. [redacted]

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4. JAPAN PLANS TO EXHIBIT EMBARGOED GOODS AT CHINA TRADE FAIRS

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A Japanese Foreign Ministry official told American embassy officials on 28 April that Tokyo felt "compelled to authorize" the exhibition of embargoed goods at Japanese trade fairs in Communist China next fall. He cited the absence of uniform rules and lack of agreement in CHINCOM on this subject. Referring to the French exhibition of strategic goods at the recent Leipzig fair, he emphasized the difficulty his government would have defending its position domestically if other nations should later exhibit embargoed goods in Communist China. The official stated Japan's willingness to abide by any uniform rules which CHINCOM might establish, but said early action was urgent since Japanese businessmen had to begin preparations.

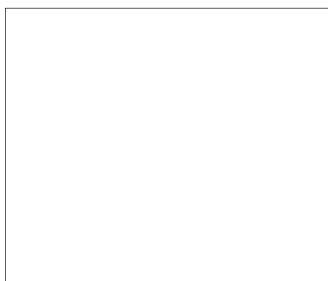
Comment

Although there is no specific CHINCOM prohibition against display of strategic goods at trade fairs in Communist China, the Japanese decision is indicative of a general dissatisfaction among CHINCOM members concerning the strictness of the trade controls applied against Peiping as compared to those against the USSR and the European Satellites. (Concurred in by ORR)

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5. INDIA TO SEND 500 ENGINEERS TO USSR FOR TRAINING



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India plans to send 500 engineers to the Soviet Union to train for work in India's three new steel plants, one of which is being built by the USSR.

This will be the largest group from a non-Communist country to receive Soviet technical training. India's acceptance of Soviet training for such a large group is a prime achievement in Moscow's campaign to get foreign technicians and students to study in the USSR.

About 700 additional Indian engineers will be required for the two steel plants being constructed by British and West German firms. New Delhi's contracts with these firms call for the employment of the maximum number of Indian personnel in the plants as well as the training of an adequate number of Indians in Britain and West Germany. [Redacted] (Concurred in by ORR)

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION (Information as of 1700, 30 April)

Secretary General Hammarskjold told UN officials in Beirut on 28 April that while he was satisfied that neither side wished to precipitate hostilities, he felt that there was little appreciation of the realities by either side and no disposition at present to reach a settlement through compromise.

Lebanese foreign minister Lahoud told Ambassador Heath on 29 April that a cease-fire and the diversion of the Jordan River waters were tied together and a commitment must be sought from Israel not to divert the water until an agreement for its use can be reached. Such use, Lahoud stated, would not involve a formal accord between Israel and the Arab states but would mean that the Arab states would commence work on their side and in the demilitarized zone if necessary, and Israel would independently undertake work on its side and in the demilitarized zone. It would be hoped that at some future time, if a modus vivendi could be reached, that storage and use of water from Lake Tiberias could be put under international supervision. The foreign minister said that his proposal would be supported by the Arab League, and urged that the United States press Israel to desist from diverting the water.

Six Vampire jet fighters with Syrian markings landed at Athens on 26 April to refuel after flying from Italy,

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