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20 February 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

20 February 1961

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

1. Congo: Situation of Gizenga regime remains chaotic; Nkrumah calls Casablanca Conference countries to Accra to study Congo question and possibility of African high command. (TOP SECRET DINAR) (Page i)
2. Laos: King's speech reaffirms Laotian neutrality and sets stage for invitation to "nonaligned neighbors" to form neutral nations commission. (Page i)
3. UAR reportedly sponsoring plot to assassinate Jordanian King before 22 February. (TOP SECRET
[redacted] (Page ii))
4. Portuguese Africa: Precautions being taken against African unrest in Mozambique and Portuguese Guinea.
[redacted] (Page ii)
5. Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland: Threat of racial disorders heightened by failure of London constitutional talks. (Page iii)
6. North Vietnam expanding subversive apparatus in South Vietnam.
[redacted] (Page iii)

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

20 February 1961

DAILY BRIEF

Congo: The situation of the Gizenga regime in Stanleyville continues to be chaotic. Press sources hint that Chief of Staff Lundula may be about to negotiate with Mobutu. Lumumba's Minister of Interior Gbenye, who last week usurped power in Kivu Province, is reported under UN protective guard. No further reports of reprisals against Europeans have been received.

In Katanga Province, a considerable number of Africans adjudged loyal to Tshombe have been armed in order to thwart a possible attempt by UN forces to disarm the Katangans. Information is not available as to whether Europeans have been similarly armed.

Prior to his proposal to Hammarskjold that an African high command take over responsibility for law and order in the Congo, Ghana's President Nkrumah had summoned the foreign ministers of the Casablanca Conference powers--Morocco, Guinea, Mali, and the UAR, in addition to Ghana--to meet in Accra from 20 to 24 February to study the Congo question and the possibility of establishing an African high command.

(Backup, Page 1)

*Laos: King Savang's speech on 19 February reaffirmed Lao-tian neutrality and called for an end to foreign intervention. The King expressed the hope that Cambodia, Burma, and Malaya would form a commission to come to Laos and "establish that the country threatens no one and aspires solely to peace." Although it is too early for reports of international reaction to have been received, the Pathet Lao radio, in an anticipatory denunciation of the neutral

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nations commission proposal, on 18 February termed it merely another US device to avoid reconvening the 1954 Geneva Conference or holding Cambodian Prince Sihanouk's proposed 14-nation conference on Laos.

[The Soviet airlift into Laos was hampered on 17 and 18 February by adverse weather. An AN-12 heavy transport is en route to Hanoi via Irkutsk and Peiping probably with cargo intended for Laos.]

No significant military developments have been reported from Laos during the past 48 hours.

Jordan: The Jordanian ambassador in Beirut advised Amman [] a UAR-sponsored plot to assassinate King Husayn would be carried out before 22 February. Since the assassination of Prime Minister Majalli last August, Jordanian security forces have been alerted for any new UAR clandestine efforts. Unless the UAR has obtained a high-level penetration of the Jordanian Government, a successful assassination attempt appears unlikely.

(Backup, Page 3)

Portuguese Africa: Unrest in areas of Portuguese Africa in addition to Angola

[] The Portuguese Foreign Ministry instructed the military attaché in South Africa to look into the possibility of buying six Dakota transport planes and an unspecified quantity of 100-pound aerial bombs for authorities in Mozambique. [] the governor of Portuguese Guinea informed Lisbon of repressive action being taken against the African nationalist movement in that province.

(Backup, Page 4)

20 Feb 61

DAILY BRIEF

ii

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland: [The threat of racial disorders in Northern Rhodesia has heightened with the failure on 19 February of last-minute efforts in London to save the constitutional talks between British officials and African leaders. The Africans, claiming that Britain has betrayed them and given in to pressure from the white settler minority, have warned of the danger of an uprising. A week ago the government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland called up territorial reserve troops in Northern Rhodesia after Africans held large-scale public meetings.] OK

(Backup, Page 6)

North Vietnam - South Vietnam: Expanding its subversive apparatus against the Diem government, Hanoi has set up an illicit press service in the South, the "Liberation News Agency."

"1961 is definitely the year for the liberation of South Vietnam."

rapidly growing strength and self-assurance of the Communist subversive apparatus in South Vietnam. m

(Backup, Page 8)

20 Feb 61

DAILY BRIEF

iii

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~Situation in the Congo:

The internal situation in the Congo continues to pre-occupy other African governments. Ghana President Nkrumah's proposed all-African command is an idea with which he has toyed for some months, obtaining its endorsement in principle early in January at the Casablanca conference of chiefs of state of Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Morocco, and the UAR. Ceylon and Libya were represented by observers at Casablanca. The five so-called Casablanca powers have all recognized the Gizenga regime and, except for Ghana, have withdrawn their troops from the UN Command in the Congo. [On a visit to Accra earlier this month, Morocco's Crown Prince Moulay Hassan indicated to Nkrumah his desire to head an African command. This suggestion was not favorably received by Nkrumah, who, as originator of the idea, covets the position himself.]

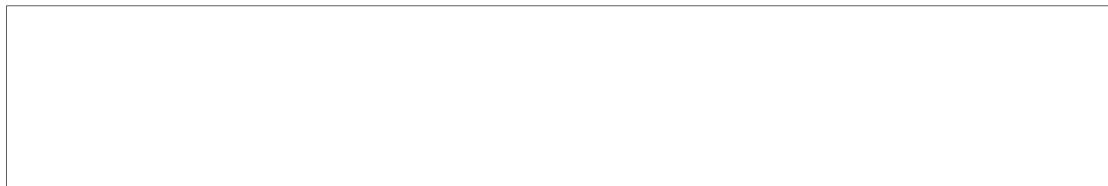
In addition, the Senegalese Government is approaching other African states with a proposal for an all-African conference to discuss the Congo situation. Senegal wants all African governments to participate and has suggested that the meeting be chaired by a state which had attended neither the Brazzaville nor the Casablanca meeting--that is, Nigeria, Liberia, Tunisia, or Ethiopia. Invitations would also be extended to all major Congolese leaders, including Kasavubu, Gizenga, and Tshombé. Senegal's proposal, however, is not accompanied by specific suggestions regarding a possible solution to the Congo problem.

Meanwhile, Moscow is continuing to avoid direct criticism or comment on US policy on the Congo question--an apparent attempt to cushion the impact on US-Soviet relations of the USSR's extreme demands for a Congo solution. Soviet propaganda treatment of both the President's press conference statement on the Congo and Ambassador Stevenson's speech at the UN acknowledges that the US and Soviet positions are sharply opposed. Moscow refrains, however, from

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implicating the US by name in its attacks against Belgium, Hammarskjold, and the Congolese leaders. Implied criticisms of the US are conveyed only in references to Belgium's NATO allies and by some quotations from foreign press sources.

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Alleged UAR Plot to Assassinate King Husayn

The UAR has a formidable subversive potential among the numerous antimonarchic elements within Jordan, as illustrated by its engineering of the Majalli assassination. Its actions thus far, however, have stopped short of an attempt on the life of the King, presumably because of what Nasir has privately described as the "unforeseen circumstances" that might arise. These would include almost certain military intervention by Israel in the event of any UAR-supported move to change the status quo in Jordan.

[redacted] information about the plot against Husayn from an exiled Jordanian military officer in Damascus. [redacted] the conspiracy involves a person "above suspicion" by Jordanian officials. [redacted] designating a person to make further contacts with the informant.

[redacted] other UAR plans for terrorist activity. [redacted] Syrian security chief Abd al-Hamid Sarraj--along with Jordanian exiles--was supervising an operation to explode bombs in several provinces of Jordan. The plotters were said to be attempting to contact Jordanian army officers within the kingdom, presumably to gain their assistance. These undertakings were also to take place before or during the celebration on 22 February of the third anniversary of Egyptian-Syrian union. [redacted]

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~~SECRET~~Unrest May Be Spreading in Portuguese Africa

Portugal's East African province of Mozambique is not now experiencing unrest similar to that in Angola, but nationalist-inspired disorders occurred last summer in the northern part of the province, bordering on Tanganyika. Tribesmen reportedly attacked Portuguese administrative posts and staged large demonstrations in several areas. While most of the tribesmen were armed with their traditional weapons, some of them may have been carrying modern firearms smuggled into the country from Tanganyika.

[redacted] the activity was a "minor police action only," but they moved troops into the area and subsequently set up an ambitious civil defense program emphasizing the protection of isolated settlers. In addition, Lisbon reinforced its military establishment in the province.

The Mozambique government has been particularly concerned over the inflammatory effect of foreign radiobroadcasts. Radio Peiping announced last October that it was scheduling seven hours of Portuguese-language broadcasts per week to Africa and described the Portuguese provinces as "the darkest areas" of Africa. Furthermore, there is fear that thousands of Africans returning from work in the Rhodesias and South Africa might spark extremist nationalist movements.

The situation in Portuguese Guinea may pose a more immediate problem than that in Mozambique. President Sekou Touré of neighboring Guinea is known to have expansionist plans which give a high priority to the Portuguese enclave of 500,000 persons. He has reportedly tried to foster nationalism there through the influence of Mandingo tribesmen, who reside in both areas and travel widely as traders. In addition, one of the leading Portuguese African nationalist groups--the pro-Communist African Revolutionary Front for the Independence of Portuguese Colonies in Africa (FRAIN)--is based at Conakry; it has devoted much of its attention to Portuguese Guinea.

[redacted]
[redacted] energetic counterespionage measures

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~~TOP SECRET~~

had been taken against the nationalist movement which reportedly consists of more than 100 natives. He said that arrests had been made in stages "because of the limited capacity of the prison. Security measures have been taken at the prison and at vital points in the city of Bissau. The situation is calm throughout the province." [redacted]

[redacted]

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Racial Disorders Threaten Northern Rhodesia

[The breakup of the conference on 19 February was brought about by the inability of the British, Africans, and Rhodesian whites to reconcile their differences over the terms of the new constitution for Northern Rhodesia. African leaders such as Kenneth Kaunda, president of the United National Independence party, and Harry Nkumbula, leader of the rival African National Congress, have demanded that Britain give the Africans a majority of the seats in both the Legislative and Executive Councils. There are over 2,000,-000 Africans as compared with some 75,000 Europeans in the country, but the Africans have only nine members out of 30 on the Legislative Council and two of 10 on the Executive Council.]

[White settlers, on the other hand, have strenuously opposed any such increase of African influence. Prime Minister Welensky of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland has stated that Southern Rhodesia--a self-governing colony under settler control--might secede from the federation if Britain granted the Africans' demands.]

[London is seeking some constitutional arrangement which, even if not thoroughly acceptable to either racial group, would not lead to disorders or secession. It is proposing a complicated franchise system which would grant Africans parity with whites but not control of the government councils. Under this, a "high-qualification roll" with strict income and educational restrictions--and thus limited largely to whites--would elect 15 members of the legislature. Similarly, a "low-qualification roll" with lower income and educational requirements--designed for the Africans--would also elect 15 members. Both rolls combined would elect 15 additional members, while the government would appoint a smaller number of officials for their administrative knowledge.]

[A similar type of franchise is envisaged for Southern Rhodesia, where it has received support from moderate African]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[nationalist groups. However, the nationalists are better organized and more extremist in the protectorate of Northern Rhodesia, where native leaders are greatly influenced by the recent political advances of African groups in Nyasaland.]

[Kaunda and Nkumbula, who now consider Colonial Secretary Macleod the "only single hope in the British Government," complain that the real negotiations in London went on behind the scenes. Rhodesian white political groups boycotted most of the conference proceedings, but Welensky reportedly sent envoys to pressure London, and British officials were reluctant to discuss the conditions of the basically white "upper roll" with the Africans.] [redacted]

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~~TOP SECRET~~

Hanoi Expands Subversive Apparatus in South Vietnam

The boast [redacted] that Diem could be overthrown in 1961--has also been made by high-ranking North Vietnamese officials. [redacted]

[redacted] they have professed the conviction that events in South Vietnam will follow the pattern of Laos and bring down Diem this spring. The Communists evidently feel that the presidential elections scheduled for April will provide excellent opportunities for stepped-up political and paramilitary action.

The Communist strategy for the moment is apparently to emphasize propaganda activities, inspire popular demonstrations, and promote small-scale violence, but to avoid tests of strength with South Vietnamese regular military units. Since the end of December, Communist-initiated clashes have generally been confined to small-scale hit-and-run terrorist attacks, harassment of village offices and security posts, kidnapings, and murders. "Tax" collections from the peasants during the current rice harvest are helping to finance much of the Communist program.

The "Liberation News Agency" is to serve as the voice of the "National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam," which Hanoi hopes eventually to make an effective instrument for consolidating the non-Communist opposition to Diem. [redacted]

[redacted] the elements in the front would constitute the coalition government to be set up after Diem is toppled, pending eventual reunification of all Vietnam under the Communists. [redacted]

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