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10 May 1956

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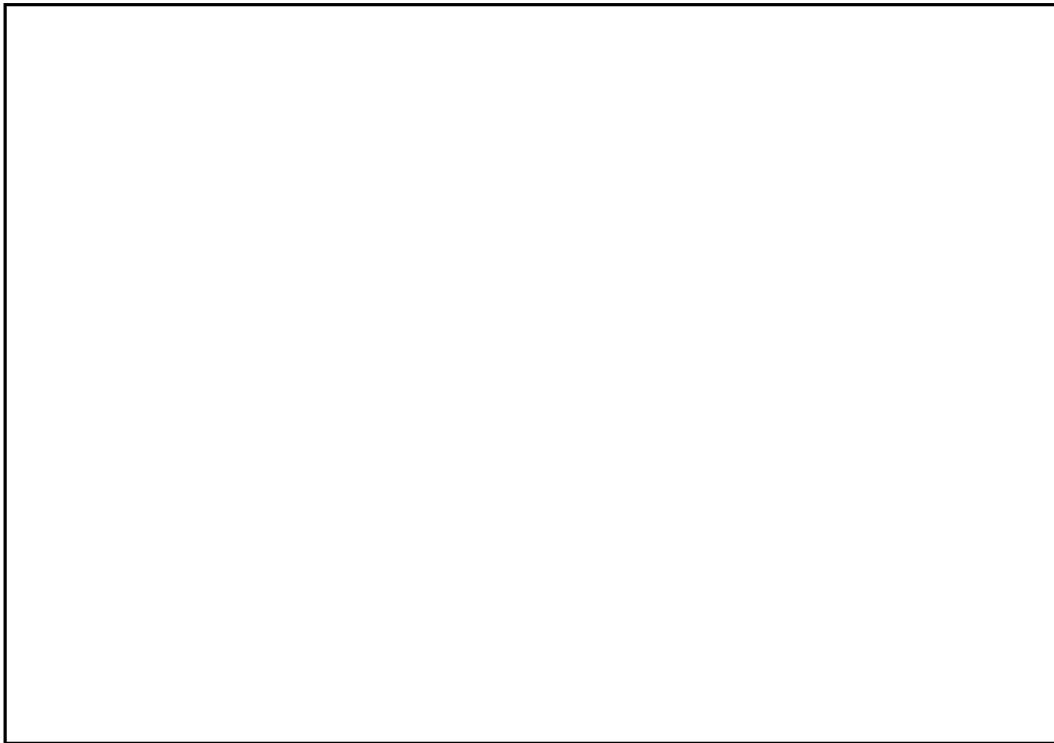
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1. THE NEW CYPRIOT CRISIS

The imminent execution of two Greek Cypriots convicted of terrorist activities against the British will probably result in increased violence on the island and have serious repercussions in mainland Greece.

Demonstrations began in Cyprus as soon as Governor General Harding announced that clemency would not be granted. The British have sufficient troops on the island to control a general uprising. The Cypriot nationalist organization EOKA, which is responsible for the violence, will lose some prestige if it fails to prevent the executions.

Possibly even more significant are the reactions in Greece. Widespread demonstrations against the British have already occurred in Athens and Salonika and disorder will probably increase if the executions are carried out. Greek police and army units have been alerted to protect British and American installations and should be capable of handling large-scale disorders. Rioters are likely to attack both US and British installations.

The executions, if they occur, would force the Greek government to take a stronger stand against Britain. Athens has already protested to London and has appealed to the United States, the UN Security Council, and the European Commission on the Rights of Man to prevent the executions. Greece may break off diplomatic relations with Britain. Foreign Minister Theotokis is almost certain to be removed and the Karamanlis government, under strong attack by the opposition, could collapse.

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**3. BATTLE ACT SEEN INSUPERABLE OBSTACLE TO
US AID TO BURMA**

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[Redacted]

Minister of Industries Kyaw Nyein told the American chargé in Rangoon on 7 May that the provisions of the Battle Act were an insuperable ob-

stacle to Burma's acceptance of US economic aid. He indicated that Premier Nu and other cabinet colleagues were unwilling to give even informal assurances that Burma would meet Battle Act requirements in order to qualify for American loans. They believe such action would be incompatible with Burma's policy of neutrality. They also fear it would give the recently strengthened Communist opposition in parliament grounds to launch damaging attacks against the government.

Comment

Burma is currently sending rubber to Communist China, and its barter agreements with other Communist countries include a number of strategic metals subject to Western trade controls.

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4. RED STAR WARNS AGAINST CRITICIZING ROLE OF
PARTY AND MILITARY IN WORLD WAR II

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In a 9 May editorial, the Soviet Defense Ministry newspaper Red Star branded as "incorrect and harmful" the views on the USSR's World War II war effort expressed in the April issue of the ministry's less-authoritative journal Military Herald. Red Star did not take issue with the Herald's charge that Stalin ignored clear warnings of the Nazi attack on the USSR, but expressed "concern" at references to lack of military preparedness on the eve of the attack and to the "confused, disunited action of certain military units." The Nazi invasion, Red Star asserts, was anticipated by "the Communist Party, its central committee, and the Soviet government," and the Soviet armed forces were in a good state of preparedness owing to the "forced development" of heavy industry before the war.

Attacks on Stalin should not, the newspaper indicated, be carried to the point of minimizing the role of the party and its central committee during the war.

Red Star's attempt to set the line straight reveals once again that care is required in preventing the attack on Stalin from passing beyond him to other institutions and persons.

Red Star's insistence that a German attack was foreseen by the USSR maintains the traditional Soviet justification of the Nazi-Soviet pact, which was recently defended by Khrushchev in London.

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