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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

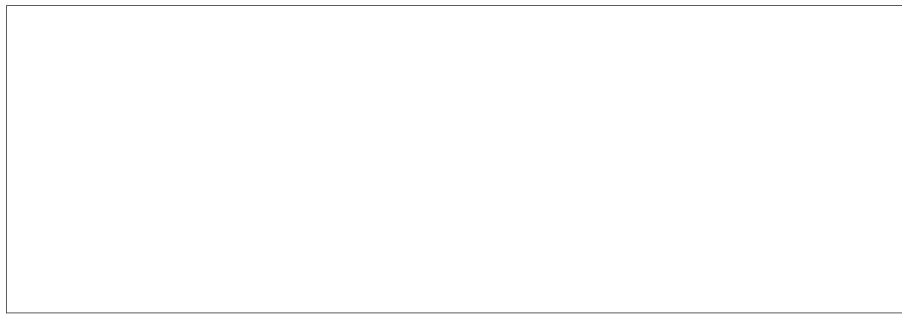
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CONTENTS

- 1. USSR REPORTEDLY TELLS ISRAEL ARMS CONDITION-ALLY AVAILABLE FOR ALL MIDDLE EAST STATES (page 3).**
- 2. EGYPTIANS SATISFIED WITH SOVIET CONDUCT IN ARMS DEAL (page 4).**
- 3. EGYPT APPROACHES FRANCE ON ARMS SHIPMENTS (page 5).**
- 4. THAI PREMIER REPORTEDLY FAVORS SHIFT TOWARD NEUTRALITY (page 6).**
- 5. INDONESIAN CABINET SELECTS NEW ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF (page 7).**
- 6. [redacted] (page 8).**
- 7. COLOMBIA AGREES TO EXCHANGE CONSULS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA (page 9).**

1. USSR REPORTEDLY TELLS ISRAEL ARMS CONDITIONALLY AVAILABLE FOR ALL MIDDLE EAST STATES

[redacted]
on their territory,

Moscow has informed Tel Aviv that it is prepared to deliver arms to all the Middle East powers, including Israel, if they will commit themselves not to tolerate foreign bases

[redacted] This Soviet statement was reportedly made in reply to an Israeli protest against the furnishing of arms to Egypt.

Comment

[redacted] a Polish broadcast to North America on 23 October commented that if Israel had shown "a minimum of independent policy," it could have obtained arms from the Soviet bloc on the same basis as Egypt.

[redacted] the USSR had "dropped hints" through Polish officials that it might offer arms to Tel Aviv if Israel abandoned the idea of a security treaty with the United States.

While there have been press reports that Israel may seek arms from the Soviet bloc if the Western powers do not fulfill Israel's request for assurances and arms, it is unlikely that Israel will make any attempt to obtain Soviet arms at this time.

2. EGYPTIANS SATISFIED WITH SOVIET CONDUCT IN ARMS DEAL

[redacted] in connection with the arms deal the USSR has leaned over backwards to demonstrate its desire to avoid involvement

in Egyptian affairs. The USSR has given the impression it is not interested in sending technicians and other personnel unless requested. The Egyptians said they are convinced that the principal Soviet objective is to build the reputation of the Soviet Union as a great, advanced, civilized power, friendly to the Arab states.

Comment

The promptness with which the bloc has made initial deliveries has contributed to Egypt's confidence in pursuing its current policy of closer ties with the Orbit.

Since the conclusion of the Egyptian-Soviet bloc arms deal, the United States has been the target of a vitriolic Egyptian press and radio campaign.
(Concurred in by ORR)

3. EGYPT APPROACHES FRANCE ON ARMS SHIPMENTS

The Egyptian ambassador to Paris upon his return from Cairo told French under secretary for foreign affairs René Massigli that Egypt would adopt an "understanding policy" toward France in North Africa provided Paris recommenced the suspended arms deliveries. The ambassador added that Cairo is now prepared to eliminate the anti-French line in Radio Cairo broadcasts to North Africa.

Massigli told Ambassador Dillon that Paris has decided to accept this offer provided Cairo makes a public move which would justify resumption of arms deliveries.

Comment

Egypt has said that the Soviet bloc arms deal is a one-time commercial agreement and may hope to forestall a complete estrangement with the West through this approach to France. Egypt is unlikely to make a fundamental change in its North African policy.

4. THAI PREMIER REPORTEDLY FAVORS SHIFT TOWARD NEUTRALITY

Premier Phibun noted the benefits accruing to India and Burma as a result of their neutral foreign policies and suggested that Thailand should be more independent of the United States.

He is said to have been critical of American negotiations with the Chinese Communists, expressing the fear that Thailand might be left in the lurch. The premier said Thailand should not continue "a tough policy" toward Communist China.

He added that the Thai legation in Moscow had been informed that the USSR was pleased with Thailand's conduct in international affairs and had commended Foreign Minister Prince Wan.

Comment

Since the Bandung conference last spring there have been other indications that Thailand would like some "normalization" of its relations with the Orbit.

It is unlikely, however, that Thailand is preparing any abrupt shift in its policy that would involve the rejection of American aid or withdrawal from the Manila pact.

5. INDONESIAN CABINET SELECTS NEW ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF

The Indonesian cabinet decision on 28 October to appoint Colonel Abdul Haris Nasution as army chief of staff is a victory for the army and for anti-Communist political elements. Nasution is a capable military leader who has demonstrated his anti-Communist sentiments. He was chief of staff

from 1949 to 17 October 1952, when he was forced to resign over conflicting views on the army's future.

The position of chief of staff has been vacant since last May. The army's refusal to accept an appointment by the pro-Communist defense minister resulted in the fall of the Ali government in July. [redacted]

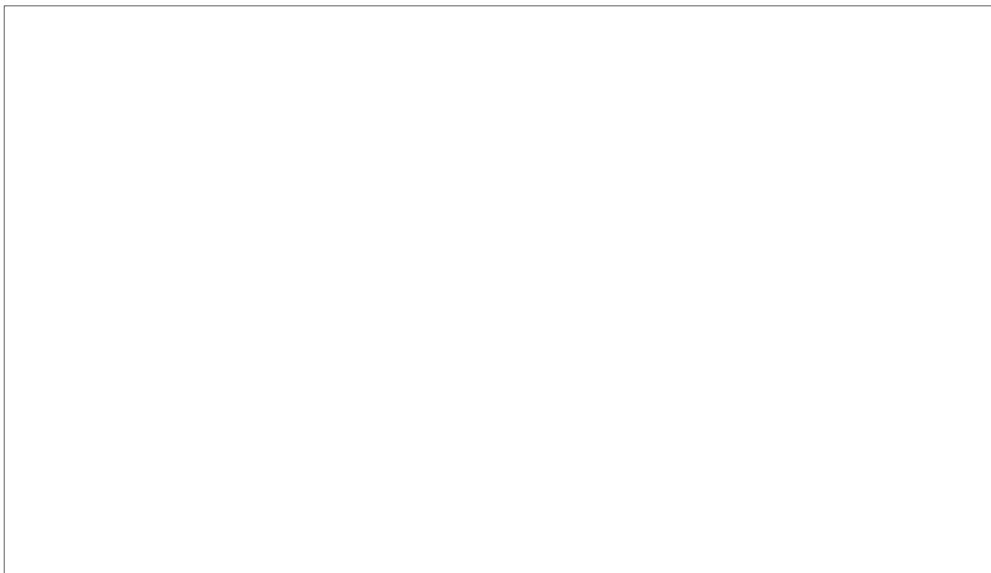


29 Oct 55

Current Intelligence Bulletin

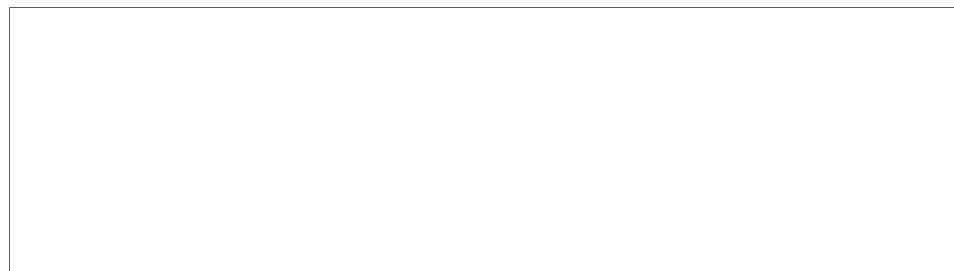
Page 8

7. COLOMBIA AGREES TO EXCHANGE CONSULS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA



Comment

Since 1948 Colombia has had no formal diplomatic or commercial relations with any member of the Sino-Soviet bloc.



Czechoslovakia has been interested for some time in expanding its Colombian market, while the always uncertain international outlook for coffee, Colombia's principal export, has been driving Colombia to seek new markets. (Concurred in by ORR)