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29 April 1961

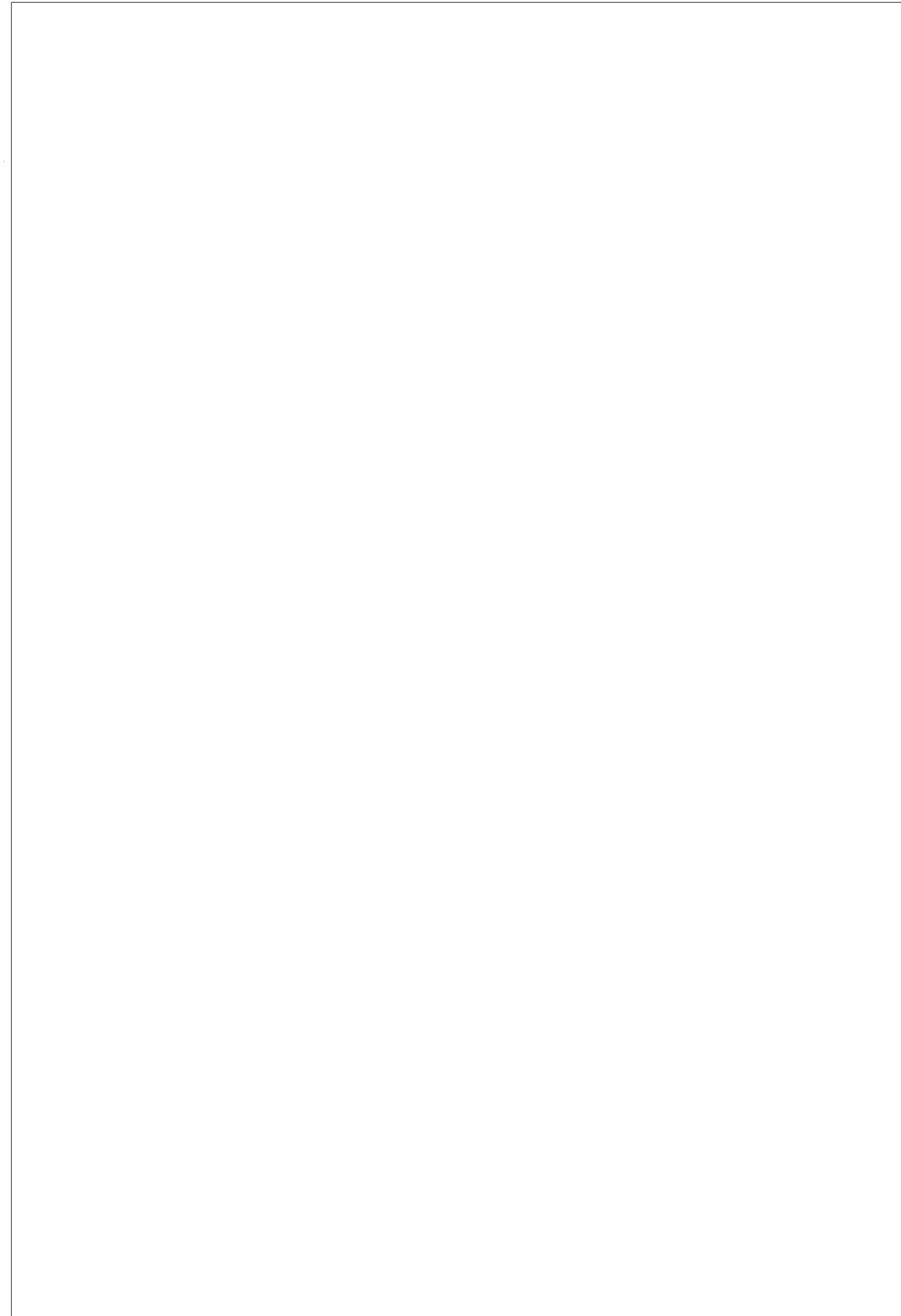
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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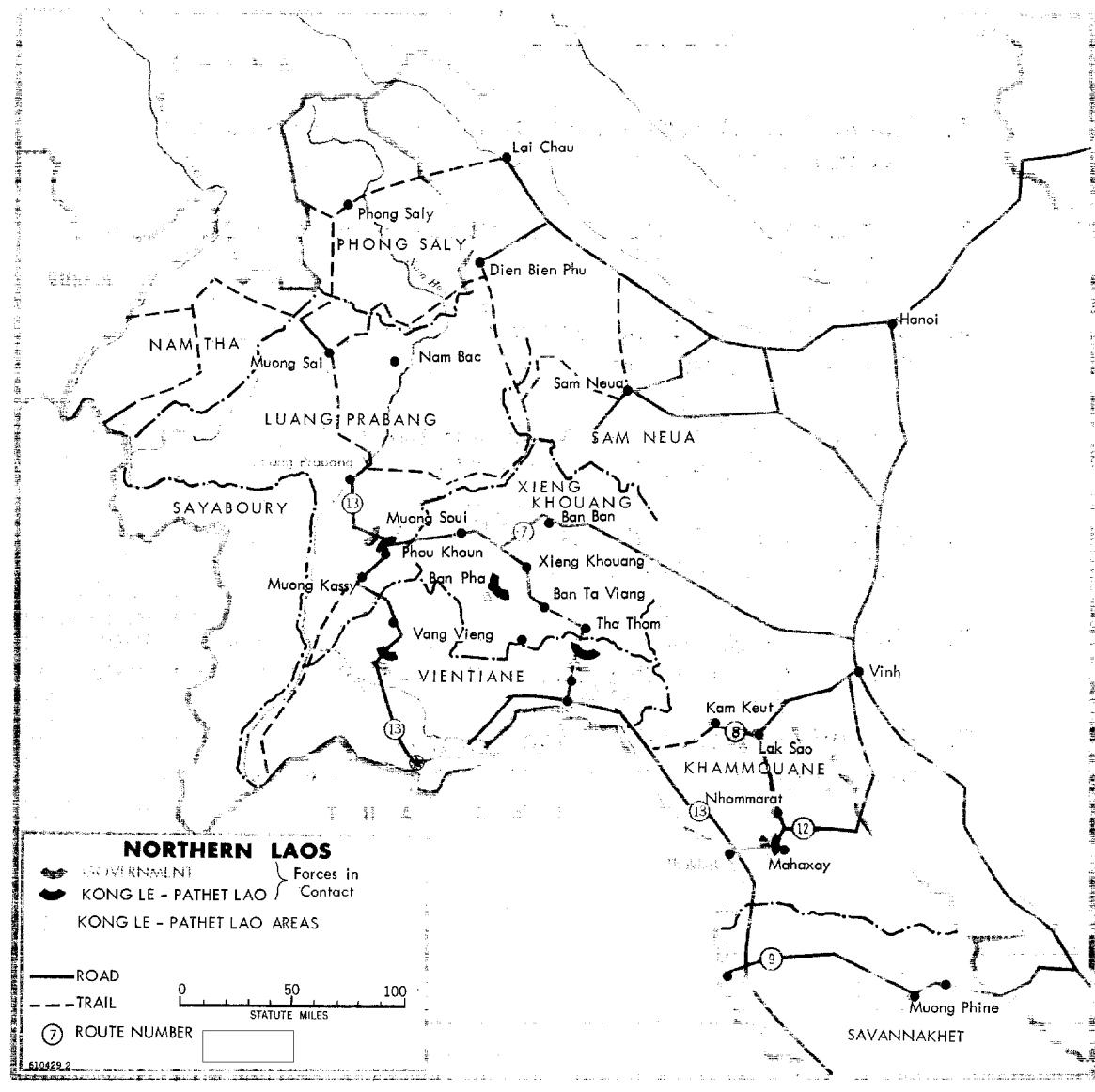
29 April 1961

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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DAILY BRIEF

Sirab

*Laos: A major new enemy drive is reported under way in the Tchepone area east of Savannakhet. General Phoumi has received field reports stating that Tchepone is encircled and under heavy attack by enemy forces, and that Muong Phine, about 20 miles west of Tchepone on the road to Savannakhet-- ^{OK} ~~In brief~~ ~~delete~~ ^{P 3 -} fell on 27 April. A relief column sent from Savannakhet, consisting of three paratroop companies and a Thai 105-mm. battery, reportedly was stopped west of Muong Phine by enemy ambush and a blown bridge. Phoumi describes the situation as "extremely critical" and has asked for a US air strike in the Tchepone area.

[] on 25 April Soviet aircraft airdropped supplies to rebel forces about 25 miles northwest of Tchepone. A MAAG representative is being sent to evaluate the confused situation in the Savannakhet area. No major change or activity has been reported from the other fronts.

Souvanna Phouma, according to a Hanoi broadcast of 28 April, has declared that "only after agreements on military regulations are signed will the cease-fire order be issued for all fronts." Souvanna made this remark upon his arrival in Xieng Khouang on 28 April from Hanoi.

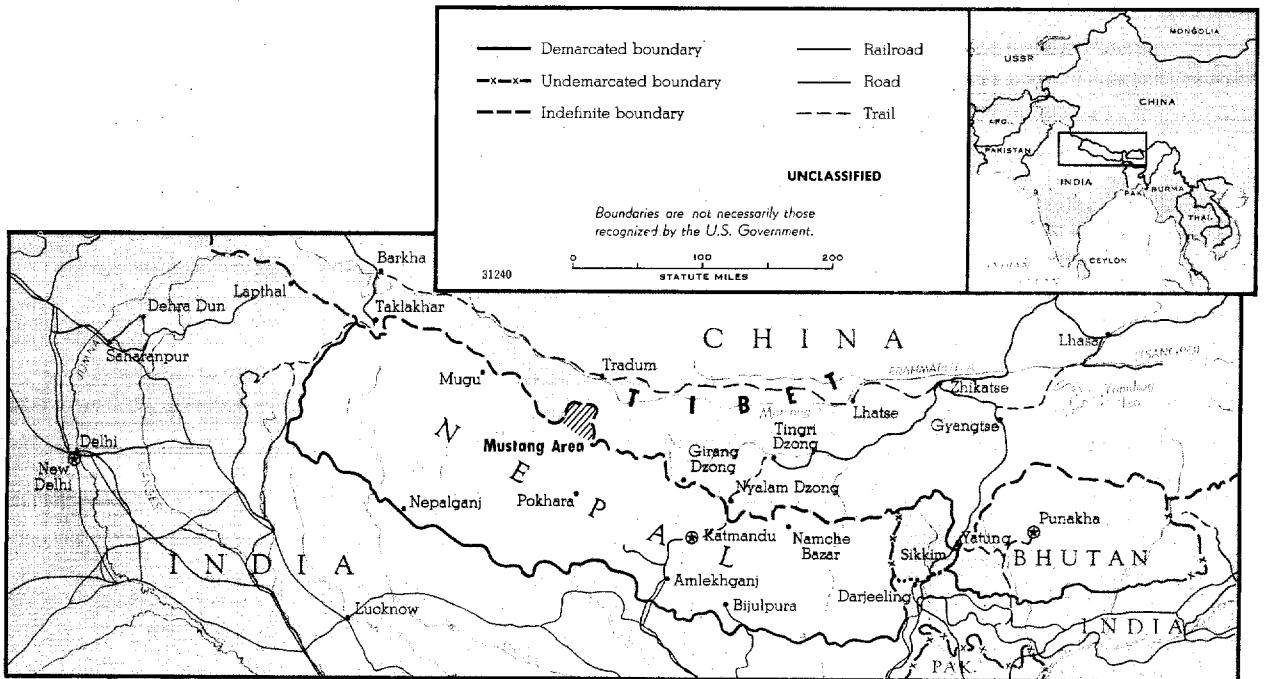
After the Pathet Lao ignored his earlier proposal to meet in Luang Prabang to arrange a cease-fire, Phoumi called for a cease-fire meeting under a flag of truce on the morning of 29 April (local time) at the front south of Vang Vieng.

[] (The Soviet airlift into Laos continues to be scheduled through 29 April. On 28 April, six Soviet IL-14's flew missions to Xieng Khouang and returned to Hanoi.) []

(Backup, Page 1) (Map)

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Portuguese Africa: Portuguese government officials expect unrest in Angola to spread to several cities south of Luanda, where there have been recent indications of white separatist sentiment as well as African discontent. In the northern part of the province, rebels reportedly are able to move freely in wide areas extending south from the Congo border. At the same time, reports from Portuguese Guinea indicate that incursions by native terrorists operating largely from the neighboring Republic of Guinea may be imminent.

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P 2 + 5

(Backup, Page 3) (Map)

Communist China - Nepal: Peiping and Katmandu have reportedly agreed on the use of Chinese combat troops to protect the joint border survey teams now moving into the Mustang border area of Nepal. The new agreement could be used by Peiping as a precedent for the employment of Chinese troops in general mop-up operations against Tibetan rebels who have taken refuge in this and other isolated northern border regions of Nepal. According to one report, approximately two thousand armed Tibetans are in the Mustang area alone. Peiping made a similar arrangement in 1960 with Rangoon for the protection of joint survey teams along the Sino-Burmese border, and Chinese troops subsequently moved farther into Burma to play the major role in driving out KMT irregulars. Nepal apparently agreed to the procedure out of concern for the safety of the teams in an area over which it has only nominal control and fears that the Tibetans will in time take to banditry and looting of the local inhabitants.

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India: Nehru reportedly is planning a trip in mid-May which would include visits to the Soviet Union and--later, via Paris and London--to the United States. Nehru told President Prasad during the week of 17 April that his ambition was to bring about a disarmament agreement. The Indian prime minister, who has long regarded disarmament as the key to a general reduction

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DAILY BRIEF

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[in East-West tensions, had been increasingly concerned over the lack of progress in nuclear test-ban negotiations at Geneva.]

UAR:

a

mobilization exercise is planned for next month. The scope and type of exercise is not clear but is probably connected with current UAR efforts to unify the forces of both regions. It may be only a headquarters exercise. However, if large-scale troop movements take place, Israel may take similar measures which would increase tension.

No

Cuba: Delegations from the Sino-Soviet bloc and most Latin American countries are now in Cuba or en route there for May Day demonstrations which will feature celebrations of the Castro regime's recent victory. Jesus Soto, Communist leader of the Cuban labor confederation, is reported in the Cuban press to have said on 24 April that Cuba would be proclaimed "the first socialist democratic republic in America" on 1 May.

No

(Backup, Page 5)

*Dominican Republic: [An attempt to depose Dominican dictator Trujillo is planned for some time within the next two weeks, according to information given the US Consulate by a knowledgeable dissident source. The consulate considers the information accurate, but notes that the opposition has been "historically long on planners and short on actors." If the plan succeeds, the consulate believes the US Government may receive an urgent call for assistance in the form of diplomatic recognition of the new authorities and "possibly even military help in keeping order."]

a plan, probably related to the revolt attempt, is under way to assassinate Trujillo between 29 April and 2 May. The dissident group is not believed to have made adequate plans for controlling the situation after the dictator's removal, but believes immediate action is necessary to avoid discovery of the plot. Although opposition to Trujillo continues to grow in almost all sectors of the population as police atrocities continue, police surveillance and terrorism have prevented effective planning by the dissidents.]

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DAILY BRIEF

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~~SECRET~~Situation in Laos

Souvanna has apparently decided to boycott the royal funeral ceremonies in Luang Prabang to avoid meeting with leaders of the Boun Oum government. [redacted]

Souvanna has asked for an audience with Sihanouk in Phnom Penh on 2 May, apparently to inform the Cambodian leader of the results of his world tour regarding Laos. [redacted]

[redacted] Sihanouk, while considering Souvanna as the only choice for premier of Laos, is unhappy over Souvanna's leftward drift which he blames on Western shortsightedness. Sihanouk doubts that Souvanna is now in a position to prevent a Communist takeover in Laos, and is deeply concerned over the implications to Cambodia's security. [redacted]

[redacted] commanders of all combat units to be vigilant in the wake of the appeal by the Geneva co-chairmen for a cease-fire in Laos. All units were directed to send daily reports of the activities, strength, and location of Vientiane forces to enable the Plaine des Jarres headquarters to "keep abreast of the enemy's situation and to ensure the safety of our side during the negotiations." [redacted]

[redacted] a truce in Laos "will not come easily" and warned against "enemy trickery and deception." [redacted] be prepared to fight at all times and to listen only to orders from headquarters. [redacted]

On 28 April Souvanna Phouma, acting as "Premier of the Kingdom of Laos," signed a joint communiqué with North Vietnam's Premier Pham Van Dong agreeing to the establishment of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial levels and the future signing of agreements on economic and cultural co-operation. In a move perhaps designed to provide legal justification for North Vietnamese personnel already in Laos, Souvanna received Hanoi's commitment to build and repair a number of communication lines, to help train technicians, and to send

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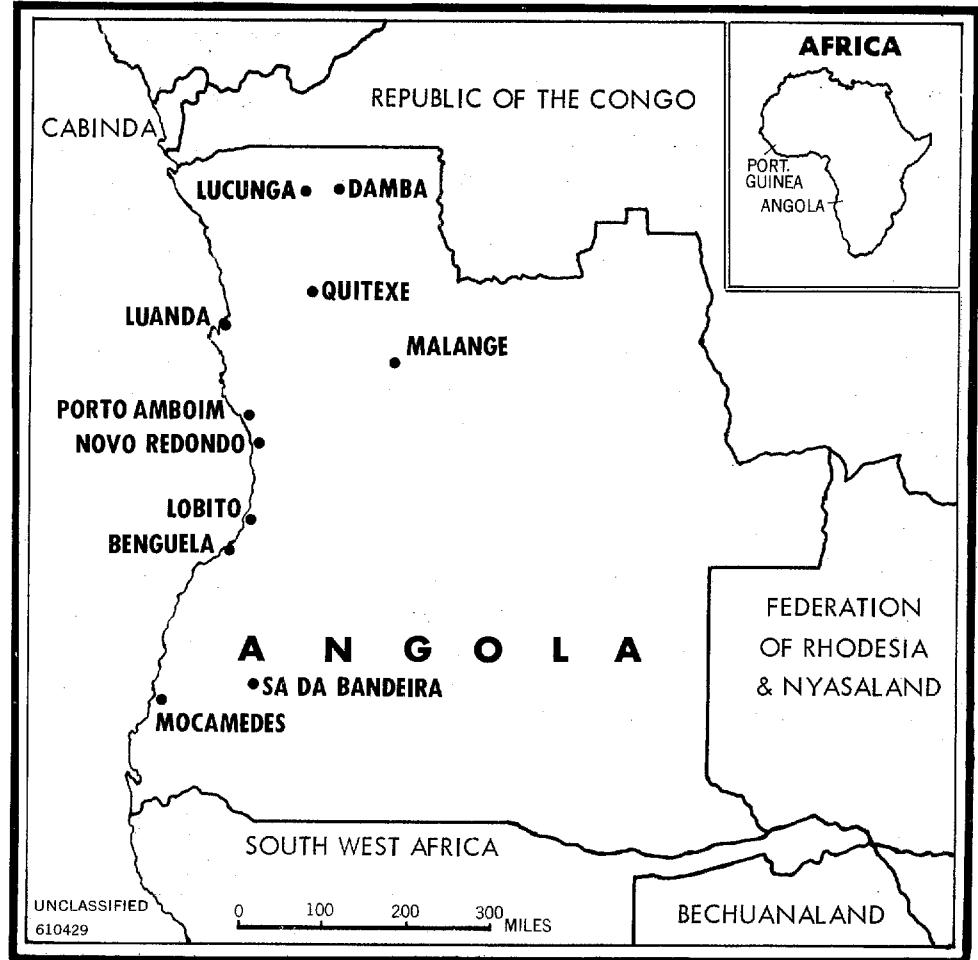
"specialists" to Laos. The communique, harshly critical of American policy in Laos, also noted Souvanna's full approval of Hanoi's struggle for "peaceful reunification of Vietnam."

A total of at least 32 Chinese Communist aircraft--possibly IL-28 jet light bombers--have deployed from North China to the Hengyang area, probably Leiyang Airfield which has been recently reactivated, and which is located about 275 miles north of Canton. The first group of 20 aircraft arrived there on 22 April; a second group of 12 arrived on 28 April.

[redacted] attempt to conceal their deployment to this area. Although no Chinese Communist bombers have ever been permanently based south of Shanghai, temporary deployments to East and South China have been previously noted. The north China based 10th Air Division deployed to the Canton area between October 1957 and February 1958. There are some indications that some of the aircraft currently involved may be from that unit, now based at Tangshan in North China.

Whether this deployment represents an extension of the Chinese Communist bomber force into an area where such a deployment has long been expected or whether it is related to events in Southeast Asia cannot yet be determined but in any case it would be necessary for the aircraft now in the Hengyang area to move farther to the south before maximum effectiveness against targets in Southeast Asia could be achieved. However, such a move is possible and the presence of IL-28s at a South China base would enhance Chinese Communist offensive capabilities against targets in Southeast Asia and adjacent waters. [redacted]

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~~TOP SECRET~~Unrest in Portuguese African Territories

Rebel activity in northern Angola reportedly has forced the Portuguese to evacuate numerous towns in a belt running from Damba and Lucunga to Quitexe. The Portuguese apparently also expect trouble in cities to the south such as Novo Redondo and Porto Amboim, and Africans have been arrested in these areas.

[Portuguese officials are concerned over the increasing belief among the local white population that Lisbon's efforts to solve Angola's problems have been unrealistic and ineffective.]

[a petition from the southern city of Sa da Bandeira, signed by 181 of the town's inhabitants, asked Salazar to grant the governor general in Luanda full powers "in order to resolve correctly our internal problems." Similar views are reported in the coastal cities of Lobito, Benguela, and Mocamedes, and in Luanda itself.]

[Lisbon expects African terrorists to launch attacks in Portuguese Guinea in the near future.] Portuguese nervousness on this score was a major factor contributing to the recent decision by the Standard Oil organization, which has been drilling for oil in the territory, to evacuate all dependents. Evacuees have indicated that local company officials were following the example set by Portuguese residents, including military personnel, who have been sending their own dependents home as a result of harrowing tales told by Angolan refugees en route to Portugal.

The oil company dependents carried new reports of a flow of several hundred Portuguese Guinean natives into the Republic of Guinea and their eventual return after a period of training in guerrilla tactics. Another recent report indicates that the infiltration of such elements will be stepped up greatly as soon as the rainy season begins next month, and implies that disturbances can be anticipated about the same time. The

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American ambassador in Dakar believes a similar but more limited infiltration of anti-Portuguese activists is under way from southern Senegal. In both cases these elements appear to be largely adherents of the Front for the Liberation of Portuguese Guinea and Cape Verde, the leader of which, Amilcar Cabral, has a long history of Communist associations.

The governor general of Portuguese Guinea informed Lisbon [redacted] that the local military command was cooperating in the formation "in all locations" of militia groups directed by former military officers or the administrative authorities. He reported that rifles and ammunition were available and "will be distributed immediately for this purpose." [redacted] administrators had been given "detailed instructions about action to be taken in case of emergency" and urged Lisbon to press for speedy delivery of telecommunications equipment already on order.

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~~TOP SECRET~~May Day Events in Cuba

Cuban government leaders have proclaimed that the May Day events will constitute Cuba's answer to "American imperialist aggression" and will seek to identify the "peoples" of other Latin American countries with its hostile stand against the United States.

Castro first publicly referred to Cuba's "socialist revolution" in his 16 April speech at the funeral of Cubans killed in the bombings of Cuban air bases on the previous day. Since then, there have been references in Cuban radiobroadcasts to the "proclamation of the socialist revolution" on 1 May. Labor boss Soto is reported in the press to have explained that the proclamation of a "socialist republic" could not have been made last May Day because of "reaction and divisionism" in Cuban labor unions, but he stressed that today "power is in the hands of the workers and peasants." Up to now, the Castro government, despite the strong influence of the Communists in it, has avoided calling itself a Communist regime.

The regime is assured of a large turnout for its May Day events. The Colombian Embassy in Havana

reported: "It is expected that the May Day demonstration will be huge, since anyone who does not attend is threatened with being considered a counterrevolutionary, with the consequences known to you." The Colombian added that the Cuban clergy believes "all their members will be expelled from Cuba" on 1 May.

Communist and pro-Castro groups in other Latin American countries may seize the traditional May Day celebrations to renew the anti-US demonstrations which they staged at the time of the recent landings in Cuba. Communists are planning coordinated anti-US, pro-Castro demonstrations during late April or early May in Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and other countries in the

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area, although the means for coordination has not been disclosed. Costa Rican Communists are [redacted]

[redacted] preparing a similar effort. [redacted]

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