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18 June 1957

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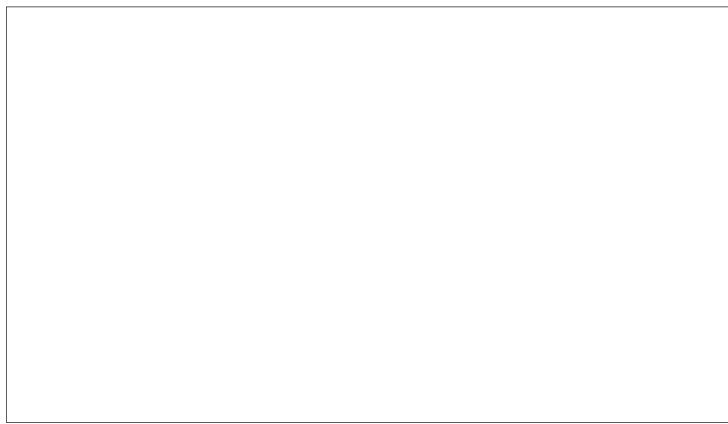
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CONTENTS

1. BRITAIN SEES SOVIET UNION MOVING TOWARD DISARMAMENT AGREEMENT [redacted] (page 3).
2. INCREASED ARAB NAVAL ACTIVITY IN RED SEA AREA [redacted] (page 4).
- OK 3. EGYPTIAN ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS [redacted] (page 5).

18 June 57

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 2

~~TOP SECRET~~

**1. BRITAIN SEES SOVIET UNION MOVING TOWARD
DISARMAMENT AGREEMENT**

Comment on: [redacted]

[redacted] British foreign secretary Lloyd told US disarmament delegate Stassen the UK was astonished that the Soviet Union had agreed to accept inspection on the suspension of nuclear tests. British government leaders evidently feel that the latest Soviet proposals considerably increase the possibilities of achieving a disarmament agreement.

This view of the latest Soviet proposals is shared by Labor Party leader Gaitskell. His prompt public statement urging the West to accept them may put pressure on the Conservative government. In past months, the government has insisted that an agreement to limit testing must be a part of a comprehensive disarmament agreement.

The principal objective of the Soviet proposal for a two- or three-year suspension of nuclear tests under international control apparently is to force a showdown on an issue which Moscow regards as the most vulnerable point in the West's position. Khrushchev in his 13 June Helsinki statement attacked the West's insistence on control "as a condition for disarmament" and asserted that "all objective possibilities" now exist for an agreement limited to a suspension of tests. He apparently hoped thereby to strengthen Moscow's contention that the subcommittee should agree to an immediate suspension independent of other aspects of the disarmament problem. A Soviet broadcast to North America on 15 June twice referred to the test suspension proposal as a "first step" which would facilitate a future solution of "more complicated questions." [redacted]

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2. INCREASED ARAB NAVAL ACTIVITY IN RED SEA AREA

Comment on: [redacted]

Three of Egypt's four destroyers, the Nasr, Qaher and Fateh, were scheduled to transit south through the Suez Canal

The United States naval attaché in Cairo has reported that the ships were to carry Egyptian naval cadets on a visit to unspecified ports. [redacted] the ships may make "good-will" visits to the Sudanese port of Port Sudan and to the Saudi port of Jidda.

These vessels are superior in gun power to the two Israeli patrol escorts stationed at Eilat. The Nasr is one of two modern Soviet-built ships acquired in 1956. Egypt is not believed to have succeeded in obtaining ammunition for the main batteries of the Qaher and Fateh, which were purchased from Britain last year.

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3. EGYPTIAN ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS

The Nasr regime has reportedly eliminated approximately 50 leftists and Communist sympathizers from candidacy in the parliamentary elections

scheduled for 3 July. Using the "constitutional authority" granted to the National Union, Egypt's only legal political "party," all applications for candidacy were reviewed by an executive committee selected by Nasr. One of those eliminated by the committee was Kamal al-Bindari, former ambassador to Moscow and famous as Egypt's "Red Pasha." However, another well-known Communist, Khalid Muhyi al-Din, editor of the newspaper Al Misar, was permitted to run.

More than 2,500 applications were received, but only 1,320 were approved to compete for the 350 seats in the National Assembly. Of those approved, 62 candidates, including 16 members of Nasr's cabinet, will be unopposed in their constituencies.

Comment

The regime is obviously concerned over the large number of Communist applications, estimated at approximately 150. Most of the possible antiregime candidates were eliminated by an executive decree issued on 10 May directed against all individuals who had been under "administrative custody" since 1952. This applied to all the groups suppressed by the regime at one time or another, including Communists, the Moslem Brotherhood, and prerevolutionary political figures.

A recurrence of terrorist activity by the extreme rightist Moslem Brotherhood and local antiregime demonstrations have led to a stiffening of the regime's security precautions. Recent reports state that Nasr has increased his personal guard, and the Egyptian army has been placed on a 50-percent emergency status for the period 13-28 June, to be increased to 100 percent during 28 June to 7 July.

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