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16 November 1960

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

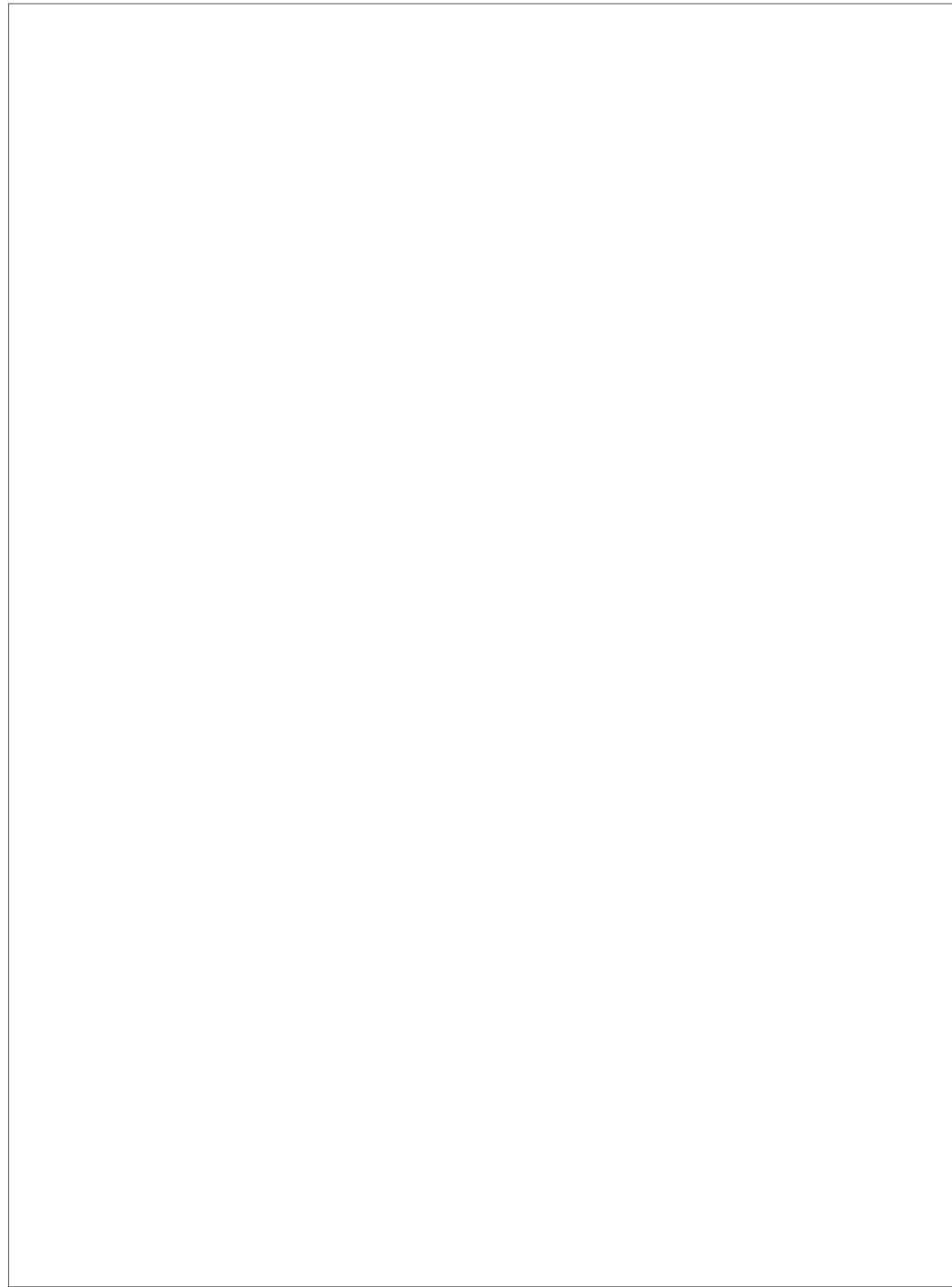


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16 NOVEMBER 1960

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC**II. ASIA-AFRICA**

New Soviet arms shipment arrives in Guinea; USSR to train personnel for Guinean Navy.

Situation in the Congo; Katanga trying to import arms through Portuguese Angola.

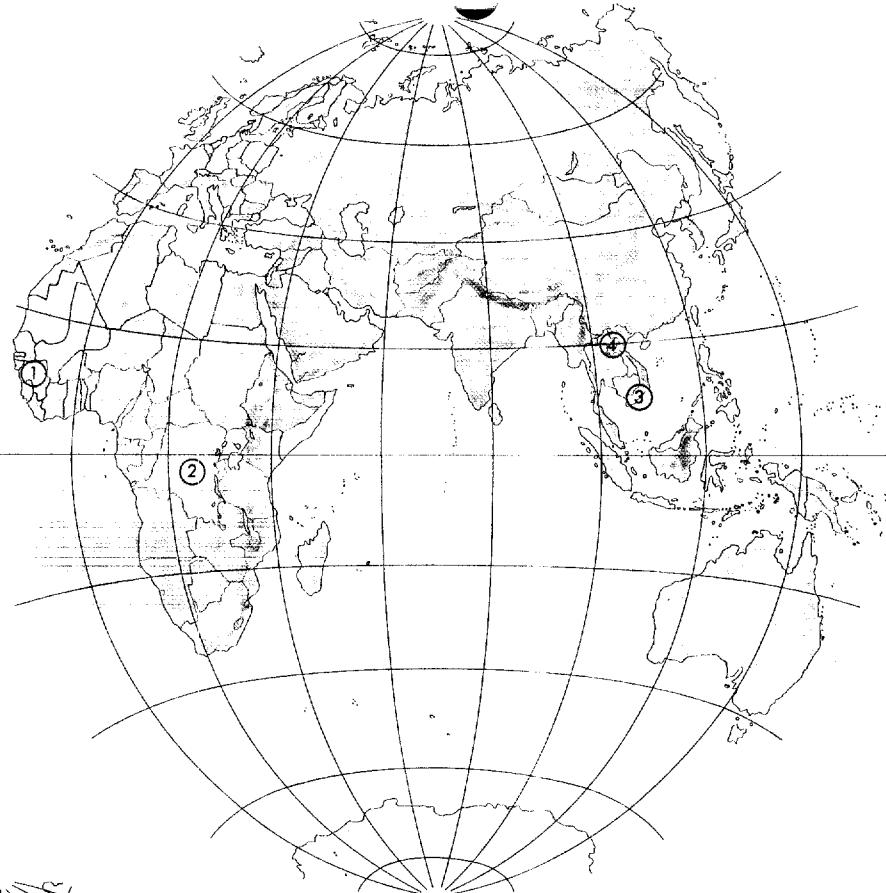
Situation in South Vietnam.

Situation in Laos.

III. THE WEST

El Salvador-- Military preparing counter-coup to oust pro-Communist and pro-Castro civilian members of ruling junta; latter reportedly planning peasant militia.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

16 November 1960

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Guinea-USSR: Guinea continues to receive military assistance from the USSR. A late September shipment of arms apparently totaling 1,750 tons has been supplemented by another such shipment- [redacted]

leak

[redacted] to total 2,188 tons--now being unloaded at night under stringent security precautions. Meanwhile, [redacted] 80

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Guineans who went to the USSR last winter for military training were due to depart for home late last month and that the USSR had provided "scholarships" for 166 additional trainees to begin studies in January, apparently "for the navy." [redacted] (Page 1)

Republic of the Congo: [redacted]

Mobutu's

[redacted] position has been "greatly strengthened" within the Congolese Army and that "he is in fact in control of most of it." There are various indications, however, that the loyalty of the army cannot be relied upon.

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[redacted] the Katanga minister of commerce, accompanied by two Belgian officers, visited Angola in early November to request permission to import arms and ammunition to Katanga by way of Angola. [redacted]

[redacted] such imports might be permitted, "provided that officially everything passes as articles of regular commerce" such as machinery parts. [redacted]) (Page 2)

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South Vietnam: President Diem's intentions remain uncertain in the wake of last week's coup attempt, whose leaders have fled to Cambodia. He may proceed to carry out a government reorganization, but there has been no formal announcement of cabinet changes. [Diem is said to have consulted with loyal military staff officers and leaders of his semiclandestine Can Lao political clique, with the latter reportedly pressing him to crush all known and potential political opponents.] Reports of civilian arrests and a temporary suspension of newspapers which published rebel communique's suggest the possibility of reprisals which could lead to popular unrest.

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Laos: [The increased tension brought about by the recent coup in Luang Prabang, which brought that area over to the side of Phoumi's Savannakhet Revolutionary Committee, has given rise to persistent rumors of impending military action to be taken by General Phoumi's forces, by the Pathet Lao or by the Vientiane garrison. The upshot of King Savang's separate talks in Luang Prabang on 14 November with Phoumi and former Premier Phoui Sananikone is that Savang is still reluctant to initiate the formation of a new government until Souvanna Phouma either resigns or is ousted.]

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III. THE WEST

El Salvador: A struggle for power among military groups and the pro-Communist and pro-Castro civilian faction of the six-man civil-military junta that replaced the Lemus regime on 26 October appears to be nearing a showdown. The leftists continue to entrench themselves in the provisional government and reportedly are making plans to organize and arm a peasant militia in order to defy any attempt by the armed forces to dislodge them. Many military officers appear to believe

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[that the junta must be overthrown promptly. [However, there
are divisions within their own ranks which could nullify prep-
arations now under way or cause a delay that might jeopard-
ize their chances for a successful coup.]]

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DAILY BRIEF

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Guinea Receiving More Military Aid From USSR

A second shipment of arms and ammunition from the USSR is being unloaded in Conakry under stringent security precautions by Guinean military personnel.

[redacted] this most recent shipment, which arrived aboard the Soviet vessel *Serge Botkin*, totals 2,188 tons--nearly 500 tons more than the cargo delivered in late September by the Soviet freighter *Firyuza*. Both ships took on their Conakry consignments at the Black Sea port of Nikolaev, the usual port of origin for Soviet arms shipments. The size of the two cargoes suggests that Moscow's arms aid is not limited to small arms and ammunition but probably includes heavier infantry weapons, such as machine guns and mortars.

These first known major arms deliveries from the Sino-Soviet bloc to Guinea since March 1959, when the Czechs provided a substantial gift of arms, were apparently arranged during President Touré's visit to Moscow last September.

\$1,500,000 of a \$21,500,000 "supplementary credit" extended by the USSR had been earmarked for military equipment. It is possible, however, that some of the recently arrived materiel may be intended for transshipment to neighboring Mali, which has sought arms from the US and Israel and presumably from the bloc.

Meanwhile,

[redacted] 80 Guineans who had been in the USSR--apparently since last winter--for military training at Tashkent had completed their program and were due to depart for home late last month. At the same time,

[redacted] a "grant" of 166 "scholarships" under which other Guinean trainees could begin studies in January, apparently "for the navy." This is the first indication that the Touré regime may be thinking of developing a naval force for Guinea.

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The Situation in the Congo

[redacted] Mobutu's position within the Congolese Army had been "greatly strengthened" and that "he is in fact in control of most of it." With Mobutu during the conference, [redacted] was "the commander of the Congolese forces in Thysville," presumably Lt. Col. Boboso. [redacted] impressed by a show of unity between Mobutu and Boboso, since as recently as late October Boboso had been rumored to be the choice of a major army faction to depose Mobutu.

[redacted] meeting with Mobutu suggests that the latter enjoys for the moment the support of most army elements, continued political instability and mounting economic hardships in the Congo render such support uncertain. Mobutu continues to be at a political disadvantage with respect to Lumumba because the UN continues to provide Lumumba with physical protection and to regard his participation as indispensable to any political solution in the Congo. [redacted]

Meanwhile, the threat to "independent" Katanga posed by the activities of dissident Baluba tribesmen in the interior has contributed to increased friction within the Tshombé government. According to one report, a faction of Tshombé's cabinet led by Interior Minister Munongo wants to expel all Balubas from Katanga as soon as possible. Pro-Lumumba, anti-Tshombé elements in Orientale Province have attempted to capitalize on the tribal warfare in Katanga, and are believed to have prompted the recent proclamation by Baluba leaders of a separate Baluba province in northern Katanga. [redacted]

[redacted] the Katanga minister of commerce, accompanied by two Belgian officers, visited Angola in early November to request permission to import arms and ammunition to Katanga by way of Angola. [redacted]

[redacted] such imports might be permitted, "provided that officially everything passes as articles of regular commerce" such as machinery parts. [redacted]

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The Situation in Laos

[Increased tension resulting from the shift of Luang Prabang to the side of General Phoumi's Savannakhet Revolutionary Committee has given rise to numerous rumors of impending military action by the Pathet Lao, by forces loyal to Souvanna Phouma, by Captain Kong Le, or by Phoumi against variously reported objectives.]

[The Pathet Lao have been rumored ready to march on Luang Prabang or Vientiane, although their ability to take either town unaided is open to question. Souvanna has told Ambassador Brown he intends to retake Luang Prabang by force, but he denied that Pathet troops would be used in such a venture. His ability to take the royal capital, however, would seem to have been considerably reduced by the apparent capitulation of General Ouane--Souvanna's armed forces commander--to the Savannakhet group. Ouane had previously been reported to be north of Luang Prabang gathering troops to retake the town. Phoumi has denied rumors that his forces intend either to attack Vientiane or to engage Second Paratroop Battalion elements southeast of Pak Sane. He claims, however, that the paratroopers may be preparing to resume their offensive.]

[Many of these rumors may have been deliberately circulated by the contending groups as part of a war of nerves in support of their political maneuvering. In the present state of tension, however, clashes are entirely possible.]

[Phoumi, during his 14 November visit to Luang Prabang, apparently consolidated his control of the First Military Region. He reportedly plans to establish military headquarters in Luang Prabang, with General Bounleut as his commander in chief. Ouane and the former First Military Region commander, Col. Houmpanh, have been flown to Savannakhet. A new regional commander will eventually be appointed to replace Houmpanh; in the meantime, Major Bountheng, who]

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[seized control of Luang Prabang on 10 November, will serve as acting chief of the First Military Region.]

In the political realm, little apparent progress was made in separate talks the King held with Phoumi and former Premier Phoui. Phoumi reportedly tried to persuade the King to withdraw his support from Souvanna and announce the formation of a new government, but was rebuffed. The King insisted he must act within the constitution. On the other hand, the King showed little hope that a meeting between Souvanna, Phoui, and Phoumi would produce a political settlement.

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~~SECRET~~Countercoups Being Planned to Oust Leftist Regime in El Salvador

A showdown seems near in a struggle for power in El Salvador among military groups and the pro-Communist, pro-Castro civilian faction of the six-man civil military junta that replaced the Lemus regime on 26 October. The three civilians on the junta and several cabinet members suspected of being Communists or Communist sympathizers have continued to entrench themselves in the provisional government by putting pro-Communists and suspected Communists in numerous posts from subcabinet level down through third-echelon ministerial and administrative positions, especially in the ministries of justice and labor.

The US Embassy in San Salvador reported on 15 November that leftists have taken over the regime's information and propaganda network and are continuing their drive to place their men in the country's nerve centers without any significant opposition yet from the military members of the junta. There are strong indications that the leftists are planning to organize and arm a peasant militia in order to defy any attempt by the armed forces to dislodge them.

Many military officers believe the junta must be overthrown promptly. Ex-President Oscar Osorio, who was behind the ouster of Lemus, may be planning a countercoup. However, he appears to have lost much of his popularity among the armed forces, which expected him to keep leftist influence under control. A group of high-ranking officers who were closest to Osorio and another group of younger and more junior officers who distrust Osorio and the older officers seem to be planning separate coups. Either group would probably establish a pro-US regime with a reform program designed to alleviate the country's deep-seated social and economic problems. However, these divisions within the military's ranks could nullify preparations now under way or cause a delay that might jeopardize chances for a successful countercoup. }

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The Vice President

Executive Offices of the White House

Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

Scientific Adviser to the President

Director of the Budget

Director, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization

Director, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Special Assistant for Security Operations Coordination

Chairman, Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities

Special Assistant for Foreign Economic Policy

Executive Secretary, National Security Council

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of State

The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Administration

The Counselor

Director, International Cooperation Administration

The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs

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The Director, The Joint Staff

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Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Commandant, United States Marine Corps

Assistant to Secretary of Defense for Special Operations

Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff

Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

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