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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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24 MARCH 1960

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Jordan tightens border against UAR infiltrators.

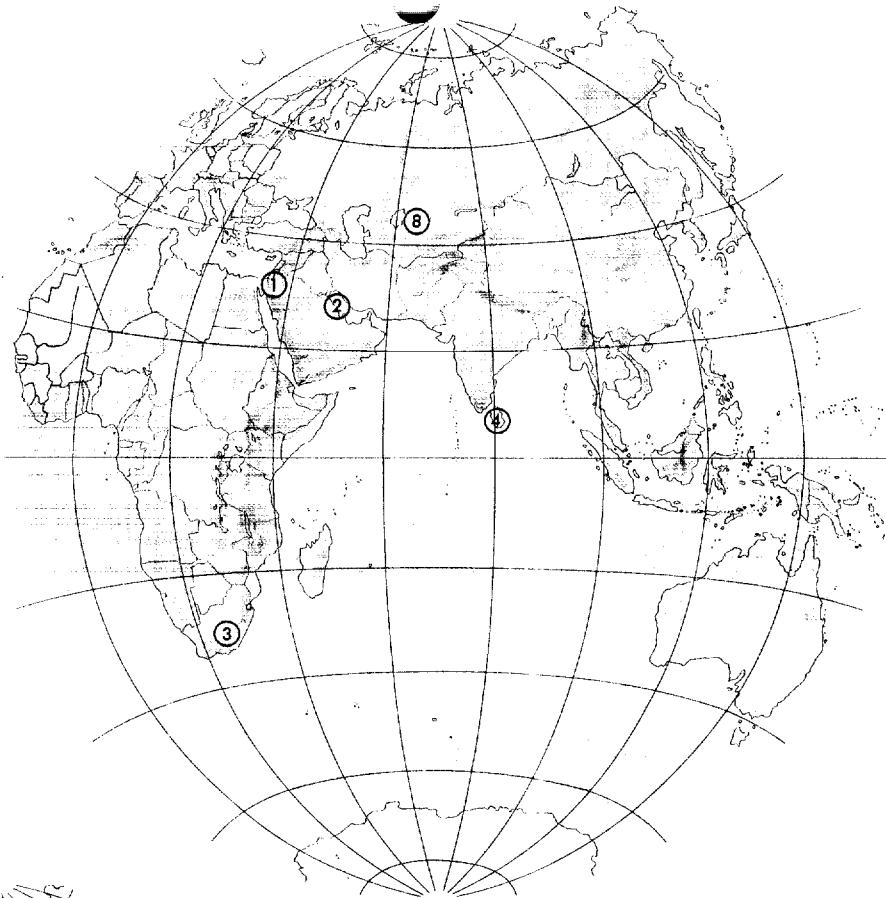
Husayn holds to his idea of a plebiscite in former Palestinian area.

Major oil strike in Persian Gulf by Iranian-Italian firm reported; new field would further Enrico Mattei's empire-building.

South African disturbances seen as marking emergence of new generation of dynamic African nationalists.

Ceylon--Newly appointed prime minister will try to govern with one-party, minority cabinet.

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- ③
- ④



III. THE WEST

⑤ Dominican Republic--Increasing indications that Trujillo regime nearing its end.

⑥ UAR deputy prime minister reports on his visit to Cuba; notes Castro's popularity, recommends expanded UAR contacts.

⑦ "Dark" satellite is almost certainly recovery capsule of Discoverer V.

LATE ITEM

⑧ Probable ICBM launched from Tyura Tam to usual Kamchatka impact area.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

24 March 1960

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

SIRAB

II. ASIA-AFRICA

N Jordan: [King Husayn has reiterated his determination to carry out a plebiscite in West Jordan in order to "clarify" the status of the former Palestinian territory. This area is at issue in Jordan's continuing dispute with the UAR and Iraq over a separate Palestine entity.]

The Jordanians have instituted more stringent border controls as a precaution against possible infiltrators from the UAR.

(Page 1)

OK Iran-Oil: [The Société Iran-Italienne des Pétroles (SIRIP), controlled jointly by the Italian and Iranian governments, reportedly has a major oil discovery in the company's offshore Persian Gulf concession. In August 1957, SIRIP broke with the traditional 50-50 profit-sharing formula by giving Iran a 75-percent share. This discovery probably will encourage Enrico Mattei, the Italian Government's oil czar, to step up his program of building an extensive refining and distribution network, especially in underdeveloped countries.]

(Page 3)

OK South Africa: [The American Embassy in Cape Town believes that the present disturbances mark the emergence of a new generation of dynamic African nationalists and that outbreaks may occur in other areas of the Union. The situation on the surface is calm at present, but two thirds of the African labor force is reportedly staying away from work in Cape Town, and absenteeism is common in other industrial districts.]

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Ceylon: The newly appointed prime minister, Dudley Senanayake, has made clear his intention to rule with a minority government by appointing an eight-man cabinet composed entirely of members of his United National party. Senanayake apparently is counting on opposition disunity and defections to his party. Since his party holds only about a third of the seats, he will be in constant danger of parliamentary defeat. [redacted]
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III. THE WEST

Dominican Republic: There are increasing signs that the 30-year span of the Trujillo dictatorship is approaching its end. The Trujillo family is reported to have withdrawn some \$46 million from the Reserve Bank, further worsening the country's economy. [redacted] the regime would last only one or two more months, and [redacted]

No
 [redacted] gives it even less time. Trujillo's downfall will probably be sudden, leaving a power vacuum. Leftist and pro-Communist exiles will make every effort to return promptly to seize the initiative--a situation which Fidel Castro would view with favor and which he is probably prepared to exploit.) [redacted]

(Page 6)

Cuba-UAR: The UAR deputy foreign minister, Dhu al-Fiqar Sabri, who is touring Latin America, [redacted] advised Cairo to expand UAR contacts with Cuba "on all levels." Sabri and Cuban officials discussed a long-term commercial agreement and the possibility of holding a neutralist chief-of-state meeting in Cairo, which Castro is tentatively scheduled to visit in June. [redacted]

No
 [redacted] Castro's popularity was "astonishingly high" in Cuba's rural areas, and commented that agrarian reform may make the Cuban economy so sound that in a few years "American pressure will be of little importance." [redacted]

(Page 7)

Dark Satellite: The "dark" satellite is now confidently believed to be the recovery capsule of Discoverer V which was launched on 13 August 1959. At the time the retro rockets were

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fired to bring the capsule back to earth, its orientation may have been such that the rockets increased the capsule's velocity, causing it to go into orbit.

IV. WATCH COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS

- A. [No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against the continental US or its possessions in the immediate future.]
- B. [No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action against US forces abroad, US allies, or areas peripheral to the Orbit in the immediate future.]
- C. [The following developments are susceptible of direct exploitation by Soviet/Communist hostile action which could jeopardize the security of the US in the immediate future: None.]

LATE ITEM

*USSR: [At approximately 2105 EST on 23 March, a probable ICBM vehicle was successfully launched on the Tura Tam Missile Test Range.]

[flight to the usual impact area on Kamchatka. To date, 19 probable ICBM test vehicles have reached the Kamchatka impact area; six others have impacted at various extended ranges in the Pacific. In addition, five, or possibly six, probable ICBM test vehicles have failed in flight.]

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

II. ASIA-AFRICA

The West Jordanian Plebiscite

[King Husayn] insists that he did not make his offer of a plebiscite in Palestinian West Jordan simply as a propaganda gesture. He says he intends to push the issue to a clear-cut conclusion as a step toward resolving Jordan's dispute with the UAR and Iraq over a separate Palestine entity.] Husayn believes the idea of a plebiscite has caught Nasir, his principal antagonist in the dispute, "off balance" and wants to exploit the presumed advantage. Jordanian Prime Minister Majalli has indicated the government would welcome an investigation by "neutral"--i. e., not UAR, Iraqi, or Saudi Arabian--members of the Arab League to determine whether Jordanian Palestinians want such a plebiscite.

Opinion in Jordan varies as to what might be the result of a free plebiscite. The American Consulate General in Jerusalem reported that private Arab reactions there to the King's offer have ranged from cynical apathy to heated questioning. Some Western diplomats in Amman believe UAR propaganda might swing a vote in favor of West Jordanian independence.

If Husayn becomes convinced that a plebiscite might go against him, he could cite manifestations of Palestinian support he has received as reasons for changing his mind. For example, at a banquet in his honor in Jerusalem on 19 March, the mayors of eleven West Bank towns reportedly told the King that a plebiscite is unnecessary, since the country is firmly united under his leadership.

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The King is apprehensive about possible subversive activity by the UAR and Arab nationalist elements in Jordan.

[redacted] a "conspiracy" being plotted in Syria against Jordan and of impending infiltration of fedayeen have prompted the institution of stringent controls along Jordan's borders.
[redacted]

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[REDACTED]

Italian-Iranian Government-Controlled Company Strikes Oil

[The Société Iran-Italienne des Pétroles (SIRIP) reportedly has a major oil discovery in the company's offshore concession at the northern end of the Persian Gulf. Early tests indicate the well has a production potential of about 3,500 barrels a day.]

[SIRIP was formed in August 1957, by agreement between the Italian government-controlled oil company Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI) and the Iranian government-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC). Breaking the traditional 50-50 profit-sharing formula, ENI agreed to give the Iranian Government approximately 75 percent of the profits of the jointly owned SIRIP.]

[This discovery probably will encourage Enrico Mattei--the Italian Government's oil czar--to step up his program of building an extensive refining and distribution network. Mattei's current activities range as far as Argentina but his major efforts appear to be concentrated in Africa.]

[Mattei is bitter against American and British international oil companies. He has long felt that these companies were instrumental in keeping ENI out of the consortium of Western companies set up to operate Iran's oil industry after the Mossadeq nationalization fiasco. Since then, in competition with these companies, he has been expanding ENI operations on an extensive scale. His success thus far can largely be attributed to his generous use of bribes and his willingness to offer local governments--especially in underdeveloped countries--joint participation on terms which hold the promise of a more generous share of profits than usually obtains.]

[REDACTED]

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~~SECRET~~Tension Continues in South Africa

[The violence in South Africa has abated following the riots on 21 and 22 March; however, two thirds of the African labor force is reportedly staying away from work at Cape Town, and absenteeism is common in other industrial districts. American officials comment that violence may still occur in other areas, particularly in the Johannesburg area on 27 March.]

[The South African Government has arrested 132 members of the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC), which organized the demonstrations, and Prime Minister Verwoerd has stated that they will be charged with sedition. Verwoerd reportedly described the disturbances as periodic phenomena which had nothing to do with the government's apartheid policies.]

[International comment on the government's action against the demonstrators has been highly unfavorable. Strong criticism came from other members of the Commonwealth. Indian Prime Minister Nehru told parliament that the shooting "shocked the conscience of the world" and might be a "prelude to further conflict." The Australian representative in the Union has been instructed to inquire into the "unhappy affair." In Britain, the opposition Labor party has exerted heavy pressure on the Macmillan government to make an official protest.]

[Although the 22,000 South African police--12,000 of them Africans--cannot prevent the occurrence of isolated disturbances, they are believed capable of controlling riots once they start. However, the embassy in Cape Town believes that the recent riots mark the emergence of a new generation of dynamic African nationalist leaders. As a result, nonwhite opposition in the Union may be more widespread and militant in the future.]

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Conservative Party Forms Minority Government in Ceylon

Ceylon's new Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake has made clear his intention to rule with a minority government by limiting the cabinet thus far to members of his relatively conservative United National party (UNP). The party won only 50 of the 151 parliamentary seats contested in the national elections on 19 March. Senanayake and his seven cabinet ministers were sworn in on 21 and 23 March, respectively. Senanayake, 48, served as prime minister from 1952 to 1953 following the death of his father, the first prime minister of independent Ceylon.

Having eliminated for the present a coalition with the 46 members of the moderate-socialist Sri Lanka Freedom party (SLFP), the UNP will be unable to acquire enough support to command a reliable majority when Parliament convenes on 30 March. Senanayake is counting on opposition disunity and defections to the UNP to keep his government in power. He may succeed temporarily. The SLFP reportedly does not yet intend to join forces with the leftists in Parliament. The Tamil Federal party has publicly stated that its 15 members would not support the UNP, but the Federal party leader reportedly told Senanayake that his party would not oppose the government in the initial parliamentary confidence vote. [UNP elements are trying to promote defections from the SLFP, reportedly with some success, and the small size of Senanayake's cabinet suggests that he has reserved a few ministries to offer likely defectors.]

The government, at any time, however, could be defeated by opposition elements willing to unite in a no-confidence vote. New elections would be the most likely consequence of the UNP's fall. The SLFP might be given the chance to form a government, but probably could do no better than the UNP.

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III. THE WEST

End of Trujillo Dictatorship May Be Near

[There are increasing signs that Generalissimo Rafael L. Trujillo's 30-year rule in the Dominican Republic may be approaching its end.]

[the Generalissimo's eldest son and favorite daughter had withdrawn \$46,000,000 from the state-owned Reserve Bank, presumably in anticipation of the family's early exile. Reports of heavy withdrawals from the bank have also been received by the American Embassy from numerous sources during the past week.]

[Trujillo would last only one or two months, and [gives him even less time.]

[Since the beginning of the year, Trujillo has been unable to stop the steady deterioration of the Dominican economy brought on by his heavy military spending and the low market prices for the country's export crops. He has also failed to curb the spreading dissidence. Widespread arrests and police brutality have led the country's six Catholic bishops to condemn the regime publicly in pastoral letters twice since 31 January for violating human rights. Although the armed forces still appear loyal, they may turn on Trujillo if he continues repressive measures against the dissidents, some of whom are relatives of high-ranking officers.]

[In the event of Trujillo's downfall, leaving a power vacuum, leftist and pro-Communist exiles will make every effort to return promptly to seize the initiative--a situation on which Fidel Castro would look with favor and which he probably is prepared to exploit. Radical elements appear to have growing influence among the increasingly desperate dissidents inside the country. In mid-March, Dominican university students were circulating pictures of Castro labeled "liberty." About 40 of the students were quickly arrested.]

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UAR Official Recommends Expanded UAR-Cuban Contacts

UAR Deputy Foreign Minister Dhu al-Fiqar Sabri--brother of Nasir's close adviser Ali Sabri--has given Cairo an enthusiastic account of his 9-16 March visit to Cuba, ending with a recommendation to "expand contacts on all levels."

Sabri reported that Nasir's invitation to visit Cairo had "pleased" Castro, who indicated he might make the trip in June. The possibility of a Cairo meeting of neutralist leaders, including Castro, Nasir, Tito, and Sukarno, was also discussed with Cuban Foreign Minister Roa, but Sabri added he had "made no commitments of any kind."

Sabri told Cairo that he had been misquoted in some accounts of his press interview in Havana on 15 March. These alleged he had promised UAR arms and men in the event of aggression on Cuba. Sabri maintains he said only that the UAR was ready to "discuss" means of support, if requested, adding that in the event of economic pressure against Cuba, the UAR was prepared to increase trade. An increase in trade appears already under way. A UAR draft for a long-term commercial agreement has been submitted to the Castro government, following up the recent barter deal to exchange Egyptian cotton for Cuban sugar.

Sabri was apparently much impressed by the regime's agrarian reform program, which he said had made "great progress." He predicted that if this trend continued, the Cuban economy would become sound in a few years and "American pressure will be of little importance." The UAR diplomat found Castro's popularity in the rural areas "astonishingly high," but suggested that city dwellers might blame him for financial difficulties caused by the decline in tourism from the United States.

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The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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