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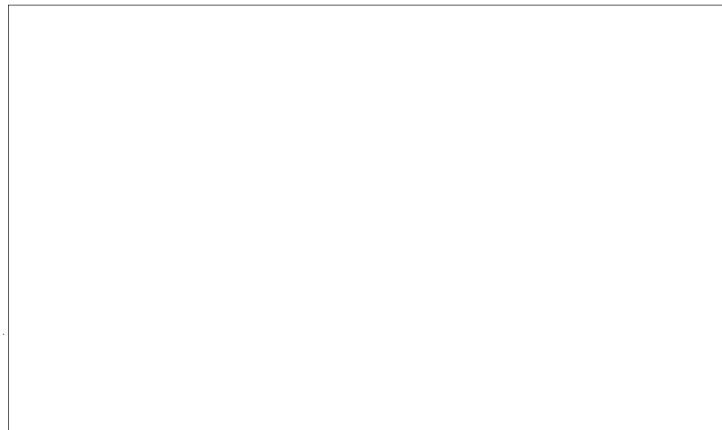
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CONTENTS

- No* 1. THE SITUATION IN JORDAN [] (page 3).
- No* 2. SYRIAN OFFICERS TO ATTEND SOVIET MILITARY SCHOOLS
[] (page 5).
- No* 3. CHINESE COMMUNISTS STATE ATTITUDE ON RELEASE
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS [] (page 6).
- OK* 4. VIOLENCE FLARES OVER CHINESE NATURALIZATION
ISSUE IN SOUTH VIETNAM [] (page 7).
- OK* 5. GROUP OF PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SUBMIT
RESIGNATIONS [] (page 8).

~~TOP SECRET~~ []

1. THE SITUATION IN JORDAN

The government of Jordan, continuing the purge of leftist-dominated political organizations, on 1 May dissolved labor unions and other employees' organizations. Military trials of persons charged with plotting against the security of the state are scheduled to begin on about 4 May, after the three-day holiday following Ramadan. These trials of leftists and ultranationalist figures could be the occasion for anti-governmental outbreaks.

Hussain is maintaining close contact with his cousin King Faisal of Iraq and with King Saud. Both rulers have given Hussain indirect military support, and have recently extended some financial assistance. King Saud is scheduled to visit Baghdad on 11 May, and, according to the Iraqi press, he may be subsequently joined by Hussain. Iraqi forces at H-3 pumping station, about 40 miles from the Jordanian border, have now been increased to possibly as many as 6,000 men--comprising the approximate equivalent of two infantry brigades with armor and artillery support. The force may be further increased next week to about 8,000.

Nasr is reported fearful that developments in Jordan will be followed by a "similar move" in Syria. He has reportedly warned Syrian foreign minister Bitar to consolidate the position of anti-Western army officers sympathetic to the Arab Socialist Resurrection Party, and stressed the need to gain control of army forces in the

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Damascus area.

The king appears in public only when attended by a heavy guard.

The loyalty of some of the men around Hussain is uncertain.

Abdul Monem Rifai, Jordan's ambassador to the United States and brother of the foreign minister and strong man of the cabinet, had "expressed readiness to co-operate in directing Jordan's policy in accordance with Egypt's wishes." Jordan's chronic financial plight is underlined by its stated inability to pay Britain about \$1,800,000 due on 1 May as the balance of the first installment on British military supplies being left in Jordan.

2 May 57

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 4

~~SECRET~~

2. SYRIAN OFFICERS TO ATTEND SOVIET MILITARY SCHOOLS

The USSR is accepting at least 30 Syrian officers with ranks from captain to colonel to attend military schools in the Soviet Union, [redacted]

[redacted] After completing a six-month course, the best students will be selected by the Soviet Staff College Directorate to attend the Frunze Military Academy for a four-year course.

Comment

There is recent evidence that high-ranking Egyptian officers also have been scheduled to attend staff courses in the USSR.

Satellite officers have regularly attended special courses at the Frunze academy, roughly comparable to the US Command and General Staff College. Officers from countries outside the bloc have not been known to attend Soviet military schools in the past.

In mid-February, Syria requested that the USSR send a mission to study the organization and training of the Syrian army.

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3. CHINESE COMMUNISTS STATE ATTITUDE ON RELEASE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS

[redacted] During a meeting held for visiting Chinese newspapermen at the Chinese Communist embassy in East Berlin on 24 April, the first secretary indicated that his government wanted to free all the American prisoners but feared that if they were released Peiping would lose its only "mutual point of interest" with the US.

The leader of the Chinese newspaper delegation declared that the possibility of an early release would be "greatly enhanced" if the United States would permit cultural missions and journalists to visit Communist China. He said Peiping would continue the Geneva talks until a settlement was reached or "certain aims" were achieved. The Chinese journalist, who represents the authoritative People's Daily, said his government believed that termination of the Geneva talks would produce an adverse world reaction against Communist China, which has thus far benefited by the opportunity presented at Geneva to demonstrate "patience" and to impress world opinion.

Comment

The Chinese apparently regard the retention of the prisoners as a guarantee that the Geneva talks will continue while Peiping maintains its efforts to strike a profitable bargain. A Chinese Communist Foreign Ministry official told [redacted] last January: "Suppose we release your people today. What guarantees are there that you won't immediately break off the talks.... Frankly, we do not want to lose that contact!" [redacted]

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4. VIOLENCE FLARES OVER CHINESE NATURALIZATION ISSUE IN SOUTH VIETNAM

The bitterness and frustration that have been building up among Overseas Chinese in South Vietnam over the Diem government's decree imposing citizenship on locally born Chinese erupted into violence

on 30 April. About 200 Chinese, mostly students, attacked the Chinese Nationalist legation in Saigon and angrily demanded protection from mandatory naturalization. Windows were smashed and furniture demolished before Vietnamese police dispersed the group. The demonstrators promised, however, that there would be more trouble in the future.

A leader of the local Chinese community who appeared at the legation later the same day at the head of an orderly student group expressed the conviction that only Communist China was powerful enough to protect the interests of the Overseas Chinese in Vietnam. Another spokesman denounced the US for supporting South Vietnam's anti-Chinese policies.

Comment

Any new outbreak of violence in South Vietnam is likely to take the form of race riots between the Vietnamese and the Chinese community, which makes up almost a tenth of the population. Tai-pei's impotency in dealing with the South Vietnamese government in the interest of local Chinese under these circumstances will adversely affect its influence among Overseas Chinese communities in Southeast Asia.

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**5. GROUP OF PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
SUBMIT RESIGNATIONS**

Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Manglapus has informed the American chargé in Manila that he and other government officials identified with the new "Spirit of Magsaysay Movement" (SMM) have submitted resignations to President Garcia; if any one resignation is accepted, the entire group will leave the government.

[redacted] the resignations were planned so that the movement could be organized as a party to support former customs commissioner Manuel Manahan for the presidency in November. Members of the SMM assert that Manahan's candidacy is attracting financial support, and that it may win the backing of the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy and of Jose Yulo, probable presidential nominee of the opposition Liberal Party. [redacted]

Comment

President Garcia has retained in office the younger officials close to the late president Magsaysay as "proof" of his determination to carry on the policies of his popular predecessor. Mass resignation of this group could undermine Garcia's effort to seek re-election by depriving him of all appearance of being Magsaysay's heir, and force him to rely on the Nacionalista Party's old guard.

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