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4 February 1954

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Copy No. 04

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 41
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2009
AUTH: HR 70
DATE: DEC 1979 REVIEWER:

25X1

25X1

Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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State Department review completed

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Approved For Release 2004/01/16 : CIA-RDP79T00975A001400400001-1

S U M M A R Y

25X1

FAR EAST

2. South Korea planning to demand criminal jurisdiction over UN troops (page 3).

SOUTHEAST ASIA

3. Opposition Indonesian army commanders reportedly asked to resign (page 4).

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. Comment on the Syrian crisis (page 4).

WESTERN EUROPE

5. France reportedly sounds out Spain on Moroccan compromise (page 5).

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25X1A

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25X1



FAR EAST

25X1A 2. South Korea planning to demand criminal jurisdiction over UN troops:



Public statements by Foreign Minister Pyun in the past few days confirm that the Rhee government is now drafting an administrative agreement covering the status of UN forces in South Korea and giving the Rhee government criminal jurisdiction over them, according to the American embassy in Seoul. The draft aims at arrangements comparable to those provided under the NATO, US-Japan and US-Philippines agreements.

Comment: Some UN members probably will prefer to withdraw their troops from Korea rather than to subject them to Korean justice.

25X1A

Rhee is motivated principally by a desire to gain equal treatment with Japan in all his relations with the United States. There is neither popular pressure in South Korea for such arrangements nor political opposition to exploit the issue.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- 25X1A 3. Opposition Indonesian army commanders reportedly asked to resign:

The Indonesian government reportedly has asked the two leading anti-Communist territorial commanders, Colonels Kawilarang and Simbolon, to resign in order to avoid dismissal and disgrace. Their reply is not yet known.

Comment: Kawilarang and Simbolon have been leaders of the army opposition to the policies of the pro-Communist defense minister. Their removal would pave the way for the government's use of the army for political purposes as a preliminary to the elections scheduled for 1955.

A demand for the colonels' resignation might result in open resistance by antigovernment army commands.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. Comment on the Syrian crisis:

Syrian president Shishakli remains in control of the country, thanks to his hold on the army, but his position has been seriously weakened by the current unrest.

Shishakli has failed in a major effort, undertaken last July, to sell his military dictatorship as a constitutional regime. He is faced with opposition from old-line politicians, left-wing radicals, ex-army officers, fanatical religious leaders and the Druze tribesmen in the south. He must rely increasingly on inexperienced administrators, incompetent army officers and many opportunists in parliament.

In this situation Shishakli must rely on severe repression to preserve his regime. Fear of popular opposition lessens his ability to cooperate with the United States on an economic agreement, on resettlement of Arab refugees, and on the development of the Jordan River valley.

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WESTERN EUROPE

5. France reportedly sounds out Spain on Moroccan compromise:

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On 1 February the Spanish chargé in Tangier confirmed to the American minister that France has sounded out Spain on a compromise proposal to replace the present sultan of Morocco with the second son of the former sultan. He stated that Spain is more interested in a "positive reaffirmation" of its rights in Morocco than in who occupies the throne.

The American minister believes the French proposal could be an "all-around face-saver" if Spain can be persuaded that France is genuinely interested in settling outstanding problems and willing to reaffirm Spanish rights.

Comment: Previous reports indicated that Paris was marking time on the dispute pending an answer to its protest over Madrid's Moroccan policy.

While the present sultan has wanted to abdicate, the French might have difficulty in persuading the former sultan's son to accept.

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