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SECURITY INFORMATION~~

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GENERAL~~FAR EAST~~**2. Mao reportedly ordered partial demobilization of army and navy:**

Mao Tse-tung ordered a 50 percent demobilization of the Chinese Communist Army and Navy last April, according to a "highly placed" [redacted] member of the Chinese Communist Party [redacted]

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The purpose of the order was to assist China's reconstruction and agricultural programs, and aid in the training of the militia.

Comment: A 50 percent demobilization of Chinese Communist regular troops, now estimated at 2,270,000 men, appears out of line with Peiping's military commitments. Many military units are already engaged in farming and reconstruction, but only one army is reported to have been deactivated this year.

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3. Chinese Nationalists reportedly execute 200 Communist agents:

The Chinese Nationalists have executed more than 200 Communist agents within the past two or three weeks, according to a Nationalist official.

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An official of the Ministry of the Interior states that every precaution is being taken to keep this information from the public in order to avoid serious social and economic repercussions.

Comment: Communist espionage on Formosa reportedly has been almost nonexistent for the past year.

However, Nationalist authorities on 26 August staged a surprise island-wide check for the purpose of apprehending Communist agents, deserters, and persons without residence certificates.

4. Thai neutralism seen increasing:

American Ambassador Stanton in Bangkok attributes the increasingly neutralist attitudes of Thai leaders to their conviction that the United States defense plans for the Pacific do not include Southeast Asia. Thai officials resent the tendency of the Western powers to reach decisions concerning Southeast Asia without consulting them.

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Stanton reports that his analysis is supported by the British and French Ambassadors.

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

5. Egyptian army interference in civil affairs may cause Prime Minister to resign:

[redacted] Egyptian Prime Minister Ali Maher is seriously considering resigning because of the army's constant interference in governmental affairs, [redacted]

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The two main issues are said to be the army's insistence that land reform be initiated immediately and that all political parties be ordered to purge themselves of corrupt elements or disband.

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[redacted] Maher insists on following constitutional procedures which the officer clique around General Nagib regards as too slow and ineffective. [redacted] some of the army leaders favor a "civilianized" military man as the next Prime Minister with General Nagib continuing as Commander in Chief of the armed forces.

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Comment: [redacted]

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[redacted] Should Maher actually resign, the army clique, which lacks experience in political matters, would find it difficult to run the government.

6. Turkey criticizes British Middle East defense proposals:

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[redacted] The Turkish Foreign Ministry has complained to the American Ambassador that the British proposal for a Middle East Defense Organization contains no clear definition of each member's commitments. It emphasized that Turkey is not trying to block establishment of such an organization, since it is vitally concerned with defense of the area. However, the Turkish Parliament could not accept any proposal in which Turkey's responsibilities were not clearly defined.

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The Turks, who have not been consulted on any substantial aspect of the British proposal, believe that the plan would merely strengthen the British position in the Middle East.

Comment: The Turks desire to participate fully in Western defense planning, but believe that in the area of the Middle East the cooperation of the Arab states also ought to be solicited. There is still no evidence that the Arabs would join the Middle East Defense Organization.

EASTERN EUROPE

7. Yugoslav official reports trouble brewing in Albania:

A Yugoslav official has stated that trouble can be expected shortly in Albania.

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[redacted] he declined to mention any date.

Ambassador Allen in Belgrade comments that some significance may be attached to the abrupt recall from vacation of the former Yugoslav Minister to Albania, who continues his interest in Albania in addition to his duties as head of the American desk in the Yugoslav Foreign Office.

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: No reliable information has been received to indicate an incipient coup in Albania, although [redacted] conditions are favorable and [redacted] Yugoslavs are trying to exploit the situation. Broadcasts from Belgrade and Rome have reported clashes between resistance bands and the Albanian Army.

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The head of the American desk in the Yugoslav Foreign Office may have been recalled to consider the latest developments on the Trieste problem.

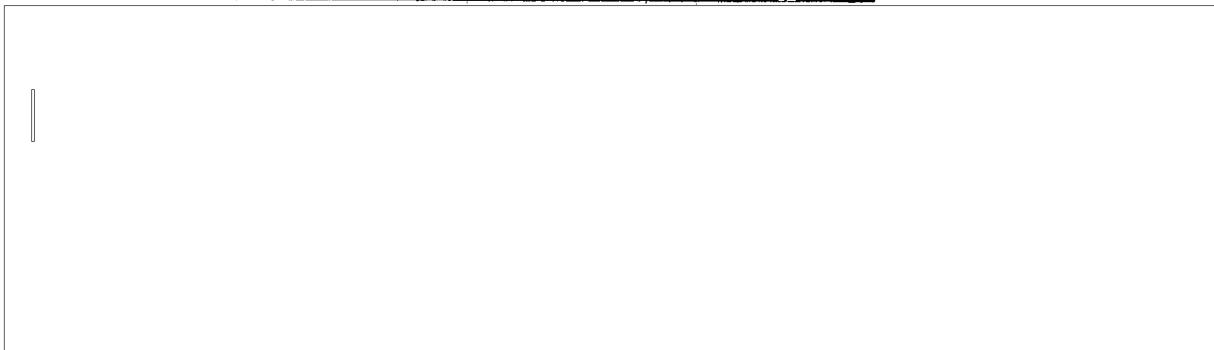
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8. Rumanian purge extends to rural people's councils:

Comment: Local people's councils were elected to four-year terms in December 1950. The appointment of new communal leaders indicates that the Rumanian purge had extended down to the lowest governmental level by July. The regime was evidently preparing the new officials to meet expected resistance to the drives to purge kulaks and extend collectivization.

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