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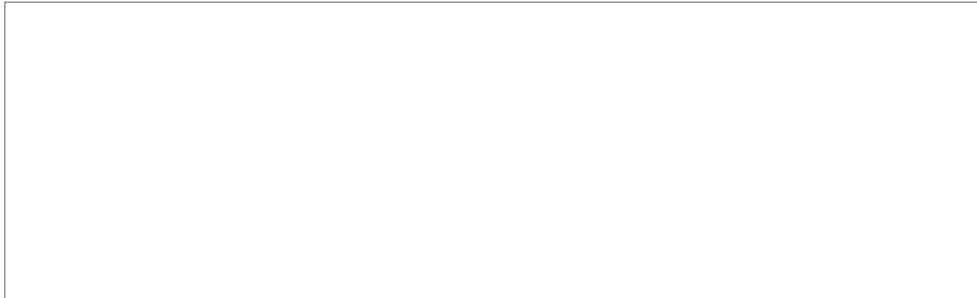
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1. SOVIET LEADERS MAINTAIN GENEVA POSITIONS IN INITIAL TALKS WITH BRITISH

[Redacted]

In their first private meeting with British leaders in London on 19 April, the Soviet leaders made no new proposals on the two main subjects discussed, East-West contacts and Germany. Khrushchev took the lead in presenting the Soviet position, with Bulganin interjecting only a few brief comments.

According to an official of the British Foreign Office, Khrushchev made an "impressive" reply to Eden's opening statement that Soviet attacks on Britain's colonial record seemed to belie their friendly protestations. Khrushchev maintained that the USSR was not unfriendly, that it was not seeking to divide the United Kingdom from its allies and was pleased to see that the British are assisting some colonial peoples to independence. He argued, however, that the USSR must maintain its anticolonial principle regarding areas which are still being denied independence.

Eden's reference to the Satellites as a cause of tension evoked a sharp reaction from Khrushchev, who insisted that the Satellites are sovereign and independent nations. He said that if the British desire information on these countries they should inquire of their respective diplomatic representatives in London. Bulganin, in one of his rare comments, objected to the term "Satellites."

Khrushchev's comments on German unification were completely negative and merely reiterated the Soviet position at the Geneva conferences. He contended there is no connection between unification and European security and again urged the withdrawal of foreign troops from Germany and declared that unification was a matter for negotiation by "the two Germanies."

The general impression of British officials after this first meeting was that the Soviet leaders are

well entrenched and sure of themselves. At one point in the discussion, the Russians remarked that the circumstances no longer exist, if in fact they ever existed, where the West can impose its will on the USSR.

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2. FLOW OF REFUGEES OF CONSCRIPT AGE FROM EAST GERMANY REACHES HIGH POINT

[Redacted]

During the week of 6 to 12 April, 1972 East Germans between the ages of 17 and 24 took refuge in West Berlin. This is the largest number of refugees in this age group in any week since the beginning of November 1955. The total number of refugees who registered in West Berlin during this week was 3,882.

Comment

The sudden rise in military-age refugees, despite the security controls over persons of this age group, indicates that strict border controls and a check of trains leading to West Berlin are not sufficient to prevent young people from leaving to escape military service.

Since 1 January 1955, 42,080 East Germans of military age have escaped to West Berlin alone, and about as many have fled directly across the West German border. Approximately three fourths of these refugees, or enough to man six East German army divisions, are male.

**3. TURKISH PRESIDENT SUGGESTS \$100,000,000
AMERICAN LOAN**

President Bayar of Turkey suggested that the United States consider giving a \$100,000,000 loan or grant "to permit Turkey to complete its present (domestic development) projects," during a private informal conversation with Director Riley of the US Overseas Mission on 18 April.

Riley reports that Bayar also indicated he had no intention of dealing further with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and that regardless of Soviet pressure he will not accept Soviet economic assistance "so long as he is in power." The president also said that the forthcoming visit of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) representatives to Turkey would only increase popular suspicions that currency devaluation was imminent, an action he would never authorize.

Comment

This latest Turkish approach for a substantial increase in American economic assistance indicates that Ankara is as adamant as ever in its opposition to American recommendations for stabilizing the Turkish economy. Bayar's attitude offers little hope for any practical accomplishment during the visit of the IMF representatives to Ankara.

Bayar and Prime Minister Menderes are the two most influential men in Turkey. Menderes has consistently pressed for an even larger American loan.

**4. LIBERIAN PRESIDENT DECIDES AGAINST VISIT
TO MOSCOW**

[redacted] President Tubman informed the American ambassador in Monrovia on 20 April that he had declined the Soviet invitation to visit Moscow not only for himself but also for the vice president and the speaker of the House of Representatives. He cited internal political and constitutional considerations which made the trips impossible.

Comment

It is clear [redacted]

[redacted] that as recently as 7 April Tubman personally favored sending Liberian emissaries to Moscow and was certain that the USSR would not secure any benefit from such a visit because of Liberia's "avid" opposition to Communism. [redacted]

THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 22 April)

The American embassy in Tel Aviv believes that Israel feels that the crisis with Egypt is temporarily at an end. Road blocks on the approaches to Tel Aviv have been discontinued, the home guard brigade has been demobilized, and a portion of the reservists have been returned to inactive status.

Israeli attitudes toward the future, however, remain pessimistic, and Israeli forces retain a high capability for immediate action on all borders.

Israel's assessment of the situation is reflected in a statement by the minister of labor to an Israeli youth conference in Jerusalem on 21 April that it would be "criminal folly for Israel to assume that the UN had achieved anything more than a postponement of war in the Near East." (Press)

UN secretary general Hammarskjold returned to Lebanon after completion of conferences with Israeli leaders, and prepared for discussions with the governments of Syria and Jordan during the coming week. (Press)

In recent discussions with Hammarskjold, Israeli premier Ben-Gurion is reported to have reiterated his country's intention of resuming work on the Jordan water diversion project at Banat Yacov, an action which Syria has declared it would consider an act of aggression. An official in Ben-Gurion's office had previously expressed Israel's determination to begin work on the project by 15 May, while other reports indicate that Syrian troops opposite the site of the diversion project, at Banat Yacov, have standing orders to open fire if Israel resumes work within the demilitarized zone. The American embassy on 19 April re-emphasized the "explosive situation" which could develop from the Banat Yacov problem.

According to the Egyptian press a military delegation from Jordan, led by the chief of staff of the Arab Legion,

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will arrive in Cairo within a few days for conferences on joint military plans. King Hussain reportedly is unwilling to permit these talks to result in conclusion of military pacts which would bring Jordan into the Egyptian-Saudi-Syrian alliance. However, a strong faction of Arab Legion officers is believed to desire closer military co-operation with Egypt.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen have concluded a military alliance, according to press reports from Cairo. In addition to adding another Arab country to the military alliance against Israel, the alignment has strong anti-British overtones. Both Saudi Arabia and Yemen have serious territorial disputes with Britain, and Nasr is strongly anti-British. (Press)

Egyptian military camps in the Suez Canal Zone which were formerly empty now appear to be occupied, ac-

Although no training has been observed, there has been an apparent increase in personnel and equipment, probably connected with rail movements from the Cairo area last week.

An Israeli ship was to leave Britain on 22 April carrying 750 tons of military equipment and explosives, including 16 Bofors light antiaircraft guns, according to press reports from London. (Press)