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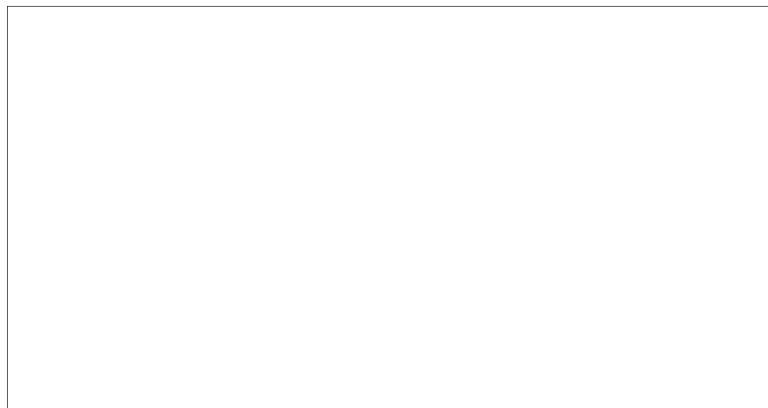
# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## 1. SOVIET MIG-17's ARRIVING IN SYRIA

Comment on:

[redacted] Syria would receive 12 MIG-17 jet fighters by 12 December, [redacted]

[redacted] MIG-17's would be supplied by the USSR. They apparently are to be delivered by sea and assembled in Syria, [redacted] they would not be ready to fly until 1 January 1957. It is therefore possible that some of the 15 Soviet aircraft assembly technicians, who were offered to Syria on 23 November, have arrived or will arrive shortly.

Syria requested that Egypt provide six pilots to operate the aircraft, because "there are no Syrian pilots at present capable of flying them!" [redacted]

[redacted] Egyptian markings would be put on the aircraft, probably in deference to the repeated Soviet insistence on preserving the secrecy of the new arms aid agreements. The aircraft may be based at Hama airfield, where the runways have recently been extended. Syria has also requested that five Egyptian air force officers be sent to assist control of air operations from airfields at Hama and Damascus. [redacted]

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## 2. SABOTAGE OF KUWAIT OIL INSTALLATIONS

Comment on: [redacted]

[redacted] Oil installations were sabotaged at three points in Kuwait on 10 and 11 December.

Damage occurred to a well with a resulting loss of 3,000 barrels per day, to a submarine loading pipe in the harbor, and to a scrubbing plant.

Imminent sabotage of Kuwait's oil facilities had been indicated [redacted]

Kuwait's normal oil production, nearly 1.5 million barrels a day, had been cut back as a result of transport shortages stemming from the closure of the Suez Canal. [redacted]

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### 3. IRAQ EXPLORING NATIONALIZATION OF IRAQ PETROLEUM COMPANY

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Iraqi officials have been discussing the possible nationalization of the Iraq Petroleum Company with company officials and the British ambassador in Baghdad.

#### Comment

The Nuri Said government is apparently looking for some dramatic device such as this to restore its prestige internally and in the Arab world generally and to facilitate an early agreement with Syria on repair of the sabotaged IPC lines and the resumption of oil exports to the Mediterranean terminals. Details of the reported Iraqi proposals are not available.

The Iraq Petroleum Company is owned by British, French, Dutch, and American interests.

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#### 4. HUNGARIANS LAUNCH GENERAL STRIKE

The general strike launched by Hungarian workers on 10 December apparently is almost completely effective in both Budapest and the provinces. Although initially scheduled to end after two days, the strike may be extended if the regime continues to refuse the workers' demands. According to press reports, regime-controlled Radio Budapest has admitted that the strike is the "most complete" to date and that transportation is at a standstill. Hungarian police have been almost totally unsuccessful in their attempt to round up weapons.

The Soviet Union apparently still hopes that the Hungarian police will be able to restore order with only a minimal commitment of Soviet forces. It also apparently hopes to avoid a complete Soviet military dictatorship. But the regime's imposition of martial law and dissolution of the regional workers' councils has strengthened the determination of the workers to resist and may make inevitable the large-scale commitment of Soviet forces to support the relatively weak security units of the regime. ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

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## 5. SZCZECIN RIOT

The 10 December riot in Szczecin (Stettin), climaxed by an attack on the Soviet consulate, demonstrates that the Gomulka regime is prepared to act quickly to prevent situations that might provide the USSR a pretext for intervention. This incident points up the problem confronting Gomulka in maintaining an alliance with the USSR in the face of a deep-seated hatred of the Russians which has been intensified by the Kremlin's suppression of the Hungarian uprising.

A Radio Warsaw broadcast on 11 December warned that the rioters would be punished with the "full severity of the law" and that "public opinion" would not "tolerate any leniency" toward them. This announcement continued the hard line the regime adopted toward public demonstrations after the Bydgoszcz disturbances on 18 November. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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## 6. POLITICAL SITUATION IN HAITI

The "palace revolution" of 6 December in Haiti by which the army returned President Magloire to power shortly after his resignation has caused a sharp increase in unrest in the country. A successful general strike against the regime is reported to be in effect in the capital city. If the strike continues there may be considerable bloodshed, and a serious attempt may be made to oust Magloire.

Magloire is authorized in his new role as "chief of the executive power" to take "exceptional measures" to restore order. These may well include an attempt to break the strike by strong-arm tactics. Constitutional rights are suspended, and many oppositionists including a leading presidential candidate have been arrested since 6 December.

The army, a key factor in the situation, is supporting Magloire, but disagreement and disaffection among members of this force were reported in November. Army chief of staff General Levlet is apparently under arrest.

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## 7. SOVIETS MAY PUSH IN UN FOR AN INDEPENDENT CYPRUS

Comment on:

Soviet bloc UN delegates, assisted by Krishna Menon of India, apparently intend to support actively the Greek position on the Cyprus question when it is taken up in the UN General Assembly in about two months. Soviet support is possibly aimed at the creation of an independent Cyprus.

The USSR will reportedly try to prevent a negotiated settlement and if there is progress toward such a settlement, will demand UN control of all the island's military bases. The Communists on Cyprus reportedly are also prepared to demand independence for Cyprus.

British, Greek, and Turkish officials have expressed the opinion that partition, with all its problems, may be a last-resort solution of the Cyprus dilemma.

British Colonial Office deputy under secretary Martin has stated that the British constitutional proposals for Cyprus to be announced about 20 December offer the last chance for a practicable solution regarding the island for a considerable time, according to the American embassy in London. Both Greek and Turkish officials reportedly have been studying the possibility of an independent Cyprus, but there is no unanimity on this point.

Moscow's apparent determination to prevent a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus issue is probably designed to (1) foster continuing irritation in the Middle East, so as to further weaken the Western alliance, (2) deny Britain the use of Cyprus as a military base, and (3) draw world attention away from the turmoil in its European Satellites.

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