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SUMMARY

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2. Unsettled conditions widespread in Asia (page 4).

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2. Unsettled conditions widespread in Asia:

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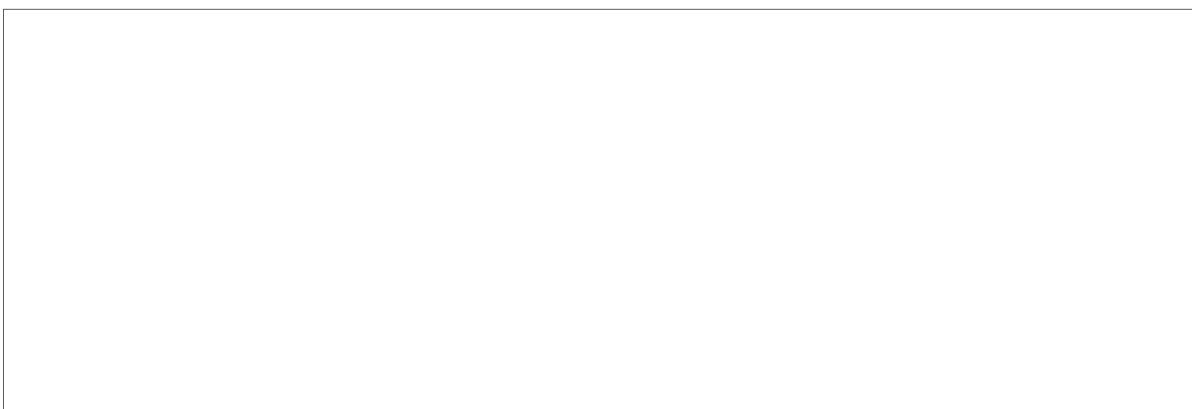


The period from 7 to 9 March was marked by a series of unsettling events in Asia. Iranian Premier Razmara was assassinated on 7 March; the Turkish Cabinet resigned on 8 March, the Syrian Cabinet on 9 March; the Pakistan Government announced on 9 March the discovery and suppression of a military plot to seize control; and the Thai Government, on the same date, was reported to be taking action against the ringleaders of a coup attempt. In addition, over the weekend of 2-5 March, general Moslem criticism of recent French actions in Morocco was voiced all the way from Africa (particularly Egypt) to Indonesia.

Comment: At present writing, various press reports represent the only source of information on most of these incidents. The near-simultaneous occurrence of these events throughout a large part of Asia is suggestive of more than coincidence. There is, however, no evidence of Communist involvement in the incidents except in Pakistan, where one of the four persons arrested has been outspokenly pro-Communist, and possibly in Thailand. The significance of the situation appears to rest primarily in the almost unparalleled opportunity for Communist exploitation of such widespread simultaneous unrest. Reports from Iran indicate that such exploitation is already in progress there.

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