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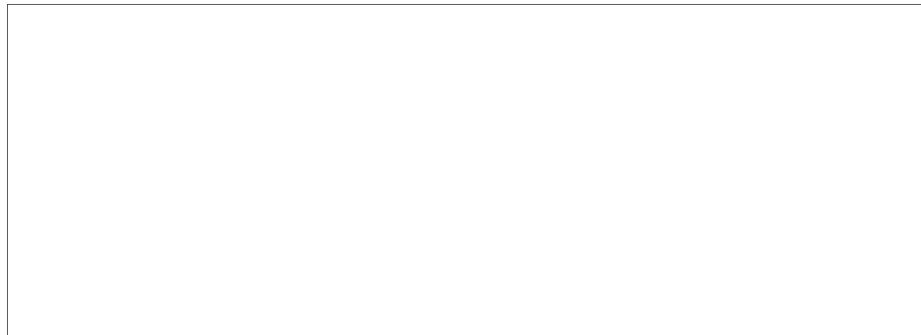
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**1. LEADING CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS MAY  
BE DISMISSED**

[redacted]  
be dismissed.

Communist sources are saying that Vice Premiers Kopecky and Cepicka, Slovak party first secretary Bacilek, and Minister of Culture Stoll will soon

[redacted] informed the American embassy that he expects the announcement of the dismissals before 1 May.

**Comment**

Kopecky, Cepicka, and Bacilek are members of the Czech politburo. As former heads respectively of the ministries of culture, justice, and security during the Stalin era, they are vulnerable in the current Soviet bloc program to restore legality and to encourage intraparty criticism. According to press reports, Cepicka, now defense minister, has already asked to be relieved.

In his report to the Czech central committee on 29-30 March, party first secretary Novotny warned that Czech adjustments to the Soviet 20th Party Congress would not be "without personal difficulties, problems and perhaps pain" for some members and officials of the party. Officials connected with the ministries of security, justice and culture in Poland have recently been dismissed.

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## 2. SOVIET EXPERTS MAY BE AIDING CHINESE COMMUNIST ARTILLERY PRODUCTION

Soviet assistance in the development of a Chinese artillery industry is suggested by the composition of a military advisory group in Peiping first noted in late December 1955.

[redacted] a group of 34 Soviet army officers, nine of whom are artillery designers or military engineers. Inconclusive data concerning the backgrounds of four of the Soviet artillery experts in Peiping suggest they have had some association with Soviet development of guided missiles.

The Chinese have been dependent on imports from the USSR for most of their artillery requirements. Heretofore, Chinese capacity has been limited to light artillery production. Soviet assistance in expanding artillery-producing facilities would accord with current efforts to help develop a variety of modern military industries, such as aircraft and submarine, in China. (Prepared jointly with ORR)

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### 3. SINGAPORE CHIEF MINISTER THREATENS TO RESIGN IF BRITISH REFUSE DEMANDS

Singapore's Chief Minister Marshall, who is in London for self-government talks, told an official of the American embassy that he had been forced by the deteriorating situation in Singapore to make demands which went further than the proposals he made several months ago. He stated that if the British refuse his demands, he will probably resign before he leaves London.

Marshall hopes that even if the negotiations fail, the British Colonial Office will make the pretense of continuing discussions beyond 14 May, the anniversary of the arrest of Singapore students two years ago. Otherwise he fears subversive elements may incite riots on both 1 and 14 May.

#### Comment

The British sources have said that they will not grant Marshall's demands on the critical issue of internal defense. Even if Marshall were to receive the concessions he has demanded, the British feel there is a strong possibility that left-wing elements would force him out of office and that it would then be only a matter of time before effective power would pass into the hands of the Communists.

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#### 4. PATHET LAO STRATEGY OUTLINED

The Viet Minh advisers in Laos informed Hanoi [redacted] [redacted] that they approved the recent Pathet Lao approach to the royal government for a resumption of negotiations on the grounds that "the more we can reveal our good will, the more we can prolong the tension, which is to our advantage." [redacted] any agreement by Premier Souvanna Phouma to such negotiations would be based on the International Truce Commission's recognition of Vientiane's sovereignty over the two disputed northern provinces, but stated the Pathet Lao would not accept this view until a settlement was reached calling for its political integration into the Laotian state.

The Viet Minh advisers recognized that the policy of prolonging tension would create "urgent problems" of morale in the ranks of the Pathet Lao which the Viet Minh would have to help overcome.

##### Comment

This [redacted] supports the view that the Communists are not now contemplating large-scale military action to extend their area of control in Laos. On the contrary, they may feel that the longer they can hold out, the more susceptible the government will be to a negotiated settlement favorable to Communist aims, possibly through the good offices of Hanoi or Peiping.

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## 5. NEW CRISIS IN ATHENS OVER CYPRUS ISSUE

Comment on:

[Redacted] The proffered resignation of Greek foreign minister Theotokis on 22 April resulted from charges by the Cyprus ethnarchy that he had not supported the Cypriots' demand for self-determination with sufficient vigor. The opposition has kept Prime Minister Karamanlis on the defensive on the Cyprus issue and a refusal to accept the resignation might lead to his government's overthrow. Because Greek public attention centers on this issue, Cypriot leaders may be able to force Athens to follow their views, particularly since Theotokis' moderation has not elicited any new British move toward reopening negotiations on the problem.

\* Karamanlis and Theotokis reportedly believe London has been trying to force them out of office, presumably to make way for a weak coalition of center parties. [Redacted]

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**THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION**  
**(Information as of 1700, 23 April)**

Isolated incidents continued along the Israeli frontier. Israel charged that on Sunday Syrians fired on an Israeli fishing boat on Lake Tiberias, and that Jordanians opened fire on an Israeli patrol inside Israeli territory on Monday morning. (Press)

UN secretary general Hammarskjold is scheduled to fly from Damascus to Amman on Tuesday to continue discussions with governments involved in the Arab-Israeli crisis. (Press)

While in Syria on Monday, Hammarskjold is believed to have conveyed an Israeli offer to permit Syrian farmers to water their livestock in Lake Tiberias, to refrain from sending police boats within 250 meters of the eastern shore, and to have Israeli authorities grant Syrians individual licenses to fish in the Israeli-controlled lake. The Israeli's report that the secretary general agreed to ask the Syrians to recognize their obligation under the armistice agreement to refrain from firing across or into the demilitarized zone separating the two countries along the Jordan River. Israel hopes to be able to resume the work of diverting Jordan River water within this zone, and Foreign Minister Sharett is reported to have declared to Hammarskjold that Israel would not permit a third work season to pass without completing work on the diversion canal which begins at Banat Yacov bridge. Syria has repeatedly declared that resumption of work within the demilitarized zone by Israel would be an act of aggression. The Cairo press has reported that Syria would ask Hammarskjold for guarantees that Israel would not again attempt to divert the course of the Jordan River.

a second group of seven or nine Vampire jet fighters from Egypt were ready to be handed over to a Saudi unit in the Suez Canal zone. Saudi Arabia had previously received five Vampires as the first of a group of twenty-five.