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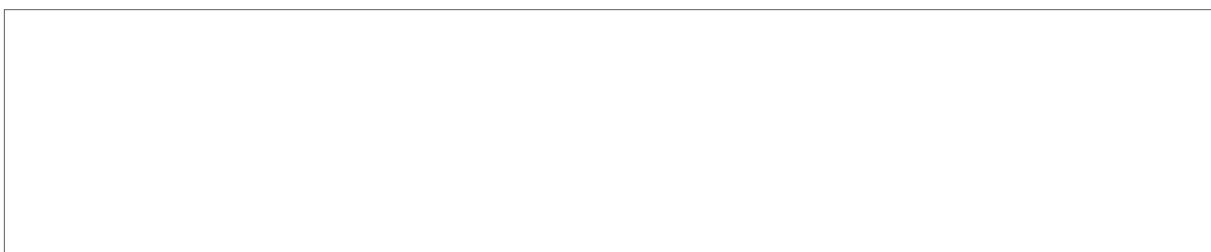
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GENERAL

1. Plans for Soviet industrial fair in Buenos Aires reported:

[redacted] Sources close to the Soviet embassy in Buenos Aires report that plans are under way for a large Soviet industrial exposition in Buenos Aires in April, according to an Argentine broadcast. The USSR expects to display a wide variety of industrial products. Several shipments of machinery have already arrived.

Comment [redacted]

[redacted] the Soviet pavilion from the 1954 Izmir International Trade Fair had been crated for shipment to Buenos Aires.

If this exposition takes place it will be the first Soviet fair in the western hemisphere since World War II, and may presage an intensification of Soviet trade activities in Latin America.

The fair would be a follow-up of the USSR's offers, made at the UN last April and repeated later, to sell essential imports to dollar-short Latin American countries on credit terms, with payment in local currencies.

The USSR resumed commercial relations with Latin America in August 1953. By June 1954 total trade with Argentina had reached \$78,568,000, and with Uruguay, \$16,020,000. Only \$7,980,000 of this represented Soviet exports, all of which were to Argentina. [redacted]

SOVIET UNION

2. Saburov fails to appear with other party presidium members:

[redacted] The chairman of the Soviet State Planning Committee, M. Z. Saburov, was the only member of the party presidium who failed

[redacted] to attend a 21 February concert given by Belorussian artists. The "sudden" invitation to Western ambassadors to attend suggested to one diplomat that they had been invited in order to see who was present. Saburov last appeared with the other presidium members at a similar Belorussian festival on 11 February. He was absent from a 14 February reception at the Chinese embassy, as were Voroshilov and Khrushchev, who was in the Ukraine.

Saburov's absence on such occasions is not unprecedented and could be due to illness or absence from Moscow. However, similar absences were the first sign of Beria's and Bagirov's removal from the presidium in June 1953.

Saburov has long been associated with the economic planning apparatus, which has come under severe criticism from Khrushchev and other Soviet figures in the past year, and his career suggests that he owed much of his success to Malenkov's patronage. Should Saburov be removed from the presidium, it would be striking evidence of the seriousness of the personal and policy differences within that body. [redacted]

FAR EAST

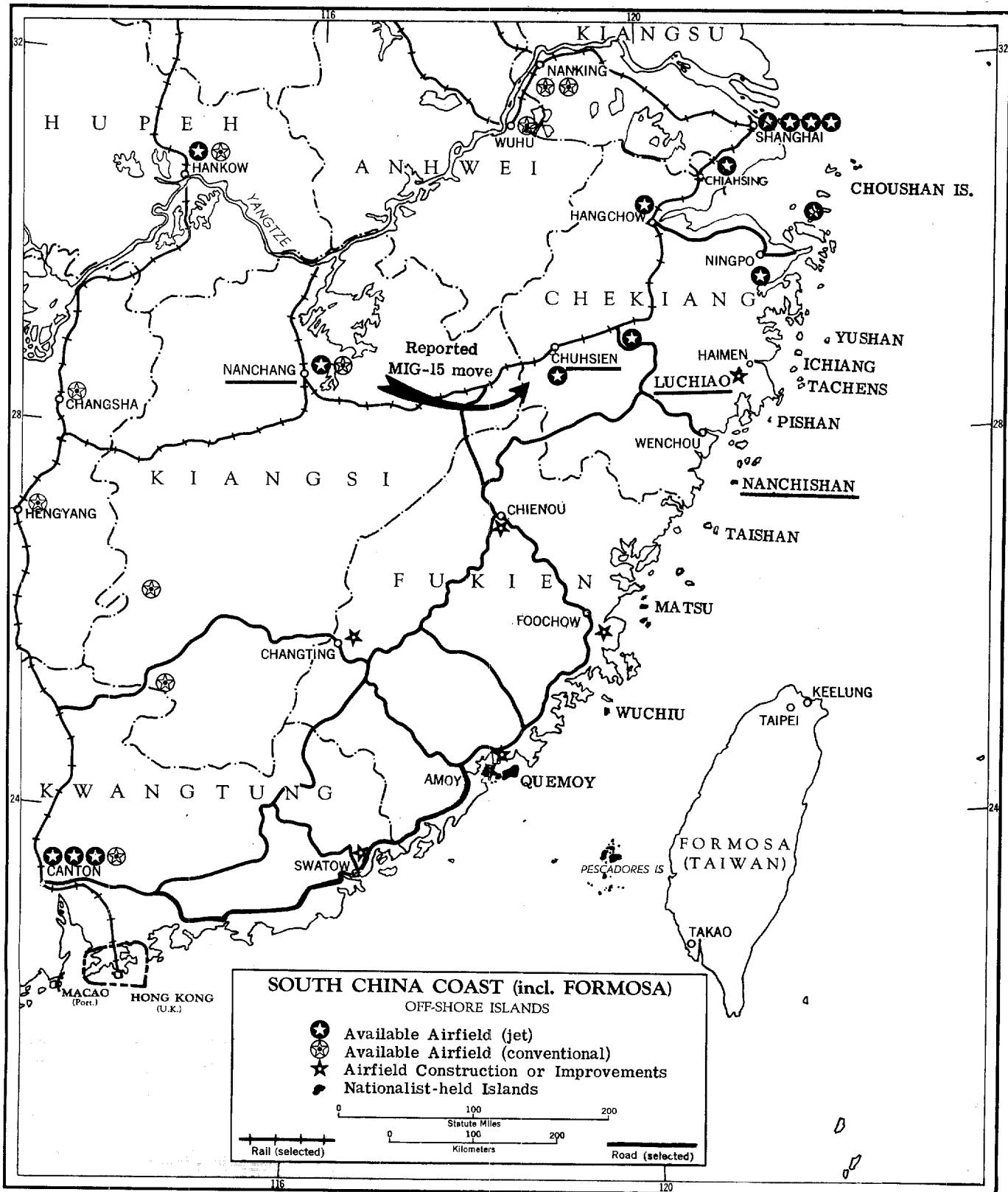
3. Comment on growing Chinese Communist air threat to Nanchishan:

[redacted] The Chinese Communists are apparently preparing to increase the scale of their air attacks on Nanchishan Island, which was bombed and strafed for the first time by three LA-11 piston fighters on 22 February (see map, p. 5).

The Nationalist Defense Ministry reports that "nine formations" of Communist planes, believed to be MIG-15's, moved on 21 February from Nanchang in Kiangsi Province to Chuhsien, a new jet base 150 miles northwest of Nanchishan. The number of planes involved in the move is believed to be between 35 and 50. At Chuhsien, these jet fighters would be within easy range of Nanchishan.

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[redacted] the
Communists have begun to surface the runways at Luchiao airfield, on the coast west of the Tachens. When this field is completed, possibly in the next few weeks, the Communists will have a new jet base only 75 miles from Nanchishan and 150 miles from the Matsus. With aircraft at Chuhsien and Luchiao, the Communists would be able to dominate Nanchishan by air just as they did the Tachens. [redacted]

SOUTHEAST ASIA

4. Burma attempting to extend control in area claimed by China:

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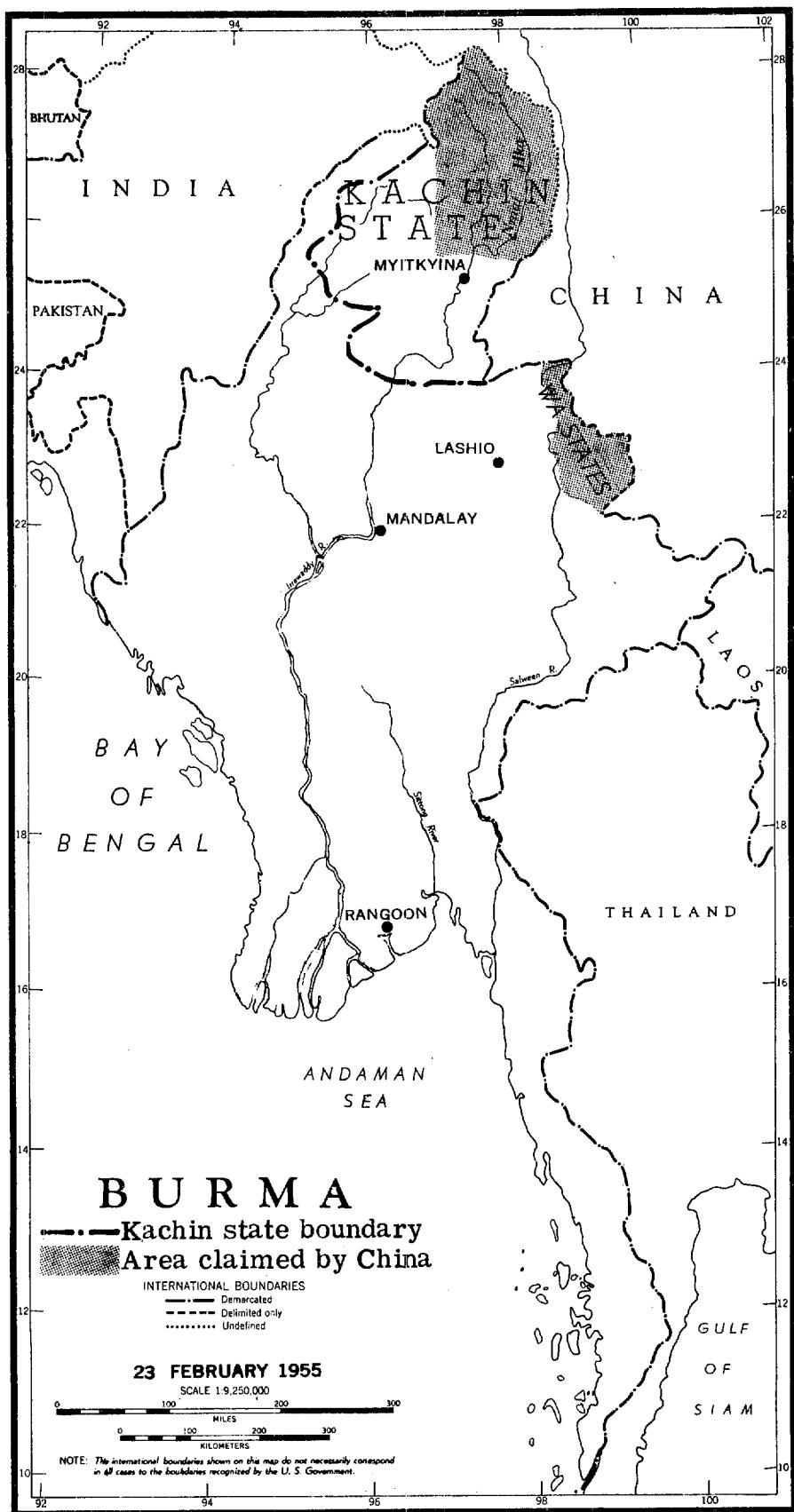
Comment:

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The Burmese government is proceeding with its policy of seeking to bring peripheral areas under firmer control, particularly in the Wa States, where the boundary is also in dispute. This unilateral action could seriously test the harmonious relationship resulting from Chou En-lai's and U Nu's exchange of visits.

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

5. Charles Malik sees Iraqi-Turkish pact opening "new era" in Middle East:

Iraq's struggle in the Arab League over its pact with Turkey marks the beginning of a "new era," according to Charles Malik, Lebanese ambassador to the United States.

He cites as indications the "toppling" of the political and military influence of the league, widespread dissension among the Arab states, and the appearance of Turkey--supported by the United States--as a potent factor in directing the future of the Middle East.

Malik, in advising Beirut that Lebanon has reached a decisive turning point in its modern history, recommended developing the strongest mutual understanding with Iraq, Syria and Jordan in order to meet Egyptian reprisals for Iraq's victory in the Arab League.

Comment: Iraq has embarked on a course entailing closer Arab integration with the West. This is forcing other Arab states to decide whether to align themselves with Baghdad or cling to Egypt, the Arab League and neutralism.

Malik's recommendation for closer relations with Iraq, Syria and Jordan--in the face of Egyptian and Saudi opposition--is at variance with Lebanon's traditional policy of neutrality in intra-Arab quarrels.

Malik's advice is not likely to be followed by immediate action. However, a pro-Iraqi, pro-Western trend has been developing among some prominent political leaders in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan as a result of the recent Arab League struggle.

LATE ITEM

6. Chinese Nationalist infantry regiment withdrawing from Nanchishan:

MAAG officials in Formosa report that the 2,800 Chinese Nationalist regular troops on Nanchishan were to begin withdrawing to Formosa on the afternoon of 24 February (0400, 24 February, Washington time). Two LST's and an LSM were to be used to transport the troops. They were to be escorted by a destroyer, four destroyer-escorts, and six other vessels. The Nationalist air force was to provide air cover for the operation, which is expected to be completed in 13 hours.

Comment: With Nationalist air and naval forces engaging in operations close to the China mainland, it is possible that the Communists will attempt to interfere during the withdrawal.

Following the evacuation of the Tachens, the Nationalists were rumored planning to withdraw all regulars from Nanchishan, and to increase the guerrilla garrison from about 700 to 5,000 or 6,000, using guerrilla troops evacuated from the Tachens. A small rectangular box used to redact sensitive information.