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25 January 1958

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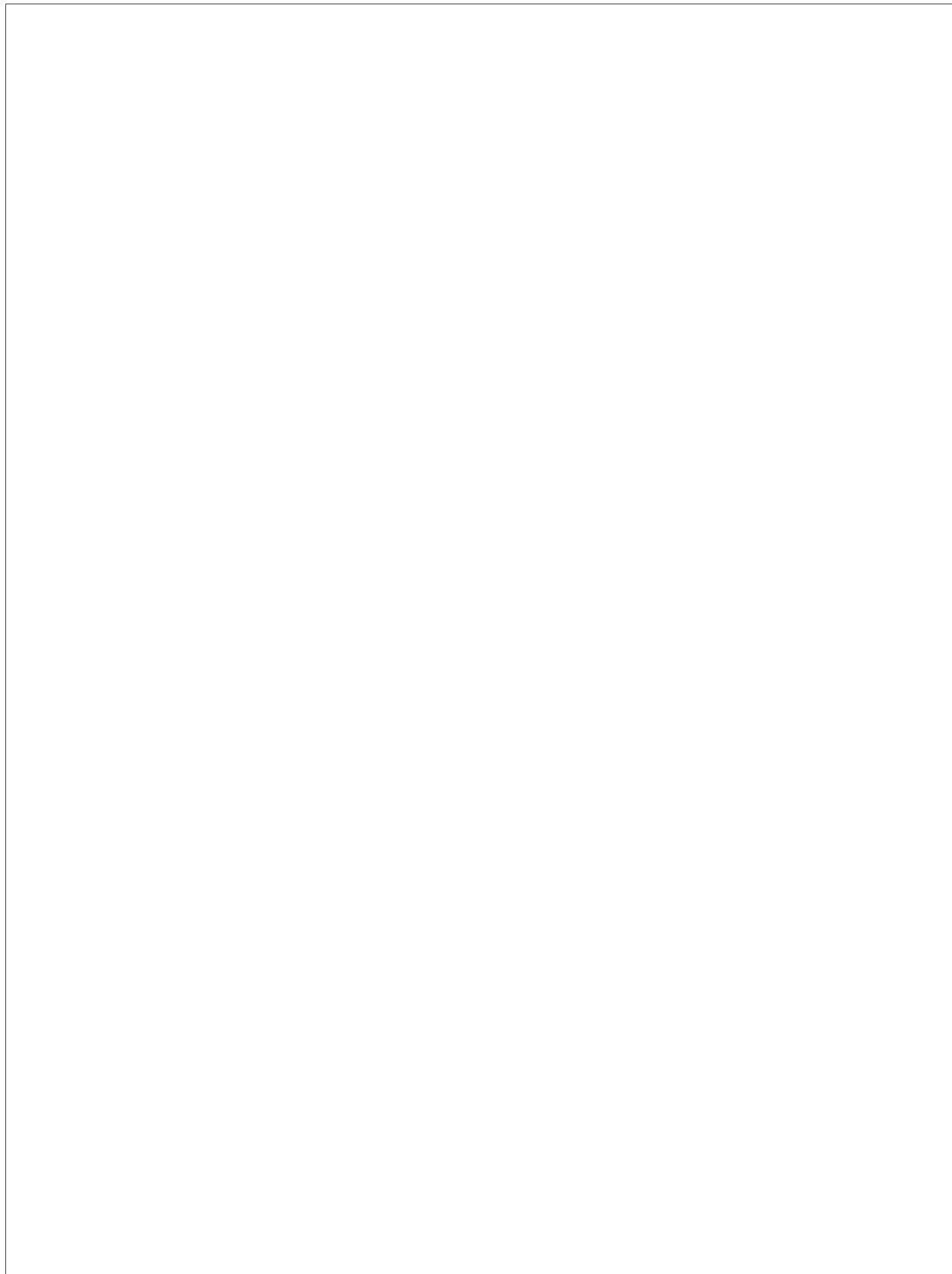
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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25 JANUARY 1958

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

New Soviet atomic test in Semipalatinsk area. (1)

Soviet nuclear-powered submarines may be under construction at Severodvinsk. (2)

USSR shows interest in establishing diplomatic contact with Saudi Arabia. (3)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Formation of rival Indonesian government in Sumatra still undecided. (4)

III. THE WEST

France expected to press Tunisia for joint controls on Algerian border. (5)

Rapacki plan for neutral zone in Europe receives negative response from North Atlantic Council members. (6)

Venezuela - Citizen groups increase pressure on governing junta. (7)

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25 January 1958

DAILY BRIEF

SIRAB

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

The Atomic Energy Detection System has reported a pick-up of fresh debris over Japan by sampling missions flown

no

Recent circumstances surrounding the closure of Severodvinsk, formerly Molotovsk, the location of the major Soviet Arctic shipyard, suggest the possibility of sensitive naval construction. Several reports during the last year have indicated that this shipyard might be engaged in a nuclear-powered submarine construction program. Except for a few medium-range submarines known to be under construction at Leningrad, the USSR has drastically reduced its conventional submarine program.

(Page 1) (Map)

The USSR has recently shown renewed interest in establishing contact with Saudi Arabia. The Soviet ambassador in Damascus attempted to use a message from Bulganin, probably the 8 January note circulated to all UN members, as a pretext for a personal audience with King Saud. King Saud turned down the Soviet request but a Saudi official hinted that audiences may be granted in the future. The King states that his policy toward Communism has in no way changed. [redacted]

II. ASIA-AFRICA

The situation in Indonesia remains essentially unchanged. Reports of intentions to set up a rival government in Sumatra persist, but the dissidents are not believed to have come to any decision. [redacted]

III. THE WEST

Gaillard's and Pineau's strong statements to the French National Assembly on the Tunisian issue coincide with private expressions of French concern over Algerian rebel concentrations in Tunisia. Paris is expected to press Tunisia soon for the creation of some form of joint border controls. If, as seems likely, Tunisia refuses to assent to such controls, French military commanders in Algeria may believe that they would have government backing for actions crossing the Tunisian border. [redacted] (Page 2)

No North Atlantic Council representatives see any merit in the Rapacki plan as such, [redacted]

However, public pressure on government leaders to offer positive counterproposals continues strong. [redacted]

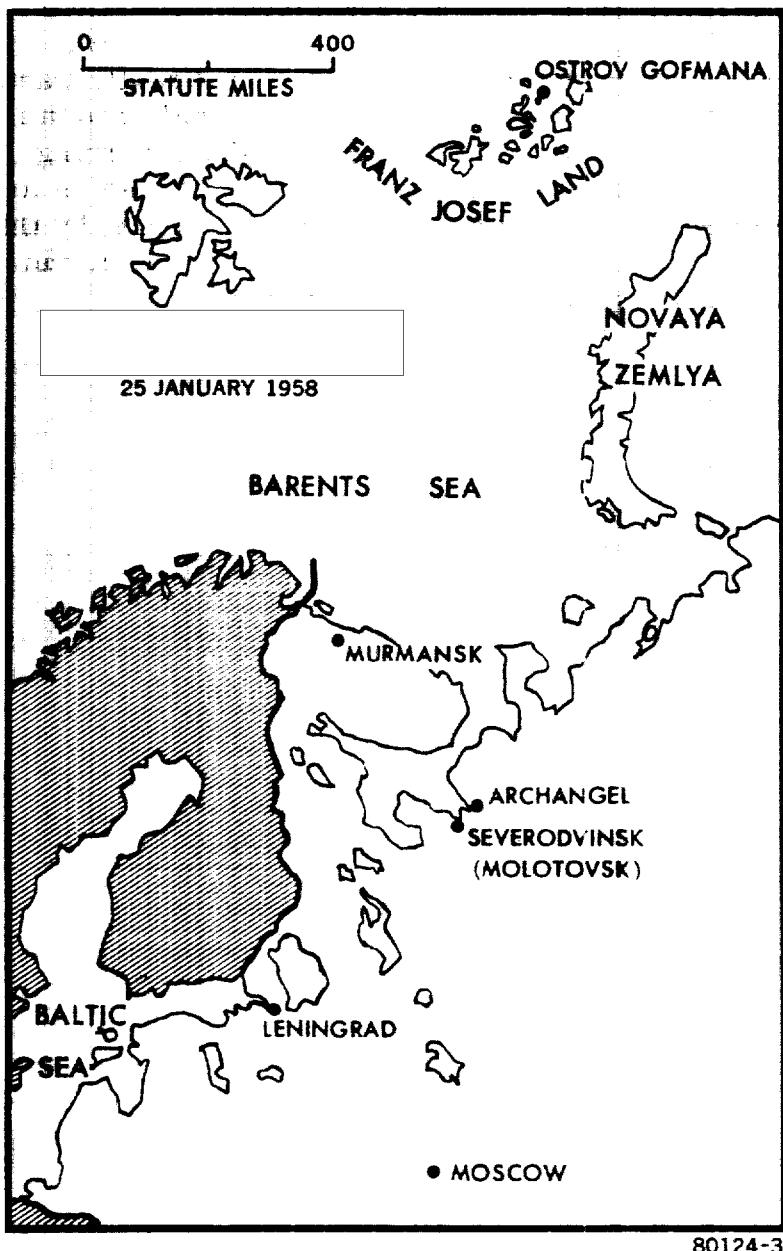
*The resignation of two military members of the new Venezuelan governing junta when faced with a student demonstration reflects growing civilian pressure for a large voice in the government. Some elements in the "Junta Patriotica," a leading organization in the ouster of President Perez, apparently want to eliminate the military from its traditional predominance in government. The strength of the governing junta's over-all backing is not yet known. It seems to be attempting to consolidate its military support by the appointment as minister of defense of a top officer involved in the 1-2 January revolt. [redacted]

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25 Jan 58

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Possible Sensitive Soviet Naval Construction in White Sea Area

[redacted] the Soviet White Sea port of Severodvinsk, formerly Molotovsk, which has long been denied to Western shipping and travel, was closed to Soviet merchant shipping by decree of the Council of Ministers in mid-October.

This action was probably taken to increase the security of a sensitive naval shipbuilding effort under way in the large Severodvinsk shipyard. Although a Soviet nuclear submarine construction program has not yet been firmly identified, several reports within the last year have suggested that this facility might be engaged in such a program. In addition to its capability to undertake such a project, Severodvinsk has the advantage of convenient air and rail communications with Moscow and Leningrad, where design bureaus, research institutes, and other necessary technical facilities are located.

The tapering off of the last conventional submarine programs in the USSR, with the apparent cessation of W-class construction and reduction of Q-class construction in Leningrad to about 12 units in 1957, probably presages the building of more advanced units.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

No back-up material.

III. THE WEST

Heightened French Concern Over Algerian Rebels In Tunisia

The strong statements on the Tunisian issue made to the French National Assembly by Premier Gaillard and Foreign Minister Pineau are paralleled by private expressions of anxiety over the problem of Algerian rebel concentrations in Tunisia. Gaillard's military adviser has aired French concern over the presence in Tunisia of armed rebels, believed by the French to number about 7,000, who receive a steady stream of arms from abroad. The argument that Tunisian President Bourguiba is virtually at the mercy of such elements is frequently advanced in France and Algeria. While not confirmed, the rebel strength figure appears reasonable in light of recent developments.

Paris is expected to press Tunisia for some form of joint border control to supplement the new electrified barricade. French military leaders in Algeria, still smarting over the rebels' capture of four French soldiers, may engage in actions across the border on the assumption that they have Paris' implicit backing. Pineau said in the debate that even though the government nominally rejected nationalist Jacques Soustelle's motion calling for military retaliation across the border, Soustelle should not conclude that the government disapproved. [redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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