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18 May 1959

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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NO CHANGE IN CLASS

I. UNCLASSIFIED

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2018

REVIEWER

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~~TOP SECRET~~**I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC**

Attempted launching at Tyura Tam  
Missile Test Range.

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Moscow maneuvering to divide the  
West on test-cessation issue.

Soviet submarines increase out-of-  
area operations.

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**II. ASIA-AFRICA**

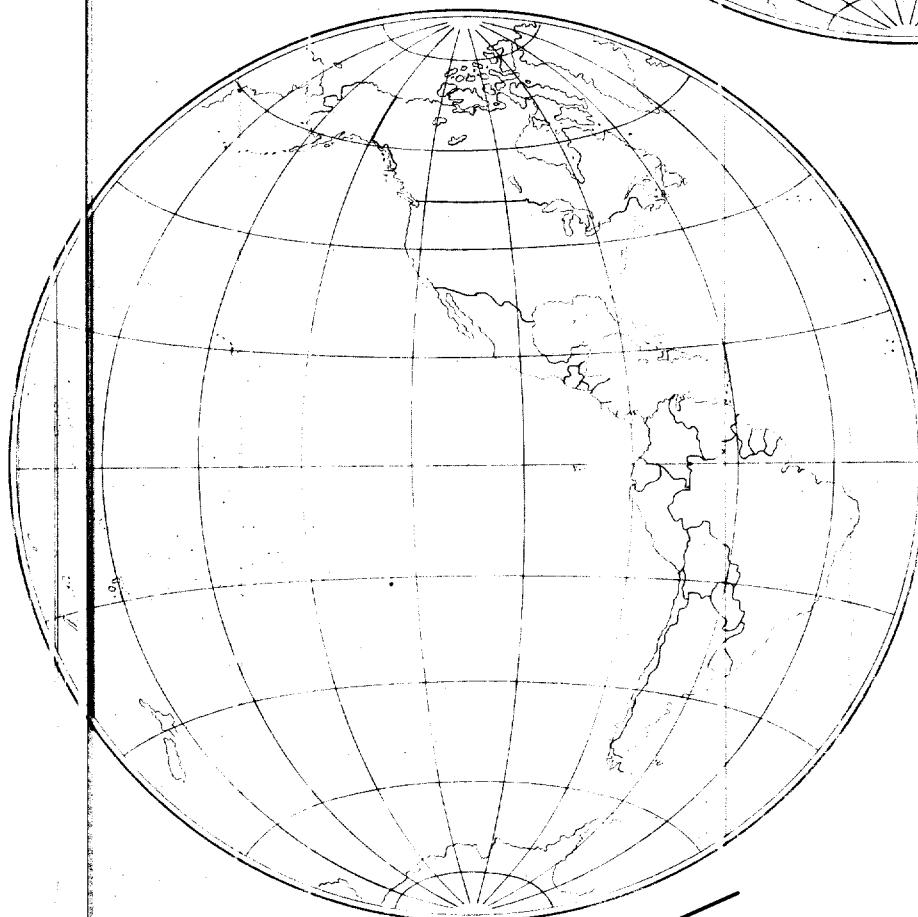
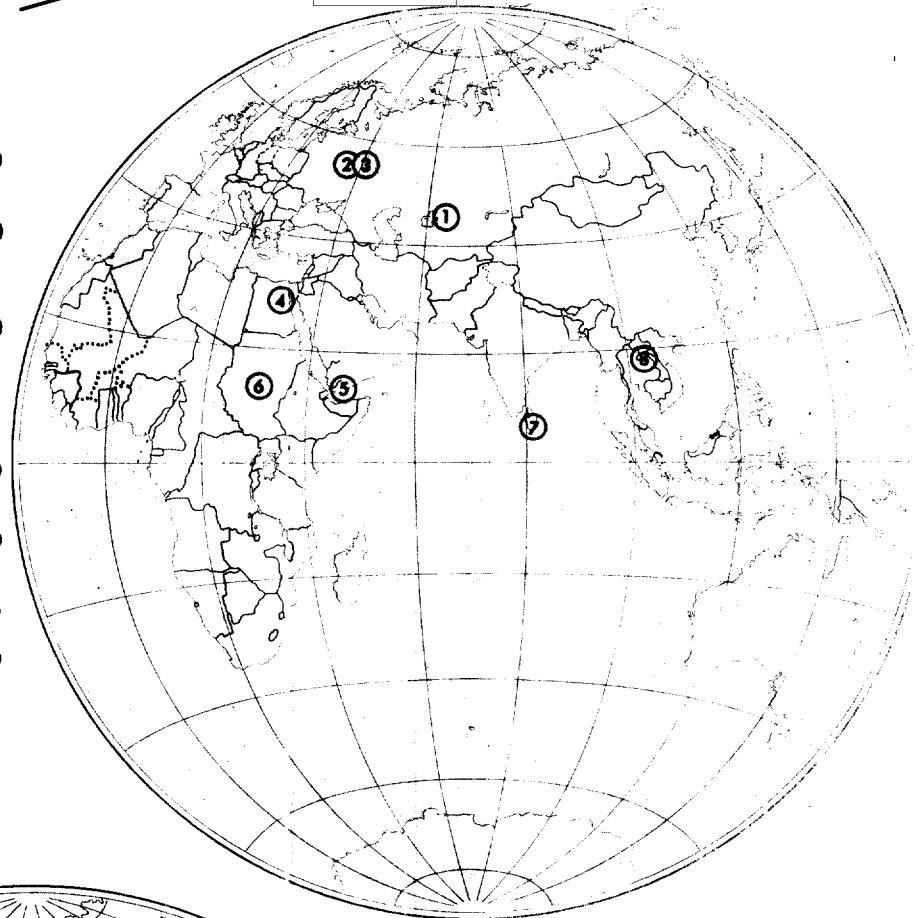
UAR attempting to widen breach be-  
tween Qasim and the Communists.

British-Yemeni relations unlikely to  
be improved by talks opening today.

Sudan - Power struggle remains un-  
resolved.

Ceylon - Cabinet crisis forestalled.

Laos - One of two holdout Pathet  
Lao battalions capitulates; surren-  
der of other expected shortly.

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

18 May 1959

SIRAB

## DAILY BRIEF

## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

\*USSR: An attempt was made to launch a vehicle of undetermined nature at the Tyura Tam Missile Test Range (TTMTR) on 16 May 1959. The countdown operation began with "X-8" hours at 0855 EDST and reached "X-4" at 1100 EDST. The operation was canceled shortly thereafter, possibly because of communications difficulties between the range elements.

One possibly significant variation from all previous TTMTR launchings was noted during this operation; the time intervals between the X-8 hour announcement and subsequent announcements down to X-4 were considerably shortened, being respectively 16, 16, 36, and 57 minutes. While no firm reason for this time compression can currently be given, it is possible that this may presage for selected operations at TTMTR a considerable decrease in real time consumed in the countdown procedure.

USSR: [The Soviet Union is seeking to exploit any differences between the US and Britain over Macmillan's proposal, endorsed by Khrushchev, for a predetermined number of annual on-site inspections of suspected nuclear explosions. Khrushchev's letters of 16 May to President Eisenhower and Macmillan and Gromyko's statements at Geneva are designed to create the impression that the way has been opened for an early signing of a test-cessation agreement. Khrushchev probably believes these moves will place the British Government under increasing pressure to conclude such an agreement.]

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*No*

**USSR:** A Northern Fleet submarine detachment, probably larger than those recently engaged in similar activity, is continuing nonexercise operations and is estimated to be in the northeastern Atlantic - southern Norwegian Sea area. One Albanian-based unit is believed to be in the Mediterranean, and one or more submarines are operating beyond local areas in the Pacific.

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## II. ASIA-AFRICA

**UAR-Iraq:** The UAR is making further efforts to widen the breach between Qasim and the Iraqi Communist party.

*No*

the Pakistani ambassador in Baghdad on 11 May set the stage for the UAR chargé to meet with the Iraqi foreign minister--and possibly Qasim himself--to convey UAR assurances of support for Qasim should he take action against the Communists.

Since 16 May the Cairo press and radio have sharpened their propaganda attacks against the Iraqi Communist party.

(Page 4)

*No*

**UK-Yemen:** The talks opening in Aden on 18 May between local British and Yemeni representatives regarding border incidents and subversion across the borders are unlikely to result in any significant improvement in British-Yemeni relations despite the fact that Crown Prince Badr has recently veered away from a pro-Soviet line. London seeks a period of quiet to facilitate development of the Aden Protectorate Federation and will propose creating a permanent border investigating commission. Badr also seems interested in keeping the border undisturbed but is maintaining his capability for arousing disaffected tribesmen within the protectorate.

*No*

**Sudan:** The power struggle within the Sudanese military government remains unresolved. Several senior officers, disgusted with the Supreme Council's continuing appeasement of

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DAILY BRIEF

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the junior officers movement and the breakdown of army discipline, have proffered their resignations. Meanwhile, the government has become increasingly irritated with the prospect that the World Bank will approve a loan to Nasir for the Suez Canal improvement, while refusing credits for the Sudanese Roseires Dam project pending a Sudanese-Egyptian agreement on division of the Nile waters. Sudanese-Egyptian relations may deteriorate this summer when the Sudanese plan to increase substantially their diversion of Nile waters for irrigation purposes.

(Page 5)

*OK*  
Ceylon: Prime Minister Bandaranaike has attempted to solve his cabinet crisis by stripping extreme leftist Agriculture Minister Gunawardena of most of his powers but retaining him in the cabinet. The ten moderate cabinet ministers who had threatened to resign if Gunawardena were not fired are reported to be satisfied with Bandaranaike's move, at least temporarily. The breakup of Bandaranaike's coalition government and a call for new national elections now seem remote.

(Page 6)

*NO*  
**\*Laos:** [On 17 May, Prince Souphanouvong, chief of the erstwhile dissident Pathet Lao Communists told the Laotian chief of staff that he was willing to order two holdout Pathet Lao battalions to integrate into the Laotian Army. Later the same day, the chief of staff reported that one of the battalions, in northern Laos, had capitulated and that he expected the other battalion, in central Laos, to surrender on 18 May.]

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## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

### Moscow Maneuvering to Divide the West on Test Cessation

[Khrushchev's 15 May letters to President Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Macmillan on a nuclear test-cessation agreement are a further effort to divide the United States and Britain by endorsing Macmillan's proposal for a predetermined number of annual on-site inspections of suspected nuclear explosions. Khrushchev's letter to President Eisenhower accepting in part the Western proposal for further technical discussions on condition they are limited to discussion of high altitude detection follows pressure by Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in private talks in Geneva with his American and British counterparts for immediate initialing of a test-cessation agreement in principle. Moscow thereby seeks to avoid technical discussions on underground tests and on the criteria for determining the number of on-site inspections. Khrushchev's letters repeated the Soviet position that fixing the number of inspections must be a high-level political decision. He noted also that the West "takes into account our view that such inspections should not be numerous."]

[Khrushchev and Gromyko reaffirmed the Soviet position that unanimity of the three nuclear powers would not be required for the dispatch of inspection teams if agreement is reached on the number of inspections. They also expressed confidence that none of the powers would violate an agreement once it was signed.]

[Moscow probably estimates that the United States will continue to reject any solution to the test-cessation problem which does not determine the number of annual inspections on the basis of scientific data. Khrushchev probably hopes that his latest letters, couched in optimistic terms, will impress world public opinion with the seriousness of the Soviet negotiating posture and with the progress being made toward easing international tension.]

[Khrushchev's warm note to Macmillan referring to the "closeness of our positions on your idea" is probably calculated to place]

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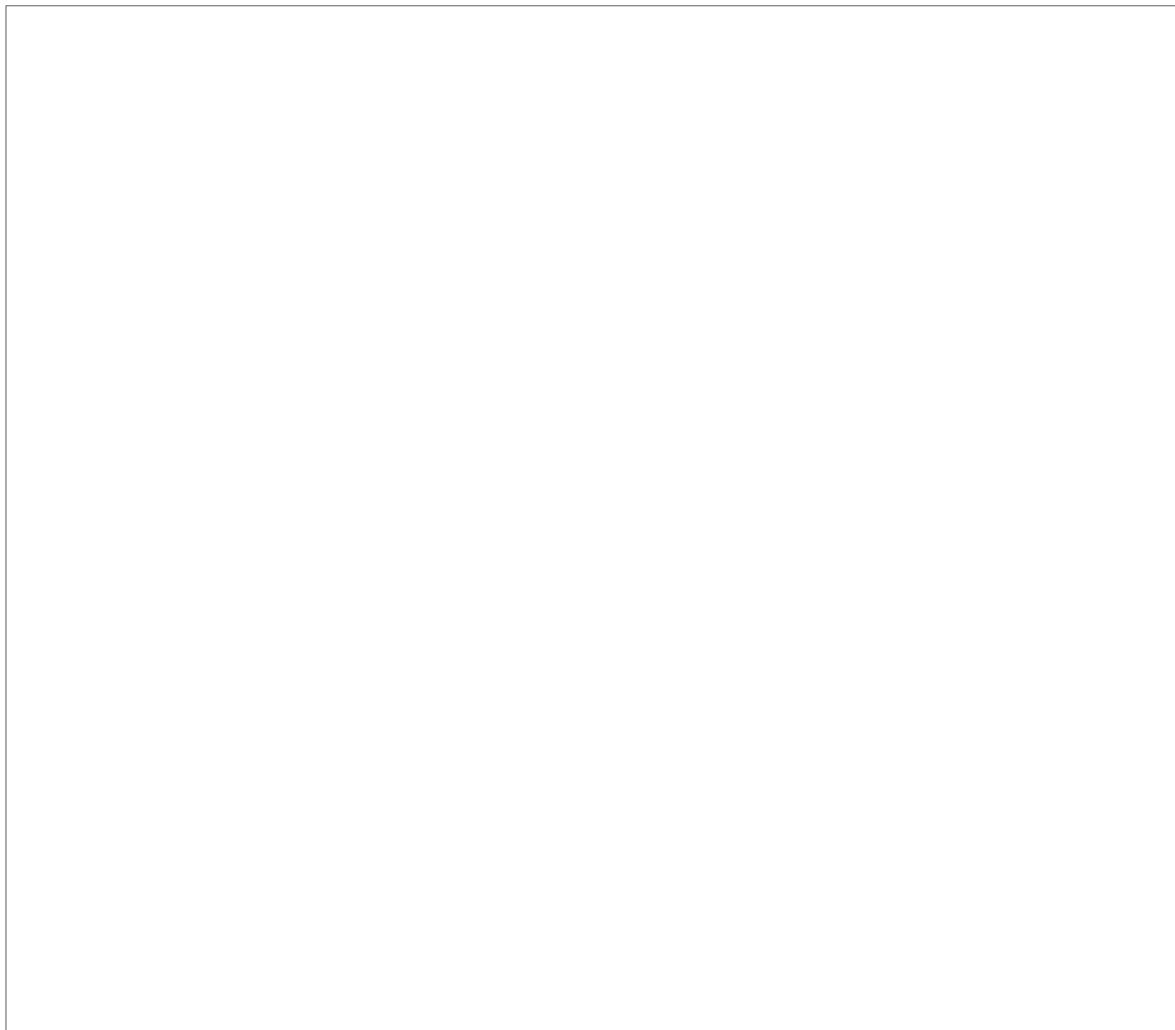
[the British Government under increasing pressure at home to conclude a test-cessation agreement. Moscow also apparently hopes that any differences between the United States and Britain on this issue could be exploited to advance Soviet objectives on other questions under negotiation at the foreign ministers' conference and a possible future summit meeting.]

[redacted]

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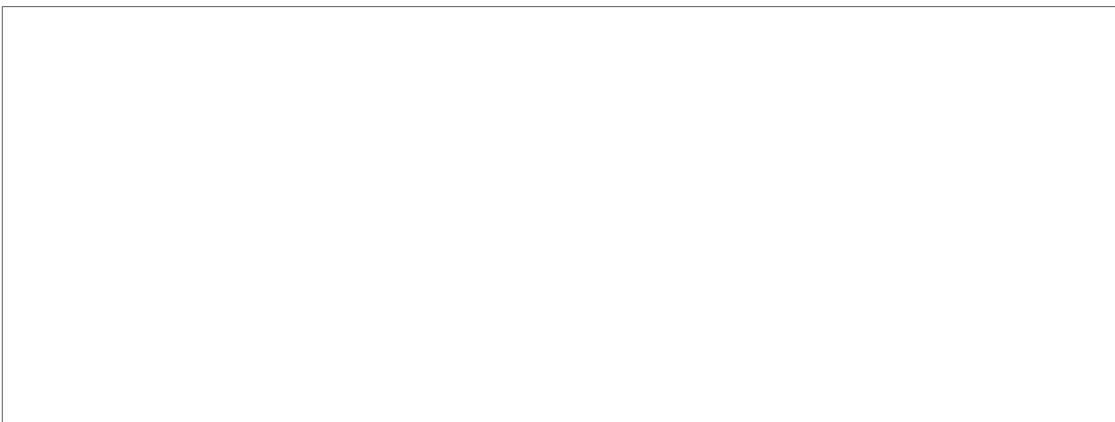
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## II. ASIA-AFRICA

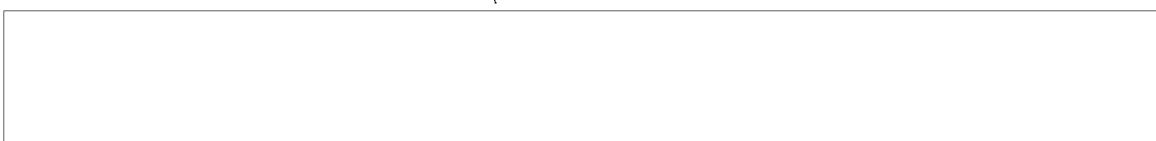
### UAR Moving to Back Qasim Against Iraqi Communists

The UAR Government, conscious of the breach which has opened between Iraqi Prime Minister Qasim and the Iraqi Communist party and aware of the present weakness of pro-UAR elements in Iraq, has begun efforts to support Qasim against the Communists.



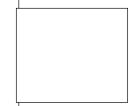
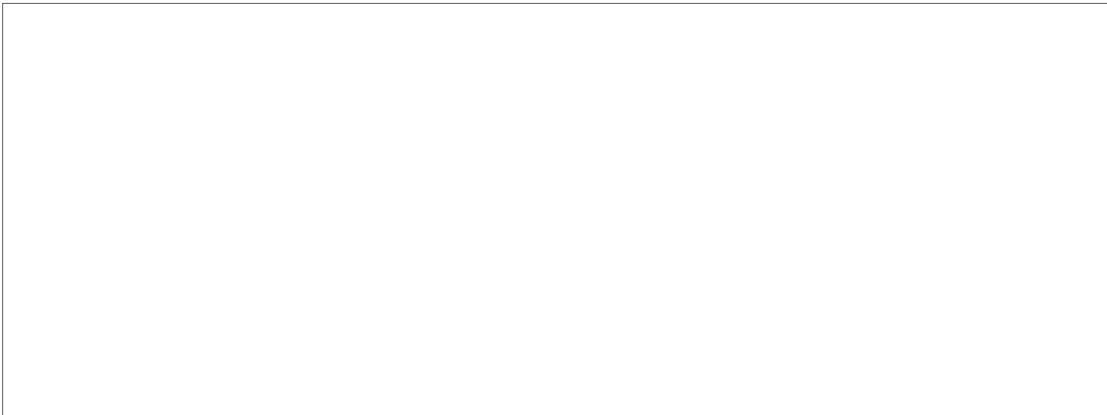
Beginning on 16 May, Cairo sharpened its press and radio attacks on the Iraqi Communist party. It charged that the Communist party's insistence on participation in the Iraqi Government had unveiled its "sinister plans and real objectives" and had alienated Iraqi public opinion. It claimed that the party, now faced with disaffection of opportunist elements, was preparing "to go underground," prior to staging a sudden uprising to seize power by force.

Within Iraq, the dispute persists between Qasim and Communist party leaders on the issue of legalizing political parties and appointing Communist party representatives to the cabinet. Communist-controlled newspapers and mass organizations continue to press these demands, despite Qasim's reiteration in a 14 May speech that "the time had not yet come" for a return to political parties.

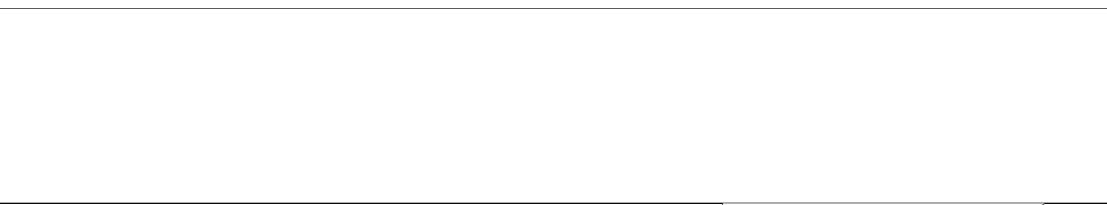
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~~SECRET~~Sudanese Situation

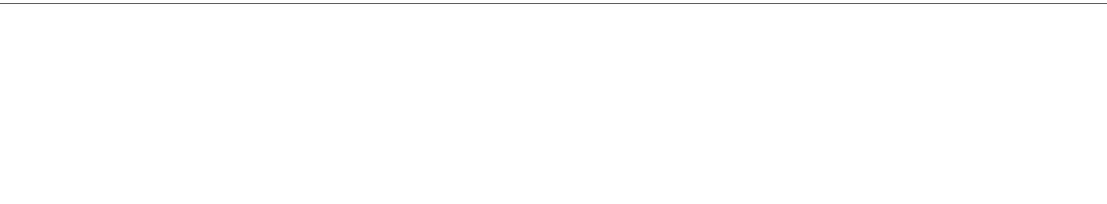
Khartoum remained calm during the extraordinary 10-12 May meeting of the Supreme Military Council and commanders of all the major army commands. Maneuvers for an immediate shift in the power balance appear to have produced a temporary deadlock.



Abboud, whose policies of compromise have permitted the steady growth in Shannan's power, is reported still anxious to retire. Several senior officers outside the Supreme Council have proffered their resignations because of disgust over what they regard as appeasement of the junior officers movement and the consequent breakdown of army discipline.



Sudanese-Egyptian relations will be subject to further strain in the first part of July when the Sudanese plan to increase their diversion of Nile waters to about 20 percent more than the amount permitted by the 1929 Sudanese-Egyptian agreement.

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**Prime Minister Bandaranaike Moves to End Ceylon's Cabinet Crisis**

Prime Minister Bandaranaike on 15 May moved to end his cabinet crisis, which began on 6 May when 10 moderate ministers threatened to resign if extreme leftist Agriculture Minister Gunawardena were not fired. He announced on that date that he personally will administer the system of agricultural cooperatives and food distribution through which Gunawardena had been accused of spreading Marxism and increasing his own power. Gunawardena, who will remain in the cabinet, will deal only with matters involving agricultural production.

The moderate cabinet group, hesitant to force the fall of the government and thus precipitate new national elections, reportedly has accepted Bandaranaike's compromise proposal. Gunawardena is expected to announce on 19 May whether or not he will accept this blow to his prestige and remain in the government. Meanwhile, he apparently is attempting to put pressure on Bandaranaike by indicating the parliamentary strength he could withdraw from the government coalition.

[redacted] members of Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom party who sympathize with Gunawardena contains their threat to resign if Bandaranaike stands firm in his decision.

Should Gunawardena and his followers leave the government, Bandaranaike's, 56-member coalition would lose its majority in the 101-man parliament. However, Bandaranaike's prospects of replacing possible defectors with conservative opposition elements who do not wish new elections are better than Gunawardena's chances of rallying enough leftist support to bring down the government. It seems likely, therefore, that Gunawardena would prefer to retain his privileged position within the government rather than to lose virtually all his influence by resigning. Dur-

[redacted] Senanayake seemed agreeable to joint operations against the leftists although he felt it premature to discuss a specific election agreement.

While Governor General Goonetilleke has indicated that both he and the prime minister would prefer that Gunawardena resign,

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it is unlikely that Bandaranaike shares this view. Bandaranaike probably will attempt to persuade Gunawardena that his concession to the moderates is a tactic to maintain the status quo and thus to protect both his and Gunawardena's position.

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The Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of State

The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary for Administration

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Chief of Staff, United States Army

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