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23 April 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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23 APRIL 1958

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Soviet ground forces being reorganized to meet demands of both nuclear and conventional warfare.

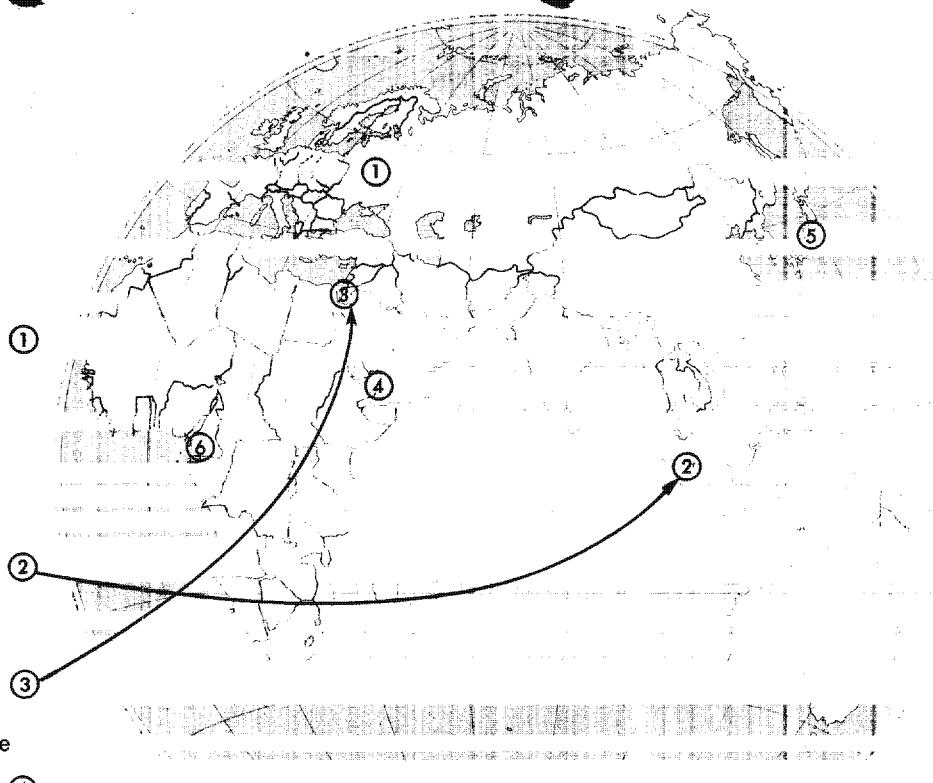
II. ASIA-AFRICA

Indonesia - Djakarta planning attacks in North Celebes.

Dissident air raids on Morotai and Halmahera islands reported.

Possibility of incidents in Jerusalem on 24 April may be increased by Jordan-Israel naval clash in Aqaba.

Imam of Yemen curtails Crown Prince Badr's activities, but no major shift in external relations likely.

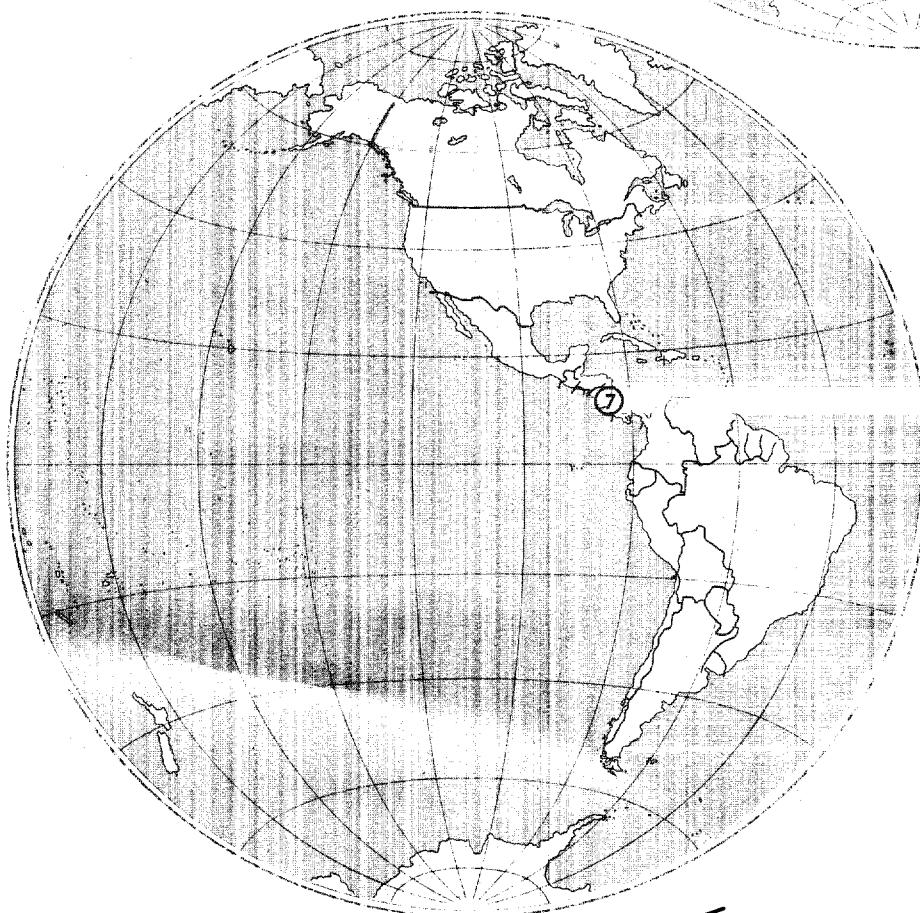


⑤ Japanese prime minister rejects idea of nuclear bases out of political expediency; his defense policy may be set back.

⑥ Cameroun - African government under French tutelage alienating populace with strong-arm tactics against guerrillas.

III. THE WEST

⑦ Nicaraguan exile activity in Honduras may lead to renewed controversy over disputed border area.

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

No

Soviet ground forces: Standard Soviet ground force rifle, tank, and mechanized divisions have been reorganized to an undetermined extent into motorized rifle, tank, and heavy tank divisions. The new structure provides in general for a higher proportion of armor and transport to infantry. Although the new organization does not reflect a radical change in concept, such as that of the American "pentomic" organization, it indicates a desire for an armed force equally suitable for conventional or nuclear warfare. [redacted] (Page 1)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

No

Indonesia: Resistance to government forces in Central Sumatra was weak and disorganized as of 21 April, [redacted]

Dissident leaders, however, are expected to make a stand at Solok where their strength is reported as 1,800 men. Dissident air strikes on 20 April against the airfields on Morotai and Halmahera islands, and against nearby Ternate, have been reported. [redacted]

In North Celebes, Djakarta is planning an attack against Gorontalo and its airfields, which are located 120 miles southwest of Menado. [redacted] (Page 2) (Map)

No

Israel-Jordan: Despite Israeli assurances that the armor being assembled in the Jerusalem area for the parade on 24 April will not carry ammunition and that the marching troops'

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small arms will not be loaded, tension among the civilian population of the Arab city remains high. The possibility of incidents may have been increased by a clash between minor Jordanian and Israeli naval craft in the Gulf of Aqaba.

No

Yemen: The Imam of Yemen apparently wishes to improve his relations with Saudi Arabia and possibly with Western countries. He appears to have restricted at least temporarily the authority of Crown Prince Badr, leading promoter of Yemeni ties with the Soviet bloc. However, the Yemenis are evidently not considering any reduction in the scale of Soviet bloc aid, and the opportunities presented by unrest in Aden are likely to lead them into further anti-Western actions no matter what the Imam's intentions are at the moment.

(Page 3)

yes

Japan: Prime Minister Kishi, who has been trying quietly to foster Japanese acceptance of a modern defense establishment, was forced on 21 April by a Socialist attack in the Diet to make a public statement that he would reject all attempts to establish nuclear bases in Japan. Kishi's evolving defense policy calls for the eventual use of guided missiles.

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Cameroun: The tribal population of the important Sanaga Maritime Province in the southwestern part of this French trust territory is being progressively alienated by the French-backed African government's strong-arm military tactics used to suppress guerrilla warfare carried on by Communist-influenced nationalists. The Cameroun Government, which is gravely concerned over its own future, is pressing France to help undercut the dissidents' popular appeal by promising early Cameroun independence.

(Page 5) (Map)

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III. THE WEST

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Honduras - Nicaragua: Nicaraguan exiles may launch guerrilla operations against the Somoza regime this week from bases in neighboring Honduras. They hope thus to spark a nationwide uprising, but their efforts will fail unless the movement receives support from important elements of the Nicaraguan armed forces. There is no indication that such support would be forthcoming. The Organization of American States, which intervened a year ago when Nicaragua and Honduras were on the verge of hostilities over their disputed border, will probably be called on again if an exile "invasion" of Nicaragua occurs.

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Reorganization of Soviet Ground Forces

[redacted] a phased reorganization of Soviet ground forces observed in East Germany and Hungary, and suggests that this program is being implemented to an undetermined extent throughout the Soviet ground forces. Rifle divisions, mechanized divisions, mechanized armies, and corps organic to armies have been eliminated in the new structure.

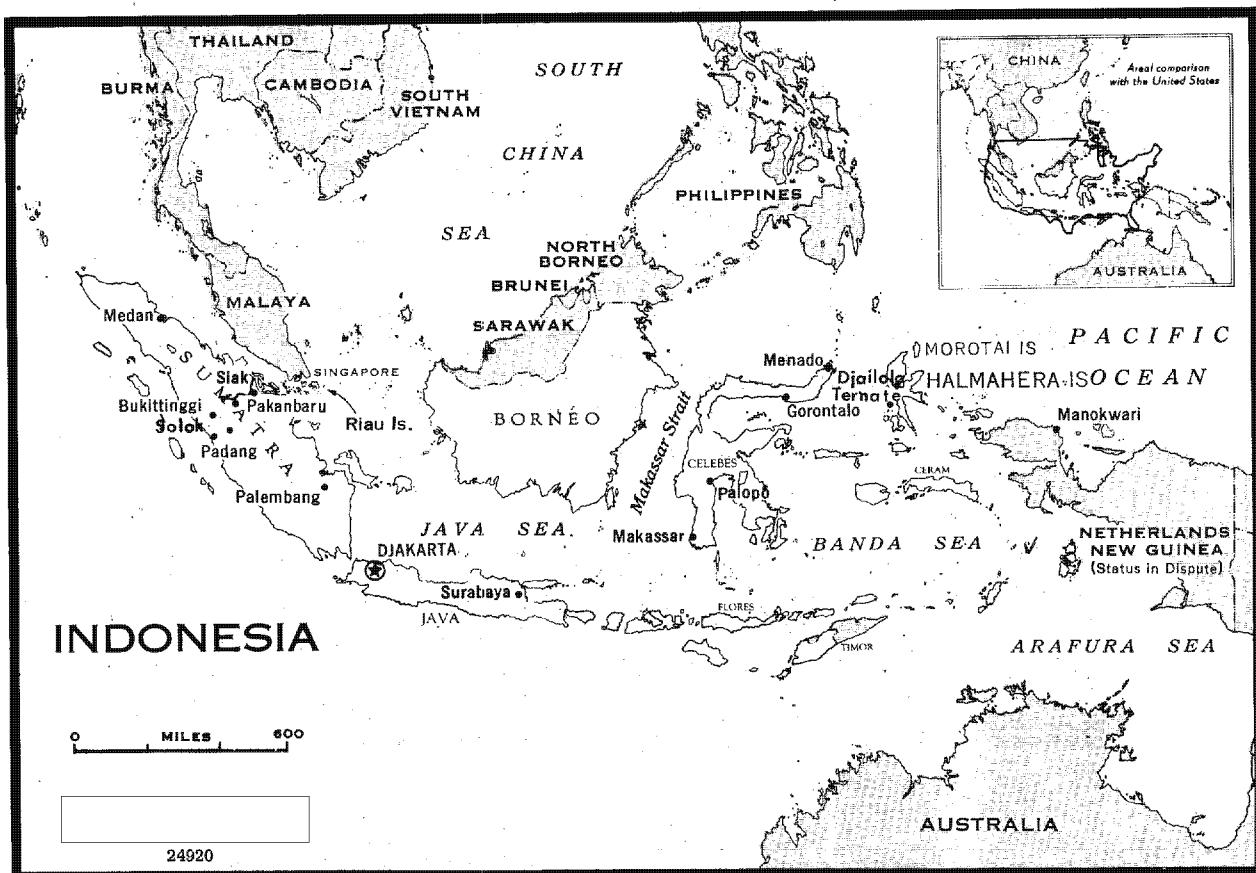
The ratio of armor to infantry in motorized rifle and tank divisions has been increased, and a new type of division--a heavy tank division--has been introduced. Motorized rifle regiments of motorized rifle divisions have been augmented by a tank battalion, and the tank division has been reduced in size.

In addition to normal support elements, the new heavy tank division contains three heavy tank regiments organized along the lines of the heavy tank/assault gun regiment formerly organic to both tank and mechanized divisions. These divisions normally will be organic to tank armies but can operate independently as part of the Reserve of the High Command.

Under the new organization, a combined-arms army normally consists of four or five motorized rifle divisions and one or two tank divisions. Tank armies normally consist of three or four tank divisions and one or two heavy tank divisions. [redacted]

[redacted]

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II: ASIA-AFRICA

Situation in Indonesia

Resistance of revolutionary government forces to central government troops in the Padang area has been described [redacted] as weak and disorganized. Dissident leader Lt. Col. Hussein and his staff are preparing to move to an emergency command post, probably in the Solok area. Djakarta army headquarters expects the dissidents to make a stand there with about 1,800 men.

Lt. Col. Sumual, revolutionary commander in North Celebes, has suggested to dissident leaders in Sumatra that if Bukittinggi should fall, the rebel capital should be moved to Menado. He further suggested that if the revolutionary premier, Sjafruddin, does not find it "opportune" to come to Menado, Col. Warouw, former military attaché in Peiping, could be designated vice premier and could act as head of the government.

Dissident aircraft based in North Celebes, a B-26 and an F-51, bombed and strafed the Morotai airfield on 20 April, but results are not yet known. Another F-51 strafed Djailolo airfield on Halmahera and nearby Ternate. These air strikes probably are in preparation for a planned early dissident amphibious move on Morotai. [redacted]

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Developments in Yemen

Discussions with Yemeni Foreign Minister al-Amri during a recent visit in Yemen have strengthened the belief of the American consul in Aden that the Imam has temporarily restricted the authority of his son, Crown Prince Badr, as a consequence of renewed suspicion of Egyptian motives. The Imam is apparently angry at Badr for having persuaded him to enter into a federation with the UAR. Badr has promoted closer ties with Egypt and the Soviet bloc in order to gain their assistance in his ambition to succeed his father.

Recent attempts by the Imam to effect a reconciliation with Saudi Arabia and to mediate between it and Egypt probably reflect his struggle to maintain in Yemen the precarious balance among contending forces in the area, which he considers the best guarantee of his own independence. The Imam's conciliatory gestures toward Saudi Arabia probably also reflect fear of recent Saudi efforts to gain the support of tribes in eastern and northern Yemen, as well as concern over their contacts with certain local rulers in the Aden Protectorate who have grown uneasy over Yemen's efforts to supplant British rule.

Renewed Yemeni feelers for American aid are probably also the result of the Imam's desire to have a number of competing, and balancing, foreign interests operating in his country. These approaches almost certainly do not indicate any willingness to abandon anti-British activity or to reduce military and economic collaboration with the Soviet bloc.

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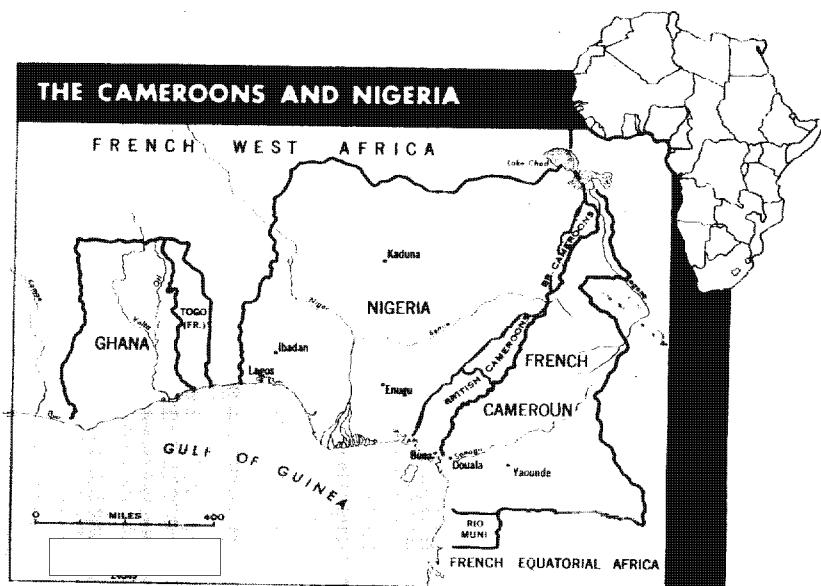
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Kishi Announces Opposition to Nuclear Bases

A new furor in Japan over nuclear weapons has forced Prime Minister Kishi to assert, under Socialist attack in the Diet, that he would reject all attempts to establish American nuclear bases in Japan. At the same time Kishi was noncommittal on whether he would honor Diet resolutions against nuclear armaments for Japan.

Kishi has been striving quietly to increase Japanese acceptance of modern defense concepts and armaments. His government has attempted to prepare the public for this with recent announcements that tests of guided missiles for Japanese forces would begin in 1959 and that Japan would retaliate against foreign attack on US bases in Japanese territory.

Moscow's announcement of suspension of nuclear tests and American plans for tests in the Pacific this spring have made Japanese public opinion extremely sensitive to nuclear issues at this time. During the past week, the Japanese Diet unanimously passed resolutions calling for the cessation of nuclear tests and opposing Japan's possession of nuclear weapons.

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Guerrilla Warfare Is a Growing Problem in Cameroun

Guerrilla warfare has been conducted for the past 16 months by the Communist-influenced nationalist Union of the Cameroun People (UPC), which hopes eventually to dominate an independent state made up of the British and French trust territories. This warfare is becoming a serious security and political problem in the rural areas of Sanaga Maritime Province in the southwestern jungle region of this French trust territory. The population is being alienated by the strong-arm tactics of the government's military force.

Leaders of the moderate African government of Cameroun, a coalition of parties representing several regions with conflicting interests and traditions, hope that a renewed offer of amnesty and an enlarged public welfare program will improve public opinion and prevent members of the government from carrying out their threatened resignations. Meanwhile, Cameroun officials are pressing France to help undercut the UPC's popular appeal by issuing the promised statement about early independence. Paris has previously indicated a willingness to grant the trust territory independence at some future date with continuing economic and military ties with France.

A representative of the UPC, who attended the Accra conference of independent African states as an observer, sought the material backing of the African nations, but the conference only passed a resolution condemning the use of military force against unarmed people in Cameroun as contrary to the spirit of the UN. He stated that Communist aid "would not be unwelcome," but at this time material backing from the Communist bloc is unlikely.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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III. THE WEST

Exiles Plan Attack on Nicaragua From Honduras

Nicaraguan exiles in Honduras, who have long been plotting against Nicaraguan President Somoza, plan to initiate guerrilla operations within Nicaragua on or about 23 April, [redacted]. The Nicaraguan Government has been expecting an invasion since last January. The exiles probably number only about a hundred, but apparently are well armed. Their leaders expect a guerrilla campaign of a few weeks' duration to spark popular uprisings and defections from the armed forces. They are trying to arrange for two planes to carry 60 to 80 of their men deep into Nicaragua, but failing this they may attempt to infiltrate directly across the border.

Hampered by bitter rivalries among themselves and by some efforts recently by the Honduran Army to frustrate their plans, the exiles also overestimate the extent of anti-Somoza feeling in Nicaragua. The armed forces, under the tight leadership of the President's brother, appear loyal. The President, more liberal-minded than his father, the late dictator, is not unpopular with the general public. He recently spiked the opposition's main issue by calling for a constitutional amendment that would prohibit a president from succeeding himself or being succeeded by a member of his family.

An invasion is not likely to gain support within Nicaragua, but exile activity along the border may renew the old border dispute between Nicaragua and Honduras which nearly resulted in hostilities a year ago. The Organization of American States, which intervened at that time, will probably be called on again if an exile "invasion" of Nicaragua occurs. [redacted]

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