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SECURITY INFORMATION~~

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GENERAL

1. Brazil may introduce resolution on Korea:

The Brazilian delegate to the United Nations 3.3(h)(2) has drafted a resolution on Korea which he believes would counteract any Soviet cease-fire proposal. This is a reversal of his earlier stand against any new resolution.

The draft notes the Communist rejection of the Indian resolution, calls on member states for full support of the UN effort, and proclaims UN willingness to convene special sessions as required by the Korea situation.

Comment: At a 19 February meeting of UN members supplying troops for Korea, it was agreed that the United States would draft a resolution reaffirming the General Assembly stand on the Indian proposal. It was further decided to hold this resolution in reserve, awaiting Soviet action.

This Brazilian tactic is likely to attract considerable support from other Latin American delegations.

FAR EAST

2. Jet fighters probably transferring from Manchuria to Shanghai:

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Twenty-six MIG-15's of the Chinese Communist 18th Air Division flew from Peiping to Liuting on the Shantung Peninsula on 26 February. These aircraft, previously noted flying from their home base in Manchuria to Peiping, are believed en route to a new base at Shanghai.

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Comment: The first indication that the 18th Air Division might be transferring to the Shanghai area was a [redacted] 3.3(h)(2) "test flight" by one of its transport aircraft to a point at least as far south as Shanghai.

The arrival of this combat-trained unit in Shanghai would represent the first known re-disposition of military forces from Manchuria to the East China coast since the denaturalization of Formosa. Other reports, though unconfirmed, of naval activity at Swatow, of mine laying at the mouth of the Yangtze, and of a rocket launcher battalion in the Shanghai area, also suggest that the Chinese Communists are bolstering their East China coastal defenses.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

3. Burma will place Chinese Nationalist issue before UN:

[redacted] 3.3(h)(2)
The Burmese Foreign Minister has informed the American Ambassador in Rangoon that his government has decided to place the Chinese Nationalist issue before the United Nations. A statement to this effect, a copy of which is being given to the Chinese Communist Ambassador, will be made to parliament by the Prime Minister on 2 March.

[redacted] 3.3(h)(2)

Previous plans to submit the case to the UN were not carried through because of lack of sufficient evidence as to the sources of Nationalist supplies, reluctance to admit Burma's inability to suppress the Chinese intruders, and fear that relations with friendly countries would be adversely affected.

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4. Rebellion of Shans in eastern Burma reportedly planned:

A rebellion of the Shan tribal group in eastern Burma is being planned

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[redacted] reportedly envisages cooperation from the Chinese Nationalists in that area. The plotters allegedly have been promised arms from Thailand.

Comment: The Shans, a normally peaceful people who number slightly over 1,000,000, live in the areas where the Chinese Nationalists have been most active. They have long been dissatisfied with their status as a minority group in the Burmese Union.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

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6. Comment on the Iranian situation:

The crisis brought about by the Shah's decision on 28 February to remain in Iran has resulted in a struggle between Prime Minister Mossadeq and an anti-Mossadeq coalition of army, Court and religious leaders, headed by the fanatical religious mullah and Majlis President Ayatollah Kashani.

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[redacted] the army strongly supports the Shah, who made his decision after secular and religious leaders urged him to stay and after crowds demonstrated outside the palace. Although order has been restored for the time being, supporters of Kashani and of retired General Zahedi, often mentioned as a possible successor to Mossadeq, are active.

Nevertheless, the Prime Minister has in the past retained control of the government through superior initiative. Despite his failure to sway the Majlis on the evening of 28 February, he has reportedly announced that he would ask for a vote of confidence and has asserted that if his position is not clarified within 48 hours he will appeal directly to the people. The Majlis is currently considering a bill introduced by his supporters proclaiming its loyalty to the Shah but its support for the Prime Minister. On 1 March the Tudeh reportedly came out in support of Mossadeq.

The Prime Minister's position is more precarious than at any time since he came to power in 1951, but the Shah's vacillating nature and conflicting interests of the opposition favor Mossadeq.

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