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SECURITY INFORMATION

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FAR EAST

1. North Korean air unit ordered to suspend May Day celebration:

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[REDACTED] "The May Day celebration has been suspended.
Do not make any preparations."

Comment: The suspension of traditional May Day activities apparently does not apply to all enemy forces, since 18 April messages from enemy ground units have referred to making preparations for the day.

The North Korean Air Force has used the sod airfield at Sariwon to operate obsolescent biplanes in harassing raids against the UN; there is also an early warning radar installation nearby.

2. Defense Minister reported negotiating with Burmese Communists:

3.3(h)(2)

Defense Minister Ba Swe reportedly contacted insurgent Burmese Communist leaders in mid-March and proposed establishing a coalition government.

3.3(h)(2)

Ba Swe wished to bring Communists into the cabinet, although he allegedly believes that Burma at present can obtain more aid from the United States than from the Soviet Union. Both sources implied that Ba Swe wishes to be Premier.

Comment: Until recently, almost all reports indicated that Ba Swe, a ruthless political opportunist, was strongly inclined toward Communism. In late March, however, he publicly rejected "Communist feelers" for peace and demanded unconditional surrender. He subsequently queried the American Army Attaché in Rangoon on the prospect of acquiring American military aid.

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~~TOP SECRET~~3. Unofficial offer of Indonesian rubber to USSR confirmed:

"hope" that consent could be obtained for the export of 10,000 tons of Indonesian rubber.

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: [redacted] to confirm a recent report from Singapore that Indonesian representatives to the Moscow conference had offered rubber to the USSR. It shows, however, that government approval is necessary before trade transactions concluded by the delegation in Moscow can be completed.

3.3(h)(2)

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. Foreign attorneys refuse to represent Iran at the International Court:

A Dutch attorney has refused to represent Iran at the International Court of Justice because he is a Shell Oil Company lawyer and an associate of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. The Iranian Minister to the Netherlands added in his report that five other people he approached had declined and asked the government for suggestions.

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: This information emphasizes the difficulty Iran is having in assembling a staff of Western lawyers to represent it. While several European lawyers, including former French Premier Paul-Boncour, have helped prepare the Iranian case, with one possible exception none apparently has been willing to appear to plead it in person.

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EASTERN EUROPE

5. Rumania moves further to restrict diplomats' travel:

The Rumanian Government now requires foreign diplomats to have Rumanian licenses in order personally to drive diplomatic cars.

3.3(h)(2)

The American Legation in Bucharest reports that such licenses have hitherto been unobtainable, and suggests that this may foreshadow new harassment of Western officials.

Comment: This move will further restrict travel by members of the diplomatic corps in Rumania by forcing them to rely on the Rumanian Foreign Office to furnish chauffeurs. Such trips as those recently taken by the American Military Attaché to observe military installations at Ianca in the east and Craiova in the southwest may now be impossible.

WESTERN EUROPE

6. Current German reactions to Soviet unity campaign:

American officials in Bonn believe that both the European Defense Community treaty and the Allied-German contractual agreement will be signed in May, but fear that the ratification and implementation of these treaties may be threatened by future Soviet maneuvers.

3.3(h)(2)

The popular distrust of Russian intentions is stronger in South Germany than in the northern areas, where the West's sincerity and determination to achieve unification are widely questioned. Consular officials report that this attitude is strengthened by doubts over the degree of sovereignty West Germany will have under the contractual agreement.

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Any reluctance to proceed with the agreement now, however, will not be due to the Russian advances but to demands that no steps be taken which might jeopardize unification.

Comment: Leaders of right-wing coalition parties as well as of the opposition Social Democratic Party found the reply to the 10 March Soviet note satisfactory except for its emphasis on integration and its insufficient attention to unification. The tone of German opinion will finally depend largely on the Allied reply to the Soviet note of 9 April.

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