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~~TOP SECRET~~**1. USSR TESTS NUCLEAR DEVICE NEAR GUIDED MISSILE RANGE****Comment**

Although there is no information yet on any missile firings since 14 January, there is evidence that this nuclear test may have been conducted in conjunction with the firing of a missile on the Kapustin Yar range. Since 25 November 1956 an unusual number of flights into the Kapustin Yar area by aircraft of the Soviet nuclear weapons program have been noted. On 7 January an aircraft flew directly from the Soviet nuclear laboratories near Sarov/Shatki to Kapustin Yar, indicating the involvement of an experimental nuclear device in missile range activities.

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~~TOP SECRET~~**2. ARAB AID TO JORDAN****Comment on:**

The "solidarity agreement" concluded by Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Jordan on 19 January to provide Jordan the equivalent of about \$35,000,000 annually for ten years to replace the British subsidy probably marks the beginning of additional intensive intra-Arab maneuvering and negotiation.

Egyptian president Nasr had been completely amenable to all Jordan's requests, suggests strongly that Nasr, usually a hypercautious bargainer, was willing to promise anything to obtain quick signature of an agreement which would serve to demonstrate continued Arab support for his leadership and might help to forestall any Western attempts to isolate him.

Official statements on the agreement do not mention such specifics as terms of payment or types of currency or materiel which Jordan is to receive. Egypt and Syria are unable to provide from their own cash resources the promised annual payments of \$14,000,000 and \$7,000,000 respectively. If their contribution materializes at all, it may well take the form of shipments of Soviet bloc military equipment provided them on credit. While the Jordanians are eager for new equipment, their most immediate need is hard cash to pay the army.

The Saudis are the only visible source of cash, and King Saud, suffering himself from diminished oil revenues, is unlikely to make a substantial contribution to Jordan until he sees what Egypt and Syria are really prepared to do. The new "solidarity" could dissolve in further discussions of such matters.

The British ambassador in Amman informed Ambassador Mallory on 18 January that Britain would discontinue financial assistance to Jordan as of 31 March, the end of the fiscal year.

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3. ALGERIAN REBELS REPORTED PLANNING MILITARY OFFENSIVE TO COINCIDE WITH START OF UN DEBATE

The Algerian rebels plan to launch their largest military offensive of the rebellion when the UN takes up the Algerian question later this month, according to an Algerian nationalist spokesman in Tripoli.

Comment

The Algerian National Liberation Front has already called on Algerian Moslems, including those residing in France, to participate, under pain of reprisals, in a week-long general strike to coincide with the UN discussion. If this strike is effective despite the French counterthreat to use force to open Moslem shops which participate, a simultaneous major rebel military offensive would appear almost certain to provoke the European community into direct action against the Moslems. High French officials have expressed fear on numerous occasions recently that in such an eventuality French forces in Algeria, among whom "uneasiness" is said to be widespread, might side with the European extremists.

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4. CZECH INTELLECTUALS PRESS FOR FREER EXPRESSIONComment on:

For the second time in a month the lead article in the Czech authors' union weekly, Literarni Noviny, has attempted to assert in some degree the independence of Czech authors from past Communist regulations and ideological standards. The American embassy in Prague comments that although this article is more restrained than its predecessor, its meaning is unmistakable and reveals the great impression made on the Czech intellectuals by the Soviet 20th party congress and the Hungarian uprising.

These two lead articles, plus a defense by Jan Pilar, editor in chief of Literarni Noviny, of the 22 December article which had provoked a bitter denunciation by the party daily, indicate that the unrest among liberal Czech intellectuals has broken through the restraints placed upon them by the regime. Publication of Pilar's view that a writer must not be considered irresponsible and opposed to Communism when he advances new ideas--a position considered highly suspect by the regime--will probably encourage other dissatisfied writers to express their ideas.

The criticism contained in these two articles of the destructive effects of the Socialist system on both the individual and society is reminiscent of Polish and Hungarian criticism prior to the recent developments in these countries.

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5. WEST GERMAN SOCIALIST PARTY MAY ESTABLISH CLOSE TIES WITH POLISH COMMUNIST PARTY

[redacted] [redacted] Herbert Wehner, a Social Democratic member of the West German Bundestag and leader of the left-wing faction of the party,

has said that his party will soon be in close contact with the Polish Communist Party.

Wehner, a former Communist, expressed his great admiration for Gomulka and his belief that the USSR and the Satellites are moving toward a "Gomulka-style" democracy as a result of changes in the world situation that are forcing out the Stalinists.

Comment

The Social Democrats favor the establishment of formal trade relations with Poland as the first step toward formal diplomatic relations. The party's foreign affairs expert early last fall proposed talks with Poland in an effort to settle the Oder-Neisse Line dispute. While Poland is interested in closer relations with West Germany, it is not willing to make any concessions on the Oder-Neisse issue.

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6. SHIFT IN TOP BONN MILITARY POST EXPECTED**Comment on:**

Walter Wenck, a former lieutenant general who commanded the German Twelfth Army at the end of World War II, is now expected to be appointed "general in chief" of the West German armed forces, possibly in March. He now holds an executive position in a Ruhr industrial firm. Many German generals have urged his appointment as the man best fitted to lead the build-up of both major components of the new German forces, the NATO units and the defense militia units. This would be a move away from the "democratic army" concepts envisioned by former defense minister Blank.

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**7. CLASHES BETWEEN CUBAN REVOLUTIONARIES AND
MILITARY REPORTED**

A Cuban revolutionary group wiped out a 13-man garrison on 16 January and another group attacked a small military post on 17 January, [redacted]

[redacted] an attack of 17 January with about 10 military casualties, and the army press bureau stated eight attackers and two military had been killed in a clash. All the reported clashes were located in southern Cuba.

The American embassy in Havana notes that the location of the reported incidents is remote and that all reports may refer to the same one or two incidents.

Comment

Popular dissatisfaction with Batista's use of repressive measures and his inability to put an end to sporadic acts of terrorism has apparently been increasing since the abortive coup attempt on 30 November by adherents of exiled revolutionary Fidel Castro. On 15 January, the government extended a suspension of constitutional guarantees, previously imposed on four provinces, to the entire island.

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