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7 November 1958

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CENTRAL

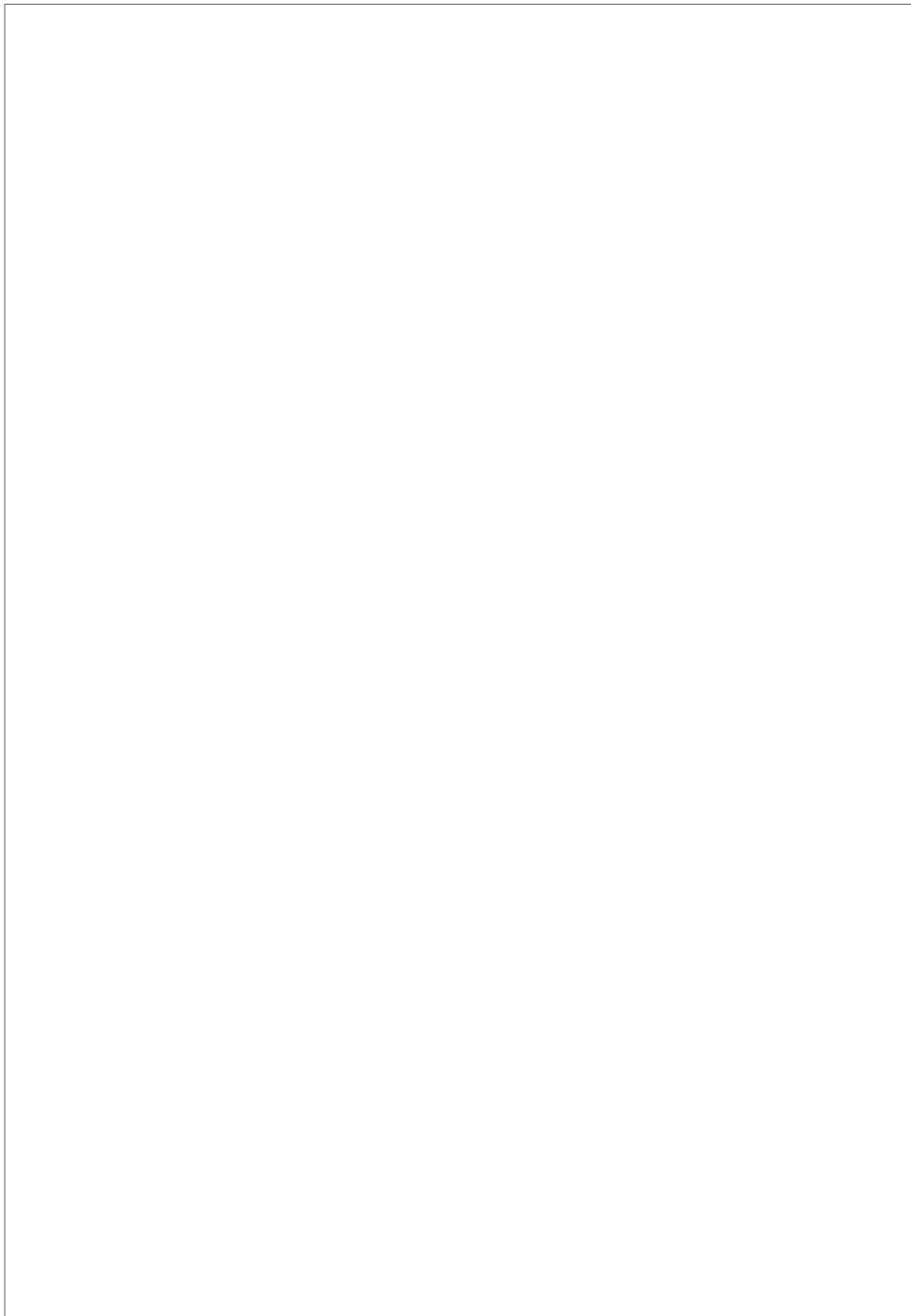
INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN



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7 NOVEMBER 1958

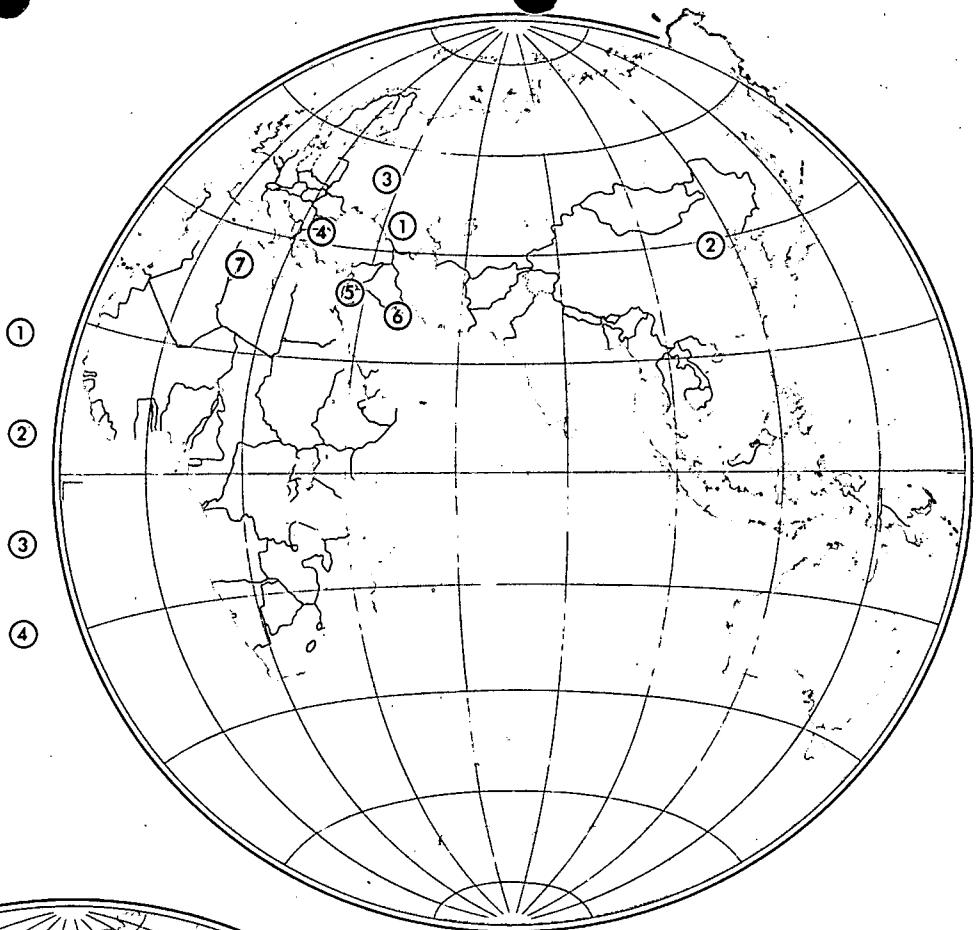
I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

GMIC statement on Soviet nuclear explosions of 1 and 3 November.

Communist China - New militia to help in organizing and controlling communes.

Moscow's handling of Pasternak beginning to undermine USSR's cultural exchange program.

Bulgaria - Political unreliability among senior army officers reported.



II. ASIA-AFRICA

- (5) Clash between Israeli and Syrian forces.
- (6) UAR subversion in Persian Gulf area.
- (7) Tunisian students ordered home from Cairo and Damascus.

III. THE WEST

- (8) Brazil-USSR barter trade may be extended.

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7 November 1958

DAILY BRIEF**I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC**

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GMIC statement on 1 and 3 November Soviet tests--(See CIB's of 3 and 4 November): The Guided Missile Intelligence Committee made the following statement on 6 November 1958:

1. On the first and third of November 1958, there were Soviet nuclear tests conducted in the area centered approximately 100 nautical miles northeast of Kapustin Yar. A previous test on 19 January 1957 was in this same area.

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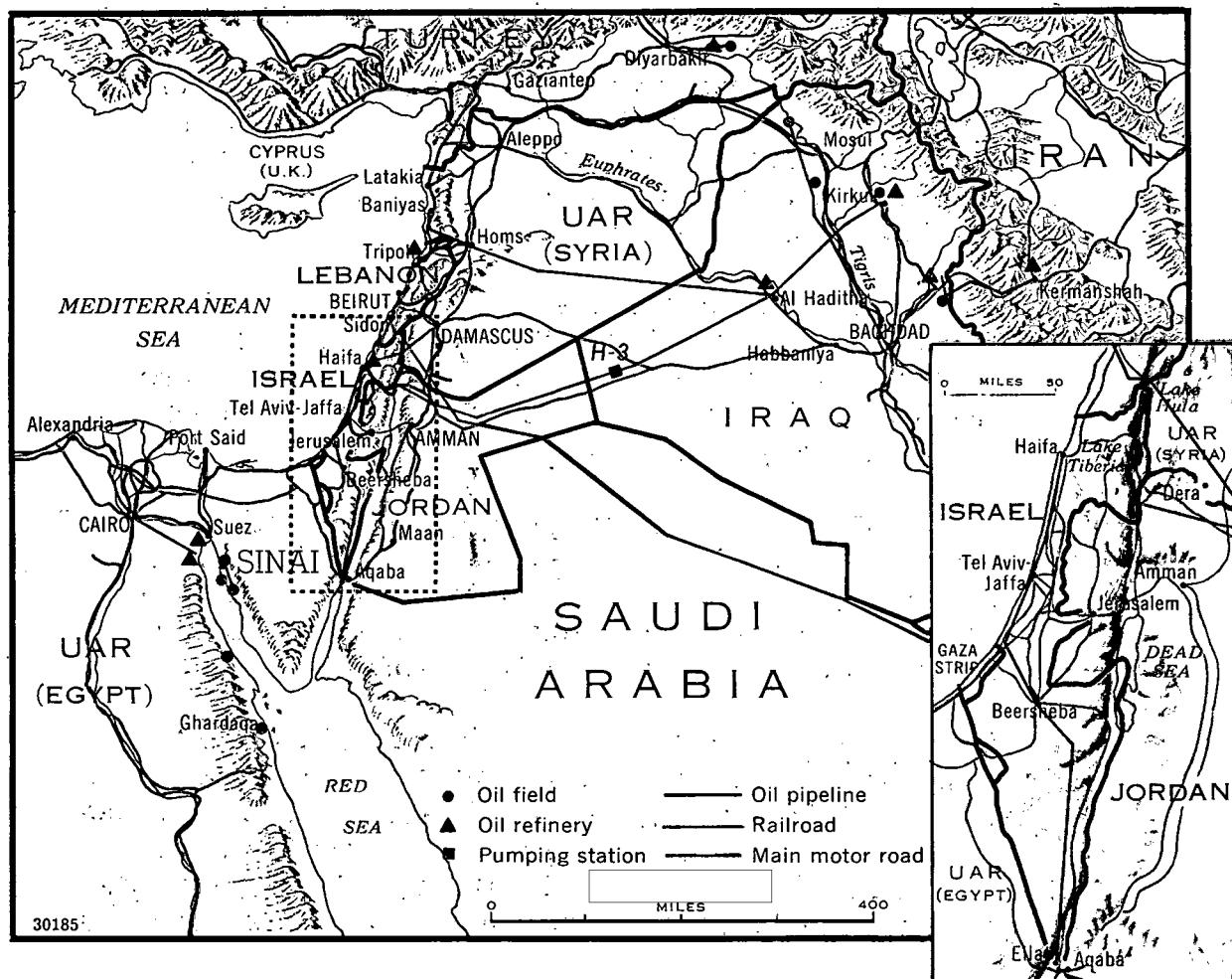
2. The proximity of the area to the Kapustin Yar Missile Test Range (KYMTR) indicates that missiles may have been the delivery vehicles. However, there has never been any firm evidence from any source of missile activity in this area.

3. The Guided Missile Intelligence Committee (GMIC) believes that it is not possible to estimate the delivery system associated with the nuclear shots until approximate warhead weight and other information become available.

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Communist China: A Chinese Communist broadcast of 5 November indicates the regime's purpose in mobilizing the population into militia forces, beginning in early September, was to provide a means of organizing commune members into a labor force responsive to central authority. It also provides a means of dealing effectively with any opposition to communal

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living. The broadcast points out that only "reliable" militiamen will be armed and that party and youth league members will run the militia.

USSR-Pasternak:

D K Adverse reaction elsewhere to Moscow's handling of this matter has begun to undermine the USSR's cultural exchange program. (Page 1)

OK Bulgaria: the regime is faced with the problem of political unreliability among its top army and security officers. Five generals and several other officers are said to have been relieved of their duties by a Bulgarian central committee plenum on 2-4 October. Two other generals were ordered to "practice self-criticism" on their views toward Yugoslav revisionism. (Page 3)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

*The Arab-Israeli situation: Another clash between Israeli and Syrian forces occurred in the Lake Hula area on 6 November. The fighting, which reportedly included firing by artillery, mortars, and tanks, was halted after two hours by the intervention of United Nations truce observers.

MP the incident originated as a result of Syrian firing on an Israeli tractor. Further incidents in this area are likely.

Persian Gulf: The involvement of UAR military personnel in plans for training Bahreinis indicates an extension of UAR efforts to undermine the British-protected Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf area.

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Tunisia-UAR: Although Bourguiba seems willing to patch up his quarrel with Nasir, the Tunisian Government has ordered the 150 Tunisian students in Cairo and Damascus to return to Tunis immediately. The Tunisians probably fear the UAR will instill pro-Nasir loyalties in the students. Meanwhile,

an increase in UAR support
for Tunisian exile Salah ben Youssef, a step-up in training of
Tunisian extremists, and a plan to furnish arms to them di-
rectly instead of via the Algerian rebels.

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III. THE WEST

Brazil: The conclusion of Brazil's first postwar barter deal with the USSR--involving a small quantity of crude oil in exchange for cocoa--may be followed by an agreement to barter coffee for steel plate. The USSR has launched a new propaganda campaign aimed at re-establishing diplomatic relations, and has invited Vice President Goulart to visit Moscow.

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IV. SIGNIFICANT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

(Available during the preceding week)

Special National Intelligence Estimate No. 30-6-58. Developments in the Aftermath of US and UK Troop Withdrawals from Lebanon and Jordan 28 October 1958.

[] Special National Intelligence Estimate No. 100-12-58. Probable Developments in Taiwan Strait Crisis. 28 October 1958.

Special National Intelligence Estimate No. 30-5-58. The British Position in the Persian Gulf-Arabian Peninsula Area.

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Reverberations of Pasternak Case

India deeply deplores any action to curb free artistic expression and greatly regrets Moscow's treatment of Nobel Prize winner Boris Pasternak. This official expression of India's attitude is the latest indication that Moscow's handling of the case has begun to have an adverse effect on the Soviet cultural exchange program.

The Moroccan daily Al Alam, rarely critical of Soviet policies, has commented that whatever charges the USSR may bring against the West in the future, it "will never be able to deny its suppression of Pasternak." Several publishers in Cairo are reportedly interested in bringing out Arab editions of Dr. Zhivago; the leading English-language daily in Ceylon is publishing a condensation. The Times of Karachi noted that "this despicable incident" made "a complete farce" of the much-trumpeted Afro-Asian Writers' Conference recently concluded in Tashkent. The Brazilian paper Ultima Hora, which has in the past taken the lead in movements for rapprochement with Moscow, termed the incident an act of "cultural terrorism" and mourned that hopes for greater cultural freedom in the USSR had been dashed.

There have been demands in the Norwegian press that the cultural exchange agreement recently signed with the USSR be abrogated. A Swedish-Russian youth exchange, scheduled for the end of this year, may be postponed indefinitely to underscore Swedish disapproval of the Soviet attack on Pasternak. A public protest signed by 28 Austrian writers urged that all future Western contacts in cultural and scientific fields be made conditional on Pasternak's complete rehabilitation both as a Soviet citizen and as a writer.

Soviet press silence on the case, observed since Pasternak's letter to Khrushchev on 1 November, was broken on 6 November by Pravda's publication of a second Pasternak

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letter. In this letter, addressed to the editors of Pravda, Pasternak once again denies that the regime has brought pressure against him. He expresses regrets about some of the repercussions caused by his work, but stops short of the abject apology which the régime may have hoped for.

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Five Bulgarian Generals Dismissed

The 2-4 October plenum of the Bulgarian central committee decided to fire five generals and several other officers for failure to improve ideological indoctrination in the army, [redacted] These dismissals indicate that political unreliability and disregard for party authority among top army and security officers are a problem for the Bulgarian regime.

The decision was made on the recommendation of Lt. Gen. Misko Mishev, head of the political department of the Defense Ministry, whose report to the plenum apparently concerned the low level of political work in the army. The officers, some of whom were in the security forces, were also charged with failure to recognize the authority of political officers.

The regime has long been dissatisfied with its control over the army and last spring was considering measures to remedy this situation. Defense Minister Gen. Peter Panchevsky was demoted immediately following the June party congress for his failure to implement the party's program in the army. At one time the regime suspected certain officers of having Titoist sympathies. Lt. Gen. Slavcho Trunski, one of two well-known officers ordered by the October plenum to practice self-criticism for their views toward Yugoslav revisionism, was in eclipse from 1950 to 1954, having been caught up in the backwash of the trial of Titoist party Secretary Kostov in 1949. [redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

UAR May Intensify Subversion in Persian Gulf Sheikdoms

The UAR seems to have intensified its efforts to undermine the British-protected conservative Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf.

The Sheik of Bahrein is strongly opposed to Nasir's revolutionary Arab nationalism; with British help in the last two years, he has firmly suppressed local nationalists who have advocated political and social reform. An American-owned company conducts the petroleum operations in Bahrein. Production--about 37,000 barrels a day--is not large by Middle East standards, but Bahrein is also the site of a 210,000-barrel-per-day refinery which depends largely on oil from Saudi Arabia. In addition, Bahrein is the principal British military base in the Persian Gulf and the headquarters of Britain's senior diplomatic official in the area.

[redacted] nationalists in Bahrein have been in contact with "Dr. Khatib," presumably Kuwaiti nationalist leader Dr. Anwar Khatib, who is apparently also in contact with UAR intelligence officials. Access to the oil of Kuwait, the Middle East's largest oil producer, is considered vital to Britain.

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III. THE WEST

Brazilian Barter Deals With the USSR

Conclusion last week of Brazil's first postwar barter deal with the USSR--involving an "experimental" shipment of about 420,000 barrels of Soviet crude oil in exchange for cocoa--may be followed by a similar deal involving the exchange of coffee for steel plate. Both of these transactions apparently have been prompted by Brazil's acute shortage of dollars and sterling and by the prospect that its emergency 40-percent cutback in its regular imports will soon cause shortages of oil and steel. The deals may also be intended to underscore Brazil's recent requests for US aid to its oil and steel industries.

An official [redacted] has expressed strong misgivings about the coffee-for-steel deal, [redacted] because of the possibility that the coffee would be resold in Brazil's regular European markets. He implied that he would probably go along with the deal, however, provided the USSR gives guarantees against resale.

The USSR has renewed its propaganda offensive aimed at re-establishing diplomatic ties. A statement by Khrushchev, calling for closer relations and offering economic aid, was published in Brazil on 11 October and was followed last week by an invitation to Vice President Goulart and 11 other Brazilians to visit Moscow. One of those invited, former UN delegate Oswaldo Aranha, has reportedly accepted. Foreign Minister Negrao de Lima has, however, issued a statement denying "categorically" that Brazil is considering the renewal of diplomatic relations, which were broken off in 1947. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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