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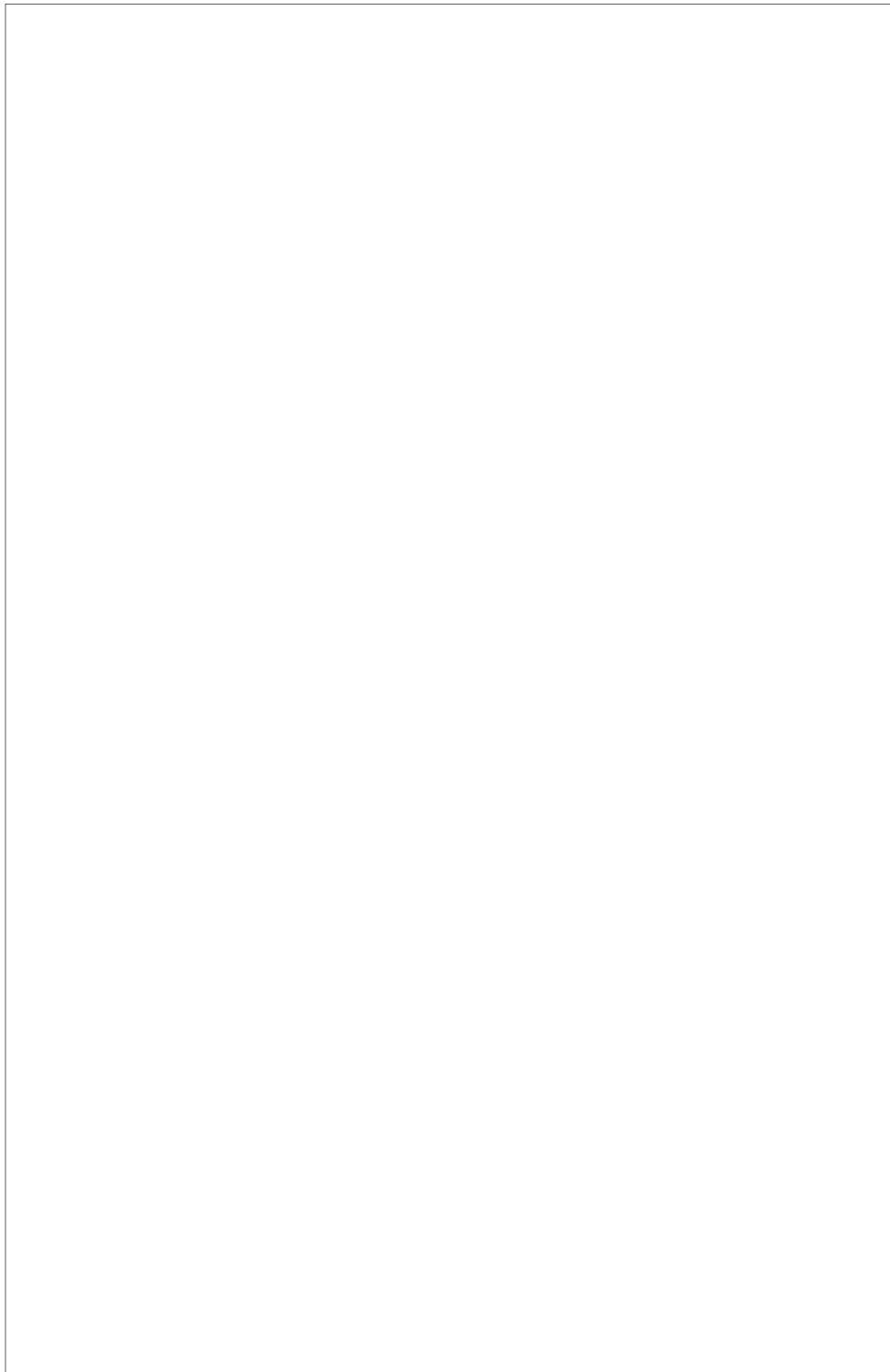
15 March 1958

Copy No. 13⁷**CENTRAL****INTELLIGENCE****BULLETIN**

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DATE: 3/25/00 REVIEWER:

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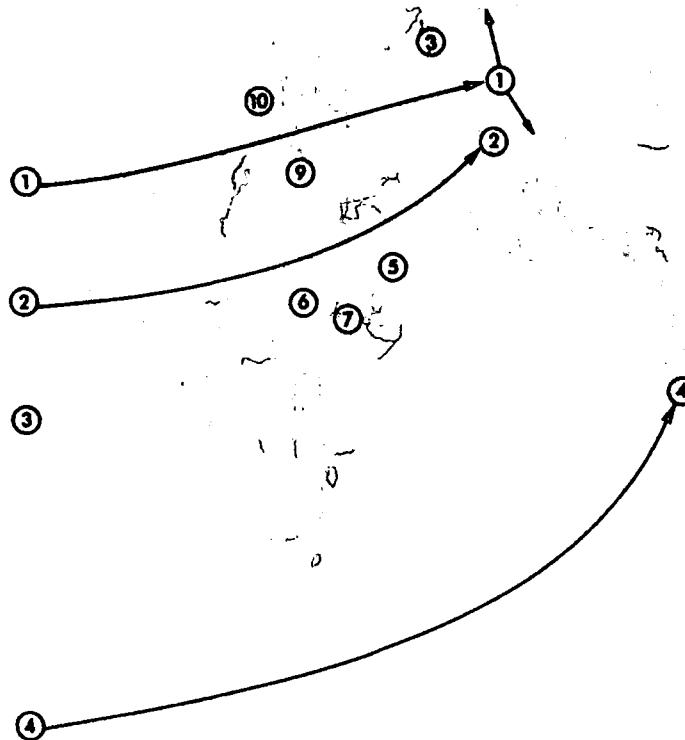
15 MARCH 1958

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR holds two nuclear tests in same day at separate proving grounds.

GMIC statement on Soviet 12 March attempt to launch ICBM/ESV; see Daily Brief, Item 2. [redacted] (TOP SECRET EIDER)

Soviet Long Range Air Force may be engaged in second phase of current Arctic training. [redacted]



II. ASIA-AFRICA

Indonesia - Chief of staff's message indicates government troops will press operations against Sumatran dissidents, with west coast landing possibly imminent. [redacted]

[redacted] dissident sympathizers may attempt uprising in North Sumatra.

- (5) Yemeni Imam may soon join Nasir's attack on Saudi's efforts at subversion. (TOP SECRET EIDER); Saudi apparently seeking to eliminate Egyptian influence in his army.
- (6) Sudanese premier, expecting further Egyptian action against Sudan, says he will resist with Ethiopian assistance. [redacted]
- (7) Eritrean strikes may signal beginning of open defiance of Ethiopian rule.
- (8) Japan sends cabinet minister to Moscow to seek political basis for settlement of fishery technicalities.

III. THE WEST

- (9) Greek confidence vote clears way for new electoral law and dissolution of parliament.
- (10) Paris police demonstrations set off new crisis for Gaillard's government.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

15 March 1958

DAILY BRIEF

SVRAB

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

no Soviet nuclear tests: The USSR conducted two nuclear tests of comparatively low yield approximately an hour apart on 14 March at the widely separated Novaya Zemlya and Semipalatinsk nuclear proving grounds. For Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee statement see page 1.

no Soviet ICBM/ESV launching attempt: The Guided Missiles Intelligence Committee issued the following statement on 14 March 1958:

It has been previously reported that the USSR conducted a valid countdown on the Tyura Tam missile test range on 12 March, but failed to launch the ICBM/ESV. However, the missile could not have been seriously damaged by the attempt, since the delays announced thereafter indicate the USSR expected to try again in a few hours.

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Further analysis of the previously available information increases the likelihood that the missile to be launched is a test ICBM.

it is believed
that the next scheduled attempt to launch this vehicle

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will involve the full 8-hour countdown, and may be preceded by practice activity of the rangehead and impact areas.

710
Soviet Arctic air exercises: At least 10--and probably 16--Soviet Long Range Air Force turboprop heavy bombers carried out extensive flights into the western and central Arctic areas on 12 and 13 March. These flights are the most extensive employment of heavy bombers ever noted in the Arctic, and possibly represent a second phase of the current Long Range Aviation Arctic training program. The first phase apparently ended recently when about 20 jet medium bombers returned to home bases in western Russia and the Soviet Far East after about a month's operation from Arctic bases.

(Page 2) (Map)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Indonesia:

720
 Army Chief of Staff Nasution after visiting the captured oil center of Pakanbaru indicates that there will be no delay in pressing the military campaign against the dissidents. Nasution said that a "report on the western operation is not yet in." This would tend to support the possibility that a landing on the west coast is near. Caltex has indicated that it intends to resume operations shortly. Reports continue of pro-dissident sentiments in the Medan area of North Sumatra and of the possibility of uprisings there against the Djakarta government.

(Pages 3-4) (Map)

730
Saudi Arabia: An exposure of Saudi subversive activity against the Imam of Yemen may be forthcoming soon. The Imam brusquely notified Saud on 12 March of reports he had received of Saudi "interference" in southern Yemen. Saud issued orders in early February which indicated that

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DAILY BRIEF

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he had begun operations to stimulate opposition to the Imam's pro-Egyptian policies. [redacted] (Page 5)

No

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Sudan - Egypt: Prime Minister Khalil apparently anticipates further Egyptian action against the Sudan. He states he will resist and has informed the Saudi representative in Khartoum that Ethiopia has agreed to come to his aid "until such time as the forces of friendly states arrive." Meanwhile, Egypt continues its efforts to buy up parliamentary deputies with the hope of expanding its political influence.

*(Page 7)**OK*

Ethiopia: The well-organized general strike in the capital of Eritrea on 10-11 March appears to be the beginning of open defiance by the Eritreans of the Ethiopian Government. Additional disorders are expected to occur because of the partial strike taking place in the seaport city of Massaua and the tense atmosphere in Asmara. [redacted]

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Japan - USSR: Japan is sending the minister of agriculture and forestry to Moscow to attempt a top-level "political" settlement of the present stalemate over vital fishing rights in the northwest Pacific. While the Japanese Government has stated the minister's authority is limited to the fishery problem, past experience would indicate he might negotiate on other issues. He might possibly agree to the

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opening of peace treaty discussions in the near future should the USSR demand this as a price for fishing rights. [redacted]

(Page 9) (Map)

III. THE WEST

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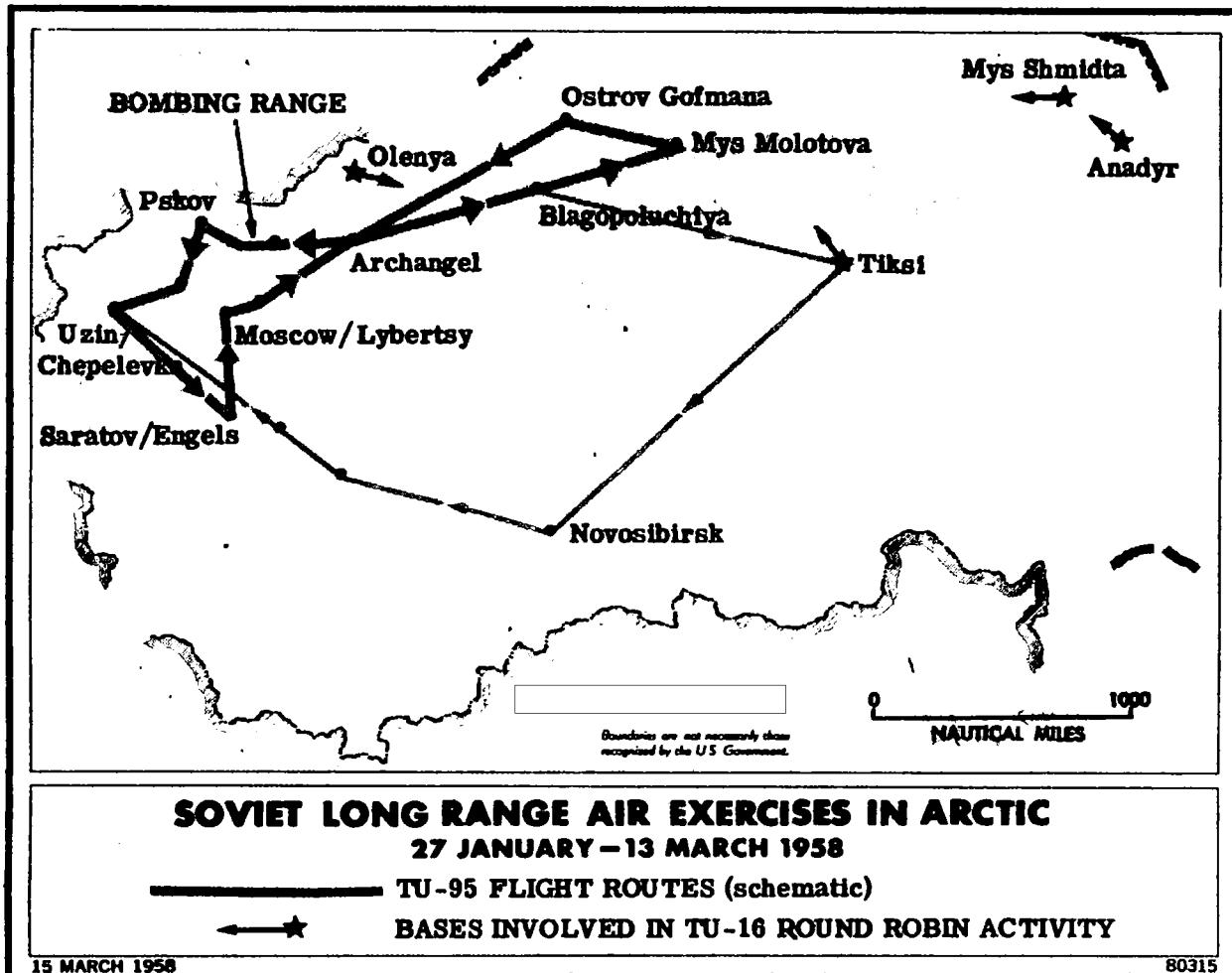
Greek political situation: Following a vote of confidence on 13 March, the caretaker government of Premier Georgakopoulos is now pressing for passage of a new electoral law, to be followed by dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, and national elections in early May. Prospects for passage of the electoral law, originally proposed by former Prime Minister Karamanlis and designed to favor the two largest political parties in Greece, appear good despite criticism from smaller party leaders who warn that its enactment will force them into electoral coalitions with the left. In preparation for elections, frantic political maneuvering continues. [redacted] (Page 10)

dk

France: The position of the Gaillard government has been further damaged by the 13 March demonstrations by the Paris police. The principal effect is to weaken the government's prospects in the series of confidence votes beginning 18 March and to give a new pretext to those deputies who are already inclined to vote against the government.

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR Holds Nuclear Tests at Two Proving Grounds on Same Day

The Soviet Union on 14 March conducted nuclear tests of comparatively low yield both in the vicinity of Novaya Zemlya and at the Semipalatinsk proving ground. The Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee issued the following statement at 1630 hours:

Two explosions on 14 March 1958 have been reported on the acoustic network of the Atomic Energy Detection System. The first occurred at about 0830 hours GMT, in the vicinity of Novaya Zemlya. A preliminary estimate establishes the yield in the range of 10 to 100 kilotons, with a most probable value of 25 KT.

The second explosion occurred at about 0930 hours GMT in the vicinity of Semipalatinsk (50°N, 78°E). A preliminary estimate establishes the yield in the range of 20 to 200 KT, with a most probable yield of 60 KT.

Air activity at Semipalatinsk in the past week has been indicative of imminent nuclear testing. Events in the Novaya Zemlya area suggestive of further nuclear testing have included the disappearance of two weather stations from the Dikson collective on 7 March.

[redacted] and an increase of naval transport flights into Belushya between 1 and 10 March.

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~~TOP SECRET~~Soviet Long Range Exercises in Arctic

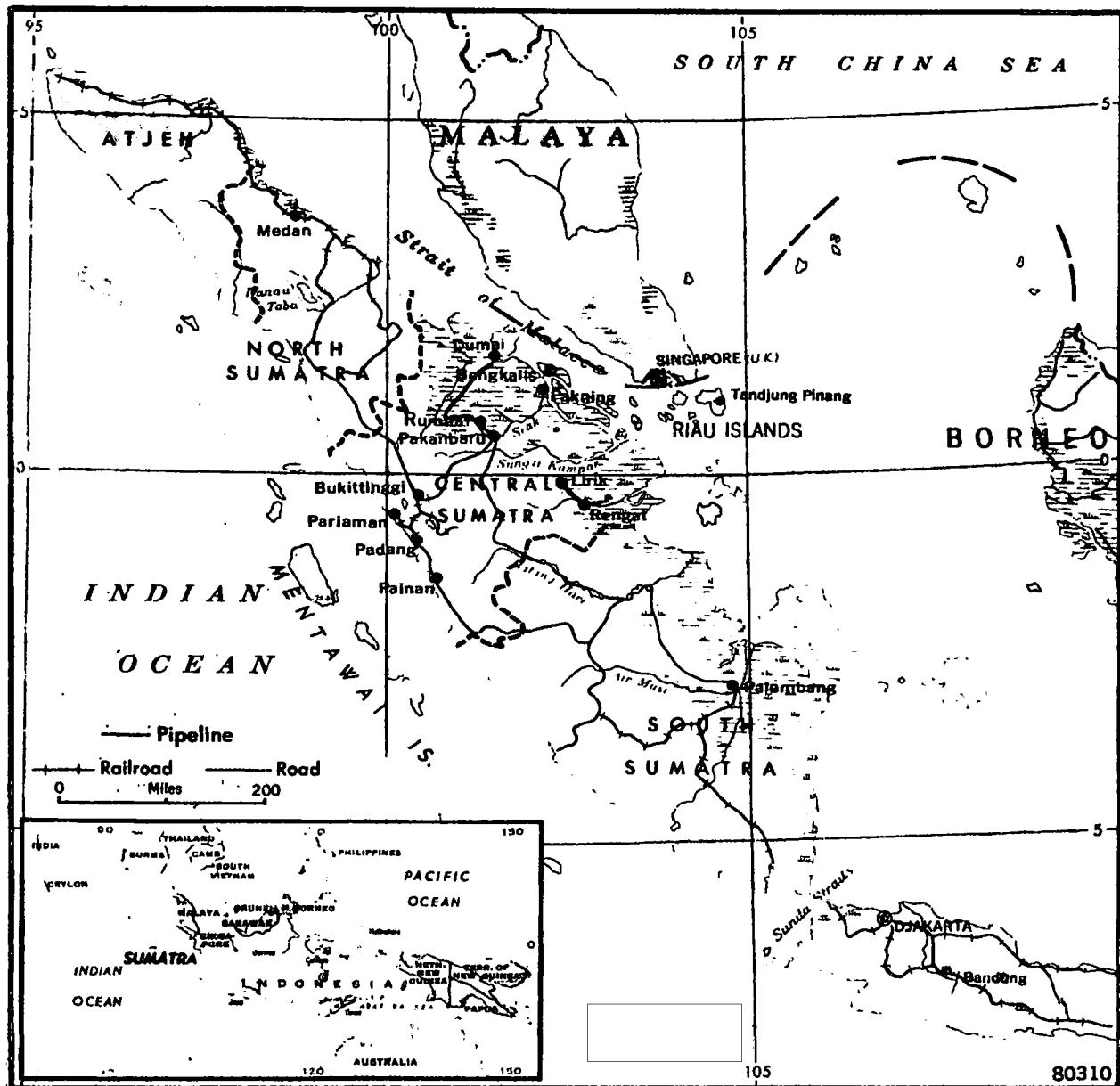
[redacted] at least ten and probably 16 BEAR turboprop heavy bombers flew long-distance round-robin flights from bases in the Ukraine and Volga Basin into the Soviet Arctic, some possibly as far north as 84 degrees. This is the largest number of turboprop heavy bombers yet to be noted in any one operation, and the first major operation by heavy aircraft in the Arctic regions. The flights apparently were carried out by three or four groups of aircraft, and total distances covered ranged from about 5,800 nautical miles to about 6,200 nautical miles.

On the return flights, some of the aircraft were scheduled to fly over bombing ranges, indicating the operations probably were navigation - practice bombing operations. It is not possible to determine whether scheduled routes were followed exactly, although it is certain the aircraft were operating over the Novaya Zemlya - Barents Sea region.

It is possible that this flight will be followed by similar operations involving heavy bombers, in a second phase of the current Soviet Long Range Aviation Arctic training program. The recent activity by BADGER jet medium bombers from Arctic bases probably constituted the first phase. In the period 27 January - 13 March, 23 BADGERS were deployed from the western USSR and Soviet Far East to Arctic bases at Tiksi and Anadyr, and carried out navigation-familiarization flights--somewhat hampered by bad weather--before returning to home bases. In the same time period, at least six other jet medium bombers operated from Olenya, in the Kola Peninsula, in support of nuclear tests in the Novaya Zemlya area on 23 and 27 February. [redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Situation in Indonesia

Army Chief of Staff Nasution, after inspecting captured areas in Central Sumatra, informed President Sukarno on 12 March that government actions had been successful and that some troops of the Central Sumatran regime had surrendered. He said operations were being continued, cooperation among the three services was good, and sea-borne troops were moving into the interior, presumably referring to forces that are moving up the Siak River. Nasution stated that a "report on the western operation is not yet in," a reference which would appear to reinforce reports that a landing on the west coast--probably in the Padang area--is imminent.

The dissidents are reliably reported to be maintaining a main line of resistance on the road between the Caltex oil center of Pakanbaru and their own stronghold at Bukittinggi. They have sent two companies to reinforce troops who have withdrawn along that road from the east coast areas now held by the government. Dissident leader Hussein has told the revolutionary cabinet withdrawal from west coast positions may also be necessary. The rebel cabinet has ordered the dismissal of the Bukittinggi police chief, who appeared to be a central government informer.

The entire Caltex operating area is now under central government control, and Caltex officials reported on 13 March that all facilities are intact although some equipment is in the hands of the military. Barring unforeseen developments, Caltex expected to resume production as soon as its tankers could be put back on the Siak River.

In North Sumatra, an area of chronic tension and mixed sympathies, one faction has tentative plans for a coup against the local army commander in the near future, and at the same time leaders of the long-standing Atjehnese dissident movement in northernmost Sumatra may make another military attempt to take over the area. Both groups probably would cooperate with the Central Sumatran dissidents although actual military assistance would not necessarily follow.

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The Bukittinggi radio has claimed that the progovernment commander in the Tapanuli region on the northwest coast of Sumatra has been overthrown and that the new leader has declared his support of the dissident movement.

In Manila, President Garcia has announced that the Philippines will recognize whichever side wins in Indonesia.

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Worsening Saudi Relations With Yemen

Attacks by UAR authorities against King Saud may soon be broadened to expose Saud's recent moves to cultivate support among Yemeni tribes and undermine the Imam. The Imam on 12 March told Saud he had received numerous reports of Saudi "interference" in South Yemen, that Saud had sent agents with funds to contact tribes in southern Yemen, and that these agents had offered the tribes Saudi protection against Yemeni government forces.

The Imam's charges are of unprecedented bluntness and may reflect assurances of Egyptian support resulting from recent affiliation with the UAR. The Imam has long harbored suspicions of Saud, to whom he unsuccessfully appealed last fall for return of political refugees who, the Imam was convinced, were plotting against him.

In early February Saud became apprehensive over the threat to Saudi Arabia posed by Yemen's association with the Sino-Soviet bloc and with Nasir's antimonarchical state. He ordered his governors on the Yemeni frontier to cultivate the favor of Yemeni tribal leaders who had previously sought Saud's support against the Imam.

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King Saud's Problems

King Saud is continuing his effort to minimize the furor over his conspiracies against Egypt and Syria. Although foreign journals are banned from Saudi Arabia, most Saudis are well informed of Nasir's charges as a result of Cairo and Damascus radio broadcasts. Nevertheless, the atmosphere in the west coast trade center of Jidda is reported to be remarkably calm.

Crown Prince Faysal's estrangement from the King is evident [redacted] On 11 March, Saud informed Faysal that he would not respond to Egyptian and Syrian lies, arguments, and insults. Faysal, who appears to have been virtually excluded from policy matters since his return from abroad in January, professed ignorance of Egyptian charges against Saud. [redacted]

[redacted] Faysal has been warned by a Saudi confidant in Cairo that in the interest of his country's future he should cease sulking in his tent and effect reconciliation with the King.

Saud has acted further to strengthen internal security and reduce Egyptian influence in his country. The Saudi Ministry of Defense has been reorganized, and the King's son, Defense Minister Fahad, has received added authority as inspector general of all services. Young, English-speaking officers have been placed in key positions. [redacted]

[redacted] Saud was sending heavy arms and ammunition to the loyal governor of eastern Arabia.

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~~TOP SECRET~~Sudanese Prime Minister Prepares for Egyptian "Attack"

Prime Minister Khalil said on 10 March that the Sudan expects an "attack" by President Nasir and is prepared to meet it [redacted]

The Saudi ambassador in Khartoum [redacted]

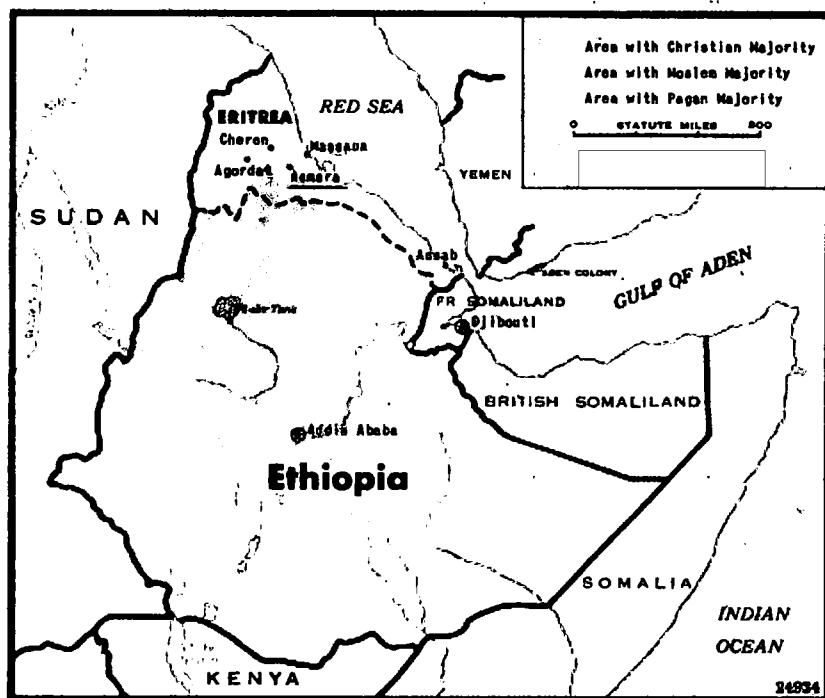
[redacted] was told the Sudanese preparations include a military aid agreement with Ethiopia and discussions with Western ambassadors.

Khalil reportedly said he expected Nasir to act when the consequences of the recent Sudanese elections become apparent. Egyptian aggression would be met by Sudanese and Ethiopian forces in a holding operation, awaiting the arrival of the "forces of friendly states."

Nasir's reaction to the setback of Egyptian influence in the elections has been to initiate a program of bribery among Sudanese representatives, including a plan to pay "monthly salaries" to those of the Southern Liberal party. Khalil, who used Egyptian belligerence in the recent border dispute to considerable political advantage, probably intends to continue countering the significant influence which Egypt exercises in Sudanese politics, playing up the Egyptian threat as much as possible to secure both external and domestic support for his government. [redacted]

[redacted]

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Political Discontent Growing in Eritrea

A well-organized general strike on 10-11 March in Asmara, capital of Eritrea, may mark the turning point in Eritrean-Ethiopian relations and the beginning of open political defiance against the Ethiopian Government's abuse of the terms of the 1952 UN-sponsored federation agreement. While the Moslem half of the Eritrean population has ineffectively protested domination by Christian Ethiopia for several years, the local Coptic Christian support of this general strike reflects a significant broadening of the Eritrean political opposition.

Despite the careful organization, there is no real evidence of foreign involvement in the Asmara strike.

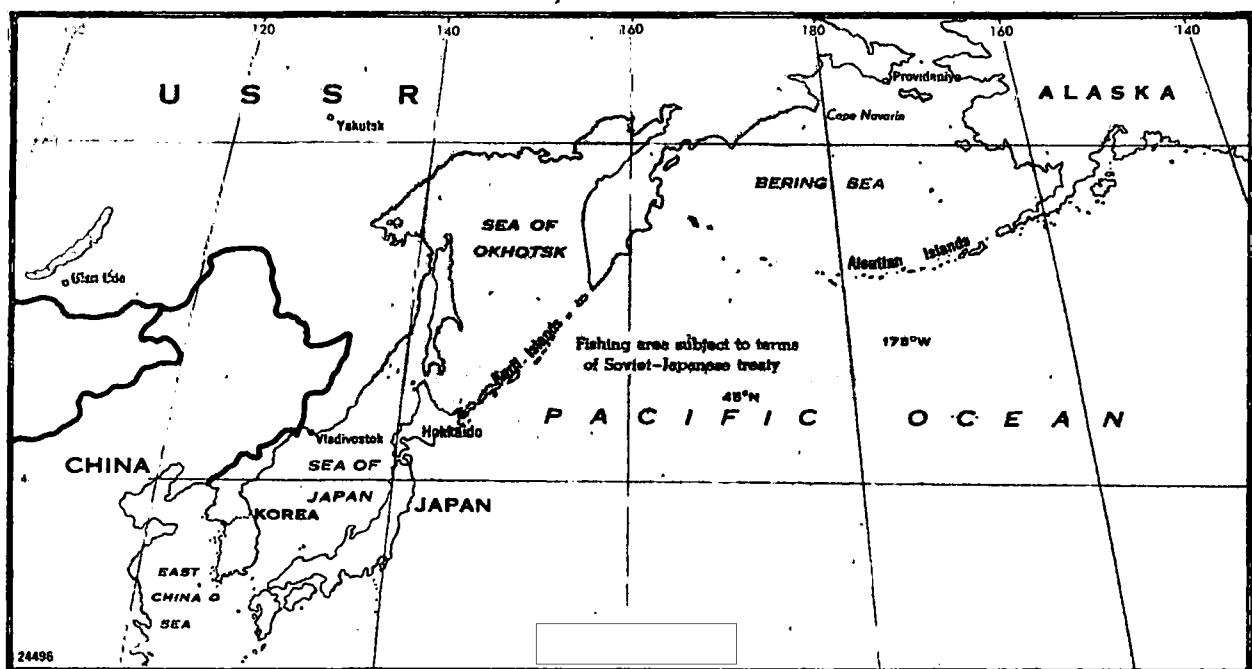
[redacted] if Egypt, the foreign power most likely to meddle in Eritrea, had been involved, Moslem activity would have been predominant. The latest strikes in both Asmara and Massaua, however, have had largely Christian participation. The most recent evidence of widespread political discontent among Moslems came in earlier popular demonstrations in Cheren and Agordat.

Further disorders in Eritrea are probable, but an effective Eritrean revolt seems unlikely at this time.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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**Japan Plans High-Level Talks to Break Fishery Impasse
With USSR**

Two months of negotiations have failed to break the Soviet-Japanese stalemate over fishing rights in the north-west Pacific Ocean for 1958. Tokyo, believing that a political rather than a technical approach will be necessary to obtain relaxation of the restrictive Soviet position, has decided to send Agriculture-Forestry Minister Akagi to Moscow.

The USSR has refused to discuss certain aspects of the fishery problem unless Japan agrees to resume negotiations for a peace treaty. Tokyo may be willing to meet this demand if it is made a price for a fisheries settlement. The Kishi government, however, has insisted that the USSR must acknowledge Japanese claims to the southern Kuril Islands before a peace treaty can be concluded. Moscow insists just as firmly that these islands are Soviet territory and refuses to discuss further disposition of them.

Present Soviet proposals in the talks, which are held annually to establish rules for the coming fishing season, would severely limit Japanese salmon fishing in northern waters and ban Japanese fishing in broad expanses of Soviet-claimed offshore waters and the Sea of Okhotsk.

The Foreign Ministry has told the American Embassy that Akagi's instructions are limited to fishery problems, but he is reported to be carrying a personal letter from Prime Minister Kishi to Premier Bulganin, as well as possible proposals for a cultural agreement. [redacted]

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III. THE WEST

Greek Caretaker Government Receives Vote of Confidence

The vote of confidence given the caretaker government of Prime Minister Georgakopoulos by the Greek Chamber of Deputies on 13 March clears the way for probable passage of a new electoral law, dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, and national elections early in May. The government received the support of the two largest parties in Greece, the National Radical Union (ERE) and the Liberal party, which together account for over two thirds of the votes in the 300-member chamber. Spokesmen for the ERE and the Liberals also indicate that the proposed electoral law probably will be passed without significant change. Other political leaders regard it as designed to eliminate the smaller parties and predict that it will force them into coalitions with the leftists. Debate on the proposed law is expected to last from a week to ten days.

Meanwhile, the frantic political maneuvering which began with the resignation of the Karamanlis government on 2 March continues. The ERE appears to be a strong cohesive political party, and its leader, former Premier Constantine Karamanlis, is confident of victory in the forthcoming elections. Leaders of the Liberals and the other parties, representing all shades of the political spectrum, fear possible fragmentation of existing parties. The proposed electoral law will virtually ensure coalitions of parties or "electoral fronts," but alignment of the various parties remains uncertain.

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~~SECRET~~Police Demonstrations Further Weaken French Premier

French Premier Gaillard's coalition has been further shaken by demands for the dismissal of Interior Minister Bourges-Maunoury on the grounds that the 13 March police demonstrations in Paris showed his incapacity. Most political leaders probably are still reluctant, at a time so near the April local elections, to precipitate a crisis during the confidence vote on constitutional reform due 18 March, but they face increasingly grudging support, and hostile minorities are growing in all the coalition parties.

Three of these parties are meeting this week end, and conflicting demands on Gaillard may result. Guy Mollet expects to be able to control opposition from within the Socialist party, but if he is unsuccessful, he may be obliged to call a special party congress to avoid a showdown in the assembly on 18 March. Independent leader Duchet believes his party's congress may decide to pull out of the government. At the Popular Republican party's directing committee meeting two factions intend to attack Gaillard. Meanwhile, Defense Minister Chaban-Delmas is under pressure from his Social Republican party to resign.

Both the police demonstrations and the mounting controversy over the government's North African policy will increase speculation on the return of General de Gaulle, who seems increasingly willing to come back. The deputies' reluctance to face this alternative and the nationalistic reaction to Bourguiba's continued intransigence may enable Gaillard to survive the crisis. [redacted]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

15 March 1958

DAILY BRIEF

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