

~~TOP SECRET~~

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10 January 1956

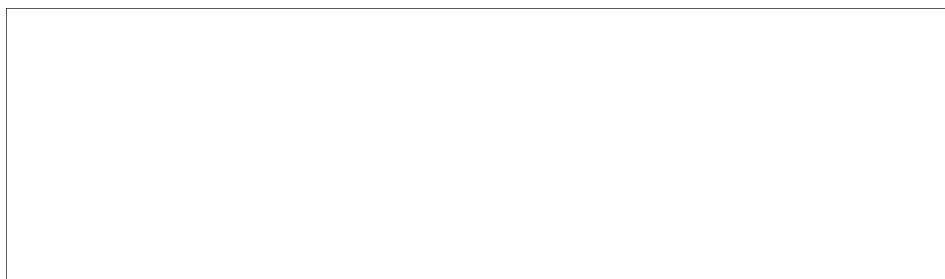
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**1. SOVIET JET HEAVY BOMBER SPECIALLY PREPARED
FOR HIGH-YIELD NUCLEAR WEAPON DELIVERY OR
OTHER TEST ACTIVITIES**

Comment

This is the first report of a Soviet aircraft with its underside painted white. The US has successfully used white paint to reduce to safe limits the effects of thermal radiation on the surfaces of aircraft associated with the delivery of high-yield weapons.

On 2 November heavy bombers were sighted on the airfield at Ramenskoye, a flight test center of the Ministry of Aviation Industry. On 16 November a high-performance aircraft was scheduled from this field to Semipalatinsk, where tests of air-dropped, large-yield nuclear weapons were in progress. The coincidence between the first sighting of a white-painted aircraft and the first Soviet air drops of high-yield weapons suggests that the aircraft apparently landing at Ramenskoye, southeast of Moscow, may have been used in weapon drops or in other activities connected with the recent Soviet nuclear weapons tests. The sighting in any case indicates that at least one BISON has been specially prepared for delivering or participating in tests of high-yield nuclear weapons.

(Prepared jointly by OCI and OSI)

2. NEW JORDANIAN CABINET

The composition of the new Jordanian cabinet appointed on 8 January makes Jordanian adherence to the Baghdad pact even more unlikely. Prime Minister Samir al-Rifai has publicly stated that Jordan will not adhere to the pact, and the new foreign minister, Hussain al-Khalidi, is an anti-British nationalist and reportedly has favored Jordan's alliance with the Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi Arabian axis.

While the make-up of the new cabinet should appease the antipact elements who sparked the rioting, other associated elements, including the Communists, may seek to continue demonstrations with a view to obtaining a renewal of the promise of new elections.

The American embassy in Amman believes that a test is approaching as to whether moderate politicians and the Arab Legion can control the country or whether extremists will take over. The embassy believes that the extremists will not succeed in the near future, but that disorders will continue. Local British officials, however, are alarmed to the extent that they are considering evacuation to the British-controlled air base outside Amman.

An important factor in the immediate future will be the attitude of Saudi Arabia. A number of the new cabinet members, including the prime minister, have enjoyed close relations and financial aid from the Saudis. Having obtained a government opposed to the Baghdad pact, Saudi Arabia may now throw the weight of its influence on the side of stability.

THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 9 January)

Nothing of significance to report.