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14 August 1956

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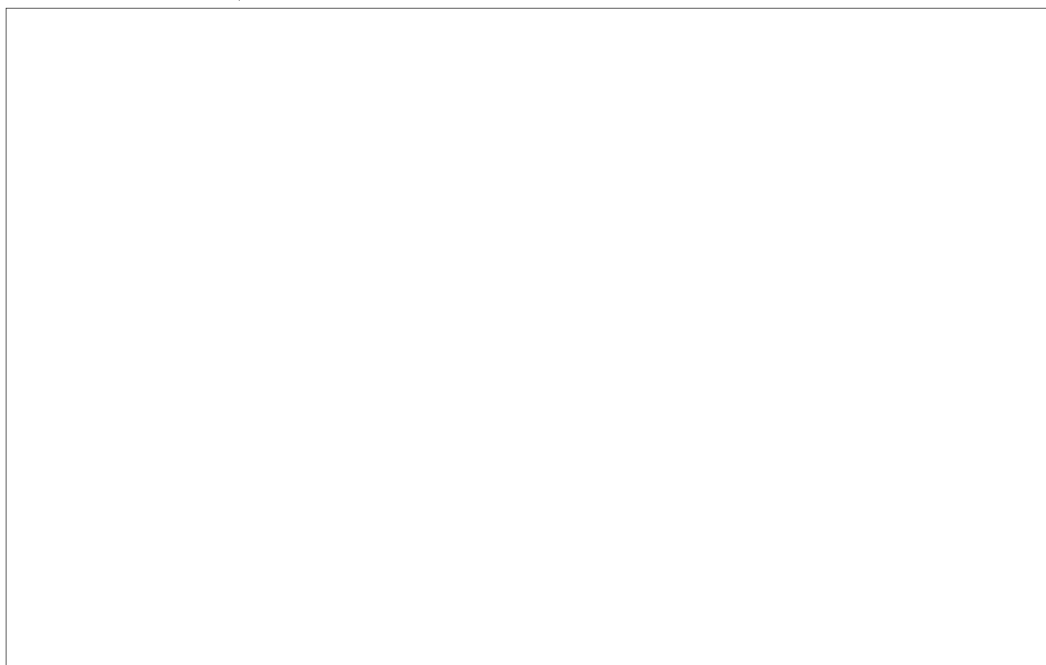
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1. SUPPORT FOR NASR'S POSITION IN ARAB AND COMMUNIST WORLDS

Comment on:

Egyptian president Nasr's efforts to arouse nationalistic sentiment in other Arab countries in behalf of Egypt's dispute with the West are showing success. There is a growing movement in the Arab world to stage general strikes [redacted] expressing determination to resist any effort to impose decisions of the London conference. Ultrnationalist, pan-Arab social organizations in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Bahrein have been [redacted] preparing for such a demonstration. Attacks on Western installations and personnel, particularly in Jordan and Syria, are a possibility.

Egyptian military positions in the delta, the Suez Canal zone, and along the coast continue to be strengthened. [redacted] additional naval mines have been delivered to points along the canal and to the naval base at Alexandria.

Meanwhile, Arab reaction to Nasr's refusal to attend the London conference is one of enthusiastic support. The Arab League's Political Committee currently in session in Cairo gave formal assurance that it fully supported Egypt's announcement and stated that "any aggression against an Arab state violates the sovereignty of all Arab states." In Damascus

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] In Amman the speech was hailed by the press as logical and "watertight."

Moscow reacted promptly to the Nasr statement. In its Near Eastern broadcast it praised Nasr and defended the legality of his position. Referring to Nasr's proposal for an expanded conference, Moscow insisted that "no reasonable person. . . would hesitate to agree with this Egyptian proposal." The Yugoslav press has also come out in support of Nasr's position. [REDACTED]

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**2. UPRISING IN LIBYA THREATENED IF BRITAIN
MOVES ON EGYPT FROM LIBYAN BASES**

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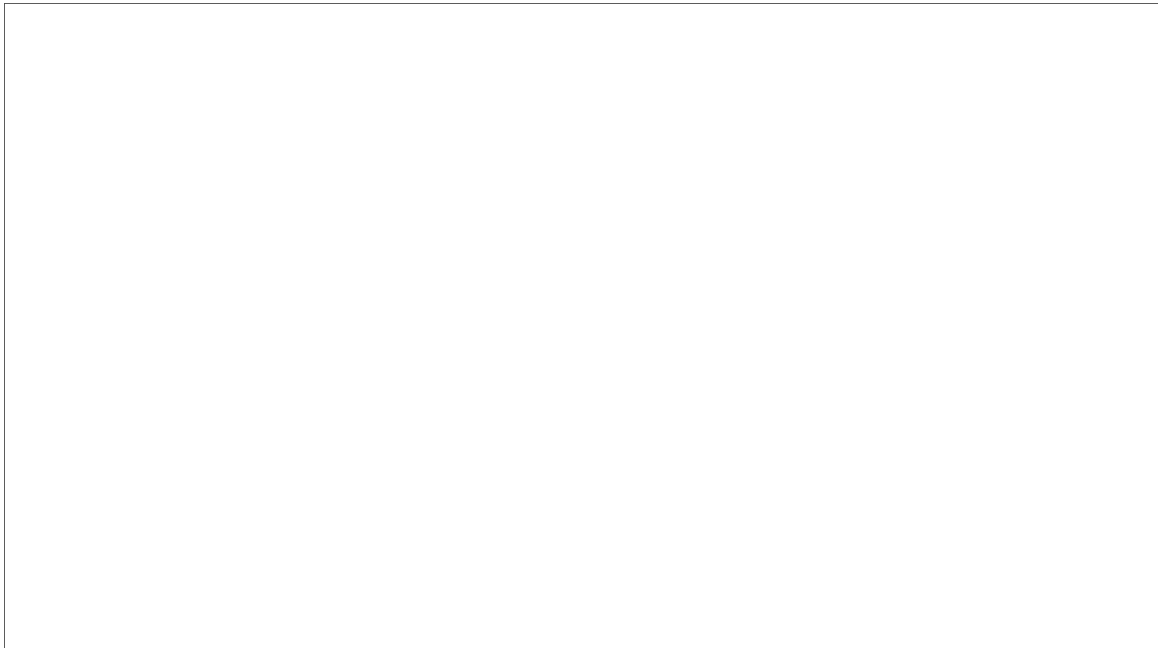
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Comment

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4. THAI TRADE MISSION REPORTEDLY LEAVING FOR PEIPING

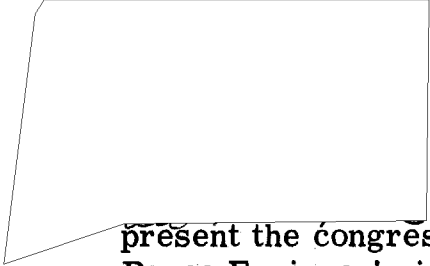


Comment

Although Thailand officially disclaims any intent to engage in strategic trade with Communist China, it recently relaxed restrictions on nonstrategic items. Such trade would provide attractive revenues for key Thai officials, including the premier himself and members of his immediate group, who have interests in various trading companies or who stand to gain from the issuance of export permits. (Concurred in by ORR)

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5. OPPOSITION CONGRESSIONAL PARTIES' BOYCOTT COMPLICATES ECUADORAN POLITICAL CRISIS



Congressional members of two opposition parties boycotted the inaugural session of the Ecuadoran congress on 10 August, thereby blocking for the present the congressional certification of Conservative Ponce Enriquez' victory in the presidential elections of 3 June. The maneuver further complicates the unsettled Ecuadoran political situation, which was marked by an attempted military uprising in Portoviejo on 6 August.

A number of alternatives to Ponce's accession to power are reportedly being planned. The two opposition parties boycotting congress are seeking to combine and install the president of the lower house as de facto provisional president of the nation. President Velasco, on the other hand, is reported considering the defeated candidate of a third party as the most acceptable compromise choice for a provisional president. According to the American embassy, Velasco's popularity has reached a high level, and he might feel obliged to continue in office beyond the scheduled 1 September date for the inauguration of a new president.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 13 August)

Nothing of significance to report.

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