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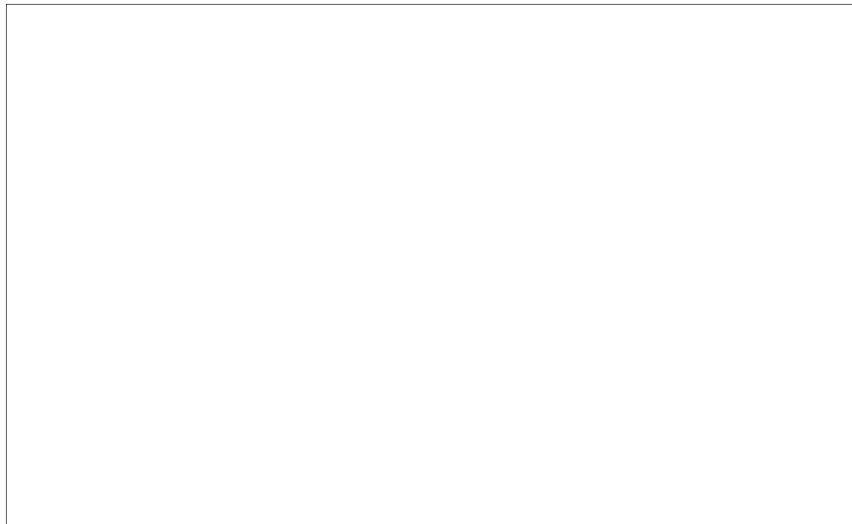
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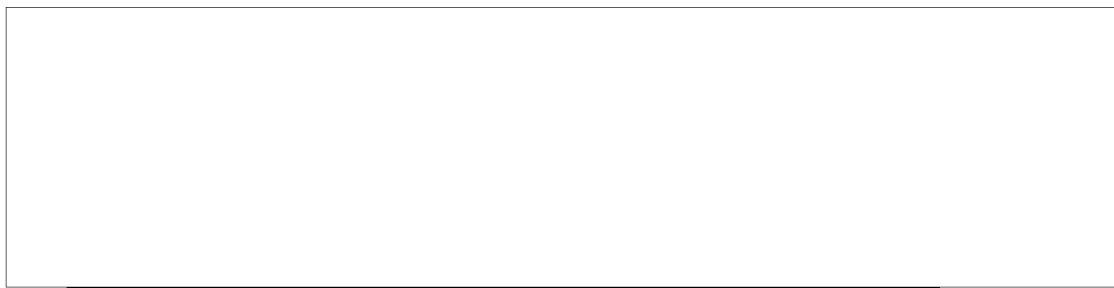
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1. SOVIET OFFICIAL WARNS IRAN AGAINST NEW US MIDDLE EAST POLICY



Stating
that current Middle Eastern problems were created not by the Soviet Union but by the British-French operations in Egypt, [redacted] the Middle Eastern countries are "independent nations aware of their own affairs" and know that the USSR has no aggressive intentions.

Comment

Similar Soviet diplomatic approaches probably will be made to most other countries in the area. Soviet propaganda has insisted that no vacuum exists which the Middle Eastern countries themselves cannot fill working through the UN and that the unilateral American declaration is an attempt to establish American military trusteeship.

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**2. ASSASSINATION OF IRAQI PRIME MINISTER
REPORTED PLANNED**

[Redacted] The Communists are [Redacted] reported planning a campaign of strikes and demonstrations against Nuri during which demands will be made for withdrawal from the Baghdad pact and the release from prison of Kamil Chadirchi, head of the opposition National Democratic Party. [Redacted]

Comment

There have been other reports that opposition elements in and outside of Iraq have been planning to assassinate Nuri, but there have been no reports of any actual attempts on Nuri's life. The Cairo press reported on 3 January that an "Iraqi government-in-exile" is being formed in Damascus with Chadirchi as titular head.

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**3. QATAR OIL FACILITIES STILL POSSIBLE
SABOTAGE TARGET**

Comment on:

Egyptian agents sabotaged Qatar oil facilities in early November and again on 21 December. Qatar oil operations are conducted by a subsidiary of the Iraq Petroleum Company, which is owned by British, French, Dutch and American interests.

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4. PAKISTAN PRESSES FOR SUPPORT ON KASHMIR ISSUE IN UN

Pakistan's Prime Minister Suhrawardy and Foreign Minister Noon told the American ambassador on 2 January that any retrogression in US support of a plebiscite in Kashmir when the issue comes before the UN Security Council this month will be considered "an outright betrayal of the Pakistani government" resulting from Nehru's visit to the United States.

The two officials said that Pakistan intends to ask the Security Council to introduce UN troops into the disputed state and to proceed with the plebiscite agreed to in 1948. They admitted, however, that they would be satisfied with the dispatch of a nonmilitary UN group to Kashmir, provided such a group would implement the plebiscite agreement and not merely engage in a new "fact-finding" mission.

Comment

Pakistan's primary objective in the UN discussions is to obtain a reaffirmation of the principle of a plebiscite. Karachi has rested its case throughout the eight-year-old dispute on its willingness to comply with the UN plebiscite proposal which Nehru publicly rejected a year ago.

Suhrawardy recently countered strong internal criticism of Pakistan's pro-Western foreign policy in the Middle East by emphasizing the advantages gained through association with the West. Without Western support on the Kashmir issue, he will find it increasingly difficult to justify this policy and maintain his position.

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5. SITUATION IN INDONESIA

The Indonesian government has apparently decided for the present to rely on negotiation and compromise in its efforts to solve the problems of Sumatran disaffection. President Sukarno has taken advantage of Colonel Simbolon's recent declaration of allegiance to the president by instructing him to come to Djakarta to make a "personal report!"

In addition, the army chief of staff, General Nasution, plans to use his personal prestige among the Sumatrans by going to Sumatra to confer with territorial and regimental commanders and has instructed all Sumatran officers to avoid bloodshed "as much as possible and as long as possible."

Parliamentary fact-finding missions are also being sent to each of the three Sumatran provinces. The National Party, which heads the cabinet and which is generally unpopular in Sumatra, is not represented on any of these delegations, although the Communist Party has delegates on two. The local reception accorded these parliamentary missions may indicate to Sukarno how far he can go in accepting Communist support for his policies.

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6. EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS "UNREST" IN ARMY CIRCLES

[redacted] it was "apparent" that there was
"unrest" in the Egyptian army. [redacted]

[redacted] while President Nasr formerly visited the army divisions [redacted] he now seldom calls on the army and in fact "visits hardly anyone." Hussein responded that one of his colleagues had heard a broadcast to the effect that army commander in chief Amer and certain other generals now in a majority in "the Revolutionary Command Council" favored "a treaty with the USSR" but were opposed in this by Nasr. [redacted]

Comment

Recriminations among officers of the Egyptian forces have been reported frequently since the Egyptian military debacle in Sinai. Strong differences of opinion among Nasr's military supporters, who formerly composed the Revolutionary Command Council, have not been unusual in the past, but there has been no good evidence that such disagreements have gone further than debate.

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7. HUNGARIAN DEFIANCE CONTINUES

Two months after the Soviet re-intervention in Hungary on 4 November, the Hungarian people remain openly hostile to the Kadar regime. The American legation in Budapest reports that an anti-government protest occurred on 2 January when a large crowd of shoppers defied Budapest police. Hungarian writers--who spearheaded opposition to the regime before the revolution--are continuing open defiance. Even the supposedly controlled party press has charged that the "presence of the Soviet army violates the national pride of the Hungarian people!"

Factory workers' councils and certain provincial revolutionary councils are resisting government decrees and refusing to fire idled employees in industrial plants. By the regime's own admission, on 3 January, coal output at the leading Hungarian mine at Tatabanya has declined, "as if somebody had ordered the miners to stop."

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8. RUMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CALLS FOR REVISION OF ECONOMIC PLANS IN FAVOR OF CONSUMER

The 30 December communique of the Rumanian Workers Party central committee calls for a major overhaul of the economy in order to increase agricultural and consumer goods output, according to the American legation in Bucharest. Expansion of heavy industry, particularly basic raw materials and fuels, will continue, but at a slower pace than before.

Wages of most industrial workers are to be increased by about 15 percent. Compulsory delivery quotas for most agricultural commodities are to be abolished. Peasants are to be allowed considerable freedom in selling their produce either on the private market, to co-operatives or to the state.

The legation comments that the communique's emphasis on the need to improve living standards is an attempt by the regime to curry favor with the population, and "if actually put into practice, the communique throws out a large part" of Rumania's Five-Year Plan.

Comment	The extent of changes in the economic plans required by this communique cannot yet be determined.
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Similar announcements of economic changes in the other Satellites may be forthcoming. In response to events in Hungary and Poland, the USSR is now carrying out a tougher political line toward the Satellites and reasserting strong direction over the Satellite Communist parties. It probably hopes that re-emphasis on a soft economic line within the Satellites, coupled with accelerated Soviet economic aid, will counterbalance any adverse effects of its new political line.

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