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SECURITY INFORMATION~~

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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GENERAL

1. Moscow Embassy comments on Soviet attitude toward Korean conflict:

[Redacted]

Minister Beam in Moscow believes that the Kremlin's sensitivity to Soviet defections in World War II is a big factor in the present Communist attitude toward the repatriation of POW's in Korea. He considers, however, that the main obstacle to an armistice now is a Soviet estimate that a continuation of the conflict favors the USSR's strategic position and increases Peiping's dependence on Moscow.

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: Of the estimated 4,000,000 Soviet personnel captured by the Germans during the first six months of World War II, at least 1,000,000 are considered to have been defectors. The Kremlin may want to convince potential defectors in any future war that repatriation and punishment would be inevitable.

FAR EAST

2. IL-28's reported flying along Yalu River:

[Redacted]

A large, straight-winged, twin-jet plane moving at a comparatively low rate of speed was observed on 17 December by an F-86 pilot flying over northwest Korea near the Yalu River. Other UN pilots report having sighted a similar type plane at about the same time on the Manchurian side of the Yalu.

3.3(h)(2)

Far East Air Force believes that these aircraft were IL-28 light bombers.

Comment: This is the first reported observation of such planes in the Korean theater.

3.3(h)(2)

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

3. Magsaysay's prospects for Philippine presidency reportedly weakened:

The general feeling among influential opponents of President Quirino is that it would be unwise to nominate Defense Secretary Magsaysay for the presidency in 1953, [redacted]

[redacted] They believe that Magsaysay will soon lose his present post and disappear as a political power.

3.3(h)(2)

The American Embassy comments that despite the reported agreement between Magsaysay and the opposition Nationalista Party, the party might drop him quickly if his political value deteriorated or a more reliable candidate appeared.

Comment: There are many indications that Quirino is intensifying his efforts to undermine Magsaysay's considerable prestige and popularity. The American Embassy has previously observed that Magsaysay's dismissal would put his career in the hands of opposition party leaders who could then repudiate any secret agreement.

EASTERN EUROPE

4. Indications of inter-Satellite security conference:

The Czech State Security Police headquarters instructed all subordinate units on 14 October to submit questions promptly for consideration at a conference of security officials

of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and East Germany. Suggested categories included joint border operations and prisoner interrogation.

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: This is the firmest evidence yet received of high-level inter-Satellite cooperation in matters of security and border control.



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5. Bulgaria may be lowering induction age:

[Redacted]

Bulgaria has ordered all men of the 1933 and 1934 military conscription classes to report for medical examinations prior to 1 December. According to the US Military Attaché in Ankara, the calling of two classes for pre-induction examinations has not occurred previously in peacetime and may indicate induction of both classes next spring.

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: Bulgarian practice since the war has been to call up men for military service during the year in which they reach the age of 20. By the lowering of the normal induction age to 19, as suggested by the possible induction of the class of 1934, the Bulgarians would be following Soviet conscription practice.

Albania is the only Satellite which has been inducting 19-year-olds.

WESTERN EUROPE

6. Spain reportedly willing to send volunteer units to Korea:

[Redacted]

General Franco is willing to permit Spanish volunteers commanded by their own officers to fight in Korea, [Redacted] The general reportedly stated on 17 December that many Spaniards would offer to serve if given the opportunity by the United Nations.

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Comment: Such an offer would be in line with Spanish insistence that Spain has made the most significant European contribution against world Communism. It would also be the first indication that Spain might permit the use of its troops beyond the Spanish frontier.

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