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17 May 1956

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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25X1A

Approved For Release 2002/11/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002500460001-3

CONTENTS

1. KHRUSHCHEV STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF GUIDED-MISSILE SUBMARINES

25X1A

25X1

3. MENDES-FRANCE REPORTED READY TO RESIGN FROM FRENCH GOVERNMENT

25X1A

4. POLISH AMBASSADOR IN PARIS COMMENTS ON POLISH PROBLEMS

25X1A

25X1

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION

25X1A

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THE TAIWAN STRAIT

25X1A

Approved For Release 2002/11/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002500460001-3

1. KHRUSHCHEV STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF GUIDED-MISSILE SUBMARINES

25X1A

[Redacted]

[Redacted] During his recent voyage to Great Britain, Soviet Communist Party leader Khrushchev reportedly told a British naval officer that submarines equipped with guided missiles are "the most suitable navy weapons," and that further development of such vessels will be emphasized by the Soviet navy. Khrushchev added that possession of this weapon would give the USSR the capability of making "defensive" attacks on the United States.

25X1A

Khrushchev also stated that the USSR will not build aircraft carriers because the Soviet navy has a defensive role and therefore will not operate outside of land-based air cover.

Comment

Khrushchev told the British ambassador in March that the Soviet navy would be rearmed with quite different and more modern weapons. It appears unlikely that the cut of 375 ships from the Soviet navy announced on 14 May will in any way affect an intensive effort to equip the Soviet navy with the latest and most modern weapons.

25X1

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25X1

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3. MENDES-FRANCE REPORTED READY TO RESIGN
FROM FRENCH GOVERNMENT

25X1A

[REDACTED] Pierre Mendes-France, who is acting French premier while Mollet is in Moscow, told an American newspaper publisher on 15 May that he plans to resign from the government in "about a week." Mendes-France reportedly added that another Radical Socialist and a Socialist would resign with him.

The American embassy in Paris does not believe that such a move, presumably based on Mendes-France's opposition to Socialist financial policy, would cause the fall of the government.

Comment

At a 4 May Radical Socialist Party meeting, Mendes-France warned against a rupture with the Socialist Party and a breaking up of the Republican Front. At that time he stated that he had an obligation to remain in the government in the hope of influencing its policy on Algeria toward political reforms which would permit the coexistence of the French and Moslem communities there. He may now feel, however, that he no longer wishes to be associated with a policy which might result in the loss of Algeria.

25X1A

17 May 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 5

25X1A

Approved For Release 2002/11/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002500460001-3

4. POLISH AMBASSADOR IN PARIS COMMENTS ON POLISH PROBLEMS

25X1A

[REDACTED]

At a French reception for Tito, Polish ambassador Gajewski told Ambassador Dillon that the Poles had moved much further with "de-Stalinization" than any of the other countries of Eastern Europe.

He expects extensive changes in the composition of the Warsaw government.

Gajewski said that because of Poland's geographic position it would have to stay on a friendly basis with the USSR. He added that no matter what the rights and wrongs of the matter were, Poland's eastern boundary was "fixed forevermore and therefore the Poles could not afford any change" in the Oder-Neisse frontier.

The Polish envoy also said that the one thing the Poles feared most was German militarism. When asked why Poland had then not objected to the establishment of an army in East Germany, he replied, "Don't believe for a minute that we Poles consider East Germans to be anything but Germans!"

Comment The Polish ambassador's views probably reflect the opinions of a large group of influential party members who are pushing to bring about a Polish form of Communist development. The new party first secretary, Edward Ochab, opposes their efforts, but has had little or no success in controlling the trend toward liberalization.

25X1A

25X1A

17 May 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 6

Approved For Release 2002/11/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002500460001-3

25X1

Approved For Release 2002/11/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002500460001-3

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2002/11/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002500460001-3

25X1A

Approved For Release 2002/11/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002500460001-3

THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 16 May)

25X1

[redacted] a Soviet ship unloaded a cargo of arms at Latakia on about 9 May which included 30 or 40 armored personnel carriers, artillery and submachine guns.

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[redacted] MIG-15's may have arrived with this shipment. The American army attaché reports that between six and eight self-propelled guns, resembling the SU-100, were observed moving south from Latakia--the first indication that such weapons are in Syria.

25X1A

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[redacted] According to the American air attaché in Egypt, the main runway at Kabrit airfield in the Canal Zone is being extended to 9,000 feet. Kabrit, and a similar airfield at Abu Suweir, appear destined to be used by IL-28 units.

25X1A

DIA

25X1

17 May 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 10

25X1A

Approved For Release 2002/11/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002500460001-3

Approved For Release 2002/11/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002500460001-3

BIWEEKLY SUMMARY
3-16 May 1956

THE TAIWAN STRAIT

**Report of the IAC Current Intelligence Group
for the Taiwan Strait Problem**

1. There was no significant combat activity during the period.

2. [redacted] the Chinese Communists are extending the Fukien rail line over two causeways and south across Amoy Island to the commercial port facilities on Amoy. It is expected that the rail line will be completed late this year. Opening of Amoy harbor, one of the finest on the East China coast, would require neutralization of Nationalist forces on Quemoy. The shipping lane to Amoy is vulnerable to Nationalist artillery from Quemoy.

3. [redacted] over 50 Chinese Communist field artillery pieces and about 140 vehicles in five separate parks about 50 miles north of Amoy. A training area has been reported in this general location, but [redacted] may reflect a reinforcement of Communist artillery strength near Amoy.

4. Rotation of Chinese Nationalist troops between Quemoy and Taiwan is scheduled to resume on 10 June. Present plans envisage the eventual replacement of all troops which were on Quemoy before August 1955. About 50 percent of these troops remain to be rotated. The replacement will provide Quemoy with units that have had recent divisional training on Taiwan under MAAG supervision, and also give an opportunity for the relieved units to receive the same training.

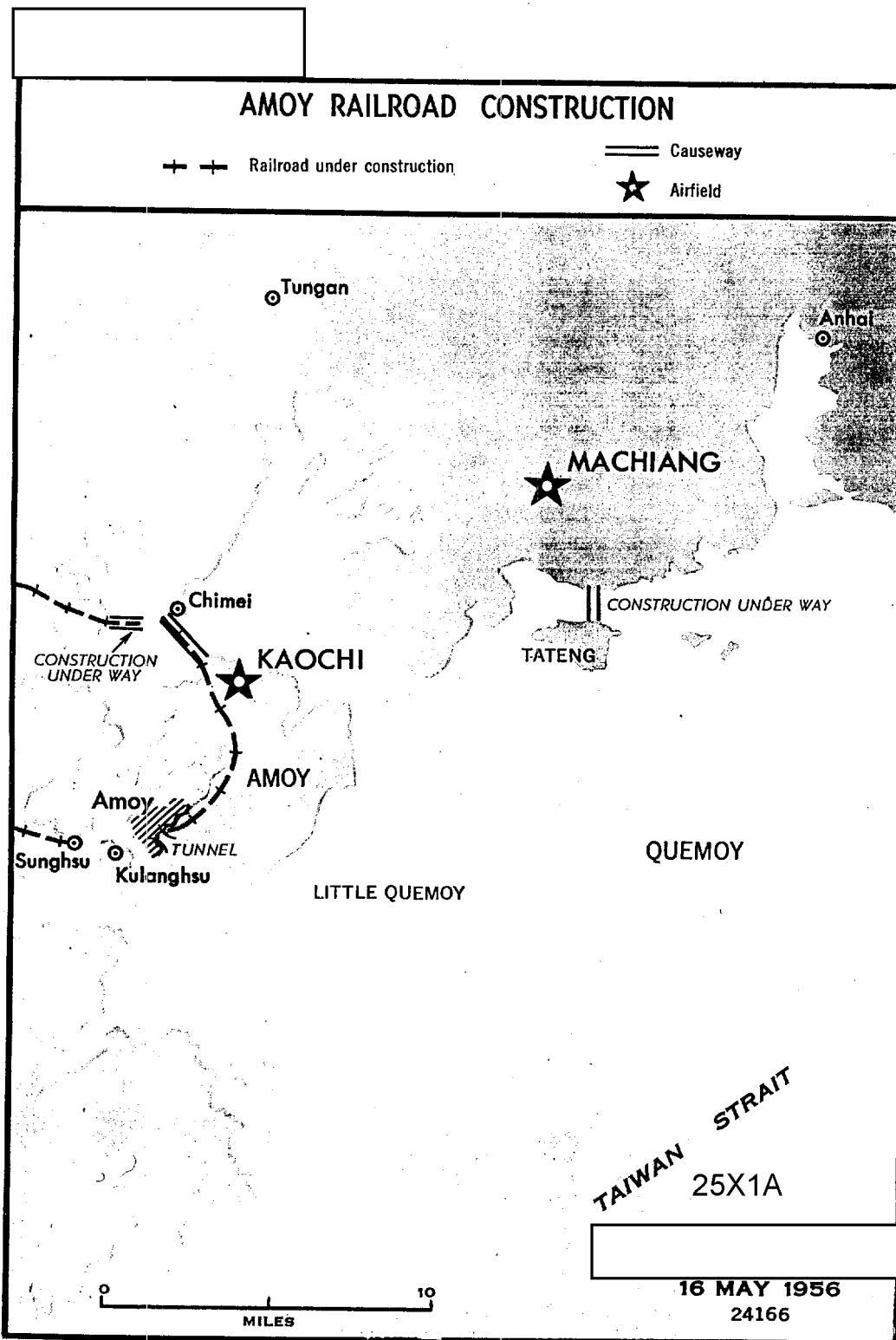
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25X1A



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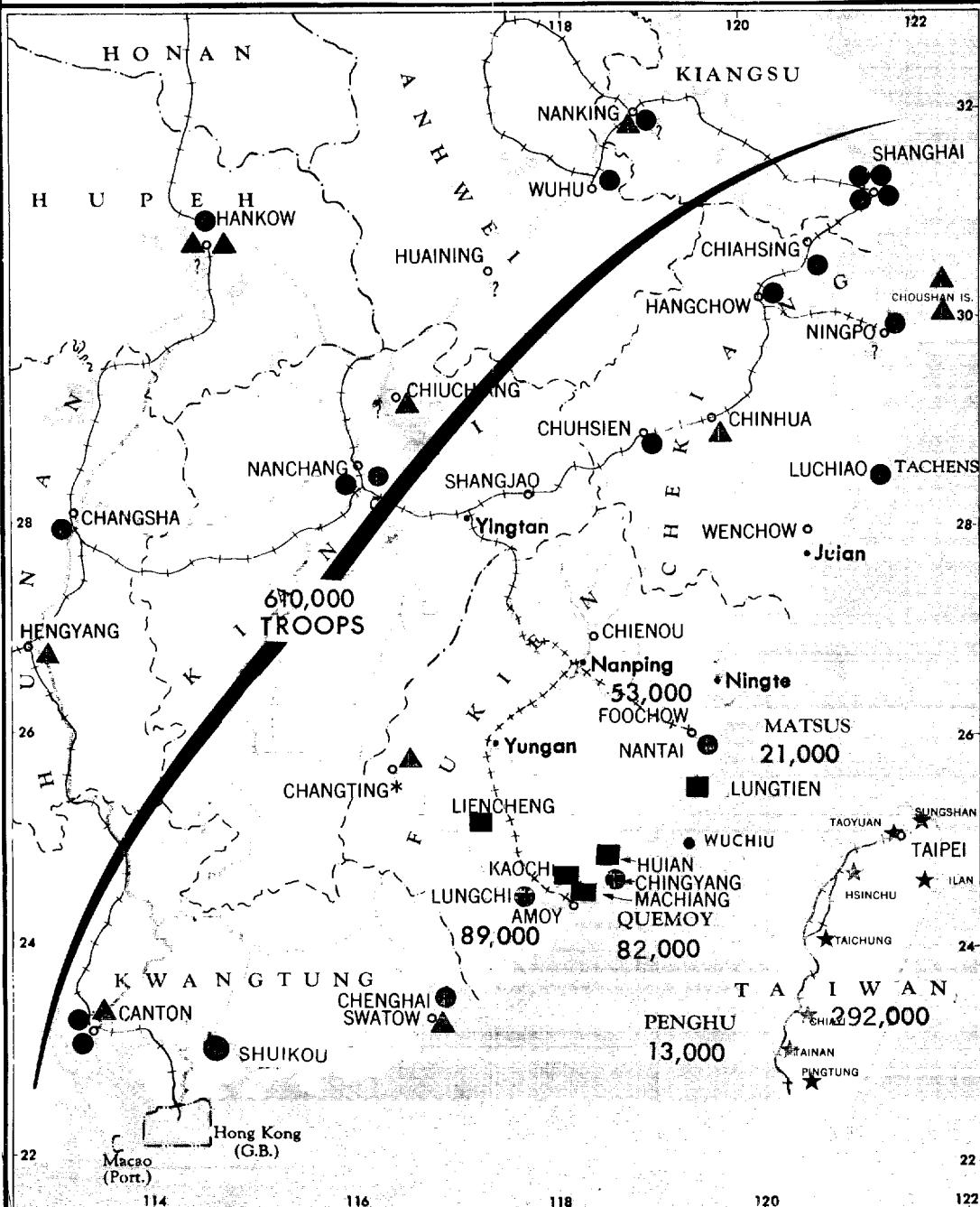
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TAIWAN STRAIT SITUATION
17 MAY 1956

CHINESE COMMUNIST AIRFIELD LEGEND:

DESIGNATIONS	USABILITY			
	+	I	?	█
PRIMARY AIRFIELD CONSIDERED MOST IMPORTANT IN AREA WITH PREPARED RUNWAY GENERALLY 5000 FEET OR LONGER.	MIG-15 MIG-17 TU-4 IL-28	TU-2, IL-10 LA-9/11 ETC.	UNKNOWN	UNDER CONSTRUCTION
ACTIVE BASE FOR MILITARY & CIVILIAN AIR- CRAFT. SOME BASES USED BY PISTON TYPES MAY BE USABLE BY JETS	OPERATIONAL	▲		
INACTIVE BASES CAPABLE OF USE BY AIRCRAFT	SERVICEABLE	▲		
CURRENT STATUS UNDETERMINED	UNKNOWN			

* FIELDS NOT CONSIDERED CAPABLE
OF SUPPORTING SUSTAINED OPER-
ATIONS AT PRESENT.



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★ NATIONALIST AIRFIELD

NAUTICAL MILES
0 50 100 150
STATUTE MILES
0 50 100 150

Railroad
++++ Under construction or projected

Primary roads
Secondary roads

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