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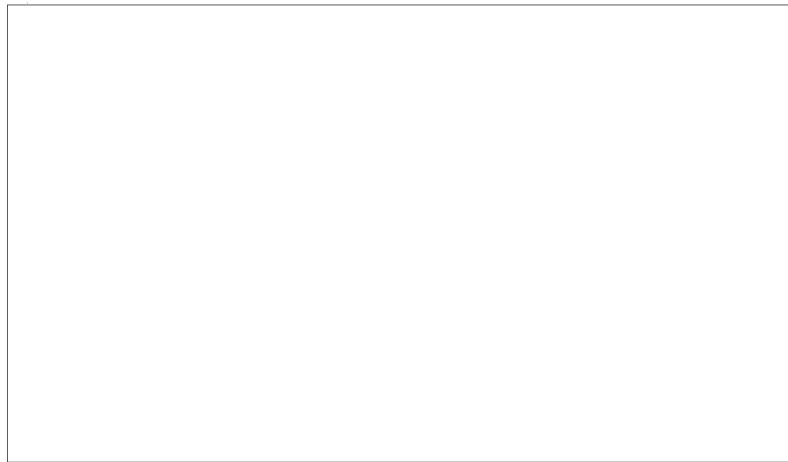
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1. THE SITUATION IN JORDAN

Curfew in Amman and Jerusalem was further relaxed on 30 April to permit the population to move out of doors between 0700 and 1900 hours. Jerusalem remains calm and government departments in Amman are reported to have closed for the post-Ramadan holidays. The military governors in the West Jordanian districts of Jerusalem and Hebron, however, on 29 April ordered that school vacations, which were to have ended this week end, be extended until further notice.

The Jordan government's roundup and surveillance of antiregime elements continue, and centers of Egyptian influence are being neutralized. The Egyptian government-controlled Middle East News Agency was entered and searched by police and its personnel interrogated.

The fissures in the facade of Arab unity have apparently forced Egypt to attempt to retrieve some advantage by making good on its promise to contribute to the financial support of the Jordanian army.

[redacted] "legislation was being prepared regarding the payment of Egypt's share of the subsidy," and that authorization would be given this week.

Meanwhile, between 700 and 800 British Royal Air Force airfield defense and administrative personnel are to be evacuated from the new Mafraq airfield by the end of May, [redacted]

Hussain is reported to have observed [redacted] that he was confident that Syrian forces would also be out of Jordan by that time. [redacted]

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2. HAMMARSKJOLD MAY APPEAL TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE

[Redacted]

Secretary General Hammarskjold has stated that before long it might be necessary to report to the General Assembly on the Israeli attitude toward the UN Emergency Force (UNEF). He told Ambassador Lodge on 25 April that unless Israel's attitude changed, he feared that contributing governments would begin to withdraw UNEF contingents, thus threatening the whole program.

Meanwhile, Premier Ben-Gurion has written Hammarskjold welcoming him to visit Israel but warning that the questions of UNEF deployment on the armistice lines and implementation of the armistice agreements could not be discussed. Deputy Secretary General Cordier told the Israeli representative that Hammarskjold would probably consider such terms unsatisfactory.

Several members of Hammarskjold's advisory committee on Suez have expressed their view that Israel's refusal to permit UN troops on its territory is seriously jeopardizing the position of the UNEF. Hammarskjold presumably is considering asking for a special session of the General Assembly, since it is not due to reconvene until September.

[Redacted]

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**3. INDONESIAN TERRITORIAL COMMANDERS THREATEN
CIVIL WAR AT DJAKARTA ARMY CONFERENCE**

[redacted] Lt. Col. Hussein of Central Sumatra and Lt. Col. Samual of East Indonesia both stated at the army conference in Djakarta on 27 April that they would if necessary resort to civil war in support of their objectives,

[redacted] Hussein stated that Sumatrans do not wish a final break with Djakarta, but that every recent government move appeared specifically designed to cause this. He repeated the Sumatran demand that former vice president Hatta be returned to his "rightful place" in the government. Hussein was fully supported by Lt. Col. Barlian, the commander in South Sumatra, and by the chief of staff of the Borneo command, who also warned the central government to pay full attention to provincial affairs.

President Sukarno personally requested [redacted]
a copy of Hussein's speech. [redacted]

Comment The possibility of open conflict in Indonesia has been greatly increased by the territorial commanders' blunt demands. Almost any accident or appearance of government coercion could now precipitate regional warfare.

Sukarno will try to avoid any action that would cause violence, but he will continue to work for a centralized state. He will probably attempt to win back provincial loyalties through promises of regional development programs, and work to undercut the provincial commanders by army reorganization and by fomenting local disunity.

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4. LAOTIAN POLICY MAY HARDEN TOWARD PATHET LAO

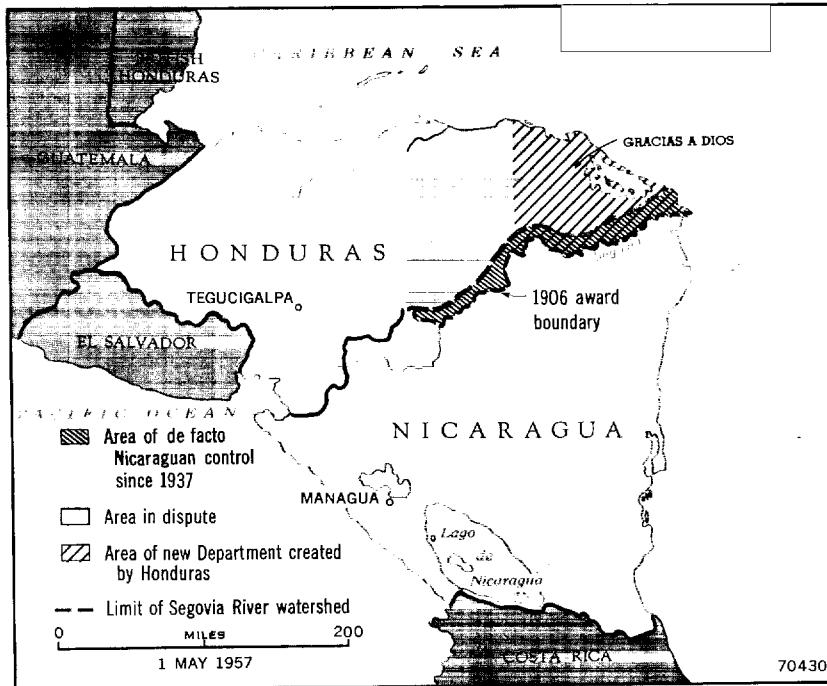
Evidence has accumulated that Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma, who has favored a "soft" policy toward the Pathet Lao, may resign when the assembly reconvenes on 11 May, according to the American ambassador in Laos. Possibly in anticipation of political change, the Pathet Lao delegation in Vientiane is now receiving cooler treatment at social affairs and in the press.

Laotian leaders are favorably impressed by the tripartite US-UK-French note published in Vientiane on 25 April affirming support for the royal government's sovereignty but noting that the reunification of Laos had been impeded because of "extraneous conditions" posed by the Pathets. The crown prince is reported as saying that the note would have great value as a cornerstone on which a new government could build its policy on the Pathet Lao problem. Both the Indian and Polish truce commissioners have introduced resolutions in the International Control Commission charging the Western powers with interference in Laos' internal affairs.

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5. HONDURAS ORDERS ARMY TO MOVE INTO AREA DISPUTED WITH NICARAGUA

Honduran troops have been ordered to assume military control of the entire area disputed with Nicaragua, according to the Honduran foreign minister on 29 April. This difficult jungle and swamp area includes territory which has been under effective Nicaraguan jurisdiction for 20 years



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and in which small Nicaraguan patrols are believed to be operating. The entire area was assigned to Honduras in an arbitral award in 1906 which is not recognized by Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan president Somoza told the American ambassador last March that if Nicaraguan troops are attacked in this area, he will order an immediate march on the Honduran capital.

Honduran authorities are inciting public feeling largely for domestic political reasons, while the Nicaraguan government, whose forces are superior to those of Honduras, is calm and confident and is continuing its plans for the inauguration of President Somoza on 1 May. [redacted]

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6. AFGHAN GOVERNMENT OFFERS DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT TO RICHARDS MISSION

Afghan foreign minister Naim, during his recent visit in Karachi, told the American ambassador on two occasions that Prime Minister Daud, when he visits Egypt in mid-May, would like to be "helpful" to the Richards mission.

Though Naim gave no indication of what Daud might be willing to do, his unusual offer, which presumably would not have been made without Daud's assent, is a further indication of Afghan approval of the American proposals for the Middle East.

The Afghan royal family may have become increasingly suspicious of the Soviet Union as a result of the USSR's support for antimonarchical elements during the crisis in Jordan. Daud might accordingly urge Nasr to invite the Richards mission to Cairo even though he probably would not urge Nasr to cut his ties with the USSR.

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7. PEIPING INCREASES CONSUMER PRICES

Reacting to the inflationary pressures built by the tremendous increase last year in the investment program and in worker and peasant incomes, Peiping has allowed a limited price rise on certain consumer goods. The goods affected by the increases are chiefly agricultural products, such as pork and edible oils, and cigarettes and woolen textiles.

The actual price increases on affected commodities are higher than the announced 2-percent average which is spread over the entire range of consumer goods, since prices of consumer staples like foodgrains and cotton cloth have not been raised. Rations of these staples have, however, been cut and the rationing system tightened.

The Chinese Communists have apparently suffered a considerable loss of domestic popularity in the past year as a result of shortages of food and other consumer goods.

the people are increasingly disposed to make more critical judgments of the regime.

Peiping has admitted that these inflationary pressures, coupled with last year's disappointing harvest, resulted in critical market shortages of raw materials and consumer goods. To assist the Chinese Communists over the present critical period, the Soviet Union has agreed to reduce 1957 Chinese deliveries of pork, edible oil, and pig iron, and other goods in short supply.

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8. TURKISH TROOPS MOVING TO SYRIAN BORDER

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

At least two Turkish infantry regiments and three light artillery battalions of the 28th Infantry Division and units of the Fifth Armored Brigade, stationed at Ankara, have begun moving south to Iskenderun, according to the American army attaché in Ankara. Eight to ten days will be required for completion of the move. These troops, in addition to the 39th Division, which has already moved to the area, will raise the total troop strength to over 20,000 along the Syrian border between the Euphrates and the Mediterranean.

[Redacted]

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