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25 August 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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25 AUGUST 1958

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Chinese Communists continue heavy shelling of Quemoy Islands and their build-up of fighter strength in Taiwan Strait and bombers in East China.

[redacted] The Nationalists have not retaliated against the mainland.

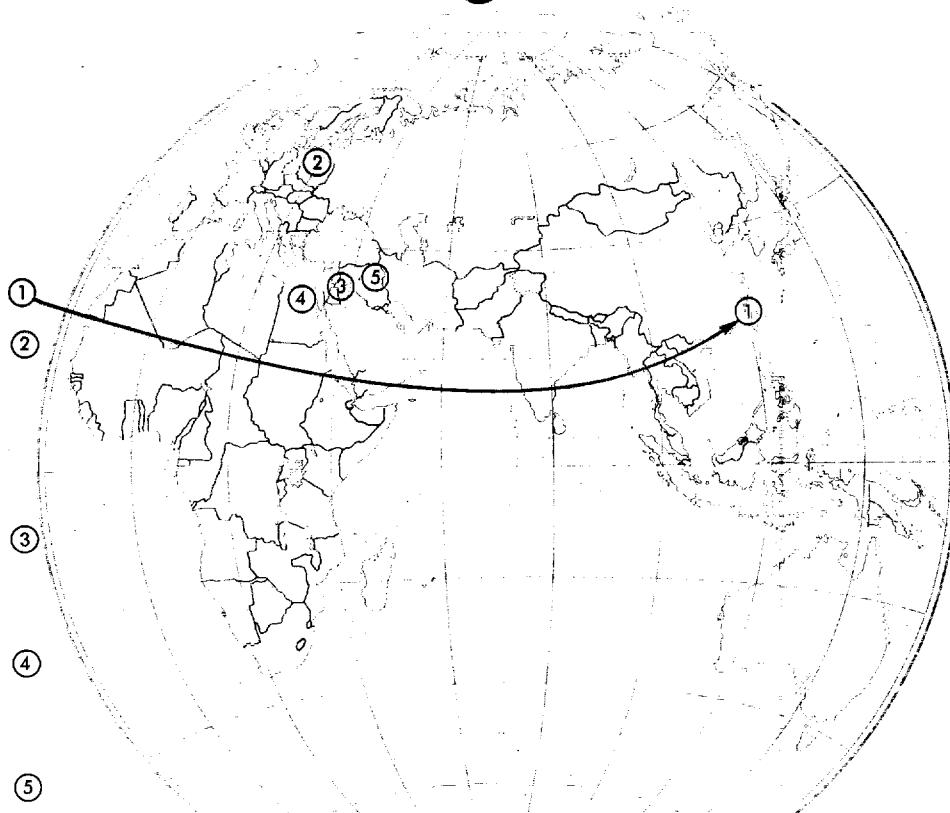
Tension continues in Poland over church-state controversy.

II. ASIA-AFRICA

King Husayn believes UN resolution has handed problems of Lebanon and Jordan to Nasir-dominated Arab League.

[redacted] requests to USSR for additional arms, including MIG-19's and IL-28's. [redacted]

[redacted] hints at removal of Iraqi information minister; cites his "hostile attitude" toward UAR. [redacted]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

25 August 1958

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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*Taiwan Strait (as of 0100 EDT, 25 August): The Chinese Communists have continued their heavy shelling of the Nationalist-held Quemoy Islands for the third consecutive day. Unconfirmed Nationalist reports state that an invasion attempt against one of the lesser islands was beaten off. Big Quemoy has been bombed by Chinese Communist aircraft, and a Nationalist supply ship making its regular run to Quemoy was torpedoed by a Communist PT boat. Thus far, the Nationalists have not retaliated against the Communist mainland, and Chiang Kai-shek has indicated that he would inform American officials before doing so. Chinese Communist Foreign Minister Chen Yi stated on 22 August that Communist China intended to "take" the Nationalist-held offshore islands.

The Chinese Communists continue to build up fighter strength in the Taiwan Strait area and bomber strength in East China.

(Page 1) (Maps)

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Poland: Although both church and state appear disposed to settle their differences, tension continues. Incidents could occur at the ceremonies scheduled to be held in southern Poland on 26 August, the festival of Poland's patron saint. The regime has indicated that it will regard Cardinal Wyszynski's speech on this occasion as a test of the church's attitude.

Recent alerts of Polish security forces appear to be exercises and not directly related to the church-state dispute.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Jordan: King Husayn considers the UN resolution on the Middle East a victory for Nasir since he believes it handed the problems of Jordan and Lebanon back to the Nasir-dominated Arab League. Husayn indicated to the American chargé on 22 August that unless the United States committed itself to a broad program of economic, military and financial aid prior to the expected departure of UN Secretary General Hammarskjold from Jordan at the end of this week, he would accept the resignation of the pro-Western Rifai government effective 15 September and ask within a week or ten days that British troops be withdrawn by 1 October. Husayn said "If Rifai goes, I go, too!" The King is planning to evacuate his family within a few days. Rifai announced on 23 August that Jordan was willing to resume diplomatic relations with the UAR and Iraq.

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UAR-USSR:

No
the UAR arms-purchasing mission in Moscow submitted in late July "additional requests" for bloc arms, including four squadrons of MIG-19 jet fighters and two squadrons of IL-28 jet light bombers. On orders from Cairo, requests were also submitted for 50 T-54 medium tanks and 100 artillery pieces, including 50 radar-controlled 57-mm. antiaircraft guns. Moscow "asked for time to consider before giving a final reply."

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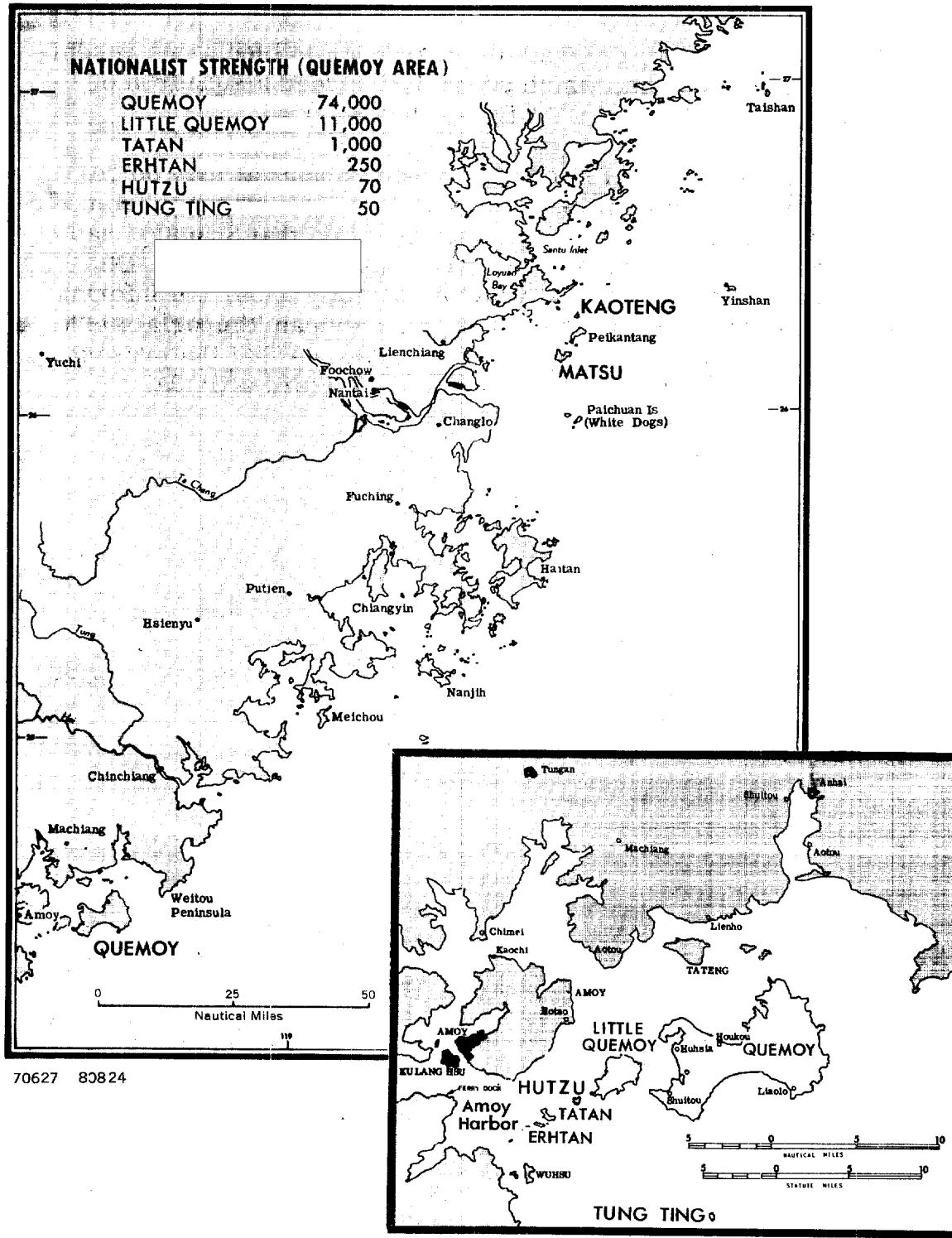
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These requests are presumably in addition to bloc arms recently delivered to Syria, which probably included a squadron of MIG-17's. [redacted] (Page 7)

Iraq: Minister of Information Sadiq Shanshal may be replaced by a military man. [redacted]

No
[redacted] Shanshal had a "hostile attitude" toward the UAR. [redacted] On 22 August, Baghdad radio, which is directly under the Information Ministry, launched an attack on American "imperialists" and their "plotting." This is further evidence that the present regime is adopting a more openly anti-Western attitude.
[redacted]

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

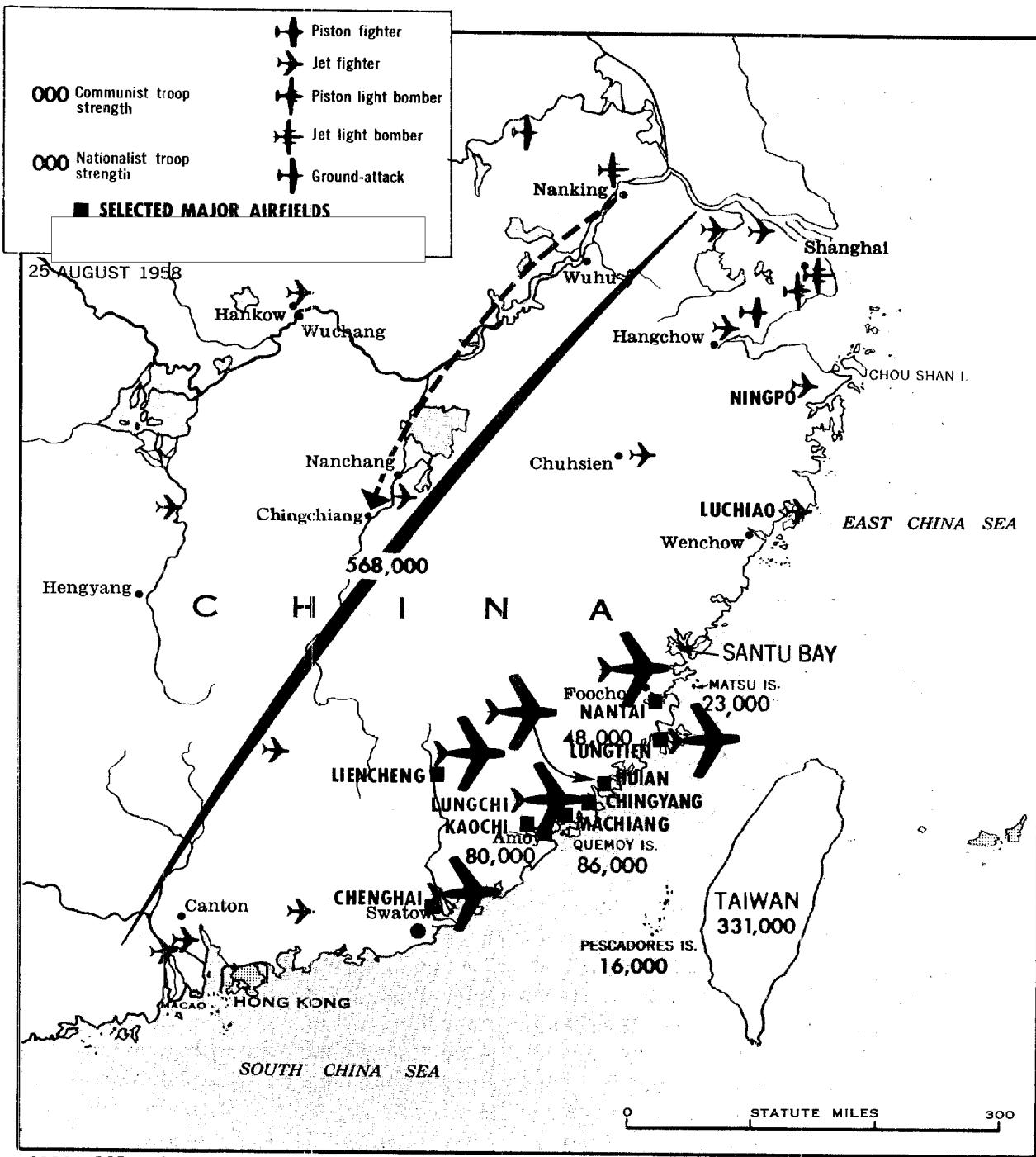
Taiwan Strait Situation (as of 0100 EDT, 25 August)

Military activity: The Chinese Communists began shelling the Quemoy's between 1830 and 2000 Taipei time on 23 August. Reports vary as to the intensity of the shelling but the Quemoy Defense Command Advisory Team estimates firing "in excess of 20,000 rounds." Radio Peiping claims that the shelling was prompted by the sighting of a Nationalist transport approaching Quemoy with reinforcements. The principal target of this heavy artillery fire was the Nationalist Quemoy Defense Command Headquarters area. US MAAAG installations were damaged, and about 200 Nationalist troops and a few Chinese civilians were injured. Chinese Nationalist artillery is reported to have returned the fire, but the Chinese Nationalist Air Force apparently did not take action against the Communists.

Chinese Communist shelling of the Quemoy's was resumed on 24 August, with a bombardment described by the Nationalists as almost as heavy as that of the day before. A brief bombardment followed just after midnight, and heavy shelling was resumed by the Communists at 0745 on 25 August.

At least eight Communist jet fighters reportedly bombed and strafed the northwest tip of Quemoy about dusk on 24 August. Four Chinese Communist gunboats and 6 landing craft (LCM's) were reported by the Chinese Joint Operation Center in Taipei to have shelled Tungting as well as Tatan and Erhtan--small islands in the Quemoy group--on the evening of the 24th. Meanwhile, a Chinese Nationalist LST was torpedoed and damaged by a Communist motor torpedo boat about 35 miles southeast of Quemoy. This craft was attacked again at 0300 on 25 August but escorting Nationalist naval units beat off the attack. Another LST is missing and presumed sunk. Other unconfirmed developments reported by the Chinese Nationalists include the landing of Communist frogmen on Hutzu, a small islet between Little Quemoy and Tatan garrisoned by about 60 Nationalists, and the sighting of 30 motor junks accompanied by five small patrol craft heading for Tungting, a small island located about 15 miles south of Quemoy. Nationalist press reports state

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that warships, landing barges, and junks were driven off in an invasion attempt.

Chinese Nationalist attitude: In a meeting with Admiral Smoot and Ambassador Drumright, Chiang Kai-shek expressed his intention to abide by the terms of the mutual defense treaty and to consult with US officials before ordering an attack. He pressed for information on what measures the US planned to take and reiterated the need for a more definite statement of US intent regarding the offshore islands. Chiang stated that he did not regard Mr. Dulles' letter to Congressman Morgan on 23 August to be sufficient.

The Chinese Nationalists have received a report that "accurate information from authoritative sources in Peiping" discloses that the Chinese Communist Defense Ministry has ordered a feint at the Quemoys and seizure of the Matsus. [redacted]

Chinese Communist attitude: Chinese Communist officials are now intimating that Peiping intends to take the offshore islands. [redacted] at a Rumanian National Day reception on 22 August, Foreign Minister Chen Yi extemporized at the end of his speech that "The Americans have challenged us and we will challenge them.... we shall take the offshore islands." Communist China's military attaché in East Berlin recently told a Western journalist that the Chinese Communists intended to take at least one "small" coastal island but not Taiwan before the end of the year.

Sino-Soviet bloc reaction: The bloc may be preparing a propaganda campaign designed to highlight alleged US and Chinese Nationalist "provocations." On 24 August a Peiping radio commentary claimed that US military aircraft had deliberately "committed the crime of provoking and threatening the safety of our country." A Polish Foreign Ministry official stated that on 21 August the ministry issued a directive to its diplomats abroad instructing them to stress in conversations with all contacts incidents of Chinese Nationalist "aggression"

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against the mainland from "the two closest offshore islands"-- apparently meaning Tatan and Erhtan. Moscow Radio on 19 August had warned the US to avoid "provocations" against the mainland and assured the Chinese Communists that they are "not isolated," because the USSR and other bloc countries are standing "side by side" with them.

Communist air strength build-up: The Chinese Communists continue to build up their air power in the East China area. Since the movement of IL-28 jet light bombers--probably a regiment--from Nanking to Changshu on 22 August, a Chinese Nationalist intercept indicates the movement of additional IL-28's to Changshu, possibly the balance of the entire 8th Air Division which is equipped with 90 jet bombers. A movement of TU-2 piston bombers on 22 August from the Sian area to the Nanchang area [redacted]

the fighter aircraft normally based at Nanchang departed for Liencheng on the same day, probably to make room for the bombers. The bomber movements were accompanied by transports which suggests a permanent deployment. Both the jet and piston bombers could be used against the offshore islands from the Nanchang area, but some of these aircraft may deploy farther south which would improve the Communist capability for bombing the offshore islands. The activation of the coastal airfields permits Communist bombers, except for a short time over target, to operate behind a heavy fighter screen.

One of the two remaining airfields in East China may now be operational. Previously reported as being prepared for operations, [redacted] Huian airfield, located about 50 miles north of the Quemoys, received a contingent of MIG jet fighters on 23 August. On the same day [redacted] a flight of MIG's taking off from Chingyang but these may have been the same aircraft which moved to Huian earlier.

[redacted]

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This request for a speed-up in fuel deliveries and the movement of large numbers of both piston and jet bombers into a position where they can operate from behind a fighter screen may portend increased air strikes against the offshore islands. [redacted]

[redacted]

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~~TOP SECRET~~Tension Continues in Polish Church-State Relations

Relations between church and state in Poland continue strained, but the state intends to abide by the December, 1956 agreement and is hopeful that the problems at issue can be solved at the conference table provided "extremists on both sides" can be restrained, according to informal remarks made by acting Polish Foreign Minister Winiewicz.

Of the main problems now under discussion, the question of censorship of church publications is largely solved, since the church has acknowledged it was wrong in permitting the mimeographing of sermons which frequently were inflammatory. Disagreement over religious teaching apparently centers on the church's desire to use certain orders of monks and nuns as teachers. The state opposes this, but is prepared to make exceptions in some areas, especially the former German territories. The question of jurisdiction within Poland over gifts received from abroad has not yet been solved. A recent agreement on joint responsibility for distribution in the Krakow area was a "step forward," according to Winiewicz, but the church has not yet accepted the basic principle of joint responsibility which is favored by the state.

Recent alerts of Polish internal and border-guard units, [redacted] are probably unrelated to the church-state dispute, since both church and state officials at present are exerting efforts to keep the populace calm. These efforts were notably successful on 15 August when some hundred thousand Polish pilgrims assembled quietly at Czestochowa in southern Poland for the Assumption Day ceremonies. The alerts of internal security forces have occurred mainly in northwestern Poland--not in southern Poland where religious shrines are located and demonstrations would be more likely to occur.

In the present tense situation, however, considerable attention is directed to the ceremonies scheduled to be held in Czestochowa on 26 August, the festival of Poland's patron saint, at which Cardinal Wyszynski is to make an important address. The regime has let it be known that it will regard this speech as a test of the church's attitude. Depending on the cardinal's performance, incidents could easily occur at that time. [redacted]

[redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICADevelopments in Jordan

King Husayn of Jordan told the American Embassy on 22 August that he considered the recent UN resolution on the Near East a victory for Nasir since it handed the problems of Jordan and Lebanon back to the Nasir-dominated Arab League. Earlier the same day Prime Minister Rifai said that effective implementation of the resolution would depend largely on UAR good faith, and that he felt Nasir would continue to pursue a policy of subversion.

Rifai concluded that the United States' unwillingness to meet Jordan's request for a mutual defense pact and extensive military and economic aid made it necessary to change Jordan's government and bring its foreign policy into line with its Arab neighbors. He also concluded that the British had decided to sacrifice King Husayn in order to permit Jordan to reach accommodation with its Arab neighbors, and that Jordan's new government would evolve into a republic oriented toward the UAR and Iraq. Rifai said he intended to resign effective 15 September, but would first ask British troops to withdraw by the end of September.

King Husayn told the American Embassy that unless the United States committed itself to a broad program of economic, military, and financial aid before the departure of UN Secretary General Hammarskjold from Jordan, presumably at the end of this week, he would accept the resignation of the pro-Western Rifai government and ask that British troops be withdrawn. Husayn indicated that he did not expect his tenure to outlast by long that of Rifai's government. He plans to evacuate his family from Jordan in a British aircraft sometime this week. Rifai announced on 23 August that Jordan was willing to resume diplomatic relations with the UAR and Iraq, and Palestinian Dr. Husayn Khalidi has informed King Husayn of his readiness to head a government, presumably of a transitional nature.

Israel would be confronted with virtually complete encirclement regardless of the means by which Jordan was brought into alignment with the UAR and Iraq, and might feel compelled to seek a pretext for moving into part or all of West Jordan.

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~~TOP SECRET~~Cairo Makes New Major Arms Request of USSR

The Egyptian region of the UAR asked Moscow on 25 July for more than \$50,000,000 worth of arms in addition to an unspecified quantity of armaments requested from the USSR earlier in the month. The 25 July request included four squadrons (about 60) of MIG-19 jet fighters and two squadrons (about 30) of IL-28 jet light bombers, 25 helicopters, 50 T-54 medium tanks, 50 122-mm. howitzers, 50 57-mm. radar-controlled antiaircraft guns, and large quantities of ammunition and spare parts. Moscow, upon receiving the Egyptian requests, "asked for time to consider before giving a final reply." The Soviet bloc has already supplied Egypt with more than \$250,-000,000 worth of arms, and Syria with about \$150,000,000.

Heretofore, Cairo has not received from the bloc such advanced equipment as T-54 tanks or 57-mm. AA guns, although such weapons are now being delivered to Syria. The Egyptians did, however, ask for MIG-19 fighters during Nasir's spring visit to the USSR. At that time, Moscow promised to consider the request, in view of Israel's acquisition of Vautour twin-jet aircraft.

The Soviet Union has in the past six weeks made substantial deliveries of arms to Syria, including 50 to 60 T-54 tanks and more than 150 artillery pieces, some of which were antitank weapons. A squadron of MIG-17 all-weather jet fighters probably also was delivered to Latakia recently.

The UAR's efforts to obtain substantial quantities of more advanced weapons from the Soviet bloc are presumably known to Israel and may in part have prompted recent Israeli efforts to obtain more advanced weapons from the West.

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