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GENERAL

1. Mossadeq reportedly appoints delegation for Moscow talks:

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held in the Soviet Union

Prime Minister Mossadeq appointed General Ismael Shafai on 2 April as head of a special Iranian delegation to Moscow to discuss the problems of Caspian fisheries and Iranian gold

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Shafai, who was educated in Russia, was previously a military attache in Moscow, and was a member of the Iranian delegation at Stalin's funeral.

Comment: The Soviet Union has held \$12,000,000 of Iranian gold since its occupation of northern Iran in 1941.

The appointment of Shafai, who is pro-Soviet, would suggest a desire to seek a solution of current Iranian-Soviet differences. Mossadeq may believe that overtures to the USSR will help persuade the United States to give him financial aid.

SOVIET UNION

2. Moscow Embassy comments on denunciation of Ignatiev:

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The American Embassy in Moscow states that the Pravda attack against S. D. Ignatiev is the first such criticism of a Central Committee Secretariat member for many years. The Embassy notes that interfactional problems were apparently not resolved at the time of Ignatiev's appointment to the Secretariat on 7 March.

Ignatiev's earlier experience as a party worker for the Secretariat might identify him as a Malenkov protege, although evidence of this is meager and the various personality alignments are still too unclear to be assessed. At the same time, the dominant party

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leadership may be attempting to foster the impression that Malenkov's promise, made at Stalin's funeral, to protect individual rights is being carried out.

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Comment: Before his appointment as Minister of State Security in 1951, Ignatiev was [redacted] [redacted] superintendent of the powerful Department of Party Organs within the Central Committee apparatus under Malenkov.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

3. President Quirino's brother reportedly seeking Huk support for Liberal Party:

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[redacted] The American Embassy in Manila has been reliably informed that President Quirino's brother is in contact with Huk leader Luis Taruc in order to arrange his surrender and enlist Huk support for the Liberal Party. The Embassy fears that such a surrender would give the Huks the opportunity they seek to infiltrate the government.

Comment: Emissaries of President Quirino have on several occasions during the last year sought to arrange a dramatic Huk surrender in order to recoup the Liberal Party's popularity.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

4. British Embassy recommends concession to Cairo on starting defense talks:

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[redacted] The British Embassy in Cairo is recommending to London acceptance of the Egyptian proposal to begin informal defense talks excluding

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any discussion of MEDO. The Embassy is hopeful that Egyptian participation in MEDO would follow Anglo-Egyptian agreement on evacuation of British troops, methods for maintaining the Suez Canal base, and joint air defense arrangements.

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