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7 July 1956

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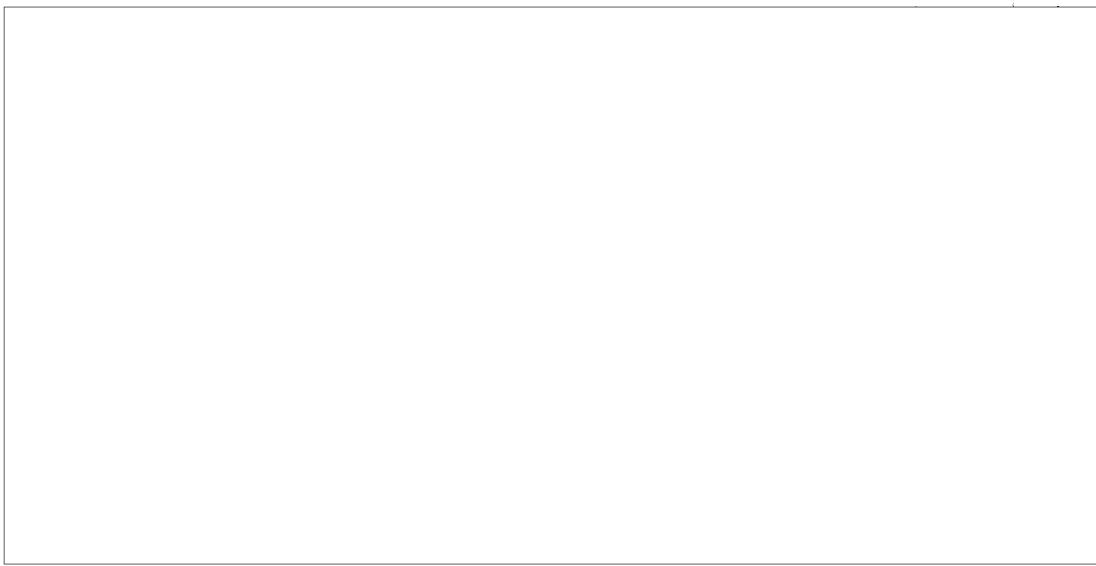
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1. IRAQ CLAIMS TROOPS NEAR BORDER ARE TO AID JORDAN

The Iraqi chief of staff told the American army attaché in Baghdad on 4 July that the true purpose of the Iraqi troop movements and stockpiling near the Syrian-Jordanian border was to assist Jordan in accordance with recent military agreements. He said rumors that Iraq plans intervention in Jordanian or Syrian affairs were inspired by Communists.

Comment

The Iraqi-Jordanian military talks last month provided for stockpiling of Iraqi military supplies in Jordan against the eventuality that Iraqi assistance would be needed to repel an Israeli attack. Iraq is probably making use of this provision to cover preparations for intervention in case of unfavorable political developments in either Syria or Jordan.

If the Iraqi move is a result of the agreement with Jordan, it has been undertaken with unusual speed. Reports following the talks indicated that Iraq distrusted the Jordanian chief of staff and planned to "sit tight" to see if Jordan would follow through on its part of the agreement.

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2. US AMBASSADOR CONCERNED OVER TURKISH REACTION IN CYPRUS DISPUTE

Ambassador Warren fears that the firmness of Turkey's position on the Cyprus question is being "dangerously" underestimated and fears serious consequences

If it is assumed that the Turks "have no choice but to go along" with any Greek-British understanding. He says the Turks believe that any change in the status of Cyprus would open for reconsideration other provisions of the 1923 Lausanne Treaty, including the status of the Aegean Islands, western Thrace, and the Greek community in Istanbul.

The ambassador warns that even at the risk of losing American military aid, the Turks may unilaterally denounce the treaty and occupy Greek Aegean islands in order to demonstrate the seriousness of their intentions and to strengthen their bargaining position in an over-all settlement of area problems.

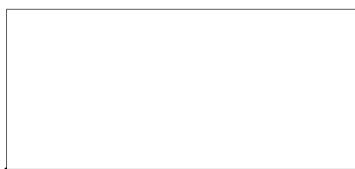
Comment

Turkey favors British control of Cyprus and is adamant in its opposition to extension of Greek sovereignty over the former Turkish island. Ankara insists that if the British relinquish sovereignty, the island must revert to Turkey.

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**3. MOLLET REPORTED THREATENING TO RESIGN UNLESS
FRENCH ASSEMBLY APPROVES EURATOM**



A member of French premier Mollet's personal staff has confirmed reports that Mollet is "quite serious" in his threat to resign if he fails to obtain approval in the current National Assembly debate on EURATOM—the proposed six-nation organization for atomic development.

A spokesman on EURATOM for the foreign affairs secretary estimates chances for a favorable vote in the debate to be 50-50. He told American officials that most deputies know virtually nothing about EURATOM and many will make up their minds on the basis of information presented during the debate, which is expected to end on 10 July.

Comment

Mollet has not formally posed the question of confidence because he hopes to get a true picture of parliamentary attitudes on EURATOM and thus avoid repudiation of the eventual treaty, as occurred with EDC. He has apparently been impressed recently by the extent of opposition in the assembly and has called civilian experts to explain to the assembly the advantages to France of EURATOM.

In the debate, Mollet will be caught between nationalist fears of permanently repudiating France's right to make atomic weapons and his own Socialist Party's advocacy of an atomic energy organization devoted exclusively to peaceful uses. He will probably be content to get a resolution permitting French participation in EURATOM treaty negotiations.

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4. CAMBODIA SEEN SEEKING SOVIET ECONOMIC AID

Comment on:

Cambodia is apparently seeking economic assistance from the USSR to complete the financing of its two-year economic plan, according to French ambassador Offrov in Bangkok.

Sihanouk and Khim Tit are now in the USSR. They seem assured of a sympathetic reaction to any requests for aid in view of the present Sino-Soviet strategy to undermine Cambodia's relations with the West. Before embarking last spring on his policy of closer political and economic relations with the Soviet bloc, Sihanouk referred to "heavy responsibilities" in accepting Communist aid, but he felt the advantages outweighed the risks involved.

Cambodia hopes to require no further foreign aid after completion in 1957 of its ambitious development plan designed to expand and diversify its agricultural, mineral and industrial production.

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