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14 August 1958

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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14 AUGUST 1958

**I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC**

Chinese Nationalists claim three Chinese Communist jet fighters shot down east of Foochow on morning of 14 August; Foochow's Nantai is third coastal airfield to become operational since 27 July.

Khrushchev said recently he intended to vacation with Kadar.

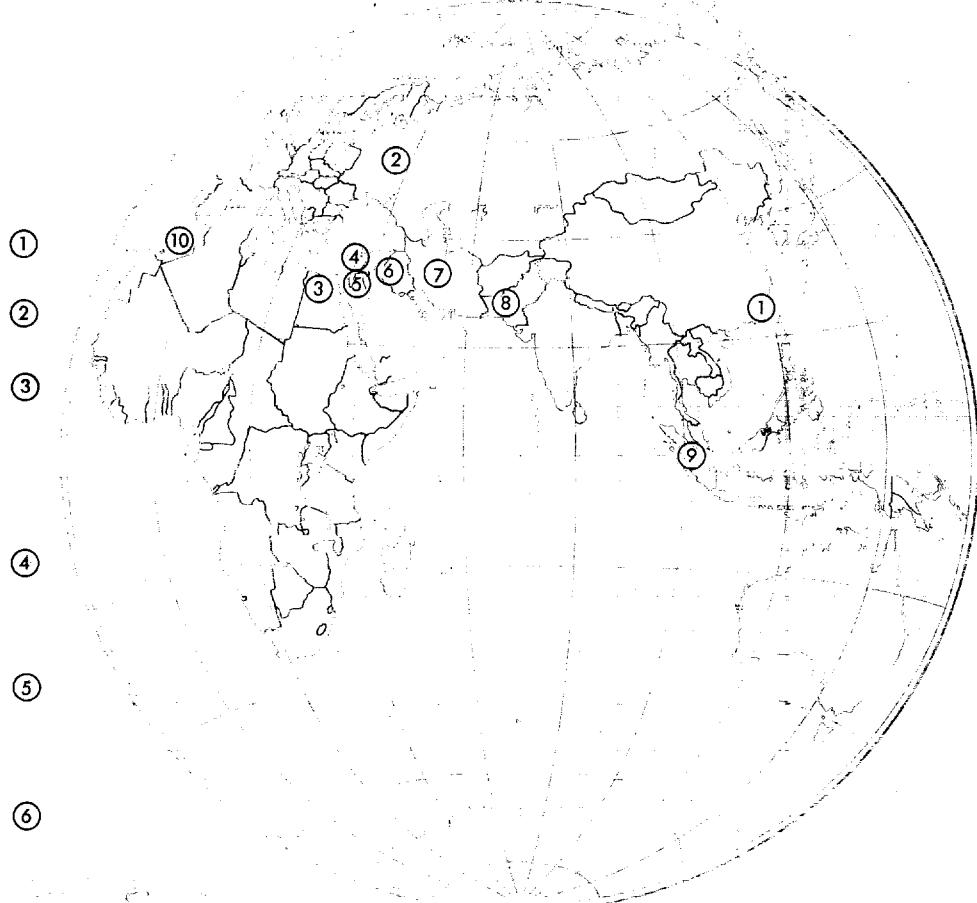
Nasir says Chou En-lai will arrive in Cairo "in several weeks."

**II. ASIA-AFRICA**

Lebanese Christians see their position jeopardized by Arab political successes; fighting possible.

King Husayn and Prime Minister Rifai fear sacrifice of Jordan's interests in context of any general Middle Eastern settlement.

Indications are that the UAR is backing Iraqi Deputy Premier Arif over the long run against Prime Minister Qasim.



- ⑦ Shah of Iran, who fears a coup, continues to show signs of concern about potential threats to his regime.
- ⑧ Pakistan - Opposition exploitation of popular discontent with government's pro-Western stand may make this issue a major feature of election campaign.
- ⑨ Indonesian dissidents inflict severe damage on large US-owned rubber estate on Sumatra; government has flown reinforcements to Medan area.
- ⑩ Morocco - Dominant Istiqlal party appoints group to study foreign troop issue; recommendation for eventual total evacuation likely.

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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

14 August 1958

## DAILY BRIEF

## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

\*Communist China - Taiwan: The Chinese Nationalists claim to have shot down three Communist jet fighters in a dogfight over the Taiwan Straits, east of Foochow, on the morning of 14 August. The clash involved four Communist MIG's and seven Nationalist F-86 aircraft. One of the Nationalist planes was damaged and may have been lost.

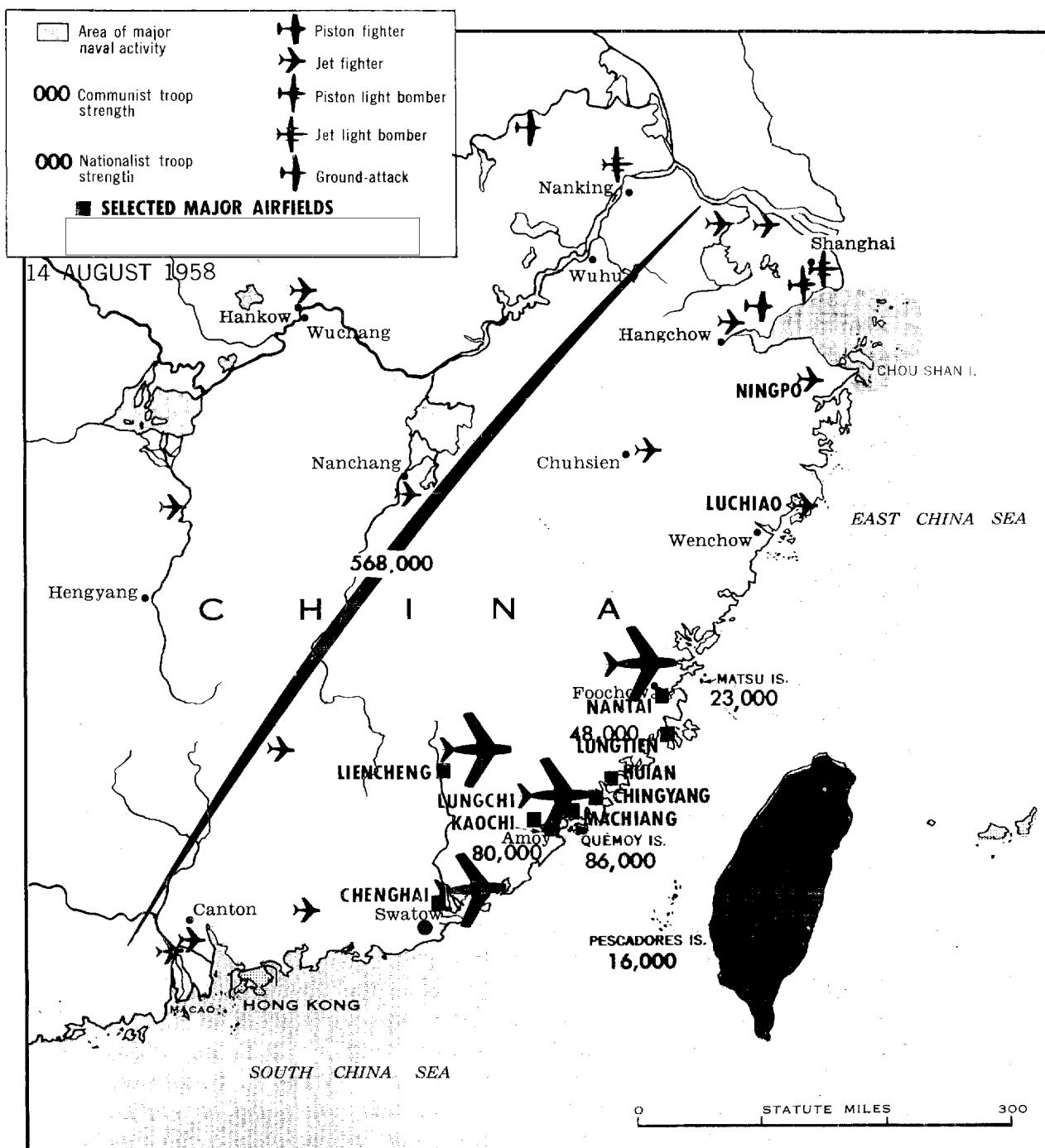
[redacted] Nantai is the third previously unoccupied coastal airfield to have become operational since 27 July. [redacted] The Communist jets may have come to Nantai from Luchiao, where, [redacted] there has been a recent build-up of jet fighter strength. [redacted]

[redacted] two other fields-- Lungtien and Huian--have been undergoing preparations for operations. Occupation of these coastal fields by MIG's would give the Communists the capability to control the air space over Fukien and the Taiwan Straits. [redacted] (See map on reverse of page)

USSR-Hungary: Khrushchev's statement to Adlai Stevenson on 5 August that he had "decided to spend his vacation with Kadar" may indicate that Khrushchev continues to feel that he must intervene personally to support Kadar in his dealings with the Hungarian party and people. It is not clear from Khrushchev's remarks whether he is going to Hungary. Earlier he told the American ambassador he would be vacationing in Kiev from 16 to 20 August and would spend the remainder of his holiday in the Crimea. [redacted]

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Communist China - UAR: Nasir recently told a Japanese Diet member that Chou En-lai will arrive in Cairo "in several weeks." Such a visit would afford Communist China an opportunity to underscore its own interests in the Middle East and support Peiping's pretensions to a "great-power" voice on major international issues.   (Page 2) OK

Watch Committee conclusion--Sino-Soviet bloc:

- A. No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against the continental US or its possessions in the immediate future.
- B. No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends deliberately to initiate direct military action against US forces abroad, US allies, or areas peripheral to the orbit in the immediate future.

**NOTE:** Soviet forces in areas adjacent to the Middle East appear to have ended their limited alert and have returned to normal dispositions. Chinese Communist forces do not appear to intend major action against the offshore islands or Taiwan in the immediate future, although air clashes involving numbers of aircraft in the Taiwan Strait area are probable.  

## II. ASIA-AFRICA

Watch Committee conclusion--Middle East:

Although a deliberate initiation of open hostilities in the Middle East is unlikely in the immediate future, the situation remains highly unstable throughout the area, particularly where US and UK interests or commitments are involved, and incidents and coups could occur at any time.

**NOTE:** The survival of the Jordanian regime continues to be threatened. If the regime in Jordan collapses, action

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by neighboring countries to take control of Jordanian territory is likely. There are indications of closer accommodation between Saudi Arabia and the UAR.

Lebanon: Militant Christian organizations are threatening to establish "closed areas" in Beirut and in the countryside in opposition to army attempts to disarm their members. These threats appear aimed primarily at stiffening Shihab's attitude toward the Moslem rebels. They also reflect Christian fears that Arab nationalist political successes endanger the privileged position of the Christian population. Should tension between the sects continue to grow, fighting is possible. (Page 3) *ho*

Jordan: King Husayn has stated he will reject any plan to use a UN force to assist Jordan to maintain its independence. Although he would welcome a UN "guarantee" of Jordan's frontiers, his government will continue in practice to rely on American and British support. Husayn and Prime Minister Rifai evidently suspect that the Western powers may be tempted to sacrifice their position in Jordan in order to achieve a wider agreement on Middle Eastern problems. *ho*

Iraq-UAR: The UAR may have decided to back Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Arif as more likely over the longer term to favor close cooperation with UAR policy than Prime Minister Qasim, who is described as a "simple Iraqi nationalist." *ho*

Arif is the real organizer of the Iraqi coup, and Nasir himself is reported to have said that Arif is the outstanding personality in the new government. Arif's recent activities, including tours to outlying areas in Iraq, where he made a number of speeches attacking "imperialism" and "feudalism," suggest that he may well aspire to play the "Nasir role" in Iraq. (Page 5) *ho*

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Iran: The Shah, who is known to fear a coup, continues to show concern over political and military elements which offer a potential threat to his regime. He may even be considering the removal of all combat-type units from Tehran on the supposition that such action would make a military coup impossible. Removal of the Tehran garrison is regarded by American military representatives in Iran as suicidal.

Pakistan: Growing popular dissatisfaction with Karachi's pro-Western foreign policy is being exploited by both leftist and conservative opposition groups. With national elections slated to be held within six months, Pakistan's relationship with the West may become an important campaign issue.

*OK*  
(Page 7)

Indonesia: Dissident troops inflicted considerable damage on an American-owned rubber estate--the largest on Sumatra and one of the largest in the world--southeast of Medan during a 10 August raid. The central government has flown additional troops to Medan, probably to reinforce hard-pressed units south of Medan and to counter any dissident threat to the city.

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Morocco: The dominant Istiqlal party on 12 August created a commission to prepare recommendations on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Morocco. The recommendations probably will call for eventual total evacuation, including US forces from the five US-manned bases.

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## I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

### Khrushchev May Spend Vacation With Hungary's Kadar

During a discussion of Eastern European affairs with Adlai Stevenson on 5 August, Khrushchev said he "had decided to spend his vacation with Kadar this summer." He further suggested that he and Stevenson "go together" and "speak to the Hungarian people." In view of Khrushchev's previous statement to the US ambassador that he would vacation in Kiev from 16 to 20 August and would spend the remainder of his vacation in the Crimea, these remarks may not mean that he is actually planning a trip to Hungary. Kadar may be going to the USSR to participate in some type of meeting with other satellite leaders; Ulbricht of East Germany and Novotny of Czechoslovakia are already vacationing in the USSR.

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On the other hand, Khrushchev may be planning a bilateral meeting with Kadar in the belief that the Hungarian party leader needs some special sign of his personal backing at this time because of increased party factionalism in Hungary exacerbated by the Nagy-Maleter executions and other pressing internal problems. Such a meeting, like the one held in April, would put Kadar in a much better position to silence his Stalinist critics. The Stalinists may have been encouraged by the measures taken against Nagy and his associates and by the consequent vindication of their own conduct during the revolution to hope that Kadar might be losing Moscow's favor.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Chou En-lai May Visit Cairo

Communist China's Premier Chou En-lai will probably visit Cairo in the near future. UAR President Nasir told a visiting Japanese Diet member on 5 August that the Chinese premier would arrive in "several weeks." There have been other reports indicating that Chou was planning to visit Cairo before the end of September.

Such a visit would afford China the opportunity to underscore its own interests in the Middle East and support Peiping's pretensions to a "great-power" voice on major international issues. Chou will undoubtedly stress China's support for UAR efforts to undercut pro-Western governments in the Middle East and to press for the withdrawal of American and British troops from the area. Nasir, who was in close contact with Chou at the Bandung Conference in 1955, can be expected to reach agreement with him on a broad range of political and economic matters, assuring him among other things that the UAR will support any Soviet or Asian move to seat China in the United Nations.

During the visit, Chou's endorsement of Nasir may extend to an offer of limited military assistance. Peiping's propaganda during July hinted at the willingness of Chinese troops to "volunteer" for action in the Middle East.

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## II. ASIA-AFRICA

### Situation in Lebanon

Religious cleavages in Lebanon have deepened sharply since the presidential election, and there is a widespread feeling among the Christians that Shihab cannot be trusted to assure their safety or privileged position. Continued opposition demands for President Chamoun's resignation and attacks on Christians, as well as Shihab's reluctance to take effective action against the opposition while his soldiers are disarming pro-government irregulars, have heightened Christian fears. This alarm has resulted in an increase of Christian militancy; hints of reprisal against Moslems and threats to establish "closed areas" under Christian control in Beirut are coming closer to realization. While these threats may be aimed in part at stiffening Shihab's attitude, fighting is a real possibility.

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President Chamoun's resignation or departure from Lebanon before the expiration of his term probably would increase Christian misgivings unless Shihab undertook effective action to disarm opposition elements and restore order in the hinterland.

Leaders of the extreme Moslem Najjada and Baathist parties have decided to continue their subversive actions in order to force Chamoun's resignation and the withdrawal of American troops. Their ultimate goal is to assure themselves of leadership of the Arab nationalist movement in Lebanon and to take credit for the withdrawal. They also desire to supplant Saeb Salam as spokesman for the opposition and are probably the originators of rumors spread in opposition circles that Salam was bought off by Under Secretary Murphy. The army is said to be aware of these plans, as well as of Communist cooperation with the Baathists and the Najjada.

Although Cairo has evidently ordered the return of paramilitary personnel to Syria, it appears to be continuing monetary and military support to the rebels.

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shipment of hand grenades was scheduled for transport to Lebanon from Damascus, and on 12 August Damascus urgently requested an additional \$280,000 from Cairo to "cover commitments we incurred in Lebanon." During the period 9-21 July, the UAR supplied the Lebanese opposition with a total of \$93,850.

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Situation in Iraq

The UAR is building up pro-Nasir Iraqi Vice Premier Arif as a possible replacement for the more moderate nationalist Prime Minister Qasim, [redacted]. Although he has professed a desire for friendly relations with the United States, Arif recently completed a demagogic speech-making tour of the country in which he made numerous anti-Western statements and suggested that the West was implicated in the recent oil fire in Baghdad. His purpose may have been a bid for popular support for an army-directed regime. On 12 August Arif repeated these charges and appealed to Iraqis to ignore Western "poisonous propaganda." *ho*

Sympathetic to Baathist political teachings, Arif may be more inclined than Qasim to collaborate with Egypt and may have impressed Egyptian leaders with his forcefulness and pro-Nasir sympathies. Chief of Egyptian covert operations Kamal Rifaat is said personally to be assisting Arif. It is doubtful that the Egyptians are contemplating the immediate ouster of Qasim, more probably they are attempting to ensure themselves against the possibility that Qasim will follow a strong Iraqi nationalist line rather than a predominantly pan-Arab, pro-Nasir one. [redacted]

In line with Egypt's drive to exert influence over the new regime, Cairo officials have suggested that Baghdad dissolve all political parties, [redacted] Cairo suggested that the regime explain that the "Iraqi people are united in a single party." It was urged that all former party leaders should inform their adherents that they should have no party ties and work as a single party against "imperialist infiltration."

Pressure on Iraqi political leaders to relinquish their recently acquired freedom will not be gracefully accepted. These individuals, who were forced to carry on clandestinely under the Nuri regime, will probably attempt to continue their party activities and oppose any amalgamation into a monolithic political

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organization directed by the state. Extremist nationalist groups, such as the Baath and the National Democratic party, as well as the Communists are likely to be especially vigorous in opposing such a move.

The Baath, after its unsuccessful attempt to gain control of the Syrian political apparatus following union with Egypt, has viewed the Iraqi coup as an opportunity to build up a counterweight in Iraq which might in turn permit it to reassert its leadership in Syria. The abolition of political parties in Iraq would deal a heavy blow to these aspirations. [redacted]

The regime has apparently lost control, at least temporarily, over a portion of southern Iraq lying along the Iranian border where Shia Moslem tribal supporters of the monarchy have rebelled, [redacted] [redacted]. The tribal sheiks, who were the bulwark of the royal regime, are faced with losing their authority under the new order. Their rebellion may have been encouraged by Iran. [redacted]

**Opposition in Pakistan Intensifies Attacks on Pro-Western Foreign Policy**

Opposition elements in Pakistan apparently intend to take full advantage of growing popular dissatisfaction with the government's pro-Western orientation by stepping up their campaign for a more "independent" foreign policy. With national elections to be held in six months, Pakistan's cooperative relationship with the West may be used by both leftist and rightist groups as the major campaign issue. While there is no way of determining public opinion in Pakistan with accuracy, it seems likely that well over half of the population does not support the government's pro-Western policy.

The leftist National Awami party on 10 August opened a propaganda campaign in Karachi calling for abrogation of military pacts, close relations with the Arab nationalists, and immediate withdrawal of US and British troops from Lebanon and Jordan. The party had decided in July to launch a "massive" campaign on the foreign policy issue throughout East Pakistan, where sentiment in favor of neutralism is particularly strong.

The conservative Moslem League on 9 August formally called on the government to change its policy so as to cooperate with the Arab nationalist movement and oppose foreign "interference" in the Middle East. While party resolutions strike a compromise between the views of the pan-Islamic extremists and the Westernized moderate wing in the party, the Moslem League president continues vigorously to attack the West. *OK*

Pro-Western politicians who have defended US action in the Middle East during recent weeks, notably former Prime Minister Suhrawardy who made an election pact with President Mirza on 3 August, are likely to find it difficult to maintain this stand firmly if popular response to the opposition campaign continues to grow. The leader in East Pakistan of Suhrawardy's own Awami League, for example, has already embarrassed him by advocating a revision of Pakistan's foreign policy.

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Indonesia

A 35-man dissident raiding party on 10 August inflicted considerable damage to the Wingfoot Goodyear rubber estate located in North Sumatra, some 100 miles southeast of Medan. The dissidents fired a bazooka shell through the main office, destroyed the telephone exchange and six workers' homes, stole money, textiles, and vehicles, and killed four Indonesians. This is the third rebel action against Wingfoot, the largest rubber estate in Sumatra, comprising about 40,000 acres. The first occurred on 10 July when three employees were kidnaped but returned unharmed. The second one caused some property damage but no fatalities. Most of the estates which have been damaged in the dissidents' campaign to weaken Djakarta's economy were formerly Dutch-owned, but now are controlled by the Indonesian Government.

The central government has flown additional troops to Medan, probably to reinforce hard-pressed units south of the city. The fresh troops apparently have been drawn from Borneo and South Sumatra. The central government was also reported planning operations in an area of Central Sumatra just across the border from South Sumatra where the rebels here-tofore have moved with relative freedom.

Dissidents in North Celebes claim they have re-entered the town of Tondano, which fell to government troops in mid-July. Tondano, about 20 miles south of Menado, is one of the major population centers in North Celebes. OF

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Moroccan Istiqlal Party To Advise Government on  
Foreign Troop Issue

Istiqlal, which holds eight of the ten cabinet portfolios in Morocco, decided on 12 August to create a special commission to prepare proposals for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Morocco. Moderate leaders may predominate on this commission, but the latter almost certainly will propose the eventual evacuation of all foreign troops, including forces from the five American-operated bases and auxiliary installations.

While the moderates might personally favor a flexible position on the foreign troops issue, they are striving to retain their pre-eminent positions within the party. Facing a showdown with the dynamic, young, popular leaders of the left-wing faction at the party's congress next month, they can be expected to try to outbid the left-wing leadership on this issue. [redacted]

[redacted]

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