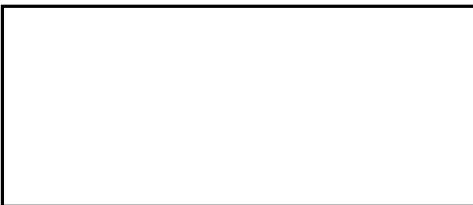


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5 June 1957

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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2. JORDAN'S ECONOMIC SITUATION SERIOUS

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[Redacted]

In recent discussions with US government officials, Jordan's deputy premier Samir Rifai and other cabinet ministers have stressed the seriousness of Jordan's economic plight. Even if an artificially balanced budget should ultimately be published by the government, a serious deficit appears inevitable.

Specific factors contributing to the deficit include reduced UN relief spending, a slump in tourism, and withdrawal of British forces, all with an accompanying increase in unemployment. The cost of maintaining adequate military and internal security forces under present circumstances has increased. Moreover, contributions of \$16,800,000 promised for this year by Egypt and Syria toward replacement of the former British subsidy to Jordan are not likely to be paid. These circumstances may cause a deficit of more than \$24,000,000 in a total budget of about \$80,000,000. [Redacted]

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4. FIRST SIGHTING OF SOVIET AERIAL REFUELING OPERATION

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[redacted] sighted two BISON jet heavy bombers engaged in aerial refueling practice using a probe and drogue refueling system. The two BISONS as well as other aircraft in the vicinity flew at altitudes of 500 to 1,000 feet, indicating that they were practicing for Soviet Air Force Day, 24 June.

The tanker BISON trailed a flexible hose about 40 feet long on the end of which was a cone-shaped attachment. The other BISON, which had a probe mounted on its nose, attempted to make connection with the refueling hose but was unsuccessful during the period of observation.

Comment

Previous unconfirmed reports have indicated the use of Soviet heavy bombers as tanker aircraft. This is the first reliable observation of a BISON in this role, but a probe-nosed BISON was sighted as early as July 1955 and others have since been observed in flight in the Moscow area and on the airfield at the Moscow/Fili factory where these aircraft are produced.

An article in the 26 May issue of Soviet Aviation stated that the forthcoming air show will feature a demonstration of aerial refueling as well as a flyby of "new combat and passenger aircraft."

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6. MAO TSE-TUNG REPORTEDLY TO VISIT WARSAW THIS SUMMER

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The US embassy in Warsaw has been informed

Mao Tse-tung will visit Poland at the end of June or the beginning of July. The Poles plan to give him an elaborate welcome.

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Comment

Mao Tse-tung has indicated that he will visit Moscow at some "convenient" time. He will probably include Warsaw and other East European capitals during such a trip.

Polish officials probably hope to use a visit by Mao to gain support from China for their course of greater independence from the Soviet Union. In his speech to the Polish central committee last month, Gomulka described Chinese doctrinal formulations as a unique contribution to Marxist thought.

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