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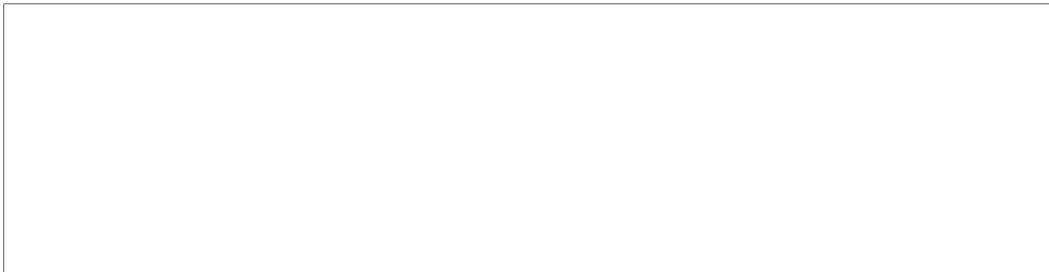
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2.

[REDACTED] CRISIS IN POLISH COMMUNIST
PARTY

[REDACTED]
The Polish United Workers (Communist) Party is in the midst of a serious internal crisis which has put the politburo on the defensive, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] a group of approximately 250 senior party officials is opposed to party policy on many issues. This group is [REDACTED] demanding greater freedom of the press and of internal party criticism, decentralization of the economy, and democratization of the party. [REDACTED]

Comment

The relaxation of police controls since the fall of Beria has apparently encouraged criticism of regime policies in several of the Satellites.

The Polish politburo appears to be attempting to meet some of the complaints by lessening restrictions on the press, by encouraging more criticism on the part of party members, and by cautious appeals to Polish nationalism such as the rehabilitation of prewar Communist leaders. These measures, although intended to mollify discontented party members, may actually encourage them to push for further concessions.

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3. CONSEQUENCES OF WESTPHALIAN GOVERNMENT CHANGE

[redacted] officials in Bonn consider that, although overthrow of the Christian Democratic state government of North Rhine-Westphalia deprives Chancellor Adenauer of his two-thirds majority in the national Bundesrat (upper house), federal defense legislation is unlikely to be jeopardized. They also believe that unless other state governments are overturned, the Free Democratic Party (FDP) is likely to remain in the Bonn coalition.

Comment

The Adenauer government is left with only 21 assured votes out of 38 in the Bundesrat, but the five votes of the Bavarian delegation, which would make a two-thirds majority, can probably be counted on in any foreign policy or rearmament issue. A two-thirds majority is necessary for passage of certain constitutional amendments affecting rearmament, but Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party has maintained that these amendments are not legally essential for the rearmament program.

The chancellor has said that his party's executive will consider, on 24 February, the question of retaining the FDP in the coalition. The decision will be strongly influenced by the fact that the FDP federal cabinet ministers have condemned the actions of their party in Westphalia and that there is strong opposition to the Westphalian right-wing group throughout the national FDP.

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4. SINGAPORE CHIEF MINISTER BELIEVED TO HAVE LOST ACTIVE BRITISH SUPPORT

[Redacted]

David Marshall, chief minister of Singapore, appears to have lost active British support, according to American officials in Singapore who have gained this impression from British and local sources. One British official stated recently that Marshall's behavior has become so erratic that

it is impossible to judge the basis of his decisions and movements. However, the British apparently are not trying to unseat the chief minister at this time.

Comment

Since he assumed office in April, Marshall has been kept almost continually off balance by the tactics of the Communist-manipulated People's Action Party. The political situation has been particularly fluid since November and opposition strength in the Singapore legislature is now equal to that of the government. Marshall's poor health and tenuous political position have reduced his effectiveness as chief minister. None of his prospective successors appears likely to provide vigorous anti-Communist leadership. The British would probably prefer a leading local Chinese as chief minister of Singapore in the event of Marshall's resignation.

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5. AMNESTY DEMAND FOR CYPRIOT TERRORISTS UNACCEPTABLE TO BRITAIN

[Redacted]

The British Foreign Office feels that yielding to Cypriot Archbishop Makarios' 2 February demand for full amnesty for all arrested persons

is out of the question while violence in Cyprus continues, according to the American embassy in London. Governor Harding, however, is unlikely to invoke the death penalty against any terrorists because of the recent British parliamentary vote against capital punishment.

London has indicated it would not object to having a Greek legislative majority under a new Cyprus constitution but cannot give a firm commitment before consulting Turkish and other Cypriots on means of protecting minority rights.

Although the Foreign Office is "depressed" over the talks and Harding has told Makarios that London may publish their correspondence at any time, the embassy believes that publication may be delayed to deny Makarios a pretext for accusing the British of rupturing the negotiations.

Comment

London is still prepared to persist in the effort for a settlement, but Makarios remains suspicious of British intentions and offers.

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6. BELGIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO VISIT PEIPING

The Belgian parliament has accepted an invitation from the Chinese Communist National People's Congress to send a parliamentary mission to visit Communist China next fall, according to Belgian foreign minister Spaak's personal secretary. Spaak reportedly made it clear to the Chinese deputy extending the invitation that while he saw some reasons for establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, Belgium had no intention of doing so, because of its friendship and alliance with the United States.

Spaak's secretary commented that parliamentary pressure for this visit was very great, that Spaak was willing to go along with the American policy of nonrecognition but still considered such contacts useful, and that pressures were perhaps heightened by Belgian interest in trade with Communist China.

Comment The success of a Belgian business mission to Communist China in securing an unprecedentedly large fertilizer contract earlier this month may have had an influence in the parliament's decision to accept the invitation.

The Chinese apparently want this visit to coincide with Communist China's national day in October, at which time the Chinese will probably use the presence of foreign visitors in their propaganda for recognition.

Spaak told American representatives last September that he felt the time had come for recognition of Communist China, but agreed to make no move in this direction without US acquiescence. Spaak was warned by his Socialist Party congress, however, that the party could not support his position indefinitely.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION

(Information as of 1700, 22 February)

[redacted]
[redacted] the Syrian government has opened a \$22,000,000 letter of credit through an Arab bank for Czech tanks, antitank guns and ammunition for both. This figure appears to be too high, either by mistake or as a Syrian plant intended to exaggerate the size of Syria's actual purchases.

[redacted] indicate that Damascus has contracted for military equipment from Czechoslovakia worth about \$6,500,000 including 15,000 submachine guns and 60 T-34 tanks complete with accessories, ammunition and replacement parts for three years. [redacted] Syrian interest in Czech armored vehicles, antiaircraft guns and antitank guns. Contracts for such equipment may be negotiated in the future. A large number of the submachine guns and some of the spare parts and accessories for the tanks have already been delivered to Syria.

[redacted] Israeli press comment on Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's public statement that Israel will postpone work on its Jordan water diversion project beyond 1 March has emphasized that this promised delay is conditional on an early return of Eric Johnston to the Near East. One usually well-informed paper has commented, "If Johnston arrives within two or three weeks, we will wait. But if he does not come, we will consider ourselves free to resume work." Ambassador Lawson notes that this press reaction is in line with Foreign Minister Sharett's statements to him.

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