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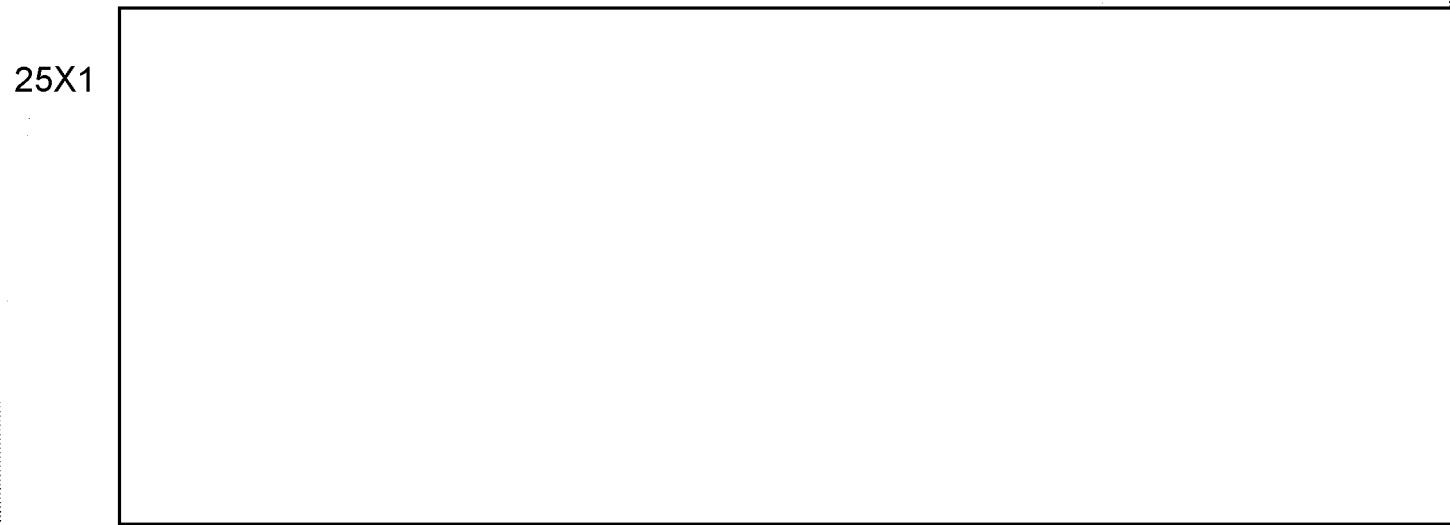
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Zanzibar: (The Communist-infiltrated Zanzibar Nationalist party (ZNP) is given an even chance of winning the 1 June Legislative Council elections, which are expected to mark a major) *OK*

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step toward independence of Britain's Zanzibar protectorate. Informed observers agree that the elections--a rerun of elections held last January in which none of the three contending parties won a majority of seats--are a tossup between the Arab-dominated ZNP and the moderate Afro-Shirazi party (ASP). If victorious, the ZNP, which has opposed the establishment on Zanzibar of an American consulate and the US Project Mercury tracking station, might harass the operations of both installations and press for their early withdrawal.

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Pro-Communist Party May Win Zanzibar Elections

(The Zanzibar Nationalist party (ZNP), led by Ali Muhsin and Abdul Rahman (Babu), its president and secretary general respectively, represents the economically dominant Arab community of about 45,000. Both leaders have visited Moscow and Peiping and have either countenanced or encouraged Sino-Soviet bloc infiltration of the party. Peiping has provided financial and organizational assistance to the ZNP, arranged free trips to the China mainland for high party officials, and assisted in preparing and disseminating propaganda. Soviet aid apparently has been limited to offers of scholarships to Lumumba University in Moscow through its embassy at Addis Ababa.)

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(The Afro-Shirazi party (ASP), poorly organized [redacted] claims to represent the protectorate's 225,000 African inhabitants, composed principally of Bantu immigrants from the mainland and descendants of the earliest inhabitants of the islands--the Shirazis, who trace their origin to Persia. The alliance of these two groups suffered a setback in December 1959 when a group of Shirazis--largely from the nearby island of Pemba--left the party to form the Zanzibar and Pemba People's party (ZPPP).)

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(The ASP won 10 of the 22 elective seats in the January elections, with nine seats going to the ZNP and three to the ZPPP. The latter, under pressure from each of the two major parties for support in forming a coalition government, split into two factions; one faction, including the two council members, supported the ZNP, while the other member headed a faction sympathetic to the ASP. A temporary solution to the resulting deadlock was reached when all parties agreed to serve under the civil secretary, acting as chief minister, for six months until new elections could be held. They also agreed to add a 23rd seat to the council in an effort to avoid another deadlock.)

(The ZPPP will probably again hold the balance of power. If Sheik Muhamed Shamte--president of the ZPPP and leader of the faction which supports the ZNP--is able to carry the few Pemba

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(constituencies, a ZNP victory will result. The fact that the ZPPP and the ZNP are not opposing each other in any of the 23 constituencies and their release in early May of a joint statement announcing their opposition to Zanzibar's participation in an East African federation strongly suggest a coordinated effort to defeat the ASP.)

(Following the elections, a new constitution for Zanzibar will be implemented. It provides for an elected majority in the legislative council and a native chief minister to preside over the executive council. London probably will seek to avoid naming a date for the protectorate's independence, however, hoping instead to include Zanzibar in an East African federation arrangement.)

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