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1. SOVIET REGIME REPORTEDLY SUSPENDS ANTI-STALIN DISCUSSION IN PARTY MEETINGS

The American embassy in Moscow has heard [redacted] that the central committee of the Communist Party has issued a letter calling a halt to discussion of Stalin in party meetings.

The embassy also reports that it has heard of one case in which a party group, taking too literally talk of party democracy at the 20th Congress, adopted a resolution calling for free elections and restoration of political power to the people. According to this unconfirmed report, signers of the resolution were expelled from the party but not arrested.

Ambassador Bohlen notes that the removal of Stalin pictures and statues has virtually stopped but that revision of Stalinist ideology continues in academic journals.

Comment In its anxiety to cut off excessive freedom of discussion, the regime earlier is reported to have disciplined four party members who had criticized the anti-Stalin campaign. On 5 April, Pravda published an editorial denouncing "slanderous statements" against party policy.

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2. BELGIANS PROPOSE CUT IN ARMY STRENGTH

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Belgian military leaders told a visiting **SHAPE** team on 28 May that total army strength would be reduced from about 108,000 at present to 89,600 by the end of this year and to 83,600 during the

period 1957-1960. In view of the expected decline until 1960 in the number of available conscripts, the government proposes to "reorganize two active divisions to a smaller size" and to eliminate two reserve divisions which are presently earmarked for NATO use. If the Belgians carry out this plan, it may further increase pressures in other NATO countries for cuts in their conventional armaments.

It is the preliminary view of American observers in Brussels that the Belgians are using the shortage of conscripts as an excuse for greater troop cuts than are really necessary.

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**3. TITO MAY RAISE GERMAN CONFEDERATION SCHEME
IN MOSCOW**

[redacted] West German

Social Democrat Herbert Wehner indicated that Marshal Tito had told him, before leaving for Moscow, that he intended to seek a solution to the problem of German unity on the basis of the "confederation" concept, which would involve acceptance of two autonomous German administrations.

[redacted] believes that Wehner visited Tito to persuade the latter to intervene in Moscow for the ouster of East German Communist chief Ulbricht as the necessary groundwork for East-West German talks on unification. Yugoslav leaders are supposed to have reacted favorably to this suggestion.

Comment

Wehner is a freewheeling left-wing Socialist whose ideas on reunification are much more radical than his party's. A confederation scheme which would leave the Communists in control of East Germany and not involve free elections is unlikely to find acceptance by the West German leadership, even if Ulbricht is removed.

On 24 May, Tito publicly called for discussions between East and West Germany on a basis "which would enable both the one and the other side to retain their individuality in a certain sense and on certain questions." Tito is therefore likely to broach the confederation idea during his Moscow talks.

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4. SPLIT REPORTED IN RUMANIAN PARTY HIERARCHY

[redacted] believes [redacted] that a group in the Rumanian politburo headed by party first secretary Gheorghiu-Dej and secretary Chisinevschi is holding out against far-reaching changes, maintaining that "Rumania has already instituted principles of the 20th Soviet Party Congress and there is no need to go further." First Vice Premier Bodnaras is heading a group which is reportedly awaiting a chance to seize power.

[redacted] concludes that Gheorghiu-Dej is likely to win out at the cost of limited concessions such as the sacrifice of the Stalinist Chisinevschi and that the principles of the Soviet Party Congress are likely to be enacted gradually and smoothly.

Comment Soviet Party Congress directives apparently have caused confusion in the Rumanian party hierarchy, but there is little evidence of major factionalism of the type prevalent in Hungary and Poland. Although reportedly in personal conflict with Bodnaras, Gheorghiu-Dej apparently has retained his position of control without major difficulties. Chisinevschi, on the other hand, may be slated for removal because of the party's reported condemnation of his alleged insistence on fitting Rumanian culture into the Russian mold.

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5. COMMUNIST AID TO CAMBODIA EMPHASIZES GRASS ROOTS CONTACTS

Chinese Communist and Polish economic assistance funds pledged to Cambodia for 1956 and 1957 amount to \$40,000,000 and are to be supervised by 112 Chinese and 22 Polish technicians.

Concentration on such popular projects as public housing, electrification, water supply and education from primary through university levels indicates a far-reaching plan to develop grass roots contacts.

Emphasis will be on rural improvement programs, with 70 of the Chinese technicians scheduled to work on irrigation projects in village centers. In addition, approximately \$8,000,000 is reserved for development of rural trails which will facilitate contact among presently isolated Chinese communities in the area.

Comment The Cambodian government has all but ratified Peiping's offer of over \$22,000,000 in "unconditional" aid, and Crown Prince Sihanouk is in Warsaw presumably exploring details of preferred Polish assistance. Sihanouk has also mentioned the possibility of receiving economic aid from the USSR and plans to visit Moscow during his present European trip.

The prospect of widespread Communist contacts with the Cambodian populace, which includes 250,000 Chinese, is reportedly provoking increasing opposition to Sihanouk's policies on the part of several government leaders.
(Concurred in by ORR)

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 5 June)

Egypt has protested to the Mixed Armistice Commission that two Israeli jets violated Egyptian air space over the Gaza strip on 4 June. (Press)

Prior to final approval of the Western-sponsored resolution on the Middle East by the Security Council, Israeli foreign minister Sharett in a strong statement to Ambassador Lawson in Tel Aviv urged the West to stand firm and retain the phrasing in the resolution concerning a peaceful settlement "on a mutually acceptable basis." Sharett said that to do otherwise would mark a complete surrender to the Arabs, would create a very bad impression in Israel and reluctance to rely on the United Nations and the secretary general's mission. The phrase, however, which had been included in both the Soviet statement on the Middle East of 17 April and in the Soviet-British communiqué on the London talks, was hotly protested by the Arab states and was deleted from the final resolution. The Arabs attacked the phrase on the grounds that it would upset all the United Nations decisions made since 1947 and would compel the Arabs to recognize present Israeli borders.

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