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1 April 1959

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CENTRAL

INTELLIGENCE

BULLETIN

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1 APRIL 1959

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

GMAIC comments on 30 March Soviet ICBM firing.

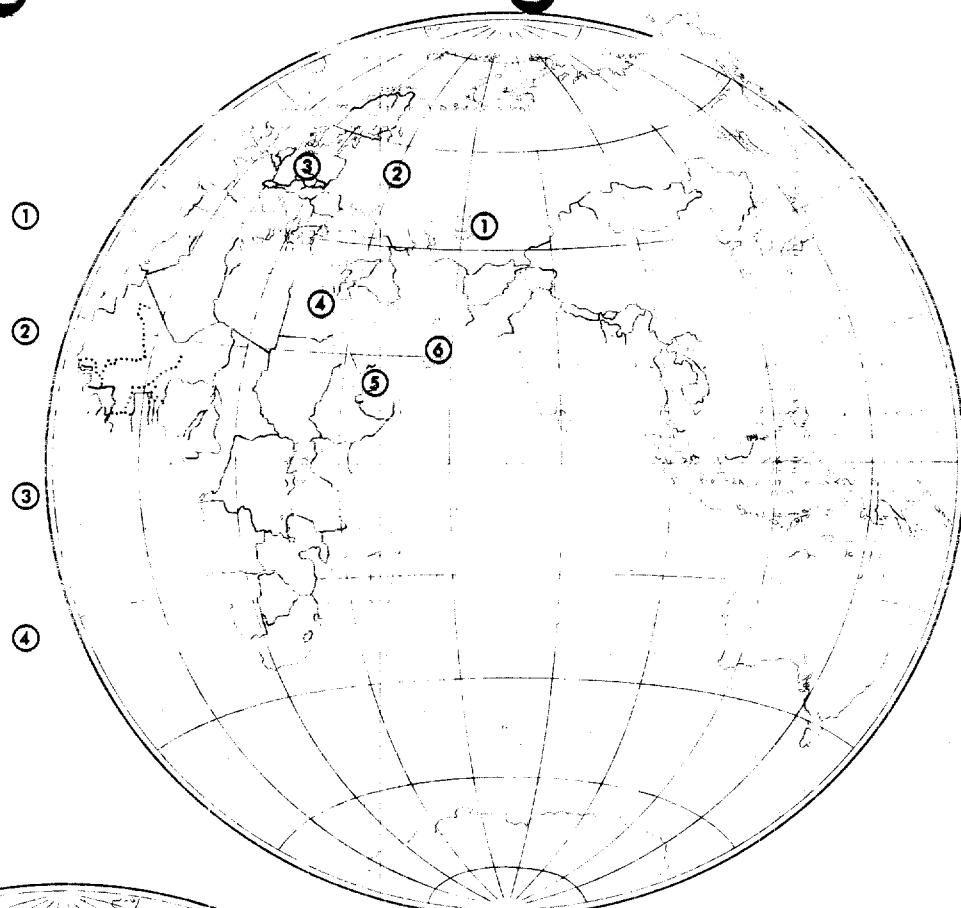
[Redacted]

Khrushchev states privately that USSR intends no unilateral action on Berlin before a summit meeting.

USSR warns that any future incidents such as the 27 March high-altitude flight in Berlin air corridor will make US "completely responsible" for "undesirable consequences!"

Bloc officials urging Cairo to moderate anti-Communist campaign.
 (SECRET) Soviet deliveries of military equipment to UAR continue.

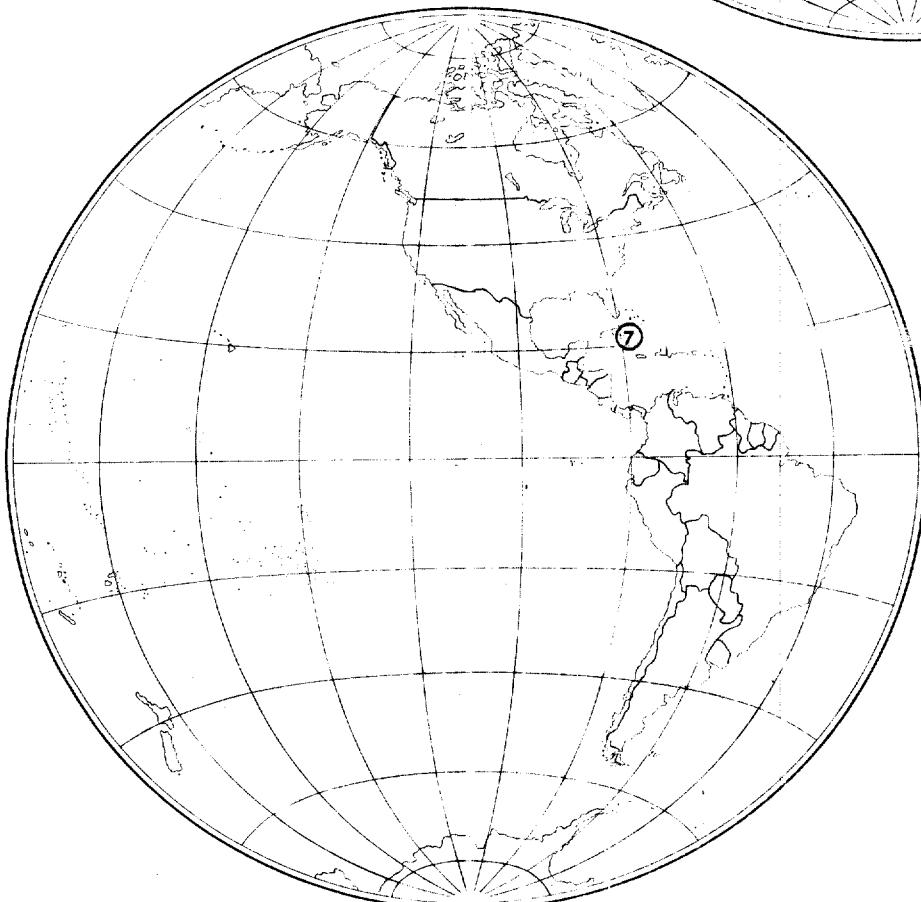
[Redacted]



II. ASIA-AFRICA

⑤ Yemeni official says Nasir's anti-Communist campaign has produced "unanimous" reaction against USSR and Qasim in Yemen.

⑥ [Redacted]



III. THE WEST

⑦ Costa Rican President Figueres expects serious political deterioration in Cuba and expresses alarm at extent of Communist influence there.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

1 April 1959

DAILY BRIEF

SIRAB

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

HQ
USSR: The Guided Missile and Astronautics Intelligence Committee issued on 31 March the following statement concerning the most recent Soviet ICBM launching:

At about 1800 EST, 30 March 1959, the USSR launched another probable ICBM test vehicle, which failed in flight. Unlike the successful ICBM test firing on 25 March, this countdown was very smooth with no delays. There is very firm data from ELINT and COMINT that this vehicle fell far short of the Kamchatka Peninsula--perhaps half way.

This is the third known in-flight failure out of eleven test ICBM launchings.

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Berlin air corridor: A Soviet communication protesting the high-altitude flight of a US C-130 aircraft between Frankfurt and Berlin on 27 March warns that any future incidents of this type could result in "undesirable consequences" for which the US would be "completely responsible." The USSR claims the altitude at which the plane was flying violated the regulations pertaining to guarantees of safety for flights in the corridors which were worked out in the course of many years of "practical experience." The Western position is that there is no ceiling in the Berlin air corridor.

OK
USSR-Berlin: Khrushchev told West German Social Democratic leader Carlo Schmid in mid-March that nothing would happen regarding Berlin before a summit meeting,

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[redacted] This is the most specific Soviet statement to date that the USSR does not intend to take unilateral action on Berlin before high-level East-West talks. The Soviet leaders will probably continue to avoid such specific statements in their public pronouncements, which are designed to maintain the threat of a sudden unilateral move as a means of bringing increasing pressure on the West. Khrushchev also told Schmid that the USSR will drop an "impregnable iron curtain" around Berlin if the United States moves even a single division toward the city.) [redacted]

(N) Soviet-UAR relations: (The Chinese Communist ambassador in Cairo has been urging UAR officials to slacken their anti-Communist campaign and restore good relations with the bloc,

Soviet Ambassador Kiselev is returning immediately to Cairo, apparently with instructions to do everything possible to persuade Nasir to halt his attacks. [redacted] Moscow is continuing to deliver military equipment to the UAR, despite the fears of some UAR officials that economic and military aid may be disrupted.)

(Page 1)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

No Yemen: Nasir's anti-Communist campaign has produced a "unanimous" reaction against the USSR and Qasim in Yemen, according to the Yemeni deputy foreign minister. Soviet personnel in Yemen have been insulted on the streets, and three Russian pilots were stoned by children in the capital. The Yemeni official also claimed that the Imam is attempting to limit the activities of both the Russians and the Communist Chinese in Yemen. (CONFIDENTIAL) [redacted]

Saudi Arabia: (

[redacted] the Saudis are readying stocks of arms, ammunition, and vehicles which have had all markings removed. In) [redacted]

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the past such preparations have related to supply of the Omani rebels whose leaders have recently taken refuge in Saudi Arabia. These arms may be intended to support renewed dissidence in Oman. The Saudis may also be planning to support tribal enemies of the British-protected Sheik of Abu Dhabi, whose forces have occupied Saudi-claimed territory at the base of the Qatar Peninsula.)

(Page 2) (Map)

III. THE WEST

OK

Cuba: The extent of Communist influence in Cuba was impressed on former Costa Rican President Figueres during his visit there last week. Figueres now definitely regards Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro as an opponent of the leftist non-Communist Latin American revolutionary movement represented by himself and Venezuelan President Betancourt. He expects serious political deterioration in Cuba, after which "anything can happen," including Communist domination.

(SECRET) (Page 3)

IV. CONCLUSIONS OF SPECIAL USIB COMMITTEE ON BERLIN SITUATION

No

The USIB has taken note of the following conclusions reached by its special committee on the Berlin situation. The committee pointed out that its conclusions were to be used in context with SNIE 100-2-59 (24 February 1959) and with the review of that estimate in SNIE 100-2/1-59 (17 March 1959):

1. The USSR will not turn over access controls to the GDR in the near future. However, the physical transfer of access controls could be accomplished with little or no advance warning.

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2. Soviet acceptance of a foreign ministers' meeting conforms with continuing indications of Soviet emphasis on negotiations.

3. There are no reliable indications of a bloc intent in the near future to harass or blockade Allied or West German access to West Berlin, or to seal off West Berlin from the East. However, the USSR could take such actions with little or no warning.

4. De Gaulle's indirect reference to preserving the Oder-Neisse line, in his press conference of 25 March, may have been interpreted by the USSR as a clear indication that the West envisages this concession.

5. The situation in West Berlin remains basically unchanged. The general level of economic activity continues not far below pre-crisis levels, although orders for heavy industry have shown a decline. [redacted]

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Communist Bloc Relations With UAR

Communist bloc diplomats are continuing efforts to smooth over differences with UAR President Nasir and tone down the dispute between the UAR and Iraq. Nevertheless, on 30 March Nasir broke his week-long silence and again strongly criticized the USSR for its interference in Arab affairs. The Soviet press and radio have in the past been unwilling to let Nasir's public charges go unanswered.

(The Chinese Communist ambassador in Cairo is urging UAR officials to slacken their anti-Communist campaign and restore good relations with the bloc, [redacted])

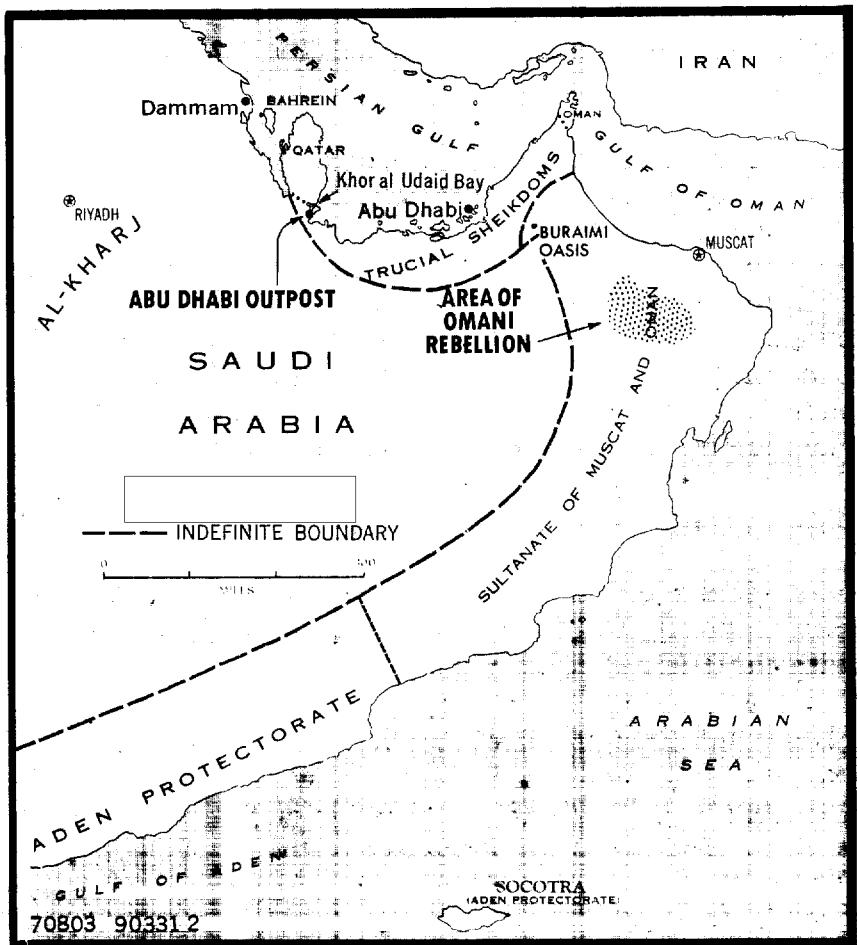
[redacted] Peiping's vice foreign minister may have made similar representations during his recent visit to Cairo. Peiping has taken much the same propaganda position toward Nasir as has Moscow, although its press attacks have been less frequent and no Chinese leader has publicly criticized the UAR.)

(Soviet Ambassador Kiselev is returning immediately to Cairo, reportedly with instructions to do everything possible to persuade Nasir to halt his attacks. The Soviet ambassador in Baghdad recently urged Premier Qasim not to intensify his quarrel with the UAR.

There has been no indication thus far that the USSR is deliberately delaying military or other deliveries to the UAR, [redacted]

[redacted] A Soviet vessel is apparently on its way to Alexandria with some of the military equipment in question. [redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Saudi Arabia Preparing Clandestine Arms Shipment

(the Saudi Government is preparing stocks of arms, ammunition, and vehicles from which all markings have been removed. The concern to prevent the weapons being traced to the Saudi Government suggests that the materiel is destined for outside the country.)

On 29 March, the Directorate of Ordnance in Riyadh instructed the al-Kharj ordnance depot to ship unmarked arms and ammunition to the Persian Gulf port of Dammam. Thirty-caliber American ammunition, from Tabuk in northwest Saudi Arabia, was also to be forwarded.

the Saudis have removed the American pilots from the Saudi Airlines aircraft which are hauling the ammunition from Tabuk.

(Similar preparations in the past have related to supply of the Omani rebels. The Omani rebel leaders have recently taken refuge in eastern Saudi Arabia as a result of successful British military operations against the rebels' mountain stronghold. The Saudis may intend at this time to support a new Omani rebel effort against the British-backed Sultan of Muscat when British troops are withdrawn in April. It is also possible that the Saudis plan to support tribal enemies of the British-protected Sheik of Abu Dhabi, whose forces have occupied Saudi-claimed territory on Khor al-Udai Bay at the base of the Qatar Peninsula. A Saudi-inspired attempt to remove the Abu Dhabi outpost on Khor al-Udai Bay may be contemplated. Ownership of the Khor al-Udai area may have a bearing on the legal ownership of parts of the offshore oil field now being developed under an offshore concession granted by the Sheik of Abu Dhabi.)

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III. THE WEST

Communists Making Headway in Cuba

Former Costa Rican President José Figueres was impressed with the extent of Communist influence in Cuba during his visit there last week. He and his close associate, Gonzalo Facio, returned convinced that the Communists are influential, not only in the Cuban Army and in organized labor, but also in circles close to Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

Figueres now definitely regards Castro as an opponent of the leftist non-Communist Latin American revolutionary movement represented by himself and Venezuelan President Betancourt. He expects serious political deterioration in Cuba, after which "anything can happen," including Communist domination. He strongly suspects that there is a nucleus of dedicated Communists in Cuba trying to create a "Hungary in reverse" requiring US armed intervention. This would entail considerable bloodshed and have world-wide repercussions favoring the Communists, he fears.

Figueres' observations were apparently confined to the Havana area. In Oriente Province, where the Communists appear to exert their greatest influence, a group of citizens has found it advisable to disband its anti-Communist civic committee since anti-Communists are being equated with counter-revolutionaries, who are considered close to being traitors in Cuba today. In Oriente, Communists are prominent among the teachers being recruited for the violently anti-US political indoctrination schools which the government is establishing to teach the illiterate rural masses. The schools are expected to be extended to the rest of the island. [redacted]

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Special Assistant for National Security Affairs

Scientific Adviser to the President

Director of the Budget

Office of Defense and Civilian Mobilization

Special Assistant for Security Operations Coordination

Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities

Special Assistant for Foreign Economic Policy

Executive Secretary, National Security Council

The Treasury Department

The Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of State

The Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State

The Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary for Administration

The Counselor

Director, International Cooperation Administration

The Director of Intelligence and Research

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs

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Commandant, United States Marine Corps

The Director, The Joint Staff

Chief of Staff, United States Army

Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

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Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff

Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army

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