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7 January 1959

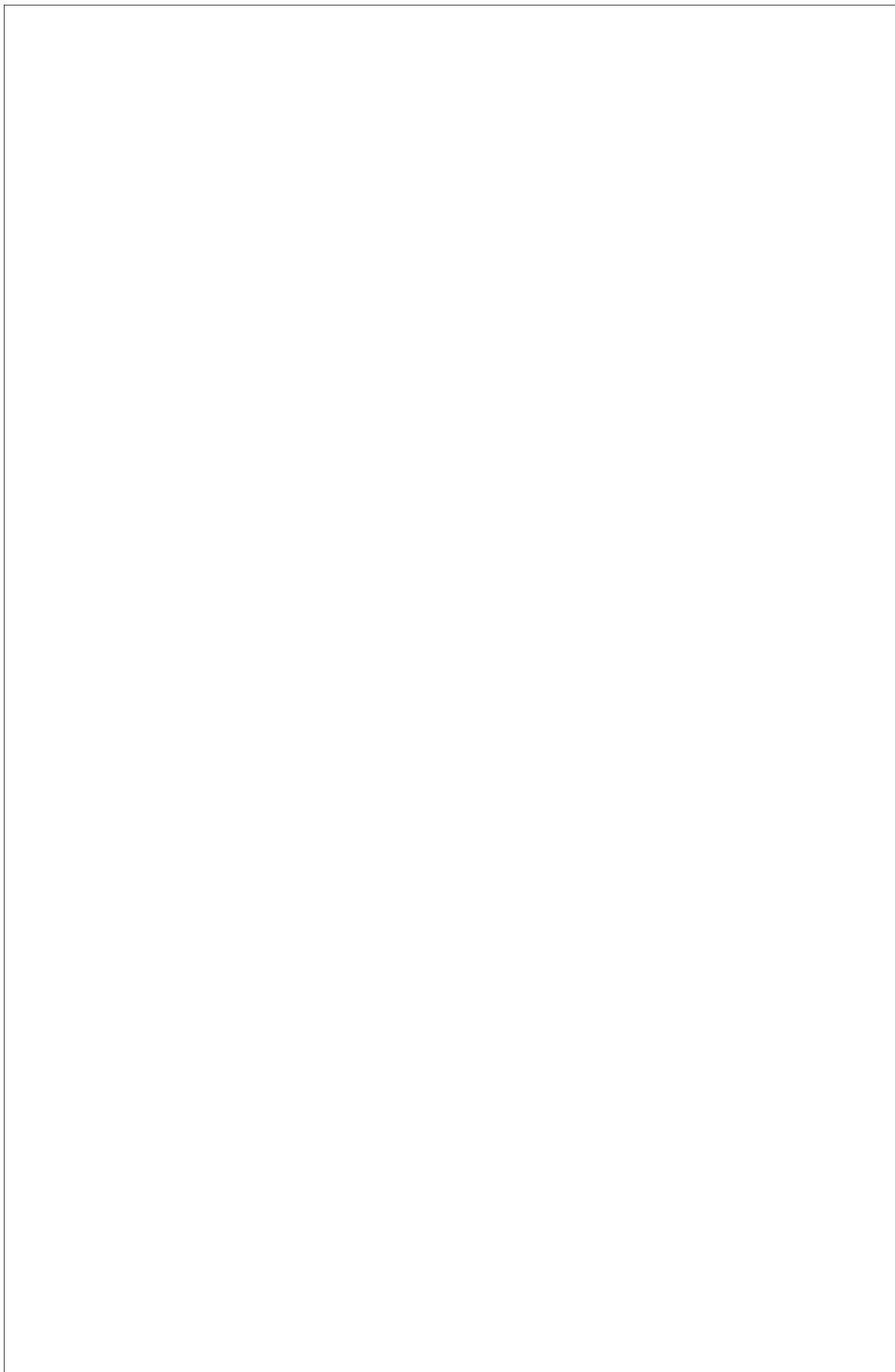
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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7 JANUARY 1959

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

New USSR delegation in Baghdad may offer Iraq economic aid.

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Iraq creates a fifth army division; Qasim promoted.

Belgian Congo - Leopoldville three-day riot is sign of rising nationalism, racial tension.

Thai general reports on Thai and South Vietnamese plans to overthrow Cambodian premier.

Japan - Some of Kishi's principal followers wavering in party's factional strife.

III. THE WEST

Cuba - Urrutia expands cabinet, plans rule by decree but promises elections in 18-24 months.

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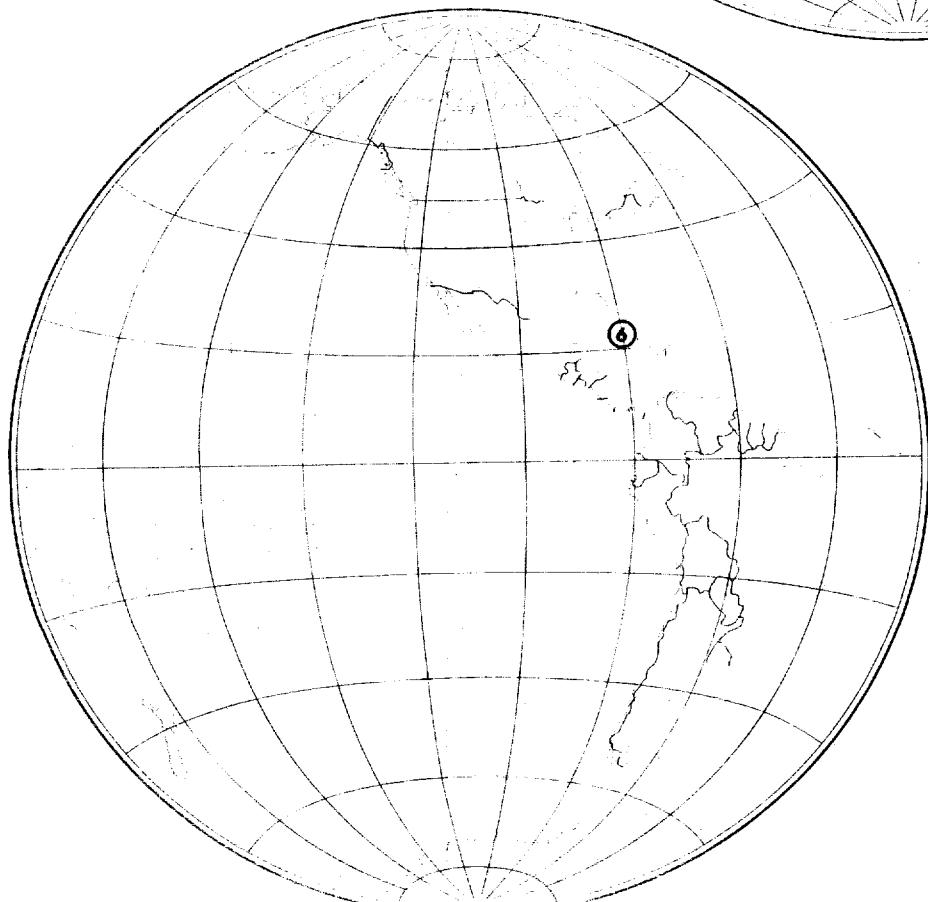
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

7 January 1959

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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USSR-Iraq: A delegation of Soviet experts has arrived in Baghdad to discuss Soviet-Iraqi economic and technical cooperation. Most members of the Sino-Soviet bloc have already concluded trade agreements with Iraq, and the Soviet Union has in addition previously concluded a \$170,000,-000 arms deal with Baghdad. [redacted] (Page 1)

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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*Iraq: In his Army Day speech Prime Minister Qasim attempted to pacify all factions and appealed for their co-operation with the regime. He professed a policy of "non-alignment with either the Eastern or Western camp." A new army division is to be activated in Iraq in addition to the four existing divisions, and Qasim has had himself promoted from brigadier to major general. [redacted] TIAL)

[redacted] the new division will be composed of "surplus" units and part of the former royal guard, will be equipped with Soviet bloc weapons, and will be commanded by an officer noted for his complete subservience to Qasim. The move apparently is an effort by Qasim to assure himself of military support in the face of the uncertain attitude of present divisional commanders.

[redacted]

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Belgian Congo: The rioting at Leopoldville, which entered its third day on 6 January, springs largely from the Congo's underlying racial tensions and growing African nationalism. Some 20,000 Africans are estimated to have participated. The new policy toward dependent areas which Belgium plans to make public on 13 January may temporarily ease the present explosive situation, but is not likely to satisfy independence-seeking African nationalists.

(Page 2) (Map)

Cambodia: The Cambodian ambassador in Peiping has accused the United States of responsibility for Thailand's belligerency toward Cambodia. Acting on instructions, he made the charge in a conversation with the Burmese ambassador. Burma, which is representing Thai interests in Cambodia, has recalled its envoy in Phnom Penh for consultation. intensified plotting by Vietnamese and Thai authorities to organize and abet Cambodian elements seeking to overthrow the Sihanouk regime.

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General Prapat, a top-ranking Thai military figure, claims he has assumed full control of Thai and South Vietnamese efforts to overthrow Sihanouk and is laying extensive plans to this end. Prapat apparently intends to utilize several disaffected Cambodian political and military leaders, including the army chief of staff, in a psychological warfare campaign against Sihanouk culminating in a coup. At this point, Prapat plans to send into Cambodia upwards of 2,000 armed dissident Cambodians now in Thailand and South Vietnam who would be joined by other dissatisfied military elements now on the scene. He expects Dap Chhoun, a warlord in western Cambodia, to throw in his lot with the invaders.

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Japan: Two of Prime Minister Kishi's principal followers appear to be wavering in their support for him. If they join the factions which oppose Kishi within the ruling Liberal-Democratic party, the dissidents will have sufficient strength to oust the prime minister if agreement on a successor can be reached. Kishi has decided on a cabinet and party reshuffle about 10 January in an attempt to restore party balance and maintain his position, but Ambassador MacArthur believes that even if he is successful in such a move, Kishi's prospects for surviving as prime minister "for an extended period of time do not look favorable." (Page 4)

III. THE WEST

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Cuba: Provisional President Manuel Urrutia has announced additional appointments to his cabinet, including Prime Minister Jose Miro Cardona, a widely known and highly respected former dean of the Havana Bar Association. As a gesture of "national unity," some cabinet positions will be offered to non-Castro groups which opposed Batista. Urrutia has also announced that he will dissolve Congress and the criminal courts, and rule by decree until general elections are held in 18 to 24 months. Several countries have already recognized the new government, and others have indicated they intend to follow suit. (Page 5)

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

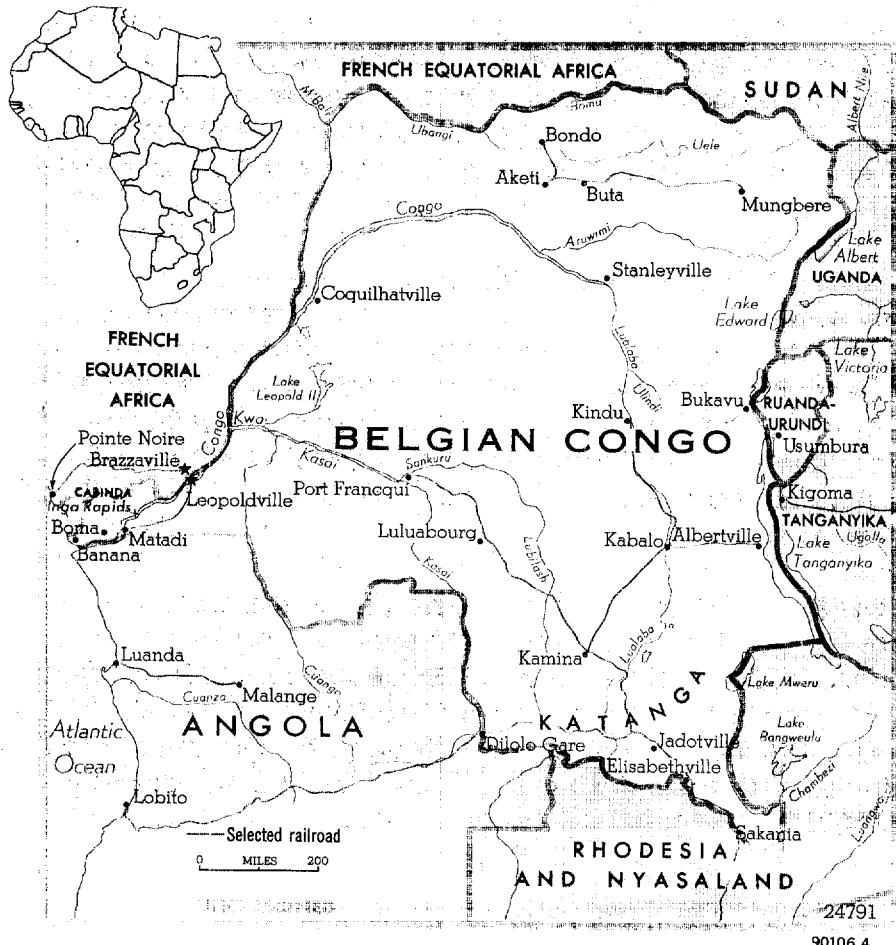
Soviet Economic Aid to Iraq

A delegation of Soviet experts has arrived in Baghdad, according to a TASS report of 6 January, to discuss Soviet-Iraqi economic and technical cooperation with officials of the Iraqi Government. TASS did not specify what authority the delegation has to commit the Soviet Union to providing economic aid to Iraq, but the delegation is likely to offer at least economic assistance, probably in the form of a line of credit.

Since the formation of the new Iraqi Government, the bloc has made a concentrated effort to develop economic as well as political relations with Baghdad to underscore the bloc's endorsement of the new regime. Most of the members of the Sino-Soviet bloc have signed trade agreements with Iraq. The Soviet Union has already concluded a \$170,000,-000 arms deal and has delivered three shiploads of military equipment to Iraq.

While the articles of the Soviet-Iraqi trade agreement concluded on 11 November reportedly provide for "close cooperation between the two countries in various fields," they do not provide for an extension of Soviet credits. Soviet Ambassador Zaytsev, however, has stated publicly that the Soviet Union is willing to provide technical assistance.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Riots in the Belgian Congo

Rioting at Leopoldville, capital city of the Belgian Congo, entered its third day on 6 January. This development is symptomatic of the Congo's underlying racial tensions and growing African nationalism. Unemployment, which may total 50,000 among the city's African population, is also a contributing cause. The Congo has been considered a quiet, well administered colony, but there have been increasing signs of nationalism. Africans have shown a growing assertiveness in speeches and publications, and there has been increasing African agitation in the mineral-rich Katanga area.

[The rioting began after police acted to break up an African political meeting. It quickly developed into mob attacks by some 20,000 Africans on Europeans and private property. There were over 100 African and European casualties, including at least 30 African deaths. The Belgian authorities declared a state of emergency, reinforced security forces to a strength of 5,000 men, and flew in paratroopers. The European-led African troops remained loyal.]

The present explosive situation is likely to persist to at least 13 January when Brussels plans to make public a new policy statement regarding dependent areas. This new policy, however, will probably not satisfy the independence-seeking African nationalists, and there may be further disorders in the future. [redacted]

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Coup Plotting Against Cambodian Premier Intensified

[There is increasing evidence of intensified plotting on the part of Thai and South Vietnamese authorities to bring about the removal of Cambodia's Premier Sihanouk. General Prapat, a top-ranking Thai military figure,

[has just concluded an intensive week-long series of planning conferences with Ngo Trong Hieu, chief South Vietnamese representative in Phnom Penh, and Sam Sary, a former high-level Cambodian government official.]

[Prapat, who claims he is in full control of the coup plotting, apparently intends to begin his anti-Sihanouk campaign by infiltrating Sam Sary into Cambodia to begin a propaganda campaign against Sihanouk and organize political opposition. This would be followed by a coup against the Cambodian premier with the help of Lon Nol, chief of staff of the Cambodian Army.]

[At this point, dissident Cambodian military elements now in neighboring Thailand would be ordered to march into Cambodia. Prapat claims that renegade former premier Son Ngoc Thanh and a group of 2,000 men are near the Cambodian border and will be armed and outfitted for this purpose, preferably with American assistance. Prapat appears determined, however, to proceed with this scheme regardless of external help. South Vietnam, which would provide "communications," may also send into Cambodia a battalion of Cambodian veterans now in South Vietnam, and Prapat feels certain that Dap Chhuon, a western Cambodian warlord with several thousand troops under his command, would automatically join forces with the invaders.]

[The determination of the Thai and Vietnamese plotters is evidenced by Prapat's assertion that, although plans may not yet be definitive, "the one thing they are sure of is that Sihanouk must be overthrown now."] []

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Kishi's Tenure as Prime Minister in Doubt

Two of the four major political supporters around whom Japanese Prime Minister Kishi has established his government appear to be wavering in their support. Liberal-Democratic party vice president Bamboku Ono and Finance Minister Eisaku Sato, Kishi's brother, are questioning the prime minister's ability to survive recent serious political blunders which already have weakened his government.

If they decide to join Kishi's opponents within the party, the dissidents will be strong enough to force Kishi out of office. Ono has allegedly informed dissident leader Hayato Ikeda that the end of Kishi's regime is in sight and promised his cooperation in the event Ikeda seeks the party presidency and the prime ministership. Thus far, however, opposition leaders have not agreed on a candidate to challenge Kishi, whose term as party president expires in March.

Kishi has decided on a major cabinet and party reshuffle for about 10 January in an attempt to restore party balance, to maintain his own position, and to satisfy the dissident demands for more power. Six executives of his party plan to resign in order to aid him in this plan.

Success in this effort would give Kishi a new lease on life politically, but Ambassador MacArthur believes that party factionalism will become an even more difficult problem and that Kishi's prospects for retaining the premiership "for any extended period do not look favorable."

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III. THE WEST

The Situation in Cuba

Cuban Provisional President Urrutia has announced additional appointments to his cabinet which strengthen his government and may improve the prospects for political stability. Foremost among the new appointees is Prime Minister Jose Miro Cardona. An internationally known lawyer, Miro became dean of the Havana Bar Association in 1952. Beginning in 1955 he became identified with groups which attempted to bring a peaceful solution to Cuba's political problems, but in mid-1958 he turned anti-Batista and left the country. At the meeting of Cuban opposition groups in Caracas in late July 1958, Miro was chosen head of the "civic revolutionary front," which joined the signatory groups in a concerted effort against Batista and recognized Urrutia as 'provisional president-in-arms.'

Urrutia has indicated that some cabinet positions will be offered to followers of former President Carlos Prio Socarras and to members of the Revolutionary Directorate. Such a gesture of "national unity" would be intended to forestall any further demonstrations of disunity such as occurred on 5 January when members of the Revolutionary Directorate temporarily prevented Urrutia from entering the presidential palace.

Urrutia has announced that general elections will be held within 18 to 24 months. Until then, the government will rule by decree since Congress has been dissolved.

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Executive Offices of the White House

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

Special Adviser to the President

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

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Chairman, The Joint Chiefs of Staff

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

Assistant to Secretary of Defense for Special Operations

Director for Intelligence, The Joint Staff

Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army

Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of the Navy

Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Department of the Air Force

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

The Department of the Interior

The Secretary of the Interior

Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Director

Atomic Energy Commission

The Chairman

National Security Agency

The Director

National Indications Center

The Director

United States Information Agency

The Director

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