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14 May 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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14 MAY 1958

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

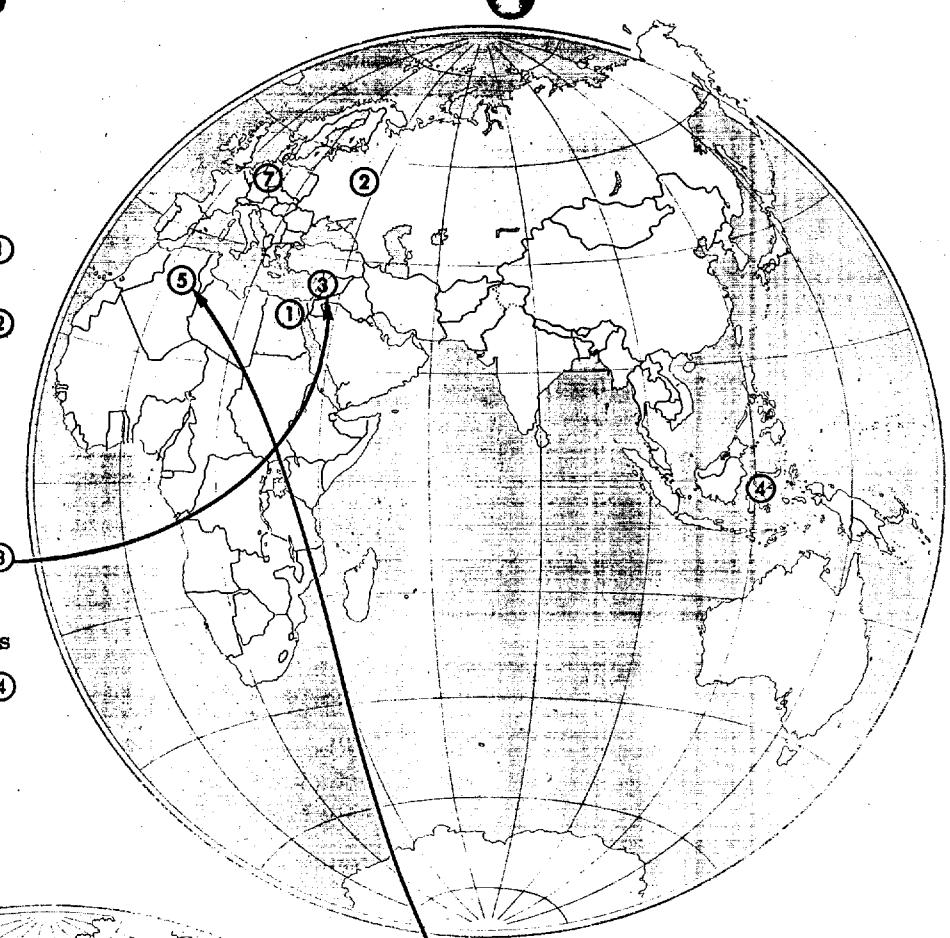
Soviet diplomats in Cairo inducing African students to study in the USSR. ①

Nasir's visit to the USSR will end with joint communique on 15 May. ②

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Lebanon - Disorders and political maneuvering continue; strain on army's loyalty and endurance may lead Chamoun to ask Western military support. ③

Indonesia - Central government orders speed-up in revised plans for operations against dissidents in North Celebes. ④

**III. THE WEST**

⑤ French military defiance of civilian authority in Algiers complicates Pflimlin's task; more extremist outbursts possible.

⑥ Venezuela - Riots during Vice-President Nixon's visit planned by Communists, led mainly by students.

⑦ West German military electronics program evidently aimed at creation of German modern weapons system.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

14 May 1958

DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

yes

USSR-Africa: The USSR is intensifying its drive to persuade African students to accept trips and scholarships in the Soviet Union. Soviet Embassy officials in Cairo are actively pressing these offers, and at least 50 African students have apparently left for Moscow during the last eight months. [redacted] (Page 1)

No

***Nasir's trip to the USSR:** Nasir will leave Moscow late on 15 May rather than on 16 May as originally scheduled. [redacted]

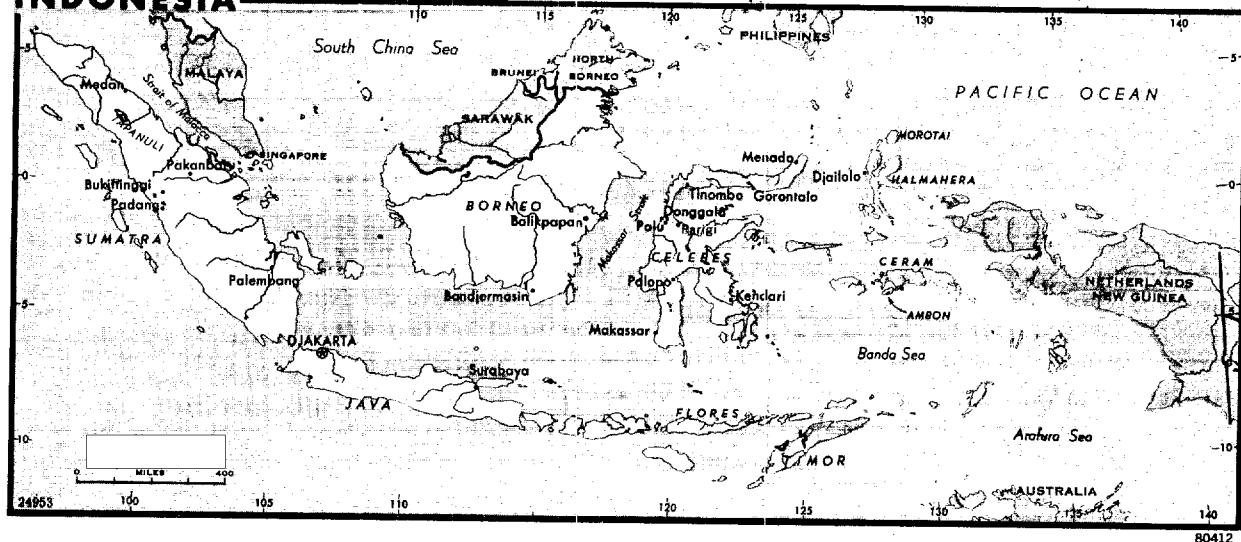
His visit will be climaxed on 14 and 15 May by a round of speeches and a joint communiqué. Nasir returned to Moscow one day early on 12 May after cancelling a visit to Sverdlovsk. The additional day may have been devoted to top level discussions of the Middle East situation. [redacted]

II. ASIA-AFRICA

No

***Lebanon:** The army continues to hold the upper hand in Beirut and other major urban centers, but the security situation in the countryside has deteriorated further. Army commander General Shihab fears that opposition elements, abetted by infiltrators from Syria, may soon attempt to move on Beirut from outlying areas. President Chamoun may, in the light of Shihab's assessment that the army's

INDONESIA-



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loyalty and endurance are being strained by continuing disorders, ask for military support on 24 hour's notice from the United States, Britain, and France. Meanwhile, Chamoun, his supporters, and some of the moderate opposition elements are engaged in intensive political maneuvering.

(Page 2) (Map)

No

*Indonesia: Army chief of staff Nasution stated [redacted] the timetable for operations against the North Celebes dissidents, with Menado as the ultimate objective, would be speeded up. He ordered the detachment [redacted] to set sail immediately from Balikpapan in Borneo to carry out an undisclosed assignment. Nasution apparently was activating a revised plan calling for more dispersal of his forces and operations at night. His original plan, which involved concentrated attacks along the northern coast and possibly a major landing at Gorontalo, was revised because of dissident air attacks in East Indonesia.

Other government troops are reported en route to recapture Morotai and Djailolo, with attacks scheduled for 17-19 May, according to a Djakarta source. Meanwhile, dissident troops that landed in the Toboli area on 10 May are reliably reported to have advanced halfway from that town to Palu.

(Map)

III. THE WEST

yes

*France-North Africa: The hurried investiture of Pflimlin as premier has temporarily blocked efforts by extremists in Algiers and Paris to force the National Assembly to accept their demands for an all-out war in Algeria to be led by rightists. The new government has taken immediate security measures including a round-up of rightists in Paris, but the possibility of further outbursts in Paris and Algiers cannot be ruled out. In any case, the flouting of civilian authority by the French

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DAILY BRIEF

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military in Algiers--the latest manifestation of the army's dissatisfaction with the politicians in Paris--will make Pflimlin's task of reasserting control extremely difficult.

[redacted] the rebels were not planning any military action to exploit the present situation. In Morocco and Tunisia, the likelihood of incidents involving French troops and civilians has probably been increased.

(Page 4)

yes

*Venezuela: The widespread rioting in Caracas on the occasion of Vice-President Nixon's visit on 13 May was apparently carefully planned by Communists. The rioting was led mainly by students, and gained popular support from those Venezuelans who resent the fact that former dictator Perez Jimenez and his security chief are now living in exile in the United States.

(Page 5)

yes

West Germany: The Bonn government is extending considerable support to a military electronics research and development program, particularly missile guidance and radar systems. This program seems aimed at the creation of a modern weapons system of German origin. The West Germans have the capability for making important advances in military electronics systems in the near future.

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

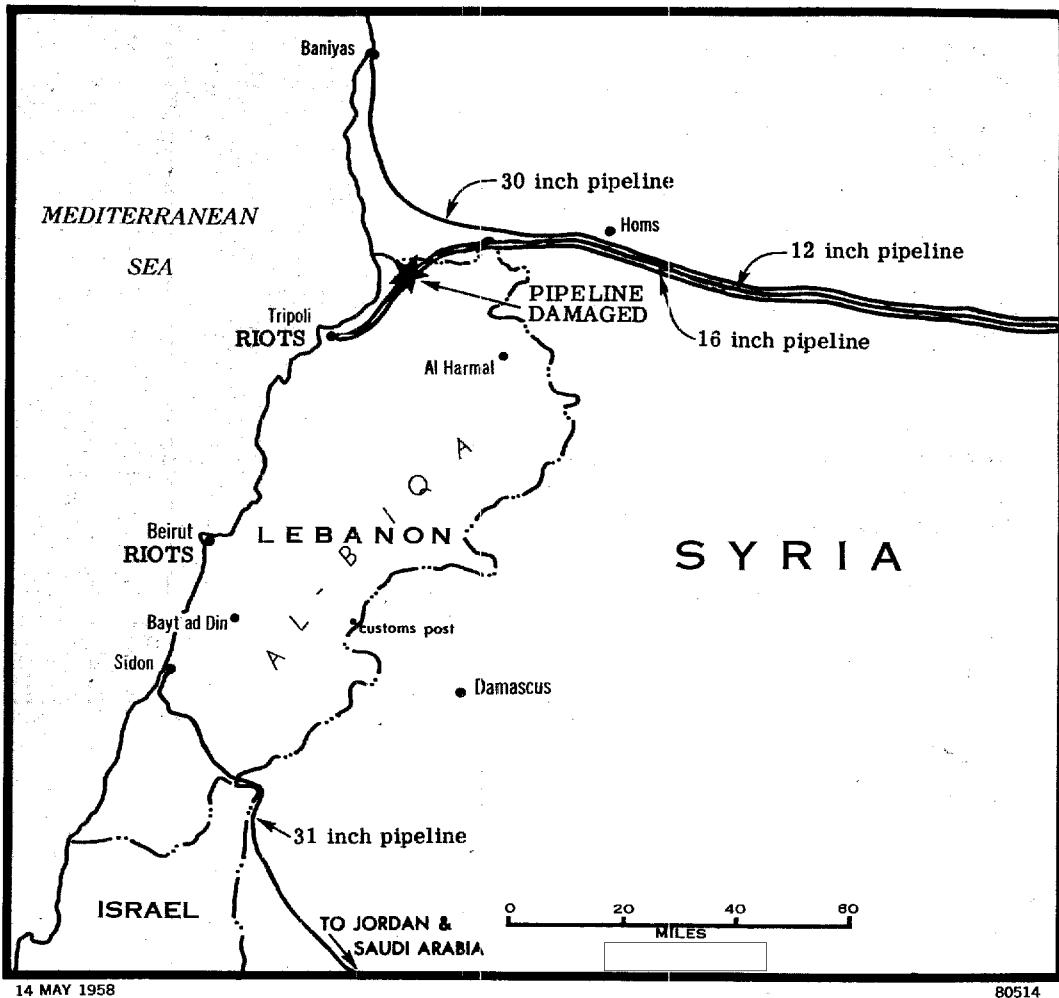
Moscow Intensifies Drive to Attract African Students

Soviet diplomats are stepping up offers of scholarships and travel in the USSR to African nationalist students now studying in Cairo. A variety of scholarships are offered to enable individual recipients to return from the USSR after two or three months, or remain up to three years with opportunities for "anticolonial information work." The total number of Africans going to Moscow from Cairo since September, according to an American Embassy source, is between 50 and 90. Twelve West African students left Cairo on 2 May and seven other Africans will leave by 15 June.

The current influx of African students, few of whom apparently now are committed to Communism, will advance Soviet area knowledge, and could provide Moscow with the potential instrument of leadership in nationalist movements. Current Soviet tactics are to seek identification with all emerging nationalist elements in Africa. This approach is based on Moscow's view that anti-imperialist activity, which might be initially led by parties or groups far removed from Communist aims, must still be supported. [redacted]

[redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Lebanese Situation

The Lebanese army appears to retain control of Beirut with major disturbances confined to the Moslem quarter. In other cities, such as Tripoli and Sidon, some clan fighting has broken out with security forces sitting on the sidelines. The situation in the countryside has deteriorated considerably. Army commander Shihab has stated that the army cannot hold out much longer, and that he fears infiltrators from Syria and opposition elements from the Biqa area near the Syrian border and from northern Lebanon may attempt to surround Beirut during the next day or so.

In the mountains, opposition Druze forces led by Kamil Jumblatt are reported fighting with Chamoun supporters around the presidential summer palace at Bayt ad-Din. Pro-Chamoun elements are also said to have engaged about 300 Syrian infiltrators who attacked a gendarmerie post in the al-Harmal region of northern Lebanon. A customs post on the Beirut-Damascus highway was attacked and burned on the night of 12-13 May by 400 men, apparently from Syria. Five Lebanese customs men were killed and six oil tank trucks burned.

In the light of General Shihab's fear that the endurance and loyalty of the army are being overburdened by continuing disorders, Chamoun may request open military support from the United States, Great Britain, and France within the next 24 hours. Prime Minister Suh was visited on 13 May by two high army officers who implied that Chamoun must step down or the army could not be relied upon.

Chamoun's opposition apparently still hopes that as a result of continued pressure, Chamoun will agree to step down or name Shihab as prime minister. However, so far Chamoun has resisted these efforts. A group of Chamoun's more moderate opponents, known as the "Third Force," is attempting to bring about a compromise solution to the present impasse.

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Despite the apparent failure of the opposition to score advances by their 12 May strike effort, they are now carrying out probing efforts to test the army's willingness to fight back, as well as to weaken the morale of elements loyal to Chamoun. While some of Chamoun's supporters seemed inclined to take "sick leave," others may attempt to strike back at the opposition in some dramatic way, such as by assaults upon opposition leaders or terrorist activities against UAR or Soviet bloc diplomatic installations.

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III. THE WEST

French Military Defies Civilian Authority

The hurried investiture of Popular Republican Pierre Pflimlin temporarily stems the effort by extremists in Paris and Algiers--where European rioters sacked the USIS library and the central government building on 13 May--to force the National Assembly to accept their demands for an all-out rightist-led war in Algeria. Paris faces an explosive problem in dealing with the assumption of authority in Algiers by the paratroop commander and Algiers security chief, General Massu.

The role of his superior, General Balan, is not yet clear, but it will weigh heavily in determining the effectiveness and extent of Paris' effort to reassert its control. Even with immediate and strong security measures taken by the new government, however, the possibility of further rightist outbursts--which may result in another government crisis with increased prospects for the return of General De Gaulle--cannot be ruled out.

While technically Massu's action may be interpreted as a "security measure," his apparent disregard of the civilian authority will encourage further moves by extremists. Any disciplinary action--particularly by a government representing essentially leftist elements--may further the spread of the army's evident dissatisfaction with the regime.

If Massu's move was a calculated effort to pave the way for a coup in Paris, the difficulty of backing down may force him to attempt some further action. There is as yet, however, no indication whether his support is extensive or firm enough to hold up in face of the obvious dangers involved in such an effort.

[redacted]
[redacted] rebel leaders want time to evaluate the latest developments and have decided to defer temporarily an offensive planned for next month. In Morocco and Tunisia, where new incidents involving French troops or civilians are an increasing possibility, authorities are watching events in Algeria with mounting anxiety.
[redacted]

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Rioting in Venezuela

The widespread rioting on the occasion of Vice President Nixon's visit to Caracas on 13 May was apparently more carefully planned by its Communist instigators than was the student demonstration of 8 May in Lima, Peru. Preventive action by the Venezuelan government was probably hindered by the complete disruption of the secret police during the overthrow of the Perez Jimenez regime last January when they were a key target of popular resentment.

Many Venezuelans have been bitter about the residence in the United States of Perez Jimenez and his secret police chief. Some have appeared to believe that US oil import restrictions were adopted as a reprisal for their ouster of Perez. Other charges made by the student demonstrators against the United States included racial prejudice and support of dictators in other Latin American countries.

Communists throughout Latin America are likely to be stimulated to new activity by the extent of the Caracas disorders. [redacted]

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West German Military Electronics Program

The West German electronics industry, which has been successful in developing its consumer electronic activities to a point where it is generally rated as one of the world leaders, is devoting increased attention to the military electronics field. The Ministry of Defense plans to increase its support of this program for military purposes from \$19,000,-000 in 1956 to \$84,000,000 in 1958. The planned establishment of ten antiaircraft rocket battalions in West Germany as part of a joint European air defense system will stimulate this development. West German engineers are reported to be working on improvements in this system.

The planning for a military electronics research and development program was begun several years ago by various scientific, industrial, and state government groups. The trend was accelerated in 1956 when Defense Minister Strauss canceled contracts for British early warning radar systems and communications networks and awarded the project to the German firm of Telefunken. Other firms have since begun development programs in anticipation of government subsidies, and new research institutes devoted exclusively to military electronics have also been established.

Telefunken is reported to be working jointly with Oerlikon of Switzerland on an electronic missile guidance system, and Siemens and Halske is believed to have a radar fire control development under way at its laboratory in Karlsruhe. C. Lorenz Inc. has been active in the field of ultra high frequency techniques, including air navigation and mobile radar equipment.

[redacted] research and development activity is on a par with that of other major Western powers in the field of general electronics and making rapid progress in military electronics. [redacted]

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