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1. SOVIET ARMY OFFICERS REPORTED BITTER OVER SATELLITE DEVELOPMENTS

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"majority of intelligent" Soviet army officers are openly criticizing the Soviet regime over the Polish and Hungarian uprisings. They believe the disorders would never have occurred if Stalin were still living, and that they were possible only because Khrushchev gave the Satellites free rein.

Soviet army officers do not understand why the restoration of order in Hungary was delayed, permitting the "reactionary" groups to gain strength. They are indignant that the Soviet army has been the butt of insults from the people of Hungary and Poland, "countries which were liberated by the Soviet army!" They resent the Soviet army's status as a "guest" in East Germany, with practically all controls in the hands of the Germans. They are further dissatisfied with the USSR's policy of giving assistance to the Satellites which results in a higher standard of living than that of the Soviet people.

The officers characterize Khrushchev and Bulganin as upstarts trying to consolidate their power. [redacted]

Comment

Since Stalin's death there has been an atmosphere more conducive to expressions of dissatisfaction, which probably have increased as a result of recent events in the Satellites. Possibly reflecting the Soviet concern over this dissatisfaction, Marshal Malinovski recently demanded a campaign against ideological weaknesses in the ranks of the Soviet army, similar to the propaganda campaigns directed toward other segments of the population.

In the past the army has shown no inclination to act in an independent way. Its leaders have reportedly been zealous in safeguarding the interests of the military, but seemingly have been willing to leave general political questions to other leaders.

This is the first report of such criticism within the Soviet army. Its extent and significance cannot be determined at this time.

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2. SOVIET PARTY SECRET LETTER CRITICIZES IDEOLOGICAL HERESIES

The central committee of the Communist Party sent a secret letter to lower party units in early January deplored the increasing laxness in Marxist-

Leninist discipline, [redacted] The letter ascribed the laxness to misunderstandings by party members of current international developments and of the regime's policy of "democratization."

The letter cited as an example a viewpoint expressed [redacted] and supported by members of the Leningrad Union of Soviet Writers advocating relaxation of party controls over authors. It also mentioned unrest in universities in Sverdlovsk, Tbilisi and Kaunas, where students called for the abolition of the Komsomol organization and elimination of compulsory Marxist-Leninist courses.

Comment

In the past, secret letters of this type have been sent out by the central committee only on matters of deepest concern to the regime.

The party leadership may be handling the ideological problem in this way instead of discussing it at a central committee plenum. Despite rumors last fall that ideological problems were to be discussed at the December plenum, this was apparently not the case. [redacted]

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3. ALGERIAN STRIKE APPARENTLY SUSPENDED

Comment on:

A general return to work of Algerian workers who began an eight-day strike on 28 January probably indicates a suspension rather than an end of the strike threat. A resumption of the strike, possibly accompanied by serious disorders, seems probable when the UN General Assembly begins its debate on Algeria.

The American consul general in Algiers reports that almost all Moslem workers and merchants in that city complied with the strike call on Monday. The strike did not, however, disrupt all activities, as essential services were maintained on a reduced scale by Europeans with the help of the military and, for the first time, convicts.

4. AFGHANISTAN PREPARED TO VOTE AGAINST INDIA IN UN ON KASHMIR ISSUE

The Afghan Foreign Ministry has instructed its UN delegation to support the UN Security Council's recent call for a plebiscite in Kashmir if the issue comes before the General Assembly.

The ministry added that it expects the Pakistan government in turn to agree to a settlement of the Pushtoonistan dispute by self-determination.

Comment Kabul's decision to support Pakistan is a major switch in Afghan policy. Afghanistan has received considerable support from India in its quarrel with Pakistan over Pushtoonistan, and its relations with New Delhi since 1947 have been much closer than with its other Asian neighbors. Afghanistan is apparently willing to sacrifice this long-standing friendship to strengthen its case for the Pushtoon tribesmen in Pakistan.

5. CHOU EN-LAI REPORTED BIDDING FOR US SUPPORT

In an interview he granted to select Polish journalists while he was in Poland, Chou En-lai reportedly remarked that US support would strengthen Communist China "against the USSR." Chou is said to have commented that if Communist China had been a member of the UN, Soviet tanks would not have been used in Hungary. The US and British embassies have received the same story from different sources. The American embassy believes Chou expected his remarks to reach the Western press.

Chou reportedly also told the newsmen that Soviet leaders were jittery over the present situation in Eastern Europe, the Near East and elsewhere and argued that for this reason "no provocation" should be permitted which would give an excuse for Russian intervention. Chou also underscored the fact that continued US opposition required the interdependence of Communist countries, especially in economic matters.

Comment

The Chinese have often stated that they would welcome diplomatic relations with the United States, and Chou probably said little more than that to the Poles.

Many visitors have come away from private talks with Chou En-lai with the impression that Communist China regards a Sino-American relationship as a potential hedge against the USSR. Nevertheless, the Chinese share with Moscow a strong hostility to the West and are unlikely to take any steps in the foreseeable future which would jeopardize the extensive economic and military support they are receiving from the USSR.

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6. SINGAPORE'S GOVERNMENT PARTY REPORTED CONSIDERING MERGER WITH COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED RIVAL

[Redacted]

Singapore's Chief Minister Lim Yew Hock of the Labor Front (LF) and Chairman Toh Chin Chye of the Communist-manipulated People's Action Party (PAP) have announced that a merger is under discussion. The chief minister is quoted as saying, "We want to work for a united socialist front with the PAP and other socialists." The secretary of the Labor Front stated that the time is ripe for a merger and said that "certain difficulties" blocking the alliance are not unsurmountable.

Comment

Although the two parties have been political enemies for the past six months because of the PAP's Communist connections, some form of co-operation has practical appeal for both parties. Co-operation with the Labor Front would enable the PAP to overcome the setback it has suffered as a result of Chief Minister Lim's antisubversion program and to infiltrate Singapore's administrative machinery.

For its part, the poorly organized Labor Front would welcome the support of the PAP's excellent organization and mass following.

[Redacted]

7. BURMESE BORDER DISPUTE SETTLEMENT EXPECTED SOON

An early signing of the Sino-Burmese border agreement, under negotiation for some months, appears likely.

[redacted] a special meeting of the Kachin State Council on 14 February is expected to approve the cession of three Kachin villages to Communist China.

Despite a formal settlement which would appear to remove a major source of friction between the two governments, tension in the border area is likely to develop from time to time as the result of local incidents.

8. BULGANIN PREDICTS US PLANS FOR MIDDLE EAST
WILL FAIL AFTER "SEVERE STRUGGLE"

Premier Bulganin [redacted]

[redacted] sees
the "wisdom" of Egypt's present position on American Middle East plans
and that while he expects the plans to
fail in the end, "a severe struggle will be needed." [redacted]

[redacted] Khru-
shchev considers the proposed American policies "a plan
of thieves to plunder the Middle East!"

Comment

The USSR's main effort to counter the proposed American plans has been directed at persuading middle Eastern states to reject them. Moscow has also indicated that it is prepared to extend economic aid and to continue its military assistance to those states in the area that reject the American plans.

9. LEBANON WORKING FOR SAUDI-IRAQI RECONCILIATION

President Chamoun of Lebanon has requested Foreign Minister Malik to offer Lebanon's "services" to Iraqi crown prince Abd al-Ilah and King Saud and "try to reconcile their points of view!"

Comment

Since the removal of the pro-Egyptian Prime Minister Yafi, Lebanon has been attempting to resume its traditional role of mediator of disputes among the Arab states and between the Arab states and the West. Lebanon has recently offered to mediate the Suez, Yemen and Buraimi disputes. It is also anxious to restrict Egyptian influence, particularly in Syria, and believes that if Egypt can be deprived of Saudi financial support, Egyptian influence will wane.

10. JAPANESE DIPLOMATS' VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST

The chiefs of Japanese diplomatic missions in the Middle East have concluded that Tokyo must work in the United Nations for a settlement of the Suez Canal dispute, taking care not to support any plan which is unacceptable to the Arab nations.

During their recent regional conference in Beirut, the diplomats clearly indicated they identify Japan with the "Asian-African group of maritime powers."

The Japanese officials reportedly agreed that despite Communist progress in the Middle East, Arab nations are not likely to become Soviet satellites, since they are "united under the banner of Islam in a struggle for racial independence." They also believe the American Middle East proposals will provoke serious trouble in the area because the Arab nations wish to settle their problems "without foreign interference."

Comment

Japan already has indicated that it will not participate in the Suez Canal Users' Association unless Egypt recognizes the organization, but has not committed itself on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The diplomats were informed at Beirut that the Ishibashi government intends to place greater emphasis on collaboration with the Asian-African bloc. An oil exploration mission has been sent to Saudi Arabia, and several important Japanese officials have been on good-will tours through the Middle East in the past few weeks to prepare the way for closer Japanese economic co-operation with the area.