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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

8 June 1956

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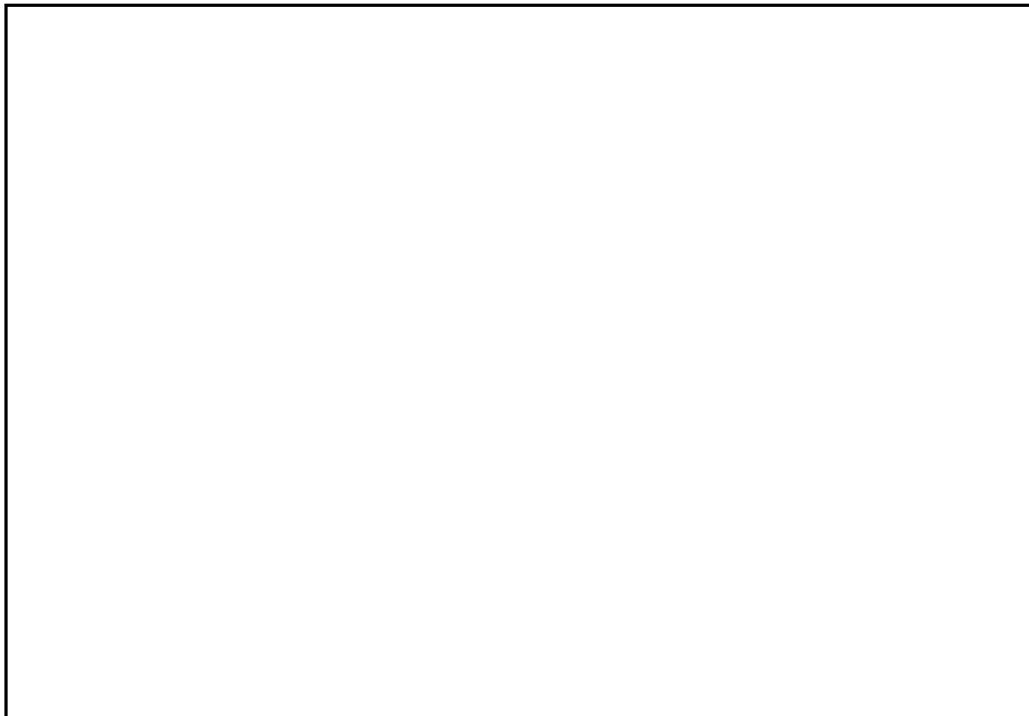
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1. WIDESPREAD ANTI-REGIME STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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[Redacted]

Protest meetings and parades held last month by university students in several Czechoslovak cities seem to have confronted the regime with its boldest and most extensive open opposition since the Pilsen currency riots of 1953. The timing of demonstrations and demands for greater political and cultural freedom by students in Prague, Bratislava, Pilsen,

Banska Bystrica and other centers indicates that the protest movement was well organized and co-ordinated. Prague students, for example, apparently distributed leaflets among factory workers in order to publicize their demands, and employed both aircraft and motorcycle couriers in order to maintain contact with colleagues in other areas of the country.

The regime was caught off guard by the extent of the student activities and its lack of control over the country's youth; the police did not act until the end of May, when about 30 of the student leaders reportedly were arrested--although this action has since been denied by Premier Siroky. The crisis has apparently been brought under control, but official statements remain equivocal, carefully attempting to distinguish between "honest" student complaints and discontent inspired by "bourgeois provocateurs."

Siroky's statements concerning the "enormous activity of imperialist agents" in Czechoslovakia may foreshadow an attempt to exonerate the students and blame the incidents on foreign agents. [Redacted]

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3. POLISH WRITERS SAY CRITICISM IN POLAND TOOK ANTI-RUSSIAN TURN

[redacted]

[redacted] the criticism
of the party leadership in Poland had
become so anti-Russian that one
"would have thought the critics were Americans," [redacted]

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[redacted] many of the critics themselves
were alarmed by the pace of developments and feared that
if it continued, a riot like that of 17 June 1953 in Berlin
would occur. [redacted] it was felt that, with the USSR on
Poland's doorstep, action must be taken gradually. [redacted]

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Comment

Several Poles in official positions have
recently stressed to Western observers
their determination to achieve increased internal freedom
and a measure of independence within the framework of their
alliance with the USSR.

Differences among Polish leaders about
the extent to which criticism should be permitted have undoubt-
edly made it more difficult for the regime to control the criti-
cism.

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4. YUGOSLAV-SOVIET AGREEMENT TO INCREASE TRADE

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The protocol signed in Belgrade on 6 June calls for an expansion of \$20,000,000 each way in this year's Yugoslav-Soviet trade. A Yugoslav request for 100,000 tons of wheat from the USSR presumably accounts for slightly less than half of the increase. According to the announcement, other Soviet exports will be oil, aluminum and machinery, in exchange for Yugoslav steel, agricultural products, textiles and footwear.

With this agreement, Yugoslav-Soviet trade is scheduled to amount to \$55,000,000 each way, which is slightly more than Yugoslavia's trade with China and all the Satellites. About one third of Yugoslavia's total scheduled trade will be with the Sino-Soviet bloc. (Concurred in by ORR)

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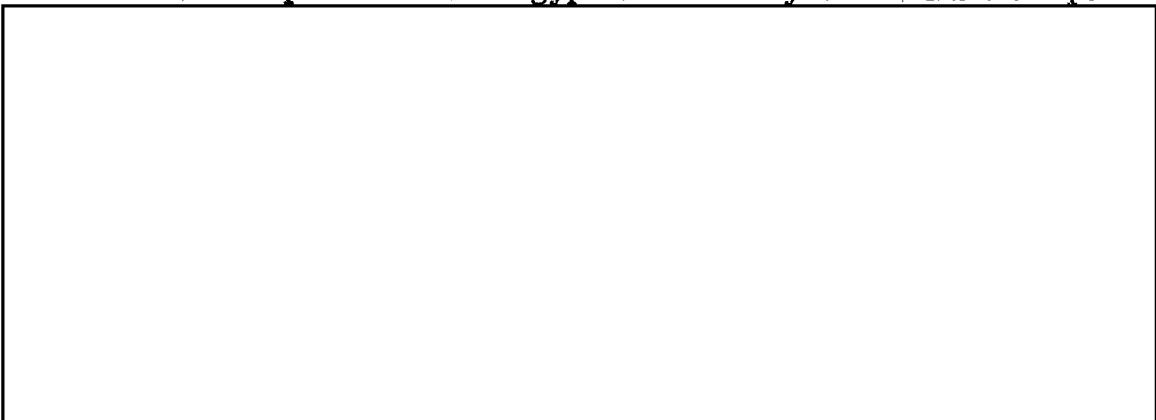
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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 7 June)

Jordan Arab Legion sources charged that Israeli soldiers crossed into Jordanian territory on 6 June at Habla in the Qalqiliya area. Two Israelis were seriously wounded in the clash. An Egyptian military spokesman said that Israeli armored cars opened fire on Egyptian territory at the Gaza strip.

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