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State Department review completed

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SUMMARY

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GENERAL**1. USSR renounces 1945 territorial claims against Turkey:**

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According to the Turkish Foreign Ministry, a Soviet note of 31 May states that the USSR has renounced all territorial claims against Turkey. These claims had been asserted on behalf of the Armenian and Georgian Republics in 1945.

The note states that the USSR now considers it possible to ensure its security interests in the Dardanelles under conditions acceptable to both countries.

The Turkish secretary general underlined the danger of the new Soviet tactics, "since many countries less experienced in dealing with Russia would be misled by them."

Comment: This conciliatory gesture may be designed to undermine Turkey's role in NATO, to discourage the building of NATO bases on Turkish soil, and to weaken the Balkan alliance.

Since the Kremlin has expressed its strong disapproval of the Montreux Convention, which is subject to review every five years, the note may foreshadow a Soviet bid for Soviet-Turkish talks on this subject.

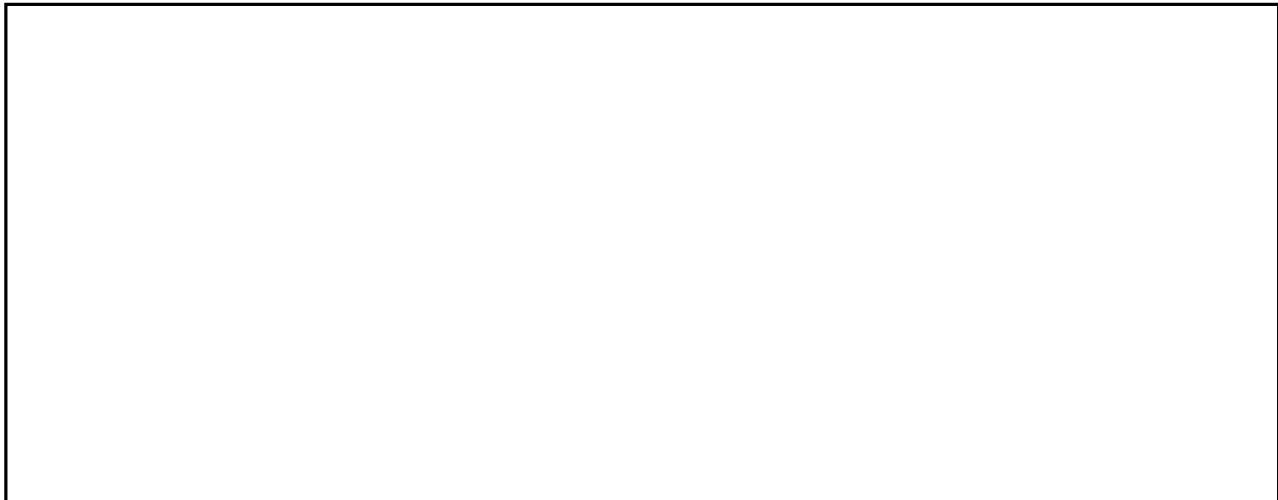
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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

5. Comment on broadening of Israel's coalition government:

The return to Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's Mapai-dominated cabinet of the General Zionist party, which had withdrawn on 25 May, restores a broadly based government for Israel. While Ben-Gurion has indicated satisfaction at the restoration of the coalition which now commands some 87 seats in the 120-member Knesset, his party was forced to yield to the General Zionists on the minor issue which had precipitated the crisis a week ago. The General Zionists failed, however, to gain a more decisive voice in determining the government's future policies.

The re-establishment of the coalition in Tel Aviv is more a truce agreement than a decision by the two major parties to unite in solving Israel's problems. It does not eliminate the basic differences and still leaves the Ben-Gurion government in a weak position.

6. Turkey proposes that MEDO be set up immediately:

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[Redacted box] The Turkish government "is of the firm conviction" that the United States, Britain, France and Turkey, in view of their responsibility for

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Middle East security, should immediately set up a defense organization to fill the "dangerous gap" existing in the area. In a note handed to American Counselor Rountree, Turkey stated that it should be made clear to Middle East countries that the proposed organization would be open to all states in the area.

Comment: Turkey, fully aware of the weakness of Middle East defenses, has been pushing for action. Its proposal envisages reconsideration of current MEDO concepts. If the suggestion that the organization be formally opened to all regional states is adopted, it could result in an Israeli request for membership. The Arab states are urging that Middle East defense be based on the Arab League's security pact.

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