

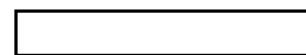
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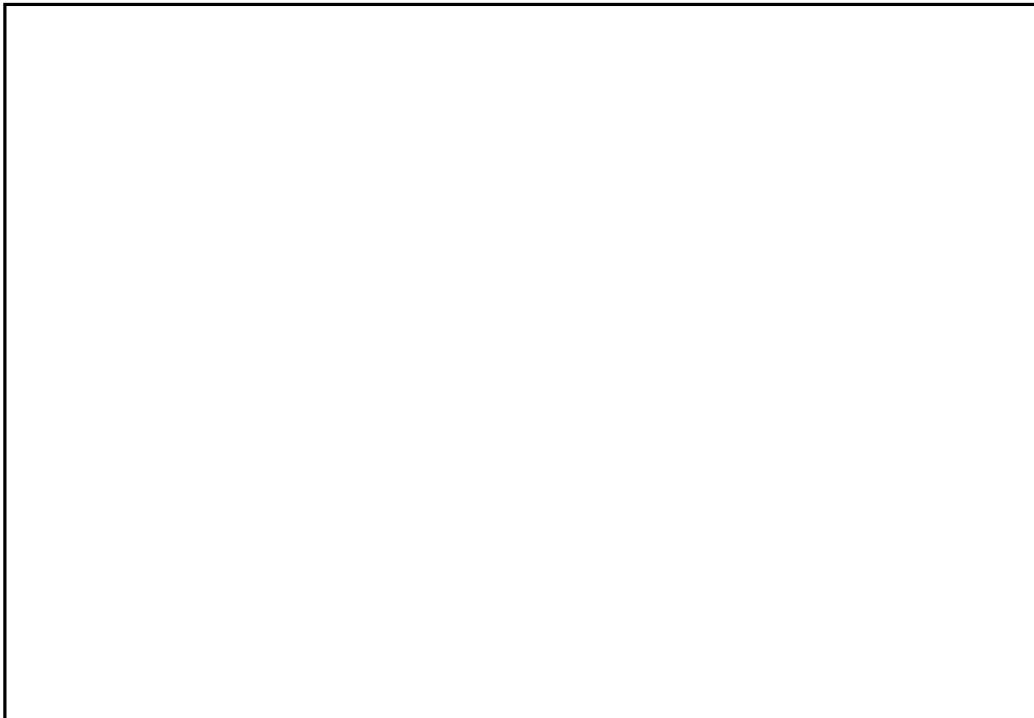
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2. SERIOUS DISORDERS IN SINGAPORE BELIEVED LIKELY

Serious disturbances are anticipated in Singapore if the talks in London scheduled to begin on 23 April break down. A breakdown may occur, since Singapore's Chief Minister Marshall is prepared to make demands for complete independence, which the British government does not intend to meet. The critical issue is responsibility for internal security. Should Marshall reject compromise proposals and widespread disorder subsequently develop, the British may be forced to resume direct control of the colony.

In anticipation of difficulty, troops from Malaya have been sent to Singapore and to adjacent mainland areas.

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Large-scale demonstrations, with Communist participation, are expected in any event on 1 May, and on 13 May, the anniversary of student-labor riots last year. Marshall's delegation includes representatives of the Communist-influenced People's Action Party. This party undoubtedly had a voice in Marshall's eleventh-hour demands, which go beyond those made by the separately administered Federation of Malaya last February.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION (Information as of 1700, 20 April)

Despite the Egyptian-Israeli cease-fire agreement, minor incidents continue to occur between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Egypt has charged that an Israeli patrol crossed into the Gaza strip and fired on an Egyptian post, and that Israeli aircraft continue to overfly the Gaza area. An Israeli military spokesman charged that armed Jordanians crossed into Israel and fired on an Israeli military vehicle.

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Egypt and Saudi Arabia continue their campaign to align the "uncommitted" Arab states with the Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi bloc, despite the limited military value of their adherence.

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King Hussain of Jordan has refused Syrian entreaties to join the Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi bloc on the basis that it is necessary for Jordan to maintain its tie with Britain, according to the American embassy in Amman. Hussain is reported to believe that there is no need for anything beyond exchange of military information and some co-operation in military planning.

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