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SECURITY INFORMATION

23 November 1952



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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

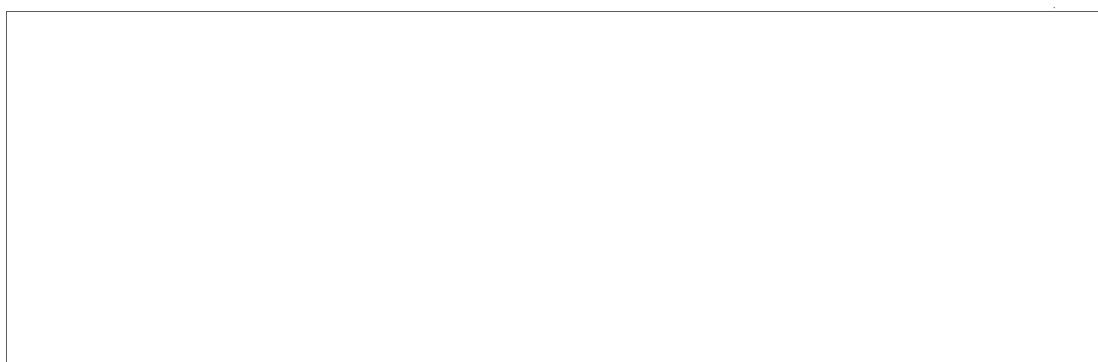


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



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FAR EAST

1. Communist China seeks general trade agreement with Ceylon:

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Comment: In support of its campaign to promote opposition to American sponsored restrictions on trade with China, Peiping has already negotiated a sale of 80, 000 tons of rice in exchange for which the Colombo government agreed not to block exports of rubber to China. The above is the first reliable evidence that Ceylonese and Chinese Communist representatives have carried on extensive discussions looking toward a general trade agreement between the two countries.

A general trade agreement would be a major success in Peiping's campaign, since it would be the first to be concluded between China and any government not under Soviet influence.

SOUTH ASIA

2. Pakistan postpones consideration of withdrawal from the Commonwealth:

3.3(h)(2)

The Pakistani Cabinet has decided to postpone consideration of Pakistan's withdrawal from the Commonwealth in the hope of being invited to participate in the Middle East Defense Organization.

[redacted] the government will reconsider the question of withdrawal if nothing comes of any invitation to join MEDO.

3.3(h)(2)

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Comment: Pakistan is unlikely to withdraw from the Commonwealth in the near future since the benefits it now obtains from membership outweigh those to be gained by withdrawal.

3.3(h)(2)

The government, recognizing an opportunity to obtain defense supplies and equipment, without immediate likelihood of its employment in the defense of the Middle East, may be using the threat of withdrawal to override criticism of the British plan for its inclusion by nations such as India, Turkey, and France and to ensure that the projected invitation is actually delivered.

3. Attempt to assassinate Afghan King reported:

Five men attempted to assassinate King Zahir Shah while he was on a recent hunting trip in central Afghanistan,

3.3(h)(2)

Three of the men were killed by the king's entourage, but two escaped.

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: There is no evidence that this and an earlier attack on the king's life, rumored to have occurred in mid-August, were planned by organized opposition groups. The above may have been a spontaneous effort by central Afghan Hazara tribesmen, who have been kept in a state of subjection by the Kabul regime.

The oligarchy which rules Afghanistan is composed mainly of the king's relatives. It would not be seriously disorganized by the king's death, though it might undertake certain changes in government personnel and policies to allay or suppress the opposition evidenced by an assassination.

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NEAR EAST - AFRICA

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EASTERN EUROPE

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5. Fields reportedly returned to Prague as witnesses:

Noel Field,

his wife, and his brother Herman were
brought to Prague under strong guard

on 18 October in preparation for the current trial of Czech Communist leaders. They were returned at the request of President Gottwald at the Moscow Party Congress, where the decision to hold the trial was made.

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[redacted] the Fields' testimony will be used mainly to compromise American policy in Europe and to discredit Slansky's appointees in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who have confessed that they were in contact with Noel Field during and following the war.

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: The Fields disappeared successively in 1949 and rumors have persisted that they were taken to Lublianka prison in Moscow.

6. Yugoslavia regards Albanian revolution possible next year:

3.3(h)(2)

[redacted] Yugoslav authorities feel a revolution can be successfully "provoked" in Albania next year.

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: [redacted] representatives of Tito recently presented to Albanian exile-leaders in Yugoslavia a plan to incorporate Albania into Yugoslavia. This is inconsistent with other recent reports that overtures by the Yugoslavs to Albanian exiles in the West, in which they promise to respect the independence of Albania, have met with some success.

3.3(h)(2)

WESTERN EUROPE

7. Rothensee shiplift reportedly back in operation:

3.3(h)(2)

[redacted] According to a report from German authorities, the Rothensee shiplift has been handling vessels of the East German Inland Waterway Services for some time, and 42 East Zone ships have already passed through the lift. American officials in Bonn believe that this may foreshadow a reopening of the lift to Western shipping in the near future.

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Comment: Soviet officials within the last week informed High Commissioner Donnelly that, in consideration of his request, steps have been taken to speed the repairs at Rothensee and that he would be advised when the lift is put into operation.

8. Pinay government seen determined to oust Communists:

The French Cabinet is considering a draft bill for dismissal from state employ of all members of the Communist Party and front organizations. The bill is not expected to be submitted to the National Assembly for some time.

3.3(h)(2)

Comment: Despite continuing efforts to transfer known Communists to positions not involving national security, they are believed to be still strong enough in the nationalized transportation and communication industries to tie up these organizations in an emergency.

The cabinet has not yet decided whether the measure should apply to all 962,000 members of the civil service or only to its senior members and to the directors of nationalized industries.

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