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1. NASR OUTLINES VIEWS TO AMBASSADOR HARE

Comment on:

Egyptian president Nasr, in a four-hour "marathon discussion" with Ambassador Hare on 14 February, gave no indication of modifying his position on any outstanding issue. On the Gulf of Aqaba question, Nasr said "no final decision" had been made as to whether Egypt would oppose "innocent passage" if the Israelis withdrew, but Ambassador Hare comments that the Egyptian press campaign against the American proposals to Israel on this question is "disquieting."

Nasr implicitly confirmed reports that he has issued orders to halt clearance work on the Suez Canal, stating that this action, as well as Syria's refusal to permit repair of oil pipeline facilities until the Israelis withdraw, was the result of an agreement between Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia. Nasr stated again that when the canal is reopened, tolls should be paid directly to Egypt. He said that alternative suggestions he had heard for payment to some other agency would definitely not be acceptable.

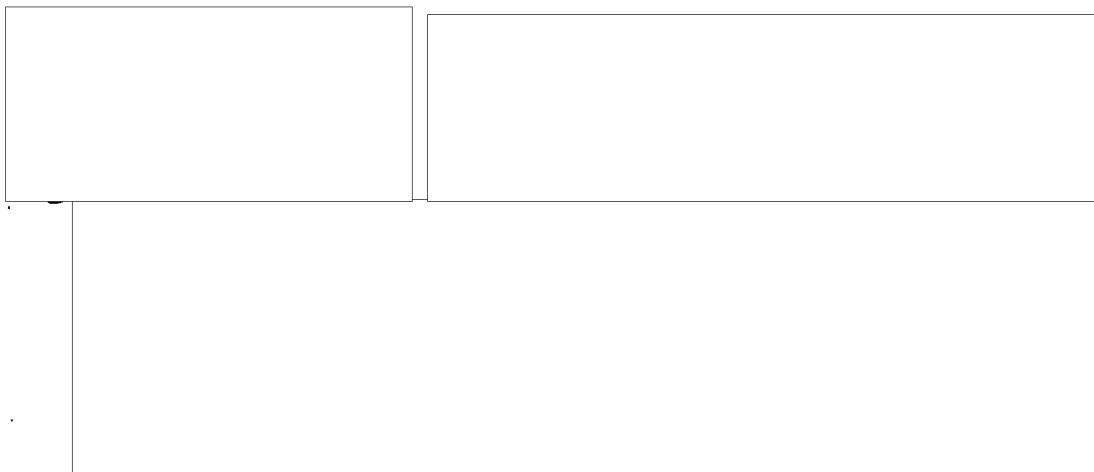
The Egyptian president raised the topic of British clandestine radio attacks on his regime. He said he would be ready to retaliate in about ten days and that East and West Africa would be special targets. Nasr here presumably was referring to two new radio stations which the Egyptian press has reported will open this month and next.

From Nasr's remarks on Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union, Hare gained a stronger impression than ever before of the degree to which Nasr feels it necessary to rely on Soviet support and Nasr's failure to appreciate the latent danger involved.

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2. KING SAUD BLASTS SYRIAN LEFTIST LEADER



Comment

Akram Hawrani is one of two leaders of the leftist, extreme nationalist Arab Socialist Resurrection Party, which dominates the Syrian government through the army officers. It is unclear which of Hawrani's speeches incurred Saud's wrath.

This is the third time since his talks with President Eisenhower that Saud has evidenced to other Arab governments his hostility toward leftist and anti-Western influences.



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**3. SOVIET HEAVY BOMBER PROBABLY USED AS
TANKER AIRCRAFT**

[redacted] A Soviet BISON (M-4) jet heavy bomber apparently was refueled by another BISON during a 7,000-nautical-mile flight from Moscow to the Soviet Far East and back [redacted]

[redacted] two aircraft, [redacted]

[redacted] flew from Moscow/Ramenskoye approximately 400 nautical miles to the Kazan/Ufa area where a refueling apparently occurred. The BISON which apparently served as a tanker then returned to Moscow. The first BISON continued its flight to the vicinity of Ostrov Bolshoi Shantar, an island in the Sea of Okhotsk, and then turned back toward Moscow. About half way back on the return flight, it was met by another BISON between Novosibirsk and Omsk where a second refueling may have occurred before the two aircraft returned to Moscow.

Comment

There was evidence of aerial refueling during a similar long-distance flight by a BISON in late September 1956, although the aircraft used as a tanker was not identified.

It is not known whether the BISON which apparently served as a tanker carried bomb bay tanks or was built as a tanker. It is estimated that one refueling by the latter type would add approximately 35 percent to the range of a BISON bomber. The range of an improved BISON flying an optimum mission with a 3,500-pound bomb load, for example, could be extended from about 6,400 to 8,600 nautical miles with one refueling.

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**4. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR FEARS LOSS OF CAIRO'S
INFLUENCE IN TUNISIA**

The Egyptian ambassador to Tunisia warned Cairo [redacted] that Premier Bourghiba might be "becoming an enemy of Egypt." He reiterated that direct talks between Premier Bourghiba and President Nasr would be a magnificent approach to the Tunisian leader's "vanity" and could possibly clarify many ambiguities in Bourghiba's intentions.

Premier Bourghiba earlier had complained to the ambassador about the Egyptian press campaign against him and about the unfriendly Cairo radio broadcasts of Bourghiba's archrival, Salah ben Youssef.

Comment The Egyptian fears regarding Tunisia's orientation are well founded. Premier Bourghiba has rejected Cairo's claimed leadership of the Arab nations and has aligned himself with the West.

Bourghiba has actively supported a Western-oriented Arab bloc. Tunisia signed a treaty of friendship with Libya in January, and Bourghiba plans to visit Morocco in late February. On 24 January, Iraq indicated its interest in a treaty with Tunisia and said it would welcome Tunisia's joining the economic committee of the Baghdad pact.

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5. SOVIET THREATS AGAINST ATOMIC BASES WORRY NORWAY

Norwegian under secretary of defense Nielsen hopes to avoid publicity on the tentative allocation to Norway of new weapons with atomic capabilities. According to Nielsen, the Soviet Union is pursuing a psychological campaign in Scandinavia, particularly in Norway, against acceptance of such weapons. The Norwegian embassy in Moscow has received a "warning or threat" on this matter at least once, and there has been some propaganda along similar lines in the Norwegian Communist press.

Comment Apart from its concern over Soviet reaction to such an announcement, the Labor government is likely to face opposition from the relatively strong and vocal pacifist and neutralist elements both in and out of the Labor Party.

The Soviet warning is in line with the recent general Soviet campaign warning other countries against the stationing of American atomic units on their territories, highlighted by the 23 January TASS statement.

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6. BONN OFFICIAL CONSIDERS TRADE WITH COMMUNIST CHINA A POLITICAL ISSUE

A West German Foreign Ministry official has told the American embassy in Bonn that his government had decided to permit negotiations for a trade arrangement with Communist China, because postponement was no longer possible in view of the coming elections. He noted that the government had delayed negotiations for two years, but that this trade had already been made a political issue by the opposition Free Democratic Party. He believed that a trade delegation under the auspices of the semi-official East-West Trade Committee would provide an effective basis of control.

Comment

The American embassy has been attempting to get Bonn to postpone sending a trade delegation to Communist China, but industrial and political pressure for such trade is becoming stronger. The government has stated that no embargoed goods will be included, although there is strong agitation for the inclusion of tractors which may be of some strategic importance.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~**8. WIDE AREAS OF SOUTH KOREA FACING STARVATION**

[Redacted]

Widespread starvation is impending in the southern and eastern sections of South Korea, UN Economic Co-ordinator Warne reports. The Korean government has no relief plan and the Ministry of Finance says it is helpless as the budget provisions for relief are severely limited.

Comment Korean rice output in 1956 was down by 17 percent from 1955. In the southern and eastern sections, however, the decrease was from 25 to 35 percent. According to one press report, many persons in the eastern province of Kyongsang are reduced to eating bark, grass and roots.

CARE has initiated a relief program for the Kyongsang area on the basis of a survey which indicated that 18,700 farm families in this area are in desperate need of relief grain.

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9. CHINESE NATIONALIST PREMIER CITES FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES

Public endorsement of a seven-nation Pacific alliance, together with the first implication that Taipei desires to increase its contacts with neutralist nations, highlighted Premier O. K. Yui's report to the Chinese Nationalist legislature on 15 February. Yui stated that the Nationalists contemplate an anti-Communist alliance with the United States, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, South Vietnam and the Philippines.

He then added that Taipei would welcome "co-operation" with all free world nations, including those which recognize Communist China. This statement contrasts with Taipei's past coolness toward nations not recognizing Nationalist China and, together with the pact proposal, "may introduce an intensified campaign to raise Taiwan's international prestige."

Nationalist China, which is not a member of SEATO, has long favored the idea of a regional military pact. South Vietnam's coolness toward past Nationalist overtures, together with the difficulty presented by friction between Japan and South Korea, makes such a pact improbable.

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