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27 January 1956

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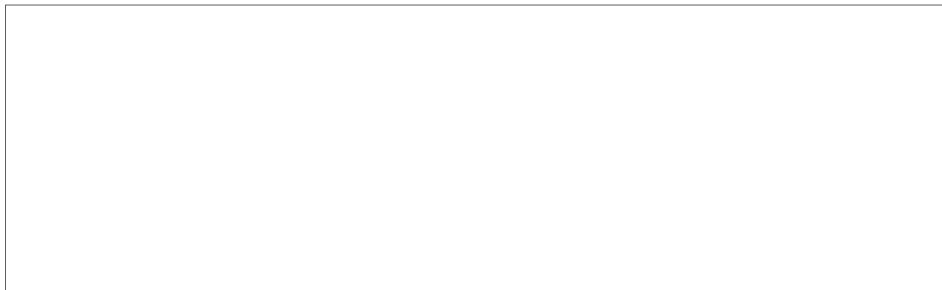
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# CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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**OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE**  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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## 1. AFGHANS REPORTEDLY SENDING ARMS TO TRIBES ON PAKISTANI FRONTIER

[Redacted] Nine thousand rifles and an unknown number of grenades--believed to be part of a November 1955 Soviet bloc arms shipment--have been sent to the [Redacted]

Pushtoon tribal area along the Pakistani border, [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Additional arms are to be sent to the Pushtoons soon, and Kabul expects another shipment from the USSR. [Redacted]

### Comment

[Redacted] Afghanistan had received Soviet bloc arms in November 1955, but the deliveries have never been confirmed. If Kabul is sending such quantities of arms to the Pushtoon area, border raids are likely. Favorable weather conditions for such action will prevail during the next few months.

Top Pakistani officials have recently stressed that they expect Afghan prime minister Daud's government to use Soviet arms against Pakistan within a year. They also believe that Governor General Mirza's visit to Kabul--now proposed for May--is unlikely to settle issues between the two countries.

The Pakistani warnings may be an attempt to justify in advance raids by Pakistani-controlled Pushtoons. (Concurred in by ORR) /  
[Redacted]

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## 2. USSR REPORTEDLY MAKES OVERTURE TO IRAQ

Comment on:

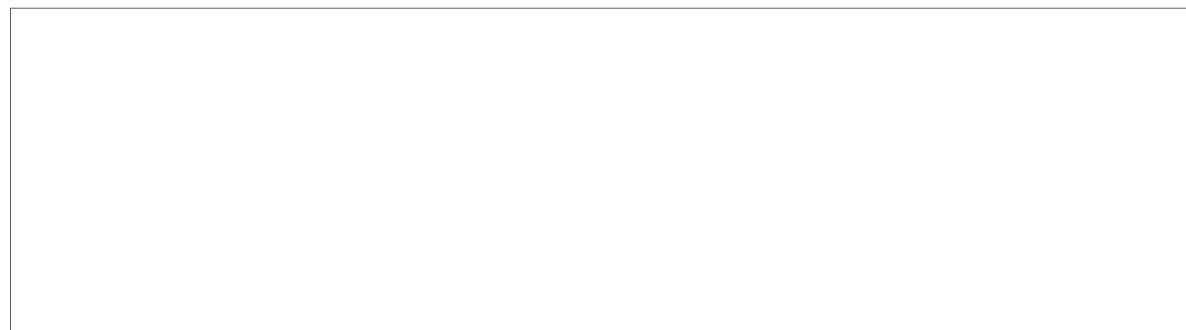
[Redacted] The Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade has informed Iraq that it considers still valid the Soviet-Iraqi contract of 1954 to barter 4,000 tons of Iraqi dates for Soviet goods and is willing to accept delivery of the remaining 2,000 tons of dates from Iraq, according to press reports from Baghdad. Iraq suspended relations with the USSR in January 1955, and the USSR subsequently canceled the remainder of the contract.

Moscow's reversal of its former position appears to be the first move in a Soviet attempt to re-establish relations with Iraq in the hope of eventually weakening its ties with the West. Iraq might now be susceptible to Soviet overtures, since it is disturbed over its isolation from the other Arab states and is jealous of Egypt's ascendancy in the Arab League.

The USSR has recently made overtures to three other members of the Baghdad pact.  
[Redacted]  
(Concurred in by ORR)

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### 3. HUNGARY PROPOSES ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL

**Comment**

The Hungarian approach indicates that the Orbit is following up Soviet premier Bulganin's 16 January statement calling for an extension of diplomatic and economic relations with Latin America. On 18 January, the Hungarian party newspaper announced Hungary's intention to seek closer relations with Latin America in all fields.

Although Brazil appeared receptive to Hungarian overtures for a renewal of diplomatic relations in 1953, President-elect Kubitschek will probably react with caution.

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## THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION (Information as of 1700, 26 January)

A half-hour exchange of mortar fire across the Israeli-Egyptian border near Gaza is the only incident reported. (Press) [redacted]

Israeli foreign minister Sharett made a new appeal for arms aid from the United States in an interview with Ambassador Lawson on 24 January. Sharett suggested that if the United States has reached a favorable decision but does not wish to announce it at present, he would guarantee complete secrecy. He asked only an "informal word" that a decision in principle had been taken plus assurance of early discussion of types, quantities and deliveries. Referring to what he termed a reported British line of argument, Sharett said those who believe Israel is so desperate it can be persuaded to make "far-reaching concessions" are due for "sharp disappointment." [redacted] )

Major Sarraj, the acknowledged leader of the dominant younger officer group in Syria, [redacted] the Syrian army is "not at all satisfied" with the UN censure of Israel and will be satisfied only with the disappearance of Israel. Sarraj asserted that the Arab states' combined military strength is now greater than Israel's and that the time to fight Israel would come sooner than the West thought. Sarraj also said Egyptian prime minister Nasr would never accept any form of settlement with Israel; Sarrai believed Nasr would be overthrown if he tried to do so. [redacted]

Prime Minister Ben-Gurion presented a detailed civil defense program to a conference of the Israeli national civil defense council on 25 January. According to the

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Israeli radio, the program includes steps for the mobilization and training of civil defense forces and the construction of air-raid shelters. [redacted]

[redacted] a \$524,300 contract for submachine guns, ammunition and possibly other small arms. Deliveries are to begin immediately. Syria has evidently already received some of the military equipment covered by a separate \$5,880,000 contract signed in November.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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