



9 May 1956

DAILY INTELLIGENCE ABSTRACTS OF INTEREST TO WORKING GROUPS.

1. DISARMAMENT. The German Foreign Office believes that the USSR may attempt to make propaganda capital in the West by announcing in the near future a reduction in the size of its army, according to the Counselor of the German Embassy in London. The Counselor adds that the Western Governments should consider offsetting the propaganda impact of such an announcement by pointing out that the announced Soviet reduction of armed forces: (1) follows belatedly and modestly the policy long pursued by the West; (2) can not be verified; and (3) does not indicate a comparable reduction of armaments. London 5150, 8 May, OUC.

2. TUNISIA. Prime Minister Bourguiba of Tunisia recently urged the US Consul in Tunis to convey to the US Government Tunisia's urgent need for recognition of its independence by an exchange of diplomats. The Consul recommends that a way be found to persuade the French to move quickly in this matter in order to prevent the US from getting off to a poor start in Tunisia. Tunis 141, 4 May, S.

3. YUGOSLAVIA. The Yugoslav Government informed US Ambassador Riddleberger on 5 May that it opposes at this time any increase in the American Military Assistance Staff and the reopening of US-Yugoslav talks on future military aid. Prica, the Acting Yugoslav Foreign Secretary, told the Ambassador that his government had not lost interest in military aid, but indicated that nothing could be done before Tito returned from his visit to Moscow in June. Riddleberger concludes that the Yugoslavs are now willing to risk not honoring the October 1955 military aid agreement with the US in hopes that the US will nonetheless complete the present military aid program. Belgrade 1368, 7 May, S.

4. AFGHANISTAN. Afghan Foreign Minister Naim has agreed, at the urging of US Ambassador Mills, to route through Pakistan a shipment of International Harvester trucks destined for Afghanistan. Naim, however, refused to view this as a test case toward the resumption of transit arrangements with Pakistan. He maintained that the Pakistanis would give special treatment to any shipment in which the US was particularly interested. Kabul 1338, 8 May, C.

5. AFGHANISTAN. In reporting the status of the US/Afghanistan air transportation negotiations, US Embassy and Operations Mission Kabul conclude that the present financial limitations of the project risk the possibility of uneconomic and inadequate results. The joint Embassy-USOM recommendation is for increased funds for the project to total a \$10 million grant and a \$5 million loan. The negotiations are proceeding amicably, according to the Embassy, apparently because the Afghan Government wants this as a counterweight to the Soviet assistance activities. Kabul 1340, 8 May, S.

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6. CEYLON

7. HYDROGEN BOMB TEST. The Second World Conference for the Banning of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs will be held in Tokyo from August 4 to 6 and in Nagasaki on 9 August, according to Tokyo press reports. The Japan Council for Prohibiting Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs now meeting in Tokyo has decided to cable President Eisenhower protesting against the current series of US nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific. FBIS Peking, 8 May, U.

8. UN. Ambassador Lodge at the UN suspects that Secretary General Hammarskjöld may be looking for a pretext for washing his hands of the whole Palestine problem. Ambassador Lodge urges therefore that no steps be taken in connection with this problem without notifying the Secretary General in advance and that every precaution be taken to avoid giving him an excuse for abandoning it. New York 930, 7 May, S.

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