



OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD  
Washington 25, D. C.

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22 May 1956

1. Panama - Request for Radar Sites

The Government of Panama has refused the US request for radar sites and US Ambassador Harrington believes that it is a deliberate evasion of treaty obligations. The Ambassador suggests that advantage be taken of the President's forthcoming visit for frank discussion of this disturbing development. The Ambassador suggests further that mention of this refusal be included in a public statement. (US Embassy Panama City 380, 18 May Secret)

2. Albania - Government Shake-up Possible

Albanian reaction against the "cult of personality" and the country's serious economic situation are cited as causes for a possible governmental shake-up in Albania, FBIS reports. Confused reports originating in Belgrade indicate that the first to go may be Premier Mehmet Shehu. However, it is unlikely that any action will be taken until the Albanian Workers Party Congress which is expected at the end of May. (FBIS, 21 May, Official Use Only)

3. USSR - Soviets Approach Pan American Airways

Soviet Embassy officials in Washington have recently approached Pan American World Airways with the suggestion that PAA schedule regular flights to Moscow, the State Department reports. The Embassy officials urged that PAA send representatives to Moscow to discuss this matter with Marshal Zhavoronov "Head of Civil Aviation". It is not expected that reciprocal rights for a Soviet air line will be requested at this time. (Dept. to London 7027, 21 May, Confidential)

4. Afghanistan - Monthly 1290-d Program Report

The US Public Affairs Officer in Kabul is considering suggestions to invite an Afghan parliamentary committee to observe the US presidential elections, and send honor graduates of the ICA-sponsored school to the US, as part of the FY 1957 USIA-sponsored Leader Grant Program. The Turkish Ambassador to Afghanistan believes that Western Military influence in Afghanistan is dependent on supplying some arms to the Afghans. While he is aware of Pakistani sensitivity on this subject, he argues that if the Soviets remain Afghanistan's exclusive supplier of arms, a Soviet military mission and domination of the Afghan military field is inevitable. (US Embassy Kabul 1108, 19 May, Top Secret)

5. Pakistan - President's opinion on Communist China

In a UP interview held 17 May, President Mirza of Pakistan is reported to have said that the US should "face facts" and recognize Communist China, US Embassy Karachi reports. Mirza reportedly believes the US might

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help split Communist China from the USSR and suggested that Japan could assist by trading with the Chinese thus lessening Chinese dependence on the Soviets. (US Embassy Karachi 2461, 18 May, Unclassified)

6. South Vietnam - Expansion of Information Outlets

The South Vietnamese Government has received encouragement in its approach to Burma and India on the question of establishing official spokesmen in Rangoon and New Delhi, according to a well-informed Vietnamese official. CIA comments that the Diem Government has elaborate plans to expand its information outlets abroad, and is especially anxious to receive recognition in Southeast Asia where the Viet Minh has had a monopoly in the propaganda field. [.....]

7. Indonesia - UN Embargo Against China

An Indonesian Foreign Office spokesman said on 16 May that Indonesia plans to campaign actively against the embargo of Communist China, US Embassy Djakarta reports. (US Embassy Djakarta 2910, 20 May, Confidential)

8. Japan - Nuclear Test Survey Ship

The Japanese Foreign Office has officially informed the US Embassy that a survey ship will depart Tokyo on 26 May to investigate biological, atmospheric, meteorological and oceanographic conditions in the vicinity of the nuclear test area. The US Embassy recommends all possible cooperation with the ship. (US Embassy Tokyo 2732, 22 May, Limited Official Use)

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