

19 June 1956



INTELLIGENCE NOTES

1. Libya - Request For Aid

Libyan Prime Minister Ben Halim recently told US Embassy Tripoli that he was determined to make the Libyan-UK treaty into a meaningful alliance while in London. The Embassy comments that Ben Halim is anxious to develop an effective Libyan army with British financial support. Since Ben Halim has been in London the US Embassy there reports that he told UK Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd that Libyan finances are in critical shape and implied that if assistance was not forthcoming he would turn to Egypt or the USSR. Lloyd informed US Ambassador Aldrich that the UK cannot afford to aid Libya and is considering asking for US help. (US Embassy London 5823, Secret; ACS2, US Army, DIB 18 June, Confidential)

2. Pakistan - Moslem Ministerial Conference

Pakistan is considering calling a meeting of Moslem countries at the ministerial level to discuss Algeria, Kashmir, Palestine, and other questions, according to the Pakistani Foreign Minister. (FBIS, 19 June, Official Use Only)

3. Australia - Second Series of UI Nuclear Tests

Naval authorities in west Australia have warned shipping and aircraft to avoid the Monte Bello Islands off the northwest coast where the second in the current series of UK nuclear tests is soon to be held. The safety committee which determines the suitability of weather has been in the Monte Bellos for over a week. (FBIS, 19 June, Official Use Only)

4. Thailand - Lifting of Trade Embargo

US Embassy Bangkok reports that the Thai decision to lift the embargo on non-strategic trade with Communist China was prompted by pressure from the opposition which called the government a US puppet, from merchants looking for quick profits, and from Indian and British elements disposed to appease Communism in Asia. US Ambassador Bishop urges that the US register regret and concern over the Thai action while reaffirming Thai freedom to follow an independent course. Bishop has also requested that Assistant Secretary of State Robertson personally take action to get the US-Thailand assistance program moving. Bishop points out that aid deliveries are a year behind schedule, power development aid (essential to Thai economic development) has been meager, PL 480 aid is insignificant, nothing has been done about "housing for the poor" discussed between the Prime Minister and Secretary Dulles, none of the regional aid programs suggested last February are yet started, and Secretary Dulles' promise of Karachi aid in training skilled labor has borne no visible results. (US Embassy Bangkok 3557, 3558, 16 June, Secret)

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