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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

26 October 1956



INTELLIGENCE NOTES

1. USSR - H-Test Imminent

Ambassador Bohlen was told by a member of the Belgian delegation, now visiting the USSR, that Khrushchev had revealed the Soviets will explode an atomic device "within the next few days." Khrushchev reportedly said that in the absence of an agreement to ban testing, the USSR had no course but to continue its tests. (US Embassy Moscow 933, 25 Oct, Secret)

2. Poland - TV Film Requested

US embassy Warsaw reports that the Polish TV agency considers it useful to obtain a film of the recent political conventions providing it can be properly edited and dubbed in Polish. (US Embassy 533, 25 Oct, Limited Official Use)

3. Ethiopia - USOM Program

US embassy Addis Ababa states that the country team is convinced that the USOM program offers a unique opportunity for the US to influence the entire future course of Ethiopian development and represents the best means of guaranteeing effective progress toward US objectives there. (US Embassy Addis Ababa 290, 25 Oct, Secret)

4. OEEC Atomic Energy Activities

Ambassador Perkins, the US representative to the regional European organizations, reports that the key US problem in relation to current OEEC nuclear energy discussions is to develop an effective plan for helping OEEC nuclear studies while not adversely affecting EURATOM. Perkins' view is that passive US participation in the next few months would compromise America's opportunity to influence European nuclear power development through the OEEC. (ICA Paris ECOTO 425, 24 Oct, Confidential)

5. Britain - Lloyd's Views on Nuclear Testing

Foreign Secretary Lloyd said in Commons on 24 October: "...While Her Majesty's Government would prefer to treat this subject in the context of a disarmament convention, they remain ready to discuss it separately if that meets with the approval of the other powers concerned and appears to offer better prospects of agreement." Lloyd emphasized that a total ban is quite different from limitation and is unacceptable unless means of enforcement are available. He disagreed with Bulganin's statement that tests anywhere are detectable. (US Embassy London 2267, 25 Oct, Unclassified)

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6. Guatemala - ICA Programs

President Castillo of Guatemala again has asked the US ambassador about progress with regard to the ICA programs for Guatemala. The embassy requests instructions. (US Embassy Guatemala City 127, 25 Oct, Secret)

7. Venezuela - Peron's Travel Plans,

The Argentine charge in Caracas has informed the US ambassador to Venezuela that Peron plans to travel south probably to Bolivia. (US Embassy Caracas 245, 25 Oct, Secret)

8. Bolivia - Food Requirements

The Bolivian ambassador in Washington has requested ICA to provide emergency wheat, rice, fats and oils in addition to shipments now programmed for Bolivia. While the food shortage is due to faulty distribution and hoarding in Bolivia, an adequate food supply during the critical period of stabilization is mandatory for success of the program. USOM and embassy recommendations have been urgently requested. (ICA Daily Cable Summary, 25 Oct, Secret)

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