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2. BRITISH SEE BID FOR MIDDLE EAST TALKS IN BULGANIN LETTER

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The British Foreign Office, in a preliminary appraisal of Premier Bulganin's letter to Prime Minister Macmillan, feels that it contains a veiled bid to par-

ticipate in talks on the Middle East with the United States, Britain and France. While a definitive British attitude has not yet been formed, the Foreign Office seems to think that the USSR cannot be excluded indefinitely from talks concerning developments in the Middle East.

Comment

trip to Moscow.

There have been no recent indications that London believes the situation in the Middle East could be eased by seeking an accommodation with the USSR. Macmillan may nevertheless again be considering a

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25X	1A 4. IRAQI OFFICERS ARRESTED FOR ANTI- REGIME ACTIVITIES
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	A group of younger Iraqi army officers, including a colonel, were arrested on 16 April for antigovernment activities,
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	It is not known whether the arrests were carried
EV1	out to stop an actual conspiracy, or as a warning to disaf-
5X1	fected officers.
	Comment There have been a number of reports of discontent among the younger Iraqi officer element because of what they consider to be Premier Nuri Said's anti-Nasr, pro-Western policy. It is not believed, however, that the Iraqi army is seriously disaffected.
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6. WEST GERMAN PROBLEMS WITH STATUS-OF-FORCES AGREEMENTS

Commenting on Bonn's suggestion to suspend the status-of-forces negotiations, Ambassador Bruce remarks that although West German officials are undoubtedly seeking a negotiating advantage, they also genuinely fear an agreement unacceptable to the Bundestag. Bruce points out that on two of the most difficult unresolved items in the negotiations--relating to freedom of the Western forces in Germany to maneuver, and to Allied retention of real estate requisitioned from the Germans--the Allied proposals not only exceed rights granted by the Bonn Conventions and those under status-of-forces agreements in other NATO countries, but also run counter to German laws.

There is intense public interest in both these subjects, he observes, since German citizens want their houses and property back and do not want to be disturbed by maneuvers. He thinks German unwillingness to come to grips with these hard problems is chiefly responsible for the proposal to end the negotiations.

Comment The West German government would undoubtedly consider itself in a perilous position, in view of the coming election, if it announced highly unpopular status-of-forces agreements on maneuvers and property requisitioning at this time.

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ANNEX

Watch Report 350, 25 April 1957 of the Intelligence Advisory Committee

No:350

Conclusions on Indications of Hostilities

On the basis of findings by its Watch Committee, the Intelligence Advisory Committee concludes that:

- A. No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against the continental US or its possessions in the immediate future.
- B. No Sino-Soviet bloc country intends to initiate hostilities against US forces abroad, US allies or areas peripheral to the Orbit in the immediate future.
- A deliberate initiation of hostilities by either Israel or the Arab states is improbable in the immediate future. Unsettled issues and tensions, particularly the internal situation in Jordan, continue to constitute possibilities for violence. Should there be intensified disorders or civil war in Jordan, military intervention by neighboring Arab states probably would occur, and Israeli intervention would be a possibility.

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