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NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH  
OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WORKING PAPER

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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For Week Ending  
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GREECE

Restoring public order: Although the task of getting rid of the Communist guerrillas remains Greece's most pressing internal security problem, old political bitternesses and the after-effects of protracted uncertainty are likely to create additional difficulties for the government in its attempts to restore public order throughout the country. The problem is already evident in the Peloponnesus, where the government has virtually eliminated the guerrilla menace but has been unable to abolish the rightist terrorist bands which have been operating in the area. Local instances of political extremism and brigandage may also crop up in Macedonia--where the government hopes to return more than 100,000 refugees to their homes by the end of June--particularly since the government (while exercising caution) has had to issue some arms for purposes of local protection against new guerrilla incursions. Similar difficulties are likely to become more widespread as local security responsibilities are turned over to the small 25,000-man gendarmerie in the wake of the anti-guerrilla operations now being carried forward by National forces in central and northern Greece.

TURKEY

Cabinet changes? Recent predictions that Premier Gunaltay's entire cabinet is about to resign probably represent wishful thinking on the part of a section of the opposition, which has been belaboring the government for its conduct of foreign affairs ever since Foreign Minister Sadak's return from Washington. Although the Turks are disappointed over the results of Sadak's mission, they have not given any widespread support to the thesis, most persistently advanced by the Nation Party, that a more competent administration would have obtained firmer security commitments from the US. As a result, any changes in the government are likely to arise, not over the security issue, but over the chronic problem of high living costs, now more acute than ever. Despite the growing popularity of Gunaltay himself, the gentlemen holding the portfolios for financial and economic affairs will have to do more than dispense the doubtless sound advice recently preferred by

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one of their number--that the Turks must consume less and produce more--if they are to hang on to their jobs. The hard-pressed salary worker certainly doesn't want to listen to ministerial exhortations against buying what he can't afford anyway, and although the cost of living question is now reportedly being given "unusual" attention, he would like to see some tangible results.

### ITALIAN COLONIES

The UK-Italian proposal.\* Although the UK-Italian proposal concerning the former Italian colonies has been accepted (with modifications) by the GA Political Committee and may be the only solution capable of obtaining a two-thirds majority in the GA, it has aroused opposition among the inhabitants of the former colonies, particularly in Tripolitania.

The proposal would give to Italy the trusteeship of Italian Somaliland immediately and trusteeship over Tripolitania at the end of 1951. The UK would become trustee for Cyrenaica, and the French would continue to administer the Fezzan. The cities of Asmara and Massawa in Eritrea would be given a "special status" although the country itself except for the Western province would be ceded to Ethiopia. This "special status" has not been defined, but Ethiopia will not take kindly to any suggestion that the two cities be internationalized. The proposal's provision that the Western Province of Eritrea be incorporated into the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan was rejected by the Political Committee.

The Somali Youth League, the only politically articulate group in Italian Somaliland, believes the UK-Italian proposal to be the worst possible solution of the problem. It is likely that the Italians will encounter various difficulties if they are given trusteeship of that country. The Tripolitani, who blame not only the UK and Italy for having made the proposal but also the US and France for having approved it, have reacted strongly. Several large demonstrations have taken place in the city of Tripoli, where tension and rioting continue.

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\* Although the GA has rejected the UK-Italian proposal, this article is included here as a matter of general interest.

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If the UN approves the proposed plan for Tripolitania, the British Military Administration will have its hands full paving the way for Italian trusteeship, although its difficulties will be lessened if it carries out its promise to replace the current "care and maintenance" policy with one of "economic assistance." Little can be done, however, to dispel the opposition of the Tripolitanians to Italian trusteeship. If the Italians return at the end of 1951, they will probably have to use considerable force to maintain their authority against strong Tripolitanian opposition.

### IRAN

Another border incident: The latest incident on the Soviet-Iranian border suggests that the USSR has no immediate intention of easing up its pressure on Iran. Threatening Soviet gestures had become less frequent recently; this fact, together with the temporary recall of Ambassador Sadchikov to Moscow, lent substance to the belief that the Kremlin might be planning to re-examine its Iranian policy. Although a re-examination may be in the cards, border incidents will probably continue as part of a war of nerves. In view, however, of the strong resistance offered by the Iranian Army to the latest incursions and the immediate protest made by the Iranian Foreign Minister, it is unlikely that these tactics will shake Iran's determination to withstand Soviet efforts at penetration.

### NOTED IN BRIEF

Evatt's new Balkan conciliation attempt appears to be reaching an impasse over the same issue which ended discussion last November. Apparently determined again to forestall agreement in a way which would throw the blame on Greece, Albania has reiterated its previous demand that Greece renounce its traditional claim to Northern Epirus. Actually the subject is a substantive one, not within the province of the conciliation discussions, and one on which it would not be politically feasible for the Greek Government to give way. Bulgaria and Yugoslavia will probably again refuse to sign any agreement with Greece in the absence of a Greek-Albanian accord.

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Greek guerrilla activities continue to be marked by considerable mobility. In the Grammos area along the Albanian frontier, the Greek Army's pressure has been countered by the rapid movement of a number of guerrilla

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brigades, some of them to the rear of army positions. In several sectors along the Bulgarian frontier and in central Greece, the guerrillas are employing evasive tactics, thus providing real distraction to the Greek Army without dissipating guerrillas manpower and supplies.

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Greece's cancellation of Czech air operating rights on 9 May, though ostensibly undertaken in retaliation for continued Czech support of the Greek guerrillas, was actually a long-planned step taken in response to US pressure. The political and subversive uses to which the Czechs have put their air operations through Greece to the Near and Middle East have long prompted a US desire to curb these operations. For the past year and a half Greece has resisted Czech efforts to obtain a formal bilateral air agreement while awaiting a suitable pretext for revoking the temporary rights under which Czechoslovakia has operated.

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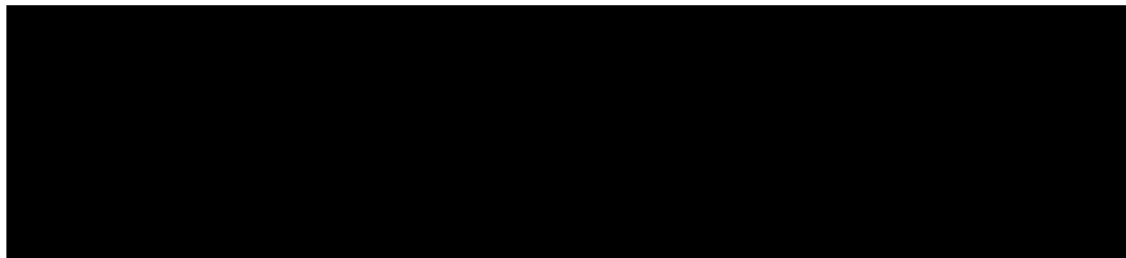
Another Turkish soldier has been shot at near the Bulgarian border. The Turkish Government, which reportedly had received an unsatisfactory reply to its proces-verbale concerning an earlier incident of this character, has sent off another proces-verbale about the more recent one.

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The recent meeting between King Abdullah and Israeli Foreign Minister Sharett was "friendly" but made no progress toward a solution of outstanding Israeli-Jordan problems. Abdullah intimated that it would be premature to discuss resumption of work by Israelis at the potash plant and the Rutenberg hydroelectric works until Jordan got its outlet to the sea and agreement was reached on the Arab refugees.

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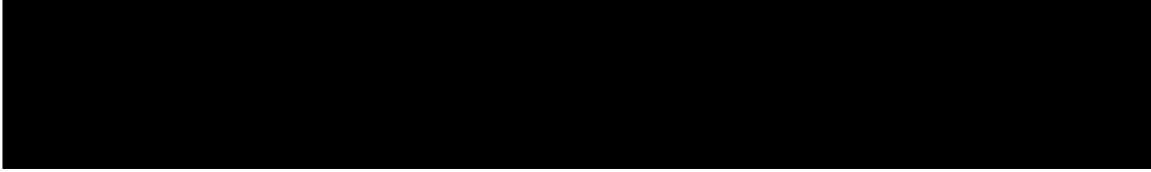
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Renewed efforts to absorb Iran's gendarmerie into the army are being made by Chief of Staff Razmara notwithstanding his recent assurances to the contrary. If carried out, Razmara's plan, which apparently has the approval of the Shah, would probably arouse opposition in Iran and abroad from liberal elements who would view it as a trend toward military dictatorship. It would, moreover, provide excellent material for Soviet propagandists.

\* \* \*

An Iranian proclamation claiming sub-sea mineral rights in the Persian Gulf has reportedly been drafted by the Iranian Government, which recently learned that the Saudi Arabian Government had taken similar action. Thus Iran will not be caught unawares when Saudi Arabia issues its proclamation. Nevertheless, the Iranian Government is faced with something of a dilemma: if the Iranian draft lays claim to Bahrein and other disputed islands, division of the sub-sea rights among the littoral states will become a very difficult problem; if, on the other hand, the draft makes no mention of Iran's long-standing claim to these islands, the Majlis may well refuse to ratify the proclamation.

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