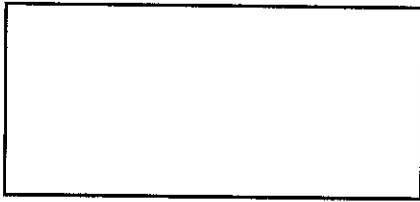


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29 May 1957

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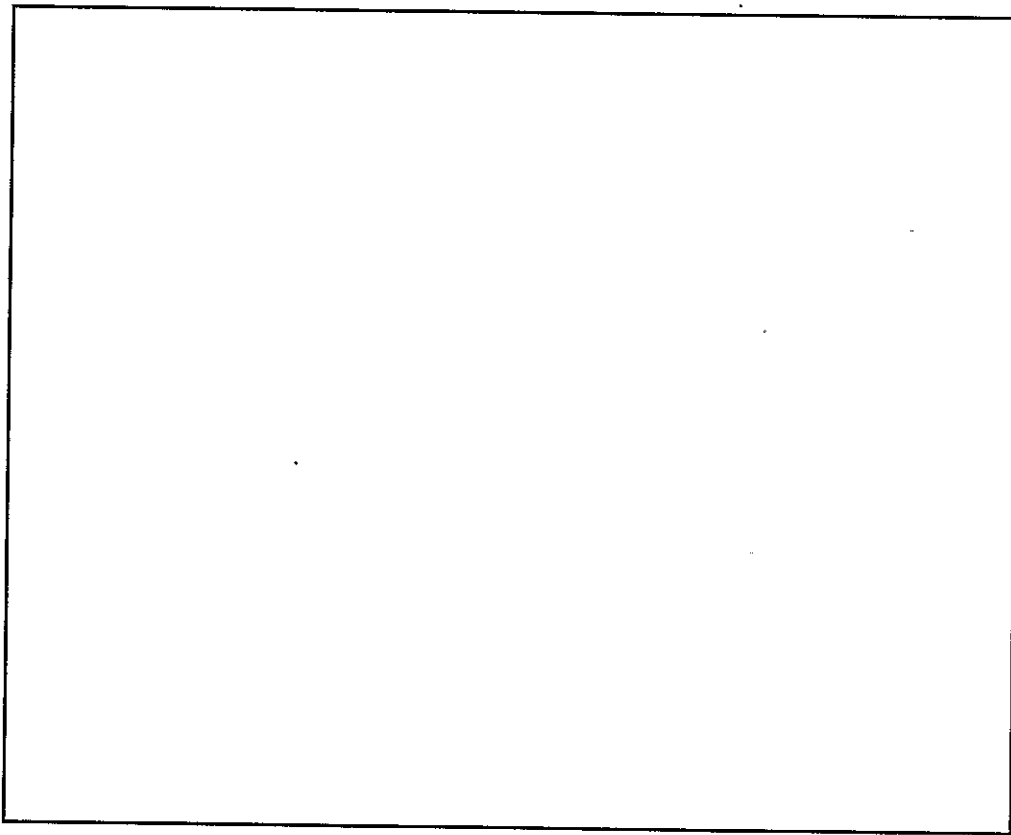
CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 30
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 7/29
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 26 Dec 79 REVIEWER:

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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

~~TOP SECRET~~

5. FRENCH POSITION ON DISARMAMENT MAY BE SHIFTING

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Pressures seem to be mounting in France in favor of a national nuclear weapons program, and any new government may be unable to renew Mollet's assurances that France would forego such a program if an early disarmament agreement could be reached.

A French Press Agency commentary on 27 May pointed out that most French political parties have taken the position that atomic armament is a necessary condition of independence. The influential conservative and pro-US daily Figaro has also editorialized that to eliminate France from atomic competition would deprive it of the status to which its international responsibilities entitle it.

Mollet's defeat has opened the way for strong nationalist pressures. Behind these pressures are the impact on French opinion of the British decision to rely on nuclear deterrent power; announcement of plans to overhaul the French defense establishment to meet the demands of nuclear warfare; and accumulating frustrations arising from France's setbacks in Algeria and the Middle East.

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