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5 May 1955

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY



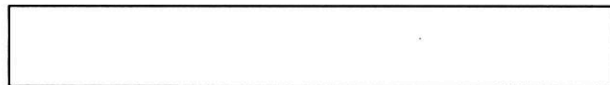
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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This action contrasts with Hatoyama's recent Diet speeches in which he went out of his way to emphasize that Japan's basic policy is to maintain close ties with the United States. It illustrates

his working assumption that Japan can maintain friendly relations with the Sino-Soviet bloc without endangering the benefits derived from Japan's alliance with the United States.

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Status of Top Soviet Leaders

The Soviet leaders' portraits were apparently arranged on May Day to convey the impression that Party Secretary Khrushchev enjoys precedence but not unqualified pre-eminence. Premier Bulganin's picture displaced that of Khrushchev in first place in some of the displays, but the party secretary appeared in the number-one spot more often than the premier.

Malenkov's portrait was placed at or near the end of the gallery. He was third in line, however, when the presidium members mounted the Lenin-Stalin tomb, and was shown standing between Khrushchev and Kaganovich in the pictures published in the Soviet press the following day.

These minor inconsistencies may have been designed to show that Malenkov's demotion denoted a realignment of po-

litical power but has not undermined the stability of the collective leadership.

Neither N. N. Shatalin, who is still formally a party secretary, nor N. M. Shvernik, a candidate member of the party presidium and chief of the Soviet trade unions, appeared at the ceremonies.

Shvernik was last seen in public on 9 February and Shatalin on 21 February, and their absence on May Day strengthens the supposition that neither is presently active in his post.

There have been unsubstantiated reports that Shvernik, an Old Bolshevik who is now nearly 68, is ill. Nothing has been heard of Shatalin, regarded as a protégé of Malenkov, and it is likely that he has been removed from the key post he held in the area of personnel appointments.

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May Day Military Parade
In Moscow

Unfavorable weather forced cancellation of the air portion of the military demonstration in Moscow on May Day, but the Soviet army displayed new or modified artillery.

The main new item of equipment was a 200mm gun-howitzer

with a modified recoil system, mounted on a single-wheeled carriage and towed by a heavy-tracked prime mover. The army attaché reports that this is the same piece originally seen in a rehearsal and thought to be of 240mm caliber.

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This suggests that the weapon is not an entirely new departure, since the estimated caliber is more nearly consistent with previously employed Soviet artillery. The mounting, however, represents an improvement in mobility over the heavy artillery pieces now in use by Soviet field forces.

Improvements in carriage were probably also incorporated in the new or modified 122mm antitank guns and 152mm gun-howitzers displayed in the parade. In addition, sixteen 122mm AA guns were displayed. This is the largest number of these new Soviet heavy anti-aircraft weapons seen at one time by American observers, although the sighting of small numbers of them in convoys in Moscow since late 1954 had suggested that they were to be added to the air defenses of the Soviet capital.

There was no air show, but several new planes had previously appeared in practice flights.

Eleven new jet heavy bombers (BISON) were seen in a single rehearsal flight. Analysis of aircraft numerals indicates, however, that as many as 13 different planes may have been involved in preparations for May Day. Formation flights of this type aircraft were noted in eight of the 11 practice flights observed by Western officials.

Three of the new four-engine turboprop swept-wing aircraft, designated BEAR by Western intelligence, participated in one of the last rehearsals.

Preliminary analysis tends to support evaluations of this plane as a bomber rather than as a cargo or tanker aircraft.

The USSR may have intended to demonstrate advances in air defense as well as offensive air capabilities, inasmuch as a new twin-jet swept-wing all-weather fighter and a new single-jet fighter were also seen in pre-parade rehearsals.

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