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REPORT ON TRENDS AND IMPLICATIONS OF SOVIET POLICY

USSR: SELECTED CHRONOLOGY

DECEMBER 1st, 1954 TO APRIL 15th, 1955

A. EXTERNAL

DECEMBER
12
MOSCOW CONFERENCE of USSR and satellites ends (it began November 29th). Conferees agree to meet again, if Paris Agreements are ratified, in order to take steps to implement joint measures with regard to armed forces and commands.

FINLAND: Pravda publishes communiqué on MIKOYAN's visit to Finland (November 26th - December 1st). USSR will grant loan to Finland. "Striving of Soviet Union and Finland to make their contribution" to creation of all-European security system is reaffirmed.

IRAN: Soviet-Iranian agreement on regulation of frontier and financial problems is signed in Teheran. Henceforth, all matters pertaining to frontier-demarcation line between USSR and Iran throughout its entire length are considered settled, and parties renounce territorial claims on each other. Parties also agree to make final settlement of all financial claims connected with World War II.

4. NATO: Marshal VASILEVSKIY, in Pravda article, attacks Field-Marshal MONTGOMERY for saying NATO was building its plans around assumption that atomic weapons would be used in any future war.

9 In notes answering French, British and US notes of November 29th, USSR says "remilitarisation" of Western Germany will make reunification of Germany "impossible". Note to France rebuffs French inquiry of December 7th as to whether USSR is prepared to sign Austrian State Treaty.

10 FRANCE: "Meeting of Representatives of Soviet Public Opinion, Dedicated to Tenth Anniversary of Signature of Franco-Soviet Treaty of Alliance", organized by various "unofficial" Soviet bodies, is held in Moscow. French Ambassador attends as guest. MCLOTOV threatens denunciation of Treaty if France ratifies Paris Agreements.

16 FRANCE: In note to France, USSR says that "ratification of Paris Agreements will annul Franco-Soviet Treaty".

GREAT BRITAIN: Marshal ZHUKOV, writing in Pravda, attacks Prime Minister CHURCHILL for his Woodford statement of November 23rd on re-arming German troops at end of World War II.

MBER

7 USSR sends notes to Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Turkey, in answer to their notes of November 29th. Soviet notes reproach addressees for refusing to attend Moscow Conference and for failing to put forward alternative suggestions for European security.

USSR sends notes to Austria, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia, deploring their failure to attend Moscow Conference. Notes are milder than those to nine NATO members.

0 GREAT BRITAIN: In note to UK, USSR warns that "act of ratification of Paris Agreements will cancel Anglo-Soviet Treaty of 1942". (House of Commons approved Agreements on November 18th).

8 INDO-CHINA: Chinese People's Republic and Democratic Republic of Viet-nam (i.e., Viet-minh) issue communiqué announcing signature at Peking of agreements providing Chinese aid to Viet-minh in restoration and development of its transportation system (railroads, highways, aviation) and of five hydro-electric plants.

51 Delegations of Polish Sejm (i.e., Diet), "German Democratic Republic" People's Chamber, and Czechoslovakian National Assembly meet in conference at Prague "in order to manifest will of their peoples to defend peace and prevent re-birth of German militarism". Final resolution of Conference says that three states "will take all measures necessary to safeguard their independence ... and inviolability of their frontiers and territories", if Paris Agreements are ratified.

5 YUGOSLAVIA: Soviet-Yugoslav trade and payments agreement, signed in Moscow, provides for 1955 exchanges worth \$20,000,000. This is first such agreement between two countries since 1949.

8 IRAQ: In note to Iraq, USSR announces it is withdrawing its diplomatic mission from Baghdad "in view of unfriendly attitude of Iraqi Government towards USSR".

1 EASTERN GERMANY: Spokesman for East German Volkspolizei says "workers' controls" will be established to keep West Berliners from shopping in East Berlin.

2 EASTERN GERMANY: East German People's Chamber approves Prague Conference decisions by passing resolution calling for "joint defense against aggression in event Paris war pacts are ratified". A speaker says that 60,000,000 Poles, Czechoslovaks and East Germans will band together in close alliance to oppose Western "aggressive military bloc".

3 WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION: USSR delivers notes to Great Britain, France, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, warning that Paris Agreements contravene Geneva Convention of June 17th, 1925, banning use of poison gas in warfare.

5 GERMANY: Soviet Government issues Declaration on German question, calling for four-power conference on restoration of German unity on basis of free all-German elections, but warning that negotiations on this subject will "become impossible" if Paris Agreements are ratified. Declaration also calls for normalisation of relations between USSR and Western Germany, and warns

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ARY

5 that ratification of Paris Agreements will necessitate joint efforts of "peace-loving European states to foster strengthening of peace and security in Europe".

UNITED NATIONS: TASS communiqué announces that USSR will submit report on Soviet atomic electrical station to UN international conference on peaceful uses of atomic energy.

6 EASTERN GERMANY: "German Democratic Republic" promises that West German youth who flee to Soviet zone of Germany to escape military service, will be exempt from "GDR" military service.

7 EASTERN GERMANY: "GDR" suddenly withdraws factory workers from posts as guards on East-West Berlin sector borders.

8 ATOMIC ENERGY: Pravda publishes communiqué of USSR Council of Ministers announcing that Soviet Union has proposed to Chinese People's Republic, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and "German Democratic Republic", that it help them in developing peaceful uses of atomic energy. Recipient states will give USSR "appropriate raw materials".

POLAND: Plenum of Central Committee of United Polish Workers' (i.e., Communist) Party hears First Secretary BIERUT deliver report calling for reduction of rate of growth of consumer-goods industry, emphasis on heavy industry. (Plenum ends January 24th).

4 CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC: CHOU En-lai issues statement reaffirming CPR's intention to "liberate" Formosa, denouncing talk of UN-arranged cease-fire as "a conspiracy", and charging that US is stepping up its military operations in order to "make provocations".

FINLAND: Soviet-Finnish agreement signed in Moscow provides for loan to Finland of 40,000,000 rubles in gold or equivalent in currency to be agreed upon. Loan is for 10 years and will bear interest at 2.5% per annum. Protocol on Soviet-Finnish trade in 1955 is signed simultaneously.

5 HUNGARY: In speech to coal-miners' meeting, First Secretary of Hungarian Workers' (i.e., Communist) Party RAKOSI says Hungary must "continue to industrialise vigorously" during second five-year plan (now scheduled to begin in 1956).

GERMANY: Decree of Presidium of Supreme Soviet of USSR terminates state of war between USSR and Germany and establishes "peaceful relations". Decree does not affect Soviet rights and obligations under four-power agreements respecting Germany.

JAPAN: Chief Soviet representative in Japan A.I. DOMINITSKIY hands Premier HATOYAMA memorandum notifying Japan of Soviet readiness to begin negotiations aimed at "normalisation of relations". Talks could be held in either Moscow or Tokyo.

6 UNITED STATES: Pravda calls President EISENHOWER's message to Congress on Formosa "a brazen intervention" in China's internal affairs, and says it is "one more link in chain of aggressive steps taken by US ruling circles against Chinese People's Republic.

9 MOLOTOV receives W.R. HEARST, Jr., and J.K. SMITH. He supports CPR claim to Formosa and protests against US bases near Soviet borders.

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JARY

30 UNITED NATIONS: Soviet delegate SOBOLEV requests Sir Leslie Knox MUNRO to call Security Council session on Formosa question, submits text of Soviet resolution condemning "aggressive actions" of US against CPR and instructing US to withdraw from Formosa.

RUARY

2 INDIA: USSR and India sign agreement at New Delhi according to which USSR will equip complete metallurgical factory in India. Factory will produce 1,000,000 tons of steel annually and corresponding amount of rolled metal. Job is to be completed by end of 1959. USSR grants India twelve-year credit, to bear interest at 2.5% per annum, to cover cost of project. Loan will be repaid in rupees.

3 CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Czechoslovak Republic ends state of war with Germany.

4 FORMOSA: MOLOTOV receives British and Indian envoys in Moscow, makes statements to them proposing that USSR, Britain and India sponsor convocation of conference on Formosa, to include CPR, US, Britain, USSR, France, India, Burma, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ceylon.

8 CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC: Session of Standing Committee of All-China Assembly of People's Representatives adopts decree introducing conscription, creating officers' ranks and ranks of general-lissimus and marshal.

9 USSR Supreme Soviet adopts Declaration calling upon parliaments to establish direct ties with each other, to exchange delegations and invite parliamentarians to speak in each other's assemblies.

10 CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Plenum of Central Committee of Czechoslovakian Communist Party hears Prime Minister SIROKY emphasise importance of heavy industry, call for strengthening of MTSS, which are not fulfilling "their main task; to serve as tool for reconstruction of agriculture on socialist basis". Plenum calls for assimilation of 360,000 acres of new land, which Ministry of Agriculture had failed to bring under cultivation in 1954.

14 CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC: CPR and USSR exchange telegrams on fifth anniversary of signing of mutual assistance treaty. CPR telegram emphasises struggle for Formosa; Soviet telegram does not mention Formosa.

AFGHANISTAN: Czechoslovak-Afghan protocol signed in Kabul provides for construction by Czechoslovakia of \$1,500,000 cement factory in Afghanistan, to be ready in two years. Construction will be financed out of \$5,000,000 credit made to Afghanistan by Czechoslovakia in August, 1954.

15 IRAN: Soviet-Iranian agreement signed in Teheran provides for delivery to Iran by USSR of 10,000 tons of wheat in February-March, 1955.

SWEDEN: Pravda publishes acceptance by Swedish Riksdag of invitation to send delegation to visit USSR in June, 1955.

16 JAPAN: Soviet note to Japan says USSR is ready to undertake talks on exchange of views looking to re-establishment of normal relations. Talks could be held at any place convenient to Japanese Government.

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FEBRUARY

18 Soviet Declaration on work of UN disarmament sub-committee calls for destruction of all stocks of nuclear weapons and maintenance of armaments at or below level of January 1st, 1955, with armaments budgets not to be increased above 1955 level. Also calls on UN to convene world conference in 1955 on banning of atomic bomb and armaments reduction, and establishment of control over fulfilment of these measures.

9 POLAND: Polish Council of State ends state of war with Germany.

HUNGARY: Hungarian Government issues communiqué saying Premier NAGY is "seriously ill".

22 CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC: In speech before Dairen meeting commemorating 37th anniversary of Soviet Army and Navy, CPR Defence Minister PIN Teh-huai says that, if anyone dares start aggressive war, CPR and USSR "will support each other ... We warn American aggressive clique so that it should make no mistake".

EASTERN GERMANY: Council of Ministers of "German Democratic Republic" issues declaration greeting Polish, Czechoslovak declarations terminating state of war; says "GDR" will band together with USSR, other satellites, to protect selves, will agree with Poland and Czechoslovakia on joint measures, since three of them are especially threatened.

25 EASTERN GERMANY: Soviet Governmental Delegation, headed by MIKOYAN, arrives in Berlin on visit to attend Leipzig Fair. On February 28th, in speech at Fair, MIKOYAN says ratification of Paris Agreements would result in indefinite postponement of question of German reunification, and appeals for Soviet-West German trade. Delegation returns to Moscow March 2nd.

UNITED NATIONS: Disarmament sub-committee begins session in London.

GREAT BRITAIN: USSR, in note to UK, repeats warning of Soviet note of December 20th, 1954, that "act of ratification" of Paris Agreements will annul Anglo-Soviet Treaty of 1942.

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1 UNITED STATES: Soviet agricultural newspaper welcomes February 10th suggestion by Des Moines (Iowa) Register that Iowa exchange agricultural delegations with USSR.

BULGARIA: Bulgarian Government terminates state of war with Germany.

4 HUNGARY: Plenum of Central Committee of Hungarian Workers' (i.e., Communist) Party meets, adopts resolution accusing Premier Imre NAGY of having propagated "right-revisionist, anti-Marxist" line, consisting in denial of necessity for primacy of heavy-industrial development, denial of leading role of Party in National Front. Resolution calls for realisation of "general line of Party".

5 UNITED STATES: Father Georges BISSONNETTE, Catholic chaplain to US Embassy in Moscow, leaves USSR. Soviet Government motivates his expulsion by reference to US refusal to extend visa of Exarch of Moscow Patriarchate in North and South America BORIS, which, it claims, constituted violation of ROOSEVELT-LITVINOV agreement.

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5 Chairman of Council of Ministers N.A. BULGANIN receives Swedish Ambassador Rolf SOHLMAN, dean of Moscow diplomatic corps, in first of interviews to be granted to chiefs of foreign missions.

7 YUGOSLAVIA: In speech to opening session of National Assembly, President TITO criticises MOLOTOV's references to Yugoslavia in latter's February 8th speech to Supreme Soviet.

RUMANIA: Rumanian Government terminates state of war with Germany.

"PEACE" MOVEMENT: In speech to plenum of Soviet Committee for Defence of Peace, Ilya EHRENBURG says two or three hydrogen bombs would be enough for "heavily populated Britain".

YUGOSLAVIA: Pravda publishes excerpts from TITO's March 7th speech, including passage criticising MOLOTOV for lending support to contention that Yugoslav leaders had seen their mistakes and were trying to correct them through "normalisation of relations" with USSR, satellites.

UNITED STATES: Soviet Foreign Office sends note to US Embassy proposing that two countries exchange agricultural delegations, as suggested by Des Moines Register, and asking US for its attitude to proposal.

YUGOSLAVIA: Pravda article comments on TITO's March 7th speech, rejects his contention that MOLOTOV criticised Yugoslav "withdrawal" from 1948 positions, says USSR continues to seek "normalisation of relations" with Yugoslavia.

AUSTRIA: Pravda reports MOLOTOV's conversations of February 25th and March 2nd with Austrian Ambassador BISCHOFF. MOLOTOV proposed convocation of conference on Austria before ratification of Paris Agreements is completed, said Austrian question could be solved if guarantees against Anschluss could be found. Occupation troops could then be withdrawn without waiting for conclusion of German peace treaty.

IRAN: Pravda article strongly warns Iran against participation in "military blocs", points out that USSR would regard Iranian entry into alliances as violation of Soviet-Iranian treaty of 1927.

GREAT BRITAIN: Pravda publishes exchange of letters between Prime Minister CHURCHILL and MOLOTOV during July-August, 1954, in which Prime Minister proposed unofficial Soviet-British talks.

FRANCE: USSR, answering French note of January 26th, repeats warning that act of ratification of Paris Agreements will annul Franco-Soviet Treaty of 1944.

Pravda announces that USSR and its East-European satellites have held consultations on conclusion of mutual-aid treaty and establishment of unified military command in event Paris Agreements are ratified. Consulting parties are in complete agreement. CPR participated in consultations, agrees fully to proposed measures.

UNITED NATIONS: Pravda article says US, France and Britain engage in disarmament talks in London only in order to use them as cover for relentless arms race and preparation for atomic war, and to confuse public opinion in their countries. US is accused of setting up new post of disarmament advisor for Harold E. STASSEN in preparation for breaking off talks.

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24 UNITED NATIONS: GROMYKO, in lengthy interview with TASS correspondent in London, discusses in detail work of UN disarmament sub-committee, despite secrecy provision adopted at beginning of talks. He says USSR is willing to make concessions to Western viewpoint in order to facilitate agreement, and to join Western powers in reducing conventional armaments before ban on atomic weapons has been adopted. He accuses West of impeding possibility of agreement.

25 AUSTRIA: Pravda reports two new conversations between MOLOTOV and Austrian Ambassador BISCHOFF on March 14th and 24th, at which BISCHOFF handed MOLOTOV Austrian Government's answer to USSR's proposals of February 8th, and MOLOTOV transmitted clarification of Soviet position. MOLOTOV also stated that Soviet Government would welcome visit to Moscow by Chancellor RAAB.

26 In speech to RSFSR Supreme Soviet, VOROSHILOV stresses "peaceful co-existence", but says that new world war would not destroy civilisation, but capitalist system alone.

27 Pravda publishes BULGANIN's answer to TASS correspondent's questions on President EISENHOWER's press conference statement on possible constructive character of four-power conference. BULGANIN says Soviet Government "takes positive attitude" towards President's suggestion if conference in question would facilitate diminution of tension in international relations, and refers to Soviet proposal to call four-power conference on Austria.

30 BERLIN: East German traffic-control officials impose heavy increases in road tolls on trucks entering West Berlin.

31 EASTERN GERMANY: East German Government extends new increased road taxes to trucks carrying milk and meat, hitherto exempt.

37 CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC: CPR ends state of war with Germany.

8 JAPAN: TASS communiqué on Soviet-Japanese relations says that Soviet representative in Tokyo transmitted note to Premier HATOYAMA declaring that it would be preferable for Soviet-Japanese talks to take place in Moscow or Tokyo, rather than New York. Communiqué says that Foreign Minister SHIGEMITSU's April 6th statement denying that Japanese representatives had considered possibility of talks in Moscow or Tokyo "does not correspond to facts".

JAPAN: Japanese Foreign Office denies Soviet claim that Japan had expressed willingness to hold peace negotiations in either Moscow or Tokyo, insists they be held at United Nations in New York.

9 AUSTRIA: In notes to Great Britain, US and France, USSR says it considers further delay in conclusion of Austrian State Treaty unjustifiable, and expresses conviction that RAAB's talks in Moscow will assist in advancing settlement.

0 Soviet press announces that Council of Ministers of USSR has submitted to Presidium of Supreme Soviet proposals on annulment of Anglo-Soviet and Franco-Soviet treaties.

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II

2 CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC: CPR government, in communiqué, claims that April 11th "Air India" plane crash was result of sabotage by US and Nationalist Chinese secret agents, and that British authorities in Hong Kong bear "serious responsibility" for crash, since CPR had warned British Chargé d'Affaires in Peking that it would be necessary to take measures to ensure security of CPR personnel travelling on plane.

3 EASTERN GERMANY: East German Council of Ministers announces arrest of 521 "agents of US and British intelligence organs, GEHLEN spy organization" and other "Western intelligence agencies", protests utilisation of West Berlin as "centre for various espionage and diversionary groups".

5 AUSTRIA: Soviet-Austrian communiqué on April 12th - 15th conversations between Austrian Delegation and Soviet Government expresses Soviet readiness to conclude Austrian State Treaty at earliest date, provides for withdrawal of occupation troops by end of 1955 at latest. Austria promises to remain neutral.

B. INTERNAL

DECEMBER

7 All-Union Conference of Construction Workers (which opened November 30th) closes with speech by KHRUSHCHEV (which Pravda publishes on December 28th). In this speech, KHRUSHCHEV says: "In future, we should continue in every way to develop heavy industry. Heavy industry is basis of national economy, source of economic might of Soviet state, of its defensive capacity, source of prosperous and cultured life for the toilers".

5 Second All-Union Congress of Soviet Writers opens in Kremlin. Closes December 26th after electing 134-man Directorate.

8 Moscow journal, New Times, in article on 75th anniversary of STALIN's birth, singles out only KHRUSHCHEV and BULGANIN, among living Soviet leaders, for commendation for war work, ignoring MALENKOV. This treatment, which groups KHRUSHCHEV and BULGANIN with A.A. ZHDANOV (STALIN's heir-apparent until his death on August 31st, 1948) and A.S. SHCHERBAKOV (who died in 1945) as the most prominent Soviet war leaders - apart from STALIN - and relegates to the background the State Defence Committee of which MALENKOV was a member, occurs in many other Soviet publications during December.

9 After "open" trial (which began December 14th) in Leningrad, V.S. ABAKUMOV, former Minister of State Security, and three of his subordinates, are sentenced by Military Collegium of USSR Supreme Court to be shot. Defendants were accused of having fabricated cases against "representatives of Soviet intelligentsia", as well as "Leningrad case". ABAKUMOV was described in trial as agent of BERIA.

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EMSER

21 Seventy-fifth anniversary of STALIN's birth is prominently observed, in contrast to 1953 when his birthday was all but ignored.

Taegliche Rundschau, Soviet Army newspaper in East Berlin, publishes faked photograph in which figures of KHRUSHCHEV and BULGANIN have been added to original photograph of STALIN, A.A. ZHDANOV and VOROSHILOV.

24 Pravda publishes full text (four front-page columns) of KHRUSHCHEV's interview of September 25th, 1954, with British professor J.D. BERNAL. KHRUSHCHEV says collective farms build small, uneconomic electrical stations because big stations produce almost exclusively for demands of industry, which must be met before those of other sectors of economy. Also says heavy industry will continue in future to be given chief attention in Soviet economic planning, and that tractors and agricultural machinery are being sent during 1954 and 1955 mainly to new agricultural lands in Kazakhstan, Western Siberia and Trans-Volga.

Colonel-General I.V. SHIKIN, adherent of ZHDANOV who was purged following latter's death, is among those who receive decorations in New Year's honours list. This is first public mention of SHIKIN since he was purged.

JANUARY

7 KHRUSHCHEV addresses a gathering in Moscow of Komsomols and young people who have "volunteered" to go to virgin and fallow lands. He urges them to migrate permanently to Central Asia and Siberia, to marry there, and to produce more children (at least three per couple). He calls on MALENKOV to witness that it was he, KHRUSHCHEV, who had proposed to STALIN adoption of tax on bachelors and families with only one or two children.

11 Presidium of Supreme Soviet issues decree providing that livestock and poultry which cause damage to crops shall be detained by collective or state farm until owner pays indemnification, and setting penalties of 6-12 months corrective labour or one-two years deprivation of liberty for intentional damage to crops.

24 An article by D.T. SHEPILOV, chief editor of Pravda, condemns economists who have deviated from "general line of Party" by giving primary emphasis to consumer-goods production. SHEPILOV re-affirms in strongest terms "Stalinist law of socialism" that heavy industry must be given primary emphasis and that its development must be forced.

25 Plenum of Central Committee of Soviet Communist Party meets in Moscow, hears KHRUSHCHEV deliver report "On increasing production of livestock products", in which he attacks as deviationists those who propose concentration on consumer-goods production, rather than on increasing rate of growth of heavy industry.

Pravda announces that A.I. MIKOYAN has resigned as Minister of Trade. D.V. PAVLOV is appointed to replace him. MIKOYAN retains his post of Vice-Chairman of Council of Ministers.

31 Central Committee plenum ends session after adopting resolution based on KHRUSHCHEV's report.

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BRUARY

Pravda publishes article by Lieutenant-General A. RODIMTSEV on 12th anniversary of Stalingrad victory. Apart from STALIN, KHRUSHCHEV is only Soviet leader named in connection with battle. Pertinent paragraph reads: "On February 4th, 1943, on one of squares of liberated Stalingrad, large meeting of soldiers and workers of city was held. In name of Central Committee of Party, comrade N.S. KHRUSHCHEV congratulated participants on their victory and urged them to draw new strength from it for further struggle, further advance". Article attributes victory to "glorious Communist Party and Central Committee headed by I.V. STALIN". RODIMTSEV also attacks "American capitalists" for alleged covert support they were giving at time to Germany, and for delaying second front.

Supreme Soviet session begins. Finance Minister ZVEREV presents largest budget in Soviet history, with total income planned as 590,192,622,000 rubles, expenditure as 563,482,491,000 rubles, revealed defence expenditure of 112,122,710,000 rubles, or some 11,800,000,000 rubles more than in 1954 budget.

KHRUSHCHEV receives W.R. HEARST, Jr., J.K. SMITH and F. CONNIEFF. He protests at length against US bases located near Soviet borders.

7 Vice-Minister of Defence Marshal G.K. ZHUKOV receives HEARST et al. He attacks US bases, and says it was he who planned Stalingrad operation.

Supreme Soviet relieves six members of USSR Supreme Court, appoints seven new members.

8 MALENKOV resigns as Chairman of USSR Council of Ministers, accusing himself of inexperience and inability.

KHRUSHCHEV nominates Marshal N.A. BULGANIN for post of Chairman of Council of Ministers.

MOLOTOV reports to Supreme Soviet on international situation and Soviet foreign policy.

9 Supreme Soviet accepts BULGANIN's resignation as Minister Defence, appoints Marshal ZHUKOV to succeed him. MALENKOV is appointed Minister of Electrical Stations and Vice-Chairman of Council of Ministers.

Supreme Soviet session ends.

CHOU En-lai sends "sincere and warm greetings" to BULGANIN, and wishes him success as Chairman of USSR Council of Ministers "under leadership of united, monolithic Central Committee" of Soviet Communist Party.

5-18 KHRUSHCHEV attends Plenum of Central Committee of Ukrainian Communist Party in Kiev.

16 Izvestiya leader criticises Ministries of Agriculture and of State Farms, and local leaders, for insufficiencies in meat production.

17 Izvestiya leader criticises Ministries of Agriculture and of State Farms, and local leaders, for "careless attitude" towards fodder production.

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JANUARY

7 Pravda leader attacks Minister of Automobile, Tractor and Agricultural Machine-Building AKOPOV and his subordinates for failure to develop and produce efficient agricultural machines.

19 Second Plenum of All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions meets in Moscow, hears report by Vice-Chairman L.N. SOLOVYEV (instead of by Chairman SHVERNIK).

9 New York Times reports that USSR has contracted to buy 200,000 short tons of raw sugar from Cuba. Hungary and Czechoslovakia have recently bought 50,000 short tons of Brazilian and Cuban sugar.

Izvestiya leader criticises Ministry of Agriculture, republic and local organs, MTSs, collective and state farms, for failure to push forward mechanisation of livestock raising.

2 Taegliche Rundschau, Soviet Army newspaper in East Berlin, publishes translation of Lt.Gen. RODIMTSEV's article on Stalingrad victory (see February 2nd above). Translation omits paragraph referring to KHRUSHCHEV.

3 In Pravda article on 37th anniversary of Soviet Army and Fleet, Marshal I.S. KONIEV says Party sent KHRUSHCHEV, BULGANIN, ZHDANOV, SHCHERBAKOV, "and other leaders of Central Committee" to work in Army during World War II. Also writes: "Important role in leadership and direction of troops during course of war was assigned to fronts and armies. Those commanding troops were immediate organizers of operations which destroyed basic groupings of enemy troops".

Writing in Izvestiya, Marshal V.D. SOKOLOVSKIY does not mention KHRUSHCHEV et al. He says Soviet Army must be ready to "deprive aggressor of factor of surprise ..." in atomic warfare.

4 Pravda criticises Ministries of Electrical Stations and of Electrical-Station Construction for failure to use concrete instead of steel in construction of electrical stations.

7 Elections are held to Supreme Soviets of Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian, Uzbek, Georgian, Lithuanian, Moldavian, Latvian, Tadzhik, Turkmen and Esthonian constituent republics.

CH
1 Pravda announces governmental changes "on nomination of Chairman of Council of Ministers N.A. BULGANIN": MIKOYAN, PERVUKHIN and SABUROV are named First Vice-Chairmen of Council of Ministers; A.P. ZAVENYAGIN, V.A. KUCHERENKO, P.P. LOBANOV and M.V. KHRUNICHEV are named Vice-Chairmen of Council of Ministers. V.A. MALYSHEV is relieved of post of Minister of Medium Machine-Building, to which ZAVENYAGIN is named.

3 On nomination of BULGANIN, A.F. ZASYADKO is relieved of post of Minister of Coal Industry "in view of unsatisfactory work", and is replaced by A.N. ZADEMIDKO. A.I. KOZLOV is relieved of post of Minister of State Farms in view of fact that he "did not cope with work", and is replaced by I.A. BENEDIKTOV, who is relieved of post of Minister of Agriculture. No new Minister of Agriculture is appointed to replace BENEDIKTOV.

4 Soviet army newspaper Red Star says that military commanders must guide activity of political apparatus in Army, which is subordinate to tactical military command.

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11 Pravda publishes decree, signed by KHRUSHCHEV and BULGANIN, criticising hitherto applicable method of agricultural planning and establishing new "de-centralised" planning procedures.

12 Pravda publishes decree of Presidium of Supreme Soviet creating six Marshals of Soviet Union (BAGRAMYAN, BIRYUZOV, GRECHKO, YEREMENKO, MOSKALENKO, CHUIKOV), Chief Marshal of Aviation (ZHIGAREV), two Marshals of Aviation (RUDENKO, SUDETS), two Marshals of Artillery (VARENTSOV, KAZAKOV). Council of Ministers promotes Colonel-General BATOV to rank of General of Army.

22 Pravda announces that Presidium of Supreme Soviet, on BULGANIN's recommendation, has relieved G.F. ALEKSANDROV of post of Minister of Culture because he did not "assure leadership of Ministry". N.A. MIKHAILOV is relieved of post of Ambassador to Poland, named Minister of Culture.

23 Pravda announces that V.V. KUZNETSOV has been named First Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs. V.S. SEMYONOV and N.T. FEDORENKO have been named Vice-Ministers.

26 MALENKOV does not attend final session of Russian Republic Supreme Soviet, although he was among Party leaders at opening session on March 23rd. SABUROV, SHVERNIN and SHATALIN are also absent.

30 Conference of agricultural workers of Central Black-Earth Belt meets in Voronezh. KHRUSHCHEV declares in his speech that Party has decided to send "several tens of thousands of most experienced workers of Party and Soviet organizations" to replace chairmen of backward kolkhozes. He also explains that, by virtue of new "de-centralised" agricultural planning methods, it should be possible for leading kolkhozes to meet 1960 target levels during 1955, while average and backward kolkhozes should now meet them during 1956 and 1957 respectively.

31 Pravda announces that K.M. SOKOLOV has been relieved as Chairman of State Committee of Council of Ministers for Construction Matters, replaced by V.A. KUCHERENKO (who became Vice-Chairman of USSR Council of Ministers on March 1st).

RIL

3 Soviet press announces creation of all-Union Ministry of General Machine-Building. P.N. GOREMYKIN is named Minister.

4 MALENKOV is among Soviet leaders attending reception in Moscow.

5 Pravda leader calls for despatch of "at least 30,000 experienced workers" to fill posts of chairmen in backward collective farms. Article recalls similar despatch of Communists from cities to countryside during collectivisation drive of early 1930s.

7 Soviet press announces formation of all-Union Ministry of Construction of Enterprises of Coal Industry. L.G. MELNIKOV is named Minister, released from his duties as Soviet Ambassador to Rumania.

Palais de Chaillot,
Paris, XVIIe.

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