1. SOUTH VIETNAM - REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT MINISTER THANG IS COMPLAINING THAT CRITICISM OF HIS PROGRAM HAS RECENTLY BECOME FASHIONABLE AMONG SAIGON LEADERS. SOME OF THIS CRITICISM COMES FROM KY AND THIEN, IT PROBABLY STEMS FROM REGRETMENT OVER THE PUBLICITY ACCORDERD THANG AND HIS PROGRAMS. THANG'S RESIGNATION WOULD BE A REAL IMPEDIMENT TO REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT SINCE NO EQUALLY QUALIFIED SUCCESSOR IS IN SIGHT.

2. COMMUNIST CHINA - THE FOURTH CHINESE NUCLEAR TEST LAST WEEK APPARENTLY TOOK THE SOVIETS BY SURPRISE.

3. WEST GERMANY - ERHARD INTENDS TO YIELD WHATEVER INFLUENCE HE HAS LEFT IN HIS PARTY IN AN EFFORT TO ASSURE CONTINUITY IN HIS POLICIES. HE FAVORS FOREIGN MINISTER SCHROEDER AS HIS SUCCESSOR, BUT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO PRESS FOR SCHROEDER SO HARD AS TO EXCLUDE A COALITION WITH THE FREE DEMOCRATS UNDER SOME OTHER ACCEPTABLE CHANCELLOR.

4. UNITED KINGDOM - THE BRITISH ARE ABOMINATING OVER THEIR WORLD-WIDE MILITARY BUDGET PLANNING FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

BEFORE THE MILITARY BUDGET IS LOCKED INTO PLACE, THERE MAY WELL HAVE TO BE ANOTHER "GREAT DEBATE" ON EUROPE VERSUS THE FAR EAST. BRITISH OFFICIALS ARE ALREADY SAYING THAT IT IS ONLY US AND AUSTRALIAN PRESSURE THAT KEEPS THEM IN THE FAR EAST AND THAT, ULTIMATELY, LONDON MAY HAVE TO PRESENT THE US WITH A BASIC DECISION ON THE ISSUE.

5. COLOMBIA - EXTREMIST STUDENT LEADERS AND THE COMMUNISTS ARE DECLARING IN THE WAKE OF PRESIDENT Lleras' STRONG REACTION TO LAST WEEK'S RIOT AT THE UNIVERSITY. HE HAS MADE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT HE WILL PUT UP WITH NO MORE PROTEST AGAINST HIS DEMOCRATIC REFORM PROGRAM. THE COMMUNISTS MAY WELL HAVE SUFFERED THEIR BIGGEST DEFEAT IN MANY YEARS.

6. ARAB STATES - THE ARAB STATES ARE IN A STATE OF BARELY SUPPRESSED TURMOIL. GENERAL APPREHENSION OVER ISRAEL'S NEXT MOVE IS ONLY ONE FACTOR. ANOTHER IS THE DEEPENING HOSTILITY BETWEEN THE RADICAL AND CONSERVATIVE ARAB RULERS. THE MUTUAL DEFENSE PACT SIGNED YESTERDAY BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA COULD BE AIMED AT JORDAN AS MUCH AS AT ISRAEL.

JORDAN IS GENUINELY FEARFUL THAT ISRAEL MAY SEIZE ON THE PRESENT POOR STATE OF RELATIONS WITH EGYPT, STEAL, AND IRAQ TO LAUNCH A FULL-SCALE ATTACK ON JORDAN. AT THE SAME TIME, BOTH EGYP AND KING FAISAL IN SAUDI ARABIA, ARE INVESTIGATING REPORTS THAT THEY ARE THE TARGETS OF ASSASSINATION PLOTS.

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