

5 May 1957

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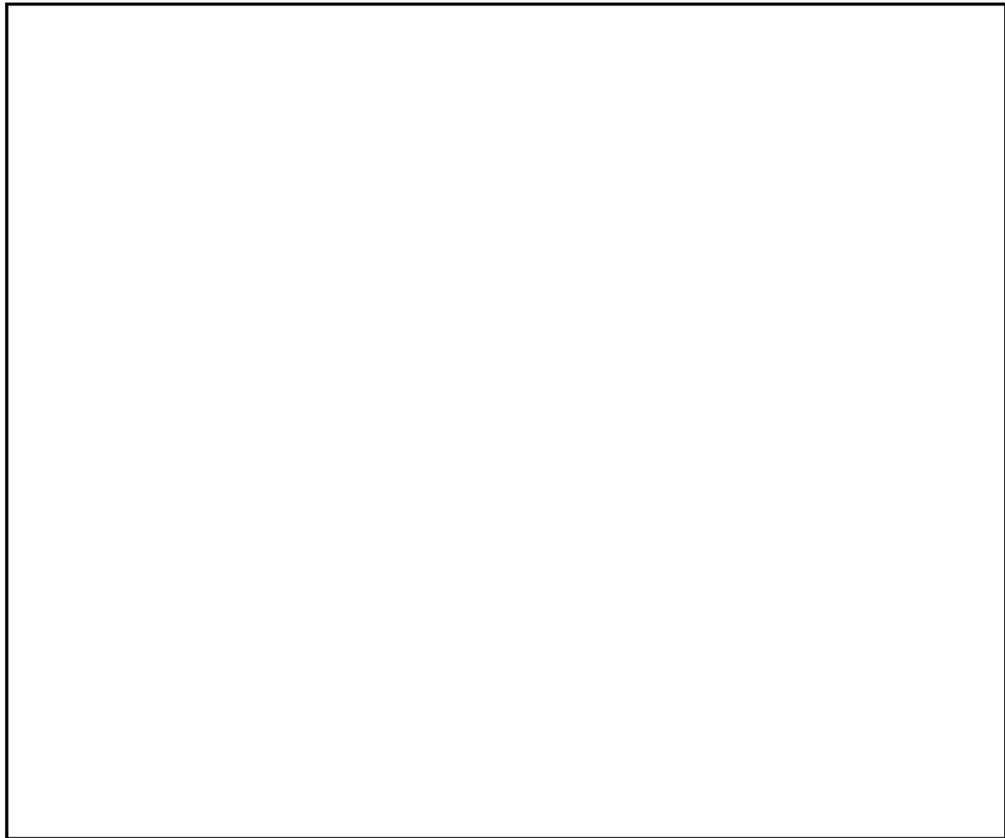
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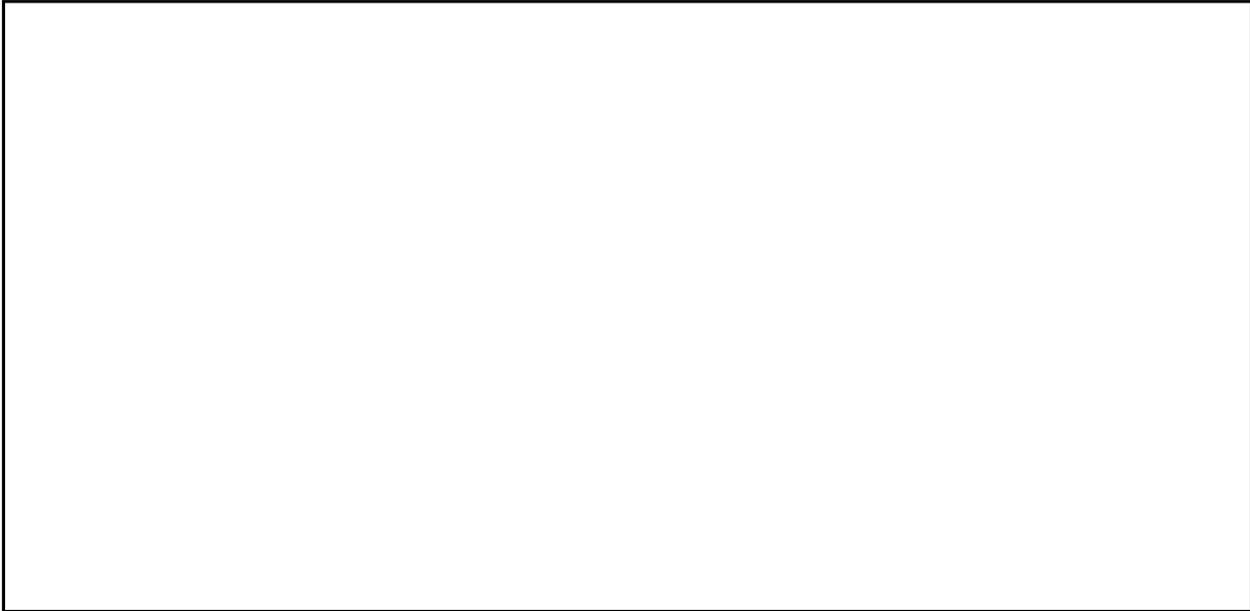
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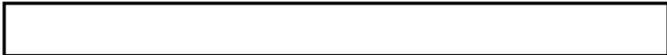
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OK 4. SYRIAN BY-ELECTIONS



OK 5. SARAGAT SOCIALISTS REPORTED WITHDRAWING FROM
ITALIAN CABINET



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OK 6. GHANA PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION MAY VISIT MOSCOW



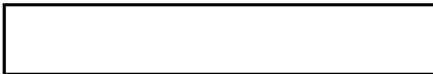
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4. SYRIAN BY-ELECTIONS

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According to unofficial returns, leftist candidates have won three out of four contests in the Syrian parliamentary by-elections held on 4-5 May. The elections were held to fill the posts of four conservative deputies convicted of conspiracy with Iraq.

In the important Damascus constituency, leftist Riad Malki won over his conservative opponent Mustafa Sibai, Moslem Brotherhood leader. At Homs and at Suwayda, in the Jebal Druze region, leftist candidates are reported to have comfortable margins. The fourth seat, which went to the rightist candidate, is in the Hauran tribal area, where ideology played almost no role.

The turnout of voters was about the same as in the 1954 parliamentary elections. The outcome apparently resulted from the leftists' domination of the government and, hence, of the voting machinery.

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5. SARAGAT SOCIALISTS REPORTED WITHDRAWING FROM ITALIAN CABINET

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Speculation of an early overthrow of Italian premier Segni's coalition government has followed press reports on 5 May that Vice Premier Saragat has announced that his Democratic Socialist Party will withdraw from the cabinet. The reports do not agree on how soon this move might take place. Refusal by the 19 Democratic Socialist deputies to support the government would erase Segni's slim majority in the 590-man lower house, reducing his assured support to his own 265 Christian Democratic deputies and 14 Liberals.

Strong pressure within the Democratic Socialist Party for withdrawal from the government has been evident for some months, stemming partly from a general party belief that the Segni government is not radical enough in its reform program, and partly from a belief on the part of many party members that withdrawal would facilitate reunion with the Nenni Socialists.

The most likely countermove by the Christian Democrats would be the formation of a single-party government, relying on the left for parliamentary support on some issues and on other occasions on the Liberals and most of the 40 Monarchist deputies. Too close an association with the right, however, would antagonize the reform-minded Christian Democratic left wing and might lead to its breaking away.

If it is decided to hold new national elections, it is unlikely that they would take place before September.

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6. GHANA PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION MAY VISIT MOSCOW



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The American embassy in Accra believes there is a distinct possibility that a Ghana parliamentary delegation will be sent to Moscow in response to a Soviet invitation. The permanent secretary of external affairs says he will try to have a "sensible" delegation chosen with no ministers included who could commit the government.

A trip by a parliamentary delegation to Moscow would probably be the beginning of increasing social, political and economic contacts between Ghana and the Soviet bloc. Both the British Foreign Office and the American chargé at Accra believe that Ghana will exchange diplomatic representation with the USSR within a year.

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