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GENERAL

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1. Reported Chinese views on Korean cease-fire--According to US Embassy London, British diplomatic representative Hutchison in Peiping has informed his government that when handed the text of the Chinese Communist reply to the latest UN cease-fire proposal, he was "given time for an extended but fruitless discussion" of the Chinese note with the Chinese deputy Foreign Minister. Hutchison also reported that Foreign Minister Chou En-lai, in a separate interview with Indian Ambassador Panikkar, indicated that the Chinese reply was not meant to close the door on negotiations. Both Hutchison and Panikkar "came away with the impression" that the Chinese Communists are still prepared to consider possibilities of a settlement on the basis of the UN proposal, with appropriate modifications. The US Embassy offers the opinion that the Chinese Communists, during these interviews, were attempting to aggravate the rift in the UN over the Korean issue and provide India (and to a lesser extent the UK) with further excuse for forestalling or at least delaying positive UN action.

FAR EAST

25X1

2. INDOCHINA: De Lattre's views on military situation-- In a discussion of the recent Viet Minh attack with US Minister Heath, General de Lattre stated that he is now certain of being able to withstand Viet Minh attacks but that he must receive necessary reinforcements from France promptly. De Lattre insists, however, that having seen the fanatic fighting spirit and the excellent tactical direction of the Viet Minh troops, he will need at least a division and a half, instead

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of the few battalions he previously thought would be sufficient. De Lattre declared he would resign his command if the French Government does not furnish these troops. De Lattre said he had no plans for a counteroffensive at this time. De Lattre also said he did not want to do anything that would give the Chinese Communists a pretext for intervening and for this reason he was against the use of US training units. However, the moment a Chinese battalion is identified as being on Vietnamese soil, he will ask for US instructors.

3. THAILAND: Concern over Chinese intentions--US Ambassador Stanton reports that when the Thai Foreign Minister informed him of Thailand's intention to support the US resolution naming the Chinese Communists as aggressors in Korea, the Foreign Minister appeared "visibly nervous" over Communist China's rejection of the UN cease-fire proposal and seemed to fear that this rejection signified Communist intentions to force a world war. The Foreign Minister was even more upset over the fact that Thailand, in giving its firm support to the US, was acting entirely independently of other Asian nations and had "pretty much isolated itself from these nations in matters of foreign policy."

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