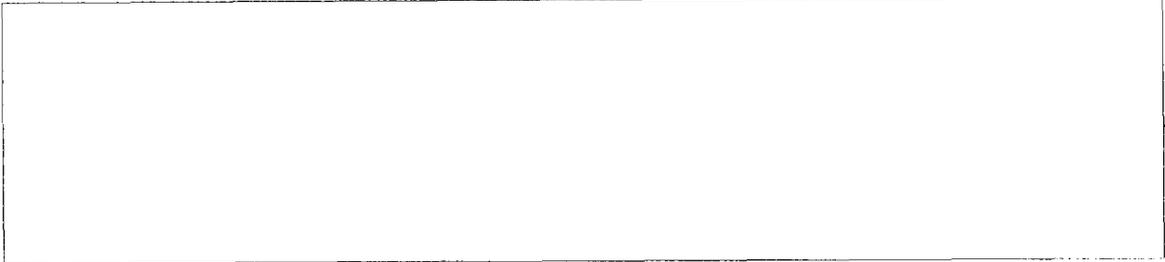


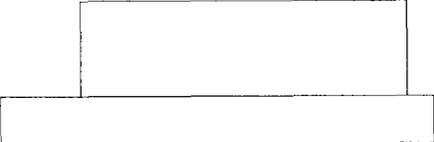
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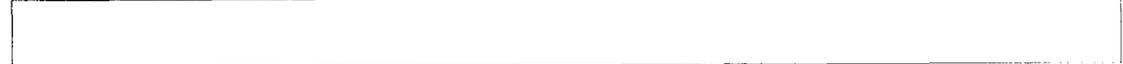
FAR EAST

3. New Communist thinking on Korean buffer zone reported:



The Chinese Communists are reportedly anxious to bring about a cease-fire in Korea; and, to realize such an aim, their negotiators, at a renewed Kaesong conference, would be empowered to

modify their demands to the extent of having a neutral zone, to be jointly controlled by the UN and the Communists, between the present battle line and the 38th parallel.

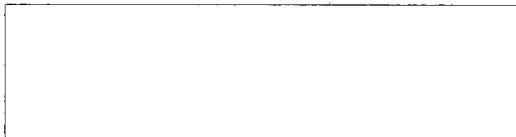


Comment: This unconfirmed offer, while representing a considerable modification of previous Communist demands for a buffer zone extending an equal distance north and south of the 38th parallel, would still give the Communists both military and propaganda advantages in that organized UN forces would be below the 38th parallel.



AFRICA

8. South African Defense Minister presses for US jet aircraft for Korea squadron:



South African Defense Minister Erasmus informed the US military and air attaches on 10 September that he was worried over his failure so far to purchase US jet aircraft for the South African Air

Force's Korea squadron, which has recently suffered mounting casualties. He fears political attacks from the opposition unless he can give assurances that the aircraft have been obtained. He has "money in hand," and hinted that if jet planes are not available, the squadron may be grounded.

Comment: The South African Air Force fighter squadron sent to Korea last September had no equipment; it has been using US-owned F-51 Mustangs, meanwhile pressing its government for jet planes because of the markedly lower casualty rate among their pilots. In recent months the problem of obtaining replacements for the squadron has become increasingly acute, owing mainly to the bad effects on Air Force morale of Erasmus' political meddling.

When severely criticized by the opposition in the last parliamentary session for the Armed Forces' unpreparedness, Erasmus used as one argument in his defense the fact that he was negotiating for the purchase of jet aircraft to equip the squadron in Korea. The minister thus has strong personal reasons for wishing to arrange this purchase as quickly as possible.