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GENERAL

1. Dutch concern over lack of western unity--According to US Ambassador Chapin at The Hague, Dutch Foreign Minister Stikker feels that the world situation is "gradually deteriorating" and that insufficient progress is being made to counteract this deterioration through "fostering a sense of unity in the West." Stikker believes, in particular, that little progress can be made so long as Western defense budgets are approved or disapproved on primarily a national basis instead of being adjusted to the role of the country in an over-all defense plan. Stikker urges that an early meeting be held by the North Atlantic Council in order to make a final decision concerning the allotment of defense roles in the collective western community.



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2. Belgian Minister favors rearming of Western Germany--US Ambassador Murphy in Brussels reports that Belgian Prime Minister Eyskens has, in informal conversation, expressed unequivocally the personal view that Western Germany should be rearmed and that no further time should be wasted in the "urgent situation." Concerning "French emotionalism" in respect to Germany, Eyskens commented that to think of present-day Germany as a source of aggressive action against the Western Powers is absurd. Pointing out that the question is not a sentimental but realistic one, he asserted that Western Germany must be used as bulwark against the "only visible danger," the USSR. Eyskens believes that Western Europe must have a minimum of 80 equipped divisions and that the defense of the area is impossible without German participation. Murphy stresses that these views are personal to Eyskens, not the views of the Belgian Government, but indicates such views are the private opinion of "other leading Belgians."



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