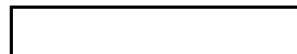


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19 October 1955



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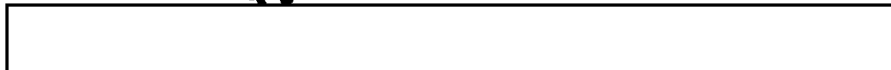
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State Dept. review completed

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2. DIEM MAY PROCLAIM AUTHORITY OVER FRENCH MILITARY IN VIETNAM

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Premier Diem is planning to appoint a "territorial commander in chief" responsible for all military action and personnel in South Vietnam, following the referendum on removing Bao Dai,

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Diem said that unless the French accommodate themselves to this situation by working out a military convention or by having their presence in Vietnam sanctioned under the Manila pact, the maintenance of French troops in Vietnam could be construed as either a hostile act or in derogation of Vietnamese sovereignty.

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Comment

Planned talks with the French on the future of the French military in South Vietnam were canceled last week when Diem recalled his delegation from Paris after failure to establish a basis for formal discussions. Diem's proclamation of authority over French forces would be unacceptable to the French. They are apparently resigned to complete withdrawal, but would prefer to retain a token force to maintain their position as a Manila pact member.

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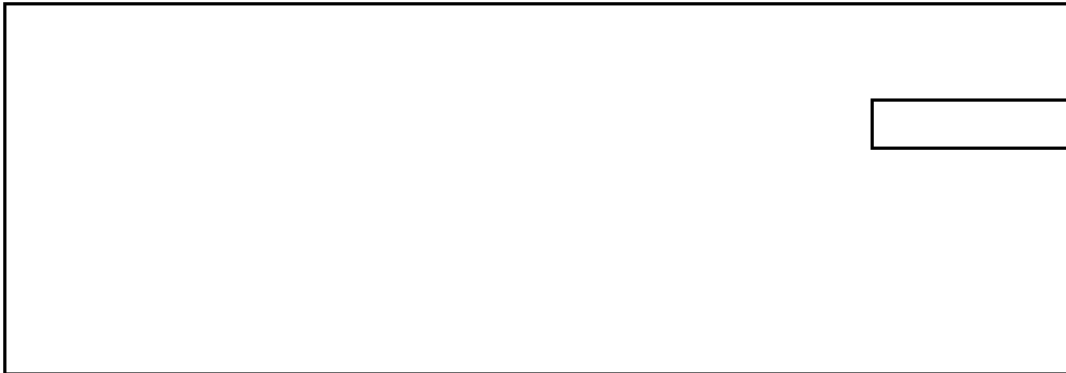
3. BRITAIN MAY CHANGE ARMS POLICY TOWARD LIBYA
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Arms assistance to Libya has become a political issue, according to the British ambassador in Tripoli, and Britain may be prepared to give Libya certain amounts and types of military equipment which in the opinion of the British military mission in Libya are beyond the army's needs and capability to absorb.

Preliminary to any action, the British ambassador plans to obtain from the Libyan prime minister an estimate of the country's present arms needs not supplied under the Anglo-Libyan treaty as well as an estimate of its future needs.

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