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1. PAKISTAN REACTING FAVORABLY TO SOVIET TRADE OVERTURE

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Pakistan is responding favorably to Soviet premier Bulganin's suggestion of a trade pact to improve Pakistani-Soviet relations.

Following a statement by the Pakistani foreign minister on 7 February that Pakistan's policy aimed at friendship and co-operation with as many nations as possible, press reports from Karachi said on 9 February that a cabinet decision had been reached to open trade negotiations with the USSR.

Although Bulganin also indicated that technical assistance could be made available, Karachi will probably confine its initial relationship with the USSR to exchanging agricultural exports such as jute and cotton for machinery and manufactured goods. (Concurred in by ORR)

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2. MOVE TO EXPEL POUJADIST DEPUTIES MAY CAUSE VIOLENCE

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The move to invalidate credentials of 12 of the 52 Poujadist deputies by the French National Assembly may lead to violent demonstrations in the

districts where they were elected.

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Comment

The invalidation move is probably a political effort by the Republican Front, since the credentials of the Poujadist candidates were accepted by the Ministry of Interior before the election. The Republican Front stands to gain some seats if the action is carried out.

The Communists, who support the republican Front in this effort, have considerable veteran support of their own. The government can be expected to make a strong effort to block any mass Poujadist demonstration or counter-action by the Communists.

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