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25 September 1951

CIA No. 49358

Copy No. 143

DAILY DIGEST

Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

**Army, Navy, USAF, DIA and State
Dept. review(s) completed.**

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SECTION 1 (SOVIET)

1. USSR. HICOG Frankfurt examines East German unity appeals: In commenting on the East German appeal for German unity, the US High Commission in Frankfurt notes that it marks the intensification of the year-old Soviet strategy to prevent a German contribution to West European defense. The appeal was aimed at West German public opinion in an effort to weaken popular support for rearmament and to take advantage of Allied preoccupation with bringing Western Germany into Western European defense.

The unity appeal itself contains illusory concessions to previous Bonn demands for a freely-elected National Assembly, but does not (a) endorse western conditions for free elections, (b) concede that such elections must precede all-German talks, or (c) distinguish the proposal for an all-German conference from the earlier suggestion of an all-German Constituent Assembly on a parity basis.

US officials suggest that the West call the East German bluff by proposing its own unity formula. They point out that the West will be handicapped in the contest for Germany if the USSR maintains the initiative on the unity issue or wins substantial segments of West German opinion to the view that integration with the West precluded unification except through civil war. [REDACTED]

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Comment: There is no likelihood at present that the Soviet Union would actually permit elections that the West could possibly accept. The anti-Communist sentiment in the Soviet Zone is sufficiently strong so that even partially free elections there, coupled with the free elections in the West, would destroy the entire Communist political hold on Germany.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Balloon war continues: A Czechoslovak balloon containing Communist propaganda material was found on 4 September in the US Zone of Austria, according to a Linz press report. [REDACTED]

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Comment: This is the first report that the Czechs have initiated their own propaganda balloon attack in retaliation for the release by Radio Free Europe of propaganda balloons aimed at Czechoslovakia. Prime Minister Zapotocky, in a belated reference to the balloons on 2 September, said that capitalist reaction was preparing a crusade against Czechoslovakia, but, unable to attack openly as it did in Korea, was polluting the country with vermin and dirt. The US Embassy in Prague reports that there is some question among the Czechs as to whether the RFE balloon project was designed primarily "to encourage Czech resistance or to

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advertise the RFE."

3. Moscow beams vigilance broadcasts to Czechoslovakia: Recently Moscow began to beam a series of weekly broadcasts on vigilance to Czechoslovakia. Allegedly designed to benefit the Czech worker, the programs are written by the author of a number of books on the subject of the unmasking of imperialist spies. In introducing the broadcasts, it was pointed out that the US is doing everything in its power to undermine the strength of those nations which have shaken off the yoke of capitalism; that it is using all means of espionage, provocation, sabotage, and terror; and that only recently the US Congress voted 100,000,000 dollars for espionage and sabotage in the People's Democracies. The broadcasts quote Stalin as saying that it is necessary to know imperialists' methods in order to foil them. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Vigilance is a constant theme in Satellite internal propaganda. In Czechoslovakia it has recently received emphasis, and the fact that the USSR is taking a hand in the matter gives it added significance. In connection with the recent Communist Party reorganization, it was pointed out that some of the chief tasks of the new Orgburo would be to attend to the problems of political education, mass agitation and party propaganda, which had hitherto been neglected.

4. Diplomatic notes reveal Czech consternation over runaway train: On 20 September the Czech Foreign Ministry handed the US Embassy in Prague two strongly-worded notes concerning the 11 September runaway train. One note accused the US of perpetrating the escape and of aiding the "criminals" who stole the train and kidnapped the passengers. It further alleged that US authorities in Germany had treated the victims of the kidnappers inhumanly, and were forcibly detaining some of them and holding the train. The Czech Government demanded that the US (a) permit a Czech representative to contact the refugees still in Germany, (b) immediately release these persons and allow them to return to Czechoslovakia, (c) hand over the kidnappers to the proper Czech authorities, and (d) return the train.

The second note complained bitterly of the treatment given the Czech diplomatic representatives who had attempted to contact the train passengers. The note asserted that the procedures resorted to by the US authorities in Germany contradicted all the principles of international law and customs, and demanded that strict measures be taken against the persons responsible. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The 77 passengers who wanted to return to Czechoslovakia have been sent back. The 25 who initiated the escape, plus six others

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who decided to remain in the West, have been given political asylum in Western Germany. The return of two Czech soldiers is contingent on the Czechs permitting the US to photograph their release. The return of the train is dependent on concurrence from the British and French, which is expected early this week.

5. HUNGARY. Labor shortage causing transportation difficulties: The US Legation in Budapest reports that Hungary is currently experiencing serious transportation difficulties. Food is rotting while rail cars are idle due to a shortage of labor to unload them. A decree has been issued requiring that unloading proceed day and night, Sundays and holidays. Railroad officials and Railroad Workers Union leaders are being blamed for the difficulties.

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Comment: In recent months the Hungarian Government has been greatly concerned with the labor shortage in Hungary, but its continuing efforts to alleviate the problem have met with little success.

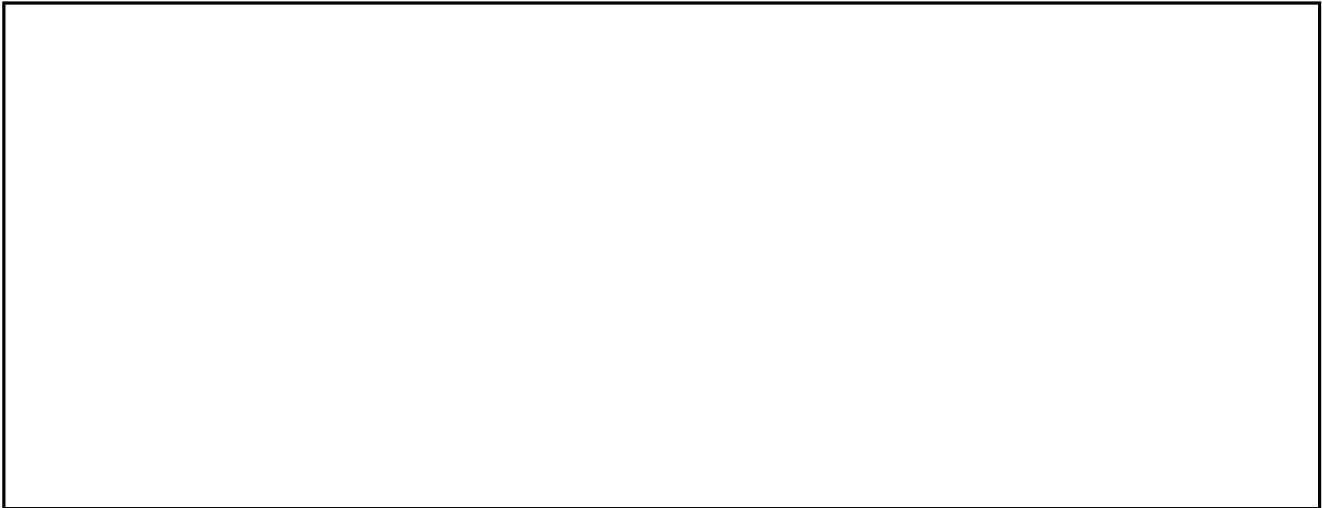
6. Army Day receiving wide publicity: The newly constituted Hungarian Army Day, 29 September, is currently being widely publicized throughout the country. Preliminary demonstrations are emphasizing military type "sports" (target shooting, pistol competition, etc.) as well as bonafide sports. A military review is included in the schedule of celebrations, but there has been no evidence that the review will include heavy equipment or reach the proportions of the May Day parade. Sports and cultural groups from the armed forces of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria and Korea arrived two weeks prior to Army Day to participate in the celebrations. The US Military Attache comments that during the past year the Hungarian Army has gone all out for physical conditioning and sports.

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8. YUGOSLAVIA. Yugoslavia asks right to command any UN operations on its territory: The Yugoslav Government has recommended a revision in the proposal for a UN agency (Executive Military Authority) to direct UN Military operations in the event of future aggressions. Yugoslavia suggests that the victim of the aggression should appoint the Supreme Military Commander of all troops on its territory "unless otherwise agreed." Using Yugoslavia as an example, the Yugoslav UN delegate explained that in the event of aggression all foreign troops on Yugoslav soil would have to be under the command of a Yugoslav commander even though the latter would be subordinate to a UN command.

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Comment: As the US has conceived its function, the Executive Military Authority would act as a centralized general staff charged with full responsibility for the strategic direction and control of military operations and with coordinating the contributions of UN members. Although the Yugoslav view that the victim of aggression would participate in EMA consultations has been accepted, the Yugoslav delegate has heretofore registered no other serious objections to the plan, which is now nearing completion. The last minute Yugoslav objection suggests that Yugoslav leaders have only recently realized that their government might not be in complete control of UN military operations to resist aggression against its territory.

9. Government declines invitation to visit Military Aid Advisory Group in Paris: The Yugoslav Government had declined an invitation for a Yugoslav military group to visit the Military Aid Advisory Group in Paris on the grounds that its military officials are now urgently needed at home to prepare for the US military aid program. The US Embassy in Belgrade has been informed that the text of the US-Yugoslav military aid treaty is acceptable and that only a few technical matters must be cleared

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up before it can be implemented.

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Comment: The technical matters which remain to be cleared up are the initial size of the US military group that will supervise the aid program and the manner in which the supervision will be carried out. The US has assured the Yugoslavs that the staff's operations will be coordinated with the Yugoslav military establishment, but has insisted that a staff of thirty is the irreducible minimum for supervising the program.

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SECTION 2 (EASTERN)

1. IRAN. Iran to expel British technicians: The remaining British oil technicians at Abadan will be expelled in a week or ten days unless they sign individual contracts with NIOC, according to a press report from Tehran. A Parliamentary Oil Board member who made the announcement added that no further overtures would be made to the British Government concerning the position of the technicians. [REDACTED]

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Comment: British personnel have been leaving Abadan since the Mossadeq announcement that their residence permits would be canceled unless negotiations were resumed by the British. This voluntary withdrawal may continue peacefully unless Iran attempts forcibly to speed up the process. It is unlikely that the British Government would resort to armed intervention prior to the 25 October general elections in Britain unless there was a serious threat to the lives and safety of British subjects.

2. PAKISTAN. Delegation invited to participate in Peiping's 1 October celebrations: The Chinese Communist government has requested the Pakistani Government to facilitate the travel of six Pakistanis to Peiping for the celebration of the second anniversary of Communist China. The delegation would be led by two prominent leftists, Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din and Begum Shah Nawaz. [REDACTED]

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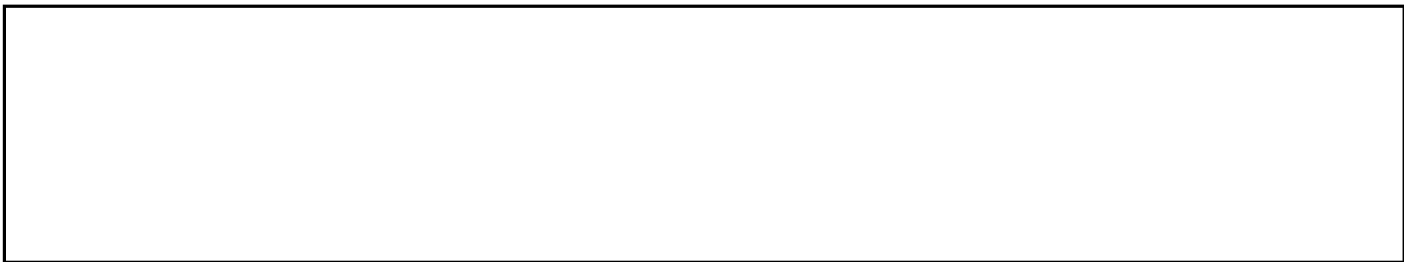
Comment: This invitation and the formation of the Sino-Pakistani Friendship Association follow closely the arrival in Karachi on 2 September of the first Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan. Other members of the delegation have not been named, and there is no indication at present that the Pakistani Government will allow the acceptance of the Chinese invitation.

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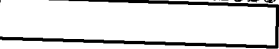
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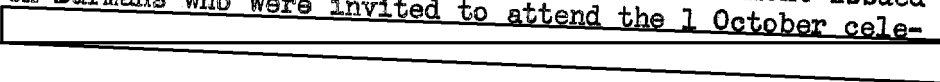


4. BURMA. Burma Chinese send delegation to China: The Burma Chinese Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a mission of 22 persons which left Rangoon on 18 September to visit Communist China. The Chinese Communist Ambassador gave the delegation--the first of its kind--a farewell party, while the local Chinese Communist press billed the groups departure as a "spontaneous move" by local Chinese to learn more about their "ancestral country." [redacted]



Comment: The mission included persons representing a variety of Chinese organizations in Burma. Despite signs of resurging anti-Communism among the Chinese in Burma, this mission is indicative of the widespread influence the Communists have been able to develop over the local Chinese community, mostly in the past two years.

5. Pro-Communists receive passports to China: The US Embassy in Rangoon reports that it has been reliably informed that the Burmese Government issued passports to all seven Burmans who were invited to attend the 1 October celebrations in Peiping [redacted]



7. Government to introduce bill for Karen State: The Ministry of Judicial Affairs has announced that the Burmese Government is planning to introduce in parliament a bill for the establishment of a separate Karen State. Under this bill Karen representation in the lower house of parliament would be substantially reduced, while delineation of the state's [redacted]

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boundaries would remain the responsibility of the three-year-old Regional
Autonomy Inquiry Commission which has never published its findings. [redacted]

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Comment: Such a bill is obviously a propaganda and/or election man-
euver. It will not satisfy Karen aspirations and will not contribute to a
settlement of the Karen insurrection.

8. BWPP vigorously pursues Communist objectives: The US Embassy in
Rangoon reports that the pro-Communist Burma Workers and Peasants Party
(BWPP) continues to "perform political chores for the Communists in and out
of parliament." A party spokesman in parliament apparently embarrassed the
government by asking questions about police interrogations of persons associ-
ating with Soviet and Chinese Embassy personnel. Another BWPP leader addressed
a letter to the Foreign Minister urging that the Burmese representative at the
GATT Conference in Geneva be instructed to oppose the US resolution calling
for the withdrawal of trade concessions to Czechoslovakia.

The embassy comments that these actions of the BWPP are typical of its
campaign to hold the Burmese Government to a strict interpretation of a
"neutral" foreign policy which "tends both to cripple GOB efforts to defend
itself against Commie fifth column activity and influence the GOB to take
foreign policy stands which the Commies can interpret as anti-US." [redacted]

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9. THAILAND. Thai indicate interest in bilateral defense pact with US: The
US Embassy in Bangkok has been confidentially informed that the Thai have
been impressed by the defense agreements which the US has concluded with
the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand, and that Thailand's National
Defense Council is considering a request for a similar agreement.

The embassy comments that should the Thai actually make an approach
on this matter, the US would face the difficult problem of avoiding an un-
sound military commitment without seriously undermining the Phibun govern-
ment which draws most of its strength from its apparently close relation-
ship with the US. [redacted]

10. High army officers reportedly ready to retire in disgust: The
Chief of the Thai Joint Staff and the Commander of the Third Army are re-
liably reported to have decided to retire because of their disgust with the
Phin-Phao clique. The US Embassy in Bangkok observes that while the retire-
ment of these generals would mean a considerable victory for Phin and Phao,
it would give additional strength to any potential opposition group. [redacted]

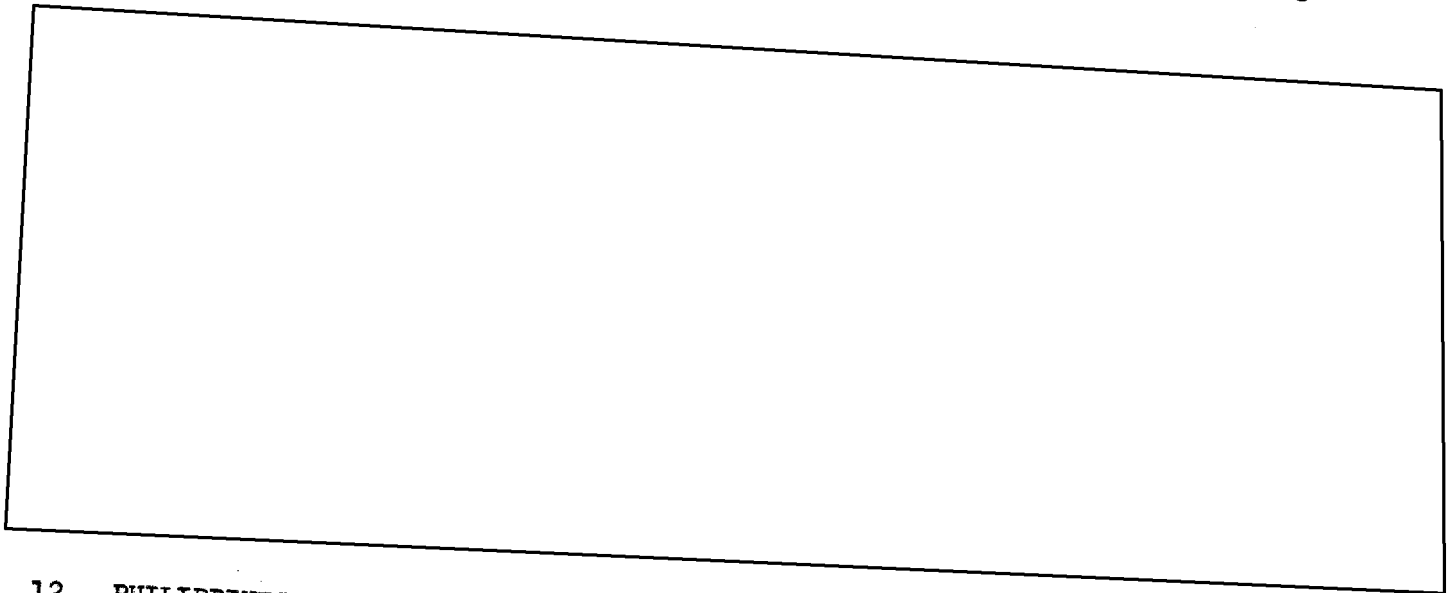
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Comment: It is not clear whether the possible retirements are motivated by envy or moral indignation. The advantages accruing to the clique in power through greater control over the army would outweigh those to be gained by the opposition's acquisition of two disgruntled generals, regardless of their personal following.

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12. PHILIPPINES. Huks pushing organization of liquidation units: In order to discourage defections induced by the government's reward policy, the Huks are pushing the reorganization and expansion of liquidation units. [redacted]

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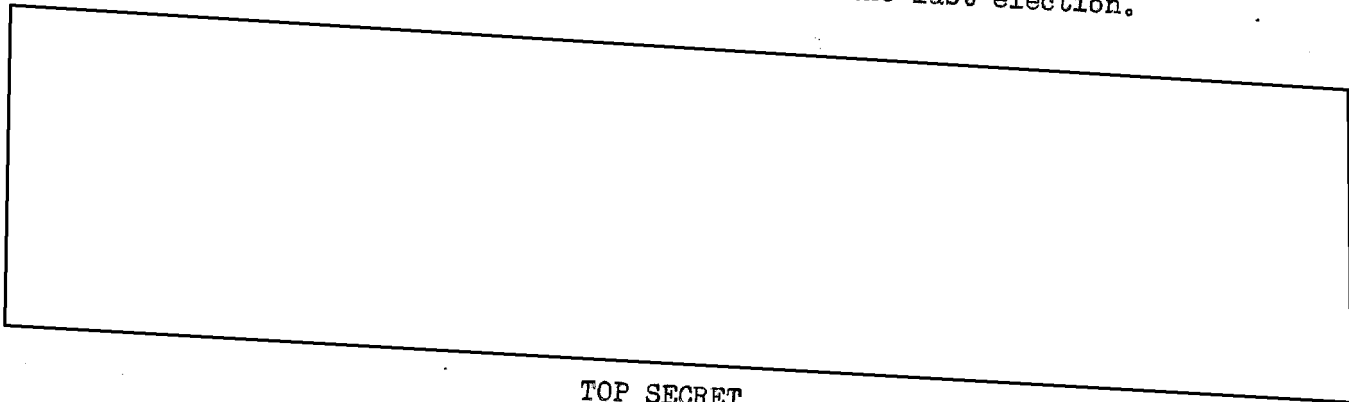
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[redacted] The embassy observes that Huk emphasis on liquidation units is confirmed by other evidence and that such units may be used as a means to discourage participation in the November elections, as well as for the purpose cited. [redacted]

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Comment: Communist propaganda is stressing the "futility" of voting in the Philippines, and the Huks hope to benefit by a repetition of the popular revulsion that followed the frauds of the last election.

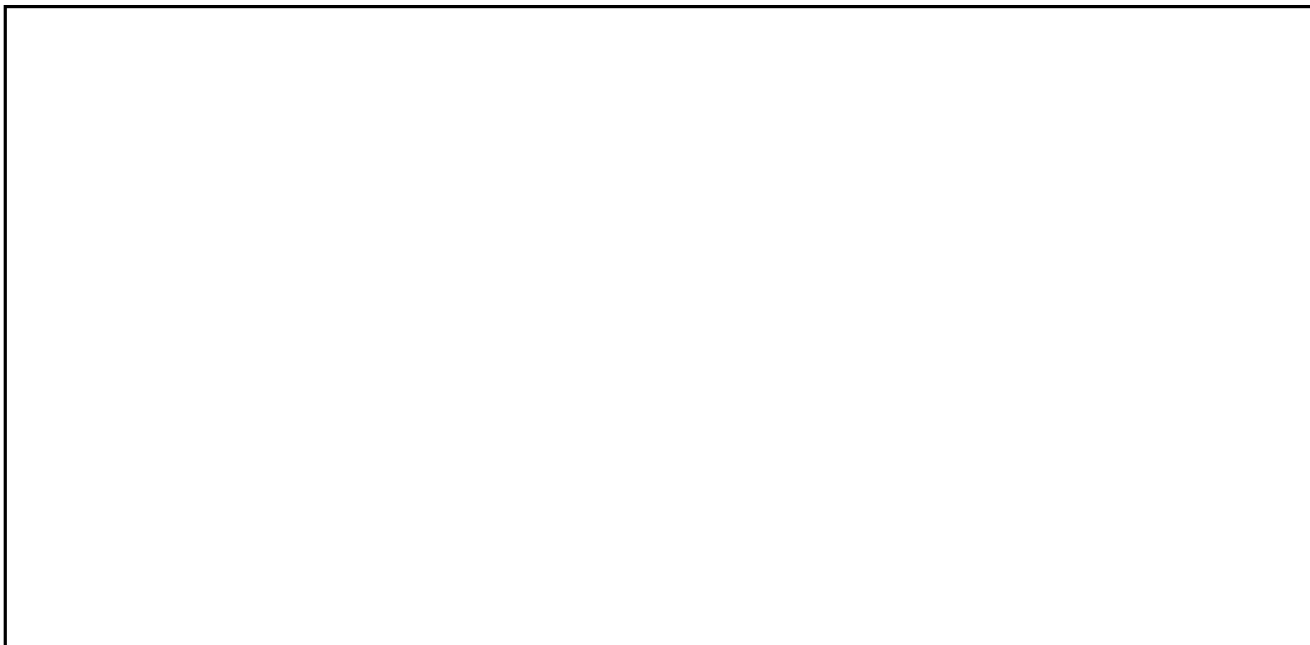
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14. Chinese and Soviet responsibilities in Dairen assessed: A study of the reports of merchant vessel masters returning from Dairen indicates that the Soviets control the operations of the port while the Chinese control the administration. For example, berthing and communications are Soviet responsibilities, while customs, immigration, police and labor are Chinese. The reporting officer comments that the Soviets, controlling the operational phase of the port, probably are not interested in burdening themselves with administration so long as the Chinese administration functions efficiently.

Comment: Chinese assumption of the Dairen administration follows from the Sino-Soviet treaty of February 1950. As the reporting officer suggests, Soviet control of operations adequately protects Soviet interests in the port. In any case, there has been no evidence of significant Sino-Soviet friction regarding Dairen.



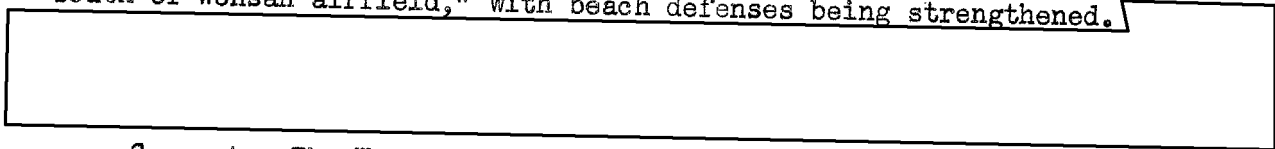
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17. KOREA. Extensive Communist military activity in Wonsan area reported:
US naval units in the Wonsan area report "extensive Communist activity south of Wonsan airfield," with beach defenses being strengthened.



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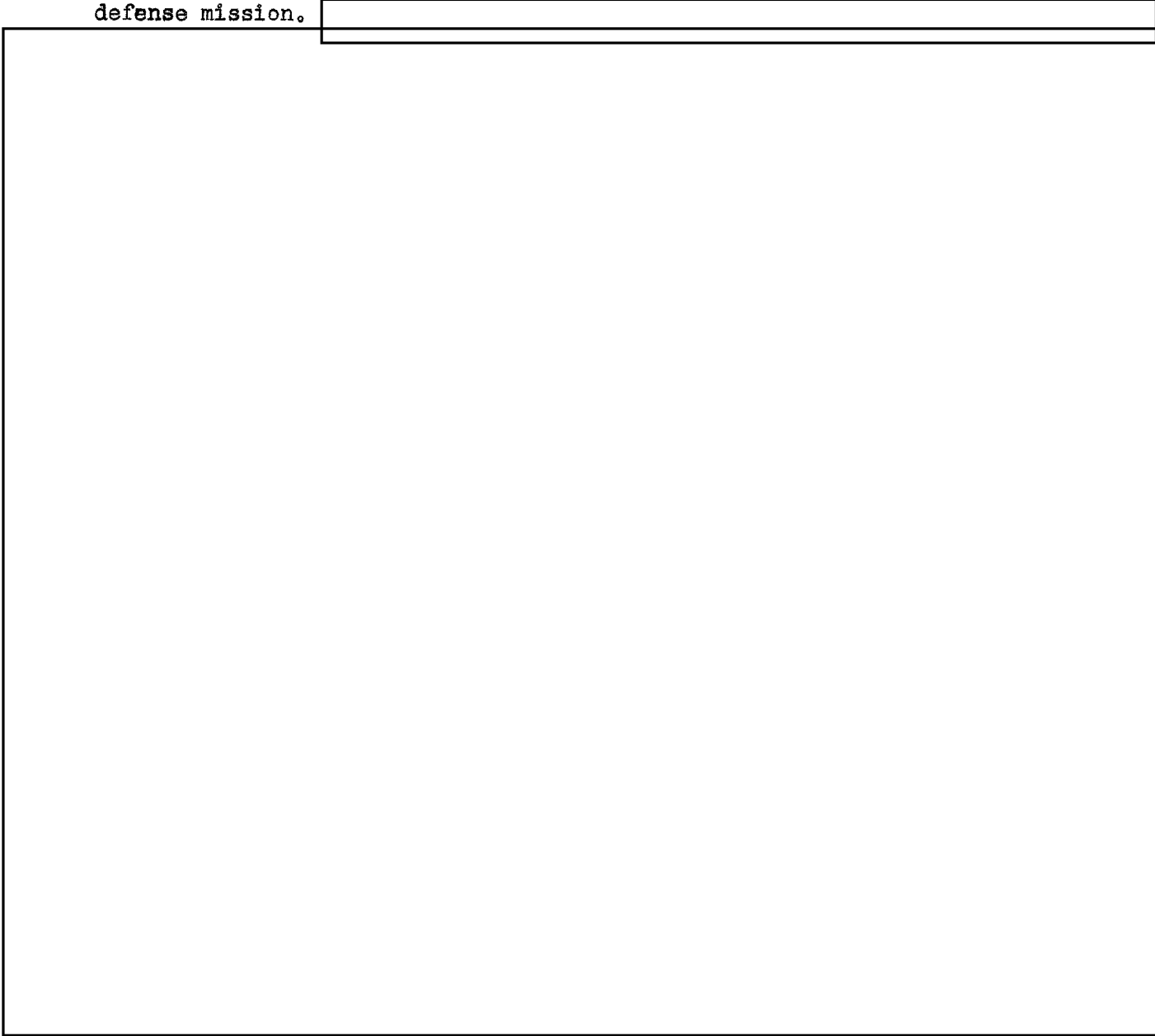
Comment: The Wonsan area has always been considered by the Communists as particularly vulnerable to a UN amphibious attack. Fear of such

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action has induced them to deploy a sizeable force in a static coastal defense mission.



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20. Quality of enemy agents improved: [redacted] while fewer enemy agents were taken during the period 3 August to 10 September, the quality and methods of operation of those captured are "decidedly improved."

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Comment: Previously the enemy has employed the "saturation" technique by using a great many low level, ill-trained agents with a limited mission in the immediate vicinity of the battle line. The appearance of improved front-line espionage techniques may be expected to enhance the enemy's capability in this sector.

21. JAPAN/CHINA. Radio Peiping claims US assembling 1,000,000-man Japanese Army in Alaska: Radio Peiping on 22 September broadcast the claim that under the cloak of "emigration" the US is sending 1,000,000 Japanese to Alaska "for war preparations." This broadcast also included a report on the formation and training of another body of 85,000 Japanese POW's in "America's Arctic bases of aggression." The POW's allegedly were taken in Burma, Malaya, Java, Sumatra and "other islands north of Australia" in 1944 and 1945. The latter report is credited to a 10 September Telepress dispatch from Ottawa.

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Comment: This fantasy may have been conjured up to "document" Communist charges of US aggressive intent towards Asia and/or to offset the unfavorable publicity created by the Soviet failure to account for 340,000 Japanese POW's taken in Manchuria, Sakhalin and the Kuriles in 1945.

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SECTION 3 (WESTERN)

1. GERMANY. East Germany rejects Western proposals for all-Berlin elections to precede all-German elections: In a public statement on 19 September, East German Premier Grotewohl rejected the West Berlin counterproposal that, in order to prove that its 15 September offer to hold free all-German elections is sincere, East Germany first permit free all-Berlin elections. Grotewohl laughed off this offer as a "diversionist tactic which East Germany does not intend to follow." He denounced Western rearmament plans and the "Bonn traitors," and again dared West Germans to sit down at one table with East Germans in order to convince themselves that the Volkskammer offer to negotiate unification is not simply a propaganda maneuver. [REDACTED]

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Comment: East Germany's rejection of all-Berlin elections probably will be of some assistance in Western efforts to expose the falsity of the current unity offer.

2. FRANCE. French press questions results of Ottawa Conference: The admission of Greece and Turkey to NATO is the only thing which saved the Ottawa Conference from being a failure, in the view of the Paris press. Most papers consider the new coordination committee as a compromise to assuage the fears of the smaller nations. Pro-government Figaro questions the need for the new group since the deputies could presumably perform the functions assigned to it. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The Paris press has tended to play up what it calls "the revolt of the small nations" at Ottawa. While this criticism bears out the apprehensions of those who warned against the psychological effect of another inconclusive international meeting, French reaction on the whole to the decisions of the past few weeks has been favorable.

3. Prospective aid to France inadequate for meeting US objectives: The ECA Mission to France is "firmly convinced" that the 170,000,000 dollars which now seems to be the limit of US economic aid to France for fiscal 1952 will not be adequate to maintain the level of economic activity considered by the US to be essential for building Western defense. In view of grave inflationary pressures and the stringent financial conditions, France may be obliged to cut back its military program if sufficient external resources are not forthcoming. [REDACTED]

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Comment: On the basis of military plans formulated in May 1951, the French Finance Ministry estimated required economic aid for 1952 at 300,000,000 dollars. However, it soon judged that, with heavy NATO and

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Indo-Chinese commitments, governmental instability, and fiscal inefficiency, France would actually need between 400,000,000 and 500,000,000 dollars. Even before the House of Representatives acted on the foreign aid bill, French officials expressed their belief that French defense plans would have to be cut back or spread over a longer period.

4. Comment on Pleven government's defeat on minimum wage bill: The two-to-one defeat of the Pleven government on the first reading of an escalator-type minimum wage bill will probably lead to the posing of a question of confidence when the bill receives its second reading in November.

The government, which had just decreed a 15 percent increase in the minimum wage, is firmly opposed to this bill as voted because of a fear that it would be seriously inflationary, and thus would imperil economic stability and aggravate the rearmament burden. Growing inflationary pressures indicate that the measure would soon lead to another increase in the minimum wage, which in France directly results in a revision of the whole wage structure.

The government has shown a willingness to compromise, however, and there is still no reason to believe that the middle-of-the-road parties intend to allow a situation to arise which would enable De Gaulle to come to power on his own terms.

5. AUSTRIA. Second Communist demonstration effectively controlled by Austrian police: A second Communist-staged demonstration against the rent-increase measure, now under debate in the Austrian Parliament, took place 21 September. A crowd, estimated at two to three thousand, which assembled during the morning on the streets and sidewalks before the parliament, was dispersed by the police. Communist intentions to occupy the parliament galleries were foiled by the expedient of allotting available seats to police cadets. Inclement weather and strong police patrols discouraged any violent demonstrativeness on the part of the crowd.

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Comment: Communist propaganda preceding the demonstration had caused some apprehension that Communist agitation might cause a larger disturbance during the parliamentary hearings on the rent measure than they did on 18 September. While it is believed that the Communists neither intended nor achieved a very impressive display of strength, it is apparent that Austrian police preparations were far more effective on this occasion than they were during the Communist demonstrations last fall.

6. SAN MARINO. Pro-Communists retain plurality in San Marino governing body: Final unofficial results of the recent San Marino national elections give the Communists and the pro-Communist Socialists 31 seats in the Grand

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Council to 29 for the non-Communists. Of the pro-Communist seats, 18 went to the Communists and 13 to the Socialists; of the non-Communist, 2 went to the rightists and 27 to the Christian Democrats, who thus have a technical right to form a government by virtue of the largest single ballot. The Christian Democrats, however, would obviously have difficulty in governing unless they make a temporary deal with the pro-Communists.

These elections resulted from a "cold war" initiated by the Italian Government to force out the previous pro-Communist government of San Marino.

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[redacted]
Comment: San Marino has traditionally provided asylum to political refugees from Italy. Under its recent Communist government it has reportedly housed arms caches for Italian Communists.

7. SPAIN. Disciplinary action threatened against anti-Franco Basque clergy: Three bishops in the Basque region have threatened severe disciplinary action, including excommunication, for any of their clergy who have any connection whatsoever with the clandestine Basque nationalist paper Egiz. This paper, which is reported to be published by Basque priests, has appeared for about three years, and has been highly critical of the Franco regime. [redacted]

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Comment: The bishops' action was undoubtedly taken at government instigation, and indicates the regime's continuing determination to deal with Basque discontent by severe repressive measures, such as were taken against Basque workers who participated in the strikes of last spring. The Basque clergy have traditionally aligned themselves with the Basque people as opposed to the central government. Many of them were actively involved in instigating the recent strikes. This new action will arouse further Basque ill will against the regime; but the government is apparently satisfied that its harsh policies will minimize any threat to internal security.

8. NORWAY. Graves are being concentrated to reduce Soviet intelligence opportunities: Norwegian authorities, despite Soviet objections, are going ahead with plans to concentrate Russian war graves so that they can be properly cared for, according to a foreign office press statement. Graves of Soviet World War II dead are widely scattered throughout Norway, but principally in the three northern provinces, where there are some 95 different cemeteries. [redacted]

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Comment: This move is partly motivated by the Norwegian Government's desire to stop the numerous visits by Soviet attaches to the scattered graves, particularly those located near military installations.

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9. SWEDEN. Foreign Minister seeks to avoid UN military commitments: The Swedish Foreign Office has advised the Secretary-General of the UN that its government is not in a position to propose any Swedish officers for appointment to the panel of military experts as provided under paragraph 10 of the "uniting for peace" resolution adopted by the General Assembly in November 1950. This negative announcement, coupled with the government's apparent policy of delaying action on the proposal of the Swedish military authorities to make a unit available, has caused both the conservative and liberal press in Sweden to accuse Foreign Minister Uden of seeking through deception and procrastination to avoid the obligations which he assumed in supporting the "Acheson Plan" for UN collective military action. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The Swedish Government fears that its adherence to the "Acheson Plan," which calls for the prior commitment of national military contingents to the UN for use in emergencies, would jeopardize Sweden's "neutrality" if the UN supported the US in an attempt to counter Soviet aggression. Uden is therefore seeking an indirect way of reversing Sweden's UN action of ten months ago.

The Swedes are not alone in their dislike of the resolution. British representatives in the UN in mid-August flatly acknowledged to American officials their government's dislike and stated that under present circumstances the UK objects to the basic concept of prior military commitments in the UN.

10. CUBA. Comment on president's reversal of attitude toward labor. In his recent radio address to the Cuban people in which he denied rumors of his resignation, President Prio sharply criticized the country's labor unions, stating "important labor groups have been led astray and urged to rebel, amazing the people and dangerously increasing the unrest that has seized the nation. The announcement of strikes and the constant threat to the public power seem to be the invariable policy of the trade union." Following this censure, the president refused to grant an audience to Eusebio Mujal and other prominent leaders of the influential Confederation of Cuban Workers.

A revolutionary who played a very active role in the campaign against the abuses of the Machado regime, Prio has long been considered a great friend of the workers, and has even been accused by the local press of permitting the labor unions to exert too much influence over the national economy. His sudden reversal of attitude, particularly in the face of the presidential elections next June, has produced a mild sensation and much speculation in public circles. In all probability it reflects the growing concern among responsible Cubans that the irresponsible conduct of the labor leaders is not only blocking the economic progress of the country, but is also provoking an almost continuous state of uncertainty.

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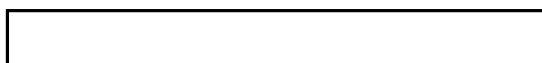
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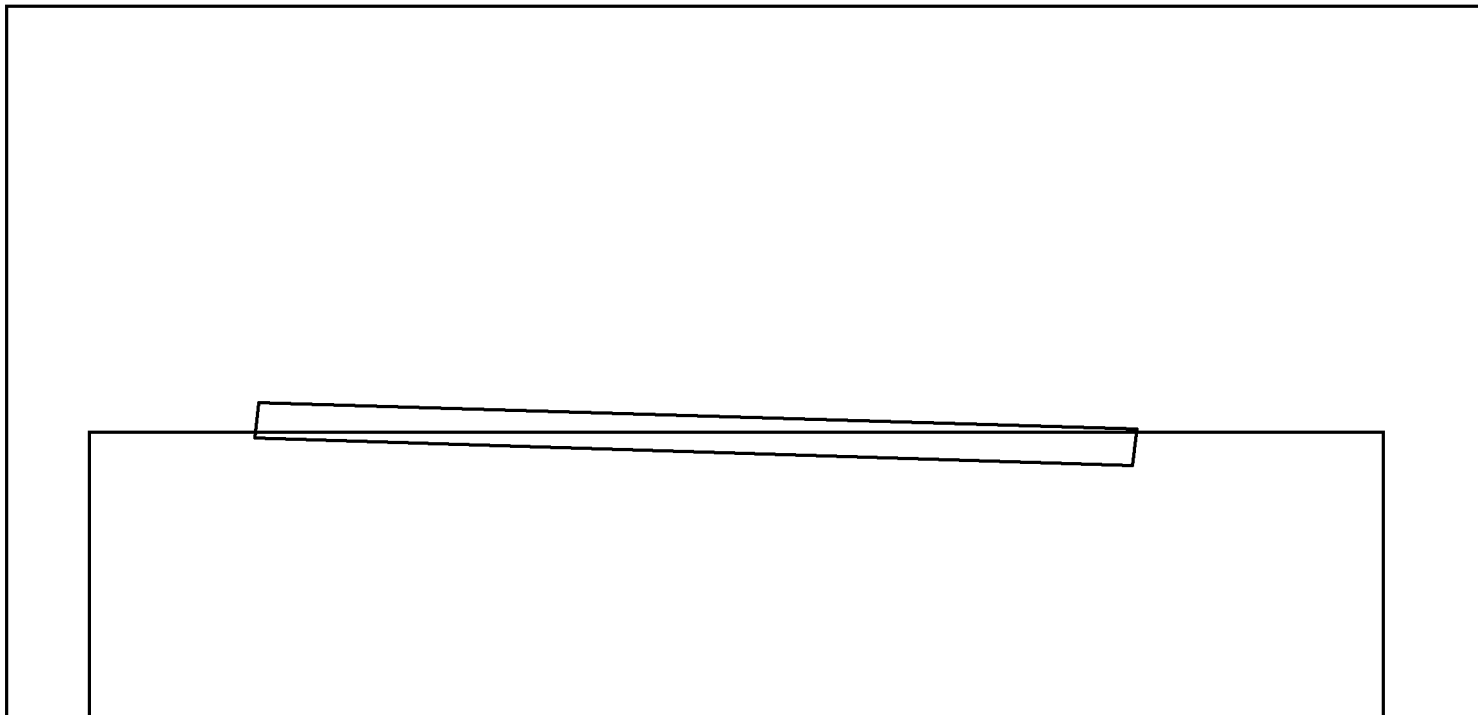
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SECTION 1 (SOVIET)



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SECTION 2 (EASTERN)

2. BURMA. Burmese Foreign Minister opposed to UN appeal: The Burmese Foreign Minister has informed US Ambassador Key that he was personally responsible for his government's decision, in early September, to postpone an appeal to the UN regarding Chinese Nationalist troops in north Burma. He expressed appreciation of an American offer to consider sympathetically any Burmese request for assistance in settling the Nationalist problem and promised to submit it to the cabinet. 

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Comment: The Foreign Minister has previously indicated an awareness of the widespread embarrassment that might result from a Burmese appeal to the UN. Other members of the cabinet have strongly favored such a move.

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