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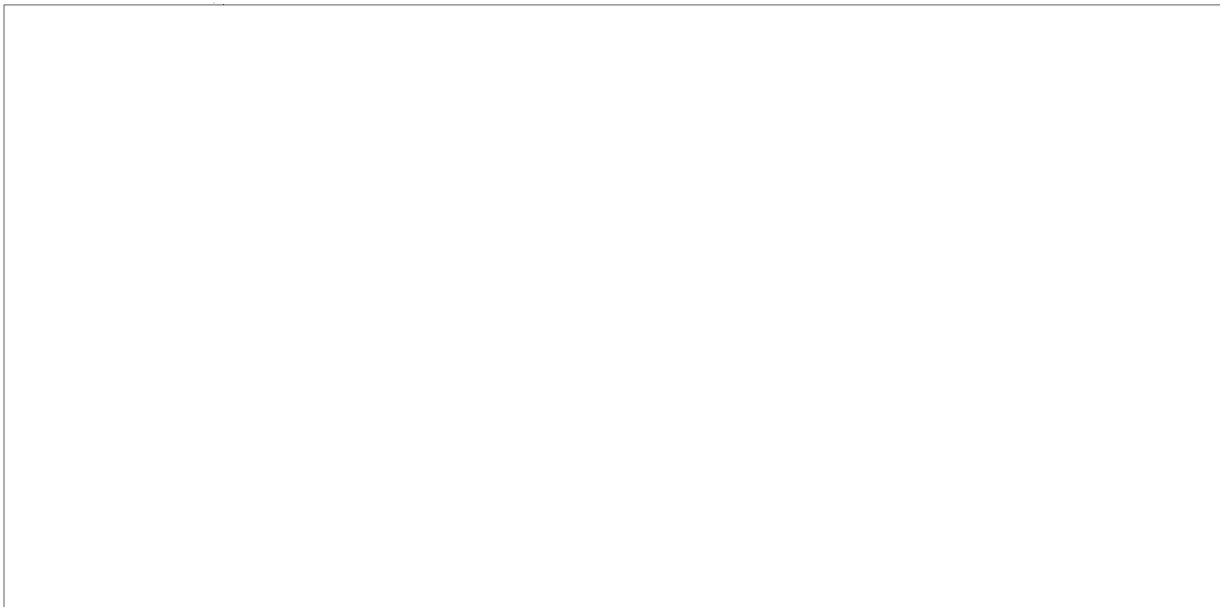
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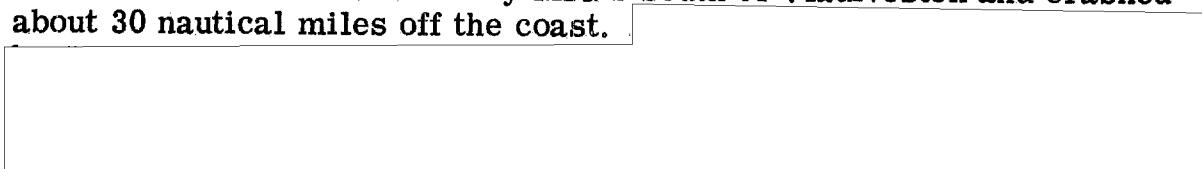
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GENERAL

1. US navy aircraft shot down by Soviet fighters off Vladivostok:



Comment: The most recent incident in which a US aircraft was shot down by Soviet aircraft occurred on 29 July 1953, when an RB-50 was attacked by MIG's south of Vladivostok and crashed about 30 nautical miles off the coast.



In a note of 5 September the USSR protested that the Neptune had violated Soviet territory and had fired on the MIG's, which were attempting to warn it to leave.

FAR EAST

2. Morale on Quemoys reported questionable:



The populace and Nationalist troops on the Quemoy Islands were "jittery" even before the Communist artillery bombardment of the Quemoys on 3 September, according to

an American naval officer who returned to Taipei on that date from a three-day visit to the islands. The Nationalist commanding general indicated to the source that, in the event of a Communist landing, he would be forced to abandon some part of the island.

Comment: This eyewitness account conflicts with Nationalist statements to the effect that troop morale is high and that determined defense of the islands will be made at all costs.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

3. Comment on Syrian political situation:

[Redacted]
Syria is likely to have a relatively stable government by traditional civilian elements as a result of the agreement announced on 4 September between the leading political parties to participate in the 24 September elections as a "general national union" under the leadership of ex-president Shukri Quwatli.

This announcement means that Quwatli has succeeded in organizing the old-line politicians behind his candidacy for the presidency. If this alliance is maintained, he will have halted the steady deterioration of the Syrian situation which has been of benefit to only the extreme socialists and the Communists.

A Syrian government under Quwatli--who has been subsidized while in exile for the past five years by Egypt and Saudi Arabia--would be basically pro-Western. It would be relatively moderate in its approach to the Israeli question.
[Redacted]

LATIN AMERICA

4. Imminent attack on Costa Rica threatened:

[Redacted]
An armed force is now organized in Chiquimula, Guatemala, in preparation for an attack against the Costa Rican

[redacted] government of José Figueres, [redacted]

[redacted] attack may be made between 6 and 8 September or, if not made then, will be postponed for 45 days.

Comment: [redacted]

It is probable that the anti-Figueres forces of former Costa Rican dictator Calderon Guardia already have received some assistance from the Nicaraguan and Venezuelan governments, which strongly desire the overthrow of Figueres. Somoza of Nicaragua has in effect promised the United States not to intervene directly in Costa Rica, but Venezuela has given no such assurance and has the capability to give the Calderon forces some air support.

Given sufficient aid, including air transport, from their various backers, the anti-Figueres forces could probably stage a successful invasion of Costa Rica, and might succeed in seizing control of the government.