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19 November 1955

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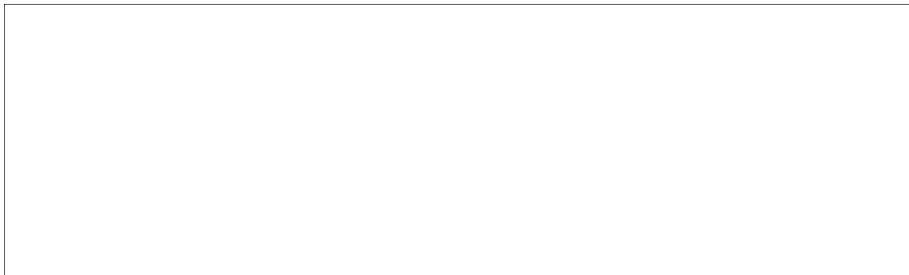
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1. VETO THREATENED ON UN MEMBERSHIP ISSUE

The Chinese Nationalist government has threatened to use its veto in the UN Security Council if the admission of Outer Mongolia to the United Nations is brought to a vote. In this event, Taipei says it will vote against the four Eastern European Satellites.

Comment

A great majority of UN members expect a solution to the membership problem at this General Assembly session and would resent any action preventing a solution.

The British delegate has declared that Taipei's veto might lead to a violent reaction against Nationalist China and reopen the whole question of Chinese representation in the UN. The Chinese Nationalists apparently estimate that damage to their position in the UN resulting from an unpopular veto would be little worse than the long-run effect of admitting Outer Mongolia.

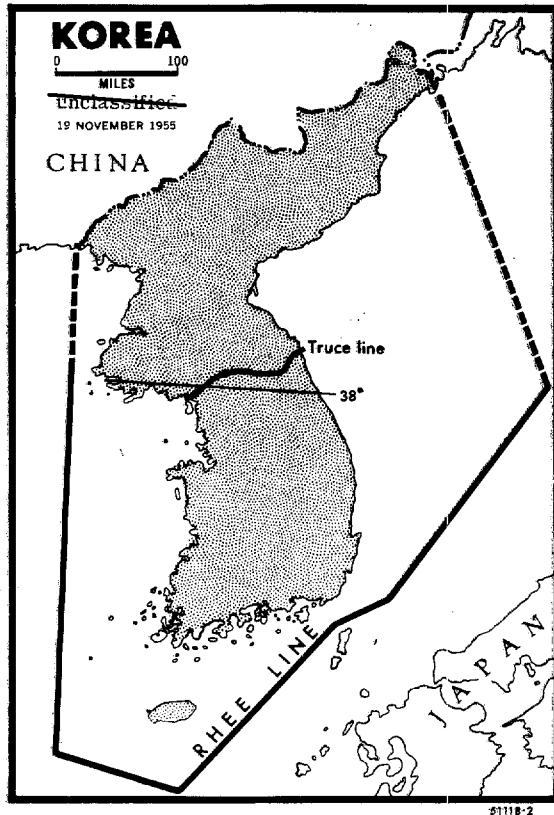
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2. SOUTH KOREA'S THREAT TO FIRE ON JAPANESE FISHING BOATS

The statement issued by the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff on 17 November, threatening to sink any Japanese vessels violating the Rhee line, appears primarily a propaganda move.

The South Korean chief of naval operations has told American officials that he does not plan any change of patrols or any drastic action, and would advise them if he receives orders to interfere with Japanese fishing boats. The South Korean maritime police, however, are not under UN operational control and have a limited capability for interfering with Japanese vessels on the high seas off Korea.

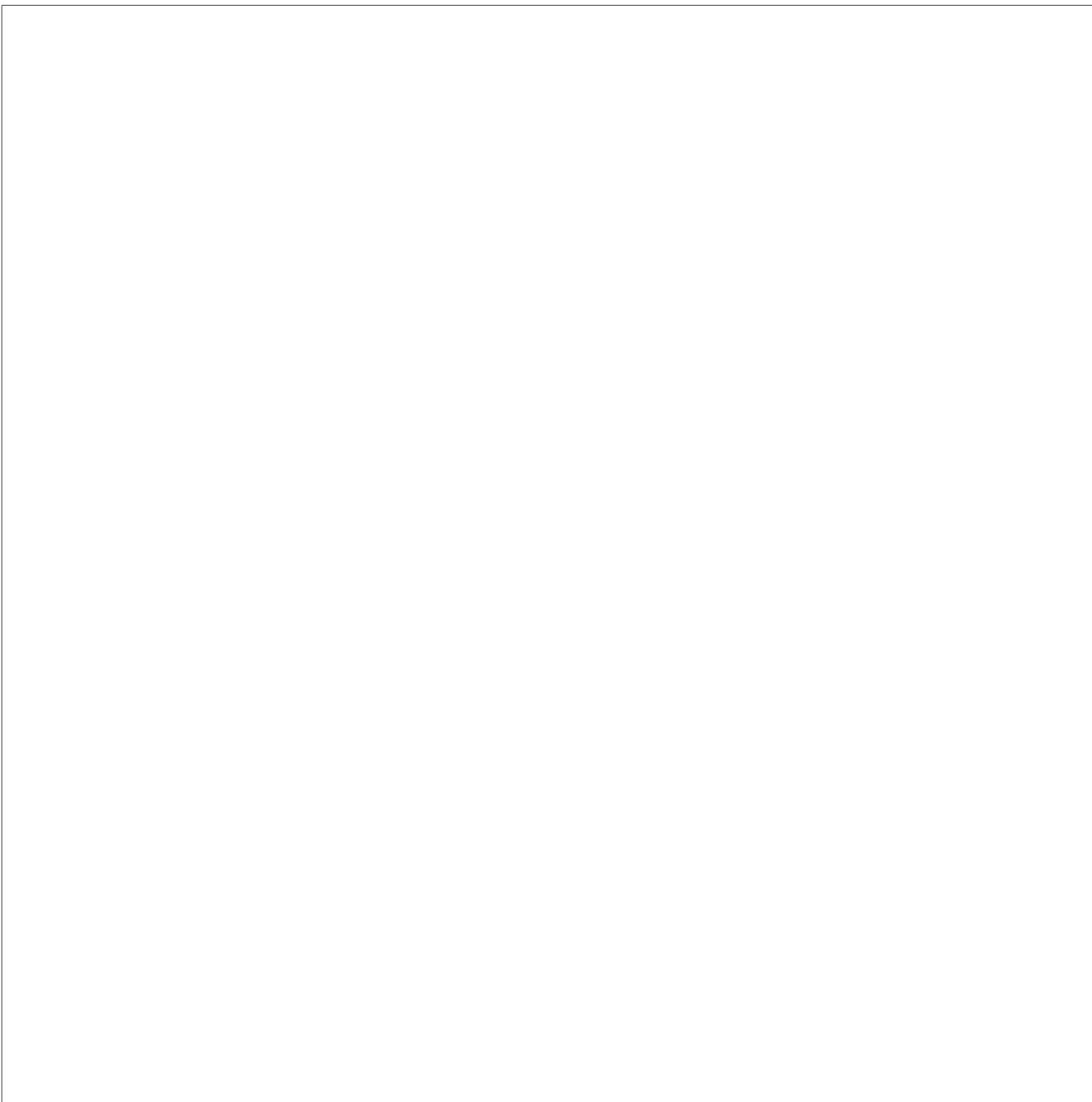


South Korea's willingness to provoke Japan has been illustrated in the past by firing on Japanese vessels and by the recent seizure of two Japanese fishing boats 30 miles outside of the Rhee line. While the Japanese government has maintained a conciliatory attitude in the past, it has expressed serious concern over the present threat. A Japanese naval official told the embassy he "would request ammunition and permission to use it" if the South Korean threat is actually carried out.

There are indications that South Korea may attempt to patrol the Rhee line north of the 38th parallel, thus raising the possibility of an incident with North Korea as well as Japan.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 18 November)

Israeli prime minister Ben Gurion, in a lengthy interview with Ambassador Lawson on 16 November, emphasized the seriousness of Israel's security position, which he said becomes more dangerous every day. Ben Gurion stated

that British prime minister Eden's speech had greatly strengthened Egypt's intransigence, and that he thought the speech was a move to isolate Israel in the area as well as within the Western world. Israeli leaders apparently feel that Eden's speech indicated a British decision that Israel must sacrifice some territory in order to preserve Western interests in Arab oil and in the Arab states' strategic position. As a result, Israel can be expected to concentrate its diplomatic pressure on the United States and France, while it seeks to develop domestic pressures in Britain to influence the London government. [redacted]