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DOS review(s) completed.

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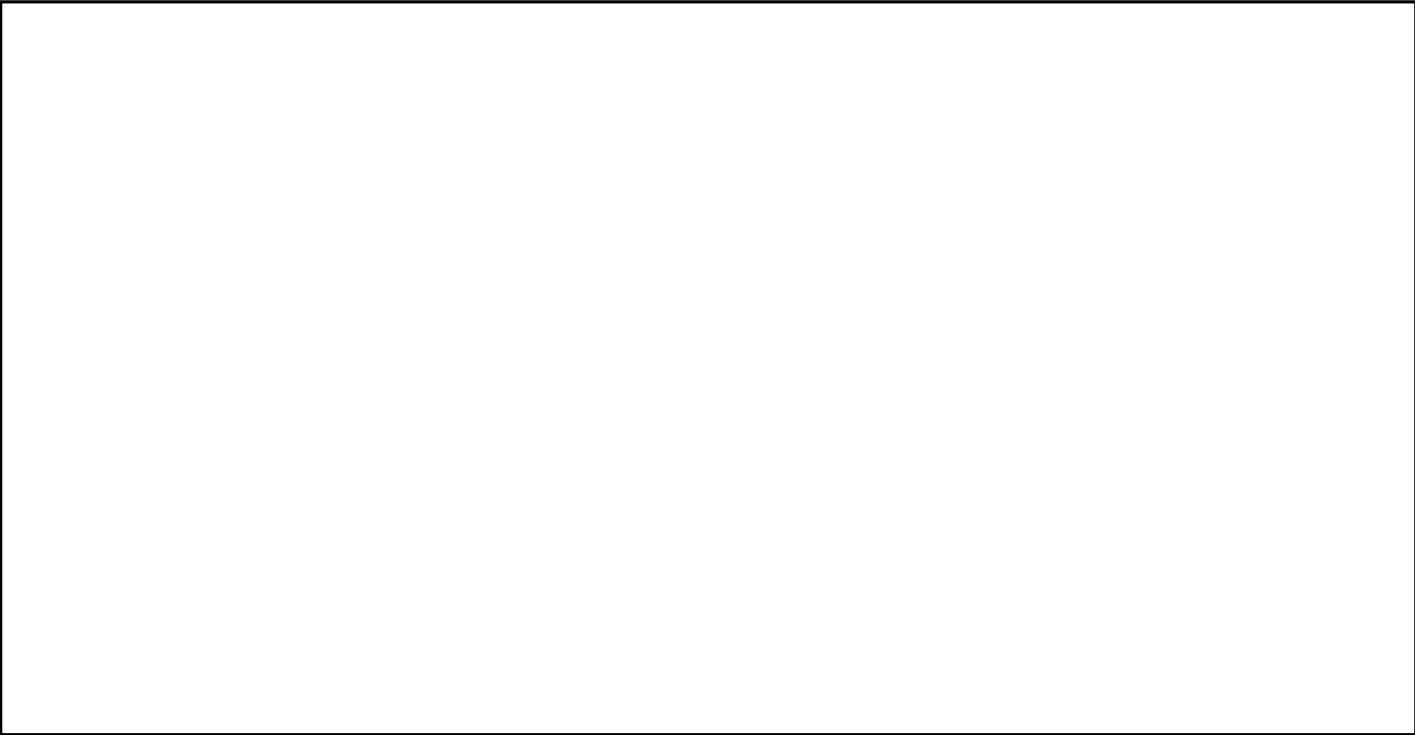
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FAR EAST



2. Interim replacements for De Lattre named:

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The US Military Attaché in Hanoi has been informed that General Salan, General de Lattre's deputy, has been appointed Commander-in-Chief, "pending de Lattre's return." At the same time Governor-General Gautier, De Lattre's chief civil aide, was named Acting High Commissioner. De Lattre will probably need several months to recover from a recent operation.

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Comment: General de Lattre has recently undergone a second operation which was apparently more serious than earlier reports suggested. Recent reports indicate that the general will not be willing to reassume his command because of disillusionment with the stalemate in Indochina as well as for reasons of health.

SOUTH ASIA

3. Comment on Kashmir efforts to throw off Indian domination:

Kashmir's National Conference Party, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah, has taken another step toward complete autonomy for Indian-held Kashmir. It has passed a resolution claiming for the new Kashmiri Legislature the right to participate in foreign affairs and defense matters, heretofore recognized by the Kashmiris as the exclusive prerogative of the Government of India.

The Indian Government, possibly underestimating the Kashmiris' desire for autonomy, countenanced earlier steps which included the decision to establish a Kashmiri Constituent Assembly, the rigged elections of last October which placed members of the National Conference in every seat of the Assembly, and the November amendment of the state constitution to convert the Assembly into a Legislature with supreme authority over all matters except foreign affairs, defense, and communications.

A high Indian official recently admitted that his government has had difficulties in dealing with the Kashmiris, who were inclined to be "unreasonable and stubborn." The current Kashmiri maneuver challenges India's most jealously guarded rights in the state, and it may lead Sheikh Abdullah into open conflict with India.

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7. US Ambassador in Warsaw foresees new restrictions on American missions:

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American Ambassador Flack in Warsaw comments that the rapid trial in Poland of five alleged US spies suggests a possible build-up to justify increasing restrictions on American missions in Eastern Europe.

The Ambassador points out it is possible that an anti-American build-up, at Soviet instigation, is being deliberately carried to a point likely to provoke US withdrawal of one or more missions in Eastern Europe. The Ambassador states that his analysis is consistent with recent Satellite notes and propaganda portraying US missions as espionage agencies which do not perform legitimate diplomatic functions.

Comment: The charges against the Polish defendants did not specify that they had contacts with the US Embassy in Warsaw, but alleged that they were recruited in Germany by US intelligence officers. The recent notes, while attacking former members of US missions in Eastern Europe, did not mention any current members. So far there have been no indications that the USSR or the Satellites no longer desire to maintain diplomatic missions in the West.

WESTERN EUROPE

8. Adenauer wants clarification of German defense contribution:

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American negotiators, meeting with Federal Republic representatives on the German financial contribution to Western defense, feel that Chancellor Adenauer is "dragging his feet" in these discussions. He is now insisting that German experts be sent before the NATO Temporary Council Committee to redetermine the amount of the German defense contribution. He argues that the Bonn Parliament will not approve these negotiations unless it appears that the body which fixed other NATO nations' contributions also fix the German contribution in the same manner.

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Comment: No German representatives were present when the Committee fixed the size of the German contribution. Adenauer's demand for new Committee hearings reflects his feeling that a German defense contribution fixed by the Allies alone resembles occupation costs.

Allied representatives have reasonable hope that agreement will be reached on the annexed conventions to the Contractual Agreement -- with the possible exception of this issue -- before the next NATO conference.

9. American Ambassador urges early negotiations with Spain:

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The American Ambassador in Madrid urges that the United States take full advantage of an unusually pro-US atmosphere in Spain by sending teams to negotiate military and economic aid agreements.

The Ambassador feels that a highly cordial attitude on the part of the Spanish Government has been created by recent press statements of two American officials regarding the results of the survey of the Spanish economy recently completed by a special US mission. In his opinion, these statements show that American interest in improving the Spanish economy and popular living standards is quite separate from political considerations.

Comment: The Spanish Government, through the controlled press, is apparently trying to create the impression that negotiation of an economic agreement will begin at any moment, regardless of military considerations, and that every sector of the Spanish economy will receive considerable immediate aid. This tactic reflects the overwhelming political importance which the regime attaches to American aid.

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