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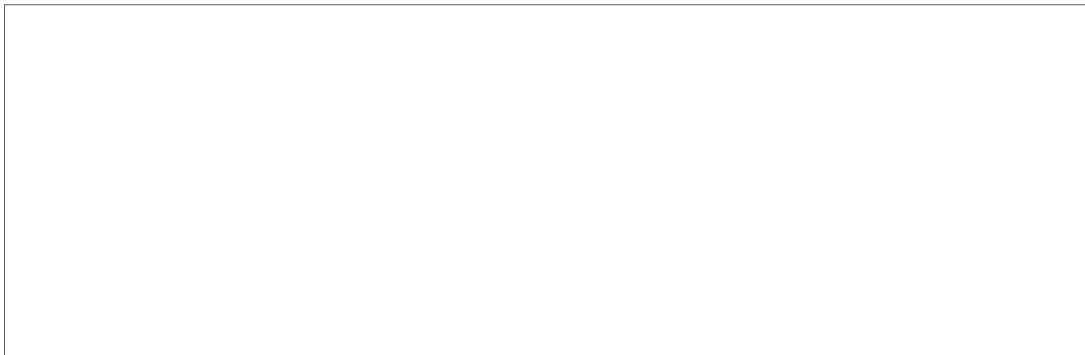
24 September 1955

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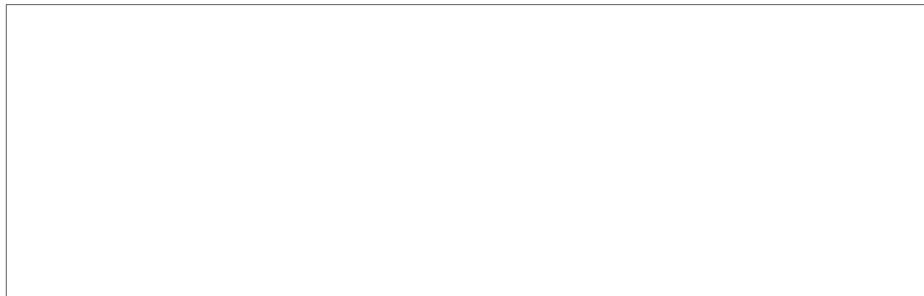
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1. DIEM GOVERNMENT PLANS REFERENDUM TO OUST BAO DAI

Premier Diem's envoy in Paris has indicated that a referendum to depose Bao Dai may be held by the end of October, according to Ambassador

Dillon. The Vietnamese official thought elections for a South Vietnam national assembly could be held "with safety" by the end of the year and that a timetable could perhaps be announced before the meeting of the Big Four foreign ministers at Geneva. The Saigon government would take the position that the issue of consultations with the Viet Minh on nationwide elections would be up to the elected assembly.

Comment

The Diem government believes that it will be subjected to increased international pressure to enter into consultations with the Viet Minh as a result of the foreign ministers' conference in October. It hopes that this pressure can be met by these moves. Preliminary planning for an elected assembly began last spring; it is probable that Diem will delay actual elections until he feels sure they will not threaten his control of the government.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Saigon has indicated that the referendum on Bao Dai will be held on 23 October.

2. SOVIET HARVEST MAY BE HIGHEST SINCE WAR

[Redacted] [Redacted]
Total Soviet grain production this year probably exceeds the postwar high set in 1952. Final figures for other important crops, such as sugar beets, potatoes and cotton, are expected to show improvement over last year.

There was a 25-percent expansion of total wheat acreage over 1954. The "new lands" area, where most of this expansion occurred, was hard hit by drought. The total harvest there, however, is expected to be larger than that of last year. There was good weather in the important wheat areas of the Ukraine and North Caucasus.

A good wheat crop this year will enable the USSR to rebuild wheat reserves depleted during the last two years or undertake some expansion of wheat exports.

Success of the corn program, Khrushchev's key to the fodder supply this year and in the future, cannot yet be gauged. (Prepared by ORR)

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET-LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS MAY BE IMMINENT

[redacted] the establishment of diplomatic relations between Libya and the Soviet Union may be imminent. An announcement to this effect may be made on 25 September.

Comment

Soviet approaches to Libya for the establishment of diplomatic relations were reported early this month. If Libya has in fact agreed to open diplomatic relations, the USSR has probably agreed to support Libya's candidacy for UN membership. This support, however, would probably be limited to the inclusion of Libya in a "package deal" including several of the Soviet Satellites.