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SECURITY INFORMATION

23 June 1953

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**CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**

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Office of Current Intelligence

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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## SECURITY INFORMATION

## FAR EAST

1. South Korean prime minister indicates no European support for Korea:

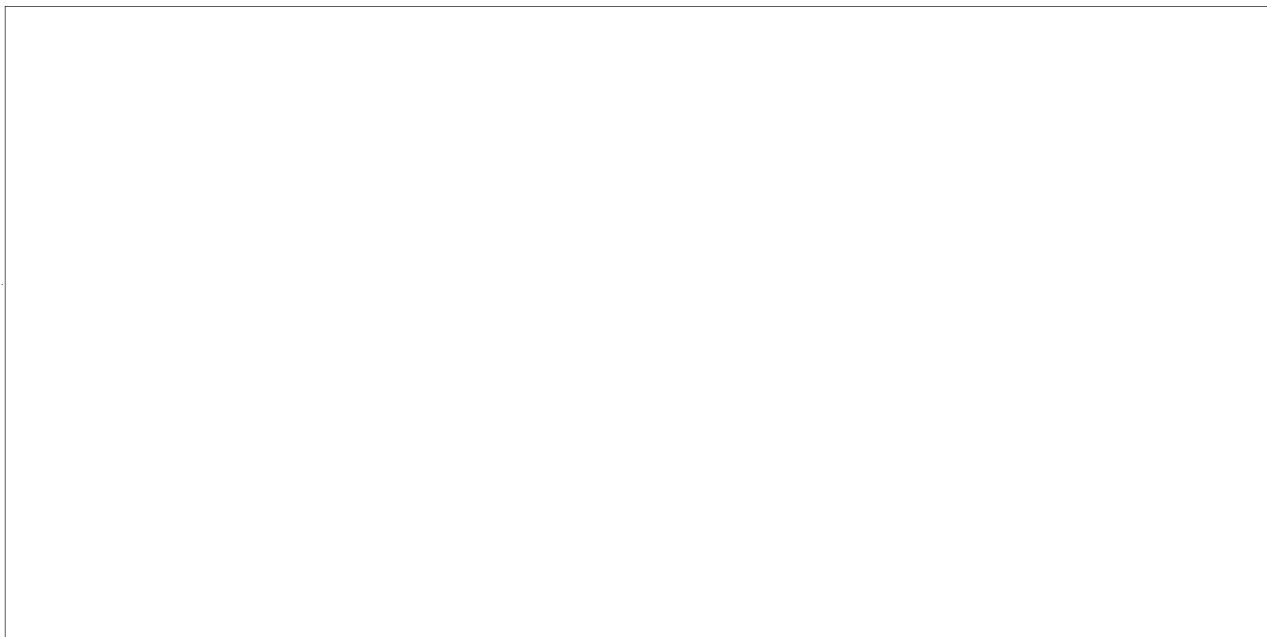
South Korean prime minister Paek Tu-chin intends to inform President Rhee that no European support for the Republic of Korea is possible, and that he can depend only on the United States for support. He also told Ambassador Allison and General Clark in Tokyo that he fully understands that the United States is firmly determined to complete the armistice agreement.

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Paek emphasized that conflict between South Korea and the United States is inconceivable and must not be permitted.

Comment: Paek has been in Europe during most of the recent period of agitation against the armistice, and his return to Korea may have some moderating influence on President Rhee's attitude. Paek, a highly capable financial administrator, reportedly holds the respect and confidence of Rhee.

## SOUTHEAST ASIA



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## NEAR EAST - AFRICA

3. Comment on proposed Syrian constitution:

The proclamation by General Shishakli that Syrians will vote on a new constitution on 10 July is an effort to reduce domestic criticism and to acquire respectability abroad. It will not vitally affect Shishakli's position or Syria's generally pro-Western orientation.

This constitution, the fourth since Syria was separated from the Ottoman Empire after World War I, probably has no more chance of survival than its predecessors. The first two failed because of Syrian-French discord, and political immaturity wrecked the third. The fourth is tied to Shishakli, a military dictator who has not achieved popular support.

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## WESTERN EUROPE

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7. American officials expect further Communist concessions to East German population:

 American officials in Berlin believe that the riots in East Germany have increased Communist recognition of the need to slow the tempo of socialization and to meet popular demands. They expect the government to make an example of "foreign agents" and ringleaders, with strict punishments, while announcing specific new benefits for the "misled" workers.

The officials believe there will be a serious attempt to improve the living standard of the whole population, with the top economic priority assigned to consumers' goods at the expense of heavy industry.

Comment: Concessions since the rioting, together with numerous announcements of the implementation of the new conciliatory policy, indicate that further economic benefits for all classes can be expected.

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