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SUMMARY

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FAR EAST

- 1. Japanese prime minister suggests need for Security Treaty revision:**

[redacted] Prime Minister Hatoyama told the Diet on 13 May he believed revision of the Security Treaty and Administrative Agreement with the United States was necessary to complete Japan's independence.

Foreign Minister Shigemitsu, according to the Japanese press, followed the prime minister with a statement that immediate revision of the pacts was not feasible. He asserted, however, that Japan's obligation to offer military bases to the United States did not bind Tokyo to consent to their being enlarged when requested.

Comment: The recent agreement between Japan and the United States on Japan's defense budget for 1955-56, which dashed Hatoyama's campaign promises of "butter instead of guns," has resulted in renewed charges that the treaty and administrative agreement constitute "undue interference" in Japan's internal affairs. The opposition parties are keeping the issue alive by attacking the government in the Diet with the allegation that American bases in Japan will be used to store nuclear weapons and support military action in the Far East.

Foreign Minister Shigemitsu told the Diet during defense budget discussions in late April that it was "natural" for various matters between the United States and Japan to need adjustment. [redacted]

- 2. Possible railroad construction on new route toward Fukien:**

[redacted] [redacted] possible survey work and right-of-way clearance for a railroad in central Fukien [redacted] About 30 miles of what appears to be cleared right of way have been

identified near Shabsien. This construction follows the west bank of the Sha Chi River, across from the main inland highway connecting Amoy with the Chekiang-Kiangsi railroad.

Neither line could be finished before 1956.

Their completion will greatly ease the problem of supplying the coastal area opposite Formosa.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

3. France favors conference of Western big three with Diem:

The French government is prepared to accept Vietnamese premier Diem's invitation to attend a conference in Saigon to which Britain and the United States have also been invited, according to Premier Faure's personal spokesman.

France would have the three Western powers represented by their regular emissaries in Vietnam. Paris believes that holding a meeting at the ministerial level would cause the regular representatives to lose importance in Vietnamese eyes.

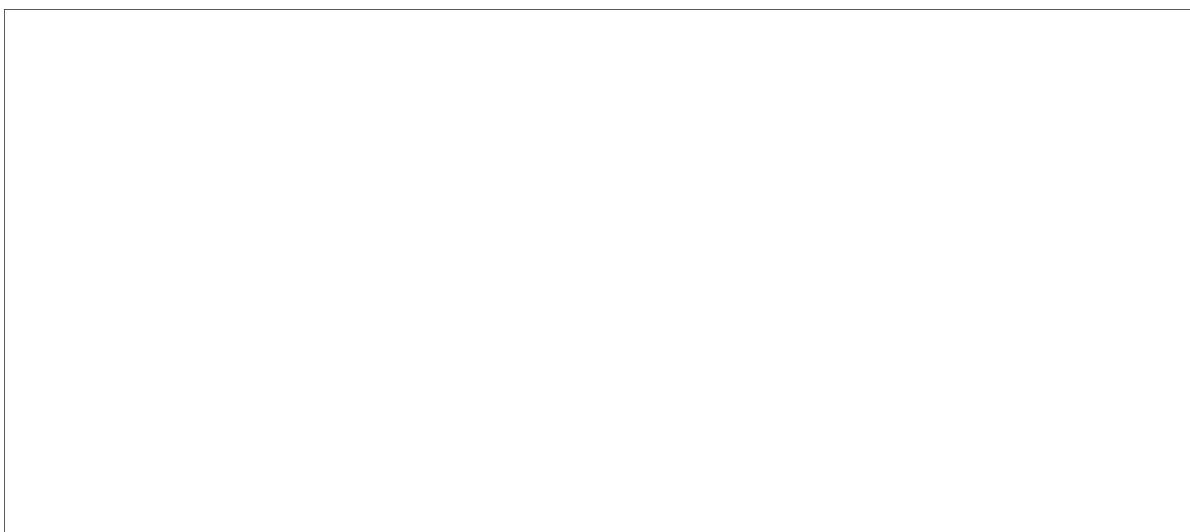
The premier's spokesman said he hoped the task of such a conference would not be complicated beforehand by some incident, such as the deposition of Bao Dai.

Comment: The French have no desire to become involved in renewed hostilities in Indochina and may plan to emphasize at the proposed conference that the United States and Britain have assumed increased responsibility in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese government recently made public its distaste for high-level conferences on Vietnam to which it had not been invited.

SOUTH ASIA

4. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Turkey apparently favor Pakistan in its dispute with Afghanistan:



[redacted] there was no doubt regarding the guilty party in connection with the Kabul riots of 30 March and that Afghanistan should immediately make full amends. [redacted] an investigation could subsequently determine who was at fault in the case of the demonstrations before the Afghan consulate in Peshawar and the Pakistani consulate at Jalalabad.

The Turkish government, too, has informed Kabul that it will mediate only on the basis of the events of 30 March and that it cannot accept as a precondition the placing of the Kabul and Peshawar incidents in the same category.

Comment: It appears that if both Kabul and Karachi finally accept an investigation by one or more of these countries, Afghan leaders will be aware of the weight of opinion against Afghanistan and will accept the consequences of defeat.