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SUMMARY

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FAR EAST

2. South Korea seeks deadline for departure of neutral commission:

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Prime Minister Pyun, in a letter to Secretary Dulles dated 1 September, said South Korea intended to give the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission one week's notice

to leave the country. He did not mention, however, when such notice would be given. Pyun elaborated that since American efforts to bring about the withdrawal of the commission had been to no avail, the solution was for the South Korean government to eject it.

Comment: Ambassador Briggs believes there is real danger that the South Korean government may attempt renewed agitation and violence against the Czech and Polish members of the commission. He hopes the commission can be disbanded before the UN Ninth General Assembly convenes on 21 September.

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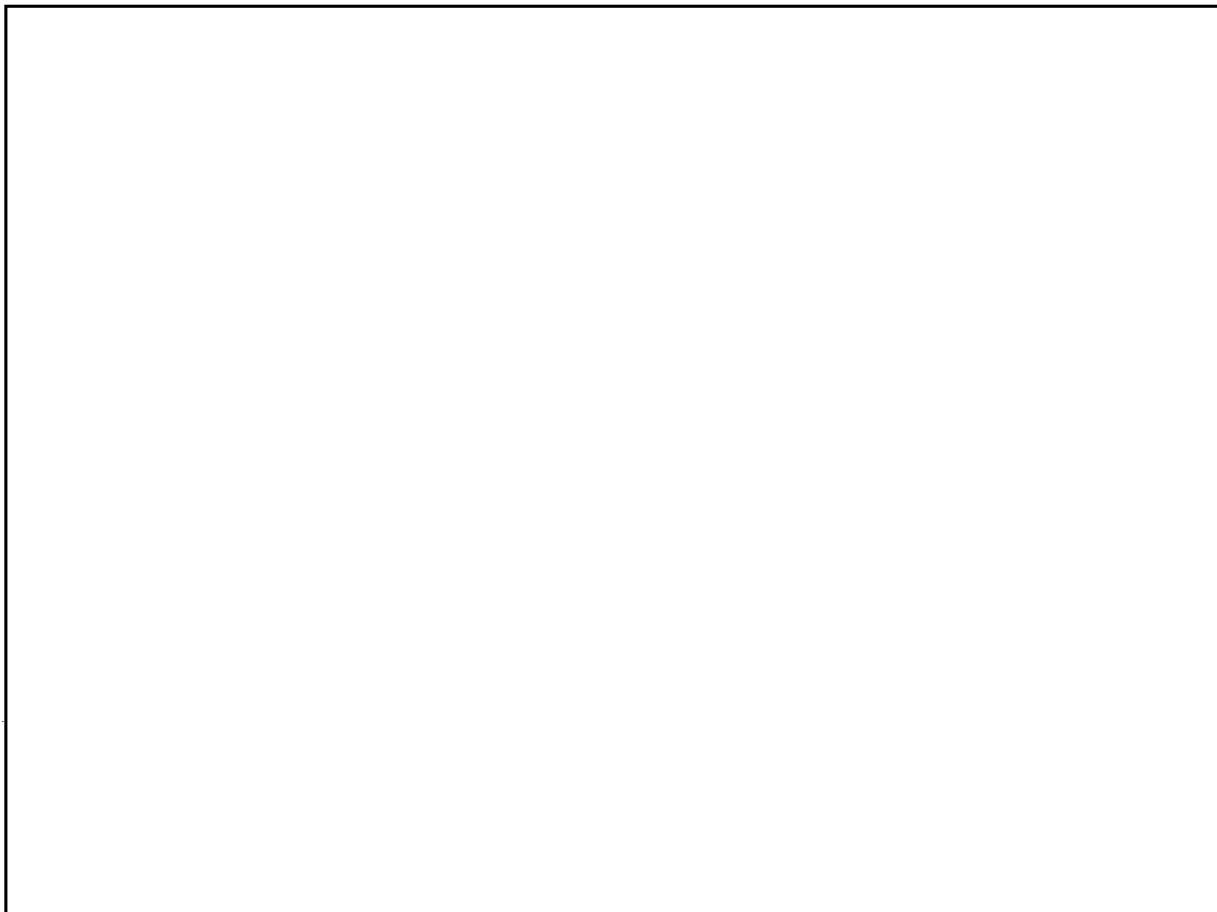
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Action to disband the supervisory body, particularly without prior discussion in the UN General Assembly, will be opposed by nations--including the British Commonwealth and Colombo powers--which believe that abandonment of the Korean commission at this time would be prejudicial to the success of the International Commission in Indochina.

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

4. Vietnamese premier says French, supported by US, threaten to oust him:

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Premier Ngo Dinh Diem told Ambassador Heath in Saigon on 31 August that a "high personality of the French Commissariat

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"General" had told him on the previous day that he must take ex-premier Tam into his government, otherwise both France and the United States would approve Tam being made premier. Diem told Heath he would rather resign than accept Tam. Heath replied he was certain that General Ely had not authorized such an approach. He added that many Frenchmen thought Tam would make a good interior minister.

Comment: General Ely told Ambassador Heath last week that he would give Diem another chance, provided the premier accepted Tam as interior minister.

If Diem's current efforts to win support from the war lord groups in south Vietnam are successful, he will be in a stronger position to resist efforts of the French to place Tam or others identified with their policies in the government.

WESTERN EUROPE

5. Mendes-France may seek neutralization of Germany:

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Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, editor of the neutralist Paris weekly L'Express and political adviser of Premier Mendes-France, is believed to favor negotiations with the USSR to bring about the unification and military neutralization of Germany, according to the American embassy in Paris. The embassy believes Mendes-France could be thinking along such lines, although it would be contrary to his previous statements on German rearmament.

Comment: Though Mendes-France has thus far made no definite proposals, he is believed intent on rearmament limitations unacceptable to West Germany. Many of the deputies who supported EDC are also firmly opposed to an independent German army.

When the assembly adjourned the premier disclaimed any intention of seeking talks with the Russians at the present time. Earlier, however, he had expressed a willingness to use the German question as a bargaining point in future four-power talks.