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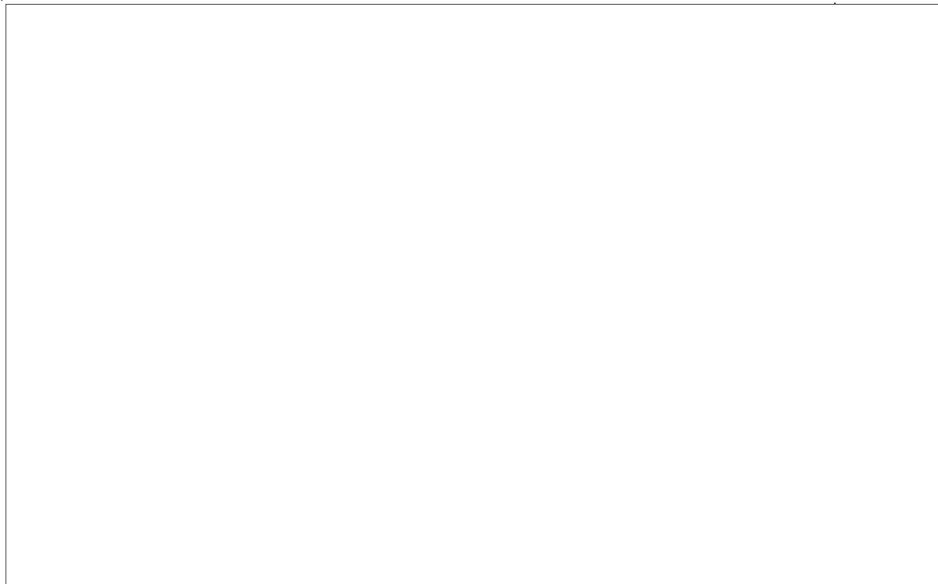
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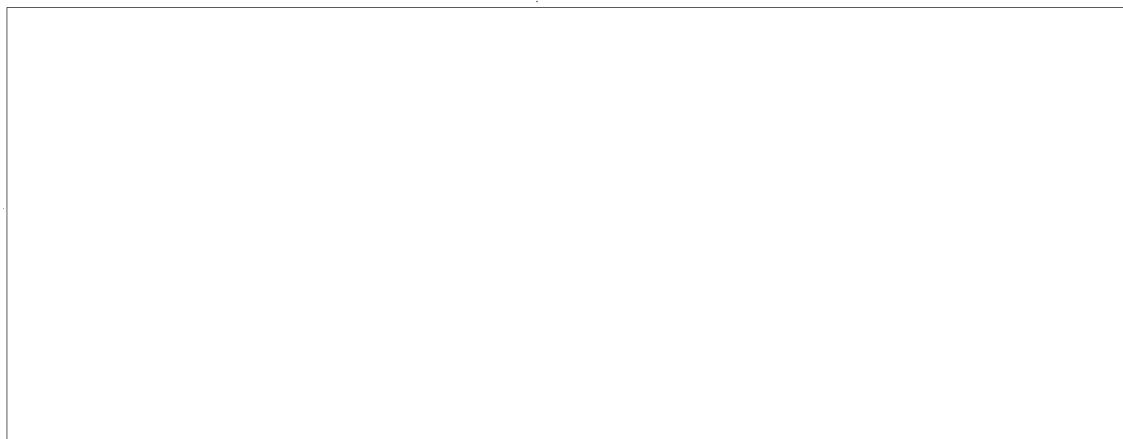
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**1. FRENCH AND BRITISH REPORTEDLY DETERMINED TO  
IMPOSE SOLUTION ON NASR**



**Comment**

The current overt French show of force, just before the negotiations between Nasr and the Suez committee, indicates Paris' desire to give the appearance of "imposing" a solution on Nasr despite disclaimers of this intention by government spokesmen. Other moves in this direction can be expected in view of the dominance in French thinking of the idea that "all is lost in Algeria" if Nasr is not forced to back down.

## 2. WEST GERMAN PILOTS MAY ACCEPT SUEZ CANAL JOBS

[redacted] estimates that 25 to 30 Kiel Canal pilots will accept Egyptian offers of Suez Canal jobs if their present wages are not substantially increased. The departure of a number, [redacted]

[redacted] would seriously handicap Kiel traffic, but only one has already signed up. [redacted] the Egyptians have also approached river pilots, although Kiel Canal pilots are preferred since they would require less training on Suez operating procedures. Strong inducements have been offered the Germans, including a salary increase within two years to three times the present average Kiel salary.

### Comment

The Egyptians, who have been trying to recruit foreign pilots, probably need at least 100 pilots to replace British and French pilots likely to resign if a negotiated settlement is not reached. [redacted]

### 3. LAO-VIET MINH JOINT STATEMENT IN HANOI

The joint statement issued by Viet Minh premier Pham Van Dong and Laotian premier Souvanna Phouma on 29 August, during the latter's stopover in Hanoi on his return from Peiping, apparently foreshadows the early establishment of diplomatic relations between Laos and North Vietnam. While the announcement referred only to "the necessity of establishing economic and cultural relations and the exchange of friendly delegations," Souvanna in a later statement explicitly called for "diplomatic ties... in the near future!" The two premiers also advocated strict implementation of the Geneva agreements in Vietnam as well as Laos, thereby changing the previous Laotian position of noninvolvement in the Vietnam problem to support of the Viet Minh in its drive to unify that country.

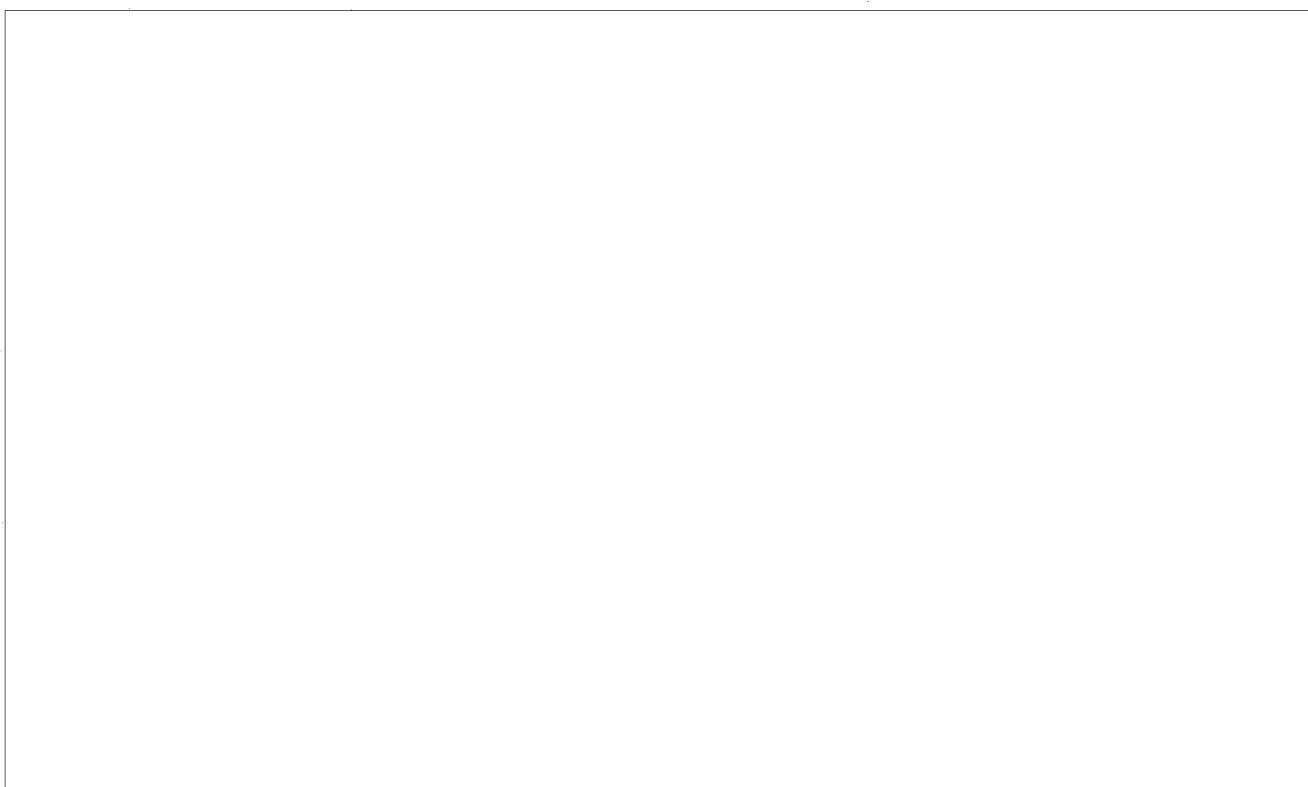
In return for his favorable pronouncements, the Viet Minh probably gave Souvanna private "assurances" that it would no longer intervene in Laos' internal affairs through its control over the Pathet Lao. Such an agreement is implicit in the joint statement which expressed mutual satisfaction with the Pathet Lao "settlement" and called on Vietnamese and Laotians living in each other's countries to respect local laws and customs.

There are indications that the Laotians will attempt to balance Souvanna's trip by friendly gestures to the West. Souvanna has said that he looks forward to a visit to Saigon. The American embassy comments that the question of real interest at this juncture is the extent to which the premier will retain the support of his colleagues in the government. The embassy points out, however, that Souvanna was not restrained by any opposition he may have encountered within the Laotian delegation, which included Deputy Premier Katay and four other cabinet officers.

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**THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION**  
(Information as of 1700, 30 August)

An Israeli soldier was killed and four others wounded when three land mines exploded under their car near El Auja on the Egyptian frontier, according to an Israeli military spokesman on 30 August. (Press)



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