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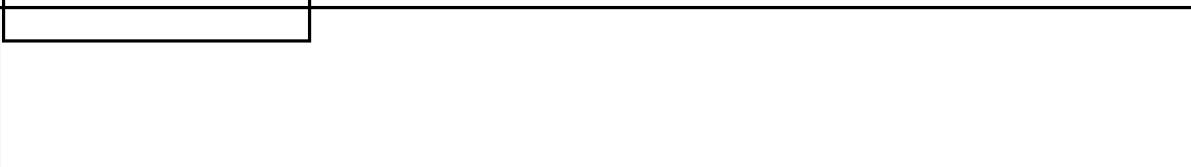
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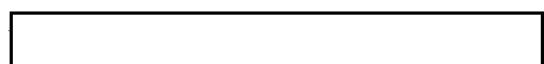
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2. RHEE TO SHAKE UP SOUTH KOREAN HIGH COMMAND

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President Rhee has informed American officials of his intention to remove his senior military leaders to make room for promotions which will improve morale

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✓ and efficiency in the armed forces. Rhee has decided to appoint General Chong Il-kwon, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as ambassador to Turkey, and will also try to find a civilian position for General Yi Hyong-kun, army chief of staff. He reportedly is considering offering a diplomatic post to General Paek Son-yop, commander of the First Army.

Yi succeeded Chong as chief of staff last June. The widespread command changes instituted by Yi since then, some of which were politically motivated, have been a factor in the reported decline in morale of the army. Rhee may hope that the removal of these top leaders will diminish the factional bickering among their supporters. He may also want to send General Chong abroad because of Chong's involvement in the assassination of the CIC chief in 1956.

General Yi has been the most vigorous supporter of Rhee's demands for a "march north." There is no indication as to his successor. Air force general Kim Chong-yol, who has been co-operative with American officials, has been mentioned as the possible next chairman of the joint chiefs.

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4. NEW IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER

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The appointment of Manuchehr Eqbal, capable and pro-Western minister of court and chancellor of Tehran University, as prime minister of Iran offers some hope for a constructive program of economic and social reforms only if the Shah is willing to withdraw from personal participation in the government.

Although the Shah apparently has been preparing Eqbal for the new post for nearly two years, the monarch has a long-standing fear of strong prime ministers and a reputation for attempting to limit the authority of anyone who appears to be winning popular support.

The resignation of the Ala government, which has become progressively more unpopular because of its corruption and ineffectiveness, has long been expected.

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