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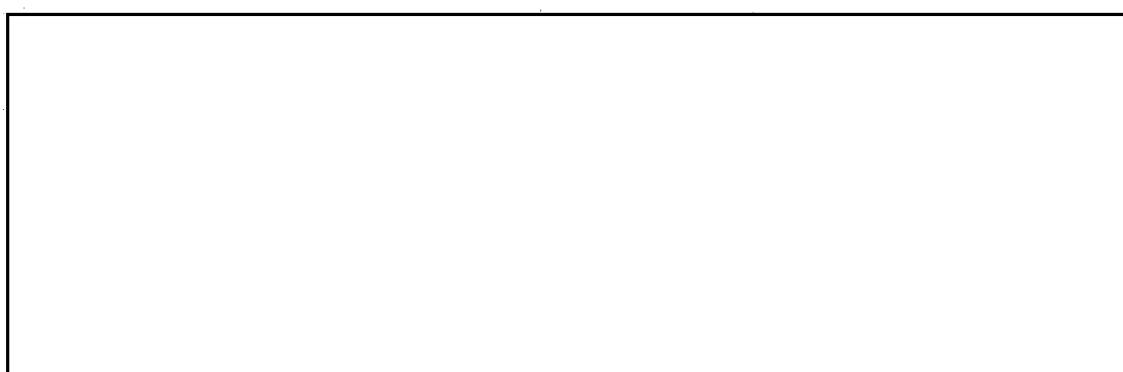
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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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NSA review completed

State Dept. review completed

SUMMARY

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WESTERN EUROPE

4. Italian Foreign Ministry fears nine-power London conference will fail (page 5).

LATE ITEM

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5. [redacted] army opposes Quwatli's return to power (page 6).

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#### WESTERN EUROPE

4. Italian Foreign Ministry fears nine-power London conference will fail:

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A high official of the Italian Foreign Ministry expressed the view to the American embassy in Rome on 20 September that the London nine-power conference might fail, like the Brussels meeting, unless a firm basis for agreement is established in advance through adequate diplomatic soundings. The official felt the French proposals for an EDC alternative, which he described as "full of discrimination against Germany," vaguely drafted and alluding only indirectly to German admission into NATO, would only create confusion and dismay.

The Foreign Ministry continues to be suspicious of Mendes-France. It has expressed regret to the French embassy that he has apparently agreed to having his memoires published in a newspaper which the Foreign Ministry describes as Communist.

Comment: Italian pessimism on the nine-power conference is generally shared by other Western European governments.

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LATE ITEM

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5. [redacted] army opposes Quwatli's return to power:

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[redacted]  
[redacted] the bulk  
of the Syrian army officer corps is now  
opposed to the election of Shukri  
Quwatli as president of Syria.

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[redacted] a quar-  
ter of the present officer corps participated in the coup that  
overthrew Quwatli in 1949 and fear the consequences of his return  
to power. One half of the corps entered the Syrian military acad-  
emy after Quwatli's exile and were appointed from families not  
sympathetic to him.

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Ambassador Caffery in Cairo reports  
that [redacted] the real reason for  
the Syrian prime minister's visit to Cairo was to convince Egypt  
that his candidacy for the presidency has the backing of the  
Syrian army. [redacted] army support for Ghazzi  
is based less on enthusiasm for him than on fear of Quwatli.

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[redacted]  
This unexpectedly strong, last-minute  
opposition to Quwatli could portend trouble on the occasion of  
the parliamentary elections to be held on 24 September. It  
seems more likely, however, that the army will allow the elec-  
tions to be held but exert strong pressure to prevent the parlia-  
ment elected from then choosing Quwatli as president.

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