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CIB

GENERAL

1. Chinese Communists want Korean talks continued:

[redacted] The Swedish ambassador in Peiping was told by a Chinese Communist vice foreign minister on 14 December that the Communists wish to resume the Korean talks but will not retract the remarks to which American envoy Dean had objected. The ambassador's impression, which he conveyed [redacted] [redacted] was that the Chinese desire both a continuation of the preliminary talks and a convening of the Korean political conference itself.

Comment: The vice foreign minister's line follows precisely Peiping's propaganda of the past several days. Even if the talks are resumed, there is no evidence that the Communists will compromise on the main issues.

2. [redacted]

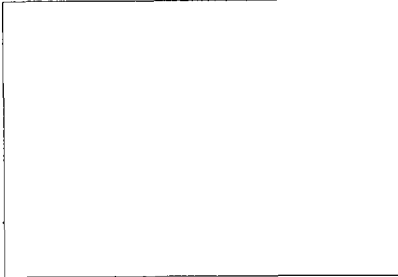
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3. Menon seeking UN discussion on Korean prisoners:



According to Ambassador Lodge, Indian delegate Menon told a group of Latin American delegates on 16 December that the General Assembly should be convened before 22 January to consider disposition of the nonrepatriated Korean prisoners. He said that the lack of a political conference confronted Indian custodial troops with a potentially dangerous situation. Menon made it clear that the Latin Americans should use their influence to bring the United States around to the Indian viewpoint.

Menon left a memorandum to the same effect with the British delegate.

Comment: Menon's maneuvers and India's reported denial of Thimayya's statement favoring release of the prisoners on 22 January represent a reversal of previously stated views. Since the talks have been broken off, India may wish to avoid Communist charges that releasing the prisoners would violate the armistice agreement.



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