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GENERAL

1. Finland's position estimated to be stronger--US Em-
bassy Oslo transmits the opinion of Norwegian Defense
Minister Hauge that Finland's position has been greatly
strengthened by the North Atlantic Pact and that the
USSR is now more hesitant to take over Finland because
of repercussions which would inevitably follow in the
West. The Defense Minister added that a Soviet attempt
to take over Finland would precipitate a crisis in Sweden;
Hauge also reaffirmed his view that in the last analysis
Sweden would side with the West and would certainly
fight if invaded.

NEAR EAST-AFRICA

2. PALESTINE: Israel offers Jordan access to sea --
US Charge Fritzlan in Amman has been informed by
the Jordan representative in the current Israeli-Jordan
peace negotiations that during the 13 December meeting,
the Israeli delegation offered to grant Jordan full sov-
ereignty over a corridor to the Mediterranean. Accord-
ing to the Jordan representative, the Israeli offer was
made subject to the following reservations: (a) there
should be no military installations or bases in the
corridor; (b) the Israelis should have free passage
across the corridor at three places; and (c) the Brit-
ish treaty guaranteeing Jordan's integrity should not
apply to the corridor.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that although other
difficult problems face the negotiators, this offer repre-
sents a concession on the part of Israel which may make
a substantial contribution toward a settlement.)

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