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GENERAL

1. Dutch High Commissioner's views on Indonesia and Far East--

The US Consul General in Batavia transmits the opinion of Dutch High Commissioner Lovink that although the transfer of sovereignty to the Indonesians and the establishment of a new government can be accomplished without disorders, long-term prospects for Indonesia are less promising. Lovink told the Consul General that the western powers, by apparently withdrawing from the Far Eastern area and failing to provide "authority" in world politics, may lead the Indonesians to assume a "neutral" position between the East and the West. Lovink added that he has no faith in the projected Southeast Asia Union, which he believes would be susceptible to Communist influence, with China as the potential great Asiatic power. Lovink therefore urges that the US, the UK, and the Netherlands develop a strong concerted policy of political and economic support for Indonesia and that joint military defense commitments be made to the new Indonesian Republic.



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