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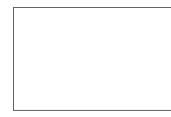
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1. Current Arab attitude toward supporting US in UN--The Syrian delegate to the UN, in conversation with the US delegation, has declared that if the US would give arms and loans to the Arab states, the US would find them much more ready to support the US proposal to condemn Chinese Communist aggression. The Syrian delegate attributed Arab hesitancy to support the US in the UN to the US policy of supporting and strengthening Israel against the Arabs and to Arab weakness in the face of possible Soviet aggression. The Syrian emphasized that the Arab states are in an exposed position; they lack arms and are reluctant to rely heavily on the US because most available US forces are tied down in Korea. The Egyptian delegate, in a separate conversation with the US delegation, elaborated on Arab fear of Soviet aggression, declaring that the Arab states will insist on being adequately armed and prepared before assuming a provocative attitude in the UN that may lead to war with the Soviet Union. In reply to a question whether the UN could survive a failure to charge the Chinese Communists with aggression, the Egyptian delegate observed that "some countries" might quite possibly place their national interests above the existence even of the UN.



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2. Indian and British views on Chinese action in Tibet--Indian Foreign Secretary Menon has informed US Ambassador Henderson that the Indian Government has "definitely decided" to take no UN action concerning Tibet which might result in lessening Indian influence with Communist China. Menon said that Tibet is lost anyway and it would be "senseless" for India to disturb its relations with Communist China



State Dept. review completed

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by raising this relatively "insignificant" matter in the UN. According to Menon's latest information from the Indian representative in Lhasa (dated 24 December), the spirit of resistance in the city seems dead following the departure of the Dalai Lama and the inhabitants are hopelessly awaiting the arrival of the Chinese Communists. Menon added that for this reason India has suspended further arms shipments to Tibet.



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3. British report concerning Netherlands New Guinea impasse -- According to information available to the British Foreign Office, the Indonesian Government is under strong political pressure, as a result of the impasse over the transfer of sovereignty over Netherlands New Guinea, to denounce the Netherlands-Indonesian union immediately. The Indonesians are insisting that the Dutch must take the initiative if they wish to keep the union alive; Indonesia cannot do so because Netherlands New Guinea rightfully belongs to Indonesia and any concession by Indonesia would be interpreted by the Dutch as a sign of weakness. The British are worried over the consequences in Malaya if a Dutch-Indonesian rift develops and Indonesia becomes hostile to the West. The British point out that the Dutch-Indonesian impasse has already provided grist for Soviet propaganda and has given new impetus to the activity of the Chinese Communist Ambassador in Djakarta.



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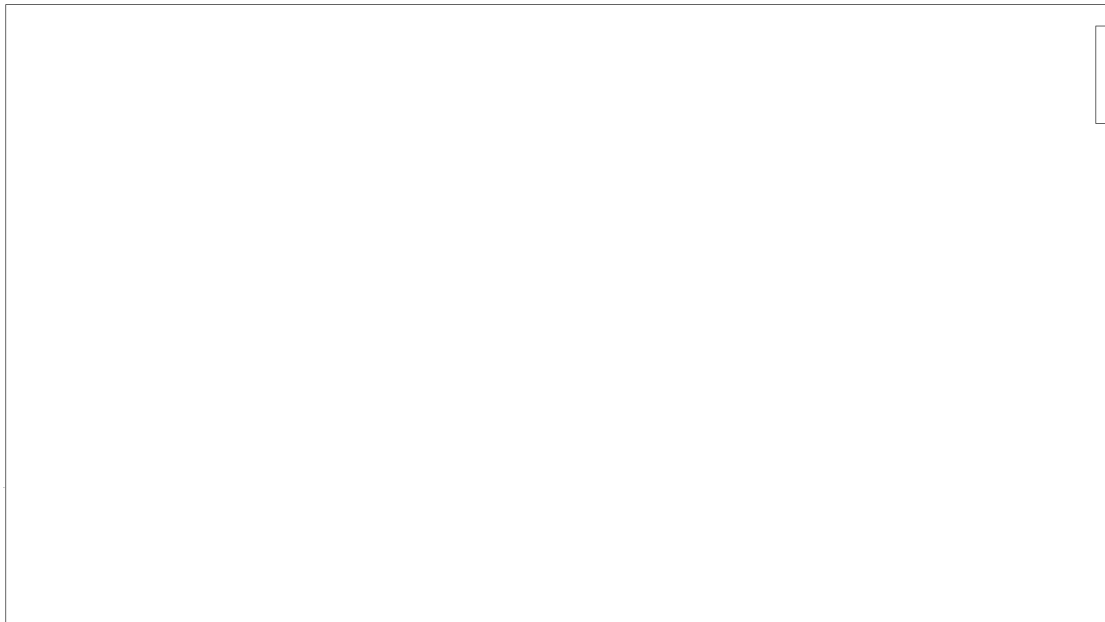
NEAR EAST-AFRICA



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4. IRAN: Serious concern felt over delay in US bank loan--
US Ambassador Grady reports that Prime Minister Razmara is seriously considering withdrawing Iran's application for an Export-Import Bank loan because of his "extreme exasperation" over the excessively detailed commitments required of Iran by the Bank. Grady urges that immediate action be taken to make the loan available on the simplest possible basis. Grady emphasizes that Iran is in a serious crisis and adds, "we are in danger of a tragic failure here."

FAR EAST



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