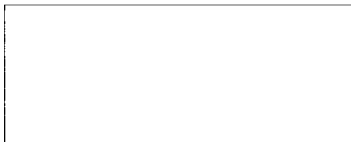


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CIB

FAR EAST

1. Soviet diplomat predicts early Korean armistice:

In discussing prospects for a Korean armistice, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Zorin recently remarked to the Swedish Ambassador that an armistice agreement is not unlikely and "will occur soon." The Swedish Ambassador remarked that in previous conversations Zorin had depreciated chances of armistice agreement "because the Americans didn't want it."

Comment: Although Soviet spokesmen have previously expressed optimism regarding the outcome of the cease-fire talks, Zorin's remark is the only recent expression of such a Soviet attitude. This sanguine approach might be deemed particularly appropriate in conversations with representatives of neutral nations. On the other hand, Communist statements and propaganda continue to emphasize obstacles to an agreement, such as the UN's alleged use of bacteriological warfare.

2.

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