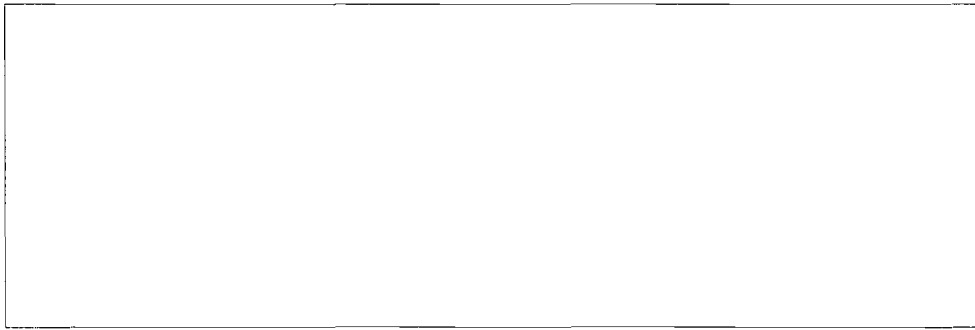
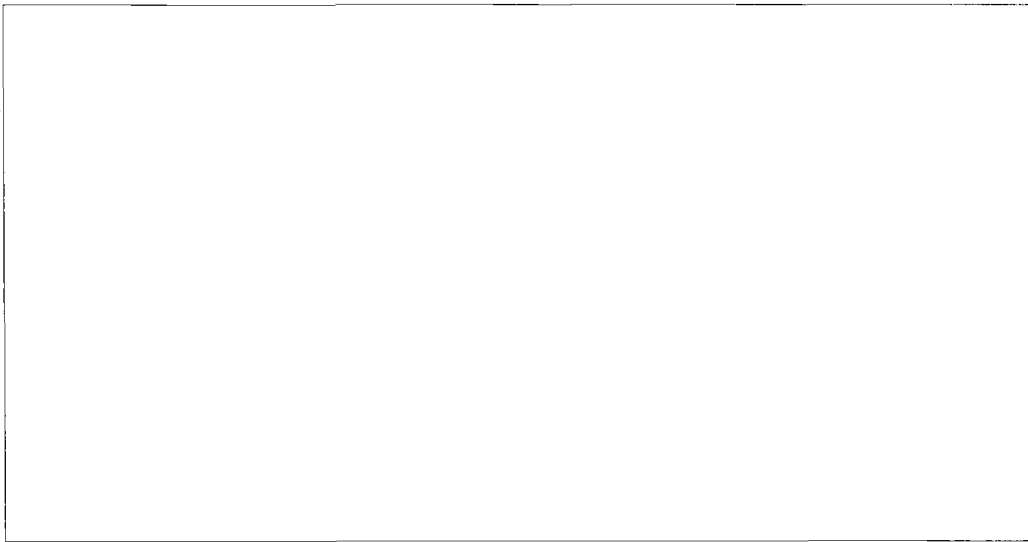


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FAR EAST

4. Comment on Rhee's 23 June "compromise" armistice proposals:

Having virtually satisfied by unilateral action his desire for the immediate release of North Korean prisoners opposing repatriation, President Rhee has now offered three "conditions" as the price for his support of an armistice. As reported by the press, these include the immediate withdrawal of Chinese Communist troops or the simultaneous withdrawal of all foreign forces, a US-South Korean mutual security pact, and a 90-day time limit on the postarmistice political conference.

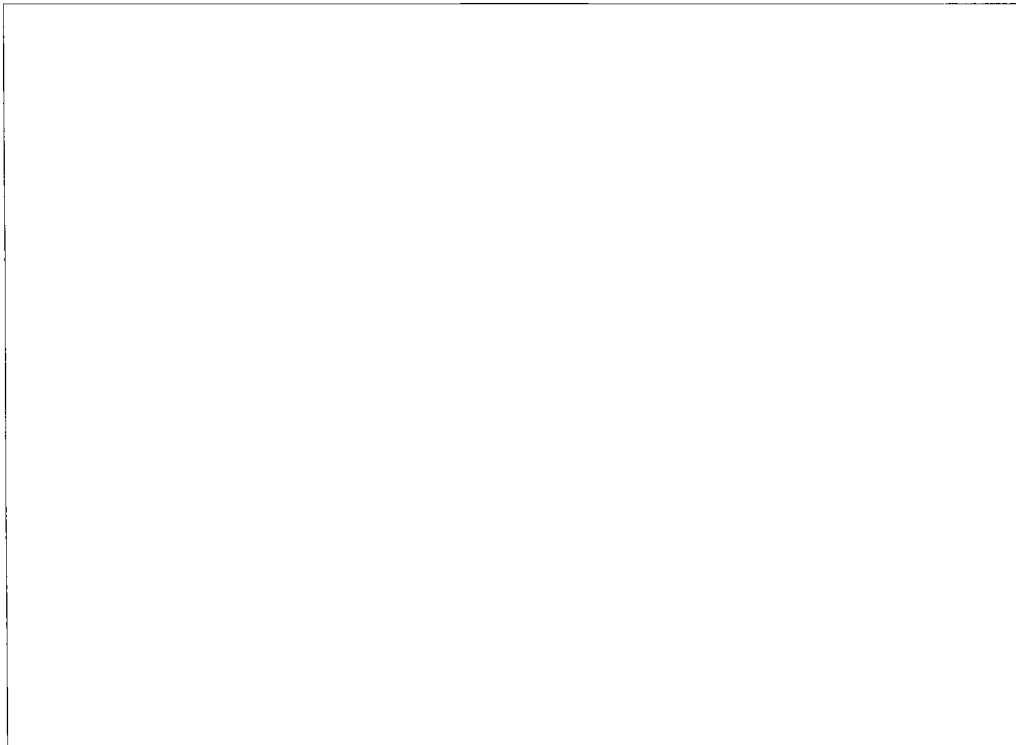
APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 22-Mar-2010

This information confirms Rhee's continued opposition to any truce except on his terms, and his preference for continued hostilities. Rhee knows that the Communists will not accept the first and third conditions, and the second must be regarded as a further attempt to gain unconditional military guarantees from the United States.

Rhee's objective is to block a truce dividing Korea, either by proposing unacceptable conditions or by undertaking unilateral action. Technically the US has already met his demands for a military pact, substantial military and economic aid, and retention of American air and naval forces in Korea pending a South Korean build-up, after an armistice. He may now believe that his stubborn reiteration of demands for guarantees will cause the US to meet these demands prior to an armistice.

WESTERN EUROPE

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