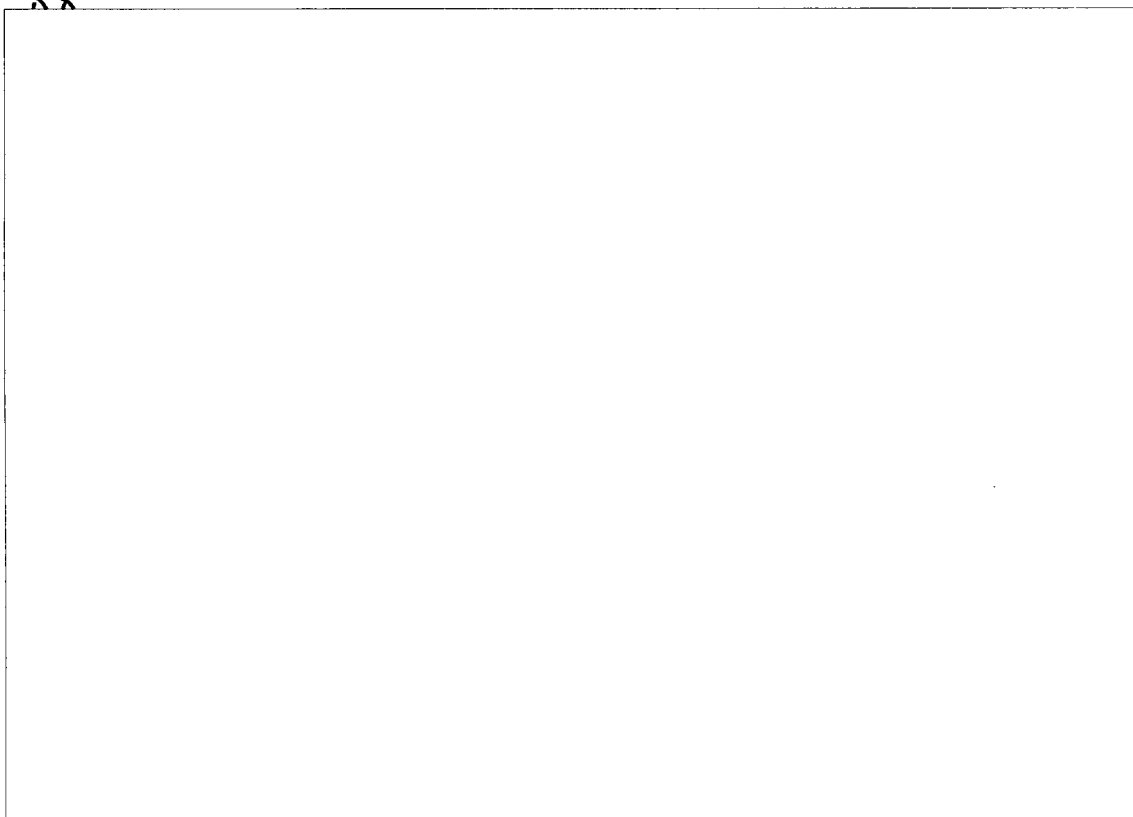


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"C"

Hong Kong Official "Not Optimistic" over Korean Peace Prospects. Geoffrey Aldington, Political Advisor to the Hong Kong Government, has told US Consul General McConaughy that he sees "no sign of war weariness" among the Chinese, nor of a disposition on the part of the Communist leadership to "come to terms." Aldington believes that Peiping has sold the Chinese on a "holy war" to defend China's borders, and has "added greatly to its stature" by demonstrating its ability to "fight a foreign war against a powerful enemy." McConaughy feels, however, that Aldington has "greatly overestimated" popular support of intervention in Korea. [REDACTED]

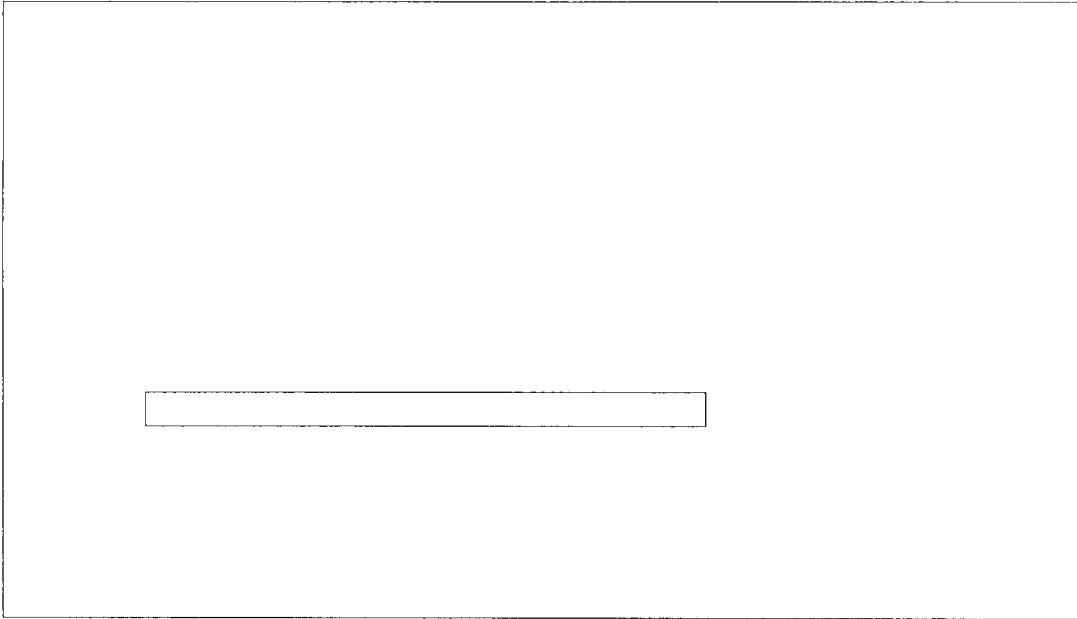
COMMENT:

Peiping as yet has given no indication of willingness to modify its terms for a Korean settlement. [REDACTED] both Chinese pride in Communist successes in Korea and Chinese resentment of the sacrifices demanded by the Korean venture, attitudes which are not incompatible. Although popular support for Peiping's domestic and foreign policies is not widespread, Peiping's control over the populace appears to be firm, and the regime's new seven-month campaign for funds to buy heavy equipment for Korea indicates the Communist intention to force the Chinese people increasingly to contribute to the Korean venture.

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DATE: 09-Dec-2009

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