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SECTION 1 (SOVIET)

1. USSR. Comment on Kirk-Vyshinsky exchange regarding Korea: The Soviet reply on 15 October to Ambassador Kirk's 5 October statement adhered to the Communist attitude on the Korean armistice line. Vyshinsky elaborated that the question of the "line at which armed forces of both sides will be located after termination of military activity ... is organically connected with the question of termination of military action and consequently cannot be passed over in armistice negotiations."

Both the contents of the note and Soviet publication of the exchange suggest that, as in the case of the Smith-Molotov statements in May 1948, the USSR is attempting to obtain maximum propaganda exploitation. Vyshinsky ended with a protestation of Soviet willingness to examine "with the participation of the US Government all important and unsettled questions" including measures for the improvement of US-Soviet relations.

The only observable shift in the Communist attitude since Kirk's approach pertains to the site for the Korean talks. Subsequent to Kirk's explanation regarding the unsuitability of Kaesong, the Communists agreed to discuss a more neutral zone.

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11. KOREA. Russian tank equipped with multiple rocket launchers reported in Wonsan area: [redacted] "Russian tanks said to be 105 type equipped with Katusha rocket launchers are located (just southeast of Wonsan)." The US Navy notes that ROK marines on the island of Hwangt'o have received "mortar fire" from the reported position of these tanks. [redacted]

Comments: No Soviet tank is known to be equipped with either a 105 mm gun or rocket launchers. It is possible, however, that the viewer might have mistaken a Soviet SU-100 self-propelled gun for the armor described. Although no such guns have been identified in Korea, the USSR supplied the North Koreans with a number of SU-76 self-propelled guns, and it is entirely possible that the heavier caliber piece has also been supplied.

12. Communists may be using rockets for early warning system: On the night of 12 October a UN light bomber above Sunchon, northwest of Pyongyang, observed an unidentified aircraft proceeding west at an estimated 300 MPH. As the UN aircraft came over Anju, farther to the northwest, red rockets fired from the ground burst three to four miles from the UN aircraft. The enemy aircraft came no closer than 3,000 feet and made no passes.

The US Fifth Air Force comments that the rockets observed were "possibly utilized as a signal flare to warn of UN intruders in the area" and could also have been "one step further in an attempt to vector a night interceptor into the UN aircraft." [redacted]

Comment: The Communists have been making an increasing effort to protect their vital main supply route which runs through this area. During the day, Communist jet fighters have made the UN supply interdiction program more difficult, and it may be anticipated that the level of night interceptions may also increase to some extent.

13. Communists claim US will use Communist PWs in tactical A-bomb tests: A 17 October North Korean propaganda broadcast directed to the Korean people indignantly protests the "unpardonable criminal act of kidnapping 500 prisoners of war from the Korean front in order to use them as human guinea pigs in atomic tests." [redacted]

Comments: This is a further step in the Communist "atrocious campaign" against the US, which has previously included charges of biological and chemical warfare. Such a campaign can be expected to enjoy considerable success among the Korean people and military personnel.

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