SECTION 1 (SOVIET)

1. USSR. Soviet representative again urges Security Council talks on Korea: In conversation with the US delegation, Soviet UN delegate Malik asserted that it was necessary to "raise the level" of Korean discussions in view of the attitude of the US negotiators. The Soviet delegate alleged that the USSR's proposal for a Security Council meeting attended by "responsible political leaders" was intended to help the negotiations in Korea and not to terminate them. Malik argued that consultation with numerous UN delegations had revealed "a great deal of interest" in the Soviet proposal.

Comment: The Soviet call for a Security Council meeting is apparently another attempt to force UN discussion of a Korean political settlement while the military armistice negotiations are being held.

The Soviet package proposal provided for discarding the year-old Western blueprints for increasing the UN's capability to meet new aggressions. The USSR was apparently dangling before the UN the prospect of immediate big power talks on the prolonged Korean negotiations in the hope of drawing support away from the Western collective security project.
8. KOREA. North Korean troop training in Manchuria reported: During November and December some 120,000 North Korean troops were in training in Manchuria. In mid-December an additional 50,000 troops "were in training in this area." Reportedly the Chinese Communists and the Russians intend to build a force of 400,000 North Koreans by the end of January 1952.

Comment: During the period October 1950 through February 1951, some 100,000 North Korean troops were trained in Manchuria and entered North Korea organized into three corps, the VI, VII, and VIII, the corps headquarters of both the reportedly deactivated VI and VIII Corps have returned to Manchuria to organize and train new units. In view of the extreme manpower shortage in North Korea, the training of this number of North Korean troops in Manchuria is unlikely.

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