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1. Final Sino-Soviet decision on Panmunjom talks reportedly scheduled before 20 July:

Soviet and Chinese diplomats currently attending a conference at Peiping will reach a "final decision" on the cease fire talks no later than 20 July,

<u>Comment</u>: There have been recent reports of an increasing Chinese Communist role in major decisions concerning North Korea, hitherto exclusively a Soviet puppet. It is possible that truce talk policy is now decided jointly by the Chinese and the Russians without North Korean consultation.

There have been no other reports of the conference or the 20 July deadline.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASEDATE: 24-Mar-2010