

84 MAY 1946

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GENERAL

1. Impact of Soviet food situation on troop withdrawal--Ambassador Smith reports that preliminary information has given the Soviet Government "considerable cause for concern" over this year's food crop, although an accurate forecast will not be available until July. Smith believes that the Soviet Government will therefore be unwilling to commit itself before July to withdraw some two million troops from central and eastern Europe (and to conclude a peace with Austria). He points out that the Soviets will try to avoid (a) the return of troops before adequate resources are assured to feed them at home, and (b) failure to implement the Government's pledge to end bread rationing this year, which would have a "most serious effect" on public morale.
2. Soviets oppose postponing meeting of Atomic Commission--According to Stettinius, Gromyko has advised the UN Secretariat that the USSR opposes the proposal to postpone the first meeting of the Atomic Energy Commission from 27 May until 14 June. Gromyko comments that more than four months have elapsed since the Moscow agreement to establish the Commission.

EUROPE-AFRICA

3. IRAN: Present US policy--Byrnes has informed Ambassador Allen that the US proposal (adopted by the Security Council on 22 May), setting no fixed date for further consideration of the Iranian question, was intended to assure the US freedom of action either (a) to agree to drop the case if a majority of the Council favors such action or (b) to move for affirmative Council action "in the matter of Soviet interference." Byrnes asks Allen to report on (a) presence of and interference by Soviet troops in Azerbaijan, "especially in areas not covered in the Iranian letter of 21 May," (b) specific instances of interference by Soviet nationals in Iran, especially in Azerbaijan, (c) the "degree of Soviet pressure" at present on Qavam and Firuz, and (d) the possible future reaction of the Iranian Government to a Security Council commission of inquiry.

Report on Iranian investigating commission--US Consul Tabriz reports that the members of the commission sent from Tehran to investigate Soviet troop withdrawal were house guests of Pishevvari, leader of

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the Azerbaijan "Democrats," and that their "verification" consisted of conducted tours in Pishevari's car to 5 or 6 towns but not to any Azerbaijani military installations.

4. AUSTRIA: Assistance to UNRRA--General Clark reports that, after consulting with high UNRRA officials, he has decided to contribute US Army reserves to UNRRA's June food program. Clark adds that, though the Soviets are unwilling to make any contributions to UNRRA, he is convinced they are holding large food stocks, "hoping to create a crisis to the embarrassment of the Western Powers" (see Daily Summary of 25 April, item 9).

FAR EAST

5. CHINA: Recent Cabinet changes not significant--Embassy Nanking comments that the recent shift of Cabinet Ministers (Economic Affairs, Communications, Information) was made largely for foreign consumption and does not involve any basic change in Government policy.

THE AMERICAS

6. ARGENTINA: Special envoys to Peron inauguration--The State Department has been informed that twelve American republics are planning to send special missions to attend the inauguration of President-elect Peron on 4 June, while seven republics are sending no representatives. The Department has asked Messersmith to decide whether he should attend as "special Ambassador," since the US does not intend to send a delegation to the ceremonies.

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