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## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PANEL

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 7

For week ending 29 June 1948

USSR may seek reconvening of CFM. The Soviet squeeze on the Western allies in Berlin may well be designed to force a reconvening of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), now in a state of suspended animation. The sudden breaking off of the London CFM meeting last November is known to have come as a shock to Foreign Commissar Molotov. The USSR has already brought about a situation of such gravity in Berlin that action at highest government levels would seem to be suggested. France, in her exposed continental position, is already most anxious for the resumption of some negotiations between East and West. The USSR probably has taken the French crise de nerfs into account in its Berlin demarche.

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Objections of ERP countries force revision of bilateral agreements. Strong objections by most of the 16 ERP countries, particularly the UK and France, to the original US draft bilateral ERP agreements, have forced the US to modify these agreements to make them acceptable to these nations. The ERP participants protested that their sovereignty was infringed by the stringent provisions and didactic tone of the US draft, which would make parliamentary approval of these agreements difficult if not impossible. As a result of these objections, the US made substantial concessions designed to make the obligations of the ERP countries more permissive and less mandatory and to soften the most objectionable provisions. The requirement for consultation on exchange rate revision when desired by the US was eliminated. UK and French unwillingness to extend most favored nation (MFN) treatment to occupied Japan and Korea, forced its deletion from the UK and French agreements, although MFN for Germany was included in a separate protocol. The ERP nations' insistence upon modification of these agreements indicates that, while anxious to receive US aid, they are unwilling to accept limitations upon their individual freedom which would expose them to the politically explosive charge that they had become subservient to the US.

Document No. 007  
 NO CHANGE in Class.   
 DECLASSIFIED  
 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
 DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77  
 Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763  
 Date: 16 FEB 1979 By: 024

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Western Trade Unions consult on ERP. The 15-nation ERP Trade Union Advisory Committee, set up last March by Western European labor organizations interested in cooperating with the Recovery Program, will meet 29 June in Paris to review the steps taken towards this objective and to hear Ambassador Harriman. Although this body was conceived as the nucleus for a possible Western trade union federation following the expected break-up of the Communist-oriented World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), the prolongation of East-West unity within the WFTU has limited the Committee's field of action. Effective cooperation among the participating national labor organizations has been handicapped by conflicting views regarding the Committee's functions. British trade union leaders contend that its main task should be to see that the component labor organizations work closely with their governments on ECA matters. They favor establishing a small staff for this purpose. The AFL member, however, visualizes an active ERP trade union organization equipped with staff and funds sufficient for close liaison with OEEC, participation in OEEC programs, propogandizing of European workers, and preparation of counter measures against Communist strike saboteurs. The British unions will probably remain reluctant to develop a vigorous Western organization along the lines proposed by the AFL so long as they and the CIO are unprepared to break permanently with the WFTU.

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\*\* Palestine Truce prospects. Israel's vigorous reaction against truce violations perpetrated by the extremist Irgun Zvai Leumi strengthened the moral position of the newly-proclaimed state in world opinion. In contrast, UN Mediator Bernadotte denounced Egypt for two truce violations -- the first breaches of sufficient gravity to provoke a formal protest. \*\*Meanwhile it would appear desirable to concentrate efforts on prolonging the truce rather than attempting to effect a formal settlement.\*\* If the status quo can be extended long enough, perhaps a gradual de facto settlement can be brought about and an unacknowledged acquiescence in the existence of a state of Israel will ensue.

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Soviet veto of Ceylon UN membership unlikely. There is some speculation concerning a Soviet veto of Ceylon's application for UN membership in an attempt to link this application with those of the excluded Satellite states. In view of the recent Soviet courtship of Southeast Asia however, the USSR will probably inter-

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pose no more opposition to Ceylon's application than to Burma's.

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Czech Kashmir appointee favors West. Anti-Communist Josef Šorbel, Masaryk-nominated and Communist-confirmed Czech delegate to the UN Kashmir Commission, has stated he is serving only to aid the western powers. He doubts that any effective control will be exercised by Prague over his Commission activities.

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USSR believed behind attempted revival of Spanish issue. With only the USSR and the Ukraine in favor, the SC rejected a recent motion to place the Spanish question on its agenda. There has been no change in the situation since the General Assembly last fall reaffirmed its original policy of diplomatic aloofness. When Secretary General Lie decided to refer the question to the SC, it was thought that no power was backing the move. However, Asyg Kerno (Czechoslovakia) and Asyg Protich (Yugoslavia), the two Secretariat officials active in the matter, are rumored to be politically subservient to Moscow-controlled Asyg Sobolev.

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Admission of Czech refugees to IRO camps is urged. Following a visit to Czech refugees in German administered camps, the Executive Secretary of the International Refugee Organization (IRO) has proposed that these victims of the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia be admitted to IRO assembly centers. At present some 3,000 Czechs are living in these camps under conditions which have been exploited by Communists in Czechoslovakia in order to discredit the US. While difficulties are expected in caring for the unprecedented number of refugees now in the US Zone, the IRO-OMGUS agreement to give shelter on an emergency basis to Czechs who entered the US Zone on or after 1 February 1948, will alleviate the present situation. Consideration is being given to a grant of full IRO status to these refugees as a further move toward counteracting foreign and domestic criticism.

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Soviet inconsistency in UN. That consistency is not the bugbear of the Soviet mind appears from its UN manoeuvres in the field of domestic relations. Chile recently placed on the next agenda its charge that the USSR prevented the Russian-born wife of a Chilean

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diplomat from emigrating. This brought forth a wrathful Soviet protest that Chile was attempting illegally to meddle in a matter of Soviet domestic jurisdiction. In sharp contrast, the USSR felt itself called upon in the Trusteeship Council to advocate UN action in the case of a Bikom Chief in British Cameroon, encumbered with 110 wives. The chance to interfere in the internal affairs of a British mandate was too good to be overlooked. Khalidi, the Iraqi delegate, more wisely suggested that the TC "leave the man to discover the futility of his actions himself."

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