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For week ending 20 July 1948

Palestine Truce a UN triumph. Acceptance by both parties of the Security Council 15 July cease fire order was a convincing demonstration of the potent effect of threatened UN sanctions in keeping the peace. The SC resolution was the strongest in UN history, invoking for the first time Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which empowers use of economic and diplomatic sanctions and actual military force against a recalcitrant party. However, the Arabs bowed not so much to the UN as to the action of the UK in cutting off arms shipments and subsidies and the likelihood that the US would lift its arms embargo against Israel if the Arabs refused to comply. The acid test of UN ability to keep the peace will come in a situation where the contending parties are not so dependent on outside support as both Arabs and Jews and where as a result, the threat of sanctions will not have such an immediate effect.

It is not clear whether the Arab states have fully accepted the truce terms, since the Arab League attached three conditions to acceptance: (a) that the truce have a definite time limit; (b) that Jewish immigration cease during the truce period; and (c) that 300,000 Palestine Arab refugees be allowed to return to their homes. While these conditions may be a mere face-saving device, they may also be an attempt to provide an excuse for later Arab denunciation of the truce if these conditions are not met. Since the Arabs would then face the threatened UN sanctions, however, this seems unlikely. The SC probably will leave the mediator to iron out these problems on the spot.

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Bernadotte's problems. UN Mediator Bernadotte's immediate problem is to secure an adequate observer force to guard against truce violations and a UN armed guard to police demilitarized Jerusalem. The recently reported truce violations probably represent last minute Arab and Jewish attempts to improve their positions before UN observers can arrive on the scene. Bernadotte's ability to maintain the truce will depend largely on his ability to catch all truce violations and to assess responsibility for them. Since his former observer force of under 100 officers proved inadequate to cover all areas, he has asked for a much larger one of 300 officers. Effective demilitarization of Jerusalem, too,

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will depend upon the Mediator's ability to enforce withdrawal or demobilization of the fighting forces and to police the city. Bernadotte desires 250 UN armed guards immediately for this purpose and eventually 1,000 to 1,500.

The Mediator's long-term problem is to devise a permanent settlement acceptable to both parties. Although the GA partition resolution of 29 November 1947 still stands, Bernadotte may seek a somewhat different solution calling for some modification of the GA-proposed boundaries. If no settlement is reached, however, by the GA meeting in September, the GA may well revise its own partition resolution along these lines and recommend it forcefully to the contending parties. The Arabs in particular might be more willing, as a face-saving device, to accept a UN-proposed solution than any resulting from more or less direct negotiations with the Jewish state.

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Forced labor may be major issue at ECOSOC Session. A request by the World Federation of Trade Unions that the Geneva session of ECOSOC consider alleged attacks on "trade union rights" in Greece, China, Chile and ten other countries will probably be countered by an AFL demand for an investigation of forced labor in Eastern Europe. UK support for the AFL proposal has been suggested by a high British Foreign Office official who feels it is time the USSR is "put on the defensive" on this issue. However, the UK's position may be modified by the unwillingness of the British Trade Union Congress to take any action at this time that might widen the divisions within WFTU. Eventual return of the whole subject to the ILO is expected, with a request that ILO provide all available information and advise what steps might be taken by ILO and UN to minimize existing forced labor.

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USSR needles Administering Powers in Trusteeship Council (TC). The Soviet Union, participating for the first time in TC meetings, has found it an excellent forum for propaganda on colonial issues. The Soviet representative has closely questioned the reports of the Administering Powers, shown insistent interest in native movements, and made well-publicized demands for investigations of living conditions among the trust populations. He repeatedly asked for hearings from petitioners reporting unfavorably on educational and social conditions in Tanganyika and British Cameroons. He tried to have the UN Secretary General instructed to establish contact

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with native leaders active in colonial administration and in the trade unions. When Iraq proposed that the Secretary General assist the TC in obtaining information on social problems in underdeveloped areas, the USSR attempted to substitute a resolution directing ECOSOC to prepare reports on living conditions in these areas. Such reports would specifically recommend increases in living standards and assurance to the trust populations of rights equal to those enjoyed in metropolitan areas. While the Soviet representative has had few proposals adopted by the TC as yet, he has demonstrated an undoubted flair for the role of champion of the world's oppressed peoples.

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USSR threatens to scuttle European Broadcasting Conference. Soviet injection of political issues into the Copenhagen Broadcasting Conference, now in its fourth week, has aggravated basic disagreements already dividing the participating nations and decreased the likelihood that they will agree on a plan for allocating European broadcasting frequencies. Draft plans for assignment of frequencies to all Europe, including Germany, have encountered rough sledding because of sharply competitive bidding among the Western European powers for German frequencies. The US has been particularly concerned because of their reluctance to give adequate recognition to the broadcasting needs of the US Zone. The Soviet delegation, taking advantage of the rule requiring unanimous approval for any allocation plan, has now served notice that the refusal of the conferees to admit the Baltic States, Karelia, Moldavia and Israel will make future Soviet cooperation difficult.

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