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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WORKING PAPER

Vol III no. 9

MAR 7 1950

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Document No. 074
 NO CHANGE in Class.
 DECLASSIFIED
 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
 DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
 Auth: DDA REG. 77/1705
 Date: 28 FEB 1978 By: 024

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 9

For week ending 7 March 1950

Volume III

The International Week

A blow was struck against European political unification when, after France's 50-year lease of the Saar coal mines, Chancellor Adenauer threatened that West Germany would refuse to join the Council of Europe. Jordan's Cabinet crisis threatened to halt further progress toward a non-aggression pact with Israel. The International Court decided 12-2 (Brazil, Chile) that SC approval was a condition precedent to admission of new UN members. Negotiations looking to an Italo-Ethiopian rapprochement have broken down.

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Amman Cabinet Crisis sets back Jordan-Israel negotiations.

The failure of Samir Rifai to form a government ready to conclude a non-aggression pact with Israel punctuates Abdullah's inability to force through his proposals in the face of persistent Arab hostility to any approach to normal relations with Israel. His enforced recall of Tawfiq as Prime Minister will at the very least, for the time being, arrest what seemed to be the most promising start thus far toward the resumption of normal trade and communications in the Holy Land. Apart from the sharp reaction of other Arab states, the recent de facto incorporation of Arab Palestine into Jordan served to introduce into the government and the population new elements opposed to any quick modus vivendi with Israel. It is evident that Abdullah had underestimated this force of hostile opinion among his subjects.

The Israelis are extremely anxious to rescue the Jordan negotiations if at all possible because they regard the success of Abdullah's initiative as essential in order to remove what they believe to be the key log in the whole jam which is holding up peace in the Middle East. Accordingly Foreign Minister Sharrett has appealed to the US to lend encouragement to Abdullah and will probably make a similar appeal to the UK.

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Fabian tactics at Geneva. Meanwhile at Geneva though Jamali, the Iraqi delegate, has assumed the role of whip in trying to scourge the Trusteeship Council into promptly executing the GA's

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mandate to internationalize Jerusalem, the major powers who would be called upon to enforce any such plan are obviously moving with all convenient caution. France and the US agree in seeking to postpone final adoption of a Jerusalem statute at this TC session. Instead they aim to have the TC charge its president with the task of sounding out the probable degree of cooperation which Jordan and Israel are prepared to extend in implementing the statute, and then reporting back to the TC at its June session. If the responses should be negative, as is anticipated, the TC would have no alternative other than ultimately to so report to the next General Assembly and request further instructions. These tactics will probably enlist the approval of the UK, Belgium, Argentina and the Dominican Republic, and would dispense with the need of calling a special session of the GA.

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Effects of Soviet UN walkout. The extended Soviet boycott of the UN, now entering its eighth week, is damaging UN prestige and supplying ammunition for Soviet propaganda. Despite the contention that the walkout is illegal and the protestations that it must not be allowed to interfere with normal UN operation, the Western powers privately admit that operations are not normal and that "provocative" issues should be avoided during the Soviets' absence. This prevailing undercurrent of uncertainty and pessimism at Lake Success is symptomatic of the fear that the Soviets may not return to the UN if the Chinese impasse is permitted to drag on too long. Under these conditions the downward trend of UN prestige will continue at an accelerated pace so long as the Soviets boycott the organization. In addition, the continued official representation of China by the Taiwan Nationalists supplies anti-US propaganda material. "Walkout Propaganda" is becoming a Communist perennial which is dragged out for a repeat performance at the initial meeting of each UN body in which China sits. Accusations that the US is blocking the legitimate aspirations of the Chinese people by preventing other UN members from voting to unseat the discredited and moribund Nationalists are bound to find sympathetic audiences in the Far East.

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Eritrean peace hopes fade. The UN Commission of Inquiry in Eritrea will be faced with further outbreaks of terrorism and violence as a consequence of Ethiopia's present rejection of rapprochement with Italy. Failure of both sides to agree on a formula for settlement of differences, particularly on the future disposition of Eritrea, makes more certain an intensification of rival intervention in the territory. The effect of the continuance of such disruptive activities on the report of the Commission cannot be anticipated, but it must surely color its thinking. A settlement

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with Italy, which would have received US-UK backing and strong UN support, would appear more favorable to Ethiopian interests than the greater uncertainties of examination by a critical and divided General Assembly, which twice before has failed to reach a solution of this question. The combination of states not presently disposed to meet Ethiopia's ambitions in the area include the Latin bloc, traditionally friendly to Italy; the Arab League members, sympathetic to the Moslem population in the territory; and the Soviet vote, uncertain at best but quite likely to call for independence of the entire territory in accordance with established Soviet technique. In the face of this lineup of undependable votes, and in order to avoid exacerbation of Italo-Ethiopian relations to the danger point, Addis Ababa may well have to re-examine its policy.

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Conflict over NATO shipping group. Despite UK opposition, the US proposal that a group be established within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to plan for wartime mobilization of merchant shipping will probably be approved. The American view, supported by France and Italy, is that NATO countries account for 90-95% of world tonnage and that planning for its use is an integral part of the over-all NATO planning function. The UK, on the other hand, contends that shipping is a global not a regional problem and requires a separate body, since otherwise most Commonwealth countries and neutrals like Sweden could not participate. British concern appears based on sensitivity to the Commonwealth reaction and on the hope that Britain would have a more dominant role in a separate board. However, a majority of treaty countries will most likely favor strengthening the NAT organization and go along with the US.

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ECOSOC completes tenth session. In the absence of its Soviet, Czech and Polish members, the UN Economic and Social Council has disposed of its 40-odd agenda items in short order, avoiding action on some which might later be challenged by the missing delegations. Conspicuous throughout the debates, as in other UN bodies, was the stress laid by numerous delegations on the responsibility of the US for promoting world economic stability and development. Likewise conspicuous was the desire of all underdeveloped countries for technical (if not other) assistance and the feeling of some of these countries that world economic stability depends as much on their own development and stability as on that of the US and other industrialized nations.

Perhaps the Council's most significant action was taken on the report of a group of experts on measures to promote and maintain

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full employment and economic stability. Previously debated in the GA and in ECOSOC's Economic and Employment Commission, the report received unanimous though not uncritical acclaim and will now be forwarded to governments for their comments. In the light of such comments, it will be reconsidered at ECOSOC's summer session where proposals for action will be drawn up, laying the foundation for possible international action to reduce the impact of the business cycle.

Reconsidering its relationship with Non-Governmental Organizations the Council withdrew the right of the nine "Category A" organizations to have items automatically included on the Council agenda, an act designed to end repeated abuse of this privilege by the World Federation of Trade Unions for propaganda purposes. ECOSOC also granted "Category A" status to the newly-formed ICFTU with the understanding that the similar status of the AFL, now an affiliate of the new international, be withdrawn. The Council postponed until its twelfth session a much-discussed AFL request for a survey of forced labor in UN member countries. Although purportedly unwilling to add this item to the already over-crowded agenda of its eleventh session, the Council was undoubtedly influenced by the UK position that while such an investigation would subject colonial areas to scrutiny, it could not possibly be undertaken in the USSR and its satellites, the precise areas where the AFL claims to have found abundant evidence of systematic forced labor.

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Communist internationals expand efforts in Colonial Africa.

The major international Communist front organizations are devoting increasing attention to propaganda and penetration activity in the dependent areas of Africa. The World Federation of Trade Unions, preoccupied until recently in Western Europe and the Far East, now appears ready to take a stronger initiative in an area where it considers the Western powers especially vulnerable. As early as last July the Soviet WFTU representative called for assistance to the trade unions of Asia and Africa as the WFTU's "most important task" and urged the convening not later than 1950 of "a conference of Asiatic countries and of the trade unions of African countries." Although no African conference has yet been held, the WFTU has demonstrated the importance it attaches to this area by selecting the French Sudanese trade unionist, Abdulla Diallo, as its representative to the UN Economic and Social Council and by directing him to press vigorously for UN action against "discriminatory measures by color or race" in the territories of UN members. Diallo, who reportedly received instructions on Communist labor policy in Africa during a 1949 visit to Moscow, has been charged by French authorities with complicity in the January rioting on the Ivory Coast.

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The World Federation of Democratic Youth, which maintains an increasingly active "Colonial Bureau," has also begun to concentrate greater efforts in French Africa. Coordinating with the African Democratic Rally (RDA) and its magnetic leader, D'Arboussier, the WFDY recently sought to stage simultaneous "manifestations" in France and in French West Africa demonstrating the common front between the people of the "oppressing" nation and the "oppressed" colonial peoples. Although the prompt French colonial ban against RDA political meetings and demonstrations removed the sting from these plans, the WFDY and its associated national youth movements will probably attempt similar demonstrations with increasing frequency in the coming months.

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