

10 MAR 1948

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DOS review completed

## GENERAL

1. US views on CEEC organization--The Department of State has informed Ambassador Caffery in Paris that the US attaches great importance to the forthcoming meeting of the working group of the Committee for Economic Cooperation (CEEC) for the purpose of drafting plans for a continuing CEEC organization. The Department expresses its desire that the CEEC organization develop into a major instrument for: (a) fostering closer cooperation among the participating countries; (b) checking on the performance of multilateral pledges and insuring realism in the statements of requirements; and (c) advising the US European recovery program administration concerning the most effective use of US aid.
2. US desires Italian colonies hearings be postponed--The Department of State has instructed the US Deputy at the London Conference that the US prefers that there be no hearings on the Italian colonies question prior to the 18 April Italian elections. The Department expresses the view that if such hearings are held with the other interested governments, the USSR will have additional opportunity, through the Satellite governments, to present views favorable to Italy in the disposition of the Italian colonies. The Department adds that the views of non-Satellite governments might embarrass the western powers. The Department suggests that the most desirable agreement would be one postponing all hearings until about 1 May.

## EUROPE

3. NORWAY: Government to ask US strategic policy--Foreign Minister Lange has told US Ambassador Bay that the Norwegian Government would probably ask the US soon for a confidential indication of strategic policy and specifically whether Norway could count "upon help in an emergency."

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4. AUSTRIA: Food shortage believed politically dangerous -- The US Legation in Vienna urges that additional food be shipped from the US to Austria by 1 April in order to avert a drastic and politically dangerous cut in Austrian food rations after interim aid shipments stop arriving. The Legation remarks that current food shortages are producing grave labor unrest, of which the Communists are taking successful advantage, and that a severe decline in rations might enable the Communists to seize control of Austrian trade unions with consequent disastrous effects upon Austrian political stability.

US Minister Erhardt and US Commissioner Keyes observe that recent events in Czechoslovakia have introduced an element of panic in Austria and that Austrian Communists are "developing their activity to the scale of a general attack."

(CIA Comment: CIA agrees with the Legation's estimate of the political consequences of a drastic reduction in the present food calory ration.)

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