

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 43

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Volume II

The International Week

Overshadowing all other UN events, including the organization's fourth birthday, was Yugoslavia's election to the SC in the teeth of bitter Soviet opposition. Italian-inspired Latin American opposition to the US compromise proposal for Eritrea dimmed prospects for solving the Italian Colonies question at this GA session. Meanwhile the GA referred the legal issues arising from alleged Satellite human rights violations to the International Court (47-5-3); continued the Korean Commission (48-6-3); and indefinitely extended the life of the Soviet-boycotted "Little Assembly" (41-6-6). Meanwhile in Europe it appeared as if the whole issue of revitalizing the ERP and giving it a new emphasis would come to a head at the OEEC Council meeting around 31 October.

GA retains critical attitude toward USSR. Speculation whether Soviet possession of the atom bomb would alter existing UN political alignments seems to have been resolved in the negative by recent roll calls in the GA. Concrete tests of UN reaction were recently provided by the bitter struggle between Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia for the Eastern European SC seat, and by the hotly disputed issues of observance of human rights in the Satellites and continuation of the controversial UN Korean Commission. In all three, the USSR suffered resounding defeats and in the human rights case, the majority vote was greater than last spring. So far, the USSR has found the going rougher in this GA than in any previous session. Neither acquisition of the A-bomb, nor Vishinsky's new-found cordiality seem to have made friends or influenced people at Lake Success. On the other hand, when the GA comes to consider the problem of the A-bomb itself, it is certain that the fact alone that a second major power has acquired this weapon will exert new pressure to find a solution.

AFL urges recognition for Ruhr labor. The American Federation of Labor is strongly supporting trade union representation

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in the Ruhr Authority as a means of combatting growth of Communist influence in that strategic industrial area. At the September international conference of miners and metal workers in Brussels, the AFL oriented the conferees away from abstract discussion of "internationalization" and induced them to agree on concrete proposals to the Ruhr Authority and Allied High Commissioners for representation of both German and allied trade unions. Simultaneously the AFL is seeking to strengthen the International Miners Federation and to convert it into an effective instrument for countering the appeal to German workers of the recently organized WFTU Metal and Engineering Workers International. In a further effort to strengthen anti-Communist labor throughout the Western Zones, both the AFL and the CIO will probably press for full West German representation in the new trade union international. By these efforts the AFL, with the support of the CIO and the British TUC, underscores its conviction that association of democratic trade unions in the administration of the Ruhr is essential if the Communist bid for control of German labor is to be effectively challenged.

Soviet propaganda technique turned against USSR. The Soviet device of utilizing international conferences as sounding boards for propaganda has been turned against it very neatly by Yugoslavia in a way which proves the USSR a good teacher and Yugoslavia an apt pupil. The forum was the GA Legal Committee, which had before it the proposed Declaration of the Rights and Duties of States. Yugoslavia promptly offered twenty-five amendments, including some very pointed proposals on the duty of a state to respect the rights of other states, not to foment civil war in other nations, not to engage in slander campaigns nor economic warfare against fellow UN members, etc. Poland tried to rescue the Soviet from embarrassment by moving that the Declaration be referred to the member states -- a maneuver which would have stalled the Yugoslav motion indefinitely. The Greek representative was unable to refrain from expressing the hope that Yugoslavia in the future would observe the lofty principles for which it was contending, and regret that such sentiments had not occurred to Yugoslavia two years ago.

Few people -- and almost certainly not the Yugoslav representatives -- believe either that the proposed amendments improve the draft Declaration, or that they have the slightest chance of being approved. But the Yugoslavs are as indifferent to these considerations as the USSR has been on similar occasions in the past. They will have attained their sole objective -- a world-wide audience for their denunciations of their former friend and ally.

D/In NOTES

Fancy Damascene. The Syrian newspaper AL-NASR reports that US Chief of Staff Omar Bradley is in reality an Arab born in Damascus under the name of "UMAR BIN HASAN AL-BANJAD. Following out the plot of "EMS Pinafore," (thus cocking an additional snit at unification) this esteemed contemporary relates that the infant "UMAR was kidnapped by a gypsy woman (possibly named AL BUTTAHKUP) who sold him to some American tourists then visiting the Middle East.

Outlook in the Greek case. Prospects for settling the Greek case during the current GA have dimmed with failure of the conciliation talks. The uncompromising Soviet position during the private discussions offers little hope for significant concessions in public UN debate. Therefore, the only course open to the GA will be to continue UN machinery in Greece and again call upon the parties to settle their dispute by peaceful means. Actual progress during this session will be limited to facilitating a rapprochement between the Greeks and Yugoslavs.

ECAFE lineup. Although the 13-nation Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East accepted Vietnam and the Republic of Korea as associate members and rejected the applications of Vietnam and Communist North Korea, Far Eastern fear of the USSR and apprehension as to the future role of Communist China were evident in the commission vote. In the case of Vietnam and Vietnam, the favorable votes were cast almost exclusively by Western or Western-oriented countries -- the US, UK, France, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand and China. On the other hand India favored the admission of both, while the Philippines, Thailand and Burma abstained and Pakistan absented itself. Only the Philippines and Thailand voted with the Western-oriented states against admission of North Korea.

Arab labor divided on cooperation with Israeli unions. The Egyptian, Syrian and Lebanese organizations hold divergent views regarding collaboration with the Israeli national labor organization, Histadruth, in the projected Free Trade Union international. The Egyptian workers, although not opposed to cooperation on an international level, have refrained from public support of Histadruth because of their government's opposition to Israel. The Syrian unions strongly oppose any collaboration. The Lebanese unions, in contrast, are prepared to work alongside

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the Israeli group if it disaffiliates from the WFTU and eliminates its Communist elements. In any case Histadruth is in a difficult position internationally. Not wishing to offend the USSR because of obligations to it for past aid and because of the Jewish refugees in Eastern Europe, it will probably try to maintain relations both with WFTU and the Free Trade Union international.