

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS GROUP

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Volume II

The International Week

The economic difficulties arising from Britain's dollar shortage and the US recession continued to dominate the international scene and to menace the European Recovery Program. UN efforts to arrange Israeli-Syrian armistice lines ran into difficulties along the southeastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Tito's equivocal announcement that he would close down the Yugoslav-Greek border possibly foreshadowed some reduction in Greek border warfare in this area.

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A Libyan stalemate may continue. The opposition of France, Italy and the pro-Italian UN members to a united independent Libya -- a settlement which, but for this, would probably be acceptable to the UK -- may well result in continued stalemate on the issue in the fall General Assembly. Since no other solution is likely to come so close to getting a two-thirds majority, further postponement is a strong possibility.

Meanwhile, Libyan federation activity has subsided somewhat after its early upsurge when Cyrenaica was granted a measure of self-rule. Conversations between the Senussi Emir and Tripolitanian leaders have revealed Senussi willingness to unite the colony under certain conditions, but with the immediate pressure of possible Italian return to Tripolitania withdrawn, the unification movement has lost momentum. It will revive, however, with the slightest renewal of talk about an Italian trusteeship. To allay native unrest in Tripolitania, the British have decided to admit natives to higher administrative posts and also have dispatched an economic mission to report on long-range economic and social problems. By these moves and Cyrenaican self-rule, Libya has probably advanced too far toward independence for the population to accept much less.

The Italian Government, doubtless aware of the difficulties facing its GA friends in obtaining an Italian trusteeship for the colony and of the possibility of an uprising against present Italian residents in Tripolitania should such a trusteeship appear imminent, is reportedly seeking a face-saving formula which would permit it to remain in power despite the abandonment of its claims to Tripolitania. Independence, particularly if it allowed some recognition

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to Italian interests in the new state, might therefore be reluctantly accepted by the Italians.

In fact, France, not Italy, is likely to be the major obstacle to independence. For Libya, the most backward of all North African territories, to achieve independence before any of the more advanced French areas, would aggravate an already delicate situation. Consequently, the French have consistently opposed independence or even a limited trusteeship "or all or part of Libya. Even were they predisposed to grant independence to any of their own North African dependencies, the existing situation itself would militate against doing so since the French would be accused of yielding to pressure. French hostility to the British inclination toward an independent union is augmented by military weakness resulting from diversion of FNA military units to Germany and Indo-China. Moreover, French ambition to annex the Fezzan would be dashed by Libyan independence.

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WFTU warns UN of "economic crisis" in the West. The USSR is currently expanding its propaganda emphasis on the growing "economic crisis" in the West through the UN and the World Federation of Trade Unions. The recent WFTU memorandum to the UN warning of economic crisis in the capitalist countries will probably be fully exploited by the Soviet and Satellite delegations in ECOSOC as an occasion for heavy attack on US ability to finance the Point Four Program. The memorandum charges that there are more than seven million unemployed in 14 capitalist countries and that of this total "nearly" six and one-half million are in the US alone. It calls for aggressive action to raise wages and unemployment benefits and to shorten hours, all measures which the ERP countries are trying to discourage. In recent ECOSOC sessions the Soviet delegate also criticized the ILO for not recognizing the more-than-seasonal "unemployment trend" in the West and for approaching this problem at a "tortoise pace." This arraignment of capitalist economies reflects the increasingly serious Soviet propaganda effort to undermine confidence in US capacity to fulfill any Point Four commitments. Soviet determination to make this an all-out effort is further

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reflected in the recent intimation by a top WFTU officer that the WFTU might call a conference "to formulate economic plans to meet the developing crisis of world capitalism."

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ITU frequency allocation difficulties. Conflicting national claims to radio frequency allocations may destroy the present international framework built up since the war. Should the Provisional Frequency Board find it impossible to prepare a consolidated list of international radio frequencies under the terms of reference of the 1947 Atlantic City Telecommunications Conference, it will probably be impossible to implement the Atlantic City frequency allocation table. In this case, it will be necessary either to modify the PFB terms of reference or to draft a new allocation table. Since either of these alternatives would require convening a new international conference (and since it is doubtful that any new allocation table which could now be drafted would be as acceptable as the Atlantic City table), the US feels that every effort should be made to attain PFB success under the existing terms of reference. Present prospects for such success are, however, exceedingly dim. The USSR has consistently refused to cooperate, even to the extent of supplying a list of its frequency requirements, and the UK, pessimistic on the outlook for achieving anything, is no longer participating in PFB work nor does it apparently intend to return its delegation to Geneva prior to the PFB report in mid August. Therefore, unless the UK can be induced to furnish active support for a common US-UK-French policy, there seems little likelihood of early implementation of an international frequency allocation table.

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Propaganda or confession of weakness? A confession of weakness in mass destruction weapons may lie behind the Soviet resolution presented at the current Geneva conference for the revision of conventions for the protection of war victims and civilians in war time. The proposal would require all governments to prohibit the use of atomic weapons as means of mass extermination; it also urges prompt ratification of a 1925 Geneva Protocol barring bacteriological warfare and poison gas and chemical attacks.

On the other hand, the Soviet resolution may be pure propaganda. The civilian protection convention, in its present form, would establish security zones for women, children, the sick and aged. The various UN debates on atomic energy have diverted attention from developments in the field of bacteriological and lethal-chemical weapons, which have never been the monopoly of any one nation or group of nations. The Soviet proposal is the first formal one made by any UN member for the outlawing of their use. It will doubtless be defeated at Geneva, but a tangible propaganda advantage will almost certainly accrue to the USSR as the nation seeking to safeguard the interests of the broad mass of the population against "imperialistic warmongers."

G/IO NOTES

Gaza proposal poorly received. The US proposal to give the Gaza strip to Israel in return for accepting 230,000 Arab refugees presently crowded in the tract appears unacceptable to Egypt. Even the Israelis, who had previously put forth the Gaza suggestion, now deprecate the territorial value of the strip, although they may be feigning for bargaining purposes. In any case, further clarification of the US proposal to the effect that Israel would be expected to give territorial compensation elsewhere, e.g., the Southern Negeb, for the Gaza strip is certain to sour Tel Aviv's reaction to the plan.

ERP agricultural programs weak. ECA is increasingly concerned over the relative lack of emphasis on agricultural development in the investment programs of the ERP countries. Since foodstuffs, especially grains, form a major part of ERP dollar imports, the ERP programs call for a large increase in local crop yields, which in turn requires substantial investment. However, agricultural investment is being neglected for industry in many cases and production already lags behind the program goals.

Shift in IRO. J. Donald Kingsley, Assistant Administrator of the US Federal Security Administration, has been elected Director General of the International Refugee Organization (IRO), succeeding W. H. Tuck. The IRO General Council has adopted a schedule calling for winding up all activities by 30 June 1950 at which time it is estimated there will remain in Germany and Austria a "hard core" of 172,000 persons who are too old, too ill, crippled or otherwise incapable of being reestablished outside of some sort of institution. No plan for dealing with the problem of these persons has as yet been formulated.

French propose arms census plan. France has proposed to the Security Council's Commission for Conventional Armaments (CCA) an international census of armed effectives and conventional armaments, urging that such knowledge is a necessary step toward arms reduction. Stressing the importance of having some method of verifying the data submitted by member governments, the French propose a control and inspection group upon which all SC members would be represented. Although under the SC, this body would operate without a veto. The USSR has attacked the French suggestion as a "spying device for the Atlantic Pact nations." It also objects that the plan does not include inventories of atomic weapons, and that it does not conform to the Soviet proposal for a one-third reduction in Big Five armed forces. Since the proposal is subject to a Soviet veto, no result -- apart from propaganda -- is anticipated.

ILO adopts compromise on admission of West German "observers."
The International Labor Organization's approval of associating

German representatives with ILO in all activities of interest to Germany is apparently a compromise between the US position (full German participation) and the Belgian-French view that the question should be deferred until terms of German political unity have been agreed upon by the CFM. Australia and Czechoslovakia voted against the compromise while the Chinese delegate supported postponement, privately stating his fear that any action taken prior to German unification might result in two delegations from one country.

USSR calls upon WFTU to support "peace committees" in industrial plants. The role which the USSR has assigned to the WFTU "in the defense of the peace" was concretely defined last week when the Soviet delegate at the WFTU Milan Congress proposed the formation of "peace committees" at factory level. This proposal, like similar instructions to the Communist-front World Federation of Democratic Youth and International Democratic Womens Federation, is apparently designed to organize wider and more effective support in Western countries for Soviet attacks on the Military Aid Program and the Atlantic Pact. To achieve such support the Soviet representative urged that the peace committees not be confined to WFTU-affiliated unions but include non-WFTU unionists and unorganized workers. His call for observance of "World Peace Day" and for area-by-area organization of the "struggle for peace" confirms that, with the CFM negotiations concluded, the USSR has decided to accelerate its offensive against Western "instigators of war."