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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 17

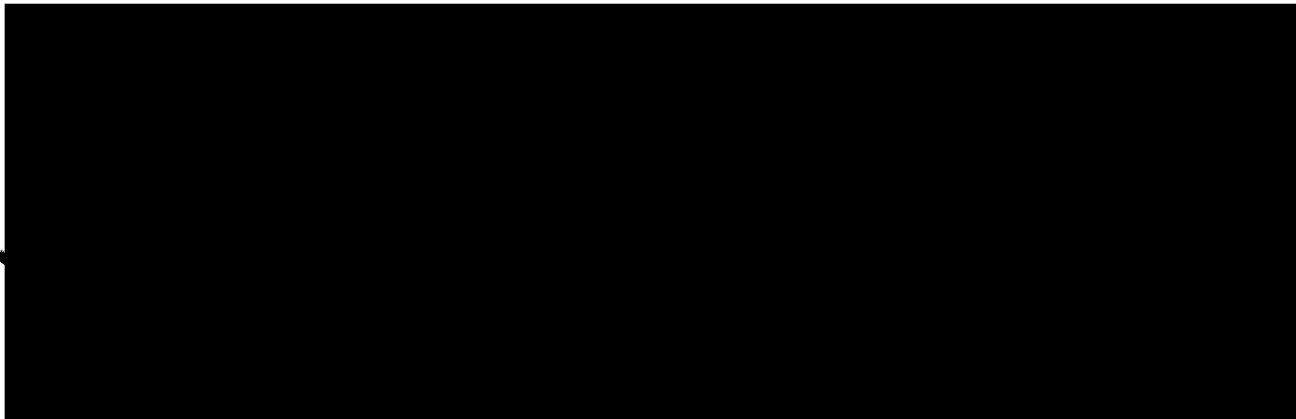
For week ending 2 May 1950

Volume III

The International Week

As experts of the US, UK and France met to prepare the ground for the London Conference of the three Foreign Ministers, it became clear that a full scale review of Western cold war strategy was in prospect. Meanwhile the outlook for ultimate peace in the Holy Land was improved by Britain's simultaneous approval of Jordan's annexation of Arab Palestine and de jure recognition of Israel.

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Since the Jordan elections, Abdullah and Shiloah have already held a secret meeting where the King indicated need for some time to put his house in order and pacify Cabinet opposition before resuming negotiations. Jordan will also have to face the wrath of the Arab states at a meeting of the Arab League Political Committee which Egypt has called to deal with Jordan's alleged defiance of the League resolution in annexing part of Palestine. With Iraq and Lebanon hesitant about bearing down on Jordan, the Arab League will probably accomplish nothing beyond permitting some of its members to breathe out fire and steam. British backing should help Jordan to stand off these criticisms. While obstacles still remain, the long run possibilities for resuming progress toward some working arrangement between the "friendly enemies" on the Jordan should be improved by Britain's action.

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Security Council boycott maintained. No early return of the USSR is foreseen despite slight shifts in voting alignment in the SC Commission on Conventional Armaments over the Chinese representation issue. Most noteworthy was the negative vote of France, which had earlier planned to abstain in the SC on any motion to unseat the Nationalist delegate. However, Ecuador and Egypt, previously vigorous opponents of recognition of the Chinese Communists, abstained, the former contending that the decision to end the long Soviet walkout should be made only by the General Assembly. As if to support this view, Ecuador has proposed that the SC accept the Communist credentials ad referendum pending a GA determination. This cautious change in Ecuador's position gives further evidence of mounting pressure on SC members, which, however, is still insufficient to break the deadlock.

UN Eritrean Commission wavers. The anticipated majority vote in the five-member UN Commission of Inquiry for partitioning Eritrea is endangered by a possible Burmese switch. According to new instructions, the Burmese delegate may vote with Pakistan, whose pro-Moslem position is well known but whose final decision remains uncertain. The fact that Moslem Eritrean groups have been persuaded to acquiesce in partition previously raised hopes that Pakistan would support that view. At present, South Africa and Norway favor partition, while Guatemala adamantly stands for Eritrean independence, thus giving the deciding votes to Pakistan and Burma. These developments unfortunately point to another lengthy General Assembly debate replete with log-rolling and vote-trading as in previous sessions.

UK labor seeks stronger role in Free Trade Union Confederation. British trade union leaders have recently demonstrated determination to regain at least part of the dominant influence once exercised by them in the international labor movement. In opposing the transfer to the Free Trade Union Confederation (ICFTU) of the functions now exercised by the fifteen-nation ERP Trade Union Advisory Committee, a top British trade unionist has recommended continuation of the Advisory Committee at least until the end of 1950. Continuation of this predominantly European body, where British influence is relatively greater than in the ICFTU, would ensure the British Trades Union Congress (TUC) a major voice in continental labor activities. In a parallel move, the TUC has called a mid-June Commonwealth Trade Union Conference. Although not so characterized, this conference is probably being held principally to consolidate the influence of UK and Commonwealth

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labor forces in the ILO. In a similar move at the January 1950 Asian Regional Conference, the UK lobbied against the Indian-sponsored, pro-US Asian Labor Federation and induced Commonwealth and Colonial delegates to withhold their support from it.

Such efforts by British labor to regain international influence will call for restraint and understanding from US labor. Anglo-American cooperation in the ILO is to be maintained. Without such cooperation, effective action by the new labor international against the worldwide Communist drive will be seriously endangered. Although today the UK trade union movement can hardly expect to exert its former leadership of European labor, it clearly seeks greater recognition of past and future contributions of British labor to the political and economic defense of the West.

ILO role in Yugoslavia commended. US Ambassador Allen regards international Children's Emergency Fund operations as the most effective tangible evidence in Yugoslavia of the "UN as an operating world agency" and the only method available to bring home the UN's existence to the populace there. He considers as perhaps the most important aspect of ILO operations the fact that the Yugoslav Government could permit them to be carried out only by a UN agency and not by any single nation or even group of nations such as the EKP countries. He feels further that UNESCO will show somewhat similar results in cultural and educational activities. Use of UNESCO material in public schools would be a tremendous accomplishment and, as with ILO operations, he is confident that more could be achieved in the free exchange of ideas by a UN agency than by any one country.

California Court declares UN Charter law of land. In invalidating a restrictive state law aimed at Japanese land ownership, a California appellate court recently held that the human rights provisions of the UN Charter constituted treaty obligations and as such became the law of the land under the US Constitution. If sustained by the higher courts, this decision would have far-reaching consequences. It would invite greater interference by UN organs with the observance of fundamental human rights and freedoms in the US. It would also discourage the US from entering into some of the specific conventions dealing with human rights now being drafted by affording the argument that the US was already sufficiently bound under the Charter without assuming additional obligations. While some dicta by Mr. Justice Black in Oyama vs California 332 US 633 touched on the point, the recent California decision is the first square holding which will probably have to be reviewed by the US Supreme Court. The decision is some-

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what startling as the general understanding has been that the Charter merely called upon UN members to cooperate in the ultimate attainment of certain broadly stated aims which were not intended to become binding as part of the municipal law of the participating nations.

Monetary Fund expands. Despite Poland's recent withdrawal, prospects for enlarging the International Monetary Fund are bright. Western Germany, Sweden and Pakistan intend to join in the near future, while Ceylon, Burma, Indonesia and Haiti are prospects. This would indicate that the IMF is still of considerable value to the non-Soviet world.

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