

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 12

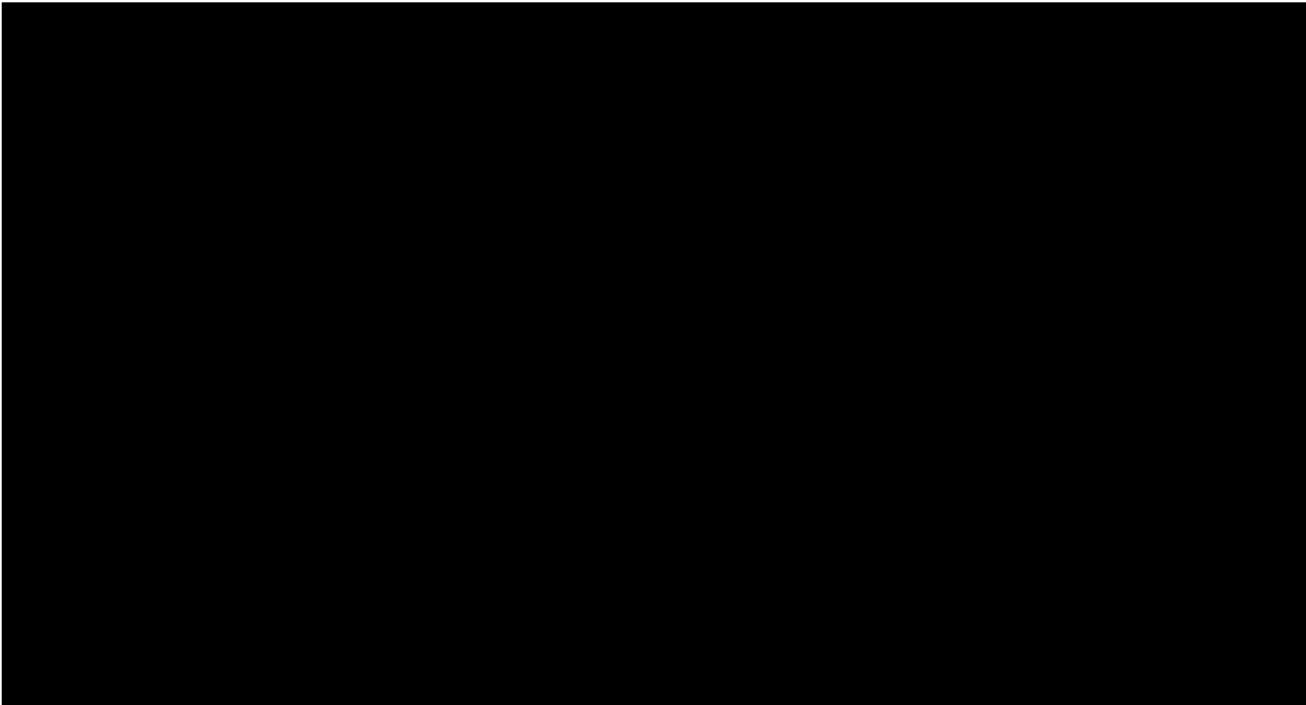
For week ending 28 March 1950

Volume III

The International Week

The top level NATO committees are meeting in an effort to strengthen the NAT structure and agree on firm mutual defense plans. The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers meeting in Strasbourg this week faces the problem of admitting Germany and the Saar to the Council. While a wave of Communist instigated strikes spread over Western Europe, the Free Trade Union Confederation in Brussels authorized measures to increase the effectiveness of resistance to the Communist drive. At the UN, the Soviet bloc's boycott was extended to both the commissions on Human Rights and Transportation. Meanwhile in Geneva, the Trusteeship Council completed its draft of a Jerusalem statute.

25X6A



Free Trade Union Confederation developing strength. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), already representing labor organizations in 55 countries, is estimated to have an estimated membership of 100 million.

DOCUMENT NO. 18
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
X DESCLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 0000
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 5 Nov 79 REVIEWER: 0000

membership of 48 million workers, has recently taken decisions which will enable it to exert increased influence in the East-West conflict during the coming months. With virtual unanimity, the Western labor leaders have: (1) reached agreement with the International Trade Secretariats (representing about 2-1/2 million specialized industrial workers) "to work together as one international trade union movement"; (2) scheduled a May conference of Western European trade unions to consider the progress made by the miners and metal workers towards trade union representation on the Ruhr Authority; (3) pledged support to the "vigilance committees" of the Transport Workers now combatting Communist interference with arms shipments; and (4) decided to send an ICFTU delegation to Southeast Asia, probably in April, to develop and strengthen trade union movements in that area.

The agreement with the International Trade Secretariats resolves a knotty jurisdictional problem and will thus facilitate closer coordination between the ICFTU and the veteran industrial internationals. It has already ensured coordination of measures taken by the Western national labor organizations and the International Transport Workers to counter the Communist drive in MDAP ports and will probably promote similar coordination with the International Miners Federation.

The decision to send an ICFTU delegation to Southeast Asia may prove even more important since it constitutes belated recognition of the necessity for vigorous action by Western labor to prevent the Communists from gaining control of labor in this area. However, this delegation, operating from Bombay, may find difficulty in establishing cordial relations with government dominated unions in India, Thailand, and other Southeast Asian countries unless it modifies the ICFTU stand against admitting unions which are not yet considered free from government control.

- 0 -

Yugoslavs defy WFTU expulsion. The recent decision of the Soviet-controlled World Federation of Trade Unions to eject the Yugoslav Trade Union Federation has been strongly protested by the Yugoslavs. The Yugoslav labor federation, whose leader still claims to be a WFTU vice-president, has complained to all WFTU affiliates of the "anti-democratic" character of the decision, stressing Soviet responsibility, and appealing to the other national labor organizations against this action. Although the protest is unlikely to win any open support from other Communist trade union organizations in the WFTU, it may sympathetically received by

- 2 -

~~SECRET~~

elements in the French and Italian Communist labor federations already resentful at the strongly anti-national line taken by the Cominform in their own countries.

Communists seek to organize chemical workers in "peace" front. Establishment by the World Federation of Trade Unions of an International Union of Chemical, Rubber and Glass Workers at Budapest is an important development in the Communist strategy of opposition to Western military and economic aid programs. The avowed principal objective of this new international union will be to aid the "struggle for peace" by preventing the use of chemical products for war. To achieve this objective, chemical workers in the Western European countries will be organized in "defense of peace" committees similar to those formed among dockers and maritime workers. The scope of activity envisaged by the new WFTU "trade department" is indicated in its claim that delegates from 12 countries representing 668,000 chemical workers attended the organizing conference. The participation of trade unionists from China, Japan, Viet Nam and Australia suggests that this effort will also be extended to Far Eastern areas.

Prospects for Eritrean partition increase. Sentiment for partitioning Eritrea along the lines of the US-UK proposal at the last General Assembly is growing in the UN Commission of Inquiry (UNCOMINQ). Under this plan, all except the West Province would be ceded to Ethiopia, with the remaining territory linked to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. The US and UK are seeking to persuade Ethiopia to accept this solution which would satisfy most, if not all, of its claims. The partition idea will most likely take the form of union of the Eastern area with Ethiopia under the Ethiopian Crown. Unionist sentiment is also apparently rising in Eritrea, with the Independence Bloc disintegrating and former Moslem League spokesmen climbing on the bandwagon.

Within the Commission Norway, South Africa and Burma are likely to favor partition with federation, with Guatemala insistent on independence and Pakistan supporting Moslem views. The US and UK are understandably anxious for an Italo-Ethiopian rapprochement to prevent another failure to settle the Eritrean question at the next GA should UNCOMINQ present a split recommendation. The UK appears to believe that rapprochement prospects will improve after presentation of the Commission's report in June. Italy, in any case, desires to resume discussions so that much depends on how effectively the US and UK prod Ethiopia.

British Cyrenaican plans meet opposition. US interest in assuring the British strategic position in Cyrenaica may be adversely affected should UN Libyan Commissioner Pelt persist in his opposition to Cyrenaican independence and the proposed treaty of alliance with the UK. Pelt considers the British plan an infraction of the November 1949 General Assembly decision to create a sovereign and independent Libya by January 1952. He fears it will imperil unity of Libya notwithstanding the Emir's anticipated acceptance of Britain's obligation as administering power to assist in the establishment of Libyan unity and independence. However, by exercising a moderating influence on both the British and Pelt in their forthcoming discussions, the US may be in a position to head off sharp criticism at the next GA, which an unfavorable report by the Commissioner would stimulate.

TC evades implementation of Jerusalem statute. In providing that the draft statute for internationalization of Jerusalem shall come into force "at a date to be decided [later] by the Trusteeship Council," the Council has ingeniously side-stepped the problem of actual implementation of the statute. Aware that acceptance of the statute by Israel and Jordan is a practical impossibility, the majority of Council members have nevertheless felt bound to draw up such a statute under the terms of the GA resolution. The US Delegate, for example, has stressed that in voting for the text as a whole and its numerous individual articles, he was participating only in the "technical task" of preparing a statute as instructed by the GA.

Under the present implementation article, the Council President is expected to present the statute to Jordan and Israel; upon its anticipated rejection he will report to the Council in June which, in turn, will presumably refer the matter to the GA for further instructions. Meanwhile, although talks between Israel and Jordan have been suspended for the time being, any guarantees of access to and protection of the Holy Places on which they could eventually agree would directly affect future GA action. Indeed, such undertakings might provide the basis for a final settlement acceptable to the international community short of internationalizing Jerusalem along the lines of the present statute.

Arab States bring pressure against Jordan-Israel negotiations. Pressures to prevent resumption of the presently suspended Jordan-

Israel talks have recently increased. The Syrian Prime Minister took the lead in threatening to close Syria's frontier with Jordan, should the latter conclude any arrangement with Israel. He rejected a US expression of anxiety over his announced course as an unwarranted intervention in Syrian affairs. At Cairo where the Arab League Council is now meeting, Saudi Arabia has initiated a move to exclude Jordan from the League and to invoke economic sanctions until Abdullah abandons negotiations with Israel. Iraq, Syria and Lebanon seem likely to support this plan. Were Jordan which has so far failed to send a delegation to Cairo, to be pushed too far, the practical effect might conceivably be to promote negotiations with Israel. Although Egypt, to which US views have been communicated will probably counsel some moderation, it still remains doubtful whether such counsels can succeed in healing the deep breach in the Arab family.