

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

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Volume III

The International Week

Secretary Acheson's speech advancing a seven point proposal for ending the cold war has so far evoked only negative reactions from the Communist press. At Lake Success the Security Council, with the USSR still absent, decided to appoint a mediator to supervise the demilitarization of Kashmir. Meanwhile Poland withdrew from both the International Bank and the Monetary Fund.

Polish exit from Bank and Fund. Poland's withdrawal from the International Bank and the Monetary Fund is one more step in the USSR's campaign to isolate its satellites from the west. As the first resignation from the sister institutions, which the USSR itself never joined, it may portend a similar withdrawal by Czechoslovakia, sole remaining Iron Curtain member.

In resigning, Poland charged that the Bank and Fund were tools of American and capitalist policy, accusing the Bank, in particular, of discrimination against non-Marshall Plan countries. To a large extent dependent on flotation of dollar loans in the US money market, the Bank is antithetical to the Soviet state trading system, but this did not initially prevent Poland from joining in the hope of obtaining substantial material benefits. These have not been forthcoming and no large scale assistance could be anticipated at this time. It should be noted that the Bank's operations have been subject to criticism by many non-Communist sources on the grounds of inflexibility and stringency of loan conditions. These charges have been most frequently aired by under-developed states, and even the UK Colonial Development Corporation recently refused a dollar loan stating that its terms would have amounted to an unacceptable intervention in the Corporation's activities in British colonies.

Seeing no tangible return from membership, Poland attempted to use its resignation for purposes of propaganda thus recalling the withdrawal of the USSR from the World Health Organization accompanied by similar outpourings of criticism and invective. In each case, potential advantages came to be outweighed in the judgement of the participating states by ideological considerations,

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indicating once again that even technical agencies cannot be insulated from international politics.

Growing concern over China issue in UN. Signs of uneasiness over the UN impasse on the Chinese representation issue are increasing. The British Foreign Office has informed its UN delegation that deep concern over this question has led Bevin to conclude that a quick settlement is necessary. Other signs of restiveness over the problem are: the recent efforts of SYG Lie to resolve the issue; the announcement that Ecuador will switch its vote in the Security Council from support of the Nationalists to abstention; and reports that both the French and Egyptian UN delegates disagree with their governments' positions and feel that positive steps should be taken to end the Soviet UN boycott by seating the Chinese Communists.

European Catholic labor turning from new international. Close collaboration between the Catholic trade unions of Western Europe (with an estimated 2½-3 million membership) and the other non-Communist labor organizations will probably be unattainable during 1950. The desire of Western labor leaders for such collaboration was the impelling motive behind US labor's bid to the Catholic unions to join the Free Trade Union Confederation (ICFTU). However, the principal Catholic national organizations which had provisionally accepted this bid, are now unwilling to dissolve the half-century old Christian labor international (CISC) and will instead propose that CISC associate with the new international as a European regional organization. This proposal, which falls short of the united anti-Communist front desired by the ICFTU leaders, is probably regarded by conservative CISC leaders as a face-saving device. Should it be rejected, they could then cite the rejection as justification for final refusal of the ICFTU bid.

Since united action against Communism remains a major aim of the Western labor leaders, they may reluctantly accept the CISC proposal as the best obtainable solution. Moreover, they probably could count upon the support of the predominantly Catholic non-Communist Italian labor federation (LCGIL), whatever the outcome of current consultations between the other Catholic trade union leaders.

Appointment of UN Kashmir mediator under consideration.

The next important step in resolving the Indian-Pakistan dispute over Kashmir is the appointment of the UN Representative to carry out the 14 March SC resolution. This resolution calls on India and Pakistan to arrange for a demilitarization program with the help of a UN mediator. The broad powers given the mediator clearly authorize his suggesting partition to settle the disposition of Kashmir should the over-all plebiscite to which India and Pakistan are committed appear impractical. The choice of a mediator with power to recommend abandonment of the over-all plebiscite still demanded by Pakistan, in favor of a settlement combining partition with limited plebiscite which India is backing is of vital concern to both countries.

The SC had considered Nimitz, whom it appointed Plebiscite Administrator a year ago, as the logical one to assume the post of UN mediator. India has, however, rejected Nimitz on the grounds that a military figure is unacceptable and that the mediating task would prejudice Nimitz's status as Plebiscite Administrator. Pakistan does not favor Bunche on the dual ground that he is an Indian choice and is not considered sufficiently big for the job. Since it now appears risky to push India further on Nimitz or Pakistan on Bunche, the US mission in New York has suggested that it is time for a "dark horse." Norman Robertson (Canada) and Colban (Norway) are the most frequently mentioned of a list of possible candidates which also includes Romulo (P.I.), Spaak (Belgium) and Padilla Nervo (Mexico). Robertson is an experienced negotiator and is considered an outstanding diplomat. Colban, as Lie's personal representative on UNCIP, has an excellent case background but his close identification with Kashmir makes it doubtful whether India or Pakistan would consider him suitable. India wants a man new to the case drawn from a small neutral power. Pakistan desires a dominant personality backed by a powerful government and has mentioned Marshall or Eisenhower, but either of these two men would encounter India's objection to a "soldier or sailor." The UN is thus faced with the problem of reconciling conflicting specifications for the candidate and at the same time finding a man of outstanding ability and tact for the job.

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FAO proposals for China famine relief. Concerned over famine conditions in North China, the Deputy Director of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization has approached the State Department and the British Ambassador in Washington to express his view that under its charter the FAO has the responsibility of providing technical assistance to alleviate such conditions. As possible lines of action he suggests that interested governments be called together to consider the situation; that Wenru be asked to approach North China officials; or that the Red Cross and International Children's Emergency Fund be called into service.

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